

Motor bikes in bus lanes

From 5th January Boris Johnson is proposing to allow motorbikes in bus lanes on red routes such as the Holloway Road and Upper Street.

Motor cyclists and cyclists have a lot in common when it comes to risk on the road. We are the ones that are not seen by other road users, for instance, and we are at risk from diesel spills and similar on the road. However the vastly different speeds that cyclists and motor cyclists travel is a potential for disaster in an open bus lane. Research from Westminster where motorcyclists are already allowed in some bus lanes have shown that a good fifteen per cent have travelled at speeds above 43mph - well over the speed limit.

Transport for London's own research has suggested there are no clear benefits for motorcyclists in bus lanes but there are likely to be disbenefits to cyclists and pedestrians. There are better ways to improve road safety for motor cyclists and cyclists such as more 20 mph limits and greater enforcement of the existing laws, rather than introducing a scheme that may be of dubious benefit for one group and certainly

Do you want to share bus lanes with motor cyclists?

Contact the mayor
mayor@london.gov.uk

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
Greater London Authority
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA
Telephone: 020 7983 4100
Minicom: 020 7983 4458
Fax: 020 7983 4057

be a hazard to the other group.

Johnson already recognises that perceived dangers on the road could put cyclists off - that's why he wants to ban bendybuses. However he rejects this argument when it comes to motorbikes in bus lanes, despite 3500 cyclists across London (and another 300 in Islington) signing petitions calling for him to stop this scheme.

Regrettably he does not seem to be listening to us. Indeed, the LCC is not amongst the groups he plans to consult on the pilot scheme.

If you want to express your outrage at the way the scheme is being bulldozed through without consulting the representatives of some of the most vulnerable road users (and people who will be directly affected by this scheme) then write to Boris Johnson and let him know your views. **ST**

Freewheel 2008



It was so good to see so many children at Freewheel this year. One family (with 3 children, aged 7, 5 and 2) cycled from Stoke Newington to the Emirate Stadium, went all the way round the circuit and home again.



ICAG members were there to loan a pump, and give out information, flags, and other freebies.

(Both photos taken at the start from the Emirate Stadium.)

Bike Maintenance

Sessions at Sunnyside Gardens on 2nd Saturdays of the month are now deceased. **BUT** this is **NOT** to be confused with the 4th Wednesday evenings sessions which continue as before unchanged." **JE**

Lisa Pontecorvo

A well known community activist, she was killed by a lorry on Holloway Road on 8th September.

Lisa's interests ranged widely across the arts, planning developments, the environment and the creation of high quality green spaces such as at Edwards Square, off Caledonian Road. Lisa was also rarely seen without her bike which is why Islington Cyclists Action Group organized a memorial event, attended by over sixty people, at the crash site one week after the tragic event.

I've known Lisa for many years but one of my most vivid memories was when she came on the Biodiversity Bike Ride on a boiling hot day a few years ago.

Leading the ride, I took a wrong turn which meant climbing much higher towards Highgate Village than we had intended. Lisa told me in no uncertain terms that neither she nor her bike was enjoying the steep gradients!

Happily it was then downhill to Waterlow Park and a welcome break, my mistake forgotten as we enjoyed refreshments together in the open air. Linen was definitely Lisa's choice of clothing rather than Lycra but she was a committed cyclist, building it into her everyday lifestyle. She was one of us and she will be sorely missed.

For news about the major memorial event at Edwards Square on 14th November and other information

about Lisa's life, please use this link:

<http://www.kingscrossenvironment.com/2008/09/lisa-pontecorvo.html> CA

From The Tribune

07.11.08

There were six letters and some editorial space all opposing the motorbikes in bus lanes plan. Cllr Greg Foxsmith, who leads for the Environment on the Council, was the only one who supported the scheme.

From Islington Cyclist 10 years ago...

The closure of Owen Street was the main feature of that edition. 10 years on and we're still waiting for improvement of the Goswell Triangle.

Velib comes to Islington

It seems that Islington is to be a pilot for a bike hire scheme similar to that in Paris. Details are sketchy, but we'll keep you posted.

New contact address

If you want to email Public Realm at the Council, (they deal with all the cycle engineering work) they have a specific address: Cycling&Walking@islington.gov.uk



Christmas Ride Wednesday Dec 17

Meet outside the Town Hall at 6.30pm for a tour of the lights, ending in a hostelry, but **phone Jonathan first!** Then he'll bring enough mince pies and mulled wine!

Jonathan Edwards
T 07946 261 165

Little Green Ride Dates

Description: Easy-paced rides of around 30 miles

Date: 3rd Sunday in the month

Start: 10.10 a.m. Finish: 5-6 p.m.

Place: Finsbury Park overland station

Contact: Stephen Taylor

Telephone: 07977 235 735

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 and December)

Time: 7 - 9.30 p.m.

Cost: £1 (50p unwaged) per session towards costs

Contact: Adrian Williams

Telephone: 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 of every month

Time: 7.30-9.30 pm

Contact: Alison Dines

Telephone: 020 7226 7012

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 www.islington.gov.uk and click on report a street fault.

Rest of London, phone 0845 305 1234 or go to www.tfl.gov.uk, click on road users, then on report a street fault.

Two ICAG Email Groups

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? The list enables subscribers to receive news promptly and the opportunity to give and receive feedback. If you would like to participate, send an email to:

E: 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:

E: icag-eng-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Contribute to Islington Cyclist

Please send any articles or images to:

E: 249keith@waitrose.com

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of ICAG.

Thanks to all contributors.

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