

Camden Cyclists Meeting Minutes 21 December 2020



19:30-21:30

On Zoom

Attending - John Chamberlain (Chair), Jean Dollimore (Minutes), George Coulouris, Meade McCloughan, Helen Vecht, Daniel Glaser, Stefano Bertolotto, Luke Pearson, Ema Arvati, Steven Edwards, Alex Santacreu, Kerri McCarton.

1. Introductions

2. Minutes of 16th November 2020 meeting

[The minutes](#) were read through and approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

JC: (#4) Camden will use full consultations on [WeAreCamden](#) for the schemes built under an ETO, towards the end of the ETO period. The officer's report will also include data (e.g. traffic counts) and an aggregate of CommonPlace comments and will refer to Policy.

(#9) Transition Kentish Town (TKT) project for CNJ wrap-around - Camden 2030: we will wait for Rachel Wrangham to progress.

4. Update on infrastructure

JD and GC updated us on the progress of Camden schemes since last month. [LINK](#) They covered:

- Outline of progress on Pop-Up cycle lanes: consultation on York Way junctions; work starting on Grays Inn Road and Haverstock Hill.
- Gower Street - Bloomsbury Way: stepped tracks; only early release at junctions; parking bay on track; connection to Earlham Street.
- New contraflows announced in 7 streets (Covid phase 2) and 5 streets including Earlham Street (WEP). Please let us know if you see any of them progressed.

5. Camden Consultations and Commonplace Feedback

JC: following the recent change in Government guidelines, all new schemes (LTNs, Pop-Up cycle lanes etc) will be subject to a consultation. For example, Camden has already carried out two-week consultations on four schemes including the York Way junction improvements and the enhancements to the Arlington area LTN.

SB: the proposal for changes at KTR/PoW and the filtering of Anglers Lane has been agreed and work will start in March.

The consultation on parking charges has now closed. It's main aim is to discourage diesel vehicles but petrol cars are charged relative to their pollution grading. We wondered whether other councils have similar charges.

6. Kerri Mc Carton - the 15-minute city

Kerri is carrying out research in the Environmental Geography Department at UCL. Her dissertation is on "hyper proximity" using Camden as an example. She noted that cities are designed for infrastructure rather than for humans. And that they need to be re-designed to stop them being car-centred. She has found that Camden has very poor pollution levels (NO₂, PMs and noise) and there's a decline in walking and cycling since 1995.

She referred to Carlos Moreno's notion of the *15-minute city* in which citizens have quick access (e.g. by walking or cycling) to all the services they need - Kerri mentioned six services including employment, shopping... these ideas are behind Paris' 15-minute city being championed by their Mayor Anne Hidalgo.

Kerri concluded with a case for the value of nature in a city.

You can see her slides [here](#) and if you would like to contact her you can email her at kerrismccarton@gmail.com

SB: asked why there is such strong opposition from businesses to schemes that promote walking and cycling. To which Kerri replied many people still make false assumptions about how people travel to them and that we need to spread ideas about the benefits of walking, cycling and trees.

Alex Santacreu (who used to live in Camden and work for TfL but now works for OECD in Paris) noted that the 15-minute city has been implied by Urban Design best practice guidelines for decades but he is positive about the idea because it makes it popular. He challenged us to think what CCC's campaign would be.

JC: Let's think what it would mean for us.

DG: is currently thinking about how tools analogous to Google and WAZE could be made to give users a 'nudge' towards finding local resources.

7. Plans for future monthly meetings

Suggested external speaker: Alex Santacreu - progress in Paris

8. AOB

JC: There are a lot of roadworks in Camden that can block cycle lanes. Please report any issues and he will take it up with the relevant contacts.

JC reported on the Dartmouth Park Survey being carried out by Urban Movement: SE agreed to join the preliminary meeting and John will also invite Susan Seymour.

Next Meeting

18th January 2021, 19.30 - 21.30; Chair: JC; Speaker Alex Santacreu