



# Eastbourne Cycling Improvements

**Date:** 25 March 2014

## **Document summary**

Report detailing the results of the public consultation held in January 2014.

## **Contents**

1. Details of the public consultation
2. Background to the proposals being consulted upon
3. Publicity
4. Public feedback on the proposals
5. Recommendation

Figure 1 – Overview plan of proposals

Appendix 1 – Copy of questionnaire

Appendix 2 – Summary of feedback received

## About this document:

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## Details of the public consultation

In January 2014 a public consultation exercise was undertaken on a number of schemes aimed at improving conditions for cyclists in Eastbourne. The schemes were as follows:

- University to Town Centre and Seafront
- Town Centre to Seafront
- Seafront (along the promenade between the Wish Tower and Fisherman's Green)
- Town Centre to Hospital
- Horsey Way Section 1 (Railway Station to Ringwood Road)
- Horsey Way Section 3 (Lottbridge Drove to Langney roundabout) including the Tollgate School link

A staffed exhibition was held in the Court Room of Eastbourne Town Hall on Friday 10 January and Saturday 11 January 2014 where plans were exhibited showing the proposals. Details were also made available on the East Sussex County Council website between 2 and 31 January 2014.

Questionnaires were available for the public to provide feedback on the proposals with officers from East Sussex County Council and Eastbourne Borough Council being available to answer questions from the public.

The consultation ended on 31 January 2014.

Figure 1 shows the six cycle routes being consulted upon. A copy of the questionnaire has been included in Appendix 1.

## Background to the proposals being consulted upon

In 2009 East Sussex County Council issued its Cycling Strategy which set out its priorities for cycling across East Sussex. One of the objectives of the strategy was to identify a network of cycle routes that link the residential areas of Eastbourne to key locations such as schools, leisure centres and business parks across the county.

Eastbourne Borough Council's Corporate Plan for 2010/15 as part of providing a Quality Environment, has a specific target to develop a cycling strategy and action plan for Eastbourne.

This strategy was developed in 2011 by East Sussex County Council in partnership with Eastbourne Borough Council. This strategy set out an approach to improving cycling in the town up until 2027. A Borough-wide network of cycle routes is identified in the Strategy.

In June 2012 the County Council was awarded £2.4 million from the Government's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) to develop and introduce measures to improve conditions for those walking, cycling and using public transport in Lewes, Eastbourne, Newhaven and Peacehaven.

The aim of the LSTF programme is to support local authorities in delivering local transport schemes that will help to deliver economic growth, whilst cutting carbon emissions and increasing levels of physical activity.

The funding available has to be spent by the end of March 2015, by which time all of the schemes will have to be implemented.

Four of the six routes included in the consultation are to be funded from the LSTF. In addition, the two Horsey Way routes would be funded from a contribution secured during the development of Sovereign Harbour.

The public were asked to identify their level of support/opposition to the six schemes and to provide other comments on the proposals.

## Publicity

In order to advertise the consultation, 5,000 flyers were delivered to addresses within the vicinity of each of the six proposed cycle routes, with posters advertising the consultation being placed in Eastbourne library and local cycle shops in Eastbourne.

A press release was issued on 20 December and a full page advertisement was placed in the Eastbourne Herald on Friday Dec 20 and Friday January 3 2014 and also in the Eastbourne Gazette on Wednesday January 8. These promoted the date and time of the exhibitions and the online consultation.

In addition, advertisements were placed at seven bus stops across Eastbourne, namely Terminus Road (4), District General Hospital (1), Langney Rise (1) and Seaside (1). Advertisements were also placed on the outside of selected buses.

Details of the consultation were sent to local Members of East Sussex County Council and Eastbourne Borough Council. A total of 44 key stakeholders were sent details about the consultation exercise these included Eastbourne Residents Associations, Community Interest Groups, Neighbourhood Management Groups, Eastbourne Can and other representative residents groups in Eastbourne.

Details of the consultation were available on the County and Borough Council websites from 2 January 2014.

## Public feedback on the proposals

A total of 784 questionnaires were completed by those visiting the exhibition or viewing the proposals on the County Council website.

A summary of the feedback received is included in Appendix 2. The comments have been categorised into themes to aid analysis.

Because of the large number of comments received (186 pages in all) these have not been included in this report. If you wish to see these please contact the author of this report with your email address and an electronic copy of the comments will be sent.

## Recommendation

All six routes consulted upon received over 73% support; however concerns were expressed about some of the routes. From the feedback received the following recommendations were proposed.

The following routes would be taken forward to detailed design and construction in 2014/15:

- University to Town Centre and Seafront
- Town Centre to Seafront
- Horsey Way Section 1

The following routes would be taken forward to detailed design in 2014/15 with construction as part of a future year's capital programme beyond 2014/15:

- Seafront route
- Horsey Way Section 3

It was clear from the comments received that the route between the Town Centre and the Hospital required further investigation. Because of this it has been agreed that further feasibility work will be carried out in 2014/15 to identify other possible routing options.

A report on the outcome of the public consultation was presented to the County Council Lead Member for Transport & Environment on 18 March 2014 where the recommendations above were agreed.

It should be noted that a similar report was presented to Eastbourne Borough Council Cabinet on 19 March 2014 and the same recommendations were agreed. Authority was also sought and agreed at the Cabinet meeting to take all necessary steps to seek and obtain approval from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to an amendment to the current byelaw to enable the Borough Council to allow, where appropriate, both unsegregated as well as segregated shared use of the seafront promenade by cyclists and pedestrians.