

Cyclists Touring Club
Right to Ride Network

www.ctc.org.uk
www.northhertsctc.org.uk

Dear Councillor,

As we look forward to consultation for the 2009 Hitchin Transport Plan we thought that you would be interested in our views and concerns.

Our first concern is that we put a lot of time and effort into a similar exercise 10 years ago but what became of it ? Building a comprehensive cycle network for the town was the second most popular proposal and yet NOTHING has been done to make it a reality in the intervening decade.

Will the time that we devote to this round of consultation (time which we would much rather devote to feeding our children) be any better spent ?

We would like to see this plan focus on making Hitchin a really great place to live and work. To do that means focusing on quality of life issues, health, environment, tranquillity and community. It means focusing on PEOPLE, not on moving vehicles from one side of the county to another.

A transport system that focuses on vehicles is outward looking. It encourages development to gravitate to the periphery of the town leaving that dead centre that blights many towns. It encourages people to work and shop in a different town to the one where they live, because driving away from a town is always easier than driving into its centre.

Hitchin will never compete with Stevenage or Milton Keynes for car parks and road space, so we must be smarter. We must encourage people to stay in their home town by making it quicker, easier, cheaper and more pleasant to go into town on foot or by bike than it can ever be to drive to a neighbouring town.

That is what the 1998 Plan said, and that is what we should have spent the last ten years doing. It is about time that we stopped making excuses for our complacency and started making a genuine difference.

We can do it. It will take time, there will be nay sayers and opposition, but if countries like Denmark and the Netherlands can do it, and maintain some of the highest standards of living in the world, then so can we.

We depend on you to make that future a reality for our children.

regards

Alasdair DV Massie CEng MIStructE
CTC Right to Ride Representative, North Herts

CTC is Britain's largest cycling organisation with 70,000 members. Formed in 1878, we have actively campaigned for better, safer roads, locally and nationally since our inception.

We have a large and active section for Stevenage and North Herts.