

We say
NO
to **CyCle**
chaos!

Campaign update for residents and businesses

from local councillors Ian Lewis,
Lesley Rennie and Paul Hayes

.....
www.wallaseyconservatives.com/cycling
.....

9 out of 10 say no to Wallasey cycle plan!

Of the 564 people who have so far registered their views on our website, an overwhelming 517 have said they are opposed to the plans for a cycle plan.

Of the rest, 28 are undecided and 19 in favour of it.

Councillor Ian Lewis said: "Thank you to everyone who has, so far, given their views. All the comments we have received are being passed to council directors.

"Many people are rightly angry that they have not been formally consulted about something that will have such a massive, and negative impact on their lives."

What people have told us about the plan:

Some of the comments and phone calls we have received about this plan are distressing.

- A parent of a growing disabled child who often has to be carried from their car to their door.

- The double amputee who would have to 'fight' for a parking space.

- A small business owner whose older customers need to be dropped at the door.

One resident, Mr Taylor of Warren Drive sums it up: "I am strongly against this proposal for the primary reason that 'it will benefit the few on limited occasions to the great detriment of the many all of the time'!

"All residents along the route will be affected and many will have to start trying to find a parking space elsewhere and thus it will have a knock-on effect as these residents look for spaces in side-roads where there is already little parking space."

"Wallasey is inherently a very built-up area with a high density of cars."

"Many small businesses along the route will lose customers because of parking difficulties."

"The evidence of the installation of cycle lanes and other facilities in town centres in Merseyside is that these lanes are rarely used by cyclists – the vast majority opt to use pavements rather than dedicated lanes."

Your questions answered...

Who is responsible for this plan?

The Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment (and, from this week) Chair of the new Environment Committee, Labour Councillor Liz Grey, and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Why wasn't I consulted?

The City Region claims you were. They promised to deliver 30,000 leaflets on the plan to every home in Wallasey and have told the press the leaflets were delivered.

What's it cost so far?

Consultants in London were appointed the day after the election in December and their contract to design the scheme (as revealed in a Freedom of Information Act request) to cost £334,000.

Where do they expect me to park?

If you live on one of the roads on the route (see map on page 2), the Town Hall manager replied to Councillor Ian Lewis, telling him that people should park in the side roads instead!

Why can't the existing cycle route on the promenade be improved instead?

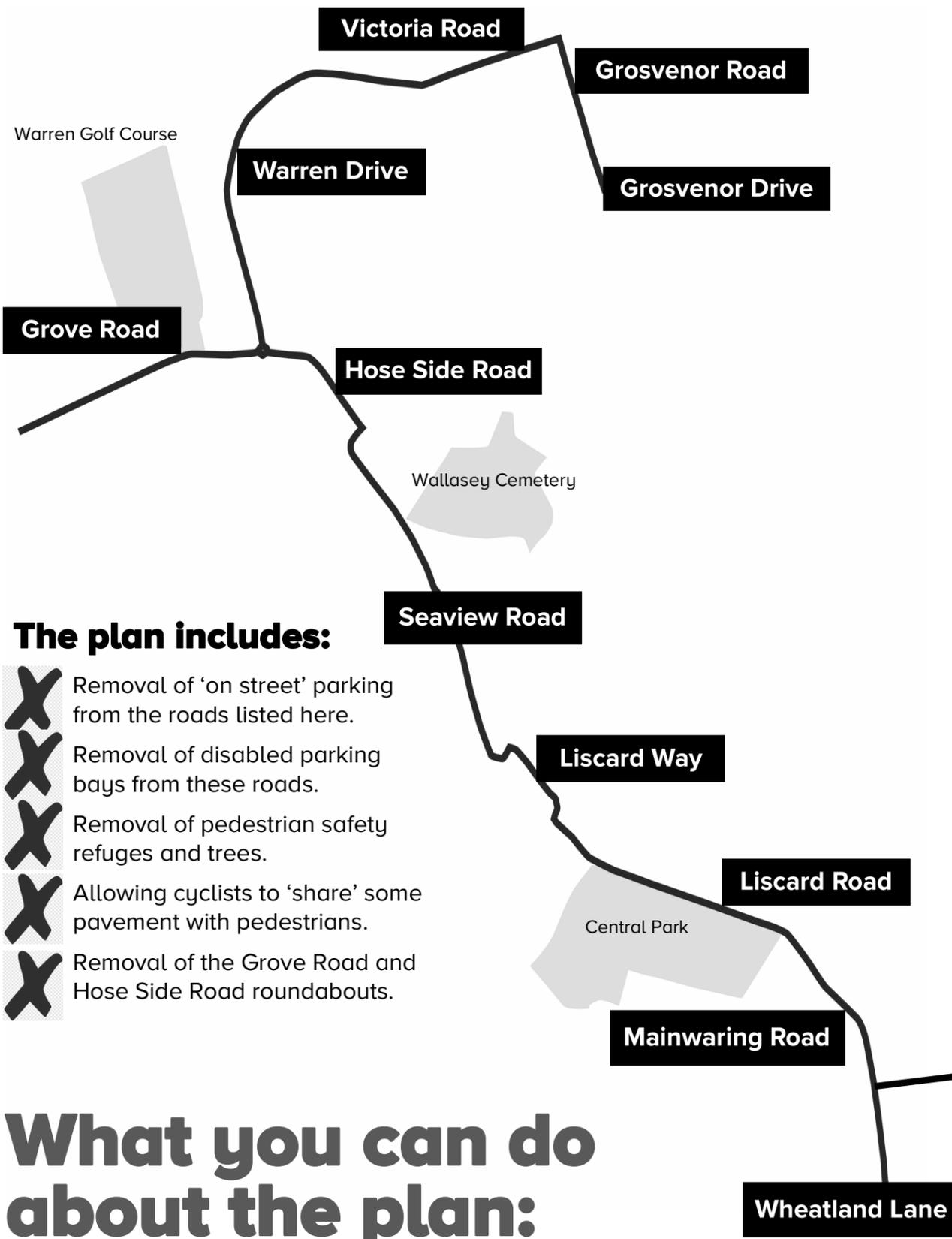
Some of the cyclists who have contacted us have said they would prefer for the existing cycling routes to be improved. They don't want to be cycling through traffic, stopping and starting for other vehicles and pedestrians.

What happens next?

There is a meeting between Wirral Council directors and the City Region managers tomorrow (Thursday 1 October).

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Sign up for email campaign updates: www.wallaseyconservatives.com/cycling
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This is the proposed route of the cycle lanes:



The plan includes:

- X** Removal of 'on street' parking from the roads listed here.
- X** Removal of disabled parking bays from these roads.
- X** Removal of pedestrian safety refuges and trees.
- X** Allowing cyclists to 'share' some pavement with pedestrians.
- X** Removal of the Grove Road and Hose Side Road roundabouts.

What you can do about the plan:

- 1.** Visit our website for more details and to sign up for email updates from us. So far, almost 500 residents and businesses in Wallasey have done so: www.wallaseyconservatives.com/cycling
- 2.** Help the campaign by downloading and displaying a poster. Chip into the campaign's crowdfunding appeal. Details of the posters and appeal are also on: www.wallaseyconservatives.com/cycling
- 3.** Share this information with your friends and neighbours and on your own social media such as Facebook and Twitter. We'll also post updates on our Facebook page: News for Wallasey.
- 4.** If you have experience, through work or training, in areas such as civil engineering, highways design and management, road safety or cycling, please email ianlewis@wirral.gov.uk

The story so far...

3 June:

Local councils in Merseyside to share in £10 million grant for emergency Active Travel Fund. Councillor Lesley Rennie calls for consultation on any plans.

24 June:

Email from the council manager overseeing the project with the proposed route to councillors in the affected wards (Wallasey, Liscard, Seacombe, New Brighton), following discussion at the 'Active Travel Forum'.

25 June:

Email from Ian, Lesley and Paul to the Council's Chief Executive asking why local councillors and residents had not been consulted prior to circulation of the detailed plans to the 'Active Travel Forum'

14 July:

Finally, a briefing for councillors, chaired by the Town Hall's Cabinet Member for the Environment and lead on the plan, Cllr. Liz Grey. We again questioned the consultation and were told a leaflet would be delivered to every home and business in Wallasey.

15 July:

We submitted a Freedom of Information Act request submitted regarding the appointment of the consultant working on the plan.

16 July:

We emailed the Council's communications department asking when the draft of leaflet will be available.

20 July:

We emailed communications department asking for leaflet to be redrafted, making clear the disadvantages of the proposed scheme (as required by the Government).

31 August:

in the absence of the promised leaflet, and with barely a week until the Council's 'consultation' was due to end, we took matters into our own hands and printed and delivered letters to 800 households in Wallasey Ward.

2 September:

We emailed the Chief Executive of Wirral Council calling for project to be scrapped due to failure to justify selection of roads and to consult.

3 September:

We emailed the Chief Executive of the Liverpool City Region, again calling for the project to be scrapped and highlighting their statement in the Globe was wrong – no leaflets have been delivered.

Since then...

We have kept in touch with more than 400 residents, by phone and email, in response to concerns they raised with us. Last week, at our request, we 'walked' the part of the route in Wallasey Ward with the Council's Director of Regeneration to show him the practical problems of the scheme for people who live and work here.