

## **NEWHAM CYCLISTS (NC) 2022-23.**

### **Officers/Management Committee**

Co-ordinator: Olawale Ajibola

Interim Deputy Co-ordinator and QEOP Infrastructure Rep: Jonathan Rothwell.

Treasurer: Bill Bremner.

Deputy Treasurer: Thom Sanders.

Secretary: Kate Byrne.

Infrastructure Representative: Chris Kershaw.

Community Infrastructure Representative: Arnold Ridout

QEOP Infrastructure Representative: Jonathan Rothwell.

Social Rides Co-ordinator: Steve Smith.

Better Streets Liaison: Kerena Fussell.

### **Headlines**

Newham Council are making significant progress in promoting the *Active Travel* agenda with a variety of policies: a positive local council political ruling party manifesto and improved appreciation of the concept of leveraging funds from new building developments for investment in local Sustainable Transport infrastructure.

Secure funding for continuing investment in local Sustainable Transport infrastructure has recently improved with 'game changing' capital funding included in the recent ***"Building a Fairer Newham"*** LB Newham Budget passed by the council on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. There is an improving political environment for the case of investing in Sustainable Transport infrastructure.

LB Newham has been implementing new Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN) schemes since the Covid pandemic and a Romford Road Active Travel scheme (i.e. provision of new cycling and walking infrastructure) has just began in March 2023.

*Newham Cyclists* remains financially sustainable thanks largely to the *Newham Cyclists Fix Your Ride* (FYI) bike maintenance session donations.

The development of 'Active Travel' modes and infrastructure in the borough has led to increased demand for *Newham Cyclists* to get involved in it's growth.

## **NC Partnerships**

- *Bike from Boleyn and Pedal to the Pitch*, where NC provided a ride in September 2022, which was featured in the March 2023 *London Cycling Campaign (LCC)* magazine.
- *Ambition Aspire Achieve (AAA)*, where NC continued to provide maintenance for the bikes used by the children's bike club at the *Terence Brown Arc* in the Park and the Abbey Hub. We also provided supported rides on 28/05/22, 19/11/22 and 25/02/23.
- NC are in close liaison with *Better Streets Newham* in pursuing the roll out of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) schemes in LB Newham.

## **Active Travel Infrastructure**

There are increasingly a variety of means of influencing infrastructure developments including individual responses to on-line consultations, workshops, and meetings.

NC have continued regular meetings with Councillor Asser (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainable Transport) and Council Officials. We are grateful for their time and transparency.

NC have also sought to involve local councillors and Transport for London (TfL) where appropriate in *Active Travel* related infrastructure issues. Unfortunately TfL's current Bus Priority Schemes approach continues to be a major stumbling block to safe and better Active Travel (i.e. cycling and walking specific modes) infrastructure improvements.

NC formulated the *LCC Climate Safe Streets Newham #5 Asks* plan for the London local borough 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2022 election campaign which was endorsed by the Liberal Democrats and Green Party Newham mayoral candidates. The local LB Newham Labour Party manifesto, although not endorsing the *LCC Climate Safe Streets Newham #5 Asks* plan, promised to implement or deliver schemes that went a significant way to meeting the '*#5 Asks*' plan. The local LB Newham Green Party manifesto was supportive of Active Travel provision.

In April 2022 Newham Cyclists were asked to, and gave evidence before the Council's Regeneration, Housing and Environment Commission.

## **Consultation Responses**

Consultation takes place now in different ways – formal consultation with written reply, events and workshops, individual on-line responses. This makes it more difficult to keep track of responses. However NC are planning to institute a database in future and to have a regular agenda item at our meetings.

NC have sought with some success to:

- have early involvement on the Active Travel agenda with new building development schemes and
- get better political engagement.

The following is a list of issues where there has been some *Newham Cyclists* involvement.

| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Essence of Response</b>   |
|--|--|
| Twelve Trees Park<br>Stephenson Street West<br>Ham                             | Need to open east -west/north-south Active Travel permeability and connectivities.   |
| Low Traffic<br>Neighbourhood (LTN)<br>schemes 5 and 6 (in<br>Forest Gate area) | Support and suggestions.   |
| High Street North (HSN)<br>Public Realm  | Open the East Ham Town Centre section of High Street North to legal two way cycling traffic.                                 |
| Stratford Vision   | Cater for Sustainable Transport.   |
| Crown Wharf  | Leaside path and potential pontoon path under the A13.   |
| Westfield Aveune   | Support for good proposals. Improvements needed to Marshgate Lane junction.  |
| Royal Docks Corridor   | Improvement to junctions especially around Canning Town for safe Active Travel modes.  |
| Carpenters Road  | Support cycleway proposals but need action to reduce 'cut through' motor vehicle movements.                                  |
| Beckton Riverside project  | LTN ethos and local cycle routes connectivity.   |
| Custom House<br>Masterplan   | LTN ethos and local cycle routes connectivity.   |
| MSG Sphere   | Opposition on environmental and cycling infrastructure provision grounds.  |
| Siding Street - Montfichet<br>Road link  | Snagging issues.   |
| Bromley by Bow<br>Gasworks   | Linked to Twelvetrees Park. Opening of Crows Road as an <i>Active Travel</i> route. Local estate Active Travel permeability. |
| Custom House<br>Regeneration masterplan  | Permeability and cycle route links.  |
| Romford Road Active<br>Travel scheme   | Cycleway provision improvement not to be undermined by Bus Priority Scheme and motor vehicle parking provision.              |
| Chobham Manor  | Prevention of 'cut through' motor vehicle movements, improved cycling traffic movements crossing Olympic Avenue.             |
| Stratford Station  | Pedestrian and cycling traffic bridge provision.   |
| Beckton Walking and<br>cycling project   | An Active Travel network in the Beckton area and links to other surrounding areas.   |
| Newham Sustainable   | Leveraging funds for Active Travel infrastructure investment   |

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|--|---|
| Transport Infrastructure Strategy      | from new building development projects.   |
| Newham draft budget                    | Support capital funding for investment in local Sustainable Transport infrastructure.   |
| Silvertown Tunnel (ST) construction    | Oppose ST plan due to the inducement for increase in local motor traffic volumes and the lack of Active Travel (walking and cycling) modes provision.   |
| Draft Local Plan: Transport Strategy   | Plan should promote Active Travel by e.g LTNs, safe local cycle route provision especially on the TfL Cycle Future Routes (CFR) plans, Transport/Travel assessment plans for new building developments. |
| Prince Regent Lane Bus Priority Scheme | Highlight the very poor provision of Active Travel mode infrastructure and the failure to make proposed bus lanes have 24 hour/7 day enforcement mandates.  |

### **Social Rides programme**

The following cycle rides took place:

- Newham Rides on 30/04/22, 15/05/22, 19/06/22, 17/07/22, 07/08/22, 21/08/22, 18/09/22, 12/03/23.
- Brewery Ride 10/07/22.
- Bike From Boleyn 09/10/22.
- Feeder to International Women’s Day Ride 05/03/23.
- Freecycle Feeder Ride 29/05/22.
- Essex Lanes 03/04/22, Greensted Ride 04/09/22.

### **NC Future Considerations**

- Secure advantages to *Active Travel* modes from increasing number of major new building developments coming on-line.
- Secure concrete improvements from better Sustainable Transport infrastructure funding provision now in place.
- Ensure that planned local *Bus Priority* schemes do not block nor dis-advantage safe and convenient Active travel (i.e. walking and cycling) modes.
- Continue to improve our political engagement.
- Extend our liaison with like minded groups.

### **Arnold Ridout**

**April 2023**