

Harrogate and Knaresborough Constituency Committee – 18 March 2021
Progress report on active travel schemes in Harrogate and Knaresborough

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress on the Active Travel Fund schemes, Beech Grove Low Traffic Neighbourhood and Otley Road cycle scheme

2.0 Update

- 2.1 There are a number of active travel schemes in progress in Harrogate and Knaresborough. These schemes are funded from different sources and are at varying stages of development and delivery.

3.0 Active Travel Fund Schemes

- 3.1 NYCC was invited to bid for emergency grant funding (the Active Travel Fund or ATF) to support NYCC, as the local Highway Authority, with the delivery of walking/cycling infrastructure to encourage active travel. The money was to be spread over two tranches:
- tranche 1 supports the installation of temporary projects for the COVID-19 pandemic. In tranche 1 the total indicative allocation to NYCC was £266,000 but only 50% funding was awarded following the DfT assessment of our Tranche 1 bid. The split of tranche 1 funding is £4,143 capital and £128,857 revenue. Match funding of £133,000 by the County Council was agreed to be funded through the Highways revenue budget. As a result, schemes were rolled out across the county these included suspension of car parking, segregation for cyclists/pedestrians and some road closures. The full list of schemes is included at Appendix A. It should be noted that these measures were intended to be temporary, as such, some have been removed. tranche 2 supports the creation of permanent projects
- 3.2 In total, we assessed over three hundred potential schemes to put forward as part of our bid for tranche 2 in August 2020. The criteria of the funding was particularly stringent and with a relatively small amount of funding available only a handful of schemes were deemed suitable for this round of funding. Three of the five schemes included in the bid were in Harrogate and Knaresborough. They are:
- Oatlands Drive, Harrogate: segregated cycle lanes along an existing cycle route, improved crossing facilities at four locations and other improvements;
 - A59, Maple Close, Harrogate to Knaresborough: segregated cycle lanes along an existing cycle route and improved crossing facilities at either end;
 - Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, Princes Square to Station Parade: pedestrian crossing improvements, segregated cycling infrastructure and bike storage facilities;
- 3.3 The Department for Transport notified us in mid-November that we had been successful in bidding for funding for the schemes put forward in the summer and would receive £1,011,750.

- 3.4 As part of the grant conditions an extended period of consultation for all schemes was to be carried out. NYCC has committed to two rounds of consultation with the first taking place from 9th – 23rd February. The first round of consultation focussed on the corridors for the routes rather than detailed design. The feedback from the first round of consultation will be collated to inform more detailed consultation plans. The second round of consultation is planned to take place in late March.
- 3.5 On completion of the second round of consultation a report will be produced for BES Executive to agree which schemes will be taken forward for delivery in 2021/22.
- 3.6 At the time of writing this report the responses to the first round of consultation are being collated. Initial outcomes from the online survey show that 2298 people completed the form and 44% strongly support or support the Harrogate A59 scheme, 38% strongly support or support the Oatlands Drive scheme, however 50% strongly oppose it and 43% strongly support or support the Victoria Avenue scheme.

4.0 Beech Grove Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN)

- 4.1 The Beech Grove LTN was successfully installed on 15th February and makes a safe link to the town centre from Otley road. It should be noted that this is at present a temporary arrangement and subject to an ongoing consultation as part of an Experimental order process, the deadline of which is the 14th August.
- 4.2 The LTN includes regulatory signage, bollards, planters and a full refresh of the lining along Beech Grove and Lancaster Road. One outstanding issue was an objection from the Stray Defence Association to signage being used on the Stray. Due to the prompt action of Harrogate Borough Council Officers, this has now been resolved.
- 4.3 Alongside this scheme a designated 'Ambulances only' parking bay will be installed on Trinity Road at the junction with Otley Road, thereby making available an alternative location to the place currently used by ambulances.
- 4.4 An LTN prevents non-residential through traffic from entering roads to create quieter streets where residents feel safer when walking and cycling. The roads will continue to be accessible to residents, their visitors, deliveries, emergency vehicles, refuse collections and taxi / private hire vehicles.

5.0 National Productivity Infrastructure Fund- Otley Road Cycle Path and Harlow Moor Road Junction Improvement.

- 5.1 The first phase of delivery for the Otley road cycle route (Harlow Moor Road to Arthurs Avenue) alongside the Harlow Moor Road junction works began on 1st March. National Power Grid will be undertaking works to move cables at this time. This is a significant element of work and will last approximately 11 weeks. The scheme has been dependent on gaining agreed designs and programmes from a number of utility companies, which has unfortunately contributed to the delay in progress. Following this element of work an additional three utility companies will need to move their apparatus, after which the construction work can begin. We anticipate this work to begin in early Autumn. The NYCC website will be kept up to date as the project progresses.
- 5.2 The improvements at the junction of Harlow Moor Road with Otley Road will see the widening of the junction and the introduction of a left turn lane into Harlow Moor Road. This improvement will address the impact of queuing traffic in the short term but has also been designed to allow the capacity of future growth identified in Harrogate Borough Council's Local Plan.

- 5.3 The second phase will take cyclists from Arthurs Avenue to the town centre, via Beech Grove. Elements of this route involve the use of grass verge that has been recognised as designated Stray land. A recent consultation was undertaken by Harrogate Borough Council, with 450 responses provided. Harrogate Borough Council officers will present the outcome of this consultation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for consideration and then, subject to approval from the SoS, on to the Duchy of Lancaster for final approval. These necessary governance tasks must be complete before work on the second phase of the scheme can commence.
- 5.4 Scheme designs have been revised following the new government cycling guidance contained in Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 released in the summer 2020. Further safety audits are also in progress to assess the revisions made. All plans can be found on NYCCs website.
- 5.5 There will be a third phase of this scheme that continues the route from Harlow Moor Road to Cardale Park. This element will be developer funded and discussions are ongoing regarding the design and delivery of this section. We will continue to work with the developers to ensure the appropriate standards are consistent with the off road cycle route delivered by NYCC and in accordance with the cycling guidance LTN/20.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 To note the content of report and the progress being made on active travel schemes in Harrogate and Knaresborough.

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Emergency Active Travel Fund Measures in Harrogate and Knaresborough

Harrogate

Albert Street	Parking bays suspended
Commercial Street	Some parking bays suspended
James Street	Parking bays suspended
Montpellier Hill	Some parking bays suspended
The Ginnel	Road closed between 5pm and 11pm Wednesday to Saturday and 1pm to 11pm on Sundays.

Knaresborough

High Street	Barriers in place to widen sections of footpath
Market Place	Road closed on Market Day (6am to 5pm Wednesday) only.
Castlegate, from Brymore ice Cream to Market Tavern	Road closed on Market Day (6am to 5pm Wednesday) only.