

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee

Date of Committee 26th July 2006

Report Title Weddington Road Cycle Scheme

Summary It is proposed to develop a new cycle route to link the Weddington area of Nuneaton to the town centre. The proposed scheme includes widening a section of footway in the vicinity of the Leicester Road bridge and on the south of Weddington Road to allow conversion to a shared use footway/cycleway. Early approval of this conversion by Area Committee is sought to allow co-ordination of the scheme with the programmed works on the Regent Street/Leicester Road junction as part of the Nuneaton Development Project.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? Yes/No

Background Papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

Other Committees

Local Member(s) Councillor J Burton – comments incorporated
(With brief comments, if appropriate) Councillor A Farnell – comments noted
Councillor B Hicks

Other Elected Members

Cabinet Member
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive

- Legal I Marriott - agreed
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- Health Authority
- Police Warwickshire Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Warwickshire Association for the Blind; Council for Disable People Coventry and Warwickshire – no comments received

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee - 26th July 2006

Weddington Road Cycle Scheme

Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

Recommendation

That Area Committee approves the conversion of sections of footway on Leicester Road and Weddington Road, which are highlighted on the plan in **Appendix B**, to a shared use footway/cycleway.

1. Summary of Matter

- 1.1 It is proposed to develop a new cycle route to link the Weddington area of Nuneaton to the town centre. This scheme has been included in the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme for 2006/7 and is being designed by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council on behalf of the County Council.
- 1.2 The proposed scheme includes widening a section of footway in the vicinity of the Leicester Road bridge and on the south of Weddington Road to allow conversion to a shared use footway/cycleway.
- 1.3 Area Committee approval is required for the conversion of footway to a shared use footway/cycleway. It is necessary to seek approval at this relatively early stage in the scheme design to allow co-ordination with the programmed works on the Regent Street/Leicester Road junction as part of the Nuneaton Development Project.

2. Background to Cycleway Scheme

- 2.1 The proposed Weddington Road Cycle Scheme will assist cycle journeys from the north-east of Nuneaton to the town centre, rail station, employment areas and other local destinations. A policy of the Local Transport Plan Cycling Strategy is to develop cycle networks in the main County towns, and the Weddington Road is highlighted in the Local Transport Plan as a key cycle route for development in Nuneaton. Improving cycling conditions in order to encourage more cycling for short journeys contributes towards three of the shared priorities within the Local Transport Plan: to improve air quality, reduce congestion and improve accessibility.

- 2.2 The proposed scheme will start from the Regent Street junction on Leicester Road, where it will link to the shared use footway/cycleway on the ring road, via an existing toucan crossing. The scheme will extend along the length of the Weddington Road to the Church Lane junction.
- 2.3 The cycle scheme will also form part of National Cycle Network route 52, a strategic cycle link being developed through the County in partnership with Sustrans, the organisation co-ordinating the development of the National Cycle Network, and other bodies. The route will eventually extend from Warwick to Coalville in Leicestershire, serving Nuneaton, Bedworth, Coventry, Kenilworth and Warwick University along its length.

3. Details of Cycleway Scheme

- 3.1 A initial design for the scheme has now been drawn up and the proposed cycle facilities, together with how they will link to existing cycle routes, are shown on the plan in **Appendix A**.
- 3.2 Along much of the Weddington Road, the road is wide enough to provide on-carriageway cycle lanes. However, it will not be feasible to provide on-carriageway cycle lanes in the area of the gyratory system and on the Leicester Road bridge, due to inadequate carriageway width and the high traffic volumes at this location.
- 3.3 It is therefore proposed to widen the northern footway on the Leicester Road bridge and a section of the western footway on the Weddington Road to attain the recommended width for a shared use facility. Along the Leicester Road section, the footway will be widened into the carriageway by approximately 0.5m to a width of 3 metres. Vehicle lane widths of a minimum of 3.4m will be retained along the length of this section. Along the Weddington Road section, the footway will be widened into the verge to a width of 2.5 metres. A more detailed plan showing the extent of the proposed widening can be found in **Appendix B**.
- 3.4 The proposed shared use facility will be accessed via a new Toucan crossing at a location just north of the gyratory system on the Weddington Road.
- 3.5 As well as being crucial to the completion of National Cycle Network route 52, the proposed shared use facilities provide the only feasible option for improving the currently poor cycle access to the town centre and beyond from the north-east of Nuneaton.

4. Impact of Proposed Regent Street/Leicester Road Junction Improvement Scheme

- 4.1 An additional works contract is due to take place during the forthcoming school holidays, in order to minimise local traffic disruption. The work will include modifying the Regent Road/Leicester Road junction, which forms the beginning of the proposed Weddington Road Cycle Scheme.

- 4.2 If the proposed cycle scheme is approved by Area Committee at this stage, then the Regent Road/Leicester Road junction can be further modified to accommodate the future cycle scheme, thereby saving abortive road works.
- 4.3 Work on the junction scheme (paragraph 4.1 above) is well advanced and it would be advantageous if, subject to suitable timescales, the layout of this scheme is adjusted to suit the future conversion of the footway to shared use as part of the proposed Weddington Road Cycle Scheme.
- 4.4 It is therefore necessary to seek Area Committee approval for the footway conversion to shared use at this relatively early stage in the design of the Weddington Road Cycle Scheme.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Whilst it is anticipated that a full public consultation will be carried out when the scheme is further developed, a number of relevant organisations have been consulted on the specific issue of the footway conversion to shared use. Consultation is not a statutory requirement for this process, but is recommended as good practice.
- 5.2 A letter outlining the scheme, together with a plan showing the broad proposals, was sent to Warwickshire Police, the Borough Council and two bodies representing people with disabilities or visual impairments.
- 5.3 Warwickshire Police have confirmed their support for the outline scheme.
- 5.4 There are no residential properties adjoining the section of footway which it is proposed to convert to shared use. Whilst there are a small number of commercial properties on the southern part of Weddington Road, it is proposed to consult these at a stage when a detailed design has been drawn up.
- 5.5 Sustrans and the local cycle forum have been consulted on the outline design, and they are supportive of the proposals.

6. Recommendations

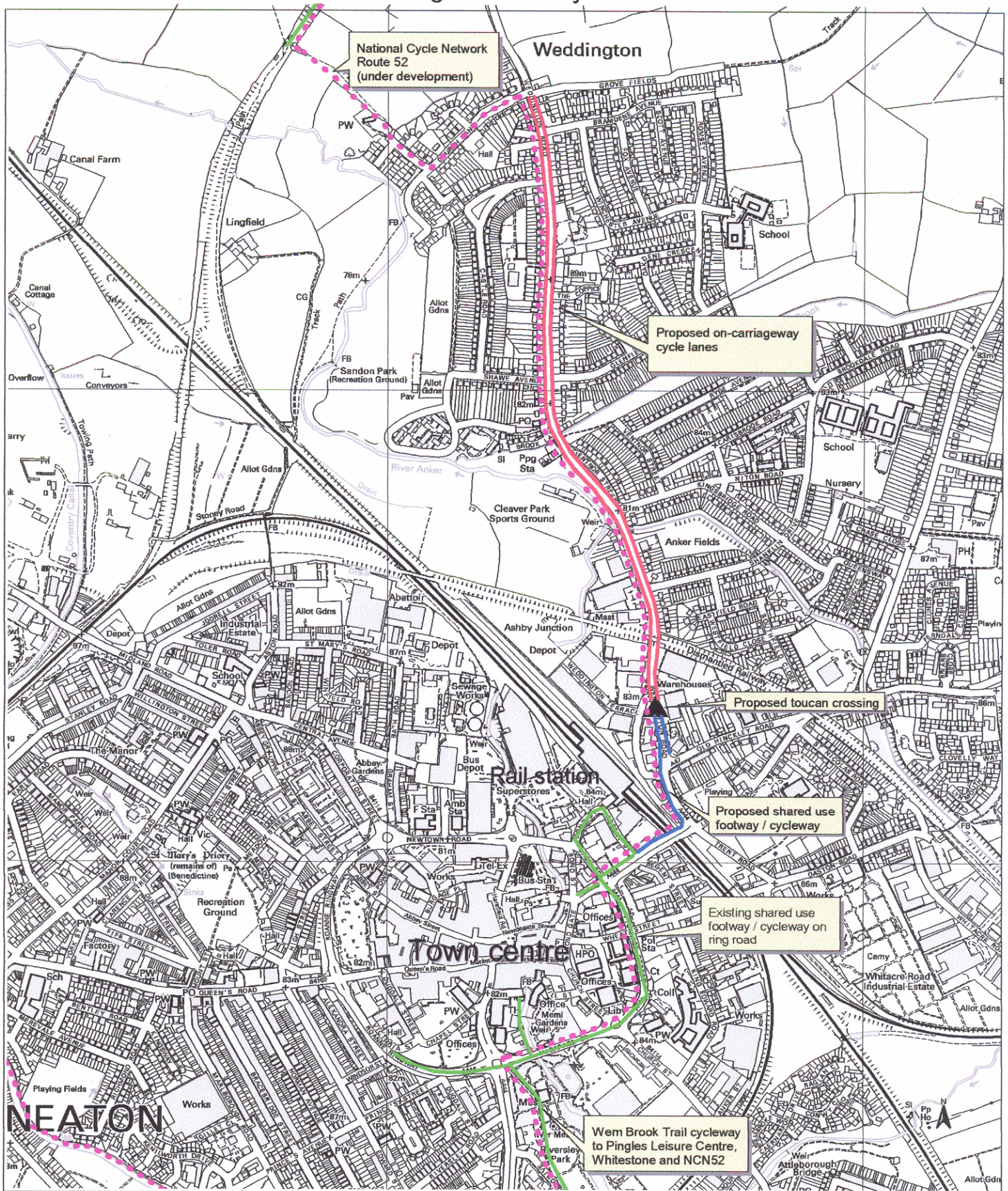
- 6.1 As a part of the Area Committee's powers to determine road traffic management and accident prevention schemes, the Committee is asked to approve the conversion of the section of footway along Leicester Road/Weddington Road in Nuneaton to shared use footway/cycleway facilities, pursuant to Sections 65 and 66 of the Highways Act 1980.

JOHN DEEGAN
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick






12th July 2006

Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee - 26 July 2006 Appendix A

Weddington Road cycle scheme



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-  Proposed on-carriageway cycle lanes
-  Proposed shared use footway / cycleway
-  Existing cycle route
-  National Cycle Network route (under development)
-  Proposed toucan crossing



Department of Planning
Transport and Economic Strategy
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