

## Southwark Cyclists monthly meeting

Minutes of meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 9 May 2007 at Blackfriars Settlement

Present:

Hugh Bolton  
Alex Crawford  
John Hearn  
Nick Hinze  
Barry Mason - Coordinator  
Ann Warren  
Ray Walsh

For item 1: Lisa Young (engineer in overall charge of the Walworth Road project), Councillor Lisa Rajan (Chair of the Southwark Transport Consultative Forum; Southwark Council Executive Member for the Environment; Liberal Democrat Member for the Surrey Docks ward).

Apologies received: Gwen Bondi (Newsletter Editor), Colin Hartridge-Price (Secretary), Rebecca Lack, Roger Stocker (Southwark Council Cycling Officer), Kit Reynolds (Webmaster).

1. All introduced themselves and the minutes of the 11 April were agreed. BM thanked Lisa Young for coming to the meeting to explain progress on and thinking behind the Walworth Road project, very much a work in progress.

2. LY handed out copies of her Power Point presentation saying that the Walworth Road project was about readdressing the space. It was a radical look of the uses of the road and the street scene. Southwark Council saw Walworth Road as a local high street, not merely a traffic conduit into central London. It's a complex project. Walworth Road carries 20,000 motor vehicles a day, 80 buses an hour. But it's also a vibrant shopping centre in a low-car ownership neighbourhood.

The project was one of a number of national pilot studies funded by the Department for Transport, whose road it was. The project included new ideas for the high street involving better facilities for pedestrians, and slower traffic speeds that will benefit pedestrians and cyclists.

Phase 1 has now been mostly completed – both footways between Browning Street and Penrose Street have been widened and the Browning Street/Manor Place junction has included a raised pedestrian crossing. Those new crossings have all-red traffic light phases so, for example, pedestrians can cross them diagonally if wished. Guard-rails are coming out, trees going in. East Street will be a centre-piece. Penrose Street closes on 14 May for 3 weeks while a table goes in.

Resurfacing between Browning Street and East Street takes place 11-22 June sees 8pm-5am closures to enable over-night working. (ed: in Bike Week then!). The laying of anti-skid surfacing will require another closure 6 weeks after the first resurfacing.

The project includes blurring of the pavement/roads edges to deliberately slow motor-traffic. Quite the opposite of putting guard rails in. Three different kerb heights are being used as appropriate.

Bus priority gates (bus traffic lights) will give buses priority. There will be a single lane of traffic in each direction. Very extensive traffic modelling has been use to predict new flows. Parking by cars and other motor vehicles down the whole road will be very tightly policed.

Turning to the Southwark Cyclists audit of Walworth Road (13 February 2004):  
<http://www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk/campaigns/walworthpaper.htm>

Lisa went down Southwark Cyclists main recommendations from that report:

20mph limit throughout the area: Yes, now happening  
Wider pavements: Yes  
Entry treatments: Yes  
One lane each way: Yes.  
Raised junction tables: Yes  
Removal of railings: Yes

The £3.04m project should be largely completed by end November 2007. Very careful before and after monitoring, to include spending in local shops, is being carried out.

Summing up, Lisa that that there had been some very vociferous opposition to the scheme but that Southwark Council much appreciated the continuous support for the scheme, and constructive and informed input from Southwark Cyclists. The project was about civilising the street for everybody.

There were questions. It seems that the amount of new bike parking going in is less than expected. Lisa will check. Surprisingly, it seems that the north end of the Walworth Road project does not meet corresponding improvements at Elephant and Castle. Lisa will check. Generally though, the meeting was very pleased that this brave project was now going in. Lisa was thanked and left at 8.10pm.

3. Bike Week: BM quickly went through our programme and asked for help implementing it.

4. Planning: RW had been in touch with Tesco. It was surprising that they only draw up green travel plans etc when obliged to by the local planning authority. This was very relevant to upcoming planning applications by them at both Surrey Quays and Walworth Road. (At Surrey Quays it's interesting that Tesco are going ahead with expansion plans without the apparent agreement of freeholder Slough Estates and in advance of the bigger Canada Water redevelopment scheme). Ray will keep up contact with Tescos.

5. Finance: HB said that finances were healthy. BM said that we were owed much grant money on projects already completed and billed for. We needed to watch our cash-flow and creditors more carefully. Lambeth Council (Good Going paymasters) had not paid some invoices from January.

6 Carnival: Sunday 22 July: AC and BM were working on this and a £5,000 grant application had been drafted for Carnival and submitted by them. We lead rides to Peckham Rye and will have a big bike presence there. Stunt bikes etc. BM said this was a good new alliance for us. Help needed. Lambeth Cyclists have been asked to lead the ride from Clapham Common.

7. Nick Hinze then discussed his work for Westminster School, bringing year 10 pupils to Herne Hill Velodrome. 10 pupils there hiring whole place and bikes etc for a grand total of £35. The initiative was helping cycling at and to the school generally. Two pupils now ride to the Velodrome for the weekly sessions for both boys and girls. The meeting very much welcomed this. Why can't Southwark Council do the same for its pupils? BM to push.

8. AW said she was now working on walking and cycling projects at Time and Talents centre in Rotherhithe. AW and BM working up proposals.

9. Child Protection Policy. BM said that was now agreed by Jane Martin at Southwark Council. He will now table it for approval at the June meeting. LCC were considering using it as a model for borough groups.

8.45pm.

BM apologised that the meeting had over-run and not covered the whole agenda.

Next meeting Wednesday 13 June.

Pub.

BAM  
16 May 2007  
SCminutes9May2007