

Questions, Answers and Actions -Adur County Local Forum – 15 March 2022

In Attendance:

County Councillors:

Carson Albury, Kevin Boram, Emma Evans, Andy McGregor.

Apologies: Angus Dunn

Question 1 from Anthony Cartmell:

Given that West Sussex County Council has now admitted in the High Court that it acted illegally when it removed the Old Shoreham Road cycleways, when will the cycleways on Old Shoreham Road be re-instated?

Background:

- these cycleways were used by hundreds of school pupils, and many others
- these cycleways reduced motor traffic speeding
- cycleways are a great success in achieving transport modal change
- CO₂ emissions are reduced by people cycling instead of driving
- there is a Climate Emergency
- cycleways help to reduce the impacts of Transport Poverty
- WSCC's Active Travel aims
- The Government's Active Travel aims

Response to Question 1:

We have settled the court case so as to avoid further cost to the public purse in relation to a decision taken some time ago and which has no implications for other proposals or schemes.

We have accepted that we should have included in a council report a clearer account of government guidance and its effect before taking the decision. This may or may not have led to a different a decision about the temporary cycleway in Shoreham.

Cycling UK has expended a great deal of money on this process but there is no prospect of the temporary Upper Shoreham Road cycleway scheme – which was introduced as an emergency, temporary measure during the pandemic - being restored and the guidance in question no longer applies.

The declaration therefore has no significance other than to resolve the litigation Cycling UK chose to undertake. We decided to minimise costs by making the declaration rather than have the matter go to a further hearing where the best outcome Cycling UK could reasonably have achieved would have been the declaration now agreed.

As part of the settlement, the County Council offered to make a contribution of £25,000 towards the legal costs incurred by Cycling UK.

We are now progressing with a series of meeting with key stakeholders to develop revised proposals for improving active travel facilities in the area. In addition, last week the County Council asked for feedback on five new proposals as part of West Sussex County Council's aim to improve walking and cycling facilities across the county.

The proposals are at:

- The B2144, Oving Road, Chichester, between A27/Oving Road West and Needlemakers
- Three routes in Lancing and Sompting: the Red Route: A27/Busticle Lane in the north to A259/Western Road in the south; Orange Route: A27/Grinstead Lane in the north to A259/South Street in the south, and the Green Route: Lambleys Lane/Upper Brighton Road in the west to A2025 Grinstead Lane/Crabtree Lane in the east
- The A259 Shoreham to Brighton, from A259 / East Street in the west to the county border in the east.

These potential locations have been identified in the County Council's Strategic Transport Investment Programme (STIP), which develops strategic (i.e. larger than local) transport schemes that are needed to support sustainable economic growth in the county. Information about each proposal can be found on [our engagement web page](#), where people can provide their feedback until 5 April 2022.

Question 2 from Carla Nisbet:

Carla is not able to attend the Forum in person.

On the 18 November 2021 I asked the question "when can we expect to see safer crossings around Southwick Green to enable residents of all ages to walk safely around their local community?"

Since that date Councillor Dunn has been trying to set up a meeting with the new Highways person but I have heard nothing further regarding this.

Every day I (and many members of the local community) am reminded how difficult it can be to cross the roads surrounding The Green safely.

As outlined previously, my request would be to see a zebra crossing from The Cricketers Pub across to the playground area in Southwick Green and also a lollipop person during term time to help children cross the road to/from the bottom end of Church Lane (opposite The Green) . These are key access points for parents and children travelling to/from school as well as pedestrians gaining access to and from Southwick Square amenities.

So, my question to you again is "when can we expect to see safer crossings around Southwick Green to enable residents of all ages to walk safely around their local community?"

Response to Question 2:

Adam Bazley, Area Highways Manager, has arranged to meet Cllr Dunn in the first week of April and this is one of the issues to discuss.

Cllr Dunn will report back after that meeting.

Question 3 from Lee Cowen:

What is the process to get the crossing and junction at North Road, Sompting (near the Railway crossing) improved to be safer?

Response to Question 3:

Cllr Andy McGregor stated that options could be looked into for a Community Highway Scheme. Details of how to apply for a Community Highway Scheme are available on the [West Sussex County Council website](#). Applications require the support of the local County Councillor and also evidence of wider community support.

Question 4 from Lee Cowen:

How does WSCC oversee road repairs undertaken by others such as utility companies?

Response to Question 4:

Cllr Emma Evans confirmed that there was a Compliance Team within Highways, and they undertake inspections of works completed by third parties. If they are not up to standard it is followed up.

Cllr Andy McGregor encouraged anyone who sees faults to report them using the Love West Sussex app or on the [website](#).