

London Living Streets

Minutes of meeting, Tuesday 12 July 2016, 3-5pm

Venue: Living Streets office, 4th Floor Meeting Room (booked)

Present: Alastair Hanton, Peter Hartley, Jeremy Leach, Robert Molteno, Tom Platt (LS Policy Director), Brenda Puech.

Apologies: Ruth Billingham, Susie Morrow.

In the Chair: Peter Hartley

Minutes: Robert Molteno

ACTIONS & WHO to act: In bold CAPS.

DECISIONS: in Bold.

Corrections included from: Brenda, Jeremy.

1. **Name:** **DECISION:** London Living Streets (LLS) .
2. **Terms of reference:** **DECISION:**
 - i. **London-wide strategic issues of concern to Living Streets**
 - a. Being represented on relevant TfL working groups
 - b. Interfacing with the London Assembly
 - c. Interfacing with the Mayor's key team members at the Greater London Authority
 - d. Responding to London-wide Consultations
 - ii. **Living Streets local groups in London:** to extent requested and within constraints of an all-volunteer body:
 - a. Sharing relevant information with them.
 - b. Responding on occasion to their requests.
3. **Membership:** **DECISION:** London LS is open to any person who is interested in Living Streets concerns and perspectives, *and who is prepared actively to contribute some time and energy to the work of LLS.* It is hoped that London LS will include at least one or more persons from each London local LS group/group in the making.

ACTIONS: (i) **Tom** to email people who have attended former London Campaigners meetings, asking them if they want to be involved, and, if so, putting them in touch with Robert. (ii) **Robert** to invite each person on list he has for 10 London local groups/groups in the making to LLS next meeting as well as all people who have attended London Campaigners meetings.
4. **Organizational Status of London LS within Living Streets:** Recognised that London Living Streets needs some formal status within the Living Streets overall framework. E.g. analogous to the Living Streets Scotland Forum. **ACTION:** **Tom** to get Head Office to draft a proposal.
5. **Officers:** **DECISIONS:** Particularly in interacting with the media, TfL and other official London bodies, useful to have Officers. We chose the following pro tem:
 - a. **Chair of London Living Streets:** Jeremy Leach (former Chair, Southwark LS)

- b. **Vice-Chair:** Peter Hartley (Chair, Westminster LS)
- c. **Secretary:** Robert Molteno (Secretary, Wandsworth Living Streets).
- d. **Other officers?** None at this stage.

6. Meetings of London Living Streets: DECISIONS:

- a. **Frequency:** usually bi-monthly (6 x a year).
- b. **When:** in evenings to facilitate attendance. Starting 6pm.
- c. **Venue:** next meeting at LS office; **ACTIONS: Jeremy and Peter** to seek a more convenient Central London venue (free).

7. Digital Presence: DECISIONS: 3 (at least initially) requirements:

- a. **Email Group:** comprising those attending London LS meetings.
- b. **London Living Streets Twitter:** Jeremy impressed by Susie Morrow's WandsLS twitter. **ACTION: Robert** to ask **Susie** if she would initiate a London LS Twitter.
- c. **Web Presence on Living Streets website:** This page will set out what London LS is; how it can be contacted; and possibly have Agendas regularly posted. **ACTION: Jeremy** to draft copy and get Head Office to mount.

8. Media Visibility: Postponed to future meeting.

9. Campaign Priorities for coming 6 to 12 months: Noted that appointments and policy initiatives are happening at great speed under new Mayor Sadiq Khan. The prism within which much transport policy may be formulated & acted on is **Healthy Streets**. The promised role of Active Travel Commissioner (combining walking & cycling provision) may be called the *Healthy Streets Commissioner*. Deputy Mayor (Transport), Val Shawcross, crucial in all this; Tom, Jeremy and Peter already in touch with her.

DECISION: London LS should frame its priorities within this (or whatever) framework emerges in coming months.

ACTIONS: (i) **Jeremy** will draft our priorities accordingly (while noting that an issue like Road User Charging in order to speed up mode shift away from private motor vehicles may need addressing separately; (ii) **Robert** to ensure an Agenda item at next meeting to discuss London LS priorities; (iii) **Jeremy** to draft letter to go to Mayor setting out London LS view of what Transport priorities should be.

10. Consultation Responses – Sadiq Khan's Extended ULEZ & Air Quality Consultation

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/environment/ulez> Noted Head Office (Rachel Lee) is, quite rightly, responding. **DECISION:** London LS should also respond. **ACTIONS:** (i) **Jeremy** will draft, having got Rachel's input, and circulate to London LS. **Note closing date: 29 July 2016.** (ii) **Jeremy** to get on it and circulate URL of TfL Consultation hub for all London LS. [Post-meeting: the URL is <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/> There is an RSS feed so that you receive alerts.]

11. Vigils/Demonstrations: Noted about 5 pedestrians killed in London road collisions each month. Twice as many pedestrians as cyclists killed by HGVs. Yet level of media attention remains minimal. Challenge for London LS is how to command greatly increased media visibility for pedestrians. Vigils can play a part, but consume much scarce volunteer time to organise. **FURTHER DISCUSSION RE POSSIBLE ACTIONS POSTPONED** to next London LS meeting.

12. Interface with TfL Brief Report-backs:

- a. **Pedestrian Town Centre Pilots (Peckham & Tooting):** Tom reported. Meets c. quarterly. Things currently on hold. **ACTION: Tom** to alert London LS if any significant developments.
- b. **Better Junctions Design Review Group:** Meets every 2 or 3 months. Brenda is LS representative on it. Presented detailed report on most recent 3 junctions, and her assessment of TfL Proposals. She finds her concerns about poor pedestrian infrastructure not adequately dealt with by the TfL Officer who chairs it, whereas London Cycling Campaign treated with deference. The major constraint for pedestrian facilities is that TfL has tasked engineers with an overarching requirement to not reduce capacity of road network for motor traffic and this has an adverse effect on pedestrian provision and priority which comes below that of motor traffic and cycling priority. While efforts to improve the pedestrian environments are very much in evidence during the junction review process, very often cycling improvements lead to footway widths being reduced, increased numbers of staggered pedestrian crossings, increased waiting times and reduced crossing times resulting in significant delays and inconvenience to pedestrians. Brenda's view is that the problems are more related to politics than engineering issues. **ACTIONS: (i) Brenda** to circulate *Principles for Better Junctions: the Pedestrian Perspective* (drafted by her and Tom) to the Chair of the Group, asking for its wide circulation. **(ii) Next meeting of London LS** to discuss recurring TfL engineering proposals running counter to pedestrian interests with a view of showing Deputy Mayor (Transport) Val Shawcross how pedestrians discriminated against; **(iii) Next London LS meeting** to try and get at least one other person to work with Brenda on this Group.
- c. **Road Safety Steering Group:** Meets quarterly. Tom is LS rep. Ben Plowden chairs. **ACTION: Tom** to chase re when next meeting.
- d. **Pedestrian Road Safety Action Group:** Jeremy attends as London Coordinator for 20sPlenty. **DECISION: Jeremy** will cover for both 20sPlenty and London LS in future.
 - i. **HGVs & Pedestrians** (Paper by Alastair and Susie): They thanked. Brenda had commented on draft. **ACTION: Alastair** to send to Zoe Cotton and attend suitable occasion on which to push proposals in this paper.
- e. **Major Pedestrian Schemes: Oxford Street:** Peter reported in detail.
 - i. **Oxford Street:** Joe Irvin and Peter attended New West End Partnership presentation. Impressive consultants and proposals. Public Consultation likely in Autumn 2016. **Major Limitation:** looks likely not to include pedestrianisation because of Westminster Council's fear of residents' backlash. However, new Mayor Sadiq Khan is committed to pedestrianisation. **ACTIONS: (i) Peter** meeting Val Shawcross; **(ii) Tom** meeting s.o. else; **(iii) Joe Irvin**, LS Chief Executive, active on the issue.
 - ii. **Bond Street:** Peter reported: Retailers now see benefits of a good public realm. They have initiated significant improvements. Currently out for consultation. **Limitation:** again, no further pedestrianisation.
 - iii. **Bank:** Peter reported TfL's satisfactory proposals, to be implemented in phases.

- iv. **Parliament Square:** no news. But Mayor Sadiq Khan committed to (some) pedestrianisation. **ACTION: Peter** will take up with Deputy Mayor Val Shawcross at forthcoming meeting.
 - f. **Bus Stop Bypass Working Group:** No information: **ACTION: Tom** to put Brenda Puech in touch with this Group so that she can attend in future.
 - g. **Freight Group:** Postponed in Susie Morrow's absence.
- 13. **Interface with London Assembly & Mayoral Staff:** Tom met Caroline Russell (London Assembly Green member). She keen on Healthy Streets approach. **ACTION: Jeremy** will be attending Healthy Streets Round Table discussion.
- 14. **AOB: Contact Phone Numbers for London Living Streets members:** **ACTION: Robert** to distribute.
- 15. **Date & Venue of Next London Living Streets Meeting: Thursday, 22 September, 6pm – 8pm.**
Venue: Living Streets office, (Committee Room), Universal House, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA. [Nearest Tube Station: Aldgate East].