

St Athan Active Travel route

Consultation report 16 July 2021

Introduction

Public consultation was undertaken on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's proposals to upgrade the existing footway provision into a shared use footway/cycleway from St Athan village to Eglwys Brewis between June and July 2021.

Consultation Activities

The following activities were undertaken to promote the consultation:

- Letter drop to properties in the vicinity of the scheme
- Site notices in the vicinity of the scheme
- Email to stakeholders and statutory consultees
- Press release
- Information on the Council Active Travel webpage
- Social media

An online survey was provided to record consultation responses. Paper copies of the survey were also made available on request.

Consultation Results

Despite a mail drop to 800 houses in the vicinity, only 22 responses were received. 72% of which were in favour of the scheme. We can only assume that the majority of the 800 houses that had a mail dropped letter informing them of the consultation, are not against the proposed schemes.

Changes to the Scheme for consideration:

Following scheme consultation, the following changes to the scheme will be considered when construction is undertaken:

- Existing street lighting provisions will be reviewed and upgraded where necessary, therefore providing street lighting across the scheme extents.
- A possible footway / crossing facility option from the Clive Road junction across to the proposed shared use footway on the Western side will be reviewed, however the close proximity of trees and their roots will need to be considered and could affect the possible installation of any improvements in this location.

Consultation comments

Three questions were asked on the consultation survey. A list of all comments and the Council responses to these are listed below:

What changes would you propose?

Comment received	Council response
Continued cycle/pedestrian access to follow the route through the entire village and surrounding the area	S106 sustainable transport funding was allocated to make active travel improvements in 2020 through the village, including dropped kerbs and tactile paving. There are highway constraints within the village that would not allow a footway/cycleway to be constructed. Proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021.
Speed cameras must be added to this proposal. Cars drive way too fast along this busy pedestrian walkway. Mobile speed cameras are too infrequent to have the necessary effect. Speed cameras and, ideally, sleeping policeman must be added.	The Vale of Glamorgan Council does not currently have the powers to enforce moving traffic offences. This is the role of the Police and GoSafe. This scheme is only eligible for Welsh Government Active Travel funding.
Before you even consider widening/improving the pavement, you need to improve the road itself. With the extra 300 to 400 houses being built in Parc Fferm Wen and behind East Camp Estate, the already narrow dangerous roads from Eglwys Brewis to St Athan village will see a huge increase in traffic.	Welsh Government Active Travel Funding is being provided for this scheme. Widening roads is not part of the active travel remit. By constructing this shared use facility, we are encouraging more people to actively travel from St Athan to Llantwit Major and not use individual motor vehicles.
This is a good idea but for this area (or any others!) I really don't think the pathway needs to be so wide!!! Just a decent pathway/cycleway is ok	The width of shared use provision follows Active Travel Design guidance.
Extend the Active Travel along the Eglwys Brewis road to meet the foot path that starts opposite Picketston Close and continues to Llantwit Major.	Proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021.
I thought it was for work and not recreational? Is there any figures on how many people would use this route to travel to work? From experience I see many cyclists on the road when there are cycle paths they could be using?	Baseline data has been collected from camera surveys and employer/schools. By constructing this shared use facility, we are encouraging more people to actively travel from St Athan to Llantwit Major and not use individual motor vehicles. The increased frequency, from 2023, of half hourly train services from Llantwit Major to Bridgend and Cardiff will further encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of transport.
Expand to link up Eglwys Brewis and beyond.	Proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021.
drop curbs for mobility scooter etc.	They are being provided as part of this scheme.
Pavement extension and drop kerb from the end of Clive road across Cowbridge road onto the pedestrian path. A lot of people including families with pushchairs and young children cross at the end of this road which currently means walking over the grass or on the road and over the grass again on the opposite side.	Will be considered as additional design work, funding dependent. However, the close proximity of trees and their roots will need to be considered and could affect the possible installation of any improvements in this location.
Upgrade other transport measures or a safer path/crossing measures from co-op to Gileston so people can walk to the beach safely and cross to the village amenities safely without the fear of being run over. Cyclists do not use cycle paths where they are available anyway.	Gileston is out of the scope of this scheme, however, will be considered in any future scheme linking St Athan to Rhoose. We would encourage cyclists to use cycle paths, but it is not enforceable by law.

Please can we have the planned route extended so it all the way down the Eglwys Brewis road to the junction with Picketston close? (Where the bus stop is located)	Proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021.
Extend the route from the new oblongabout along Eglwys Brewis Road to Aston Martin (on the camp side but not destroying the trees) so people can walk safely from St Athan to Llantwit. Protecting existing trees / wildlife and planting trees along route if possible.	Proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021. Any future route would go through the appropriate biodiversity, ecology and sustainable drainage system assessments.
The plans included within the consultation (GA plan, AT route) terminate at the new housing roundabout and doesn't include the section of Eglwys Brewis road towards the new road improvement road and pathway network installed at Aston Martin. These improvements should be continuous between these two points and the section of road, cycle path and pathway along this Eglwys Brewis stretch especially included clearly within the consultation. Until then the consultation is not offering full transparency and also doesn't provide full continuity for active travel.	Welsh Government funding is awarded annually on receipt of application for individual schemes. Our intention is to link as many shared use facilities as possible and proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021. This will give a continuous active travel route from St Athan to Llantwit Major.
Wider pathway - consistent along route	The width of shared use provision follows Active Travel Design guidance.
- Not to re-tarmac where it has already been done recently. - Improved signage for bus stop & quality of the shelters.	Our construction team will re-tarmac only where deemed necessary. A new bus shelter on the west of Cowbridge Road is being provided as part of this scheme that will include a digital information board.
I can't see any changes that could be implemented in certain parts of the route	There is a lack of clarity to this response. The design drawings show the improvements we wish to implement.
I would like to see in the document any impact of the changes to the actual carriageway, as unfortunately not all cyclists use cycle paths and remain on the road, therefore could result in an increased danger should the carriageway be narrowed. Particularly as this road is used regularly by arctic lorries.	We would encourage cyclists to use cycle paths where available. The scheme has been through, and passed, a Road Safety audit.

Are there any issues or problems that stop you walking, cycling or wheeling that aren't shown on the map?

Comment received	Council response
The traffic driving at 40mph at least at all times of day and night. It is common to see vehicles driving at 50mph along this route. This needs addressing immediately.	The Vale of Glamorgan Council does not currently have the powers to enforce moving traffic offences. This is the role of the Police and GoSafe. They will be informed of your comment.
I only walk from Eglwys Brewis to East Camp and the current pavement is fine for walking. It is too narrow for bikes.	This scheme is widening the path to allow pedestrians and cyclists to use it.
Dreadful lack of street lighting.	Active Travel routes are fundamentally for travelling to employment, education, health and leisure facilities which is envisaged the majority of would be done in daylight hours. However, as part of the scheme design

	existing street lighting provisions are being reviewed and upgraded where necessary.
i live on the birds' estate and am not able to go anywhere as there are not enough drop curbs on the estate and beyond.	Noted for future improvement should funding become available.
A lot of people walk along rock road to the school and walking dogs etc.	Noted.
Crossing from St Athan village to Gileston for access to the beach due to speeding cars and lorries	Gileston is out of the scope of this scheme, however, will be considered in any future scheme linking St Athan to Rhoose.
It does not run from the oblong roundabout towards Aston Martin.	Proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021.
Making roads narrow is dangerous.	This scheme has passed the appropriate Road Safety Audit.
Walking along the Eglwys Brews and Cowbridge Road - the path is overdue upgrading, not flat and at end of useful life. This requirement extends beyond the Gathering place and continues to the new Aston Martin site. The drawings do not clearly communicate the council's plans for connecting the active travel route within the village along Cowbridge Road and Eglwys Brewis Road to connect to the Bro Tathan industrial estate.	Welsh Government funding is awarded annually on receipt of application for individual schemes. Our intention is to link as many shared use facilities as possible and proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021. This will give a continuous active travel route from St Athan to Llantwit Major.
Lack of pedestrian access from Eglwys Brewis to new Aston martin road	Proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021.
Poor road quality can be a problem	Noted.
- Lighting from the dipper and the village is extremely poor. Must use phone torch to ensure safety. - Pathway from the dipper to the village becomes narrow which causes issues.	Active Travel routes are fundamentally for travelling to employment, education, health and leisure facilities which is envisaged the majority of would be done in daylight hours. We are constructing as wide a footway/cycleway as possible throughout the whole of the scheme from St John's Hill to The Gathering Place. Within these scheme extents the scheme design will review the existing street lighting provisions and upgrade where necessary.
Yes - the proposal does not go far enough there is a significant shortfall in safe routes for walking and cycling between the new roundabout serving the new housing development and the Northern Access Road improvements. Improvement on this route would enable much more walking and or cycling to Llantwit Major.	Proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021.

Do you have any other comments you wish to make on the proposed route?

Comment received	Council response
I think the proposed route is an exceptionally good idea, with opportunities to keep pupils safe following a bus journey to/from school. I think there are so many cyclists on the roads now that	Noted.

<p>a designated cycle/pedestrian path would prevent accident and injury. This has been a long time coming - i fully support this proposal.</p>	
<p>Do not wait for the project start date to make this route safer. Speed cameras and sleeping policeman tomorrow</p>	<p>The Vale of Glamorgan Council does not currently have the powers to enforce moving traffic offences. This is the role of the Police and GoSafe. They will be informed of your comment.</p>
<p>The road is way too narrow by Beggars Pound and the pavement is already under threat when vans and lorries come through there. As it is impossible to widen and restrictions on it would cause even more problems than your plans need to be reassessed. Maybe you should spend the money on improving the carriageway surface. From East Camp to Beggars Pound the edges of the road are steadily crumbling away.</p>	<p>This scheme has passed the appropriate Road Safety Audit. Funding received for this scheme from Welsh Government is for active travel and not highway resurfacing. However we will pass on your comments.</p>
<p>Why waste money when the footpath is already in place, the state of the road is poor. Maybe there should be laws that ensure cyclists / pedestrians and disability vehicles have to use these paths that you will provide no matter what people think. Politics at its best</p>	<p>The current footway does not meet Welsh Government Active Travel Design guidance for pedestrians or cyclists. The new shared use facility will accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, and disability vehicles. We will encourage people to use them.</p>
<p>Having pedestrians and cyclists along the same path could be very dangerous for families with young children who use this route on a daily basis to get to school. We have no council run school bus service to this is a very well used. It's also used by dog walkers who could get tangled with bikes. The bikes that currently use this pedestrian road go extremely fast and do not slow down for pedestrians</p>	<p>The new shared use facility will be wide enough to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, and disability vehicles and follows Welsh Government design guidance.</p>
<p>Waste of money - cyclists do not use the existing cycle paths anyway!</p>	<p>We will encourage cyclists to use the new shared use facility.</p>
<p>Please extend</p>	<p>Proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021.</p>
<p>Speed of traffic on Eglwys Brewis Road can be a problem so for safety this should be assessed and considered if there are plans to extend the route in the future.</p>	<p>Proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021. The Vale of Glamorgan Council does not currently have the powers to enforce moving traffic offences. This is the role of the Police and GoSafe. They will be informed of your comment.</p>
<p>The website confirms this is the final round of consultation. I wish to have this noted that this is the ONLY opportunity I have received to feed into the process. please remember we chose to live in a rural village which boasts mature trees and hedgerows and wildlife. I appreciate these are a nightmare for VOG maintenance, but this is no excuse to remove any landscape whilst their value remains enormous to residents. The VOG must include this within the consultation. We chose to live amongst the greenery and ALL tree</p>	<p>The scheme has been through the appropriate biodiversity, ecology and sustainable drainage system assessments.</p>

removal and soft landscaping must be fully justified and clarified within the consultation before proceeding.	
Hard to say, as when I click on the links it will not open to show the route map or plan!	Links tested within 12 hours of this comment being left and all found to be working and a number of responses have been received.
I think this is a long time coming, children have been walking to school from the Gathering Place area for the past 30+ years that i have lived here. Now, with more housing being built on the land, there will be more children, so the more accessible routes there are for them to cycle to school, will hopefully, minimise the use of cars, therefore not blocking the roads around the school in St Athan.	Noted.
My main comment is the disappointment that the plans do not include a link from St Athan to the improved pavement/cycle path along the northern access road.	Proposed AT improvements through Eglwys Brewis to Ffordd Bro Tathan are being developed for consultation August 2021.