

Since Monday, more than 300 local residents have replied to our letter or social media about Wirral Cabinet's plans to install cycle lanes through Wallasey, from Woodside to New Brighton. Thank you to everyone who has responded. We wrote to residents in our ward because the Council had failed to deliver a leaflet to make people aware of the plan.

Of the 336 people who have registered on our [website](#) so far:

- nine are in favour of the plans
- 31 are undecided
- 296 opposed.

Lesley, Paul and I, as the three local councillors for Wallasey Ward, are responding to everyone who included comments and answering the questions posed as best we can at this stage.

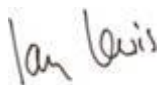
Apologies to those people who also receive our monthly email bulletin, for whom this email is the second in three days.

In this email, we will report back on the main concerns raised by residents and local businesses; the history of this project (the 'key dates'); answers to the most frequently asked questions since Monday and, most important, what we (you, me, Lesley, Paul, other residents and businesses) can do together to stop this scheme.

This email is being sent to everyone who registered on our website. However, we don't know what the councillors in Liscard, New Brighton or Seacombe have done to make their residents aware.

So, if you have friends, relatives or work colleagues anywhere in Wallasey, please do forward this email to them and ask them to sign up for updates at www.wallaseyconservatives.com/cycling

Yours sincerely



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The top concerns if the plan is introduced:

1. Loss of parking spaces for residents and customers
2. Lack of access to shops and GP surgeries
3. Traffic chaos in adjoining roads which already have insufficient parking
4. Difficulties for disabled people to walk to and from their vehicles
5. Possible loss of green spaces for new parking

6. Safety for pedestrians on the so-called 'shared spaces'
7. Danger for drivers accessing and leaving their driveways across cycle lanes
8. Loss of the Grove Road roundabout

The key dates so far:

- **3 June:** local councils in Merseyside to share in £10 million grant for emergency Active Travel Fund. Councillor Lesley Rennie calls for consultation on any plans. [See here](#).
- **24 June:** email from the council manager overseeing the project with the proposed route to councillors in the affected wards (Wallasey, Liscard, Seacombe, New Brighton), following discussion at the 'Active Travel Forum'.
- **25 June:** email from Ian, Lesley and Paul to the Council's Chief Executive asking why local councillors and residents had not been consulted prior to circulation of the detailed plans to the 'Active Travel Forum'
- **14 July:** briefing for councillors, chaired by the Town Hall's Cabinet Member for the Environment and lead on the plan, Cllr. Liz Grey. We again questioned the consultation and were told a leaflet would be delivered to every home and business in Wallasey.
- **15 July:** We submitted a Freedom of Information Act request submitted regarding the appointment of the consultant working on the plan. [Click here for that](#).
- **16 July:** We emailed the Council's communications department asking when the draft of leaflet will be available.
- **20 July:** We emailed communications department asking for leaflet to be redrafted, making clear the disadvantages of the proposed scheme (as required by the Government).
- **21 July:** We emailed the communications department asking for list of roads where the leaflet will be delivered to. See [this map](#) received in response.
- **19 August:** We submitted a second Freedom of Information Act request for copy of the 'Stakeholder Engagement Plan' showing who would be consulted and when. [Click here for that](#).
- **19 August:** Third Freedom of Information Act request submitted, to the Liverpool City Region, for details of the appointment of the consultant. [Click here for that](#).
- **31 August:** in the absence of the promised leaflet, we printed and delivered letters to 800 households in Wallasey Ward.
- **1 September:** Ian spoke on BBC Radio Merseyside calling for scheme to be scrapped
- **2 September:** We emailed the Chief Executive of Wirral Council calling for project to be scrapped due to failure to justify selection of roads and to consult
- **2 September:** We contacted the Wirral Globe to ask for their help to publicise the plan, leading to this [article](#)
- **3 September:** We emailed the Chief Executive of the Liverpool City Region, again calling for the project to be scrapped and highlighting their statement in the Globe was wrong – no leaflets have been delivered.
- **3 September:** Ian spoke with the Council's Director of Regeneration requesting a meeting next week.

Below are answers to the some of the most frequently asked questions we have received:

Q: I've heard the Active Travel Forum approved the plan. What is it?

A: The Active Travel Forum is a non-statutory group of council officers and members of the public who have an interest in issues such as walking and cycling. It is unelected and has no powers to spend Council Tax. No councillors from the Wallasey constituency are members of it.

Q: Is this a Government scheme?

A: The money has come from the Department for Transport but they have not said WHERE it should be spent in Wirral, just so long as it is used to support cycling and walking. The Government's 'Gear Change' document specifically states that residents must be consulted and made aware of benefits, but also the disadvantages of any changes a council proposes. The Council has failed to do this.

Q: Why were these roads selected?

A: We still don't know. We've asked and have submitted a request using the Freedom of Information Act for the evidence to justify this decision.

Q: I'm not clear which roads are in the route?

A: Wheatland Lane, Mainwaring Road, Liscard Road, Liscard Way, Seaview Road, Hose Side Road, Grove Road, Warren Drive, Victoria Road, Grosvenor Drive.

Q: Does the scheme definitely mean people can't park on those roads?

A: Yes. In an answer to a question from us on 25 August, the council manager responsible for the scheme said: *"The current proposals for the two-way segregated cycle lanes on Seaview Road, Hose Side Road, Warren Drive and Grove Road will prohibit parking adjacent to the cycle lanes."*

Q: What happens if I ignore the cycle lane and just park over it?

A: You won't be able to – the cycle lane will be segregated from the road and pavement either by plastic 'wands' fixed to the road or raised kerbstones.

Q: So where do they expect me to park?

A: When we asked this, we were told 'the side roads' and/or new parking areas.

Q: There is a 'shared space' on the pavement outside my house, what does that mean?

A: That you, and other pedestrians, will 'share' it with cyclists.

Q: Why is the beautiful Grove Road roundabout removed?

A: When we questioned this, we were told on 22 July: *"The removal of the roundabout at Grove Road would provide a significant reallocation of road space and unused space in the centre of the roundabout to pedestrians and cyclists. This creates space to improve crossing facilities for both pedestrians and cyclists. Reallocation of road space is a key component of the LCWIP schemes across Wirral and Merseyside, in order to improve cycling and walking infrastructure."*

Q: My neighbours don't have internet access, don't their views matter?

A: The leaflet was supposed to include a phone number for people who couldn't go online but, as the consultation closes on Sunday, it's too late for that now.

Q: Who decides whether this goes ahead or not?

A: At the moment, the Town Hall's 'Cabinet', including the Cabinet Member responsible for this, Cllr. Liz Grey. After September, the Cabinet is scrapped and new committees take over.

Q: The Council has said this is the ‘first stage’ of the consultation. Is that true?

A: That’s what they’ve said but the second stage, as planned, is about specific issues along the proposed route not the route itself.

Q: Aren’t you just being anti-bike?

A: Not at all. We welcomed the extra cash but it has to be spent in a way that doesn’t make the quality of life for the many worse. We believe a genuine consultation would ask residents how and where the money should be spent first.

What we can do stop this scheme:

First, please do NOT take the law into your own hands – blocking roads and causing annoyance to other road users and residents does not win public support.

Instead, we need to make sure the result of the ‘consultation’ (as bad as it is) is overwhelming. So far, around 500 people have commented. Encourage your neighbours, friends and relatives in Wallasey to take part here: <https://lcwip.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/wirral/details> by Sunday!

Next week, Ian, Lesley and Paul have asked for an urgent meeting with the Council’s Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration. At that meeting we will argue for the scheme to be dropped.

We will contact everyone who has registered on our website with the outcome of that meeting.

If we are **successful**, then we will expect the council to start again by asking residents across Wallasey how and where the money should be used (it can only be used for improving cycling and walking).

But, if we are **not successful** next week, then we will be asking for your **ACTIVE** support, in a number of ways, to stop the scheme BEFORE any ‘second’ consultation begins (even if we still haven’t seen the first!). This **WILL** include a public (socially-distanced) demonstration, as several residents have already suggested.

Whatever the outcome of the meeting next week, we will also be hand delivering a further update to all the roads in the area.

In the meantime, please share this email with others and encourage people via social media to take part, and let the local media know your views too.