

March 10, 2003

Our ref: <C 03 013>
Your ref:

Fitzroy Street / Burleigh Street Project Team
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge
CB2 3YA



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

Cc: Councillors Joye Rosenstiel, Colin Rosenstiel, Mike Dixon, Anthony Bowen.

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Changes to streetscape of Fitzroy Street & Burleigh Street

Further to the exhibition and consultation late last year, and following the recent release of an artist's impression of changes to the streetscape of Fitzroy Street & Burleigh Street, we write regarding the provision of cycle parking in this area and the status of the present cycling ban.

Please let us know about (a) current plans for any changes to the cycle parking provision and (b) whether you would be willing to take forward any of our suggestions below on the cycling ban (or if not, what measures you propose could be taken to mitigate the current problems).

Cycle parking

We wish to seek assurance that no reduction in cycle parking will result from these changes. There is arguably a shortage of cycle parking in the area, although what does exist is of good quality, as it is easy to access and enables good security.

We do recognise that the existing streetscape is to some extent cluttered, which is detrimental to the environmental quality of the area. We believe, however, that some cycle parking along the street could be relocated while still making it easily accessible for cyclists.

One location which should certainly be considered is the area of paving outside the Co-operative bank, next to the disabled parking spaces. Some of the other existing cycle parking bays probably need not be moved. Overall, however, there should not be a reduction in the number of spaces available.

Cycling ban

As you will be aware, the Cambridge Cycling Campaign has long advocated the abolition of the cycling ban along these streets; indeed this was one of the issues leading to the Campaign's foundation in 1995.

As we have noted on previous occasions, the alternative 'route' is highly inadequate and further changes seem continually to make things worse, e.g. the changes to the East car park exit which is now hazardous. We therefore wish to see a better balance between cycle access and the proper requirement for pedestrian priority.

We would welcome consideration of the abolition of the ban at least during weekdays, as these streets are not generally congested then.

We would also explicitly request consideration of alteration of the 4pm switch-over point. School children should be able to cycle home in safety. The area in question is very close to a number of schools, many of whose pupils cycle to and from school, and the ending of the cycling ban at 3pm would therefore be a significant contribution to the Safer Routes to Schools initiative.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Martin Lucas-Smith
Co-ordinator