

Pedestrian and Cycle Observation Study Seminar

12 Dec 2007.

City of London had commissioned Intelligent Space Partnership (ISP) to carry out a series of user surveys on the Heath and to assess the existing and shared use paths using guidance in LCDS.

Simon Lee (Heath Superintendant) outlined a timetable:

January 2008: both committees (consultative and management) receive the study

1 Feb. 2008: receive comments from committees and external organisations (us)

March 2008: both committees will decide whether to proceed with recommendations. from the study.

May 2008: Simon Lee will report back to committees

July 2008. Management committee will decide.

Presentation

Elsbeth Duxbury of ISP presented the study. A 20 page executive summary was circulated. We can get full report on disc from Simon Lee.

The study presents pedestrian flows (400-700 p hr), cycle flows (about 41 p hr) peaks at similar times. Proportion of cyclists 5-10%. At busiest times there are 7000 people on the Heath and 1/4 are accompanied by dogs. Getting there: 52% walk, 7% cycle, 26% car...Large proportion come daily. Come by bike: 81% never, 12% sometimes, 7% today. Awareness of shared paths 36% unaware (16% cyclists unaware) and of those that are aware 63% sometimes use illegal paths. Of those that are aware, 50% want them to stay same, 33% want more and 13% less.

Two scores were devised for assessing the shared paths:

Numerical score 1-5 based on LCDS compliance (width, gradient). 4-5 good

Letter 'Level of Service' LOS score based on number of users in relation to path characteristics A, B good based on 'worst case' i.e peak flows.

Existing Shared use Paths (labels according to CCC map)

A: score 4-5 LOS: B - pinch point by cafe to be taken out;

B: score 2-3 LOS: B - low number peds, recommend widening

C: score 3-4.5 LOS: B (mostly) - suitable apart from section by Hampstead ponds

D: score 4.5 LOS: B - consider pinch points

Proposed Shared use Paths (labels according to CCC map)

1: score 4-5 LOS: B - could be considered for shared use

2: score 4 LOS: C - not suitable because of pedestrian flows from-to path C

3: score 4-5 LOS: B - not suitable because it will encourage cycling on path X1

4: score 1.5-3.5 LOS: B - D - not suitable

5: score 2.5 LOS: B - not wide enough and a horse path

6: score 4 LOS: B - not suitable because it will increase flows on C

7 (over Savernake bridge): score 4 LOS: B- could be considered for shared use

X1: path extending Lime Avenue parallel to B across to Millfield Lane

Thus ISP ruled out (3) because of impact on an illegal route and (2) because of high pedestrian flows and (6) because it links to Route C below the ponds causeway.

Discussion and Questions

A few salient points:

Jonh C: need origin / dest surveys to decide knock-on effects

John Hunt (SEGA). The routes will get more use anyway.

Chris Nicola. New routes would alleviate congestion.

Ian Harrison (Vale Health and Cons Cttee). CoL should not be too protective (he later advised us to press for weekday (not peak) trial use of some new routes.

Bob Slow (Cons Cttee) try traffic calming - widening might increase speed

Maureen .. Heath for Feet. Had disable and deaf been considered?

John West (Cons Cttee) spoke of safety of children - Elspeth pointed out that with no hard edge, the paths are safer than on roads

Enid Allen. Where there obstructions, people move to the side, cyclists widen paths

John C. Has potential use by schools been considered yet? (SL said 'not yet').

Jeremy Wright. Asked whether LB Camden had yet looked at off Heath Routes other than Spaniards Road. (SL said 'not yet').

Charles Harvey (Barnet Cyclists) persuaded ISP to study a route across Heath Extension (which they Barnet Cyclists requested).