

London Walking Forum – MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 12th January 2021

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

(WN) Will Norman, London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner

(SE) Stephen Edwards, Living Streets

(KCI) Kelly Clark for Theo Highland, Sustrans

(TO) Tove Okunniwa, London Sport

(KH) Kirsty Hoyle, Transport for All

(RD) Ros Daniels, Canals and River Trust

(SM) Susannah Miller, Canals & River Trust

(CW) Clare Wadd, Ramblers

(JL) Jeremy Leach, London Living Streets

(SP) Steph Pathak, Strategy and Planning Manager, TfL

(CS) Catherine Seaborn, GLA

Additional participants: (KC) Kate Conto, Ramblers (DH) David Harrison, Living Streets (EG) Emma Griffin, Living Streets (RB) Rachel Buck, TfL (JG) James Grant, TfL (MS) Mahalia Sterling, TfL

Apologies: (KW) Katharina Winbeck, London Councils

1	Chair's Welcome WN welcomed attendees. Noted that there is currently lots of attention on walking, particularly leisure walking due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2	Review of actions All actions from previous meeting complete, or covered in this meeting.
3	Updates from participants All organisations updated on activities. Canal and River Trust: <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Canal boat movements, businesses and services restrictions reimposed— Further staff furlough, volunteering activity restricted— Towpath usage increase has maintained through 2020 and likely to see increases during lockdown— Trust continues to provide a resource for wellbeing, exercise, connecting with nature, and active travel as an alternative to public transport• Towpath improvements<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Grand Union Canal Cycleway – sections completed between Greenford and Alperton and between Stockley Park and Printing House Lane Hayes— Towpath promo in Alperton with LB Brent October 2020— Additional sections complete in Hillingdon: West Drayton to Yiewsley, Cowley Mill Road to

Culvert Lane Uxbridge

- Feasibility study underway for towpath, access and public realm improvements on Grand Union Canal in South Southall in partnership with LB Ealing and Let's Go Southall (Sport England pilot)

- Alperton Health Walks (C&RT Let's Walk/Ramblers Walking for Health) led walks pilot October 2020 – small groups via Eventbrite; now on hold again
- Southall social prescribing pilot with LB Ealing and Catalyst Housing extended – short canal walks and volunteering
- Stay Kind Slow Down towpath campaign launched in October '20 to encourage more considerate and empathetic use of towpaths in light of increased visitor numbers by a wide range of people, some experiencing the canals for the first time

Living Streets:

- Working with London Living Streets to create Mayoral manifesto focused on better walking environments
- Recalibrating walk to school activities for lockdown 3
- Ongoing advocacy on Highway Code and Pavement Parking
- Walking and Cycling Alliance continuing to engage DfT on carbon reduction
- WACA guide to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods published in November ([the-urgent-case-for-more-walking-and-cycling-waca-report.pdf \(livingstreets.org.uk\)](https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/the-urgent-case-for-more-walking-and-cycling-waca-report.pdf))

London Living Streets

- Developing a manifesto for the 2021 London Mayoral Elections with focus on high quality walking environments to and in London's 200+ town centres, safe and pleasant walking environments (crossings, pavements, default 20mph) achieving traffic volume reduction, enabling walking to school and the emerging potential for car-free.
- Working with individual boroughs on delivering Streetspace for London projects - continued focus on LTNs.
- Developing Footways London.
- Central London – working with City of Westminster around Oxford Street District and wider West End area.
- Vision Zero – especially 20mph limits for remaining non-20mph default boroughs and phase 2 of 20mph on the TLRN.
- Consultations – inc. Royal Parks

Ramblers

- Group walks and volunteering activities are suspended
- Membership numbers have begun to recover - focus on promoting joy of walking, including close to home, with focus on #walkinwinter over last month
- 'Grass isn't greener' report – focus on access to nature, including Environment Bill
- Planning reform – alternative vision
- New 'green routes' for London
- Capital Ring and London Loop – improving waymarking, updating route PDFs
- Counting walkers

London Sport

- Covid-19 sector support
- Physical activity insight data
- Strategy launches: London Sport (21 Jan), Sport England (26 Jan)
- Digital communications – diverse communities' project Couch25K/F
- Social prescription

ACTION: WN/TO to link up activity on Social Prescribing

	<p>Sustrans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Launch of London Mayoral Manifesto – 20th January – Working to make the 160 miles of National Cycle Network in London accessible and welcoming for everyone to walk, wheel and cycle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Coordinate and expand London’s existing green walking and cycling routes into an iconic ‘great green routes of London’ network – Remove 500 discriminatory access barriers from park entrances, pavements and Cycleways – Supporting borough delivery of Streetspace schemes to strengthen depth of engagement with communities and stakeholders, through HSO and other projects – Ensuring the return to the school run is not car-based after the current lockdown – Strong focus on equitable delivery of schemes across London <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensuring there is sufficient focus on outer London boroughs. Working with councils to initiate walking schemes to encourage people to remain in their local area <p>Transport for all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Publishing Pave the Way report ● Involved in micro-mobility work with TfL ● Working with City of London on all change at Bank scheme ● A new campaign is being launched to support service providers, e.g. Taxicard ● Looking at widening beyond London to relaunch as national organisation <p>Transport for London</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Streetspace delivery update. ● Mode shift towards walking and cycling across London during the pandemic (next on agenda) ● School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhood research underway ● Live consultations: https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/general/streetspace-for-london/
4	<p>Walking in London during the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>RB presented data on walking in London during the COVID-19 pandemic, showing that the mode share of walking has increased substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic, driven by an increase in shorter more local journeys, more working from home and a higher proportion of journeys being made for shopping/leisure which are typically walked.</p> <p>Despite this increase in walking mode share, progress towards the Mayors Transport Strategy target of 80% of journeys by sustainable mode has suffered, due to the increase in journeys made by private vehicle. Also, fewer Londoners are completing 20mins of active travel each day, which is likely to be due to a decline in commuting journeys.</p>
5	<p>Leisure walking discussion</p> <p>The group discussed leisure walking in London. Point discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is an opportunity for the group to share data and work together to improve data collection on pedestrian movements across London. <p>Action: RB/SM to discuss the use of CRT ped/cycle count camera data Action RB/KCl to set up workshop on pedestrian monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further qualitative analysis could follow on from the previous Active People Research (given the ‘trigger to walk more’ as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. To explore what interventions going forward can support more walking (potential partnership). Different types of journeys have different purposes, will the pleasure and satisfaction of leisure journeys help encourage people to walk more for other purposes

	<p>post pandemic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vast majority of research on how green spaces are used involve cycling, however it shows correlation in cycling for leisure and pleasure then becoming everyday cyclist. Green spaces are places for people to gain confidence; greenspace infrastructure important for attracting new people to walking and cycling; places doing it well invest in both greenspace and networks. • The group are interested in research on Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and the impact on walking. • Footways case study - "enjoyable utility walking"; historical streets can be as beautiful and rewarding as well as green spaces; lots of engagement + advisory group; popularity shows demand for enjoyable utility walking; engagement is incredibly important; routes very important, whole journey • Walking maps are not just for route planning, but also advocacy and a tool for communication about walking. • Outer London town centres are an opportunity for more walking.
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>None</p>
7	<p>Chairs conclusion and next steps</p> <p>Discussion has highlighted the following key areas for leisure walking:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Counting and understanding 2 Raising awareness of leisure routes and opportunities for leisure walking 3 Connecting up green spaces and urban walks 4 Improving infrastructure so that everyone is connected to walking opportunities <p>Action: WN to share draft minutes with the group for approval and then make public</p>