

## CYCLEPATH

I am writing this because I believe strongly that a cycle path should be built alongside the B1028 before anyone is seriously hurt. I have lived in Wivenhoe for over 40 years, I have no connections with the University and don't ride a bike, however, as a car driver I fear for all cyclists along the stretch of road between the Fire Station and the entrance to the University.

In 2007 2008 I wrote to both Colchester and Essex councils hoping that something would be done and in July 2008 received a hopeful letter from Cllr. Hume of Essex Council. But still no action, though I see from the latest Wivenhoe News that Cllr. Young may have secured a hope of funding from Essex.

It seems to me that the obvious route is to widen the current footpath along the B1028. I very much doubt that the discussed route from Broom Grove School along the existing footpath across the fields would be much used. The Broom Grove solution seems a long way round especially if one is not coming from the Lower Lodge area of Wivenhoe and unlike a cycle path sharing a wide footpath along the B1028, would need expensive lighting to be safe. In addition it would put additional pressure on the access to Broom Grove School at a time when children were coming and going.

Most of the way for the widening of the existing footpath, so that it could be shared with a cycle path, could be done by piping the ditch. This would avoid the need to negotiate with the owner of the arable land. There are, however, two pinch points where the current footpath passes houses. These could be overcome with a CPO on part of their front gardens, new front walls and landscaping.

This may seem a radical solution. But members may not remember that a similar situation arose when Millfields School was built and there was no pavement from Belle Vue Road to the top of Rectory Hill. At that time Councillors discussed the demolition of Mill House, 94 Belle Vue Road. However, it was decided to use a CPO to purchase parts of several front gardens in Rectory Hill, build them new front walls, landscape their gardens, and move the carriageway of Rectory Hill several metres to the North to accommodate the new footpath.