

Brent Cyclists meeting 07 Sept 2011

Present: David Arditti, Ben Tansley, Charlie Fernandez, Ian Saville
Apologies: Michelle Homden, Diana Hurley

1. Meeting with Tim Jackson, Brent's head of Transportation, Thursday 8 Sept

Principal request is for a bi-monthly meeting with officers to discuss schemes. If successful, Ben and Ian can sometimes do a daytime meeting. Charlie also interested in attending. Though a forum for walking & cycling (with councillors) would be a good idea, we should leave this to another time. Ben raised getting officers to understand better the pro-cycle options that are available, e.g cycle contraflows at one-way plugs.

Locations we would like to highlight at the moment:

- East Lane at North Wembley bridge was mentioned as a particular difficulty by Ben and Charlie.
- David proposed a contraflow idea for Neasden Lane north (W side) to allow northbound cycling from the pedestrian/cycle underpass. Agreement on this. Noted cyclists are doing this already on the pavement.
- Paths parallel to Fryent Way

2. "Going Dutch" campaign

Ben felt this was only an election campaign topic and mentioned differences of interpretation within LCC. David thinks it should be taken as a permanent new policy direction for LCC. Agreed it is reasonable to consider at the moment what roads in Brent might be suggested as high-profile trial locations for segregated cycle tracks.

Suggestions: Willesden Lane, Ealing Road, Forty Lane/East Lane, Kenton Road/Kingsbury Road, Harrow Road round Harlesden (but other schemes projected there makes this less good as an independent idea). These are ideas for further investigation.

3. Getting people to meetings and social events

Decided to carry on with current pattern this year. Ben thought that the group getting more involved with Council would help generate interest: more of relevance to discuss. We are reluctant to invite guest speakers to meetings when likely attendance is so low. Ian suggested setting up Facebook page and Twitter feed. Agreed.

4. Rides

Sun 9 October and Sat 12 November felt to be suitable. Eddie felt he could not run a ride outside London but maybe one inside. It was felt in autumn we should stick to the city. David suggested an infrastructure study ride. He will see if there is interest on the Yahoo group. Eddie agreed to coordinate ride ideas, fix what is to be done on those dates and advertise it.

5. Skyride

Went OK but we were very short of marshals. Ben and David felt Skyride achieves no modal shift, takes up our resources and is a distraction from efforts to improve conditions in Brent. David not inclined to run Kingsbury feeder again. Eddie is interested in helping next year.

6. Expenditure

We have tried walkie talkies but not very successful. May be worth looking into again if we do Skyride-type mass rides.

7. Queens Park Day (next Sunday)

Ben will set up. Ian will come from 12.30. Eddie will come at 2 and stay till end. Paul may come. Ben to reply to Josie agreeing to put Cycletastic leaflets out but not sell bikes.

Next meeting: Social at The Crown, 4 October

David Arditti, Secretary