



● The final consultation on the Fallowfield Loop and Yellow Brick Road Loop walking and cycling route is now open

BIKE TO THE FUTURE

Final plans for £4.9m walking and cycling route unveiled

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MANCHESTER council has outlined its final plans to improve the Fallowfield Loop and 'Yellow Brick Road' walking and cycling route through the south of the city.

More than 5,000 people shared their views on how the 14km off-road path can be made safer and more accessible for all of its users.

The feedback has shaped the council's final proposals for its £4.9m scheme, which includes an improved junction layout near the Sainsbury's in the centre of Fallowfield.

Pedestrians and cyclists would be able to cross separately using new toucan crossings at Wilmslow Road's junction with

Ladybarn Road.

More crossings are proposed along the Loop, which links Chorlton in the west and Gorton to the east, along with extra paths and improvements to existing ones.

Concerns were raised during the consultation about some existing points which were not suitable for people who have difficulty walking, or those with larger bicycles.

Kissing gates and barriers will be replaced with bollards, while existing bollards intended to stop antisocial behaviour - which have been found to prevent some people using the Loop - will be removed.

The council wants new entrances at every access to the Loop to accommodate mobility scooters, wheelchairs, double buggies, wheelchair bikes or

trikes. Other proposals include improved signage and information boards, new seating, vegetation clearing, wildflower areas, repairs to existing steps, ramps and bridges, as well as a new skate park along the route.

Greater efforts will also be made to tackle antisocial behaviour such as fly-tipping and graffiti, both of which were issues raised in the first consultation last year.

Manchester council now wants to consult the public on their proposals one last time before starting work on the Fallowfield Loop and Yellow Brick Road in early 2022.

A full ecological report has been prepared ahead of the consultation to ensure habitats of the red-listed species of birds, along with bats and bad-

gers, are protected during construction.

Councillor Tracey Rawlins, the council's executive member for the environment, described the response to the first consultation as a 'fantastic indication' of the value of the route.

"Promoting walking and cycling is a key part of the council's transport strategy and will involve not just creating new routes, but improving and safeguarding older ones," she said.

"I hope that the same level of enthusiasm will be there for this next consultation as we move forward into creating a sustainable and enjoyable future for this walking and cycling route."

The final consultation launched on Monday and will run for four weeks until Friday, July 30.