South Gloucestershire Council

Feedback Report

15 September 2022

South Gloucestershire Council

Delivering for you

Yate Spur Transport Consultation

Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the recent consultation on proposals

Background

We are seeking views on our proposals complete the Yate Spur Path, providing a safe cycle connection from Yate to the Bristol and Bath railway path, Bristol City Centre, and the wider cycle network to give residents and visitors better options for walking, cycling and horse riding.

These proposals are being developed by South Gloucestershire Council as part of a wider programme of bus and cycle investment across the West of England by the Combined Authority. Funding for the improvements will be provided by the Combined Authority's funding from Central Government and will not impact on funds available in South Gloucestershire for other council services.

Proposed scheme

The purpose of this scheme is to provide a new walking and cycling route segregated from motor vehicles which will make it safer and more attractive to walk or cycle between Westerleigh and Yate. These facilities will be designed to be suitable for use by people of all abilities, will encourage walking, and enhance safety for cyclists. The proposals include completing the sections of route between Westerleigh village and Yate that do not currently have off road provision for cyclists. The scheme will also include a section of segregated equestrian path.

Consultation

Public consultation was undertaken from the 29th March 2022 to 20th April 2022. Details were also entered onto the Council's consultation website. Emails advising of the consultation were sent to the local councillors, parish council, and emergency services

Feedback from the Consultation

Overall 108 respondents completed the questionnaire. The following chart shows the level of support received for the scheme was 96%:

Do you support the sheme?



Summary of Consultation responses

Question (frequency raised)	Officer Response
Rather than narrowing the road under the railway bridge as you enter Shire way, why can't the route go through one of the other arches to the side of the main road? (9)	This option has been looked into previously, and whilst it would be technically possible, the cost involved would be prohibitively high, so the option of narrowing the carriageway has been developed as an alternative.
Why are some sections of the planned path shared use rather than separate equestrian, pedestrian and cycle provision? (8)	Whilst segregated infrastructure is generally preferred, it is not always necessary or proportionate to the route. In this instance the low anticipated pedestrian use, along with its rural nature, means that a shared path is considered sufficient on the section alongside the railway line.
Can more be done to make the Nibley Lane Crossing point safe? For example a raised crossing, traffic signals or a re-design of the junction. (11)	This will be considered in the next stage of the project, as part of the detailed design. The design will also be subject to the councils Road Safety Audit process, which includes assessment before and after construction.
Could you instead pedestrianise Nibley Lane and build the “road to nowhere” connection for motor vehicles? (5)	The scale of investment needed to deliver a new road bridge over the railway line would be far in excess of the funding available for this scheme.
Narrowing the mini roundabout will cause problems for buses turning (6)	Safety concerns with the proposed design will be considered during the next stage of the project as part of the detailed design and Road Safety Audit process.
A number of minor safety concerns were noted. e.g move crossing point by a few meters (5)	Safety concerns with the proposed design will be considered during the next stage of the project as part of the detailed design and Road Safety Audit process.
Route across Yate common also needs to be improved. Including removal of barriers (6)	Comments noted, however this is outside of the scope of this particular scheme, the aim of which is to complete the route.
Will the path be lit? (2)	This will be considered in the next stage of the project, as part of the detailed design and Road Safety Audit process.
Bus services also need improvement (3)	Comments noted, however this is outside of the scope of this particular scheme, the aim of which is to complete the route.

Need for equestrian provision questioned (1)	It is South Gloucestershire Council policy to consider the needs of all potential users when improving a route, and to provide for them if a need is identified. Given its connection to an existing bridleway provision for equestrian use is considered necessary on the section alongside the railway line.
Maintenance and repair of existing sections of the path is needed (4)	Comments noted. Since the consultation closed significant maintenance work has been undertaken to improve the section of Yate spur identified as in need of repair.