

London Walking Forum – MINUTES

Date: Monday 25th May 2021

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

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

(SE) Stephen Edwards, Living Streets

(JL) Jeremy Leach, London Living Streets

(KCI) Kelly Clark for Theo Highland, Sustrans

(KC) Kate Conto, Ramblers

(CW) Clare Wadd, London Ramblers

(TC) Tim Copley for Tove Okunniwa, London Sport

(KH) Katie Pennick, Transport for All

(SM) Susannah Miller, Canals & River Trust

(CW) Clare Wadd, Ramblers

(SP) Steph Pathak, TfL

(RB) Rachel Buck, TfL

(KS) Kat Stretton, GLA

Additional participants: (BB) Ben Bloom, TfL

Apologies: (KW) Katharina Winbeck, London Councils, (KH) Kirsty Hoyle, Transport for All, (RD) Ros Daniels, Canals and River Trust

1	Chair's Welcome WN welcomed attendees. There were no comments on the minutes from the last meeting.
2	Review of actions There were three actions from the last meeting of which 1 is still outstanding. That is for RB/KCI to set up a workshop on pedestrian monitoring. RB explained that she will organise a workshop in the coming months once we have a better understanding of the walking programme for the next three years and what monitoring would be most useful.
3	Manifesto commitments and the Walking Action Plan <u>Manifesto commitments</u> WN gave an overview of the manifesto commitments which relate to walking. He explained that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the Mayor's manifesto continues to emphasise greener, cleaner transport and walking remains prominent.- the Forum has played an invaluable role in promoting this agenda.- TfL and the GLA are looking at how to take the manifesto commitments forward. Delivery challenges include uncertainty around funding and a shorter Mayoral term (only 3 years rather than 4 years). Forum members expressed an interest in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the network of green walking routes

- removing access barriers
- engagement with outer London boroughs
- the need for greater equity in policy and investment decisions
- the need to better understand the role of leisure walking as trips such as unpaid care work are counted as leisure trips
- the impact that general motor traffic has on Londoners' propensity to walk
- manifesto commitments around house building and further opportunities to increase walking.

Walking Action Plan

RB presented some slides on the Walking Action Plan, recapping targets, highlighting key achievements, and explaining how the pandemic has impacted on walking in London.

WN asked members about the future priorities for this Forum. The following comments were made:

- The Forum could collaborate on a strategic plan for leisure walking and the case-making for investment.
- In the short-term it's important for the Forum to think about how our streets have changed and how we ensure that walking is still prioritised and access is maintained.
- Need to get a better understanding of:
 - a) journeys that people are making and how more walking can be integrated into those trips. This would involve addressing some of the key barriers to public transport.
 - b) data on inequalities in walking and how best to reduce inequalities between different groups of Londoners.
 - c) how people are using existing walking networks and how people are using walking apps. TfL analysis could be helpful to boroughs as it could help to prioritise investment where it's most needed.

WN highlighted that there's been a 38% increase in casualties on local roads in recent years and stressed the importance of maintaining momentum for Vision Zero as it's a key barrier to walking.

WN thanked everyone for their contributions and explained that he'd consider all of the points made and come back to the Forum with a proposed plan of action.

Action: TfL and GLA to consider comments and develop a draft work programme for the Forum to be presented at the next meeting.

4 Roundtable discussion

All organisations updated on recent activities.

The Canal and River Trust

- responding to Covid-19.
- towpath improvements continue.
- Working with the Ramblers on 'let's walk' led walks. This involves some taster days to get people walking.
- Social prescribing pilot in Southall has concluded.
- Current campaign 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' looking at the role of the canals in improving people's wellbeing.

London Living Streets

- Election campaigning around walking/public realm. Manifesto focused on road pricing, pedestrian crossings, car-free zones, Vision Zero, walking to school and Footways London.
- Been campaigning for LTNs to be retained.

- Footways London – working with Ramblers to see how urban journeys can connect with leisure routes.

Living Streets

- National Walking Month – had lots of activities on website including a carbon pledge.
- Walk to School Week was successful.
- Undertaken research on Road Traffic and Injury Risk in Ethnic Minority Populations. Now looking at what needs to be done through policy.
- Research underway with ARUP and Sustrans on Walking for everyone – will keep Forum updated.
- Launching a campaign on cutting street clutter – would like to collaborate with Forum members.
- Highway code – DfT shortly publishing a summary of responses and will be consulting on a final draft.

London Sport

- Launching a campaign to help stimulate behaviour change and encourage less active Londoners into physical activity.
- Tackling Inequalities Fund – enabling providers to continue their work during lockdown (giving support to non-usual suspects)
- Opening School Facilities – encouraging schools to open up facilities and do more around active travel.
- Identifying a programme of insight / research

Ramblers

- Led walks programme is back. The health walks scheme has been rebranded as ‘wellbeing walks.’
- Worked with partners to develop 6 new green routes in London which has been well received. Work still to be done on route development.
- Improving the existing Walk London Network routes. Focusing on London Loop and Capital ring and have revised pdfs and redrawn maps to take account of current conditions. There’s now a link from the TfL website to these maps.
- Looking to organise a month’s worth of walks on the Loop in September to mark 20 years of the London Loop.

Sustrans

- Focus on Outer London boroughs who haven't delivered Streetspace schemes.
- HSO programme continues to be valuable with delivery of school streets and LTNs across London.
- DfT are making significant investment in NCN in England and Sustrans is hoping to guide the work on outer London boundaries to improve access to green spaces.
- Ripple Greenway opening next month which is a brilliant local green new route.

Transport for all

- Lots of work was done on the London Elections 2021. TfA’s manifesto for accessible journeys highlights the need for accessible streets and the importance of engagement and consultation with disabled people.
- Recent campaign on soho raised awareness of the streetscape and the inaccessibility of it. Highlighted issues with pavement dining, lack of dropped kerbs and street clutter. Have had a great response from Westminster to the campaign.
- Advice Line reopening which is a key way to monitor issues disabled people are facing and be able to target interventions and campaigns.

6	AOB
	None
7	Chairs conclusion and next steps

	<p>WN thanked all participants for their contributions and restated his intention to synthesise all comments and feedback and have a draft work programme for the Forum to be shared at the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: WN to share draft minutes with the group for approval and then make public</p>