

Minutes of Cycle Islington
held on Google Meets

12 August 2020

Present

Graham Parks, John Hartley, Richenda Walford, Alison Dines, Nick Kocharhook, Christopher Reeve, John Ackers, Keith Macfarlane, Simon Izod, Talia Hussein, Chris Kenyon, John Chamberlain, Liz Reiner, Kevin Fallon, Eilidh Murray
Chaired by Liz Rainer, minutes Keith Macfarlane

Apologies

None that we heard about!

Bike Buddies

Toby Hopkins from Wandsworth Cycling Campaign made a short presentation and talked about the project being run there. 4 people were interested in offering to be 'experienced riders' and we agreed to find out how much admin work was necessary before taking this any further. **(Action Eilidh)** No-one volunteered to take on the admin! For more detail, contact the minute taker.

Minutes of last meeting

We were asked to check them and if there was anything that needed to be corrected, we should email Eilidh. The July minutes can be found on the minutes page of our website
<http://cycleislington.uk/about/minutes/>

Roll out of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) (renamed People Friendly Streets by Islington Council)

St Peters

There are 4 filters – 3 are working as planned, one is not yet enforced due to technical issues. The impact has been immediate; much positive response and little negative. Local Councillors remain positive and they remain resolute – ready to defend the Council's actions.
<https://stpeters2020.ghost.io/>

Canonbury East

There was chaos at the weekend (although the scheme wasn't due to start till the following Friday 14 August - added by minute taker). There is a public meeting in the week [Aug 16-22] – it is hoped that this will reassure those against the scheme. Regrettably, it seems some are 'fighting dirty,' tweeting the home addresses of Councillors and others, although of those against the LTN, it appears that only about 20 live in the area. Others have joined in who are not local. There was a problem that needed resolving about exiting the area when the school street was closed in Elizabeth Avenue. Nick Wayne [local councillor] had written a useful post for the Canonbury website. It was reported that the map for Canonbury wasn't as good as the one for St Peters. Search 'People-friendly streets' on the Council website.
<https://www.canonbury2020.org.uk/>

Barnsbury and St Marys

There's been a lot of work leafletting, Press release about survey sent to Gazette and Tribune, information about the survey was sent to **all** Councillors as a one off. The response was about 3.5% of all surveys sent out with 9/10 in favour. A question is, "Has traffic increased on boundary roads?"
<https://barnsburystmarys2020.ghost.io/>

There was then a more general discussion.

- A Traffic analysis tool <https://camdencyclists.org.uk/2020/08/camden-cyclists-mapping/> has been developed that can extract vehicle journey times from google maps and so quantify the impact of LTNs in terms of congestion. We will contact George at Camden Cycling Campaign for more info about this. **(Action Nick)**
- If anyone is targeted on Social Media – the police should be contacted.
- Agreed we should stay positive, promote positive news on Twitter and Next Door and avoid getting drawn into negative, unhelpful debates.
- Eilidh let us know that plans are well in advance for a celebration of LTNs in September. Plans include asking residents to display a poster, saying “We [image of green heart] People friendly Streets.” This echoes the blue heart that Islington Clean Air Parents are using. It is hoped that children will do these posters too, as has been done for the NHS recently.
- Richard Watts (Leader of the Council) had been tweeting about People Friendly Streets positively.
- It is expected that the next areas will be announced any day now.
- We should expect that it may be a long haul – the protests in Camden went on for a long time but came and went.
- It was felt that Islington is being particularly targeted, perhaps because many taxi drivers live in the borough.
- We should continue to seek good photos and video footage – we should ask people for permission, if possible. For video footage, reminder to send to Steve’s drop box: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/LTGmBRiLuxLwioHEE3V9>.
- We should continue to stress that people and groups with impairments and/or those needing access to health care will not be disadvantaged by these schemes.
- It appears that the Highbury Fields Association is in favour of LTNs, although it is not clear if the Highbury Community Association (HCA) is. The perception that buses will be slowed by increased traffic on perimeter roads is disproved by strong evidence from Waltham Forest – see <https://wfcycling.wordpress.com/mini-holland/evidence>
- Good data needs to be gathered, but the risk of a judicial review is very small.
- A view was expressed that the only way to achieve reduction of motor traffic is using LTNs.
- Other issues were that parking will be affected [in line with a desire to reduce parking in the borough year by year], that the LTNs will impact on poor people more, that those living on main roads [perimeter roads] tend to be poor, and that all council estates are designed to avoid through traffic.

The chair asked for action points.

For the celebration in September, Tom Cohen is compiling a Mailchimp list which will be used in an invitation to compile a list of attendees who will be sent the date/location nearer the time. Rowena Champion – who oversees Transport and the Environment for the Council – will be invited. We need to print a large number of our LTN leaflets. **(Nobody volunteered!)** Posters [We Green Heart People Friendly Streets] to be displayed. (A poster has been emailed to committee members.)

Bunhill LTN - leaflets need to be distributed. The group working here will probably join with Clerkenwell. (Names after this call from Eilidh – **(Action)**)

Our Website

Felt it needs some attention. There was discussion about inclusion of news about LTNs on our site; previously we had suggested that we wanted to distance CI from the campaigning for LTNs. We were undecided whether we should continue. It was felt we should push Bike Buddies and attract new and returning cyclists. Suggested we should post positive news about LTNs, ensuring that the campaigning was community (not cyclist) driven. There should be links to clean air parents and other active groups. Chris Reeve agreed to look at our site to see what changes needed to be made to CI's involvement in the campaign. **(Action Chris R)** Steve K has produced a 'web-friendly' version of our LTN leaflet, which is on the Tufnell Park website.

<https://tufnellparkltn.wordpress.com/2020/10/17/feature-1/>

Further discussion about Bike Buddies

Unsure whether this is a weekday/weekend activity, whether it would be for commuting runs or local rides. It is a matchmaking service really, with a fair bit of admin. For clarity, LCC insurance covers preparatory work, but not the actual journeys made by cyclists. **Action: Eilidh to talk further to Toby to see exactly what the workload on us would be.**

Bike thefts

There's been an increase because of the pandemic. There was a feeling expressed that bike theft feeds into gang culture. When suggested that this is a London wide issue, was felt that this should be taken to the LCC board. **Action Eilidh**

While some institutions are increasing destination parking - e.g. LSE adding 400, UCL 300 – there is still a need for more parking for residents.

AOB

We were reminded that e-scooters are on their way. They are only legal if they have been provided by a hire firm. There is no hire firm at present in London, but that doesn't stop people using them!

As an end statement, we should all be very pleased with the progress. Many hours have been devoted to this and we have results!

Date of next meeting 9 September