

Ashton Sustainable Travel Routes - October 2024

You Said, We Did

In February/March 2024, the Major Projects Team consulted on proposals to introduce sustainable travel routes in Ashton-In-Makerfield. The proposed scheme focuses on a north-south route close to the town centre and looks at improving some off-road routes and installing new crossings on busy roads to begin building a walking and cycling network.

The proposals consist of:

- Toucan crossings on Liverpool Road and Bolton Road.
- Improved off road route between Council Avenue and Townfields.
- A new, wider footbridge over Millingford Brook (near St Oswald's Catholic Primary School).
- 'Quiet Streets' on St Oswalds Road and Vicarage Road.

Since the consultation closed, we have reviewed the comments received and all feedback has been considered and the proposals have been changed to accommodate suggestions where appropriate. The below table shows a summary of the feedback received and what we have done as a result of it.

You said	We Did
You said you would like to see additional lighting included in proposals, particularly on the off-road route.	We have been exploring options for street lighting and this will be included on the off-road route.
You said existing footpaths need better maintenance before creating new ones.	The off-road route is made up of existing paths which the council are planning to

	upgrade to bridleway as part of this scheme, including new surfacing and lighting. Once the scheme has been constructed it will be handed over to the council's maintenance team to maintain the footpath going forward.
You raised concerns about off road bikes using the upgraded off road route.	We need to ensure that public footpaths are accessible to all users. By putting in barriers we limit who can use the paths, including those using mobility scooters, double buggies and adapted cycles. The council are actively seeking ways to prevent the use of off-road bikes using public footpaths and have a steering group dedicated to this. Plans will be shared internally to make sure all officers are happy with them before work is delivered on site.
You said drainage is an issue near the bowling green.	Drainage has been accounted for in the detailed design stage and adequate provisions will be installed as part of the construction works to the upgraded off road route between Council Avenue and Townfields.
You said the new toucan crossing on Liverpool Road is a well needed improvement.	We are glad the proposed crossing received a lot of positive feedback and will improve safety for pedestrians once delivered.

You raised concerns that the new crossing on Liverpool Road will increase traffic and delays at the junction near the Kings Arms pub.	Liverpool Road is currently dangerous for pedestrians trying to cross over, particularly for children and families trying to make their way to and from school. By installing a new crossing we are enabling a safe place to cross the road therefore putting the safety of people before the movement of cars. We admit there will be a slight delay to traffic as a result of installing the new crossing, but we will be working with Transport for Greater Manchester's (TfGM) signal design team to ensure the impact on congestion is minimal, which is usually the case with standalone crossings.
You said creating a quiet street on St Oswalds Road and Vicarage Road would push more traffic onto other nearby streets.	There is already an existing access only restriction on St Oswalds Road and Vicarage Road. A quiet street uses signage to direct cyclists to follow residential streets where possible rather than busy roads. The purpose is not to push more traffic onto other nearby streets.
You raised concerns about the enforcement of the quiet streets.	Quiet streets are not enforceable restrictions, they are roads with traffic calming measures to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians.
You asked why the current zebra crossing on Bolton Road can't be upgraded to a toucan instead of putting in a new crossing.	The team have looked at the crossing further and it has been agreed that a toucan is the safest option to install on Bolton Road, rather than keeping the existing zebra. Further consultation was carried out via ward

	members on the location of the proposed crossing, and it was agreed by the majority that the new location is the right place.
You said the crossing on Bryn Road South is in a dangerous place.	After further consideration it has been agreed that new tactile's will be added to the current Bryn Road South crossing.
You said HGV's are a problem along Bolton Road and will damage the pedestrian refuge island.	There is sufficient space for HGV's to manoeuvre around the pedestrian island. This has been tracked using modelling software.
You raised concerns about the positioning of the bus stops along Bolton Road.	The positioning of the bus stops required further planning and discussion with Transport for Greater Manchester as they own the stops. The locations have now been agreed as per updated plan.