

*Angela Goodwin, Liberal Democrats, Guildford South West division (Onslow and Friary & St Nicolas wards)*

**Do you regularly walk or cycle to get to work, the shops, your doctors etc? If not, what is stopping you**

I live near the main train station in Guildford so I am fortunate that I can walk to most places including the town centre, my GP, my Dentist, local parks and beauty spots.

**What do you think about the current walking and cycling infrastructure provision in your local area and how can it be improved for all (including those who hard of hearing, partially sighted or us...)**

The walking / cycling infrastructure across this division is poor.

- \* Footpath resurfacing / repair works is done on an ad hoc basis whereas it needs properly planning with both Surrey Highways and residents working together.
- \* Many residential footpaths are inaccessible to wheelchair users, electric scooters, families using prams - they are narrow, uneven, poorly patched and unsafe in places
- \* Cycling routes desperately need to be joined up with everyone working together (including groups such as G-Bug where they exist) to put a Guildford Cycle Plan a place
- \* Our town centre is inaccessible to anyone with additional needs (both visible and non visible); this includes footpaths and access to buildings such as shops, banks, eateries. We need to work with experts to look at ways of making sure our town and riverside is accessible to everyone.

Whilst I understand that there are geographical hurdles that need to be accommodated, we have upcoming opportunities to work with developers to make sure walking, cycling, scooting etc is prioritised over vehicle use. Examples include the St Marys Wharf development (Debenhams), the North Street development and the Town Centre Masterplan.

**How do you see walking and cycling provision contributing to the decongestion and de-pollution strategy**

Walking, cycling and the expansion of 20mph zones in residential areas (especially around schools) are key to reducing our air pollution and decongestion; without these, our town will literally 'choke'.

**What have you done personally to improve cycling and pedestrian mobility in your area? If you are standing for re-election outline improvements you have put forward or voted for previously.**

For a number of years, I have been supportive of 20mph zones in residential areas and have campaigned for this. I ran a survey in late 2020 to gauge residents' appetite for 20mph zones which was well received.

Looking ahead to the next four year term, my next steps will include:

- \* starting a petition to introduce new 20mph zones in parts of Onslow and Friary & St Nics wards; the petition will also ask SCC to update their Policy so that expensive speed measures (speed bumps etc) are not obligatory. This will, hopefully, encourage more people to walk, cycle and scoot
- \* working with a local school, its governors and parents to trial a 'school street'
- \* working with residents, a local junior school, a local supermarket and GBC to run an anti-idling campaign to raise awareness of its effects, change behaviour and improve air quality
- \* as a member of the Guildford Joint Committee work with residents - and groups such as G-Bug - to create joined up cycling routes, and improve accessibility for all
- \* working with local bus companies to improve their bus routes and to make sure they are not too expensive to use, and their hours of operation meet need
- \* working with local businesses to encourage their staff to be part of our active travel programme

**Given the push towards active travel, what could you do to promote more considerate behaviour towards people using bicycles and those walking.**

- \* Start with schools, encourage school streets and active travel for everyone.
- \* Make residential roads safer by lowering the speed limits.
- \* Hold cycling events for all the family to promote the health benefits, cycling safety and environmental factors.
- \* Make walking, cycling and accessibility part of all of our conversations from planning to highways. Not treat them as an after-thought.
- \* Plan ahead and introduce Car Free days in Guildford Town Centre (working with bus companies and businesses).

**What is preventing Guildford becoming a cycling city with mini-holland type infrastructure, where the majority of people doing short journeys choose to walk or cycle?**

- \* Poor infrastructure / lack of proper investment and planning for walking and cycling routes (active travel)
- \* Roads that are used as 'rat runs'. People are nervous to walk / cycle when drivers exceed speed limits
- \* Lack of enforcement by the Police who are resource poor
- \* We need more dedicated and joined up cycle lanes, more areas where cars / vehicles are not allowed so that walking, cycling and scooting is safe (ie in the town centre)
- \* Car parks that are 'out of town' with cheap, regular bus services to / from car parks
- \* More investment is needed in bike hubs so people - who don't have the space at home - can store their bike safely when not using it

SCC and GBC need to work together; be creative and bold. Low traffic neighbourhoods could be considered if carefully planned with residents.