



[getsuttoncycling.org.uk](http://getsuttoncycling.org.uk)



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## Borough news and update from Get Sutton Cycling | June 2015

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### Space for Cycling petition closing soon

London Cycling Campaign's Space for Cycling petition in Sutton will be closing soon. This petition ([bit.ly/S4CSutton](http://bit.ly/S4CSutton)) is to remind our Council Leader, Ruth Dombey, that safe space for cycling must be a priority for all of our councillors. If you have already added your name to the growing list of people who feel that this is important, thank you. If you have not yet signed the petition, please take this opportunity to help give cycling a much higher prominence in Sutton.

Currently, just **ten of Sutton's councillors** have shown their support for Space for Cycling. Quite how this low level of approval for beginning the process of delivering transformative cycling infrastructure in the borough is going to help Sutton become London's most sustainable suburb, as described in the council's **Sustainable Transport Strategy** (March 2015), is unclear. The long-awaited **review to our 'ward asks'** may have gone some way towards explaining why so few councillors have shown their support, but this review **has still not been received**.



The **Space for Cycling petition in Sutton** is a gentle reminder that the decisions councillors make (or do not make) today, will determine how easy (or difficult) it will be for Sutton's residents to travel by bicycle in ten or twenty years time. The petition is a step towards a future where the cycling experience will get even better for experienced cyclists, and a future where cycling will become a stress-free and joyful way of getting around for everyone.

It is anticipated that the petition signatures will be handed to the Council Leader later in June or early July, everyone welcome.

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### Consultation expected imminently on Sutton's draft Cycling Strategy

Three transport planning consultancies, Phil Jones Associates, Steer Davies Gleave and Transport Initiatives, were shortlisted by Sutton Council in late February or early March to bid for the production of a draft Cycling Strategy for the borough. The work was awarded to Steer Davies Gleave on the lowest cost basis, and it is believed that their draft documentation was delivered to the Council in April on a tight time-scale. Steer Davies Gleave did not contact Get Sutton Cycling during the development of their report.

Our understanding is that the final draft report is awaiting approval from the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee. It is hoped that the document will outline the council's strategic position on cycling in the borough, and that this will reflect current emerging guidelines and best practice as well as take forward the mayor's ambition for cycling in London. Ideally, the strategy will provide top-down policy to help inform decisions that councillors make on transport and cycling at Local Committee level. Supported by the Sustainable Transport Strategy, the new Cycling Strategy will need to make the case for the themes and principles behind the Space for Cycling 'ward asks'. To be effective, the strategy will also need to clearly outline how tough and challenging decisions, necessary to transform the cycling experience in Sutton, will be taken. The strategy will also need to be comprehensively promoted and constantly updated.

There remains the expectation that the Council will run an open forum event to seek views of cycling group representatives, but this now looks more likely to be held around the time of the consultation on the draft strategy. For news on the consultation, keep an eye on the [Sutton Consultation Hub](http://Sutton Consultation Hub), and for the workshop [getsuttoncycling.org.uk](http://getsuttoncycling.org.uk).

## The future of Sutton Council's Cycle Forum

On three or four occasions a year, Sutton Council hosts a Cycle Forum at their Denmark Road offices in Carshalton. This is an opportunity for borough cycling group representatives, including Cyclism (CTC) and Get Sutton Cycling (LCC), to discuss issues with the cycling officer, a transport planner, and others from the Smarter Travel Sutton team. Currently the Cycle Forum takes place on a weekday morning, and so effectively precludes anyone who works during the day from attending. Get Sutton Cycling would like to see changes that would enable more people to be involved, and for councillors to attend too (as is the case in Croydon, for instance). The cycling officer, noting that the existing informal format has certain advantages, that there will be cost implications associated with an evening event, has nevertheless agreed to review the format of the Cycle Forum and to consider the feasibility of holding the Cycle Forum during the early evening. What do you think? Let us know at [getsuttoncycling@gmail.com](mailto:getsuttoncycling@gmail.com).

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## Looking ahead, but not particularly looking forward

Our post [Sutton Cycle Funding 2015-16](#), published in January, highlighted the borough cycling schemes that we can expect to see delivered by March 2016. The twelve-month budget for cycling-related projects, equating to about £300,000, does not appear to go very far. It certainly does not deliver anything “transformative” (in fact, we have argued that the opposite has been the case, with some of these schemes effectively continuing to marginalise cycling).

What can be expected in the following year, 2016-17? Is that looking more promising? A list of proposed schemes for next year has already been drawn up in preparation for the council's funding submission bid to Transport for London in September (for agreement in December). These are detailed in an agenda item (Local Implementation Plan Funding 2016/2017 Transport Settlement) to the Public Reports Pack documentation produced for the forthcoming round of [Local Committee meetings](#) scheduled to take place during June. Proposed schemes include phase 2 of the “North Cheam to Worcester Park cycleway” (phase 1 just completed) and a Green Wrythe Lane corridor scheme between Middleton Circle and Bishopsford Road (is this yet more of the ongoing footway conversion of Green Wrythe Lane?).

So, for the moment, it looks as though it is business as usual. There is reason to be optimistic though. With Sutton's Cycling Strategy in place later this year, coupled with the council's response to the Space for Cycling ‘ward asks’ and the associated discussions going forward from that, plus Quietways on the horizon, perhaps by 2017-2018 things will start to look a little different.

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## Meetings and events

Details of forthcoming informal meetings and other events will appear on the [Meet-up page](#) at [Get Sutton Cycling](#), and [Rides and Events page](#) at [London Cycling Campaign](#).

**Sutton Council** is bringing Dr. Bike to Carshalton, Cheam, Hackbridge, St. Helier, Sutton, Worcester Park and Wallington town centres on a regular basis through until October. See [Traffic Management](#) for dates.

If you have any suggestions or comments it would be great to hear from you. Just send an email to [getsuttoncycling@gmail.com](mailto:getsuttoncycling@gmail.com), or a tweet to [@cyclinginsutton](https://twitter.com/cyclinginsutton), or call-in and say hello at a meeting or event.

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### **Cyclism: Leisurely local evening rides 2015**

The nineteenth season of leisurely local evening rides from **Cyclism** has begun, and continues until the beginning of August. For a full listing of these rides, including the popular Annual Wildlife ride and talk led by the Biodiversity Officer at Sutton Council on 22 June, visit the [Rides page](#) at [cyclismsutton.org.uk](http://cyclismsutton.org.uk).

Meanwhile, cycle rides for beginners continue every Saturday throughout the year, starting from the Mansion Café in Nonsuch Park at 2pm. On the third Saturday of every month similar rides start from the Pavilion Café in Beddington Park. We are told that no one gets left behind!

For more details of all of these rides, visit [cyclismsutton.org.uk](http://cyclismsutton.org.uk).

*Please note that these rides are not organised by the London Cycling Campaign*