

## LITTLETON PARISH CYCLING PLAN

### Introduction

The purpose of the plan is to reduce the dependence on car travel within the area of the parish in order to increase Active Travel. The plan considers short trips to places of education, shops, workplaces, recreation, worship etc. It also considers longer routes from the community to the city centre, railway station etc. There is a strong dependence on the suitability of cycling infrastructure in adjacent parishes to achieve a coordinated network. Hence it was decided that the parishes of Waverton, Christleton, Littleton, Huntington, and Great Boughton would each have a Cycling Plan developed simultaneously. This report for Littleton should therefore be read in conjunction with the other parish reports. At the end of the combined report there is a conclusion with recommendations for the whole area with a map showing the locations of suggested improvements to the area.

### Existing Cycle Routes

The village is located on the A51 with dual-use paths on both sides of the road running from the Vicar's Cross traffic lights with A41 and eastwards to Stamford Lane on the South side and to Wicker Lane and beyond to Kelsall on the North side.

There are no specified cycling infrastructure (separated paths) elsewhere in the Parish. Hare Lane and Littleton Lane together form a connection between Hoole, Piper's Ash, Guilden Sutton and elsewhere with the school and Law College in Christleton. Pearl Lane also forms an important route for pedestrians and cyclists connecting Littleton and Christleton with Great Boughton and the rest of Chester. It is widely used by school children.

### Condition of Cycle Routes

The A51 dual-use paths have in general a good surface but in many places there has been verge, hedge and tree growth which reduce usability in some cases leaving a dangerously small working surface against the very busy A51. In addition there is a certain amount of vehicle parking that blocks the path or reduces width forcing users into the road to get past.

### Cycle Parking Provision

The topography of the village is predominantly flat and therefore is ideal for cycling. With few commercial facilities in the Parish many cyclists will pass through. The important group is the students who cycle to Christleton High School where ample cycle parking provision is made.

There is only found one rack for parking four bikes and that is on the Rugby Club grounds in front of Athletic Fitness.

### Desire Lines

In determining where cycling infrastructure is needed it is necessary to establish where people need to travel. The routes chosen are not for leisure purposes but are regarded as those essential for commuting to work and places of education, shopping access to medical facilities etc.

1. City Centre - A51 route to Vicar's Cross and into Chester (this is not an ideal route beyond the Bridge Inn but provides access to shops en route to the city centre and to Sandy Lane).
2. Pearl Lane over A41 continues to Vicar's Cross Road then either onto the Canal towpath or continue on the road (A51) into Chester
3. Railway Station - Canal towpath to Hoole Lane, Charterhall Drive (through bank area) direct to platform cycle park.
4. Boughton, Caldley Valley Shops - Pearl Lane to A41 shared user path, Hamburger junction, Caldley Valley shared user path. This is widely used by pedestrians and cyclists.
5. Hoole - Canal towpath to Hoole Lane, Westminster Road.
6. Christleton - Littleton Lane
7. Littleton - Hoole and Guilden Sutton via Littleton Lane across A51 and into Hare Lane for access to The Rugby Club and other sports and Nursery facilities. This route continues to Piper's Ash, Hoole and Guilden Sutton.

### **Suggested Project Improvements to Active Travel Routes**

The overall recommendations and suggested improvements to the cycle network are shown graphically on the map at the end of the joint report for the five parishes.

Within the confines of the parish area the following recommendations are advised:

1. Ensure pedestrian controlled lights are installed at the Littleton/Hare Lane crossing of the A51. Apparently this improvement will be incorporated into the A51 works currently being undertaken.
2. Connect the dual use paths at the Vicar's Cross traffic lights correctly to the dual use paths along the A41 west side.
3. Extend 20mph speed limit from the A51 along the length of Littleton Lane through to Christleton.
4. Provide separated facilities for cyclists and walkers possibly via a shared user path for the section of Pearl Lane from Littleton to the A41.
5. Convert the footpath along the west-side of Littleton Lane/By-pass into a shared user path, from the PC notice board in Littleton to Christleton.
6. Ensure the refuges along the A51 are wide enough to cater for cycles and prams as well as solo pedestrians