

A vision for rural connectivity (in Hertfordshire...)

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Why rural connectivity (in Hertfordshire) needs to change

Car dependence: many places people want to get to have been planned round cars and roads, and there is a lack of good/cheap/safe alternatives to driving for many journeys, leading to...

- Congestion (parts of the county are already like a car park, and post Covid things might get worse)
- Air pollution (from tyres and brakes as well as from exhausts)
- Social isolation for those without access to a car

& there is climate change: *transport is the biggest contributor to UK carbon emissions and tackling this will require cuts in traffic levels as well as shift to electric vehicles*

A long term prospectus

- **Much better public transport:** electric, frequent, integrated, with trams and trains linking to buses, taxis and taxi buses
- **Paying for transport differently:** cars pay by the mile rather than fuel /vehicle taxes, public transport is cheap or free
- **15 minute neighbourhoods:** the places and services you need (shops, schools, health centres etc) can be walked or cycled to within 15 minutes
- **Community (mobility) hubs** bringing together local services and shared mobility - e-bikes, cargo bikes, e-scooters, shared cars etc.
- **High quality cycle lanes** link places across the county and take you into town and local centres with good cycle parking
- **Local delivery services** use electric vans or cargo bikes and link to stations

To get there, start now!

- Plan new homes in the right places, with good public transport and walking
- Bike hire schemes (Watford already has one)
- Community (mobility) hubs: pilot these in Hertfordshire towns with workspaces, e-bike hire, e-scooters etc
- Better bus services, building on existing initiatives (Intalink transport - HertsLynx and North Hertfordshire etc), improve pilot reduced fares

