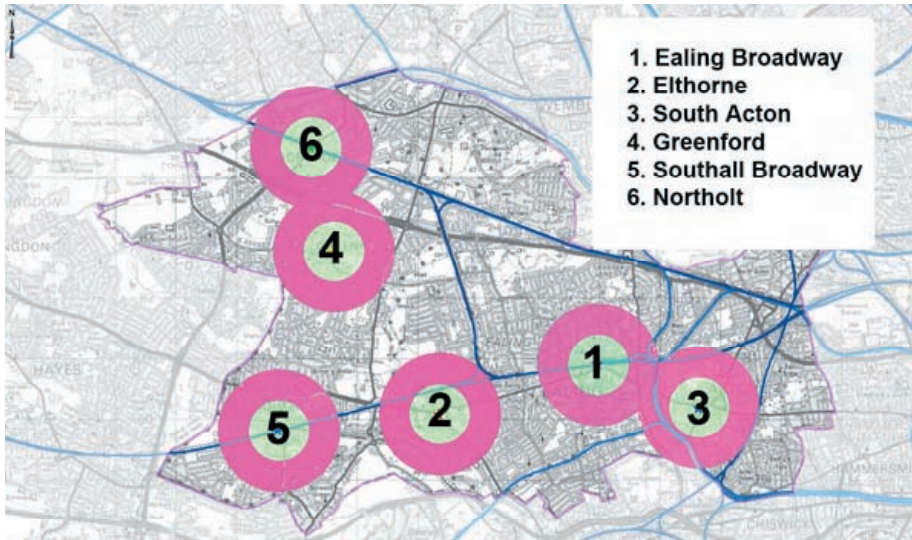


# Ealing Cycling News

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall  
December 2010

## Council Launches Cycling Strategy



The six 'cycle hubs' proposed for Ealing

On 22nd October, Ealing Council launched its Cycling Strategy for the next six years. The strategy aims to increase the number of trips made by bicycle in Ealing, and calls for the creation of 'cycle hubs' in the borough to create a 'local culture of cycling'.

### Targets

The strategy includes three main targets. The first is to treble the number of cycle trips in the borough by 2026, from around 12,400 on an average weekday to 38,750. The second is to improve safety and reduce the rate of killed and seriously injured cyclists per journey by 30% by 2026, from one every 300,000 trips, to one every 440,000 trips. The final target is to halve the number of bicycles stolen per cycle trip in the Borough.

### Hubs

Top of the list of initiatives is the creation of six 'cycle hubs' in the Borough. The council is vague on what a cycle hub will be. Its strategy document defines it as "an area, neighbourhood or corridor that shows strong potential for growth in cycling", and "a location where innovative ideas for cycling can be piloted". According to the council's press release, "hubs will be located in areas with a high concentration of cyclists. Lighting and bike parking will

be improved to increase convenience and security." The six hubs will be Ealing Broadway, South Acton, Southall Broadway, Elthorne, Northolt and Greenford.

### Cycling Champion

The council has also introduced a "Political Champion for Cycling" - a senior councillor who will be responsible for implementing the strategy. Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, cabinet member for Transport and Environment has taken on this role. In a statement he laid out the council's support for cycling. "We need to continue to break down the barriers to cycling and show people how convenient and safe it is. The council is committed to making cycling as easy as possible for residents and we will continue to prioritise funding towards improvements that benefit bike riders. The creation of cycling hubs, focuses our resources and enables us to make a real difference for cyclists - we really want to encourage people to use their bike every day for commuting or regular trips around town."

### Other Initiatives

Among other proposals in the strategy are:

Extending off-road routes.

Building on existing cycle training and continuing to provide advice to new or existing cyclists.

Continuing highway engineering schemes to break down barriers which inconvenience or endanger cyclists.

Improving cycle parking

Improving station access and integration with rail.

Setting up bike recycling scheme(s)

### Cycle Superhighway

The strategy document raises the possibility that the proposed Cycling Superhighway along the A40, may instead run along the Uxbridge Road.

## Can the council deliver?

As a major stakeholder in the borough we were invited to the launch of the new Cycling Strategy. The great and good were gathered, including cycling heads from several London councils, the new LCC chief executive, borough police and other interested parties. The strategy is a landmark document and we will be actively engaged with the council and the newly appointed cycle champion to help improve facilities for cyclists in Ealing. Our first formal meeting is planned for December.

We hope that the strategy marks a sea-change in the council's attitude to cycling. In the past it has sometimes promoted itself as cycle-friendly, while quietly making conditions worse for cyclists. Earlier this year, under the previous administration, the council removed a stretch of cycle lane along the Uxbridge Road in West Ealing and replaced it with six 'Stop and Block' car parking bays. Although it was obliged to consult with us, it didn't tell us that it was removing a cycle lane - it only mentioned that it was removing 'existing road markings'.

More recently the council has extended a trial scheme to allow motorcyclists to use bus lanes, despite the fact that many cyclists find this frightening. Initial evidence shows that this policy actually causes more collisions and injuries to motorcyclists. If further evidence bears this out, we expect to see this temporary provision quickly dropped.

*Martin Gorst*

# Review of the Year



Ealing Cycling Campaign leads the campaign to improve access to Ealing Station

Our demonstration in September to publicise the need for improved station access at Ealing Broadway, was just one of the highlights in a successful year. It grabbed front page headlines in the Ealing Gazette. For several years we have been pushing the station authorities to improve facilities for the many people who find it difficult or impossible to use the steps at Ealing Broadway, and the campaign is finding growing political and cross-party support.

While we are critical of some of the council's policies elsewhere in this newsletter, it must get full marks for holding the massive Sky Ride in Ealing in July. It was a tremendous event and revealed just how many people will take to the roads if you make them safe.

Among the many events we organised were two huge rides into the central London Sky Ride with around 200 cyclists on each ride. In the past year we have led more social rides than ever, and these have continued to grow in popularity.

In March we launched the Ealing Bike Hub - probably the biggest development since we started 10 years ago. The hut in Greenford gives us - for the first time - our own dedicated venue for maintenance

classes, and much more. It promises to become a base for teaching new trainers, and spreading these skills into the wider community.

Meanwhile: our monthly meetings have steadily attracted more and more people; we're helping Hounslow LCC restart; we've won several grants - large and small; completed a cycle parking survey; consulted for the Biking Borough report; re-engaged community groups from scouts to housing estates, and are in the process of liaising with the council to improve cycle facilities in Acton. It must be time to put our feet up and enjoy some mince pies.

## AGM

Our Annual General Meeting took place in October and there are some changes. Sav stepped down as ride leader after a great year where the rides have grown and grown and Paul is taking this position over. Andy is taking a breather from press and media relations and Tim Earley has taken over this. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard in 2010 and we look forward to an even better 2011.

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting - on Wednesday 1st December - is replaced by our Christmas meal (pre-booking required). The following meeting will be on Wednesday 5th January 2011. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at our regular venue, Café Grove, 65 The Grove, W5 5LL at 7.30pm.

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

### Council Dr Bike Sessions this winter

Location	Date	Time
Hanwell Clock Tower	Sat 4 Dec	12 noon - 4pm
Hanwell Clock Tower	Sat 22 Jan	12 noon - 4pm
Acton Market	Sat 11 Dec	10 am - 1pm
Acton Market	Sat 8 Jan	10am - 1pm

The first year of the Ealing Bike Hub is drawing to an end with over 100 people passing through the doors plus countless others dropping by to work on their bikes, buy or hire our bikes and donate parts and even whole bikes. Thanks to everyone who has spared the time to actually teach, help or generally work behind the scenes.

We are shortlisted for a NatWest community fund grant - and will hear about that by the end of the year. Lessons for next year are already being booked up including the secondary lesson covering gears and brakes and we hope to run some more specialised ones such as the pedal powered generator and trailer building days.

The place is looking brighter now as the ceiling is replaced and some suppliers have donated some display boards and posters.

In 2011 there will be some big news too around the Bike Hub we hope - in the mean time thanks again for everyone involved.

*David Eales*

## Rides Rides Rides...

### Sunday 5th December 2010 Borough Market

Do your Christmas shopping, or stock up on your favourite foods on our trip to Borough Market in South East London.  
[www.boroughmarket.org.uk](http://www.boroughmarket.org.uk)  
Leader: Brian  
Time: 10.00am prompt  
Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

### Sunday 2nd January 2011 New Year Bike Ride

18 mile bike ride via canals & side roads. Visiting Hillingdon cycle circuit, BMX track, viewpoint over Heathrow, Little Britain lake, hidden zoo & a manor house.

Flat route, ideal for beginners. Perfect post Christmas ride.  
Refreshments: Coffee break at Moons at Stockley, Pub at end.  
Ride ends at the Black Horse, Oldfield Lane, Greenford, UB5 6PE  
Leader: Brian  
Time: 10.00am prompt  
Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5