**NEWHAM CYCLISTS 2021-22,** and looking forward

**Officers**

Co-ordinator: Arnold Ridout

Deputy Co-ordinator: John Morris

Treasurer: Bill Bremner

Infrastructure Rep: Olawale Ajibola

Deputy infrastructure Rep: Chris Kereshaw

QEOP Infrastructure Rep: Jonathan Rothwell

Ride Co-ordinator: Steve Smith

Committee Member, Better Streets Liason: Kerena Fussell

**Headlines**

* Very much a year disrupted by Covid especially rides, but we continued partnership working and resumed the very successful Fix Your Ride stall at Woodgrange Market.
* Membership continues to rise slowly.
* A year of significant progress on infrastructure, particularly Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and School Streets, but TfL bus priority schemes still represent a significant threat.
* Significant funding achieved by Newham Council for ongoing active travel schemes.
* The huge major developments in the borough. We have commented on future planning documents and emphasised the need for developers to contribute to active travel in ongoing planning applications.

**Partnerships**

A difficult year with Covid disruption but nevertheless we have pursued a number of our established partnerships over the course of the year, in particular

* Carpenters, where we provided a couple of Friday Fix Your Ride session,
* Bike from Boleyn, where we provided a West Ham themed ride.
* Newham Wellness where we supported a summer two day bike fixing event in the Royal Docks.
* AAA, where we continued to provide maintenance for the bikes used by the children’s bike club at the Arc and extended our activities to the new Abbey Hub. We also provided a couple of rides for both the centres.
* We are in close liaison with Better Streets Newham in pursuing low traffic neighbourhoods.
* We provided bike maintenance for a Sikh charity ride

We continue to be approached by organisations and respond positively where we can, but some of potential initiatives did not lead to anything as they were not pursued by those approaching us.

**Infrastructure:**

We seek to develop greater early contact rather than relying on formal responses to consultations.

There were more informal consultations, particularly on-line consultations where it was only possible for individuals to respond. In these cases it remains important that individuals do respond.

There is a more positive approach to active travel from LLDC and we have been liaising in particular with the Cycling Project Manager there, who also came to our November 2021 meeting. However, the LLDC Planning Committee remains a major stumbling block.

We liaised with Redbridge Cyclists in providing comments for the unsatisfactory proposals for Aldersbrook Rd, Centre Rd and Blake Hall Rd on the edge of the borough and linking with Wanstead. These unsatisfactory proposals are now being implemented.

We met with Thames Water, its contractors and Newham Council Officers to discuss disruption to Stratford High Street at the Greenway. There was satisfactorily outcome. Less so with our representations to the contractors working disrupting the Stratford gyratory.

We attended a Traffic Management Liaison Meeting looking at forthcoming works.

We continued our regular catch up meetings on infrastructure with Newham Council. We are grateful for the co-operation received. We need to find more traction with teams in Newham Council not directly concerned with promoting active travel, particularly the Network and Planning teams.

We attended workshops with the developers of Plaistow Place to push for a direct link with the Greenway and alerted Will Norman. This had not been sorted out by the time of a formal planning application so an objection was lodged (although the developers did fund a £25,000 feasibility study). Objections were also lodged on the grounds of lack of cycle provision (as part of the Roding Greenway) for a development of the former Showcase Cinema site. As development in Newham speeds up there will be greater call for improving the leverage from developments. The record to date has been poor compared to Waltham Forest.

We were in regular contact with Stephen Timms MP who is pressing for a Roding Greenway and were successful getting him to support a key missing link to the Thames Path from a Roding Greenway

In terms of future planning we responded to proposals for a Local Transport Plan Upgrade, the draft Royal Docks Enterprise Zone Walking and Cycling Plan (following a positive meeting with them), and the draft Royal Docks and Beckton Riverside Opportunity Area Planning Framework Plan

We filmed a number of cycle routes including the hazardous journey to the New City hall.

*Consultation Responses*

A number or responses to proposals affecting cycling were submitted. Some were formal consultations but others were informally or in the form of individual responses to online consultations not otherwise open to organisations.

Formal consultations:

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| Date | Project | Essence of Response |
| April | North Woolwich Rd/Silvertown Way | * Connection with CS3. * Copenhagen pavements on side roads. * Better major junctions. * Signalised crossings. |
| May | Brampton Primary School Street | Strong Support.   * Clear signage. * Enforcement. * Ring fence penalties. |
| June | Corporation St Reset | * Replace dilapidated gate with ANPR cameras * Revert to two way. |
| July | Lister Community School Street | Strong Support.   * Clear signage. * Enforcement. * Ring fence penalties. |
| September | Maryland LTN amendments | Support LTN and accept tweaks |
| September | Chobham LTN amendments | Support LTN and accept tweaks |
| November,  March | MSG Sphere | Repeat of earlier objections updated to new, still inadequate, plan.  Renewed objections orally at the planning meeting. |
| November | Refreshment of Local Plan | More robust support for active travel and  better leverage from developments. |
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| December | Royal Docks Walking and Cycling Plan | Detailed comments on improving access to the area and call for sorting out Silvertown Tunnel severance issues. LTNs and leverage of funds from developers for improvements within area. |
| December | Refreshment of Local Plan | * More concrete requirement for improvements benefitting active travel * Better enforcement. * Improve last mile delivery. |
| December | Prince Regent Lane Bus priority Scheme | * 20mph. * Pedestrian Priority at crossings points. * Bus lanes 24 hr. * Reduce side road access. * Cycle provision at junction with Glen Rd. |
| December | Royal Docks Walking and Cycling Strategy | * Comments particularly on connections within and to the area and the need for alleviating measures from Silvertown Tunnel building works. |
| March | Velor Park East | Objection to planning consent on grounds of absence of improvement to Roding greenway which runs through the site. |
| March | Royal Docks and Beckton Riverside opportunity areas Planning Framework Document | * Lack of LTN’s * Need to join Thames path and Roding Greenway * Developers to contribute to implementation * Silvertown Tunnel works |
| March | MSG Sphere | Oral presentation of objections. |

Informal

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| July | Aldersbrook/Central Rds | * Continuous cycle lanes of proper width. * Sort out junction. * 20mph. |
| July | Brampton Academy School Street | * Pedestrian priority at junctions * 20mph. |
| August | Odessa LTN implementation | * Traffic line at junction with Cemetery Rd. |
| August | Stratford High Street | Commented on traffic management of proposed works and met with contractors/Newham Council |
| Oct | Royal Docks Walking and Cycling Action plan | Statement of principles plus outline of routes that need retroactive improvement. |
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| March | Pool St | Commented on initial proposals for cycle provision. |

**Rides**

Attendance at rides has been limited by Covid restrictions, which were considerably eased in March.

The following rides took place:

* Newham Rides on 25/4/21, 9/5/21, 29/8/21, 10/10/21, 14/11/21, 20/2/22
* Bike From Boleyn 3 October 2021.
* Forest Gayte Pride Ride 4 August
* Greensted Ride 13/6/21
* Go Parks Ride 2/5/21

Arnold Ridout

Co-ordinator.