

## Best in Region

### The Whitehill & Bordon Green Loop & Wayfinding Project

Submitted by: East Hampshire District Council



The Green Loop with its waymarkers is encouraging residents to travel on foot, by bike, or even scooter, contributing to better physical and mental health.

This is a large Green Infrastructure project that delivers against many objectives and delivered by partners, which has been critical to its success. This cycling and walking infrastructure has been delivered and designed to have a positive impact predominantly on health and wellbeing. The Green Loop – a 7km loop of paths that encircles Whitehill & Bordon is used by walkers, runners, and cyclists. The waymarkers, the totems, benches and blocks provide vital information, places of mindfulness and rest. Together, they are a key to encouraging residents and visitors to choose active travel in and around the town.

The submission focussed on how the project had responded to the challenge of addressing mental health and wellbeing and encouraging active travel and mindfulness. But also linking in with local events for both new and existing residents including providing improved navigation a safe route to school and commuting route. Its provision has also accelerated other local carbon initiatives such as pocket parks and community travel planning. But also outlined the engagement strategy since the early stages of the project through to implementation.

The judges noted that a significant population can access the loop and there was evidence of economic benefits arising and of a responsive consultation approach with groups such as schools included. The judges identified that the project addresses a range of community and environmental matters building on an effective partnership and multi-disciplinary approach to overcome challenges. This was perhaps helped by the fact that there was a clear vision from the outset in what the loop was to achieve for the town which fulfilled multiple briefs with delivery, funding and social value outcomes at its heart. Evidence was also included that the approach has already been picked up by other organisations.

The judges felt that a stand-out feature of the submission was the use of digital media including use of drones and active travel apps to promote and explain the project to users and the attention to detail on the design to incorporate and include a natural environment, points of interest and areas of active play and rest with links to areas outside of the project and re-use of materials.

The judges are proud to award **The Whitehill & Bordon Green Loop & Wayfinding Project** an RTPI SE Award for Planning Excellence as joint winner of the Best in Region.