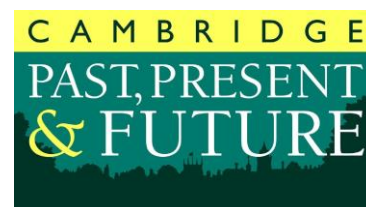


Greater Cambridge Partnership



By email to:

consultations@greatercambridge.org.uk

Cambridge Past, Present & Future
Wandlebury Country Park
Cambridge CB22 3AE

Phone 01223 - 243830

www.cambridgeppf.org

25/10/2022

Dear Greater Cambridge Partnership

Response to Melbourn Greenway consultation

Cambridge Past, Present & Future is Cambridge's largest civic society. We are a charity run by local people who are passionate about where they live. We operate in the greater Cambridge area and working with our members, supporters and volunteers we:

- Are dedicated to protecting and enhancing the green setting of Cambridge for people and nature.
- Care about Cambridge and are an independent voice for quality of life in the strategic planning of Greater Cambridge.
- Are working to protect, celebrate and improve the important built heritage of the Cambridge area.
- Own and care for green spaces and historic buildings in and around the city for people and nature, including Wandlebury Country Park, Coton Countryside Reserve, Cambridge Leper Chapel & Barnwell Meadows, Bourn Windmill and Hinxton Watermill.

CambridgePPF support the principle of greenways but wish to ensure that they avoid unnecessary harm and are implemented with the minimum impact on ecology, heritage and landscape.

All sections:

Sections of the route pass through countryside or historic villages. It is important that the visual quality of these is not harmed by the greenway by introducing urban features such as inappropriate coloured surfacing or excessive signage. The type and design of surfacing must be carefully chosen and appropriate to the setting. Black tarmac adjacent to the main road may be acceptable, but in open countryside, such as the Harston Off Road Path, is not appropriate. A lighter colour surface blends into the landscape much better. We have previously drawn your attention to a good local example of a sealed cycle path created by the National Trust at White Fen and we would encourage you to use that or similar.

The scheme as a whole, needs to provide a biodiversity net gain of at least 20% to meet the aspirations of the local councils.

Section 2: Harston -off road path

This section introduces a sealed track through the countryside. We are unclear as to the purpose of this part of the route. The Melbourn and Haslingfield Greenways already connect on the A10 at Hauxton. The main part of the Greenway alongside the A10 provides the direct route in and out of Cambridge. We ask you to consider the purpose of this off-road path in relation to the aims of the Greenways and remove it from the scheme if it is not needed.

Section 4 Shepreth Link.

We are concerned about the extent of the raised table and coloured surfacing at the junction of Fowlmere Road and Angle Lane. This junction is within the Conservation Area and has a very rural character of wide grass verges, mature trees, and dwellings set back from the verge. Three of the dwellings and the bridge are listed buildings. The junction is relatively wide and appears to have good visibility. Angel Lane is a no through road so has limited traffic flow. Having a raised coloured surface extending into Angel Lane and either way along Fowlmere Road from the junction seems excessive. We ask you to consider less obtrusive ways of achieving traffic calming.

Section 5 Melbourn Village

The Melbourn conservation area extends along the length of the High Street and part of Cambridge Road, and listed buildings line the road. Coloured surfacing is proposed at each of the junctions along the High Street. This is preferable to coloured surfacing along the whole length of the road, however it is still introducing an urban character into the village conservation area. We ask you to consider if they are all necessary and a surface colour is used which is appropriate to the conservation area and listed buildings.

Section 8 A505 Bridge

Where the path diverts away from the road and becomes a share use path, careful consideration needs to be given to where it passes through, and runs alongside, the hedgerow to minimise environmental impact.

I trust that you will take our comments into consideration.

Yours sincerely
Sarah Nicholas
Principal Planning Officer