

## Minutes of the ICAG meeting Wed 14th January 2015 at the Town Hall, Upper Street N1 at 7.30-9.30pm

**Present:** Owen Powell, Alison Dines, Rosalind Readhead, Michael and Arcola Johnson, Andrea Casalotti, Alex Santacreu, Robert Harston, Liz Reiner, Adrian Williams, Anita Frizzarin, Tom Harrison, John Ackers, Paul Standeven, Keith Macfarlane, Tabitha Tanqueray

**Apologies:** Eilidh Murray, Michelle Shipworth

Owen Powell, the Assistant Cycling Officer at Islington Council, attended the meeting. He started his job in November and is working with David Shannon to provide more cycling training in the borough; in the past he has worked for Sustrans and been a teacher. Islington offers cycle training to all schools and to adults but it was pointed out that if parents don't cycle they may not want their children to do so. Owen said family cycle training is also available from the council and the sessions are for at least one adult and one child. Owen will try and promote Sustrans' 'Big Pedal' competition to local schools. New leaflets about cycle training will be available around the borough at libraries, surgeries and schools.

Owen was asked about school travel plans and said that although all schools have these it is no longer compulsory for them to be updated. His colleague Robert O'Connor is reviewing which of the 72 plans are being kept up-to-date, thought to be about 35; TfL encourage the plans by offering awards. Surveys are done in January which ask pupils how they travelled to school. Owen was also asked about installing cycle parking, which is not part of his role, and confirmed who within the council should be contacted. He said he would be liaising with the police on bike theft and identifying local 'hot spots'. Islington will again be holding the Festival of Cycling with Haringey in Finsbury Park on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Matters arising**

#### *Air quality monitoring around Clerkenwell*

Healthy Air were collating the results of the monitoring and would be in touch with Andrea about publicising the results. John pointed out that Cllr Claudia Webbe had written in her response to the Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) consultation that she did not want the local residents to have to upgrade their cars. She has not released the letter but it will be available when TfL publish all the responses they received. John said he would try and obtain a copy.

#### *Plans for Clerkenwell Road/Boulevard*

Andrea had circulated his comments on the engineers plan and agreed to discuss them with Tom and Tabitha so they could be sent to Islington council.

#### *Archway consultation*

TfL had invited ICAG, Better Archway Forum and Living Streets to meet and discuss the response. Liz would be attending for ICAG.

#### *New North Road consultation*

Following the local ward partnership meeting at which Tom spoke about the weaknesses of the plans he thought the consultation had been postponed, especially as it hadn't taken into account changes related to the post office depot being built on the corner of Eagle Wharf Road. However it had gone ahead and Tom would raise it at the next ICAG meeting with Islington engineers. John thought ICAG might need to a more visible campaign and set up a petition to raise the profile of this scheme.

#### *ICAG e-group moderation*

Keith said he had been upset by Andrea's suggestion that his e-mails had been censored. As moderator of the list/Yahoo group Keith emphatically denied this was the case and said sometimes there was a delay in e-mails being released to the list.

### **Agenda**

#### *Quietways*

At ICAG's last meeting with them, the council engineers said all the Quietways would be completed but this was not the case. Eshwyn at Islington had told Andrea that TfL had promised money to do St John's Street well. Andrew Gilligan, the Mayor's Cycling Commissioner, felt the councils were not doing enough. Listen to

<https://www.london.gov.uk/webcasts/39397/asx> (comments on the Central London Cycling Grid starting at 1:24:15)

It was agreed that ICAG should mandate the LCC to urge the boroughs and TfL to work together. Local schemes funding by LIP money tended to be of poor quality and Tom was going to write to Andrew Gilligan saying that money should only be given to the boroughs if their proposals were good. Tom would also respond to the York Road consultation being done by Camden, although it was considered poor and several ICAG members had already commented on it.

#### *Crossrail 2*

The local press had reported that the Co-operative Bank building at Angel could be demolished as part of Crossrail 2. Alex said the ICAG response should be that cycling infrastructure was cheaper and carried more people! Keith said he would draft a response and mention the need for plenty of imaginative bike parking.

#### *Serious collision at Clerkenwell Road/St John's Street junction*

The cyclist, Victoria Lebec, had survived a horrific collision with a lorry but not without serious injuries. John had been concerned about ICAG contacting her but as her father had been blogging about the incident it was felt it was not insensitive. Keith had bought a present which Nick had delivered to Victoria on behalf of ICAG. The family could contact Cllr Claudia Webbe when it was right for them.

Andrea said that under Section 39 of the Road Traffic Act councils had to improve locations at which fatal collisions had occurred. As this junction was the site of a previous fatality involving a cyclist and lorry he was investigating if failure to instigate improvements could result in a prosecution. He was in touch with Michael Porter QC about this.

#### *Meeting with Claudia Webbe*

It had been hoped that there would be regular meetings between ICAG and Cllr Claudia Webbe but there had been none since the first meeting soon after she taken up her post as Executive Member for the Environment & Transport. Tabitha would contact her to arrange another meeting.

#### *Space for Cycling*

Alison had been contacted by the local organiser of National Citizen Service The Challenge ([www.ncsthechallenge.org](http://www.ncsthechallenge.org)) which arranges campaigning opportunities for 16-17 year olds from Islington in the summer. A group of 12 would be assigned to ICAG and would work on a campaign suggested by ICAG and Alison wondered if this might be an opportunity to have some volunteers work on a Space for Cycling ask. There was general agreement and Alison would find out more.

#### *ICAG AGM*

This will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May and possible speakers were discussed. Alison to contact them.

#### *Finsbury Park Ward Partnership meeting*

This was being held on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Jan, Alex said the one in Highbury West was on Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Jan and Tom said the Canonbury one was on Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. It was good to get cycling mentioned at these and it was agreed that ICAG could use the LCC e-mail Engaging Networks to tell members in the wards when they were taking place. Details of the meetings are on the council website and Andrea agreed to experiment with a Google calendar for ICAG which would include these and the dates of full council meetings.

Drayton Park is in Highbury West and the width restriction would be discussed at the meeting.

#### **Any other business**

Rosalind Readhead talked about her campaign to have private cars banned from central London see [www.banprivatecarsinlondon.com](http://www.banprivatecarsinlondon.com)

Keith asked if anyone knew if temporary traffic signs put up during road works (e.g. 'narrow lane do not overtake cyclists') were legally enforceable and it was generally felt they were not.

Michael suggest the Islington Youth Council were invited to speak at an ICAG meeting. Alison to pursue.

**Date of next meeting:** Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 7.30-9.30pm at the Town Hall, Upper Street N1