

## Alternative Transport Champion – report for 2025

Work in this area has been conducted initially by Cllr Frost (Chair, Environment Committee) then, subsequently from December 2025, by Cllr Williamson (Vice-Chair, Environment Committee). The reason for the change was that it was identified by officers that a policy Chair is not technically eligible to serve in this position.

The objective of this role is to promote usage of modes of transport in the borough other than internal combustion engine vehicles (eg. by foot, by bicycle, or on horseback) or, by using vehicles that are less harmful to the environment (eg. electric or hybrid vehicles). The remit of the role is essentially free ranging and involves extensive liaison with councillors at Surrey County Council who have overall responsibility for highways and pavements which, clearly, are central to any strategy for alternative transport.

Where cycling is involved there have been extensive representations to SCC councillors wherever a cycling route is compromised or undermined. SCC councillors have been favourable in their responses; it is clear that our support for both on-road and off-road cycling is shared at county level. Moving forward, as EEBC is subsumed into a unitary authority, we are confident that this shared vision will continue and that there will be broad support for addressing specific local instances where cycling needs are compromised.

One simple but significant way in which to promote cycle usage across the borough has been to ensure that planning applications for multi-residence developments or commercial developments should make adequate provisions for appropriate cycle storage. We are pleased that officers continue to secure provision in accordance with our adopted standards.

EEBC continues to support the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which was endorsed by EEBC in September 2024 and signed off by SCC in March 2025. This ten year plan has increased opportunities for walking and cycling by improved air quality through reduced car use, and by promoting increased walking and cycling opportunities and less car usage through improved infrastructure throughout the borough. Through the Southern Gas Networks Planning consent, we have secured a financial contribution towards delivering the LCWIP in addition to other sustainable transport measures. The Epsom & Ewell District Local Streets Improvement Plan (hosted by SCC) is in draft. This gives us the opportunity to highlight particular areas that could be improved or changed to encourage more people to walk or cycle, rather than driving for local journeys.

On occasion there have been representations to SCC councillors where instances of restricted pedestrian access on pavements have occurred; these instances have sometimes needed extensive interactions over a period of time but in most cases the issues have been resolved to the complainants' satisfaction.

Both Cllr Frost and Cllr Williamson recently attended an intensive two-day Climate Change Masterclass course which gave extensive coverage to greener forms of transport and achieving reduced emissions. Both have now been duly accredited as 'Carbon Literate'. Some interesting case studies were flagged up which we intend to incorporate into work done by some of our Working Groups.

We are pleased to report significant progress within the borough during 2025 in rolling out EV charging points. There are now 14 charging points across 5 different council car parks. During 2025 SCC installed 8 on-street charge points plus 4 lamp post charge points. There is now a total of 24 live on-street charge points; another 20 are awaiting final connection.

EEBC is also subsidising local taxi firms to use EV or hybrid taxis through its Taxi Emissions Policy.

Despite transport being an area that is largely decided upon at a level above borough level, we believe that the role of Alternative Transport Champion has merit and that the role and work should certainly continue when East Surrey Unitary Authority comes into effect in 2027.