

## **Active Travel Essex – Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood**

### **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

In July 2020 the Government announced the second Active Travel Fund (ATF2). It invited highways authorities to make bids for funding. The objectives of the ATF2 were to help local authorities implement measures to create an environment that is safer for both walking and cycling. This was to initially enable cycling to replace journeys made by public transport, in order to help avoid overcrowding on the public transport network and to help maintain social distancing during Covid. In the long term it was also expected to help deliver significant health, environmental and congestion benefits by providing better infrastructure to create streets which can accommodate increased levels of cycling and walking.

Essex County Council (ECC) submitted a bid and was awarded £7.4m in November 2020. This was in order for ECC to deliver five schemes across Essex to maintain the growth in walking and cycling seen across the five areas during the period of the pandemic. This funding, together with an element of match funding by ECC, will fund schemes to improve walking and cycling in Basildon (Wickford), Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, and Colchester.

A key part of ensuring success is that ECC has been working with the local partners and parties in order that the schemes garner wider local support; as well as supporting the social and economic recoveries of each locality after the Covid-19 pandemic. ECC undertook a robust and meaningful consultation, taking advantage of technology. Engagement activities that were undertaken included a series of in person consultation road-show events at the locations where the schemes are proposed to allow people to view the plans and ask questions. In addition, a Steering Group for each scheme was made up of representatives from the local authorities, community groups, businesses, access and active travel groups, and these groups helped to shape the proposed schemes ready for consultation.

Detailed information on the process as undertaken can be viewed on the Cabinet Member Action Form Approved by the Leader of Council on CMA FP/142/08/21 “Active Travel Fund 2”:

[https://cmis.essex.gov.uk/essexcmis5/Decisions/tabid/78/ctl/ViewCMIS\\_DecisionDetails/mid/422/Id/8818/Default.aspx](https://cmis.essex.gov.uk/essexcmis5/Decisions/tabid/78/ctl/ViewCMIS_DecisionDetails/mid/422/Id/8818/Default.aspx)

In November 2020 a temporary scheme to widen the footway throughout the northern end of the Sawyers Hall Lane by way of land defenders was installed to support the COVID social distancing rules that were in place at that time to assist those walking to and from the schools. Existing limited waiting/parking bays here were removed as part of the footway widening scheme. As part of the Active Travel Fund, plans to introduce a School Street along Sawyers Hall Lane are being developed. As part of this, the proposal is to make the temporarily widened sections of the footway permanent. To facilitate this the existing limited waiting/parking bays - which have not been in use since November 2020 - will be permanently removed. No Waiting at Any Time restrictions are subsequently proposed to be installed in

these sections, in order to deter vehicular parking and keep the carriageway clear of congestion during school drop off/pick up times.

**For further information about the Active Travel Fund and the proposed measures across the Borough of Brentwood, please visit our website:**

- [www.essex.gov.uk/safer-greener-healthier](http://www.essex.gov.uk/safer-greener-healthier)
- <https://www.essexhighways.org/safer-greener-healthier-brentwood>