

Cllr A Martinelli

Thank you for your question.

The Cycle Point development was approved under planning consent reference 12/1622/FUL which was granted in May 2014 subject to a S106 Agreement. This legal agreement required a Cycle Park Management Plan to be agreed by the Council, the County Council, Network Rail and the relevant station facility operator prior to commencement of development of the Cycle Point.

A Cycle Park Management Plan was submitted to the Council in March 2016. This was prepared by the train operating company, Greater Anglia, which is also the station facility owner at Cambridge station and responsible for the construction and delivery of the Cycle Point. As well as other management arrangements, the Management Plan included the following security measures:

“British Transport Police has advised the train operator and the designers of the Cycle Point on aspects of security by design. In doing so they have taken account of the specific requirements of a ‘Category A’ station such as Cambridge. The final specification will include the following:

- The arrangements for any inspections of the facility that may be required under TRANSSEC provisions.
- The siting of CCTV cameras to reduce the risk of personal and cycle crime and the ability to produce images to prosecution standard. CCTV images are relayed to the Station Supervision’s officer and are recorded.
- Elimination of blind spots and insecure areas by careful design.
- Provision of lighting to an acceptable standard.
- Provision of help-points on each floor within the building, linked to the Station Supervisor’s office”.

Concerns were raised by the Council’s Cycling and Walking Officer at the time the document was submitted about the security of the tiered racks installed and recommending that the management plan should include monitoring of thefts and remedial measures to be taken should thefts occur. There is no record that the management plan was updated to reflect these comments and subsequently agreed.

Officers have contacted Bidwells, the planning agents on behalf of Brookgate and so far they have been unable to confirm that a final version of management plan has been approved by the LPA.

Given this position, there is scope in planning terms to require the Cycle Point operators to review the management arrangements and to submit an updated Cycle Park Management Plan, which should include the monitoring thefts and remedial measures. Officers will investigate further this potential breach of the S106 Agreement requirements for an agreed Cycle Park Management Plan.

As executive councillor I have asked that the Council planning officers write a formal letter to the relevant parties identifying the potential breach of the S106 agreement and setting a short timescale for its satisfactory resolution. It should be noted that S106 breaches ultimately have to be resolved through the High Court as the final sanction so a negotiated solution would be the best and quickest way forward.