

## **Report on proposed Muthill to Auchterarder cycle and walking path.**

ByCycle was represented at one of the recent initial public consultation meetings on the proposed Muthill to Auchterarder cycling and walking path held in Muthill on 18 March.

The proposal is to turn an existing disused railway line into a 4.3 mile path between the two towns. It would then join up with the Muthill to Crieff cycle path project, and eventually on to Lochearn – linking up with the National Cycle Network. Although the path exists, it is far from ideal as it is mostly stone, earth or grass, often waterlogged and overgrown.

The project is being promoted by the Auchterarder Community Sports and Recreation community group, who have asked Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust (PKCT) to help them develop the idea and help raise the funding to make it happen – from Sustrans and other funders.

The initial estimate is that the upgrade will cost around £1.5 million to create a very high standard path suitable for users with a wide range of abilities – and would be constructed in stages during a 3-5 year project.

The meeting heard that the project was in the initial public consultation stage – with a public survey being conducted to gauge local support - before moving to an in-depth feasibility study. That hopefully would lead to the project being broken down into stages for detailed design and funding.

A lively audience took the opportunity to ask a number of detailed questions about the route itself and its impact on local landowners and residents; the proposed usage of the path by cyclists and walkers; and its potential benefits on health, recreation, the local economy and getting around.

More information on the proposals can be found at [www.muthillauchterarderpath.info](http://www.muthillauchterarderpath.info)