

PRESS RELEASE: **Election Cycle 2016 campaign**



**NORTHERN IRELAND
GREENWAYS**

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STRONG SUPPORT FOR CYCLING INVESTMENT FROM ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES – MAJOR SURVEY SHOWS

A third of candidates running for the Stormont Assembly election have endorsed a call for long-term funding for cycling and active travel in Northern Ireland.

With just two weeks until the election on 5 May, a joint campaign by Cycling UK (formerly CTC), NI Greenways and Sustrans has received a ringing endorsement from Assembly candidates who back at least a £10 per head investment in cycling.

So far Election Cycle 2016 has seen Jon Snow, Channel 4 Presenter and Cycling UK President, write to all the Northern Ireland election candidates on behalf of the groups asking three questions on cycling and active travel in a major pre-election survey.

One third of candidates have replied with their responses now visible on the campaign website which you can view at <https://bikefast.org/assembly-elections-2016/>

There is still time for Assembly hopefuls to respond and you, the voting public, are asked to contact candidates, with details provided on the website, to ask them to pledge their support for active travel.

Cycling's benefits in terms of health, environmental and economic benefits are well known. The questions focus not just on cycling in urban areas but rural with the development of traffic-free greenways where there is huge potential for tourism and regeneration.

Cycling UK President, Jon Snow, said: "Cycling's benefits in terms of health, environmental and economic benefits are well known. I therefore urge all MLA candidates to respond to our three simple questions and let the electorate know you support the vision of a cleaner, healthier and more prosperous Northern Ireland."

Gordon Clarke, Sustrans Northern Ireland Director said: "We are pleased to see so many candidates standing in this May's election being supportive of active travel and sustainable transport.

"We know that cycling is an easy way to incorporate exercise into our daily life, it is emissions free and for every pound invested in cycling, the economy gets five back."

The questions are:

1. Investment. Do you support funding for cycling in Northern Ireland of at least £10 per head of population, so as to encourage safer cycling conditions and see more people start cycling?
2. Greenways. Do you support the development of traffic-free greenways across the country to boost rural regeneration and tourism?
3. Legislation. Do you support the introduction of an Active Travel Act to incorporate cycling and walking provision into land-use planning and new developments?

ENDS

For further information/ interviews contact Anne Madden, Sustrans N. Ireland on 028 90434569/ 07826 556416 anne.madden@sustrans.org.uk or Cycling UK Press Office 01483 238 315 and Email: sam.jones@cyclinguk.org

Notes to editors

- Sustrans is the charity that's enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. It's time we all began making smarter travel choices. Make your move and support Sustrans today. www.sustrans.org.uk
- Cycling UK, at 138 years old, is Britain's oldest transport organisation and until recently was known as CTC, the national cycling charity. www.cyclinguk.org
- NI Greenways is an awareness campaign to highlight the possibility to build a 600 mile network of traffic-free greenways across the country, mostly on former railway beds. The campaign was created by Jonathan Hobbs and has been running since April 2012. www.nigreenways.com