

Chair of Council Report by Councillor Teji Barnes  
London Road Safety Council Annual General Meeting 2020

Good morning to you all on our first virtual Annual General meeting 2020. Thank you all for connecting and just to remind you to please keep yourself muted unless you are asked to speak as this keeps the background noise down.

It is my privilege to read out my second Chair of Council report after completing what can only be described as a memorable year.

The beginning of our municipal year back in October 2019 was busy and fruitful as always. We continued to have a large footfall at our quarterly meetings with a packed agenda. Many of the London boroughs have worked hard to initiate, support and action relevant road safety programmes in their boroughs and some had the chance to showcase their work at our quarterly meetings giving the chance of other Road safety officer teams and councillors, ideas to take away.

We were also honoured to have a new President Professor Nicola Christie further raising our effectiveness as a road safety forum. Professor Christie's vast experience, knowledge of road safety and her network has been a wealth of support to us, especially now during this unprecedented time where road safety is once again a key feature in people's lives and headlines.

Like everyone else globally the London Road Safety Council cancelled the remainder of our diarised meetings from March 2020 and stayed at home so that we did not spread the Coronavirus and saved our NHS. The other noticeable change was the empty roads and streets, improving air quality while making London look like a ghost town.

However, even though we have been indoors, working from home, your Executive committee has been active, making sure that our roads stay safe. We set up a sub-committee holding Zoom meetings to discuss our new vision statement that we have developed with the help of our President, and lobbied on other pressing matters such as cycling training.

It had transpired that some of our road safety officer members had been taken off their normal road safety work to focus on delivering front line services to their residents, in effect putting on hold the road safety function for a while. However, once the country started to return to work and schools re-opened, the issue of road safety and how to keep road users safe needed to be addressed. Road safety officers needed to be back in their teams using their experience to make sure vital

training such as cycling is implemented. With this in mind the London Road Safety Council took a decision to contact all the council chief executives to remind them of the sterling work the road safety teams do and how crucial it is to make sure they continue with cycle training as we are told to expect tenfold growth in cycling as we recover from the pandemic.

We also wrote to Transport for London raising the importance of an early restoration of funding to allow vital road safety services to resumed. We are concerned that boroughs do not dismiss road safety teams as dispensable because now, more than ever, people need help in establishing new travel plans; the importance of safe travel is our new norm.

I would like to take this moment to thank my team for their commitment in all that they have done this year and especially the last six months. I would like to say a special thanks to our President Professor Christie for her impact on us and to the following members,

Debbie Huckle

Alison Gowman

Fatima Ahmed

Carla Leowe

Gemma Hearsum

James Parker

Mark Bunting and Max Moorcroft - thank you Max for taking on the Deputy Press Officer role.

Thank you and to all the other committee members for your hard work and commitment throughout and making the London Road Safety Council a stronger voice and forum for road safety.

Before I finish, I would like to thank Stennik for making sure our online presence is effective and to Cycle Confident for their work and support of our website.

Finally thank you the members for engaging and I hope to see you all at our future meetings which we hope will be held back at our usual place in the Guildhall.

End

