

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	12 JUNE 2019	AGENDA ITEM:	7
TITLE:	NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK ROUTE NCN 422 - UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION AND STREETCARE	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICERS:	EMMA BAKER / LUCY PRISMALL	TEL:	0118 937 4881 / 0118 937 4441
JOB TITLE:	ACTING TRANSPORT PLANNING MANAGER / TRANSPORT PLANNER	E-MAIL:	emma.baker@reading.gov.uk / lucy.prismall@reading.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update on key progress and milestones associated with the new National Cycle Network Route (NCN 422) between Bath Road / Greenwood Road and the Three Tuns.
- 1.2 Works are currently taking place on the final phase of the programme between London Road and Watlington Street and the Three Tuns on Wokingham Road.
- 1.3 Appendix A - NCN 422 Phase 2 - Removal of Traffic Island to west of Ashley Road.
Appendix B - Revised Plan for NCN 422 between Grange Avenue and Pitcroft Avenue.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes progress on delivering the NCN programme as set out within the report.
- 2.2 That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to carry out the Statutory Notice procedures for the removal of a traffic islands on Berkeley Avenue between Bath Road and Ashley Road, as part of the NCN 422 scheme, as

set out in Appendix A and in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 422 is a new cross-Berkshire cycle route between Newbury and Ascot. The route will provide an enhanced east-west cycle facility through Reading, linking to existing cycle routes to the north and south of the borough. The scheme was granted full funding approval by the BLTB in November 2015.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Phase 1 of the scheme includes the provision of a shared path on the northern side of the Bath Road between the Borough boundary and Berkeley Avenue, and was granted scheme and spend approval by Policy Committee in January 2017. The first phase of works commenced in February 2017 and was largely completed in July 2017. Improvements to a privately-own wall, between New Lane Hill and Greenwood Road, and adjacent footway widening works, are subject to further feasibility work and available budget after the completion of the final phase.
- 4.2 Phase 2 of the scheme, from Bath Road/Berkeley Avenue through the town centre to east Reading, was granted scheme and spend approval at Policy Committee in September 2017. Completed works include the installation of two tiger crossings on Duke Street and Yield Hall Place, imprinting at key crossing points along Berkeley Avenue and improved signing along the route and through the Oracle. The Traffic Regulation Order for a contraflow cycle facility on Kennet Side was advertised in March, following approval at Traffic Management Sub-Committee in March 2018 and is expected to be complete June 2019.
- 4.3 A Notice of Intention is required for the removal of a traffic island on Berkeley Avenue, 35 metres west of Ashley Road (Appendix A), in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The removal of the traffic island will enable the existing advisory cycle lane to be upgraded to a mandatory cycle lane.
- 4.4 Phase 3 of the scheme builds on previous works delivered as part of the LSTF programme by extending shared-use facilities along Wokingham Road from Cemetery Junction to Three Tuns, and was granted scheme and spend approval by the Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport Committee in November 2018. Measures include improved pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities, junction treatments, signing and footway widening.
- 4.5 Phase 3 works commenced in April 2019, and are due to be completed by summer 2019. Works completed to date have concentrated on the section

between Cemetery Junction and Palmer Park Avenue, including improved pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities at side road junctions and the conversion of the pedestrian crossing, to the east of St Bartholomews Avenue, to a tiger crossing. The in-house Highways team will now focus on improvements to the path running adjacent to Wokingham Road through Palmer Park. This phase will be further complemented by works, proposed between Grange Avenue and Melrose Avenue, as part of annual resurfacing programme.

- 4.6 Revised designs for Wokingham Road between Grange Avenue and Pitcroft Road have been finalised (Appendix B), and shared with Ward Councillors, following feedback at the Traffic Management Sub-Committee in November 2018. Further to the Committee, Officers organised a site meeting at Wokingham Road local centre, which was also attended by Councillor White and a representative from a local cycling group.
- 4.7 A Stage 1 and 2 Road Safety Audit has been undertaken on the revised design by an independent auditor and has not identified any concerns in regards to the proposed changes.
- 4.8 Further Notices of Intention have been advertised for alterations to existing traffic calming features along Wokingham Road, between Palmer Park Avenue and St Peters Road, and for converting the existing pedestrian crossing to a tiger crossing to the west of Pitcroft Avenue, both in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Section 90C of the Highways Act 1980.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The delivery of the projects outlined in this report help to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:
 - Securing the economic success of Reading and provision of job opportunities.
 - Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 The National Cycle Network Route NCN 422 scheme has been communicated to the local community through user groups, press releases and Council meetings.
- 6.2 Statutory consultation will be conducted in accordance with appropriate legislation. Notices will be advertised in the local printed newspaper and will be erected on lamp columns within the affected area.
- 6.3 Any objections to statutory consultation will be reported to future Sub-Committees.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The creation of - and changes to existing - Traffic Regulation Orders will require advertisement and consultation, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 8.2 Equality impact assessment scoping exercises have been undertaken for all phases of the National Cycle Network Route NCN 422 scheme and reported to SEPT Committee when seeking scheme and spend approval. These assessments did not highlight any negative impacts on any one user group.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 All schemes included in the current programme being delivered by the Council are included in the Council's Capital Programme. This sets out the funding sources and funding profile for each scheme.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Major Transport Scheme Update Reports to Traffic Management Sub-Committee, from 2015 onwards.