

Portfolio Holder Decision

Rugby Road Cycle Route, Binley Woods

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning
Date of decision	15 July 2024
	Signed

1. Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning:

- 1.1 Considers the comments received on public notices advertised in May 2024 under Section 90a and Sections 65 & 66 of the Highways Act 1980 for a proposed road hump (priority crossing for pedestrians and cyclists) on access road to Greens Home and Garden Centre and proposed conversion of footway to shared use footway / cycle track along 250 metres on the A428 Rugby Road, Binley Woods. (Please refer to the drawings included in Appendices A and B).
- 1.2 Approves the delivery of the proposed scheme, subject to external funding.

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 Where objections have been received to proposed traffic management schemes, it is appropriate for the Portfolio Holder to decide whether to proceed with the proposals. No specific objections were received in response to the public notices erected on site in Binley Woods and advertised in the local press and on Warwickshire County Council's website. However, expressions of disagreement with the proposals were received in response to local engagement and an online survey.
- 2.2 A summary of the objections received together with the Officer's responses is set out below in paragraph 3.16. The objections have been considered and will be followed up with additional measures where indicated.
- 2.3 WCC intends to enter into a Section 4 agreement with National Highways to undertake the works.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Warwickshire County Council is committed to improving provision for active travel to support accessibility, address the climate emergency, improve air quality, reduce congestion and improve health. There are ambitious plans to improve and extend the networks of cycle routes in and around Warwickshire's towns so that more people will choose to cycle for everyday journeys, such as to work and school.
- 3.2 In February 2024, the County Council adopted the [Warwickshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan](#). This presents a long-term county-wide plan for investment in walking, wheeling and cycling routes and includes proposals to provide a cycle route along the A428 Rugby Road in Binley Woods.
- 3.3 National Highways have identified [designated funds](#) towards schemes that encourage sustainable, non-motorised forms of transport and improve safety. National Highways is responsible for strategic roads including the A46 at Binley Woods. The proposed cycle route into Binley Woods will connect with the recent works completed at the A46/ A428 junction as well as providing connections towards Coventry's cycling network, including the new Binley Cycleway.

Scheme description

- 3.4 There is an existing shared use footway/ cycle track between the A46/ A428 junction and the access to Greens Home & Garden in Binley Woods. However, people on cycles are expected to rejoin the busy A428 to continue into Binley Woods. For those heading eastwards, this could involve crossing the road twice. User surveys and observations indicate that many cyclists continue along the footway instead.
- 3.5 The existing narrow footway falls below current guidelines for the provision of a shared footway/cycle track and does not provide good access for disabled users or parents/guardians with pushchairs.
- 3.6 The proposals (see drawings included in Appendices A and B) are therefore to widen the existing footway (to 2.5m to 3.0m) on the south side of the A428 Rugby Road between the access to Greens Home & Garden and Oakdale Road and convert this into a shared footway/cycle track. The proposed section is approximately 250m in length. People on cycles can then join the carriageway on lightly trafficked roads via Oakdale Road to access local facilities within Binley Woods (shops, primary school etc). A road hump is also proposed across the access to Greens Home & Garden.
- 3.7 These measures would contribute to a wider footway for all users, a legal route for people on cycles to connect between the A46 and local roads within Binley Woods (avoiding crossing the A428) and reduction in speeds of vehicles entering and exiting the access to Greens Home & Garden.

Public notices and local feedback

- 3.8 The power to install road humps is contained within s90A of the Highways Act 1980. Under s90C(1) WCC, as Highway Authority, must consult with the Chief Officer of Police and give public notice of the proposal.
- 3.9 The powers to convert the footway into a shared use footway and cycle way are within s65 and s66 of the Highways Act 1980. There is no statutory requirement to consult when using these powers. However, in its Cycle Infrastructure Design (LTN 1/20) the Department for Transport states “public consultation is not a mandatory requirement, however, engagement with those likely to be affected is strongly recommended, particularly groups representing disabled people.”
- 3.10 Between 3rd May and 28th May 2024, Binley Woods residents and local organisations were invited to provide informal feedback on the proposals via an online survey and drop in event.
- 3.11 Over the same period, formal consultation on the proposed scheme took place by way of a public notice being published in the Coventry Observer and erected on site. All information, including the public notice, statement of reasons and plans, were uploaded to the WCC website and copies were made available at Shire Hall for members of the public to view. Details were sent to the statutory consultees (including Warwickshire Police), disability organisations and to directly affected residents along this section of Rugby Road. Any objections or representations were requested in writing by 28th May 2024. The statement of reasons for proposing the scheme and the public notice are appended to this report at Appendices C, D and E.
- 3.12 A full summary of engagement is included in Appendix F. 120 responses were received in the Ask Warwickshire online survey, 17 people attended the drop-in event and 7 people submitted additional comments by phone or email. The Parish Council and local County Councillor have supported the proposals.
- 3.13 No specific objections were received to the public notices in Binley Woods. However, local engagement resulted in 63% of online responses (76 people) registering disagreement or strong disagreement ‘with the proposal to create a cycle route along the south side of the A428 Rugby Road between Greens Home & Garden access and Oakdale Road’. There were also concerns raised in the drop-in discussions and phone and email comments.
- 3.14 Appendix F gives more detail about the comments received in the local engagement. There were 10 comments that mentioned concerns about potential conflicts with the shared use facilities. Other concerns related to the financial cost of the scheme, traffic disruption, specific parking issues and other elements of the design. These are discussed in the table below, together with proposed actions to address these concerns.
- 3.15 Although there was disagreement expressed in the feedback to the proposals, the comments have been considered in detail and key themes addressed.

3.16 All issues have been considered. The table below indicated the additional measures proposed to mitigate concerns, alongside specific proposals to manage the parking concerns. With those actions taken into account, it is recommended that the Portfolio Holder approves delivery of the proposed scheme.

Main Themes	Sub themes	Officer's response/ action required
Financial	Waste of money	The funding is only available towards walking, wheeling and cycling improvements in Binley Woods and is not transferable to other highways activities such as pothole repair. Pothole and maintenance funding is available separately and local problems can be reported on WCC website. Scheme maintenance will be factored into annual budgets in the same way as other highway maintenance.
	Money better spent on other things – potholes etc	
	Concern about existing and/or future maintenance	
Endorsement	Positive comments about the scheme	Noted
Level of cycle use (negative)	There are no cyclists at present time	Recent counts and observations show that cyclists are already using the footway.
	There is no future demand for cycling	
Level of cycle use (positive)	The path is already used for cycling	
	There is a demand to cycle more	Noted
Traffic disruption	Concern over traffic disruption or congestion	There will be no changes to the carriageway as part of the scheme. Traffic management during roadworks will aim to minimise disruption for residents and businesses.
Parking	Existing problems of parking on pavement	Further review by designers and Road Safety Auditors will take place to identify additional measures to prevent continuation of pavement parking on Rugby Road and enable full width of new path to be used by people walking, wheeling and cycling
	Scheme causes displacement of parking	Parking restrictions (extension of double yellow lines) will be investigated for Oakdale Road. These will be subject to further consultation and are therefore not part of the proposals recommended for approval in this report.
	Request for parking restrictions/ double yellow lines	
Design	Shared path will create conflicts between users	The wider path and verge space should provide additional space for users to pass one another. The dimensions of the shared path are in line with national design guidelines
	Concern over access at Oakdale Road junction	Designs will be reviewed to ensure safe transition between the cycle track and carriageway at Oakdale Road
	Request for a segregated path/ separate path between users	There is insufficient space for a segregated path due to the proximity of the woodlands. Shared path is consistent with existing shared path between A46 and Greens Home and Garden

	Concern over road hump and access arrangements to Greens Home and Garden businesses	The design of the road hump is in line with national guidelines. Following feedback, traffic turning counts have been commissioned to understand detailed movements at this location. Traffic management during roadworks will aim to minimise disruption for residents and businesses.
Personal safety	Concerns generally about antisocial behaviour	The wider path and verge space should provide additional space for users to pass one another. Lighting improvements are proposed for the woodland section
	Concerns about personal security on section by woods	
Demographic (negative)	Not suitable for families	The wider path and verge space should provide additional space for users to pass one another.
	Not suitable for elderly residents	
Demographic (positive)	Suitable for families	
	Suitable for elderly residents	

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 External funding has been allocated to this scheme by National Highways in two phases: 1) design phase including technical approval and 2) delivery phase.
- 4.2 Funding for the second phase is due to be confirmed in August 2024 following a review by National Highways of estimated scheme costs and contractual procedures, and confirmation from Warwickshire County Council of approval to proceed. Construction could commence in November 2024 and is expected to last for a period of approximately three months.
- 4.3 If sufficient funding is not confirmed by National Highways, then this scheme will be paused until further funding has been identified.
- 4.4 The construction phase and widening of the footway will impact on existing Warwickshire County Council assets such as footways, verges, street lighting and average speed cameras. The cost of upgrading and/ or relocating this equipment is included in the National Highways scheme estimates. All the works will be subject to a Section 4 agreement between Warwickshire County Council and National Highways.
- 4.5 Warwickshire County Council is funding the traffic data collection, technical approval, legal costs and officer support from two funds: 1) the National Highways designated funds and 2) Active Travel England Capability and Ambition Fund. The Capability and Ambition Fund is intended for development of a pipeline of walking, wheeling and cycling schemes. There is sufficient budget in 2024/25 to continue officer support and to take forward new actions following the local feedback – including additional traffic surveys and investigation of parking restrictions.

5. Environmental Implications

- 5.1 Transport is the single largest cause of carbon emissions in the UK. The active travel scheme detailed in this report will provide infrastructure which will enable more walking and cycling journeys to be made, thereby contributing to reduced carbon emissions as well as lower levels of congestion and improved air quality.

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Portfolio Holder	Cllr Jan Matecki - Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning Janmatecki@warwickshire.gov.uk

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

Appendix A – Footway conversion plan
<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1615347118-1411>

Appendix B – Road hump plan
<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1615347118-1418>

Appendix C – Public notice
<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1615347118-1410>

Appendix D – Statement of reasons s65 and s66
<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1615347118-1412>

Appendix E – Statement of reasons s90
<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1615347118-1413>

Appendix F - Summary of community engagement

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jan Matecki, Portfolio Holder for Transport and

Planning

Corporate Board – Mark Ryder, Executive Director for Communities

Legal – Lucy Adams, Nichola Vine

Finance – Caroline Jones, Andrew Harper

Equality – Delroy Madden

Procurement – John Hopper, Mark Baker

Democratic Services – Nicole Conway

Councillors - Isobel Seccombe, Sarah Feeney, Jerry Roodhouse, Jonathan Chilvers and Judy Falp

Local Member(s) – Councillor Heather Timms