

Active Travel Working Group

Status Update – January 2024

The Active Travel Working Group was formed at the beginning of 2022 to work with WNC Officers who were formulating the Active Travel Strategy for West Northamptonshire. This being part of a government sponsored Countrywide Initiative named Active Travel England with Chris Boardman MBE as the Commissionaire.

It was set-up as a Working Group, and not a Task and Finish Group, as the initiative is Officer Lead but with guidance coming from members therefore at the time no one set of Tasks could be defined.

As time progressed it became clear that there were multiple strands to this initiative namely the overriding Local Transport Plan (LTP), the Active Travel Plan/Initiative and the Local Cycling, Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWiP's). With the LCWiP's being part of the Active Travel Initiative which in turn was part of the LTP.

The Active Travel Working Group initially met with Officers and agreed/approved the Ambition Statement for West Northamptonshire and then continued with reviewing the WNC Active Travel Strategy. At our last meeting of the Working Group we reviewed and agreed the Actions and Priorities within the Strategy.

At this point in time, and in discussion with the Officers, it has been agreed that the Working Group has completed its brief of over-seeing the formulation of the Active Travel Strategy for West Northants and should now step aside and allow Officers to move the initiative to its next step of Consultation with the public.

In outlining the next steps the current four LCWiP's (Brackley, Daventry, Towcester and Abington Park), that have been prepared by Outside Consultants, are now out for Public Consultation. However, there is concern that at least the Brackley LCWiP, due to the passage of time, needs to be updated but this can be done after the Public Consultation completes.

In addition, two All Member Briefing Sessions have been arranged for the 8th February 2024, one taking place at 10:00 in One Angel Square and the other taking place at 13:30 in the Forum, Towcester. Both sessions are identical and will brief members on the latest status of the West Northamptonshire Active Travel Plan. Meeting invitations have already been sent out for these briefing sessions,

Moving forward and in discussion with Nick Henstock, and the Chair of Place Oversight & Scrutiny Committee, it has been agreed that the Active Travel Working Group has now fulfilled the objective for which it was formed and, that effective January 31st 2024, it is recommended that this group should be disbanded with the Place OAS committee putting the initiative back on its Work Plan.

In closing I would like to put record my sincere thanks to all those members who have contributed to this Working Group over the past two years and to the Officers for their support and guidance.

Members of the Place OAS committee are asked to note this report and its recommendation.

Anthony S. Bagot-Webb

Chair – Active Travel Working Group

29th January 2024