

This is an updated/expanded report following the NWCCB Meeting held on 27th July 2023.



Community Board North West Chilterns

REPORT TO NORTH WEST CHILTERNES COMMUNITY BOARD

Date: 31st August 2023

Title: North West Chilterns Active Travel Aspirations document (dated August 2023)

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Recommendations:

The Community Board is requested to:

1. Support the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document and adopt it as the Board's own document.
2. Formally request Buckinghamshire Council to:
 - (a) Use the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document to help develop the Buckinghamshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).
 - (b) Adopt the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document as a supplement to the Buckinghamshire LCWIP and make it readily accessible on the Council's Website.

Background:

The Community Board's Transport and Road Issues Action Group (TRIAG) has been developing the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document for approximately 2 years.

The document was previously called the NWC Cycling and Walking document, but has been renamed, to incorporate the words '*Active Travel*' to better reflect that the document embraces walking, cycling and wheeling and all sectors of the Community.

All Community Board Members were consulted on the draft NWC Active Travel Aspirations document between January and March 2023. A significant amount of feedback was received, but this was exclusively from parties outside of Buckinghamshire Council, including residents.

The feedback has helped develop the document.

NWC Community Board meeting held on 27th July 2023:

The NWC Community Board received a report on the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document on 27th July. The above two recommendations were put to the Board, but it was decided that BC Local Members needed more time to consider the recommendations and the document itself.

The Q and A session was held on 27th July and this mainly focussed on the following two issues:

- (a) The relationship between the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document and the work currently being carried out by BC Officers on the Buckinghamshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).
- (b) Priorities for inter-settlement routes.

The NWC Active Travel Aspirations document has now been updated to clarify both these issues, as follows:

Clarification with regards to (a): BC Officers are currently developing a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (called the *Buckinghamshire LCWIP*) and many local authorities are doing likewise.

LCWIPs are a new, strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements required at the local level and advocated by the Government. The Buckinghamshire LCWIP will be a **countywide, strategic** document.

While the preparation of LCWIPs is non-mandatory, the Government has stated that local authorities who have plans will be well placed to make the case for future investment.

By comparison, the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document is a **local, detailed** document, **specific to the NWC area**. It includes Active Travel aspirations set out in existing documentation e.g. Wycombe Local Plan.

The Buckinghamshire LCWIP and the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document, when viewed together, will provide a comprehensive view of Active Travel aspirations in the NWC area at both a **strategic** and **local** level. The two documents will be **complementary**.

Therefore it is important that Buckinghamshire Council adopts the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document as a supplementary document to support the Buckinghamshire LCWIP – hence Recommendation 2(b).

Clarification with regards to (b): In June 2023 and as part of BC Officers day to day work with developing the scope and content of the initial draft Buckinghamshire LCWIP, they sought BC Local Members input on the priorities for inter-settlement routes.

Given the work that the Action Group had already done on identifying inter-settlement routes, Map 1 of the Active Travel Aspirations document was sent to NWC BC Local Members to help them with this task. BC Local Members were informed that the Action Group had decided that routes 1, 2 and 3 on Map 1 were the Action Group's top 3 priorities.

BC officers are now using the feedback from by BC Local Members to help develop the first draft of the Buckinghamshire LCWIP.

It is also hoped that BC officers will use the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document to develop the Buckinghamshire LCWIP – hence Recommendation 2(a).

How the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document may be used:

It is hoped that the NWC Active Travel Aspirations document and the Buckinghamshire LCWIP will sit alongside each other - to be used collectively as an important source of local information on cycling, walking and wheeling aspirations in the NWC area.

As such, this will help inform designers and decision makers when considering Active Travel needs in the NWC area.

It is also hoped that the document will be signposted and made readily accessible on the Buckinghamshire Council's Website to enable external parties, such as developers, residents, businesses to use the information.

Funding:

The NWC Active Travel Aspirations document does not commit any Council funding and has been developed by volunteers at nil cost to Buckinghamshire Council.

It is hoped that the document will be used as and when funding opportunities arise.

ATTACHMENTS:

NWC Active Travel Aspirations document (dated August 2023).