

CYCLING AND WALKING REPORT

At the end of 2021 agreement was reached with South Downs National Park to allow S.C.P. to use CARES Development funds for a study into how to improve cycling in Seaford. This followed elements of preparation work for an unsuccessful bid to the Community Renewal Fund.

The S.B.C.O. objective is to encourage more people to make greener choices about how they travel around the town and the surrounding area, looking at the existing provisions and where interventions could make cycling easier and more attractive. Where possible, S.C.P. has tried to work closely with the local councils and other stakeholders.

Transport Initiatives (a specialist transport planning consultancy based in Brighton) was appointed to carry out a physical review of existing and potential cycle routes. Their final report will outline how improvements could be made if funding becomes available ,as previous reports have identified that Seaford is poorly provided for. They will report on barriers to cycling participation that exist and suggest some prioritisations and cost estimates. This will aid future applications for funding or local decision making. It is expected that specific opportunities to bid for capital funds to invest in cycling will continue to arise periodically under Government schemes, particularly after the creation of the Active Travel England agency. Once final comments have been assessed, final reports will be published for future use.

The S.C.B.O study has been undertaken in two phases this year after a survey of views on cycling in Seaford , which informed where and how the process was undertaken. A detailed assessment of the A259 was not included in the study as this is currently being reviewed by E.S.C.C. Public consultation was undertaken on the draft proposals and it was anticipated the final report will be published by September.

It is understood that cycling promotion has been included in the successful final S.D.N.P. full bid and a smaller sum will be available of revenue funding again to spend over 3 years. No detail has been agreed as the full terms and conditions are not know but the proposal is to have small projects to engage with the local community to encourage behaviour change and promote more cycling. This work is likely to involve other community groups but no consultancy costs are envisaged.