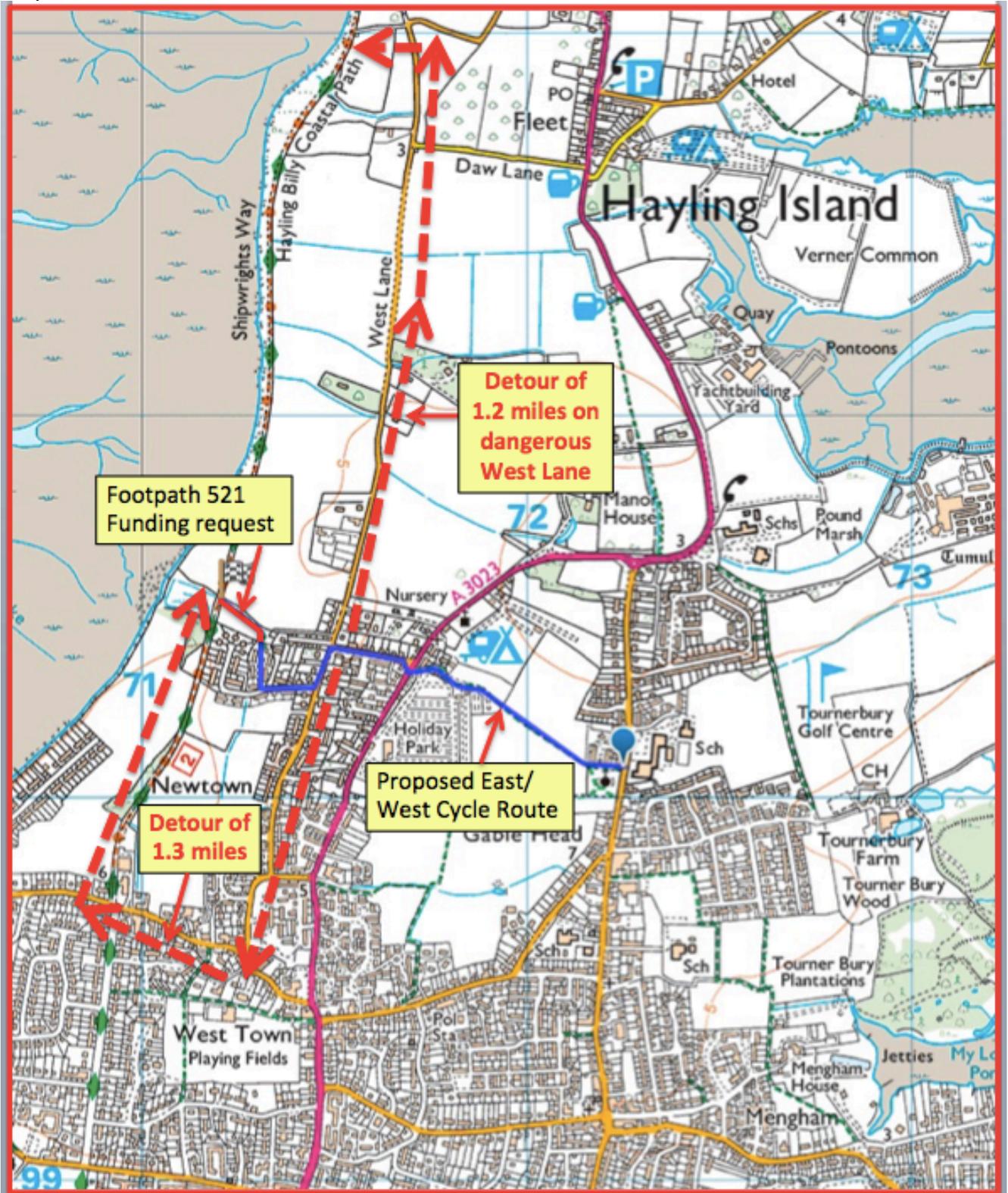


I'm writing to ask you to support Cycle Hayling's CIL bid, which I gather comes to a vote shortly.

The footpath from Denhill Close to the Billy Trail is the key link to the Billy Trail from Mengham shops, schools and many islanders. Without converting it to a shared cycle path, the council's proposed east-west cycle route won't go anywhere.

Map:



The reason it's so important now is that we need, and have, the support of the current land-owner to convert it for cycling. If the ownership or support changed, there might never be a direct and safe cycle route onto the Billy Trail. Completing it now will guarantee it for future generations.

It has obvious leisure attractions, by improving access to the Billy Trail, and adding a new safe loop for younger and less confident riders.

But it could also relieve congestion, by making cycle-commuting down the Billy Trail more attractive, especially as e-bikes become cheaper and more widely available.

I attach a map showing just how bad the detours would be if we fail to secure this vital access while we can. The bid summary is below.

We hope for your support. Very many thanks

Wilf Farrow, Cycle campaigner.

On behalf of Cycle Hayling, Cycling UK and Sustrans.

CIL Bid Summary:

This project is to re-instate the key missing link in Hayling's proposed East/West cycle route, from Hayling College in Elm Grove to the Hayling Billy Trail, via Denhill Close.

The East/West cycle route is planned for 2017/18 in Havant Borough Council's Feasibility Study, 'CMS2590: HAYLING ISLAND CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS', commissioned by Hampshire County Council, and published in February 2017.

However, the current s106 funding from the Halyards Estate will only fund 3 out of 6 sections, and the other 3 have therefore had to be dropped.

While 2 were along roads, and can still be cycled, **the cheapest and most critical section** is the final one, Footpath 521 linking Denhill Close to the Billy Trail.

Without this key link, less than 150 metres long, cyclists to/from the Billy Trail will face either a detour south 1.3 miles via Station Rd, or north on 1.2 miles of the very dangerous and cycle-unfriendly West Lane. This will deter many potential cyclists.

Furthermore, we understand the current landowner is prepared to give permission to convert the existing footpath to a shared cycle route, which may not be the case in the future.

This footpath needs to be completely rebuilt to HCC rural footpath standards, with a wider and more regular stone / gravel surface, drainage for all-weather conditions, and a disability compliant ramp onto the Billy Trail.

This supports the cycling strategies of both Havant and Hampshire, bringing many benefits, including to health, traffic, leisure and tourism.

Cycle Hayling is making the application. HBC would execute the project, on behalf of HCC. £16,000 is the estimated cost.