

## **READING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

**13 NOVEMBER 2023**

#### **QUESTION NO. 1**

Councillor Yeo to ask the Chair:

#### **Lower Henley Road North-West Cycle Lane**

The advisory cycle lane installed on the north-west side of Lower Henley Road, as well as the advanced stop line at the junction with Henley Road, have been recently removed.

The removal was approved by the Traffic Management Sub-Committee in June 2015, when following concerns and complaints it was decided that no further *advisory* cycle lane schemes should be implemented for the safety of cyclists, in favour of *mandatory* cycle lanes where the requirements are met.

In February 2019 the Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' and has since worked consistently to reduce carbon emissions in the Borough with the objective of being net zero by 2030.

A key strategy to reduce carbon emissions is recognised to be the promotion of a transport modal shift from cars to public transports and cycles across the Borough.

Can the Chair confirm that the Administration is committed to get to net zero by 2030 as well as to consult and engage with Ward Councillors, cycle campaigners and local residents to find a way to allow cyclists to safely use Lower Henley Road ?

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

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

#### **REPLY by Councillor Ennis, Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport:**

I thank Councillor Yeo for his question.

The Council remains committed to get to net zero by 2030 and recognise that encouraging a shift to more sustainable travel modes, particularly walking and cycling, plays a key role in achieving this and other priorities of this Council.

I understand and appreciate the feedback that the Council has received, following the removal of the uphill advisory cycle lane on Lower Henley Road. Officers have advised me that, in addition to the 2015 Traffic Management Sub-Committee decision to remove this lane, updated national legislation and guidance released since this decision have further confirmed that it should not be reinstated following resurfacing.

Officers have committed to reviewing potential solutions for the advanced stop line at the traffic signalised junction with Henley Road. This will be dependant on finding a safe way for cyclists to gain entry to it, while considering that there is a sharp bend in the road on approach.

I am advised that due to the available road width and particularly with on-street parking, there is no quick-fix for finding a compliant and acceptable uphill cycle lane in addition to the downhill advisory lane. However, it remains a desire to find a solution, accepting that development and delivery of a scheme may require significant funding and alterations to how the road is used.

As always, we and officers are happy to work with Ward Councillors, appropriate forums and residents.

ENDS