

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHWARK CYCLISTS ON 11 APRIL 2007
19.00 at Blackfriars Settlement, 1-5 Rushworth Street, London SE1 0RB

Attendees: Barry Mason (Co-ordinator), Alastair Hanton, Colin Hartridge-Price (Secretary), Kit Reynolds (Webmaster), Ray Welsh (Planning), Cheryl Williams.

Apologies received: Hugh Bolton (Treasurer), Gwen Bondi (Newsletter Editor), Alex Crawford (Campaigns; Bike Show, Resonance 104.4FM), Rebecca Lack, Ann Warren.

1. Minutes of the Meeting on 14 March 2007 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the above meeting were approved, subject to noting the full title for item 21 as "Southwark Transport Consultative Forum", and that the next meeting of this Forum is on 12 April.

2. On Your Bike Maintenance Classes

The next series of classes will be 7pm to about 9.30pm on 17 April, 24 April and 1 May. The attendance is limited to 10, and these places were sold out within a few days at £36 for the three classes. The next series of classes should start towards the end of May. **Action Barry Mason**

3. Southwark Cycle Security Group

The main issues from the last meeting of the Security Group on Monday 26 March are as follows:

1. Roger Stocker to be encouraged to attend.
2. 160 reported bicycle thefts in Southwark in the 12 weeks from 1 January 2007 to 18 March 2007. Of these, 74 (45%) were from the SE1 postcode area.
3. Southwark Police believe that to reduce cycle theft there needs to be an increase in police presence and/or a massive increase in secure parking.
4. A £500 bike with a lock had been deployed in Southwark as a sting operation five times in different areas. The bike had been stolen on four occasions within a short period (e.g. 40 minutes, 90 minutes). Five arrests had been made.
5. Southwark Police currently have to negotiate for the allocation of a bike sting operation and are considering whether to buy dedicated sting equipment.
6. Tower Hamlets had previously been at the same level of cycle theft as currently being experienced by Southwark, but has reduced this by 20% by consistently running sting operations. Southwark police are liaising with Tower Hamlets to identify any other specific initiatives.
7. It had been reported at the previous Cycle Security Group meeting that the new IPC Media building currently under construction might have secure parking for 800 bicycles. However, there will actually be 250 cycle locking points and there is already a list of 300 staff who want to use these. There is very little car parking space.
8. It is now hoped the secure cycle parking facility at On Your Bike will open in July.

9. The Chair of the Cycle Security Group was again asked to impress upon Southwark Planners that secure cycle parking should be provided before streets are "de-cluttered" by the removal of road railings etc. De-cluttering in the Walworth Road redevelopment had resulted in bicycles being chained to the newly planted saplings. Southwark Cyclists had identified spaces for cycle racks in Walworth Road and it is understood additional locking points will be installed in due course.
10. Trading Standards is still moving extremely slowly in producing an "MOT card" for use by shops selling second-hand bikes. These cards are intended to give comfort to a purchaser that the bike they are buying is not stolen. Funding for the MOT cards was thought to be available from Southwark Council but an application needed to be made within a few days (i.e. by 31 March).
11. Southwark has a budget (from TfL) of £30,000 per annum for cycle parking.
12. Cycle Security on Southwark housing estates will be considered at the next meeting of the Cycle Security Group on 8 May.

Subsequent to the meeting of the Security Group on 26 March, Barry had asked Southwark Council for £2000 to produce and trial some "how to lock your bike" stickers at London Bridge, which is one of the hotspots in Southwark for cycle theft. A test of such stickers by the Martin's Design Against Crime Unit on five sites had shown that the stickers significantly increased good locking practice. **Action Barry Mason**

Barry was liaising with the owner of On Your Bike in Tooley Street for "gold rated" Sold Secure cycle locks to be sold for a two-week period starting 9 June (so including Bike Week) for half-price to anyone spending over £100 in the shop on other items. This offer might be limited to the first 100 locks and would not be subsidised by Southwark Cyclists. The Southwark Cycle Security Group had agreed to promote this initiative. **Action Barry Mason**

Alastair reported that Doug Pole had done some work on cycle parking in Southwark, and this was available on the Internet. Barry will meet with Giles Semplar of Better Bankside, to see what information they have on cycle parking. It was noted that Better Bankside was actively trying to identify where new/additional secure cycle parking needed to be provided.

4. Rotherhithe and Southwark Healthy Rides

These eight Saturday 3-hour local rides are taking place from 3 March to 28 April, but excluding 31 March which was Bike Magic Day in Southwark Park. The rides were being well attended and there were 35 on the most recent ride. Nearly all of these were new faces, including someone who had not ridden a bike for 20 years. Barry will write up a report at the end of this project. It is still hoped that additional funding will be available to continue these rides. Details of these rides, and other Southwark Cyclists events, are on the website (www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk).

At the meeting on 14 March, Alex had agreed to produce a leaflet that could be given out at rides and other events. **Action Alex Crawford**

5. Young Southwark Cyclists

The launch date for this new cycle club for anyone aged under 18 is likely to be deferred to coincide with Bike Week. The Club will be based at the Burgess Park Bike Track and will be led by Brenton Smith, supported by Southwark Cyclists. This project could be emulated anywhere and TfL are very interested in it. TfL had initially indicated they had about £9,750

in unallocated funds that they would contribute towards the Young Southwark Cyclists project, but it now appeared that the unallocated funds available amounted to only some £4,750. This contribution would be very welcome. **Action Barry Mason**

6. "Connected Southwark"

This is the title of a manifesto that urges hugely improved facilities for walkers and cyclists in Southwark. A number of comments on the draft had been made at the meeting of Southwark Cyclists on 14 March, and the manifesto had now been finalised. Southwark Living Streets and Southwark Cyclists will jointly put the manifesto to the Southwark Transport Consultative Forum, and to Southwark Council. **Action Barry Mason/Alastair Hanton/Ann Warren**

7. Tour de France Associated Events

The official website it is www.tourdefrancelondon.com. Among the cycling events currently scheduled are:

- 1 July (Sunday) – Bike Day in Spa Gardens for young people.
- 1 July – British Cycling organised event offering up to 5,000 riders the opportunity to cycle the same 117 mile route across East London and Kent as used for Stage 1 of the 2007 Tour de France.
- 6 July (Friday) Hyde Park Bike Show from 1pm and all that weekend.
- 6 July (Friday) Big Trafalgar Square Carnival with the opening event at 6pm.
- 7 July (Saturday) – Bermondsey Carnival Procession, for which the theme is "great journeys". Barry has asked for volunteers to help with a Southwark Cyclists entry. The procession will end in Southwark Park for a picnic and party. Southwark Cyclists will then lead a ride to see the TdF Prologue in central London.
- 8 July (Sunday) – Big Picnic in Southwark Park (which Stage 1 of the TdF circumnavigates on that day), organised by Southwark Council.

8. Bike Week (16 to 24 June)

It would be good if there was a committee to organise Southwark Cyclists' events for this important week in the cycling calendar. Barry had asked for suggestions on rides and events, and would produce a schedule of rides in the next week or two. Alex had previously volunteered to help. **Action All/Barry Mason/Alex Crawford**

9. Ride Weekends

- 21/22 April – Whitstable. About 65 miles to Whitstable on Saturday, then another 55 miles to Dover on Sunday. Train options along the way to shorten the ride on each day. Book your own accommodation in Whitstable.
- 5/6 May (Bank Holiday) – Isle of Wight camping weekend and cycle ride round the Island.
- 24 to 27 August – Wild Wales Challenge centred on Bala in North Wales. An optional 88.4 miles on Sunday 26 August up and down the mountains (probably the CTC's toughest UK ride, but 600 entries), plus less strenuous ride options on the Saturday. Contact Karen (kservadei@yohoo.co.uk) for van transport, including bikes, to and from at about £63 per person. Group accommodation available in the Bala Backpackers in the town centre at £47 for the four nights, excluding food. More expensive options available in the local hotels and B&Bs.

10. Cycling Byelaws

Further information is awaited on the current review of model byelaws for Southwark and other Boroughs. This will include byelaws affecting cycling. Barry has impressed on Southwark Council the importance of considerate cycling continuing to be allowed.

11. Planning

Ray was awaiting a response to his letter of 15 March to the Corporate Responsibility Team at Tesco, in which he asked for the company policy on Green Travel Plans for existing stores, and on promoting cycling. There was nothing on the Tesco website in this regard.

Action Ray Welsh

Ray was also waiting to hear from the LCC on what information they had on the cycle policies of the main retailers. If necessary, he would make inquiries of the retailers direct. Tom Bogdanowicz (Campaigns and Development Manager at the LCC) had confirmed he would be pleased to work with Ray on encouraging retailers to improve facilities for cyclists. The LCC had organised a cycle parking conference in 2005 and would have a number of contacts. A further LCC conference on cycling issues was likely to be arranged in the summer of 2007. **Action Ray Welsh**

At the meeting on 14 March, it had been noted that CTC UK may be willing to finance a day of training on cycling issues for Southwark Council staff. Ray will make further inquiries.

Action Ray Welsh

There are a number of large planning schemes where comments on cycling need to be given, and Ray has this in hand. This includes additional development at More London, where Ray will make a formal request for surface cycle parking as there is no mention of this in the plans. **Action Ray Welsh**

It has previously been noted that the latest fashion is to "declutter" streets by removing such items as barriers that cyclists could have used as a secure locking point. The Southwark Cycle Security Group had already impressed on Southwark Planners the need to provide adequate secure cycle parking before the removal of locking points that cyclists would have used if there was nothing else. Councillor Richard Thomas was investigating why new guard rails had appeared in Southwark Park Road. **Action Councillor Richard Thomas**

Alastair and Barry had met with Barbara Selby (Southwark Council Transport Manager) and Councillor Lisa Rajan (Southwark Executive Member for Environment and Transport) to discuss a range of cycling issues, and the need for a standard policy document on cycle parking for the different types of development. On behalf of Southwark Cyclists, Alastair had also contacted a contractor who had worked on cycle parking standards for buildings. The nature, location and security of cycle parking is crucial. It was agreed that Ray would draft a Southwark Cyclists letter for Barry to send to the Southwark Council planners on this.

Action Ray Welsh/Barry Mason

Following a discussion of the Traffic Management Orders for the Walworth Road Project, it was agreed that Southwark Cyclists should send a formal response supporting these proposals (particularly the Statement of Reasons) and welcoming the infrastructure work currently underway. Lisa Young, the Southwark engineer now running this hugely innovative traffic engineering project, had agreed to attend the meeting of Southwark Cyclists on 9 May to discuss the progress to date, and for the future. She will also answer questions. Much of the work currently being undertaken reflects the recommendations made by Southwark Cyclists several years ago. Southwark Cyclists may arrange a celebratory ride when the Walworth Road project is completed. **Action Barry Mason**

DfT's new Manual for Streets was discussed, particularly the proposals on speed restrictions. Comments were required by 19 April. **Action Ray Welsh**

12. Campaigns

At the last meeting, Alex had confirmed she was working on a number of projects and had invited people to contact her if there were any issues they thought should be taken up.

13. Financial Report

In the absence of Hugh Bolton, there was nothing to report other than that the finances remained "healthy".

14. Newsletter

Feedback on the new format was again requested -- likes, dislikes, more articles or less, more pictures, two sides of A4 or A3? **Action All/Gwen Bondi/Gary Jones**

15. Dulwich Going Greener

This is a new charity with the aim of reducing the carbon footprint of Dulwich. Alastair had given contact information to Alex. **Action Alex Crawford**

16. Dulwich Green Fair on Sunday 20 May

Southwark Cyclists has been invited to take part in this big event, but Barry is on holiday that week. At the meeting on 14 March, Alex and Ann had agreed to lead on this. Kit had also volunteered to lead a ride, perhaps to Herne Hill Velodrome. Additional volunteers would be welcome. **Action All/Alex Crawford/Ann Warren/Kit Reynolds**

17. Peckham Rye Latin Carnaval de Independencias on Sunday 22 July

This event will include a huge bike stall, stunt riders, cycle training and a Dr Bike as well as numerous other stalls and entertainment. Alex had agreed to help but more volunteers were needed. Southwark Cyclists would lead a feeder ride to this event from Trafalgar Square. **Action Barry Mason/Alex Crawford**

18. Mass London Cycle Ride on Sunday 23 September

Over 20,000 participants are anticipated for this ride, which will be the second (after the Tour de France) major cycling event of 2007. Known as the London Freewheel Ride, there will be organised feeder rides to the six London parks where riders will assemble before riding into central London. The six parks are Golders Hill, Ravenscourt Park, Clapham Common, Southwark Park, Victoria Park and Finsbury Park.

19. Southwark Park Sports Complex Redevelopment

Barry had met with the consultant and hopes he has convinced him that the track should be for everyone, rather than being redeveloped to Olympic standard as had initially been proposed. A report was due at the end of April and the consultant had promised that Southwark Cyclists would see an advance draft. **Action Barry Mason**

20. Survey of Cycle Parking at Council Offices

As reported at the last meeting, Southwark Council is preparing a comprehensive staff travel guide and has engaged Southwark Cyclists to undertake a survey and produce a professional-quality report on existing cycle parking arrangements at selected Council offices. This is to describe what is there now, and what changes should be made for the benefit of staff and short-term visitors. Doug Pole had been engaged by Southwark Cyclists to produce the report, and it should be available about mid-May. **Action Barry Mason**

21. Cycle Parking on Council Estates

It was agreed that Alastair Hanton should ask Doug Pole (see previous item) to quote for identifying a couple of council estates and producing a report, including costs, on cycle facilities that could be put in and how this could be marketed to residents. This would be a pilot project for which Alastair will apply for a grant (from TfL or Southwark Council). Barry will draft a Southwark Cyclists letter to the Executive Council members directly involved, proposing that a report be undertaken on cycle parking on council estates. Assurances were needed on secure cycle parking for existing estates, and on future developments. Councillor Richard Thomas had previously advised that Southwark Council had ordered a review of investment in estates, and that the issue of safe cycle parking might be brought into this. **Action Alastair Hanton/Barry Mason**

22. Surrey Quays Shopping Centred Cycle Training Report

An excellent report on this project had been professionally produced, and could be accessed on the Southwark Cyclists website. Anyone is free to make use of the report, as long as they quote the source.

23. Rotherhithe Equal Access Project

Barry reported he had obtained a £5,000 grant from Rotherhithe Community Council for a survey of the Rotherhithe area to improve access for the disabled, particularly those who are wheelchair bound. Barry has done this on a personal basis, and not as a Southwark Cyclists project.

24. Grant Applications to TfL

Suggestions were requested for grant applications to TfL's Community Cycling Fund for London, from which grants of up to £5,000 were available. It was agreed that Barry should obtain more information on the cycle cages at the Barnes Wetland Centre, with a view to obtaining grants to have these installed on a number of sites in Southwark, such as at the Peckham Rye Adventure Playground, and on housing estates.

A suggestion had been received regarding shops dealing in the second-hand bikes obtaining more information to satisfy themselves that a bicycle being offered to them for purchase had not been stolen. However, it was felt this should be covered by the "MOT card" proposed by Southwark Trading Standards (see 3.10).

25. Aylesbury Area Neighbourhood Team

Barry had been invited to join the newly formed Aylesbury Area Neighbourhood Team and represent Southwark Cyclists. The first Team meeting had clashed with the 11 April meeting of Southwark Cyclists. This is a non-executive consultative body that may later develop local planning powers etc. It covers the Aylesbury Regeneration Area, Burgess Park and much of Walworth. The aim is to "develop community driven solutions that will shape the future of the area". Barry has been asked to cover cycling, walking, and local transport. It is

excellent to have cycling so embedded in such a huge regeneration scheme. **Action Barry Mason**

26. Child Protection Policy for Southwark Cyclists

A draft of this Policy, adapted from a Sustrans model, was discussed and agreed, subject to clearance by Jane Hawkins (Development Officer for the Southwark Children Safeguarding Board), and Gary Jones (a member of Southwark Cyclists who has particular experience in child protection issues). The draft Policy had already been approved by Sarah Slater at the London Cycling Campaign and might form the basis of a model for other local cycling groups. **Action Barry Mason**

27. Herne Hill Velodrome

Dulwich Estate say they are fairly near to reaching agreement with a leisure company to run the Velodrome and improve facilities. There will then be wider consultation.

28. Next Meeting

Wednesday 9 May. 7pm at the usual location for monthly meetings -- Blackfriars Settlement, 1-5 Rushworth Street, London SE1 0RB. To finish by 8:30pm and be followed by drinks down the pub for anyone who feels like it.

29. Depart for The Crown on Blackfriars Road

There being no further business the meeting was closed.