

West Bletchley Neighbourhood Plan, Reg 16 consultation responses

Cycling UK

c/o Philip Ashbourn

Thank you for the notification about the Plan. It is a long document indeed and is off putting.

However, I detect the aims of the draft MK City Plan 2050 have been somewhat watered down in relation to land use planning and transport planning which should be a fully integrated process. The aim should be very simple but alas not so easy to attain given the state that West Bletchley finds itself in. An integrated planning approach should see facilities within active travel distances which should always be treated as the first priority.

While it may be difficult to follow these aims given the build up car dominated nature of the area it is essential that active travel serves existing major destinations as well as all new developments.

Queensway is an excellent example of run down Britain and the shops that once drew people from all parts of the city have declined in quality. It will need a major effort to smarten things up, given the state of the economy where many of the once busy industrial areas have declined to developing nation status. Sadly this area fits the bill.

It is going to take a lot of resources to improve things. Good luck you will need it. Remember, as the National Audit Office pointed out some time ago, for every pound invested in walking, cycling and wheeling, as well as disability access, the return in cost benefits can be up to eight pounds, taking account of the social and health benefits, as well as the physical ones. I look forward to seeing a car free Queensway.