

January 4, 2006

Our ref: C 06 008

Your ref:

Mr Gareth Guest
Environment & Community Services
Cambridgeshire County Council
Castle Court, Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge CB3 0AP

Cc: Clare Rankin, City Council W&CD&PO
Patrick Joyce, County Cycling Officer

Cc: Councillors for Romsey



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

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Dear Mr Guest,

Argyle Street 'pram arms' obstruction

You will recall that last year, shortly before the Carter Bridge first closed for maintenance work, we requested, as part of a number of improvements which could be made to mitigate the loss of this route, that the 'pram arms' (and the posts on which they are mounted) at the end of Argyle Street be removed.

You noted in September that this set of pram arms were "left in place after discussion with the City Engineer as it was my understanding that there are problems with motorcycles using the gap if pram arms are not left in place".

This obstruction remains a considerable nuisance for cyclists. We note that many obstructions of this type have been removed in the last decade, and new ones have not been installed, indicating their presence as a bygone relic of highway design.

We continue to receive complaints from local cyclists about this (and other obstructions¹), so we write again to request its removal. Cyclists with wider handlebars and/or baskets in particular find it a problem, and no doubt people with buggies/wheelchairs who are forced onto the road because of the legitimised pavement parking regime would also encounter difficulties with this obstruction. Cyclist shoppers using trailers find the facility completely impassable, and people using child seats have to take special care not to cause an injury.

Whilst we agree that use of the gap by motorcyclists might occur if the pram arms were removed, we would maintain that removing the pram arms would undoubtedly have an overall benefit for cyclists and walkers.

An analogous case is the gateway feature further along the road towards the Carter Bridge, used illegally by a number of motorcyclists. This gateway forms a useful facility for cyclists

¹ Further examples at <http://www.camcycle.org.uk/campaigning/subgroups/obstructions/>

and illegal motorcycle use (which we condemn) is outweighed by the usefulness of this facility enabling cyclists to bypass the closure to through motor traffic.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope your colleagues will consider the wider picture in this matter so that this obstruction can be removed.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Martin Lucas-Smith
Co-ordinator