

A377 ACTION GROUP

NOTES FOLLOWING THE REMOTE MEETING, 3pm Wednesday 23rd November 2022, Via ZOOM

Present: Graeme Barnell, Liz Brookes-Hocking, Jim Enright, Jamie Hulland, Stuart Jarvis, Frank Letch, Margaret Squires, Michelle Woodgate & Tom Vaughan.

Plus, Lloyd Cole and Dan Tomlinson from WSP Consultants.

Apologies: None received

1. Notes from the last meeting were approved.

2. Crediton to Exeter Cycleway

Lloyd from WSP shared and ran through some slides. These referred to the options considered.

Option 1 was a direct route mostly following the A377. It presented a number of challenges including high sided banks, narrow verges, steep gradients, a requirement for bridges etc. and was estimated to cost £10 million, not including land /lease costs. It would be particularly difficult around Sweetham due to the railway and waterways.

Option 2 was the Quiet Lanes approach going through Shobrooke, Wyke, Sweetham and Langford. This was using existing lanes and was estimated at £320,000, not including land costs but these would be minimal.

For both options the stretch between Langford and Exeter required further consideration.

Jamie Hulland explained that the Govt. has some funding for active travel but was very much restricting projects to urban schemes and Sustrans are unable to help. Rural schemes are not presently a Govt. funded priority.

The Local Transport Plan has a budget limited to £1M - £2M pa with a lot of demand. At present schemes around the Teign Estuary and Tarka are

being prioritised. Jamie could not foresee Option 1 being deliverable for some 10-20 years, whereas Option 2 would be faster.

Discussions centred around the usefulness of Option 2 as a realistic route for cyclists given the amount of traffic and size of vehicles using the lanes.

Jamie accepted that serious issues remain and that it would probably be necessary to statutorily restrict traffic using the lanes to make them more suitable.

Jamie explained that he needs to identify the funding for further work by the Consultants. He expects to hear about this shortly.

ACTION POINTS

1. It was agreed that, given the availability of funding, Jamie will have more detailed discussions with WSP and give consideration to the feasibility of working with Option 1 on a section-by-section approach, and with Option 2 on a managed approach.
2. Revised plans will be presented by the Consultants when more information and more answers to expressed concerns are available.
3. Jamie will liaise with Graeme to set up a further meeting in the New Year at which members of the A377 Group and other key stakeholders will have the opportunity to critique the revised WSP proposals in more detail
4. Open engagement events will be set up with communities along or adjacent to the route of the cycleway once the above process is complete.

3. A377 SPEED LIMITS, SCARF & HATOC

Graeme outlined the problem as being the general speed of traffic, the volume of traffic and particular difficulty around Smallbrook.

Tom explained that both HATOC and SCARF were now giving active consideration to the impact of road traffic on the quality of life and wellbeing of those living alongside roads like the A377 including enforced isolation of vulnerable and older people, and the perverse use of private cars to avoid often serious problems in safely accessing public

transport, including badly located bus stops and an absence of pavements.

ACTION: Tom will feed back the outcome of these discussions to Frank and Margaret as local County Councillors early in the New Year.

4. **Road Crossing A377 Tytheing Estate to Sand Down Lane.**

It is understood by DCC that residents need to cross the A377 to catch busses, walk to School, village centre etc.

However, the development of the old school was not in itself sufficient to justify an Island. If there was further development then a scheme could be considered.

Tom and Michelle agreed that a safe crossing scheme at this point on the A377 is important and agreed to establish whether officer time and money will be made available to devise such a scheme. This will ensure that we are ready attract and secure funding when this becomes available.

5. A follow-up meeting of the group will be arranged for early Spring.