

Ditchling Road Access to South Downs National Park September 2013-09-17

Background

Brighton & Hove City Council partnered with neighbouring authorities and the South Downs National Park (SDNP) are keen to enhance sustainable access to our beautiful National Park. Ditchling Road is seen as an important gateway into the National park and we are keen to create a supportive, welcoming and safe route which positively encourages people to walk, cycle and use public transport to get there from Brighton & Hove.

A series of improvements are proposed including speed limit reductions, improvements to cycle, pedestrian, and bus facilities. The proposals also include plans for open grazing.

Headline Results

Support for four different improvement options were as follows:

- 62% support the proposal to improve the Ditchling Road environment to enable people to walk, cycle and take the bus comfortably to the South Downs National Park?
- 67% support the proposal to reduce the speed limit on Ditchling Road from 60mph to 40mph?
- 68% support the proposal to improve the bus stops and crossing points?
- 64% support improvements to lay-bys and the introduction of picnic areas?

Methodology

A questionnaire featuring plans and artists impressions of how improvements might look was loaded onto the council's consultation portal. A paper version of the questionnaire was also prepared in the event of a member of the public preferring this method.

Consultation began on 19th August for 3 weeks (scheduled closing date 8th September). A press release was sent out and picked up by The Argus and Brighton & Hove News. The flyer notifying interest groups and stakeholders was sent out via email. This included all those invited to 30th July meeting, PTP email networks (LSTF corridor), Sports Development Networks, Sussex and Brighton Universities, Cityparks, Active for Life, Cycling and Walking interest groups, CVSF, Brighton & Hove Wildlife, The Fed, Taxi Forum, Bus Companies, Emergency Services, Freight. Local Access Forum (LAF) members from both Brighton & Hove and SDNP LAFs have also returned

comments. The consultation period was also extended until 15th September following representations from the LAF.

Full Results

401 people responded to this questionnaire.

Q1 Do you support the proposal to improve the Ditchling Road environment to enable people to walk, cycle and take the bus comfortably to the South Downs National park?

Q1	No.	%
Yes	247	62.2
No	150	37.8
Total	397	100

Q2 Do you support the proposal to reduce the speed limit on Ditchling Road from 60mph to 40mph?

Q2	No.	%
Yes	265	67.1
No	130	32.9
Total	395	100

Q3 Do you support the improved bus stops and crossing points?

Q3	No.	%
Yes	270	68.2
No	126	31.8
Total	396	100

Q4 Do you support the lay-bys and picnic areas?

Q4	No.	%
Yes	253	64.1
No	142	35.9
Total	395	100

Q5 Comments

Respondents were asked to make any comments about the proposals. Comments have been themed and the following table gives an indication of the types of comments made. A full list of comments made is given in the Appendix to this report.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Concerns about animal grazing: this is a main route into Brighton and therefore dangerous, this will impede dog walking	82
Coldean Lane/ Ditchling Road is difficult/ needs traffic signals/ proper crossing	53
General positive comments	52
Concerns about removing road lining: dangerous on an unlit road, road is prone to fog	33
Concerns about cattle grids/ cattle grids not cycle friendly	17
These proposals are anti-car, this is a main route into the city	16
This is a waste of money	15
Concerned that the proposals will encourage travellers (eg on new lay-bys)	14
There is extra traffic on Ditchling Road road since works on Lewes Road started	12
Concerns about Cycle track: must be fit for purpose/ good surface/ not gravel/ fit for wheelchairs	11
Concerns about road narrowing	10
There are not enough bus stops/ buses here to warrant the proposed bus stop improvements	10
It's okay as it is	8
I support the speed reduction	8
Concerned about shared cycle and pedestrian paths	7
Concerned about access to Cuckmere Way	3
I use the area for running, these proposals will affect running	3
Welcome improvements for bus, pedestrians, cyclists	2

Demographic Information

Respondents were asked to answer the following questions for Equalities monitoring purposes:

Age	Number	%
U18	0	0
18-24	16	5.2
25-34	33	10.8
35-44	86	28.2
45-54	81	26.6
55-64	59	19.3
65-74	30	9.8
75+	0	0
Total	305	100

Gender	Number	%
Male	187	58.6
Female	130	40.8
Other	2	0.6
Total	319	100

Do you identify as the gender you were assigned at birth?	Number	%
Yes	286	99.3
No	2	0.7
Total	288	100

Ethnicity		Number	%
White	White English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British	282	89.0
	White Irish	5	1.6
	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	3	0.9
	Any other white background	25	7.9
Asian or Asian British	Bangladeshi	0	0
	Indian	0	0
	Pakistani	0	0
	Chinese	0	0
	Any other Asian background	0	0
Black or Black British	African	0	0
	Caribbean	0	0
	Any other Black background	0	0
Mixed	Asian & White	1	0.3
	Black African & White	0	0
	Black Caribbean & White	0	0
	Any other mixed background	0	0
Any other ethnic group	Arab	0	0
	Any other ethnic group	1	0.3
Total		317	100

Sexual orientation	Number	%
Heterosexual/ straight	249	89.6
Lesbian/ Gay woman	6	2.2
Gay Man	13	4.7
Bisexual	6	2.2
Other	4	1.4
Total	278	100

What is your religion or belief?	Number	%
I have no particular religion	141	46.8
Buddhist	3	1.0
Christian	61	20.3
Hindu	0	0
Jain	0	0
Jewish	2	0.7
Muslim	0	0
Pagan	4	1.3
Sikh	0	0
Agnostic	8	2.7
Atheist	72	23.9
Other	2	0.7
Other Philosophical belief	8	2.7

Total	301	100		
Are your day to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?			Number	%
Yes, a little			22	7.1
Yes, a lot			8	2.6
No			278	90.3
Total			308	100

Please state the type of impairment which applies to you.	Number	%¹
Physical impairment	15	50.0
Sensory impairment	4	13.3
Learning disability/ difficulty	1	3.3
Long-standing illness	10	33.3
Mental health condition	0	0
Development condition	0	0
Other	3	10.0
Total	32	100

Are you a carer?	Number	%
Yes	21	6.8
No	287	93.2
Total	308	100

If yes do you care for?	Number	%²
Parent	11	52.3
Child with special needs	3	14.3
Other family member	5	23.8
Partner/ spouse	4	19.0
Friend	2	9.5
Other (please state)	0	0
Total	25	100

Armed Forces Service	Yes		No	
	Number	%	Number	%
Are you currently serving in the UK Armed Forces (this includes reservists or part-time service eg Territorial Army)	2	0.6	317	99.4
Have you ever served in the UK Armed Forces?	9	2.8	316	97.2
Are you a member of a current or former serviceman or woman's immediate family/ household?	11	3.5	303	96.5

¹ % of those who answered yes to the disability question above

² % of those who answered yes to Are you a carer

