



# Active Travel Fund Summary of Proposals for Wickford

**May 2021**

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# Introduction

This document is a summary of proposals to develop local cycling and walking routes in Wickford as they go out for public consultation. The schemes are part of the Active Travel Fund (ATF) and connect to (LCWIPs).

- **We are really keen to hear your views on these proposed improvements.** We are asking for your views on the specific schemes with infrastructure enhancements to improve safety and make it easier and fun to walk or cycle, as well as information on public opinion and how you travel.
- There will be a further stage of this consultation which will follow in late summer 2021. This will be the Traffic Regulations Order consultation.

*Details of the proposed walking and cycling infrastructure enhancements for Wickford are included in this document (page 6).*

This ATF consultation is the second stage of a process to implement LCWIPs by Essex County Council. They help ensure that a long-term approach can be taken to develop local cycling and walking networks, ideally over the next 10-year period, and form a vital part of the Government's strategy to increase the number of trips made on foot or by cycle.



## **What is the Active Travel Fund?**

Essex has been awarded over £7 million of government funding to develop safer, greener and healthier travel and transport locally as part of the Phase Two Active Travel Fund.

All five schemes in Basildon (Wickford), Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, and Colchester have been developed in detail with the advice of local councils, councillors, businesses, cycling, access, schools and other local interest groups.

One of the aims of the Essex County Council “Safer Greener Healthier” campaign is to encourage residents to rethink the way they travel, where possible and especially for shorter journeys.

Our plan is to re-allocate road space to make more room for everybody to safely and efficiently walk and cycle in five Essex districts - Braintree, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Colchester, and Wickford.

Implementing the plans will transform these town/city centres and neighbourhoods into thriving, healthier areas, with fewer cars but more people cycling and walking, allowing us all to breathe cleaner air and enjoy a better way of life.

As more people take up walking and cycling and avoid using their cars for short trips, it will mean fewer vehicles on the road and ease congestion for those who have no alternative but to drive, making their journeys more reliable and efficient.

### **Liveable Neighbourhoods**

Many of us, our parents, or grandparents grew up when it was normal for children to play in the street and cycle to school, while many adults used a bike to cycle to and from work. But today the numbers of cars on our roads has dramatically increased along with, accordingly, the number of journeys for which we jump behind the wheel. This has had a dramatic influence on our neighbourhoods with many of them now totally dominated by the car.

Liveable Neighbourhoods aim to reverse this trend and create areas where it is easier and safer for you to walk and cycle, while enjoying a more pleasant street and public realm as a result of fewer cars, with various measures used to prevent residential streets being used as shortcuts, car parks and rat-runs by people from outside the area.

In Chelmsford and Wickford, our plans include Liveable Neighbourhoods which will establish attractive, healthy, accessible, and safe areas, with improved routes for walking and cycling.

### **School Streets**

There is a clear opportunity to improve the environment around schools, especially for children, and the School Streets scheme aims to facilitate improvements to make these areas more accessible and attractive to those arriving on foot or cycle.

This could be through working with the school to introduce new initiatives, or through traffic management, stopping traffic from accessing roads at certain points, so creating a pedestrian and cycle zone.

There is no one size fits all approach, and over the coming months we will be working with local schools within our identified areas (shown in orange) to develop these proposals further.

# SCHOOL STREETS IN ESSEX

**OUR AMBITION**  
Most pupils walk, scoot or cycle all, or part of their journey to school.

**How will we do this?**

**PHASE 1: Engage with local communities**    **PHASE 2: Implementation**

Deliver a range of bespoke solutions to make school streets safer, greener and healthier such as:

- Businesses
- Schools
- Parents
- Residents
- Pupils

Essex County Council, District Councils & Sustrans

- Understanding the barriers and local issues
- Facilitating discussions
- Trialling ideas with opportunities for feedback

**TACTICAL** (Green circle)  
**ENFORCEMENT** (Blue circle)

Measures include: New plants, Street art, Active travel rewards, Park and Stride, Improved walking and cycling infrastructure, Parking permits, Time specific road closure/s, Physical changes eg anti-mount kerbs, chicanes.

# ATF Wickford Proposals

Wickford is experiencing significant growth pressures and therefore prioritising the development of good walking and cycling networks is an excellent way of ensuring new housing and commercial developments provide good walking and cycling infrastructure. In turn, this enables trips into a wider active travel network as well as the shorter legs of multi-stage journeys to be undertaken sustainably.

The scheme is the first part of a long-term plan to create an improved cycle link between Wickford and Basildon, which will eventually enhance the whole cycle and walking network across Basildon borough.

Wickford is a blueprint for a Liveable Neighbourhood with designated residential areas benefitting from measures which improve streets and make it easier to walk and cycle from Nevendon Road in the south of the town to Wickford town centre. These include:

- 20mph zones
- Extended footways
- New raised zebra crossing
- Upgraded traffic islands
- On-road cycle symbols
- Waiting restrictions proposed to be introduced near the fire station
- Double yellow lines (no waiting at any time) on Laburnum Avenue itself.



*Image of a raised zebra crossing*

Travelling from Nevendon road, Elder Avenue, Grange Avenue, Oakhurst Drive and Bromford's Drive have all been designated as School Street zones.

At the entrance to each of these areas, raised tables will be introduced. These are sections which raise the road to the height of the pavement, slowing vehicles and providing easier and safer crossing points for pedestrians.

Further measures will also be introduced in these areas in consultation with the local schools and surrounding community.



Map of Wickford Proposals

## Next Steps

We are really keen to hear your views on these proposed infrastructure enhancements to create healthier streets, a second step in a series of consultations which aim to keep you informed about how the ATF proposals can act as a blueprint for active travel and help improve and safeguard our town centres and high streets. These initial scheme proposals have been informed by our previous work on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans.

Please complete the survey, or if you are an organisation, email your response to: [SGH.Routes@essex.gov.uk](mailto:SGH.Routes@essex.gov.uk). If you require a hard copy or accessible version of the consultation survey, please email [SGH.Routes@essex.gov.uk](mailto:SGH.Routes@essex.gov.uk).

These plans are a vital step forward to develop coherent walking and cycling networks for Essex. Once residents views have been collected and analysed, the ATF proposals will be updated online and a report published to inform the final proposals. This will be included in the TRO consultation in late Summer / Autumn when we will be seeking your input again.

Thank you for your support.

**This information is issued by:**

Essex County Council

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Published May 2021