

REPRESENTATIONS OF HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (HCC) HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

IN RELATION TO; BrP12a and BrP1 – Pedestrian/cycle route

29th March 2021, prepared by Anthony Collier

HCC Highway Authority Comments regarding;

BrP12a and BrP1 – Pedestrian/cycle route

Please also see promoter submission - BrP12a Cycle Route Connection

Provision of a high-quality route to enable walking and cycling trips was seen as critical to the sustainability of these two sites and potentially for other allocations in the settlement of Brookmans Park, enhancing the overall opportunity for walking and cycling trips and sustainability of the settlement. If the site(s) is(are) taken forward, HCC will liaise with WHBC to include site specific policy for its requirement.

The route proposed provides a more direct route between facilities to the east such as the Secondary School, and to the West with the main hub of Brookmans Park and the station. This provides a sustainable link for those living at either end of Brookmans Park and Bell Bar. Further, it would be to an adoptable standard, noting there are currently no walking or cycling routes running east/west in the settlement to any HCC standard, nor the opportunity or provision to deliver it due to the unadopted status of the existing network.

In terms of the provision, at this stage we would not specify detailed routing, widths or other design parameters, and leave those to later stages of planning (noting this would fall under the remit of a transport assessment). The site policy would contain high level requirements for design and delivery.

We have considered if high-quality route is realistically deliverable by the site, considering the many factors that impact quality. Major factors for walking/cycling routes are distances, surface, security and safety. Discussions with the site promoters has made it clear with both parties the level of provision expected and both are confident that it is deliverable, noting complete control of the land. We are also confident whilst this is a somewhat unique measure, it is not an unusual requirement of a site of this size and do not consider it would materially impact on site viability.

Whilst at this stage we do not prejudice future design requirements, we support work provided by the promoter titled BrP12a Cycle Route connection and are confident a high-quality route to HCC required standards is deliverable. The route would be a highly valuable facility that aligns to the wider objectives of both the plan, HCCs local transport plan and the NPPF.

Summary

This connection would see significant opportunity for the modal shift of vehicle trips to walking and cycling, notably education and commuting trips. The destinations and distances

give us confidence this would be a very attractive option for a range of internal trips, reducing the impact of private vehicles on the network and supporting a more sustainable settlement overall.
