Transition Tavistock comments on Devon Countywide LCWIP, November 2024

Route 3: Clearbrook to Roborough.

We agree that this is the most important new route to construct in the Tavistock area, and glad to see it is high on the countywide list. The demand we are aware of is primarily from people who live in or south of Tavistock and work in the northern part of Plymouth (or vice versa) and are competent cyclists. Their preference is generally a route as close to the line of the A386 as practical. We are not able to comment on how well the current proposal delivers this from the level of detail provided. To complement a new route, reduction of barriers on NCN27 between Yelverton and Clearbrook would be needed to make the route fully accessible and allow travel at the speed desired by those commuting.

Our top priority. No comment made on the other 9 routes as not within area covered by Transition Tavistock.

Any other routes you would like to see included?

Figure 1 of the LCWIP appears to show a proposed route going west from Tavistock to the border with Cornwall. We are not aware of any current or recent proposals for such a route, and there are no existing traffic free paths or signed cycle routes which go in this direction. This not only limits cross-border cycle commuting, but also car-free leisure travel. For example the extensive off-road cycle network at the Tamar Trails Centre, 3 miles from Tavistock can only be safely reached by car (with bikes attached - there is no longer a hire facility there). While realising the geography is challenging, we would like a cycle route connecting Tavistock to Gunnislake and the Tamar Valley noted for consideration in a future LCWIP.

Do you have any additional feedback regarding the Countywide LCWIP in general?

We welcome the focus on rural routes. While we support prioritising connections between rather than within settlements, to complement the local LCWIPs, this plan does not say how the Council will ensure the resulting network does join up. We are very surprised that no reference is made to the West Devon / South Hams LCWIP, commissioned by the District Councils, which has been in preparation since 2023, and has recently completed its own public consultation. It is frustrating for the public when the relevant tiers of local government appear not to talk to each other!