

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAY, TRANSPORT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**23 December 2014**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – RESULTS OF CONSULTATION  
FOR NEW SHARED USE CYCLE PATH A6 MATLOCK**

- (1) **Purpose of Report** To consider the result of a public consultation exercise on a highway improvement scheme to provide a new shared use cycle path at the side of the A6 in Matlock between the roundabout at the junction with Bakewell Road and the Arc Leisure Centre
- (2) **Information and Analysis** The County Council is promoting a new scheme to improve the provision for cyclists travelling along the A6 between the roundabout at the junction with Bakewell Road and the Arc Leisure Centre. It will involve the construction of a new 2.7m wide shared use path for use by cyclists and pedestrians on the western side of the A6 and includes the repositioning of lighting columns and road signs, and the removal of approximately 15 trees. An existing bus stop on the proposed route will remain but the layby will be removed and the bus shelter and bus stop signs will be moved back.

**Results of Consultation**

Consultations have been carried out, including a letter drop to households overlooking the proposed route and letters sent to the Chief Constable, County Members, District and Town Councils, Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and other statutory consultees. Following this process, 11 responses have been received. Nine of these had no objections to the scheme and include the District and Town Councils, the Police, Matlock Civic Society and two local residents (once they were reassured that the bus stop was not going to be removed altogether). Although they had no objections, there were some comments noting that the County Council had provided assurance that replacement trees would be planted in the verge to compensate for the loss of the existing trees and asking the County Council to review the existing refuge crossing provision for cyclists to be able to cross to the Arc Leisure Centre and Hooley's Estate. Two written objections from residents who lived across the road to where the new route is proposed were received. Their main concerns were the removal of the trees. One resident felt that there would not be enough use or demand for the route to warrant the

loss of the trees and the other was that in addition to the ecological impact, the trees provide a shield to the railway bridge behind. Other concern was expressed about the traffic disruption during the construction and the increased pedestrian noise from the new route.

### **Officer Comment**

It is considered that the proposed route will provide a safer cycle route into Matlock that segregates cyclists from vehicular traffic. This new short length of route will provide a connection to the existing shared cycleway alongside Derwent Way and will ultimately provide a connection to the proposed extension of the existing Monsal Trail from Bakewell down into Matlock, as part of the wider Pedal Peak project which the County Council is in receipt of grant aid from the Department for Transport to help deliver. This wider project was the subject of a public consultation at the end of August 2014. During that consultation, there was considerable public support for the proposal and requests for improved connections into Matlock. Over 900 people completed a questionnaire providing support for the wider scheme which this current highway improvement would connect into, demonstrating the demand for this route.

With regard to the loss of the 15 trees, the County Council has provided assurance that the equivalent number of trees will be planted in the verge to provide mitigation. There are also mature trees behind the ones to be felled so there will still be trees in the vicinity.

In designing the scheme, consideration was given to which side of the A6 to locate the new cycleway. It was decided that a route following the existing footway on the eastern side of the A6 would have too much impact on the households located close to the road and the number of driveways that the route would have to cross. During the construction of the route, every effort will be made to keep disruption in terms of traffic and noise to a minimum. Work will be carried out during restricted hours and the signals will be manually controlled to avoid the build-up of queues in any one direction.

A review has been carried out of the existing refuges and the one located at the northern end of this proposed route is 2m wide which complies with the recommended standard suggested by Sustrans for cyclists to use and will allow cyclists to cross over to reach the Arc Leisure Centre and Hooleys Estate. It is also proposed to erect cycle warning signs on the carriageway to alert vehicles travelling south from Darley Dale. A further refuge towards the southern end of the proposed scheme has already had approval to be widened, as part of a scheme promoted by the Public Transport Unit, to allow pedestrian access to a new northbound bus stop to be located close to the new flats. This refuge will now be built at the same time as this scheme to further reduce traffic disruption and will be extended to 2m width to allow for cyclists as well, and safety considerations for cyclists crossing the A6 at these locations will be monitored and kept under review.

In view of the fact that there has been a considerable amount of support for this scheme and that there are proposals in place to mitigate for the loss of the trees, that other concerns or comments have been addressed and that this scheme will, in the Police's view, increase safety for cyclists along this part of the road, it is considered that the advantages outweigh the residents' concerns about the loss of trees.

### **Local Member Comments**

Councillor Botham has been consulted and supports the proposal.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost of the scheme, estimated at £170,000 plus cost of traffic management, will be met from the grant provided by the Department for Transport for delivery of the Pedal Peak Project. This is money that cannot be used for anything else.

(4) **Environmental, Health, Equality and Diversity and Transport Considerations** Cycling has benefits across a wide range of Council objectives relating to healthy travel, accessibility and environmental sustainability

### **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, human resources and property considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file in the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Claire O'Reilly, extension 39652.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

8.1 The new shared use cycle path on the A6 in Matlock between the roundabout at the junction with Bakewell Road to the Arc Leisure Centre be implemented as suggested.

8.2 The respondents to the consultation be notified accordingly.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**