

London Walking Forum – MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 15 December 2021

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

- (RB) Rachel Buck, TfL
- (KCI) Kelly Clark, Sustrans
- (KC) Kate Conto, Ramblers
- (TO) Tim Copley, London Sport
- (SE) Stephen Edwards, Living Streets
- (JL) Jeremy Leach, London Living Streets
- (SM) Susannah Miller, Canal & River Trust
- (WN) Will Norman, London's Walking and Cycling Commissioner
- (KP) Katie Pennick, Transport for All
- (KS) Kat Stretton, GLA
- (CW) Clare Wadd, Ramblers

Additional participants: (LS) Lucy Saunders, Healthy Streets, (ES) Elizabeth Sandeman, TfL, (MS) Mahalia Sterling, (SC) Sibi Cole, TfL, (JM) John Murray, TfL

Apologies: (KW) Katharina Winbeck, London Councils, (SP) Steph Pathak, TfL

1	<p>Chair's Welcome</p> <p>WN welcomed attendees.</p>
2	<p>Review of actions</p> <p>WN noted that all actions from the previous meeting had been completed. WN was very pleased to learn that the workshop on leisure walking on the 23 November 2021 went well and expressed his gratitude to everyone who was involved.</p> <p>There were no comments on the minutes. 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>
3	<p>Updates from participants</p> <p>All organisations updated on activities.</p> <p>Living Streets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working with the European Climate Foundation to embed diversity and inclusion into its campaigning work.• Working with Sustrans and ARUP on a 'Walking for everyone' report.• Working with Transport Scotland and DfT on Inclusive design research.• Greater publicity needed by Government on the changes to the Highway Code.• Quality of pavement still needs improvement. 4 priorities include: pavement clutter, data on trips & falls, sideroad crossings and pavement parking.

	<p>London Living Streets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Street scorecard – trying to work out methodology to give greater weight to outer boroughs • Footways London – improving the legibility and reprinting Footways maps. Increasing the focus on digital mapping. • Vision zero – participated in the London Assembly Transport Committee investigation into Vision Zero. • Promoting the role of walking and public realm in borough Climate Emergency strategies. <p>Transport for All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access partner – working with councils on projects related to Streetspace. Keen to share success in Lambeth on Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and how it could be replicated. • Campaigning on colourful crossings – happy to see the Mayor respond to this. Working with TfL to develop guidance for future role of colourful crossings. • TfL funding deal – concerning as disabled people will be disproportionately affected by any cuts to buses. • Crossrail launch event planned when last station – Ilford – is made step-free • Running a national survey next year which will guide 5 year campaigning strategy <p>London Sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed a new CEO, Emily Robinson, starting in February. • Undertaken fairly significant analysis of ‘priority places’ across London where a sustained and focused approach to encouraging physical activity and tackling inequalities is needed. In new year likely to share this analysis. • Recently held the London Sport Awards – celebrates the work of community groups and volunteers. • Running some digital marketing campaigns next year to support less active groups • Administering the Together Fund – grants to community organisations will focus on: people with long term health conditions, disabled people, lower socio-economic groups, culturally diverse communities. <p>Ramblers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on improvements to Capital Ring and London Loop – done waymarking, stiles, re-route of part of the Loop • Love your Loop festival – MPs, AMs, and councillors attended. • 25 Ramblers groups in London running 60 walks a week between them. Most of the walks are in inner London and all are accessible by public transport. Public transport is fundamental to what they do. <p>Sustrans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Haringey LTNs approved for implementation • Great to see work from TfL on removing access barriers • 4 DfT funded National Cycle Network projects on London boundaries progressing well • Tower Hamlets child led street design projected celebrated with a play street • 130m artwork at Lower Sydenham <p>The Canal and River Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal drop on the towpath but overall higher usage on the towpath than pre-pandemic levels • Towpath improvements – good progress on the Grand Union Canal cycleway • Let’s Walk led walks continue – looking at different ways to get people to engage in walking
4	<p>Walk to School</p> <p>TfL update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The target to increase the proportion of trips to primary schools made by walking to 57% by 2024 has been achieved. The next available data will be available in 2023. • School Streets surveys in December 2020 found:

- 27% of parents walking to school more at schools with School Streets
- 22% of parents reported walking more at schools without School Streets
- TfL surveys indicate that Low Traffic Neighbourhoods will increase the number of children walking/cycling or scooting to school.
- A case study on St Monica's catholic primary school in Enfield has successfully encouraged active travel, through strong leadership within the school.

Lucy Saunders

- Involved in a project in Southwark with Guys and St Thomas' charitable trust and LB Southwark.
- Primary focus is to reduce health inequalities and support children's movement
- 3 locations were chosen based on the greatest need i.e. multiple deprivation and where things weren't already happening.
 - Faraday - permanently filled in pavement and put in cycle stands. Narrowed carriageway with planters
 - North Peckham - widened pavement and installed traffic filter to create calmer streets
 - Brunswick Park - connected new LTN with existing infrastructure. Looked at accessibility i.e. dropped kerbs.
- Evaluation report will be available in January 2022

Healthy Streets officers' experiences

- Worked with 183 new schools in 2021
- Provided 121 sessions with school travel officers
- HSOs organise the School Travel Champions Forum to learn from each other
- Worked with Lambeth's active travel team and introduced 20 school streets in the borough
- There are now 518 school streets in London
- A key challenge in working with non-engaged schools is finding someone in the school to work with e.g. head teacher, governor, teacher. Once staff are on board the HSO and Borough can work with the school.

Living Streets

- WoW programme - behaviour change programme involves children reporting travel every day on the tracker. Children get a badge at the end of the month which has been designed by a child. Programme leads to a 23% increase in walk journeys.
- Walk to school outreach programme- takes core elements of Wow but adds in more integration with local infrastructure decisions
- Walk to school week - week long campaign - 350,000 pupils joined in 2021
- Really important to have a school champion. Gamification between schools is effective.
- Changes are being made to the travel tracker in the next few months. Will mean parents can login directly, access more resources, reduce burden on school.
- School route audits - look at barriers to walking to school e.g. the need for school streets, wider integration for LTNs etc and work with Local Authorities to ensure changes can be introduced.
- Park & stride support - need to find suitable sites and then ensure parents use them effectively

WN explained that increasing walking to school levels further is a priority as a quarter of car journeys in the AM peak are for the school run. Keen to reduce car usage and tackle the obesity crisis, air pollution and road danger.

A discussion took place on the future walk to school activity and the following comments were made:

- STARS is important in enabling mode shift to walking
- There is a need to provide greater networks locally i.e. with boroughs, supermarkets and influencing planning applications to enable provision for future park & stride.
- School streets are a start but we need to think more broadly. LTNs are a good way to reduce danger. Borough-wide LTNs should be considered.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Need to focus on the whole journey to school in the context of catchment area. Should focus on willing boroughs.- Useful to see any data on effectiveness of park and stride in outer London- Decisions need to be grounded in data. Need to think about which schools we target and how we reach the 'high need' schools.- Access audits are important to assess the quality of the pavements. Accessibility should be included as part of evaluation process- Need to bring communities along with us and to engage properly
5	Chairs conclusion and next steps
	WN thanked all participants for their contributions.