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# Do you feel safe cycling in the Sid Valley?

## If not, what could make you feel safer?

### Introduction

This appendix lists all of the responses to the question: Do you feel safe cycling in the Sid Valley? If not, what could make you feel safer?

As this was an open question, a wide variety of responses were received, that can be seen below. We have summarized these into the following five categories to aid understanding:

- Safer routes, cycle paths and cycle lanes
- 20mph Speed limit or better enforcement
- Yes, I feel safe cycling
- Less conflict on Bays with other users
- Repair Potholes

### 1. Safer routes, cycle paths and cycle lanes

Could do with more safer routes

cycle paths

More dedicated cycle paths. I don't feel safe cycling on roads alongside vehicles.

Roads are sketchy, even narrow lanes you have many cars and vans overtaking closely and unsafely

Cycling laned

A cycle route from Newton Poppleford to Sidmouth could be made along the old railway track from Harpford to the Bowd. Currently the only option is to drive to Sidmouth as four elms hill is too dangerous to cycle.

more car free cycle routes and infra structure not just paint on road to meet LA targets

A safer crossing of the main road at the Bowd



Better route options

More dedicated cycle lanes

Better segregation from traffic

I am not aware of any safe routes in Sidmouth, so cycle lanes, slower traffic.

Out of Sidmouth there are too many narrow roads with high hedgerows. I would happily go on 50miles + bike rides but feel I would need to stick my bike on the car first to find some safer routes.

More car free routes, safe cycle lanes

Safer lanes where cars are forced to drive on a different part of the road to cyclists

More coastal cycling paths

Although the cycle path through the Bowd is helpful, if you want to get out of Sidmouth onto quiet country lanes you still have to go on main roads and cross the busy A3052. An extension of the cycle route would be a good start. When you do get to the lanes the other side of the main road, cars are often going much too fast. Lower speed limits in rural areas and occasional speed checks would help.

Most of the time. B3176 - traffic a little fast and road too narrow. Cycle route through the Byes is covered in leaves in places at this time of year creating slippery sections - frost makes it worse.

Road from Bowd to Ottery too narrow with fast traffic.

Bowd crossing

No safe we should have separate cycle lanes

No - I would like some more dedicated cycling routes through the flat parts of the valley

Cycle lanes on the main road

Traffic free routes

Not going from Fortescue to Sidbury

Safe enough but the more lanes dedicated to cyclists the better.

Cycle path to Sidbury

Better cycle paths

A cycle path so as to avoid the road from Sidford to the Bowd. This would increase improve safety and reduce holding up traffic.

Better signage on cycle path in Byes to suggest to dog walkers that they use the paths. A dedicated cycle path/lane from Stowford through Woolbrook to connect with the Byes cycle path. If it were to start at the Bowd to connect with the disused railway line which is a safe route into the Otter Valley and provide a dedicated path alongside the A3052 to Stowford Cross it could then connect with and run alongside the footpath from the bottom of Stowford Rise to Core Hill Road and above Woolbrook Rise and above Tyrell Mead using existing footpaths to connect with back entrance to Sidmouth College thence through Primley to the Byes.

More routes off road to various points in town

More cycle trails

Dedicated cycle paths -everywhere. Feeling very vulnerable where motorists make me feel that I'm in the way.

I feel safe on the cycle paths eg The Byes and on minor roads but feel less safe on the A roads eg to cycle to shop at Waitrose I have to use part of the A3052. There is an off road path part of the way but getting back onto the A road is quite treacherous

That depends. On the Byes, yes, country lanes -usually. Main roads - no.

Mostly although some of the busier routes could be more cycling friendly.



safer route across A3052. Cycle paths along A3052

Roads, even main roads too narrow, too many potholes, too many inconsiderate drivers. Some routes are fairly safe, others less so. Dedicated cycle paths would greatly improve things. Even shared routes with pedestrians can be dangerous- eg trying to avoid dogs and people in the byes even when going slowly

Cycle lanes

Paper library. I feel perfectly safe in Sidmouth, along the Esplanade, in most streets and in the Byes. I wouldn't feel safe cycling to Honiton/Sidbury. Cycle path in the Byes can be very slippery with leaves etc.

Only on the Cycle path

Clearer signing of the existing routes and some additional routes would be welcome.

Need to introduce/improve cycle routes

No, I generally avoid the Sid Valley as it is too busy on the roads and the traffic is not sympathetic or considerate of cyclists

Cycle routes need to be joined up. The only cycle paths don't have continuity. There should be a dedicated route into town as a minimal provision. Specifically, there should be a safe crossing point at the Toll Bridge for cyclists and pedestrians and a cycle bridge across the river

More cycle tracks/lanes

Not particularly. The roads are either busy major roads, or small windy lanes with poor visibility. There are very few bike paths beyond the Byes in Sidmouth itself.

Roads too narrow, lower speed restrictions might help, dedicated cycle lanes would help

Generally, yes, as most of the cycling I do is offroad or on quieter back lanes. However, there could still be a significant improvement of offroad cycling facilities in Sid Valley such as a BMX/pump track and designated/permitted offroad trails on Mutters Moor, Core Hill/East Hill Strips/Core Copse, Salcombe Hill, Harford Woods, Harcombe Woods, etc

Cycle paths, light road

More available places to ride

Cycle path between Sidbury/sidford

Yes on own but not with my young family, apart from on a few routes.

More cycle routes

More cycle routes and better awareness from other road users

Improved cycle paths

I live in Sidbury. The road between Sidbury and Sidford is so dangerous. Many times cars have tried to pass me with traffic coming the other way.

Mainly but some elements don't feel safe:

- main road from Sidford to Sidbury is too dangerous
- need a cycle route from the seafront straight up through town - having to go round the one-way system encourages cyclists to cycle on one-way streets and "no-cycling" paths
- fix the potholes!

Cycle route thro to sidbury connecting with byes. Better cycle route to sea front and along esplanade from toll House. Safe cycle route to connect with improved surface on bowd to Tipton railway track

Not on the roads, too busy, too many potholes. More dedicated cycle ways

The roads are too small. I would not feel safe



I feel safe on designated Cycle routes, however it would be great to extend these to other areas around Sid Valley. More routers would encourage sustainable tourism

I feel fairly safe cycling in Sidmouth, but due to a lack of cycle paths I am not brave enough to venture outside of the town. I grew up in Northern Germany and our main mode of transport used to be cycling, but the facilities there were so much better.

Designated cycle routes that connect to the wider area that don't require you to cycle up Peak or Salcombe Hill.

More cycle paths

No, poor links to other places - the main roads are death traps. Lack of safe links.

Apart from the Byes, there are no dedicated cycle lanes in the Sid Valley so you have to be confident on roads and be prepared to cope with some poor driving practices. I know that this puts many people of cycling in the area.

Very difficult to get out of the valley, the fastest route via the bowd is very busy, the old railway line would allow a flatish safe route out of the valley €!..

fast cars on country roads, lack of an integrated cycleway, sharing paths with pedestrians and dogs

More cycle routes/ lanes, safe places to cycle

Cycling down the byes is great but other routes out of town feel quite busy and dangerous

Safer roads or cycle paths

Mostly I feel safe but better cycle routes to places like Sidbury, Ottery and other surrounding villages would be great especially for less confident riders children etc.

Only from Sidford to Sidmouth along the Byes cycle path

Only up and down the Byes

As we are moving to Sidbury a cycle path connecting Sidford to Sidbury

More cycle paths

No the Cyclists shouldn't be on the roads

Cycle lanes or greater safety measures on busiest stretches of roads

Not completely. More dedicated cycle routes.

More cycle lanes

Other than the Byes no cycle way

Good quality cycle paths

More traffic free routes. Better understanding from some (groups of) inconsiderate dog walkers of the needs of cyclists.

I only cycle on the byes and then get off at the end and walk the rest of the way into town as I don't like competing with cars!

Safer cycling routes.. we have so few.

No, I come from the Netherlands where I used to cycle every day, everywhere. Have not stepped on a bike since moving to Devon 6 months ago and I miss it a lot! I would prefer to take my bike instead of car with the children but this does not feel safe because of the lack of cycle paths. I think this is a big missing, also for the (mental) health of our children. It has been proven that it is far more healthy to cycle/walk to school than to go by car

More cycle routes

I would like to be able to cycle into the town/to the seafront with my 3 young children but as the only bike path in Sidmouth finishes at the end of the byes, it is not safe enough to cycle as a



means of transport as a family. Lack of cycle routes in the valley is a real barrier to families and young children cycling more.

More cycle ways would make it more enjoyable

Longer more joined up cycle routes

Need traffic free route!

Cycling lanes, less cars on the road.

a cycle route along the old train line

Paper library. Type of bike is touring bike, Steep hills put off cycling

The cycle route through Hartford woods is rough with muddy quagmires and deep wheel ruts in places. I came off my bike trying to cross between deep tractor wheel tracks, smacked my head hard on the ground, leaving a small dent in my helmet. I was only going slowly and carefully, making the journey unnecessarily longer. The alternative road route to the Bowd is very steep, requiring walking and pushing the bike in 3 places. The road routes from the Bowd into Sidmouth feel unsafe with speeding cars. The road from 4 Elms into Newton Poppleford is particularly dodgy, especially trying to go over the little bridge, and in the dark. A stile prevents bicycle access through the fields from Hartford to Newton Poppleford via back roads. I never risk using the hill up or down from 4 Elms to the Bowd.

Busy and narrow main roads

## 2. 20mph Speed limit or better enforcement

Reduce the urban area speed limit to 20mph

There are many inconsiderate drivers this applies to cyclists too. Some drivers drive dangerously as a result of their "boy racer attitude" or incompetence (sadly often too old and misjudging situations)

getting cars/vans to slow down and giving priority to cyclists and pedestrians

I feel safe on the roads, I don't think they need any changes. I feel the issue is with education of other traffic. I would say only 50% of drivers pass me with enough safe space, especially in wet windy conditions.

There are no roads on which I feel safe, due to a combination of heavy traffic, poor driver awareness, antipathy from other road users and the state of the road surfaces which are increasingly pitted with potholes. Things that would help me feel safer include national public awareness campaigns on cycle safety, passing distances, safe passing speeds. This might include completion of an obligatory education module on cycle awareness and safety for all new drivers, all public service vehicle drivers including those who drive for a living such as delivery drivers and all those who have to do a speed awareness course. Additionally improved repair of road surfaces and avoidance of the practice of top dressing to improve longevity of roads which is a nasty skid risk for cyclists.

Speed limits being enforced

Priority cycle routes. Driver education.

As a 74 year old cyclist. I am wary of four wheeled traffic. All year round I am on my bike by 6 am to avoid the traffic, particularly when travelling the narrow country lanes around the Sid Valley.

Generally I find drivers of vehicles in the Sid Valley most considerate but there are unfortunately some inconsiderate people on the roads who hate cyclists

Traffic calming to keep cyclists safer, roads are busy and traffic drives too fast past cyclists.



Reasonably safe but 20 mph speed limit throughout town would help. What to do about the ever increasing aggressiveness of drivers towards cyclists is anyone's guess.

Poor road surfaces, grumpy inconsiderate drivers

Less traffic. More considerate drivers.

Use of 20mph zones in narrow roads around Sid Valley

Greater awareness by motorists and commercial vehicle drivers of the needs of cyclists

Mostly - some drivers need to be more aware of cyclists and other traffic

The majority of the time but speeding and impatience is sometimes alarming

Every other ride, a driver does something stupid threatening my ( and sometimes their's or other's safety). More driver education. More cycle routes.

At least 1 metre clearance from vehicles

Cycle signs on the side of the road to remind drives that bikes may be around at junctions

Mostly yes but wider roads and car driver education would help

To be fair, I think the behaviour and entitlement of some cyclists give all a bad name. This causes cars/buses/lorries to treat more of us without consideration. I have seen cyclists fly through red traffic lights at Sidford crossroads - passing me on my bike. Cyclists need to respect other road users so that we can all enjoy our chosen travel mode

Reduce speed limits to 20 mph

20MPH limits on main routes in Sidmouth Town.

Ban dogs on long leads near cycle routes (Byes)

More places to park my TRIKE safely. Priority given to cycles / trikes on narrow roads

Yes down the byes if people aren't walking in the cycle lanes. No on the roads as there's a lack of safe lanes and dangerous drivers aren't taken off the roads (all ages)

Speed Limits or cycle lane from town to Waitrose area.

Better enforcement of poor or aggressive driving

Paper library

Bad weather and high winds put us off

Generally yes (safe). Speeding vehicles are our concern and drivers who do not understand the vulnerability of cyclists.

Paper library

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Less cars, or simply polite drivers in the cars

### 3. Yes, I feel safe cycling

Yes

Yes.

Yes

As safe as anywhere in the Uk and safer than cities

I feel safe with Sid Valley cycling club





Yes, I feel safe in the Sid Valley itself. The only times I feel wary is when cycling up Trow Hill due to it being fairly narrow (and fairly steep) and with bursts of traffic coming up behind - but mostly they are considerate. However, if I was a novice, I would feel more intimidated on all the main roads out of the Sid Valley. The minor roads would be less so, but very steep. In general yes.

Generally, I feel safe but I am an experienced rider. Lack of traffic free routes and poor standards of driving are likely to be a barrier for new riders.

Yes

Reasonably

Paper Library. Yes, confidence is not the issue

Generally yes

Mostly

Yes. Traffic is quite light and generally speed limited. I can cycle to the shops, beach, town centre, pool via the Byes if I choose to too.

Paper library Nothing puts me off except wet weather

Yes - a wobble as fast cars approach has a wonderful calming slowing effect but undisciplined pedestrians and dogs on cycle and mixed use paths

For me I feel safe as I only travel short distances but for my 6 year old going to school it feels a little unsafe sometimes due to traffic around the school

Some routes feel reasonably safe, but others not - the main roads to Honiton, to Newton Pophelford and towards Beer/Seaton feel very hazardous

## 4. Less conflict on Byes with other users

I'm confident on roads but am aware of the hazards we face. I am not convinced that mixed use paths are safe because dog walkers and cyclists seem incompatible.

Improve the cycle path along the byes making it a wider and have better separation from The footpath

No, too many people walking and dogs loose on cycle part of the Byes

Generally safe. In The Byes along the shared pathway, I have almost been knocked off my bike on several occasions due to dogs running about.

Dogs should have to be on leads in the Byes main routes - they wander all over paths and make this cycle route an unpleasant journey when it should be the easiest way for cyclists to get to town.

Paper Library Because we live at the Sidford end of town we are fortunate to be able to access the cycle path on the Byes. Excellent. However we do sometimes feel unsafe due to loose dogs. Do not bounce so easily when older!

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Sid Valley trail is good, but could be improved by improving signing to discourage walkers from straying on to it.

I totally avoid The Byes as there are too many irresponsible dog owners who let their dogs rule the paths, or they have them on the longest retractable leads & are totally unaware that the dog is across the path, I have had numerous incidents with dog owners & generally get abuse back.



On my own, yes. With my children less so. Getting pedestrians and dogs off the separate cycle path I think would be useful

Byes has some trouble with dogs and pedestrians wandering into cycle routes. Would also like to see safer cycle options on roads to facilitate getting to local amenities and outdoor leisure opportunities

I try and use the Byes but it's tricky with people walking on bike paths and dogs. My boys refuse to for this reason.

Traffic is too busy on all main roads and too many dog walkers on the cycle path in the byes. The narrow shared path next to Sidmouth college and also dogs not under control on the cycle path make it stressful to bike ride. A widening of certain parts of the current cycle path would help and maybe dogs on lead on narrow sections. Also no safe route to Sidbury currently so a safe cycle path to Sidbury which we have been promised for years! No safe route Sidford to Newton Poppleford.

Less double parking along the sea front, by delivery lorries to the hotels. Wider cycle path through the Byes and make it more obvious to people not on bikes as they do tend to walk on it.

If people didn't walk on the cycle path in the byes

I cycle on the Byes to work, so just have to negotiate dogs and the stray pedestrian.

Yes. Although I do not feel safe letting my children on their bikes on the road. There is a problem with dogs in the byes and they cause a hazard for cyclists.

## 5. Potholes

As an experienced cyclist I cycle on roads and generally feel safe cycling within the Sid Valley. Occasionally the odd motorist will pass too close and at speed but generally most are fine. The condition of some roads, especially some of the lanes, are becoming hazardous with potholes. Better road condition eg potholes

Not especially - main roads are mental (especially A3052). Back lanes are safer but potholed to hell and with occasional mad drivers who give no room

Certain routes are dangerous due to overgrown hedges and pot holes

Better road surface and slower vehicle drivers

More considerate drivers and better road surface conditions.

Not always. Holes and drains mean it is not always possible to keep to the edge of the road.

Cars at pinch points do not give way at all!

No. Roads are not safe enough, too many dangerous potholes and water from blocked drains. I used to cycle but road conditions have put me off.

Paper library. Overall I do feel safe however the quality of the road surface is a growing concern. The number and severity of the potholes creates danger for cyclists



## SIDMOUTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN