



September 2016

BROMLEY CYCLISTS

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LONDON CYCLING CAMPAIGN



Borough Coordinator's Notes

Firstly can I say a big thank you to our management committee for their hard work in keeping us focussed on our goals for 2016 – to increase the membership of the group, to increase the number of members and supporters attending our meetings and to progress the Asks we submitted the council in the run up to the 2012 mayoral elections.

Following the great success of 'Road to Rio' challenge which we organised in

Norman Park in May, British Cycling are going to pilot three 'Cycle Circuit' events similar in format to the Ride to Rio and identifiable with the highly successful Park Run program of events which take place across the country on Saturday mornings. These events are a great way for people to start, or return to, cycling. 'Cycle Circuits' will be held in Norman Park on Sunday 25 September and Sunday 30 October. If you are wondering what happened to the third event well I'm afraid you've missed it

because that took place in August and was a great success. You can find out more and register on the GoSkyRide website.

Having met recently with representatives from Bromley Mencap I can report that planning permission has now been granted to extend the lodge in Norman Park and there are some great plans to develop a community feel to the cycling hub as well as a cafe, meeting rooms and bike maintenance workshop.

We have organised some great rides...

One Weekend - Two Rides

The first ride, led by Spencer on the Saturday, was for our recently graduated adult cycling course members, providing them a chance to hone their newly acquired skills. Ten riders met at the Old Village Café and cycled along



the quiet ways through very posh Farnborough Park, Tugmutton Common, Farnborough Village and High Elms to Downe. So plenty of uphill and some of it quite steep too. On the return route we stopped off at Holwood

Farm for a tea and other refreshments. Spencer then led us UP Fox Hill. Before the long downhill ride back into Hayes Village. The second ride on the Sunday was a rather languid 40 miler along the Wandle Trail, the Thames Path, Quietway 1 and the Waterlink Way led by Tracey, who took us on a brilliant quiet route from West Wickham to Croydon. I'm sure I shall never find it again without help.

Cycling Super Highway Ride

With progress on the two Super Highways at an advanced stage and much of the routes actually open for use we rode up to Central London to do a tour of inspection. We were most impressed with what we saw but this has to be considered a work in progress so come on Mayor Sadiq, Boris has handed you a golden opportunity to carry the banner for cycling. It will help address the appalling pollution problem in the capital as well as address the obesity crisis gripping the nation.

Come and join our Rides...

Wednesday Weekly Wanders

Every Wednesday at 7.30 pm we meet at Bromley South Station to go for a sociable cycle ride to a pub where we enjoy a drink and chat. You can register for the ride on our website (but you don't have to). We have recently done a slight restructuring of our wanders so that in future they will always finish within four miles of the start point. We have done this to avoid some of the long rides

home along dark country lanes afterwards which we felt was discouraging some riders, particularly women, from joining us. Since we have done this we have noticed a marked increase in numbers attending and our wanders are becoming the highly social occasions they should be. On many evenings the male riders are outnumbered by the women. So why not come and join us.

For further information about our rides, please don't hesitate to contact us by email: rides@bromleycyclists.org

Other news

AIR QUALITY - The Annual general Meeting of LCC is on Saturday 15 October. Bromley Cyclists' Eve Evans, jointly with the Campaigns Team, has submitted a proposition calling on the Mayor to take urgent action to improve air quality in London. This is an important new campaigning strand for the LCC and all members are urged to attend the AGM and support Eve and her proposal. If you are not a member or your membership has lapsed this would be a good reason to join or re-join the organisation (there are of course many other good reasons).

BOROUGH SPEED LIMITS - Richard Gibbons has been doing some work on speed limits in the borough and what might be reasonably done to address the problem of excessive vehicle speeds. Bromley Council are firmly set against a borough wide 20 mph speed limit as is being adopted widely throughout London, citing accident statistics as evidence that such a measure is not required.

BROMLEY CYCLE FORUM - will once again take place at the civic centre on Thursday 8 September. If you would like to attend please contact us and we will organise an invitation for you.

ADULT CYCLING COURSE - We are once again running the very successful 'Adult Cycling Course' starting 17 September. The course comprising 6 x 1½ hour sessions is for those who have just learnt to ride and want to develop their newly acquired skill and those who are returning to cycling perhaps after a break of many many years. The course is riding based with the emphasis being 'getting onto your bike and doing some cycling'. There will be no classroom element but necessarily there will be some off bike instruction. The course is loosely based around the Go-Ride Gears programme.

GROUP MEETING - At our August quarterly meeting local Mencap Chief Executive Malcolm Wood gave a most informative presentation about the plans for the cycling hub at Norman Park as mentioned by the Borough Coordinator overleaf. The packed meeting also heard from the coordinator who explained the proposed cycling friendly route from Bromley South to Shortlands avoiding the dreadful Mason's Hill Westmorland Road junction.

CYCLE TO WORK DAY - is a national event on 14 September. It aims to encourage everyone to take to two wheels and cycle to work for at least one day. Last year tens of thousands got involved. It enjoys unilateral support from cycling advocacy groups such as British Cycling, Sustrans, Cyclescheme and the London Cycling Campaign. According to census data, 741,000 people in the UK cycle to work regularly - this number keeps growing steadily, but with Cycle to Work Day's help the aim is to make those numbers skyrocket this year and beyond! By 2021, it is hoped to see one million people regularly commuting to work by bike. Herculean efforts in 2013, 14 & 15 saw tens of thousands of commuters hit the streets, and cycle over a million miles for Cycle to Work Day. Hundreds of employers have also supported the day, from start-ups like Pact Coffee and Rumble Labs, to large national companies such as Amey and Rolls Royce

BROMLEY ROAD SAFETY PANEL - for a short time we understood that we had been invited to become members. It now seems that our invitation was to just one meeting. We have been informed by the panel chair that we cannot be members as membership is restricted by their constitutions to representatives from residents associations, we will in future be invited to those meetings where it is considered that cycling related matters will be discussed. We will be enquiring into this and will report back.

Meetings:

Bromley Cyclists hold quarterly meetings on a date and a place that will be notified via the usual communications platforms, please see the website for details of the next meeting. Why not come and join us; you'll make some new cycling friends.

Our Team (Core officers are in bold):

Borough Coordinator **Spencer Harradine**
Treasurer **Linda Rampling**
Secretary **John Wood**
Chair Derek Mark

Rides Coordinator Tracey Parker
Communications Richard Gibbons
Membership & Goals..... Eve Evans
Transport, Traffic & Infrastructure.....