
REPORT TO:	FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:
DATE OF MEETING:	18 FEBRUARY, 2003	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	RICHARD GROVES (EXTN. 5738)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	NATIONAL CYCLE ROUTE 63	REF: c/myfiles/richard/committees /FM8
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	SWADLINCOTE, NEWHALL, GRESLEY	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM01

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that:

(i) approval be given for the use of part of the land at Darklands Lane, Swadlincote, as a multi-user path, subject to planning approval by the Development Control Committee;

(ii) approval be given for concessionary public access, allowing use of the proposed path by pedestrians and cyclists

(iii) approval be given for the setting up of a revenue reserve as described in paragraph 4.1

(iv) points (i) to (iii) above be conditional upon Sustrans accepting responsibility for maintenance of the path for a period of ten years.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To seek member approval for the development of a multi-user path across land in Council ownership at Darklands Lane, Swadlincote in order to implement the Council's contribution towards the National Cycle Route.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The County Council and Sustrans, the cyclepath charity, are seeking to develop part of National Cycle Route 63 across land in Council ownership at Darklands Lane, Swadlincote. National Cycle Route 63 (NCR 63) will connect Leicester to Burton-on-Trent and the plan at Annexe A shows the proposed alignment of the route through South Derbyshire. The proposal is included in the Derbyshire Local Transport Plan as part of the County Council's core network and is also identified as a priority in the South Derbyshire Cycling Strategy, adopted by Planning and Economic Development Committee on 22nd February, 2001 (minute PED/56 refers). This particular section of NCR 63, as shown in the plan at Annexe B, would provide a link between cycle paths to be created in association with the restoration of the former opencast site at Tetron Point and on-highway links to be developed by the County Council along Darklands Lane, Darklands Road and Civic Way toward the town centre. Members

may recall that proposals to develop part of NCR 63 through Swadlincote town centre were agreed in principle by Planning and Economic Development Committee on 8 November, 2001 (minute DS/23 refers).

- 3.2 The path itself would be designed in accordance with Sustrans' National Cycle Network standards. A new gate would be provided at the entrance to the site at Darklands Lane to prevent unauthorised vehicular access. Pedestrian stiles will be provided at the access points, designed to allow passage by walkers and cyclists whilst excluding motorcycles. The route of the path and fencing arrangements have been agreed with the Economic Development Manager.
- 3.3 Planning approval would be required for the development of the path and an application for such is to be considered by the Council's Development Control Committee.
- 3.4 It would be necessary for the District Council to agree to allow concessionary public access across the land.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The County Council will be responsible for the design and construction of this section of the route the capital cost of which is estimated at £17-18,000. This Council agreed a contribution of £10,000 towards the construction of NCR63 as a capital growth item in the 2002/03 budget. It is proposed that £1,000 of this be placed into a revenue reserve to cover the cost of any unforeseen damage to a new boundary fence and gates to be constructed as part of the scheme on the Council's land. Responsibility for maintenance of the path itself for a period of ten years will be taken on by Sustrans.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Sustrans would need to enter into a licence agreement with the District Council allowing the charity to bear responsibility for the cost of maintaining the path for a period of ten years.
- 5.2 The Council is insured against negligence and personal injury claims from the public and accidental damage to property not owned by the Council on Council-owned land.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 The scheme will contribute toward meeting the following Key Aims of the Council:

(i) to promote the health and welfare of all sections of the community, including access to leisure and cultural activities

(ii) to support the development of the National Forest and its enjoyment by residents and visitors.

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 The development of National Cycling Route 63 will be of benefit to local residents both as a health and recreational resource and as a sustainable means of transportation.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The proposal represents an opportunity to develop a key link in the National Cycle Network with significant public benefits as described in this report.

9.0 Background Papers

"South Derbyshire Cycling Strategy"

South Derbyshire District Council,
2001

"Derbyshire Local Transport Plan
2001-2006"

Derbyshire County Council, 2000

