

## **Active Travel Scheme and B3108 Road Closure**

Summary by the Clerk, 30 April 2022

### Purpose

To consider whether, in light of concerns voiced by some residents about the Active Travel Scheme to be installed in Summer 2022 and the associated temporary closure of this section of the B3108, there are actions that the Parish Council should take.

### Background

*“Active travel means making journeys by physically active means, such as walking or cycling. Creating safer and more convenient routes for walking and cycling, particularly for shorter journeys, encourages active travel and helps people to live healthier lives, reduces the number of vehicles on our roads, lowers carbon emissions and improves air quality.”*

*Wiltshire Council*

The Active Travel Scheme to be installed between Winsley and Downs View, Bradford on Avon is one of a number being installed by Wiltshire Council.

In January 2021 the Parish Council supported making the temporary segregated cycleway and footway a permanent scheme. This was to improve the safety of this narrow pavement, alongside a 50mph road (now reduced to 40mph, subject to confirmation of a Road Traffic Order) for pupils who attend St Laurence School and for other pedestrians and cyclists who use the route.

The Parish Council submitted comments supporting the scheme as part of Wiltshire Highway’s consultation in December 2020/January 2021. Details of the consultation were on the Parish Council’s Facebook page and on the community website. The consultation was recorded in the minutes of the Parish Council meetings in December 2020 and January 2021, which were available on the noticeboard and website. Cllr Kidney highlighted the consultation in a Weaver article. In response to Wiltshire Highway’s consultation, 583 people commented on the Winsley to Bradford on Avon temporary scheme, with 67% stating a preference for the introduction of a permanent cycle facility at this location to replace the temporary scheme.

### B3108 Road Closure

At the March 2022 Parish Council Meeting, Cllr Kidney reported that Wiltshire Council had confirmed that the B3108 between Winsley and Downs View would have to be closed to undertake the works for the Active Travel Scheme. Walking and cycling would still be possible. Works were scheduled for the school summer holidays to minimise disruption. Cllr Kidney had asked Wiltshire Highways to review their decision to close the road, given the significant impact this would have on residents, businesses and traffic in the surrounding lanes, but Highways had confirmed the works could only take place with a complete road closure. *[Wiltshire Highways has provided an explanation of why this is, including legal safety requirements, and this has been put on the community website as a news item].*

Wiltshire Highways has confirmed that diversions will direct traffic away from the area.

Arrangements for the D1 bus service are being finalised and will be publicised once available. Cllr Kidney has asked Wiltshire Highways to contact local businesses and charities as soon as possible about the closure and arrangements. Cllr Kidney will keep councillors and residents informed of details relating to the closure as they become available.

### Publicity of the Road Closure

On 20 April 2022 Cllr Kidney and the Parish Council published detailed information about the planned closure on the community website and on their respective Facebook pages. This was to provide residents and businesses with comprehensive information, well in advance of the closure, to

help prepare for and mitigate the inconvenience of the road closure as much as possible. A second article, with further information from Wiltshire Highways, was put on the Winsley community website on 25 April 2022.

The news articles are available at: <https://www.winsley.org.uk/news>

Wiltshire Highways has provided details of measures that will be in place, as well as measures that can be put in place if it becomes clear that they are needed, to help ensure access between Winsley and Bradford on Avon for residents and others that need access between the two places. All other traffic will be directed away from the area. These details are available on the community website.

The Parish Council understands that residents and businesses have concerns about the impact of the temporary road closure.

#### Annual Parish Meeting

At the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 27 April 2022 a number of residents spoke to express concerns about the scheme and the road closure. These included:

- That the narrower width of the road would make it more difficult for drivers and for larger vehicles once the scheme had been completed;
- Whether Wiltshire Highways had designed the scheme correctly in relation to the width of the footway/cycleway;
- Whether there was a need and a clear justification for the scheme;
- That a better priority would be to improve the crossing point over the B3108 by the roundabout;
- That Wiltshire Council's consultation about the scheme had not been publicised widely enough;
- The legitimacy of Wiltshire Council's consultation result was questioned given the response rate;
- The impact of the road closure on local businesses;
- Concerns relating to claims that the D1 bus service would not operate during the road closure *[Note: there will be alternative arrangements for D1 bus users, these are still being considered and will be announced when available];*
- That residents of Bradford on Avon would also be impacted by the road closure and that the Parish Council should work together with the Bradford on Avon community.

#### Other highways points raised:

- That Cllr Kidney, supported by the Parish Council, continued to campaign for a lower speed limit along the length of the B3108 and that additional support from the community could be helpful in this campaign.
- Cllr Kidney reported on a meeting with the new Highways Cabinet Member in which he again raised safety concerns about the B3108, particularly by the Hartley Farm/Dane Rise/Tyning Road junctions.