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Council plan to ban traffic from rural roads in North Somerset

Council plans to make rural lanes between Clevedon, Yatton, Nailsea and Backwell traffic free

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Traffic could be banned from rural lanes across parts of North Somerset - in a bid to promote cycling and walking.

North Somerset Council has announced plans to make rural lanes between Clevedon, Yatton, Nailsea and Backwell traffic free.

The move would see roads in areas including Backwell Bow, Moor Lane and Court Lane in Clevedon and Davis Lane in Kenn become vehicle free zones.

Council highways bosses say the move would help them in their aim to increase walking and cycling across the district by 200 per cent by 2030.

Authority bosses have now applied for a traffic regulation order to prohibit vehicles - particularly HGVs - from the roads and a consultation on the plans runs until the end of April.

There are also plans to look at introducing physical measures to block off the lanes to traffic, although this will be subject to further consultation.

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The plans are included in the authority’s Active Travel Strategy with the vision to make ‘walking and cycling the natural choice for a cleaner, healthier and more active North Somerset.’

Essential motor vehicle access would still be allowed to homes and businesses in the affected areas.

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A council spokesman said: “To support our strategy, our intention is to address rat running and inappropriate use, especially HGV use, of our rural lanes network while continuing to allow essential motor vehicle access to frontages and businesses.

“The council is proposing to restrict access by motor vehicles to the lanes between Clevedon, Yatton, **Nailsea** and Backwell in order to promote and enable greater active travel, particularly walking and cycling.

“For example, residents, landowners, businesses, pubs and hospitality venues will continue to allow essential motor vehicle access for all their needs and those of visitors, clients, employees and

“The resulting reduction in the traffic will create a more pleasant, inviting and safer environment for active travel while preserving the rural nature of the area and providing protection from increasing traffic growth resulting from further development pressures.”

The lanes network is well used by local residents wanting to avoid main roads as a cut through between the towns and villages.

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They often get gridlocked when there are issues with the M5 and local roads get congested as a result.

The plans - known as the Rural Lane Active Travel Enforcement Scheme - will be funded with money from the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund.

The measures could also be supported by reducing speed limits, introducing 'entrance gateways', traffic calming and introducing physical measures to close roads to vehicles.

Council bosses say the desire for **safer walking, cycling and horse riding routes** was highlighted as a result of the first national lockdown as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The spokesman added: "This will build on the huge demand for cycling and walking routes that was demonstrated in the first covid lockdown.

"By going through this process we expect to transform the feel of these lanes so that they become a viable option for many more local residents to travel actively between the communities connected by this rural network.

"Most journey lengths within the area will be perfectly suited to cycling but the lanes will also be attractive to pedestrians and equestrians and improve access to the countryside.

The authority said the move would also help it achieve its target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

The consultation on the scheme runs until April 30 and people can find out more [here](#).

The roads across North Somerset which could become traffic free

Backwell Bow, Backwell - its entire length.

Backwell Common, Backwell - its entire length.

Chapel Hill, Backwell - its entire length.

Chelvey Road, Backwell - its entire length. Woodward's Close, Backwell - its entire length.

Brockley Lane, Brockley - its entire length.

Brockley Way, Brockley - its entire length.

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Littlewood Lane, Cleeve - its entire length.

Court Lane, Clevedon - its entire length.

Manmoor Lane, Clevedon - its entire length.

Moor Lane, Clevedon - from Court Lane to its termination east of M5 J19 (a length of approx. 260m).

Davis Lane, Kenn - its entire length.

Duck Lane, Kenn - its entire length.

Kenn Street, Kenn - its entire length.

Kennmoor Road, Kenn - its entire length.

Manmoor Lane, Kenn - its entire length. Nailsea Wall, Kenn - its entire length.

Chelvey Road, Nailsea - its entire length.

Lodge Lane, Nailsea - from Backwell Bow to its junction with Elm Lodge Road.

Nailsea Moor Lane, Nailsea - its entire length.

Nailsea Wall, Nailsea - its entire length. Nailsea Wall Lane, Nailsea - its entire length.

Netherton Wood Lane, Nailsea - its entire length.

West End Lane, Nailsea - its entire length.

Lodge Lane, Wraxall and Failand - from Backwell Bow to its junction with Elm Lodge Road.

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Brockley Way, Yatton - from its boundary with the parish of Brockley to its junction with Lower Claverham Road.

Claverham Drove, Yatton – its entire length.



Ham Lane, Yatton – its entire length.

Kennmoor Road, Yatton – its entire length.

Moor Road, Yatton - from its junction with Kenn Moor Road to its junction with Claverham Drove.

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