

Dr Richard Mapleston,
Chair FLDR
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25th Feb 2018

For attention of:

Councillors:

- Daniel Anderson,
- Dinah Barry,
- Ertan Hurer,
- Elaine Hayward
- Bambos Charalambous (MP)

Officers:

- Thomas Acton, Senior Cycle Projects Officer (cycle@enfield.gov.uk)

Proposed Bikehangar in Lakeside Road

I am writing on behalf of FLDR (Fox Lane and District Residents Association) in my capacity as newly elected Chair. I wish to bring to your attention the concerns of the committee regarding the way that the consultation has been conducted and comments on the proposal itself.

Consultation process

1. Requests for hard copies for elderly neighbours with no access to computers and further information from the Cycle Enfield team have not been answered. A committee member has telephoned the team many times over the last 2 weeks and left recorded messages but there has been no reply.
2. A specific request about why the site (No 69) was chosen, when residents living at and nearby have not asked for it, has not been answered. The residents can't understand why it has been selected as they have storage facilities for their bikes.
3. Only a few addresses in Lakeside Road have received the consultation document. We were informed by a local councillor (in good faith) that she believed that 10 houses either side of the specific address and 20 opposite would receive it but this has not happened.

Comments on the bikehangar proposal

1. FLDR note the council's own guideline that states
 - a. Enfield Council is keen to ensure that cycle parking in public places is placed sympathetically to the street environment, whilst meeting the need for parking bikes conveniently and safely.

- b. Enfield Council are trialling secure on street cycle parking in residential areas. They can be provided where there is demand, where a suitable location can be found and where residents are in favour of installing this type of cycle parking. This cycle parking is suitable for areas where lots of people live in flats and are therefore prevented from cycling, due to inadequate storage options.
2. FLDRRA recognises that there may be a need for bikehangars in roads where residents have no space to store their bikes (see above) but this does not apply to Lakeside Road which has front and rear gardens with access from side entrances.
3. There has not been a request for a bikehangar at the specific address or at residences nearby. Bikehangars should only be proposed in roads where there is a demand from residents and there is shown to be a need according to the guidelines above.
4. The bikehangar will project 2 metres into the road and has no lights (unlike a skip) and residents are concerned that it will be a safety hazard for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
5. Lakeside Road is in a Conservation area and the bikehangar will not 'preserve or enhance' the character of the road. A structure of this type would not be allowed in a resident's front garden but it is proposed to place it in the road and visible to everyone.
6. The proposal will mean the loss of a parking space in a road where there is a very limited on street parking and create further problems for residents or visitors trying to park. We note that in the Conservation area the conversion of front gardens is actively discouraged but this scheme may result in more requests for such changes.
7. The views of residents in Lakeside Road should be paramount and take priority over those in other roads as they will be the ones immediately affected by the bikehangar.

Liability of Enfield Council for the Bikehangar

The information contained in the Cycle Enfield Description states the charge to any user. It makes no statement about liability. In particular whether the council underwrites any potential loss to a user through theft from the Hanger or damage to cycles stored with in it (for example caused by impact from a vehicle). We note that this is not a theoretical possibility, as it has occurred to cycle hangers in Walthamstow on Blackhorse Road. If the council does not accept that liability we doubt that any potential user would be persuaded to leave an expensive cycle in the street. We note that the police advise against leaving expensive items in vehicles, inviting theft. Leaving cycles outside people's homes presents a similar level of risk to would be thieves. We request that this is clarified and made clear on the Cycle Enfield site.

In conclusion the FLDRRA committee, on behalf of the residents in Lakeside Road, is making this response to the bikehangar proposal. Please would you acknowledge receipt of this letter and provide answers to the questions raised.

Regards

Richard Mapleston

On behalf of FLDRRA committee