



Safe Routes to School

Galway Educate Together/St Josephs Special School

Public Consultation Report

Tobin Consulting Engineers and Transport Insights
(on behalf of Galway City Council) | September 2022 – Final Report



Slite Sábháilte
Chun na Scoile
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To School*



Rialtas na
hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



Public Consultation Report Structure

Introduction

School Zone – Concept Proposal

Consultation Format

Publicising the Consultation



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Introduction

As part of the Safe Routes to School programme, Galway City Council is engaging with the school community of Galway Educate Together NS and St Joseph's Special School to develop a 'front of school' design to make it safer for children walking, cycling and scooting to school. The design will also benefit residents and commuters walking and cycling through their neighbourhood.

- **86% of Galway Educate Together NS and 95% of St Joseph's Special School parents/ guardians support works at the front of school that improve student safety, putting pedestrians and cyclists first.**
- **94% GETNS/ 100% St Josephs parents/ guardians would support works that improve the walking and cycling routes to the school.**

(Parents and Guardians Travel Survey 2021)

Galway City Council has developed a design to address concerns expressed by parents/ guardians and has invited public feedback on the Concept proposals.



School Zone Trial in John Dillon Street Dublin City Council

School Zone – Concept Proposal

A 'School Zone's design has been developed for Galway Educate Together NS and St Joseph's Special School, based on the national Safe Routes to School design guidance, and engagement with the school and landowners sharing an access road/ parking. The design also incorporates design guidance such as the National Cycle Manual and the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets.

Elements Proposed:

- Pencil bollards to prevent parking on footpaths where children are walking
- Road markings highlighting the school to drivers
- Raised table pedestrian crossings letting children cross and slowing cars down
- Continuous Footways giving 'visual priority' to pedestrians and slowing cars down
- Double yellow lines to discourage parked cars blocking traffic/ children's line of sight
- Tighter junctions making the junction shorter for children to cross

Consultation Format

The School Zone for Galway Educate Together NS and St Joseph's Special School :

- GCC and the design team consulted with Galway Educate Together NS and St Joseph's Special School in late 2021 until May 2022 in preparing this design
- The concerns of parents and guardians of the pupils of Galway Educate Together NS and St Joseph's Special School was provided via questionnaire
- Non-statutory public consultation was run in May until the 10th of June 2022
- GCC intended to meet residents, parents, guardians, and the school community at public information sessions on development of the Preliminary Design further to this Public Consultation Feedback.
- Following completion of the Preliminary design, Galway City Council may, subject to the relevant consent process, undertake a second public consultation detailing the final scheme proposals.



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Publicising the Consultation

- An information leaflet was distributed to residents/businesses in the local area summarising the project and inviting feedback.
- The leaflet, scheme drawings, “talk through” presentation and an online survey were available at <https://www.galwaycity.ie/getnsjosephsrts>
- Hard copy surveys were available on request, and submissions in letter/ by phone were also facilitated.
- Galway Educate Together NS and St Joseph’s Special School invited parents and guardians by email to respond.
- Galway Educate Together NS and St Joseph’s Special School also contacted the Residents Committee and requested them to publicise the survey to residents.
- GCC contacted an extensive database, including bus/ taxi operators, cycling representative groups, emergency services, and waste suppliers serving the schools, to participate in the consultation.
- The consultation was publicised on social media, and in the local press.

Leaflet



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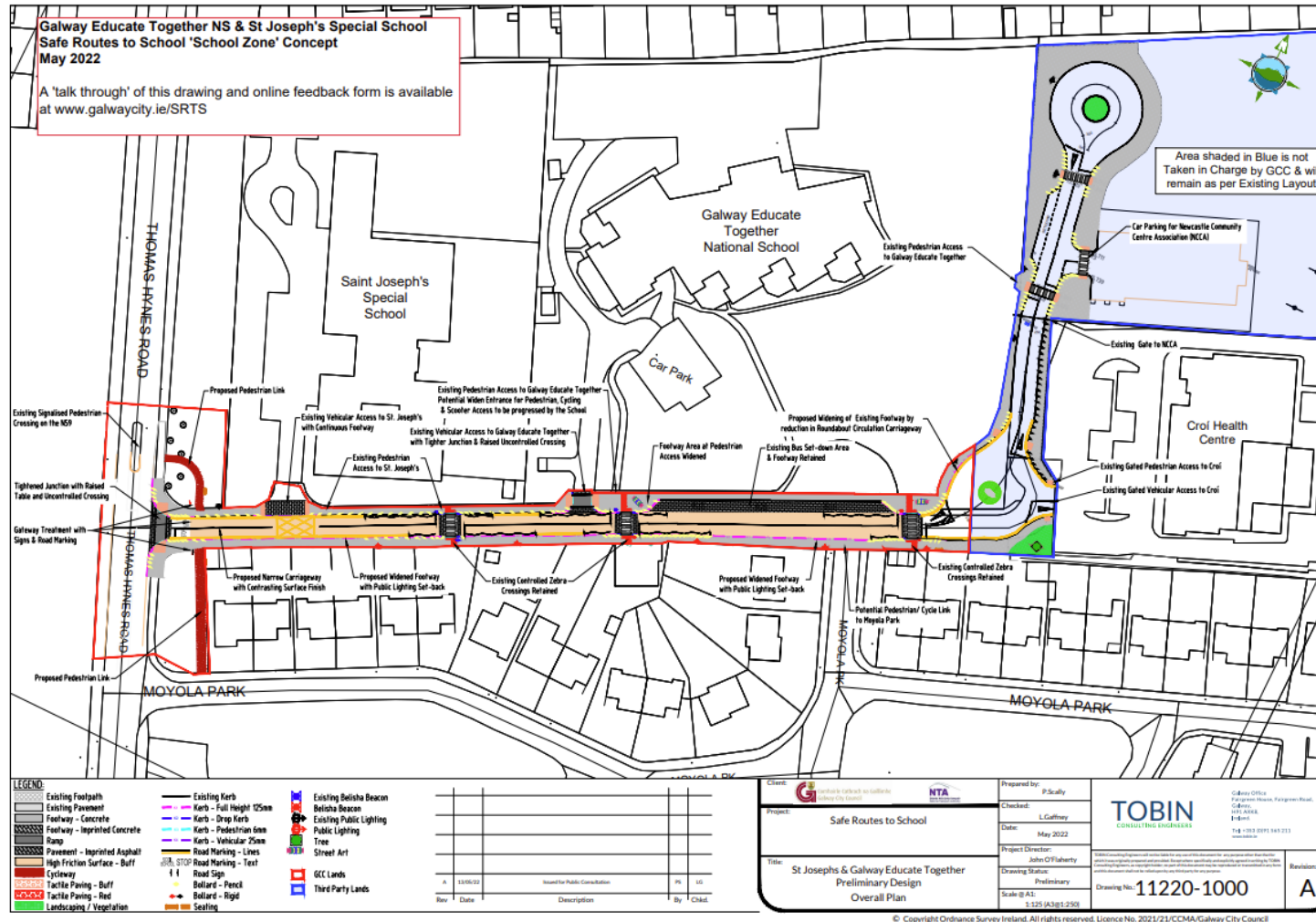
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Galway City Council Website – Concept Design Drawings



Galway Advertiser

**The Galway Advertiser**
1 June · 🌐

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As part of the Safe Routes to School programme, Galway City Council is engaging with the school communities of Radharc na Mara NS, Scoil Bhride NS, Scoil Iognáid NS, GET NS and St Joseph's Special School to develop a 'front of school' design to make it safer for children walking, cycling and scooting to school.

The design will also benefit residents and commuters walking and cycling through their neighbourhood.

Feedback, support and comments are now welcome on the concept design now at public consultation, online or in writing by 10th June 2022.

See www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS

[Radharc na Mara School](#)
[The Jes Colaiste Iognaid PPU](#)
[Galway Educate Together](#)
[St. Joseph's Special School](#)
[Scoil Bhride, Shantalla](#)
[TFI - Transport for Ireland](#)
[National Transport Authority](#)
[Green-Schools](#)

'Crios na Scoile'
Comhairliúchán Poiblí

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Fáiltíonn Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe roimh thuairimí ar an 'Crios Scoile' atá molta do:

- Radharc Na Mara SN, Mervue;
- Scoil Iognáid SN, Bóithrin na Sliogán;
- Galway Educate Together SN/ St Joseph's Special School, Bóthar Thomáis Uí Eithin; agus
- Scoil Bhride SN, Seantalamh.

Feabhsóidh Crios na Scoile 'aghaidh na scoile' chun é a dhéanamh níos sábháilte do leanaí atá ag teacht ar ais agus ón scoil.

Tá léaráidí agus 'caint tríd' den scéim ar fáil ag www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS

Fáiltítear roimh aiseolas agus tacalocht tríd an bhfoirm ar líne (feach www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS) nó i scríbhinn, roimh an **10ú Meitheamh 2022**.

Tá foirmeacha aiseolais páipéir ar fáil ach iad a iarraidh dóibh siúd nach bhfuil rochtain dhigiteach acu, nó a bhfuil fadhbanna inrochtaineachta acu. Déan teagmháil le Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe ag 091 536 400; Ríomhphost: activetravel@galwaycity.ie; Post: Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe, Halla na Cathrach, Bóthar an Choláiste, Gaillimh

'School Zones'
Public Consultation

Galway City Council welcomes comments on the proposed 'School Zones' for:

- Radharc Na Mara NS, Mervue;
- Scoil Iognáid, Raleigh Row;
- Galway Educate Together NS/ St Joseph's Special School, Thomas Hynes Road; and
- Scoil Bhride, Shantalla.

The School Zone will improve the 'front of school' to make it safer for children coming to and from school.

Drawings and a 'talk through' of the scheme are available at www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS

Feedback and support is welcome through the online form (see www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS) or in writing, by the **10th June 2022**.

Paper feedback forms are available on request for those without digital access, or with accessibility issues. Please contact Galway City Council at 091 536 400. Email: activetravel@galwaycity.ie Post: Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway

Social Media

Galway City Council
20 May · 🌐

As part of the Safe Routes to School programme, Galway City Council is engaging with the school communities of Radharc na Mara NS, Scoil Bhride NS, Scoil Iognáid NS, GET NS and St Joseph's Special School to develop a 'front of school' design to make it safer for children walking, cycling and scooting to school.

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See www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS

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Galway City Council
9 June · 🌐

Consultation Extended!

As part of the Safe Routes to School programme, Galway City Council is engaging with the school communities of Radharc na Mara NS, Scoil Bhride NS, Scoil Iognáid NS, GET NS and St Joseph's Special School to develop a 'front of school' design to make it safer for children walking, cycling and scooting to school.

The design will also benefit residents and commuters walking and cycling through their neighbourhood.... See more



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Consultation Summary



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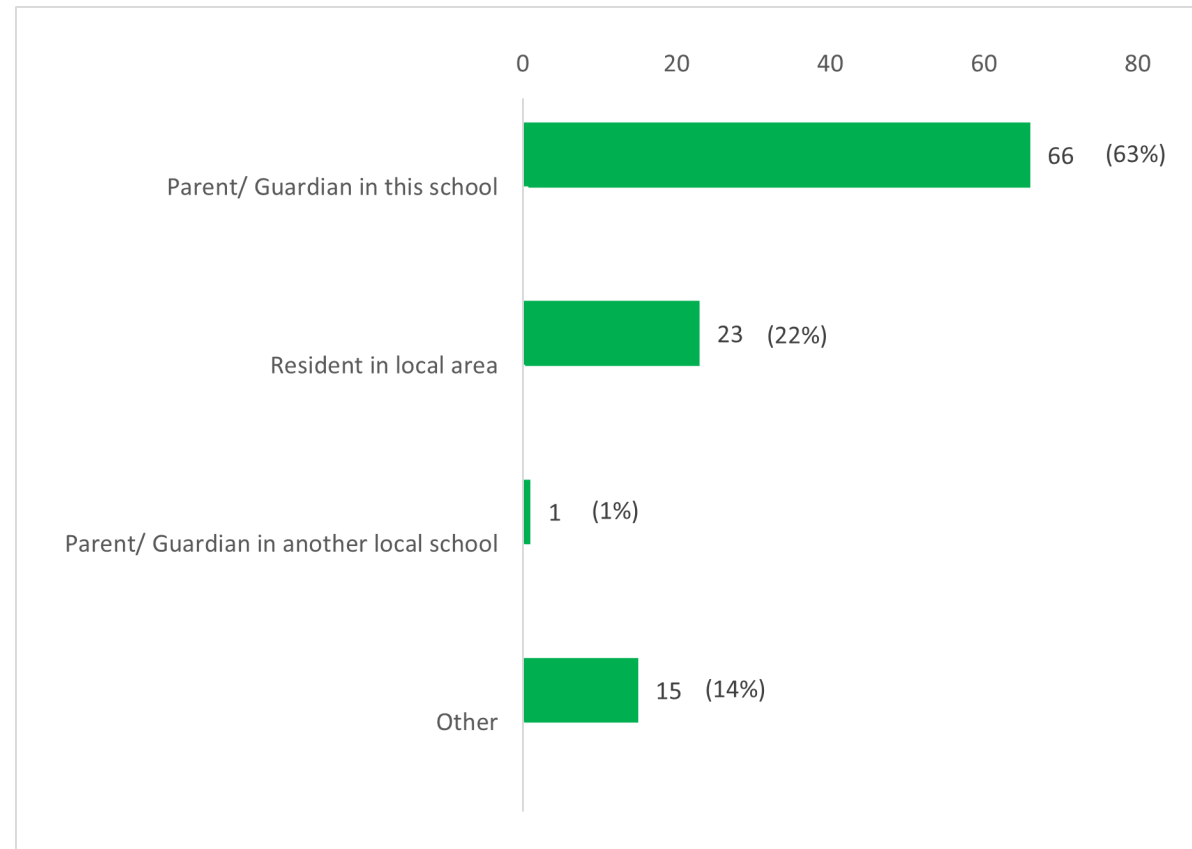
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Consultation Summary

- 103 responses were received via the online survey
- Additional feedback was received by email
- GCC and the design team meet with local stakeholder (i.e. Croí and Newcastle Community Centre Association (NCCA))
- These slides summarise the above feedback

Note: the graphs below show all responses including those by online survey and email.

Primary Interest in the Submission?

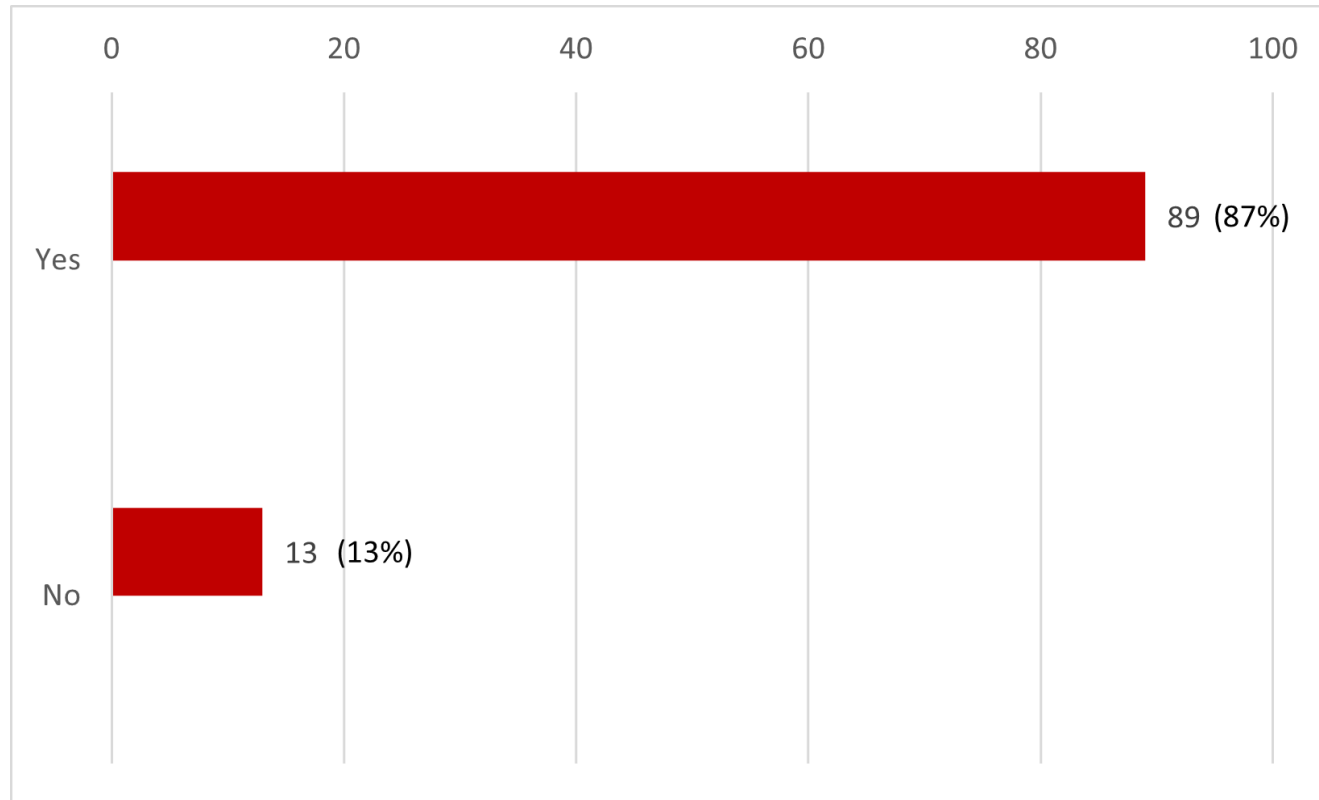


Other:

- 2 no. staff members;
- 3 no. both resident and parent;
- 1 no. Moyola Park Residents Group;
- 1 no. Cycling Campaign;
- 8 no. no response

Total Responses: 105

Do you think road safety is a problem around this school?



Total Responses: 102



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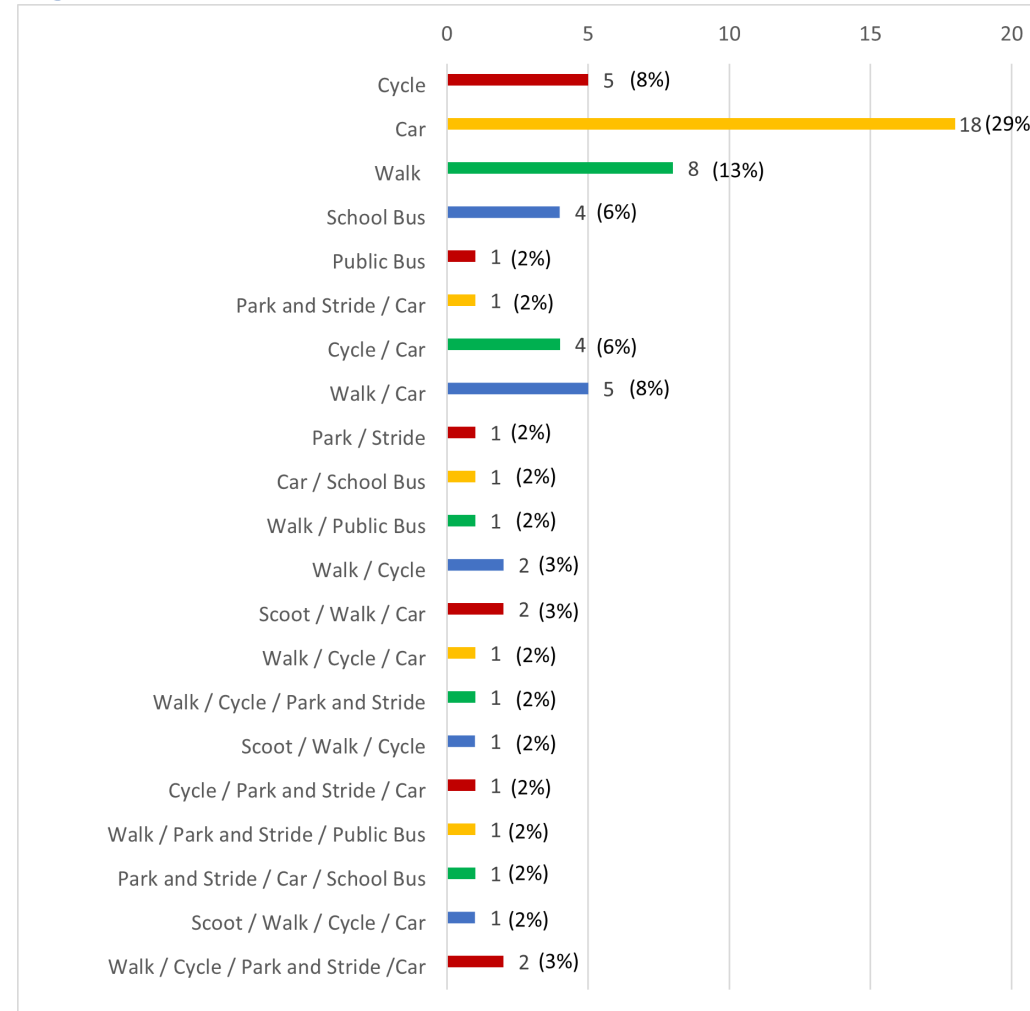


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Parents / Guardian – if you have a child/ children attending this school, how do they usually travel to school at this time of year?



Total Responses: 62



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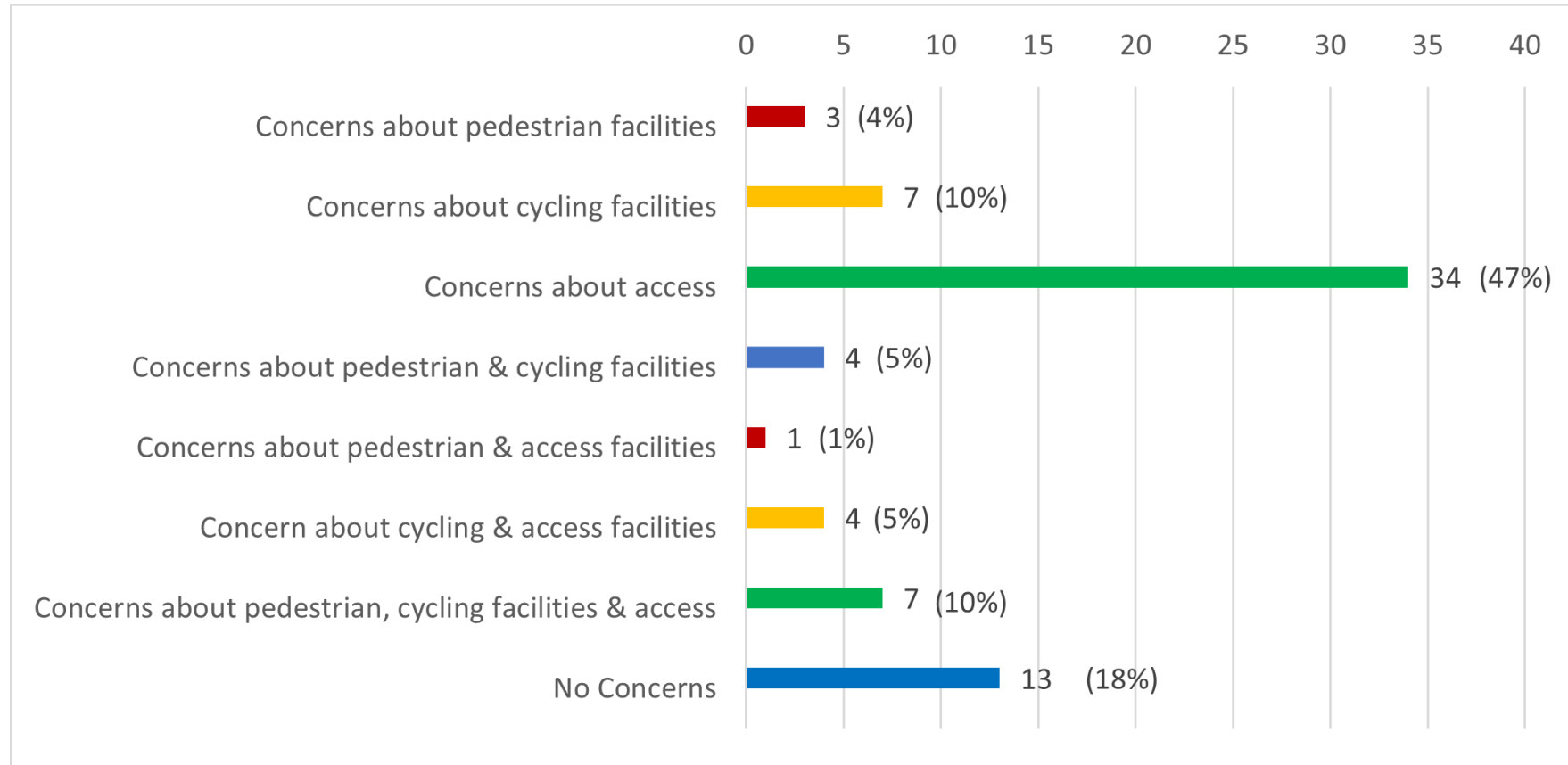


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Having reviewed the details of the proposed School Zone, please tell us what you do not like about the scheme:



Total Responses: 73

Public Consultation Sample Comments

Raised tables - It is not clear why the proposed raised table at the entrance to Moyola Lane is not being offered as a "Proposed Controlled Zebra Crossing on Raised Table"

A missed opportunity for additional active travel entrances into St Joseph's - At a wider level, we would be keen to review the desire line audits recommended in the Safe Routes to School Design Guide which may indicate some informal routes currently being taken to the schools.

Many parents have to use the car to drive to school - for those parents, there are simply not enough parking spaces. Parents have to park on yellow lines because there are no other options.

No enforcement of double yellow lines and zig zag markings. Parking on footways is the norm. Idling of parent's vehicles waiting at pick up / drop off

Cyclist concerns on Routes from School to Siobhan McKenna Road. In particular existing the school and this junction

Definitely it is a major problem as there is no proper traffic management. People park cars on footpath while picking kids limiting the crossing area for child.

Road narrowing concerns for cyclists - carriageway should not be reduced in width here

Pedestrianised crossing on the Thomas Hynes Road is in disrepair and does not allow for safe crossing of multiple people especially if they have bicycles, scooters, buggies etc

No safe access routes to cycle to the school, no suitable parking for dropping off children on the many cold and wet Irish winter days.

Consider routes via Corrib Park / Shantalla / Taylor's Hill

Cycling lanes are dangerous around the school, cycling to school is not safe and cycling lanes should be not just in front of the school but also on roads leading up to the school.

Too much traffic and not enough area to cope with it.



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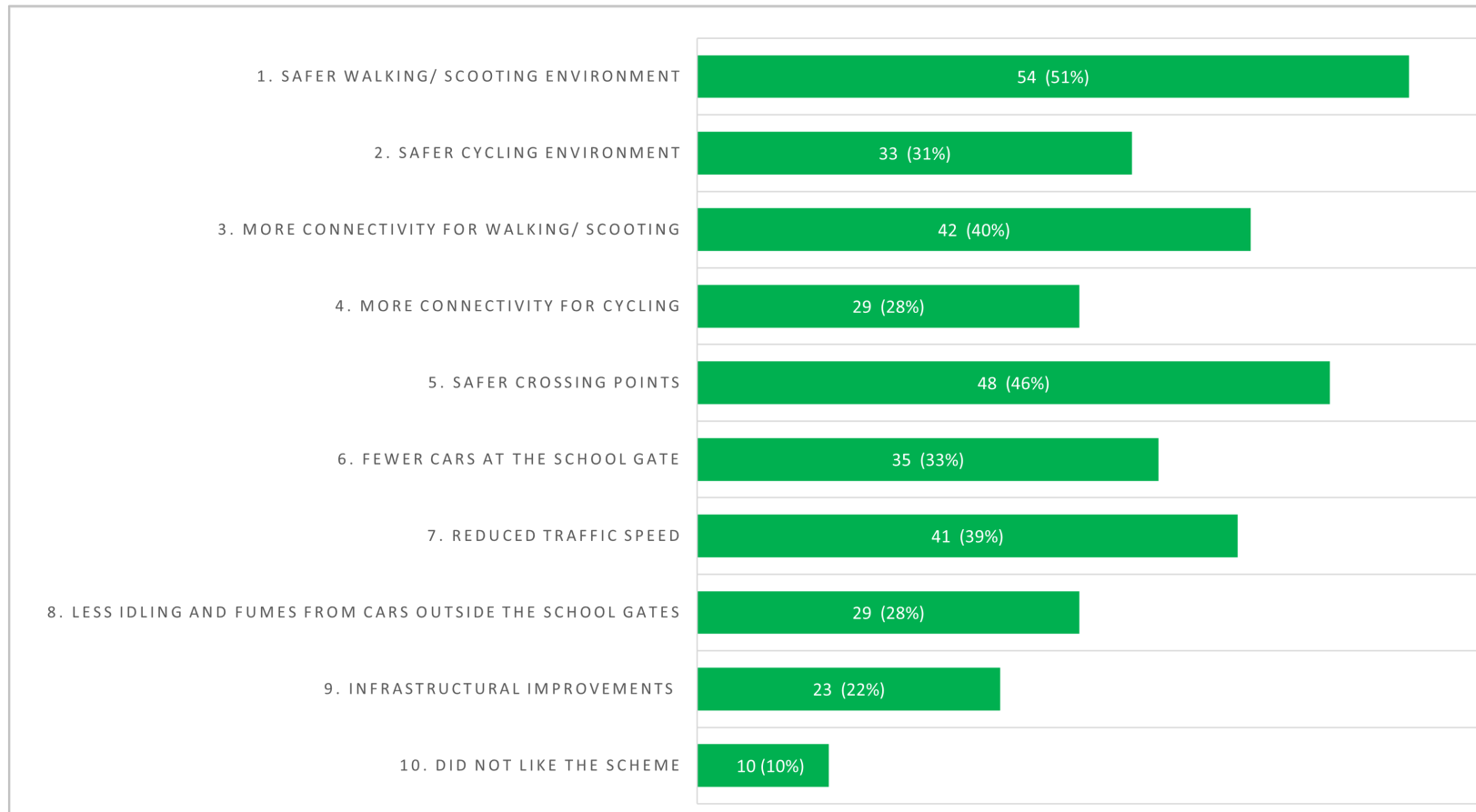


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Having reviewed the details of the proposed concept design, please tell us what you like about the scheme:



Total Responses: 105

Public Consultation Sample Comments

Welcome the Safe Routes to Schools initiative and see it as one of the most important building blocks in the promotion of a shift towards sustainable modes of travel (walking, cycling and public transport) at all levels favoured by so much national, regional and local policy.

Agree with the school changes and safety

The proposed changes are welcome.

The proposed raised section of the road at the entrance to the school should be set back from the head of the road in line with the new proposed walkway.

The new proposed walkways marked in red along the greens are welcomed and I would also propose that this should be extended across the Moyola Park entrance and joined up with the existing pathway would benefit those walking, cycling and scooting to schools.

Cars drive fast and not safe for kids cycling to school. The School is in a busy area, a lot of traffic throughout the day. The suggested improvements are welcome

There is a busy city road at the junction to the school and another busy junction less than 50 metres from the entrance. It would be lovely if you could allow children to safely access the school by walking or cycling or scooting without the issue of traffic accidents.

Welcome features in the proposed Galway Educate Together/St Josephs Special School design, particularly;

- the proposed cycling link through to Moyola Park which is overdue and should be prioritised;
- the reduced corner radii on the entrance from Thomas Hynes Road;
- continuous footways;
- Pencil bollards to dissuade pavement parking.

More drop down designated areas for parent dropping kids by car would be very useful

I strongly agree with this scheme.

I don't believe road safety is a huge issue but I believe congestion and traffic management is.

The safe routes to school is a good idea. Improvements will be required to all the footpaths and pedestrian facilities in the area.



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Consultation Summary

Consultation was largely positive from both residents and parents for the front of school proposal at public consultation.

The respondents liked all the proposals put forward for:

- 58% safer walking/ scooting environment,
- 45% connectivity for walking/ scooting
- 35% safer cycling environment.
- 52% safer crossing points,
- 31% connectivity for cycling
- 38% liking fewer cars at the school gate,
- 44% liking reduced traffic speed
- 31% liking less idling and fumes from cars outside the school gates
- 25% of respondents liked the proposed infrastructural improvements

Consultation Summary

During consultation, the following concerns were raised by:

- The Moyola Park Committee and Fairlands Park Residents Association:
 - School Zone:
 - Overgrown hedgerows obstruct the Moyola Lane footway, with vulnerable road users (VRU) in the carriageway
 - Routes to school:
 - Unsafe pedestrian crossing of the junction on Moyola Park Road / Thomas Hynes Road
 - N59 Controlled Pedestrian Crossing:
 - The flashing amber beacon lights at the crossings are a visual nuisance.
 - The island is too narrow to accommodate VRUs safely
 - Illegal parking on footpath in Mayola Park results in VRU in carriageway
 - Parking at gateways blocks in residents in Mayola Park
 - Increase in parking in residential estates (especially with break in wall to Moyola Park)
 - Footways are deteriorated on Newcastle Road and Thomas Hynes Road

Consultation Summary

During consultation, the following additional concerns were raised by:

- **Local Residents:**
 - **School Zone:**
 - Enforcement of double yellow and zig zags, resulting in unsafe traffic movements
 - Narrowing the road will cause chaos for large vehicles to pass (i.e. buses)
 - **Routes to School:**
 - Increased congestion, in particular with break in wall to school for walking, cycling & scooting at Moyola Park.
 - Illegal parking on footways / driveways, resulting in VRUs in carriageway
 - Unsafe cycling infrastructure on routes
 - N59 is unsafe for cyclists as central hatch marking used for high-speed overtaking
 - Concern about VRUs crossing roads at Moyola Park / Thomas Hynes Road / Siobhan McKenna Road)
 - N59 Controlled Pedestrian Crossing is only crossing on a busy wide road
 - N59 has higher traffic speeds than posted and is a wide road

Consultation Summary

During consultation, the following additional concerns were raised by:

- Parents / Guardians / Others
 - School Zone:
 - Concerns of vehicles mounting footways in conflict with VRUs on the footway
 - Concern about narrower vehicular access and tighter corner radius, especially for minibuses, coaches and cars
 - Parking opposite the bus set down / on pedestrian crossings obstructs visibility to children / difficult for vehicles to manoeuvre
 - Footway is too narrow on one side
 - Crossing GET vehicular access for visually / mobility impaired as no tactile / drop kerbs
 - Drop off for bus is very busy and unsafe for children due to narrow paved width
 - High vehicle speeds in proximity to VRUs
 - Concern on Traffic Management and driver behaviour
 - Lack of cycling infrastructure
 - No safe vehicle drop off for children (due to nature of school, catchment area is large)
 - Lack of knowledge of Park and Stride locations
 - Concern on pedestrian access to Croí due to narrow footway

Consultation Summary

During consultation, the following additional concerns were raised by:

- Parents / Guardians / Others
 - Routes to School:
 - Segregated pedestrian from cyclists / scooting infrastructure
 - Safer crossings on Siobhan McKenna Road, Thomas Hynes Road, Moyola Park, Ragoon Road, Circular Road (to Claremont Park), Laurel Park, John Coogan Park, Gaelcarraig Park, Inishannagh Park, and Bóthar Lé Cheile
 - Cyclists' safety on the N59, due to wide carriageway and high vehicle speeds
 - Cyclists have no continuous infrastructure (i.e. Siobhan McKenna Road)
 - Lack of turning facilities for cyclists into school zone from the N59 (i.e. right turners)
 - Safe permeability from Ragoon Road / Westside (i.e. Rockfield Park) for cyclists / scooting
 - N59 controlled crossing: two green stages required to cross the road, significant delay for green on-demand call up, overcrowding by those waiting to cross impacting those bypassing
 - Browne Roundabout active travel
 - Rat-run from Newcastle to Thomas Hynes Road via Moyola Park

Investigate Concerns Raise at Public Consultation

Concerns to be investigated and explored following PC:

- **School Zone:**

- Maintenance of vegetation / fencing on Moyola Lane to remove vegetation obstruction
- Information / seminar on driver behaviour and safe driving at the school zone
- Investigate staggering school drop off / pick up times for different classes
- Inform Parents / Guardians on Park and Stride locations / Re-assess locations including NUIG campus with additional permeability
- School bus routes to be investigated to increase uptake and decrease car use
- School to investigate tickets for parents with mobility / infant children to park at School Zone
- Street lighting to back of footway with less street lighting as an obstruction to narrow footway

- **Routes to School:**

- Improve junction crossing with pedestrian facilities on Moyola Park / Thomas Hynes Road / Siobhan McKenna Road / Circular Road / Ragoon Road / Laurel Park / John Coogan Park / Gaelcarraig Park / Inishannagh Park / Bóthar Lé Cheile / Newcastle Road
- Review potential use of Green Area as a set down / parking / park and stride:
 - between N59 and St. Josephs boundary
 - southeast of the Laurel Park pitches (potential for amenity use outside school hours)

Investigate Concerns Raise at Public Consultation

- Routes to School:
 - N59 crossing:
 - Review installation of hoods on the traffic signal heads to remove visual nuisance
 - Widen crossing, removal of pedestrian guard rails, longer crossing times, widen / remove refuge, wider waiting area on footway
 - Multiple crossings (i.e. Greenfields/Fairlands and Moyola)
 - Segregation of cyclist/ scooting from pedestrians
 - Support for the potential pedestrian/cycle link via Moyola Park (by Parent's)
 - Improved cycle infrastructure on Thomas Hynes Road, investigate removal of central hatch
 - Improved continuous cycle infrastructure (i.e. Siobhan McKenna Road / Circular Road / Ragoon Road)
 - Improve cyclist access between Rockfield Park / Claremont Park
 - New pedestrian crossing on Circular Road (i.e. northwest corner near Westside sports field)
 - Explore new Park and Stride locations and advertise same
 - Illegal and obstructive parking is not part of any scheme endorsed by GCC, with enforcement support requested periodically through Community Wardens and Community Gardaí.

Next Steps

The next steps in the process:

- Public consultation on the concept School Zone will inform the design proceeding to the Preliminary Design Stage.
 - Public Consultation Submissions will be brought forward to the Council and the School
 - The Design Team will revise the designs based on the Public Consultation Submissions
- Following completion of the Preliminary Design, Galway City Council may, subject to the relevant consent process, undertake a second public consultation detailing the final scheme proposals.
- As part of this process, the Design Team will meet residents, parents, guardians, and the school community at public information sessions.
- The Routes to School will progress over the coming months in support of the Front of School Design.