

# LITTLE ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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SE Transport Team,  
Greater Cambridge Partnership,  
Shire Hall,  
Cambridge CB3 0AP

For the attention of Martin Meehan and Tim de Laat

27 May 2021

Dear Martin and Tim,

## **Meeting with Little and Great Abington Parish Council reps 19th May 2021**

Many thanks for the helpful meeting last Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May. We appreciated you spending time explaining your analysis of the potential walking and cycle routes through Little and Great Abington and for the discussions about the pros and cons of each route. What we see missing from the assessment is an appreciation of the likely users of the Greenway and the destinations they may be heading to.

Currently, we know there are cyclists commuting to Granta Park. In the next few years, we anticipate that the Comfort Café site on Newmarket Road, may be developed to laboratory space for start-up businesses, as it was put forward for inclusion in the next Local Plan. If the Park and Ride is built on the fields in Babraham, we could envisage this becoming an additional destination for local cyclists. We anticipate that, with the construction of the signalised crossing at Hildersham, there could be a considerable increase in the number of journeys cyclists make to and from the Abingtons every day.

We were pleased to hear that the GCP is working closely with Cambridgeshire County Council. The Council will be aware that part of the Phase 2 developments for Granta Park includes several infrastructure improvements included in the Travel Management Plan (2017 to 2022). We have attached this document to our email and draw your attention to the following list of funded improvements (see page 8 of the plan):

- Improvements to the off-site cycle route along the A505 to Whittlesford Parkway;
- Extension of the A1307 cycle route from Linton to Granta Park;
- Extension of the Babraham cycle route to Granta Park;
- Upgrading the permissive bridleway on the Babraham cycle route;
- Providing cycle lanes along Newmarket Road;
- Delivering signing and speed limit enhancements in the vicinity of Great Abington; and
- Highway mitigation measures when the agreed traffic limits have been exceeded.

There is considerable overlap between these agreed improvements and proposed Route C, for the Linton Greenway. Therefore, we recommend that you consider route C as a cost-effective route for the Linton Greenway.

## **Hildersham crossing and cycle route to Linton Road**

Little Abington Parish Council (LAPC) looks forward to seeing the crossing built at Hildersham and supports the construction of a cycle route along the A1307 to link this crossing to Linton Road. It is

important to allow Abington and Hildersham pupils, who attend Linton Village College and schools in Cambridge, to use bikes or buses safely. We want this signalised crossing to be given a high priority within the schemes being considered by the GCP. LAPC will be happy to offer the GCP its support e.g., with encouraging local landowners to provide land for the route to go ahead.

### **Pampisford Road**

We anticipate that cyclists travelling to Granta Park from Linton and Hildersham, will continue their journey along Pampisford Road. Therefore, we welcome measures to make the route safer for cyclists including a lowering of the speed limit near the Hildersham crossing and along the length of Pampisford Road, together with other measures to deter speeding. We would also welcome the construction of a footway along the length of this road. This would be very popular with Abington residents and would help commuters to Granta Park who alight at the bus stop on Pampisford Road and use the entrance to the Campus just past Cutting Road.

### **Newmarket Road**

LAPC would welcome the construction of cycle routes from the Granta Park roundabout, to link up the cycle path from Pampisford and Whittlesford with the cycle path from Babraham. A proper footway and cycleway is needed from the end of the Babraham cycle path to Granta Park regardless which route the Linton Greenway takes through the village. It would make sense if these cycle paths were extended as far as the Comfort Café site, as there are plans to develop this site in the next few years. LAPC welcomes a reduction in the speed limit on Newmarket Road to improve the safety of the road. We would also welcome the construction of a better footway, particularly around the perimeter of Granta Park.

### **Bourn Bridge Road**

Routing the Linton Greenway along Bourn Bridge Road is not our preferred route, however if this route does end up being selected, we would welcome a reduction in the speed limit particularly along the 50 mph section. LAPC has been discussing Tim de Laat's proposal for blocking access to the Newmarket end of Bourn Bridge Road to cars and motorbikes and can see there could be some merits to the suggestion particularly around making Bourn Bridge Road safer and more pleasant for pedestrians. However, we are unsure how residents of the village would react to the closure of Bourn Bridge Road to cars and motorbikes not just because of the reduction in access but also because of possible unwelcome impacts on traffic volumes, congestion, and noise elsewhere in the village. The proposal would certainly require a lot more consultation for this idea to be progressed. If the GCP wish to develop this idea, we would welcome the chance to discuss the pros and cons and practical arrangements for making the scheme work in more detail.

### **Directing cyclists through the centre of the village**

As we discussed, we do have safety concerns about directing cyclists through the centre of the village, particularly because of the number of parked cars and the traffic visiting the shop, school, playgroup, pub, and Institute. We are also worried that this route could not safely accommodate an increase in the number of cyclists travelling through Abington once the Hildersham Crossing has been built. Therefore, we would welcome a 20 mph speed limit in the centre of the village.

With best wishes,



Sheila Bolden  
Chair



Isobel Smith  
Vice Chair

CC: Cllr Henry Batchelor, Cllr John Batchelor, Tony Orgee, Peter Blake, Rachel Stopard