

Summary of Discussion At the Movement and Place Sub-Group – 15th January 2020 concerning Cycling Provision Alongside the A4018 and the Leisure Loop

In Attendance:

Councillors - Paula O'Rourke (Chair for the Meeting), Don Alexander and Peter Abraham

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Merchant Venturers – Tim Ross and Jonathon Baker

Officers: Steven Riley, Mark Sperduty, Richard Goldthorpe, Ben Skuse

Also Attending: Mandy Leivers – Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Trust

Apologies: Councillor Barry Clark and Gillian Camm

Cycling Provision Alongside the A4018

The Sub-Group noted the background to this item and previous discussion. It was noted that the Special Committee would also be considering this report at its meeting on Monday 20th January 2020.

Steven Riley made the following points:

- His previous report now included an addendum setting out the background including a request at the last Downs Committee on 18th November 2019 for officers to consider the possibility of providing two paths to provide separate routes for pedestrians and cyclists. It was noted that this was the preferred position of the Bristol Cycling Campaign similar to the new provision under preparation for the northern end of the A4018
- The bullet points in the addendum report outlined a possible solution subject to enforcement of signage. However, he noted this was a more significant piece of engineering than the original plan of two shared-use paths
- The Bristol Cycling Campaign supported the creation of a two-way footpath on the Downs but the issue of resources needed to be resolved. The proposal would involve
- A high quality cycle lane would assist in ensuring cyclists used this path
- Designers could be requested to design and cost a high quality cycle route which would be ready to use subject to sufficient funding being provided

Ben Skuse drew the Sub-Group's attention to the fact that the land near the Durdham Park bus stop was very muddy due to recent heavy rainfall. The issue of flooding and their impact on events held near that area (particularly access to parking) would also need to be taken account of in any proposals.

Members of the Sub-Group made the following points:

- If white bicycle signs were painted along the existing shared-use pavement this would help assist in ensuring cyclists used it prior to a new segregated route being constructed
- There needed to be an improvement of cycle provision for the roads into Bristol as a result of the large development in Filton
- If the revised proposal were adopted, the Downs Committee would be required to yield an appropriate portion of land for a pedestrian path
- Since existing Downs byelaws precluded cycling, this issue would need to be addressed
- It was important to define what would be allowed on any pedestrian route ie mothers with prams, children and tricycles

The Sub-Group agreed that it was receptive to the provision of a tarmac route for bicycles and the provision of an additional route for pedestrians (including provision for junior mobility vehicles such as prams) as well as appropriately designed signage. It was agreed that the issues raised during the discussion should be referred for consideration to the Special Downs Committee meeting on Monday 20th January 2020. **Action: Jeremy Livitt**

Leisure Loop Update

The Sub-Group noted that there would be a presentation on this issue at the Special Downs Committee meeting from Vicky Cracknell (Cycle Sunday) at their meeting on Monday 20th January 2020.

The Sub-Group expressed their thanks to Vicky Cracknell for the work that she had carried out in developing the alternative approach outlined in her report to be submitted to the Special Downs Committee and which merited further consideration.

Richard Goldthorpe confirmed that he would also be making a presentation to this meeting on the wider Downs Place and Movement Framework to update those who had not been on the Downs Committee when it has originally been considered. He explained that he would be providing examples of paths at Harrogate and Richmond and outlining details of discussions that had taken place concerning recreation trails for Downs users.

The Sub-Group requested that the Special Committee should agree on a process for developing these proposals and on the creation of a further timeline for future action.

Action: Jeremy Livitt to refer for consideration to the Special Downs Committee meeting on Monday 20th January 2020.

