

Report to	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>
Date	<b>19 July 2018</b>
By	<b>Access &amp; Recreation Strategy Lead</b>
Title of Report (Decision)	<b>Project Approval – Egrets Way Phase 4 &amp; 5</b>

**Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:**

- 1) Agree the release of £60,000 from the Strategic Fund for the Egrets Way Shared Use Path Phase 4 & 5**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Egrets Way Shared Use Path is a community led project in development since 2011 when the SDNPA funded a route feasibility study via the SCF fund. When completed the Egrets Way will comprise a safe, largely off road network of paths between Lewes and Newhaven and connecting the villages in between. This report briefly describes work completed to date and provides the background and context to the request for the release of money from the Strategic Fund.
- 1.2 This report asks Members to agree the release of £60,000 from the Strategic Fund for the Egrets Way Shared Use Path Phase 4. The purpose of the funding is to provide an element of match funding for two external funding applications which if successful will enable the completion of a further 2.9 km of shared use path. The full details of the project are set out in the abridged PID at **Appendix I**.

**2. Policy Context**

- 2.1 The projects relate directly to PMP outcomes and policies as set out in the PID at **Appendix I**. The Project is also highlighted in the Authority's Cycling and Walking Strategy. See **Delivery Action AN3.1** *Support the Ouse Valley Cycle Network and local communities in developing the Egrets Way between Lewes and Newhaven.*

**3. Background and Context**

- 3.1 The SDNPA support for the Egrets Way dates back to 2011 and an SCF funded route feasibility study. Construction work for the first phase (Kingston to Lewes) was completed in 2013 and in 2014 a further section between Southease and Rodmell was built. In 2016 a route between Southease and Piddinghoe was completed resulting in total of 5km of shared use path created since 2012.
- 3.2 With the exception of the first phase at Kingston, the SDNPA has led on the delivery of schemes, securing funds from both Natural England's P4C project and the Department for Transport's Cycle Ambition Programme. Day to day project management has been undertaken by cycling charity Sustrans and overseen by the Authority's Cycling Projects Officer.

3.3 The community led Egrets Way Committee has now secured planning permission for the remaining sections of the riverside route and, led by SDNPA Officers, is now working to secure the funds for construction of the next two phases.

#### 4. Breakdown and cost implications

4.1 The current work falls into two distinct sections: Ham Lane to Linklater Pavilion and Piddinghoe to Newhaven.

4.2 The Ham Lane to Linklater Pavilion section is the focus of a LEADER bid for £75,000. The bid has passed the EOI stage and a full application to the fund will be submitted in August 2018. A match funding contribution of £25,000 from the Strategic Fund is requested.

4.3 The Piddinghoe to Newhaven section is the subject of an application to the Coastal Communities Fund. The value of the application is £350,000 and to support this £35,000 is requested from the Strategic Fund. The total estimated project cost for Phases 4 and 5 is £485,000. The table below shows the breakdown of funding for the two sections.

<b>Egrets Way Phase 4</b>	<b>External Funding Source</b>		<b>SDNPA Strategic Fund £</b>	<b>Totals</b>
	<b>£</b>			
Ham Lane - Linklater	LEADER	75,000	25,000	100,000
Piddinghoe – Newhaven	Coastal Communities	350,000	35,000	385,000
<b>Totals</b>		<b>425,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>485,000</b>

4.4 The impact on the Strategic Fund will vary depending on whether, all or some of the elements of this project are successful in securing their match funding. The table below sets out the impact on the strategic fund if both projects being successful.

<b>Strategic Fund</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Annual budget	339,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000
Carry forward of project that was setup in 17/18	90,803	0	0	0	0
B/F unallocated funds	406,586	562,793	644,350	794,135	998,420
<b>Total available for allocation</b>	<b>836,389</b>	<b>782,793</b>	<b>864,350</b>	<b>1,014,135</b>	<b>1,218,420</b>
Budget amounts that require funding	213,596	138,443	70,215	15,715	20288
Remaining unallocated	<b>622,793</b>	<b>644,350</b>	<b>794,135</b>	<b>998,420</b>	<b>1,198,132</b>
<b>Egrets Way Phase 4 &amp; Phase 5</b>	<b>60,000</b>				
<b>SF balance of unallocated funds remaining</b>	<b>562,793</b>	<b>644,350</b>	<b>794,135</b>	<b>998,420</b>	<b>1,198,132</b>

4.5 If phase four alone is successful then the total remaining in the strategic fund for 2018-19 would be £557,793. If phase 5 alone is successful then the total remaining in the strategic fund would be £547,793. The tables below shows what the relevant figures would be for each option.

<b>Strategic Fund</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>Egrets Way Phase 4 only</b>	<b>25,000</b>				
<b>SF balance of unallocated funds remaining</b>	<b>557,793</b>	<b>639,350</b>	<b>789,135</b>	<b>993,420</b>	<b>1,193,132</b>
<b>Egrets Way Phase 5 only</b>	<b>35,000</b>				
<b>SF balance of unallocated funds remaining</b>	<b>547,793</b>	<b>629,350</b>	<b>779,135</b>	<b>983,420</b>	<b>1,183,132</b>

#### 5. Next steps

5.1 If the request to the Strategic Fund is approved and subject to successful funding

applications, construction contracts will be tendered. Both sections are standalone and can proceed as separate contracts subject to any timescales determined by external funders. Strategic Fund contributions will only be drawn down if the funding applications are successful. Reporting on progress will commence from the date external funds are approved. Quarterly monitoring is proposed and an end of project review and evaluation for each section of the route is proposed.

- 5.2 The completion of the next two phases of the Egrets Way will result in increased use of the route by local communities and visitors, providing a much needed economic boost to Newhaven and villages connected to the network. A further 4km will remain to be completed and the campaign to seek investment for the ‘final push’ will be ramped up as sections 4 and 5 are being completed.

## 6. Other Implications

Implication	Yes*/No
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	No
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	The proposed project will require some in-kind project support from SDNP staff, as outlined in the PID. This requirement will be factored into workloads.
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	In terms of leverage the Strategic Fund will have attracted an investment in cycling and walking infrastructure at a ratio of approximately 7:1
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	None
Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority’s equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	The equality implications of this project have been assessed as part of the route feasibility and design work and no negative implications have been identified.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	Risk Assessments for any works that are required as part of the project will be developed when they are required.
Are there any Data Protection implications?	None
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy	The proposed project meets all of the principles of the Sustainability strategy. Five principles are: Living within environmental limits, Ensuring a strong healthy and just society, Achieving a sustainable economy, Promoting good governance, Using sound science responsibly

## 7. Risks Associated with the Proposed Decision

7.1 The risks associated with the project and their mitigations are at **Appendix 2**.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Funds allocated are not used appropriately to deliver the project	2	6	Project delivery will be overseen by the project team and monitored

### South Downs National Park Authority

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Appendices

1. Project Initiation Document
2. Risk register

SDNPA Consultees: Chief Executive; Director of Countryside Policy and Management; Director of Planning; Chief Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer; Legal Services; Countryside and Policy Manager (West);

External Consultees: None

Background Documents