

Public Consultation Proposals: Improve Road Safety & the Environment in the Village

Purpose of report

To seek approval for a plan for the Parish Council to undertake public consultation on B&NES' options for a traffic scheme at the Canal Bridge. The options are designed to improve road safety and the environment in the Village. This first consultation would later be followed by a B&NES consultation on the technical delivery of the scheme selected.

Summary of Background and recent developments

The consultation is proposed at the request of B&NES following a recent meeting where they presented options prepared by their consultant for a traffic scheme at the canal bridge.

These developments follow B&NES' conclusion that they could not finance the Conker Crossing in the foreseeable future. The bridge was designed to protect primary school children, their families & other residents from the dangers of crossing the canal bridge daily.

B&NES know that the Parish Council requires them to complement the traffic scheme chosen with a Liveable Neighbourhood Scheme(LNS) designed to reduce traffic noise and pollution and create an environment more appropriate to a village setting. A Scheme was already submitted in part in 2021 covering the Canal Bridge and Down Lane.

Work on a revised LNS to include the High Street is being programmed by the Parish Council but at this stage it seems likely that it will be financed later than the traffic scheme selected at the Canal Bridge. Nonetheless the LNS will be developed alongside the details of any Traffic Scheme, and both will be subject to public consultation.

Traffic Scheme Options in brief

The two options put forward are described in the **Consultants report, attached at Appendix A**. In brief they provide for:

Option 1. Give Way at the bridge. Yellow box marking across the canal bridge which drivers should only enter if their exit is clear. Drivers need to proceed with caution from both sides and give way to each other. A single lane on the bridge with footpaths on both sides.

Option 2. Traffic signals at the canal bridge to control access to a single lane with footpaths on both sides. The signals' software and vehicle sensors have the capability to ensure the controls respond intelligently to changing patterns and volumes of traffic. This option gives more protection to school children, their families and other residents crossing the bridge.

Public Consultation

The steps set out in the **Public Consultation Measures at Appendix B** and **Consultation Timetable at Appendix C** will ensure:

- a summary of the traffic scheme options is given to residents and other stakeholders, and the **intentions for the Liveable Neighbourhood Scheme summarised at Appendix D.**
- proper opportunity is given to receiving and taking into account public responses
- further consultation is undertaken by B&NES on the detail of any traffic scheme
- later consultation is undertaken by the Parish Council on proposals for a revised Living Neighbourhood Scheme

Recommendation

That the Parish Council agree to the Consultation Measures and Timetable, subject to any modifications agreed at the meeting.

END

APPENDIX A

1. B&NES' Consultant's Report on Options for a Canal Bridge Traffic Scheme

APPENDIX B

2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEASURES

At the outset

- Report to the Parish Council with information on recent developments to seek their views on the Consultation measures.
- Consultation arrangement need to be sufficient to subsume B&NES' usual options consultation processes

Inform the Community with concise papers on the PC website, comprising:

- Consultant's Report including Plans of the Schemes
- Summary of events & actions that resulted in the B&NES' Consultant's report.
- Details of the Consultation Measures & Timetable, including Staffed Displays, meetings with stakeholder and a Public Meeting
- List of the options in the consultant's report, supported by a concise summary of the main features of each one.
- Indicative programme: Living Neighbourhood Scheme, consultation & bid.

Public Events & Consultation to include:

- Newsletter invitations promoting the website information well in advance and the staffed displays & public meeting
- Information to/meetings with Bathampton School, King Edward's School, The George, Canal & River Trust
- Information Posters at Public Staffed Displays
- Clear agenda for the Public Meeting, with the PC Chair leading and a note of the questions, answers and comments made
 - Brief introduction, displays, statements and Q&A
- Consultation Response Form, made available to help later analysis
- Public report of the consultation outcomes & questions, with written responses and an overall evaluation, for consideration by the Parish Council & B&NES -Subsequent debate by the Parish Council and identification of its preferred Scheme, stating its core reasons, for submission to B&NES

END

APPENDIX C

3. TIMETABLE FOR CONSULTATION

20 October 2022

Parish Council considers the B&NES' Consultant's report & Consultation Measures

21 October

Uploading consultation information to the PC website.

Publicise consultation events to residents and other stakeholders, to encourage them to participate and respond (website, newsletters, posters, community groups).

STAFFED PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF THE OPTIONS.

2.30pm Tuesday 8 November

Bathampton School Hall

8.0 - 10.0pm Wednesday 9 November

Main Village Hall

7.0 - 9.0pm Thursday 10 November

Small Village Hall

OTHER STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

October/November

Bathampton School

King Edward's School

The George

8.0 - 10.0pm Wednesday 16 November

PUBLIC MEETING, WITH DISPLAYS. Main Village Hall.

Brief introduction, statements and Q&As.

5.0pm Monday 12 December 2022.

Planned closing date for responses

26 January 2023

Parish Council considers a report on the outcome of the consultation, as part of reaching its conclusions

Spring 2023

Conclude a public consultation on a revised Liveable Neighbourhoods Scheme to complement the Traffic Scheme

Resources

2 Parish Councillors. 2 Conker Crossing 'Trustees'.

END

APPENDIX D PROPOSED PROGRAMME:

TO REVISE & CONSULT ON THE BATHAMPTON LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHEMES (LNS) - TO COMPLEMENT THE TRAFFIC SCHEME

1. It is essential the Traffic Scheme designed to increase the safety & environment for children crossing the Canal Bridge (see Parish Council report) is complemented by a revised, prioritised and phased Living Neighbourhood Scheme which deals with the wider challenges in the village caused by high traffic volumes, speeding cars, noise & air pollution.

2. The paper to Parish Council brings together the work the community has completed on these pressing environmental challenges in several locations. In no particular order these locations include: Down Ln; A36 Warminster Rd; Bathampton La; High St; Canal Bridge

3. To secure an LNS complementary to the Traffic Scheme, which would attract future funding, it is intended to undertake further work within the community. This work would build on the enormous work already completed.. The focus would be to prepare a prioritised, phased plan to tackle these wider challenges to the Village Environment.

4. Evaluating priorities as part of envisaging more specific solutions will be very important. To do this we should seek seed corn funding so that we can supplement research we undertake ourselves - by engaging specialist knowledge and advice and experience from similar locations who have met these challenges successfully.

5. There is ample concern and interest in the Village to fulfil a programme like the following:

Late October Use this paper and summary of all the work so far to encourage volunteers who want to consider doing further work and to establish a core group

November Plan & hold two short workshop of the core group to:

- consider ways forward & ways of working together, with timescales, to produce a prioritised plan that would better secure investment
- evaluate and prioritise existing propositions

December Progress report to Parish Council

January 2023 Engage wider group of residents in a short workshop to seek their views
Take specific actions and seek particular advice in order to harden priorities

February

Report to Parish Council recommending the prioritised core of a LNS Proposal & Bid.
Further work is likely to be necessary to make the proposals as specific as possible