

Draft West Sussex Transport Plan 2022-2036 Consultation, Summer 2021 Feedback Summary, February 2022 Appendix D: Young Persons' Survey Report

1. Introduction

1.1 This report shows the results of a young person specific survey that was circulated during the consultation on the Draft West Sussex Transport Plan that took place in Autumn 2021. The survey was sent out to secondary schools across West Sussex with schools encouraged to use the survey to undertake class-based workshops to discuss transport issues. 1512 individual responses were received to the survey from 5 schools - Ifield Community College in Crawley, Sackville School in East Grinstead, Millais School in Horsham, Bohunt School in Worthing, and Worthing High School.

2. Survey questions

2.1 Survey questions were structured to collect views on simplified versions of the Draft West Sussex Transport Plan (WSTP) objectives. Questions also asked young people what kind of transport they thought needed most investment, what they thought the best alternatives to car use would be, what types of active travel facilities they would prioritise, and what 3 transport issues they thought were most important, as well as questions about age, gender, and ethnicity. A copy of the survey questions is included in Appendix A below.

2.2 Four out of five of the schools used a digitised version of the survey questions to enable respondents to complete the survey electronically, while one school used a printed version of the survey for respondents to complete.

3. Who responded to this survey?

3.1 There were 1,512 separate responses to the survey with the breakdown of responses from individual schools shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Schools/Colleges survey responses

School/College	Responses
Millais	620
Bohunt	510
Sackville School	253
Worthing High School	127
Ifield Community College ¹	2
Total	1512

¹ The number of responses from Ifield Community College was understood to be very low as respondents were forwarded an email version of the survey to send as a direct response to the local transport plan email inbox, as opposed to the other schools which used specific digitised or printed forms to share the survey.

3.2 There were a significant number of responses from lower teenager years, which is shown in Figure 1 and Table 2. 25% of the responses were from respondents aged 13, with the next highest age groups 14-year-olds (21%) and 12-year-olds (19%).

Table 2: Breakdown of age of survey respondents

Age	Count	Percentage
11	242	16.1%
12	289	19.2%
13	373	24.8%
14	316	21.0%
15	227	15.1%
16	44	2.9%
17	11	0.7%
18	4	0.3%
19	1	0.1%
Total answered	1507	100.0%
No response	5	
Total	1512	

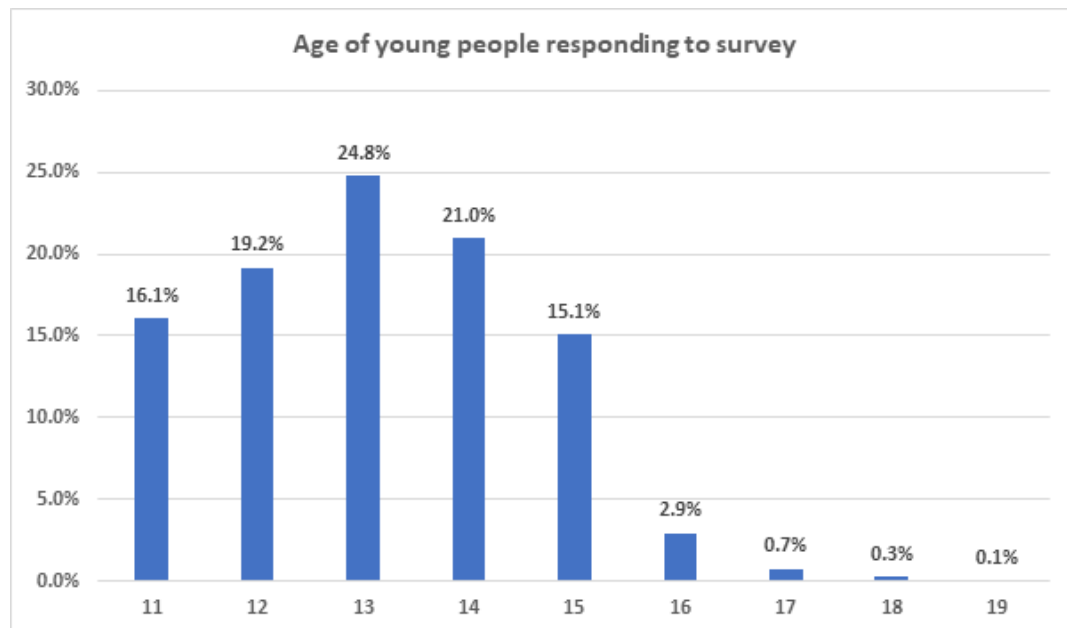


Figure 1: Breakdown of age of survey respondents

3.3 Table 3 shows that there was a higher proportion of female responses to the survey (65%), but it should be noted that Millais School, Horsham, is a girls' secondary school.

Table 3: Breakdown of gender from respondents

Sex	Count	Percentage
Female	930	64.5%
Male	509	35.3%
Non-binary	2	0.1%
Total answered	1441	100.0%
Prefer not to say	71	
Total	1512	

- 3.4 Table 4 shows the breakdown of responses to the question asking young people to record their ethnicity. It should be noted that this was worded as an open question in the survey, so it was necessary to categorise the written responses received which involved some subjectivity in the analysis in interpreting the written responses given. 86% of responses were from young people reporting their ethnicity as White. However, there was also a spread of other responses from young people in particular reporting their ethnicity as Mixed, Asian, or Black.

Table 4: Ethnicity of survey respondents

Ethnicity	Count	Percentage
White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	1004	80.8%
Irish	1	0.1%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0.1%
Any other White background	61	4.9%
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	1	0.1%
Mixed White and Black African	2	0.2%
Mixed White and Asian	7	0.6%
Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background	41	3.3%
Asian or Asian British Indian	23	1.9%
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	16	1.3%
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	3	0.2%
Asian or Asian British Chinese	8	0.6%
Any other Asian background	46	3.7%
Black or Black British African	5	0.4%
Black or Black British Caribbean	4	0.3%
Any other Black, African, or Caribbean background	14	1.1%
Arab	2	0.2%
Other	4	0.3%
Total answered	1243	100.0%
Prefer not to say	9	
Don't know/not answered	260	
Total	1512	

4. Transport plan objectives

- 4.1 The responses (combined across all schools) to the questions about which transport objectives young people thought were most important in future in West Sussex are shown in Table 5.
- 4.2 The results in Table 5 show that the highest-ranking issues based on the proportion of respondents indicating that the issues were important were 'reducing pollution from the transport system', 'adapting infrastructure to cope with climate change', 'improving active travel facilities' and 'improving main road routes'. The lowest ranked issues were recorded as 'managing the impacts of transport to Gatwick Airport', 'accommodating the needs of an aging population', 'reducing the need to travel by car', and 'ensuring the bus network provides an attractive option to nearby towns'.
- 4.3 The results in Table 5 also show that this issues most frequently reported as unimportant were 'reducing the need to travel by car', 'ensuring the bus network provides an attractive option to nearby towns' and 'improving train services'.

Table 5: Objective themes of transport issues within West Sussex

Objective themes	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Total answered
Reduce noise, air & light pollution from the transport network to reduce health & well-being impacts	75.1%	21.5%	3.4%	1511
Adapt transport infrastructure to manage the impacts of climate change	73.5%	23.8%	2.6%	1508
Improve active travel facilities such as for walking & cycling	68.9%	26.7%	4.4%	1510
Improve the efficiency of main road routes, including the A27, tackling congestion, pollution, rat running & road safety issues	68.2%	29.1%	2.8%	1510
Make sure the transport network reaches net zero emissions by 2050	63.9%	31.7%	4.4%	1511
Ensure rural communities can access nearby towns & the facilities they need	63.8%	32.8%	3.3%	1511
Ensure transport networks allow a healthy lifestyle & provide good access to the outdoors & leisure spaces	63.7%	32.3%	4.0%	1507
Support new housing & employment development to ensure that the transport network is fit for the future	60.8%	35.1%	4.1%	1510
Improve the transport network whilst looking after & improving the natural, built & historic environment	60.7%	34.8%	4.4%	1510
Minimise the impacts of transport on landscape, environment & historic features	58.2%	36.2%	5.6%	1510
Minimise the impacts of transport on landscape, environment & historic features	58.2%	36.2%	5.6%	1510
Improve the bus network by reducing congestion delays in towns	57.5%	37.3%	5.2%	1510
Develop the transport network in places hit hard by COVID to improve the economy	55.0%	40.4%	4.6%	1510
Improve the speed, quality & capacity of train services in West Sussex	53.2%	39.1%	7.7%	1510
Ensure the bus network provides an attractive travel option to nearby towns	49.8%	41.1%	9.1%	1511
Reduce the need to travel by car in West Sussex	46.1%	42.1%	11.7%	1511

Objective themes	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Total answered
Accommodate the needs of an ageing population which is expected to grow most in the Gatwick Diamond & Coastal areas of West Sussex	40.6%	54.6%	4.8%	1511
Minimise the impacts of transport to access Gatwick Airport by passengers & employees	36.8%	55.7%	7.5%	1511

5. Transport investment, alternatives to car use, active travel facilities and transport issues theme analysis

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section of the report provides a summary of the written comments in response to the four open questions that were asked as part of the survey. The questions covered the following themes:

- Theme 1 - What kind of transport do you think needs most investment?
- Theme 2 - What would be the best alternatives to car use?
- Theme 3 - Which types of active travel facilities would you prioritise?
- Theme 4 - What are the transport issues most important to you?

5.1.2 The content analysis involved grouping responses under similar themes and tallying the number of responses under these themes.

5.2 Theme 1 - What kind of transport do you think needs most investment?

5.2.1 The key comments received on the type of transport that needs most investment are summarised below:

- Bus services within West Sussex were most frequently mentioned, with over a third of responses making comments relating to bus improvements, with specific comments including those about fare costs and potential bus priority measures to address issues with congestion.
- Train services were the second most frequently mentioned, with around a quarter of responses making comments relating to investing in rail services within West Sussex.
- Improvements related to car travel and roads was the third most frequently mentioned theme, with around a sixth of responses highlighting this.
- Investment in electric vehicles and walking and cycling infrastructure were the fourth and fifth most frequently mentioned themes, with under a tenth of responses for both of these themes highlighting this.

5.3 Theme 2 - What would be the best alternatives to car use?

5.3.1 Theme 2 received the biggest number and variety of different comments across the theme questions and concentrated on different transport alternatives to car usage. The key comments received are summarised below:

- Bus services was the most frequently mentioned topic within this theme (over a third of responses highlighted this), with respondents adding comments about the need for service improvements and cheaper prices for travel. Problems of road congestion for buses was mentioned here too with comments about allowing bus lanes to speed up travel times.

- Cycling was the second most frequently mentioned alternative within the survey theme (just under a third of responses highlighted this). Respondents used this to explain that infrastructure improvements to cycling were needed within West Sussex.
- Walking was the third mostly frequently mentioned alternative to car use (just under a quarter of responses highlighted this).
- Train services were the fourth most frequently highlighted (around a fifth of responses mentioned this), especially by pupils within the Worthing area.
- Electric cars were the fifth most frequently mentioned alternative (around a tenth of responses highlighted this), however some respondents pointed out that this would not help with road congestion in the longer term.

5.4 Theme 3 - Which types of active travel facilities would you prioritise?

5.4.1 Comments that related to active travel were also a key focus of the survey responses. The main comments received are outlined below:

- Cycling was the most frequently mentioned active travel mode priority with just under a third of responses highlighting this, followed by walking with around a quarter of responses mentioning this. Frequently mentioned comments included the need to build/upgrade cycling and walking infrastructure in West Sussex, with more investment needed.
- Bus and train services were the third and fourth mentioned modes under this theme by around a sixth of responses highlighting this for each mode, with comments regarding reliability of services mentioned in some responses.
- Car usage was also mentioned as the fifth most frequently mentioned theme with around a tenth of responses highlighting this which could indicate a misunderstanding of the term 'active' travel amongst some respondents.

5.5 Theme 4 - What are the transport issues most important to you?

5.5.1 The last theme, regarding what transport issues are most important, received the broadest variety of comments, as outlined below:

- Pollution was the most frequently mentioned concern from the respondents (around a sixth of responses highlighted this). Comments included those about air pollution as well as some comments about water pollution from the transport network.
- Comments on buses were the second most frequently mentioned in the comments with just under a sixth of respondents highlighting this. This mirrored a theme that was common in the responses to the theme 1 question regarding bus improvements and ticket prices.
- Comments on train services were the third most frequently mentioned with around a tenth of responses highlighting this, with comments including those about unreliable services, untidy/unclean trains, and high-ticket prices.

- A range of other comments were also highlighted by less than a tenth of responses in each case. Comments related to the quality of the transport network were a theme within the responses, with respondents commenting on congestion, unsuitable road networks and safety issues, especially around schools, as well as commenting on general accessibility to transport issues.
- Specific comments on the environment and climate change were also made, with concerns with future changes in climate and how the transport network is either adding to the issues or is not built for the future.
- Future changes to the transport network were also commented on, with respondents commenting on electric vehicles, however there were some concerns with uptake (pricing) and safety, especially in regard to e-scooters.
- Petrol issues were also noted within the responses. This could be partly due to the fuel shortages/panic buying issues that were present during this survey in Autumn 2021.

6. Summary

- 6.1 This report shows the results of a young person specific survey, that was circulated during the consultation on the Draft West Sussex Transport Plan in Autumn 2021. The survey was sent out to secondary schools across West Sussex with schools encouraged to use the survey to undertake class-based workshops to discuss transport issues. 1512 individual responses were received to the survey from 5 schools across West Sussex
- 6.2 The importance of the objectives has been ranked based on the proportion of respondents indicating that the issues were important. The highest ranked objectives reported in the survey were 'reducing pollution from the transport system' (1st), 'adapting infrastructure to cope with climate change' (2nd), 'improving active travel infrastructure' (3rd), and 'improving main road routes' (4th). The lowest ranked objectives were; 'minimising the impacts of transport access to Gatwick Airport' (17th), 'accommodating the needs of the ageing population' (16th), 'reducing the need to travel by car' (15th), and 'ensuring the bus network provides an attractive travel option to nearby towns' (14th).
- 6.3 With regard to the written comments submitted in response to the survey questions the key themes are summarised below:
- Young people thought bus services needed the most investment, followed in order of priority by train services, car travel/roads and active travel.
 - Bus and cycling were most frequently highlighted as the best alternatives to car use.
 - There were frequently mentioned comments about the need to build/upgrade cycling and walking routes.
 - Pollution from transport was most frequently highlighted as the most important transport issue, followed by the quality of bus and train

services, with specific concerns about fare prices, reliability, and cleanliness.

- Other comments were concerned about congestion and road safety, supportive of electric vehicles, and specifically concerned about climate change.

Appendix A – Young Persons’ Survey

(This appendix includes details of the young person’s survey questions sent to schools to gather views from young people. The questions were presented on 2 A4-sized pages.)

Draft West Sussex Transport Plan 2022 to 2036 Consultation



If you ride a bike, walk, use the train or travel in a car or bus...your views are important. Why? Because it will influence West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) plans for local transport up to 2036 - and that affects everyone.

Age (Respondents were given space to write their age)

Gender (Options: Male, Female or Prefer not to say)

Town/City/Village (Respondents were given space to write their location)

Ethnicity (Respondents were given space to write their ethnicity)

To what extent would you say these objectives are important when considering the future of transport in West Sussex?

(Respondents were asked to select a response for the following objectives. The option choices were: important, neutral, unimportant.)

- Develop the transport network in places hit hard by COVID to improve the economy
- Support new housing and employment development to ensure that the transport network is fit for the future

What kind of transport do you think needs most investment?

(Respondents were given space to write their answer.)

To what extent would you say these objectives are important when considering the future of transport in West Sussex?

(Respondents were asked to select a response for the following objectives. The option choices were: important, neutral, unimportant.)

- Accommodate the needs of an ageing population which is expected to grow most in the Gatwick Diamond and Coastal areas of West Sussex

- Reduce noise, air and light pollution from the transport network to reduce health and well-being impacts
- Ensure transport networks allow a healthy lifestyle and provide good access to the outdoors and leisure spaces
- Ensure rural communities can access nearby towns and the facilities they need
- Make sure the transport network reaches net zero emissions by 2050
- Minimise the impacts of transport on landscape, environment and historic features
- Improve the transport network whilst looking after and improving the natural, built and historic environment
- Adapt transport infrastructure to manage the impacts of climate change
- Reduce the need to travel by car in West Sussex

What would be the best alternatives to car use?

(Respondents were given space to write their answer.)

To what extent would you say these objectives are important when considering the future of transport in West Sussex?

(Respondents were asked to select a response for the following objectives. The option choices were: important, neutral, unimportant.)

- Improve the efficiency of main road routes, including the A27, tackling congestion, pollution, rat running and road safety issues
- Minimise the impacts of transport to access Gatwick Airport by passengers and employees
- Improve the speed, quality and capacity of train services in West Sussex
- Improve the bus network by reducing congestion delays in towns
- Ensure the bus network provides an attractive travel option to nearby towns
- Improve active travel facilities such as for walking and cycling

Which types of active travel facilities would you prioritise?

(Respondents were given space to write their answer.)

What are the transport issues most important to you?

(Respondents were given space to write their answer.)