

# Camden Cyclists Meeting

## Minutes 19 February 2024



19:30 - 21:00 On line

### Attending

John Chamberlain (JC chair), Jean Dollimore (JD minutes), George Coulouris (GC), Steve Prowse (SP), Steven Edwards (SE), Paul Allen (PA), Meade McCloughan (MM), Ema Arvati (EA), Stefano Bertolotti (SB), Mark Ostrow (MO), Kris Hinken (KH), Stefan Horn (SH), Kristian Jensen (KJ), Tom Eadie (TE), Berwyn Rutherford (BR)

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### 1. Introductions

John invited the regulars to introduce themselves followed by the people attending their first meeting:

MO: lives in Hampstead, used to cycle in Seattle and after coming to London was introduced to cycling by Simon Munk;

KH: lives in Camden Town;

SH: lives in Kentish Town, from north Germany where everyone cycles but eventually took it up in London;

KJ: just a plain cyclist interested in LTNs;

TE: lives near England's Lane; goes to the Netherlands each year.

### 2. Minutes from the January meeting

<https://camdencyclists.org.uk/2024/02/ccc-meeting-minutes-15th-january-2024/>

JC summarised the main points; the one action on him (JC) (to arrange another meeting with officers to discuss issues with the junction of Gordon Street and Euston Road) is being pursued. The minutes were approved.

### 3. Safe Cycling in London map

JD presented Aiden Crouch's map (see [here](#)) (which covers the whole of London), going through the elements it displays: TfL cycleways (e.g. C6, C50 with thick lines where protected (e.g. Royal College Street) and thin lines when on quiet roads e.g. Judd Street), other safe routes (e.g. Prince of Wales Road), park routes, Streetspace (e.g. Haverstock Hill), shared space, post 2020 LTNs, other LTNs and routes under construction.

Points made:

- this is an impressive piece of work and a very useful resource;
- Where there is a wide coverage of LTNs e.g. in Hackney and some parts of Islington; crossings are needed over the boundary roads e.g. in Camden from the Queens Crescent LTN to the Savernake LTN there is a Parallel (Tiger) crossing over Mansfield Road (shown on the map!);
- BW pointed out that where there are protected cycle tracks (e.g. on Haverstock Hill) it is difficult to make right turns into side roads (without signals) (e.g. Upper Park Road or Eton Road). Parallel crossings should be considered.

**Action:** JD to suggest as topic for the next quarterly meeting with officers

### 4. Clerkenwell Road consultation (Deadline 11th March)

JD presented the background (the first stage of a cycle route we call Clerkenwell Boulevard) and the details of the proposal, showing Camden's video and the summary map made by JC. See the [consultation summary](#) on our website.

We then discussed the consultation and how we should campaign to get plenty of responses.

- Lead in lane 1.5m too narrow (e.g. Theobalds Road approach to G.I.R.);
- Loading bay on Theobalds Road approach will impede cyclists progress to the signal;

- Cycle gates (reservoirs): people don't like them because they always encounter a red signal, either at the back or the front of the reservoir:
  - KJ: People don't understand them - JC: they need explaining; GC: there is a good example at the junction of Southampton Row/Theobalds Road
  - If there are dedicated cycle signals on all 4 arms (as at St Pancras Way/Agar Grove) then there are five signal stages (1 for pedestrians, 2 for cycles and 2 for motors) which can take too much time;
  - Cycle gates (which are in principle much safer than ASLs) run in the same stage as the motors on the same arm.
- TE pointed out that in the Netherlands, 'green scrambles' (cyclists from all four arms go in the same signal stage) are sometimes used. But this has not been agreed in the UK;
- SH made the case for a 'signal free left turn' and SE noted that Sadiq Khan is interested in this idea;
- JC: Cyclops junctions allow signal free left turns and have an element of the green scramble – people rotate rather than mixing it in the middle of the junction.

#### *Campaigning:*

- Already advertised in the Newsletter by SE;
- JD will remind members via *groups.io*
- Steve and Jean will Tweet about it;
- EA: pass on to workplace cycling groups.
- *Handing out cards (preferred to leaflets)*
  - JC: there will be the usual opponents (e.g. taxi drivers) but hard to see why there would be a lot of opposition;
  - JD: the Council deserves a good response in favour when offering good schemes;
  - PA: leafleting/carding is effective when there are lots of people passing by;
  - SE: Islington are keen and would help with publicity.

**Action:** JC and JD to design and get 500 cards and organise distributing them

## **5. Holborn Liveable Neighbourhood Engagement**

The Commonplace engagement can be found [here](#) – responses will be reviewed in April. JC presented [slides](#) to explain the main components of Camden's plans e.g. protected cycle lanes on Theobalds Road, cycle and pedestrians only in New Oxford Street, Great Russell Street outside the BM and on Great Queen Street. Bloomsbury Way and Procter Street buses and cycles only. The total project is expected to cost around £40 million. Starter projects will include two-way cycling in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

MM: good idea to upgrade the old route on Newton Street (now C52)

### ***Ideas for the CommonPlace engagement***

We will probably put together a separate CCC web page with suggestions that people could make on the engagement. For example:

Things we like: Red Lion and Lambs Conduit Street.

Things we want: cycle lanes on High Holborn, north-south cycle route

Support Starter Projects: Brownlow Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, Newton Street – C52

## **6. LCC Women's Freedom ride in March**

Date/Time: Sun 3 Mar 2024 prompt start at 11:15am (Return by 3pm)

Meet: 30 Cleveland St W1, cycle to Lincoln's Inn Fields to join LCC's family-friendly ride (Now Full). Or cycle directly to Lincoln's Inn Fields WC1 to meet others at 12.30pm.

## **7. Vehicles stopping in the bike box**

This item was postponed until a subsequent meeting because the proposer was not present.

## 8. AoB

### ***Whitestone Pond***

Site visit to discuss suggestions for improvements for submission to Camden officers.

**Action:** SE to arrange site visit

### ***LTNs (aka Safe and Healthy Neighbourhoods)***

SH: how can residents push for them?

JC: Camden has been slow compared with some other boroughs but they do have a published plan that they stick to or explain modifications. They have engaged on one in the Dartmouth Park area jointly with Islington; the Holmes Road scheme (about to be implemented) was by popular demand.

SH: interested in discussing a scheme for East Kentish Town

JC: LTNs could be on the agenda for our next meeting

Future Minute takers: March SP, April JC.

Next Meeting 18th March at 7:30. The meeting will be online using Zoom.

<https://camdencyclists.org.uk/events/members-meeting-2024-03-18/>