

Subject	Milton Road - The Greater Cambridge City Deal
From	[REDACTED]
To	City Deal
Cc	[REDACTED]
Sent	12 February 2016 15:56

Dear Sirs,

Milton Road – Initial Consultation on Better Bus, Cycling and Walking Trips – The Greater Cambridge City Deal – Our Concerns, Considerations and Proposals

We are writing to you as [REDACTED] Primary School, a Cambridgeshire County Council maintained local primary school, with 420 pupils. We have grave concerns and are in opposition to some of the proposals submitted as part of the Milton Road Greater Cambridge City Deal. We have a duty of care for the safety and welfare of the children in our School and a pastoral commitment to the families that make up the school community we live in.

We are registering our grave concerns and opposition to some aspects of the options presented by the Greater Cambridge City Deal project officers with respect to the Milton Road Scheme; it appears solely focused on longer distance commutes and bus prioritisation. The safety of the local community, cyclists and pedestrians, in the context of local movement, seems not to have been a consideration and, if anything, the proposals appear to be reducing the safety of cycling and walking trips for the local community.

In particular, we would like to draw your attention to our concerns with respect to the part of the Scheme that runs between Mitcham's Corner and Arbury Road. This part of the Scheme, for ease of description, is located in the West Chesterton Ward, a residential area and the catchment area for our School. The Ward also includes a number of other local schools. In total, there are four schools clustered together in close proximity: Milton Road Primary School (420); TBAP Academy (100); Chesterton Community College (1000) and Castle Special School (?).

By virtue of it being a state maintained school with a local catchment, the families that make up our own Milton Road School Community live locally. The parents and/or children regularly move around by foot, scooter or bike throughout the week to and from school, siblings' schools and nurseries, after school clubs, social activities and errands. We are proud of how close a community we are and how many of our children show their first signs of independence by walking, scootering and cycling to school from about Year 5 because it is safe to do so.

We do understand the need for the use of public transport to be encouraged in light of climate change and reducing car congestion – however, we question whether this will be achieved through a bus prioritisation scheme, potentially, at the expense of the local community cycling and walking safely. Our primary concerns with respect to these proposals have to be about the safety of our children with respect to changes and/or potential increases in vehicular movement into residential roads thus reducing the ability to move along roads on a bike safely or to cross roads safely, whether by foot or bike. Our secondary concern has to be with respect to providing our children with a public realm and environment that promotes their health.

Our specific concerns are as follows:

- ? We are opposed to 'No right turns' at Gilbert Road which would divert traffic down Ascham Road and Gurney Way;
- ? We are opposed to 'No right turns' at Arbury Road which would divert traffic down the Hurst Park Avenue estate;
- ? We are opposed to a single direction cycle lane, particularly on the north side of Milton Road; this would simply mean cyclists occupying the pedestrian path in the opposite direction as it is too difficult and unsafe to cross Milton Road (this effect is seen already on Gilbert Road);
- ? We are very concerned with respect to any plans to widen Milton Road which would make the road even more dangerous to cross than it is now, whether crossing by bike or as a pedestrian;
- ? We are concerned about accelerated speeds on the residential roads if traffic is diverted down them, the City Council reduced speed limits to 20 mph on residential roads to try and improve safety;

- ? We are concerned about build up of traffic/congestion down residential roads reducing air quality;
- ? We teach our children about the importance of the environment and the impact of climate change – we believe in the importance of trees in enhancing the environment and the role of trees in improving climate.
Our rationale these concerns are as follows:
- ? Ascham Road and Gurney Way are already congested, particularly at school drop off and pick up times. An increased flow of traffic would increase the level of risk to children and their families traveling to and from school by bicycle, scooter and by foot;
- ? The junctions at Hurst Park Avenue/Milton Road and Ascham Road/Milton Road are already unsafe for children to cross; these junctions unlike Gilbert Road and Arbury Road junction have no traffic lights;
- ? Drivers turning off Milton Road down the residential roads crossing the traffic will be more concerned as to whether there is 'a gap' in the traffic rather than whether a pedestrian is crossing the road, they will have little option but to carry on driving if there is an oncoming car irrespective of a pedestrian being in the centre of the junction;
- ? We do not understand the rationale for opening up residential roads to through traffic; other residential roads have had physical restrictions imposed on them (see De Freville Avenue Estate, Chesterton Hall Crescent, Herbert Street);
- ? We are concerned about 'No right turn' at Arbury Road which would divert traffic into local residential roads with very poor sight lines, no traffic light systems and multiple junctions;
- ? We are concerned about the speed limit of 20 mph imposed by the City Council to improve safety will be disregarded by frustrated drivers;
- ? We are concerned about increased frequency of turns by vehicles at junctions with poor sight lines again endangering the safety of children;
- ? We believe that the problems we are already experiencing with vehicular traffic and commuter vehicular parking will be exacerbated.

Opportunities

We believe that there are truly opportunities for improving pedestrian and cyclist journeys, some possibilities may include:

- ? Improve pavement widths and quality of the pavements along the full length of Milton Road;
- ? Improve the cycle path on the north side of Milton Road, allowing cycling in both directions along the length of Milton Road;
- ? Improve safety at road junctions, by restricting parking and improving pedestrian crossing and sight lines;
- ? Increase number of crossing points for Milton Road and Gilbert Road;
- ? Consider carefully the location of the pedestrian crossing at the corner of Ascham Road and Milton Road (too close to the junction);
- ? Rationalise and restrict parking (to residents/loading) on Milton Road to allow adequate sight lines and pedestrian safety;
- ? Put in place traffic calming measures on Milton Road and on residential roads as appropriate to reduce excessive speeding.

We would welcome being consulted as a stakeholder in any future proposals at an early stage.

Yours sincerely,

