

Camden Cyclists Meeting Minutes 20 July 2020



19.30 - 21.30

Virtual meeting on Zoom

Attending: *Chair:* John Chamberlain, *Minutes:* George Coulouris. Steven Edwards, Jean Dollimore, Helen Vecht, Paul Allen, Simon Pearson, Luke Pearson, Susan Seymour, Ema Avarti, Stephen Taylor, Mat Shreve, Stefano Bertolotto, J F Paris, Linus Rees

1. Minutes of 15 June 2020 meeting

- a) [The minutes](#) were approved.

2. Matters arising from the minutes

- a) Simon P noted that Camden has plans in preparation for LTNs (a) the area East of Swiss Cottage and (b) for the 'Gardens' area. John C noted that the C11 bus route can be accommodated with bus gates.
- b) Community action in Somers Town? Awaiting update from Daniel G or Paul A.

3. Report on borough coordinators meeting - JC

- a) Camden came top in the annual Healthy Streets comparison between boroughs (excluding CoL). But progress is slow everywhere.
- b) Report from Wandsworth on bike buddies scheme. See below under AoB for discussion of the potential for CCC to mount a similar scheme.

4. Report on Covid 19 updates - JD & GC

- a) Jean presented [a set of slides](#) describing progress on new pop-up lanes and point-closures:
- Camden pop-up lanes: Prince of Wales Road (nearing completion), York Way (just started) and Chalk Farm Road (announced but not started).
 - TfL projects: Harrington Square and Oakley Square, Hampstead Road, Euston Road
 - Camden new point closures in Red Lion Street, Dane Street, Prowse Place and turn bans in Swains Lane.
- b) George described some issues with the Swains Lane and the Millfield Lane traffic reduction schemes.

5. Main Topic - How can we help people new to or returning to cycling? - Stephen Taylor

Stephen is Chair of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum.

General thoughts: Things stay the same for a long time, then a short period of radical change. We are in the middle of such a period of change. Now is the time to grasp the opportunity to promote better provision for cycling.

The Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum conducted a survey on Covid-19 measures which could be recommended to the council that received 250 responses. From this they distilled a second survey which had 400 responses. The Forum had picked 3 quick-win measures as their top choices, all of which concern cycling.

1. Secure parking for bikes. They suggest lots of stands. Consider removal of parking bays to make space for stands. Need for Bike Hangars also recognised but thought too expensive and long term. Camden had refused an offer to install them with private finance.
2. New cyclists can't find their way around. There is a need for guidance and mentoring. Distinction between commuting riders and general journeys. The Hampstead group have identified 3 routes on quiet roads that they intend to put to Camden for adoption.
3. Getting hold of a bike and maintaining it. Camden might help with pop-up bike shops. Shop owners say they are overwhelmed, they have no time to think about expanding. Pop-up events in school playgrounds to include sales of bikes and parts and Dr Bike sessions.

In subsequent discussion, Stephen asked us to support the above items. We drew his attention to the [Camden Transport Strategy](#) and the included Cycling Action Plan. The action plan describes and maps a proposed borough-wide cycling network that Camden intends to roll out over several years as funding allows. The network includes routes that very roughly form a grid with 400-metre cells. Each route will receive attention to ensure that it achieves a good level of safety and convenience. Steven to supply us with the details of his routes and CCC to send Stephen a link to Camden's borough-wide network plans

7. Any Other Business

- a) A potential 'Bike Buddies' scheme to help people to get going with using bikes in London - John C. John described what he had learned about the scheme that Wandsworth LCC group have recently launched and similar ones rolling out in Lambeth and Southwark. Here are his notes:

These schemes aim to help new and returning cyclists by matching up 'experienced' and 'inexperienced' cyclists using a system based on Google Forms and a Google Doc (like a dating scheme).

- Uses Google Forms feeding a Google spreadsheet to get details including desired/planned routes and times. See links [here](#) and [here](#)
- Manual matching of buddies by organisers
- Experienced riders to be Bikeability level 3 (comfortable on main roads, heavy traffic, junctions etc, able to perform/advise on basic bike checks)
- Inexperienced riders to be Bikeability level 2 (competent cyclist comfortable on minor roads). This is not a training scheme.
- Promoted on Social Media, local press, leaflets in bike shops etc
- Wandsworth have identified 113 pairings as of 13th July (one month in)
- Although designed for fixed journeys (e.g. commuting) a significant proportion of 'inexperienced' riders wanted more of a leisure/shopping experience
- Riders are expected to follow applicable Covid guidelines
- Organisers are covered by LCC liability insurance
- Riders not covered by LCC liability insurance (but LCC members have 3rd party insurance)
- Fairly extensive Risk Assessment for organisers to follow, also GDPR guidelines

- Fairly simple guidelines for riders

In discussion, most of those present were positive about the idea though no promises to participate.

Action: John C will organise a separate Zoom meeting to discuss.

Next Meeting

Monday 17 August 2020, *via Zoom*, 19.30 - 21.00; Chair: xxx xxx; Topic for main meeting TBA