

Richmond Cycling Campaign – a look back at 2012



January

- CLG meeting on 9th Jan
- Good weather meant there was a big turn out of 30 riders for our annual Box Hill ride – you can read reports on all our rides in 2012 - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/tag/ride-report>
- Twickenham saga continued with the 2nd public consultation for the Twickenham Area Action Plan. The RCC submission was to be one of the most detailed from any body - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/RCC-TAAP-Response-080220122.pdf>
- The first 'Ride for Everyone' of 2012 took a scenic route along the Thames to Chiswick
- We commented back on two road schemes – A310 Twickenham Road and Hampton Court Roundabout and Kew Bridge - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/01/26/its-good-to-talk-council-highway-engineering-schemes>

February

- Bad weather stopped the planned 'Ride for Explorers' to the Olympic Park but there was a good turn out for the 'Ride for Everyone' to Bushy Park
- On the Campaign front, the request for wheeling channels at the proposed Manor Road railway footbridge, a refusal to add cycle lanes to Clifford Avenue, news of secure parking at Teddington Railway station and cars using the London Road cycle lane in Twickenham all featured - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/02/22/whats-happening/>

March

- On the proposal to install cycle lanes on the approach to Richmond Bridge, we heard that despite feeding back to the consultation at the end of 2011 that they were too narrow (1.3m as opposed to the London Cycle Design Standard minimum of 1.5m) they would proceed regardless. Their response was telling "There are many examples where advisory cycle lanes of less than 1.50 metres provide a safe and convenient facility for cyclists, particularly when vehicular traffic is stationary or slow moving" <http://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/documents/s31830/Cabinet%20Member%20Report.pdf> The lanes have since been installed and this video shows how substandard they are - <http://vimeo.com/52064302>
- We reported on the Times 'Cities Safe for Cycling' campaign, launched at the start of February. LBRUT used Twitter to state that they supported the campaign, though there was little hard evidence demonstrated through the year - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/03/04/the-times-cities-fit-for-cyclists-campaign-bringing-it-closer-to-home/>
- Our 'Better by Bike' series of guest posts was busy this month. Tim shared his experiences of cycling with his young family (<http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/03/06/better-by-bike-cycling-with-young-children>) and in what was to be one of the most popular posts of the year, Sarah shared her experiences of cycling while pregnant (<http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/03/13/better-by-bike-cycling-while-pregnant>)
- The Crane River was the destination of March's 'Ride for Everyone', an opportunity to see the river recovering from last year's pollution spill.

April

- The Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park was the destination of this month's 'Ride for Everyone'
- April saw the relaunch of our monthly email newsletter, something we've continued to develop through the year and we saw our email list grow to over 550 recipients

- We were out on the streets and the railway stations, collecting signatures for LCC's 'Go Dutch Campaign.
- The Police shared with us their concern that thieves were targeting cyclists who used Strava and Garmin Connect GPS logging services - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/04/09/cycle-theft-advice-from-richmond-police/>
- At the end of April, 30 of you joined our feeder ride to central London to join 10,000 cyclists on LCC's 'Big Ride' in support of their Go Dutch campaign in the lead up to the Mayoral elections. Some great photos of the hardy bunch who braved the weather - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/04/28/feeder-to-london-mass-ride>

May

- A good turn out for our 'Ride for Explorers' to Windsor Great Park at the start of the month was followed up with a trip taking in the Palaces of West London in the 'Ride for Everyone' at the end of the month
- We had a stall at Richmond May Fair – a great opportunity to meet many of you face to face

June

- Bedfont Lakes was the destination for this month's 'Ride for Everyone' – a hidden gem just outside the borough showing how nature can be returned to industrial workings.
- Cycle safety continued to be high on the agenda and the London Assembly launched a Cycle Safety Consultation for which we submitted our thoughts - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/06/23/london-assembly-cycle-safety-consultation>
- At the end of the month, TfL released the 2011 road injury statistics which showed that 1 in every 4 road incident related injury in the borough was to a cyclist - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/06/30/tfl-safety-statistics>
- As part of Bike Week, Richmond Council ran a 'Bike Fest' with grass track racing and a bike skills arena

July

- The request to try running our 'Rides for Explorers' on a Saturday didn't turn out too well with our lowest ever turn out (not helped by the requestor not turning out either!) but the feedback from those who did turn up was extremely positive and Norbury Park meadows were stunning
- Local cyclist Mathieu shared his experiences of cycling with a helmet in this month's guest 'Better by Bike' post - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/07/04/better-by-bike-cycling-on-film>
- Cycle parking at Teddington Tesco, or rather the lack of it, was the subject of a petition launched by a Teddington based blog which attracted over 100 signatures - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/07/08/teddington-tesco>
- On the campaign front, a local cyclist started a map of the A316 to capture issues for discussion with TfL - <https://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?vps=2&ie=UTF8&hl=en&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=205475219377974094606.0004be740ba70291b859e>
- We received two press releases from the borough's Cycling Champion claiming that safety concerns were over putting people off and claiming safety was improving. Instead, we should be promoting initiatives like 'Share a Shower'.
- A local parent spoke at the London Assembly Cycle Safety Consultation on the barriers in Richmond to cycling to school with his children in July. The consultation reported back in November, with one of the key statements being "Cycling will not increase without political leadership which treats cycling as a mainstream form of transport" - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/07/11/lbrut-cycling-champion-press-release>

- The Olympics arrived with the Men's and Women's Road Races coming through the borough – the streets were lined with spectators and we even live tweeted the progress of the race for those following it on the streets. Our Olympic information page was the most popular post on our site in 2012 - <http://www.richmondlcc.co.uk/2005/07/06/olympic-road-race-comes-to-the-london-borough-of-richmond-upon-thames>
- The Twickenham Area Action Plan kicked up a stage with yet another consultation. This time we spotted that there were proposals to remove the mandatory cycle lane on London Road as well as the bus lanes used by many cyclists. An overwhelming two thirds majority rejected the plans, but as we were to later find out, more was to come - <http://www.richmondlcc.co.uk/2012/07/25/twickenham-street-scene-and-highways-scheme-consultation>
- We finished up the month with our 'Ride for Everyone' with coffee at Fulham Palace

August

- As the Olympics returned with the Time Trial, with the men's event won by Bradley Wiggins, fresh from his Tour de France victory, we asked what the cycling Olympic Legacy for the borough would be - <http://www.richmondlcc.co.uk/2012/08/08/opposition-calls-for-olympic-cycling-legacy-in-richmond>
- We started the month with a 'Ride for Explorers' along the Olympic Cycle Race route, though at a more sedate pace than the Olympians!

September

- The month started with a well attended 'Ride for Explorers' to Windsor followed up with a 'Ride for Everyone' around Bushy Park and Ham.
- We reported back a somewhat crass editorial in a local magazine where the view that 'the only good cyclist was a dead one' offended many and the story was picked up around the world. (<http://www.richmondlcc.co.uk/2012/09/08/the-richmond-magazine>) We offered an olive branch to the editor and he attended one of The Turning Hub's after school clubs to make amends - <http://www.richmondlcc.co.uk/2012/12/30/the-richmond-magazine-the-follow-up>
- In an update to our 2010 investigation, a Freedom of Information request revealed that bike theft had jumped to an average of 4.5 bikes reported stolen every day - <http://www.richmondlcc.co.uk/2012/09/15/now-its-are-you-one-of-the-4181>
- Our 'Better by Bike' series reported on local places to recycle unused bikes - <http://www.richmondlcc.co.uk/2012/09/23/better-by-bike-turning-old-into-new>
- We learnt that despite overwhelming opposition, the council was going to proceed with plans to remove the Twickenham bus and cycle lanes - <http://www.richmondlcc.co.uk/2012/09/25/twickenham-consultation-cycle-lane-removal-proceeds>

October

- October saw an overwhelming number of cyclists, nearly three times the normal attendance. turn up to oppose the Twickenham proposals at the Cycling Liaison Group meeting (where it had taken several attempts to get the subject of the Twickenham Cycle lanes on the agenda). <http://www.richmondlcc.co.uk/2012/10/07/twickenham-consultation-the-next-steps> As a result, the council deferred the decision to accept the proposals until the November Council Cabinet meeting – <http://www.richmondlcc.co.uk/2012/10/14/twickenham-consultation-reprieve-or-just-a-stay-of-execution>
- Our 'Ride for Explorers' took us beyond the M25 to Bookham

November

- Our 'Better by Bike' series highlighted where in the borough you can buy a 2nd hand bicycle - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/11/10/better-by-bike-buying-second-hand> and had a guest post from Ginette who took a leap and set up her own Bike Tour company - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/11/17/better-by-bike-the-merry-pedaller>
- On the campaign front, after a period of relative quiet (aside from the Twickenham changes) we fed back on road consultations on Barnes and Whitton, neither of which considered cycling - <http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/11/13/whitton-town-centre-and-barnes-castlenauchurch-road-jn-consultations>
- Focus remained on the Twickenham proposals, with a big turn out at the Council Cabinet meeting on 15 November. As a follow up, we met with council officers to discuss the plan (<http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/12/30/twickenham-consultation-december-update>) but when we saw the follow up on these plans in January we were to be disappointed (<http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2013/01/08/twickenham-consultation-january-update>)

December

- We reported back on the changes to Richmond Railway station which prioritised taxis and motor traffic at the expense of pedestrians and cyclists.
- There were further consultations this month – a section of shared use footpath linking Kingston Bridge to Bushy Park in Hampton Wick; changes to a dangerous mini roundabout in Teddington (<http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/12/15/teddington-waldegrave-road-high-street-roundabout-consultation>) and a scheme to improve cycle safety between Richmond and East Sheen which made things worse (<http://www.richmondcc.co.uk/2012/12/11/richmondsheen-upper-richmond-road-west-consultation>)
- For a bit of fun, we ran a cycling related Advent Calendar on Twitter and Facebook
- As Jonathan wound up the Maintenance workshops, it had been yet another busy and successful year. With new workshops in Ham and Hampton Wick, many of you fed back how much you got out of the sessions

Top 10 Website Posts

Title	Views
Olympic Road Race and Time Trial comes to the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames	2,071
The Richmond Magazine – The Follow Up	1,533
Rides	1,092
Twickenham Street Scene and Highways Scheme Consultation	856
Better by Bike – Cycling while pregnant	623
Twickenham Consultation – Reprieve or just a stay of execution?	602
Richmond/Sheen (Upper Richmond Road West) Consultation	514
The Richmond Magazine	457
Twickenham Consultation – Cycle Lane Removal Proceeds	394
Maintenance Workshops	351

Twitter

New followers in 2012 – 1,133; Total followers (14 Jan 13) – 1,863

Facebook Followers

New followers in 2012 - 65 ; Total followers (14 Jan 13) - 79