

# Clean Path – Green Bath

Repair the canal path to encourage walking and reduce the number of cars in Bath

The Canal & River Trust [CRT] has the resurfacing of the Bathwick Hill to Widcombe stretch of the Tow Path in its business plan for the current year [2022-2023]. Some funding for the project has been made available by B&NES and the CRT. **However, more funding is required for the project to be started.** There are compelling reasons why it is so important to Bath!

## Location

This stunning, “Green Way” section of the canal is heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists. It is easily accessible on foot from the bus and railway stations. It is a recognized route from the city centre to open countryside and the Bath Skyline. It is a link with the River Avon.

## Condition

This section of the towpath is in a **very poor condition**. It is uneven and numerous puddles appear following heavy rainfall. For an asset that is promoted to tourists and is well used by local people, its condition is a very poor advertisement for Bath.

## Safety

To avoid puddles, both walkers and cyclists can be drawn towards the slippery grass verge and stone edge which borders the canal.

## Usage

This path is in constant use by:

1. Walkers: a. people on their way to the city centre; b. to local shops [Bathwick Hill & Widcombe]; c. to the river; d. to the further stretch of the towpath; e. to Bathwick Fields & the Skyline; f. to Bath Spa train Station
2. Pupils & parents: walking to and from local schools: Widcombe Infants; Widcombe Junior; Bathwick St Mary; King Edwards School; Paragon; Hayesfield; Ralph Allen; Prior Park; Bathampton Primary
3. Students going to and from the University
4. Recreational walkers, anglers, ramblers, birdwatchers
5. Canal boat people
6. Runners & Cyclists
7. Tourists & Visitors.

## B&NES: Commitment to Walking & Cycling.

The Recreational, Physical and Mental Health benefits to people who walk or cycle have long been recognized. B&NES is committed to localised public realm improvements to improve the environment and journey quality for pedestrians (Journey to Net Zero) encouraging more walking and cycling and less reliance on cars, ideals backed by the National Trust & Ramblers and many local groups.

## Cost /Benefit

It is likely that there would be still greater and safer use of this section of the towpath and, by extension, the hill-path, if the surface of the towpath was improved. This must be a relatively modest project with major benefits to the city of Bath.

## Finally

The resurfacing of this treasured and beautiful section of the towpath is the obvious final step in the completion of the route from Widcombe to Bathampton. **Please: Support it!**