

Public question

1. I am disappointed to read that “The proposed Cycling Task Group stalled due to lack of response from Members”. According to ONS data for 2019-20 about 14% of adults in Chorley cycle at least once per week, with many more cycling less frequently. I would hope that even if members are not cyclists themselves they would be keen to represent the interests of this significant portion of Chorley residents. Given the positive impact on our health, our environment, and on reducing traffic; and given that Active Travel England will soon be grading authorities on their performance on active travel, will the Council commit to attempting again to start a Cycling Task Group.

2. After the closure of the bingo hall in Chorley Town Centre, I was disappointed that the Council could see nothing better to do with the site than yet another car park. Simultaneously, we are losing significant areas of green space across the borough to new build homes, often in places that are far from amenities and poorly served by public transport. This strategy of homes that are distant and town centres full of car parks creates car dependency and induces traffic. Many forward-thinking towns and cities around the world are moving away from this model of “zoning” and towards models of 15-minute neighbourhoods, where housing is built within a short walk or cycle from key amenities like shops, schools, health services and railway stations, reducing dependence on cars. This brings benefits to health, air quality and reduces our environmental impact, as well as creating strong neighbourhoods. Will the Council consider whether town centre sites such as the former bingo hall could be used for housing, revitalising our town centre and saving our green spaces at the same time?

Andy Hunter-Rossall