

Making Leighton Buzzard and Linslade a Cycle-Friendly Town

A Cycling Strategy for Leighton Buzzard and Linslade

Recommended to the Local Authorities by Leighton Buzzcycles - the Leighton Linslade Cycling Forum

Edition 1 February 2007

Revised and updated February 2010 and November 2013



Leighton
BuzzCYCLES

Creating a cycling community

Cycling is good ...

- for people - and not just the ones on bikes,
- for the environment, local and global,
- for the local economy
- for local communities

We want to encourage everyone in Leighton Linlade to choose to cycle more – a modal shift away from private car use – a truly realistic alternative for everyone.

Current barriers to cycling ...

... in Leighton Buzzard and Linlade

- **Geographic** – River Ouzel, Clipstone Brook, Grand Union Canal, railway, busy ‘spoke’ roads and surrounding roads (A5, A505, A4146)
- **Physical** – traffic volume and speed, barriers, lack of cycle parking and storage, lack of complete traffic-free routes for children and beginners (gaps in cycle path network)
- **Mental** – lack of confidence/skills, lack of working bike, lack of knowledge of routes (particularly among new people moving into new estates), bad and dangerous driving, false perceptions of journey times

Good things about cycling ...

... in Leighton Buzzard and Linlade

- Size of town – all journeys are achievable distance-wise, even to and from neighbouring villages/towns
- Basis of a good cycle path network (NCN6, Riverside Walk, Black Bridge etc) that creates traffic-free short cuts
- A lot of previous investment (Cycle Town etc) into cycle parking, training, promotion and network
- Leighton Linlade people want to cycle – we have *four* cycling clubs
- New developments = opportunities to create cycle-friendly infrastructure from scratch

How to get more people on their bikes

- **Hard Measures** - to tackle geographic and physical barriers
- **Soft Measures** - to tackle mental barriers
- **Complementary Measures** - not directly related to cycling but will all help

Hard Measures

- Cycle Path Network – comprehensive and contiguous and including new developments and without ‘safety’ barriers, in particular providing new crossing points of geographical barriers (rivers, canal etc) to provide alternative and short cut routes away from traffic
- Roads and junctions designed for cyclists – existing and new development roads – because not everyone lives on a cycle path
- Cycle parking – at both ends of a journey - secure, sufficient and well publicised
- Speed limits – 20mph default throughout the town except where 30mph can be justified and reduced limits on rural roads also
- Maintenance of roads and cycle paths to ensure journeys are safe and comfortable

Soft Measures

- Training - Bikeability training and bike maintenance training
- Information and promotion – cycle route maps, notice boards, signage, websites, Dr. Bike and cycle promotion stalls etc.
- Support from police and other officials regarding traffic offences and cycle/vehicle collisions

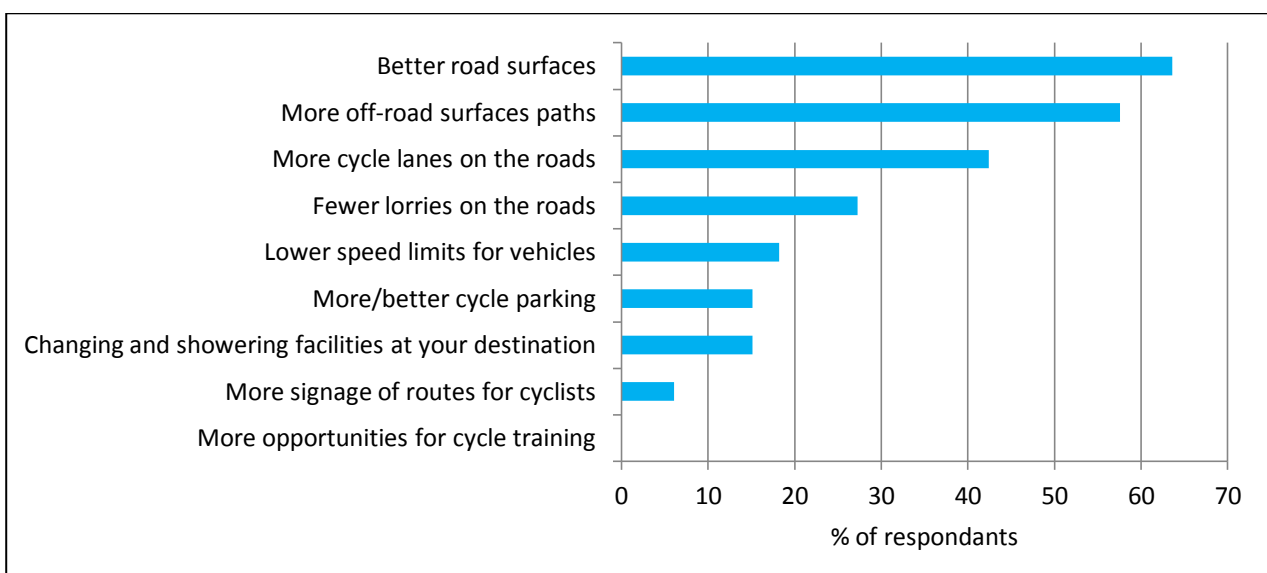
Complementary Measures

The list is endless but some ideas include:

- Public transport that integrates with cycling – bikes on buses, cycle parking at station, cycle access to trains etc
- Leisure facilities for cyclists – bike parks, off-road cycle routes, winter training facilities etc.
- Local businesses that welcome cyclists and cycle-friendly employer initiatives
- Decent bike shop in town
- Ongoing consultation with local cyclists and support of local bike clubs
- Promotion of cycling as a mode of transport
- Sustainable Travel Planning for schools and businesses
- Journey Planning for individuals
- Local Government (especially Highways and and Planning Departments) that actively supports cycling, through securing and implementing Section 106 agreements and LSTF funding etc.
- Town planning that keeps amenities local to reduce distances people have to travel to access them
- Work with health partners to promote cycling as part of healthy lifestyle
- Work with schools and education providers to encourage them to support their students and staff in cycling to school – after-school clubs, bike maintenance classes etc.
- De-incentive car use eg through parking charges, traffic calming, one-way streets, bus gates, speed restrictions to make cycling the preferred option
- Improve driver awareness and education/understanding of cycling, promote safe driving to private and commercial drivers

What local cyclists say

A recent survey of local cyclists produced the following results to the question “what would help improve your cycling journey?”:



Good practice ...

... recommendations for decision makers

Measure	Recommended practice	Priority
Speed limits	20mph default speed limits throughout the whole town, unless justification can be given for 30mph	Critical
	Review speed limits on roads to neighbouring villages and look to reduce to 30 or 40mph where there is no other provision for cyclists	High
	Make single track lanes Quiet Lanes with 20mph limits	Low
Road and junction design	Use cycle symbols on the carriageway rather than defined cycle lanes – remove all inappropriate on-carriageway cycle lanes	High
	Install Advanced Stop Lines with approach lanes at all traffic lights	Medium
	Use continental-style roundabout design for all roundabouts	High
	Consider removing central white lines on narrow roads and especially where there are cycle lanes	High
	Ensure roads, paths and junctions on new developments are designed to be cycle-friendly (adopt the Manual for Streets or use Cycling England Best Practice guidance)	High
Cycle path network	Use bollards and not barriers at entrances to paths – remove all existing barriers	Critical
	Revoke 'Cycling Prohibited' orders on paths that would be suitable for cycling and could be incorporated into the network	Medium
Cycle parking	Ensure that stringent cycle parking standards are applied to all new developments where relevant	High
	Ensure all local shops, community facilities and centres have suitable & sufficient cycle parking	High
	Look at ways to provide residential cycle parking e.g. through installations at flats, road-side cycle stands in residential streets and providing discounted cycle stands to private residences	High
	Consult with local cyclists and employers to identify suitable locations for cycle parking at offices, industrial estates and other places of employment	High
	Promote the cycle lockers at the multi-storey car park and extend the hours that they are available for use. Consider other locations in the town where lockers might be installed	High
	Install more cycle parking stands in the town centre particularly in the middle section of the High Street and outside Waitrose	High
	Install more cycle parking stands, including some with higher security, at the rail station	High
	Continue to work with schools to improve cycle parking for students, staff and visitors	High

Measure	Recommended practice	Priority
Maintenance	Recognise that road surfacing standards need to be higher for cycling than for motor vehicles and ensure roads used regularly by cyclists are well maintained to a higher standard (including gritting)	High
	Ensure all cycle paths are adopted (Cycle Path Orders) and a maintenance schedule drawn up for them (including gritting)	Critical
Town planning	Design new developments with their own local facilities, schools, shops, health facilities etc. to avoid the need to travel far	High
Training	Continue to provide Bikeability cycle training to all students at all schools	Critical
	Continue to provide and promote Bikeability cycle training to all adults, particularly among parents of children being trained at schools to encourage 'cycling families'	High
	Provide and promote Basic Bike Maintenance Training, e.g. through Lifelong Learning providers	High
	Provide Bikeability and other training for local authority staff and councillors to help them better understand the needs of cyclists	High
	Provide skills training (e.g. Ride Leadership and First Aid) to local cycle clubs to help them encourage cycling	Medium
Information and promotion	Continue to install, update and maintain signage of cycle paths and recommended road routes	High
	Continue to produce updates of the Cycling Map and work to ensure that this is available to all households and businesses in the town, particularly new residents (as part of a Welcome Pack)	High
	Install information boards with Cycling Map at key locations including railway station, town centre, multi-storey car park toilets, supermarkets, bus stops industrial estates and local shops	Medium
	Use every opportunity to promote cycling as a real alternative e.g. special offers and incentives for cyclists and businesses/events that welcome cyclists, providing cycle parking at town events, providing information stands and Dr. Bike at town events etc.	Medium
Public transport integration	Investigate ways to make it easier to combine cycling with bus travel (i.e. bike racks on buses and parking at bus stops)	Low
	Make it easier to take bicycles on trains and resist any further restrictions to this	Medium
	Install a lift at the railway station	High
Leisure facilities	Look for opportunities for establishing mountain bike trails and jumps sites for all ages and abilities	Low
	Look for opportunities to create first class facilities for all types of sports cycling	Low
	Increase the amount of rural cycle tracks and bridleways in the local area to provide more traffic-free routes for leisure cycling	Medium

Measure	Recommended practice	Priority
Travel Planning	Ensure all local schools and businesses have an up to date Sustainable Travel Plan which they are implementing	High
	Encourage local residents to undertake personal Travel Plans	Medium
Consultation	Consult with local cyclists and local residents to find out what cycling facilities (shared paths, cycle parking, sports or off road etc) they would like in their own locality	High
	Monitor levels of cycling	High
	Support local cycle clubs and help them to encourage more cycling	High

Some detailed infrastructure recommendations ...

... for the Cycle Network (see map 1)

Ref no.	Area	Location	Recommendation	Priority
1	Heath & Reach	Eastern Way	Create new Bridleway between Eastern Way and Stonehenge Works on Miletree Road (Webb's Way)	Low
2		Linslade Rd / Thrift Rd	Shared path links to Rushmere Country Park from Heath & Reach	Medium
3		Old Linslade Rd	Shared path links to Rushmere Country Park from the tow path	Medium
4		Old Linslade Rd	Change priorities at junction of Old Linslade Road / Plantation Road to improve visibility and access to Rushmere Country Park	High
5	North Leighton	Plantation Rd	Shared path links to Rushmere Park from Leighton Buzzard on Plantation Road to link into existing network (Sandy Lane)	Medium
6		Firs Path	Off-road cycle route between Plantation Road and Old Linslade Road along Firs Path public footpath	Low
7		Ouzel Meadows	Shared path to link Firs Path with Bossington Lane crossing the river and canal (swingbridge)	Low
8		Ouzel Meadows	New cycle/pedestrian bridge over canal from Rothschild Road to Twelve Arches Weir (may need to make do with shallow steps & wheeling channels)	Low
9		Heath Rd / Carnation Close	Change toucan crossing to wide zebra	Low
10	Linslade	Stoke Rd	Shared path between end of Linslade Wood bridleway and Old Linslade Road	Low
11		Linslade Wood	Complete Linslade Wood cycle path with connections to Knaves Hill and Stoke Road - remove gates	Medium

Ref no.	Area	Location	Recommendation	Priority
12	Linslade contd.	Stoke Rd	Shared paths both sides between Rothschild Road & Globe Lane and between Golden Riddy and entrance to Linslade Wood with improved crossing at entrance to Linslade Wood	Medium
13		Soulbury Road	Uphill only cycle lane and/or shared use path on Soulbury Road from Leopold Road to Derwent Road	Medium
14		Bideford Green	Link from Bideford Green near Southcott School to Community Centre & shops	Medium
15		Grasmere Way	Shared path from Southcott Community Centre to Southcourt Avenue via Grasmere Way and Rock Lane.	High
16		Rock Lane	Create bridleway from Derwent Road/Rock Lane out to Liscombe Park	Low
17		Leopold Road	Cycle contraflow on Leopold Road	Low
18		Station Road	Filter lane for left turn from Station Road to Soulbury Road	Low
19		Railway station	Create cycle / disabled access across railway station (lifts)	Critical
20		Orchard Drive	Shared path links between Southcourt Avenue and Bunkers Lane via Grange Close and Orchard Drive	Medium
21		Stephenson Close	Shared path from Stephenson Close to the railway station via the station car park	Critical
22		Wing Road	New cycle/pedestrian bridge over bypass at Wing Hill	Medium
23		Mardle Road	Install ramps on White Bridge for cyclists and pushchair access with links to Mentmore Road, Mardle Road and Camberton Road	Medium
24		Grove Lock	New bridge over canal at Grove Lock	Medium
25		Grove Lock	Shared path between Grove Lock and Mentmore Road bridleway (Bridleway 63)	Medium
26		Grove Lock	Surface canal tow path as far as Church Lock at Grove and beyond to Marsworth	Low
27		East Leighton	Meadway	Shared path alongside LB Railway full length of Meadway with zebra crossings at start of Clipstone Brook cycle path and Appenine Way
28	Kiteleys Green		Shared path between Vandyke Road and the Clipstone Brook Cycle Path beside cemetery including existing bridge over the brook and including link between Brookside Walk and Willowbank Walk	Low

Ref no.	Area	Location	Recommendation	Priority
29	East Leighton contd.	Appenine Way	Shared path between Meadway/Appenine Way roundabout and Hockliffe Road, alongside LB Railway, with link to Orion Way then continuing along Hockliffe Road to Brooklands Drive	Low
30		Woodman Close	Shared path alongside Clipstone Brook behind Woodman Close & enlarged sub-station from Hockliffe Road to South Street	Critical
31		Meadow Way	Two replacement cycle/pedestrian bridges over stream and LB Railway between Meadow Way and Danesfield	High
32		Meadow Way	Create cycle links between Meadow Way and Cherrycourt Way industrial estate	Low
33	South Leighton	Stanbridge Road	Change pelican crossing at Brooklands Ave to raised wide zebra with short section of cycle path on Stanbridge Road to link to Brooklands Ave	Low
34		Roundel Drive	Make Roundel Drive/Stanbridge Road roundabout more cycle friendly by using line painting to make lanes smaller (Continental Style)	High
35		Learoyd Way	Create Link from Stanbridge Road to Esmonde Way via Learoyd Way	Low
36		Cooper Drive	Improved link between Pages Park and the Sandhills estate over the LB Railway to Cooper Drive	Critical
37		Dunnock Close	Create link between end of Dunnock Close and Turnham Drive	Medium
38		Johnson Drive	Shared path from end of Johnson Drive to Astral Park to link to Trent Way	Medium
39		Billington Road	Shared path alongside Billington Road between Kestrel Way and Clay Furlong with link to Plover Road	High
40		Chartmoor Road	Shared path between Grovebury Road and Billington Road	Medium
41		Grovebury Road	Shared path on Grovebury Road between Parsons Close cycle path and Black Bridge cycle path	Critical
42		Grovebury Farm	Create a traffic-free route to Billington across the bypass via Grovebury Farm	Low
43		Stanbridge Road	Create a traffic-free route to Stanbridge (NCR6)	Critical
44	Central Leighton	Vimy Road	Sustrans NCR6 shared path between Vimy Road and Leighton Road alongside river with link to Aldi	High
45		Leighton Road	Shared path on Leighton Road between Riverside Walk and the Sustrans Vimy Road link	Critical
46		Leighton Road	Shared path on Leighton Road between Sustrans Vimy Road link and tow path	Medium

Ref no.	Area	Location	Recommendation	Priority
47	Central Leighton contd.	Leighton Road	Shared path on south side of Leighton Road between Bridge St and Wing Road	Medium
48		Leighton Road	Install a link from the southern side of Leighton Road to tow path	Medium
49		Leighton Road	Link from Leighton Road to Church Road across canal behind Wing Road & The Wharf	Medium
50		Leighton Road	Underpass and shared path alongside River going south towards meadows to link to no. 48	Low
51		Parson's Close	Create a route across meadows from Parson's Close to the tow path	Low
52		Duncombe Drive	Link between Parsons Close and the High Street via Duncombe Drive	Low
53		North St	Reduce length of 2 lane approach to North St Roundabout along West St (Continental Style roundabout)	Low

Rural and villages links...

... some more recommendations for cycle routes (see map 2)

Ref no.	Parish	Path no.	Recommendation	Priority
60	Potsgrove	FP7	From A5 opposite Eastern Way north to Potsgrove BW6	Medium
61	Potsgrove	FP6	Short link in Potsgrove between BW6 and Battlesden FP1	Medium
62	Battlesden	FP1	From parish boundary with Potsgrove FP6 to Battlesden Ave then south to Battlesden Park to join road	Medium
63	Battlesden	N/A	Track/gated road from Centre Farm Battlesden to A4146 opposite BW ?	Low
64	Battlesden	FP1	From road in Battlesden Park Sw to Battlesden Lodge at A5 to link across to BW 15 Hockliffe	Medium
65	Tebworth	FP2	From Hockliffe Rd Tebworth west to FP2 Hockliffe	Low
66	Hockliffe	FP5	From eastern parish boundary through Birch's Close to A5	Low
67	Hockliffe	FP1	From A5 opposite Birch's Close SW to FP2	Medium
68	Hockliffe	FP2	Track between FP1 and Hill Farm	Medium
69	Hockliffe	FP3	Hill Farm to Eggington Cricket Pavillion	Medium
70	Eggington	FP6	Eggington Leighton Road across fields to Meadow Way	Medium
71	Eggington	NA	Clipstone Farm west along Clipstone Brook to back of Appenine Way and on to Meadoway	Low

72	Leighton Buzzard/H&R	NA	Linking Path from Clipstone Brook north to Miletree Road	Low
73	Great Brickhill	?	Greensand Ridge Walk from north end of Rammamere Heath NE through Rammamere Farm across A5 to Sheep Lane alongside road to BW?	Low
74	Great Brickhill	?	From Pound Hill past Home Farm through Duncombe Wood to Little Brickhill	High
75	Soulbury	?	Continuation of Rock Lane to Rock Lane Farm then out to Bierton Road	High
76	Ledburn	?	From B488 west to Ledburn	Low
77	Leighton Buzzard	FP39	From bypass south to river and along to FP? Slapton	Low
78	Slapton	?	From River to Canal near Church Lock	Low
79	Billington	FP14	From bypass SE to Little Billington then down to Mayflower Farm and BW10 Gypsy Lane	Medium
80	Billington	FP4	From Slapton Rd north to BW 10 then NE along to the A4146 just south of Billington	Medium
81	Slapton	?	From Slapton to Northall via 2 Ridges Link and Whistle Brook Farm	Medium
82	Slapton	?	From B488 east to Canal tow path on FP?	High
83	Wing	N/A	Improve where cycle path from Leighton joins main carriageway	High

Who can help ...

... in the implementation of this Strategy

- Local Authorities – LLTC, CBC, Bucks CC, AVDC and local parish councils
- Highways Authorities and Rights of Way
- Highways Agency
- London Midland and Network Rail and Get on Track Station Travel Plan group
- Local bus companies – Arriva and Grant Palmer, taxi firms, coach hire firms
- Commercial transport firms
- Local bike clubs – Buzzcycles, Triathlon, Road Cycling Club, Buzzards MTB club
- Local Access Forum and Access for All forum
- Residents groups/associations
- Health organisations – PCT etc
- Sustrans
- Greensand Trust and Ouzel Valley Park Project
- Canals and Rivers Trust
- I love LB and local business forums