

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET PANEL ON PLACE

**MEETING HELD AS A REMOTE MEETING
ON WEDNESDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2021 AT 7.30 PM**

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors: Sam Collins (Chair), Paul Clark, Val Bryant, Tony Hunter, David Levett and Ian Mantle, Simon Bloxham and Steve Jarvis*

In Attendance: *Councillor Tina Bhartwas (Hertfordshire County Council), Councillor Fiona Hill (Hertfordshire County Council), Councillor Marilyn Parkin (Pirton Town Council), Councillor Guy Reed (Ashwell Parish Council), Trevor Brennan (Hertfordshire County Council), Louise Symes (Strategic Infrastructure and Projects Manager), Daniel Washington (Transport Policy Officer) and Penny Copestake (PA to Service Director – Legal & Community)*

Also Present: *At the commencement of the meeting approximately 3 members of the public, including registered speakers.*

1 WELCOME

Audio recording – 17 seconds

The Chair, Cllr Sam Collins welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those attending to give presentations.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 3 minutes 0 seconds

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gary Grindal, Ian Moody, Ruth Brown, Jean Green, Sean Prendergast, Ian Brown (GACC) and Susan Van de Ven (Cambridgeshire County Council).

3 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 3 minutes 42 seconds

- (1) This meeting is about Transport Infrastructure and Active Travel. Welcome to all those who are participating this evening;
- (2) In accordance with Council policy this meeting is being audio recorded as well as filmed. The audio recordings will be available to view on Mod.gov and the film recording via the NHDC YouTube channel;
- (3) Members are reminded to make declarations of interest before an item, the detailed reminder about this and speaking rights are set out under Chair's Announcements on the agenda.

4 OVERVIEW OF CYCLING INITIATIVES IN NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

Audio recording – 5 minutes 12 seconds

Daniel Washington - Transport Officer (North Herts Council) gave a presentation on the cycling initiatives currently promoted within North Herts Council. He explained the presentation was from the District Council perspective.

The Chair, Cllr Sam Collins thanked Daniel Washington for his presentation and suggested if everyone was happy questions/discussion would be after all the presentations had been heard.

5 LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND A505 CYCLE & WALKING BRIDGE, ROYSTON AND MELBOURN GREENWAY

Audio recording - 17 minutes 5 seconds

Trevor Brennan from Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) introduced himself and then gave a presentation on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and A505 Cycle & Walking Bridge, Royston and Melbourn Greenway.

He explained that a large percentage of journeys are less than five miles, and that road building is expensive and environmentally damaging.

The LCWIP process is to draft a cycling network. Site auditing of the routes will start on 2 September 2021.

HCC and NHDC will have some involvement in the planned walking/cycling bridge over the A505 which will form part of the Melbourn Greenway.

Again, the Chair thanked Trevor Brennan for his presentation and said questions/discussion would be at the end of the meeting.

6 LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY CYCLING STRATEGY

Audio recording – 34 minutes 27 seconds

David Ames from Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation introduced himself and presented on the Letchworth Garden City Cycling Strategy.

The aim of the Strategy is to support people of all abilities and ages. A large social media campaign has taken place. The report is to get discussions going.

A copy of the Letchworth Garden City Cycling Strategy can be viewed on-line at:
<https://www.leitchworth.com/cycling-strategy>

The Chair thanked David Ames for his presentation and suggested moving on to the final presentation before questions/discussion.

7 COMMUNITY PLAN FOR A LETCHWORTH CYCLING AND WALKING NETWORK

Audio recording – 48 minutes 46 seconds

The final presentation was by Julia Sonander from Transition Town Letchworth.

Julia explained a Community Plan for a Letchworth Cycling and Walking network started back in 2016-17.

They have tried to bring local knowledge into how to plan a network, and a few suggestions were:

- Make a cycle lane by changing some roads to one-way.
- Have Zebra and Tiger crossings together.
- Make some of the roundabouts on cycling routes into Dutch Roundabout.

There is an interactive map on-line that can view.

www.transitionletchworth.org/letchworth-cyclists

The Chair thanked Julia Sonander for her presentation.

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & DISCUSSION

Audio recording – 1 hour 4 minutes 57 seconds

Following the presentations, the Chair led a discussion.

The following Members, Officers and Public asked questions and took part in the discussion:

- Councillor Marilyn Parkin
- Councillor David Levett
- Councillor Steve Jarvis
- Councillor Tony Hunter
- Councillor Tina Bhartwas
- Councillor Paul Clark
- Councillor Ian Mantle
- Councillor Guy Reed
- Councillor Fiona Hill
- Ms Julia Sonander
- Ms Rachna Leveque
- Mr Trevor Brennan
- Mr Daniel Washington

Topics raised included:

- The rural areas within North Herts Council
- Maintenance of existing paths and cycling routes
- Looking ahead and building e-bikes and e-scooters into the plan
- The timeframe for the Melbourn Greenway
- Cycle training in schools / retaining children cycling, particularly teenage girls
- Ensuring walking and cycling routes are included in future planning
- Working across Councils

The meeting closed at 9.12pm

Chair