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| Public Consultation  Cycling on the Felixstowe Promenade |

**Press Release**

**Consultation Results about Cycling on Felixstowe Promenade**

Local people have responded to say they support Felixstowe Town Council’s request to allow cycling on Felixstowe Promenade in the future.

There is currently a bylaw in place which prohibits cycling on the promenade. However, the ban is not enforced and is often ignored by cyclists.

Felixstowe Town Council formally requested that Suffolk Coastal District Council (which imposed the bylaw) removes the signs and allows people to cycle on the promenade.

However, before it made any decision, Suffolk Coastal wanted to hear what local people thought on this issue – and asked Felixstowe Forward carry out a six-week consultation exercise, which was completed at the end of May 2016.

And the result is that of the 500-plus respondents, nearly two-thirds voted for cycling to be allowed on the Prom.

The full results are:

**Total responses:  514**

**Yes - 63.5%**

**No - 36.5%**

NB. This also includes a Grange Primary School comment, that the majority of children would like to see cycling, which was counted as 1 ‘yes’ response.

People were also given the opportunity to make comment on the proposal and Felixstowe Forward has also approached other relevant authorities, including the Police and Suffolk County Council, for their views.

This information will now all be collated into a report, which will include recommendations for the way forward, which will be submitted for the consideration of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Helen Greengrass, Felixstowe Forward Change Director, said: “I would like to thank everyone who responded to this consultation about the Town Council’s request to allow cycling on the Felixstowe Promenade.”

“As Felixstowe Forward is a joint venture between Suffolk Coastal District Council, Felixstowe Town Council and Suffolk County Council which is working to tackle the town’s key challenges and bring in improvements, we were ideally placed to carry out this consultation, as we work with all three authorities and have worked hard to build a relationship within the town, with the community and its businesses.”

“The size of the response and comments people contributed, shows this is an issue that the people of Felixstowe feel very strongly about.

“Now the views of the local people, along with comments from the other agencies, will be collated into a report to allow Suffolk Coastal District Council to make an informed decision on what action it will take on this issue.”

**ENDS**

**Background**

In January 1983, Suffolk Coastal District Council passed some byelaws about ‘Riding Bicycles’, which make cycling on the Felixstowe Promenade unlawful where there are signs put up to prohibit this.

There are signs on the Promenade which prohibit cycling, so it is currently unlawful to cycle along there.

In November 2015, Felixstowe Town Council considered the Byelaws purpose, asking if it was still appropriate.

The Town Council asked: *‘’Suffolk Coastal District Council to consider the removal of notices prohibiting cycling on Felixstowe Prom for a period of no less then 12months; and, pending an assessment of the success of this initiative, consider permitting and promoting safe and considerate cycling on the prom on a permanent basis’’* believing that the Promenade should provide a safe environment for all to enjoy.

However, before it considers the Felixstowe Town Council proposal in detail, Suffolk Coastal was keen to find out what local people think – so asked Felixstowe Forward to carry out a public consultation on the issue (which ran for six weeks from Monday, 18th April to 5pm 27 May 2016).

People were given two clear options:

* Keep the signs which prohibit cycling on the promenade, so continue to make it unlawful; or,
* Allow cycling, by removing the signs and making cycling on the promenade legal.

And asked to answer the simple question: ‘**Should Suffolk Coastal remove the signs and revoke the bylaw to make cycling on Felixstowe Promenade legal?**’