

To: Cllr. Pathumal Ali, Cllr. Eric Allen, Cllr. Sheila Andrews, Cllr. Sean Brennan, Cllr. Malcolm Brown, Cllr. Mary Burstow, Cllr. Moira Butt, Cllr. Anisha Callaghan, Cllr. Dave Callaghan, Cllr. Richard Clifton, Cllr. Monica Coleman, Cllr. Colin Hall, Cllr. Margaret Court, Cllr. Tim Crowley, Cllr. Adrian Davey, Cllr. Ruth Dombey, Cllr. John Drage, Cllr. Stephen Fenwick, Cllr. Peter Fosdike, Cllr. Peter Geiringer, Cllr. Bruce Glithero, Cllr. Sunita Gordon, Cllr. Stuart Gordon-Bullock, Cllr. Marlene Heron, Cllr. David Hicks, Cllr. Lester Holloway, Cllr. Heather Honour, Cllr. Brendan Hudson, Cllr. Miguel Javelot, Cllr. Gerry Jerome, Cllr. Kirsty Jerome, Cllr. Edward Joyce, Cllr. Paddy Kane, Cllr. John Keys, Cllr. John Leach, Cllr. Janet Lowe, Cllr. Wendy Mathys, Cllr. Jayne McCoy, Cllr. Joyce Melican, Cllr. Pamela Picknett, Cllr. Hamish Pollock, Cllr. Jonathan Pritchard, Cllr. Roger Roberts, Cllr. Alan Salter, Cllr. Tony Shields, Cllr. Colin Stears, Cllr. Sue Stears, Cllr. Stanley Theed, Cllr. Roger Thistle, Cllr. Graham Tope, Cllr. Simon Wales, Cllr. Myfanwy Wallace, Cllr. Jill Whitehead, Cllr. Graham Whitham

22 April 2012

Dear Councillor,

Cycling towards 2014

I am writing to you as a Sutton borough co-ordinator for the London Cycling Campaign, and also as a supporter of Sutton Living Streets.

You may be aware that for the last few weeks, as a key campaign in the run-up to the elections for Mayor and Assembly Members, the London Cycling Campaign has been championing the idea of "Love London, Go Dutch". Currently, over 33,000 people have added their name to a petition asking the mayoral candidates to pledge to make London more liveable for everyone by making our streets as safe and inviting for cycling as they are in The Netherlands.

During three hours last Saturday morning, 142 people signed the petition in Wallington. The enthusiasm and interest shown by people whilst out shopping showed that promoting cycling does not divide opinion in the same way as air travel, motoring, or building high-speed railways can. Everyone seems to want better cycling facilities just as we'd all like more sunny days!

Clearly, here in Sutton, we are keen to take forward the momentum that seems to be pushing cycling higher up the political agenda. The Times' high-profile 'Cities fit for cycling' campaign launched in February, and the three-hour parliamentary debate that followed - attended by a creditable 77 MPs from all parties - was evidence enough that this momentum is gathering pace.

That is why I am writing to you to ask for your help and assistance between now and the local council elections in 2014. In the intervening twenty-four months I would very much like to develop our partnership, and discuss issues relating to walking and cycling in your ward. If, by the time of the elections, your ward could showcase one or more "before and after" improvements that had made a real difference for people wishing to try cycling, and there was evidence to prove it, this would be a very worthwhile achievement. And it would be something that the London Cycling Campaign and Living Streets would be pleased to highlight.

Even if London doesn't quite Go Dutch between now and 2014, it would be great if our outer London borough could add further to the commitments it had already made in regard to sustainability and lead the way towards creating truly cycle-friendly neighbourhoods.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Martin