

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**ACTIVE TRAVEL WORKING GROUP
VIA TEAMS**

3RD FEBRUARY 2022

PRESENT

Councillor Bernie Bentick, Julian Dean, Kate Halliday Alan Mosley & Rob Wilson (Chairman)

APOLOGIES

Councillor Elisabeth Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk) – Shrewsbury Town Council; Rose Dovey (Active Travel Manager) Shropshire Council; Ffion Horton (Service Development Programme Manager) Shropshire Council

16/21 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Twin hatted Councillors declared an interest in matters affecting Shropshire Council & the Town Council combines

17/21 NOTES OF THE MEETING

The Notes of the Active Travel Working Group Meeting held on 2nd December 2021 were circulated ahead of the meeting.

It was AGREED that:

The Notes of the Active Travel Working Group meeting held on 2nd December 2021 be signed as a true and accurate record

18/21 MATTERS ARISING

No matters other than those on the agenda were raised

19/21 BIG TOWN PLAN MOVEMENT STRATEGY

The Town Clerk reported on the recent tendering exercise. 5 Tenders had been received and it had been agreed to short-list 2 for interview. These interviews had taken place but the winning tenderer could not be announced until the 2 week cooling off period had concluded. There was to be an inception meeting w/c 14th February.

Members were keen that the Movement Strategy looked at both scenarios for a North West Relief Road; this had been raised with both tenderers and both were looking at Strategy Options for with and without.

Members were also keen to ensure that the Movement Strategy aligned with other countywide strategic plans like LCWIP, LTP4 and BUSIP; there would be an alignment exercise undertaken within the process.

Members finally were keen that this was a town wide Strategy and not just town centre specific; whilst it was acknowledged that the key piece of work was the centre, the Strategy will look across the whole town.

20/21 LCWIP

Rose reported that LCWIP was on track for a July completion. The Shrewsbury workshop had been completed and members could still contribute to the MIRO board on line. The LCWIP radius was 10km from the town centre. Site visits were planned for w/c 14th February. Work will then commence with development and prioritisation of interventions and a further Workshop will take place with Officers and Town Clerks.

21/21 LTP4

Ffion updated the Working Group on the work Victoria Merrell is leading on. Workshops had taken place with members and it was hoped a draft will be ready late Spring/early Summer. Members discussed the integration of this with the LCWIP; it was imperative to have both strategy documents as the county was losing out on bidding for funding in the absence of these documents.

Members discussed the fact the county didn't have a rail strategy and the implications on the town if there was a direction to close the Harlescott rail crossing. It was reported that Shropshire Council would not accept a closure due to the adverse impact on the network and Network Rail would have to look at rail diversions.

22/21 NORTH EAST SHREWSBURY CONNECTIVITY PLAN

Ffion updated members on the North East Shrewsbury Connectivity Plan. There were many reasons for developing this piece of work including:

- A need to review infrastructure needs
- Increase in housing development
- School mergers in the areas
- Development of a pool at the Sports Village
- Park & Ride movement
- Alignment of plans between Strategic Highways and Highway Development Control

These were high level concept designs. There had been member and officer engagement and they had undertaken a public engagement exercise. Generally, the public were supportive around active travel and rail options, but not supportive of a car-centric plan.

There was support for roundabout upgrade to Sundorne, Enterprise, Battlefied and Welsh roundabouts, but the hamburger option for Heathgates hadn't been well received.

There was support for moving rail from the Crewe to Chester line, which would ultimately lead to improved capacity at the railway station. There was also big support for trams.

Other things raised by the public included:

- Trolley buses
- Hydrogen buses
- Increasing the bus network
- Cycle map
- Cycle storage
- Cycle hire
- Improved train routes
- New train station/halts
- Electric vehicle infrastructure
- LTZs

Members made the following comments

- Canal Path to Uffington had great potential. It was a lovely route but surfacing was poor and the area was often boggy
- Was the priority Utility routes rather than leisure routes – there was a need to get people out of their cars
- Trams might be the ultimate solution but there was a big question over viability
- Footpaths need to be looked at in terms of quality
- If there weren't options for widening walking/cycling routes on major routes were there options off road.

23/21 MINI-HOLLAND

There was no update to report. Officers regularly chased DfT for a response.

24/21 NEXT MEETING

7th April 2022

Might there be a possibility of any Officer coming to talk about lights phasing/crossings particularly around Welsh Bridge and the Station.