

# Workshop for TACC, Health Walk group and Project Team members

## 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### Introduction

3 representatives from Taunton Area Cycling Campaign (TACC), the 2 representatives from the parish Health Walk group attended a workshop with Project Team members to give their views and opinions on 2 aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan. These were footpaths and cycle paths within the parish, both now and in the future. The workshop took the form of a round table discussion and then a break-out to two maps.

### Round table discussion

#### Cycle paths:

National cycle routes 3 and 33 go through Creech St Michael and nearby areas. Any cycle paths would ideally link to these routes. The routes come out at Ham Road and the canal at Creech and it would be ideal if they then went along the river. A previous survey was carried out which says the same (copy obtained) and Sustrans were previously interested in moving this idea forward (2003).

Taunton Deane Borough Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy provides how to join things such as footpaths and cyclepaths up and how to write plans for this.

TACC have done work for Somerset County Council (SCC) and produced a document "Making Space for Cycling" (copy obtained). TACC have produced recommendations for design standards designs <https://thetacc.org.uk/design-standards/>. It is essential cycle routes are properly designed for safer cycling.

Data Shine uses data from the 2011 census and puts it into an interactive map. This shows how people generally travel ie by car, on foot, etc and it can be used to show this for Ruishton etc.

(<http://datashine.org.uk/#table=QS701EW&col=QS701EW0011&ramp=YIOrRd&layers=BTTT&zoom=14&lon=-3.0382&lat=50.9944>)

In relation to the A358 in the future, it was suggested some restriction on entry/exit at both ends, physical measures to address safety. A358 is very dangerous to cross at present.

#### Footpaths:

It was felt that there needed to be an improved footpath along Ruishton Lane. Creech St Michael have put in place a virtual footpath to highlight that pedestrians are in the road and they have priority. Could a shared route be considered that takes people away from the road, perhaps the other side of the hedge? Another possibility could be different road calming in the lane. It was suggested that the field behind Woodlands Drive could have a footpath across it.

It is important to join Thornfalcon and Henlade safely to enable children walking to school from these areas to do it safely down Lipe Lane.

Another suggestion was making Ruishton Lane one way to give more space to pedestrians.

It was felt that the neighbourhood Plan should also try and enhance existing footpaths and perhaps look at how to make them circular.

### Use of Maps

As at a previous consultation, they were asked to provide their comments on two maps of the parish which were marked up with the current footpaths using sticky notes.

## Responses

- Connect existing footpaths to create circular walking routes – very good for public health
- Link existing routes eg Henlade to Thornfalcon bridleway
- A safe cycle route along the A358 once diverted
- Safer cycle path route needed to Creech. Old Viaduct best. Old railway ok. Develop route along old canal/rail to SE towards Chard – are there not National Schemes to reuse old rail routes?
- Make use of Chard old canal for cycle route
- Making Ruishton Lane safe for cyclists and pedestrians must be a priority
- Ruishton Lane to Park and Ride a danger x 2 comments
- Develop footpath from village to Park and Ride (from Rose Cottage *across field*)
- Safe cycle route from Ruishton into Hankridge
- Easy safe route from Ruishton to Heathfield School *needed*
- Develop shared footpaths/cycle paths
- Improve surfaces on old droves
- Essential to implement a safe cycle and pedestrian route into Taunton (*along river and footpath T22/11*)
- Remove the steps at bottom of Church Lane and make it easier to go across the field (*T22/11*) to Hankridge
- Relocate/add traffic lights on A358 to encourage Creech rat-run traffic up Lipe Lane and discourage through Ruishton x 2 comments
- Will the Nexus Business Park development interfere with T26/12?

*(typing in italics added for clarity)*