

Minutes of ICAG meeting on Wednesday 9th July 2014 at 7.30-9.30pm

at the Town Hall, Upper Street N1

Present: Alison Dines, Sheridan Kelly, Rachel Bullmore, Tabitha Tanqueray, Kate Calvert, Tom Harrison, John Ackers, Keith Macfarlane, Alex Santacreu, Adrian Williams, David Lincoln, Andrea Casalotti, Anita Frizzarin, Michael Johnson, Paul Standeven, Robert Harston

Apologies: Nick Kocharhook, Jono Kenyon

Matters arising from meeting on 11th June 2014

- Following up meeting with Andrew Gilligan on 13th March

Tom had drafted and circulated a document on why ICAG felt it was important to improve Holloway Road for cyclists. It was agreed he would incorporate the comments he'd received and send it as an 'open letter' which would also be posted on the ICAG website.

Kate suggested doing some counts on numbers of cyclists using Holloway Road but it was agreed that this could be done at a later date if more evidence was needed. Kate said that an architect Adrian Betham, a member of the Better Archway Forum (BAF), was going to produce a map of Holloway Road which would be annotated with ideas for improvements, problem areas etc. Tom pointed out how important it was to have a map showing road widths and other measurements and Keith thought he might have one from earlier consultations.

Actions: Tom to send open letter to Andrew Gilligan.

Keith to check his collection of old ICAG papers for plans of Holloway Road and send anything relevant to Kate. Kate to circulate map for BAF and ICAG to annotate with ideas for future improvements.

- Nag's Head

Tom had received an e-mail from Joanna Elmer of TfL assuring him there would be a good cycling track through the area and would arrange a meeting to discuss their revised plans. He, Nick and Jono had met a designer from Sustrans to discuss Seven Sisters Road.

- Bike Week

Alison thanked everyone who had helped at the Festival of Cycling at Finsbury Park and the bike breakfast at Colbrooke Row.

- Dangerous parking bay on Gillespie Road

John is to meet Peter Hazzard, Parking Projects Manager and local councillor and Executive Member for Finance and Performance Andy Hull by Arsenal tube at 8.30am on Monday 14th July and invited anyone who is interested to join him.

- ICAG website

John had made some changes to the ICAG website. Sheridan and Rachel said they would be interested in helping with the website.

- Islington Employment Commission

Michael had attended a public meeting about this last month, which will recommendations on how to get more residents into work. He said that his attempts to getting cycling discussed were not successful but he would draft a submission from ICAG; evidence must be submitted by 15th August. Anita said she had heard of a scheme in Derby in which unemployed people had been given bikes and would circulate the link see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-27407345>

Action: Michael to draft and circulate ICAG submission to Islington Employment Commission

Agenda

1) Meeting Councillors

Tabitha was meeting Claudia Webbe, the new Executive Member for Environment which includes transport, on Tuesday to discuss the importance of cycling to public health and the environment. It was hoped that subsequent meetings would take place to discuss specific issues around Islington.

Anita asked about inviting councillors to the ICAG monthly meetings and Alison felt it would be best for them to attend if something specific to their ward was being discussed. Several new councillors were cyclists and it was agreed it would be good to have a cycling champion within the council. Keith reminded people that councillors hold regular surgeries at which any resident can raise issues.

2) Quietways consultation process

Tom had put piece on the ICAG website about the Quietways and been in touch with ICAG members living around Amwell Street to discuss possible plans for Quietway 38 in that area. Michael had been to the Amwell Street Party and spoken to a resident who was not in favour of reducing vehicle access to the area any further. A meeting with Eshwyn Prabhu in Planning would be arranged to discuss the various schemes that have TfL funding. Eshwyn had asked for ICAG's comments on the new London Cycle Design Standards (LCDS) and it was agreed LCC's comments would be sent to him when available.

Andrea suggested he and Tom prepare a strategy for streets which would include the concept of transport cells, which motor traffic cannot drive through and busy roads take the traffic going around the cell.

Action: Andrea and Tom to draft a strategy for streets.

3) Proposed closure of Tufnell Park underground station

David said there was a proposal to close this station in February for seven months to replace the lifts. It was agreed that this was an opportunity to suggest ways of mitigating the impact of the closure by increasing cycle parking at other nearby stations, having hire bikes available etc. which could a proof of concept for measures that could be used whenever a station is closed.

Action: David agreed to draft a letter to Isabel Dedring, Deputy Mayor, Transport.

4) Direct action on Clerkenwell Road

Andrea said there were various aspects to this such as having the present proposals easily accessible on the web and using videos to illustrate the issues, as well meeting local councillors. There was poor air quality in the area and as well as tying in with Sustrans air quality champion scheme he hoped to get good quality air monitors from the unit at Kings College and work with the environmental lawyers, ClientEarth, on their CleanAir campaign to reduce air pollution in London with a publicity event in September or October. Co-ordination with neighbouring boroughs, especially Camden, was needed and a volunteer would be welcomed. Andrea was also investigating getting metal ramps for a photo call at the unfinished cycle path on the bridge on the Farringdon Road/Clerkenwell Road junction – there had been a piece in the Islington Tribune about this <http://www.camdennewjournal.com/Unfinishedcycleboulevard> and would like to find a graphic designer for publicity leaflets or cards.

Michael said he'd seen lots of pot holes along Clerkenwell Road and offered to do an 'audit' of the street with Andrea. Keith reminded everyone to report potholes via the internet.

Action: Andrea and Michael to do pothole audit of Clerkenwell Road.

Andrea to research cost of getting cards produced.

5) Space for Cycling LCC meeting 15th July 6.30pm

This was being held in a room in the pub the Leather Exchange near the LCC offices. Alison couldn't attend but Keith, Tom, David and Anita may attend.

6) Led ride to FreeCycle on Saturday 9th August

ICAG would lead a feeder ride to St Pauls for this ride when the Embankment and the surrounding area will be closed to all traffic except cyclists.

Action: anyone interested in helping marshal the ride to contact Keith

7) Angel Canal Festival on Sunday 7th September 11am-5pm

ICAG would have a stall there as usual and it would be a good opportunity to publicise Quietway 38 in St Peter's ward.

Action: anyone interested in helping on the stall to contact Alison

Any other business

- Tour of Islington family ride would take place
- City of London Cycling Forum on 31st July.

This was open to anyone. The cycle lane on Beech Street by the Barbican was being reduced and Tom suggested this was raised at the forum.

- Closure of post office at Highbury Corner

Keith had been in touch with Martijn Cooijmans at Islington to see if plans for the removal of the gyratory there would now be revitalised.

- Sustrans children cycle to school

Michael supported this campaign and had had a reply from his MP Emily Thornberry after he'd sent the Sustrans proforma e-mail to her so he wondered if she would influence the council with her support for cycling. It was generally felt that councillors were not necessarily influenced by the national parties.

http://www.sustrans.org.uk/safetoschool/parliamentary-champions?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Sustrans&utm_campaign=4426011_Thank+you+SafeToSchool&dm_i=6EB,2MV4R,GSFLMJ,9MMQ7,1

- Cycling targets of other boroughs

Michael thought it would be interesting to see if other boroughs had targets to increase cycling and what is done elsewhere to promote cycling. Alison suggested this could be raised at the Space for Cycling meeting and Keith said he would speak to Amy at the LCC about it.

- Full council meetings

David said we should ask more questions at full council meetings as by submitting a written question a reply was guaranteed.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th August at the Town Hall, Upper Street N1 at 7.30-9.30pm