

5. Stakeholder Engagement

5.1. Introduction

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5.1. Introduction

Stakeholder engagement is a key element of this LCWIP as it ensures that the views and knowledge of local people are taken into account.

During the project, two sets of stakeholder workshops were held: Phase 1 and Phase 2 workshops.

Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 workshops were held with:

- » Internal stakeholders (officers from SCC and GBC).
- » Elected members (with representatives from parish councils, SCC and GBC).
- » External stakeholders (such as representatives from walking and cycling groups).
- » Neighbouring Boroughs.

The first workshop presented the existing issues and the identification of draft walking and cycle routes. The second workshop reviewed the proposed infrastructure interventions.

Stakeholders' comments provided important feedback throughout each stage of the study. Comments were taken on board to refine the selection of CWZs, walking and cycling routes and the proposed intervention measures.

5.2. Stakeholder Workshops

For all workshops, the relevant stakeholder groups were identified by GBC and SCC and invitations were issued prior to the events, with AtkinsRéalis facilitating the workshop. Invitees included:

- » SCC officers.
- » GBC officers.
- » GBC Elected Members.
- » Community Rail Partnership.
- » Guildford Access Forum.
- » Guildford Bike User Group / G-BUG.
- » Guildford Group of the Ramblers' Association.
- » Guildford Residents Association.
- » Guildford Society.
- » Guildford Vision Group.
- » Royal Surrey County Hospital.
- » Surrey Coalition of Disabled People.
- » Sustrans.
- » University of Surrey.

For the Neighbouring Boroughs workshops, attendees included officers from:

- » Elmbridge Borough Council.
- » Guildford Borough Council.
- » Hampshire County Council.
- » Rushmoor Borough Council.
- » Surrey County Council.
- » Surrey Heath Borough Council.
- » Waverley Borough Council.

Workshops were held primarily via Microsoft Teams. For the external stakeholders, hybrid workshops were held enabling attendees to join in person or via Microsoft Team.

5.2.1. Phase 1 Workshop

During the first stage of the LCWIP stakeholder workshops were held in July and August 2023 where representatives from SCC, GBC and various Borough organisations, user groups, and residents' associations representatives attended.

Each workshop was divided into three main parts:

- » Presentation of the project and work so far (data collected and review of policies and relevant schemes).
- » Presentation of the proposed cycle network.
- » Presentation of the proposed core walking zones and walking routes.

After the presentation of the proposed cycle and walking networks, there was an interactive session where participants' comments were added to the relevant map. Participants were also asked to vote for their top five cycle routes and top five core walking zones / walking routes and the outcome was incorporated into the MCAF process (refer to Walking and Cycle Network sections) to select

the routes to be advanced to the development of potential interventions.

The project team asked for feedback on:

- » The proposed cycle routes / walking zones, and their relative priority.
- » Alternative routes / zones that attendees felt should be included and / or alternative alignments.
- » Key issues, barriers, constraints, or opportunities the LCWIP project team should be aware of.
- » Types of interventions attendees would like to see.

All stakeholder comments were considered prior to the Phase 2 engagement. In total 67 participants attended the five¹ Phase 1 workshops, excluding AtkinsRéalis project team.

5.2.2. Phase 2 Workshop

During the second stage of the LCWIP, stakeholder workshops were held in November and December 2023. The lists of invitees were very similar to the ones for the Phase 1 workshops, although additional stakeholders were included throughout the process.

The workshop was divided into two main parts. The first included a presentation on the proposed interventions for the cycle routes

1 Internal, Neighbouring Boroughs, Elected Members and External Stakeholders (in person and on line).

and the second part a presentation on the proposed interventions for the selected core walking zones and walking routes.

As per the Phase 1 stakeholder workshops, after the presentation of the cycle and walking networks, there was an interactive session where participants' comments were added to the relevant map.

The project team asked for feedback on:

- » The proposed interventions for each route.
- » Alternative interventions attendees would like to see.
- » Additional information and/or issues to be aware of to help guide proposals and future assessments.

Once again, following the comments received during the Phase 2 workshop, the proposed interventions for the Phase 1 selected cycle and walking routes were subsequently updated. Subsequently, a workshop was held in January 24 to discuss updates to proposed interventions in Shalford following feedback in the Phase 2 workshops. In total 55 participants (excluding AtkinsRéalis project team) attended the six² Phase 2 workshops.

For detailed information on the comments received and responses/actions taken by the project team, refer to Appendix 9a and 9b (separate document).

2 Internal, Neighbouring Boroughs, Elected Members and External Stakeholders (in person and on line) as well as Shalford with representatives.



Figure 38. Phase 1 external stakeholder meeting

5.3. Other Engagement Activities

5.3.1. Public Engagement

Early public engagement was carried out via a number of web-based surveys. The primary tool was SCC's LCWIP Commonplace survey. Originally used during the Covid-19 pandemic, to identify potential schemes for Emergency Active Travel Fund support, the survey was re-publicised at the start of the Guildford Borough LCWIP study to encourage additional public input. Comments logged on Widen My Path public survey platform were also considered.

The interactive sites allowed the public to leave comments about deficiencies and desired improvements related to walking, cycling and other issues. The information was used to help identify the proposed walking and cycling networks.

The surveys were opened to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic and are still opened for comments. AtkinsRéalis processed the available data up to July 2023.

5.3.2. Member Briefing

An online briefing for local GBC and SCC members was held on 2 November to introduce the Guildford Borough LCWIP at the start of the study process. The briefing provided an overview of the LCWIP process, objectives, key outputs, and programme. It also provided an overview of the Surrey-wide LCWIP programme and how the LCWIP fits into broader policy objectives (e.g., LTP4 and Climate Change Strategy) and active travel scheme development and funding opportunities.

5.3.3. Other Meetings

Throughout the development of the LCWIP, fortnightly meetings took place with the GBC and SCC project team to review, discuss, and provide feedback on the direction of the study, cycle and walking network proposals, and potential interventions.

The team also attended monthly wider coordination Guildford urban area - Sustainable Movement projects meetings led by SCC, as well as alongside meetings for other SCC-led schemes to ensure the schemes were coordinated and complementary.