

Letter 1:

Dear Urban & Civic,

We hope this letter finds you well. As U&C recently assumed the role of master developer for Northstowe Phase 1 following the takeover of L&Q, we, the undersigned representatives from Northstowe, wish to address an important matter regarding the completion of cycle lanes in Northstowe.

Cycle lanes are an essential element of modern road design, promoting active travel for both daily commutes—such as school or work journeys—and leisure or occasional use. They not only reduce traffic congestion but also support a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle for residents.

In Northstowe, we are fortunate to have three primary cycleways along Stirling Road, Eagle Way, and Wellington Road. Among these, the cycleway along Stirling Road plays a vital role, providing access to Northstowe Learning Community. However, despite their importance, sections of these cycleways remain incomplete. Markings such as “Future” + Cycle signs on certain stretches highlight the intention, yet permanent car parking continues to obstruct these lanes, rendering them unsafe and unusable.

This incomplete infrastructure has serious safety implications. Young people cycling to school often have to navigate between the road and the incomplete cycle lane during busy drop-off and pick-up hours, putting them at risk. Some students have even stopped cycling altogether due to these safety concerns. Other residents and potential users, who might otherwise opt for cycling, feel discouraged because the routes do not appear safe or practical.

Young people at the Wednesday Youth Club today (15<sup>th</sup> Jan) told us today of the challenges they are facing and asked for an even, smooth surface as soon as possible. One fell off yesterday after bumping the high kerb. Others have had punctures. Some have got frustrated having to get on and off all the time because of the kerbs and obstructions. They ask Urban & Civic to “please finish the path soon!”

While we will be engaging with residents to minimise car parking in these designated cycle areas, we respectfully request U&C to prioritise the completion of the cycle lanes in Phase 1. This includes the final surfacing and proper marking of all unfinished cycleways to ensure they can be used safely and confidently by residents of all ages.

Following the announcement last month on the planned road surfacing works, we find that the phasing of the works should give the highest priority to the cycle lane in Stirling Road, which is currently planned as the last phase.

Northstowe is a growing and vibrant community that deserves infrastructure befitting its status as a flagship development. It has been over 7 years since work began, and finalising these cycle lanes would mark an important step forward in delivering the high-quality, sustainable living environment envisioned for Northstowe.

We remain optimistic that by working together, U&C and the local authorities can achieve the best possible outcomes for the residents of Northstowe. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and are happy to discuss this issue further at your earliest convenience.

The undersigned

Northstowe Youth Hive?  
Northstowe Town Council Councillors  
South Cambridgeshire District Council Councillors  
Cambridgeshire County Council Councillor  
MP Ian Sollom

Letter 2:

Dear Residents of Stirling Road, Eagle way and Wellington Road

We are writing to you regarding the future cycle lanes that run along your street.

Cycle lanes are a key component of road design that encourage active travel, both for regular journeys, such as commuting to school or work, and for leisure or occasional use.

In Northstowe, we currently have three main cycleways: one running alongside Stirling Road, another along Eagle Way and another one through Wellington Road. The cycleway on Stirling Road provides vital access to Northstowe Secondary College. However, a section of these cycle lanes remains incomplete. You may have noticed markings such as “Future” + Cycle sign on the surface of the cycle lanes. Unfortunately, permanent car parking continues to block these future cycle lanes, which prevents them from being used safely.

Young people in Northstowe who cycle to school regularly are forced to repeatedly move on and off the lane into the road, especially during busy pick-up/drop-off rush hours. Some students have even stopped cycling to school entirely due to safety concerns. Other residents and potential users may also wish to use the cycle lanes but feel discouraged because they do not perceive the routes as safe.

Some young people at the Wednesday youth club add, “we like being able to go to school by bike but it feels dangerous when there are cars on the cycle path. Please think about us when you are parking”

We are working with all involved parties to expedite the finalisation and proper marking of the cycle lanes, as well as the adoption of the roads. We are also exploring options for enforcement. However, this process will take time and is not expected to be completed before 2025-6 when they are adopted by the County Council, all being well.

Therefore, we are kindly requesting that residents in Northstowe refrain from parking in the future cycle lanes.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

The undersigned:

Northstowe Youth Hive  
Northstowe Town Council Councillors  
South Cambridgeshire District Council Councillors  
Cambridgeshire County Council Councillor  
MP Ian Sollom