



David McDowall
Interim Head of Planning and Development
East Ayrshire Council, Kilmarnock

PO Box 15175, Glasgow, G4 9LP

e-mail: consultations@gobike.org

web: www.gobike.org

By e-mail to: planning@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Ref: TF/AP/PH

13 January 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL,
PLANNING APPLICATION 20/0432/PP CROSSHOUSE BRIDGE, KNOCKENTIBER
CYCLE DIVERSION ROUTE**

GoBike is a group of people who cycle and who campaign for good quality cycle infrastructure in the area along the Clyde valley. One of our members has noticed this planning application, which we fully realise closed for comment 3 months ago. However, our concern is not about the partial bridge infill but about the diversionary route, or lack of diversionary route, to be provided for cycling while the bridgeworks proceed.

What is concerning us is that the diversion route is only signed between the path and Knockentiber village at the western end of the closure. Between Knockentiber and Kilmarnock we note from the drawing 004 that the signs will say "Use Alternative Route" without signing any alternative route! How are people to find a route when none is signed or provided?

We note that the full road diversion is to be signed and this is how it should be for the cycle route. We consider that, as a minimum there should be a fully-signed diversion via Bonnyton Road which runs parallel to and to the south of the path over the closed section.

While you might consider that the majority of people cycling on this National Cycle Route 73 will be local, I can assure you that many won't be and, in normal times outwith pandemic lockdowns, Kilmarnock is part of a cycling day trip for many people from Glasgow and surrounds. We thus request that you either sign a diversion along Bonnyton Road or upgrade/provide and sign a path closer to the bridge to minimise the disruption to a cycling journey.

It is disappointing, but understandable, that GoBike was not included in the list of consultees for this closure, but we do have several members who live in East Ayrshire and many more of us cycle into and through East Ayrshire.

Could we please request that GoBike be added to your list of East Ayrshire consultees so that we may provide an informed view on proposals that impinge on cycling?

We also note that Sustrans, the custodians of the National Cycle Network, appear not to have been consulted about this diversion to the route.

Many thanks for considering our concern.

Yours sincerely

Tricia Fort
for Consultations, GoBike