



North Somerset Council  
Town Hall  
Walliscote Grove Road  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 4EJ

15th March 2021

Dear Councillors,

### **Rural Lanes Active Travel Enhancements “access only” restriction**

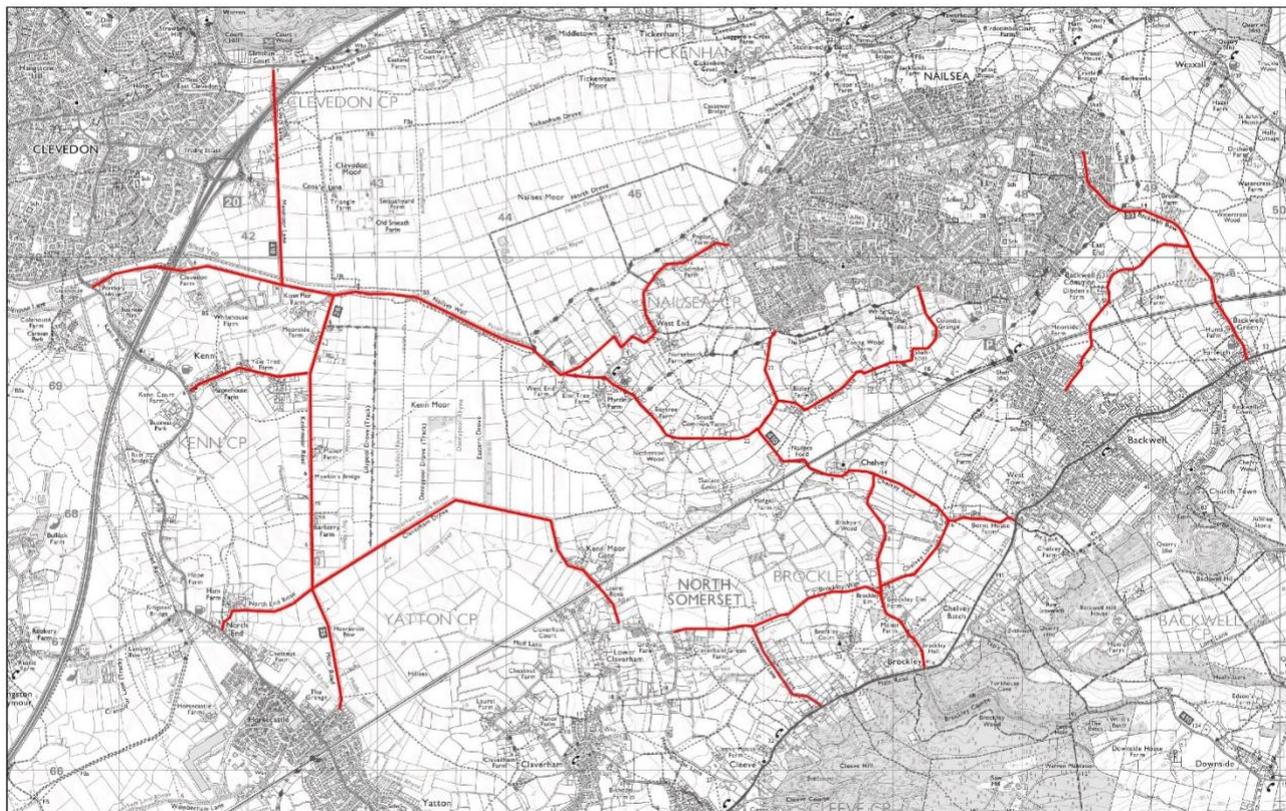
North Somerset Council has an ambitious plan to encourage Active Travel. Our draft Active Travel Strategy, in line with national policy, aims to increase the number of journeys undertaken by walking and cycling by at least 300% by 2030 with a vision statement of ‘Making walking and cycling the natural choice for a cleaner, healthier and more active North Somerset.’ This is supported by four key objectives: • Deliver safe and frequent active travel. • Tackle the Climate Emergency. • Drive local economic development. • Shape active travel neighbourhoods through planning.

To support this Strategy, the intention is to address ‘rat running’ and inappropriate (especially HGV) use of our Rural Lanes network whilst continuing to allow essential motor vehicle access (e.g. to frontages and businesses). For example, residents, landowners, businesses, pubs and hospitality venues will continue to have motor vehicle access for all their needs and those of visitors, clients, employees, suppliers and customers. The resulting reduction in ‘through traffic’ will create a more pleasant, inviting and safer environment for Active Travel users whilst preserving the rural nature of the area and providing protection from increasing traffic growth resulting from future development pressures.

The council is proposing to restrict access by motor vehicles to the lanes between Clevedon, Yatton, Nailsea and Backwell (see attached plan) in order to promote and enable greater Active Travel, particularly cycling and walking. The proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is anticipated to form the foundation of a wider ‘Rural Lanes Active Travel Enhancement Scheme’, funding for which has been obtained through the DfT Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2). In some locations, the “access only” restriction could be supported by future measures, including, but not limited to; reductions in speed limits, entrance gateways, traffic calming features and physical measures to close roads to motor vehicles – however, any such future measures would be the subject of additional consultations with local representatives, residents, businesses and other key stakeholders.

We are therefore giving notification that the council intends to promote a permanent TRO prohibiting motor vehicles from these roads, with exemptions for access. The TRO will be advertised on Wednesday 31st March, and the consultation period will run until Friday 30th April. All affected Parish Councils will be contacted directly when the consultation commences. All

responses received during the consultation will be reviewed and reported to the Executive Member for Highways for his consideration before a decision is made regarding whether to implement or modify the proposals.



Red routes indicate the extent of the proposed “access only” TRO.

By going through the above process, we expect to transform the feel of these lanes so that it becomes a viable and attractive 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. This will build on the back of the huge latent demand for cycling and walking that was demonstrated in the first COVID lockdown. Given the climate emergency and NSC's own target to become carbon neutral by 2030, we see this an essential means to help make this happen.

Yours sincerely,  
Darren Lovell (Senior Transport Policy Officer)

For more information contact  
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NB Any consultation responses should be sent to the email address provided in the official notice.

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