

Mount Road

In summer 2022 Sustrans delivered activities aimed at widening community engagement in Bath & North East Somerset Council's Liveable Neighbourhoods (LN) programme. There was a focus on young people and families at schools, as well as with community groups, ensuring that resident feedback is incorporated into the design process.

Many of the ideas from the groups and individuals we spoke to are presented in the informal report below.

You can view the council's co-design workshop and exhibition report for this LN area at www.bathnes.gov.uk/yourLN

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31st Bath (St. Barnabas) Scout Group

On 13th June 2022, Sustrans officers engaged with 11 scouts (girls and boys). The group was spilt into two, each group had a map. They used yellow sticky notes to identify areas / streets that they liked and green sticky notes to identify areas / streets that they disliked.

Participants' Issues and Disliked Places

Map 1, 2. Places the scouts liked and disliked



Roads which the young people disliked

- Mount view – ‘Unsafe / dangerous, lots of rubbish and dodgy people/ shops’
- Mount road - ‘Crossing confusing’, ‘unsafe, dangerous, lots of glass and broken stuff, lots of unused shops and dodgy people’
- Rush Hill by Culverhay – ‘very fast’, ‘It is loud, there are lots of cars / emissions and it feels crowded.’
- Southdown Road – ‘have to cross main road, shops’
- The Hollow – ‘Too fast’
- Englishcombe Lane
- Bloomfield Road – ‘There are dodgy drivers who drive unsafely, it’s loud, it’s not got enough pavements and cars are parked everywhere so can’t see cars coming when crossing the road.’
- Bear Flat – ‘Not good crossing points at one side, too loud at night and bad drivers going fast!’

Places that the young people disliked

- Roundhill Park on the roundabout – ‘The equipment is broken, there’s litter EVERYWHERE and it’s surrounded by a road and a bit unsafe, I see lots of people vaping there’
- Roseworn near Whiteway Green - ‘It’s sketchy, I don’t like the area, it’s boring’
- Hillcrest Park – ‘It used to have a lot of fun things to do but they took it down, it has 3 things to play on and it is quite boring.’
- BCA School off Rush Road

Places Participants Liked

Roads the young people liked

- Roundhill Grove
- Glebe Road
- Southdown Road north of Glebe Road
- Mount View scouts group
- Mount Road shops

One scout noted that they used a cul-de-sac ([redacted]) to ride their bike because there were fewer cars, and the same scout also said they didn't like going to the Shop/Post Office on Southdown Road because they had to cross a busy street.

Places the young people liked

- The Oval Park – 'Quiet, Large field and lots of seating'
- Roundhill primary school – 'There's a nice park nearby and it takes less than 5 minutes to get there. 'It is the school I go to; It is local, and all my friends live by it.'
- Beechenclyffe – 'It's a nice place to play sport, it's good for meeting up with friends and it's a place I throw a ball for my dog.'
- The Millstream (Englishcombe) – 'It's quiet, it's full of wildlife and it is beautiful'
- Bloomfield Green – 'It's a good meeting place, it is well connected by the cycle path and its spacious'
- Wedmore Park
- Roundhill park – 'Green, lots of space and good view', 'Green / tree, large area, and quiet area', 'It's a very open space, it is natural, and it is peaceful and quiet'
- Hillcrest Park – 'The massive field, the climbable and fun play bit, its quiet and dogs love it on walks, it's near a shop.'

Participants' Regular Routes and Destinations

Sustrans asked the young people to draw their regular routes on the map and indicate with a colour which mode of transport they used. This section has been redacted entirely for safeguarding reasons.

City-wide travel

Sustrans officers asked young people to identify places they travelled to which were out of the immediate area to understand what activities they were travelling to and to give an indication of what sort of activities were not catered for locally. (To provide an idea of how liveable the area is). the following are key destinations:

- Hayesfield School (2)
- Bath city centre (6)
- Bristol
- Sandpits play area

- Lidl on Lower Bristol Road (3)
- Bloomfield Green
- Football pitch off North Road
- Odd Down cycle track
- Beta Gym in Bath centre
- Church in Bath City Centre

Participants Ideas for Improvements

Sustrans officers asked the group 'What would you like to see in your street?'

Comments specific to a certain road

- Improve the crossing/s on Mount Road
- Move parked cars away from crossings so it's easier to see when crossing on Mount Road

General comments to improve the area

- Nature / green:
 - + More forests
 - + More green spaces
 - + Replace pavement with grass
 - + Nice trees
 - + Not dead grass
 - + Caring for the gardens
 - + Community gardens
 - + More greenery
 - + Climbing trees in play area
 - + Trees
 - + More trees planted
 - + Cut trees so not over cars
 - Roads/streets:
-

- + Close more roads to parking
 - + Close street for a day a week
 - + Special cameras/ trackers
 - + Reduce noise
 - + Wider paths
 - + Better pavements
 - + No poo
 - + Litter pick
 - + Bins
 - Play:
 - + Better maintaining of equipment in parks
 - + New play thing in my neighbourhood park
 - Community:
 - + Community book stores/library
 - + More community events
-

Bath City Farm

On 29th June 2022, Sustrans officers engaged with a diverse group of Southdown residents visiting Bath City Farm café, including parents of young children, older people, physical disabilities, and some volunteers of the therapeutic gardening club.

Members of the public were invited to comment on their experience of travelling around the area, where their favourite places are and how they would like to use their street.

Participants' Issues and Disliked Places

Map 3. Places residents liked and disliked

- A concern for pedestrians was prevalent regarding **fast cyclists**. A need for pedestrians to be protected from fast cyclists was raised.
- **Whiteway Road** is known for its heavy traffic and is considered ok for walking as long as drivers follow rules. The main problem with the road is by **the cemetery** where it is difficult to cross for those visiting the site to access nature.
- The need to **access nature** was widely popular.
- Feels like most of the money is spent on the city centre.
- Buses get stuck on **The Oval**
- **Hazel Grove** good for walking, bad for driving.
- **Lyndhurst Road** lorries often get stuck, lots of traffic diverting through here.
- **Bloomfield Park** can get overgrown in some places during the summer.

Participants' Favourite Places

- Vino Lounge, Moorland Road
- Roundhill park – just grass
- Roman Baths
- Haycombe Cemetery, great for walking
- Bath City Farm
- Victoria Park
- Chelsea Road
 - + Busy road, but crossing is ok
 - + Nice cafes, charity shops
- Residents enjoy accessing **English Coombe** and **Two Tunnels**.
- Love the trees planted on Moorland Rd.
- Moorlands Park is a nice green space, good for sledging.
- Woodland area between Englishcombe Lane and Corston View Park, good for walking.

Participants' Ideas for Improvements

- **Cycle Highways**: roads just for cycling

- Ways to reduce car use such as **car share**, but also electric cars with car **charging points**.
- More responsibility on landlords for students
- More **money spent on periphery** of city centre
- Need a better transport system
- The Hollow/Mount Road Junction
 - + Space taken by **devoid road** could be used for other purpose
 - + Improve and bring in **more shops and cafes**
 - + **Planters** wanted
 - + **Resurfacing**
- Not sure about one-way on Mount Road
- Frome Road ½ metre too **narrow**
- Could Lansdown Park Academy (now closed) space be used as **community resources** (i.e., Sport and school)

Sustrans Officers' Reflections

Mount Road shops and junction seemed a high priority for residents as it is a central location for the neighbourhood. The aesthetic and street design were considered poor. The needs of residents were also not being met due to the lack of services, shops, pubs, etc. There were ambitions for greater cycle infrastructure that could connect those living on the fringes or outside of the city to access the centre.

Roundhill Primary School

On 6th July 2022, Sustrans officers attended Roundhill Primary School to deliver a two-hour Liveable Neighbourhoods Workshop alongside a member of B&NES Council Public Health team.

Sixty pupils from two classes of year 5 and 6 took part in the workshop. Sustrans opened the workshop by introducing Sustrans and the B&NES liveable neighbourhood scheme and explaining that the aim of the workshop was to hear their ideas for improving cycling, walking, and wheeling in the area. The officers took the pupils through an ice breaker with an active travel theme, to give them a chance to move and relax.

The main part of the workshop was split into four sections as follows:

Section A – What makes a good street

Sustrans officers helped the children understand the key themes that contribute to streets being easy (good) or hard (bad) to walk/cycle along. Helping them understand that good streets can contribute to higher levels of walking and cycling and improving the liveability of a place. The following themes were introduced to give the children a framework to understand how to critically evaluate a street, and they were shown examples of street scenes and asked to assess them for,

- Safety – traffic
- Barriers/obstructions
- Attractiveness
- Uses – play, social, nature etc.

Section B – Virtual Tour

Pupils were then taken on a virtual tour of Mount Road and asked to assess the streets in their local area based on how easy or hard they are to walk and cycle along.

Their comments were recorded onto a large sheet of paper and the corresponding location marked on a map.

Disliked

- 1 Crossing outside the Coop
- 2 Cars parking on pavements outside the shops
- 3 Narrow pavements
- 4 Road workers Mount Rd*

- 5 No trees
- 6 Cars parking around junctions
- 7 Hard to cross the road
- 8 Busy road
- 9 Crossing island isn't wide enough when in a group
- 10 Outside school nowhere to cross
- 11 Cars travel too fast
- 12 Pavement too small
- 13 Walking on road

* The comment 'Road workers Mount Road' was based on a pupil saying one of the bad things about Mount Road was the roadmen. I believe they were referring to **anti-social behaviour** rather than to road workers.

Liked

- 1 Green space outside Coop
- 2 Lots of space outside shops [wide pavement]
- 3 Green space all around [outside St Barnabas Church]

Ideas for improvements

- 1 Zebra outside school
- 2 Speed bumps to slow cars
- 3 Wider crossing island outside park

Section C – Breakout Groups

Having developed a better understanding of good and bad streets, the children were given a street to focus on, highlighted in a bold colour on their map, and asked to make comments using the post it notes about things that made it easy or difficult to cycle and walk in that area.

If the children finished their street early, they could move on to consider and comment upon the rest of the map. Maps and comments are shown on the following pages. For each group

there is an image of the map of the whole area on the left and a zoomed in image on the right.

Group Focus – The Hollow, Roundhill Park

Things that make cycling/walking hard:

- The Hollow
 - + 'When the bus stop is full you cannot get past it'
- Haycombe Drive
 - + 'Not a lot of space to walk and bins are always in the way'
- Sladebrook Road
 - + 'It's a really busy road and cars park on the corner so you can't see'

Likes, and things that make cycling/walking easier:

- Roundhill Park
 - + 'Lots of greenery in the park'
 - + 'Nice Park to play'
 - + 'A quiet road for cycling along and it is a loop so you can keep going round'
 - + 'We can walk easily and its spacious'

Map 4. Group focusing on The Hollow and Roundhill Park



Group Focus – Southdown Road and Hillcrest Drive

Things that make cycling/walking hard

- 'The bad thing is that there's lots of traffic and it can be dangerous. And there's no zebra crossing'
- 'Narrow paths'
- 'Busy road'
- 'Not that many crossings'
- 'No Zebra crossing'

Likes, and things that make cycling/walking easier

- 'The good thing is that there is an island crossing, that keeps everyone safe' [they possibly mean junction of Southdown Road and Englishcombe Road]

Southdown Road/Hillcrest Drive group additional comments regarding Mount Road

- 'The road takes up a lot of space and the cars park on the pavement'
- 'Although the trees are nice, they take up a LOT of room'

Likes, and things that make cycling/walking easier

- 'It makes it easy when it is clear when there are not many cars'

Suggested Improvements

- 'On Mount Road I would like a closed off space for Roundhill Primary. In the closed off space can there be a paved area with some rocks, plants, and logs.'
- Railings
- Speed signs on the road/decorations
- Plants
- Wide streets
- Sticky note drawing shows seating and planting

Map 5. Group focusing on Southdown Road and Hillcrest Drive



Group Focus – Haycombe Drive

Things that make cycling/walking hard

- 'When cars go on the lane, they go very fast'

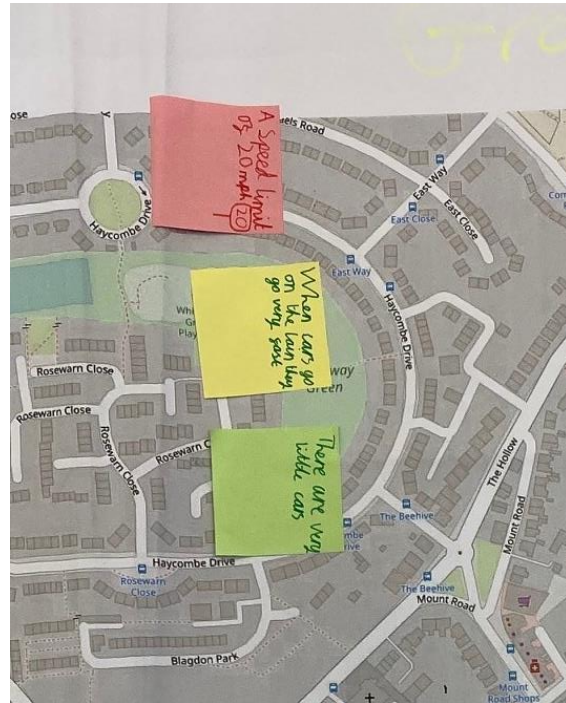
Likes, and things that make cycling/walking easier

- 'There are very little cars'

Suggested Improvements

- 'A speed limit of 20mph'
- 'Cycle path speed limit'
- 'Signs and traffic lights'

Map 6. Group focusing on Haycombe Drive



Group Focus – Roundhill Primary School and Mount Road

Things that make cycling/walking hard

- 'bins'
- 'No traffic lights'
- 'Going too fast on the road'
- 'Path too small'
- 'Pavements are narrow where the trees are, and people step out onto the road'
- 'Speeding – 60'
- 'Parking on corners at pick up and drop off'

Likes, and things that make cycling/walking easier

Map 8. Group focusing on Sladebrook Road and Mount Road



Group Focus – Rush Hill

Things that make cycling/walking hard

- 'Too much noise from the cars'
- 'Too little pavement space to walk with multiple people'

Likes, and things that make cycling/walking easier

- 'I think that Marsden Road can be sometimes good because there has been a good neighbour near my house, my road is so safe'

Suggested Improvements

- 'a bigger path on Mount Road'

Map 9. Group focusing on Rush Hill



Group Focus – Glebe Road, Southdown Avenue, Melrose Grove, Oriel Grove

Things that make cycling/walking hard

- 'Trees are blocking the way and there are a lot of bins'
- 'Bin bags everywhere'
- 'Cars on road'
- 'No space to go up road'

Likes, and things that make cycling/walking easier

- 'No barriers'
- 'Good amount of space'

Map 10. Group focusing on Glebe Road, Southdown Avenue, Melrose Grove, Oriel Grove



Group Focus – Roundhill Park, Wedmore Park, Mount Road, Alderly Road

Things that make cycling/walking hard

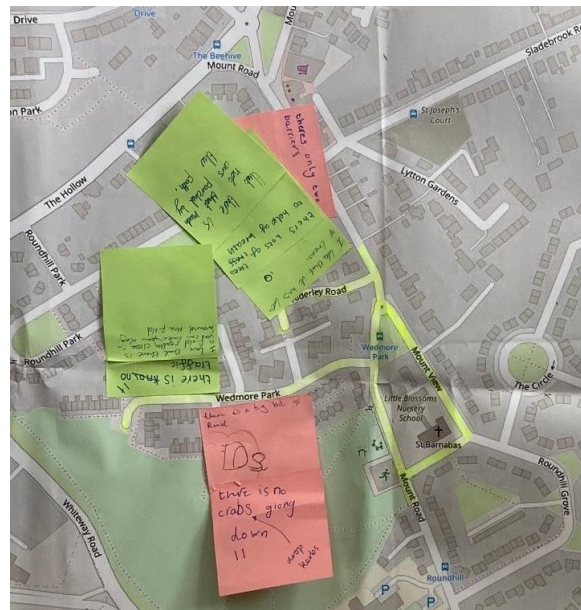
- Mount Road
 - + 'There's only two barriers'
- Wedmore Park
 - + 'There is a big bit of road' (meaning the road is wide)
 - + 'There is no kerb going down'

Likes, and things that make cycling/walking easier

- Alderly Road

- + 'I like that it has lots of trees'
- + 'There are lots of trees to help us breathe'
- + 'That there are not that many cars parked on the path'
- Wedmore Park
 - + 'There is no traffic'
 - + 'I love that there is a field really close so you can take your dog to the field'

Map 11. Group focusing on Roundhill Park, Wedmore Park, Mount Road, Alderly Road



Group Focus – The Hollow

Suggested Improvements

- The Hollow
 - + Add a zebra crossing
- Roundhill Park

- + A better park
- + Canopies on the benches so you don't get wet
- + More seating

Map 12. Group focused on The Hollow



Comments from specific points on roads

- Sladebrook Road
 - + It looks like a not safe road [approx. 59 Sladebrook Rd]
- Junction of Englishcombe Road and Southdown Road
 - + [Good that there is a...] big pavement
 - + [Needs a...] wider island
- The Hollow, Mount Road, Haycombe Drive junction (51°22'24.0"N 2°23'46.3"W)

- + It would be safe I guess because there are pavements and not too many cars
- + There is no zebra crossing or speed bumps so it could cause an accident
- The Hollow, Mount Road, Haycombe Drive roundabout (51°22'20.8"N 2°23'48.8"W)
 - + [It's good that there are] places to walk and cycle [NB - there isn't any cycle infrastructure at this location so participant might be talking about cycling on the pavement or grassy area]
 - + [It's good that there are] trees and plants

Section D – Street Design.

Pupils were asked to write down or draw their ideas for improvements they'd like to see to the road outside their school [Mount Road].

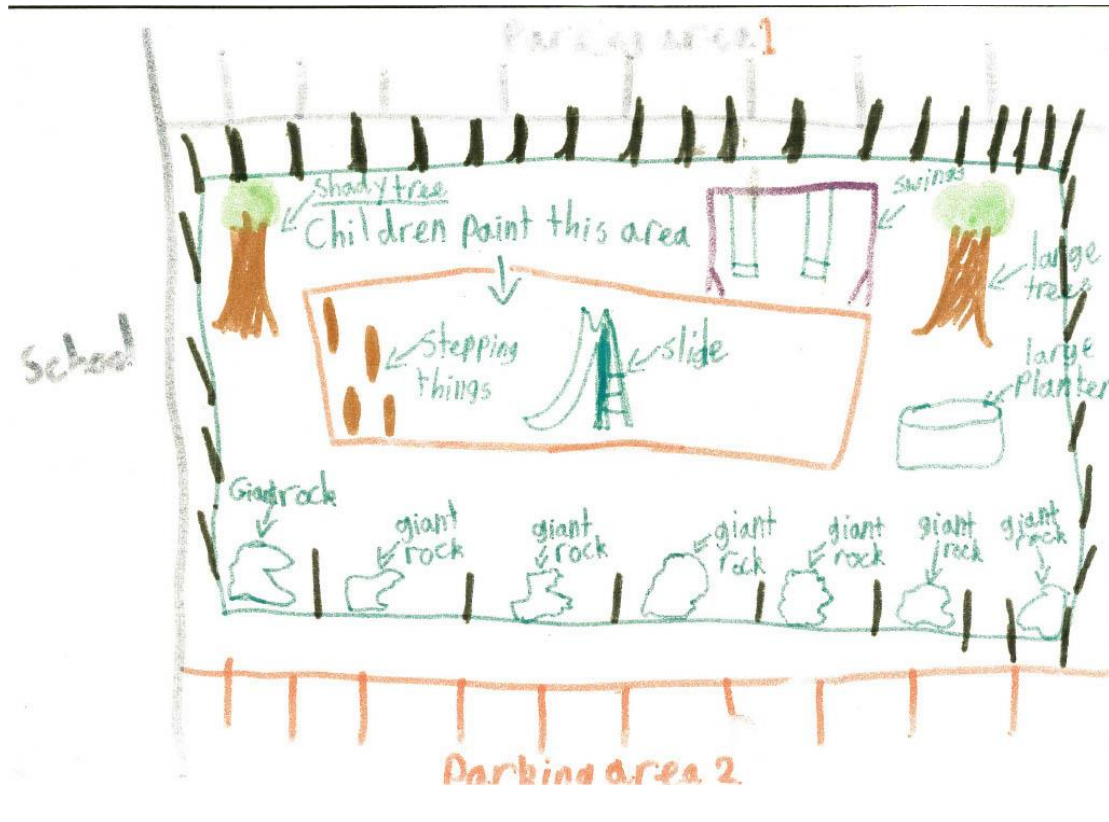
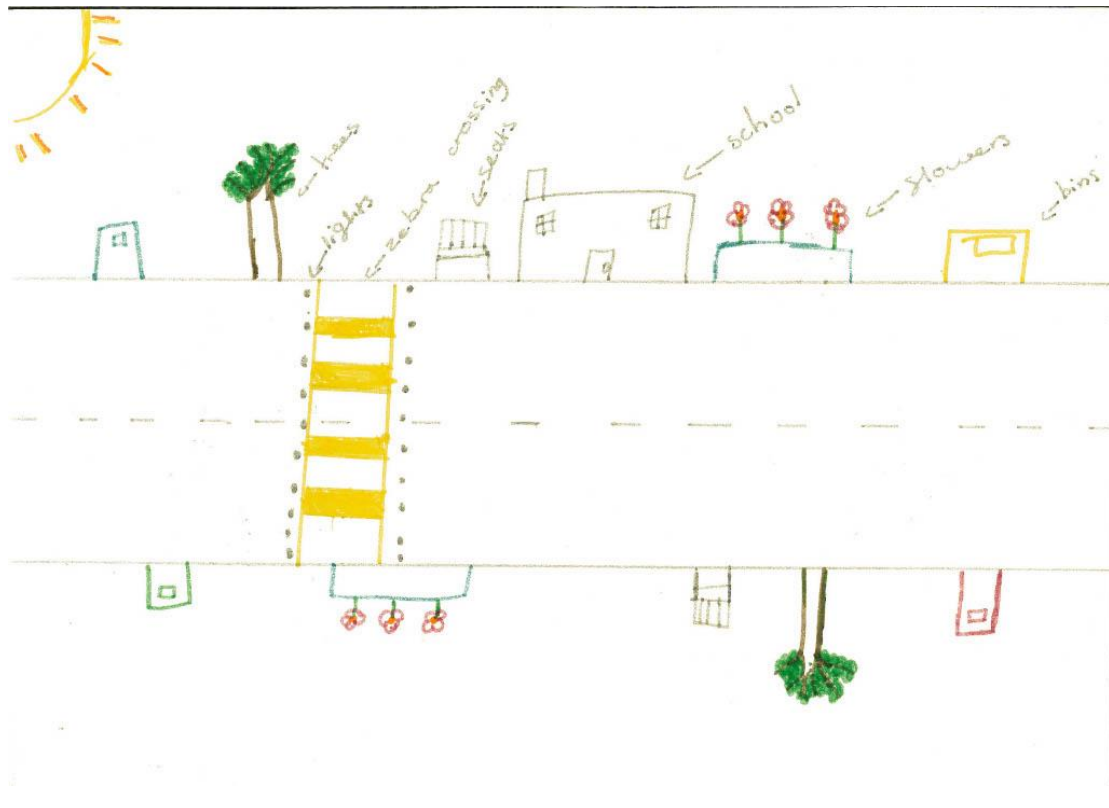
Suggested Improvements

- Benches with canopies and not always metal*
- New Park**
- More shops
- More bollards
- Artwork on road
- Bigger pavement
- Wider paths for walking and cycling
- Zebra crossing and cycle/scooter lane
- Seating and nature area
- New crossing design
- Better Park**
- More seating
- Colourful zebra crossing

*This idea was based on a comment from a pupil that if benches had canopies, people could still sit down and rest when it's raining. He also commented that metal benches are cold, wet, and uncomfortable.

**The children that made these comments were asking for play equipment for older children in Roundhill Park rather than a new park.

Free Drawing – Pupils’ Ideas for Re-Designing the Street Outside Roundhill Primary School





Miley



Why Don't
 we make the
 Road like a river
 and the crossing
 joining like steering
 stone





Table 1. Description of other drawings not shown above

Description	Additional Notes/Comments
<p>A drawing of a street scene with a mini park, a lollipop person, a traffic light, a car, and a house with a note above it which reads “not to[o] many houses”. In the sky there are clouds, a butterfly and either a plane or a bird.</p>	<p>Presence of a lollipop lady and a traffic light in the drawing might suggest that the crossing outside the school doesn't feel safe.</p>
<p>A drawing of a play park with labels for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees • Little pond • Benches • Flower bed • Little slide • Ice cream truck • Sand pit • Swings • Big slide 	

Description	Additional Notes/Comments
<p>A drawing of a street scene with a school on one side of a street and seats, a tree, and planters on the other side of the street. On the carriageway, there is a zebra crossing and thermoplastic drawings of flowers and leaves. To the bottom right of the street is a drawing that looks like a speed camera.</p>	<p>Presence of a zebra crossing and possibly a speed camera might suggest that the crossing outside the school doesn't feel safe.</p>
<p>A drawing of a street scene with houses, a recycling bin, and a sheltered bench on one side of the street. On the other side of the street is a path surrounded by trees, a pond, and a slide, as well as a car park. On the carriageway is a zebra crossing.</p>	
<p>Top-left: drawing of a sun</p> <p>Bottom-left: drawing of people holding hands in front of two trees and what might be a castle</p> <p>Top-right: a drawing of a Tesco shop, labelled 'more shops'</p> <p>Bottom-right: a drawing of a road labelled 'more roads' and a drawing of three flowers (or possibly trees) labelled 'more plants'</p>	
<p>A street scene with a scooter lane on the left-side of the street a cycle lane on the right. To the left of the street is an Asda store, a tree house, and a house. In the carriageway is a zebra crossing and possibly some bollards/plants that act as a traffic calming measure.</p>	
<p>A street scene with separate scooter and cycle lanes on the right side of the road. There are trees, street lights and possibly benches on both sides of the road. In the carriageway is a zebra crossing.</p>	
<p>The protagonist of the 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' series, Greg Heffley, stands on a podium in between two roads to his left and right. Both roads are marked with 30mph speed limits. The left road leads in the top-left corner to an airport, while a spur below the airport leads to Co-op, Lidl, and Sainsbury's stores. In the bottom-left corner is a play-park and a cinema. The road on the right side of the drawing includes a cycle lane and leads to a library in the top-right corner.</p>	
<p>A street scene that includes shops, parks, car parks, and zebra crossings.</p>	

Description	Additional Notes/Comments
<p>A street scene with a house on one side of the road and a traffic light and a tree on the other. The carriageway has been decorated with thermoplastic artwork resembling jellyfish and leaves.</p>	
<p>A street scene that includes a bench with a shelter, a tree, a speed camera and a planter on the left-side and a tree on the right-side labelled 'more trees.' On the carriageway is an informal crossing labelled 'colourful crossing', a speed bump and thermoplastic artwork resembling insects and leaves labelled 'nature-based patterns.'</p>	
<p>A street scene with a 'slow down' marking on the carriageway, as well as some thermoplastic artwork depicting a butterfly, flowers, and leaves.</p>	
<p>A street scene with a zebra crossing that includes thermoplastic artwork of stars and love hearts within the white lines. Next to the right-hand side of the road is a green bank, a bench, and planters on the pavement and beyond the pavement is a row of houses.</p>	
<p>A street scene focused on a zebra crossing which has alternating straight and wavy white lines and has a slow sign in front of it. On the right-hand side pavement is a bench and two planters.</p>	
<p>In the top-left of the page is a drawing of two trees labelled 'more trees, more air!!'. In the top-right is a drawing resembling the school logo labelled 'Roundhill ROCKS'. In the bottom-right is a drawing of the school logo with a post-it note attached which has been misplaced from a previous activity and says 'it's good that it has bollards so kids can play on the other side. And it's good because its flat and nothing in the way. It's bad because there's not that much grass only on people's garden and you can't play on them.'</p>	
<p>At the top of the page is a line of crossed out trees labelled, 'less trees.' Various drawings, including the school logo, McDonald's fries, smiley suns, smiley stars, a book, a bike, a leaf, and a doughnut.</p>	<p>The request for fewer trees may be because the group discussed the fact that some of the narrow pavements become even narrower where there are trees and lots of people end up walking on the</p>

Description	Additional Notes/Comments
	carriageway. This is especially the case near the entrance to the school.
The pupil has drawn their house next to an airport and a hill leading down to a monster. Labels on the drawing ask for a ' football training park ', a 'private mall and house', a 'museum and hotel' and a 'hide and seek place for £10 for an hour (cheap 😊) and much more stuff.'	
A street scene with a road in between a path and some shops. On the path is a bench and a tree . On the carriageway is a drawing of a blue moustachioed face.	
A street scene of two rounds leading to a circular park. Around the park are a house and several trees. A label says ' need more trees '.	

Sustrans Officers' Summary

There were common barriers across all the areas that the children suggested made it difficult to walk and cycle. These included, pavement parking, narrow pavements, speed of cars and lack of, or unsuitable crossing points.

Most of the children in the workshop walked to school and one of the main barriers they highlighted is the lack of a safe crossing point on Mount Road outside the school. This was a common theme reflected both in their designs and their ideas for improvements. They also felt that the speed of traffic and pavement parking made the road feel unsafe at pick up and drop off times. The addition of a Zebra crossing and some minor traffic calming, and enforcement measures would potentially alleviate this.

The parks and green spaces are popular with the children, especially Roundhill Park and play area. They felt safer walking and cycling in this road because of the low traffic volumes, they liked the trees, and they enjoyed having space to play with friends.

The park next to the Roundhill Centre was also popular, although some said it was difficult to cross the road to get to it sometimes because of the parked cars and speed/volume of traffic. They would also like to add some play equipment for older children.

The island crossing on Mount Road had mixed response. Some said it provided a safe space to cross but others said there wasn't enough room when they were crossing in groups.