

# MILTON PARISH COUNCIL

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08 September 09

Dear Mr Davies

## **Milton to Impington Foot/Cycleway Consultation**

Milton Parish Council would be in favour of the cycleway proposal if there could be a guarantee from Education Transport that the bus provided for children attending IVC would continue; if there is no guarantee however that the bus would continue we would object to the cycleway being built.

We are very concerned that this consultation has happened at such short notice that the Parish Council has not had time to consult properly with the County Council and the village on some of the issues.

Despite this difficulty we have been able to alert the village of the implications of a cycleway between Milton and Impington. As a result this office has received numerous emails; in addition many residents attended our Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> September to voice their concerns to such an extent that the "Public Participation" that normally takes just a few minutes lasted from 7.40pm to 9.00pm. Even then the chairman had to bring the discussion to a close.

Most residents agreed that a cycleway between Milton and Impington in principle is a good idea but **NOT** at the expense of the loss of the bus to Impington Village College.

We are concerned that the proposals are very sketchy. If the cycleway is built then the following must be addressed:

- The cycle footway must be at least 2.5 metres wide to avoid conflict between cyclists traveling in opposite directions and should be set back at least 1 metre from the road.

- The cycle/footway must run **all the way** from Milton to Impington Village College.
- The Park & Ride site, HWRC and the new warehousing units adjacent the Mere Way are hazards for cyclists. There must be a phase of lights at the exit to the Park & Ride site operated remotely by foot or cyclists on approach.
- The A10 footbridge must be improved for use by cyclists. At present it is a footbridge only not suitable for cycling and was not built to take the numbers of children that would need to use it at peak times. It is also important to remember that since the Park & Ride was opened numbers using this bridge have increased.
- In particular the parapets should be raised and the bridge should be widened to accommodate the increase in users as in reality children are unlikely to dismount when using this bridge.
- Street lighting should be provided for the whole of the route.
- The speed limit for the route should be reduced.
- The cycle route should be gritted in winter.

Many parents are worried about their younger children cycling along this stretch in all weathers and having to carry the large rucksacks on their backs that secondary school children seem to need.

There is no doubt that if the provision of this cycleway results in the loss of the school bus we shall see most Milton parents taking their children to school by car. Extra journeys on the busy A10 / A14 and along Butt Lane at peak times to ensure that Milton children can go to school safely cannot be allowed to happen on environmental and economic grounds.

Conclusion: We support the cycleway from Milton to Impington **ONLY** if cast iron assurances can be given that the free school bus from Milton to Impington Village College will be maintained. Without these assurances we shall oppose the cycleway most vigorously

Yours sincerely

Jim Daniels