

ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTE BOWDEN TO NEWTOWN ST BOSWELLS SURVEY SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A proposal is being developed to create a path for safe travel off road between Bowden and Newtown St Boswells (1.9 miles/ 3Km). The path could be used by walkers, buggies, wheelchairs, cyclists and mobility scooters. A survey was conducted between October and December 2025 to gather information about how this path may be used. A total of 102 responses were received for the survey with 59 from Bowden, 36 from Newtown St Boswells and with the remaining 7 responses from other locations or not stated.

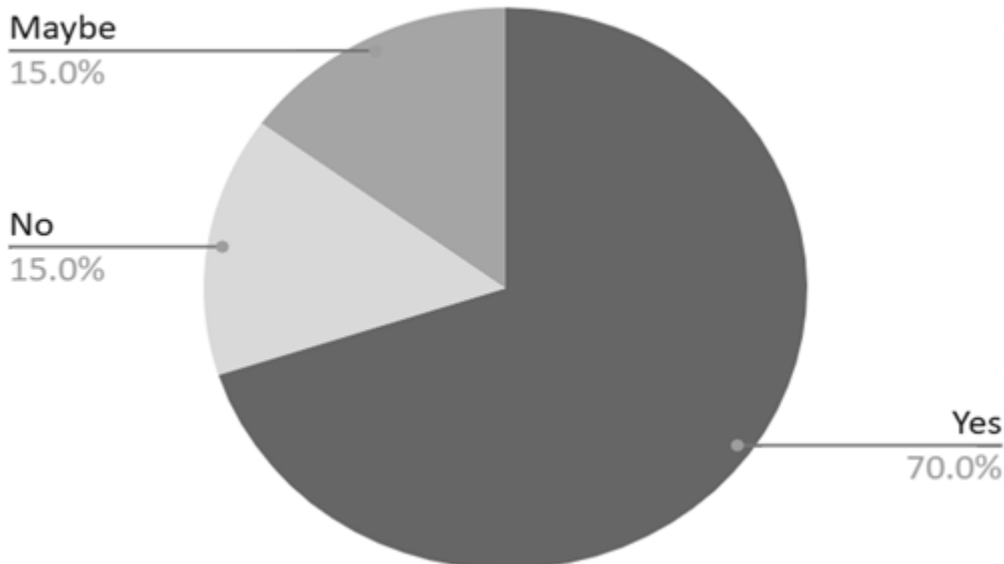
Key results - Activity The survey shows that the building of an active travel route is likely to increase active travel, especially walking.

Active Travel type	Would you use a new safer route ? %	Road use now %
Walk	81	46
Cycle	55	29
Buggies or pushchair	33	*
Wheelchair and mobility scooter	13	*

*Question not asked in this survey

Key results - Reduction of car use The survey shows that **71% of** respondents would sometimes use the safer active route instead of a car. The diagram below shows the breakdown of responses to the question:

Would you use a safe active travel route instead of car ? %



Comments:

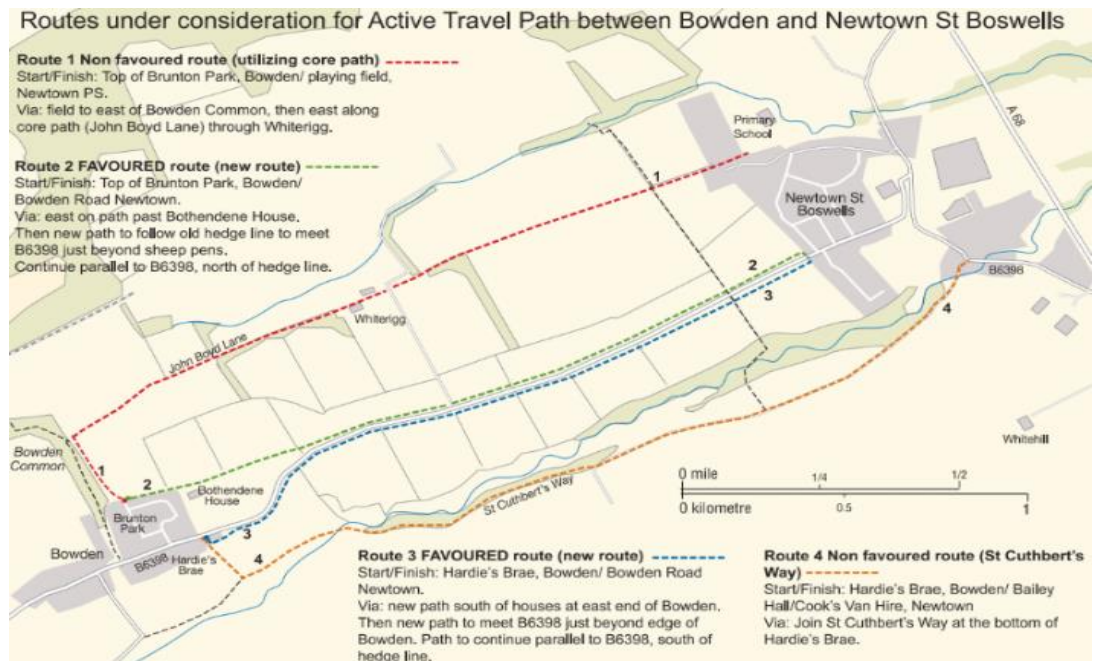
Respondents were invited to comment and express their personal views about active travel and the proposed routes. There were 242 comments in total. 87 respondents said that they would use the new path or think that others would use it compared with 11 respondents who said that they would not use it.

The main reasons for support	Number of comments
Increased safety	46
Access to shops and services	23
Use by children	13
Fitness (running)	11
Others - including all weather accessibility, environmentally friendly, direct route, linking communities.	less than 10

The main reasons for not using the path	Number of comments
Already are path(s)	6
Cost	5
Safety (personal/ property/ livestock)	5
Potential loss of school transportation.	2
No reason to use path.	2
Loss of tranquility.	2
Loss of privacy/ safety (Bothendene Path).	2
Road safety (start/ end of routes).	1
Need to close the path when livestock are being moved.	1

Route preference

Four routes were proposed for consideration by the communities and respondents were asked to rank the routes according to preference from first preference to fourth preference. The results indicate a preference for routes 2 and 3 which are north and south of the road.



Route	Route number	% who placed route first
North of road	2	42.2
South of road	3	34.3
Core path through Whiterigg farm	1	17.6
St Cuthberts Way	4	5.9

Local interest

There appears to be a good deal of local interest in this proposed project with 48 names added to the mailing list, 6 volunteers for the working group and further 16 who may be interested in helping out at some stage.

Survey Methodology

The survey, which was open to all residents of Bowden and Newtown St Boswells, was promoted using posters, leaflets with a survey barcode and online through social media. Paper copies of the survey were made available in community buildings and at community events. Bowden residents received a leaflet through their door and some door knocking was carried out in Newtown St Boswells to raise awareness and encourage survey returns. 102 replies were received from a total of 1929 households. The population of Bowden is 301 and Newtown St Boswells 1592 (2022 Census data). 57.8% of those who replied live in Bowden, 35.3% live in Newtown St Boswells and the rest 6.9% live elsewhere but regularly visit or work there.

Next Steps

- The information gathered will be used by the Community Councils of Bowden and Newtown St Boswells to inform next steps.
- A working group of residents of both villages will use this information to seek funding for a full feasibility study
- This is likely to be a long term project and there will be further opportunities for more detailed consultation.

If you'd like to discuss the path or the survey results with a member of the working group please email us at newtownbowdenpath@gmail.com