



Planning and Highways Committee

Brassington Avenue Pop-up Cycle Lane

4th August 2020

Agenda Item 20

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To present to Committee proposals received from Birmingham City Council for a pop-up cycle lane on Brassington Avenue and surrounding roads, and the Town Council's response.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That Committee notes the report.

3. Background

- 3.1. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Birmingham City Council (BCC) published the Emergency Birmingham Transport Plan¹ and is now bringing forward a number of temporary transport projects to create safe walking and cycling environments.
- 3.2. Funding has been allocated to design and deliver these from the Emergency Active Travel Fund Tranche One, a Department for Transport package announced in May 2020. A condition of funding for Tranche One projects is that these are delivered by the end of August 2020.
- 3.3. On 22 July 2020, plans for a proposed pop-up cycle lane on Brassington Avenue and surrounding roads were sent to the Town Council for comment by BCC. Comments had to be returned to BCC by 29 July 2020.
- 3.4. On 27 July 2020, a workshop was held with Town Councillors to discuss the proposal and form a response to BCC on the plans received (see 3.3). Urban Movement, the transport consultants for the Town Centre Masterplan and Cycle Network Plan, were also present to provide their comments and address technical or design issues.
- 3.5. On 29 July 2020, the Town Council provided feedback on the proposal to BCC.
- 3.6. Plans for the proposed pop-up cycle lane can be found in [Appendix A](#).

4. Overview of Proposed Pop-up Cycle Lane

- 4.1. This scheme proposed by BCC includes the following highway alterations:
 - **Brassington Avenue** – proposed two-way segregated cycle route on western side, connecting the railway station with National Cycle Network Route 534 (Newhall Valley and Sutton Park)

¹ <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/ebtp>

- **Reddicroft** - proposed one-way (southbound) with contraflow cycle lane (northbound) to reduce rat running and provide safer walking and cycling connection between Town Hall, High Street, railway station and town centre
- **Park Road** – proposed one-way (eastbound) with contraflow cycle lane (westbound) between Garrard Gardens and Brassington Avenue to reduce conflicts at junction with the Brassington Avenue pop-up cycle lane and provide safer walking and cycling connection between Station, Sutton Park and town centre
- **Birmingham Road** – proposed carriageway narrowing and new pedestrian crossing refuge – to provide safer crossing facilities for pedestrians and transition for cyclists to/from the pop-up cycle lanes on Brassington Avenue

5. Town Council Response

- 5.1. The proposed scheme is in line with the Town Council's Strategic Plan 2020-2023 objective to improve connectivity across the town through walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure, and the Park Road element also supports the objective to develop stronger walking and cycling links between Sutton Park and Sutton Coldfield town centre.
- 5.2. While the proposal to develop a pop-up cycle lane in this area is supported in theory, the Town Council provided several comments regarding the deliverability, impact, and suitability of the scheme as proposed.
- 5.3. A summary of the comments raised is shown below and the full response to Birmingham City Council can be found in [Appendix B](#).

- **Safety:** concerns were raised over safety at certain junctions, specifically the exit to The Gracechurch Centre car park and the extremities of the scheme at High Street to the north and Birmingham Road / Manor Road to the south.
- **Monitoring:** further clarity was sought over how the pop-up cycle lane and highway changes will be reviewed in terms of usage and economic impact on the town centre.
- **Reddicroft:** The inclusion of Reddicroft was queried due to its steep gradient. The cycle route also passes through Lower Reddicroft car park, posing both safety concerns and questions over car park capacity.
- **Railway Road / Park Road:** an alternative to Reddicroft was proposed, extending the scheme up Railway Road to connect with High Street, with the potential to further enhance Park Road as an active travel link between the town centre and park.

- 5.4. Given the need to deliver proposed schemes in August 2020 (see 3.2), an update on the pop-up cycle lane should be ready for the subsequent Committee meeting on 1 September 2020.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. That Committee notes the report.

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