

Gosbecks Primary School, Owen Ward Close, Colchester Healthy School Streets: Perception Survey Report

December 2024



**SAFER
GREENER
HEALTHIER**

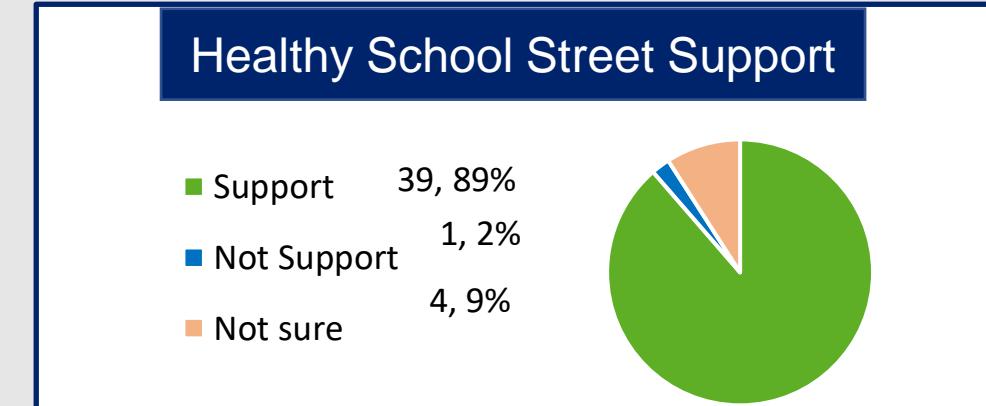
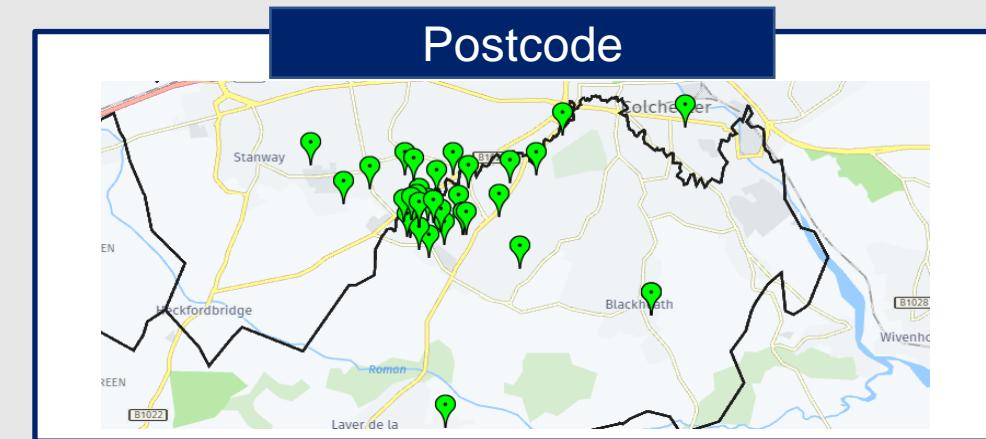
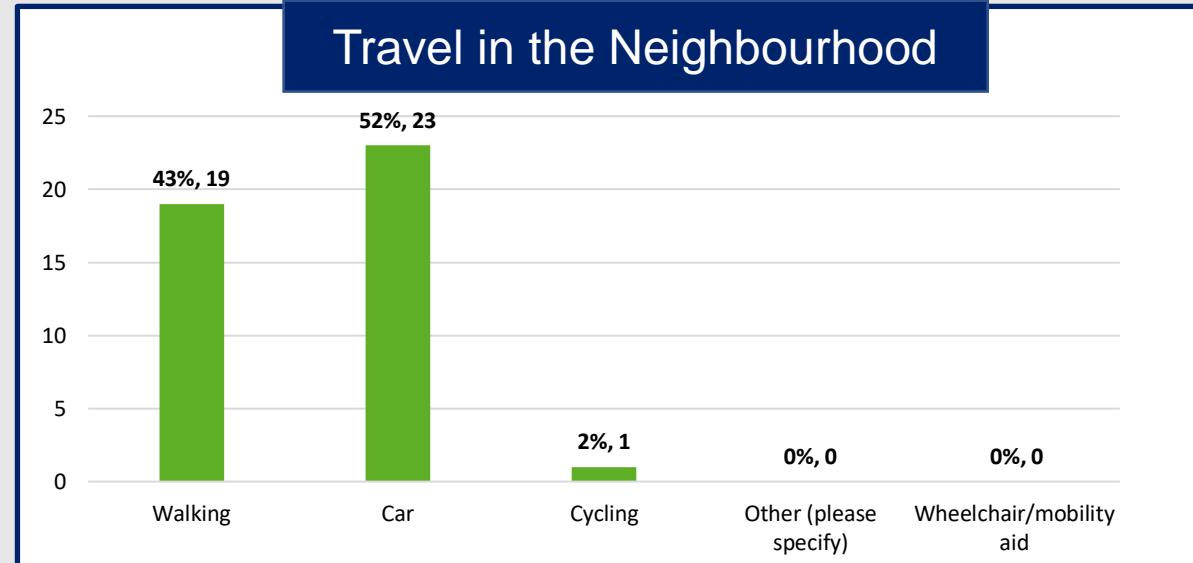
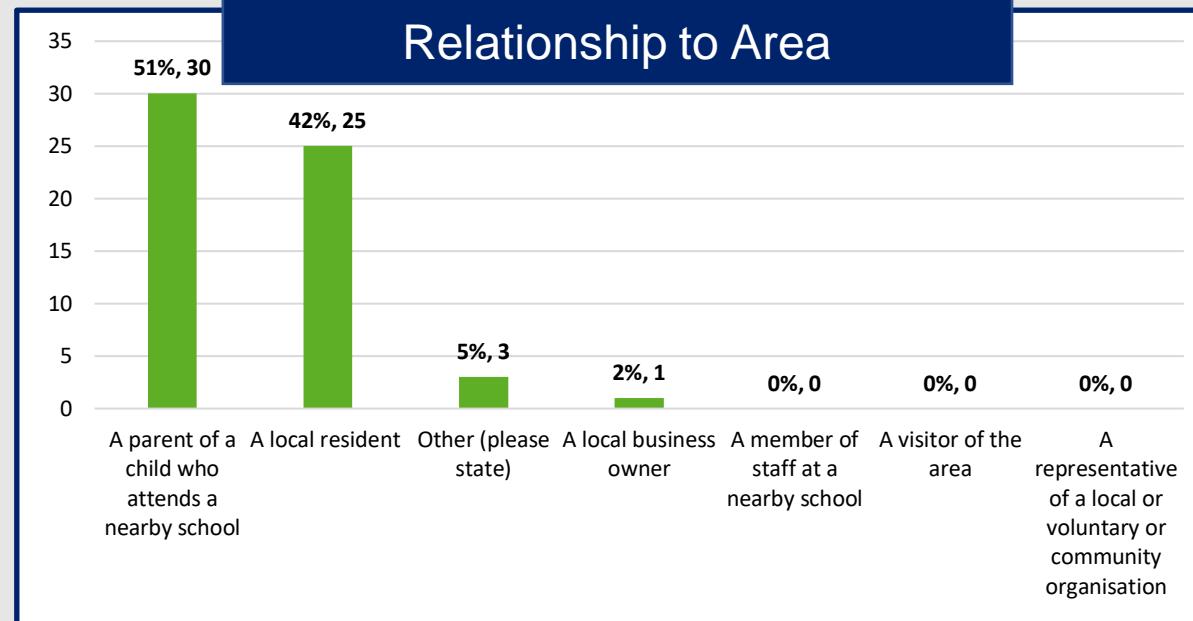
Survey Overview

Feedback was collected from local people, businesses and the school community around Owen Ward Close and surrounding areas of Gosbecks Primary School. The survey asked about concerns around transport-related issues and suggestions for changes in and around the School area.

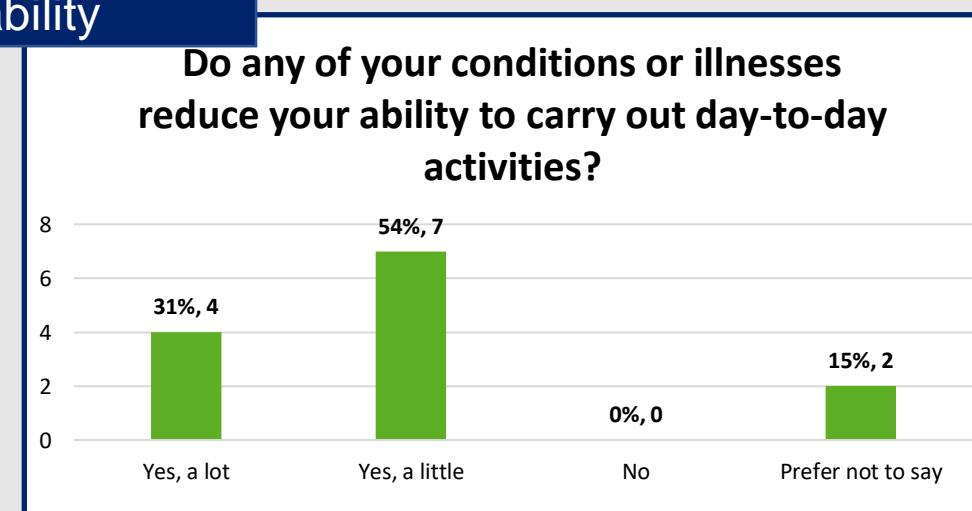
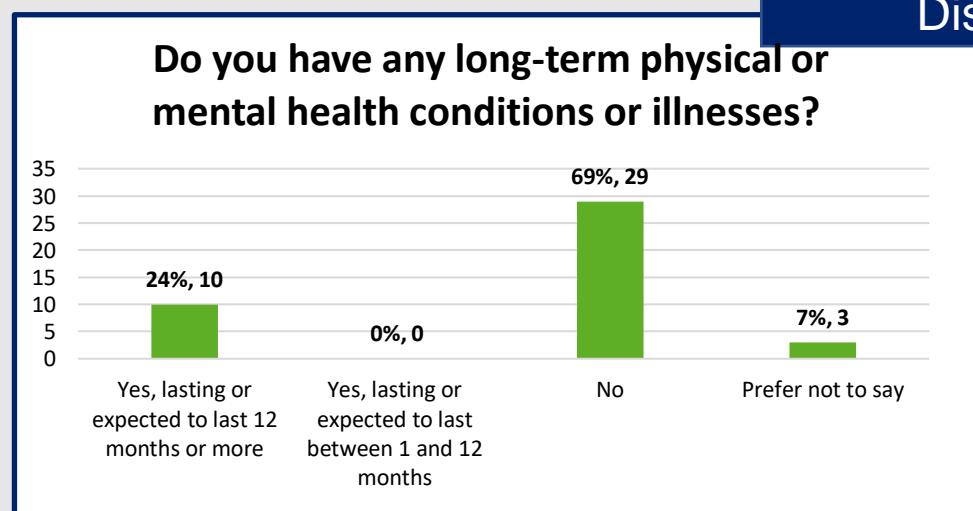
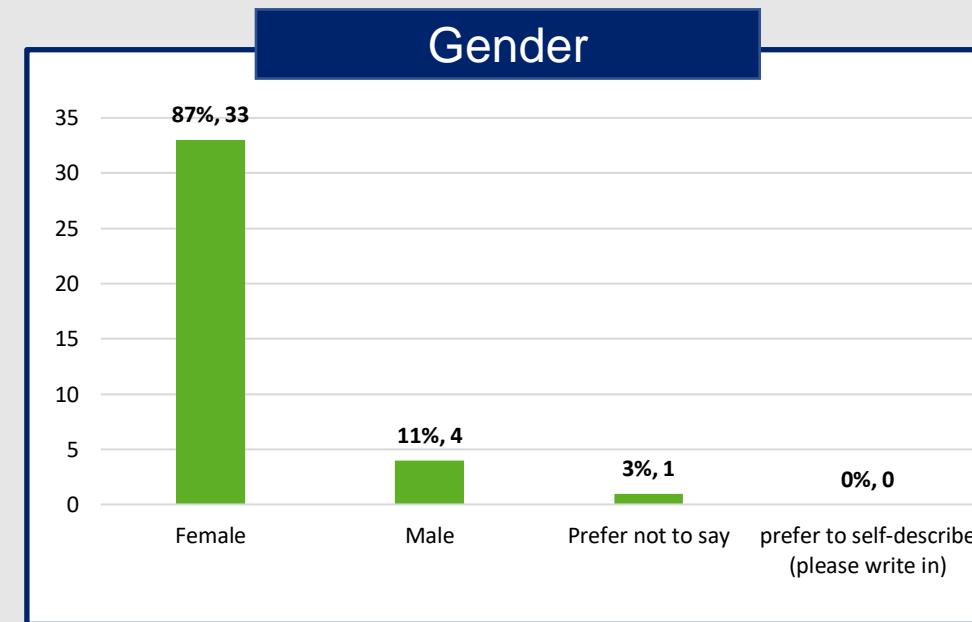
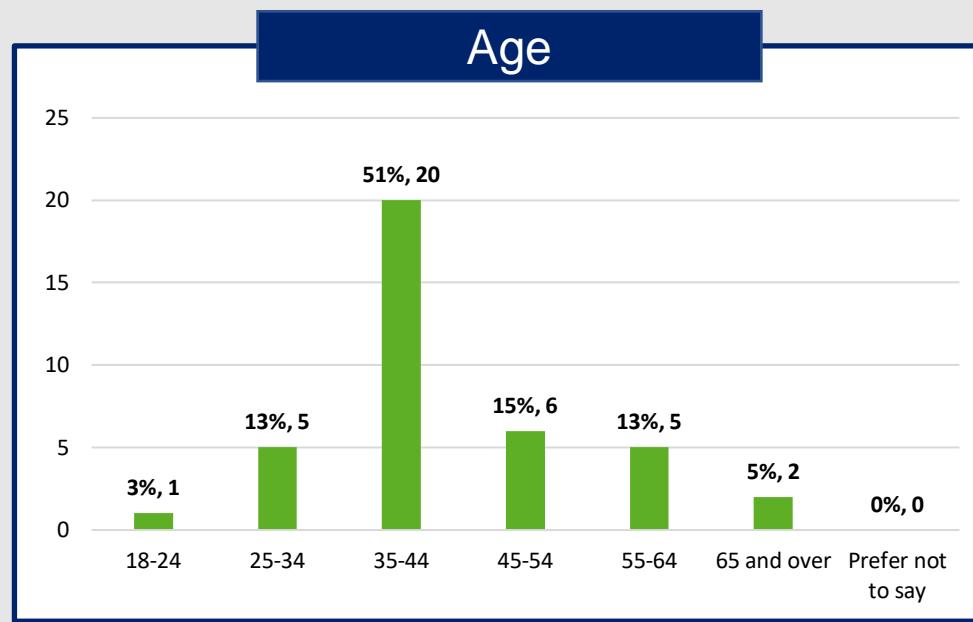
The survey ran was open from **3/06/2024 to 31/07/2024** and received 44 responses. It was distributed through letter box drops to residents and businesses and through the school comms to parents as well as being promoted in person outside the school gate.

Currently, no funding is available to progress this programme, however these results will help Essex County Council understand the issues experienced outside the school and potential supported changes to inform future discussions with the local community to develop designs to help ease congestion and improve conditions for residents, parents and pupils walking and cycling to school, in order to create a safer and healthier environment in Colchester should funding become available in the future.

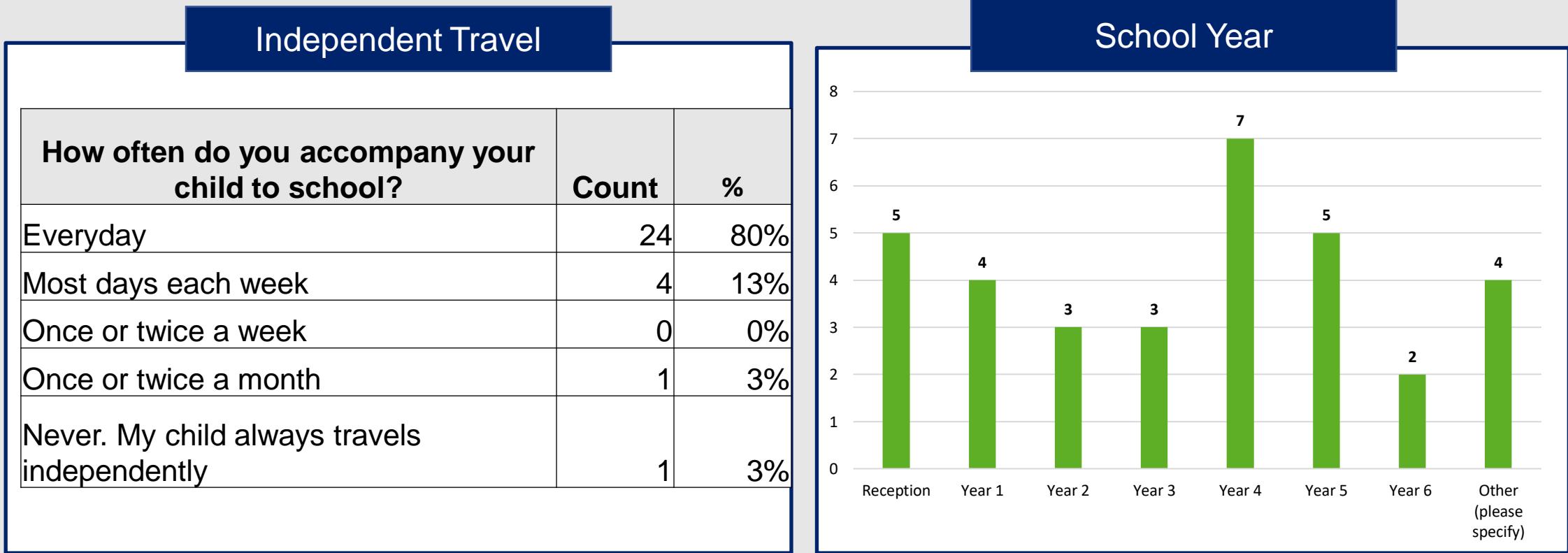
Respondent Overview



Demographics



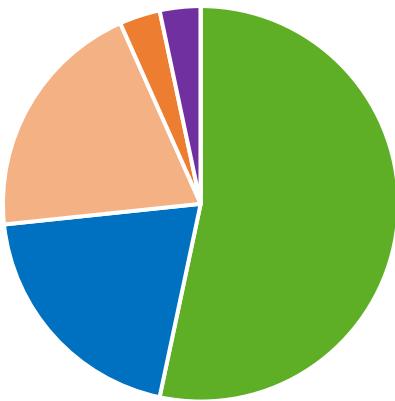
School Overview



Pupil/Parent Travel Overview

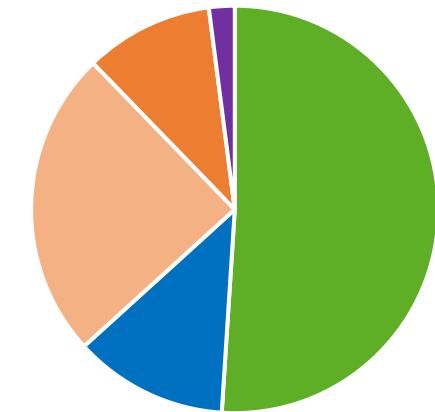
Overall Pupil Travel Mode

Walk	16, 54%
Car/Taxi	6, 20%
Park & Stride	6, 20%
Scoot/Skate	1, 3%
Cycle	1, 3%
Other	0, 0%

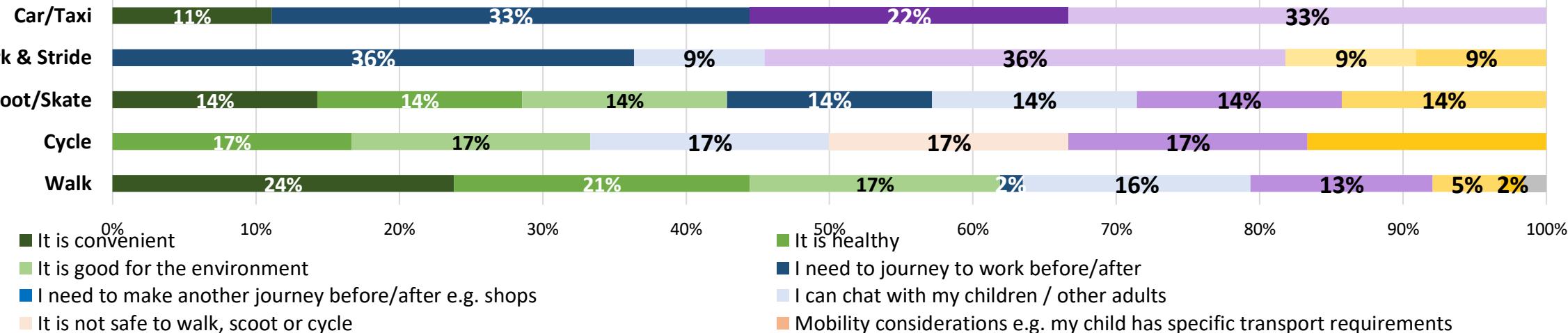


Preferred Pupil Travel Mode

Walk	25, 51%
Scoot/Skate	12, 25%
Cycle	6, 12%
Park & Stride	5, 10%
Car/Taxi	1, 2%



Reasons for Travel by Mode

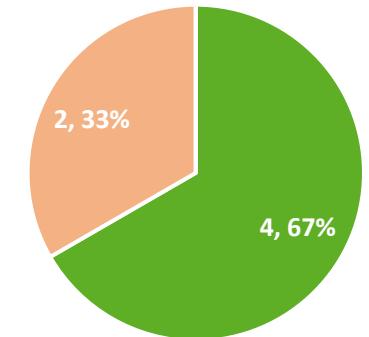


Parent Parking Behaviours



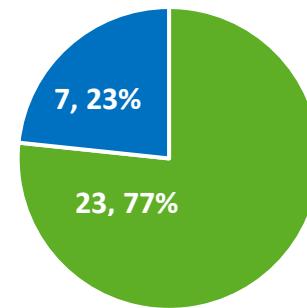
If parking on that particular road was made prohibitive, would you...

- Park on a different road
- Walk, scoot or cycle from your front door
- Use a designated park and stride site
- Consider the bus



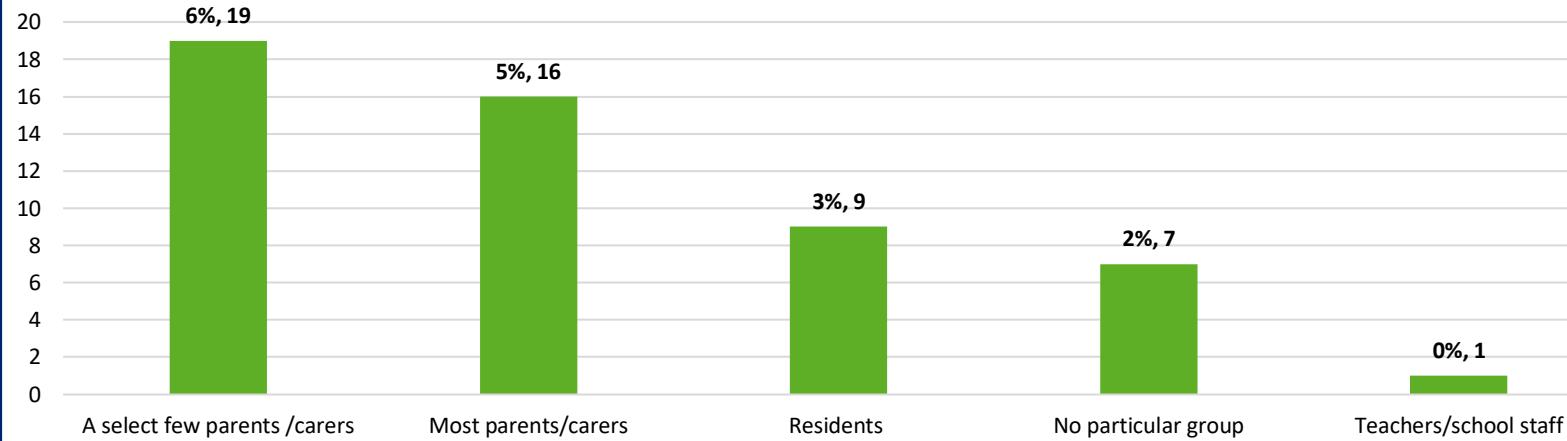
Are you aware that the school has a Park and Stride?

■ Yes ■ No

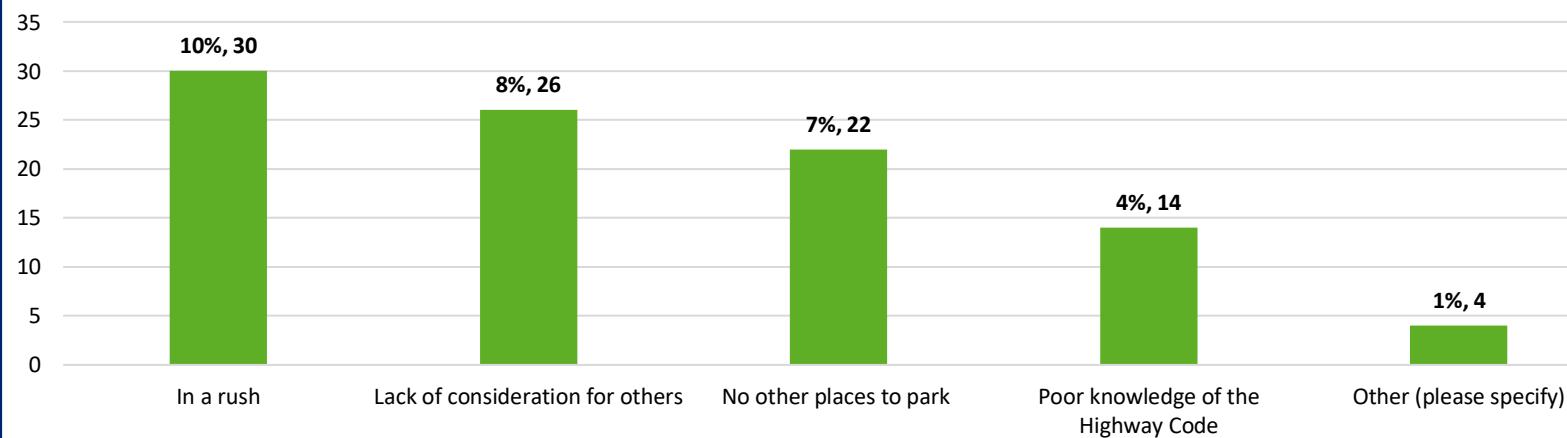


Local School Community Parking Behaviours

In your opinion, are there any particular groups that park inconsiderately or illegally?



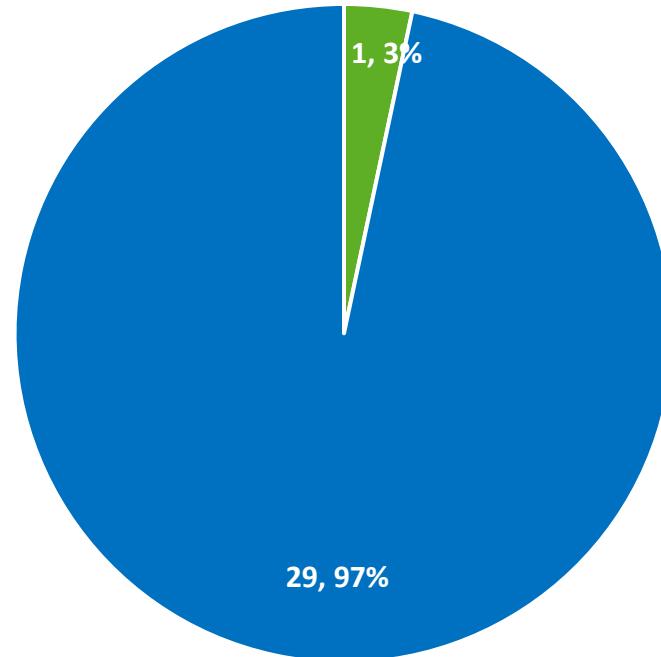
In your opinion, why do you think people park inconsiderately or illegally?



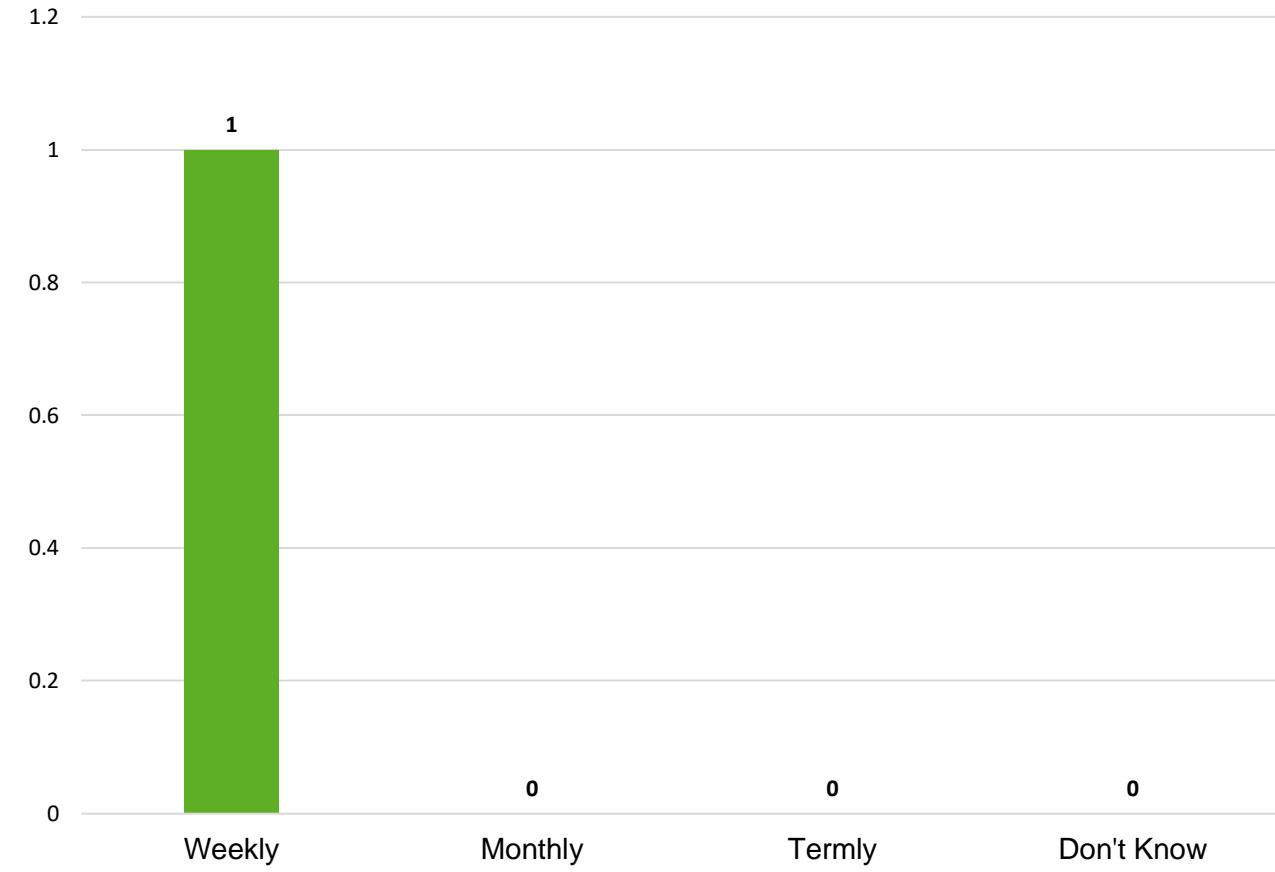
School Travel Plan Awareness & Promotion

Are you aware if the school has a School Travel Plan (STP)?

■ Yes ■ No



How regularly does the school promote their STP to parents?



Perceptions of the Street Environment:

Traffic



66% of respondents feel **traffic is very busy**

52% feel **illegal parking is a big problem**

45% of respondents feel **traffic speeds are a big problem in the area**

Street Environment



81% feel it is **not easy to stop sit and rest**

74% of respondents **rate the quality of the pavement as low** with regard to width and surface.

Safety



52% do not feel safe cycling around the area (compared to 14% who do)

29% do not feel safe walking around the area (compared to 31% who do)

How easy is it to cross the local roads approaching the school on foot?



How much of a problem are traffic speeds in the area?



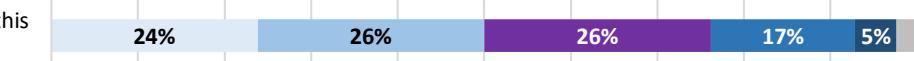
Regarding traffic levels, how busy do you find the area?



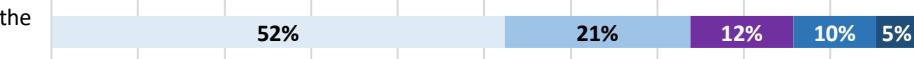
How much of a problem is illegal parking in this area?



Thinking about pavement obstructions, how easy do you find it to walk down this street?



How would you rate the quality of the pavements on this street, thinking about the pavement width, and pavement surface?



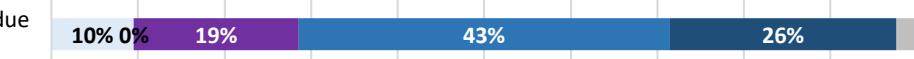
How easy is it to find spaces to stop, sit and rest?



How easy is it to find shelter when it is very sunny or raining?



How easily can you have a conversation on this street without raising your voice due to the noise?



How safe do you feel in this area with regards to personal safety?



How safe do you feel cycling around this area with regards to traffic?



How safe do you feel walking around this area with regards to traffic?

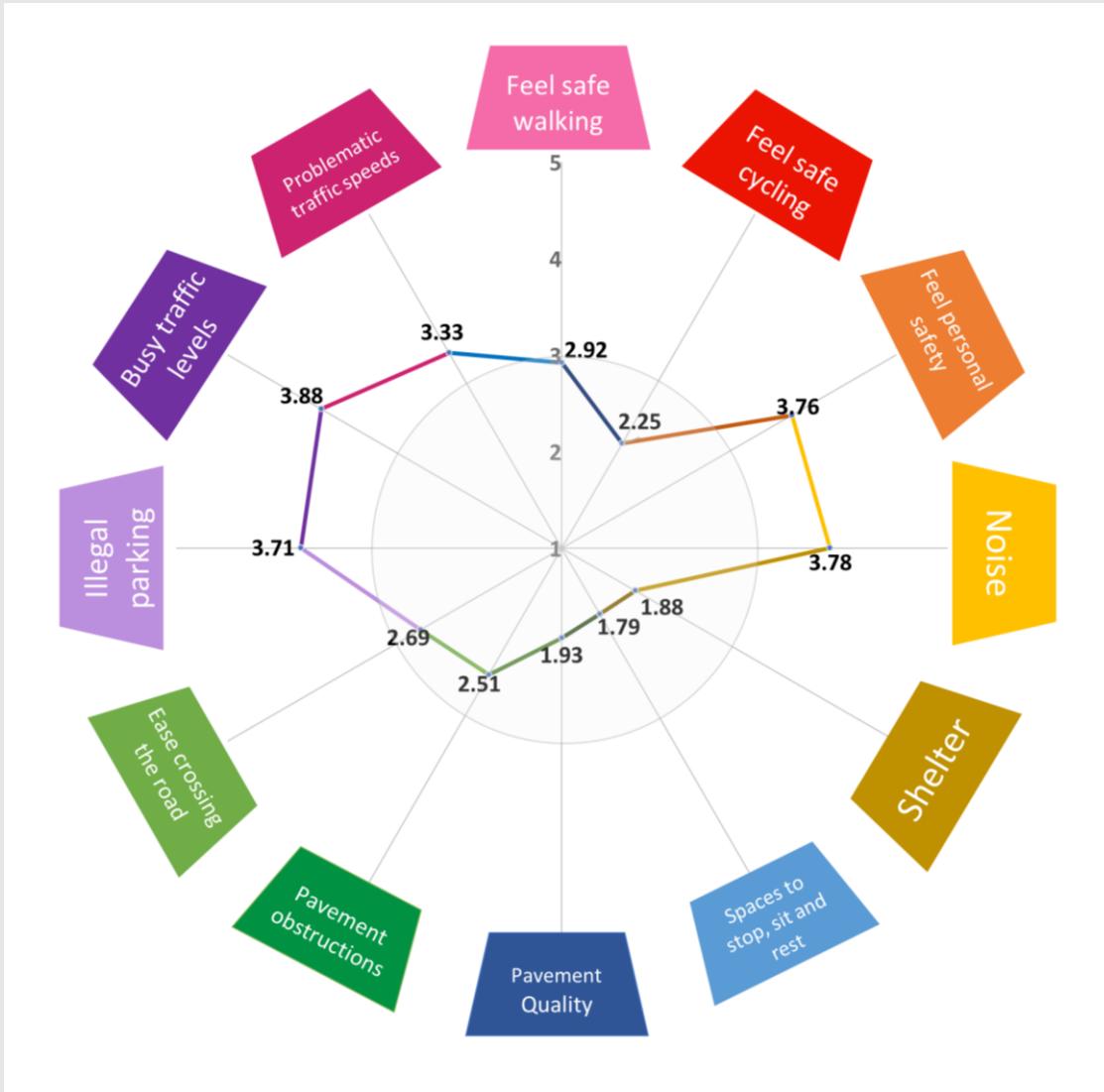


0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

1. Not at all 2 3 4 5. Extremely N/A

242-309 respondents

Perceptions of the Street Environment:



- Illegal parking, busy traffic levels and traffic speeds are perceived as problematic, averaging well above the mid-level '3' on the scale of 1. Not at all to 5. Extremely. These are negative aspects of the street environment.
- Of the positive street environment aspects, only personal safety and ease to have a conversation (noise) are deemed as safe and easy well above the mid-level '3'.
- Finding shelter, spaces to stop, sit and rest as well as pavement quality (surface and width) are perceived at particularly low levels, with feeling safe cycling as the next lowest.

Importance of Changes to the Street

Most important

71% think safe cycle and scooting training for children is very or extremely important

71% think improved pavement quality and width is very or extremely important

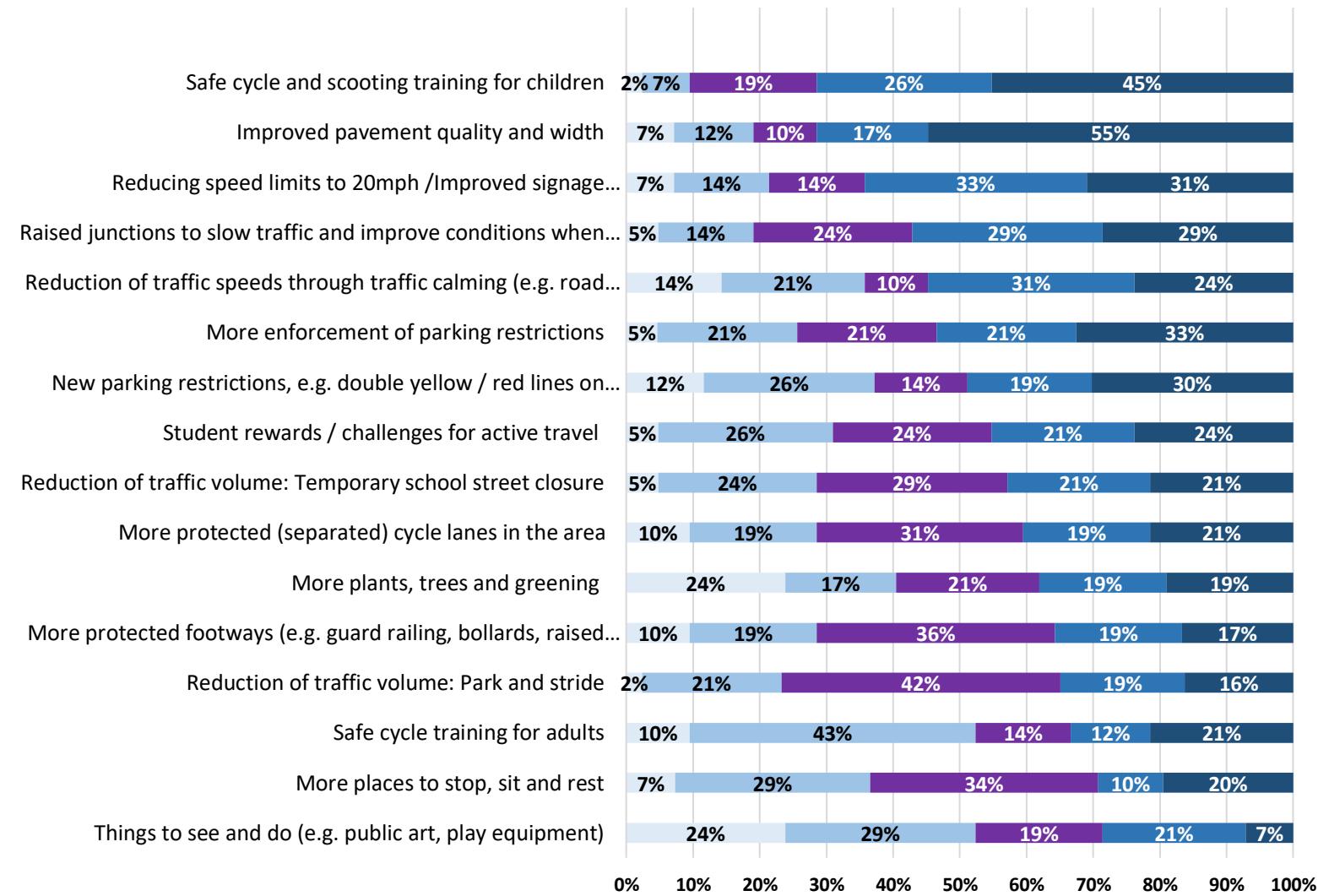
64% think reducing speed limits to 20mph /Improved signage highlighting speed limits in the area is very or extremely important

Least important

29% think things to see and do (e.g. public art, play equipment) are very or extremely important

29% think more places to stop, sit and rest are very or extremely important

33% think safe cycle training for adults is very or extremely important



1. Not important at all 2. Somewhat important 3. Quite important 4. Very important 5. Extremely important

Ranked Importance of Changes to the Street

Ranking	Measure	Score
1	Safe cycle and scooting training for children	4.0
2	Improved pavement quality and width	4.0
3	Reducing speed limits to 20mph /Improved signage highlighting speed limits in the area	3.7
4	Raised junctions to slow traffic and improve conditions when crossing the road for people walking	3.6
5	More enforcement of parking restrictions	3.6
6	Student rewards / challenges for active travel	3.3
7	Reduction of traffic volume: Temporary school street closure	3.3
8	New parking restrictions, e.g. double yellow / red lines on junctions	3.3
9	Reduction of traffic speeds through traffic calming (e.g. road humps, chicanes etc)	3.3
10	Reduction of traffic volume: Park and stride	3.3
11	More protected (separated) cycle lanes in the area	3.2
12	More protected footways (e.g. guard railing, bollards, raised kerb)	3.1
13	More places to stop, sit and rest	3.0
14	Safe cycle training for adults	2.9
15	More plants, trees and greening	2.9
16	Things to see and do (e.g. public art, play equipment)	2.6

Open-text Responses Overview

Top Issues	Top Solutions
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) High speeds and dangerous driving (including pavement driving)- 62) Illegal / unsafe parking including parking on the pavement, or on junctions – 63) Footpath condition – 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Enforcement of dangerous driving and parking – 32) Close road or resident parking permits–43) Safe crossing and or a crossing patrol – 84) Footpath improvements – 25) Park and stride OR drop off points - 2

“Parking on pavements/driveway access points is a problem in this area, reducing the pedestrian route options and disrupts visibility/line of sight.”

“We walk to school but my child and others regularly trip and fall due to poor pavements. More children would walk/scoot if the pavements were better”

“Parents do not heed the parking restrictions therefore causing congestion at the junction at Paxman Avenue with Gosbecks Road. Cars trying to turn into Paxman Avenue are then queuing onto Gosbecks Rd .The parking restrictions need to be enforced but there is rarely a Park Safe vehicle or PSCO in sight to do this!”

“There is very little parking for parents who have to travel a distance to school . I have no option but to drive. There is no clear parking area for parents who are in this situation.”

“Speeding drivers , parents dropping children off parking illegally morning and evening. Drivers ignoring the rules of the road, and behaving aggressively. I would like to see a speed limit of 20 miles per hour. The presence of parking attendants would solve a lot of problems.”

“A pedestrian crossing across the B1022 would benefit a large amount of students entering the rear entrance of the school as this is a busy road.”

“Shrub end road needs a zebra crossing”

“Zebra crossings in front of school gate at Gosbecks. Trying to cross the road is dangerous and cars don’t slow down or stop at all.”