

**London Disability Cycling Forum
Minutes
10th December 2008**

Present

Jim Blakemore, Bikeworks
Nigel Frost, London Recumbents
Belinda Sinclair, LCC
Paul Lowe, CyclingInstructor.com
Janet Paske (chair), Wheels for Wellbeing

1. Apologies

Trevor Lenthall, Sutton Council
Dominic Everitt, RNIB
Tansy, Ecolocal
Oliver Schick, LCC
Sandra Reed, wizzbikes
Veena Natarajan, TfL
Lindsay Wilson, London Sports Forum for Disabled People

2. Minutes and matters arising

Agreed and nothing to follow up.

3. LCC update

Tommo has moved onto the Ramblers so we welcomed Belinda Sinclair who had been in post as a Community Cycling Officer for about 3 weeks.

She gave us an update on:

§ motorbikes in bus lanes:

“TfL say they are going ahead with a trial of allowing motorbikes in bus lanes with a start date of 5 January 2009. This is despite a petition from more than 3500 cyclists asking the Mayor to reconsider.

LCC has sent in a formal objection to TfL’s Experimental Traffic Order which is the regulation that is being used to permit motorbikes in bus lanes for a period of 18 months. LCC expressed its concern at the lack of prior public consultation before the announcement of the measure and the lack of a proper study of the impact of the measure on all roads, its impact on the conditions for cycling and walking and its effect on the environment. There is also a lack of evidence to show that the measure will help reduce congestion.

The organisation expressed concern that the Mayor did not have clear evidence of significant safety benefit for motorcyclists resulting from the measure and that, according to TfL, there may be “disbenefits” for cyclists and pedestrians. These means that there could be a higher risk of collisions to pedestrians and cyclists. Additionally, by making cycling along popular routes less attractive, the measure risks undermining the Mayor’s plans to boost cycling.

The trial will only apply to bus lanes on the TfL road network (red routes) with a number of exceptions such as contraflow bus lanes. Most bus lanes on borough roads are excluded.

During the first 6 months of operation of the trial members of the public can submit comments which TfL says it will consider and respond to. LCC wants to ensure that the trial is properly monitored and evaluated and will be gathering data on any incidents that are reported. Further information on sending comments and reporting of incidents will be provided before the trial commences.”

§ Dysart School

BS is doing some investigatory work at Dysart School in Kingston with the possibility of them becoming involved in the Tour of Britain celebrations which finish in London next September (sometime around the 7th).

- All Ability guide

Belinda mentioned that the LCC is near the end of revising its all Ability Guide. NF suggested that it might be helpful if the Forum had the opportunity to comment on it.

Action: BL said she would follow this up.

4. TfL update

Veena provided an update by email:

- TfL and the London Cycle Training Partnership, having published a strategy in July 2008 and a newsletter in Autumn 2008 have now completed a series of visits to London boroughs and a round of stakeholder meetings, including with Independent Cycle Training Providers. The findings from these will be published by the end of the calendar year and provide a borough by borough comparison of cycle training LIP funding and outputs to enable transparency and fruitful discussions going forwards. The information in the report will be used to set targets for cycle training and these will be confirmed and clarified with individual boroughs by the start of 09/10
- LIP allocations to boroughs including those for cycle training were published in late November and overall the budget for cycle training remains at £2.8m in 09/10 No confirmation of budgets are currently available on ongoing funding for 10/11 onwards.
- Special needs cycle training has been historically reported by TfL, but in the most recent monitoring of outputs, it has been noted that there is a significant inconsistency in the reporting criteria boroughs are using to provide this data. As such it is proposed that boroughs no longer separately report cycle training outputs for individuals with special needs, but explicitly have a goal to offer cycle training to all, including at special schools.
- However, it should be noted that often cycle training for individuals with special needs does not have an immediate transport outcome, and the

LDCF are strongly encouraged to look for other sources of funding, particularly from public health sources.

- London Cycle Training Partnership (LCTP) documents can be found on the TfL website at <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/businessandpartners/publications/1421.aspx>

PL ran through the slides VN sent which she had presented to all the boroughs and Independent providers recently [it's a 3MB file so let me know if you'd like them]. In relation to special needs,

- 26 of 33 boroughs offer training to people with special needs,
- this "meets equalities and inclusion needs but not necessarily a transport priority",
- 786 individuals, children and adults with special needs given cycle training in London in 07/08 through boroughs
- Issues about consistency of reporting.

Discussion

We were concerned to see that there will be no monitoring of the number of people who declare themselves to be disabled. TfL is covered by the Disability Discrimination Act and needs to "promote disability equality" but TfL's Disability Equality Scheme 2006-9 makes no mention of cycling.

It is usual to monitor take up of services by a specific group if there is reason to believe that there may be barriers to them receiving those services. We believe that the goal to offer cycle training to all rather than separately record outputs for people with special needs, is unlikely to provide the confidence that disabled people are getting their fair share of cycle training.

We agreed that it would be useful to include a disability question when doing any survey collecting data about people's backgrounds. This will help demonstrate that there are already many disabled cyclists using their bikes for transport, helping dispel the idea that cycle training for disabled people is not helping with modal shift, one of TfL's key priorities. And it will help identify if there are any areas where more needs to be done to encourage disabled people to cycle.

PL suggested that the LCC could collect data on what's happening eg in relation to CCL funded projects, to NHS projects, to provide more evidence of what is happening elsewhere.

Action: BS said she would raise this with LCC. (JP added in writing up minutes: LCC's strategy MS04 key action b is about campaigning for an annual survey with diversity being counted so perhaps we can work together on this).

Action: JP to raise monitoring numbers of disabled people receiving cycle training with TfL.

5. Thoughts on the way ahead

JP talked to Lindsay Wilson from the London Sports Forum prior to the meeting and she thought we should raise our profile. Following discussion we agreed that we would:

- Apply to the CCFL for funding for some fliers and a website
- Ask for a page on the LCC website
- Get into smartmoves (JP had written after the last edition but has heard nothing since)
- Ask Veena to ask TfL's webmaster to link to our site (when we have one).
- Get link to British Cycling – Paralympics section
- Tell the CSpans (Sport England bodies in London) about us
- Get a presence at events such as the Freewheel

Other things we want to do:

- Encourage more partnership working across training providers
- Run a Special Olympics
 - Action: Belinda said she would raise this with the LCC
- Host another / same event focussing on disabled people cycling - perhaps invite manufacturers along?
- Make sure LDCF gets notice of all LCC community events, as some members are community groups
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JP reported that:

- Sustrans would like to come and talk to us about their Greenways projects.
- We could also get TfL to talk to us about their equality scheme – the current one ends in 2009.

6. Date of next meeting

We decided to meet on 13th January at 1800, hopefully at the LCC offices. The room is booked so instead let's go for Thursday 15th January. This is not a wheelchair accessible venue and there is another venue slightly less central if someone is coming who needs wheelchair access. We like to rotate venues but only if it means people who want to come can.