



Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum

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Foxton Neighbourhood Plan consultation

To whom it may concern:

The Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum (CLAF) was established through the statutory provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and its remit is to advise relevant bodies as defined in Section 94(4) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 on matters relating to access to the countryside. Section 94(4) bodies are required by the legislation to take the views of the Local Access Forum into account.

The Cambridgeshire LAF welcomes this opportunity to provide input into the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan and how it might be revised and improved to better reflect the existing and potential future use of the non-motorised transport network across the Parish of Foxton.

We recognise that it's a very comprehensive plan, with a lot of concern for biodiversity, historical sites, and conservation. We are also pleased to see and support policies that aim to protect, enhance and develop the rights of way network providing a network of routes to promote walking, cycling and riding and to point out that circular routes, or routes that link with others, are particularly recommended. We would also be interested in being kept informed about the final cycle and walking routes to and from Foxton railway station, from the P&R to Addenbrooke's and any developments concerning the East West rail route that would affect Foxton village in relation access and rights of way.

We have the following points to make about the plan:

1. Improve the Extent of the Non-motorised Path Network

Section 7.19 - The local path network is a key component of Foxton's green infrastructure network. Some paths provide essential links with formal and informal recreation areas. The parish-wide public footpath network, maintained by Cambridgeshire County Council in partnership with landowners, is highly valued by the community. There is, however, a need to create additional permissive footpaths linking with existing public rights of way to form more circular routes. There are no public bridleways or byways in the parish. Opportunities for walking and cycling should be encouraged, including the creation of new permissive footpaths through negotiation with landowners, and cycleways in partnership with local authorities. A priority, as recommended in the Melbourn Greenways consultation by the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership in 2019, is a cycle route linking Foxton with Melbourn Village College. This would enable pupils from Foxton to safely cycle to school, rather than having to cross the busy A10 twice.

7.20 Local Plan Policy TI/2 Planning for Sustainable Travel encourages the provision of new routes. Figure 25 shows existing footpaths and cycleways. Policy FOX/14 Protect and Increase Recreational and Informal Open Space Existing open spaces and recreation facilities will be protected from development. Proposals which would reduce the quality or quantity of these facilities will only be permitted where the existing facilities are re-provided to a better quality or quantity in an appropriate location. The biodiversity enhancement/community orchard site adjacent to the meadow and school identified on policy map Figure 30B will be safeguarded for future informal green space provision. Development proposals will not be permitted if they prejudice the delivery of the future provision.

7.21 The purpose of Policy FOX/15 is to support the future expansion of the non-motorised path network - as indicated on Figure 25 and the Policies maps (Figures 30A and B).

Policy FOX/15 - Improve the Extent of the Non-motorised Path Network In order to maintain Foxton's close links to the countryside and facilitate walking or cycling to local services, development proposals will be expected to utilise opportunities to link into the wider footpath network and create new footpath/cycle links where applicable.

Having previously stated that there are no bridleways nor byways in the village, Policy FOX/15 goes on to call for a wider footpath network and the creation of new footpath / cycle links.

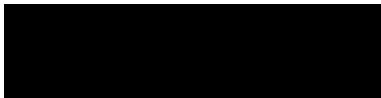
The Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum finds this unacceptable as it does not comply with many areas of the Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan, which states that the bridleway network is inadequate, fragmented and in need of improvement. The creation of footpaths and/or footpath /cycle path links will only serve to further fragment the bridleway network and add to its inadequacy.

This is despite the acknowledgement in Appendix 2 that the chalkland is suitable for equestrians where there are already stud farms for the racing industry. Such an area is therefore suitable for all types of equestrian activities and the Parish should be looking to providing access facilities.

We request that, through this plan, Foxton Parish Council, undertake to improve the rights of way network/active travel network by the creation of bridleways (or even better, restricted byways) which are the most inclusive form of access rather than restrictive footpaths and shared cycle/pedestrian paths.

The CLAF would be happy to discuss further our concerns and how we might resolve these issues.

Yours sincerely

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Mary Sanders (Chair)