

MEETING : **CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**
DATE : **21 September 2012**

REPORT OF : **COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS**
Contact : **Genni Butler & Hazel Barber**
Officer : **01270 686059 or 01606 288539**

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN - CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Updates on current projects are provided for both Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester in Appendix 1

RECOMMENDED:

That the reports be noted.

APPENDIX 1- PROGRESS ON THE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN – CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Project	Completion date	Partners	Detail and work completed	Update September 2012
LTP Area Programme Crewe and Nantwich – Crewe to Nantwich Greenway	Spring 2013	SUSTRANS, Highways, Weaver Valley Regional Park	Creation of new bridleway link between Crewe (Queen's Park) and Nantwich Riverside over land owned by the Beam Heath Trust. Part of the Sustrans 'Connect 2' project using the People's Millions Lottery Money ROW Committee approval of new route obtained December 2011 Planning permission secured May 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common land consent secured • S25 creation agreement negotiations being completed • Construction scheduled
Seven Sisters Lane, Ollerton (ROWIP Ref. H20)	March 2015	North Cheshire Riders, Highways, Landowners	Safety issue for riders on busy lane, used to access bridleway network. Surface improvements delivered on connecting bridleway No. 6 also.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowner unwilling to consider headland permissive path
Gritstone Trail crossing of A54,	March 2015	Landowners	Seeking to improve crossing of A54 in Wincle. Road safety officer report received. Two landowners approached. Landowners approached, but unwilling to offer permissive route.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways tasked to install signage
Long distance horse ride (ROWIP ref. X15)	March 2012 And Summer 2012	North Cheshire Riders, Hoof Cheshire, local businesses	Development of long distance horse ride. Route would be first in Cheshire East and would be promoted for cyclists as well as horseriders. Route developed by North Cheshire Riders Application for funding submitted August 2011. Funding bid successful October 2011. Project delivery underway: signage, gate improvements, landowners informed. Cheshire Cheese Loop signposted, available and promoted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Loop under development
discovercheshire.co.uk	ongoing	ICT, Tourism colleagues	Population of www.discovercheshire.co.uk and its sister websites Discover Cheshire's Peak District and Discover the Gritstone Trail with promoted walks, cycles and horse rides. Knutsford Rail Walks leaflet routes added June 2011 Willaston Old Oak Circular walk added October 2011, Haslington walk added October 2011. 2 nd 'Getting to know Willaston' leaflet added May 2012 Cheshire Cheese Loop added April 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bollin Valley Way added • Bollin Valley Cycle Trail added • 3 walks from Alsager Series added • 2 walks from Hassall Green Explorer leaflet added
Cheshire East News / other publications	ongoing	Communications teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knutsford Rail Trail leaflet nominated for Best Marketing Event award in the Community Rail Awards 2011 • Nantwich Riverside Loop featured in Cheshire East News • Walks for All route at Astbury Mere is the 6th most visited page out of all of those listed from around the country on the Walk4Life website • Walk4Life Day press release and Radio Stoke interview • Evaluation of Nantwich Riverside Loop press release • Ollerton bridleway surface improvements press coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All additions to Discover Cheshire publicised through social media

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haslington walk feature in Cheshire East News prepared but publication cancelled due to spending freeze • Stapeley Footpath No. 1 cycling to school publicity • 2nd 'Getting to know Willaston' leaflet May 2012 • Cheshire Cheese Loop of Laureen's Ride April 2012 • Bollin Valley Cycle Route for Bike Week June 2012 	
2012-2013 ROWIP and LTP cycling projects	March 2013	Highways and local user groups	<p>Delivery of identified schemes for ROWIP and LTP Cycling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandbach FP33: surfacing a footpath which leads to facilities • Solly Crescent, Congleton: creation of a cycle track on desire line • Congleton FP10 : supplementing s106 funds to surface path • Goostrey Path North: creation of a new strategic footpath • Macclesfield Canal towpath, Bollington: grant support for surface • Alderley Edge bypass to Astra Zeneca cycle route: creation of link • Sutton BR28: installation of bridge where there was only a ford • Chelford FP1: grant support for improved & new path to facilities • Peak Forest Towpath, Disley: grant support for surface • Nantwich FP26/Stapeley FP1: improved connection to town centre • Road Safety Schemes: warning signage and safety measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme delivery underway

Progress on the Cheshire West and Chester Rights of Way Improvement Plan

<http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/transportandroads/publicrightsofway1/cheshirewestchesterrowip.aspx>

Project description	Policy reference delivered	Staff/project cost		Year 2 2012/13	Update
Random survey of 5% of the ROW network annually	AM	£*		5% random survey	2012 survey in progress May results were 86% pass for Ease of Use, all failures were on signage.
Increase paths 'ease of use' by 5 % over 5 years	AM EO	£-££*		Improve by target 1%	In progress
Develop a maintenance priority system	AM	£*		review	In progress
Provide additional information on Rights of Way Network available	AM EO QL CC BS EG	££**		Additional routes on Discover Cheshire	The online 'Interactive Mapping' now holds all the furniture information collected during the Network Survey. This can be found on the following link http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/CW/AC/interactivemapping/ The Sandstone Trail website is still under construction.

Fault reporting system	AM BS	£**		Redevelop to incorporate fault reporting via online mapping	Fault reporting is now available via the online Interactive Mapping. The reports go straight to the Greenspace email for logging and allocating. This system will be reviewed periodically every six months next review due October 2012.
Develop easily identifiable branding	AM EG QL EO	£-££***		Incorporate design onto electronic info	Greenspaces style is still being incorporated into publications this year full incorporation may be delayed because of internal changes.
DMMO priority system	AM	££*		Investigate 3 applications	On target
Develop a PPO priority system	AM	££*		Investigate 3 applications	In progress – internal discussions pending, meeting in the diary for 9 th October.2012.
Unrecorded paths	AM CC QL	£-££*		Investigation of 2 paths	Initial meeting held with user groups. Possible DMMO applications identified - ready to be worked up.by volunteer project. Project meeting TBC. October 2012.

Additional Greenspace info on Discover Cheshire website		£**		5 Additional Greenspace sites	Ongoing - Due to the manager of the website Joe Wainwright leaving the authority, this may not be achievable this year and an alternative marketing tool needs to be found.
Work with parish/town councils community groups to adopt local paths	QL EO EG BS	£**		Facilitate interested parish and town councils to adopt local paths	Parish and town councils contacted with a view to implementing this idea.
Develop priority system for improvements	AM EG BS QL CC EO	£*		Review	in Progress
Select 5 priority safety projects to investigate	BS	£-£££***		Select 2nd project to investigate	In Progress – Project 1 Deeside to Neston link taking traffic off the A540 due for completion April 2013. Joint project with Flintshire CC. Project 2 – refurbishment of fp 230 Chester over the railway viaduct. Smaller projects – Wincham planning application – ensuring that paths are diverted away from estate roads.

					- steps provided on Fp11 Tilston and fp2 Carden
Select 5 priority economic growth projects to investigate	EG	£-£££***		Select 2nd project to investigate	In Progress – Oakmere Parish Council Stoneyford – Delamere, bridlepath, path for communities application
Select 5 accessibility projects to investigate	EO	£-£££***		Select 2nd project to investigate	<p>In partnership with Habitats and Hillforts - 12 new kissing gates to replace stiles in and around Delamere, improving access to the Sandstone Trail. 20 Kissing / Pedestrian Gates replaced stiles in the area between Beeston and Peckforton Castles.</p> <p>New bridges and improvements on bridleway and footpath Agden and wigland area.</p> <p>Fingerposts have been replaced across the Borough to improve signage as a result of survey.</p>
Select 5 links to fragmented paths to investigate	CC	£-£££***		Select 2nd project to investigate	<p>Developments in Tattenhall and elsewhere show linkages to the network at the planning stage, after consultation.</p> <p>Part of planning application consultations the provision of linkages is important and</p>

					proposed where appropriate.
Select 5 quality of life projects to investigate	QL	£-£££***		Select 2nd project to investigate	In Progress
Investigate how S106 funding can deliver ROWIP policy	AM EG BS QL CC EO	£**		Target major developments	Section 106 agreements now have improvements to PROW on or near sites included in heads of terms eg Wincham.

Key to abbreviations

*internal staff resources

**with colleagues in other services

*** with external partners

£ up to £5k, ££ 5-20k, £££- >20k.

Policy references

AM- Assets and Maintenance

BS- Better safety

CC- Climate Change

QL- Quality of Life

EO- Greater Equality of Opportunity

EG- Economic Growth