Your Name

Address line 1

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Town

Post Code

28 September 2014

[NAME OF MP]

House of Commons

Westminster

London

SW1A 0AA

Dear [NAME OF MP],

I am writing regarding the 'Cycling Ambition' grants awarded by the Department for Transport (DfT) in August 2013, designed to deliver innovative capital projects that would **inspire a new generation of cyclists** in our national parks. Four national parks were awarded funding through a competitive bidding round, five were unsuccessful.

I wish to draw your attention to the **revised plans** being submitted to the DfT by the **New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA)** regarding potential funding for promoting cycling within the New Forest. The **original proposal** featured a raft of innovative and inspiring solutions to develop cycling opportunities in the New Forest, which included a dedicated cycle centre, and a ‘Boris Bike’ style hire system, the first in a rural area.

However, the **revised proposal** as **agreed by the NFNPA on Thursday 25th September** appear to be a complete turn around and amount to little more than a waste of £2million of public money. The key reason for the original proposal to be rejected by the NFNPA comes down to ‘anti-cycling’ sentiment that appears to be rife through a majority of the current members, but **not** the wider public as they have claimed. Two particular areas of the new proposal I’d like to draw your attention to are, **A)** to spend over £1.2million resurfacing Rhinefield Drive. The end result will mean a road that is better suited for motorists whilst giving no real improvement to cyclists. **B)** To give £300,000 of the funding to Moors Valley Country Park, which is situated outside of the New Forest National Park. These will be of little or no value in inspiring a new generation of cyclists in the New Forest and amount to a wasted opportunity.

This issue is summed up well in this online article **http://road.cc/content/news/131278-new-forest-plans-use-rural-boris-bike-grant-repair-roads-damaged-cars-instead**

I would be grateful if you could **lobby ministers** to reject the revised plans, and instead, **encourage the NFNPA to go back to their original proposal** that they bid for in the first place.

Yours sincerely,