LOCAL NEWS & UPDATES

March 2016



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MINI HOLLAND (MH) UPDATE

Confusingly this is also known as Go Cycle or Go Developments! We're approaching the make or break stage. So if you support Kingston's Mini Holland please email us, tweet us, come to our meetings or follow the @WeSupportKTMH Twitter account.

We really need everyone who can to please volunteer their help to make these schemes become a reality.



We should all be concerned that it is now **two** years since Kingston Council won over £30m of funding from Transport for London (TfL) for its Mini Holland schemes. These funds are a 'once in a generation' opportunity to provide safe cycling routes in our Borough and to make improvements benefitting all. We appreciate such innovative developments take time but progress so far has been painfully slow.

Two other Boroughs won similar amounts from TfL: Enfield have had a series of successful consultations; Waltham Forest are nearing completion. By contrast, Kingston have consulted on, and started, only **one** scheme.

In February we attended a 'key stakeholder' consultation with draft plans for around half the projects:

- We were pleased to see the Portsmouth Road construction works are underway
- We saw an excellent proposal for a fully segregated cycle route from Kingston Station to College Roundabout, with cycle tracks in both directions on the east side of Wheatfield Way
- There are proposals for the Fountain Roundabout in New Malden. Unfortunately there were no available plans for the route along Cambridge and Kingston Roads or along Kingston Hill
- There are plans for the route Kingston-Surbiton-Tolworth. This could become one of the longest examples of protected space in London but they need to resolve many details

There are separate local meetings for the New Malden to Raynes Park route. They did express some concern about the Boardway, which was not part of this engagement either.

The spring and summer months of this year will be crucial. As no schemes are ready, the Borough cannot consult on them before the Mayoral election 'purdah' period (March to May 2016). In the next 15 months RBK will need to consult on, and then enter into, construction contracts for each one.

We are riding some of the principle routes with Councillors from the Administration and Opposition. This shows them the, often unsatisfactory, current conditions for safe cycling. They have all been supportive. We understand RBK want to engage with the public and check there is support for schemes - the evidence is that there is such support.

There are some great proposals but, unless executed it is all a bit pointless. Kingston now need to have 'cojones', to borrow Mayor Johnson's expression, and get on with it!

MAYORAL ELECTION 2016 - will you Sign For Cycling?



In May 2016, London elects its next Mayor. London Cycling Campaign has just launched its biggest campaign yet, Sign for Cycling. We want the next Mayor to make cycling safe and enjoyable for everyone by:

- creating more safe space for cycling
- encouraging more local journeys by bike
- and tackling lorry danger

You can tell the Mayoral candidates that you want a city that is greener, healthier, safer and easier to get about by signing the petition today: www.signforcycling.org

RIDES THIS SPRING - free and no need to book

We meet in Kingston's Ancient Market Place. Routemaster Roger decides on the day, whether an urban or a countryside ride. Usually we cycle on quieter roads, towpaths and forest tracks. Day rides stop for a publunch, with a tea stop and John's celebrated Bread Pudding in the afternoon. For all rides bring your lights and a spare inner tube.

You can pick up our colourful leaflet with all the dates from Kingston's libraries and local bike shops or see the Rides Calendar on our website at kingstoncyclecampaign.wordpress.com/rides-2/rides-calendar/

MONTHLY CAMPAIGN MEETINGS - all welcome!

Join us at the Kingston Environment Centre at 1 Kingston Road, KT3 3PE, New Malden - near the Fountain roundabout. We usually meet at 8pm on the second Tuesday of each month:

8 March - 12 April - 10 May

We post any updates on our <u>Twitter feed</u> and at www.kingstoncycling.org.uk



You can contact Jon on 07984 757761.