

# Ealing Cycling News

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall

April 2013

## Towpath update

Last summer ECC and the council met the new owner of the canals, Canal and River Trust, to discuss towpath improvements. CRT has now carried out a “deep vegetation cut” in preparation for installation of the new hard surfacing. Controlling vegetation growth alongside the canal is probably the single most important factor in avoiding conflict between different types of towpath user. If the path is kept wide enough, conflict need never occur, and the rutting that occurs at narrow points won’t happen.

On 13 February 2013, ECC joined CRT and Colin McKenzie from Ealing Council to inspect the work done. Almost the whole route from Oldfield Lane to Ruislip Road had been widened to the required width of 3.0 metres, but in some places this had not been achieved and bushes were still leaning into the 3 metre zone. CRT will be bringing their contractor back on site to complete the work. Nevertheless the pruning already carried out is a big step forward.



*The tape measure shows the required width*



*Leaning bushes force users towards the canal and result in rutting*

One concern had been that a deep cut could reduce the ambience of the canal – greenery is a crucial element of the canal experience. However the cut has shown that virtually all the encroachment into the 3 metre zone was recent unplanned growth, just as happens with a garden hedge. The crucial thing will be to keep the vegetation maintained in future.

When the resurfacing is complete, this will be a valuable leisure route.

Remember the Canal Code: **Drop the Pace, Share the Space.**

### Next Meeting

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm at our regular venue, Café Grove, 65 The Grove W5 5LL. The next meetings will be on:

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May

### Contact:

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## Crossrail

Detailed plans for the new station at Ealing Broadway are currently expected to be released in June 2013. Following this there will be public consultation. It currently seems unlikely that the plans will include the sort of lifts shown in the Train Companies (ATOC) cycle planning guide (right). But if this is what you would like to see, make sure you make your voice heard when the time for consultation comes.

## Rides rides rides!

Gentle, leisurely or speedy, it's your choice! ECC is offering rides of all flavours to suit all sorts of riders in April.

Our regular monthly ride runs on Sunday 7 April. It's a leisurely ride, so perfect if you enjoy a day out on the cycle at a pace that allows you to chat to other riders; nobody gets left behind.

Our gentle rides start up on Sunday 21 April. This month we're going to Pitshanger Park via Hanwell and the Bunny Park – a short marshalled ride at a gentle pace avoiding traffic where possible. Perfect for practising with a child in a trailer or on a seat, or bring along children on their own bikes. Also spot on for riders of any age or level who are looking to take a short easy ride to build confidence, or simply want to get some gentle exercise in!

And for those that like to range further and faster, we're looking to channel the spirit of 2012 by riding the Olympic road race route once again. This breathtaking 65 mile ride will be ridden at two paces, a speedy pace for those on road bikes and fast hybrids, and a not so speedy pace perfect for those that come on our leisurely rides looking for a bit more of a challenge. **See our rides page at [www.ealingcycling.org.uk](http://www.ealingcycling.org.uk) for full details of all our rides or sign up for email reminders by sending a blank mail to: [ealingcycling-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ealingcycling-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)**



## Ealing Broadway Neighbourhood Forum

The council are currently deciding whether to accept a proposal to create a formal Neighbourhood Forum for Ealing Town Centre.

There is always a danger that umbrella organisations drawing membership from other smaller groups can end up being dominated by a small number of strong-willed individuals, who cannot properly represent the interests of all their member groups. This is why the proper way to run a borough is to have a democratically elected council, and for interest groups such as ECC to communicate directly with the council and not through intermediaries.

However in the case of Ealing Broadway, cycling issues are so important that ECC have written to the council to say that if this Forum proposal goes ahead, we would wish to participate. Between 2001 and 2011 the proportion of people cycling to work from Ealing Broadway and Walpole wards increased by 60%.

A similar proposal has been made for West Ealing Town Centre.

*Peter Mynors*

## Uxbridge Road improvements: Hanwell and West Ealing

A year ago ECC were invited to comment on a consultant's report to the council for improving Hanwell and West Ealing town centres. The proposals have now been further developed and published for consultation. The deadline for responses is **5 April 2013**. Details can be found on the council's website under "current consultations".

Key features include:

- 20mph zones through Hanwell and West Ealing Town Centres;
- Conversion of some sections of bus lane to time-limited mandatory cycle lanes, operational between 7am and 7pm;
- Replacing the traffic signals at Church Road and at Boston Road with small roundabouts;
- Reversal of the direction of flow in Cherington Road;
- Improved pedestrian crossings at various places.

Overall the proposals seem an improvement on present conditions. Whilst the two mini-roundabouts would require cyclists to "take the lane" at the approaches, the scale of these roundabouts is sufficiently compact that most cyclists should not have problems. They are certainly not as large as the Acton roundabout proposal shown in the last issue of Ealing Cycling news, on which discussions continue.

On the plus side, the 20mph zones will assist cyclists, and the time-limited cycle lanes are something ECC have been pressing for along the Uxbridge Road for some time, as a first step towards 24hr mandatory cycle lanes. Their inclusion here is a "first" for the Uxbridge Road and deserves our support.

Please respond to the consultation to make your personal views known.

## Bike Hub news

Ealing Bike Hub continues to run a wide range of courses from basic bike maintenance right up to wheel building and full weekend courses. To book a lesson go to [http://www.ealingbikehub.co.uk/?page\\_id=44](http://www.ealingbikehub.co.uk/?page_id=44)

Second hand bikes are also available for sale and we continue to accept donations of unwanted bikes. We're really keen to get more bikes to work on as we're planning to continue our work with MENCAP with their users to run a long term project with them. This will involve working with their employment and training division and we will provide not only maintenance training but also retail and independent travel opportunities.

As usual people are more than welcome to drop by when we're open to work on their own bikes. We now have a lovely paved back garden which is a great venue in the spring and summer.

*David Eales*

## 50 Sheds of Grey – continued

Following on from the report in our December 2012 issue, planning consent has now been given for the front garden cycle store that was the subject of enforcement investigation. If you are thinking of installing cycle storage in your own front garden, you may find it helpful to download the note on the planning implications of this, recently posted on the ECC website.



*Time limited mandatory cycle lane in Kew. Driving in the cycle lane during hours of operation is an offence.*

## Ealing Studios Presents

a message for those reaching middle age – try Googling:

**Love Actively YouTube**