

London Walking Forum – MINUTES

Date: Monday 13 September January 2021

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

(WN) Will Norman, London’s Walking and Cycling Commissioner
(KCl) Kelly Clark, Sustrans
(BL) Bryn Lockwood, Sustrans
(KC) Kate Conto, Ramblers
(TO) Tim Copley, London Sport
(BG) Bobbie Gibb on behalf of James Grant, TfL
(JL) Jeremy Leach, London Living Streets
(SP) Steph Pathak, TfL
(MP) Mark Pearson on behalf of Susannah Miller, Canal & River Trust
(KS) Kat Stretton, GLA
(CW) Clare Wadd, Ramblers
(KW) Katharina Winbeck, London Councils

Additional participants: (DY) David Yates, Ramblers, (ES) Elizabeth Sandeman, TfL

Apologies: (SE) Stephen Edwards, Living Streets, (RB) Rachel Buck, TfL, (JG) James Grant, (SM) Susannah Miller, Canals & River Trust, (RD) Ros Daniels, Canals and River Trust, (KP) Katie Pennick, Transport for All

1	<p>Chair’s Welcome</p> <p>WN welcomed attendees and ran through the agenda.</p> <p>WN explained that the minutes were being finalised and that they would appear on the TfL website shortly.</p> <p>Action: KS to work with TfL to get the minutes published on the TfL website at the following link: https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/publications-and-reports/london-walking-forum</p>
2	<p>Review of actions</p> <p>WN noted that there were two outstanding actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. RB/KCl to set up workshop on pedestrian monitoring [Post meeting note: Workshop previously delayed due to uncertainty over funding/future programme. RB and KCl to liaise and set up workshop prior to next forum meeting.]2. TfL and GLA to develop a draft work programme for the Forum to be presented at the next meeting <p>WN explained that the forward agenda planner had been shared with the Forum in advance of the meeting and invited comments regarding future discussion topics.</p> <p>Action: All to email KS at Katherine.stretton@london.gov.uk with suggestions about future discussion topics.</p>
3	<p>Updates from participants</p>

All organisations updated on activities.

Ramblers

- Love your Loop Walking Festival is currently taking place in London and is celebrating 20 years of the London Loop. Details are available on the Ramblers website. Looking to promote path and build relationships with partners.
- Capital Ring and London Loop – online guides have had 40,000 views since December 2020. The project teams are carrying on with work to replace waymarking and fingerposts and volunteers are continuing to monitor sections of the route.
- New Access to nature campaign. Includes petition calling on Government to help everyone enjoy nature and work on the Environment Bill and Planning Bill.

The Canal and River Trust:

- There's been a massive increase in usage in some key areas i.e. Lee Navigation, but employment centre locations such as Paddington remain low.
- Towpath improvements:
 - Grand Union Canal Cycleway – surfacing now complete between Stockley Park and Printing House Lane Hayes
 - Towpath promotion event taking place in Hillingdon/West Drayton/Hayes
 - Additional sections in Hillingdon complete
 - Feasibility study complete for towpath access and public realm improvements on Grand Union Canal in South Southall
- C&RT and Ramblers Let's Walk led walks continue

Living Streets

- Launch of WOW Walk to school programme 2021-22
- Highway Code / Pavement parking
- Quality of walking environment – pavement clutter and trips and falls
- COP26

London Living Streets

- There are six key things that LLS are working on:
 - Healthy streets scorecard
 - Footways London
 - Central London
 - Vision Zero
 - Campaigning around LTNs in individual boroughs
 - Themes for May 2022 elections

Sustrans

- Launched the Ripple Greenway in June 2021 – 1.3km green route. Could in future be new part of Thames Path.
- £30m DfT investment in the National Cycle Network this year in England. 4 projects have been included for feasibility on London's borders. NCN12: Herts/Enfield, NCN20 & 21: Surrey/Croydon/Sutton, NCN1: Kent/Bexley, NCN6: Herts/Bucks/Hillingdon/CRT
- The next Street talks event is on 21 September and will focus on personal safety on London's streets.

Transport for all

- Dropped kerbs in Soho
- Access partner work
- Equal Pavements Pledge

London Sport

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently recruiting for a new CEO ● Working with Sport England on a strategy to increase physical activity. Tackling inequalities is a core focus. ● Work underway to identify ‘priority places’ to focus on in London. Looking at levels of inequality, inactivity and deprivation. ● Looking at active travel and where they can add value. ● Active London Conference taking place on 21 and 22 September. WN is speaking. <p>Transport for London</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updated on some of the Mayor’s manifesto commitments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connecting communities with green spaces - London Walking Forum plan for leisure walking and Green New Deal projects to green active travel schemes - Temporary interventions for walking - TfL and London boroughs monitoring and consulting on temporary schemes such as School Streets, Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, widened footways on the TLRN to decide on permanency - Pedestrian crossings – developing programme for new pedestrian crossings at junctions without a green person phase informed by data on safety and walking demand and potential - Health - development of social prescribing work, scoping tools and activity to increase uptake of walking and cycling prescribed by GPs
4	<p>Presentation from David Yates</p> <p>WN explained that in London we are keen to 1) upgrade and re-energise the existing Walk London Network and 2) look to introduce new routes to the network. David Yates was invited to give a presentation on the Salford Trail and the role that he played in its development. The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Trail is a 50 mile loop, entirely within the city boundary, split into 5 mile sections which all link to public transport. Focus was on public health, improving quality of life and access to green space. ● The ‘Gang of seven’ met monthly from 2013-2017 to deliver the project. Already very active members of the Manchester and Salford Ramblers. ● Funding came from Salford City Council, Transport for Greater Manchester and Ramblers Area office. ● Fairly easy to get the Salford Trail on the Ordnance survey ● Entire route uses Public Rights of Way or permissive Paths ● Improvements delivered by Ramblers and Salford City Council ● 100k leaflets printed, lots of local publication. Publicised on the Manchester and Salford Ramblers website. Local pride has been important in selling it. ● Salford City Council introduced counters on the Looplins to monitor usage. ● Little maintenance has been required since the trail was launched in 2017. ● Mix of uses – joggers, cyclists, dog walkers and commuter walkers. In certain parts usage has dramatically increased. ● People mainly use short sections of the Trail for practical trips. Predicated on good transport links at both ends.
5	<p>Leisure walking discussion trends in London</p> <p>SP gave a presentation on leisure walking trends in London. Key insights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covid-19 has reduced the % of Londoners meeting the 20mins daily active travel target and the % of Londoners achieving 150 minutes of physical activity per weeks has also reduced - The number of cycling and walking journeys for leisure purposes has increased - Leisure walking across the whole of London has increased from around 10% of all walking to trips, to around 35% of all walking trips in each region from 2019/2020 - Participation in leisure walking is not equitable across ethnic groups - During the pandemic the biggest increase in leisure walking was amongst those from black and Asian groups - Leisure walking increased equally amongst people with and without disability during the pandemic

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leisure walking and access to green space are closely linked. There is disparity between those who have access to green space and those who don't <p>Action: SP to share data with Forum members [Post meeting note: WN shared the leisure walking date with the Forum on 15.09.21]</p>
6	<p>Developing a leisure walking plan for London</p> <p>WN explained that he and the Mayor are committed to looking at leisure walking and responding to the demand for improved leisure walking routes across the city. He explained that City Hall's priorities are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the existing network – more attention to and promotion of this great asset. • To better connect communities with town centres and other green spaces through new green corridors and green traffic free routes. • To improve accessibility – the benefits of walking need to reach under-represented groups. • To set out how the network should be maintained going forward. <p>A discussion took place on the contents of a new Plan and the following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London's existing green route network is bigger than the seven Walk London Network routes. Smaller routes could be more widely promoted as part of network. • Qualitative and quantitative research without pre-conceptions would help identify where the need is and inform future routes. • Need to think about how different communities want to engage with this, how it's promoted and how to make it feel like a great London asset. • Technical language e.g. utility and leisure is not for a public facing document • Need to increase the offer by making it attractive and inclusive to use. Legibility and legitimacy are key to making people feel able to be use public spaces. • Important to get people to walk more and connect with nature from a health and wellbeing perspective. • Focus on connectivity. How can people access existing network so they have a range of possibilities for accessing nature. • Greening could be an additional cross-cutting theme • Three tiered approach: 1) Existing Walk London Network, 2) Wider network, 3) Green deprivation • Boroughs have climate and health high on their agenda so this could be an angle to engage via sub-regional groups. Some boroughs have zero carbon transport programmes - could look at where walking already features. Kingston and Westminster could be a good place to start.
7	<p>Chairs conclusion and next steps</p> <p>WN thanked all participants for their contributions. KS explained that the GLA/TfL would be in touch regarding a follow-up workshop at an officer level on the development of the leisure walking plan.</p> <p>Action: RB/KS to email Forum members with details on the leisure walking workshop.</p> <p>Action: WN to share draft minutes with the group for approval and then make public</p>