

Minutes of ICAG meeting on Wednesday 14th September 2011 at 7.30-9.30pm at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1

Present:

Ian Shacklock, Stephen Taylor, Alison Dines, Chris Ashby, John Ackers, Keith Macfarlane, Teri Griffith, Jacques-Olivier Gaudron, Adrian Williams, Jon Parker, Paul Standeven

Apologies:

Robert Harston, Chris Kenyon, Chris Gibbons

Islington Council's new cycling officer David Shannon attended and gave a summary of his work.

David joined the council in July having worked as a freelance cycle trainer and said he was impressed with the range of ICAG's activities. David has a team of 28 freelance cycling instructors who provide cycling training in the primary and secondary schools around the borough. It is harder to get cycle training into the secondary schools where a local cycling champion such as teacher or parent is a great help. Holiday courses are also run for school children. Any adult who lives, works or studies in Islington can have up to two two-hour one-to-one cycle training sessions, bookable through the Road Safety Unit.

David is also applying for funding for various projects in Islington such as establishing community rides and working with St Mungo's to provide bike building/cycle training skills. The NHS recognizes that cycling can help both staff and patients and David hopes to work with Moorfields Hospital and other parts of the NHS locally; his team were also involved in the Agewell cycle training courses for the over 55y.

David would like to help ICAG identify grants that may be available and will join the ICAG e-group to let us know about local initiatives. He would also like to comment on cycle schemes or engineering plans and it was agreed we would let him know of any.

Matters arising from ICAG meeting on 10th August

Skyride: LCC had assumed we would lead two rides this year as we had last year; next year that should be confirmed with us and planning start earlier. It was hard to find the Islington ride on the Skyride website. Jon P had volunteered to be on the LCC stall but hadn't heard back until the day before and the Skyride stewards didn't know where the stall was. Everyone involved with the ride and recent stalls were thanked and Alison wills feedback comments to LCC.

Agenda

20mph for all borough roads campaign

About 180 signatures (including Islington North MP Jeremy Corbyn's) had been collected at the ICAG stalls at two local festivals but there was some resistance to the campaign especially from motorists for who Jon P felt it was a big ask, although Alison said the majority of Islington residents do not own a car. John A was concerned it would take more work than ICAG members might be prepared to commit, especially if the petition was to be presented to the full council meeting in October; he had spoken to Cllr Richard Greening who did not want to support the campaign until the current 20mph measures were "bedded in". John A and Jon P felt ICAG needed to be sure the campaign would succeed but Stephen did not want ICAG to stop campaigning on this issue. Members could collect signatures from local schools/churches/workplaces/shops etc. and he agreed to circulate the petition on the e-group to facilitate this; Teri said she thought at least 100 of her work colleagues in Farringdon would sign it. The 20mph campaign was currently the most voted for campaign on the ICAG website and a piece in the forthcoming newsletter would ask members not on the e-group to vote. Stephen and John agreed to discuss the campaign further with Caroline Russell of Living Streets (who was unable to attend the meeting) and it would be discussed again next month in light of the votes for ICAG campaigns.

Canal speed restrictions

Ian Shacklock, chair of the Friends of Regent's Canal and ICAG member, said British Waterways (BW) had installed speed humps on the stretch of the canal towpath between Danbury Street and the Narrow Boat pub, without consultation, in an attempt to reduce speeding. BW has just appointed a new towpath ranger and said the humps had been installed for a trial period (unfortunately mobility scooters cannot get over them). Ian said the real issue was inconsiderate towpath users and measures such as a towpath speed limit or cyclist dismount signs could be considered; some towpath users wanted bicycles banned from there. Ian had wanted to advise ICAG of the situation and that he and Cllr Martin Clute would be in an article in the Islington Tribune addressing this. It was agreed the ICAG position should be discussed outside the meeting and a site visit organised.

Veloteers

Stephen, Chris, Keith and Alison had met recently to discuss the next actions for Veloteers. They would put more information and resources on the website and John A agreed to write something on parking in estates. There were two clusters of wards (Highbury East/Highbury West/Mildmay and Junction) where there were more Veloteers and they would be encouraged to meet and consider local

initiatives. Teri suggested www.fixmystreet.com as another resource Veloteers could use.

Cycle parking at Highbury Corner and on Holloway Road

On 12th August John and Alison had met Cllr Terry Stacy with council officers Paul Taylor and Ashley Baker-Finch at Highbury Corner. There was enthusiasm for proposals to move the cycle stands nearer the wall at the Highbury Place entrance to Highbury Fields (and increase the number) and to investigate the possibility of stands being put on the site of the old Citizens' Advice Bureau, currently surrounded by colour hoardings and plants. The council officers agreed to consider these further but nothing had been heard. Alison had met Terry by chance before the meeting and he said he would be in touch. Stephen, Keith and Chris had reviewed the cycle parking on Holloway Road in the light of a list of suggested sites ICAG had provided to TfL about two years ago. 105 new stands had been installed and Stephen and Jon P agreed to do a press release about this. Keith agreed to contact TfL to find out about plans for Highbury Corner and David said he had been asked to survey cyclists using the cycle stands outside Highbury and Islington station.

Any other business

Police incident at Angel

John A had received an e-mail from one of the council engineers (a cyclist) describing an incident at the Angel junction where

a police officer warned another cyclist to stop behind the stop lines at junctions. At the time there was a large lorry stopped in the ASL which prevented cyclists from stopping there, so the cyclists were stopping over the line. When the engineer pointed this out to the officer he said 'When cyclists start behaving, then we will look after you'. Understandably the engineer felt this comment was completely unacceptable and had written to the Met but he wondered if ICAG had other contacts or channels through which this could be brought to the attention of the police. ICAG does not have regular meetings with the police (unless members attend local ward meetings) so there was no obvious way of doing this, although John agreed to forward the comment of the e-group for general discussion.

Well-oiled Festival at Finsbury Park Sat 17th Sept

If anyone could assist with a Dr Bike at this festival between 1-5pm please contact Paul.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th October 7.30-9.30pm at the Town Hall, Upper Street N1.