

## **Cycling in Watford**

If you walk down the High Street of Watford you will notice a cycle track that runs along most of its length. It connects with numerous routes leading into the town centre and links up to residential areas as well as parks such as Cassiobury. Alongside at various points there are purpose-built cycle racks. Into and out of the town there are numerous well-developed routes for cycling commuters and leisure riders like the Ebury Way and along the Grand Union towpath. But in Berkhamsted our facilities for cyclists are much more limited – a handful of racks in the High Street and elsewhere and a few metres of cycle lanes - why ?

In Dacorum, our Borough Council has stated its vision for the future in “Towards 2021” which sets targets for increasing cycling in the Borough. But these intentions are contradicted by the evidence from the past. We have a cycling strategy document for the Borough since 2005 – but it has been in draft form for almost five years !

Other nearby councils like Hertsmere and Three Rivers, in common with Watford have also devoted time and effort into agreeing and formalising a strategy for cycling. As well as that they have provided funding for bike routes. They have recognised that cycling is not only popular but has many benefits for the community – it is a good form of exercise, it makes urban streets safer as people use their cars less, and it helps reduce noise and pollution levels.

If you are one of the around 20 million people in the UK who own or have access to a bicycle, living in Berkhamsted you might wonder why Dacorum does not do more to support cyclists. Hertsmere and Three Rivers are run by the Liberal Democrats whereas Dacorum has been under the Conservatives for years. A vote for the Liberal Democrats will help us catch up with Hertsmere and Three Rivers in having a safer, cleaner environment and a healthier population.

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