

Minor development

Application Number: FUL/2013/0979

University of Warwick, Gibbet Hill Road

New pedestrian/cycle shared route.

WITHIN GREEN BELT?	No
VISIBLE FROM GREEN BELT?	No
WITHIN CONSERVATION AREA?	No
LISTED BUILDING?	No
PRINCIPAL CDP POLICY	SCL9, GE14, AM13, AM22.

ADDRESS AND DATE OF NEIGHBOUR NOTIFICATION

- 4 site notices were posted on 19th June 2013.
- Two letters were received, neither raising objection but making points around the lack of consultation with the Cycle Coventry advisory group, the lack of more than a single route across the University, and segregation of pedestrians and cyclists across all of the route rather than just part.

RELEVANT HISTORY

- None

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- Warwick District Council – No objections
- Highways – No objection
- Tree Preservation Officer – No objection subject to a tree replacement plan condition.

ISSUES

- Policy AM13 supports the development of a city wide network of cycle routes including schemes for local areas.
- Policy SCL9 generally supports the expansion and improvement of facilities at the University of Warwick.
- The complete route is 1.3km, with around 1km in Coventry, following a north-south direction. The path crosses the main University campus stretching from Lynchgate Road and leaving Coventry at Gibbet Hill Road. The route then continues through the Warwickshire part of the campus ending at Leighfield Road where it connects to National Cycle Route 52. At Lynchgate Road the cycle path will connect with the proposed Route 6 to the City Centre.
- The proposed path will mainly use existing paths and hard surfaces. Only 8% of the total path will be new hard standing.
- The proposals will not increase the teaching capacity of the University and therefore will have no material impact on traffic or parking demand. The proposal will make it easier for visitors to the site to use bikes, and is a minor alteration that improves existing facilities. It is therefore considered acceptable in broad policy terms and does not prejudice the University Masterplan.
- The proposed crossing areas will include signage to avoid confusion and highways raise no objection to the proposal. As such the proposal is in accordance with Policy AM22.

- In visual amenity terms the cycle path whilst long will be modest in width, and given it is mainly using existing hard standing will not harm the visual amenity or the character of the area.
- Some trees will be lost to provide the cycle path through the University, and whilst these trees are not worthy of preservation, it is felt necessary to obtain compensatory planting through a condition. Subject to the replacement planting, the proposal is considered to accord with Policy GE14.

CONCLUSION

- In view of the above the proposal accords with development plan policies and therefore the application is recommended for approval.