Minutes of Southwark Cyclists meeting, June 19th 2019

Attendance: Andy Cawdell, Sally Eva, Hugh Bolton, Ralph Smyth, Gareth Evans, Amy Aeron-Thomas, Eleanor Margolies, Jakub Mamczak, Megan Starkey, Sean, Liz Eden

1. Talk by Signe from Cleaner Air for Southwark Schools

Cleaner Air for Southwark Schools is a network organised by Southwark council, as a vehicle for sharing information, best practice, project advice and communication from the council. Currently 22 schools are signed up, mainly primary schools, with approximately 50 representatives. Meetings are quarterly and typically include external speakers.

Contact email is CAFSS@southwark.gov.uk

Amy – are there best practice standards?

This depends on the source / location of emissions, for example green screens may be recommended where close to main road.

Ralph – do the schools talk to each other, to liase on (for example) area based traffic calming, to avoid traffic displacement?

Some schools feel stigmatised by discussion of air quality. Aware of need to break down barriers to discussion.

Ralph - noted that school demonstration zones seem meaningless, they do nothing to address pollution (e.g. Walworth Road) at source.

Megan – is there a budget for School Streets programme?

Sign'e role is networking only, she has to leverage other budgets and projects.

Sally – how involved are parents?

Parents may be involved behind the scenes, pushing schools, and may be nominated to attend meetings instead of the usual representative.

Megan – what is level of awareness of parents and children, that air quality is a problem?

Ther is some awareness but it seems not to be a top priority.

Andy and Ralph discussed the potential for a demonstration project bringing together a group of schools - possible a secondary school plus feeder primaries - in one location to target an area. We could call this a 'travel to learn' area. Ralph - a big problem at the moment is council boundaries (between wards) don't necessarily match logical traffic cells.

Eleanor asked about air quality text alerts, it would be good to have the mayor’s alerts also going out, also to attempt link to educational effect e.g. learning readiness improved by walking to school.

Signe noted the public health team are looking into effectiveness of air text alerts. Eleanor asked if the texts could be amended to recommend not driving, when pollution is bad. Signe noted this is an external service over which the council has limited control.

ACTION – Sean to Civi CRM

2. Matters arising from May meeting

A7 card

To be reprinted soon

Liz will email a copy asking members to seek feedback from non-cyclists

Landing page for website

Google analytics to be reviewed

Proposed letter to Southwark re: CPZ

Ralph will draft a 1-2 page letter about the proposed Dulwich CPZ, in particular the approach by council officers which is to include only those streets that have a majority of residents in favour. The letter to explain the legally relevant considerations such as air quality and safety. Our intention would be for SC and others (Living Streets, Mums for Lungs, etc.) to put their name to the final letter.

Champion Hill

Council wanted feedback. SC and some members have now responded, countering negative feedback from some locals claiming this scheme is dangerous.

Engineering Week

Werner has devised a ride around Bazalgette facilities, Bruce will lead.

3. Southwark Cyclists Strategy (All)

What is our preferred process? Megan proposes to set aside an hour on 10 July. But will need breakout to tweak wordings etc. Liz and Sean favour another Saturday morning: agreed 29 June, 10am – 1pm at University of Westminster, Marylebone. Ralph struggling with ‘the bounds’ where do you start and stop. Liz offering to run the strategy: visions, actions, responsibility – put structure back into this. 29th is agreed final wording of vision, list of 3 broad headings, framework, timeline. Do not plan out actions, just direction of travel with review every 6 months based on resources etc. Try to frame and optimise use of time.

Ralph asked what happened to his input to vision – Megan to confirm.

4. Feedback from CSG on 31st May (Andy)

Andy chaired the meeting - re-structured as strategy first then detail.

Eleanor thinks this should be a bigger forum, to include now or future cyclists.

Andy – is there a legal duty for boroughs to consult cyclists, which is discharged by holding these meetings? Ralph believes the legal requirements are vague / a box-ticking exercise. Andy noted that discussions re: format have been ongoing with several cabinet members. Megan believes the council can do pretty much as they see fit.

Discussion of CPZs, these are Richard Livingstone’s personal responsibility, he was going to approve street by street where there are majorities. Liz – this may be tactical, waiting for displaced traffic. Ralph says he lives on a street with displaced traffic but it’s taking 18-24 months to get CPZ changed. Ralph believes the big issue is the LIP has committed to rolling out CPZs but the council is trying to duck out of this.

Air quality – council appear to be taking no responsibility for air quality. Eleanor, lack of knowledge? Ralph, people choosing not to know?

Govia have asked for small (£30k) projects to improve access to their stations. Deadline end of July. Sean will request wheeling ramps.

Climate emergency meeting has been organised (by Signe) for 1 July.

5. British Land – Canada Water Development (Sean)

Sean met Miles, who is keen for us to be a strategic partner. British Land objectives have been circulated to email group. We need to get back to them by end of next week about how we can help.

Design has always been permeable to cycling. High Street had been open to no vehicles / then buses only / now claiming it needs to be open to all vehicles due to impact of CS4. Route 12 helps with access to Southwark Park and new bridge.

All information was public anyway, they have their permanent exhibition in place.

6. Bike maintenance classes

We have paid Lettsom to use their hall in June but they are not giving us access.

We are considering using Camberwell Leisure Centre in future.

7. Consultation/infrastructure update (CS4 Lower Road/Cycle Future Route 12 + June infrastructure report <https://tinyurl.com/yxp7bqv5>) (Liz/Sean)

Ralph – route numbering is confusing.

Sean – all routes will be audited before any re-numbering.

Cycle future route 12 (a relatively high quality scheme, some areas weak e.g. where trees affected, but we don’t want to give an excuse to turn down)

Sean met with Osprey TRA, trying to build up local network in advance of consultation on CS4.

Healthy Streets Dulwich – we gave a high level response and asked members to respond on individual issues.

Camberwell – this consultation is up until 23 June, it has been outsourced and the map is more difficult to interact with than in-house Southwark consultation maps.

8. Proposed Group and meeting structure and working practices document (Sean)

Sean has created a document for review, including use of Southwark group emails.

Ralph is supportive.

The principle is one place / one owner for each discussion, and greater privacy.

9. Dunwich Dynamo (Bruce)

Bruce has permission to use the street next to Milwall ground, but Millwall have refused our use of wc facilities. We may hire in portaloos, or revert to Willow Walk.

Gareth and Andy need to work through the software.

Ticketing operation on the beach starts 6am, finishes around 1.30pm. We need more volunteers.

10. London Partnership Cycle Challenge

Five teams so far. Celebration of work around road works – public services, public sector, contractors. Last year we had five teams per sector but this year we only have the contractors.

Additional teams needed: we might allow scratch teams?

11. Freecycle on 3rd August

We are running a feeder rider from Strakers Road 10am, returning 3pm from Southwark Bridge.

Additional volunteer marshals needed. Marshal training 20 July?

12. Introduction of post-meeting social

Quarterly LCC social meeting is proposed to encourage links between boroughs, and to encourage members in boroughs with relatively inactive groups.

Camden and Islington are also expected to contribute (we assume equally) and we agreed to contribute a maximum of £100 per social.

13. AOB

Secretary

Mary has resigned. Sean will in future produce agendas and minutes, provided cut-down format of minutes is acceptable. He will minute decisions / actions with brief rationale, not full discussions.

Cargo Bikes meeting

Liz met James Draker who is a transport planner and interested in cargo bikes, she will create a Blog post on the subject