

Email: consultations@greatercambridge.org.uk

GCP: 'A new road classification for Cambridge'

Horningsea Parish Council response, July 2022

B1047

Horningsea Parish Council (HPC) wish to comment on your proposal to change Ditton Lane and the southern part of Horningsea Road (B1047) into an 'A' class road, with the intention to filter traffic onto this road to and from the A14.

We feel that this road is totally unsuited to more heavy traffic and reclassifying it as an 'A' road will increase the number of vehicles that use it, and in particular, HGVs.

This road passes through a densely populated residential area, where the houses are close to the road and the pavements are narrow and difficult for pedestrians. The whole route needs traffic calming, not more traffic.

There is a primary school on the road which leads to lots of children on bikes and people with push chairs and car drop offs at peak school times. There isn't enough space to allow HGVs to pass each other easily. It is a dangerous route for cyclists if they have to travel off the cycle path and turn onto Newmarket Road.

In recognition of the danger to pedestrians, the road near the school on Ditton Lane as recently been improved with safety in mind. Barriers and crossings have been erected in order to protect people walking and cycling to the school. There are several chicanes and changes in direction on the road here, to slow the traffic and make it safer.

The improvements were a good first step in the right direction and HPC would very much press GCP to further improve the village friendly nature of the current improvement. This should include separated footpaths and cycle paths as well as off-street parking. Off-street parking is especially needed around the primary school where potentially dangerous situations occur with fast moving traffic. Making sure that there are adequate drop-off facilities for parents is very important. This is not likely to work well on an A road. More should be done to divert traffic via Quy roundabout and Newmarket Road rather than using the road through Fen Ditton. Increasing the traffic here would also increase the problem of air quality for the children at school and residents in their homes.

The new development of Marleigh, Waterbeach New Town and the proposed sewage works will put further stress on this small road that already has a 7.5t weight limit from the A14 bridge.

C210

The road north of the A14 junction, is a C class road, the C210. The C210 is used as a through route from the A10 into Cambridge and the villages of Old Waterbeach, Clayhithe and Horningsea suffer from increased traffic volume and often speeding traffic, including HGVs.

The village of Horningsea has very little traffic calming and it is really unpleasant and increasingly dangerous to walk along the narrow pavements on High Street and try to cross the road, particularly for the young and the elderly. The road here is also used by very large farm vehicles.

Upgrading the road to an 'A' road will make this situation worse. Horningsea and Fen Ditton need more traffic calming measures and require a 20mph speed limit which should be enforced.

11,000 houses will be built at Waterbeach New Town. 1,300 at the Marleigh development, and the airport site has the potential for 12,000 new homes. Houses are built without the supporting infrastructure. There needs to be an eastern by-pass and not this 'on the cheap' proposal to funnel traffic onto a totally unsuitable residential 'B' class road.

Please properly consider the impact that this plan would have on the people living on this road, and in this area, and don't reclassify it.

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