

Cycle Islington meeting minutes

Wednesday 11 September 2019, 7.30 pm

Present: Talia, Eilidh, Kevin, Michael, David Lincoln, Keith, Steve, John, Cath, Liz, Karen, Alison, Graham, Adrian, Simon, Anita, Chris Kenyon, David Harrison, Paul

Apologies: Kate, Tabitha, Nick, Sue

Sian Berry talk

Sian is a London Assembly member and Green Party candidate for Mayor of London. She spoke about her work as an AM holding the Mayor to account. She is a member of the Police & Crime Committee. She said enforcement of driving offences is not prioritised; the budget for road policing has been cut and staff moved to work on violent crime. She believes there has been some progress on 20 mph speed limits. She talked about re-allocation of road space away from cars as a way to promote active travel. She believes many of the factors measured in the Healthy Streets scorecard are addressed by reducing road space for cars. The Green Party policy of introducing smart road pricing would raise money to invest in improvements. She stated that if we believe the Islington Transport Strategy is not good enough, we can write to the Mayor and say it is not compliant with the Mayor's Transport Strategy.

Minutes from the August meeting were approved.

Matters arising

Steve has donated his £180 fee for leading the Freecycle feeder ride to CI. Steve is still seeking information on the Council hierarchy.

Response to Draft Transport Strategy

Discussion points

- Need to include something in the response about reducing car parking spaces
- The Council says it wants to go carbon neutral by 2030. Strategy has no detail about how they plan to do this, apart from encouraging use of electric vehicles.
- It is not enough to have a 1:1 move from petrol to EVs. EVs are not the solution, need more emphasis on active travel.
- Introduce the concept of mobility credits to encourage people to move from cars to active travel
- The description in the strategy about what's happening now is inaccurate. TfL data show car use has risen significantly in Islington and this is not happening across London.
- Low traffic neighbourhoods: the Islington Health Scrutiny Committee has called for them, but they are not included in the Transport Strategy.
- Strategy should consider e-devices, such as electric scooters and mobility scooters

- There should be something in the strategy about enabling council staff to cycle in the course of their work.

Action points

- Talia to update response document based on discussion at the meeting and send round to the CI list.
- Chris Kenyon to draft a letter to send to individual councillors, a simplified version of our strategy response, and send it round to the CI list.
- Individuals to approach their ward councillors as they see fit, potentially using the letter being drafted by Chris
- Michael and Simon to approach other local groups – Clean Air Parents, Fossil Free Islington, Living Streets, Extinction Rebellion – about working together, possibly planning a joint event
- Leafletting of highly impacted streets (rat runs): David Harrison to draft joint CI & LS text, Talia to format, Keith to print, also send round to the CI list and ask people to leaflet in their area

Car Free Day, 22 September 10 am –4 pm, St John Street near Smithfield
Eilidh to coordinate, invite members to participate. Liz to arrange with Keith about getting the 3 kids bikes to St John Street via PedalMe.

Any other business

Potential speakers for future meetings:

1. Will Norman, Walking and Cycling Commissioner
2. Richard Ambler, Council officer
3. David Poyser, Councillor

LCC Climate Strike ride on 20 September, Keith to forward info to CI group. The Highbury Corner pedestrian area is now open. An event is scheduled in October to open it, rumoured to be with the Mayor. All to think about how we want to participate, media potential.

Simon is planning an event about his 3-month ride to the Arctic Circle.

Chris Kenyon to draft social media guidelines to be discussed at next meeting.