

Update on progress with the provision of a footpath and cycleway connecting Mortimer and Burghfield 10th October meeting.

Introduction

This note outlines progress so far and seeks guidance on a way forward.

Discussion

The scheme: The proposal is to construct a footpath/cycleway between Longmore Lane and Goring Lane. It is envisaged that this path would follow the existing Bridleway which is signposted as a route to school. This route is approximately 800m long.

Costs: WBC have constructed such paths in the past. The nearest one to Mortimer connects Aldermaston village with Aldermaston wharf. Part of this path has a black top surface and the rest has a granite binding course as a surface. The costs of such construction were between £16m² and £25m² for the granite binding construction and up to £120m² for the black top construction. Thus the cost of a 2.5m wide path could range from about £40,000 to £240,000.

Issues: Clearly the granite surfaced path is a lot cheaper and would fit in better with the surrounding woods. However there are some steep slopes on the route and the granite construction would not last in such circumstances but would be subject to severe water erosion.

Sustrans, the national cycling charity, do not recommend the granite surface where there are steep slopes, where the path is shared with equestrians or where school traffic is expected. All these factors affect parts of the route. If only the steep slopes were black top the total cost would be about £100,000

Next steps: In view of the above the parish council may wish to consider whether to progress the scheme on the grounds of cost and the appropriateness of having a black top path going through the woods.

If it was decided to progress the scheme discussions would have to take place with Englefield to determine if they were content for such construction to take place. The design would then have to be prepared and of course grant/contributions sought to defray some or all of the cost.