

Dear ,

I am writing to you on behalf of CycleWight, the advocacy group for cycling on the Isle of Wight. We are interested in the level of support we can expect from you if you are elected to represent East Wight .at the forthcoming general election on 4th July. We would appreciate your response to our questions below please prior to June 30th to allow us to share this information with our membership.

As you are aware, there is a move to encourage more people to use bicycles, including e-bikes as opposed to cars for short journeys to reduce emissions, reduce transportation costs and enjoy the associated massive health benefits derived from exercising.

Data suggests that the major obstacle stalling this trend and discouraging people from riding their bikes is a lack of safety provided for cyclists.

Good, well maintained cycling infrastructure is essential if we are to persuade more people to use bikes and to ride on clearly marked cycle paths wherever possible as opposed to unmarked main roads. Installing safe, clearly marked and sign posted cycle paths makes the whole environment safer for all road users.

We have experienced a long period of distinct underfunding of cycling infrastructure on the island compared to many other UK authorities and our current cycle path network is small, neglected, in very poor condition and in parts not fit for purpose. The Isle of Wight Council (IWC) and Island Roads (IR) have failed to rectify this problem at all levels and appear to not have the vision and urgency to provide acceptable safe infrastructure for the IW cycling community. With this in mind we are interested in your response to the issues listed below and what you will be prepared to do to support our attempts to improve the island's cycling infrastructure.

1/ The Isle of Wight is listed in the bottom 10 UK councils for the % of funding provided for active travel.[\(1\)](#) Why is this and what can you do to change this?

2/ The IWC has not adopted all of the local LCWIP's and incorporated them into the Island planning policy. This is common practise in more progressive countries, cities and towns. What will you do to accelerate this process?

3/ As stated above, the IWC and IR have failed to upgrade and maintain the cycle path network contradicting their statement in 2013 at the start of the

PFI contract. Today it is in very poor condition, poorly maintained, unsafe in parts and not fit for purpose. It is in no way suitable for commuters to use in all weather conditions. What will you do to rectify this situation? This is an urgent issue.

Finally, we would welcome your views or any ideas you may have for the island in general terms regarding improvements, schemes etc that would promote cycling and our unique location as a world class 'Cycle Island'. We look forward to your response.

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/news/how-much-are-local-authorities-really-spending-cycling-and-walking>