

London Living Streets Group

MINUTES, Thursday 22 September 2016, 6pm-8pm

Venue: Living Streets office, (Committee Room), Universal House, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA. [Nearest Tube Station: Aldgate East].

Present: Amy Aeron-Thomas (Roadpeace), Mark Aeron-Thomas (Roadpeace), Michael Bach (Kensington & Chelsea), Greg Cowan (King's Cross), Lily Glasser (King's X), Alastair Hanton (Southwark), David Harrison (Islington), Peter Hartley (Vice Chair), John Hartley (King's Cross), Dave Irwin (Wandsworth), Symon Knightswood (Lewisham), Jeremy Leach (Chair), Charles Martin (Sutton & LCC), Robert Molteno (Secretary), Susie Morrow (Wandsworth), Andrew Orford (Lewisham), Stephanie Palmer (Islington), Philip Peake (Lewisham), Sue Penny (Haringay), Tom Platt (Living Street Policy Director), Brenda Puech (Hackney).

Apologies: Chris Barker (CBT); Charles Barraball (Merton); Roger de Freitas (Central London); Tom Killick (Merton); Toni Pattison (Sutton); Philip Peake (Lewisham); Margot Richardson (Islington); Peter Watson (Kingston).

Note from Secretary: Apologies for ultra-long Minutes. I tried to record key points people made. Hopefully in future, our meetings will be more action-oriented, and Minutes will record only decisions.

Welcome by Jeremy Leach (Chair)

Explained why this pan-London Living Streets group being set up. Events have created a favourable moment for real pedestrian-related progress – Sadiq Khan as new Mayor with activist agenda, Val Shawcross (16 years of GLA experience) as Deputy Mayor/Transport, Caroline Pidgeon as Chair of London Assembly Transport Cte, Caroline Russell as new Green London Assembly member.

Our opportunity and task is to push for significant pro-pedestrian policies and support the new administration as and if they adopt & implement them.

Our perspective includes: People are more important than vehicles; and urban streets have a Place function, not just movement.

Welcome by Joe Irvin (Living Streets Chief Executive)

Living Streets must remain a campaigning organization. It welcomes founding of London LS.

Why London Living Streets group needed at this time – Peter Hartley (Vice Chair)

Living Streets has had to cut HQ staff. No longer staff to handle relations with TfL. It's up to us campaigners to take over much of the liaison with key TfL working groups, officers, as well as the political level.

1. **Minutes of 12 July 2016 (initial meeting):** Jeremy explained this meeting worked out structure of the new London LS group, our campaigning goals (see below), and our modus operandi re TfL.
2. **Membership of London Living Streets & Shared Contacts List:**

- a. **Membership:** AGREED open to anyone who wishes to participate and be active at pan-London level.
- b. **Contact Details:** AGREED Robert Molteno to distribute list of all London LS group participants (with email addresses & phone nos.), but everyone to treat contact details as confined only to our group.

3. **Terms of Reference for London Living Streets:** provided no objections received by Chair in next few days, AGREED as recorded in Minutes, 12 July 2016, Item 2.

4. **Organizational Status of London LS Group in context of Living Streets generally:**
Noted it is a group like any other LS group. Necessary paperwork has been issued by LS Office.

5. **Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary:** AGREED Jeremy Leach, Peter Hartley, Robert Molteno confirmed in post.

6. **Meetings and Venue:**

- a. **Venue:** Peter Hartley reported only one free possibility – building near Farringdon: **ACTION: Peter Hartley to explore in coming week.** Symon Knightswood reported possibility of access to one of the Cte Rooms in City Hall. **AGREED: next meeting will be in Living Streets offices.**
- b. **Frequency of London LS Meetings:** AGREED: Bi-monthly.

7. **Communication and Digital Presence of London LS:**

- a. **Twitter:** Susie Morrow has already set up.
- b. **Web page for London LS on Living Streets Website:** See <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-you-can-do/local-groups/london> Exists. But not yet with facilities for putting up our Responses to Consultations etc. **ACTION: Jeremy Leach & Robert Molteno to sort out with relevant LS staffer.**
- c. **Yahoo group for communication within London LS:** Brenda Puech says tiny group already exists. **AGREED Brenda Puech to facilitate Robert Molteno inviting all London LS participants to join group.**
- d. **Inviting People to London LS meetings:** John Hartley: direct emails still most effective. (Mail Chimp: would be good if **Secretary** could set up).
- e. **Blogs:** Charles Martin raised issue of distributing occasional blogs from London LS participants. **AGREED needs considering** (Susie Morrow could tweet about them; Secretary could send Link to London LS Yahoo Group; could be posted on London LS Web page).

8. **Media work:** Noted importance of *Evening Standard*. Also of some local borough papers – *Camden Journal, Islington Gazette*. Aim: to raise pedestrian concerns and perspectives via Letters, Press releases etc. Important to try and build link with key journalists. **ACTION: David Harrison and Michael Bach volunteered to head up this work.**

9. **Campaign & Action Priorities for coming 6 to 12 months:**
Jeremy Leach spoke to his Paper, followed by much discussion. The current language of the new Mayoral administration is **the Healthy Streets Agenda**. All about Active Travel (both walking & cycling), Quality of life, and Streets with a Place, and not only Movement, function. It brings together key priorities – public health, well-being, road safety.

Secondly, we in Living Streets need to put forward **the Disbenefits of Motor Traffic**: ie encouraging mode shift away from the private car. Via measures like Road Pricing across London, Workplace parking levy, speedier ULEZ zone across bigger geographical area. Amy Aeron-Thomas added Enforcement.

Third, **Making Opportunities for Walking**, via physical changes on streets & other measures. E.g infrastructure like Hungerford and Millennium Bridges across Thames. Dave Irwin stressed importance of ways of encouraging more school journeys *not* by car.

Discussion:

Peter Hartley pointed out that the new post of Active Travel Commissioner will be in post by end 2016.

John Hartley distinguished Pollution and Congestion. These are not always related disbenefits to pedestrians of motor vehicles. Shift to electric vehicles will reduce pollution, but do nothing to lower congestion. We must focus on both.

Brenda Puech and David Harrison stressed we must pressure TfL to shift policy more seriously away from the mantra of not taking measures that reduce Network Motor Traffic capacity.

Alastair Hanton suggested Air Quality is top of the agenda now, and a key way into drawing attention to pedestrian issues and the need for less motor traffic. We need a specific campaign in a particular street where Air Quality is awful. This could generate support for the Mayor's ULEZ and other Air Quality goals, get media attention, and possibly bring new supporters. Charles Martin said you can Google for list of the 20 most polluted streets in London. see <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/toxic-twenty-list-of-the-most-highly-polluted-spots-in-london-10088383.html> Dave Irwin said, in choosing a street, we must have an action plan to put forward (as exists for Putney High Street). Shaftesbury Avenue near Piccadilly Circus, intersection of St James Street with Piccadilly, Inner Ring Road and around King's X suggested. Tom Platt said selecting a non-Central London town centre/high street where people live, shop etc would be more representative of the problem.

ACTION: Jeremy Leach to re-draft Campaign and Action Priorities Paper and circulate to us; at next meeting, we need to come up with a specific action.

10. Consultation Responses:

- a. Noted London LS had responded to Mayor's Air Quality & ULEZ Consultation, and Westminster's Draft Walking Strategy Consultation.
- b. **Procedure for future London LS Responses:** **AGREED** draft responses to be distributed via Yahoo group for comment a few days before submission; all responses to go on London LS Web Page.
- c. **Tavistock Place consultation:** John Hartley explained background. Consultation closes 21 October. **ACTION: John Hartley** to draft a London LS response, using LS Office address; **each of us urged** to respond as individuals (Camden Council is counting these); **Susie Morrow** to tweet urging people to respond.

11. London Assembly Transport Committee investigation into Traffic Congestion in London: Tom Platt did excellent submission. Cte Report still to be produced. **ACTION: Tom Platt to find out what next step is; and what opportunity there is for London LS to take action in response; Brenda Puech volunteered to work with him on it.**

12. Local campaigns – King's X Gyratory: Greg Cowan report on lengthy and innovative campaign. Camden & Islington Councils have agreed a Place Plan (walkable streets, better air quality). But the TfL Report in response to consultation on plans, September 2016, ignores it. Campaigners suffering fatigue. Would value support from London LS.

13. Vigils/Demonstrations/Events: Much discussion re how to organise vigils for pedestrians killed by vehicles. Peter Hartley has a banner we can use. The Office can provide placards. Brenda Puech said we need a procedure in place so that we can react quickly. Amy Aeron-Thomas said it is not easy to track down relatives (via Police Family Liaison Officers), and they sometimes say they don't want a vigil. Greg Cowan described dramatic use of a hearse which caught media attention. **ACTION: Peter Hartley (with Amy Aeron-Thomas) will draft a crib sheet on how to organise a vigil.**

14. Interface with TfL -- Report-backs

- a. **Pedestrian Town Centre Pilots Project (Peckham & Tooting):** Tom Platt reported no recent meeting of board.
- b. **Better Junctions Design Review Group:** Brenda Puech & Dave Irwin working together on this. Would welcome more of us reviewing their comments on TfL engineers' proposals as they come up. **David Harrison & Jeremy Leach volunteered to do this.** Dave reported that Simon Munk of London Cycling Campaign has agreed for LCC and Living Streets to take a common position in commenting on future Junction proposals. **ACTION: Simon Munck has agreed to draft a Junctions Design Guide incorporating both cyclist and pedestrian concerns – in order to influence TfL consultants re future junctions.**
- c. **Road Safety Steering Group:** Tom Platt has been invited as LS rep. Meets only very occasionally.
- d. **Pedestrian Road Safety Action Group :** AGREED **David Harrison** will represent Living Streets on this.
- e. **Major Pedestrian Schemes:** Jeremy Leach is a member.
- f. **Bus Stop Bypass Working Group:** Brenda Puech is a member.
- g. **Freight Group:** Susie Morrow is a member.

15. Interface with London Assembly & Mayoral Staff – Report-backs: Nil.

16. AOB

- a. **Shared Space:** Charles Martin wants Best Practice on this. Clear it is highly controversial issue. **ACTION: Tom Platt** will send him current national Living Streets position, but everything depends on particular locality, how many cyclists and pedestrians
- b. **Current LS Trustee Working Party:** Robert reported that Trustees have a working party looking at how to strengthen ... local groups. This is not a staff-led exercise. **ACTION: Tom Platt** will let us know if trustees ask to be put in touch with local groups.

- c. **London Parks Network:** Symon Knightswood participating. Suggests London LS involvement.
- d. **Visual showing Cycles/Pedestrians/Vehicles' physical shares of street space, comparing to the numbers of people each mode is moving on that street:** John Hartley showed us startling graphic (for a particular street in London) showing disproportion between space allocated to Pedestrians & Cyclists, compared to their proportional numbers on that street. Data was collected by Camden Council. He wants London LS to develop visuals for other streets. **ACTION: Jeremy Leach** to work with **John Hartley** in developing this.

17. Date of Next Meeting: 6pm, Thursday 24 November, in Living Streets office.