

Richmond borough Active Travel Advisory Group – minutes of meeting on 6 July 2021

Held virtually on MS Teams.

Chair: Cllr Gareth Richards

Transport & Air Quality Committee Chair: Cllr Alex Ehmann

Jenine Lagrish – MRSC & Friends of the Earth

Paul Luton – Cycling UK

Raphael Zachary-Younger – Barnes community association

Rob Grey – Friends of the River Crane

Monica Saunders – London Living Streets

Alan Benson – representing Disabled Richmond

Tim Lennon – borough Co-ordinator for London Cycling Campaign

Christina Lingeman – Pedal Up Richmond (and also a cycle instructor with the Council)

Justine Langford -

Brian Holder – (didn't introduce himself)

Supported by the following officers:

Nick O'Donnell, Jeni Jackson, David Tidley, Margo Turner

Minutes:

1. eScooter Rental Trial (David Tidley)

The Council launched a trial from 7 June 2021 which runs for 12 months and there are three operators within the borough: Dott, Lime and Tier. There are 28 parking locations in Twickenham, Teddington, Ham, Richmond, Kew, East Sheen, Mortlake, and East Sheen areas, these are on carriageway and do not result in loss of on street parking bays.

Contact details were shared (add here)

Department for Transport requirements were set out which include a maximum speed limit of 15.5 mph and that trial eScooters are not permitted on pavements, by law. There are separate London requirements as part of this trial which includes a maximum speed of 12.5mph. Disability groups have been engaged throughout the development of the trial. It was noted that the Thames towpath is a no go area for eScooters. Ongoing monitoring with the operators, more than 5000 trips have been completed (in the borough – DT to check) since launch on 7 June and 100-150 scooters are available. There have been some reports of unsafe or inconsiderate behaviour, some may relate to private eScooter riders, 2 users have been banned.

Operators are intending to improve public feedback processes. Fleet may increase up to 300 eScooters and we might provide additional parking to support any expansion, subject to discussions with residents, Councillors and other groups.

Jane Greatholder has been leading this and is the key contact.

It was recognised that the Council had made the effort to provide parking on the carriageway. Discussion included the reputational impact of those riding private eScooters which might impact on the trial, this is something the Police has indicated would be actioned where appropriate depending on resource, any further ideas on how this could be avoided were encouraged. A question was asked whether there was an agreed indicator for a change of direction whilst on an eScooter, this was not known by those present. Training is offered via the Apps and there are codes of practice for use which will be circulated.

2. Bikehangars Update

Margo Turner provided an update on the programme. Hangars which have been installed have waiting lists save for the one on Walpole Road. The phase 2 consultation on 24 locations completed on 30 April and 526 responses were received, 100 were about one location. Following an analysis of the feedback 21 locations (22 bike hangars) will be progressed. Maze Road, Eversfield Road and Derby Road would be excluded from installation. The hangars will be installed this summer subject to final sign off.

Phase 3 will proceed with funding from the Council's Climate Change fund which supports the Richmond Climate Emergency Strategy, likely a further 24 additional bike hangars and some of which will go on to housing estates.

Currently there are 545 requests made on line for bikehangars, requests should be made on line so we can identify the areas of higher demand.

We have also been working with Richmond Housing Partnership to get hangars installed on their estates, managed and maintained by RHP with no costs to users. 5 were installed in Chertsey Court in Mortlake and Beaufort Court in Ham will follow, Robinson Court in Richmond has been identified as a future location. Public consultation by the Council is not required, RHP carries out its own consultations.

Other cycle parking has also been funded through Climate Change monies for locations on street.

ECargo bike parking was raised as a future offer for consideration. It was suggested that Pedal My Wheels could be approached to see if there was an opportunity for collaboration. It was also suggested that the Council tries to capture demand for ECargo bike parking in future which might inform locations.

3. Hospital Bridge Road and Strawberry Vale consultations

Margo set out the proposed improvements to Hospital Bridge House/Nelson Rd junction which is about to be the subject of a public consultation. Turing House school is due to open February 2022 (earliest) and has some small scale local improvements to take place associated with it. A wider corridor study is ongoing to consider larger and longer term options with a consultation on this imminent – the focus being on pedestrians, safety and cycling. It was also noted that a contraflow cycling consultation is currently live via the Council webpage consultation portal.

There was a general discussion which covered TfL funding generally and details of other schemes which have been implemented across the Borough.

4. Tim Lennon introduced a new cycling policy for schools in the borough ([add link](#)). The ambition is for school travel plans to be better with a general view that some of them are not as forward thinking as the London Cycling Campaign might like. Christina has put together this proposition and are seeking support from the Council before taking this to schools – Christina did note at the outset that she is a cycle instructor in Richmond employed by the Council but is here as a representative of pedal up – this is aimed at secondary schools.

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School Streets – an update was sought which David Tidley provided and made clear that there is no one size fits all approach to the delivery and implementation of school streets. Cllr Ehmann recognised that there had been tweaks through the consultation and thanks David and Lindi Louw for their effort.

Interventions across the borough – Cllr Ehmann sought an audit across the borough of barriers and so on which have likely been put in place to restrict motorcycle access but which has implications for non-standard cycles e.g. Cargo bike.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5 October, there was a discussion about this being virtual. As it is not clear what the position will be this was reserved for a later decision, with an aspiration to be in person if this was possible.