



## Hackney Cycling Monthly Meeting – April 2024

Present: LD (secretary), GG (co-ord), CA, RL, GSJ, DH (Treasurer), GQ, KG, TM, DM, FC, MM

Apologies: JK

### 1. News

GG explains that this is a pre-election period so things are quiet, not much new announcements and we haven't met with officers recently.

RL says the Kingsbury Bridge looks basically done. Can we do something to celebrate it? While also perhaps highlighting how long (15-16 months) a major route was closed (albeit with a diversion put in place by network rail and councils in meantime).

Can we ask for temporary restriction on Balls Pond Road to be made permanent (removal of parking and extension of bus lane).

Final designs for Pembury Road have been made public. Cycle lanes stop shorter of junctions than in previous design. Hopefully this is just pending work on the junctions? Something small to celebrate at least, cycle lanes that are being built in Hackney (albeit ones that give up as bus stops and junctions).

RL says works for A10 crossing (near Rio cinema) are imminent. Thinks it will be a big benefit in terms of network effects. Significant safety upgrade as fewer movements allowed for motor vehicles. GG says LTN may have been pushed back because of this because they want to see effects first.

Also waiting for decision from Islington regarding Mildmay, which will link up with this. Taken together, could cause many cyclists to change routes, or increase levels of cycling generally.

DM says a resident on other end of Sandringham Road has been promised something. GG says he's not aware of any plans, hopefully through traffic will be reduced and things will improve a bit there anyway?

Lower Clapton Road crossing works going ahead. We had concerns which we raised, but it was part of planning conditions for the school. Will be interesting to see what people's experience of it is like! KG says we'll wait and see what the timings are.

CA says it's been resurfaced recently, but no new road markings. No extra bus priority or anything, or cycle lanes.

### 2. Amhurst Road



Tried to get meeting with lead engineer before pre-election period, was told there was nothing needed to discuss.

We did discuss putting a page together on our website, to make sure our proposals are fully understood. We will have more campaign actions post election.

KG asks, what do we do if it's awful for cycling. We've let Mete and Caroline know we'll be campaigning against it if it's not up to scratch. Tom asks if there would even be an opportunity to get the plans to change at that stage.

LD says we shouldn't oppose the bus gate in any case, but definitely oppose permanent public realm changes that don't improve safety.

Discussion around hours of bus gate. Argument has been made that other bus gates in Hackney are 7-7 but that's not the case across the board. KG talks about unpleasant, antisocial behaviour by drivers at night. Are locals being listened to here?

CA says we should be able to team up with other groups in the area to ask for the hours of the bus gate operation to be expanded.

Next scheduled meeting is before the election. So before then, get page on website up, and maybe send another letter to Mete and Caroline.

### **3. Rides**

FreeCycle 26th May. We normally do a led ride to the event area. Please do put in diaries and come along if you're interested in marshalling, or just being part of the ride.

LCC are asking local groups to do something on weekend of 27th April. Theme is "London Loves Cycling". Mike says, take some photos, link it all into the campaign. It's launched today, it's on the website. All about positive vibes. Previous election campaigns have been about trying to get candidates to commit to asks, and then hold them to account when elected. But now because there's some extreme negativity we're trying to go a different way, as cycling is now a mainstream activity in London.

FC says there's a play street on the 25th, around Haggerston. London Play Association involved. Also jelly. Mike says that sounds perfect.

Any positive events can basically be co-opted, but nothing funded by TfL.

Should we do a family ride like last year on the 27th? Generally we seem positive about this, will figure out details later.

### **4. Leaside Trust**



This could be part of the LCC campaign as well? Two grants, one to do with Hackney ARC. We've done a project with this, cycle sessions with families with an instructor. Used to do it at Hackney Downs, but limiting in terms of progressing as you hit hills / traffic. Starting on Jewish Orthodox holiday. Says 20 families would be a good outcome.

Another grant is with Leaside Trust directly. Bought about 20 bikes, for range of ages. Leaside will use this for works with schools, complementing their existing activities they offer. Will be paying for an instructor to run rides aimed at families. Want to try and get volunteers, possibly from cycle buddies (both Hackney and Waltham Forest based).

All linked in with local GPs.

MM says there is some budget for a ride on the 27th from Leaside. Oh and for the FreeCycle they will run something, possibly a pre-feeder ride to the town hall.

Email MM if you want to get involved!

## **5. Year End Accounts**

DH says he's required to submit accounts by end of month to LCC. Will report profit of £793, in line with previous years, largely a result of Burns Night.

We also have to decide whether we want to ask for a grant from LCC. GG confirms that we don't want to.

Membership levels are down, and this is across most boroughs. We're number 1, but Southwark are close.

DH says stripe charge £194 for their readers. LCC have a potential alternative. Something to think about when we plan for Burns Night 2025.

DH has had a lovely thank you card from Bike Project after our donation to them.

GG asks MM if there are any concerns within LCC central about declining membership. Says there's constant efforts in the membership team to meet their targets and address the issue. General question around, if there are so many cyclists, why aren't they members?

RL asks what our balance is. DH says it's about £4k. General agreement that this is a healthy amount.

Should we invite Tom (LCC CEO) for our June, in person meeting?

## **6. AOB**

GG asks about Queensbridge Road. Junction between Queensbridge and Whiston Road. There is a little painted lane to access bike box, which council is removing and creating two lanes for cars. A previous consultation showed the bike lane being



retained. GG says we did respond to the consultation and were ignored. Their logic was that this would benefit right turning cyclists. But it's taking away a space that drivers generally wouldn't have encroached upon. They've started building the crossing so probably too late to push back on. KG says a lot of kids will use this stretch of road to go to school. GQ says he'll write to mayor.

DH says creating turning lane for motorists should not come at expense of cyclists.

GG says, the one hope in that area is that council have said they've applied to TfL for funding to make improvements on Whiston Road.

RL says go to councillors, at their ward meetings. More effective than an email.

DH says he's had to go to Homerton Hospital a fair bit recently, but route there is spoiled by crossing across City Academy. Discussions about the issues with ambiguity on shared space. TfL are looking at this apparently? GG says we should be seeing something in May. We've emailed Will Norman with a proposed route that would use this crossing. Oh and it's on our Gateways map.