

Entry Hill, Bath

In summer 2022 Sustrans delivered activities aimed at widening community engagement in Bath & North East Somerset Council's Liveable Neighbourhoods (LN) programme. There was a focus on young people and families at schools, as well as with community groups, ensuring that resident feedback is incorporated into the design process.

Many of the ideas from the groups and individuals we spoke to are presented in the informal report below.

You can view the council's co-design workshop and exhibition report for this LN area at www.bathnes.gov.uk/yourLN

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Toddler Group, St Andrew's Community Church

On 21st June 2022 Sustrans officers engaged with parents of young children at a regular toddler group in Foxhill. Officers used three maps to capture information from local parents, the three maps identified issues/dislikes, favourite local places, and ideas for improvements.

Issues and Places Participants Disliked

Map 1. Issues and disliked places in the Entry Hill and Fox Hill area



Roads which parents disliked using (especially when with their children).

Bradford Road (particularly after Mulberry Park towards North Road)

- “[There] can be quite a lot of traffic, can be hard walking on main roads with young children”
- Bad for cycling
- Heavy lorries
- Busy
- “The bit after Mulberry Park roundabout is bad”

Entry Hill

- “Too many cars”
- Steep
- Blockages
- “Too steep to cycle”
- Uneven path
- “If crossing Entry hill at the top (between Hawthorn Grove and Entry Rise) it’s hard for car drivers to see you”
- “It’s a key crossing point especially for the school [St Martins Garden Primary]”

North Road

- “Parking on North Road near rainbow wood makes the road very narrow”
- “The road surface is really bad and makes it dangerous for cycling”
- “North side of north road is very narrow”

Mulberry Park roundabout

- Dislike

Ralph Allen Drive

- Dislike

Participants' Favourite Places

Map 2. Participants' favourite places in the Entry Hill and Fox Hill area



Entry Hill Golf course

- “Like the idea of it being a bike park”
- “Don't like the idea of it being changed from a golf course”

Springfield Park (Fox Hill)

- “Needs more play equipment though”

Springfield Quarry (Fox Hill near Entry Hill and Hawthorn Grove)

- “This is a beautiful nature area that is not currently accessible, would be a great space if it was opened up.”

Firfield Park (Coombe Down)

Shepherds Walk – Just off Bradford Road

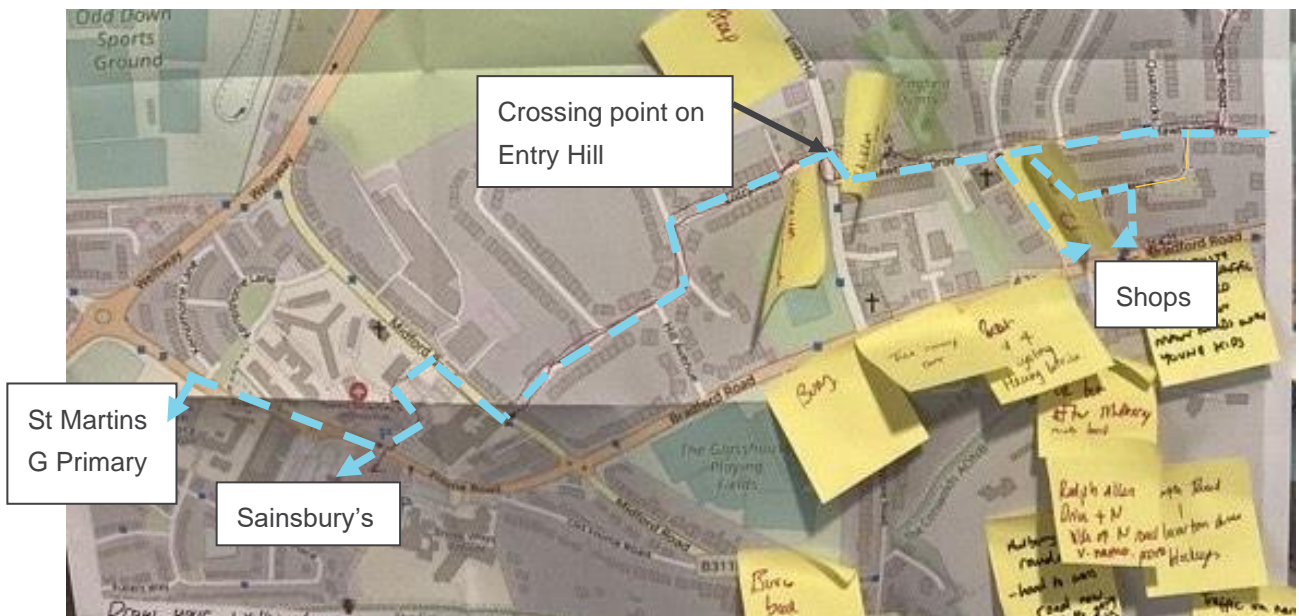
- “Good for walking the dog and with children not in a pushchair”

Regular routes and destinations

Shops on Bradford Road – Coming from Fox Hill travel along Hawthorn Grove, onto Down Avenue or the alley next to St Andrews Church.

Sainsburys on Frome Road and **St Martins Garden Primary** – Coming from Fox Hill travel along Hawthorn Grove across Entry Hill to Entry Rise, along Hansford Square, a cut through to Midford Road through the St Martins Hospital site and then across Frome Road at Sainsbury's.

Map 3. Regular routes around Entry Hill



Ideas for Improvements

Map 4. Participants' ideas for improvements



- Skatepark in Firfield Park
- Tipee Toe Park in Fox Hill to be improved
- Fenced off area for dogs in Springfield Park, Foxhill
- **Crossing to be put in** enabling people to safely **cross Entry hill** between Hawthorn Grove and Entry Rise.

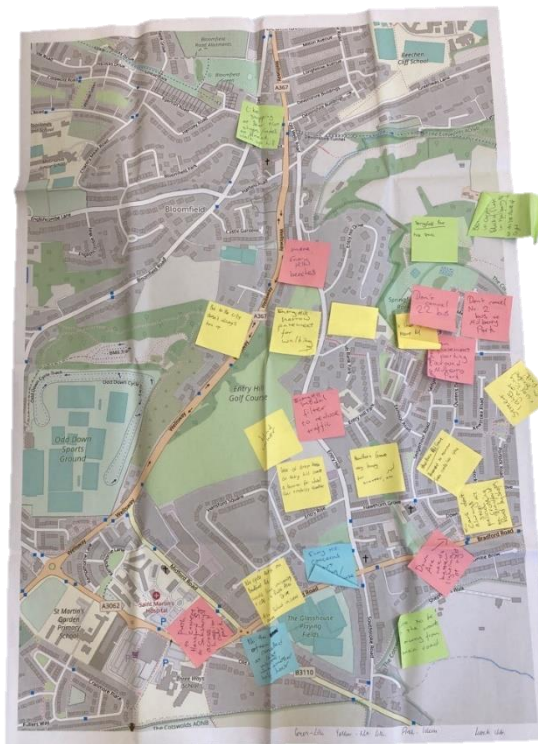
Sustrans Officer's Reflections

The most interesting piece of information from this session was the route that all parents take to get to Sainsburys / St Martins Garden School and particularly the crossing point that they use to cross **Entry Hill** (between Hawthorn grove and Entry Rise). This crossing **does not feel safe** to them, and it seems improving this crossing point could make a big difference to many parents travelling from Foxhill area.

Lunch Club Residents Group, St Andrew's Community Church

On 29th June 2022, Sustrans officers engaged with residents from the local area at the St Andrew's Community Church Lunch Club. Residents were shown a large map and asked how they travel around their local area, what routes they take, what barriers they face (yellow post its), what they like about the area (green post its) and ideas for improvement (Red post its).

Map 5. Participants' barriers, likes and ideas for improvements



Issues and Places Participants Disliked

Entry Hill

- “Blind corner on Entry Hill”
- “Narrow pavements for walking”
- “Have to go in the road as don't not enough space for my mobility scooter due to parked cars, narrow pavements, and obstructions on pavements”
- “Lack of drop curbs make it difficult to cross in a mobility scooter or wheelchair”

Coombe Road

- “Really poor surface”
- “Very narrow road”
- “Too many parked cars”
- “Dangerous to cycle as the surface is terrible”

Hawthorn Grove

- “Very bumpy for my scooter”
- “Speed bumps are useless. Too far apart and cars go through the middle”

Bradford Road

- “Cars don't always stop at the Pelican crossing by the shops”
- “Doesn't feel safe cycling along Bradford Road so often ride on the pavement”
- “Not good for cycling, too much traffic and lots of potholes”
- “Too busy for cycling”
- “No cycle paths. If we had one it would link the [University of Bath], Ralph Allen Drive, and the local schools”

Down Avenue

- “Needs better lighting at night”

North Hill

- “Dangerous road, I was knocked off my bike”

Bradford Park

- “Street lights not working”

General/area-wide issues

- Speed of cars
- Narrow pavements
- Pavement parking
- Concerns about parking around Entry Hill and the golf course
- Poor road surfaces
- Buses – mentioned by most people
 - + “4a often cancelled at last minute and have to wait another half an hour”
 - + “Buses are unreliable”
 - + “Doesn’t always turn up”

Places Participants Liked

Shephard’s Walk

- “Nice to be in the woods and away from the main road, love the views”

Springfield Park

- “Nice space to spend time in”

Bear Flats

- “I like using the shops and cafes at Bear Flats as it breaks up the walk up the hill”

Backstones Open Space

- “Is pleasant to walk through”

Mulberry Way

- “Really well-planned road. Lots of trees and generally nice space”

Participants' Ideas for Improvements

- Put a modal filter on Entry Hill to reduce traffic
- Better lighting on car park of flats on Mulberry Hill as it's too dark at night and feels unsafe
- Cycle path through Backstones Open Space
- Cycle Lane on Bradford Road
- Buses
 - + Don't cancel the No. 2 bus to Mulberry Park
- Walking route improvements
 - + Need a path to connect Hansford Square to Sainsbury's to avoid walking through the hospital car park (mentioned by a few of people)

Regular Routes

Walking:

Foxhill to City Centre via Two Tunnels (Walk downhill and catch the bus up)

- “Quickest route, nice views, no cars”
- “Doesn't feel safe at night, very isolated. Would get the bus or walk-up Ralph Allen Lane”
- “No lighting”
- “Not all the street lights work on Bradford Park”

Queens Drive to City Centre

- “Less traffic along Perrymead/Foxhill so more pleasant to walk”
- “It's peaceful and the air is cleaner”

Queens drive to Sainsbury's

- “Route avoids busy main roads and is quieter”

Combe Down to Sainsbury's via Shepherd's Walk

- “Nice walk and avoids the main road”
- “Not safe at night as it goes through the woods”

Combe Down to City Centre

- “I would get the bus more often if it was reliable”
- “Hard to cross the road at Prior Park Road/Widdecombe Hill junction”

Bradford Road to Sainsbury's

- “Quickest route, no problems”

Bradford Road to St Andrew's

- “Often dog poo in the green space near St Andrews”

Bradford Road to City Centre via Entry Hill

- “Cars go too fast along Entry Hill”
- “Cars need to be more careful going around the corners on Entry Hill as they can't see properly”

Sedgemore Road to City Centre

- “Stop at the shops on the way to break up the trip”
- “Need a torch at night in Springfield Park, can get lost as not well signposted”

Sedgemore Road to Sainsbury's

- “Normally catch the bus but walk sometimes as it's quicker when the bus is delayed”

Bus:

City Centre to Combe Down

- “I catch the bus to avoid the hill”

Entry Hill to City Centre

- “Only one bus option and it's often late or doesn't turn up”

Driving:

Stonehouse Lane to City Centre (drive)

- “Don’t walk this as the road is too busy and it doesn’t feel safe”

Bradford Road to Lower Bristol Road

- “Use this route to avoid driving into the City Centre”

Fox Hill to Sainsbury’s

- “I go by car as doing a big shop. I would consider cycling if there was a cycle lane on Bradford Road but it’s not safe”

Sustrans’ Officers Summary

- Residents highlighted the lack of a proper walking route from Midford Rd to Sainsbury’s. This is a very popular route for local people, but they currently have to walk through the hospital car park.
- The green spaces are very popular daytime walking routes that avoid main roads.
- The lack of a reliable bus service seems to be a common barrier to many residents. Older and less mobile residents felt they had no option but to drive into the city.
- There is potential to increase cycling journeys by providing a safe cycle route along Bradford Road.

Needles and Natter Group, St Andrew’s Community Church

On 29th July 2022, Sustrans officers engaged with residents from the local area at a “Needles and Natter” knitting group. Residents were shown a large map and asked how they travel around their local area, what routes they take, what barriers (yellow post-its) they face and what they would like to change (red post-its).

Map 6. Participants' barriers and ideas for improvement



Places Participants Like/Dislike

Hawthorn Grove

- Large potholes on. Been there for years and never get fixed
- Like a racetrack at night
- Not a lot of space due to parked cars
- Bin outside church got vandalised and never replaced
- Lane to Bradford Road full of litter

Bradford Road

- Difficult to cross double roundabout between Bradford Rd and Frome Rd
- Doesn't feel safe to cycle
- Lack of parking for residents that can't walk. Local taxi business uses lots of the parking.
- Crossing on Bradford Rd in the wrong place to get to the bus stop on the other side.

Entry Hill

- Pavements too bumpy for mobility scooter. Tried but don't feel safe.
- Steep downhill and bends make it difficult to drive. Cars parked on bends and junctions make it hard to see.
- Narrow pavements at bottom of hill near bridge

Shepherd's Walk

- Nowhere to sit, can't use the benches as they're all overgrown
- Wouldn't use at night as not lit

Southstoke Road

- Like to walk to the pub but when we leave, it's not lit and there's no path until Southstoke village

Foxhill

- Easy to get lost in the estate. No proper signage.

Wellsway

- I walk as far as Bear Flats and catch the bus because I don't like crossing the road.

City Centre

- Not enough blue badge spaces
- Would cycle into the city but nowhere safe to leave my bike

General Issues

- Litter

- Dog mess
- Potholes
- Narrow pavements
- Uneven surfaces
- Speed of cars
- Lack of lighting
- Buses
 - + 4a from Bath to Foxhill not regular enough – mentioned a few times.
 - + Need more direct busses
 - + Unreliable
 - + Nowhere to sit and wait if bus is late. Can't stand for long periods.

Participants' Ideas for Improvements

Buses and cycle infrastructure

- Seats at bus stop on Fox hill
- Cycle Lane on Wellsway as it's less steep than other routes.
- Secure cycle parking in the city centre for expensive e-bikes

Walking route improvements

- Need a proper walking connection between Hansford Square and Sainsbury's.
- Seating in Hansford Square would help provide a rest stop for people walking to Sainsbury's (mentioned twice)

Amenities

- New litter bin outside church
- More dog poo bins in Entry Hill Open Space

Sustrans Officers' Reflections

The majority of the residents in the Needles and Natter group were 70+ with the oldest being 96. Many had mobility issues so couldn't walk far and were reliant on public transport or cars, although one lady did cycle.

The perceived lack of blue badge spaces in the city centre and near the shops on Bradford Rd, were an issue for many in this group.

Some felt that the crossing on Bradford Road is poorly situated. When you leave the shops, you have to walk down to the crossing and back up Bradford Road to reach the opposite bus stop. Some people found this distance too much of a barrier.

A segregated cycle lane was suggested for Wellsway as it's a less steep option for cyclists.