

**Report for the Peak District Local Access Forum
11 March 2021**

Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) - Update

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Purpose of Report

To present Forum members with an update on progress towards the delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- The Joint LAF Unrecorded Ways Sub Group met virtually on 14 January 2021 and the notes of the meeting will be circulated separately.

Aim 3: An improved network

- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail (PBW):**
 - **Maintenance work** has been on-going over the winter months with ditching, drainage and general repairs. Three fingerposts and a waymark post have been replaced at Wormhill. The Volunteer Leader from Groundwork Greater Nottingham has continued to work on DCC sites and Rights of Way, including the PBW.
 - **Development work** has also been continuing on the missing sections around Glossop. A traffic survey has been undertaken on High Lane, near Simmondley to obtain some baseline data for work on the road crossing. A safety audit is to be commissioned once the results of the traffic survey have been received. Discussions to obtain Network Rail Clearances to build the PBW under the railway viaduct at Dinting is progressing well, with an initial 'Business Clearance Certificate' issued to DCC at the end of February. Technical plans and details are currently being collated to enable us to progress with the next stage of Technical Clearances. In parallel with the Network Rail discussions, initial investigative work is being undertaken again looking at possible alternative routes incorporating the newly claimed Bridleways 109 and 128 in Charlesworth. These run off Long Lane northwards under the railway line to the River Etherow.
 - **Funding** - we are in the process of preparing a funding bid for the maintenance of the PBW in 2021/22, as well as further preparatory work for the missing sections around Glossop.
- **Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat:** Work is around 60% complete on the delivery of 6.3km of new and improved cycling trails around Pleasley

(Bolsover District) funded by the Rural Development Programme for England (£404,000). This work should be completed by Spring 2021, but there have been some delays as a result of the recent weather. Temporary closures are still in place while this work is underway. Design work is also being finalised for an additional 1.2km of improvements on the Skegby Trail. This is funded through the County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme (£150,000) and includes improving the trail crossing on Batley Lane. Construction should be completed in 2021. An audit of the whole of the VSCR Trails Network (over 220 miles) has assessed the quality and usability of the current network (effectively everything between Chesterfield, Worksop and Mansfield) – we are just waiting to incorporate any of the working groups final comments before the report is published.

- **Little Eaton Branch Line:** We have recently assigned a Project Officer to manage the planning and development of a 5km section of the disused Little Eaton Branch Line as a traffic-free, multi-user route between Duffield Road in Little Eaton and Rawson Green. This work will also involve securing the funding necessary to deliver this crucial element of Derbyshire's Key Cycle Network, helping to provide a direct connection between Ripley and Derby City.
- **Rowsley Bridleway 2:** Improvements to the drainage and surface of Bridleway 2 off the end of Church Lane at Rowsley got underway at the beginning of January and should be complete by the second week in March.
- **Investment:** Funding bids have been submitted for prioritised Rights of Way and multi-user Greenway/ KCN development and maintenance schemes from within the County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme for next year. The outcome will be reported to the LAF meetings in June.
- **Active Travel Fund:** The Government has awarded the County Council £1,684,350 to create a new east to west cycle route across Chesterfield to deliver more permanent measures for cycling and walking under Tranche 2 of the Active Travel Fund. The public consultation which will be primarily on-line using the Commonplace community engagement platform is due to open on 8 March and runs until 31 March 2021: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/consultation-search/consultation-details/east-west-chesterfield-cycle-route.aspx
- **D2N2 Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):** The County Council's Cabinet approved the publication of the consultation draft of the LCWIP for the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire area on 11 February 2021. Consultation with stakeholders is expected to take place later in May 2021.

Aim 4: Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the network

- **Cycle Derbyshire:** The new combined map/ leaflet is currently being finalised. We are aiming to achieve an all-purpose cycling map showing

dedicated traffic-free trails and on-road routes, along with towns/villages, visitor attractions and selected bridleways. The reverse side will highlight cycling opportunities across Derbyshire, both for residents and visitors, for leisure and active travel, with signposting to specific sites and organisations, as well as “share with care” messages. We had a good response to the draft which was circulated in February from a range of partners involved in providing, managing and promoting cycling infrastructure, as well as users of the network, including LAF members. We are taking on board as many of the suggestions as possible to ensure the product is as accurate, inclusive and inspiring as it can be. We are aiming to have 30,000 copies printed by the end of March 2021 and distributed throughout the County in readiness for the reopening of the hospitality sector. This will include supply and replenishment at tourist information/visitor/cycle hire centres, accommodation providers and attractions Derbyshire wide, pubs, cafes and main transport hubs.

- **Derbyshire Cycle Networks:** It is now possible to view the completed and proposed routes for the strategic Key Cycle Network (KCN) and Local Cycle Network (LCN) in a single mapping layer:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/partnerships/derbyshire-mapping-portal/derbyshire-mapping-portal.aspx

The proposed routes are not definitive but represent broad corridors where a range of possible alignment options may need to be considered. These will be subject to more detailed feasibility studies, as well as further consultation and discussions with landowners etc. Wherever practicable, it is intended to develop these as shared multi-user routes for walking, cycling and horse riding, as well as wheelchair users, mobility scooters and pram pushers.

Ashbourne Traffic Options: Following the public consultation which closed on 18 December, Cabinet has agreed that the Western Bypass Option A, which has an impact on the Tissington Trail, be confirmed as the preferred scheme. Cabinet also agreed to receive a further report on the costs of work towards a planning application and on potential funding for the preferred scheme. The 885 consultation responses which were received are set out in detail in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report which can be viewed here: <https://democracy.derbyshire.gov.uk/documents/s5974/6g%20A515%20Ashbourne%20Transport%20Study%20Preferred%20Option%20Selection.pdf>

Recommendation: That Forum Members note this progress report for delivering Derbyshire’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan.