

# Cycling in Hackney News

## Election Extra

### March 2001



So much achieved already, but so much more to do. Where have you heard that before? Well, we've decided to have a bit of an election ourselves, so we can build up the most effective team we can to help make Hackney an ever better place for cycling.

But hustings at the London Cycling Campaign in Hackney are a much more friendly – and considerably cheaper – affair than a general election. Douglas Carnall has vacated the borough co-ordinator position after five glorious years, so at our February meeting we decided to appoint replacements for this and other roles within the group.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with being 'just' a member. Your membership really matters. But if you think you have the time and the right mix of enthusiasm and skills to further our projects, you are warmly encouraged to put yourself forward...

### **The jobs**

The group is looking for people to fill (at least) these three posts:

#### **Borough co-ordinator**

Tasks include:

- receiving information on behalf of the group and making sure it flows to the right people
- acting as a point of contact for enquiries concerning the group
- linking people up to co-operate on activities
- chasing people about tasks
- having an overview of plans and projects
- chairing meetings (if required)
- in a word, facilitating

(It would probably also be useful to have a deputy co-ordinator too)

#### **Membership secretary**

Tasks include:

- welcoming and introducing new members to the group, with a phone call or email, or in person at meetings
- acting as a point of contact for enquiries about the group
- sending out membership forms (if required)

#### **Treasurer**

Tasks include:

- administering the group's bank account
- making payments
- monitoring cash flow
- reporting to meetings
- paying for and booking the meeting room

All three holders of these posts should be willing to attend the monthly meetings on a regular basis. If you're interested in any of these positions, just come along to the next meeting! You just need to say a thing or two about yourself: why you want to stand, what experience you have, your aims, etc. We've already got one person offering to do each job, but it's important to throw these roles open to everyone who thinks they'd like to take them on. There's room for everyone who wants to get involved!

### **It'll all be decided at the next meeting, so come along:**

Wednesday, 7th of March, 8pm, upstairs at the Pub on the Park,  
Martello Road, London Fields, E8

## Current and proposed projects

### Car Free Day

On 22 September, with the support of Mayor Ken Livingstone, road space all over London will be prioritised for non-motor traffic (people on foot, cycle, wheelchair, etc). We've had an encouraging response from some Hackney councillors to our suggestion to make a car-free area encompassing Amhurst Road from the Pembury Tavern to Hackney Central and Mare Street from the Narrowway to Town Hall Square. But it's **your** ideas for the day that will determine what we'll end up doing!

### Festival of Cycling

From the 16th to the 24th of June, the Festival of Cycling will enliven London with a wide range of exciting events. In Hackney, we aim to have our traditional cyclists' breakfast, evening barbecue, and the ride around the borough. But if you have an idea for another event, we'd love to hear about it!

### Stoke Newington Festival

We plan to provide a bike parking zone at the Church Street Festival –an eye-catching presence for LCC, and of course an encouragement for people to cycle to the event, knowing their bikes will be safe.

### Membership drive

Hackney membership is the second highest in London, but we're still not satisfied! Help us publicise the group to overtake Lambeth. Why not let's have **three in every street?**

### Family fun rides

Planned to take place every last Saturday of the month, (the day after the famous central London Critical Mass ride), we have a family ride throughout Hackney to a surprise destination. Come along and discover all the delights of the borough that you've been missing! Let us show you the hidden treasures of the Hackney on this friendly and relaxed cycling.

### Junctions campaign

Currently happening all over London, the junctions campaign targets the junctions that you hate! Our first project is the Shacklewell Lane/St Mark's Rise junction, but it won't be the last. Do you have a suggestion for the next one we should look at?

### Communication with the Council

Hackney's highways department has become severely depopulated, and we lost our formal consultation mechanism with the local authority some time ago. We can't and won't let this continue. It's so important for us to be able to articulate the cyclist's case to the people who make the decisions about how money is spent. Otherwise they can make costly mistakes. A particular focus is the upcoming Local Transport Plan, which will determine the near future of transport policy in Hackney. Can you help?

### Dr Bike

It's amazing the chronic state some people are prepared to let their bikes get into without really noticing. Dr Bike is not a repair service, but can tell people what's wrong with their bikes and whether they are fit for the road. Dr Bike can go to schools, festivals, etc. and is one of the most popular services LCC provides. If you'd like to help us check up people's bikes, get in touch!

### Workshop

Our Thursday evening (6-9pm) workshop at Hackney City Farm is a self-help facility for people to repair and maintain their own bikes with advice from resident experts. Parts at cost, tools provided.

### Mapping and knowledge base project

At our last meeting, we discussed initiating an exciting new project, in conjunction with [www.cyclemaps.com](http://www.cyclemaps.com), to build a map and database of the cycling geography of Hackney, using contributed information about where you cycle and what you think about particular streets, junctions or other places of interest, as well as a survey of the 'permeability' of the cityscape, detailing physical and legal blocks which need removing so that cyclists can enjoy maximum route choice and minimum diversion.

## To find out more or help with these projects, come to:

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For more information about the LCC in Hackney, go to [www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk](http://www.hackney-cyclists.org.uk)