

BRENT CYCLISTS

MINUTES OF MEETING 2nd SEPTEMBER 2009

Present: Ben Tansley, David Arditti, Ian Saville, Paul, Stephen Thwaites, Richard, Constantine Gras, Colin Waters (Harrow Group)

1. Matters arising from previous minutes

Ben pointed out that Borough Spending Plans (BSP) are being replaced by Local Implementation Plans (LIP) and not the other way round.

Cycle Fridays are taking place every Friday until 2nd October.

August meeting was followed by a cycle maintenance workshop which was a success.

2. Appointment of new Co-ordinator

Ben has announced that he will stand down as co-ordinator due to pressures of work. Members expressed thanks for all his hard work in this role.

There was discussion over whether the role can be split. Ben said that according to Brent Cyclists constitution it can be, but that one person should be nominated as contact (eg with LCC).

Ben gave an outline of the role of the co-ordinator. It involves being a point of contact for members, the press, the public, LCC and Brent Council. In addition, a number of 'ad hoc' functions such as producing leaflets, liaising (eg with Josie about workshops), attending meetings (eg Brent Cross Cricklewood coalition), attending local groups conference at LCC head office every 2 months.

Ian Saville agreed to take on the role of contact point for the group. David suggested rotating the chair at meetings, as Barnet group have a separate chair & co-ordinator.

Action: Ben will contact LCC to re-direct mailings to Ian.

3. LIP (Local Implementation Plans/ BSP (Borough Spending Plans)

Ben contacted Mike Evans (Senior Sustainable Transport Officer, Brent Council) to ask what plans/ projects for cycling are included in the LIP. Mike Evans has replied with a list of draft projects.

There is no specific section on cycling in the LIP; instead, cycling could appear in several 'themes' eg 'Corridors' would include London Cycle Network, 'Neighbourhoods' could include traffic calming and 20mph zones and 'Smarter Travel' could include cycle training, cycle to work etc. Ben pointed out that we need to push for these things as the boroughs have more freedom under the LIP and do not have to spend on cycling.

Action: David will draft a reply to Mike Evans suggesting projects to be included in the LIP, emphasising Greenways, Olympic routes, cycle paths along Fryant Way, routes between suburban centres, and strategies to overcome barriers such as the N. circular road and the Neasden barrier.

It was agreed that we should also ask for funding for cycle maintenance workshops, initially for hiring premises and funding for mechanics.

4. **Brent Cross Cricklewood.**

Ian will attend a meeting of the BXC coalition. Ian said he felt that other groups in the coalition were not focussing sufficiently on the impact of increases in traffic associated with this scheme. He said that the Campaign for Better Transport (CBT) were concentrating on light rail while Brent Friends of the Earth (FOE) were campaigning on the incinerator proposals.

5. **Cycling Superhighways**

David pointed out that the proposed Superhighway route 10 does not go along the Harrow Road, but along the A40, and is therefore not in Brent. Ben felt that the A40 is not a feasible route and it was agreed that we should look at the A404 Harrow Road as a possible alternative.

Action: Stephen, Colin and Constantine will survey Harrow Road and report to LCC

6. **Forthcoming Events**

Queens Park Festival is on Sunday 13th September

Skyride (formerly 'freewheel') is on Sunday 20th September. The route starts in Harrow and details are on the Brent Cyclists website.

Cycle workshops- it was agreed that in autumn/ winter a weekend event would be better than weekday evening. The workshops will take place at a college on the Brent/ Westminster border.

Action: Ian will contact Josie to set Saturday dates in December and January.

7. **Other business/ members ideas or concerns.**

Colin Waters from Harrow group suggested a social evening with Brent and Harrow cyclists.

Venue is the Travellers Rest, next to Kenton station (Bakerloo, Euston- Watford overground station) at 8pm on Wednesday 21st October