

Braunston Climate Action Network

Sustainable and active travel in Braunston

The Vision

- To promote policies that would provide more choice for people traveling to and from Braunston.
- To increase the attractiveness, safety and convenience of sustainable and active modes of travel for journeys to, from and within Braunston.
- To reduce 'forced car ownership' and car dependence.
- To reduce the negative impacts of road traffic in Braunston.
- To facilitate less environmentally impactful car use.

The current situation (May 2023)

- Census data indicates that more than 90% of households own vehicles. Many households have two or more vehicles.
- Most journeys to work are by car.
- Road traffic through the village is increasing as housing developments are expanding to the north of Daventry.
- The main road through the parish (A45) is not overcrowded but is the main route for traffic between Daventry and Coventry. The parallel M45 provides a route for other through traffic.
- The A45 is engineered to allow traffic to run at the speed limit, 40mph or faster, creating a hazard for accessing properties and businesses on both sides of the road.
- The speed of vehicles on the A45 creates an intimidating barrier across the parish for cyclists and walkers.
- All journeys to Braunston School are on foot or by car.

Actions

- Research options.
- Lobby and engage with authorities.
- Promote sustainable policies.
- Focus on:
 - Developing safe and attractive links for cycling and walking.
 - Improving public transport.
 - Providing facilities for sustainable car use.

Operation “Going Dutch” Cycling planning for the future of cycling from Braunston Village

The Vision

- The creation of a safe linked cycling infrastructure that links the following:
 - Daventry town.
 - Rugby town.
 - The safe quiet roads towards Willoughby and beyond
- Promotion of cycling as a car alternative and for healthy leisure activity
- Local maps and guides to connect Braunston to relevant locations in the local area for shopping, leisure centre etc and promote healthy family rides for fun and exercise.

The current situation

- There is no direct safe link that can practically be used to get into Daventry, which once you are there has reasonably good cycle infrastructure!
 - The new cycle path which has great links into Daventry is essentially blocked at the canal end and is something of a “White Elephant” until linked up.

- You can use the canal towpath as long as you have a bike light enough to carry up the steps
- The alternative is either to use the A45 or the A361 if you wish to get into Daventry and by any stretch of the imagination these be regarded as “SAFE”.
- To reach the quiet lanes beyond Willoughby you have to use the A45 with issues as above.

Phase 1 Next Steps

- What is the plan for linking Braunston to the new cycle path?
 - What is the plan?
 - Is there a budget?
 - What are the timescales?
 - If there are no answers to the about what are the options as this must be done, so how, by whom?

- How do we link the Village to the quiet lanes from Willoughby?
 - Utilise the poor footpath along the A45 and widen to create a cycle path with a crossing?
 - Repair or create a new cycle path on the existing right of way to Wolfhamcote?
 - Are there any plans to utilise the many miles of disused railways for links to other towns?
 - Could there be any works in the village to make cycling safer?
 - Limit on speed limits in certain areas?

Promoting and improving public transport in Braunston

The Vision

- Improve public transport to make it a more viable option for travel.
- Improve links to employment and education.
- Create a connected and integrated network.

The current situation

- Bus route D1 runs approximately hourly 6 days a week between Rugby and Northampton via Braunston.
- Most passengers use the service for journeys to Rugby or Daventry.
- Following a request from Braunston Parish Council the service now calls at five stops in each direction.
- The D1 has a stop outside Northampton Rail Station taking 1 hour 15 minutes from Braunston. There is no direct service to Rugby Station, the nearest main line station to Braunston.
- The Daventry area Dayrider ticket and other multi-journey tickets were withdrawn a few years ago.
- Previous direct bus services from Braunston to Coventry, Birmingham, Banbury, Long Buckby and Corby no longer operate.

Phase 1 Next Steps

- Include the bus service in a document promoting active and sustainable travel.
- Lobby for integration:
 - Through ticketing to other parts of Rugby and Daventry
 - Timetable coordination to make journeys to other towns more attractive.

Meeting the needs of EV drivers in Braunston

The Vision

- To facilitate the introduction of EVs in Braunston.
- Less noise and air pollution from road traffic.

The current situation

- Most vehicles owned in Braunston and visiting Braunston are powered by petrol or diesel.
- Some EV owners have installed charging points to use in their off-road parking.
- There are some relatively slow charging points in Braunston Marina. Use of these is obtained by buying a token from the Marina Shop during its opening hours.
- A B-CAN member has liaised with the owners of The Boathouse PH to agree the installation of fast chargers in the pub car park.
- There are no public charging points in the main residential area of the village.
- A significant minority of properties do not have off-road parking.
- Braunston has an active Community Car run by volunteers.

Phase 1 Next Steps

- Include EV charging points in a document promoting active and sustainable travel.
- Work towards the installation of publicly accessible charging points in residential areas of the village.
- Liaise with the Village Hall and Community Car committees to work towards an electric community car powered by zero carbon electricity.