



September 2015



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LONDON
CYCLING
CAMPAIGN



Borough Coordinators Report

Borough Cycling Strategy:

In my June report I wrote about our engagement with the council's consultation on their Cycling Strategy. Also in June we wrote to our members and supporters asking them to respond to the consultation and providing a template editable email which they could send to the consultation, copied to their ward councillors. This mailshot generated over 160 emails to our elected representatives. Thank you to all of those who took the time and trouble to do this. Bromley Cyclists as a stakeholder group also responded. You can view our

submission and the rather disappointing response from Councillor Colin Smith the Environment Portfolio holder for the borough on our website.

In a nutshell the strategy acknowledges there is a problem, the council suggests it is insurmountable and Colin Smith commits little towards a solution claiming lack of funds.

Borough Groups

Many of you will be aware that the issue of where and how the borough groups sit in the LCC structure is being considered.

There will be motions on this at the AGM in October formalising the structure of the borough groups and introducing template constitutions for use on our group.

This has led us to think about our structure and ask ourselves are we doing what our members want? Attendance at the monthly group meetings sticks at around the 8-15 mark representing just about 3-5% of those eligible to attend. So our question to you is do we need to change.

We have organised some great rides...

Whitstable



Our annual ride to Whitstable has always proved very popular and never more so than this year when 50 riders assembled on a Sunday in June for our pilgrimage to the seaside. We split into 2 groups and enjoyed rides at a slow pace and a slower pace. Bliss on a summer's day!

Crossness Pumping Station

A Sunday ride to the Crossness Pumping Station – built in the Romanesque style this Victorian water treatment works is described as a cathedral on the marsh. Some youngsters had so enjoyed the Whitstable



Ride they decided they wanted to join us again, and they did very well indeed. By following a circular route the ride out passed through Mottingham, Avery Hill Park, Welling, Abbey Wood (passing Lesnes Abbey) and Thamesmead. The return was along the Thames Path to Greenwich and then the traditional ride home down the Waterlink Way.

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 wander on our website (but you don't have to). So why not come and join us.

Some Future Weekly Wanders

09/09/15 White Bear, Fickleshole
16/09/15 Crown, Lee
23/09/15 George, Beckenham
30/09/15 Anglesea, Bromley
07/10/15 Oak, Bromley
14/10/15 Bridge House, Penge

21/10/15..Change of Horses, Farnborough
28/10/15..... Railway, Bromley
04/11/15.....Tigers Head, Chislehurst
11/11/15..... Oak, Bromley
18/11/15.....Rye, Peckham
25/11/15..... Swan, West Wickham

Hollow Shore

Join us for a relaxed, social, late summer ride from Otford to the Shipwright's Arms, a 'remote' pub on the Kent marshes. We will cycle through beautiful and interesting villages such as Plaxtol, Yalding, and Hadlow. Pub lunch about half way, then more nice countryside, to and through Faversham and then the lonely road across the marshes to the Hollow Shore with views across the Swale. This is an Andrew Fergar / Trevor Hughes ride so you know it will be good.

Halloween Ride

Halloween conveniently falls on a Saturday this year so we have arranged a spooky ride to mark the occasion. This will be a 'Bling yer Bike' opportunity with prizes for the best Halloween costume and best decorated bicycle.



Brighton with the Veteran Cars

Probably your last chance to cycle to Brighton this year. Sunday 1 November – Meet at Bromley South and ride to Croydon to meet the cars on the A23 for the ride down to Madeira Drive, Brighton. There is a tea/bacon sarnie stall (with toilets) at about 20 miles, for a mid-morning refuel stop. There will be a stop for lunch at Crawley or nearby. Bring a picnic if you wish. At the Brighton end there is a secret route that we know which avoids the A23, and Clayton Hill. Return by train.

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

Other news

CS6 PENGE quietly abandoned – Response from Mayor Johnson to a question from Caroline Pidgeon: "Following the release of my Vision for Cycling in London, TfL undertook a review of the original Cycle Superhighway alignments. I understand that an outcome of this review was to remove the original Cycle Superhighway 6 alignment to Penge from the programme as we are not able to deliver a Cycle Superhighway on the narrow, steep roads along this route to the standard now expected by Londoners."

SPEED CAMERAS – We have learned that Bromley Council has a policy of not installing speed cameras on its roads in the borough. This policy is apparently approved by the Environment Portfolio Holder. The policy includes not upgrading the current speed cameras on the borough's roads as they reach the end of their operational life. This seems a most extraordinary policy.

QUEENS GARDENS better news – we learn from the Transport & Highways / Environment & Community Services departments that permission has been gained to install a mini-cycle hub in Queens Gardens alongside the new restaurant facilities. This will be bike parking with a combined repair stand/foot pump against the wall of the Glades shopping centre nearest the new restaurant development; a much nicer, and more convenient area, than the grim stands tucked away where the shared path is. The area also benefits from CCTV coverage and much wider footfall. However I would reiterate the point made in our response to the Bromley Cycling Strategy Consultation that the provision of cycle parking whilst useful is not the answer to the lack of cycling facilities in our borough.

ONE-WAY STREETS – We hear that an extensive list of one-way streets in the borough is now being considered with a view to introducing contra-flow for bicycles on all of them. The new Road Traffic - Traffic Signs Regulations & General Directions 2015 legislation has made it easier to introduce these schemes – by adding 'except cyclists' signage to no entry signs and basic road markings rather than the segregated islands required under the previous regulations.

PUB of the MONTH – The following pubs that we have visited during the last quarter have been selected as Bromley Cyclists' Pub of the Month: May - The Woodman, Farnborough. June – The White Bear, Fickleshole. July – The Oak, Bromley. A hearty well done to the licensees, managers and staff at these establishments, all are now potentially Bromley Cyclists' Pub of the Year.

Meetings:

Bromley Cyclists hold monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 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:

Borough Coordinator **Spencer Harradine**
Treasurer **Linda Rampling**
Secretary **Eve Evans**
Rides Coordinator **Eve Evans & John Wood**

Communications **Richard Gibbons**
Transport, Travel & Infrastructure **John Wood**
Elected officers are in **bold**.