

Feature

for greater publicity of the Highway Code, as surveys show that many people still aren't aware of the changes from 2022.

3 Improve access to green spaces

This one is a vote winner. Recent research has found that people are united by love for local nature, regardless of how we vote. But reaching green spaces by bike isn't always easy.

Wales has a confusing rights of way network, which limits the paths you can use. Scotland's underfunded core path network can be neglected and unreliable. To make it easier for us all to be active outdoors, we need paths that are easy to access from home.

4 Increase transport choice and connectivity for all

A fair transport system doesn't force people into cars or exclude those who can't afford one. It provides real, attractive alternatives. That means giving everyone the choice to make shorter local trips safely by bike or on foot, and to combine those with a bus or train for longer journeys.

Good things are already happening. New carriages on the Heart of Wales line have space for up to 12 bikes. More bus companies are carrying bikes in places like Aberdeenshire and the Borders. We want to see more joined-up route planning, and targets for increasing the proportion of journeys made by walking, cycling and public transport.

5 Enable more children to cycle

Children want to be able to cycle – to school, for local journeys and for fun. We see this from the growth of families riding to school together as part of organised Bike Buses.

"Bike buses are incredibly powerful tools for drawing people together," said Emily Farquhar, a bike-bus leader in Edinburgh. "When you start cycling, it's clear for everyone in your local area to see the benefits of making cycling safer: quieter streets, less pollution, healthier people and, ultimately, the school run is suddenly a fun activity."

To give children confidence and independence, we're calling for every child in Scotland to have access to Bikeability training. This would build on the 62% of Scottish schools that currently offer it.



Easy access to green spaces is popular across the political spectrum

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Winning hearts and minds

"Cycling in Scotland has come a long way since the last election," said Cycling UK's Scotland Advocacy Lead Scott Runciman. "Much of this is thanks to our members and supporters, who have helped campaign for funding and better policies over the past five years. But if we want cycling to be an everyday option for more people, the next Scottish Government must do even more to make cycling the easy choice."

To make that happen in Scotland and Wales, politicians need to know that improving streets for cycling and walking has widespread support. The best person to convince them of that is you, as a voter. By using our simple online tool to contact your candidates, you can make sure they know this is a popular move. Visit cyclinguk.org/elections2026.



Top: Paul Campbell. Right: Cycling UK

Cycleway celebration ride in Cardiff