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Borough news and update from Get Sutton Cycling | December 2019

Consultation on Sutton's first Cycleway opens

An informal public consultation on the borough's first proposed **Cycleway** (formerly known as a Quietway) opened on 4 October 2019. The consultation related to the [Cycleway between Sutton High Street and Colliers Wood - proposals in the St Helier area](#). A consultation on the remainder of the route within the borough (the section between Grennell Road and Sutton High Street) was expected to have followed in November 2019. However, the consultation on this "second phase" of the route has been delayed until the end of January, or early February 2020. The delay is due to "a lack of resources" and "the need to get the approach and timing right". The announcement of the General Election for 12 December 2019 (see [Party manifestoes and cycling](#)) has also hampered progress. All understandable to a point, but it is worth remembering that proposals for this Cycleway have been in the pipeline (as a Quietway) [for over three and a half years](#).

To read our response to the the proposals for the St Helier area, which included twenty specific recommendations, see [Our response to the 'Cycleway between Sutton High Street and Colliers Wood – proposals in the St Helier area' informal consultation](#). GOOD NEWS: A response from a council officer to our comments has been received, and this includes the welcome news that **a link to St Helier Hospital is now being considered**.

Sutton Council organised two rides along the proposed alignment of the **Worcester Park to Sutton town centre Cycleway** (essentially the existing London Cycle Network 75) for Sutton Cycle Forum members in early October 2019. Draft plans outlining the route were provided beforehand, and it was good to see that these included **neighbourhood areas for low traffic measures**. Our feedback, on 7 October, asked for 'big' infrastructure work at the the major crossing points at London Road (A24), Dunstan's Hill (A217), and St Nicholas Way, with substantial additional work on Gander Green Lane (by Collingwood Recreation Ground) and on the busier sections of the route.

GOOD NEWS: **A new member of staff has been recruited by the council to work on these Cycleway projects**, and this new staff member is expected to start in January 2020.

Sutton's Liveable Neighbourhoods funding bid submitted

Photo courtesy of @Labourstone (Twitter 25 September 2019)



Our response to the [Sutton Liveable Neighbourhoods – funding bid](#) consultation, in support of Sutton's proposed first Liveable Neighbourhoods bid, was submitted on 31 October 2019 (see [Our response to the 'Sutton Liveable Neighbourhoods funding bid' consultation 2019](#)). An announcement of the successful bidders for this third round of funding is expected in February 2020.

GOOD NEWS: **Several councillors attended a tour of the ward winning Waltham Forest mini-Holland** on 25 September (see [photo](#)). Attendees included Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr. Jayne McCoy (Wallington South); Cllr. Manuel Abellan, Chair - Environment and Neighbourhood Committee (Beddington South); Cllr. Jill Whitehead, Chair of the Pension Committee (Carshalton Central); Cllr. Kevin Burke, Chair - Planning Committee (Sutton West); Cllr. Trish Fivey, Chair - Licensing Committee (Sutton South); Cllr. Richard Clifton, Vice-Chair - Licensing Committee (Sutton South).

GOOD NEWS: On 1 November, **the Mayor's Walking and Cycling Commissioner, Will Norman, visited Sutton**. Will shared [this photo](#) when he met-up with Council Leader Ruth Dombey outside Pearson Cycles in Sutton High Street.

The STS and the latest available data on cycling mode share

A Summary of **Sutton's Sustainable Transport Strategy Targets** (Appendix C to the annual STS monitoring report) was made available to us on 4 October 2019, following our request for the information. The documentation, which had not been presented to the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee at either the June 2019 or October 2019 committee meetings, revealed that the **latest available figure for cycling mode share in the borough** (three-year average 2015/16 to 2017/18) **was 1.3%**. This compares with a figure of 1.8% for the previous three year period 2014/15 to 2016/7 (which was given as 2% at the time).

On 23 December 2019, a [link to the monitoring report summary on the progress of Sustainable](#)

[Transport Strategy](#), against objectives and targets for the year ending May 2019, was provided. This also included progress against targets for the **Sustainable Transport Strategy Action Plan**, the **Cycling Strategy Action Plan** and the aforementioned **update of the STS Targets**.

A draft version of a new Sustainable Transport Strategy, to be given Supplementary Planning status, is expected in the spring of 2020. In light of this, we have suggested that a final report on the current 2015 Sustainable Transport Strategy be published. This could look at the most successful outcomes of the 2015 strategy, as well as consider what didn't work so well.

Electric assist bike rental reduced | Upgraded cycle link for Wallington

Lime offers a reduced service of the dockless e-bikes in Sutton. On 13 October 2019 Lime sent an email to registered users in the borough, saying "as autumn begins and the weather cools, we wanted to let you know that we are reducing our Sutton service area". Shortly afterwards, all (50) cycles disappeared from Sutton's streets. It remains unclear whether Lime's service will resume in 2020, but a report outlining the operator's experiences in the borough is expected. Vandalism, lack of use, and **issues around cross-borough usage**, are likely to be cited as reasons for the decision. Lime has also left Croydon and Bromley.

An experimental order for on-way (westbound) traffic with cycling contraflow on [Tharp Road](#) commenced in November 2019. This is considered detrimental for cyclists (especially adapted cycles and cargo bikes). Please let us know your views.

Following our August 2019 meeting with representatives of Network Rail, Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) and Sutton Council, **foliage has been cut back on the [Carshalton Station approach road](#)**. However, there has been no progress on the other improvements that are required here.

In October 2019 we wrote to Sutton Council highlighting the **poor condition of the road surface on Woodmansterne Road** (as brought to our attention by a concerned LCC member). The response, which included the phrase "Woodmansterne Road is not on this year's resurfacing programme", was not particularly helpful. Ward councillors also got involved, and this may have helped escalate the issue. There is a petition [here](#). Meanwhile, please take extra care if cycling in the area.

Beddington North Tfl Major Scheme. Construction of the northern section of the new five-metre wide cycleway/footway, linking Beddington Lane Tramlink stop with the entrance to Viridor (opposite Coomber Way) is due to recommence in January 2020. As a result of objections, the HGV restriction through Beddington Village remains on hold until further evidence that the ban will deliver its objectives has been gathered. Ward councillors will be updated on progress in February 2020. The Council will not introduce the HGV restrictions until the Major Scheme works are completed, in particular at Asda junction, and only once the formal process for considering objections has been completed - assuming that the outcome of this process is to proceed to

implementation. Based on the current programme, the Major Scheme implementation is likely to run into the autumn 2020.

An upgraded **cycling and walking link between Clarendon Road and Stafford Road** was completed in late October or early November 2019. Although this provides separate space for walking and cycling, the two-way cycle track is generally less than 1.5 metres wide, and narrows down to about 1.1 metre at one point. Furthermore, the cycle track is not at the same level as the walkway, which raises some concerns over the potential for vehicles to tip or become unstable. A bollard has not been expertly placed. The path's interface with Clarendon Road is just about acceptable, but there is, as yet, no provision to link seamlessly with Stafford Road. Such an interface, along with a crossing to Onslow Gardens, is expected ([Heathy Streets](#)).

Stafford Road - Clarendon Road link (18 December 2019)



The **Wandle Trail**, and the installation of more barriers on the upgraded Budge Lane section, hit the headlines on 13 November 2019 in [this tweet](#), with more [the following day](#). Despite the outpourings, the Council is determined that these remain.

GOOD NEWS: A Healthy Streets officer, employed by Sustrans, and to be shared between Kingston and Sutton, is now in post!