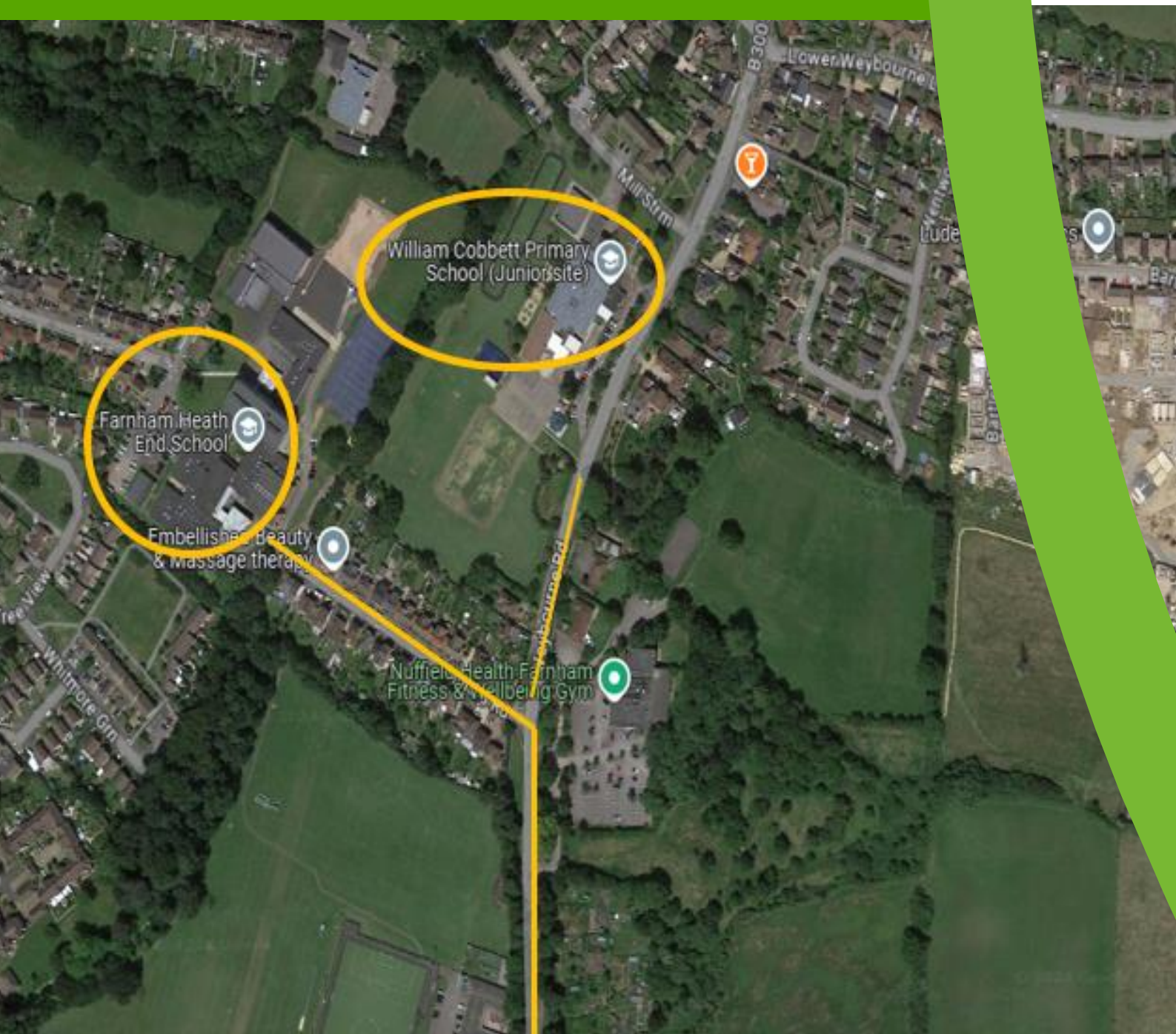
Road Safety Outside Schools Proposals

- School Street – Bullers Road
- Signalised Crossing -Weybourne Road

Public Engagement Feedback Report June 2024



Background

In May of 2024, following a series of community engagement events, Surrey County Council carried out a 6-week public engagement exercise via the “Commonplace” online web portal (Community Forum - Farnham Heath End School Street - Commonplace) on the following “Road Safety Outside School” scheme proposals:

- **School Street - Bullers Road**
- **Signalised Controlled Crossing – Weybourne Road**

Prior to this this online Engagement, both Surrey County Council Officers and your Local County Councillor Catherine Powell met with you, the local community on the following dates:

- **William Cobbett Primary School, parents evening** - 12th March 2024
- **Farnham Heath End Secondary School, parents evening** – 21st March 2024
- **Buller Road resident meeting** – 15th April 2024
- **Community Drop in Event** – 27th April 2024

Questionnaire

Respondents were asked to choose ***Very Happy; Happy; Very Unhappy; Unhappy; Neutral***; for the two “Road Safety Outside School” scheme proposals. Respondents could also choose to leave comments on each proposal. This report presents the results of the engagement exercise.

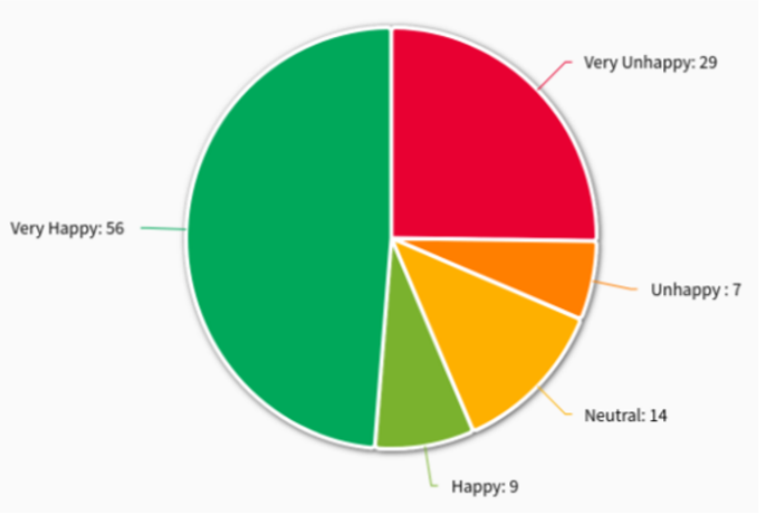
Results

- **School Street – Buller Road**

From the total 118 responses received, the following results show the numbers and percentages for each of the 3 questions

Question 1 – How do you feel about the proposal of a School Street on Bullers Road ?

115 out of 118 respondents answered this question



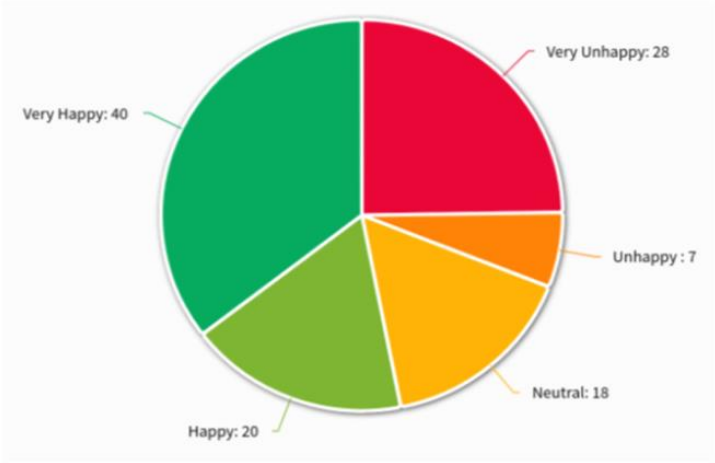
57% Very Happy/Happy

31% Very Unhappy/Unhappy

12% Neutral

Question 2 – How do you feel about the proposed timings of the School Street (8am to 9am and 2pm to 4pm, Monday to Friday, term-time only)?

113 out of 118 respondents answered this question



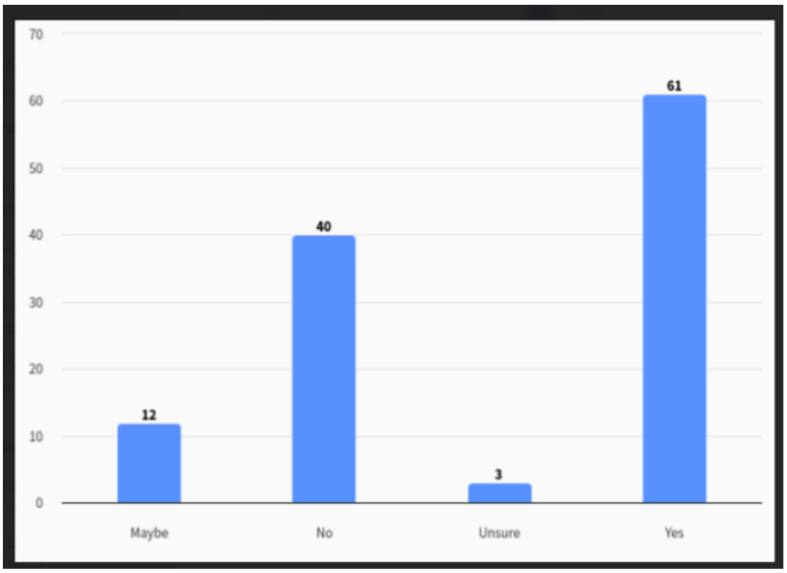
53% Very Happy/Unhappy

31% Very Unhappy/Happy

16% Neutral

Question 3 – Do you support the use of ANPR cameras to enforce the School Street?

116 out of the total 118 respondents answered this question



52% Yes

35% No

10% Maybe

3% Unsure

Sample Comments:

"*This will be beneficial for the residents as they have issues with parents parking and blocking the road. It will also make it a safer exit for the students of the school".*

"This would make the street a lot easier to navigate as a resident and so much safer for the children. There is a lot of unnecessary traffic and this would enable that to be cut out"

"Absolutely support. This will make the road safer for those who live there, and for the hundreds of children who use the street to walk to school. Their safety is paramount. Glad to see that Surrey County Council are now in discussions with residents who use their property to run a business (inc Embellished Beauty) to support them."

"Safety of all outside the school is paramount. Pollution and poor/illegal driving behaviour outside a place of learning should not be tolerated and is unsustainable. This is a great initiative.

Going forward, increasing the quality of cycle routes to the school, to make the most of the school street, would be fantastic. What child wouldn't like to cycle safely to school?"

"I feel the timing should he until 3.30 pm as the school finishes early and then parents can drop small children off for gymnastics classes.

Walking in the rain in a leotard is not ideal with small children".

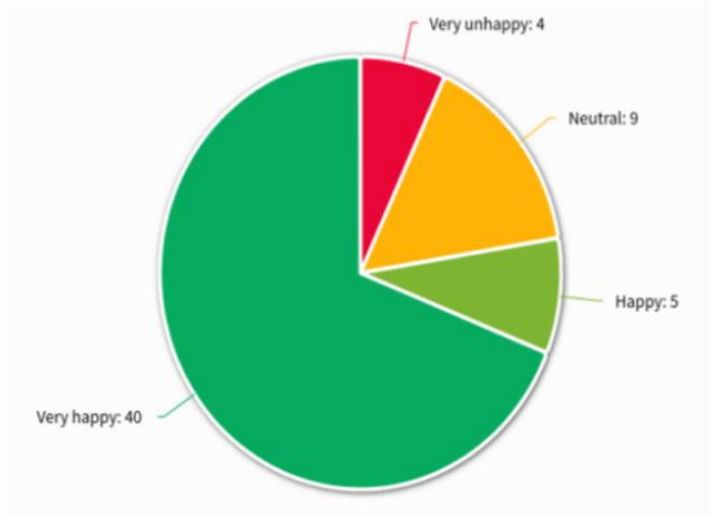
"Firstly, we would suggest 07.30am as a start time.
Secondly unless the camera is positioned on an angle to Bullers Road it will not pick up Reg numbers of vehicles who just turn in and pull back out which is part of the safety issue."

- # Signalised Crossing – Weybourne Road

From the total 59 responses received, the following results show the numbers and percentages for each of the 3 questions

Question 1 – How do you feel about the proposal for a raised signalised crossing on Weybourne Road ?

58 out of 59 respondents answered this question



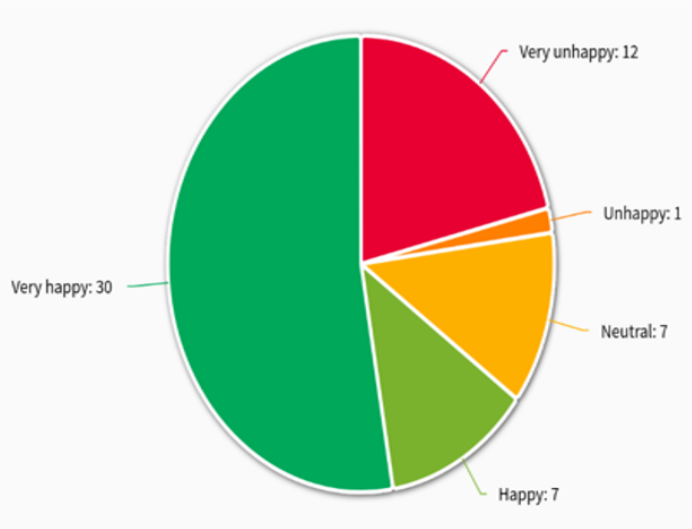
77% Very Happy/Happy

7% Very Unhappy/Unhappy

16% Neutral

Question 2 – How do you feel about the proposed Parking Restrictions?

57 out of 59 respondents answered this question

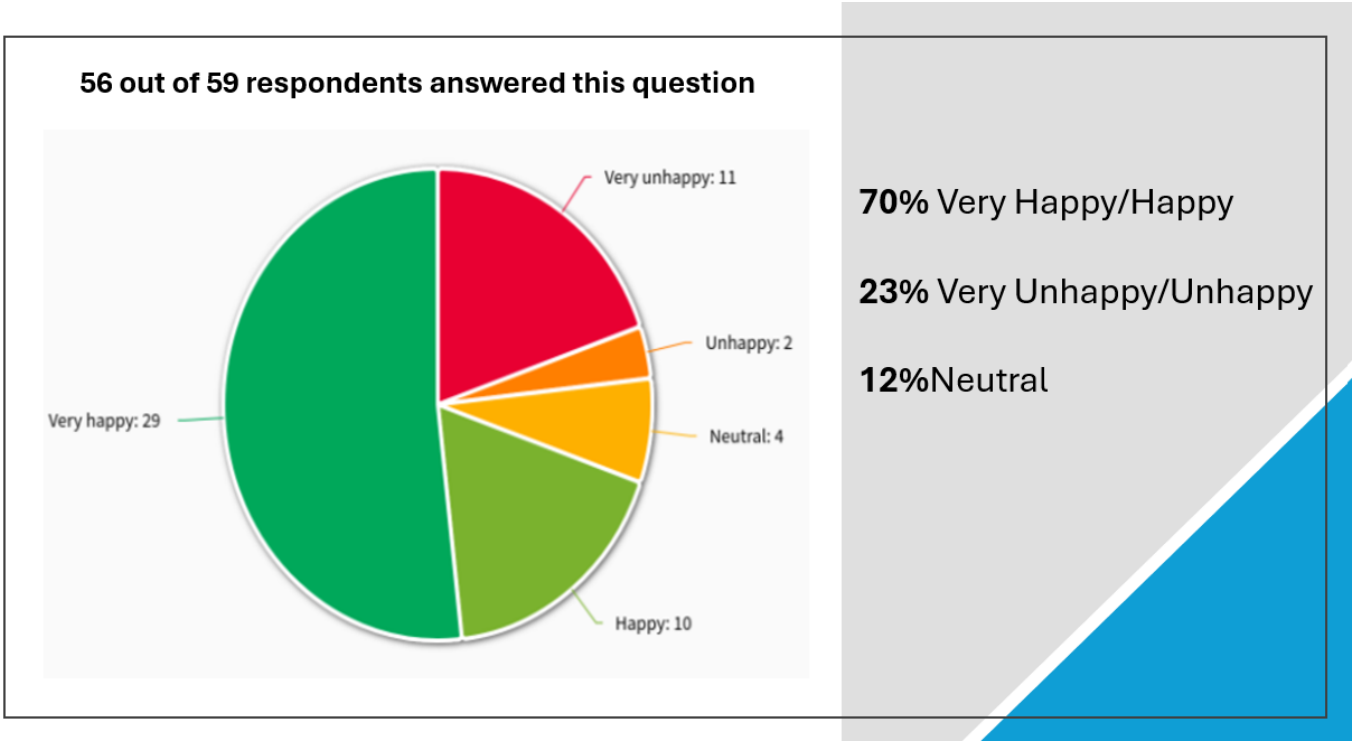


65% Very Happy/Happy

23% Very Unhappy/Unhappy

12%Neutral

Question 3 – How do you feel about Park and Stride ?



Sample Comments:

"About time something is done, such a busy road with 3 schools on. Need traffic calming as soon as possible".

"Schemes like this are in important step to allowing children (and parents) to choose safe active travel to and from local schools".

"School run traffic is a major issue in the area, so discouraging the many short car journeys and poor/illegal/dangerous parking must be a priority".

"Support all measures. Taking it back to basics, this improved the safety and well-being of children, adults, everybody!"

"It would be nice if we could do more for the kids cycling / scooting in from the Aldershot direction. There is a cycle path, but it's narrow, bumpy and full of crossings. This scheme assumes being dropped off by car.

"Great that the congestion/traffic danger issues are being addressed. This plan sounds like a very sensible way of alleviating congestion and more importantly ensuring the safety of schoolchildren as they make their way to and from school.

Comments

The results show there is overall support for both the School Street and Signalised Crossing to be implemented. However, there were a number of respondents who remain unhappy about the proposals and their comments reflected this. The concerns raised are detailed below with our comments in response.

" The proposed times of operation in the morning are too short. I'd suggest 0730-0915 as a minimum. Commencing at 0800 will simply mean people drop their children off at 0750-0759

instead. People who live in Bullers Road need to exit anytime from 0700 to drive to work. I have a 45-minute drive to work and typically leave at 0730 - getting snarled up in inconsiderate parents/guardians does not start my day well".

The potential impact of the length of the 'restricted times' on all of the residents has had to be carefully considered and measured against other requests made by residents in Buller Road. Based on this, it was felt a 07.30am - 09.15am restriction would impact the residents unfairly, and a reasonable compromise would be to start the restriction at 8.00am.

Following implementation, the scheme will be monitored and if necessary the timings of the School Street could be adjusted.

"Object to road being off limits to all but residents at certain times during the day .As residents we should be free to welcome visitors anytime of the day".

This scheme was developed following concerns raised by residents via a petition over road safety and anti-social driving and parking on Bullers Road. We politely ask residents to remind any visitors of the restricted times and arrive outside these hours or where possible park elsewhere and walk to your property.

"How will you accommodate business that work in this street? As a client of a business there, this will put me off using this service unless there is an easy way of accommodating"

SCC Officers and the local Councillor are sympathetic to these concerns and have met with the business owner. Consequently, it is proposed that the operating times of the School Street in the afternoon will be reduced. The potential impact on the business has to be balanced against the improvements that will be made to road safety and air quality for children on their school journey and tackling the concerns over anti-social driving and parking raised by residents.

"Park and stride is a 12 minute walk from the school, not 10!!! This means that parents will be looking for closer non restricted streets to park. All you will do is move the issue to surrounding roads. All these roads are closer than a 12 minute walk from the rugby club: Bankside, Weywood Lane, St Davids Close, Wentworth Close, Woodside Road, Newcome Road, Coppice Close. The majority of parents are on their way to work so do not have time to walk 12 minutes after dropping off. This includes our drop off at the breakfast club!"

For some years, the school, residents, and parents have raised serious concerns regarding the congestion outside William Cobbett Junior School. Weybourne Road carries a lot of traffic, including buses. Parents/carers queue back onto Weybourne Road from the drop off area which creates a dangerous environment for both drivers and pedestrians, as cars and Buses are either forced to drive onto the other side of the road or wait in their cars/buses idling.

The new School Street will encourage some parents and children to walk to school whereas others will "Park and Stride" which simply means driving some of the way to school, parking and walking the rest of the way . "Park and Stride" is good for families that live a long way from school and can't walk the whole way or for families who need to go to work straight after the school run.

SCC will be monitoring the expected displacement of traffic once the schemes are installed and will take appropriate action where necessary to reduce the impact of increased parking in the surrounding roads.

"The proposed location of the raised signalised pedestrian crossing is set to be in line with rear gardens on Bullers road thus increasing the air pollution created by idling vehicles. Not only will the increased air pollution have a detrimental effect to the local residents many of whom have respiratory conditions, increased air pollution will only exacerbate. Alternative locations of the pedestrian crossing could be further down Weybourne Road towards Monkton lane as this will be closer to the Park and stride. Where the proposed crossing is currently situated means, pedestrians will have to cross the junction entrance into the nuffield health centre to get to the proposed crossing, this junction becomes very busy in the mornings creating further hazards to children crossing the entrance.
In addition to the increased air pollution is the increased noise pollution caused by vehicles going over the raised platform, this will have a detrimental effect on resident's mental health. We are also concerned about the beeping noise triggered by the pedestrian crossing. In addition, with double yellows on Weybourne Road and no access up Bullers road this will encourage people to park on the wide verge on the corner of Bullers road, to remedy this issue I suggest planting of shrubs. In addition to the proposed plans, we suggest a 20mph speed limit is implemented incorporating all 3 schools as another safety precaution and eliminate further risk"

The crossing is being proposed to make walking and scooting an easier and safer option alongside the provision of a school street on Bullers Road and additional parking controls on Weybourne Road. Together these will reduce the number of motor vehicles dropping off, waiting and idling on Bullers Road and Weybourne Road in the vicinity of the resident's address. Therefore, the possibility of increased air pollution as a result of passing vehicles stopping and starting for the crossing will have to be weighed up against the reduction in air pollution from reducing the number of vehicles that would otherwise be waiting and idling for longer periods of time on, or near Bullers Road. It is not unusual to provide signalised or zebra crossings in the vicinity of schools as part of a standard approach to providing viable alternatives to the car for the school journey to reduce congestion and pollution overall.

The raised table traffic calming feature is being provided with shallow ramps to reduce the impact when vehicles drive over it, while still reducing traffic speeds. The cushions are designed deliberately so that larger, noisier vehicles such as buses can straddle the cushions which will minimise the noise. The positioning and distance between the traffic calming features has been considered carefully to encourage a smoother driving style through the traffic calming, with little benefit to accelerating and decelerating between them. The potential for increased vehicle noise as a result of negotiating the traffic calming features and stopping and starting for the crossing will have to be weighed up against the reduced engine and tyre noise due to vehicles travelling at slower speeds along Weybourne Road.

The beeping from the crossing is provided to help visually impaired pedestrians use the crossing. However it is recognised that the beeping from such crossings can be a nuisance to nearby residents, and so the volume is adjustable, and it is common practice for the beeping feature to operate on a timer so that it does not operate overnight. It is proposed that in this case the beep will only begin from 7:30am and stop at 10:00pm, with the volume being adjusted to an appropriate level during the day.

"I think it is important for the drive through drop and pick up to be able to continue for taxis and vehicles transporting children to the Centre for children who may struggle with park and stride for safety reasons. Also, it can be more complicated getting children with SEN to school so the

drop off provides an area close to the school for children to be safely dropped with less potential for stress".

If the school choose to close the drive through drop off and pick up, SEN children and parents with disability blue badges will still be allowed access.

Decision

Following public engagement and consultation, Surrey County Council will be proceeding with the implementation of a School Street on Bullers Road and the associated road safety improvements on Weybourne Road.

It is expected that the school street will be implemented after Christmas. The headline results of the consultation were **that out of 115 respondents, 57 percent were happy or very happy with the proposals.**

The overall project will also include the implementation of a signalised crossing of Weybourne Road near the junction with Bullers Road. Out of 59 respondents, 70 percent were happy or very happy with the proposed crossing. The aim will be to implement the new crossing during the October half term (subject to confirmation of coordination with other road works in Farnham). Following implementation, the scheme will be monitored and if necessary, the timings of the School Street could be adjusted.

One of the issues raised in the engagement was the potential impact on a local business in Bullers Road.

SCC Officers and the local Councillor are sympathetic to these concerns and have met with the business owner. Consequently, it is proposed that the operating times of the School Street in the afternoon will be reduced. The potential impact on the business has to be balanced against the improvements that will be made to road safety and air quality for children on their school journey. The scheme was developed following concerns over road safety and anti-social driving and parking on Bullers Road being raised in a petition submitted by local residents, coupled with concerns about anti-social driving associated with the William Cobbett school drive through which SCC hope the school will close once the schemes are implemented

What happens next?

We are aiming to implement the Weybourne Road signalised crossing during the October half term (subject to confirmation of coordination with other road works in Farnham). It is expected the School Street will follow sometime after Christmas.

Both the council and your local county councillor Catherine Powell recognise, that residents may still have lots of questions regarding the operation of the School Street. Between now and Christmas we propose to hold one or two public meetings inviting all residents to come, and have your questions answered. Specific details on Exemptions and how to apply for them, will be shared at these meetings.