

Please find attached plans showing proposals for a shared use footway/cycle way along South Road between Nine Mile Ride and West Road. These are an overview plan (5291-001 rev E South Road Cycleway Overview) showing the whole length of this scheme and two larger scale plans (5291-006 South Road Cycleway - GA Sheet 5 and SK002 South Road Cycleway -North end detail) showing the proposals at the north end. This scheme has been developed to fulfil a planning obligation associated with the development on the former TRL site to provide a link for pedestrians and cyclists from the development to local schools and neighbouring areas of Bracknell. It will connect existing shared use paths on Nine Mile Ride and Great Hollands Recreation ground. As part of the ongoing TRL development there are plans for an additional signalised pedestrian crossing of Nine Mile Ride which will be constructed in due course to link to paths into the development.

Overview of scheme

The proposed facility will run alongside South Road from Nine Mile Ride, past the crematorium and up to West Road. The cycleway would entail upgrading and extending the existing footway which will be done with consideration to protect the trees wherever possible. At the southern end the existing footway would be reconstructed and widened. Towards the northern end of the cemetery there is currently no footway so a completely new section would be provided on the west side of the road. As you will be aware, the verge then tapers on this side and completely reduces to a narrow strip past the driving range. It will therefore be necessary for the facility to cross over to the other side (west) of the road. It is proposed to cross the facility close to the sports court and use the existing unmade footway through the trees and past the allotments.

Discussion of concerns raised

Where the facility passes through the wooded area north of the sports court you have raised concerns that this is on the parkrun course and that there may be conflict between runners and other users of the path. Whilst we recognised that the proposed facility may be used by cyclists at any time, it is predominately being constructed to provide a route from the TRL development to the Easthampstead secondary school. It is therefore expected that peak usage will be on weekdays. It follows a clear route through this area which is already well used so currently operates with different users potentially at the same time. The proposal is to create a 2.5m wide path which will allow space for runners and cyclists to pass in either direction. It will be surfaced so free from defects, tree routes, mud etc. which will make running and walking easier. This is a short stretch of approximately 60m with very good visibility all along the whole length. If desired, runners could be managed over this length with signs or marshals if it was considered necessary. A benefit of this route is that it would not require the removal of any mature trees. It is essential that this part of the facility is constructed so that continuous off-road provision is maintained along the whole length of South Road and without which, the benefit of the scheme would be negated.

We have considered alternative options in this location. However, the following constraints have been identified which have discounted other options:

- Insufficient verge on the west side past the golf course
- Presence of mature trees protected by a Tree Protection Order next to the kerbline on the east side which all need to be removed if the facility was to be put adjacent the kerb
- An undulating ground profile further into the woodland area
- The route through the trees is already a well-used path that would benefit from being upgraded

It should also be noted that the scheme will incorporate bollards and a short length of bund to deter vehicle access.

Therefore we seek agreement from the Town Council. as the leaseholder of the land, to proceed.

Possible connection to existing shared used footway / cycleway across Great Hollands Rec

Following our conversation, we agree that that this scheme would benefit from continuing off the road to link with the existing footway / cycleway to the north without users having to go onto West Road for a short section. We have therefore drafted a realigned proposal through the recreation ground as shown on attached plan SK002 South Road Cycleway -North end detail. The proposal would entail removing a section of fence to allow users to pass through. Bollards to prevent vehicle access will be incorporated.

Further information

- Allotment parking area – the facility will run across the entrance to the parking area. It will not reduce the area available for parking and will provide an improvement at the access. This route allows good visibility for all users around this section.
- Vehicle access points – provision will be made to allow vehicle access to existing gates.
- Tree planting mitigation - The proposals will require the removal of a small number of trees towards the southern end of South Road to allow a wider path (some of these trees are already in poor condition). Our Parks and Countryside team have already approached you about providing replacement tree planting in areas on the Town Council land.

Please consider the above proposals and let us know your response as soon as possible as it is our hope to construct this scheme in the new year. The council is keen to provide this route as it will provide an important link for those living in the area all the way from the south of Nine Mile Ride to the centre of Bracknell and beyond.