E57/24: Active Travel Update

Good afternoon,

 Following your recent stakeholder engagement with the Llanfoist to Abergavenny Active travel scheme, we would like to provide you with the latest update on the project, including advanced site of the Media Release to be issued shortly.

The below includes the news that Cattle Grids will not be used in the scheme going forwards. Instead, the entry points will be managed on a trial basis with a latch-less slow closing one way gate, like the current Castle entry, as the basis for all installs.

 If you would kindly follow the below link and complete the consultation, we would be most grateful for you to share your feedback on this element of the scheme and share the consultation with your networks.

 Thank you.

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**Media Release: Have your say on the proposed Active Travel Links between Llanfoist and Castle Meadows & Castle Meadows Access Update**

 Residents are invited to have their say on a proposed new walking and cycling link between Llanfoist and Castle Meadows, Abergavenny.

 The new link aims to improve safety and accessibility for walking, wheeling and cycling between Llanfoist and the new Llanfoist foot and cycle bridge.

 To achieve this, Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) are proposing to widen the existing footway along the eastern side of Merthyr Road, creating or improving crossing facilities across Merthyr Road and Coopers Way, and improve the existing junction arrangement at The Cutting and Merthyr Road.

 From there, people can continue their journey via Castle Meadows and Ysbytty Fields to Abergavenny Town Centre and Abergavenny Rail Station

 MCC’s aims for the scheme include:

* To provide a safe and appropriate route for pedestrians, cyclists and those with impaired mobility between the proposed Llanfoist Foot and Cycle Bridge across the River Usk and Llanfoist to the south (and vice-versa)
* Make sustainable transport choices more attractive, reducing emphasis on private car use.
* Improve highway crossing facilities for those with mobility impairment within Llanfoist.

Monmouthshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment, Cllr Catrin Maby, said:

*"The Llanfoist Links will provide residents with a safer, more economical and healthier way to travel between Abergavenny and Llanfoist while also having a positive impact on the environment. Your opinion matters; this is your opportunity to give us feedback."*

The Llanfoist Links connection is part of the Monmouthshire County Council's Active Travel Strategy, which focuses on journeys of three miles or less. This means making walking, wheeling and cycling the natural choice for local journeys by improving walking and cycling infrastructure to connect people to key destinations within communities. The project is funded by Welsh Government with support from Transport for Wales.

 Monmouthshire Council Officers are working to remove barriers to walking, wheeling and cycling wherever possible. Following consultation and independent review, the Council have decided against using cattle grids at access points to the Castle Meadows site. Instead, access will be managed on a trial basis using self-closing gates to continue to allow cattle grazing, which is an essential part of maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity, whilst maintaining access through the site.

 Monmouthshire County Council will continue to work with the community, key stakeholders and Transport for Wales to improve accessibility and achieve the best outcomes for people making sustainable journeys.

 To find out more information, and have your say please visit <https://www.monlife.co.uk/abergavenny-active-travel-scheme-bridge-connection-to-llanfoist/>

The survey will be open until 28/06/2024.

Find out more about the Active Travel Strategy here: <https://www.monlife.co.uk/outdoor/active-travel/active-travel/>

**Notes for editors:**

 Increasing levels of Active Travel has vast benefits. Walking and cycling for daily trips are excellent ways to improve your health, well-being, and quality of life. Compared to driving, they can save you money on fuel and parking costs. Active Travel is a positive way to reduce traffic levels and tackle air pollution, noise, and emissions in our collective response to climate change.

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 Kind Regards,

 Active Travel Team

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