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# HUBbub

Newsletter of Redbridge, Havering, & Barking & Dagenham LCC Groups

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October – November 2005

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## Two Steps Backward...

The Area 1 Committee has approved proposals resulting in the removal of both the central cycle lane in Blake Hall Road at the junction with Bush Road, and the ASL & feeder lane at the junction of Cambridge Park Road and Blake Hall Road. This has been done in the hope that improved traffic flows (i.e. less delays for cars) at the junctions will persuade through traffic to avoid the Overton Drive area.

While we sympathise with local residents, as we said in a letter to Redbridge's Chief Engineering and Building Services Officer Dave Renvoize:

*'Put simply, if the problem is motor vehicles, is the only solution to penalize cyclists?'*

Taking out cycle facilities at junctions, where they are needed most, does nothing to help cyclists on what should be a key local route. In any case, all it may achieve is to rearrange the traffic queues.

Make your views about this known to your councillors:

- by email
- by letter
- by phone
- by attending your Area meetings
- by contacting the local paper

*Details of Area Committees, meetings and agendas can be found at:*

[www.redbridge.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk) )

## Calmer Traffic in Woodford Green

At a noisy September Area 2 meeting, various ideas to improve road safety and traffic flows in the Woodford Green area were floated. There was a great deal of concern about the traffic congestion and parking chaos caused by the many local schools such as Avon House, Trinity High, and Bancrofts. Many of the ideas put forward are welcome, such as 20 mph zones round schools,



speed reduction measures and more stringent parking regulations. However, traffic calming proposals which are good for pedestrians are not always good for cyclists, viz. traffic islands which create dangerous pinchpoints for cyclists with motorists, and we reminded councillors of this.

Suggestions in the pipeline include:

- making Monkams Lane & Inmans Row one-way
- traffic signals at Monkams & Inmans/High Road junctions
- traffic signals at the High Road/Epping New Road junction

- traffic calming such as kerb build-outs in Whitehall Road
- improving bus lanes outside Bancrofts school

Mention of cycle facilities is notably lacking in a 500-page report based on a study by consultants Atkins. For example, traffic signal proposals do not include ASL's, even when they are on the LCN+. Redbridge has now commissioned consultants Buchanans to make a study of this section of the LCN+ (costing over £100k), and we want this money to be better spent.

## Wanstead Flats

This 'green lung' for East Londoners on the edge of three boroughs is known for its football pitches, and is also one of the few breeding areas for skylarks in the London area. The Corporation of London carried out a consultation exercise in the summer on the correct balance between recreational use and protecting natural features. Cycling is currently permitted on the Flats but the paths are all grass and only suited to mountain bikes.

Suggested improvements:

- Provision of an all-weather circular path to encourage family cyclists
- Cycle racks at the changing area and car parks, to persuade users such as footballers to get there by other means than by car
- Improving one of the existing paths to make a good cycle path across Wanstead Flats

from Aldersbrook Road to Forest Gate

### **Goodmayes Lane Safety Schemes**

1. Proposed signalisation of junctions of Goodmayes Lane, Green Lane, and Goodmayes Road
2. Re-arrangement of right turn lanes at junction of High Road/Goodmayes Lane

At a site meeting with council Traffic Engineer Paul Megeary we explained that the left filter lane in 1 is a potential hazard, and asked that advanced stop lines with lead-in lanes be included in the junction. However, there is a problem with insufficient space. We also explained that the High Road in 2 is an LCN+ route and should have continuous cycle lanes in both directions across the junction. Plans will go to an Area 6 meeting in September.

### **In Tandem**

Very best wishes for the future to LCC Waltham Forest Co-ordinator Geoffrey 'Lord' Whittington and his bride Susie, who were married in July and held their reception at the unusual venue of Lee Valley Youth Hostel. A cycling contingent made the traditional arch for the happy couple with flowers tucked into their bicycle pumps, and our Poet Cycleate Hilary Iozzi penned an ode for the occasion 'The Passionate Cyclist to his Love' (with apologies to Christopher Marlowe) whose first stanza is:

"Come live with me and be my love,  
And we will all the pleasures prove  
That rainy rides past muddy fields  
And staying in Youth Hostels  
yields..."

### **Redbridge College Cycle Success**

Thanks to a 100% grant from TfL, Redbridge College now has secure covered cycle parking, with helmet lockers, in time for the start of the new academic year.

### **Coming Up...**

For a fuller list of rides and other events, check out [www.stibasa.org.uk](http://www.stibasa.org.uk).

### **October**

#### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

#### **Maldon Fish 'n Chips Ride**

Meet Manor Park Station 9.30 a.m. for train-assisted day's ride to Maldon, a small, pretty town on the River Blackwater in Essex. Train via Shenfield to Wickford, then 15 miles cycle through country lanes to Maldon for a fish 'n chip lunch and Maldon quayside to view Thames barges. Then cycle 15 miles back to Wickford for train home. N.B. Train can be joined at Ilford or Stratford.

**Contact:** Alan James 020 8989 4898

### **November**

#### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November**

#### **Museum of London Ride**

Meet 10:45a.m. Leytonstone Station (south side) for 1 hour ride to the City to visit its fascinating free museum. Lunch at Museum Café or sandwiches. Afternoon ride home before dark.

**Contact:** Alan James 020 8989 4898

### **December**

#### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

#### **Sutton House Craft Fair Ride**

Meet 10.30am Leytonstone Station (south side) for a repeat of last year's short ride to Hackney's oldest house. Lunch at SH café or sandwiches. Over 30 high-quality craft stalls, mulled wine etc. Get your Christmas prezzies here! Afternoon ride home before dark. SH Entry £2.00

**Contact:** Alan James 020 8989 4898

### **Critical Mass**

<http://cmlondon.enrager.net/>

Massive ride leaving Waterloo Bridge at 6.00 to 6.30pm, last Friday of every month. You really should go at least once in your life and see the sites of

central London in a group of 100s of cyclists. It is a great experience. Richard Everett usually goes, leaving Walthamstow about 5:15 p.m., or contact Gregory Moffatt for information about the Newham contingent.

**Contact:** Richard 020 8491 6906  
Gregory 020 8555 2102

**N.B.** If you intend to go on a ride, please contact the organiser first. Rides have been cancelled because no-one seemed to be interested, only for someone to turn up on the day. To avoid faux pas like this, pick up the phone, even if you're only curious about what the ride involves.

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