

REPORT FROM ACTIVE TRAVEL CONGLETON FOR CSG MEETING ON APRIL 6th 2021

1. The government recently released a tranche of £50 cycle repair vouchers. We informed our supporters and we are grateful to Jackie MacArthur for announcing this on Facebook and twitter. We understand that this tranche has sold out already. If anybody wants to get notified of the next tranche please sign up as a supporter on our website

www.atcongleton.uk

2. We have had contact with Sarah Allwood, in Cheshire East, who is coordinating the funds awarded by DEFRA to reduce pollution in our town and we have some encouragement that we will receive some funding to start a 'Bike Buddy' scheme. Also the London Cycling Campaign is coordinating groups who want to start a Bike Buddy scheme and I am pleased to say we have been included. The Bike Buddy groups can share information and best practice on how to successfully run a scheme.

3. No progress on the steps on the Falcon Rise estate that go from the bridleway between Lambert's Lane and Howey Lane to the new bungalows. The planner who is looking at this has emailed to say that he has emailed the site (Seddons?) but had no reply.

4. We have been informed that neither of the proposed active travel schemes on West Street / Antrobus Street will go ahead, after consultation.

5. There will be a free weekend to walk and cycle along the soon to be opened Congleton Link Road. We are advised that you can walk and cycle on the 16/17/18 April on the EWE Way and it will be open to vehicular traffic on Monday 19th April.

6. The Biddulph Valley Way, NCN55, south of the Cheshire border is now fully open. However the quality of the surface is a bit wanting. Staffs Moorlands have advised that a recent 'rolling' of the surface has left it better than it was, but it's still a bit corrugated. The work to fix the blocked drainage, that prompted the revision, has been done well and we will not see any more flooding problems, in this area at least.

6. NCN55 around the Lower Heath area of Congleton is under review by Sustrans. The current route takes the user around the gyratory system: not ideal. With the likely development of land off Giantswood Lane in the coming years, Sustrans consider that Giantswood Lane will not meet the standards for an 'on road section' of the NCN: ie it should be capable of 'being used by an unaccompanied 12 year old'. Sustrans are currently looking for diversions to get from Congleton, on the Biddulph Valley Way, to Macclesfield. Suggestions on a postcard please!