

E-mail correspondence with Ben Webster about a possible cycle path in Earlham Cemetery:

To Ben Webster, Norwich City Council, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

*Hi Ben,*

*I am writing on behalf of Friends of Earlham Cemetery. (Our group aims to protect, conserve and enhance Earlham Cemetery for wildlife and as a place of freedom, recreation and enjoyment for the long-term benefit of all sections of the local community and other visitors.)*

*We have recently been in correspondence with Chris Eardley about the opening of the pedestrian gate into Earlham Cemetery from St. Thomas' Road (without any consultation with our group, local residents or local councillors). The attached PDF lists our concerns and the Word document is the "substantive response" that Chris mentions.*

*In his reply, Chris tells us that he has spoken to you about the possibility of a cycle path through Earlham Cemetery, using the St. Thomas' Road gate. I would like to let you know our group's views on this.*

*Assuming that the St. Thomas' Road gate is to remain open, we are not opposed to having another cycle path through the Cemetery but only if it is low key, like the signposted path east of the main drive that avoids the Crematorium.*

*However, it is likely to be of limited use as an alternative to Earlham Road, as it would be less direct than the road and wouldn't link any shops or other facilities. It would be of no use in the winter months in rush hour because the Cemetery closes as early as 4.30pm from late October to late March.*

*We are completely opposed to keeping Cemetery gates unlocked / open at night to allow use of a cycle path beyond Cemetery closing times, as this would lead to vandalism and antisocial behaviour. In conjunction with this, we are also opposed to the installation of lighting (such as on the track across Mousehold Heath), as this would lead to light pollution and disturbance to nocturnal wildlife (and residents).*

*If built, the path needs to have a porous surface to prevent rainwater run-off into houses on St. Thomas' Road and to protect the fragile, grassy paths and should take the shortest route to link up with the main Cemetery road to preserve the peaceful nature of this part of the Cemetery.*

*Earlham Cemetery is a significant County Wildlife site and the area at the back of Earlham and St. Thomas' Roads (sections 34 - 41 on attached map) is especially important as a wildlife habitat. This includes the paths, which are lined with Snowdrops, Crocuses and Primroses, which are prone to trampling. The small bank by the lime trees by 19 St. Thomas' Road is also one of the best sites for hedgerow wildflowers in the cemetery, and should be protected from any works, should they go ahead.*

*Best wishes etc.*

Ben replied on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018:

*Thank you for getting in touch with me.*

*Allowing cyclists to enter the cemetery via St Thomas Road it is a facility that we have identified as potentially useful to minimise the time spent riding on busier roads that surround the cemetery and for people who wish to ride at a more leisurely pace and enjoy the beauty of the cemetery. For example it could be useful for people living in the Stafford Street area who wish to take young children for a gentle ride. My daughter learned to ride in the cemetery so I have personal experience of what a wonderful resource it is.*

*At the moment there is no active project to design a path connection to allow cyclists to enter the cemetery. If we do initiate such a project Chris and I would ensure that the brief contains the following requirements:*

- It is a low-key neighbourhood route*
- It is only available during daylight hours when the cemetery and St Thomas's Road gate are open.*
- There would be no lighting installed.*
- The path surface would be specified to prevent run-off into houses on St Thomas' Road and its alignment would connect to the main cemetery road by a direct route to discourage people from walking or cycling on the fragile grassy paths.*
- Flora and fauna would be protected during the works.*
- Consultation would be undertaken with the Friends and local residents during the design phase.*

*I hope this provides reassurance to you and your colleagues.*

*Best wishes,  
Ben*

Our reply on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018:

*Hi Ben,*

*Thanks for your reply, which is reassuring.*

*We are pleased that you will consult with local residents if design of a cycle path is to go ahead. It is a pity this didn't happen when the decision was taken to open the gate in the first place.*

*Best wishes etc.*