

Consultation report

Access to Aldershot Station

Public Consultation

Date: September 2016

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1.0 Introduction

Hampshire County Council with the support of Rushmoor Borough Council has developed proposals to improve vehicle, cycle and pedestrian accessibility to and from Aldershot Railway Station. The main element is to convert the one way section of Windsor Way/Arthur Street (South), between Victoria Road and Station Road, to two way traffic.

These improvements have been a long held ambition and were included in the Aldershot Town Access Plan (adopted 2013). This policy document recognised a need to improve access to the Railway Station for all modes of transport. It identified that this could be achieved by removing part of the one way system and that by this would provide the added benefit of improving access for pedestrians and cyclists, reducing traffic speeds and less vehicle mileage whilst improving fuel economy.

The County Council has secured funding from a number of new housing developments in the area to deliver this scheme, alongside providing some of its own funding to specifically improve the public realm in and around the railway station.

The public consultation started on Monday 27 June 2016 and ended at midnight on Monday 8 August 2016. The exhibition material was available online via the HCC website and hard copies of the material were available on request at the County Council offices in Winchester.

The consultation was advertised on highway boards located along the main approaches to Aldershot Railway Station; Victoria Road, Windsor Way and Station Road.

Residents were asked to fill in a short questionnaire to help influence the design process and to identify any issues they might have. This could be done online on the County Council website, or via the post. (The information is still available to view on the scheme website.)

This report has been written with the aim of presenting the results of this questionnaire and categorising the qualitative data (written responses) into categories to present common themes in the concerns raised within the questionnaires.

2.0 Summary of Results

Overall, a total of 40 responses were received by Hampshire County Council's Strategic Transport team. Of these, 10 responses were paper questionnaires and 30 responses were completed online via the scheme's web-site. A number of questionnaires was completed by one person but had an additional person's details, where this is the case, the questionnaire is deemed to be completed by two individuals.

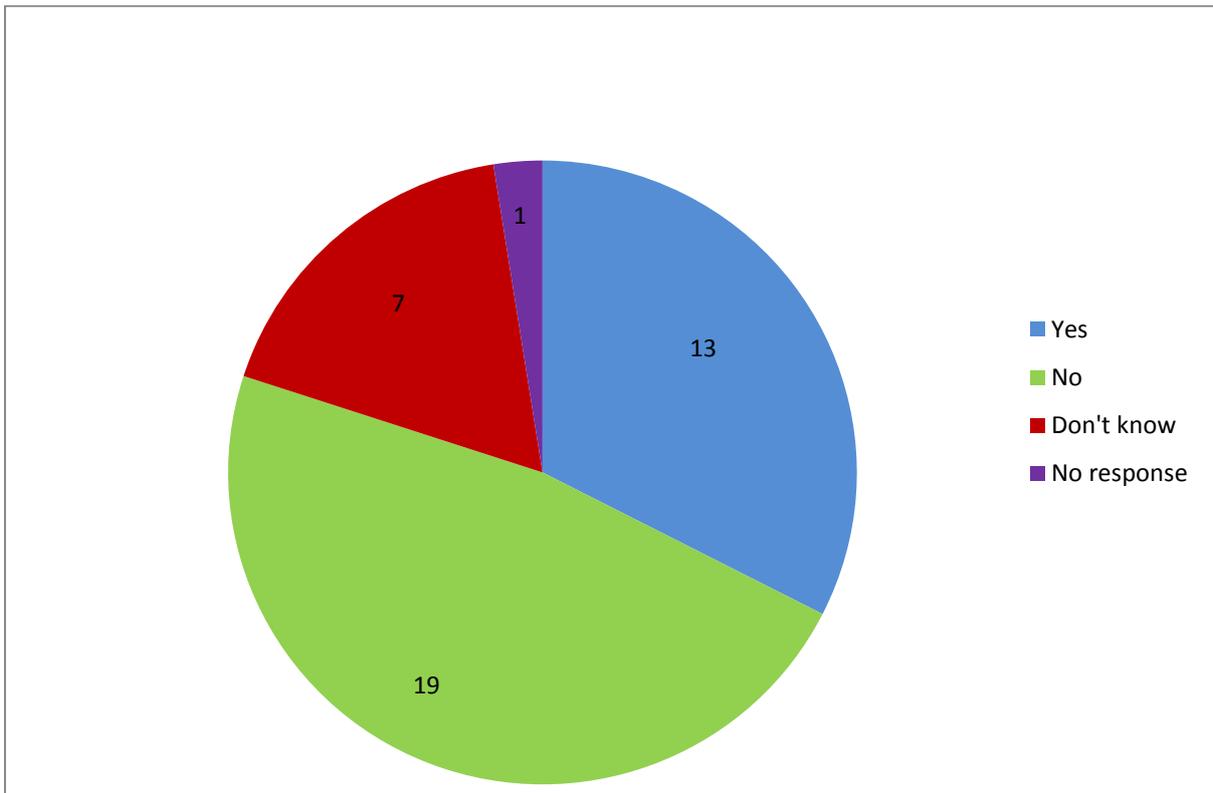
The responses to the questionnaires appear to show a considerable level of support for the scheme and its objectives. The responses received online may have been completed by respondents unable to attend the exhibitions, therefore missing out on the opportunity to discuss their concerns with the Hampshire County Council representatives.

Please note that not all respondents provided additional comments. All comments received were recorded.

3.0 Analysis of Questionnaire Responses

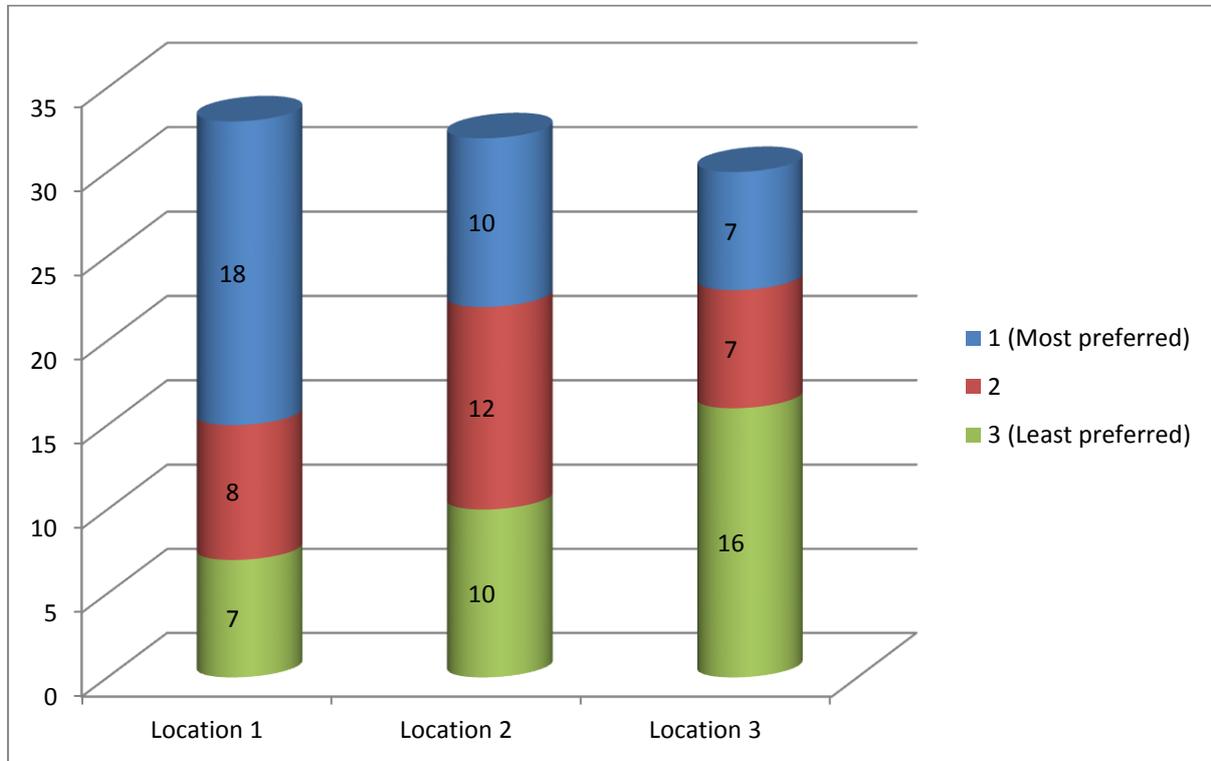
Those who attended the public consultation were asked to complete a questionnaire which contained a number of questions with an option to comment, to gauge the level of support for the scheme proposal and to provide an opportunity for the public and other stakeholders to raise any concerns and identify areas for further consideration.

Question 1: Do you support this proposed scheme



Question 2: Please rank the potential crossing points 1 to 4 (as shown on the plan) in order of preference.

From the responses received, location 1 crossing point was most preferred. One response was not recorded as the ranking was incorrect.



Question 3: If you have any further comments on this proposed scheme, please include them below:

An open question was asked to provide respondent's with an opportunity to provide feedback and raise any issues regarding the proposed scheme. In total 30 out of 40 respondents used this section to express their opinions. A summary of responses are provided in the below table.

Common themes and issues raised have been summarised below:

Common themes	Number of respondents
Positive comments about the crossing proposals or highlighting the need for formal crossings.	8
Concerns that there will be an increase in noise and air pollution with introduction of two-way traffic that will affect residents.	5
Comments that cycle improvements are required as part of any two-way working proposal.	4
Safety concerns over the proposed introduction of two-way traffic and/or bends in the road.	4
Concern that there will be an increase in traffic on Windsor Way with the introduction of two-way working.	3
Issues with pavement or road surfaces	3
Concerns that it will be difficult to access/egress properties fronting Windsor Way with the introduction of two-way traffic.	2

In conclusion, the public consultation proved to be an informative and insightful experience for members of the public who gained a better understanding of the options, whilst Hampshire County Council was able to gauge local opinions and gain valuable feedback which will be taken into consideration when agreeing the next steps.