

## MINUTES OF THE ACTIVE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

4<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7.30pm

Guildhall

		Cllr Saunders (Chair)	Present
Cllr Golding	Present	A Berendt	Present
Cllr BJ Martin	Present	A Oliver	Present
Cllr C Martin	Present	C Oswald-Jones	Present
Cllr Rowlands	Present	T Stonor	Present

### In Attendance:

Louise Bareham Town Clerk

### Public Comments:

None.

#### 034. Apologies for Absence

None

#### 035. Declarations of Interest

None

#### 036. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

It was proposed by Cllr C Martin?, seconded by Cllr BJ Martin, and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of the Active Travel Committee dated 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024. (1 ABST)**

A list of byelaws had been received and were being investigated.

#### 037. Cross Town Walking Route East to West

Adrian Berendt provided a report on the exhibition (Appendix A attached) which was discussed. A summary of the results has been fed back to KCC and in discussions on scheme implementation Town Council representatives have emphasised that the scheme should provide good value to residents in slowing traffic and making it easier and safer to walk. Concerns were raised that design changes might take place during implementation, which had happened to the scheme at Stonebridge and how this could be managed.

It was agreed that we must be clear with our messaging to the public, that the funding can only be spent on the project it was intended for.

As KCC are still tendering for the work, final costs were yet unknown, but if there was any unused resource it was agreed that this should be directed towards interventions that had been dropped from the original proposal or interventions that had been highlighted by the public at the exhibition which will enhance the route.

#### 038. Cross Town Walking Route 2 North to South

Adrian Oliver confirmed the first inception meeting had taken place that day with WSP, hence he was only in a position to provide a verbal report at this time. He would liaise with the Town Clerk over a future site meeting with WSP, at which committee members were invited to attend. When asked if an exhibition would be held, it was considered too early, although Cllr B J Martin thought it would be helpful to have public input from an early stage. It was agreed that it would be important for the scheme to build on the interventions identified in the LCWIP.

**039. Kent LCWIP Consultation**

Cllr Saunders comments were noted and agreed. Additional comments included noting the Solar Cycle Way; the importance of cycle routes where there isn't a direct train route, for example to Ashford; working on station to station was not ideal.

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders, seconded by Cllr C Martin and on being put to the meeting it was ***RESOLVED that Cllr Saunders and the Town Clerk would be put together a final response based on the comments received.***

**040. Cyclefest**

It was agreed that a new format was needed and that broadening it to active travel would be beneficial. This could include walks (cross town walk and the north south walk), talks and engaging with other groups.

The Town Clerk would send a draft plan to the committee for consideration at the next meeting.

**041. HIP**

The HIP was discussed, although there was some question of its use, it was agreed that it should be reviewed and must be integrated with the LCWIP. This would give more value to the LCWIP. It was also agreed that other groups may wish to input, such as the Environment Committee.

**042. National Pothole Day**

It was agreed to undertake a social media campaign to mark National Pothole Day on 15<sup>th</sup> January to encourage residents to report potholes on KCC's online portal. It was also suggested that the KCC map showing all the reported potholes should be shared.

**043. Strategic Plan Ambitions**

A discussion took place on the proposed ambitions and a further draft will be presented at the next meeting.

**044. Budget**

It was noted that money was needed in the budget for additional work to keep the LCWIP up to date; to carry out further design and public consultation and additional bike hangars; Cllr C Martin requested £5,000 for the community bus as she felt it needed assistance to get off the ground in its first year. This will be fed into the budget workshop.

**045. Matters for Report**

Adrian Oliver noted the new Explore Maps.

**The meeting closed at 21.30**

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Faversham Town Council Active Travel Fund Tranche 4: Cross Town Walking Route**

#### **Report on Exhibition held at FTC Town Hall, Nov-23**

##### **Introduction**

Faversham Town Council hosted an exhibition of the proposed interventions to implement the Cross Town Walking Route (XTWR) using funding from Active Travel England.

The exhibition had two main aims:

- Raise awareness of the interventions being planned in order to reduce concerns during the works – there is likely to be some traffic disruption.
- Identify potential enhancements to the scheme.

On both aims, the exhibition can be considered a success, with some 300 – 400 people visiting the Exhibition over [3] weeks and there were a number of suggestions made for improvements, some which can be included; others will need to wait for future funding.

The route starts at Faversham Recreation Ground and ends at Wallers Road on Lower Road. Total funding is a little under £1m and the work on the route is planned to start by March 2024. Twelve interventions are planned:

- 4 major interventions, principally enhanced crossings /reworking of junctions on busier streets: Newton Road, Bank Street, South Road/Napleton Road and Lower Road/South Road
- 8 smaller interventions along the route: mainly raised tables to make for a better / more level walking experience and road narrowing to slow down traffic.

##### **Detailed feedback**

Some 300 – 400 people visited the Exhibition over 3 weeks and 116 gave feedback, either by email (19), on post-it notes 44 or using pre-printed forms 53.

Overall, the feedback was positive, although concerns were expressed about the total amount of funding, which some considered to be high. There were also a number of suggested improvements, either as part of these plans, or for the future.

The largest set of comments were about the 4 major interventions planned, plus an overall concern about whether the interventions on Lower Road will reduce vehicle speeds sufficiently.

- The new Zebra crossing on Newton Road was seen very positively. Concern was expressed about the lighting around the area, particularly in Gatefield Lane, which is seen as intrusive. Respondents would also like to see a crossing further up Newton Road at Solomons Lane.

- Bank Street received fewer comments, with the main concern being about whether pedestrians will have sufficient right of way, whether cars will be able to speed up coming out of the car park because the exit has a slightly less tight turn and whether the unofficial carparking outside Paydens can be removed
- While respondents welcomed the Zebra crossing on South Road from Cross Lane to Napleton Road in principle, concerns were expressed about design:
  - will it lead to more flooding?
  - Will the raised tables be noisy for those living nearby?
  - Could the intervention be extended to include Stone Street, seen by many as a desire line for accessing the town centre?
- The improvements to the junction of Lower Road and South Road were welcomed. One question was whether there could be an additional crossing of South Road to the east of Lower Road.
- The interventions along Lower Road, mainly junction tightening and raised tables across the side junctions, were generally welcome, with some caveats about whether there could be:
  - More interventions to slow the vehicles as they come down Lower Road
  - More crossing points, particularly on pedestrian desire lines, for example around the park near Lion Field
- Although there were limited comments on the interventions in the St. Mary's area, they were generally welcomed.

### **Current position**

Kent Council Council is currently finalising its plans, taking into consideration this and other feedback received about the interventions. The proposals have now been sent out to tender. The programme is currently on track to be completed in Autumn 2024.

Adrian Berendt

Consultant