

Emergency active travel fund – tranche 2 bid: Rutland County Council's consultation plan (updated June 2021)

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1 ABOUT THE CONSULTATION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In August 2020, Rutland County Council submitted a bid to the Department for Transport under their Emergency Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 grant.

The aim of the grant is to provide segregated infrastructure that benefits both pedestrians and cyclists and supports social distancing and the provision of infrastructure to facilitate alternative modes of travel whilst use of public transport is restricted.

RCC were successful in their bid and have been allocated £36, 000 to put towards the development of cycleway and footway provisions within the county.

Within our submission, 5 potential routes were identified, these are outlined in our bid document, available on the Transport Strategy section of [our website](#).

1.2 WHAT IS BEING CONSULTED ON?

1.2.1 SCHEME SPECIFIC CONSULTATION

In light of the level of grant funding awarded our potential routes were reviewed, to identify if they could be delivered within the funding available. The review identified that only one scheme was viable:

- Scheme 2 - Burley Road, Oakham (from junction with Ashwell Road to the A606 Burley Park Way roundabout).

Consultation will therefore take place regarding the proposal to develop a joint cycleway footway provision on Burley Road, Oakham, (as outlined in our bid documents).

The consultation will be seek feedback and opinions relating to the proposed route, for example - level of support and potential future usage.

Example survey questions were produced by the DfT and have been reviewed prior to the preparation of the final survey questions.

1.2.2 PUBLIC OPINION POLL

To identify the general views surrounding the creation of new walking and cycling infrastructure, members of the Rutland community will also be asked to answer a series of questions relating to walking and cycling provisions generally within the county. This will include questions surrounding the implications of creating new cycleway and footway provisions – such as the use of grass verges, the reallocation of highway and/ or parking provisions

1.2.3 FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

Should the Burley Road proposal be developed, a follow up post implementation survey will also be carried out to gather views of the new infrastructure.

2 WHO ARE WE CONSULTING?

2.1 INITIAL ENGAGEMENT

Prior to submitting a bid under the EATF tranche 2, initial discussions took place with internal teams at the Council to raise awareness, highlight any key issues and discuss resolutions for any constraints. The following teams were included within these discussions:

- Parking
- Transport operations
- Highways
- Environmental services (in relation to verges, trees and bin collections)
- Health
- Leisure and culture
- Economic development

In addition, prior to public consultation, engagement will take place with Oakham Town Council and ward members for the area.

2.2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The following stakeholders will be consulted with during the public consultation:

- Residents (all Rutland residents, not just those that may be directly impacted)
- bus operators
- businesses that may be impacted by the proposals
- emergency services
- rail operators
- Local MP (to include a RAG rating to indicate level of support)
- All Rutland Ward Members
- All Rutland Parishes
- Community representation groups
- Our LEP and sub national transport body - Midlands Connect
- Royal Mail
- Visitors
- Tourism representatives
- Walking and cycling interest groups
- Accessibility groups

- Existing route users (including pedestrians, cyclists, bus operators, taxi and freight providers)
- any other individuals or groups considered appropriate (e.g. environmental organisations)
- Education establishments

2.3 STATUTORY CONSULTATION

In the event that the proposal is approved for construction, if an environmental or habitat assessment is required, consultation will take place with all required statutory consultees.

3 WHEN WILL CONSULTATION TAKE PLACE

Consultation will start on Monday 14th June and will last for 4 weeks.

This timescale is felt to be commensurate with the scope and scale of the proposed projects.

Should the Burley Road scheme move forward to construction, a follow up survey will also take place post implementation.

4 KEY MESSAGES AND MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

We are aware that the consultation may receive a lot of interest and simultaneously lead to a number of questions. To help address this, within the supporting information for the consultation we will provide a summary or FAQ highlighting key points including:

- Why we are considering building new walking and cycling infrastructure (including aims and benefits).
- how routes in the bid were identified
- how any routes not progressed will be dealt with
- plans for minimising conflict between different highway users.
- future plans for walking and cycling investment (including our forthcoming LCWIP - Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and how routes for this may be proposed) and how feedback will be sought on these.
- the role that feedback will have.

5 RAISING AWARENESS OF THE CONSULTATION

5.1 INTERNAL AWARENESS

To ensure awareness of the consultation amongst our staff, we will:

- brief our customer services team regarding the consultation,
- publish information in our internal newsletter which goes to staff, ward members and parishes.
- Provide updates to the Senior Management Team when required.

5.2 RAISING STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS

5.2.1 PRESS RELEASE

Press releases will be provided to ensure awareness of the consultation. It is anticipated that 3 press releases will be made; prior to consultation, as a reminder near the closing date and as a follow up to advise of the outcome. The press release will provide information on the consultation timeframe and response methods.

5.2.2 WEBSITE

The consultation will be advertised on our website – alerting residents to the consultation timeframe and means of responding.

5.2.3 SOCIAL MEDIA

The consultation will be promoted via social media sources such as Facebook and Twitter. It is envisaged that updates will be posted at the launch of the consultation and then reminders posted throughout the duration of the consultation.

5.2.4 INITIAL STAKEHOLDER MAIL OUT

Emails will be used to notify stakeholders (excluding residents and visitors) regarding the launch of the consultation.

The initial email will provide:

- an overview of the proposals,
- how the proposals were identified,
- details of the consultation time frame,
- details of where the proposals can be viewed,
- information regarding response methods, and
- details of how future cycle ways and footways will be considered – including reference to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

A follow up reminder email will also be sent.

5.2.5 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Upon notifying stakeholders of the consultation, we will provide the opportunity for stakeholder groups to request a specific meeting or presentation on the consultation.

6 VIEWING THE PROPOSALS AND RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

6.1 VIEWING THE PROPOSALS

Proposals will be available to view online on the Council website: www.rutland.gov.uk/burleyroad

Subject to Covid 19 restrictions, a hard copy of the proposals will be available to view at Rutland libraries.

A copy of proposals can also be posted upon request.

6.2 CONSULTATION RESPONSE METHODS

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, the preferred response method will be for feedback to be provided electronically via a survey on our customer engagement platform.

Where this is not possible, the following response methods may be used:

- Responses to the tstrategy@rutland.gov.uk email address.
- telephone feedback will be accepted where consultees are unable to respond by other means, and
- As a last resort we will also provide paper survey response forms upon request (to limit associated risk of handling).

We will also provide copies of the survey in alternative formats and languages upon request.

6.3 HOW WILL CONSULTATION RESPONSES BE DEALT WITH?

All consultation responses will be collated in our engagement platform, from which a summary report will be produced – identifying the key findings and any associated implications.

Due to the administrative resource required, individual acknowledgments will not be provided, however a consultation report containing an anonymised summary of findings, will be published on our website for residents and stakeholders to view.

A data protection statement and privacy notice will be provided alongside consultation materials, identifying how survey responses and data will be handled.