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Hackney Borough Council

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DBU Submission to Goldsmith Row Phase 2 Consultation

Disability Backup Forum is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Goldsmith Row Phase 2 development.

We welcome efforts to further improve the area to assist pedestrians and cyclists and create an enhanced public space, but do have three areas of significant concern on the impact of the scheme on pedestrians, especially disabled pedestrians.

Our first concern is the intention is to create 'shared cycle/pedestrian' entrances to facilitate faster access for cyclists into and out of Haggerston Park. We have strong reservations about the concept of shared space in this context. We fear that a loss of facility for pedestrians may result. Disabled and older people often feel threatened by sharing space with bicycles or other vehicles and unwilling to use areas where they reasonably feel they may stray into the path of a bicycle with the danger of a collision. Given that there are suitable alternative routes for cyclists to take in this location, we cannot see why cyclists should be encouraged here.

Secondly, we are concerned that the proposed cycle paths are too narrow. We feel that cycle paths should be a minimum of 2 metres and distinctly separated from pedestrians, in accord with guidelines endorsed by the Department of Transport and RNIB.



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Thirdly, as indicated in the attached map, we are concerned that around half of the footway will be lost to Barclays Bike stands, which are proposed to be located on the footway. Our view is that the siting of bicycle stands on pavements should be avoided wherever possible. Not only do they constitute an obstacle in themselves, but arrivals and departures by bicycles to a location on the footway tends to encourage more pavement cycling, which disabled and older people frequently – and vehemently - indicate is both a real and a perceived threat to their peaceful use of footways.

We would be most grateful if you would let us know whether any adjustments to the proposed scheme are to be considered to meet our concerns.

Yours sincerely
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DBU Support



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