

Report for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

9th June 2023

Derby City Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan

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

Derby City Council elections

Following the May 2023 local elections, a minority Labour Party administration is running the City Council.

Derby City Council Senior Management Reorganisation

The Council has completed its review of its senior management positions. The Rights of Way Service sits within the Planning Division. The Planning Division now sits within a new service department named City Growth and Vibrancy.

The Highways Maintenance Service is within Streetpride, which now sits placed within the new Communities service department.

General Rights of Way Service

The Highways Maintenance service continues to carry out the rights of way maintenance and enforcement function.

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. The Council is also currently processing public path orders and definitive map modification orders.

Defra has let it be known that the cut-off date for historic rights of way claims will be pushed back from 2026 to 2031, rather than scrapped altogether.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP 2)

The City and County Joint RoWIP Subgroup met on 9th January 2023. The focus of the discussion was Derby City Council's actions in its previous RoWIP. The Subgroup made a number of recommendations to both the City and County Councils on the issues that they considered any future actions should cover. A verbal report about future progress will be given during the RoWIP Subgroup update on the agenda.

D2N2 Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The Public Engagement exercise on the D2N2 LCWIP ended on 8th March 2023. The results will help the four delivery partners (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) to assess the support for the LCWIP and refine their delivery programmes.

From the Council's newsroom (with updates and amendments by Ray Brown)

Allestree Hall and Park

The first stage of community rewilding work to transform Allestree Park into the UK's largest urban rewilding space is set to begin, with the help of some familiar friends.

Highland cattle have been grazing in fields at the park since 2015, and as part of the vision for the Rewilding of Allestree Park, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Derby City Council will be introducing additional cattle to graze on more of the parkland.

When the project is up and running, the cattle will be controlled by collars which will train them, through sound, to stay in particular areas of the park. This means their presence will not limit dog walking and other use of the park space as they will be humanely contained by a 'virtual fence' in a small area of the 320 acre park at any one time.



Cows could be seen in more areas of Allestree Park from the Autumn

The Trust are running three events at the park during the summer to listen to the views of the public. Contributions from these sessions, together with the results of the first consultation, will be used to inform the final plans, with publication planned for the autumn.

The summer events will take place on:

- Saturday 15 July
- Sunday 23 July
- Saturday 5 August

More information about these sessions, including times, will be updated on the [Derbyshire Wildlife Trust](#) website.

There have been no public updates given about the future of Allestree Hall.

Derby welcomes Lime e-bikes



A new fleet of e-bikes are available to hire in Derby

Lime - the world's largest shared e-scooter and e-bike operator - has launched a fleet of rental e-bikes in Derby, as it looks to encourage more UK residents to embrace sustainable and affordable transport options.

The expansion comes at a time when cycling is booming - 1.5 million people have ridden Lime in the UK since it launched locally in 2018. It follows a successful launch of Lime's electric vehicles in London, Milton Keynes and Salford, and the recent similar e-bike launch in Nottingham last week.

Launched in partnership with Derby City Council, local residents are able to hire the shared e-bikes in key city locations and enjoy the benefits that cycling can bring, from improved health to cleaner air.

Council receives funding to make School Safe Haven Zones permanent

Derby City Council has been awarded £140,000 to make Derby's existing School Safe Haven Zones permanent, as well as include an additional four schools in the scheme.

'School Streets', locally known as School Safe Haven Zones, aim to promote cleaner air, reduce congestion, improve road safety and increase levels of walking, wheeling and cycling in the areas immediately outside schools.

In late 2021, the first School Safe Haven was introduced at Redwood School in Sinfyn for a period of 18 months. Since then, the trial has been expanded to a further eight schools across seven wards.

The existing Safe Haven Zones have been well received by their local communities and have proven successful in helping to create a more pleasant environment and address safety concerns associated with high levels of car usage near schools.

The funding to make the existing zones permanent has been awarded through the fourth round of the Government's Active Travel Fund, which is responsible for making walking, wheeling and cycling the preferred choice for everyone to get around in England.

Works are underway on exciting city centre transformation



Representatives from Derby City Council and Eurovia at Babington Lane.

Work has started to transform a series of key city centre streets as part of a range of improvements in Derby.

Representatives from Derby City Council and Eurovia, the contractors for the scheme, visited the site in January to mark the start of the works.

The exciting improvements around St Peter's Street, Gower Street and Babington Lane will see a raft of upgrades to the streets and footpaths in the area, geared towards delivering better transport choices for the Derby.

Other News (from Defra and Natural England)

Defra has let it be known that the cut-off date for the recording of historic rights of way will implement a full five-year extension to 1 January 2031, which will allow time for the reforms to take effect.

Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework

Natural England launched its Green Infrastructure Framework in January 2023. The Green Infrastructure Framework is a commitment in the Government's 25-Year Environment Plan. It supports the greening of our towns and cities and connections with the surrounding landscape as part of the Nature Recovery Network.

What is Green Infrastructure?

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity. (National Planning Policy Framework, 2021).

A GI network can include street trees, green roofs/walls, parks, private gardens, allotments, sustainable drainage systems, through to wildlife areas, woodlands, wetlands and natural flood management functioning at local and landscape scale. Linear GI includes roadside verges, green bridges, field margins, rights of way, access routes, and canals and rivers.

The GI map for England shows a comprehensive set of assets and statistics that will provide useful data for the next Rights of Way Improvement Plans.

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx>

Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity net gain (BNG) was introduced by the Environment Act 2021. BNG is a strategy to develop land and contribute to the recovery of nature. It is a way of making sure the habitat for wildlife is in a better state than it was before development.

As a comprehensive tool, the Green Infrastructure Framework and accompanying Design Guide will support local planning authorities and developers design and create more nature-rich urban greenspaces to meet mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain requirements and support the development of the Nature Recovery Network. The Nature Recovery Network is a national network of wildlife-rich places to increase and restore nature, and the role of the delivery partnership and management group.

The requirement for developers to provide BNG is voluntary at present but will become mandatory for some developments in November 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-biodiversity-net-gain>

Recommendation

To note this report.