

Bulwell Pavement Concerns

Area Chair's Briefing 11 September 2017 at 10 am

Area Committee 27 September 2017 at 5:30 pm

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Introduction to My Sight Notts & Its Services

- We are the only charity dedicated exclusively to improving the lives of people living with sight loss in Nottinghamshire.
- We provide support services, leisure opportunities, information and advice to thousands of local visually impaired people and their families.
- We promote awareness of eye health within the wider community because we want to make sure that no one has to experience avoidable sight loss.
- We also campaign on a range of local issues affecting visually impaired people.
- We promote greater independence for visually impaired people, and support our service users to feel safe and confident in public places in pursuit of this independence.







Background

- My Sight Notts has received reports from service users, stating they do not feel safe walking on the pavements of Bulwell while cyclists are riding on those same pavements at high speed.
- There have been incidents and near misses over the past 18 months to illustrate this is an ongoing concern.
- An initial meeting was convened in January 2017 to gauge the situation from the perspective of relevant parties.
- This topic was brought to the Chair's Briefing in May, and deferred from the June Area Committee to September, to allow more time for a solution to be proposed by the Transport Strategy team.

Problems Experienced on Bulwell Pavements

- Service users have been involved in incidents and near misses involving cyclists on pavements. As a result, service users feel anxious and fearful of using pavements. They avoid going out at typical rush-hour times to avoid commuter cyclists. Even outside of rush-hour, cyclists ride fast on the pavements, not providing any audible warning to visually impaired pedestrians.
- Many service users have received mobility training, using aids such as guide dogs and long canes to navigate their way alone around their local community. Stepping out of their homes to visit local businesses, leisure activities and to use public transport is key to their wellbeing and independence. This is jeopardised by irresponsible pavement users. Service users may feel so unsafe on the pavement that they choose to stay indoors and risk loneliness and isolation.
- The cyclists in question are not in the “responsible cyclists” category; they are the ones who do not respect rules, so it is perceived handing out free bicycle bells would not help.
- Becoming more noticeable recently, it is not just cyclists but also mobility scooter users who are not respectful of pavement use and visually impaired pedestrians.

Narrative Description of Incidents/Near Misses

-  Service User knocked over by cyclist when stepping out of Pharmacy onto Highbury Road pavement.
-  Service User nearly hit by cyclist upon stepping forward from bus stop to approaching bus on Highbury Road close to the junction with Latimer Close.
-  Service User forced to step off the pavement and into the road because cyclist and mobility scooter close behind him on Station Road.
-  Service User with Guide Dog “cut up” by cyclist as available pavement narrowed on Highbury Road near junction with Broomhill Road due to street “furniture” such as A-boards and lottery signs outside businesses.
-  Service User stood stationary with Guide Dog as he heard cyclist approaching on Broomhill Road, and remained stationary until hazard had passed.
-  Service User with Guide Dog and a Sighted Guide encountered cyclist on Highbury Road opposite the junction with Latimer Close. Cyclist stopped and gave way on this occasion.

Graphical Layout of Incidents/Near Misses ⚠



KEY TO NOTTINGHAM CYCLE MAP

Yellow routes:

Recommended routes for CYCLING

Purple routes:

National Cycle Network on-road/off-road

Green routes:

Shared paths

Red routes:

Pedestrian street with restricted vehicle access

Red outlined routes:

On-road cycle lane

Potential Solutions

- “THINK PEDESTRIAN” campaign to raise awareness that pedestrians have priority on pavements.
 - Leaflets and stickers are in design, manufacture and distribution process.
- CPO enforcement
 - Stop cyclists using pavements to find out information from them.
 - Understand why they are choosing to use the pavements.
 - Recommend alternative routes.
- Potential physical changes
 - Review cycle use on Highbury Road and take on board any knowledge learned from cyclists’ feedback to CPOs.
 - Consider what physical changes may be implemented easily and cost-effectively, to improve the situation.

Finally...

- Thank you for your time, are there any questions?