

Robert Blair Primary School

School Street Consultation Report

January 2023



View West along Brewery Road from Caledonian Road

Robert Blair Primary School: Consultation Report

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Document details	
Version:	1.1
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Circulation Status:	Client
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Executive Summary

This report details the results of a consultation on proposed designs for improvements to the street environment on Brewery Road and Blundell Street, outside Robert Blair Primary School. Feedback on the designs was collected using an online survey, with 20 respondents, alongside drop-in and pop-up events, a workshop with primary school students and engagement with businesses.

Scheme Feedback:

Overall **people were supportive of the proposed designs**. At least half of all survey respondents selected that they would 'very much' like to see all of the changes proposed, this was also reflected in feedback collected at the drop-in and pop-up events. Pupils were also supportive of the designs with nearly all selecting that they would 'somewhat' or 'very much' like to see all of the changes proposed. There were few open-text responses left on the survey or at engagement events thus giving little insight why respondents selected the responses they did, however, where possible these have been provided.

The design elements that had the **most support** among survey respondents and people at engagement events included **resurfacing the pavement, greening, widening the pavement and continuous footways**. The changes that had the **most support among pupils** included **colourful artwork on the road, seating and signage**.

The design elements where there was **less support** from respondents included **cycle parking and seating**. However, these elements still **had high levels of support**. Open-text comments and conversations at engagement events suggested this may be because people feel there is not enough demand for cycle parking. There were also some concerns that seating may lead to anti-social behaviour.

Comments regarding **parking removal presented a mixed picture**. Some respondents were in agreement with parking removal, saying that it supports pedestrian safety and encourages modal shift. However, others were concerned about the potential to exacerbate existing parking issues and potential negative impacts on the local economy.

Businesses either had no comments or were generally supportive of the proposals.

Report Overview

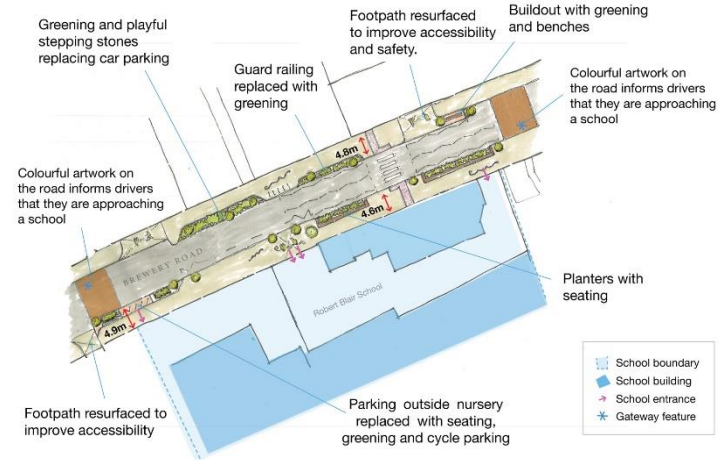
This report details the results of a consultation on proposed designs for improvements to the street environment on Brewery Road and Blundell Street, outside Robert Blair Primary School. These findings will be used by Sustrans and the London Borough of Islington to inform detailed designs.

The school community and local people were asked for their views on the designs through an online survey, a drop-in workshop, a playground pop-up and a student workshop at Robert Blair Primary School. Businesses in the area were also spoken to. There is more detail about these methods on the following page.

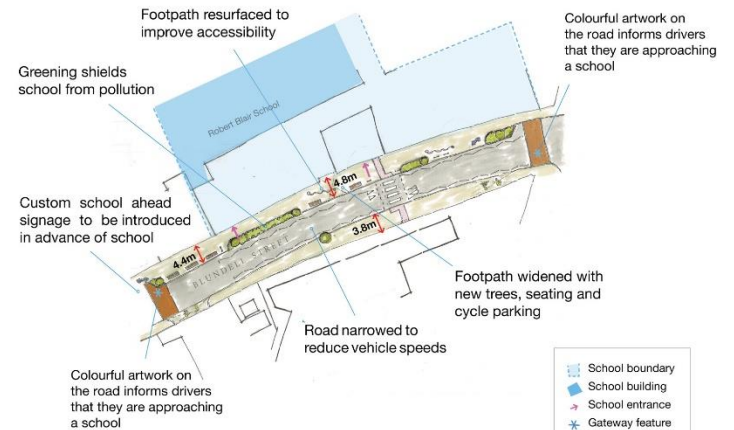
The survey and drop-in session were advertised via leaflet to local residents and email to parents and carers. Posters and wrap-around street bollards were also put up in the local area and leaflets were given to parents and carers in the playground. Staff visited businesses in the area to encourage them to fill in the survey and give their views on the designs.

This report discusses the findings of the survey, the drop-in and pop-up events and the student session. It goes through each element of the designs and presents the feedback gathered through all of these engagement activities.

Brewery Road: Proposed



Blundell Street: Proposed



Engagement Activities

Survey

The survey was open between 14th November and 11th December. Respondents were asked a series of questions about themselves. They were then presented with before and after images of the designs for each of the street and asked a series of Likert style questions asking how much they would like to see various design elements for each road. Respondents were also given an opportunity to leave an open-text comment giving their views on parking removal and there was also an open-text comment at the end of the survey in order to provide additional thoughts. Demographic questions were also asked.

Drop-in and Pop-up sessions

Local residents and the school community were invited to attend an after school 'drop-in' session on 17th November 2022. A 'pop-up' stall was also held in the school playground at pick-up on 23rd November 2022. At both of these events participants were presented with before and after images of the concept designs for Brewery Road and Blundell Street.

Participants were encouraged to give their opinions on the different elements of the designs using sticky dots to indicate how much they wanted these design elements and to leave additional comments on post-it notes.

Student Sessions

Eight pupils took part in a workshop on 23rd November 2022. Pupils were presented with the designs for the streets and asked for their opinions on different design elements. The pupils held up emoji cards to indicate their answers to the questions, and were then asked for further comments.

Business Engagement

Businesses in the area were visited and shown the proposed designs. Their comments on the designs were noted down.



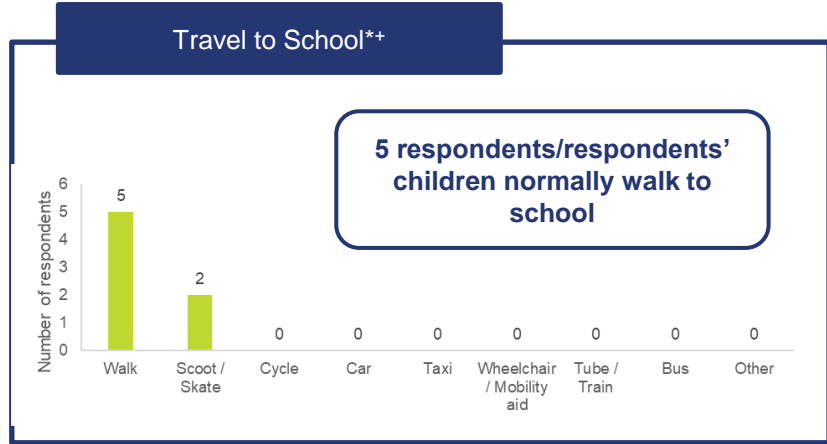
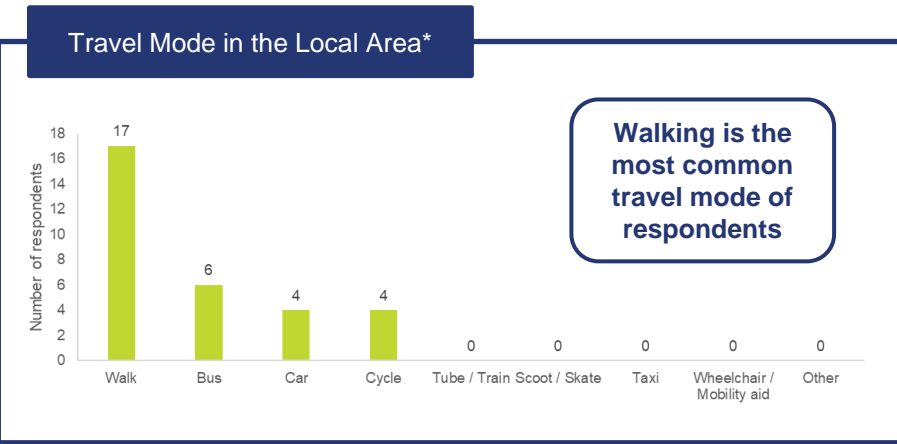
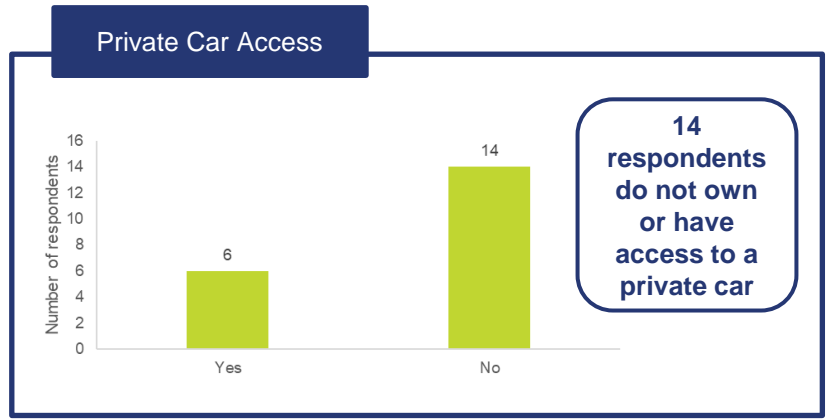
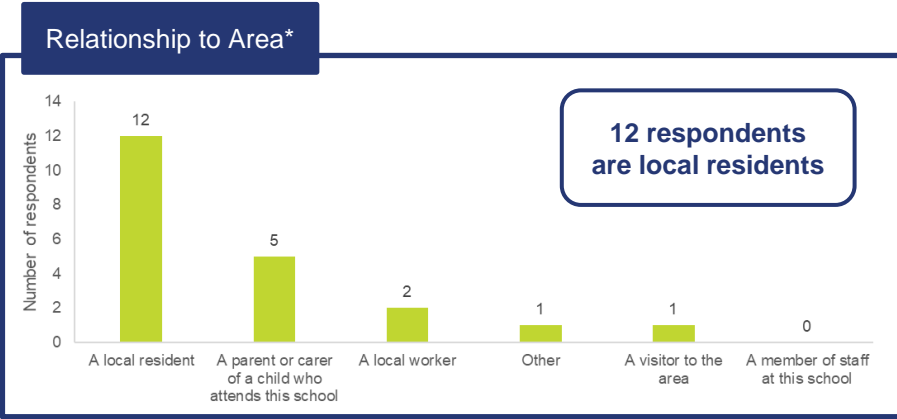
Pop-up and drop-in engagement sheet



Student session

Survey Respondents

Number of respondents: 20



* Respondents could choose multiple answers

** Only asked to those who answered 'A parent or carer of a child at this school' and 'A member of staff at this school' (n=5)

Scheme Feedback



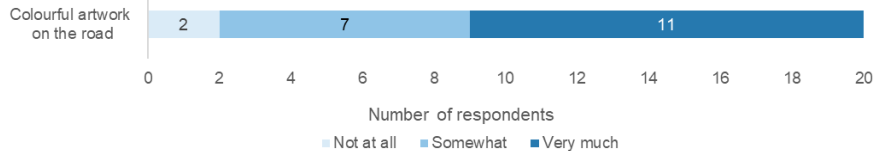
Colourful Artwork on the Road

Survey Results

Brewery Road

11 respondents very much like to see colourful artwork on the road on Brewery Road

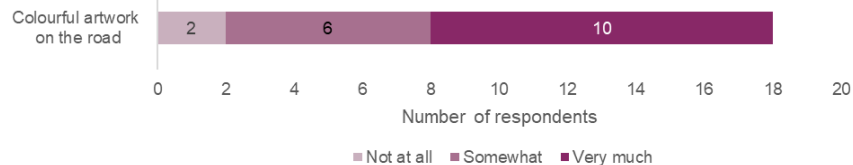
How much would you like to see the following proposed changes made to Brewery Road?



Blundell Street

10 respondents very much like to see colourful artwork on the road on Blundell Street

How much would you like to see the following proposed changes made to Blundell Street?



"I prefer a more colourful and welcoming environment around the school"

Open-text comment on survey

Drop-In and Pop-Up*

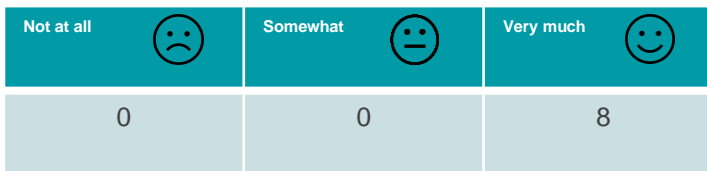
Not at all Somewhat Very much

Brewery Road

Blundell Street



Pupil Session



The pupils were enthusiastic about having colourful artwork on the road. Several pupils suggested that the school logo could be used as the artwork.

*Dots represent sticky dots from engagement activity

Custom Signage

Survey Results

Brewery Road

14 respondents would very much like to see custom signage on Brewery Road

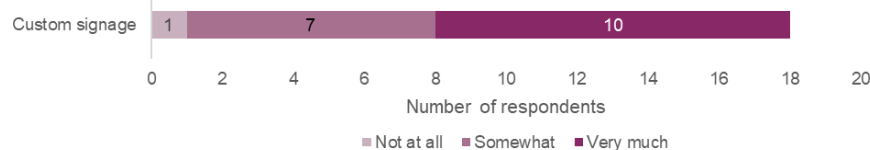
How much would you like to see the following proposed changes made to Brewery Road?



Blundell Street

10 respondents would very much like to see custom signage on Blundell Street

How much would you like to see the following proposed changes made to Blundell Street?



"I would like to see clearer signage nearby where Blundell Street meets Brandon Road. As a resident who lives on this corner I have witnessed drivers at shocking speed who take the corner by veering to the opposite side of the road. As this is so close to the school, I would appreciate some investigation on this matter."

Open-text comment on survey

Drop-In and Pop-Up

Not at all Somewhat Very much

Brewery Road



Blundell Street



"Much more signage. Especially around Screwfix"

Comment at engagement event

Pupil Session

Not at all



Somewhat



Very much



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2

6

Two pupils suggested that the signs could have the school logo on them and another suggested there should be more speed limit signs.

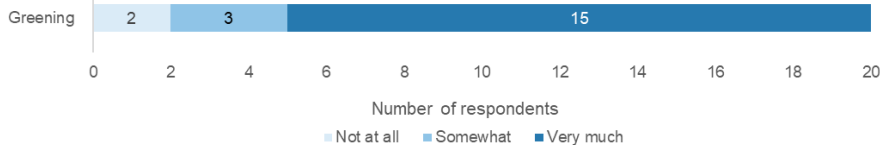
Greening

Survey Results

Brewery Road

15 respondents would very much like to see greening on Brewery Road

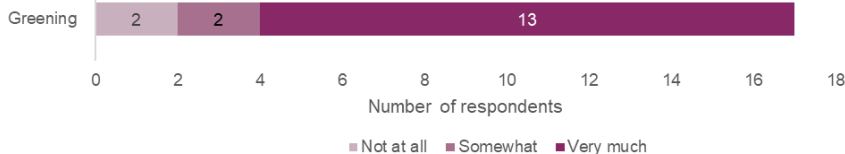
How much would you like to see the following proposed changes made to Brewery Road?



Blundell Street

13 respondents would very much like to see greening on Blundell Street

How much would you like to see the following proposed changes made to Blundell Street?



One respondent wanted the council to ensure that the landscaping work is maintained and continually flowered to deal with change in seasons. Another respondent was very positive about increasing greening and suggested that a community outreach programme could be developed with local residents to encourage upkeep.

“Greening = added beneficial heat island effects”

Open-text comment on survey

Drop-In and Pop-Up

Not at all

Somewhat

Very much

Brewery Road

Blundell Street

Pupil Session

Not at all



Somewhat



Very much



0

4

4

Overall the students were positive about greening on the streets, however one student requested that we ensure that the planters are looked after and well maintained as they found that other planters around the school have not been.

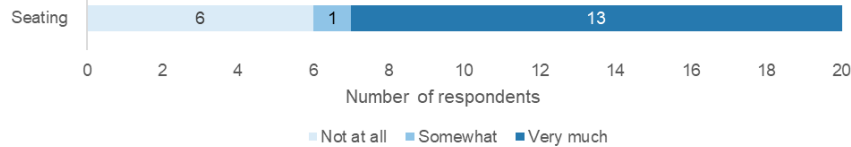
Seating

Survey Results

Brewery Road

13 respondents would very much like to see seating on Brewery Road

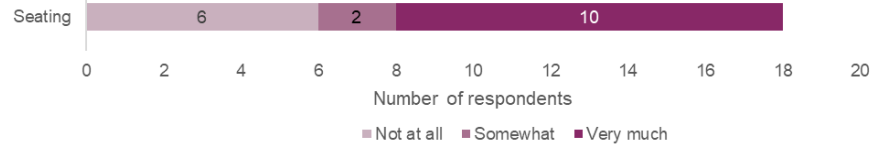
How much would you like to see the following proposed changes made to Brewery Road?



Blundell Street

10 respondents would very much like to see seating on Blundell Street

How much would you like to see the following proposed changes made to Blundell Street?



One respondent commented that they were concerned that the introduction of seating may increase anti-social behaviour in the area particularly as the area already feels isolated. This respondent worried that this may cause greater personal safety fears in an area that they already feel unsafe in.

Drop-In and Pop-Up

Not at all

Somewhat

Very much

Brewery Road

Blundell Street

“More seating”

Comment at event

Pupil Session

Not at all



Somewhat



Very much



0

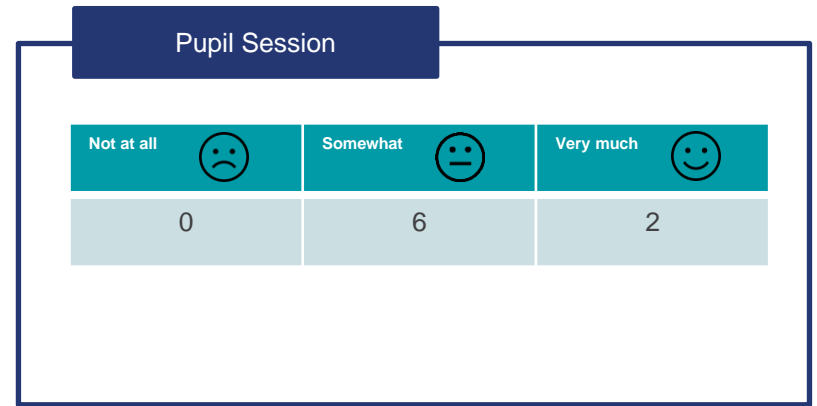
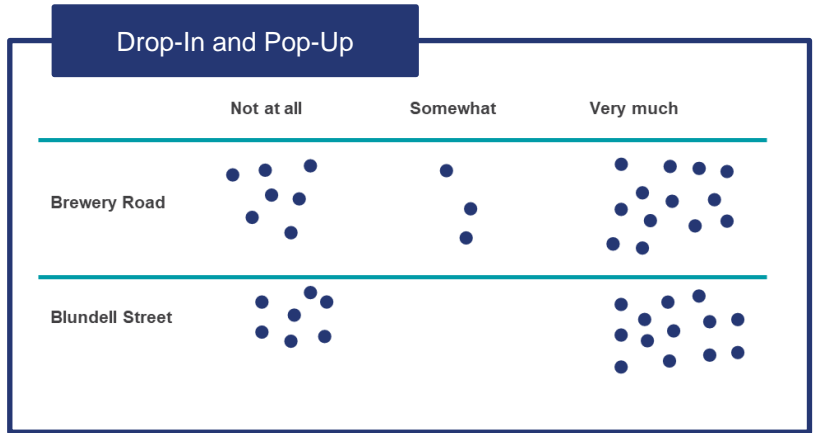
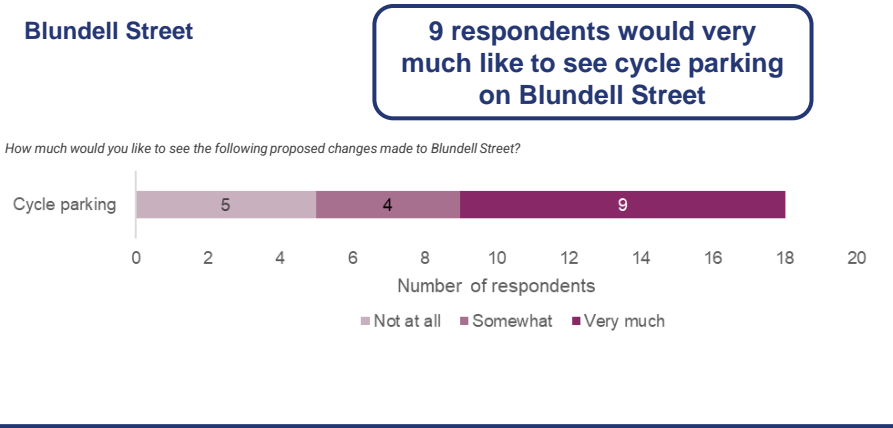
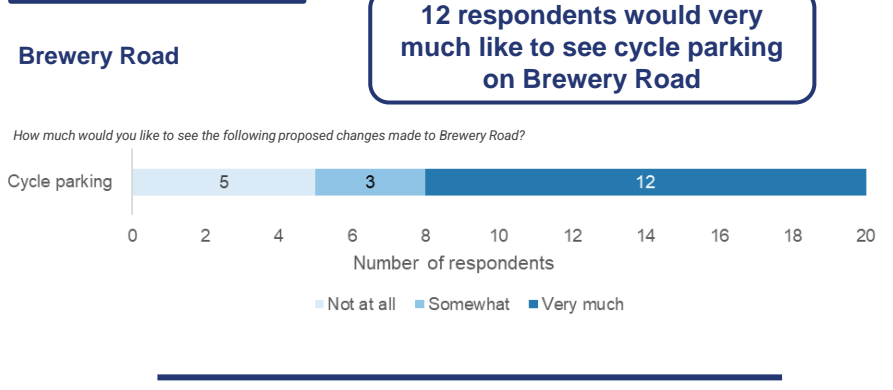
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The students were very positive about having more seating.

Cycle Parking

Survey Results

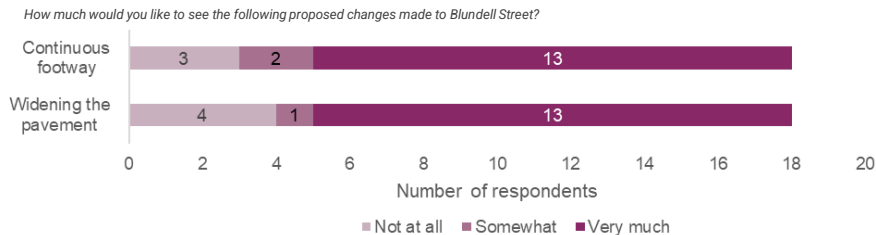


Widening the Pavement and Continuous Footways, Blundell Street

Survey Results

13 respondents would very much like to see continuous footways on Blundell Street

13 respondents would very much like to see pavement widening on Blundell Street



“This route has a lot of HGV and decreasing the width could cause these vehicles to cause damage to the proposed new layout”

Open-text comment on survey

Drop-In and Pop-Up

Not at all Somewhat Very much

Widening the footpath

Continuous footway



Pupil Session

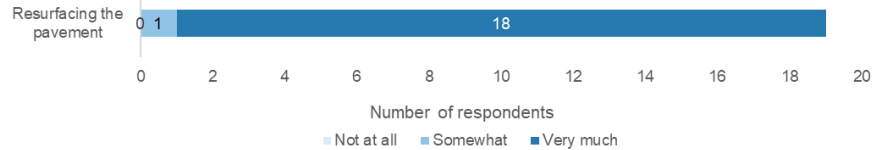
	Not at all	Somewhat	Very much
Wide and better footpaths	1	1	6

Re-surfacing the pavement, Brewery Road

Survey Results

18 respondents very much like to see the pavement resurfaced

How much would you like to see the following proposed changes made to Brewery Road?



Drop-In and Pop-Up

Not at all

Somewhat

Very much

Resurfacing the pavement



Resurfacing of road – lots of bumps

Comment at engagement event

Additional Comments

Parking Removal

Open-text comments on the survey regarding parking removal presented a mixed picture.

Four respondents commented that they supported parking removal, saying that parking removal prioritises child and resident safety, supports modal shift and that there is a lot of parking in the area.

There were also four respondents who were concerned about parking removal. They commented that there is not enough parking available at the moment, that it may increase illegal parking issues around the Screwfix entrance and that it may negatively impact upon the local economy.

“I support removing some parking spaces to improve the road. Children and residents safety come first.”

Open-text comment on survey

“The loss of the parking bay will increase the already existing illegal parking issues around the Screwfix entrance”

Open-text comment on survey

“Leave parking as it is, resurface road and footway. Everything else is fine”

Comment at engagement event

Additional Comments

Other Comments

Additional comments at the engagement events largely focused on crossings. One person asked for more crossings, another asked for a zebra crossing at the end of Brewery Road (towards York Way), whilst someone else raised concerns about the zebra crossing by Caledonian Road being close to the main road. Several people were also concerned about the guard railings outside the school entrance on Brewery Road being removed.

Additional comments from pupils included concerns that the road feels chaotic at the moment, partly because cars parked on the side of the road means that two cars cannot pass each other. One pupil suggested making the road one-way to address this issue. Pupils also wanted the council to ensure that they would still be able to walk to school safely when the scheme is being put in.

Business in the area were generally supportive of the plans, particularly greening and resurfacing. Lawson's timber yard asked that the designers ensure that their large delivery vehicles can turn into the road and another business commented that it would be easier if the road was one way. A few business also asked to be informed when construction work was taking place.

The additional open-text comments on the survey were a mixture of positive and negative. Several respondents said they are supportive of the proposals. One respondent was concerned that the proposals may affect businesses in the area.

Respondents also left suggestions for additions to the proposals. These included:

- Improving the junction of Bundell Street with Conistone Way.
- Introducing a lollipop-person and someone to regulate traffic/parking outside of Screwfix.
- Putting artwork on the walls of the factories on Blundell street.
- Introducing additional traffic calming or speed monitoring. This respondent felt that without these the proposals will not do enough to address speeding issues.

"I agree with all the improvements suggested"

Open-text comment on survey

"The light industrial nature of the area is incompatible with the proposals. How will it affect businesses in the area?."

Open-text comment on survey

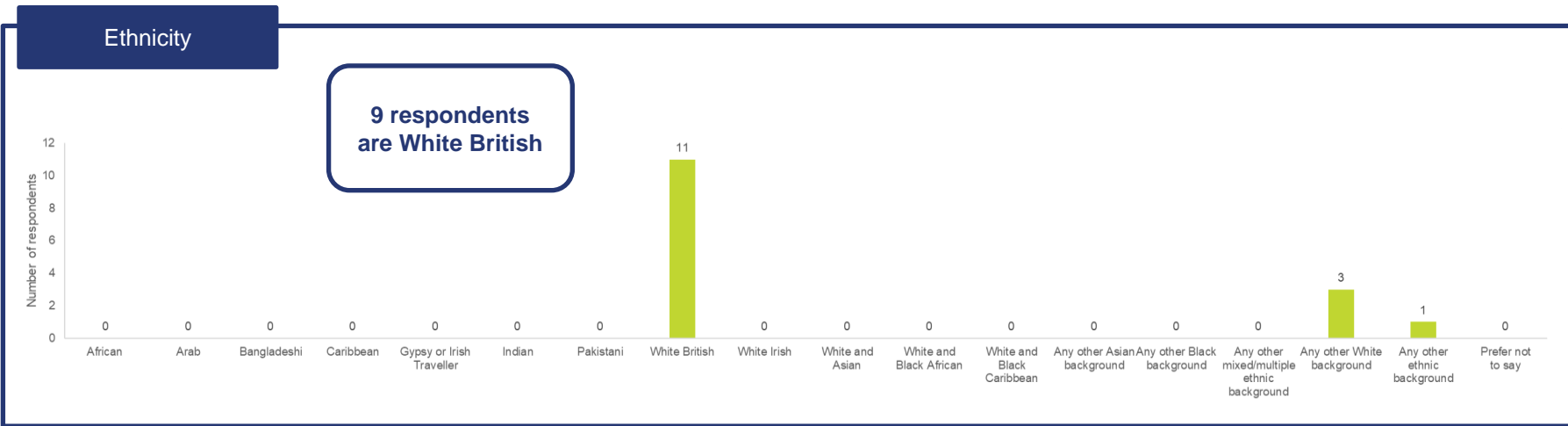
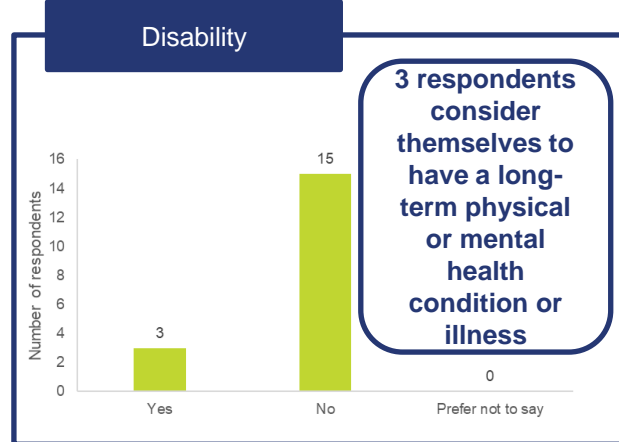
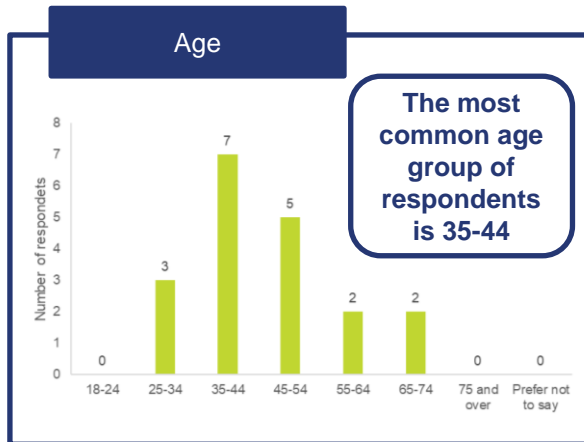
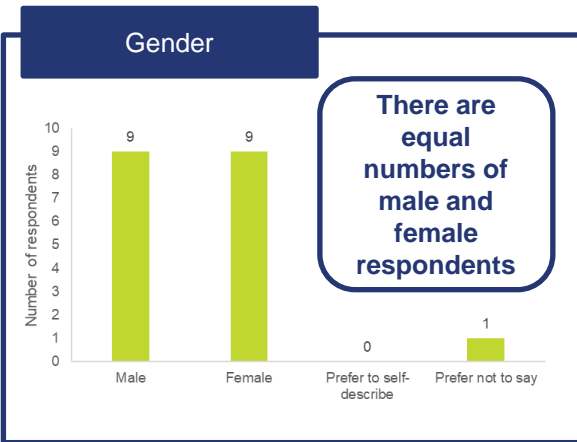
"Some cars drive at very high speeds on Blundell Street (~45-50mph), particularly starting from the York Way end. Unless additional traffic calming or speed monitoring is put in place on this side, it is unlikely these drivers will be able to slow sufficiently near the school. In addition, parents and children walk up Blundell Street to/from Blair School and sometimes need to walk into the street to get around parked delivery vans"

Open-text comment on survey

"Artwork all up Blundell street would be great to brighten up the road and area, there are several large factories with austere plain walls, would be fantastic if the council loaded with the companies and gave opportunity to street artists to design colorful and uplifting images!"

Open-text comment on survey

Appendix: Survey Respondents, Demographics



Appendix: Survey Methodology

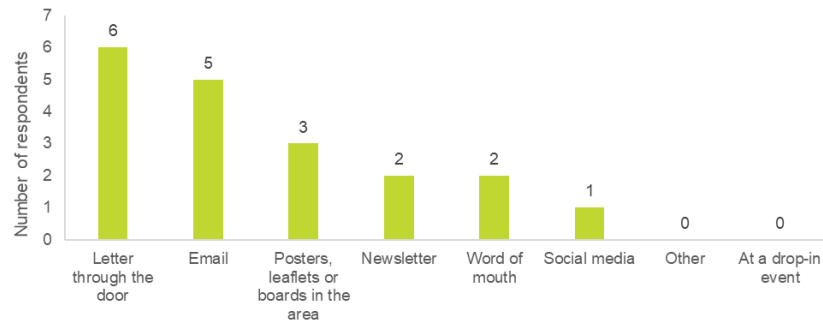
Analysis of the survey was undertaken by the Sustrans Research and Monitoring Unit (RMU) using the data collected from an online survey (hosted on JISC). This survey was open between 14th November to 11th December.

The survey was developed by Sustrans RMU in collaboration with Sustrans Collaborative Design Team and LB Islington. Respondents were asked a series of questions about themselves followed by multiple Likert-style questions to gain a better understanding of their opinions about the local area and their views on possible changes. Respondents were also given an opportunity to leave open-text comments in order to expand upon their responses and provide additional thoughts.

Open text comments were all read and coded manually using a basic coding technique. Coding themes were established from an initial analysis of a sample of comments, with the themes emerging from the data. Codes were checked by at least one additional analyst to ensure consistency. All open text quotes within the report are copied verbatim with original errors unedited.

Where used, percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. As such some percentages may not total 100%. Percentages are calculated based on the number of responses to that question.

The graph below breaks down how respondents found out about the survey:



Appendix: All Open-Text Responses

To deliver environmental improvements, we will be required to remove some parking on the road, do you have any comments about this change?	Please write your comments below: (you will have the opportunity to leave further comments on the next page)	If you have any other comments on the proposals, for either of the roads, please write them below:
No		I am concerned about the proposed seating arrangements, greening proposals, light quality and engagement material. Unfortunately this area experiences high levels of loud and anti-social behaviour particularly at night. I am concerned that with the introduction of benches or other seating arrangements, my personal safety will ultimately be at risk after dark. Benches will encourage anti-social behaviour to dwell on Blundell Street. As Blundell Street already feels unsafe at night due to the lack of 'eyes on the street' caused by its industrial character, I am concerned that providing spaces to dwell after dark will cause more severe and frequent negative behaviours. What are the council proposing to do about vehicular speed reduction or enforcement? Can Sustrans provide a planting plan that ensures the landscaping works will be maintained, and continuously flowered to deal with the change in seasons? Has a landscape designer been appointed? Additionally, will any new additional Street lighting be installed along the length of the street outside of the school - or indeed along the length of Blundell Street to increase individuals' sense of safety after dark? On a separate note, the illustrations produced are of low quality for public engagement. The colouring in using felt tip pens makes the drawings difficult to read and look patchy. Sustrans need to make sure their engagement material is clear and accessible for everyone to understand. Perhaps a visualisation of 'before and after' for each Street would be easier for residents to see the impact of the proposals. Again, holding public consultation during the working day is unsuitable. The notice I received was posted through my letterbox two days after the event had occurred and I was therefore unable to attend. It is not acceptable to notify local residents of a public consultation event after the fact. I would advise that the council's publicity team do better.
No		Eye level signage for companies in Brewery rd. The cars/vans drive and park carelessly and this is not a safe road. Having a lollipop person WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL. Also someone outside Screwfix to regulate the traffic/parking.
Yes	Oppose this idea as the area is an important part of the local economy	The light industrial nature of the area is incompatible with the proposals. How will it affect businesses in the area?
Yes	I prefer a more colourful and welcoming environment around the school, then I agree with removal of some of the parking spaces.	I agree with all the improvements suggested.
Yes	I support removing some parking spaces to improve the road. Children and residents safety come first.	As part of improving the aesthetics of Blundell Street, please consider improving the junction with Conistone Way. It's disgusting and often dirty and dangerous, it's no welcome to what is essentially a lovely estate.
No		Why is a road 45 minutes' walk away from the school relevant?
Yes	This will severely impact traffic flow - Its an Industrial Road with Large Lorries daily	
Yes	there is not enough parking available now	densely populated industrial and business area. taking away current parking, widening of pavements and all the other proposals will only make matters worse.
Yes	Encouraged. Supports modal shift. Greening = added beneficial heat island effects.	
Yes	There is already a great deal of parking in this area	Some cars drive at very high speeds on Blundell Street (~45-50mph), particularly starting from the York Way end. Unless additional traffic calming or speed monitoring is put in place on this side, it is unlikely these drivers will be able to slow sufficiently near the school. In addition, parents and children walk up Blundell Street to/from Blair School and sometimes need to walk into the street to get around parked delivery vans. (Notably, this is also very dangerous for the workers and drivers around the other businesses; they are often unloading/loading on to lorries/HGVs and are very vulnerable to cars driving at high speeds, particularly due to the blind corners).
No		Artwork all up Blundell street would be great to brighten up the road and area, there are several large factories with austere plain walls, would be fantastic if the council loaded with the companies and gave opportunity to street artists to design colorful and uplifting images! Also to increase greenage, i.e plants, trees and such up Blundell and Brandon road would make a great deal of difference I think. Perhaps there are community outreach programs that could be developed with local residence to encourage upkeep as ive heard this happens in other parts of town.
Yes	tree cut down at hostel at 256 york way and not replaced with anything. pollution at junction with A5200	are pavements measured in meters here please?
		I would like to see clearer signage nearby where Blundell Street meets Brandon Road. As a resident who lives on this corner I have witnessed drivers at shocking speed who take the corner by veering to the opposite side of the road. As this is so close to the school, I would appreciate some investigation on this matter.
	The loss of the parking bay will increase the already existing illegal parking issues around the Screwfix entrance	This route has a lot of HGV and decreasing the width could cause these vehicles to cause damage to the proposed new layout.

Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle.

We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

Join us on our journey.

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