

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHWARK CYCLISTS ON 9 JULY 2008

19.00 at Better Bankside Community Space, Great Guildford Street, London SE1 0YS

Attendees: Barry Mason (Co-ordinator), Alan Ball, Hugh Bolton (Treasurer), Colin Hartridge-Price (Secretary), Rebecca Lack, Ian McPherson.

Apologies received from: Richard Ellery, Kit Reynolds, Ten.

### 1. Minutes of the meeting on 11 June

The minutes of the above meeting were approved.

### 2. Meeting Venue

For the foreseeable future, the venue for monthly meetings will be as for tonight's meeting -- Better Bankside Community Space, corner of Great Guildford Street and Zoar Street (between Southwark Street and Tate Modern).

### 3. Cycle Related Planning Policies for Southwark

As noted in the minutes of the June meeting, the cycle parking standards in Southwark's draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) are based on 1998 cycle statistics. Confirmation has now been received that Southwark Council will look further at the cycle parking standards in the draft SPD -- while the SPD cannot make new policy, it can further define and clarify existing policy. Further information is awaited from Southwark Council.

#### **Action Barry Mason**

It had come as some surprise that there was no requirement for cycle parking to be provided at locations that attracted visitors, such as hospitals, museums, libraries etc. Barry was pursuing this anomaly. **Action Barry Mason**

### 4. Southwark Council Cycling Officer

A letter had been sent on behalf of Southwark Cyclists to Barbara Selby (Head of Sustainable Transport, Southwark Council) requesting assurance that Southwark's Cycling Officer will be consulted on all cycling issues, and will oversee cycling projects. The following reply has been received: "In general terms the Cycling Officer is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the Council's Cycling Plan and management and delivery of its five-year action plan, and acts as the lead officer for the borough on matters related to cycling".

A case in point was the recent redevelopment of St Mary's Gardens, about which Rebecca had contacted Southwark Council and the design company responsible, to complain that the cycle racks left bikes vulnerable to theft and had been wrongly installed. Moreover, Southwark's Cycling Officer was not consulted, and would never have recommended the racks.

With regard to the above, Barbara Selby has offered to attend a Southwark Cyclists meeting again (she attended the June meeting), together with Todd Strehlow (Southwark Council), to talk through public realm issues and the role of Southwark's Cycling Officer. Todd Strehlow's remit covers design in the public realm. Barbara and Todd will attend the September meeting of Southwark Cyclists. **Action Colin Hartridge-Price**

## 5. North Southwark Workplace Cycle Parking Survey

It was reported in the minutes of the June meeting that Southwark Cyclists had obtained partial funding for a survey of some of the larger employers in North Southwark, on the number of cycle parking spaces they have, and the number they really need. In addition to the funding already obtained, Better Bankside has now agreed to contribute £2500 towards the costs of the survey. The meeting agreed that £500 from Southwark Cyclists' own funds could also be allocated to this project. Barry will also seek additional external funding.

**Action Barry Mason**

## 6. Cycle Training for the Southwark Refugee Community Forum

Barry tabled the recently completed professional report on this series of 10 free three-hour cycling sessions for beginners. The LCC was very pleased with the eight-page report -- there was potential for this type of targeted cycle training to be repeated, and valuable lessons had been learned from this pilot project. Of the £5,000 funding obtained by Southwark Cyclists, £4200 was spent on the professional cycle training and hire of bikes, £500 on the professional report, and £300 on Southwark Cyclists' overheads.

## 7. Grant Applications

In total, Southwark Cyclists is waiting to hear the results of 15 Cleaner Greener Safer grant applications, submitted by Barry Mason.

## 8. Young Southwark Cyclists

As reported at the last meeting, Southwark Cyclists has written to the Head of Youth Services at Southwark asking for more commitment to the Burgess Park Bike Track and the work done there. A reply has now been received, but is being followed up as it did not address the issues raised. **Action Colin Hartridge-Price**

## 9. Rides

As advised several months ago, the Southwark Cyclists Rides Coordinator has resigned and anyone who would like to consider taking on this role should please contact Barry. No one has come forward as yet. **Action All Members**

Southwark Cyclists is marshalling 14 rides for the London Festival of Architecture (20 June to 20 July). Rides were averaging about 45 participants and the standard of marshalling had been excellent.

There are a number of good rides coming up, most of which are on the Southwark Cyclists website ([www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk](http://www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk)). Southwark Cyclists is also organising an all day event on Friday 8 August for SLaM (South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust) that promotes health in mind and body. **Action Barry Mason**

Alan agreed to lead a ride to art displays in public parks. **Action Alan Ball**

## 10. Cycle Path at Peckham Common

Alastair Hanton had advised the June meeting on a proposal for a cycle path on the east side of Peckham Common, for which funding might be available. Alastair had now met with the Friends of Peckham Rye to discuss their concerns.

#### 11. LCN+

As reported in the minutes of the June meeting, LCN+ is the name given to TfL's commitment to expand the London Cycle Network by the end of 2010, in accordance with the London Cycle Action Plan. Slow progress is being made and Alastair Hanton is trying to arrange a meeting with those involved. In connection with LCN+, Southwark Council had been allocated £1.5 million over the last two years, but none of this had been spent. **Action Alastair Hanton**

#### 12. Thames Path Issues

Kings Stairs: Barry is continuing to press Lewis White at Southwark Council regarding ramping the three stairs (Kings Stairs) on the Thames Path 100 m east of The Angel pub, Rotherhithe. **Action Barry Mason**

Cycling on the Thames Path: formal confirmation is still awaited that Southwark Council will agree to shared use in place of the initial proposal to ban cycling on the Thames Path between Blackfriars Bridge and Vinopolis. This matter is still with Southwark's lawyers, and was discussed at the Bermondsey Community Council meeting on 8 July. **Action Barry Mason**

#### 13. Working with the Council and Police

It was agreed in principle that Southwark Cyclists should work with Southwark Council and the police events where this appears appropriate. This would be considered on a case-by-case basis. The recent HGV blind spots awareness-raising activity by the police was welcomed, but it was noted that the police were actually virtually forcing cyclists to stop. This level of coercion was felt inappropriate, and Rebecca Lack agreed to write to Gareth Tuffery (Southwark Council's Road Safety Officer) with suggestions on how HGV awareness could be promoted more positively -- e.g. at suitable family and cycling festivals. **Action Rebecca Lack**

#### 14. Poor Infrastructure

Rebecca expressed concern that in North Southwark and North Lambeth, infrastructure changes to accommodate buses had been to the detriment of cyclists. She agreed to e-mail Gareth Tuffery on this, with a copy to Jeremy Leach of Southwark Living Streets. **Action Rebecca Lack**

#### 15. Southwark Cyclists Website

The software for our website is old, and updating the site with new information is labourious. Free software is available that would make this much easier, but all the existing information on the website would have to be transferred. It was agreed that Barry should e-mail the Southwark Cyclists Yahoo group and Better Bankside asking whether there was a technically competent volunteer who could undertake the transfer of information work, for which a modest budget was available. Anyone interested would be asked to specify the work they would undertake, and the basis for their fee. This specification will then be considered by one or more from Richard Ellery, Kit Reynolds and Ten, who would make a recommendation. The meeting agreed that final approval for the work to go ahead could be given by Barry and one other Committee member. **Action Barry Mason**

Alan agreed to find out who had set up the new "ACF" website. ACF stands for Another Cycling Forum. **Action Alan Ball**

16. Tesco Old Kent Road Redevelopment

This redevelopment represented a huge expansion and Barry was working up comments to the planning application, in conjunction with Jeremy Leach, Alastair Hanton and Andy Savell. Barry would e-mail the Southwark Cyclists Yahoo group in due course. The main purpose was to force Tesco to produce a green travel plan. **Action Barry Mason**

17. On Your Bike

A revised date is still awaited for the opening of the On Your Bike cycle parking facility at London Bridge.

18. Financial Report

Hugh reported that the finances were much the same as last month – that in the Southwark Cyclists bank account there was some £4000 in unallocated money (i.e. not already earmarked for projects), plus about £4500 of earmarked project money.

19. Spoke 'n Motion Guided Bicycle Tours

Spoke 'n Motion is a commercial venture that Ian McPherson has started up, providing guided bicycle tours of London. The meeting agreed that Ian's website, [www.spokenmotion.co.uk](http://www.spokenmotion.co.uk), could link to the Southwark Cyclists' website.

20. Next Meeting

Wednesday, 13 August at 7pm. Venue: Better Bankside Community Space on the corner of Great Guildford Street and Zoar Street, just behind Tate Modern. Bicycles are to be brought inside.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.