

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet Capital Assets Committee

17 January 2017

Questions from Kim Stuckey

Question

I have only today found out the detail of the Cabinet Capital Assets Committee meeting next Tuesday 17th January, and in particular Site 2 – Land at Darcy Close.

I am very concerned not about the strip of land as titled at Darcy Close, but the hatched area at the top of the plan, being the old dismantled track bed and embankment of the disused Chippenham-Calne railway.

This is used as a cycling and walking link between National Cycle Route 403 and Chippenham Station, avoiding a steep hill at Black Bridge Road and is a vital part of the sustainable transport infrastructure in Chippenham. I have and continue to use this route for cycling.

If this area of land is being sold off, what restrictions are being put on purchasers to keep in place the cycle track and maintain it? Will it remain open as a right of way? Have discussions taken place with Sustrans about the implications of this sale? At a time where the issue of sustainable transport is so important to the public and indeed the Council, could it be made clear about the guarantees about the future use of this route, rather than just being a hatched area on a map and an asset sale?

Response

The council recognises the important role of the North Wiltshire Rivers Route. If we decide to sell, we recognise the value of the cycle path and due diligence would cover issues such as these.