



# Safe Routes to School

## Scoil Iognáid Public Consultation Report

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



Slite Sábháilte  
Chun na Scoile  
Safe Routes  
To School



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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



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# Introduction

As part of the Safe Routes to School programme, Galway City Council is engaging with the school community of Scoil Iognáid 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.

- **99% of Scoil Iognáid parents/ guardians support works at the front of school that improve student safety, putting pedestrians and cyclists first.**
- **99% 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 previously been developed for Scoil Iognáid and is adopted within this concept proposal. The concept design is based on the national Safe Routes to School design guidance and incorporates design guidance such as the National Cycle Manual and the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets.

## Elements Proposed:

- Reducing traffic speeds by highlighting the “School Zone” with contrasting surface finish and colour
- Pencil bollards to prevent parking on footpaths where children are walking
- Improved pedestrian facilities with new and wider footways
- Improved pedestrian crossing facilities with raised tables and tighter junctions making the junction shorter for children to cross
- Additional cycling parking facilities
- Road markings highlighting the school location to drivers
- Double yellow lines to discourage parked cars blocking traffic/ children’s line of sight

# Consultation Format

## School Zone for Scoil Iognáid:

- The Design Team consulted with representatives from Scoil Iognáid and the Green-Schools Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Officer/ Scoil Iognáid SRTS Delivery Plan, 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.
- GCC met with approx. 10 No. representatives of the Westend Residents Association on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, to talk through the proposal and invite feedback from residents.
- 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/scoiiognaidsrts>
- Hard copy surveys were available on request, and submissions in letter/ by phone were also facilitated.
- Scoil Iognáid invited parents and guardians by email to respond.
- Scoil Iognáid also contacted the Residents Committee and requested them to publicise the survey to residents.
- Elected Members were invited to share details of the public consultation with their networks/ potentially interested parties
- 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



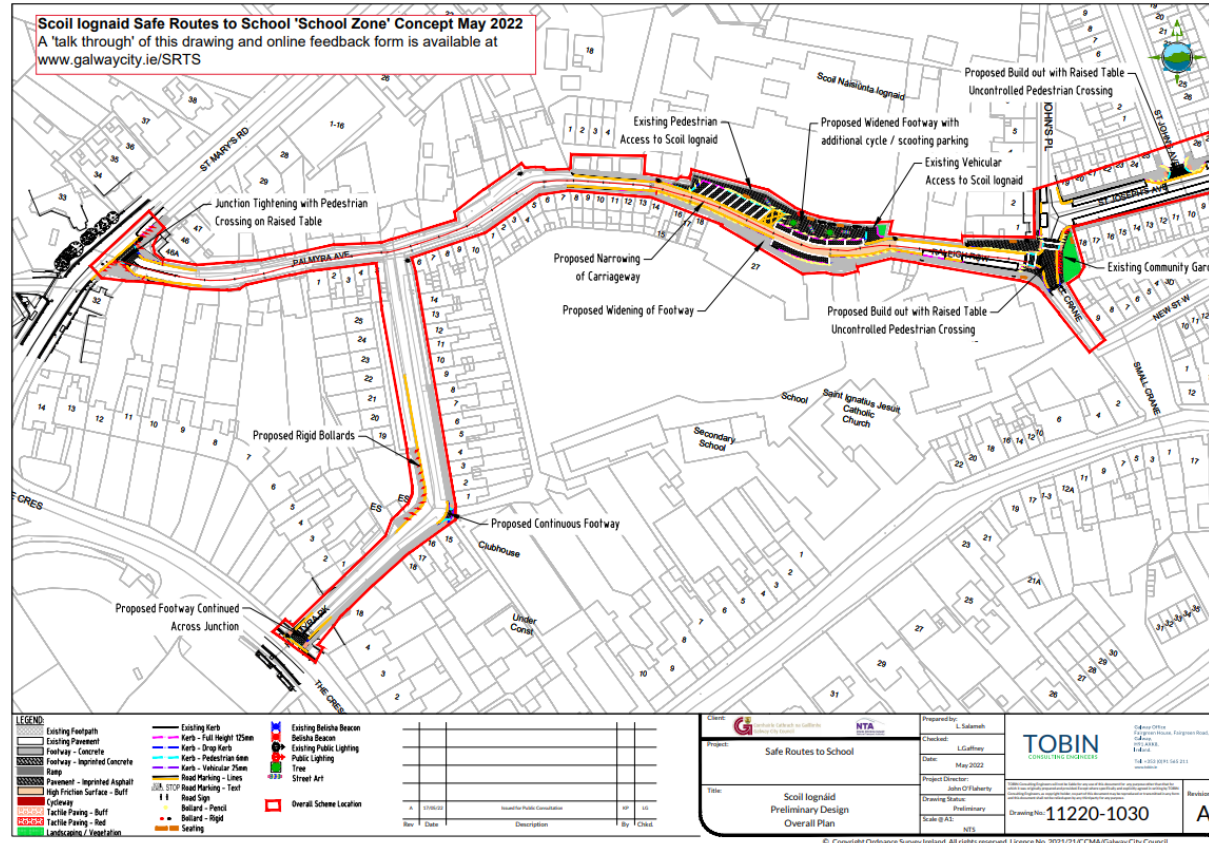
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# Galway City Council Website – Concept Design Drawings




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# Galway Advertiser

**The Galway Advertiser**  
1 June · 🌐

...

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](http://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](#)

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**'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](http://www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS)

Fáiltítear roimh aiseolas agus tacalocht tríd an bhfoirm ar líne (feach [www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS](http://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; Riomphost: [activetravel@galwaycity.ie](mailto: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.

Drawings and a 'talk through' of the scheme are available at [www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS](http://www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS)

Feedback and support is welcome through the online form (see [www.galwaycity.ie/SRTS](http://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](mailto:activetravel@galwaycity.ie) Post: Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway




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# 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 Bhríde 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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St. Joseph's Special School  
Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla  
TFI - Transport for Ireland  
National Transport Authority  
Green-Schools



facebook



 Galway City Council  
9 June · 🌐

Consultation Extended!

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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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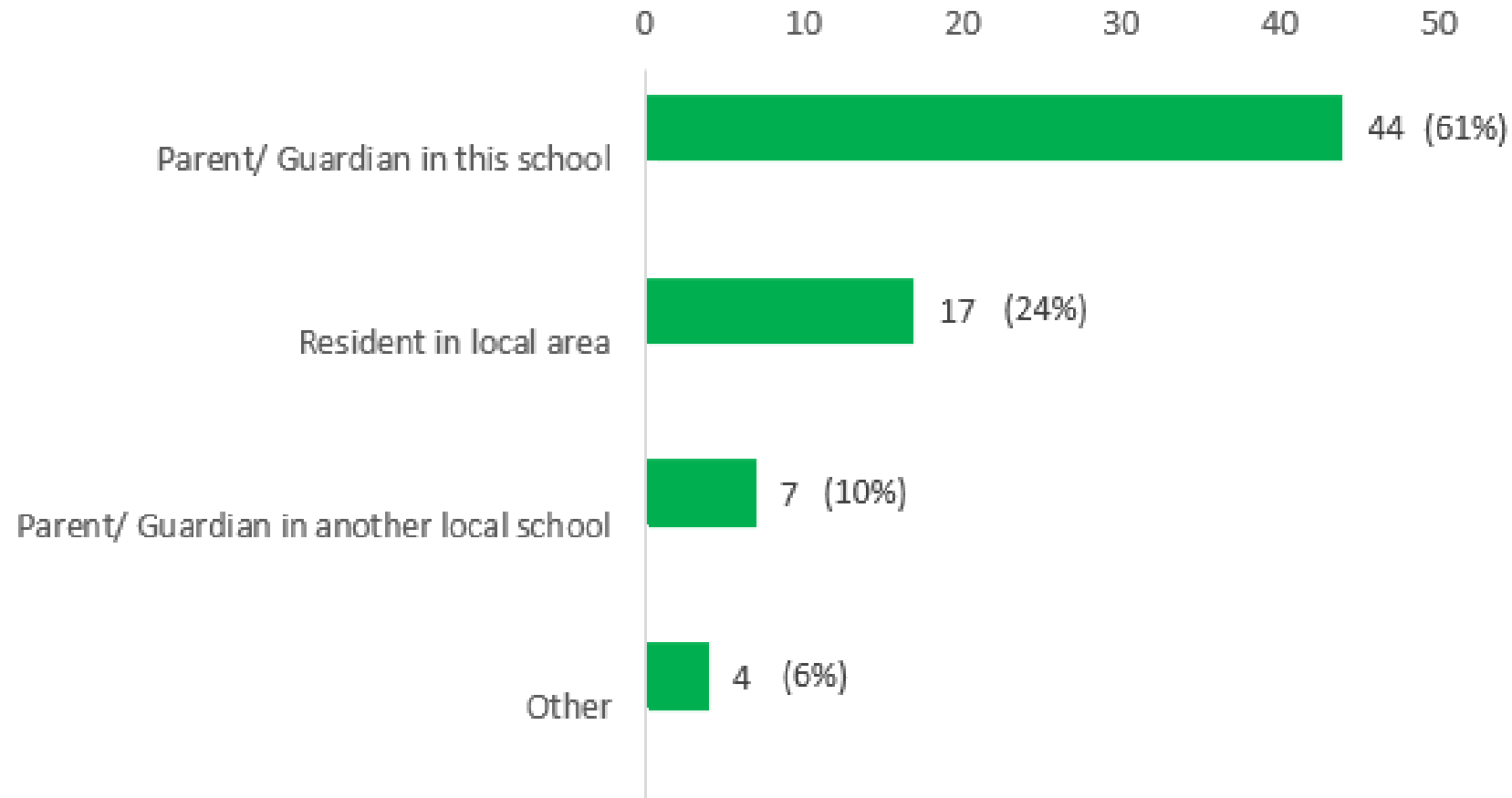
# Consultation Summary

- 65 responses were received via the online survey
- Additional feedback was received by email
- Detailed residents' feedback was received during an on-site walkover meeting with GCC, and a detailed email submission submitted
- These slides summarise the above feedback, and proposed amendments to the concept School Design

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



# Primary Interest in the Submission?



Total Responses: 72



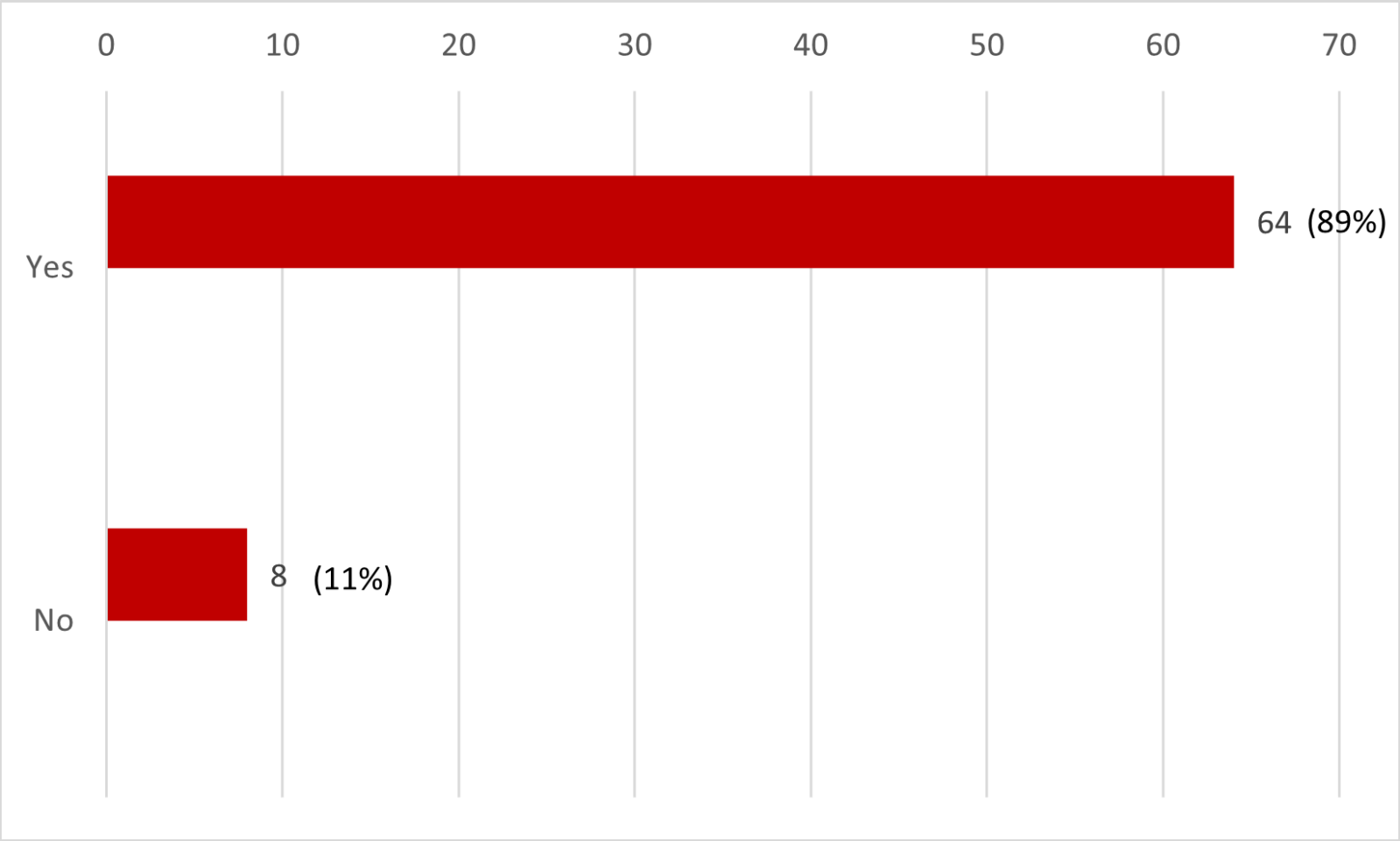
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# Do you think road safety is a problem around this school?



Total Responses: 72



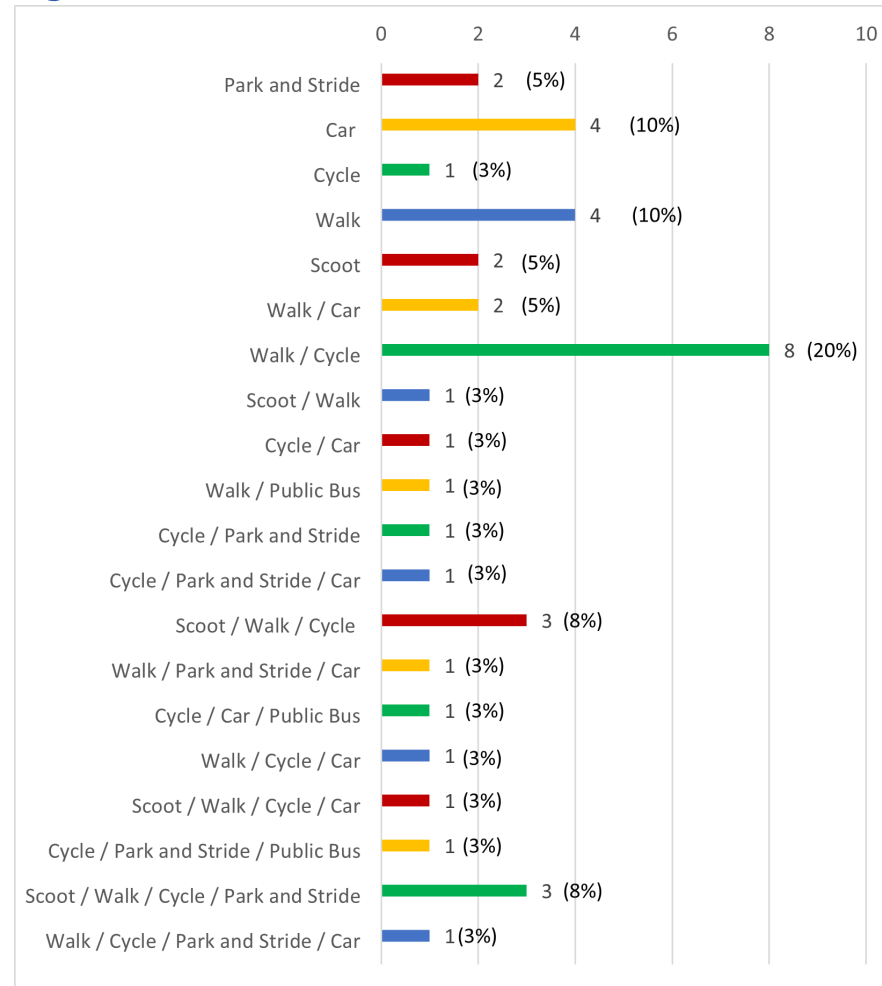
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# Parents / Guardian – If you have a child/children attending this school, how do they usually travel to school at this time of year?



Total Responses: 40



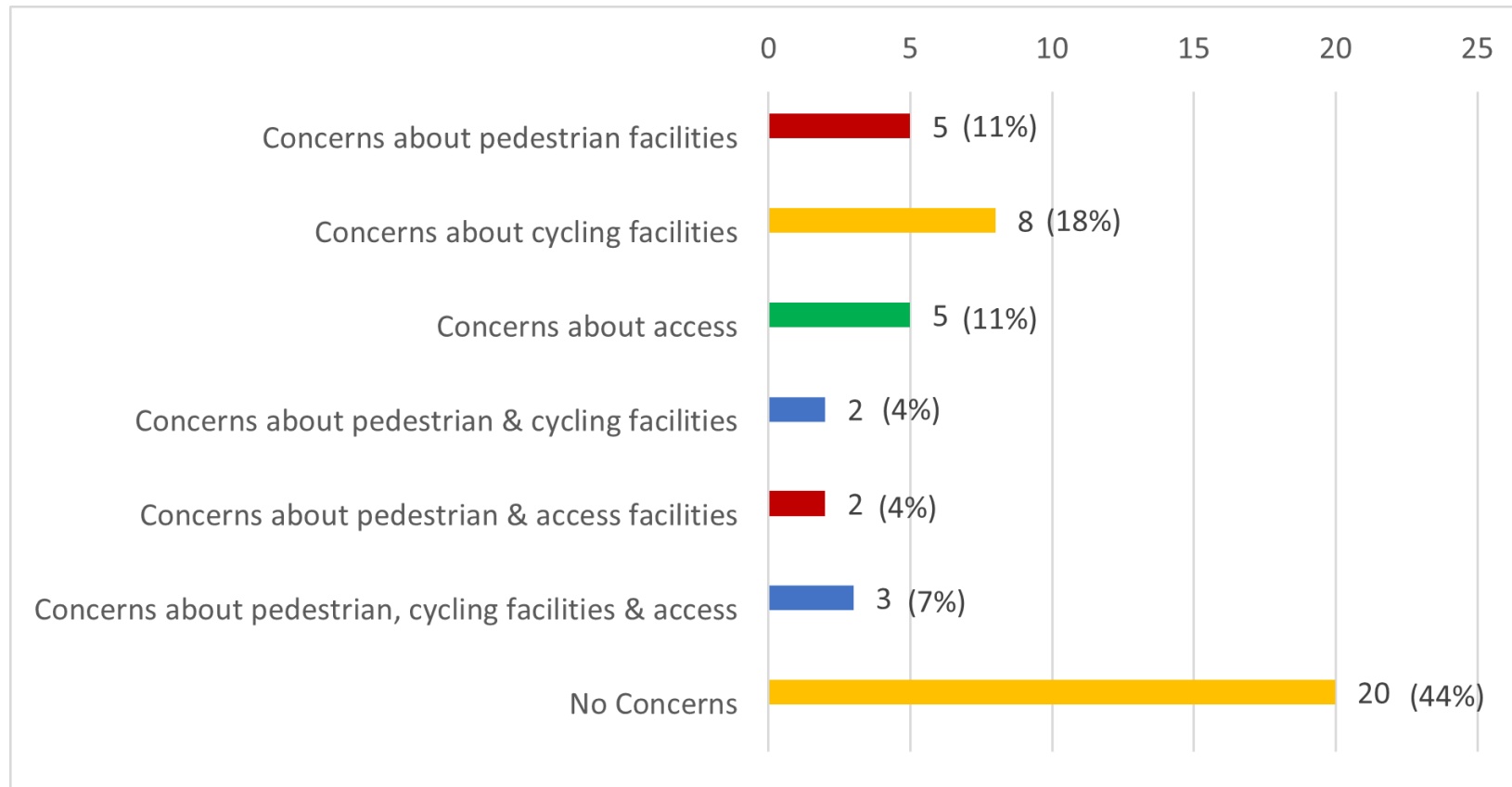
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# Having reviewed the details of the proposed School Zone, please tell us what you do not like about the scheme:



Total Responses: 45



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# Public Consultation Sample Comments

Cycling: 2 way cycling on the shared street along Rayleigh Row and Palmyra Avenue not included which would benefit Cycle Buses at this school and others locally

Not enough bike parking proposed

**Enforcement** has been highlighted in many submission.  
Better **Visual Aids** to make drivers aware of school street

The routes to the schools the city are still very unsafe for children cycling. Taylor's Hill and Salthill Rd Lower, Whitestrand Road, St Mary's Road and Ragoon/Shantalla Roads offer no segregation or protection for cyclists.

No plan to provide safe cycle lanes to cover the majority of the journey to school.

Ensure that parking spaces are not reduced for residents.

Rigid bollards at the corner footpath where there is currently a double yellow line

Enforcement remains an issue:

- Drivers on School Street
- Parking on Double Yellow

Palmyra Park rigid bollards, clarity on their function

Could you possibly follow this plan with one outlining proposed cycle lanes to and from the school to the places where Scoil Iognáid children commute to and from. Such a plan would be a wonderful idea on so many fronts and would serve as a blue-print for action.

Parking for parents who do have to drive their children to school

Extend the proposal to include other nearby Schools



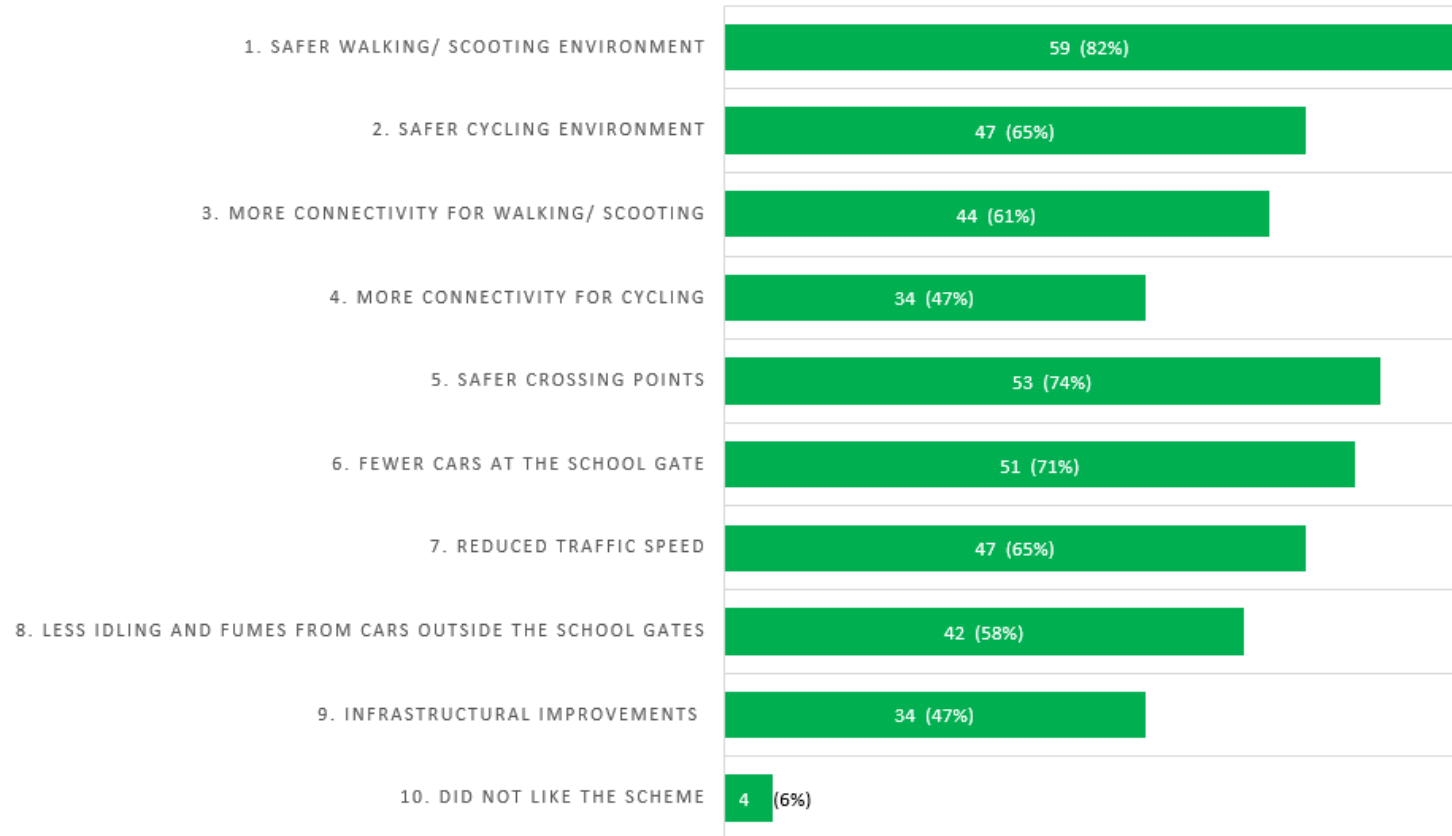
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# Having reviewed the details of the proposed School Zone, please tell us what you like about the scheme:



Total Responses: Range between 61 - 65



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# Public Consultation Sample Comments

School Street Hours, restricting cars for certain hours during school terms are great, this has dramatically improved the safety of the environment for school children. This should be more widespread across schools in the City

The safe schools works for the most part however there are some cars that ignore the concept

It used to be a big problem on Raleigh Row. It's now wonderful and the numbers of children walking and scooting and cycling has increased dramatically. The surrounding roads still pose a problem as does the occasional driver who either doesn't understand the pedestrianized street or who is asserting themselves knowing that enforcement is minimal.

Welcome the SRTS initiative. Would like to see increased ambition in this regard citywide.

would like the garden retained

Keep going! This project is fantastic and gives hope to parents all around the country.

Great to see this happening. Good step forward. Hoping there will be more.

As a past pupil and parent of a current pupil in Scoil Iognáid, school street has been a very positive step in making the environs around the school safer and less polluted.

Traffic currently travels too fast on this road, so the proposed measures are needed and welcome. There is also a tendency for parents to pull up at adjoining junctions, thus increasing the risk for children, parents, and residents on foot during school times. This should be considered as part of the proposed solution.

Only as stated previously I welcome the work and visuals provided by school zones as well as the junction narrowing but the school streets closure of the roads at school open and closing times is vital for pupil's safe access to this school.



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# Consultation Summary

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

47% of respondents liked all the proposals put forward for the scheme including:

- safer walking/ scooting environment,
- connectivity for walking/ scooting,
- connectivity for cycling,
- safer crossing points,
- fewer cars at the school gate,
- reduced traffic speed,
- less idling and fumes from cars outside the school gates,
- infrastructural improvements.

# Consultation Summary

During consultation, the following concerns were raised:

- Westend Residents Association
  - School Zone
    - Concern of vehicles on footway adjacent to school
    - Concern of bollards on footway impacting on grocery deliveries
  - Routes to School
    - Traffic speeds approaching Scoil Iognáid on Palmyra Avenue, Palmyra Park and Raileigh Row
    - Available space for access to property on north-east end of Raileigh Row by a reversing vehicle
    - Potential occupancy of a Disabled Parking space on St. John's Terrace / St. Joseph's Avenue
    - Safety for pedestrians and cyclist on St. John's Terrace due to narrow road and two-way traffic
    - Cul-de-sac warning sign absent at St. John's Place
    - Condition of walkway / lane at St. John's Place to Henry Street and the position of the Loading Bay
    - Antisocial behaviour encouraged by seating
    - Community Garden is important to the neighbourhood and to be developed in design

# Consultation Summary

During consultation, the following concerns were raised:

- Local Residents

- Insufficient cycle / scoot parking
- Enforcement of double yellow lines at the “School Street” and adjacent Streets (i.e. Palmyra Park)
- Concerned about access for emergency services and disabled drivers
- Wrong way drivers on Raleigh Row
- Parking at the junctions and on the roads in proximity to Scoil Iognáid to facilitate drop off (i.e. St. Mary’s Road / Palmyra Avenue, Sea Road at Coláiste Iognáid and Small Crane / St. Mary’s Road / Sherwood Avenue, The Crescent / Palmyra Park) impacting resident and road safety due to congestion
- High traffic speeds in residential areas including St Joseph's Avenue and Henry Street
- A number of concerns raised on cycling infrastructure on routes to school
- Occupancy of on-street parking for long period, resulting in lack of resident parking
- The presence of the rigid bollards on Palmyra Park seemed unnecessary

# Consultation Summary

- Parent / Guardian / Other:
  - Improving awareness of students on the routes to school / on school walks
  - Enforcement remains an issue
  - Junction St. Mary's Road / Palmyra Avenue concern of illegal parking / visibility to children
  - No safe crossing on St. Mary's Road for VRUs from Shantalla / Ragoon / Park & Stride at St. Mary's College
    - Concerns on lack of cycling infrastructure:
      - At front of school on Raileigh Row and Palmyra (i.e. two-way cycling)
      - Insufficient cycle / scoot parking
      - On routes to school, with children using footways (i.e. Salthill / Ragoon / Shantalla / Taylor's Hill / Whitestrand Road / St. Mary's Road)
    - Routes to School, safety for pedestrians at:
      - Junctions with wide corner radius (i.e. Sea Road / Crescent)
      - Rat runs with high traffic (i.e. Sherwood Avenue from Taylor's Hill to St. Mary's)
    - Vehicles on the School Street during restricted vehicle times in proximity to pedestrians on the road
    - Condition of footways are poor / not level and a hazard to those walking / cycling / scooting
    - A lot of physical hard measure with little natural deterrents (e.g. planting and trees)



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# Investigate Concerns Raise at Public Consultation

Concerns to be investigated and explored following PC:

- Residents Committee:
  - Investigate measures to reduce approaching traffic speeds on Palmyra Park, Palmyra Avenue, Raleigh Row, St. Joseph's Avenue and Henry Street (i.e. speed ramps)
  - Investigate preventative measure to parking on footway opposite school / access for delivery vehicles (i.e. bollards)
  - Improving walkways at St. John's Place to Henry Street and location of loading bay
  - Review permanent retention of a one-way system on St Josephs Avenue (i.e. build out, signage & markings)
  - Design Team to review blind spot leading up Palmyra Avenue / Raileigh Row interventions to slow traffic
  - Investigate property access by revering vehicle on Raleigh Row near the Small Crane (i.e. removable bollards)
  - No seating to be provided to discourage anti-social behaviour
  - Investigate the installation of cul-de-sac signage at the entry to St. John's Place
  - Engaging a Landscape Architect for the Community Garden proposal

# Investigate Concerns Raise at Public Consultation

- Local Residents:
  - Additional cyclist parking at front of school
  - Pencil bollards to delineate footway
  - Rigid bollards on Palmyra Park to discourage parking on footway at park
  - Clearer road marking and signage to highlight one-way road on Raleigh Row
  - Swept path analysis for emergency vehicles will be assessed
  - Investigate the introduction of paid parking outside of the school times to free up spaces
  - On Sea Road consider designated parking for local residents
  - Review proposals for cycling infrastructure under the routes to school (i.e. Sea Road)
- Parent / Guardian / Other:
  - Improving awareness of children by provision of pencil bollards at junctions (i.e. Palmyra, St. Mary's)
  - Reviewing design at St. Mary's Road / Palmyra Avenue junction to prevent illegal parking (i.e. bollards)
  - Investigate "*Dual Way Bike Lanes*" on routes to school
  - Routes to School: St. Mary's Road investigate a raised zebra crossing / measure to reduce speeds
  - Investigate the use of bollards to provide segregation from vehicles in areas with no footways
  - Improved signage at access to the "School Street" to provide better clarify to drivers that cars are not permitted during the hours indicated
  - Investigate an access barrier to prevent vehicle access on the "School Street" except for residents

# Investigate Concerns Raise at Public Consultation

- Parent / Guardian / Other:
  - Enforcement of restrictions at “School Street”
  - Investigate (protected) cycling infrastructure on the routes to school (i.e. Ragoon / Shantalla / Salthill)
  - Additional cycle / scoot parking
  - Routes to School footway audit to identify potential improvements to footway condition
  - Investigate the use of planting / vegetation / landscaping infrastructure within the proposal
- A number of on-street surveys of the on-street parking for Park and Stride has demonstrated compliance with the scheme by parents, with cars leaving the area after school drop off / pick up periods. Some parents may remain in the area between first and second pick up, in line the with the scheme terms and conditions.
- 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 and some are to be addressed as part of other schemes on-going in the city.
  - Junction tightening and improved pedestrian facilities at The Crescent / Sea Road is being progressed under a separate process
  - Extension of the scheme to include Scoil Fhursa under a separate school project

# 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.