

FDPC Meeting 07 July 2015 – Notes by C Jones on proposed Cycle Bridge as at 30 June

Following circulation of the Working Party's 2nd draft paper in February 2015 and the FDPC Meeting of 06 June, I contacted Mike Davies, Cycling Coordinator at Cambridge County Council (CCC) and Knights (the CCC Architects) to set up a meeting. At present:

a) The draft paper highlights the adverse social and environmental consequences of building a new bridge with large approach paths and raises several major concerns including:

- the proposed bridge site east of the railway bridge has a poor connection to the proposed railway station and Science Park/Cambridge Regional College areas on the north bank of the River Cam;
- there is also poor connection for potential users whose journey starts in the City west of the railway and they will therefore almost certainly not use the proposed new bridge. The wooden broadwalk carrying the Millennium Cycleway under the railway is too narrow to allow many more east-west journeys;
- the link with the Chisholm Trail northwards from Cambridge Station towards the proposed bridge and across the Newmarket Road needs to be considered. A long diversion up Ditton Walk and a staggered/offset in the crossing of Newmarket Road will reduce the overall usability. If the existing cycleway on Coldhams Common is to be used, the underpass under the Newmarket Railway should be upgraded;
- the traffic forecasts should be redone to take account of i) the small number of existing users who now cross at Green Dragon and use the Millennium Cycleway towards Abbey ward and Fen Ditton; ii) the 2014 travel to work surveys at the Science Park and Cambridge Regional College; and iii) Network Rail's forecast for the planned new station in Chesterton; and
- the traffic forecasts should include examination of theoretical site(s) west of the railway on Coldham's Common in conjunction with Chisholm route options. If the Ditton Meadows site is much less cost-effective, it may be advisable to rely on existing bridges rather than create an oversized, white elephant on Ditton Meadows.

b) CCC have asked consultants to undertake a modelling exercise to more accurately predict usage levels. It will be a few months until the outputs from these are complete.

c) Proposals for The Chisholm Trail route will be going to the Greater Cambridge City Deal Assembly on 15th July and to the Greater Cambridge City Deal Board on 4th August. The CCC officers will be briefing local City and County Councillors on these on 6th July.

d) It may be possible for Coun. John Williams to provide a summary of these proposals at the FDPC meeting on 7th July.

e) CCC can meet the Working Party or attend a Parish Council meeting after this date.

Charles Jones, Chairman, Fen Ditton Working Party
30 June 2015