

Cycleway improvements linked to developments

September 2016

The cycle improvements related to the Broadmoor section 106 contributions are for improvements to South Road, which will be lit and the surface improved, and for a formal crossing across Rackstraw Road to provide access into the Owlsmoor area. There are no current plans for a cycle lane on Rackstraw Road itself. The section 106 funding will be triggered by the housing development associated with the move of Broadmoor Hospital, rather than the hospital itself, and so this is still likely to be some time away.

Looking at the pinch point referred to by Peter Radband, we believe this is caused by cyclists using the edge of carriageway marking as an unofficial cycle lane. Rackstraw Road is a rural road with no edge of carriageway drainage or kerbing so, as guidance suggests, a white line is painted a metre from the edge of the carriageway to define its edge to road users. As the road approaches the new roundabout, which is kerbed, the white line tapers towards the kerb. Cyclists using the metre strip on Rackstraw Road as a cycle lane therefore find it narrowing to the kerb at this point, which is probably the 'pinch point' Peter refers to. This approach to white lining is common practice - the same methodology has been used where Rackstraw Road approaches the roundabout junction with Magdelene Road at the bottom of the hill. Our accident data show there has been one accident involving a cyclist at either location in the last 22 years, and this was not related to the edge of carriageway marking. Obviously, the improved cycle links via South Road referred to in the paragraph above will provide an alternative cycle route connecting Owlsmoor to Bracknell when completed.

In terms of new cycleways linked to development, I have summarised below the main schemes;

TRL housing development - cycle links through the development, plus a new section of shared used path on the southbound side of Old Wokingham Road

Amen Corner North housing development - a new section of shared use path on the eastbound section of London Road, from Murrellhill Road to the borough boundary with Wokingham - this will form part of the new National Cycle Network route connecting Newbury to Windsor

Warfield housing development - new cycleways through the development plus a new section of shared use path on the eastbound side of Harvest Ride

Town Centre - a section of shared use path on the eastbound side of Millenium Way, and shared use path on The Ring connecting Bond Way to the bus and rail stations

We recognise cyclists are not as well provided for in the south of the borough compared to Bracknell and we are keen to explore options to improve this where path and/or road widths and funding allow. If you are aware of any location-specific suggestions for additions to the cycle network please let us know. Subject to feasibility and funding, we can then consider the schemes. I note in the NAG minutes there is reference to cycle improvements on Wellington Road, if you have any more detail on this suggestion it would be helpful.

Feedback provided to Peter Radband (as part of the Bracknell Forest Neighbourhood Action Group) from Phillip Burke, Senior Transport Coordinator at Bracknell Forest Council.