

## **Active Travel Essex - Braintree**

### **The Essex County Council (Braintree District) (Prohibition of Waiting, Loading and Stopping) and (On-Street Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement Area) (Amendment No.25) Order 202\* The Essex County Council (Station Approach (Loop Section) Braintree) (One-Way) Order 202\***

#### **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

In July 2020 the Government announced the second Active Travel Fund (ATF2). It invited highways authorities to make bids for funding. The objectives of the ATF2 were to help local authorities implement measures to create an environment that is safer for both walking and cycling. This was to initially enable cycling to replace journeys made by public transport, in order to help avoid overcrowding on the public transport network and to help maintain social distancing during Covid. In the long term it was also expected to help deliver significant health, environmental and congestion benefits by providing better infrastructure to create streets which can accommodate increased levels of cycling and walking.

Essex County Council (ECC) submitted a bid and was awarded £7.4m in November 2020. This was in order for Essex County Council to deliver five schemes across Essex to maintain the growth in walking and cycling seen across the five areas during the period of the pandemic. This funding, together with an element of match funding by ECC, will fund schemes to improve walking and cycling in Basildon (Wickford), Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, and Colchester.

A key part of ensuring success is that Essex County Council has been working with the local partners and parties in order that the schemes garner wider local support; as well as supporting the social and economic recoveries of each locality after the Covid-19 pandemic. Essex County Council undertook a robust and meaningful consultation, taking advantage of technology. Engagement activities that were undertaken included a series of in person consultation road-show events at the locations where the schemes are proposed to allow people to view the plans and ask questions. In addition, a Steering Group for each scheme was made up of representatives from the local authorities, community groups, businesses, access and active travel groups, and these groups helped to shape the proposed schemes ready for consultation.

Detailed information on the process as undertaken can be viewed on the Cabinet Member Action form Approved by the Leader of Council on CMA FP/142/08/21 "Active Travel Fund 2" [https://cmis.essex.gov.uk/essexcmis5/Decisions/tabid/78/ctl/ViewCMIS\\_DecisionDetails/mid/422/Id/8818/Default.aspx](https://cmis.essex.gov.uk/essexcmis5/Decisions/tabid/78/ctl/ViewCMIS_DecisionDetails/mid/422/Id/8818/Default.aspx)

#### **Amended parking restrictions:**

These amendments facilitate new buildouts that increase the size of off-carriageway areas, to reduce the width of crossing areas and provide more space for active travel modes to move around the station area.

#### **New bus stop restrictions:**

The addition of a new bus stop will allow multiple services to park in the vicinity of the station and support bus use in connection with rail travel.

#### **Cycle track conversions:**

Conversion of areas of footways to shared use unsegregated facilities allow cycles to move through the space and connect areas of on-carriageway facilities with National Cycle Networks and Braintree Station.

### **One-way road:**

The one-way operation of the Station Approach 'loop' will reduce conflicts between bus services, cycles, and general traffic by enforcing one-way operation. This also allows the introduction of the secondary bus stop by ensuring stopping sight distances for the restricted manoeuvres through the space.

**For further information about the Active Travel Fund and the proposed measures across the District of Braintree, please visit our website:**

- [www.essex.gov.uk/safer-greener-healthier](http://www.essex.gov.uk/safer-greener-healthier)
- [www.essexhighways.org/safer-greener-healthier-braintree](http://www.essexhighways.org/safer-greener-healthier-braintree)