Funded by UK Government

Active Travel England

South Gloucestershire Council

Delivering for you

Walking & cycling improvements in Kingswood

Consultation feedback

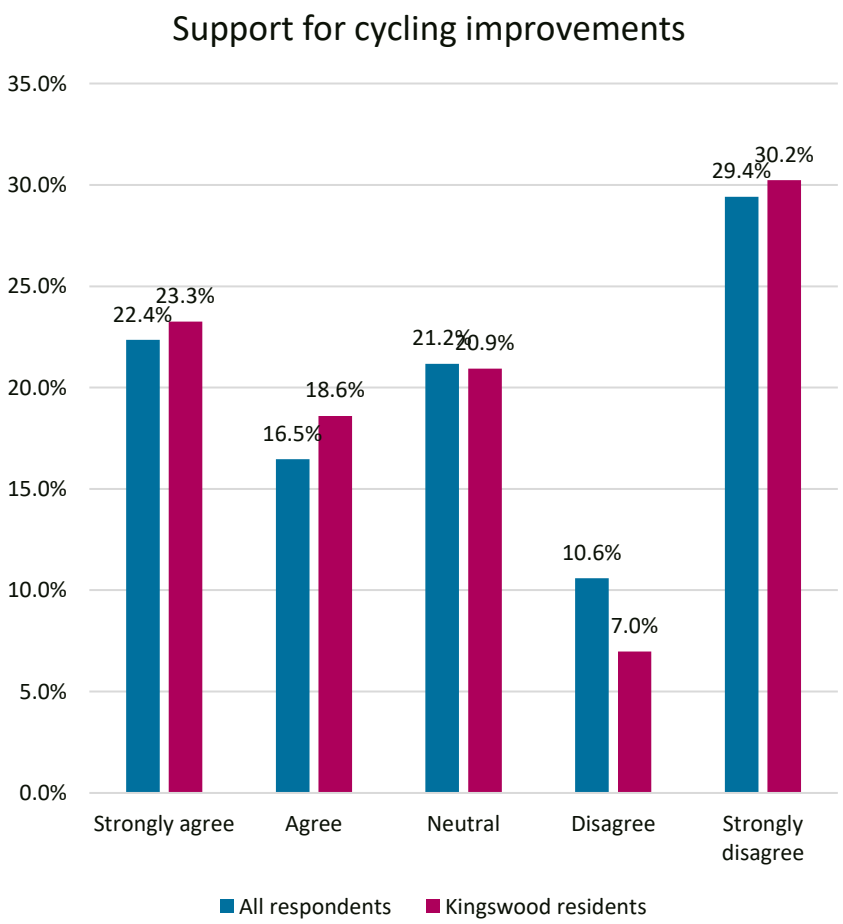
Background

- Active Travel England funding available to support improvements in and around Kingswood
- Proposals:
  - New stretches of cycle lane connecting Kingswood with Bristol network
  - New/improved facilities for pedestrians
- Consultation via Common Place open from 10 November – 22 December
- Promoted via social media, letter drops to residents and emails to local walking and cycling groups

Who completed the survey

- 126 respondents
- Relatively few local residents (46.7%). 43.3% of people were responding because they travel through this area. A further 10% work in Kingswood.
- Few responses from younger people (under 35). Other groups are well represented (especially those of retirement age).
- 62% work either full or part time, 36.3% are retired.
- More men (57.7%) than women (41%) responded.
- High proportion (39%) of people with a disability provided feedback.

Support for the proposals: Cycling improvements



- Net support amongst local people (41.9% vs 37.2%). People who drive through the area are less supportive.

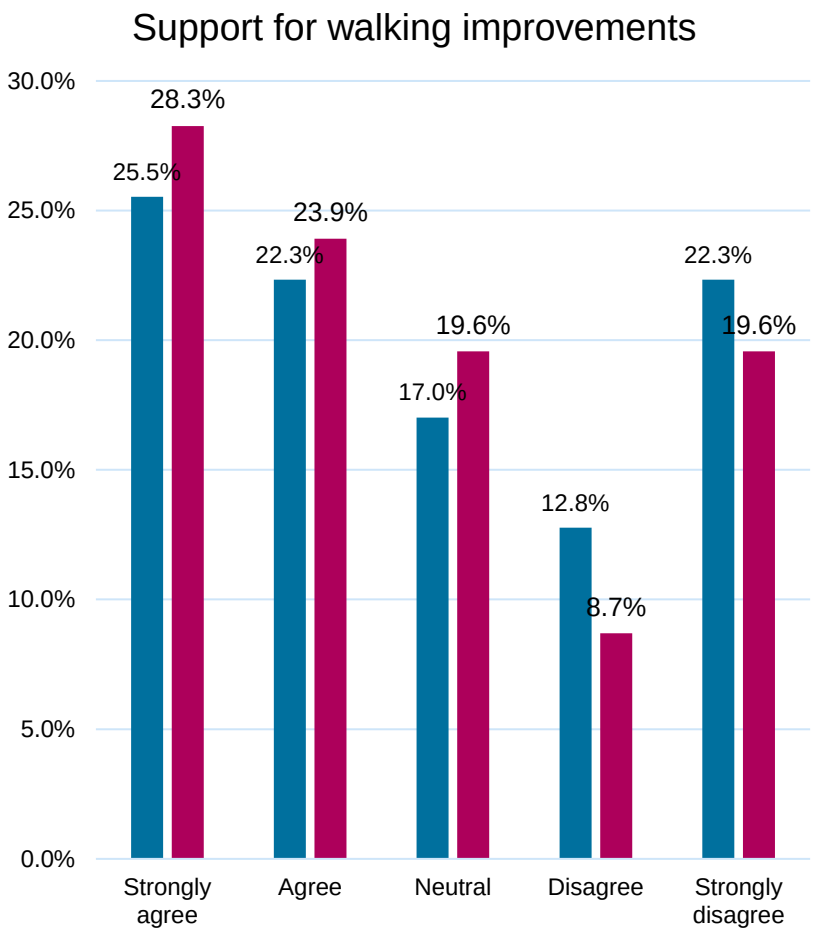
Supportive	Opposing
• Improves safety • Supports switch away from cars • Improves access to more places • Makes cycling a possibility	• Measures are too limited - don't go far enough • Concern about slowing down cars • Spend money on other things e.g. improving high street

"I would be able to ride my bike; at the moment I do not feel safe in traffic."

"The money would be better spent in shopping and parking infrastructure or in supporting busses than on cycling for a small minority."

"Prioritisation of those walking and cycling is important to improving neighbourhoods."

Support for the proposals: Pedestrian improvements



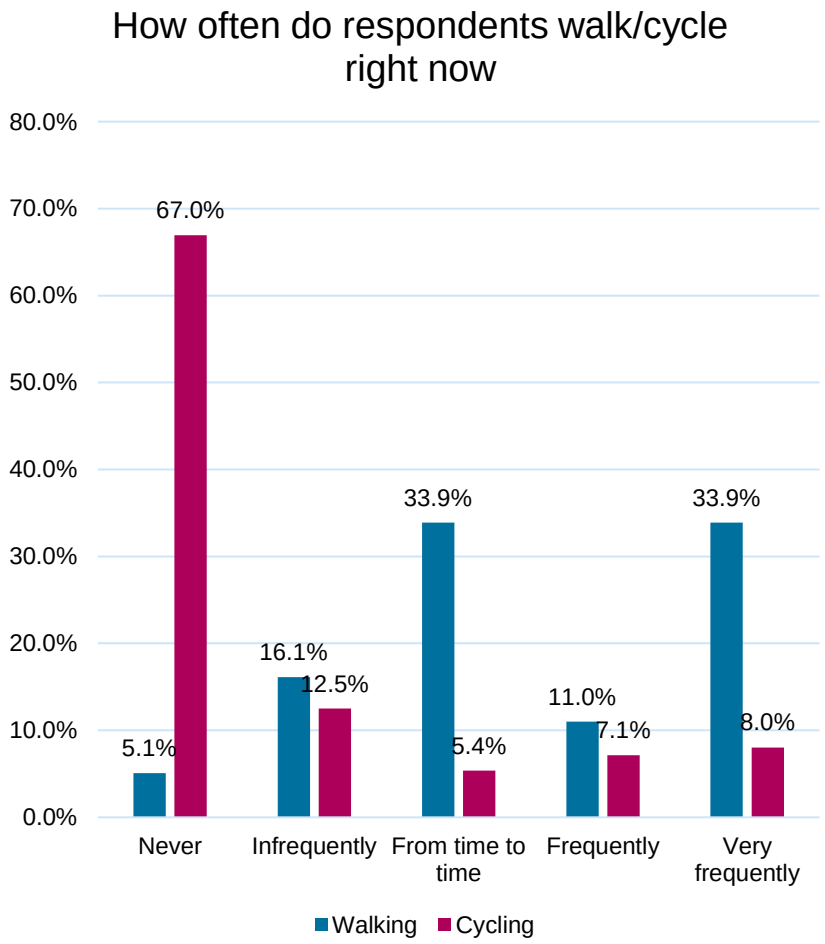
- Net support for proposed walking improvements (47.8% vs 35.1%). Stronger support amongst local people.

Supportive	Opposing
• Improves accessibility • Improves safety • Supports switch away from cars	• Could deter people from visiting Kingswood • Not needed • Concern about slowing down cars

"There is a need to prioritise pedestrians so that car drivers are reminded to slow down and look out for walkers, and to encourage more people to walk."

"Active travel is a leisure/health activity, not to be confused with an economic/retail activity. Both have different profiles and requirements. They can be combined, but not at the expense of using cars."

Current behaviour: Walking and cycling

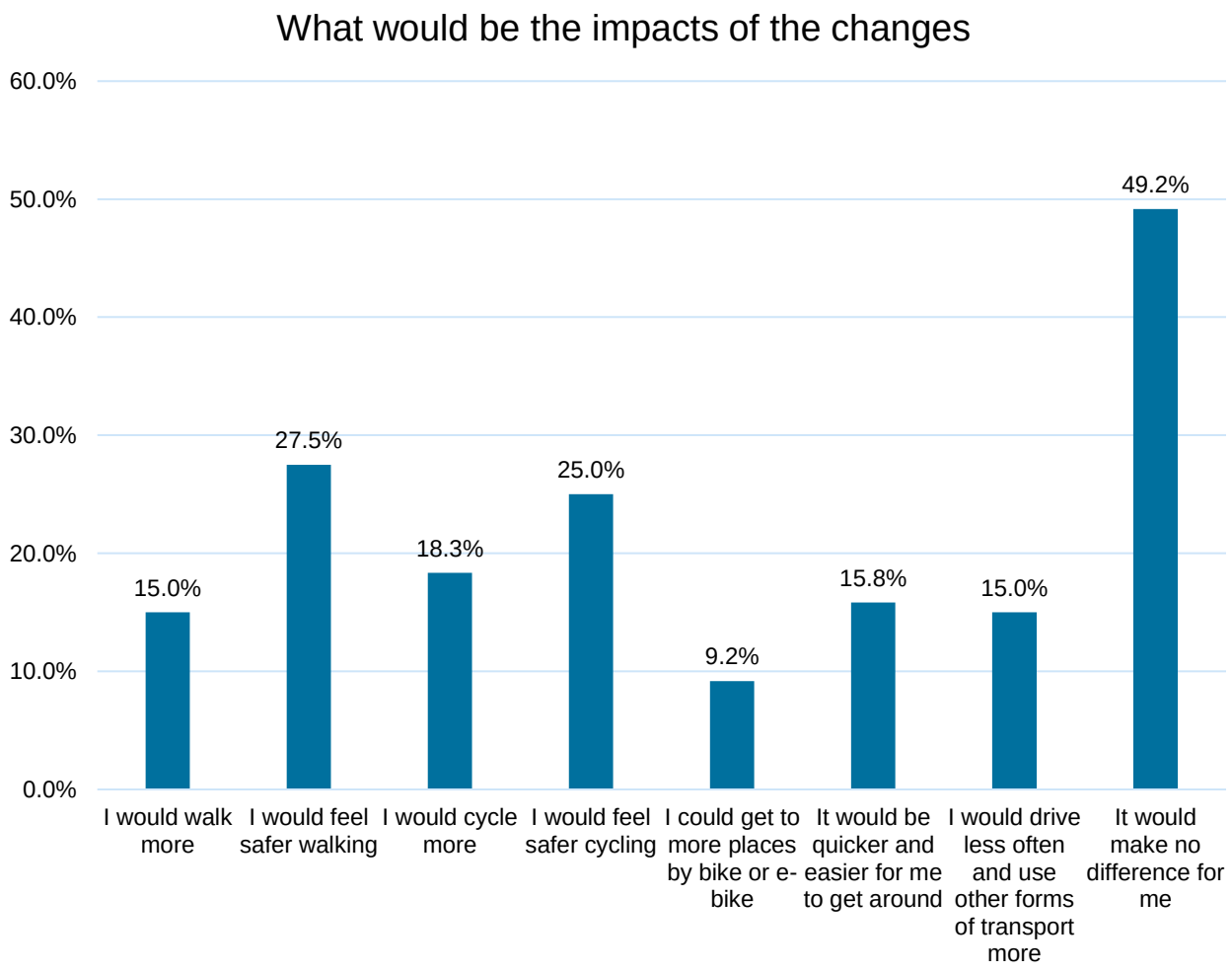


Why I don't walk more	Why I don't cycle more
• Nothing to walk to • There's so much traffic • Pavements are too narrow/blocked with parked cars • Issues with crossings – too few/ no dropped kerbs • Practicalities e.g. carrying heavy shopping • I just prefer to drive • I don't have time	• Don't have a bike/don't know how to ride • Concerned about safety • Traffic • No cycle lane/cycle lanes don't link up • Too hilly/not physically able • Practicalities e.g. how to carry shopping • Lack of facilities e.g. safe place to store bike

"Traffic (deters me from walking). But there is little to draw me to the area which feels very down at heel."

"Lack of designated cycle routes and existing cycle lanes quite often have vehicles parked over them."

What impact might the improvements have?



- Wouldn't make a difference for half of respondents (only 46.7% of those who completed the survey are Kingswood residents)
- Biggest improvement is in feelings of safety
- 15% would drive less often

"It would be nice to see some attempt to link the high street in Kingswood to the path."

"Will make traffic congestion worse, people will be less inclined to use Kingswood shopping centre."

"It would encourage more people to cycle if there was a dedicated route to Kingswood."

"Any idea to restrict vehicle access or make it more difficult to travel (by car) is not a good idea."

Suggestions

Respondents were provided details of the specific changes and were given an opportunity to add comments related to specific locations. Comments are shared on this online map

Comments related to:

- Other locations where pedestrian crossings might be needed
- Other locations where cycle routes could be beneficial
- Requests for measures to slow traffic
- Address anti-social behaviour issues
- Identifying issues with vehicles parked on pavements - Requests for more enforcement of parking restrictions
- Support for proposals
- Potential for traffic to be diverted to side roads

Final comments

The final question gave respondents an opportunity to share any other feedback about their priorities for transport improvements in this area. Topics mentioned included:

- Other priorities for spending money locally (high street regeneration, public transport etc.)
- Measures don’t go far enough
- Concern about congestion/anti-motorist policies
- Requests for more enforcement of parking restrictions

“Make Kingswood liveable for those in it, not just those driving through.”

“These proposals are so small; they won't have a huge impact.”

“There is nothing in the proposals to help or encourage extra pedestrian access to the high street shops”

“In general, I am broadly supportive. However, I would like to see more attention paid to improving bus and rail provision.”