

Report for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

23rd September 2022

Derby City Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan

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General Rights of Way Service

The service is now running at normal levels although there are still some difficulties associated with the limitations of home working. Some services are beginning to return to the office.

The Highways Maintenance service continues to carry out the rights of way maintenance and enforcement function. The maintenance service is looking to add paths to its online complaints system on the Rights of way - maintenance and enforcement web page. This is being investigated but the public can contact the service directly by phone and email.

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. The Council is also currently processing public path orders and definitive map modification orders.

Deregulation Act

Defra has informed the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) Rights of Way Managers' Group that it's putting together an amended package of regulations designed to improve the delivery of rights of way work, following the abandonment of the 2026 cut-off date for applications for unrecorded ways. It hopes to give a further update in early 2023.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP 2)

The City and County RoWIP Joint Subgroup met earlier this month. It was recognised that the actions within the Statement of Actions of Derbyshire County Council's and Derby City Council's RoWIPs required revision because of the changes that have occurred since they were produced in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Another meeting for further discussion is planned for November 2022.

Derwent Valley Bridleway/Cycleway.

The proposed bridleway scheme will link Haslams Lane, Derby and Ford Lane, Little Eaton. All the pre-order stakeholder consultations have been completed and officers have moved to the next stage which involves seeking internal authority to make orders.

Temporary footbridge for Darley Abbey Mills

Darley Abbey Footbridge Example



Image credit: Mabey Hire

Work has begun to put a temporary footbridge in place above the existing Darley Abbey Mills Toll Bridge which is closed for safety reasons. Whilst the works take place, there will be a number of temporary traffic restrictions within Darley Village.

The temporary footbridge is expected to be in place by the 23rd September with associated access ramps being constructed the following week. The bridge will be open to the public by early October 2022.

Allestree Hall and Park

It was reported in July that the Council's sale of Allestree Hall had fallen through. Other options for the Hall's future are being explored.

It was also reported in June that a public consultation on the rewilding project in Allestree Park had taken place earlier in the year. The results of that consultation have now been made public. More than 2,000 people submitted their views and ideas. The Council's Cabinet agreed to accept the outcomes of the consultation and to adopt the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's 'Vision for Community Rewilding at Allestree Park' subject to ongoing consultation and assessment of financial issues.

Some of the key findings from the consultation are:

- Community Rewilding is supported by the majority of respondents (89%).
- 69.5% of respondents agreed supporting nature recovery in the Derby region is the most important priority.
- 51% would like to help survey and monitor the park.
- 43% would like to support reintroducing species. When asked about the proposed species to be introduced, water vole was the most popular (84%).
- There is an agreement for all the proposed habitats to be included in any rewilding, with wildflowers (89%) the most popular. Other areas suggested are more woodland and trees.
- Respondents want to see self-led nature trails (87%), wheelchair and wheeled opportunities (73%) and a visitors' centre and/or toilets (70%).
- Interest is more divided regarding outdoor activities and treeline experiences (58% not interested, 32% interested), cycling opportunities (42% not interested, 46% interested).

From the Council Newsroom (with updates from Ray Brown)

Vision for Derby

As part of the city's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to meet the challenges of the 21st century, Derby City Council has published a document called *Ambition*. It sets out issues the Council thinks the city is facing and suggests ways that they could be addressed.

The Council is inviting residents, visitors and businesses to play a part in shaping a vision for the city. All information can be found on the [City Centre Vision Hub](#).

The deadline for responses is 21st September 2022.

Transformation to begin on city centre streets



Artist's impression of improvements on St Peter's Street

Works will take place around Babington Lane, St Peter's Street and Gower Street.

Key streets in Derby are set to be transformed as part of Derby City Council's Mobility Programme, delivering better transport choices for the city.

Plans for Babington Lane, Gower Street, and St Peter's Street received an overwhelmingly positive response, with over 230 responses to the proposals being received in our recent consultation.

The proposals will make it easier and safer for cyclists, pedestrians, drivers, and public transport to travel in the area, while also reducing congestion and pollution. 15 new level access blue badge parking spaces will also be created on Gower Street, making the area more accessible for all residents.

One-way restrictions and a high volume of traffic made the area extremely busy, but pavements and roads in the area will be widened and resurfaced with high quality materials, and unnecessary obstructions and obstacles will be removed.

Making active travel, such as walking and cycling, easier was at the heart of the proposals. A wider cycle lane and paths will be introduced, as well as improved cycle

parking. The crossings at Babington Lane and Gower Street will also be improved to make crossing easier for cyclists and pedestrians.

As part of the improvements, more green bus stops will be installed, with features such as a 'living roof' and solar panels. New Green Taxi bays will also be included to help reduce pollution.

Devolution deal for the East Midlands

The Government has confirmed that a £1.14 billion devolution deal is on offer for the East Midlands, covering Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby, and Nottingham.

The deal will provide the region with a guaranteed income stream of £38 million per year over a 30-year period. Covering an area home to around 2.2 million people, an East Midlands combined authority would be one of the biggest in the country.

All four city and county council leaders in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Derby, and Nottingham have signed up to work on this devolution deal with the government.

The councils will work on the details of the deal and each council will take a report to approve a more detailed proposal for a consultation later this year, so that residents, businesses, and other organisations can have their say.

A new splash of colour for Alvaston Canal Path



A large colourful mural has been lovingly painted on the underside of the canal bridge off London Road.

The Alvaston Park Friends have been hard at work recently to add a splash of colour to the canal bridge which is located on London Road next to the Wickes store. The project began earlier this year after the former mural, thought to have been painted in around 2008 by local school children began to fade.

After the issue of a seemingly 'uninviting' part of the city was raised by a local resident, Alvaston Park Friends set to work. The area was initially cleaned, with the remnants of the old mural being removed and the general path area being tidied to provide a new group of pupils from local schools a fresh new surface to be creative with.

With such a huge task in front of them, the Alvaston Park Friends enlisted the help of lots of different local people and groups to make this project a reality.

Operators invited to run new Derby e-bike scheme

Cycle hire operators are being invited to deliver a new e-bike share scheme in Derby to provide the public with more travel choice.

Building on the lessons learnt from Derby's previous highly popular e-bike operation, the new scheme would be more targeted and secure, focusing on providing e-bike hire at key locations. The e-bike project will also build on the knowledge from Derby's successful e-scooter scheme which has been in operation since Autumn 2020.

Making e-bikes available is part of giving people in Derby more transport choice. Offering people more sustainable travel options will improve health, reduce pollution and congestion. The funding for the scheme has been secured from the Department for Transport's Transforming Cities Fund.

The Derby scheme will be aimed at students and specific communities where it will generate the most benefits locally. Enhanced safety and security features will also be included that will reduce theft.

The e-bike project is part of Nottingham and Derby's Transforming Cities programme. Working in partnership, Nottingham City and Derby City Councils secured £161 million from the Department for Transport to invest in local transport infrastructure that will improve sustainable transport, support growth, and encourage more low carbon journeys.

Six Derby Parks scoop coveted Green Flag Award

Six of Derby City Council's parks have been officially recognised as being among the best green spaces in the country again this year. Alvaston Park, Chaddesden Park, Darley Park, Markeaton Park, Sunnysdale Park Local Nature Reserve and Derby Arboretum have all won Full Green Flag Awards, the international mark of quality for being well-managed.

Derby Riverboat



River boat trips in Derby city centre for passengers began on Sunday 21 August. The Derby and Sandiacre Canal Trust Ltd will run the service initially at weekends in their specially-built boat, the Outram. A schedule is being developed to match demand from the public. It will follow a fixed route between Phoenix Green, opposite the Museum of Making, and Darley Abbey. The trip takes about 50 minutes travelling slowly upriver, turning and returning downstream to the mooring point.

Recommendation

To note this report.