

Access to Bleasby Countryside “ABC” (formerly GAWP) Working Group Report

December 2025 - Summary of Current Status and Next Steps

Introduction

This an update on progress and actions arising since the Parish Council’s initial approach to Notts CC for the designation of Gypsy Lane as a ‘Quiet Lane’.

Formerly known as GAWP, the working group “WG” agreed to change the name of the initiative to Access to Bleasby Countryside. We did this for clarity and to better reflect other initiatives on which success for Gypsy Lane will most probably depend.

The WG has met a couple of times in the last month and this report reflects the discussions and actions from the meeting with NCC and a follow-up WG meeting.

Meeting Notes

On 14th November the WG met and were joined by the following NCC officers:

Victoria Margeson – Responsible for strategy in transport planning, specifically she and her team are responsible for developing and maintaining county wide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan(s). “LCWIP”.

Neil Lewis – Manager responsible for the Countryside Access Rights Team – the team responsible for maintenance and development of all rights of way including footpaths and bridleways etc.

Key Discussion Points

- NCC does not have much experience with ‘Quiet Lanes’. There are 2 designated lanes in Sutton Bonnington which have been in place for 6 years. Neither officer was involved with their creation. Experience has been mixed mostly because it’s understood that a sizeable percentage of the local population were not supportive and therefore use has been limited and compliance patchy.
- Work needs to be undertaken to ascertain whether or not Gypsy Lane is suitable for Quiet Lane designation. Guidelines are for less than 1000 vehicles movements per day and an average speed of less than 30 miles per hour. Victoria Margeson undertook to initiate a traffic survey for Gypsy Lane although

this will probably not be undertaken until the New Year to make sure it reflects normal road use.

- Feedback from the officers present was the best chances of achieving NCC support in time and budget for the Quiet Lane initiative would be for Gypsy Lane to form part of a larger initiative to improve cycling, horse-riding and walking access to the wider area. That is, to be adopted as part of the LCWIP for the district and for Gypsy Lane to link to other existing and enhanced rights of way to improve non-motorised access to other nearby population centres – neighbouring parishes and further afield to Southwell, Nottingham and Newark.
- Local maps were referenced for identification of potential routes off Gypsy Lane to link it to other rights of way.
- The East Midlands Combined County Authority under the leadership of the newly elected East Midlands Mayor, Clair Ward, is developing a Transport Plan for the region. Part of the avowed aim of the plan is to improve links between communities and to “Transform the school run with safe walking, wheeling and cycling routes”. There is a consultation in progress - <https://www.eastmidlands-cca.gov.uk/content/uploads/2025/11/EMCCA-Mayors-Transport-Plan-Draft-6.1-compressed.pdf> - which finishes in February. Alongside this plan the Mayor has already committed to better walking, wheeling and cycling routes – and has secured £7.2 million from Active Travel England to make this happen. She has also appointed Alan Simpson (former MP) as The Sustainable Transport Ambassador.

Action Items

1. NCC to undertake traffic survey – VM
2. WG to co-ordinate response to EMCCA consultation
3. WG to establish plan of local landowners and agree approach.
4. WG to make representations, co-ordinate and seek support from neighbouring parishes. BM to attend next Fiskerton and Thurgarton PC meetings.
5. Next WG Meeting scheduled for early Jan, date tbc.

WG Members

Bobbie Debrulais	Carol Standish
Peter Cast	Ben Morgan
Geoff Lester	