Funded by UK Government

GETTING ABOUT IN YATE

PROJECT UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2024

WEST OF ENGLAND Combined Authority

South Gloucestershire Council

Delivering for you

What is the project?

- The Getting About in Yate project is looking at ways we can make it easier, safer and healthier to walk, wheel (using a wheelchair, mobility scooter or pushing a pushchair) or cycle around the town.
- Government funding is available to make improvements to things like footpaths, crossings, seating and cycle facilities and we're working with the community to understand what will make the biggest difference.
- Improvements will be focused around two key neighbourhood areas which are:
  - In south Yate the residential areas between Scott Way, Rodford Way, Westerleigh Road and Kennedy Way.
  - In north Yate the residential areas between Goose Green Way, Station Road and the railway line.

What has happened so far?

- In March and April this year (2024) we asked local people what sort of improvements they would like to see.
- We launched an online survey (paper copies were also available) as well as speaking to you in the community at our pop-up events in Tesco, and at a public workshop in the library. We also heard of lots of young people through our separate youth survey, and our workshop with students at Yate Academy.
- We got over 500 responses to our survey as well as all the comments through our in-person events and we have been looking through everything you told us to develop some proposals.

What you told us

- In general, you told us:
  - Driving and walking are most common modes of travel in Yate.
  - The facilities and services that people require are within Yate, but responses were mixed on whether these were within a comfortable walking/cycling distance.
  - Most people feel safe walking or wheeling around Yate but feel cycling is dangerous and are not comfortable with their children walking or cycling due to safety.
  - Most feel vehicle speeds are not appropriate and would like to see speed reduced.
  - Most people would like to see better footways, safer cycle routes, safe crossing points, better lighting, and better signage.
  - Many people told us that they like the green areas and parks in Yate.

- We also had lots of suggestions and ideas in relation to specific locations and improvements. These have all been reviewed and will inform the proposals we develop.

Our proposals

We are proposing the following general principles in response to what you've told us:

- Improved crossings to enable safer walking and cycling routes and to reduce severance between different parts of Yate.
- Reducing traffic speeds through physical measures to slow traffic to help more people feel safe walking and cycling.
- Improved wayfinding signage to highlight walking and cycling routes to facilities to overcome perception of distance.
- Improved cycle routes with clear signage, fewer barriers and separation from other users.

Our proposals continued …

- Improved lighting to reduce fear of crime.
- Improved placemaking, pocket parks and more places to rest to make routes more attractive and inviting to walking and cycling for short journeys around Yate.
- Increased dropped kerbs and tactile paving to enable safe and accessible travel.
- Increased cycle parking to enable more people to cycle for short journeys to facilities and services in Yate.
- In relation to the Yate North cycle route, there was no strong preference for one option from survey respondents, so we are going to do a technical study looking in more detail at both options.

Some things we can’t do

- You also told us about lots of improvements you would like to see that, for various reasons, we aren’t able to take forward in this project. These have been reviewed and recorded, and wherever possible will be passed on to other teams or considered for future projects.

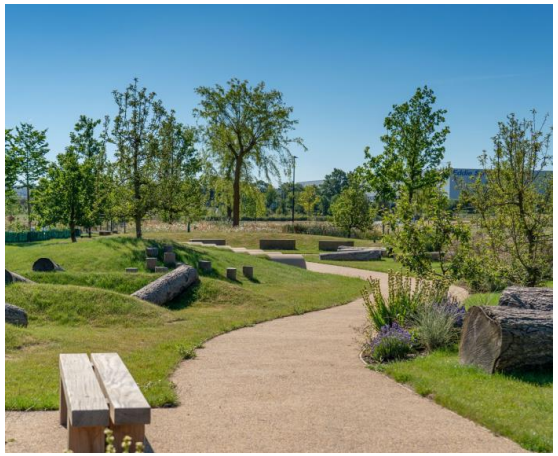
- You told us about issues with bus provision. We know buses are a really important part of helping people get around. Unfortunately, the funding for this project can’t be spent on bus services but we will share all of your feedback with the West of England Combined Authority, which is responsible for public transport in the region.

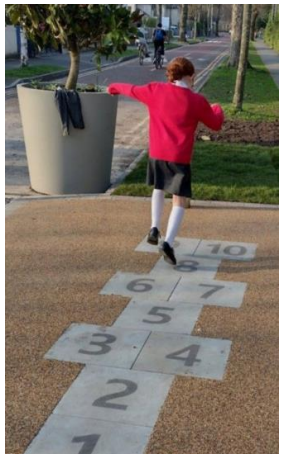
Some things we can’t do

- Young people in particular suggested improvements to play and leisure facilities such as skate parks. Whilst that is not within the scope of what this budget can be spent on, we are looking at including things like ‘play on the way’* opportunities and better places to sit and socialise.

*‘play on the way’ is a concept that provides apparatus and equipment along a route or trail to animate the journey for young people, to encourage more walking, wheeling and cycling. Here are some examples…







What happens next?

- The next step is for us to design some trial measures based on what you have told us and from our site audits.
- Trials are improvements that we can design and build relatively easily using temporary materials to test if our ideas work the way we want them to. These will be things like seating, planting, and traffic calming.
- You will likely start to see trials being built from towards the end of this year and throughout the trial period we will provide online and in-person opportunities for you to feed back on the improvements.
- Some improvements like lighting and new crossings can’t be trialled because they take longer to design and can’t be built in a temporary way. We will be developing designs for these options too and will share details once they are available. There will also be an opportunity to feedback on these proposals before they are built.

Keep an eye out on the project website and register for updates to keep up to date with the project.

Visit, www.southglos.gov.uk/getting-about-in-Yate

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