

The following statements have been submitted – full details are attached:

	Name	Subject
CS01	Clr Mohamed Makawi	Cheltenham Road Cycle Lane

CS01

Members Forum statement from Cllr Mohamed Makawi

Subject: Cheltenham Road Cycle Lane

This statement is to clarify the answer from Mayor Rees to Councillor Edwards' Member Forum last month about the removal of the cycling lane from Cheltenham Rd junction with Ashley Road.

I am one of the councillors of the three wards nearby and whose residents have been affected by the removal of this bike lane without consultation. I received two emails about this decision (the email below) on the 28th January 2022 and a second one on the 3rd March 2022, which had the letter sent to 2000 residents attached.

You can read that letter below this statement – it's not consulting or asking for views either from the residents or from the councillors, it's just informing us about what is going to happen, and when & how long for, that is all.

From the Bristol Post I quote the conversation between Cllr Edwards and Mayor Rees:

"During a full council meeting on October 18, Green Councillor Emma Edwards said: "There was a meeting on September 30, 2021, where transport officers discussed the removal of the cycling lane with Cllr Don Alexander [cabinet member for transport]."

"In the minutes it said they expected pushback from the cycling lobby, the changes might receive criticism and could be contentious when it goes out to consultation. But then it doesn't appear that there was a consultation after that. So I'm wondering why there wasn't a consultation?"

Mr Rees said the council sent out 2,000 letters about the changes to the junction, but only two people responded to the letter. However, this letter was not a public consultation, did not include any questions or invite people to respond, and was only sent to people living in the immediate area — despite Cheltenham Road being a main route into the city centre for many.

He said: "Did you respond to that letter? It's important that if we're on an issue, to be on top of the issue and know what's going on. 2,000 letters have gone out, only two responses to that letter. And that's where we need people to be really engaging in council processes.

"It's important for councillors not only to claim to want to be more involved in decision-making processes in the council, but to actually turn up at the forums when decisions are being made and be involved in the processes that lead to those decisions."

Cllr Edwards replied: "I didn't get it because it's not in my ward [Bishopston and Ashley Down]. My residents are upset because it's their cycle corridor, but I didn't get the letter. Have you actually read the letter? Because it was just saying there's going to be some traffic work, there weren't actually any questions."

Letter sent to residents regarding Ashley Rd/ Cheltenham Rd Junction:

Dear resident / business owner

As part of Bristol City Council's ongoing maintenance of traffic signals, our transport team has identified the refurbishment of the junction at Ashley Rd and Cheltenham Rd as a priority due to the age of the traffic signals and their increased likelihood of failure.

During this refurbishment, the team will take the opportunity to introduce some changes aimed at improving conditions on the junction for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. The refurbishment will include:

- Widening the footway on Cheltenham Road to improve pedestrian safety and comfort
- Improving inbound cycling facilities on Cheltenham Road by removing the cycle lane
- Installing early release traffic signals at both the Ashley Road junction and the Cheltenham Road / Arley Hill junction
- Improving the Ashley Road pedestrian crossing to enhance visibility and safety for pedestrians
- Adding a bus priority lane to the Ashley Road and Cheltenham Road / Arley Hill junctions
- Creating more space for cyclists by removing the existing feeder lane on Ashley Road
- Improvements to the pedestrian island at the crossing on Stokes Croft by Nine Tree Hill
- Relocation of the pedestrian crossing on Stokes Croft by Nine Tree Hill.

For full details of the works please view the enclosed map.

These improvements are scheduled to start on 1 March 2022 and is expected to be completed by June 2022. We thank you for your patience while we carry out this work.

To minimise disruption during this period we will introduce the following measures:

- Portable signals and crossings will in be place for the duration of the work
- Ashley Road will be closed to westbound traffic, with no access to Cheltenham Road. A diversion will be in place
- The right turn into Ashley Road will be suspended and a diversion posted
- Footways will be kept open where possible and if closed, alternatives will be provided
- Access to shops will be maintained
- Work will be carried out in sections, reducing disruption to pedestrians, shops and public transport.

The council is also offering free support to businesses and individuals to help people travel more sustainably. Over 450 businesses and individuals have benefitted from a range of free offers including loan bikes (including electric bikes), business grants, one to one cycle training, route planning, electric vehicle advice and charging points. If you are interested in

finding out more about how we can help you visit travelwest.info/businesses/bristol for businesses and travelwest.info/communities if you are an individual or community group. You can also visit www.travelwest.info and www.betterbybike.info for more information about how to travel around the region and for the journey planners.

If you have any questions or comments in the coming weeks, or would like this information in another language, Braille, audio tape, large print, easy English, BSL video or CD rom or plain text please contact us. If you are a disabled citizen and have concerns over access please also get in touch so that any such issues can be raised with the contractor by the Project Manager:

- Email: transport.engagement@bristol.gov.uk
- Phone: 0117 903 6449 and leave a message on the answerphone
- Write to: Ashley Rd/ Cheltenham Rd Junction, Transport Engagement Team, PO BOX 3399, 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 9NE.

You can report potholes and other issues on our Fix My Street online portal:
www.fixmystreet.bristol.gov.uk

Kind regards,
Transport Engagement Team
Bristol City Council