



Market Deeping Town Council

Background Topic Paper

Neighbourhood Plan Core Document The Deepings' Green Walk

1. The Concept of the Green Walk

The Green Walk aims to achieve linking of publicly accessible green spaces and other routes around the town to create an attractive network. It will create routes to areas rich in biodiversity, heritage and landscape value. The routes will lead to the wider countryside beyond the built up area and connect with adjacent villages. At its heart is the promotion of non-car based movement, away from trafficked routes where possible, with associated long term health benefits.

Map 1 is a concept plan that shows the main routes and other components forming the proposed Green Walk network. It readily connects with the Peterborough Green Wheel to the south.

The Walk is considered 'green' due to both the natural and historic environment components forming it; and the promotion of recreational trips using healthy, non-motorised forms of sustainable 'transport'. It will waymark travellers to other parts of the Walk.

The Walk will encircle the Deepings, creating a continuous accessible corridor, with outward links to the adjacent villages. It will also promote new and improved routes through the built-up area linking key facilities with off- road or otherwise safe routes.

Ultimately all parts of the route will be designed to suit its predominant use and context. The most demanding user will be the cyclist. This is given their speed, need for clear visibility, requirement for high quality surfaces, and appropriate vertical and horizontal alignment. Key cycle routes need to be hardened, generally smooth and straight. Unless there are good reasons, all parts of the route will be freely available to walkers, cyclists, and mobility scooter users.

Sections will provide appropriate routes for horse riders.

Green spaces and associated features forming the Green Walk may both be trip destinations in their own right; or may be corridors to other attractions further afield.

Although primarily delivering enhanced public access, the Green Walk should also protect, manage, enhance, and promote other Green Infrastructure thematic assets, including biodiversity, landscape and heritage. Where possible, new habitats, landscape features and accessible green spaces should be created to link and extend the existing features to add to the network and contribute to such a Green Walk.

As potential allocated sites come forward for development they will be expected to contribute towards the delivery of the Green Walk with direct implementation of its objectives, or through financial contributions via S106¹ or CIL².

¹ Section 106 of the Planning Act can require development to make off site contributions subject to certain legal tests.

² CIL = Community Infrastructure Levy

2. The high level view - Vision, objective and aims.

a. **Vision – extracts from the emerging Neighbourhood Plan vision statement relevant to the Green Walk.**

By 2036, The Deepings will be two Parishes with one diverse community. It will still have the character of a friendly market town but will have seen growth that is proportionate and appropriate. The result will be:

- *a more attractive place to live, work and play,*
- *a peaceful set of neighbourhoods with live social networks, and*
- *a good place to grow up and grow old in, supporting healthy behaviours and reductions in health inequalities.*

Specifically, we will work together with other agencies to secure

- *Healthier and mixed communities.*
- *The promotion of a strong network of attractive walkable streets and cycle routes, more and improved useable green open spaces, and improved countryside connections.*
- *Improved well-being and active healthier lifestyles.*
- *Ease of accessibility to services and facilities, all schools and parks, with barrier-free and safe access by foot, cycle, mobility scooters and wheelchair users.*
- *Enhanced connections to the Deepings from adjacent villages, as well as from the Deepings to Peterborough and Stamford for access to key services and facilities not offered locally.*

b. **Objective derived from the vision:**

To establish, develop and maintain *The Deepings Green Walk* around the Deepings neighbourhood and throughout the wider Deepings area including adjacent villages.

The Plan will aim to secure improvement in movement by means other than the car. This will be within the Deepings, to and from the villages that rely on its services, and to and from Peterborough. Although the use of the private car will persist as the dominant form of transport, greater promotion of walking, cycle use and public transport is desirable.

c. **Aims:**

- To define the neighbourhood and enhance a sense of community identity and heritage
- To identify, protect, improve, and extend local green spaces and footpaths as assets.
- To ensure all new developments contribute positively to improving non-vehicular access.
- To provide new, non-vehicular, access routes around and throughout the neighbourhood
- To ensure all key local facilities and amenities are easily accessible to all residents
- To provide opportunities for all to engage in activities that develop healthy lifestyles
- To support the local economy by facilitating the ability to shop, work and access leisure
- To provide effective and efficient travel connections to and from the adjacent countryside and adjoining villages

3. Support in current statutory planning policy, and other policy advice sources

South Kesteven Core Strategy, 2012

Policy SP3- Sustainable Integrated Transport..

*“The Council will encourage the creation of a sustainable, modern transport network ...by:
..Promoting and assisting journeys by public transport, cycling, mobility aids and walking, by making them accessible, safe, convenient and as attractive as possible”*

National Planning Policy Framework, 2011

17 *’ ... planning should:....-actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable; and-take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.*

58. *’Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments:
- optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development, create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses (including incorporation of green and other public space as part of developments) and support local facilities and transport networks;’*
- 61 *’... planning policies and decisions should address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment.’*
70. *’To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:
- plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;’*
73. *’Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.’*
75. *’Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.’*

Lincolnshire Waste and Minerals Plan: Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, June 2016

DM6 – Impact of minerals working on landscape and townscape

R2 - After-use of minerals sites – restoration to provide public access to countryside

R3 Restoration of working sin South Lincolnshire (West Deeping/Langtoft): creation of wet fenland habitat or enhancement of existing wetland habitats.

Other material policy considerations.

**Lincolnshire County Council Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plan
2007–2012**

Page 49 – in a Lincolnshire context, recognises at a strategic level that countryside access from The Deepings is limited. Also establishes a general project plan with 49 action points that supports the extension and enhancement of rights of way. Wider participation in countryside activity is encouraged.

Lincolnshire Streetscape Design Manual.

This is the outcome of the ‘Every Street Matters’ project looking at how everyone who carries out works to our streets and market places can improve the way the spaces look and feel, and therefore how they are used. The Streetscape Design Manual is intended for use by highways engineers when new schemes are being proposed, and where works are part of the Highway Authority’s routine maintenance programme, as suggestions on how to approach these changes. Includes advice on geometry, surfacing, public art

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/conservation/conservation-areas/every-street-matters/91118.article>