

# Little Melton Cycle Path Campaign

## Objectives

### Short Term

1. To make it possible for children living in LM to cycle safely to school in Hethersett.

### Medium Term

1. To provide a safe and direct route for people living in LM, Hethersett and Wymondham to cycle to work at the NRP, Hospital, UEA and central Norwich.

## Reasons for the Campaign

1. People are frequently told that cycling is good for their health and that making short journeys by car is an unnecessary cause of congestion and pollution. Our survey shows that many people would like to cycle to work but find the roads are too dangerous. Being run over is not good for one's health!
2. Parents are asked by schools to encourage their children to cycle – in order to exercise, avoid congestion around school gates and to set healthy patterns for future life. Parents would like to do this but the only available routes are both lorry routes that have dangerous bends and water filled potholes. Both routes are national speed limit and carry high speed commuter traffic.
3. Free school transport has been restricted to those living more than 3 miles from the school so a family with two children at High School will be charged £600/year for using the bus. Cycling would save them a lot of money.
4. Recent housing developments in Hethersett have led to increased traffic levels through LM. 1000 more homes are proposed in Hethersett by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP). Much of this traffic is people commuting to work, encouraging cycling is the best way to reduce such traffic.
5. 5000 new homes are proposed by the GNDP for locations within 3 miles of LM. These homes plus developments proposed for Attleborough and the dualing of the A11 will all put pressure on Thickthorn. LM already suffers from 'rat running' – making the roads more dangerous for cyclists.
6. Proposals for the enlargement of the Norwich Research Park (NRP) include cycle paths – these will only be used if people can cycle to the NRP!
7. The existing cycle path from Hethersett to Thickthorn is alongside a road with traffic travelling at 60mph. Cyclists travelling home in the dark are completely blinded by oncoming headlights and only separated from the road by a few pebbles. If the road is wet then the cyclist will be drenched in spray! Cyclists from the Netherlands are shocked that this is called a cycle path. If we want people to get out of their cars then we have to make the experience both pleasant and safe. The Thickthorn path also requires cyclists to negotiate 2 sides of a triangle and a dangerous section of road in order to reach the NRP. People will not cycle if they see it as unnecessarily time consuming – they will cycle if their door to door journey time is shorter than going by car and sitting in a traffic jam.



## What we are requesting

### Short Term

1. A short section of cycle path to the north of Back Lane in Hethersett that would enable children to cycle off road between Burnthouse Lane and an entrance to the school on Back Lane
2. A 40mph speed limit and signs to make drivers aware that it is a cycle route for children.

### Medium Term

1. Continuation of the cycle path alongside Back Lane, Colney Lane and Hethersett Lane so that it joins the cycle path network planned for the enlarged NRP and provides a direct link to the cycle path to Norwich via the UEA. The path needs to be well separated and shielded from the road – not just a white line down the edge!

The path would have to use the existing bridge over the A47 and traffic calming measures would be required to make this section safe.

### Long term

Link the cycle path to Wymondham.

## Further information and updates

[www.little-melton.org.uk](http://www.little-melton.org.uk)