

London Cycling Campaign in Hackney

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 2 August 2017 7:30 -9:00pm

Pembury Community Centre, Pembury Estate, E8

Present: Matt Saywell (Chair of meeting, Multi-media Committee member), Dave Harris (Treasurer), Rachel Aldred (Research), Brenda Puech (Secretary), Natalie Gould, (Consultation Co-ordinator), Ruth-Anna Macqueen, Yasmina, Tom Power, Richard Lufkin

Simon Munk (Infrastructure Campaigner LCC) Guest Speaker

Apologies: Jono Kenyon, Kate Charteris, Harry Fletcher-Wood, Dave Lukes, Charlie Lloyd, James Woodcock

Minutes

1. **Talk by Simon Munk:** "*Low traffic neighbourhoods. Lessons learnt from across London*"

Simon's talk was based on his experiences as a campaigner for the Mini-Holland scheme in Walthamstow. The following was discussed:

- LCC is preparing a Infrastructure document along with Living Streets on *low traffic neighbourhood schemes*, gathering together knowledge and experience built up on schemes, whether successful or not.
- Simon Munk worked on Walthamstow mini Holland scheme which was inspired by Hackney's filtering work over the years.
- One of the outcomes of the scheme is that people started doing a lot more shorter distance on bikes, not just commuting.
- The big win was the community – neighbours talking to each other and children playing out. Communities take ownership planting flower beds etc.
- There is a big threat from apps such as Uber and Google Maps that provide users with shortcuts through residential neighbourhoods. This needs to be addressed
- Recommend doing no more than 10 minutes walking across filter – 1km square otherwise internal driving occurs within cell.
- Porosity measures: physical measures such as modal filters are gold standard, but other options including bus gates and opposing one way systems can also work.
- Common myths that were demolished as a result of the scheme are that filtering will increase traffic on main roads which has not gone up or marginally at most. There is also some evidence that reducing turning movements into cells improves flows on main roads.
- Neighbouring areas are not affected and traffic in these actually drops
- Emergency services are not affected – via use of bendy and lockable bollards
- Disabled and older people recognize that they can use mobility scooters with greater ease. Many are now positive rather than negative

How to get a Mini-Holland or Liveable Neighbourhood in the borough – there is a 13 point checklist:

- Do an area, otherwise one street takes the main load of traffic and turns against scheme
- Consultations are not good enough. Engagement and conversations more important. There was considerable opposition to the 1st phase of the scheme including death threats to campaigners, but this turned around in the 2nd phase. Surveying of residents is the way to start to build a consensus, helps to create a baseline of information, develops principles and helps reduce opposition; also need to show how scheme has changed because of consultation.
- Technical officers not often trained to communicate, so consultation needs to be done with specialist communication officers.
- Ensure support throughout the Council including ward councilors
- Emphasise benefits for everyone not just cyclists
- Be real and clear about negatives.
- Be clear with FAQ s and myth busters. Use social media extensively. This needs to be done with community activists rather than council staff.
- Live trials are valuable.
- Don't make it a yes/no vote
- Get loads of data, including surveys of pollution, congestion, traffic counts, collisions etc
- Be aware of the political cycle as controversial schemes will be deferred
- Create an exemplar and roll it out

2. Minutes and matters arising from meeting 5 July 2017

- **Poor quality of Whiston Road redevelopment:** NG sent KC consultation report
- **Mini-Holland tour:** NG will do an account for the website. RA has photos.
- **Bike around the Borough 29 June:**
 - KC will give full financials next month.
 - Gus wrote good blog on cargo bike championship needs to be promoted
- **London Fields cyclists/ pedestrian conflicts:** Issue is on Cyclescape. Needs to be picked up with Council. (NG and HFW consultation coordinators)
- **Website and communications:** needs to be standing item on agenda.
- **School Streets:** It was noted that the London Fields scheme to start in September and should be promoted strongly.
- **Darnley Rd- Elsdale St area wide scheme:** Our response went in on time.
- **Manse Rd/ Rectory Rd/Amhurst Rd: speed reduction measures:** Our response went in on time.
- **Broadway Market Traffic report:** BP to chase Garmon re blog
- **Trailer purchase:** Alix can give us discount for Carry Me trailer, and the meeting favoured this approach, subject to a satisfactory funding situation.
- **Freecycle** took place last Saturday 29 July. Hackney LCC Marshals included Jules Matteson, Ikko Evans, Charlie Lloyd, Natalie Gould, Tom Powers, Jess Moran Richard

Drew and Gerald Howgate who were all given thanks for their volunteering efforts. Special thanks to Nick Perry for organizing these last 4 years.

There were 85 people on the ride and we got very good feedback from participants. The ride provided good PR for the group and LCC.

DH to investigate if we can get funding for leading the feeder ride.

3 Finance:

- DH is awaiting feedback from KC regarding funding situation for Bike Round the Borough. We are also waiting for a cheque from the Council regarding our input.
- DH will produce full budgetary analysis for September meeting.
- **Meeting room hire:** The charging of VAT on our meeting room hire continues to be a problem. Currently the charges including VAT are £57.60 per month. We have got agreement in theory that VAT should not be chargeable on charitable use of room and have reached a compromise that the Peabody Trust will give us a 20% discount for a year hire agreement.

Meeting agreed to take on a 12 month hire agreement but if we do not get VAT reduction then we should look for new meeting premises next year.

It was noted that attendees to the meeting were being asked to sign in. In order to have an inclusive welcoming venue it was agreed we should have a committee member at front desk.

We have been permitted to have a flag at the door publicizing our meeting and to leave leaflets for publicity.

4 Family Cycling Project feedback:

Ruth-Anna reported that the garage is looking very nice now. Motion detected LED lights have been installed. There is space for Alix's trailer and other items.

Two library sessions have been held this month and 18 items were taken out on loan. Two families have gone out to buy their own trailers and do their own rides. We did a joint event with Roundchapel nursery and got 8 new families in spite of rain.

Community Roundchapel is keen to assist with project as part of their outreach work.

The Project also organized a ride to the Olympic Park.

It was reported that the police have made arrest of a suspect in relation to our stolen items but no evidence has been able to be found against him.

The Project has received several approaches from companies wanting to fund the scheme including £50 from Unite Union and from a developer in Hoxton and £300 from another developer. This is going through Carry Me social enterprise bank account. Rent is to be covered jointly by Carry Me and Hackney LCC.

It was reported that the insurers will pay £650 for stolen items which will go on folding bikes, and a joint purchase of a pop-up gazebo.

The Project is going to put in another bid to Cycling Grants for London (TfL) who have grants available for £3,000 bikes for electric bikes and will get a e-cargo bike for the project. Hackney LCC would also be able to use it.

Project wants a pop-up gazebo which needs to be good quality and robust. **RA to bring proposal** to group.

It was noted that we need to move Hackney LCC stuff into Family Project Garage.

5 Meeting with Council Streetscene

There were two meetings held on 12 and 31 July with the Council Transport Department. We discussed informal consultation on future schemes and specifically discussed schemes in Shoreditch including introduction of filters and reducing rat runs. It was noted that businesses keen on filtering there.

- 6 **Membership:** It was noted that the Freecycle Ride certainly helped with publicity. The summer breakfast attracted a few applicants and we have a collection of emails. We could email them with information on meetings campaigns and membership. **Jono** to do this. Need to recruit a membership secretary at the AGM.

- 7 **Burns Night:** agree to set up a sub-group to organize this. **BP and DH.**

- 8 **Local party manifestos** – This needs to be put on agenda for September meeting. After candidate selections are finalized manifestos will be developed and it will be a good opportunity to feed in to these.

LCC wants to do a campaign around Liveable Neighbourhoods (LNs) based on strategic cycling maps. They will be asking candidates to pledge to do a high quality bid on LN schemes.

9 Consultations

- **Wick Road** – This was a radically different scheme, much improved and a good first step with significant parking removed. It has uni-directional cycle ways both sides but there are still has issues that need to be resolved including:
 - Use of footway cycle lanes
 - Side road junctions
 - No useful route into Well Street market

We need to send suggestions to HFW for a supportive response. Need to send information to members to support scheme. **The deadline is 31 August** so we need to

get members to respond at least a week beforehand in order to collate responses. As there may be opposition, we could be proactive about promoting scheme, such as developing cards to hand out. **NG and RA to cycle scheme.**

- **Clapton Passage scheme (crossing of Lower Clapton Road to Powerscroft Rd):** It was agreed this was not a suitable scheme, as it requires cycling on the footway to get to and from the parallel cycle crossing. We have sent our response saying that the raised table for crossing is not good enough on its own.
- **Rumble strips:** need to remove sections of rumble strips which will be particularly bad in the winter. These are installed along QW2 along narrow shared space areas.
- **Filtering in Shacklewell Ward for CS1:** It was reported that this has displaced traffic to area north of Butterfield Green. The Council has proposed three alternative solutions:
 - filtering traffic, which is good,
 - alternatively turning street to one way streets which will increase traffic.

Agreed that more filtering was a better solution..

10 October AGM: We need to ensure that Will Norman (London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner) will be able to speak at our AGM in October. JK to chase.

11 Next meeting: Wednesday 6 September 2017, 7:30pm