

South East Dorset's Transforming Cities Fund Programme Update

greener | healthier | better connected

Edition 1 – December 2021

Welcome!

Welcome to our first Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) newsletter for key stakeholders and programme partners.

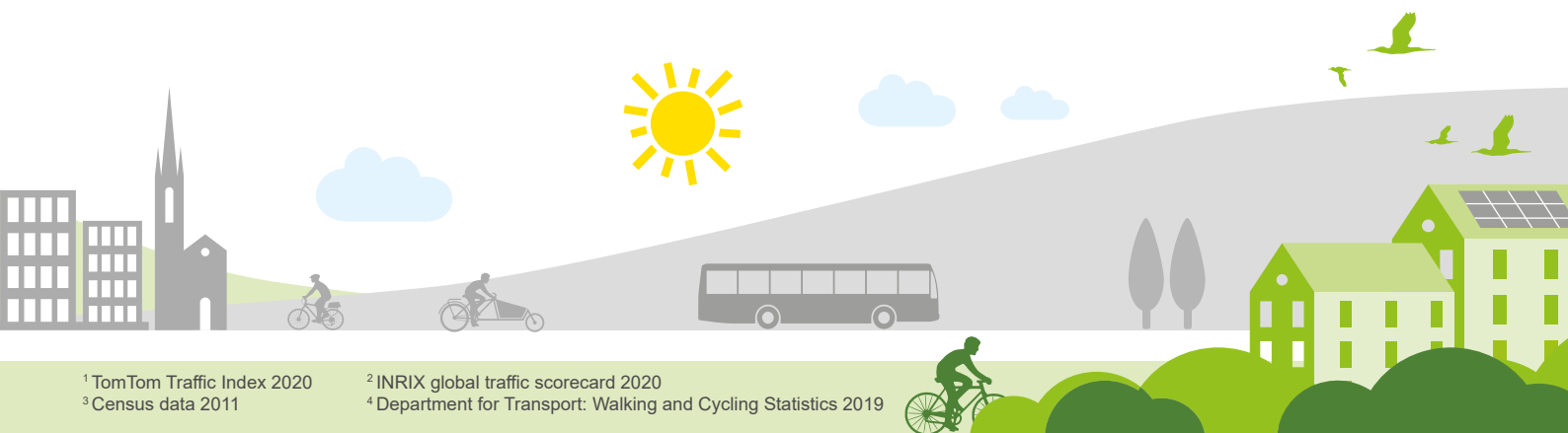
The TCF programme has made significant progress since it started, both behind the scenes and on the ground. We have reached some major milestones in the programme and construction is well underway at multiple locations on the six TCF sustainable travel routes.

We thought this would be a good time to update you on key achievements so far. Thank you for your ongoing support which is vital to the programme's success.



TCF programme objectives

South east Dorset is the sixth most congested region in the UK¹. On average we waste 32 hours a year² in cars in traffic queues. We also know that in Bournemouth alone, around 7,000 people drive less than 2km to work every day³. If we can replace a proportion of these journeys by car with walking, cycling or taking the bus instead, that would reduce traffic on our roads, un-block the congestion and allow people who need to drive to move more freely. One of the biggest concerns stopping people from adopting sustainable travel is safety on our congested roads⁴.



¹ TomTom Traffic Index 2020
³ Census data 2011

² INRIX global traffic scorecard 2020
⁴ Department for Transport: Walking and Cycling Statistics 2019

This is why we are investing over £102m, largely funded through central government’s Transforming Cities Fund plus third party contributions, in our new 78km network of cycling and walking infrastructure and improved bus services.

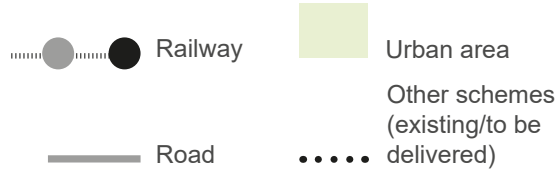
By creating this new network, we are offering people a safe and green alternative to their car, particularly for those short journeys. It will help to connect major housing, employment, education, leisure and retail centres with safe, eco-friendly routes and provide sustainable options for travel across the conurbation.

Our Six TCF Sustainable Travel Routes



A range of cycle, walking and bus improvements

- Bournemouth railway station to/from Jumpers Common, Christchurch
- Bournemouth town centre to/from Ferndown
- Poole town centre to/from Wareham Road, Holton Heath
- Poole town centre to/from Merley, Poole
- Poole town centre to/from Ferndown and Wimborne
- Merley, Poole to/from Christchurch



Click [here](#) for more information on our six TCF sustainable transport routes

Work to date

Read about all the work on the ground, which has either been completed, is still in progress or is about to commence.

TCF Route Bournemouth Railway Station to/from Jumpers Common, Christchurch

Project – Kings Park

Phase 1

A new raised toucan crossing on Harewood Avenue has been installed, providing a better and safer link between Kings Park, Littledown and the adjacent Avonbourne Academy. The 20mph speed limit has also been extended to cover the crossing and the adjacent roundabout.



The new toucan crossing at Harewood Avenue, Kings Park



Kings Park currently



Artist's impression of the planned improvements at Kings Park

Phase 2

Work is now underway on the construction of a sustainable route across Kings Park from Ashley Road to Harewood Avenue, including new separate cycle and walking paths, better lighting and a new crossing by the stadium for safety. This phase of the work is due to finish in autumn 2022.



TCF Route Bournemouth Town Centre to/from Ferndown

Project – Upper Gardens, Bournemouth

Cycling and walking improvements in Upper Gardens began in May 2021 and are well underway. The existing cycle/footpath through the gardens has been widened and resurfaced, and improved lighting and new wayfinding totems are being installed.

The last stretch of this project (between Queens Road and Prince of Wales Road) has begun and is already making good progress. This section is due to complete by spring 2022.



Work underway at Upper Gardens

TCF Route Poole Town Centre to/from Wareham Road, Holton Heath

Project – Rigler Road to Hinchcliffe Road and Blandford Close



Work underway on Rigler Road



The new flexible cycle poles on Rigler Road

Good progress is being made on the cycle and walking route along Rigler Road and through the Holes Bay regeneration site. Flexible cycle lane separators have already been installed on the Rigler Road approach to the Twin Sails Bridge and the existing stone path past the football and recreation ground has also been dug up, widened and re-laid with a new surface.

The next phase of the work will see a new cycle and walking path constructed, which will link the path round the recreation ground to the existing entrance on Rigler Road.



TCF Route Poole Town Centre to/from Ferndown and Wimborne

Project – Leigh Road – Wimborne Road West, Wimborne and Colehill

Work on our first TCF project started on Wimborne Road West and Leigh Road in January this year to build a new 2.3km cycleway and improved walking facilities. The speed limit has also been reduced from 40mph to 30mph along the whole length of the road.

A feature of the improvements are two new 'parallel' crossings, some of the first of their type in the Dorset Council area.

The project is due to complete early next year with the final section currently under construction between Hayes Lane and the Brook Road junction.



Work underway on Wimborne Road West



New junction on Wimborne Road West



The new cycleway and footpath on Wimborne Road West



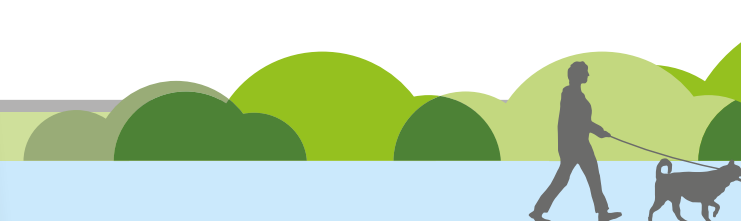
A new parallel crossing on Wimborne Road West

This cycle lane is really good; the smooth surface is a joy to ride on and it certainly makes me feel a lot safer about riding along this busy road.

Lynsey Gentry, local resident

...it is great for me to see the benefits of this grant coming to fruition on the ground.

Michael Tomlinson MP



TCF Route Poole Town Centre to/from Ferndown and Wimborne

Project – Ringwood Road, Ferndown

Work began in November 2021 on new sustainable travel facilities along Ringwood Road in Ferndown. The project will take place in three phases and will involve the construction of a new 3.2km cycle and walking route with bus improvements along Ringwood Road between Longham mini roundabouts and Trickett's Cross roundabout.

Phase one of the work, from Longham to south of Church Road, is due to complete around late April 2022 and includes a 3m-wide shared-use walking and cycling path, an improved crossing point near Woodlands Avenue and upgrades to the six bus stops.

Artist's impression of the planned improvements at Ringwood Road / Casterbridge Road junction



Ringwood Road / Casterbridge Road junction currently

TCF Route

Merley Poole to/from Christchurch

Project – Queen Anne Drive, Merley (Gravel Hill to Bear Cross)

The Queen Anne Drive project started in August 2021 and is due to complete in December 2021. This first phase of the project focuses on the road between Gravel Hill and Merley Lane. It includes bus stop improvements, the widening, resurfacing and lining of the existing shared use path and the creation of revised junction layouts at the Rempstone Road, Montacute Way, Lynwood Drive and Merley Lane junctions with Queen Anne Drive.



Work underway on Queen Anne Drive



I'm delighted we've been able to support this project, which is an exciting step forward in our bid to increase the number of journeys made by sustainable modes of transport in South East Dorset.

Transport Minister
Baroness Vere



TCF Route Merley Poole to/from Christchurch

Project – Whitelegg Way, Bournemouth

Two brand new cycle lanes and a reduced, safer speed limit are now in operation along Whitelegg Way, Bournemouth as well as an improved crossing near Northbourne roundabout. The next phase of work, due to complete in March 2022, includes a new toucan crossing close to Redhill roundabout, walking and cycle paths and new bus stop shelters with real-time information displays.



The new cycleway on Whitelegg Way



Work underway on Whitelegg Way



TCF Route

Poole Town Centre to/from Merley, Poole

Project work on this route has not yet started, however plans are already well underway with projects expected to begin in spring 2022.



Pipeline projects (January to June 2022)

Another six new projects along the sustainable travel routes are due to begin over the next six months. The map below (current December 2021) shows sections that are complete, under construction and to be constructed.



Project – Beryl Bikes

The TCF programme has also funded the expansion of the Beryl Bike rental service in Christchurch with 275 new Beryl Bikes now available to hire at 50 new locations across the town.

There are now plans to expand the service across Wimborne, Ferndown and West Moors.



Beryl Bikes for hire on Barrack Road



Project – Wayfinding

20 new wayfinding totems, with maps showing routes to key landmarks, have been installed across Poole town centre with the next tranche due in Christchurch town centre in spring 2022.

One of Poole's wayfinding totems

Other TCF Funded Projects

The TCF programme is not just about building better walking, cycling and bus facilities. It is also investing in a number of initiatives to support active travel.

Project – ‘Trip End Facilities’ Grants for Schools

21 schools in the BCP Council area have benefitted from nearly £212,000 worth of grants to install new facilities to encourage pupils and staff to make active journeys to and from school. This has included new lockable bike and scooter racks, electric bike chargers, showers, changing and locker facilities, bike repair stands and static tyre pumps.

“We have got a lot more children coming in on bikes and scooters now that we have these new facilities.”

Lucy Waterhouse,
Head of School at Haymoor Junior School,
Canford Heath



The new bike sheds at Haymoor Junior School



Students and Head of School, Lucy Waterhouse in front of their new bike shed at Haymoor Junior School





Consultation and Engagement

Many of you have been involved in the extensive engagement and consultation undertaken as part of the design development for the sustainable travel routes.

This process included:



Initial public engagement on outline plans



Public consultation (phase 1) on four sustainable travel routes

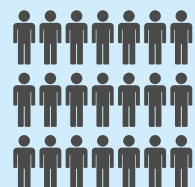


Public consultation (phase 2) on the remaining two sustainable travel routes

During this time:



Feedback invited on 78km of walking, cycling and bus improvement proposals



Over 27,000 people viewed the plan



2,500 surveys completed

Consultation reports, available [here](#), have, and will continue to inform the final scheme designs prior to construction.



Public information event

A series of public information events about proposed sustainable travel improvements on Leven Avenue, Glenferness Avenue, Kings Park and Wimborne Road took place in November. Further public information events are planned for next year and will be publicised in advance.

Public information event



Consultation for TCF's sustainable travel routes continues to be supported by ongoing discussions with local councillors, programme partners, local interest groups and businesses.

We hope that you find the information in this newsletter interesting and informative. Please get in touch if you wish to discuss any of the projects further.

Stay up to date with the latest TCF programme news via:

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