

Canning & Clyde Monthly Update – November 2022

www.canningandclyde.org

Clyde Road traffic – views of Clyde Road residents?

At our community drop-in in September, some Clyde Road residents raised the issue of traffic levels in Clyde Road.

In order to gauge how residents of Clyde Road feel about traffic levels in their road, we'd like to hear from as many residents as possible. Please let us know your views and / or suggestions.

Please email me at annebridge175@gmail.com so we can collate responses. Any views are kept anonymous for reasons of confidentiality and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

Communicating with the Council – your experience?

Over the last few months we have started hearing comments by residents around difficulties communicating with the Council.

We'd like to gain a picture of whether or not this is a pattern that is emerging. We'd like to hear of your experiences, both positive and negative.

The difficulties have spanned different departments and different ways of trying to communicate with the Council. Here's what we've been hearing recently.

Digitally

The Council strongly encourages people to communicate with them digitally. Difficulties experienced with this means, however, have included:

Only being given the option of online forms with drop-down boxes for categories of issue which do not describe a person's particular issue;

Not being able to find an email address for a particular department;

Even when a resident has an email address or has communicated via online form, not receiving a response to an email they send;

Online links not working (eg when trying to report fly-tipping).

By phone

Not being able to find a phone number to contact the relevant department.

Not getting an answer from the switchboard number or direct line.

By letter

Not receiving a letter the Council says it has sent. This can have serious consequences eg if the Council say they have issued a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) for a traffic offence.

In person

Croydon Council has a drop-in facility, called Access, at the Council Offices, Bernard Weatherill House, Fell Road. A resident has found the service there very unhelpful and dismissive.

We would like to hear of your experiences of contacting the Council, both positive and negative, over the last six months. Please email them to annebridge175@gmail.com

Free cycling training and Try before your buy – a cheap form of transport

You may have noticed there has been an increase in the number of people on bikes locally over the last few months. With the eye-watering costs of housing and running a car plus the rising costs of shopping and public transport - cycling offers a cheap, convenient means of transport.

Croydon Council is offering two different schemes to encourage and enable people to start cycling from scratch or take it up after some time away.

Free cycling training

Croydon Council through funding from Transport for London is offering free cycling training.

Free fortnightly group cycling training sessions for adults and children are being held. In addition some local schools will be offering cycling courses.

Croydon Council states, *'Qualified instructors help beginners build skills and gain confidence to navigate around complex junctions, heavy traffic, and cycling at night – all while allowing them to practice in a safe environment provided by the council.'*

More experienced cyclists can expect to perfect their technique and refresh their skills if it's been a while since they've been on a bike.'

'All free training can be booked via the [Cycling Instructor website](#), where parents and carers can also enquire about school lessons.'

Peddle My Wheels' Try Before You Bike scheme

This scheme allows people to try out a bike first by hiring it before committing to pay for one.

'The scheme allows residents to trial a bike, e-bike, or cargo bike before committing to a purchase, ensuring it meets their needs. Happy owners can then pay it off in instalments, making it cost-effective and easier to take up cycling for more journeys.

To date, over 130 bikes have been delivered to cyclists through Try Before You Bike.'

Click here for more information on [Try Before You Bike](#).

Click here for more information on [these two schemes](#)

Click here for more information on [cycling in Croydon](#)

Click here for the up-to-date [Highway Code](#)

If you're thinking of cycling but are unsure, here's my personal experience. I returned to cycling two years ago to avoid travelling to work on a busy tram. I've heard a number of people say they would be interested in cycling but don't feel it's safe. I personally feel safe on the roads. Although I've found Croydon isn't the best borough for cycling, it's a lot better than it used to be.

A handy tip I was given – cycle like you'd drive a car – has meant I move around the road in a way drivers expect to see people move. If you don't drive, there are the free cycling courses and plenty of [online advice](#). The only safety tip I'd emphasise is to follow what is now part of the Highway Code; that is – when cycling past parked cars, keep a good door's width away from them. In two years I've had three people open their car doors and step out right in front of me. Because I was a car door's width away from them, this was not a problem.

I've also found that the vast majority of drivers are absolutely fine. Some even stop and let me go when they have right of way. One or two national newspapers sometimes engage in a phoney war between cyclists and motorists. This phoney war is totally different from my experience. I think the real problems arise when an aggressive cyclist meets an aggressive car driver. I personally find just a bit of common-sense, consideration and courtesy all round goes a long way.

Library Box in Lloyd Park

Tucked away in Lloyd Park is a Library Box. It's literally a box attached to a post where you can pick up a free book to read and drop off a book you have finished with.

It's run by [LittleFreeLibrary.org](#)

Here's how to find the Library Box. Go into Lloyd Park using the entrance at the top of Deepdene Avenue by the allotments. Following the tarmacked path down and round to the right. Just as you get to where the houses start, look to your right and you'll see the box. Photo is attached.

Safer Neighbourhood Team newsletter

The Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood newsletter for September is attached.

Trees for Streets

For more information on this scheme, [click here](#).

<https://www.treesforstreets.org/>

Outside this month

Things to see / hear in the month of November

Fungi

Autumn is the time we see most mushrooms and toadstools growing in public spaces and gardens. If you've noticed more than usual this year, then that is due to the hotter than usual summer we've experienced. This is because fungi work in collaboration with other plants providing them with essential nutrients. After hot, dry weather the fungi have to work even harder to provide the plants with nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorous, zinc, copper and water.

Click here for an [interesting article on fungi](#), what they are, how they grow and how they are essential to other plants.