

Southlands area (Weston)

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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Weston All Saints Primary School

On 16th July, Sustrans officers delivered a pop-up engagement session at the Weston All Saints Primary School (WASPS) Summer Fair with a stall set up at the school fete. They engaged with parents and children throughout the event.

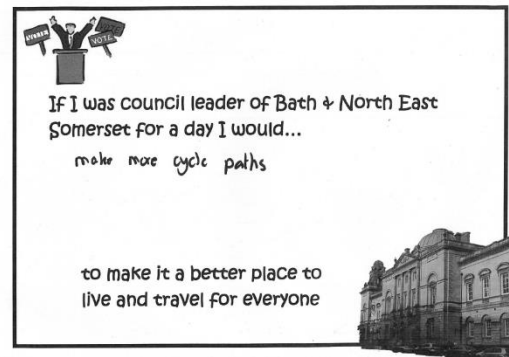
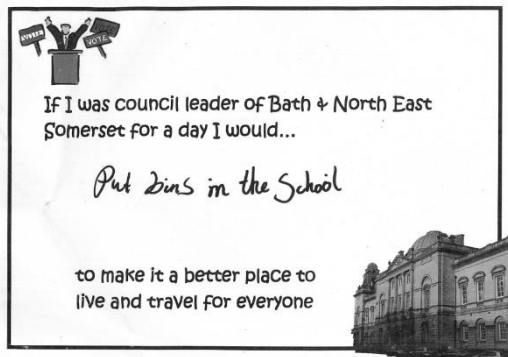
Pupils' General ideas for improvements

Sustrans officers used an activity to engage the children in developing ideas for improvements. The activity is called 'Council leader for a day', the sheet used the words 'If I were council leader of Bath & North East Somerset for the day I would to make it a better place to live and travel for everyone.'

The children gave the following answers:

- Make everything free. Declare myself royalty forever.
- More greenery and space for wildlife and the environment
- Make car drivers more aware of cyclists
- I would like more water parks
- Send a lot of money to charity
- Make more cycle paths
- Make 100 spidermen!
- Free buses which are electric
- Have free food
- Put bins in the school [WASPS]

Figure 1, 2. Examples of 'Council leader for a day' activity sheets



Pupils' and Grown-Ups' Likes, Dislikes, Issues, and Suggestions for the Weston area

Sustrans officers engaged with parents/guardians and children from the local area. They were shown a large map and asked how they travel around their local area, what routes they take, what they like about the area (green sticky notes), what barriers they face (red sticky notes), and their suggestions for improvements (yellow sticky notes).

General Comments

- [I would like a] safe cycle corridor from Weston to the Bristol and Bath Railway Path
- [I would like] more bike lanes
- [I would like] youth centres
- [I would like] better buses before changes routes to cycling and walking only [i.e., try improving buses before restricting cars]
- [I would like more] seating in general
- [I would like] better groceries/supermarket
- I want the electric scooters to be available for under 18s
- [I would like there to be] more seating (help with hills)
- The playground by the school is small
- [I would like] wider roads and paths

Lansdown Lane

- [Dislike] Narrow pavements; cars speed up the hill

- [Dislike] Speed of traffic on Lansdown Lane
- [Dislike] Speed camera not enough to slow traffic
- [Dislike] Cars too fast up Lansdown Lane
- [I would like there to be] less pollution
- [I would like there to be] more cycle paths

Map 1. Comments on Lansdown Lane



Broadmoor Lane

- [I would like a] footpath for school access along Broadmoor Lane to Leighton Road
- [Dislike] Unsafe walking to school (no footpath; too much [sic] cars)
- [I would like to] ban school traffic

Osborne's Lane

- [I like that there are] nice walks

Vernslade

- [I would like] traffic calming

The Weal

- [I would like a] modal filter
- [Dislike] Speeding on The Weal

- [Dislike] Developing green space (Beckford Tower)
- [Dislike] Loud music at night

Map 2. Suggestion for a modal filter on The Weal



Brookfield Park

- [I would like] seating in [the] green area.

Eastfield Avenue

- [I would like to] make it one-way. Buses can't pass other vehicles.
- [Dislike] Pot holes.
- [Dislike] Pavement parking [around junction with Lansdown Lane]

High Street (between Weston Free Church and Penn Hill Road)

- [I like that there is a] good footpath [from Weston Free Church to Southlands]
- [Dislike] Narrow footpath (North side of road).
- [Dislike] Increased traffic due to clean air zone.
- [I would like to] remove parking to avoid bottle neck.
- [I would like a] wider pavement [on the] High Street.
- [Dislike] Too much traffic. Hard to cross.
- [Dislike] Crossing outside Boots pharmacy.
- [Dislike] Crossings aren't safe, cars can't see pedestrians when they are moving from Anchor Road to High Street.

- [I would like there to be] more variety of shops, pubs, etc.

Map 3, 4. Comments on Weston High Street and surrounding roads



High Street (between Penn Hill Road and Weston Lane)

- [Dislike] one-way system; can't cycle up High Street
- [I would like to] pedestrianise [the] High Street
- [I would like] pedestrian priority at the Tesco entrance
- [I would like to] enforce disabled parking outside Tesco
- [Dislike] Anti-social behaviour near church hall.

Penn Hill Road

- [Dislike] Too many cars to cycle
- [I would like a] zebra crossing [outside the Weston Hub]
- [I would like a] zebra crossing [at junction with Chandler Close]
- [I would like a] zebra crossing [outside entrance to Weston Recreation Ground]
- [I would like a] pedestrian crossing for Oldfield [School] kids [i.e., outside the school]
- Weston Recreation Ground: I like natural grass patches/no mow.
- Weston Recreation Ground: Good for letting dogs run.

Weston Lane

- [I like that there are] easy routes [into City Centre] e.g., Weston Lane to avoid traffic
- [Dislike] Speed of traffic.
- [Dislike] [People leaving] hospital rubbish [on road and in local residents' bins]

Crown Hill

- [Dislike] It's difficult to cross the road Crown Road/Weston Lane/High Street junction
- [I would like a] zebra or other pedestrian crossing
- [Dislike] Cars don't stop for pedestrians. Crown Road
- [I would like a] pedestrian crossing please, can't cross!

Footpath from Chandler Close to May Lane (alongside western perimeter of Royal United Hospital)

- [Dislike] Dog poo on alleyway and [it's] narrow

Sustrans Officer's Reflections

Parents and children alike seemed to like the Weston area for the most part. They particularly liked the Weston Recreation Ground and walking in the hills that surround Weston.

Many of the things that parents, and children disliked were related to feeling unsafe when walking and cycling along busy roads with fast moving traffic, including on Lansdown Lane, the High Street, and Penn Hill Road. Many of the suggestions for improvements made related to widening pavements (and even pedestrianizing the High Street) and adding more pedestrian crossings. Some residents also wanted a greater variety of local shops and amenities.