

London Walking Forum – MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 16 March 2022

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

(KCI) Kelly Clark, Sustrans

(KC) Kate Conto, Ramblers

(JL) Jeremy Leach, London Living Streets

(JM) John Murray, TfL

(SM) Susannah Miller, Canal & River Trust

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

(ER) Emily Robinson, London Sport

(KS) Kat Stretton, GLA

(CW) Clare Wadd, Ramblers

(KW) Katharina Winbeck, London Councils

Additional participants: (RF) Roberta Fusco, Living Streets, (OM) Olivia Morris, TfL, (ABS) Alexander Baldwin-Smith, TfL

Apologies: (KP) Katie Pennick, Transport for All, (RD) Ros Daniels, Canal & River Trust, (SE) Stephen Edwards, Living Streets, (SP) Steph Pathak, TfL, (TC) Tim Copley, London Sport

1	Chair's Welcome WN welcomed attendees. WN explained that JM has taken over from Rachel Buck as the lead on walking policy at TfL and that he will be attending the London Walking Forum meetings going forward.
2	Review of actions WN noted that all actions from the previous meeting had been completed and that the minutes are now available on the TfL website.
3	Updates from participants All organisations updated on activities. The Canal & River Trust <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have been keeping an eye on levels of usage levels on the towpath. Consistently through the pandemic there has been a high level of use for walking.• Waiting on some funding to be released to progress towpath improvements, for example between Hayes and Bull's Bridge.• Working with Ealing Council on towpath improvements to the Grand Union Canal in south Southall and looking at wellbeing activity.• Let's Walk – starting to look at more creative walk themes for led walks.

London Living Streets

- Developed vision for walking in London for the local elections focusing on clear footways, reducing motor vehicle dominance, urban walking routes and safe and easy pedestrian crossings.
- Improving legibility of the Footways maps
- Campaigning around Road User Charging.
- Working with boroughs on Vision Zero policies.

London Sport

- Emily Robinson started as the new CEO in February.
- Reviewing projects and priorities and keen to understand how they can best contribute to walking policy.
- Work ongoing with partners across the health sector on social prescribing.

Ramblers

- Latest stretch of the England Coast Path has opened. It will be the world's longest coastal route once completed.
- Waymarking programme on the Capital Ring and London Loop continues.
- Reports of waterlogged paths and fallen trees after recent storms.

Sustrans

- Paths for everyone – 3 years on progress update report. Completed 27 activation projects, removed 315 barriers and have funding to do more.
- Continuing work on the DfT-funded National Cycle Network projects on the London boundary.
- Walking for everyone report with ARUP and Living Streets. Launch is on 22 March.
- Big Walk and Wheel (used to be The Big Pedal) starts 21 March. Over 250 London schools signed up so far.
- Work continues on Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and School Streets across London. Looking at how to make improvements, i.e. greater use of inclusion audits.

TfL

- Walking Action Plan reviewed and reprioritised in light of changed walking patterns and habits.
- Green New Deal work underway to evaluate, upgrade and activate a new leisure walking route.
- Leisure Walking Plan and Access Control Guidance Note in draft.
- Looking to digitise the remaining four Walk London Network routes.
- New walk-to-school target set having exceeded the target two years early.
- Mayor attended an event on 10 March highlighting the success of the School Streets programme and the significant growth in school streets with over 500 now in place across London.

Living Streets

- 22 March National Living Streets Summit – launching 'Walking for everyone' report.
- Local elections work – focusing on school streets, action Vision Zero, air pollution, cut the clutter.
- National Walking month in May. This includes Walk to School week and the theme of Power Up.

London Councils

- London Councils Low Carbon Transport programme led by RB Kingston and City of Westminster has published its action plan along three themes:
 - Avoid unnecessary travel
 - Shift to more sustainable transport, including walking
 - Improve efficiency of transport
- They have also entered into a 'knowledge partnership' with Westminster University
- A number of boroughs are looking at kerbside strategies, including parklets, etc
- Boroughs continue to look at LTNs and School Streets
- Funding situation for boroughs still extremely difficult – no new money for new schemes until at least June 2022

Walking and public transport

The Elizabeth Line: boosting walking journeys, Olivia Morris, John Murray

- OM is the portfolio sponsor for Crossrail complementary measures, which is a £27.7m programme running since 2014.
- TfL has been focusing the complementary measures on outer London stations, delivered by the boroughs. Improvements include renewal of the urban realm, junction redesign, cycle parking, lighting, etc.
- Work has also taken place on wayfinding and customer information including a review and upgrade of Legible London signage.
- New accessibility signage is to be installed at all central EL stations.
- New active travel communications, i.e. leaflet dropping, will be targeted at the areas around the stations where there is the greatest opportunity for new journeys.
- Questions were asked about public toilet provision, both inside the new Elizabeth Line stations and within the vicinity.

Action: JM to explore if leisure walking routes are already included on Legible London and if not if they could be in the future.

Action: KS to speak to GLA press team about doing a promotional piece once the Elizabeth Line opens on public transport and how it enables active travel.

Action: OM to speak to Network Rail to see what's been delivered through the Elizabeth Line in terms of public toilet provision.

Bus Action Plan, Alexander Baldwin-Smith

- Launched on Friday 11 March and sets out the strategic direction for buses this decade.
- It is structured under 5 themes, representing the main challenges buses are facing. They are:
 - Inclusive customer experience
 - Safety and security
 - Journey Times
 - Connections
 - Decarbonisation and climate change resilience
- The bus is essential to walking and walking is essential to the bus. 21% of all walking takes place as part of a bus trip.

The following topics were discussed:

- 24-hour bus lanes trial: ABS explained that the 24-hour bus lanes are now being made permanent on the TLRN following the trials and TfL is starting to speak to boroughs about future corridors.
- Bus shelter mapping: it was suggested that TfL could effectively use bus shelters to promote onward walking journeys and that any future review of bus shelters should consider how they link to the walk network.
- Clutter: concerns were raised about challenges navigating around bus stops and bins and how floating bus stops present particular issues for pedestrians.

Action: JM to see how bus shelters could be used to promote local walking journeys.

A discussion took place on what more can be done to improve integration between walking and public transport. The following comments were made:

- Need to think strategically about how LTNs can be better integrated with the public transport network. Should be designing them as part of the 15 minute city.
- Good quality, frequent crossing facilities are needed for people to feel safe.
- 20mph speed limits are needed, particularly in outer London.
- Need to address safety concerns at gyratories using cheap materials to accelerate delivery.
- Concerns were raised about TfL funding and potential cuts to the bus network.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mapping is important in helping people to orientate themselves. Good mapping of walking routes on Legible London is needed. <p>Action: WN to consider the network of LTNs and how they can help to improve connectivity to public transport.</p> <p>Leisure Walking Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• JM gave an overview of the work to date on developing a Leisure Walking Plan. He explained that a draft is currently with City Hall for review and that he will be sharing it shortly with the LWF and asking for feedback and case studies. <p>Action: JM to share the draft leisure walking plan with the LWF in April.</p>
5	Chair's conclusion and next steps
	WN thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.