



Devon Countryside Access Forum
c/o Public Rights of Way team
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Ms E Harper
Planning, Transportation and Environment
Devon County Council
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
EX2 4QD

16 November 2020

Dear Ms Harper

DCC/4187/2020 – Marsh Barton Station planning application

Thank you for advising the Devon Countryside Access Forum of revisions to drawings associated with this planning application. The Forum would like to make the following comments.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum notes that there are still a couple of bollards on the walking/cycling bridge, set 20m onto the bridge from each end. While recognising the necessity of ensuring vehicles do not attempt to use the bridge, these could present a danger to cyclists and the Forum advises that they should be removed.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum notes design changes to improve safety at either end of the new shared-use bridge and welcomes the separation of more vulnerable users from cars. However, the Forum questions whether there will be “no increase in vehicle movement” and suspects it will undoubtedly increase with cars accessing the Bromhams car park, seeking to drop off train passengers and going down to the Double Locks pub. Recreational access use has also increased during COVID-19 with cyclists, dog walkers and walkers using the Exe Estuary Trail, public rights of way and riverside green space nearby. Where Clapperbrook Lane meets the new bridge at either end presents safety concerns for both station users and

The Devon Countryside Access Forum is a local access forum. It is required, in accordance with Sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, to provide advice as to the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment.

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recreational access users and it is critical that these junctions are unequivocally clear in giving priority to vulnerable users. This will require monitoring and review and, where necessary, design adaptation to ensure safety of all users.

Clapperbrook Lane is narrow, with a humped back bridge at an angle. The planning statement refers to “formalisation of existing passing places”. It appears from the drawings that such passing places have not been included. The Forum strongly advises that these are incorporated to reduce the possibility of cars reversing down Clapperbrook Lane and impacting on the safety of people exiting the new bridge.

The Forum recommends that the Development Management Committee should undertake a site visit in connection with this application.

Feedback on these comments would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Hilary Winter
Forum Officer

Response sent on behalf of the Devon Countryside Access Forum

*Chair: Sarah Slade
Vice Chair: Chris Cole*

The Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF) is a local access forum under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act). Its statutory remit is to give independent advice “as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area...” Section 94(4) of the Act specifies bodies to whom the Forum has a statutory function to give advice and this includes Devon County Council.

The DCAF currently has fifteen members, appointed by Devon County Council, who represent the interests of landowners/managers, access users and other relevant areas of expertise such as conservation and tourism.

Dear Ms Harper

DCC/4187/2020 - Marsh Barton Station

Thank you for your email advising the Devon Countryside Access Forum that amendments have been made to some of the drawings submitted in connection with the Marsh Barton Station planning application, following concerns raised about road safety.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum welcomes revisions to the planning application and the additional detail on signage and road markings. A drop-off point on the Marsh Barton side of Clapperbrook Lane is supported as this will ensure some traffic does not cross the narrow bridge.

Alongside the 'cyclists dismount' sign, it would be helpful to have a visual interpretation of this message for anyone with language difficulties, for example:



The Forum's main concern is the assumption that "it is not envisaged there will be a significant increase in vehicular traffic over the existing situation." The Forum does question this as the road is already very busy and leads to the Double Locks pub and, what is now, short-term parking for the Exe Estuary Trail at Bromhams Playing Field. It advises that priority should be given to the sentence in the planning statement that the "existing passing places will be formalised with traffic signs and road markings, to provide sufficient intervisibility between opposing road users." The number of cars using Clapperbrook Lane should be kept under review and mitigating measures taken, as appropriate, to minimise the impact on more vulnerable road users approaching the new station bridge or continuing onwards.

The Forum would be pleased to receive feedback.

Yours sincerely

Hilary Winter

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