

Camden Cycling Campaign

17th October 2023

To: safetravel@camden.gov.uk

CC: Sam Margolis

Response to Consultation on Somers Town Green Mobility Hubs

This response to the consultation on the above proposal from Camden Council is from Camden Cycling Campaign, the local borough group of London Cycling Campaign. We represent the interests of cyclists living or working in or travelling through Camden and aim to expand the opportunities for all to cycle safely in the borough. We have discussed this proposal by email between our members.

General Comments

We are very pleased to see this innovative and pioneering scheme, which we hope will serve as a prototype for similar schemes across Camden and beyond. The proposed hubs are a big step towards moving away from the dominance of motor vehicles on our streets and we think that the integration of active travel options, improved streetscape and environmental improvements is important in normalising active travel modes.

Motor Vehicle Parking

The reduction in visitor parking spaces is welcome. Along with the separate plans to change the hours of the CPZ and increase the fees for parking it should reduce the number of journeys made into the area by non-residents and encourage residents to use active travel modes.

Car Club Bays

We recognise that the availability of car clubs may reduce private ownership and that the vehicles are typically only used for necessary trips so we support the provision of car club bays. However, we believe that these should all be restricted to e-vehicles as is suggested for Charrington Street, and we suggest that they are installed at a few of the locations first to gauge demand.

Cycle Parking

We are pleased to see the proposals for cycle parking and especially those for non-standard cycles: "a range of facilities suitable for different vehicles and age groups" and on the plans: "Bay for accessible and adapted bike parking".

Cycle Maintenance Stands

We welcome this idea. From our experience at Dr Bike sessions, lack of simple tools, especially easy-to-use tyre pumps, is a major obstacle to people using cycles. We are concerned about vandalism; we assume that they would be robust and well maintained. It might be better if those that include tools were adopted by a local business as is proposed for the shared e-cargo bikes.

Shared e-cargo bikes

We strongly encourage Camden to implement this idea as we think it is a gamechanger for local journeys.

Wayfinding

We would be interested to know more about what is planned.

Other Suggestions

We suggest that a regular scheduled Dr Bike or workshop could be held based at one of the hubs.

Specific Comments

Goldington Crescent

We welcome the following proposals:

- Expand the existing e-scooter and cycle hire bay
- Provide a new shared e-cargo bike and bay
- Two bike hangars
- New Mobility Hub plinth and wayfinding
- Planting, greening and rain garden features
- Drinking water fountain and cycle maintenance stand (but see above)

We would like in addition to see cycle parking as at the other locations

Cranleigh Street

We welcome the following proposals:

- E-scooter and cycle hire bay
- New shared e-cargo bike and bay
- Bike hangar
- Cycle stands for bike parking providing a range of facilities suitable for different vehicles and age groups
- New Mobility Hub plinth and wayfinding
- Planting, greening and rain garden features.

Charrington Street

We welcome the following proposals:

- E-scooter and cycle hire bay
- New shared e-cargo bike and bay
- Two bike hangars for residents
- Cycle stands for bike parking providing a range of facilities suitable for different vehicles and age groups
- New Mobility Hub plinth, and wayfinding
- Seating, planting, greening and rain garden features
- Drinking water fountain and cycle maintenance stand

Please acknowledge receipt of this response. We would be very happy to discuss any aspect of our comments; contact details are below.

John Chamberlain, Jean Dollimore, George Coulouris, Steve Prowse

coordinator@camdencyclists.org.uk

Camden Cycling Campaign, 1 Estelle Road, London NW3 2JX