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On your bike?!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we are all more conscious of our environmental decisions, we are looking for support in embracing a new government initiative to get everyone using their **cars less** and their **legs more!**

The Government published [Gear Change: A bold vision for cycling and walking for 2020-25](#) in July 2020. This plan was described by the Prime Minister as "most ambitious plans yet to boost cycling and walking". Some of the key policies to deliver on this ambition are:

- £2bn of ringfenced funding for walking and cycling overseen and administered by Active Travel England a new inspectorate, which will ensure projects meet new design standards, and be delivered on time.
- The creation of a 'national e-Bike programme' – this will enable the elderly, or those who travel far to take to bikes as part of journeys.
- A new approach on health will be piloted in selected places with poor health rates to encourage GPs to prescribe cycling, with patients able to access bikes through their local surgery.
- Improvements to the National Cycle Network
- Making streets safer by consulting to strengthen the Highway Code to better protect pedestrians and cyclists; improving legal protections for vulnerable road users; raising safety standards on lorries; and working with the police and retailers to tackle bike theft.

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8615/>

Our aim

**To build a safe active travel route from Towcester to Brackley,
via the A43 and to Banbury via the B4525.**

Formally known as the 'South Northants Active Travel Route A43 & B4525'

We are seeking your support in this initiative

Current Situation

The M1, M40 and A43 together enclose 30 plus villages and towns, restricting safe travel to cars and busses only.

Our Ambition

An active travel route would benefit all towns villages and hamlets by increasing footfall with less pollution and lessening the need to provide parking but also allow villagers to get to work, gain access to commercial, industrial, educational, medical, leisure and social facilities that may not be available in their village.

This South Northants Active Travel Route A43 & B4525 would fall in line with the £2 billion that has been ring fenced by Boris Johnson (28th July 2020) for active travel nationally and also its obesity strategy and statements that people should be given the opportunity to make short (under five mile) journeys safely by non-motorised forms of transport.

This would not only benefit our local environment but encourage families living in South Northants to improve their own physical and mental wellbeing.

There are a number of ways you can support us in our efforts to make this happen.

- Bring this initiative to the attention of your community and encourage them to actively become involved.
- Email / Message on social media / Write to: Your **MP**, your **County Councillor** (or Unitary Councillor), **District Councillor** (or Unitary Councillor) or the **Highways Department** of your County Council (or Unitary Council), demonstrating your support for the South Northants Active Travel Route A43 & B4525.
- Get in touch with Sustrans, a charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle <https://www.sustrans.org.uk> or email eastofengland@sustrans.org.uk
- Speak to your employer, are they supportive in trying to get their employees out of their cars and onto their bikes / walking to work?
- If strong local support, establish a satellite group with members of your community who are prepared to support and actively participate with the lead action group. Identify a member of your community satellite group who will then liaise between the main action group and your community group via my email snatra43@gmail.com.

Yours sincerely

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