

Pocketsize Road Safety

Transport in the News (KS2, Years 10 and 11)

Choose either article 1 or 2. Read the article and answer the questions underneath.

Article 1

New Zealand First Country to Fund Pop Up Bike Lanes and Widened Sidewalks During Lockdown. Forbes 13 April 2020

Transport Minister Julie Anne Genter has invited cities in New Zealand to apply for 90% funding to widen sidewalks and carve out temporary cycleways, measures that can be put in place in hours and days rather than the weeks and months that it can often take to install such infrastructure.

Extra space for people will enable key workers and others to maintain two meters of physical distance when walking or cycling.



Example of a temporary bike lane in Berlin.

Questions

1. What do we call a 'sidewalk' in this country?
2. Do you like the idea of having wider pavements and more temporary bike lanes?

Yes or no?

3. This will help us with social distancing (keeping 2 metres away from each other), but can you think of any other benefits of these wider paths?

4. In the current circumstances, if we are out on a daily walk and meet another pedestrian walking towards you on the pavement what would you do? Remember the importance of social distancing.

5. Do you think this idea of wider paths would work in Shropshire's historic market towns or might it work better in the bigger cities?

Say yes or no and why you think this.

Thank you and well done. Ray Hughes, Active Travel and Road Safety Officer.

1 Sidewalk is a pavement or footpath
3 It could make walking more pleasant and keep us further away from the road and traffic. Could help those with disabilities such as the blind, those parents with wider pushchairs and buggies. Could encourage more to walk which will be good for the people's health and well-being. Less pollution if fewer travel by car and walk or bike instead.
4 Stop and move to the side to keep well away (2 metres if at all possible) from the passing pedestrian.
5 and 6 It may work better in the cities where there could be the space to have these wider paths. Some of our historic market towns have only narrow roads and buildings that are close to them. Might try to make more town centres car free perhaps and for pedestrians and cyclists only.

Article 2

Lockdown proves life - and our cities - are better without cars.

The Scottish Herald, 17 April 2020.

Spending 23 hours a day indoors, though, has added extra enjoyment to cycling, something from which I already took great pleasure.



It's not only the newfound freedom of space that makes the roads more enticing, it's the lack of noise. There's a nice silence, easy on the ears. Birdsong is more pronounced.

Of course, it's not all utopia. There are still idiots treating the almost empty roads as a racetrack challenge and let's hope these chumps feel the force of the law.

Cars destroy health - at an individual and societal level. They destroy the environment.

There are so many sound and sensible reasons for pushing active travel and cutting car use - we know them well already.

It is joyous to see families cycling together, couples out on the roads, novice cyclists confidently owning the tarmac - all with reduced fear of vehicles.

When this is over, we want to keep people using active travel.

Questions

1. What is 'active travel'?
2. How is walking and cycling good for you?
3. How can cars and transport harm the environment?

4. What new exercise habits have you got into during lockdown?

5. What have you enjoyed most about a walk or bike ride during lockdown?

Thank you and well done. Ray Hughes, Active Travel and Road Safety Officer.

1 Active travel is when you make a journey by foot (or scooter) or by bike.
2 Active travel is good for your heart, your lungs, your muscles and your bones. It's good for your mental health. It can help keep your weight down.
3 Vehicles burn fossil fuels which then release greenhouse gases which can contribute to global warming and climate change. These gases also cause air pollution which can harm our lungs and breathing.