

31st July 2020

Dear Chris Harris,

In June, Mendip’s Cabinet approved a project that aspires to reduce the volume of commuter related vehicles in the District, through the creation of an integrated network of multi-user paths that facilitate walking and cycling to work. The paper can be found here (agenda item 6 <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/8723/Cabinet-Monday-1-June-2020>)

We will initially focus on the connections that see the highest volumes of commuters and would therefore have the highest impact in reducing the number of vehicles on our roads through active travel infrastructure. We are initially considering 14 routes across the District:

Route 1. Shepton – Emborough	Route 8. Frome – Wanstrow
Route 2. Shepton – Wanstrow	Route 9. Shepton – Evercreech
Route 3. Wells – Westbury-sub-Mendip	Route 10. Wells – Glastonbury
Route 4. Glastonbury – Street	Route 11. Glastonbury – Shepton
Route 5. Street – Sharpham	Route 12. Shepton – Wells
Route 6. Sharpham – Glastonbury	Route 13. Street – Walton – (would need to connect to a route in Sedgemoor)
Route 7. Connecting Frome	Route 14. Frome – Bath (would need to connect to a route in BANES)

The first step is to work together to gain a clear understanding of the existing infrastructure, related projects both planned and in progress, active volunteer groups, potential and current resources and overall appetite for project delivery in your parish. Some of this work will require audits of the current paths and routes to identify the missing links.

After the information has been collated, we will then need to find an ideal proposed route, before creating a delivery strategy – this will also require the physical collection of data.

We anticipate that funding opportunities will arise relating to the need for active travel following the coronavirus pandemic and the existing climate emergency. Having a delivery strategy and all of the research in place for each connection put us all in the best possible position to lever in these funds.

Multi-user paths are a top priority for the Leader of Council, Cllr Ros Wyke and we are committed to the project. We have created a full-time post to work with Cllrs Leyshon, Hobbs and Martin in delivery and we are working closely with The Strawberry Line East and Frome's Missing Links to support the delivery of these 2 additional key routes. Collaboration with our town and parish councils will be key to delivery success on the other routes, due to the scale of the project and the pandemic and climate related time constraints.

We would therefore like to meet with your parish council as soon as possible to discuss the proposals and next steps and would be most grateful if you could please email paths@mendip.gov.uk to arrange a suitable date and time with Kelly Knight the Lead Officer on the project.

We look forward to working together on the project and hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

Keep Well, and Keep Safe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ros Wyke', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.