

Local Plan inquiry 11th Dec

CTC Right to Ride representing cyclists and potential cyclists

Traffic gridlock is a major opportunity for modal shift to cycling and public transport, to making cycling the normal mode of travel, an enjoyable way to travel. It's happening in London and elsewhere, it can happen in Basingstoke.

The means is an SPD, not just cycle routes, this has been done for over 20 years in new developments and has not worked. They have not worked because the devil is in the detail, because all infrastructure has to be cycle friendly not just a few sections of cycle route. E.g. Grid layout favours cycling, a loop layout does not. What is needed is an SPD, a supplementary planning document plus a cycle strategy.

Cycling is possible for all, all ages and all abilities, babies and grannies, the young and fit, the one legged, the no legged. All you need is the right sort of bike. With electric bikes and integrated public transport you can go anywhere, any distance. We need infrastructure designed to facilitate cycling, we need cycle design standards for all new developments and traffic management schemes. These can be referenced to CROW 2007, the London Cycle Design Standards, Active Travel Act (Wales), Manual for Streets 1 and 2 and others.

Secondly we need a cycle strategy which sets out how to achieve a major modal shift, initial funding set at £10 per head minimum, targets and monitoring.¹ It will aim to improve infrastructure year on year, not at some distant date, and create a cultural shift. It will build support and partnerships with local communities, voluntary, health, education, housing and business sectors. E.g. In London leaders of major business have already said they want to see motor traffic lanes converted to cycle lanes².

A shift to cycling is sustainable and possible, will prevent traffic gridlock and is good for business, implementing an SPD and a cycle strategy is all that is needed.

325 words

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¹ Get Britain cycling 2013 report from inquiry by All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group giving 18 recommendations

² <https://cyclingworks.wordpress.com/http://www.cyclingweekly.co.uk/news/latest-news/london-businesses-join-forces-back-cycle-superhighways-136856>