

# Castle Meadows Stakeholder Meeting

## 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023



monmouthshire  
sir fynwy



Ar gyfer meddwl, corff ac enaid ein cymuned  
For the mind, body and soul of our community

# Project Team

## MCC

**Paul Sullivan – Youth, Sport and Active Travel Manager**

**Nick Tulp – Active Travel Officer**

**Duncan Thompson – Active Travel Project Officer**

**Ian Saunders – Chief Operating Officer, MonLife**

**Paul Keeble – Project Manager – Lead Engineer, Highways and Flood Management**

**Mark Hand – Project Sponsor – Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding**

**Ruth Rourke – Countryside Access Manager**

## WSP

**James Morgan – Project Manager**

**Marta Morris – Engineer**

**Abbie Huntley – Planning Team**

# What is Active Travel?

- Walking, cycling and wheeling for everyday short journeys to replace car travel (modal shift) in order to get to a destination (such as; job, shops, train station or education).
- Active Travel does not cover walking and cycling done purely for pleasure / leisure.

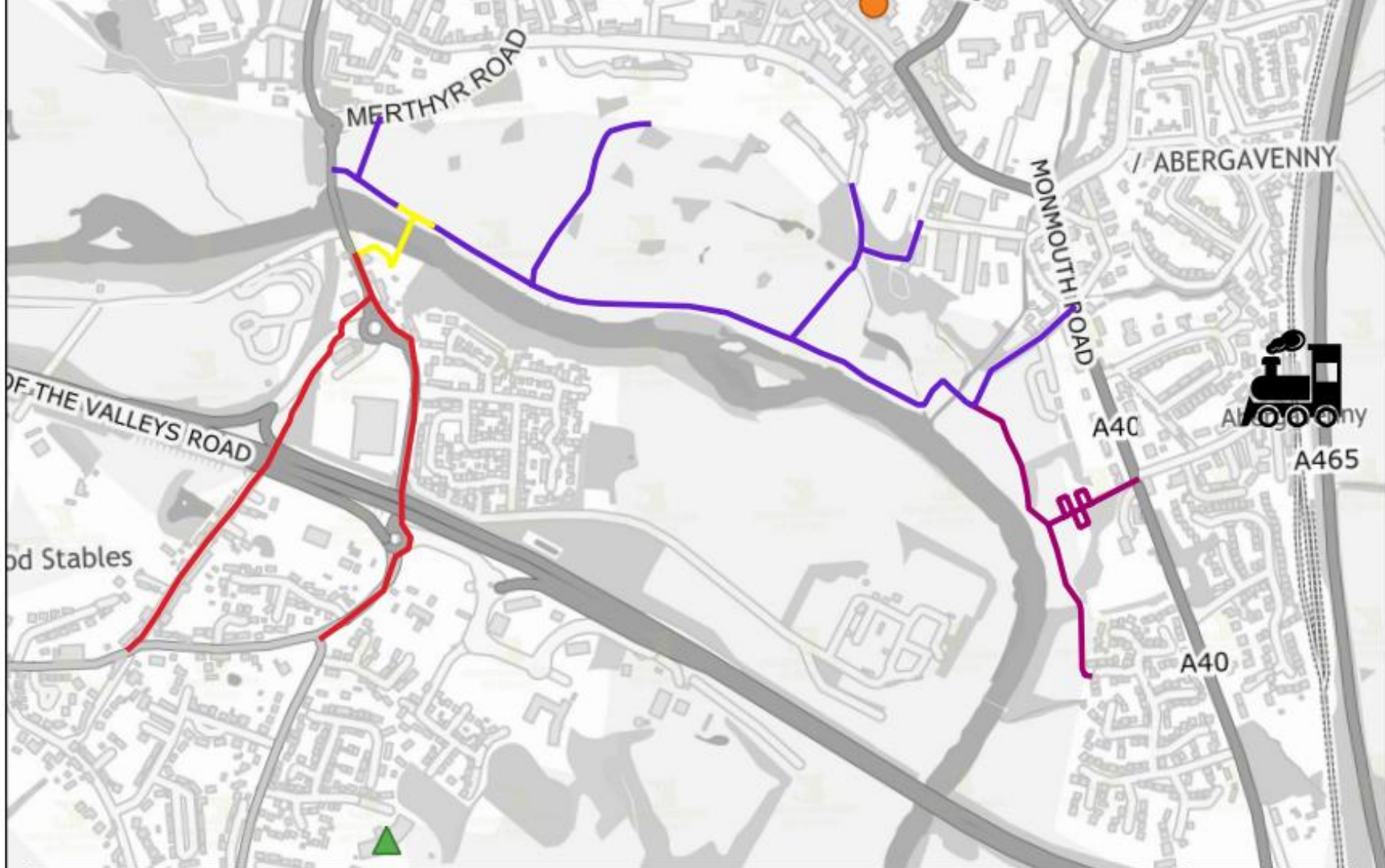
# How is it Funded?









- Active Travel is funded by the Welsh Government, from the Active Travel Fund.
- The money is ring fenced for improvement of AT provision in Wales only, it can't be used for other projects or services. It is to promote modal shift and associated benefits.
- MCC has bid annually for this project in Abergavenny, along with other schemes across the county.

# Planning for Castle Meadows

- Planning is for the pathways and not the entrance points.
- Throughout the process, the ecology & biodiversity of the site has been at the forefront of our thinking and will remain the case.
- NRW have been engaged throughout the process and are working with MCC and WSP for next steps.
- Normal statutory consultation through the planning process has occurred, which further builds on the scheme public consultation (566 responses received)
- At time of writing there are currently 108 Objections and 85 Supporting comments.





	Llanfoist Bridge AT Links (23/24 24/25 construction)		Schools
	Castle Meadows Phase 1 (24/25 construction)		Town Centre
	Castle Meadows Phase 2 (25/26 construction)		Railway Station
	Llanfoist Links (24/25 construction)	 1:10,000	

## Consultation Results – (566 Responses)

- **41%** of respondents use Castle Meadows as a route to access work or education.
- **49%** of respondents live less than 1 mile from Castle Meadows, with **82%** living under 2 miles.
- **48%** of respondents who currently do not use Active Travel consider Castle Meadows as inaccessible.
- **9%** think the gates are a barrier to access.
- **88%** of respondents think the current Llanfoist bridge make it unsafe for pedestrians.
- **56%** of respondents agree the paths need improving, **28%** disagree, **16%** neutral.
- **57%** of respondents thought the Castle Meadows proposals were good or very good, **30%** thought poor or very poor.
- **65%** of respondents said their levels of active travel would likely increase with implementation of the proposed scheme. **27%** said it would unlikely impact levels.
- **92%** of respondents were from the NP7 postcode area.

# Consultation

- Following stakeholder sessions, WelTAG consultation and wider, the following changes have been made:
  - **Lighting** – Lighting has been removed from the scheme.
  - **Surfacing** – The proposed surfacing was asphalt, this has now been changed to Resin Bound (Permeable) Surfacing – Buff Coloured (example later).
  - **Grids** – The number of access points with grids has been reduced to a minimum (in line with grant funding criteria) and all control measures to be removed from New Gavenny bridge. To be closed during none grazing times (circa 6 months).

# Access Points - Gate + Grid

- MCC apologises for the tragic incident that took place at the trial gate in April '23
- The trial gate was agreed at the last stakeholder meeting in July '22
- The main aim of the grid is focused on access for all
- Currently over 6,000 cycling journeys go through the Meadows each year
- The following organisations were contacted as part of this trial:
  - Guide Dogs
  - Sustrans
  - Transport For Wales
  - Wheels for Wellbeing
  - Blackburn & Roberts
  - National Land Access Centre
  - Centre for Outdoor Accessibility Training
  - Natural England
  - Disabled Ramblers
  - Experience Community
- Gates + Grids are a standard feature when controlling stock on shared use paths



# Access Points - Gate + Grid





# Surfacing



thank you for your time and  
continued engagement



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