

### **Didcot Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**

My name is Kevin Wilkinson and I am a cyclist from Didcot. I was Chair of the Harwell Campus Bicycle Users Group from 2006 until October this year and have been cycling to the Campus every day for 18 years. I am now at the Culham Science Centre and cycling commuting every day. I am a member of the Didcot LCWIP steering group.

Didcot is suffering from congestion and this is getting worse as new housing is built. At the moment the default mode of transport for most residents is the private car even to get to Didcot Parkway to continue their journey on public transport. As a consequence the roads are busy and uninviting for pedestrians and cyclists causing more residents to resort to using the car.

The Didcot LCWIP, if implemented, will offer an alternative to the 'car first' option for transport in the town by encouraging cycling and walking. However for it to work there will be difficult decisions to be made where car use may be restricted or stopped. We have seen in Oxford that a small but vocal opposition can cause transport improvements to be jeopardised. Didcot will be faced with the same issues, but I believe that knowing this will allow the County Council to anticipate opposition and go ahead with what is needed for the town to flourish in the future.

The benefits of increasing cycling and walking in the town, even by a small percentage, are manyfold from the reduction in congestion and pollution to the health benefits of exercise and increase in wellbeing of pedestrians and cyclists.

I would like to submit my support for the Didcot LCWIP.

Regards

Kevin Wilkinson