

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)****DATE:** 24 June 2013**LEAD OFFICER:** Lesley Harding**SUBJECT:** Walton Bridge Links Cycle Safety Scheme**DIVISION:** Walton, and Walton South and Oatlands**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The County Council has been awarded funding of £984,000 from the Department for Transport for a cycle safety infrastructure scheme that extends into Walton from Walton Bridge along Bridge Street, Hepworth Way then along Terrace Road as far as the junction with Waterside Drive. The scheme also extends into Spelthorne along Walton Bridge Road and Gaston Bridge Road as far as Gaston Bridge. The County Council are providing a further £200,000 of match funding alongside £225,000 developer contributions to complete the scheme. This report sets out the next steps for consulting on the scheme and seeks permission from the committee to advertise any statutory notices that may be required for the scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

- (i) the consultation plan presented within this report is approved.
- (ii) approval is given to advertise any statutory notices, in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and subject to no objections being upheld, the necessary Orders be made.
- (iii) approval is given to the delegation of authority to officers, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee, along with the relevant Divisional Member/s to consider, resolve and where necessary over rule any objections received in connection with the proposal.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Following a bid to the Department for Transport the council were awarded funding of £984,000 for a cycle safety scheme extending the cycle paths from the new Walton Bridge through Walton town centre as far as the junction of Terrace Road with Waterside Drive. The cycle paths would also extend into Spelthorne as far as Gaston Bridge. The outline of the scheme was presented to the Local Committee on 25 February 2013. This report sets out how the consultation will be undertaken, and the timetable for consulting with the key stakeholders.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 As part of its commitment to reducing cycling casualties and securing a cycling legacy from the London 2012 Olympic Games, Surrey County Council is developing a programme to encourage more people to cycle, more often, safely and conveniently.
- 1.2 In July 2012 the Department for Transport announced a £15m fund for cycling infrastructure in order to tackle cycling casualties and reduce barriers to more cycling. An additional £5 million was added to the fund in November 2012. Following analysis of cycling casualties across Surrey, the county council submitted a bid on 30 November 2012 for funding for five cycling schemes, one of which proposed extending the cycle paths from the new Walton Bridge through Walton town centre as far as the junction of Terrace Road with Waterside Drive. The paths would also extend into Spelthorne as far as Gaston Bridge.
- 1.3 The outline proposals were presented and approved by the Elmbridge Local Committee on 25 February 2013. On 4 April 2013 the Department for Transport announced the bid winners which resulted in Surrey County Council receiving the second highest award of all local authorities in the country. The Walton Bridge Links scheme was one of two schemes awarded funding in Surrey, for which DfT are providing £984,000. County Council cabinet have allocated a further £200,000 of match funding alongside £225,000 developer contributions towards the scheme.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 When the outline proposals for the scheme were presented to the Elmbridge Local Committee on 25 February 2013, the committee resolved that the proposals be approved and that residents and businesses will be consulted to inform upon the detailed design prior to construction. This report describes how we propose to undertake this consultation over the coming months and seeks permission from the committee to advertise any statutory notices that are required for the scheme.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 A project schedule for the scheme is attached as Annex 1. The different stages and activities we propose for the consultation are described below.

Consultation with Divisional Members

- 3.2 Prior to any materials and design drawings being issued for public consultation officers would undertake a site visit with the Divisional Members for Walton (Cllr Rachael Lake) and Walton South and Oatlands (Cllr Tony Samuels) along with the Local Committee Chair (Cllr Margaret Hicks) and Vice Chair (Cllr Mike Bennison). The aim would be explain the scheme to the Members and to agree the best solutions to resolve any tricky aspects of the design.

Informal Public Consultation

- 3.3 We propose to undertake a comprehensive 30 day public consultation exercise from 9 July to 19 August 2013. This would include the following:
- a website showing the proposals with an electronic feedback form.
 - a two day exhibition on a Friday and Saturday at Walton Library. This would include exhibition boards describing the scheme design and a feedback form. Officers will be in attendance to answer questions on the proposals.
 - leaflets delivered to addresses along the route and along neighbouring roads to advise of the consultation, the exhibition and website.
 - local advertising to highlight the consultation, the exhibition and the website.
- 3.4 As well as the wider public consultation activities described above we would contact the following stakeholder groups separately to explain the proposals and seek their comments and views.
- Walton Business Group
 - Elmbridge Cycle Forum
 - Local Schools
 - Weybridge Society
 - Excel Leisure Centre
 - Shepperton Residents Association
 - Surrey Police Road Safety and Traffic Management Team
- 3.5 Following the informal public consultation, if necessary and feasible the scheme proposals will be modified in response to the comments received prior to construction.

Formal Statutory Consultation Period for Traffic Orders

- 3.6 It is a statutory requirement of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to advertise traffic orders prior to the implementation of certain types of highway improvements such as raised tables, crossings or parking restrictions. It is proposed any such statutory notices be advertised beginning in August. It is proposed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and the local Divisional Members will be consulted by officers to resolve and where necessary over-rule any formal objections received in response to the formal statutory notices. Subject to no objections being upheld, the necessary Orders will be made.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The section above describes how consultation will be undertaken.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The council has been awarded funding of £984,000 from the Department for Transport for the scheme. The county council cabinet have allocated a further £200,000 of match funding alongside £225,000 developer contributions towards the scheme.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 In developing the county council's cycling programme the following impacts and actions have been identified:

Key impacts

Younger people – more reliant on cycling as a mode of transport

Older people – less likely to cycle due to mobility and other concerns; could be adversely affected by cycle routes that impact on pedestrian routes and access.

Gender – our research suggests women are less confident cycling in busy traffic although cycle casualty rates amongst males are higher than amongst females.

Disability – people with mobility problems and visual impairment adversely affected by cycle routes where they interact with pedestrian routes

Actions

Identify key routes that link school destinations.

Segregation of routes from pedestrians wherever feasible.

Development of segregated cycle routes designed with least confident cyclists in mind.

Achieve full segregation wherever feasible.

- 6.2 Road safety audits that consider the needs of all road users including those who are mobility impaired will be undertaken as an integral part of the scheme design process.

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; helps 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 adjacent local employers, 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)	Set out below.
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	Set out below.

8.1 Sustainability implications

Traffic modelling will be completed to check the impact of the proposals on traffic flows on the key junctions on the route. Increased cycling, where it replaces motorised forms of transport, will improve air quality and reduce carbon emission levels in the county. Transport is responsible for one third of carbon emission in Surrey. Surrey's Local Transport Plan has a target to reduce carbon emissions from (non-motorway) transport by 10% (absolute emissions) by 2020, increasing to 25% reduction by 2035 from a 2007 baseline of 2,114k tonnes.

8.2 Public Health implications

The new infrastructure will improve the safety of cyclists and other road users on a route that had previously suffered a number of cycling injuries. Increased cycling has a positive impact on the health of a person. The NHS identifies cycling as an activity that provides significant health benefits. The Surrey Health and Well-being Strategy has identified obesity as one of the priority public health challenges. The new routes will be marketed to residents and businesses and training will be offered to those less confident of cycling to encourage take up and to maximise the benefit of the new infrastructure.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 Following a bid to the Department for Transport, the council were awarded funding of £984,000 for the "Walton Bridge Links" scheme. The outline of the scheme was presented to the Local Committee on 25 February 2013 and the committee agreed to approve the scheme and that consultation with residents and businesses. This report sets out how the consultation will be undertaken and the timetable for consulting with the key stakeholders.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 Detailed design will continue, followed by consultation as outlined within this report.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Area Highways Manager
Surrey Highways

Annexes:

Annex 1: Project Schedule

Sources/background papers:

None

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