

Ealing Cycling News

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

Annual General Meeting

We meet on the first Wednesdays of the month.

Our next meeting is the **Annual General Meeting**. All paid up members of LCC are entitled to vote - bring your membership card. It takes place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 5th October at our regular venue, Café Grove, 65 The Grove, W5 5LL.

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

Contact:

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

Cycling News



Ealing Broadway Bicycle Hub

The council are continuing to develop this in consultation with local groups. There was some opposition from taxi drivers who wanted to preserve the derelict wooden taxi hut - which hasn't been used since the 1960s. The result of these consultations is a new design - above. We are meeting the council on 4th October to hear the latest news. We're hoping that the planning application will go in around this time.

Gears without Tears



This was one of many events we ran during the summer. The three-hour session - including coffee - combined training on how to get the best out of your gears and then testing the theory on some hills. Twenty-one people attended and the hill by Gunnersbury house was used.

Farmers' Market

The day before the Skyride a stall and Dr Bike was organised at the West Ealing Farmers' Market. It was well advertised and 27 bikes were fixed during the day.

Brentford Festival

Jon organised a stall at the Brentford Festival, at Boston Manor Park, on the same day as the Skyride, and despite some rain a steady flow of people came to the stall and a huge pile of map 6's were given out by the end of the day. Overall a good event.

Sky Ride



Ben provided superb organisation to ensure our biggest ride of the year went off professionally and enjoyably. Around 104 people took part in our three rides into the traffic-free route in the centre of London. All seemed to enjoy the day despite the rather changeable weather.

Numbers were down on last year. This was possibly due to less publicity, the fact that there were several other events going on on the same day, or - perhaps more likely - the forecast of torrential rain.

Council Dr. Bikes

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

Hanwell Clock Tower, Uxbridge Road, Hanwell W7

1 October, 5 November, 3 December

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

8 October, 12 November, 10 December

Southall Park, UB1 3HH

22 October, 26 November

Melbourne Avenue, Ealing W13

15 October, 19 November, 17 December

Opposite Greenford Town Hall
29 October

Rides Rides Rides...

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

www.ealingcycling.org.uk

Sunday 2nd October 2011 RAF Hendon

The RAF museum has five free exhibition halls, with displays of aircraft covering the last 100 years. It's a great place for adults and children alike.

There is a café, a restaurant as well as indoor and outdoor picnic areas so you're welcome to bring your own packed lunch. We expect to be at the museum for two to three hours, so please do bring locks.

<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/>

Leader: Murray

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

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Sunday 6th November Mystery Ride

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

Leader: Tim & Miranda

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

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Editor Wanted

If you fancy editing this newsletter, please get in touch. We're looking for someone to edit every other issue. So that's three issues a year. Please contact info@ealingcycling.org.uk.



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