

### **Question 1 from Chorleywood Residents Association**

As consultation has apparently already occurred, why did this not include representatives from Chorleywood, in particular Chorleywood Residents Association? Before this initiative moves forward any further, can we be assured that representative bodies in Chorleywood will be consulted directly, including both Chorleywood Residents' Association and Chorleywood Parish Council, and adjustments reflecting their comments included in the documentation? Failure to do this is likely to result in money being wasted undertaking wider consultation on clearly impractical proposals.

#### **Written response:**

A public consultation on the proposed Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is due out soon. The LCWIP, which has been in preparation over the last two years, is a new, strategic approach to planning sustainable active travel networks, developed to support the aims and objectives of the National Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and required to enable the local Highway, Traffic and Transport Authority, the County Council, to apply for national funding for these routes. The LCWIP process enables the identification of cycling and walking improvements required at the local level. The process enables a long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks over a ten-year period and is a vital component of the Government's strategy to increase the number of trips made by both forms of active travel. The LCWIP has been developed jointly with the County Council (a requirement) and Watford Borough Council (a logical partner given the distribution of settlements in the District around the Watford conurbation, and a partner which was required by the County Council). Other neighbouring Local Authorities have been consulted as part of the LCWIP process as were a range of relevant stakeholders, including all District Council (and other partner Local Authority) Members

The Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development Committee (IHED) considered a report on the LCWIP on 11 October 2022 prior to agreeing to full public consultation on the plans which it agreed unanimously. Responses from Residents Associations are invited. Some stakeholder have been engaged at earlier stages of the process including Local Authorities and Parish Councils.

The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is not an initiative; it is a document supporting the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan to deliver Government policy to increase travel by active modes.

The outcomes of consultation and any comments will be considered in any revised plans and submitted to the relevant committees (P&R and IHED) ahead of any formal adoption.

Comments from all stakeholders will be reflected in the final Plan.

*Background information provided by the Residents Association: From our review of the papers presented to the Infrastructure, Housing & Economic Development Committee - 11 October 2022 and feedback from that meeting, it is our understanding that a proposal is being considered to convert Shepherds Lane into a cycle only route. This road is the only direct route from Chorleywood to Mill End and is commonly used by Chorleywood residents to reach the William Penn Leisure Centre (our local leisure centre), there being no other route anywhere near as direct.*

*It appears that some form of consultation was undertaken on the proposal yet, despite the importance of the road to Chorleywood, none of the key Chorleywood representative bodies (including Chorleywood Residents Association) were asked for comments. In reviewing the data used to support the report, the list of Leisure Centres does not include the William Penn Leisure Centre – a key facility for Chorleywood Residents.*

*Within the report, no consideration has been taken of the routes from Shepherds Lane into*

*Chorleywood and the gradients that cyclists will encounter – including roads with a 10% gradient. In the committee report for the initiative the data quality was given a “High” rating yet, despite saying in the report that the “area-wide traffic reduction measures were generally supported”, no consultation was undertaken with key Chorleywood bodies and important destinations such as the William Penn Leisure Centre were omitted.*

### **Question 2 from Chorleywood Parish Council**

Before any of these proposals are taken forward any further, will the Council agree that formal discussions should be held with Chorleywood Parish Council to prevent money being wasted undertaking wider consultation on what appear to be fundamentally flawed proposals?

#### **Written response:**

In October 2022 Chorleywood Parish Council received a briefing from the Senior Transport Planner (Transport and Parking Projects, Regulatory Services) on the Local cycling and walking infrastructure plan proposals that were presented to the Infrastructure, Housing & Economic Development Committee on 11 October 2022 and approved for public consultation.

The minutes of the IHED Committee record the following:

The Senior Transport Planner said Chorleywood presented a particular challenge in terms of cycling and walking routes because there were only three roads into the village and therefore very little scope for alternative options. The proposed plan suggested a cycling route across the common, and ward councillors had advised that they were supportive in principle but stated that this was subject to the views of the Parish Council which manages the Common, and had historically objected to cycle routes across the Common. A Member said it was unlikely to be an option because it was understood that cycling was forbidden on Chorleywood common. The Senior Transport Planner replied that options had been researched and if it wasn't feasible the concept would not have been included in the proposal, highlighting that the proposed plan contains an explanation that this route was preferred in order to avoid the alternative control on traffic on Common Road; but that the alternative option was available if required. The Chair said that the public consultation document should emphasis the fact that the legalities have been checked.

*Background information provided by the Parish Council: At the end of October Chorleywood Parish Council received a briefing from Peter Simons (Transport and Parking Projects, Regulatory Services) on the Local cycling and walking infrastructure plan proposals presented to the Infrastructure, Housing & Economic Development Committee on 11 October 2022.*

*It is the Parish Council's understanding that these proposals include several elements around Chorleywood Common including;*

- *the potential for a cycle path over the Common,*
- *converting Common Road into a one-way road for cars with a cycle way in the other carriageway, and*
- *converting the bridge over the railway lines at the join of Station Approach and Chorleywood Bottom to be for cycles only.*

*If the Parish Council had been consulted as part of the preparation of these proposals, it could have advised the group preparing the report that none of these proposals are credible, having significant constraints and adverse impacts, not least that;*

- *legal restrictions prevent the introduction of cycling or a cycle way on the Common,*
- *no consultation with the owner and trustee of the Common has been undertaken,*
- *Common Road is the main access from the southern A404 to Chorleywood Centre and any changes to the ability of cars to use this road would have significant knock-on impacts on surrounding roads, and*

- *the bridge over the railway lines at the join of Station Approach and Chorleywood Bottom is the route traffic uses when accessing the station car park from the north. The only alternative route will result in a significant increase in traffic using the Lower Road (the main shopping area in Chorleywood) and Chorleywood Bottom, already ear-marked for a 20mph zone due to concerns over the traffic using this residential road.*