

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Rugby Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 23rd November 2006

**Report Title** **Black Path Footbridge - Provision of Improved Facilities for Pedestrians and Cyclists**

**Summary** The Black Path forms an important route between Brownsover and Rugby town centre. A footbridge carries the Black Path over the West Coast Main Line (WCML). This report sets out the results of a consultation on a proposed scheme to improve the southern section of the footbridge, and seeks endorsement from the Area Committee to undertake further work to develop the scheme, with a view to it being included in the proposed outline Transport Capital Programme for 2007/08.

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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  Rugby Area Committee 21st September 2006
- Local Member(s)  Councillor Ms K King } support the process  
(With brief comments, if appropriate) Councillor J Wells }
- Other Elected Members  .....
- Cabinet Member  Councillor M Heatley – supports the  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with recommendation  
appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive  .....

- Legal  I Marriott - agreed
- Finance  C Holden - agreed
- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  Rugby Borough Council
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  Warwickshire Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Local residents on Woodbridge Court,  
The Sidings and Wood Street  
Northlands Primary School  
Living Streets  
Rugby Cycle Forum  
Rugby Disability Forum  
Council of Disabled People Warwickshire and  
Coventry  
Guide Dogs For The Blind, Rugby  
Warwickshire Association for the Blind  
Sustrans  
Better Brownsover Partnership  
Close Property Management  
Bilton Design & Build Ltd  
Network Rail

**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  For inclusion in the proposed outline Transport Capital Programme for 2007/08, to be considered by Cabinet on 11th January 2007.
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Rugby Area Committee – 23rd November 2006

### Black Path Footbridge - Provision of Improved Facilities for Pedestrians and Cyclists

#### Report of the Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

#### Recommendation

That Area Committee:-

- (a) Notes the positive results of the consultation undertaken on an improvement to the southern access to the Black Path footbridge.
- (b) Gives endorsement to further work to be undertaken in order to develop an improvement scheme for the footbridge, with a view to it being included in the proposed outline Transport Capital Programme for 2007/08.

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Area Committee on 21st September 2006, authority was given for a consultation to be undertaken on a proposed improvement to the Black Path footbridge. An improvement to the southern access to the footbridge is required in order to complement the committed replacement of the main footbridge spans by Network Rail, and the proposed improvement to the northern steps by Network Rail and St Modwen.

#### 2. The Consultation Process

- 2.1 A consultation leaflet was prepared to provide consultees with the background to the proposal, a location plan, an elevation of the current southern access to the footbridge, and an indicative elevation showing a possible improvement to the footbridge in the form of a ramp.
- 2.2 The consultation leaflet was sent to the following people and organisations on 3rd October 2006, with a requested return date of 27th October 2006:
  - (i) Councillors Ms K King and Councillor J Wells.
  - (ii) Rugby Borough Council – Technical Services.

- (iii) Rugby Borough Council – Sustainability Coordinator.
- (iv) Warwickshire Police.
- (v) Local residents on Woodbridge Court, The Sidings and Wood Street.
- (vi) Northlands Primary School.
- (vii) Living Streets.
- (viii) Rugby Cycle Forum.
- (ix) Rugby Disability Forum.
- (x) Council of Disabled People Warwickshire and Coventry.
- (xi) Guide Dogs For The Blind, Rugby.
- (xii) Warwickshire Association for the Blind.
- (xiii) Sustrans.
- (xiv) Better Brownsover Partnership.
- (xv) Close Property Management.
- (xvi) Bilton Design & Build Ltd.
- (xvii) Network Rail.

### **3. Results of the Consultation**

3.1 A summary of the consultation responses received is as follows:-

**Councillor Ms K King** supports the process.

**Councillor J Wells** supports the process.

**Rugby Borough Council, Technical Services** - support the proposal.

**Rugby Borough Council, Sustainability Co-ordinator** – supports the proposal.

**Warwickshire Police** - support the proposal.

**Local residents** – A total of 34 responses were received from local residents on Woodbridge Court, The Sidings and Wood Street. Of the 34 responses, 31 support an improvement to the footbridge, with just one against. The remaining two responses were neutral. The single objector would prefer the total closure of the bridge in order to reduce vandalism and theft at the rear of their property on Wood Street.

3.2 In addition to the 34 responses from local residents, 20 letters of support were received from residents in Brownsover.

**Northlands Primary School** - did not respond.

**Living Streets** - did not respond.

**Rugby Cycle Forum** - support the proposal.

**Rugby Disability Forum** - support the proposal.

**Council of Disabled People Warwickshire and Coventry** – support the proposal.

**Guide Dogs For The Blind, Rugby** - did not respond.

**Warwickshire Association for the Blind** - did not respond.

**Sustrans** - support the proposal.

**Better Brownsover Partnership** - support the proposal.

**Close Property Management** support the proposal.

**Bilton Design & Build Ltd** - support the proposal in principle subject to reviewing detailed proposals.

**Network Rail** - support the proposal.

3.3 A number of consultees raised specific issues in their responses which will need to be considered in the detailed development of the scheme. These included the need for CCTV on the footbridge, the need for measures to slow cyclists using the ramp and to deter motorcyclists, provision of adequate lighting, gritting of the footpath in adverse weather, and concerns over graffiti.

## 4. A Way Forward

4.1 In view of the positive response to the consultation, Area Committee is requested to authorise that further work be undertaken to develop a scheme to improve the southern access to the Black Path footbridge, with a view to it being included in the proposed outline Transport Capital Programme for 2007/08. This is due to be considered by Cabinet on 11th January 2007.

4.2 The work required in order to progress the scheme in the short term is to:-

- (i) Complete the negotiations with Close Property Management regarding the transfer of future ownership and maintenance of the southern section of the Black Path footbridge and steps to the County Council, including the agreement of a financial contribution from Close Property Management.

- (ii) Identify the funding sources to deliver an improvement to the southern access of the Black Path footbridge.
- (iii) Include the scheme in the proposed outline Transport Capital Programme for 2007/08 and report to Cabinet in January 2007.

JOHN DEEGAN  
Strategic Director for Environment and Economy  
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3rd November 2006