

Comments for Planning Application 24/00241/FP - Cycling UK Stevenage

Roaring Meg Retail Park London Road Stevenage Herts SG1 1XN

Proposal: Creation of a new link road between south and north car parks.

This comment is written on behalf of Cycling UK Stevenage.

We oppose this proposal which is not in line with the Stevenage Borough Council Local Plan or Mobility Strategy.

The proposal is contrary to SP6 of the Local Plan which states "We will create the conditions for a significant increase in passenger transport, walking and cycling." Introduction of an additional road will be detrimental to people walking or cycling. Currently the entire area is available for pedestrians and in particular is a safe space for children. The introduction of the road contradicts the Local Plan by taking away some of the pedestrian space and introduces the hazard of vehicle traffic across it. Additional vehicle movement between the 2 car parks will add to the flow directions within both the car parks, neither of which have cycle routes indicated within them.

The proposal is against Policy IT4b as it does not reflect the principles of the Stevenage Mobility Strategy. Section 8.21 of the Mobility Strategy states, "The Stevenage Borough Council strategy is to support and encourage increasing Mobility by sustainable and inclusive modes. It is to support a mode shift over time from car driver to more space efficient, socially inclusive and less polluting forms of Mobility, and not simply to supply extra road capacity for the benefit of car borne commuters in peak periods." This proposal does not encourage the increased use of public transport or walking or cycling - it does the opposite and takes away pedestrian space.

Policy IT5: Parking and Access expects developers to make provisions for pedestrians and cyclists that include "Safe, direct and convenient routes within the development". The new road does the opposite to this, taking away the safety and convenience of the large plaza, with its current opportunities for safe walking routes in all directions. The increased traffic flow on internal roads within the 2 car parks caused by the new link will mean the car parks themselves become less safe for people cycling through them. Neither car park has any cycle routes linking the cycle parking in the development area to the cycleway network on Monkswood Way, Elder Way or London Road. Whilst the provision of 8 cycle racks for Hire Cycles is welcomed, their usefulness is limited without safe cycling links across the car parks between the cycle parking and the wider cycleway network.

The Stevenage Borough Council Local Plan Mobility Strategy states that, "Stevenage Borough Council will place a high priority on active travel". This proposal does the opposite so should be rejected.