

COUNTY COUNCIL – 21ST JULY 2020

ITEM 5 – PETITIONS

Text of the petition titled ‘Protect Wessex Place Cut Through’ containing 564

The Wessex Place path leading from McGrath Avenue to Huntingdon Road and Castle Road is a key thoroughfare for pedestrians and cyclists from Castle, Arbury, West Chesterton and surrounds making their way to shop, worship, get to work and school, catch the bus and go to Castle Mound, Shire Hall and the green forecourt as well as to and from the City Centre. A recent residents' survey recorded that the average number of journeys made on foot or by cycle on a weekday and based on a sample of six hours at different times of the day was two journeys per minute.

The footpath has permissive rights of public access and is not a right of way. Residents are concerned that the leasing of Shire Hall and associated buildings for development by Brookgate (the railway station area developers) may jeopardise access or that, in any event, access is not necessarily protected.

We seek to call upon the County Council to take all steps within its power to ensure that public access to the Wessex footpath by way of these permissive rights is protected in perpetuity.

We therefore call upon the County Council to take the following action for the benefit of all Cambridgeshire residents:

- i. Devise a legal way to protect public access to that part of the Wessex Place footpath that is owned by the County to ensure that public access to that area of the Wessex place footpath is protected in perpetuity.
- ii. Negotiate with all those having an interest in the Wessex Place footpath to ensure that positive cooperation between all such parties devises a legal way to ensure public access to the footpath in its entirety is maintained in perpetuity.
- iii. In accordance with i. and ii. above to ensure that public access to the Wessex Place footpath from McGrath Avenue is protected in perpetuity.