

# **Cycling Advocacy Report. Year to 1 April 2022**

## **West Midlands Combined Authority**

Adam Tranter has been appointed to the post of Cycling and Walking Commissioner. Hopefully the appointment will be a significant step forward for the WMCA, as now it has a post more like the Active Travel commissioners in [London](#) and [Greater Manchester](#).

## **Reimagining transport in the West Midlands**

In the past transport planning has been based on the "predict and provide" principle. "Predict" where under-capacity will be a problem and then build more.

The planners are recognising that this has led to many problems:

- Increasing CO2 emissions
- Deaths from air pollution
- Urban streets blocked with parked cars
- Major public health problems due to people having little or no physical exercise
- Serious problems accessing services for those who can't access a car
- Serious political problems from NIMBYs, due to never ending road building and congestion

To name a just a few. So this "[Green Paper](#)" proposes that transport projects should be assessed according to how much they help with societal objectives. Namely:

- Sustaining economic success
- Creating a fairer society
- Supporting local communities and places
- Making people more (physiologically) active
- Tackling the climate emergency- the UK's [Climate Change Committee](#) recommends a reduction in car use by 2-5% per decade

## **Coventry Transport Strategy**

Main positives are the inclusion of the following in the Draft Implementation Plan:

- More restrictions on car travel within the Ring Road Zone to ensure the zone is primarily for pedestrians.
- Improved cycle connections between the University of Warwick and neighbouring residential areas, railways stations and the city centre
- Two new cycleways connecting the planned Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) at Eastern Green to the city centre and to Tile Hill Railway Station
- New cycleways connecting the planned SUE in Keresley to the city centre and to Allesley/ Lyons Park

## **Highway Code changes**

Some of the advice developed by the Bikeability cycle training programme has been incorporated into the Highway Code, to inform other road users of the recommended road position when cycling. In some quarters this has provoked outrage.

## **Warkwickshire**

Unfortunately the ideas about a step change in the quality of cycle infrastructure leading to a significant increase in cycling as a mode of transport has yet to percolate down to those highway authorities responsible for towns. Often cycling is seen purely as a recreational activity.

For further details see [advocacy page and log posts](#) on <http://coventryctc.org.uk>