

Dear Editor

I write in response to a feature in the Lancaster Guardian 23/3/17 on the reluctance of Lancashire County Council to implement urgent and agreed road danger reduction measures on the UK's most dangerous road for pedestrians and cyclists: '700 sign petition for road safety action'.

Daniel Herbert, Highways Network Manager, said, 'Cycling continues to be a priority for the Council'. Dynamo would point to recent scrapping of cyclists' forums, the non-replacement of its only Cycling Officer, no serious cycling investment on major roads and failing to protect vulnerable road users and argue that this priority is a very low priority.

If you think that promoting safe cycling and walking is good for reducing urban air pollution, calming our roads, benefits health and will improve traffic flows on main roads, then here is a suggestion. When candidates for the County Council elections on 4 May come knocking on your door to ask for your vote, ask them these questions:

- 1) Will you lobby for a dedicated council officer to support cycling and walking to school for children?
- 2) Will you lobby for a road safety officer with a special brief to make main roads such as the A6 less dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists?
- 3) Will you lobby for an increase to the dedicated cycling budget? (For some reason County refuses to tell us what it currently is. But it's way behind Councils such as Edinburgh who devote 10% of their Highways budget.)
- 4) Are you willing to hold council officers to account to implement these necessary safety improvements in Lancaster district?

If County introduced these achievable reforms and aims, rather than its recently stated pipe dream ('We aim to be the premier walking and cycling location in the UK') then it would be better placed to successfully bid for government funding.