

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To give details of the proposed works to improve the Cinder Track (BR24a-e).

2. Dedication of land at 51 Belfast Avenue:

LSTF funding has been secured within this financial year (13/14) to undertake a project to widen the narrowest section of the Cinder Track (see photo below). As the narrowest, unlit part of the Cinder Track this section rather lets down the wide avenue type feel of the route.



Tenants at no. 51 Belfast Avenue a council owned property initially complained about the continual damage to their wooden fence which runs alongside the path from Belfast Ave into Godolphin Playing Fields and anti-social behaviour (including drug dealing taking place in the path at night). The existing path surface is crumbling away as the wooden fence is not a sufficient retaining structure in the garden which is considerably lower than the path surface. This provided the impetus for Community Safety, Highways and Housing to find a resolution to the problems.



Solution:

Housing has been asked and has agreed to dedicate a strip of land from no.51 Belfast Ave to allow the existing path to be widened.

A concrete fence will be erected to act as a retaining structure for the path surface. Once the works are completed the path will be 3m the minimum width requirement for a cycle way. The large tree at Belfast Ave end will be retained and the new concrete wall will butt up to it. A light column will be installed at the park end of the path along with signage and bollards to help slow cyclists down on entering the path.

3. Bollard Replacement:

The Colne Valley bollards designed specifically for the Cinder Track provide the Track with a clear identity for its entire length. However, it has been noted that the condition of some of the bollards and railings has deteriorated. Where the fabric of the bollards and railings are assessed as beyond repair new units will be installed in the same design and where possible action will be taken to remove graffiti.



4. Graffiti Removal

Graffiti on rear fences/walls along the Cinder Track is a continual problem, requiring a disclaimer signed by individual households to enable jet spray removal or painting over. After discussions between the NET team and Highways it's agreed that it would be beneficial to have a rolling programme of painting over graffiti; with the works undertaken by Community Payback on their monthly visit to the Track. In order for this to happen indefinite disclaimers are required for all the properties with walls/fences backing onto the Track. The process of contacting each household and if rented properties, then the landlord is currently on-going. It is hoped to be able to start the rolling programme next month.

5. Dispenser Bins:

This project aims to help improve the problem of dog fouling along the Cinder Track.

Aims of this project

- To improve and enhance the Cinder Track by adopting an innovative approach to reduce dog fouling. A similar project set up last year in Lynch Hill Valley, has proven to be successful, with residents commenting positively about its impact in the valley.
- To encourage the schools and community to participate in the scheme by producing suitable artwork, to ensure a supply of empty bags for the dispenser, and to actively report fouling activity to the authorities.

Outline of the project

This innovative approach has worked in Britwell and plans are to introduce a similar scheme in the Cinder Track.

Baylis Court School, an Arts Academy has produced suitable artwork to be used on the recycling stations. Artwork produced by the school, encouraging dog-walkers to be more responsible will be screen printed on metal plates and affixed to the dispenser bins.

It is envisaged that the dispensers will be re-stocked with bags by local students and resident groups. The potential of schools becoming collection points for empty bags brought in by parents and the students will be explored.

The various stakeholders will promote scheme by sign posting dog walkers to the new collection points. Businesses in the area can also be urged to participate by supplying bags if needed.

