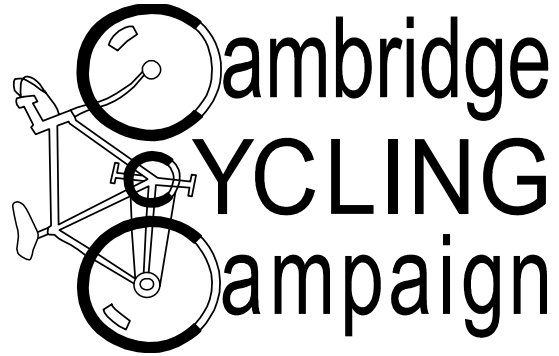


November 25 2005

Our ref: ND06 001
Your ref:

Helen Green
ET 1028
Cambridgeshire County Council
Castle Court, Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge CB3 0AP



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

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Dear Ms Green

Objection to proposals to ease congestion along Milton Road

This is Cambridge Cycling Campaign's formal objection to the proposals to ease congestion along Milton Road.

Our main objection concerns the right-turn ban at the junction of Milton Road with Arbury Road, but we have a number of concerns which we think should be given careful consideration.

Plan 1: Mitcham's Corner to Gilbert Road

We are pleased to see the addition of some cycle parking here.

Plan 2: Gilbert Road to Elizabeth Way

On the whole we welcome the proposals along this stretch, but we have some concerns which we describe below.

- We support the proposed inbound cycle lane.
- We support the widening of the road to give more space for the bus lane and the cycle lane.
- We support the prohibition of pavement parking.
- We were told that there will be a double yellow line inside the proposed advisory cycle lane and strongly support this.

However:

- We would like to be assured that the width of the cycle lane is up to standard - that is 1.5m wide.
- We would like to be assured that the yellow lines will be laid carefully in a manner which will not allow any risk of bicycles slipping on them

Plan 3: Elizabeth Way to Arbury Road

We would like to see the addition of cycle parking to serve the shops along this stretch.

The plan indicates that the cycle lane on the north side extends a little beyond the proposed car parking. It is important that this cycle lane gives a clear indication to motorists wishing to turn left into Arbury Road that they are crossing the path of cyclists who wish to go straight on at the traffic lights.

Plan 4: Arbury Road – Union Lane junction

We object to the proposals at this junction.

Right turn ban from Milton Road into Arbury Road: This will increase journey times for all traffic and may well tempt cyclists to make illegal crossings at the pedestrian lights. We believe that the right turn prohibition will also cause difficulties for cyclists elsewhere and will only serve to create equally severe congestion for motor vehicles at other junctions along Milton Road. Motorists wishing to go up Arbury Road are likely to use the roundabout at Elizabeth Way to u-turn and make their way back, making the roundabout more dangerous for cyclists. Motorists are likely also to rat-run through Hurst Park Avenue and Orchard Avenue or other residential streets. This will create a situation where motorists wishing to go straight on will undertake those turning right and will encroach into the new advisory cycle lane. This will make these roads less attractive and safe for cyclists. It would also increase the number of motor vehicles crossing the shared-use pavement along Milton Road.

Left turn ban from Union Lane into Milton Road: We are concerned at the potential for conflict between pedestrians and cyclists as pedestrians will have to cross the cycle by-pass in order to reach the crossing. We believe that it should be possible to re-design this corner in a manner which is more convenient for everyone.

Should the proposals go ahead: An alternative route for cyclists wishing to turn right from Milton Road into Arbury Road would be important, particularly in view of the deleterious consequences for cyclists that would result. We would suggest that the pedestrian crossings across the end of Arbury Road and across Milton Road to the east of Union Lane and Arbury Road should be converted to toucan crossings. This would enable on-road cyclists to access a cycleable crossing at the all-green pedestrian phase and cyclists on the shared-use pavement on the north side of Milton Road to turn into Arbury Road.

At any event, there is a small, but significant, matter that needs attention at this junction. The inbound mandatory cycle lane leading into the forward box at the junction with Union Lane is very worn and the white line needs to be re-painted and to be kept in good condition. Vehicles encroach into this lane in order to turn left into Union Lane or to undertake right-turning vehicles.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Lisa Woodburn