

Provide a Footpath/cycleway between Mortimer and Burghfield

The proposal: The Parish Council builds a footpath/cycleway on the east side of Burghfield Rd from College Piece corner to the roundabout with Padworth Rd.

Details: Since the removal of the school bus there has been no way for pupils to travel to and from Willink school without paying for a community organised bus, being delivered by car or making their way on foot or cycle via the main road or using the paths through woods. The proposed footpath/cycleway would allow a relatively safe route for walking or cycling.

The proposed route is shown in the diagram below.



It should be emphasised that there are several issues which need to be resolved before this project could go ahead. The major one is that the path would, in part, need to pass over private land and the landowner would need to give permission for that to happen or sell the land to allow construction. The exact form of the path also needs to be decided on. A tarmac-surfaced path would be all-weather and better for users but would be more intrusive in the woodland setting. A crushed stone path would be less intrusive but would require more maintenance and would be less usable in foul weather. West Berkshire Council (WBC) would also have to agree the location and form of construction of the path, especially if they are to be persuaded to take over the maintenance of the path.

Costs: The initial cost, for a tarmac path, is likely to be in the order of £150,000 but until detailed surveys are carried out this figure should be treated with caution.

The yearly cost will depend on whether WBC can be persuaded to take over the maintenance of this footpath/cycleway. If not then the Parish Council would have to maintain it at an average estimated yearly cost of some £3,750 which would mean the following increase in council tax for a home in each property band:-

Band A	£1.48	Band E	£2.70
Band B	£1.72	Band F	£3.19
Band C	£1.97	Band G	£3.70
Band D	£2.21	Band H	£4.42

Your views: While any views you give are important we would particularly like to know:-

- Is it a good idea for the Parish Council to spend money building this footpath/cycleway?
- Would you favour a tarmac path or a crushed stone path?
- Should the Parish Council take responsibility for maintaining the footpath/ cycleway?
- Is the ongoing increase in council tax is a reasonable price to pay?