

Borough news and update from Get Sutton Cycling | June 2019

## Cycling advisory group receives green light

In recognising the links between cycling projects and wider outcomes, such as air quality and public health, a very welcome commitment was given in Sutton's [Cycling Strategy](#) (LB of Sutton, November 2015) to establish an internal Cycling Advisory Group within the council.

We are delighted to report that shortly after the [Cycle Forum](#) meeting held in February 2019, we received notification that "officers had agreed that there would be a value in setting up a regular project review meeting involving officers responsible for Transport Strategy, Air Quality, Sustainable Transport, Highways, Opportunity Sutton and ideally Public Health and Parks". See [Cycling advisory group gets green light](#) for full statement.

The inaugural meeting of this 'LBS Projects Review' team took place on 11 April 2019, and further meetings are due to take place on a quarterly basis. The Projects Review team has been reminded of the [latest findings from Public Health England on the links between cycling and health](#).

## Sutton's third Local Implementation Plan receives approval

On 12 April 2019, [Sutton's third Local Implementation Plan received approval](#) from the Mayor of London. The third Local Implementation Plan (LIP) details how the borough will implement, locally, the policies and proposals set out in the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy (2018). The LIP is essentially the Transport Plan for Sutton looking ahead to 2041. Fundamental to the Mayor's Transport Strategy is the overarching aim for 80 per cent of all trips in London to be made on foot, by cycle or using public transport by 2041. This aim is essential for the health, sustainability, attractiveness and efficient functioning of the city, and every London local authority will need to contribute towards it. Sutton's target for 2041 is 63 per cent of trips made by residents will be by active, efficient and sustainable modes (i.e. walking, cycling and public transport).

### Overarching mode share aim – changing the transport mix (*Third LIP and MTS*)

Proportion of trips to be on foot, by cycle or by public transport	Now (2018)	2021	2025	2041
	Sutton borough 45 or 46%	Sutton borough 48%	Sutton borough 56%	Sutton borough 63%
	London 63%	London	London	London 80%

The LIP also sets out an investment programme for the three years from 2019-2021, listing the transport schemes that the council intends to implement over this period as well as outlining future schemes and ambitions that the council will deliver as funding opportunities arise. There is more on the LIP in our blog post [Sutton's third Local Implementation Plan receives approval](#).

Note: The latest available data for Sutton is for the period 2014/15 to 2016/17. The Summary of Sustainable Transport Targets (Appendix C to the Update on Sustainable Transport Strategy report (28 June 2018)), as presented to the [E&N Committee on 28 June 2018](#), gave a figure of 45% for 2014/15 to 2016/17 (a combination of cycling 2%, walking 26%, public transport 17%). However, the third LIP ([LB of Sutton – Transport Plans](#)), under 'Headline Priority' on page 35, provides a figure of 46% for the same period. There had been the expectation that a further update of the Sustainable Transport Strategy targets, providing data for 2015/16 to 2017/18, would have been presented to the [E&N Committee meeting on 20 June 2019](#). This report appears to have been delayed, possibly due to additional time and priority being given to ongoing discussions around the implementation of the borough's 2016 Parking Strategy, and is now expected at the [E&N Committee scheduled for 17 October 2019](#). (The third LIP notes (page 64): "It is traditional with highway related projects that measures of success are measured in a 3 year period post-completion, and these relate to empirical survey data such as traffic (all modes) flows/speeds and accident data". It is interesting to note that 46 per cent was the observed figure for the period 2012/13 to 2014/15, as reported in the Amended Appendix Sustainable Transport Document – Action Plan – Summary of Targets, [E&N 15 September 2016](#).)

# New Environment Strategy and new Air Quality Action Plan

[Sutton Council publishes Environment Strategy on World Environment Day](#) (LB of Sutton, June 2019)

Sutton's Environment Strategy 2019-2025 was published on 5 June 2019, World Environment Day, replacing the former Sustainability Strategy (One Planet Sutton) from 2009. The strategy replicates the stated aim of the borough's Sustainable Transport Strategy (2015) in its headline vision: **Sutton will be London's most Sustainable Borough**, and declares an ambition that **Sutton will be a place where walking and cycling short journeys is easy, pleasant and safe**. Targets are provided which replicate those in the borough's third LIP. Unfortunately, targets are not always met, and they can get changed along the way, often with no explanations or reasons given. For our review see [Sutton's Environment Strategy 2019-2025](#).

Environment Strategy / <b>Third LIP</b> : a summary of some of the targets	Now	2022	2041
Proportion of journeys in Sutton made by walking, cycling or public transport	46%	48%	63%
Proportion of Sutton's residents doing 20 minutes of active travel a day	28%	36%	70%
Proportion of Sutton's population within 400 metres of the strategic cycle network	0%	24%	37%

[New Air Quality Action Plan launched on clean air day](#) (LB of Sutton, June 2019)

One of the five themes presented within the Environment Strategy is 'Cleaner Air', and the Action Plan for this theme is included in the borough's Air Quality Action Plan, which was launched on 21 June 2019, Clean Air Day. Thirty-six actions are listed, twelve of which are in the 'Cleaner transport' category, with four of those given high priority status. One of the medium priority actions is 'Discourage unnecessary engine idling' to include the investigation of "options for creating No Engine Idling Zone(s) around a school at peak times by 2021". For our review of the 'Cleaner Transport' actions, see [Sutton's Air Quality Action Plan 2019-2023](#).

## Electric assist bike rental could soon be launched across the borough



There is expectation that an announcement could be made in the coming weeks regarding the official launch of electric bike hire in Sutton in July 2019. Distinctive looking e-bikes from [Lime](#) started to make an appearance in Sutton High Street at the beginning of May 2019, around the time the shared, dockless, e-bikes were [launched in neighbouring Croydon](#). The Sutton Liberal Democrat election manifesto in May 2018 included a pledge "to deliver a borough Electric Bike scheme", and it looks as though the anticipated launch will honour that commitment.

Meanwhile, [details have been revealed of a proposed London-wide byelaw to control the operation of dockless bike hire schemes](#). The byelaw will require all dockless bikes to be left only in places agreed by the local authority. The launch in Enfield by [Beryl Bikes](#) on 28 June 2019 leads the way, providing distinctive green bays to make it easy to find a bike and also a place to park at the end of the ride.

Sutton's trial will be watched with interest, and we wish it well. The bottom line, though, is that most people will only consider cycling as a mainstream, everyday, option if they feel safe. A feeling of safety can be delivered through high-quality infrastructure and low-traffic streets, criteria that is in short supply (bordering on non-existent), *up until now*.

## Quietways/Cycleways, Liveable Neighbourhoods and School Streets

The optimism at the start of 2019, regarding progress on the future of the borough's proposed Quietways/Cycleways, has abated slightly. An informal consultation that was to have taken place in April is now expected in September. The reason for the delay is believed to be due to the time required, and priority given, to on-going debates across the borough in regard to the implementation of the borough's **2016 Parking Strategy**. It is believed that the Parking Strategy debacle is also responsible for the absence of the 2020/21 LIP settlement report for the Sutton Local Committee area on 6 June 2019, and the non-reporting of the annual update on the Sustainable Transport Strategy and Cycling Strategy at the E&N meeting on 20 June 2019. These items are now effectively postponed until 12 September 2019 and 17 October 2019 respectively. There has been confirmation that [new cycle route Quality Criteria](#) will be used for the Quietways.

The anticipated April 2019 meeting/workshop on the Liveable Neighbourhoods bid did not take place either. The latest on this is that all Cycle Forum members will be invited to consultation in September 2019, ahead of the 29 November 2019 submission deadline.

Could Dorchester School be the first school in the borough to benefit from a [School Street](#)? Perhaps! A 'reduce vehicle' scheme, to include a trial promotional campaign to raise awareness about the benefits of walking to school and reducing car use for school pick up and drop off times **with possible 'Play street' or 'School street' days implemented working with Dorchester School and parents doing the school runs**, was presented to the [Cheam North and Worcester Park Local Committee on 27 June 2019](#).