Proposed Road Safety Improvements, Ashley Primary School, Ashley Road, Walton on Thames

Public Engagement Results



Public Engagement Overview

Background & Purpose

Surrey County Council is proposing a scheme to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility on both Hersham Road and Ashley Road near to Ashley C of E Primary School.

The proposal proposes to widen the existing pedestrian refuge islands on both roads to provide additional waiting space for children and families as they wait to cross these two roads as part of their school journey.

A public engagement exercise was carried out between 9th February 2026, and 7th March 2026 providing residents, local businesses, and other road users with an opportunity to review the proposed scheme and share their views.

The purpose of the engagement was to gather local insight, understand any concerns, and ensure that all affected stakeholders had the chance to contribute before the scheme progresses further.
This report summarises the feedback received throughout the engagement period and sets out officers' recommendations and responses to the comments raised.

Engagement Methodology

Engagement materials - including plans, supporting information, and speed data - were made available on the project webpage: https://ashley-primary-walton.commonplace.is

To ensure wide awareness, all residents and businesses within the area were notified by letter, local schools were contacted by email, and information boards were placed in the area.

Engagement Response Level

118	Survey respondents
15	Respondents living on impacted roads
98	Respondents with children attending Ashley Primary School

Recommendation

The engagement findings show very strong support to progressing the scheme as currently proposed, with no amendments necessary.

The majority of respondents, including residents living on the affected roads, expressed strong support for changes to these two pedestrian refuge islands. The scheme is recognised as delivering meaningful near-term safety benefits for families and children traveling to and from Ashley Primary School.

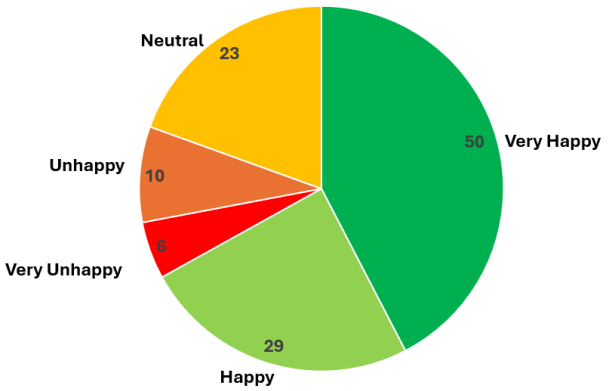
Concerns mainly related for the desire for controlled zebra crossings.

Sentiment of Respondents

How people feel about the proposed pedestrian safety improvements

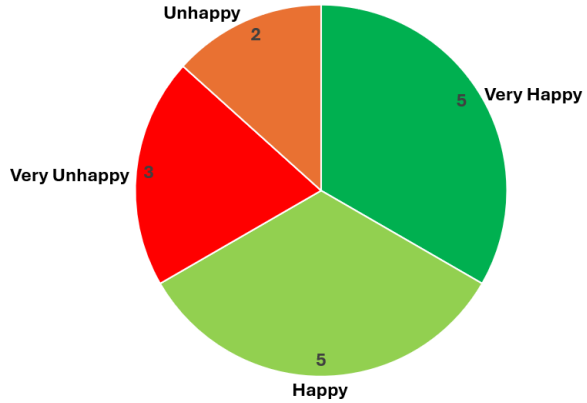
There is strong support for the scheme, across all respondent groups

Overall
(118 respondents)



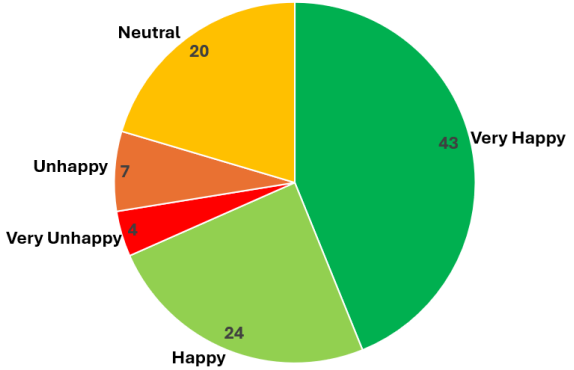
67%	happy or very happy
13%	unhappy or very unhappy
20%	neutral

Residents of impacted roads
(15 respondents)



67%	happy or very happy
33%	unhappy or very unhappy

Families with children travelling to school
(98 respondents)



69%	happy or very happy
11%	unhappy or very unhappy
20%	neutral

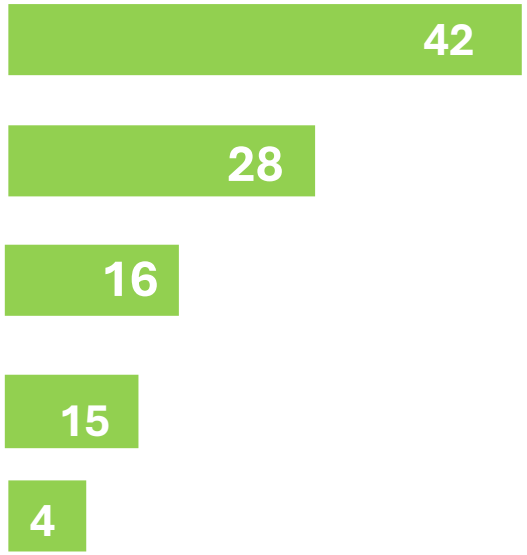
Positive Feedback

What people said they like about the proposed pedestrian safety improvements

Key Positive Themes

- ✓ Strong support for measures to improve the safety for crossing these two roads
- ✓ General approval for widening the two islands
- ✓ Appreciation that improvements are happening
- ✓ Welcome the improvements but some would prefer a zebra crossing
- ✓ Support for promoting walking, cycling and active travel

Number of mentions



What people told us...

Widening of pedestrian areas is much needed. During school drop-off and pick-up the areas are overcrowded and dangerous. My 4-yr old son was nudged into the road on the way to school...

I am pleased that something is actually going to be done. I use the Ashley Road junction crossing every day.

I am happy the islands will be widened as they are currently not fit for purpose given the number of children and parents trying to cross the roads.

This new scheme will help to safeguard local children and parents, but it doesn't go far enough. We need a zebra crossing.

Key Insight

Respondents primarily value the scheme because they believe it improves safety for children and families, as they walk to and from the school, and that something is being done to address the long-standing safety concerns at these locations.

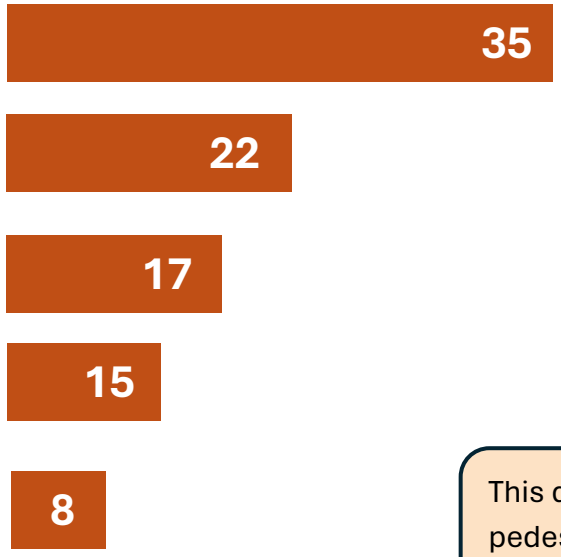
Objections and Concerns

What people said they did not like about the proposed pedestrian safety improvements

Key Objection Themes*

- We need a zebra crossing
- Concerns that there are no measures to reduce the speed of vehicles
- The proposed measures do not improve the visibility problems
- Concerns that the scheme appears to be poor value, especially if a zebra crossing is installed in the future
- Would like to see the parking and crossing from opposite the school be made safer

Number of mentions



What people told us...

A wider refuge isn't a solution- cars won't stop unless they legally have to... This does nothing to solve the issue, it still needs a zebra crossing

There needs to be speed control, not just widening... cars speed down this section

This does nothing to improve visibility for pedestrians.. Children crossing in the dark will still not be seen

Why spend money on this when we'll need a zebra crossing later?

It doesn't solve the danger of crossing from the parking bays opposite the school

** Please see Concerns and Suggestions page for more details on these comments*

Key Insight

Many respondents believe the scheme doesn't go far enough, preferring a controlled zebra crossing. They also highlighted that it fails to address speeding and poor visibility, and raised concerns about cost, value for money, and the ongoing risks from parking and crossing opposite the school

Concerns & Suggestions (1/2)

Summary of concerns raised and officer responses

Concern	Officer response
The scheme is inadequate - zebra crossing for both locations is what is needed	• We recognise that many respondents feel a controlled zebra crossing is the preferred long-term solution. However, we do not have the budget required to deliver two controlled zebra crossings on Ashley Road and Hersham Road. What we can do is deliver the proposed improvements now, to make both pedestrian island crossings more accessible and safer rather than delaying action. • There are future plans within the SCC Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) for Walton on Thames that include zebra crossings at both of these locations, but both funding and timescales for delivery has yet to be confirmed. • Our current proposal delivers significant safety improvements in the interim and ensures that enhancements can be implemented without delay
This scheme does not include measures to reduce the speeds at these locations	• A 20mph limit is being proposed for Walton on Thames, both locations are within the proposed extent of the 20mph. For more information on this proposal please see here: https://walton-on-thames.commonplace.is
The scheme does not address concerns that improvements are needed to improve visibility of pedestrians crossing these roads	• The proposed scheme has been designed to deliver practical, near-term safety benefits, including widening the refuge islands to give pedestrians more space and improving the layout to help make crossing movements more predictable. These measures support safer crossing behaviour. • The proposed 20mph scheme will also enhance safety for all road users, including those travelling to and from Ashley Primary School. The introduction of a sign only 20mph speed limit serves as a clear visual reminder for drivers to remain aware of their surroundings, practically given the high number of pedestrians in the area, including vulnerable groups such as school children and older individuals who may have reduced mobility.

Concerns & Suggestions (2/2)

Summary of concerns raised and officer responses

Concern	Officer response
Lack of measures to improve the parking and crossing opposite the school	• We recognise that there is a desire for measures to make crossing Ashley Road opposite the school safer. The site in and around Ashley C of E Primary School has been investigated several times over the years, using the Road Safety Outside Schools policy most recently in 2023; https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-safety/outside-schools Recommendations were made including pedestrian crossing improvements on both Ashley Road and Hersham Road. • These requests have been noted and could be considered as part of a later phase of this scheme which could be delivered by the new unitary council of East Surrey following Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in April 2027.
Poor value for money	• The proposed improvements are designed to address important safety issues that exist now. Widening the islands provides immediate, practical benefits by giving pedestrians more space and creating safer, more predictable crossing points. Both funding and timescales for delivery are yet to be confirmed. • Future plans for zebra crossings within the SCC Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) are not yet confirmed. Improving the existing crossings is the most effective and responsible action.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Conclusion

Feedback on the proposed road-safety scheme **shows clear and consistent support for measures to improve safety for children and families traveling to and from Ashley C of E Primary School.** Respondents across all groups – including residents of affected roads and families with children at the school welcomed the measures, recognising these as meaningful steps towards creating a safer and more accessible school environment.

A significant number of respondents valued the improvements for addressing long-standing concerns around these two locations.

Concerns centre primarily on the strong desire for controlled zebra crossings rather than the proposed widened pedestrian islands, with some respondents believing that the proposals might not provide strong long-term value if the crossings are upgraded again in the future. Additionally, several respondents raised concerns that the ongoing risks from parking and crossing Ashley Road opposite the school were not being addressed.
These points have been addressed through the officer responses.

Respondents put forward a range of constructive suggestions. These included: considering a 20mph speed limit and adding additional crossings- especially on Ashley Road, opposite the school. A separate scheme for a 20mph limit is being proposed for Walton on Thames, expected to compliment and support the proposed safer widened islands.

Requests regarding safer crossing opposite the school have been noted and may be considered as part of a subsequent phase by the new unitary council of East Surrey following Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in April 2027.

Next Steps

Taking into account both the concerns raised, and the strong safety benefits identified, the Council considers that the scheme will deliver meaningful improvements to the pedestrian environment outside the school and will support safer, more sustainable travel choices. The scheme has the support of both the county councillor and Surrey Police, and for these reasons **the decision has been taken to implement the scheme.**

The scheme will be delivered during Autumn 2026