

# Letchworth Cycling Strategy:

## Summary of Consultation Responses

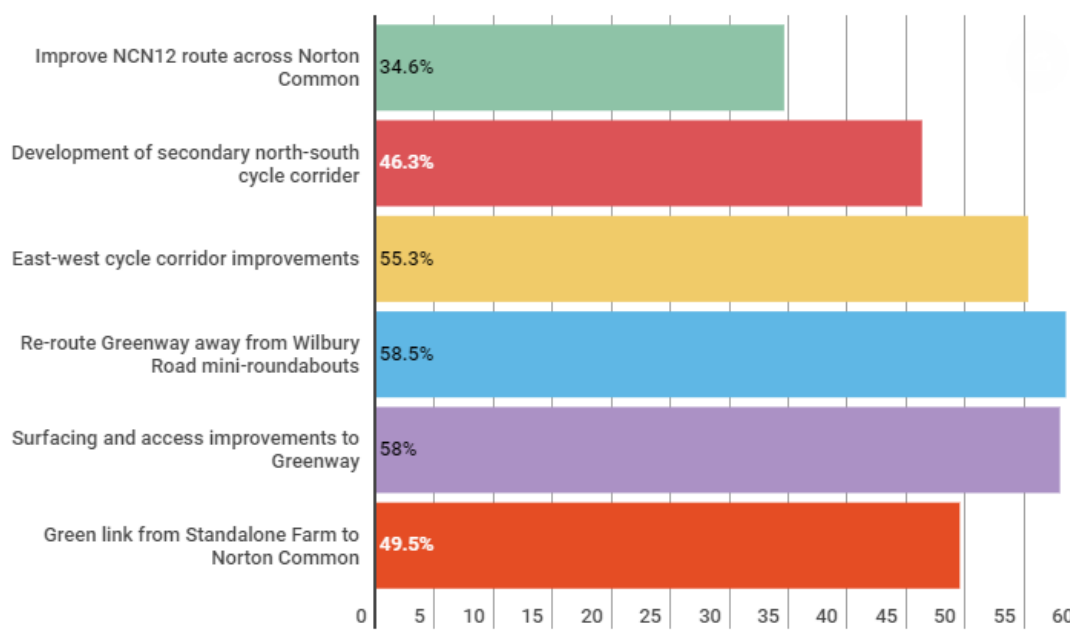
### Overview

- 1.1 The first draft final strategy was published for consultation from 11<sup>th</sup> June to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018 for Letchworth residents and other stakeholders to provide their views. Respondents could respond via an online survey or via email. The survey asked a series of multiple choice questions regarding their preferences for proposed schemes as well as gave the opportunity to provide any comments. 222 responses were received in total.

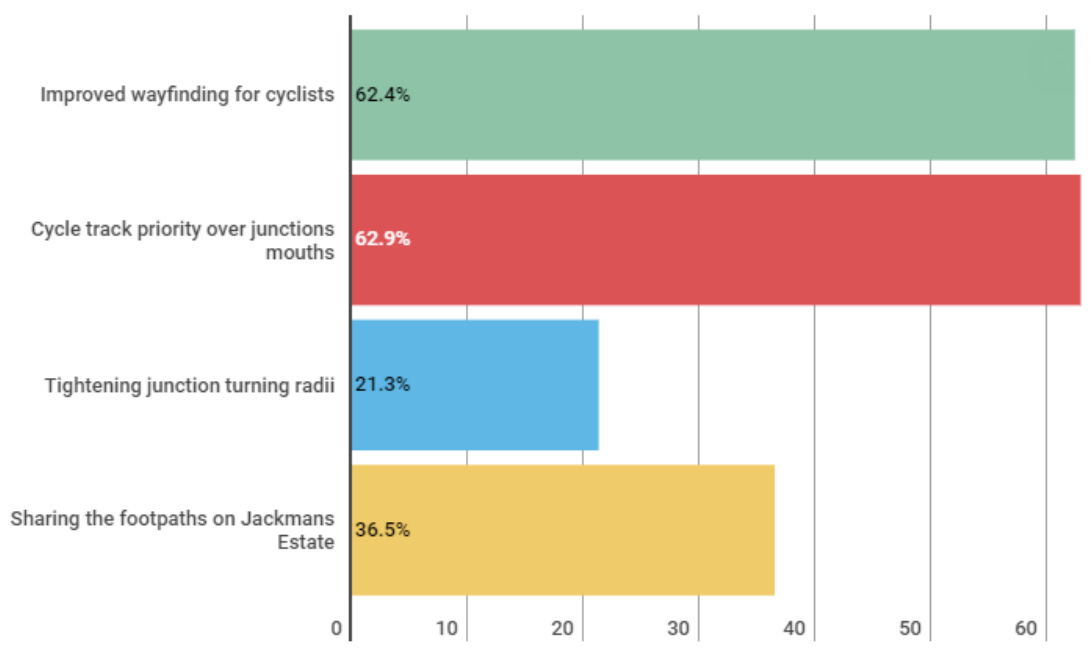
### Respondents' scheme preferences

- 1.2 Respondents could select their preferred schemes under each of the four objectives, the results of which are shown in the following graphs.

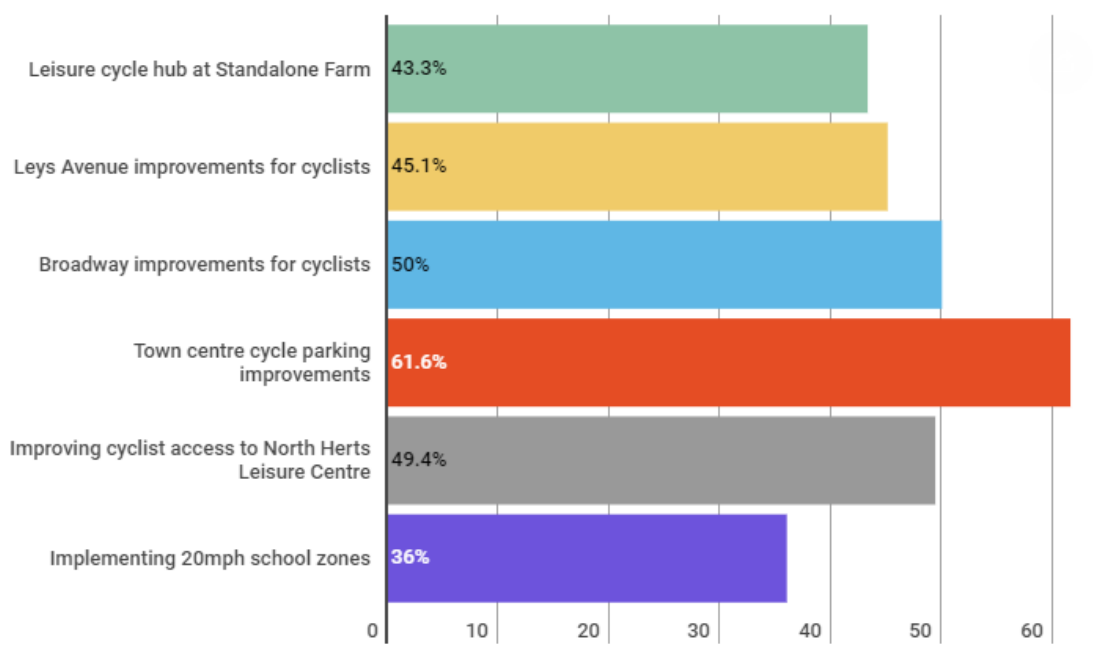
#### 1. Enhance and extend cycle routes to create a comprehensive network, making cycling an easy, pleasant choice.



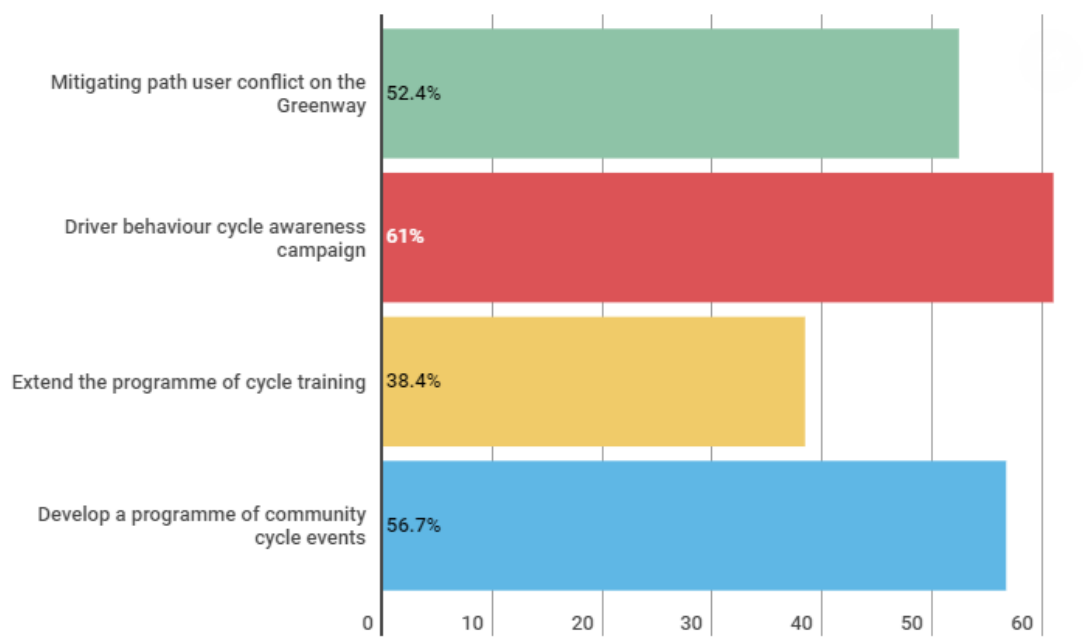
## 2. Make it easier and safer for all to cycle in and through residential areas.



## 3. Improve access by bicycle to key destinations in Letchworth Garden City including the town centre, the station and the leisure centre.



#### 4. Give people the confidence and skills to cycle and encourage positive and safe interactions between cyclists and other road users.



#### Further comments received

- 1.3 Respondents were invited to provide comments and suggestions about the strategy. 109 separate written responses were provided from members of the public, in addition to stakeholder responses from each of Hertfordshire County Council, North Hertfordshire District Council and Letchworth Cyclists Group.
- 1.4 Each comment was reviewed and the key points identified and grouped under key themes or sections. There were 116 different points raised by members of the public, 15% of which were made by 5% or more of public respondents. These points are shown below, split into four broad categories, while the full list of points is shown in Appendix A.

#### Five comments provided general support for improvements for cyclists

Theme	Comment	Totals	%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Support for more segregated cycle tracks on main roads and junctions	12	11%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Support for more cycle lanes (non-specific)	9	8%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Support for the Greenway	7	6%
General comments	General support for improvements for cyclists	5	5%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest that Letchworth cycle network needs to be more comprehensive	5	5%

**A further five comments provided support for a specific scheme in the Strategy**

Theme	Comment	Totals	%
4.2: Driver behaviour cycle awareness campaign	Concern regarding drivers' behaviour, e.g. aggressive, speeding, not giving cyclists enough space	11	10%
2.1: Improved wayfinding for cyclists	Support for improved wayfinding proposals	7	6%
4.1: Mitigating path user conflict on the Greenway	Concern regarding dog and dog owner behaviour	7	6%
4.2: Driver behaviour cycle awareness campaign	Support a driver behaviour cycle awareness campaign	5	5%
4.3: Extend the programme of cycle training	Support extending the programme of cycle training	5	5%

**Two comments provided specific suggestions for the strategy to go further**

Theme	Comment	Totals	%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest improved cycling links to neighbouring towns (e.g. Stevenage, Hitchin, Baldock, Arsley, Fairfield Park, Stotfold)	9	8%
2.4: Sharing the footpaths on Jackmans Estate	Suggest more footways are made shared use across the whole town (not location-specific)	8	7%

**Three comments raised the issue of poor road or path surfaces**

Theme	Comment	Totals	%
General comments	Concern regarding danger of poor quality road surfaces (e.g. potholes)	5	5%
General comments	Suggest improving road surfaces town-wide	5	5%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest improving cycle path surfacing town-wide	5	5%

**Follow up meetings with local councils and community**

- 1.5 Following the review of consultation responses, two follow up meetings were held in autumn 2018 to discuss feedback and agree amendments to the strategy. The first was with officers from Hertfordshire County Council and North Hertfordshire District Council, while the second was open to public consultation respondents from the local community.

**Local Statutory Stakeholders Meeting**

- 1.6 A meeting with local statutory stakeholders took place on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- 1.7 The meeting explored the consulted strategy in depth. Suggest changes to the strategy which was also informed by public consultation feedback were discussed and agreed with council officers at this meeting.
- 1.8 The following amendments to the strategy were discussed and agreed:

### *Scheme 1.1: Improve NCN12 route across Norton Common*

- Remove recommendation to widen path
- Improve crossing for cyclists of Southfields at junction with Grange Road and Pelican Way

#### *1.4: Re-route Greenway away from Wilbury Road mini-roundabouts*

- Provide option of routing either via Monkland or Bursland, final route to be confirmed at detailed design stage
- Suggest route links in with proposed Hill Fort archaeological site south of Ickniel Way
- New route wouldn't necessarily replace the existing Greenway route but would be an additional, more direct route reflecting different nature of use for the Greenway by cyclists.

#### *1.5: Surfacing and access improvements to Greenway*

- Propose a link from the Greenway to Highfield School

#### *1.6: Green link from Standalone Farm to Norton Common*

- Continue proposed link all the way across to eastern side of Norton Common, outdoor swimming pool

#### *2.4: Sharing the footpaths on Jackmans Estate*

- Propose designation of shared use on these paths, in addition to Jackmans (subject to investigations into ownership and rights of way):
  - Rookes Lane to Letchworth Gate underpass
  - Kestral Walk to Letchworth Gate, via Penn Way
  - Dents Close to Baldock Lane
  - Path on west side of Letchworth Gate, from Baldock Lane to St Paul's roundabout
  - Pixmore Avenue to Dunham's Lane
  - Paths from Cromwell Road to Cashio Lane

#### *3.2: Leys Avenue improvements for cyclists*

- Remove suggestion of contraflow cycling on Leys Avenue
- Instead propose contraflow cycle lane northbound on Gernon Road

#### *New scheme: Improve NCN12 link to Stevenage*

- Improve path surface quality on NCN12 to Stevenage
- Improve provision for cyclists at junction of Wymondley Road with Willian Road

#### *New scheme: corridor study of Works Road / Birds Hill / Station Road*

- LHF, HCC, NHDC and Steer agree on the strategic importance of, and opportunity for modal shift by encouraging cycling in the industrial area to the east of Letchworth. However, the work involved to identify a safe, protected route for cyclists along Works Road is beyond the scope of this strategy, and requires a thorough study considering all modes, activities and uses in the area.
- Propose a corridor study to assess safety of different options for cyclists along Works Road / Birds Hill / Station Road

*New scheme: quiet route from Letchworth Gate to town centre*

- A route along Pixmore Way was discussed to bring cyclists from Letchworth Gate to the town centre. Given the challenge of providing safe infrastructure for cyclists on Pixmore Way, without impacting on mature trees or a key traffic route, it was suggested that cyclists could be routed safely from Howards Drive via Lordship Lane and Rushby Mead, with appropriate signage and the introduction of a safe crossing of the A505 from Bowershott to Rushby Mead.

*Discussion of Norton Way north-south corridor (no new scheme proposed)*

- The possibility of providing a north-south cycling corridor along Norton Way was discussed. It was decided that the issues it poses are too great – inadequacy of a shared use footway for such a route, congestion at two roundabouts on route – to progress this scheme. Instead, the strategy will encourage north-south cyclists to use NCN12, enabled by improved east-west links at Gernon Road and Norton Common, should they wish to access Norton Way along their route.

- 1.9 It was also agreed that the updated strategy would include an appendix of further schemes for future consideration to capture valuable suggestions from the public consultation, but are beyond the scope of this strategy.

**Community meeting**

- 1.10 A meeting with a group of approximately 12 local residents took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018.
- 1.11 A summary of the consultation feedback was presented, before the suggested changes (based on consultation feedback and the council meeting) were discussed.
- 1.12 The suggested changes outlined above were all supported and agreed to include as improvements to the strategy at this meeting. Further discussion led to the inclusion of the following proposed changes to the strategy:
- Development of a cycle to school strategy
  - Designation of additional shared use paths
  - Development of route connecting Fairfield to Letchworth
  - Consider the use of modal filters to reduce through motor traffic on certain routes
  - Consider the role of parking permits / controls to reduce the hazards posed by parked cars in certain residential areas

# Appendix A: All points made by public respondents

Theme	Comment	Totals	%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Support for more segregated cycle tracks on main roads and junctions	12	11%
4.2: Driver behaviour cycle awareness campaign	Concern regarding drivers' behaviour, e.g. aggressive, speeding, not giving cyclists enough space	11	10%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest improved cycling links to neighbouring towns (e.g. Stevenage, Hitchin, Baldock, Arlesey, Fairfield Park, Stotfold)	9	8%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Support for more cycle lanes (non-specific)	9	8%
2.4: Sharing the footpaths on Jackmans Estate	Suggest more footways are made shared use across the whole town (not location-specific)	8	7%
2.1: Improved wayfinding for cyclists	Support for improved wayfinding proposals	7	6%
4.1: Mitigating path user conflict on the Greenway	Concern regarding dog and dog owner behaviour	7	6%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Support for the Greenway	7	6%
4.2: Driver behaviour cycle awareness campaign	Support a driver behaviour cycle awareness campaign	5	5%
4.3: Extend the programme of cycle training	Support extending the programme of cycle training	5	5%
General comments	Concern regarding danger of poor quality road surfaces (e.g. potholes)	5	5%
General comments	General support for improvements for cyclists	5	5%
General comments	Suggest improving road surfaces town-wide	5	5%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest improving cycle path surfacing town-wide	5	5%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest that Letchworth cycle network needs to be more comprehensive	5	5%
1.1: Improve NCN12 route across Norton Common	Suggest surfacing improvement of NCN12 route to Stevenage (e.g. tarmac)	4	4%
4.1: Mitigating path user conflict on the Greenway	Support for campaign or signage to improve sharing of Greenway between cyclists and pedestrians	4	4%

Theme	Comment	Totals	%
General comments	Concern regarding current safety of cycling in Letchworth	4	4%
General comments	Concern that current cycling provision is inadequate	4	4%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest directness of cycle routes is important, i.e. few junctions, not routed along indirect back streets	4	4%
1.3: East-west cycle corridor improvements	Suggest improving the quality of the A505 cycle path to Hitchin	3	3%
1.5: Surfacing and access improvements to Greenway	Suggest removal of barriers and access gates that restrict access for cargo bikes, disabled cycles etc.	3	3%
2.4: Sharing the footpaths on Jackmans Estate	Concern regarding shared use pedestrian / cyclist use of footways	3	3%
4.1: Mitigating path user conflict on the Greenway	Concern regarding pedestrian behaviour on Greenway (e.g. headphones, walking in middle of path)	3	3%
4.4: Develop a programme of community cycling events	Support for community cycling events to encourage more cycling	3	3%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest better management of vegetation encroaching on cycle routes	3	3%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Support improvement to north-south cycle corridor	3	3%
1.1: Improve NCN12 route across Norton Common	Concern regarding cyclist behaviour and speed on shared use sections of NCN12, e.g. Norton Common, Grange Road	2	2%
1.1: Improve NCN12 route across Norton Common	Oppose widening of Norton Common shared path	2	2%
1.3: East-west cycle corridor improvements	Suggest improving cycle path surfacing on A505 route to Hitchin	2	2%
1.3: East-west cycle corridor improvements	Support east-west corridor improvements on A505	2	2%
1.4: Re-route Greenway away from Wilbury Road mini-roundabouts	Support re-routing Greenway away from Wilbury Road mini-roundabouts	2	2%
2.1: Improved wayfinding for cyclists	Concern that Greenway cycle app not working properly	2	2%
3.6: Implementing 20 mph school zones	Suggest improving cycle routes to secondary schools	2	2%
3.6: Implementing 20 mph school zones	Suggest town-wide 20mph	2	2%
4.1: Mitigating path user conflict on the Greenway	Suggest cyclists cycle on left and walkers on right on Greenway	2	2%



Theme	Comment	Totals	%
4.2: Driver behaviour cycle awareness campaign	Suggest stricter enforcement of dangerous driving	2	2%
4.3: Extend the programme of cycle training	Suggest cycle training for all road users (not just cyclists)	2	2%
4.4: Develop a programme of community cycling events	Suggest town centre cycle events	2	2%
4.4: Develop a programme of community cycling events	Suggest working with local cycle clubs to host events	2	2%
General comments	Concern that stakeholder engagement was insufficient to develop strategy	2	2%
General comments	Suggest stricter enforcement of parking restrictions	2	2%
General comments	Suggest that current cycling provision is adequate	2	2%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest that cycling should be encouraged in industrial area to east of Letchworth (e.g. work with employers, install cycle lanes)	2	2%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest use of one way streets and cycle contraflows	2	2%
1.1: Improve NCN12 route across Norton Common	Concern that NCN12 route from Broadway to Norton Common is hard to follow and has dangerous junctions	1	1%
1.6: Green link from Standalone Farm to Norton Common	Suggest cycle route east-west across Norton Common	1	1%
1.1: Improve NCN12 route across Norton Common	Suggest cyclists are banned from parallel path (in woods) to west of Norton Common NCN12 path	1	1%
1.1: Improve NCN12 route across Norton Common	Suggest improvements to dangerous junction of Willian Road and Wymondley Road	1	1%
1.1: Improve NCN12 route across Norton Common	Suggest that lighting across Norton Common should not encourage cyclists to ride without lights after dark	1	1%
1.1: Improve NCN12 route across Norton Common	Suggest zebra crossing at Southfields to make NCN12 route safer	1	1%
1.1: Improve NCN12 route across Norton Common	Support for lighting across Norton Common	1	1%

Theme	Comment	Totals	%
1.1: Improve NCN12 route across Norton Common	Support widening NCN12 route across Norton Common	1	1%
1.2: Development of secondary north-south cycle corridor	Suggest segregated cycle track on grass verges of Letchworth Gate	1	1%
1.2: Development of secondary north-south cycle corridor	Suggest that cycle facility across railway bridge between Icknield Way and Works Road must be cyclable, i.e. cyclists must not be required to dismount	1	1%
1.4: Re-route Greenway away from Wilbury Road mini-roundabouts	Suggest lower speed limit (30mph) on Wilbury Hills Road	1	1%
1.4: Re-route Greenway away from Wilbury Road mini-roundabouts	Suggest wider, shared use footway on Wilbury Hills Road	1	1%
1.5: Surfacing and access improvements to Greenway	Concern that access gates on the Greenway are hard to negotiate	1	1%
1.5: Surfacing and access improvements to Greenway	Concern that one kissing gate will not deter motorbike use on Greenway	1	1%
1.5: Surfacing and access improvements to Greenway	Oppose tarmac surface on Greenway	1	1%
1.5: Surfacing and access improvements to Greenway	Suggest local community is involved in maintaining the Greenway	1	1%
1.5: Surfacing and access improvements to Greenway	Suggest safer road crossings on the Greenway	1	1%
1.5: Surfacing and access improvements to Greenway	Suggest toilets on the Greenway	1	1%
1.5: Surfacing and access improvements to Greenway	Support for surfacing improvements on the Greenway	1	1%
2.2: Cycle track priority over junction mouths	Support for cycle track priority over side roads on A505 route to Hitchin	1	1%
2.3: Tightening junction turning radii	Oppose tightening junction turning radii	1	1%
2.4: Sharing the footpaths on Jackmans Estate	Suggest making footway on north side of Gernon Road shared use	1	1%
2.4: Sharing the footpaths on Jackmans Estate	Suggest making footway on south side of Station Road shared use	1	1%

Theme	Comment	Totals	%
2.4: Sharing the footpaths on Jackmans Estate	Suggest making footways in non-residential areas shared use (e.g. industrial, shopping areas)	1	1%
2.4: Sharing the footpaths on Jackmans Estate	Support for campaign or signage to improve sharing of footways across the town between cyclists and pedestrians	1	1%
3.1: Leisure cycle hub at Standalone Farm	Suggest cycle hub on Station Road instead of Standalone Farm	1	1%
3.1: Leisure cycle hub at Standalone Farm	Support for more cycle-friendly cafes	1	1%
3.2: Leys Avenue improvements for cyclists	Concern that contraflow cycle lane on Ley's Avenue will be dangerous for pedestrians	1	1%
3.2: Leys Avenue improvements for cyclists	Oppose contraflow cycle lane on Ley's Avenue	1	1%
3.2: Leys Avenue improvements for cyclists	Suggest that dismounting to use existing crossings at north and south end of Leys Avenue is sufficient for cyclists	1	1%
3.2: Leys Avenue improvements for cyclists	Support contraflow cycling on Leys Avenue	1	1%
3.3: Broadway improvements for cyclists	Suggest blocking off Broadway at South View	1	1%
3.3: Broadway improvements for cyclists	Support for Broadway improvements for cyclists	1	1%
3.4: Town centre cycle parking improvements	Suggest cycle parking in Garden Square shopping centre	1	1%
3.4: Town centre cycle parking improvements	Suggest integrated locking system for cycle parking	1	1%
3.4: Town centre cycle parking improvements	Suggest more cycle parking at shops	1	1%
3.4: Town centre cycle parking improvements	Suggest more cycle parking at train station	1	1%
3.4: Town centre cycle parking improvements	Suggest more cycle parking on Greenway	1	1%
3.4: Town centre cycle parking improvements	Support for more cycle parking in town centre	1	1%
3.5: Improving cyclist access to North Herts Leisure Centre	Support for improving cyclist access to North Herts Leisure Centre	1	1%
3.6: Implementing 20 mph school zones	Suggest a cycling train to schools	1	1%
3.6: Implementing 20 mph school zones	Suggest a driver behaviour cycle awareness campaign near schools	1	1%
3.6: Implementing 20 mph school zones	Suggest more 20mph zones to reduce vehicle speed	1	1%
3.6: Implementing 20 mph school zones	Support implementing 20mph school zones	1	1%

Theme	Comment	Totals	%
4.1: Mitigating path user conflict on the Greenway	Concern regarding cyclist behaviour and respect of pedestrians	1	1%
4.1: Mitigating path user conflict on the Greenway	Support improving cyclist behaviour when sharing the Greenway with dogs and dog owners	1	1%
4.3: Extend the programme of cycle training	Suggest a safe area where new cyclists can practice, e.g. cycle / bmx track	1	1%
4.3: Extend the programme of cycle training	Suggest cycle maintenance courses	1	1%
4.3: Extend the programme of cycle training	Suggest importance of cycle training for adults	1	1%
4.4: Develop a programme of community cycling events	Suggest bringing back the cycle race around Broadway Gardens	1	1%
4.4: Develop a programme of community cycling events	Suggest family events with hire bikes	1	1%
4.4: Develop a programme of community cycling events	Suggest school-based cycling events	1	1%
General comments	Concern regarding limits to vehicle access	1	1%
General comments	Reference to previous North Herts cycle strategy (1999)	1	1%
General comments	Suggest a strategy needs to consider all transport modes	1	1%
General comments	Suggest a town-wide behaviour campaign to improve sharing of paths between cyclists and pedestrians	1	1%
General comments	Suggest car-free days	1	1%
General comments	Suggest discounts for people shopping without a car	1	1%
General comments	Suggest it is made illegal for cyclists to use road when a cycle track is available	1	1%
General comments	Suggest long-term strategy is equally important as quick wins	1	1%
General comments	Suggest that cycle improvements should take road space from vehicles not pedestrians	1	1%
General comments	Suggest that strategy should promote e-bikes	1	1%
General comments	Suggest town centre is car-free zone	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Concern regarding parked cars	1	1%

Theme	Comment	Totals	%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Concern regarding safety of cycling along Pixmore Way	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Concern that street lighting is inadequate or switched off at night on certain streets	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Oppose cycle lanes marked with painted lines and bicycle symbols	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest 20mph limits on roads designated as cycle routes	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest a contraflow cycle lane on Gernon Road	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest a cycle route connecting Letchworth to Arsley via Fairfield Park	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest a more advanced off-road route similar to the Greenway	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest a one-way system for vehicles along Broadway and Pixmore Way, enabling contraflow cycling	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest coloured cycle tracks to make it clear they are for cyclists	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest cycle track on Ashwell Road	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest cycle track on Stotfold Road	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest extending the Greenway	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest improved cycle route via Ickleford	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest modal filters to restrict traffic and enable cycle routes	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest more off road trails, in addition to Greenway	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest more promotion of the Greenway	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest Quietways signposting cyclists along back street routes are implemented in Letchworth	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Suggest toucan crossing of Pixmore Way at Rushby Mead junction	1	1%
Objective 1: Cycling network	Support for more cycle lanes (marked with painted lines and bicycle symbols)	1	1%
Objective 2: Residential areas	Concern regarding narrow roads caused by landscaping and on-street parking	1	1%
Objective 2: Residential areas	Suggest a speed limit for cyclists on cycle paths	1	1%
Objective 4: Confidence and skills	Support encouraging more cycling to work	1	1%

