

Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

Date of meeting: 27th July 2017	AGENDA ITEM NO: 8
Report title: Transport update	
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1. Charbridge Lane Level Crossing and the East West Rail Phase 2 consultation

- 1.1 East West Rail and Network Rail are currently consulting on Phase 2 of the project to provide rail connections between East Anglia, Southern and Western England, which includes plans to replace the Charbridge Lane level crossing with a road bridge over the railway. The county council is seeking to ensure that the proposal provides the foundations and basic bridge structure to enable the road capacity along this section to be increased.
- 1.2 The plans have been on display in Bicester and Launton, and the consultation closes on the 11th August.

2. Bicester London Road Level Crossing

- 2.1 The feasibility engineering report into options to replace the London Road level crossing has been discussed with local Members from the three tiers of local authority. The complexities and impacts of the project were clear; a solution would be extremely costly and disruptive. However this remains on the list of Oxfordshire infrastructure requirements and could be linked to any future phases of East West Rail which are unlikely to come forward until the 2024-2029 rail investment period, at the earliest.

3. A41 junctions - from the A4421 junction to the county boundary

- 3.1 The county council is due to undertake a review of junctions along this eastern section of the A41 through Bicester with regards to the Pioneer Road, Ploughley Road and B4011 junctions. This will help to inform developer negotiations and determine schemes that need to be implemented to enable developments to progress.

4. Park & Ride

- 4.1 Last year's survey of park & ride users has been repeated. Bus passenger numbers have increased significantly since the opening and bus operators have reported that its success has been greater than anticipated. Just under 90% of users are travelling to Oxford. A copy of the report is appended.

5. Pedestrian and cycle improvements

- 5.1 Middleton Stoney Road – progress is being made with addressing calls for a pedestrian crossing on Middleton Stoney Road, in particular to assist school children from St Edburg’s primary school. Surveys have been carried out, engineering options have been identified and discussions have and are continuing to be held with the school and local community. The aim is to undertake consultation this autumn, take the scheme to Cabinet Member Decisions in November and have a crossing on the ground in the Spring.
- 5.2 Developer funding is being utilized to deliver a pedestrian/cycle link along the western side of the Oxford Road from just north of the junction with Pingle Drive and along the southern side of Middleton Stoney Road to Newton Close to improve sustainable links between the Kingsmere area and the town centre. The exact details are yet to be finalised, but the scheme is likely to include a new central refuge for pedestrians on Middleton Stoney Road immediately west of the roundabout.
- 5.3 Queens Avenue – an extension to the shared facility using held developer funding. A feasibility study is being undertaken to look into widening the existing facility on the western side of Queens Avenue from Kings End to St John’s Street, to improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity with the education and leisure facilities in the vicinity.
- 5.4 Footway along Chiltern Approach at Bicester North station – approval has been acquired from Chiltern Railways to install a footway on the southern side to replace the muddy verge.
- 5.5 London Road footway/cycleway improvement – OCC has used alternative funding pots to progress work on this scheme to ensure that a facility can be delivered as quickly as possible once developer funding from the Graven Hill development has been received. This improvement would link Graven Hill with the town centre; options are currently being considered.
- 5.6 Buckingham Road cycle link – this has been discussed by officers at the county and district and it has been suggested that the design work completed in 2016 should be reviewed to ensure conformity with the Bicester masterplan.
- 5.7 Cycle link along the railway line from NW Bicester to the town centre – discussions are being undertaken with Network Rail to establish their acceptance of the principles of a scheme along this route, which is partly on Network Rail land. The scheme will need to be designed up to ensure a facility is delivered in time to meet trigger points within the NW Bicester legal agreements.
- 5.8 Off-road cycle facility along Middleton Stoney Road – a scheme to deliver this facility has been designed up and funding is being sought from developers and from grant opportunities.
- 5.9 Cycle link from Chesterton to the park & ride – OCC is feeding into the development of proposals for the Chesterton Country Park to establish a link from Chesterton to the Park & Ride through the Country Park. S106 monies have been secured to contribute to enhancing this link.