

Woking Borough Council

**Proposed road layout changes:
Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach**

**Consultation Report
February 2019**

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1 Executive summary

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 In autumn 2018, Woking Borough Council, working in partnership with Surrey County Council, consulted on proposals to change the road layout south of Victoria Arch in Woking Town Centre. This document details the consultation process and summarises the responses received.
- 1.1.2 The proposed scheme involves replacing the existing one-way gyratory, around Guildford Road, Victoria Road and the A320 Station Approach, with a two-way road. The objectives include reducing significant levels of existing congestion along Guildford Road and improving walking and cycling facilities along the corridor.
- 1.1.3 To deliver the improvement, the carriageway would need to be extended 15 metres further east, affecting some property and creating an area of land for possible future development. This proposed future development area was shown for reference on consultation materials although the scope of the consultation focused on the proposed road layout changes only.
- 1.1.4 There was also a suggested amendment to access between Guildford Road and Heathside Road. No other planned changes to land use and access were associated with the published consultation.

1.2 The consultation

- 1.2.1 The consultation ran for six weeks from 12 September until 24 October 2018. Views were sought from people living and working in the area, as well as those who travel to and from Woking, and other key stakeholders including local elected representatives.
- 1.2.2 It was publicised via a range of channels, including the local media, online and social media activity, and a postcard delivered to over 3,400 local residents and businesses. Two public drop-in sessions were also held to give people the opportunity to speak to members of the project team and find out more about the proposals.
- 1.2.3 The consultation elicited views from 1,315 respondents.
- 1.2.4 Two petitions opposing the plans, containing 807 and 618 signatures respectively, were received during the consultation period, while local campaigns were also run by interested parties to encourage responses. The principal issues identified in these campaigns were:
 - Impacts on property owners and local amenity value,
 - A change in access arrangements for the Day Aggregates site in the area, with a removal in access from Guildford Road, and
 - Demolition of listed properties.

- 1.2.5 For the purposes of consultation analysis, the petitions have not been included in the total number of responses received, as only the number of completed questionnaires and written responses are included in the final analysed figures.
- 1.2.6 This is in line with consultation best practice to ensure that respondents have received consistent information about the proposed scheme, directly from the scheme promoter, as information from third parties may or may not accurately reflect the proposals (eg the wording of one petition in response to this consultation suggested that the access arrangements for the Day Aggregates site would change as a result of the proposals but, as outlined above in paragraph 1.1.4, there is no change to this access point associated with these plans).
- 1.2.7 The petitions have, however, been considered alongside other consultation responses and the issues raised within them are dealt with in section 6 of this report.

1.3 Summary of responses received

- 1.3.1 The overarching question about the proposals was: 'In principle do you agree or disagree with proposals to change the road layout at Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach?'
- 1.3.2 Of the 1,290 respondents that answered this question, 80% of respondents either strongly disagreed or disagreed with the proposals, 16% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed, 4% neither agreed nor disagreed.
- 1.3.3 Further to the principal question, respondents were also asked a series of questions to elicit the level of support for the supporting proposals within the scheme to improve access for cyclists and pedestrians.
- 1.3.4 The majority of respondents also strongly disagreed with these supporting proposals, including aspects of the scheme, such as new pedestrian crossing points and repaving of footways that have been successfully delivered elsewhere in Woking in recent years.
- 1.3.5 Additional comments received from respondents to the consultation included references to the potential impact of the proposals to businesses along Guildford Road, impact on access to Heathside Road and the perceived change associated with the Day Aggregates site.
- 1.3.6 It is therefore possible that respondents' concerns about specific aspects of the proposals, whether based on the potential impacts from the published plans or information put forward by a third party, have contributed to the level of opposition to each aspect of the proposed scheme.

1.4 Stakeholder responses

- 1.4.1 The consultation prompted one stakeholder response from Southview Medical Practice. The Practice was supportive of the possible increase in physical activity as a result of improved walking and cycling facilities, as well as efforts to reduce harmful emissions in the local community.

- 1.4.2 However, the Practice had concerns about the close proximity of their car park entrance on Constitution Hill to Guildford Road, and concerns about the proposed removal of parking on Constitution Hill which is currently used by patients. They also informed the Borough Council that there is land around them that could be used to improve parking availability.

1.5 Next steps

- 1.5.1 Having considered all responses to the consultation, the Borough Council intends to proceed with the proposed scheme with the following modifications:

- The road layout design will be adapted to accommodate the left-turn for vehicles from Guildford Road into Heathside Road
- The Guildford Road bus stop will be moved south of the junction with York Road

- 1.5.2 A Housing Infrastructure Fund submission will be prepared and submitted to central Government to help develop the proposals further.

- 1.5.3 The Borough Council recognises the concerns raised through the consultation regarding the impact of the road layout changes on businesses located along Guildford Road. Discussions between the Borough Council, affected landowners and other interested parties are ongoing, while the Borough Council is committed to ensuring that the benefits of the scheme are delivered for the local community, while any associated impacts are minimised as far as possible.

- 1.5.4 The proposals are also directly linked with Network Rail's intention to widen Victoria Arch, the bridge which carries the railway over Guildford Road. Discussions regarding the bridge widening continue between the Borough Council and Network Rail.

2 About the proposals

2.1 Introduction

Woking Borough Council (WBC), in partnership with Surrey County Council (SCC), carried out a public consultation between 12 September and 24 October 2018.

Proposals include replacing the one-way gyratory along Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach with a two-way road for vehicles, as well as the introduction of new shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

This chapter sets out the background to the project and is followed by chapters on the consultation approach and analysis of responses.

2.2 Project overview

2.2.1 A large amount of redevelopment has been completed in Woking town centre in recent years, with further improvements planned to continue until at least 2023 as part of the Borough Council's plans to underpin the economic growth of the area. This work includes around 5,500 new homes, hotels and shopping facilities, as well as new public spaces and other amenities designed to make the town a better place to live, work and do business.

WBC has commissioned WSP to identify options for removing a one-way gyratory to the south of the town centre. It should be noted that in order to deliver the full extent of the scheme Victoria Arch, the Network Rail bridge which carries the railway over Guildford Road would need to be widened.

2.2.2 The gyratory, along Guildford Road (northbound), Victoria Road (eastbound) and Station Approach (southbound), can create a bottleneck for traffic heading towards the town centre and station, with queues often stretching along Guildford Road. This impacts on the local economy and amenity facilities as Guildford Road provides an important link between the town centre and key destinations, including Woking Park, swimming pool and leisure centre.

2.3 The proposals

2.3.1 The consultation sought views on the following proposals:

- Replacing the one-way gyratory on Guildford Road/Victoria Road/Station Approach with a two-way road for vehicles along Guildford Road and Victoria Road
- Introducing new shared pedestrian and cycle paths, with a section of the A320 Station Approach, from Victoria Road to Heathside Road, open to pedestrians and cyclists only
- Installing four new toucan crossings for pedestrians and cyclists
- Adapting the junction of Heathside Road with Guildford Road so that it becomes left-turn exit only with no access for vehicles from Guildford Road
- Improving the non-signalised crossing point with dropped kerb on the western side of Guildford Road near to York Road enabling easier access to Guildford Road bus stop
- Resurfacing footways to encourage more local journeys on foot

- Improving informal pedestrian crossing linking to Guildford Road bus stop.

2.4 Key benefits of the project

- 2.4.1 The project is designed to relieve congestion around the town centre and improve traffic flow to help accommodate additional transport demand arising from new development identified within the Local Plan. Removing the gyratory would also provide scope for introducing safer, more convenient walking and cycling routes between the town centre, residential areas and other important local places of interest. In addition, the proposed changes could help to unlock a number of future developments in the immediate area.

2.5 Potential impacts

The scheme proposals included widening Guildford Road by 15 metres to the east. This would have an impact on some properties and local businesses located on the eastern side of Guildford Road. A proposed future development area was shown for reference on consultation materials although the scope of the consultation focused on the proposed road layout changes only.

Potential impacts also included removal of direct vehicular access from Guildford Road to Heathside Road, the removal of six parking spaces along Constitution Hill and the removal of two trees at the southern end of the gyratory.

3 The consultation

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 The consultation ran for six weeks, between 12 September and 24 October 2018 and sought views on proposals to change the road layout south of Woking town centre.

3.1.2 The consultation was designed to:

- Raise awareness of the proposals among local residents and businesses, stakeholders, and the public
- Explain the impacts of the proposed changes
- Ensure prospective respondents received sufficient information about the proposals in order to make an informed response
- Raise awareness of the benefits of more sustainable transport modes.

3.2 Who was consulted

3.2.1 The consultation sought views from people living and working in the area, as well as those who travel to and from Woking.

3.2.2 In addition, key stakeholders were consulted, including local elected representatives, walking and cycling groups, schools and colleges, religious centres, and local community groups.

3.2.3 A list of stakeholders that were consulted is included in Appendix A, while a summary of stakeholder responses received to the consultation is included in section 5.

3.3 What was asked

3.3.1 Two specific project questions were asked in the consultation. There was also a further comments box to enable respondents to submit any additional thoughts they may have had on any aspect of the proposals. More information about the questions and analysis of responses is set out in section 5, while a full list of consultation questions is included in Appendix B.

3.4 What was outside the scope of the consultation

3.4.1 The consultation focused on the proposed road layout changes along Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach. As such, proposals for a possible future development area on the eastern side of Station Approach did not form part of the consultation.

3.4.2 The consultation also did not include proposals for Victoria Arch (the Network Rail bridge above Guildford Road) or ongoing works as part of the Victoria Square development.

3.5 Methods of responding

- 3.5.1 Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation by completing an online questionnaire, available via the consultation website: woking.gov.uk/guildfordrdconsultation. Written responses were also accepted via a freepost address (Guildford Rd consultation, Woking Borough Council, FREEPOST G11690, Gloucester Square, Woking, GU21 6BR) or email (guildfordrdconsultation@woking.gov.uk). Contact details were also provided in all consultation material.
- 3.5.2 There was also a phone number that people could call to ask for further information or request a paper copy of the questionnaire.

3.6 Consultation materials and publicity

- 3.6.1 The consultation was promoted using a range of different methods to encourage as many views as possible. The methods used are listed below.
- 3.6.2 **Website:** The primary method for capturing views was via the consultation website: (woking.gov.uk/guildfordrdconsultation), where respondents were able to complete an online questionnaire.
- 3.6.3 **Consultation postcard:** The consultation postcard was designed to inform people of the consultation and to direct them to the consultation online questionnaire. It was distributed to 3,420 properties that are located in close proximity to the scheme area and could therefore be affected if the proposals go ahead. Respondents could also request copies of the consultation materials in another format by contacting WBC using the contact details provided. The consultation postcard distribution area is shown in Appendix C. The artwork for the postcard is included in Appendix D.
- 3.6.4 **Emails to stakeholders:** Stakeholders were notified of the consultation by email on the day of the launch. Stakeholders included local councillors (both from WBC and SCC), local community groups, schools, colleges and religious centres. A full list of stakeholders is included in Appendix A.
- 3.6.5 **Press release:** A press release was issued to local and regional media, including Woking News and Mail, Eagle Radio, Radio Jackie, BBC Surrey, BBC online as well as key local groups such as residents' associations. A copy of the press release is included in Appendix D.
- 3.6.6 **Local advertising:** Promotional banners were placed in prominent areas of Woking town centre to raise awareness of the scheme and consultation. The banners could be seen in Woking station, Woking library, Pool in the Park and Woking leisure centre.
- 3.6.7 A full set of consultation banners explaining the proposed scheme were also placed in the windows of Morris House, 34 Commercial Way, Woking for the duration of the consultation, with the exception of the public exhibition events when they were moved to Wolsey Place Shopping Centre. The artwork for the banners is included in Appendix D.

- 3.6.8 **Social media campaign:** The consultation was advertised on Twitter through WBC's feed (@wokingcouncil), which has more than 7,000 followers, and on its Facebook page.
- 3.6.9 **Public exhibition events:** A prominent area of Woking town centre was chosen for the public events to raise awareness of the scheme and consultation. Two public exhibition events were held on the following days at Wolsey Place Shopping Centre in Woking town centre:
- Thursday 20 September from 12.30pm until 8pm
 - Saturday 29 September from 10am until 4pm
- 3.6.10 The consultation banners were on display at the events, along with other materials, while project representatives were present to answer questions about the proposals. There were more than 500 visitors across the two sessions, with more than 300 on the Thursday session.
- 3.6.11 Attendees were encouraged to complete the online questionnaire in order to submit their comments on the proposals, although a balance of opinions were also expressed at the events. Views ranged from concerns about potential impacts on local business, to those who felt that the proposals were needed and would help towards reducing congestion in the town centre. A notable number of concerns were also expressed at the extent of ongoing redevelopment work in the town centre.
- 3.6.12 **Stakeholder events:** There were two stakeholder events on 11 September 2018: the first was for the Borough's Local Access group from 3pm until 4.45pm, attended by three people. The second for Borough and County Councillors from 6pm until 8pm was attended by eight Elected Members. Both these events were held at Woking Borough Council offices.
- 3.6.13 The consultation was also promoted through the 'Woking means business' event for small and medium sized businesses in and around Woking. The event took place on 17 October 2018 from 8am until 9.30am at the HG Wells Centre in the town centre and was attended by approximately 800-1,000 people. The event was advertised in the Woking Chamber of Commerce newsletter and Woking Works. A presentation on the scheme proposals was given by WBC Chief Executive, Ray Morgan, and Deputy Chief Executive, Douglas Spinks. Copies of the consultation postcard were also available.
- 3.6.14 **Public-facing images/maps:** The consultation banners contained computer-generated images of how the area could look if the proposals were to go ahead, to help respondents understand the proposals. There was also a fly-through animation video on the consultation website, based on the traffic modelling that had been completed as part of the development of the proposals. The video showed projected traffic flow through the area for the completed scheme, during both the morning and evening peak times.

4 About the respondents

This chapter summaries responses received to the ‘About you’ section of the consultation questionnaire as well as the non-specific project questions.

4.1 Number of respondents

4.1.1 The consultation elicited views from **1,315** respondents. Of these, 1,287 were received through the online survey and 28 were either emailed or posted to the Borough Council. The consultation also received two petitions, the first containing 807 signatures and the second containing 618 signatures. The Borough Council were also informed of two campaigns which started during the consultation. More information about the petition and campaigns is set out in section 5.

4.2 Respondent type

Respondents were asked to state which respondent type best described them. The results are shown in Figure 1 below. Respondents could choose more than one type to describe themselves. Of the 1,217 respondents that answered this question, the majority identified themselves as a local resident although respondents could select more than one option to answer this question. Table 1 shows the breakdown of the number of respondents that selected each option.

Figure 1: Are you a...

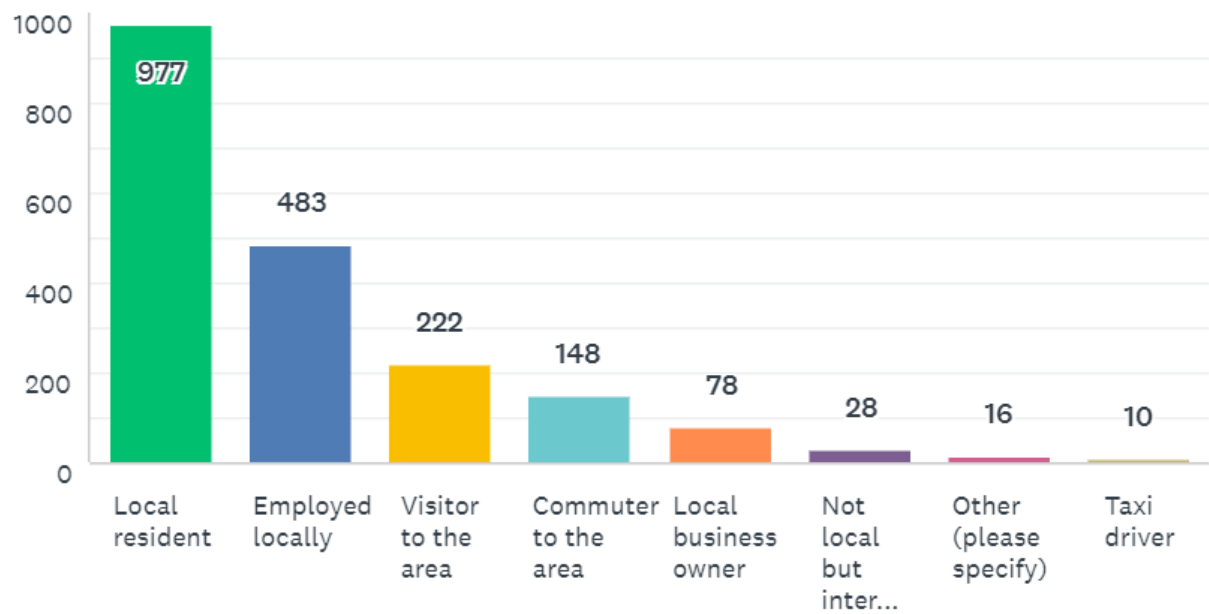


Table 1: Breakdown of responses

Answer choices	Number of respondents who selected this choice	Percentage of individual respondents who answered this question*
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Local resident	977	80%
Employed locally	483	40%
Visitor to the area	222	18%
Commuter to the area	148	12%
Local business owner	78	6%
Not local but interested in the project	28	2%
Other	16	1%
Taxi driver	10	<1%
*Please note respondents could choose multiple options to this question.		

4.3 How respondents heard about the consultation

4.3.1 Respondents were asked how they heard about the consultation, with the results shown in Figure 2 below. Of the 1,270 respondents that answered the question, the majority stated that they heard about the consultation through social media. Table 2 shows the breakdown of the number of respondents that selected each choice. Respondents could select more than one choice to answer this question.

Figure 2: How did you hear about the consultation?

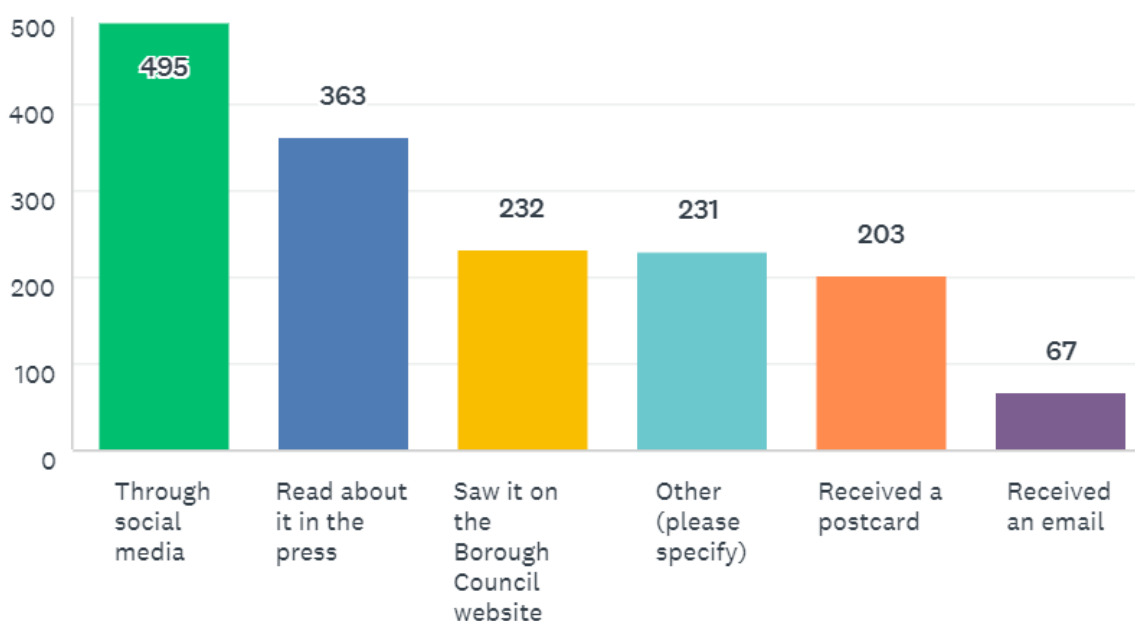


Table 2: Breakdown of responses

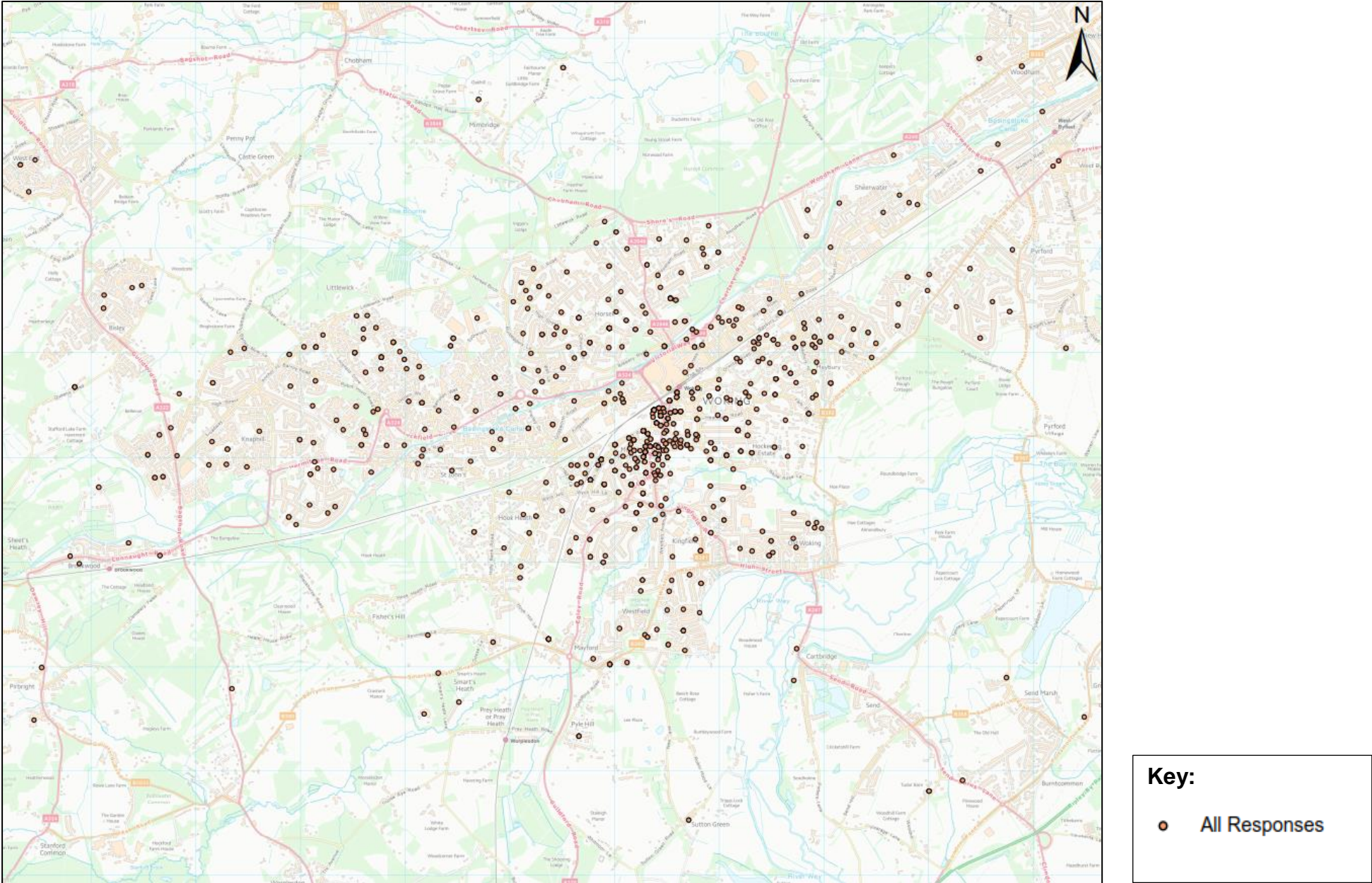
Answer choices	Number of respondents who selected this choice	Percentage of individual respondents who answered this question*
Through social media	495	39%
Read about it in the press	363	29%
Saw it on the Borough Council website	232	18%
Other (please specify)	231	18%
Received a postcard	203	16%
Received an email	67	5%

*Please note respondents could choose multiple options to this question.

4.4 Distribution of respondents

- 4.4.1 A total of 1,272 respondents provided their postcode to inform geographical analysis of responses. Of these, 1,099 could be converted into geographical co-ordinates. The results of this postcode analysis (see Figure 3) showed that the majority of respondents were from the Woking area.
- 4.4.2 The consultation also received responses from people from different parts of the United Kingdom stretching as far as Preston, to the Isle of Sky in Scotland and internationally to St Helier in Jersey.

Figure 3: Distribution of respondents in the Woking area



5 Summary of consultation responses

5.1.1 This chapter summarises the responses received to each question asked in the consultation questionnaire.

5.2 Number of responses

5.2.1 The consultation elicited responses from 1,315 respondents. Of these, 1,287 were received through the online survey and 28 were either emailed or posted to the Borough Council.

5.3 Petitions and campaigns

5.3.1 Two petitions opposing the plans, containing 807 and 618 signatures respectively, were received during the consultation period.

5.3.2 For the purposes of consultation analysis, the petitions have not been included in the total number of responses received, as only the number of completed questionnaires and written responses are included in the final analysed figures.

5.3.3 This is in line with consultation best practice to ensure that respondents have received consistent information about the proposed scheme, directly from the scheme promoter, as information from third parties may or may not accurately reflect the proposals (eg the wording of one petition in response to this consultation suggested that the access arrangements for the Day Aggregates site would change as a result of the proposals but, as outlined above in paragraph 1.1.4, there is no change to this access point associated with these plans).

5.3.4 The petitions have, however, been considered alongside other consultation responses and the issues raised within them are dealt with in section 6 of this report.

5.3.5 The Borough Council was also made aware of two campaigns that took place during the consultation to encourage responses. The first involved a poster containing the message 'save our shop', which was displayed in local businesses along Guildford Road. This poster contained a link to the consultation survey.

5.3.6 The second involved a leaflet posted through letterboxes along York Road which urged those who objected to the proposals to respond to the consultation.

5.3.7 The principal issues identified in these campaigns were:

- Impacts on property owners and local amenity value,
- A change in access arrangements for the Day Aggregates site in the area, with a removal in access from Guildford Road, and
- Demolition of listed properties.

5.3.8 Copies of both campaign materials are included in Appendix E.

5.4 Project-specific questions

5.4.1 The consultation asked two specific questions about the proposals: one overarching question about whether people agreed or disagreed with the proposed changes in principle, and a second question consisting of seven different aspects of the scheme, where respondents could use a scale to select how they felt about each aspect.

5.4.2 A full list of consultation questions can be found in Appendix B. A summary of the questions and the associated responses is set out below.

5.4.3 **Question one:**
In principle do you agree or disagree with proposals to change the road layout at Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach?

5.4.4 Figure 4 shows the number of respondents that strongly agreed, agreed, strongly disagreed, disagreed and chose did not have an opinion when answering question one. Table 3 below shows the breakdown of respondents that answered this question.

Figure 4 – Q1: In principle do you agree or disagree with proposals to change the road layout at Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach?

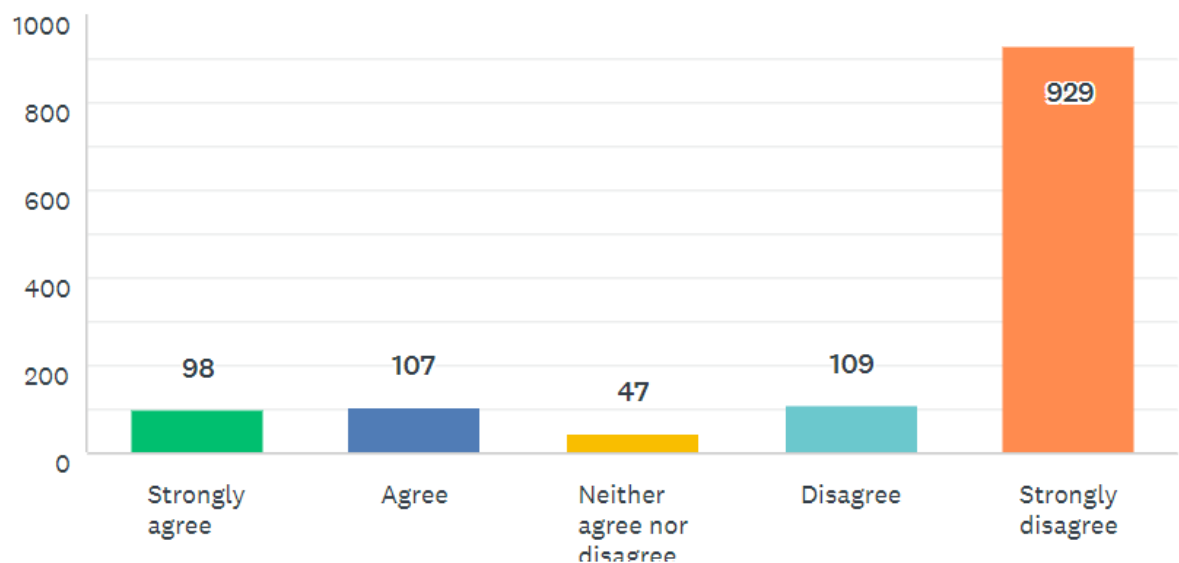


Table 3: Breakdown of question 1 responses

Answer choices	Number of respondents who selected this choice	Percentage of responses
Strongly agree	98	8%
Agree	107	8%
Neither agree nor disagree	47	4%
Disagree	109	8%
Strongly disagree	929	72%
Total	1,290	

5.4.5 Question two:**Please tell us how you feel about the following proposals**

5.4.6 This question was divided into seven parts asking respondents how they felt about the following aspects of the scheme:

- A.** Replace the one-way gyratory system on Guildford Road/Victoria Road/Station Approach with a two-way road for vehicles along Guildford Road and Victoria Road
- B.** Introduction of shared space for pedestrians and cycle paths
- C.** Make Station Approach from Victoria Road to Heathside Road pedestrian and cycle only with no access to vehicles
- D.** Install four new signalised crossings for pedestrians and cyclists
- E.** Adapt the junction of Heathside Road with Guildford Road so that it becomes left-turn exit only, with no access for vehicles from Guildford Road
- F.** Improve the non-signalised crossing point with dropped kerb on the western side of Guildford Road near to York Road
- G.** Resurface footways to encourage more local journeys on foot

5.4.7 The responses received to question 2 are shown in Figure 5. Tables 4-10 detail the breakdown of responses.

Figure 5 – Q2: Please tell us how you feel about the following proposals:

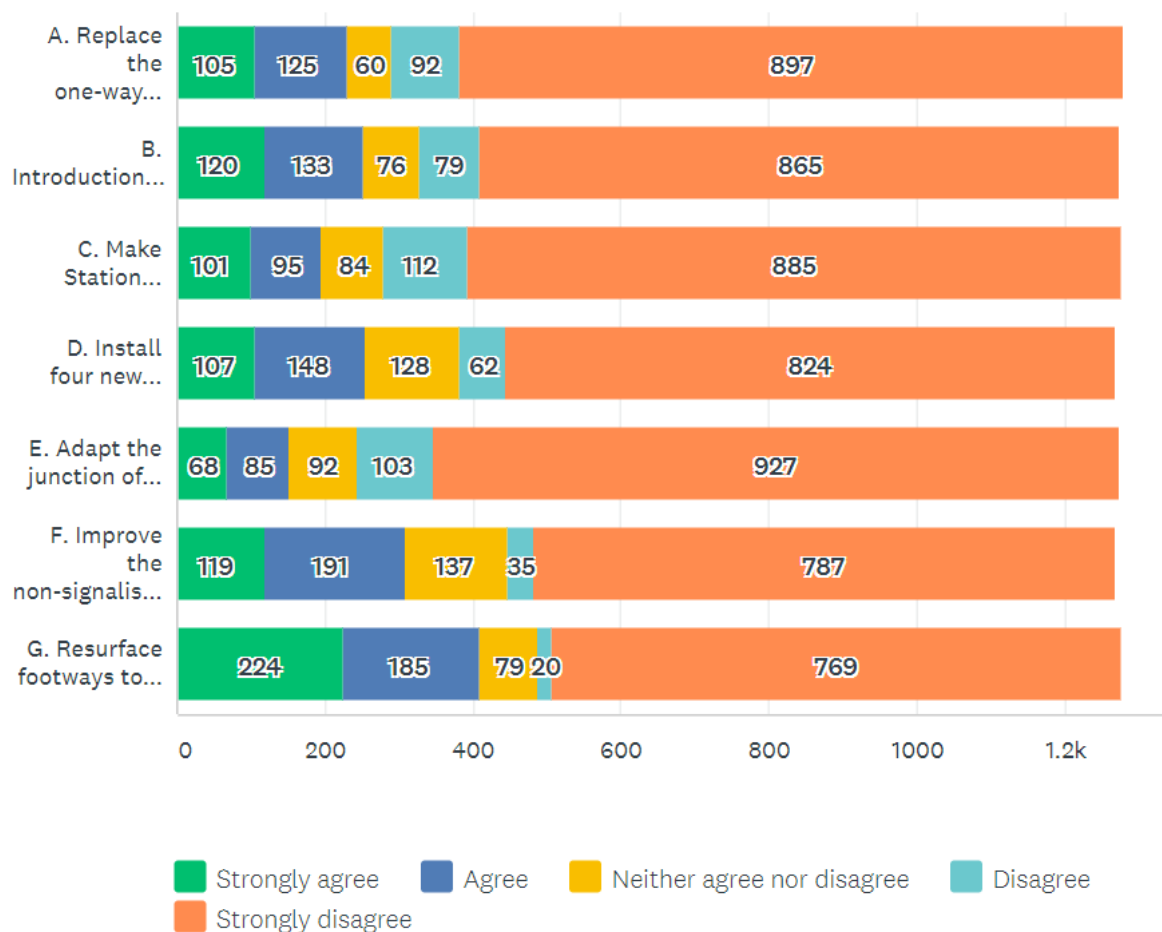


Table 4: Breakdown of question 2A responses

A. Replace the one-way gyratory system on Guildford Road/Victoria Road/Station Approach with a two-way road for vehicles along Guildford Road and Victoria Road	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Number of respondents who selected this choice	105	125	60	92	897
Percentage of responses	8%	10%	5%	7%	70%
Total	1,279				

Table 5: Breakdown of question 2B responses

B. Introduction of shared space for pedestrians and cycle paths	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Number of respondents who selected this choice	120	133	76	79	865
Percentage of responses	9%	11%	6%	6%	68%
Total	1,273				

Table 6: Breakdown of question 2C responses

C. Make Station Approach from Victoria Road to Heathside Road pedestrian and cycle only with no access to vehicles	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Number of respondents who selected this choice	101	95	84	112	885
Percentage of responses	8%	7%	7%	9%	69%
Total	1,277				

Table 7: Breakdown of question 2D responses

D. Install four new signalised crossings for pedestrians and cyclists	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Number of respondents who selected this choice	107	148	128	62	824
Percentage of responses	8%	12%	10%	5%	65%
Total	1,269				

Table 8: Breakdown of question 2E responses

E. Adapt the junction of Heathside Road with Guildford Road so that it becomes left-turn exit only, with no access for vehicles from Guildford Road	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Number of respondents who selected this choice	68	85	92	103	927
Percentage of responses	5%	7%	7%	8%	73%
Total	1,275				

Table 9: Breakdown of question 2F responses

F. Improve the non-signalised crossing point with dropped kerb on the western side of Guildford Road near to York Road	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Number of respondents who selected this choice	119	191	137	35	787
Percentage of responses	9%	15%	11%	3%	62%
Total	1,269				

Table 10: Breakdown of question 2G responses

G. Resurface footways to encourage more local journeys on foot	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Number of respondents who selected this choice	224	185	79	20	769
Percentage of responses	18%	14%	6%	2%	60%
Total	1,277				

5.4.8 Question three:

What type of transport do you currently use in the area? If you use many, please feel free to select more than one option.

5.4.9 Of 1,285 respondents that answered this question, the majority selected that they travel as a motorist. Figure 6 shows the responses received to this question, while Table 11 shows the breakdown of responses. Respondents could select more than one choice to answer this question.

Figure 6 – Q3: What type of transport do you currently use in the area?

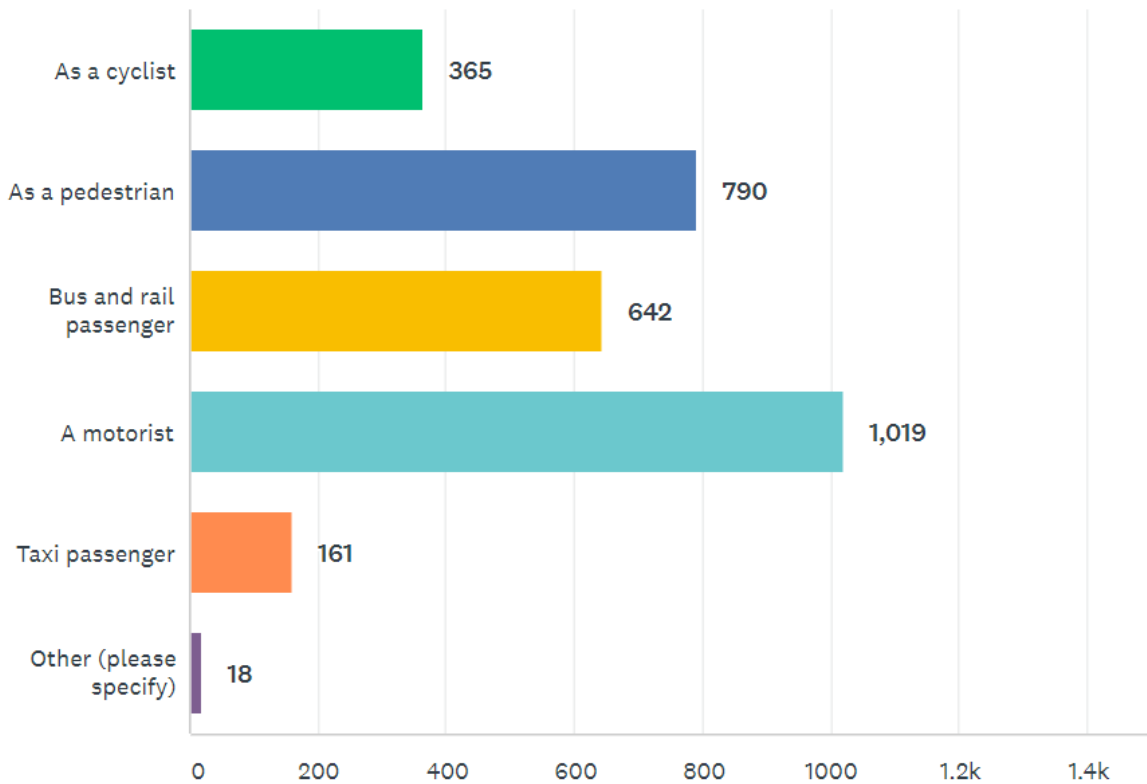


Table 11: Breakdown of question 3 responses

Answer choices	Number of respondents who selected this choice	Percentage of individual respondents that answered this question*
As a cyclist	365	28%
As a pedestrian	790	61%
Bus and rail passenger	642	50%
A motorist	1,019	79%
Taxi passenger	161	13%
Other (please specify)	18	1%

*Please note respondents could choose multiple options to this question.

**5.4.10 Question four:
Do you have any further comments?**

5.4.11 Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on any aspect of the proposals. Of the 1,287 respondents that completed the online questionnaire, 498 provided comments. The highest proportion of additional comments focused on concerns regarding potential impacts of the proposals on businesses along Guildford Road. There is a possibility that these potential impacts had a bearing on overall responses regarding individual aspects of the proposals. It is also apparent that concerns regarding other local issues that do not form part of the proposed scheme (eg changes to the Day Aggregates site access point) may have had an influence on some respondents' views.

5.4.12 Table 12 below shows the most frequently raised comments that were received to this question.

Table 12 – Most frequently raised comments

Comment	Number of times raised
Do not get rid of the shops or businesses	158
Retain access to Heathside Road from Guildford Road/Access to the hospital and surgery will be restricted	79
Opposed/It is a bad proposal for Woking	55
The scheme will cause traffic congestion in other places/will add to congestion	35
Concern about shared space/scheme will be less safe for vulnerable users	30
A five-lane dual carriageway is too big for the town	27
Request for further info	25
Too many crossings/poor locations	18
The scheme will cause further pollution	18
There is too much disruption through building work in Woking	16
Opposed to access to Day Aggregates on York Road	15
Improve access to station/consider drop-off and pick-up/reduce amount of taxis	14
Do not build high-rise buildings	13
Concern about loss of parking space/more parking needed	13
Scheme needs to consider vulnerable users	13
Cycling infrastructure needed	12
Cycle and walking routes need to be separate for safety	12
Support/scheme is a good idea/Woking needs it	11

Scheme does not consider local residents or businesses	11
The scheme is necessary	9
Guarantee alternative suitable premises for affected shops	9
Make the traffic free flowing with fewer stops	9
Crossings needed at Mount Hermon/Constitution Hill/Victoria Way/Wych Hill	9
Scheme will ruin York Road	7
Continuous cycle routes needed/cycle priority	7
Preserve the trees in Woking	6
Compensate local businesses for disruption	6
Improve lighting under Victoria Arch/Station Approach around town centre	6
Improve pedestrian/cycle facilities	5
The scheme is unnecessary	5
Discourage/ban cars in city centres	5
Improve disability access	5

5.4.13 Other issues that were raised by a fewer number of respondents included the cost of the scheme, construction timings, the possibility of pedestrianising the area, impacts on local bus routes and the cost of parking locally.

5.4.14 To help WBC better understand local views on the proposals, further analysis was carried out to understand how views on the proposals varied according to the location of respondents.

Figure 7: the distribution of respondents in the Woking area and nature of response

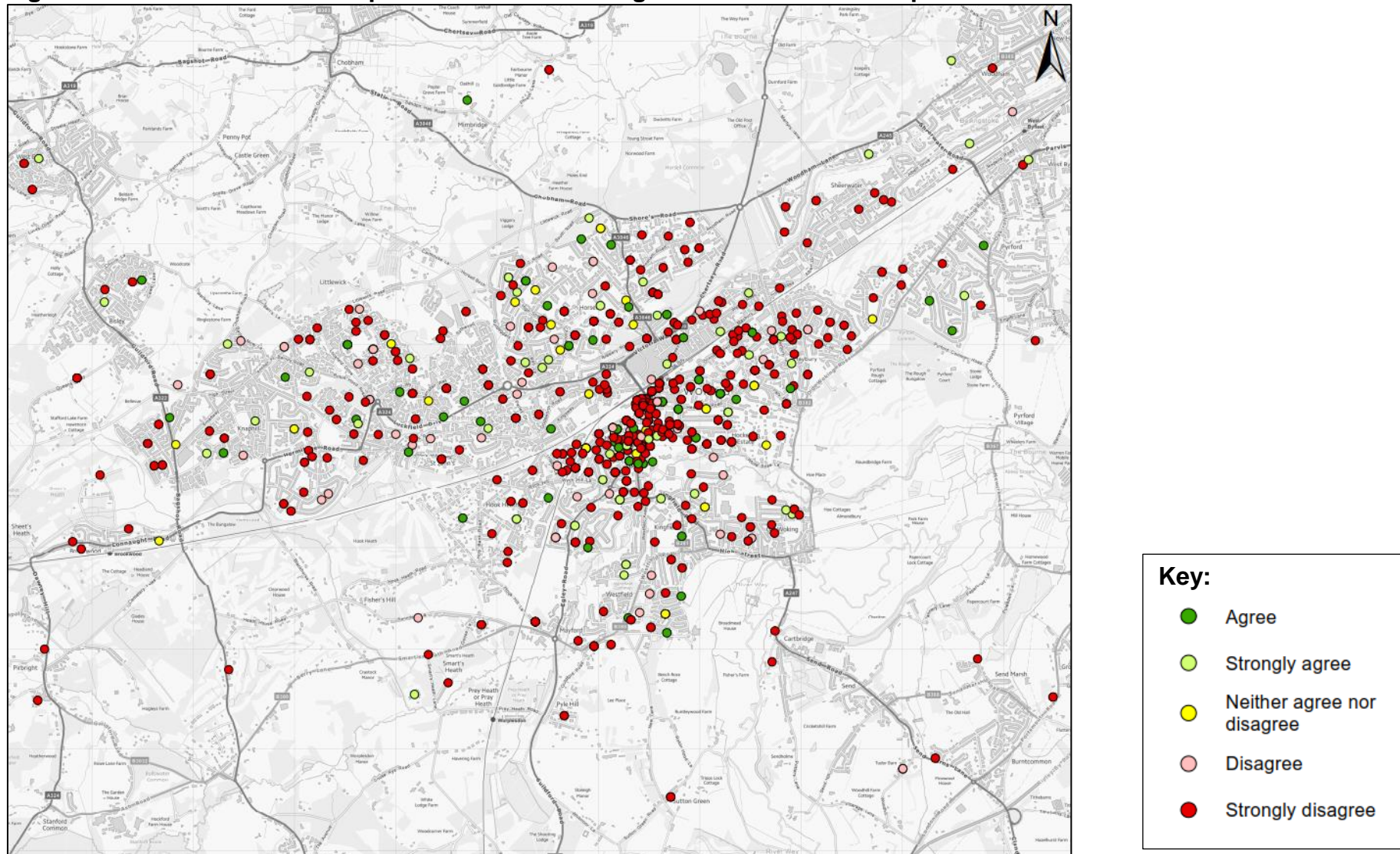
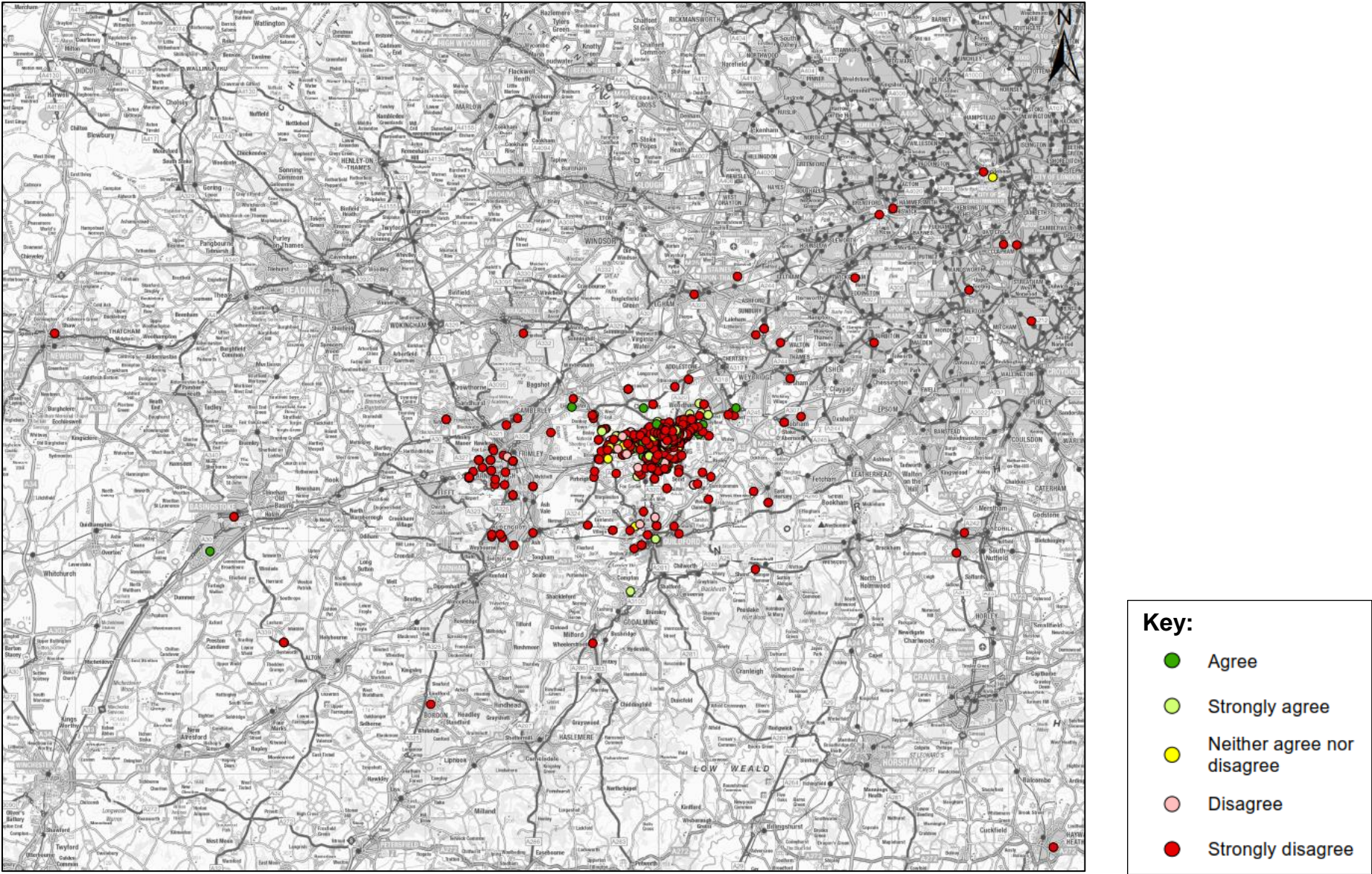


Figure 8: distribution of respondents across the south-east area and nature of response



5.5 Stakeholder responses

- 5.5.1 The consultation received one stakeholder response from Southview Medical Practice. The response is summarised below:

The Practice is supportive of the Borough Council's attempts to increase physical activity and reduce harmful emissions in the local community, but concerned about the safety of the proposals, specifically:

1. The junction between our car park entrance and Constitution Hill with its close proximity to Guildford Road
2. The parking proposed to be removed from Constitution Hill. Believes that this would have a significant impact on the local community and practice population.
3. Lack of available parking could cause delay to patients accessing medical services.
4. Would like to bring to the Borough Council's attention that there is land around the practice that could potentially resolve some of the parking issues i.e. improve parking availability.

6 Response to main issues raised

This section summarises key issues that emerged during the consultation and Woking Borough Council's response to these.

6.1 Impacts on residents/businesses along Guildford Road

6.1.1 **Will the shops along Guildford Road be demolished to make room for the wider road?**

The proposals to reintroduce two-way traffic along Guildford necessitates the widening of the carriageway by 15 metres to the east.

This consultation focused on proposed changes to the road layout only, although the Borough Council recognises and understands concerns about how these proposals may impact on properties in the area, including the shops and properties on Guildford Road.

The Council can confirm that no decisions have been taken regarding the future of the proposed future development area that was indicated on consultation materials, and any subsequent proposals would be subject to normal planning processes.

The Council is in discussions with landowners in the area and this engagement will be broadened as the project progress to include other interested parties but, at this stage, any future development would be expected to consist of a mix of commercial and residential property, as is the case to the east of Guildford Road currently.

In the meantime, the Council is committed to ensuring that the benefits of this scheme are delivered for the local community while any impacts on residents or businesses are minimised as far as possible.

6.1.2 **Will the businesses on the site of the proposed development area be re-located/compensated?**

As outlined above, no decisions have been taken regarding the future of the proposed development area indicated on consultation materials.

The Borough Council intends to fully engage with all interested parties as the project progresses to identify and resolve any issues associated with the proposed improvements to the road layout, while specific individual circumstances will need to be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

6.2 Design

6.2.1 **Why are you proposing to ban the left-turn into Heathside Road?**

Analysis of current traffic movements in Woking showed that a relatively low number of vehicles turn from Guildford Road into Heathside Road (110 vehicles in the morning peak and 170 in the evening peak), while there are also alternative route options available for vehicles heading towards Heathside Road.

However, having reviewed this proposal in light of comments received through the consultation, we can confirm that the design will be adapted to accommodate the left-turn for vehicles from Guildford Road to Heathside Road.

6.2.2 How can I access Woking Community Hospital by car?

As outlined in paragraph 6.2.1, vehicles will be able to turn left from Guildford Road to Heathside Road. Access to the community hospital will also continue to be possible from the eastern end of Heathside Road.

6.2.3 Why do you need four new crossings, surely this will just add to the congestion?

Encouraging more local journeys either on foot or by cycle is a key objective of the proposals. The provision of safe, accessible crossing options for pedestrians and cyclists will contribute to this, while the crossing locations have been chosen to suit preferred routes, or 'desire lines', between residential areas and key locations, including the town centre and train station.

6.2.4 Won't adding lanes of traffic just add to congestion?

A traffic modelling exercise was completed to inform the development of the proposed road layout design. The modelling showed that, in 2026, journey times for vehicles across the town centre would be improved with the proposed scheme.

6.2.5 Will this lead to more 'rat-running' along York Road?

The traffic modelling showed that congestion along Guildford Road will be reduced as a result of the proposed changes. This will be of benefit to all users of the corridor, including those who may currently use parallel routes.

6.3 Environment

6.3.1 If two trees are being removed will you be re-planting any?

The scheme will be designed to incorporate a planting scheme that will ensure the number of trees removed will be replaced and more will be planted where possible. This is in line with existing practices adopted by Woking Borough Council and Surrey County Council.

6.3.2 Will this scheme increase pollution?

Air quality analysis has not been specifically completed for the scheme to date. However, potential improvements in local air quality may be derived as a result of traffic flowing more freely along Guildford Road. Typically, these occur when there are less stopping vehicles and improved consistency in vehicle speed that has been identified in the supporting analysis for the proposed scheme.

6.4 Buses

6.4.1 What will happen to local bus routes as a result? E.g. Will the 437 bus still serve Woking Community Hospital?

The effects of the proposed changes on local bus routes will be further assessed as the project progresses through more detailed design stages. As the Council developed its proposals for improvements to Guildford Road and the surrounding area, Surrey County Council Passenger Transport Team was consulted and this will continue to ensure bus services are not adversely impacted in the proposed layout.

6.5 Pedestrian/cycling facilities

6.5.1 How will this scheme encourage more cycling journeys?

By extending and improving pedestrian and cycling facilities towards Woking Park and other key amenities, the scheme is designed to help encourage more local journeys either on foot or by bike.

In line with best practice guidance, the proposed new shared paths would be a minimum of 3 metres wide and 4 metres when adjacent to a building. New toucan crossings will make it more convenient for cyclists to continue their journeys, without needing to dismount.

6.5.2 Shared pedestrian cycle paths can be dangerous – will there be a line dividing the path to stop pedestrian/cycle conflict?

Views on this aspect of the project will be taken into account as the project progresses into detailed design stages, although Surrey County Council, as the highway authority has been consulted on the proposals and is agreement with approach adopted. Our experience of successfully introducing shared space schemes elsewhere in Woking will also help shape the design as it develops.

The scheme has been subject to a Road Safety Audit by the highways authority, Surrey County Council, in consultation with Surrey Police, and will continue to do so as the project progresses, to ensure that the scheme meets national highway safety requirements.

6.6 Accessibility

6.6.1 How will the scheme help to improve accessibility for vulnerable users, including disabled people?

- The new crossings will have a tactile paving strip as well as a rotating cone to assist visually-impaired people
- All crossing points will have sloped pavements for wheelchair and buggy accessibility
- All shared paths will be de-cluttered to provide more space
- The scheme will widen the pedestrian footpath beneath Victoria Arch, improving access to the town centre considerably for vulnerable users.

6.7 Construction

6.7.1 When will the roadworks start and finish?

Subject to funding and the progression of Network Rail's proposals to widen Victoria Arch, works could begin in late 2019. A detailed construction programme will only be available once a contractor is appointed, but the works would be expected to take 18-24 months.

As with the ongoing construction in the town centre, the Borough Council would work hard with its contractors, suppliers and Highways Authority, to ensure that any disruption is minimised as far as possible.

6.8 Cost

6.8.1 What is the scheme budget?

An indicative design was produced for consultation purposes to gather initial views from consultees/the public. More detailed design work will now be undertaken and costed accordingly.

6.9 Questions not directly related to the road layout proposals

6.9.1 Is the Day Aggregates access point being moved to York Road?

This subject was included in the campaign leaflet delivered to properties along York Road. The Borough Council can confirm that there are no current proposals to move the access point for Day Aggregates from its existing location on Guildford Road.

6.9.2 Can you create a drop-off and pick-up point at Woking station?

Vehicle access to and from Woking station is outside the scope of this consultation. However, Woking Borough Council regularly discusses options for improving access to the station with Network Rail and will continue to press for improvements, where practical. Woking Train Station's official vehicle drop-off/pick-up is located on the south side of the station. Along the north side, road space close to the station is limited and the Council has prioritised this road space specifically for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists with the aim of improving the public realm, safety and congestion issues in this location.

The provision of improved cycling and walking facilities towards the station is also designed to help encourage more local journeys either on foot or by cycle. This could therefore help reduce congestion around the station in future.

7 Next steps

- 7.1.1 Having considered responses to the consultation, Woking Borough Council intends to proceed with the proposed scheme with the following modifications:
- The road layout design will be adapted to accommodate the left-turn for vehicles from Guildford Road to Heathside Road
 - The Guildford Road bus stop will be moved south of the junction with York Road
- 7.1.2 A Housing Infrastructure Fund submission will be prepared and submitted to central Government to help develop the proposals further.
- 7.1.3 The Borough Council recognises the concerns raised through the consultation regarding the impact of the road layout changes on businesses located along Guildford Road. Discussions between the Borough Council, affected landowners and other interested parties are ongoing, while the Borough Council is committed to ensuring that the benefits of the scheme are delivered for the local community, while any associated impacts are minimised as far as possible.
- 7.1.4 The proposals are also directly linked with Network Rail's intention to widen Victoria Arch, the bridge which carries the railway over Guildford Road. Discussions regarding the bridge widening continue between the Borough Council and Network Rail.
- 7.1.5 Subject to the above and funding, works could begin in late 2019. As with the ongoing construction in the town centre, the Borough Council would work hard with its contractors and suppliers to ensure that any disruption is minimised as far as possible.

8 Appendix A – Stakeholder list

8.1 Woking: elected representatives

Type	Name	Ward
Councillor	David Bittleston	Mount Hermon
Councillor	Ian Johnson	Mount Hermon
Councillor	Liam Lyons	Mount Hermon
Councillor	John Bond	Byfleet/West Byfleet
Councillor	Amanda Boot	Byfleet/West Byfleet
Councillor	Mary Bridgeman	Byfleet/West Byfleet
Councillor	Mohammad Ali	Canal side
Councillor	Tahir Aziz	Canal side
Councillor	M Ilyas Raja	Canal side
Councillor	Ann-Marie Barker	Goldsworth Park
Councillor	Ian Eastwood	Goldsworth Park
Councillor	Chitra Rana	Goldsworth Park
Councillor	Simon Ashall	Heathlands
Councillor	Ayesha Azad	Heathlands
Councillor	Kevin Davis	Heathlands
Councillor	Will Forster	Hoe Valley
Councillor	Deborah Hughes	Hoe Valley
Councillor	Louise Morales	Hoe Valley
Councillor	Beryl Hunwicks	Horsell
Councillor	Colin Kemp	Horsell
Councillor	Nancy Martin	Horsell
Councillor	Debbie Harlow	Knaphill
Councillor	Saj Hussain	Knaphill
Councillor	Melanie Whitehand	Knaphill
Councillor	Ashley Bowes	Pyrford
Councillor	Graham Chrystie	Pyrford
Councillor	Rashid Mohammed	Pyrford
Councillor	Hillary Addison	St Johns
Councillor	Graham Cundy	St Johns
Councillor	Ken Howard	St Johns
MP	Jonathan Lord	

8.2 Surrey County Council: Elected representative

Type	Name	Division (if applicable)
Councillor	Ben Carasco	Woking North
Councillor	Will Forster	Woking South
Councillor	Liz Bowes	Woking South East
Councillor	Ayesha Azad	Woking South West
Leader of the Council	David Hodge	(Warlingham)
Deputy Leader of the Council	John Furey	(Addlestone)

Cabinet member	Mike Goodman	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport
Cabinet member	Helyn Clack	Cabinet Member for Corporate Support
Cabinet member	Denise Turner Stewart	Cabinet Member for Community Services
Cabinet member	Tim Oliver	Cabinet Member for People
Cabinet member	Colin Kemp	Cabinet Member for Place (Economic growth etc)
Cabinet member	Mel Few	Cabinet Member for Adults (Social care etc)
Cabinet member	Mary Lewis	Cabinet Member for All-age learning
Cabinet member	Clare Curran	Cabinet Member for Children

8.3 Local community and business groups

Type	Stakeholder
Business	Woking Chamber of Commerce
Business	Surrey Chamber of Commerce
Business	Woking Works
Business	Woking Asian Business Forum
Community	Woking Local Action 21 (LA21)
Community	Woking Area U3A
Community	Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches
Community	Woking Association of Voluntary Service
Cycling	Breeze Woking
Cycling	Charlotteville Cycling Club
Cycling	CTC West Surrey
Cycling	CTC West Surrey
Cycling	Surrey Wheels for All
Cycling	Woking Cycle Club
Education	All primary schools within the Borough
Education	All secondary schools within the Borough
Fire	Woking Fire station
Healthcare	Dr O'Connell Smith Newman
Healthcare	Hillview Medical Centre
Healthcare	NHS England
Healthcare	Public Health England
Healthcare	Woking Community Hospital
Healthcare	York House Medical Centre
Housing	Quadrant Court
Local business	Belles Bridal
Local business	Curchod & Co Estates
Local business	Enzo's Bar

Local business	Evans Cycles
Local business	Faith Recruitment
Local business	Hart Brown Woking Solicitors
Local business	Heaters Bakery
Local business	Job Centre Plus
Local business	KFC Head office
Local business	Lynton House Vets
Local business	Pizza Hut Delivery
Local business	Sovereigns
Local business	The Money Shop
Local business	Treasure Cove Play Centre
Local business	Working Smart
Local business	Ye Olde Fishmarket
Older people	Crossroads Care Surrey
Older people	Heathside Retirement Home
Older people	Woking 50+ Club
Older people	Woking Homes
Older people	Woking Hospice
Police	British Transport Police Authority
Police	Surrey Police
Police	Woking Police station
Resident Association	Sheerwater Residents Association
Resident Association	Goldsworth Park Community Association
Resident Association	Knaphill Residents Association
Residents Association	Brookwood Village Association
Residents Association	The Resident (West Byfleet, Byfleet and Pyrford)
Religious group	Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking
Religious group	Woking Vineyard Church
Religious group	Woking URC
Religious group	Welcome Church
Religious group	Christ Church Woking
Religious group	Faith Prayer International Church
Religious group	Christian Science Church
Religious group	Masjid Albirr - Mosque
Sport/Leisure	Freedom Runners
Sport/Leisure	Woking Athletics
Sport/Leisure	Woking Leisure centre and Pool in the Park
Sport/Leisure	Woking Town FC
Sport/Leisure	Woking FC
Utility	Thames Water
Walking	Woking and Runnymede health walks
Walking	Woking Ramblers
Youth	Girl Guiding - Guildford
Youth	Scouts
Youth	Surrey Youth Focus
Youth	Woking Youth Centre

8.4 Transport and travel groups

Association of British Drivers	Motorcycle Action Group
Automobile Association	National Private Hire & Taxi Association (NPHA)
British Motorcyclists Federation	National Taxi Association (NTA)
Campaign for Better Transport	Network Rail
Campaign for Rail	Office of Rail and Road
Confederation of Passenger Transport UK	Road Haulage Association
Cyclists Touring Club	Sustrans
Department for Transport	Transport Focus
Freight Transport Association	Woking Taxi Association
Independent Transport Commission	

8.5 Accessibility and Equality groups

Age UK	Guide Dogs for the Blind
Blind Veterans UK	Guildford Access Group
Disabled Motoring UK	North West Surrey Association of Disabled People
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee	RNIB
Equality and Human Rights Commission	Woking Access Group

8.6 Environmental and Heritage groups

Canal and River Trust	Green Alliance
English Heritage Trust	Historic England
Environmental Agency	Natural England
Natural Woking	

9 Appendix B – Consultation Questionnaire

1. Do you agree with proposals to change the road layout at Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach?

Strongly agree / Agree / Neither agree nor disagree / Disagree / Strongly disagree

2.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
A. Replace the one-way gyratory system on Guildford Road/Victoria Road/Station Approach with a two-way road for vehicles along Guildford Road and Victoria Road					
B. Introduction of shared space for pedestrians and cycle paths					
C. Make Station Approach from Victoria Road to Heathside Road pedestrian and cycle only with no access to vehicles					
D. Install four new signalised crossings for pedestrians and cyclists					
E. Adapt the junction of Heathside Road with Guildford Road so that it becomes left-turn exit only, with no access for vehicles from Guildford Road					
F. Improve the non-signalised crossing point with dropped kerb on the western side of Guildford Road near to York Road					
G. Resurface footways to encourage more local journeys on foot					

Please let us know how you feel about the following proposals:

3. What type of transport do you currently use in the area? If you use many, please feel free to select more than one option.

As a cyclist, a pedestrian, a bus and rail passenger, a motorist, taxi passenger, Other – please specify

4. Do you have any further comments?

Your feedback

5. How did you hear about the consultation?

Received a postcard, read about it on the press, received an email, saw it on the Borough Council website, through social media, other – please specify

6. **What do you think about the quality of this consultation (for example, the information we have provided, any printed material you have received, any maps or plans, the website and questionnaire etc.)?**

Very good, Good, Acceptable, Poor, Very Poor

About you

Data Protection

As you may be aware, new data protection laws came into effect on 25 May 2018. We want to keep you up to date with information and news about the project and will begin to send you regular updates. If you would prefer not to receive these updates you can unsubscribe at any time by emailing us at guildfordrdconsultation@woking.gov.uk.

7. **What is your email address?**

8. **What is your postcode?**

9. **Are you a...**

Local resident, business owner, employed locally, visitor to the area, commuter to the area, not local but interested, other –please specify

10. **If responding on behalf of an organisation, business or campaign group, please provide us with a name**

Equality Monitoring (optional)

Please tell us a bit about yourself in this section. All information will be kept confidential and used for analysis purposes only. We are asking these questions to ensure our consultations are open to all sections of the community and to improve the effectiveness of the way we communicate with our customers. You do not have to provide any personal information if you don't want to.

Gender:

Not specified (default)

Male

Female

Trans female

Trans male

Gender neutral

Prefer not to say

Ethnic Group:

Not specified (default)

Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi

Asian or Asian British – Chinese

Asian or Asian British – Indian

Asian or Asian British – Other

Asian or Asian British – Pakistani

Black or Black British – African

Black or Black British – Caribbean

Black or Black British – Other

Mixed – Other

Mixed – White and Black African

Mixed – White and Caribbean

Other Ethnic Group

Other Ethnic Group – Arab

Other Ethnic Group – Kurdish

Other Ethnic Group – Latin American

Other Ethnic Group – Turkish

Prefer not to say

White – British

White – Irish

White - Other

Mixed – White and Asian

Age:	41-45
Not specified (default)	46-50
Under 15	51-55
16-20	56-60
21-25	61-65
26-30	66-70
31-35	71+
36-40	Prefer not to say

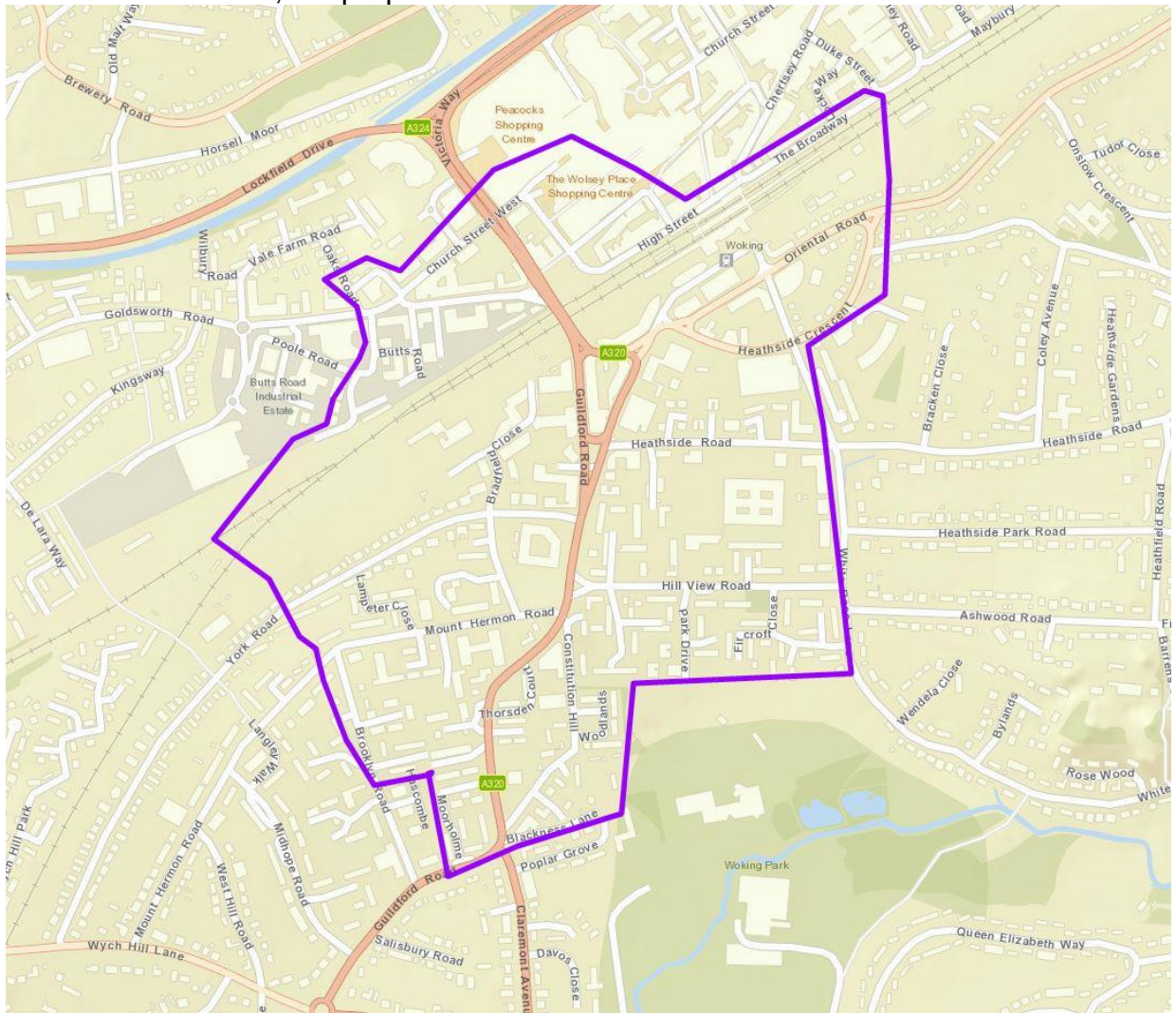
Faith:	Sikh
Not specified (default)	Jewish
Buddhist	Other
Christian	None
Hindu	Prefer not to say
Muslim	

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? (Please include problems related to old age) *Please tick one box.*

Yes, limited a lot
Yes, limited a little
No
Prefer not to say

10 Appendix C - Consultation area

The map below shows the area included within the consultation postcard distribution. The area contains 3,420 properties.



11 Appendix D – Consultation materials




11.1 Copy of the consultation postcard

The consultation postcard was distributed to 3,420 properties in the consultation area.

Front:



Back:

<p>Woking Borough Council is working in partnership with Surrey County Council to consult on proposals for Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach.</p> <p>Proposals include replacing the one-way gyratory system with a two-way road for vehicles, and the introduction of safer, more convenient walking and cycling routes.</p> <p>The proposal aims to relieve congestion around the town centre, whilst making journey times quicker and more reliable.</p> <p>To find out more:</p> <p> woking.gov.uk/guildfordrdconsultation</p> <p> guildfordrdconsultation@woking.gov.uk</p> <p> 01483 755855*</p> <p><small>*Standard network rates apply</small></p> <p><small>If you have any queries or would like to receive information in another format, please contact us.</small></p>	<p>Public events</p> <p>We will be holding public drop-in sessions on the following dates:</p> <p>Thursday 20 September 2018 12.30pm to 8.30pm</p> <p>Saturday 29 September 2018 10am to 4pm</p> <p>Drop-in sessions will be held at: Middle Walk, Wolsey Place Shopping Centre, Commercial Way, Woking, GU21 6XF</p> <p>Members of the project team will be present to answer any questions.</p> <p>A public exhibition will also run during the consultation period at <i>Morris House, 34 Commercial Way, Woking, GU21 6EN</i>, with the exception of the above dates.</p> <p>Please submit your views by Wednesday 24 October 2018</p>
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11.2 Copy of the exhibition banners

Exhibition banners were displayed in Morris House in Woking town centre during the consultation period with the exception of the two public events, when they were moved to Wolsey Place Shopping Centre.

Proposed changes to Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach

Woking Borough Council is working in partnership with Surrey County Council to consult on proposals to change the road layout south of Victoria Arch in Woking Town Centre.

The proposal includes replacing the existing one-way gyratory system around Guildford Road, Victoria Road and A320 Station Approach with a two-way road for vehicles, which aims to relieve congestion whilst making journey times quicker and more reliable.

Other proposals include the introduction of safer, more convenient walking and cycling routes between the town centre, residential areas and other important local places of interest.



woking.gov.uk/guildfordrdconsultation



Our proposals

We propose to:

- Replace the one-way gyratory system with a two-way road for vehicles along Guildford Road and Victoria Road.
- Introduce new shared pedestrian and cycle paths.
- Install four new toucan crossings for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Adapt the junction of Heathside Road with Guildford Road so that it becomes left-turn only exit with no access for vehicles from Guildford Road.
- Improve the non-signalised crossing point on the western side of Guildford Road near to York Road.
- Resurface footways to encourage more local journeys on foot.

The widening of Victoria Arch is an integral part of our proposals. Partial road, walking and cycle route changes could be implemented south of Victoria Arch in advance of the widening, but the full scheme proposals and associated benefits could only be achieved with the widening in place.

Timescales

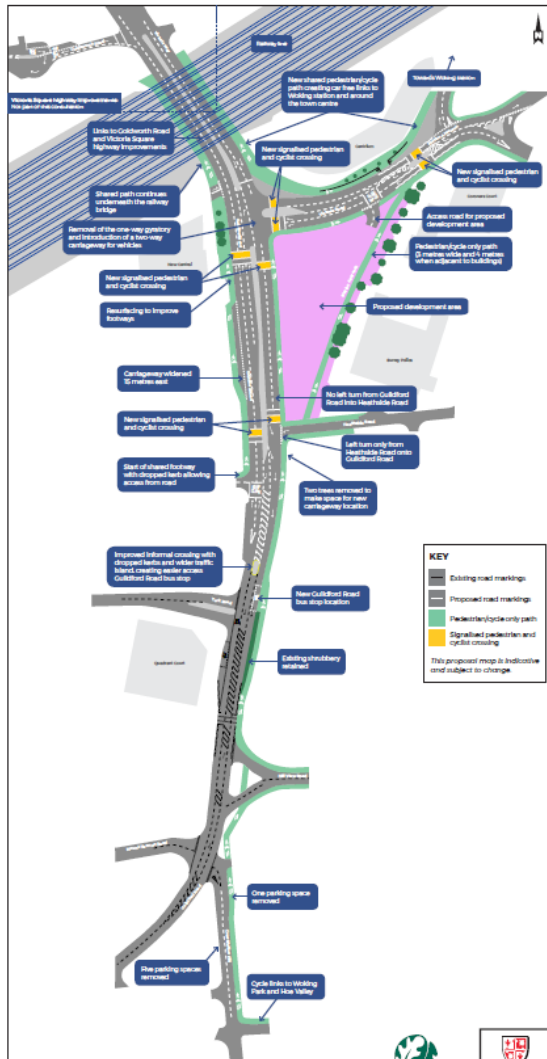
Subject to funding, the approval of the Victoria Arch widening proposals and the outcome of public consultation, implementation of the scheme could start in late 2019.



woking.gov.uk/guildfordrdconsultation



Exhibition banners continued on next page



Benefits and potential impacts

We anticipate the following benefits of the scheme:

- Reduced and more reliable journey times to and from Woking Town Centre.
- Additional crossing options for pedestrians and cyclists without the need to dismount.
- New pedestrian and cycle links to and from Woking station and around the town centre connecting to Woking Park, Woking Leisure Centre and other amenities.
- An increase in the number of people walking and cycling, encouraging healthier living.

Potential impacts of the scheme

In order to introduce these proposals, the following physical changes would be expected to take place:

- Widening Guildford Road by 15 metres to the east.
- Removal of direct vehicular access from Guildford Road to Heathside Road. Left-turn only for traffic exiting Heathside Road onto Guildford Road.
- Removal of access for vehicles between Station Approach from Victoria Road to Heathside Road.
- Removal of six parking spaces along Constitution Hill.
- Removal of two trees.



Have your say

We would like your views on our proposals. This public consultation will be open until **Wednesday 24 October 2018**.

To have your say please complete our survey at:
woking.gov.uk/guildfordrdconsultation

If you have any queries or would like to receive information in another format, please contact us on the details below.

✉ guildfordrdconsultation@woking.gov.uk

☎ 01483 755855*

*Standard network rates apply

HAVE YOUR SAY

Victoria Road junction with Station Approach



Artist's impression of the scheme



Constitution Hill junction with Guildford Road

Artist's impression of the scheme

woking.gov.uk/guildfordrdconsultation



Have your say on proposals to change the road layout at Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach

HAVE YOUR SAY

Woking Borough Council is working in partnership with Surrey County Council to consult on proposals for Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach.

Proposals include replacing the one-way gyratory system with a two-way road for vehicles, and the introduction of safer, more convenient walking and cycling routes.

The proposal aims to relieve congestion, whilst making journey times quicker and more reliable.

To find out more and to have your say:

🌐 woking.gov.uk/guildfordrdconsultation

✉ guildfordrdconsultation@woking.gov.uk

☎ 01483 755855*

*Standard network rates apply

Please submit your views by **Wednesday 24 October 2018**.

Public events

We will be holding public drop-in sessions on the following dates:

Thursday 20 September 2018
12.30pm to 8pm

Saturday 29 September 2018
10am to 4pm

Drop-in sessions

will be held at:

Middle Walk, Wolsey Place Shopping Centre, Commercial Way, Woking, GU21 6XF

Members of the project team will be present to answer any questions.

A public exhibition will also run during the consultation period at Morris House, 34 Commercial Way, Woking, GU21 6EN, with the exception of the public drop-in session dates.


If you have any queries or would like to receive information in another format, please contact us.

#WEAREWOKING



Top right: Advertising banner that was left in Woking Station and other prominent locations around Woking, such as Woking leisure centre.

11.3 Consultation webpage



WOKING
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Search this site:

SEARCH

Advanced search

Site map


Online services:

Pay

Apply

Report

Services gateway



About Woking

Advice and benefits

Business in Woking

Community and living

Council and democracy

Waste and Recycling

Environment

Housing

Working for us

Leisure and culture

Planning and regulation

Transport and streets

Contact us

Home

Planning and regulation

Major developments

Proposed changes to Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach consultation

We are working in partnership with Surrey County Council to consult on proposals to change the road layout south of Victoria Arch in Woking Town Centre.

[Tell us your views now](#)

The existing one-way gyratory system around Guildford Road, Victoria Road and the A320 Station Approach creates a pinch-point for traffic heading to and from the town centre and station, with queues often stretching back along Guildford Road.

We are proposing to replace the one-way gyratory system with a two-way road for vehicles along Guildford Road and Victoria Road. The proposal aims to relieve congestion around the town centre, whilst making journey times quicker and more reliable.

The proposal also includes the introduction of safer, more convenient walking and cycling routes between the town centre, residential areas and other important local places of interest.


The proposed changes could also help to unlock potential future development sites in the immediate area.

It should be noted that the widening of Victoria Arch is an integral part of our proposals. Partial road, walking and cycle route changes could be implemented south of Victoria Arch in advance of the widening, but the full scheme proposals and associated benefits could only be achieved with the widening in place.

Our proposals

The proposals are summarised below. You can also [view our map](#) or view our fly-through video below to find out more.

16:30:03



#WEAREWOKING

More in

Proposed changes to Guildford Road, Victoria Road and Station Approach consultation

Consultation map

Also in

Major developments

A new vision for Sheerwater

Hoe Stream Restoration Project consultation

Hoe Valley School and Woking Sportsbox

Woking Integrated Transport Project

44

11.4 Copy of the press release

Have your say on proposals to change the road layout south of Victoria Arch

The views of local residents and road users are being sought on a proposal to transform the road layout south of Victoria Arch in Woking Town Centre.

Working in partnership with the highways authority, Surrey County Council, the proposal will see the replacement of the existing one-way gyratory system around Guildford Road, Victoria Road and A320 Station Approach with a two-way road for vehicles, in addition to the introduction of safer, more convenient walking and cycle routes between Woking Town Centre, residential areas and other local places of interest.

As well as relieving congestion around Woking Town Centre and improving traffic flow, removing the one-way system would also make journey times quicker and more reliable.

Key elements of the proposal include:

- Replacing the one-way gyratory system with a two-way road for vehicles along Guildford Road and Victoria Road.
- Introducing new shared pedestrian and cycle paths.
- Installing four new toucan crossings for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Adapting the junction of Heathside Road with Guildford Road so that it becomes left-turn only exit with no access for vehicles from Guildford Road.
- Improve the non-signalised crossing point on the western side of Guildford Road near to York Road.
- Resurface footways to encourage more local journeys on foot.

Cllr David Bittleston, Leader of Woking Borough Council and Ward Member for Mount Hermon, said: "Woking Town Centre has grown considerably in recent years. New homes, commercial opportunities and public spaces have underpinned the economic growth and vitality of the area. Yet to support the continued growth of the town centre, we must investigate what measures we can take to reduce congestion now and in the future.

"Working in partnership with Surrey County Council, we have developed this proposal to not only improve the existing road layout south of Victoria Arch, but also improve connectivity and encourage journeys by foot and bicycle.

Press release continued on next page

"It is now for local residents and road users to have their say on the proposal and help shape Woking's highway network for years to come."

Cllr Colin Kemp, Surrey County Council's Lead Cabinet Member for Place, and Woking Borough Councillor, said: "The A320 is a key arterial route connecting Woking and beyond with the M25. During peak hours, the area south of Victoria Arch regularly becomes a bottleneck causing delays and frustration amongst road users. Thanks to this proposal, we have the opportunity to address these issues now and open up access to Woking for all modes of transport, not only trains and cars, but also pedestrians and cyclists, in the future. I would encourage anyone who uses the A320 to get involved and have their say."

Cllr Will Forster, Surrey County Council Ward Member for South Woking, added: "South Woking currently suffers from poor transport links to both the town centre and train station. Victoria Arch and the roads leading up to it are narrow for motorists, dangerous for cyclists and unpleasant for pedestrians. This proposal put forward by Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council could alleviate these long standing problems. I would really welcome local people's views on the proposals."

Public events

A series of public drop-in sessions will be held in Wolsey Place Shopping Centre where residents can find out more about the proposal and members of the project team will be on hand to answer questions on:

- Thursday 20 September 2018 between 12.30pm and 8pm
- Saturday 29 September 2018 between 10am and 4pm

A public exhibition will also be held during the consultation period at Morris House, 34 Commercial Way, Woking, where residents can find out more about the proposal.

Alternatively, residents can view a short animated film of the proposals and have their say by visiting www.woking.gov.uk/guildfordrdconsultation

All feedback on the proposal should be received no later than **Wednesday 24 October 2018**.

Subject to funding, the approval of the Victoria Arch widening proposals and the outcome of the public consultation, implementation of the scheme could commence in late 2019.

12 Appendix E – Petitions and Campaigns

12.1 Petitions

12.1.1 The consultation received two petitions of 807 signatures 618 signatures, respectively, which were both organised by local business owners from Guildford Road. The petitions have not been included in our total number of responses received, as only the number of completed questionnaires and written responses are included in our final analysed figures. However, the petitions have been considered alongside other consultation responses and the issues raised within them are dealt with in section 6.

12.1.2 Petition 1

The petition states that those who have signed are against the scheme proposals. A copy of the petition is below.

The Chief Executive's Office
Woking Borough Council
Civic Offices
Gloucester Square
Woking
Surrey
GU21 6YL

DELIVERED BY HAND

19th October 2018

Dear Sirs,

Re: Submission of Petition – Proposed Changes to Road Layout South of Victoria Arch

We enclose signed petition in respect of the above proposed changes.

Subject – Against the Proposed Changes

The reasons for the objections are:

1. The widening of the road to a five lane dual carriageway of two-way traffic along Guildford Road will cause traffic to drive too fast.

This will be a danger to pedestrians and cyclists.

2. The demolition of buildings nos. 1-11 are Listed Buildings with The Heritage of Woking: An Historic Conservation Compendium (2000) which identifies these buildings as being of Townscape Merit.

The Council seeks to encourage preservation and enhancement of Buildings on the Local List and there is a presumption against demolition of all buildings on the Local List.

Petition one continued:

See enclosed "The Heritage of Woking" An Historic Conservation Compendium.
See enclosed "Locally Listed Buildings" What is a Locally Listed Building.
See enclosed "Woking Local Development Document" Woking Core Strategy
October 2012.

3. The loss of Local Business and Trade from the area in which some of the businesses on Guildford Road have been in business for over forty years. The businesses provide a service and resources to many of the local residents in Woking.

The loss of more shops and businesses in Woking is bad for Woking. Many of the new shop units that were built have remained empty. The larger shops and businesses are struggling with many closing.

4. The demolition of Listed Buildings nos. 1-11 would destroy the nesting sites of swifts that have nested there for over forty years.

The swift is an endangered bird that Woking Borough Council and Thamesway have a campaign in place to protect them.

5. The removal of Day's Aggregates Yard access to York Road would cause major congestion on York Road. This would add to the congestion on Guildford Road.

York Road already has existing problems with parking on both sides of the road and islands to slow traffic. Large Lorries travelling down York Road would make the problems catastrophic.

6. Widening of Victoria Arch would cause major delays for commuters travelling on the trains.

People already experience long delays commuting on the trains. Woking is already in the top 10 for being the worst in the Country for delays.

7. The removal of two trees.

The two trees have been there for over 100 years and should be preserved not cut down.

Petition one continued on next page

Action

The Actions the Petitioners wish the Council to take are:

1. To deal with the through traffic heading to and from Woking Town Centre.

This is the cause of the problem on Guildford Road.

2. Put back the original crossing on Guildford Road.

The crossing allowed pedestrians and cyclists to cross the two lanes of traffic. It had been there for over forty years and worked extremely well.

3. Remove the two new crossings by Treasure Cove Play (formally Blockbusters) and The Sovereigns Pub and put up clear Give Way Signs.

The new crossings hold up the traffic and cause tailbacks. The lights turn green but the traffic can't go because a pedestrian has pressed the button to cross.

4. Put back the flashing beacon crossing by Victoria Arch.

The new pedestrian press button control crossing holds up the traffic and causes further tailbacks.

5. The parking bays by Tesco's could be used to widen the road (if necessary).

There has never been parking on this side of the road so the parking bays could be used to widen the road. This side of the road has a wider pavement which could be used as well.

6. Remove the flower display, wooden seat and parking meter from outside nos. 10-12 (wasted space) and turn into parking bays.

The parking in this area could be free which would assist the public.

7. To install a new shared pedestrian and cycle tunnel under Victoria Arch.

There is land either side of Victorian Arch which could be used. This can be done without demolishing buildings.

At the moment more traffic accumulates under Victoria Arch/Victoria Road due to the building works which has cut the traffic down to one lane which creates a "pinch-point" of traffic on Guildford Road.

12.1.3 Petition 2

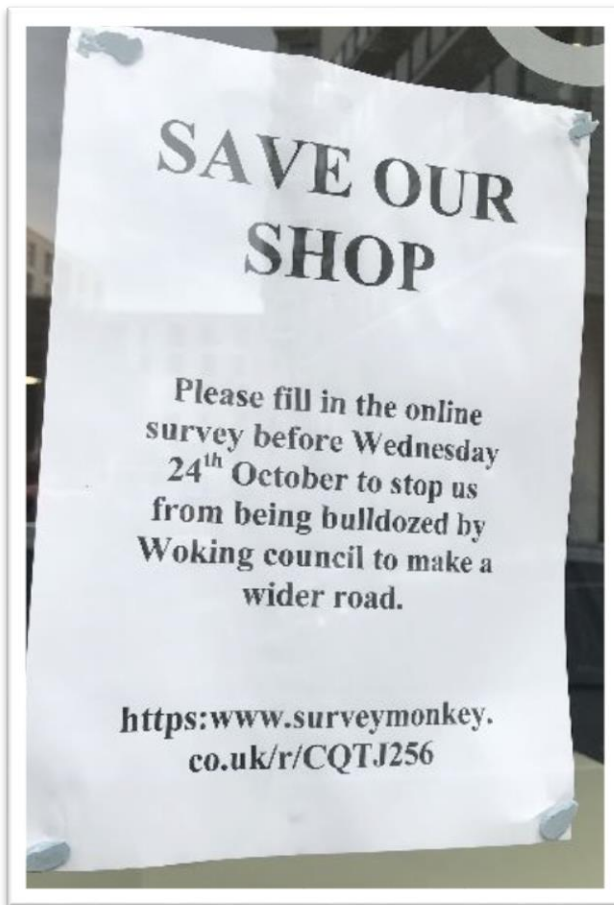
Those who signed this petition opposed the potential impacts the scheme could have on local businesses along Guildford Road.

- Organisation: Shop owner
- Created: 12 October 2018 16:39:51
- Current status: **finished**
- Deadline: **2 November 2018** (user entered "2 weeks")
- Petition title: **Stop the demolition of the shops on guildford road**
- Details of petition: The shops have been in Woking for over 100 years and are currently under a local preservation order. Some of the small business that trade from these premises have operated from here for over 40 years serving the local community and do not deserve to be pulled down!
- Category: Planning Applications##
- Signatures: 618 confirmed, 82 unconfirmed

Surrey County Council	437
Guildford Borough Council	33
Mole Valley District Council	2
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	2
Runnymede Borough Council	2
Surrey Heath Borough Council	12
Waverley Borough Council	12
Woking Borough Council	374
Byfleet & West Byfleet	1
<u>Canalside</u>	22
<u>Goldsworth Park</u>	24
Heathlands	30
Hoe Valley	45
<u>Horsell</u>	56
<u>Knap Hill</u>	34
Mount Hermon	122
<u>Pyrford</u>	10
St John's	30
<u>Other</u>	173
<u>Unknown</u>	8

12.2 Campaigns

12.2.1 Poster that was displayed in local businesses along Guildford Road



12.2.2 A copy of the leaflet that was posted through letterboxes along York Road

