

WALLASEY AGAINST CYCLE CHAOS

IMPORTANT DEADLINE: make sure you tell the Town Hall what **YOU** think by **5pm on Monday 23 September**

NEW CYCLE LANE PLANS REVEALED

The Town Hall has announced a massive expansion of plans for segregated cycle lanes across Wirral. Wallasey is one of the areas most affected.

Residents may remember a plan to link Woodside to New Brighton with a £15 million cycle lane. That scheme proved so controversial, and expensive, that it was split into two phases.

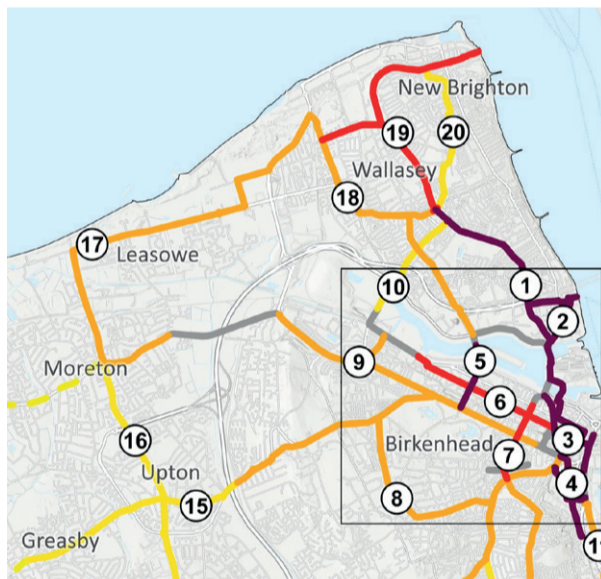
Phase One covers Woodside to Liscard Precinct. It will require the removal of parking bays, pedestrian crossings and trees. Increased costs means Phase One alone is now expected to cost at least £10 million to install.

The consultation on this phase saw a massive 74% of people in Wallasey Ward opposing the scheme. 61.9% of people in Liscard oppose the scheme. And in Seacombe, 48.9% oppose the scheme. In spite of that result, a majority of councillors on the Environment Committee voted to move to the next stage.

The Town Hall tried to claim the routes were chosen by the Department for Transport in London. Councillors Ian Lewis and Lesley Rennie met with a Transport Minister at the time. He refuted this and confirmed the choice of whether to take part was **entirely** down to local councils.

The costs of the scheme, as usual, will be met by the taxpayer, with grants from the Government alongside some Council Tax. The Town Hall has, however, so far, refused to confirm the likely costs, which are estimated.

Within days of that result, the Town Hall published plans for installing more cycle routes under a plan titled 'Core Active Travel Network'. If agreed, the following roads in Wallasey Ward will have segregated cycle lanes installed, similar to those at



Fender Lane and Harrison Drive:

- **Wallasey Road**
- **Wallasey Village** (from St Hilary Brow to Harrison Drive)
- **Harrison Drive**
- **Bayswater Road**

This plan also, again, includes what would be 'Phase Two' of the original plan:

- **Seaview Road**
- **Hose Side Road**
- **Grove Road**
- **Warren Drive**

All roads leading to Moreton Cross are also included in the plan, promising gridlock there, just as we've often seen at Fender Lane.

Phase One vote:

Even though a majority of Wallasey residents opposed the Woodside-Liscard route, a majority of Councillors on the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee voted to move to the next stage of work.

Voting in Favour:



5 Labour, 2 Green, 1 Lib Dem

Voting Against:



3 Conservative

No consultation in Wallasey Ward

When this plan was announced, a series of unstaffed 'exhibitions' were listed. None are in Wallasey Ward. Councillor Lesley Rennie raised this with the Town Hall. They have refused to hold one here, even though the likely impact will be greater than in Heswall or West Kirby (where they ARE holding exhibitions). There is an 'exhibition' at Wallasey Central Library on Earleston Road where plans can be seen and surveys completed.

'Floating' bus stops ridiculed

Part of the design includes so-called 'floating' bus stops. In practice, this is where passengers have to walk across a cycle lane to get on or off their bus. They've been criticised by the National Federation of the Blind. In February, at a meeting requested by Cllr. Ian Lewis with the Leader of the Council, Paul Stuart, and the Leader of the Conservative Councillors, Jeff Green, the RNIB also raised concerns.



'Build it and they will come'

When questioned, the frequent response from supporters of more cycle lanes is 'Build it and they will come'. Well, Fender Lane has been built. Traffic chaos has followed. Yet the number of cyclists is negligible.

Equally, at Harrison Drive, the bollards installed are an eyesore yet there has been no noticeable increase in cycling there.

If the Town Hall disagrees, they can publish the evaluation they're paying consultants for. It was due in July, but has been delayed again...

THREE WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

- 1 Display the poster on the other side of this newsletter



- 2 Join our new Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/wallaseyagainstcyclechaos - 375 residents have already

- 3 Tell the Town Hall what you think. Take part in the consultation in person at Earleston Road Library or online at <https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/wirral-active-travel-infrastructure-plan>

74%

SAY

'NO'

Join the Facebook Group:

fb.com/groups/wallaseyagainstcyclechaos