

Equality Impact Report: A24 Findon Cycle Scheme

Implementation date 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023
EIR completed by: Thomas Collins

1. Decide whether this report is needed and, if so, describe how you have assessed the impact of the proposal

- 1.1 This proposed improvement to walking and cycling facilities along the A24 is included in the WSCC Cycling and Walking Strategy as a priority and forms part of the West Sussex Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The proposed scheme aims to connect the South Downs National Park gateway of Findon Village with Findon Valley and its local businesses, whilst enabling onward connection to Worthing and its transport hubs, as well as the Sussex Coast via the existing cycle network. The scheme would link communities with important local amenities, as well as nationally significant tourist attractions and leisure facilities. It would be used by residents and visitors from outside the area.
- 1.2 Those affected by the proposal include residents within the Cissbury and Angmering & Findon electoral divisions, pedestrians, cyclists, commuters, and visitors to the area.
- 1.3 In assessing the impact of this proposal, an initial engagement exercise was carried out in the spring of 2021. A total of 83% of respondents supported or strongly supported the proposal for a shared cycleway/footway.
- 1.4 A further public consultation exercise, that ran from 19 July to 15 August 2021, sought views on a shared cycleway/footway on the eastern side of the A24 between Findon Village and Findon Valley.
- 1.5 The public engagement exercise was supported by a consultation webpage hosted on West Sussex County Council's 'Engagement HQ' platform and included information about the proposals, a questionnaire and contact details to convey and/or obtain additional information as well as scheme drawings.
- 1.6 Posters and postcards were produced to promote the consultation. All businesses along the route received a hard copy of the poster and additional posters were displayed in prominent locations along the route. Postcards were delivered to 1500 homes and businesses and the local schools sent one home with each child.
- 1.7 Advance notice e-mails were sent to local schools and colleges one month prior to the start of the consultation. These emails contained scheme information along with a request for response. Follow up emails were also sent with a link to the consultation web page once this was launched.
- 1.8 Two political stakeholder meetings were held in early July 2021 to promote awareness and encourage engagement and direct responses via

the consultation web page. These were attended by representatives from local councils including Angmering & Findon, Cissbury, Worthing & Adur (Offington Ward), Arun District, Findon Parish.

- 1.9 A Facebook and Instagram campaign took place during the consultation period, using WSCC's existing channels and a digital marketing company.

2. Describe any negative impact for customers or residents

- 2.1 Prior to and at a stakeholder engagement meeting on 16 November 2021, the County Councillor for the Cissbury electoral division conveyed concerns from their constituents regarding the shared-use nature of the proposal.
- 2.2 Concerns related to elderly constituents fearful of conflict with cyclists. The proposal for a shared-use provision throughout the length of the route was changed to an on-road provision within the Cissbury electoral division.

3. Describe any positive effects that may offset any negative impact

- 3.1 The benefits of active travel on the environment and physical and mental health are well documented, a view supported by MP Andrew Griffith.
- 3.2 Results from the consultation exercise indicated that 32% of respondents would feel encouraged to walk or cycle more with the introduction of the proposed shared-use facility.
- 3.3 The proposal has the economic benefits of connecting the South Downs National Park gateway of Findon Village with Findon Valley and its local businesses, whilst enabling onward connection to Worthing and its transport hubs as well as the Sussex Coast via the existing cycle network.

4. Describe whether and how the proposal helps to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation

- 4.1 The proposal is included in the WSCC Cycling and Walking Strategy as a priority and forms part of the West Sussex Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).
- 4.2 Within the Angmering & Findon electoral division, the proposal improves upon an existing narrow and uneven provision by providing a 3m wide high-quality surface that will provide less barriers to users with physical and mobility impairments.
- 4.3 Changes to the proposal, outlined in sections 2 and 7, directly address discrimination, harassment and victimisation concerns raised by the County Councillor for the Cissbury electoral division.

5. Describe whether and how the proposal helps to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

- 5.1 The increased width of the proposal within the Angmering & Findon electoral division will promote a sense of space and increased safety for all users and particularly for the younger and elderly user.
- 5.2 Users with a disability characteristic will appreciate the additional space and consistent surface.
- 5.3 Compliance with Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 is a stipulation of the Active Travel Fund award.
- 5.4 LTN 1/20 was developed with a range of stakeholders and states, within paragraph 1.6.1 "... *requires infrastructure and routes which are accessible to all regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or disability and does not create hazards for vulnerable pedestrians.*".

6. Describe whether and how the proposal helps to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

- 6.1 The success of a shared-use provision relies upon the respect and co-operation of all users. A shared space encourages good relationships between those with protected characteristics and those who do not.

7. What changes were made to the proposal as a result? If none, explain why

- 7.1 The County Councillor for the Cissbury electoral division conveyed concerns from her constituents regarding the shared-use nature of the proposal.
- 7.2 Concerns related to elderly constituents fearful of conflict with cyclists. The proposal for a shared-use provision throughout the length of the route was changed to an on-road provision within the Cissbury electoral division.

8. Explain how the impact will be monitored to make sure it continues to meet the equality duty owed to customers and say who will be responsible for this.

- 8.1 The proposal has followed the approved Highways and Transport Gateway Review process. Gateways 5 & 6 review and record post implementation performance. The Project Engineer for the scheme is responsible for undertaking the Gateway reviews and reports to the Project Manager.

- 8.2 The Road Safety Audit process, undertaken for all highway projects, identifies potential road safety issues or problems that may affect all road users of the highway and recommends measures to eliminate or mitigate the problems.
- 8.3 All schemes funded via the ATF are expected to provide monitoring data to the DfT. All schemes are required to undertake formal evaluation in accordance with the guidance provided by DfT.

Signed by: Andy Ekinsmyth

Date: 21/02/2022

Your position: Head of Transport and Network Operations