

Cyclists urge road repairs



■ Danger . . . cyclist Les Hitchins is angry over the poor state of the roads in Oxford (Order No: 210126) Picture: David Fleming

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URGENT repair work has been demanded to stop potholes in Oxford's cycle lanes causing a serious accident.

Cyclists fear for their safety as they pedal along the lanes in London Road, Headington.

Headington resident Andy Lewis, speaking at Oxford City Council's north east area committee meeting on Tuesday, said: "If the work is not done there will be a serious accident.

"Potholes are appearing in the lanes and they are becoming dangerous and deep.

"It is a matter of construction, because as the surface of the lanes deteriorate they pull up the foundation and create a dip.

"The other matter of concern is cyclists on footpaths. Most serious cyclists would avoid that like the plague, but some people feel forced on to footpaths because of the state of the cycle lanes, and all that does is put pedestrians at risk."

Les Hitchins, of cyclists' group Cyclox, was not at the meeting, but agreed with Mr Lewis. He said: "There are two big potholes in the bus lane from the Green Road roundabout.

"There were also potholes nearer the shops, but most of them have now been patched up."

He said badly designed cycle lanes, some that don't link up, and others that could do with a lick of paint were a problem throughout Oxford.

Maureen Christian, committee chairman, said: "This is a very important issue. If we are urging people to cycle we should take these concerns seriously."

Colin Carritt, of Oxfordshire County Council's highways department said: "There are probably more cycle ways in Oxford than any other city in the UK so we have a good record to build on. It is all part of a drive to encourage people away from cars."

He urged anyone with concerns about the state of cycle tracks to contact the council on 01865 844311.