

**ICAG meeting Wednesday 9th December 2015 at 7.30-9.30pm
at the Town Hall, Upper Street N1**

Present: Alison Dines, John Ackers, Eilidh Murray, Tabitha Tanqueray, Alex Santacreu, Tom Bogdanowicz, Sue Marris, Annie Beaumont, Adrian Williams

Apologies:

James Gleadow, Nick Kocharhook, Keith Macfarlane

Matters arising

Quietway campaign

There was no feedback from Nick as he was at the joint Clerkenwell & Bunhill Ward Partnership meeting where several cycle related issues were on the agenda. Tabitha said a Quietway supporter in Gillespie Road had been helping delivering leaflets. In a general discussion about the Quietway Alex explained that on Drayton Park Islington Council had proposed a width restriction by the Tesco store and on Martinueau Road to reduce HGV use of the area, although they were only 2% of the vehicle traffic.

Policy proposal: a presumption in favour of tree retention

James Gleadow had contacted Alison and expressed the opinion that as a cycling group our stance should be to remove trees if it made cycling safer and he felt they should not be used as bollards. However given the small number of people at the meeting the issue was not debated further.

Beat the Blues social ride

Alex, Eilidh and Alison would meet in January to finalise plans for this ride to Walthamstow Village on Saturday 6th February 2016 from about 10am – 3pm. Eilidh asked about designs for publicity material and Alison said a new ICAG member was a graphic designer who had volunteered his services and she would contact him.

ICAG newsletter

Eilidh had very kindly agreed to take over editing the ICAG newsletter and the meeting thanked her for volunteering.

Agenda

Haringey's plan for new strategic cycle route

John reported back on a meeting he had attended with several members of Haringey Cycling Campaign and Haringey's Executive Member for Transport to discuss Haringey's plan to make Wightman Road a strategic cycle route and put in a bid to TfL. As the street ends at northwest corner of Finsbury Park lighting for a 24 hour route through the park was also considered. Wightman Road is busy and it was felt that unless traffic on it could be reduced it was not suitable as a cycle route.

Meeting with Cllr Burgess

John, David and Rachel (Bower, a GP in Tower Hamlets) had met Cllr Burgess Executive Member for Health and discussed cycling and public health. John had sent an excellent summary on the ICAG e-group on 22nd Nov. He said it was a very useful meeting but that cycling is not yet seen as a key to improving public health in Islington and this may be another reason why Hackney, Camden and Waltham Forest appear to be more committed to cycling.

John and Sue were going to see the Council Leader, Cllr Richard Watts at his surgery at the weekend.

Tom advised that another way to engage councillors would be approaching them about Islington's status under the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS), thought to be bronze, and asking them to encourage the council to improve it. Similarly using the Cycling Level of Service (CLOS) assessments of local cycle routes was another method of measuring performance.

Bicycle thefts

Annie's bike had recently been stolen and she recounted the difficulty she was having getting secure cycle parking despite space being available around her flat which was managed by the housing association Newlon. Alison suggested inviting the police Borough Commander to an ICAG meeting to hear about how the local police were tackling cycle theft as well as road users flouting the Highway Code and those present thought it would be useful.

Dr Bike sessions on estates

ICAG running Dr Bike sessions on Islington estates had been discussed in the past and Alison thought it would be good idea to try and get one organised in a Clerkenwell or Barnsbury estate. She agreed to ask the usual Dr Bike volunteers if they were happy to do this and research possible venues.

Any other business

None and seasonal refreshments were served.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th January 2016