

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Policy](#)
Subject: Response to Great Totham Neighbourhood Plan Reg 15 Consultation
Date: 27 October 2021 11:21:55

Good morning,

Please see below Essex Bridleways Association's response to the above consultation. An acknowledgement of safe receipt would be appreciated. Thank you.

Following our response to the original consultation in January 2021, we note that a couple of the points we raised have been addressed and incorporated into this document; however, there are still some issues which in our opinion should also be considered.

We note that on page 40 there is a section entitled Walking and Cycling; however, as previously stated equestrians are not mentioned, although para 7.9 now acknowledges the existence of bridleways but, disappointingly, only to enhance walking and cycling routes. Again, we ask that equestrians are also included here as they are also vulnerable road users and need equal opportunities for safe access and this Plan should not discriminate against one vulnerable user group as is the case now.

Page 45 Policy GT08: This is headed up 'Pedestrian and Cycle Access'. Again, we ask that ALL vulnerable road users, including equestrians, are included within this Plan. Whilst we accept that there is an aspiration to encourage walking and cycling, and that walking and cycling are more popular within the more built up areas, it is very important to consider the environs of the village and off-road links between settlements and the countryside beyond. It is apparent from the introductory paragraphs of this Plan that the rural nature of the Plan area is greatly appreciated, and we feel the Policies within the Plan should also reflect the rural environs and not just the built up areas as is the case here. It follows that whilst equestrians are unlikely to be accessing the built-up areas, they will within the more rural recreational routes, and these should also be included.

Page 46 section 8 Community Activities: we note that the local riding stables are listed as a community asset, and it is a shame that this Plan does not consider the need for safe off-road access for users of this and other livery yards/private owners and this should be addressed.

Page 50 Non-Policy actions: we note that Access and Leisure and the enhancement of the public rights of way network is listed here; see note regarding 3.1 Vision Statement as we feel that this should be given more prominence within this Plan.

Kind regards

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[REDACTED] | Bridleways Development Officer | Essex Bridleways Association

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