

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Warwick Area Committee

Date of Committee 11 March 2008

Report Title Barford - Sherbourne Cycleway

Summary It is proposed to convert the existing footway along the A429 between Barford and Sherbourne to a shared use footway/cycleway. In conjunction with existing cycle facilities, the scheme will complete a link from Barford village to Warwick and improve a section of the National Cycle Network route 41 between Warwick and Stratford.

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

Background Papers Consultation letter and plan; consultation responses.

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

Other Committees

Local Member(s) Councillor L Caborn- 'I support as proposed (With brief comments, if appropriate) subject to new audit as listed in report.'

Other Elected Members

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

Chief Executive

Legal L Arben – comments incorporated.

Finance C Holden – no comments.

- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils Warwick District Council – no response received.
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Barford and Sherbourne Joint Parish Council; Warwickshire Association for the Blind; Council of Disabled People Coventry and Warwickshire; Living Streets; Warwick cycle forum; Sustrans; local residents. Comments incorporated into report.

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

Warwick Area Committee - 11 March 2008

Barford - Sherbourne Cycleway

Report of the Interim Strategic Director for Environment and Economy

Recommendation

That Area Committee approves the conversion of the eastern footway on the A429 between Barford and Sherbourne, as highlighted on the Plan in **Appendix A**, to a shared use footway/cycleway.

1. Background

- 1.1 It is proposed to construct a new cycleway on the A429 to connect Barford village to the existing cycle facilities over the M40 bridge and on Stratford Road, thereby creating a continuous cycle link to Warwick.
- 1.2 As well as assisting cycle journeys between Barford and Warwick, the scheme will also improve a section of the National Cycle Network route 41 between Warwick and Stratford.
- 1.3 Policy CY3 of the Cycling Strategy within the Local Transport Plan states that the County Council will 'Continue to work in partnership with Sustrans to further develop the National Cycle Network in the county and the links to adjoining areas'.
- 1.4 The proposed scheme will extend from the northern junction of the Barford bypass/A429 to the start of the cycle facilities leading to the pedestrian/cycle bridge over the M40, just north of Sherbourne.
- 1.5 A plan showing the extent of the scheme and how it links to existing cycling infrastructure can be found in **Appendix A**.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 A cost estimate of £166k for design and construction of the scheme, including contingencies, has been produced at the preliminary design stage.
- 2.2 Developer funding of £52k is available towards provision of a cycle link from Barford to the existing cycle facilities over the M40 bridge and this sum will fund the majority of the section between Barford and Fulbrook Lane. Local Transport

Plan Integrated Transport funding will fund the remainder of the scheme, including the central refuge, which is part of the National Cycle Network.

- 2.3 The scheme has been included in the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme for Cycling and Walking schemes in 2008/9.

3. Details of Scheme

- 3.1 It is proposed to widen the existing footway on the east of the A429 to a minimum of 2.5 metres over the length of the scheme to create an un-segregated shared use footway/cycleway.
- 3.2 In order to assist cyclists following the National Cycle Network route 41 between Warwick and Stratford, it is proposed to provide a central refuge on the A429 near Fulbrook Lane.
- 3.3 Provision of a central refuge to accommodate cyclists will require some localised widening of the carriageway just north of Fulbrook Lane.
- 3.4 The proposals have been subject to a Stage 2 Road Safety Audit and any issues raised by the audit have subsequently been addressed.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 A letter outlining the scheme and copy of the scheme plan were sent to the owners of nearby properties and to various interested organisations.
- 4.2 Written support for the scheme has been received from Warwickshire Police.
- 4.3 Barford and Sherbourne Joint Parish Council have confirmed that there is support from Barford for the scheme. However, representatives from Sherbourne are concerned regarding the position of the refuge, which they consider is too close to the junction with Fulbrook Lane and will impact on vehicles turning in and out of the village.
- 4.4 The position of the refuge has been discussed with Safety Engineers and is constrained by visibility issues at this location. However, further discussions will take place regarding this crossing point following comments received from Sherbourne and from the other organisations discussed below.
- 4.5 Responses have also been received from Warwickshire Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, who state that the proposed refuge does not assist people with visual impairments and that a signalised crossing should be provided.
- 4.6 A signalised crossing was not considered because this location did not meet the criteria for provision of a signalised crossing set out in the County Council's Pedestrian Crossing Policy, when it was subject to an assessment in 2003 following a request from a visually impaired resident of Sherbourne.

- 4.7 However, a new assessment will be carried out to establish whether a signalised crossing is justified now that the National Cycle Network route between Warwick and Stratford has been opened.
- 4.8 The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association also submitted a policy statement from the Joint Committee on Mobility of Blind and Partially Sighted People on 'Adjacent Facilities for Pedestrians and Cyclists', which states that all shared use facilities should be segregated.
- 4.9 Warwickshire County Council's Design Guidelines recommend that a minimum width of 3 metres is required in order to provide a segregated shared use footway/cycleway. The limited highway extent on this section of the A429 means that the majority of the shared use footway/cycleway will be 2.5 metres wide, which is the recommended minimum width for un-segregated shared use.
- 4.10 It is considered that the number of pedestrians using this route is likely to be relatively low, as it is outside of the built up area. It is approximately five kilometres from Barford to Warwick and this distance is recognised as being more conducive to trips by cycle than on foot.
- 4.11 It is considered that an un-segregated shared use facility will therefore operate satisfactorily in this location. Similar facilities have been introduced in other locations outside of urban areas in Warwickshire without any reported problems of conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.

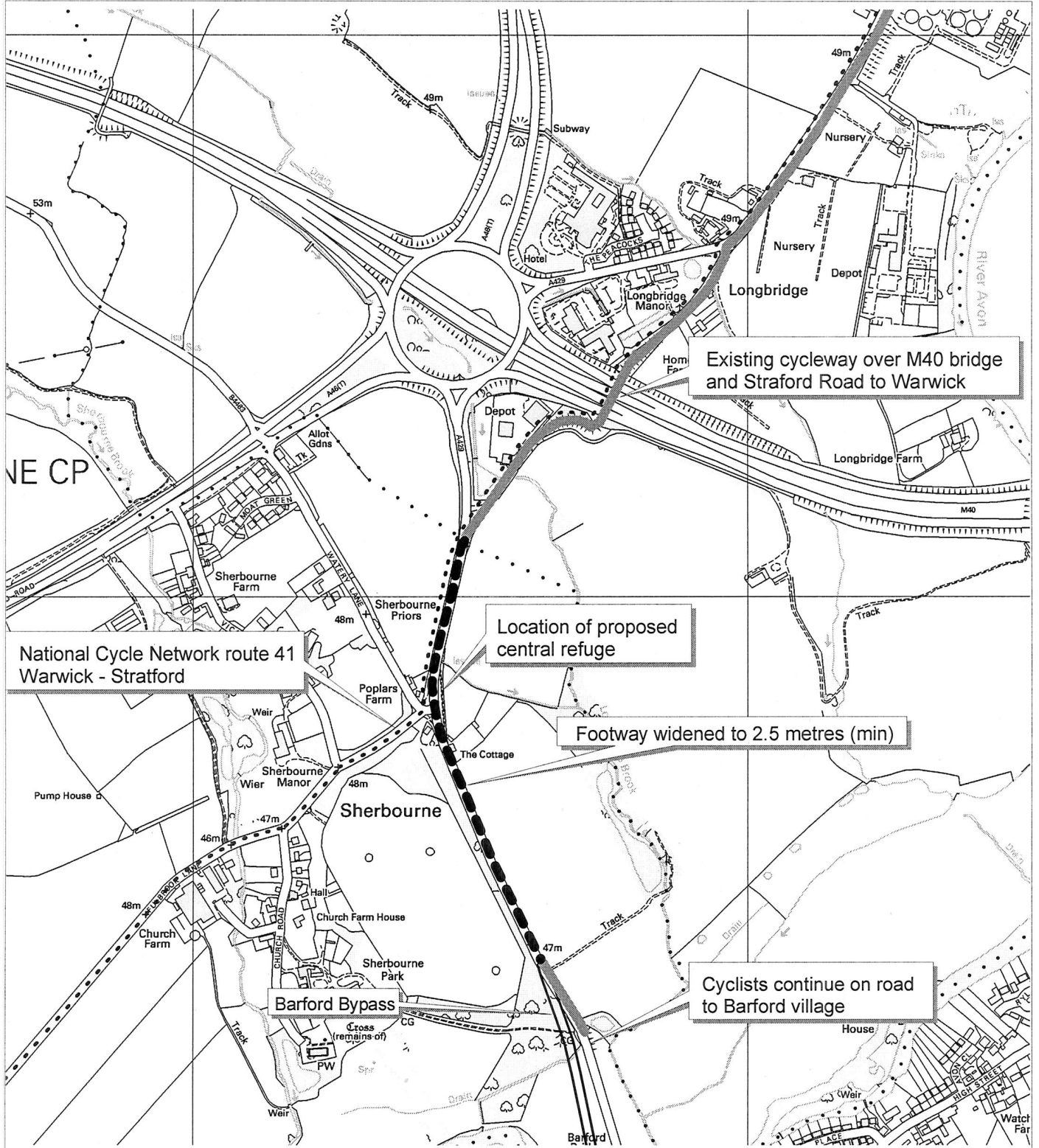
5. Recommendation





- 5.1 At the present time there remain some outstanding matters to be resolved regarding the provision of a suitable crossing point at Sherbourne. Further assessments and discussions on this matter are ongoing and it is hoped that a satisfactory solution will be found.
- 5.2 However, it is considered that this aspect of the scheme is distinct from the conversion of the A429 footway to a shared use footway/cycleway.
- 5.3 Therefore, 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 eastern footway along the A429, highlighted in **Appendix A**, to shared use footway/cycleway facilities, pursuant to Sections 64 and 65 of the Highways Act 1980.

DAVID PYWELL
Interim Strategic Director for Environment and Economy
Shire Hall
Warwick

19 February 2008

Barford - Sherbourne cycleway



-  Proposed new shared use footway / cycleway
-  Existing shared use footway / cycleway
-  National Cycle Network route 41
-  Barford Bypass

1:5000

