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New Application: Mortimer to Burghfield Safe Sustainable Travel Route

Ref: 20151

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Project Cost and Fee Totals

Total Project Cost	£ 1,001,665.00
Amount raised prior to The Good Exchange	£ 186,000.00
Amount sought on The Good Exchange	£815,665.00
Platform Service Fee is 5%+VAT of Amount Sought	£0.00
Total Amount Sought on The Good Exchange. This will be displayed on your project barometer	£815,665.00

*For more information on fees visit our [support centre](#)

Description

Please enter a title for your Project. *

Mortimer to Burghfield Safe Sustainable Travel Route

Please give a detailed description of the project. *

In brief, the project is to build a path to enable pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to travel safely between Mortimer and Burghfield.

To date, Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council (SMPC) has had the route professionally designed, obtained pre-planning application advice from West Berkshire Council (WBC), lodged a planning application with WBC (ref 23/01524/FUL, a decision in respect of which is awaited), and obtained prospective costings.

By way of background, and to give more detail, there has been a long-standing desire on the part of SMPC to establish a safe and accessible walking/cycling (and equestrian) route between Mortimer and Burghfield, which is now moving forwards to becoming a reality, principally due to two aspects of the 2017 Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) (the first neighbourhood



development plan created within West Berkshire):

- First, the public engagement leading to the creation of the NDP identified a number of projects within the overall ambit of infrastructure development (“Objectives – To provide the infrastructure services and amenities required in a modern rural parish ... The opportunity provided by the new development, the Community Infrastructure Levy and other financial sources, will be exploited to extend and improve the infrastructure services of the parish.”, one of which was “Provision of footpath and cycleway connecting Mortimer and Burghfield”);
- Second, once the NDP had been adopted, there was further public engagement as to what the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds coming to SMPC should be spent on, with this project being a popular proposal, and a large majority agreeing that 50% of the CIL (estimated at that time to total £300k, so £150k) should be spent as the parish contribution to it being constructed.

After a substantial amount of work, and the positive engagement of the relevant landowners (Sovereign Housing, the Englefield Estate and the Neil William Gardiner Will Trust as owners of Wokefield Common) and WBC as the Highways Authority, the pre-planning application advice was obtained and acted on, and the planning application lodged.

The planned route (fully described in the planning application, with maps and designs, etc) is comprised of upgraded/enhanced existing footways and existing permissive paths, plus a new section of path, a bridge over a brook, and a new pedestrian road crossing. Extensive tree and ecological surveys have been undertaken and the route designed so that very few trees will be affected. The construction of the path through the trees will be of a no-dig permeable type, minimising any impact on tree roots.

The project is widely supported - not just by the community generally but by a host of others including the affected landowners, other parishes, the Ramblers, the Mortimer Wellbeing Walking Group, local schools, and others as evidenced by the notices of support (some in the pipeline).

Type of Project : Capital/Revenue

Use this section to tell us about what you want to do with the funding.

Capital or Revenue



What type of project is it? * Capital

Capital Projects

Please select the type of capital project.	New build
Do you own the land and/or building	<p>The land over which the path will pass is owned by several landowners (all of which have agreed to their land being designated for the path):</p> <p>Sovereign Housing Association Limited – legal agreement awaiting planning permission;</p> <p>Englefield Estate – leasehold agreement agreed but awaiting planning permission;</p> <p>Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council – applicant and owns freehold of Five Oaken Common;</p> <p>Neil William Gardiner Will Trust (the owner of Wokefield Common) – leasehold agreed but awaiting planning permission.</p> <p>In addition construction will involve some changes to highways owned by West Berkshire Council – WBC Highways were engaged in the pre-planning application.</p> <p>(The anticipated date for a planning decision is very much an estimate at this stage, given backlogs in the WBC planning system.)</p>
What stage of the process are you in?	Planning Permission
If your planning application has been submitted, please upload a copy of the application	Planning application form.pdf
If your planning application has been approved, please upload a copy of the approval	
If not yet approved, when do you expect a decision?	31st October 2023
What professional services have you appointed?	Project manager, Quantity surveyor, Other, Structural engineer, Surveyor, Planning consultant
Please describe other professional services who will be engaged with your project.	<p>We have used road safety experts, arboriculturalists and ecologists to produce reports as part of the planning application. There is a small ecological survey yet to be done, the cost of which is covered in the figures shown as already expended/allocated .</p> <p>We will be appointing a Client Representative to oversee the construction for us.</p> <p>With the help of the Client Representative we will be</p>

	going out to tender to appoint a contractor(s) for the construction.
Once the work is completed who will take on the ongoing management of the facility?	West Berkshire Council Highways will manage the areas that form part of the highways. Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council will manage the maintenance of the woodland areas.
If applicable, how will you finance ongoing running and maintenance costs?	The woodland parts of the route will be maintained from the precept by Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council. It is expected that WBC will maintain the highways parts.

Benefits

Beneficiaries and impact



What charitable category/categories does your project fall into? *	Public Safety Environmental health Community People living in rural areas Access to countryside Pollution abatement and control Footpaths Primary and Secondary Education
Please select one primary category that best fits your project.	Community
Where do the beneficiaries of the project reside? *	West Berkshire (Local Authority) Stratfield Mortimer (Village) Mortimer (Village) Burghfield (Village) Burghfield Common (Village) Sulhamstead (Village) Ufton Nervet (Village) Mortimer West End (Village)
Where will the project take place? *	Stratfield Mortimer (Village) Burghfield Common (Village)
What is the start date of your project?	1st November 2023
What is the end date of your project?	31st October 2024

If applicable, please enter a date for when the funding is required.

Who will be your main beneficiaries and what difference will the funding make?

(NB - the drop down lists for (i) the residences of beneficiaries and (ii) the location of the project do not include the parish of Wokefield, yet the path will pass through the top left corner of that parish and will benefit parish residents.)

The path will benefit all of the residents of Mortimer and Burghfield Common (plus many from Burghfield Village and wider afield), but we accept that not all will use it (see below as to numbers).

Residents of either village will be able to access a variety of shops, pubs, events and activities in the other village safely and without a car, with substantial environmental benefits alongside improving the health of those making the journey by foot or bicycle.

A specific group of beneficiaries will be Mortimer residents aged 11-18 who attend Willink School in Burghfield. There are more than 300 of these and they will be able to travel to and from school safely without being driven by car, which will also benefit the environment and their health and independence. The parents of children who walk or cycle instead of being driven will benefit financially, and in being freed up for their employment instead of ferrying children.

The path will open up the possibility of replacing many car journeys with journeys on foot or by bicycle - for example for employees at AWE Burghfield, Mortimer residents accessing the Willink Leisure Centre, and Burghfield residents accessing the principal doctors' surgery in the area in Mortimer.

Horse riders who currently use the Englefield Estate network of permitted bridleways will be able to ride through to Burghfield and then on to other routes.

Recreational walkers (including the 70+ individuals who regularly engage in the weekly Wellbeing Walks [previously Walking for Health] in Mortimer) will benefit by the additional path enabling routes to be taken which connect to other footpaths in Burghfield and Wokefield.

There are a host of other potential beneficiaries (trail runners, running clubs, Nordic walkers, U3A clubs and societies, and other nature societies, etc, who will all have easier access to the woods and heathland.

(To explain the beneficiary numbers given below. We have added the resident numbers (adjusted 2021 Census data) for Mortimer (3,000) and Burghfield Common (6,000+) and apportioned the total as 25% directly benefitting (= 2,250 rounded up to 2,500) with the rest indirectly benefitting. (Nb, we have

restricted these numbers to the core villages rather than the wider parishes.)

Please give an estimate of how many people will benefit directly from your project?

2500

Please give an estimate of how many people will benefit indirectly from the project?

6500

What are the likely age ranges of your beneficiaries?

11 -15, 16 - 19, 20 -24, 25 -29, 30 - 44, 45 - 54, 55 - 64, 75+, 65 - 74, 0 - 4, 5 -10

What are the likely ethnicities of your beneficiaries?

White - English/Scottish/Welsh/Northern Irish/UK, White - Irish, White Gypsy or Irish Traveller, Any other white background, Mixed ethnic background, Asian/Asian UK - Indian, Asian/Asian UK - Pakistani, Asian/Asian UK - Bangladeshi, Asian/Asian UK - Chinese, Any other Asian background, Black African, Black Caribbean, Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, Arab, Any other ethnic group

What gender are the primary beneficiaries of your project? Tick all that apply.

All Genders

Will your project have any of the following impacts?

Environmental impact, Social Impact, Economic impact

Please describe what the impact will be and how you will measure it.

The impact will be fewer journeys by car and more journeys (including journeys that are simply not taking place at present) on foot or by bicycle, leading to the general environmental benefits of less pollution, etc, and the improved health of those taking more exercise.

There are no numbers using the route at present because it doesn't yet exist. We intend to assess the impact by surveying the number of those using the new path at intervals after completion (monthly to begin with, then quarterly, then six-monthly) for three years following construction, and thereafter from time to time - we anticipate that it will take time for the use to build. (We intend to approach The Willink School to suggest that these surveys form part of a student project.)

Generally, the benefit of the new path will be obvious to the community in seeing the numbers who are using it.

Children at St. Mary's Junior School in Mortimer have the opportunity to undertake Cycling Proficiency training. Once the new route is constructed this could include practice rides to the Willink School in preparation for starting there.

Project Costs

Project Costs



Please give a brief description and an accurate cost for each item required to complete the full project. Evidence for these costs in the form of quotes, invoices, screenshots (not website links), reports etc. must be uploaded in the supporting documents section. Please do not include VAT if you are able to reclaim this cost. *

Item	Value
Preliminaries	£ 116,000.00
Zebra Crossing	£64,934.00
Footpath	£602,723.00
Fees	£ 126,500.00
Contingency (5%)	£45,508.00
Fees to date (paid as below)	£46,000.00
Total	£ 1,001,665.00

How much has been raised already? *

Item	Value
SMPC (Fees paid to date)	£46,000.00
SMPC (CIL and other funds allocated)	£ 140,000.00
Total	£ 186,000.00

Is your organisation applying any of its own resources?

Yes

Please describe what resources your organisation is applying.

Following a public engagement exercise, Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council (SMPC) originally earmarked £150k of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) anticipated to be received in respect of a major development in the village to this project (50% of the anticipated CIL), to which has been added £36k of capital spend that was earmarked for another project that had not seen progress.

To date, as detailed above, approximately £46k has been, or is anticipated to be, spent on the planning process and the initial stages of costings, leaving an approximate balance of £140k available towards construction (once planning permission is obtained).

Once constructed the project will not require premises or staffing over and above general maintenance - please see below under Responsibility for the Project as to the resources engaged in managing the project through to construction and beyond.

Do you have other applications outside of The Good Exchange in place or pending?

Yes

Please describe these applications.

Mortimer Relief in Need - no particular amount - November 2023

We have not applied anywhere else yet, concentrating on getting onto The Good Exchange first. We have had initial conversations with Greenham Trust and Englefield Trust.

We have been given an indication that WBC will be able to contribute to the cost of the highways works in the region of £90k (subject to agreeing their capital programme for 2024/25).

We have not yet had conversations with, but are looking into applying to the following (and are open to suggestion as to what other entities might be conducive to an application):

AWE

Veolia Environmental Fund

Grundon Waste Management (via the Landfill Communities Fund)

Suez Communities Fund

The Syder Foundation

NFU Mutual Charitable Trust

Active Travel (through WBC if a new HMG tranche is announced)

British Cycling

British Horse Society

National Lottery Community Fund

How many full time equivalent staff will be involved in running the project?

It depends on whether the question relates to FTE staff within SMPC or externally. Within SMPC - 0.2 in creating the path including construction. Following construction, minimal FTE in relation to maintenance.

How many volunteers will be involved in running the project?

Principally, six parish councillors in establishing the path (see below) and, once constructed, none.

Who will be responsible for the project within your organisation and how will it be managed?

The full Parish Council has general oversight of the project and funding, and its Finance and General Purposes, and Roads, Footpaths and Commons, Committees take a role in monitoring progress. On a day to day basis the Parish Council has established a Working Group of six parish councillors to advise and undertake practical steps within its remit (including, for example, this application).

SMPC employs a Clerk and Assistant Clerk (Officers), who are responsible for undertaking specific aspects of the project (making payments, administering contracts, etc). Once constructed there will need to be a regular inspection/maintenance process administered by the Officers.

Why is this a key priority for your organisation and do you know of anyone else undertaking similar or related activities?

This path has been wished for in Mortimer for over 40 years. Attempts in the past to get Berkshire County Council, and subsequently West Berkshire District Council, to provide it have always failed. There has been a particularly acute need for this path since WBC withdrew the school bus from Mortimer to Willink School some years ago. The route then designated by WBC for walking to Willink School from Mortimer is all through woods (away from the sight of any roads) on totally unsurfaced footpaths,

includes terrain which means it is very muddy and not passable without walking boots in winter, and is not permitted for cycling. Neither parents nor the school consider it a safe or suitable route and consequently almost no students use it.

Aside from housing, it is the priority project from the Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan and always comes towards the top of any public consultation as to what the Parish Council should do.

There is no other way for Willink School students from Mortimer to travel independently and safely to and from school.

There are no similar or related activities.

Supporting Documents

arboricultural_impact_assessment.pdf



cil_consultation_extract.docx

costings.pdf

crossing_details.pdf

design_and_access_statement.pdf

ecological_appraisal.pdf

englefield_estate_letter_of_support.pdf

gardiner_trust_for_wokefield_common_letter_of_support.pdf

location_plan.pdf

mid_berkshire_ramblers_letter_of_support.pdf

path_construction_details.pdf

planning_application_form.pdf

proposed_route.pdf

road_safety_audit_report.docx

sovereign_housing_letter_of_support.pdf

stratfield_mortimer_ndp_june_2017.pdf

sulhamstead_parish_council_letter_of_support.pdf

wokefield_pc_comments.pdf


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