

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**ACTIVE TRAVEL WORKING GROUP
HELD AT LIVESEY HOUSE, ST JOHNS HILL, SHREWSBURY & VIA TEAMS**

31 MAY 2023

PRESENT

Councillors Rosemary Dartnall, Bernie Bentick, Kate Halliday, Alan Mosley & Rob Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

01/03 APOLOGIES

Councillor Julian Dean

02/03 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Dartnall declared at interest as a Shropshire Councillor

03/03 NOTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the last meeting had been ratified by Full Council. There were not matters arising from those minutes.

04/03 LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Rose Dovey (Active Travel Manager) attended the meeting to discuss the current consultation on the Local Cycling & Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Consultation was due to close shortly but she was happy to receive comments from the Town Council by mid-July.

Members agreed it would be beneficial to prepare a general endorsement of the LCWIP and the Shrewsbury section and then to seek commentary from all Councillors about proposed schemes within their wards. Rose would provide details of all the scheme in a excel spreadsheet and this would be circulated through sharepoint so that members could make direct comments on the document.

Members discussed some of the challenges in developing schemes in Shrewsbury and the requirement for prioritisation:

- **Quarry** – no-one wanted to see a cycle motorway running through the park and given the multiple users to the site it was extremely difficult segregating paths for individual user types. It was also a place which required vehicular access for maintenance and major event infrastructure
- **Towpath** – was an issue due to width of the surface, number of users and open proximity to the river
- **Railway Station** - Opening up Platform 3 to Abbey Foregate was seen as a game changer in reducing the volume of traffic in the town centre

Members overriding principles were:

- There is a democratic to walk and cycle safely
- Developing public expectations of usage and the need to be courteous to other users to reduce user conflict
- Better access to schools
- Developing good routes into the town centre from the residential outliers of the town
- Promoting the health benefits of cycling and reducing car usage
- Identifying areas that are poorly served by cycling infrastructure and areas where there was poor pavement infrastructure

ACTION – Forward a spreadsheet of all LCWIP proposals in Shrewsbury to HB (RD)

ACTION – Circulate the spreadsheet through Sharepoint to all Councillors to input

ACTION – Draft a response to the core document (HB)

05/03 WALKING & CYCLING MAP

This is a project that the BID had been leading on with the Town Council agreeing to fund the printing of maps. It was understood that it was in the final throes of map development.

06/03 MOVEMENT & PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

This strategy has been lead by the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Partnership and has involved extensive research and public consultation by Phil Jones Associates. The Strategy is scheduled to be published in the early autumn and co-incide with a Movement Festival similar to the event which publicised the Vision Document 3 years ago.

It was stressed that the Strategy has been looking at both scenarios of what would movement look like if the North West Relief Road was built and if it wasn't.

07/03 MINI HOLLAND FUNDING

The Town Council worked on an application for feasibility fund which in turn was submitted by Shropshire Council to the Department for Transport. Funding was awarded with the intention of submitting a business plan to seek multi-million pound funding award to implement the initiative. Subsequently the Department for Transport have suspended the scheme and wish to see any individual projects submitted through established funding streams. Notwithstanding DfT and Active Travel England wish to see all Councils in receipt of the feasibility funding submitting their plans. The draft plan is currently in review and will be submitted shortly.

08/03 ACTIVE TRAVEL FUNDING

Members noted Shropshire Council's receipt of £600k of active travel funding some of which was to be spent in Shrewsbury implementing the Active Schools Scheme at Meole.

07/03 NEXT MEETINGS

- Wednesday 19th July 2023
- Wednesday 20 September 2023
- Wednesday 25th October