

## Rob Gibbs

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**From:** Eddie Thomas  
**Sent:** 27 September 2023 12:38  
**To:** Rob Gibbs  
**Cc:** Louise Bareham  
**Subject:** Please print and table a copy for ALL active travel committee members

### **Subject:** Town centre cycling

Hello Eddie,

As you may know, I've been helping Julian Saunders (copied here) with pedestrian priority work by Stonebridge Pond, among other things. Julian and I met recently to review last year's works there designed to improve pedestrian safety (thumbs-up, with a few things to do to complete the job).

Inevitably, our conversation took in related matters, chiefly prompted by the Faversham News report of a few weeks ago on funding gained for cycling and walking improvements in Faversham. In the conversation I mentioned to Julian a long-held view of mine that cycling management in Faversham town centre is poor to the verge of dangerous; he suggested I raise that with you.

My particular concern is with the core town centre (West Street, Market Place, Court Street, Middle Row, Market Street, East Street and Preston Street); a pedestrianized zone from which cycling is barred under long-standing traffic orders. Despite that regime, my observation is a number of cyclists do not adhere to the order, but ride through the zone, constituting a significant public danger.

While I appreciate a plea for enforcement of regulations is probably futile, I suggest better signage would help the situation. I'm in-principle against further signage and street clutter in the conservation area, but feel the level of this signage is well below inadequate.

Of the four main entrances to the zone (West Street, Court Street, East Street and Preston Street) only West Street and Court Street have any relevant signs. That at West Street is poorly sited - well away from pertinent sight-lines - and both signs are so small it is difficult either to first see and then read them from distance. Preston Street and East Street have no signage re cycling at all.

I propose the practicalities of maintaining pedestrian priority in the core town centre are reviewed and, specifically, improved signage making clear it is a cycle-free zone is introduced.

Would you let me know how this improvement can be achieved please? I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best  
Laurence (Young)

Cllr Eddie Thomas, Liberal Democrat, Chair of Active Travel Committee