We need your help

Cambridgeshire County Council and Huntingdonshire District Council are preparing a transport blueprint for the period 2002 and 2006 as part of the St Neots Market Town Strategy. The strategy is a key element of the Local Transport Plan and aims to set out integrated transport plans and improvements for St Neots.

Consultation already carried out has shown there is a desire to see reduced congestion, better bus services and facilities, improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians and Safer Routes to Schools. Support was given for new crossings of the River Great Ouse and pedestrianisation of parts of the town centre. Car parking and the number of lorries travelling through St Neots were also of concern.

From these comments a draft plan has been produced with possible solutions and now we want you to tell us what you think about them.

Suggested solutions include:

- New pedestrian and cycle network for St Neots.
- Two new pedestrian/cycle bridges over the River Great Ouse.
- Improvements to bus services, including better information and shelters, and better integration with rail services.
- Improvements to town centre traffic signals to reduce congestion and enhance pedestrian facilities.
- Safety measures and Safer Routes to School initiatives.
- Improvements to management of car parking in St Neots.

You can have your say by answering the questionnaire overleaf.

Please return the questionnaire by FREEPOST by 14 December 2001.

The Action Plan

Walking and Cycling

The Action Plan includes a network of cycle routes for St Neots, incorporating improved pedestrian facilities in many locations. The network provides links from the towns residential areas to key destinations within the town, including the town centre, station, Wyboston and Colmworth Business Parks, Cromwell Road, Tesco, and the town's schools.
Pedestrian / Cycle Bridges across the River Great Ouse

Also included as part of the cycle network are two proposed bridges across the River Great Ouse. These routes could be of great benefit in improving cross-town travel for pedestrian and cyclists, but they are both expensive options and require detailed work to assess their feasibility and overall benefit. Please answer questions 4 and 5 of the questionnaire to help us with this work. If public support for these schemes is strong, funding will be sought from a number of sources to bring them forward as soon as possible.

Public Transport

There is a pressing need to improve bus services and passenger information in St Neots. The extension of Service 462 to the station is included as a scheme in the Action Plan, for an initial three-year trial. Also included as early priorities are improvement to rail / bus interchange at the station, and a rolling programme of bus stop improvements over the lifetime of the Action Plan. The action plan also contains targets for further improvements to town and interurban bus services.

Making Travel Safer

Measures are included in the Action Plan to improve the safety records of a number of sites across St Neots including:
- Linking of traffic signals in St Neots town centre;
- Cambridge Street / Longsands road – junction improvements;
- Potton Road / Cromwell road – junction improvements;
- Cambridge Street / Cambridge Gardens – junction improvements;
- Cromwell Road – Hen Brook Pelican Crossing;
- Safer Routes to Schools initiative with all schools in St Neots.

Car Parking

Huntingdonshire District Council will be undertaking a detailed study of car parking issues, and the Action Plan will implement the recommendations of that study once they are known. There is significant opportunity to better manage the towns existing parking stock and minimise unnecessary car trips across town as a result.

Lorry Management

The Action Plan includes measures to better manage lorry traffic to, through and around the town. Again this is an area where detailed study work is being undertaken, which will form the basis of schemes to be implemented.

Proposed Priorities

We want to introduce improvements to St Neots as quickly as possible, but some of the schemes will take time to implement; with this in mind, the suggested priorities are as follows. The aim is to implement all of the action plan schemes by March 2006, subject to available funding.

Phase 1: Cycle network routes in Eaton Ford, Eaton Socon and from town centre to station; Improvements to bus / rail interchange at St Neots Station; Pedestrian improvements to St Neots Bridge; Congestion relief in St Neots Town Centre; Lorry management measures.

Phase 2: Cycle network routes in Eynesbury; 3 year trial extension of bus service 462 to St Neots Station including evening services; Safety improvements; Safer Routes to School initiative with all St Neots schools; Changes to town centre car parking.

Phase 3: Cycle network routes in Eaton Ford and Eaton Socon; Cycle route from Little Paxton to town centre; Safety improvements.

Phase 4: Cycle network routes in Eynesbury; Cycle route from Hail Weston to town centre; Safety improvements.

The two pedestrian / cycle bridges are considered high priorities by the County and District Councils, but due to their high cost are not included in the list above. If public support is strong for these two schemes, we will aim to bring them forward as soon as possible, and within the four-year timescale of the action plan.

In addition to the above, a rolling programme of bus stop improvements will be undertaken throughout the strategy period.

What will the strategy achieve?

Combined, the package of schemes detailed above aims to:
- improve the environment for those who live and work in St Neots;
- encourage the use of sustainable travel modes and maximise opportunities to access St Neots by those modes;
- increase patronage on bus services, with better information available to passengers, and more reliable and frequent bus services available,
- minimise the number of unnecessary car trips through the town centre and reduce the number of unnecessary or inappropriate lorry trips through the town.
ST NEOTS TRANSPORT STRATEGY questionnaire

Now that you have had a chance to consider the proposed St Neots Transport Strategy we would like to know your views. Please take a few moments to complete the questionnaire and return it to us by 14 December 2001.

If you need to use additional pages you can forward them to us at the same address as the prepaid questionnaire (FREEPOST). Please tick the appropriate box for each question.

your travel habits

Q1 If you travel to work in St Neots, what is your main form of transport?
- Walk □
- Cycle □
- Bus □
- Train □
- Car driver □
- Car passenger □
- Motor cycle □
- Other □ (please specify) .................................................................................................

Q2 If you visit St Neots for other reasons, what is your main form of transport?
- Walk □
- Cycle □
- Bus □
- Train □
- Car driver □
- Car passenger □
- Motor cycle □
- Other □ (please specify) .................................................................................................

the transport strategy

Q3 Do you support the proposed pedestrian/cycle network?
- Fully support □
- Partly support □
- No view □
- Partly oppose □
- Fully oppose □

Q4 Do you support the pedestrian / cycle bridges over the River Great Ouse?

a) Northern Bridge (Priory Centre)
- Fully support □
- Partly support □
- No view □
- Partly oppose □
- Fully oppose □

b) Southern Bridge (Ernulf College)
- Fully support □
- Partly support □
- No view □
- Partly oppose □
- Fully oppose □

Q5 If the pedestrian / cycle bridge schemes were implemented, would you or members of your household use them for work, school, shopping or leisure trips?

Please tick all that apply.

a) Northern Bridge (Priory Centre)
- Work □
- School □
- Shopping □
- Leisure □
- Other □
- Would not use □

b) Southern Bridge (Ernulf College)
- Work □
- School □
- Shopping □
- Leisure □
- Other □
- Would not use □

Q6 Do you support safety improvement measures for St Neots?
- Fully support □
- Partly support □
- No view □
- Partly oppose □
- Fully oppose □

Q7 Do you support the bus improvements for St Neots?
- Fully support □
- Partly support □
- No view □
- Partly oppose □
- Fully oppose □
We want to introduce improvements to St Neots as quickly as possible, but some of the schemes will take time to build.

Please rank the following in order of importance (1, 2, 3...8) with 1 = most important and 8 = least important

a) Pedestrian / cycle network .................................................................

b) Better Rail / Bus Integration .............................................................

c) Pedestrian / cycle bridges over the Great Ouse ................................

d) Lorry Management ........................................................................

e) Bus Service Improvements ..............................................................

f) Better Car Park management ...........................................................

g) Improved Bus Stops / timetable information ....................................

h) Road Safety / Safer Routes to School ................................................

any other comments

Please use the space below for any comments you would like to make about the St Neots Transport Strategy. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.


about you...

Please give age group: 11-14 □ 15-18 □ 19-24 □ 25-44 □ 45-54 □ 55-64 □ 65+ □

Are you: Male □ Female □

Where do you live (city / town / village): .............................................. Postcode ..............................................

Thank you for completing this questionnaire

Please detach and post it back to us reply paid, at Cambridgeshire County Council.
If you want to know more, please visit the exhibition in the town centre. Alternatively, further information is available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk, or contact Jeremy Smith (tel: 01223 717502, email: jeremy.smith@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or Stuart Bell (tel: 01480 388387, email: stuart.bell@huntsdc.gov.uk).