

Kenilworth Town Council

Cycling Delivery Group Update to Council – December 2021

The group met on November 9th to share updates on progress and discuss future plans.

Infrastructure

The group reviewed the draft designs provided by WCC for the Clarkes Avenue/Farmer Ward Road Bridge crossing. Some reservations were expressed about the transition between the shared use path and the carriageway at Farmer Ward Road and some constructive suggestions made about how this could be improved. These have been communicated to WCC for consideration.

Progress with K2L continues to be slow but a change has been agreed to the design which will now bring the route directly up Leamington Road and into Kenilworth as far as the St John's gyratory via the new housing development. This will enable further links to Farmer Ward Road, the Land East of Kenilworth and beyond.

Progress is ongoing between WCC and WDC concerning the potential for a safe route through Abbey Fields.

LCWIP

The initial consultation has been completed by WCC and it is proposed that officers from WCC meet with the Cycle Group to agree priorities before the plan is published.

Covered Cycling Provision

Kenilworth is generally quite well provided for cycle parking although little of it is undercover – which makes cycling less attractive in poor weather. We are currently exploring options for covered cycle parking as follows:

Waitrose: the store has been approached by WDC at our request to clear the storage trolleys which are obstructing the cycle parking

Wilco: the store has been asked about extending the number of hoops outside the store but without success.

The owners of Talisman Square have been approached about the potential of covering the current cycle provision. This is a potential opportunity but currently dependent on improvement works in the square and the relocation of the existing cycle parking.

Additional sites to be explored include Abbey End (including increasing the amount of parking) and the Library. It's important that any sites have good visibility to increase the sense of security.

Many of the group commented on their perception that cycle parking is being better used than previously and it's not uncommon for some parking spots to be full.

Christmas Market

We discussed opportunities to support cycling at the Christmas market on December 11th. Recognising that previously we have been at the Kenilworth Centre which is away from where the main events are happening the group wanted to feel more integrated. We have identified a number of ideas for things we can do:

- Provide additional crash barriers for bike parking in Talisman Square

- Vouchers for people cycling for free coffee
- Creating a survey about routes to school and travel habits supported by some of the young people who want to get involved
- Bike security marking courtesy of the local SNT

These ideas are being taken forward and any further update will be provided at the meeting.

Funding for next year

We discussed priorities for the group for 2022/23.

The group wanted to be able to do something in line with our strategy around events that promote cycling in the town. It was agreed that we should support further cycle training opportunities focusing on less confident adults and families who are not currently covered by existing provision.

This could be combined with maintenance support and would potentially make a good event for the late Spring.