

Neighbourhood Plan

Access & Infrastructure

- **Infrastructure Background**

Broughton is perfectly located for access to the North Lancashire motorway network, on the A6, one mile north of the M6 junction 32/M55 Junction 1 interchange.

The village is currently bisected east-west by the A6 Garstang Road, and north-south by the B5269 Woodplumpton/Whittingham Lane. The junction of these two roads, has for many years, seen some of the worst traffic congestion in Lancashire.

Happily, Broughton is on the cusp of a new era in terms of highway infrastructure. A bypass, sited to the east of the village is currently under construction. When completed (in August 2017), and opened to traffic, post-bypass works are programmed for the A6 Garstang Road. This road and parts of B5269 Woodplumpton/Whittingham Lane will undergo a transformation. Transport modelling predicts that traffic on Garstang Road will reduce by 90%. The B5269 Woodplumpton/Whittingham Lane traffic flows will remain broadly similar.

Lancashire County Council (LCC), the Highway Authority, have worked with the Parish Council and local populace to formulate plans which are acceptable to the large majority. Funding for the local network improvements has been made available by LCC.

- **Public Transport**

Broughton is served by 3 buses; the 4c Stagecoach Service which runs Monday to Saturday during the daytime, connects Broughton with Preston City Centre and the Ribble Valley hinterland. Stagecoach services 40 and 41 connect Preston City Centre with Morecambe and Lancaster, daily.

- **Community Feedback**

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) consultations have highlighted concern within the village for the following highway related (access and infrastructure) issues, in no specific order:

- a) Safety of Cyclists and their use of the footways.
- b) Heavy Goods Vehicles in the village, specifically noise and pollution.
- c) Rural footpaths - condition.
- d) Preservation of the Guild Wheel (GW). The GW is a shared use facility for pedestrians and cyclists, a continuous route circling Preston City, opened in 2012 after 20 years of planning and negotiation. It is a hugely popular, predominantly leisure route which provides recreational and health benefits. The Parish Council held coffee stop consultation event on the 'Broughton' section of the route in August.
- e) Traffic noise and pollution.
- f) Increased traffic on the local network due to ongoing housing developments.
- g) Traffic Speed.
- h) Bus services - concern that service levels will be further reduced.
- i) Inadequate parking facilities at school times or for visiting any village facility.
- j) Removal of the traffic lights at Broughton crossroads.
- k) Improved footways and cycle ways.
- l) Condition of road surface on B5269.
- m) Village signing.
- n) Lighting.
- o) Connectivity between areas in the Parish.
- p) Access for all, including appropriate seating for amenity/resting purposes.

Highway Authority post-bypass planned measures for Garstang Road and Whittingham/Woodplumpton Lane address some of the concerns identified during consultation. Taking each item (where improvements are scheduled, as identified alphabetically and matched to the community feedback list above) in the order listed above:-

- a) A segregated cycleway will be constructed on Garstang Road, reducing the carriageway width for local traffic.
- b) Goods vehicles travelling north - south will use the new bypass unless requiring local access.
- d) The GW route is protected by appropriate planning conditions where it meets with new development.
- e) North-south through traffic is expected to reduce by 90% and the congestion/pollution issues will disappear.
- f) The effects of increased traffic on the network will be mitigated by the traffic calming planned as part of the post-bypass works in the village.
- g) The speed limit through the village will be reduced to 20mph as part of the highway works.
- j) The traffic lights at Broughton crossroads are to be removed as part of the traffic calming works, and road priorities will be altered to discourage north-south through traffic. Crossing facilities will be provided on the B5269 at strategic locations.
- k) The footways adjacent to the local network will be widened and re-surfaced as part of the works.
- m) 'Broughton Village' will be signed as a destination from the bypass.
- n) The road and street lighting will be improved as part of the works.

The post-bypass works are subject to minor alterations as the process moves forward. The Highway Authority keep the Parish Council regularly updated; all information received is shared on the Parish Council website.

- Aims/Objectives

The Neighbourhood Plan aims to address local need in terms of Access and Infrastructure. Items raised in the consultation which are in addition to the highway works are the objectives, as identified alphabetically and matched to the community feedback list above:-

- b) Heavy Goods Vehicles through the village. The introduction of a 7.5T Environmental Weight Limit for the B5269 Woodplumpton/Whittingham Lane to remove any unnecessary 'through' Goods Vehicle Traffic.
- c) Rural Footpaths - Improvement of the Public Rights of Way such that these footpaths to provide good linkage between areas of the Parish.
- h) Bus Services - Maintain the existing level of service.
- i) Increase the number of off street car parking spaces available to the public. Also progress the introduction of appropriate Parking Regulations on the local network, Garstang Road and Woodplumpton Lane; both are adversely affected by parked vehicles, which compromises traffic safety, both vehicular and pedestrian.
- o) Secure, safe and attractive pedestrian linkage between new housing in the south of the Parish and the village centre
- p) Provision of additional seating on newly refurbished footways and footpaths to encourage all users.

- Method

The Parish Council will liaise with the Local Authority to achieve optimum solutions. Community Infrastructure Levy monies will be used to improve facilities identified in the Access and Infrastructure objectives wherever necessary and possible.

The Parish Council will negotiate with developers - re use of land for public car parking. Planning permission is currently sought for a retail development north of the crossroads- the associated parking spaces may be available for shared use.