

May 9, 2006

Our ref: C 06 009  
Your ref:

Graham Lowe  
Environment & Community Services  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
Castle Court, Shire Hall  
Castle Hill  
Cambridge CB3 0AP

Cc: Patrick Joyce  
Clare Rankin

Cc: Councillors for Market Ward



**Cambridge Cycling Campaign**

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www.camcycle.org.uk

Dear Mr Lowe,

### **New hazard at a cycle entrance to Parker's Piece**

We have received complaints from our members about a new set of hazardous bollards that have been installed in the middle of the cycle track entrance on Parker's Piece. The entrance concerned is the Southern entrance, at the junction of Gonville Place and Regent Terrace.

Members who have used this route in the absence of bollards for ten years or so have expressed incredulity at the sudden installation of such inconveniently and dangerously placed obstructions. Apart from the fact they form an obstruction in the middle of a busy cycle path, the area concerned is relatively dark, and so visibility of these bollards is poor.



We presume that these obstructions have been installed to prevent illegal use by motorists in a (manifestly counter-productive) attempt to avoid reducing the path's amenity for cyclists and walkers.

Whilst we accept that illegal use of the gap by a very small number of motorists may occur in the absence of bollards, we would maintain that these create far more harm than they prevent.

No competent highway authority would ever install an unsigned bollard in the middle of a road used by motorists. We fail to see why cyclists should have to contend with such design.

The Government's draft Local Transport Notes<sup>1</sup> make clear the importance of an "accessible, barrier-free environment" and that "routes should be unimpeded by ... obstructions which can be particularly hazardous to visually impaired pedestrians". We agree whole-heartedly with this perspective.

We write to ask:

1. Why these new hazardous and inconvenient bollards have been installed
2. That they be removed.

We feel it unfortunate that we should have to waste our time arguing against such a measure which so obviously reduces the quality of the cycling environment. We hope that this new obstruction, as well as many others<sup>2</sup>, can be removed as soon as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,  
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Martin Lucas-Smith  
Co-ordinator

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft\\_localtrans/documents/page/dft\\_localtrans\\_028706-03.hcsp](http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_localtrans/documents/page/dft_localtrans_028706-03.hcsp)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.camcycle.org.uk/campaigning/subgroups/obstructions/>