

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Regeneration and Environment Services Matters
2.	Date:	13 December 2010
3.	Title:	Conversion of Existing Footways to Shared-Use Pedestrian and Cycle Footways. A6123/ A630 Mushroom Roundabout.
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To seek approval to convert the existing pedestrian footways surrounding Mushroom Roundabout to shared use; pedestrian and cycle routes. If approved this will form part of the scheme to introduce traffic light control to Mushroom Roundabout.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approves:

- i) That the footways shown in blue on the attached drawing number 126/17/TT127 be removed under the power conferred by section 66 (4) of the Highways Act 1980 and constructed as a shared use pedestrian and cycle path under the power conferred by section 65 (1) of the same act.
- ii) That the detailed design be included in the design for the signalisation of Mushroom roundabout and implemented as part of those works.

7. Proposals and Details

Cabinet Member gave his approval to introduce traffic lights at Mushroom roundabout; Council Minute G15 of 22 June 2010 refers, to control traffic and to aid pedestrians when crossing the arms of the roundabout. The crossings on the entry and exit to the roundabout will be designed such that they can be used by cyclists. The large volume and speeds of vehicles negotiating Mushroom roundabout can create an uncomfortable environment for less experienced cyclists to ride around the roundabout on the carriageway. This can create a barrier to cyclists when trying to access local facilities and services.

Works are currently ongoing to implement the approved scheme and it is anticipated that the project will be complete early in the next financial year. As part of the completed scheme it would be desirable to have shared cycle/footways around the roundabout. It is therefore proposed to change the legal status of the footways surrounding the roundabout to shared use, which legally permits cyclists and pedestrians to use the footway. This will allow cyclists to ride on the footway around the roundabout and use the toucan-crossing facilities provided.

Where possible, it is proposed to widen the footways to 3m, this is in accordance with the suggested width for shared use footways in the Department for Transport's Cycle Infrastructure Design guidance. Where it is not possible to widen the footway, these widths will be retained at a minimum width of 2m.

The proposed layout is indicated on Drawing No. 126/17/TT127 attached as Appendix A to this report.

8. Finance

This scheme is estimated to cost £75,000 and will form part of the A630 Rotherham to Thrybergh Smart Route Proposed Improvements which have been included in the LTP strategic fund programme, for 2010/11 and 2011/12 (provisionally).

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure to provide the shared use facilities may reduce the benefits of the proposed crossings and will reduce local accessibility.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

This scheme will improve sustainable access (by walking and cycling), for local residents in East Herringthorpe, East Dene and Eastwood to shops, supermarkets, bus stops and employment destinations, such as Eastwood Trading Estate and Corus. This will be achieved by extending the current cycle network in the local area and providing improved crossing opportunities of major roads for pedestrians and

cyclists. This is in line with the Accessibility Planning shared priority within the Local Transport Plan.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

A630 Rotherham to Thrybergh Smart Route. Proposed Improvements Cabinet Member Report 21 June 2010. Council minute G15 of 22 June 2010 refers.

Dalton and East Herringthorpe Draft Development Framework January 2008

Local Community Workshop June 2008.

Dalton and East Herringthorpe Local Access Plan. April 2010

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