

LRAG News Update – 11 April 2023

There is not much news to report this week.

The minutes of the first meeting of the Sustainable Travel Reference Group (STRG), which took place on 29th March, have yet to be published, although we are advised that these will be available on the SCC London Road webpage. Lrag's report was published last week.

The ePetition, initiated when it was originally proposed to close London Road (northbound) for 5 months and which gained 1092 supporters, is due to be decided on in a Surrey CC Cabinet Meeting on 25th April. Since the original design and implementation of the Active Travel Scheme has been postponed, we are clarifying the status of this petition.

A rather alarming interpretation of the Highway Code has come to light from a news article about an incident in Edinburgh. This video shows a very close pass of a cyclist, in a defined cycle lane, by a bus, and responding to a complaint, Police Scotland officers who viewed the footage commented that the close pass, "*wouldn't be against the law, since everyone was in their own lanes!*":

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1643675021582245898>.

This was not a segregated lane, defined by a kerb. So Highway Code Rule 163, which requires a separation of 1.5 metres when overtaking a cyclist, appears not to apply if there is a painted white line defining a cycle lane. Perhaps different interpretations may occur within other police forces, but it didn't look like a safe situation, and would justifiably encourage cyclists to use the main carriageway for protection from the law.