



Hackney Cycling Monthly Meeting – January 2024

Present: WP, GG, KG, BP, DH, MM, JS, TM2, BB, GQ, JK, TM3, CK

Apologies: TM1, RC, DM

1. Grants

Hackney Arc, building at Hackney Downs (but part of Homerton NHS). Done work with them for last three years, with children with various neurodiversity challenges, helping them ride. Very small but quite successful.

Also with help from Barts, have worked with cardiac recovery patients. Another successful but small project.

What that has led to is collaboration with Leaside Trust. £30k grant, to buy pool of bikes and delivery cycling activities from their site. Hackney Council will run box bike demonstration at the site. Aim is to become hub for encouraging cycling. Loop in with cycle buddies in the area. Start during first half term or later.

GG asks what will be asked from the LCC group. MM says wants us to take some ownership, see it as an outreach opportunity, volunteers?

2. Burns Night

Only 22 tickets remaining, better than last year at this point. DH suggests adjusting thresholds of ticket types to maximise sales. Would going over 140 be risky? BP says 140 for the dinner to avoid overcrowding for the dance. Tweet out that we have the last few tickets.

Confident we'll make the budgeted income.

Haggis orders are 55% meat, DM will adjust our order, particularly accounting for the chieftain. BP says we always get a bit extra. Some gluten free orders on the side.

BP says we have 10 volunteers currently, expecting more. We have photographer, and CF. Toast may be less Scottish and more cycling focused.

Will Mayor speak? Not sure, need to follow up.

Who will tick people off at door? BP asks LD if he can do that, and he says yes.

How do we let people know they can do a turn?

Raffle? JK nominates Bike Project as a possible destination for funds. Makes point about no recourse to public funds, no ability to work, so access to a bike can be transformative. GG suggests asking them to come along, ask for donations. Some



testimonials about the charity. We decide that half should go to Bike Project, half to Pedal Power.

CF will chat with facilities about deliveries, access on the day. Some cleanup on Sunday and Money.

GG brings up local businesses that put up raffle prizes last year. RL is doing rounds. Open to further ideas. BB suggests Violet Bakery on Wilton Way.

Online raffle has been discussed. Complicates things a bit as there are physical prizes, some things may need to be posted out.

JK has placed wine order. Needs four volunteers on the bar. Has two already. DH notes that there was a record profit on the bar last time. BP has Zettle readers currently and will get them to JK, says something about them not being updated.

GG asks specifically if people can stay late to clear up.

3. Council Meetings

Updates on meetings in late 2023. Firstly with Caroline, who offered a meeting in lieu of attending hustings. GG says it was good in the whole. We went in wanting to put across that we haven't been pleased with progress in recent years, particularly quality of main road and major junction schemes. Specifically mentioned Pembury Junction plans put in front of cabinet as underwhelming.

She knows the timing for delivery on that scheme is tight, so no time to overhaul plans if the first draft isn't good enough.

Caroline said she does cycle, but discouraged because of perceived safety risks. She dismounts and walks across Pembury Junction for instance.

JK says it was highlighted that there's a disconnect between policy and actual schemes.

Caroline said she'd arrange meeting with Mete in January, need to follow up on that.

Secondly, officer meeting. Clarified timings regarding Hackney Central. Should be seeing first documents, regarding Amhurst Road > Mare Street section coming out this year for work starting later this year. Following that there will be information about further schemes, work on Pembury Junction in 2026. Current plans for Pembury Junction shows nothing for cycling aside from advanced stop lines. "Green corridor" on Amhurst Road we only have artist's renderings.

We have asked an experienced engineer to produce our own plans for Pembury Circus, so we can take this back to Hackney and show what is possible.

GQ talks about loss of confidence in Hackney Council. Asks about leafleting to raise awareness. Mentions some specific failings of council. Wants us to become more of



a campaigning organisation, feels that we can outweigh (in terms of numbers) those putting pressure on council from the other direction.

London Fields LTN, Mete said at AGM there was a high proportion of responses against the bus gate, we have made the point that 24 hours wasn't an option and that may have skewed the results as some respondents would have wanted that. But it's going forward as proposed.

Which end of Laurel Street will filter be going in? End of 2024.

Dalston LTN. Crossing near Rio will be going in on 20th February. LTN overall going in late 2024.

Nothing specific to say on Chatsworth, apart from there is a scheme on paper.

Two consultations finishing on Sunday. Hackney Downs LTN and Downham Road. Please respond! Hackney Downs LTN, Will raises that a rat run has been left in.

Roads around A12 (Kenworthy Road, Wick Road). TfL have money to look into that and produce some potential options. Early days.

Stoke Newington Gyratory still on priority list.

Blackstock Road has been listed as the most dangerous junction in Hackney. C50 supposed to be flagship under Khan, but nothing has been done. Significant failing from TfL here, who told Hackney to put their own scheme on ice. And people have been hurt and killed in the meantime.

Will have another meeting with officers tomorrow.

4. Works

Lea Bridge Roundabout surface issues. CK says the joins between new works and existing surfaces have issues. Will said there are issues with the surface in general.

Kingsbury Bridge removed. New bridge being put in on 27th, we can toast the reopening of CS1 (well, it won't be open until later in new year) at Burns Night. Separate space for cyclists and pedestrians, 4m each.

Butterfield Green works underway. Cycle route hasn't been touched yet. Planters already removed.

Luke Street works have begun.

5. Tower Hamlets

TM3 from Save our Safer Streets. Says Aspire want to rip out LTNs, including physical infrastructure. Says listening to us is like being in a "parallel universe" as our grievances are real, but not on the same scale as those in TH!



Says if Aspire can do what they plan to, against local consent, it sets an ugly precedent. Says SoSS have, while being unaffiliated with any existing groups, got a lot of backing. Thousands of members, donations for legal review, etc. Working with Leigh Day, cause has been taken up by a barrister with an interest in green issues. Good press coverage.

Says we can make a difference, by chipping into legal fund:

<https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/save-our-safer-streets-in-tower-hamlets/>. The amount of money needed is ridiculous to bring a challenge, but it is what it is.

Some discussion around how the issue has been very politicised, and along ethnic lines, unfortunately.

WP asks if Lutfur Rahman may like an off ramp where this issue is concerned, and if it's become more trouble than it's worth for him. TM3 suggests that losing the court case would actually be something he could frame as him versus the elites, and try to make it into an election issue. So he's unlikely to back down now.

6. Constitution

We move to adopt the formal constitution first raised at the AGM.

7. AOB

Architect firm on Hackney Road, they have a space, want to use it for "cycle focus" weekend. GG suggested some possibilities to them. Open to ideas. Will send more information as it is available. Suggests a joint approach with Tower Hamlets groups.