



Footpaths, Cycleways & Bridleways Committee

Draft response to Swindon Borough Councils;

Footpaths Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation

Minutes of meeting 05 February 2026

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Holly Woodward, Bev Margerison, Lisa Campisano, Peter Gallagher Peter Maddox

Apologies – Josie Lewis

2. Update on previous footpaths Walking Day

There are some paths that were walked which are not currently on the spreadsheet. Peter G would send them to Holly W for inclusion.

3 Footpaths spreadsheet

See above, and then it needs to be passed to Martin Fry at SBC for checking. Most of the activity centres around replacing missing signage. A discussion took place around whether the Ramblers Association, SBC or WPC should be responsible for replacing missing way-markers, and it was agreed that the Ramblers would undertake this whenever possible, to ensure that they were correctly placed and located. Some of this work has already been undertaken since the last walking day.

4. Active Swindon Trail Challenge

Amanda Woodhead reported that SBC was keen to include a trail in Wroughton, potentially relating to our racing history. SBC is identifying a potential route (it has to be <3 miles and accessible) and after approval by WPC, a leaflet would be created and it would form part of SBC's spring Active Swindon Trails Challenge.

5. Draft response to SBC Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Consultation

The schemes of the draft consultation that affect Wroughton are 20 (The Old Town Railway Path), 21 (Pipers Way) and 22 (Wharf Road). We have no comments about schemes 20 and 21.

With regard to scheme 22, this directly affects Wroughton. The proposal for a cycleway/footpath all the way along Wharf Road seems partially unnecessary. Wroughton Parish Council would like

to see a footpath/cycleway along the north-south section to join the village to Mill Lane and Wichelstowe, which would enable safe off-road access between Wichelstowe and the west side of Wroughton, but we don't believe a connection from Mill Lane to Studley Grange is needed, as there will be safe access along the new road joining Wichelstowe to the Hay Lane/Studley Grange area.

Two points regarding the scheme detail as outlined in the consultation.

1. The reasons for the lack of foot and cycle traffic along Wharf Road is because it is dangerous, not because of lack of desire, and it is reasonable to assume that cycle and walking movements would increase if there was a safe pathway along the road.

2. The consultation claims that land alongside the road is 'predominantly in private ownership'. As far as we are aware, with the exception of a small section between Ashen Copse and footpath WR7, all of the land on the east side of the road belongs to Swindon Council and is rented out to tenant farmers. This covers White Horse Farm, Common Farm and the Community Woodland between Mill Lane and Maunsell Way. We would assume that a dedicated footpath/cycleway would be on this side of the road behind the hedge line, to avoid people having to cross/walk along a busy road.

Other suggestions we would like to be considered are:

- A) A designated footpath to allow safe access along the very short section of road from the Maunsell Way entrance to WR 7. At present, there is no footpath and people have to walk along a very narrow grass verge. This would be a straightforward but very welcome improvement.
- B) We would also like to see a better surface, suitable for wheelchairs/prams and cyclists, on footpath WR 42 between Woodland View and WR1. With an indicative extra 1034 houses being planned along Swindon Road, and the homes which already have planning permission at the Hills site on Woodland View, an accessible footpath/cycleway from the east side of Wroughton to meet up with Wichelstowe would not only provide access between the two areas, but would enable safe off-road travel into the centre of Swindon, without the occupants of the new homes having to use Swindon Road and Croft Road. We believe this land is also owned by Swindon Council and rented to tenants.

6. Date of future planned walks

It was agreed that the next formal footpaths walk would take place in early June, at a date to be decided.

7. Actions to take forward to SBC

TBC

8. Actions for Parish Council

Submit response to the SBCs consultation in relation to SBC Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Consultation, Point 5 above.

9. Date & time of next meeting

TBC