

PROPOSED GREAT WOLF LODGE, CHESTERTON, BICESTER.

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL – NOTE TO THE INQUIRY

1. Oxfordshire County Council (“OCC”) has sought a contribution of £70,000 as a “Cycle Improvements Contribution”.
2. OCC has confirmed that the contribution had been intended to deliver an upgrade to a standard suitable for use by cyclists of an existing public footpath – PROW 161/1 – which extends in a north-easterly alignment from the A4095, on the northern edge of Chesterton, to Vendee Drive.
3. In preparation for the inquiry, I asked, yesterday, OCC to confirm the arrangements for delivery of this upgrade. OCC has confirmed in response that OCC does not own the land - comprising a series of fields in agricultural use - over which the footpath passes. That land is owned by a third party. OCC has confirmed that it does not have control of the relevant land affected to carry out the works to upgrade the footpath to a cycleway. OCC has also confirmed that the upgrade of the footpath is not identified as a project in its Local Transport Plan and that OCC has no proposals to exercise any statutory powers of compulsion to secure delivery.
4. As such, there is little prospect of delivery of this upgrade.
5. OCC has confirmed that there is no other scheme to upgrade cycle routes between Chesterton and Bicester.
6. Having established the position, CDC considered it appropriate to draw this matter to the attention of the Inspector.
7. OCC has agreed that this note should be prepared and passed to the Inspector.
8. I attach an email from OCC which confirms the position.

ANDY BATESON

5 February 2020.