

9th March 2023

Planning Policy
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By email only

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme Project

Deadline 3 submission

At Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1) (Part 2) on Environmental Matters, the ExA requested that Braintree District Council makes a submission in writing on the matter of Land Use and PROW.

This submission concerns allocated employment land in the adopted Braintree Local Plan. The site is Eastways and is at the address, Land North Of Colchester Road Witham.

I have attached a plan to this representation (appendix A).

The developers and the Council are looking to secure a permissive cycleway/footway through the development from Eastways (A on the plan) to connect into the new A12 (point B on the plan). This path will provide a much needed connection into Eastways, which otherwise would require a significant detour to currently access (via the main vehicular access) which may discourage walking/cycling to the multiple businesses in this area from further afield (e.g Rivenhall, Kelvedon .etc).

The Eastways developer has modified the National Highways Plan to show a potential connection as on the attached plan, however the submitted DCO plans do not show a potential connection from the proposed footway/cycleway of the new A12 scheme.

We have had informal discussions with Nuno Fernandes from Jacobs, acting for National Highways, who said they are happy with the principle of a connection at some point on the boundary however, have made no further commitments or indeed amended any plans to show the connection.

The Eastways development is a full application, therefore the only location that the new link can be created is on point B on the attached plan. The proposed

cycleway/footway will be privately owned on the Eastways development, but through the S.106 agreement accompanying the application, provisions will be made to secure access to use the cycleway/footway in perpetuity for members of the public, as well as maintaining it .etc. Provisions would also be made in the S.106 so that National Highways could go on their land to make the footpath connection.

The Council requests that National Highways give a firmer commitment, in whatever form that may be, so that they will construct a connection point to the proposed cycleway/footway. This should be undertaken in discussion with the Council and the developers, who I understand they are already in discussions with (due to temporary land take required to construct junction 22). If they amended the plans to reflect the connection point as shown on the attached plan, that would be the ideal.

If we have this commitment now, and potentially a revision to the plans, this would greatly assist this new link being secured.

I hope this sets out where we are and the rationale behind wanting it included.

Kind Regards,

Gary Sung
Senior Planning Policy Officer
Braintree District Council

Appendix A

