

# Improving the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Way Cycle Route, Tunbridge Wells

Public Consultation 8<sup>th</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> December



## Introduction

Kent County Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council are proposing to improve the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Way cycle route between Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre and the North Farm Estate. The improvements will benefit both cyclists and pedestrians.

## What are we proposing?

At present the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Way is incomplete and requires improvements on the existing stretches. This scheme plans to improve the route along Goods Station Road, through Grosvenor & Hilbert Park and Doorstep Green and onto Dowding Way. Additional improvements will be made to the existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) along Home Farm Lane (to link to the Knights Wood area) and on Apple Tree Lane. The route will also provide improved access to High Brooms station.

The scheme will include:

- Improved signage
- 20mph schemes in residential areas along the route
- Shared use pedestrian/cycle paths
- Segregated pedestrian/cycle paths
- Re-surfacing and improved cross-overs
- New lighting where required
- Vegetation clearance

The cycle route design will meet all national minimum design standards. An initial design stage safety audit has been completed and another one will be carried out at the construction stage.

An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has also been undertaken to assess the possible impacts of this scheme on people with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010. The EqIA will be updated after the consultation to take into account any relevant information received. The EqIA can be viewed on our website and is available in hard copy on request (see details below).

### **What is a shared use pedestrian/cycleway?**

An unsegregated shared use path is a facility used by pedestrians and cyclists without any measures of segregation between modes.

### **What is a segregated pedestrian/cycleway?**

A segregated shared use path is a facility used by pedestrians and cyclists with some form of infrastructure or markings in place designed to separate these two modes.

### **What is a 20mph scheme?**

20mph (mile per hour) schemes intended to slow traffic speeds, are being implemented by many more local authorities across the country. If successful, 20mph schemes can bring a variety of benefits including:

- A reduction in collisions and casualties
- Improved quality of life for residents (less noise and improved air quality)
- Encouraging walking and cycling – and associated health benefits

### **Why are we proposing to do this work?**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Way is a priority cycle route that was identified in the [Borough's 2016 Cycling Strategy](#). The route is incomplete at present and requires upgrading to make it safer and more attractive to those wishing to cycle. Encouraging more people to cycle will help to reduce congestion, improve air quality and promote healthier lifestyles.

### **Have Your Say**

We would like to give you an opportunity to let us know what you think of this proposal and we invite you to complete the consultation questionnaire, which is available on our website [www.kent.gov.uk/21stcenturywaycycleroute](http://www.kent.gov.uk/21stcenturywaycycleroute)

Alternatively, paper copies of this leaflet, plans and questionnaire are available from The Gateway (8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 2AB) or on request via the contact details below. Plans showing the proposal in more detail are also available.

If you have any questions regarding these proposals or require hard copies please email [business@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:business@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or call 01892 554229. Please use the reference '21<sup>st</sup> Century Way Cycle Route Consultation' to identify the scheme.

The project team will be available to answer your questions and detailed plans can be viewed on the **22<sup>nd</sup> November** at The Hub in Grosvenor and Hilbert Park between 3:30pm-8pm.

**The closing date for this consultation is midnight 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**

### **Next Steps**

Following the consultation a report will be compiled summarising the analysis of the responses. This report will be made available to consultees. The consultation responses and EqIA will be used to inform the decision on whether to proceed with this scheme.

If the decision is taken to proceed it is intended to start work onsite in Spring 2018.

### **Alternative formats**

If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language please email [alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk](mailto:alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk) or call 03000 421553 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.