



Aylesbury Community Board

Southcourt Emergency Active Travel Scheme (EATF)

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9th March 2021



Background

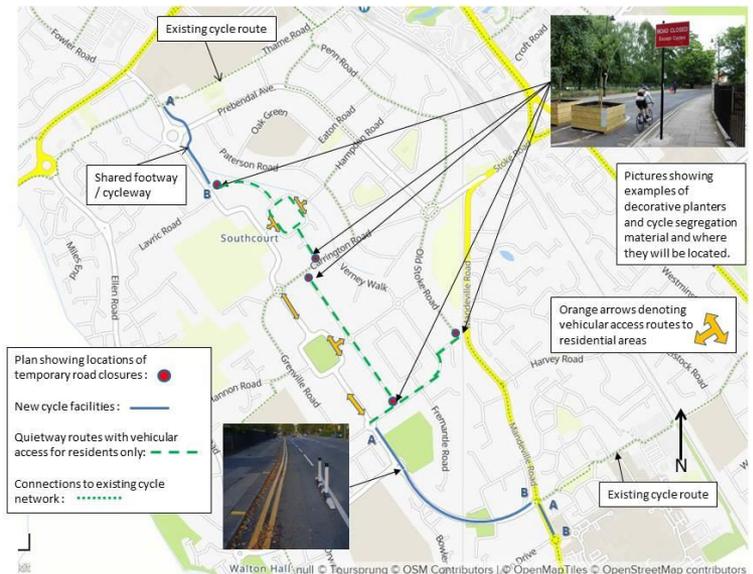
The Southcourt scheme is funded through the Emergency Active Travel Fund, which is part of the Government's investment of £250 million to support local journeys by foot and bike through the reallocation of road space.

Initially, this was to support journeys during the Covid-19 pandemic. There were significant increases in cycling in Buckinghamshire through the pandemic.

Over 100 schemes were shortlisted in Buckinghamshire, based on Department for Transport (DfT) propensity for cycling tools.

Southcourt was identified as a potential location that would also provide a solution to the severance of the existing Jetway Cycle Route, resulting from the closure of Old Stoke Road Railway crossing.

The scheme was implemented in consultation with Local Councillors and was fully implemented on 18th November 2020.



Southcourt Scheme

Objectives

- Promote walking and cycling to shops, schools and local facilities.
- Improve access between the town centre, Southcourt and Stoke Mandeville Hospital.
- Improve links to existing Gemstone Routes: Pebble Way and Pearl Way at the Churchill Avenue/ Prebendal Avenue Roundabout; and a diverted routing to overcome the existing severed Jet Way.

Details of Scheme

- Improved cycle route signage.
- Re-fresh of lining and minor highway repairs.
- Installation of segregated cycle lane on Churchill Avenue.
- Temporary point closures using decorative planters on:
 - Chalgrove Walk near the junction with Churchill Avenue
 - Chaloner Road near the junction with Carrington Road
 - Thrasher Road near the junction with Carrington Road
 - Thrasher Road near the junction with Cottesloe Road
 - Old Stoke Road near the junction with Clover Lane

Any diversion is approx. one to two minutes for drivers.



Petition

We received notification that a petition was being circulated during October. This was prior to the scheme being implemented and there is concern it therefore does not take into consideration attitudes to the scheme following implementation.

The scheme was fully implemented on 18th November, and the petition received on 27th November by the Cabinet Member for Transport.

The petition states that:

“This is a petition about moving the planters and bollards, also the ones near Stoke Mandeville School that people have signed.”

On some individual pages it states:

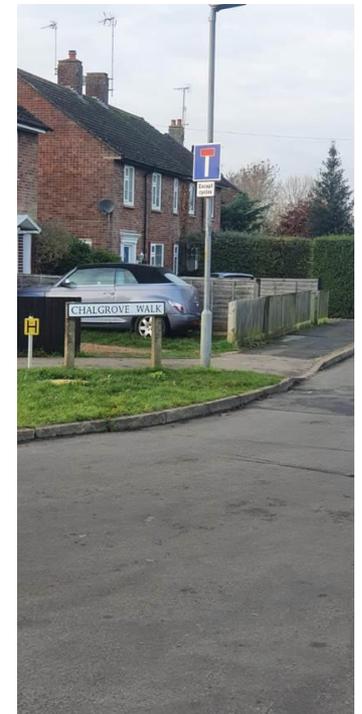
“This is a petition about the work on Chalgrove Walk.”

Area Petition Covers

The petition signatures were collected door to door and includes residents from the wider area, as well as Southcourt where the scheme is implemented.

In response to the petition, which is mainly focused on Chalgrove Walk, we considered the following revisions to the scheme:

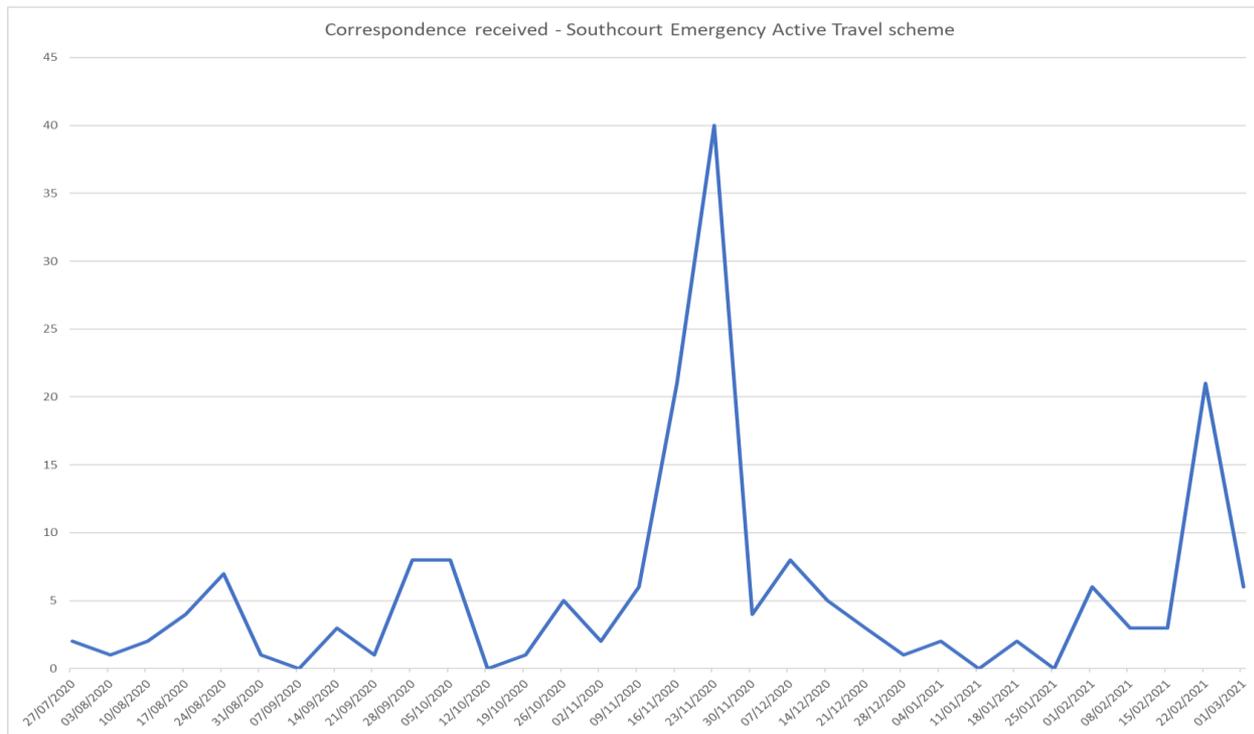
- Removing the closure
- Moving the closure to its junction with Hampden Garden
- Implementing a one way street
- Alternative local roads



Feedback Responses

As part of the trial, we set up a public on-line feedback form and also provided an email address. The graph shows correspondence over time, with peaks when installation was completed and when the extension was announced. In total we have received 176 pieces of correspondence, which is low compared to other Active Travel Schemes considered in the Council area.

As with any change, we would expect objections, especially initially after the scheme was introduced. During the duration of the scheme, support for the scheme has increased (which fits the national picture).



Main Feedback Concerns and Our Response to Address These:

Churchill Avenue - lining and narrow lanes

Concerns over confusing lining and lanes being too narrow.

- Better lining cover and addition of centre line.
- Lanes remeasured and are within standards set out in MfS.
- Additional signage installed.
- Additional Safety Audit undertaken.

Planters being moved

- Have fixed Planters to roads, especially on Chalgrove Walk and Chaloner Road.

Verges Being Driven over on Old Stoke Road and Chalgrove Walk

- Moved the road closure on Chalgrove Walk to reduce opportunity for driving on the verge .
- Installed mini concrete bollards.
- Will reinstate the verge in summer at Chalgrove Walk.

Missing Bollards near Chaloner Road

Missing following work by a utility company, not this scheme, but local residents highlighted issue.

- Replaced white firepath bollards using this budget.



Positive Feedback

Comments supporting the scheme include:

Churchill Avenue, segregated cycle lane

“The new segregated cycle lane is great and improves cyclist safety.”

Chalgrove Walk

“Cars used to scream down our road at dangerous speeds...this has all but stopped, I’ve seen a noticeable increase in cycle and pedestrian traffic.”

Old Stoke Road

“As a resident on Old Stoke Road, I am really enjoying the planters ...it’s stopped cars racing (I mean this literally) down the road. The planters look lovely and a welcome change from bollards.”

Chaloner Road

“They are a good addition to the area, please make this permanent.”

Thrasher Road

“Since the temporary road closures we have had a reduction in Disturbed sleep from loud cars driving at high speeds down the road. No commuter traffic cutting through...a reduction in taxis... On the whole a safer and welcomed improvement, may it remain in place.”

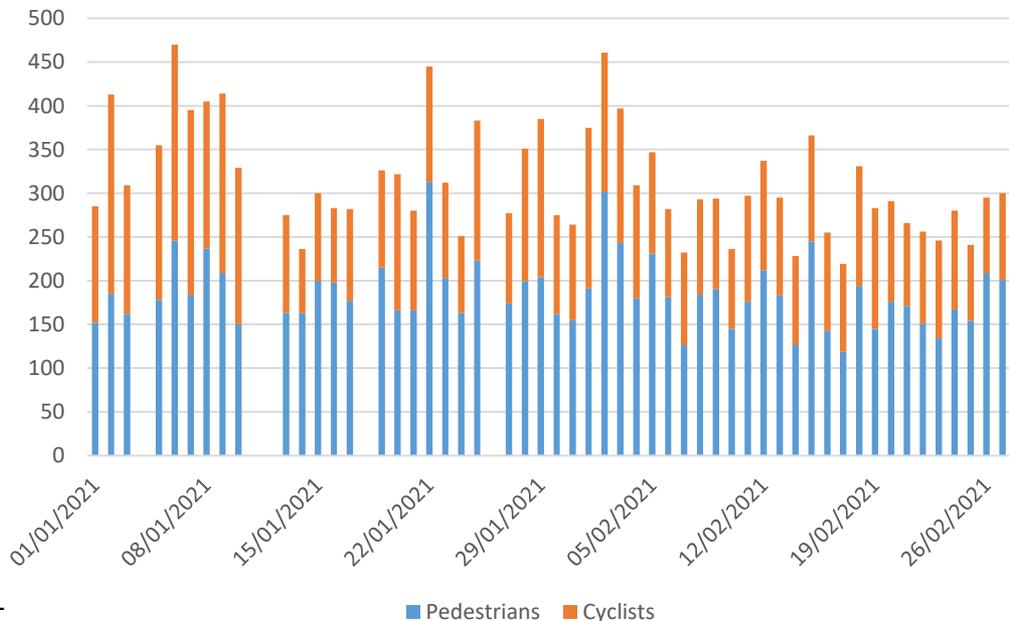
We have also received requests from other roads for the scheme to be extended to their area.

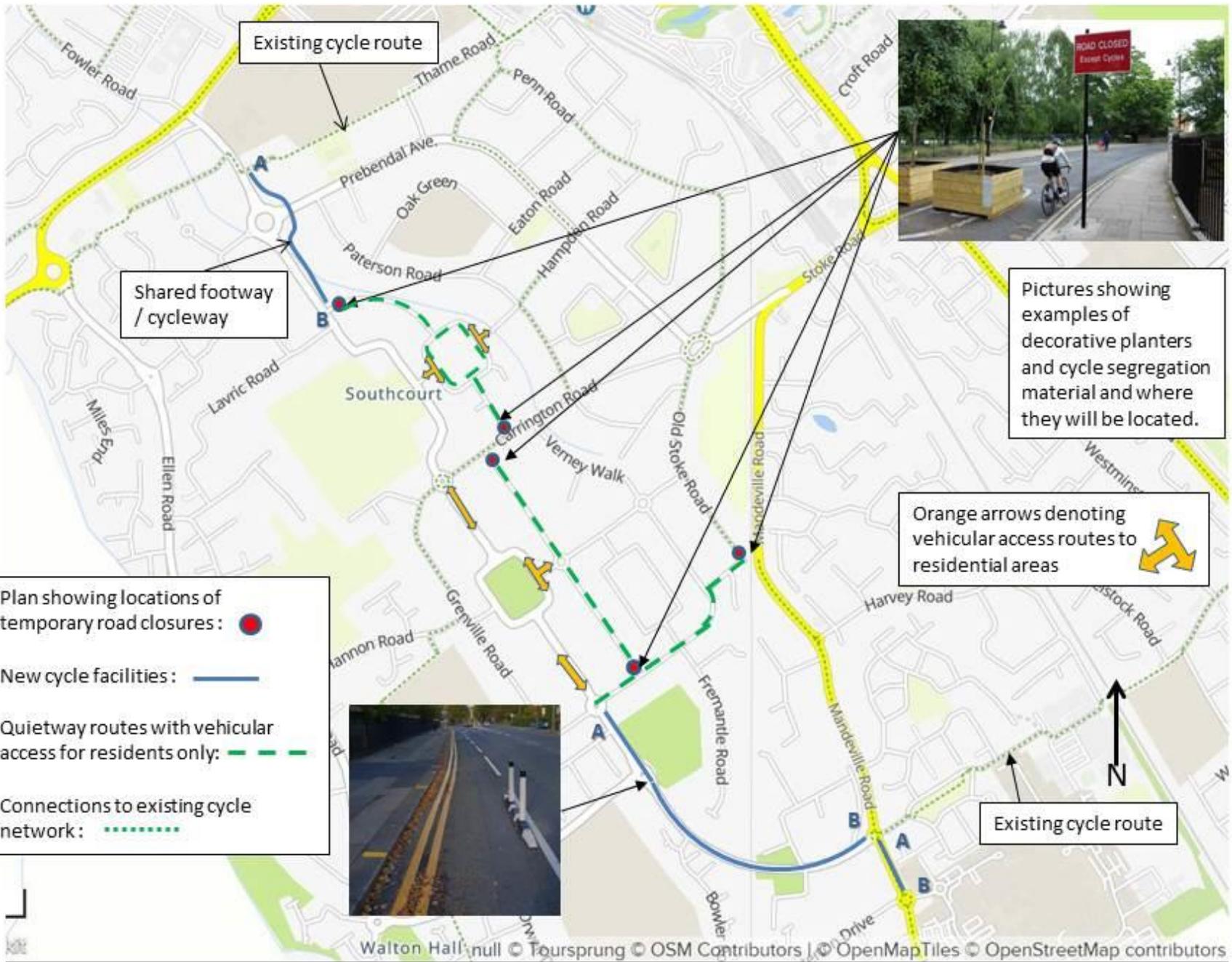


Scheme Success and Next Steps

- Results show regular usage by pedestrians and cyclists.
- On-going monitoring and tweaking of the scheme.
- We regularly review the scheme with local Buckinghamshire Councillors and Aylesbury Town Councillors.
- Due to Covid we are unable to undertake a full public consultation and we would like to do this before we consider removing the scheme, due to increased support in the area and to allow for analysis based on a post-lockdown environment.
- We will take feedback from this Community Board to our next review meeting.
- The scheme has been extended by one month to facilitate this Community Board meeting.

Total 24h pedestrian and cyclist counts, Chaloner Road
Quiet Way scheme - January & February 2021





Existing cycle route

Shared footway / cycleway

Pictures showing examples of decorative planters and cycle segregation material and where they will be located.

Orange arrows denoting vehicular access routes to residential areas

Plan showing locations of temporary road closures : ●

New cycle facilities : —

Quietway routes with vehicular access for residents only: - - -

Connections to existing cycle network : ·····



Existing cycle route



Churchill Avenue and Ellen Road junction



Thrasher Road



Chaloner Road