

Case study: engaging with partners' outcomes to secure funds for parks.

Synopsis:

Allowing cycle tracks to be routed through open spaces leads to well-maintained path surfaces, **improved surveillance and health benefits** at no cost to the Parks Service and fewer car journeys in the town.

Background

Almost half of parks users in Bournemouth are passing through greenspaces *en route* to somewhere else. This provides good surveillance against antisocial behaviour and makes people feel safer. This was something the Parks Service wanted to encourage but lacked the resources to do it.

The Solution

To encourage and reinforce this footfall through its parks, Bournemouth Borough Council Parks Service has worked closely with its Transport Team to improve cycling and walking routes. This means that parks are receiving Local Transport Plan funding for path surfacing and improvements to entrances.

But to really make an impact on the quality of path surfacing without taking too much from the Parks Maintenance budget, Parks and Transport have worked closely with Sustrans which has an interest in the health and environment outcomes of encouraging cycling. Working with the national cycling charity Sustrans Bournemouth has attracted Links to School funds to clearly focus the cycle network in Bournemouth around the town's parks and green corridors.

The Outcome

Work the Council has done at Kings Park, Woodland Walk, Strouden Woods, Slades Farm, Pelhams Park and Littledown Valley has provided improved surfaces, traffic calming, better crossings, refurbished entrances, tree planting along a park drive and signage. In all we've had well over £500,000 of investment over the past 3 years and made parks better not just for cyclists, but for pedestrians too. Over 7km of pathway has been newly laid or upgraded in the last 3 years.

Learning Points

- 1 Being able to undertake works very quickly without the need for road closures is a great asset in terms of best value for Transport Plan money. More money goes into infrastructure and paths are easier to maintain.
- 2 Providing safer routes to schools through parks is high on the Transport Plan agenda
- 3 Getting the paths adopted by Highways means that their budget can pick up future maintenance costs

More information

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