



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



@cyclinginsutton



[getsuttoncycling@gmail.com](mailto:getsuttoncycling@gmail.com)

---

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

---

### Space for Cycling petition presented to the Leader of the Council

We were delighted to present our [Space for Cycling petition to Council Leader Ruth Dombey](#) on 23 July. The handover took place during Sutton's second Cycle Summit, a workshop event to launch the consultation period for the council's [Draft Cycling Delivery Strategy](#).

The petition, signed by over 400 of Sutton's residents, called on Cllr Dombey to ensure that [Space for Cycling](#) was a priority for the council. It also asked her to support the efforts of those councillors, across all parties, who were trying to implement local improvements for cycling.

On receiving the petition, Cllr Dombey told us that Sutton Council has the political will to deliver cycling schemes that work. A key message was that it was time to work together, and take things forward. A formal response to the petition is expected.



*"The political will is there, now we need action"*

---

### Sutton's Draft Cycling Delivery Strategy and consultation

There was some more good news recently with the publication, on 21 July, of the Sutton Council's Draft Cycling Delivery Strategy. This came just two days before the cycling strategy workshop event on 23 July, and both the strategy and consultation workshop have preceded the review of our 'ward asks' which is still awaited. The draft strategy, along with access to the online survey for responses, is available from the [Sutton Consultation Hub](#). The consultation period started on 20 July and continues until 7 September. If you have not already responded, you may just have time to do so! According to the strategy, it's all about delivering a step-change in cycling, so it's important!

*"Delivering a step-change in cycling"*

There is little doubt that without the work of Get Sutton Cycling over the last eighteen months, this strategy, believed to be the borough's first public-facing cycling strategy, would not have been produced. The Cycling Delivery Strategy is to complement the new Sustainable Transport Strategy (June 2015), the borough's first such strategy since 1999. Both the Sustainable Transport Strategy and the Cycling Delivery Strategy, along with our responses to the draft documents, will be available from the [Publications](#) page at Get Sutton Cycling.

---

### Councillor Manuel Abellan appointed as Sutton's Cycling Champion

Sutton Council now has a Cycling Champion, Cllr Manuel Abellan. Cllr Jill Whitehead, Chair of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee at Sutton Council, made the announcement at the cycling strategy workshop event on 23 July, saying that Manuel cycles everywhere and will be a very good person to talk to about cycling.

Cllr Abellan, who was newly elected as a Liberal Democrat councillor for Beddington South in May 2014, [declared his support for Space for Cycling in March this year](#). The two other councillors representing Beddington South, Cllr Neil Garratt (Conservative) and Cllr Ed Joyce (Liberal Democrat), had given their backing to Space for Cycling during 2014. Beddington South, therefore, is a ward with the 'cycling vibe'. We hope all three councillors work together to help [deliver a network of safe and enticing cycle routes to schools in their community](#), and we look forward to working with them to help achieve this.

It is anticipated that Manuel will be inviting Get Sutton Cycling to a meeting in the near future to present the review of our 'ward asks' for discussion. Meanwhile, St Helier resident John Courtman, who attended the cycling strategy workshop, recently escorted Manuel on a cycling tour of Rosehill. John reports that this was a very positive and useful exercise.

## Decisions on cycling have a lasting legacy, so the bar has to be set high at the outset

If there is one thing that the Green Wrythe Lane saga tells us, it is that cycling schemes in Sutton (good or bad) currently take years to come to fruition. The [latest proposals for Green Wrythe Lane](#) were received at the end of July, and these outline the third stage of footway conversion to shared-use due to be implemented in 2016. Considering that the first stage was completed in 2012, it is likely that councillors who were serving in the St Helier, The Wrythe and Wandle Valley committee area during 2011 were responsible for agreeing to, or deciding on, the original concept of a footway cycleway route along the length of Green Wrythe Lane. Consequently, by completion next year, it would have taken nearly five years, and perhaps funding of around £500,000, to widen a footway along one side of the 1.5 km or so of Green Wrythe Lane just to get a few more people cycling around the margins. Of course, the derisory levels of funding for cycling, associated with the [LIP process](#) that is arguably in need of reform, has not helped.

But with the Cycling Strategy on its way, are projects for cycling in Sutton about to significantly improve, and be delivered more quickly? Well, something may be delivered more quickly, but there is now concern that getting things done quickly will come at the price of not doing things properly. The “next big thing” for cycling (arguably the “first big thing” as far as Sutton is concerned) is Quietways, and there are currently two planned for the borough. The Mayor’s Vision for Cycling (March 2013) describes Quietways as high-quality routes created on low-traffic backstreets, where rat run-type streets will be blocked to through motor traffic, where complicated crossings of big roads will be removed, where segregation will, wherever possible, be provided (e.g. if the Quietway briefly joins a main road), and where new cycling and pedestrian bridges will be built across barriers such as railways to link up side-street routes (pages 14-15). The sort of things, indeed, that are outlined in [Space for Cycling: action points for Sutton](#) (June 2014).

Surely, therefore, there are some grounds for optimism? Well yes, except that Sutton Council’s Draft Cycling Delivery Strategy (July 2015) suggests that “the overarching principle for the Quietways infrastructure is ‘lines and signs’ rather than major new infrastructure” (page 11), and appears to have a vision for Quietways as simply being “upgraded” LCN routes (page 14). As to whether the delivering of these routes will be managed in accordance with the latest London Cycling Design Standards, the strategy adds a caveat “as far as possible” (page 13). To cap it all, the strategy’s Action Plan gives a timeframe of “short to medium” (page 24), for the delivery of the two Quietways that, when combined, have an end-to-end street length of 20 km or more. Put simply, it seems there are high aspirations for delivery time, but low aspirations on what is actually being delivered.

If the outcome of delivering a **step-change in cycling** is to be realised, the development of these first routes is going to require much more than ‘lines and signs’. Some rat-run type streets are going to have to be blocked to through motor traffic, for a trial period at least, in order to reduce traffic volume (e.g. in the vicinity of Browning Avenue, Worcester Park), and some major new infrastructure is going to have to be constructed to remove complicated crossings of big roads (e.g. a significantly improved cycle facility spanning the A24 at North Cheam). For a cycling delivery strategy to be truly strategic in approach, it needs to make the case for these types on interventions. One advantage of Sutton being one of the last boroughs in London to receive funding for the ambitious Quietways programme, is that we have time to learn from other boroughs on the issues that they are inevitably experiencing (e.g. [Croydon’s trial closure of Norbury Avenue](#)). So let’s do things more quickly than in the past, but let’s not trade quality for speed of delivery. Whether Sutton is a borough with the “cycling-vibe” in ten years time, depends on the decisions made today. The opportunity must be taken now to set the bar high.

---

## On-street Bikehangars



The council has installed a number of Bikehangars around the borough. These secure storage units allow residents, that have nowhere to store a bike, to safely park their bikes near their home for a small fee. Similar schemes, including **on street** Bikehangars, have been successfully introduced in other London boroughs.

Sutton Council has told us that, at present, there are no plans to install Bikehangars **on street**. However, the Council will consider **on street** Bikehangars, perhaps as part of a wider ‘neighbourhood’ or ‘home zone’ type scheme, if there is sufficient demand in particular locations. So, this could be the moment we have been waiting for!

To register your interest e-mail [trafficpostbook@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:trafficpostbook@sutton.gov.uk), or search [cyclehoop rentals](#) and request a Bikehangar be installed in your area.

---

## How you can get involved

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**. If you would like to contribute something to the website, or have suggestions to share, please get in touch by e-mail [getsuttoncycling@gmail.com](mailto:getsuttoncycling@gmail.com), or Twitter [@cyclinginsutton](#).

**Cycle rides for beginners** every Saturday throughout the year, start from the Mansion Café in **Nonsuch Park** at 2pm: [cyclismsutton.org.uk](http://cyclismsutton.org.uk), and on the third Saturday of every month starting from the Pavilion Café in **Beddington Park**: [pollardshillcyclists.org.uk](http://pollardshillcyclists.org.uk).  
*Please note that these rides are not organised by the London Cycling Campaign*

**Sutton Council** is holding a cycling event on Saturday 19 September in **Beddington Park**. Full details not yet known.

*Borough news and update from Get Sutton Cycling | September 2015 edited by Charles Martin (v1e 25.08.2015 | Pages).*

Newsletters are available to download from [Local Group News](#) at **London Cycling Campaign** and [Newsletters](#) at **Get Sutton Cycling**.