

**Report for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum**

**10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Derby City Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

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

**General Rights of Way Service**

The Highways Maintenance service continues to carry out the rights of way maintenance and enforcement function. The maintenance service is looking to add paths to its online complaints system on the Rights of way - maintenance and enforcement web page. This is being investigated but the public can contact the service directly by phone and email.

**HMEP Lean Review for Highways Maintenance**

A Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) Lean Review is being carried out by consultants for the Council's Highways Maintenance service including public rights of way. A Lean review looks at the effectiveness of the internal systems and processes which are used to make decisions about highway maintenance.

The review will result in a number of recommendations being made to the Council for implementation to improve the efficiency of the Highways Maintenance service. The City's public rights of way service should benefit from a more structured system of maintenance provision and a full up-to-date inventory of its highway assets.

**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.

## **Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP 2)**

The City and County Joint RoWIP Subgroup met on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The focus of the discussion was Derby City Council's RoWIP's actions this time around. The Subgroup made a number of recommendations to both the City and County Councils on what they considered the actions should include. A verbal report will be given in the RoWIP subgroup update.

## **Derwent Valley Bridleway/Cycleway.**

National Highways has requested that the bridleway scheme is put on hold. There are two main reasons:

1. There is an indefinite delay in the A38 road junctions scheme receiving its Development Consent Order (DCO). The bridleway scheme, while being delivered separately, is linked to the A38 road scheme and so the funding for it can only be released if the road scheme goes ahead.
2. If works associated with the A38 scheme cannot go ahead then there would be some potential highway safety issues at the northern end of the proposed bridleway at Ford Lane.

National Highways still intends to obtain the necessary planning permissions for the bridleway scheme from both Erewash BC and Derby CC and will explore possible solutions to the second issue.

If National Highways is unable to go forward with the bridleway scheme, then both highway authorities will need to look for alternative funding opportunities.

## **D2N2 Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**

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

## **Derby City Council Senior Management Reorganisation**

The Council is currently undergoing a review of its senior management positions. The effects of the reorganisation on the provision of services will be reported at a future date.

## **From the Council's newsroom**

### **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's moo-vements 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

## Works 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)

#### **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.