



Ramblers Association Cambridge Group

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Ramblers Association Cambridge Group response to Greater Cambridge Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

This response is on behalf of the Ramblers Association Cambridge Group to the Greater Cambridge Community Infrastructure Levy. Our primary interest is in maintaining and improving access to the Public Rights of Way (PROW) network. The Public Rights of Way network is vitally important for meeting the needs of the population in terms of:

- Wellbeing and healthy lifestyles
- Creating the connections between green spaces for people and wildlife
- Infrastructure for non-motorised users
- Supporting modal shift from cars to active travel

As Ramblers we fully support the business case for the Planning Authority to implement raising funds via the CIL.

The Cambridge Ramblers would want to see a percentage of the Neighbourhood Portion ringfenced for improving the PROW network. The rationale for this:

- It would help the Local Authority to achieve the target for increasing walking stages per person per year.
- There is currently a very poor network of PROWs to the east and southeast of Cambridge to the countryside of South Cambs. There are large development plans on this side of Cambridge.
- The funding would support the implementation of the Councils Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2016 currently being refreshed [Rights of Way Improvement Plan | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)
- Statistically 20% more people walk three or more times a week for leisure purposes compared with active travel. [Walking and cycling statistics, England: Local area walking and cycling rates \(Active Lives Survey\) - GOV.UK](#) There has been significant investment in the greenways for active travel over recent years. There now needs to be investment in PROWs for leisure purposes.
- There are some 85 organised walks in Cambridgeshire every week, mainly by Ramblers Groups, U3A, National Trust, the universities, Wellbeing walks and village groups with anywhere between 10 and 30 people attending each walk. These groups are predominantly volunteer run and are somewhat invisible in Council decision making and are reliant on the PROW network.
- There is a need to record all the permissive paths with the definitive maps team and for some very well used permissive paths to become full PROWS.

- 36% of households own a dog, with a big increase in dog ownership since Covid. Dogs and their owners need access to green spaces that are connected by a good network of PROWs.

Examples of where Ramblers would want to see investment are:

- A PROW alternative to the very dangerous Lime Kiln Hill for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders connecting Cherry Hinton to Wandlebury , the Beechwoods and the Roman Road
- Access to Nine Wells from the Biomedical Campus to become a full PROW rather than a permissive path.
- Jennys Path, currently a permissive path to become a PROW.

We would like these and other priorities to be added to the Transport Database of projects in the pipeline.

Jane Crawford-White

Chair, Cambridge Ramblers Group

04/03/2026