

Camden Cyclists Meeting

Minutes 16 August 2021



19:30-21:00 On Zoom

Attending John Chamberlain (Chair), Jean Dollimore, George Coulouris, Susan Seymour, Paul Allen (minutes), Steven Edwards, Steve Prowse (SPr), Simon Pearson (SPe), Luke Pearson, Elena Moynihan, Stefano Bertolotto, Jean-François Paris

Agenda

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Minutes of the [July meeting](#).
- 3) Matters arising from the minutes
- 4) Fatality at Holborn & other junctions
- 5) Response to ongoing consultations
- 6) Increasing Camden's ambition (new/revised targets for 2022 cycling action plan)
- 7) TFL penalty charging (e.g. fines for parking in Red Routes) visit our consultation page
- 8) How we can encourage Camden Council to allow reporting bike lanes blockages online
- 9) Our group media channels and their uses and potential rationalisations
- 10) AoB

1. Introductions

2. Minutes of 19 July 2021 meeting

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

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

Steve Prowse will be our Climate Champion. He has already met [Suami Rocha](#) the LCC Climate Safe Streets Campaign Officer

Our Assembly Member Anne Clarke (Labour) has been contacted. The recent death in Holborn was specially mentioned.

With regards Queen's Crescent Mick Farrant is no longer on the Queen's Crescent committee, so we will need to find another contact if we want to arrange a Dr Bike session. There have been some good tweets from the public expressing support for the scheme. There may be some remaining disability access issues, but these only relate to market operating hours.

The timed bollard at the North of Grafton way is still operational, this shouldn't be needed anymore, but it was probably too awkward to suspend it as part of the Experimental Traffic Order, it may be addressed when the scheme is made permanent.

8. Reporting road issues to Camden Council

Elena is concerned that there doesn't seem to be a good way to communicate road issues to Camden Council. Whilst there is a "[Love Clean Streets](#)" app it doesn't allow many things to be reported (e.g. fly tipping and abandoned vehicles). The Love Clean Streets app covers many local authorities and has replaced the older Camden specific Clean Camden app. For some of the other authorities, many more categories can be reported (e.g. Westminster includes 15 street categories including Vehicle Parked on Pavement).

Many cycle lanes still have single yellow lines, even if the lane itself is mandatory. SP suggested that changing these to double yellow may be a Work In Progress in the council, for example doing the change when the Experimental Traffic Order becomes permanent. These can cause significant gaps in the protection of cyclists.

For persistent offenders (drivers who park in cycle lanes) it may be worthwhile tweeting pictures to the relevant councillors or contacting Gordon Hamilton, the Network Coordinator at Camden Council Streetworks.

Action: PA to send examples of councils where more problem categories can be reported to simon.pearson@camden.gov.uk who will then forward it to the other relevant councillors e.g. Adam Harrison.

4. Fatality at Holborn & other junctions

There will be two demonstrations, the first by Stop Killing Cyclists that will involve a "die in" and the later one by LCC.

Camden was awarded funding by TfL for a significant "Livable Neighbourhood" scheme that would have removed the Gyratory but this was frozen and then cancelled in 2020 due to the loss of TfL income due to COVID.

Over the years there have been many deaths at this junction (8 over 12 years, with 5 in the last 6 years) Camden council have made a number of proposals, but these were mainly rejected by TfL buses. They took out left turns in Vernon Place in 2018 - [see our report](#). This is a general issue where TfL has competing departments trying to achieve "Network efficiencies" for buses and signals rather than genuinely safer junctions.

5. Response to ongoing consultations

Recent/current consultations:

[Red Lion Street](#) which has been leafleted.

[Prowse Place and Wilmot Place Healthy Streets](#) which has some opposition from the residents of Ivor Street and some sight line problems turning right from Jeffreys Street onto the southbound Royal College Street cycle lane, due to the car parking outside the northbound cycle lane.

[Swains Lane](#) **Action:** PA to contact regular users such as Mornington Chasers running club and Regent's Park Cyclists

[Haverstock Hill](#) has been "called in" by the Conservative councillors. **Action:** JC to request a deputation at the meeting. He will check with Adam Harrison first to confirm that it will be helpful. It should be possible for some people to physically attend the meeting.

PA has been discussing the "alternative route" with some "keen cyclists" on Twitter, but has so far been given no details. The alternatives that have been mentioned previously are via

South End Green, that double the distance detours, and include narrower, steeper roads.

Action: PA to create dossier of routes, elevation profiles & populations affected.

With the increase in E-Bikes, and E-Scooters the “steep” hill will be less of an issue. Overall we want main roads such as Haverstock Hill to be part of an (active) transport network, not a car park.

[Camden Square](#) is going ahead, with some modifications for Camden Mews following the concerns raised during the consultation period.

[King Henry's Road](#) whilst the School Street is proceeding, the proposed closures have been downgraded to road narrowings to prevent HGV use.

6. Increasing Camden's ambition

Steve Prowse presented some Climate Action Plan proposals. **Action:** SP will coordinate some meetings between now and September to see how we can help influence Camden for a bolder Transport Action plan that is being revised in 2022. SP's proposals will refer to the Government's Gear Change, more LTNs, and [Cycle infrastructure design \(LTN 1/20\)](#) etc.

It will be good to invite councillor Adam Harrison to our October meeting. **Action:** JC

7. TFL penalty charging

Everyone agreed that the proposed increase by TfL should be supported and the consultation advertised. Ideally TfL would do more towing of vehicles rather than just using penalty charges.

9. Our group media channels and their uses and potential rationalisations

Currently Twitter is the main channel, which is used to announce consultations, meetings, significant events etc.; Instagram is used for feel good stories; Facebook has a page and a “private” group, PA tried to move people towards the group hoping that it would be used as a more social area, but that isn't working. **Action:** to be discussed at a Committee meeting.

10. AoB

1. Simon Monk has arranged a series of articles in local papers about cycling through town centres. There are a number of “town centres” / local papers within our area, volunteers are requested to provide about 350-400 words and they can take a good/bad/needs improvement angle. **Action:** GC to coordinate the 10 that are in Camden.

2. Whether meetings should be held in person was discussed, but the balance was to keep them over Zoom for the time being, especially as there are benefits for remote meetings, and a hybrid meeting is likely to be difficult.

Next Meeting

25th October 2021, 19.30 - 21.00 on Zoom; Chair: JC, Minutes: GC