

NEWHAM CYCLISTS ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

The successful first year for our full rides programme; many infrastructure consultations (with mixed results); a raised profile with sympathetic councillors, and some branching out into new ventures. Some inspiration provided by the mini-Holland developments in Waltham Forest.

The website was updated with thanks to Thom and Peter.

A gratifyingly wide level participation over a range of activities. Thanks to all.

Officers and Committee:

Kerena Fussell and Arnold Ridout: Joint co-ordinators

Bill Bremner: Treasurer

Olawale Ajibola: Local schemes Lead

Steve Smith: Rides Co-ordinator

Innovation

Building on our annual stall at the Forest Gate Festival, we have been setting up a monthly "Fix My Ride" cycle stall at Woodgrange market. This was launched with a successful pilot on 11 March this year, repeated on 8 April. We have applied for a grant but are intending to provide this on the second Saturday of the summer months. We may even go on the road with it at appropriate events.

We have made a greater effort to reach out to sympathetic Newham Councillors (of which there are a significant number) through the Bike from Boleyn and specific outreach meetings and inviting Councillors on rides. This may pay dividends now that the anti-cycling Councillor Corbett is no longer the Newham Council Cabinet Member responsible for local infrastructure.

However.... even sympathetic councillors are still reluctant to engage in cycle issues; and having raised our profile it is becoming clearer that cycling is perceived as "middle class" (in the pejorative sense) and Newham Cyclists are simply a "Forest Gate" pressure group.

Rides

Our first full year of a full rides programme, combining local rides (variations of the Newham Ride) with longer rides out into the country approximately each month. See

annex for the list of rides. Steve was our usual leader but there were 6 different ride leaders over the year.

Full ride reports have been posted on the website.

Steve reports:

Cycling is a wonderful way to enjoy the environment at a speed that allows you to notice things. Therefore the rides programme for last year meant we experienced different environments, urban and rural, near and far, and we extended our reach in terms of numbers, the biggest being the cycle ride into a car free London in July.

Linking with Bike to Boleyn we have shown how cycling can keep the borough joined up in a sustainable way. The rides programme is so diverse and interesting because members are willing to suggest routes and destinations, lead and marshal, and just join in and have fun. Throughout the year we ride, in Newham and inner London, Essex, Herts, Kent; to east London micro-breweries, ancient churches, forgotten parts of the Thames estuary, Rainham marshes and the Hoo peninsular, to the secret nuclear bunker, and the West End Christmas lights, nowhere is out of bounds to the intrepid Newham Cyclists.

If you have any suggestions for new rides let us know, we are still discovering this amazing place. We've even started running a monthly bike maintenance stall at Woodgrange market ahead of the rides so you can ensure yours goes smoothly

Check out our rides here <http://newhamcyclists.org.uk/events/category/ride/>

Infrastructure

A plethora of infrastructure developments, the main ones being:

- *Stratford Gyrotory* – a good scheme due to start autumn 2017
- *Crossrail* – on the whole disappointing and incoherent proposals for Manor Park (no cycle lanes) Forest Gate, Manor Park and Maryland. It has taken strong and repeated lobbying to secure even a consistent 20 mph at Manor Park and it is not yet clear that this is going to be the case along Woodgrange Rd in Forest Gate. Manor Park is currently under construction.
- *The Greenway (Quietway 2.1)* - beneficial proposals for lighting and longer opening. Work is underway including on the first of a number of new access ramps. In March we had a ride along the Greenway with Newham Council's Sustainable Transport Officer.
- *Quietway 6* – across the north of the borough and involving 16 separate “interventions” to make the route more cycle friendly. However these interventions fails to address the key issues of the junctions and make other basic errors (like putting parking spaces on the pavement and obscuring bends in the road). Some of the infrastructure has been installed.

In our responses we are apply the following principles:

- 20mph.
- Segregated cycle tracks of mandatory cycle lanes where possible.
- Copenhagen pavements for side roads.
- No pavement parking.
- CLOS assessment of junctions must reach a score of 70 or more.
- Meeting London Design Standards, especially for junctions.
- London Plan cycle parking provision.
- Encouraging areas without through traffic.
- Continuity.

For big schemes we notify local ward councillors of our views, but rarely with any acknowledgement.

Newham Council Officers continue to be very open with us. We have had 3 or 4 “catch up” meetings with the Sustainable Transport Officer and have undertaken two rides with him (Lea Valley diversion and the Greenway).

We have recently met with councillors Akiwowo and Tripp re Maryland.

Budget

The Annual accounts for 2016-17 are in a separate document.

Over the years our main source of income has been a capitation payment by LCC amounting to about £300 plus the fees for leading the FreeCycle ride from Stratford. This year we had neither of these due to financial pressures within LCC. As a result the reserves (largely from a Council grant more than 10 years ago) have diminished to approximately £500. Our main items of expenditure have been on holding meetings (£240) tabards, stall and publicity (£80) and consumables for the stall (£280).

Next year we are hoping to get a grant for the Fix My Bike Stall and payment from LCC and Freecycle. We are expecting to spend money on website hosting, publicity and promotional materials, holding meetings,

Next Year...

Possibilities include:

- Complete the update of the website and improve communications.
- Broaden our footprint.
- Increase membership – Fix My Bike – possibly going to other parts of the Borough.
- Increase profile with Councillors – with responses; but we have also sought a strategic meeting with Cabinet Councillors.

- Continue consistent and detailed responses to schemes.
- Continue expanding the ride programme

.....anything else?

List of 2016-17 Rides

10 April Newham Ride

8 May Newham Ride

15 May Ashford to Folkestone

23 May Evening ride –Waltham Forest Mini-Holland

12 June Newham ride – river variation

26 June Essex country lanes – Hatfield Oak

10 July Newham ride – river variation

30 July FreecCycle Feeder from Stratford

22 October – Bike from Boleyn Ride

5 November – Brewery ride

9 October – Rainham Marsh Ride

10 December – Christmas lights ride

15 January – Greenstead Ride cancelled.

12 February – Hoo Peninsular

4 March – Newham Ride –West Ham heritage

19 March Lea Valley rides (a) to Broxbourne and (b) with WI to Springfield

Consultations 2016-17

Date	Scheme	Main response	Reaction
April	Manor Park Crossrail station: Speed limit and parking proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20mph for whole of Forest Drive • Support contraflow in Whitta/Gladding 	To be seen
June	Greenway Improvements	Welcome improvements and ask for assessments of route and junctions.	Work in train.
June Nov	Stratford Gyratory proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally supportive of a good scheme. • No discrimination on light phasing. • Request coherence with adjacent areas esp Stratford village 9to avoid rat running) and Maryland (continuous 20mph and cycle lanes) 	Response received and constructive meetings with council Officers. We provided a statement of support in Sept. Strong support led to go head for scheme. Need to be vigilant on coherence with adjacent areas.
June Oct	Crossrail Forest Gate station area proposed improvement plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20mh on whole length of Woodgrange Rd. • Stop Forest Lane rat running. • Deprioritise motor vehicles. • Pedestrian crossings rather than signalised crossings • Copenhagen pavements. 	Formal response – “will be considered” and none from Councillors sent objections in October.
	Forest Gate North CPZ (Linked to QW6)	Individual responses co-ordinated	Resulted in some diminution in parking on north side of Capel Rd
	Manor Park CPZ linked to QW6)	Individual responses co-ordinated	20 mph extended to Capel Rd and Quietway
Oct	Westfield Ave john Lewis Road humps		Helpful response from Newham Trffic officer
	Buxton Rd (QW6)	Object as junction requires signalised treatment.	Discussions at official level.
	Leytonstone Rd (QW6)		
	Stratford High St	No objection to pedestrian crossings over bike lanes at bus stops, but ask for them to be signed and lit.	No signing or lighting.
Nov	High Street North area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for scheme that breaks up long one way stretches in order to disrupt rat running. • Asked for area wide filtered permeability. 	Lame response on filtered permeability
Dec	Bridge H14 Monier Rd	Object to extending bridge to general motor traffic	Part of a wider campaign from local residents.

Jan	Manor Park Control Parking Zone (CPZ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend parking restrictions to weekend. • Reduce parking on north side of Capel Rd (part of QW6) 20 mph	Some extension of time.
Feb	Cody Dock to Canning Town - Interim Improvements to Alternative Route.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific suggestions for better visibility. • Better cycle provision at Barking Rd/Stephenson St. • 20 mph. 	Ride with Sustainable Transport Officer
Jan	Wick Lane and Monier Rd (QW6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20mph • Strong disagreement with the provision for cycling at key section joining Greenway to Victoria Park 	
Jan	Warton Road Humps and Pedestrian Crossing	Generally supportive with reminder of need to sort out junction with Stratford High Street	
Jan	High Street North E12 Side Road Raised Entry Treatments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised table should be Copenhagen pavement giving priority to pedestrians. 	In line with LCC.
Feb	Leyton Ladder/ Chobham Rd (QW6)	Seeking major redesign realigning QW6.	
Feb	Vicarage lane	Welcome raised tables to calm traffic by school and recommend more entry level treatment.	
Feb	Keogh Road section one-way proposals consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome cycle contraflows on proposed one way . • Reduction of parking for passing spaces. • 20 mph • Copenhagen pavements 	
Feb	Sandford Road section one-way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 mph • Better visibility 	
March	Abbey Road Toucan crossing	Support as links off road cycle routes but ask for traffic calming on approaches.	
March	Newham Cyclists (NC) response to the Dames Road parallel crossing and minor road entry proposals consultation;	Generally supportive of shared use/tiger crossing solution.	
March	Maryland Crossrail	Seeking a meeting with Councillors on initial plans.	