

Bristol Walking Alliance

To: Richard Bourne (Bristol City Council CAF Project Manager)

Filwood Quietway - Victoria Park and Northern Slopes

Thank you for keeping us informed of the consultations that relate to the plans for Filwood Quietway, and in particular the latest proposals for **Victoria Park** and **Northern Slopes**.

We support provision for active travel, including cycling. However, when seeking quicker travel routes for cyclists trying to get from A to B we would prefer such routes to make better use of road space, and not to go through parks. This is especially the case when such routes will take away space used by pedestrians and other parks users.

We were not brought in at the early stages of discussion about the route of the Filwood Quietway. However, if a cycle route is to go through Victoria Park and Northern Slopes, it must respect the character of the park and the green space. The primary use that these spaces are designed for - leisure, relaxation, and a relief from the urban environment - should not be compromised.

There are different views on path widths. A 3m-wide shared use path is seen as a potential safety concern to pedestrians who are hoping for a relaxed walk. This applies particularly to those who like to walk with friends or family groups and need space for mobility aids, child buggies, scooters etc. On the other hand, a 4.5m delineated path, while providing better separation between pedestrians and cyclists, can create too much hard surfacing and interfere with existing planting in an area intended to be green, and can lead to faster and so more frightening cycling speeds.

Bristol Walking Alliance does not wish to make detailed suggestions concerning these proposals but believes the wishes of local park users should carry more weight when decisions are made.

Our only request is for signage that communicates expected behaviour on shared use paths. Cyclists using them as a through route should be required to show consideration of park users by giving way to those who wish to use the park for recreation.

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