**Riverside Community Council**

**Smarter Choices Smarter Places Open Fund 2019/20**

**Project Progress Report 20 September 2020 to 31 March 2021 - ‘Travel-light Riverside’**

**A. Deliver an Active Travel Drop-in Event – 14 March 2020** – As the pandemic has continued into 2021, it has become clear that it will not be possible to continue with planning and holding the event within the project timescale. An alternative idea is to commission some work with a suitably qualified group or organisation, to carry out an Active Travel Disability Access audit of Riverside, to determine the main barriers that people with disabilities (as defined by the Equalities Act 2010) face in using Active Travel around Riverside, and to recommend possible solutions. A request made to Paths for All to change the grant use for this purpose, has been approved, and subject to a vote of the community council at the 31 March 2021 community council meeting, a group will be approached to carry out the work.

**B. Monitor and report gaseous pollutant levels –** Data collection has continued throughout the period by sub-group member, especially around the primary school at peak ‘school-run’ times. A GPS USB has been loaned to the group by the University of Stirling PhD student to help provide spatially accurate data.

**C. Undertake a local survey of residents** – The GoogleForm survey was launched on 11 November 2020 by FEL. It was designed in plain English with pictures to make it accessible to people with learning needs, and was promoted through the [community council website](https://www.riversidecommunitycouncil.co.uk/riversideactivetravelsurvey), the community council eBulletin, the Riverside Community WhatsApp Group, and the Stirling Observer. Each of the community councils in Riverside Primary School catchment area were asked to promote the survey through their various media, and positive replies were received from Cambuskenneth <https://en-gb.facebook.com/CambuskennethCC/> and Logie (community email, 8 March 2021).

A4 Posters (20) and A5 flyers (250) were printed with limited distribution due to the closure of businesses and offices. Posters were added to the bus stop at the Cambuskenneth Bridge, outside Riverside Primary School, and the community council’s noticeboards at the shops and the Post office. Hard copies were hung in plastic wallets alongside the posters with instructions to return the completed surveys to Riverside News and the Post Office. Three surveys were collected and uploaded online. To date, 105 surveys have been returned before the deadline of 31 March 2021.

A second survey, based on the original but with questions about the bus service were distributed and administered to 34 older people of Riverside by the community council whilst delivering the Christmas parcels. Eighteen responses were returned with interesting views and ideas about car sharing for older people, and changes to the bus service that would benefit older people specifically.

Both surveys will be analysed and results posted on the community council website. Issues raised throughout the project period and previous community council consultations, are being uploaded to a layered Google Map, and will form the basis of the Riverside Community Active Travel Plan after this current project has finished.

At the end of March, a University of Stirling MSc student, is proposing to co-design with the community council, a summer project (April to September) that focuses on Active Travel and vulnerable people eg people with disabilities, women, LGBT+, community, and school children. The project will look at street design, map design, visibility, etc, and the translation of Scottish and local government transport policies at a local level. The proposals will be presented to the community council and sub-group for discussion and approval.

**D. Making Lovers’ Walk safer and more attractive for Active Travel** – Due to the COVID restrictions work being undertaken in Lovers Walk has been delayed though some progress has been made:

##### Lighting has been installed under the railway bridge

##### Foliage has been cut back on the riverbank

##### Network Rail has been contacted to address the constant dripping. As a result this pathway has been added to the priority gritting list.

##### Network Rail is contacted immediately any graffiti is reported

##### The fences will be mended and painted later in the year when the weather allows

Stirling Council recently announced the closure of Lovers’ Walk to facilitate Network Rail’s work on the bridges. The community council is awaiting information from the council’s Conservation Planner about the work to be carried out on the fence, and when the work on the bridges will start, and also the likely impact for the improvements and Active Travel.

**E. Prepare a plan for a project follow-up phase** – A member of the sub-group has offered informal assistance from the University of Stirling to develop an action plan after the current project has been completed.

**F.** **Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy (PCVA) –** The policy was adopted by the community council on 10 June 2020, and is now active.

**Outputs Achieved Update**

• 1200 leaflets and 20 posters promoting the Active Travel event – Event cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

• 1 Active Travel event - Event cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic. Alternative proposal to be made to commission some work with a suitably qualified group or organisation, to carry out an Active Travel Disability Access audit of Riverside, to determine the main barriers that people with disabilities (as defined by the Equalities Act 2010) face in using Active Travel around Riverside, and to recommend possible solutions

* 1 set of specially-designed survey questions and associated interpretative materials made available for people with communication difficulties – Survey produced with FEL in plain English with graphics to interpret travel modes. Second similar survey produced for older people, and completed on doorsteps during delivery of the Christmas parcels. Hard copies made available on two community council noticeboards.
* 1 Community Active Travel survey and report – Survey launched on 11 November 2020 via online Google Forms. Report due after 31 March 2021.
* 1 Pollution survey and report on interim results – PurpleAir monitoring of the residential area and around the school on-going
* 1 map and associated information on active travel facilities and sustainable transport – Active Travel and sustainable transport issues collected to date are being added to a layered Google Map
* Overview of gaps in provision of active travel facilities and sustainable transport – Issues being raised through on-going consultations, and following analysis of the surveys
* 1 overall project report tying together the various strands of the project – To be produced at the end of the project

Also:

* The community council revised and re-printed the [‘Xplore Stirling Heritage Trails – Riverside Heritage Trail’ leaflet.](https://www.riversidecommunitycouncil.co.uk/heritage-trail)