

LCWIP: Progress Update

Purpose

To update on progress in developing a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan [LCWIP] for Charlbury.

Recommendation

That the paper is NOTED.

Overview

In February 2022 the Council resolved that Traffic Committee lead the development of a LCWIP for Charlbury.

The LCWIP process is set out by the Department for Transport. Oxfordshire County Council will recognise LCWIPs that follow the statutory guidance set out, and the document would be treated in parallel to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Report on progress

Traffic Committee has been progressing the LCWIP with support from the Town Council's Journeys team. Specific help has been provided by Richard Fairhurst, to whom we are particularly grateful for providing us with the mapping system that drove the initial information-gathering phase of the project.

Over the Spring over 300 observations were made on streets, pavements, footpaths and bridleways throughout the parish. Specific consultation sought to identify issues from the perspective of people in the town with disabilities. As a result:

- Over 30 issues relating to maintenance have been reported to the County Council for immediate action
- Discussions have been started with landowners where issues relating to potential barriers to walking and cycling related to facilities in private ownership
- Work has been progressing to bring forward recommendations for the highest priority areas, with a walkabout/cycleabout in July with OCC officers and the council's Cycling Champion.

Charlbury's LCWIP is volunteer-led [although there has been some support from OCC officers] and network planning, guided by the information-gathering exercise. In September the lead officer for active travel said he was able to devote more time to helping Charlbury develop meaningful proposals. This is likely to result in some slippage of the original timetable, although it is intended to propose some lower-cost infrastructure improvements as part of the precepting process.

In line with the holistic approach taken by the Town Council, decisions taken on the extension of the 20mph limit and its terminal points will make a material difference to proposals in the LCWIP, especially on some roads into and out of Charlbury.

It has become apparent that in a number of areas, proposals are likely to come forward requiring significant changes, or capital investment unlikely to be forthcoming in the short term. In addition, improvements to the condition of some footways and pavements, in the town centre in particular, are potentially costly and challenging to achieve in the short term.

A consultation draft of the LCWIP is hoped to be ready for public consultation by the end of 2022.