

London Walking Forum – MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 9 September 2020
Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

(WN) Will Norman, London’s Walking and Cycling Commissioner
(SE) Stephen Edwards, Living Streets
(JL) Jeremy Leach, London Living Streets
(TH) Theo Highland, Sustrans
(RD) Ros Daniels, Canal and River Trust
(SM) Susannah Miller, Canal and River Trust
(TO) Tove Okunniwa, London Sport
(KP) Katie Pennick, Transport for All
(FO) Flora Ogilvie, TfL
(CS) Catherine Seaborn, GLA

Additional participants: **(RB)** Rachel Buck, TfL; **(SB)** Stephanie Bortoli, TfL; **(TF)** Taryn Ferguson, GLA

Apologies: **(GC)** Gemma Cantelo, Ramblers; **(CW)** Clare Wadd, Inner London Ramblers; **(KW)** Katharina Winbeck, London Councils

1	Chair’s Welcome WN welcomed attendees and addressed the current environment in relation to the pandemic and TfL’s operation.
2	Review of actions No actions from the previous meeting
3	Updates from participants All organisations updated on activities. Common themes included staff returning from furlough and restart of programmes and face-to-face delivery that had been put on hold due to the pandemic. Living Streets is focussing on ensuring the return to school is not car-led by developing resources and behaviour change programmes for schools. They will continue to work with Government to ensure walking is being adequately represented alongside cycling. Updated on Highway Code consultation and upcoming Pavement Parking consultation. Sustrans is reviewing priorities to focus on equity and an equitable delivery of walking and cycling infrastructure. Have produced guidance on delivering and designing LTNs to help improve the quality of the ones being delivered. Looking at using National Cycling Network for access to and between green spaces. Canal & River Trust updated on increased usage of towpaths during and post-lockdown. This demonstrates the value of the towpaths but does bring challenges. Launched a new behaviour change campaign “Stay Kind Slow Down” focusing on considerate use of the towpaths. Upcoming partnership with social prescribing partners.

	<p>Transport for All updated on concerns around some policies including face coverings and passenger assistance on public transport. Highlighted concern about the pace of street level changes and risk of these spaces becoming less inclusive, and flagged publication of a report on these topics. Has soft-launched a new campaign called “Pave the Way” to call for green and accessible infrastructure. Has partnered with London Travel Watch to work with boroughs on EqIAs for transport schemes.</p> <p>Action: WN and KP to hold a separate meeting to discuss street changes</p> <p>London Sport shared some insight into activity figures during lockdown, highlighting the disparity in activity levels during lockdown. Working closely with community groups to help keep them sustainable through this crisis and administering the “Tackling Inequality Fund” for Sport England. Has also been focussed on reopening of leisure centres and return to formal sports. Outside of pandemic response, working on another round of its tech incubator with a focus on getting people who are inactive to use tech to become and stay active. Working on a piece on tech communications aimed specifically at BAME communities.</p> <p>Action: TO to share results of targeted BAME comms campaign when ready</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Streetspace update</p> <p>WN updated on how the programme is progressing and shared some figures on the number of schemes that have been funded and delivered. Pace and scale is unprecedented although this has created some challenges. Highlighted how important it is that we are gathering data on the impacts of the changes to help make the case for more positive change.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Engagement update</p> <p>SB updated on the TfL engagement plan for Streetspace. Acknowledged that better engagement is required, now the initial pace of delivery and a sense of normality has returned. Updated on ongoing work around LTNs and the need be comfortable with making changes where schemes aren’t working.</p> <p>Action: TfL to share LTN resource with LWF partners in the coming weeks</p> <p>The partners discussed how engagement could be improved based on learnings from own work. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of a variety of groups when developing schemes and guidance and a recognition that schemes may have an adverse impact on some groups • A strategic approach to area-wide schemes such as LTNs is key. Focus on providing access to town centres • Need to engage with political stakeholders as well as officers. Suggestions included encouraging the sending of supportive letters with positive suggestions or sharing stories of people who have experienced positive changes following the implementation of a scheme. • There is time to do some engagement with these schemes, even if not as lengthy as usual. Could funding be linked to developing an adequate engagement strategy? • Compare steps that went into successful school streets vs. non-successful ones to help provide a toolkit for boroughs and schools <p>Action: TH to share data on school streets when available</p> <p>Action: TH to present on HSOs at next meeting</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Forward agenda</p>

	<p>Group discussed how priorities and capabilities have changed in light of the pandemic.</p> <p>Walking has blossomed during lockdown; how do we facilitate it better to make it the more natural thing to do?</p> <p>Discussed that equity should be added to the cross-cutting themes as it has been highlighted as a key issue during lockdown. Are we really seeing all groups walking more?</p> <p>Agreed that the next meeting would focus on two pieces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on area-wide schemes (LTNs/School Streets) incl. learnings from HSOs and accessibility. • What role does walking play in building activity into everyday life (leisure walking, everyday transport, and public transport)? All through the lens of equality.
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>Action: WN to share draft minutes with the group for approval and then make public</p> <p>Action: TfL to share data on Streetspace schemes for next meeting</p>