

Lancashire and Cumbria Branch
 c/o Island House, Moor Road,
 Chesham
 HP5 1WA



29/04/2019

To
 Richard Camp
 Lancaster City Council
 Planning and Housing Policy Team
 Town Hall
 Lancaster
 LA1 1PJ

Dear Mr Camp

Thank you for contacting me with regards to the plan for the "super highway for cyclists and walkers" in your Lancaster District Local Plan 2011 to 2031 in my communication dated 11/2/2019.

During our conversation you explained that the detail of the superhighway has not yet been formalised and that it would not be using the canal towpath. However there is some ambiguity in the wording of the plan particularly in sections

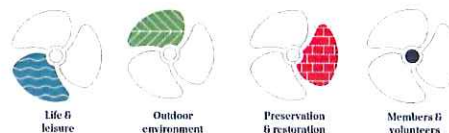
11.9 Page 44 and
 12.42 Pages 54 and 55.

It would be appreciated if these 2 sections could be reworded to remove any ambiguity and that the superhighway does not use the canal towpath.

Many other parts of the document suggest linking walking and cycling to the canal :

2.7 page 13
 SO5 page 20
 11.9 page 44
 12.42 pages 54 and 55
 13.19 page 60
 14.8 page 64
 Policy SG7 XV111 page 66
 14.12 page 67
 PolicySG9 XX page 72
 Policy SG10 1V page 75.

We are in favour of plans to encourage more walking and cycling and using the canal towpath will certainly encourage this, but experience has taught us that improving towpaths can often give cyclists the opportunity to use the improved areas as "race tracks". Personally as a user of the canal system I frequently encounter some cyclists speeding along the canal towpath causing distress to walkers and boaters especially when mooring. The plan would obviously increase use of the towpath and it would be appreciated if close communication would occur with Canal and River Trust and yourselves to reduce possible speeding of cyclists. This has been partially achieved in the past by having cyclists dismount signs near bridges and appropriate metal barriers with gates.



Although not part of your plan it should be noted that the use of electrically propelled bicycles and scooters now brings Inland Waterways Association additional concerns with Parliament possibly giving electric scooters rights to use cycle paths. The only motorised vehicles permitted on towpaths should be those authorised for use by the employees or contractors of the navigation authority, those having rights of access to property and electric wheelchairs or tricycles used by disabled persons. See section 85 of IWA towpath policy. Any signing on entry to canal towpaths may have to include appropriate wording.



Jim Nott

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