

**Public Meeting Held on Tuesday 4 November 2009  
7.00 p.m. At The Rugby Club, Wilford Village**

**Present:** Councillors Tim Spence, Andrew Price (Chair), Ian Malcolm and Brendan Clarke-Smith; Elaine Stenson (Neighbourhood Action Officer), John Lee and Matt Lees of Nottingham City Council Public Rights of Way Dept.; Members of the Wilford Community Group Committee and more than 60 local residents.

1. Councillor Price began by welcoming everyone to the meeting which followed on from the Annual General Meeting of the Wilford Community Group at which John Lee had presented the 3 possible options for a cycle path leading from Bader Road. Tonight's meeting had been arranged so that a wider discussion could be held and a decision made about which option, if any, should proceed.

He introduced John Lee who described the various options again and summarised comments already received from residents. Many of these had been negative, focussing on a potential increase in crime resulting from the new through route and the problems that might occur with an increase in vehicle traffic and the consequent danger and inconvenience to cyclists and residents of Bader Road. Other local residents felt the proposed cycle path would be advantageous in a number of ways.

2. Following John Lee's presentation discussion was opened up to the meeting. Bader Road residents wanted to know where the idea had come from and it emerged that a small group of residents had first expressed a desire for the path in 2005. Many residents claimed not to have been aware of any consultation process, despite the fact that around 500 homes had been leafleted. It was mentioned that a petition with more than 100 signatures against the proposed path had been submitted, but Councillor Price said he had not seen this. Many concerns about increased congestion in the area around school times were raised and there were contributions from a school pupil and a teacher against the idea. The Head Teacher of The Becket School, however, had sent a message saying he was not opposed to the path. Some parents with children at the schools said the new path would make a shorter route to school and would encourage parents to allow their children to walk or cycle. Many others refuted this and were very worried about larger numbers of people passing through a previously quiet cul-de-sac and the potential crime that could be encouraged by having an escape route from the area. Councillor Malcolm [reported to the meeting factual evidence that indicates quiet cul-de-sacs are more susceptible to burglaries](#) than busy streets. Many residents felt that the safety of cyclists and pedestrians in the area would be compromised by cars parked inconsiderately around Bader Road. An allotment holder had 50 signatures from the Klondyke allotments saying that they didn't want this path and that they did not consider allotments to be a safe place for children. It was said that those allotments are not currently secure.

Many of those present at the meeting made similar points about traffic congestion, crime and safety to cyclists and pedestrians in the area. Residents living near the footpath off Holly Avenue reported that they had not experienced problems following increased use of the path by school children.

3 Councillor Price put the following motion to the meeting:

'This meeting does not want the Nottingham City Council to build a cycle/footpath from Bader Road to Gresham Park and so rejects all three options'.

The motion was formally proposed by Mr Heavey and seconded by Mr Stiles and the vote was carried by a large majority.

4. The question of traffic congestion continued to be discussed. Some residents felt there should be more action taken on ticketing motorists (parents of schoolchildren) who regularly parked on double yellow lines. PC Nigel Brown said that some tickets had already been issued.
5. John Lee proposed that improvements should be made to the footpath to the rear of Vernon Avenue using money that would not now be spent on the Bader Road pathway. The meeting generally welcomed this proposal and agreed that suggestions should be put to the Wilford Community Group as soon as possible. The meeting at which the proposals would be raised should be publicised in Wilford and the final decision would be made at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.