

Cycling in
Hackney

NEWS

The latest from the
London Cycling
Campaign in Hackney

Chatsworth Road
Market Festival
special issue
4th Dec 2004



Market street or drive-thru?



A fabulous market
festival once a year –
the rest of the time
going nowhere slowly

CHATSWORTH
ROAD. E.5



Chatsworth Road in the
1930s. No need to turn
the clock back ... just
take the best from
the past

Area traffic review gives a golden opportunity to get the rat-runners out of Chatsworth Road

A complete review is about to begin of the traffic management arrangements in the Lower Clapton area, as bounded by Hackney Marshes, A104 Lea Bridge Road, A104 Lower Clapton Road, A102 Urswick Road, and A102 Homerton High Street.

Through the middle of this area runs Chatsworth Road. Some years ago, the area was subject to traffic management works because of fears that the M11 Link Road, opened in 1999, would create rat-running through the area.

These fears proved well-founded. While some streets north of Powerscroft Road were given efficient protection from rat-running, with 'mode filters' (road closures with pedestrian and cycle gaps), Chatsworth Road was seen as the major artery along which traffic could still flow. Some other roads, like Powerscroft and Median Roads, also experience a lot of congestion, but it is Chatsworth Road that has suffered the worst. And this is not surprising. When you treat a whole area (or 'cell') to protect it →



**850 people
are currently
members of
the London
Cycling
Campaign in
Hackney.**

**Find out how
to join by
calling 020
7928 7220 or
see lcc.org.uk**

Action points:

Look out for the Lower Clapton traffic review consultation, expected in early 2005

Attend your neighbourhood committee:
North East Neighbourhood (Leabridge ward),
7pm on 16th December at BSix, Brooke House,
Kenninghall Road, E5

Homerton Forum (Chatham & Kings Park),
7pm on 8th December at Nye Bevan Community
Hall, Overbury St E5

Write to your councillors: Linda Kelly, Abdul
Mulla, Ian Rathbone (Leabridge ward); Luke
Akehurst, Sally Mulready, Guy Nicholson
(Chatham ward); Yinusa Akinrele, Sharon
Patrick, Saleem Siddiqui (Kings Park ward)

Join the Lower Clapton Traffic email list:
send blank email to lowerclaptontraffic-subscribe@yahoo.com

Market street or drive-thru?

Continued from front page

against through traffic, there is a simple rule—all the roads surrounding the 'cell' must have roughly the same characteristics. However, Chatsworth Road should never have been chosen to delimit the 'cell' along with the A102 and A104, both roads with much more capacity to take motor traffic. Chatsworth Road, by contrast, despite being a long, straight road that can act as a distributor for the whole area, is essentially a residential and market street in character.

Removing the mode filters across the side roads off Chatsworth Road is not a solution. While it may appear at first that this would enable traffic to disperse across the area more easily, it would also attract much more. It may not be as visible as when it is concentrated in one street, but overall road danger and noise levels would go up, air quality would suffer, and road rage incidents would become more frequent again. Other solutions must be found—and they must



involve restricting access to through motor traffic to the area more. Rat-runners don't care about areas through which they rat-run; they spend very little at local businesses, make an area more anonymous, and often drive carelessly and fast, because their main objective is to save time.

Restricting access to rat-runners means that residents, too, have to drive a little further when leaving the area, but this is a small price to pay, says local LCC member Lynda Harper: "The mode filters around the north-eastern bit have really worked—children play in the streets there. It would get far worse if minor roads were opened again. Residents don't mind driving round a bit to get into the area."

Now is your chance to have your say, as Hackney Council is reviewing traffic management arrangements in the area. Get in touch with us if you support the campaign to make Chatsworth Road a market street, not a drive-thru.

Luxury travel to school

Healthy and environmentally sustainable travel to school has been given a boost with the appointment of Alix Stredwick as Hackney's school travel plan (STP) advisor. Alix will help schools to develop their travel plans to encourage and enable more walking, cycling and public transport use.

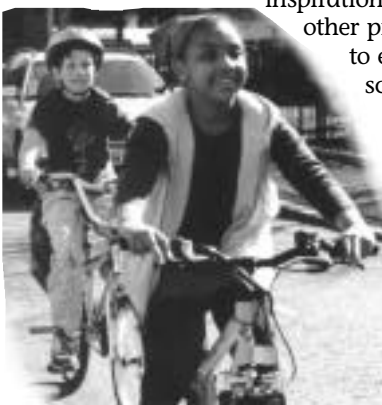
An STP identifies where problems currently lie, and is a formal way of addressing vehicle congestion at the school gates, barriers preventing cycling, and hazards on walking routes. The aim is for ten schools to have travel plans by the end of March 2005, and 40% of Hackney's schools by 2006.

"My role is to help schools to do STPs themselves, led by a parent, teacher, governor, caretaker or pupil as the 'champion' who wants to tackle the school run," says Alix. Plans for cycle sheds, 'walking buses', involvement in Bike Week and even car-sharing schemes can be included in an STP. Travel plans complement other schemes already in place such as the Healthy Schools Initiative, and the survey work which is needed to establish current travelling patterns can deliver a valuable part of the curriculum.

The incentives are not limited to healthier pupils, cleaner air and a better reputation for the school. Each state primary that completes their STP by March 2005 can receive around £5,000 for capital schemes such as cycle parking and wider paths on the school grounds. State secondaries could receive up to £10,000. "I will be using the award-winning STA Bikes scheme at Sir Thomas Abney primary school as an

inspirational case study to convince other primaries that it is possible to encourage more cycling to school," says Alix.

If you would like to get a STP going for a Hackney school with which you have an involvement, contact Alix: 020 8356 8023 / 07717 452646 / alix.stredwick@hackney.gov.uk or write to LBH Traffic and Transportation, 12 Reading Lane, E8 1HJ.



Hackney Burns Night

Hackney LCC's annual fundraiser

Saturday 29th January 2005

7pm to midnight

Sir Thomas Abney Primary School, N16

Traditional supper of haggis, neeps and tatties
Three hours of Scottish dancing to The Muckers,
Hackney's own six-piece ceilidh band

Tickets £15 (unwaged £8).

Book online at hackney-cyclists.org.uk or send cheque payable to 'Hackney LCC' plus SAE to Brenda Puech, 51 Rochford Walk, E8 3HQ

Cycling in Hackney News is published by the London Cycling Campaign in Hackney. Edited by Trevor Parsons, trevor@hackney-cyclists.org.uk

For more information about the Lower Clapton traffic campaign, or about the LCC in Hackney more generally, contact borough co-ordinator Oliver Schick, oliver@hackney-cyclists.org.uk Website www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk