

# The Eastleigh Group of the



2 Pavilion Close, Fair Oak,  
Eastleigh, Hampshire  
SO50 7PS

Email: [eastleighrambler@aol.com](mailto:eastleighrambler@aol.com)

Web Site <http://www.eastleighramblers.org.uk>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EastleighRamblers>

Telephone (023) 80693655 (Mobile 07929213208)

23 July 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **RE – BOTLEY BYPASS PROPOSALS – 2016 CONSULTATION PROPOSALS**

This is the response of the Eastleigh Group of the Ramblers to the above consultation.

Whilst we can readily see the need for the bypass the proposals you have put forward are orientated too much towards solving the vehicular traffic problems caused by extraneous traffic trying to pass through on longer journeys and not sufficiently orientated towards ensuring that more localised movements by pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians are improved and protected. We consider that this project should be sufficiently funded to ensure that the following works are accommodated as part of the scheme.

The scheme needs to be designed with regard to the fact that there are a large number of equestrian activities in this area and there is a need to accommodate these movements. The Bypass will also separate the village from the countryside to the northwest, north, north east and east and equestrian, pedestrian and cycle traffic needs to be accommodated in a safer way than that proposed.

The Botley, Curdridge and Bishop's Waltham Parish Councils wish to see the establishment of a bridleway way along the valley of the River Hamble between Botley and Bishop's Waltham as a safer alternative to the inherently dangerous B3035 as is evidenced by the appended Statement of Intent. For a decade now there have been discussions with landowners, the HCC Countryside Service and HCC Property Services and we wish to see the Bypass scheme to be designed and built to accommodate the bridleway scheme that has been discussed from Botley to Wangfield Lane largely through County Council land. See also 5 below.

Our comments are made going east to west along the scheme.

1. There is a proposal shown on the cross section for a 2.5-metre-wide shared use route along the south side of the bypass. This width is grossly inadequate and would not be large enough to accommodate equestrians. We would wish to see the 1.5 metre grass verge removed and one metre of it added to the 2.5 metres and the remaining 0.5 metres constructed of granite sets to encourage traffic to keep away from the roadside kerb, and then 0.5 metres added on the south side to make a 4-metre wide route. That route we would wish to see divided by a white line with arrows encouraging users to keep left.
2. Any works at the junction of the A334 and the A3051 and Station Hill should include similar provision for equestrian, pedestrian and cycle movements in all directions with traffic light controls to give them priority. Particular regard should be had to the three locations at which equestrian activities are undertaken at this location. The current junction is very spacious with large verges offering some element of safety for equestrians, cyclists and pedestrians which will be lost when a roundabout is constructed within that area hence the need for planned provision for these users.

The Group promotes rambling by organising 150 walks a year and protects rights of way and defends the beauty of the countryside within the Borough of Eastleigh. Registered Charity No 1093577, part of The Ramblers' Association, company limited by guarantee, registration number 4458492



3. Between the eastern end and the River Hamble the route is crossed by Footpath No 3 Curdrige. At the road crossing the potential presence of walkers should be announced by the erection of a pair of yellow bollards either side, and a differently coloured tarmac strip across the road. The central reservation should be large enough to accommodate at least six persons. The route is the return route of the Upper Hamble Valley Circuit <http://www.hrowit.org.uk/BishopsWalthamtoBotley.pdf> and the route north has recently been improved by the Waltham Ramblers in partnership with the County Council by the replacement of stiles with kissing gates to make it easier to use.
4. West of the River Hamble the route is crossed by Footpath No 3 Botley. This crossing should have a pedestrian activated priority traffic lights as it is already extremely well used and because the area to the south will be promoted for residential development and the route is the principal pedestrian route out of and into Botley on foot from the north and the path will undoubtedly be used by the occupants of the proposed houses at Boorley Green as well. It is the outward route on the Upper Hamble Valley Circuit <http://www.hrowit.org.uk/BishopsWalthamtoBotley.pdf>
5. There is a bridleway which runs to Holmesland Lane from the Dowd's Farm Development to the west. The long term objective is to extend it further westward to the Itchen Valley Country Park and the equestrian centres located there. It crosses Woodhouse Lane see 7 below and joins Holmesland Lane. The objective of the three Parishes referred to above is to extend it north eastward to Bishops Waltham by the provision of a new bridleway route to connect Botley with Bishop's Waltham and the South Downs National Park. Of all the routes investigated the preferred route is to use the access road to Newhouse Farm and then use the continuation of that track across the River Hamble and then construct a new track north eastward up the east bank of the Hamble to Wangfield Lane. We would in pursuant of that objective like to see the access to Newhouse Farm retained by the construction of a bridge over the bypass so the connection to Winchester Street can be maintained with ramps down on the south side to enable links to the shared use route along the south side of the bypass.
6. The design of the revised junction of Holmesland Lane and Winchester Street needs to take into account its use by equestrians.
7. The plan shows the junction of Winchester Street and Woodhouse Lane to be realigned. Please have regard to the need to continue to have access to the permissive footpath that runs from here westward alongside the railway line.
8. A bridleway crosses Woodhouse Lane (Hedge End No 6c going west and Botley No 6 going east). It is essential that the bridleway users have a traffic light controlled crossing given the volume of traffic that will be using the road. Busy roads are particularly difficult for equestrians to cross without the means to control the exercise. It is also a promoted cycle route.
9. Pavilion Road (at its junction with Woodhouse Lane) needs to have a pedestrian refuge to ensure the continuity of the route along the North West side of Woodhouse Lane. There is an important strategic path down Pavilion Road that connects the area around the Maypole Roundabout and the old part of Hedge End with the newer part in the direction of the railway station. There is also a large care home proposed for the site at the junction of Pavilion Road and Woodhouse Lane for which there was a 2016 planning application.

We await your response.

This letter has been copied to

- (a) Rob Humby, Executive Member for Environment and Transport, Hangar Nurseries, Thompsons Lane, Owslebury, Winchester, SO21 1JH who is also a Bishops Waltham Councillor and familiar with the Parish Council's aspirations referred to above.
- (b) The Department For Transport, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road , London SW1P 4DR.
- (c) Councillor Keith House, Leader, Eastleigh Borough Council, Eastleigh House, Upper Market Street, Eastleigh, SO50 9YN.

The Group promotes rambling by organising 150 walks a year and protects rights of way and defends the beauty of the countryside within the Borough of Eastleigh. Registered Charity No 1093577, part of The Ramblers' Association, company limited by guarantee, registration number 4458492

# The Eastleigh Group of the



(d) The Clerk, Botley Parish Council, The Botley Centre High Street Recreation Ground, Botley SO30 2ES

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard C. Kenchington'. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Richard C. Kenchington FRICS IRRV (Hons)  
Footpath Secretary  
EASTLEIGH RAMBLERS

To  
Strategic Transport,  
Hampshire County Council,  
The Castle,  
Winchester,  
Hampshire  
SO23 8UJ

See also Appendix below

The Group promotes rambling by organising 150 walks a year and protects rights of way and defends the beauty of the countryside within the Borough of Eastleigh. Registered Charity No 1093577, part of The Ramblers' Association, company limited by guarantee, registration number 4458492

## **THE BOTLEY TO BISHOP'S WALTHAM BRIDLEWAY PROJECT**

### **Statement of intent by the Parish Councils of Botley, Curdridge and Bishop's Waltham**

**“The Councils will work together to achieve the creation of a bridleway between Botley and Bishop's Waltham through Curdridge to provide a safe off-road route for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists on a route following the valley of the River Hamble”**

The only direct route from Botley to Bishop's Waltham is the B3035, a road with high levels of vehicular traffic. It is inherently dangerous for non-motorised users because of the bends, undulations and lack pavements or verges. A new route can be created between the two settlements located away from the B3035 in the valley of the River Hamble where the recreational opportunities can be maximised within an attractive and less polluted corridor. This would form a connection between Bishop's Waltham and Botley railway station at Curdridge, the bridleway to Hedge End, and create a link between the settlements around Southampton and the South Downs National Park including the proposed North Whiteley development.

The three Parishes have extensive equestrian facilities and activities, though a bridleway network does not exist between the settlements. All have witnessed an increase in cycling and recreational walking over the past few years. For these reasons the Parish Councils will work together with local landowners to achieve a practical route that can be of benefit to the whole community.

#### **The Councils will work together in pursuance of the following objectives:**

- Ensure that all statutory plans facilitate the creation of the bridleway
- Negotiate a route with the relevant landowners that is consistent with existing land uses
- Maximise opportunities to raise funding for such a project
- Purchase lands that could be used for a route when such opportunities arise
- Consider the needs of pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists when further proposals for development in their areas are promoted
- Oppose development within the Hamble Valley that makes non-motorised traffic less attractive or prejudices the establishment of an acceptable bridleway route within the Hamble Valley
- Participate in a Working Party dedicated to achieving these objectives and work with central government, all public bodies and national and local amenity organisations and landowners and their representatives who are interested in enhancing the bridleway opportunities in the three Parishes.

