

PCyC Plymouth Cycling Campaign response to Planning – Application Summary 25/00906/PRDE

We note from the above Application PCC (Plymouth City Council) intends “Changing the existing segregated footway/cycleway along Plymbridge Road to a 3.5m shared use path”. This will degrade the current infrastructure, which is currently a segregated path for cyclists and pedestrians, bringing them into potential conflict. Our understanding of the proposal is that it is intended to provide an extra 83 parking spaces in the Park & Ride.

The application currently states, “Comments may not be submitted at this time”. Our understanding is that this is a ‘Permitted Development’ as it is council owned land, therefore planning permission is not required, we presume that this is why the public are unable to have their say on this matter, which seems somewhat less than transparent or democratic. Could this be confirmed please?

Given Plymouth Council have pledged to increase the level of cycling and reduce car use in order to reduce inactivity and improve health outcomes, achieve net-zero targets and reduce congestion, replacing cycling infrastructure with car parking spaces seems to be completely at odds with these objectives and so represents a very retrograde step, as well as sending out completely the wrong message.

PCyC are repeatedly reminded at our quarterly meetings with the council of the difficulty in obtaining funding for cycling related projects and given the planned Southway to Plymbridge cycling route is incomplete, we would like to know what is the cost of the provision of 83 more car parking spaces and what budget is being used to finance this change?

We understand that people using the Park and Ride is better than driving into Plymouth, however, is it not true that a lot of employees from Derriford Hospital use the George Park and Ride due to lack of parking at Derriford and the lack of other transport options which means that the cars are just being displaced to the Park and Ride.

Currently a great deal of Money (£45 Million)¹ is being spent on the Woolwell to The George scheme, including improvements to walking and cycling facilities, it seems contradictory to spend money improving infrastructure in one place only to degrade the infrastructure in close proximity that connects to it?

We advocate for cycling in Plymouth and therefore oppose the removal or degradation of cycling infrastructure in any instance. But in our view, to do this to provide more car parking spaces gives an indication of the mind set of PCC which appears to be very car, car and more car, making council statements about climate change, environment, health and active travel mere rhetoric.

Our members would very much like to hear a reply to the queries above.

Regards

Andrew Whitby (Communications Officer)

PCyC (Plymouth Cycling Campaign)

1. <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/woolwell-george>