

Yare Valley Society Newsletter



The objects of the society are to protect the natural landscape and wildlife habitats of the Yare Valley south and west of Norwich, principally between Harford and Bowthorpe. We oppose any development that would detract from its natural qualities and support projects which would preserve the valley for the benefit of all.

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Please Act now

Buses in our green valley

The threat of a bus road across the valley at UEA has returned. Such a route was one of the projects in the largely unsuccessful “Transforming Cities” bid, which was criticised by some City Councillors because of the lack of consultation about the bid, and a lack of coherence within the bid. A bus road across the valley that destroys an existing green and peaceful cycle and walking route would seem to be an element of that incoherence.



Site of proposed new Bus Road and Bridge at UEA in Valley green space

This time the bus road across the valley has appeared, rather bizarrely, slipped into a document, *Greater Norwich Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan*, as Project 52 within a proposal to create a UEA/NRP Walking Zone. The outcome of the consultation will determine how £1.498 million awarded by the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund will be invested in local infrastructure that promotes walking and cycling. The document is out now for public consultation until 28 June 2021, and is at:

https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/community-services/norwichlcwip/supporting_documents/Greater%20Norwich%20LCWIP%20Summary%20May%202021.pdf

There is a projects map at:

https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/community-services/norwichlcwip/supporting_documents/Norwich%20LCWIP%20Cycle%20Network%20%20Projects%20Map%2010421.pdf

The item to look for is Project 52, on pages 35 and 36 in the proposed University of East Anglia & Norwich Research Park Walking Zone.

To muddy the waters, the document has incorrectly described the line of the proposed new bus road. According to the map on page 35, it will cross the valley in front of the Sainsbury Centre, across the end of the broad, and up the steep slope through the woods to reach Roundhouse Way. The text under project 52 on page 36 says it is from the west end of Chancellor Way to Roundhouse Way. Neither of the options seem to make sense. The Walking Zone description on page 36 makes no mention of a bus route.

In discussion of project 52 with the Norfolk County Council Officer involved it was agreed there was a need for more careful and accurate wording. We now understand there are two separate issues here:

1. Cycle/walking route. A proposal for an enhanced cycle/walking route following the line shown on the map and highlighted in green. This would be as shown from Norfolk Road across to Roundhouse Way.
2. Cross valley bus road and bridge. A new cross valley bus road, with a new bridge, from the end of Chancellors Drive directly crossing the valley to Colney Lane. This would be, in part, along the line of the existing pink pedal route – a route recognised as much used by walkers and cyclists. The intention is to segregate the cycling/walking from the bus route, but by then the damage will have been done.

If you agree with us, and are unhappy about a new road and bridge, and buses in our green space **please respond now to the consultation:**

<https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/community-services/norwichlcwip/consultation/subpage.2021-05-07.1440805483/>

You can respond to Project 52 alone, and there is no need to answer all the questions. To reach the point in the consultation where you can comment under the UEA/NRP Walking Zone heading, keep clicking “continue” on bottom RHS until you reach box number 18.

Here are some of our thoughts on new roads and buses in the Valley:

Adverse landscape impact on the Yare Valley Character Area.

Destruction of a green and tranquil walking/cycling route (pink Pedalway).

Degradation of the valley as a green infrastructure corridor for wildlife and recreation.

Introduction of pollution, including noise, light, airborne toxic particles.

Introduction of a traffic hazard for young children and their families.

The possible use of cycling/walking funds to mitigate an undesirable road scheme for buses.

You can no doubt add to the list! Please reflect on what is important to you for this valley green space.

You may wish to respond to other items in the consultation. The YVS response will include positive support for many of the items relevant to the Valley, such as the creation of a UEA/NRP Walking Zone, improvements to routes within the valley, and the various improvements to the walking/cycling routes that connect the surrounding population with the Valley reducing the need to use motor vehicles.

Thank you for your support

YVS Committee.