



Department
for Transport

Gillian Keegan MP
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From the Minister of State
Chris Heaton-Harris MP

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2 March 2021

Dear Gillian,

Thank you for your email of 16 February to the Secretary of State, detailing the concerns of your constituents, about cycling and walking facilities on the A259 between Chichester and Emsworth. I am responding as the Minister responsible for this issue.

You may remember that Highways England undertook a feasibility study in 2019 to look at opportunities to improve the Non-Motorised User (NMU) (cycle & pedestrian) facilities along the A259 between Chichester and Emsworth. Building on the proposals outlined in that study, Highways England is progressing the preliminary design phase of that work, funded from its Designated Funding Users and Communities programme, in collaboration with local councils.

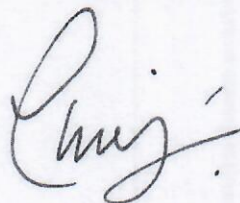
Following the publication of the new guidelines in July 2020 (Local Transport Note 1/20) (LTN1/20)), Highways England sought to establish the impact of the guidelines on its feasibility recommendations. As a result, Highways England designs have evolved to a solution comprised of a mix of speed management zones, shared use paths and segregated facilities, which are compliant with LTN1/20 and will cater for all users. All of Highways England's designs will be subjected to independent road safety audit review and an Equality Impact assessment.

Turning to your comments on the Department's Gear Change publication; in Summer of 2020, the Prime Minister launched ambitious plans to boost cycling and walking, setting out a vision for half of all journeys in towns and cities to be cycled or walked by 2030. This included a £2 billion package of funding for active travel over the next 5 years. Over £200 million of funding is available this year to Local Authorities through the Active Travel Fund.

The Plan aims to build on the increase in the number of people cycling during the pandemic. It sets out a comprehensive, long term vision to increase active travel and embed the benefits of walking and cycling into how we live, work and move around. The Cycling and Walking Plan can be viewed at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-and-walking-plan-for-england.

“Mini-Holland” schemes are areas where there has been intensive investment in local roads and streetscapes to make them, over time, as cycle and pedestrian-friendly as their Dutch equivalents. The Gear Change plan confirms that the Government will choose up to 12 local authority areas to benefit from this sort of intensive investment. Decisions on how local authorities will be able to register an interest in taking part in the process, and how the selection will be made, will be announced in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Heaton-Harris MP

Minister of State for Transport