

Minutes of Cycle Islington meeting

held on 8 April 2020

by Google Hangouts (thanks, Nick !)

Attendees: Alison, Nick, Graham, Kevin, Steve, Simon, Keith, Giulio, Tom, Mark

Chair and minutes: Eilidh

Apologies: Chris

1. The minutes from the last meeting on 11 March were approved. No further planning done on the proposed Paris trip due to virus lockdown. Eilidh to upload to CI website.
2. Nick confirmed that no meetings had taken place with the council or officers but that he and Graham were planning to hold a virtual meeting with officers on 20 April; officers usually present were Costas, Richard Ambler, Dave Shannon and Julie Pichon. The meeting felt that the current circumstances provided an opportunity for the council to take some simple measures to limit traffic; roads were noticeably quieter (although some speeding drivers still causing issues). This is on the agenda for the meeting. It was noted that while LBI wasn't closing parks, which was most welcome, neither were they reallocating space to allow more people to exercise safely; the meeting felt that as things are highly unlikely to revert to a 'new normal' any time soon, there was an unexpected opportunity to reduce traffic for the months to come.
3. Current consultations: Keith had identified two on the council website - <https://www.islington.gov.uk/consultations/> bio-diversity and net zero Islington by 2030. The recent plans for low traffic neighbourhoods stated a deadline of 2025 but it is not clear if this is a plan for each ward by 2025 or for full implementation of a LTN by 2025. Nick/Graham to put on their agenda for next meeting and ask for clarification. The revised transport strategy document is still not released; this had originally been planned for after purdah but since the Mayoral elections were cancelled, and there is still no sign of it, Nick/Graham to find out more. We do know that there will not be a further consultation on it. Eilidh said that at a community groups meeting with R Watts and R Champion on 27 February, July was mentioned as a publication date. Giulio said that he understood that LBI had put out a tender for the LTN work on Copenhagen Street/Liverpool Road; he was curious why the council didn't first talk to the people who lived in the area.
4. Alison updated on the recent LCC Local Group Forum on 25 March when over 40 people attended a virtual meeting. Key points were:
 - o local groups to be careful with their financial reserves
 - o LCC has set up an advice line for people returning to cycling
 - o all local groups to be asked to complete some documentation to ensure compliance with Charity Commission rules; Alison/Eilidh to complete declaration form for CI by end April
 - o the infrastructure database will be resurrected at some future date
 - o launch of Climate Safe Streets report, originally planned for mayoral elections, now out and will still be relevant for local elections in 2022

- LCC held a webinar on the Climate Safe Streets report (600 attendees) - report here: <https://lcc.org.uk/articles/climate-safe-streets-report-launch> and recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHdl8csvMD0>
5. AGM 2020; our constitution says that we have to have one and that we have to give members four weeks' notice. It was agreed that we would hold a virtual meeting on 13 May where we would have our treasurers' report, re-election of committee, review of the year and where we would be focussing in 2020/2021. We would aim to have a physical meeting with a speaker later in the year. Eilidh to publicise on Twitter, our news email distribution list and website.
 6. Development of the Holloway Prison site; Mark took the questions which CI had proposed at an earlier meeting to the developer, Peabody. Peabody boomeranged him back to LBI and the result was the list of replies which Liz had forwarded. Mark's view was that Peabody hadn't taken the questions seriously and that LBI were giving bland answers, assigning most of the decision power back to Peabody. There had been complaints about the consultation process; the Peabody masterplan will soon be available but it will probably only give general layout of the site, including access, and no detail for example space for cycle racks.

The view of the campaigners is that they should still be pushing for things even if their details aren't yet laid out in the master plan. Mark wants to be able to go back to Peabody and ask what they are going to do over and above the baseline as set out in the LBI policies. Peabody is very aware of their image and wants to do the right things so long as they are achievable and not too far-fetched. The timeline is consultation in summer 2020, plans submitted September 2020, sign-off early 2021 with full completion probably 5-6 years later. Some bits being finished sooner.

Nick/Graham to ask at next officer meeting about the plans regarding regulations for cycle parking for new builds in Islington - these specify an increased amount of space to be allocated. Can everyone look at the responses and send their comments to Liz who will collate them and forward to Mark by end of April latest. Mark wanted personal testimonies if possible as he feels these have a good impact. Mark asked if anyone could attend the next monthly meeting of the Holloway Environment and Sustainability meeting - on 9 April - or future meetings; email him for details at plan4holloway@gmail.com.

7. AOB:
 - Part of QW10 complete: Gillespie Road/Avenell Road junction works completed with resurfacing due. Local residents should be keeping an eye on potential rat-running. Nick/Graham to ask officers to monitor.
 - Steve said that Islington Park Street, part of the signposted cycle route to avoid Highbury Corner needed to have an "except cyclists" sign for when the overnight no entry signs are on - Nick/Graham to add to their list.
 - Tom had a question about school streets; we know that LBI are putting in 30 school streets but we don't have a list - David Shannon is the lead for LBI.
8. Next meeting will be our AGM on 13 May - details to come.