

# Review Session

## Cycle South Dartmoor

Sustrans' proposal



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**Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle.**

We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

Join us on our journey.

[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

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# Contents

1. Delivering the Sustainable Travel Strategy	2
2. How we will help Cycle South Dartmoor move forward	3
3. Sustrans' approach	4
4. Sustrans' methodology	5
5. Scope of work	6
6. Case Study	6
7. Sustainable Travel Town Strategy Costs	8
8. Indicative Timescale	9

# You are the experts.

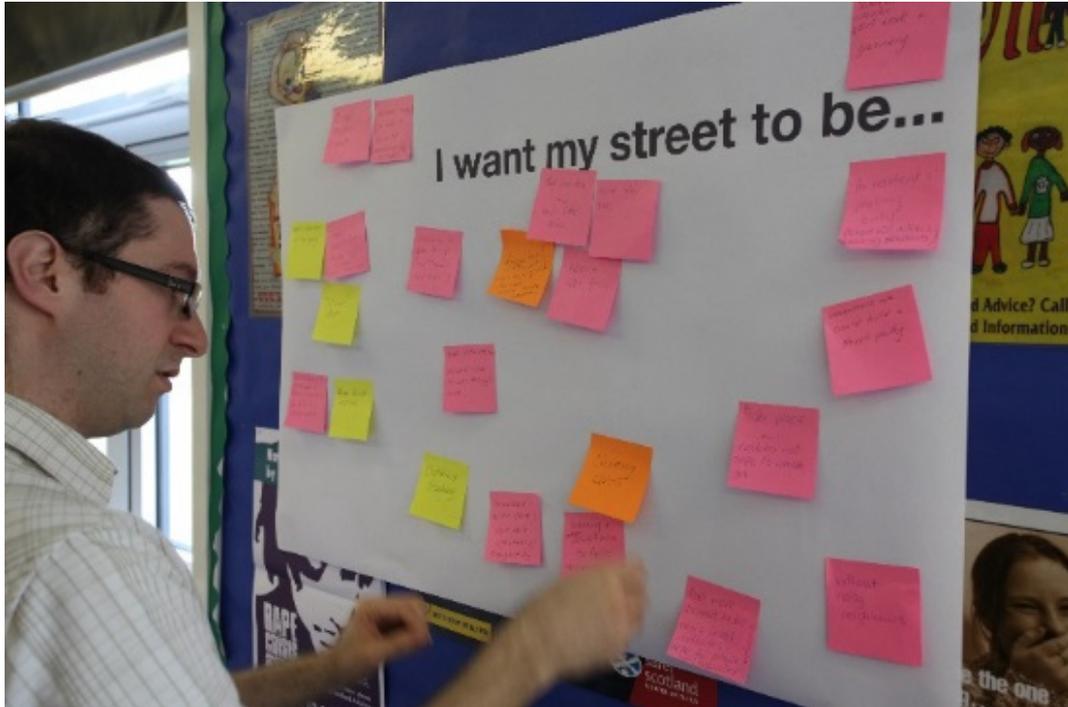
A community knows their local context best. We will work with local people in Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and South Brent to engage local people in the issues and opportunities for making their towns better for walking and cycling.

Sustrans will work with Cycle South Dartmoor and residents in Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and South Brent. We will engage with local people, reviewing progress to date and involving the community to identify key issues and opportunities to help improve the town environment for each of the three towns, and connections between them. This will happen through one participatory engagement / workshop session per town, and will result in the presentation of key concepts, alongside people-focused actions. Residents will identify key areas of the towns which will benefit most from improvements and will explore options for physical interventions. A likely outcome is a visionary and strategic summary of information that will work towards the creation of a town environment which is more conducive to walking and cycling and less dominated by motor traffic – making it a safer, more pleasant place to live and move around in.

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## 1. Delivering the Sustainable Travel Strategy

We will work with Cycle South Dartmoor and residents of the three towns to understand local issues and aspirations. Residents will reimagine their town environments through dynamic and engaging participatory workshops that look both to the recent past, and future, suggesting projects and actions to improve accessibility and enable walking and cycling journeys. With the help of Sustrans' design and engagement team, residents will identify key hotspots and issues within the towns. We will draft a Sustainable Travel Strategy, to summarise the recent progress, celebrating achievements and successes for each town, and determine an onward direction, leading to a town environment addresses specific local needs, and is safer and more pleasant area to move around and live in.



By engaging with the local community, our projects provide bespoke solutions that address local needs

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## 2. How we will help Cycle South Dartmoor move forward

There has been a lot of activity locally in terms of input into neighbourhood planning and other strategic developments, and Sustrans had previously carried out a feasibility study for a route to connect the South Dartmoor towns. We will work with Cycle South Dartmoor to build upon these and other local activities delivered to date. We will support the group to raise the profile of their work, encouraging conversations in all of the three towns about how to get more people walking and cycling for more of their daily journeys.

As historic settlements, all three towns are particularly negatively affected by high traffic volumes, inappropriate speeds and parked cars. The domination of motor vehicles compromises safe walking and cycling, and negatively impacts upon the character of the town and residents' lives.

As with other towns in the area, there is some pressure for new housing and its effects locally and regionally. This is likely to create a further increase in the number of trips made. Improving people's ability to travel conveniently and safely by other means of transport, and

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making these options safe and attractive, will mitigate some of the impact of these developments.

Sustrans works with communities to transform neighbourhoods to facilitate sustainable behaviours through liveable urban design. The approach we outline below is based around exploring and developing design proposals for improvements via a collaborative design process with members of the community. We will seek to use this experience in exploring outline opportunities in all three towns, especially where there might be a more strategic benefit.



Lively and interesting discussion at a recent event

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### 3. Sustrans' approach

Across the country, Sustrans has supported people to re-consider how their streets and public spaces are used. We have delivered large-scale infrastructure projects but also small changes such as repositioning bins and bollards, widening pavements, realigning kerb lines and reaffirming existing 'desire lines' (most direct / informal short cuts) - achieving high quality and vibrant places. Our extensive experience of working closely with highway authorities helps achieve innovative designs and ensure community inspired designs are realised.

We have been delivering community-led street improvement projects for more than 15 years and have worked with over 50 communities. Our work in this area has been undertaken in a number of settings and at a variety of scales from residential districts of up to 3,000 homes, including busy high streets, rural villages, streets around schools and as part of a network of cycle routes. The success of these projects stems from including local people as experts on their neighbourhood in the design process, bringing about change that is effective, inclusive and meets the needs of the community.

Sustrans' strength lies in the process, which includes engaging closely with the local community, and developing solutions that address local needs - this means, even small scale interventions can make a big difference in slowing traffic down and influence the way people use their public space. While delivery of changes is out-of-scope for this project, we aim to help Cycle South Dartmoor consolidate their thinking, while raising the profile of their work, and helping them to prioritise areas of focus moving forward.

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## 4. Sustrans' methodology

Using information gathered through a desktop study and with input from Cycle South Dartmoor, we will deliver a community-centred co-discovery session resulting in a high level strategies for each town. This could be included in a short report or summary information boards, as preferred by Cycle South Dartmoor. This output may help to form the basis with which to apply for further funding. For this purpose, Sustrans will progress the following:

- **A public workshop for each town** to understand each area, working with local residents. The purpose of these workshops is partly awareness raising, but also a light-touch exercise to discover issues perceived by local people and understand priorities.
- **A short report / information boards** including a series of maps and materials to help people express their thoughts about walking and cycling barriers and opportunities in each of the three towns. We will also develop some strategic resources, looking at the demand for longer-ranges route in the area – although we must be careful to not duplicate work that has already been completed.

Tourism opportunities will also be considered, as this is an important part of the South Devon context in which the towns sit, their proximity to Dartmoor and other local attractions such as heritage railways.

During this process we will work closely with local champions and volunteers to ensure they have full ownership of the project, and feel confident to champion the process and its outcomes. The results of the process will be 'handed over' to Cycle South Dartmoor, for the group to decide upon and prioritise their own action points.

This will be key to ensure the design legacy beyond Sustrans' involvement, and seek funding for the implementation of the vision for the streets of the South Dartmoor Towns. During our involvement, we can give champions knowledge of potential funding opportunities for this purpose.

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## 5. Scope of work

The scope of the project will take into account local policies, recent developments and changes and will include:

- Consideration of future growth of the South Dartmoor Towns and how the towns fit strategically in context in South Devon
- Main destinations and concentrations of people in and around the towns
- Historic context of each town and opportunities to further enhance the quality and historic character of the town centres, to encourage more and longer visits that benefit the local economy
- Work with Cycle South Dartmoor as main advisor on local information and context, but also with local town councils and organisations as appropriate, to ensure the context is well understood

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## 6. Case Study

Sustrans was commissioned by the PL:21 Transition Town Initiative group in Ivybridge, to work with local people in and around the town, to create a strategy that will guide the town toward a more sustainable future, in line with the organisation and town council's sustainable objectives.



Residents know the most about where they live

## Ivybridge Street Design Strategy

Around 100 people came to public engagement sessions with further engagement with resources that had been displayed publically following the events. There were many comments about accessibility, movement around the town, specific issues, particularly with school travel and a few key hotspots within the town, and opportunities flagged, which could make a tangible difference to how people choose to travel. More than 25 projects and actions are featured in the strategy document, which it is hoped

will be endorsed by the local authorities. These are wide and varied, as is appropriate for a robust response to the threats that climate change brings. These projects include public realm improvements, such as school and workplace travel planning; the redesign of each of the two roundabouts that 'bookend' Fore Street, to make it easier to access the centre of town; establishing a dataset of key measurables alongside a monitoring plan, so that change, and the success of certain developments can be observed; and, improving access to, and the installation of high-quality, secure cycle parking at the railway station. The success of the project ultimately rests in the motivated and committed people within the town, and the cooperation of many local, regional and governmental bodies; this is just a launch pad!

**“What an excellent event. I found myself doing lots of networking which felt very productive”**

Client

## 7. Sustainable Travel Town Strategy Costs

These costs are quoted on a per-town basis. There may be an option to combine events, though attendance for all three sessions would be optimised by holding three separate sessions.

	Task	Head of department	urban designer	technician
Ivybridge street design strategy	Project planning and documentation gathering	1	2	0.5
	Review of current documentation and stakeholders mapping	0.5	2	
	<b>Workshop - Issues and opportunities</b>	1	1	1
	Feedback processing, prioritisation and initial mapping	1	2	1
	Initial drafting	1	2	0.5
	Communications with client and stakeholders to discuss draft	1	1	
	Reporting and design finalisation	1	3	1
	Project management	2		
	<b>Total days:</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>
		<b>£ 4,250</b>	<b>£ 4,680</b>	<b>£ 1,360</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 10,290</b>	

## 8. Indicative Timescale

	Month	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4
<b>Activity:</b>					
Project planning and Documentation Gathering					
Review of current documentation and client inception meeting					
Workshop					
Feedback processing, analysis, mapping and further research					
Drafting and checking					
Report finalisation					