

Minutes of the ICAG meeting Wed 11th February 2015 at the Town Hall, Upper Street N1 at 7.30-9.30pm

Present: Alison Dines, Tom Harrison, Keith Macfarlane, John Ackers, Jono Kenyon, Eilidh Murray, Andrea Casalotti, Alex Santacreu, Nick Kocharhook, Anita Frizzarin, Simon Izod, David Lincoln, Edward Mason

Apologies

Robert Harston, Liz Reiner, Adrian Williams

Matters arising

School travel plans

Owen Powell, Assistant Cycling Officer, had asked his colleague about school travel plans (STP) and been told they are not public documents and belong to the schools, as do the travel surveys which form the baseline for the STP.

Air quality monitoring around Clerkenwell

Healthy Air were compiling a briefing note about the results of the monitoring which would be sent to Islington Council before being made public. Andrea expects Islington Tribune to publish it.

Clerkenwell Road

Tabitha had sent the additional comments from ICAG to the traffic engineers at Islington and Tom said he would arrange a meeting with them and ICAG members including Andrea.

Crossrail 2

It was not necessary for ICAG to submit a response to this initial 'safeguarding' consultation.

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

Jono had been in touch with Victoria and she had agreed to make a witness impact statement that could be used if there is a juridical review on the east-west Cycle Superhighway. Tom raised the obligations the council had under Road Traffic Act at sites of serious collisions at a recent meeting and they felt they had responded as necessary with regard to this site.

Agenda

Highbury Corner

The temporary traffic measures that had been put in at Highbury Corner whilst the bridge replacement work is done were unsatisfactory. Caroline Russell was contacting TfL about it and Nick agreed to find out from her what was discussed. As yet there were no plans about removing the gyratory at Highbury Corner available to comment on.

Safer Drayton Park

Alex had attended the Highbury West ward partnership meeting and local residents wanted the width restriction on Drayton Park re-instated to prevent HGVs travelling through the area. Alex thought that there were very few HGVs and the issue was more about speeding motor traffic on such a busy cycle route. He suggested a cycle route inside, and therefore segregated by, parked cars at the wide end of Drayton Park by Holloway Road as reducing the road width would reduce vehicle speed. Alex would discuss costs with the TfL traffic engineer Brian Deegan. His other thoughts included the use of average speed cameras and traffic filtering. His ideas were welcomed by the meeting although it was pointed out that Drayton Park acts as 'network assurance' meaning that if there are serious problems on Holloway or Blackstock Roads it is backup route so permanent bollards etc. on it would not be considered. It was suggested that Alex get the opinions/support of staff and parents at Drayton Park primary school, the Friends of Gillespie Park, the Highbury Community Association and Caroline Russell on his ideas.

ICAG ride on Sun 26th April

A subcommittee of Eilidh, Tom, Simon and Alison is working on this and Nick agreed to join it. Details of the ride were still being worked on but its aim was a fun, family ride around the borough, starting at Freightliner's Farm, to engage people with taking action to improve cycling routes.

ICAG AGM

As the current date of 13th May is close to the general election and Alison was going to be away it was agreed that the AGM would be moved to 10th June. Alison to contact Town Hall and suggested speakers.

Quietway along Amwell Street

Although TfL interested in some trial traffic filtering in this area Islington Council are concerned that it will not be welcomed by local residents. Tom proposed surveying shops and residents on the street to get their views and Nick, Simon and Clarissa volunteered to help. The importance of the type of questions asked was discussed as if Islington Council felt they were too biased towards cycling they would discount the results.

Cycle Superhighway 1

This will be routed through Hackney and east Mildmay. Tom had been in discussion with the Hackney Cycling Campaign about this and done a presentation to the Islington traffic engineers about his ideas for getting improvements in this part of Islington and asked for volunteers who live in the area to help him.

Archway

TfL had invited ICAG, Better Archway Forum (BAF) and Living Streets (who could not attend) to a meeting which MP Jeremy Corbyn and his assistant Ruth Clark also attended. ICAG had run a good campaign and many people had responded to the consultation supporting the ICAG/BAF changes to the scheme. Work would start in 2016 and the gyratory would be removed.

However the traffic planners at Islington Council were concerned about what they considered to be inconsistent responses from ICAG to consultations. They had believed ICAG broadly supported the plans for Archway so had not expected the campaign for significant changes. Islington council officers asked ICAG to contact them early on if we were going to object to plans. John suggested that the council was looking for a reliable partner to publicly support the better schemes. Those present felt that the council could facilitate feedback by providing plans of schemes in good time before meetings so that ICAG could provide a widely considered response to those plans at an early stage.

Liveable Islington Network

Keith explained that this is an alliance of three local groups, ICAG, BAF and Living Streets who are campaigning to make the Holloway Road a better place to live, shop, cycle, walk and breathe by getting 20mph speed limit in place and having a single lane of traffic. Anyone interested in helping with this should contact Keith.

Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) Database

Collisions represent failures of systems and Andrea suggested that ICAG should collect information on the KSIs in Islington so that the cases could be used to improve traffic schemes. Although some information was publicly available this was usually a long time after the incident. Andrea had found that asking local people and businesses what had happened soon after the event gave a more immediate indication of what had happened. Andrea would ask for volunteers to help collect information and David said he was interested.

New North Road

Cllr Klute of St Peter's ward has proposed this scheme to improve the street for cyclists and pedestrians. Tom had presented ICAG comments on the scheme and had just met the traffic engineers to discuss them. It was important that Cllr Klute agreed with them as without his support they could not be implemented as Local Implementation Plans (LIP) would be used.

Campaign Structure

Andrea gave a presentation on his proposal for a template that could be used for ICAG campaigns so that clear records could be kept on the aims, progress, achievements, lessons learnt etc. This idea was welcomed by the group and the medium to be used (possibly Cyclescape) was briefly discussed. The LCC is considering different IT options for communications and campaigning but in the meantime Andrea would use the template for his campaign for Clerkenwell Boulevard and make the outline available to anyone who also wanted to use it.

Any other business

None

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th March 7.30-9.30pm at the Town Hall