



Press release: Haydn Road's new cycle facilities—from bad to worse

July 1, 2015

It's hard to believe it, but Nottingham City Council has just constructed a cycle facility on Haydn Road that is worse than what was there before, which was no facility. At least £90,000¹ of council money has been spent on this scheme.

The main element of this scheme are on-road, unprotected, advisory cycle lanes which are in the “door zone” of the many car parking spaces that line the road, putting cyclists at risk of being knocked off their bikes by vehicle doors being opened into the lane.

Pedals understood that the plans were to include a “buffer zone” protecting cyclists from this threat of opening car doors, but these have not been put in place and there is clearly no room to remedy this given the amount of parking that has been retained.

We note that even if this buffer zone is installed, the route will still be poor given that it is unprotected and adjacent to traffic — an arrangement which encourages motor vehicles to pass bicycles with an extremely minimal amount of space. This space is reduced further when faced with the reality that many parked vehicles encroach into the cycle lane due to the narrow width of their spaces, and it is reduced most of all (to nothing!) during the sections of road where *vehicles are legally allowed to park in the lane*. The previous road layout, as bad as it was, at least meant that cyclists were best advised to ride further out towards the middle of the carriageway, a practice which encourages those passing to do so with a safe distance.

Pedals calls on the city council to conduct a review of this scheme, with a view to correcting its unsatisfactory features by providing a protected facility. As an immediate measure, we ask for the very unpleasant sections of in-lane parking to be removed. We are willing to work with the city council to help design a scheme that meets the needs of those cycling instead of putting them at risk and thereby discouraging people from getting on their bikes.

Notes to editors

- Pedals is Greater Nottingham's cycle campaign. Formed in 1979, we campaign for better cycling conditions locally.
- Pictures are available on request.

¹ <http://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/documents/s24852/Area%20Capital%20Fund.pdf>