

DPC Timeline from Minutes on A427 Footpath

MEETING DATE MINUTE NO.	DISCUSSION POINTS
Feb 2019 minute 866	Cllr Dudson informed the Council that he had made a request to Northamptonshire Highways to extend the existing roadside footpath to the village of Dingley from the A6 bypass roundabout near Market Harborough. Whilst Northamptonshire County Council is currently faced with imposed spending controls it did suggest that the way forward with requesting a new footway at this location would be if the Parish Council and County Councillor Allan Matthews are supportive and able to work with Northamptonshire Highways towards both local consensus and to offer the appropriate funding. The County Council could then try and achieve these local aims where they conform to national guidance and current policy and the request for an extension to the footway could then be put into a future bid when the appropriate funding does again become available.
Mar 2019 minute 880	Cllr Dudson informed the Council that he had emailed County Cllr Allan Matthews requesting his support for the Parish Council's application to Northamptonshire County Council for an extension to the footpath from the village of Dingley to the A6 bypass roundabout near Market Harborough and its addition to a future bid for suitable funding.
July 2019 minute 930	The Council discussed the lack of footpath or safe footway from Church Lane to the Sutton Road. It was agreed that this needed addressing ahead of pursuing the request for an extension to footpath from the village to the A6 bypass roundabout near Market Harborough. Cllr Dudson volunteered to draw up a plan of the village detailing existing footpaths, distances and any verge that could be used to create a safe footway, for further discussion at the next meeting.
Sept 2019 minute 942	Cllr Dudson had drawn up and circulated plans and photographs of the village identifying existing footpaths and verges that could be used to create a safe footway as part of the proposal to extend the footpath. This would provide safe access to the top of Dingley Lane which leads to Sutton Bassett and then eventually from that point down to the B664 junction. Cllr Dudson will pass this on to Northamptonshire Highways for further guidance on how this initiative might be progressed.

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<p>19 minute 954</p>	<p>Cllr Dudson informed the Council that NCC Highways Liaison Officer Ian Boyes had visited the site to look at the proposed new footpaths from Church Lane to the top of Dingley Lane (phase 1) and from that point down to the B664 junction (phase 2).</p> <p>The Council noted the response from NCC confirming that the request for the section of new footway from the existing path along to Dingley Lane (phase 1) will be put forward for ranking when this process is undertaken in the new year (subject to confirmation of budgets). As part of the ranking process, if a Parish can commit to funding the scheme in part, this adds weight to the potential score. This works as a “sliding scale” dependant on the amount of contribution from the Parish i.e. the higher the percentage the Parish can commit the more points it will score. The Council agreed to look in to what funding was available through grants and fund raising.</p>
<p>Nov 2019 minute 966</p>	<p>The Council noted the response from the Northamptonshire Highways Engineer regarding the required widths and construction costs for phase 2. Unfortunately the County Council do not presently have the man power or financial resources to commit to investigating this phase 2 option in any detail.</p> <p>Regarding phase 1, the Council noted again that the request will be put forward for ranking when this process is undertaken in the new year by NCC (subject to confirmation of budgets). As part of the ranking process, if a Parish can commit to funding the scheme in part, this adds weight to the potential score. This works as a “sliding scale” dependent on the amount of contribution from the Parish i.e. the higher the percentage the Parish can commit the more points it will score. The Council agreed to discuss with parishioners at the Annual Village Meeting to gauge opinion in funding part of this through precept.</p>
<p>Mar 2019 minute 990</p>	<p>Cllr Dudson raised this item and referred to the confirmation from NCC that the Parish Council’s request for the section of new footway from the existing path along to Dingley Lane (Ph1 LHS) had been put forward for ranking when this process is undertaken in the new financial year. Cllr Dudson asked County Cllr Matthews to find out where this proposal sits within the system.</p> <p>Cllr Hinxman raised the matter of all Rights of Way and footpaths within the parish and whether these had all been formally recorded. The Clerk will seek confirmation from the footpath warden.</p>

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<p>July 2020 minute 1030</p>	<p>The Council referred to correspondence from Northamptonshire Highways which provided an interactive map to log suggestions for cycle routes, cycle parking, improved footway space and quieter streets in the County. This had been circulated in the community and the Council urged residents to have their say by completing the survey. The Council again reiterated the importance of public safety and maintaining pressure on the County Council to provide a safe footway through the village along the main trunk road. County Councillor Matthews advised the Council that the best time to lobby the County Council will be when the new Unitary Authority is in place.</p>
<p>Sept 2020 minute 1042</p>	<p>The Council noted the significant entries from residents of Dingley on the NCC interactive online survey providing suggestions for cycle routes, cycle parking, improved footway space and quieter streets in the County. This Council asked County Cllr Matthews to find out any feedback from this survey.</p>
<p>Nov 2020 minute 1066</p>	<p>County Cllr Matthews informed the Council that works to extend the footway in the village had been scheduled subject to funding. He will advise when this becomes available.</p>
<p>Apr 2021 Minute 1111</p>	<p>Members of the public and press are invited to address the Council: The Chair welcomed the visitors. Sergeant Rock informed the Council that there were no crime trends of any concern to report in the area and that Desborough Police House is to remain with staffing levels set to increase. He reported that the police had been heavily involved with Covid enforcement but were now starting to send out speeding patrols which were issuing prosecutions rather than warnings. Cllr Dudson raised the problem of the lack of safe footways through the village and asked how the police could support the Council's application to the County Council for an extension of the existing footpath and the provision of a footpath down to the A6 roundabout. Sgr Rock said he would refer this back to the Safer Roads Team who could potentially follow this up with Highways.</p>
<p>May 2022 Minute 1251</p>	<p>The Council considered the response from County Highways which provided the costs for the construction of a footway down to the A6 Market Harborough Roundabout (about 1.7km) of around £425,000 and the £62,000 for section from the end of the existing footway in the village (opposite No 39 Harborough Road) down to Dingley Lane. It was not thought there would be any funding available for this since the entire Network Improvement budget for the whole County is only around £300,000 annually. The Council discussed other options including some form of permissive footpath at the edge of the fields. Cllr Dudson undertook to talk to the farmer to explore possibilities.</p>

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<p>June 2022 Minute 1264</p>	<p>Cllr Dudson informed the Council that he had met with the landowner of the land on the south side of the A427 regarding the possibility of putting in a cycle path from the village to meet up with existing path at the roundabout. He also advised that there were avenues to explore for funding this. This would be a significant project which would involve co-operation from the other landowners as well as agreement from NNC Highways to undertake phase 1 footpath down to Sutton Lane. The Council agreed this would be an exciting possibility and thanked Cllr Dudson for undertaking to pursue this.</p>
<p>July 2022 Minute 1277</p>	<p>Cllr Dudson informed the Council that he put together three maps showing different sections of the proposed cycle route from Dingley to the A6 roundabout entering Market Harborough. He had sent these to three groundwork contractors requesting a budget quotation for each section for a suitable off-road cycle path. Once an idea of price has been received, Cllr Dudson advised that he explore the avenues of funding available and will forward this information to NNC Highways requesting that Phase 1 of the original footpath proposal through the village down to Sutton Lane be pushed forward.</p> <p>Cllr Dudson also advised that he was progressing with UK Prosperity fund bid.</p>
<p>Sept 2022 Minute 1290</p>	<p>Cllr Dudson informed the Council that he had received quotes for the sections of the proposed cycle route from Dingley to the A6 roundabout entering Market Harborough from three groundwork contractors. He advised that the next stage is to forward these to NNC Highways engineer Ian Boyes for his comments particularly regarding the legal side and the need to make sure that any cycle route created stays as a right of way in the long term.</p> <p>Cllr Dudson is attending an upcoming “How to Write a Winning Funding Bid’ course.</p>
<p>Oct 2022 Minute 1303</p>	<p>Cllr Dudson informed the Council that he was meeting with NNC Highways engineer Ian Boyes on 17th October to discuss the proposed cycle route from Dingley to the A6 roundabout. He would be looking to NNC Highways for a commitment to extend the existing footpath through the village down to the start of this route. Cllr Dudson also advised that he had made initial contact with funding agencies and will be attending the upcoming “How to Write a Winning Funding Bid’</p>

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<p>Nov 2022 Minute 1316</p>	<p>Cllr Dudson informed the Council that he had met with NNC Highways engineer Ian Boyes on 17th October to discuss the proposed cycle route from Dingley to the A6 roundabout. He advised that plans were hopefully being prepared for Phase 1 of the footpath and the entry/exit at A6 end. A funding request will be submitted subject to the continuation of the Network Improvement Budget in 2023/24. A contact had been provided for questions on legal issues such as permissive rights, which will need to be resolved. A request is being made to the relevant landowner to gain access into the necessary field to connect the paths. Groundwork UK has been contacted to assist with grants etc. The Council expressed its thanks to Cllr Dudson for all his work with this.</p>
<p>Feb 2023 Minute 1329</p>	<p>Cllr Dudson informed the Council that the next step, as part of the process to bid for funding, is to prove a need for the proposed cycle path down to Market Harborough. The Council discussed the best formal platform to carry out the survey of Dingley residents. The Clerk will contact NCALC to see if they can assist with this.</p>
<p>Mar 2023 Minute 1343</p>	<p>There was no further progress with this at present. The Clerk will ask NCALC to set up the survey to establish need and potential users of the cycle path.</p>
<p>Apr 2023 Minute 1356</p>	<p>It was noted that the cycle/footpath survey was now underway with numbers being collated at the end of May. It was hoped that this project would meet the criteria for the new Rural Prosperity Fund.</p>
<p>Jun 2023 Minute 1373</p>	<p>Cllr Dudson provided an update on the cycle/footpath survey which evidenced a significant number of potential users from the village. Cllr Dudson explained that the next step would be to look at all the available funding, both he and Cllr L Jones will co-ordinate this. A discussion took place on the possible need to raise any match funding required through loans to the Council. This would need a separate consultation with residents.</p>
<p>Sep 2023 Minute 1386</p>	<p>Cllr Dudson provided an update on the current fund-raising activity for the cycle/footpath. Applications have gone to National Lottery Community and Heritage Funds and to NNC Rural Prosperity Fund and Community Grants. The next avenue to pursue is through Grantscape. Further discussions took place on the possible need to raise any match funding required in terms of donations or loans to the Council. Cllr Dudson advised that he will follow up with NNC Ian Boyes on whether there has been any decision on funding for the first part of the pathway which would need to be carried out by the Highways authority.</p>

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<p>Nov 2023 Minute 1399</p>	<p>Council was very pleased to note that the application to the NNC Rural Prosperity Fund for £15,000 towards the cycle path had been successful. The necessary paperwork for the release of funds was duly completed and signed and will be returned to NNC.</p> <p>Cllr Dudson provided an update on further fund-raising activity for the cycle/footpath, circulating a list of companies that had been approached by both he and Cllr L Jones and the subsequent responses received. He asked that Councillors consider any other avenues or companies that could be approached. The Council commended Cllrs Dudson and L Jones for all their work so far with this.</p>
<p>Feb 2024 Minute 1412</p>	<p>Safe Cycle Path – Cllr Dudson provided an update on further fund-raising activity and companies approached by both he and Cllr L Jones. The first half of the grant monies from the NNC Community Fund had now been received. Regarding the section of footpath which would be provided by NNC, Cllr Dudson advised that NNC would be amending and re-submitting the application form for the 2024 / 25 Integrated Transport Block schemes for Dingley to include the monies pledged ready for the new assessments in the Spring.</p> <p>The next step is to send a donation request email/letter to large logistic companies that route their lorries through Dingley.</p>
<p>April 2024 Minute 1425</p>	<p>Safe Cycle Path – Cllr Dudson provided an updated list of fund-raising activity. A letter requesting donations had been sent to local logistic companies that route their lorries through Dingley, the Clerk will follow up on this with an email. Cllr Dudson urged Councillors to put forward further suggestions of companies to approach. The Chair will write to the NNC members heading up the Greenway project (which will link up with Market Harborough) requesting the opportunity to be included in discussions.</p> <p>Cllr Dudson suggested the possibility of looking at phasing the groundworks in order to satisfy any funding requirements and will follow up with NNC, copying in the Portfolio Holder, regarding its contribution to the project now that a new financial year has commenced.</p>
<p>May 2024 Minute 1440</p>	<p>Safe Cycle Path – Cllr Dudson provided an updated list of fund-raising activity. A follow up email regarding a request for donations had been sent to local logistic companies that route their lorries through Dingley. Cllr Dudson advised that he was collating a further list of large companies in the area to approach for a similar request.</p> <p>Councillors will be meeting with NNC Projects Officer Lucy Hawes to look at the proposed plans as this route sits on part of the route identified as one of the Greenway Project’s long-term ambitions to connect Market Harborough to Peterborough.</p> <p>The next step is to obtain a firm quote for the works.</p>

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<p>July 2024 Minute 1453</p>	<p>Safe Cycle Path – Cllr Dudson provided an updated list of fund-raising activity. A donation of £1,500 had been received from the Maud Elkington Trust.</p> <p>Further large companies in the area had been approached with a similar request for donations. Nothing had been forthcoming at this point.</p> <p>Councillors had met with NNC Projects Officer Lucy Hawes to look at specifications, funding sources and how this project might integrate with the Greenway agenda. The Chair advised that he had written again to Sustrans to seek their support.</p> <p>The next step is to obtain three firm quotes for the works.</p>
<p>Aug 2024 Minute 1466</p>	<p>Safe Cycle Path – Cllr Dudson informed the Council that a firm quote has now been received for the proposed path. Two further contractors have been approached but have declined to quote. No further donations nor grants have been forthcoming at this point.</p> <p>The Council discussed at length funding for this path and agreed to explore the option of a long-term loan through the Public Works Loan Board.</p> <p>The Clerk will contact NCALC for further guidance on the process.</p> <p>Cllr L Jones will continue to apply for any upcoming NNC Rural Prosperity or Community Capital Grant and will look into the upcoming availability of funding for farmers and landowners who choose to create permissive footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways on their land.</p> <p>It had been suggested that the proposed route either be displayed in the village or circulated to residents, detailing the route, with information on what is planned and how the residents can help, including the possibility of donating.</p>