

EASTERN AREA COMMITTEE

Subject	Active Travel Update
Lead Officer	Adrian Oliver, Active Travel Co-ordinator

Active Travel Fund 4 - Kent County Council’s Active Travel Fund 4 bid secured £995k from Active Travel England to build the Faversham Cross Town Path. This is a range of construction schemes to create a legible, distinct and safe walking route from Lower Road through the town, over the Rec and railway, to Love Lane. Interventions include junction radii tightening, buildouts, raised pedestrian crossings, drop kerbs, tactile paving, improved pavements, benches, planting, wayfinding and enhanced footpath lighting. Designs are being finalised now and will be followed by consultations and technical approvals, with the aim that the works will begin by March 2024.

Capability & Ambition Fund - Consultants are being appointed to carry out a feasibility study and develop plans for the next stage of the Faversham LCWIP Walking Network.

Sustrans Projects - There are three Sustrans projects on the go at the moment:

- **Solar Cycleway Feasibility Study** – funded by the solar farm developer at Graveney and managed by Kent PROW. The study is looking at the route, design and costs of creating a traffic free walking, wheeling & cycling path between Sandbanks and Seasalter, through the solar farm. The study report is due imminently.
- **Route 1 Quietways Feasibility Study** – Funded by Sustrans and managed by KCC, the study is looking at traffic calming and reduction interventions for the on-road sections of Route 1 between Faversham, Conyer, Deerton Street and Teynham. The study report is due imminently.
- **Route 1 Barrier Re-design** – Funded by Sustrans and managed by Swale Borough council, this project has assessed all 12 barriers on Route 1 through Swale and any that are not Equality Act compliant will be redesigned. Sustrans will work with landowners to ensure the new barriers meet their needs as well as making the cycle route accessible for all users.

Parishes to Town – the final report has been completed and after the Area Committee it will go to the JTB. It is already proving valuable, helping discussions on footpath improvements.

Cycling UK - KCC has focused Cycling UK’s Big Bike Revival and Community Cycle Club work on five districts, including Swale. The Age UK (Faversham & Sittingbourne) Community Cycle Club is up and running with four volunteers trained to deliver sessions for Age UK clients at Faversham Rec. Participants can graduate to two informal groups, The Faversham Easy Riders and George House Cycle Group, when confident. We are working with Cycling UK to deliver more activities over the course of the next few months.

Swale Cycle-re-Cycle – the programme is now live with HMP Swaleside delivering the first 20 refurbished bikes. We have over 100 bikes already at the prison workshop waiting to be refurbished. Faversham station will be donating abandoned bikes to the programme. Planning Permission is being sought for a Bike Donation Point in Faversham. Additional distribution partners are needed to ensure the refurbished bikes can be provided to residents who really need a bike for transport. Bikes can also be supplied to any organisation wishing to establish a Bike Library (capital grants for bike library secure storage may also be available soon).

Explore Sittingbourne & Faversham Map – the map has been completed and is now available for distribution. Additionally, an online version is available on the Explore Kent website.

Coast to Downs – this project is now complete with a range of works and interpretation boards delivered on three routes through Swale:

- Poplars, Pines and Pebbles – Perry Wood-Faversham Creek
- A Tapestry of history & Wildlife – Warren Street-Conyer
- Ancient Woodlands & Waters – Hucking Estate-Milton Creek

The routes are still to appear on Explore Kent and Kent Connected and we await delivery of the map leaflets.

Schools KCC Capital Grant – school traffic is jamming up our roads and having a detrimental economic impact on our borough. Applications for the KCC capital grant for all Kent schools is open again. Schools can apply for funds of up to £5000 for a measure to encourage sustainable school travel and supported in their *up-to-date travel plan*. Previous improvements have included bike/skateboard/scooter parking, footpath improvements and EV charge points. No match funding needed. Closing date is 23rd June 2023.

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