

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTHWARK CYCLISTS ON 14 NOVEMBER 2007

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

Attendees: Barry Mason (Co-ordinator), Ami Aeron-Thomas (Director, Roadpeace), Mark Aeron-Thomas (Sustrans Liaison), Hugh Bolton (Treasurer), Alastair Hanton, Colin Hartridge-Price (Secretary), Gary Jones (Newsletter Editor), Ian McPherson (Sustrans Ranger for Southwark), Cheryl Williams.

Apologies received: Gwen Bondi, Rebecca Lack, Bill Owen (Rides Co-ordinator), Andy Savell, Ray Welsh (Planning)

Barry had advised that he would be delayed and it was agreed that Colin would take the chair until he arrived. Colin welcomed everyone, particularly Ian who was attending for the first time.

1. Minutes of the meeting on 10 October 2007 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the above meeting were approved.

2. Southwark Cycle Security Group

The main issues from the meeting of the Cycle Security Group on 30 October are as follows:

- Concern was expressed on behalf of Southwark Cyclists that the Government's "New Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Single Set of National Indicators" contained no performance targets to reduce bike crime. Urgent clarification is required on whether Southwark police will continue to be proactive in reducing bike theft.
- An update was requested on whether Southwark police still intended to purchase a decoy bike for use in sting operations.
- Over the first two weeks of October, there had been 42 cycle thefts in Southwark, of which 20 were from the SE1 area (a significant increase) and 7 were from SE16. Wednesday and Thursday were the peak days, with the peak times being between 14:00 and 18:00.
- An update was requested on the work being done to improve cycle security at Decathlon in Surrey Quays.
- The Group was continuing to press for cycle security to be automatically included in cycle training in schools.
- There had been a very low use of the Better Bankside vouchers for a 30% discount on good quality bicycle locks.
- Work was progressing on further on-street secure cycle parking, for which Southwark Council had a £20,000 budget. Roger Stocker had asked for a supply of 20 of the cycle stands designed by the winner of Reinventing the Bike Shed.
- Further meetings are planned with the Southwark Housing Department, to ensure cycle security is included in new housing development plans.
- Supplementary planning guidance is being developed on cycle parking and Section 106 agreements (i.e. where a developer is required to provide community benefits). This guidance is to be circulated to the Group.

3. Herne Hill Velodrome

Colin read from the written report that Andy Savell had provided for the meeting. Andy had spoken with Steve Cook, the Secretary of the Velo Club de Londres (VCL), which is the company currently running the Velodrome. The latest news is:

- Dulwich Estate has given VCL an undertaking that the site will continue to be used for cycling.
- There will shortly be new toilet blocks, paid for by British Cycling.
- The site is being well used. There is now a cyclo-cross course which is in regular use throughout the winter and will be hosting several rounds of the London League.
- VCL have applied for the site to be used as a training facility for the London Olympics.
- The plans to resurface the track are proceeding well, as is the financing of this.
- There is nothing new to report on Dulwich Estate's plans for a gym and leisure centre on the site, but it would seem unhelpful for Southwark Cyclists to get involved here at the present time. Dulwich Estate will only talk to British Cycling and the VCL, as representatives of the cycling community. It seems Dulwich Estate is unlikely to respond to approaches from other organisations.

Andy will attend VCL meetings from time to time as a representative of Southwark Cyclists, and act as a conduit between the VCL and Southwark Cyclists. Barry and Alastair still have the wider role of influencing local politicians whenever possible.

Barry had met with Jenny Jones and had spoken at length about the Velodrome and the aspiration for it to be a 2012 training site. Jenny Jones said she will push this with Val Shawcross, and the Mayor's 2012 team.

Alastair mentioned that Philip Colvin (an eminent barrister) was very interested in getting involved with the Velodrome. He would speak to Andy, with a view to Andy advising the VCL. **Action Alastair Hanton**

Southwark Cyclists very much wants to help the VCL to develop the Velodrome. **Action Barry Mason/Alastair Hanton/Andy Savell**

4. Sustrans Connect2

Sustrans is one of only four contenders now remaining in "The People's £50 Million Lottery Giveaway", where the winner will be decided by TV voting in December. This is a UK-wide Sustrans' project to "transform local travel in 79 cities, towns and villages by creating new walking and cycling routes for everyday journeys". One of the 79 projects is in Southwark, where the intention is to make use of the disused Senegal rail bridge and former track beds to provide a largely traffic-free connection between Rotherhithe New Road in Southwark and Surrey Canal Road in Lewisham. The cost is expected to be about £1 million. Mark distributed a Connect2 leaflet. Alastair and Barry are attending meetings of the Steering Group for this local Connect2 project. **Action Barry Mason/Alastair Hanton**

This is a unique opportunity for cycling and cyclists, and it is hoped that everyone will register their support by logging onto the Sustrans Connect2 website, www.sustrans.org.uk/default.asp?sID=1156519444250. They will then automatically receive a prompt to vote at the relevant time. Voting closes on 11 December.

5. Southwark Community Games and Cycling

Barry has put forward proposals for road, track and dirt cycling events, and a meeting is being arranged to discuss this. **Action Barry Mason**

6. "Connected Southwark" (for better cycling and walking)

There seemed to be little Council activity just now on this project to improve walking and cycling routes between town centres. Simon Bevan would be asked to get things moving. The initial routes being considered for improvement are: from Peckham to Camberwell; Blackfriars Road; Southwark Bridge Road. **Action Barry Mason/Alastair Hanton/Ann Warren**

7. Planning

As previously reported, recent revisions to the minimum cycle parking standards in the Southwark Unitary Development Plan had been derived from guidelines prepared by Transport for London, but seemed to Southwark Cyclists to be woefully inadequate. **Action Barry Mason/Ray Welsh**

A Transport Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was currently being prepared by Southwark Council, and consultation on this was expected to take place towards the end of 2007. The Better Bankside Travel Survey will be a further useful source of data for future cycle parking policies.

It has previously been noted that, with regard to cycle parking provision by the big four supermarkets, Tesco seemed to be the worst of all, as it appeared their corporate policy was to have no travel plans unless forced by local planners. This had been raised with Councillor Richard Thomas. Southwark Cyclists has now contacted Tesco direct to press for "Green Travel Plans" and better cycle security at stores. We have also lodged objections to two Tesco planning applications.

A letter has been sent to Sainsbury to see if they would be interested in a pilot scheme for cycle training packaged with cycle parking. Alex and Gwen had previously offered to help if assistance was required here. **Action Ray Welsh/Gwen Bondi/Alex Crawford**

Section 106 agreements are gaining in importance, and Southwark Council is developing a list of projects for Section 106 money. In this regard the Council is asking, via Community Councils, for the public to suggest items for these "Project Banks". This will be discussed at the December meeting of Southwark Cyclists.

TfL has £20,000 to spend on cycle parking on TfL roads in Southwark by the end of March 2008. Sites will mainly be in North Southwark, and Barry is expecting to receive a list within the next month of proposed sites. It is then intended that we identify gaps.

8. Campaigns

There was nothing to report at the present time.

9. On Your Bike

The On Your Bike 250-space cycle parking facility at London Bridge was now expected to open in January 2008.

A further cycle parking facility (200 spaces) is to be developed in the underground car park of the IBM building on Hopton Street. It will be operated by Better Bankside.

10. Financial Report

Hugh reported that there was about £16,500 in the bank, of which approximately £3,500 was unrestricted and available for new projects. The remainder was already earmarked for existing projects.

It was agreed that the 81 remaining Southwark Cyclists T-shirts should be handed back to us, together with a sum of £900. We had initially put in £600. At the next meeting, consideration will be given to how these T-shirts might be sold. Barry mentioned a "funky shop" in Bermondsey Street that sells T-shirts. Barry will also check whether On Your Bike would take a supply to sell. We could also sell at Southwark Cyclists events. **Action Barry Mason**

11. Grant Application Successes for Southwark Cyclists Since the Last Meeting

- £7,500 from Dulwich Community Council for bike cages and stands.
- £5,000 from Peckham Community Council for bike cages at Peckham Rye Adventure Centre.
- £2000 from Camberwell Community Council for the Connected Southwark project.
- £5,000 from the Safer Southwark Partnership.

12. Burgess Park Attacks

Four cyclists had been attacked by gangs in the first 10 days or so of November. This is a known night-time problem area, and should be avoided.

13. Bonkersfest on 7&8 June 2008

Barry had been asked to create some bike events for this festival. A ride had been arranged for 19 January, and more were planned.

14. London Festival of Architecture (20 June - 20 July 2008)

Barry is leading on this for Southwark Cyclists. We are likely to help with 12 rides from 5 hubs, and involve other LCC groups. Alastair wondered whether the festival could be linked in with architecture friendly cycle parking, such as a competition for the best cycle parking in a new residential or office development.

A second meeting with the organisers will be held in early December. The organisers plan to recruit 10 ride leaders for themed rides. **Action Barry Mason**

15. Sustrans Liaison

Mark and Barry had met Carl Pitt, the Head of Sustrans in London, for a general discussion. Ian reported that he worked for Greenwich Council, and had recently taken on the role of Sustrans Ranger for Southwark. He was intending to conduct an audit of cycle signage to identify where repairs and improvements were needed. It seemed that no one would object if we took it upon ourselves to make the necessary repairs. Colin offered to provide transport and a tall stepladder. **Action Ian McPherson/ Mark Aeron-Thomas/ Colin H-P**

16. Southwark Environmental Forum

Barry has been asked to give a presentation about Southwark Cyclists at the Southwark Environmental Forum meeting on 10 January.

17. Newsletter

Gary distributed copies of the December/January Newsletter of Southwark Cyclists. He suggested that, at Southwark Cyclists stalls and events, people could be invited to give their e-mail address, and then contacted with an invitation to sign up for the Newsletter. It was also suggested that the existing Southwark Cyclists "business" card be expanded into a small leaflet or postcard -- one side could cover what Southwark Cyclists does, and the other side could cover the LCC.

Consideration was to be given to setting up a special e-mail list for the Newsletter. Gary and Richard would look into this. **Action Garry Jones/Richard Ellery**

18. On-Street Hire Bikes in London

SmartBikes is the company that put hire bikes onto Barcelona streets in March 2007 and got 80,000 registered users and 6,000 bikes out in four months. Ken Livingstone wants lots of hire bikes on London's streets next summer, and SmartBikes has approached Southwark Cyclists and Better Bankside to help them in Dulwich and North Southwark with this project. The people at SmartBikes seem very enthusiastic, and Barry will be meeting them in the next 10 days or so.

19. Meeting Venue

Meetings can now continue at Blackfriars Settlement until March 2008, as the redevelopment will not take place before then. However, a potential new meeting place needed to be identified in the first quarter of 2008 blue and in. **Action Barry Mason**

20. Next Meeting

Wednesday 12 December. 7pm at the usual location for monthly meetings: Blackfriars Settlement, 1-5 Rushworth Street, London SE1 0RB. To be followed by Christmas drinks.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.