



Department
for Transport

Gillian Keegan MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Minister of State
Chris Heaton-Harris MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/332650
Your Ref: GK21823

18 March 2021

Dear Gillian,

Thank you for your email of 9 March, a follow up to my previous letter of 2 March, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Mr Mark Record, Secretary of ChiCycle, of 22 Barton Road, Chichester, PO19 3LJ, about the cycling and walking facilities on the A259 between Chichester and Emsworth.

I understand that ChiCycle, amongst other local stakeholders including the West Sussex Cycle Forum and Chichester and District Cycle Forum, have been in regular contact with Highways England about the cycling and walking facilities along the A259. Highways England recognises the concerns that they have raised have taken them into consideration throughout the design process of the scheme, through various workshops and discussions organised throughout December 2020, January and February 2021.

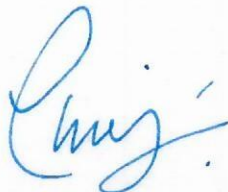
Unfortunately, the alternatives proposed these in forums are not achievable. I have been assured Highways England will be contacting ChiCycle and in due to provide further details on the scheme, where Mr Record will be able to voice any further concerns.

I note Mr Record's comments on Active Travel England. One of the commitments within the Prime Minister's Gear Change vision for cycling and walking was to establish a new body, Active Travel England, to hold the cycling and walking budget, approve and inspect schemes, inspect highway authorities, lead on training, good practice, share knowledge and review major planning applications to help improve the provision of cycling and walking infrastructure.

The body will also be tasked with building capability and capacity in local authorities to improve coordination and delivery of local projects and will work closely with Highways England to ensure that safe, good quality schemes are delivered.

Although Active Travel England does not yet exist as an organisation, the Department is committed to making rapid progress in its establishment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Chris Heaton-Harris MP

Minister of State for Transport