

BOURNEMOUTH TOWN CENTRE TO/FROM FERNDOWN: BENELLEN AVENUE – GLENFERNESS AVENUE

Responses to issues raised - TCF Consultation 2021

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Context

BCP Council, on behalf of Dorset Council and BCP Council, ran a consultation on the proposed changes and designs of the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) programme. This consultation ran from 24 February – 31 March 2021.

This report details responses to issues raised by respondents regarding the southern end of the Bournemouth town centre to/from Ferndown route, including the proposals between Benellen Avenue and Glenferness Avenue.

More details on the proposed improvements and the insight report summarising the outcome of the consultation for this sub-section can be found on the BCP website: www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/tcfbenellen

Responses to issues

We have considered all comments received through the consultation process, and below we have summarised the key themes that emerged for this section from responses to the open questions within the online questionnaire, as well as received letters and emails.

The table below sets out our responses to the most frequently recurring themes that emerged through the analysis. The full frequency showing the number of times each code description was used, as well as example comments, can be found in the insight report mentioned previously.

Comments were also raised through other channels, including social media, during the process. In the table below, we have also sought to address pertinent matters received through these channels that necessitated a response.

General comments/recommendations

Theme	Nature of comments received	BCP / Dorset Council Response
General agreement	Much safer for pedestrians and cyclists	We welcome these comments in support of the scheme. They have been noted as part of the process to determine the outcome taken forward.
	Will encourage more cycling	
	Will stop road being used as rat runs and cars travelling at high speed	
	More crossings will make walking to school safer	
General disagreement	The changes will increase congestion and increase pollution impacting air quality	<p>The purpose of the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) programme is to broaden the travel options available across the South East Dorset area. By encouraging more walking and cycling, particularly for shorter journeys, and increasing bus usage in the area, we can help to reduce congestion on our already busy road network. As a result, we'll also help to improve air quality and create safer, more pleasant places in which to live, work and do business.</p> <p>We will be monitoring the effect of the scheme against a number of metrics, including the level of traffic congestion, number of cyclists, carbon emissions and public health benefits.</p> <p>Traffic/cycle count data and speed data has already been collected in the area, and we will be collecting similar data at regular intervals following the delivery of the scheme to measure its impact. The monitoring and evaluation we will be doing follows best practice guidance and we are liaising with experts in the Department for Transport to ensure our methods of assessment are robust.</p>
	Waste of money	<p>BCP Council and Dorset Council were jointly awarded £79m by the Department for Transport through its TCF scheme, which is part of the Government's plan to improve productivity and prosperity through investment in public and sustainable transport. The grant is ring-fenced and can only be used on improving cycling, walking and bus infrastructure across the six corridors that have been identified across the south-east Dorset region.</p> <p>The grant was also supplemented by further contributions from the Councils, local business groups and transport companies, resulting in a total programme budget of £102m, making it the largest ever investment in sustainable transport infrastructure for the region.</p>

Theme	Nature of comments received	BCP / Dorset Council Response
	Not enough cyclists for the changes	<p>Evidence from across the UK indicates that providing safe, protected space away from vehicles is a key factor in encouraging larger numbers of people to consider cycling more often. The TCF programme is about providing safe facilities and to encourage as many people as possible to use them. The latest national design guidance makes clear that provisions must be aimed at those aged 8-80 years old, ensuring that all that want to cycle and walk around the region feel safe to do so.</p> <p>The more people we encourage to cycle a small number of trips, the more we will contribute to reducing congestion, carbon emissions and air pollution, and therefore improving air quality across the South East Dorset region.</p>
Design comment/ suggestion	Need to stop cars parking on cycle tracks on Glenferness Avenue	The existing parking and Traffic Regulation Order restrictions are being reviewed with the aim of formalising and optimising provision for on-street parking, loading, and unloading for deliveries as part of the scheme being delivered along Glenferness Avenue. The final decision on restrictions will be subject to the outcome of the TRO.
	Improvements needed around Benellen Road to stop 'rat-running'	We are developing options, including the introduction of a lower speed limit, to reduce vehicle speeds and discourage through traffic in the area. Further design work is underway and the local community will be consulted on the revised proposals to identify the best opportunities to promote the use of the Leven Avenue as a quiet route for cyclists.
	Improvements needed to junctions along Branksome Wood Road (with Leven, Benellen and Glenferness Aves) to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists	During the consultation, we proposed new parallel crossing points at the Benellen Avenue/ Branksome Wood Road and Leven Avenue/Branksome Wood Road junctions. As well as providing a key connection for cyclists and pedestrians over Branksome Wood Road, the infrastructure will help reduce vehicle speeds which in turn help improve the safety of those crossing. These improvements are being progressed for delivery.

Leven Avenue closure

Theme	Nature of comments received	BCP / Dorset Council Response
Disagreement with closure on Leven Avenue	Not needed/unnecessary	<p>The proposal to close Leven Avenue to vehicular traffic was intended to enable safer, easier journeys for pedestrians and cyclists. However, in light of feedback received, and updated traffic and cycle count data collected in the area, the closure on Leven Avenue to motor vehicles is no longer proposed.</p> <p>Instead, we are now proposing an alternative set of proposals for this quiet route which are designed to increase safety and improve the area for pedestrians and cyclists, by encouraging lower vehicle speeds and discouraging through traffic. The revised proposals include: a new 20mph zone around the Benellen Avenue area, the introduction raised tables along Leven Avenue, and narrowing of junctions with raised tables to lower speeds.</p> <p>These revised proposals will be subject to further consultation with the local community.</p>
	Will increase congestion on surrounding roads especially at peak times	
	Didn't work when it was first trialled	