

Report for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

6 December 2024

Derby City Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan Update

Ray Brown, Senior Planning Officer, Planning Division, Derby City Council

Rights of Way Service Update

The Rights of Way Service sits within the Planning Division, which in turn sits within the City Growth and Vibrancy department.

The Highways Maintenance service continues to carry out the rights of way maintenance and enforcement function. The Highways Maintenance Service sits within the Sustainability department.

All the functions sit within the Communities and Place strategic department.

Finances

All rights of way functions, except for maintenance, are funded using the Planning division budget. There is no specific fixed sum allocated for rights of way work. The Planning division has been asked to find savings from its budget in line with a general request across the Council to find savings. More details can be found in the Council's Newsroom section.

Definitive map and path orders

As stated in previous reports, work continues to be carried out towards the production of the legal event modification orders that are required to bring the definitive map areas covering Derby, up to date.

Status of definitive map modification order applications and public path order applications for 2024

Applications for definitive map modification orders received.

0

Applications for definitive map modification orders determined.

0

Applications for definitive map modification orders undetermined

6 (2 received in Sinfin Moor Lane area in 2022, 4 received in Allestree Hall/Park area in 2023)

Applications for public path orders received.

0

Applications for public path orders to be determined.

2 - Friar Gate Goods Yard & Sinfin Moor Lane area. To be determined during year 24/25.

ROWIP subgroup

RB/GM met with a small advisory team from the RoWIP subgroup after DADLAF's meeting of 13 September. The group discussed and agreed the draft wording of the questions to be asked in the proposed consultation. It was agreed that the wording of the questions should be kept as similar as possible to the wording of the previous survey, to allow data collected in the past to be compared more easily with any new data. It was also agreed that officers would seek the necessary internal permissions to finalise the wording of the questions with the aim of carrying out their consultation exercises from the first quarter of 2025.

Major Path Schemes

Derwent Valley Bridleway

The Derwent Valley Bridleway scheme is dependent on the government's approval of National Highways' A38 Derby Junctions scheme. The Stop the A38 Expansion Group has challenged the road scheme's Development Consent Order. The latest High Court challenge was dismissed in a decision published on 27th August 2024, nevertheless, the campaign group has reportedly promised to appeal the decision and challenge the scheme on other grounds. The government has not yet announced whether the A38 road junctions' scheme is to go ahead.

At the last September meeting, members backed the idea that the two highway authorities should explore alternative funding sources for the proposed bridleway, including the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA). This effort is ongoing.

Other updates

Allestree Hall

At the time of writing, the Hall was still up for sale. Information about the Park is in Council news below.

Defra

The timescales for the implementation of the rights of way provisions set out in the Deregulation Act 2015, are under review. These include:

- landowners, lessees or occupiers 'right to apply' for public path orders (PPOs) under the Highways Act 1980. PPOs include path diversion, extinguishment and creation orders
- the right for local highway authorities and the Secretary of State to fully recover their costs from the applicant for applications for public path orders
- an amended process for the determination of applications for definitive map modification orders (DMMOs)
- clarification on the types of routes that will be exempt from the revised 2031 'cut off' date for DMMO applications based on historical evidence

There has been no news at the time of writing about the proposed Defra/Natural England support officer for Local Access Forums.

From the Council's Newsroom (with updates from Ray Brown)

Mid-year reckoning for the Council's budget



All councils, not just Derby, are facing financial challenges

Halfway through the financial year, Derby City Council continues to make every effort to balance its budget by the end of the year.

Continued work to mitigate rising demand and costs means that the predicted revenue overspend for the end of March is currently £8.9 million, a reduction on the figure of £9.6 million at the end of Quarter 1.

The Government's Autumn budget promised an additional £1.3 billion for local government and £1 billion for provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) from next April. However much of this will be offset by increases to the National Living Wage.

While the Council won't know the details of its funding settlement from Government until December, what is clear is that it will not have a significant impact on Derby's bottom line. The council remains in an extremely challenging financial position.

The Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring report went to Cabinet on Wednesday 13 November and outlines the work which is being done to keep the overspend figure moving in the right direction, even though demand for costs and services continue to rise beyond forecasts particularly in social care. Rising homelessness and the need for temporary accommodation emerged as a new pressure last year.

There is still much work to be done. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), which will also be considered by Cabinet at the November meeting, shows that the Council will need to close a significant budget gap over the next three years.

Currently that figure is predicted to be £21 million without mitigations, and the Council is working on plans to deliver a balanced budget for next year detailing savings proposals to be made. Council Cabinet will consider those proposals at their meeting in December followed by a period of consultation.

Work gets underway on sustainable travel hub



The hub is due to be completed in Spring 2025.

Work has begun to create a new sustainable travel hub at the University of Derby's Kedleston Road site.

Thanks to a partnership between Derby City Council and the University of Derby, students and staff will soon be able to take full advantage of the city's growing sustainable transport offer at the University's largest site, two miles from the city centre. The hub, which is due to be completed in early 2025, will offer electric vehicle (EV) charge points, Real Time Information (RTI) travel screens and secure cycle parking.

Designed with the capacity to grow as the city's sustainable travel offer continues to expand, the hub will allow the University's staff and students greater choice when choosing how to travel.

In 2020, Derby City Council and Nottingham City Council were jointly awarded £161m for transport improvements from the [Department for Transport's \(DfT\) Transforming Cities fund](#), to improve connections between major employment sites and promote active travel and public transport. The two councils were also awarded a £16.7m grant from the Government's Future Transport Zones fund which is being invested in joint projects which aim to improve connectivity and further encourage use of public transport.

Funded by £800,000 from the Future Transport Zones fund, the hub will complement the city's growing active travel offer which gives citizens a range of transport options.

Park life through a lens in fixed point photography project



One of the fixed-point photography points at Allestree Park

Visitors to Allestree Park are being asked to be part of monitoring the exciting changes to the landscape as Community Rewilding progresses thanks to the launch of a new fixed-point photography project.

Based on the wide range of conversations about what people want to see happen in Allestree Park, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Derby City Council are facilitating a

timeline of activities to help shape the park into a richer place for people and nature and help tackle the effects of climate change.

One of those activities is monitoring the evolving landscape changes through fixed-point photography, a user-friendly way for members of the public to monitor visual changes to the landscape through the seasons and years.

Ten fixed-point photography wooden posts with phone brackets attached have been installed at Allestree Park. With technology powered by video specialists Ace Nature, the public can now take photos, using their mobile phones, from the same point over time and upload them online via a QR code displayed on the posts.

Derby City Council and volunteers installed the fixed points in spring to allow the Friends of Allestree Park volunteer group to test the system in preparation for it being rolled out to everyone.

Now, each photograph submitted by the public can be compared to monitor the evolving landscape, visual changes and trends, so the community can see how rewilding is changing the park and ensure the best outcomes for people and wildlife.

Pocket parks pop up across Derby



Councillor Swan at the Etwall Road Pocket Park in Mickleover

Innovative new pocket parks have been installed in communities across Derby.

Six pocket parks have been installed in the heart of communities across the city, creating welcoming spaces for citizens to spend time, enhancing the local area and encouraging active travel such as walking and cycling.

Pocket parks are fully accessible temporary structures that sit alongside roads, creating a safe space for citizens to sit with a coffee or catch up with a friend over lunch.

Each pocket park is unique, designed with the local community's needs in mind and incorporating accessible seating and secure cycle parking. Incorporating a variety of plants and foliage, the structures will also enhance biodiversity, as well as enhancing the look and feel of the local area.

Citizens can find pocket parks in the following locations:

- London Road, Alvaston
- Burton Road/Harrington Road, Littleover
- Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover
- Etwall Road, Mickleover
- Chapel Street, Spondon
- Nottingham Road, Chaddesden
- University of Derby's Britannia Mill site

New light trail to illuminate Derby this Christmas



The UK's largest Santa, soon to be seen in the Market Place

A magical light trail will illuminate the streets of Derby city centre for the festive season. Derby City Council and the Cathedral Quarter and St Peter's Quarter Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) have teamed up to create the new attraction.

The Festive Derby Light Trail will see several stunning light installations lead from The Spot all the way to Cathedral Square, taking in the Market Place, where the [Cathedral Quarter Ice Rink](#) and Nordic Bar will be situated.

Starting with the beautifully wrapped rings at The Spot, with festive foliage and twinkling lights, the trail will wind its way through the heart of the city. Grab a bite to eat and let the kids enjoy the festive rides before heading down to St Peter's Cross to see the jolly Rudolph arch, complete with his red nose, and then onto a tunnel of light which will run through Cornmarket.

As you enter the Market Place, the colourfully lit Christmas presents will sit with the Christmas tree as a backdrop and you'll also find the highlight of the trail - the UK's largest light-up Santa installation, powered by Tomato Energy. It'll be the perfect spot for a festive family shot!

A curtain of light will illuminate Irongate up to Cathedral Square, where a giant gold star will sit below the Cathedral.

After all that walking why not enjoy a festive drink in the cosy tips of our Nordic Bar and then, when you have had time to rest, take a whizz around the ice rink with family and friends. Afterwards you can enjoy food from a variety of food stalls on the Market Place, including loaded fries, grilled sausages, donuts and crepes.

You will be able to find a map of the trail at festivederby.co.uk soon, or download the LoyalFree app to follow the trail – and check in at each location to enter our free prize draw. You can also pick up an activity sheet from the ice rink or Nordic bar for little ones to fill in along the way. You could win a Nintendo Switch, with other prizes including tickets for next year's Darley Park Weekender, or tickets to enjoy the ice rink or panto in 2025!

Recommendation

To note this report.