

Proposal for Swale Area Committee Grants Programme 'Parish to Town Connections' project: Swale East Cycling and Walking Network

Background

The Swale Borough Council (SBC) Eastern Area Committee passed a motion at its October 2020 meeting supporting the improvement of cycling and walking links between Faversham and neighbouring villages in order to create a 'cycling and walking network'.

The Area Committee will be allocating Special Project Funding at its March meeting and it is proposed to make an application to the committee on behalf of the Town Council to develop a local network. of the committee.

Faversham Town Council is being funded by SBC to develop a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) in order to underpin the transport elements of Faversham Neighbourhood Plan, the Transport Strategy of the Swale Local Plan and the development of the current experimental 20mph scheme. This work is being carried out by Phil Jones Associates, who have designed the original 20mph scheme, with some of our project management being provided by Adrian Berendt who has supported us on the 20mph scheme. The LCWIP area is proposed as the existing town council area, plus the designated LP sites to the east of Faversham and the village of Oare.

Creating a cycling and walking network beyond Faversham will complement the LCWIP work and it will be important for the two projects to work together in a coordinated way. To help this coordination we would plan to work with PJA in delivering the project and they are preparing a quote for project delivery against the specification below. We have been given an independent estimate of likely project value of around £10k. SBC councillors Gould, Saunders and Thomas have provisionally agreed to support the project application.

Project objectives

1. To identify a network of roads and other public rights of way including bridleways and footpaths linking Faversham and its neighbouring villages which are easy, safe and pleasant for bike users and pedestrians to use.
2. To consult on this network with the public and relevant organisations including parish councils in order to ensure that the most relevant routes are included and to identify potential improvements to these routes which could be funded in the future.
3. To present the results of this work in a way that can be easily incorporated into the emerging LCWIP and NP and potential funding bids made by SBC, FTC and KCC.

Consultant specification

1. The consultant will be required to develop an outline network of routes for bike users and pedestrians linking the following villages with Faversham Town Centre and Railway Station: Graveney, Boughton, Hernhill, Selling, Sheldwich, Painters Forstal, Eastling, Doddington, Newnham Norton, Lynsted, Luddenham, Teynham, Conyer
They will also need to look at routes from smaller villages to Boughton and Teynham.

This outline network should be developed via initial consultation with local cyclists and walkers with expert knowledge of local routes, for example the leaders of cycling and walking groups.

2. This outline will then need to be presented as a consultation document which can be used in a wider consultation with the public, interested organisations and parish councils aimed at gathering feedback on the suggested network routes, suggestions for variations to routes and additional routes and information on barriers to routes and potential improvements to routes.

3. Once the consultation is completed a final report will need to be prepared giving details of the finalised 'Cycling and Walking Network' routes and a list of proposals for improving the usability of the routes with potential costs which can be incorporated into CWIP.

4. Additional activities that will be requested if resources allow are

- the production of an online downloadable guide to the network for potential users.
- The development of a set of leisure routes for cyclists and walkers starting from Faversham, Selling and Teynham stations.

Proposal

That the committee endorses the Town Council putting in a Parish to Town Connections proposal to the SBC Area Committee.