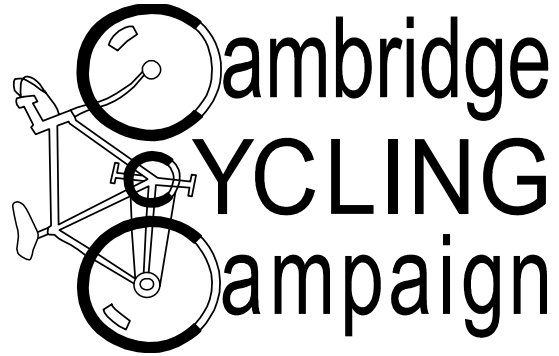


May 12, 2005

Our ref: NA05007
Your ref:

Collette Smyth (ET1011)
Environment & Transport Department
Cambridgeshire County Council
Castle Court, Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge CB3 0AP



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

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Dear Ms Smyth,

Proposed path from Great Shelford to Addenbrooke's Hospital Cambridge

Cambridge Cycling Campaign would like to offer strong support for the planning application for a path from Granham's Road, Great Shelford to Robinson Way on the Addenbrooke's Hospital Site.

Although the path does not fully meet modern design standards for such paths, we consider the creation of a new route adjacent to the railway is very important. We would have liked to see such a newly created path built on open farmland constructed to the recommended width for a two-way shared-use path of 3.0m. This path will provide a good opportunity for many from Stapleford, the Shelfords, and Sawston to cycle to Addenbrooke's be it for employment, as an out-patient, or just to visit. It will also provide a route to both Long Road and Hills Road Sixth Form Colleges that will be quicker, cheaper and more reliable than the existing bus services for the many students from the villages south of Cambridge.

There are of course many other people who already cycle into Cambridge from the south, be it for work or other purposes and this path will make a very attractive alternative. It will also provide a viable alternative to car travel for such trips, giving an opportunity for reduced congestion, and hence pollution in this green area south of the City.

Currently many people are very reluctant to cycle, or allow their children to cycle for such trips. The route over the hill on Granham's Road is, for many cyclists, unpleasant due to both the volume and speed of motor traffic, and the extra effort and distance on this hilly (for Cambridgeshire) route. The alternative via Cambridge Road, Great Shelford and Trumpington is also long and involves busy roads and junctions. The proposed route will be shorter, quicker and far more pleasant than either route, hence providing a viable cycling route for less confident or less able cyclists.

We would expect it soon to become a much used route, mainly for utility trips (work, school, college, or shopping) but also leisure or recreational trips as it will enable people within the City to access this green area either on foot or by bike.

We would emphasise that for utility trips it is vital that a tarmac or similar surface is provided. The vast majority of utility trips are made in normal clothes, and routes without a proper sealed surface, no matter how good is the initial surface, soon suffer from ponding and become muddy. This leads to splashing of mud on clothes, with a consequent reluctance of many people to use a route for utility trips. As a regular user of the permissive cycle path from Trumpington to Addenbrooke's Hospital over a couple of years, I know that many people are deterred from cycling this route due to the poor surface.

We hope the Committee will pass this application, and hence allow the route to be constructed before early September when the Grand Opening of the National Cycleway Network takes place in Cambridge. We also hope that a commitment will be made to use S106 monies to widen the path to the recommended minimum of 3.0m should flows of pedestrians and cyclists justify it.

We are aware that the period for objections has expired but hope this letter of support can be taken into consideration, especially as no formal notification of this application was sent to the Campaign.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Jim Chisholm

cc Nigel Brigham Sustrans