

Cycling UK Hitchin
Cycling Advocacy Network

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North Herts Council
Council Offices,
Gernon Rd,
Letchworth Garden City
SG6 3JF

Subject: Churchgate Regeneration

Dear North Herts Council

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the redevelopment of the Churchgate Shopping Centre. It's encouraging to see early community engagement that includes questions about sustainable travel and cycling.

This redevelopment is an exciting opportunity for the town, serving as a critical hub within the inter-urban cycling route between Hitchin and Stevenage. This area is highlighted in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which recommends multiple improvements within the proposed development's vicinity. Examples include future footway and junction upgrades, new pedestrian crossings, and segregated cycling facilities on Queen Street - each of which could greatly enhance the safety and convenience of sustainable travel modes for residents and visitors alike.

Being a hub, the provision of safe, secure, and accessible cycle parking will be particularly beneficial. Facilities such as cycle parking will help support a modal shift in travel to the centre and reduce demand for car parking which currently forms a significant part of the area.

The transport strategy for our region also outlines the ambition to foster a significant shift toward cycling, walking, and wheeling within urban centres. By prioritising sustainable travel in the development, we can transform how people move around Hitchin, reducing traffic volume and speed concerns, as highlighted in the 2006 Hitchin cycling study, particularly along Queen Street.

The Churchgate development presents a valuable opportunity to address these issues directly, along with improving connections to the train station. We would welcome the chance for future collaboration between the council and Cycling UK to deliver well-considered, high-quality cycling provisions. Working together, we can help make walking and cycling the preferred methods for accessing the town centre, supporting the council's objective of shifting away from private vehicle usage and toward more sustainable, community-focused travel options.

Kind Regards

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