



Agenda Item: To consider proposals for highway resurfacing and active travel on Sleaford Road and London Road including creation of a cycleway and new bus shelters

Meeting date: 07 July 2026

Background

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Highways has approached the Parish Council regarding a planned resurfacing scheme covering Sleaford Road and London Road, from the proposed Stonebridge Homes development to the junction with The Homestead. The works are scheduled to begin in July 2027.

As part of the scheme, LCC intends to introduce a continuous off-road cycleway along the full length of the resurfaced area. This would connect with the existing route on the eastern bypass and, in time, the North Hykeham Relief Road. Discussions with Parish Council officers have identified several elements requiring the council's consideration.

Proposals Affecting the Parish Council

Bus Shelters

LCC has indicated that up to three existing bus shelters may need to be demolished and replaced as part of the scheme. These are located at:

- Sleaford Road (outside Main Avenue)
- London Road (outside the Doctor's Surgery)
- London Road (outside the entrance to Cross O' Cliff Court)

In addition, officers have suggested the installation of a new shelter on London Road to serve the Number 1 bus route towards Grantham, as no shelter currently exists for this direction of travel. Highways officers are seeking the Parish Council's agreement in principle to:

- the demolition of the existing shelters (noting that some contain asbestos roofing sheets), and;
- the Parish Council funding their replacement.

Replacement shelters typically cost £5,000–£6,000 depending on specification. LCC's bus shelter grant scheme may contribute up to £3,000 per shelter, with any remaining cost to be considered within the 2027/28 budget and precept planning. Officers would need to investigate the viability of using the LCC bus shelter grant scheme in connection with this project.

Cycleway Proposals

The initial concept was to construct an off-road cycleway within the existing grass verge. This is feasible up to Dorothy Avenue, but beyond this point the verge narrows significantly. At the Blacksmiths junction, a revised road layout may be required which could result in removal of the right-hand filter lane. This is not a preferred option due to the possible congestion in the village.

Parish Council officers suggested exploring the use of the woodland walk as an alternative route. An informal site visit on 17 June with LCC Highways and Active Travel officers assessed this option. While no formal proposals have yet been produced, the following points were discussed:

- An uncontrolled crossing on Sleaford Road would allow cyclists and pedestrians to enter the woodland walk. The cycleway would begin after the cemetery entrance; the cemetery itself would remain unaffected.



BRACEBRIDGE HEATH

Parish Council



- Highways officers expressed a preference for a separate cycleway on the eastern side of the woodland walk, using the straight path in front of Minster Court and connecting to the old access road on land owned by Mabec Property.
- The existing central woodland path would remain for pedestrian use, with trees providing natural separation between the two routes.
- Highways officers' preference is to continue the cycleway behind the hospital cottages and into the Parish Council's second woodland area (from the phone box to The Homestead). Two existing paths (clearances) could be used to maintain separate pedestrian and cycle routes in this section.
- The cycleway would rejoin the existing footway outside The Homestead and terminate at the traffic-light junction, where cyclists would re-enter the highway.

Considerations

- **Land ownership:** Use of the woodland walk depends on agreement from all relevant landowners, including the Parish Council, Mabec Property, and possibly the owners of the hospital cottages.
- **Legal arrangements:** Should the Parish Council agree in principle, permission would likely be formalised through a deed of dedication. LCC would cover the Parish Council's legal costs.
- **S106 position:** LCC has been provided with the S106 agreement confirming that ownership of the woodland land transfers to the Parish Council on completion of the 180th dwelling.
- **Budget:** Whilst the resurfacing scheme is certain, the additional budget needed for developing the cycleway in the woodland walk is not fully secured. The final design will need to balance quality with cost.
- **Lighting:** For safety, the cycleway would require lighting. Options discussed include low-impact LED ground lighting or bollard lighting to minimise light spill.
- **Access points:** Several informal gates from Norfolk Crescent open onto the land behind the hospital cottages. Safety measures would be required at these points. Tactile paving is suggested for installation at the Minster Court gate to support visually impaired residents.
- **Trees:** All parties recognise that the woodland trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders; no works may damage or remove them.

Benefits

Bracebridge Heath currently has no official cycle routes within the village. The proposed scheme would provide:

- a continuous, safe, off-road cycleway along a heavily trafficked corridor
- cycle connectivity with the Lincoln Eastern Bypass and the forthcoming North Hykeham Relief Road
- cycle connectivity to the proposed new developments in the village – Stonebridge Homes site, SEQ land east of Sleaford Road and Bracebridge Manor through the Recreation Ground.
- a woodland-based recreational route ideal for children, families, and less confident cyclists.
- improved lighting and potential pathway upgrades within the woodland walk
- the possibility of including power for a future proposed Christmas Tree in the area (while electrical work is conducted for lighting).
- opportunities for future placemaking, soft landscaping, and community involvement following construction
- opportunities to work with the Active Travel team for additional way finding and signage throughout the village.



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The Heath: Village Hall & Library
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Other Matters Discussed

Footway on Western Side of Sleaford Road

Highways officers confirmed that a footway between the Stonebridge Homes development and Sycamore Grove will be delivered as part of the resurfacing scheme. This scheme is something the parish council has requested previously when commenting on the Stonebridge Homes planning applications.

Public Right of Way: Grantham Road to Sleaford Road

The Parish Council has previously requested that this PROW be upgraded to a fully accessible paved route. The route leads from the allotments through to the eastern bypass connection and is currently a muddy track for many months of the year. There is insufficient budget within the current scheme, but Highways officers will continue discussions with the Active Travel team to explore alternative funding opportunities for this work.

Recommendations

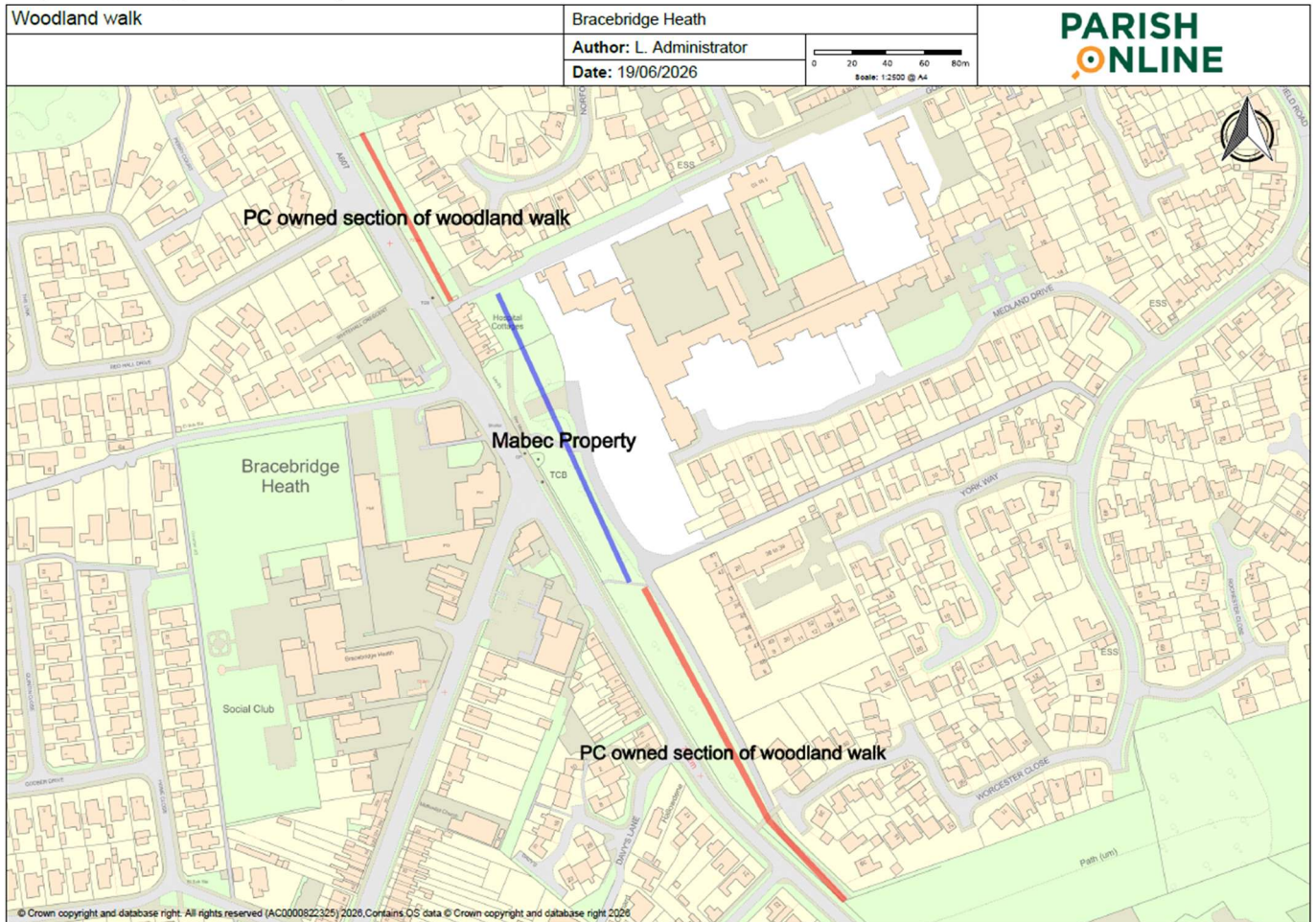
- That the council accepts in principle the cost pressures associated with replacing up to three bus shelters and providing a new shelter on London Road for buses travelling towards Grantham.
- That the council accepts in principle the use of Parish Council-owned areas of the woodland walk for the creation of a dedicated cycleway, subject to full proposals and detailed plans being brought back to the council for approval





Maps, plans and photographs

Map showing ownership of sections of the woodland walk





Entrance to Woodland Walk (homestead to cottages). Proposed cycle route to rejoin footway at this point.



Existing footpath in Woodland Walk (homestead to cottages). No changes proposed.

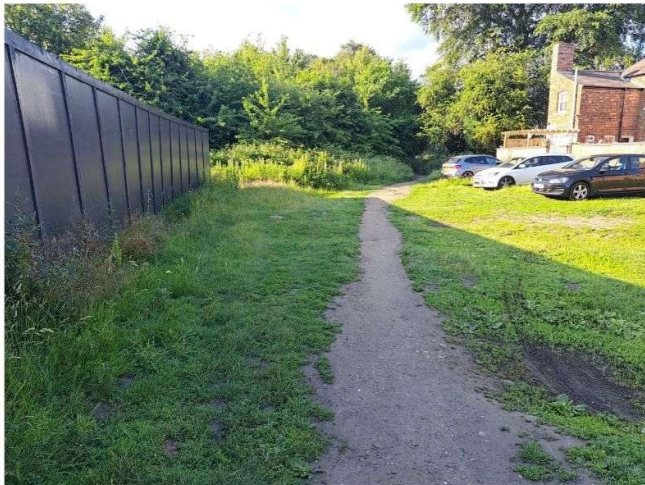


Proposed route for cycleway – Homestead to cottages, looking south.

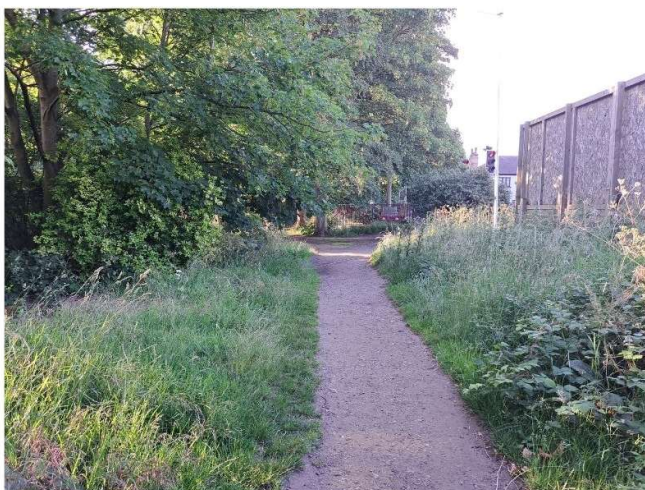




Proposed route for cycleway – Homestead to cottages, looking north.



Existing footpath and proposed route for cycleway at the rear of the Hospital Cottages



Existing footpath and proposed route for cycleway from Hospital Cottages to the War Memorial

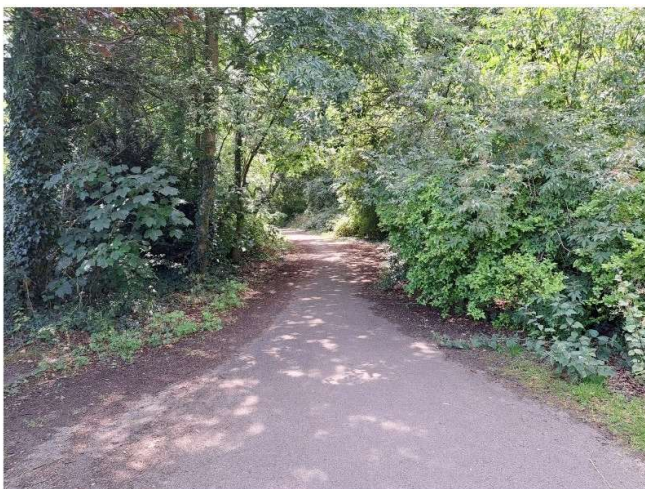




Before the war memorial, the old access road to provide separate cycleway



Proposed cycleway along former access road, looking north.



Proposed cycleway along former access road, looking south towards Minster Court.





Proposed cycleway along former access road outside Minster Court. Temporary pedestrian route to the east (left side of the photo)



Proposed cycleway along former access road and boundary of Minster Court.



Woodland walk outside Worcester Close. Pathway splits into two separate sections. Proposed cycleway on the right.





Existing footpath to include small section of shared cycleway. Looking South towards the cemetery.



Existing clearance to be used to enable cycleway to rejoin Sleaford Road

