

## Whelley Loop Cycling and Walking Network, Phase 2. Wigan walking and cycling scheme

### Consultation Questions and Queries

<i>You Said</i>	<i>We Listened</i>
<p>How is the scheme funded?</p>	<p>The capital funding to be used to deliver the project is from the Greater Manchester Mayor's Challenge Fund.</p> <p>The Mayor's Challenge Fund is a capital grant provided by Greater Manchester and is ring-fenced to be spent on building the active travel component of the Bee Network. If MCF funds were not invested in Wigan, they would be used on active travel improvement elsewhere in Greater Manchester.</p>
<p>How is this scheme a good use of public money?</p>	<p>Whelley Loop is a popular and well used route, and we expect this extension to be well used too.</p>
<p>Proposals will make a positive impact – but why can't they go further to the viaduct?</p>	<p>This scheme is funded by the Mayor's Challenge Fund, a capital grant provided by Greater Manchester. It is ring-fenced to be spent on building the active travel component of the Bee Network and does not include works past Hall Lane, up to and including the viaduct.</p> <p>The Major Projects team are always looking for more grants and sources of funding to improve walking and cycling across the Borough. We continue to collate suggested routes and ideas and the viaduct link is already an aspiration. You can send suggestions to us at <a href="mailto:major.projects@wigan.gov.uk">major.projects@wigan.gov.uk</a></p>

<p>What is being proposed with regards to the ramp?</p>	<p>A ramp is proposed at the north end of the scheme to Hall Lane, which will provide users with the opportunity to continue their trips to Haigh Hall, Wigan, and beyond.</p> <p>Design is ongoing, and is being informed by feedback, to make sure the ramp is accessible to all users and comfortable to use.</p>
<p>What about Haigh Hall? The condition of the estate is very poor in some places.</p>	<p>This walking and cycling scheme is funded by the Mayor's Challenge Fund, a capital grant provided by Greater Manchester. This scheme does not include the wider Haigh Estate.</p> <p>Haigh Hall has been chosen to be awarded funding from the Government's Levelling Up department, with £20 million to be spent on upgrading and enhancing the Hall.</p> <p>National Lottery Heritage Funding awarded £3.7 million to Haigh Woodland Park the scheme will bring improvements across the site including to priority pathways.</p> <p>We believe these separate, but complementary schemes, will improve the experience of all users making the most of our Borough's great outdoor spaces.</p>
<p>Who can use the new scheme?</p>	<p>No change is proposed to the range of users that are permitted to use the route.</p> <p>As with any traffic free route, the route is well used by those walking, wheeling, cycling, and riding horses. This already includes mobility scooters, e-bikes, and powered wheelchairs, whilst excluding motorbikes, quad bikes, and motor vehicles.</p>

<p>Is the route still accessible for horse riders?</p>	<p>We understand that the horse-riding community use the bridleway and there are no changes proposed to the exclude the equestrian community.</p> <p>We have consulted with the British Horse-Riding Association who advise a top dressing of grit or spray to make a high-friction surface to mitigate skidding, which we will be using.</p>
<p>What type of surface will the path have? Will the same surface be laid along the entire route?</p>	<p>The surfacing for the scheme will be surface dressing on a stone base, very similar to that used on other off-road paths within the borough such as the Standish Mineral Line.</p> <p>Using a top dressing of spray or grit helps to stop horses from skidding and is advised by the British Horse Society.</p>
<p>Concerns around anti-social behaviour</p>	<p>The Council has to balance the needs of all users with the desirability of preventing access by unauthorised vehicles and will consider how best to achieve this through the detailed design of the scheme.</p> <p>Accessibility on public rights of way and other public spaces can be an issue for people with disabilities, those with pushchairs or young children, and the elderly..</p> <p>Gates such as A-frames and kissing gates have historically been installed to exclude motor vehicles. However, in doing so they have also excluded many users, including those using wheelchairs, mobility scooters, adapted cycles, and double buggies.</p>
<p>Have the police been consulted about the scheme?</p>	<p>We routinely engage with emergency services, and all consultation material has been shared with the police.</p> <p>All emergency services are contacted as part of the consultation and to date no concerns have been raised. We continue to consult GMP as part of all our consultations. In addition to reporting anti-social behaviour to the police, reports can be made on the Council's 'MyAccount' platform which can be accessed at <a href="https://forms.wigan.gov.uk/">https://forms.wigan.gov.uk/</a></p>

<p>Will wildlife be harmed during the construction of the scheme?</p>	<p>Some vegetation clearance has already taken place.</p> <p>Over the years some foliage and dead trees have encroached on the bridleway. This scheme proposes clearing this encroachment, along with invasive species which can be dangerous and costly to manage.</p> <p>Woodland management techniques to protect biodiversity are proposed, including coppicing, and keeping dead wood on site to create mini wetlands. Additional planting will be part of the scheme and will be maintained by the Council.</p>
<p>Will the route be lit?</p>	<p>As part of consultation, we are listening to views on the relative merits and drawbacks of lighting the route and considering the impact to nearby residents and wildlife.</p> <p>The proposals do not at present include lighting.</p>
<p>Will there be litter bins along the route?</p>	<p>Litter bins can only be installed where a refuse vehicle has access to empty them.</p> <p>For this scheme bins will be at the start and finish point of the route and will therefore form part of the Council's waste collection route.</p> <p>Once delivered, the scheme will be handed over to the Council's waste management team and vegetation will routinely be managed by the Streetscene team.</p>
<p>How will contractors' machinery and vehicles gain access to the site during construction?</p>	<p>The contractors will work in a similar way to how they deliver other off-road schemes, with health and safety being paramount. The equipment used would be appropriate for this type of scheme and we do not foresee any issues with machinery getting to site.</p> <p>Before any works start on site the contractor will issue a letter to residents with further information.</p>

Has a road safety audit (RSA) been done?	A road safety audit will be carried out along the whole route which would identify any potential issues likely to occur and the mitigation required.
When will the work start and how long will it take to construct?	The works are likely to start in early 2024 and will take approximately 24 weeks to construct.  Residents and those affected will be notified by letter in advance of the works.