

# Minutes of the 2016 AGM

Held at Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre  
10:00 Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016



## A. APOLOGIES & MINUTES OF THE 2015 AGM

### 1. Welcome, Intro, Agenda & Housekeeping

The Chair, Ann Kenrick, opened the AGM by welcoming all those attending and expressing her hope that the meeting and subsequent Campaigners' Conference would be enjoyed and found valuable by all. She then ran through the order of business.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Tony Levene.

### 3. Minutes of the 2015 AGM

There were no corrections or matters arising and the Minutes were approved unopposed.

## B. FINANCE MOTIONS & REPORTS

### 4. Finance Report

- 4.1 The Treasurer was unavoidably unable to attend the AGM, so the finance report was given by the CEO, Ashok Sinha.
- 4.2 Ashok explained that although total income had grown significantly over the past five years, and despite the charity successfully developing new sources of income to make up for the expected loss in grant funding, 2015-2016 had been a tough year. Specifically, income was down substantially from consultancy and services and membership income was below its growth target. As a consequence redundancies were necessary in the Cycling Projects team (which delivers consultancy and services as well as internal events), which was also restructured, and the charity had to call upon those LCC Groups with sizeable reserves to transfer some of those funds to the centre.
- 4.3 Ashok noted that the level of reserve, at around 7% of annual income, is the key question (rather than that of "going concern"): even comparatively small shortfalls in projected income can have a large impact on the reserve, which is why the charity had to take action to cut costs and ask groups for assistance. This enabled the charity to keep the reserve at a level that would protect LCC from financial shocks without having to resort to cutbacks to core activities like campaigning.
- 4.4 He concluded by thanking those groups that had been able to give the centre their support, and informed the meeting that the membership package had just been relaunched with a restoration of the member benefits that (as reported in previous years) had had to be withdrawn; indeed the range of benefits shortly to be on offer would exceed anything seen

before. However the impacts of the losses would be spread across the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 audited accounts, and we won't see a turnaround until the 2017-2018 accounts.

## **5. Approval of Accounts**

The 2015-2016 Audited Accounts were approved unopposed.

## **6. Appointment of Auditors**

Moore Stephens were approved unopposed as auditors for the 2017-2018 financial year.

## **7. The Year Overall: Campaigning/Politics**

- 7.1 Ashok Sinha (CEO) reported on the successes achieved and challenges faced by LCC during the past 12 months.
- 7.2 The highlight of the year had been LCC's Sign for Cycling campaign, which had secured promises from each of the main candidates in the 2016 mayoral election to meet its three-point agenda (covering a tripling of protected space for cycling, enabling every borough to have a Mini-Holland style scheme, and making "Direct Vision" lorries the norm).
- 7.3 Since the election we had seen encouraging public statements from the new Mayor, Sadiq Khan, reiterating that intended to make good those promises, and we expect further details soon. He added, however, that the Mayor's current restructuring of Transport for London was holding up progress in developing a new cycling and walking programme and it would be deep into the Mayor's first term before we would be able to properly assess the state of play. Nonetheless the Mayor had already publicly reiterated his Sign for Cycling promises in GLA press releases, which Ashok said was a very encouraging sign.
- 7.4 In responses to questions about LCC's joint statements with the LTDA (and Greenpeace), Ashok acknowledged the concerns about the charity's reputation with activists; he said that we would continue to consider joint public statements with others where we agree with them (in this case regarding action to reduce air pollution) as well as make clear areas where we are in disagreement.
- 7.5 Ashok concluded by underscoring the importance of the work that LCC's volunteer activists do at both the local and London-wide level, thanking everyone involved. He also thanked LCC's highly dedicated and capable staff team for all they do for the cause, to the acclaim of the AGM.

## **8. Membership & Marketing**

- 8.1 Rob Eves (Marketing & Membership Manager) presented the membership relaunch. Rob began his comments by saying that LCC membership has been on decline, which we believe is substantially due to us having the shelve most of our member benefits (to comply with Gift Aid rules).
- 8.2 To address this, LCC had employed a consultant to do an expert review, and Rob presented the recommendations for moving away from claiming Gift Aid and creating a new bundle of attractive member benefits (as well as improvements to the membership brand). Rob

concluded by describing LCC's plan for relaunching the membership, outlining how he felt local groups could help before taking questions.

## 9. Cyclised City

Simon Munk (Infrastructure Campaigner), Rachel Aldred (Trustee and Chair of the Policy Forum) and Tom Harrison (Trustee) presented the new work that was commencing on formulating LCC's description of how London can become a "Cyclised City". They described how we need to "flip the grid" and define not where cycles can go, but where motor vehicles and/or through traffic are allowed. They explained that there is a great opportunity for LCC to produce its own strategic vision based on our recent campaigning successes and reach out to other community groups to engage them in this.

## 10. Lorry Safety

10.1 Tom Bogdanowicz (Senior Policy Officer) described the success LCC has had in recent years in first developing concept designs for, and then campaigning for "Direct Vision" lorries to become the "norm" on London's streets. He continued by reiterating that the Mayor had agreed to pursue this objective (in response to LCC's Sign for Cycling campaign), including committing to use all the powers at his disposal (including procurement, regulation and planning) to achieve this.

10.2 He congratulated the Deputy Mayor, Val Shawcross, for commencing planning and consultation on the Mayor's new Direct Vision rating standards.

**The formal business of the AGM was then adjourned until after the Guest Speaker and Campaigner Awards**

## B. GUEST SPEAKER & CAMPAIGNER AWARDS

### **Guest Speaker: Deputy Mayor for Transport, Val Shawcross CBE**

The Deputy Mayor for Transport, Val Shawcross CBE, gave a presentation on the Mayor's new plans to make London a "byword" for cycling, and on TfL's new Healthy Streets approach to assessing new/proposed road schemes. She congratulated and thanked LCC for all the effective campaigning we had done in the past, including our liaison with the GLA Transport Committee of which she was previously the Co-Chair. She took questions from the floor, and the AGM warmly thanked her for contribution to the meeting and also for everything she did as an Assembly member to promote policies to deliver high quality cycling facilitation.

### **Campaigner Awards**

Ms Shawcross kindly presented awards to the winners in this year's LCC Campaigner Awards. They winners were as follows:

#### *Best Ride Leader*

Winner: **Winston Gordon** (Hounslow Cycling)  
Highly Commended: **Steve Smith** (Newham Cyclists) & **Geoff Stillwell** (Camden Cyclists)

*Best Local Group Ride*

Winner: BikeTrain by **Southwark Cyclists**

*Best Family-Friendly Local Group Ride or Event*

Winner: Family Bike Ride by **Waltham Forest Cycling Campaign**

Highly Commended: Butterfly Ride, by **Southwark Cyclists**

*Best Local group Campaign or Initiative*

Winner: CS9 postcards by **Hounslow Cycling**

*Campaigner of the Year*

Winner: **Clare Rogers** (Enfield Cycling Campaign)

Highly commended: **Paul Gasson** (Waltham Forest Cycling Campaign)

Commended: **Sally Eva** (Southwark Cyclists), **David Arditti** (Brent Cyclists), **George Johnston, John Hartley & Richenda Walford** (Camden Cyclists)

This year a posthumous *Special Award for Campaigning* was awarded to long-standing and highly esteemed cycling campaigner **David Eales** (Ealing Cycling Campaign) following his sudden death this year.

**The formal business of the AGM then recommenced.**

## **C. BOARD ELECTION RESULTS**

As Returning Officer, Ashok Sinha declared that the result of this year's election to the Board of Trustees (in descending vote order):

**Christian Wolmar**

**Tom Harrison**

**Rachel Aldred**

**Amy Foster**

**Lucy Carter**

## **D. Motions**

### **11. Motion 3 (Air Quality)**

11.1 The motion was moved by Mustafa Arif on behalf of the members of the Campaigns & Active Membership Subcommittee of the Board.

11.2 There were no amendments proposed or speeches against the motion, which was carried overwhelmingly, reading as follows:

*This AGM notes that London's poor air quality:*

- *is in breach of EU legal limits and WHO recommendations;*

- *and causes 10,000 premature deaths per annum in the capital, with thousands more Londoners suffering ill health (according to the Greater London Authority);*

*Welcomes the Mayor's commitment to improve London's air quality;*

*Expresses disappointment that that commitment has not explicitly made the link to forms of clean transport, namely cycling and walking.*

*Agrees that to clean up London's air, motor vehicle emissions must be radically reduced, but that this alone is insufficient.*

*Recognises that a mass shift from motor vehicle journeys to walking and cycling will bring about a significant improvement to air quality.*

*And therefore calls on the Mayor to:*

- *create conditions for a mass shift to walking and cycling, as zero pollution alternatives to motor vehicle use;*
- *use funds generated from any pollution charging schemes to ensure that total annual investment in cycling in London is increased and sustained above the maximum budget allocated under the last mayoralty, as well as being invested in other means of lowering pollution.*

*And further calls on the Mayor to:*

- *expand the Ultra Low Emission Zone to all of Greater London.*

## **12. Motion 4 (Women & Cycling) proposed by Helen Ashcroft**

12.1 Terry Patterson moved the motion, explaining that the original proposer (Helen Ashcroft) could not attend. She added that Helen Ashcroft had accepted the amendments proposed prior to the AGM by LCC committees.

12.2 No further amendments were proposed and the motion was carried over overwhelmingly, reading as follows:

*This AGM Agrees that LCC must do more to:*

- ensure our activities contribute to improving the gender balance of cycling in London;*
- and increase participation by women at all levels within LCC.*

*And therefore resolves to establish a 'Women and Cycling' working group to review current LCC practice and policies and make recommendations, before the next AGM.*

## **13. Motion 5 (8mph)**

As no-one was present at the AGM to propose motion the meeting proceeded to the next business without considering it (in accordance with Standing Orders).

## **14. Emergency motion (Baker Street Two scheme / Critical CLOS scores)**

14.1 Mustafa Arif proposed the Emergency Motion.

14.2 Following the tabling and debate of a number of amendments the motion was passed overwhelmingly, reading as follows:

*Noting Westminster City Council's recent decision, on to proceed with the Two-Way Baker Street scheme despite:*

- a) clear opposition for LCC on the basis that the proposed scheme has serious deficiencies for cycling;*
- b) CLOS assessment showing the proposed scheme has critical failures;*
- c) majority opposition, after two public consultations;*
- d) in particular, the responses from anyone opposing the scheme on the grounds of lack of support for cycling were discarded;*

*And given the Borough's strategic location at the centre of the road network and its history of hostility toward cycling, this AGM calls on the Board to:*

- 1) campaign vigorously, and to the fullest extent possible, for real change in attitudes towards cycling by Westminster City Council, including a reversal of the decision to proceed with this scheme, as proposed;*
- 2) demand that the Mayor withdraws TfL funding from this scheme;*
- 3) ensure the Mayor and all boroughs to include CLoS assessment scores in the consultation of all schemes.*

**There being no other formal business the AGM was closed and was followed by the 2016 Campaigners' Conference.**