

BURWELL PARISH COUNCIL
The Jubilee Reading Room
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Chairman: Mrs E Swift

Clerk: Miss K Hyett

Sent to: activetravel@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

14 May 2026

To Whom it may concern,

Response from Burwell Parish Council: Consultation: Active Travel in East Cambridgeshire – Burwell to Fordham Route

Burwell Parish Council has considered the proposed active travel route between Burwell and Fordham. While the Council supports the principle of improving opportunities for active travel, it does not consider that the routes as currently proposed represents a sensible, practical or policy-compliant solution.

Route Directness and Practicality

In particular, the Council has concerns about the proposed routing via Exning, which is regarded as overly indirect. National guidance is clear that active travel routes should be direct, coherent and attractive if they are to be used regularly. The Department for Transport's Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 states that routes which involve unnecessary detours are unlikely to meet the needs of users and will discourage uptake. The Parish Council considers that the level of deviation proposed significantly undermines the objective of providing a viable active travel connection between Burwell and Fordham. This concern is also reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which promotes the provision of sustainable transport modes that are practical and genuinely encourage modal shift.

Alternative Strategic Connections

The Parish Council suggests that it may be more beneficial to explore improved active travel links towards Soham. Soham offers onward rail connections and a wider range of employment opportunities, education facilities and services. A route aligned with existing travel patterns is more likely to deliver meaningful benefits and support journeys for work, education and access to services, in line with national transport objectives.

Alternative Route Options

Burwell Parish Council broadly supports the response submitted by Fordham Parish Council, which suggests that, if a direct cycle route alongside Ness Road (B1102) is not achievable, an alternative route could be considered via:

- North Street in Burwell
- Broads Road as far as Broads Farm



- The existing byway leading past Ness Farm and Tollgate Farm and re-joining Ness Road near the Fordham level crossing

This option merits further investigation as it may provide a more direct, safer and lower-traffic alternative.

Inclusive User Groups

The Parish Council is keen to ensure that any active travel route takes into account the full range of users, including:

- **Walking** (for transport and leisure)
- **Wheeling**, including wheelchairs, mobility scooters and powerchairs
- **Cycling**, including e-bikes and adapted cycles
- **Micro-mobility**, such as scooters
- **Equestrians**

Burwell Parish Council would welcome further engagement and discussion on alternative routing options that better reflect residents' travel patterns, meet national design and accessibility standards, and deliver clear, demonstrable benefits for the community.

Yours sincerely,



Katherine Hyett

Parish Clerk