

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO: South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership Board

17th July 2009

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CYCLING IN SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cycling England (CE) is an independent, national, expert body set up by the Department for Transport in 2005, and charged with delivering programmes to increase levels of cycling.
- 1.2 Last year, the County Council, in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council successfully bid to Cycling England along with 74 other applicants to become one of 11 new 'Cycling Towns and Cities'. The bid provides £3.6m of additional funding, which will need to be match funded, over the next two years. The bid was not only for Cambridge but importantly includes the necklace villages within a radius of some 5-6 miles around the city.
- 1.3 The programme, which has now been agreed, includes new and improved infrastructure as well as 'soft' measures to influence behaviour such as training and marketing.
- 1.4 The Local Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy includes the priority 'improve the provision for walking and cycling in and between villages including new settlements and Cambridge City'. £200,000 has been allocated towards a cycle path from the Local Public Service Agreement Reward Grant.

2. UPDATE ON INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEMES

Sawston to Abington

- 2.1 This is a Section 106 funded scheme that will provide a useful link between villages and specifically for school trips to Sawston Village College and commuting to Granta Park. Consultation was completed last autumn.
- 2.2 To build the length from Sawston to Babraham, land is required from four different landowners. The landowners have agreed in principle to either sell land or grant a licence across it. These agreements are being finalised, and it is hoped that work can commence this autumn.
- 2.3 The route from Babraham to Abington will follow an existing footpath and use the footbridge over the A11. The proposal is to formalise cycling on the footpath and to resurface and widen it to become a shared use path. Discussions are ongoing with the landowner and it is hoped that work on this length can commence once the length from Sawston to Babraham has completed.

Cottenham to Histon

- 2.4 This is a Housing Growth Fund scheme that seeks to improve the existing narrow shared use path from the southern edge of Cottenham to the northern edge of Histon. The existing shared use path is narrow and is a barrier to more people cycling towards Cambridge from Cottenham.
- 2.5 To widen the path, a number of strips of land are required from different landowners as well as a need to pipe ditches and relocate some street furniture. Talks have commenced with landowners in a bid to purchase the required land. The aim is to provide a 3 metre wide shared use path.

Preliminary design is nearing completion, with Parish Councils and local members due to be consulted shortly before the scheme goes to public consultation in the summer. The scheme and consultation results will be presented to County Council Cabinet on 29th September. Construction should commence early 2010.

Histon to Cambridge

- 2.6 The route from the northern edge of Histon to the A14 is to be reviewed to see how on and off road cycle facilities could be improved and extended. This will also give the opportunity to review existing speed limits to see if these can be lowered to contribute to cyclist safety. This scheme will be wholly funded by the Cycling Town funding.
- 2.7 From Histon Football Club to the Holiday Inn hotel entrance, there is sufficient width within the overall highway to make much better provision for cyclists, though through other lengths of the route it will be more challenging to make good quality provision.
- 2.8 Parish Councils and local members will be consulted following the initial review of the route to develop a preliminary design that can then be taken to wider public consultation in the summer. The scheme and consultation results will be presented to County Council Cabinet on 29th September. Construction should commence early 2010.

Northfield Avenue

- 2.9 The new toucan crossing and the new short lengths of local cycleways linking north Cambridge with the Guided Busway and Orchard Park are now complete.

Harston to Cambridge

- 2.10 It is hoped that work on this Cycling Town funded scheme will commence in the autumn. Parish Councils and local members have been consulted and are supportive. The land agreement is being finalised with the Trumpington Meadows developer.

Babraham Road Park & Ride to Wandlebury

- 2.11 This is a Housing Growth Fund (Green Infrastructure) scheme to be delivered in partnership with Cambridge Preservation Society. A new shared use path will be constructed to allow pedestrians and cyclists to easily access Wandlebury from Cambridge. This is seen as a predominantly a leisure route though in time it is hoped to extend a route along the A1307 to Babraham Institute and on to Abington, so in time it should become a commuter route.

- 2.12 The Preliminary design has been developed working closely with frontagers and local stakeholders and Parish Councils and local members are due to be consulted shortly, ahead of public consultation in the summer. The route can be built within the existing highway without the need to obtain any land, but obtaining a small parcel of land at one private access (entrance to the Farm Shop) would give added value.
- 2.13 The scheme and consultation results will be presented to County Council Cabinet on 29th September. Construction should commence in the autumn.

Cambridgeshire Guided Busway

- 2.14 This scheme is another of the schemes that will provide the match funding element of the Cycling Town programme. The 3 metre wide maintenance track alongside the guideway will be surfaced in the section from Histon to Cambridge within the existing contract that is due to complete late summer.
- 2.15 The length from Histon back to Longstanton will be surfaced as part of a separate contract later this year funded through Housing Growth Fund.

Coton to Comberton Cycleway

- 2.16 This scheme aims to provide an all weather route for cyclists from Coton to reach Comberton in safety, which in turn links into the cycle route from Toft to Barton. It will require improving the surface of a byway from Coton to Long Road, constructing a suitably wide shared use path along part of New Road, and then providing a crossing point to reach Green End, a quiet lane suitable to complete the route into Comberton.
- 2.17 Some land may be required to build the route. Preliminary design is due to commence shortly and it is hoped that this scheme can be taken to consultation in the summer.

Fen Ditton to Horningsea

- 2.18 This scheme seeks to provide a link between these 2 villages which is likely to be a well used school, commuting and leisure route.
- 2.19 In close consultation with Horningsea Parish Council a preliminary design is being worked up. This identifies the need for land in order to build the route to sufficiently high standards. It may be necessary to obtain this land through compulsory purchase if landowners are unwilling to sell.
- 2.20 Once the preliminary design is finalised and Parish Councils and members have been consulted, the scheme will be taken forward to public consultation with a view to commencing construction in 2010 (dependant on land).

Milton to Impington

- 2.21 Preliminary design is just starting on a new foot and cycleway to improve safety between Milton and Impington. The scheme will provide a safe route for children from Milton to cycle or walk to Impington Village College. The scheme will also link Impington to the Park and Ride site, give a route to Milton Country Park, and will provide a path for the many migrant workers who are commonly seen walking in large

groups along the road. The facility is likely to be 2.5m wide and will require the felling and trimming of some trees and perhaps the piping of ditches.

- 2.22 Discussions will take place with Parish Councils and local members once some more details are available, and then a public consultation will be undertaken in the summer allowing construction to commence spring 2010.

Cycle Parking

- 2.23 A range of initiatives are underway to provide more and better cycle parking facilities.
- 2.24 Workplaces that are members of the Travel for Work partnership can now apply through a scheme called 'Take a Stand' for 50% funding towards new cycle parking for their employees.
- 2.25 Schools and health centres are being invited to apply to have cycle parking facilities provided to them.
- 2.26 An on line mapping system will be launched shortly that will allow the public to plot onto digital maps their suggested locations for cycle parking.

Sawston to Cambridge

- 2.27 This route will be reviewed to see what improvements could be made. The crossing of the A1301 at the northern end of the Sawston bypass is clearly of concern locally and the Cycling Town Team will work closely with Road Safety Engineering to develop an improvement.

3. SOFT MEASURES

Bikeability Training

- 3.1 The contract to undertake cycle training in schools is due to be let in July. This means that as of September schools within a 5 mile radius of Cambridge will start to receive bikeability training to national standards, in place of the existing volunteer-run Safer Cycling training.
- 3.2 Lack of confidence amongst adults is seen nationally as a barrier to people cycling, and so adult cycle training is now available and being promoted. A cycle trainer is in post and 1:1 lessons are available for £5 per hour. It is hoped that last year's figure of 49 adults being trained, can increase dramatically with this investment.

Personalised Travel Planning (PTP)

- 3.3 A successful trial scheme was undertaken in Orchard Park in 2007. Significant numbers of new residents took up sustainable transport options in preference to the car.
- 3.4 Cycling Town money can fund up to a third of any future PTP schemes. If any other partners come forward with funding, and a desire to undertake further PTP projects, then the Cycling Town will feed into this work.

Monitoring

- 3.5 Annually the County Council's Network Monitoring Plan reports on levels of all types of traffic across the County. The data is generally collected by roadside manual counts.
- 3.6 To give more accurate data, new cycle counters are in the process of being deployed, with 8 already in place. The counters can be interrogated from the office and as well as recording numbers crossing certain points, other information such as speeds can be recorded.
- 3.7 Deploying the new monitoring equipment is a requirement from Cycling England, and its purpose is to demonstrate the expected growth in cycling trips with the overall investment in the Cycling Town programme.

Marketing and Promotion

- 3.8 Advertising on buses and on cycle courier's bikes is underway. The first campaign centred around the theme of commuting to work and on the availability of adult cycle training. Future advertising campaigns will centre around the theme of encouraging women to cycle, and the theme of families cycling together.
- 3.9 A range of events were recently staged as part of Bikeweek in a bid to encourage people onto their bikes and in particular to inspire non cyclists to consider cycling. The events included cycle rides, cyclist's breakfasts and a Bike fair. A Cycle Try Out Show was also staged as part of the Fen Edge Festival in Cottenham.

Public Consultation

- 3.10 A questionnaire and updated cycle map has been sent out to all residents in the Cycling Town area. The map contains useful information about cycling as well as being a very useful map of the city and outlying areas.
- 3.11 The questionnaire will provide information as to people's barriers to cycling and will help target certain types of promotional activity in the future. It will also provide a list of contacts of people who do not cycle, people who could benefit from cycle training, and people who could potentially cycle to work who currently do not.

Cycle Champions

- 3.12 This is an area of work that looks to engage with young people in and out of school.
- 3.13 A Bike-It Officer will be recruited in the next few months. Their role is to work within schools by providing a range of activities to inspire young people to cycle.
- 3.14 Bike Club is a national programme that seeks to empower local youth clubs and groups with materials and training to allow them to stage cycling based activities. This will be offered to organisations within the Cycling Town area.

Review Cycling Strategy

- 3.15 Design standards and policies are being reviewed to ensure that infrastructure will comply with the new high standards.

On Line Journey Planner

- 3.16 The Cycling Town team is working with Cycling England's contractor who is collating data to set up an on line journey planner for cycling trips.

4. SWAVESEY TO BUCKING WAY BUSINESS PARK FOOT/CYCLEWAY UPDATE

- 4.1 This scheme is geographically outside of the Cycling Town area and is being funded from the Housing Growth Fund.
- 4.2 At the last meeting members noted the details of this scheme to provide this new shared foot/cycleway.
- 4.3 One of the three landowners does not wish to sell the land needed for the scheme. The County Council's Cabinet will be asked for approval to start the compulsory purchase procedure to obtain the land.
- 4.3 Final consultation with Swavesey Parish Council and local members is ongoing with construction due to commence once all land is obtained, which realistically will not be until spring 2010.

5. FEN DRAYTON TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE GUIDED BUSWAY

- 5.1 This project to link Fen Drayton with the Cambridge Guided Busway cycle route is one of the routes identified for possible funding from the Housing Growth Fund (HGF).
- 5.2 We are currently doing initial work to identify landowners, and options to see if it is feasible to consider taking this project forward if there is available funding.

6. COUNTY AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE JOINTLY FUNDED CYCLEWAYS PROGRAMME (JFCP)

- 6.1 For many years the County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council funded cycling schemes within the district on a matched funding basis. Despite the existence of an Area Joint Committee approved cycle network plan for South Cambridgeshire, district funding for the JFCP was withdrawn in the year 2007/8, with the result that schemes falling within this programme have been "on hold" except where alternative funding sources have been found.
- 6.2 The Cycling Town programme, has given an opportunity for many of the formerly listed schemes in the vicinity of Cambridge to be constructed. However, there are a number of schemes that have been brought to the attention of officers, which do not fit with the requirements of the Cycling Town project and cannot therefore be included within it. These schemes merit addition to the JFCP list and for entry into the prioritisation process and possible construction in the event that joint funding is restored.
- 6.3 In recent months the following potential schemes have been suggested to officers for inclusion in the JFCP:

- Hardwick to Toft - along Hardwick Road
- Papworth Everard to A428 - along the A1198
- Landbeach to Milton
- Whittlesford to Granta Park - along the A505
- Dry Drayton/Madingley to the St Neots Road/Cambridge Road Coton

These schemes would be additions to the existing aspirational network plan.

- 6.4 The Area Joint Committee is being asked to endorse these additions on the 13th July 2009. Inclusion on the plan does not imply commitment to construct, as all schemes are subject to the agreed South Cambridgeshire cycleway prioritisation process.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The LSP Board is recommended to comment upon the work that is taking place to improve cycling provision in South Cambridgeshire and consider whether or not they can / would like to do more on this priority at present.