

# North Somerset Council

## Rural Lanes Action Plan – Summary

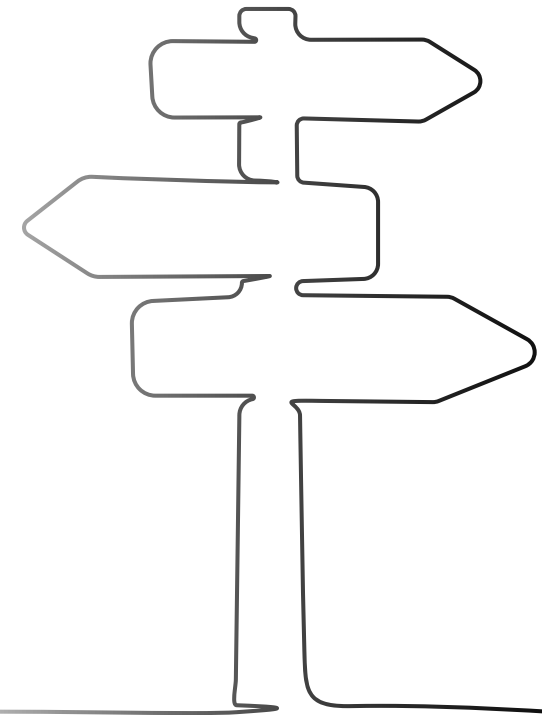
### Active Travel Action Plans 2023-30

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One of our seven Active Travel Action Plans (ATAPs) for 2023-30 to help deliver our Active Travel Strategy's vision, to:

**'Make walking and cycling the natural choice for a cleaner, healthier and more active North Somerset'**

**Our Vision:** This Rural Lanes Action Plan will help build a network of 'rural lanes' with reduced through-traffic and lower speeds to help protect our rural areas, support safer active travel movements, providing improved links between our urban areas and helping to boost the connectivity of rural settlements – particularly where active travel infrastructure is impractical. This will make local journeys safer for all, more attractive and help increase rural tourism.



## Guiding principles

1. We will improve access to education, healthcare and local services for rural communities, by reducing vehicle speeds and inappropriate routing of through traffic in both rural and semi-rural communities, together with implementation of virtual footways where no facilities exist or are substandard.
2. We will work with local communities and stakeholders to understand the specific local barriers to increasing active travel take-up in rural and deprived areas.
3. We will improve access to Key Strategic Off-Road Cycle Routes and ensure that where routes cross rural roads appropriate prioritisation and safety measures (including but not limited to reduced speeds, lighting and visibility) are implemented.
4. We will implement 40mph speed limits or zones along with traffic calming measures and access restrictions, where appropriate, on routes where vulnerable user activity or demand are highest. Particular attention will be given to routes that provide connectivity to Key Strategic Cycle Routes or that connect towns and rural communities. All proposals are subject to engagement and funding.

## Benefits

- Help provide better transport connections for rural areas, helping reduce social isolation.
- Helps to reduce inappropriate through-traffic from minor roads while still providing access for homes and businesses.
- Protect and enhance countryside characteristics for residents and visitors – walking/wheeling, cycling and horse riding are all popular leisure and tourism activities with proven economic and health benefits.
- Reduced vehicle speeds will improve the safety of vulnerable road users.



## Example scheme proposals

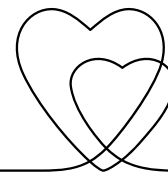
Listed are scheme proposals that we could progress subject to funding and engagement. This isn't a list of all our scheme proposals – we want to hear what you think about the proposals included and any that you want for your area. We'll collect all scheme requests and use our new scoring and prioritisation process to help us prioritise the most needed and best value for money schemes across the district. This will inform our network planning for when funding becomes available.

## Good current examples

**Suffolk Quiet Lanes** are a network of quiet lanes across the area.



Location	Brief issue/improvement concept	Status
Backwell Bow/Backwell Common	Enhancing the link between Backwell and Festival Way	Early engagement
West End Nailsea	Reducing attractiveness to through traffic on selective lanes to protect our rural areas from rat-running traffic, enhancing our rural communities and improving active travel safety and access to the countryside – while still maintaining essential access for homes and businesses	Concept only at present
Tutshill Pier to Pier route (Weston to Clevedon)	Enhancement to new showcase route ensuring reduced traffic and speeds wherever possible	Concept only at present
Sandmead Road/Churchill Green, Churchill	Enabling link to new Banwell Bypass infrastructure and Strawberry Line from Churchill, reducing impact of school traffic	Concept only at present
Kenn Street, Kenn	Reducing the attractiveness of Kenn Street as a through route – Parish Council have identified through traffic as key issue	Concept only at present
New scheme proposals from communities and stakeholders	To be added following consultation – all proposals will be subject to review, scoring, prioritisation and funding being available	Awaiting issues/requests from our communities and stakeholders





## Challenges to delivery

- Securing sufficient funding to develop and deliver our initiatives and scheme proposals with our communities
- Community buy-in – the suggested quiet lanes will rely on community support.

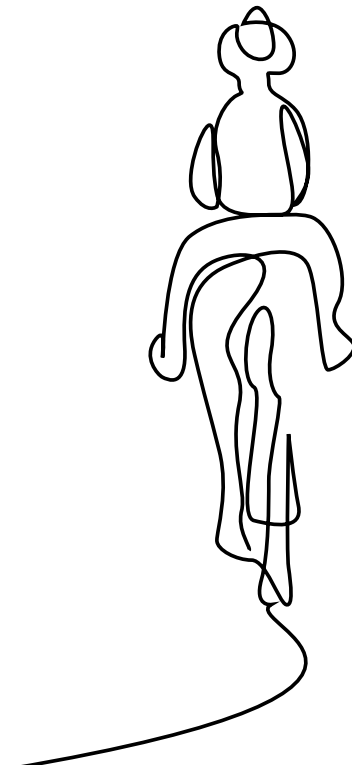
## We want to hear from you!

**We want your ideas** about active travel interventions you want in your area.

**Residents, businesses, visitors and other stakeholders** – we encourage you to discuss issues local to you with your Town or Parish Council and your Elected North Somerset Councillor for your ward area.

You can also add your requests at **Widen My Path**.

**Town and Parish Councils and North Somerset Council Elected Members** – please use the **Highway Improvement Request Form** to submit your transport network improvement requests.



This publication is available in large print, Braille or audio formats on request.

Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.

For all enquiries please contact the Transport Team  
[transport.policy@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:transport.policy@n-somerset.gov.uk)