Dear Robert

It was very useful to sit down with you and your colleagues from Wandsworth Living Streets ones to discuss Wandsworth Conservative's vision for healthy streets.

Jonathan and I appreciated very much the supportive comments you made about our vision.

During our widespread discussions you asked about our commitment to Liveable London and sought a promise that we would submit a "high quality Liveable London bid". Our manifesto is a testament to our ambition to deliver healthy streets in the borough. In fact, Councillor Sutters's contribution on page 25 of our manifesto captures the breadth of our ambition. I reproduce that here.

We want to celebrate the diversity and difference of our town centres and yet we need to set a norm across the borough that will enable people to flow safely from one side of the road to the other.

This means lower speeds, less street clutter, continuous pavements and better street maintenance.

Our public spaces need to reach a high standard and to ensure that we will create a common standard which all future street refurbishments would be expected to attain and yet allow the design to reflect that each space is different. Where possible, we want to take the opportunity of creating enclaves of calm spaces that are inviting and safe.

These changes will be further enhanced by air quality action plans to reduce pollution that that build on and expand the work that has already happened in Putney High Street.

We believe better public spaces and better streets with cleaner air will help encourage active travel – more walking and more cycling and improved wellbeing.
More and more Wandsworth residents are choosing to cycle to get about. We need to accommodate this growth. We will improve facilities for cyclists – for example by making it easier to park your bike. We will also encourage responsible cycling by working with local cycling organisations.

To achieve our goals, we will need resources, so of course we will want to seek them from wherever we can, including making a strong bid to Transport for London under its Liveable Neighbourhood Programme. My only fear is that TfL's resources may not match our ambition.

Ravi