



**Norfolk County Council**  
at your service

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Director : Mike Jackson

## From the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation

Please ask for: Mr Adrian Gunson  
Contact number: 01603 222501

Your ref:  
My ref: P12/42/M11/LM/AD/SS[190561]

4 December 2009

Dear Mr Heaser

### Little Melton Cycle Campaign

Thank you for the letter dated 2 November addressed to the Director and myself from Mary Plage with reference to the Little Melton Cycle Campaign. This response covers both letters.

The points raised in your manifesto are consistent with Norfolk County Council's Local Transport Plan objectives, and therefore I am pleased to offer our support to the principal aims of your campaign. We are committed to promoting cycling in Norfolk and are currently consulting on several strategies which identify the need for improved cycle links in and around the Norwich Area, including the Norwich Area Transport Strategy (NATS) Implementation Team and Joint Core Strategy (JCS). I would urge you to respond if you have not already done so. I appreciate that these documents do not provide detailed proposals, particularly at a local level. However, the NATS consultation does highlight that a Hospital / Research Park / City Centre link is identified as part of the priority strategic cycle route.

As the Highway Authority we work with developers and the local Planning Authorities to try to ensure that as part of any new developments, sustainable transport and the provision of safe walking and cycling routes are key priorities. Working with developers is essential as much of the required infrastructure is unaffordable from the County

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Itton Parish Council



Working with



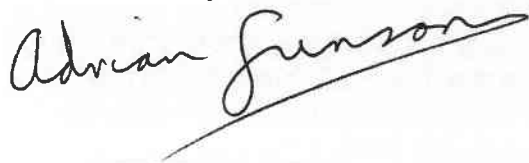
Council's limited financial resources. We anticipate that over the short to medium term the funding situation will only become worse. This approach should also ensure that the appropriate level of infrastructure is in place before any development. One downside of this approach is that in some instances it does lead to a piecemeal approach to the construction of cycle networks. However, it is better to have this infrastructure rather than none at all and there is never enough funding to build everything all at once.

With assistance from the developers, and £800,000 from the Annual County Cycling budget, priority is given to installing cycle parking and constructing cycle facilities with emphasis on routes near schools and particularly within market towns. Recent schemes such as the shared use facility to Wymondham High School are typical of this approach, although due to funding constraints, even this relatively short and straightforward section has to be constructed over three separate financial years. Focusing on these routes do also tend to mean we are constructing routes which are attractive and well used by local residents. Unfortunately usage reduces considerably once outside the confines of the urban areas, and value for money becomes more difficult due to the lower levels of use.

You will be pleased to know that a route between Little Melton and the UEA/hospital does already feature in the South Norfolk Council development framework for the Norwich Research Park. Although this is a long term strategy I hope you will be reassured that this link has been considered within future planning considerations.

I trust this explains how we approach cycling issues. If you have any further questions, please contact Bob Edwards, the local Highway Engineer (01603 819807), or Linda McDermott, the South Area Programme Engineer (01603 228905).

Yours sincerely



Adrian Gunson  
Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation