

Public comment for Climate Emergency Committee

Although I thought most of the discussion (*at the Community Safety Committee meeting on 21 January*) around the cycling strategy was sound I was disturbed that Cllr Lang suggested that walking be added to the strategy, citing the idea that cyclists can be troublesome to pedestrians. Although this is true to some extent, cyclists have needs that are currently not met with Lowestoft's infrastructure.

By merging cycling and walking there is a danger that once again cyclists' needs are downgraded again. Pedestrians have pavements and drivers have the roads and cyclists move between both, frequently being told to 'dismount'. Somehow it has to be accepted that cyclists have rights to safety and if cycling, as a zero carbon form of transport is to be encouraged and increased then we need joined up and safe lanes, whether they be off road or on road. I hope the council won't be distracted by trying to merge the needs of pedestrians and cyclists because, as I've stated cyclists will once again be squeezed out. A good cycle network in Lowestoft would benefit pedestrians as well as we wouldn't be trying to share spaces.

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Cycling Strategy- the proposed units to protect electric bikes from theft are not a practical solution. Many cyclists have bikes that cost as much as an electric bike, will they be allowed to use them? Most cyclists who have an expensive bike whether it be electric or not, have insurance against theft. Any determined bike thief will break locks, open doors etc-as these units are both expensive, unsightly and of questionable effectiveness I think the idea should not be pursued.