

Camden Cyclists Meeting Minutes 21 November 2022



19:30-21:00 On Zoom

Attending

John Chamberlain (chair), Steve Prowse (SP), George Coulouris, Jean Dollimore, Elena Moynihan, Steven Edwards, Ema Arvati (Minutes), Simon Pearson (SP1), Luke Pearson, Jean-Francois Paris, Eilidh Murray (coordinator of the Islington LCC group and LCC trustee), Michael Boylan, Geoff Richman, Carla Francome.

1. Introductions

John introduced a few people to the group, Eilidh Murray who chairs the Islington LCC group, Michael Boylan and Geoff Richman who gave a talk on the American school in London. Carla Francome joined the meeting later on.

2. Matters arising from the October meeting

<https://camdencyclists.org.uk/2022/10/ccc-meeting-minutes-17-october-2022/>

No matters arising from last month's meeting but SP reminded the group of the social event the 17th December at Lord Palmerston pub in Tufnell Park. at 11:30 am

<https://www.thelordpalmerston.co.uk/>

3. Camden's Transport Strategy update

JC gave an update on the transport strategy which was written in 2018 and approved in 2019, well before Covid. The strategy maps out what Camden would like to achieve in the next 3 years. JC highlighted a few aspirations in the document, new cycle routes and LTNs. Lots of these proposed changes are either under-funded or currently not funded at all. Camden might start with what they can do now and maybe obtain more funds later on. We discussed some proposals and dangerous junctions. EM pointed out that Hampstead and Highgate seem to be left out from the wider scheme but EA made a comment that at least the left off area in the north west of the borough in Fortune Green and West Hampstead has been considered for traffic reduction measures even if it might at the end of the three years.

The funding for 2024 -25 has not been approved and significant funding appears to have been cut like improvement in Kilburn High Rd [**note added after meeting**: we are hearing that significant funds may become available for Kilburn High Road]. Camden could bid for extra funding at a later date. Councils that make good improvements in the infrastructure have higher chances of being allocated extra funds.

Action: JC will send an email to the group requesting possible topics related to the quarterly meeting with London Living Streets and Camden (5 Dec) as there was no time to discuss it.

4. Talk from Geoff Richman (American School in London)

GR described the course he is running and asked for volunteers to meet some Students on 26 January 2023 to discuss the 'politics of pedalling'. Geoff explained that we need a critical mass of cyclists to make changes happen like it did in some other countries. LCC had a campaign called "Love London, go Dutch" 10 years ago. The school picks up a few students to go abroad for a few days in spring (week without walls). Next year they are going to Amsterdam for 3 days. As part of this programme, GR would like to organise a talk with some LCC Camden members on the 21 January for one hour and half to talk about cycling and inspire them to be the change. SP is in contact with GR.

Action: EM to lead on this.

5. Carla Francome talk

CF is an award-winning documentary maker who covers science, current affairs, and human stories; she is also a committed Active Travel campaigner. She joined the group later on to give a talk on her online presence, and how she started posting positive messages on Twitter. She started talking about LTNs years ago but now, with the first three in Haringey some people are cross about them. She wants to only focus on positive stories in her feeds. She takes videos or images of LTNs and positive changes that this has brought to a street with more people enjoying the peace and quiet. It helps to remind people how streets were during Covid with no cars, less noise and the sound of birds. She suggested to the group to do the same. Camden with the help of councillors and senior officers has made a lot of changes to the infrastructure to the borough. She mentioned Hyperlaps (a tool that films a lap) so can help to count how many cars go through. She mentioned how she bought each councillor a Dr Seuss' book (Green Eggs and Ham) as it is harder to be cross if a person gives you a present or they are kind to you. Although she has experienced threatening behaviour from people that oppose LTNs, it is often the case that a few people that are angry are noisier than the majority that do not speak up or might be content with the situation. For a period of time she was banned by her favourite coffee shop and her local high street. Her strategy has been to deflect these behaviours with humour, never to insult anyone back. Once she got someone dressed up as Santa as who can be annoyed at Santa? ;-)

Even if people might like LTNs, most of the time they are thinking about the convenience of going from A to B with their own car when they need it and not on how much nicer it would be with less cars. A Twitter account @HappyHaringey (with name Haringheaven) was set up to share positive stories of LTNs in Haringey. They are going to do a Happy Islington. Some people are in favour of LTNS but do not want to add their voices directly because of their jobs or possible backlash.

6. AoB

Action: EA to add the link of the common place Haverstock Hill review for the group to comment on when sending out the minutes.

Future Minute takers: December John, January Jean, February Elena, March Steve)

Next Meeting 19 December at 7:30 pm.