

Faversham Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Introduction

Since April 2021 the Town Council's LCWIP Working Group has met regularly to support the development of an LCWIP led by Phil Jones Associates and Berendt Consulting. A final report has now been prepared by PJA summarising the process that has been gone through to develop an LCWIP, the results of that process and providing a set of recommendations to guide future infrastructure development in Faversham. This is supported by a prioritised set of interventions which have been developed in consultation with the Working Group.

Government policy encourages local councils to have LCWIPs in place and to use them to steer funding decisions in relation to cycling and walking infrastructure and to support applications for Government active travel funds. Government guidance also encourages plans to be 'living, breathing' documents which are regularly updated to reflect changing circumstances.

The development of this LCWIP has already been informed by the extensive Commonplace public consultation on cycling and walking which took place in Summer 2020 as part of the launch of the 20mph scheme. It therefore feels sensible and appropriate to get the completed LCWIP documentation signed off as soon as possible by Faversham Town Council, Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council so that it can be used to support future funding bids. At the same time, it is also proposed to start a fresh process of public consultation and review of the document, as other plans and projects are developing all the time.

Proposed next steps

If the Town Council agrees the recommendations of the LCWIP Working Group at its 7 February meeting it is proposed to ask for the plan to be considered by the Swale Joint Transportation Board at its meeting on 28 February and then endorsed by the Swale Borough Council Cabinet and the Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Highways. This will mean that these authorities will need to take note of it in their highways and transport planning.

The completed plan can also be referenced in the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan.

The public consultation on the content of the LCWIP will be likely to include an online questionnaire and a public exhibition linked to the Faversham Neighbourhood Plan.

The results of the public consultation and the report from the Parishes to Town Project will be used to provide a first revision of the plan, which will probably be ready towards the end of this calendar year. This revision will initially be reviewed by the LCWIP Working Group which will be likely to have become a sub group of the Active Travel Committee by this stage.

Recommendations from LCWIP Working Group

- That Faversham Town Council should approve the Final LCWIP report prepared by Phil Jones Associates at the next meeting of Full Council in February.
- That the prioritised set of interventions developed by the group and summarised in 8.2 of the report are approved by Faversham Town Council, on the understanding that they will be regularly reviewed and subject to change
- That a twin track process of approving this version of the LCWIP while launching a period of consultation on it be adopted by Faversham Town Council.