

Cardiff Cycle City - Justice for Cyclists Campaign

Response from:

Candidate **Jo Stevens**

Party **Welsh Labour**

Constituency **Cardiff Central**

Dear Cardiff Cycle City,

Thank you for your email and request for my views on how the road justice system can be improved to support cyclists and whether, if I am re-elected as the Labour MP for Cardiff Central on 8th June, I will actively campaign for the justice system to be changed.

Active Travel

The Active Travel Act (Wales) introduced by the Welsh Labour Government in the National Assembly, was the first of its kind in the UK. This places a duty on local authorities to commit to increasing the number of journeys taken on foot and bicycle by mapping the active travel network and committing to improving it year on year. If re-elected, I will work in Parliament and with residents and Cardiff Council as the Council pushes forward with ambitious proposals for cycling and traffic management in Cardiff. This will include supporting all steps to reduce the horrific annual death toll on our roads and make cycling safer and easier.

Enforcement of existing laws

We need more police officers on our streets to enforce the existing law. Traffic laws, such as the 20mph speed limits (which our Labour Council introduced and plan to roll out throughout the city) are designed to make our roads safer. However, the cuts to police officer numbers by the UK Government make enforcement of the existing law more difficult.

Labour will put 10,000 more police officers on the streets which equates to over 800 extra police officers in Wales. The Welsh Labour Government have also funded 500 new PCSOs to help crime prevention including road traffic safety.

Cardiff Central Labour Party has set up a meeting with South Wales Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner, to discuss the 'Close Pass' initiative with the aim of adopting this best practice in Cardiff.

Reforming the Highway Code

Motorists with a poor understanding of the Highway Code are a threat to cyclists. This is why I backed a campaign by British Cycling, the AA and other interested groups and signed the parliamentary Early Day Motion 1111 in the last parliament which called on the government to review the Highway Code and implement a universal duty to give way when turning, to people, cyclists and vehicles, going straight ahead. This would give the clarity needed to avoid accidents, minimise risk and increase the safety of all road users.

Protect Cardiff cyclists

If re-elected, I will continue to work with Cardiff Council and residents to help implement the ambitious 10 year strategy that will enable the Council to;

- a) implement a strategic network
- b) develop cycling connections through the city centre
- c) create North-South and East-West primary route corridors for cycling, linking important city locations
- d) launch a public on-street cycle hire scheme and
- e) expand the 20mph zones

It is vital that residents and road users are consulted in the development of these plans and I will ensure that their views are represented to the Council. If re-elected, I will continue to be accessible and visible so that residents can make their views known. In the last parliament I helped nearly 6000 residents in Cardiff Central with enquiries and issues and held nearly 250 drop in advice surgeries in just two years.

Road Justice System

I support the 14 recommendations from the Cycling All Party Parliamentary Group Report and will campaign for their implementation. The so called 'whiplash reforms' proposed by the last Conservative Government in their Prisons and Courts Reform Bill should be abandoned altogether as they are illogical, legally illiterate and reduce access to justice even further for victims of negligence. In the last parliament, as a Shadow Justice Minister and Shadow Solicitor General, I strongly opposed those 'reforms' and if re-elected I will continue to oppose them and support the positive and considered recommendations made in the Cycling APPG Report.

Best wishes.

Jo Stevens

Welsh Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Cardiff Central

jo@jostevens.co.uk

www.jostevens.co.uk

@JoStevensLabour

[Facebook.com/JoStevensLabour](https://www.facebook.com/JoStevensLabour)