

Parish Council Liaison Meeting	Agenda Item No. 6
31 March 2010	Public Report

Report of the Director of Operations

Report Author – Nicola Francis (with input from Transport Planning, Peterborough Environment City Trust and Natural Networks).

Contact Details – nicola.francis@peterborough.gov.uk

Gaps and opportunities within the Green Wheel

1. PURPOSE

To provide an update about the recent improvements to the Green Wheel undertaken by Travelchoice and identify any additional gaps and opportunities.

2. BACKGROUND

The Green Wheel was launched in 2000. It consists of a 45 mile route around the outskirts of the city, with a series of 'spokes' leading from it into the centre.

Recent improvements:

- During 2006-08 13km of surfacing improvements were completed in south Peterborough (Hampton, Mortems Leam, North Bank, Flag Fen).
- In 2008/09 a 4km section of the route was re-surfaced at Peakirk.
- In 2009/10 a 500m section at Stanground and a 1.5km section at Newborough were resurfaced. In addition 40 missing or damaged directional fingers were replaced.
- In late 2009/10 a series of barriers were removed and replaced with bollards in line with best practice. Many of the barriers removed were already broken and vandalised. Those that remained in place represented a significant barrier to a number of legitimate users of the Green Wheel (cyclists with trailers, double buggies, hand cyclists). The proposal is therefore to remove these barriers to enable improved accessibility whilst still preventing motorised vehicles using the route.

2010/11:

- It is planned that new directional fingerposts will be installed at locations highlighted in the Green Wheel audit as being unclear.
- Approx. 2km of re-surfacing to be carried out along sections highlighted in the audit (exact locations yet to be finalised but likely to be at Marholm, Glinton & Paston).

Greening the Green Wheel:

- Project identified in Peterborough's Green Grid Strategy to enhance landscaping/biodiversity along route; 1 pond created in 08/09, 1 pond & dipping platform restored in 09/10 & 500m hedge planting proposed for 10/11.

3. CONSULTATION/KEY ISSUES

Other gaps:

- Thorney (top of Willow Hall Lane) to Eye Green (off-road) – following requests from residents.
- Flag Fen to Fengate off-road route (potentially achieved via PREL application).

- There is a recently formed community group called Cycle West (Matt Barber & Steve Horner are involved) who are seeking extensions to the route towards Sutton & Stibbington.
- James Fisher (Natural Networks) is working with Hunts DC to improve links south from Yaxley/ Hampton/ Farcet towards the Great Fen project area.
- Though this doesn't directly link to the Green Wheel, we have had requests for the gate blocking the off road cycle path that extends from Campaign Avenue to the cycle lane running alongside the Nene Valley Railway (Orton Mere) to be removed and the missing link to be added. There is Section 106 allocated to do this from the Sugar Way development, however the estimated cost of delivery far outweighs the amount secured.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- PECT Green Wheel audit

5. APPENDICES

None.