

Appendix A

Reading Barriers project – improving access

The project aims to improve access for everyone on foot and all kinds of bicycle, pushchair and wheelchair: by modifying the barriers at Katesgrove Underpass, either end of Waterloo Meadows and at Fobney Lock; and improving the path surface across Waterloo Meadows so that people can use the route all-year-round.

A. Survey results: on-line and drop-in events

The proposals were circulated to local walking & cycling groups, and were advertised via social media, including an on-line newsletter, and at three drop-in events held at the community centres in Katesgrove, Coley & Southcote.

A total of 87 questionnaires were filled out: 63 on-line and 24 at the drop-in events. The results are summarised in the three tables below.

Table 1: Existing frequency of use by location

Location	Daily		Weekly		Monthly		Less often	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Katesgrove Underpass	10	11	18	21	15	17	44	51
Katesgrove Children's Centre	3	3	18	21	17	20	49	56
Rose Kiln Lane	7	8	17	20	26	30	37	43
Fobney Lock/Pumping Station	6	7	11	13	22	25	48	55

Table 2: Opinions on overall safety, welcome & accessibility - existing & proposed

Safety, Welcome & Accessibility	Yes, very		Partly/Probably		No, not at all	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Existing	3	3	58	67	26	30
Proposed	49	56	32	37	6	7

Table 3: Subject areas raised by respondents in comments & suggestions

Subject	No.	Notes
Accessibility – foot, bike, pushchair, wheelchair	31	Support for improved access - includes 5 off-route
Motor bikes/travellers/ vehicle access	26	Concerns re. motor bikes (19), travellers (4), vehicles (2), fly-tipping (1)
Amenity & welcome/ improved facilities	12	Requests for dog/litter bins (3); benches (1), café (1), cycle parking (1)
General support for proposals	11	
Path surface & width	11	Requests for wider &/or better surface (9); use Flexipave (1); limit width – ecology (1)
Security & visibility	10	Requests for lighting (4), mirrors (2), cameras (2)
Access to green space/greening	7	Includes support for green walls (2)
Maintenance	7	Mainly vegetation (5)
Information/Signage	4	Requests for info boards (2), improved publicity (1), signage (1)

Total	119	Some people mentioned more than one issue
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B. Summary of proposed works by location

Katesgrove Underpass

Improvement	Detail
Accessibility	Replace guardrail chicanes with bollards
Security & visibility	Replace lamp columns with wall-mounted lights Add CCTV (RBC-funded)?
Path surface & width	Surface link to Bridge Street (north side): s106-funded Move back wall (south side) & move litter bins, etc. off path to create more circulation space Smooth transition from bridge to path
Amenity & welcome	Moss art / planting / repaint guardrails, etc. - possibly with community group?

Waterloo Meadows (both ends of meadow, unless otherwise stated)

Improvement	Detail
Accessibility	Amend barriers & remove bollards to create minimum 1.2/1.5m gap Retain vehicle gates
Security & visibility	Add CCTV
Path surface & width	Resurface path across meadows & widen to 3m throughout (with low-level lighting) Realign path at children's centre Regrade path at Rose Kiln Lane to ease slope Add new link at Rose Kiln Lane to Kennet Island path
Amenity & welcome	Possible cosmetic gateway improvements

Fobney Lock & Pumping Station

Improvement	Detail
Accessibility	Remove barrier and add edge protection at pumping station Remove chicane barrier at lock to create minimum 1.5m gap, but retain vehicle gate Add removable bollard at car park end of bridge to prevent unauthorised vehicle access
Security & visibility	Add CCTV
Path surface & width	Patch eroded path (& replace fencing on bridge?) at lock
Amenity & welcome	Possible landscaping / gateway improvements