



BELPER
TOWN COUNCIL
Working for the community

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Dear Sirs

Letter in Support of Grant Application

Belper Town Council is in the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. Improving the Town's cycling opportunities features in the Draft Plan – Submission Document as follows-

“

Getting Around

'Getting out, walking or cycling, burns calories, gets your heart pumping and works your legs and abs. It can also lift your mood, put a smile on your face, and improve your general health and wellbeing'. (Source: www.sustrans.org.uk)

Feedback from various groups as part of the NP4B consultation has shown that there is an appetite for increasing the number of safe opportunities available for cyclists and for proposals to improve walking around the town particularly along Meadows Edge.

Neighbourhood Plan policies can only require highway improvements as a consequence of new development that directly relate to a new site and it is not within the power of a Neighbourhood Plan to control the volume of traffic passing through the parish. However, major development does provide the opportunity to enhance the footpath /cycling routes around the parish.

A Neighbourhood Plan can set out aspirational policies where it reflects community consultation that relates to the wider planning goals as set out in national policy. Encouraging people to reduce car usage improves air quality and increases activity levels which improves health and well-being.

The compact size of Belper and Milford means that most journeys are under a mile, which is ideally suited for cycling, but the lack of convenient routes that feel safe discourages people from cycling and keeps them dependent on their cars or public transport.

The Derwent Valley Trust has produced a tube map for Belper (see below) which identifies the quality of cycle routes within the town centre. However local knowledge suggests that this underplays those parts of these routes that are heavily trafficked, narrow and/or steep.

Belper Cycling Quality Tube Map

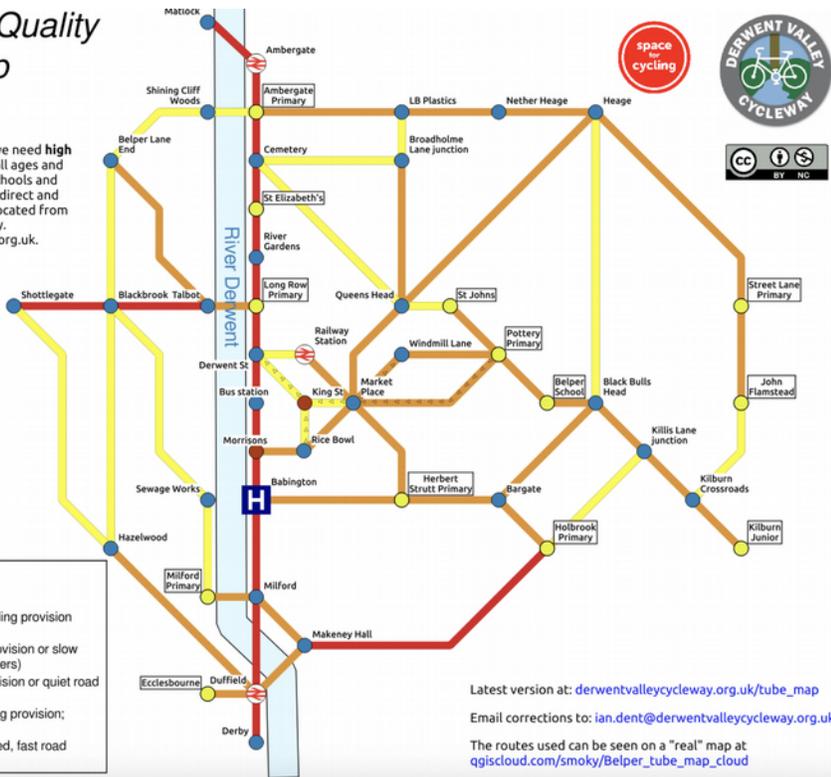
1st May 2017

To enable everyone to cycle in comfort we need **high quality Space for Cycling**, inclusive for all ages and abilities, connecting communities with schools and centres of employment. Routes must be direct and cohesive, with space on main roads reallocated from the general carriageway, not the footway. Acknowledgement is made to cyclebath.org.uk.

- Education
- H Hospital
- Shopping
- Station

Links

- Excellent – Motor free with good cycling provision (all skill levels including children)
- Good – Good segregated cycling provision or slow and minimal traffic (all except beginners)
- Could be better – Some cycling provision or quiet road (cyclists with moderate experience)
- Needs Improvement – Limited cycling provision; busy road (experienced cyclists)
- Poor – No cycling provisions; crowded, fast road (experienced confident cyclists)



Latest version at: derwentvalleycycleway.org.uk/tube_map
 Email corrections to: ian.dent@derwentvalleycycleway.org.uk
 The routes used can be seen on a "real" map at qgiscloud.com/smoky/Belper_tube_map_cloud

There is support for encouraging opportunities for recreational cycling along the River Valley and there will be an increase in the number of people cycling once the Derwent Valley Cycle Way is completed. This could also link to the proposed commuter cycle link into Derby. Belper residents are well located to benefit from this wider initiative.

APP 1 The provision of a riverside walk/cycling route

With the redevelopment of the sites at the former West Mill and North Derwent Street there is an opportunity to provide a number of public walking/cycling routes that access the riverside and reinstate the route of the Strutt's carriageway. Proposals that achieve this aspiration are supported where they are compatible with the local green space designation and the status of the areas as green belt. "

The Draft Plan also seeks to designate Wyver Lane Nature Reserve as a Designated Local Green Space as follows

"Local Green Spaces

The National Planning Policy Framework affords Neighbourhood Development Plans the powers to designate certain areas as Local Green Spaces and protects them from development for the duration of the Plan.

The NPPF links the designation of Local Green Space in the wider context of local planning of sustainable development to 'complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services'.

Para 77 of the NPPF sets out the criteria for designating Local Green Spaces. These open spaces have been assessed against these criteria as follows

Area	Description	Assessment against criteria
Wyver Lane N R, Wyver Lane, Belper	Large area of open space next to the River Derwent	The area consists of wetlands and ponds. It is owned by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and is one of the Trust's most important wetland reserves. It is special to the local community for its wildlife and bird population.

The designation of these areas as Local Green Spaces in planning terms would provide an element of surety about their protection over the Plan period. Given the continued expansion of the town and the concern about proposed development this policy safeguards assets that are easily accessible and highly valued. It may also assist in securing small grants to undertake environmental improvements as necessary over the Plan period.

NPP 13 Designation of Local Green Spaces

- 1. The sites identified in Map 11 are designated as Local Green Spaces and are protected for their beauty, recreational value, tranquillity and richness of wildlife.**
- 2. Development that would have an adverse effect on the openness or special character of these Local Green Spaces will not be supported except in very exceptional circumstances or if the development clearly enhances the Local Green Space for the purpose for which it was designated.**
- 3. So far as is consistent with their predominantly open and undeveloped character, opportunities to improve public access and recreational use will be encouraged for the benefit of the wider community.**

The Draft NP therefore supports the development of a Cycle Track along Wyver Lane – to improve access to the Wyver Lane NR and to improve cycling opportunities generally. The Town Council therefore supports the project and the Grant application.

Yours faithfully

Liz Page
Town Clerk



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Twinned with



PAWTUCKET
Rhode Island U.S.A.



Large Town Winners
2010/11/12/13/15 and 17

