

Ealing Cycling News

The LCC newsletter for Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hanwell, Northolt, Perivale and Southall
February 2010

Ealing becomes a “Biking Borough”

On 13th January London’s Mayor, Boris Johnson, announced that Ealing is to become a “Biking Borough”. It means that Ealing, along with 12 other outer London boroughs, will each receive £25,000 from Transport for London (TfL) to fund a local study examining how cycle journeys can be increased. According to the proposal, boroughs will “develop plans which could include measures such as working with schools, the NHS, Primary Care Trusts and local businesses to promote cycling, installing more secure cycle parking spaces or improving junction layouts to make them safer for cyclists.” In short, they will develop plans for these schemes, but whether the schemes themselves get funded or not is another matter. The announcement contains no new money



for infrastructure, cycle training, or cycle promotion.

For cycle campaigners who spent years helping TfL develop plans for a London Cycle Network, only to see them come to nothing, the proof of whether the Mayor is serious about cycling will come at the next stage - funding the proposals.

If he does follow through with the necessary money, then it’s just possible we might see some real progress. Included in the Mayor’s press release is an astonishing statistic. According to TfL, half of all car trips in Outer London are less than two miles, a distance you can cycle in around 10 minutes. These short trips amount to 2.4 million car journeys every day. If TfL can persuade the people who make these journeys to travel by bike, it would transform the roads.

Countries like Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands have shown that it is possible to convince people to take up cycling on mass. They did it largely by investing heavily in cycling infrastructure over many years. Whether London can do it on the cheap still remains to be seen.

Martin Gorst

Buying or Selling a Bike

Buying or selling a bike? There are lots of stolen bikes on the market – how can one be sure of getting a ‘clean’ one? Here are some tips, based on a recent experience using gumtree.com.



When you’ve bought a new bike:

- Make a careful note of frame and/or serial number
- Keep the receipt safe – if you resell later, this could increase the bike’s value
- Register your ownership with the manufacturer (if facility exists – it does for Bromptons)
- Consider registering on www.bikeregister.com
- Inscribe your postcode followed by house number on the frame

When buying a used bike

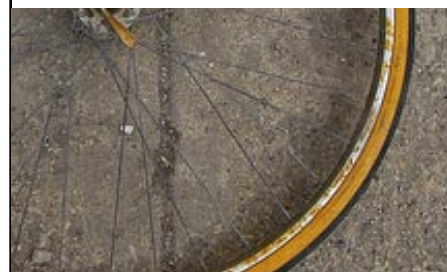
- Ask vendor for frame/serial number in advance of your visit (a refusal or non-reply is suspicious)
- Then check on www.bikeregister.com to see if listed as stolen, and on manufacturer’s database if there is one
- Be wary of ads where the photo is from the manufacturer’s website, rather than of the actual bike
- Be extra wary of multiple ‘private’ ads from the same postcode – if in doubt flag the ads to the website manager, and in flagrant cases to the police (handling stolen goods is a crime)
- Ask for a copy of the original receipt (if not available for a nearly-new bike, why not?)
- Obtain the vendor’s full home address. This is where you should aim to complete the transaction, in a well-lit area where you can test the bike.
- Check the bike carefully for bent frame (never buy), buckled wheels (indicates rough use), worn brake pads (well-used) etc
- Negotiate a discount for minor missing parts that need replacement

When selling a used bike


- Include a photo of the actual bike in the ad
- Mention known minor but correctable defects in the ad, to avoid the price being renegotiated downwards during the sale.
- Mention any extras you are happy to include such as lights
- Make it clear that the sale is “as seen” – the bike is used, not a new one under guarantee.
- Provide reasonable assistance to the buyer to establish the bike’s authenticity

The recent arrest of just one bike thief in Toronto cut the city’s bike theft rate by 17%. By being vigilant when buying a used bike in London, you might just help achieve the same here.

Peter Mynors



Public vote for new Cycle Shelter

Rides...  



Bicycles chained to a fence opposite Perivale Station in April last year, and the new cycle-parking shelter at the same spot.

In our station parking survey last year, one of worst stations for cycle facilities was Perivale which had no stands. The best option for cyclists was a chain fence opposite the station (above left). Now, thanks to the Perivale Ward Forum, Ealing Council have built a new cycle shelter. Each ward in Ealing has a budget to spend on local improvements, and the public get to choose projects and vote on how the money is spent. The decisions are made at Ward Forums which are held four times

a year, and are open to all residents living in the ward. The residents of Perivale decided their station needed better cycle parking, and chose to fund the project. If you want to improve cycle facilities in your area, or just have your say on how the council spend your money, then it's well worth attending your Ward Forum. To find out when the meetings are, and which ward you are in, go to: www.ealing.gov.uk/services/council/ and click on 'ward forums'.

Ealing Broadway Station



In October ECC met Boris Johnson, when he promised to review the suggestion that the former District Line entrance (above) be re-opened to reduce overcrowding. Over 40 million people will pass through the station before the Crossrail works are completed, and a second entrance/exit would be helpful during Crossrail construction too. The idea could also allow better access to platform level for people with cycles and luggage.

Now that Boris has discovered the cost of buying out the lease on Ladbrokes betting shop, he has decided that TfL simply can't afford to pursue the idea further. A pity. However, in the unlikely event that Crossrail founders, this is an idea that could be resurrected later.

Meanwhile, ECC's Station Cycle Parking Survey 2009 has been well received. We will be concentrating on this in our ongoing discussions with the station authorities.

Review of the Year

Looking back on 2009, how did Ealing Council get on with improving conditions for cyclists. Here's our quick review:

The Good

Removing old speed humps with steep edges and replacing them with sinusoidal humps (for instance on Elers Road in Northfields).

Resurfacing many roads.

Better design work (We're finding fewer cycle-unfriendly proposals in the plans we receive from the council).

The Bad and the Ugly



Publishing and sending to every household in the borough a booklet on Parking in Ealing which failed to mention cycle parking facilities, and advice on locking bicycles.

Removal of cycle stands in Acton and Greenford as part of streetscaping schemes.

Little progress on the manifesto pledge to "invest in providing more safer cycle routes across the borough"

Conclusion: Could do better.

New rides are added all the time, and details may change, so do check our web site for the latest information:

www.ealingcycling.org

Sunday 7th February 2010 West London Garden Suburbs

A delightful tour around the garden suburbs of West London

Leader: Elly

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Sunday 2nd May 2010 Black Country Park

A long awaited return to Black Country Park - 2009 saw a much praised route there and back that is still talked about!

Leader: Murray

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Sunday 6th June 2010 Eltham Palace

Ben returns to this hidden gem in south east London due to popular demand. Full details nearer the time

Leader: Ben

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Sunday 20th June 2010 West London Greenfest

Our regular ride to this local environment and community based fair. Music, food, crafts, bikes and all by the river side. It's so close we'll take the long way via Richmond Park for a cake stop before heading into Hammersmith.

Leader: David probably

Time: 10.00am prompt

Place: Ealing Town Hall Steps, New Broadway W5

Next Meeting...

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at Cafe Grove, 65 The Grove, Ealing W5 5LL.

Our next meetings will be on Wednesday 3rd February and Wednesday 3rd March 2010, at 7.30 pm. All members welcome.