

Agenda Item 6

Report for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

7th December 2018

Derby City Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan

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General Service

The Rights of Way service, within the Planning Division, continues to carry out the network management side of the rights of way function including the work on updating the definitive map and dealing with public path orders. The Highways Maintenance service continues to carry out the rights of way maintenance and enforcement function. The maintenance of footbridges, which is the responsibility of the Highways Structures team, is a challenge in these times of limited resources. A rural footbridge between Spondon and Ockbrook village was replaced this summer.

Definitive map and path orders

As stated in the September 2018 report, work is being carried out towards the production of the legal event modification orders that are required to bring the definitive map areas covering Derby up to date. This work requires the identification of paths and ways that have been extinguished or diverted and their replacement ways and footways. The orders have taken longer to produce than expected owing to the complexity of presenting the public path history of several areas of the city in a clear manner. It is expected that the first order will be made by the end of the year.

New path schemes

Derby River Gardens, which include a section of the Riverside Path, are set to be redesigned next year as part of the ongoing £95m Our City Our River flood prevention scheme. The new landscaping scheme will include more grassland that will be beneficial for local wildlife. There will also be improved scenic views for visitors.

The Littleover bridleway scheme, which was referred to during the Section 106 presentation by Rachel Reid in March this year, is nearing completion.

The Darley Park multi-user path, which will run along an elevated timber boardwalk, for part of its length, is earmarked for construction in the next financial year.

There are numerous other cycleway and footpath schemes of varying scale at the planning, design and implementation stages across the city.

Other work

The service continues to identify opportunities for providing a more connected path network when large new development proposals are submitted to the Council. The service also continues to publicise leisure walks, including its popular self-designed circular walks, on its Walking in Derby webpage.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP 2)

A brief report has been produced for internal Council discussion, which explores the options for putting together the next 10-year RoWIP. After the report has been fully considered by officers, the newly formed RoWIP joint sub group will be convened in the New Year to consider officers' thoughts on the way forward.

Active Travel Forum update

The Forum continues to meet regularly covering many topics. The LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan), the eBike scheme and the city's air quality are amongst the current topics for discussion.

Council news

The Council is under strong pressure from the government to tackle its poor air quality and has been instructed to introduce measures to reduce roadside nitrogen dioxide levels as soon as possible. The Council has consulted on a number of options and has drawn up traffic management proposals on and around Stafford Street, which forms part of the inner ring road around the city centre. It is also recognised that walking and cycling initiatives can have an important part to play in reducing vehicular traffic and improving air quality.

The Council is planning to make significant savings of up to £12 million for the 2019/2020 financial year. Most of the savings will be in the Peoples Services department, which is mainly tasked with adult and children's social care.

Future of Allestree Park - verbal update to be given to Members at meeting.

Recommendation

To note this report.