

SOLD OUT OF ALL WEEKEND TICKETS IN BOTH

TICKETS WERE VERY EXHAUSTED.

METALICA.

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OBJECT TO: lack of timeframe, costings and priorities

No confidence in cycling strategy

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The cycling groups particularly objected to the lack of a time frame and budget in the strategy, as well as the unchallenging target of 20 per cent the council set itself for increasing cycling.

The report submitted to the council reads: "We feel that a 20 per cent increase in cycle trips over seven years [from the council's 2003/4 cycle count to the end of the strategy in 2010/11] is much lower than could easily be achieved given the public appetite for sustainable travel and health awareness."

It went on to criticise the council's action plan, saying: "This is simply a summary of proposals lacking any timeframes, costings or priorities and gives no confidence in the council's intention to implement the proposed actions."

The groups particularly objected to the council's plan for a "flagship" cycle route along Bath Road, because it suggested cyclists sharing the pavement with pedestrians.

Mr Elliot said: "Fundamentally cyclists don't like to be put on footpaths, and pedestrians share the view."

"At first sight you might think it was safer but it makes life more dangerous for cyclists."

"It's generally accepted by cycling

Cross-party debate promises lively discussion

A LIVELY cross-party discussion is expected when Reading Cycle Campaign hosts a debate after its annual meeting on Friday night.

Tom Crisp, Labour's lead councillor for planning and transport, Councillor Richard Willis, transport spokesman for the Tories, and Councillor Ricky Duveen, transport

spokesman for the Lib Dems, will all be presenting their visions for the future for cyclists in the town.

Each advocate will be able to speak on their own party's transport strategy, with an emphasis on cycle routes and it is expected to offer a spirited debate.

It is not a public meeting.

groups and it is nationally recognised as a last resort."

However, he added: "We don't think this is as firm as the interim strategy of 2001, but this is just a draft strategy, so there is opportunity to firm it up."

"We hope our criticism is constructive, as we want to see this turned into a firm strategy that the council is willing to commit to."

The Reading Cycle Campaign has also met Conservative councillors to consider their transport strategy, and Mr Elliot said the group is ready to work with whichever party wins in the May elections.

He said of the Tory strategy: "We welcome the fact that the Conservatives' transport strategy gives a high priority to cycling within the transport mix."

"There is undoubtedly potential for a huge increase in the proportion of

trips made by bike.

"To realise this potential will require long-term sustained commitment from the council combined with a willingness to take a fresh look at our town's infrastructure."

"If the Conservatives take control after the May elections then we will be pressing them to turn the sentiments regarding cycling expressed in their transport strategy into tangible results on our streets."

A spokeswoman for Reading Borough Council said: "The council is very grateful for all the comments that have been received for this Cycling Strategy."

"All the feedback and responses are currently being considered."

"The strategy will then be evaluated and revised in light of the comments made, before a formal strategy is agreed."