

Statement of Reason

Purpose of a Ripple Greenway to Renwick Road Cycleway Improvement Scheme

- Improve Road Safety for residents, students and other road users especially to improve cycle to school scheme, reduce accidents involving cyclists by creating safer routes (e.g., segregated cycle lanes, improved junctions) and enhance visibility and reduce conflicts with motor vehicles.
- Encourage Active Travel - Promote healthier lifestyles by making cycling a viable everyday option and support modal shift from cars to bikes for short and medium journeys.
- Reduce Traffic Congestion - Provide alternatives to car travel, especially in urban areas and free up road space by shifting commuters to bicycles.
- Lower Carbon Emissions - Contribute to local and national climate goals by reducing reliance on fossil fuel-powered transport.
- Improve Air Quality - Lower vehicle emissions help reduce air pollution, benefiting public health.
- Enhance Urban Environment - Create more livable, people-friendly streets and improve public spaces and support sustainable urban design.

Justification for a Cycle Improvement Scheme

1. Safety Data – RSA2 was conducted for this scheme
 - Cycling accident rates can be significantly reduced with protected infrastructure.
 - Cities with dedicated cycle paths report fewer cyclist injuries and fatalities.
2. Public Health Benefits
 - Regular cycling reduces the risk of chronic diseases like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.
 - Encouraging active travel can reduce healthcare costs.

3. Environmental Impact

- Transport is a major contributor to CO₂ emissions. Cycling is zero-emission.
- Helps meet climate targets and improve urban air quality.

4. Economic Case

- According to various studies (e.g. Sustrans, Transport for London), every £1 invested in cycling returns multiple pounds in health, environmental, and transport benefits.

5. Public Demand

- Many communities express support for better cycling infrastructure.
- Increased demand for safe, accessible routes especially post-COVID, with growing interest in sustainable transport.

6. Policy Alignment

- Supports national and local transport, health, and environmental policies.
- Fits with planning frameworks aimed at creating sustainable, low-carbon cities.