

Minutes of a Meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Wednesday 8th April 2020
By Zoom Videoconference

(Action items in *red*)

Present: Cy, Dave We, Ed Wa, Graeme, Harvey, Ian, Mike, Paul H, Richard, Simon Mr, Simon T

Apologies: Dave S, Sophie

Contingency Plans

The main issue at this meeting was our response to the Covid-19 Virus pandemic. We agreed some cautious assumptions.

Assumptions

1. Even if the Government removes the lockdown, it is unlikely to be safe or acceptable to hold non-essential public gatherings in June.
2. There is no reliable, evidence-based prediction of when it will be safe to have gatherings – the risk might be unacceptably high for the rest of the year or longer.
3. Any risk-taking bravado would likely incur negative publicity.
4. We could, however, mount a reduced scale ride at short notice if circumstances improve sufficiently.

Suggested responses

Suggestions that had been collated as input to the meeting were discussed:

A. Everything goes as planned because the virus problem has abated and the Government has removed restrictions. Is this still our “Plan A”?

B. We plan to ride but reduce risks of contact and contagion, for example:

1. Start groups ride as separate rides without trying to converge
2. Rolling starts and finishes, eg ride a circuit where people can join and leave at any point or time.
3. No stopping for rest breaks – keep riding to the end
4. Amended routes to avoid bottlenecks
5. Shorter routes as there is no rest point
6. No social activities before or after – have minimum possible muster time
7. No lingering at the finish
8. Multiple finish points for the multiple start groups
9. Advise people not to use public transport to get to the ride

C. Postpone the ride until later in the year (but if we can't ride in Summer it's unlikely to be warm enough to attract participants)

D. Each start group team makes up its own mind about what to do

E. Organise a token ride with just core volunteers

F. Cancel for this year

1. Immediately, without waiting to see how things go
2. Set a cut-off date to cancel
3. Cancel the ride, but be prepared to make a last-minute call for supporters to join us on a ride if it looks possible.

G. Organise alternative form of protest that will grab some media attention, eg:

1. Riding on own, or in the garden, or on an exercise bike etc
2. Any form of naked activity
3. Zoom video event
4. Mass posting of videos, photos on Twitter
5. Join in with Philadelphia
6. Keep up our media and social media campaigns regardless

Conclusions

1. Announce that there will be no ride on 13 June and people should not go to the starts as it would be unsafe to do so.
2. Do not set a date for a rescheduled ride as there is insufficient evidence to identify a safe delay.
3. Reconsider the potential for scheduling a date at each of our planned meetings (which will continue as scheduled but by Zoom)
4. Continue our publicity of the WNBR mission through escalated social media activity etc.
5. Plan to have an attention-grabbing substitute activity for 13th June (“It’s Not The World Naked Bike Ride”).

Not the World Naked Bike Ride on 13th June

We need to think about good, safe, attention-grabbing activities as a substitute for the ride. Some ideas were:

- Twitter hashtag for you to share photos of not doing the ride
- Photo competition with prizes – best dressed bike from photo of rider and bike not riding on 13th June
- Best photo competition, maybe with male, female, non-binary and tandem categories
- Collaborate with WNBR Philadelphia who have already said they are doing something alternative – Action Cy to make contact
- Do a world-wide activity for all WNBR rides
- Zoom WNBR at home, eg back garden, exercise bikes etc
- Hire a velodrome for indoor event

Action: everyone to think of ideas

Action: ask for suggestions from other WNBRs and on supporters’ FB page

Announcement

The public announcement will be shared consistently to media by press release, on social media and to our mailing list. Here is a draft for the message:

The World Naked Bike Ride in London will not take place on 13th June. Participants and spectators should not go to the start locations.

WNBR London has considered current circumstances and concluded we must take a cautious approach for the safety of our participants and the general public. We assume it will still be unwise to encourage public gatherings in June.

We have no reliable evidence to indicate when it will be safe to take the ride onto the streets so we have not proposed a new date for the ride. It is possible that there will be no ride in 2020. We will review the situation at each of our monthly meetings and have the ability to mount a ride at short notice if circumstances change.

The ride has been increasingly popular over the past 16 years, with its fun, attention-grabbing campaign for safer cycling along with healthier environment, lifestyles and behaviours. This year was planned to be the biggest ride ever, with 8 start groups covering over 53 miles (85Km) of London's congested and polluted streets, crossing 14 Thames bridges on the way, and merging into a spectacular 1,000+ rider peloton. But this June we will be focused on safety for all, and grieving for the suffering of many of our participants, supporters and the public at large.

We will not be riding on 13th June – but that doesn't mean we cannot mark the date. This year we will be campaigning safely with activities that are "Not the World Naked Bike Ride". Watch out for announcements about how to not join the ride.

Royal Parks

The Royal Parks have cancelled all public events for the time being and so have informed us that our application will not be pursued.

Afterparty

We had already concluded it was unwise to hold the afterparty at Brixton Jamm. Even if it was safe to do so in June, we would struggle to sell tickets in advance with so much uncertainty and concern for safety.

Dave S has informed Jamm and is seeking to get our money back or alternatively apply it for next year.

Action: Dave S.

Web Party

There was an interesting suggestion that we could also organise a virtual afterparty using the web with an appropriate party app. **Action: Dave S to consider.**

Location Tracking

As the ride is not taking place as scheduled, we agreed not to make a final decision about the best technology. We will still use Telegram for our main text messaging but it was not good for group tracking. There were competing pros and cons for the remaining two candidates – Life360 and Glympse.

First Aid Training

Harvey reported that the venue is currently closed. As we are not expecting to ride in June, we should confirm that we are cancelling the training for the time being.

Marshal Briefing/Training

There is now no urgency to pursue this. Graeme will check with Harriet to see how things stand. **Action: Graeme.**

Collaborations

We need to update the organisations who have been working with us - bike hire LBTC, Jump, vegan food, photography, media, afterparty DJ, YBN/Naked Social, entertainers. **Action: Cy.**

Zoom technology

Participants thought the Zoom video conferencing had worked well enough. We will use this for the next few meetings. It might be worth using the technology for all meetings to save travelling and to allow all interested people to attend.

Some people found 6pm too early given their commitments, so the next session will start at 7pm on 13th May.

Meeting schedule

- Wednesday 8/1/20 Meeting
- Wednesday 12/2/20 Meeting
- Wednesday 11/3/20 Meeting
- Wednesday 8/4/20 6pm Video Meeting
- Wednesday 13/5/20 7pm Video Meeting
- ~~Saturday 6/6/20 Test Ride~~
- Wednesday 10/6/20 7pm Video Meeting
- ~~Saturday 13/6/20 Ride~~
- ~~Sunday 21/6/20 Debrief and celebration~~