
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 20th October 2009
Subject: Request For A Footpath / Cyclepath & Footbridge – Leighton Road, Woburn Road, Hockliffe (A4012).
Report of: Basil Jackson
Summary: The purpose of this report is to present a petition from residents of Hockliffe requesting the provision of a footpath / cyclepath and footbridge on Leighton Road / Woburn Road, Hockliffe. This petition has been presented at Executive Committee and referred back for a further report.

Contact Officer: Debbie Poynton
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Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Hockliffe
Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

that the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities is requested to note the contents of the report following an investigation into the provision of a footpath / cyclepath and footbridge in Hockliffe and to recommend that no action is taken to provide a footway / cycleway and bridge at this location.

Background and Information

1. In May 2009 a petition was sent by Andrew Selous MP on behalf of residents of Hockliffe regarding the continued need for a footpath/cyclepath and footbridge on Leighton Road / Woburn Road. This petition was received at the main office at Woodlands on the 4 June 2009. In accordance with the process in operation at that time an acknowledgement was sent to the lead petitioner.
2. The procedure in place at that time was for Bedfordshire Highways staff to undertake investigation into the grounds stated on the petition and to report the petition together with a proposed course of action to the first available meeting of the Bedfordshire County Council Development Control Committee.

3. Due to the changes in local government arrangements in Bedfordshire that were taking place at the time there was no opportunity to do this within the life of the outgoing County Council and the arrangements for presenting to members of the new Central Bedfordshire Council were not available at that time, and indeed for some time subsequently.
4. This petition was reported to Executive Committee on the 15 September 2009 and referred back for a further report.

Information

5. In June 1995 Hockliffe Brownie Pack petitioned the Parish Council regarding a footpath in Leighton Road.
6. A further request was received in October 2008, again requesting the installation of a footpath / cycleway with a bridge over the brook to help assist local residents walking along Leighton Road to reach the local church, burial ground and footpaths that run through the area.
7. Leighton Road is a rural road subject to the national speed limit over most of the length requested with no residential access along the section of proposed footway and no properties within 300 metres of the Goose Green end. The Church and residential properties at Church End are approximately 450 metres from the end of the proposed footway and have an alternative access using the existing footway along the A5 and Church Lane.

The Way Forward

8. A scheme to provide a footpath / cycleway and bridge has been given a low priority and will not be included in the current five year programme.
9. The estimated cost of the works is £60 – 70k depending upon any necessary statutory diversions being needed.

Conclusion and Next Steps

10. No action is taken to provide a footway / cycleway and bridge at this location.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS
<p>Council Priorities: The provision of a footpath / cycleway and bridge would improve walking routes for pedestrians.</p> <p>Financial: If the proposals are accepted by Central Bedfordshire Council there will be a capital cost of approximately £70,000 for the entire scheme.</p> <p>Legal:</p>

None as a result of this report.

Risk Management:

None as a result of this report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None as a result of this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

This report and recommendation does not have any implications under the Human Rights Act 1998.

Community Development/Safety:

Assists detached communities to access services on foot with improved safety.

Sustainability:

Central Bedfordshire encourages the use of walking as a sustainable transportation mode where suitable.

Background Papers

Copy of Petition.