

**"If you want to go fast, travel alone. If you want to go far, travel together"** *African proverb*

In the same way, to end up with the best and most durable, cycling infrastructure for Islington, ICAG needs to collaborate and communicate. And that is exactly what ICAG members have been doing for some time now - with astonishing results!

🚲 Three major, cycling infrastructure projects from our campaign "asks" implemented between Autumn 2014 and 2016.

🚲 Negotiations underway with the council to deliver an innovative "zonal" solution for the whole of South Islington.

🚲 ICAG representatives now meeting with Councillors and Planners on a regular basis.

🚲 Cyclists' views being listened to and acted upon by journalists, Councillors and MPs, with letters and articles in the local press.

🚲 Packed out cycling events and member participation at all time high.

## PROJECT UPDATES IN

**DETAIL.** Remember: you can join the debate on major cycle projects on our website [www.icag.org.uk](http://www.icag.org.uk)

**The Archway Gyratory:** At last, after years of campaigning by Better Archway Forum, Streets for People, ICAG and others, we will finally be meeting with Council Officers in early September to see the latest plans that have been drawn up. They should go out to public consultation in October. Although implementation is unlikely before Spring 2016, when the bridge works at Upper Holloway are complete, it feels amazing that this may finally happen. One campaigner from Better Archway Forum has been working on this for more than a decade! This is a true "water on a stone" story proving that tenacity and a consistent, but persistent approach, reap benefits.

**Jeremy Corbyn** MP Islington North, has been a fervent supporter of a safer solution to the Archway Gyratory for cyclists and pedestrians, for many years. His most recent response to member, Tom Bogdanowicz, on the urgent need for lorry driver compulsory pedestrian/cyclist awareness training dovetails with this. See website for details

**7 Sisters Road:** We are still pushing for a more cycle- and pedestrian-friendly scheme than the options put forward by TfL last winter, and are championing the ideas developed by Tom Harrison and colleagues. We feel strongly that, in contrast to TfL's plans, it's necessary to segregate Seven Sisters Road and have put forward two comparative schemes: two single lanes on both sides of the road, and one bidirectional

lane on the south side. We are working with Camden Cyclists on this gritty problem and will share ideas with a new local initiative, Transform 7 Sisters (@t7sisters) that's campaigning for safer roads, better access to businesses and a general rejuvenation of this very busy commercial centre. As the proverb says, better to go further, and go together...

## "Clerkenwell Boulevard":

Clerkenwell Road is recognised by TfL as one of the most important sections of Central London's Grid. Protected cycle tracks are needed to enable attractive cycling safe from traffic and buses. ICAG proposes to Convert Clerkenwell Road into the Clerkenwell Boulevard.

Taking this campaign to the next level, ICAG supporters led by ICAG activist, Andrea Casolotti, staged direct action on 4th August and commandeered half the pavement at Clerkenwell. "We wanted to draw attention to an unfinished and unused cycle path at Clerkenwell and how it could provide safety for cyclists at a time when we put our lives in danger on London's roads," Andrea said. For full article see *Islington Tribune* 27 June.



ICAG members' direct action, Farringdon Road

Cllr Claudia Webbe Executive Member for Transport and Environment, set out Islington's support and plans for

new cycling infrastructure in the borough in a recent letter in the *Islington Tribune* (15/8/14), and specifically referred to the Clerkenwell Road project being implemented by 2016. This is a huge success for ICAG's vision for cycling in the borough and now we have to keep up the dialogue, and the pressure, to make sure it's as good as possible and as near to the original vision.

## OTHER AREAS IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

**St John's Road:** Since Crossrail's closure of the south end of St John's Street/Charterhouse Street, this area has turned organically into a piazza style space for local residents, businesses and visitors. ICAG has requested that Islington Council Planners survey local stakeholders about making this new infrastructure permanent, and not to re-open St John's Street. It would certainly fit perfectly with the Clerkenwell Boulevard scheme that has won approval. Another win in the making perhaps?

TfL Consultations: <http://bit.ly/1qm6QOI>  
TfL's consultation on Lorry Safety  
<http://bit.ly/1qIQgu0>

## AIR POLLUTION

Islington's new Labour administration seems to have woken up to the fact that its responsibility to manage 93% of our roads and its responsibility for public health are two sides of the same coin. On 1st August they launched a new initiative to combat air pollution. With immediate effect, drivers allowing their engine to idle will be fined on the spot. We applaud the initiative, and will be keeping an eye on developments. See *Air Quality News* <http://bit.ly/1mLkfum>

## PARKING DEBATE IGNITES!

The news that the Council plans to introduce 884 new parking spaces in the borough – contradicting completely their transport and air pollution objectives – has ignited passionate debate among ICAG members. From proposals to boycott Islington shops, to forming an Anti Parking lobby, a letter from Islington South's MP Emily Thornberry to the Council demanding an explanation, to more pragmatic proposals based on filtering with low-cost bollards, the heated discussion has raged for over a month since activist Andrea Casolotti's open letter to Cllr Webbe appeared in the local press. Cllr Caroline Russell (Green Party) commented: "When the council uses obscure policies (that seem to contradict their transport objectives) to increase parking capacity, which is bad for cycling and bad for public health, then I'm glad to see ICAG speak out".

A note of caution was sounded by LCC Board Member, Mustafa Arif: "Don't forget back in 2006 the Lib Dems out-numbered Labour by 3:1. Islington was one of their flagship councils. It's easy to forget in these Coalition days, but the Lib Dem demise locally started with the unpopularity (with a limited, but electorally significant, number of swing voters) of CPZs. I don't think asking turkeys to vote for Christmas is good campaigning. Politics is the art of the possible. There's plenty to get done. Over time (declining car ownership, rising cycling, evolving demographics, and passage of certain obstructive personalities) the facts on the ground will change. Right now, let's focus on what we can get done to the highest standard to maximise the increase in bums on saddles. That doesn't ignore car parking but I do think ICAG should be saying things like "Quietway XX needs to be really good and these parking spaces here are a problem, here are the acceptable option(s)" rather than what may seem like a general assault on the principle of car parking." The debate continues.

**See the website for the latest data map, showing that more of us are walking and cycling than ever before!**  
<http://bit.ly/1qm5mDy>

## SUSTRANS VISITS ICAG

At our August meeting we welcomed Sustrans' *Healthy Air Campaigners* who showed their latest video, hosted by The Guardian. You can view it here <http://bit.ly/VljKzE>. It shows clearly that cyclists are exposed to 90% less air pollution than drivers – great viewing!

**See Tom Harrison's map for potential filtered permeability**  
<http://bit.ly/1qIAo4Y>

## EVENTS:

### Bikeweek 2014, 14/22 June

Bike Week is the UK's biggest mass participation cycling event, with almost half a million people participating at events across the country. In Islington, ICAG members came out in force on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June with Hackney and Haringey LCC members, to help man the LCC stand at the Finsbury Park Festival of Cycling. We had a non-stop line of visitors and ran out of LLC membership forms! There was a long queue for Doctor Bike all day and the Police "Changing Places" was popular too. It looks like this event will be a regular fixture on the calendar – it could be bigger and better next year. Our ever-better relations with the council, are helped in no small part by the fact that there are now four cycling councillors, three of whom visited our stand.



Cllr Caroline Russell and Cllr Gary Heather with Nick Kocharkov

Later in the week, members came out to help with the LCC Cyclists Breakfast at City Road/Goswell Road – There were free coffee, croissants, information and a bike check at the junction with Colebrook Row.



ICAG member Suzy, working the queue

## LONDON FREERIDE

Thanks to Keith MacFarlane for organising the feeder ride on 9<sup>th</sup> August to the *London Freeride*. From Islington he took some 70 cyclists to St Pauls, so they could experience the newly extended course round Central London. About 30 turned up for the return trip. Many thanks to the marshalls who turned up to help out!

## Cycle Workshop Dates

**Place:** Sunnyside Ecology Gardens  
corner of Sunnyside Rd and Hazelville Rd, N19 (off Hornsey Rise)  
**Date:** 4th Wednesday of each month (except August&December)  
**Time:** 7 – 9.30 p.m.  
**Cost:** £1 (50p unwaged) per session  
**C** Adrian Williams  
**T** 07810 211 902

## ICAG monthly meeting

If you've something to say about cycling in Islington, or just want to listen, come along to the ICAG monthly meeting.

**Place:** Islington Town Hall

**Date:** 2nd Wednesday/every month

**Time:** 7.30-9.30 pm

**C** Alison Dines

**T** 020 7226 7012

**E** [alisondines@clara.co.uk](mailto:alisondines@clara.co.uk)

Agenda items for meetings should reach Alison Dines by the Saturday before the meeting.

## Reporting Potholes

In Islington, phone 020 7527 2000 or go to [islington.gov.uk](http://islington.gov.uk) and click on report a street problem. Or try [fixmystreet.com](http://fixmystreet.com) Rest of London, phone 0845 305 1234 or go to [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk), click on road users, then on report a street fault.

## Follow us...

We have a Facebook page; go to your page and type in Islington Cyclists Action Group. And you can follow us on Twitter @IslingtonCycle

If you wish to discuss any of the topics covered in Islington Cyclist in more detail then why not subscribe to the ICAG email list? If you would like to participate, send an email to [icag-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:icag-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

We have another yahoo group concerned mainly with the engineering projects that we are being consulted about. If you want to join this one send an email to: [icag-eng-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:icag-eng-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)


## Contribute to Islington Cyclist

Please send articles/images to [judith@getmore.so](mailto:judith@getmore.so)  
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of ICAG.

Thanks to all contributors. Published by ICAG, 84c Riversdale Rd, London, N5 2JZ

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