



Safe Routes to School

Radharc na Mara NS Public Consultation Report

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



Slite Sábháilte
Chun na Scoile
*Safe Routes
To School*



Rialtas na
hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

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Public Consultation Report Structure

Introduction

School Zone – Concept Proposal

Consultation Format

Publicising the Consultation



Introduction

As part of the Safe Routes to School programme, Galway City Council is engaging with the school community of Radharc na Mara NS 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.

- **89% of Radharc na Mara parents/ guardians support works at the front of school that improve student safety, putting pedestrians and cyclists first.**
- **92% of parents/guardians would support works that improve the walking and cycling routes to the school.**

(Parents & 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' design has been developed for Radharc na Mara, based on the national Safe Routes to School design guidance, and engagement with the school. 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
- Narrow carriageway on Walter Macken Road to reduce speeds / U-turning
- Road markings highlighting the school to drivers
- Pedestrian crossings and anti-skid surfacing
- Tighter junctions making the junction shorter for children to cross
- Double yellow lines to discourage parked cars blocking traffic/ children's line of sight
- Potential drop-off at Mervue Church

Consultation Format

School Zone for Radharc na Mara:

- GCC and the Design Team consulted with representatives from Radharc na Mara, from the end of 2021 until May 2022 in order to prepare the design brought to public consultation.
- Non-statutory public consultation on the concept School Zone ran from the end of May until the 10th of June 2022.
- Parents, guardians and the wider school community were invited to share feedback on the proposed design through an online questionnaire. The survey was also available in hard copy on request.
- Public consultation on the concept School Zone will inform the design proceeding to the Preliminary Design Stage.

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/radharcnamarasrts>
- Hard copy surveys were available on request, and submissions in letter/ by phone were also facilitated.
- Radharc na Mara invited parents and guardians by email to respond.
- Radharc na Mara 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

Radharc na Mara NS 'School Zone' Elements Proposed



Pencil bollards to prevent parking on footpaths where children are walking



Road markings highlighting the school to drivers



Drop off at Mervue Church



Pedestrian crossings and anti-skid surfacing



Tighter junctions – making the junction shorter for children to cross



Double yellow lines to discourage parked cars blocking traffic



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National Transport Authority

Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillí
Galway City Council

Radharc na Mara NS 'School Zone' Public Consultation



Galway City Council welcomes comments on the proposed 'School Zone' for Radharc Na Mara NS.

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 or in writing, by **10th June 2022**

www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS

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



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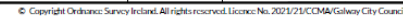


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Galway Advertiser

**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

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 tacaíocht 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 Chóiláiste, 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.

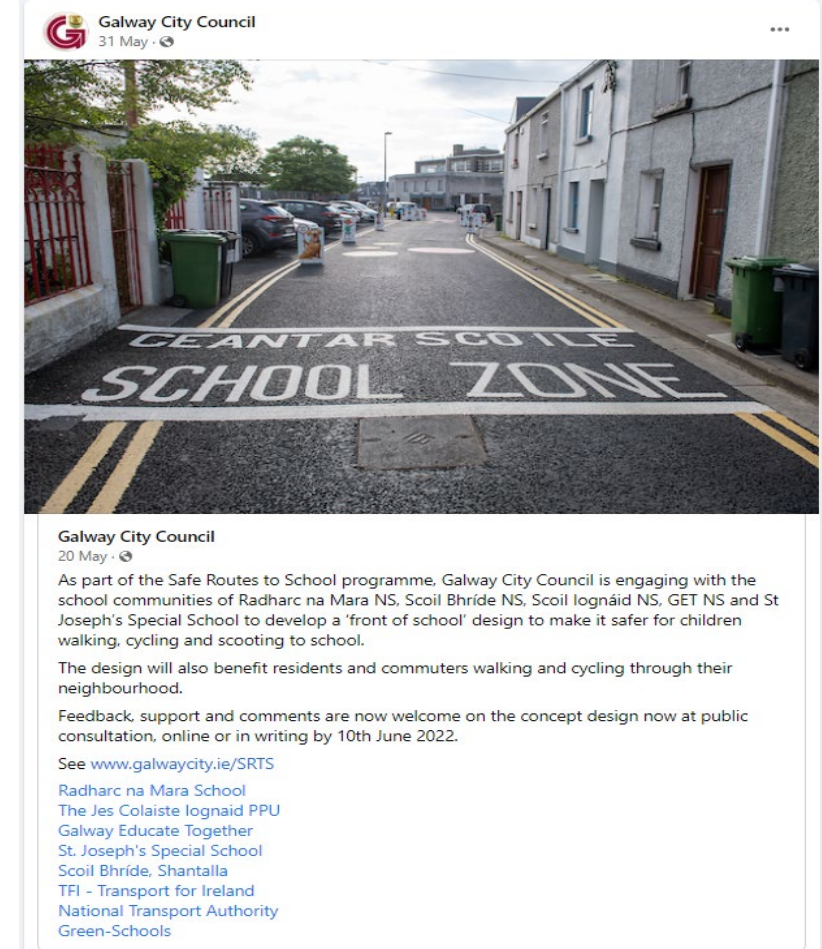
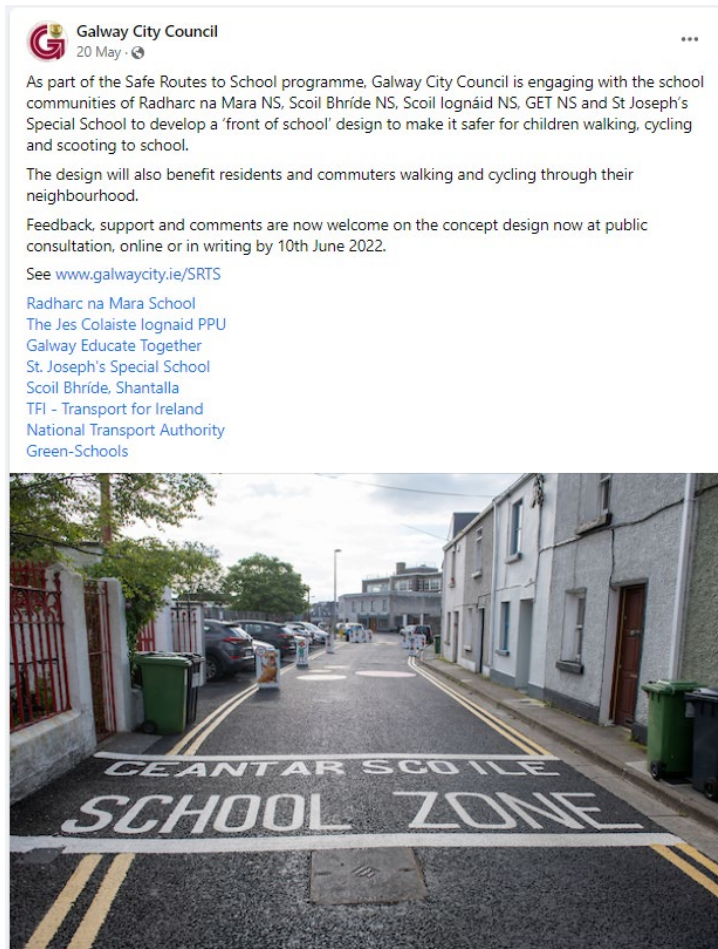
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Feedback and support is welcome through the online form (see www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS) or in writing, by the **10th June 2022**.

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

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Consultation Summary



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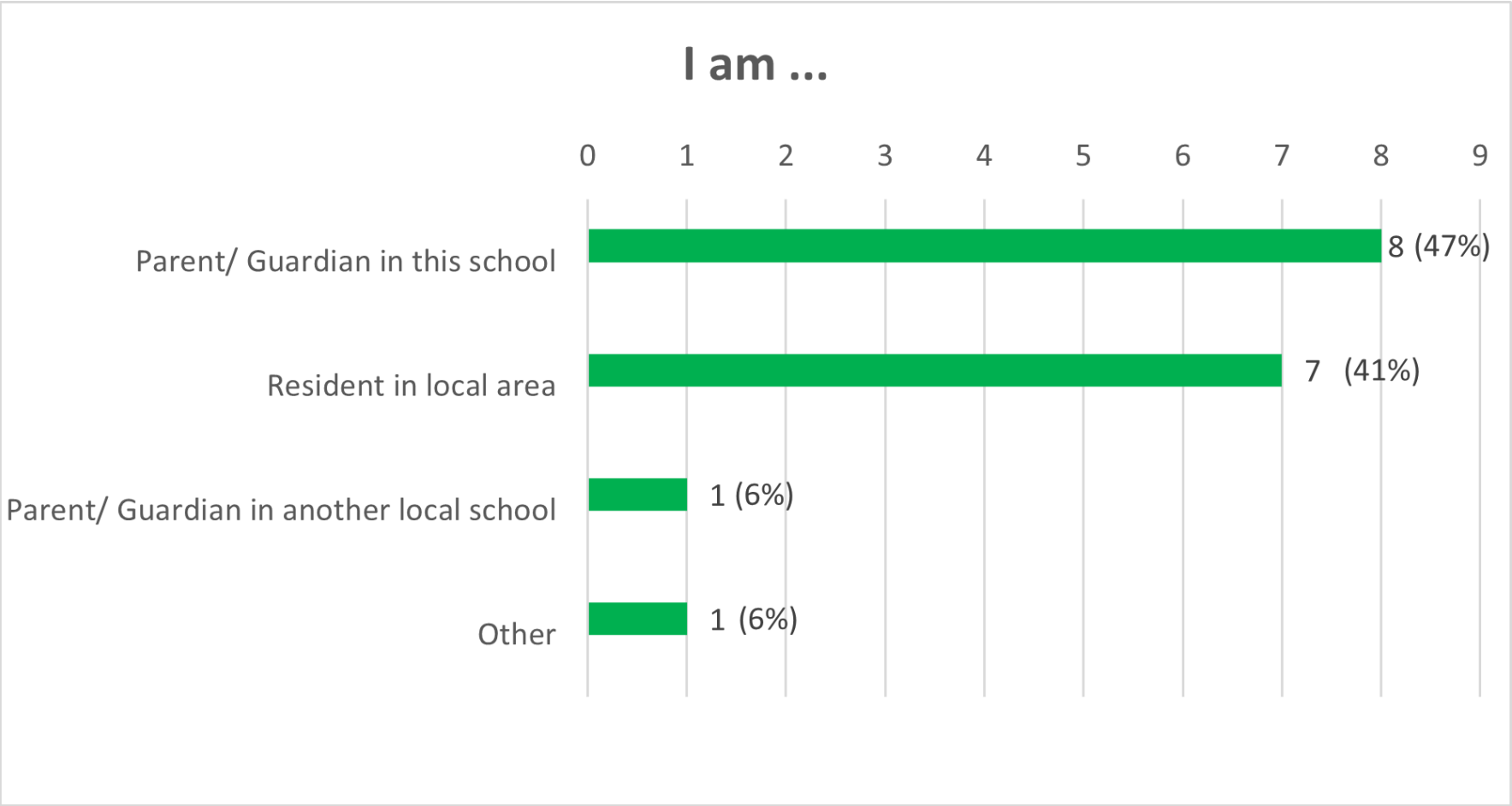
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Consultation Summary

- 14 responses were received via the online survey
- Additional feedback was received by email
- Residents feedback was received during an on-site walkover meeting with GCC
- 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?



Total Responses: 17



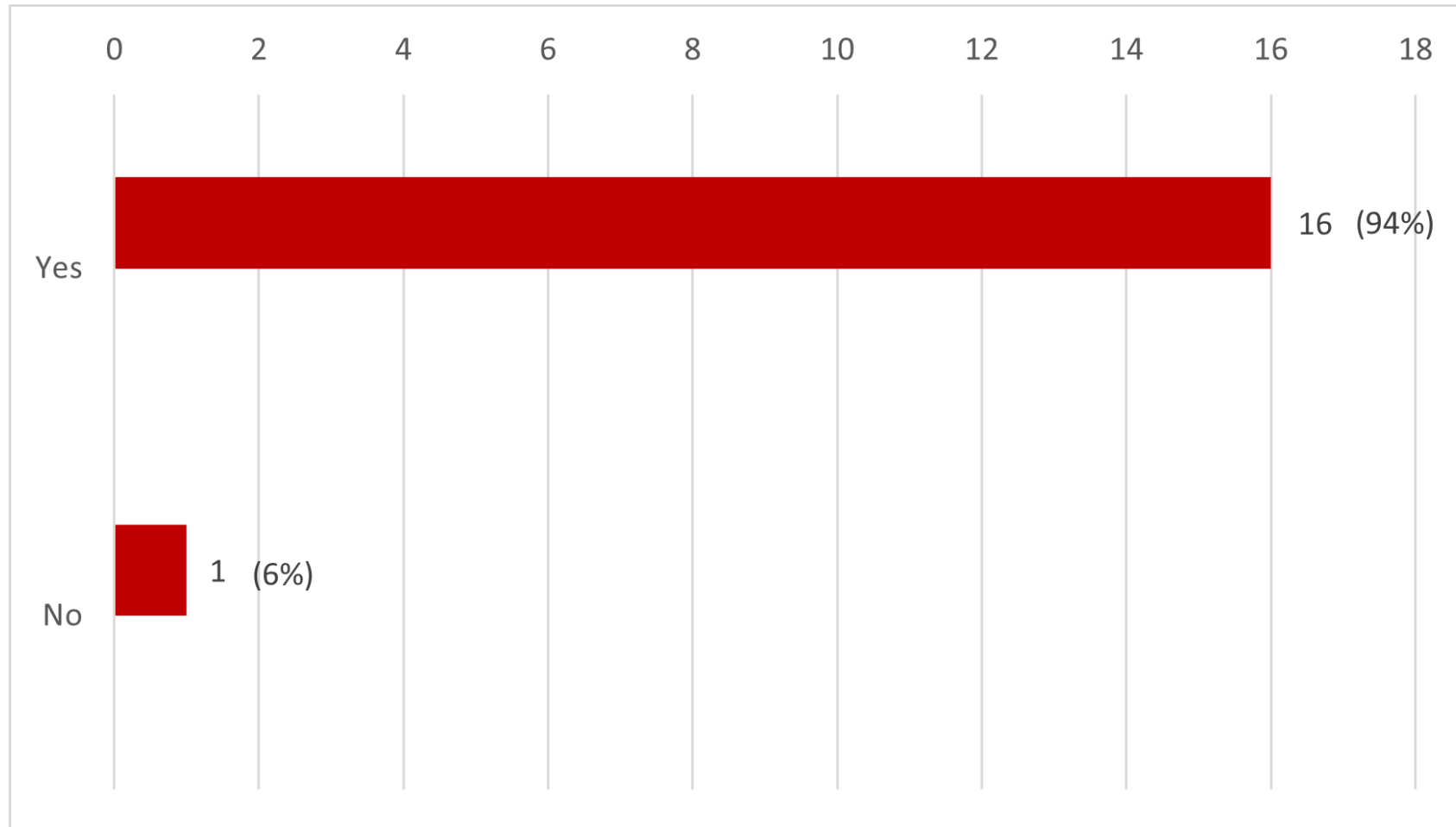
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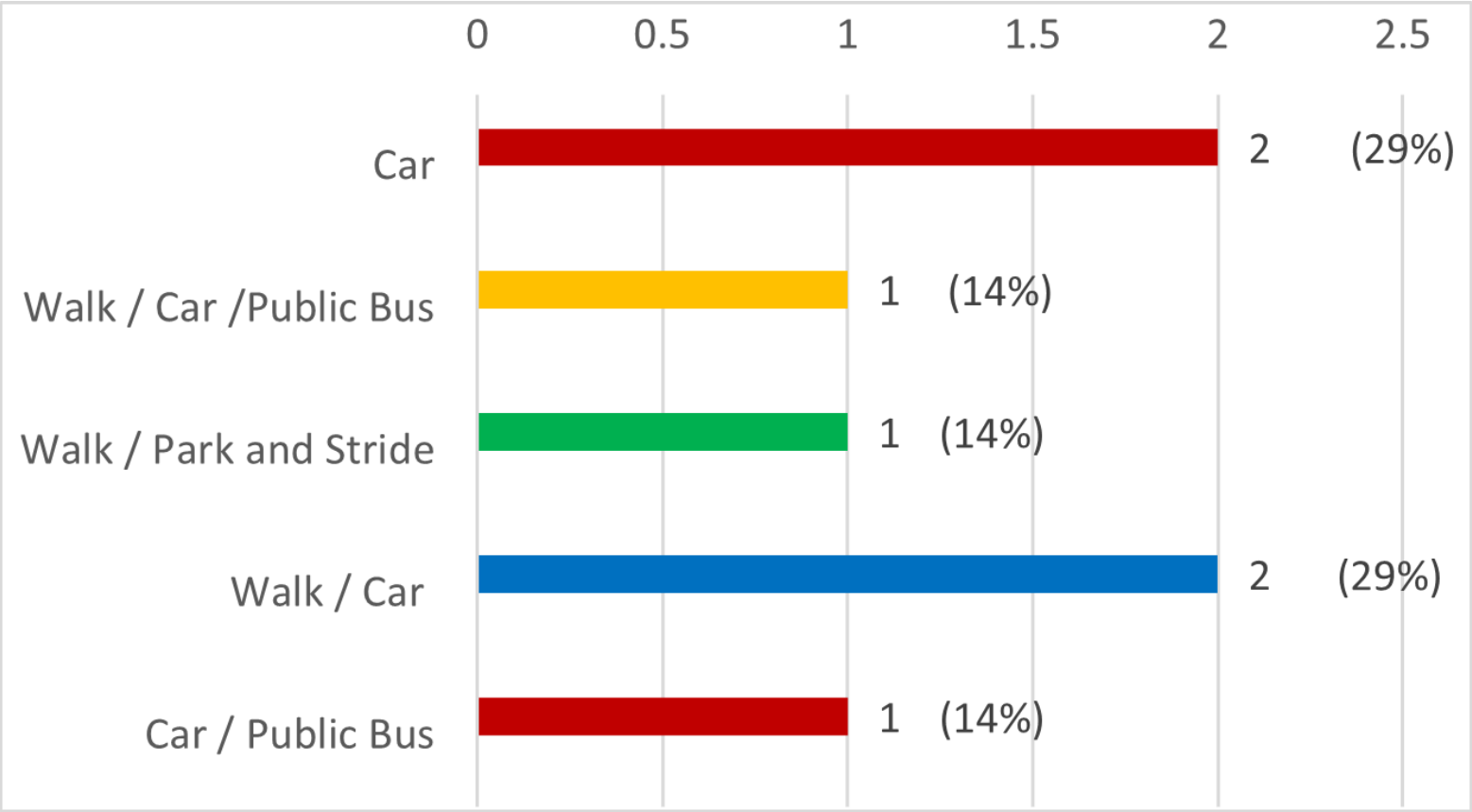
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Do you think road safety is a problem around this school?



Total Responses: 17

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: 7



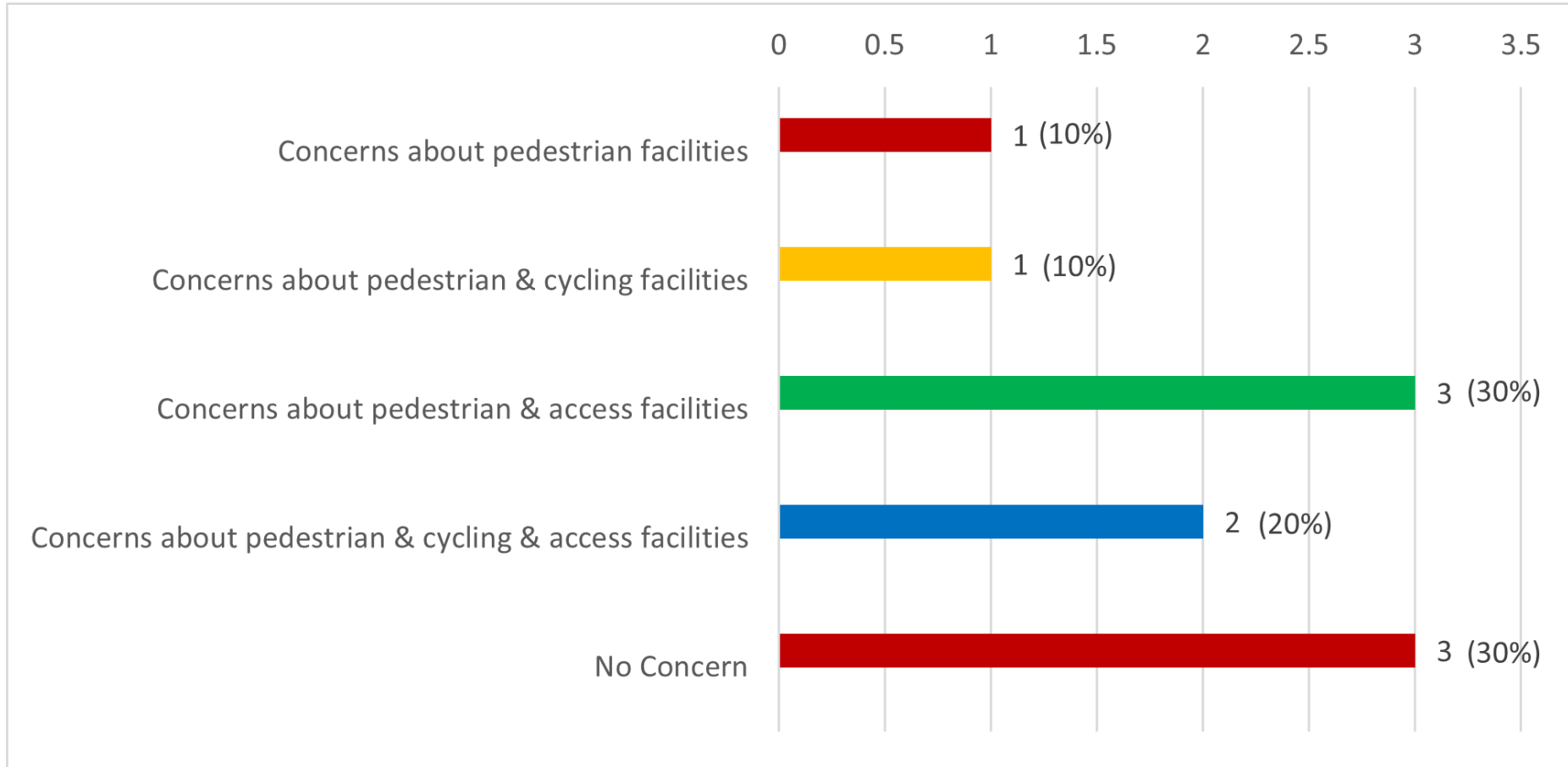
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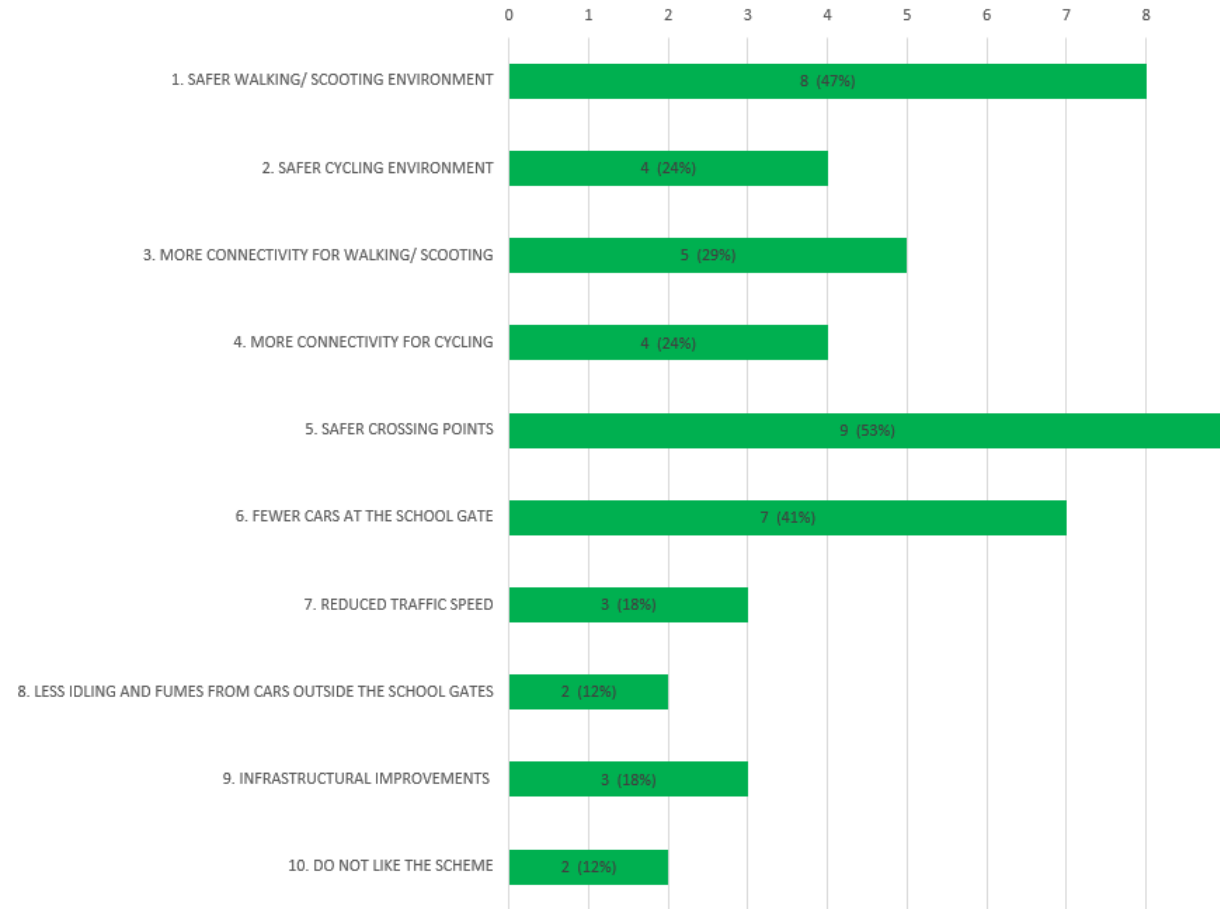
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Having reviewed the details of the proposed concept design, please tell us what you do not like about the scheme:



Total Responses: 10

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



Total Responses: 9



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Public Consultation Sample Comments

Number of welcome features in the proposed Radharc na Mara design, particularly;

- the “Proposed Controlled Zebra Crossing on Raised Table” provided for on Saint James Road;
- continuous footways; and
- Pencil bollards to dissuade pavement parking.

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.

The school staff cars parked on the road during school hours also help slow traffic, as the road width is thus reduced.

Please, provide a proper place to drop my kids and make a route to avoid traffic.
No body should allow to take a U-turn in front of the school.

- concern about removal and reduction of existing ramps on St James Road
- concern about increased traffic volume and speed on St James road due to changes to Walter Macken road width

People parking both sides of the road. And doing U-turn where there is small kids crossing.

Most cars park along the road and up on the curb opposite the school, traffic always gets blocked up around pick up time, dangerous for kids crossing roads etc

Parent/Guardian parking with no regard for rules of the road

Teachers parking on the main Road

Consultation Summary

Consultation was largely positive from both residents and parents for the front of school proposal at public consultation. Only 2 no. submission stated they did not like the proposed “School Zone”.

64% of respondents liked all the proposals put forward for:

- safer crossing points
- safer walking / scooting environment

However, only 29% like the Safer cycling environment.

36% of respondents liked all the proposals put forward for:

- More connectivity for walking / scooting
- More connectivity for cycling

The respondents liked the proposals put forward with regards to vehicles:

- 50% liking fewer cars at the school gate,
- 21% liking reduced traffic speed
- 14% liking less idling and fumes from cars outside the school gates,

21% of respondents liked the proposed infrastructural improvements.

Consultation Summary

During consultation, the following concerns were raised:

- Local Residents:
 - Front of School:
 - St. James Road:
 - High traffic speeds and driving behaviour (i.e. illegal parking / obstructing accesses)
 - Vehicles parking on corner of St. James Road / St. James Crescent blocking driveway
 - Vehicles parking on St. James Road obstructing visibility from side roads (i.e. Crescent)
 - Staff parking at front of school and not within school grounds impacting on road safety
 - Concern of high vehicle speeds in the absence of school staff parked on street
 - High traffic speeds are currently managed by the traffic calming ramps with the concern the design may reduce their number resulting in increase speeds
 - A rat run with works to Walter Macken Road potentially encouraging more traffic to St. James Road
 - Wide carriageway width is unsafe for crossing points
 - Loss of parking outside properties
 - Removal of planters maintained by residents

Consultation Summary

During consultation, the following concerns were raised:

- Local Residents:
 - Front of School:
 - St. James Road:
 - The style of bollards proposed within a residential area (i.e. preference for less pencil bollards)
 - Footway condition with trenching required to relocation public lighting to back of footway
 - Safety concern due to the proximity of the bus stop to the uncontrolled crossing
 - Routes to School:
 - Congestion due to illegal parking at Heather Grove, with concern for emergency service access / resident access to / from driveways
 - Concern raised on wording "*Junction Tightening*" - meaning reducing corner radius and road widths where feasible, to promote slower vehicle speeds at junctions increasing pedestrian and cyclist safety. The design team also undertake a virtual drive of the proposed design to ensure the vehicle movements are achievable.

Consultation Summary

During consultation, the following concerns were raised:

- Parent / Guardian / Others:
 - Front of School:
 - Parking on footways obstruction VRUs on footways / visibility to VRUs crossing the road
 - Parking on both sides of the carriageway
 - No safe place for drop-off for children
 - No enough emphasis on discouraging vehicle traffic (i.e. modal filter)
 - Lack of promotion of cycling infrastructure
 - On Walter Macken Road:
 - Concern on U-Turn traffic movements in proximity to children crossing
 - The narrower carriageway was raised as a concern to cyclists as a *“larger conflict area between motorists and cyclists”* which may lead to driver frustration and result in an unsafe environment for cyclists due to lack of protection (i.e. segregation)
 - Effectiveness of the chicanes during low traffic scenarios. Good sight lines will increase vehicle speed which is detriment to cyclist safety
 - Pedestrian desire lines are not addressed (i.e. location of crossings vs. paths)
 - Restrictive gates at entry points to / from St. James Park (i.e. cyclists / buggies)

Investigate Concerns Raise at Public Consultation

Concerns to be investigated and explored following PC:

- Local Residents:
 - Front of School:
 - St. James Road:
 - Assess the reintroduction of the existing 4 raised tables to manage traffic speeds
 - Staff parking on / off road (i.e. within school grounds) to be assessed for safety impacts / traffic speed management / double yellow lines
 - Review narrowing of the road width, in particular at crossing points
 - Investigate the use of the planters / landscaping within the School Zone
 - Investigate alternative to the pencil bollards / number of bollards within a dominantly residential road (i.e. at residential junctions use “non pencil” bollards)
 - No parking restrictions proposed, except for at crossing points, to minimise the loss of residents on-street parking near resident houses.
 - Reinstatement of full footway further to public lighting works
 - Junction with the Crescent:
 - re-assess access to driveway and measure to prevent obstruction by on-street parked vehicles
 - assess preventing parking in proximity to junctions

Investigate Concerns Raise at Public Consultation

Concerns to be investigated and explored following PC:

- Parent / Guardian / Other :
 - Front of School:
 - Discourage parking on footways through use of hard measures (i.e. bollards)
 - Discourage parking on both sides of the road by using double yellow lines
 - Review a one-way system between Ballybane Road and Michael Collins Road, with greater emphasis on active travel
 - Park & Stride at Church Grounds is under investigation, with direct access to the school
 - Controlled Zebra Crossings
 - Walter Macken Road:
 - Measures to prevent U-turning movements on scheme and at crossing points
 - Optioneering for a:
 - School Street
 - one-way system with segregated cycling
 - Investigate segregated cycling infrastructure within roadway
 - Traffic management outside of school hours, assess removing the chicanes, in lieu of Raised Zebra / Uncontrolled Crossings that align with:
 - the Gateway Treatment locations
 - the Existing Pedestrian School Access east of the main school gate; and
 - the existing laneway through the St. James Park

Investigate Concerns Raise at Public Consultation

Concerns to be investigated and explored following PC:

- Road Safety Concerns will be addressed by a Road Safety Audit of the scheme at Preliminary Design Stage
- Illegal and obstructive parking is not part of any scheme endorsed by Galway City Council, with enforcement support requested periodically through Community Wardens and Community Gardaí.
- Issues flagged on the Routes to School will be examined once the Front of School design has progressed:
 - Congestion due to illegal parking at Heather Grove / Walter Macken Road
 - Improve attractiveness of the active travel link of Bayview Rise
 - Cycling connectivity linking to St. James Road, Micheal Collins Road and Ballybane Road will be addressed by GCC under the Galway Transport Strategy

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.