

Report to	Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment
Date	18 July 2016
Report By	Director of Communities, Economy and Transport
Title of Report	East Sussex County Council (Eastbourne 107A and 107B) Cycle Track Order 2016
Purpose of Report	To seek authority to make the Order to convert the existing public footpath alongside Horsey Sewer (between grid reference TQ62400137 and TQ62530149) to a cycle track pursuant to Section 3 of the Cycle Tracks Act 1984

***RECOMMENDATION:* the Lead Member is recommended to approve the making of the Order for the conversion of a section of newly created public footpath alongside Horsey Sewer in Eastbourne into a cycle track.**

1. Background Information

1.1 East Sussex County Council has developed proposals for an off road pedestrian and cycle route known as the Horsey Way that will link the Town Centre with Sovereign Harbour in Eastbourne. The scheme forms part of the network of primary cycle routes in Eastbourne identified in the Eastbourne Cycle Strategy approved in March 2012. The objective of the scheme is to provide a safe alternative route for cyclists currently using the busy A259 Seaside. A plan showing the location of the route and the way is has been divided up for the purposes of design and construction is shown in Appendix 1.

1.2 The phase between Ringwood Road and Lottbridge Drove (Phase 2) was constructed in 2013/14. The phase between the railway station and Ringwood Road (Phase 1) is due to be completed this financial year.

1.3 The third phase of the route between Lottbridge Drove and Langney (Phase 3) roundabout has now been designed and involves the need to convert a section of existing footpath to a cycle track that can be used by both pedestrians and cyclists. The scheme is being funded from the Local Growth Fund monies for the Eastbourne and South Wealden Walking and Cycling package. The location of the section of footpath to be converted to a cycle track is shown on the Plan in Appendix 2.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 East Sussex County Council does not own the land over which this particular section of the route is to be constructed. Therefore highway rights need to be acquired for pedestrians and cyclists in order to implement the scheme.

2.2 The majority of land ownership over the route has been ascertained. We are negotiating with the various landowners to gain control of the required land and this is being secured through the completion of dedication agreements under Section 38 of the Highways Act 1980.

2.3 However, part of the land required (156 metres) adjacent to that owned by the Chatsworth Settlement is unregistered. As a result a dedication agreement cannot be completed so the only option is to create a public footpath across this land under Section 25 of the Highways Act 1980 and then subsequently to convert the newly created footpath to a cycle track under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984.

2.4 The creation of the public footpath under the Highways Act 1980 was undertaken following the completion of a consultation process. This involved the placing of a Notice, at both ends of the section of unregistered land, advertising the County Council's intention as well as consultation with statutory consultees and a range of interested groups, including all the utility companies, Auto Cycle Union, British Horse Society, Byways and Bridleways Trust, Open Spaces Society, Ramblers Association, The Cyclist Touring Club, and Eastbourne Borough Council. No objections were received and therefore the public footpath came into effect on 8 July 2016.

2.5 The same process as detailed above will be followed in order to convert the newly created footpath to a cycle track under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984. A consultation will be undertaken over a period of 21 days and if no objections are made against the proposed Order then it will be validated and sealed.

2.6 Under the County Council's Scheme of Delegation there is no specific reference to any delegated authority to make Orders under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984. Therefore Lead Member authority is being sought to make an Order under this Act. The only financial implications in relation to the proposed Order are the advertising costs which will be met from the allocation towards the scheme in the 2016/17 Local Transport capital programme.

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

3.1 Once completed, the Horsey Way cycle route will provide a continuous route for walkers and cyclists between the Town Centre and Sovereign Harbour. The third phase of the scheme will consist of a traffic free route extending for a total length of over 900m between Lottbridge Drove and Langney roundabout.

3.2 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to approve the making of the East Sussex County Council (Eastbourne 107A and 107B) Cycle Track Order 2016, in order to enable the construction of a cycle track between Lottbridge Drove and Langney roundabout as part of the primary network of cycle routes in Eastbourne.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contact Officer: Alan Cook
Tel No: 07342 998506
Email: alan.cook@eastsussexhighways.com

LOCAL MEMBERS

Cllr Tutt

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None