

Cycle Forum 6 November 2012

Agenda Item 7

Bike Week - What worked and lessons for the future

An event was held in North End on Saturday 23rd June from 10am, starting with HGV awareness campaign: a local company supplied their vehicle for the use of cyclists being able to be allowed to sit in the cab and discover the lack of visibility that the driver experiences. The blind spots from the cab, despite the number of mirrors on the vehicle, still means that the driver is not always going to be aware of cyclists approaching on the sides of the vehicle, or in front or behind.

Most cyclists were in awe of what they were told by the metropolitan police from the cycle task force who hold these events on a very regular basis, mainly in central London. They explained the issues that drivers of long heavy vehicles experience while driving through London's traffic congested and busy urban streets.

At twelve noon the Mayor of Croydon was presented with a GB team cycling jersey from British Cycling by Rob Mclean in recognition of a successful partnership in working to achieve greater numbers of people on bikes. It was probably the first time we had seen our mayor on a bicycle when he was photographed by local press on a Cargo bike. The cargo bikes were provided by Carrymebikes, a business that works to give market traders an opportunity to take their goods to sell at markets in London in a green and sustainable way. Cargo bikes for this purpose have since been bought by Tower Hamlets Hackney and Redbridge councils for traders to try and test the bikes for this purpose.

British Cycling Lead riders from the sky local rides were present to give out the message to the passing public about the sky rides for families and children and for the riders who were stronger and needed more challenging rides. Croydon held twelve sky local rides in the Borough with the help of these individuals.

Sustrans officers were on hand to give information about Connect 2 and answer any queries about the new cycle route. Cycle mechanics were on hand to repair bicycles that were brought to the event for a bit of attention, so they could be returned to use and made road worthy again. This was done by accredited mechanics. The objective of this year's bike week was to see if the number of bikes mended this year would be higher than last. This initiative was supported with thanks to cyclinginstructor.com who also carries out our cycle training in schools.

Rollapaluza was a fun event to engage with the public, to encourage people to compete on bikes against the clock and to engage with Croydon residents.

The Bicycle Library, which is a double-decker bus that visits most major cycling events in London, proved very popular carrying a range of bikes for people to use and for literature to read on cycling routes and maps, and being a generally fun place to be.

The whole event proved to be very popular, attracting lots of questions and queries about cycle training, routes and other activities that Croydon are planning for cycling in the borough.