

Tell your local paper why cycle lanes make sense

Example letter 1

With Covid-19 cases on the rise again, I think the whole country is unified in doing their bit to ensure we don't enter another lockdown. However, if there's one thing we should wish for a return to, it's the ability for thousands of people to take advantage of quieter, safer roads and to get cycling.

Sadly, congestion has once again shot up, and with public transport capacity still severely limited, it's only likely to get worse, unless we see significantly more people choosing to leave the car and to cycle and walk instead.

We must give credit to the council for doing their bit to make this happen, with new pop-up cycle lanes creating safe space for people to cycle. If developed into a comprehensive network of safe cycling space, all the evidence is there that people will get on their bikes – and that means less people in their car. Let's embrace this positive change on our streets: it's the only way we'll avoid crippling congestion and pollution.

Example letter 2

One thing the quiet roads of the Covid-19 lockdown taught us was just how congested and polluted our neighbourhoods are.

With traffic levels shooting up again and public transport capacity limited, all credit to the local council for quickly developing Low Traffic Neighbourhoods to tackle rat running traffic.

The schemes may not be perfect – undoubtedly there's room to learn from what's worked and what hasn't and to adapt accordingly. However, if we want safer, healthier communities, we must avoid shooting these schemes down with knee jerk reactions, and instead look to what can be improved.

Of course, we should flag up legitimate concerns, but we should do so constructively, recognising the importance of positive change on our streets to create neighbourhoods which work for everyone.