

Agenda Item 5

Report for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

12th March 2021

Derby City Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan

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General Rights of Way Service during Covid-19 Pandemic

The service has been running at a reduced level since the Britain first locked down for the Covid-19 Pandemic nearly a year ago, owing to part-time redeployment of staff and the limitations of home working. Most the main service duties are being carried out.

The Highways Maintenance service continues to carry out the rights of way maintenance and enforcement function.

Definitive map and path orders

As stated in previous reports, work continues to be 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. Some things are on hold but will continue later this year.

There are no ongoing applications for definitive map modification orders.

The Council is currently processing two public path order applications.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP 2)

It is hoped to explore ideas for the next Derby City RoWIP with the City and County RoWIP joint subgroup later in the year.

Path Schemes Update

City Centre to Wyvern Cycleway. The cycleway will provide a continuous route between the city centre and the Wyvern Retail Park as well as offer better access to Spondon. The second phase of works has begun adjacent Chequers Road.

Sinfin Moor Park Permissive Bridleway. The proposed permissive circular horse-riding route will connect Sinfin Moor Lane with the park. The scheme was put on hold during the pandemic lockdown period. It is hoped that consultations can be resumed with local park users and horse riders later this year.

Derwent Valley Cycleway. The proposed cycleway scheme will link Haslams Lane, Derby and Little Eaton village. Highways England submitted planning applications to Derby City Council and Erewash District Council in December last year. At the time of writing, they are undetermined.

Allestree Hall

As reported previously, the sale of the historic Allestree Hall is to be completed later this year. The Allestree Park Golf Course was not included in the sale and it had been proposed to be closed and transformed into parkland.

Some local business people have proposed alternative plans for the golf course which would see it retained. There is also some public support for the retention of the golf course.

Other Council News

Electric scooters update

It was reported last year that the Council had begun an electric scooter trial scheme in November. Key workers can hire e-scooters for the discounted rate of £30 a month and are given special permission to use them on roads and other public areas in the city. At the time of writing, there is no public information available on the take up of the scheme.

Some privately owned e-scooters have been seized by police for being used in Derby city centre without authorisation.

From the Council Newsroom

“The Beat the Street game is set to launch in Derby!

Beat the Street is a free, interactive challenge that encourages people of all ages to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives by turning the city into a six-week game. The game is completely contactless and players take part in their family groups or support bubbles. Players are encouraged to explore their local area by walking, cycling, running, wheeling or scooting within the game area and there are prizes for the teams who score the most points.

The outdoor game will be familiar to residents of the Sinfin ward who played the game in autumn last year and together travelled 20,462 miles.”

This time around, the whole of Derby is invited and organisers will be announcing the launch date as soon as current restrictions are lifted and in line with the government’s COVID-19 regulations.

Since it was founded, the game has been played by more than 1.3m people and has been adapted to ensure that it's safe to play during the COVID-19 pandemic with the approval of Public Health England.

Players use a free card or fob which they hover over special sensors called "Beat Boxes" which will appear on lampposts around Derby. The sensors have been adapted to make them more sensitive so that you don't need to touch them. Further measures such as temporary pavement markings to help with social distancing have also been put in place.

More than 33,000 people played the Beat the Street game safely in various UK towns in autumn 2020 with many players reporting that it had a positive impact on their mental health at an anxious time.

As well as encouraging people to get active, Beat the Street has been shown to get communities more engaged, less car-dependent and fitter which is vital in the fight against COVID-19.

Beat the Street is being delivered by Intelligent Health and is funded by the National Lottery and Sport England on behalf of Move More Derby and Derby City Council.

Recommendation

To note this report.