



ANNEX I

Councillor Tracey Simpson-Laing
Acomb Ward

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Mike Durkin
City of York Council
9 St Lenoards Place
York

15th June 2008.

Dear Mike

Ref: Highway plans associated with the new Manor School

Firstly can I say thank you for arranging the open evening, at Manor School on Tuesday 10th June, 2008, so that all residents who may be affected by the proposals had an opportunity to view full scale plans of the design and had the opportunity to ask questions.

As I had expected the event was well attended and was one with much 'passion' from residents who feel that they have been very much kept uninformed by the Council. This is especially so as the Planning meeting was in March 2007, yet they have only found out about the highway implications 5 weeks before the meeting when a final decision is to be made.

Residents from both Acomb and Rural West Ward's, as you will know from the meeting, are extremely unhappy about the proposals and have asked that I express their views so that Councillors of the City Strategy EMAP meeting are aware of them when making their decisions.

With that in mind I would be grateful if this letter and the enclosed concerns are included in the Agenda Item for the meeting. Unfortunately I have my Housing and Adult Social Services EMAP at the same time that City Strategy EMAP is held and so will not be able to speak.

Yours Sincerely,

Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing

Manor School Highway works.

Due to the number of concerns that have been expressed by residents of Acomb and Rural West Ward's I am submitting the following for consideration by Councillors at the City Strategy EMAP Meeting.

Beckfield Lane

There is great upset from residents of Beckfield Lane who feel that they have been kept in the dark about the proposed 'Off Road Cycle Route' due to the confusion, lack of public information and consultation, which resulted from the 'Planning Application' for Manor School.

As Councillors may be aware there was confusion at both the first and suspended planning meeting and at the reconvened meeting over which side of the road the 'Off Road Cycle Path' was to go on and a lack of consultation with residents. Cllr's Horton and McDonald tried to have the 'principle' of the route taken out of the planning application, but this was refused by Officers and the Chair.

Residents who live on the east side of Beckfield Lane have now found that the 'Cycle route is to be on their side of the road, and until they received notification about the meeting held on the 10th June had had no prior knowledge of this proposal. These residents feel that this short section of 'Cycle Path' is an inappropriate use of funds and believe that there is the potential for conflict between vehicles exiting driveways and cyclists. There is also concern that cyclists will not go on to the road at Newlands Drive but will continue on the path, causing a conflict with vehicles exiting driveways further down the road and with pedestrians.

Residents also question why a 'Off Road Cycle Route' is required for such a short distance on a road that is not viewed as 'fast' – although there is some evidence of occasional vehicles ignoring the 30 mph limit even with the 'Vehicle Activated Sign'. There is a belief that cyclists do require help to get across Boroughbridge Road and so there is support for the 'Cycle crossings'. However the feeling is that to access/exit the crossings a short section of perhaps 5m could be provided such as the 'Cycle crossing on Thanet Road by the Acorn Rugby Club.

Residents of then requesting the following:

- That a 'On Road Cycle Route' is provided on Beckfield Lane to ensure that there is no conflict between vehicles and pedestrian which will occur with an 'Off Road cycle Route'.
- That access/exit points to 'Cycle Crossings' are provided on both sides of Beckfield Lane but only within 5-10 metres of the junctions
- That both sides of Beckfield Lane's footpaths are clearly marked that cycling is prohibited.

Boroughbridge Road

Concern has been expressed by residents of, Albion Avenue, Boroughbridge Rd, Beckfield Lane, Low Poppleton Lane, Millfield Lane and Portal Road over the suggested position of the new bus stop on Millfield Lane and the distance between the previous stop at Wheatland's.

Currently residents who use the No 10 bus from the City Centre leave the bus at the stop that is 10 metres north of Beckfield Lane at the end of the 'snickets' from Albion Avenue and Portal Road. This stop is also used by the No 142 & 143 but these are limited running hourly services that do not run on an evening, Sunday or Bank Holidays. There is a stop 10 metre into Beckfield Lane but this is for service No 26, which again is a limited running service with no evening, Sunday or Bank Holidays.

The solution I feel is to place a bus stop near to and opposite the inward bound bus stop outside Manor School on Boroughbridge Road Map, ref: E457014 N452929. This is where the current pedestrian crossing is, which is to be moved closer to the junction with Beckfield Lane, and there is a large area of 'hard standing', which would ideally suit a bus stop. This would then provide an accessible bus stop on a 30 min route that is serviced on an evening, Sunday and Bank Holiday. Although this would be approx 60 metres back from its current location residents feel that this would give them the best option.

Residents of then requesting the following:

- An outbound bus stop is located opposite or near to the current inbound stop on Boroughbridge Road

Low Poppleton Lane

There is a very real concern from a number of residents of flooding to their gardens from the proposals for both sides of Low Poppleton Lane.

On the current school side of the road the proposal is to remove the grass verge and tarmac over to form an 'off road' cycle path. The treatment proposed for the residential side of the road is to widen the footpath from around 1.5m to 2m, which will require the removal of the grass verge.

Residents believe that such works will add to the run off they already receive from the road during periods of heavy rain. It is clearly noticeable that the properties lie below the level of the road and so water runs down the CYC drives and paths onto the private driveways and results in ponding both on CYC paths and private property.

I have been asked whether there is a need for an 'Off Road Cycle Path' on Low Poppleton Lane. The only traffic on the road will be to the 11 houses and the office and a 30 min service. Residents note that Low Poppleton Lane is a wide road and see no reason why the cycle path cannot be an 'On Road' mandatory route.

A final concern is the conflict of the new bus service and the vehicles services both the Factory and the British Sugar site. Residents on average experience 4 vehicles for the factory a day trying to access both of the aforementioned sites via Boroughbridge Road. Vehicles have been known to take up to 20 mins to back out onto Boroughbridge Road as they are too big to turn in the road. A more recent occurrence is vehicles for British Sugar using the road. When residents have asked the drivers why they have used the route they say that their 'Sat Navs' have sent them that way. Residents feel that CYC could help stop this by ensuring that at both the A1237 roundabout and at the junction of Low Poppleton Lane large signs are erected for no entrance. There is a concern that the number of vehicles will rise if buses are seen to be using the road

If it is decided that an 'off road' route is required then the following is requested:

- Drainage ducts are placed at the boundaries to the driveways of the properties on Low Poppleton Lane
- That a permeable surface is looked at for the cycle path.
- That signs are erected on the A1237 roundabout and at the junction of Low Poppleton Lane for 'No Access'
- That the footpath on the residential side of Low Poppleton Lane is clearly marked as a pedestrian route only

Millfield Lane

Residents of the properties opposite the inbound bus stop, opposite the school are very concerned about the location this bus stop. I have been told that there is a concern of vehicle and pedestrian conflict, which will be caused from large vehicles exiting Parcel Force, the raised table and the bus stop. Residents report that the Parcel Force vehicles often use the whole of the road and the junction kerbs to access and exit. They fear that any bus sat at this location will cause a visual obstruction, which will be added to at both ends of the school days from buses bring pupils from the villages out of the York area. Whilst there is indicated on the plan a 'bus drop off point' within the grounds residents feel this will be ignored. The evidence they feel for this is the fact that the buses for the current school do not use Low Poppleton Lane but park along Boroughbridge Road causing a visual obstruction.

A further concern is the bus stops relation to the 'Railway Level Crossing'. There is a feeling that this could cause tailbacks and disruption on the crossing. This then would have a knock on affect of restricting access/exit to the 2 houses located opposite the bus stop when a bus is stationary

Residents request:

That the bus stop is relocated on Millfield Lane on the grounds of safety

Councillor Tracey Simpson-Laing
Acomb Ward
15th June 2008