

London Living Streets Group Meeting

Monday 15 January 2018, 6 – 8pm

MINUTES

VENUE: Alan Baxter Architects, 75 Cowcross St., London EC1M 6EL (Boardroom in basement)

Present: Amy Aeron-Thomas, Rik Andrew, Basil Clarke, Michael Diamond, Brigid Finlayson, Fran Graham (LCC) (for Item 1), Emma Griffin, Peter Hale, Alastair Hanton, Leo Hardiman, David Harrison, Peter Hartley (Vice-Chair), Saskia Huizinga, Dave Irwin, Symon Knightswood, Jeremy Leach (Chair), Charles Martin, Robert Molteno, Susie Morrow, Brenda Puech, Clare Rogers, Patty Singleton.

Apologies: Chris Barker, Terence Bendixson, Terry Brown Barbara James, Richard May, Rosalind Readhead, Colin Saunders, Clare Wadd.

Jeremy Leach welcomed newcomers, including Brigid Finlayson from Wimbledon; Leo Hardiman; Saskia Huizinga; several from *Better Streets Enfield* – Clare Rogers, Basil Clarke, David [SURNAME?]; and Fran Graham from London Cycling Campaign (who was thanked for her presence).

1. **3 May 2018 Borough Elections campaign – Discussion of joint LS/LCC Campaign with Fran Graham re proposed actions by Living Streets & London Cycling Campaign participants.**

Jeremy Leach explained background to **proposed joint campaign between London Cycling Campaign and London Living Streets**. There is now a Walking and Cycling Commissioner. There is a large complementarity between LCC and LLS in pushing forward significant dimensions of the Mayoral Transport Strategy, with its Healthy Streets leitmotif and focus on treating Walking, Cycling & Public Transport as the preferred combination of modes for Londoners when travelling.

Proposed focus of our joint campaign on getting boroughs to submit and deliver high quality Liveable Neighbourhoods bids. LNs are an updated version of mini-Holland programme with emphasis on reducing motor traffic, making neighbourhood streets much safer for walking & cycling, and with attendant benefits in terms of improved air quality and less congestion.

Explained the recently completed 1st round of bids by Boroughs for LN funding – between £2 and £10 million. 21 out of 32 boroughs put in 28 bids (ie several put in more than one). 7 Boroughs won. They had only 6 weeks to prepare their bids.

Fran Graham (LCC) explained proposed campaign: **To try and get each party's Leader and/or Mayor (Some boroughs do not have a Cabinet system, but instead have an Executive Mayor) to commit, if they gain office, to commit to submitting a high quality Liveable Neighbourhoods Programme bid.**

'High Quality' is defined in terms of 7 dimensions – e.g. TfL's Healthy Streets check must be deployed in the bid and get a particular score in terms of the proportion (or number?) of people choosing to walk or cycle trips or part-trips; and Pedestrians & Cyclists *from all walks*

of life walking and cycling more. Another e.g. – Every street with more than 2,000 passenger cars a day should have a segregated cycle route. Another e.g. – 20mph.

Timetable of the Campaign:

Feb-early March: LCC/LS Policy Brief nearly finalised. **ACTION: Policy Brief will be circulated to activists very soon.** Political parties drawing up their manifestos right now. Activists email all parties' local leaders with this 'ask'.

Week of 19 March: Public launch of joint campaign: All local groups asked to organise some kind of local action that commands media attention. (Campaign will circulate suggestions of action).

Discussion followed:

Does this campaign overlook cross-borough projects? Often needed. Answer: nothing to stop boroughs working together & putting in a joint bid.

Displacement fears around schemes like Liveable Neighbourhoods: Unintended consequences of a scheme like Liveable Neighbourhoods may be to disadvantage of some residents – this whips up fears and opposition. Displacement becomes the key excuse for boroughs not to act.

Is it realistic that all streets with over 2,000 passenger vehicle movements have segregated cycle tracks? Large no. of residential streets may fall into this category. So is the measure realistic?

Differences between Inner and Outer London: How realistic to have a campaign that straddles these differences?

Does this campaign focus ignore the nitty-gritty issues many residents concerned with: condition of pavements; crossings etc.

Transport-focussed Election Hustings? They could be held in addition to this campaign.

Should not campaign focus on what Boroughs can do independent of TfL? E.g. parking restrictions; parking charges; speed enforcement; litter enforcement; pavement quality etc.

Why not raise issue of more autonomy re Transport issues for boroughs? E.g. they have no control over signals-controlled crossings.

ACTIONS: (i) **LCC/LS to circulate draft Policy Briefs** (one for campaigners; the other to send to politicians) as soon as possible; (ii) **Campaign Guide draft** – ditto; (iii) **Next London LS Meeting to be held as early as possible in March; lead item on Agenda to be further discussion of the Campaign; Fran Graham to attend again if possible.**

2. **Minutes of Previous LLS Ordinary Business Meeting, 20 November 2017.**
3. **Matters Arising:** Jeremy thanked David Harrison & Robert Molteno for organizing our Christmas party; Rosalind Readhead for leading the walk after Christmas of the Walthamstow wetlands; and everyone who responded to the City's Bank Junction consultation.
4. **Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in London – the What, the Why and the How:** David Harrison reported on this forthcoming booklet by Living Streets and London Cycling Campaign. It is inspired by the Dutch idea of 'cells' – residential neighbourhoods where infrastructure and other measures channel traffic along the bigger roads on their periphery in order to restore the role of streets as serving a *Place* function within the areas where most people live. It will be downloadable; printed copies may also be available.

Rik Andrew pointed out that this approach has been deployed in a handful of areas – West Putney, South Wimbledon and one or two others – many years ago.

5. Upcoming London Living Streets public meetings:

- a. **Lucy Saunders: Healthy Streets – How campaigners can use TfL's on-line Healthy Streets tools** in order to press Boroughs in future to raise their level ambition in relation to all road improvement schemes.
Date: Monday 12 March.
Venue – Marshalls Design Space, 1st Floor, Compton Courtyard, 40 Compton St., Clerkenwell, London EC1V 0BD
Co-promotion of the event: London LS to co-promote with partner organizations to maximise audience.
Organising this meeting: ACTION: David Harrison kindly taking responsibility for this and future LLS public meetings this year.
Publicising the meeting: Robert to inform all London LS participants and urge them to get active members of local Living Streets and other relevant groups to attend.
ISSUE to resolve asap – Charging for Attendance? This venue only takes 40 people. Marshalls requires the names of all attending. Applications for a place should be handled via *Eventbrite*. The difficulty is what to do about 'no shows' – people who indicate they will attend, but do not turn up, thereby excluding others who wanted to attend. Charge a fee?
- b. **Peter Murray: Where London's newly elected Borough Councils may take public realm policy** **Date: Wednesday, 23 May; Venue: The Gallery, Cowcross Street.**
Co-promotion of the event: London LS and Urban Design Group to co-promote with partner organizations to maximise audience. **Action: To be discussed at next LLS meeting.**
- c. **Walk About: Borough of Waltham Forest's Walthamstowe mini-Holland/'Villagisation' Scheme:** This is the most advanced Liveable Neighbourhood-type scheme now in existence in London. **AGREED to be arranged, but no date set;** nor who to be responsible for arranging.

6. **Proposed LS Statement for TfL Better Junctions Review re Key Pedestrian-relevant Principles when re-engineering Junctions & Crossings:** (Symon Knightswood & Brenda Puech)

Robert Molteno explained background – originally drafted for TfL's Better Junctions Review Group because, initially, engineers kept omitting pedestrian considerations in each junction's re-design. This situation improved somewhat with time. This document drafted by Tom Platt, Brenda Puech, Symon Knightswood. But it was never finalised. Symon had reminded us it was useful and should be finalised. He and Brenda Puech have further revised.

Brenda Puech explained 2 difficulties: (i) Crossings: in our specification of required pedestrian standards, do we go beyond what Dept for Transport currently allows? (ii) Difficulties that arise when cycle lanes located on pavement.

Rik Andrew expressed his views on minimum requirements – straight across crossings; on all 4 arms of a junction; no long pedestrian waiting times etc. A crossing at the Oval is an example of a junction with crossings that works well.

ACTIONS: (i) Rik Andrew to send his thinking to Brenda and Symon; (ii) Brenda Puech and Symon Knightswood to finalise draft and get Tom Platt to further amend and sign off; (iii) Robert Molteno to distribute resultant draft; (v) Next LLS Meeting to discuss it; (vi) It will be presented in due course by LLS reps on TfL's Better Junctions Review Group; and go on LLS Website.

7. **Myth-busting:** Emma Griffin would like the Website for London Living Streets to have such a feature. **ACTIONS:** (i) Each London LS participant to contribute, if they wish to, by sending possible Myths and draft Answers to Emma at emma.j.griffin@gmail.com; (ii) Emma Griffin is the lead on this project.

8. Campaigns:

- a. **Central London Walking Network proposal:** David Harrison explained idea – to use older streets as largely walking streets with motor traffic using nearby distributor roads. Idea has been put to TfL Officers and Will Norman who welcomed the initiative. Another meeting due in next month. To extent TfL takes up the proposal, it will cease to be entirely in LLS hands. **ACTIONS:** (i) David Harrison is our lead on this, working with UDG etc; (ii) Robert Molteno to circulate current draft of the proposal.
- b. **Pocket parklets – campaign for:** Brenda Puech spoke to the idea and handed out a one-page explanation of the idea. A *Time Out* article about her direct action in Hackney to appear 16 Jan. The idea of LLS campaigning on this welcomed. Dave Irwin feels Direct Action has the advantage of both being a strong Statement and providing a Story. **DECISIONS:** (i) Brenda Puech to be our lead on this; (ii) Robert Molteno to circulate her one pager and *Time Out* article; (iii) Anyone in London LS with suggestions or wanting to play a role to get in touch with Brenda.
- c. **London Car-free Day on 22 September:** Rosalind Readhead had drawn out attention to this. Two people seem to be leading campaign for this. **DECISIONS:** (i) London LS to invite Car-free Day campaigners to present at next LLS Meeting.

9. Report-backs

- a. **Chair (Jeremy Leach):** Various Consultation responses have been done – Oxford Street; Rotherham & Canary Wharf; Marshallsea. **TfL to publish its detailed Vision Zero proposals soon;** hopefully a Project Group will be set up on which London LS will have a stakeholder place. **London LS website:** 1st steps in building this now taken.
- b. **Vice-Chair (Peter Hartley):** He and Tom Platt meeting soon (Feb 11?) with Will Norman to hear TfL decision re gate closures on Regents Park as part of the Cycle Superhighway proposal.

10. Consultations: upcoming:

London Plan consultation closes 2 March. Steve Chambers in LS Head Office working on LS response. **ACTION: Jeremy Leach will use LS response to craft London LS response.**

11. Interface with TfL Working Groups:

- a. **Better Junctions Review Group:** Brenda Puech reported no meeting since c. May 2017.
- b. **Vision Zero Group:** (Jeremy Leach) This group not yet set up.
- c. **Direct Vision Consultation:** Susie Morrow reported: TfL consultation on proposed **Safety Standard Permit Scheme for HGVs** from 2020: to close 24 January 2018. One-quarter of pedestrian deaths in London involve HGVs. Alastair Hanton and Susie Morrow thanked for their work. **ACTION: Susie Morrow to respond to Consultation.**
- d. **Bus Stop Bypass Group:** Brenda Puech: No recent meeting.
- e. **Forum to manage/promote London walking routes:** Colin Saunders reported (by email): no further movement on establishment by Walking & Cycling Commissioner of a forum to promote London's walking network. **ACTION: Jeremy Leach to pursue at his next meeting with the Commissioner.**

12. Additional London LS Office-bearers:

- a. **Vice-Chairs: AGREED to have additional post:** Peter Hartley proposed David Harrison; Susie Morrow seconded. **David Harrison unanimously elected.**
- b. **Website Officer: Emma Griffin agreed and thanked.** Exact designation not yet specified.
- c. **LLS Twitter Officer: Susie Morrow agreed and thanked.** Exact designation not yet specified.

13. AOB

- a. **London in Bloom:** Approached London Living Streets via Head Office wanting to work with London Living Streets. Already work with Business Improvement Districts. Have wide range of annual awards. Emphasis is on greening, and improving the appearance of London's streets. Brigid Finlayson urged London LS to take seriously importance of greening neighbourhoods, opposing concreting over of front gardens, accelerated tree planting. Brenda Puech said we might suggest some kind of on-street Bloom award. **ACTION: Brigid Finlayson volunteered to engage with London in Bloom and explore possible collaboration.**
- b. **Better Streets for Enfield:** Clare Rogers explained they have developed a 3-Part Pledge they will be asking candidates in May 2018 borough Elections to commit to – Low Traffic Neighbourhoods to prevent rat-running; completion of segregated Cycle Track; submission to TfL of a high quality Liveable Neighbourhood bid. Requested LLS formal endorsement. **AGREED to endorse.**
- c. **Dutch Cycling in London:** Saskia Huizinga, a specialist in place-making sustainability collaboration, explained she has founded Dutch Cycling in London. It explains differences in design and rules between London & Netherlands. She may be able to contribute infographics to London LS website.

- d. **Roadpeace:** Amy Aeron-Thomas reported. [ROBERT COULD NOT HEAR WHAT WAS SAID.]

14. Walking Summit (Living Streets), Saturday 10 March, 10.30am – 3.30pm: Venue: Livery Hall, London.

ACTION: Please register if you wish to attend – always an inspiring occasion and opportunity to talk to other campaigners.

Jeremy Leach reported Chris Boardman and Will Norman speaking. **ACTION: Brenda Puech urged to seek a speaking slot about a Parklets campaign.**

15. Date of next London Living Streets ordinary business meeting: Monday 5 March 2018, 6 – 8pm (Alan Baxter Architects, 75 Cowcross St., London EC1M 6EL (Boardroom in basement)