

# STAVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk - Karen Gilbert



Cllr John Hart  
Devon County Council  
County Hall  
Topsham Road  
Exeter  
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9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015

Dear Mr Hart

## **Littlehempston to Totnes cycle link**

Staverton Parish Council would like to register its strong support for action in pushing ahead with a cycle and foot path connecting Totnes with the villages to the north.

We believe that the route proposed by the South Devon Cycle Link campaign (Route 3) is by far the preferable option – and the only realistic one. The route via Staverton and Huxhams cross is unsuitable for two reasons: 1) the hill climb up from the bridge to Huxhams Cross is suitable for the youthful and fit only; and 2) the need to cross the A384 close to the brow of a hill where traffic is very often still travelling at 60mph makes this a dangerous route entirely unsuited to the young and the elderly. A new bridge over the Dart is surely out of the question for reasons of cost, and likewise a route running along the side of the A380.

In our view, a high priority should be placed on ensuring our young people, and those in low income families, can access their local town. With bus services almost non-existent, cycling provides an excellent alternative, but people need a safe unchallenging route.

In addition to providing access for residents to Totnes, route 3 would make a fabulous tourist attraction, encouraging people to cycle out of Totnes visiting local businesses such as the Sea Trout, the Live & Let Live or the Hill House Tea Rooms.

Totnes has a reputation for leading in environmental thinking, which accounts for some of its attraction to visitors. But with other towns implementing creative solutions for sustainable transport, Totnes will find its reputation diminished if DCC continues to fail to provide a basic safe cycle route for many of Totnes's surrounding villages.

We understand that South Devon Railway has concerns over security, but for the sake the community, we urge DCC to work with the Railway as a matter of priority and find ways to satisfy its concerns.

Yours sincerely

*Karen Gilbert*

Karen Gilbert,  
Clerk to Staverton Parish Council