

London Walking Forum – MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 29 June 2022

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

(KCI) Kelly Clark, Sustrans

(KC) Kate Conto, Ramblers

(SE) Stephen Edwards, Living Streets

(BG) Bobbie Gibb, TfL

(AG) Alex Gibbons, London Sport

(EG) Emma Griffin, Footways

(DH) David Harrison, Footways

(JL) Jeremy Leach, London Living Streets

(RM) Robin Mortimer, Port of London Authority

(JM) John Murray, TfL

(SM) Susannah Miller, Canal & River Trust

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

(CW) Clare Wadd, Ramblers

Apologies: (TC) Tim Copley, London Sport, (SP) Steph Pathak, TfL, (KP) Katie Pennick, Transport for All, (ER) Emily Robinson, London Sport, (KS) Kat Stretton, GLA, (KW) Katharina Winbeck, London Councils

1	<p>Chair's Welcome</p> <p>WN welcomed attendees.</p> <p>WN drew attention to this week being Vision Zero Week and the huge importance road danger reduction has for encouraging walking. WN also gave an update on the recent short-term Government funding settlement for TfL – the Government, the GLA and TfL are in agreement on the importance of active travel but so far a long-term funding settlement has not been agreed.</p>
2	<p>Review of actions</p> <p>Action: <i>JM to explore if leisure walking routes are already included on Legible London and if not if they could be in the future:</i> TfL is undertaking a London-wide sign audit (including Legible London) to update the inventory and identify gaps in on-street signage and maintenance requirements. This presents an opportunity to include walking routes on Legible London in future.</p> <p>Action: <i>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:</i> action remains open.</p> <p>Action: <i>OM to speak to Network Rail to see what's been delivered through the Elizabeth Line in terms of public toilet provision:</i></p> <p>Post-meeting update: public toilets have been delivered at the majority of Elizabeth line stations, excluding Woolwich, Canary Wharf, Whitechapel and Bond Street. The following stations have toilet facilities from the main line station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liverpool Street Elizabeth line (NR mainline station concourse near platform 11 / accessible toilet near platform 10)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddington Elizabeth line (NR mainline station concourse near platform 01 and 12 / accessible and changing spaces located near platform 12) <p>Action: JM to see how bus shelters could be used to promote local walking journeys: the recently published Bus Action Plan includes a sub-action related to this: "Working with local stakeholders to make interchange easier by providing safe and comfortable walking routes between bus stops, improving wayfinding and ensuring the right customer information is in place to support longer and more complex trips."</p>
3	<p>Updates from participants</p> <p>All organisations updated on activities.</p> <p>The Canal & River Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towpaths in London seeing depressed use due to fewer commuters. • Update on a number Grand Union Canal towpath improvements. WN expressed great enthusiasm for the Southall improvements in particular and their contribution to the Mayor's commitment to reducing green deprivation. • Let's Walk – led walks including those with a wellbeing aim, nature theme walks and taster session walks. <p>Footways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popularity of Footways walking maps distributed by Network Rail during recent industrial action. • New projects including those focused on Camden Loop and curated walks for the London Nature Trail. • Use of Footways Vienna map provides a lesson for London. WN noted that printed walking maps are a political statement of intent. <p>London Living Streets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Streets Scorecard 2022 – 5th July launch – new areas of focus: car ownership and bus priority. • Footways London – new map launched on 23rd May. • Working with other groups to campaign around Road User Charging. WN called on organisations to raise awareness of and take part in the current ULEZ consultation. • London LS meeting 4th July – inc. TfL presenting on the ULEZ consultation. • Taking part in the TfL Vision Zero summit 5th July. • Campaigning with the 14 remaining non-20mph default boroughs with post 5th May election Cabinet Members. • E-scooters rising up the agenda as a negative impact on pedestrians. • New London group – Richmond-upon-Thames. <p>Action: JM to invite appropriate TfL speaker to the next Forum to present on e-scooters.</p> <p>Living Streets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway Code: need more publicity for drivers about pedestrian priority – DfT-led awareness campaign to launch this summer • National Walking Week activities • Conducting research into: data gathering on trips/falls on footways (data gathering varies across local authorities); bus stop bypasses, particularly on their impact on visually impaired people. • New trustee: Amit Patel. <p>Action: WN to discuss with TfL Innovation team the potential for an innovation challenge to capture data on trips and falls more systemically.</p> <p>London Sport</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently agreed four strategic themes with the London Sport Board: health, active environments, children and young people, and community sport. <p>Ramblers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New updated route guidance and maps for the London LOOP published – old maps removed from TfL website which now links to new maps on the Ramblers site. Waymarking programme on the Capital Ring and London LOOP continues; volunteering project on these routes has been extended to the Green Chain Walk. 20+ walks in London each week; 26 Wellbeing Walk schemes in London and growing. <p>Action: WN to add a discussion on walking for wellbeing to the next Forum’s agenda.</p> <p>Sustrans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfT funded two NCN projects on London boundary Shortlisted for CIHT awards: Chrisp Street hub, Ripple Greenway, and another shortlisted initiative, TfL School Streets, has been supported by Sustrans HSOs. Highlighting wheeling alongside walking. Lias line featured on BBC Countryfile.
4	<p>Port of London Authority focus on walking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port of London Authority (PLA) covers Teddington to the North Sea. Work covers three themes: trading Thames, destination Thames and natural Thames. Across these themes are a number of priorities: safety; contribution of the river to Net Zero goal; resilience to climate change and economic changes; technological change; access and inclusion – broadening the use of the Thames Path to a more diverse set of people. Improving access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adding a missing link via a bridge in Greenwich new stretch of coastal path, Grain to Woolwich, connecting the sea to central London enabling Thames Clippers to take more bikes more riverside sites – a new Barking Riverside pier Commissioning walks to give more people opportunity to access the river Enthusiastic endorsement from Forum members to the PLA’s walking aims and expression of interest from CW from Ramblers and KCL from Sustrans to support PLA master planning, particularly in developing walking opportunities on the north bank in east London and beyond. JL stressed importance of opening access to more diverse communities and in particular the opportunities of more continuous walks along the River Thames in Barking & Dagenham for the communities that live in those areas.
5	<p>London Nature Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EM and DH outlined plans for Footways’ London Nature Trail, an environmental public engagement campaign curating four new green walking routes across the city. The new routes will promote the health and wellbeing benefits of spending time in nature, and support the GLA’s ‘rewilding’ agenda. Routes will navigate lesser-known nature sites in the city and take users through green corridors in areas lacking large parks and open spaces. The routes will be advertised locally to reach under-represented audiences (including lower-income and Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities) through faith groups and civil society organisations. The project will launch during the August bank holiday weekend (27-29 August 2022) and over this weekend, the GLA will work with stakeholders, community organisations and grantees to run family-friendly activities in areas close to the main walking routes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM noted that the Canal and River Trust would be happy to promote this.
6	Leisure Walking Plan feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WN set the context for the Leisure Walking Plan, that it is intended to complement the Walking Action Plan, and like other TfL action plans it is not a detailed business plan but a high-level strategy that sets out our ambition and priority areas to focus on. • JM summarised the main points of feedback on the draft shared with Forum members. • DH said that activating the Greenways shouldn't require significant funding. • CW reiterated a key point about the Plan reflecting the need to bring landowners and other key stakeholders into the fold. • KCl noted that not all of the priorities have an action. She spoke of the need to coalesce the huge amount of information on leisure walking and turn it into a resource. • JL expressed the need to understand the nature of the different types of leisure walking and to gain some quantitative understanding of demand for them and the demographic profiles of those that make up each group. • JM noted that he may be in touch with various members to further discuss some points, but that timescales don't permit another draft of the document going out for consultation.