

Report for Resolution

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators
29 June 2012

Item

8

Report of Head of city development services

Subject Extension of Gurney Road foot/cycle path into Mousehold Avenue

Purpose

To seek the Conservators' formal consent for building a small section of cycle / pedestrian route on the Heath at Gilman Road / Mousehold Avenue.

Recommendations

Members are requested to consider the proposal to extend the existing footway along the north side of Mousehold Avenue between Gilman Road and Gurney Road by approximately 1.0m width onto Mousehold Heath for an approximate 75 metre length.

Financial Consequences

Norfolk County Council has confirmed that Local Transport Plan funding would be available for widening the existing footway into the Heath assuming that the Mousehold Heath Conservators approve these proposals.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The proposal contributes to both the following strategic priorities:

- A safe and clean city
- City of Character and Culture

Through the following service priority:

- *To contribute to the improvement of the public realm, open spaces and green infrastructure through the delivery of capital projects*

Contact Officers

Ben Webster
Tony Jones

01603 212518
01603 212234

Background Documents

A plan showing the extent and location of the proposals will be available at your meeting.

Report

Background

Connect 2

Norwich City Council has been allocated Sustrans Connect 2 funding to deliver a network of cycle and pedestrian routes in the north-east of the city, linking the east of the city with existing routes including Marriott's Way.

A section of this network aims to encourage pupils to walk and cycle between the Open Academy on Heartsease Lane and Sewell Park College on St Clements Hill. The route follows Gilman Road, Gurney Road and Valley Drive.

Norwich Cycle Network

This Network of pedalways is included in the Norwich Area Transport Strategy. Mousehold Heath is crossed by two pedalways. The orange pedalway, which provides a circuit around the inner part of the city follows Gilman Road, Gurney Road and Britannia Road. The purple pedalway crosses the city from the Norfolk & Norwich hospital to Heartsease and uses Mousehold Avenue, Gurney Road and Valley Drive.

Proposals for Gurney Road

Conservators gave approval for the schemes along Valley Drive and Gurney Road at the March 2012 meeting.

The proposed works on Gurney Road include a safe crossing of Gurney Road at the junction with Valley Drive, and an off road cycle/footpath along Gurney Road to Mousehold Avenue. Gurney Road between Valley Drive and Mousehold Avenue will also be covered by a 20mph zone. These and other Connect2 scheme proposals were approved by the Norwich Highways Agency committee 24 May 2012.

There was a suggestion of extending the proposed cycle/footpath alongside Gurney Road into Mousehold Avenue to connect directly with Gilman Road. This was on the understanding that it would be necessary to extend the existing footway into the heath.

Current Proposal

When the scheme for Gurney road has been completed, it is anticipated that a number of cyclists will use the footway along the north side of Mousehold Avenue to travel between the end of Gilman Road and Gurney Road. Although this manoeuvre would be illegal (cycling not being permitted on a footway), cyclists may feel that it is quicker and safer than the alternative of joining the carriageway. This would involve making turns across the road near the junction of Mousehold Ave/Gurney Road to get on and off the shared-use paths.

This footway is approximately 1.5 metres wide, which is insufficient to allow for shared-use between cyclists and pedestrians. Unlike Gurney Road, Mousehold Avenue is not wide enough to allow for widening of the footway into the carriageway.

As previously suggested, the proposed solution is to widen the footway onto the adjacent heath by approximately 1.0 metre for an approximate 75 metre length. The construction would be in asphalt to adoptable standards. This would require moving two lamp columns and a street sign and removing some scrub growth. However no significant trees or other features of value would be affected.

There is no intention to either transfer ownership of the strip of land or adopt the completed path as public highway. The path width on heath land would remain part of the heath but would be maintained as part of the highway.

If Conservators approve the proposal, the works would be carried out as part of the Gurney Road scheme which is programmed for construction during autumn 2012

From MHC meeting 30 March 2012

Discussion ensued on the (Connect 2) proposals. The stakeholders' meeting had been advised that the county council's safety audit had identified concerns regarding the southern termination of the proposed cycle/footpath. The audit recommended that the cycle/footpath be extended along the northern side of Mousehold Avenue to its junction with Gilman Road. The chair pointed out that some intrusion onto the heath might be acceptable in the interests of safety but further consultation with the Conservators would be necessary.

The officers advised the Conservators of the timescale for the scheme and that there would be more consultation in May.