Potters Gate School Street Scheme Engagement Results

Background and Purpose:

- A public engagement exercise was completed to gather views on a proposal for a School Street on Beavers Road and Potters Gate (adjacent to Potters Gate C of E Primary School). The proposals were developed to make walking, scooting and cycling safer and easier for children and families walking to and from Potters Gate Primary School, and to reduce the danger and problems caused by drivers of motor vehicles undertaking the school run, or driving past the school.
- The website engagement portal was open for 11 weeks from 25 November 2024 until 7 February 2025.

Recommendations From Officers:

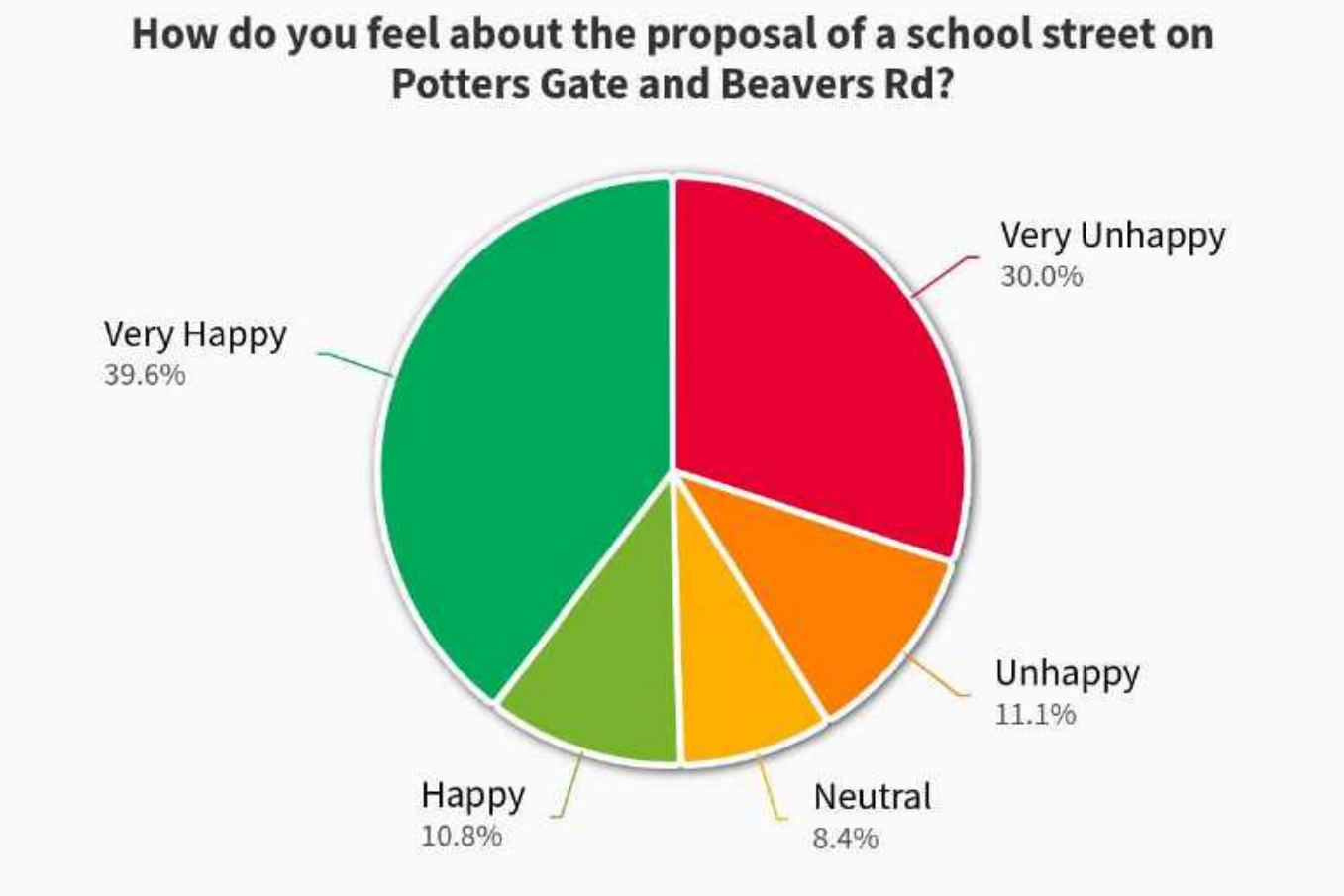
- **The outcome of the engagement exercise supports progressing the scheme.** A majority of respondents (51%) were in favour of the proposed School Street, with 43% against and 8% neutral.
- Feedback from both residents and parents of pupils attending the school suggested that the School Street proposal is needed at this location to create a safer and more pleasant environment for the children and families walking, scooting and cycling to Potters Gate C of E Primary School.
- In response to the feedback, it is proposed that the timing of the School Street be adjusted in the morning to operate from **8:00 to 9:00 (rather than starting at 7:45).**
- It was also suggested that a controlled pedestrian crossing should also be implemented on West Street to get to and from Potters Gate School from the south. Therefore, Officers will seek funding to commission feasibility work, and if feasible, seek funding to implement the scheme as a subsequent phase (subject to the usual consultation and County Councillor approvals).

Key Findings: Overall Support

Methodology: We presented drawing and a description of the scheme on the "CommonPlace" web-portal. This was advertised using a leaflet drop of surrounding properties and on-street posters.
323 responses to the overall proposals were received via the web-portal.

School Street

- Overall,163 **(51%)** of respondents are happy or very happy with the scheme.
- 133 **(41%)** respondents are unhappy or very unhappy with the scheme
- 27 **(8%)** respondents are 'neutral' with the proposed scheme.

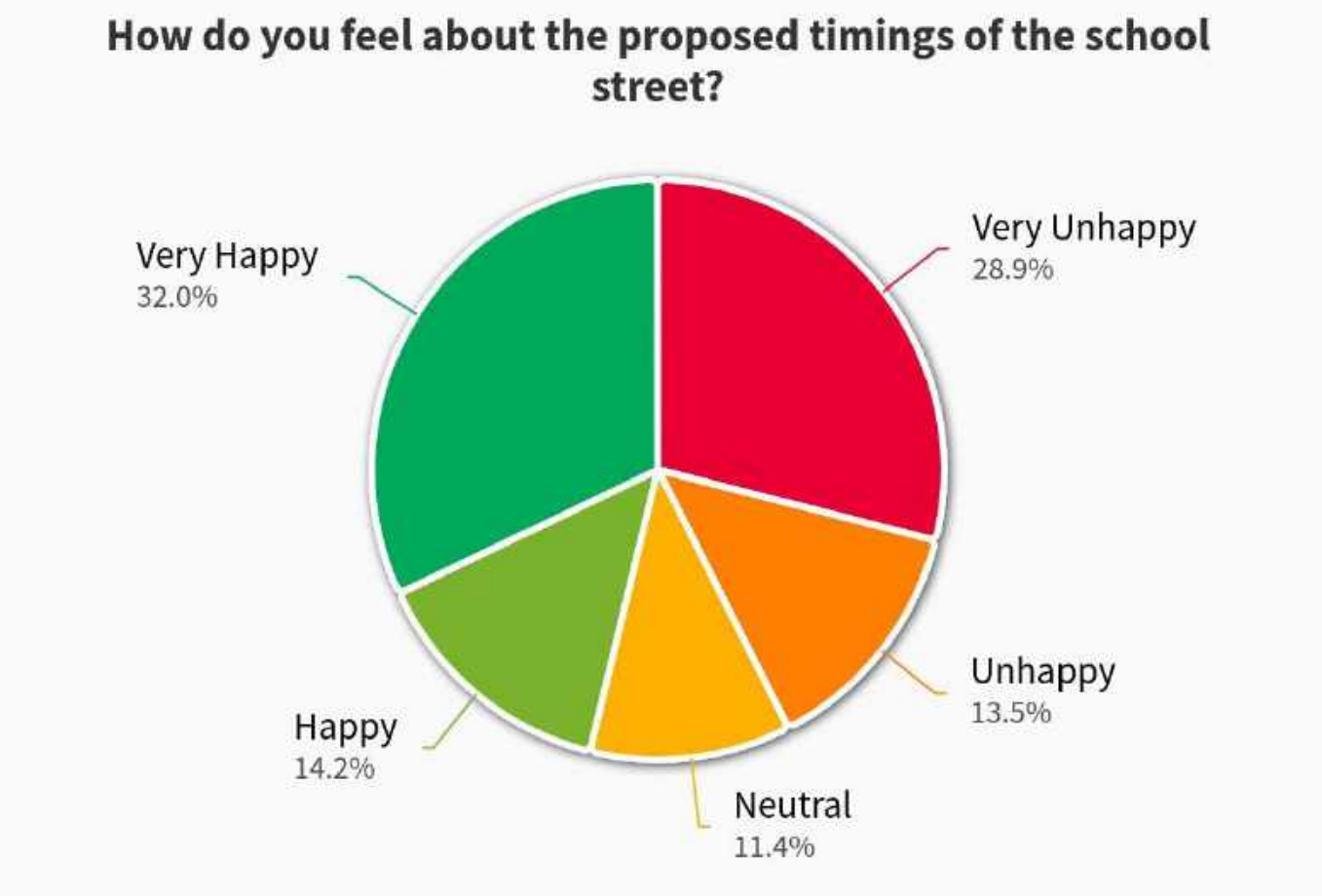


Key Findings: Proposed Timings

The timings proposed for the School Street were 07:45am – 9:00am and 15:00pm – 16:00pm.
325 responses to the proposed timings were received.

School Street- Proposed Timings

- Overall,150 **(46%)** of respondents are happy or very happy with the proposed timings
- 138 **(43%)** respondents are unhappy or very unhappy with the proposed timings
- 37 **(11%)** respondents are 'neutral' with the proposed timings

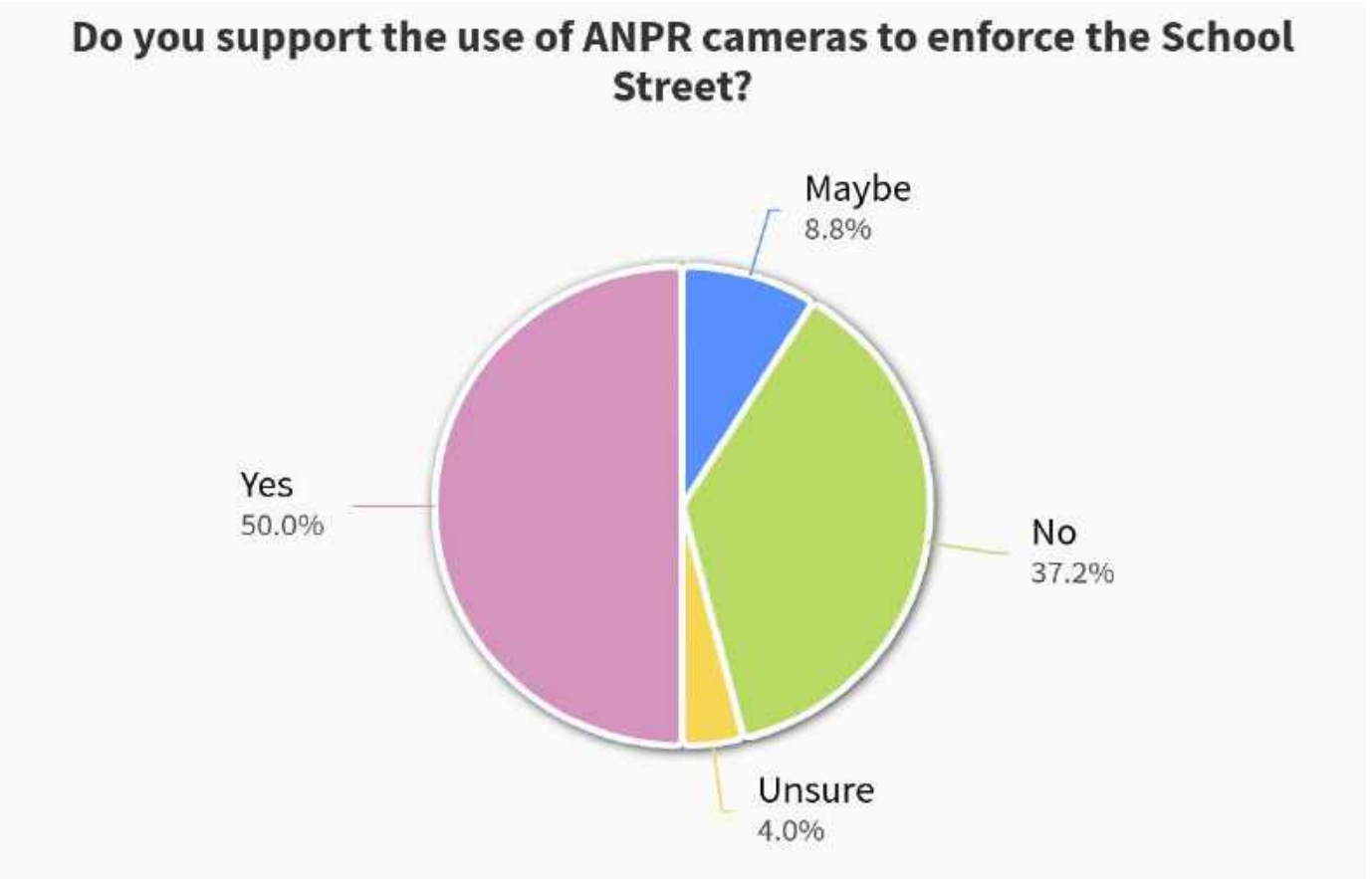


Key Findings: Use of ANPR Cameras

328 responses were received on the proposed use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Cameras to enforce the School Street.

School Street- ANPR

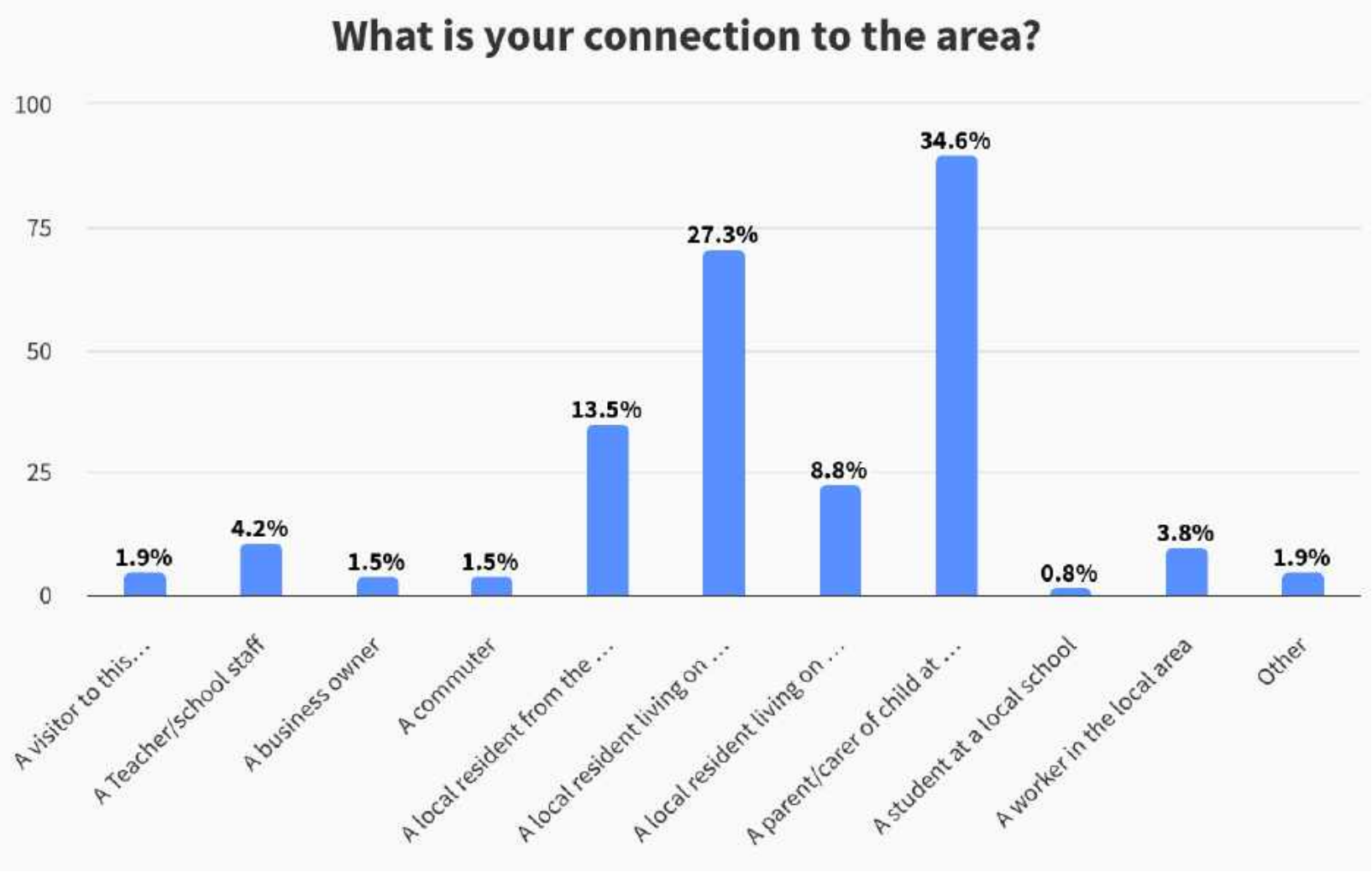
- Overall,164 **(50%)** of respondents are in support of the use of ANPR
- 122 **(37%)** respondents are not in support of the use of ANPR
- 42 **(13%)** respondents are unsure or maybe in support of the use of ANPR



Key Findings: Connection to the Area

The question on “What is your connection to the area?” received **260 responses**

- Overall,94 **(36%)** of respondents are residents living on either Beavers Road or Potters Gate
- 92 **(35%)** respondents are parents/carers of children attending Potters Gate School
- 35 **(14%)** respondents are a local resident from the surrounding area.
- 39 (**15%)** Other



Residents of Beavers Road and Potters Gate: Key Themes Raised in Support of the Scheme

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Safety Concerns

Residents are highly concerned about the safety of children and pedestrians due to negligent driving and poor parking practices.

- “Both Beavers Road and Potters Gate have now become extremely dangerous for the children and even for some of the parents of the children who attend the school."
- “We now see cars driving up onto pavements, parking in such a way as to risk injury or worse to children, and vehicles being driven at dangerously high speeds in the vicinity of the school”.

2. Support for the School Street Scheme

Many residents support the implementation of the School Street scheme to improve safety and reduce traffic.

- “I like all of it, it's a very sensible thing to do considering the amount and speed of traffic and the parking violations that go on in these streets”.
- “In principle support the scheme in creating a safer and pleasanter area around the school in term time”.

Residents of Beavers Road and Potters Gate: Key Themes Raised in Support of the Scheme

3. Traffic and Pollution Reduction

Residents appreciate the potential reduction in traffic and pollution, which would create a healthier environment for children.

- “Good to reduce school traffic in the local area”.
- “I think it is a really good idea to make it safer for children coming in and out of the school at the beginning and end of the school day. I also think it is important to curb air pollution particularly close to schools for small children”.

4. Concerns About Implementation

Some residents have concerns about the specifics of the scheme, such as timings and exemptions for certain vehicles.

- “I support the scheme; however, I do not agree with the timings and proposals for exemptions especially for courier and trade vehicles”.
- “I would like more information before commenting. Can I have access to any reports which went to any Council Committee before the proposal was put to the public?”

Residents of Beavers Road and Potters Gate: Key Concerns Raised

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Impact on Residents and Visitors

The scheme's impact on residents and their visitors is a significant concern:

- “It will restrict local residents and will impact anyone trying to visit or deliver to local residents”.
- “The exemption cases and the arrangement terms for residents really do not appear to be workable”.

2. Traffic Congestion

There are worries about the scheme increasing traffic congestion in certain areas:

- “The scheme may well increase congestion at the West Street/Crondall Lane junction”.
- “There will almost certainly be significant traffic jams at West St / Crondall Lane junction in the mornings”.

3. Lack of Comprehensive Planning

There is a perception that the scheme lacks comprehensive planning and integration with other town developments:

- “I would have expected to see an integrated plan informed by real term-time traffic volume data and some traffic modelling of the proposed road closures”.

Parents and Carers:
Key Themes Raised in Support of the Scheme

1.Road Safety Concerns:

- “The number of cars travelling and parking down by the school is dangerous”.
- “The roads are so busy making it difficult for children to cross the road safely, parked cars are a hazard on Potters Gate Road”.
- “Safety when dropping children off at school should be an absolute priority. Currently there’s far too much traffic and people driving without enough care and attention”.

2.Support for School Street Scheme:

- “I fully agree that it would be a benefit to have Potters Gate Road as a school street during the proposed times”.
- “I support Potters Gate becoming a School Street as people are only accessing this road at school drop offs to stop and drop children, which most shouldn't be doing so anyway”.
- “Support the scheme for Potters Gate Road as that becomes unsafe for pedestrians when cars park and use it at drop off time”.

Parents and Carers:
Key Themes Raised in Support of the Scheme

3.Concerns About Specific Roads:

- “Beavers Road should remain as is and the new scheme employed on Potters Gate Road only”.
- “Potters Gate road we agree with but not Beavers Road as for some people it would then be impossible to get to school”.
- “Particularly that it will take traffic away from the busy junction at Beavers Road / Potters Gate which is very difficult to cross safely with schoolchildren”.

4. Parental Behaviour and Parking Issues:

- “Stop through traffic and inconsiderate parents at drop off and pick up times”.
- “Just absolutely fed up with seeing lazy parents park dangerously on this road without a care for the majority of children walking and needing to cross the road”.
- “Supportive of action given parents/carers continue to drive to the school gate for drop-off and pick-up on a daily basis despite repeated requests not to do so”.

Parents and Carers:
Key Concerns Raised

1.Traffic Congestion and Road Closures:

- “By shutting the road at these times will increase the traffic in the town significantly and cause further delays/congestion”.
- “Closing Faulkner Road at this junction will push people down into the town which will be absolute carnage!”

2.Early Start Times for Restrictions:

- “I think the start time is a little early. I think it should be enforced from 8 am”.
- “I think 7.45 is too early for the restriction start time”.
- “Given that the school gates don't open until 8.35am, starting the enforcement time from 7:45am is too early. 8am would be adequate given people don't start arriving until 8:15am”.

Parents and Carers:
Key Concerns Raised

3. Concerns about Safety and Pollution:

- “Not allowing us into the car park via Faulkner Road is short sighted and will create huge pollution for those residents down Crondall Lane as the queue will be very long”.
- “Cutting off access to Beavers Road (from Crondall lane) will divert more school related traffic to West Street and then The Hart. This will add more traffic to West Street (already busy), increasing journey distance/time and thus air pollution”.
- “The scheme is unnecessarily unfair to those who have no choice but to drive to school accessing the Upper Hart car park via Beavers Road”.

4. Impact on School Drop-off and Pick-up:

- “Blocking the street to drop off and pick up children is unacceptable. Traffic will become a further burden on parents”.
- “The closure of Beavers Rd will make it more difficult to get my children to school. This is a route I frequently use due to the significant traffic in the town centre which will only be made worse by roadworks that are taking place this year."

Officer Response to Main Concerns

Concern	Officer response
Concerns around Congestion- especially Crondall Lane/West Street Junction	• It is acknowledged that by removing access to Beavers Road at school journey times, it will make the school journey longer for some motorists and could cause delay for vehicles travelling down Crondall Lane. However, by introducing restrictions to through-traffic on Beavers Road, we believe the benefits of improved safety for children and families and reduction of pollution outside the school gates outweigh this inconvenience.
Make the road safer by installing pedestrian crossings rather than just shutting the road.	• Officers have investigated the feasibility of a Zebra Crossing on the junction of Faulkners Road and Potters Gate and due to restricted width of the pavement and layout of the junction, it was found it would not be feasible to meet minimum design standards. Even if feasible a pedestrian crossing would not address the problems caused by the volume of traffic and anti-social driving and parking outside the school.
Use a Lollipop Person instead	• A School Crossing Patrol would not address the problems caused by the volume of traffic and anti-social driving and parking outside the school.

Officer Response to Main Concerns

Concern	Officer response
Enforce the parking restrictions	Potters Gate School has been classed as a high priority for parking enforcement and is already visited once per week by Enforcement Officers. With about 500 schools in Surrey there are only enough Civil Enforcement Officer's to attend up to 18 schools per day.
Unfair to parents/carers who have no choice to drive to school – accessing the Upper Hart Car Park via Beavers Road	It is acknowledged that some parents/carers have no choice but to drive their children to school. The School Street proposal does not prevent parents/carers accessing the Upper Hart Car Park via West Street and The Hart and then "park and stride" which takes 6 mins walk each way.
The proposed morning restriction start time of 07:45 is too early	After reviewing the feedback from the consultation, we are now proposing a new time of 8:00 am – 9.00am

Conclusions and Next Steps

- The results and recommendations from this engagement have been shared with the local County Councillor, and a decision has been made to progress to the next step.
- The proposed School Street is subject to the legal requirement to publish a formal legal notice to allow local people to comment. The details of this legal notice will be published on this website, in due course.
- The feedback and Officers' response to the feedback to the legal consultation on the School Street will then be presented to the local County Councillor for a decision on whether to proceed or not.
- If the decision is taken to proceed, the intention is that the scheme will start sometime in Autumn 2025. Local people will be informed of the nature of the works, and disruption will be minimised as far as possible