

Notice of Motion – 29 October 2024

Motion Title: Road Safety in Sandwell

Proposer: Councillor Richard Jeffcoat

Seconder: Councillor John Tipper

“Council notes the everyday impacts across Sandwell from the actions of a small minority of car drivers – these are seen in speeding, scrambler and off-road bikes, and through pavement parking. This impacts the young and old alike, as well as our disabled resident. Responsibility for tackling these issues is split between the Council and Police, as well as the need to encouraging changes in behaviours.

Council further notes recent statements made by the Secretary of State for Transport encouraging the use of 20 miles per hour limits of residential roads to improve pedestrian, bike and road user safety across all communities.

Council welcomes plans for the extension of the Metro from Wednesbury to Dudley and beyond, and the approach of the new West Midlands Mayor toward the management and funding of bus services across the region.

Council further welcomes opportunities to grow Sandwell’s local cycle lane network and safe pedestrian routes with the aim of encouraging people into alternative sustainable transport solutions, which in turn will help support improved health outcomes and air quality.

Council places on record its continued support, subject to appropriate funding from Government to expand our network of cycle lanes and safe routes for pedestrians, and to celebrating our canal network and green spaces.

Council therefore calls on the Leader and Cabinet to:

1. Write to the Secretary of State for Transport setting out the terms of this Motion and seeking the introduction at the earliest opportunity of powers to enable local authorities to tackle pavement parking outside London and to give additional powers to ensure the safe use of electric scooters, e-bikes and bikes.
2. Establish a cross-party Working Group to explore options to improve road safety across the borough, including but not limited to the expanded use of 20 miles per hour limits on residential roads and exploring options relating to increase road safety using current and emergent technology.”