

Cycling near the Waitrose store (planning application 13/01/01985/FUL)

Councillor Bierman and Heather Rainbow met with Muse and Waitrose representatives at 2pm on 25th November to discuss improvements to cycle infrastructure next to the new Waitrose store at Basing View. The planning application is due to go for approval in January 2014.

We liked:

- Well located cycle parking using Sheffield cycle racks
- New shared use pedestrian / cycle pavement provided on both sides of the road (Upper Basing View), and is 3m wide.
- The siting of a new straight “boulevard” for cycle use between Matrix House on Alencon Link and Basing View.
- Improved transfer between the carriageway and the footway beside Matrix House on Alencon Link, this will then be part of a cycle route
- A positive travel plan which will encourage cycling
- An official cycle route across part of Eastrop roundabout and along the underpass to Basing View

We did not like:

The increased length in the present unofficial direct cycle route from the railway bridge at Norn Hill to Eastrop roundabout and the dog leg into Basing View road and the access to the truncated underpass. Upper Basing view road will be moved further west and the footway will be officially shared use, but part of the subway will be closed necessitating a dog leg junction taking the cyclist along the boulevard into Basing View, then crossing Basing View road where pedestrians will use steps down into the truncated underpass and wheelchair users and cyclists will have to use a long > shaped ramp with a 360° change of direction.

We asked for the following improvements/considerations:

- cycle routes across all parts of Eastrop Roundabout not just one part
- a cycle route from Norn Hill to the station beside the railway line
- a cycle route from Waitrose to Old Basing beside the railway line
- a cycle route on both sides of the railway line from the station to Old Basing
- that pedestrian crossings be of a zebra design rather than signalised

Waitrose/Muse representatives:

1. Explained that Upper Basing View road had to be transposed westward in order to accommodate Waitrose on to a very restricted site and the gradient had been improved

from 1/15 to 1/20. As a result the underpass was no longer in alignment with the road and had had to be truncated (shortened) to come up on Lower Basing View.

2. Agreed to consider modifying the section from the underpass to Lower Basing View road by putting in a ramp parallel to the steps for cycles to be wheeled up.
3. There were time, financial, engineering and land ownership problems with converting the footway from Queens Pub to Poison pub beside railway line, as a result it could not be achieved under the present planning application. Waitrose might consider contributing Section 106 money to cover part of the cost, the rest to be produced by other future developers on Basing View.
4. Muse agreed to involve BBUG/CTC on further plans for the development of Basing View and to keep our other requests in mind

Other

We need to continue to monitor future infrastructure changes at Basing View and Eastrop roundabout. We are grateful to independent cyclists such as Stephen Harris in their assistance and also to Cllr Bierman for independent talks with officers at the borough. Attached is a copy of the objection that Heather made to the planning application on behalf of cyclists.

Prepared by Heather Rainbow on behalf of CTC and BBUG (Basingstoke Bicycle Users Group)

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