

**Minutes of Cycle Islington meeting Wednesday 8th November 2017 at 7.30-9.30pm
at the Town Hall, Upper Street N1**

Present: Alison Dines, Steve Knattress, Michael Johnson, Christopher Reeve, Talia Hussain, Clive Graham, Graham Parks, Simon Clark, Simon Izod, Adrian Williams, Tabitha Tanqueray, Paul Standeven, Keith Macfarlane, David Harrison, Tom Bogdanowicz, Liz Reiner, David Lincoln, Chris Kenyon, Christian Wolmar, Greg Foxsmith.

Apologies: Nick Kocharhook, Eilidh Murray

Eric Manners, recently appointed Team Leader Transport Planning at Islington Council, came to talk to the group, with his new colleague, Zara Jones. Eric has now worked for Islington Council (LBI) for 15 years, most recently in the community infrastructure levy and had been a green travel officer early in his career.

Eric said he and his colleagues had been impressed with the Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS). Islington had responded to it and looked forward to working with TfL on the implementation as Cllr Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport, was particularly strong on safer streets.

Eric gave brief updates on a number of current projects (e.g. Cycle Superhighway 1 (CS1) on Ball's Pond Road which he said the council was not holding up; Quietway 2 launch when the signage was completed; Finsbury Square contraflow and segregated route where work would start shortly) and other that officers were researching (e.g. Regent Canal to Highgate; Quietway 10 from Farringdon; Central Street; St John's Street; Colebrooke Row to King's Cross). He said TfL were looking at the A503 (Seven Sisters Road) at Nag's Head. The consultation on Old Street was its way; improvements to Highbury Corner could not start until after the bridge repair had been completed (likely June 2018) but the council planned to start as soon as that work finished and there would be a consultation on the King's Cross gyratory in mid-2018 on which TfL was working with Islington and Camden.

Eric said his team had just had 2.5 posts approved and to be expanding in the current economic climate showed there was council commitment; he went through the reporting structure of the relevant departments and agreed to send CI an organisational chart. Eric said his team would be getting funding, would be getting improvements for cycling on the local agenda and would unlock the will to get them done. However he could not promise filtered routes. He said Cllr Webbe had an absolute commitment to engaging well with local stakeholders and consultation on Islington's transport strategy (local implementation plan, LIP) would take place in October/November next year.

Eric then took questions and comments which included:

- Islington's transport hierarchy of walking then public transport then cycling was at odds with of the Mayor of London which was walking, cycling, public transport. Eric thought this was political and would take away the message that Islington should be in line with the Mayor.
- Islington should join Construction Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCS) and be gold standard for Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS).
- Officers to share what funding had been applied for.
- Protected cycle routes change behaviour and yet Islington had no targets for building kerb protected tracks.
- Quietway 2 would not encourage people to cycle and officers should visit Walthamstow to see what could be achieved. Eric asked for examples of best practice to be sent to him.

- CI was focussing on people who didn't cycle and wanted to improve streets so they would feel safe to do so. Eric asked if the group was in favour of segregated routes and was told it was!
- Islington provided a lot of cycle training but does not provide a safe infrastructure to enable children to cycle to school.
- Action was needed on improving air quality around schools.
- Islington seemed to believe traffic modelling was needed for all transport schemes but other boroughs did not. Eric agreed to look into this.

The overwhelming message from the meeting was that the council should start right away to do something for cycling and should use simple, temporary measures to trial changes that would encourage more people to cycle.

Eric and Zara were thanked for attending the meeting. As there not much time left only one agenda item was discussed.

Local election 2018 'three asks'

Chris K thought CI should concentrate on two issues, building kerb protected routes and filtered permeability. He felt the social justice aspect of cycling should be emphasised.

Christian said Labour party members should put in motions on cycling to their local groups.

Asking LBI to lobby TfL to improve Holloway and Pentonville Roads was also suggested and completing Clerkenwell Boulevard.

David H and Tabitha were going to have a meeting with Jeremy Corbyn later in the week and topics to cover were discussed briefly.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th December.