

2 Minute Version: Presentation to B&NES Council on the 12th November 2015 by Nigel Sherwen

Cycling on the London Road and the Gateway Scheme, Bath

Before 2005 there was a segregated cycle lane here near Cleveland Place with a loading ban. This was ruined as a cycle lane when vehicles were allowed to park on it. 1200 signed a petition against loss of the cycle lane for car parking in the Gateway scheme; that scheme failed the safety audit. Typical comments posted: "I would cycle if the traffic did not make it so frightening". "This is the worst part of my journey, cycling in the midst of heavy traffic". The recently completed scheme has provided a segregated cycle lane. Now it is proposed to put back the parking again making the cycle lane useless!

This is not progress!

Cycling is known to be beneficial to health and wellbeing, saving money for the NHS, but as a means of transport it can also help to reduce congestion and pollution in Bath. The Secretary for State, Transport recognised the benefits of providing safer cycling infrastructure when he visited Copenhagen recently (*1) stating that the UK is 30 years behind on this and needs to catch up. The London Road is a practically flat route in to the city. There is no real alternative for people to the east. The tow-path is not a good alternative for commuting, or cycling to schools as it is unlit, close to water, and far from direct.

Last year The Bath Transport Strategy had all party support. I quote: *That cycling be promoted through better cycling routes with appropriate infrastructure where needed, building a cycling culture for people of all abilities.* (*2)

I also quote from this administration's recent transport manifesto: *OUR KEY COMMITMENTS*

1. *Support Sustainable transport: ...make ...cycling a genuinely attractive, realistic transport option.*(*3)

I would like to know how destroying a newly recreated segregated cycle lane by re-introducing parking and loading bays is going to meet these policies & manifesto commitments.

References:

*1. Robert Goodwill MP Under Secretary of State Transport, a report on the British Cycling Website regarding his recent visit to see cycling as a means of transport in Copenhagen.

*2. Policy GABP5 (see also GABP1, GABA7, GABAA8 & GABA9 and section 3.6)

*3. Getting B&NES Moving, Transport Manifesto for B&NES page 5