



# Corsham Cycling Strategy 2021-2026

## 1. Introduction

Corsham Cycling Strategy has been developed to set out how the Town Council will improve cycling infrastructure in the town and how we will encourage more of our residents to cycle. The Strategy accords with Corsham Town Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022, specifically Theme 5 'Sustainable Corsham', and Objective SC3 'to press for improvements in sustainable transport links and networks; on- and off-street parking and, supporting and encouraging initiatives such as new cycling routes and road safety initiatives.'

On 11 October 2021 Corsham Town Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency. Stating 'Corsham Town Council fully acknowledges the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. We are committed to reducing the carbon footprint of our community in support of Government and Wiltshire Council targets to reduce carbon emissions. We are implementing a carbon reduction action plan for our own operations which will enable us to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. From 2022, we will implement a biodiversity action plan to protect and enhance our green and blue infrastructure.'

Actively encouraging a greater uptake of cycling will contribute to reducing Corsham's carbon footprint. As 55% of car journeys taken are under five miles, there is great scope to increase cycling through improving infrastructure and accessibility.

Encouraging more people to take up cycling will have several wider benefits, including:

- Improving the health and wellbeing of people
- Improvements to mental health and reduced stress levels
- Reduced air pollution and congestion
- An affordable mode of transport
- Improving the feel of the public realm by reducing the number of motor vehicles and making the town more welcoming for pedestrians and cyclists
- People who walk and cycle spend more in local shops

## 2. How have we developed this strategy?

### Consultation

Public consultation was carried out on a draft cycling strategy in April 2020. The results from the consultation were used to build the foundations of this strategy and focus our priorities. We asked residents the following questions (in bold).

## **Where can existing cycle parking be improved and where should new cycle parking be provided?**

The most popular suggestions for new cycle parking were:

- Martingate/Co-op Car Park
- Springfield Campus (especially on the park side)
- Schools

## **Respondents felt that the most important objectives for this strategy to focus on were:**

- Assess the route between Corsham and Chippenham to identify possible improvements to the cycle network.
- Assess the routes between Corsham and nearby settlements villages to identify potential improvements to the cycle network.
- Work with interested parties to promote safe cycle routes across Corsham and link homes with schools, employment, shops and other businesses.

## **What are the top three things the Town Council should do to encourage cycling in Corsham?**

Many of the responses to this question related to cycle routes.

- Ensure cycle lanes are continuous and joined up.
- Create better cycle lanes into the town centre.
- Separate cyclists from traffic.
- Stop parked cars blocking cycle routes.

## **What prevents you from cycling more often?**

The most cited reasons were:

- Danger from motor vehicles.
- Haphazard/incomplete/unsafe/absence of - cycle routes.
- Traffic fumes, vehicle spray, dirt thrown up by cars.
- Poor road surface.
- Inability to carry/transport goods/shopping.
- Lack of showers/wash facilities at work.

## **Youth cycle survey**

A youth cycling survey was also carried out in April 2020. The results of this survey have been reflected in the aims and objectives of this strategy and the actions that this strategy is working to achieve.

## What would make you cycle more often?

- More cycle paths and cycle lanes (64.12% of respondents)
- Safer roads (52.35% of respondents)
- Closer mountain bike facilities (14.71% of respondents)

## If your town could invest in more cycling, what schemes and projects should they look at?

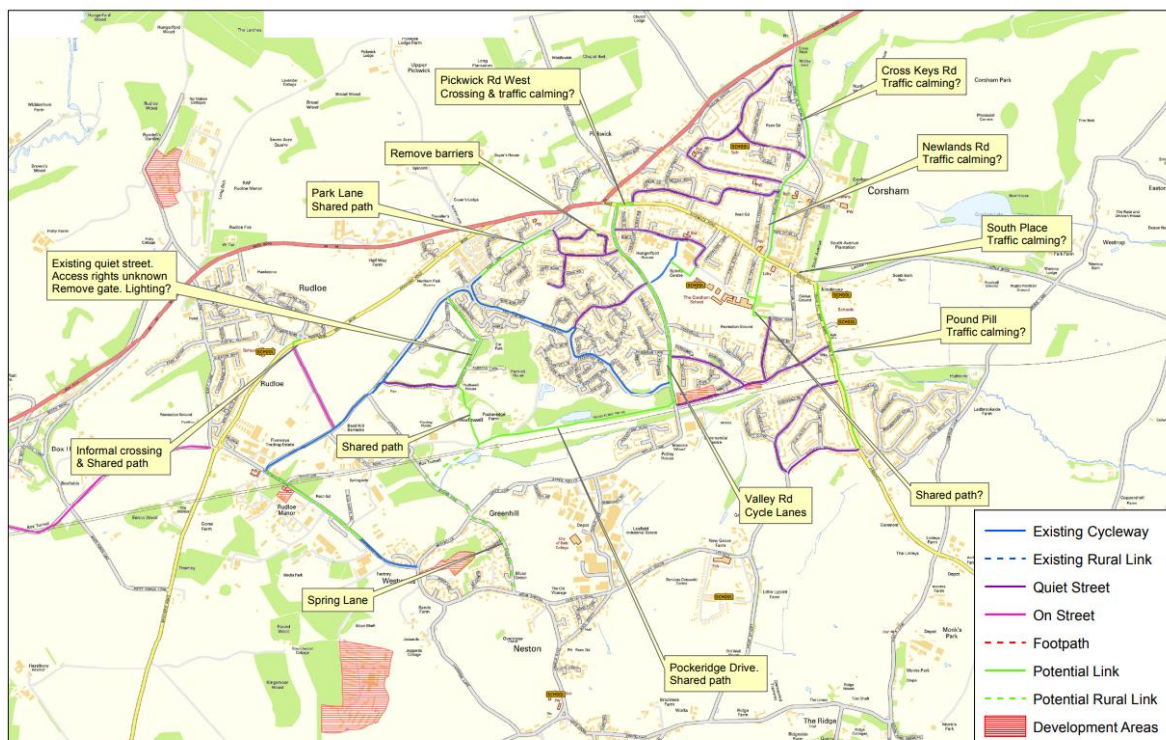
- An initiative to improve road safety measures (64.97% of respondents)
- Installing a mountain bike track (33.90% of respondents)
- The Youth Road Cycling Club (32.77% of respondents)

## 3. Existing cycling infrastructure in Corsham

Corsham has a number of cycle ways and recommended cycle routes. Wiltshire Council has produced a Cycle Network Maps for all the towns in the county.

### Corsham Town Cycle Network

The Corsham Town Cycle Network Map includes planned and aspirational cycle routes, available on Wiltshire Council's website (<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/transport-town-cycle-networks>).



Corsham Town Cycle Network

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0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Metres

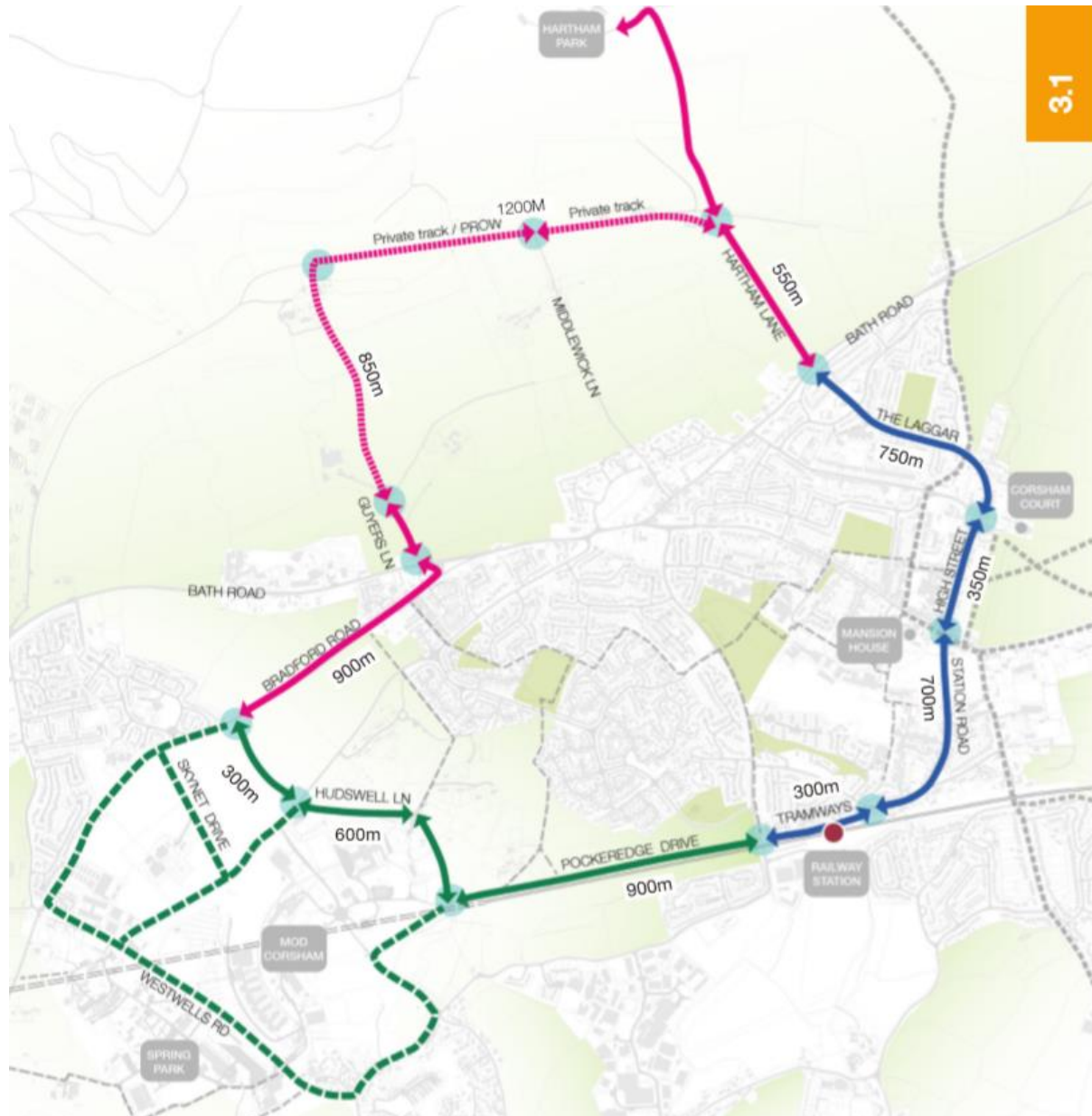


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### Corsham Link

Corsham Link is an aspirational 'green', safe cycling and walking route linking physical, social and economic parts of the town

(<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/corsham-area-framework.pdf> Section D). Corsham Town Council is working on the Corsham Link to sustainably connect key sites around the Town and its outskirts. Developer contributions will be sought where a proposal directly affects the route of the Corsham Link. The link is a work in progress with some areas completed and other work planned.



3.1

CORSHAM LINK

- █ Town Centre Link
- █ Hartham Park Link
- ▤ Hartham Park Link - private track
- █ West Corsham Greenway
- ▤ West Corsham Greenway - Westwells Road loop
- ▤ Long distance walking / cycling routes
- Public right of way - strategic links
- Key transition point

## Stakeholder Organisations

This strategy aims to create an opportunity for Corsham Town Council to work with the following groups to encourage a greater uptake in cycling and engage with cyclists in the town:

### Corsham Cycling Club

The Club's aim is to 'cater for the needs of those with a passion for cycling – whatever the goal, ability or availability'. The Club meet regularly for rides, social events and repair and maintenance workshops. (<https://corshamcyclingclub.co.uk/>)



### Spindles Bikes

Spindles is a social enterprise and acts as a hub for all things bike. The partners of Spindles Bikes are passionate about cycling and campaign for cycling use, safety and accessibility. (<http://www.spindlesbikes.co.uk/>)



### Velo Rouge Cycling

Velo Rouge Cycling is a mobile facility with a base in Station Road and offers bicycle maintenance and training. (<http://www.velorougecycling.co.uk/>)

## 4. Neighbourhood Plan

Corsham Neighbourhood Plan (available at [www.corshamneighbourhoodplan.co.uk](http://www.corshamneighbourhoodplan.co.uk)) includes several references to improving cycling infrastructure through development, as well as promoting the Corsham Link. The Neighbourhood Plan includes objectives and policies within the Environment, Health and Wellbeing, and Transport sections. These primarily cover cycle routes and cycle parking.

The relevant policies are:

CNP E3 e) Protect existing Public Rights of Way and link in new routes to offer local people recreational opportunities in terms of countryside access routes and cycleways.

CNP HW1 - Development proposals should seek to protect, improve and extend Corsham's green infrastructure network as identified on Figure 5 (on page 28) [of the Corsham Neighbourhood Plan] to support a healthy community. Innovative proposals that contribute to sustainable pedestrian/cyclist linkages between the town and its rural setting will be supported.

CNP T1 - Development proposals that generate a significant amount of traffic movement must be accompanied by evidence that sets out the transport issues relating to the development including the measures to be taken to deal with the anticipated transport impacts of the scheme. If the impact cannot be satisfactorily mitigated the proposal will be resisted.

CNP T2 - Developments should provide safe pedestrian and cycle routes and improve connections within and to the town and surrounding area wherever appropriate and possible. Developments will also be expected to provide suitable cycle parking facilities in a convenient location.

## 5. Cycling Strategy Objectives

The following objectives set out how Corsham Town Council will work to improve the cycle infrastructure in the town and encourage more Corsham residents to cycle. The objectives found support in the public consultation exercise. The most popular among respondents were objectives 3,4 and 5, this list of objectives is not in order of priority. As we develop this strategy we will make these objectives SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-related) to help plan and achieve our goals.

**Objective 1** – Work with the cycling community to make cycling affordable and accessible for all.

**Objective 2** – Encourage community cycling schemes which seek to improve the wellbeing of our citizens, encourage social cohesion and lessen isolation.

**Objective 3** – Work with interested parties to promote safe cycle routes across Corsham and link homes with schools, employment, shops and other businesses (refer to Corsham Neighbourhood Plan Policy CNP HW1). The creation of safer routes to and from schools will be a priority.

**Objective 4** – Assess the route between Corsham and Chippenham to identify possible improvements to the cycle network (refer to Corsham Neighbourhood Plan Policy CNP T2).

**Objective 5** – Assess the routes between Corsham and nearby settlements villages to identify potential improvements to the cycle network (refer to Corsham Neighbourhood Plan Policy CNP T2).

**Objective 6** – Assess, create or improve off-road cycling facilities in parks and open spaces such as: a new learner cycle network on Katherine Park Green; improving the BMX track at Springfield Recreation Ground; consider working with others to facilitate a mountain bike track.

**Objective 7** - Improve cycle parking in Corsham town centre and work with businesses to assess and install facilities to encourage cycling as an alternative mode of transport for their employees and customers.

**Objective 8** - Work with Wiltshire Council to highlight areas of concern from the cycling community such as prompt repair of potholes and review/reduction in speed limits.

## 6. Actions

Corsham Cycling Strategy is a working document and will be kept under regular review. The Action Plan which accompanies this Strategy (Appendix A) includes a series of projects and initiatives we will prioritise and seek to deliver and monitor.

## 7. Appendix

Appendix A: List of actions

|   |   | <b>Strategic Priority</b> | <b>Target Date</b>     |
|---|---|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | More/better cycle parking at schools  | SP - Youth issues         | 2021-22                |
| 2 | Reduce speed limits (20mph zones). Being progressed with WC                     | SP - Road safety          | 2021-22 (surveys only) |
| 3 | Work with businesses to encourage/support cycling for employees and customers   | SP - Environment/ Economy | 2022-onwards           |
| 4 | Town Centre bike parking and secure bike storage (interesting, bespoke designs) | Covid Recovery Plan       | 2022-23                |

|    |  |                          |                 |
|----|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 5  | Route to Chippenham (Easton Lane being progressed by WC) CTC input maybe required later  | SP - Road safety         | 2022-23         |
| 6  | Youth Network/youth cycling club - use this to explore further specific improvements   | SP - Youth issues        | 2022-23         |
| 7  | Arnolds Mead to Priory Street  | SP - Road safety         | 2023-onwards    |
| 8  | Pickwick Road Crossing - Valley Road/Dickens Avenue  | SP - Road safety         | 2023-onwards    |
| 9  | Cycle Maintenance, safety equipment  | SP - Road safety         | 2022-23         |
| 10 | Produce maps showing the cycle network   | SP - Destination Corsham | 2022-2023       |
| 11 | Corsham Link inc. Pockeridge Drive to Hudswell Lane and Spring Lane (in a poor state) and Valley Road/Tramways junction (improve access) | NP - Corsham Link        | Ongoing to 2026 |
| 12 | Safer Roads/road safety measures, more cycle paths/lanes - links   | SP - Road safety         | Ongoing to 2026 |
| 13 | Ensure the routes are well-maintained (surfaces and signage)   | SP - Asset management    | Ongoing         |
| 14 | Closer mountain bike facilities/Peel Circus/Katherine Park   | SP - Youth issues        | TBC             |
| 15 | Assess routes between Corsham and nearby settlements   | SP - Road safety         | TBC             |

Ref: dm/jw/bs/08112021