



getsuttoncycling.org.uk



@cyclinginsutton



getsuttoncycling@gmail.com

## Borough news and update from Get Sutton Cycling | December 2016

### Reporting cycling maintenance issues may soon be easier

A missed bin collection, an abandoned vehicle, or dog fouling, are just three of the vast range of issues that can be reported through the “Report It” portal on the council’s website. However, letting the council know about damaged and missing cycle route signs, cycle paths blocked by overgrown vegetation, or other maintenance concerns is not so easy. That could soon be set to change. At the [Sutton Cycle Forum September 2016](#), a request was made to have a straightforward way of **reporting cycling maintenance issues on the council’s website**. Cycling Champion, Councillor Abellan, thought that our request for the addition of a cycling category to the “Report It” facility was a good idea, and he agreed to help take this forward.

**Report**

- Missed bin collection
- Noise nuisance
- Pothole or road defect
- Abandoned vehicle
- More
- Dog fouling
- Faulty street lighting
- Rubbish or fly-tip on public road
- Abuse and hate crime

The borough’s Cycling Strategy (November 2015) notes: *“In order to make cycling a comfortable and convenient mode of transport it is important that cycle routes are adequately maintained and cleaned..... Cyclists can assist in this by reporting on issues to the Council and voluntary/ community groups could assist in the task”*.

A “Report It” facility for cycling will help demonstrate the council’s commitment to the strategy. Then again, maybe it is too late because....

### Inadequate provision for cycling continues

Despite “the renewed focus on cycling in London being promoted by the [former] Mayor in his Vision for Cycling, and by the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group’s Get Britain Cycling report” (*Sutton Cycling Strategy, November 2015*), and the expected imminent appointment of a walking and cycling commissioner by the current mayor to ensure London is a byword for cycling and to bring about a healthy streets agenda, it is clear that **some boroughs are going to be left behind unless there is a clear commitment at a local level**. It is also evident that while the majority of councillors continue to see cycling as a marginalised activity for the few, and remain blissfully unaware, or uninterested, in the types of interventions required to bring about change, nothing will change. Coupled with a derisory level of annual LIP cycle funding, and the results are all too clear: [Green Wrythe Lane](#) footway conversion. Totally inadequate and, so far, four years in the making.

**This is the parlous state of cycling provision in the borough as 2016 comes to a close.**

And, unfortunately, it looks like the message has still not been heard....



In the September 2016 newsletter we reported on the plans for proposed cycle routes at the new development on the former Felnex site in Hackbridge. Essentially, the proposals were outdated, and totally inadequate. Crucially, the plans demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of what is required to “make cycling the natural choice for people of all ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities, for more of their trips in and through the borough” (to quote, again, from the Cycling Strategy). If we didn’t get this right, we asked, what chance would there be for cycling in Sutton in the future? Now we know the answer.

The first indications that the plans were actually going ahead became evident in November, when a dropped-kerb, some painted logos on the carriageway and the on footway, along with bollard type signs, were installed on Hackbridge Road (see [Felnex crossing Hackbridge parking](#) for more on this). This feeble, and insubstantial, attempt to create space for cycling, adjacent to a brown field site currently undergoing substantial redevelopment as the “New Mill Quarter” by Barratt Homes, is very bad news. It is extremely bad news, because it gives yet another clear indication that Sutton is not worthy of any significant forthcoming funding for cycling.

The question now is, [will Sutton’s first Quietway make a difference](#)? The success of this will depend on full engagement with residents, set in the context of the borough’s Sustainable Transport Strategy, Cycling Strategy, Parking Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Most of all, it will require political will.

### **Any news on the borough’s Cycling Strategy?**

It is now twelve months since members of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee approved the Cycling Strategy. Consequently, the first annual report on progress is expected soon.

### **Any news on the ‘Proposed cycle facilities on the Transport for London Road Network’ report?**

A draft version of this report was sent informally to TfL in the summer. The response to the report from TfL was, not unexpectedly, that there is currently no funding for cycling infrastructure on TfL roads in the borough. It is, however, hoped that the submission of the report to TfL will give an indication that Sutton has an interest in delivering meaningful cycle schemes (albeit only on TfL roads at present), as and when future funding becomes available. However, although the report is included on the Beddington and Wallington local committee recommendations tracker, it was not discussed at the committee’s most recent meeting on 11 October 2016.

[getsuttoncycling@gmail.com](mailto:getsuttoncycling@gmail.com) | [@cyclinginsutton](#)