

Meeting Minutes 18 August 2025

Camden Cyclists Meeting

Minutes 18 August 2025

19:30 - 21:00 Online

Attending

Steve Prowse (SP, Chair), John Chamberlain (JC, Minutes), Jean Dollimore (JD), Elena Moynihan (EM), Susan Seymour (SS), Ema Arvati (EA), Kaveh Kordestani (KK), Stefano Bertolotto (SB), Meade McCloughan (MM).

1) Introductions

Everyone present was known to each other so introductions were skipped.

2) Minutes of the July meeting

The minutes were approved with no outstanding actions.

We discussed the figure of 41% for the number of Camden schools having a Healthy School Street and agreed that though this was lower than expected it was probably right - most of the rest of the schools are on main roads or cannot have road closures for other reasons.

Action: Jean to contact Camden for further clarification.

3) Swiss Cottage cycling infrastructure study

Kaveh presented his analysis of the Swiss Cottage gyratory system, highlighting its outdated design and negative impact on cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers. He noted a significant increase in cycling through the area in 2023 but criticised Transport for London (TfL) for lack of progress on redesigning the gyratory since 2016. He suggested that removing the gyratory and converting the area into a bidirectional road with a dedicated cycle lane and pedestrian space (as proposed in 2016) would be the optimal solution, though he acknowledged this was unlikely to happen for some time. Elena proposed closing the section between the Swiss Cottage pub and the tube station to cars and redirecting traffic, while also creating a two-directional cycle lane and pedestrian area. The group agreed that the current system is outdated and fails to serve the needs of all road users effectively.

John said that the recent failure of TfL to fund Camden's proposed feasibility study was indicative of their lack of interest, Stefano agreed and reminded the meeting that without safe crossings of Finchley Road, the Fitzjohn's Avenue scheme was compromised.

The group discussed potential crossing improvements at Finchley Road, with Kaveh agreeing to add recommendations for a crossing of College Crescent in his analysis,

noting that while it is a Camden borough road, permission from TfL would be needed. The meeting explored various options including a parallel crossing system and an east-west link, but concluded that a connection to Belsize Road was not feasible due to gradient issues. Steve explained that Camden would need to prepare a scheme to apply for funding, which could create pressure on TfL to cooperate.

Action: Kaveh to add a section on crossing College Crescent to his report.
Kaveh to post his report to the CCC website.

4) Membership Visualisation

The meeting discussed the recent release of LCC membership data, which showed relatively low membership numbers but interesting spatial patterns. Kaveh presented maps showing membership distribution, noting that while cycling infrastructure has improved in some areas, engagement with certain communities remains low. He suggested that membership might correlate more with income levels than with propensity to cycle.

Elena suggested repositioning CCC to focus more on community events rather than solely campaigns, while John pointed out that many participants already engage without being formal members. The group discussed the possibility of making Camden Cyclists' membership free, though Steve noted the importance of maintaining CCC's identity as a branch of LCC for engagement and advocacy. Also, that the more people who cycle and self-identify as cyclists, the more propensity there is for them to become advocates of Active Travel.

5) Gordon Square West – Gordon Street Consultation

The group discussed Camden's plans to close the road along Gordon Square west and Gordon Street to motor vehicles, allowing northbound access for loading and blue badge parking – which is also the alignment of the C10 cycle route. Considering an area bounded by Euston Road, Woburn Place, Tavistock Place and Gower Street they noted the heavy traffic flows along Endsleigh Gardens and its junction with Gordon Street coming mostly via Endsleigh Street, with John and Meade expressing concerns that the proposed road closure does nothing to reduce motor traffic on other roads and junctions in the area. Its presence would also make it harder to design an effective LTN. The group decided to ask for an LTN (Low Traffic Neighbourhood) in their consultation response, and to remind Camden of the urgency of getting TfL to design a safe cycle and pedestrian crossing over Euston Road between Gordon Street and Melton Street. Steve noted the potential for increased cycling numbers once Cardington Street reopens after completion of HS2 and the redesigned Euston station, suggesting the infrastructure should be built to accommodate high volumes of cyclists in the future.

You can find Jean's slides at <https://bit.ly/3JDVPJP>

Action: Jean to draft response.

6) CCC / Islington Social 31st August 2pm Camden Square Gardens

The group discussed the upcoming social event in Camden Square Gardens followed by an informal ride to Coal Drops Yard, which will include a celebration of new infrastructure improvements on York Way.

7) Local elections in 2026

The meeting discussed the need to prepare for next year's local elections, with John suggesting we ask for renewed commitments from Labour and other parties (LibDems and Greens last time). Meade warned of potential political volatility due to an unpopular Labour government and the emergence of the Green Party and Jeremy Corbyn's 'Your Party' as competitive forces. The group agreed to take a positive approach in contacting Labour and the other parties about their previous pledges, with Jean and John offering to lead this effort. Steve suggested adding a specific pledge to do something about Swiss Cottage. The group discussed upcoming changes in local council leadership and the need to secure commitments from the new party leaders including Richard Olszewski for Labour.

It was suggested that Julian Fulbrook be asked for his options and advice.

Action: John to draft campaign plan and to contact Julian Fulbrook

8) AOB

CCC have been invited to a walkabout in South Camden Town on August 20th to present their points for the Camden vision, which has a deadline of June 31st. John, Kaveh and Elena¹ will attend.

The team also discussed concerns about incorrect information in the LCC magazine (Autumn 2025 page 9) regarding floating bus stops: they show a picture of a bus stop bypass sometimes also called a floating bus stop; they then say that there is to be a pause in their delivery but the truth is that the delivery of Shared Use Bus Boarders (SUBBs) is to be paused (as Kaveh pointed out).

Next minutes: Steve Prowse

¹ Note added - Elena was unable to make the meeting; Kaveh and John attended