

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 16 June 2022

Item: 6

Title: Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) - Update

Author: Gill Millward, Countryside Access Improvement Officer, DCC

Purpose of Report

To present Forum members with an update on progress towards the delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Aim 1: Existing Rights of Way Network

- **Repairs and improvements:** a verbal update on progress to deliver the public rights of way schemes being funded from the County Council's Highways Capital Programmes for 2021/22 and 2022/23 will be provided at the June LAF meetings

Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- **Project 2026 Derbyshire:** Since Defra announced its intention to repeal the 2026 cut-off date back in February, volunteers are continuing to investigate historic, unrecorded routes. According to the British Horse Society's database, research records have been created for over 350 paths across Derbyshire, with 187 claims for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) already submitted to the County Council
- **Joint DADLAF/Peak District LAF Unrecorded Ways Sub-Group:** a further meeting of the Sub-Group is being arranged to discuss the issues around the prioritisation of DMMO applications

Aim 3: An improved network

- **Greenway/ Cycle Route Development and Maintenance in 2021/22:** A total of 10.42km of new Greenways/ Cycle Routes was achieved in 2021/22, exceeding the 8km target for the year and bringing the total length of the off-road network to just over 443km. The completed routes are listed in the table below, along with the maintenance projects which have provided new surfaces/drainage on Rowsley Bridleway 2, a footpath link from the Avenue site into Hasland and part of the Skegby Trail.

NEW ROUTES COMPLETED 2021-2022 BLUE = Maintenance of existing routes 2021-2022	New Routes (KM)	Maintenance (KM)
Quarter 1: April to June		
B6057 Dronfield to Unstone shared use cycleway - Phase 3 (railway bridge to former Fleur de Lys Public House)	0.28	
Visit Sleep Cycle Repeat (VSCR) Project 3 - Pleasley Country Park Loop	0.50	
VSCR Project 1 - Archaeological Way - Pleasley Vale Outgang Lane to Wood Lane	1.30	
VSCR Project 6 - Rowthorne Trial upgrade to include cycling	2.30	
VSCR Project 4 - Longhedge Lane - Pleasley to A617	1.70	
VSCR Project 5 - Dale Lane - Longhedge Lane to Rowthorne	0.50	
VSCR Project 2 - Skegby Trail Upgrade/maintenance		0.10
White Peak Loop - Rowsley to Coombs Road Bridleway improvements		0.65
Trent and Mersey Canal towpath – Willington	0.70	
Total length - 1st quarter =	7.28	0.75
Quarter 2: July to September		
B6057 Dronfield to Unstone shared use cycleway - Phase 4 (Former Fleur de Lys PH to Unstone Primary School)	0.20	
Avenue Link to Hasland - Footpath improvements		0.30
Swadlincote Midland Road to Toulmin Drive - installation of 3 dropped kerbs		
Total length - 2nd quarter =	0.20	0.30
Quarter 3: October to December		
Woodville to Swadlincote Regeneration Route - shared use cycleway (opened 21 December 2021)	1.36	
Total length - 3rd quarter =	1.36	0.00
Quarter 4: January to March		
Markham Greenway - A632 Stockley Trail Peter Fidler Nature Reserve to Buttermilk Lane	1.00	
Markham Greenway connection to Stockley Trail at Peter Fidler Nature Reserve	0.20	
Creswell Station Link (Stoney View - Elmlton Road including Gypsy Lane)	0.25	
B6057 Dronfield to Unstone shared use cycleway - Phase 5 (bridge over railway to Unstone Junior School)	0.13	
Total length - 4th quarter =	1.58	0.00
Total cumulative annual length in km =	10.42	1.05
2021-2022 Target = 8km		

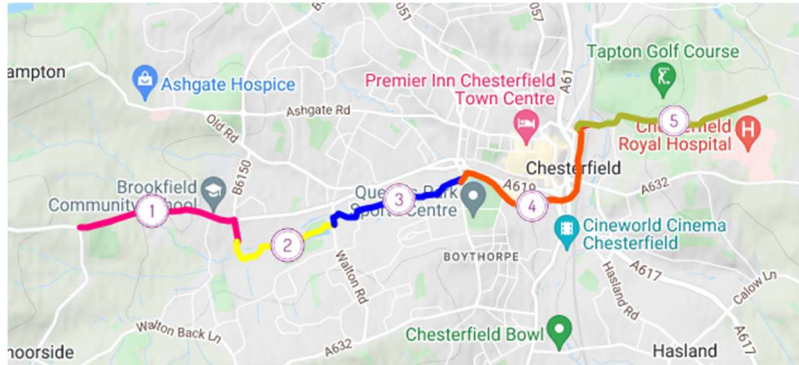
- Derbyshire Cycle Network Development in 2022/23:**

Derbyshire's Key Cycle Network was approved by Cabinet in January 2020. The report identifies 127 missing sections of strategic route across the county and sets out the methodology for appraising and prioritising delivery of key projects. A review of the achievements to date is planned for Spring/Summer 2022. Further information about the projects being developed by County Council officers in 2022/23 is provided below:-

Chesterfield East-West Cycling and Walking Route

Lead Officer: James Powell (james.powell@derbyshire.gov.uk)

Following the success of a Department for Transport (DfT) Active Travel Tranche 2 funding bid, this 8km route shown below in five sections has undergone extensive public consultation and detail design preparations.



DfT funding has been carried over into 2022/23. Detailed design is now complete and the scheme is undergoing a safety audit prior to being broken up into construction packages. Sections 1 (Chatsworth Road) and 5 (Crow Lane) are subject to Traffic Regulation Orders

which require public consultation, due to take place in June 2022. The installation of hardware to monitor user uptake commenced before the end of March 2022. Some route sections are likely to progress quicker into construction than others and will come online throughout the year with the total scheme due to be completed by March 2023.

White Peak Loop (WPL)

Lead Officer: Carol Parsons (carol.parsons@derbyshire.gov.uk)

Derbyshire County Council is developing a circular route covering just over 87km between Matlock and Buxton. The route is 71% complete - work is underway with AECOM to progress feasibility and design on key missing sections from High Peak Junction to Rowsley, Rowsley to Bakewell through Haddon Estate and Wye Dale/ Woo Dale near Buxton. The study for the Buxton section has been completed and a report is due soon outlining the engineering solutions for a link from the end of the Monsal Trail to the A6 on Fairfield Common where the Hogshaw Roundabout works have now commenced and will accommodate crossings for WPL users

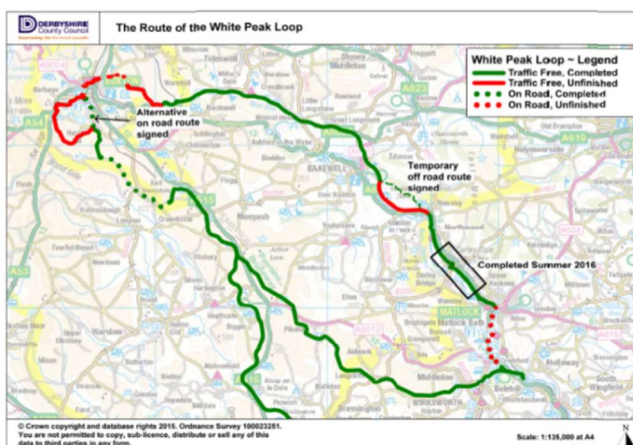


Photo: Rowsley Bridleway 2 improvements

Other Progress:

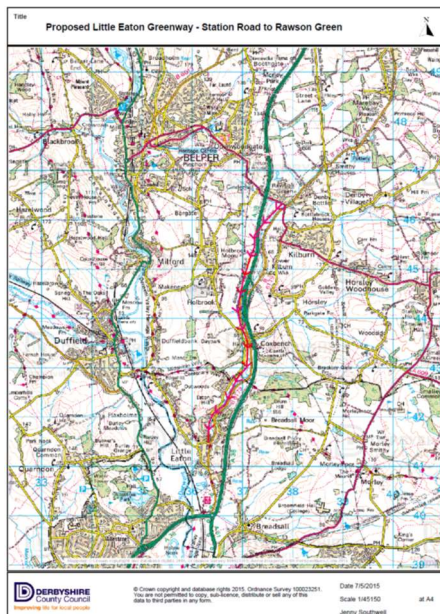
- Planning consultation responses have been submitted for Willersley Castle, Harpur Hill and Hogshaw developments, identifying opportunities for route sections and links

- Discussions with Buxton Town Team and High Peak Borough Council regarding the Walk and Ride network are on-going
- An Equality Impact Analysis and consultation plan are being prepared in connection with a proposed Cycle Track Order for Board Walk in Buxton
- Following the completion of drainage and surfacing works on Rowsley Bridleway 2 from Church Lane, further improvements are planned on existing rights of way continuing over towards the Monsal Trail near Bakewell
- A Communication and Engagement Plan has been developed for the project.

Little Eaton Branch Line

Lead Officer: Anna Chapman (anna.chapman@derbyshire.gov.uk)

Derbyshire County Council acquired a 5km section of the disused Little Eaton Branch Line, between Duffield Road, Little Eaton and Rawson Green, in 2014. LTP funding has been secured to progress the early designs and planning preparatory documents.



The project was selected through an appraisal process to form part of the Council's bid to the DfT Active Travel Fund Tranche 3 programme. Unfortunately, this bid has not been successful and alternative sources of funding will need to be found to enable the full delivery of the route to move forward. In the meantime, much progress has been made and work continues to develop both the designs and documentation for this part of Derbyshire's Key Cycle Network. Both trail and highway designs are progressing, Road Safety Audits have been carried out on the preliminary road crossing designs. Flood water modelling and traffic count data is being captured. Early consultations with neighbouring landowners/ businesses and some community engagements have been undertaken. It is anticipated that a full

consultation process will take place over the summer, prior to seeking planning approvals. The timetable for this will be assessed in accordance with future funding opportunities.

Work is ongoing with Estates to confirm and secure access arrangements for construction/ maintenance entrances and improved public access points, as well as to address several areas of encroachment along the route. Consultations with the Borough Council and developers of the Denby Hall Business Park Extension are being undertaken to secure a further section of the Derby to Ripley route. The Little Eaton Greenway Supporters Volunteers are continuing to keep the Little Eaton section of the trail open.

Pennine Bridleway National Trail

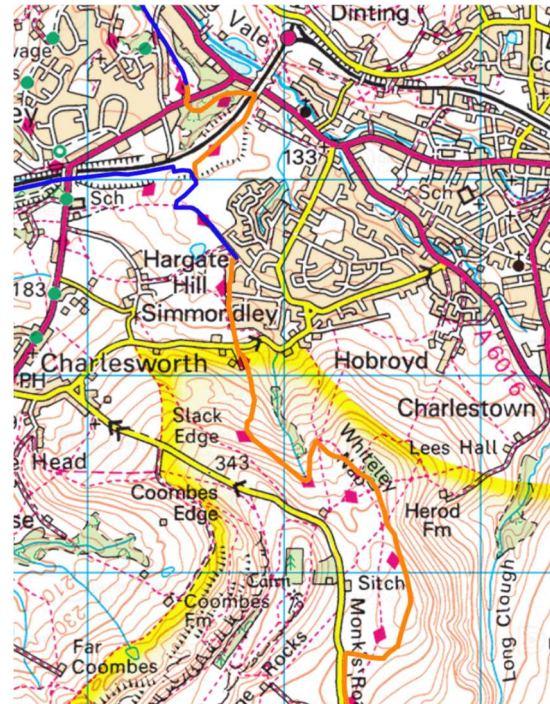
Lead Officer: Karen Turnbull (Karen.Turnbull@derbyshire.gov.uk)

The Pennine Bridleway is a multi-user National Trail being implemented through Natural England with Local Authority support. The plan below shows the proposed route of the developing section from Monks Road, near Charlesworth to Green Lane,

Simmondley. This route goes through some challenging terrain and is suited to walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers. It is one of three remaining sections of the Trail still to be completed around Glossop, at an estimated cost of £1.9m. Whilst there is currently insufficient funding to continue with the construction of the route, efforts are being concentrated on identifying potential sources of external funding, working alongside Natural England, the Pennine National Trails Partnership and local user groups.

Work by DCC's AllRoads in December 2019 completed a section off Monks Road, involving re-profiling the track and installing gates and repairing walls. In 2020/21, a 300m stretch above the River Etherow was built as part of a housing development off New Road in Tintwistle.

Funding is being secured in 2022/23 to progress the feasibility and design work required for missing sections of the route around Gamesley. Grants due to be awarded by Natural England through the Pennine National Trails Partnership, along with funding from Derbyshire County Council are enabling work to continue to ensure the Trail is maintained to the agreed standards. Groundwork volunteers have been involved in erecting waymark posts, cutting back vegetation and clearing cross drains to help prevent water damage on some of the steeper sections of the route.



Clowne Greenway Connections

Lead Officer: Anna Chapman (Anna.Chapman@derbyshire.gov.uk)

Derbyshire County Council acquired the 7.4km Clowne Branch Line from Network Rail in 2014, between Seymour and Creswell. Delivery of the route, supported by the European Regional Development Fund, was completed in 2020. This completes the northern leg of the Bolsover Loop, a 51km circuit around the District of Bolsover.

- **Creswell Connection**

Committee approvals gained to dedicate a public footpath with concessionary cycling rights over the land at the side of Creswell Infant's School to Elmtun Road. The path has been delivered on the ground but will not be opened to public use until new gates have been installed to maintain security to the school premises. Once open, the new link will provide a connection from the Greenway to the railway station and village centre

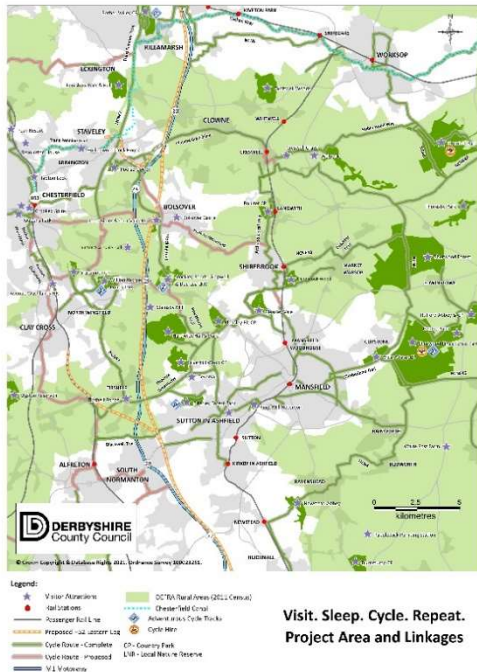


- **Poolsbrook Connection**

It is anticipated that the project to deliver the onward route across Seymour Link Road to Poolsbrook Country Park will be re-programmed for 2022/23.

Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat and the Archaeological Way

Lead Officer: Andy Heath (Andrew.Heath@derbyshire.gov.uk)



Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat (VSCR) is a cross-cutting programme aimed at supporting the development of the local visitor economy, encouraging active travel, supporting carbon reduction, improving health and wellbeing, and enhancing biodiversity and nature connectedness.

8km of new and improved trails have recently been constructed in the Pleasley Hub and were officially opened at the end of March 2022. Further improvements are planned on the Archaeological Way through Shirebrook and the Skegby Trail. A VSCR App is being developed and will be available in 2023.

A number of feasibility studies have been completed, including an audit of the VSCR trails network. Along with the destination plan, these studies provide insight for the business case,

being developed to attract further investment. Further details are available at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/vscr

Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire (D2N2) Sustainable Travel Programme

The D2N2 Sustainable Travel Programme comprises eight distinct pedestrian and cycle infrastructure projects that improve connectivity and enable sustainable economic growth, support the creation of new jobs and housing and improve health and well-being. The programme is funded by a £5.8 million D2N2 Local Growth Fund (LGF) grant and local contributions that bring the total to be invested over the next couple of years to approximately £10 million.

£2.1 million of the D2N2 LGF grant has been allocated to two Derbyshire projects:

- An extension of the Chesterfield Strategic Cycle network to connect Dronfield and Unstone
- Ilkeston Gateway – now complete.

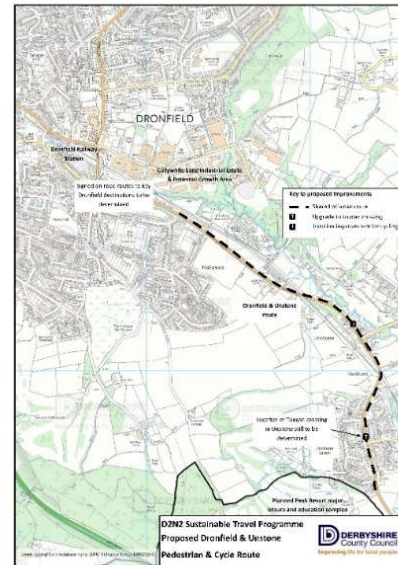
Dronfield to Unstone Cycle Route

Lead Officer: Howard Muncaster (howard.muncaster@derbyshire.gov.uk)

This 2.4km long, £900,000 route links Dronfield town centre to Unstone, where it will connect with the Peak Resort bridleways and provide connections along the A61 corridor to Chesterfield. This helps to support regeneration proposals being developed for Dronfield and includes better connections to Callywhite Lane industrial estate and the planned Peak Resort leisure and health development. The route will

consist of a largely 3m wide shared pedestrian and cycle route alongside the B6057, with a Toucan crossing provided in Unstone. The proposal also seeks to close two side roads to traffic to prioritise pedestrian and cycle journeys.

- 975m of cycle path was created between August 2020 and March 2022, including the closure of an existing acute junction
- Construction of a further 90m is programmed for summer 2022 to avoid causing disruption to Unstone Primary School
- Design of the remaining 1.4km is underway, with an alternative route being considered for the section from Unstone Green to Peak Resort following discussions with Unstone Parish Council.



A61 Growth Corridor

Lead Officer: [Howard Muncaster\(howard.muncaster@derbyshire.gov.uk\)](mailto:howard.muncaster@derbyshire.gov.uk)

The A61 Growth Corridor includes two key strands of measures to mitigate for the impact of significant employment, housing and leisure growth on highway and transport networks and services that are already under pressure along the corridor in Chesterfield and NE Derbyshire. The Sustainable Transport strand seeks to complete a north-south strategic cycle route across Chesterfield between Sheepbridge and Storforth Lane.

Two route proposals are included in the investment plan:-

- A new shared cycle route from Sheepbridge to Whittington Moor roundabout
- Hornsbridge roundabout to Storforth Lane route upgrade

The investment plan also includes the development of a standard wayfinding strategy that is considering route branding based on the Dutch-style method for navigating by intersection references. These proposals in conjunction with existing A61 routes and other proposals set out in this report, such as the Dronfield to Unstone route, Peak Resort bridleway upgrades, Ingleton Road and Avenue routes have the potential to complete a significant length of off-road route in NE Derbyshire.

- Construction of 620m of cycleway across River Washlands off Storforth Lane was completed in late 2019.
- Construction of 2.5km of shared use cycle path between Sheepbridge and Whittington Moor was completed in late 2020. Internal works at Whittington Moor roundabout are currently outstanding.
- The Wayfinding Strategy is determined and ready to be installed.

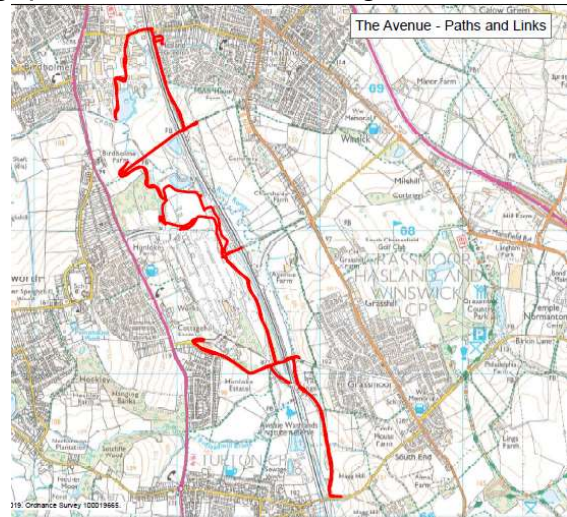
Avenue Site, near Wingerworth

Lead Officer: [Gill Millward \(Gill.Millward@derbyshire.gov.uk\)](mailto:Gill.Millward@derbyshire.gov.uk)

The Avenue Site is ideally situated to provide the necessary connectivity between the existing multi-user trails network and the surrounding communities of Hasland, Grassmoor, Wingerworth and Chesterfield. Routes through the site itself have now been open for some time and continue to be managed by the Land Trust working in conjunction with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

Work is also continuing to explore the funding/ provision of the following links:

NE to The Green at Hasland - Following the completion of work to improve the drainage, surfacing and accessibility of the footpath alongside Hasland Hall Community School playing fields, a further phase of work is being planned for the remainder of the route down towards Ingleton Road and the Avenue site. The first phase of work was funded from the County Council's Highways Capital Programme with a generous donation from Grassland Hasmoor Futures.



East along Mill Lane towards Grassmoor, the Country Park and Five Pits Trail - Efforts are continuing to explore

the options available to secure the future use of Bridge 74A for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders as a means of avoiding the low underpass on Mill Lane. Following a physical inspection of the underpass by DCC's Structures Management team, several suggestions have been put forward to improve its condition and make it more pleasant to use as a more direct route for pedestrians and cyclists. These include vegetation clearance, prevention of flooding/ build-up of silt, installation of solar lighting, new surfacing and painting the walls (which may also be an opportunity for a community art project involving the Wildlife Trust). Discussions with Network Rail and DCC Highways regarding costs/sources of funding and need for any permissions are ongoing.

North along Ingleton Road to Storforth Lane/ River Washlands Greenway into Chesterfield - Ingleton Road serves as an access track for railway maintenance vehicles. Its formalisation as a walking and cycling route, including the use of railway Bridge 78 to allow cyclists to gain access into the Avenue Site, is dependent on further discussions with Network Rail who have been approached initially about the proposals.

East towards Winsick (B6039) - involves upgrading an existing public footpath before crossing the B6038 and joining the shared pedestrian/ cycle route which has already been constructed along the north side of Furnace Hillock Way. From here it will be possible to link into Grassmoor Country Park and the Five Pits Trail.

West across the A61 into Wingerworth - this will be addressed by the provision of a controlled crossing.

Chesterfield A61 Hollis Lane Link Road

Lead Officer: Howard Muncaster (howard.muncaster@derbyshire.gov.uk)

As part of a scheme to install a new link-road to Chesterfield Station, additional cycle links will be constructed to improve connectivity to the existing cycle path situated to the south of Chesterfield Station. Construction of this route has been delayed by the need to first provide a new facility for a displaced business, but works are expected to commence in late 2022.

Derwent Valley Cycleway

Lead Officers: Richard Lovell (richard.lovell@derbyshire.gov.uk) and Gill Millward

The County Council is funding a feasibility study to investigate route options for the Derwent Valley Cycleway between Shardlow in South Derbyshire and Hathersage to the north of the county. This is being undertaken by AECOM with valuable input from members of the Derwent Valley Trust as well as DCC officers. Preparatory work and landowner negotiations are also underway for a section of the route from Haslam's Lane in Darley Abbey to Ford Lane, near Little Eaton. This is being funded and project managed by National Highways working in conjunction with AECOM, the County Council, Derby City Council and members of the Derwent Valley Trust. A toucan crossing over the A61 near Breadsall Village was completed in August 2021 with funding from National Highways who delivered the project with the support of Derbyshire County Council. The new crossing, which caters for pedestrians and cyclists, links the Great Northern Greenway with the National Cycle Network Route 54 running alongside the A61. It also provides safe access to a bus stop on the west side of this busy main road for residents of Breadsall, as well as the much-needed connectivity with Little Eaton

A5004 Long Hill Safer Roads Fund

Since March 2021, preliminary design on the various solutions to improve road safety along the A5004 between Buxton and Whaley Bridge has progressed to a sufficient stage where the various draft proposals can be taken to a Public Engagement/ Consultation process which is planned to commence in late June 2022. This will also seek comments and views regarding improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders from stakeholders and the local community

Aim 4: Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the network

- **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):** An online consultation for the draft D2N2 LCWIP shared between Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council is due to take place early this summer
- **Derbyshire Cycling Plan (2016-2030):** The plan is currently undergoing a refresh led by Active Derbyshire who have engaged consultants to carry out a review of progress against the four strategic aims of infrastructure connectivity, increased participation, effective communication & marketing and advocacy. The key findings are set out in an interim report which also looks at what more needs to be done to overcome barriers to delivery of the plan by 2030
- **DCC Website:** We have created a new webpage to provide news and information about our Cycling and Walking Plans, as well as helping to disseminate key messages about the vision for Derbyshire to be the most connected and integrated county for cycling in England by 2030: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport-roads/transport-plans/sustainable-travel/cycling-walking-plans/cycling-and-walking-plans.aspx



- **Cycle Derbyshire:** The new online Cycle Route Planner which chooses quiet roads and traffic free trails, wherever possible, is now up and running here: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/cycling
A new interactive map also been launched for the Trans Pennine Trail: <https://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/>
- **Walk Derbyshire:** aims to promote all walking opportunities across the County: www.walkderbyshire.org.uk/
Following the success of the first stakeholder event back in March, a further online event is planned for 9 June 2022 and will include a presentation about 20 minute neighbourhoods. This is open to anyone interested in playing a part in helping to increase everyday walking. You can also sign up to receive the Walk Derbyshire newsletter

Aim 5: Greater community involvement

Volunteer contribution:

- As well as the time given freely by members of both Local Access Forums, volunteers working with the Derbyshire Countryside Service in 2021/22 have contributed 1,250 days to access, conservation and visitor services work, estimated to be worth around £251,924. Although the situation is starting to improve, these figures are almost half what they were pre-Covid
- The Service Level Agreement with Groundwork Greater Nottingham is being extended for a further 12 months. 186 volunteer days were delivered in 2021/22 and 10 new volunteers recruited. Again, this is well below pre covid levels, but hopefully the situation will continue to improve as more people take up the volunteering opportunities on offer.



Dedicated groups of volunteers continue to work on rights of way in South Derbyshire and the High Peak, as well as on the Pennine Bridleway, Clowne Branch Line and White Peak Loop, carrying out much needed maintenance and improvements. Action days with local residents in Little Eaton also delivered some very valuable rights of way and conservation tasks

- A press release/ guidance note has been produced on the issue of Livestock and Rights of Way in conjunction with the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum to provide people with advice about how to react when they encounter farm animals in fields or on open access land

Recommendation: That Forum Members note this progress report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.