

# CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

## Proposed Chesterfield Cycle Super Highway

### PRESS STATEMENT

The Civic Society wishes to respond to the comments by the county council quoted in the *Derbyshire Times* of 15 April 2021 concerning the western end of the proposed cycle superhighway.

- It has been well known locally for some time that the proposal to route the western end of the superhighway along an existing footpath between Somersall Lane and Greendale Avenue had been abandoned because the county council was unable to come to an agreement with landowners. This is not a new development.
- Because of this failure, the route shown on the plans accompanying the supposed 'consultation' exercise conducted on-line by Local Transport Projects for the county council runs along the north side of Chatsworth Road between its junctions with Holymoore Road and Storrs Road.
- This route has been very strongly opposed by the vast majority of the 310 comments made on the consultation website concerning the western end of the proposed cycle route.
- The Civic Society also opposes this route. Its construction will make Chatsworth Road dangerously narrow for the heavy traffic it carries; it will adversely affect the appearance of an attractive residential area; and it will impede access to and from properties fronting Chatsworth Road, including a sheltered housing complex, a busy medical centre and a large secondary school.
- It is important to appreciate that what is proposed is not a pair of traditional cycle tracks on either side of the main carriageway. It is a two-lane cycle track on the north side of Chatsworth Road. This means that cycles will be moving (at some speed) not merely from west to east (as motor traffic does on that side of the road) but also from east to west. We consider that this presents a serious hazard to residents and other pedestrians, many of whom are elderly or infirm.

- In particular, the busy junction of Chatsworth Road and Storrs Road will become more dangerous. This junction adjoins the medical centre, whose patients use the car-park on the opposite side of Storrs Road and the pharmacy on the opposite side of Chatsworth Road. Allowing the two-way movement of cycles as proposed at this junction is likely to lead to collisions with pedestrians.
- We are aware of complaints by residents of Chatsworth Road that they have not been properly consulted by the county council about this section of the proposed cycle superhighway and in particular that individual households were not sent a notice setting out the proposals and giving details of how to object. We know that this notice was sent to households elsewhere on the route.
- The Civic Society has asked the county council, under the Freedom of Information Act, for a list of streets to which this notice was delivered. If we find that not all streets on the route were treated equally, we will consider making a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.
- For this reason the Civic Society would like to hear from residents on the affected section of the proposed route (i.e. Chatsworth Road between Holymoore Road and Storrs Road) who did **not** receive a notice in March from Local Traffic Projects. Anyone in this position can leave a comment on the Civic Society's website or is welcome to phone the society's chairman, Philip Riden, on 01246 554026.
- The Civic Society believes that, given the strong opposition from local residents, the proposed western section of the cycle superhighway should be abandoned. The existing cycle route between Somersall Park and the railway station is quite adequate to meet the needs of the small number of cyclists who regularly use it, and it may be possible in the future to secure agreement with landowners to extend this route to Holymoorside while avoiding Chatsworth Road.

15 April 2021