

Richmond Cycling Campaign

Minutes on Annual Meeting held on 14 January 2013

Present

John Head (Chair), Rob Hindle, Guy Wheeler, Katherine Henry, Susan Scorer, Mel Grech, Kevin Campbell, Anthony Paish, Paul Luton, Andrew Woodward, Ian Lyall, Jonathan Gurney, Simon Burrell, Tim Lennon.

Apologies from Sue Abel, Kulbir Natt

1. The minutes of the Annual meeting held on 12 December 2011 were accepted as a correct record.
2. Annual report from the Chair

The following activities involving direct contact with cyclists and potential cyclists have been carried out during the year:

Rides: Organiser: Paul Luton.

Turning Hub: Organiser Jonathan Rowland: Katharine Henry

Publicity has been obtained a) via the local press, b) from RCC stalls at public events e.g. Richmond May Fair, and c) via the website. Alastair was thanked for his hard work on the website and liaising with the press.

Campaigning

This has consisted mostly of responding to the council's invitations to consult on various highway schemes. Schemes where we responded were: Barnes, Hampton Wick, Teddington railway bridge, Upper Richmond Road West, Whitton and Twickenham. Of these, Twickenham is by far the biggest council project and we strongly objected to the omission of facilities for cycling in the original plan. This has now been to some extent rectified and we are carefully watching how the scheme develops.

The conclusions from the campaigning during the last year are that we need to select and focus on a limited number of issues from the large number of issues which actually exist. To work effectively, this requires organisation and more people to become actively involved.

Some possible issues which have been identified in recent discussions are:

Cycling to school

A316 problems

Lower Mortlake Road

Parking, especially at big shops.

Our campaigning has been conducted jointly by the Cyclists Touring Club, Cycling Embassy of Great Britain and Richmond Cycling Campaign. We have adopted the practice of agreeing a policy on an issue before meeting the council and all those involved advocate that policy to the council and also in public. This has proved very effective.

Finally, we should not allow the Go Dutch campaign to fade away, because this provides a means of facilitating the necessary culture shift regarding travel on the roads which is needed to obtain safe cycling. Just as Go Dutch was the theme of LCC during the London Mayoral elections, and this achieved considerable success, so it should be in our borough council elections in May 2014.

3. Elections and selection of volunteers for jobs

The chair described the method of working which has evolved within RCC. Effectively, we have a committee comprising office holders who seldom meet but who communicate via email. This has been an effective method of arriving at decisions. New office holders will be added to this email network.

Nominations or volunteers were requested for the positions shown on the agenda.

The following were agreed by the meeting:

Chair John Head

Vice Chair Katharine Henry

Treasurer Jonathan Gurney

Campaigns Coordinator Tim Lennon

Rides Coordinator Paul Luton

Communications Coordinator Alastair Barr

Cycling To School Andrew Woodward

A316/Tfl issues Paul James

LCC liaison Place not filled

4. Cycle to Work initiative

Katharine described the Cycle to Work project which she is carrying out at Richmond College which is funded by Richmond council via the Cycling Liaison Group. At this stage, the project is aimed at staff, not pupils. Trainers provide one to one training and group training in on offer. Twelve people, all women, have responded so far. The project has been funded by TfL but it is hoped that in view of its success some funding from Richmond council will be available which would allow the project to continue. The council's Safety Officer is involved in the project. Sustrans publicity material has been distributed and discounts have been negotiated with local cycle shops.

5. The meeting ended after an informal discussion on Go Dutch initiated by Kevin Campbell who suggested that this is unrealistic in London owing to the lack of space.

During this discussion, it was pointed out that The London Mayor is committed, from the mayoral election, to implement some Go Dutch schemes and that TfL is funding part of the Twickenham scheme. There will be a review of the scheme by TfL in March and to speak at the review it is necessary to apply in advance.

Tim Lennon will organise this and Mel Grech will ask LCC how they could help.

Action: Tim and Mel