

Camden Cyclists meeting minutes

20 July 2026

19:30–21:00, Online



Present:

Steve Prowse (SP - chair), John Chamberlain (JC), Jean Dollimore (JD), Suzanne Weller (SW - minutes), Kaveh Kordestani (KK), Ema Arvati (EA), Peter Marsh (PM), Simon Pearson (SPear), Susan Seymour (SS)

Apologies / mentioned in minutes:

Meade McCloughan, Elena Moynihan (EM)

1. Introductions

SP welcomed the members.

2. Minutes of the June 2026 meeting

<https://camdencyclists.org.uk/2026/06/ccc-meeting-minutes-15-june-2026/>

SP reviewed the minutes of the June meeting with updates on the items discussed and some new actions raised:

Flying day:

SP & EM attended the farmers market on Saturday 18th July to speak with people, hand out flyers and encourage membership. JC attended LCC flying day on 14th July at the junction of Royal College Street with Camden Road. Both had a good reception from passers by and the new format of leaflet is easy for people to take.

Celebrating new Infra ride:

This will be on Sunday 27th September - Adam Harrison will come and the ride will be aimed at families. We will start at Belsize, then head down to Clerkenwell via Kings Cross.

Action: SP to add a return route to the plan.

Update on Streets for cycling campaign:

- We haven't had a response from James Slater (Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden) on our invitation to meet and/or cycle with him.

Action: JC to send a follow up email

- Labour have won the Regent's Park by-election from the Greens (triggered by an ineligible Green candidate). Turnout was low, around 20%.
- Two Green councillors in the Regent's Park ward have responded to the request to ride with us.

Action: JC to finalise date and route

- The group discussed whether there are particular councillors it would be most useful to connect with and discuss our campaigns. High priority would be members of the Scrutiny Committee and councillors with wards surrounding some of the key infrastructure projects coming forward this year.

Action: JC to create a matrix of projects / wards / councillors to help us prioritise outreach effectively.

- The group discussed the idea of having Camden Cyclists 'Ward Representatives' to report on barriers to cycling in their area and to meet with local councillors at their surgeries when needed. LCC may be able to support recruitment via Civi to reach out to members in particular wards.

Action: SW write a short job description, recruitment plan and find out whether we can send messages by ward via LCC.

Swiss Cottage Campaign Update:

We understand that the Belsize Society was pushing for improvements to the Swiss Cottage Gyratory. Camden has reallocated S106 funds from the 100 Avenue Road development from Swiss Cottage tube station to a gyratory feasibility study. SPear informed us that the money was collected in 2018, but it's unclear whether it has already been spent on other improvements in the area.

Action: KK to engage with the Belsize Society to clarify their current position and what they know about the S106 funds.

Action: JC to ask the Camden officers where things stand with it.

TfL KSI Statistics:

No update

Action: KK to review latest statistics and advise on whether there is any trend behind the small rise in KSIs in Camden.

3. Consultations**Brookes Market / Leather Lane Engagement**

<https://camdencyclists.org.uk/2026/07/brookes-market-leather-lane-engagement/>

JC shared details of the engagement for Leather Lane and the area around. Our current proposed response includes improving permeability by re-opening the route through to Dorrington Street and Brookes Market. Ensuring two-way cycling and keeping the link from Leather Lane through to Fetter Lane. JC noted that there are currently some unauthorised signs for no cycling on that link. Camden have already said that they will remove these.

Action: ALL - review proposed response on our website and feedback any suggestions.

Action: JC - complete our response and submit by 31st July.

Camden High Street Pedestrianisation

<https://consultations.wearecamden.org/supporting-communities/chs/>

JD presented Camden's proposal to make permanent the current phase 1 trial scheme and call for ideas for phase 2. From a cycling point of view phase 2 is the one that makes a significant gain for cycling.

Through our discussion groups, we have already identified a design problem with the northbound junction of Kentish Town Road and Hawley Crescent. Cyclists are in danger of becoming trapped on the inside of vehicles turning left. This has been raised with Camden Officers.

JD highlighted that phase 2 of the scheme adds benefit by creating a safe route for cyclists between Arlington Road and Chalk Farm Road and links to the cross-camden cycleway.

SPear put forward opposition to making phase 1 permanent on the grounds that the scheme has made Kentish Town Road more dangerous and no better for bus routes or cyclists.

JC added that the pedestrianisation of the busy high street is a priority to mitigate against hostile vehicle attacks.

KK added that at the busiest times, some cyclists may wish to avoid the pedestrianised sections of Camden High Street - it has always been difficult to cycle in because it is such a busy area. We should also make sure that the alternative routes around the area are also safe for cycling.

KK raised that there is currently an access road from Juniper Crescent to Gilbey's Yard which might serve as a useful permanent cycleway.

Action: JD to collect comments from the group and put together a response to the consultation by 23rd August

4. Fairs

Camden Cyclists recently attended the Camden New Town festival in Camden Square with a Dr Bike and Information stand.

The next fair coming up is the York Rise Street Party on Saturday 5th September.

Action: JC to speak with Anke Bohme from Haringey to see whether the 'Our Patch' group will have a stand or whether there's a possibility of doing a joint stand.

Action: SP to email committee to check whether anyone would be available to organise CCC participation at the street party.

5. LCC Festival of Cycling

LCC are organising a London Festival of Cycling together with various boroughs and cycling groups across London. Camden are likely to do a street closure, but haven't settled on the location or other arrangements. There will also be street closures and events at Church Street and Victoria Park as well as a large Kidical Mass ride in central London. Some options for us would be:

- a) Wait for Camden to decide on the road closure, then organise short, marshalled rides throughout the day from that point.
- b) Lead a ride to Victoria Park and back.
- c) Lead a feeder ride to Kidical Mass.

After discussion, we will most likely wait for Camden to arrange a road closure and support that. Family groups who already cycle are likely to attend Kidical Mass, so Camden Cyclists could have more impact focusing on adult/young person beginner-level rides in a local area.

Action: JC to continue communicating with the council to learn more about their plans.

6. Swains Lane Hill Climb - 26th September

The group has not seen any information about this year's event (so far only mentioned by OurPatch: <https://ourpatch.london/event/urban-hill-climb-2026/>).

7. Membership discussion & Camden Loves Cycling

The group reviewed the latest membership numbers - we have a healthy mixture of individual and household memberships. Membership is spread throughout Camden with a handful of wards having lower membership. We have a healthy intake of new members over the last year.

SW added that keeping up membership and engagement with Camden Cyclists is important in giving us a deeper understanding and authority to campaign on behalf of cyclists in Camden.

EA proposed the idea of connecting with the most successful LCC groups and finding out more about their approach to membership.

Action SP to follow up with Hackney to ask about how they encourage membership.

Action SW to follow up on 'Ward Representatives' idea to figure out details of how we contact members and to propose an event to bring people together to launch the idea.

8. Camden Loves Cycling

SP introduced this topic - we are starting to see behaviour change across Camden with increases in the number of cyclists. SW proposed launching a positive “Camden Loves Cycling” campaign to keep all the positive aspects of cycling in Camden front and centre. This would involve a website refresh, social media campaign, new tabards, banners, stickers etc. to hand out.

PM suggested combining this campaign with the councillor/ward engagement idea to get some nice images of cyclists throughout different wards in Camden using infrastructure in their area.

JC suggested ~A1 banners that could be used in photos and videos to promote the campaign.

The group agreed to the use of approximately £200 of funds from the Kentish Town Bike Workshop to purchase some promotional “Camden Loves Cycling” material to support the campaign.

Action: SW to buy vests, banners and other material to give out and promote Camden Loves Cycling

9. AOB

Castle Road onto Kentish Town Road

SPear raised safety concerns at the junction from Castle Road turning right onto Kentish Town Road or Royal College Street. Cyclists sometimes ignore the lights and proceed through the junction when the pedestrian lights are green.

The group discussed whether this issue represents red light jumping or a design flaw at the traffic signals, concluding that the current design gave cyclists the impression that they had the green light and priority to continue through the junction, when actually they need to stop part of the way through the junction to respect the pedestrian crossing.

SS raised that the route going north from Royal College Street to Kentish Town Road is challenging to cycle, especially if the lights are green as you arrive at them. The group acknowledged the challenges with this junction and discussed

that taking a central position in the road and indicating right onto Kentish Town Road was the best mitigation given the current junction design. Camden Cyclists have already raised the problems with this junction with Camden Officers.

Action: JC to take forward the potential design issue and problematic phasing of the lights (Castle Road right onto Kentish Town Road) to Camden Officers.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 17th August (in person at the Grafton)

Minutes - **TBC: Any volunteers?**