



Transport & streetscape

Introduction

Riding Mill is well positioned for transport links with the A69 and A68 both very close, a bus service along the A695 and a train service to Newcastle and Carlisle. It is just 20 minutes from Newcastle International Airport. However, it suffers from too much through traffic, especially large trucks, a narrow main road through much of the village and poor sight lines for many of the junctions and drives on the main road. Pavements, especially on the main road, are too narrow. And there is a lack of dedicated cycle routes.



Your views

We are anxious to hear your views.

Do you agree with our assessment? What more would you like the village to do to improve transport links?

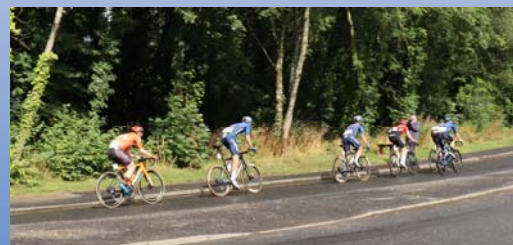
Improving the streetscape, whilst desirable, is not a planning issue and would be likely to require a large budget as well. However, several respondents to the village survey indicated that they would like to see improvements to the streetscape. Do you have ideas to do that? Perhaps ideas that could not only improve the aesthetics but also slow down the traffic?

Objectives

We want the village **to become a more attractive place to live and visit through better connections to different modes of public transport and easier to navigate as a pedestrian and cyclist with improved wayfinding.**

We believe this can be achieved through

- ⊗ Enhancing and developing the local network of footpaths and bridleways.
- ⊗ Ensuring that the existing network of Rights of Way is maintained and waymarked to a high standard. When routes become unusable we will press for their restoration in the shortest possible time.
- ⊗ Seeking the creation of safe walking and cycling routes to Corbridge and Hexham to the west and Stocksfield to the east
- ⊗ Assessing the need for safe active travel routes to other local destinations.
- ⊗ Protecting and enhancing the current level of public transport provision (two buses per hour between Newcastle and Hexham, one train per hour).
- ⊗ Seeking substantial improvements in public transport services, fares, ticket retailing and integration.
- ⊗ Reducing the negative impact of road traffic in Riding Mill.



Planning policies

We would like **new developments to have an appropriate level of off-road car parking and provision for charging electric vehicles**

However, we would prefer developments that promote sustainable transport methods with easy access to the station, but stops, footpaths and cycle ways.

Community actions

We have several ideas for community actions:

- ⊗ Audit existing footpaths to understand current condition and to take appropriate action to keep them safe.
- ⊗ Support the parish council and its rights of way group to enhance and develop the local network of Public Rights of Way and permissive paths.
- ⊗ Develop a safe pedestrian and cycle route through the village (which does not have to follow the main road).
- ⊗ Work with groups promoting active travel and Northumberland County Council to secure safe walking and cycling routes to Corbridge and Hexham.
- ⊗ Work with community groups and statutory bodies to secure attractive, reliable and cost effective public transport to destinations that residents need to access for employment, education, health care and leisure purposes.
- ⊗ Work with the highway authority to reduce the adverse impact of road traffic on the village and, in particular, to improve road safety.
- ⊗ Continue to press the county council regarding the creation of a pedestrian crossing on the main road.

