

Please contact: Steve Hewlett  
Our ref: TRA/CYC/3  
Your ref:  
Date: 8<sup>TH</sup> March, 2002

Mr. C. N

Gillingham  
Kent

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### **Copy for Neil – actions highlighted**

Dear C,

### **Cycling issues**

I refer to your letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 2002 addressed to Dr Richard Simmons and subsequent discussions, in particular our meeting on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2002. You raised a number of points, which I will endeavour to address.

Development at Canterbury Lane – Consent for this site was dependent upon the developer improving street lighting and extending the footway in Canterbury Lane, together with funding the alteration of the existing TRO to extend the existing speed limit. These measures were considered to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. However, I understand your concern given the strategic importance of Canterbury Lane on the National Cycle Network and the undesirability of intensifying vehicular traffic along this route. However, the site was identified in the Local Plan for this type of development. I will undertake to arrange for an investigation to be undertaken to establish what other measures could be put in place to discourage lorry drivers turning right out of this site.  
**Neil: look into the following options 1. Road closure, with access for peds and cyclists (location may be in Swale, so need to speak with them) 2. Width restriction by signing or physical measure. 3. Relocation of route 1 onto Golf course**

Replacement of safety bollards on A2 – As you know, it is proposed to improve the existing pedestrian and cycle facilities along this route as a result of representations from the Kent Association for the Blind. This scheme is currently going through the council's approval process and I hope the works will be undertaken during the next financial year. It is proposed for the bollards to be replaced as part of these works. I will undertake to investigate whether it is possible for pedestrian guard-railing to be installed as a substitute.  
**Neil: get Dave to look into the cost for this, I think it is a good idea**

A2 Will Adams roundabout – I understand your concern regarding a dropped kerb at the south-eastern corner of the roundabout which forms cycle access onto the newly constructed cycleway on the eastern side of Will Adams Way. I will investigate whether this scheme has undergone a stage 3 safety audit and report back. **Neil: memo to Bryan Shawyer checking if safety audit undertaken, explain concerns with drop kerb – need alteration**

Great Lines cycleway – I will investigate this further and write to you separately about this, as it may take some time to fully understand the issues. **Neil – I want to have a look at this one with you**

Dock Road – Your concern is that cycle routes and priorities on Dock Road (close to the Town Hall) are unclear. I agree and will arrange for suitable improvements to be investigated. I will keep you informed of the outcome. **Neil – 1. Do a survey of what is on the ground and try to understand it, 2. Need proposals for improvement on a plan, including advanced stop line, links to Whiffens Ave, signing imp, etc...**

Pedestrian access between Prince Arthur Road and Mill Road – I understand your concern regarding parked vehicles in the entrance to this gated vehicular access. I will arrange for an investigation to be undertaken to establish what physical or legal measures that could be put in place to improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists. **Neil – contact Black Lion management (I think it is run by Serco) – do they need to use this access, any others – allotments – check internally. Possible scheme – move gate forward, say 4m from channel, replace entrance with dropped kerb and possible lockable bollards**

Rochester High Street – This route has not been signed or completed as discussions are still in progress with the DTLR regarding the requirements for signing in this area as the signing is a departure from the signs manual. A meeting has taken place with representatives from the DTLR and Sustrans, and we are awaiting their written response. I will of course share the contents of their letter with you when received.

Medway Tunnel – The option of allowing the use of the Medway Tunnel as an alternative route is identified in the Local Transport Plan and is being actively considered. However, the timescale to gain parliamentary consent is in the order of two years and this is subject to no objections being received. We are currently investigating the cost of promoting such a Bill to establish whether it represents value for money. I will keep you informed of the outcome.

Cycling in Gillingham High Street – A decision was taken by Gillingham Borough Council not to allow cycling in Gillingham High Street, whereas cycling was allowed in Chatham High Street during delivery times by Rochester upon Medway City Council. I agree given the current circumstances it would be sensible for these TRO's to be standardised, but I am also aware of a strong view that cycling should not be permitted here. I will arrange for an investigation on the practicalities of undertaking this in due course, although this may not be an easy issue to resolve. **Neil – first check whether Ron Morlham has been sent SR to Stations doc and does it cover cycling in High St in it? Wait to see if Ron responds!**

New McDonalds, St Anthony's Way – Regrettably, McDonalds exercised their right to appeal their planning application due to non-determination within the statutory eight week period. The Government Inspector in granting consent did not consider the needs of pedestrians to cross to the site to be an important issue worthy of a specific requirement and therefore the council was powerless to insist the developer funded it's provision as part of the development. However, there are other potential developments within this area identified in the local plan which may be able to justify enhanced pedestrian provision and I

will keep your comments in mind when dealing with these applications. **Neil – this one is for me/Amanda**

Finally, thank you for your letter, which raised many important issues. I hope we will be able to continue to work together with the common aim to improve facilities for vulnerable road users in Medway – something that I am personally committed to. I will endeavour to ensure that you are kept up to date on any developments on the issues you raise in your letter. Please do not hesitate to contact either Neil Vincent or myself if there are other issues from your members that you wish to raise.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Hewlett  
Integrated Transport Manager

Cc Neil Vincent  
Sam Irvine  
Geoff Walters  
Ian Wilson