



March 2018

**BROMLEY
CYCLISTS**

**The borough group of the
LONDON
CYCLING
CAMPAIGN**



Cycle schemes at risk from failure to head off 'bikelash'

Bromley Council is developing various cycle routes, including two Quietways (see over). But Bromley Cyclists have concerns about such projects being undermined by a failure to engage with local people. It is vital to explain the wide-ranging benefits of schemes to reduce the risk of kneejerk opposition. Given the misinformation frequently put forward about cycling and cyclists, such "bikelash" is a common threat to cycle schemes.

Yet it seems that in spite of warnings we gave at the last Cycling Forum Meeting in July 2017, little has been done to address this risk. There have been no public workshops promoting the broad benefits of cycling in general or of individual projects in particular.

If residents first hear about a local cycling scheme only when they are sent the proposed plans, there is a greater chance that the views of a few strident anti-cycling voices will gain traction. The result can be designs becoming much less effective or even being ditched entirely.

Bromley Cyclists will continue to urge the council to truly engage with local people



about cycling plans. We want to ensure that projects cut congestion by creating an attractive alternative travel network and to avoid money being wasted on poorly designed routes few people use.

Members and supporters can also help counter bikelash by acting as "ward champions". This might involve engaging

with councillors, participating in residents' associations and being our eyes and ears on the ground.

School at Bromley South rejected

An application to build a 10-storey school at Bromley South was turned down in December.

Before the vote at the council's meeting, those in favour of the SHaW Futures Academy talked about the need for more secondary school places in the borough and the council's obligation to provide them. The counterarguments were mainly about the risks of congestion, cramped and polluted conditions for a school, and harm to neighbouring residential areas.

Bromley Cyclists had urged the council to reject the plans pending a transport strategy that tackles congestion and enables a shift to cycling in line with the London mayor's Transport Strategy. The junctions close to the proposed development site are extremely hostile for cyclists and we see any further applications for the site as offering a rare opportunity to tackle this awful location by introducing proper infrastructure to improve safety.

Bromley Cyclists is the local London Cycling Campaign group for members living in the borough

 www.bromleycyclists.org  info@bromleycyclists.org  [Bromley Cyclists](https://www.facebook.com/BromleyCyclists)  [#BromleyCyclists](https://twitter.com/BromleyCyclists)

Come and join our free rides...

Wednesday Weekly Wanders

Every Wednesday at 7.30pm, we meet outside Bromley South station for an easy-paced ride to a different pub, where we enjoy a drink and a chat. Our wanders always finish within four miles of the start to

avoid long rides home. Why not come and join us on one of these social rides? You can [register](#) on our website, but it's also fine to just turn up and ride.

New Year's Day ride

This enjoyable ride was a great way to start the year. Ten people from Bromley Cyclists came on a feeder ride to link up with Greenwich Cyclists at Cutty Sark Gardens. An impressive 23 riders then carried their bikes down the stairs at the south end of the foot tunnel as the lift was out of action. Thankfully, the north lift was working, and we reconvened on the other side of the river and struck out west through Docklands. We arrived at a welcoming cafe in St Katharine's Dock for refreshments. Afterwards, one rider left us for Tate Modern, while the others crossed Tower Bridge and headed east on the south bank. I believe we lost one rider to the Dog & Bell, but all the others, including a 10-year-old, arrived back at Cutty Sark Gardens just after 1pm feeling the better for our New Year's Day exercise.



Steve Watkin tribute ride

Following the untimely death of legendary Bromley Cyclist Steve Watkin, a group of his friends decided a fitting tribute would be to do a ride in his memory, while also raising money for [St. Christopher's Hospice](#), which was a great support to Steve and his family. Steve led numerous, never boring Bromley Cyclists rides. As the Viking Trail was one of his favourites, we have decided to do this ride on Saturday 21 April (goo.gl/EdSCdv). It will be an easy-paced ride with numerous stops for tea and cake (two of Steve's favourite things were riding his bike and eating cake). This is not a Bromley Cyclists event and there is no need to book a place, but those who wish to come along are asked to make a contribution to [the hospice](#). Further details will be posted nearer the time.

For further information on Bromley Cyclists rides, [visit our website](#) or email rides@bromleycyclists.org

Other news

ADULT BIKE TRAINING We are gathering names for our next training course for adults who can already ride a bike, but would like to gain the confidence to ride on the road and develop their cycling skills. The multi-week course will feature a mixture of training and led rides. Participants will be taught basic bike-handling skills in a traffic-free environment (Bikeability Level 1), before being taken on planned rides on quiet roads (Bikeability Level 2). Students will also be given a clear, simple pathway to Bikeability Level 3, which provides the skills for more challenging roads and traffic situations. Please notify us of your interest by filling in a ride registration form on our [website](#). We will organise a course once we have sufficient numbers.

QUIETWAYS UPDATE Public consultations run by Bromley Council on two Quietway routes – one between Lower Sydenham and Bromley town centre and the other between Greenwich and Kent House – have now closed. Quietways are walking and cycling routes designed to particularly appeal to new and inexperienced cyclists. They generally have less traffic, typically running on back streets, in parks and alongside waterways.

OFFICERS ELECTED At Bromley Cyclists' annual group meeting, all three core officers agreed to stand again and were duly elected. The full breakdown of the management committee is listed below.

CAN YOU HELP? We are always looking for any assistance members can provide with the wide range of things we do, from rides to campaigning. We are especially interested in any cyclists who can help with occasional rides as well as anyone who is knowledgeable about planning policy. For an absolutely no-commitment discussion, please email info@bromleycyclists.org

Our next public meeting

Bromley Cyclists' next group meeting will be on Monday 21 May from 7.30pm at the Two Doves (37 Oakley Rd, Bromley, BR2 8HD). We will be in the conservatory at the back of the pub. We look forward to seeing you for a relaxed catch-up on cycling-related matters in the borough. Please keep an eye on our website for further details.

Bromley Cyclists' management committee (Core officers in bold):

Borough coordinator & rides coordinator ... John Wood	Chair	Derek Mark	
Treasurer	Linda Rampling	Communications & TTI*	Richard Gibbons
Secretary & media officer	Tom Campbell	*Transport, traffic & infrastructure.	Jonathan Coulter

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