

Proposed Cycle Route to be taken forward for detailed plans and costing.

Cycle Friendly Devizes report to Air Quality & Sustainable Travel Group

Intro

The draft Devizes Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) was published in Feb 2023. It was consulted upon in the summer of 2023 and is awaiting sign off by Wiltshire Council.

Wiltshire Council have indicated that they will fund the next stage of getting a Devizes priority cycle route fully costed and planned. This is essential to apply for government funding from Active Travel England and to then get the route constructed.

Devizes Area Board -air quality and sustainable transport group, also have finances available to spend on sustainable travel to improve the air quality in Devizes (as detailed below). These funds have come from section 106 developer contributions and are approaching the time limit for spending. Almost £500,000 (discretionary sustainable transport allocation) that could fund a stand alone project or contribute toward a bigger project.

DEVIZES S106 SUMMARY

06/09/2023 10:16

s106 THEMES	AVAILABLE £
Non Discretionary Sustainable Transport	£5,000
Discretionary Sustainable Transport	£473,464
* Public Transport	£534,969
**Highways	£64,870
	£1,079,887
NOTES	
* £70,739.40 CAN BE USED FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT	
** SHANES CASTLE HIGHWAY WORKS ONLY	

We have a short window to take advantage of the opportunity to deliver safe active travel, whilst reducing traffic and air pollution in our town.

Priority Routes

To move to the next stage of improving the cycle infrastructure, a decision needs to be taken on which route should be taken forward to release the funding from Wiltshire Council.

The LCWIP identified five priority routes following a detailed study of data and consultation.

Cycle Friendly Devizes have looked at those routes in detail and are making a recommendation to the Town Council on which route to take to the next stage based on our assessment of the advantages and benefits to the community of Devizes. We considered routes that were close to, or connected to major employment sites, leisure, school sites and where people live. Additionally, which route would have in our view, the greatest impact for increasing active travel.

The shortlisted routes were DC1, DC2a and DC4. These routes are further split into smaller sections and we looked at DC1-1, DC1-2, DC1-3, DC2a-2, DC2a-3 and DC4-5.

- DC1-1 West end towards Bishops Cannings
- DC1-2 London Road
- DC1-3 Southbroom
- DC2a-2 The Green Nursteed to Southbroom Infants
- DC2a-3 Nursteed to intersection Windsor Drive
- DC4-5 Sidmouth Street

Advantages and Benefits of DC1

- There are four major employment sites along London Road.
- There is retail (Lidl, B&Q), leisure (rugby and tennis), school and strategic developments along London Road(DC1).
- There is a greater propensity to cycle along London Road .
- Presently only 3% of people commute to work by cycle, compared to 50% of children who already walk to school. Effectively there is more potential to convert the work commute to cycling as 68% of people live and work in Devizes.
- Connecting to Retail/employment along Sidmouth Street and centre of Devizes
- High profile and visible route

Potential to Improve

- Safety: Reduction in casualties (Bikes 0-1% of all traffic and yet 18% are casualties)
- Air Quality: Reduction in traffic: less pollution : cleaner air.

Conclusion

CFD recommends DC1, it has more employment sites with greater potential to increase cycle commuting by bicycle and forms a direct route from town centre to school, leisure, housing and retail sites. London road takes you out to the recent residential development of Laywood and to further two proposed developments, potentially increasing traffic along London Road. Investing in a route along London Road that is safe will encourage more users.

This report was presented to Devizes Town Council on Feb 6th 2024 Planning meeting, where they a voted to support conclusions of this report:the prioritisation of route DC1 from West End towards Bishops Cannings along London Road and Estcourt Street to Sidmouth Street. putting forward route DC1.

Cycle Friendly Devizes

January 2024