

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

Present

Jim Blakemore, Bikeworks
Jo Roach, Pedalpower
Nigel Frost, London Recumbents
Bob Billson, Special Olympics UK
Janet Paske (chair), Wheels for Wellbeing

1. Presentation by Bob Billson of Special Olympics GB

Bob gave an interesting presentation on the background to Special Olympics and we spent nearly an hour discussing how we might be able to create a pan-London project.

I've attached the presentation to the email.

We were interested in the numbers of people involved in cycling so Bob added the following day "in terms of numbers, we currently have around 120 registered athletes who are training in cycling, in four or five regions in England. Of these 50 cyclists will be competing in the National Summer Games next year."

You can also check out www.sogb.org.uk for more info.

2. Apologies

David Dansky, CTUK
Veena Natarajan, Transport for London
Lindsay Wilson, London Sports Forum for Disabled People
Lee Roach, British Association of Occupational Therapists
Dominic Everitt, RNIB
Thomas Moulton, London Cycling Campaign

3. Minutes and matters arising

None raised.

Actions outstanding were due to be done by people not present so we could not update these.

4. Terms of reference

The LCC was interested to review the terms of reference at the last meeting but as they did not attend, we left this item for a further meeting.

5. Ideas for future speakers

We had a think about speakers who could come to future events. The Community Sports Network is one suggestion and the other is someone from the Central London CVS Network. The latter may be able to help with funding.

We decided that having had our first 7 meetings we would have a particularly social event at our December meeting and use the time to think about what we like to get out of the Forum over the coming year.

6. Update from the LCC

The LCC didn't offer an update.

7. Update from TfL

Veena's update didn't arrive in time.

8. AOB

Training for cycle instructors working with disabled people

David Dansky asked for information about CTUK's disability training course to be circulated. Please find attached a sample.

Cycle instructor training for deaf people

He also asked for everyone to be updated on the instructor training course for deaf people. As there was a poor take up in June CTUK did not run the course and have opened the criteria to both deaf people and people who work with deaf people. If you are interested in doing the course please get in touch with CTUK on 020 7231 6005.

Wizzbike Foundation

JP attended the launch of the Wizzbike Foundation that morning, an offshoot of Wizzbike. They are based in West London. More information at <http://www.thewizzbikefoundation.org/>.

Motorbikes in bus lanes

JP had had a further reply to the Forum's letter concerning the introduction of motorbikes in bus lanes:

Reply one:

"I would like to thank you for your letter to the Mayor dated 7 July 2008. The Mayor's office has asked that we reply to your letter with reference to motorcycles in bus lanes. I am glad to learn of your interest in this issue.

The Mayor has indicated his wish to allow motorcycles to use bus lanes and we are in discussions with his officials about how we can take this forward. Other areas of the country and several parts of London are already doing this successfully.

TfL is responsible for managing the Transport for London Road Network which covers five per cent of London's road network and 40 per cent of London's bus lanes.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact us regarding this matter and I do hope the information I have provided has been helpful. Should you require assistance with any further issues, please feel free to contact me."

Response to this on behalf of the Forum:

“Thank you for your reply.

The London Disability Cycling Forum is not questioning whether having motorbikes in bus lanes will work, but the impact on other bus lane users if introduced.

As well as the Mayor’s proposals on motorbikes in bus lanes, he also has a policy to increase the number of cyclists on London’s roads. The Forum is concerned that the one policy may not take into account the other. Please would you ask TfL and the Mayor’s advisers to take account of the questions in my first letter (as listed below) in their discussions, so that new and otherwise vulnerable cyclists will not be deterred in the new proposals?

- § Please could you clarify how your policy will or could have a safety benefit for vulnerable users who are wanting to cycle on the road?
- § If the Mayor is intent on going ahead with this policy, can you outline what steps you will take to ensure that vulnerable and/or new cyclists will not be deterred from riding on the road?

I look forward to hearing from you,

”

Reply two from TfL

“I would like to thank you for your further e-mail dated 1 August 2008 seeking more information on the proposal to allow motorcycles to use bus lanes. I appreciate the time you have taken to again write to let us know your concerns and your views have been noted. Please accept my apologies for the delay in my response.

In regards to your question on safety, there will be a continual review of the safety case for allowing motorcycles to use bus lanes. Further substantial usage of bus lanes by motorcycles will allow us to gather sufficient data to determine conclusively the safety case and the best option for all road users and the community.

Regarding your question on not deterring cyclists from using the road, we will make every effort to encourage a good relationship between cyclists and motorcyclists. The proposed new rules will be clearly communicated to all road users, to ensure people are aware of the changes, understand what they are and share the road in a safe way.

Also, the Mayor has several cycling manifesto pledges, including new policies such as introducing a bike hire scheme, combating cycle crime and prioritising secure cycle parking. This will improve cycling in London and encourage new cyclists to choose this as a sustainable and alternative form of transport.

Thank you for taking the time to contact us again regarding this matter and I do hope the further information I have provided has been helpful.”

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th December 1830 – 2030 at 336 Brixton Road SW9 7AA (8 minutes from Brixton tube)

The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.