



CHRISTCHURCH AND EAST DORSET Local Plan Review Options Consultation Response Form

Name	Steve Gerry
Organisation (if any)	North Dorset Trailway Network (reg charity 1145442)
Address Line 1	
Address Line 2	
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Postcode	
Email	
Phone	
Type of Organisation	Campaigning for use of the Somerset & Dorset Railway trackbed and nearby land for traffic-free transport links.

If representing somebody, please fill in their details below

Name of Client	
Address of Client	

Which Local Plan do your comments relate to? *(Please tick one authority)*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Christchurch Borough Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	East Dorset District Council

Draft Policy, Paragraph, Table or Map number your comments relate to:

Draft Policy 3.10 (Transport Strategy), 5.36 & 5.37 (Sturminster Marshall)

Do you support or object to this? (Please tick one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Support
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Object

Please add your reasons and other comments on this Policy, Paragraph, Table or Map (Please continue on a separate sheet if required)

Draft policy 3.10

North Dorset Trailway Network is disappointed that the plan does not currently include an objective for safeguarding a route for linking with the North Dorset trailway at Spetisbury, which can reduce car use and help develop tourism. Councillors for NDDC and DCC are supporting development of the trailway from Sturminster Newton to Stalbridge and with the move to a unitary authority, NDTN feels the local plan should support a more strategic view so that the trackbed and minor diversions can be used by residents for local trips and by tourists for long-distance leisure trips.

North Dorset Trailway Network therefore considers that policy 3.10 needs to include safeguarding of the trackbed of the former Somerset and Dorset railway line within East Dorset, and consider this is required so that the plan is in accordance with national policy. In particular paragraph 104 of the NPPF (2018) states that:

“Planning Policies should

*c) identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, **sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice** and realise opportunities for large scale development*

*d) **provide for high quality walking and cycling networks** and supporting facilities such as cycle parking (drawing on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans);”*

Given the scale of growth proposed through the East Dorset local plan review and the potential for further growth in North Dorset, it is essential that the opportunity to provide real transport choice is both safeguarded and realised.

The North Dorset Trailway is a route which has already grown over time and now consists of majority off road walking, cycling and bridleway route between Sturminster Newton to Spetisbury. The North Dorset Trailway Network is working to extend the trailway both to the north, and to the south, the latter which is relevant to East Dorset District Council.

This policy must make reference to the North Dorset Trailway expanded into East Dorset along the route of the former Somerset and Dorset Railway line. This route must be shown on the proposals map, and safeguarded for linking with existing traffic free trailways at Spetisbury and Corfe Mullen.

This will enable the linking of: Sturminster Marshall east to Corfe Mullen (and beyond to Broadstone, Wimborne, Poole and Bournemouth). The provision of the link west will link these settlements with a route to Spetisbury, Charlton Marshall, Blandford St. Mary, Blandford Forum, Stourpaine, Shillingstone, Sturminster Newton and beyond to Stalbridge in

the future.

There are two key road crossings that will need to be provided, the A350 west of Sturminster Marshall, and the A31 east of Sturminster Marshall.

We have been advised by DCC Highways Engineers that it is not safe to cross the A350 at the site of the former bridge (currently an HGV layby), but a policy preventing development along the trackbed until a link has been established would safeguard the route and provide leverage with landowners until a satisfactory alternative can be found. Developer contributions can be sought to enable a crossing of the A350 to be provided.

While crossing the A31 at the former level crossing is currently dangerous, the route must be safeguarded, and contributions sought from development so that a crossing suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians to link to the existing rights of way on the southern Corfe Mullen side can be delivered.

The railway has already expanded significantly, is supported by Dorset County Council and the extension and enhancement in East Dorset is deliverable in the plan period with developer contributions, and external funding.

Draft policy 5.36 and 5.37

If additional houses are to be built in Sturminster Marshall, North Dorset Trailway Network considers the policy as drafted is not strong enough stating that proposals will simply require "Contributions toward transport infrastructure in line with Policy 3.12". Whilst contributions will be needed towards transport infrastructure, the following site specific items will be required for each respective proposed site.

Land east of Station Road to the south of Bailie Gate industrial estate

Where the former trackbed has been built on for the Sturminster Marshall industrial estate, a strip of at least 4m on the industrial estate boundary (within the proposed new housing zone on Map 5.4.15.3 marked LPR-REG 18-58 and new recreation zone Map 5.4.15.4) should be dedicated as a bridleway as part of the proposals, and at the expense of developers. Other routes for pedestrians and cyclists should be required in the recreation and housing developments to allow residents to travel to the industrial estate gate and link to the existing public footpath from Station Road to the A31 to ensure walking and cycling are prioritised. That public footpath should be upgraded to become a bridleway so that cyclists can have an alternative to Station Road and the A350.

Land bounded by Newton Road and Blandford Road

The trackbed from Railway Drive to Newton Road is in EDDC ownership, but it is only suitable for pedestrians as there are steep steps at Newton Road (which have been out of action for months). To make development acceptable any developer of the land marked LPR-REG 18:143 between the trackbed and the A350 should be required to pay for the steps at Newton Road to be converted to a ramp suitable for all trailway users and for another similar access ramp at a point north of the houses in Parklea. This is essential so that residents of the new houses can use the trailway for journeys to school, shops, memorial hall and other community facilities.

The above requests are so that development is in accordance with national policy, and are considered directly related to the development. In particular paragraph 84 of the NPPF (2018) states:

*“Planning policies and decisions should recognise that sites to meet local business and community needs in rural areas may have to be found adjacent to or beyond existing settlements, and in locations that are not well served by public transport. In these circumstances it will be important to ensure that development is sensitive to its surroundings, does not have an unacceptable impact on local roads **and exploits any opportunities to make a location more sustainable (for example by improving the scope for access on foot, by cycling or by public transport).**”*

For the rural district of East Dorset (and these sites in Sturminster Marshall) this is particularly relevant and therefore the council needs to prioritise opportunities to improve access on foot and by cycling to make development sites more sustainable, which can be achieved through extension and enhancement of the trailway.

It is also noted that policies 5.3 and 5.39 make reference to the Castleman trailway, so its entirely reasonable for this policy for Sturminster Marshall to make reference to linking to the North Dorset Trailway.

To ensure continued access consideration should also be given to securing through S106 a sum to cover future maintenance.

Do you consider there are other issues, policies or alternative options we have not included in the document? If not, what policy would be required to address them? *(Please continue on a separate sheet if required)*

N/A

Please sign and date:

Signature:	S Gerry for North Dorset Trailway Network	Date:	24/08/18
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Please send completed form(s) by **Monday 3rd September 2018** to:
Planning Policy, Christchurch and East Dorset Partnership, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Christchurch, BH23 1AZ

Alternatively email them to: planningpolicy@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk



Further information on submitting comments

All comments made must be supported by your full name and address, and will be published on the Council's website along with your name. It is our intention to publish comments as soon as practicable during the course of the consultation.

Please note that we will not acknowledge individual comments but will consider all comments received and publish responses to all comments in a response schedule prior to the next consultation stage. We look forward to hearing your views.

How will we use your personal information?

By completing this response form you give your consent that your details will be used and retained to notify you of this and other consultations we undertake, or to provide information relating to key stages of the production of planning documents such as the Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and Neighbourhood Plans.

We will use this database to consult on the production of new documents or updates to existing planning documents, in accordance with the methods as set out in our Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) [<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/planning/christchurch-east-dorset-statement-community-involvement>]. Your information will be held securely for the purposes of the database and will not be shared with any other parties without first obtaining your consent.

Please note that you have the right to withdraw your consent to your details being held on this database at any time. Please notify us by planningpolicy@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk or 01202 795175. Further details on the Council's Privacy Statement can be found at www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/privacypolicy/christchurch-and-east-dorset/planning-policy.

Privacy Policy

I have read the privacy policy and consent to the information I give being used as described.

