

27 years ago in 1996, the Bath Cycling Campaign had its inaugural meeting. Over decades the campaign has evolved and changed and now, as Walk Ride Bath, champions walking, wheeling, and cycling. We are in it for the long haul because it's what we believe in.

We have helped and supported the council in delivering millions in public realm improvements, from simple things like making paths more accessible, through to working with officers to bid for and win funding for new projects. Some of this is nationally and internationally recognised and celebrated. Walk Ride Bath will always be a patient critical friend to the council and we want to lend out knowledge, skills and experience if you will allow us to do so. We want to see you succeed but we do not want to see weak schemes that do not enable walking, wheeling, and cycling, and these days, neither does Active Travel England.

Today I want to talk about time. How long it takes to get things done. From conception to opening, the Two Tunnels Greenway took SEVEN years. The Quays Bridge took EIGHT years. Scholars Way was proposed SEVEN years ago and probably will take at least TEN to deliver. The Bath and Bristol Railway Path: Bath extension was proposed SIX years ago and Walk Ride Bath has been diligently engaging with developers along the route to ensure they make provision for active travel corridors for this game changing project which will yet likely take another FIVE years to fully deliver. Since last year we have been encouraging your officers to engage with Wessex Water to ensure a new Sewage Works Bridge can be used as part of a new route connecting the Bath to Bristol Railway path at Saltford to Kelston and Swineford. Hopefully that will be built within the next FIVE years. Not much happens very quickly.

And when it comes to the West of England Combined Authority £6m Liveable Neighbourhoods programme, you have at most FOUR years to spend the money available from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. Realistically you should be looking to spend it in under THREE years. That's a big problem for this council given the conditions that the Metro Mayor has placed upon the programme and the current design outputs of some community workshops not meeting those conditions. If I was a North East Somerset councillor wanting to make a real difference to my community through the Liveable Neighbourhood programme, I'd be working with residents associations, parish councils, and local community groups to come up with fast track schemes that can be trialled and consulted on using Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders. For Bath councillors, I suggest you **urgently** need the city's Circulation Plan to be published. The circulation plan is the skeleton road network which will enable you to identify the areas where you can spend available money quickly and effectively.

Most importantly if you don't agree with the Metro Mayor's Liveable Neighbourhood programme conditions, make it clear. It gives those councillors that do buy into it even more money to get more done.

Good luck. The clock is ticking - and we may already be running out of time.