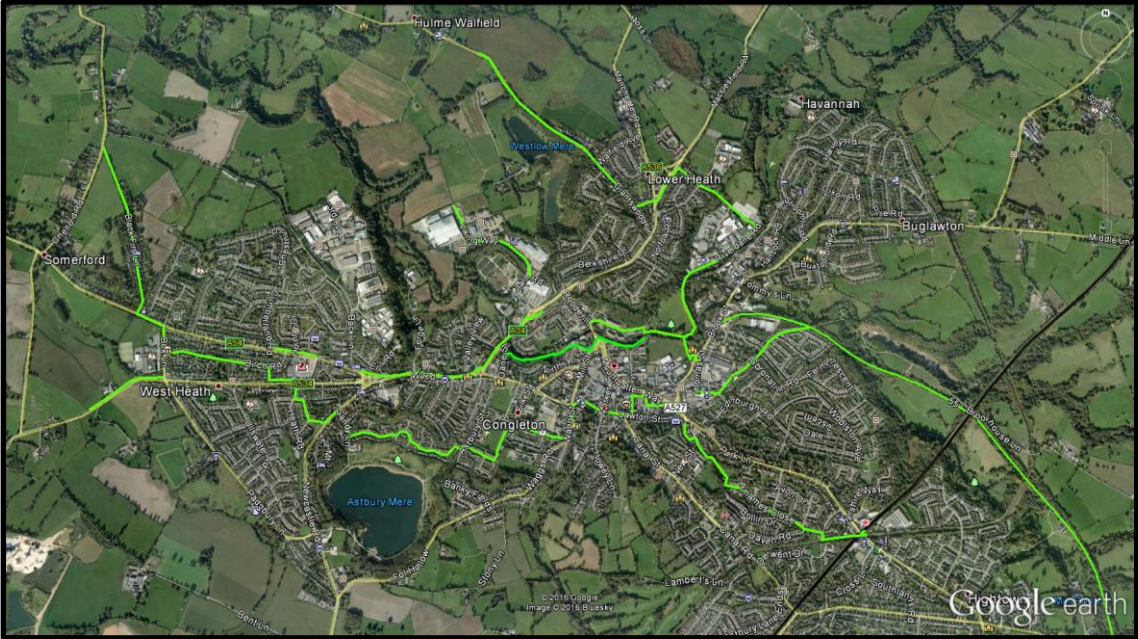


CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE:	Community and Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	30 th July 2020 7pm	LOCATION	Zoom
REPORT FROM	Cllr Suzie Akers Smith on behalf of the Integrated Transport Working Group.		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	16 Enabling Cycling to School		
Background	<p>In Congleton the greatest use of public transport and buses is by young people to travel to secondary schools. Due to social distancing, the numbers able to use the buses is likely to be restricted. To avoid traffic chaos around the schools it is vital that extra measures are put in place to ensure that more pupils can safely walk and cycle to school.</p> <p>The Covid-19 emergency active travel funding has provided Congleton with an opportunity to create temporary improvements to the safety and connectivity of cycling infrastructure to encourage the uptake of children to cycle to school from September.</p> <p>Temporary improvements could be introduced to facilitate children cycling to school. If the temporary measures increase the uptake of children cycling to school, further investment may be available from government to temporary improvements more permanent.</p> <p>Congleton has stretches of cycle paths and safe cycling areas, but more work is needed to connect the gaps, which are often at the most challenging sections of road. The map shows the gap in the green cycle routes.</p>  <p>This was discussed by the Town Council's Integrated Transport Working Group on Monday 27th July.</p>		

Next Steps	<p>The Integrated Transport Working Group recognised that making it safer and easier for more pupils to walk or cycle to school needs to be a priority.</p> <p>The group would like to work with experts from Cheshire East highways to assess the most achievable way to create safe routes for our young people.</p> <p>The group would like the support of this committee to work with Cheshire East Highways to see what can be implemented, as a matter of urgency, to make it safer for staff and pupils to cycle to Eaton Bank and Congleton High School as a priority. Both Head Teachers are keen to see this happen.</p>
Environmental Considerations	Decreasing the number of walking and cycling journeys to schools will help to reduce the environmental footprint of the town, as well as the positive benefits of exercise on physical and mental health.
Equality Considerations	These policies should make it easier for all to walk and cycle to school
Financial implications	None at present.
Proposal	That Congleton Town Council supports the need for Congleton schools, particularly the secondary schools, to create safer routes for cycling and walking to school and actively encourages Cheshire East Highways officers to explore ways that this can be done safely in Congleton drawing on Government Active Travel funds where possible.