

Brent Cyclists Meeting 2 November 2011

Present:

Ruth Chiat (Sustrans Bike It Officer for Brent) ruth.chiat@sustrans.org.uk

Neil Nerva

Ben Tansley

Gerhard Weiss

Charlie Fernandes

David Arditti

Apologies: Ian Saville

1. Bike It Project

Ruth is launching Brent's [Bike It](#) project this term (she has previously done this in Sheffield). This works by encouraging parents and children to cycle to school on a particular day. She is working with 12 schools. She is looking for volunteers to help. Scheme is called Adopt a School. She can send us a description of the Adopt a School project and "job description" for volunteers and we can ask for volunteers via Yahoo! group. She should send this to to Ben. Action: Ruth and Ben. Volunteers need to be CRB checked but Sustrans can fund that.

She also wants suggestions of celebrities to talk to schools. Neil suggested Michael Lyon, also Navin Shah.

They are aiming to get 10% of pupils cycling at least sometimes. David noted that the Brent average proportion of school trips by bike (according to Biking Borough report) is 0.5%.

She has £1500 to spend on 12 schools for a year.

2. Coordination of group

Ben has expressed the wish to stand down as coordinator and David has said he will take over.

Ben asked: what is the group intending to do? David mentioned that we had met Tim Jackson, Head of Transport, and requested regular meetings with officers, but no action so far. Neil offered to chivvy council on setting-up regular meetings with officers and with a significant councillor, e.g. the Cycling Champion, Cllr Butt. Action: Neil

David promoted idea of campaigning on one theme, by which he meant one location that could be held up as a really useful change. Neil suggested a theme of asking for contraflows on one-way streets throughout Brent.

Charlie reported he had attended a consultative forum in Wembley, got anti-cycling on pavements comments.

Ben will get Gerhard to forward LCC coordinators stuff to David. Changeover to be announced by David to members forthwith. Actions: Ben, Gerhard, David

3. Bike Hub (Biking Borough)

No signs of progress on this. SKM consultants have complete control of Biking Borough fund according to Mike Evans, Ben said. It appears that it will all be spent in the area of the Kensal Rise "Cycle Hub". It seems strange that consultants taken on to plan what was supposed to be only part of the original BB project are given control of all the money. Neil said Mike Evans had said Brent might take someone on to administer the budget, paid out of BB funds, but this is all unclear.

Ruth suggested that the schools she works with should get some of the money. Others thought this was reasonable.

Tue 8 or Wed 9 Nov suggested for meeting with KSM. Ben and Ruth favour Wed 9 in morning (8.30) in Kensal Rise. Charlie and Neil can also go. Suggested to meet at Minkies by Kensal Rise Station to look at rush hour obstructions. Action: Ben to arrange with SKM and invite Mike Evans or another officer as well.

4. Campaign priorities

David has noted the success of Harrow Cyclists in doing a sustained priority campaign on one location (College Road in Harrow town centre) and getting results. David suggests choosing a single location to focus campaigning on, something within Brent's powers and a feasible budget (less than £1 million) that would make a major difference.

Suggestions:

1. Cycle track on Neasden Lane North on the E side between the N exit of the Neasden ped/cycle underpass and the crossing at the north end of the northern Neasden roundabout to allow direct cycling from Neasden shopping centre up to Blackbird Hill: link the 2 severed parts of Neasden
2. Fryent Way: parallel cycle paths on both sides by road through Country Park
3. Connection from Wembley Central to Northwick Park via Lancelot Rd, Barley Close, Harrowdene Rd, Peel Rd, Byron Rd. Involves improving several paths, but really requires land-take to make space at the end of Byron Road.
4. Malvern Road near Carlton Vale needs dropped kerbs at closure by school
5. Coventry Close, Kilburn: dropped kerb to complete cycle path to Canterbury Road

Action: David to email group asking for people to vote on options or suggest others

5. Rides

Infrastructure Safari Sat 12 November: start 11:45 Gladstone Park. Aiming for café at British Museum via Somers Town route and Bloomsbury route. Possibly cross Thames on Waterloo Bridge and return on Southwark Bridge. Action David & Ben to finalise & lead

Olympic Ride Sun 15 Jan: start Queens Park Station car park 10am. Hackney Wick and Beckton on Greenway, possible return on Overground. Action Neil to lead

Undefined ride Sat 18 February Action Charlie to consider

6. AOB

Reminder of LCC AGM on November 16

Next meeting: Social 7pm Tues 6 December at The Crown

David Arditti