

Camden Cyclists Meeting

Minutes 15th June 2020



18.30 - 19.30

On Zoom

Attending *Chair:* John Chamberlain, *Minutes:* Jean Dollimore, George Coulouris, Steven Edwards, Helen Vecht, Paul Allen, Simon Pearson, Ema Arvati, Stefano Bertolotto, Ellen Gates, Adriaan Hilbers, John Ackers, Keith Macfarlane, Luke Pearson, Daniel Glaser, Anthony Christofi, Mat Shreeve, Paul Braithwaite, Susan Seymour.

1. Introductions and welcome to new Committee Members

John welcomed Ema and Stefano who have agreed to join the committee and then each person introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of 20th April 2020 meeting

a) [The minutes](#) were read through and approved. No matters arose.

3. Updates on Covid-19 activities related to cycling and walking in Camden:

a) Status of completed measures (GC)

George started by explaining that the point closures were carried out under Experimental Traffic Orders (ETOs) that last for 18 months and will be followed up by consultation with a view to making them permanent. He described the new point closures in Sandall Road, Savernake Road, Wilmot Place and around Holy Trinity School (Hartland Street), assessing in each case the Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) created. George then showed the new pop-up cycle lanes in Goodsway. His presentation is [here](#).

b) TfL interventions (completed and planned) (JC)

John introduced the [Covid-19 page](#) on our website as a source of information as to what's going on. He discussed TfL's Streetspace initiatives in Camden, first noting the roads in which pop-up cycle lanes were promised but not yet delivered (Euston Road and Finchley Road) and then critiquing those that have: Lidlington Place, Harrington Square and Hampstead Road. To summarise, only short sections of segregated lanes, some wider bus lanes (useful on approach to Euston Circus) but nothing at all near to the HS2 works (*note added after the meeting - we have just heard that the lane on Oakley Square is in and the central section will be added once the temporary HS2 traffic signals are removed late in June so this is looking much better*).

John then went on to the pedestrian interventions, noting serious concerns about people cycling past the high barriers at the Camden Road junction with Camden Street and on Parkway.

Finally John mentioned TfL's proposals for bus and cycle only routes on Euston-Waterloo, Holborn-Old Street and others. John's presentation is [here](#).

c) Proposed "pop-up" cycle network (JC)

John showed [Camden's map of proposals](#) for pop-up cycle lanes which include Prince of Wales Road eastbound, Chalk Farm Road, Haverstock Hill, Fitzjohn's Avenue (uphill), Adelaide Road, Grays Inn Road and York Way and others.

Anthony Christofi said that although the plan is ambitious, Camden wants to take the opportunity now available to build as many of them as possible and to a high standard suitable for being permanent.

Simon Pearson noted (as Swiss Cottage councillor) that the west of the borough is neglected and there is support for West End Lane or Kilburn High Road.

Paul Braithwaite noted issues with the HS2 shaft on Adelaide Road.

Daniel Glaser suggested that we should be ready to answer objections when the Covid measures become permanent.

Steven Edwards asked whether it might be possible to filter Hampstead High Street

d) Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and Healthy School Streets (JC)

John showed a map with the LTNs that we have studied, some of which we have discussed with officers, mentioning that Stefano Bertolotto had produced proposals for several areas on the east of Kilburn High Road, one of which (Kingsgate) was of particular interest to Camden. Once we know which areas have been chosen, John will seek volunteers to engage with local people.

Paul Braithwaite noted that there is strong local support for the scheme in Savernake Road.

Daniel Glaser noted that Belsize Park (where he lives) is not included and suffers badly from school run traffic. John showed an area that is covered by the [Neighbourhoods of the Future scheme](#), some of which we understand will be a Safer School Streets area.

4. Status of ongoing (pre-Covid) infrastructure projects (JD)

Jean started by noting that Camden has also been working hard on several projects from before the pandemic.

Westbound cycle track on Prince of Wales Road: the work started in November 2019 and was originally intended to complete in June. The junctions at Haverstock Hill and Malden Road are finished, the latter being much tightened; work between these is almost complete while the tracks continue towards Talacre Gardens. The track west of Malden Road should be opened without further delay.

Brunswick Square: the work started in February; the junction with Lansdowne Terrace is now closed while work on incorporating the former roundabout and on the west side of Hunter Street is well under way.

Camden Park Road: the scheme to make a route from St Augustine's Road to Brecknock School is virtually complete and includes a vastly improved road closure, a short stretch of two-way cycle track, a bus bypass and a Tiger crossing. We are a bit concerned about the way the Tiger crossing leads cyclists into a shared area but otherwise the scheme looks very good.

Permeability measures include new schemes in Grove Terrace, Mornington Terrace and Laystall Street. Jean's presentation is [here](#).

5. Report on Borough Coordinators Meeting (JC)

John outlined new LCC guidance which allows us to carry out bike checks, buddy rides, small rides (with risk assessments). If anyone wants to do any of these, they should contact John.

6. Plans for future monthly meetings

We will invite Stephen Taylor to present his ideas on 'What it takes to start or resume using a bike' to provoke a discussion.

We will report updates on Camden's work.

7. Any Other Business

- a) Daniel Glaser noted that many people need to get to work and need help; he has seen lots of young BAME people on Santander bikes in the south of Camden. We should diversify membership and focus.

Paul Allen suggested a repair workshop in Somerstown and Daniel offered to help.

- b) Simon Pearson noted that Regents Park is fully open and has become a linear car park.

Next Meeting

20th July 2020, 19.30 - 21.30; Chair: JD or GC; Topic: Stephen Taylor to lead discussion on 'What it takes to start or resume using a bike'