

Petition – Aidan Reilly

The cycling infrastructure in South Oxfordshire, and The Vale of White Horse, is atrocious. On most routes, there is no cycling infrastructure at all. Where cycling and walking infrastructure exists, it is disjointed, substandard, and not maintained.

There is no crossing point over the A415 between Abingdon town centre and Culham Science Centre, 3 miles away. This is an appalling example of car-centric, 1960s planning. On the A415 there is a school - the Europa school - which has no safe pedestrian or cycle access. There is no cycle path to it, and no crossing over the A415. The speed limits along the road from Abingdon to the school go 20, 40, 30, 50; and we have the absurd situation where it's 20mph outside the cricket club, but 30mph outside the school.

And this is not just an abstract concern - a child was seriously injured last year, and there are frequent near misses - the lack of infrastructure puts lives at risk every day. We need a safe cycling and walking route from Abingdon and Sutton Courtenay to the school, and to Culham Science Centre. This means lower speed limits, more cycle paths, and most urgently a crossing point.

Hundreds of pupils at Europa live within cycling distance, and most of them are driven to school - and it's hard to blame the parents when the alternatives are so dangerous. Allocate the money and build a safe crossing!