

This item has been referred from the POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE – MINUTE F478(F) 25 NOVEMBER 2019 REFERS:

“proposal for a 5K health route be referred to the Halls and Green Spaces Committee for further investigation/debate”

Witney 5K route/s

To install a marked 5km length health/activity route through the town, with the option to add additional routes in the future. This would take the form of a painted Green Line (Orange or Blue are alternative colour options, also in line with highways regulations, but more intrusive) with 1K distance markers and meeting points.

The aim is to encourage more active travel in the town; for people to walk, run, cycle (some sections), and mobility scooter along the route; and to join up communities, and points of interest in the town more effectively. As well as providing set distances for exercise purposes, the line would also be a focal point for signposting pedestrian routes through the town. Routes, where possible, pass through greenspaces so as to increase awareness of their locations and benefit, local amenities (including playground areas and shops) as well as offering variety within the route for participants, and are a minimum of 5km in length. They are circular, so although a suggested START / FINISH point may be marked, and km update markers from there, it doesn't matter where a resident picks up the route, or indeed, which direction they choose to follow it.

Budget

£17,000

Based on the Bicester Health route, including development and delivery of the project, the overall cost per Health Route using spray paint amounts to approximately £14,000. Using the thermoplastic molten paint, it would be approximately £17,000. The spray paint option can be used for a more temporary installation (lasts about 12 months) to gauge route suitability, however similarly high costs of installation would preference installing with the thermoplastic paint immediately, provided there is sufficient confidence in the route.

Implementation timetable (for installation in Summer 2020)

1. Set-up working party, including Witney Road Runners, Windrush Bike Project, Mobility Scooter users, Walks representative etc. (December 2019)
2. Draw-up proposal routes with input from working party (December 2019)
3. Send proposal to Yvonne Constance (Cabinet Member Highways, OCC) for financial support (Dec 2019)
4. Carry out public consultation, install optional temporary pedestrian counters (Jan-Mar 2020)
5. Examine other funding options, e.g. Sports England, NHS, Section 106; Sponsorship for related signage etc. (Dec-Mar 2020)
6. Obtain landowner/highway approvals (Mar-May2020)
7. Commence installation (May 2020). Summer months are best for effective installation.
8. Complete installation and obtain ongoing feedback on the route (June 2020)

Reference/attached (Case study kindly provided by Dale Hoyland and Rosie Rowe, project officers at Cherwell District Council, for internal use only)

- Bicester Healthy New Town_Health Routes case study_NHSE final.pdf
- Example Route Flyer