

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

12 JANUARY 2023

QUESTION NO. 1

Councillor White to ask the Chair:

Providing on Street, Secure Cycle Parking

Some properties in Newtown in east Reading and across the town don't have front gardens. Encouraging more people to cycle will boost people's health, cut congestion and lower carbon emissions. Will the Council trial on street, secure cycle parking (cycle hangers for example) in areas where people don't have a front garden such as Newtown?

REPLY by the Chair of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee.

I invite Councillor Page, the Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport to make the response on my behalf.

REPLY by Councillor Page, Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport:

I thank Councillor White for his question.

Reading Borough Council does not have any immediate plans to install cycle hangars throughout the Borough, but we are monitoring the impact of schemes elsewhere in the country including in parts of London and Brighton.

It is worth reminding colleagues that, in most instances, the installation of cycle hangars will result in the loss of on-street parking particularly in terraced streets where there is already a high demand for parking. It is therefore important that in considering any proposals for cycle hangars we ensure they are located where they will be of greatest use and cause the least disruption to local residents.

There is no 'standard' cycle hangar and I attach below a few examples of different ones in London and Brighton. The smallest hangar caters for six bicycles and occupies a minimum of one to one and a half car parking spaces, but in some areas these are doubled up and require the loss of more on-street parking as is shown in one of the photos.

Furthermore, the somewhat utilitarian design of these hangars may well raise planning concerns in our conservation areas and other sensitive locations.

Transport officers will continue to develop plans, through the work on our Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, for effective cycle parking throughout Reading. This includes working with residents in areas where there is limited provision for cycle parking to understand where cycle hangars could be useful.

Any future provision of cycle parking would be dependent on securing funding and, for the installation of cycle hangars, would be subject to local public consultations and planning permission to determine appropriate locations.

The Council is continuing to improve safe and secure cycle storage across the town and we have provided cycle parking with the inclusion of CCTV coverage at the north side of Reading Station.

The Council is also working with stakeholders on the provision of the Reading Cycle Hub that will provide a fully enclosed and secure cycle parking facility within the town centre in the next few months. More details will follow shortly.

ENDS

