

London Cycling Campaign response to Surrey RideLondon consultation

11 February 2020

<https://www.surreysays.co.uk/deputy-ceo/survey-on-prudential-ridelondon-surrey/>

About the London Cycling Campaign

London Cycling Campaign (LCC) is a charity with more than 20,000 supporters of whom over 11,000 are fully paid-up members. We speak up on behalf of everyone who cycles or wants to cycle in Greater London; and we speak up for a greener, healthier, happier and better-connected capital.

London Cycling Campaign is contracted by London Marathon Events Ltd to deliver led rides in London to the associated RideLondon FreeCycle event. We have no commercial interest in the Ride 100 or Classic ride etc.

This response was developed with input from LCC's borough groups.

- We strongly encourage Surrey County Council to continue to host the RideLondon events that currently take place annually in Surrey. Indeed, we believe the council should be far more positive about these events, as should residents.
- Surrey is an important area for leisure and sports cycling for many Londoners (and indeed Surrey residents). And it is of concern to us that the approach being taken over RideLondon does not appear to match the approach for other closed road events that do not feature cycling (such as annual running events).
- Leisure and sport cycling in the county raises large amounts for charities (including local ones), boosts local businesses in tourism (sales in cafes, bike shops etc.) and allows many to experience Surrey's beauty in a sustainable and healthy manner.
- Surrey council should be seeking to maximise cycling not just for leisure, but also for everyday transport journeys in its boundaries and beyond, and indeed seeking to reduce and minimise motor car journeys that could be done by other modes, particularly given its declaration of a climate emergency. Given this declaration, it is important the council encourages and enables residents to cycle – including supporting and promoting activities such as the RideLondon events.
- Given this, the tone and approach of this consultation is concerning as it would appear to encourage residents to weigh the small inconvenience they experience annually from the events against the huge benefits for residents and businesses that cycling in general, and these events specifically, bring. In the future, we would suggest the council more positively, in language and action, embraces cycling.
- We have no view on commercial relations between Surrey County Council and event organisers London Marathon Events Ltd. That is an entirely separate matter for the

organisers of the event and the council. These comments are confined to the public consultation and any decision arrived at from it on the future of RideLondon and other cycle events in Surrey.