



Meeting: Transport Working Party

Date: 25th July 2013

Wards Affected: Roundham with Hyde

Report Title: Victoria Park, Paignton - Proposed Cycle Route

Executive Lead Contact Details: Sue Cheriton

Supporting Officer Contact Details: Ian Jones

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Victoria Park, Paignton Cycle Route is intended to form a dedicated route to link Torquay Road, Paignton to Paignton Town Centre, Paignton Sea Front and Parkfield to avoid the main trafficked routes and make use of the park as part of a leisure amenity.

2. Proposed Decision

- 2.1 Members are recommended to approve in principle implementation of the cycle routes shown in '**Appendix 1**' to this report.

3. Action Needed

- 3.1 A recommendation from this Working Party is required to assist the appropriate Executive Lead Member and Director to grant a formal decision on implementation.

4. Summary

- 4.1 The use of the park for cycling was raised by the Victoria Park Friends Group.
- 4.2 The Friends Group have been shown a preliminary layout and have shown their support to its progression.
- 4.3 The approval of this Working Party is being sought to progress implementation of this route.
- 4.4 The proposed route will form links to existing and proposed cycling facilities in the Paignton Sea Front area, from Paignton Town Centre and incorporate facilities for leisure activities within the park and nearby Parkfield.

Supporting Information

5. Position

- 5.1 The Transport Working Party have recently approved the progression and implementation of cycle routes through open space areas as part of its National Cycle Network.
- 5.2 Previously a bylaw in Torbay prohibited cycling within many of its parks and open spaces. This has now been amended and cycling is now considered lawful in open spaces provided it is restricted to designated routes.
- 5.3 The Victoria Park Friends Group have approached officers to consider the creation of a dedicated route through the park. A draft scheme has been presented to them for comment and they have indicated their support, subject to some engineering improvements to some areas of the proposed shared path, which suffer from surface water ponding during wet weather.
- 5.4 The scheme as indicated in **Appendix 1** is generally as follows:
- To provide a section of shared use footway on Torquay Road, Paignton from Lower Polsham Road to the northerly entrance to Victoria Park.
 - To provide shared use footpath/cyclepaths using existing paths within the park to connect to the Hyde Road, Garfield Road and Polsham Park accesses, subject to some minor improvements.
 - To create links the park cycle routes, by means of highway signage, to Paignton Sea Front and the adjacent Cycle Route, Paignton Town Centre (via Hyde Road) and Parkfield (via Polsham Park and Lower Polsham Road).
- 5.8 In addition to providing a high quality leisure cycle route through this area of Central Paignton it will also provide a safer route for 'less confident' commuter cyclists to avoid the busier trafficked routes through Paignton Town Centre and provide connectivity from central Paignton to the National Cycle Route.
- 5.9 As this scheme affects both highway and public amenity area, Members of both this Working Party and the Place Policy Development Group are now being requested for their recommendation to implement this scheme
- 5.10 It is anticipated that that subject to approval, the scheme could be implemented in Autumn 2013 subject to available funding.
- 5.11 The scheme will be funded, where possible, from Developers Section 106 planning contributions for sustainable transport initiatives in the area.

6. **Possibilities and Options**

6.1 The Victoria Park Cycle Route may be implemented as detailed in **Appendix 1**.

6.2 Members may choose to recommend that the route is not implemented.

7. **Preferred Solution/Option**

7.1 Due to the amenity value of this section of the route, the option shown in 6.1 is recommended as the preferred option.

8. **Consultation**

8.1 Consultation on a draft scheme has been undertaken with the Victoria Park Friends Group and this has been met with support. No further consultation is deemed appropriate at this stage, however if members recommend implementation, then the scheme will be placed on the Torbay Council Website and the Community Partnership and Ward Councilors will be informed accordingly. A period will be allowed for receipt of any comments prior to commencement.

9. **Risks**

9.1 If the route is not progressed then future developments to promote sustainable transport and healthy lifestyles in Torbay may be compromised. Also if this section of the route is not progressed then this may discourage cyclists from viewing Torbay as a tourist destination for cycling.

9.2 If the route is progressed there is a risk that during busier periods that cyclist may stray from the designated routes on to other parts of the park.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Proposed Scheme

Additional Information:

None.

Documents available in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Papers:

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

The Local Transport Plan