Gravesend Station to Cyclopark Cycle Route
29 January - 4 March 2018

Have your say!
Find out about our proposals to install a signed cycle route from Gravesend Station to Cyclopark and tell us your views.

kent.gov.uk/gravesendcycleroute
Introduction

Kent County Council (KCC) is proposing to create a signed cycle route from Gravesend Train Station to Cyclopark on Wrotham Road.

The proposed route aims to provide a quieter alternative to the existing cycle lane on the busy A227, used predominantly by experienced cyclists. By offering a quieter alternative journey the route aims to attract less experienced cyclists, allowing them to gain confidence whilst encouraging everyday cycling.

What are we proposing?

The proposed cycle route was identified in a Feasibility Study by Sustrans, a UK charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. Two routes linking Cyclopark with Gravesend Train Station were identified, a quiet route avoiding busier roads (being considered in this consultation) and another main route for more experienced riders. The Feasibility Study is available to view on the consultation website kent.gov.uk/gravesendcycleroute

The design for the new quieter cycle route aims to keep the route traffic free wherever possible by creating separate cycle lanes on the road or shared use pedestrian and cycle paths. However, some sections do need to be on the road due to the space. The proposed design has tried to ensure that this only occurs in quiet residential roads where off-road routing is not an option.

A shared use footway/cycleway is a wide footpath where cycling as well as walking is permitted. On a shared use facility, all permitted users have equal access; it does not have separate cycle lanes and footways marked out.

An example of a shared use footway/cycleway is shown in the photo below:

Shared use footway/cycleways are identified by this symbol:
A map of the full length of the scheme (highlighted in red) is shown here. However, due to the length we have identified 6 key locations where the greatest change is to occur.
• On approach to Darnley Road/Pelham Road junction heading towards Gravesend Train Station the cycle route leaves the carriageway and a new 3m shared use path is to be created so cyclists can safely approach the junction.

• Widen existing traffic island to improve the safety of the crossing for cyclists.

• Move existing utilities, including street lighting, post box and water station, so that a shared use path can be created.

• Restrict parking behind proposed shared use path to prevent conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.
The preferred option is to widen the existing footpath that runs alongside Woodlands Park to create 3m shared use path.

The existing park fencing and gates would be moved back 1m to create the additional land needed.

The shared use path would run from the junction of Newhouse Lane and Dashwood Road to Dashwood Library.

After this the route would direct cyclists back onto the Dashwood Road.

The route needs to revert to the road below Dashwood Library as there is not sufficient space to widen the existing footpath.

If the stated preferred option cannot be achieved the alternative would be for cyclists to use the main carriageway.
• Construct a new shared use refuge island (3m width) to provide a safer crossing point on New House Lane.

• The proposed crossing would be located close to the junction with Dashwood Road.

• The current No Parking restrictions in place for St Georges CE School will be extended to so that parked vehicles do not block the crossing point.

**Location Three: Lower New House Lane Crossing Point (Dashwood Road Junction)**

**KEY**
- Route from Gravesend Station to Cyclopark
- Route from Cyclopark to Gravesend Station
- Start of Shared Use Path
- Direction Signage
• Cyclists to be directed on the current Harden Road triangle before using the existing footpath to approach the crossing point

• Widen existing footway to 3m for shared use

• Widen existing informal crossing point on New House Lane to 3m to provide a shared use crossing facility
• Widen existing informal pedestrian crossing to 3m to provide a suitable shared use crossing facility

• Widen existing approach footways to prevent conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists

• Preferred option is to create a new 4m cycle track across the small piece of green space between Coldharbour Road and Bucks Cross Road. This will create a direct link to the continuation of the cycle route

• If the preferred option cannot be achieved the cycle route will continue along Coldharbour Road until the junction with Bucks Cross Road
Widen existing footway into green space to provide a 3m shared use cycle and footpath

The preferred option is to widen the footpath from land currently owned by the housing developers. We are currently negotiating to see if this is feasible

Improve lighting along path between Cyclopark and houses

Demolish the existing retaining wall situated within the vegetation and replace with receding slope or earthwork (batter)

Relocate existing utility infrastructure to enable widening of path

If the preferred option cannot be achieved the route would continue to use the current footpath without it being widened and formally designated as shared use.

Location Six: Point where cycle route enters Cyclopark
The cycle route design will meet all national minimum design standards, including:

- Widening of the existing footpaths to a minimum of 2.5m.
- The installation of shared pedestrian footway/cycleway signage where necessary throughout the length of the route.
- The relocation of existing sign posts and street furniture to ensure pedestrian and cyclist movement is relatively unobstructed.

An initial design stage safety audit has been completed and another one will be carried out at the construction stage.

KCC has secured funding from the Local Growth Fund, allocated by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, Integrated Door-to-Door Services in Kent Thameside. We are proposing to use £180,000 of this funding for the proposed scheme.

Why do we want to do this work?

Cycling has many health benefits, both to the cyclists and the wider environment. The individual cyclist benefits from taking regular cardiovascular exercise in an open-air environment.

The construction of safe cycling routes away from main roads encourages those who may wish to cycle, but are less confident, to leave the car at home and cycle to their destination instead.

The more people encouraged to swap their car journey, the higher the reduction in CO2 emissions and the better it is for the environment.

Increasing the number of cycle journeys has been shown elsewhere in England to reduce congestion, improve air quality, improve resident’s health and bring investment to an area. This route will provide an important alternative route to cycle to the town centre for work or leisure purposes instead of driving.

What about equality issues?

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to assess the possible impact, both positive and negative, of this proposed 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 during this consultation. The EqIA is available to view on our website or on request.

Have your say!

We want to hear your views on this proposal.

To take part in the consultation, please complete the consultation questionnaire, which is available on our website kent.gov.uk/gravesendcycleroute

We have also created a virtual interactive exhibition where you can look at the scheme plan and give us your views. This is also available from the webpage.
Consultation Events

We have organised two consultation events where members of the team will be available to answer your questions. These events are being held on the following days.

- Monday 12 February, Gravesend Civic Centre 2pm – 7pm
- Thursday 15 February, Cyclopark 10am – 4pm

Paper copies of the questionnaire, along with this document and the scheme plan are available from Gravesend Gateway (Gravesend Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend) and Cyclopark or on request by emailing gravesendcycleroute@kent.gov.uk

Next steps

Following this 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. The proposal will also be presented to the Gravesham Joint Transportation Board before construction begins.

If following this consultation the decision is taken to proceed with the proposed scheme, our intention is to start onsite during summer 2018. It is unlikely that road closures will be required as there will be limited work on the carriageway, however we will endeavour to ensure that any inconvenience is kept to a minimum.

Alternative formats

If you require this leaflet or any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language, please email 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.