

## **Poynton Town Council's Response to CEC Active Travel Consultation**

1. Challenges to active travel (question 12 on the Town Council's survey)
  - Perceived safety was the number one reason why people chose not to use active travel (56 including other relevant responses)
  - The lack of quality infrastructure was an important factor in why people felt unsafe. When asked if they thought it was safe for a child or resident to travel independently, and if not, why not? (Question 13 of the Town Council's survey) 81% of respondents cited poor infrastructure (uneven and narrow pavements/road surfaces, lack of cycle ways and not enough safe crossings. In addition, 20 people stated that they were prevented from using active travel due to the lack of safe secure cycle parking
  - 38 people cited lack of physical activity or poor health as a reason for not using active travel more
2. Key opportunities
  - The Town Council agrees that active travel is important for improving public health and supporting our town centre.
  - Without significant investment in infrastructure to allow safe active travel and investment in public transport, the shift to more sustainable travel cannot be delivered.
  - The Town Council would be more than willing to collaborate to develop active travel solutions but collaboration needs to be a bottom up process, whilst we have been consulted on cycling and walking routes these were in essence already decided before we were consulted. A collaborative approach would have been to ask the community and the Town Council what they wanted rather than tell us what you think we need.

The Town Council currently works with the Poynton Footpath Group to improve footpaths in the Town. The footpaths groups has been trying to obtain permission for the last two years to improve a path (not a PROW) on CEC land. They have not been able to find out the most appropriate person to contact until the end of July even though they have been chasing this with various departments for two years. It would be helpful if there was a clear process for people to follow and that this is adequately signposted to other CEC departments and Town and Parish Councils.

  - The Town Council is unsure what is meant by "Technology can support active journeys"
3. One of the biggest challenges in many communities is actively encouraging young people to travel independently to schools, reducing congestion, air pollution and anti-social parking around schools. The Town Council would welcome a comprehensive strategy to link schools with their communities via good cycling and walking infrastructure. This should be a key priority for Cheshire East but this is not reflected in in the Cycling and Waling priorities for Poynton.
4. The Town Council would strongly support the Vision of making walking, wheeling and cycling the preferred option for short journeys, achieved through

a connected, safe and accessible network that supports a healthy Cheshire East but this can only be achieved with significant investment in the County's infrastructure.

## 5. The Town Council supports the themes identified

### Create Theme

- Maintaining the active travel network is extremely important and this is echoed by residents responses to the survey. The lack of maintenance on current infrastructure is clear and problematic for current and potential users.
- The Town Council would strongly support providing improvements to support safety of active travel users
- The Town Council agrees that supporting connections to key areas in the Town is extremely important. However we do not believe that all these important locations have been captured in the LCWIPS for Poynton and would specifically request that improvements to routes to schools are prioritised.

### Culture Theme

- The Town Council would support the Culture themes identified.

### Collaborate Theme

- The Town Council would welcome genuine collaboration between CEC the local community and the Town Council to improve active travel in Poynton

## LCWIP

The Town Council is disappointed that the LCWIP lacks details in relation to the suggested interventions for example location of new crossings, footpath widening and junction improvements which would allow us to comment on their suitability. Whilst the Town Council would welcome any improvements to all routes – vegetation maintenance should be business as usual not a suggested intervention. This should already be in place however, we are aware as a Town Council that vegetation maintenance is extremely poor/non existent.

## Walking and Wheeling Routes

### Core Walking Zone

The Town Council has no comments at present until further detail is provided.

### Route W1 – Fountain Place to Anglesey Drive

Any improvements to footpaths are always welcome. However:

- Vegetation maintenance should already be ongoing and should not be a new intervention.
- It is unclear which junctions are being improved so we are unable to comment on this
- Footways in this area are already fairly wide so cannot comment on the widening of footpaths until the location of these proposals is known.
- The Town Council would welcome wayfinding signage

### Route W2 – Chester Road

The Town Council notes that the proposed route (sections marked in red below) are over private property including school grounds, a private house and land owned by Elan Homes. The section which proceeds over the fields at the bottom of the plan transverse over a wooded section of land which was previously used as gas and brick works and is contaminated. CEC as part of the planning application process required this land to be fenced off to prevent public access at all times. The Town Council has previously approached the developer regarding a footpath on this land but they have confirmed that it would be too problematic due to the contamination.

It is also unlikely that a private householder would sacrifice part of their garden for a public footpath.



The Town Council isn't aware of any street furniture block footways in this area. The Town Council would welcome parking management at Fountain Place and we have been campaigning for parking restrictions and the installation of temporary bollards in this area. Despite our requests CEC Highways Team have refused to allow temporary bollards to be installed even though the Town Council has offered to fund the installation of the bollards. A further discussion on this point would be welcomed.

### Route W3

Park Lane to Yew Tree Lane

- The Town Council would support wayfinding signage
- The location of the footpath widening, junction upgrades, new crossings, new dropped kerbs, tactile paving and formalise parking is unknown so the Town Council is unable to comment.

### **Priority Cycling Routes**

#### C1 Town Centre to Hazel Grove

- The Town Council would support protected cycle tracks and shared footways in this area.
- We are unable to comment on controlled crossings without knowing the locations of these.

#### C2, Chester Road

- We presume that the protected cycle facility referred to is at the station, but the station already has protected bike storage.
- The Town Council is unable to comment on the priority cycle crossings at side roads or junction upgrades without know the locations of these interventions.

The biggest issue in this area is the railway bridge which is extremely problematic for active travel. Chester Road and in particular the bridge has been identified by residents and in our discussions with school as being a significant barrier to active travel. We understand that work is required to the footbridge and we would urge that active travel is considered as part of any project.

#### C3 -Town Centre to Woodford Garden Village

- At present it isn't clear if this footpath is going to link to the Woodford Garden Village, it currently stops at the Adlington Golf Centre which
- The Town Council would support a mix of footways and protected cycle tracks
- The location of the junction upgrades, new crossings, is unknown so the Town Council is unable to comment.
- Directional signage is useful

#### C4 – Middlewood Way

- The Town Council would welcome improvements on Middlewood Way.
- However, this footpath/cycle way is in a reasonable condition, and we wonder whether new cycle routes should be a priority.
- Once again we would reiterate that management of vegetation should already be happening and should not be classed as a new intervention.

The Town Council would urge CEC to look at the responses to Q15 of the Town Council's survey. 64 respondents wanted improvements to this junction. In addition, 61 respondents wanted better cycling and walking access to Higher Poynton.