

## **Peter's Letter to The Chronicle**

### *Olympics 2016 Team G B Success*

Now that the 2016 Olympics are over and especially with the success of Team G B Cycling, what does that mean? More Lycra clothed cyclists speeding around and upsetting villages in rural Cheshire as stated in the national press recently.

OR

Could we follow the Dutch and have more cycling lanes and thus a healthier population?

We need our Highways Department, working with Developers/Planners Department of Transport and the Health Authorities to create a more Sustainable Transport system including safer cycling. The recent Killed and Seriously Injured figures published by the DFT, show no decline in people being killed or seriously injured, in fact pedestrian KSI figures have gone up slightly, but motor traffic levels has gone up by 1.8%. According to Cheshire West and Chester Council local plan part one; 22,000 new homes are and will be built in this area between 2010 and 2030 with little new road infrastructure, except the possible Chester Western Relief Road. The government does have a Walking /Cycling Bill in which funds are available to create a safer/walking infrastructure. These funds are not significant and we will never catch up the Dutch cycling infrastructure.

The recently retired Steve Robinson, CEO for CWaC said that a Sustainable Transport Forum is to be organised with the relevant departments. I hope this will include pedestrians/ cyclists and disabled groups of people. The more people who become active in their travel the healthier we will be and if the proposed N H S cuts come we need to be healthier. At present some of the cycling routes do not join up as some sections of routes are only constructed by a new development in the area from the 106 money coming from the Developer. This 106 money is put aside to improve facilities in or close to the development. For example, the new shared footpath bridge over the A 55 at the Posthouse roundabout does not link up with the cycling route further down the Wrexham Road, so we will have to wait until the new housing estate is built opposite the Kings School for this link to be completed? There are other funding pots which CWaC can bid for and a Sustainable Transport Forum would help them to be successful.

**Peter Williams.**