

From: [REDACTED]
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To: Consultations Greater Cambridge
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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Mill Road Consultation Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the consultation and for all the work that is going into it. It is so valuable and timely to consider the future of Mill Road within the whole picture of plans for Cambridge.

I welcome the important focus on environmental concerns, safety for pedestrians and cyclists and the desire to invest in the development of a vibrant, sustainable locality.

I want to raise for your consideration one feature that would be adversely affected if access to cars was completely stopped. That is the role that charities and places of worship contribute to support disadvantaged people and, wider than that, the contribution we make to well-being.

Mobility concerns

As I live and work here, the aspect that I became acutely aware of with both bridge closures, was access for people who are not able to cycle or walk far or hop on an electric scooter. That's important for people trying to get to worship services, midweek activities and for the charities on the road that serve disadvantaged people as well as families - among them Salvation Army, Life Craft, Ditchburn Place, along with ourselves on the Petersfield side of the bridge. With the consultation considering closing the road at both ends that would then affect the work of Romsey Mill, other places of worship, charities & Brookfields. I want to raise that as a serious concern for charities, places of worship & health services as there are many people who need access by car (including those with mobility constraints, the elderly and families with young children) who would not qualify for a blue badge.

Serving disadvantaged people

As I reflected further, I recalled the work of the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project (CCHP) prior to lockdown. There were three churches along Mill Rd partnering with CCHP to give overnight accommodation to homeless people. Each night was set up in a different church and packed down the next morning – car access was essential for that project to take place. I'm aware that CCHP has changed its way of working due to COVID but wanted to share that as an example of churches working together to serve the city and the importance of car access to make that happen. Currently at St. Barnabas, we're partnering with Social Services to offer support in parenting with disadvantaged families. I'm sure that, in these challenging times, different ways of support for people will be a growing aspect of our work and will serve the city's objectives around care and well-being.

I would ask that careful consideration is given to these essential access requirements.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I'm aware you have a huge task taking in all the different viewpoints so the work of the consultation has both my respect and prayers.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

Vicar

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