

Email Exchange with Norfolk County Council re Newmarket Road Cycle Path

Here is the text of an exchange of emails with the Project Officer responsible for the Newmarket Road cycle path works about the signage along the route. The most recent email is at the start with the oldest at the end of the document. I thought that it would be easier to make the text available rather than try and summarise the exchange.

Chris Stebbing – EVRA Chairman 30 April 2017

Email: from Nick Woodruff to Chris Stebbing –Thu 20 April 2017, 12:40

Dear Mr Stebbing

Newmarket Road Cycleway Improvements

Thank you for your e-mail dated 18 April 2017 regarding the above scheme.

I have reviewed the temporary 'Think Road Safety' signs which have been installed on the approaches to the side roads and am making arrangements for these to be made more conspicuous - either by removal of vegetation or repositioning. An additional 'THINK' sign is to be installed on the approach to Claremont Road and 'cycles crossing' sub-plates are due to be installed on the existing cycle signs on Claremont, Camberley and Branksome Road on their approaches to Newmarket Road.

Approval was granted to construct this scheme at the meeting of the Norwich Highways Agency Committee (NHAC) which was held on 24 November 2016.

This scheme has been designed in accordance with the relevant design standards and careful consideration has been given to ensure that appropriate visibility has been provided at the side road junctions onto Newmarket Road. During the design process the scheme was subjected to two road safety audits (stage 1 and stage 2) which were conducted by a separate team to those directly involved in the design process. A post construction stage 3 safety audit was conducted on site on 24 March 2017, promptly following substantial completion of the works, which included a review of the construction and operation of the scheme including visibility at all side and service roads onto the new cycleway facility. This did not identify any issues related to visibility. Following the safety audit, I have spoken to the safety audit team specifically about the visibility at the side roads which are all considered to be appropriate for both vehicles and cyclists using the new facility.

It is proposed that the safety audit team will review the operation of the cycleway, along with the network as a whole, as part of a stage 4 safety audit which will be conducted approximately one year after the new cycleway arrangements have been operational.

This scheme has been through a comprehensive safety audit process and other than the points discussed above - no further action will be taken on this scheme. It should also be noted that it is the responsibility of all users of the shared use facility, whether they are pedestrians, cyclists or motorists, to act in a courteous and considerate manner to all other users of the highway.

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding this scheme.

Yours sincerely

Nick Woodruff BSc (Hons) IEng MCIHT

Project Engineer - Highways and Transportation, Norfolk County Council

Email: From: Chris Stebbing to Nick Woodruff - 18 April 2017 15:47

Subject: Re: Newmarket Road Cycle Path Works

I have been looking at the signs installed on Newmarket Road about the new shared cycle path and priorities and make the following comments.

I notice that the siting of the sign advising that cyclists have priority has been very poorly implemented. The sign on the City bound Newmarket Road just before Branksome Road has been attached to a lamp post and has been fixed so that it is partly located in a hedge. Driving along the road it is also obscured by the bus shelter so is likely to be missed by drivers turning into Branksome Road. This sign should have been fixed to the lamp post just before the bus stop to be fully visible. The sign also says that cyclists have priority on "side road" but there are no signs for the following side roads - Camberley Road and Claremont Road. The sign should either say "side roads" or be repeated for each road - although there are more than enough signs already along this stretch of road! Also, there are no corresponding signs advising drivers coming out of the City that cyclist have priority on side roads.

I gather that there are similar problems with the siting of cycle priority signs near Elveden Close but have not been able to look at these yet.

EVRA and our City Councillors have received several comments from residents about visibility when turning out of side roads and trying to comply with the new road markings. Clearly there are significant problems being experienced by residents which need to be resolved before an accident occurs. I am liaising with our Councillors and I think that a meeting with you to discuss these matters is urgently required.

Regards

Chris Stebbing

Eaton Village Residents Association - Chairman

Email: From: Nick Woodruff to Chris Stebbing EVRA - 23 February 2017 12:08

Subject: FW: Newmarket Road Cycle Path Works

Dear Mr Stebbing

Newmarket Road Cycleway Improvements

I am writing to you with reference to your e-mail dated 22 February 2017 to my colleague, Billy Fox, regarding the above scheme which is currently being constructed.

It is proposed to install 'Think Road Safety' signs with the words 'Caution: Cyclists priority at side road' on Newmarket Road on the east and west approaches to the side road junctions to provide warning to motorists that cyclists/pedestrians will now have priority. Additional 'Think Road Safety' signs will also be installed along the cycleway to raise awareness of speed with cyclists on the approaches to the side road junctions.

As you mentioned; giveaway lines and triangles have been applied behind the newly constructed cycleway at the junctions with Claremont Road and Camberley Road to indicate that vehicles must now give way to cyclists using the facility. It is also proposed for additional sub-plates to be installed beneath the existing triangular cycle warning signs on the approaches to Branksome Road, Claremont Road and Camberley Road which state 'cycles crossing'.

It is proposed that the additional traffic signs will be installed within a few weeks. As works are currently ongoing along this length of Newmarket Road and appropriate road markings have been installed at the junctions of Claremont Road and Camberley Road it was decided that it is appropriate for these junctions to be reopened.

As part of the design process these proposals have been subjected to a comprehensive road safety audit. The safety audit team has also recently visited site while construction is taking place and have not identified any issues with the works. A full post construction safety audit will also be conducted when the works have been completed to ensure that the scheme has been constructed appropriately and is operating in a safe manner.

I hope that this information is useful. Thank you for taking the time to contact us regarding this scheme.

Yours sincerely

Nick Woodruff BSc (Hons) IEng MCIHT

Project Engineer - Highways and Transportation

Norfolk County Council

Email: From: Billy Fox to Chris Stebbing EVRA - 23 February 2017 08:19

Subject: RE: Newmarket Road Cycle Path Works

Dear Mr Stebbing,

Thank you for both the emails you send through yesterday afternoon, including the one below.

I have copied my colleague Nick Woodruff into this email who is dealing with the Newmarket Road scheme and should be able to assist you further.

I will come back to you in a separate email regarding the Eaton works.

Kind Regards

Billy Fox, BSc (Hons) IEng MCIHT, Highway Projects Team 3, Norfolk County Council

Email: From: Chris Stebbing EVRA to Billy Fox Highway Projects Team 3, Norfolk County Council

22 February 2017 18:19

Subject: Newmarket Road Cycle Path Works

Billy Fox

I have a query about the cycle paths on Newmarket Road which I would appreciate you passing on to your colleagues dealing with these works.

My wife was returning home from work along Newmarket Road recently and crossing either Camberley or Claremont Road when this incident happened. The road closures on these roads have been lifted.

Cars were waiting to turn right into one these roads and traffic on Newmarket Road stopped to allow them to cross. My wife stopped when she realised a car was turning into the road but didn't realise that a second car was close behind but fortunately avoided being hit.

The PIN for the Newmarket Road works and the documents submitted to the NHAC say that the works will provide a priority to cyclists at these junctions through road markings. I assume that pedestrians will have the same priority. The completed junctions at Camberley and Claremont Roads have halt lines painted at the junction in front of the new dropped cycle paths and I have seen that cars do stop at these lines. However, for traffic turning into these roads from Newmarket Road there is currently no indication to say that cyclists (and pedestrians) have priority when crossing the side roads. Perhaps this is something that you have yet to complete but, if not, I would be interested in learning how this priority will work and if signs will be placed to inform drivers. Drivers tend to turn quickly into these side roads and cyclists will be at risk if drivers do not observe the priority.

Regards

Chris Stebbing

Eaton Village Residents Association - Chairman