

I am writing to ask the Town Council to support, in principle, our (Derwent Valley Trust with Highways England) bid for a grant for phase 1b from Highway's England's National Designated Funds Scheme for them to construct a multi user cycleway along either side of the railway line from Ford Lane to Duffield, with a link to Little Eaton.

Whilst we have identified a potentially preferred route, this would be subject to feasibility, and consultation with landowners and the community, prior to submitting a planning application if this bid is successful.

Having successfully gained funding for the section between Darley Abbey and the A38, the proposed section 1b would link into Derby city centre, the railway station, and on to employment areas on Raynesway and Infinity Park at Sinfin - all entirely off-road!

You will be aware that, if this bid is successful, our intention is then to seek monies for phase 1c to Milford and 1d to Belper.

Concurrently we have raised money privately to resurface part of Wyver Lane (thank you for the contribution from the Town Council), and now have a crowdfunding campaign to raise more funds to resurface the next section of Wyver Lane .

Our volunteers (we have no paid staff or consultants) are also examining the feasibility of a route along the west bank of the river, with links into Belper town centre. we are in consultation with landowners and tenants and are compiling a potential grant application to a utility company's CSR Fund.

Our research has indicated that many people would consider switching their mode of travel from car to bicycle (including electric bikes) if there was a dedicated off-road route, safe from Heavy Goods Vehicles (and splashing in bad weather). In particular many women have expressed interest in taking up cycling if such a safe route existed. the advent of E-bikes makes this option attractive to all age groups.

The route has the added advantage of being flat and fully accessible for disabled users.

This section, including the link, would also provide a safe walking and cycling route to school for Ecclesbourne pupils from Little Eaton and Darley Abbey, which are both within the school's catchment area. There is currently no safe route for them - hence so many being dropped off outside the school gates with consequent congestion.

This bid is competitive nationally and we need to demonstrate that it is supported by the communities it serves and what advantages it will bring. So, a letter of support from the Town council would be a valuable contribution.

Our ultimate aim is to create a safe multi user route attractive to residents, visitors, tourists and commuters alike linking Derby, via Belper and the Derwent Valley Mills World heritage site, to Chatsworth and beyond.

I attach an Appendix which summarises the vision, aims and objectives of the Trust in creating the Derwent Valley Cycleway

Yours ever

Architect, Landscape and urbanist

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