

Highways Act 1980 S25

Burgess Hill/Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common: Proposed Dedication of Public Bridleway on existing Public Footpath 3736 Inspecting Officer's Report for Consultation

Background - [See Location Plan 0001](#) (PDF, 733KB)

The Burgess Hill Place and Connectivity Programme aims to create safe, direct and attractive walking and cycling routes linking communities, businesses and destinations within the Burgess Hill area. The Green Circle improvement scheme is included in the programme of work and seeks to improve a 4.3km section between Keymer Road and Gatehouse Lane to facilitate better year-round use by walkers, cyclists and equestrian users.

The majority of the Green Circle route has Bridleway status which permits the use of bicycles as well as horse riders and walkers, however an off-road link between Bridleway 87HU and Bridleway 3734 does not currently exist. The only option available for cyclists and horse riders wishing to join the route at this location would be to travel along Malthouse lane to gain access. For those travelling from the north and east this would involve crossing the very busy and high speed A273. MSDC are currently in discussions with WSCC Highways to consider widening the central refuge on A273 and installing a new parallel crossing facility suitable for all users providing a safe crossing for users from Bridleway 87_1Hu on the eastern side.

The proposal by MSDC involves the provision of an additional connection onto the Green Circle, creating a direct off-road link by changing the status of existing Footpath 3736 to Bridleway. The off-road bridleway link as shown **A-B** on plan 0002 is to be created by formal agreement under the provisions of S25 of the Highways Act 1980 between the County Council and the landowner.

The Proposed Route - [plan 0002](#) (PDF, 488KB)

It is proposed that the existing fence and gate be removed at entrance point **A** to allow the area to be widened for all users, increasing visibility. Two bollards are proposed at the entrance to restrict unwanted access. From **A** to **B** a new 3m wide stone dust surface path is proposed linking onto existing Bridleway 3734 which is also undergoing improvement and widening as part of the programme of works.

The Green Circle is a well-used part of the path network used by both nearby residents, horse riders and walkers wishing to access the countryside to the west. It is considered that the proposed new path will provide a safer and useful link for cyclists and horse riders wishing to join the Green Circle route from the A273 and Burgess Hill Town Centre via existing Bridleway 87_1Hu on the eastern side.

Ownership

MSDC has agreed to enter into a bridleway creation agreement with the County Council.

West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan (RoWMP), Human Rights Act 1998, Equality Act 2010 and Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

In considering this proposal the County Council's responsibilities under the provisions of the above have been taken into account. It is considered to be in accordance with all relevant provisions of the RoWMP and meets some of the key aims such as the improvement of path links and the creation of a choice of routes.

Consultations

Mid Sussex District Council has confirmed its support for the proposal. On 15th February 2021 consultation documents were sent by the District Council acting on behalf of West Sussex County Council to the relevant user groups, the Parish Council, the Sussex Police Crime Prevention Design Advisor, WSCC members' Bulletin and other interested parties with the request that any comments be submitted by 12th March 2021. Careful consideration will be given to all responses received.

Costs and Works

The Burgess Hill Place and Connectivity Programme and the proposed new 3m wide stone dust path with associated improvement works at the entrance off A273, are funded jointly between MSDC and WSCC utilising Central government (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) grant funding through the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Growth Fund and developer contributions.

General Conclusion:

The proposed route will provide a useful addition to the path network that will avoid a difficult length of road for cyclists and horse riders. The co-operation of the landowner and the support of the parish council is very much appreciated, and the new path will be welcomed by local cyclists and horse riders.

Nathan Spilsted
Strategic Development Project Manager
Planning and Economy

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