

COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JUNE 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Chris Giles to ask the Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport Bath Road

Mr Mayor, Councillors, my name is Chris Giles. I was born in Reading and I am here this evening to raise concerns about road safety on the Bath Road following the fatal collision that occurred on 26 November 2025 between Burghfield Road and the western boundary of Reading Borough Council.

Will the Council urgently review safety measures on this stretch of the Bath Road, including consideration of reduced and enforced speed limits, improved on and off-road signage, and enhanced street lighting ?

In addition, will the Council commit to arranging a multi-agency site meeting with relevant stakeholders to consider pedestrian and cyclist safety, including the use of footpaths, speed management, and signage, particularly in light of the increasing use of cycles, e-bikes and scooters ?

REPLY by Councillor Ennis Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport:

I would like to thank Mr Giles for your question.

First and foremost, our thoughts remain with the family and friends of the individual who tragically lost their life, and we recognise the impact of this incident on the wider community.

As a Council we take road safety extremely seriously. Officers have been supporting the Police with their ongoing investigation into this incident, and while that investigation is not yet concluded, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on the specific circumstances.

We work closely with Thames Valley Police to monitor collision and casualty data across the Borough, and to understand any patterns or underlying causes. This evidence helps inform where targeted and effective interventions can be introduced.

While current data does not identify this particular location as a high-risk site in terms of recorded casualties, we do recognise that any fatal incident is one too many. Once the Police investigation is complete, officers will review the findings carefully to determine whether there are any further measures that could improve safety on this stretch of the Bath Road.

In relation to your specific points:

- Speed enforcement on this 30mph road is a matter for Thames Valley Police, including decisions on the use and location of enforcement cameras, which are based on evidence of speeding-related risk.
- I can confirm that street lighting in the area was operating as expected at the time of the incident with no reported outages.

In terms of wider improvements, the Council is progressing the Bath Road–Castle Hill Active Travel scheme, which will deliver enhanced pedestrian crossings, segregated cycle infrastructure, and improved junction layouts along this corridor. These changes are designed to improve safety

for all users, particularly pedestrians and cyclists, and we expect to bring these works forward later this year.

Finally, in response to your request for a multi-agency discussion, officers will continue to engage with Thames Valley Police and other relevant stakeholders as part of our ongoing review of road safety across the network. We will ensure that any learning from this incident is fully considered as part of that process.

I hope this provides some reassurance that the council remains committed to improving road safety and will continue to work with partners to do so.