

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHWARK CYCLISTS ON 11 JULY 2007

19.00 at Blackfriars Settlement, 1-5 Rushworth Street, London SE1 0RB

Attendees: Barry Mason (Co-ordinator), Hugh Bolton (Treasurer), Gwen Bondi (Newsletter Editor), Leo Ghirello, Alastair Hanton, Colin Hartridge-Price (Secretary), Lynn Gambles, Ann Warren

Apologies received: Alex Crawford (Campaigns; Bike Show, Resonance 104.4FM), Rebecca Lack, Roger Stocker, Ray Welsh (Planning), Cheryl Williams.

1. Minutes of the Meeting on 13 June 2007 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the above meeting were approved.

2. Young Southwark Cyclists (YSC)

The YSC launch on 16 June had been well supported, with 30 new enrolments and 35 joining a local YSC ride led by Barry. A number of very interested parents had offered to help with the club, as well as a local social worker.

3. Bike Week Events (2007 and 2008)

The Southwark Cyclists' Bike Week events for 2007 had generally gone well, and there had been good attendance at the Surrey Quays Bike Day. Some 140 riders had taken part in the summer solstice dawn ride. Southwark Cyclists would be putting a lot of effort into Bike Week next year, which would also fall within the Architecture Biennale that for 2008 had been extended to cover a one-month period. Ann and Gwen volunteered as part of a sub-group to help organise the Southwark Cyclists' events for Bike Week 2008. **Action Barry Mason/Gwen Bondi/Ann Warren**

Alastair suggested inquiries be made to see if funding might be available (perhaps from Southwark Council) for someone to assist part-time in the months running up to next years Bike Week. **Action Barry Mason**

4. Tour de France and Related Events

About 150 riders had assembled at Greenwich, 65 at Peckham Rye and 25 from Burgess Park (Young Southwark Cyclists club), to ride to Hyde Park for the Tour de France Prologue. As part of an officially recognised ride, all participants were able to make use of the LCC reserved viewing area and large screen display. The Sunday events, including in Southwark Park, had also been very well organised and very enjoyable.

5. Dunwich Dynamo 28/29 July

Tickets for the coach and bike lorry back were selling fast at £23. Seats could not be guaranteed unless pre-booked. Tickets available on www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk by following the Dunwich link.

6. Southwark Cycle Security Group

The main issues from the last meeting of the Security Group on 9 July are as follows:

1. A template was discussed that could be put on bicycles, commenting on how well (or badly) the bicycle was locked.

2. Southwark Council is taking forward the issue of cycle security on estates.
3. In the 12 weeks to 18 June 2007, there were 256 reported bike thefts in Southwark, and only six of these bikes had been subsequently recovered. The most popular makes taken were Decathlon and Trek, and the average price per bike taken was £266. A sample of 10% of the data shows that the majority of the bicycles were securely locked when they were stolen. In the main, bolt cutters are used to cut chains/locks.
4. There is a consistent pattern to the time of bike thefts, with the peak being between 1pm and 5pm. The top four theft locations continue to be Tate Modern, Surrey Quays Shopping Centre car park, Decathlon, and Canada Water Tube Station. More than two thirds (68%) of people that had their bikes stolen in Southwark in the 12 weeks to 18 June 2007, live in the borough. There is a large intelligence gap regarding recovered bicycles and any market for stolen bicycles.

7. Planning

Cycle parking at the new open space development at Potters Fields had been promised by Southwark Council, but had not yet materialised. Barry was pursuing this. **Action Barry Mason**

A formal response is awaited from Southwark Council on the guidelines for bicycle parking in new developments. Recent revisions to the guidelines seemed woefully inadequate, at least in respect of workplace cycle parking. Barry had recommended to Southwark Council on 21 June that they urgently commission in-depth research about the provision and demand for bike parking in Southwark offices. The issue of inadequate cycle parking had also been raised at the meeting of the Southwark Transport Consultative Forum on 14 June. **Action Barry Mason**

When the "Shard of Glass" at London Bridge is completed, four floors will be occupied by some three to four thousand TfL employees, but the cycle parking facilities currently proposed will be grossly inadequate.

The LCC has asked Barry to write an article on cycle parking, for their magazine. **Action Barry Mason**

Alastair suggested that someone be delegated to review new build planning applications to ensure the bike parking proposed was adequate. It was noted that the Southwark Planning Department issued a weekly list of new planning applications, and this was mailed free of charge to local organisations that had requested it. Barry agreed to speak to Ray about this. **Action Barry Mason/Ray Welsh**

Ray was continuing to press Tesco for their "Travel Plans" for existing Southwark developments. He had also spoken to Tesco's public relations consultant, who had agreed to discuss this matter with Tesco management. **Action Ray Welsh**

Alastair reported that he had been invited by TfL to join a CRISP study of the A205 (South Circular) between West Dulwich Railway Station and Catford town centre. This was believed to be the first time that TfL had asked a cycle group to participate. **Action Alastair Hanton**

A study, attended by Alastair, has been undertaken on Bermondsey Street, with a view to improving facilities for walking and cycling. Alastair had found the study very useful.

8. “Connected Southwark”

This has been mentioned before and is the title of a manifesto that urges hugely improved facilities for walkers and cyclists in Southwark. The manifesto has been produced by Southwark Living Streets with comments from, and the support of, Southwark Cyclists. There had been an excellent slide presentation on this to the Southwark Transport Consultative Forum on 14 June. The next step was to put the manifesto to the main Southwark Assembly. Consideration was also being given to Southwark Living Streets and Southwark Cyclists holding an event to publicise the manifesto. **Action Barry Mason/Alastair Hanton/Ann Warren**

Barry had made a number of inquiries and there seemed to be good support for an international competition to design improved pedestrian and cycle routes between two locations -- e.g. Peckham and Camberwell. The competition office of the Royal Institute of British Architects would be happy to organise the competition, ensure wide publicity, help recruit noteworthy judges, and involve the competitions office of the Institute of Civil Engineers. Barry had also spoken to the London Architecture Biennale 2008 office about the possibility of their festival events incorporating a Southwark exhibition of the competition finalists. Competitions generally take about five months from the issue of the brief, to judging the finalists. External funding would need to be found, but Southwark Living Streets and Southwark Cyclists could perhaps each contribute £1000 towards the competition.

It would also be good to get suitable people from TfL and Southwark Council involved. Alastair agreed to contact Lynn Sloman who was an independent consultant on transport matters, and was also a Director of TfL. **Action Alastair Hanton**

Barry and Ann will meet with the Chair of Southwark Living Streets to explore the above possibilities. **Action Barry Mason/Ann Warren**

9. Herne Hill Velodrome

There had at last been direct contact between the interested parties, to discuss plans for improving facilities. It was agreed that Southwark Cyclists should ask Southwark Council to provide information on the proposals. In particular, will the Velodrome be used to encourage cycling in schools? **Action Barry Mason**

10. Green Travel Choices for Dulwich

Lynn Sloman will be giving a talk on this at 7pm on Wednesday, 3 October, at the Barnabas Centre, Carlton Avenue in Dulwich. There is no charge for attending. Lynn runs a sustainable transport consultancy that helps the government, local councils and voluntary groups find ways to cut traffic. She is an adviser to the board of Transport for London, a board member of the Commission for Integrated Transport and a board member of Cycling England.

11. Campaigns

In the absence of Alex Crawford, there was nothing to report. **Action Alex Crawford**

12. Financial Report

A full set of figures will be available for the next meeting. **Action Hugh Bolton**

13. Grant Applications

Under the "Cleaner Greener Safer" grant applications, each of Southwark's eight community councils had about £300,000 to allocate by the end of October. Barry invited suggestions for projects, and proposed to put in a number of applications on behalf of Southwark Cyclists.

Action Barry Mason

14. Landfill Tax

Alastair mentioned that the Landfill Tax is partly recycled back, via the landfill companies, by way of donations to charities. This might be a source of funds for Southwark Cyclists' projects, although these would probably need to be local to the particular landfill site. Barry agreed to look into this. **Action Barry Mason**

15. Newsletter

A new Newsletter was in hand.

16. Re-watering parts of the Surrey Canal in Burgess Park

Barry had written to the British Waterways Board regarding the fact that Southwark Council and the Aylesbury master-planners (Urban Initiatives) were starting to look at Burgess Park with a view to making it more used, more safe, and more interesting. At 500,000 square metres it is one of central London's largest open spaces. The Surrey Canal used to run through Burgess Park and Barry felt restoring parts of the canal to form a series of ponds might form a key new feature for the regenerated Park. Local residents and representatives (e.g. the Aylesbury Neighbourhood Planning Forum) were hugely enthusiastic. The meeting agreed this should be supported by Southwark Cyclists, subject to maintaining an adequate width for the cycle path. The proposed re-watering would increase the enjoyment of cycling the route. Barry would be leading a Thursday after-worker along the route of the, now mainly hidden, Surrey Canal.

It was noted that a route through the middle of Burgess Park was emerging as the preferred route for the proposed cross-river tram from King's Cross to Peckham.

17. Aylesbury Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Barry represents Southwark Cyclists on this Forum, which is advising on the redevelopment of the 5000-home Aylesbury estate and the redevelopment of the neighbouring areas of Burgess Park and Walworth. The architects are listening to what is being said on cycle parking. Some members of the Forum had recently visited Dublin, where they had seen four housing developments, but it was felt that London had nothing to learn from Dublin here.

It was noted that the 10-mile tram tracks going from Dublin out into the countryside could be dangerous for cyclists, but that proper engineering could prevent this for the cross-river tram proposed for London.

18. Hovis London Freewheel Cycle Ride on Sunday 23 September

Over 30,000 participants are anticipated for this ride, which will be the second (after the Tour de France) major cycling event of 2007. 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. The event is intended to encourage more Londoners to cycle in the capital, as it is estimated that 40% of Londoners have access to a bike, but only 5% use one regularly.

19. On Your Bike

The latest Southwark Cyclists' Cycle Maintenance Course at On Your Bike had ended on 5 June. There had now been four such courses, all with the maximum attendance of 10, and all rated highly by the participants. Six of the participants on the last course had not been to On Your Bike before. The next course was yet to be arranged, but could possibly be in September.

The On Your Bike 250-space cycle parking facility at London Bridge was now expected to open in October 2007.

20. Next Meeting

Wednesday 8 August. 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.

21. Depart for The Crown on Blackfriars Road

There being no further business the meeting was closed.