

Ealing Cycling News

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall
June 2012

Now LORRIES!! in bus lanes

First it was motorbikes, then Addison Lee cabs, now the cyclist's relatively safe haven faces a new threat. The new TfL scheme for the A312 Church Road in Northolt includes a proposal to allow HGVs to share the bus lanes. The scheme, although described as a safety proposal, appears suspiciously like part of TfL's infamous 'traffic smoothing' policy that has been blamed for the deaths of several cyclists. The proposal will allow HGVs to use the bus lanes between White Hart and Target roundabouts.

According to TfL, the idea behind the scheme is to reduce vehicle speeds. To persuade motorists to obey the 30mph speed limit on Church Road, TfL plans to narrow the lanes. This, they say, "will encourage people to drive more cautiously". However, they plan to make them so narrow that large HGVs will overhang the inside lane. To prevent this, they plan to allow them to use the bus lane. This will mean that HGVs will be able to use both lanes.

By artificially creating the problem of narrow lanes, TfL have found an excuse to try and breach the fundamental principle that HGVs are never allowed into bus lanes. They could solve the speeding problem more cheaply, and more efficiently using pairs of average speed cameras at either end of the road. Needless to say we will be taking the matter up with TfL, but if you are concerned at this alarming precedent and where it might lead, then please reply to the consultation before 19th June:

<http://alturl.com/xt76t>

or use the QR code:



Next Meeting

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Our July meeting takes place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 4th July at our regular venue, Café Grove, 65 The Grove, W5 5LL.

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

Contact:

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

The Big Ride



A big thank you to everyone who turned up to the Big Ride in support of LCC's *Go Dutch* campaign. Despite the pouring rain around 70 cyclists, in two groups, assembled at Ealing Town Hall and pedalled into central London. At Speaker's Corner we met up with around ten thousand cyclists from all over the capital, and set off to cycle through traffic-free streets to the Embankment. The crowd of cyclists that stretched from Picadilly Circus all the way back to Hyde Park Corner was an unforgettable sight.



Wanted - Ride Leaders

As you will see overleaf we have a lot of rides planned for this coming summer, but we need help! As our reputation grows, our rides are becoming more popular. To avoid the groups becoming too large, we would like to run two or more rides at the same time. To do this we need more ride leaders, marshals, backstops and mechanics. If you can help out in any of these roles, or would like training to lead a ride, contact Paul James via info@ealingcycling.org.uk



www.ealingbikehub.co.uk

All Ability Cycling

We have obtained a grant to start an all ability cycling club. This will entail the purchase of some special tricycles and will see us working with Ealing MENCAP over the rest of the year. This is a very exciting project and we hope will expand over time with more types of bikes and encourage riders from further afield to take part.

The project will see some MENCAP staff trained to keep the bikes running as well as a number of led rides and events at the centre. The project will be more than just cycling as we plan to partner with other projects run at the centre such as giving clients a chance to run a booking system, gain some retail experience and some basic bike maintenance skills.

NLDC (Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities) training

The learning in the community project has almost ended with us exceeding the target of the number of people trained, however the free sessions did highlight that if a course is free not everyone that books a place turns up and we had a disappointingly large number of no-shows.

Cycling with children

We have obtained some funding to extend our cycling with children scheme and plan to buy some more child seats and other equipment and hopefully run this over the border in Hounslow.

Bike maintenance sessions

Ealing Bike Hub continues to offer bicycle maintenance for all levels, from complete beginners on the first Saturday of the month as well as a Brompton bicycle course on 9th June. We also offer help and advice on a drop-in basis but be prepared to work on your own bike under supervision. The back garden where the workshop is based has just had a radical make over and will allow us to run our cleaning, brakes & gears courses in a much nicer environment!

Ealing Broadway Bicycle Parking

Work is well underway on the new cycle parking facility at Ealing Broadway. The designer of the new bike racks is Tim Hill-Baldwin of HB designs, a company based in Wiltshire. On a site visit in May he updated Ealing Cycling Campaign on the progress so far, and explained how the new cycle racks will work.

The first challenge has been preparing the site. The team have had to remove old concrete from around tree roots, aerate the ground, pump in nutrients for the trees (mushroom compost to feed the roots), re-align the kerb, blow out drains that hadn't been cleaned in years, and finally put in the foundations for the racks and the shelters.

The building will have a stainless steel roof to cope with the acid lime tree sap. There is no gutter, as it would quickly fill with tree leaves. The design avoids trusses, so there will be nowhere for birds to perch and defecate on the bikes below. Air dried oak pillars will support the roof. Graffiti can be sanded or shot blasted off. Inside, LED lighting will come on at night. There will always be a low warm ambient light, but movement detectors will brighten the lights when anyone walks inside. Ten CCTV cameras will

cover the stands.

The old cabmen's shelter has been removed and a new one will be built. The original dated from about 1900, but it had a more recent structure built around it, and it wasn't in a good-enough state to be preserved. The new facility will have heating and a toilet for taxi and bus drivers.

Next to the new cabbies' shelter, there will be 20 Brompton lockers, in two layers of 10. They will be filled with Bromptons which people will be able to hire.

The rest of the space will be filled with the new HB cycle stands. To park your bike, you push the front wheel into the stand. A sheet of silicon rubber holds the front wheel, including the forks. You then pull out a metal



handle that reaches close to the back wheel of the bike and you lock your frame and rear wheel to this. The handle is on a gas strut so that it will automatically slide back in when no bike is parked there.

The move away from the simple and reliable Sheffield stands is to accommodate more bikes. On a brief trial the new stands have some distinct advantages. The silicone rubber seems to hold the bikes well, and there appears to be just enough space between bikes to access the locking handle. As each bike has its own designated space, you don't have the problem of wrestling with the handlebars of another bike on a Sheffield stand. It's also good that a single bike lock will securely hold your frame and both wheels. Once the front wheel is held by the stand, and the rear wheel and frame are locked to the handle, it appears impossible to pull the bike out far enough to remove the front wheel.

On the prototype, the locking handle was hard to pull out. It will be simpler on the final version, but it will still require the right technique. The stands are also not designed for small-wheeled bikes like Bromptons, but they should accommodate almost all other bikes, including those with baskets.

Bike week

16-24 June

Sat 16 Jun - Doctor Bike and Stall, Ealing Green

From 10am until 4pm join us on Ealing Green, at the bottom of Bond Street opposite Pitshanger Manor, where Doctor Bike will be present to check over your bike and resolve any minor problems. There will also be people on hand to give advice on all things cycling, cycle maps & leaflets.

Sun 17 Jun - Family Ride

Suitable for families with small children. Short ride to a local leisure spot - bring a picnic. Depart 10am Ealing Town Hall steps, return 4pm ish.

Wed 20 Jun - Sunset Ride

Gentle ride along the river to watch the Sun go down from Richmond Hill. Remember to bring your bike lights for the ride back. Meet outside Ealing Town Hall. Depart 7pm.

Sat 23 Jun - Acton Park

From 11am until 3pm join us in Acton Park on the grass area by the cafe, where Doctor Bike will be present to check over your bike. The latest cycle maps and leaflets will also be available on our information stall.

Sun 24 Jun - Gentle Ride for Children and Beginners

Suitable for families with small children. Quiet route to local Park - bring a picnic. Depart 10am Ealing Town Hall steps, return 3pm.

Doctor Bikes

In addition to the above events provided by Ealing Cycling Campaign, the Council will be providing Doctor Bike sessions. Details at www.ealing.gov.uk.

Calendar

July - December

Leisurely Rides

A relaxing and enjoyable day out on the bike, nobody gets left behind! Leisurely rides run on the first Sunday of the month, with extra rides in summer. Keep an eye on our web site for late additions. Arrive Ealing Town Hall from 9.30am for a prompt 10am departure.

Sun 1 Jul	Olympic Park
Sun 5 Aug	Wraysbury River or Wimbledon Windmill
Sun 2 Sep	Mayor of London's Sky Ride
Sun 7 Oct	Herne Hill Velodrome
Sun 4 Nov	Alexandra Palace
Sun 2 Dec	Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park

Gentle Rides

Short, easy, cycle path based rides at a very slow pace to a local park. Great for kids, adults with kids on trailers or seats, beginners or those returning to cycling after a break. Third Sunday of the month during Summer months. Arrive Ealing Town hall from 9.30am for a prompt departure.

Speedy Rides

Longer rides (50 miles plus) travelling at a speedy pace.

Sun 8 Jul	Hilly Chilterns
Sun 16 Sep	Box Hill

With more in the planning stages!

New rides are being announced all the time. Rides are also subject to change and possible cancellation. Please check the rides page at www.ealingcycling.org.uk for the most up-to-date information.



Web www.ealingcycling.org.uk



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