

**Edward Street  
Better Bus Area  
Public Consultation  
June 2013**

**Report**

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# **Edward Street Better Bus Area Report**

## **1 Background**

In February 2012, the council in partnership with Brighton & Hove Bus Company, successfully bid for £3.4 million additional funding from the Department for Transport to introduce bus service improvements to Edward Street, Eastern Road and Valley Gardens and to make improvements along these routes for people wishing to walk or cycle. The funding is provided through the government's Better Bus Areas Fund (BBA) and has already been used to fund an increase in bus services in the city, with extra buses on the 23 and 48 routes and route 38 extended to serve Brighton Station.

Edward Street and Eastern Road were identified in the bid as one of the key areas for improvement. This consultation provides an opportunity for local people and bus users to comment on the proposals for the first phase of work planned for Edward Street and make any suggestions in improving the street environment. We want the proposals to result in a better, more reliable, bus service and an environment where people feel comfortable walking and cycling.

The proposals in this consultation are the first phase of work and cover the area from the junction of Edward Street with Pavilion Gardens to the junction of Eastern Road with Freshfield Road. We will consult on further plans for Eastern Road and the Valley Gardens area in the coming year.

## **2 Headline Results**

62.5% of respondents support priority to bus users, pedestrians and cyclists.

Residents show a 65% level of support for the proposals.

35% of business owners or managers who responded show support for the proposals.

## **3 Methodology**

Information leaflets and questionnaires were mailed to 9787 property addresses in the Edward Street area. The consultation leaflet included a cross-sectional diagram showing how the scheme might look and a map showing the location and type of proposed improvements. The map over the page shows the extent of this mailing area. The addresses were taken from the Land and Property Gazetteer which is a property based database and both residential and commercial properties were included in the sample.

The consultation was also made publicly available on-line on the council's Consultation Portal.



Two staffed exhibitions were held at:

Brighton Youth Centre	Saturday 25 May 2013
64 Edward Street	2pm – 8pm

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2013
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The proposals were also discussed at the following Local Action Team meetings:

Queens Park LAT	Wednesday 22 May 2013
Southover Pub	7.30pm – 9pm
Southover Street	

Tarner LAT	Wednesday 15 May 2013
The Millwood Centre	6.30pm
Nelson Row	
Carlton Hill	

Albion Hill Residents	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2013
Assembly Rooms	7:30pm
Thornsedale Flats	

A specific meeting was organised and held for residents of Sloane Court, Leach Court and Patchling Lodge on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The meeting was open to other residents of the area as well.

The consultation was also advertised on the council's web-site and was reported prominently in the local press.

#### 4 Full Results

##### Response rate

1151 responses were received in total, giving a response rate of approximately<sup>1</sup> 11.8% which is an average response for a mailing which was not personalised.

297 responses (25.8%) were received on-line through the council's consultation portal and 854 (74.2%) were survey forms returned by mail or collected at public exhibitions or residents meetings.

##### Q1 Do you support the proposals to give priority to bus users, pedestrians and cyclists as described in the consultation leaflet and shown on the plan?

	Number	%
Yes	701	62.5
No	420	37.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1121</b>	<b>100</b>

There were a further 30 responses where no choice had been made.

A higher percentage of women support the proposals as in the table below:

Gender	Yes		No		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	
Male	350	66	181	34	531
Female	281	77	83	23	364
Total	631	-	264	-	895

And the Under 65s are more supportive than the over 65 age group:

Age	Yes		No		Total
	Number	%	Number	%	
Under 65	455	75	154	25	609
65 +	145	68	68	32	213
Total	600	-	222	-	822

Q1 gave an open comments box for respondents to say why they either supported or didn't support the proposals and Q2 asked respondents whether they had any further comments about the proposals for Edward Street. Both

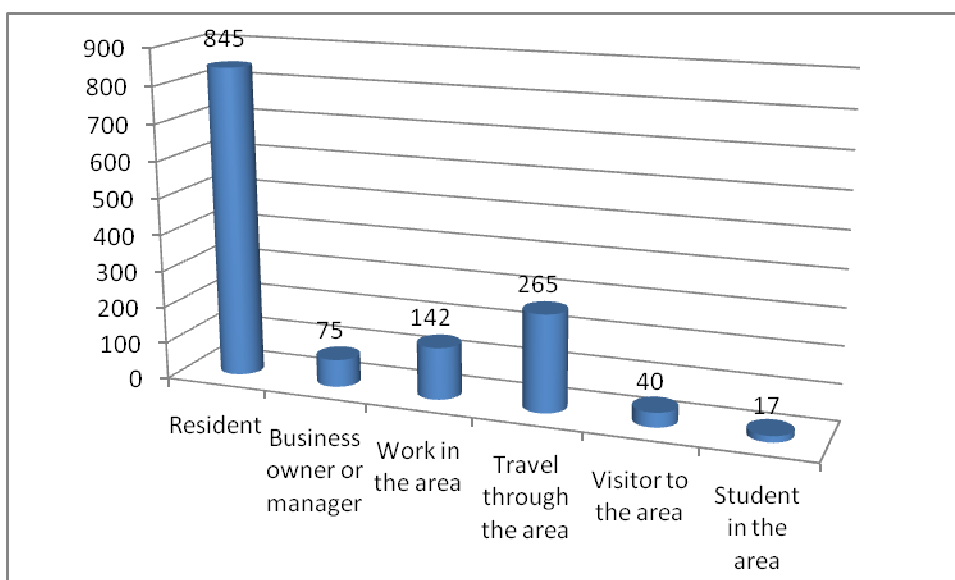
<sup>1</sup> Not all respondents online gave us their postcode therefore it is impossible to determine whether all online respondents live or work within the mailed area.

these open comments boxes showed similar types of responses. Therefore all comments were grouped together into themes. The top ten themes emerging were:

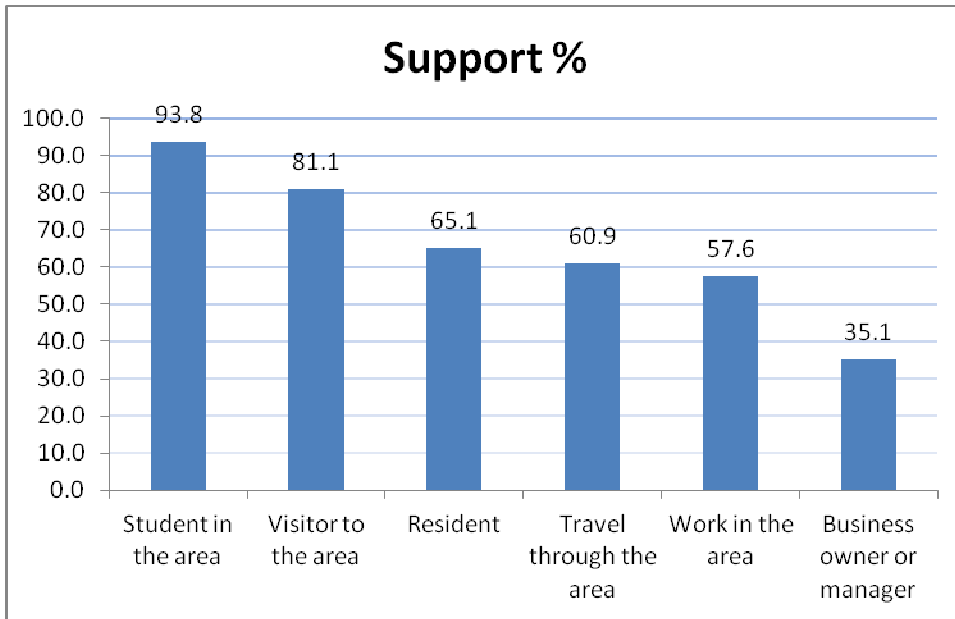
	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times mentioned</b>
1	<b>Spend the money elsewhere/ this is a waste of money</b>	<b>176</b>
2	<b>General positive comments</b>	<b>155</b>
3	<b>Leave it as it is/ not congested on Edward St/ pedestrians don't use it</b>	<b>119</b>
4	<b>Support crossing improvements/ need adequate dropped pavements</b>	<b>116</b>
5	<b>This scheme will increase congestion or pollution</b>	<b>115</b>
6	<b>Support cycling improvements/ cycle priority</b>	<b>115</b>
7	<b>This will improve safety</b>	<b>109</b>
8	<b>Support/ want flowers/ trees/ shrubs/needs to be more attractive/ better environment</b>	<b>105</b>
9	<b>This proposal is anti-car/ need car for hospital/work</b>	<b>59</b>
10	<b>Don't support bus priority/ bus lane</b>	<b>50</b>

All themes are listed in Appendix A. A number of site specific comments were also noted and these have been forwarded to the project manager.

Respondents were asked whether they are a resident, business owner, whether they travel through the area to get somewhere else, a visitor to the area or a student. The majority of respondents are residents as shown in the chart below:



Students and visitors to the area show higher levels of support for the proposals (although numbers of both are low – 16 and 40 respectively). Least levels of support are shown from business owner or managers.



## Demographic Information

Respondents were asked to tick whether they fitted into one of the following categories (they could tick more than one box).

<b>Gender</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	536	<b>56.1</b>
Female	381	<b>39.9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Age</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
U18	14	1.7
19-24	25	3.0
25-34	100	11.8
35-44	158	18.7
45-54	180	21.3
55-64	141	16.7
65-74	121	14.3
75+	106	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>Ethnicity</b>		<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
White	English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	789	86.1
	Irish	10	1.1
	Gypsy	1	0.1
	Traveller	4	0.4
	Polish	4	0.4
	Portuguese	2	0.4
	Other white background	69	7.5
Asian or Asian British	Bangladeshi	4	0.4
	Indian	2	0.2
	Pakistani	1	0.1
	Chinese	5	0.6
	Other Asian background	4	0.4
Black or Black British	African	1	0.1
	Caribbean	2	0.2
	Sudanese	0	0
	Other Black background	0	0
Mixed	Asian & White	3	0.3
	Asian & Black African	0	0
	Asian & Black Caribbean	0	0
	White & Black African	3	0.3
	White & Black Caribbean	3	0.3
	Any other mixed background	4	0.4
Other Ethnic Group	Turkish	0	0
	Arab	2	0.2
	Japanese	0	0
	Other	3	0.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>916</b>	<b>100</b>



<b>Disability</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	212	23.5
No	662	96.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>100</b>

## Appendix A

	Comment	Number of times mentioned
1	Spend the money elsewhere/ this is a waste of money/rebuilding central islands waste of money	176
2	General positive comments	155
3	Leave it as it is/not congested on Edward St/pedestrians don't use it	119
4	Support crossing improvements/need adequate dropped pavements	116
5	This scheme will increase congestion/pollution/divert traffic to St Georges Rd/ narrow road at bottom	115
6	Support cycling improvements/ cycle priority/more protection needed for cyclists turning right eg at Pavilion Gardens	115
7	This will improve safety	109
8	Support/ want flowers/ trees/ shrubs/needs to be more attractive/better environment	105
9	This proposal is anticar/need car for hospital/work	59
10	Don't support bus priority/ bus lane/bus company should contribute/buses fine as it is	50
11	Want St James Street pedestrianised/need to deal with traffic in St James St/crossings/environment/drunks	47
12	Support prioritising pedestrians	43
13	Don't support a shared bus/ cycle lane (want separate cycle lane)/how will cyclists avoid bus users boarding or alighting from buses?	40
14	Support bus lanes/more bus stops/priority to bus users	38
15	Don't mess up this road like you have Lewes Road/Grand Avenue/Old Shoreham Road	35
16	Don't want changes to cause disruption/mess/chaos/will take ages/run over budget	34
17	General negative comments	33
18	Cyclists don't obey the Highway Code/don't use cycle lanes	32
19	Don't support cycle lane/ cycle priority/cyclists don't pay road tax/dangerous for cyclists/not enough cyclists use road to justify cycle lane/better for cyclists to use St James and seafront	32
20	Will be bad for economy/people won't go to shops if they can't drive there/will go elsewhere	26
21	Uphill cycle lane won't be used	21
22	Want crossings at each Junction/ more crossings/need crossings at Chapel St/Pavilion Gardens/John St to between Dorset St & George St/Old Steine junction/Lower & Upper Rock Gardens	21
23	Concerned about road width reduction/emergency vehicles/heavy vehicles to & from RSCH building site/hospital access	21

24	Buses are too expensive/unreliable/service needs improving/bus drivers don't respect anyone else on roads	20
25	Proposal must include Eastbound buses/buses to run up Edward St/need better/more bus routes/stops	20
26	Consultation problems: Form arrived after meeting took place (30th), consultation period is 4 weeks not six as stated	16
27	What happens Brighton College to Freshfield Road/ after Freshfield Road/bus bottleneck at Brighton College	14
28	Don't like new-style green man crossings - display is too low	11
29	Too many buses on St James' Street	11
30	Waste of money to relocate crossing by 6m at Leech Court/leave pedestrian crossing where it is	11
31	Cycle lane must be wide enough/not have potholes/drains/west bound 2m and east bound 1.5m	10
32	No mention of commercial vehicles unloading/should stop vehicles loading & unloading/disabled "blue badge" vehicles/disabled parking	9
33	Want cycle lane to extend eastwards	9
34	Should not remove bus lay-bys which keep traffic moving/need more	8
35	Support central islands	6
36	Want a park & ride/would only work with a proper park & ride scheme	4
37	Want pedestrian crossing at Pavilion end of Edward Street/ by Job Centre/ by Law Courts	4

