

Leighton and Eaton Constantine Parish Council's response to Shropshire Council Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation

The Commission of Active Travel England's commitment for half our journeys to be walked or cycled in towns and cities by 2030 focuses on the more densely populated areas with funding opportunities to help implement suitable schemes. It is understandable that funding is concentrated on higher density populated towns where there is greater need to reduce car journeys to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality and encourage people to walk or cycle to work or school with all the health benefits that go with that activity.

However, Shropshire is such a rural county we are concerned that the lack of any rural road policy will mean that rural areas will be ignored and the benefits of walking and cycling excluded from a large percentage of the County's population.

We understand that adaption of rural roads to the exact criteria for 'Active Travel' could be expensive, however, different schemes and approaches are required which could improve access to these activities and improve the quality of life for more of Shropshire's residents. It could be, for example:

- Improving the quality of rural pavements to improve pedestrian safety and encourage them to be used more.
- Speed limits to be enforced or implemented in all rural villages.
- Introduce 'Quiet Lanes' policy for suitable C or unclassified rural lanes
- Refurbish National Cycle routes. Making sure that cycle races are licensed with the Local Authority with better signage (e.g. Flashing VAS signs) when cycle races are in progress. We have issues with races along the B4380 which is a winding,

dangerous 60mph road with many side roads off it. There have been many 'close calls' due to lack of marshalling and signage. Cars are not informed that packs of cyclists could be around the corner. It is worryingly dangerous.

- Look at speed limits on all the rural roads and see if they need reducing for cyclist safety.
- Look at off road areas for potential cycle paths to segregate cars and traffic from cyclists and walkers.
- Ensure housing developments are built around making sustainable travel including cycling and walking a priority and first choice for journeys.

The quality of cycling infrastructure on our roads needs an integrated approach to benefit all in our County. The ability to walk or cycle should be available to everyone. Please look at funding improvements across the County and not just in the larger towns.