

Haddenham Safe walking and cycling group

Responses to questions on active travel sent to all candidates for Haddenham and Stone ward ahead of elections on May 1st.

Responses were received from candidates from all parties. Where two candidates from the same party each supplied a response, we have published both. We also requested responses to fit on a single page, but have included the full text of any that exceeded this.

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Questions:

1. Haddenham has campaigned for a safe, traffic free route to Thame for over 25 years. Support for a Haddenham-Thame Greenway is overwhelming. If elected, will you commit to supporting progress on the greenway, and what practical steps will you take to ensuring the project becomes a reality within your term of office?
2. Will you personally commit to seeking quarterly updates on progress to report back to the community?
3. Bucks Council has adopted a Local Walking and Cycling Plan comprising 65 routes across the county. How will you work to ensure connections between Haddenham-Thame and Haddenham-Aylesbury are prioritised within this?
4. HaddSWAC has long campaigned for a village-wide 20 mph limit and polling suggests there is very strong support locally. Do you agree with the concept and if so, what steps will you take to see it implemented?
5. If not, what is your alternative vision for making our streets safer and more welcoming for all?
6. A walking and cycling route to the station from the new developments in the north of the village was included as a condition of their planning permission, but has failed to materialise. How would you work with the planning department to ensure it is delivered?

Hello, I am the Labour Candidate for the Ward in the next election. I am currently a Councillor in Wycombe, where I have stood for 10 years.

I am very interested in the idea of safe traffic routes for residents. If elected I would firstly like to meet with the campaign group to get to know the residents involved and visit the locations under discussions. I would ask the Officers involved for regular updates that can be shared for information.

I am currently in Aberystwyth, picking up my daughter from University. There is a wide spread adoption of the 20mph speed limit. I think it's an excellent idea and would campaign to have this within Bucks.

If a planning condition has not been fulfilled I would seek clarification from the Planning Officer for the works as to why it had not happened and bring it to the attention of the Planning Team for attention.

Andrea
Andrea Baughan

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Questions 1 & 2

I've lived in both Haddenham and Thame, so I understand what a difference the Greenway would make. A safe and accessible route between both towns is more necessary than ever.

Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Councils both say they support the Greenway, but their heel-dragging actions suggest otherwise. Countless plans, consultations and feasibility studies have led nowhere. As Councillor, I'll work with both Councils to ensure they finally start taking this project seriously. Quarterly progress updates are the least I can do.

Building the Greenway requires battles, e.g. for compulsory land purchases, that the Council has to date been reluctant to fight. Elect me and I won't shy from such difficult decisions.

Question 3

The LCWIP proposes new cycle and walking routes between Haddenham-Thame and Haddenham-Aylesbury. There's a strong case for prioritising these routes: connecting Haddenham's railway station to our neighbours benefits the entire area, and, as the report notes, both routes have a relatively high scope for funding.

As Councillor I'll make these arguments to push those routes to the top of the agenda.

Questions 4 & 5

I fully support a village-wide 20mph limit. We're a small village with three schools and lots of children - if drivers are in a rush they can take the A418 and avoid Haddenham entirely. I'm particularly concerned by the Woodways/Stanbridge Road junction, which is a tragedy waiting to happen and desperately needs traffic calming measures.

Ludicrously, the Grove - a family development with two playgrounds - currently has a 60mph limit! Buckinghamshire Council recently agreed to lower this to 30mph, but it's not enough: a recent public consultation showed overwhelming support for 20mph.

The Council seems ideologically opposed to 20mph zones, and their procedure for lowering limits is deliberately slow and expensive in order to block change. Systemic reform may be necessary. However, we can't be the only place in Buckinghamshire that wants safer roads. As Councillor I'll work with others across the county to make it easier for everyone to get the speed limits they feel are sensible.

Question 6

It's completely unacceptable for the developer to renege on commitments that were promised in the planning permission. As Councillor I'll hold the planning department's feet to the fire to make sure this promise is kept.

Given the developments' proximity to the train station, it may make sense to integrate this route into the Greenway project. This would expedite delivery and lower costs.

George Millo
Social Democratic Party candidate for Haddenham and Stone
george.millo@sdp.org.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'G Millo'.

Active Travel - Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling group.
Dr Maru Mormina. Green Party Candidate



1. Haddenham-Thame Greenway.

Since moving to the village more than five years ago, my family and I have supported the campaign in various ways. As an environmentally conscious resident, keen cyclist, and parent of a child who attends school in Thame, I understand the urgency to create a sustainable transport link between the two areas, reduce emissions, parking overcrowding around the train station, and encourage healthier living for local communities. If elected, I will use my position to keep the project high on the agenda by ensuring that cross-council working groups remain effective and accountable, and by keeping the issue in the public eye through regular press coverage and active engagement with local organisations (including HaddSWAC) to exert maximum pressure on the Cabinet.

2. Quarterly updates on progress

I absolutely commit to regularly feeding back to the community, through our Village Green, social media, reports to HaddSWAC or any other means. This will not only keep me accountable, but above all, will ensure that my work as a Councillor is a true partnership with the people I represent, in keeping with Green Party values of democratic participation and accountability.

3. Local Walking and Cycling Plan.

Although the Thame-Haddenham-Aylesbury is only one of the 65 routes across the county envisaged by the plan, I believe there is a strong rationale for giving it a high priority, not least because it has been in the making for over 25 years! And from the responses to the LCWIP consultation conducted last year it is clear that no other routes have the strength of public support that the Haddenham-Thame Greenway has. People's voices should dictate Council priorities and I will exert pressure on the Council to recognise this. As a Councillor, I will also commit to ensuring that the evidence on the economic, environmental and public health rationale for the Greenway is always front and centre of any debate and overrides any party politics.

4-5. Village-wide 20 mph limit and alternative vision for safer streets.

Whilst as a matter of principle I do not support blanket approaches but prefer action tailored to the specific contexts, I recognise that many roads in Haddenham are not suitable for 30mph speeds. Yet, this Council remains opposed to change. That's one reason why we need to rebalance its composition. If elected, I will support lowering speed limits where residents want them but I will also encourage a more comprehensive and ambitious vision that includes walking and accessibility improvements, better cycling infrastructure around the village, and designing our streets with inclusivity in mind (safer routes to schools, benches and rest points for older and disabled residents, fixing uneven pavements, more shelters at key spots, etc.). I will also encourage community-led design for reimagining spaces like Fort End, Woodways, or Dollicott and involve local artists, students, etc. in creative signage, street art, or way finding projects.

6. A walking and cycling route to the station from the new developments.

Whether due to lack of resources or lack of interest, the Council's oversight function has proven less than adequate. This reduces compliance. My personal philosophy is "engage early if you want to intervene effectively". In the context of walking/cycling routes from the new developments, this means working with developers and Council officials from the very early stages of the project and throughout. Through work, I have developed strong analytical skills and attention to detail, and if elected, I will put them to good use to scrutinise planning applications and ensure that the right questions get asked. Because the devil is always in the detail.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maru Mormina'.

Maru Mormina

Dear Alan, HaddSWAC

Thank you for your email re, active travel in Haddenham and Stone.

We are well aware and concerned about the dangers of travelling by foot , cycle or motor vehicle in the Haddenham and Stone ward.

We are particularly concerned for the safety of cyclists and motor cyclists on our treacherous potholed roads in the ward. The danger that cyclist have to endure to avoid potholes is unreasonable and having to swerve to avoid them and speeding motorists is a danger which is unacceptable. Our first priority (if elected) would be to repair our roads in a cost effective and permanent way. We will address your questions one at a time.

1, We agree that a Haddenham-Thame Greenway would be an excellent idea and it would help peoples physical and mental health and wellbeing immeasurably. However, we don't know if you are aware but Bucks council is £289m in debt and we have been told that the daily interest council tax payers have to fork out alone is over £80k a day. As we're sure you will understand we cannot make false promises that cannot be kept until we know that the council could afford it.

2, We would send updates as and when any relevant updates are available.

3, Should the current administration be re-elected, we will work to hold them to their promises regarding connections between Haddenham-Thame and Haddenham-Aylesbury ensuring they are prioritised.

4, We are very keen on implementing a 20mph speed limit around areas with heavy pedestrian traffic and schools, but would much prefer traffic calming ie, chicanes or speed bumps as the only way of guaranteeing slowing down of speeding vehicles.

5, See above.

6, We will put pressure on the council (whatever their colour) to be held to their promises.

Yours Faithfully

Reggie Paterson.

Sarah Kennedy.

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your email on behalf of the (HaddSWAC). I appreciate your efforts to promote active travel in our village. As a local resident, parent, and community volunteer, I recognise the importance of safer spaces for walking, cycling, and wheeling as Haddenham grows. It is crucial that any commitments are based on thorough local evidence and insights from relevant authorities, including Buckinghamshire Council.

1. Haddenham–Thame Greenway:

The vision of a safe, direct route between Haddenham and Thame in our community is shared by some. I support the principle of progressing the Greenway where feasible and appropriate. However, I understand this is a complex cross-county project involving land ownership, planning considerations, and funding across Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. If elected, I would collaborate constructively with officers, landowners, and local representatives to ensure progress continues. I would also seek regular briefings to understand how best to support realistic delivery during the council term.

2. Quarterly updates:

I support the principle of regular updates for the public on key infrastructure matters. That said, any such commitment must respect negotiations' formal processes and confidentiality, especially when dealing with cross-border projects. I would aim to encourage transparency and timely community engagement wherever possible.

3. Local Walking and Cycling Plan:

Buckinghamshire Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) provides a valuable framework, and Haddenham's strategic position makes links to Aylesbury and Thame particularly important. I would advocate for Haddenham's needs to be represented in LCWIP delivery priorities and support engagement with local and regional transport officers.

4. 20mph village-wide limit:

Speed and safety are major concerns for residents, and while 20mph zones can be beneficial, national guidance from the Department for Transport emphasises the need for evidence-based implementation. I can support 20mph limits in areas where evidence indicates they are effective. However, changing signs without enforcement or infrastructure often does not enhance safety, given the complexity of the issue and the involvement of stakeholders like Thames Valley Police.

5. Alternatives to a blanket 20mph:

Instead of a blanket approach, I support targeted interventions such as improved crossings, better street design, and traffic-calming measures. For example, I understand the reworked junction near the station includes a tighter turning circle and potentially a raised table crossing to enhance pedestrian safety. I would welcome more such interventions that improve safety outcomes.

6. Station access from the north:

Thank you for raising this, but I do not have access to the specifics. If elected, I will work with the relevant planning officers and the parish council to ensure that such commitments are met or, at the very least, explained to the residents. It is essential that development-led infrastructure is delivered as intended. As a councillor, I represent all residents in a constructive, evidence-based, and practical way. I welcome all initiatives that genuinely improve the quality of life in our ward and look forward to continued discussions.

Best Wishes,

Ngqabutho Bobby Sibanda "For a Stronger, Fairer Community"



Views on Active Travel - Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling group.

Cllr Greg Smith - Green Party

Haddenham - Thame Greenway

Over twenty years ago I joined the first cycle demonstration with my wife and young children (now grown-up!) calling for this cycleway. I have continued to campaign for this vital link since then, we have been waiting far too long. As an elected Councillor I have used every opportunity at Committees and Full Council to challenge Council leaders over the appalling lack of support for this vital transport link. If re-elected I will continue this pressure.

Quarterly Updates.

Yes, I am more than happy to be held accountable by this community and will report back at least quarterly. I am a firm believer in the principle, "what get measured is what gets done". This discipline will ensure that I keep challenging the Cabinet and officers alike for progress.

Priorities within the Local Walking and Cycling Plan

I have used my position to demanded greater detail on the consultation responses to this plan. If re-elected I would continue to apply this pressure on the Council to recognise that the priorities should be set by the demands of future users, the demands of rate payers! The Haddenham/Thame greenway is just the first stage. We should expect that a Greenway will link Thame to Aylesbury via Haddenham and this central spine should include links to other communities such as Cuddington and Long Crendon.

20 MPH Limit

I support the proposal for a 20mph speed limit through the centre of communities and particularly around schools. The evidence from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) is unequivocal – 20mph saves lives and reduces casualties. As a member of Haddenham Parish Council I am fully behind the 'Street Scape' proposals on show at the Parish Offices. 20mph is central to this innovative design. If re-elected I would continue these activities.

Alternative vision for making our streets safer

As a Parish Councillor I am working with HaddSWAC to address trip hazards on pavements that make it difficult for the elderly or people with limited mobility to stay active in the community. I fully support the broader, innovative approach of the Street Scape proposals.

Working with the Planners

The walking/ cycling route from the new development features as part of the design for phase 2. This phase has not yet started. I am constantly monitoring this, and a number of other planning issues, as a current member of the Bucks planning committee. Getting things done means working alongside planners and others within the Council whilst holding them to account and scrutinising the details at every stage. By design or omission, things get missed unless we remain vigilant. If re-elected I intend to continue this level of challenge and scrutiny.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Smith'.

Greg Smith

Wednesday 9th April 2025

Response to HaddSWAC members and questions from Carmel Traynor Liberal Democrat

Dear Members,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address your questions. I welcome your engagement with me.

1. Haddenham has campaigned for a safe, traffic free route to Thame for over 25 years. Support for a Haddenham-Thame Greenway is overwhelming. If elected, will you commit to supporting progress on the greenway, and what practical steps will you take to ensuring the project becomes a reality within your term of office?

If elected, I will absolutely commit to working passionately on continuing this work at pace for the benefit of all of us. This is such vital work for the health, environmental and wellbeing of our residents and community. If elected, I will be representing you and your voice at all levels. I will be holding to account with great clarity those officials who are working to scope out the next level of the process. In practical steps it looks like attendance at meetings, engaging with community, being available, being a present and active voice and being knowledgeable on the issues. I am very fortunate to have had so much support from Sue Lewin in meeting with her and getting updates and support from her.

The Liberal Democrat MP Freddie Van Mierlo (MP for Henley & Thame) said on 15th January 2025 in UK parliament.

"In my own constituency within these confines, I am prioritising my efforts to deliver on the Thame to Haddenham Greenway, a cycle route proposal to connect the market town of Thame to the nearby village of Haddenham in Berkshire, just two miles away. Currently cycling between the two requires a high degree of confidence to mix in alongside the heavy traffic of the A418. It would seem to be an obvious case for development and would be a brilliant proof of concept; however, the cycleway has been mooted for the past 20 years"

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Follow a hugely successful result in the general election, as a member of liberal democrats we have access to several local MPs and exciting opportunities to pull together a greater number of voices and support on this and many other issues.

2. Will you personally commit to seeking quarterly updates on progress to report back to the community?

I personally commit to providing quarterly updates and am happy to be held accountable for doing such. Haddenham has a number of vibrant forums and committed groups and if elected I look forward to participating with and representing the strength of local voices on this issue. Having worked in Buckinghamshire Council until 2023 in community links, housing and commissioning, I am very experienced with dealing with council officers and navigating their reports and communication styles. I will be hardworking and transparent.

I currently work for a local authority as a Senior Housing Reviews Officer and have experience at reviewing and evaluating legislation and process. This experience will be beneficial to the residents of Haddenham and Stone.

3. Bucks Council has adopted a Local Walking and Cycling Plan comprising 65 routes across the county. How will you work to ensure connections between Haddenham-Thame and Haddenham-Aylesbury are prioritised within this?

As I sit here, replying to these questions the truth is I have no idea what Buckinghamshire will look like politically after these elections, so the current set of priorities may look very different from May 3rd 2025, or they may be the same. Whilst this presents with some uncertainty, what I am certain of, is this. Haddenham, Thame and Aylesbury have waited a very long time for movement on this issue, I can assure you that the Haddenham- Thame and Haddenham -Aylesbury connections will be my priority. That means that I will be active, vocal and local on the challenging of delays and in terms of the often vague, generic communications. I live in Aylesbury, 6 miles from my neighbours in Haddenham and I can assure residents that I will be a reliable and professional representative for your vote.

4. HaddSWAC has long campaigned for a village-wide 20 mph limit and polling suggests there is very strong support locally. Do you agree with the concept and if so, what steps will you take to see it implemented?

I do fully support this campaign. 30 million people live in places committed to the 20 mph (from 20 is plenty website). In my view Buckinghamshire should be another of those. In addition to the safety afforded to residents it has also been shown to reduce emissions by 28%. I want to continue the work that has been started on the campaign in Haddenham and also work across the county with other Cllrs. know that other towns

are also keen to look at this. Buckinghamshire is considered quite regressive on this matter by some and with good reason. I don't believe that we can keep ripping up our towns and villages with HS2, house building and road building and yet keep telling residents that there is no money for features that keep us safer and greener. It's about priorities and the liberal democrats have an established record of supporting green and environmental issues.

5. If not, what is your alternative vision for making our streets safer and more welcoming for all? N/A

6. A walking and cycling route to the station from the new developments in the north of the village was included as a condition of their planning permission but has failed to materialise. How would you work with the planning department to ensure it is delivered?

I will passionately defend the rights of local residents and work with others to bring a sustained and energised presence to Bucks Council to demand that developers deliver on their plans and promises. It is far too common for residents to be presented with glossy plans only to find that the local community is left with much of the chaos and little of the promised gifts by the developers.

From my time working in Bucks Council I have formed good relationships with people across a number of departments and I have the experience, diplomacy and communication skills that are required to sustain and build the relationships that are fruitful and effective to meet the needs of residents and delivery on the promises made to them. The key words in this question are "condition of their planning permission". Contractual conditions must be delivered and the key to supporting residents and community with this, is to have a balanced, consistent and sustained commitment to resolving the issue and demonstrating clear transparency to residents.