## SIDMOUTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN - Report to STC Environment Cttee - 8/12/25



## **GREEN: POINTS OF INTEREST:**

The Sidmouth Cycling Campaign was formed 3 years ago, building on the work of the Sidmouth Cycling Action Group, which had been a Vision Group project since 2008. During the past year we have continued to engage with decision makers, raising awareness of opportunities for encouraging cycling in the Sid Valley:

We responded to the consultation on the **Devon Countywide LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan)** and it has now been published by Devon County Council. The plan includes the path from Sidbury to Sidford as a Short Term priority and the Otter Trail as a Medium Term priority.

We've been actively engaged with DCC about their plans to create an off-road path from **Sidbury to Sidford.** DCC have planning approval to construct a path on the west side of the main road from Sidford to Hillside in Sidbury (Phase 1).

## **AMBER ISSUES:**

- We are engaged with parents of school children from Sidbury who attend Sidmouth College and are keen to use a safe off-road cycle route. We helped them organise a group cycle ride during "Cycle to School Week", which made the front page of the Herald. The feedback is we need more safe routes for walkers and cyclists in the Sid Valley, especially from Sidbury.
- We responded to the consultation by EDDC on the Dogs on Leads byelaws, requesting that dogs be kept on leads on the narrow, shared paths in the "upper" **Byes.** We would welcome the support of the STC Environment Cttee.
- We have recently enquired about the possibility of widening the existing narrow shared path at the back of **Sidmouth College**. This is the only part of the Byes cycle route without a white line or alternative route. Again, we would welcome the support of the Cttee.

## **RED ISSUES:**

- The **Otter Trail** is a proposed off-road cycle route following the route of the disused railway line from the Bowd through Ottery St Mary to Feniton. The first 300m of this potential cycle route is within the Sidmouth Town Council boundary and follows an existing permissive bridleway, but the surface is inadequate for general use.
- We are in discussion with the landowner, Clinton Devon Estates, who are putting together a bid to Defra under their Heaths to Sea Project (<a href="heathstosea.com">heathstosea.com</a>). We are hopeful this will include a proposal to improve the bridleway through Harpford Woods to provide a safer alternative to the main road for cyclists. We would welcome the support of the STC Environment Cttee for this route.

Roy Russell Secretary, Sidmouth Cycling Campaign November 2025