

November 7, 2002

Our ref: L02009



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

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Dear Member,

Help Save the Hills Road Cycle Lanes!

The County Council is proposing to remove the mandatory on-road cycle lanes between Cavendish Avenue and Long Road in order to create an outbound bus lane.

We are strongly opposed to the proposals. Please help us keep these cycle lanes by filling in the enclosed card and objecting to both of the council's proposals.

Why do we oppose the bus lane proposals?

The enclosed leaflet describes the two alternative options proposed by the County Council, and explains why they will *both* be bad news for cyclists and pedestrians.

In one day (7am to 7pm) we counted 1806 cyclists using this stretch of Hills Road. The peak flow in a whole hour was 277 – that's about one every 12 seconds!

1375 of these cyclists were on the road, and 431 were on the existing pavement cycleway. That means over three quarters of cyclists are currently voting with their wheels and choosing to ride on the road in the cycle lane rather than use the pavement cycleway.

If the council's proposals go ahead, many of these cyclists will feel compelled to use the cycleway. This will mean many faster cyclists on the pavement, and more congestion and conflict with pedestrians. Those cyclists that would choose to stay on the road will suffer the same problems that we know already happen on Milton Road.

Cambridge Cycling Campaign recognises the importance of public transport in reducing traffic levels in Cambridge. But the proposed changes will improve bus speeds only slightly, and only for a short period in the rush hour. We believe it is unacceptable to achieve these minor improvements for buses by making conditions much worse for *all* cyclists and pedestrians, 24 hours a day.

There are much better ways of speeding up bus journeys, such as improving ticketing (avoiding the need to pay on the bus) and reducing bunching together of buses.

Please register your objection to *both* the council's bus lane proposals

You can do this by filling in all three of the enclosed postcards, and returning them to us. We'll post them off to the right people at the right time.

You can get more copies of both the leaflet and the postcard from www.camcycle.org.uk/campaigning/issues/hillsroad/ or from us.

There is also an online survey form on the County Council's website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/sub/eandt/highways/cambridge/hillsroad/

The closing date for comments is Monday 2 December.

Finding out more

We've produced a leaflet explaining why the proposals are such bad news for cyclists and pedestrians. You'll find a copy enclosed. We'll be distributing hundreds of these to houses in the area shortly.

The County Council is holding several public exhibitions of the proposals:

Venue	Date	Time
Addenbrooke's Hospital main food court area (entrance via main reception)	Tuesday 12th November	10am-4am (staffed between 12 noon and 2 pm)
St John's Church, Hills Rd (by Blinco Grove junction)	Wednesday, 13th November	12.30pm-7pm (staffed)
Babraham Park & Ride site	Thursday, 14th November	7am-7pm (unstaffed)
St John's Church, Hills Rd (by Blinco Grove junction)	Saturday, 16th November	12.30pm-4pm (staffed)

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely,
on behalf of Cambridge Cycling Campaign,

Clare Macrae