

# West Berkshire District Council Individual Executive Member Decision Record Sheet



<b>Forward Plan Reference</b>	<b>Service Grouping</b>
ID3437	Environment

<b>Title:</b>	A4 Cycle Improvements - Thatcham
<b>Recommendation by Officer:</b>	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposals advertised in the recent consultation are implemented, albeit with a number of minor amendments to address comments made by respondents;</li> <li>2. Traffic Regulation Orders required as part of the proposals are advertised in a separate statutory consultation, with any objections received being referred to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport in a further Individual Decision.</li> </ol>
<b>Purpose of Recommendation:</b>	To summarise the responses received to the consultation on proposed improvements to cycle facilities along the A4 through Thatcham (proposed National Cycle Network Route 422) and make a recommendation as to how to proceed with the project.
<b>Decision Taken:</b>	<i>as per the officer's recommendation</i>
<b>Reason for Decision Taken:</b>	<i>as set out in the report</i>
<b>Options Considered:</b>	<p>Alternative east-west routes were considered but none were suitable as they lacked directness, coherence and did not connect to the shopping area or other local destinations. Further grades of separation were looked at, including a bi-directional fully segregated track but the frequency of driveways crossing the footway (both sides) made this option inadvisable as well as unaffordable within the budget.</p> <p><u>Kennet &amp; Avon Canal Towpath:</u></p> <p>The proposed NCN422 is a direct commuter route that will provide an express route for cyclists travelling up to 15mph. To provide and maintain an equivalent facility on the towpath would not be feasible. The canal lies to the south of Thatcham and does not connect many houses or destinations so would be of limited usefulness neither for utility cycling nor as a direct commuter route. Separately the Canal &amp; River Trust (CRT) have received funds to upgrade the towpath east of Newbury, from Bull's Lock to Victoria Park. This will be a welcome upgrade for recreational cycling but does not solve the problem of cyclists and pedestrians living and working close to the A4 needing safe and direct routes to and from</p>

	<p>work.</p> <p><u>Lower Way:</u></p> <p>There is already a cycle route on Lower Way that serves the south of Thatcham. However for residents who live elsewhere, especially to the north, this route is not on the desire line and would take most cyclists away from places of employment and local destinations within the town centre.</p> <p><u>Tull Way</u></p> <p>There is a quality segregated cyclepath on the orbital road but this skirts Thatcham to the north and, like Lower Way, does not link the majority of residents with places of employment or retail areas.</p> <p><u>Bath Road (Other options)</u></p> <p>A fully segregated path on the south side of the A4 was also considered. However due to limited space on and off the carriageway, unless large areas of land were purchased then creation of such a track would not be possible. Furthermore the budget is insufficient to fund extensive kerb realignment, new drainage and construction of an off-road route for the entire distance. Therefore if we attempted such a track with space / budget constraints it would inevitably be disjointed where existing pinch points and/or land issues couldn't be resolved, creating something that would not be used. Discussions with cyclists and local cycling groups indicated a preference for on-carriageway solutions.</p>
<p><b>Those Consulted and a Summary of Comments Received:</b></p>	<p><b>Members:</b></p> <p><b>Leader of Council:</b> The Leader of the Council Councillor Graham Jones was generally supportive but did not comment on the specifics of the scheme report</p> <p><b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:</b> Councillor Emma Webster did not comment</p> <p><b>Ward Members:</b> Councillor Richard Crumly (Thatcham Central Ward) has no objections to the scheme.</p> <p>Councillor Marigold Jacques (Thatcham Central Ward) supports the proposals.</p> <p>Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter (Thatcham West Ward) supports the proposals and gave the following feedback:</p>

	<p>Councillor Rob Denton-Powell (Thatcham South &amp; Crookham Ward) supports the proposals.</p> <p>Councillor Jason Collis (Thatcham South &amp; Crookham Ward) did not comment.</p> <p>Councillor Sheila Ellison (Thatcham North Ward) did not comment.</p> <p>Councillor Lee Dillon (Thatcham North Ward) did not comment.</p> <p><b>Opposition Spokesperson:</b> Councillor Alan Macro gave the following feedback:</p> <p><i>"I am disappointed that a segregated cycle lane cannot be provided, but understand the reasons.</i></p> <p><i>One of the problems with "white paint" cycle lanes is that cars park in them. I am therefore disappointed that double yellow lines cannot be used throughout, though again I understand the reason. The times for the single yellow line restrictions must cover the entire commuting period. This means starting the restriction at 7am and finishing it at 7:30 or 8pm. This will probably not satisfy the residents who complained about the double yellow lines restriction."</i></p> <p><b>Local Stakeholders:</b> Consulted in April / May 2018 via leaflet drop and online consultation. See Appendix C for a summary of the responses.</p>
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*"I'm very supportive of the NCN422 scheme for several reasons: it will encourage more travel by cycle, with the associated benefits of improved health and wellbeing for cyclists. It will improve safety for cyclists (both the more- and the less-confident). It will also reduce traffic congestion and pollution by displacing some travel from car to bicycle.*

*While most A4 residents in W Thatcham have either adequate parking space for 2 vehicles in their property or on several wide stretches of tarmac (N side), I'm aware there are several properties on both sides who do not have this facility. It is important that a good solution is found for these residents – the parking bays you highlighted will be ideal where this is possible, and I very much hope that you'll be able to find alternatives where not.*

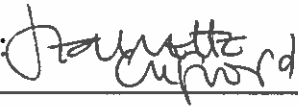


*I do think the cycle lane needs to be enforced with at least double yellow lines if the ideal white lined solution is not going to be possible. Otherwise the change in behaviour we need to see from a few vehicle owners who currently park on the cycle lane will not take place."*

Councillor Jeff Brookes (Thatcham West ward) would like a new crossing facility between Henwick Lane and Tull Way but did not comment on the recommendations of this report.

	<b>Officers Consulted:</b>	Mark Edwards, Jon Winstanley, Glyn Davis.
	<b>Trade Union:</b>	Not sought.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	As per report	
<b>Exempt Information:</b>	n/a	
<b>Declarations of Interest:</b>	None	

I confirm that I have been fully advised and have taken account of all the relevant facts in making this decision.

Is the Decision subject to Call In		Date Decision Made	Date Decision will be Implemented (5 clear days)
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>	18 June 2018	25 June 2018

<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Signed: 	Print Name: Councillor Jeanette Clifford
<b>Director or representative:</b>	Signed: 	Print Name: NEIL STACEY
<b>Witnessed by:</b>	 on behalf of Head of Strategic Support	Print Name: Moira Fraser
<b>Date:</b>	18 June 2018	

