



  
**LIVING  
STREETS**  


**ELECTIONS 2021**  
**HOW YOU CAN HELP IN YOUR AREA**

# ELECTIONS 2021

## How you can help in your area

**OUR CITIES, TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES ARE IN THE MIDST OF CLIMATE, AIR POLLUTION, PUBLIC HEALTH AND ROAD SAFETY CRISES.**

Reducing car dominance and making walking the easiest and safest option for everyday journeys is a key part of the solution. Real change to carbon emissions, air quality and road safety will only be achieved with significant modal shift and a rapid reduction in car mileage.

As regional leaders and community decision-makers, we want future mayors, MSPs, MS's and councillors to make walking a priority. We want this to be backed by ambitious policy programmes of transformation to make areas safer and more walking-friendly.

### Why walking?

During the COVID-19 lockdown, millions of people rediscovered the simple act of walking – the oldest, cheapest and greenest transport there is. But the pandemic saw people across the country struggling with narrow, uneven pavements, crossings that prioritise cars rather than people, and growing numbers of speeding vehicles.

The pandemic has highlighted inequalities and made them worse. People from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and low-income groups – already at greater risk from air pollution – have been disproportionately affected by the disease. The loneliness of older people and those living with disabilities has got worse.

**Ahead of the elections happening in 2021, we are calling on all candidates to commit to :**

- End pedestrian deaths and injuries on roads
- Tackle air pollution
- Make school streets safe
- Make walking easier and cut the clutter on our pavements



## How you can help

It's essential that we get our calls and messages out to candidates up and down the UK. **Can you help us amplify our voice in the run up to the elections?**

Candidates will be attending online hustings events and canvassing in your area. If you are engaging with candidates you can give them our Manifesto for Walking which can be downloaded from our website. We are producing bespoke manifestos for the parliamentary elections in Scotland and Wales as well as for Metro Mayor elections in London, West Yorkshire, Liverpool City Region, West Midlands and Greater Manchester.

You can also ask candidates questions about their plans to promote walking and reduce car dominance. To help you, we have drafted a set of questions to find out what your candidates will do on these issues if they are elected.

- If elected, how would you guarantee the priority of walking and cycling across your transport policy?
- What do you see as being the main benefits of active travel? And how will you work to ensure everyone enjoys these benefits?

## End pedestrian deaths and injuries on our roads

- Will you set Vision Zero targets that significantly reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads?
- Will you introduce a default 20mph speed limit in built up areas?
- As Councillor/Mayor, how would you enforce speed limits across the area, so roads and neighbourhoods are safer for all?
- Will you undertake a full review of pedestrian crossings across your area, to ensure they are fit for purpose and prioritise people on foot?
- How would you ensure crossings throughout the area fully optimised for pedestrians?
- Low traffic neighbourhood schemes create streets that are quieter, where children play out, and air pollution is lower. If elected, would you support expansion of low traffic neighbourhoods

## Will you ensure that any infrastructure changes made during the pandemic are reviewed and made permanent? Tackle air pollution

- Across our cities and towns, people are breathing in toxic air caused by motor traffic. What steps would you take to tackle polluting vehicles?
- If elected, how would you work with the area's organisations and decision-makers to address air pollution and ensure it's a priority issues for all leaders across the area?
- How will you tackle issues around air quality that perpetuate the inequity within society if elected?



- What will you do to move people out of their cars and towards walking, cycling and public transport?
- Would you be in favour of a low emission zone?
- Would you commit to implementing a programme of green corridors, to increase biodiversity and with linear parks where people want to walk and cycle?

### Make school streets safe

- What do you believe are the best ways to get more families choosing to walk to and from school?
- If elected, would you commit to/continue to explore school street schemes with schools across the area? Would you commit to one scheme in every ward?
- Would you prioritise school route and street management in your transport plans and budget?
- For a generation the number of children walking to primary school has declined. 70 per cent of pupils used to walk to school, and now only 47 per cent do. What would you do, if elected, to support pupils and schools to ensure children could walk to school, and that walking was the easy option?

### Make walking easier and cut the clutter on our pavements

- Walking networks can take the pressure off public transport and reduce the reliance on private hire vehicles. These improved routes invite visitors, residents and workers to walk between transport interchanges and attractions. If elected would you commit to exploring the creation of walking networks?
- Pavement clutter is a major issue up and down the country. How would you ensure our pavements are made safe and clear for everyone to use?
- Pavement parking from cars, vans and lorries often forces people off the pavement and onto the road. This is particularly dangerous for many, including blind and partially-sighted people, parents with pushchairs and young children, and wheelchair users and others with mobility aids. If elected how would you tackle pavement parking in this area?
- How would you ensure all local leaders and decision-makers are committed to improving walking routes across the area?
- How would you address transport poverty and improve affordability of public transport?
- Would you be keen to develop any car-free areas if elected?

**We are keen to know what candidates are saying in answer to these questions.** Please let us know about any action you are taking and any responses you are receiving, by contacting Aisha Hannibal, Engagement Manager, at [aisha.hannibal@livingstreets.org.uk](mailto:aisha.hannibal@livingstreets.org.uk)



**We are Living Streets, the charity for everyday walking. Our mission is to achieve a better walking environment and inspire people to walk more.**

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