

Woodgate Valley Green Route FBC - Appendix G - Consultation Responses				
	Questionnaire No	Yes I support the proposal	No, I disagree with the proposal	No opinion
Be Heard				
1	Y			Bridlepath needs resurfacing. Horses still need to be able to cross to the 2 fields we use for canter work.
2	Y			The drawings are unclear. It is difficult to tell what the paths will be made from or how wide they will be. In some places you say the width is constrained, but if it is not clear why the path can't be widened. On one of the drawings the path is partly coloured in brown, but I can't see what the reason for this is. Is it a new path?
3	Y			<p>I actually prefer the paths as they are gravelled, not sure a snaking line of Tarmac is the way to go. It will detract from the natural surroundings and landscape.</p> <p>However, I do not think you are doing enough with the valley.</p> <p>I currently use the valley as a cycling loop as many people do and the path to the north of the brook is in desperate need of repair. I am aware that the horse trekking use this side, but the paths have recently become very dangerous as they ride their horses when the paths are waterlogged. This just churns up the ground. I know they have a right to ride, and I certainly am not suggesting it is banned, however there is room to provide both a bridle way for the horses and the path for cyclists, runners and walkers.</p> <p>To make the most of this valuable asset surely the way to go would be to provide decent hardcore paths, as is currently on the south around the whole loop, why would people want to walk up and down the same side? A loop that has a decent surface would surely attract a lot more use, from locals as well as visitors to the Country Park.</p>
4	Y			<p>While the proposed route and hard surface for the cyclists seems fine, what are you going to do for those who walk along the Bourne brook. Currently, the south side of the brook (the proposed side for the cycle way) provides the better walking surface. The north side of the brook is much less even and is in not so good repair, it is often wetter and muddy.</p> <p>Now some would say that the walkers and cyclists can share the same walkway, but in my experience this is not a safe way to share with cyclists approaching the walkers much too quickly and silently. If the 'southside' is going to be designated for cyclists then the alternative needs to be made available for both the walkers and those riding horses along the brook.</p>
5			n	I am a dog walker using the valley at least twice a day. The cycle path is currently used a lot by commuters and families alike. I think the path does need attention in some places, in particular where a 5ft drop in easing into the path and is potentially very dangerous, but I think the money put aside for the cycle route could be better spent. Woodgate is a wonderful area of nature in the City however I feel it needs some major conservation and management input. The amount of trees growing in a relatively small area is dangerous. There are too many roots for the amount of space and soil for the trees to be able to stand which is why they are not safe and fall just last week a huge tree fell across a footpath. It is so overgrown and the path north of the stream is severely neglected. There are some areas which resemble a muddy swamp and don't even dry out in the middle of winter. Management and conservation will improve the attraction to wildlife, as has happened on the Malvern Hills. If you want to draw more people to the valley then you must make it safe and a pleasant place to visit and then install the cycle route. The monthly volunteers who cut back some areas is great but just not enough for the expanse of Woodgate.
6			n	We regularly horse ride over the country park and feel that this proposed path would increase the traffic through there. Quite often walkers and cyclists are on the bridle paths which limits our riding already.
7	Y			Please work in the bridle path too as this is a much loved place for horse riders too and adds to the character of the valley. Feels more like the countryside when you see horses being ridden there.
8	Y			What plans do Birmingham council have to support the riding amount of horse riders within its area? I have owned and ridden horses in south Birmingham for over thirty years. Equestrianism is a growing sport and should be supported. Tracks that I have ridden for over twenty years are blocked and only by little access allowed?? To get to woodgate valley riders have to ride on ever increasingly busier roads. What provisions are made for the safety of these vulnerable road users to get off busy roads? I await a response.
9	Y			I have owned horses for 37 years and have ride down woodgate valley virtually every day in that time. I am all for moving forward and making the most of the country park ... But I feel that if there is money available to improve it I feel that the "Bridle paths" should be a priority as I feel they are an utter disgrace ... There are holes and drools from start to finish ... I understand that in these weather conditions the paths will be muddy and wet but there has not been any repairs in years (can't even remember it ever being done) making some parts quite difficult for the horses i.e. Where the paths have worn down and bricks and stones poke out can cause problems for the horses where they become foot sore/lame. There are also very boggy parts of the path which also cause problems such as the horses pulling g shoes which can also lead to lameness. I personally think it would be better to invest money in the bridleways before this is yet to go ahead to maintain what is already in place in Woodgate.
10			n	I have kept horses not far from Woodcote Valley all my life (previous 21 years) and have always used Woodcote Valley for riding. The bridleways are beautiful and there plenty of fields to exercise the horses effectively although the bridle paths are quite unmaintained. Although I think the cycle path is a good idea, the footpath through Woodcote Valley has previously been developed whereas the bridle path hasn't had any work done (been resurfaced in years (can't even remember it ever being done) making some parts quite difficult for the horses i.e. Where the paths have worn down and bricks and stones poke out can cause problems for the horses where they become foot sore/lame. There are also very boggy parts of the path which also cause problems such as the horses pulling g shoes which can also lead to lameness. I personally think it would be better to invest money in the bridleways before this is yet to go ahead to maintain what is already in place in Woodgate.
11			n	Bridle path is in desperate need of attention first as it is in a very poor condition. Also any charges to walkers/cyclist path must allow horses and riders access to canter fields that we have always used. Also in desperate need of attention is the access on wadley lane as this has recently been fenced and this would be lethal in icy weather for horse and rider trying to access woodgate valley. Whilst investment into the valley is much appreciated by all of us that use it it should be done for all and not just walkers/cyclists.
12	Y			I have been riding my horse down woodgate valley for over 10 years now since I was a child and unfortunately cannot ride him down there much anymore because of the state of the bridle paths, they are boggy and uneven. I feel if the cyclist and walkers path is to be revamped then something should be done about the bridle path.
13	Y			Although in principle I do support the proposals, I feel the Bridle path should be considered a priority for much needed repairs. Having accessed the path for over ten years I am not aware of any maintenance work ever being undertaken, the path itself remains uneven and boggy. Additionally I hope the proposed plans for a cycle/walking path do not restrict the horse/riders access to the fields.
14				The bridle way is in a very bad state and needs maintaining and connecting properly with the canter fields. The current provision for horse riders needs improving along with the provision for cyclists and walkers. The general public enjoy the horses and the health and recreational benefits of horse riders equal that from cycling as well as providing money into the local economy, to the rural farms, shops, stables etc.
15	Y			This is great idea, and whilst I realise funds are tight would it also be possible to have some outdoor gym equipment in the country park. Bartley Green seems to be one of the few wards that does not have access to this equipment. I'm sure that many people would support this and maybe local people would participate in partial fundraising for this or helping install this?
16	Y			Would also be nice if you resurfaced wadley lane as you said you were going to do back in Nov/Dec this is very slippery and needs redoing with a better surface. Also would be nice if you could make the bridle paths better too some of the trees are over grown and some of the paths need tending too as well. Thanks
17	Y			<p>A suggestion - fully support the plans for Highbury Park with regards to widening pavements to accommodate cyclists but alot of people cycling through the park are those who work at Uni/Hospital and therefore cycle back through the park when its dark.</p> <p>Is there any chance we could get those mini solar lights guiding the way like they have on the Rea Valley?</p> <p>Obviously I have no idea how much they cost but thought it would be a good idea</p>
18	Y			It would also be good to have the bridle paths renewed as they are in an extremely poor state in comparison to the people paths - I think more attention needs to be paid to the bridle paths, some paths are so muddy and forgotten about. Some areas have big holes in them where concrete over bridges has eroded and some areas could do with fencing putting along the brook where paths are getting narrower. The trees and bushes need to be chopped back more to allow safe passage in areas also. It would be lovely to have some bridle routes marked out to explore as there is a lot of ground that could be covered but it is impossible because of the dense growth in some areas.
19	Y			<p>Does the surface have to be covered with chippings... these can and do cause punctures, please make the entrance chicane wide enough to take a mountain bike handlebars like say the one at California way/ Bournbrook north bound (not south bound that is very narrow and cycle unfriendly)</p> <p>Is there any signage proposed especially at either end and at the junctions.</p> <p>At the Carfers lane end signage needs to think about linking to local centres or new proposed routes (link to B.g. reservoir? Sennodes park or green belt etc)</p>
20	Y			<p>I welcome this proposal as it will give improved access to this lovely Park for walkers, families with buggies, people using mobility aids, as well as cyclists.</p> <p>I hope however, that the Cycle Revolution is not seeking to improve cycling opportunities in green spaces as a way of spending its money without upsetting motorists. Increasing cycling must include prioritising cycling on main traffic routes, reducing traffic speeds and - yes - inconvenient drivers. For instance, why is there no separated cycle lane on Clapgate Lane? It is the main route from Bartley Green into Harborne and Birmingham, yet currently is a dangerous road with speeding traffic - a nightmare for cyclists. Cyclist-commuters will hardly want to use the scenic route through the Park.</p> <p>Will the Cycle Revolution take on this kind of challenge?</p>
21	Y			We have a very good proportion of cyclist that use the route from fireways > QE > bourn brook > Woodgate valley during the dry months at my work place. I have encouraged a group of non cyclist to give it a go and they have really enjoyed it. This always drops off in the rainy season due to the poor muddy surface, but this is the best time of year for safety reasons to keep off the road. I think with this work you will see a good increase in the amount of use for off road transport into the city. Fingers crossed that this gets approved. Pede strians and cyclists must cross West Boulevard in order to get from the Country Park to Wentworth Way and the path to Selly Oak. Traffic travels fast on the Boulevard. Are there any plans to slow traffic and make the crossing area safer?
22	Y			<p>This is a very welcome route. It is important that a minimum width of 3 metres for shared use paths is aimed for, although I understand that there are several areas along this route where physical constraints restrict the width that can be achieved.</p> <p>At the location where the route crosses West Boulevard, bollards should be used, rather than a chicane, to control access next to the new farm gate.</p> <p>In addition, at West Boulevard, it is important that a signalised crossing is installed to increase the safety of people using the route.</p> <p>Please note that there is a route going north along the Queenin Expressway, to a crossing next to the end of Woodridge Avenue, which would make a good link through to Halesowen if it was developed. Please have a look at this for a future route.</p>
Supportive - 18				
Not supportive - 4				
Other groups				
Push Bikes - 1	Y			<p>I fully support the proposals for the construction of these paths subject to</p> <p>1. the paths being constructed to a high standard - equivalent to main road quality, and</p> <p>2. the access points be made so that they do not inhibit any type of cycle (i.e. do not require a cyclist to dismount or carry out a hazardous manoeuvre).</p> <p>You may think that these demands are beyond conventional design standards previously applied in Birmingham but I would remind designers that we need to improve on existing standards if we are to achieve the aims and objectives that were the basis of the Cycling Ambition awards. Every one - including children and people with special needs - deserves a quality path and to be able to cycle without unnecessary interruption.</p>
Push Bikes-2	Y			<p>I'm generally supportive of the plans to put a paved path through Woodgate Valley, though I remain opposed to spray and chip, if that is what is planned, because it results in a poor, rough surface that falls off in about a year, and then the water gets in and the path starts to break up. Also, no chicanes please. They block legitimate users, and achieve nothing. Stick to bollards to block four-wheeled vehicles. A bridge might be a more pragmatic solution to connecting with Minors Road.</p>
1 local resident through City Council Webpage			n	<p>Please please don't Use the money to clean up all the litter rather than encourage more people onto the park.</p> <p>The path doesn't go anywhere anyway. How about connecting Leasowes Park to Selly Oak and Birmingham thru the Woodgate Valley, that would make more sense.</p> <p>A cycle route from Halesowen to Birmingham would be a good use of resources. I've been here 80 years and I walk the park almost every day.</p> <p>Until you keep the horses on the right side of the stream, keep the motorbikes off and start cleaning up the litter and fly tipping your just throwing our money away.</p> <p>Just like the rustic fence, and the wires unless you intend to maintain them please don't waste our money because without maintenance everything goes back to nature.</p>