

CI meetings - update by Alison Dines

Simon Munk, LCC's infrastructure campaigner, joined the CI meeting on 8 February to discuss how CI could campaign more effectively by looking at our relationships with local councillors and council officers. For many years CI have had regular meetings with officers from the planning and engineering departments and also, although less frequently, have met the executive member for transport and environment. But despite this, the cycling infrastructure in the borough is not as good as we would like.

Simon urged us not to criticise the council publicly but to try and engage constructively and think of other ways of influencing people. Hearing about his experiences in Waltham Forest, and the successful bid for the mini-Holland scheme there, was inspiring and helped us consider how to get our message across in Islington. Simon found cycling round his borough with local councillors a good way of showing them the traffic black spots. We discussed other events that we could organise and speakers we could have at meetings to which we would invite councillors. The

recently instigated road closure outside a primary school in Camden at school drop off and pick up times <http://bbc.in/2kA0nV0> was also considered as a scheme that might be suitable for Islington. Simon thought we had lots of good ideas and that our discussions were very encouraging - now we just need to turn them into actions! If you have any views/would like to get involved please contact alison.dines@cycleislington.uk

Future CI meetings at 19.30-21.30 in the Town Hall, Upper Street NI 2UD

*8 March: informal discussion with Nick Wayne, local councillor for Canonbury – come along for a chat !

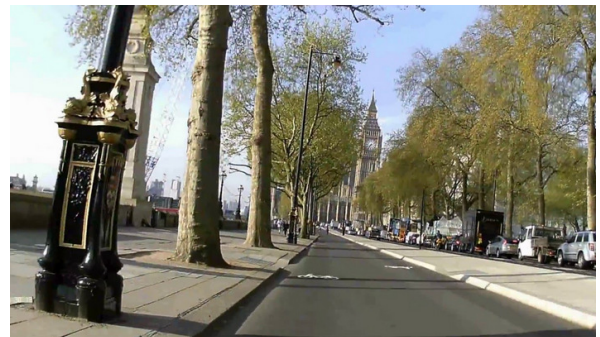
*12 April: speaker: Mary Stevens – research project on Space for Cycling – see article below

*14 June: CI AGM: speaker Lynn Sloman, TfL board member and Director, Transport for Quality of Life - <http://transportforqualityoflife.com>

Out and about with CI – Cycle to the South Bank – Sat 8 April at 1400

We continue our series of easy-paced family cycle rides with a trip to see the new cycling infrastructure along the Embankment and Blackfriars Bridge on Saturday 8 April 2017 – with a coffee stop at the South Bank.

Our experienced ride leader, Simon, with a team of trained marshalls will be in charge of the ride and this year, our neighbours in Camden, Haringay and Hackney are coming along too. We will meet at Highbury Fields at 1400 and will return by 1630. Approximate distance is 5 miles. Come along for a leisurely cycle by the river and see some of the great sights of London. And spread the word !



With thanks to Youtube.com

Archway – update by Liz Reiner

CI members are working with the Highgate Society and Better Archway Forum to press for safety improvements for the new Archway town centre. Suggested enhancements include better route signage and measures to reduce pedestrian-cyclist conflict. After meeting with Caroline Pidgeon, Chair of the London Assembly's

Transport Committee, she has passed our concerns and suggestions to Transport for London. We have already had one success, getting rid of a blind spot on the southbound Archway Road by the Miranda Estate. The works are not due to finish until April, so there is still time to change things for the better.

Space for Cycling in London – research project led by Mary Stevens

Mary is a CI member and has lived in Highbury since 2009. She is currently studying for an MSc in Environmental Management with the Open University; in this context she is developing a case study on 'Space for Cycling' in London. The case study forms part of a module on environmental decision-making. Mary is looking at the decision-making processes in Waltham Forest and the London Fields area of Hackney (on the Quietway 2 route) to consider how the

processes could have been improved and what we might learn from this experience in any future consideration of area-wide traffic reduction schemes, in particular for the Quietway 10 route. Mary has a particular interest in community engagement and how we can apply a more holistic approach to make an effective case for liveable neighbourhoods. She'll be talking about her findings at the CI meeting on 12 April.

Cycling in London and Paris – les différences !



Alex Santacreu, until last year a member of CI, moved to Paris after 6 years working for TfL. His new job is with the International Transport Forum, an inter-governmental think-tank on global transport policy issues. We caught up with him, and his Brompton, in a Montparnasse bar.

As part of Boris' Cycling Vision, millions were spent on data collection allowing the risk of serious injury on a bike to be computed in each of London's 33 boroughs. Paris on the other hand, with only 2 million inhabitants, doesn't have the resources or the data collection culture to undertake a comparable assessment of cycling safety. Cycling in Paris **feels safer*** as traffic tends to be slower. Endless construction in London means lots of dangerous tipper trucks; conversely, there is little building in Paris so it isn't possible to say if one city is safer than another.

Cycling infrastructure in Paris was about the same as in London until Boris started to make real progress. While

there aren't many dedicated cycle lanes, cyclists have been able to use bus lanes for over 20 years but, as in London, often find their own quiet back routes. Secure **bike parking** for flat dwellers – and there are lots of flats in Paris – isn't available and not everyone can heave their bikes up and down several flights of stairs. While there are lots of Sheffield –type stands, there are no on-street bike hangars in Paris which makes Islington, with two currently on trial, look positively luxurious.

To fight **air pollution**, a Low Emission Zone was introduced in January in Paris (and Lyon and Grenoble). Cars, lorries and scooters must display signs with their emissions levels. Vehicles with the poorest ratings are banned from the city during the day (8am-8pm) and restrictions can be strengthened during severe pollution episodes. Enforcement levels will be key to the success of this policy.

In the Paris metropolitan area, there is **no equivalent of the LCC**; there are some dynamic groups (Paris en Selle, Velorution, MDB) but these are far from having the membership and resources of LCC. A Paris initiative which could be copied in London is that of **car-free districts** on Sundays. While these aren't specifically for cyclists, they do provide pleasant, calm areas for residents, pedestrians and cyclists alike. London ideas on how to report issues eg Fix my Street or the Pothole hotline could be imported across the Channel.

The relatively new Paris mayor, Anne Hidalgo, has stated her '**unashamed ambition to reduce traffic**' in the city and so Parisians, like Londoners, are waiting to see how their respective mayors' words are translated into action.

**cycling round the Arc de Triomphe excepted!*

Future charity rides

www.afasic.org.uk helping children with communications problems. Remember Jonathan Edwards asking to borrow a child seat to take a grubby bear called Leyton to the Wash? Now, he's off for a bath to, yes you've guessed it, Bath, on 22 June. Supporters are chasing him on a Bear Hunt, leaving Richmond Park on Sat 24 June, overnighing in Newbury and trying to catch up before Bath on the afternoon of Sun 25. If you'd like to join them for either or

both days, get in touch with Afasic on 020 7490 9410 or contact Jonathan on 07946261165/via our email list.

Parkinsons research fundraising:

<http://bit.ly/2kAbeyk> : Mount Ventoux challenge from 1 > 4 June

<http://bit.ly/2kUzHdH>: Conquer the Alps challenge from 8 > 11 September

IC monthly meeting

Come along to the CI monthly meeting. Agenda items for meetings should reach Alison Dines by the Saturday before the meeting.

Email: alison.dines@cycleislington.uk

Place: Islington Town Hall

Date: 2nd Wednesday/every month

Time: 7.30-9.30 pm

Cycle Workshop dates -

Currently under review

Reporting potholes

***Local:** T 020 7527 2000 or islington.gov.uk and click on report a street problem. Or try fixmystreet.com

***London:** T 0845 305 1234 or <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/>, then click report a street fault

Forthcoming events

* Critical mass – last Friday of each month <http://www.urban75.org/photos/critical>

* Check out Skyrides - <http://www.goskyride.com>

*Islington cycle club – lots of weekly rides to suit all levels of fitness - <http://islington.cc/> and Dr Bike sessions [here http://tinyurl.com/lj5ml75k](http://tinyurl.com/lj5ml75k)

Contribute to CycleIslington

*If you wish to discuss any of the topics covered in this newsletter in more detail then why not subscribe to the CI email list? Just send an email to CycleIslington-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, send an email to: CycleIslingtonEng-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Please send articles/images for this newsletter to. alison.dines@cycleislington.uk