

Bridgnorth Town Council

Meeting: Council Tuesday 21st March 2023






Agenda item:

Presented by: Counc. D Cooper on behalf of the Transport Consultation Working Group

Topic: Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Consultation – for information.

About the LCWIP

The draft Shropshire Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) has been developed to provide a cohesive approach to the delivery of a high-quality walking and cycling network across the county, following Department for Transport (DfT) guidance. The purpose of the LCWIP is to identify and prioritise long term investment over a ten-year period (to 2032) in new and upgraded walking and cycling provision across Shropshire, but heavily focussed on 7 key settlements (of which Bridgnorth is one). It will form part of Shropshire’s Local Transport Plan (LTP4, currently under development); having such a plan will facilitate access to funding for cycling and walking improvements. The LCWIP objectives are identified as:

 <p><b>Zero-Carbon</b></p> <p>Shropshire as a <b>Zero-Carbon</b> County</p>	 <p><b>Healthier</b></p> <p><b>Healthier</b> living for Shropshire residents</p>	 <p><b>Mode Shift</b></p> <p>Reduced congestion and car dependency through <b>embedding walking and cycling as the modes of choice</b> for local and some inter-urban journeys</p>	 <p><b>Inclusive</b></p> <p>An <b>inclusive</b> network which is accessible, perceived to be safe, and enables opportunity for all regardless of age or ability</p>	 <p><b>Sustainable Growth</b></p> <p>Supports <b>sustainable economic growth</b> in Shropshire's market towns, including the visitor economy</p>
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The plan has been under development since late 2021, and local stakeholder engagement (in which the Town Council was represented) took place in Bridgnorth in early 2022. A county-wide draft plan has now been published for consultation until early May 2023.

Implications for Bridgnorth

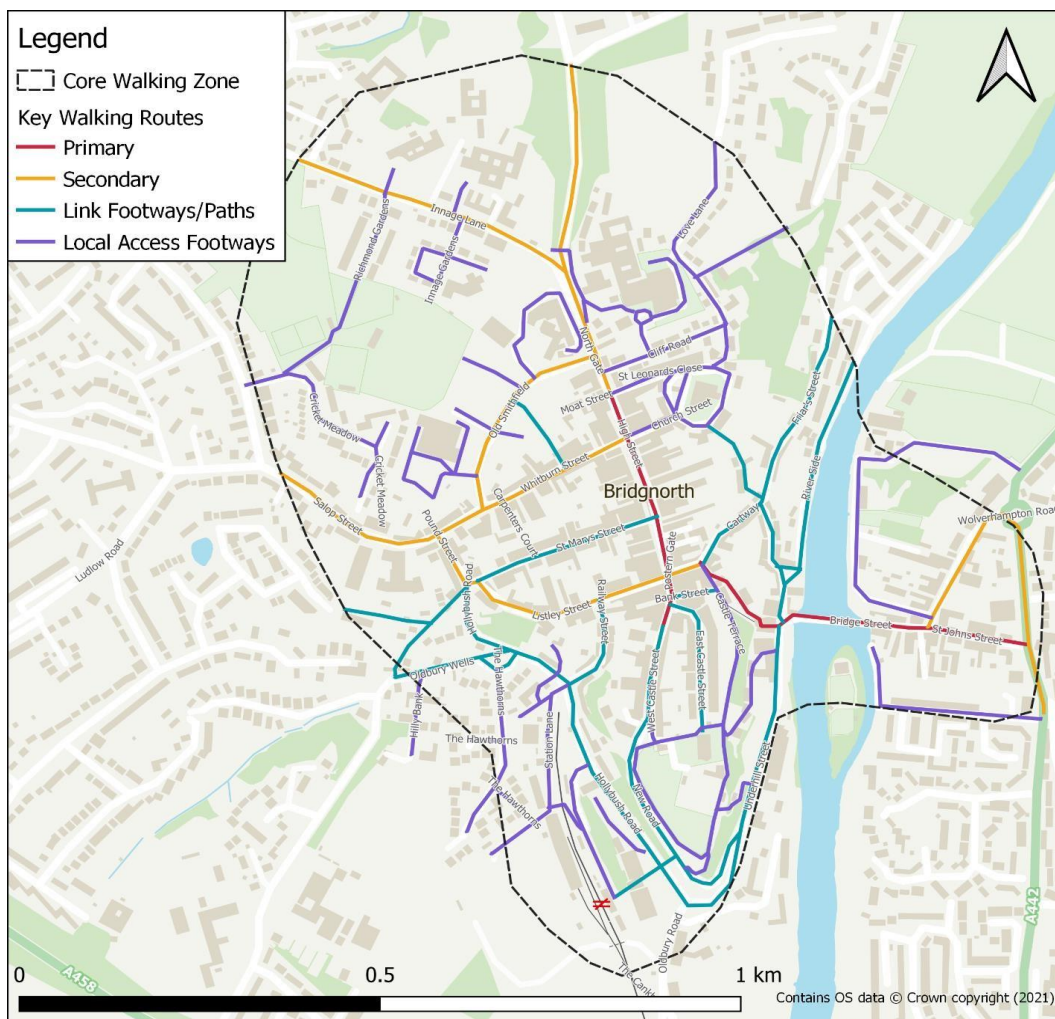
It is estimated that there is the potential for nearly half of Bridgnorth resident’s travel to work journeys to be by active modes; currently approx. 3% are undertaken by bicycle and approx. 17% by walking. Whilst LCWIP is not confined to support travel to work, this indicates that there is significant potential for mode shift if appropriately supported.

The potential Bridgnorth cycling catchment is identified as being up to 10Km from the town centre (broadly within 30 minute’s cycling time); this encompasses all of the built up area of Bridgnorth Town itself and potentially extends to Broseley and Highley.

For cycling, “desire lines” of potential journeys have been plotted to identify where improvements to facilitate usage might be looked for. These connect Origins (e.g. residential areas) with Destinations (e.g town centre, work locations, schools). Potential cycling routes have been classified as Primary, Secondary and Local depending on the potential daily traffic volume. Interventions to facilitate cycling have then been suggested following the DfT’s design standards (set out in Local Traffic Note LTN1/20). These are set out in the consultation document, though in each case there would be a requirement for detailed design work and further item by item consultation:



For walking, a Core Walking Zone (CWZ) has been defined to prioritise improvements based on potential footfall. In Bridgnorth, the CWZ is based around both high and low town centres:



**Consultation**

An online public consultation is planned, together with roadshow events, online presentations, and a school focussed questionnaire. However, there is no specific provision for town and parish council participation, and it is assumed that Bridgnorth Town Council will respond via the public consultation. This will ask respondents to give their views on:

- The proposed LCWIP objectives
- Key barriers preventing walking and cycling
- Proposed draft network proposals
- Scheme priorities

The full consultation documents are available at <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/> The Town Council appointed a working group of 4 councillors to draft responses to this consultation and the broader LTP4 proposals (when these are consulted on) at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The working group has held an initial meeting and formulated a method of collating responses to members’ views on 76 potential schemes for the Bridgnorth area. The working group is aiming to produce a draft submission for approval by the Council at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023, and will endeavour to make initial comments on the proposed local schemes available for consideration by members of the Council around 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.