STATUTORY DECLARATION

11. During 2017-2018 I and a colleague worked with a cinematographer filming on The Mound and on the grassed forecourt, including the top of The Mound and walking up The Mound, and near the trees immediately below The Mound. During that time I saw many people out and about on the grounds including the forecourt and The Mound.

12. On 20 September 2017 and again on 9 March 2018 I hosted visits to Shire Hall of Beaver Scouts (6-8 years) in the first instance and Scouts (10 1/2 -14 years) in the second instance. With the permission of the then chair of the Council, Ms Mandy Smith, on both occasions we were fortunate to have access to the Council Chamber so that the youngsters could participate in a formal debate on topics of importance. I met the Beaver Scouts and Scouts leaders and the youngsters at the front of Shire Hall and in my observation, before the Council Chamber debates the Beaver Scouts and Scouts played on the grassed forecourt and after the Shire Hall excursion grouped on the forecourt for the induction of new members.

13. When residents and friends have visited me at my home in Cambridge or in Cambridge generally, I have advised them of the opportunity to take in the view of Cambridge from The Mound and to my knowledge they have taken up this opportunity, sometimes with me and sometimes without me. My sister and her husband lived in Cambridge from approximately May to approximately September 2015 and during this time regularly used the cut through with me and I have every reason to believe that they did so when not in my company, and as residents at that time also walked the grassed area and The Mound.

14. Hence I am able to say that from 1974 I have been aware of the public access by residents to Shire Hall grounds, the forecourt and The Mound and from my observation over this period (though bearing in mind the periods of absence noted above) members of the public, sometimes clearly or apparently residents and sometimes obviously tourists, access the grounds of Shire Hall. This access consists of, in addition to the grounds generally, use of the cut through from McGrath Avenue to Castle Street/Huntingdon Road, playing sport and games on the grassed forecourt, walking dogs, sitting, and using the bench located by the hedge on the forecourt, as well as walking up and down The Mound, sitting on the lower reaches, and standing and sitting on top of it. A clear indicator of this usage lies, too, in the mounds of rubbish deposited in the bins at the foot of The Mound. Not infrequently the rubbish lies at the side of the bins because there is insufficient space to accommodate it. I emphasise on this point that it is apparent to me that the visitors are endeavouring to follow good environmental practice in depositing the rubbish properly, not simply abandoning it. This again attests to the usage of the site and particularly the part of it constituted by the forecourt and The Mound.

15. I am also able to say that since the sale or lease of Shire Hall became publicly known, as Labour member for Arbury Division I have been contacted by e-mail, telephone and in person by residents expressing concern about this and particularly referring to the importance of public access and its being a part of Cambridge history with public access to the grounds in their entirety and including the grassed forecourt and The Mound. Not infrequently I have been accosted in or at the cut through or in Arbury triangle streets by residents indicating a clear wish to discuss the question of access not only (though importantly as indicated to me by their words, gestures and demeanour) via the cut through, but to The Mound and grassed forecourt.

16. I am also aware that the annual Castle Hill Open Day, with exhibitions in the church known as St Giles, on the corner of Castle Street and Chesterton Lane, is scheduled this year for 13 July. I am aware that there will be exhibitions including art from local primary schools, a tour of the church, and light refreshments. Outside will be a picnic area, musical performances, flags and deck chairs, and the meeting point for various walks. An exhibition is planned in St Peter's with family activities outside the church. Castle St Methodists will have food vans in their carpark, with Kettle's Yard, the Museum of Cambridge, Shire Hall park, an Archaeologist, Histon Road cemetery, Alan Brigham, and Murray Edwards College offering venues and events. St Luke's Primary School Choir will be singing and the mayor will open the event. I am also aware that this annual event which as includes meetings or gatherings on The Mound with people milling about on the grassed forecourt at Shire Hall has taken place annually from, as I understand and am advised, before the turn of the century. The notice advising of this event is headed '*Castle Hill Open Day*' and is advertised as being held 12-5 on Saturday, July 13th.

17. As to any notices of lack of permission to use the site or restrictions as to access, never ever to my knowledge has any such notice been posted on any of the entrances to the site on the Castle Street and Huntingdon Road side, and this applies throughout my time of accessing Shire Hall grounds. The only notice is that attached to the fence above the steps at the commencement of the cut through from McGrath Avenue to Castle Street and Huntingdon Road. That sign refers to section 31(3) of the Highways Act 1980. In my observation the gate has been announced by public notice as to be closed for a day or so on an annual basis. This is the *only* indication at all by the County Council of any restriction on access to the site and as above it has related to the cut through alone.

18. I affirm that apart from McGrath Avenue entrance referred to in the aforegoing paragraph, over the entire time attested to in this statement when I have accessed and/or passed by the Shire Hall grounds, I have never ever seen a notice under section 31(3) of the Highways Act 1980, or any other notice of any manner, at any of the entrances to Shire Hall grounds, denying access to any person whether named or in general. The entrances to which I refer include the entrance on Castle Street opposite The Architect pub, the entrance on Castle Street being the main entrance, opposite the bus stop which services the 'B' bus and is beside the development known as Shelley Gardens and associated pathways and buildings, the entrance on Huntingdon Road next to the building that houses the union Unison and also leads to the Castle Student building, and the entrance on Huntingdon Road that leads in then turns to the right via a driveway to Castle Student building. I have never seen any such sign, either, on the entrance to the underground carpark. Nor has there ever been to my knowledge any obstruction, whether by way of chain or bollard or any other barrier which would deny access to pedestrians. There is a barrier to the carpark at Student Castle building, however its stated purpose it to reserve parking for those who are authorised to park there and it creates no obstruction whatsoever to persons on foot, and there is no notice at that entrance (as aforesaid) of any kind whether under section 31(3) of the Highways Act 1980 or any other authority which denies access to pedestrians.

19. I attach hereto:

    (a) Three reference works relating variously to the importance of Shire Hall, The Mound, the grassed forecourt, the prison and prison remains, and the Civil War Earthworks and to

which I have had recourse and advised others in discussions of the importance of public access –

(i) WM Palmer, *Cambridge Castle*, The Oleander Press, Cambridge, UK, 1976;
(ii) David Barrowclough, *Bloody British History – Cambridge*, The History Press, Brimscombe Port Stroud, UK, 2015, 2017;
(iii) Alison Taylor, *Cambridge – The Hidden History*, Tempus Publishing Ltd, Brimscombe Port Stroud, UK, 1999, 2001,

20. I have attached hereto statements from the many that could be supplied from residents attesting to their use of the site and in particular The Mound and the grassed forecourt, and the McGrath Avenue- Huntingdon Road/Castle Street cut through –

(i) Exhibit 5 - Jane Fenton, 44 Hartford Street, Cambridge CB4 3AG
(ii) Exhibit 6 - Anne Garvey, 18 Hartford Street, Cambridge CB4 3AG
(iii) Exhibit 7 - Sophie Grove, 18 Hartford Street, Cambridge CB4 3AG
(iv) Exhibit 8 - Alison Taylor, 40 Hartford Street, Cambridge CB4 3AG

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared by Jocelynne Annette Scutt at Richard Buxton Solicitors

On 7 June 2019

Signed: [redacted]

before me Simon Kelly

Solicitor

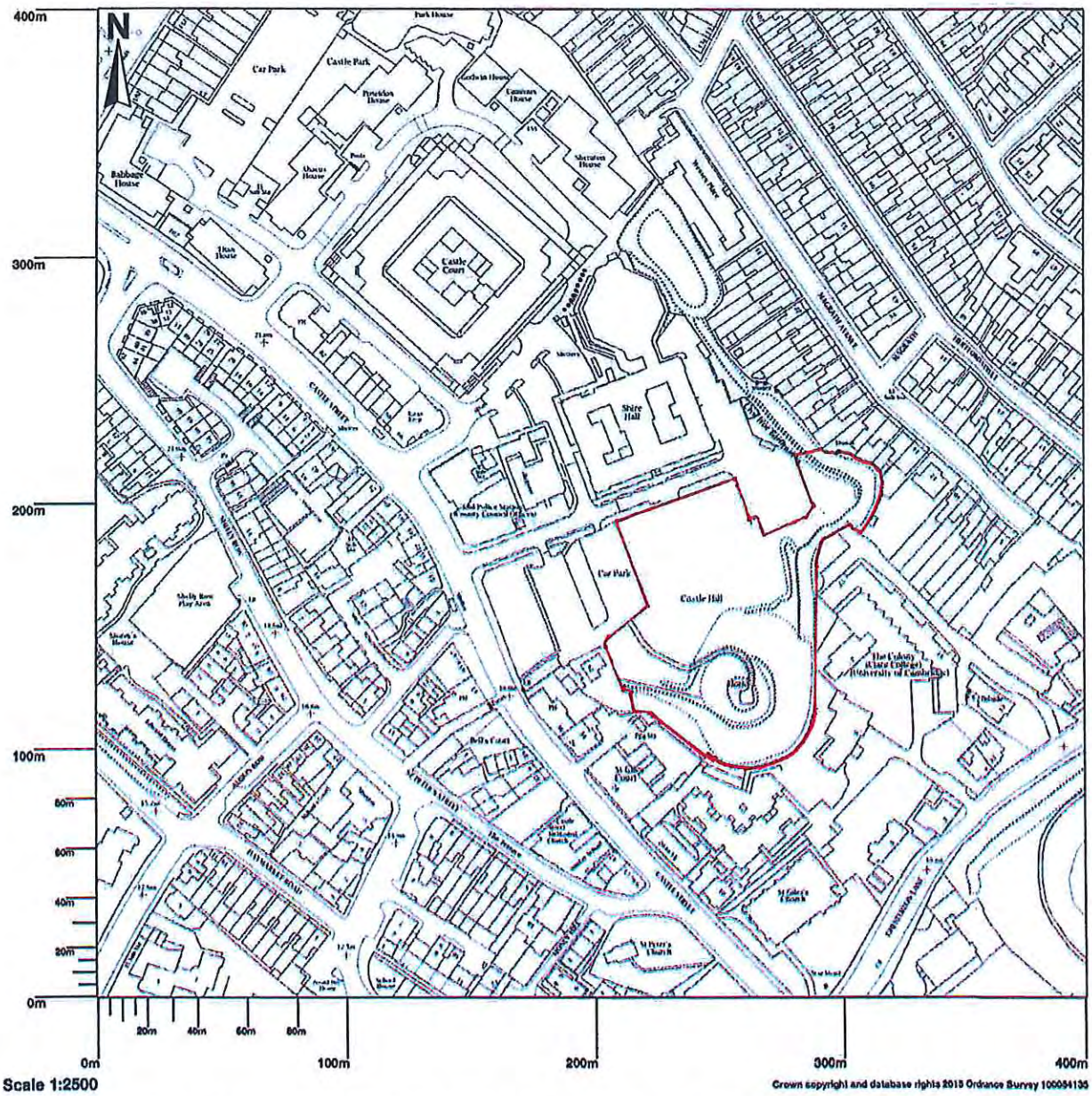
Richard Buxton Solicitors

Exhibit 1

UK Planning Maps

Map data

Castle Hill Cambridge



Map area bounded by: 544320,259071 544720,259471. Produced on 04 June 2019 from the OS National Geographic Database. Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without the prior permission of Ordnance Survey. © Crown copyright 2019. Supplied by UKPlanningMaps.com a licensed OS partner (100054135). Unique plan reference: p16buk/354870/482103

Exhibit 5

I hasten to write to you again to express my alarm and despair that the Council could even consider moving away from Castle Hill and exposing it to the enormous threat of losing one of the most valuable green spaces in Cambridge on a historic site.

I have lived on Hertford Street since 1980 and seen thousands of people walking through the passageway on their way to and from work, offices and busses. I am one of them and for years have been walking my dogs up there watching others enjoying the hill, the views, picnics in the summer , tobogganing with children in the winter, plus of course many wedding receptions all the year round.

It would be a huge loss to the community and must not be allowed to happen. Please keep me in the picture and let me know if there is anything else we can do at this stage of the proceedings to prevent it happening.

Yours sincerely, Jane Fenton, 44 Hertford Street, CB4 3AG.

Exhibit 6

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, Anne Marie GARVEY of 18 HERTFORD STREET CAMBRIDGE CB4 3AG,

do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

I have lived here in this house for 35 years and in that time have faithfully attended Mass at St. Edmund's College which is the other side of Castle Hill.

Every Sunday I have taken the route through the Castle area, a gate was always there but never in my experience locked, despite the sign which claims it might be.

With children, four of them, we walked the easy and pleasant way to our regular service so I had at least 52 times a year when we walked through the area - not to mention weddings at St. Edmunds. Christenings, and even two funerals. All have been prefaced by a walk through the grounds of Shire Hall.

When small my children would play on the Mound at all times, and grandchildren are now taken to this historic place.

It has been a major part of our lives here for so long and certainly as long as my children, now 31,33, 36 and 37 can remember.

Bonfire Nights and often important festivals were celebrated on the Mound as they have been by the people of Cambridge for centuries.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared by ANNE MARIE GARVEY at 18 Hertford St

on 27TH MAY 2019

_____ by

[redacted]

before me ...Alison Taylor.....

a neighbour

Exhibit 7

"Castle Mound is an important part of my childhood. As local kids in the 1990s we used to tumble downs its grassy banks and climb its steps to gaze out over Cambridge, you can see the green belt up there; you feel like you are surveying some kind of civic kingdom. It is a place that inspires the imagination of the young. More than anywhere in town it evokes early history of Cambridge - before became the city an elite center of education. It makes you think about history, identity - it's an escape.

As a primary school child at Park Street in the 80s and early 90s we used to dance the maypole on the green in front of Shire Hall on May Day. (I remember one time when the choreography when awry and the whole thing tangled into a shambolic mess of ribbons). Despite this, I always take visitors up there to admire the view and enjoy the blustery wildness it offers. It's such a show piece for the city - I am truly proud to show people around from London, after a trip to Kettle's Yard.

Despite this, somehow the space become encroached by a car park and the feeling it was somehow the forecourt to a bureaucracy that didn't want residents there. It's a great shame. There are very few places in the area that have such ancient importance and present such a wonderful escape for kids. I took my own young family there recently and they were similarly transfixed with thoughts of knights and battles and sieges on the mound.

Sophie Grove, Cambridge resident (OF 36 YEARS), journalist, Senior Correspondent for Monocle magazine.

18 Hertford Street, Cambridge, CB43AG

Exhibit 8

Statutory Declaration

Name Alison Taylor
Address 40 Hertford Street Cambridge CB4 3AG

I came to live in Cambridge and work at Shire Hall in 1974 and moved to 40 Hertford Street in 1983. I have known the site personally and enjoyed the public access available since 1983 and understand this has been the case since 1928, when it passed into the hands of the County Council (at which time it was described as 'desolate.... encumbered with an unwanted prison, mean tenements, bushes, and rubbish' (WM Palmer 1928)

Access I access the Castle and other addresses in Cambridge via Magrath Ave and have done so regularly since 1983.

Use The greatest importance of the castle mound (along with the Cromwellian bastions, virtually the only visible evidence for nearly 1000 years of royal and local authority use) lies in the way residents, visitors and students can walk to the top at any time and understand the basic plan and rationale of Cambridge as a strategic defensive highpoint, an international medieval market town via the Wash, and the administrative and judicial centre for the pre-1974 County of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely from 1068. I have myself often led tours starting at this point for this reason. On a clear day the wide views to Ely and across S Cambridgeshire provide an easy geography as well as history lesson. This is something that all residents of Cambridgeshire should be able to enjoy and for all visitors to use as a gateway to understanding the town they will see.

Currently the motte seems to be finding ever new uses and at many times is as crowded as the town centre. Talking to a few groups up there it appears to be especially popular with young people. It may be just a place to gather and relax, to watch stars, fireworks etc, to have celebrations of all kinds (especially sporting triumphs), religious themes whether New Age or Christian or an odd mixture, take wedding photographs or just let children run free in an interesting environment, as well as study groups and intrigued tourists. In addition it is an exceptional place to admire night skies and witness unusual astrological events. Of course too it is a popular place on summer evenings for dog-walkers, especially the more elderly who welcome a quick walk to an area that is pleasant and interesting for the walker as well as the dog.

The practical issues must also be borne in mind when determining the best management arrangements for the site. Although an asset to the public the motte is not one to the owner. There will be responsibilities, supervised by English Heritage and the County Archaeologist, for regular cutting of scrub, infilling of holes, repairs of steps etc, as part of the duties of any owner of an ancient monument, and collection of litter will be necessary. Not only the archaeology must be protected but its botanical interest, for records go back to 1820 when sheep grazing preserved the chalk downland flora, and a mowing regime should reflect this. The most practical solution would be for the City Council to accept responsibility for the site, perhaps alongside a group of Friends, a model that works well for churchyards and cemeteries in Cambridge. Office workers and hotel visitors could then enjoy the site alongside the public, and better plans for management and onsite interpretation may be formulated.

It would be useful to see the reports sent by English Heritage and the County's Historic Environment Team, and by relevant consultants, all of whom I am sure will have addressed these issues.

Signed: [redacted]

ALISON FAY TAYLOR

Witnessed by [redacted]

JOAN JEANS

Date 1 June 2019

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, Dr Lesley Margaret Dee of 9 Clare Street, Cambridge CB4 3BY do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

(1) The document marked 'Exhibit 1' and here attached is a true copy (with amendments scored) of the question I asked at the County Council Full Council on 5 February 2019.

(2) The document marked 'Exhibit 2' and here attached is a true copy of the results of the questionnaire relating to the Shire Hall cut through from McGrath Avenue to Huntingdon Road/Castle Street (then known as the 'Wessex Place' cut through), distributed in or about December 2010 by Cllr Mike Todd-Jones of Cambridge City Council to residents in the area neighbouring the Shire Hall site and known as 'Arbury Triangle', bordered by McGrath and Clare Streets, and Victoria Road and including Hertfordshire, Alpha, Searle and Fisher Streets/Roads. The Report was prepared in January 2011.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared by Dr Lesley Dee at Richard Buxton Solicitors

on 7 June 2019

signed: L. M. Dee

before me Simon Kelly [redacted]

Solicitor

Richard Buxton Solicitors
19 B Victoria Street
Cambridge
CB1 1JP

Question to Full Council of the County Council of Cambridgeshire
LESLEY DEE, Resident of Arbury/Castle

In view of the proposed sale of County Hall for development purposes I would like to ask a question about public access to the path that runs from the top of McGrath Avenue through to Castle Hill. A survey of use carried out in 2011 showed that the path was used by more than 100 cyclists and pedestrians per hour. If figures have changed, they most likely will have increased due to encouraged use of cycles and walking, and particularly the change of Castle Court to student accommodation: students walk or cycle back and forth along this path accessing the No 8 bus and nearby shops, for example. My understanding is that this is a private and not public right of way and that part of the path belongs to Trinity College and the rest to the County Council. In the interests of residents and other users, what steps have been taken by the Council to safeguard public access to the path in the future?

Possible follow up question

In view of this what assurances can the County Council give that if Shire Hall is sold or leased that the current agreement with Trinity over public access will be maintained in perpetuity?

Results of Questionnaire Survey on Wessex Place Footpath

Introduction

The Wessex Place site has been empty for around 18 months since the Granta Housing Society stopped using the building as sheltered housing for vulnerable adults. NHS Cambridgeshire, who are responsible for the site, have looked for other health-related organisations to take over the site, but had been unable to do so, in part due to concerns over access and parking. The site has now been put up for disposal, and has been registered for alternative use by other public bodies for a period of 40 days. Following this period it will be put on the open market on 3 February.

Since the closure of the site, there have been increasing concerns on the part of local residents over safety, security and the footpath running via the site's car park from Magrath Avenue to Shire Hall and Castle Hill. In particular, there are concerns about ongoing access to the path and its lighting.

There is no public right of way. However, a private right of way does exist, and NHS Cambridgeshire has undertaken to investigate the possibility of a covenant existing that may protect the path from closure, regardless of who buys the site.

In the meantime, residents and local Shire Hall workers have undertaken a series of preliminary surveys and questionnaires to ascertain the number of people currently using the path and their key concerns.

This report contains a summary of responses to 363 questionnaires distributed on 17/18 December and returned by 23 December. The questionnaires were distributed to households on Magrath Avenue, Searle Street , Clare Street, Hale Street, Arthur Street, St Luke's Road, Hertford Street. Alpha Road and Carlyle Road .

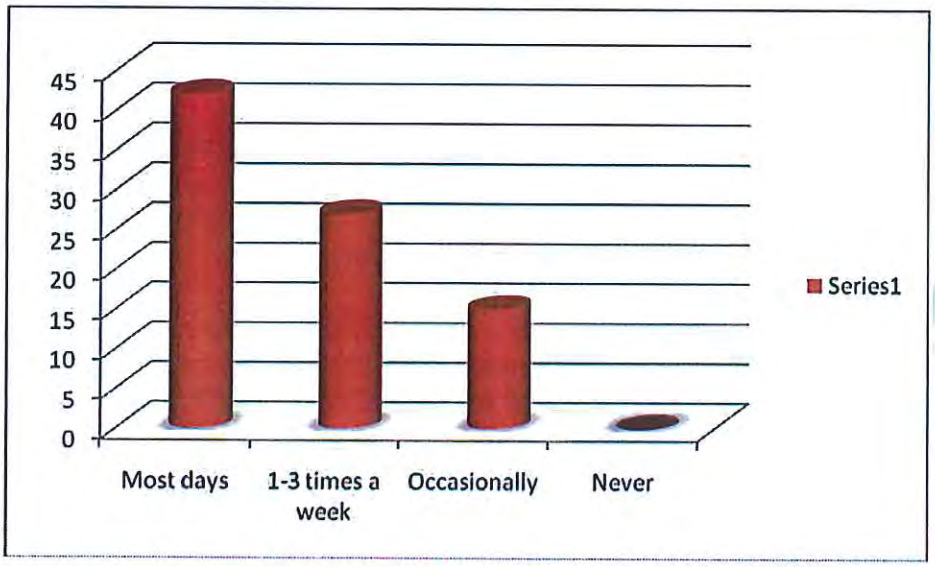
Overview

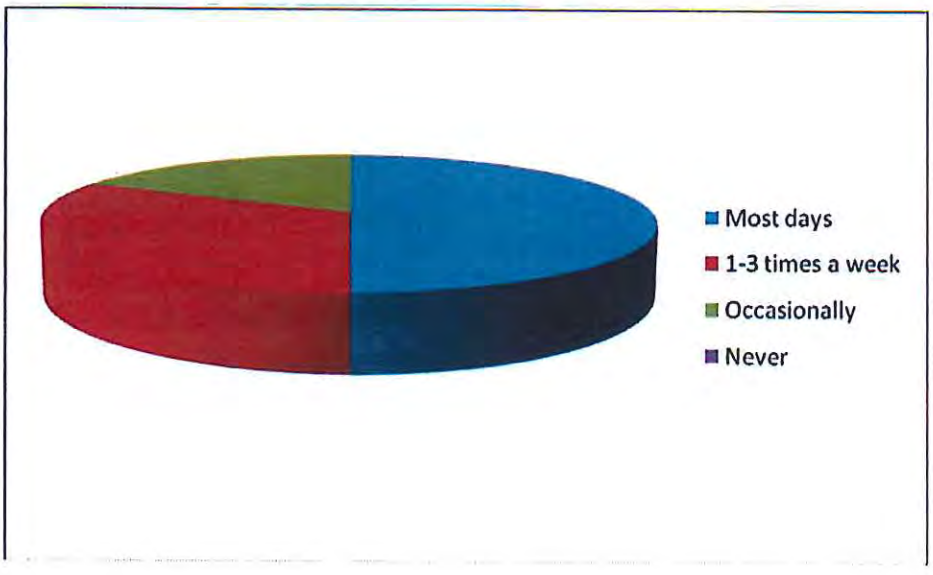
A total of 363 questionnaires were distributed on xx December. Of these, 84 were returned, 79 in paper format and five by email.

In answer to the first question, all of the returned questionnaires indicated that at least one member of the household concerned used the pathway.

Question (b)

How often do you use the path? (Please tick ONE)

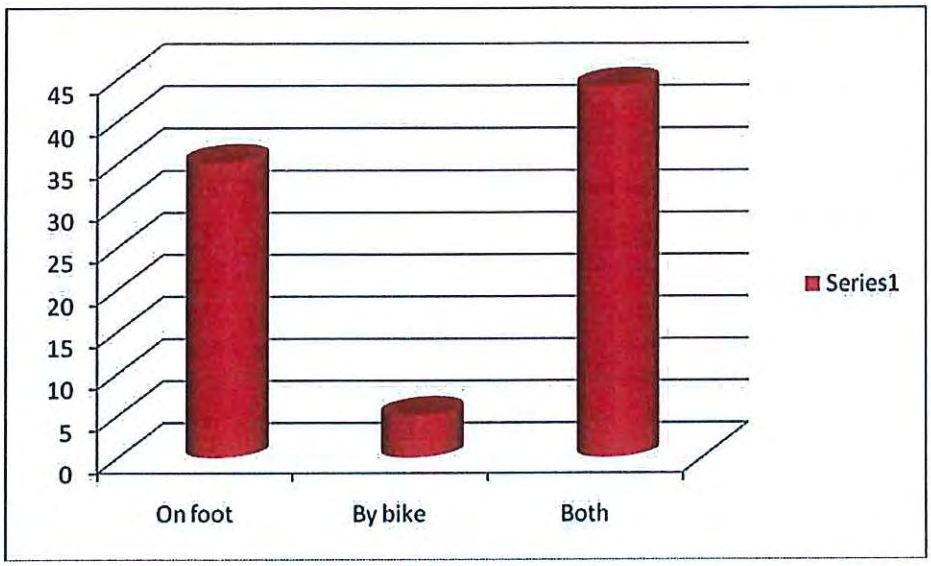


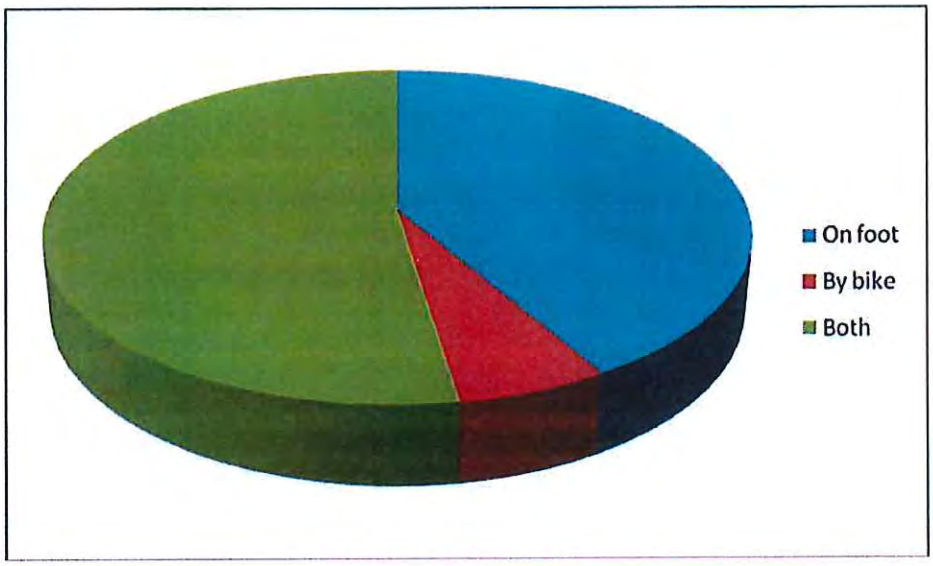


Question (c)

How do you generally travel?

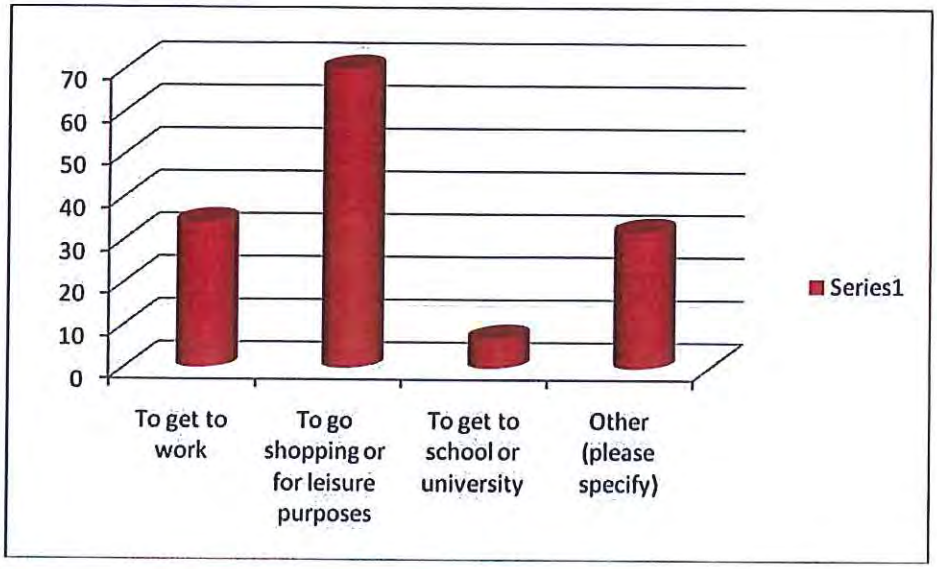
(adjusted for duplication of responses)

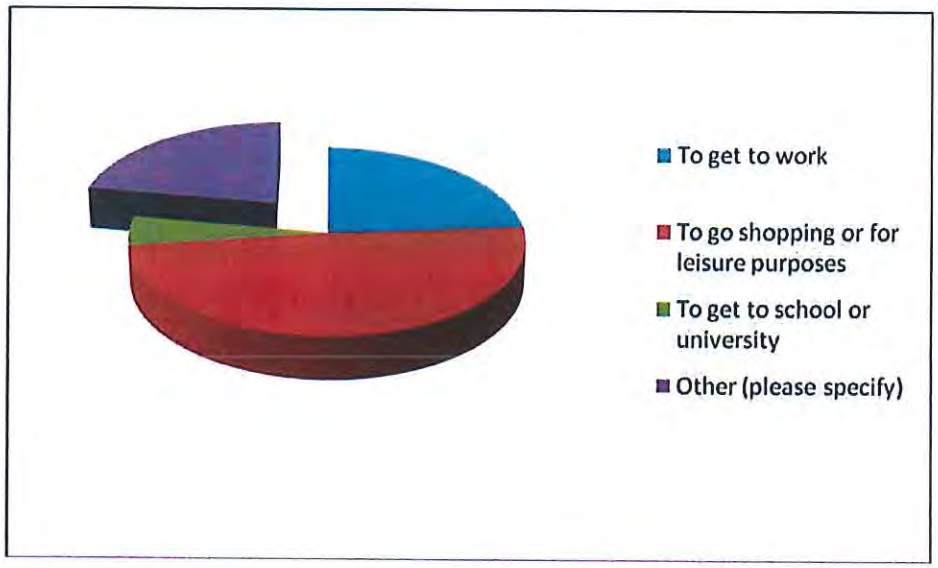




Question (d)

Why do you use the path? (Please tick as many as apply)



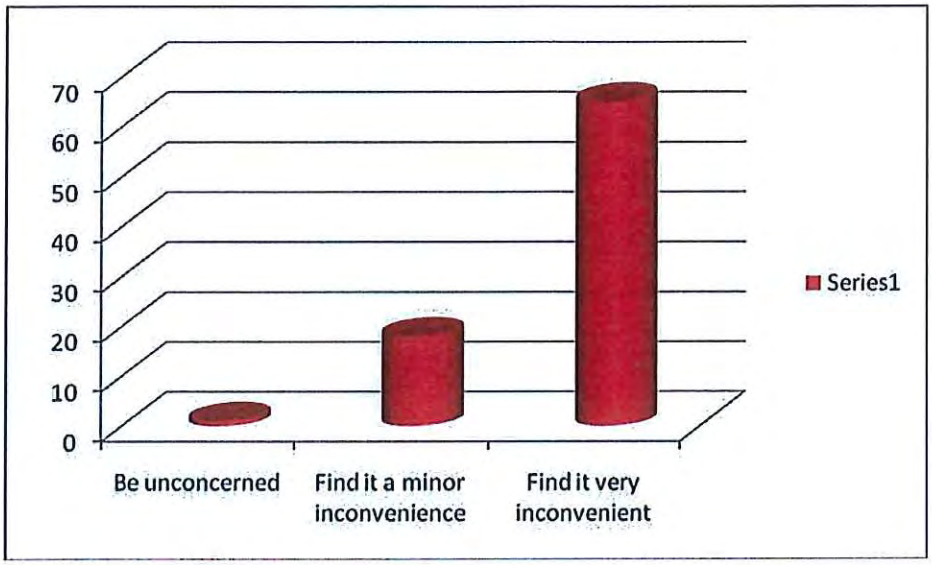


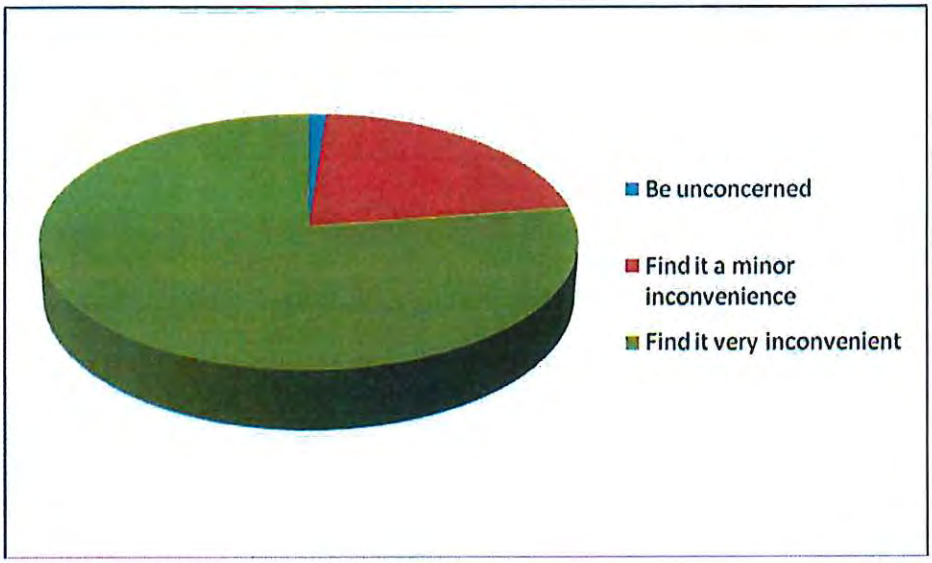
Other:

These included access to the doctor's surgery on Huntingdon Road, the route to church, access to Castle Mound for dog walking and for children's play – considered especially important as it is a safe route that avoids traffic, and to bus stops. Several respondents also mentioned that the footpath will represent the most direct route to access the new guided bus stop. Access to businesses both on Castle Hill and Victoria Road was also cited by several residents, including restaurants and pubs which often depend on passing traffic and ease of access.

Question (e)

If the path was closed, would you:





Key themes emerging from the Survey

Fifty five additional comments were received on the proposed closure of the footpath (see Appendix A). The comments were overwhelmingly in support of keeping the path open and against closure, with just one respondent believing closure to be inevitable. The following themes were identified: background and history of the route; access to amenities ; safety issues ; quality of life and the impact of closure on the local community and environment; maintenance of the current path ; recommendations for future action.

Background and history of the route
The route is part of the local history of this neighbourhood. According to one respondent there has been access to Shire hall from McGrath Avenue since the building of the Rex Cinema in 1934 and an official footpath when the cinema was replaced by a car park in 1979. Clarification was sought on the legal status of the path noting that it has been used continuously by the public for many years.

Access to amenities
One of the main reasons for keeping the path open is for the access that it accords local people as well as staff working at Shire Hall and Castle Park. It is used by a wide range of people not just those who live in the immediate neighbourhood but also from further afield in North Cambridge all of whom find it an extremely convenient short cut. Parents use this route to take their children to St Luke's School and it provides good pushchair as well as cycle access. Specific purposes cited included access to work, Shire hall amenities, local shops, schools, pubs, restaurants, green space including Castle Mound, local sports clubs and the town centre. Closure could have a negative impact on many local businesses.

Respondents also referred to the large numbers of cyclists and pedestrians that appear to use the thoroughfare: 'a surprisingly busy path used by a wide range of people'. A number of elderly people commented on its importance for them as a shorter and easier route into town without which they would be forced to use the car.

Safety issues
The importance of the route as a much safer option than using the surrounding A routes was mentioned by 17 respondents. Several people mentioned the safe access this short cut affords children and older people enabling them to avoid walking or cycling along busy roads such as the Victoria or Chesterton Roads.

Quality of life and the impact of closure on the local community and environment
Having access to footpaths and cycle routes and 'odd back ways' was regarded by several respondents as a valuable aspect of living in Cambridge contributing to the character of this particular neighbourhood. The path as one respondent put it is 'an essential part of the walking /cycling geography of this whole area ' while another noted that it is 'an integral part of daily life'. Cambridge City Council policy is weighted in favour of walking and cycling and it would appear counter intuitive to make these activities more difficult rather than easier for people to do.

Maintenance
A number of respondents (10) commented on the extremely poor condition of the path at present. It has become a repository for rubbish and there is no lighting after dark which means that several people who used to use it in the past have become reluctant to do so because they feel unsafe particularly in the evening. One respondent noted, '... without lighting, it is hazardous, and I hate to use it after dark.'

Recommendations for future action.
The following suggestions were made:

- Providing a swipe card or key for access
- Checking the legality of closure
- Using the Wessex Place unused car park for residents parking
- Involve local schools in monitoring the use of the path or use a pedestrian counting system (see www.roadrunner-tca.ca.uk/pcs.html)
- Alert the Cambridge Cycle Campaign as to the possible closure of this cycle. route

Appendix a

Question (f)

Do you have any other views on the proposed closure?

If the path was closed we (aged 74) would certainly use the car more.

- There has been access to Shire Hall from Magrath Avenue since the building of the Rex Cinema Complex in 1934, and an official footpath when it was a car park in 1979. Closing will also affect the access to the Guided Bus stop in Castle Hill. The biggest losers will be Shire Hall staff.

- The footpath is a well used link between Victoria Road and Castle Hill without using the congested road network. It would be a shame to lose this access.

- This is a surprisingly busy path used by a wide range of people. It provides a very important link into town without which it is significantly longer. Not only do residents use it but members of staff at the Shire Hall/Castle Park office complex (I am not a member of staff but have noticed them. We were sorry to have missed the meeting but unfortunately we were at work).

- It provides a valuable access point to the green space of Castle Hill which is useful for anyone with small children as it requires no major road crossings. I think you should also canvass the views of the tenants in Castle Park, since some of them seem to use the route to access local shops in Victoria Road.

- I think for many the closure would be a great shame - it is so much more convenient to cycle/walk into town by using the path - avoiding the much busier Chesterton Road. It is also a shorter walk up hill for elderly residents who are either cycling or walking. I would feel much more inconvenienced if it was not there.

- Such a shame! It is a well used area and I'm sure many people would find it most inconvenient, Cambridge is such a pedestrian city and a few short cuts are always welcome!

- It is bad enough that the path is never cleaned and has become a depository of rubbish for careless people; there is no adequate lighting at night - thus the path feels and is unsafe. But, now - if they close it - it'll simply mean that the views and convenience of the tax payer amount to nothing.

- If it is closed is it possible for residents nearby to be given a swipe card and or key to continue to get access?
- I am against enclosure for, among other things (a) to avoid main roads; (b) to preserve 'unusual' (and 'historical') access; some memories go back to the Rex, the Rendezvous - and beyond!; (c) to feel 'closer' to our County Council, etc.

- I have used this path regularly ever since Wessex place was built. It is a convenient way to get to friends and to town and is much appreciated especially as I get older. I would really mind if it were closed and as it is owned 'in our name' by the NHS it seems wrong to do so. People walk through form the other side of Victoria Road to use this space including women with small children. Keep it open! Can a local school do a monitoring research project by asking questions of people as they use the path?

- If it were better lit I would use it in the evening as well as daytime.

- Pedestrians get a raw deal. Footpaths are blocked with bins, bicycles, parked cars etc. Short cuts away from roads are a real blessing and should be defended.

- There are many people who will not be receiving this survey because they do not live in the neighbourhood. Yet they use the footpath daily and would be severely inconvenienced. For example, we know two families who use the path to get to St Luke's School. Also, as you say, lighting at night is a significant problem.

- This is an essential part of the walking/cycling geography of this whole area. To walk all around by road is a long detour. It would also cut off Shire Hall for local amenities. Children and older people will be especially disadvantaged, but the whole public will be inconvenienced. The legality of closure will have to be looked into, using older maps. It has certainly been a through way in some form for at least 36 years.

- This footpath has been open since I moved in in 1983. I use it nearly every day as does the rest of my family. It is in constant use and it should be kept open.

- This 'shortcut' is very helpful. Without it, as a resident living in St Luke's St, I would have to walk via Chesterton Road or Victoria Road, without it. However, at present, without lighting, it is hazardous, and I hate to use it after dark.

- We appreciate your efforts on our behalf. It would be very inconvenient if the path was closed and we would support any efforts to keep the path open.

- This is a route regularly used by local people, workers and residents which avoids longer road routes. Particularly useful when youre on foot or on a bike - or good for children in pushchairs etc. It would be a serious loss if it were closed. It's also a safer route away from traffic.

- It has been very dark lately; if it remains open could someone take responsibility for keeping it brightly lit?

- The footpath should be kept open as a communication link between the roads adjoining Magrath Avenue and Castle Street - it is a very long way round by foot to otherwise access Castle Street. Closure of the footpath could affect trade in Castle Street and also reduce access to Shire Hall.

- Keeping pedestrian and bicycle access open should be a Council priority (and also one for the NHS on general health grounds).

- This pathway is a safe route for many people who would otherwise have to use busy roads, both pedestrians and cyclists. The closure of this little pathway would somehow change the character of this area - isolating it from Castle Hill.

- We may not use it that often but if it were closed the alternatives would mean hundreds of yards of busy streets.

- This path is an important and well-used route between the communities on either side of Castle Hill/Shire Hall site. Closing off the path will create unnecessary division as well as forcing many people to take longer routes.
- Would be a pity - odd back ways through are what make the character of a neighbourhood - apart from it being very useful to many people!

- If the path was closed , we would have much greater difficulty in accessing Castle Hill, Victoria Road and Huntingdon Road from our home in Alpha Road.

- Could the present (unused) ex Wessex Place car park be used for residents' parking? Would make a marvellous old people's home/nursing home - part of the community as well!

- I believe that this route is used by a significant number of people - one frequently meets others between Magrath Avenue and the council buildings. It may help to consider using a 'pedestrian counting system' to measure the extent of usage (for example, see www.roadrunner-tca.co.uk/pcs.html)

- Re - attached page - the passageway is part of the Shire Hall site. Is this site Private Property if the County own it - that sort of makes it public property? But whatever the right of access to the passageway, it is no use without the Wessex Site allowing access, so not much to hope for.

- I don't think it should be shut - I think it should be improved! Some people along the street would make more use of it if it were better lit and felt safer.

- Access to Castle Hill from the Hertford Street Area is very important. It would limit or stop us routinely using the pubs and restaurants along Castle Hill. We also see many people using that route every day to get to and from work.

- This is a major pedestrian and cycle link from North Cambridge to West and Central Cambridge, used by hundreds (thousands?) daily. It will become more important as it links directly to the new guided bus stop on Castle Hill. We alone use it 4-8 times daily. The Cambridge Cycle Campaign should be alerted. We have used this regularly since 1976.

- Although we understand the path is private property, it has been an essential part of our daily life. We use it every day for work and at the weekends for leisure. As I use it very early during the week (at 6-7 am) I see at least four other people using it at that time. For all the people in the Magrath/Alpha Road/St Luke's St and County Council area, it is an integral part of daily life - we always see at least four other people using it whenever we do, whatever the time. I'll not bore you too much longer! Just to say - I hope the path stays open, otherwise at least one person would have to get up extra early!!

- I hope that it has been possible to conduct the survey quite widely, not just in nearby streets, and that all those working at, or visiting, the Shire Hall/Castle Court site will also be included. My observation, as a frequent user of the path, is that I am almost always one of many using the route, at all times of day. Local businesses perhaps also have a legitimate interest here, eg. the Meghna, shops on Victoria Road etc.

- Far from closing the path I think it should be improved and made more obvious so that more people use it. The alternative routes (via Texaco Corner or via Chesterton Road) are busy and un-cycle friendly.

- While I can't claim to use the path a lot, I live in Magrath Avenue and can see how much it is used. For people living to the east it is a safe through-way avoiding the relatively unpleasant and dangerous (for cyclists) roundabout/interchange at the Histon Road/Huntingdon Road junction. I use it for getting to Huntingdon Road and Kettle's Yard.

- The path provides a very useful means of access to facilities on Castle Hill and the castle site itself, as well as the council and nearby offices. Removal of access would force users to make significant detours via busy A-roads which are far from pleasant for pedestrians and quite intimidating for many cyclists. In an environment where transport via bicycle and foot is being encouraged, I feel strongly that pedestrian and cycle short-cuts