

Ealing Cycling News

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall
December 2011

Uxbridge Road Cycle Lane

Removed...

... and Restored



with safety gap, after Ealing Cycling Campaign lobbying.

It took a bit of time, but the east-bound cycle lane on the Uxbridge Road at Ealing Common is now back. It was removed in early August and replaced with around 20 parking spaces for cars. Unfortunately this narrowed the east-bound carriageway so that cyclists were squeezed between the twin dangers of car doors opening on their left, and vehicles overtaking on their right. Curiously, the council carried out the work at least a week before the consultation period for the proposals expired. We asked Ealing Council why the work took place before the consultation deadline, but they haven't responded.

Following lobbying by Ealing Cycling Campaign, a new cycle lane was installed between 19th and 21st September. This features a 0.5 metre gap between the parked vehicles and the cycle lane; a standard 1.5 metre cycle lane; and the centre line of the road moved to make the carriageway wider. The result is a great improvement. Moving the centre line allows drivers more room to pass cyclists, and the gap between the lane and parked cars provides some measure of protection from car doors, although the 0.5 metre safety gap is on the small side.

Overall, this scheme is an improvement on this stretch of the Uxbridge Road. Car drivers used to park in the cycle lane – both during its hours of operation, and when it was legal for them to park – and this scheme has solved that problem. But it's not all perfect. Allowing cars to park on this stretch of road during the rush hour means that cyclists now have to negotiate vehicles reversing into parking bays. And drivers of cars pulling out of Fordhook Avenue often nose into and block the cycle lane in order to see past the parked cars.

In the interests of safety, allowing vehicles to park alongside cycle routes is not a good idea. On 6th August Sam Harding was cycling along the Holloway Road when he apparently swerved to avoid an opening car door. He was hit by a bus and killed. Our advice to cyclists is always leave plenty of space between yourself and parked vehicles. Our advice to road planners is to remove this danger from roads with high numbers of cyclists, like the Uxbridge Road. If it is not possible to remove the cars completely, the safety gap is essential. However, we have observed that the markings for the gap have changed one aspect of drivers' behaviour

for the worse. Before the cycle lane was painted in, cars parked completely off the road on the paved area. Now most of them park with their outside wheels partly on the road reducing the safety gap. It's clear that drivers don't understand the concept of the safety gap. Perhaps they need to be better educated, or the parking bays need to be more clearly marked, or parking within the bays needs to be more strictly enforced.

Next Meeting

Instead of our December meeting we will have our Christmas Dinner - for those who have pre-booked.

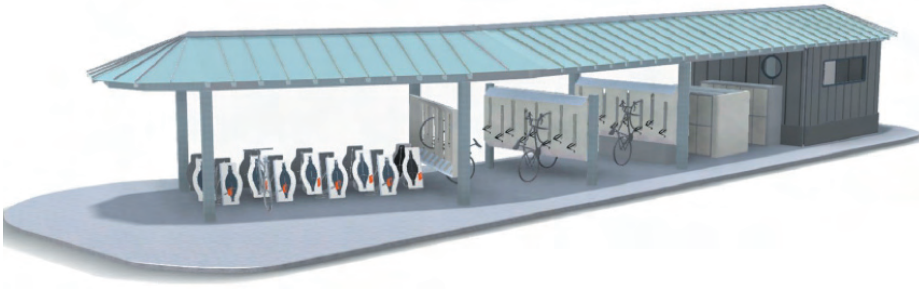
Our next meeting takes place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 4th January at our regular venue, Café Grove, 65 The Grove, W5 5LL.

The following meeting will be on Wednesday 1st February 2012 at the same time and place.

Contact:

info@ealingcycling.org.uk
www.ealingcycling.org.uk

Cycling News



Ealing Broadway Bicycle Hub

In November the council applied for planning permission to construct the new cycle hub at Ealing Broadway. The design - part of which is shown above - is the result of over six months of consultation with local groups.

The number of cycle parking places will increase from the present 74 to 143. To find room for the extra places, the council intends to trial a new design of cycle rack. Bicycles will be held upright by their front wheels which users insert into a rubber 'clamp'. You then pull out an orange han-



dle which enables you to lock the frame and rear wheel of the bike to the stand. As well as providing parking for 123 personal bikes, there will be 20 lockers containing Bromton fold-up bikes that will be available for rental. The stands will be covered by CCTV cameras to increase security.

We are hoping to test the new design of stand before they are installed.

Lido Junction

The Lido junction between the Uxbridge Road and Northfield Avenue has one of the highest rates of pedestrian casualties in the borough. To lower this, the council are planning to add a pedestrian phase to the traffic lights. The proposals also include adding 'stop and block' parking spaces on the north-bound side of Drayton Bridge Road. We've responded to the consultation expressing our objection to the parking spaces as they will make it

more difficult for cyclists to cycle up Drayton Bridge Road. We've also suggested that the junction includes Advanced Stop Lines to make it easier for cyclists to turn right. The junction is at the intersection of two London Cycle Network routes, so we would expect to see at least adequate provision provided for cyclists.

The consultation is open to the public until 16th December. Go to 'Have Your Say' on the council's web site.

Acton Roundabouts

The council is drawing up plans to remove traffic lights from three junctions on the Uxbridge Road in Acton in an attempt to speed up traffic. At Horn Lane the lights would be replaced with a roundabout while at Church Road and the right turn at Acton Lane they would be replaced with mini roundabouts. Given the recent fatalities at Bow roundabout, we will be looking at these proposals very closely.

Council Dr. Bikes

Ealing Council has delivered more Doctor Bike sessions than any other London borough, and sessions continue into winter on Saturday afternoons between 2pm and 5pm. See below:

Hanwell Clock Tower, Uxbridge Road, Hanwell W7

First Saturday of every month.

Acton Market, The Mount/King Street, Acton W3 9NW

Second Saturday of every month

Melbourne Avenue, Ealing W13

Third Saturday of every month.

Southall Park, (next to cricket pitches nr Boyd Avenue entrance) UB1 3HH

Fourth Saturday of every month.

Note there will probably be some changes around Christmas. So check with the council: cycling@ealing.gov.uk

Rides Rides Rides...

We add new rides from time to time, so check our website for the latest details.

www.ealingcycling.org.uk

Sunday 4 December Winter Wonderland

Get festive with a ride to Hyde Park to take in the sights and sounds of Winter Wonderland. Entrance is free, but some of the attractions, such as the ice skating rink, attract a charge.

Those wishing to wear Father Xmas hats, antlers or fairy lights are most welcome, and it's pretty much guaranteed your lead rider will have a shiny red nose!

<http://www.hydeparkwinterwonderland.com/angels-market>

Leader: Paul

Time: Arrive from 9:45am for a prompt 10am departure

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Sunday 1 Jan 2012 Take to the Hills!

Start the new year on a high with a ride taking in the hills of Ealing; Northala Fields, Harrow Hill, Horsenden Hill and Castlebar Hill.

Leader: Murray

Time: Arrive from 9:45am for a prompt 10am departure

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Apology

The October issue of Ealing Cycling News was all ready to send out with London Cyclist, but somewhere along the way the gremlins intervened. Apologies if you didn't get your copy. We've reprinted the main story in this issue.



www.ealingbikehub.co.uk

Ealing Bike Hub offers maintenance courses, second hand bikes, cycle instruction and a host of other services. Bike maintenance is run on the first Saturday of the month