

Broads Local Access Forum

04 September 2024

Agenda item number 8

Active Travel England

Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary

Recap of what the Active Travel England project involves and how it is progressing.

Recommendation

Share your thoughts on the infrastructure of walking and cycling routes in the Broads executive area.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Broads Authority is embarking on the development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) aimed at enhancing active travel within the Broads National Park. This project will align with the existing Norfolk and Suffolk LCWIPs and consider additional integrations with other local LCWIPs. Our focus will be on addressing the unique active travel needs of smaller rural and semi-rural areas within the Broads, with the intent to substantially increase walking and cycling by leveraging synergies with public transport providers such as the Norfolk Community Rail Partnership.

2. Project Objectives

- 2.1. Develop a comprehensive LCWIP that is harmonised with the Norfolk and Suffolk LCWIPs.
- 2.2. Focus on unique needs and opportunities for active travel in rural and semi-rural communities within the Broads.
- 2.3. Foster partnerships with public transport providers to create a seamless active travel network.
- 2.4. Achieve significant community and stakeholder engagement through a two-stage consultation process.
- 2.5. Position the Broads LCWIP as a catalyst for achieving a 50% increase in land-based active travel by 2030.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1. The project is fully funded by the Active Travel England Capability Fund. Every National Park has been awarded £100,000 to create a Local, Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Infrastructure Plan for their area. The money is purely for the plan, any projects which come out of the plan will need to have funding from another source.

4. Progress

- 4.1. We are currently on the first stage of the LCWIP consultation which consists of an online consultation dispersed through targeted advertising. Engagement with parish councils, local walking organisations, businesses, and public transport providers. Workshops and targeted meetings to gather detailed feedback and integrate specific needs into planning.
- 4.2. The next stage will be tasking a consultant to develop feasibility studies and project initiation documents based on the data collected. These will then form a large part of the draft LCWIP.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. While we are in the consultation phase of the project we need the opinions of as many people as possible. Please give your opinions on walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure around the Broads and encourage others to do the same. The link to the consultation is here [Consultations \(broads-authority.gov.uk\)](https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/consultations)

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[Broads Plan](#) objectives: E1 – Improve the integrated network of access routes and points (with easier access for people with mobility and sensory needs), linked to visitor facilities.