

Bristol Walking Alliance and Bristol Cycling Campaign joint statement

To: Development Control B Committee, Wednesday, 24th June, 2020 6.00 pm

Re: **Planning Application Number 20/00299/F - Land North of Airport Road**

On behalf of Bristol Walking Alliance and Bristol Cycling Campaign we wish to object to the removal of the upgrading of the key walking and cycling route along Airport Road that was originally part of this proposed development. In this, we agree with the position of BCC Highways Officers as stated in the Committee Papers.

The removal of the 1.5m strip of land along Airport Road, which had originally been agreed by the developer, means that the active travel route along Airport Road will have to remain shared-use rather than allowing segregation of pedestrians and cyclists.

Shared-use is not appropriate for a key strategic walking and cycling route in this part of South Bristol. The need to encourage active travel alongside new developments is essential to prevent further traffic congestion and air pollution as well as to address the climate emergency. Shared-use is to the disadvantage of pedestrians, especially the elderly or those with children, who can be deterred by having to watch out for the presence of passing cyclists. It is also to the disadvantage of cyclists whose progress can be obstructed by pedestrians. 5m is the minimum width required to achieve segregation between pedestrians and cyclists.

The argument that the extra 1.5m strip of land is required to increase separation of the buildings from the road is spurious. The problem for residents is the air and noise pollution caused by motor traffic. The best way to reduce this problem is by moving the buildings further back from the part of the highway occupied by the motor traffic. Having an intermediate pedestrian and cycling route will not make a significant difference.

On new build schemes like this best practice should be designed in at the outset. Getting it wrong now will have a negative impact on the ability to make this route suitable for cycling and walking for decades to come.

Bristol Walking Alliance

Bristol Cycling Campaign

23 June 2020