

May 19th 2003

Our ref: NA03008
Your ref:

Mr Jon Finney
Cambridge Projects Team
Highway Services
Cambridge City Council
The Guildhall
Cambridge CB2 3QJ



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

P.O. Box 204, Cambridge CB4 3FN
01223 690718 (phone & fax)
contact@camcycle.org.uk
www.camcycle.org.uk

Dear Mr Finney

Accident Reduction Scheme for Barton Road, Cambridge

We are writing in response to the consultation on this scheme. Your help in explaining the details of the scheme to us is much appreciated.

While welcoming many aspects of the proposed designs, we would request that our suggestions for changes to these designs should be treated as formal objections. If our suggestions are accepted, we would, of course, withdraw our formal objections.

We welcome the proposal for a new Toucan crossing across Barton Road close to Granchester Road. However, there are a number of issues relating to this crossing that we believe need further attention:

1. The crossing should be as close as possible to the junction with Granchester Road to enable cyclists wishing to cross from Granchester Road to Wolfson College or to join the pavement cycleway on the north side of the road to cycle towards Barton to do so without having to make much of a detour.
2. Access to and from the southern end of the crossing by cyclists is problematical. The footway at this point is partly blocked by vegetation outside one house (No.71) which obviously needs to be cleared and kept clear. The footway itself does not appear at present to be designated for use by cyclists. Clear footway signs and marking will be needed at this point including, we hope, red surface treatment with the cycle design marked on the surface to enable cycle access to and from Granchester Road.
3. Dropped kerbs and a straightforward access route to the crossing for on-road cyclists who wish to cross the road using the crossing are needed at both ends of the crossing.

We strongly object to the proposed build-out at the junction of Grange Road with Barton Road. We believe that this proposed build-out could cause an increase in some kinds of cycle accident. It will introduce a pinch point giving inadequate passing space when large vehicles attempt to overtake on-road cyclists. Given that the reason for the proposed build-

out is to increase visibility for traffic exiting Grange Road, a much better (and cheaper) solution would be to remove the two (or at most three) parking places close to the out-of-town side of the junction. If additional visibility is needed, the poles and signs on the out-of-town side of the junction should be re-sited.

We suggest that this accident reduction scheme is an opportune occasion to give greater priority to cyclists using the pavement cycleway on the north side of Barton Road. At present at side roads and major entrances cyclists are given equal priority with crossing vehicles. From a cyclist's point of view this is a much better situation than the more usual one in which cyclists are expected to give way to such vehicles. But, given the Council's policy of encouraging cycling rather than motoring, it is surely time to give cycleway cyclists full priority at side roads and entrances. We ask that along this cycleway cyclists should be given priority at Clare Road, St Mark's Court, Grange Road, Barton Close, the Wolfson College entrances and Gough Way. At all of these points with the possible exception of Grange Road, the number of cyclists using the cycleway is likely to far outnumber the vehicles using the crossings.

Finally, we ask that a flashing sign like the one at Swaffham Prior or at Harston should be installed either at the proposed entrance feature or closer to Wolfson College and Granchester Road. Speeding remains a problem along Barton Road.

We would like to stress that any red bituminous macadam (skim coat) surfacing to be used in this scheme should be smooth. The techniques currently being employed in Cambridge for applying this surfacing are unsatisfactory and produce an uneven surface with constant junctions which is unpleasant and harder work to cycle along. We ask that this problem be resolved before more surfacing is installed.

Thank you again for your helpful explanations.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Jim Chisholm