

# Camden Cyclists Meeting

## Minutes 16 October 2023



**19:30 - 21:00 On Zoom**

### **Attending**

Steve Prowse (SP, chair), John Chamberlain (JC), Jean Dollimore (JD, minutes), Linus Rees, Rachel Wrangham (RW), Steven Edwards (SE), Tanuj, Paul Allen (PA), Manda. *Apologies:* George Coulouris

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### **1. Introductions**

The group introduced themselves to Manda. Manda lives in Dartmouth Park Road (having moved from the middle to a flat near to the junction with Laurier Road) – attending because Dartmouth Park is on the agenda.

### **2. Minutes from the September meeting**

<https://camdencyclists.org.uk/2023/10/ccc-meeting-minutes-18-september-2023/>

The minutes were approved. Matters arising:

- Members to report signalised pedestrian crossings where the wait time is too long:

RW: Two problem places - Kentish Town Rd and Camden Rd (the junction near Rochester Rd/Sq). The beg time has been vastly improved just N of Murray St, but remains inexplicably abominably long at the Rochester crossing. Most of the time people have already long crossed by the time the light goes green. On KT Rd there are fewer options to hop across, but wait times are still long.

- Issues with the bike hangars (including difficulty of getting a space) reported: SP has written to Camden officers.

### **3. Consultation on CPZ charges – cleaner, fairer parking deadline 5th November**

<https://consultations.wearecamden.org/supporting-communities/cleaner-fairer-parking/>

JC: Camden proposes a radical set of measures including for residential parking: 1 vehicle per permit, big increases in annual charge with surcharges for petrol and diesel vehicles and increases in charges and rules for visitor parking. This has been discussed by the committee by email where JC asked for a volunteer to draft our response.

RW: Rules for visitor permits are over complex.

SE: The charges should be increased for very large vehicles that don't fit in parking bays;

Due to the lack of a volunteer, JC will draft our response but expects feedback from RW and others not at the meeting.

#### 4. Somerstown Green Mobility Hubs consultation deadline: 17th October

<https://consultations.wearecamden.org/supporting-communities/greenmobilityhubsphase1/>

JC: Camden is currently consulting on hubs at three locations with more to come. An early borough to do this. A hub will contain parking for bikes and cargo bikes and cargo bike rental, car club bays (our response will say they must be electric), and a tool stand. John showed the visualisation of a hub in Goldington Crescent [here](#). He has written our response (checked by other committee members) which is ready for submission and is now available [here](#),

#### 5. Permeability in Adeline Place consultation deadline 23rd October

<https://consultations.wearecamden.org/supporting-communities/adelineplace/>

JD: Camden's proposal applies to the area around Bedford Square

- Two-way cycling has already been put in Bedford Square (north) and Bayley Street (2011), Bedford Avenue (2020) and Bedford Square (south) 2021 - also a School Street for Ecole Jeanine Manuel (2021)
- The new proposals apply to Adeline Street and Bedford Square (west); Adeline Street will have a contraflow lane protected by a cycle hire station; but Camden has failed to provide entry and exit treatment on Bedford Square (west)

She has written our response (checked by other committee members) which is ready for submission and is now available [here](#).

SP and JC emphasised the value of cycle permeability through areas such as this one.

#### 6. Somers Town area CPZ consultation deadline 31 October

<https://consultations.wearecamden.org/supporting-communities/cag/>

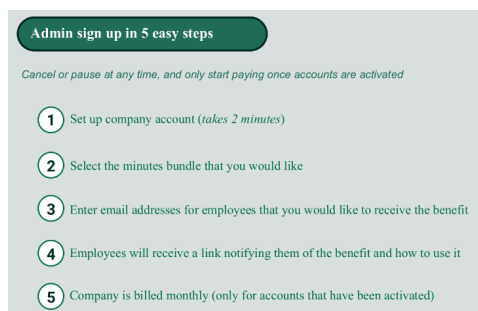
JC: people come in from outside the CPZ area and park because the hours of operation are very short but some local residents like their visitors to be able to come in and park without charge; there will be more such consultations for other areas (e.g. Highgate where the area is also too large). Camden wants to increase the hours of operation. He will write our response, which will support the plans to increase the hours of operation and ask for them to include Sundays and evenings.

#### 7. Forest Commuter scheme - for corporate subscriptions

SP: Forest (formerly Human Forest – green bikes) are now offering corporate subscriptions called 'Forest Commuter'; for £30 a month which gives employees 30 minutes free use a day. Forest also operates blue bikes branded River.

Forest operates in a contiguous group of London boroughs including Camden, Islington and Westminster and others further south west. Case study of use by estate agents.

The scheme is being introduced in Camden. The benefit is exempt from tax on employment income. Steve showed a few slides from Forest to explain the scheme. The key slide is here:



## 7. Code of Conduct for cyclists

SP: has incorporated the discussions from the last meeting and would welcome feedback. [See webpage](#) (currently being updated from the Google Doc)

## 8. Question and Answer Session - topics submitted in advance

### A. Dartmouth Park Healthy Neighbourhood

Prior to a consultation, Camden and Islington are seeking input on an area bounded by Fortess Road, Junction Road, Highgate Hill and West Hill - Highgate Road

<https://dartmouthpark.commonplace.is/>

SP: asked what people have heard

SE: people in Chetwynd Road which suffers from very high motor traffic flows are anxious

Amanda: don't hear much; living on corner of Dartmouth Park Road/Laurier Road/DP Hill; if Chetwynd Road is closed traffic will flow into other already busy roads; changes must not make things worse.

JC: showed a map of the scheme area on our [Climate Safe Streets \(CSS\) map](#); illustrating how the LTNs in Queen's Crescent and Savernake have enabled the cycle route up Grafton Road; and asked what level of engagement and what ideas we have

JD: as a cycling campaign we can ask for:

- protected cycle routes on the boundary roads;
- low traffic routes through the area e.g. a north-south route on DP Hill (made quiet by allowing only buses and emergency vehicles to go right through); east-west routes on Chetwynd Road - Cathcart Hill and Swains Lane- Chester Road - Magdala Road
- Safe cycling (and walking) to every address in the area

RW: councillors are vocal about the quiet roads inside an LTN while boundary areas don't see any such improvement.

Tanuj: see [Possible report](#) (work with Univ Westminster) that shows big traffic reductions within LTNs and little indication of this traffic being simply displaced onto boundary roads. Also [TfL report](#) on impacts of LTNs in London where boundary roads see no change in traffic levels.

JC: Camden reported a traffic reduction on Agar Grove after the introduction of the Camden Square LTN.

PA: Footway parking is a big issue in Chetwynd Road

RW: Camden is asking about specifics; we need to advise them to comment on principles e.g. that an LTN will result in the residents driving less.

### B. Kentish Town Road

Recent counts between RCS and PoW show a maximum of ~5.5 K cyclists per day

SE: The junctions at the two ends are horrible;

JC: showed the CSS map again to illustrate Camden's plans for protected cycle routes on KTR/ Highgate Road/ Fortess Road (KTR to be delayed due to works at the bridge by the station).

SE: Regrets that Parkway isn't on Camden's list

PA: Haverstock Hill is a good example of how car parking can be taken out to make room for cycle lanes.

JC: car ownership in Camden is declining so pressure on residents' parking should be reducing.

### **C. Royal College Street**

SE: should update junctions, particularly Baynes Street; some discussion of Baynes Street followed. He suggested that RCS should be closed to all through motor vehicles except buses.

RW: suggested that the lanes need to be wider and that there was space for this.

### **D. Jack Straw's Castle**

JC: It's a horrible junction and we objected to the changes there five years ago

### **9 AOB**

JC: We have been offered a room at the Kentish Town Health Centre in case we want an in person meeting; would have to end at 8:30. We could have hybrid meetings

**Future Minute takers:** Ema (Nov), John (Dec)

**Next Meeting 20th November** at 7:30 pm on Zoom

<https://camdencyclists.org.uk/events/members-meeting-2023-11-20/>