

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
9 MARCH 2023

QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 34

Questions asked by Ms Rachael Wigginton

“With a record number of residents responding to Leicestershire’s cycling and walking strategy and plan engagement, it’s very pleasing to see a greater focus on active travel filtering through into publications like the Highway Design Guide. It’s also very pleasing to see collaboration and engagement as principle number one. Most journeys are very short and people of all ages are discovering it’s very often quicker and easier to travel by (e)bike or (e)scooter, so putting active travel at the heart of local transport strategy makes perfect sense.

As active travel now sits very firmly at the heart of the government’s health, transport and net zero agendas, with longer term opportunities for funding and support now available, and with active travel featuring heavily in the vast majority of our county, district, borough and town strategies and plans,

Could the Chair please state:

- 1) Which Leicestershire county councillor is championing and leading the change (not just responsible) for Active Travel – working across all the relevant portfolio areas in the council like health, net zero etc? This person and their level of ambition and appetite for change is incredibly important to secure future funding, as we are seeing in other counties.
- 2) When are you planning to start a partnership approach and involve local community groups like ours (as Worcestershire is now doing following its Zero active travel assessment rating from Active Travel England and the Department of Transport)? You have a number of residents from within several districts/boroughs with a broad range of skills and experience, who are willing help you on a voluntary basis. Experience ranges from working with Sustrans, Active Travel England and within the fields of civil engineering, communications and tourism.”

Reply by the Chairman

- “1. Both the Leader of the County Council and the Lead Member for Highways and Transport are fully supportive of active travel; for example, they have worked to ensure that the Authority continues to be able to fund the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPS), which are vital to have in place in order for the Authority to secure funding from the Government to deliver projects that fulfil the ambitions of our cycling and walking strategy. In that context, the Authority does not consider it is necessary at this time to have a specific active travel champion.

2. The Council recognises the importance of community involvement in the development of future plans and schemes for cycling and walking, and that is part of the reason why it has consulted extensively in the development of the South Leicestershire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), including with Ms Wigginton on behalf of Better Biking For Blaby District. Going forward, the Authority will be establishing an Active Travel Forum for Leicestershire, and officers will be in contact with Ms Wigginton and representatives of other relevant bodies in making arrangements to establish that Forum. Additionally, as and when the Council is in a position to develop specific local schemes, further consultation exercises with local residents and relevant bodies will be carried out to inform their development.”