

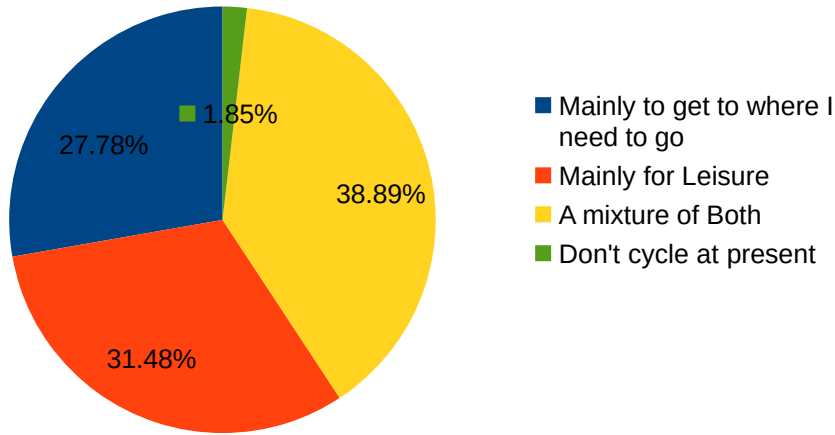


RESULTS OF TRANSITION TOWN LETCWORTH CYCLE SURVEY



This short report provides a summary of the results of an on-line survey undertaken in 2016 by Transition Town Letchworth on cycling in Letchworth. The survey had 51 respondents.

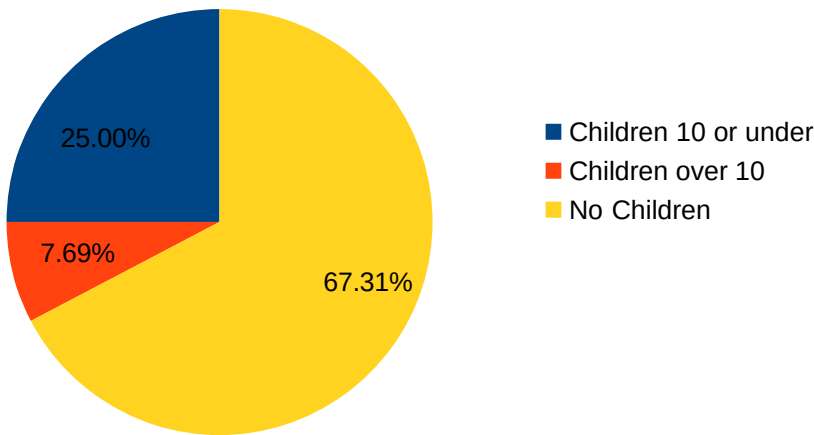
What is the main reason that you cycle?



16 respondents belonged to cycle clubs (some more than one).

The clubs people belonged to were: Histon & Impington BC, Cycle Club Ashwell (CCA), Stevenage and North Herts CTC, Forty Plus Cycling Club (9 people), Hitchin Nomads (3 people), LALG (3 people), Cambridge CC, Sky Breeze rides (3 people), South Herts CTC, Watton Wheelers, Veterans CC (4 people), Cycle uk (2 people), Sustrans (2 people) and Letchworth Cyclists.

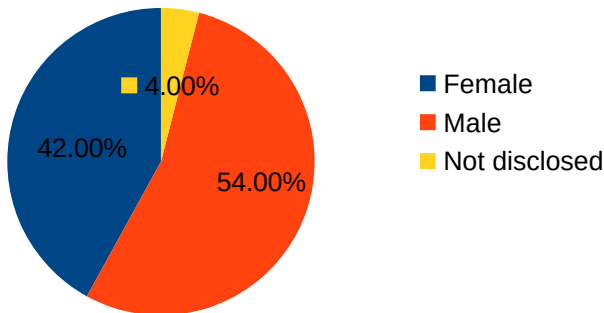
Cycling With Children



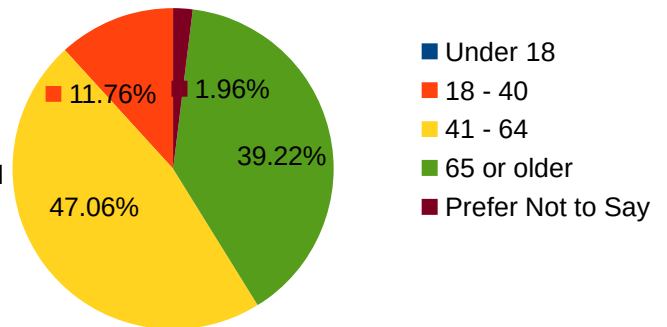
Schools to which respondents children cycled

St Thomas More
St Christopher School
Lordship (2 people)
Icknield infants

Respondents Gender



Respondents Age



Q5. Are there any roads in Letchworth that you find difficult, unsafe or unpleasant to cycle on? If so, please tell us which roads (or specific parts of roads), and why. Please tell us about as many roads as you want to.

A505 (Letchworth to Hitchin) and B656 (Letchworth To Baldock) - “Its busy and you get cut up”	
Letchworth Gate to Baldock.	Busy, narrow, fast road speeds, lots of lorries. From Jubilee Rd to Avenue One there is poor visibility because of hill and its narrow with no pavement as a bail out option. Carrying on towards St Paul’s the hedge is overgrown which stops you going on pavement. Approaching St Paul's Church roundabout during busy periods the traffic queues two abreast, leaving no room for a cycle to pass.
Letchworth Gate to Spring Road / Highfield	School route - even cycling on pavements is a risk as high hedging means cars reverse out blind straight onto pavements.
Highfield to Hitchin	The cycle way to Hitchin is too narrow for passing other cyclists / pedestrians and its also overgrown.
	<p>Solutions Suggested</p> <p>Have a Cycle Route leading to Sainsbury's and the other mega-stores on the industrial estate.</p> <p>A short section of marked cycle lane at St Pauls roundabout.</p> <p>A continuous coloured lane 1m wide along the left hand edge of the A505 could draw the attention of drivers to the fact that cyclists use the road too and need space.</p> <p>Create cycle way alongside Hitchin Road as far as Highfield, to connect with existing cycleway to Hitchin.</p>
Central Letchworth	
Broadway and Broadway Gardens	<p>Broadway from Station to Broadway Gardens. Contending with cars trying to park.</p> <p>I tend to use the track between the 2 roads - I assume it is OK for cycles but a sign to that effect would be nice.</p> <p>Broadway stretch between Sollershott roundabout and Broadway Gardens at school drop off/pick up.</p> <p>Lack of crossings onto Broadway Gardens make it difficult to get across town, especially, with the children on bikes</p> <p>Travelling from the station and Broadway shops towards Pixmore Way is dangerous as it involves contending with moving and parked cars and then vehicles cutting across the route and there being nowhere for cycles to go. The existing short cycle lane makes things worse.</p> <p>Crossing the Broadway at West View- there's a large tree</p>
Pixmore Way	Parked Cars. Lack of crossings on Pixmore way make it difficult to get across town with the children on bikes
Bridge Road	Around Bridge Road (narrow road with lots of cars). Lacks a pedestrian crossing. Mini-roundabouts are both difficult.
Leys Ave	The bottom of Leys Ave does not work if you need to turn right.
Eastcheap	Contention with parking cars. A cycle route (2-way) would help.
Spring Road	Spring Road - Narrow lanes, narrow pavement on only one side of the road. Cars often parked near Baldock Road meaning oncoming cars which turn in take up the remainder of the Road.

Station Road	Parked cars. Roundabouts near station - no provision for cyclist on complex junction. No clear route for cyclists to station.
Howard Park	Sections should be open to cyclists
Norton Way	Busy with lots of parked cars. Mini roundabout at junction of Ickniel Way and Norton Way North.
South Side of Letchworth	
Letchworth Gate	Roundabout with Letchworth Gate has no cycle provision and traffic is scarily fast around it.
Whitethorn Lane	Needs resurfacing.
William Way	When cycling with the children, who are not yet of an age to go on roads, high hedges on Willian Way are an additional risk as cars reverse out blind into those on the pavement.
Willian Route	The through road from Willian towards the longabout is poorly lit and surfaced in parts, particularly as you climb out of Willian.
Letchworth Lane	Letchworth Lane from the golf club to Hitchin Road, busy and too narrow.
North Side of Letchworth	
Around Norton Common	
Grange Estate	Only one cycle lane
Wilbury and Bedford Road	A lot of the drivers exceed the speed limit and pass too close.
Cowslip Hill	Parked cars making it almost a single track road, speed of traffic, quality of driving. The junction of Cowslip Hill, Ickniel Way & Bridge Road is particularly bad (also for cars), as a lot of cars from Bedford Rd. onto Ickniel Way drive very fast, and don't seem to think that anyone might join the traffic from Cowslip Hill or either of the other two roads on this mini roundabout.
A600	To get to Letchworth I have to cycle along the A600 which is a very nasty road to cycle on -full of cars, lorries and buses who do not slow down for a cyclist. Surface rough!
Arlesey Road	Traffic levels.
Industrial Area and its access roads	
Avenue One	Traffic and parked cars.
Works Road	Works Road - too narrow, too many lorries, impatient drivers.
Pixmore Ave	
Ickniel Way	Aggressive motorists trying to race to the next junction or roundabout with no traffic calming measures mean that many less confident cyclists use the pavement. Cycling on narrow pavement not good and road is not very smooth. From Spirella to Fearnhill - narrow, parked cars, fast traffic. Mini-roundabouts difficult.
Green Lane	Parked cars
Norton Road	Too many potholes and rough road surface, very busy, narrow, traffic is too fast.

Q6. Are there any places in Letchworth where there is not adequate parking (i.e. bike stands) for bicycles? If so, please tell us where.

Town Centre

Top of Leys Avenue (3 Magnets pub, Market Place, by WHSmiths).
Lower half of Leys Avenue (by Martin's).
Eastcheap (Sainsbury's, Wilkinsons, increase number by Prezzo)
Station Road (South of Dragon, By Community Hub)
Broadway hotel.
The Car Parks

Station - Could do with even more racks at the station.

Leisure Facilities

Leisure Centre - Covered and secure cycle parking near the entrance.
Cinema
Norton swimming pool
Norton tennis courts
Howard Park / Howard Hall – Increase provision to encourage youth cycling.
Outdoor pool.
Garden Cities Exhibition/Institute (museum)
The Settlement.
Library
Standalone Farm

Public Service Buildings

Nevels Road GP Surgery
Birchwood Surgery
Doctors surgery on station road.

Willian Village

Quality of Bike Parking Facilities

- Bike stands are almost all open to the elements - can some be covered?
- There are short term parking spaces in Letchworth which are generally available but there do not appear to be any long term spaces i.e. at least covered.
- Where there is infrastructure in place there is either not enough or the type that you put your wheel into which is then prone to damage.
- There appears to be little security where any stands are situated in the form of well lit areas and or CCTV.

Q7. Are there any other aspects of Letchworth that make cycling difficult for you? (For example, speed limits, signage, one-way streets, visibility or crossing points). If so, please describe what the problem is, and where.

- **Town Centre one-way system - Leys Avenue. Gernon Road, Eastcheap**
- Disjointed cycle tracks – Station place to the Broadway.
- Elongated Routes (railway and one-way system).
- Lack of cycle paths.
- Designated cycle paths (not NCRs) are useless as they stop and start.
- Crossing Hazards – Broadway Gardens, Pixmore Way, A505 (South View to Cloisters), Greenway crossing points on A505 and Norton Road.
- Double mini roundabouts (both intersecting Icknield Way).
- Big roundabouts – get cut up.
- Drivers Behaviour – Too close when passing, ignoring cyclist when they pass parked cars, speeding.

- Parked Cars.
- Slow fixing of potholes.
- Speed humps and chicanes lead to cyclists being cut up.
- Very little cycle signage to help people know best cycle routes.
- Cycling with children. It is believed children can cycle on the pavement until the age of 10 but it is hard to accompany them effectively from the road.

Q8. Can you suggest any ways in which the urban area of Letchworth could be improved to promote cycling? Please tell us about any good examples we should learn from.

Cycle Lanes

- Running both ways, even on one way streets.
- Separated from the road, ideally with curbs on both sides to stop cars driving and pedestrians walking in them.
- Cycle paths on the pavement, without curbs, however, pedestrians often walk in these and these become impractical if they require continual stopping at side roads to check for traffic.
- Lines 1 metre plus in width and away from the curb to be allocated for cycling (as in St Michael's Road in Hitchin).
- On busy roads with wide paths /verges cycle tracks should be introduced alongside the road.
- Pointless introducing bike lanes if cars are able to park in them.
- We have very wide footways in some areas, Gernon road, Station road, Leys avenue, Eastcheap. Cycle lanes (with contra flow on one way streets) could be accommodated.
- Establish a marked cycle path in the urban parts of the Greenway ie through the built up areas of the circuit.
- Can the centre of Broadway and Broadway Gardens be used for a cycle lane.
- Have a cycle lane round Letchworth town centre (like Berlin) which is NOT on the road but clearly marked on wide pavements.

Shared Pavements

- More shared use pavements for people who are not confident riding in traffic.
- Shared pedestrian/cycle use where wide footways permit.
- Cycling on some pavements (with due regard to pedestrians) would make life safer at low cost. Need a survey to identify where this could be done.
- Pavements are for pedestrians not bikes!
- On some roads which have footpaths on both sides, make one side a priority for cyclists and the other side for pedestrians, as this would help make cycling with children much safer.
- Cycle paths which are shared with pedestrians are not suitable for cycling. They are not maintained properly and it's impractical to continually stop at side roads to check for traffic.

Safety and Security

Secure storage in the town centre

Road Speed Limits

Introduce speed limits (down to 30 or 20mph) "encouraged" by traffic calming measures.

Bike Boxes at Traffic Lights with cycleway markings (the station)

Messaging

- Considerate road layout, surface and signage taking the needs of cyclist seriously.
- Clearly marked route round all roundabouts.
- Repaint faded cycle paths in reflective colours.
- Produce physical route plans which prioritise cyclist.

- Paint cycle lanes through Norton Common.
- Highlight health and economic benefits (I don't need a gym membership and save £20 a fortnight on petrol).
- Ensure that cycling is more convenient than going by car.

Direct Cycle Routes

- Linkage of the Sustrans national route cycling overpass from Broadway Walk to The Quadrant and Norton Common.
- Cycle/shared 'mini-flyover' by the Railway Station.
- Defined cycle routes.

Leisure Cycling

- Norton Common and the Greenway great but ban scooters and young motor cyclists.
- Be good to have more 'feeder' paths linking Greenway to neighbourhoods.

Learn from others

- The mini-holland schemes implemented in Waltham Forest and planned in Enfield and Kingston are great advertisements for what is possible in the UK.
- The Cycling Embassy of GB and the Government Policy of cycle infrastructure design should be delivered.

Q9. Can you suggest any ways in which opportunities for leisure cycling (such as the Garden City Greenway) could be improved in Letchworth and its surrounding areas? Please tell us about any good examples we should learn from.

Greenway For Bikes

- The Greenway is not so good for cycling as there are many gates and also dogs that tend to chase bicycles.
- Greenway should be 100% usable for cyclists, not the elements of footpath as current.

Greenway Extensions

- Extend the Greenway cycle track to a full circuit of the town (Highfield to Willian road).
- Completion of the Greenway to avoid sections on roads and streets.
- Connect Greenway with inter-town cycle routes and nearby attractions e.g. the Lavender Farm.
- Better links to Greenway from Letchworth e.g. the missing bit of pavement from the triangular junction by Willian pond, to near where the single-track road for Roxley Cottages and the Greenway branches off. If there were pavements all along here, access for kids on bikes would be much safer.
- A few short circular routes for people with limited time or young children at appropriate points around the Greenway would be a good addition to the town. These routes would be completely off road.

Greenway Infrastructure

- Surface is dangerous for cyclists in that it is loose and rutted.
- Path becomes very muddy not good for walking or cycling
- Path has degraded badly due to flooding over previous winters.
- Near the tip/Blackhorse Road there is glass or metal on the pavement/cycle track/Greenway.
- The Greenway is very good but recent repairs have been made with the wrong type of shingle and in parts it is very dangerous even at low speeds especially going through the car park at Standalone and at Nortonbury.

- Some of the Greenway is very rough -full of loose stones and gravel and sometimes very muddy. “Tarmac would be heaven!!”

Greenway Safety

- Expand the Greenway, with safe ways to cross busy roads, e.g. A505.
- The Greenway is good, just unsafe to get to.
- Establish a marked cycle path in the urban parts of the Greenway where cyclists have to use the roads or pavements.
- The Greenway should be used by all people not just cyclist trying to beat strava records on the Greenway. Cyclocross racers, local triathlon groups and mountain bike racers flying around blind bends reduce safety for other users.

Signage

- Better signposting of Greenway routes as it is easy to lose ones way.
- A better quality map for the Greenway with access points and connections to other routes clearly marked.
- A webpage with mapped ideas for leisure routes between LGC, Baldock, Hitchin etc.
- An online/printable map of cycleways, graded to identify any dedicated ones.
Get volunteers to go out and map where they think extra sign posting is needed for leisure cycling routes.

Cycle Route 12

- Better signposting and promotion of routes such as Cycle Route 12, which runs through Letchworth and towards Stevenage.
- Upgrade NCN route 12 from Roxley court to Graveley.
- Safer crossing of A505 Baldock bypass to enable travel to Weston etc.
- Improvements to NCN 12 between Willian and Stevenage.
- Re route NCN 12 / Greenway between Baldock firestation and the new electrical generating station opposite Sainsburys using existing path from A1M underpass to B656. This could also be extended to go to the N Herts Leisure centre and football/ rugby clubs

Cycle Track – Willian to Letchworth

- Cycle track from Letchworth Lane towards Willian Way is steep and is easily eroded. Could it have a tarmac surface, as the rest of the track does.

New Developments

- Require cycle paths leading cyclists on to safe roads to and from the town centre / leisure centre