



Ilminster Town Council  
North Street  
Ilminster

4th October 2019

**Dear Ilminster Town Council**

We are writing to seek the Town Council's support for our efforts to persuade Highways England to provide a quality cycle route as part of their A358 proposal.

The dualling of the A358 represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve safety and connectivity for all cyclists, to improve people's health by making cycle commuting a safe and quick alternative and to reduce congestion along the road and in Taunton.

Last summer, some of our group travelled to Bristol to present our petition to Highways England. The petition asks that Highways England's scheme to upgrade the A358 should include:

1. A quality cycletrack between Ilminster and Taunton
2. Safe and attractive crossing of the A358 and M5 at or near Junction 25 via a bridge or tunnel;
3. Confirmation that wherever the road cuts across quiet rural lanes, safe crossings will be provided.

The petition has now 642 signatures, but can still be signed here: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/provide-a-cyclepath-with-the-a358-upgrading>

Our suggestions are in line with Highways England's own Cycling Strategy\* and the Government's Cycling Strategy. Highways England have a dedicated cycle budget of over £100m. We will be meeting Highways England representatives when they begin the initial design, probably early in 2020.

The Council's support would help to demonstrate wider community support for cycling and walking provision.

Kind regards

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MATT DAY, THE OLD POST OFFICE,  
STOCKLINCH

\* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycling-strategy>