

**London Disability Cycling Forum
Minutes of meeting
Tuesday 9 March 2010 at London Southbank University**

Outstanding actions

People have volunteered to do the following:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
John Simnett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Forward contact who wants to do website as part of PhD research to JP § Forward latest MTS draft to TGT/ JP once received
Ken Foreman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § send through details of article for LCC about September races
Alex White	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Get in touch with St Dunstan's College to see if they are interested in a link with us § Look out for some case studies for London Cyclist
Tamsin Fudge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Arrange meeting room for next meeting
Janet Paske	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Contact Barry North § Give fliers to Philip Benstead for smartmoves conference § To liaise with LCC for help during Bikeweek re making fliers available
Trevor Lenthall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Contact British Cycling
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Consider advertising cycle sessions on the CTC's Inclusive Cycling Forum www.inclusivecyclingforum.org.uk

Outstanding projects

Please get in touch with Janet Paske if you would like to take any of these forward

- § website
- § design and printing of fliers (A5?A6?)
- § survey of existing cyclists to use as a basis to inspire others and to estimate numbers already cycling in London
- § talk to Borough Cycling Officers Group and get disability on their agenda
- § better coverage of issues in media

1. Present

Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson
 Isabelle Clement
 John Simnett, Wizzbikes
 Neil Smith
 Ken Foreman, Civil Service Disability Network
 Philip Benstead
 Roger Crosskey
 Tamsin Fudge, London Sports Forum for Disabled People
 Janet Paske, Wheels for Wellbeing (chair)

Wheels for Wellbeing

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2. Discussion with Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson

JP introduced Dame Tanni who has 18 golds and set 30 world records as a wheelchair racer. She is becoming a peer this month and is a director of TfL.

Dame Tanni gave a brief introduction to herself and her current cycling. She used to do 15 training sessions a week but now does only two. She cycles for leisure with her family. She applied to become a director of TfL and was successful, and sees part of her role as improving disabled people's ability to get around the capital. She chairs the Corporate Governance committee, and is on the Health & Safety and Surface Transport committees.

She's also Vice-chair of LOCOG's Sports Advisory Group (LOCOG is responsible for preparing and staging the Games). Dame Tanni sees the 2012 Olympics as a great opportunity for making London more accessible to disabled people, whether competitors or visitors.

At this point she was interested to hear what we had to say about the issues facing disabled people cycling. These included:

- § people on 3 wheelers have many of the same concerns as people on bicycles eg
 - too many cars on the road
 - traffic traveling too fast
 - desire for 20 mph limit on TfL roads
- § TfL producing conflicting policies eg free Oystercards for young people mean some now take the bus rather than walk 2 stops to school
- § Councils like car parking as it is an income earner but cyclists and pedestrians would prefer fewer vehicles on the road
- § TfL doesn't work with the hierarchy of needs, prioritizing private motor traffic above pedestrians and cyclists in road design
- § It is unclear that TfL's road engineers are interpreting the Network Management Assurance legislation correctly, focusing on motor traffic rather than cyclists, resulting in cyclists being ignored in designs
- § Road designers usually aren't cyclists and don't ask/ take advice from local cyclists resulting in expensive badly designed roads
- § Everyone who uses the road needs to be aware of other road users and abide by the highway code
- § Increasing permeability - eg allowing cyclists to use one way streets in both directions. This is starting to happen eg in Kensington and Chelsea. This shortens journeys and makes a cycling a more attractive proposition.
- § Lack of promotion of cycling as a viable door to door alternative for disabled people, whether on 2, 3, or 4 wheels
- § Active disbelief that cycling can be just as good for disabled people as for others
- § Cycle superhighways are very expensive but the quality is not looking that good. Some look like traditional badly designed cycle lanes in a different colour.
- § Spending on soft measures eg cycle training is value for money
- § Lack of consideration for children on trikes at schools

- some boroughs don't consider cycle training for children who need trikes/ other non-standard cycles
 - one school put in a cycle track in their grounds but didn't make it wide enough for trikes. Fortunately, they were able to do additional fundraising and managed to widen the track.
- § Lack of consideration of widths needed for trikes on cycle paths. Although a barrier for a cycle path was built wide enough for trikes to get through, the flower beds a little further along the path were not far enough apart for a trike to get through, resulting in a much longer route to be cycled
- § Lack of funding for the non-elite side of cycling
- § Lack of visibility of different kinds of cycling
- § Disabled people benefit from cycling in the same way as others, but benefit more eg through acquiring a mobility they wouldn't otherwise have
- § There is no research on how cycling can mitigate impairment. People with impairments other than physical can also benefit in a major way eg someone with panic attacks or who has a facial disfigurement could cycle, so avoiding so much contact with others on public transport.
- § British Cycling has targets which mitigate against them working with disabled people of all ages for non-elite sport
- § We need to make cycling as normal as possible for everyone then disabled people will think it's for them too
- § Lots of training has been provided to women from all communities – they are a key to getting families cycling
- § The price of petrol may provide a trigger for more people to consider cycling
- § It would be good to have a motivational video on youtube to encourage carers and others to get over their belief that cycling isn't for disabled people
- § Access to Work won't pay for someone to have a wheelchair and handbike attachment despite the benefits

Action: JP to provide links to Forum responses to Mayor's Transport Strategy and Cycling Safety Action Plan for TGT.

Action: JS to forward latest draft of the MTS to TGT when he gets it

3. Apologies

Belinda Sinclair, LCC

Paul Lowe, CyclingInstructor.com

Stephen Golden, Head of Group Equalities and Inclusion, TfL

4. Minutes and matters arising not dealt with elsewhere

London Cyclist coverage: JS raised this with Maguerite at the LCC and she felt that this angle was being covered ok already.

JP reported that the response to the Mayor's Transport Strategy was sent in and JS and JP had a meeting with some people from TfL's Surface Transport Team to

discuss the issues raised. JS pointed out that we were really too late and we hope that we can get the word “disability” mentioned in the summary for the final version.

A response to the Cycling Safety Action Plan has also been sent in since the last meeting.

Both responses can be found at www.ldcf.org.uk .

The minutes were agreed.

5. London Sports Forum update

TF reported that:

1. From 7 April the London Sports Forum (LSF) will be re-branded as “Interactive – disability equality in sport”, building on the Pro-active brand
2. The Inclusive and Active action plan has been re-written and will be coming out in May. There is more partnership working with the NHS, with PCT leads being appointed now to work on a Go London campaign to encourage people to cycle. A referral scheme is being set up to refer people to physical activity including cycling.
3. LSF will be launching a new Inclusive and Active Club scheme with a toolkit for people to use. It’s coming out in May but won’t be a stamp of approval type scheme.
4. She is responsible for East London for the LSF, working with clubs and other Proactive partners. She also has a mental health focus eg developing a cycle club in Tower Hamlets. (Alex who often attends has a focus on people with visual impairments).

6. Next meetings

We agreed our next meetings will be on Wednesday 9 June and Tuesday 7 September.

Actions

TF offered to look for meeting space.

TL offered to contact British Cycling to see if we could find a speaker for one the next meetings.

JP said she’d contact Barry North from Handcycling UK to see if he would be able to come to one of our meetings.

7. AOB

- a. TfL’s Disability Equality Scheme

Cycling is now referenced in the DES which is great news – see p 19 of the document which you can find at

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/corporate/disability-and-deaf-equality-scheme-2009-2012.pdf> . Unfortunately the action plan doesn’t

mention cycling as such so we have some work to do for the next scheme.

However, it’s still a useful reference to make when talking to councils and

other cycling organisations, as TfL can be seen as setting an example to others.

b. Update from meeting with TfL advisers
JS and JP met with

- o Elliot Treharne – Sub-Regional Strategy Team, TfL Group Planning
- o Charles Snead – Strategy Development Team, Surface Transport
- o Philip Keen – Strategy Development Team, Surface Transport
- o Oliver Lord – Londonwide Strategy Team, TfL Group Planning

to discuss our comments on the Mayor's Transport Strategy. We are almost definitely too late to get disability mentioned in the final document but we have now registered various issues with this group. We are on their radar and they think we may be able to get more involved with the sub-regional strategy team work which is ongoing.

c. CTC's Inclusive Cycling Forum website

Kevin Hickman has been working hard to create a website for the CTC's Inclusive Cycling Forum which you can now find at www.inclusivecyclingforum.org.uk . It's live now but he hopes to launch it in May in the CTC's magazine Cycle.

If you are involved in a cycle project you can add your project to their map – see <http://inclusivecyclingforum.org.uk/places/> for more details. This will be the first place where people can go to see where they might be able to cycle.

RC is the Campaigns Officer for the ICF and said that the first committee meeting will be on 20 March at CTC HQ. He also pointed out that there is lots more than a map on the new website so go and have a look.

d. Promotion

JP has at last bought a proper domain name for the Forum so you will find all papers relating to us as www.ldcf.org.uk and www.londondisabilitycyclingforum.org.uk.

Unfortunately we've not been able to get a website developed independently of that for Wheels for Wellbeing's so we will have to work with this one for the time being.

Action: JS to forward details of PhD web researcher in case they can help create one.

JP reported that we are still in need of some fliers. If someone wants to take on a design and print project please get in touch. In the meantime we

will continue to use our A4 fliers. JP applied to the Community Cycling fund London last year for money to pay for research into cycling for and some fliers and a banner but we were turned down.

Action: All – do you have any ideas on who might help design the flier and pay for them to be printed?

Smartmoves conference

JP asked if anyone was going who could distribute our fliers? PB said he would.

Action: JP to get fliers to PB.

Bike week

Action: JP to ask LCC if they will have some of our fliers on their stand.