

Cardiff Cycle City - Justice for Cyclists Campaign

Response from:

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Party **Plaid Cymru**

Constituency **Cardiff South & Penarth**

As with many areas of policy, cycling provision and safety cuts through Local Govt, Welsh Govt and UK Govt areas of responsibility. In order to make the improvements to encourage the growth we need in cycling journeys, all three tiers of Govt need to sit down in relation to Wales, and set up a joint strategy.

As a walker, cyclist and driver, I have spent the last few years working on a street design for a sustainable drainage project (Greener Grangetown), along with the project partners Dwr Cymru, NRW and Arup (I am currently a Civil Engineer employed in the Council, who have given great support to the project). Although the main driver has been removing surface water from the public sewer system, a lot of thought has gone into improving current walking and cycling provision. The project area includes a street section of the Taff Trail; a length of public highway that I have never felt safe cycling along due to a combination of parking, fast moving 2 way traffic and invisible pedestrians (mature trees and congested parking). Through consulting Sustrans, local cycling groups, local residents and Transport designers, we believe that the completed scheme will be far safer & more pleasurable to use. Many of the design improvements came from cyclists, not just the good design guides.

Cardiff as a city has massive potential to both improve the number of cycle journeys and make them safer. From my perspective, I now walk to work more than use my bike, because the chances of it being stolen are very high. Over 40 bikes a week are stolen from the city centre, so I would very much like to see better designed secure cycle facilities, and for the Police to take bike theft far more seriously..

In terms of trying to increase prosecutions due to dangerous driving, I am not sure if this is the answer on its own. More investment to separate traffic/cycling flows in highly congested areas is essential, along with well designed joint use highways where there is less car volume. It is always sobering to see the funding put towards cycling provision, in comparison to new roads exclusively for vehicles. Just a small

tweak in the funding priority would to my mind, be a game-changer in future cycling provision.

I welcome this brief consultation on cycling in our city, and hope that the debate continues long after the election - whoever wins!

regards,

Ian Titherington
Plaid Cymru candidate for Cardiff South & Penarth