

# Camden Cyclists Meeting

## Minutes 20 November 2023



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

### **Attending**

Steve Prowse (SP, chair), John Chamberlain (JC, minutes), Jean Dollimore (JD), George Coulouris (GC), Steven Edwards (SE), Paul Allen (PA), Melanie Etherton (ME), Kristian Jensen (KJ), Meade McCloughan (MM), Steve Cowan (SC), Elena Moynihan (EM)

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### **1. Introductions**

The group introduced themselves. Kristian is a new LCC member, living in Primrose Hill, Steve Cowan lives in Bloomsbury and has been involved in previous campaigns, especially on Tavistock Place, Mel works for LCC and lives in Kentish Town. The others are committee members.

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

<https://camdencyclists.org.uk/2023/10/ccc-meeting-minutes-16th-october-2023/>

SP took attendees through the minutes, which were approved. Matters arising:

- CCC Code of Conduct is now published and [on the CCC website](#)
- SP thanked attendees (and others) for their input to our responses to consultations
- Bike Hangar issues - will put on the agenda for the next meeting with Camden

### **3. Tavistock Place**

JC gave an update on the progress in upgrading the Tavistock Place cycle tracks. Most of the tracks will be kerb separated and the junctions will be improved to make them safer. Work is currently ongoing at the Bedford Way junction and is progressing east. When the eastbound cycle lane is closed, cycles are diverted into the main carriageway: westbound cycles have a temporary contraflow lane.

In response to a question from SC, JD explained what was happening at the junctions.

SE said that all motor traffic should be banned and the lanes removed.

SC asked about the lack of segregation between pedestrians and cycles at Byng Place. JC explained the history here; the area was remodelled as a place-shaping exercise in 2010. GC said that this was requested by UCL and JD pointed out that benches and planters were later added to demarcate the cycle area. JC commented that he quite liked the layout and that as far as we were aware there had been no serious collisions.

### **4. Camden High Street**

JD explained the plans to pedestrianise Camden High Street north of Parkway, initially (Phase 1) as far as Hawley Crescent, later (Phase 2) as far as Hawley Road. Phase 2 would require Hawley Road to be made 2-way at least for buses and would mean that southbound cycles could use the section of Camden High Street over the canal bridge, avoiding the gyratory via Hawley Road. Phase 1 is expected during this financial year. Attendees expressed enthusiasm for this scheme.

### **5. LCC Dangerous Junctions Report**

ME explained how the Dangerous Junction app works and PA showed it on-screen. It uses the Stats19 police data on historic collisions, aggregates them by junction and then weights by severity and by how recent the collision was. It covers both cyclists and pedestrians, for London or by borough, and is linked from the LCC website at <https://lcc.org.uk/campaigns/dangerous-junctions/>

JC explained that while it is a powerful way of showing the historic data we have a couple of issues with how the results are presented:

1. Because it takes no account of volumes of cyclists or pedestrians it doesn't give an indication of how dangerous a junction is to an individual cyclist.
2. Because the data is historic it doesn't account for recent changes to junction design, This is particularly relevant to the Holborn area where 2 junctions are rated in the top 10 worst for London but both these junctions have been recently updated, partly because of campaigning by LCC and CCC.

We agreed to write to LCC explaining our concerns and suggesting some changes to how the data are presented.

**Action: JD/GC/JC/SP. Done**

## 6. Holmes Rd Scheme

The Healthy School Streets scheme was approved on November 13th and, as previously reported, includes a 24/7 ban on westbound motor vehicles. This addition to the scheme was requested by local residents and councillors; a good sign.

SP and PA mentioned the proposal to sell Camden's depots on Holmes Road and Regis Road - this is a concern and we will need to keep an eye on the plans. JC mentioned that one positive outcome should be a link between the two roads - something we have wanted for decades.

## 7. Christmas Social

We have been offered the use of one of the rooms at the Kentish Town Health Centre on Bartholomew Road, free of charge. So we plan to have our December meeting in person starting at 19:30 prompt. We need to vacate the room by 8:30 so the plan is to then move to the Lion & Unicorn pub. Members & non-Members (friends & family) welcome.

## 8. Cycle Trainers Reporting Issues

JC reported on a conversation between him, PA and two Camden officers (Katie Dickson (KD) and Richard Riddell) about the possibility of using cycle trainers to report issues on the roads. Trainers cover a lot of Camden roads and cycle with less confident people so they are well placed to do this. JC and PA emphasised that they should cover illegal parking and loading as well as road defects and potential minor improvements and also referenced the [Quick Wins program](#).

KD had suggested using a reporting system; JC and PA said that LoveClean Streets worked well and gave good feedback whereas the feedback from FixMyStreet was poor even though the system seemed to work. If the feedback was improved, people would be more likely to use it and Camden don't need to invent a new system. KD also asked if CCC would be interested in providing some 'trusted reporters' and we agreed.

## 9. Priory Terrace Proposals

JC summarised Camden's proposals for Priory Terrace and the crossing of Belsize Road at Priory Road. <https://camdencyclists.org.uk/2023/11/priory-terrace-priory-road-junction-improvements/>

Most of the proposals seem fine but we are concerned about the alignment of the proposed parallel crossing (aka Tiger crossing) of Belsize Road. MM pointed out that the crossing is off the desire line for northbound cyclists and totally inappropriate for southbound cyclists who would have to cross oncoming traffic to reach the crossing and again after crossing. He felt that the crossing was not difficult now and the proposals would make it more dangerous. ME said that she found parallel crossings intimidating as motorists did not always respect cyclists' right to use them.

*Note added after meeting: JC: should we suggest white on red temporary signs when new Tigers go in saying "Cycle Crossing" or similar, just like "New Road Layout Ahead" as used in other situations?*

It was agreed to reply opposing the layout. MM also pointed out that Kilburn Priory south of the junction over the rail bridge has a very poor layout and road surface and should be addressed; JD mentioned that this was likely to be the route for C51 when it is extended from Westminster and so the rail bridge and junction are very important. There should also be protected exit treatments (bollards) for the contraflow lanes on Priory Terrace and Priory Road.

**Action: JC to draft a response to Camden. Done**

#### **10. Summary of consultations & decisions in the last month**

This item was not covered except as above but see our [consultation page](#) - there is a significant consultation on Leather Lane and a minor one on Kemble Street.

#### **11. Permeability in Falkland Road**

JD gave a presentation of the new contraflow lanes on Falkland Road that allow cycles in both directions between Fortess Road and Lady Margaret Road. This creates a link from Leighton Road to Fortess Road and Highgate Road avoiding the junction at Kentish Town station. She mentioned a small amount of snagging including the need to make some changes to the road markings. Her presentation is at <https://camdencyclists.org.uk/2023/11/falkland-road-permeability/>

#### **12. Open Q&A**

No points were raised other than as covered above.

#### **13. AOB**

##### **Regents Park**

SW mentioned that the link from the Inner Circle to the Outer Circle via York Bridge would be closed for repair works and that this could be an opportunity...

**Action: SP to confirm if York Bridge would remain two way for cycling. It will be.**

##### **Bike Theft**

ME asked if anyone was following up on reports of the increase in bike thefts, some by violent attack. She said that the police had massively underreported the number of cycle journeys in London and as this was reported in the CNJ she would write in to correct the numbers.

**Future Minute takers:** Ema (Dec)

**Next Meeting 18th December at 7:30 at the Kentish Town Health Centre**

<https://camdencyclists.org.uk/events/members-meeting-2023-12-18/>