

**London Disability Cycling Forum
Minutes
22 October 2009 at TfL's Broadway offices**

Outstanding actions:

People have volunteered to do the following:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
Oliver Schick	§ Set up LDCF web presence
John Simnett	§ Start response to Mayor's draft transport strategy, and liaise with JP § Raise the issue of raising the profile of disabled cyclists with the LCC
Paul Lowe	§ Get in touch with the Injured Servicemen's Club § Reply to consultation request from Sustrans by 9 November
Alex White	§ Check for venue for next meeting and let JP know § 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
Janet Paske	§ Contact Dame Tanni Grey to see if she will address our Forum § Help John with consultation response to Mayor's transport strategy § Reply to Sustrans consultation

1. Present

Isabelle Clement
John Simnett, Wizzbikes
Paul Lowe, CyclingInstructor.com
Roger Crosskey
Stephen Golden, Head of Group Equalities and Inclusion, TfL
Alex White, London Sports Forum for Disabled People
Janet Paske, Wheels for Wellbeing (chair)

2. Apologies

Belinda Sinclair, LCC
Rose Ades, TfL

3. Minutes and matters arising not dealt with elsewhere

The minutes were agreed (after the meeting).

4. TfL's draft disability equality scheme (DES) 2010-12

Stephen introduced himself and the DES, explaining that cycling was not yet included but would be in the final document.

[For those unfamiliar with DES: some public authorities have to publish a 'Disability Equality Scheme'. The scheme must include:

- § a statement of how disabled people have been involved in developing the scheme
- § an action plan that includes practical ways in which improvements will be made
- § information about the arrangements in place for gathering information about how the public sector organisation has done in meeting its targets on disability equality.

More information can be found at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/RightsAndObligations/DisabilityRights/DG_10038105 gives info on this).]

He stressed that any recommendations we came up with would need to take account of TfL's financial position. There are many cuts and/ programmes not being started over the next few years, with Crossrail taking £5bn of TfL expenditure. Ultimately any recommendations would be included in an action plan in the final version of the DES which is due out in December, ready for 2010.

TfL is advised on a regular basis by its Independent Disability Advisory Group (IDAG), a group of disabled people. They, together with an independent Citizen's Jury, helped formulate the draft DES, incorporating responses from senior TfL managers to issues raised. The Citizen's Jury had 2 cyclists on it but there are currently no cyclists on the IDAG.

We then had a long wide ranging discussion about the additional needs of disabled people in relation to TfL's services. Stephen and his colleague Leyla Mustafa will also be travelling around London in the next month or so talking to groups to ensure that they have the input needed to produce a final DES.

Issues raised included:

- § recruiting a cyclist to the IDAG
- § Training of TfL staff such as engineers
- § Not putting in hard engineering features as they are rarely good solutions and often cause more problems that are solved.
- § Getting cycle training to disabled cyclists – and would be cyclists
- § How will the cycle hire scheme deal with people who need something other than a bicycle?
- § Influence other bodies eg British Waterways to remove barriers (or not replace barriers)
- § Supporting campaigns of the general cycling population – usually what is good for them is crucial for disabled cyclists eg decent widths for cycle lanes, lanes being continuous
- § Noting that camber is very important for people who cycle 3 wheelers such as handcycles or trikes – this should at the least be dealt with as the superhighways are rolled out

- § Make large interchanges more equitable for all road users through better planning
- § Reduce the traffic on the road during rush hour by having a very expensive congestion charge for an hour during this time.
- § Cycle to Work scheme should have its upper limit increased to people can buy cycles which cost more than £1000 – many cycles which are not bicycles cost more than £1000. It was recognised that this is not a TfL issue
- § Work with HMRC to get cycles recognised formally as is a mobility aid and hence get VAT deducted. It was recognised that this is not a TfL issue
- § All TfL materials to be reviewed with an eye to including disabled people as potential/ actual cyclists
- § Include cycling as part of the Travel Mentoring Scheme
- § Need to make sure that all special schools are able to access cycle lessons, not just those where the children can use bicycles.
- § Segregated and non-segregated paths were raised and SG said the RNIB was firmly of the opinion that blind people need certain space allocated to them ie they want demarcated paths in parks.
- § All HGV drivers should have cycle training
- § All people with driving licences should have cycle and motorcycle awareness training
- § Ensuring that when surveys of cyclists are carried out that people are given the opportunity to identify themselves as disabled. There are no statistics on this. Ideally we would like to develop this:
 - to find some role models we can use to inspire others, as well as
 - highlighting any work arounds which mean people can cycle when initially they believed they couldn't
 - identifying how cycling mitigates their impairment (benefits above and beyond those of non-disabled people).

JP had produced a document outlining her thoughts – see attachment. RC also gave a document to SG with his thoughts.

5. Paralympian photoshoot

Belinda asked it to be reported that she had 3 times tried to get LCC agreement for funding for her to take photos at the Paralympic event in Manchester in November but had not yet had an answer so was not going to be able to get any photos for us.

6. Updates from round the table

LCC

Belinda asked for it to be reported that the Active Travel Consortium projects were going well. She has also visited a project in Southwark Park for young people with learning difficulties which showed what a difference cycling could make for them.

Wizzbikes

JS reported being very busy with work coming in from all over the UK, not just locally. They pay for the Foundation's work through profit from the main business but are considering where to go to next – a charity? a social enterprise?

Wheels for Wellbeing

JP told people about the arson attack on WfW's Brockwell Park cycles which meant the Lambeth sessions have stopped for the time being. WfW is insured but it will take time to get the collection of cycles back to where it was. The Council re-decorating and securing the storage so JP is hopeful that the sessions can continue to be run from the Park.

7. Other issues

Draft London Transport Strategy

The draft London Transport Strategy is now out <http://mts.tfl.gov.uk/> with a deadline for consultation of January 12th. JS agreed to start a response and JP will also help out.

Coverage in London Cyclist

Disabled people as cyclists do not get coverage in London Cyclist – we need to redress that.

JS said he would raise the issue with LCC.

Alex W said he would look out some case studies for inclusion in the magazine.

Sustrans consultations

We have been asked for our views on some Sustrans plans. PL agreed to provide a response to one, JP to follow up on the other.

8. Checklist of issues we would like to pursue

- Survey of existing cyclists to use as basis to inspire others and to estimate numbers cycling already in London
- Write to all special schools
- Talk to Borough Cycling Officers Group and get disability on their agenda
- Get our web presence sorted
- Better reflection of issues in London Cyclist
- Get some fliers

9. Next meetings – dates and topics

12 Jan 2010 1830 – 2030 Venue to be decided. Alex W said he would look for one, probably at LSBU.

We did not come up with dates for meetings after that but we discussed other topics/ we'd like to cover/ people we'd like to invite:

Wheels for Wellbeing

- § Dame Tanni Grey, a director of TfL – JP to follow up, ideally for Jan meeting
- § British Cycling / Go Ride
- § Injured serviceman links - PL to follow up
- § St Dunstan's College - Alex W used to work here. I think it is for recently disabled people - AW will make contact and see if interested in making links with us