

## **Cycling UK Stevenage comment on 23/00548/FPM**

### **Elm Green Pastures Land At Lanterns Lane Aston End Stevenage Herts**

To meet National Guidance LTN-1, traffic free links to existing cycleway are essential. The application refers only to the Lanterns bridleway coming in from the west under Gresley Way.

There is no reference to the new cycleway under construction which runs north south along Gresley Way past the site but on the opposite (west) side of the main road. There is no access between the current path alongside Gresley Way and the lower-level Lanterns Lane cycleway that goes under Gresley Way. Unless a link between these 2 levels is provided, pedestrians and cyclists approaching from the north or south along Gresley Way, will need to cross Gresley Way. There is no dropped kerb or central island to enable them to do so safely.

The SBC Local Plan SP6 states the intent to “create the conditions for a significant increase in passenger transport, walking and cycling”. Access through a locked gate for cyclists and pedestrians is not promoting active travel choices for new or visiting participants – for example to the “Have a go” sessions. To be in line with SBC Local Plan IT5, links must be from the existing traffic free network to all the cycle parking provided but the provision in the application is only a 2-metre-wide grass path which will not be appropriate for year-round use.

Cycle parking provision of 6 outdoor stands is not sufficient to meet the short-term minimum stated in SBC 2020 Parking Provision and Sustainable Transport SPD. Table 8 para 7.1 states a requirement for 1 space per 10 players at the busiest period which the application Transport Statement gives as 100 players.

The application states that vehicle access will be via Lanterns Lane and Long Lane. These are very narrow lanes with limited passing places and no pedestrian footway. The junction between Lanterns Lane and Long Lane is a very steep and hairpin shape corner with a degraded surface.

Any increase in car traffic will be more hazardous to people walking or cycling along these lanes. This is not compatible with the SBC Local Plan SP6 states the intent to “create the conditions for a significant increase in passenger transport, walking and cycling”. Lanterns Lane, extending from the cycleway section is a key route for cyclists leaving Stevenage to access the east. The alternative to the north is the very busy B1037. To the south, Tatlers Lane is a significant detour – even when the new Gresley Way cycleway is built.