

NEWHAM CYCLISTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Rides

2013

- We ran a series of Newham Rides¹: one specially for Newham Councillors,
- a ride up the Lea Valley and Rainham RSPB,²
- a feeder to the Freecycle,³ and
- participated in some of Anil's weekly rides: the Saffron Walden loop, Hadfield Oak, Copped Hall and Greenstead.⁴

2014

- We have restarted the Newham rides⁵ and plan at least two more.
- There should be at least two more weekend rides out into Essex.

For 2014 we have arranged to co-ordinate more effectively with Tower Hamlets and Hackney which should ensure local rides are available most weekends.

Campaigning and Consultation

- We manned stalls promoting cycling at 3 Community Fora events⁶
- We gave our views at a site meeting on the Channelsea Path⁷: approving a proposed ramp to the Greenway and suggesting improved access to it via Canning Road. The works on the Channelsea Path have started but the ramp is delayed for engineering reasons.
- Mini-Holland: We fed in to the preparation for the bid our pre-existing studies of parallel Romford Rd routes and our chart of outstanding cycle provision needed, and then discussed the outline Mini-Holland bid - endorsing it.⁸ It is a great disappointment that this bid was not successful but many of its proposals can be funded through other means.
- FOGWAFT: We participated at the founding of this group (with cyclists and pedestrians from other boroughs) and attended subsequent meetings intended to promote the improvement of the Greenwich and Woolwich foot tunnels. There has been a positive outcome with Greenwich refurbishment speeding up and some prospect of the Woolwich tunnel lift being put back into action. Greenwich Council has taken responsibility.
- We responded to consultation and pressed successfully at a meeting⁹ on Cramner and Sandringham Roads for cycle contraflows. This should be implemented shortly, once a traffic order has been made.
- We responded to consultation on an experimental Temple Mill Lane East scheme seeking make permanent the bus/cycle only arrangement. So far it has not been changed.
- We invited the 20s Plenty campaign to our April 2013 meeting. A borough wide 20mph is our "mayoral ask" in the Space for Cycling campaign. We have had a setback on 20mph with our request for Upper St being turned down.

¹ 27 April, 18 May, 8th June, 27 July, 17 August.

² 16 June, 27 October.

³ 3 August.

⁴ 2 June, 6 July, 7 September.

⁵ 15 March.

⁶ 20 April Kensington Primary, 11 May Forest Gate Learning Zone, 19 May Stratford, .

⁷ 16 July meeting.

⁸ 10 December meeting.

⁹ Written response and 13 January 2014 meeting.

- We commented to the Council on the proposed new cycle parking in Stratford (now built but not yet in use). We pressed for some security and (more successfully) the retention of the existing stands which are close to a constant footfall.
- We discussed with the Council Henniker Rd /Oxford Road cycle facilities pressing (successfully) for better permeability rather than cycle lanes as this is not a area of through traffic.
- We successfully objected to footpath parking on a Katherine Rd proposal.
- We carried out with LCC and other borough representatives a post implementation assessment of the CS2 extension which was provided to both TfL and Newham Council. it highlighted particularly the dangerous left hooks at Warton Rd, Carpenters Rd, West Ham Lane and other more minor items of poor practice/build.
- We attended the John Biggs "CS2 summit".¹⁰
- I gave a second interview on NUSound Radio.
- We submitted views on plans for the Carpenters Road under bridge design seeking better signage of shared paths and clarifying the cycle crossover would need protection if traffic flows were significant.
- A group of us met with a study group of Dutch students to look at the Bow Roundabout.¹¹
- We helped Richard with his ward audits ¹²: This was by far our biggest exercise, designed to identify small projects to improve cycle permeability. Well over 500 individual actions were identified, most being contraflows on one way streets for cyclists, plus a significant number of improvements to pathways and point closures to restrict rat running. There is allocated funding to implement this of £100,000 per year for the next three years. We are due to consider all the actions and prioritise them.
- This exercise also validated the potential for a largely off road north-south "Roding Path" from the Romford Road to the Beckton end of the Greenway using existing space in Little Ilford Park, various disused playing fields and existing paths behind Langdon School.
- We identified our "ward asks" for the forthcoming LCC space for Cycling Campaign.

Olympic Park

We participated in a broader LCC group which during the year :

- Successfully objecting to the Park bye-laws which would have resulted in the night time closure of the off road path through the Northern Park which is part of the main east -west cycle route.
- Urging Newham Council not to adopt Olympic-Westfield roads whilst the cycle provision was sub-optimal and fed in the results of the LCC ride around.¹³ The Council did delay and have entered negotiations with LLDC and Westfield although it is not clear what actual improvements have resulted. The Council have now adopted Honour Lea Ave (the main east -west cycle route) and have allocated funding to remedial Olympic park Westfield cycle provision.
- Objecting to the Olympic Park and Copper Box Travel Plans for unchallenging and soft targets for cycle modal share.
- Objecting to the iCity plan (including at a meeting with the developers) on grounds that there was insufficient cycle parking, not Community gain (particularly Bridge H10 and Lea Interchange) and cycle modal share targets which were too low. Whilst this is in Hackney it affects Newham commuters and leisure cyclists.

¹⁰ [date] November

¹¹ 31 January.

¹² 14, 21, January, 12,14,18, 20 Feb and 11, 21 March

¹³ 22 October.

- Submitted observations on the Chobham Farm for improved cycle facilities aimed at cutting through traffic and promoting cycle permeability, and ensuring easily accessible and secure cycle parking.

Communications

We have revamped our communications with our new website (<http://newhamcyclists.org.uk>) and Facebook page, to supplement our existing Yahoo Group and use of the LCC website. Huge progress after several years of aspiring to get to this position.

Commentary

The above shows that it has been a very busy and successful year with some elements of real progress and much more to celebrate than otherwise. We had tremendous contributions from many members. I can instantly recall the following who have provided active support to make this possible. Thanks to Steve Smith, Alan Cooper, Bernard McDonnell, Emma Harper, Mike Shallcross, Anil Marcelline, Chris Kendrick, Rob Deas, Bill Bremer, Olawale Agibola, Kerena Fussell, Lisa Eller, Richard Wadey and any others who have slipped my mind.

The above information does not include our increased participation in wider LCC activities.

A key development is the positive approach from Newham Council characterised by developing thoughtful schemes and consulting us. The Council is even in the process of developing a cycle strategy. Councillor David Christie and a group of Officers in the transport Department deserve great credit and our thanks for this. If present progress can be kept up we should see more concrete examples of good cycling facilities and a real prospect of transforming Newham into a cycle friendly and cycle using borough.

We need to be ready for the next major round of positive developments:

- Implementing permeability.
- Completion of the Lea Valley route.
- Developing the new Roding Path.
- Upgrades to the Greenway.
- CS2 to Ilford.
- A safe schools route through central Newham from the A13 to Forest Gate, being developed by Liz Bowgett.
- Removal of the Stratford Gyratory, which is on major TfL junction list.
- Remedial work in the Olympic Park and Westfield.

We could usefully develop our rides calendar, embed improved communications and actively participate in the LCC's Space for Cycling campaign and create an up to date log of our cycling demands.

Accounts 2013/14

Date	Item	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance £
1 April 2013				1112.59

30 April	Annual meeting 2013		105	1007.59
31 May	General meeting		20	
31 May	Banner		64.74	922.85
30 June	Interest	0.54		923.93
30 September	Interest	0.54		924.47
7 October	Meeting		20	
28 October	LCC grant	236		
31 oct	Meeting		20	1119.93
3 December	Meeting		20	1,119.93
31 December ¹⁴	Interest	0.59		1111.97
13 January 2014	LCC ride leader payment	160		1,260.52
12 Feburary	Meeting		20	
20-Feburary	Meeting		20	1220.52
31 March	Annual meeting 2014*		100	1120.52
Total income		397.67		
Total Expenditure			389.74	
surplus				7.93
Closing balance 1				1120.52

*Advance payment to secure AGM venue

Payment of £10.20 still due to Rob for payment of web hosting domain

¹⁴ A further small interest payment is anticipated on 31 March 2014.