For too long Hastings Borough Council and East Sussex County Council have delayed the implementation of the 2014 Walking & Cycling Strategy. We call on them to provide safe routes and proper infrastructure to enable walking and cycling to be easier, safer and more enjoyable in Hastings & St Leonards.
WE DEMAND PROPER INFRASTRUCTURE

The 2014 Hastings Walking & Cycling Strategy outlined the map of routes shown below. None of the new routes have even begun to be implemented. The Alexandra Park element was approved in January 2016, and promised by Autumn 2016, but nothing has happened. HBC & ESCC are wasting time and money, and failing to provide safe and direct routes for people to walk and cycle in our town.

That is why we need proper, off road, dedicated walking and cycling routes that enable the people who live and work in Hastings & St Leonards to get to work, school and shops more safely and encourage more people to take up cycling and walking for health and leisure. The maps below show the places that people have been killed or seriously injured on the roads in our town over the last ten years. ESCC & HBC should progress the Walking & Cycling Network to make our town safer.

70% of girls and 55% of boys are predicted to be obese by 2050.

In repeated questionnaires and interviews conducted by Hastings Urban Bikes, the leading reason people gave for not cycling, or not allowing their children to cycle, was the fear of using the road network.

We need proper infrastructure to enable a healthy, sustainable and happier town.

IN 10 YEARS • 266 KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED
YEARS • 834 SLIGHT INJURIES

31% OF YEAR 6 CHILDREN IN HASTINGS ARE OVERWEIGHT

In nearly two years since the adoption of the strategy, no progress has been made towards implementing the routes we need. Many of these routes were proposed for the ‘Hastings Greenway’ network in 2003!

HBC, in 2016, has also not delivered on their manifesto commitment to implement a ‘Sustainable Transport Forum’.

We feel that HBC & ESCC are not delivering on their promises to implement a network of good quality walking & cycling routes and they are not engaging with the community groups who want to see the development of a safer, healthier and more sustainable town.

In addition ESCC are not willing to give priority to the safe and direct off-road routes from the Town Centre to Ore, to avoid some of the most dangerous roads in the Borough, that we want to see and which HBC have supported.

We call on HBC and ESCC to provide Hastings & St Leonards with the high quality infrastructure that we need to get more people walking and cycling.
We declare Alexandra Park cycle route open

Hastings Borough Council approved the cycle route through Alexandra Park on the 4th of January 2016. It still says on HBC’s website that “East Sussex County Council will deliver the project by spring 2016.” Nothing has happened. We think that it is time that cyclists start using the Park route, as it is designed, and to that end we are opening the route on Sunday 27th November.

Meet for a considerate cycle along the designated route, to hand out information and enjoy a traffic free ride. Children and new cyclists especially welcome.