

Lewisham Cyclists minutes

Date: 17.09.08 – Dog and Bell, Prince Street, London SE8 3JD

Present: John Phillips, Tom Crispin, Paul Taylor, Jane Davis

Apologies: Ian Pendleton, Carole Crankshaw, Roger Stocker

Minutes taken by: Jane Davis

Sydenham High St Road Improvements

It had been agreed at the end of July's meeting that this would be discussed at the August meeting. However, the August meeting was cancelled due to the numbers of members on holiday. Therefore, this item had been included on this month's agenda. Tom Sutcliffe, who had originally raised concerns about this development, was absent from the meeting, He had raised concerns about the chicanes and road narrowing shown on the plans and at last months meeting the majority of members had shared his concerns. The majority view at the end of a short discussion about the development this time was that it would, on the whole, be an improvement to this busy road, and, as it is intended to reduce motorised traffic speeds, would make the road safer for cyclists. Some of the concerns over aspects of the scheme initially raised by Tom Sutcliffe were discussed and it was felt that, if traffic speeds were reduced, these would not present a serious threat to cyclist safety. A majority view on this occasion was therefore that we were in favour of the redevelopment.

Some members in fact did say that they had received an email informing them of the dates of the consultation process. However, at the time, no one was available to attend, apart from Roger Stocker.

Another assertion made by Tom Sutcliffe in this email was that Roger Stocker's employment as Southwark Cycling Officer and his position as chair of Lewisham Cyclists constitutes a conflict of interests. Roger expressed a willingness to resign as chair. However, the meeting felt that this was unnecessary, and that, in fact, Roger's experience and knowledge has been and should continue to be, a welcome addition to the committee. Paul undertook to inform Roger of this decision by email.

Neither is it true that we "all disagreed with the chicanes and road narrowing," to quote from Mr Sutcliffe's email to the mayor. As it states in the minutes of the May meeting there was some discussion about the whole Sydenham project. No agreement was reached, although a variety of views were expressed, some against road narrowing and chicanes, others in favour, if traffic speeds were reduced. Tom Sutcliffe gave the meeting details of the next public consultation and subsequently committee members met with Ian Plowright to discuss the scheme. The committee would like it noted that the view of Mr Sutcliffe concerning Lewisham Cyclists involvement in the consultation process, and the role of Carole Crankshaw and Roger Stocker is his own personal view and not the views of Lewisham Cyclists themselves.

Young Greenwich and Lewisham Cyclists

Tom Crispin requested that the funds for this group be lodged in Lewisham Cyclists account. The meeting agreed this would be possible as long as it is allowed by financial regulations. The treasurer is to check with LCC that this is permissible and if so to contact Roger Stocker, as the other signatory.

TC went on to inform the meeting that he has set up a programme of rides for this new group and a website www.britishschoolofcycling.com

Red
area
has
been
altered

PT

Highlig
hted
area to
be
removed

JP

London Freewheel

Lewisham Cyclists are organising a feeder ride to this from Sydenham Sainsbury's via Greenwich Cutty Sark Gardens.

Lewisham Cycling Officer

The meeting expressed a wish to develop it's working relationship and communication with Carole Crankshaw. There was some discussion as to the best way to improve lines of communication. It was decided to approach Carole herself with a view to devising a mutually convenient arrangement.

Next Year's AGM

John Phillips made a suggestion that if we wanted to increase the numbers attending we should consider putting a flyer in the LCC magazine, London Cyclist. In 2007, when this was done, the numbers attending were much greater than at this year's AGM when we had placed no flyer. Jane Davis also suggested a flyer could be handed out during rush hour on the Eddystone Rd railway bridge as so many cyclists use it. Meeting agreed to finalise arrangements for this and the AGM itself at the next meeting, which would still give us time before the AGM next year.

Christmas

Paul Taylor suggested we repeat last year's successful celebration with Greenwich Cyclists at the Dog and Bell. Anthony Austin of GC who organised this last year is agreeable as long as we inform him in good time of numbers. The meeting agreed that this was a good idea.

Treasurer's Report

There is have £600 in the account with the 2008 grant due soon- this will be about £400.

Next meeting Wednesday October 16th, 7:30 pm – Dog and Bell, Prince Street, London SE8 3JD.

