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Borough news and update from Get Sutton Cycling | December 2015

Time to make the case and rise to the challenges

Our response to Sutton Council's Draft Cycling Delivery Strategy was submitted on 7 September. **Time to make the case and rise to the challenges** comprehensively set out some of the aspects that we liked about the draft strategy, and some of the aspects that gave us concern. In addition to considering the six stated objectives, and the measures associated with them, our response provided extensive recommendations.

In mid-November the Council published the final draft version of the strategy, along with a schedule of the comments received in response to the Draft Cycling Strategy consultation, a summary of the questionnaire responses, and delegate feedback to the **consultation workshop** in July. These documents are to be presented to the **Environment and Neighbourhood Committee** meeting on 26 November, with recommendations that the committee members agree that certain changes be made to the original draft strategy and that the final version be approved and published. It is anticipated that the final Cycling Strategy will be launched early in 2016.

One of the twenty-two recommendations made in our response to the consultation was for the strategy to include supportive quotes from a number of councillors across all parties. We are pleased to note that Council officers have indicated that further quotes, in addition to those made in the Foreword by Cllr. Whitehead, will be added from the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Dombey, and an opposition councillor.

The final draft includes the following from Cllr. Dombey (which goes some way to offset our disappointment at not receiving the expected response to our **Space for Cycling petition**):

"Getting Sutton Cycling is vitally important for the future of our borough.

With more and more cars on our roads, traffic and parking problems are increasing and the quality of the air we breathe is deteriorating. We can't carry on like this.

Cycling can substantially reduce these risks while strengthening our local economy, making our town centres more accessible and promoting healthier communities.

The London Borough of Sutton's cycling strategy is a statement of intent to make cycling in the borough safer, create space for cycling and give the education and encouragement that people need to get out of their cars and onto their bikes.

Taken alongside our Sustainable Transport Strategy, it should not be left on a shelf to get dusty, but should be a live document that guides current and future decision making and adapts as circumstances change to encourage sustainable transport in our borough.

It's time for us all to get pedalling"



Space for Cycling schemes, on Transport for London roads, to be presented to councillors

Although the expected review of our Space for Cycling 'ward asks' has remained elusive, we learned in September that Council officers have accessed the proposals again and prioritised those relating to the Transport for London road network (i.e. the A24, A217, A232).

A report has been produced for presentation to members of five of the borough's six local committees during the autumn. 'Proposed Cycle Facilities on the Transport for London Road Network', along with 'Appendix A: London Cycling Campaign ward ask on TfL roads', sets out the proposals, provides comments from officers, and includes the **recommendation that councillors agree that the proposals for their wards be presented to Transport for London for consideration.**

It is probably true to say that cycling has never before featured so prominently on the agenda of Sutton Council Local Committee meetings

St Helier, The Wrythe and Wandle Valley (8 October 2015)

A217 – Redesign of Rosehill roundabout to provide protected space for cyclists with a fully signalised perimeter path.

A217 – Upgrades to the segregated cycle paths on Reigate Avenue and St Helier Avenue.

Sutton (3 November 2015)

A217 – The Council should work with TfL to upgrade the existing segregated cycle track along the A217 to Dutch standards

A217 – Major upgrade to the A217 cycle path with Dutch-style crossing points at Seears Park to Love Lane and Alberta Avenue to Churchill Road

South Sutton, Cheam and Belmont (19 November 2015)

A232 – Implement a 20mph speed limit in Cheam Village including A232

A217 – Engage with TfL to upgrade the cycle paths on A217

Beddington and Wallington (1 December 2015)

A232 – Protected space for cyclists on Croydon Road

A232 – Dutch-standard crossing points on Croydon Road

A232 – Improvements for cyclists on A232

Cheam North and Worcester Park (3 December 2015 TBC)

A24 – Improve links on the Greenway in Nonsuch Park and the proposed Quietway on LCN route 75 via the centre of North Cheam on A24

A24 – Improvements for cyclists in North Cheam district centre along the A24 and continuing north to Stonecot and Morden

A24 – Protected space / segregation to improve cycle facilities on the A24 Stonecot Hill

At the time of going to press, the report has been presented to three committees. The report was favourably received at the **Sutton Committee** and at the **South Sutton, Cheam and Belmont Committee**, but unfortunately at the **St Helier, The Wrythe and Wandle Valley Committee** things did not go quite so smoothly. On this occasion the proposals were not fully presented to councillors, and councillors simply rejected the idea for **Rosehill roundabout** out of hand. A formal complaint has been made to the Council in regard to the proceedings, and the reporting, of the agenda item at the St Helier, The Wrythe and Wandle valley committee on 8 October. Despite this set back in the borough's northern wards, the process of engagement on these issues has begun. We have been told that a second report, which will effectively act as a review of our 'ward asks' for borough roads, will be produced. The timing of this remains unknown, but this is, of course, good news. Along with the imminent publication of Sutton's new Cycling Strategy, a document that will guide decision making, things can only improve further.

Staff at the Royal Marsden Hospital and Institute of Cancer Research would like to see improvements for cycling on Brighton Road

The idea of space for cycling on Brighton Road, as outlined in **the Space for Cycling 'ward ask' for Belmont**, is gathering support. A number of employees at the Royal Marsden Hospital and Institute of Cancer Research have told us they support the idea of dedicated, safe, cycle paths along this busy road and in the vicinity of the sites at Belmont. We look forward to working with them, and with Sutton Council and councillors in Sutton South and Belmont wards, to see exactly how high we can set the bar! We make no apologies for being ambitious!

Tours of the borough with Cycling Champion continue

Cllr. Manuel Abellan has now helped arrange five tours of the borough by bicycle. The first ride took place in the **St Helier** ward on 10 August, and this was closely followed by a ride in the vicinity of **Sutton** town centre on 26 August. After a short break, the next location was **Cheam** on 8 October, then Beddington South on 10 October. Beddington Village was visited on 7 November. At least two further rides are anticipated before the end of the year, to cover Worcester Park, North Cheam, Stonecot and Carshalton.

Please get involved, your input matters

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, or any questions to ask, please get in touch by e-mail getsuttoncycling@gmail.com, or Twitter [@cyclinginsutton](https://twitter.com/cyclinginsutton).

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Newsletters are available to download from **Local Group News** at **London Cycling Campaign** and **Newsletters** at **Get Sutton Cycling**.