

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 18TH MARCH 2021

**Question to Cllr David Williams
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

By Cllr Woodward

Question

In a press statement from the County Council last week, Burntwood residents were told, “Work to improve routes for cyclists and pedestrians in Burntwood is being proposed as part of a plan to spend £69million on highways projects in Staffordshire” and that “the authority said the money would mean improving signs, junctions and provision for pedestrians and cyclists in Burntwood.” I am aware of the minor improvements to 0.3km of Milestone Way, between High St and Sycamore Rd, that have been agreed; are any additional cycling and walking schemes being proposed, as this press release would imply?

Reply

The 2021/22 Capital Programme contains £128k for provision of the length of cycle route along Milestone Way referred to by Cllr Woodward (0.3km). This is being delivered in 21/22 through an award of Getting Building Funding (£651K) secured via a bid to the S&SLEP for Sustainable Transport Projects. Improvements will be undertaken between the ‘Morrisons Island’ to ‘Aldi Island’ including an upgrade of the existing pedestrian facility and realignment of splitter island. Detailed design is underway, including a review of scheme details to ensure compliance with latest guidance (LTN 1/20).

Unfortunately, national criteria for cycling improvements does not fit more ‘rural’ areas, and we are actively lobbying for consideration on this front.

A Burntwood Town Centre - Public Realm, Connectivity and Highway Improvements Options Report is being prepared with input from Burntwood Town Council (completion mid-April) to identify further improvements for Burntwood. A phased approach to delivery is anticipated beginning next financial year (22/23) as resources permit, to support regeneration of the town centre. The options report considers a variety of interventions and improvements as well as reviewing existing infrastructure including, enhanced public realm, junction modifications, pedestrian facilities, traffic Orders, wayfinding, directional signing, public transport infrastructure and cycle facilities. The report will inform future programmes which may be funded via the Integrated Transport block grant, dependent on the availability of resources and other spending commitments throughout the County. However, other funding opportunities will be actively sought to aid delivery.