

From: David Brazier, Cabinet Member – Environment, Highways & Waste
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To: Environment, Highways & Waste Cabinet Committee

Date: 27 February 2014

Subject: National Cycle Network Route 16, Dover

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This report gives a brief summary regarding the continuation of the cycle route connecting Whitfield to the Dour Greenway.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Kent County Council (KCC) and Dover District Council (TDC) have been working together to improve the cycleway connections for Dover residents. The proposed growth at Whitfield together with town centre improvements such as the DTIZ and the Waterfront will help the local economy and create a significant number of jobs for local people so good connections by sustainable modes is an important consideration of any forward planning.

To date significant improvements have been carried out to the River Dour Greenway which now enables a good cycling and walking link between Buckland Mill and the town centre. Recently Section 106 money has also facilitated the upgrade of an existing public footpath EB12 to bridleway status, thus providing a suitable surface for cyclists and maintaining a 3m width, giving children from the town a good alternative access to the Archers Court School (Melbourne Avenue) than the existing road network. The upgrade in this path has already shown an increase in the number of users, both on foot and bicycle.

This report is to inform members of the next stages to the cycle connections to facilitate safe access onto the existing River Dour Greenway from EB12.

2.0 Section 106 Spend

2.1 Section 106 money has already been used to address the poor condition of Roman Road, with drainage measures introduced to catch surface water run-off from the higher ground and to resurface those areas that have broken out, causing loose material to collect on the road surface, and the cutting back of vegetation to maintain a suitable width for vehicular traffic. A small area of local widening has also been provided to maintain a degree of pedestrian safeguarding towards the upper end of Roman Road, where the road is particularly narrow and vehicles and pedestrians struggle to pass one another.

3.0 The Proposal

The route as such is therefore concluded until we get to the bottom of Old Charlton Road (which I am happy for cyclists to ride on carriageway on this lightly trafficked road).

The problem now is in leaving cyclists abandoned to the road network on the five arm junction of Frith Road, Barton Road, Old Charlton Road, Connaught Road and Castle Avenue.

The proposal is to route cyclists to turn right on leaving Old Charlton Road on the wide area of footway fronting St Edmunds School to the existing pedestrian crossing over Barton Road. The crossing would need to be upgraded to a toucan to accommodate cyclists. The footway on the south side of Barton Road would be widened to a minimum 3m to allow a segregated footway/cycleway to the junction of Charlton Avenue. There need be no loss of guard railing and the widening can be accommodated as far as the bend on the junction of Frith Road (in the opposite direction). This would also act as a traffic calming measure for vehicles on Barton Road. 3m running lanes can still be maintained on Barton Road but the overall narrowing for drivers and the tightening of the wide sweeping radius bend should slow speeds and give a better road positioning for negotiating the corner.

The widened footway would result in the loss of 3 highway trees along Barton Road but they are not particularly good specimens and could be potentially replaced elsewhere.

This would also improve pedestrian connections to the multiple schools located in the area.

Charlton Road is a “no through road” and as such cycling can be safely accommodated on carriageway along this road to connect to the River Dour Cycle route at the bottom. There is no level difference between the existing and proposed cycle routes to address at this point.

4.0 Finance

All costs are covered by Section 106 spend.

5.0 Consultation

It is intended to complete a localised consultation in the coming weeks to ensure residents are kept fully informed and have opportunity to comment. The consultation will involve a letter drop to those residents on Barton Road and the posting of a notice at the existing crossing.

6.0 Recommendation

That Members note the update.

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