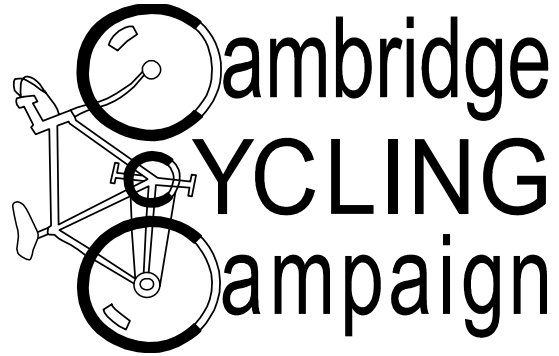


September 10, 2004

Our ref: NB04008
Your ref:

Councillor Shona Johnstone
Cambridgeshire County Council
Castle Court, Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

P.O. Box 204, Cambridge CB4 3FN
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Dear Councillor Johnstone,

Use of bus lanes by vehicles with two or more adult passengers

We were interested to hear about the speech¹ made last month by the then Shadow Transport Secretary Damian Green, in which he made a number of policy proposals. One of these was that 'vehicles with 2 or more adult passengers should be allowed to use bus lanes'.

As you know, bus lanes in Cambridge are ultimately the responsibility of Cambridgeshire Country Council, which is controlled by Conservative councillors including yourself as Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport.

We are writing to ask you whether you support this policy and whether you would permit private motor vehicles with two or more adult passengers to use bus lanes in Cambridge if given the power to do so.

Most bus lanes in Cambridge have been created by converting two wide lanes (and sometimes two cycle lanes as well) to three narrower lanes. Allowing private motor vehicles to use existing bus lanes in Cambridge (as well as those currently proposed for Hills Road and Milton Road) would therefore represent an overall increase in traffic capacity for private motor vehicles. Encouraging car use in this way would be directly contrary to policy P9/9² of the Cambridgeshire Structure Plan 2003 which describes the need for "demand management measures in Cambridge City to discourage car use". It would also significantly erode the quality of the cycling environment on roads with bus lanes.

You have stated on many occasions your aim to encourage drivers and car passengers to use public transport and park and ride rather than bring a motor vehicle into Cambridge. We also know you are in favour of cycling in and around Cambridge. We therefore hope you can

¹ http://www.conservatives.com/news/article.cfm?obj_id=114256

² http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/sub/eandt/planning/cp_splan03/9.pdf

reassure us that you disagree with this policy and will be opposing its implementation in Cambridgeshire.

We look forward to hearing your views on this important topic,

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Nigel Deakin