

Lewisham Cyclists are broadly in support of the streetscape improvements proposed for Burnt Ash Hill, but feel that more attention could still be paid to the needs of cyclists in these areas.

The effectiveness of this improvement scheme in creating a better space for cyclists as well as pedestrians, hinges on its success in slowing down faster traffic and getting drivers to treat the area as a place where they must give way to slower road users. One of our concerns here, is that the retention of a rather long central median does not contribute to this, but rather allows drivers to view the road space as theirs, reinforcing the concept of two lanes which can be used freely and speedily, rather than encouraging them to view it as a small town centre where they are guests who should give way at all times to more vulnerable road users. The central median space could potentially be put to much better use providing an uphill (Southbound) cycle lane to allow cyclists to pass queuing traffic safely.

We also don't see any specific reference to cycle parking, which we consider a fairly serious omission. We would have thought this would have been a key element of the provision, given the local amenities in the area, and the need, which the council recognises and supports, to encourage people to travel more sustainably in this motor traffic dominated area. We would expect a significant amount of good quality cycle parking, to be included in these proposals, for people shopping and using local amenities.

Members have also commented that it would also be beneficial if the improvement area could be extended Northwards as far as the junctions with Southbrook Road and Upwood Road. These roads carry significant crossing cycle flows for people heading to Colfe's school and Hither Green Station.

In summary, although we do welcome the aspects of the scheme which are designed to reinforce the 20mph limit and create a space where motor traffic is calmed and always gives way to vulnerable road users, we are concerned that the plans do not explicitly cater for cycling. We strongly believe that when making changes to any street in the borough, cycling must always be considered and wherever possible, visible measures introduced to make cycling a safe and attractive transport option for all members of the community, including the older, younger and less able members.

Tim Collingridge (Secretary Lewisham Cyclists) pp Jane Davis (Coordinator Lewisham Cyclists).