

## **ACTIVE TRAVEL/ LCWIP UPDATES – RBWM Transport Team**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update the Forum about Active Travel - LCWIP delivery.

### **2. UPDATES FROM RBWM TRANSPORT TEAM**

#### **2.1 Ascot and The Sunnings**

Active Travel England have funded studies into what walking and cycling improvements could be made in the following two areas:

- Heatherwood Hospital to Ascot High Street and Burleigh/North Ascot (in particular, safe paths and crossing around Heatherwood roundabout)
- Improved walk/cycle access from South Ascot and Sunninghill to the village shops and schools, and Ascot railway station.

These studies are underway and will conclude in early spring.

The outcome of these studies would be to identify what (if any) improvements might be possible and worthwhile, and then to build a business case to attract funding to build.

#### **2.2 Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury**

New pedestrian crossings are being installed on Horton Road in Datchet, for improved access to the village centre and park.

#### **2.3 The Windsors and Eton**

- ‘Quietway’ walking and cycling upgrades along Stovell Road largely complete, featuring pedestrian priority crossings over side roads, widened footways and cycle facilities, changed priorities at junctions to calm traffic, modernised tactile paving arrangements for accessibility. A 20mph speed limit will be introduced shortly following a separate public consultation. An intelligent digital sign is displaying how many pedestrians and cycles are using the route in real time, giving us great data about how the facility is being used and also ‘gamifying’ the experience of walking/cycling into Windsor – people feel part of something bigger than their own journey, and it is interesting to watch the numbers go up week after week.
- The borough’s pilot secure cycle storage facility is planned for Windsor Leisure Centre. Planning permission has been applied for and, if approved, the facility would be open spring 2024.
- The planned junction upgrade at A308/Mill Lane/Parsonage Lane linking the quietway into Clewer and Dedworth and the priority corridor to Maidenhead will not now be built.
- Crossing near Trevelyan School. The consultation review for St Leonards Road, Windsor to replace the current zebra crossing with a set of pedestrian controlled traffic lights has been completed.

Please see details below:

- 200 letters were delivered to residents.
- 63.6% of responses supported the proposal of replacing the current zebra crossing with a set of pedestrian controlled traffic lights.
- **Appx 1** - a copy of the report including most common comments and responses.

Councillors have been informed and they support the proposal. We have had an informal discussion with the Police, and they were in favour. A formal consultation with Police will follow.

We are looking to go ahead subject to funding approval.

- A 20mph zone was introduced in the Springfield Road area of Windsor last year, a neighbourhood that is within comfortable walk/cycle distance of the town centre and local shops, schools and services.

## 2.4 Maidenhead

- The new toucan crossing over St Cloud Way is operational and accessible for pedestrians.
  - The cycle connection on the north side will require a new ramp down to Holmanleaze, which has been designed and efforts to secure necessary land and construct are progressing.
  - The cycle connection on the south side – a new cycle track linking around to Waitrose, is designed but cannot be constructed until works to Cookham Bridge have been completed because the A4 is currently the diversion route.
- A study on options for improved walking, cycling and public realm in Maidenhead town centre has completed and local businesses have had an initial chance to feed back.
  - There were concerns from some businesses about widened footways and contraflow cycle facilities in the centre of the town on Queen St and High St (between Broadway and St Ives Road) as some businesses desire additional on-street parking there and there is not the width to do it all.
  - Instead, improvements will initially be focused at the southern end of the town centre near the railway station, firstly up along King Street to Broadway, and secondly along Queen Street and York Road to the football club.
  - Active Travel England have funded a study of the road junction outside Waitrose, to look at how at the other end of town the new cycle connection from the crossing at St Cloud Way could link into the town centre, as well as how the pedestrian environment could be improved to extend the High Street environment to Waitrose's door, for Waitrose to make a more effective anchor store for this end of the town centre and encourage increased footfall on Bridge St and in Waterside Quarter. Work to this end of the town centre would need to be subject to the study identifying suitable improvements could be made, as well as a future business case and funding bid as it is not currently funded.
- The 'Missing Links' bridge on Town Moor is now complete, connecting the new crossings over the A4 at Kidwell's Park and St Cloud Way to the residential areas in the northeast of the town.
- Our next ambition is to make comfortable walking and cycling connections from these crossings to the north and northwest of the town, and our first step in doing this is to look at the Norfolk Park neighbourhood, creating safe and attractive neighbourhood streets as alternatives to walking/cycling on the main road towards North Town, Belmont and Furze Platt, as well as making it much easier and pleasant for people living there to pop into Maidenhead town on a whim.
  - This could be accompanied by a crossing over the A308 linking Norfolk Road to Belmont Road.
  - Early resident engagement events showed support for better connections and safer streets in the neighbourhood, and their ideas have been fed into options studies.
  - These studies are nearing their conclusion and we hope to consult publicly shortly on their findings.

**2.5 Status of Active Travel England support and funding**

- Regular engagement between Active Travel England and RBWM
- Active Travel England now a consultee on larger developments in the borough
- RBWM is currently graded National Capability Level 1 of 4 which determines the amount of government funding the council is offered, and this has reduced the amount of funding that the council has available to it for active travel schemes compared to other councils. However, RBWM have successfully secured all of the c. £300k that has been available to us so far from Active Travel England, to support delivery of many of the studies and projects described above.