

Example letter 1

Dear Editor,

Like most challenges, the current crisis also brings opportunities. The streets are wonderfully quiet and walking or cycling for daily exercise and necessary travel feels safer and more pleasant than ever, especially with the longer evenings.

I expect many readers have noticed that the air is fresher and more pleasant, and that it's a wonderful time to explore the city from your own front door – keeping your distance from others of course. The quiet roads are also perfect for building confidence cycling on the road, for children and adults.

But being able to enjoy our own city by foot or bike shouldn't be something which ends with the current crisis. It should be something that's part of everyone's daily life. Reducing our reliance on cars also keeps us fit and healthy – and that will always help keep pressure off the NHS, during Covid-19 and beyond.

With a bit of thought and reflection we can all do something to make sure the 'normal' we return to after the end of this crisis is better than the 'normal' we left behind a month ago - I for one will be switching the car for the bike whenever possible.

Example letter 2

Dear Editor,

The current crisis, challenging as it is, provides an opportunity for reflection, particularly on the parallels with climate change. Climate change hasn't yet reached full-blown international catastrophe but, if allowed to, it will trigger a far more significant crisis than we currently face.

For both crises, limited early action was taken despite the warning signs. Few of us believed Covid-19 would accelerate so quickly and come to impact our lives so directly, and many feel the same about climate change.

Equally, the solutions to both involve significant changes to our own daily lives, and here there's reason to be optimistic. If the past month has taught us anything, it's how quickly we can change when we need to – internationally, yes, but also locally.

Looking outside, it's incredible how many parked cars haven't been moved in weeks, while cyclists and pedestrians now enjoy the space and unpolluted air for their daily exercise and necessary journeys.

We needn't lock ourselves indoors to prevent climate change. However, when this crisis ends, if we embrace this amazing ability to change, and choose to switch driving for cycling for local journeys, we can all help prevent the next looming crisis, before it's too late.