

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	12 March 2010
Title:	The Shipwrights Way
Reference:	1409
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Shipwrights Way is a proposed multi-user route suitable for cyclists and walkers of all abilities, and wherever possible horse-riders and disabled users, initially linking Alice Holt Forest to Queen Elizabeth Country Park (QECP) and then potentially linking south from QECP to Havant.
- 1.2. The route broadly follows the historic route of transporting timber logs from Alice Holt forest to Portsmouth Dockyard. The route would also form part of the National Cycle network being promoted by Sustrans which will link London to Portsmouth.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. Based on an original aspiration of the Forestry Commission for such a route, the East Hampshire HAT initiated and co-ordinated a meeting with key stakeholders and continues working closely with the project. The project has now been formally adopted by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) as a sub group. The idea has received strong support from County Councillor Kemp-Gee and the Leader of East Hampshire District Council, Councillor Parkinson.
- 2.2. It was decided that a feasibility study was required to establish whether such a route could be created. A steering group was formed consisting of officers and Members from Hampshire County Council (HCC), East Hampshire HAT, East Hampshire District Council (EHDC), Forestry Commission and South Downs Joint Committee to oversee this, the main lead being HCC.
- 2.3. The appointed consultants Land Access Ltd identified a potential route that uses traffic-free routes, wherever possible using rights of way and minor

roads. The identified route ensures links are provided to major settlements and railway stations and pays particular attention to road safety using existing accident statistics and traffic volumes. The study also acknowledged the important conservation and land ownership issues which exist in the area.

3. Benefits of the Project

- Providing recreation facilities for families and tourists.
- Linking communities to each other and to the countryside.
- Providing opportunities for sustainable transport and reducing congestion.
- Rural economy: increase footfall in village shops, pubs and B&Bs.
- Tackling obesity and improving community health.

4. Links to relevant policies

- Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2 2006-2011
- Hampshire Local Area Agreement 2008-2011
- Hampshire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2008-2013 (South Downs Countryside Access Plan)
- Hampshire County Council Sustainable Communities Strategy 2008-2018

5. Finance

- 5.1. The consultant's report estimates that the total cost of implementing the route from Bentley Station to QECP would be £204,000, to include the upgrading of existing paths, signage, legal costs for rights of way issues, and all other associated costs.
- 5.2. The additional route south from QECP to link up with Havant could be in the region of an additional £40,000.

6. Potential sources of funding

- HCC – A proposal for this project for funding of approximately £40,000 has been made to the LTP Access to Countryside budget for 2010/11.
- HCC developer contributions (through the Transport Contributions Policy).
- HAT fund.
- EHDC's Developers Contributions – These must be allocated towards measures that encourage use of alternative modes of transport such as cycling and walking.
- Sustrans 'Links to Schools' fund.
- LEADER fund.
- South Downs Sustainable Development Fund.

- South Downs National Park/ SDJC.
- Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Groundwork 'Community Spaces'.

7. Recommendation(s)

- 7.1. That the proposal for a multi-user route is fully supported by the Executive Member.
- 7.2. That suitable officer time is allocated to this project and it is adopted as a high priority for the Countryside Service.
- 7.3. That funding be explored with those sources listed in paragraph 6 of the report to contribute to the costs of the implementation of this scheme over the next 3 years.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None