

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

DATE: 8 September 2014
 LEAD OFFICER: Lesley Harding



SUBJECT: Walton Bridge Links Cycle Safety Scheme

DIVISION: Walton, and Walton South and Oatlands

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

As reported to this committee in June 2013, the County Council was awarded funding of £984,000 from the Department for Transport for a cycle safety scheme starting at Gaston Bridge in Shepperton and extending into Walton from Walton Bridge along Bridge Street, Hepworth Way then along Terrace Road as far as the junction with Waterside Drive. The County Council allocated a further £200,000 of match funding alongside £225,000 developer contributions to cover the total estimated costs at the time of the bid of £1.4M.

In the course of public consultation and detailed design the scheme's specification has been modified enhanced from the assumed specification at the time of the bid. This has resulted in an increase in the estimated cost of the scheme to £1.9M, and a short shortfall of £0.5M in the scheme budget. This report sets out the changes to the scheme's timescale, design and costs and seeks agreement from the Committee to bid for £330,000 to cover the cost of an enhanced scheme at Terrace Road, between The Grove and Cottimore Lane.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to agree that:**

- i) An additional bid is made to Elmbridge Borough Council for £330,000 CIL funding for the enhanced cycle safety scheme in Terrace Road, between The Grove and Cottimore Lane.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The enhanced scheme would provide continuous off-carriageway cycle lanes on both sides of Terrace Road through the challenging section between The Grove and Cottimore Lane. Without this additional funding, a basic specification scheme could be implemented, but in the basic scheme the cycle lanes would be interrupted on both sides of the road, creating barriers to less confident cyclists.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 In July 2012 the Department for Transport announced a fund for cycling infrastructure in order to tackle cycling casualties and reduce barriers to further take up of cycling as a preferred mode of transport. The county council successfully submitted a bid for a route between Gaston Bridge in Spelthorne and Waterside Drive, Elmbridge.

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- 1.2 The deadline for the bid left very little time to develop detailed proposals. Accordingly a modest specification was assumed at the time and used to calculate the likely cost of the scheme, estimated at the time to be £1.4M.
- 1.3 The outline proposals were presented and approved by the Elmbridge Local Committee on 25 February 2013. On 24 June 2013 the Elmbridge Local Committee approved the consultation plan and advertisement of any necessary statutory notices.
- 1.4 The public consultation was subsequently undertaken, including a public exhibition at Walton-on-Thames Library in July 2013. The public consultation report downloadable from the Surrey County Council website at "[Roads and transport > Roads and transport policies plans and consultations > Roads and transport consultations in Surrey > Walton Bridge links cycle path](#)"

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The Department for Transport originally set a deadline of March 2014 for completion of the scheme. This completion deadline has been revised by agreement with Sustrans, who are acting as the Department of Transport's agents. The later implementation date is the result of three factors:
 - Enhancements and modifications to the original specification during the course of public consultation and detailed design.
 - Impact of flooding on Highways resources.
 - The enhancements resulted in the scheme cost increasing. This prompted value engineering assessment of the scheme to re-examine whether the scheme still represented good value for money. This included a submission to the County Council's Investment Panel in July 2014, which concluded that the scheme, with its enhanced specification, did offer good value for money.
- 2.2 The agreed implementation schedule is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Agreed Implementation Schedule

Phase	Borough	Location	Timescale
Phase 1	Spelthorne	Gaston Bridge to North of Marshalls Roundabout	September 2014
Phase 2	Spelthorne	Marshalls Roundabout to Walton Bridge	August – September 2014
Phase 3	Elmbridge	Oatlands Drive junction to Walton High Street Junction	September –December 2014
Phase 4	Elmbridge	Walton High St to Waterside Rd – including the basic scheme in Terrace Road between The Grove and Cottimore Lane	January to March 2015
Phase 5	Elmbridge	Terrace Road between The Grove and Cottimore Lane – enhanced scheme	Next Financial Year 2015-2016 depending on funding
Phase 6	Spelthorne	Gaston Bridge to North of Marshalls Roundabout – enhanced scheme	Next Financial Year 2015-2016 depending on funding

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2.3 In the course of Public Consultation and detailed design there have been a number of significant modifications and enhancements to the scheme:

- Where the cycle route runs through the shopping area on Terrace Road between The Grove and Cottimore Lane, the proposal has been enhanced considerably. To be able to provide continuous off-carriageway cycle lanes on both sides of the road, it would be necessary to remodel the geometry of the area significantly. This in turn provides an opportunity to enhance this area with a more comprehensive public realm improvement. During discussion with the Divisional member and local businesses it became apparent that there is potential to bring even wider benefits to the local community and support local businesses through transforming the public environment in the shopping parade. By re-arranging the kerbs and parking, more pedestrian space can be created using more attractive materials and street furniture, while providing for continuous cycle routes. The number of car parking spaces will also increase and include spaces on the north side of Terrace Road. The enhanced scheme for this section of Terrace Road is the main subject of this report, and is included at Annex A.
- A new zebra crossing outside Grovelands School, which is strongly supported by the head teacher. This will help the "Park and Stride" scheme being run by the school. Parents are encouraged to park in Waterside Drive and walk to the school in order to reduce parking congestion on Terrace Road. The school changes from infant to primary status in September 2014.
- A new Toucan Crossing has been included at Gaston Bridge.
- A pedestrian refuge across Hepworth Way outside the library has been added. This is a pedestrian facility and not part of the cycle route as such, but was a frequent request in the public consultation.
- Demarcation of the pedestrian area from the cycle path was another frequent request in the public consultation, so the scheme was redesigned so the majority of the route is now 'segregated' rather than 'shared'.
- Additional parking restrictions are proposed, subject to further public consultation.
- Toucan crossing near Gaston Bridge at the northern extent of the scheme.
- The proposed toucan crossing halfway along Hepworth Way, along with its cycle path approach on the southern side of Hepworth Way, has been removed. The cycle route will be facilitated by a toucan at the High Street signals along with a cycle path on the north side of Hepworth Way. This modification does offset the cost of enhancements elsewhere. However the total cost of the enhancements far outweigh the saving afforded by this modification.

2.4 To manage the increased cost of the enhanced scheme, alternative basic specification alternatives have been prepared for three sections:

- The Terrace Road section between The Grove and Cottimore Lane has been reduced to a basic scheme, which avoids the difficult sections altogether by interrupting the off-carriageway route and directing cyclists onto the carriageway past the difficult sections, before re-starting the off-carriageway route further along. The sections where cyclists are directed onto the carriageway would not be segregated from traffic by on-carriageway cycle lanes as there is not sufficient carriageway width for these. The basic scheme for this section is shown in Annex B.
- The Zebra Crossing outside Grovelands School has been omitted.

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- The Toucan crossing near Gaston Bridge at the northern extent of the scheme has been omitted, and the off-carriageway section between Gaston Bridge and Marshalls Roundabout has been substituted for on-carriageway cycle lanes.
- 2.5 The cost of the enhanced scheme in Terrace Road, between The Grove and Cottimore Lane, is estimated to be £330,000. This enhanced scheme would provide continuous off-carriageway cycle lanes in both directions, and at the same time provide the area with a significant public realm improvement. It is recommended that the Local Committee approve an additional bid for CIL funding to Elmbridge Borough Council for this £330,000 sum.
 - 2.6 The Divisional Member for Walton on Thames has indicated her intention to allocate funds from her share of the Highways budgets next Financial Year 2015-16 to implement the Zebra Crossing outside Grovelands School as a separate scheme. The cost of this Zebra Crossing is estimated to be £20,000.
 - 2.7 Alternative funding sources are being considered to implement off-carriageway cycle lanes between Gaston Bridge and Marshalls Roundabout and to implement the Toucan Crossing at Gaston Bridge. At the time of writing, no funding has been identified for this section and so the basic scheme will be implemented in September 2014, as detailed in Table 1 above.
 - 2.8 The cost of the rest of the scheme in Elmbridge – phases 3 and 4 in Table 1 above – is £1,320,000 and is covered within the existing budget.
 - 2.9 A full set of scheme drawings is available on request.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 None.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The scheme has already been subject to extensive Public Consultation as described above.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The Department for Transport awarded £984,000 for the scheme. The County Council's Cabinet allocated a further £200,000 of match funding alongside £225,000 developer contributions towards the scheme. Additional funds of £500,000 would be required to realise the full benefit of the scheme in both Spelthorne and Elmbridge. This additional requirement was considered by the County's Investment Panel in July 2014, which concluded that the scheme would still offer value for money in terms of casualty reduction, public realm improvement and promotion of cycling.
- 5.2 The Local Committee is asked to approve an additional bid for CIL funding to Elmbridge Borough Council for £330,000 to implement the enhanced scheme in Terrace Road, between The Grove and Cottimore Lane.
- 5.3 The Divisional Member for Walton on Thames has indicated her intention to allocate £20,000 from her share of the Highways budgets next Financial Year

2015-16 to implement the Zebra Crossing outside Grovelands School as a separate scheme.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The implications of the scheme were set out in the report to Elmbridge Local Committee in June 2013.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The cycle safety scheme proposals will improve the safety and accessibility for cyclists and other road users on the route. Increased cycling has benefits to the health of the participants. It helps to reduce traffic congestion and will reduce carbon emissions where it replaces other motorised transport. If successful the bid will result in improved accessibility to Walton Town Centre and nearby local employers and other amenities, benefiting the local economy

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	The implications of the scheme were set out in the report to Elmbridge Local Committee in June 2013.
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report.
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report.
Public Health	The implications of the scheme were set out in the report to Elmbridge Local Committee in June 2013.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 In the course of public consultation and detailed design modifications and enhancements to the scheme were incorporated. These resulted in a significant increase in scheme costs.
- 9.2 It is recommended that the Local Committee approve an additional bid for CIL funding to Elmbridge Borough Council for £330,000 to implement the enhanced scheme in Terrace Road, between The Grove and Cottimore Lane.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 Preparations are being made to implement the reduced scheme, as detailed in Table 1 above.
- 10.2 If the Local Committee were to approve the submission of a bid for CIL funding for the enhanced scheme at Terrace Road, the bid would be considered by Elmbridge Borough Council on 29th September 2014.

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Consulted: Area Highways Manager, Surrey Highways

Annexes: Annexes A & B

Sources/background papers: Item 14 Elmbridge Local Committee 25.02.2013/
Item 14 Elmbridge Local Committee 24.06.2013
