

## Bathwick St/Powlett Road Cycle Track

As local residents we have been deeply concerned over proposals to re-classify the passageway from Bathwick Street to Powlett Road to a shared cycle route. B+NES confirmed that the passageway itself does not legally belong to anyone.

We are concerned that the passageway, which is now in a very patched and degraded state is bound on both sides, and not wide enough to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians safely. It is **not the minimum of 3m wide all along, as is legally required**. No-one can tell us how many cyclists would use the proposed route.

A solicitor we consulted said that if the number of cyclists increased, then the possibility of collisions would correspondingly increase. He was also concerned about the white gate used by residents of Powlett Court which opens directly onto the passageway. A police officer commented, 'an accident waiting to happen'

A large dark green telephone distribution box suddenly appeared within the last few months at the Bathwick Street end of the passageway (1200mm across/1524mm high/432mm wide). **It protrudes from the wall approx 625 mm, into the passageway**. This was not in place when the Health + Safety report was undertaken by B+NES on 16 January 2012.

Their report identified the hazards of cyclists entering traffic in Bathwick Street too quickly, and in Powlett Road being unaware that it is for one-way traffic only, when they emerge from the passageway, as well three more potential hazards.

Cllr Tim Warren echoed our concerns in *Bath Chronicle* article of 2 February 2012. The Bathwick Estate survey revealed that **32** supported the scheme, and **52** opposed it.

Footfall data taken at different times reveals that a lot of pedestrians, many of them elderly and some infirm, or mothers with young children frequently use this busy route, with a pedestrian passing almost **every 2 minutes**. Elderly residents at Powlett Court have reported '*near misses*' on several occasions with cyclists rushing past, no bells or verbal warnings, startling them, and leaving them fearing for their safety.

For us to be safe and for cyclists to be legal they should adhere to the red circle 'no cycling' signs prominently displayed at each end of the passageway, and walk the **one minute only length** of the passageway.

It is purely a question of keeping to the law and being considerate of the welfare of vulnerable pedestrians.

In *Bristol Evening Post* (14 August 2012) a front-page article highlighted the launch of **Bristol Older Peoples Forum** by Mrs Ruth Bailey, which calls for '*more work to be done to protect pedestrians from cyclists who illegally use the pavement*'. *Radio Bristol* also covered the subject on 3 September.

This is a small, vociferous minority who are clamouring for change.

Surely Councillors are elected to represent the needs of **all** residents, not just one particular group?

We, the pedestrians feel at the bottom of the list, and are at risk of losing our legally protected passageway.

