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# Do you have any other suggestions for improving cycling in the Sid Valley

## Introduction

This appendix lists all of the responses to the question: Do you have any other suggestions for improving cycling in the Sid Valley?

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 categories to aid understanding:

- More cycle routes and lanes
- More cycle racks
- Improvements to the Byes cycle route
- More education for road users
- Make some streets One Way
- Pump track for BMX
- Traffic Calming
- Other suggestions

## 1. More cycle routes and lanes

No safe we should have separate cycle lanes

More dedicated cycle lanes

Dedicated cycle lanes

It would be nice if a cycle lane up Trow Hill could be negotiated. The road is reasonably wide - even a basic staggered white line with bike lane markings would be great. Sadly the biggest problem is overcoming drivers' attitude towards cycling and cyclists. We are too car orientated in this country. Sorry to be so negative

More cycle lanes on roads, failing that more warning signs

Just more, designated cycle lanes/routes, please.

more cycle paths and lights along the Byes

connect all the networks

A cycle path to Sidbury that is not on the road

Up to sidburry

It's a tricky problem for road cycling; narrow roads, steep hills, poor visibility. Making some off road tracks in the woodland areas such as those in forestry commission areas (eg Kielder Forest) may be helpful.



More safe routes along the coast and inland joining up big populations like Exeter to local towns and villages (like the one from Exmouth to Budleigh)

Cycle Lane or track like along the Exe estuary

A safer clear route from Sidford from the end of the Byes into the country lanes north of Sidford

Link to Sidbury is long overdue.

A new route is needed from Otterton/ B Salterton to Feniton

"Improve surfaces on the following bridleways:

Bickwell via golf course to Peak Hill Car Park

Old railway line from Tipton St John to the Bowd

Harcombe bridleway as a gentler uphill alternative to Chelson Lane

Bottom of Hillside Road to be no entry from bottom of hill, to prevent traffic from the town cutting across cyclists going into town from Sid Road

A safe cycle partner route to the Sidmouth Ring

More shared paths that cyclists can use alongside walkers

Make all footpaths into shared foot paths & cycle paths

Make routes off the main roads. They are too narrow and size of vehicles (SUV/HGV) are getting bigger.

More information on safe routes

Create cycle paths alongside the main roads to Honiton, from Sidford lights up to Waitrose and beyond to Newton Poppleford and Tipton, and inland to Ottery and to Honiton and to Seaton. Or alternatively separate path routes across country. Also separate pedestrians and bikes in the byes.

A new route using the old railway line to Tipton St John would be great.

Where there are shared paths dogs should be kept on leads. Too many owners allow their dogs to wander all over the place with no consideration for others

More cycle routes in built up areas

The problem is not just creating cycleways it's maintaining them. They often get forgotten after the PR of building them has died down. A few of our local cycleways are great, but some are in a dire state.

More off road mountain biking

Cycle routes in and around the town (on roads and paths)

Sidford to Waitrose. The various paths through housing developments on the left, need joining up so that you can cycle all the way. Really poor planning here. There are steps where you have to carry your bike and bits where you have to rejoin the main road.

Additionally, cycle spaces painted on the road in front of traffic lights would also make cycling safer.

Allow cycling through Blackmore Gardens as shared paths with pedestrians taking priority

All the above



More designated safe routes

More cycle paths outside Sidmouth.

Consider how Secondary School children are easily able to commute to school from the out lying villages.

"With electric bikes now available people like me are encouraged to use a bike. I have had a few near misses and been cut up on Temple Street. I do go on the Byes but at some point you need to come up and it can be a bit hair raising!

Thank you for looking at this. "

Yes.... The East Devon Trail (bikepacking route) goes through Sidmouth... You could really utilise this to boost cycle tourism to the area, altering and broadening the positive cycle culture within the town. Also... Women are less confident cyclists generally, there are local female coaches, guides etc and Devon ladies groups

A safe route out of Sidmouth parallel to Station Road. A safe way to cross the A3052 to reach the Otter Valley. Converting the old railway line from the Bowd to Tipton into a shared cycling and walking path.

Safe cycle paths in Sidmouth. Safe cycle paths throughout the valley. Discount in Sidmouth shops if I prove I cycled to Sidmouth.

A safe route out of the valley could link up with many quiet roads in east Devon to form a really good cycling network.

There are already some good cycle routes available, but it would be great to link all towns & villages together, even just using existing quieter lanes.

More off road trails

linking the train station at Feniton with a cycle route that goes to Sidmouth could have a positive benefit to these communities

"Cycle paths -are there any in Sidmouth ? What I call the top road ie the first right turn towards Sidmouth at the Bowd could be for cyclists only. I think that's a pipe dream ! Speed limit of 20mph in the town. Bike parks. Narrow roads eg Alexandria Rd made one way. The ford (Mill St) for cycles only. The latter would provide a good quiet way for cyclists to get to the sea front. "

Dedicated cycle paths, the roads are far too narrow. Dogs and people can be a challenge along the Byes as many use the cycle lane

"a) Get on with the long-promised Sidford-Sidbury cycle route.

b) Explore developing the old railway line from the Bowd to Tipton St John as a cycle route. Long term possibility of extending along old railway to Feniton.

c) Widen the northern stretch of the Byes cycle path where coexistence between cyclists and walkers and dogs can become strained."

"More cycle ways is an easy answer but hugely challenging

Better drivers is an easy answer but hugely challenging"

its really,ly about safety. I hard,y cycle in the winter as I don't want to use the roads, despite having an electric bike. We may take the bikes on the car to bike trails like the exe estuary



Yes we need more safe parallel to road cycle routes. We could do with a recycling bike community hub which encourages more people cycle. We could do with ensuring roads are safe as pot holes and utility work at the moment could seriously injure cyclists.

Road repairs and cycle paths.

Paper library. A designated cycle path between Sidford and Sidbury would be good. covered cycle racks in the Sidmouth town centre, and better cycle parking outside Sidmouth swimming pool/TIC would be useful. There is no cycle parking at Lidl! It would be useful to have cycle racks at bus stops.

## 2. More cycle racks and secure places to leave cycles

Bike parking in Sidmouth

More secure cycle parking.

Better cycle parking facilities in Sidmouth and better road furniture and signage on cycling

"Paper library.

We suggested a cycle rack in Manor Road car park after lockdown. There now is one!

"Cycle racks outside Lidl and Coop

Sometimes there have been Motorbike/scooters in racks, especially near library - should this be allowed?

Also, to our knowledge no provision for undercover bike parking k which does put us off in inclement weather!"

"Paper library

We suggested a cycle rack in Manor Road car park after lockdown. There now is one !

Sometimes there have been motorbike/scooters in racks, especially near library - should this be allowed?

Also to our knowledge, no provision for undercover bike parking, which does put us off in inclement weather!"

More cycle stands in the town

We need a safe location to leave a bike in sidmouth town. A cage for example £2 to park

More places to park bike in town. Often the available spaces are full. Especially in the town centre.

Secure cycle storage facilities around town

More cycle racks on the seafront

More cycle locking points in Sidmouth and Sidford.

More cycle stands in town

Cycle racks at the town end of the byes so you could leave the bike there and walk into the centre of town.

"More places to lock up bicycles. It's fine in winter, but not so in the summer. Places are scant.

Bike racks / shelters, better signing on cycle path in byes to raise awareness of bike path, not dog walking path



Lighting along The Byes would be useful. During winter, the safest option seems to be to cycle along the main road from Sidmouth to Sidford."

lane on sea front road. More cycle lock up places. More cycle awareness signs for drivers  
"More cycle racks in Sidmouth town.

### 3.Improvements to the Byes cycle route

Separate cycle path from walking area as dog walkers and walkers can be thoughtless  
Clearer marking on cycle track in the Byes. Too many pedestrians using it always  
In the Byes, paint yellow the wooden bollards that occasionally separate the  
pedestrian/cyclist lanes. Make them obvious as I've seen a cyclist crash into one when  
avoiding a pedestrian.

Byes needs separate lanes for cyclists & walkers with dogs.

Even the known cycle track through the Byes is not always used well. Dog owners let dogs  
run and pedestrians on it seem to ignore bells....

Add more signs to Byes. So many pedestrians still walk all over the bike paths and are  
oblivious to the fact they are bike or shared paths.

Cycle paths that are not shared with pedestrians please. The Byes path has a painted line  
that some pedestrians ignore, making it dangerous when they step into my path when I'm  
cycling. Some older people who are hard of hearing don't hear my bell. Dogs and children run  
in front of me. Cyclists are not respected generally by the local population however  
considerate and polite one might be. I cannot cycle anywhere else such as Newton  
Poppleford as the traffic is too fast along the A3052

"Paper library. In our experience over more than 20 years when cycling along the dedicated  
Byes cycle track, the following issues cause accidents:

Dogs not on leads running across the cycleway

Dogs on extended leads being permitted to run across the cycleway

Dogs being permitted to run freely alongside cyclists including biting ankles and legs

Dogs chasing other dogs over the cycleway

A solution needs to be determined that ensures the separation of dogs from people cycling  
on the cycleway."

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"

Roadside routes along the main roads, dedicated paths to some places, and separated cycle  
paths in the byes - I've experienced many 'almost' accidents re dogs off leads in the byes,





even though I cycle very slowly, and people stand around on the path. All cyclists should have bells/horns to warn people - even other cyclists, when overtaking.

Address issues with the very narrow cycle path at back of sidmouth college. Designate safe cycle routes within sidmouth and establish traffic free route to connect with Budleigh Salterton  
"Paper library, Improve confused signage of use and separation on existing paths (Sidford - Byes - Toll House)

Education 1. pedestrians are road users and have responsibilities under the Highway Code  
2. Proper control of dogs on cycleways (treat it like a road with cars) "

"Rh turn from Hillside road from Sid road should be one way down not up as this is a dangerous turning off a blind corner.

Crossing at Sid road to Milford road near Mount Pleasant hotel and tool house should have road markings and a slow traffic warning signs for access to byes for both pedestrians and cycles connecting to either side. Many near misses here.

Dare I suggest that the ford be one way in but not out as the congestion and stand offs I have witnessed are legendary and the water slows traffic which would accommodate more pedestrians and cycles without fear of traffic both ways.

Widen the ford bridge. Angled sideways instead of straight and a little wider it could accommodate walkers, cyclists, prams and wheelchairs instead of us all getting stuck. More substantial than wooden perhaps?"

Cats eyes in the Byes (Sidmouth) so we can cycle during the winter. Cycle racks, pumps & tool station in central Sidmouth/towns.

## 4. More education for road users

educate the drivers!

Improve driver obligations regarding other road users

Enforce the changes to the Highway Code

No. My personal opinion is the biggest factor to overcome is the attitude of car drivers towards cyclists in this country and that is very difficult to change.

Paper Library.try and begin BREEZE groups and train guide ride leaders .

Cycle training esp electric bikes

improving car drivers skills. the modern test is to simple, young people lack the skill and judgment required, spend to long using toys fitted. sat nav, lane keeping, adaptive speed so they do not look or pay attention.

A proper cycle related section on <https://www.visitdevon.co.uk/sidmouth> - Routes to cycle, locations of cycle stands in the town etc?

"Paper library. It is the culture around cycling that needs to change, a real challenge. A campaign of media and signage constructed in an inclusive manner may be a start. "





Enforce street parking regulations to remove unnecessary obstructions. Reduce speed limits and enforce them.

Education for drivers, open up more cycle paths which dont just take space on the road from car users. Make the old railway tracks around the area open as cycle paths eg from the Bowd to Harford, Newton Poppleford. From Newton poppleford to Budleigh Salterton and up to Ottery St Mary and a safe way to cycle over the hill to Sidmouth

Look at the parking at the all Saints school site at pick up time

## 5. Make some streets One Way (except cyclists)

one way only for cars!

A one way system in and out of Sidmouth. One lane to be dedicated to cars and other lane dedicated to bicycles. A loop in and out of Sidmouth would be easy to achieve using the upper and lower roads in and out of Sidmouth.

One way round town with clear cycle lane

Bicycles being legally allowed to cycle up Sidmouth high Street as the footbridge over the Sid gets very congested and the alternative route is so much further. As an adult that's fine but for kids it's a significant extension.

Contraflow on High St from Mill Street so I can cycle home from the seafront"

Make some roads one way

Reducing access to motorists; more cycle/pedestrianized roads and one way systems; less authorized driving above 70 years old and reduced rates for taxi rides for the elderly and disabled.

Allow cycling through no entry streets as Europe does. Shared use of the esplanade lane Exmouth. More bike parking areas in secure places eg esplanade and market square.

Allow cycling in both directions in Fore St; cycle rack on the sea front

## 6. Pump track for BMX

Yes, a BMX/pump track facility. Nearly 400 people have signed my change.org petition for a pump track in Sidmouth and the associated Facebook group (Sidmouth Pump Track) I've set up has 177 members. I have obtained budget quotes from several track design/build contractors on the instruction of Ian Barlow of Sidmouth Town Council but have since been told that we must now await a 'consultation' to be undertaken by the council. I've not heard anything from the Council on my proposal for over a year now.

Pump track for the kids would be great, or somewhere for them to cycle in the town like the skate park.

Build a pump track for children to safely learn to cycle/practice jumps etc. nowhere like this exists in Sidmouth.



A pump track in Sidmouth would be great for kids and adults that want somewhere to ride and practice bike skills but who are not confident or who don't want to ride on a skate park area.

Traffic free cycle circuit. (eg negotiated at the show ground when not otherwise being used).  
A pump track for the children would be a great addition and Mountain bike trails in the surrounding woods to really help families be active and enjoy time on their bikes plus attract visitors.

## 7. Traffic Calming

More traffic calming schemes that slow cars/vehicles down so they don't pass us so fast!  
Improve Exeter Cross junction, by Long Park. Too many cycling accidents here when cars don't see you.

Lower speed limit through the town

Reduce speed limits for cars and improve pedestrian signage in the byes . Provide more spaces to lock bikes in the town centre.

## 8. Other suggestions

Use of 20mph zones in narrow roads around Sid Valley

This doesn't really fit here but I'd love to cycle unfortunately because it's all hills out of Sidmouth I'm not able to- arthritis in my knee. Hoping to get an electric bike

Providing an ebike scheme such as in Exeter may reduce traffic in and around Sidmouth and make cycling safer/more appealing

Fining abusive vehicle drivers

More speed enforcement, better road surface

Removing HGVs from the central area by introducing a scheme to drop loads on the outskirts and deliver by E- vans/ cargo bikes etc

Its perfectly fine if cyclists take responsibility for their own actions.

That is a difficult question. No matter where you go around Sidmouth there are always hills to contend with. The cyclist has to share the road with the motorist and there's the rub.

No, it is too dangerous

P.S. the questions in this survey are very generic. "

The A3052 road bridge newton poppleford to sidmouth should provide for shared cycle / pedestrian access. There are RUPPs around Bulverton Hill that could be surfaced for cycles.

Better route options for Sustrans Route 2, it goes up and down the steepest hills here

Improve (reduce) parking on roads giving more space for all road users. I feel that freeing up traffic will help ease frustration from drivers, and them taking it out on cyclists.

Fill in the potholes.

On times when I do use cycle ways and where pedestrian light crossings are in place it would be good if lights changed quicker.



I have a TRIKE - please take account of us. I would do more trike/ cycling but illness prevents me at the moment. But I hope to do more next year.

"A local campaign to promote the benefits of cycling in particular for families. Maybe a sign at the key entry points into Sidmouth advertising that we are a cycle friendly community.

Promotion of the local cycling groups

Boris bikes to allow more people to access the centre for those who don't own their own bikes or who are worried about bike theft. This would reduce traffic congestion in the centre which would further encourage more people to use bikes"

Cycle ambassadors. Cycling clubs being consulted. Cycling proficiency for all ages. Cycle mechanics night school classes. More press coverage.

We have the Sid Ring walk map, lets have something similar for bikes please

The French system of signposting great climbs would be welcome on the great climbs of Salcombe, Peak and Sidbury. A post every km says km to go, grade of next km and altitude.

Improving the awareness of bikes and prioritising new routes and healthy cycling in general groups of fairly slow cyclists (no lycra necessary!) doing social rides together