

## **Bury Road Cycle / footpath update**

The Clerk had a meeting with Nick Farthing of Sustrans on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 to discuss the proposals of installing a cycle / footpath along Bury Road from Marchwood to Eling.

The meeting was very productive and informative and gave the Clerk a clearer understanding of what was needed and how to go about it. During the meeting Nick explained the process and that we needed to talk to the other parties that would be needed to bring this project to fruition. However, Nick did put together the below shopping list to get the project started.

I promised to outline a “shopping list” of what might be required next and I write below ideas for your information.

In essence, any route requires

- Land
- Design/Feasibility
- Approval
- Funding/Costs
- Construction and delivery

On first look, it seems a daunting task. However, you have managed to get the most important matter sorted, the land!

So, to get things underway, we will now need to sort out the following issues.

### **LAND**

- Agree with landowners the form of legal entity – licence to walk and cycle (easiest) along the route– (subject to Planning Approval)
- Lease with agreement to allow development (subject to Planning Approval)
- Purchase the land, with agreement to allow the development (subject to Planning Approval)
- If there is to be any doubt about getting Planning, it is sometimes best to get a “subject to planning” legal agreement, but I don’t think this will be an issue here

### **DESIGN/FEASIBILITY**

- Topographical survey of the proposed route – taking into account the levels, flora and fauna
- Ecology surveys, looking into flora/fauna/bats/voles/dormice/badgers/great crested newts/other
- From the above, determine the construction methodology – a range of options available

## APPROVAL

- Scheme is likely to require a Planning Application and the Ecology surveys referred to above will help in this process
- Full design will be part of the application

## FUNDING/COSTS

Always a problem! Sources could include:

- Ecology Studies will be in the region of £30-50,000
- Feasibility and Design circa £25,000
- Tender, Planning Application and Project Management – 11% of Construction costs
- Construction costs – circa £500,000
- Section 106 monies
- Local Sustainable Transport Fund allocations
- National Park funding allocations
- Landfill tax
- Gravel Extraction levies
- A deal with BMT as I discussed with you in respect of the Winchester project
- Local Transport Funds from NFDC/HCC
- Sustrans allocations from Department for Transport/others
- Links to Communities/Cycle Safety funds

## CONSTRUCTION & DELIVERY

- This will depend on Planning Approval and any Ecology “windows” we may have to adhere to, due to Badgers/Bats/Dormice, etc, being in evidence
- The scheme is a pure “engineering” solution that Sustrans has been involved in across the UK and should be straightforward in construction
- Construction will be carried out using machinery and hard work, with sympathetic works through the wooded areas and around the Cottage enroute
- The Ecology studies and Planning process will take in the region of 12-18 months, to allow for seasonal investigations and the Planning application determination
- The construction project will probably take about 4-6 months from start to finish, taking into account connections at either end, into the road network.

It was therefore decided to hold a further meeting with Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council. This was held on 24<sup>th</sup> April. At this meeting all of the parties showed support for the project and it was explained that HCC were trying to secure the land through the S106 agreement related to the gravel pits rather than have to enter into a separate agreement. This is due to go before the Regulatory Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> July.

There was discussion as to who would be responsible for the maintenance of the path once it was built and the Clerk made it clear that MPC could not afford this. It is

hoped that HCC Open Space would take it on, as they look after bridleways and Rights of Ways.

The Clerk had an email from a Senior Transport Planner on 14<sup>th</sup> August saying 'we are currently working on the S106 agreement for the cycle path. The Land Owner and developer have agreed to provide the land and the construction of the cycle path, we are trying to agree the appropriate mechanism to enable the path to be delivered'.

The Clerk contacted them again on the 16<sup>th</sup> October to ask for an update but also to say that there may be some grant funding available from the National Park as explained by Cllr Harrison. The Clerk got a reply the following day saying that HCC had approached the National Park with the same question and that some funding may be available.

Some planning work has been already been carried out such as gaining maps showing all of the utilities over the land.