

**Wednesday, 2 November, 2016 7:30 -9:30pm**

Gascoyne Community Hall

**Present:** Jono Kenyon (Coordinator), Matt Saywell (Chair of meeting), Brenda Puech (Secretary) Dave Harris (treasurer), Alison Heard (Inclusive Cycling) Kate Charteris, Angus Macdonald, Harry Fletcher-Wood (consultation coordinator), Natalie Gould (consultation coordinator), Richard Lufkin, Tim Evans, Rachel Aldred, Chas Wilshere (workshop representative), Geraldine Matthews, Garmon Ap Garth, Daniel and Martha, Siobhan Blackshaw, Ruth-Anna MacQueen

**Guest speakers:** Mark Strong (Transport Initiatives) & Laura White (Hackney Council),

**Apologies:** Dave Lukes

**1 Minutes and matters arising from meeting 2 September 2016**

- Garage (on agenda)
- Annual Meeting (held in October)
- Constitution issues. (on agenda).
- Mayoral Hustings (held on the 12<sup>th</sup> September)
- London Fields (on agenda)
- Group matters: (on agenda)
- Inviting Cllr Feryal Demerci to meeting (still to action)
- Vision workshop (still to action)

**2 Talk: London Cycling Design Standards (LCDS) Cycle Network Planning in Hackney**

Mark Strong explained Transport Initiatives had been commissioned by LBH to look at network planning in Hackney based on LCDS which sets out theory of planning. The strategy includes a series of steps as follows:

1. Review existing conditions
  2. Look at mesh density
  3. Accessibility classification – busy red roads, amber, and green which are quiet / motor traffic free. Black roads you don't cycle
  4. Area porosity – permeability review areas graded into areas
  5. CLOS Cycling Level of Service tool to assess on specific routes
- **Review of existing conditions:** Hackney did CSNA (a review of cycling conditions on all streets) in 2010/11 and reviewed in 2015. Streets classified as red (poor), amber (inadequate) and green (safe). Many amber roads in Hackney and green roads not connected. Affected by peak times when most people cycling. Some become Lvl 3 (red) due to rat running. Also looked at categories of crossings as critical for cyclists. These are levels 1 -3, Lvl1 easy becoming difficult at Lvl 3. Have gone into quite a detailed level.

- **Mesh density** – looks at official cycle routes/networks per sqkm. Red is poor and green is good. Difficulty of assessing what is a cycle route. No quality measurement done as all routes are mainly taken as given.
- **Porosity:** Measure of permeability. Gateways need to be cycling appropriate eg zebra crossings don't count. Dividers/ barrers include railway lines, stepped bridges, small unconnected areas, red junctions (busy), uncontrolled crossings.

**Use of tool:** Southwark Council and Harrow have used tool to develop long-term strategy.

Laura White (LBH) noted LBH were at very early stages at Quietway planning and programmes. This is a tool to be used going forward. They are conducting a pilot with schools using data and giving maps to parents and children so that they can plan routes and know critical junctions.

### Q & A session

Q: How do you improve mesh density – level of route provision?

Need to apply quality threshold to routes which might remove certain routes. All other criteria apply – gateways, permeability, safe crossings to ensure the route classifies as suitable for cycling.

Q: Very useful planning tool. However reminds one of PTAL – indicative method depending on judgement. Low PTAL used to justify putting in car parking.

Any tool is subject to effective use. Best use is to improve facilities.

Q: What are LBH doing to improve quality of routes – other than the existence of them?

Routes are judged by characteristics and quality rather than official existence. Some routes may not be official but are good, and vice versa.

- 3**      **Constitution:** Agreed to defer this item until we have minutes of Annual Meeting.  
**Action:** Natalie to ask Oliver to complete minutes in time for presentation of constitution item at next meeting.

**4**      **Current consultations:**

- **London Fields area review:** Meeting held on 31 October with LBH and independent consultant Arcadis. In summary, the Council have commissioned the consultants to provide independent recommendations for the area, including looking at the previous consultation in detail as well as the data available, and then meeting us and others. As well as meeting us, they have met MARA and others, and said that there is now more support for doing something more than Option 4. The council hope to reduce rat running in the whole area (now extended to the north to Graham Road rather than stopping at Richmond Road, and to Mare Street to the east rather than stopping at Lansdowne Dr), but to do so through a staged approach over 3-5 years.

We've been asked to provide a priority list by Monday 7th November.

**Action:** Garmon is working up a list and any ideas should be sent to him by end of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov (or by following deadline of 11 Nov).

- **Middleton Road width restrictions (this was discussed during meeting with LBH)**

It was noted LCCiH had not yet sent a letter to LBH objecting to width restrictions as we could not agree on the cycle bypasses issue.

Re the issue of **using permanent materials** for the six-month trial LBH had informed us during the meeting that they used permanent materials as this was cheaper than maintaining temporary materials over 6 months.

The group wanted to know how LBH were going to evaluate width restrictions after the six-month trial. LBH has stated that they were going to do this only through consultation responses received.

The group agreed that we would need to be proactive about gathering feedback on use of and satisfaction with bypasses within the next 6 months. The possible impact of HGVs using alternative routes in the area if Middleton Road was not available to them would be an additional consideration. **Action:** Set up process for evidence gathering & feedback

- **Clapton Square:** This issue was brought up by local residents Daniel and Martha. There had been a consultation three weeks ago to close off a rat run at Clarence Place. The outcome of the consultation was that 50% were in favour of some sort of action to reduce rat running and there were only 35% against. However, LBH decided against putting any measures in at all, even though TfL funding was available for this. The majority wanted it but it was rejected in entirety and no alternatives offered. This was of huge concern. It was noted this creates barriers to get on to the Quietway and makes west side of square more busy.

**Action:** Natalie and Harry will be meeting Cllr Feryal Demirci, Cabinet member for Transport and head of StreetScene Andy Cunningham and will raise this issue with evidence of consultation statistics that Natalie has collated.

- **Quietway 2 crossing of Mare Street (not a public consultation yet):** The scheme proposed banned turns into St Thomas Square and London Lane to make crossing of Mare Street easier and reduce rat running to some extent.

It was noted that banned turns were a positive aspect of the scheme. However, there were concerns over vehicles ignoring banned turns unless there is camera enforcement

The overarching view was that this was not a safe crossing and the junction may need this to be signalised. It was noted that as you cannot go straight across, any crossing would have to be staggered. A question was raised as to whether the QW route was supposed to be on the south side of the square, because this was not the most direct route.

**Action:** Members were encouraged to submit further responses to Natalie ([natalie.gould@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:natalie.gould@yahoo.co.uk)) who would coordinate the response.

- **Shepherdess Walk/City Road scheme: Deadline 18 Nov**

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/roads/city-road>

It was noted that this is a missing link to a useful route and would be excellent to get in. We need individuals to fill this in and support this TfL consultation, as there is strong opposition from some motorists to this. It needs to be pushed on Twitter and other social media. There was a suggestion to do some leafleting of cyclists which was taken up.

**Action:** Harry is going to do a quick link to the consultation, Jono will send the Islington template. Kate will coordinate the **leafleting** and dates were going to be **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> and Wed 16<sup>th</sup> evenings. 5-7pm at the junction.** All to note and volunteer if possible.

It was noted that LBH is looking at a filtering scheme north of this junction. Islington LCC has approached us to put in a joint response with them. Agreed we will do that. **Action:** Natalie & Harry. Members are encouraged to look at consultation on Cyclescape (or above) and respond.

- **Signalising of junction: Chatsworth Rd, Millfields and Powerscroft Road**

This issue was brought by local resident Tim Evans who feels this scheme is a huge overkill and will lead to congestion and delays and cannot understand what it is trying to solve. The scheme will lead to stationary traffic causing noise and pollution affecting local residents.

However, some members felt that this is not a friendly junction for cyclists and needed to be resolved. It was suggested that Tiger crossing be installed in place of the proposed signalised cycle crossing - because this would remove the need for signals and the associated queues of traffic. Providing zebras at all junctions arms was not considered satisfactory for cyclists crossing.

It was agreed that putting cyclists on a busy footway to negotiate the staggered junction is unsatisfactory. There was also a suggestion about putting a contrasting-coloured surface down for the cyclist route across the footway - to more clearly delineate the space. It became clear during the discussion that the proposal map sent to residents (such as Tim) doesn't show any of the footway parts of the proposal which added to the confusion.

There was no clear consensus so the discussion was to be transferred to Cyclescape.

**Action:** Natalie will put this scheme on Cyclescape and send link to group.

- 5 **Letter to LCC board re Hackney Committee member:** This item was carried over from the previous meeting in September where it had not been fully resolved. A letter to LCC board had been drafted and sent to the previous committee for approval, but no action had been taken on it.

Since then in response to the published minutes the LCC board had provided further information about time-line and chain of events that throw more light on the issue, to Jono.

**Action:** Jono will circulate the new information to the committee and any other interested members along with the draft sent to the previous committee. Responses can be progressed if people still feel that an issue exists.

- 6 Garage and Family Cycling Project:** Ruth-Anna and Alix Stredwick (not present) were congratulated for their achievement in receiving a grant of £10 K over 3 years from Groundwork, funded by TfL, for the Family Cycling Project. The funding was to expand rides, the Library and events targeting parents and toddler groups. Publicised rides organised by the group and Hackney Cycling Survey evidence went a long way towards securing the grant. The project can now pay share of LCCiH garage and pay people for admin and expenses etc.

The first event would be on 27th November 2016 and would be a cycle parade to turn on Hackney Christmas lights with fancy dress, lights and decorated bikes. It will be publicised in Hackney Today and a Dr Bike.

**Actions:**

- Publicise 27 Nov day on website and social media. Who will?
- Need to have a garage work day. Ruth-Anna to organise when able.

- 7 South Hackney Area study:** Natalie, Harry and a Living Streets representative went for a meeting with LBH to discuss this. However, details are not out yet. The consultation will be out by December 2016.

- 8 Mare Street cycle collision:** A member raised it as an example of what happens when safe infrastructure not provided and our responsibility to respond to LBH to ensure that similar incidents will not happen again.

LCCiH had been asked for response by Hackney Citizen and Gazette. The article in the Hackney Citizen was based on our response with a headline based on call for improvement.

We provided our response based on our survey data and collision records in the area. It was noted that some members did not agree with response as sent out a negative message about cycling and distorted efforts to only where a collision has taken place.

However, it was noted that this was a junction with a high collision rate and a proposed scheme that had been shelved. It was felt that our group needed to be more proactive about schemes that are needed or seem to be shelved for a reason.

Agreed that responses need to be on a case by case basis and that we should put up responses to issues on our website.

An email had been received by a member stating that collision data shows there have been no significant clusters of collisions at this junction and it was not sensible to focus on a specific junction. However, Harry found collision data that showed this was the case. Agreed a response would be sent and copied to committee.

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**Action:**

- Publish on our website our media responses and articles in Hackney Citizen and Gazette which include our input.
- BP to email response to member and copy to committee.
- Need to develop up-to-date map of where collisions have occurred as a proactive tool for campaigning. Hackney Cyclist has map data and Harry will circulate link.

It was noted that Jono & BP had attended a **media training workshop** at the LCC AGM and could circulate key points to the group. We need to have key messaging when getting in contact with media – including ambitious targets and being positive (even though this doesn't always get included).

**Action:** Rachel to check if the Media Training presentation can be shared.

- 9 Burns Night 2017:** Confirmed on Saturday 28 January 2017 at City Academy. It was noted this was our biggest fundraiser and a critical event on our calendar. **Action:** A sub-committee of volunteers including Jono, Angus, Natalie, Dave Harris and Brenda would work on organising this.

**10 AOB:**

- **Towpath campaign:** Gerry Matthews reported that she recently had a meeting with towpath ranger regarding a campaign to slow cyclists down on the canal that was called Share the Space, Drop the Pace. The ranger wants to meet Hackney Cyclists to discuss issue. **Action?**
- **RoadPeace World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Nov at St James Piccadilly. All welcome to attend.
- **Road Danger Reduction Forum (RDRF) Award:** event at House of Lords 15 Nov, 6:30 pm – RDRF and RoadPeace will present this award to West Midlands police for their work in reducing danger to cyclists and to promote their initiative more widely. If anyone wants to attend they should email [Chairrdrf@aol.com](mailto:Chairrdrf@aol.com)

- 11 Next meeting Wednesday 7 December, venue to be confirmed.**