

Bee Network Consultation

New and Improved Walking and Cycling Routes Being Planned

Work has started on a Greater Manchester-wide programme to make journeys on foot or by bike much easier and more attractive. Tameside Council has secured over £10 million, in principle, to create a new walking and cycling network across the borough – known as the Bee Network. Consultation on the first 11 proposed schemes took place in February / March 2020. The aim was to share the emerging plans and obtain feedback. In addition we wanted to raise awareness of the opportunities, across the borough, to help create a genuine culture of walking and cycling.

Not only is walking and cycling good for our health but it reduces congestion and improves air quality too. The six week consultation programme included public drop-in-events, online questionnaire, focus groups, targeted leaflet drops and a family showcase event on Ashton Market Square.



You Said

Over 126 responses were received during the consultation.

28% expressed strong support and indicated that they were interested in the improvements being planned. This was reflected in the quality of feedback we received.

67% of people responded positively and 69% indicated that the proposed schemes would encourage them to walk or cycle more instead of driving.

9% of the responses expressed concerns relating to the plans – mainly due to the amount of money being spent on the new routes, the view that active travel modes are not for everyone and the potential disruption during construction.

Alongside scheme specific feedback, a number of ideas were captured, including the importance of promoting a culture of considerate shared use, bike maintenance and training, improved community spaces with reduced litter and providing priority for pedestrians and cyclists at side roads and entrances.



We Did

Issues and opportunities identified during the consultation have, where appropriate, been fed into the design of the schemes.

Examples of how scheme designs have changed following a review of the consultation feedback include:

- Improved accessibility by introducing less restrictive access controls
- Introduction of bat boxes
- Introduction of stone soakaway trenches to reduce the likelihood of standing water
- Positive engagement with a local community group to develop and introduce a functional community space
- Introduction of parking restrictions to improve visibility, safety and access for buses.

Other practical ideas about how to increase the number of people choosing active modes of travel have been fed into the scheme Activation Plans, which are being developed to help promote and encourage use of the new routes once complete.

As some schemes are still in the early stages of development a long term consultation plan has been established. This is to ensure that residents are kept updated on the plans and continue to be consulted.

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