

## Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Travel Plan Working Group Update</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>20 June 2023</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Becky Reid, Environmental Project Officer</b>

### 1. Purpose of Report

To report on action taken since last NPCC meeting.

### 2. General Update

The Travel Plan Working Group, chaired by Cllr Helena Richards, last met on 29/03/2023.

- 2.1. Following this meeting there has been a long break to allow for the Election and holiday of the chair.
- 2.2. During this time, work has continued to progress projects as outlined below.

### 3. Project Updates

The following projects are being progressed by the TPWG:

- 3.1. **Business Travel needs:** This survey has not yet been implemented due to officer capacity being devoted to the delivery of events and progressing other areas of work.
- 3.2. **Community Travel Working Group (CTWG):** Following a call out to the community, this group was formed; Terms of Reference created; and since then two meetings have taken place. The membership of the group includes 2 Councillors, 1 officer and 7 members of the community (including 1 Lord Williams's School student). The group has been tasked with the following action:
  - Review the work already done on transport and travel across Thame and bring it up to date.
  - Consult the wider community to inform the creation of a travel plan for Thame, that includes Thame's connections to surrounding environs.
  - Facilitate the response needed for the development of a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).
- 3.3. The final task – to facilitate Thame's response to the LCWIP - has been prioritised after OCC informed us that they are starting to get ready to tender for this process to start in Thame within the next few months. The group have therefore started to map already identified needs and identify key stakeholders that need to be included in the consultation OCC will run as part of this process. A meeting will be arranged with OCC to find out more about their timeline, and from this a plan for how the CTWG, supported by Thame Town Council can play a part engaging the rest of the town will be created.
- 3.4. **Hopper Bus:** Work has continued to find out more about the approach other towns have taken to Community Transport. Cllr Richards and Becky Reid (Environmental Project Officer) have also held several meetings with the OCC Public Transport Team who are exploring the opportunity to partner with Bucks Council (BC). BC have funds to run a service

into Thame from parts of Haddenham that are not currently served by a bus. The priority now is to achieve the following:

- Finalise what sort of service we want to launch. At present, following the outcomes of our research and feedback from OCC, the most viable option seems to be a Hopper Bus with a set route that runs 6 days a week, timings and routes to be confirmed. This service could be supported by hiring the bus out for private use, or running set, paid-for trips to specific destinations to raise additional funds. This, and other options will be presented to the TPWG at its next meeting to discuss further and start work towards a more formal, final proposal.
- Determine how any bus service would be run. It looks likely that we will need to establish a Community Interest Company or similar, that sits outside of Thame Town Council. Other options are also being explored, including starting to ask Thame charities and community groups if they would be interested in taking on the running of the service into the future. We are also recruiting volunteers who might be interested in playing a part in this.

### **Action Required**

- i) To note the report*