

CYCLE WOKING – THE YEAR AHEAD 2009/10

The following information is supplementary to the Plan and Programme for Woking that was submitted in October 2008.

Infrastructure

Basingstoke Canal

The Basingstoke Canal towpath improvements that commenced during 2008/09 where the 5.4km section between Hermitage Bridge and Monument Road Bridge was completed are planned to be extended west from Hermitage Bridge to the Woking/Guildford boundary at Pirbright Bridge and east from Monument Road Bridge to Sheerwater Road Bridge during the spring/summer of 2009. These improvement works will also include new and improved links into the local neighbourhoods including some local schools.

Design on three swing bridges and a boardwalk are also proposed during 2009, with construction planned during early 2010 (subject to Planning Permission). These structures will allow for a continuous off road walking and cycle facility at Chobham Road Bridge (Woking), Kiln Bridge (St Johns) and a canal crossing facility west of Hermitage Road Bridge (Knaphill) to allow improved access to the canal towpath on the south side.

Town Centre Access

Woking town centre lies approximately centrally within the district with the Basingstoke Canal passing close by on the northern side, with the busy railway station (approximately 6.5 million passenger journeys annually) located on the southern side of the town centre.

An experimental order allowing cycling on most shared areas within the town centre came into operation on the 3 April 2009. In addition to this three important road crossings are planned to be upgraded to allow a continuous cycle route across these roads and into the town centre by the autumn of 2009.

Cycle Parking – Woking Town Centre

A substantial increase in cycle parking is planned during the summer of 2009, with approximately 320 new spaces being created in Peacock Walk under an agreement with the Peacocks Centre (approximately 240 covered spaces) and Commercial Way (eastern end approximately 80 spaces). Existing and new CCTV will also cover these new cycle parking areas. Both of these areas are a short distance away from Woking railway station and it is likely that many commuters will also use these new facilities.

Cycle Parking – Woking Railway Station

Draft plans are being developed between Cycle Woking and South West Trains to substantially increase the cycle parking facilities at the railway station. It is planned to develop these proposals during 2009 and obtain planning permission during early 2010 that will enable construction of a 'bike building' during mid to late 2010.

During 2009, approximately 90 new spaces will be created in Oriental Road which lies just to the south side of the station main access.

Cycle Parking – West Byfleet Railway Station

West Byfleet is another important and busy station within Woking serving most of the eastern end of the district, including the southern part of Runnymede (Woodham and New Haw). Cycle Woking and South West Trains have agreed plans to install new and improve existing cycle parking at this station during the summer of 2009. These works will create approximately 60 new spaces and 27 improved spaces for cycles, of which 20 spaces will be covered. South West Trains are considering CCTV coverage of this area.

Other Cycle Parking

It is planned to install cycle parking facilities in several parks and playground areas within Woking during the summer of 2009. Many of these parks and playgrounds are located adjacent to or close by one of the designated cycle routes.

Provision for cycle parking facilities within the 'Community' has also been included within the work programme for this year, building on the success of cycle parking facilities introduced at Doctors, Dentists and local Health Centres during 2008.

Improvement to Existing Cycle Network

The existing cycle network, constructed pre-cycling town status, is overall reasonable, but requires some key improvements especially linking to schools and other important locations. During 2009/10 it is planned to improve some of these links to schools in conjunction with planned cycle parking improvements within the school grounds.

Rebrand Cycle Network

It is planned to commence the Rebranding of the Network during the summer of 2009, starting with the completed 5.4km section of the *Saturn Trail* (Hermitage Bridge to Monument Road Bridge), together with several off road links into adjacent neighbourhoods. The rebranding will be extended during the year to cover other sections of the network. DfT approval will be required where the signing is located on the public highway.

Soft Measures / Schools

School Bike Clubs and Go-Ride

There are 14 School Bike Clubs set up within Woking (April 2009) with more to come. Cycle Woking has decided to accept the offer of a Go-Ride coach in order to set up a Go-Ride club for Woking. The coach will work closely with the School Bike Clubs and also local cycle clubs in order to develop an interest among children in cycle sport. Advertising for the coach will commence in early June with a view to hiring a coach from August.

School Bike Storage

Provision has been made in the programme to continue with improvements to cycle parking facilities within schools. The criteria for cycle parking are based on a minimum of 15% of students attending the school. Priority will be given to schools adjacent to or close to the designated cycle network. Data on School cycle parking monitoring will also be collected on a quarterly basis from all schools within Woking commencing in the spring of 2009.

Cycling to Stations and Woking Town Centre

It is planned to promote cycling to the town centre and the railway stations following completion of some of the major infrastructure works. Promotions such as bicycle breakfasts will be arranged.

Company Cycle Challenge

The aim of the Cycle Challenge is to increase the number of people in Woking cycling to work safely and confidently. The Challenge will commence in late June.

Two targets have been set Target 1: 500 new commuter cyclists A 'new commuter cyclist' is defined as a person who cycles to work once a week or more after the challenge, who cycled less than once a week before the challenge in Woking by September 2010 and Target 2: 1500 people participating in cycle challenge scheme by Sep 2010 (new and existing cyclists).

General Monitoring

Following a meeting with Sustrans, a programme is being developed to carry out additional monitoring within the district, including cordon counts in the town center. Three new cycle counters will be installed on the Basingstoke Canal to complement the one installed in October 2008 and the six installed in 2004.

Bike Recycling Scheme

Plans have been developed to create up to three Bike Recycling 'Hubs' located within the most deprived areas of Woking. These 'Hubs' will be a 'community based project' allowing local people from the community to recycle / repair cycles and use them on the local cycle network. The 'Hubs' will be developed to planning permission stage during this year, ready for construction during 2010/11.

Health

The Cycle Woking health team continue to explore ways of introducing interventions that will link in with existing promotions such as Change4Life and M.E.N.D. for more active travel.