

Julie Trollope

Powlett Passageway, Bathwick

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.

We are concerned that the passageway, which is bound on both sides, is not wide enough to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians safely, as 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.**

Cllr Tim Warren has echoed our concerns in *Bath Chronicle* article 2 February 2012, mentioning the survey on the Bathwick Estate carried out by the Residents' Association at the suggestion of Cllr Paul Fox, who also agrees with our views. The result was that 32 supported the scheme, and **52 opposed it.**

Whilst we sympathise with cyclists who want a safe short-cut into town, our 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 almost every 2 minutes passing by.

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. One resident has had a serious foot operation, and now walks with the aid of a stick, another is partly deaf.

I have experienced cyclists rushing past me, too, and can never relax when walking along the passageway. Can this be right?

For us to be safe and for cyclists to be legal they should adhere to the red circle no cycling signs prominently placed 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.

Years ago, in a more God-fearing society this situation would not have arisen as pedestrians and elderly people and their needs were respected. Surely Councillors are elected to represent the needs of all residents, not just one particular group.