



The proposed shared footway/cycleway on North Road will be dangerous for both pedestrians and cyclists and provide very little benefit to a small group of cyclists, so I am objecting to this scheme.

Shared footway/cycleways should be used as a last resort because of the potential conflict between pedestrians and cyclists. This will be exacerbated on the proposed footway/cycleway because it is on a junction where visibility will be an issue.

Pedestrians and cyclists will not be able to see whether anything is round the corner. Furthermore, the shared footway/cycleway reduces to 2-2.5m which is well below the recommended widths identified within LTN 1/20 of 3.0m. Providing sufficient width is essential for minimising the risk of conflict between different user groups. 2.0m is totally inadequate to accommodate cyclists going two different ways and pedestrians going two different ways.

There are a lot of pedestrians using the pavement on Penistone Road/North Road, but this has not been assessed nor has the potential impact on them. Pedestrians are heading in all directions on both Penistone Road and North Road. Sharing a narrow footway/cycleway on a bend will be hazardous, to say the least. Rogue cyclists occasionally use the narrow pavements on Penistone Road from Fenay Bridge to Kirkburton, and it is dangerous. This scheme will give cyclists the green light to cycle on the pavement, not just where it is shared but all the way down Penistone Road. Another concern is the speed at which cyclists travel, not all cyclists are sensible and travel at slow speeds, some will not analyse the risk and travel far too fast for the conditions. A collision with a pedestrian could cause a serious injury, especially with the trend towards e-bikes which are far heavier and more dangerous on impact. A recent article on Road.cc, reports that the MP for Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough, Gill Furniss MP, is calling for a crack-down on speeding e-bikes on shared-use paths or cycle routes painted on pavements, before some-one is killed.

The shared footway/cycleway will cause chaos at the junction. Cyclists will be in a number of different places. Going down North Road, cyclists turning left, will be positioned on the left or in the centre lane, those turning right will be in the middle lane or cycle lane. Going up North Road, those travelling towards Shelly and turning left will be on the cycle lane but those travelling towards Huddersfield and turning right will be in the road. On Penistone Road, those travelling straight on at the junction will be on the road. It will be chaotic and hazardous. Cyclists in the middle lane will be extremely exposed and will not be able to see any vehicles that are turning into their path. Large vehicles on North Road turning left onto Penistone Road and on Penistone Road turning right onto North Road go across the entire road.

It would be safer for cyclists on North Road to stay in the middle of the lane.