



LEFT:
Charlie Alliston
arriving at court

INSERT:
Mum-of-two
Kim Briggs

Hopes of new cycle law after Kim's death

By Chiara Giordano

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THE HUSBAND of Kim Briggs, who was killed after a bike ploughed into her as she crossed the road, has welcomed the Government's urgent review into dangerous cycling legislation.

Matt Briggs said he was "very grateful" to the Government after Transport Minister Jesse Norman announced an urgent review into cycle safety last Thursday (September 21).

The review will look at whether a new offence equivalent to causing death by careless or dangerous driving should be introduced for cyclists, as well as wider improvements for cycling road safety issues.

It comes after the death of mother-of-two Kim Briggs who was hit by a fixed-wheel bike ridden by Bermondsey cyclist Charlie Alliston as she crossed the road in Shoreditch on February 12 last year.

Alliston, now 20, whose fixed gear bike had no front brakes, was cleared of manslaughter last month but convicted under the 19th century offence of "wanton or furious driving".

He was sentenced to eighteen months in a younger offenders' institution on September 18.

Mr Briggs thanked the Government for being "so swift and so responsive" during an interview with Sky News.

"I think that the law sometimes just

doesn't keep up and that's what I'm asking for, for the law to catch up now," he said.

"Kim is not the first person that has been killed in this way and very sadly I don't think that Kim will be the last.

"Part of the reason I'm doing this is to do something positive out of something so negative.

"I won't bring my kids up with anger; I don't want to allow anger into our house.

"Kim was the most fun woman, a real fun-loving woman, and I want to do something that's positive, that's optimistic, that's looking forward because in doing that I can stop the shockwaves of this tragedy."

Transport Minister Jesse Norman said on Thursday: "It's great that cycling has become so popular in recent years but we need to make sure that our road safety rules keep pace with this change.

"We already have strict laws that ensure that drivers who put people's lives at risk are punished but, given recent cases, it is only right for us to look at whether dangerous cyclists should face the same consequences.

"We've seen the devastation that reckless cycling and driving can cause, and this review will help safeguard both Britain's cyclists and those who share the roads with them."

The review, which will seek to improve all elements of cycle safety, will be in two phases, with the conclusions of the first phase are expected to be reported in the New Year.



Photos: Nicholas Jones

'Boudicca gone rogue around the streets of Blackfriars'

By Kate Graham-Shaw

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A 'REAL-LIFE virtual reality' experience described as a mix between Minecraft, Pokemon Go and Horrible Histories is opening in Blackfriars next month.

Virtually Blackfriars will have people enter a pixelated world and join Theia, a future archaeologist, as she tries to catch runaway characters from the past. Audience members will help track down Dickens, Frankenstein and even Boudicca, who have gone rogue around the streets of Blackfriars.

Simon Ryninks, director of Milo Wladek Co., the company which created the production, said: "This is a sprawling, brilliantly bonkers and very fun promenade performance. We can't wait to be let loose on Blackfriars!"

The spectators are taken into this bonkers world by a wayward sci-fi plot, which will give intrepid people a unique virtual adventure through this historical part of Southwark.

The show won't include any actual virtual reality, but will create the illusion



Virtually Blackfriars
Co-creators:
Simon Ryninks and
Emma Tompkins

of technology through use of innovative costumes, puppetry and other effects. The designers have been inspired by the likes of Pokemon Go and Minecraft to bring the history of the Blackfriars area alive.

Mr Ryninks added: "For Virtually Blackfriars we're creating a real-life virtual reality experience, bringing to life the extraordinary history of the area. We are working with local schools and

community groups to create extraordinary puppets and costumes that will form the foundation of our handmade virtual world."

Virtually Blackfriars has been created as part of the annual Blackfriars Stories programme which aims to celebrate the local area's heritage. The shows have been commissioned by Southwark Presents and will be taking place on the 19 to 21 of October.

BERMONDSEY

Mayoral hopeful has pledged no new CPO on Millwall

By Chiara Giordano

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A COUNCILLOR who declared he would not support a fresh CPO of Millwall FC land will run as Labour's candidate in the Lewisham mayoral election.

Cllr Damien Egan will go head to head with Conservative candidate Ross Archer in the election in May next year.

The successful candidate will replace current Labour mayor Steve Bullock

who is stepping down after fifteen years.

Earlier this year, Lewisham Council performed a U-turn on plans to compulsory purchase land used by Millwall for its community trust, youth academy, car park and café, to sell to developer Renewal for its New Bermondsey scheme.

Cllr Egan recently confirmed he would not support a fresh CPO or the sale of the freeholds of the Millwall land.

He added that the council should "start

all over with a comprehensive review of all proposals from all interested parties, including MFC and MCT [Millwall Community Trust] for the future of the New Bermondsey site".

Cllr Egan, who is Lewisham's cabinet member for housing and training manager at Ethical Trading Partnership, said it was a "huge privilege" to be selected as Labour's candidate.

"Lewisham, like much of London, has been left behind by the Tories and their pro-Brexit, austerity agenda," he said. "That is why it is so important that we

have a Labour mayor to protect the most vulnerable and fight to ensure we all have a stake in Lewisham's future.

"But whatever the Tories may throw at us, Lewisham's greatest asset is our strong community.

"I care deeply about our diversity and tolerance and will always make sure Lewisham is an open and welcoming home for everyone."

Cllr Archer said: "I congratulate Damien on his selection as the Labour candidate and look forward to debating the future of our borough with him

ahead of next year's election.

"Now is a chance for change in Lewisham, but in selecting Damien the Labour party has shown no remorse over its botched Millwall CPO by selecting the cabinet member responsible for it.

"Damien may be a nice guy, and I don't doubt his commitment to the borough, but he cannot offer the change Lewisham deserves and needs.

"Damien is the continuity candidate and not the radical shake up we need at the Town Hall".