

**Non-Key (Cycling & Walking) Issue
For Decision of Cabinet Member for
Transport**

Title	Investigation of Community Path between Haddenham & Thame
Date	6 th January 2010
Author	Lee Stevens, Team Leader for Cycling & Walking
Contact Officer	Lee Stevens x7637
Electoral Divisions Affected	Haddenham
Resources Appraisal	Officer time to assess route viability and canvass local opinion

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member is invited to **Approve**:

The commissioning of further work to determine the preferred route between Haddenham and Thame, acknowledging representations received to date highlighting local support for a community path to improve access between the two settlements for all users.

In the summer of 2008 Buckinghamshire County Council commissioned a feasibility study to look at options for a community path between the settlements of Haddenham in Buckinghamshire and Thame in Oxfordshire. The resulting report identified three possible routes to link the two settlements. This report has previously been shared with Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group and local residents interested in the findings. The feasibility report can be found in Appendix 1.

Following consideration of the report and further requests for consideration of the route from residents, the Cycling & Walking Team, working closely with Rights of Way colleagues from Buckinghamshire County Council and Oxfordshire County Council, undertook consultation to gauge wider local opinion for a community path between Haddenham and Thame. The aim of this exercise was to identify the level of support for such a route, and determine whether a route was really wanted by the wider community.

This consultation involved canvassing local opinion from residents of Haddenham and Thame which resulted in the presentation of a 1,500 strong petition in favour of a route received at the end of November 2009 (see appendix 2). Further to this the route was discussed at the Haddenham & Long Crendon Local Area Forum (LAF) meeting on 9th December 2009 where attendees were invited to again comment on all three route options. A summary paper was presented at the LAF to make attendees aware of the process that has been followed to date (see appendix 3). Comments were made at the meetings both for and against a community path.

To date correspondence in favour of a route has been received from Lord William's School, Haddenham Cycle Training, Chiltern Railways, Thame Town Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council. Letters against a route have been received from landowners and householders adjoining the Option A route (Scotsgrove Mill).

The general feedback received against a route between the two communities is on the basis that too much emphasis has been placed on route A via Scotsgrove Mill, and that not enough investigation has been undertaken on the other route to determine its feasibility. In particular a costing for route A has been produced, but not for route C.

The proposal at this time is to accept the overwhelming level of support for a route between the two settlements as indication that further work should be commissioned to appraise routes A (Scotsgrove Mill) and C (Tythrop Route). With this information further consultation will be undertaken to determine which route residents prefer.

Therefore further appraisal will be done on both routes ahead of the next LAF meeting in March 2009, where this will commence the formal consultation on the preferred route between Haddenham and Thame. The timetable for this consultation will need further investigation but for information the following is a draft proposal:

February 2010	Undertake route appraisals
March 2010	Launch of consultation at Haddenham and Long Crendon LAF
April/May 2010	Public exhibitions/ site notices/ surveys etc.
June 2010	Presentation of results to Cabinet Member
June/July 2010	Summary of Consultation and next steps at LAF

Safety Audit

None at this time.

Resource implications

Funding for this scheme is being provided by Buckinghamshire County Council within its current budget allocation and will require officer time to assess route viability and set up mechanisms to present to and canvass local opinion.

Legal implications

None

Other implications/issues

None

Consultation

Consultation to date sought informally. Formal consultation to follow in May 2010 and will involve public exhibitions, a mail out to all residents directly affected by the scheme, letters to statutory consultees, notices on site, an article in the local newspaper/ parish newsletter and web page information with a link to the designs. People will be invited to comment in writing or by visiting the stand at the public exhibition.

Summary

This report is to inform the Cabinet Member for Transportation of the results of an informal consultation undertaken over the period 1st October 2009 – 31st December 2009 into the provision of a community path for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders between Haddenham and Thame. Also to approve the proposal to undertake further route investigation and consultation on a preferred route subject to additional feasibility work on costs and benefits of each route.

Name	Signed	Date
<u>JIM STEVENS</u> Head of Transport for Buckinghamshire	<u></u>	<u>27/Jan 2010</u>
<u>VERIE LEMER</u> Cabinet Member for Transport	<u></u>	<u>12.1.10</u>

Professional advice supporting the decision was provided by the following Officers

Name	Signed	Date
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LEE SIZENS

Lead Officer

[Signature]

7th January 2010

SIMON GLOVER

Lead Officer

[Signature]

7th JANUARY 2010

Background Papers

Appendix 1 - Haddenham – Thame Feasibility Report 2008

Appendix 2 - Responses received to date.

Appendix 3 – Haddenham and Long Crendon LAF Paper
