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To: WitneyTCInfo
Subject: Update from Oxfordshire County Council on Active Travel Grant

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As you may well be aware, Oxfordshire County Council successfully won a greater than expected allocation of the Department of Transport's Active Travel Grant in the second and final share in November.

This amounts to £2.9 million; a great win for Oxfordshire. In addition to this, the county council has been awarded additional £1.4m active travel funding for cycle schemes in Witney and Bicester via the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP). This means that in total, the council now has access to £4.3 million to transform active travel.

Amid a series of issues on democratic processes/consultation and some poorly executed schemes across the country in the first round, the Department of Transport has firmly outlined the need for meaningful consultation in this round. There has been guidance issued on representing the views of the silent majority rather than coming under the influence of outspoken individuals and pressure groups.

To help Oxfordshire County Council fulfil this obligation, officers have prepared an outline to be uploaded to our website on 11 December on the details of the schemes as well as how and under which applicable criteria schemes will be consulted on. In addition, the website update will give details of the stages and expected timing of applicable consultations.

The update will also give general detail on the scope of the schemes we will spend the funding on. This will cover the communities and specific streets involved as well as the current planned timescales involved in the work. Alongside this detail, our officers have outlined the corresponding milestone dates of both planning and consultation.

The goal is to offer straightforward and transparent information to county council members, residents and related stakeholders. It should be noted that the website will be updated with any changes to schemes or dates so this will not be a static page.

It has not been possible to involve outside groups and stakeholders to the extent that would be the norm under the immense deadline pressure officers have faced to submit the schemes to meet the critical DfT deadlines.

The plans also align firmly with the council's planning commitments of working toward the goals of the council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP 5) and carbon reduction combined with active communities. Many schemes also align with the goals of the Local Cycle Walking and Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) county council members have approved.

Now the deadlines have been met, officers will be looking to collaborate with stakeholders early in 2021 on the plans to make sure the schemes are developed in a democratic, representative and fully consulted manner to see them succeed.

Regards,

Jonathan Sayers

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