

Meeting Minutes 20 October 2025

Camden Cyclists Meeting

19:30 - 21:00 Online

Attending

Steve Prowse (SP, Chair), John Chamberlain (JC), Kaveh Kordestani (KK), Andrew Owen (AO), Suzanne Weller (SW, Minutes), Peter Marsh (PM), Ema Arvati (EA)

Happy Birthday to Jean!

1) Introductions

SP welcomed attendees and outlined the agenda.

AO introduced himself as a commuter and leisure cyclist from Dartmouth Park, regularly riding into central London and taking part in long-distance rides.

SP provided a quick overview of attendees' roles: JC (ride coordination & infrastructure), KK (Swiss Cottage lead), EA (secretary), SW (website & Kentish Town Pedals lead), PM (campaign support).

2) Minutes of the September meeting

The minutes were approved without changes.

Updates and clarifications:

- SP reported that Westminster Conservatives had called in plans for Cleveland Street referencing uncertainty due to the Oxford Street pedestrianisation scheme. The call-in was rejected, and the scheme will proceed. However, there remain two potential judicial review threats from Marylebone residents.
- JC explained that Cycle Campaign does not usually submit responses to TMO (Traffic Management Order) procedures unless a specific design element has a negative impact on cycling. SP noted that Camden's practice differs from Westminster since Camden's consultations achieve broader engagement.

3) West Hampstead-Finchley road discussion

EA raised a resident suggestion about whether the Black Path, a footpath linking West End Lane to Fortune Green, could be enhanced for shared pedestrian and cycling use.

- EA noted that the path is too narrow for a dedicated cycle lane but could function well as a shared space with better signage and markings to make pedestrians aware of cyclists.

- KK added that the path appears to fall on Network Rail land resulting in confusion about maintenance responsibility:
<https://westhampsteadlife.com/2016/08/18/how-can-you-help-brighten-the-black-path/17585>

ACTIONS: JC to raise the suggestion of shared use signage with Camden transport planning officers.

4) Feedback from quarterly meeting with officers and London Living Streets

Minutes from this meeting are available here:

<https://camdencyclists.org.uk/2025/10/minutes-quarterly-meeting-13-october-2025/>

JC presented a few highlights:

- **Side-road Zebras:** These low-cost paint-only zebra crossings have shown success in ensuring pedestrian priority is made clear. They are being trialled in Westminster and could be an option for some Camden junctions in the future.
- **Cycle Network Map** Ongoing discussion with Transport Strategy officers about secondary routes – CCC believes routes should link destinations rather than be on isolated quiet roads.
- **Recent Completions** Crowndale Road, Bonny Street and Chalk Farm Road schemes well received – CCC has suggestions about some of the junctions on Chalk Farm Road junctions.
- **Upcoming Projects:** Shaftesbury Ave plans to extend protected lanes from Gower Street; Clerkenwell Road construction due to start January 2026.
- **Euston Road Workshops:** JC and SP expressed disappointment at limited scope focused on public realm and heritage themes instead of traffic reduction or cycle priority. PM added that earlier rounds (of about 2011) envisioned far more ambitious changes.
- **Cross Camden Corridor (Pratt – Delancey):** Pre-consultation engagement to start later this year.
- SP informed that the **Albany Street** scheme has been approved, with wider cycle lanes added following CCC feedback.

5) Review approach to campaigning for next year's council elections

SP opened discussion on CCC's strategy for next May's local elections as party manifestos are formulated.

JC presented a list of issues for “climate safe streets” from 2022. CCC made four asks from party leaders and three out of four pledged support. JC analysed the extent to which the four asks have been delivered in the time since they were made in 2022:

Climate Safe Streets - Progress to date

1. Construct 5 km of new protected cycle lanes on main roads each year, to reach 44 km by 2026	Slow progress - only 24.7 km to date from initial 20.8km
2. Create 20 km of secondary routes by 2026, prioritising routes in the western parts of the borough.	Difficult to measure but we now have 65 km on low traffic routes. But progress in the west is slow and some segments don't connect across main roads.
3. Construct three new substantial LTNs each year to reach an 80% coverage of possible neighbourhoods by 2030, with an intermediate target of 55% by 2026.	Slow progress; not much new since 2021
4. Support the Mayor of London's Netzero 2030 'Accelerated Green' Plan (27% traffic reduction) & road user charging proposals	Done

JC led a discussion on how CCC should approach the 2026 election campaign. Four options were suggested:

1. Recommit to asks 1 and 2 from 2022
2. Follow LCC: “Complete a Safe Cycle Network by ???”
3. Commit to delivering the network shown in Camden's delivery plan 2025-28
4. Something else

PM recommended focusing on Option 3 - supporting Camden's own Transport Strategy delivery plan - as the central campaign theme to retain cross-party support. As junction improvements are often a topic of our meeting throughout many years, he suggested pushing more strongly for junction improvements (e.g. consult on n junctions within the next year)

SP reiterated that CCC can take a branch-led approach on who we contact and what we campaign for. There is no need to focus on the LCC advice which may not be specific to the borough.

ACTIONS:

- PM to join a local election subgroup with JC and JD
- Subgroup to draft a set of asks for the party leaders.

A: Swiss Cottage

KK reported a very recent email exchange with the Belsize Society on the topic of the Swiss Cottage Gyratory. This indicated positive signs that stakeholders including Camden, TfL and 100 Avenue Road developers are more aligned on moving forward with improvements of the gyratory. From a public support perspective, it is paramount that any plans for improvements should be entirely separated from plans for a C11 cycleway.

SP noted that KK's excellent report on the Swiss Cottage Gyratory is now live on CCC website.

ACTIONS:

- **KK to reply in support of Belsize Society's position.**
- **KK (with CCC support) to press for a cross-group meeting with TfL and other stakeholders**

B: Ideas for addressing relatively minor issues

AO highlighted that addressing a lot of comparatively simpler, day-to-day issues faced by cyclists in Camden such as road surfaces and cycle parking could help encourage more cycling and also engagement in CCC campaigns.

For example, persistent surface problems at Mornington Crescent and along routes towards Tottenham Court Road, plus poor surfacing on Swains Lane.

SP encouraged the use of [FixMyStreet](#) to report minor issues.

JC encouraged AO to collate and document hotspots. CCC [groups.io](#) and Newsletter could be used to engage members and ask for their complaints and problem areas. We could set up a dedicated email address to support the project and collect ideas. Camden is generally very responsive to requests for additional cycle parking.

AO mentioned that FixMyStreet is helpful but time-consuming; more accessible reporting would encourage routine submissions.

SP thanked AO for bringing this issue to the group and welcomed his engagement with CCC.

ACTIONS:

- **If interested, AO could lead a campaign to identify smaller day-to-day issues with Camden's cycling infrastructure and bring these to the attention of the council. The issues could be collected via CCC members using [groups.io](#) and a dedicated email address set up by JC.**

C: Website Refresh

- SP displayed the updated CCC [website](#) to the meeting and talked through some of the changes:
 - New header and refreshed theme
 - Reordered menus
 - Link to CyclingUK and Lime guide for cycling in traffic
 - News article on Camden cycle counters during the strike
- There was a group discussion on the merits of showing links to X and Facebook on the home page.

ACTIONS:

- **SW to remove links to X and facebook from the website**
- **ALL: consider writing news articles and relevant content to keep our website current with the main activities at CCC.**

D: KT Pedals

SW described the KT Pedals rides that we run in association with a GP practice in Kentish Town. We are considering expanding the project to a second GP practice, perhaps in the west of Camden.

SW asked the group for ideas, suggestions, and interest in being involved.

JC suggested the Sidings in West Hampstead as a possible ride starting point as it may have good routes and a safe space to store bikes.

ACTIONS:

- **SW to contact Geoff for help and advice.**
- **All. Volunteers welcome to help set-up, organise or run the 2nd location.**

E: Ham&High Rota

Ema encouraged everyone to consider writing a piece for the Ham&High. We are on a regular rota to write around 350 words. A positive non-political piece about cycling:

This is a reminder that the Ham&High piece is coming up. It should be around 350-400-word long. Can you please let me know if you would like to volunteer to write a piece by the 29th October?

ACTIONS:

- **ALL: Consider whether you are interested in writing a piece or want to be added to the distribution list. If interested contact Ema (emanuela.arvati@btinternet.com)**

F: Bike week

SP drew our attention that last week was [Cycle to School](#) week. To celebrate, Camden Bike Bus ran 2 bike buses. Teachers and Heads from the schools supported by the bike bus joined in the fun as well as one of Camden's transport planners.

SP informed the group that a third bike bus has started in Camden.

G: Journeys to Schools

SW is working with Camden Bike Bus and Green School Runs to launch a new phase of our Journeys to Schools campaign. It will be a listening exercise to find out general and specific barriers that discourage or prevent families from walking and cycling to school. We will launch a survey to collect data from schools throughout Camden.

JC suggested using our email discussion group to recruit helpers to promote the survey within schools.

ACTIONS:

- **SW to finish the survey and use email [groups.io](#) to ask for help with promotion.**

Next minutes: Jean in November. Volunteers needed from December onwards. A rota for all Committee members is suggested utilising the Zoom AI automated minutes.