# Stevenage

Local Election Activity 2023



48 km of segregated cycleways

Jill Borcherds and Tina Walker







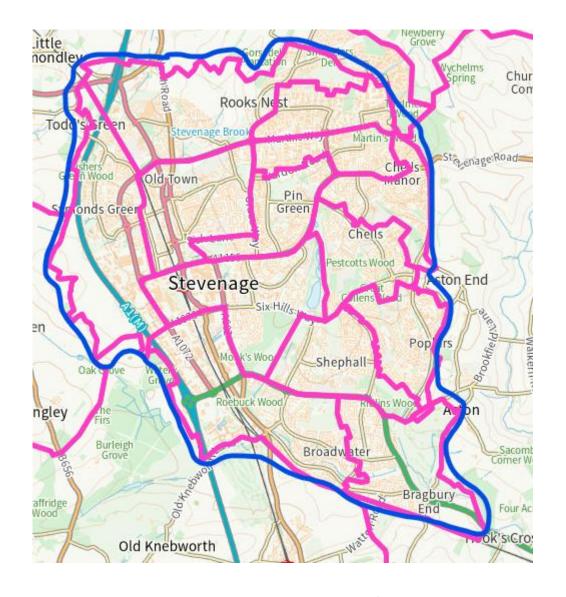
## **Hertfordshire County Council**

Highways Authority Cycleway repairs

# **Stevenage Borough Council**

Cycleway cleaning
Planning
Parking
Town Centre Regeneration





# **Stevenage Borough Council**

13 wards3 councillors per ward

Annual elections
Each of 3 years, one
councillor elected

(4<sup>th</sup> year Hertfordshire County Council elections)

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/election-maps/gb/



WHY CYCLING V

OUR WORK V

ISSUES & CAMPAIGNS ~

WHAT'S HAPPENING V

**HELP & ADVICE ~** 

CONTACT ~

#### Elections

We make every effort to contact all election candidates (via political party administrators where relevant and also through social media and other public channels) and invite them to participate in the survey. Once we have candidate contact details, we will send them a short list of questions to find out what they think about improving provision for cycling in and around their area.

Responses will be published on Thursday 18 April 2024 and can be viewed within these pages.

If you are a candidate in the forthcoming elections, please see our FAQs for candidates or email us: contact@camcycle.org.uk

#### Kings Hedges Ward by-election (Cambridge City Council), July 2023

Summary:	Election to Kings Hedges Ward in July 2023	
Polling date:	: Tuesday 4th July 2023	
Questions:	Index of all questions for this election	
Respondents: Index of all respondents		

Candidates' responses for each ward

The following wards being contested are those for which we have sent questions to candidates:

King's Hedges (4 candidates standing)

#### **Active Travel Café**

Wow!

What could we do?



Cycling UK Stevenage sent 3 questions to the agents of all candidates standing in the forthcoming SBC elections on Thursday 4th May.

# Responses have now been received on behalf of all candidates standing.

#### Question 1

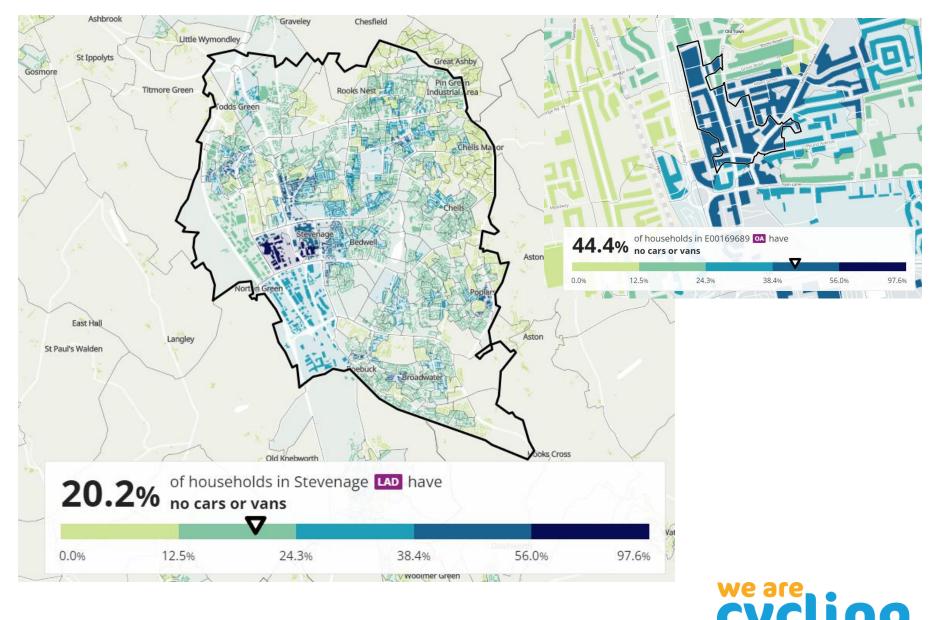
Recent <u>census data</u> shows that over 20% of households in Stevenage do not have a car or van. In some areas closest to the Town Centre this percentage is considerably higher. What would you do to ensure that cycling is a feasible choice for everyday journeys in Stevenage? <u>Responses received</u>

#### Question 2

Stevenage Borough Council have had <u>cycle hangars</u> for use in residential areas available since 2021 but only 2 are in place so far. What would you do to ensure that more cycle hangars are installed to allow people to store cycles securely near their homes? <u>Responses received</u>

#### Question 3

Stevenage Borough Council is our planning authority. How will you ensure that decisions taken are in line with national guidance on the promotion of active travel? Responses received



www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/housing/number-of-cars-or-vans/number-of-cars-3a/no-cars-or-vans-in-household?lad=E07000243

#### Dear Agent

Cycling UK (<a href="www.cyclinguk.org">www.cyclinguk.org</a>) is the UK's cycling charity, enabling and inspiring more people to cycle more often since 1878. Representatives of the local group, Cycling UK Stevenage, meet regularly with officers from Stevenage Borough Council to discuss issues of relevance to people who cycle or who would like to cycle around the town.

As we approach the Stevenage Borough Council elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May, we would like to address the following 3 questions to each of the candidates in your party that are standing in the various wards to consider. I would be grateful if you could pass them on to the relevant candidates.

We will share the answers that we receive by Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April on our website on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April. www.cyclinguk.org/group/page/stevenage-cycle-campaign-cycling-uk

#### Question 1

Recent census data shows that over 20% of households in Stevenage do not have a car or van. In some areas closest to the Town Centre this percentage is considerably higher. What would you do to ensure that cycling is a feasible choice for everyday journeys in Stevenage?

 $\underline{www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/housing/number-of-cars-or-vans/number-of-cars-3a/no-cars-or-vans-in-household}$ 

#### Question 2

Stevenage Borough Council have had cycle hangars for use in residential areas available since 2021 but only 2 are in place so far. What would you do to ensure that more cycle hangars are installed to allow people to store cycles securely near their homes?

www.stevenage.gov.uk/leisure-culture-and-wellbeing/sport-and-leisure-services/cycling/lockable-bike-shelters

#### Question 3

Stevenage Borough Council is our planning authority. How will you ensure that decisions taken are in line with national guidance on the promotion of active travel?

A copy of this letter will be sent by email to the local contact point for your party where it is available online. If you would like to receive a copy direct, please contact me at the email address below.

We look forward to hearing from the candidates.

to the agents – addresses were available online.

By email to party contacts



https://www.cyclinguk.org/sites/default/files/group/attachment/2023-11/cycling\_uk\_questions\_for\_sbc\_election\_candidates\_2023.pdf

Event	Date (deadline if not midnight)
Publication of Notice of Election	Monday 18 March 2024
Deadline for the receipt of Nomination Papers	Friday 5 April 2024 (4pm)
Publication of Statement as to Persons Nominated	Monday 8 April 2024 (4pm)
Deadline for receiving applications for registration	Tuesday 16 April 2024
Deadline for receiving new postal vote and postal proxy applications, and for changes to existing postal or proxy votes	Wednesday 17 April 2024 (5pm)
Deadline for receiving applications for Voter Authority Certificates	Wednesday 24 April 2024 (5pm)
Deadline for receiving new applications to vote by proxy (not postal proxy or emergency proxy)	Wednesday 24 April 2024 (5pm)
Publication of Notice of Poll	Wednesday 24 April 2024
Deadline for the appointment of Polling and Counting Agents	Thursday 25 April 2024
Polling Day	Thursday 2 May 2024 (7am to 10pm)
Election Count (Declaration of Results)	Friday 3 May 2024 (SBC) Saturday 4 May 2024 (PCC)

# Stevenage Borough Council is our planning authority. How will you ensure that decisions taken are in line with national guidance on the promotion of active travel? Conservative Party

We would heed the advice of Hertfordshire County Council on how developments should be designed and implemented, in line with their Local Transport Plan and Design Guide - this will ensure cyclists are given proper priority on the highways network.

## **Green Party**

The Stevenage Local Plan is being reviewed in 2023. Active Travel guidance needs to be incorporated into the Local Plan to ensure that all future development is designed to the highest Active Travel standards. We would also press for all developments under planning to be looked at with the new guidance retrospectively so that they also are constructed to the new standards. All new developments must offer active travel infrastructure properly integrated with the existing networks of cycleways and footpaths. When a development is built, the developer must provide funds for local infrastructure, we would press for this to be spent before the development is occupied.

## **Labour Party**

As a Planning Authority these policies are in place in all our local plan and other policy documents. These policies need always to be in our members' minds when considering planning applications, as advised by the planning officers.

#### Liberal Democrats

https://www.cyclinguk.org/group/page/stevenage -borough-council-elections-2023



# 2024 – New Boundaries Stevenage Borough Council has "All Out" elections All 39 seats are being contested.

# This year's questions

- Use the answers received last year
- Refer to specific issues in particular wards
- Include cycle hire scheme
- Promotion of active travel as part of climate change strategy

More publicity
Improved tech capability

Jill Borcherds and Tina Walker <a href="mailto:cyclingukstevenagecampaigns@gmail.com">cyclingukstevenagecampaigns@gmail.com</a>

