

CAMCYCLE



Cambridge Cycling Campaign

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Councillor Ian Bates
Highways and Transport Committee
Cambridgeshire County Council
Shire Hall, Castle Hill
Cambridge CB3 0AP

July 29, 2020

Dear Councillor Bates,

Camcycle is a volunteer-led charity with over 1,500 members that works for more, better and safer cycling for all ages and abilities in the Cambridge region.

We support the experimental walking and cycling programme approved by the county council to tackle urgent issues of public health and support the rebuilding of the local economy. The initial changes on Mill Road have opened up the potential for more space usable by people walking, cycling or using mobility scooters to visit local businesses, or for safe outdoor shopping and dining.



Social distancing is now easier on Mill Road bridge thanks to the changes.

However, we urge the council to complete the works quickly as the current situation is confusing for everyone and causing unnecessary conflict along the street. It is essential that the street becomes a welcoming place for everyone to visit with space for people to maintain safe distances from each other and improved access for traders and people with disabilities.



These 'Road Closed' signs send the wrong message, instead of telling people that Mill Road is open for business.



In addition to the legally-required signage, we should emphasise that Mill Road is open (credit: Mill Road Bridges).

We reiterate our call for:

- Outside seating areas to provide space for customers of local food businesses and additional outdoor shopping space for retail outlets.
- Better signage at each end of Mill Road, making it clear the street is open for business with full access to all properties, but it is not a rat-run.
- The legally-required signs at each end of the bus gate along with camera enforcement of it.
- More cycle parking on the carriageway, instead of the pavement.
- Marked delivery bays, short-stay and blue badge car parking spaces in safe locations.
- Pavement repairs to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Temporary bollards or other measures to prevent pavement parking.
- Tree planters alongside the widened pavements, and public art along the street.
- A Mill Road promotional campaign to attract visitors to the street. Many ideas for this have been posted on the Mill Road Bridges website.



The Mill Road Summer 2019 parklet.



Street art around a bus gate in Brixton (photo by Helen Prowse).



Dean Street in Soho, now safe for kids and outdoor dining (photo by 5th Studio).



Outdoor on-street dining in Liverpool (photo by Meristem Design).



Manchester outdoor on-street dining (photo by @davidtwhitters)



An upcoming parklet proposal in Dublin (via @EddieHoareFG).

Mill Road can and should be a thriving and safe place to shop and visit. The county council needs to do its best to get these complementary measures in place as soon as possible, to give a clear message that Mill Road is open and safe.

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of Camcycle

Roxanne De Beaux, Executive Director

cc: Councillor Linda Jones, Councillor Noel Kavanagh, Councillor Steve Count,
Councillor Lewis Herbert, Daniel Zeichner MP