

December 2021

AAGP Executive Committee: Chairman - Joe Harvey; Vice Chairman and Warwickshire Representative – Liam Maude; Hon. Secretary – Colin Tether; Hon Treasurer – Daryl Bailey; Worcestershire Representative – Jill Smith

Chair's update, a few changes:

We are sad to tell you that in the New Year Colin is stepping down from the Hon. Sec role as he will be moving away from the area after 17 years. Jill will be replacing him as Hon. Secretary, however Colin will still stay in touch with the project and offer his support and expertise from a distance! It is a good moment to offer him a massive vote of thanks for all his hard work and inspiration over the last four years!

On the other hand, I am delighted to welcome Graeme Reeves (Broom) and Tom Shaw (Alcester) who are both joining us. Graeme will be working on building a business plan for the AAGP and Tom will be looking at the various opportunities for routes around Alcester.

In general terms the AAGP continues to make steady progress to ensuring that we are seen as an important and credible infrastructure project by both district and county councils involved. Establishing ourselves as an integral part of their planning is key to becoming a contender for government funding as and when it is available.

In the shorter term we are working closely with Salford Priors Parish Council and associated landowners to open the Salford Priors to Wixford stretch of the Greenway into 2022/23. In addition, you will see below that work on the Broom to Stratford route has taken several large steps forward and I am very grateful to all those who are a part of that progress.

Joe Harvey (Chair – AAGP)

General Meeting, 26th January 2022

We plan a general meeting for all partners on Wednesday 26th January at Salford Priors Memorial Hall. We will contact partners with full details after Christmas and we will ensure a 'Zoom' connection is provided.

Broom to Stratford Feasibility Study

We are pleased and grateful that we have now secured funding for the Feasibility Study which will be carried out by Sustrans. We will be working closely with Warwickshire County Council, our parish councils and the Stratford District Council who have generously provided the necessary funds.

Bidford Health Centre – Bidford Fields

Bidford Health Centre plans some ambitious changes with a large development of the site. This 'would provide additional health services and accommodation for older and vulnerable people through an operationally net-zero and naturally designed health campus'. We are very excited that an integral part of

the scheme will be a connection along the route of the old railway line from the Health Centre back to Bidford and to Broom. The Health Centre had appointed Oculus Real Estate as their consultant and our Chair Joe Harvey has met them and set out what the AAGP would like to see on the ground.

An exhibition of the proposals was held on Friday 26th November. One of the slides from the exhibition shown below illustrates that the AAGP is included in the proposals:



**Bidford Fields,
Bidford-on-Avon**

Transport and accessibility

It is important to us that cycle and pedestrian facilities at Bidford Fields are easily accessible and environmentally sustainable for local residents and visitors. Oculus support the work of the Avon and Arrow Greenway Project to ensure green initiatives are paramount to design and integrated with established local work.



Cycle path/footpath

Oculus support the work of the Avon and Arrow Greenway Project and Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council to create a cycle path connecting Bidford-on-Avon and Stratford-upon-Avon along the north of the site.

To accommodate cyclists, secure bike storage facilities and outdoor stands will be available on site.

The pedestrian-led masterplan approach features key linkages from the existing Health Centre through to the new facilities and links to the planned Greenway to the north of the site.

Road access/parking

The proposals include a single flow traffic system, with entry access in the south-eastern corner of the site, utilising the existing access to the Health Centre as exit only.

The parking numbers proposed at the site have been formulated based on the operational requirements of the Extra Care units and the parking standards for nursing homes, clinics and surgeries, ensuring they provide ample parking for visitors.

The plans therefore include 22 spaces for the Specialist Care home, 46 for Extra Care and 18 for additional health facilities.

Bus route

To accommodate visitors using local transport links, there are two existing sheltered bus stops located next to the Health Centre on Stratford Road. The bus route is served by the hourly X18 Stagecoach in both directions between Stratford-upon-Avon and Evesham bus station.

Evesham Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan

Worcestershire County Council is now consulting on two major plans affecting Evesham. The closing date for both is 20th December 2021. The AAGP will respond and our partners are also encouraged to make comments:

Hampton Footbridge

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20927/hampton_pedestrian_and_cycling_bridge

This bridge will provide a valuable link across the river Avon. It is worth looking at the plans which show not only the bridge but a long elevated causeway across the flood plain on the Evesham side of the river.

Evesham Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/LCWIP

The plan reproduced below is copied directly from the consultation document and it may be difficult to decipher. Please note the 'Legend' box should show the solid lines as 'off road', the dashed lines as 'on-road'.

The plan does show connections into Evesham itself and to the station. Emphasis is made on the importance of the riverside path as a spine route around Evesham which will connect with both the new Hampton Bridge and the AAGP route. The AAGP route is shown from Evesham to The Valley and beyond but no mention is made of the AAGP in the document.

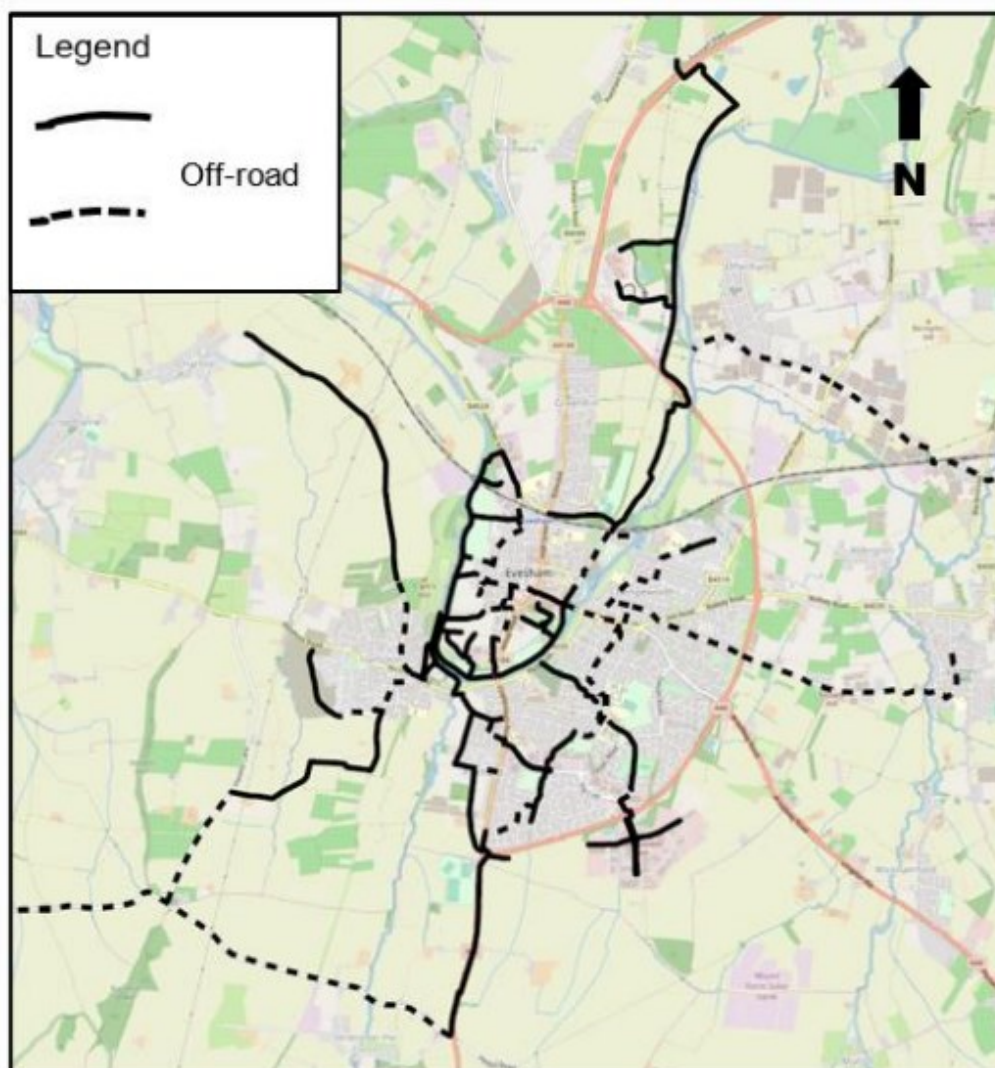


Figure 3; the proposed cycling network, including wider connections

Visit from John Grimshaw and Caroline Levett

In the May Newsletter we included a report about the recently opened Wye Valley Greenway. The promoting organisation for this project is Greenways and Cyclerooutes Limited, run by John Grimshaw and Caroline Levett. John is something of a celebrity in cycling circles as he originally promoted the first off-road cycle route from Bristol to Bath along an old railway line, and he went on to found Sustrans.

John and Caroline together with Daryl and Colin cycled the whole spine route from Alcester to Evesham in August. Generally, John and Caroline were very happy with the route but suggested some changes which we are following up. We hope to work with Greenways and Cyclerooutes Limited as they have a wealth of valuable experience in getting off-road routes installed.

Meeting our new County Councillors

The County Council elections were held in May 2021 for both Warwickshire and Worcestershire. We have met two new county councillors, Laura Gretton in Harvington and Piers Daniell in Alcester. Both have been enthusiastic about the project and are helping to promote the AAGP.

Remember last summer?

Together with Salford Priors Parish Council, we organized an 'Interactive Walk' from Salford Priors to Wixford on Sunday 25th July 2021. There was a very good turn out and we were able to show partners and friends the section of the route where we wish to see preliminary works start soon.

The photo below was taken outside St Mathews Church before the start. Members of the AAGP executive are identified by their AAGP 'T' shirts, from the left Daryl Bailey, Jill Smith, Joe Harvey and Colin Tether. Salford Priors Parish Council Chairman Alan Green is third from the right.



Much more is in the pipeline and we are looking forward to catching up with you all in the new year. Please make every effort possible to join us in person or via Zoom and we send best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Christmas to you all.

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