

Camden Cyclists Meeting Minutes 19 April 2021



19:30-21:30 On Zoom

Attending John Chamberlain (Chair), George Coulouris (Minutes), Jean Dollimore, Helen Vecht, Steven Edwards, Paul Allen, Stefano Bertolotto, Ema Arvati, Jean-François Paris, Steve Prowse, Suami Rocha (LCC Staff), Will Doheney

1. Introductions

Suami introduced himself as a new member of LCC campaigns staff.

2. [Minutes of the March meeting](#)

John C reviewed the minutes and brought the meeting up-to-date on several items. The minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

4. Upcoming mayoral and GLA elections

Suami outlined [LCC's Campaigning strategy for the 6 May Elections](#) for London Mayor and GLA Members. The strategy suggests that people write to **all the mayoral candidates** asking them to pledge:

- to deliver 50% of the Strategic Cycling Network complete by 2024, creating streets where everyone who wants to cycle, can.
- make sure all Londoners have access to alternatives to the private car such as dockless e-bikes, cargo bikes and electric car clubs within 300m of their home or work.
- replace all current road charges with a London-wide Smart Road User Charge, to reduce congestion and free up the space needed for cycling, walking and public transport

There is a letter template and automatic email facility on [this page of the LCC website](#).

In addition, we discussed the importance of writing to the individual candidates for GLA seats. (We are represented by a GLA member for Camden and Barnet, plus other candidates who will be elected from a list). We agreed that we should ask Barnet Cyclists to participate in a joint letter to the candidates with a view to the person elected being aware of our campaign John C said he would circulate a list of our local candidates and their email addresses. The act of writing will have a post-election impact, whether or not they respond positively because they will have been made aware of the strength of the demand for these changes.

5. Preparation for CCC AGM (17 May)

a. Committee Roles and Responsibilities

John C asked Committee members to consider whether they are willing to continue with their existing responsibilities.

Ema asked for further information about the Secretary position.

John C. also mentioned that he is experiencing health problems and this may impel him to stand down as Coordinator.

b. Draft accounts for 2020-21

Meade presented a draft account sheet for comment. He answered several questions and said that he would be able to submit a final 2020-21 Account Sheet and a Draft budget for 2021-22 at the AGM.

c. Speaker for AGM?

Suggestions:

- Sarah Berry
- Sylvia Gauthereau
- Adam Harrison

John C to approach them in the above order.

6. Format of meetings

Questions:

- Should we go back to a separate monthly Committee Meeting?
 - We concluded that is not necessary. We noted that any Committee member can always convene a committee meeting if a special need arises.
- When Covid-19 regulations allow, should our monthly meetings revert to a face-to-face format?

At Rachel W's suggestion we agreed to try out an alternating schedule of face-to-face and online monthly meetings. This should commence in the autumn if the Covid situation allows.

7. Update on restarting activities - Rides, Cycle Buddies, Dr Bike

Rides: Geoff reported that he has restarted leading rides, with not more than 6 riders who will have registered in advance.

Bike Buddies: Paul A told us that more pairs had met since his last report. John C said that he has a stock of A5 posters (laminated) or leaflets that he can post to anyone on request, or a PDF file for printing.

Dr. Bike: One Dr. Bike had been successfully carried out (by James Brander) with appropriate separation, at the 'Think and Do' outdoor space.

Resumption of the Kentish Town Bike Workshop: We discussed the possibility of resumption of the Kentish Town Bike Workshop but concluded that it still isn't possible in the old format, although an outdoor session might be feasible in the gardens of the Kentish Town Health Centre. No date was set.

8. Major construction projects - brief status

John C reviewed the many major construction projects that have been approved, including:

- O2 Centre between Finchley Road and West End Lane
- Murphy's site - the large area between Highgate Road, Grafton Road and the Thameslink rail tracks.
- The Morrisons site off Chalk Farm Road

He pointed out that each of these mammoth projects, and others such as the Somers Town Tower have been given permission to maximise the site occupancy without regard to the impact of additional motor traffic they will generate, nor sufficient provision for walking and cycling, even on the sites, nor adequate provision of social housing.

9. Infrastructure report

Jean D reported ([slides](#)) the recent progress on

- Chalk Farm Road - lower Haverstock Hill almost complete
- Grays Inn Road - lots going on
- Reports on consultations awaited until after May election

10. AOB

Climate Action: Jean-Francois P reported the good news that the UK government appears to be about to announce a quite stringent set of constraints on carbon emissions.

West End Project: George C reported that a group of us had studied the newly-opened Endell St/Shafesbury Ave/High Holborn junction that opens a cycling link via Endell Street between the Gower Street cycle tracks, Covent Garden and Waterloo Bridge. The junction is complex and difficult for cyclists who are unfamiliar with it to interpret. We had written [this report](#) and sent it to the relevant Camden Officers who have told us they will be considering it soon.

**[Next Meeting \(AGM\) 17th May 7.30 - 9:30 pm on Zoom.](#) Chair Geoff Stillwell.
Minutes Paul Allen**