

# Ealing Cycling News

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

## Council Bans Motorbikes in Bus Lanes

### Ealing Biking Borough

Ealing was made a Biking Borough last year - a joint Mayor of London and Ealing Council initiative to promote cycling in the borough. To find out the best way of doing this, the council commissioned a £25K study, to which ECC provided a written response. Following on from this, the council has agreed to set up two Cycling Forum meetings a year. The first was held in December and was attended by Councillor Bassam Mahfouz and representatives from ECC.

One of the ideas discussed was that of 'Cycle Hubs' and what exactly these could be. (Note that these Cycle Hubs are not to be confused with our Cycle Hub workshop in Greenford. They are a slightly nebulous idea that by concentrating cycling resources in one area - 'the hub' - you can attract people to cycling.) Ideas for hubs include a cycle rental facility, a cycle-themed cafe, or safe cycle parking with a workshop attached. If you have any ideas, we'd be keen to hear them. email [info@ealingcycling.org.uk](mailto:info@ealingcycling.org.uk).

To ensure these meeting develop ideas in the best possible direction, it was felt that ECC should invite key people along to the ECC monthly meetings. To prepare for this it was felt we should pick just one idea/topic we wish to propose - David E kindly volunteered to get feedback from members on best topic to raise. Thanks also to those who attended this 1st 'Cycle Forum' meeting.

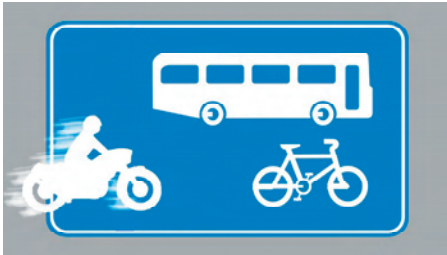
### Next Meeting

We meet on the first Wednesdays of the month.

Our next meeting is at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd February 2011 at our regular venue, Café Grove, 65 The Grove, W5 5LL.

The following meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd March 2011 at the same time and place.

[www.ealingcycling.org.uk](http://www.ealingcycling.org.uk)



Spring 2009



Summer 2011

Now you see them... now you don't. Ealing's trial of motorbikes in bus lanes will come to an end in the summer.

At a cabinet meeting on 22 December Ealing Council decided to end the experiment that allowed motorcycles to use bus lanes in Ealing. The decision was taken after a report showed that there were more collisions and injuries to both motorcyclists and cyclists where motorcycles were allowed into the lanes. Ealing began the trial in early 2009, and was one of several London boroughs, along with Transport for London, that tried the experiment. It is the first London Council to ban motorcycles.

Ealing Cycling Campaign objected to the trial from the start. We felt that allowing motorcyclists into bus lanes would intimidate cyclists, and possibly prove dangerous. The publication of a Transport Research Laboratory report in June last year showed that our concerns were justified. It revealed that where motorcycles were allowed to use bus lanes, there was a significant increase in motorcycle collisions and cycle collisions. The increase in motorcycle collisions was largely due to car drivers turning into or out of junctions across the path of motorcyclists travelling in the bus lane. The TRL report was unable to explain why three times as many cyclists were involved in collisions once motorcycles were allowed in bus lanes, given that there was only one collision between a motorcycle and a bicycle. Ealing Council's report offers an explanation. It suggests that pedal cycles are reacting to

the presence of motorbikes in bus lanes by travelling nearer to the kerb than before, making them less visible to vehicles turning across their path.

The Council also conducted a survey of residents to see how they perceived the trial. It found that cyclists felt disproportionately less safe than other road users. Ealing Council's report noted that this could jeopardise the targets to increase cycling set out in the Council's new Cycling Strategy.

For these reasons the council voted for the ban. It will come into effect between May and August this year when signs will be changed. Approval from TfL will be required for the sections of bus lane in Uxbridge Road and Mandeville Road, as these are part of London's Strategic Road Network.

Ealing Cycling Campaign would like to congratulate the Council on this decision. It's good to see it lead the way on safety in London. This is not a political issue, it's an ethical one, and we wonder why TfL and other councils are dragging their feet. If a trial of a new medicine is shown to cause harm, it is stopped. This trial has clearly been shown to cause harm, and it too should be stopped. How many more motorcyclists and cyclists have to be injured before TfL and other councils follow Ealing's example?

*Martin Gorst*

## Unblocking Acton High Street



On a cold evening in November, Ealing Cycling Campaign carried out a survey on the Uxbridge Road in Acton. We wanted to see how many cyclists use the road after parking restrictions are lifted at 6.30 pm. As we suspected, the evening rush hour for cyclists continued well past this time, with cycle numbers remaining almost at peak levels until after 7.30 pm. This stretch of road is well used by cyclists and we are lobbying the council to amend the parking restrictions here so they remain in force until 8pm. Vehicles parking on both sides of the road turn Acton High Street into a congestion black spot. Often traffic can only flow in one direction at a time, which makes it difficult to pass on a bicycle.

## New Bike Shop to Open

A new cycle shop is planned for Ealing. There Cycling will be sited on the Boston Road in Hanwell, opposite Wickes. The enterprise will be run by Hounslow LCC member Jim Kent, who is hoping to open the store on 10th February. His concept for the store is based on cycle shops he's seen in Copenhagen.

The business will offer town and street bikes made in the UK, Denmark, Holland, Germany and Sweden. "The bikes will be interesting takes on the classic design, excellent quality and great to ride", says Jim. "I will have a workshop too. The business will incorporate lifestyle, art and fashion and also be aimed much more at women than most cycle shops."

Jim is keen on developing cycling culture in the area. He plans to come along to our February meeting on Wednesday 2nd Feb, so if you want to hear about his plans, come along.

## Rides Rides Rides...

The first ride of the year had a huge turnout of 62 cyclists from 6 groups. There is a full report on our website [www.ealing-cycling.org.uk](http://www.ealing-cycling.org.uk).

### Sunday 6th March 2011 Garden Suburbs

A return visit to see the garden suburbs of West London. This ride is now featured in *The London Cycle Guide: 30 Great Routes for Exploring the Capital*.

Leader: Elly

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

### Sunday 3rd April 2011 Olympic Arena

A chance to head out east and check out the arenas and general area of the Olympics.

Leader: Brian

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

### Sunday 1st May 2011 Mystery

Every ride is different - no clues until nearer the time.

Leader: Tim & Miranda

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

## CYCLE MAINTENANCE COURSES

Adults living, working or studying in Ealing who have taken some cycle training can sign-up for a FREE one-day bike maintenance course sponsored by Ealing Council!

Haven't taken a cycle training lesson? Call us on FREEPHONE 0800 093 6454 or complete a 'request a lesson' form at [www.cycletraining.co.uk](http://www.cycletraining.co.uk). Only £5 for a 2-hour one-to-one lesson with a professional instructor at a location near you! Maintenance courses are now running in two locations- Ealing Broadway (W5) or Bermondsey (SE16). Spaces are Limited! Please call Andy Lennard on 020 7232 4390 to book a place.

### Ealing Broadway dates

Basic Maintenance : Sat Feb 5th  
Basic Maintenance : Sat Feb 26th  
Basic Maintenance : Mar 19th



The 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, and follow up lessons on brakes, gears and cleaning are also available. The introduction course is a 4 hour session covering: spotting problems on the bike, rear wheel removal, punctures and general advice on cycling. You can book online at [www.ealingbikehub.co.uk](http://www.ealingbikehub.co.uk). Spoke adjustment is available and wheel building is being planned.

The Ealing Bike Hub is now in its second year. Initially started with a grant from Transport for London via the Community Cycling Fund for London it is now gearing up for another busy year with more courses added in the warmer months. These extra sessions cover more advanced topics such as gears and brakes, as well more unusual subjects such as trailer building workshops and pedal powered generators. Regular sessions are also open to everyone to drop by and seek advice and use our tools. At the end of 2010 the Ealing Bike Hub was recognised by TfL for the work done so far. In the LCC Community Fund for London awards we received special recognition in the Community Cycling category. A huge thanks to everyone that has taught, helped, donated bikes and accessories.

David Eales

### Bermondsey dates:

Basic Maintenance: Sat 12th Feb, Sun 20th Feb, Sat 5th Mar and Sat 26th Feb  
Basic Maintenance (women only): Sun 6th Feb  
Basic Maintenance (Brompton only): Sat 19th Feb and Sat 12th Mar  
Intermediate Maintenance: Sun 27th Feb and Sun 20th Mar

### Dr Bike Sessions

Location	Date	Time
Hanwell Clock Tower	Sat 5 Feb	12 noon - 4pm
Hanwell Clock Tower	Sat 5 Mar	12 noon - 4pm
Acton Market	Sat 12 Feb	10 am - 1pm
Acton Market	Sat 12 Mar	10am - 1pm