An update on Cycle Paths for The Wilbrahams - by Robert McCubbin (Little Wilbraham & Six Mile Bottom Parish Councillor):

The Wilbrahams do not have any safe cyling routes in any direction and is not well served by public transport. In discussions with various bodies who might fund new cycle paths, the issue of the depth of local support always arises, given that we are a relatively small population. To guage support, I did a cycle survey with help from Nick Toovey, Sam Dhaliwal & Claire Daunton. It was an online website as well as leaflets distributed to all houses in Little WIlbraham, Great Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom, just before Christmas 2021.

A total of 94 households responded, representing 249 people. This is estimated to be around a 30% repsonse rate, which was very good.

A summary of the key findings from the survey was as follows:

- 98% of respondents wanted safer cycle paths.

- 92% do not currently cycle because parts of the route feel too dangerous and unsafe with narrow, unlit, fast roads and passing HGVs. Many mentioned the restrictions this brings, particularly for children cycling to school and seeing friends in neighbouring villages.

- 89% said they enjoy and are willing to cycle regularly

- 97% said that safer cycle routes would increase their cycling with most expecting to use the routes to Fulbourn, Quy & Bottisham several times each week, or more frequently for their daily commute.

- Most trips undertaken are to local amenities, schools and places of work that are within easy reach for cycling, including Bottisham, Fulbourn, Cherry Hinton, Addenbrookes and Cambridge.

- 45% of people relied on other household members to drive them to places, when they could easily just cycle the journey. And 90% of those surveyed already had access to a cycle.

- There were many expressions of the important and urgent need for safer cycle paths and the frustrations many felt with having to use a car when a cycle journey was easily possible and was also the preferred option in many journeys.

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Since doing the survey, we have been pursuing several options to raise the issue with different bodies.

- In March, I submitted (and had accepted) a question to the Greater Cambridge Partnership public consultation on active travel. I highlighted the lack of safe cycling routes to access basic amenities as well as the need to be considered for the next Greenways routes. This is particualarly relevent, considering the tragic death of local resident if February this year at the Missing Sock junction.

- We have engaged with the County Council on upgrading the footpath surface on the A1303 between Bell Lane and High Street in Bottisham which would enable a safer route to connect with the existing cycle path towards Quy.

- I have engaged with Cambridge Cycling Campaign as well as the County Council to highlight the need for cycle paths for The Wilbrahams.

- We are also currently investigating opportunities to create a path along short drove and across the field towards Quy roundabout

The tragic death of a Great Wilbraham resident in February at the Missing Sock junction near Quy only serves to highlight the urgent need to address the lack of safe cycling routes for us in The Wilbrahams.

Thank you,