Minutes of Cycle Islington Meeting 12 January 2022

**Present**

JH, EM, DL, SM, DH, JC, SK, NK, NB, KM

**Apologies**

SI, RW

Last month’s minutes were approved after correcting JH’s ‘walk-round’ offer to candidates in the forthcoming election. It was agreed that after the election, we offer councillors a tour of their ward. A typo was corrected. EM to put final version on our website.

**Matters arising from last meeting**

DH asked that we should approach the Council about road resurfacing issues prior to financial year-end and that CI ask to be consulted later in 2022 about work to be undertaken in 2023/4. The key cycle routes e.g. Q2 should be a priority; we understand that the budget for this is closed for this financial year. DH suggested that the Highways team is invited to CI's meetings with officers.

Living Streets meets separately with the Council.

**Actions from last meeting**

**Canonbury West**

Cards and fliers are being distributed. JH found school run time to be good. Parents with children are interested and others are in too much of a hurry to discuss. EM intends to put some fliers through letter boxes.

**Report from Full Council meeting**

JH queued for 1.5 hours and was one of 8 people allowed in the public gallery.

The Conservative motion asking for all People Friendly Streets/Low Traffic Neighbourhoods [PFS/LTN] to be taken out was turned down.

Another petition was not accepted.

As people in the public gallery were roughly 50:50 for and against [PFS/LTN], there was little to note at the meeting.

Outside, we believe there was a group with a megaphone – which was noisy! We understand there was a disturbingly aggressive exchange of words directed at Caroline Russell. There were also people opposed to the incinerator at Edmonton. The police were present.

**Active Travel Hustings**

DH has emailed the Editor of the Gazette, inviting him to chair this. It was agreed to have this online as it is more manageable. Also, all the main political parties will be invited. We agreed that the details could be finalised later, but we should write as soon as possible as diaries fill up very quickly.

**ACTION DH**

**Updates on Consultations**

The Bath St consultation closed Jan 16 and the one for St Pancras Way [in Camden] closed Jan 13.

SK and KM had submitted responses for the Holloway Prison Site Redevelopment. They both emphasised the lack of adequate facilities for cycles and electric vehicles.

SM had attended the Canonbury West LBI on line meeting. Was impressed by LBI officers calmly repeating the benefits of walking and cycling while politely recognising it's not possible for everyone. There were many complaints about Highbury Corner [which is a different scheme!]

**Status of People Friendly Streets/Low Traffic Neighbourhoods**

St Mary’s church scheme due to start Feb 1.

**Pro PFS/LTN support – actions needed?**

We were asked to consider strategy and tactics. Agreed that Councillors should hear of our support on a regular basis, ward by ward. There would be some wards where there are no active members. NK suggested an idea which morphed into a scheme where we would be asking people to send a photo of themselves with a poster saying “I PFS/LTNs.” We’d hope to collect these through social media. These would be collated onto a large board which could be used as a photo opportunity in front of the Town Hall – maybe presented to Rowena Champion and maybe fixed in a permanent place.

The social media need not be restricted to Twitter; the whole project could grow organically and be about Active Travel [including Living Streets, Islington Clean Air Parents]. We need to coordinate with our Climate Safe Street Champions. #greenheart could be used.

It was noted that if we give LCC particular postcode/s, they can email all the members in that area to allow individual wards to be targeted.

Also, it was suggested that we should promote cycling at times of the year when the weather isn’t so good – showing that cycling is an all year possibility.

**ACTION NK to work on details of plan**

**Cycle Buddies**

Nothing new to report. Bart Smith had been contacted, the Council Active Travel and Training Officer. We’re hoping that he will let cyclists who are using the Council’s scheme know about Cycle Buddies. Toby, who coordinated the whole project for LCC has left and a new person will be starting soon.

**Five Asks**

Agreed that we should write to local press about this.

 **ACTION EM**

We have had positive feedback – praised for not using jargon and asking for measurable targets.

**St Johns Street project**

JH had been to a further meeting organised by CPRE (Council for Preservation of Rural England [London]) and there is plenty of interest. More than one organisation has drawn up plans. Will Umney is the link person for the Council. They plan to report back in two weeks. It wasn’t clear where funding will come from as yet.

**Climate Safe Streets Champions update**

There were no Champions at the meeting.

**Council Officers liaison meeting**

NK reported:

Present: Council side – 2 from the Cycleways team, our side – GP, NK, KM

We are trying to work out the hierarchies and structure for Council workers who are involved with cycling. The upper strata seems to be sorted out but the rest are expecting a restructuring. We will revisit!

**Update on PFS/LTN**

St Mary's Church - Blue badge exemption from the start.

Exemptions are linked to the number plate; could cause problems as some drivers follow examples from driver in front [Blue badge holder may followed by non-blue badge holder, so fined…] It’s a trial, so will be watched closely.
Highbury: Some filters are changing. Benwell Road has been changed.

**C38 Consultation** [Liverpool Road]

Lots of individual responses, raising very specific issues, e.g. controversial Pedestrian Crossings
Emergency Traffic Order [ETO] period expires in March.
Responses being reviewed by Steer [independent external consultants appointed by LBI].
No money for permanent scheme yet, but have asked TfL for funding for a permanent scheme.

**Benwell Road**

We asked why the filter had been widened. It's a low-traffic area, there should be no reason two cars have to pass abreast here. Similarly near Canonbury School in the Canonbury West PFS/LTN. There’s ongoing discussion that Council side are having with the Council engineers, Highways Dept.

**A1 [Holloway Road]**

The delayed scheme is going ahead. Will be small pieces of work spread over a year, perhaps because of the need to keep the road open.

**York Way (Joint LBI and LBCamden)**

We were pleased to hear that it is to be made permanent.
Camden Council has already consulted on a permanent scheme including improvements, stepped tracks, junction changes. Again funding problems.

Junction improvements [e.g. Market Rd/ York Way] will stay, but no approved design for Brewery Rd/Agar Grove. Will have to do a small consultation on that.
Bus stop bypass trial has been retained.

Might need to make changes [to improve them for partially sighted].
E.g. Bus announcement that there is a different layout or even a light pole in the door!

Also tactile paving improvements.
Present data shows less than 1% of interactions between cyclists and pedestrians cause any problems.

**FR2 now known as C50** [the route planned for Bloomsbury to Tottenham]

Camden are a year ahead of Islington and are going ahead with their part.

Will involve work at York Way junction and Camden Square.
Islington’s part keeps being pushed back because of lack of funding.

Possible start February, but not at risk from TfL’s side although they said they’d fund the total scheme.
Will be an experimental scheme but LBI want to make sure it's cheap/easy to make permanent and with N/S interaction.

**Holloway Prison site**

Agreed a challenge and opportunity. Council side to find out about zebra crossings without orange beacons. Unlikely to be used without Department for Transport approval.
Council side are being asked to get more done, more ambitiously and to a higher standard.

**AOB**

EMhighly recommended Tuesday evening online discussions – send an email for a link to ideaswithbeers@gmail.com

KM asked that recognition was given to the huge contribution that JH is giving to our campaigns.

**Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 9 February online 7.30pm.