



Bath & North East
Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

AECOM



New Sydney Place and Sydney Road Co-development Workshop

Summary of Discussions
September 2022

Liveable Neighbourhoods Co-development Workshop

This report shows the outcomes of a workshop held on the 13th of July 2022 for residents in the New Sydney Place and Sydney Road area of Bath.

During the workshops, we helped residents express to us what they liked about their area, what they thought could be nurtured, and what measures they felt would make the most impact to improve the area. We used large maps of the neighbourhood to help.

The ideas presented here have been generated by the residents themselves, and link back to comments captured during a public engagement for the New Sydney Place and Sydney Road area in December 2021. The ideas will now be shortlisted to develop a draft design.

In the autumn, we will ask the wider public for their feedback on the draft design before final designs are produced, taking on board the comments we receive.

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Background

Bath & North East Somerset Council is supporting communities to breathe new life into their residential streets by developing liveable neighbourhoods. Typical features of a liveable neighbourhood include:

- Reduced numbers of vehicles on residential roads
- Safer and better opportunities for those that wish to walk, cycle or wheel
- More green spaces where people can sit, relax and meet others
- And healthier, more connected communities.

The council first asked residents what they felt about liveable neighbourhoods (LNs) in autumn 2020. 48 communities then applied to become a LN, via their ward councillors. In 2021, the council prioritised 15 areas where development of LNs could start, which included New Sydney Place and Sydney Road area. In December 2021, the council asked the public for their feedback on what was good about their areas; what transport-related issues they experienced, and what improvements would make the most impact.

The original LN application for New Sydney Place and Sydney Road detailed issues associated with speeding through traffic as well as non-compliance with the 7.5 tonne weight restriction currently in place. There were also concerns over pedestrian and cyclist safety in the area as a result of narrow footways, particularly near the railway bridge.

The development of a LN here and in other areas will play an important role in delivering council policies on transport, health and the climate emergency.

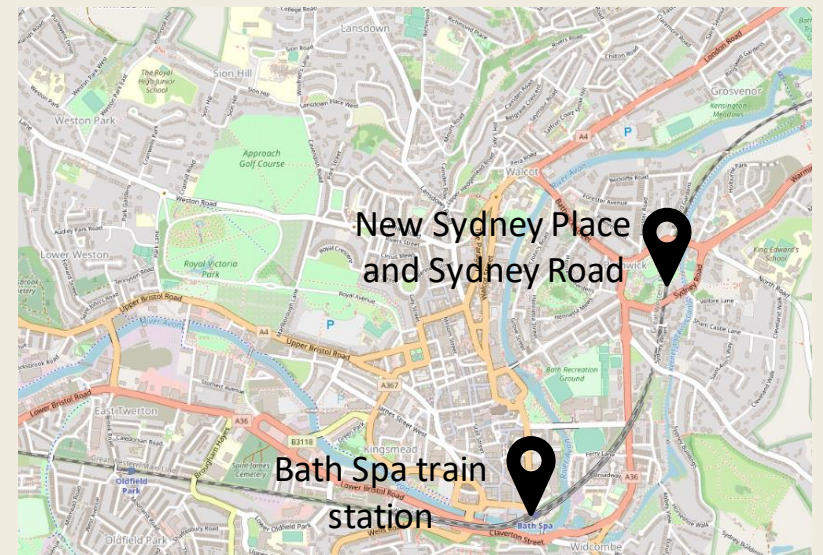
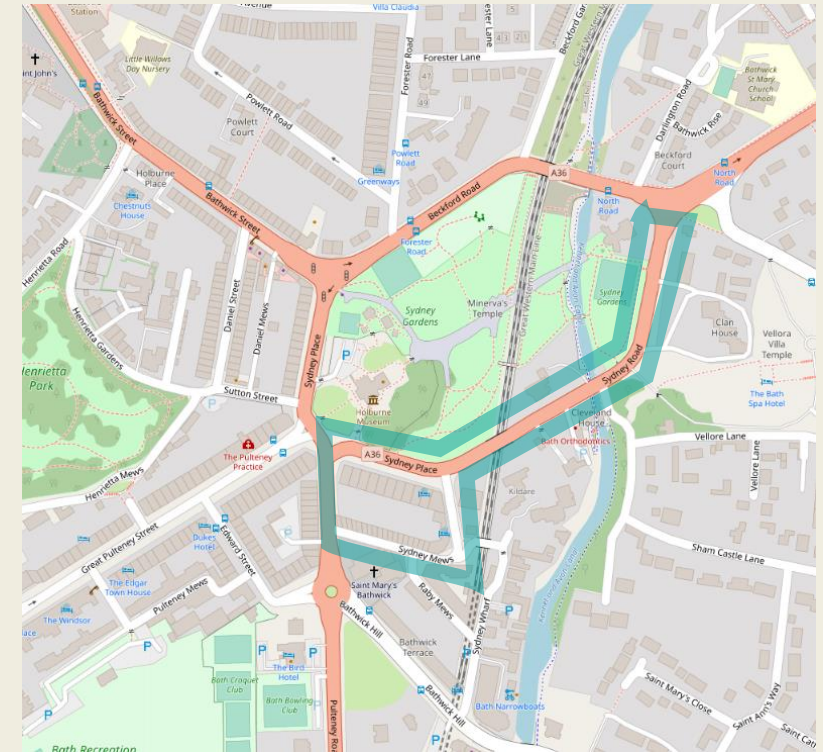
About the New Sydney Place and Sydney Road Area

New Sydney Place and Sydney Road are located approximately 0.6 miles north east of Bath Spa train station.

New Sydney Place and Sydney Road are a 20mph zone with a 7.5 tonne limit weight restriction throughout the area. The area is within close proximity to the popular Sydney Gardens and Holburne Museum.

From discussions at the workshops there appears to be three key areas within and around New Sydney Place and Sydney Road, these include:

- Sydney Road
- Sydney Place
- Sydney Gardens and the Holburne Museum



Outcomes of the Earlier Public Engagement

In December 2021, the council carried out a public engagement and invited people to submit feedback across 15 Liveable Neighbourhood areas being prioritised. Out of the 1,625 responses submitted, 129 people commented on the New Sydney Place and Sydney Road area. Below is a summary of what people said.

What is good about the area?

- 75 said 'close to shops and services'
- 57 said 'strong community spirit'
- 38 said 'good accessibility, such as walking, wheeling and cycling'

What issues are experienced?

- 87 said 'through traffic'
- 77 said 'speeding traffic'
- 44 said 'parking'
- 59 said 'HGV traffic'
- 31 said 'space for wheeling, walking or cycling'
- 64 said 'school run traffic'

What measures could improve the area?

- 92 said 'a restriction on through traffic or HGVs'
- 26 said 'better or more residents parking'
- 17 said 'new or wider footways'
- 37 said 'new pedestrian crossings'
- 22 said 'trees and planting'



Photograph from the Great Pulteney Street co-development workshop

Key Themes Identified in the Earlier Public Engagement

We identified three key themes from the feedback received in 2021. These key themes were:

- **Better allocation of road space**
- **Better cycle infrastructure**
- **Traffic interventions**

Better allocation of road space. Cars can dominate our residential streets leaving inadequate space for safe walking, cycling and wheeling (so discouraging active travel). To ensure fairer access for all road users, measures could include **widening footways, creating crossings, building out pavements, or creating new community spaces.**

Better cycle infrastructure encourages the uptake of cycling and improved safety. Benefits could include fewer cars on the roads, less demand for on-street parking, and less congestion. Measures could include **cycle parking, bike hire and cycle lanes** where appropriate.

Traffic interventions could include **modal filters** (e.g bollards to restrict through traffic), **turning restrictions** and **restricting access** for certain vehicles to reduce the number of vehicle movements in the area.

The Workshop

The workshop took place in St Mary's Church on the 13th of July and started at 6.45pm.

Brief presentation / introduction

Exercises 1, 2 and 3

Break

Exercise 4

Workshop places were prioritised for residents that registered interest to be kept involved in the co-development process during the previous engagement. We also promoted the opportunity online and in the local community.

39 residents registered for the workshop, along with representatives from AECOM and B&NES Council. Attendees were split into four groups, accommodating four tables.

- What do you like about New Sydney Place and Sydney Road? What needs nurturing?
- Group feedback

- What are the movement patterns around the area?
- Re-imagining the space
- Group feedback

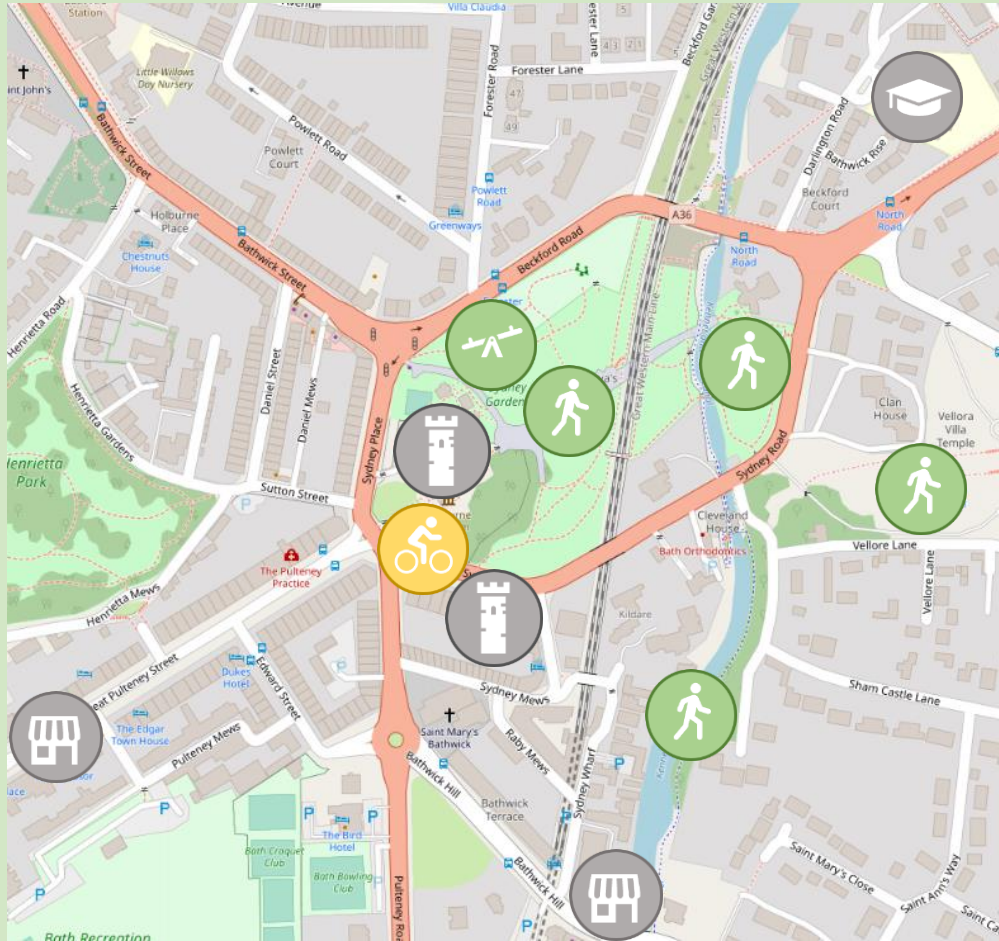


Photograph from the Chelsea Road co-development workshop

Exercise 1

What people said they liked about New Sydney Place and Sydney Road

We asked each table to discuss and identify on a map what they liked about the New Sydney Place and Sydney Road area.



There are some great established areas/green spaces to go for a walk/wheel.



Good access for cyclists.



Good proximity to shops and services.



Space for children to play.



Nearby primary school.



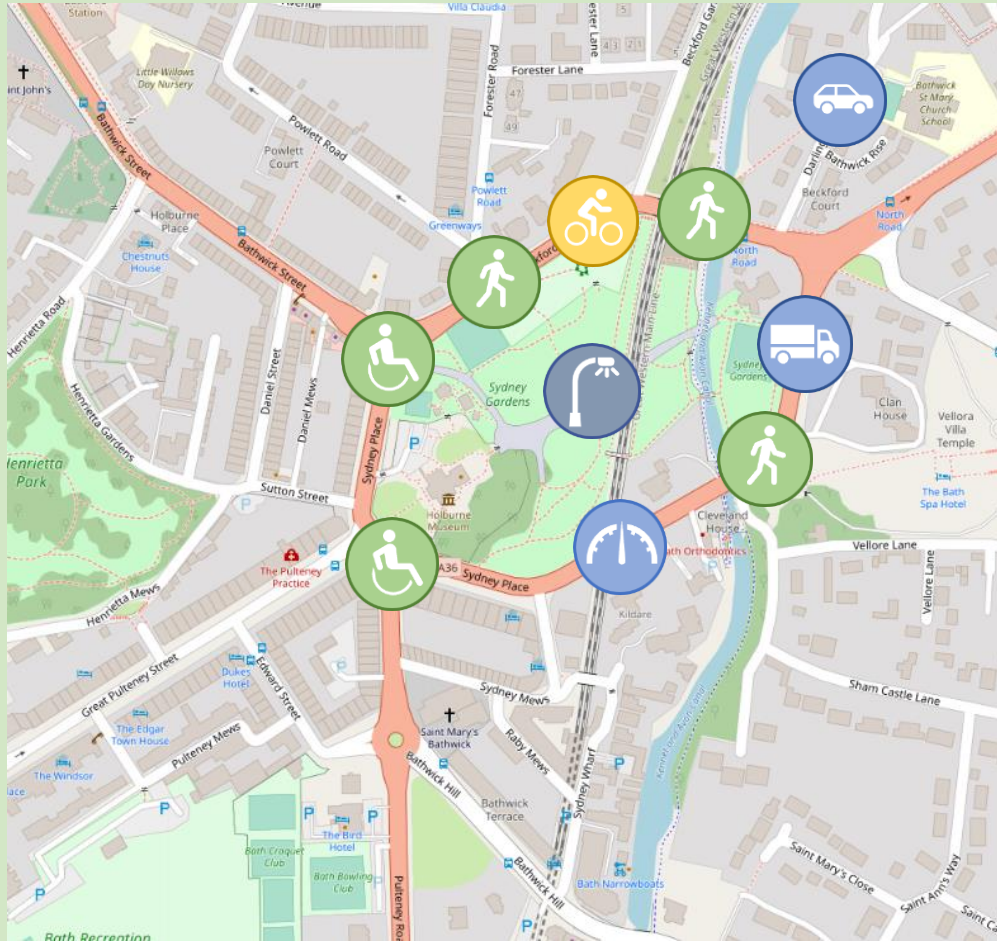
Buildings of historical and architectural significance.



Exercise 2

What people said could be nurtured

We asked each table to discuss and identify on a map what areas could be nurtured.



Limited opportunities to cross busy roads



Dangerous route for cyclists.



Speeding traffic along New Sydney Place and Sydney Road.



HGV's ignoring the 7.5 tonne weight limit.



Poor crossings and narrow footways provision which limits movements for those wheeling and walking.



Pavement parking leaves limited space for people to walk or wheel on the footways.



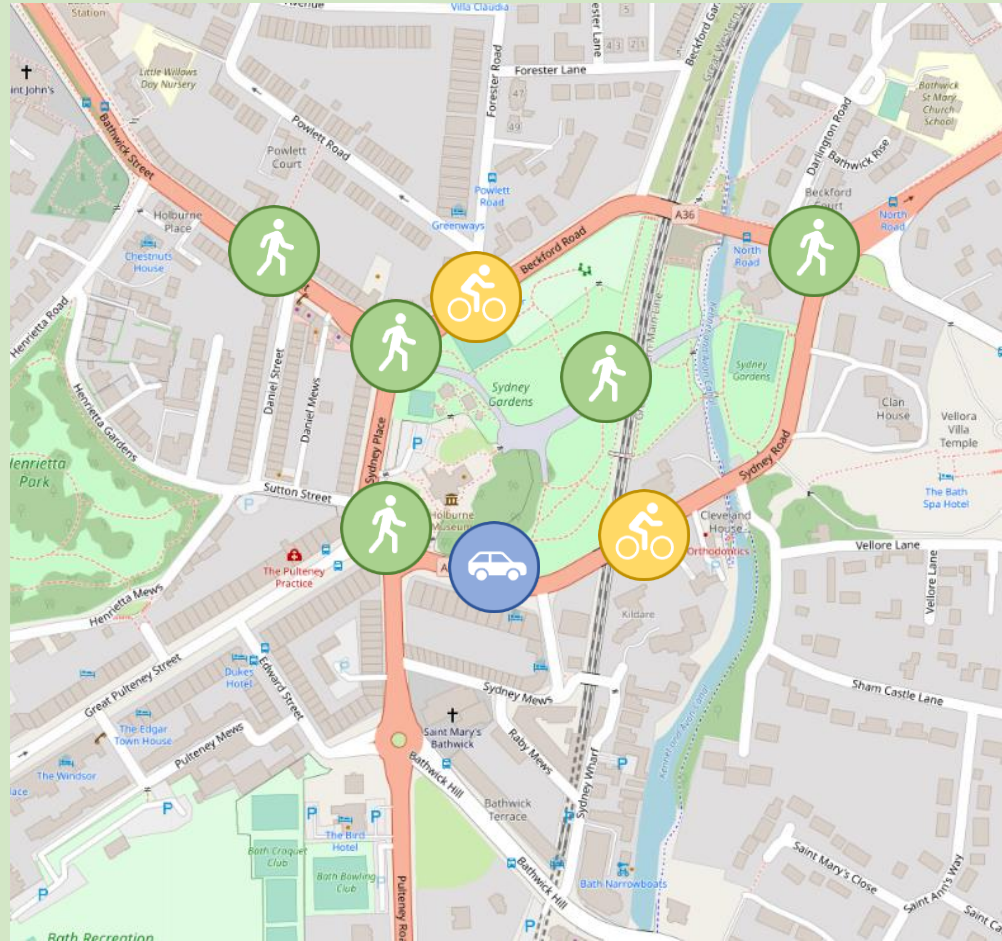
Poor lighting within Sydney gardens.



Exercise 3

What people said are their movement patterns

We asked each table to discuss and identify on a map typical 'movement' patterns i.e. where people travel, how they move and any barriers they have experienced.



Parking bays along Sydney Gardens are good but some block the access to dropped kerbs.



Lots of people walk to and around the area but there are issues with access across busy roads. Residents described Sydney Gardens as an 'island'.



People cycle around the area but these routes can be dangerous due to volume and speed of traffic.



What did we learn...?

- Issues with speeding through-traffic is of great concern for the residents with HGV restrictions being ignored by drivers. These larger vehicles are having an adverse impact on the buildings along Sydney Place.
- Access for pedestrians to Sydney Gardens, Holburne Museum and the canal walk is important for residents and visitors. The crossing points surrounding the areas could be improved to encourage more active travel and improve accessibility to the area.
- There are issues with driver's behaviour in the area which include drivers undertaking banned movements from Sutton Street and Great Pulteney Street.



Photograph from the Chelsea Road co-development workshop



Photograph from the Great Pulteney Street co-development workshop

How the themes compare to the previous engagement

The feedback from exercise 1, 2 and 3 is outlined below and aligns with the themes from the initial public engagement:



Better Cycle Infrastructure

Residents expressed concerns for the safety of cyclists in the area. Improved cycling infrastructure such as cycle lanes, e-bike rental and secure storage was mentioned.



Traffic Interventions

Residents reporting speeding vehicles within the area and the safety of cyclists and pedestrians was still of great concern. There were also issues of HGV traffic in the area despite the restrictions imposed.



Better Allocation of Road Space

















Improved crossings in the area will help support people who are walking or wheeling. The current facilities feature long wait times and long crossing distances for pedestrians.

Residents are keen to improve the overall pedestrian experience along Sydney Place and Sydney Road and improve access for those with disabilities where possible.

Guide to Interventions

We asked residents to discuss what interventions might work in each area to improve connectivity, accessibility, and inclusivity, by placing icons representing these measures / interventions on a map. Here is a guide to the icons.

The interventions are grouped by key themes.

Better Cycle Infrastructure	Better Allocation of Road Space	Traffic Interventions	Additional Themes Identified at Workshops
 Cycle Lane	 Pedestrian Priority Crossing and footway improvements	 Parking Restrictions	 Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resurfacing• Cut Vegetation
 Cycle Parking		 Modal Filter (vehicle restriction) to encourage walking, wheeling and cycling	 Behaviour Change
 E-Bike Hire		 Narrow Junction Widths	 EV Charging
		 Traffic Calming Measures	 Car Club Spaces
		 Redesign of traffic light systems	 School Street
			 Enforcement

Exercise 4: Re-imagining the space

We asked residents attending the workshop to 'reimagine' Sydney Place and Sydney Road, suggesting ways to solve some of the issues identified in the earlier exercises and ways to make getting around safer and more inclusive for everyone.

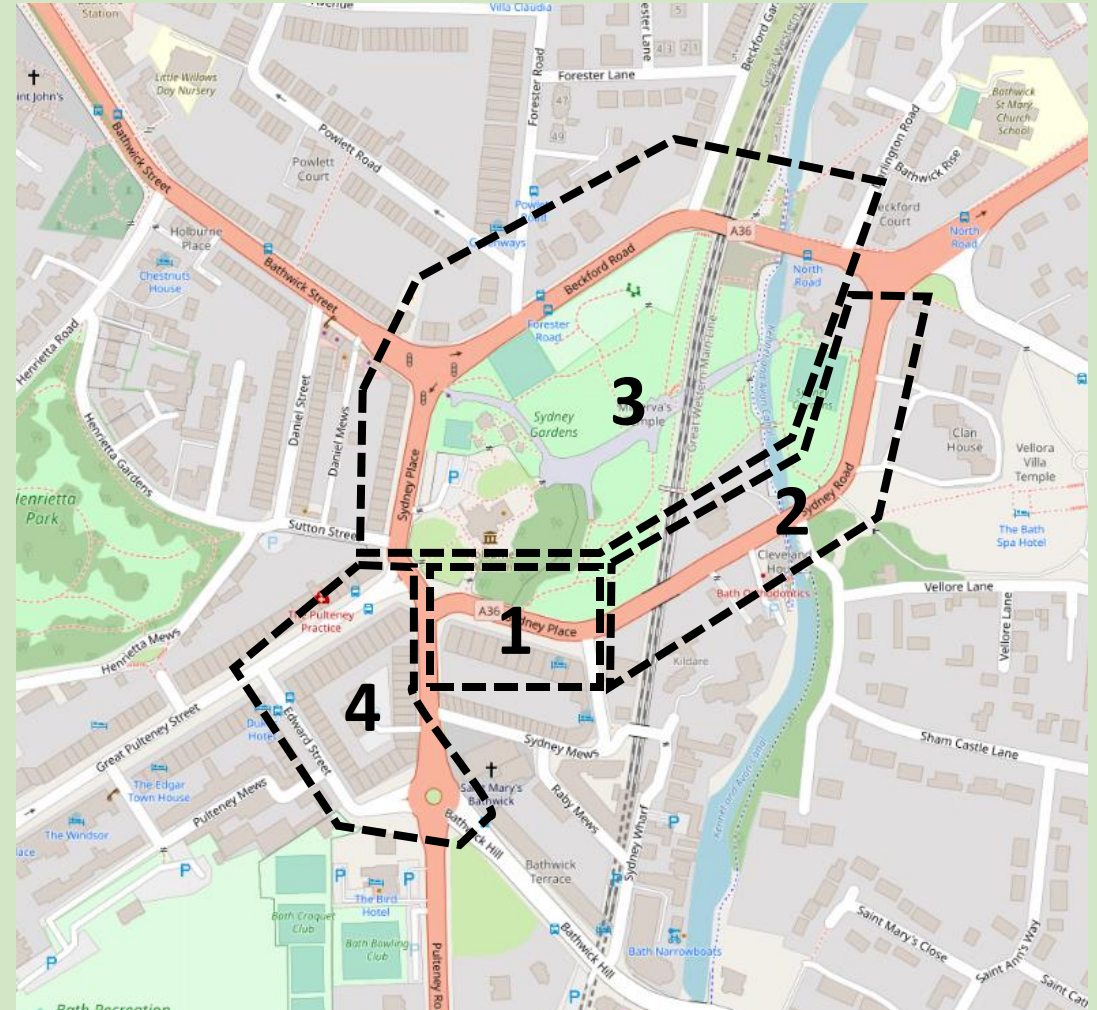
These interventions will be looked at in the following zones.

Zone 1: New Sydney Place

Zone 2: Sydney Road

Zone 3: Sydney Gardens and the A36

Zone 4: Great Pulteney Street and Pulteney Road Roundabout



Zone 1 Sydney Place

Residents' suggestions to create fairer access for all by reallocating road space for those walking and wheeling



Pedestrian Crossing

Improved crossing provision at the western end of Sydney Place near the Holburne Museum. Residents indicated that there is a large amount of foot traffic at this point and improved crossing here would positively impact the safety of pedestrians.



Sydney Place © Google Maps 2022



Zone 1 Sydney Place

Residents' suggestions to tackle vehicle related issues through various traffic interventions



Slowing Vehicle Speeds

Traffic calming along Sydney Place to reduce vehicle speeds in the area. This would improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Traffic calming measures should not result in increased vibrations which could damage the cellars of the nearby buildings.

Options to slow traffic could include chicane parking on alternate sides of the roads, build-outs or narrowing of carriageway sections.

Parking Restrictions



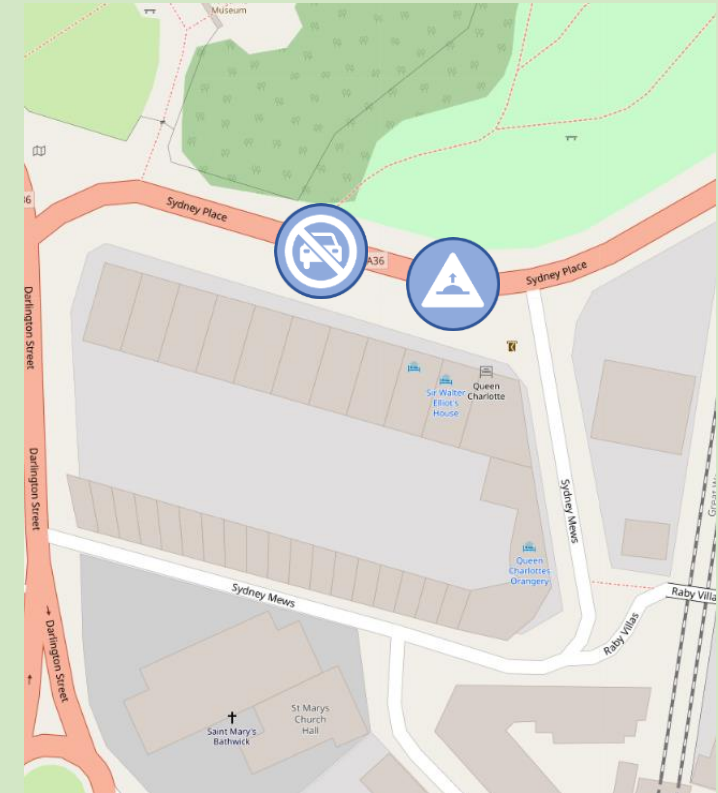
Existing parking provision in front of a dropped kerb blocks access to Sydney Gardens. Removal of short sections of parking bays would ensure easier access for any individuals with disabilities or people with pushchairs.



Dropped kerb blocked by parked car
© Google maps 2022



Sydney Place
© Google maps 2022



Zone 1 Sydney Place

Residents' suggestions for other themes to improve the area



Electric Vehicle Charging

Residents suggested the installation of electric vehicle charging throughout the area.

It was suggested to combine these facilities with existing street furniture, such as lighting columns, which has been done in Westminster, London.



Electric vehicle charging in Westminster
© TrafficTechnologyToday.com



Relocation of Car Club Space

Residents suggested that the car club space which blocks the Sydney Gardens dropped kerb should be relocated to a place where it does not block access.



Dropped kerb blocked by car club space
© Google maps 2022



Zone 2 Sydney Road

Residents' suggestions to improve cycling opportunities in the area



Cycle Improvements

Provision of cycle facilities along the length of Sydney Road. Issues with cyclist safety were expressed, and improvements to infrastructure would encourage more active travel around the area.



Sydney Road © Google maps 2022

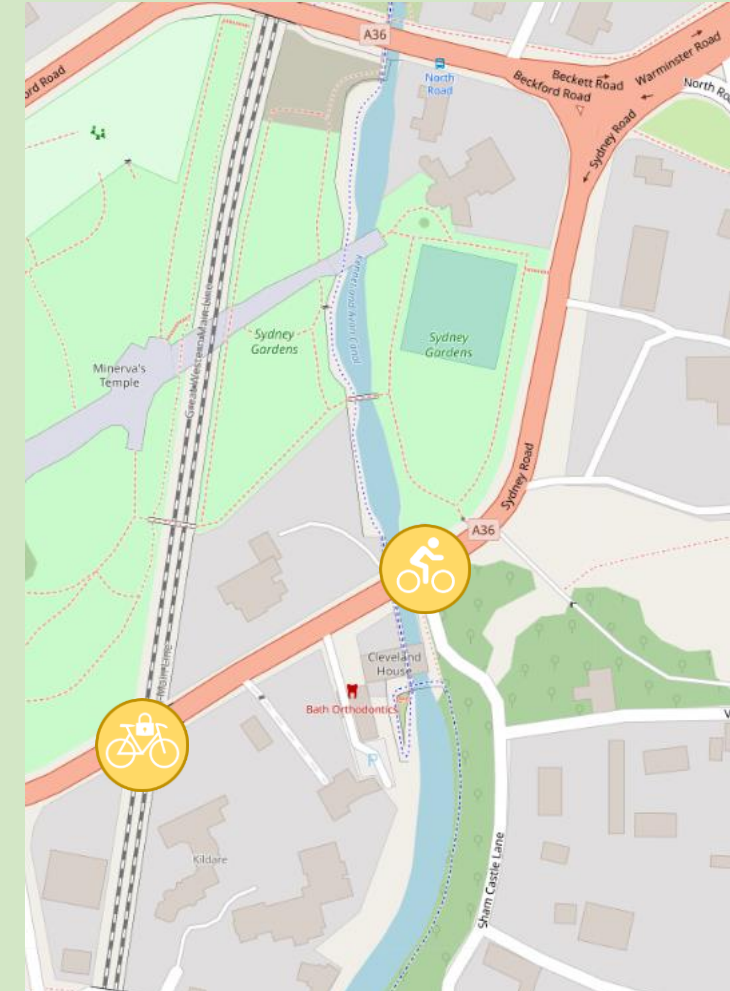


Secure Bike Storage

Secure bike storage near the railway bridge would provide residents and visitors to the area the opportunity to safely store their bicycles and explore the nearby attractions.



Secure bicycle storage hangars © Sustrans



Zone 2 Sydney Road

Residents' suggestions to create fairer access for all by reallocating road space for those walking and wheeling



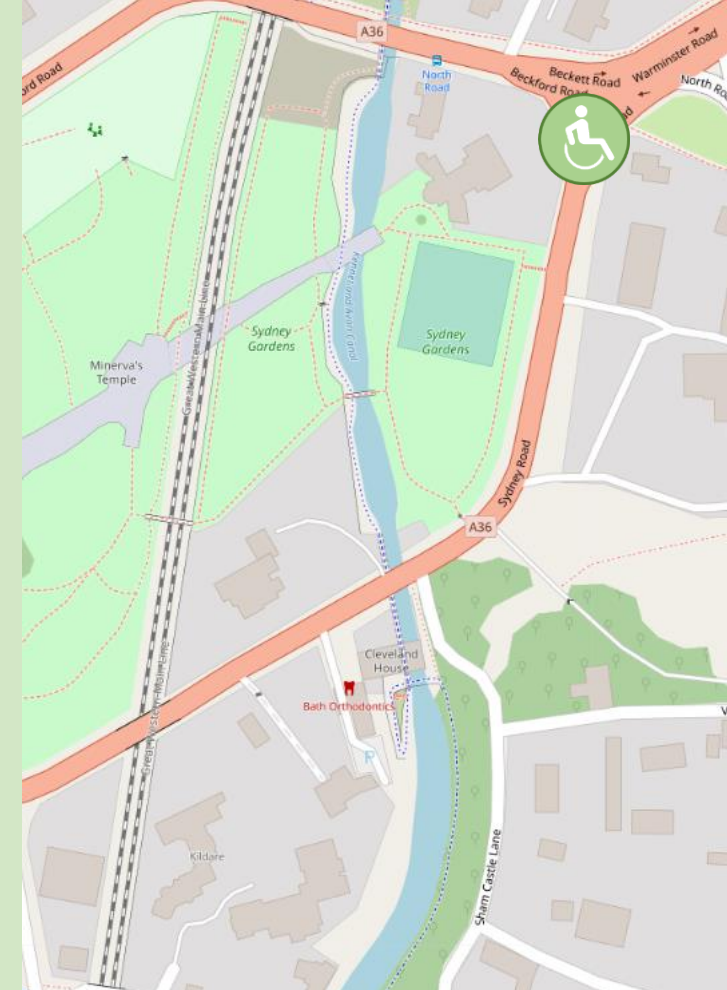
Improve pedestrian crossing

Current arrangement of the A36 and Sydney Road junction requires pedestrians to use 3 crossing stages in order to travel from east to west.

Residents suggested improving the crossing layout for people walking and wheeling in the area.



Sydney Road © Google maps 2022



Zone 2 Sydney Road

Residents' suggestions to tackle vehicle related issues through various traffic interventions

Modal Filter



Residents suggested the installation of either a removable bollard or planter style modal filter to restrict access through Sydney Road.

This intervention would stop drivers using the road to bypass traffic on the A36. Even though a planter style modal filter was preferred by residents, emergency service access could be maintained with the installation of a removable bollard.



Sydney Road © Google Maps 2022

Traffic Calming



Installation of traffic calming measures would slow vehicle speeds.

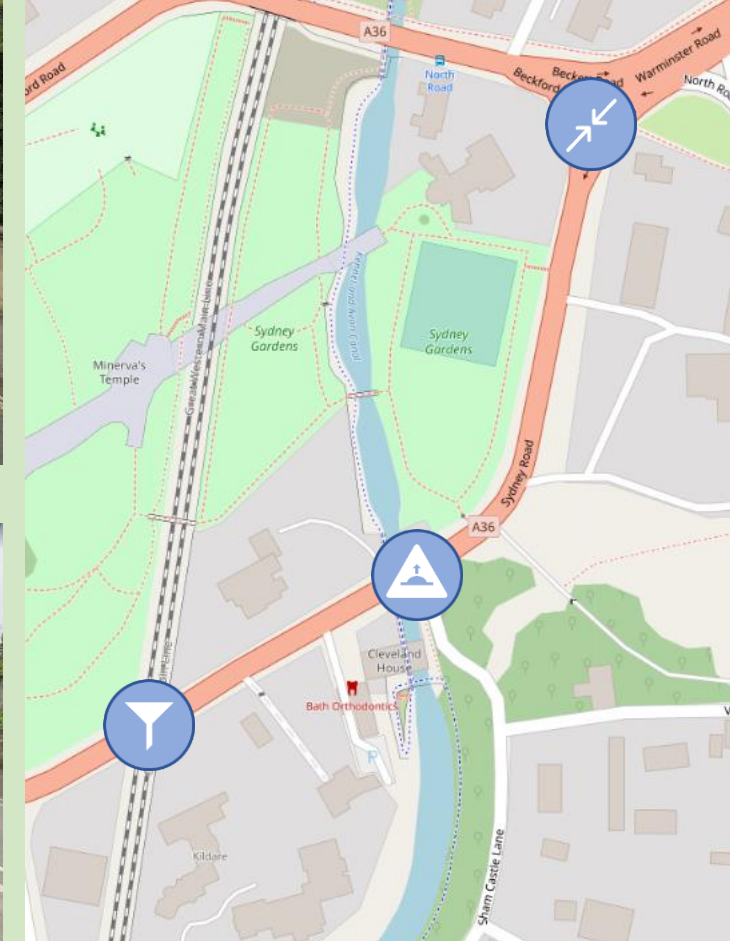
A36 Junction Narrowing



Residents suggested the reduction in the junction size at the northern end of Sydney Road. This would reduce vehicle speeds and crossing distances for pedestrians.



A36 junction with Sydney Road
© Google Maps 2022



Zone 3 Sydney gardens and the A36

Residents' suggestions to improve cycling opportunities in the area



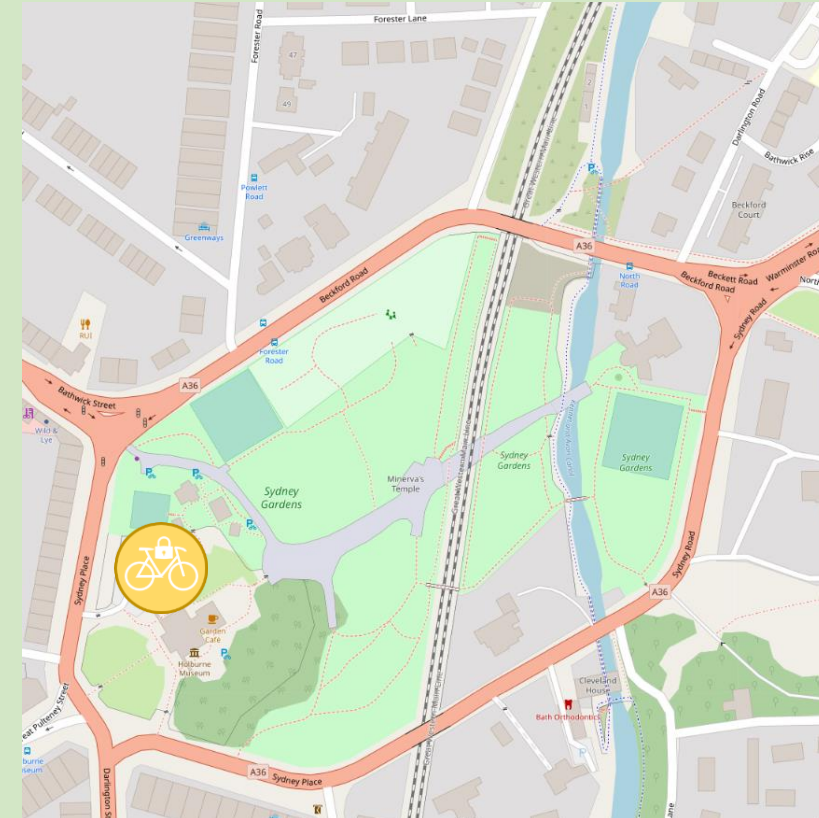
Secure Bike Storage

Secure bike storage near the Holburne Museum and within Sydney Gardens would provide the opportunity for visitors to safely store their bicycles and explore the nearby attractions.

This would encourage people to travel actively to the area.



Secure bicycle parking near St Johns The Evangelist's Church, Bath



Zone 3 Sydney gardens and the A36

Residents' suggestions to create fairer access for all by reallocating road space for those walking and wheeling



New Crossing Points to Sydney Gardens

Residents at the workshop highlighted where people regularly cross the road to access Sydney Gardens and suggested new pedestrian crossing points.



A36 proposed crossing location
© Google Maps 2022



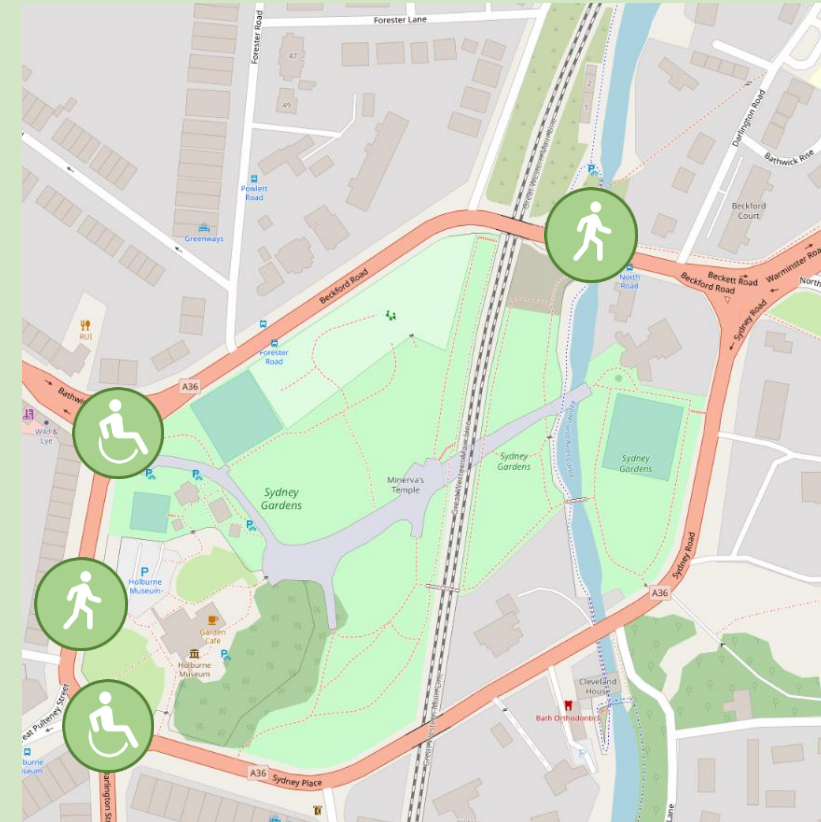
Improve Crossing Facilities

Residents expressed the difficulties they have experienced crossing Bathwick Street and into Sydney Gardens.

There are also issues with the crossing near Sydney Place just south of Great Pulteney Street which residents suggested should be re-designed.



Aerial image showing long crossing distances at Bathwick Street and Beckford Road crossing © Google Maps 2022



Zone 3 Sydney gardens and the A36

Residents' suggestions to tackle vehicle related issues through various traffic interventions



Forester Road traffic Calming

Residents suggested traffic calming along the nearby Forester Road.



A36 © Google Maps 2022



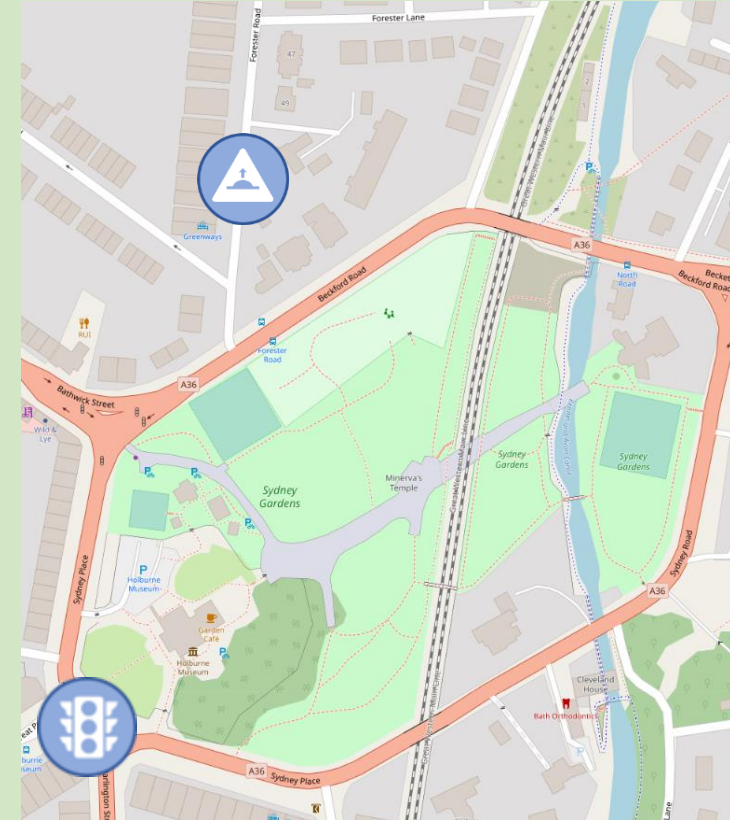
Redesign of junction near Great Pulteney Street

Residents suggested the redesign of the junction near the southern end of Sydney place and Great Pulteney Street.

Improvements could ensure that signals are clearly visible to drivers and improve awareness of pedestrian crossings.



Crossing near Sydney Place
© Google Maps 2022



Zone 3 Sydney gardens and the A36

Residents'
suggestions for other
themes to improve the
area



School Street along Darlington Road

Residents suggested a school street along the length of Darlington Road which provides access to Bathwick St Mary Primary School.

School streets are part time closures of a road which provides a car free environment for children walking to and from school.

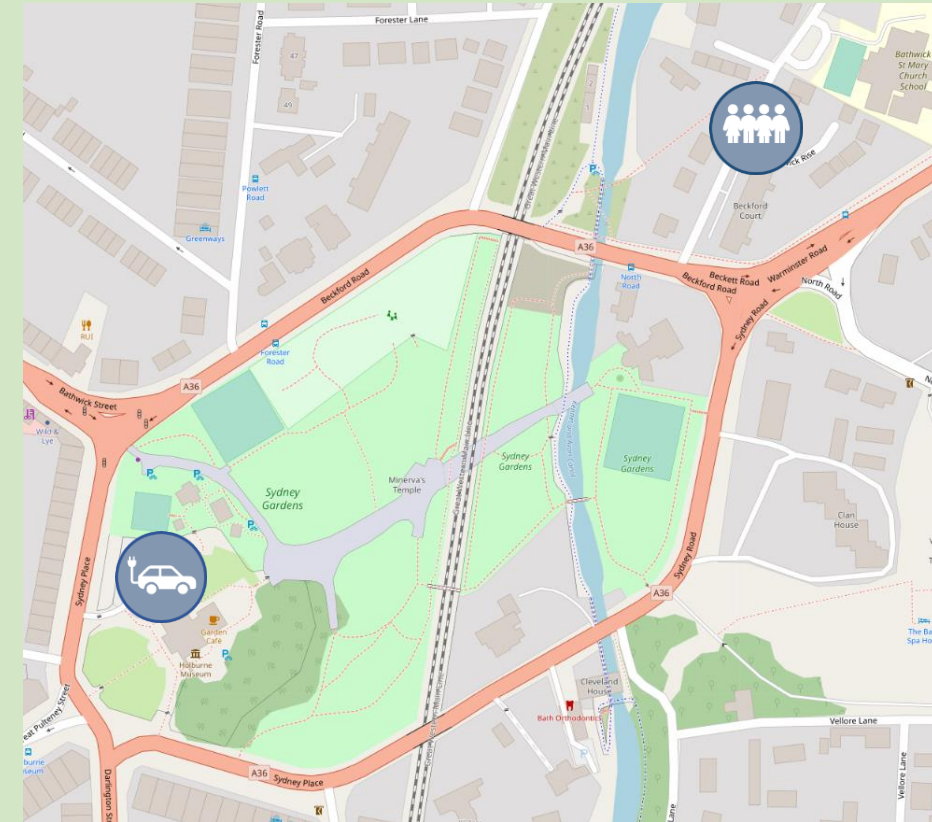


Signage outside schools



Electric Vehicle charging

Provision of EV charging facilities within the Holburne Museum car park.



Zone 4 Great Pulteney Street and Pulteney Road Roundabout

Residents'
suggestions to
improve cycling
opportunities in the
area



E-bike Rental

Suggestion to provide E-bike rental along Great Pulteney street. This will help to encourage more people to cycle around the area.



Sydney Road © Google maps 2022



Zone 4 Great Pulteney Street and Pulteney Road Roundabout

Residents' suggestions to create fairer access for all by reallocating road space for those walking and wheeling



Crossing Provision

Residents expressed the difficulties they met with crossing Raby Place near the roundabout.

There is a southbound bus stop which can be incredibly difficult to access, especially for those with disabilities.

Residents suggested a crossing point to improve the accessibility around this area.



Raby Place © Google Maps 2022



Zone 4 Great Pulteney Street and Pulteney Road Roundabout

Residents'
suggestions to tackle
vehicle related issues
through various traffic
interventions

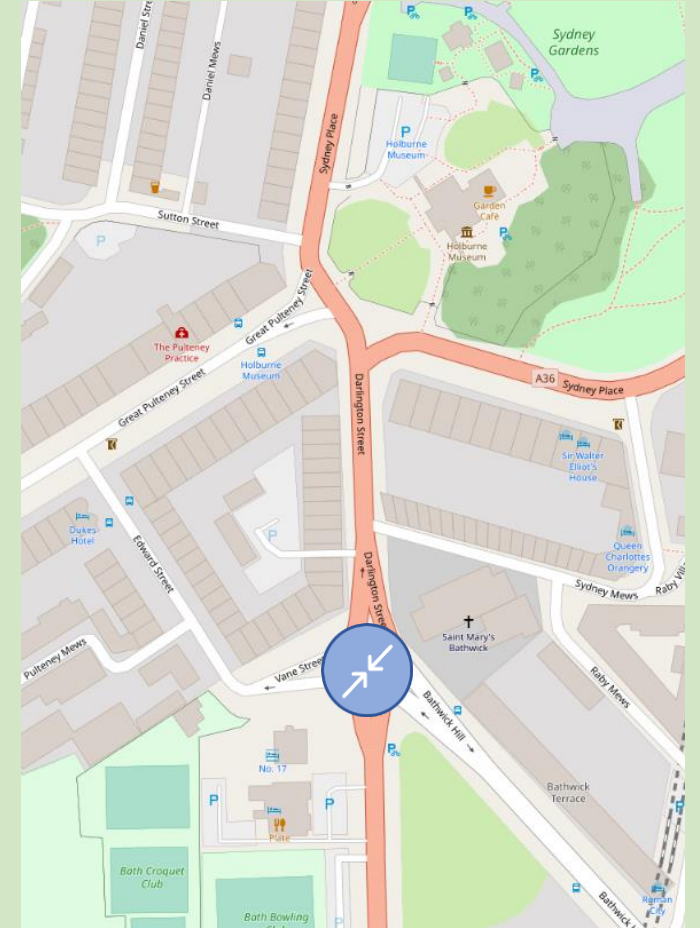


Narrowing of Roundabout

Residents expressed that a large part of this area is occupied by road space and that more of this space could be better allocated for those walking and wheeling.



Pulteney Road Roundabout © Google Maps 2022



Zone 4 Great Pulteney Street and Pulteney Road Roundabout

Residents' suggestions for other themes to improve the area



Maintenance

Maintenance to Great Pulteney Street carriageway and footways.



Car Club space

Provision of Car Club space along Great Pulteney Street



Enforcement of turning restrictions

Residents reported drivers frequently ignoring the right turn bans from Great Pulteney Street and Sutton Street. Enforcement of these restrictions would help to improve safety of these junctions.



Car club space, Bristol



Other Behaviour Change Interventions



Residents can also consider ways of improving the area without relying on physical changes to the streets, such as walking or cycling short journeys, consolidating deliveries, and using their car less by combining trips.

Advice on embracing active travel and realising the benefits of reduced car-use is available [here](#).

Community-led initiatives can also help improve the safety and atmosphere of any neighbourhood.

These can include walking buses, community tidy-ups, [community speed watch](#), [weight restriction enforcement](#), and organising '[playing out](#)' days, which focus on streets for people.

You can find out more from an advisor at your exhibition.



Conclusion and Next Steps

The ideas presented here were proposed by residents at co-design workshops. The next step is to short-list a package of measures to be included in a draft design, based on the following criteria:

- Whether the measure/intervention falls within the area originally proposed in the application for a Liveable Neighbourhood in the New Sydney Place and Sydney Road area, or positively impacts that area (ideas relating to areas outside of this area will be saved for future consideration).
- How effective the measure would be in tackling the issues expressed by residents in the New Sydney Place and Sydney Road area.
- Cost and practicalities

Residents attending our workshops can give their feedback on the ideas presented here, and what measures they'd like to see in a preliminary draft design, before drawing up final designs. These final designs would be subject to further consultation, and in some cases trialled on the street.

We will invite the wider public to share their views and comment on the draft design later in the autumn (2022).

The aim is to deliver a range of measures over a 'now, soon and later' timeframe from 2023.

If you would like to register your interest and be kept up to date on future events, please email liveableneighbourhoods@bathnes.gov.uk or speak to a member of staff.

Quality Information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
AS	MM	LD	CB

Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorised	Name	Position
P01	02/09/2022	First Issue	LD	LD	Principal Engineer
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P03	08/09/2022	-	LD	LD	Principal Engineer
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