

Harbury Lane Active Travel Connections

Summary of community engagement, November 2023

Overview

Between 18th August and 29th September 2023, Warwick residents were invited to provide feedback on proposals for improved connections for walking, wheeling and cycling along two kilometres of Harbury Lane between the A452 Europa Way, Gallows Hill and Heathcote Lane junction and the B4087 Tachbrook Road/Oakley Wood Road junction.

Press releases were issued by Warwickshire County Council on 18th August and 20th September : <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4431/warwick-residents-invited-to-have-their-say-on-walking-and-cycling-improvements-along-harbury-lane> and <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4542/just-over-a-week-left-for-warwick-residents-to-have-their-say-on-walking-and-cycling-improvements-along-harbury-lane-> .

This was supported by a dedicated web page, with scheme drawings and a link to an online form: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cycling/cycle-route-schemes-consultation/8>

Detailed comments could also be sent to the Transport Planning Unit (TPU) email inbox.

Letters were sent out to 159 residents along the Harbury Lane corridor on 18th August. Emails were also sent out to 119 stakeholder organisations/ representatives and 26 WCC colleagues. Information notices were posted on site on 22nd August and remained until 5th September.

Drawings were available to view throughout the engagement period at Shire Hall in Warwick Town Centre, and as part of the following Active Travel drop-in events:



- Tuesday 22nd August between 11.30am and 1.30pm at Heathcote Community Centre, Cressida Close CV34 6DZ.
- Saturday 2nd September, 10am to 5pm at Leamington EcoFest, Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa CV32 4AA.
- Tuesday 5 September between 2.30pm and 4.30pm at Lower Heathcote Co-Op, Vickers Way CV34 7BR.



Paper survey forms were available at these venues.

The community engagement was promoted locally by Bishops Tachbrook Parish Council. Some information had already been shared at a public meeting of the Parish Council on 8th June:

<https://bishopstachbrook.com/council-documents/>

In addition to the community engagement, a design review was undertaken by Active Travel England (ATE), which is providing some of the scheme funding, and issued to Warwickshire County Council. A meeting was then held on 26th September between Active Travel England and the transport planning and design teams at Warwickshire County Council to discuss the project in more detail and address some of the comments in the design review.

Responses

- There were a total of 57 responses to the survey (56 online and 1 paper).
- Over 100 people attended the Active Travel drop-in events.
- 13 people submitted additional comments by phone or email.
- 80% of online responses were in agreement or strong agreement 'with the proposal to provide improved routes for walking and cycling along Harbury Lane between the A452 Europa Way, Gallows Hill, Heathcote Lane junction'.

Appendix A of this report summarises the responses to the online/ paper survey.

Appendix B summarises the comments from drop-in events.

Appendix C summarises the emails received directly by TPU.

Key actions following local engagement

- Progress the scheme – as there is a good level of support for all elements.
- Amend designs – particularly with regard to managing impact on vegetation, providing additional crossings, upgrading crossing proposals, making minor changes to path widths and alignments and providing short links (where these are within scope of this project).

Next steps

This project has been commissioned internally by the Transport Planning Unit – with design work undertaken by the Engineering Design Services team. The initial design brief (to prepare feasibility designs suitable for local engagement and undertake a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit) has been completed and a new design brief will now be issued, to cover:

- Detailed design, to include drawings suitable for land dedication, legal orders and formal consultation (including Cycle Tracks Order, road hump S90 notice and shared use S65/S66 notice). Amendments to designs will be requested to respond to comments and suggestions in the community engagement and ATE design review.
- Detailed design of street lighting.
- Ecological surveys.
- Updated cost estimates.
- Preparation of a phased programme, with priority to sections nearest Oakley School. This includes provisional booking of road space from 2024 and tie-in with developer-funded highway works at Tachbrook Road and Europa Way.

Appendix A – responses to the survey questions

There were 56 online responses and 1 paper survey.

Question responses:

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to provide improved routes for walking and cycling along Harbury Lane between the A452 Europa Way, Gallows Hill, Heathcote Lane junction?

Strongly Agree = 36

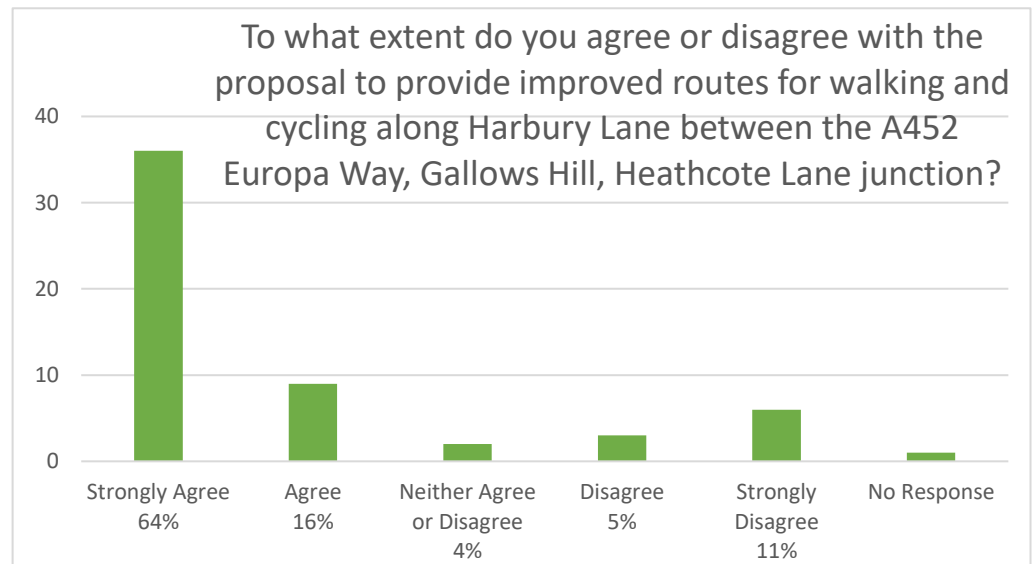
Agree = 9

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 2

Disagree = 3

Strongly Disagree = 6

No Response = 1



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following elements of the proposed scheme? (Please refer to Public Engagement Plans Sheets 1 to 5 for more information)

1. Section A-B (Tachbrook Road to Cicero Approach): new shared-use footway/ cycle track on north side verge of Harbury Lane between Tachbrook Road and existing footpath

Strongly Agree = 36

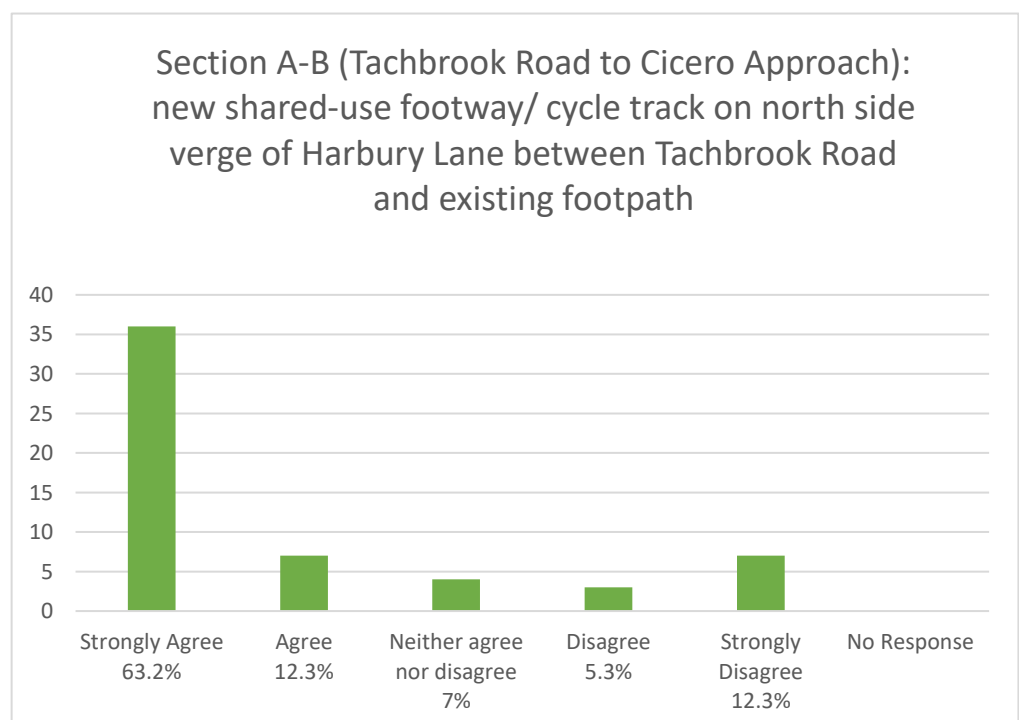
Agree = 7

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 4

Disagree = 3

Strongly Disagree = 7

No Response = 0



2. Sections A-B, B-C, C-D, D-E (Tachbrook Road to Garret Drive): upgraded footpath (tarmac surface, widening to 3.0m) on north side to create shared use footpath/ cycle track.

Strongly Agree = 34

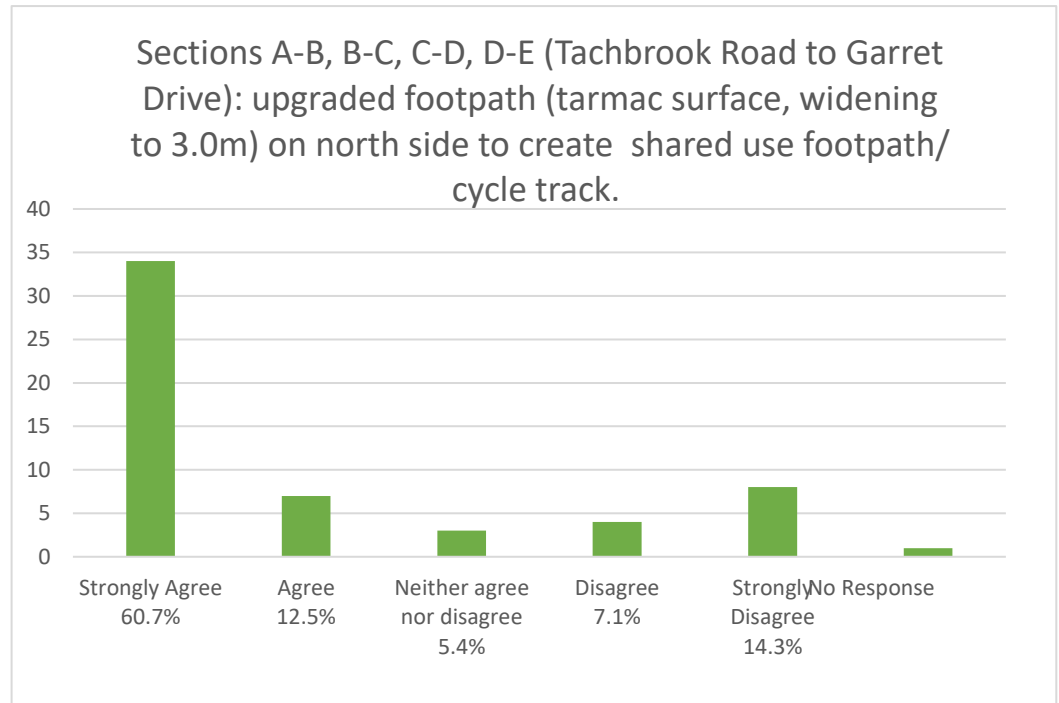
Agree = 7

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 3

Disagree = 4

Strongly Disagree = 8

No Response = 1



3. Sections A-B, B-C, C-D, D-E (Tachbrook Road to Garret Drive): street lighting at regular intervals along upgraded footpath on north side.

Strongly Agree = 40

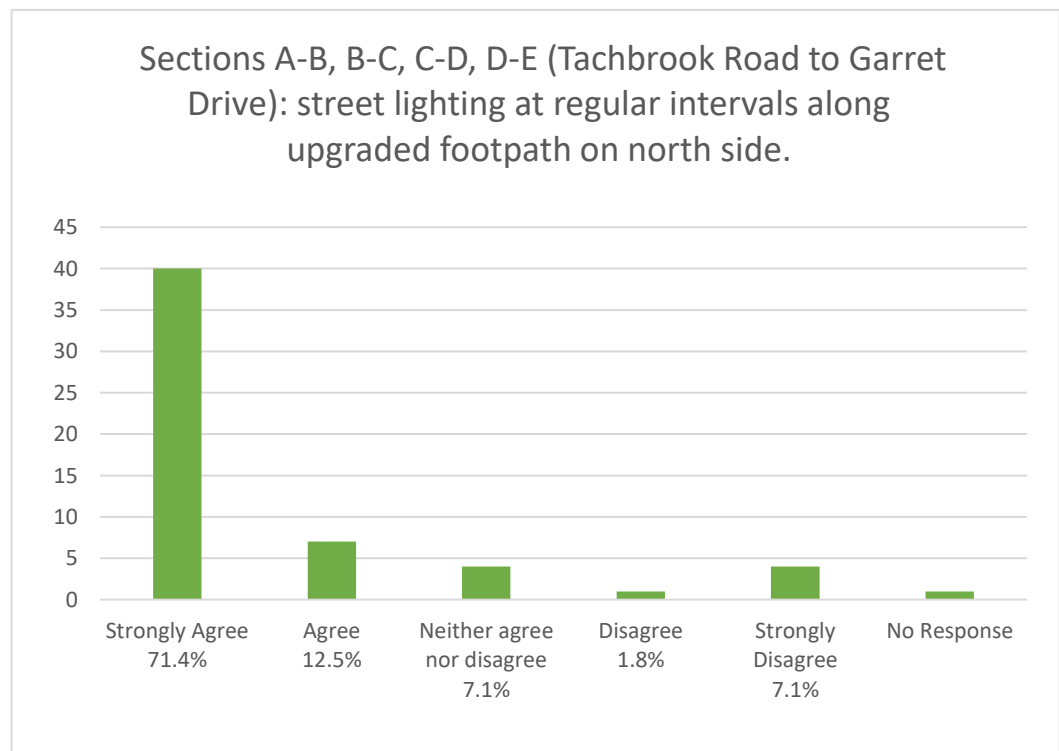
Agree = 7

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 4

Disagree = 1

Strongly Disagree = 4

No Response = 1



4. Sections A-B, B-C, C-D, D-E (Tachbrook Road to Garrett Drive): new access connections between footpath and residential streets.

Strongly Agree = 37

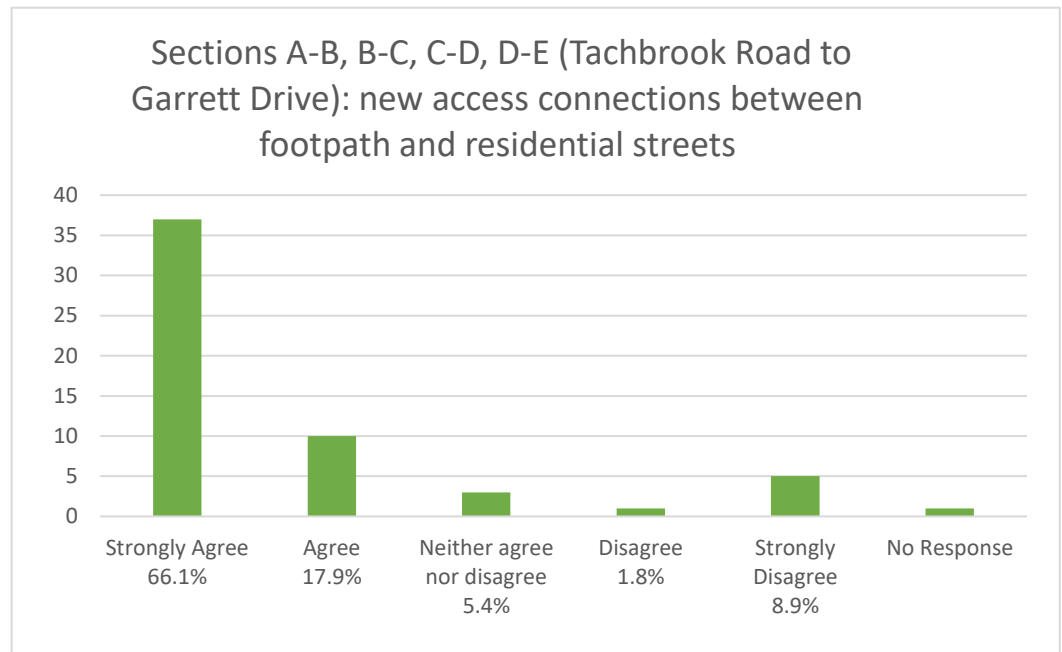
Agree = 10

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 3

Disagree = 1

Strongly Disagree = 5

No Response = 1



5. Point B (Junction of Harbury Lane, Cicero Approach, Lionheart Avenue): upgraded crossings to allow use by cyclists.

Strongly Agree = 37

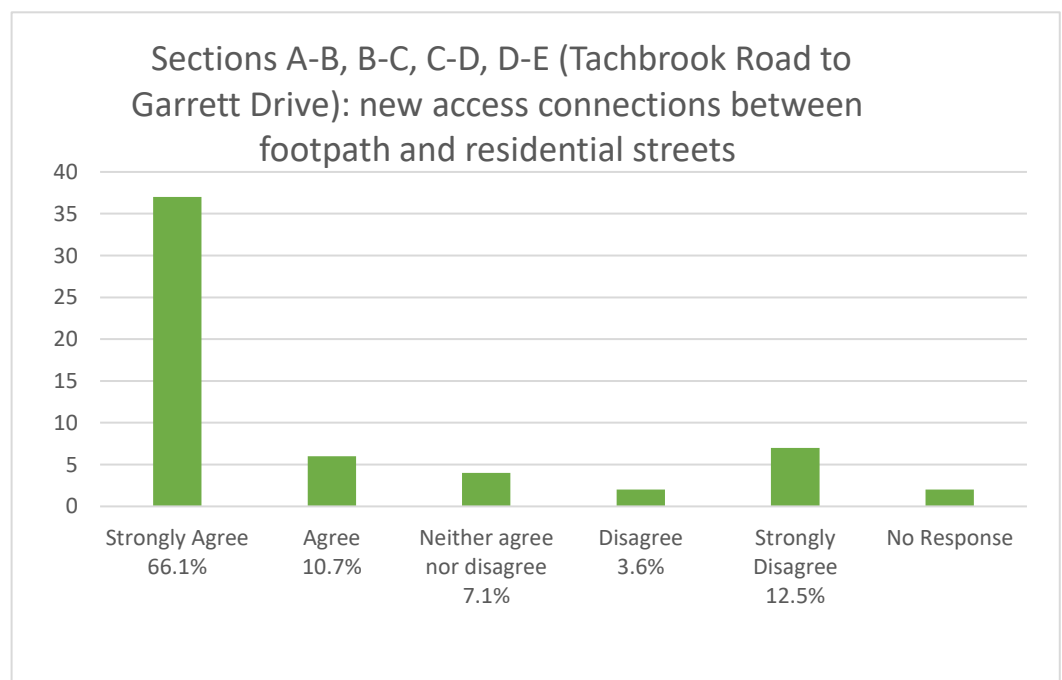
Agree = 6

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 4

Disagree = 2

Strongly Disagree = 7

No Response = 2



6. Section B-C (Cicero Approach to Heathcote Park): new footway on south side between end of existing cycle route and crossing refuge near Heathcote Park.

Strongly Agree = 36

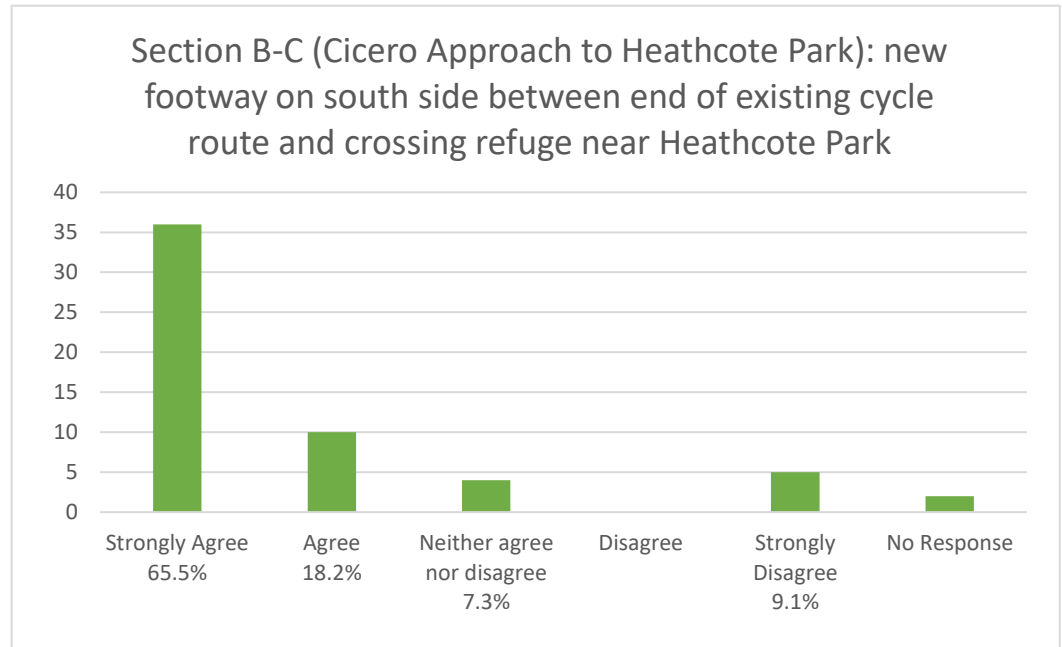
Agree = 10

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 4

Disagree = 0

Strongly Disagree = 5

No Response = 2



7. Point C (Crossing refuge east of Heathcote Park): removal of vegetation to provide footway link from north side footpath to crossing refuge.

Strongly Agree = 35

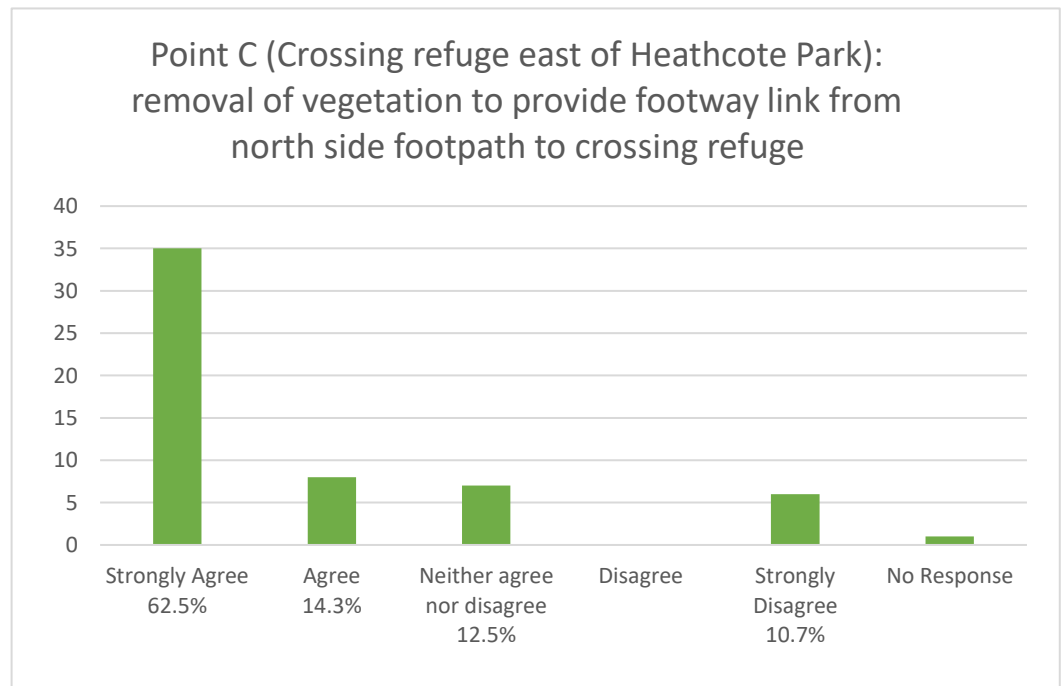
Agree = 8

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 7

Disagree = 0

Strongly Disagree = 6

No Response = 1



8. Point D (Between Capulet Drive and Blakemore Drive): new signal-controlled cycle and pedestrian (Toucan) crossing to link existing footpaths and proposed shared use footpath/ cycle track. Requires break in the hedge.

Strongly Agree = 34

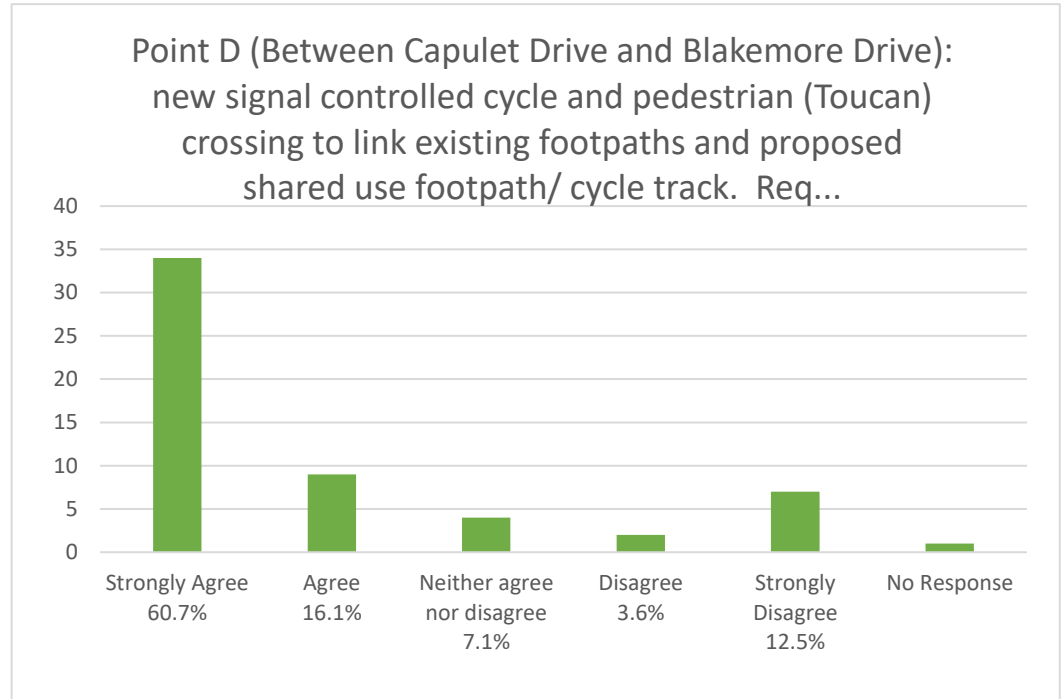
Agree = 9

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 4

Disagree = 2

Strongly Disagree = 7

No Response = 1



9. Section D-E (Heathcote Park to Garrett Drive): sign advisory route along quiet road and convert short section of footway to shared use footway/ cycle track to connect with Garrett Drive.

Strongly Agree = 30

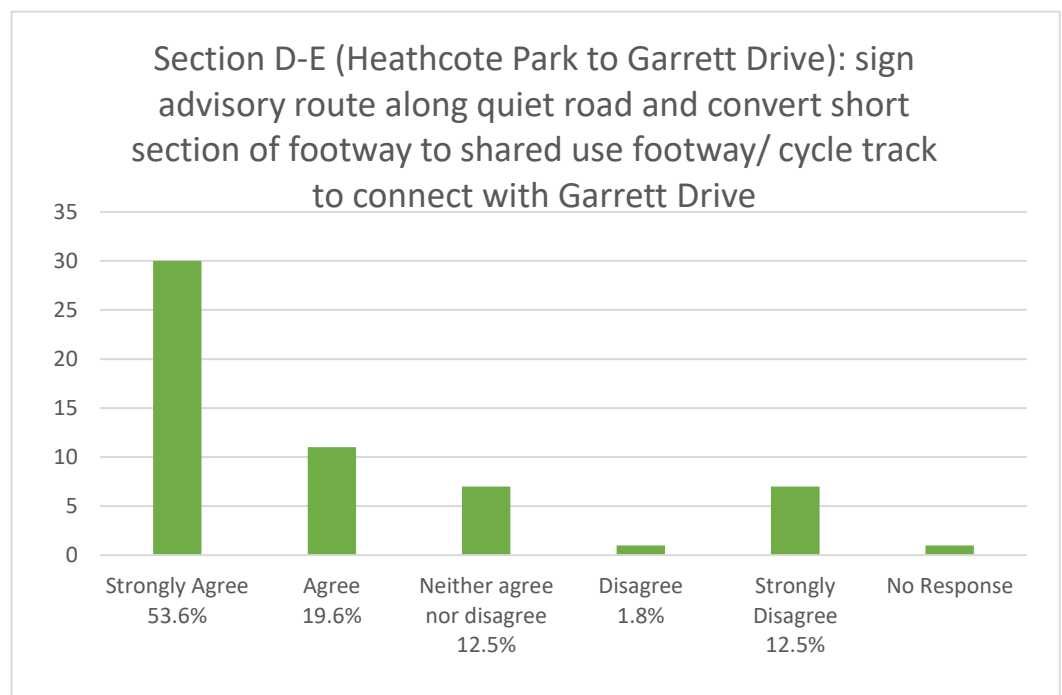
Agree = 11

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 7

Disagree = 1

Strongly Disagree = 7

No Response = 1



10. Point E (Puffin crossing north of Garrett Drive): upgrade existing Puffin crossing to Toucan crossing.

Strongly Agree = 32

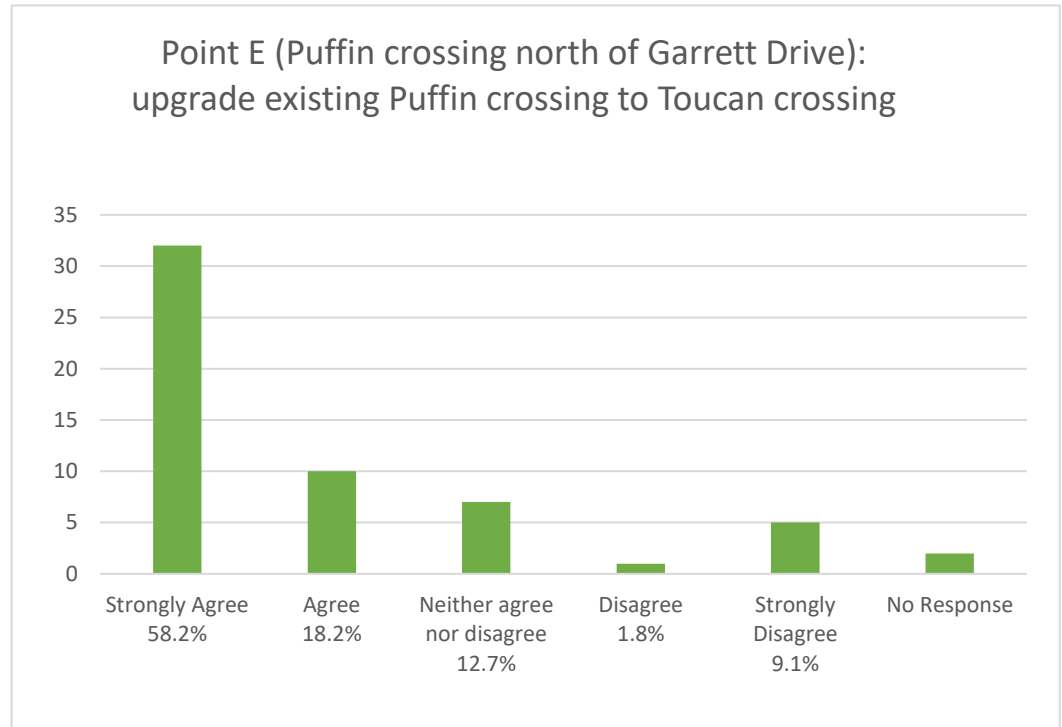
Agree = 10

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 7

Disagree = 1

Strongly Disagree = 5

No Response = 2



11. Sections E-F, F-G and G-H (Garrett Drive to Europa Way): provide 3.0m wide segregated cycle track and 2.0m wide footway on north side with lighting where appropriate.

Strongly Agree = 36

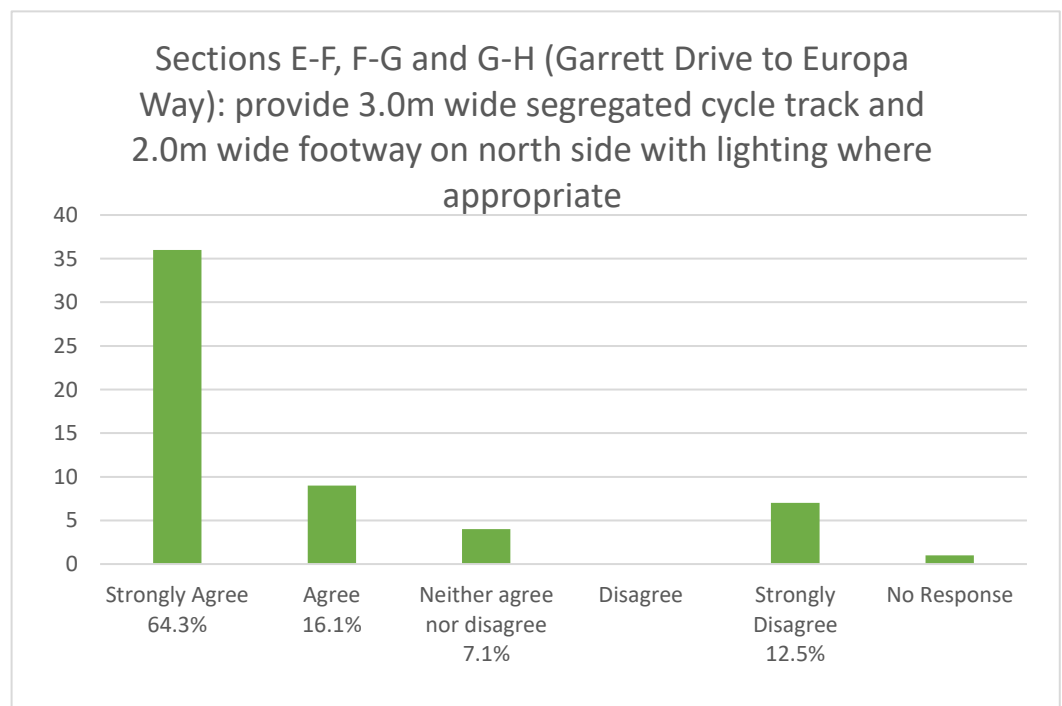
Agree = 9

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 4

Disagree = 0

Strongly Disagree = 7

No Response = 1



12. Section E-F (Garrett Drive to Earl Rivers Avenue): additional shared use link through open space between Harbury Lane and Earl Rivers Avenue.

Strongly Agree = 33

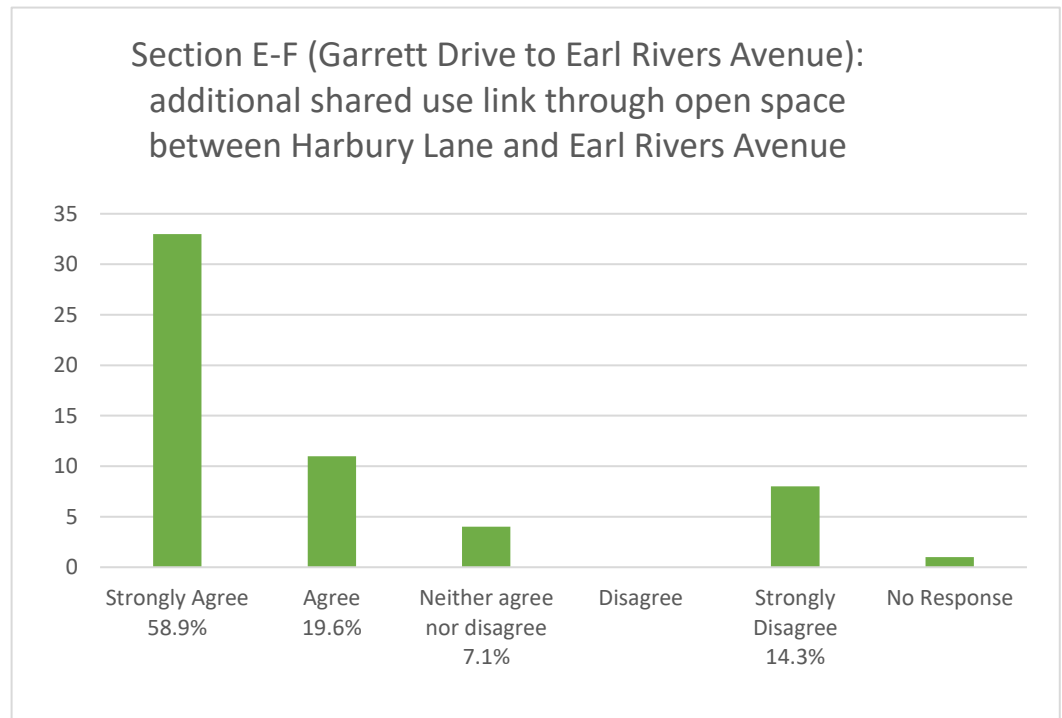
Agree = 11

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 4

Disagree = 0

Strongly Disagree = 8

No Response = 1



13. Point F (Roundabout junction Harbury Lane, Gallagher Way and Earl Rivers Avenue): widen and realign three existing refuge crossing points.

Strongly Agree = 32

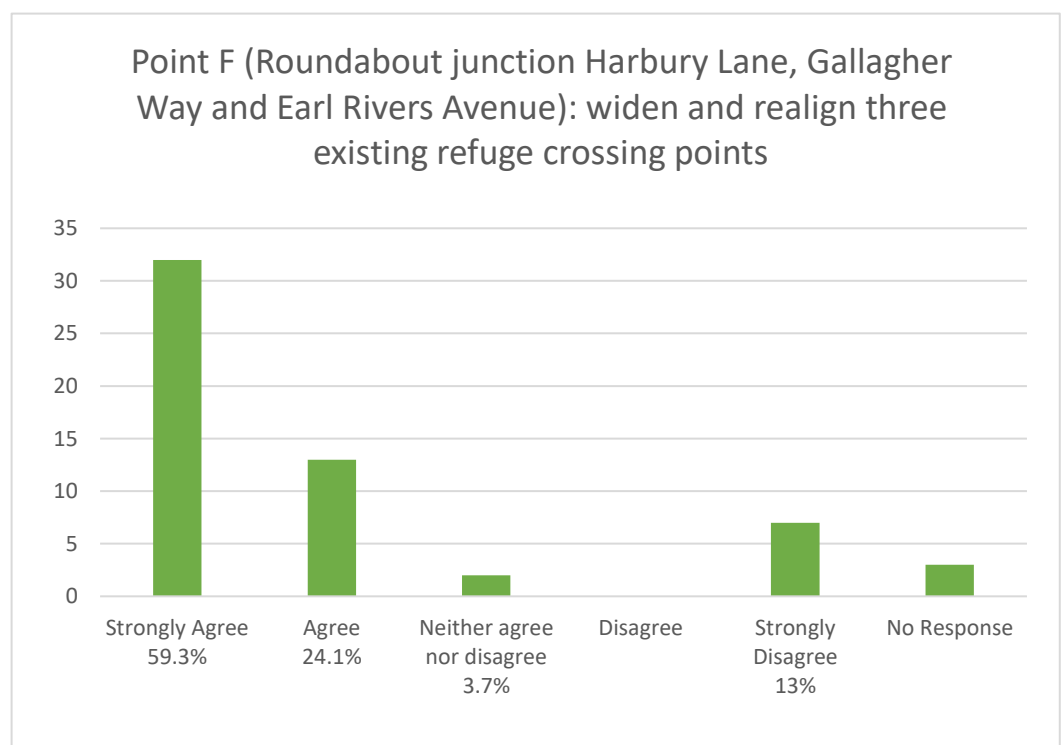
Agree = 13

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 2

Disagree = 0

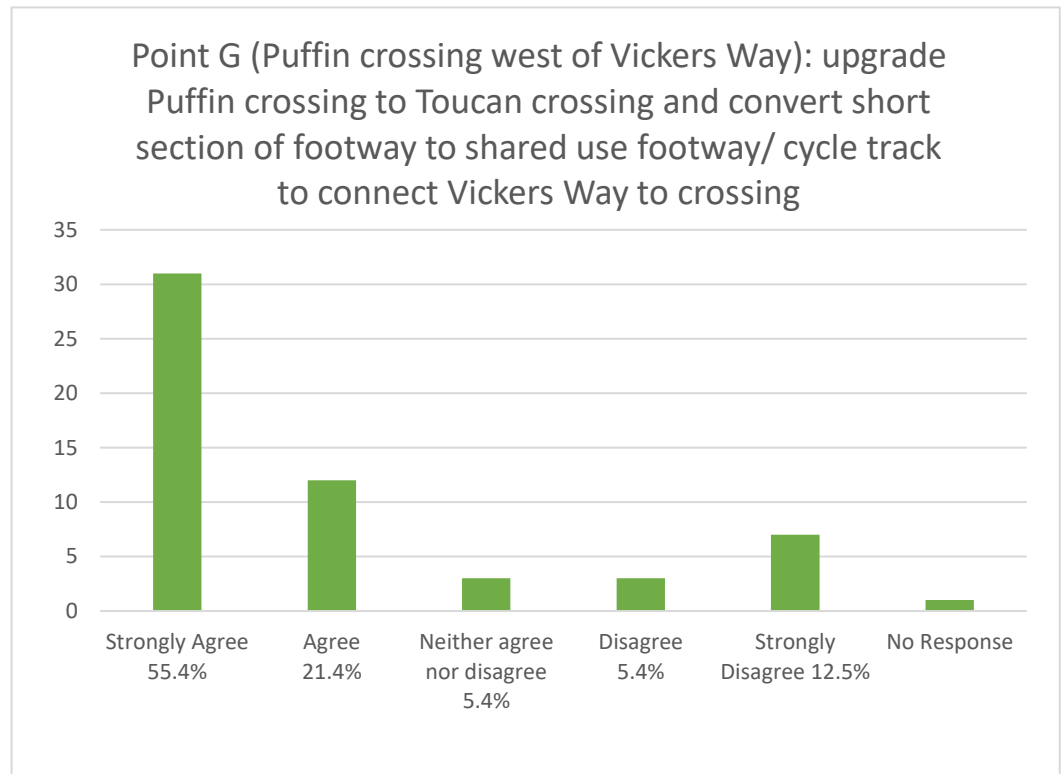
Strongly Disagree = 7

No Response = 3



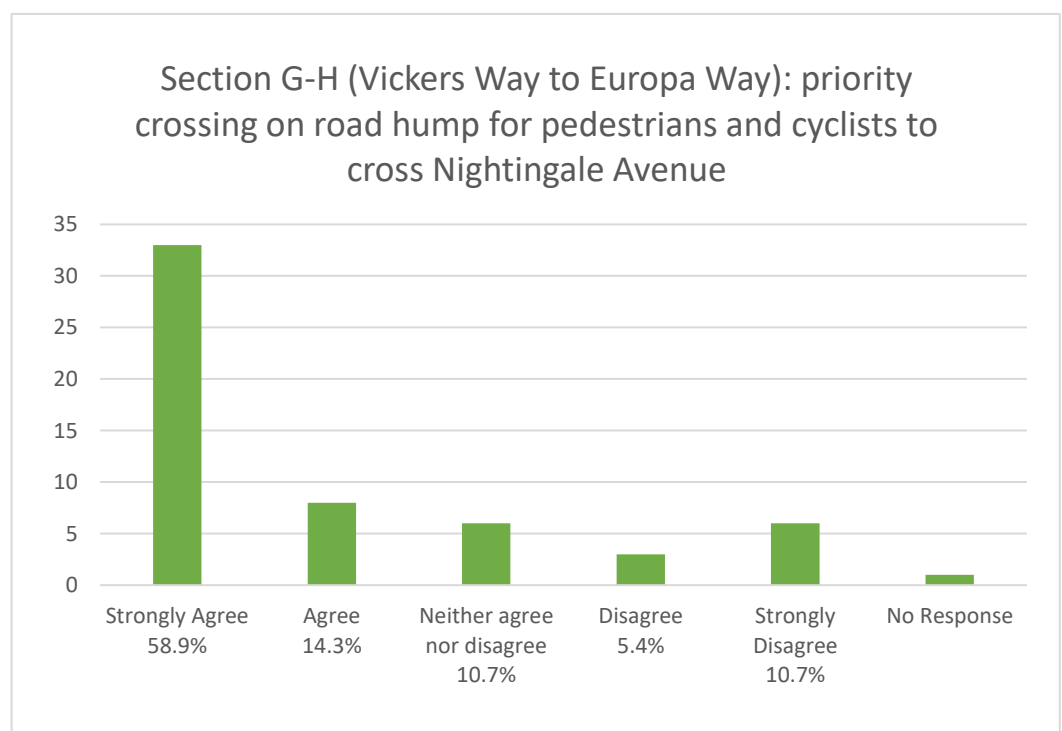
14. Point G (Puffin crossing west of Vickers Way): upgrade Puffin crossing to Toucan crossing and convert short section of footway to shared use footway/ cycle track to connect Vickers Way to crossing.

Strongly Agree = 31
 Agree = 12
 Neither Agree or Disagree = 3
 Disagree = 3
 Strongly Disagree = 7
 No Response = 1



15. Section G-H (Vickers Way to Europa Way): priority crossing on road hump for pedestrians and cyclists to cross Nightingale Avenue.

Strongly Agree = 33
 Agree = 8
 Neither Agree or Disagree = 6
 Disagree = 3
 Strongly Disagree = 6
 No Response = 1



16. Section G-H (Vickers Way to Europa Way): additional shared use link through open space between Harbury Lane and Heathcote Lane.

Strongly Agree = 34

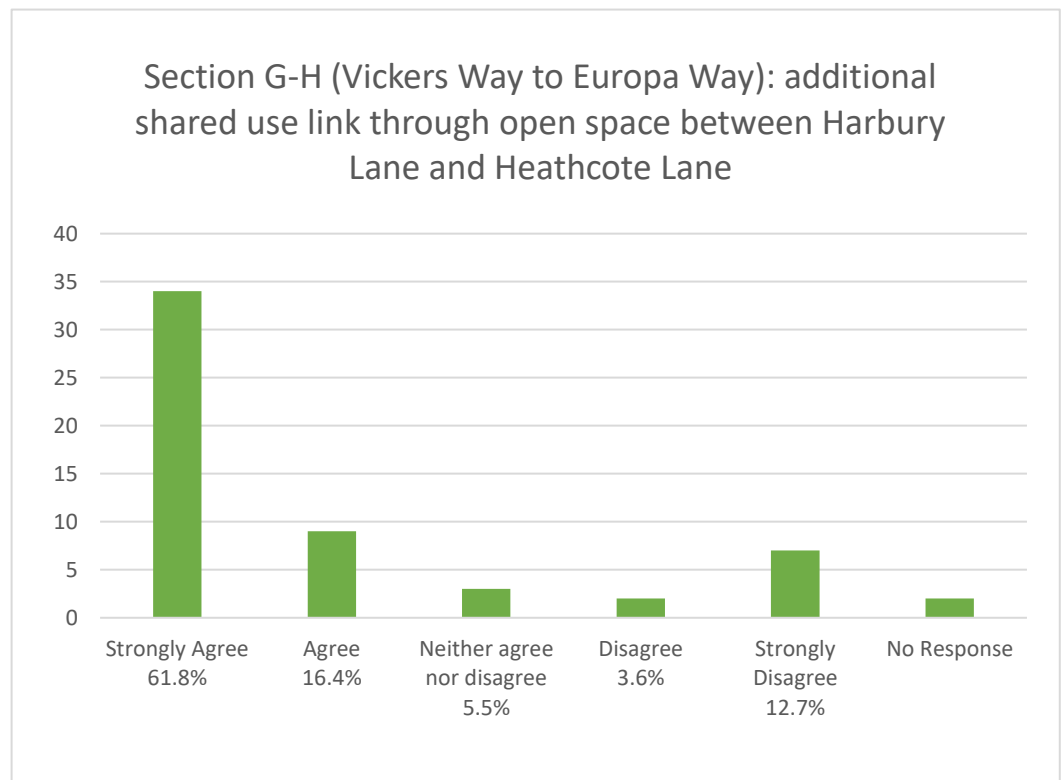
Agree = 9

Neither Agree
or Disagree = 3

Disagree = 2

Strongly Disagree = 7

No Response = 2

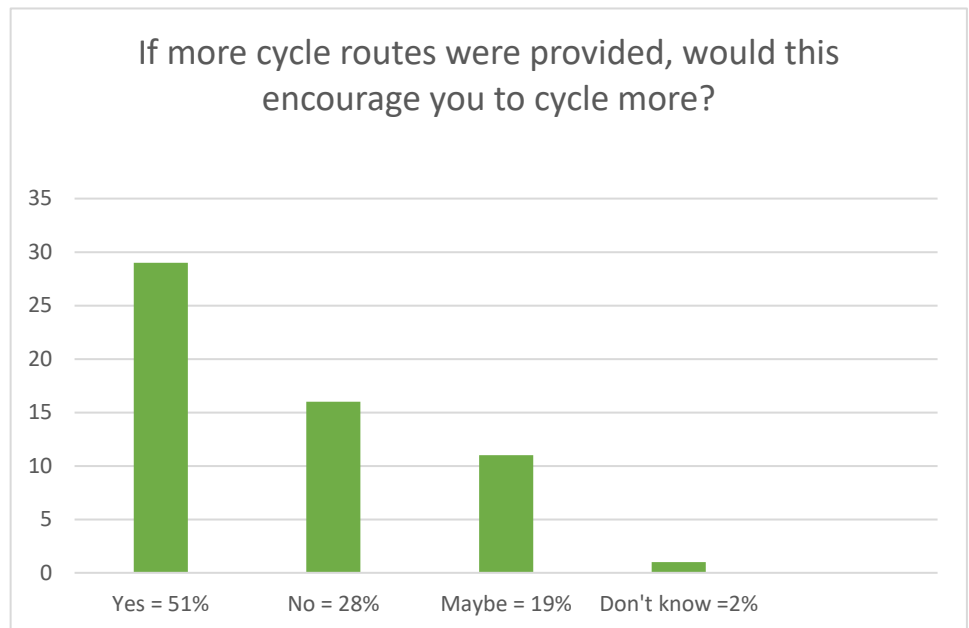


How frequently do you currently travel on Harbury Lane using the following transport modes?

Frequency	Frequently (Once a week or more)	Occasionally (Once a month or more)	Rarely (less than once a month)	Never	Not Applicable
On foot	26	13	9	7	0
Cycle	10	13	11	13	2
Bus	2	6	9	28	0
Car or van	43	5	7	1	0
Motorcycle/ moped	0	0	9	26	10
Taxi or mini cab	1	6	17	21	2
Other	0	1	7	17	16

If more cycle routes were provided, would this encourage you to cycle more?

Yes = 29
No = 16
Maybe = 11
Don't Know = 1



Which of the following best describes you? (Please select all that apply)

I live within a mile of Harbury Lane (Heathcote, Warwick Gates, Myton Green, Whitnash);	47
I work in Leamington Spa or Warwick	11
I live in another part of Leamington Spa or Warwick	10
I live outside of Leamington Spa and Warwick	1
I am a business owner	1
I go to school or college in Leamington Spa or Warwick	1

How did you find out about this project? (Please select all that apply)

Other website or social media	17
Letter/ email from the County Council	16
Word of mouth	13
Warwickshire County Council website	9
Local press (newspaper/ radio)	5
Other	4
Local event	3

Do you have specific comments you would like to make about the design of the proposed scheme or any suggestions for changes?

A wide variety of additional text comments were received and these have been grouped into key themes. 51 respondents completed this question.

Most common themes were related to the vegetation (9), general support for safer routes (8) and need for additional links (8).

There were 9 comments in total about the proposed 3.0m width for the footpath section (with 5 respondents wanting wider than 3.0m and 4 respondents stating 3.0m was too wide).

There were also 8 comments in total about crossing facilities and 6 comments about speed limits or speeding.

Theme	Comments	Number of responses
Vegetation	Don't want to see loss of trees/ hedges, concern over wildlife impact and effect on privacy of dwellings	9
Support	Support safer walking and cycle routes	8
Other links	Other links/ improvements are needed, including continuity on south side	8
Speed	Need to reduce speed limits, address speeding and/or introduce speed cameras/ traffic calming	6
Path widths	Paths and crossings should be wider and/or segregated	5
	Path doesn't need to be as wide as 3.0m	4
Timescales	Improvements overdue – the sooner the better	4
Cycle priority	Concern over cycle priority	3
Crossings	Crossings needed at Europa Way	3
	Need better crossing at Heathcote Park	2
	Need to improve Cicero Approach crossings	1
	Concern over crossing at Garrett Drive	1
	Crossing at Section D Capulet Drive not needed	1
Maintenance	Need to consider maintenance of paths and vegetation, now and in future	2
	Need to sort out drainage on paths	2
Lighting	Welcome improved lighting	2
	Concerned about lighting	1
	Personal safety concerns, request for CCTV	2
Extra items	Add signage	1
	Add litter bins	1

If you currently walk or cycle on Harbury Lane, or have done in the past, do you have any comments you would like to make about your experiences?

These have also been summarised by themes in the following table. 48 respondents completed this question.

Over half of all comments were safety related (27 in total) and one third of respondents had concerns about the current condition of paths and roads (17 in total).

4 people felt that existing facilities were fine.

Theme	Comments	Number of responses
Safety	Harbury Lane not currently safe for cycling	10
	Harbury Lane not currently safe for walking/ running	7
	Problems with speeding vehicles	6
	Crossing difficulties/ concerns	4
Condition of paths/ road	Paths are muddy or flooded and become unusable in winter	9
	Paths are too narrow and can be obstructed by vegetation	6
	Harbury Lane – carriageway surface is poor and not good for cycling	2
Lighting	Paths are too dark/ feel unsafe due to lack of lighting	7
No issues	Facilities are fine as they are	4
Accessibility	Footpaths are difficult to access	3
Cyclist behaviour	Anti-social behaviour by cyclists (children on bikes around Co-Op and fast cyclists on path not using bells)	2

Appendix B – comments at drop-in events

The three in-person drop-in events provided a useful opportunity for officers to have in depth conversations with local residents and councillors, and to explain the proposals in more detail. The two Heathcote events also included security bike marking and ‘Dr Bike’ free safety checks. One event was also timed to tie in with a local health walk. (The combination of activities and support of local community venues (Heathcote Community Centre and Lower Heathcote Co-Op) proved very successful and will be used as the model for future engagement on Active Travel schemes).

A summary of participation is shown below:

Date	Duration	Venue	Officers	Visitor numbers	No. bikes security marked	No. bikes checked by ‘Dr Bike’
Tuesday 22 nd August (school holidays)	11.30am to 1.30pm	Heathcote Community Centre, Cressida Close CV34 6DZ	3	20	2	6
Saturday 2 nd September	10am to 5pm	Leamington EcoFest, Pump Room Gardens CV32 4AA	3	60*	n/a	n/a
Tuesday 5 September (term time)	2.30pm to 4.30pm	Lower Heathcote Co-Op, Vickers Way CV34 7BR	3	25	9	13

*Information was provided about Harbury Lane Active Travel Connections together with plans for a proposed Toucan crossing at Radford Road, Leamington Spa and new walking and cycling maps.

The feedback from people at the drop-in events was similar to comments received in the survey responses, but there were more detailed conversations and specific questions from some residents about the impact to their property. Particular comments included:

- Concerns about pedestrian access and crossing facilities for elderly and disabled residents of Heathcote Park including request to consider signal-controlled crossing
- Discussions regarding impact on hedges and loss of vegetation or wildlife habitat – but also reassurance from officers that the project would involve ecological surveys and look to minimise removal of vegetation
- Lighting – requests not only for lighting on footpath but for better lighting on Harbury Lane
- Wider connections – importance of crossing provision at Europa Way and links to wider walking and cycling network. Need to upgrade crossings and route along Tachbrook Road to provide continuous route to/from Leamington Railway Station. Link to Earl Rivers Avenue across open space also needs upgrading.
- Information requested on Tachbrook Country Park – connections between the schemes and timescales
- Observations on how Harbury Lane has changed in recent years – with increasing volume of traffic and associated noise
- Clarification of paths and cycle tracks on the engagement plans
- Road humps and priority crossings requested on south side – at Garrett Drive and Vickers Way.

Appendix C – other comments (email/ phone call)

12 emails and 1 phone call were received about the proposals including 9 from local residents and 4 from organisations (RNIB, WDC Green Space team, Cycleways and British Cycling). In addition to these, Active Travel England provided detailed feedback through their design review process.

The emailed comments included:

Theme	Comments
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General support – works need to be done as soon as possible
Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over potential loss of bushes and trees. • Need for wildlife assessment • More bushes/ trees/ flowering plants need to be planted for habitat, attractiveness and to insulate homeowners against noise • Mature oak trees at end of footpath need to be properly protected during the construction phase in accordance with BS 5837 (Trees in Relation to Construction) and any path widening is away from tree
Local access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove barriers on existing cycle track near Tressel Croft • Add connection to the proposed cycle track at the end of Trinculo Grove. • Links between the path and nearby streets will increase permeability. • Close existing connection to footpath from Tamora Close • Realign proposed path from Harbury Lane to Earl Rivers to link with existing cycle routes heading north • Close Nightingale Avenue access to motor traffic • Suggest alternative route to Europa Way via Nightingale Avenue, Swallow Drive, and widened footpath • Consider additional links/ crossings on south side of Harbury lane near Europa Way (residents already walking in verge and cutting through gaps in hedges)
Other links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for a walking and cycling route along Europa Way between Harbury Lane and Shires Retail Park • Improve the Heathcote/ Tachbrook Road junction • Provide additional crossing on Lionheart Avenue (within new development away from Harbury Lane) • Include minor improvements to existing cycle routes in the surrounding area such as: replacing chicane barriers with bollards, introducing priority at side roads, as well as wayfinding
Speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce speed limit and introduce traffic calming measures
Path widths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.0m width for footpath is inadequate for increased demand – suggested 4.5m instead, and separation between pedestrians and cyclists • Need for clear space either side of path
Cycle priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South side - issues with lack of continuity at Heathcote Park and no provision at side roads • Introduce cycle priority crossings at Garrett Drive and Vickers Way • Need greater priority/ signal-controlled crossing for pedestrians and cyclists crossing at Earl Rivers Avenue

Theme	Comments
Crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove slip road at Tachbrook Road junction • Provide parallel cycle crossing Harbury Lane/ Lionheart Avenue junction • Install bicycle detection loops on Cicero Approach crossing • Request for signal-controlled crossing for Heathcote Park residents, many of whom are elderly and/or disabled. (One person preferred to see a crossing here rather than at Blakemore Drive). Refuge crossing at Heathcote Park not used (people cross at entrance to Heathcote Park)
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing paths better • Consider drainage at points where tarmac paths adjoin unsurfaced sections
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more information on lighting adjacent to properties at Tamora Close • Lighting to have cowls fitted and partial switch off
Extra items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested locations of new litter bins • Request for benches • Add signage • Need for clear markings on shared use paths, and white line where segregated
General design comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared RNIB's Key Principles of Inclusive Street Design • Not in favour of shared use footways • Support for the cycle path behind the hedge, attractive and more suitable for children travelling to school • Advisory route section may be along a private drive • Prefer to see improved provision for cyclists on road network • Remove sharp turns from the route at eastern end • Advisory route section may be along a private drive