

## Notes from the meeting held on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 via Zoom @ 3 pm

1. **Welcome from the Chair:** Terry welcomed everyone to the meeting and there had been one apology for absence from Patrick and one from Sean who said he was on a bike ride with his 5-year-old son (for charity) and would join and say hello at some point during their ride. **In attendance were** Terry (Chair), Jeff (Secretary & notes), Nick, Andy, Emma, Alison, Mark, Nicola, Dave and Sue.
2. The **Previous meeting notes** were accepted as an accurate account of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February and the Outstanding Actions from that meeting were:
  - a. Terry reported that the Signage Training from Sustrans had been completed.
  - b. Jeff reported that he had spoken to the Parks Development Officer for Hornchurch Country Park and established that the warning signs for the newly erected railings were to be installed by Havering Council.
  - c. The cycle route affected by roadworks in Waterloo Road had thrown up a new set of issues. Mark indicated that he had noted the problems and sent them to the appropriate Council Officer. **ACTION** Mark to circulate any information received.
  - d. The cycling fatalities in Marsh Way in South Hornchurch had been taken up by the local Member of Parliament and a response, of sorts, had been received by the MP whose office had sent it to Jeff. **This matter is ongoing.**
  - e. Dangerous shared cycling/pedestrian path at A1306/A13 junction roundabouts. Terry reported that this matter was 'ongoing' and would report on any progress at the next meeting. **ACTION** Terry to report back at next meeting.
  - f. Terry reported that there had still been no reply from Stewart Dring of LCC by we had pushed on and created a risk assessment and made some other plans to advertise when the current Covid restrictions were lifted. Nick said that we currently had five volunteers who were willing to be 'leaders.'
  - g. Terry reported that he had written to the Cabinet Member for Environment on Havering Council and received a 'holding' email from his assistant. See next item for all matters that had been complained about.

- h. Jeff reported that he had still not received a reply from Stewart Dring (LCC) regarding hospital bicycle checks. He also said that he had not contacted Martin Day and would leave it until the next CLG where it could be raised again.

**Other additional issues raised at this point were:**

- a. The 'kissing gates' linking Berwick Glades and Bonnets Wood had been reported to Forestry UK and Alison added that she had spoken to someone about them and they admitted that the gates had been installed wrongly. **ACTION** Terry/Alison to monitor any progress.
- b. Dave raised the issue of Gallows Corner and the lack of action despite certain politicians mentioning it. Could candidates for GLA elections in May be invited to our meeting via Zoom next month? **ACTION** Jeff to follow up.

**3. Remedial actions update:**

- a. The hazardous ramp joint in Rainham. Partially fixed with temporary ramp installed. **ACTION** To be raised again at CLG
- b. The missing speed humps in Marshalls Drive. **Included in email to Cllr. Dervish**
- c. Narrow re-installed cycle lanes in Collier Row. **Included in email to Cllr. Dervish**
- d. The wrongly installed rumble strips. **Included in email to Cllr. Dervish**
- e. Possible measures arising from the two cyclist fatalities in Marsh Way. **ACTION** Jeff & Terry to feedback any more information received.
- f. The alternative cycle route through the Waterloo Estate during redevelopment works. **ACTION** Mark to feedback any information regarding the new Toucan crossing.

**4. Cycle Buddies** – Nick reported on progress so far and for the sake of a 'launch' when the time is right, the following suggestions were mentioned:

- a. A press release?
- b. Posters?
- c. Advertise on local radio stations i.e., Time FM/Essex Radio/Heart?
- d. Advertise in the Bulletin (RAs)
- e. Contact the Travel Co-ordinator at BHR Hospitals Trust?

**ACTION** Nick to consider all of the above and report back at next meeting.

**5. Marsh Way** – Jeff reported on information that he had received from the office of Jon Cruddas MP, which was in relation to the two tragic accidents in Marsh Way. Email copied below:

Dear Mr Cruddas MP

**RE: RECENT FATAL ACCIDENTS IN MARSH WAY, RAINHAM**

Thank you for your letter dated, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We have noted the suggestions about opening a cycle route between Rainham Steel linking to Fairview Industrial Park and CEME via the existing footbridge.

We can confirm that the Council is aware about the tragic accidents which involved cyclists in both incidents. Officers have visited the site along with the Metropolitan Police and Transport for London. The Police will be submitting a report to the Coroner's Court. As it is a confidential report, we will be provided with the recommendations, if any, after the hearing for the Borough to action.

In the interim, our officers are also examining measures for cycle routes in Marsh Way, between A1306 and Fairview Industrial Park. Once the cycle facilities have been designed Havering Council will have to identify the funding source as most of the funds for large schemes are allocated by Transport for London through the Local Implementation Plan which all London Boroughs submit on an annual basis for grant allocations.

We trust that the foregoing has adequately addressed your request on this matter.

Kind regards

**Miss Price | Challenge Officer**

London Borough of Havering | Environment  
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford RM1 3BB

6. **Event Planning** – Nick shared a spreadsheet and explained how events could take place throughout the summer when Covid restrictions are relaxed. It was **AGREED** that Nick should circulate one more time to all members of Havering Cyclists in case there were any other ideas forthcoming. **ACTION** Nick to circulate to group.
7. **Membership contact** – After a brief discussion about the creation of a WhatsApp group for Havering Cyclists, it was **AGREED** that Andy would create the group once individuals had supplied him with their mobile number IF they wanted to be part of it. **ACTION** Andy to create WhatsApp group. Terry announced the current contact statistics from the website and social media:

a. Facebook	354
b. Twitter	465
c. Website followers	39
d. Website Visitors	699 in January
e. Ditto	593 in February
- Terry also explained that he had reorganised the menus on the website.
8. **Community Engagement** – Terry introduced this new topic and suggested communication to a wider audience for all that Havering Cyclists stand for. Discussion followed and the following organisations were suggested as a good place to start:
  - a. Havering BME
  - b. WI groups
  - c. Over 50s Club

- d. Secondary School Councils
- e. School PTA/PFA groups both primary and secondary
- f. Hornchurch life
- g. ECO Community group serving Hornchurch & Elm Park

**ACTION** Terry to follow up and please let him know the details of any other groups to be considered.

9. **Havering Cyclists Aspirations/Priorities** – Terry explained the purpose of this subject and explained that the spreadsheet was, for the moment, complete.

**ACTION** Terry to circulate the spreadsheet again in case there were any amendments required.

10. **New issues** arising from members – Discussions centred on the following:

- a. The passing of cyclists by cars being too close. Various examples of where this happens regularly were given. **ACTION** Terry to widen the subject on Facebook page and note the response from others.
- b. Mayoral & GLA elections in May and the lobbying of candidates. Sadiq Kath, Shaun Bailey & Sian Berry (Green) and Keith Prince, Judith Garfield & Lee Burkwood (Green) to be invited to next Havering Cyclists meeting in April?  
**ACTION** Jeff to investigate the possibility of this happening.
- c. A question about secure bicycle parking in Havering was asked. General discussion concluded that a gold standard D lock was probably the best answer or two locks, one front and back to a cycle stand. It was felt that Havering hadn't done a bad job in the provision of bike stands throughout the Borough.
- d. A question was asked about reporting potholes. It would seem that although there is a link to do so on Havering's website, it doesn't always work!!

11. **Date of next meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 @ 15.00**

12. **Other business:**

- a. Nicola referred to a "Business Improvement Bid" in Exeter and felt that this was worth exploring in Havering with regard to funding for cycling improvements in Havering. **ACTION** Jeff to investigate and report back.
- b. Jeff reported on a webinar he had attended recently [E-cargo bikes in action local authority case studies 18th March 2021.pdf - Google Drive](#)
- c. Jeff raised the issue of bike hire in Hornchurch Country Park and an idea he is working on. He would report back next meeting on its progress.
- d. Terry explained an idea Havering Cyclists had thought of just prior to Covid kicking in which was a "Cycling Charter" in Havering for businesses and all sorts of organisations who might wish to sign up. He felt that it might be worth trying to launch it again when Covid restrictions are more relaxed.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 5 pm**