



Town Hall | 61 Newland Street | Witham | Essex | CM8 2FE

## CYCLING DEVELOPMENT GROUP

### AGENDA

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 2 p.m. in the Council Chamber

#### MEMBERS:

Witham Town Councillors:

K. Atwill  
P. Barlow  
C. Lager  
S. Rajeev

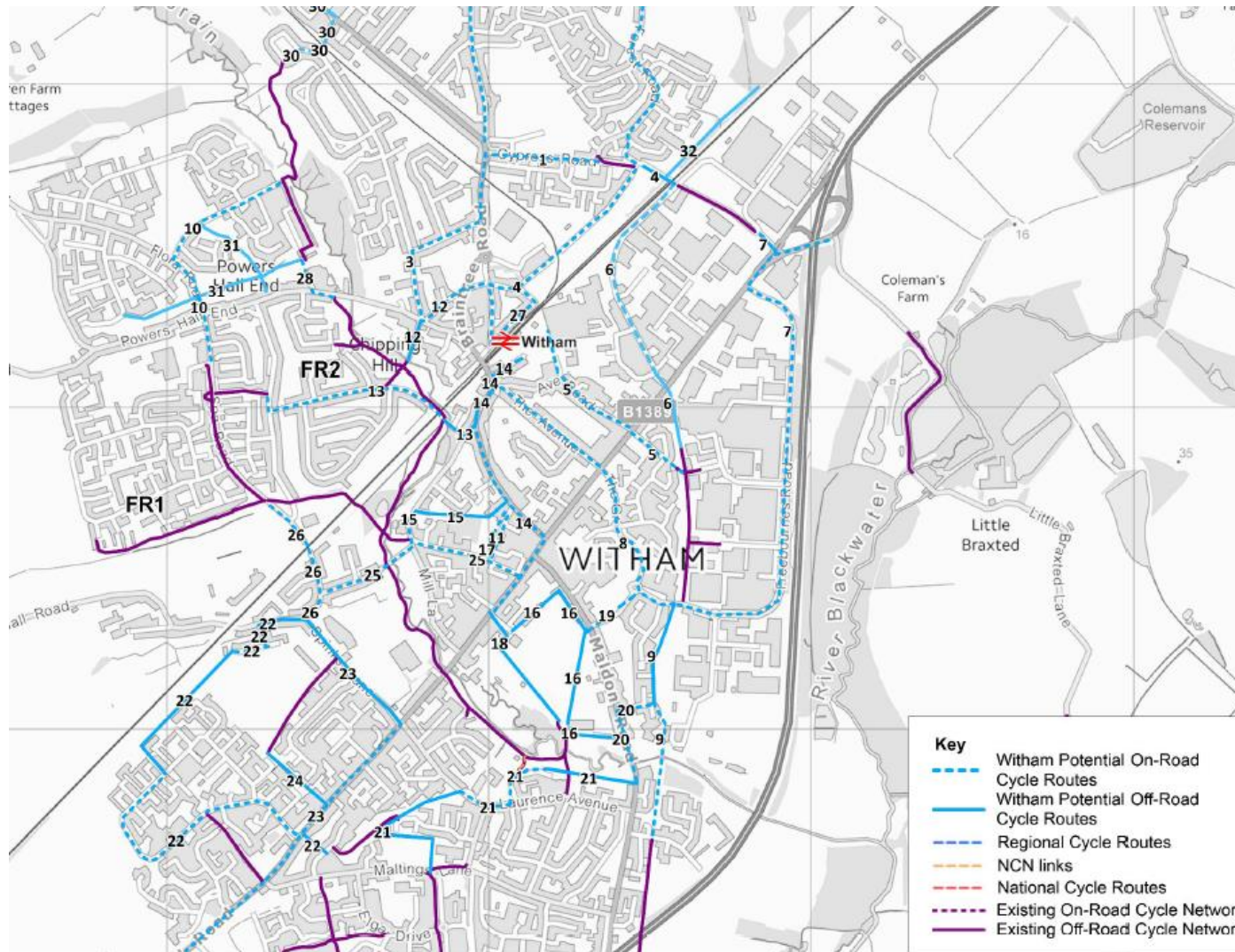
Essex County Councillor:

R. Playle

#### OFFICERS:

L. Flavell BDC  
G. Kennedy WTC

- 1) **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**  
To appoint a Chairman of the Group.
- 2) **APOLOGIES**  
To receive apologies for absence
- 3) **MINUTES**  
To receive the Minutes of the Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (previously circulated).
- 4) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive any declarations of interests
- 5) **CYCLING ROUTE MAP FOR WITHAM**  
To receive the Cycling Route Map for Witham ([attached](#))
- 6) **BRAINTREE DISTRICT CYCLING ACTION PLAN**  
To receive and discuss the proposals relating to Witham from the Braintree District Cycling Action Plan 2018 along with Key Recommendations ([attached](#))
- 7) **BRAINTREE DISTRICT CYCLING STRATEGY 2021**  
To receive the District Council's Cycling Strategy 2021 (circulated with this document)
- 8) **ACTIONS**  
To consider action to be taken.
- 9) **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**  
An open debate to consider what other areas the group may wish to engage in.



Agenda Item 5 –  
Cycling Route Map for Witham

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## Agenda Item 6

Table 7.2: Costs and Prioritisation of Potential Witham Cycle Schemes

Route ID	Route Name	Opportunity	Potential Solution – subject to Feasibility Study	Overall Prioritisation	Est. cost
<b>Witham</b>					
1	Cypress Road		Signed Quietway on Cypress Rd from Braintree Rd to Forest Rd. Enhance Cypress Rd/Braintree Rd roundabout for people that cycle.	M	L
2	Forest Rd and Rickstones Rd		Signed and marked advisory on-road cycle lane on Rickstones Rd and Forest Rd to Mulberry Gardens and allow cyclists on Motts Lane to connect to national cycling route.	M	L
3	Braintree Rd, Chalks Rd, Church St		Signed on-road provision (shared carriageway) on Braintree Rd from Cypress Rd roundabout to Chalks Rd, Chalks Rd and Church St to Chipping Hill.	M	L
4	Braintree Rd, Albert Rd, Cut Throat Lane, Motts Lane		Signed on-road provision on Braintree Rd from Albert Rd to Cut Throat Lane (quietway). On road cycle route continues along Cut Throat Lane following alignment of NCN 16, although it is noted that this road is narrow, so exact provision will need to be determined through further investigation	H	L
5	Station Road, Avenue Rd (between station Road and B1389)		On road provision along Chess Lane from existing cycle path. Chess Lane is narrow and exact provision will need to be determined. Add a suitable crossing of B1389 to enable safe access to Avenue Rd (tiger?). Signed on-road quietway provision along Avenue Rd and Station Rd leading to the rear of Witham Station.	H	M
6	Blackwater Rail Trail / Eastways		Extension of current off-road cycle network from Blackwater Rail Trail, under B1389 Colchester Rd to Eastways. Signed quietway along Eastways to existing cycle track on Motts Lane.	M	M
7	Freebournes Road to B1389, B1389 between Freebournes Road and Eastways		On road advisory cycle lanes along Pastures Road and Freebournes Rd. Carriageway is wide, so reallocation of road space to favour people who cycle would be beneficial. Vehicle speeds to be determined and measures may be required to reduce vehicle speeds to improve conditions for cyclists. Enhancement of B1389/Freebournes Rd junction to improve for cyclists, and addition of junction crossings on B1389 for cyclists to connect with NCN16. Existing on street parking may be problematic.	M	L
8	The Avenue, the Grove, Pastures Rd		On road advisory cycle lane along The Avenue, in combination with traffic calming/ speed reduction measures. Potential to utilise grass verge to provide a segregated facility if speeds can't be reduced as required. Enhance The Avenue/B1389 Colchester Rd junction. On road advisory cycle lane continues along The Grove Route connects to potential on-road advisory cycle lanes on Pastures Lane (scheme 7) and onwards to the Blackwater Rail Trail.	H	L
9	Green route via Pastures Way and Blackman Way and Constance Close		Signed remote footway conversion* to shared use from Pastures Rd south to Blackman Way through green space. Widen and surface path through green space crossing Blackwater Lane to Constance Close and convert to shared use. Path crosses Blackwater Lane running south to Constance Close. Enhancement and widening of bridge over River Brain may be required.	M	H
10	Spa Road, Flora Road, Bramble Road section		Extension of the existing signed and marked off-road cycle path along Spa Rd, from vicinity of Brain Road to Powers Hall End. There is potential to provide hybrid on-road cycle routes through reallocation of carriageway and utilisation of wide grass verges to a continental standard). Enhance the Powers Hall End/ Spa Road junction by making crossings of Powers Hall End suitable for cyclists (tiger?). Route continues along Floral Road, where introduction of traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds would enable on road cycle lanes to be provided as per Sustrans guidance. Without a reduction in vehicle speeds, a segregated cycle lane should be provided, which would require reallocation of grass verges. Route continues along Brambles Road, where an on road advisory cycle lane could be provided to connect with existing cycle path.	M	H

Route ID	Route Name	Opportunity	Potential Solution – subject to Feasibility Study	Overall Prioritisation	Est. cost
11	Newlands Drive one way gyratory		Signed advisory cycle lane on Newlands Drive (one way gyratory)	M	L
12	Moat Farm Chase and White Horse Lane		Signed footpath conversion* to shared use from River Brain to Chipping Hill via Moat Farm Chase (PROW 121_88). Suitable crossing of Chipping hill required for cyclists (tiger) further study required. Signed quietway along White Horse Lane crossing B1018 Braintree Rd. Toucan crossing on B1018 to provide continuous route along White Hart Lane.	M	M
13	Armond Road section		Signed and marked advisory cycle lane on Armond Rd from Guithavon Valley to Highfields to connect to existing cycle path off Highfields Rd. Enhancement of junction at Armond Rd and Highfields Rd for cyclists.	M	M
14	Easton Road, Collingwood Rd, B1389 Newland St		Signed quietway on Easton Rd from B1018 Braintree Rd to Witham Station access. Footway conversion* to shared use from Easton Rd to The Avenue/B1018 roundabout and tiger crossing of The Avenue to continue route along B1018 Collingwood Rd. Potential signed footway* conversion to shared use of B1018 Collingwood Rd from The Avenue roundabout to Guithavon Valley Rd. Signed and marked advisory cycle lane along B1018 Collingwood Rd to Newland St, and Newland St from B1018 Collingwood Rd to Kings Chase. Provide advanced stop lines along Newland St and at key junctions (B1018 Collingwood Rd/B1389 Newlands Drive and Maldon Rd/B1389).	H	L
15	Guithavon Valley section between its junction with Guithoven St and Cockram Lane and Cockram Lane.		Signed on-road provision on Guithavon Valley between Guithaven St/junction and Lockram Lane. Suitable enhancements required to enable cyclists to safely cross/turn right from Guithavon Valley to Lockram Lane. Signed E-W footpath conversion* to shared use from Lockram Lane to B1018 Collingwood Road (PROW 121_89). Potential width issue, therefore further study required.	M	M
16	Recreation Ground		Signed footway conversion* to shared use around perimeter of the recreation ground from Kings Chase to Maldon Rd.	M	M
17	Newlands Drive one way gyratory		Signed advisory cycle lane on Newlands Drive (one way gyratory)	M	L
18	Recreation Ground		Signed footway conversion* to shared use through the recreation round from north west entrance south eastwards to existing cycle route leading to Laurence Avenue.	H	M
19	The Grove		Suitable crossing required on B1018 Maldon Rd near entrance to recreation ground (tiger). Signed advisory cycle lane along Grove Rd from Maldon Rd roundabout to Pasture Rd roundabout.	M	L
20	River View and B1389 between Blackman Way and River View		Signed quietway along Blackman Way from Scheme 9 to advisory cycle lane on Maldon Rd to the footpath south of River Brain.	M	L
21	Pattinson Close, Lawrence Ave, link via Dengie Close		Signed footpath conversion* to shared use from Maldon Rd to Pattinson Close via PROW 121_90. Signed quietway along Pattinson Close and advisory cycle route along Laurence Avenue to Howbridge Rd south of Pinkham Drive. Footway conversion* to shared use from Howbridge Rd westwards north of Dengie Close and around the nursery, around the football pitches and south to Meltings Lane. Resurfacing and widening of path may be required to improve conditions for cyclists- likely to need land from BDC to widen footpath.	M	M
22	Allectus Way, Blunts Hall Road, Stevens Road to Highfields Road		Signed footway conversion* to shared use from Town End Field to B1389 Hatfield Rd via PROW 121_91. Suitable crossing for cyclists across B1389 Hatfield Rd (tiger) should be considered- further study required (PV*2). Quietway along Allectus Way from B1389 Hatfield Rd to Deford Rd. Signed footpath conversion* to shared use via PROW 121_117 to Stevens Rd. Potential width issue and therefore required further study. Replace steps at Stevens Rd to PROW 121_117 with ramp. Signed quietway on Stevens Rd. Signed and widened footway conversion* to shared use on the westbound side of Blunt Halls Rd to Spinks Lane.	M	H



Route ID	Route Name	Opportunity	Potential Solution – subject to Feasibility Study	Overall Prioritisation	Est. cost
23	Hatfield Road section between Howbridge Road and Maltings Lane. Spinks Lane		Signed footway conversion* to shared use on southbound side of Spinks Lane from Blunt Halls Road to B1389 Hatfield Road. Provide suitable crossing (tiger) of Spinks Lane to connect with potential Scheme 22 on Blunt Halls Rd. Convert pelican crossing at Hatfield Rd to toucan crossing.  Route continues along Hatfield Road, where a reduction of centre line hatching on Hatfield Rd between Howbridge Rd and Maltings Lane would create space for potential mandatory cycle lanes. Future potential to extend the route into the town centre.	H	M
24	Footpath from B1389		Footway conversion* to shared use from B1389 Hatfield Rd to Bramston Sports Ground to connect to existing cycle route. Convert zebra crossing to a tiger crossing for cyclists on Hatfield Rd.	M	M
25	Guithavon Road, Guithavon St to Newland Street.		Signed quietway on Guithavon Rd from Blunts Hall Rd to Guithavon St. Junction enhancement required to ensure safe for cyclists cycling to Guithavon St. Advisory on-road cycle lane along Guithavon St to Newland St.	H	L
26	Highfields Road		Introduce traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds along Highfields Road. This would enable on-road advisory cycle lanes to be utilised along Highfields, between Spinks Lane and Spa Road where route connects with existing shared use footway conversion along Spa Road.	H	L
27	Albert Road and Braintree Road section (between both Albert Road junctions)		Consider 'Cycle Street' on the one-way Albert Rd from Cut Throat Lane to Braintree Rd. Rail station needs signage to indicate northbound cyclists to go via Braintree Road and southbound cyclists to go via Easton Road or Station Road to avoid busy junction at the station.	M	L
28	Powers Hall End section between existing off road routes opposite Saxton Drive and River Brain		Signed quietway from existing cycle route to Powershall End, along Powershall End to existing route on the southside of Powershall End. Suitable crossing should be considered for safe crossing of Powershall End (toucan*)	H	L
29	Hatfield Road between Gershwin Boulevard roundabout to Maltings Lane		Continuation of mandatory cycle lane 23. Reducing central hatching would create required width. To be provided from Hatfield Road/Gershwin Boulevard to Maltings Lane.	M	L
30	Ebenezer Close/Cressing Road/Conrad Road		Signed quietway along Ebenezer Close to existing bridge over the railway line. Ensure this bridge is suitable for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists-enhancements may be required. Route then joins Cressing Road, which is currently an overgrown track and so may require improvements to provide a comfortable cycle track. At B1018 Cressing Road, vehicle speeds dictate that physical segregation is necessary, so convert existing zebra (southeast of Cressing Road/Cressing Road (main)) junction to a toucan and relocate further north west. Create a new footway conversion* to shared use on southeastbound side of Cressing Road by reallocating grass verge, as far as Conrad Road. Along Conrad Road, route continues as signed Quietway, providing a connection to potential scheme 2.	M	H
31	Footpath from Rosebay Close and PROW 121_66		Footway conversion* to shared use from Rosebay Close to Scheme 28, joined by subway to be converted to shared use, with ramp implemented for cyclists, and potential footpath conversion to shared use of PROW 121_66 from Bramble Road to Powers Hall Road. Enhancements and resurfacing of path required. Potential width issues.	M	H+
32	West of the Railway Line		New pedestrian/cyclist shared path through green field from Motts Lane north eastwards parallel to the railway line to new development (east of Yew Close). Potential land ownership issues.	M	M

# 11 Key Recommendations

In order to create an environment where cycling is normal for the residents of Braintree, existing barriers to cycling should be removed and a series of cycle routes provided with the aim of creating a connected cycle network over time. Cycling infrastructure should provide for both key utility journeys and encourage leisure cycling.

Analysis was undertaken to assess existing travel patterns, not only for cyclists but rail and car commuters as well. Alongside this, the propensity to cycle was also analysed to assess whether there were similarities between those that commute by other methods of travel and the areas where there is a high propensity to cycle.

The existing cycle networks in Braintree, Witham and Halstead should be developed and the following key recommendations can be made for cycle enhancements in Braintree District:

- A review of existing route signage and lighting;
- Maintenance of existing routes;
- Prioritise North – South and East-West Flagship routes, providing improved access to the town centre and railway station;
- Develop Flagship Routes through Feasibility Studies to Detailed Design;
- Promote and market Flagship Routes with 'Cycle Superhighway' style branding and disseminating techniques;
- Provide connectivity through town centres, particularly in an east / west direction. Braintree and Witham are particularly in need of these routes as there is little existing provision and these routes could connect key employment areas, rail stations and town centres with large residential areas. In addition, these routes attract the highest flows of car commuter traffic in the district;
- Provide new and improved cycle parking, with a focus on satiating the considerable demand for commuter trips at railway stations;
- Fill obvious gaps in the existing cycle-route network (on alignments with cycle-friendly topography);
- Provide new infrastructure on key roads with cycle-friendly topography but no existing facilities;
- Update the existing cycle map every two years taking on board new innovation in cycle-map design, and promote it and disseminate it widely through a range of channels and outlets

- Improve cycling infrastructure for access to Panfield Industrial Estate in advance of the Northwest masterplan and connect with Panfield Lane to the east and to the town centre;
- Provide better access to Flitch Way in Braintree and connect Flitch way with the key industrial employment area to the west side of town and a better connection at London Road;
- Enhance the Pierrefitte Way / Rayne Road junction and / or the High Street / Pierrefitte Way junction, potentially with innovative cycle priority in the form of advanced stop lines, toucan crossings and cycle priority traffic signals.
- Provide better cycle access to both Witham and Braintree rail stations, which currently have poor cycle access. This is particularly important at Witham as it has the high demand for rail use, particularly from the south; and
- Potential routes should improve connections with leisure cycling routes, in particular, Flitch Way in Braintree, Blackwater Trail in Witham and associated existing surrounding bridleways.

To ensure the potential for cycling is fully realised, new infrastructure must be accompanied by high profile and targeted promotion of cycling to ensure the full cycling potential is realised in Braintree District, particularly in urban areas. This should include the promotion of leisure cycling to take advantage of the green space within the District.

With a high number of local journey to work trips being made, a programme of targeted workplace travel planning should be implemented with a focus on cycling where network has been provided.

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