Proposed Cyclescape changes – wireframes

1) Replacing the multitude of different listings with a single main list, with a button to filter by area(s) and/or tags.

Currently there are 5 overlapping listings: My Cyclescape (i.e. my discussion threads, Issues in my area, Discussions (all threads), Issues, Tags. This is confusing, and means there has to be an up-front stage to set up areas of interest.

People would see all discussions of the group by default, with a big button of some kind in the corner, where people can optionally filter that big list of discussions by area(s) and/or tags. This will mean also that the up-front step of specifying geometries can be scrapped, as people can do that after they start using the system, not before.
1a. Main page has each discussion shown, with a big ‘Add filters’ box in the top-right. Each discussion thread has tags associated with it. There would be some way to switch to a map view. There would be three filters to hide Campaigns/Admin/Chat type threads, which would change the view temporarily.
1b. Clicking on the filtering button would take you to a page where you can set up topic-based filters and the existing area-based filters.
1c. Having set the optional filters, the page now shows ‘my’ discussions by default. You can quickly switch to ‘all’ and back, to see everything.

2) Scrapping of 'issues' and linking together by tag instead

This would make discussions become the key thing, with tags used to link multiple discussions on the same topic together.

Clicking on a tag would then generate a page that looks very similar to the current issue page, linking to all discussions in the area on that topic. Essentially the tags form ‘virtual issues’.
2a. This page would be what you see when you click on a tag, here ‘Cycle parking’. The page shows all the discussions tagged with cycle parking. The map combines all the locations from each issue. By default this would be limited to the group’s area (e.g. in Cambridge for Camcycle), but there would be a ‘beyond Cambridge’ button. A new discussion on this tag can also be started here (in addition to on the main page). Discussions would be listed latest first.
2b. Here is another example, this time for the Chisholm Trail. Note that discussions can have more than one tag, so would appear on each such relevant page. This tag page would replace the issue page, which would no longer be needed.
2c. There would be a listing of all tags. This would show a mini map, how many discussions, etc. There would be a link to ‘Beyond Cambridge’ (in the case of Camcycle) so that people could see results for that tag beyond Cambridge.
3) Lightweight reporting of putting problems on a map, including by members of the general public, which campaigners can then 'pick up' and make into a discussion.

This is aimed at vastly increasing the amount of crowdsourced data, which is really important for matching of issues with planning applications in StreetFocus. Over time we would essentially build up a solid map of every problem in the city.

The picking up should be quite similar to the current planning applications.

3a. Members of the public would be able to lodge an issue on the map, which group members could then pick up and 'promote' to a discussion. People would not need to create an account up front (or at all maybe) - they would have to click on a link to confirm their e-mail. The map would just be points by default – click on the map to set the point, or click at / drag to another location to move it. People could enable a line/area drawing if required.
3b. The map then shows points, which a campaigner can ‘pick up’ and clone to a discussion. This would be in addition to starting a discussion from the main page directly. Essentially the map becomes a set of ideas that people might be interested to pursue.

4) The geometry (map location) of a discussion becomes optional, but strongly encouraged, to enable non-geographical (chat/organisational) discussions more easily.

We realise this technically is already in place but the user interface doesn’t really enable that easily.

This would have the side-benefit that discussions can then be started by e-mail.
4a. Discussions are started with a simpler form. They can optionally have a geometry, which is the default. They can choose to set the geometry to a preset ‘All of Cambridge’ or start a chat discussion (e.g. about where to buy a certain type of bike).

5) Vastly simpler sign-up

As a result of these changes, sign-up would be much simpler. It would be a case of simply adding a new campaign member to the group.

The up-front stage to set areas, and the choices of what to subscribe to, would essentially become optional, later, steps.
Login via social media as an option (will be available imminently), to avoid a full account creation stage.

People would not need to set up areas in advance – that is now done as optional filtering. In smaller cities this would not be necessary. In places like London and Cambridge, which are larger or have more activity, the filtering would enable people to pare down longer listings.

As part of the sign-up process, users would click a simple button to switch on e-mail integration (i.e. discussions by e-mail, that can be replied to there).

6) Discussion page improvements

The discussion page would ‘collapse’ all previous replies that you have read into one, and then there would be an ‘expand previous discussions’ button above recent replies, which would expand those upwards. Reading order would be in order of posting, as per all other forum systems.
6a. Earlier replies would be ‘folded up’ into a button, which when pressed, expands earlier replies out. This would make pages quicker to load, and mean much less scrolling. We would get rid of the annoying.
6b. The layout would show the unread discussions, map, tags, and how many people are following. Clicking the following box (‘50 people’) would list them. Discussions can be starred in the top right.

The reply box has Facebook-style ‘add into reply’ buttons for photos, deadlines, etc. Instead of having tabs, the primary reply would be the text box, and you can then choose to add additional types like photos, the same way as Facebook has designed this. This enables a mix-and-match type approach.
6c. The reply box would have buttons where media can be added to the text.