

School Streets Phase 4 – Chisenhale Primary School

Consultation Summary Report

23/03/2022



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1 Background

This document outlines the consultation and engagement process for the Chisenhale Primary School, School Street programme in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

The council had developed proposals based on the previous Mayor John Biggs' aspiration to develop 50 School Streets in the borough by 2022.

This approach was previously aligned with the aims and objectives of the Liveable Streets programme that aimed to improve the look, feel and safety of the area for the Tower Hamlets Community. In doing so, Chisenhale Primary School, School Street was implemented under an experimental traffic order (ETO) and created a safe play space along Chisenhale Road (between Zealand Road and Vivian Road) which restricted vehicular traffic but allowed for cyclists to pass.

A five-step plan to deliver the School Streets programmes throughout Tower Hamlets was followed, as shown in the engagement process below. Phases 1 and 2 have been carried out to date.

1.1 Engagement process

Phase 1 – Engagement

Consultation for the Chisenhale Primary School play space took place between Monday 31 January 2022 and Friday 27 February 2022. Information letters were sent out during this period, directing people to the online survey, which was located on Talk Tower Hamlets:

- talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/schoolstreets

The letters also included hardcopy surveys for those who are unable to access the online platform. By using the mixture of an online survey, hard copy surveys as well as digital communications with schools, the engagement phase heard the views of 317 people. The deadline for feedback was 27 February 2022, although where practical, feedback received after this deadline was considered. The deadline for postal responses was three days after this date.

Phase 2 – Results Analysis

Full analysis of responses can be found in Section 2

Phase 3 – Decision/Implementation

Following the engagement activities, the results and feedback will be considered. This will be taken to the mayor's traffic meeting for a decision.

Phase 4 – Review

Should the play space be made permanent, traffic levels and feedback on the schemes will be monitored and if necessary, a further review will commence 12-18 months after permanent implementation.

1.2 Consultation pack distribution

Consultation packs, containing an information letter (including a link to online survey) with survey on the reverse and return envelope were delivered to 790 residential and business properties within the consultation area across 31 January 2022 and 1 February 2022.

There were 140 hard copy surveys received by return post. These responses were manually entered into the online survey to ensure continuity of information for analysis.

1.3 Community Engagement and Communications

Due to COVID-19 and associated government restrictions, no face-to-face engagement took place. However, the team remained focussed on keeping everyone up to date and involved in the engagement work. Digital communication methods were used to ensure an inclusive engagement approach with residents and schools.

1.4 Email distribution and enquiry

In advance of the consultation and throughout the consultation period, the council communicated directly with Chisenhale Primary school.

Comments and queries were directed to the dedicated e-mail address schoolstreets@towerhamlets.gov.uk. The email address was listed on the consultation pack, website, and all associated consultation communications.

1.5 Let's Talk Tower Hamlets

The School Streets page received 813 views throughout the consultation period. The site featured information on school streets as well as ways to feedback such as the online consultation survey.

1.6 School Engagement

- Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to make engagement with the schools and the parents/carers of children as easy as possible. LBTH engaged directly with the school and asked what materials they would like to spread the word about the proposals. Schools could request PDF versions of the leaflet to be sent via their internal/parental emails systems and could be provided with paper copies of the survey.

2 Engagement Survey Results

2.1 Consultation Response Rate

- There was a total of 317 responses to the consultation. 177 people completed the online survey and 140 paper surveys were returned via post.
- None of the questions were mandatory, meaning responders did not have to answer. Therefore for some questions, the number of responders may be less than the total number of responders to the consultation.
- Some questions were multiple choice, meaning responders were able to choose more than one option. Therefore the number of responses to multiple choice questions may add up to more than the total number of responders.
- 250 responders self-identified as a local resident of the area for the proposed school street.
- 14 respondents said they own a business in Tower Hamlets
- 107 responders responded as parents or guardians of children who attended the school.

2.2 Results Analysis

Q5. Are you a...?

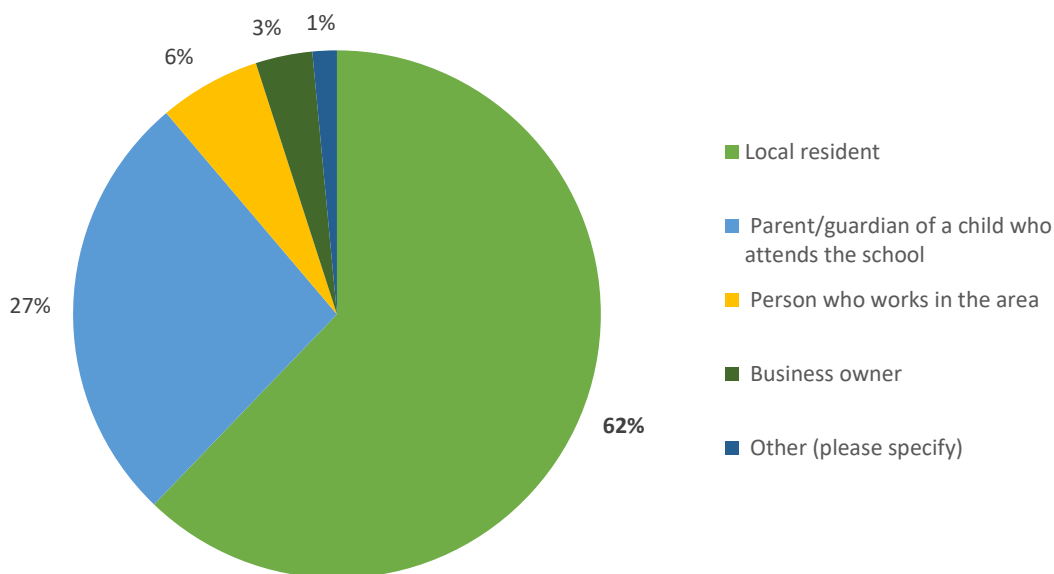


Figure 1: Pie chart displaying who the respondents identified as

- 402 responses were received for this question which is more than the total number of respondents. More than one option was able to be selected by the respondent.
- Most respondents to the consultation were local residents (250).
- This is followed by 107 stating that they are a parent/guardian of a child that attends the school.

- 25 said they work in the area
- 14 said they were a business owner
- Six people chose 'other' and these responses ranged from Chisenhale Primary School employees to Grandparents and visitors through the area.

Q6. If you are a parent, carer or staff, how do you predominately travel to school?

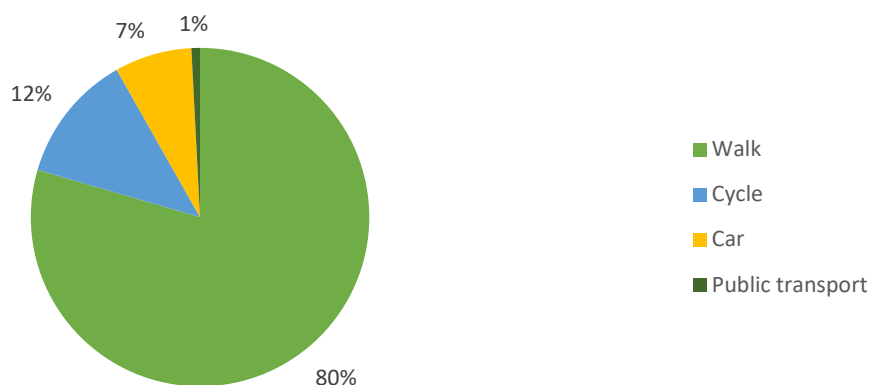


Figure 2: Pie chart representing the mode of travel used to get to school if they said that they were a parent, carer or staff member

- Multiple choice question
- 122 responses were received for this question.
- Of those that said they are a parent, carer or staff member (107), the majority (87) said they walk to school.
- 14 respondents said that they cycle to school
- Nine respondents said they use a car to get to school.

Q7. What arrangement would you like to see implemented permanently outside Chisenhale Primary School?

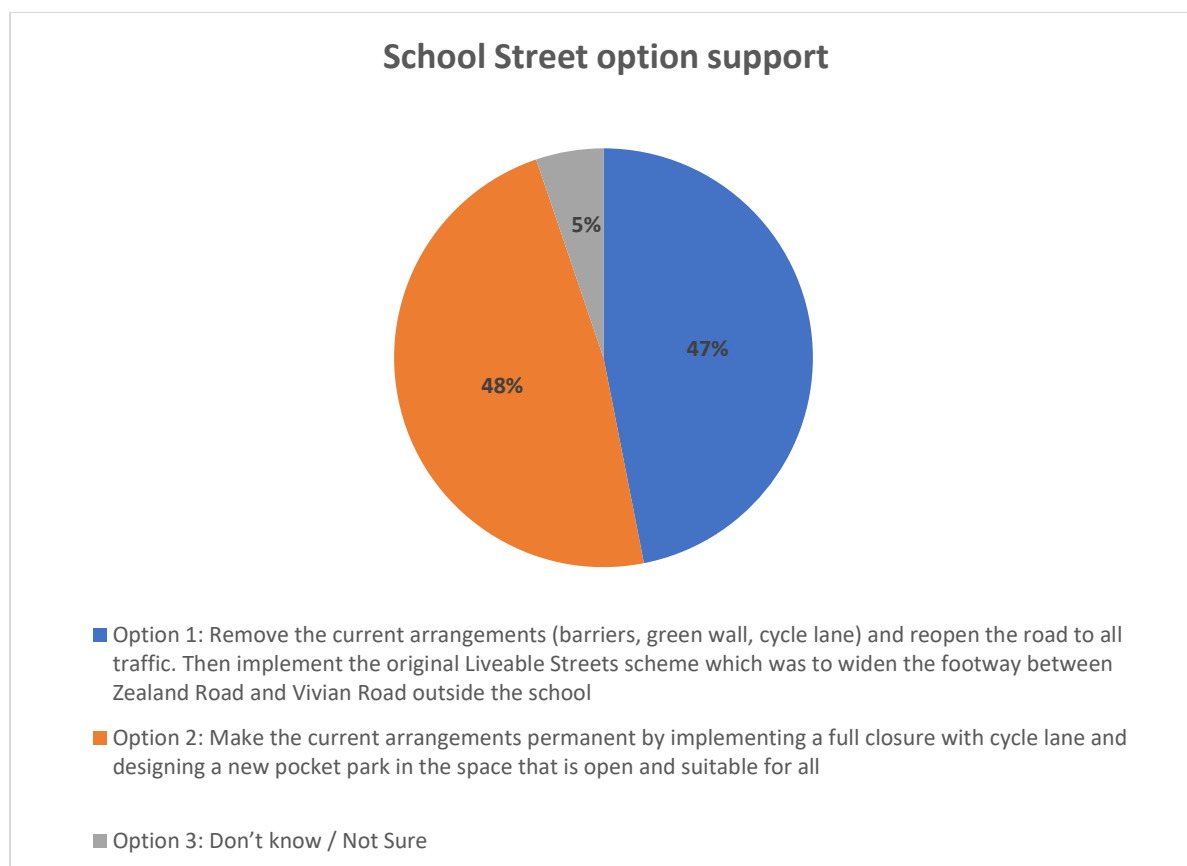


Figure 3: Pie chart displaying if respondents wanted the removal or implementation of the current arrangements. This also shows those that did not know or were not sure.

- A total of 315 people responded to this question.
- 150 (48%) respondents wanted to remove the current arrangements and reopen the road to all traffic and the implementation of the original Liveable Streets scheme which was to widen the footway on Zealand Road (Option 1 – remove permanent play space, revert to Liveable Streets plan).
- 148 (47%) respondents wanted to make the current arrangements permanent by implementing a full closure with cycle lane and designing a new pocket park in the space that is open and suitable for all (Option 2 – keep permanent play space with additional cycle lane and pocket park).
- 17 (5%) respondents were unsure.

The following questions are free text questions to allow for commentary on the preferred option stated in Q7 or to make future points.

Q8: Please provide any reasons for your answer, including any suggestions of how it could be improved or changed

Q9: Are there any further comments you would like to make regarding the scheme?

A summary of the responses to Q8 and Q9 is provided in Appendix A.

Q10. Are you responding to this questionnaire as an individual or on behalf of an organisation, group or business?

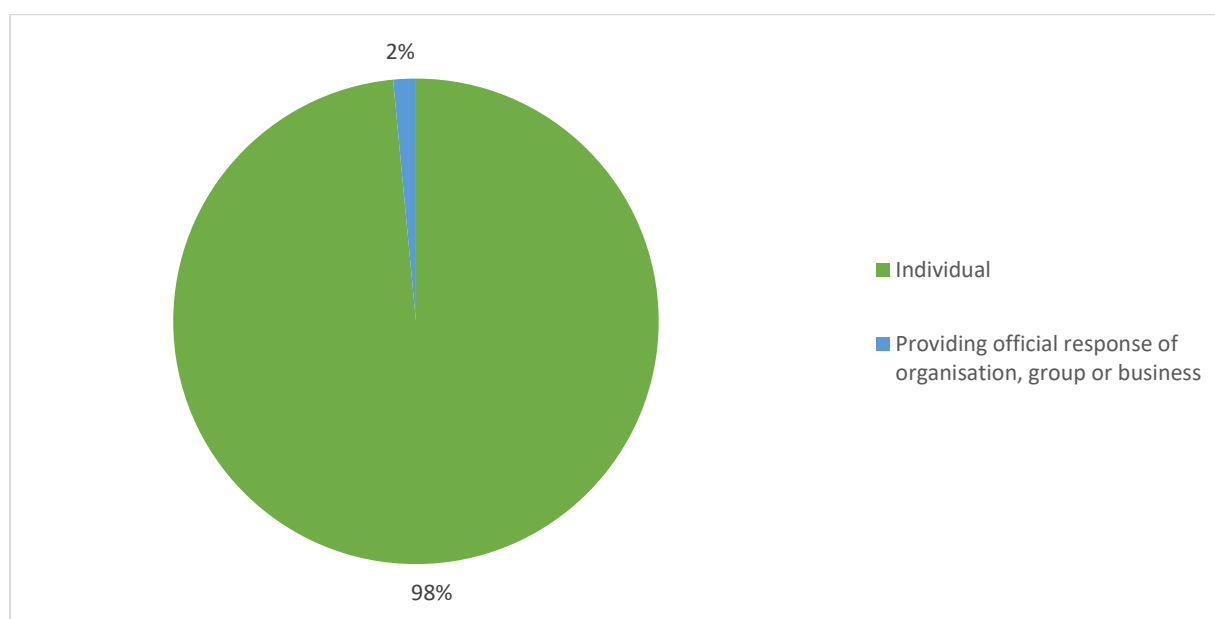


Figure 4: Pie chart representing if those responding were an individual or business.

- 131 (98%) respondents were individuals whereas 2 respondents were providing a response on behalf of an organisation, group or business.

2.3 Cross analysis of data

Support of School Street options – parent / resident split summary:

307 responders expressed an opinion on the school street options presented.

- 242 responders said they were residents. Of those 133 supported Option 1; 93 supported Option 2; and 14 said they were not sure/didn't know.
- 107 responders said they were a parent/carer. Of those, 17 supported Option 1; 86 supported Option 2; and 4 said they were not sure/didn't know.
- 53 responders said they were both a parent/carer and they were a resident. Of those, 9 supported Option 1; 40 supported Option 2; and 4 said they were not sure/didn't know.
- 24 responders said they work in the area. Of those, 9 supported Option 1; 12 supported Option 2; and 3 said they were not sure/didn't know.
- 13 responders said they were business owners. Of those, 2 supported Option 1; 10 supported Option 2; and 1 said they were not sure/didn't know.

- Finally, 12 responders said they were a parent/carer, a resident of the area, and work in the area. Of those 2 supported Option 1 and 10 supported Option 2.

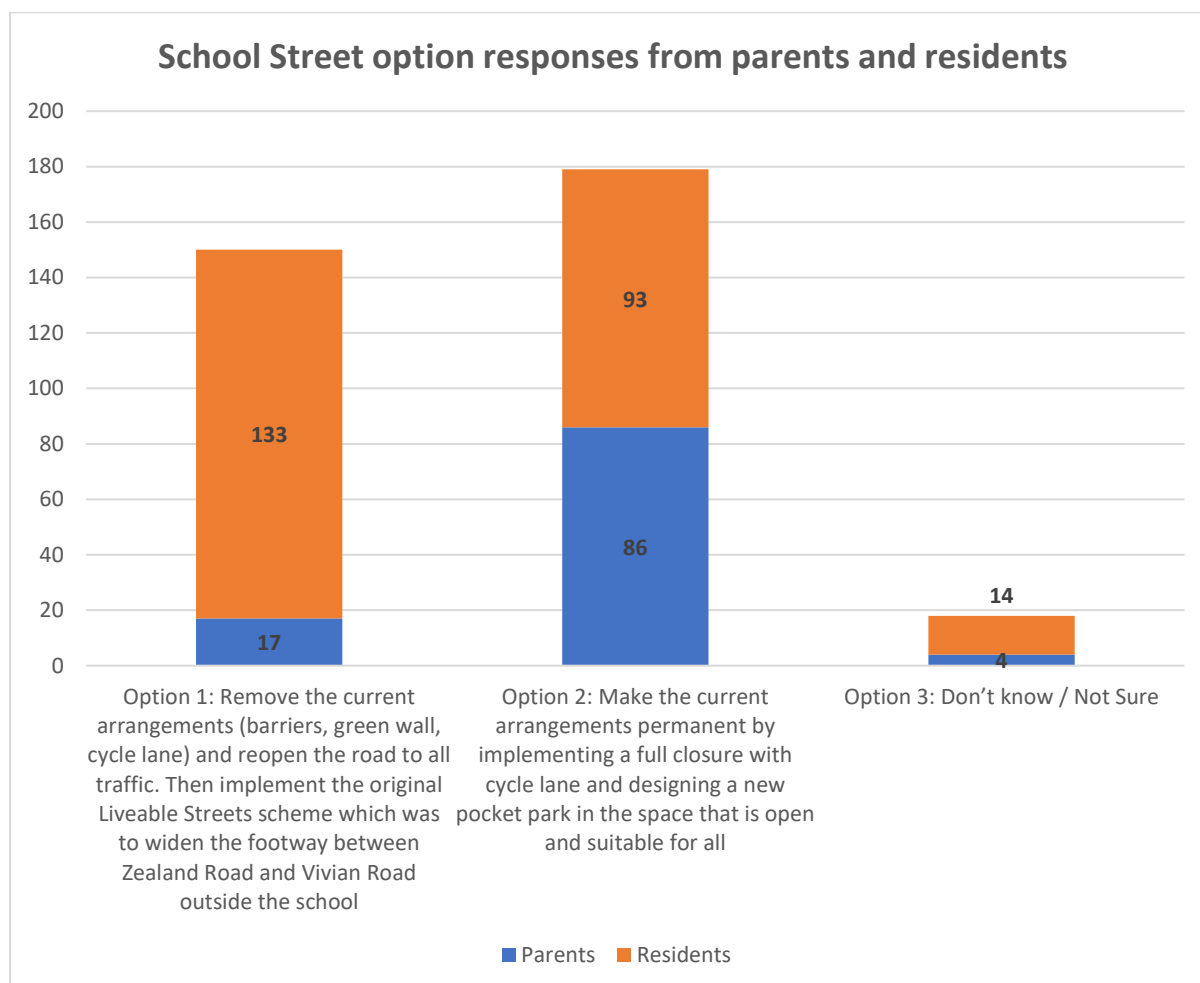


Figure 5: Support for School Street based on those that responded as parents and residents whilst identifying with other options.

- Figure 5** displaying those that responded as a parent or resident along with identifying as other options. Responders were able to choose more than one option so some have self-identified as both a parent and a local resident.
- When cross analysing the data in this way 179 respondents are for option 2, a play space closure being implemented permanently. 40 of the 180 responders self-identified as both a parent and resident.
- Whereas 150 respondents were for Option 1 (the play space being removed). Nine of these responders stated that they were a parent and local resident.
- The majority of support to Option 1 (the play space closure) was made by those who identified as residents.

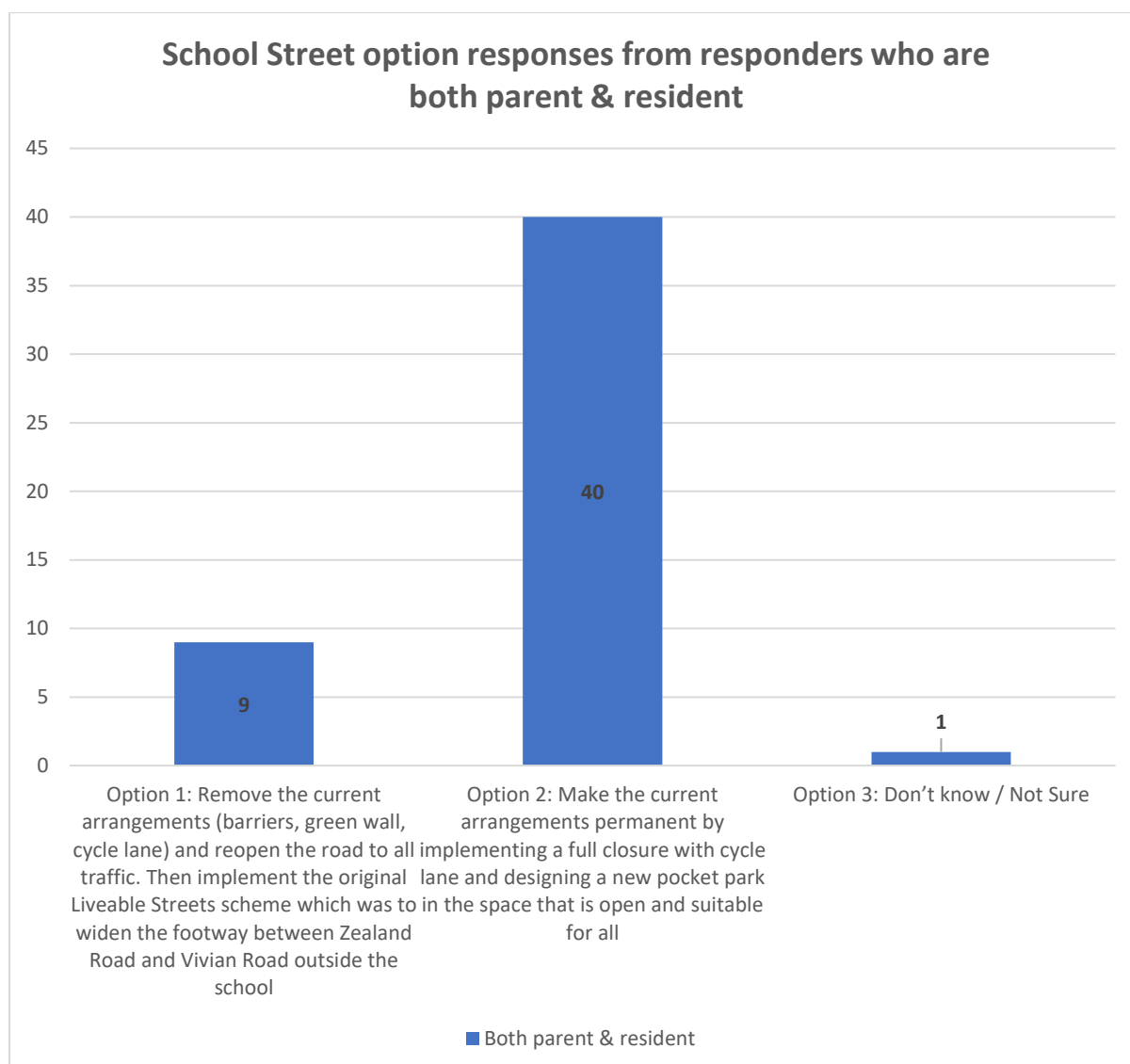


Figure 6: Graph displaying respondents that identified as both a parent and local resident.

- This chart displays those respondents who identified as both a parent and local resident. There were significantly fewer respondents that identified as both a parent and local resident.

2.4 Demographic Questions and Free Text Comments

Question 8 and 9 are free text comments, whilst question 11-20 are demographic questions. These can be found in appendix A.

3 Conclusion

317 respondents responded when asked if they would want to make the existing changes permanent or remove them. Almost evenly divided, 148 individuals (46.7%) responded in favour of retaining the current arrangements in place which includes establishing a full closure with a cycling lane and constructing a new pocket park in the space that is open and accessible to everybody. In contrast, 150 respondents (47.3%) wished to remove the current arrangements and re-open the route to total traffic and initial Liveable Streets concept, which called for the widening of the footway between Zealand Road. 17 (5%) of those polled were unsure.