

# 23/1062/MP - King George V Playing Fields

## Response from Exeter Cycling Campaign

---

Matthew

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pre-Application enquiry from Exeter City Council for changes to the King George V Playing Fields.

We have considered the documents [here](#) and offer you the following comments.

### We welcome

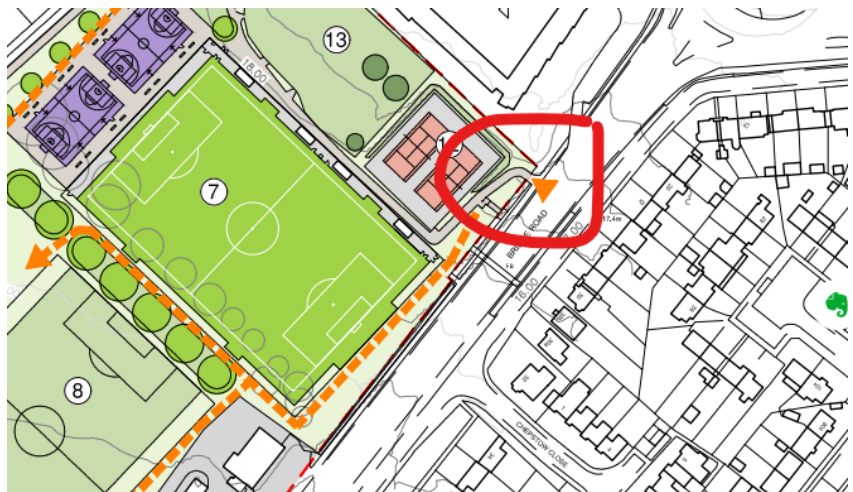
We welcome greater use being made of this public space and the increased tree cover this plan will bring. We are supportive of the addition of the “woodland trails for runners, walkers & bikes”.

### Concerns

We do though have the following concerns:

#### 1. Reduced access for people cycling

The proposals appear to have downgraded / removed the cycle access from Bridge Road. The Proposed site Layout Option C suggests that this entrance will become a pedestrian entrance only. This degradation of access for people cycling cannot be supported.

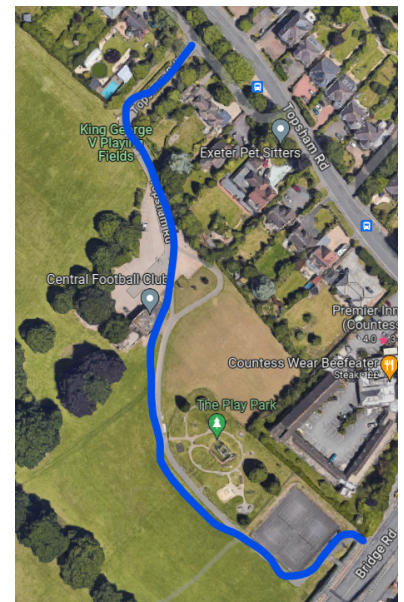


#### 2. Permeability of the site for people cycling

The current path from Bridge Road through the site to Topsham Road is an important, traffic-free route for people cycling to avoid the Countess Wear Roundabout.

The Proposed site Layout Option C appears to remove this safe-through route across the site. This degradation of provision for people cycling cannot be supported.

This proposal falls short of national guidelines for prioritising active travel. It also runs counter to the City Council's strategies (Local Plan, the Exeter Vision 2040 and the Liveable Exeter strategy), all of which seek to “encourage healthy, active



# 23/1062/MP - King George V Playing Fields

## Response from Exeter Cycling Campaign

---

*lifestyles*" and "*make Exeter the most active city in the UK*". This will not be achieved if we continue to prioritise car-driving to locations such as this and discourage cycling / wheeling.

This proposal should ensure that there continues to be a through-route for people cycling, that this route avoids and/or is made safe where there are cars travelling/parking and that all parts of the George V fields are accessible by bike.

### 3. Cycle Parking

This proposal has increased the space allocated for car parking but appears to have made no provision for cycle parking. Such car-normativity in the design of a location which should be enabling more active travel is disappointing. We would encourage the City Council to familiarise themselves with the best practice LTN 1/20 designs for cycle parking (which are endorsed in the emerging Local Plan) and ensure there are multiple cycle parking locations on this site which are secure, covered and usable by bikes of all forms.

On the basis of our concerns above we would object to this pre-application enquiry until these shortcomings are addressed.

Thank you

Mike

Mike Walton

**EXETER CYCLING CAMPAIGN**

---

[exetercyclingcampaign.org.uk](http://exetercyclingcampaign.org.uk)

Twitter: [@ExeterCycling](https://twitter.com/ExeterCycling)

Facebook: [ExeterCyclingCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/ExeterCyclingCampaign)

Instagram: [ExeterCyclingCampaign](https://www.instagram.com/ExeterCyclingCampaign)

Charity No: 1183586