

Looking for the big money

Hackney LCC encourages council to make a £700,000-plus cycling bid

Hackney's transport section is asking Transport for London (TfL) for a whopping £737,000 to fund cycling-related projects and improvements during the 2004/5 financial year – quite a contrast to the £35,000 originally claimed for 2003/4, and due in no small measure to lobbying by the London Cycling Campaign in Hackney.

The headline figure breaks down into £377,000 for the LCN+ route network, £260,000 for local routes, plus a cool £100,000 for cycle training.

The planned LCN+ and local route improvements are based on a list of priorities compiled by committee

members out of long-standing suggestions made by Hackney LCC members in surveys and at meetings.

A top-up to the current year's spending is also being sought from contingency funds.

Cycle liaison meetings are being re-established on a bi-monthly basis from September, to formalise the dialogue between officers and this group. There's no saying whether TfL will stump up for the whole claim, but we're keeping our fingers crossed!

Bike Week was busiest in years

Hackney LCC had an exceptionally full and active Bike Week in June.

- We ran a very conspicuous and popular stall at the StokeFest, and dished out loads of free maps.
- Our London Fields breakfast flagged down dozens of cyclists for coffee and croissants.
- The Eastway Cycling Day, which we organised together with four other boroughs, was a bit sparsely attended due to clashing with other bike events, but was great for those who came along.
- The Hackney Sundown Cool Commute Wind-down (organised together with Islington) rewarded homeward-bound cyclists with fruit juice, snacks, and even massage, and lived up to its name by incorporating a cooling shower.
- The Midsummer Madness Ride ride saw ten Hackney cyclists join 200 others to make their way to Primrose Hill for the sunrise at 4.43am.



All smiles at Eastway during the Bike The Bounds ride photo: Ikko Evans

- Ten intrepid cyclists rode the far-flung bounds of the borough of Hackney, a journey which took about four-and-a-half hours and included an ice cream stop and a spin around the Lea Valley Cycle Circuit at Eastway.

Deputy co-ordinator Oliver Schick says: "Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped, including Ben, Brenda, Crispin, Dee, Katie, Marian, Richard, and Trevor."



WHO WE ARE
A total of 814 people are now members of the London Cycling Campaign in Hackney. Thousands more cycle in the borough every day. 6.24% of Hackney people cycle to work, according to Census 2001.

WHEN WE MEET
Hackney LCC meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 8pm at the Pub on the Park, London Fields E8. Social from 7pm. Next meetings: Weds 6 Aug and Weds 3 Sept.

HOW WE NETWORK
Join our email list today! Send a blank message to hackney-lcc@yahooogroups.com

CONTACTS

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Bid to kickstart secure cycle parking on estates

Hackney LCC is putting in a bid for Neighbourhood Renewal Funding to run a project to pilot secure and convenient cycle parking on estates.

73% of Hackney residents live in flats, most of which are on housing estates, and many of which don't have lifts. Dragging a bike up four floors without a lift is no fun, even for the fittest and most able bodied.

If funded, the project will start by reviewing the position on residential cycle storage – current policies, damage to building fabric by improper parking, levels of theft etc – with Hackney Housing, registered social landlords, tenants' and residents' associations and other relevant agencies across the borough.

It will then identify one or more estates on which a range of solutions can be piloted, and will assess the effect of providing the secure and convenient cycle parking.

Four initial types of provision are planned: installing equipment (hooks, pulleys, etc) in the flat to store a bicycle with the minimum of obstruction; providing a secured space to park several bikes in an existing structure (eg pram sheds/disused shops); providing a new structure for



same use; and providing individual bike lockers. Included in the project will be access enhancements, especially where bikes will still be taken in to buildings.

Management regimes will be set up to allocate space and ensure proper use, and information will be contributed to a residential cycle parking manual developed in conjunction with housing managers and residents' groups.

Meanwhile, £20,000 of NRF money has already been allocated to provide another wave of new parking stands on the borough's streets.

<<If you live on an estate in Hackney that could benefit from secure parking, let Trevor know (see contacts, overleaf).

Workshop gets temporary home

We have a new temporary venue for our self-help bike maintenance workshop, which recently had to give up its long-time home at Hackney City Farm due to an unaffordable rise in rent.

For the next few months, the workshop will happen at the Recycling Shop on the Nightingale Estate, thanks to the hospitality of the East London Recycling Partnership.

To get there from Downs Road E5, go north up Muir Road, continue onwards to Olympus Square, and the Recycling Shop is the second along the parade of shops.

The workshop happens on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, 7-9pm. Come along and sort your bike out, with volunteer help and advice!

<http://hackney-cyclists.org.uk/workshop.htm>

<< The possibility of a medium-term home for the workshop at Haggerston Pool, Whiston Road, E2, has been put forward by Liz Hughes, who is co-ordinating the project to regenerate the building.

Liz can't confirm the offer yet, but our workshop fits well with the healthy living theme of her project, and she sounds keen to have us in there. No rent would need to be paid until the building has been refurbished. **NB Check out the building on Open House Weekend, 20th-21st Sept.**

NEWS IN BRIEF www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk NEWS IN BRIEF

<<Unlike Hackney and Camden, Islington has always locked its section of the canal towpath, meaning that users get trapped on long sections with no exits after dark, and limiting its early morning use. Encouragingly, they are currently leaving the section east of the tunnel open 24 hours on a trial basis. Please drop an approving note to Jean Cantrell (Technical & Env't Services, PO Box 3333, 222 Upper St, N1 1YA) and/or Andrew Bedford (Islington Greenspace, 36 North Rd, N7 9TU) asking them to make this permanent.

<<Hackney LCC now possesses a spanking new Columbus trailer. Stored securely by committee member Richard Lewis near Hackney town centre, it got good use carting our stall stuff around during Bike Week, and is available for other LCCiH activities.

<<Good news on our target in the London-wide LCC Junctions Campaign: the junction of Shacklewell Lane and St Mark's Rise will be remodelled by the end of this financial year to make it friendlier for walking and cycling. We recently had an excellent meeting with traffic engineer Danny Gayle and the Shacklewell Community Association to discuss the design.

<<Hackney will have two Car Free Days this year. The whole interior of the Shoreditch Triangle will be car-free on Sunday 21st

September, with music stages, street entertainment, stalls and a cycling test track, while on Monday 22nd September several residential streets in Stoke Newington, soon to form the Windus Streets For People area, will have a Car Free Day with an emphasis on the participation of the surrounding schools. More info about Shoreditch CFD from Trevor (see contacts, over); for Windus CFD info, contact Amy Erickson on 020 8806 6653. www.22september.org www.itwmc.org www.curtainroad.org

<<Hackney Council is developing a Sports and Physical Activity Strategy, a draft version of which has been circulated. We have set up a 'wiki' (a kind of souped-up whiteboard) on our website to gather comments and ideas for our response. Check it out for a link to the draft strategy, and add your own comments: http://hackney-cyclists.org.uk/sports_strategy/

<<Four Hackney schools (Grasmere, Grazebrook, Jubilee, and Lauriston) have been awarded a total of £43,000 through the Department for Transport's Cycle Projects Fund (CPF) for on-road cycle training.

LCC member John Campbell, of the Friends of Grasmere School, said: "This award has generated a lot of excitement. In the past year we've run two smaller-scale training schemes.

The most common comment from parents was: 'Why couldn't my child do it?'. We already have a strong body of cyclists at the school, but we're hoping to encourage even more parents and children to cycle to school, with adults continuing their journey to work by bike."

Not all of the Hackney schools that wanted money for training this year got it, though (notably STAbikes), and there's no guarantee that the CPF will even exist next year. Quality cycle training should be funded from core education, sport, transport, and health budgets. Short-term it'll pay for itself by reducing traffic congestion, while long-term we'll have a fitter population with less risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes.

<<We plan to nominate STAbikes, the Sir Thomas Abney school training project, for the LCC's awards category "Best Cycling Initiative for Young People or Children (Schools)". The award would be well deserved recognition for all the hard work put into the project by Sally, Andy, and its other volunteers and supporters.

<<London Mayor Ken Livingstone marked National Bike Week by announcing funding to install state-of-the-art secure cycle parking in every school and college in London, starting from early 2004. If you're a parent or school student, make sure your head teacher and governors are aware about this!