

Peter Hopwood, Labour and Co-operative Party, Waverley Eastern Villages - Surrey County Council

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

I regularly walk and cycle.

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 infrastructure needs to be safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Solutions could include making sure we increase provisions for bikes through expanding the amount of cycle ways and ensuring that cycle lanes are more widely established on roads so that cycling is a safe and accessible option. Many roads don't always have provisions for pedestrians either which needs to be looked at - I am conscious that on country roads this especially can be a risk for those who are hard of hearing or partially sighted.

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

If we make both options safer and easier, people are more likely to use them as convenient and green alternatives to using the car which will reduce car pollution and congestion - it is therefore really important we incentivise walking and cycling by making sure the provisions for them are much better.

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.

I'm not an incumbent Councillor so I don't have a record on this area, but I personally try to regularly use my bike and walk as much as possible, and try not to use the car too much.

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

Increasing awareness about cycling and walking would really help, as well as working with local communities to really engage with the local issues surrounding transport.

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?

We need to have consistent and high quality infrastructure supporting cycling and pedestrians not just within large town centres such as in Guildford but also in more rural areas surrounding the town such as in my division of Waverley Eastern Villages and throughout Surrey to encourage people across the county to use bikes and walk more. Many visit Guildford from the surrounding area, so unless they too have access to cycling and pedestrian provisions then the demand for using the car to travel will still remain high.

I lived in the Netherlands for five years so I know just how positive the impact of safe cycling infrastructure has on society - it is an issue I deeply care about, and the Surrey Labour manifesto states that under us "more cycle lanes and routes will be planned and delivered to improve leisure options and make cycling safer for everyone."