

**Minutes of Ireby with Leck Parish Council Residents meeting held at the Fraser Hall, Cowan Bridge, on Monday 8 th July 2024 in relation to the proposed Sustran's Greenway through Cowan Bridge Village.**

**Present were Councillors Carol Howard (Chairman), Andrew Makinson, John Welbank and Jamie Blackshaw.**

**Cowan Bridge Residents: Thirty Nine attendees.**

**Introduction by Councillor Carol Howard (Chair) Reason for calling residents meeting: The proposed Sustrans Greenway linking Kirkby Lonsdale with Ingleton has now entered its design phase. The purpose of the meeting is to ask local residents their views on both the proposed route, design and alternative suggestions for the route. It was also emphasised that the meeting was purely dealing with the route through Cowan Bridge village and not the wider Sustrans project.**

**The meeting has four options:**

- i) Accept the proposed route and design**
- ii) Accept the proposed route with amendments to the design.**
- iii) Reject the proposed route and suggest to Sustran's alternative options**
- iv) Reject the whole Sustran's project.**

**Councillor Howard provided some background on where the existing project was presently at and what permissions would be required prior to final delivery. After speaking to both Lancaster City Planning Department and Lancashire County Council it would appear that this will be dealt with as a Highways matter and may not require planning consent. She also noted that the staff she spoke to were unaware of the Sustran's project as it affected the A65**

**Presentation by Councillor Andrew Makinson**

**Councillor Makinson provided details of the timeline for the Sustrans consultation process to date. He specifically highlighted the dangerous nature of the A65 within the village. In the last thirty years three local residents have lost their lives on the A65, two within the Parish and one just outside. He also highlighted the ongoing problems of speeding within the village, regular accidents associated with the existing crossing points and potential impact of the existing design. These included a narrowing of the A65, the loss of the village layby and its impact on the shop and issues associated with the proposed crossing point in its present location.**

**Finally Andrew provided an alternative route that he personally had already submitted to Sustrans. This took the proposed Greenway from Devils Bridge, through High Casterton and entered Cowan Bridge to the north using the old railway track.**

**The crossing point over the A65 would then be further to the East of Cowan Bridge close to the existing 30mph sign.**

**Councillor Carol Howard then asked for comments from residents. These are summarised below.**

- Considering a potential narrowing of the A65 have Sustran's undertaken an actual speed survey within the village?**
- Exiting Burr Tree Gardens estate is already dangerous due to speed and poor visibility. Adding additional walkers and cyclists to the existing situation will make the egress point even more dangerous. Same point highlighted for those houses along the A65 with driveways leading onto the A65.**
- Some support for Greenways especially the Lancaster to Caton route**
- Existing crossing point location would be directly in front of residential properties where space is limited**
- Proposed Toucan crossing both dangerous, creating an extra hazard for traffic emerging from Fell Lane onto the A65 including the school run, and would create traffic congestion within the village.**
- The existing traffic island crossing points are regularly run over and are dangerous. Unlikely a toucan crossing would be any safer.**
- Losing village layby would be potentially disastrous for the village shop. The full length of the lay-by outside the shop is required to accommodate present traffic.**

**A crossing point needs to be a bridge and not a Toucan.**

- How will the Greenway be separated from the A65? If just additional space then very dangerous due to speeding within the village.**
- If the route were altered to the old railway line which is raised above the houses at the back, this would impact the privacy and security to residents that back onto this route.**
- Suggested that some of the design would directly impact private property eg existing residential wall opposite Bridge Cottage. How can Sustran's do this without landowners permission?**
- Potential problems with travellers parking on the Greenway during Appelby Fair run.**
- Existing A65 already too narrow for large vehicles to pass. Narrowing the A65 would exacerbate this and risk them mounting the pavement**
- Is the proposed route for cyclists walkers and horses? Horses using a narrow pedestrian path so close to the A65 extremely dangerous.**

- Concern over previous Sustran's drop-in meeting as many residents were unaware of the route and/or couldn't attend
- Would Sustran's hold any further village consultations?
- Whose responsibility will it be to maintain the Greenway in future?

Based on the responses from the meeting Councillor Carol Howard asked for a vote based on the initial options presented. The results are provided below:

- i) Accept the proposed route and design - 0
- ii) Accept the proposed route with amendments to the design - 1
- iii) Reject the proposed route and suggest to Sustrans alternative options - 33
- iv) Reject the whole Sustran's project - 4

Based on this response Councillor Howard suggested that the comments made will be presented at the next Parish Council meeting on Monday July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 o'clock. Based on the clear concerns of residents to the existing proposal further communication will be made with Sustrans.

Based on their response it was also suggested that the formation of a village Steering Committee may be required.

She thanked all residents for their contribution and attendance and invited all residents to attend the Parish Council Meetings at any point. Minutes of the residents' meeting would be posted on the PC noticeboard.