

Horsham District Cycling Forum

Ruth Fletcher
30 Ashleigh Road RH12 2LF
20 November 2015

Mr Jeremy Quin MP
The House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Jeremy,

Please support the [All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group's call](#) for proper funding of the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS) in the forthcoming Spending Review.

As the APPCG shows, the rate of financial return from cycling infrastructure exceeds that available from major road and rail projects. Fully funding the CWIS at an initial £10 per head per annum is incredibly cost-effective and is achievable with minimal impact within the £54 billion which is being committed to trunk road and rail schemes.

The DoT has said that it "expects Local Authorities to up their game in delivering infrastructure that takes cycling into account from the design stage". At this time of severe budget constraints, Local Authorities such as West Sussex will only invest time and expertise in preparing cycling schemes if they have confidence in the Government's sustained commitment to David Cameron's Cycling Revolution.

In Horsham [we need quality cycling schemes](#) to attract high tech employers, reduce congestion, improve health, improve economic and social participation and to keep our town centre economically vibrant. If the Government pulls back from funding CWIS, this will jeopardise West Sussex's capacity to develop and manage these schemes.

We have already seen the [disastrous effects](#) of this here in Horsham: WSCC was awarded £1/3 million from the LSTF to build a cycle route linking the town with the new housing to the west. We watched in dismay as- without the necessary specialist expertise- this ended up as a fragmented, tortuous and unsafe route which fails to encourage any increase in cycling. A large and precious sum of [public money was wasted](#).

In setting up its Walking and Cycling Task and Finish Group, West Sussex County Council has now recognised the need to improve its cycling strategy - but without any evidence of sustained commitment from the Government, we fear that WSCC will not risk investing even the time and expertise necessary to get good schemes to a "bid-ready" stage. This will also have a knock-on effect on road safety and the quality of general road schemes, and we will miss opportunities to incorporate the kind of provision for cycling that improves conditions for all road users.

We are looking forward to meeting you on 11th December but if you have any queries or comments in the meantime please do get in touch.

Kind Regards

Ruth Fletcher
Chair of Horsham District Cycling Forum
Working to make cycling a safe, convenient and attractive option for all
@CycleForumHorsh www.hdcf.org.uk