

Briefing Note**Full Council Monday 26th April 2021****Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Barnstaple, Bideford and Northam**

Devon County Council is working with the North Devon Council and Torridge District Council to produce a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) for Barnstaple, Bideford and Northam. It has been suggested that if both district councils and the relevant town/parish councils jointly draft a plan there will be a significant cost saving to producing separate plans.

The document is proposed to identify gaps in the walking/cycling network as well as opportunities for addressing identified barriers and safety concerns. It may also help to identify suitable locations for any further access points onto the Tarka Trail.

It has been indicated that Barnstaple Town Council is likely to be supportive (although awaiting confirmation), as are Bideford and Northam Town Councils. Planning Policy at NDC feel it would be more useful and comprehensive if areas such as Bickington and Roundswell etc were also included and not just areas within Barnstaple parish. The inclusion of Fremington and Yelland would also fill a substantial part of the gap between Barnstaple and Bideford which would also be beneficial.

Planning Policy is inviting Fremington Parish Council to become a partner of the project and would appreciate a commitment as to whether the Parish Council is willing/able to participate. It would also be helpful for NDC to know who would lead from the parish council on this project, it is anticipated that this would be an officer representative rather than members as the project will not include opportunities for policy making and decisions. Decisions and actions will follow after the report is finalised.

There is no request for any financial contribution at this stage. Funding split can be agreed later by the partners, it is anticipated that the 2-district council will take on the majority of the cost.

V Woodhouse
April 2021