

**MINUTES
MARRICKVILLE SOUTH SYDNEY BICYCLE GROUP
4 OCTOBER 2006**

Attendance: Jeff, Fiona, Ian, Brenda, Gilbert, Robert, Keeli, Alan

Guests: Dan Gamble and Genevieve Delves, cycle police officers from Newtown Police Station

Representatives from Newtown Police

Item 1: Dan Gamble and Genevieve Delves

Two officers attended the meeting for an hour. The main issue for the discussion was the reporting of incidents with drivers.

Members described the frustration of reporting incidents with drivers that were not acted upon. The officers stated that in most cases there were no witnesses to an incident so that it was not possible to pursue charges. They did not believe they had the discretion of contacting the driver to discuss the incident without the intention of taking a statement of the incident.

There was an indication that fining specific practices, such as riding on the footpath were due to community pressure in the form of complaints. The response from officers at the station could also be due to differences in experience and knowledge and directions from supervisors.

They were not able to extract accident data that involved bicycles from the crash data. The New Zealand system of reporting incidents was described, while interested, it wasn't possible to address this at a local level. There was no suitable way to report an incident, that did not involve the taking of statements for the purpose of investigations and charging drivers.

In discussion following the visit, members thought it worthwhile to follow up with:

- Requesting improvements to the database so that a search can be undertaken to identify accidents involving bicycles. This would help identify black spots.
- Write to the Minister complaining about the lack of police interest in speeding of drivers and other incidents in the local area and to take an educative role with drivers.
- Encourage BNSW to advocate for a trial of the NZ model.
<http://www.police.govt.nz/service/road/roadwatch.html>

Action: send thank you letter

Local Issues

Item 2: Greenway

A refuge island has been completed at Longport Street. Committee meeting next week to consider signage and launch.

Item 3: Botany Council - Qantas Drive/Alexandra Canal Path

A letter has been sent to Botany Council about bike path.

Council News

Item 4: CoS Draft Cycle Plan

Comments on City of Sydney bike plans are closed.

Item 5: Cos Bike Expo

Bike Expo was very successful; all copies of Bike-It available were sold.

Item 6: Ride2Work

500 people attended the breakfast on the ride to work day.

Item 7: Marrickville Festival

Very busy

Bike parking still not effective, need to find a better way for people to park safely without needing to wheel bikes through crowd.

Rides/ Events

Item 8: 15 October – volunteers needed for Leichhardt Bike Day

Item 9: 15 October – ride for parents with small children – see massbug site

Newtown Festival

Item 10: Newtown Festival

Will discuss in detail at next meeting, but agreed to: run raffle for guide books again with education question, and a small jumble sale of quality used bike clothing and parts. Clothing and parts will not be returned. Remaining clothing will go to charity, parts will go to Newtown Bike Club. Approach Cheeky Transport to donate 10 repair kits, to sell at \$2 each.

Annual Membership

Item 11: Membership

This is now due, and we need the subscriptions. \$15 each, \$20 for a household.

Annual Report

Item 12:

Review: draft will be put on site for comment before sending to all members and Bicycle NSW members in the Marrickville area.

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER