

Cycle Islington meeting 11 March 2020

by conference call

Attendees: Nick, Chris, Graham, Simon, Keith, Karen, Eilidh

Chair and minutes: Eilidh

Apologies: Steve, Talia and Alison

1. As no comments had been received for the draft minutes of meeting on 12 February, they were approved and will be uploaded to our website.
2. There were no officer or councillor meetings in the past few weeks. EM gave a brief update on a recent community group meeting on 27 February with R Watts and R Champion where LTNs were discussed (see below). EM also updated on the recent Environment and Regeneration meeting held on 9 March. Key message from both is that the council is serious about rolling out LTNs but recognise that there will be opposition.
3. Nick reported on the 2nd A1 Holloway Road meeting, Steve already having given a written update on the first meeting. The meeting went into great detail about the plans to manage the works which are due to start in May/June and will take 3 months. The plan is to organise the work into 12 small flexible projects. We were asked for any views about cycle parking on the route from Holloway Road to Fieldway Crescent - any comment to Nick and Steve please. More meetings are to be arranged but the impact of the coronavirus on the works is unclear.
4. Chris updated on LTNs; the council is committed to deliver 15 LTNs throughout the borough in the next 5 years. The budget is £15m. A LTN bid is currently with TfL for Bunhill and Clerkenwell and results are expected soon. Highbury East and Mildmay LTNs also being planned. Two in-house teams are being recruited and the council are learning from Waltham Forest's experience. The recent ward partnership meeting in Highbury East, organised by Caroline Russell, and attended by Rowena Champion, was key in getting a wider understanding of what a LTN could deliver. Chris is continuing with his training sessions; he has done one with XR, has one planned with ICAP (Islington Clean Air Parents) and at the event on 27 April with #inspiringsustainableislington. He is also setting up a community group in St Peters. Chris to send out list of dates of future 'crayons and maps' workshops and his aim is to 'train the trainer' to ensure that every ward has the opportunity to attend at least one.
5. 2020 programme - all dependent on situation regarding virus; wonder if we could hold a AGM by conference call ?!
 - o Chris to email Peter Walker, the Guardian, re AGM on 13 May.
 - o Other people approached are Grayson Perry (no response), Laura Laker (contacted via Simon Monk, no response), Will Norman (is happy to attend depending on his diary but if he can't make the AGM date, he's happy to come to another date) and Ben Knowles, the CEO of Pedalmeapp (contact of Simon's).
 - o Family social bike ride led by Steve - either on Saturday 25 or Sunday 26 April tbc - to Olympic Park.
 - o Agreed that we would want a presence at the Saddle and Sole festival in Finsbury Park on 14 June and the Angel Canal Festival tbc 6 September.

- Other events could be Car Free Day (Tuesday 22 September but LBI holding event on another day, date tbc) and the Cally festival on 28 June; we could produce some leaflets on LTNs and hand them out at all events.
 - We are planning to do a led ride (thanks to Steve) on 15 August for the Freecycle.
 - Simon to work on rough outline for planned Paris trip in September; same logistics as for Amsterdam last year in that he will give overall plan and individuals will need to book their own accommodation, ferry etc. Alexandre Santacru has offered to give us a ride round new Paris infrastructure.
6. Nick confirmed that there are two open consultations which we should support; one for Eden Grove school street (think this has now closed ?) and Green Lanes Woodberry Grove to Petherton Road <https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/streetscene/green-lanes> which is a Hackney consultation and which closes on 20 March. He will draft a response for comments.
 7. Karen set out her concerns about the one-way road outside Grafton School, in Hercules Street where she would like to see it changed to two-way for cycling. Parents wanting to cycle to school with their children need it to be two-way. Nick confirmed that it was council policy to have 2-way for cycling and asked Karen to send him a mail with more details and he would discuss at the next officer meeting.
 8. Nick felt that the roll-out of LTNs gave the council an ideal opportunity to implement 2-way for cycling on many roads during the works; he will take this up with Cllr Rowena Champion at the next quarterly meeting.
 9. Eilidh asked if anyone was interested in attending the LCC Group forum on 25 March (University of Westminster, 35 Marylebone Road) where local groups could exchange news and the LCC could update on plans for hustings (now no more probably !) and the climate campaign.
 10. Eilidh also mentioned the community parklet cycle ride on 21 March; set off from St Luke's community centre at 1400.
 11. Next meeting to be held on 8 April.