

ITEM: MAIDENHEAD TO COOKHAM RISE CYCLE ROUTE

Report Author: Gordon Oliver **Position:** Principal Transport Planner

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report highlights recent changes to the section of National Cycle Network Route 50 between Maidenhead and Cookham where the restrictive barriers previously erected by the landowner have been replaced to make it easier for cyclists to use the path.**

2. Supporting Information

Background

- 2.1 The cycle route between Maidenhead and Cookham Rise forms the first part of the proposed National Cycle Network Route 50, which when complete will connect Maidenhead and Winslow. The route provides a largely traffic-free cycle route utilising public rights of way and permitted paths across the Summerleaze estate connecting Ray Mill Road East and Lightlands Lane.
- 2.2 Following repeated problems with unauthorised access by motorcycle users, the local landowner had erected bespoke barriers designed to permit access for pedal cycles, while excluding motorcycles. Unfortunately, the barriers were so restrictive that they prevented access for many designs of bicycle, as well as bikes with trailers and tag-alongs, tricycles, pedestrians with pushchairs and wheelchair users.
- 2.3 The fact that much of the route is a permitted path across private land means that the council has no powers of enforcement, so the restrictive barriers remained in place for a number of years while elected members and officers sought to negotiate a solution with the landowner.
- 2.4 A solution was recently agreed, which resulted in replacement of the old barriers at Westmead and Lightlands Lane with more conventional motorcycle barriers (see Photos 1 & 2) and the removal of the old barrier that used to be adjacent to the vehicular gate on the north side of the cricket club access road (see Photo 3).
- 2.5 Surface improvements have also been carried out on two sections of NCN 50 (see Photos 4 & 5), which ensures that the path is usable in the wetter winter months.
- 2.6 All of the above works were carried out by the landowner, Summerleaze, as part of a wider project involving the diversion of some nearby public footpaths.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cycle Forum note the contents of the report.**

Photo 1: New Barrier at Westmead



Photo 2: New Barrier at Lightlands Lane



Photo 3: Removal of Barrier at Cricket Club Access Road



Photo 4: Surfacing Improvements

