



Initial Consultation Summary Report

Whitehaven Cycling and Walking



Proud of our past. Energised for our future.



July 2021

Introduction

Cumbria County Council is developing a programme of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs). The purpose of the LCWIPs are to provide a 10 year plan for cycling & walking using local data, stakeholder knowledge and evidence. Plans are being developed for locations across the county, including Whitehaven.

We presented our draft priority cycling network and walking plan as part of a public consultation between 14th July and 6th August 2021 and sought public opinion on the work completed to date and the emerging cycling and walking networks.

This report summarises the feedback received through the Whitehaven LCWIP public consultation. We would like to thank everyone who responded, your views will help to ensure that we develop a strong LCWIP that will provide the evidence base for future funding bids. Government funding for local cycling and walking schemes will be dependent upon its inclusion within an LCWIP. Having these plans puts us in a strong position to bid for funding.

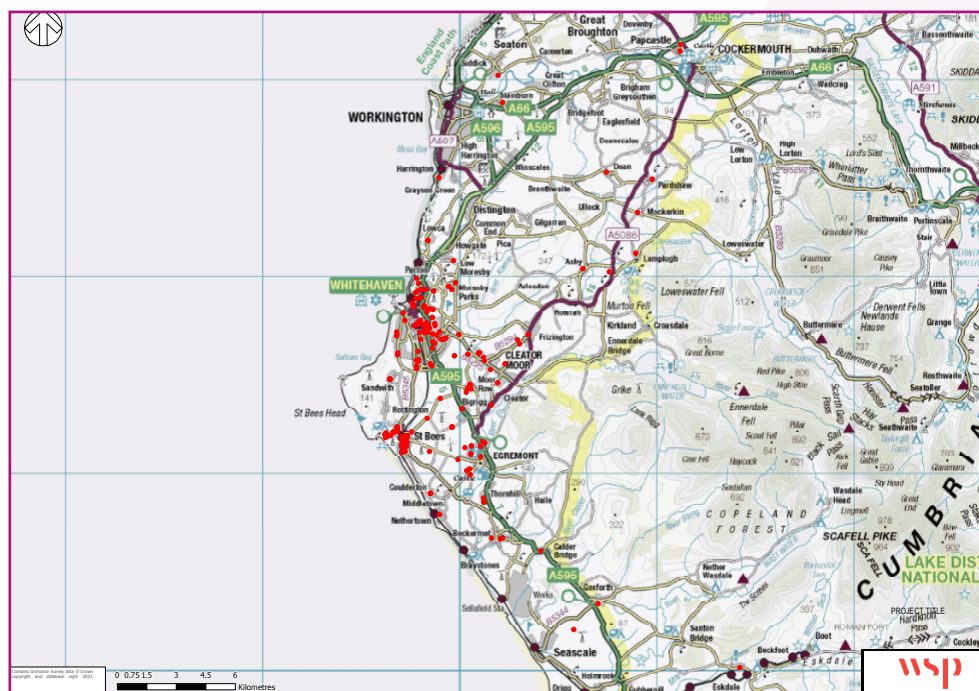
The consultation included a survey aimed at getting feedback on the developing LCWIP and to understand where and what types of improvements people want to see that would encourage more cycling and walking.

Location of respondents

The Whitehaven cycling and walking consultation received a total of **316 questionnaire responses**.

The majority of responses were from Whitehaven and the surrounding communities with 145 of respondents having a CA27 St Bees postcode. A further 89 responses were from the Whitehaven CA28 postcode.

Location of Respondents

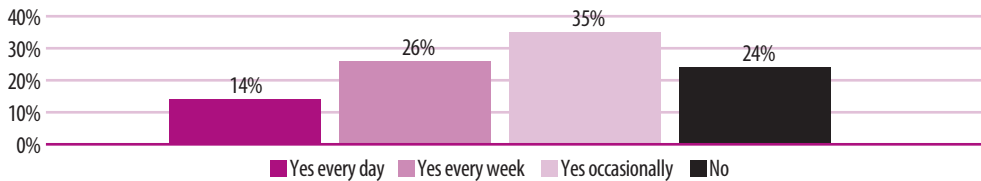


Your local cycling and walking network

Respondents were asked whether they currently make journeys by cycling and walking, and if so, how often.

40% of respondents make journeys by cycling every day or every week. A further 35% occasionally make journeys by cycling.

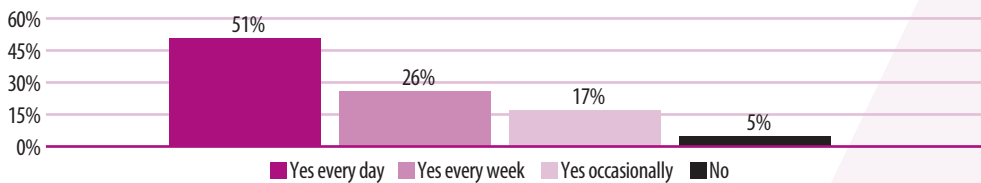
Do you currently make journeys by cycling and if so how often?



Count: 307

77% of respondents make journeys by walking every day or every week. A further 17% occasionally make journeys by walking.

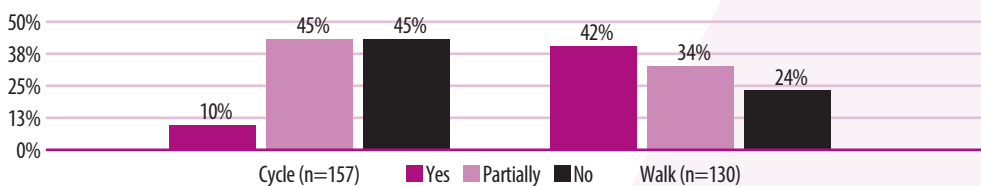
Do you currently make journeys by walking and if so how often?



Count: 304

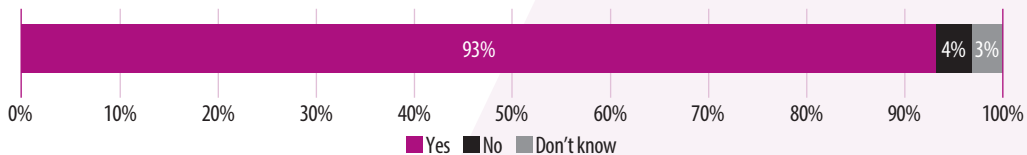
When asked whether the existing cycling and walking routes in Whitehaven connect with the places they want to go, more respondents answered yes for walking routes compared to cycle routes (42% vs 10%).

Do the existing walking and cycling routes connect you with the places you wish to go?



When asked whether respondents would welcome more money being spent on cycling and walking in Whitehaven, an overwhelmingly positive response emerged. 93% supported further investment.

Would you like to see more money spent on cycling and walking in Whitehaven?



Count: 223



Barriers to cycling and walking

The most common feedback themes that respondents identified as making it more difficult for them to:

Cycle



Busy roads
Quality of routes
Feeling unsafe
Unsuitable terrain / geography
Indirect routes

Walk



Busy Roads
Quality of routes
Feeling unsafe
Indirect routes
Unsuitable terrain / geography

Encouraging cycling and walking

71% of respondents currently make journeys by car to locations within walking and cycling distance.

Journeys to the shops and commuting to work were the two main reasons respondents gave for those short journeys.

Due to the distances involved, considerable scope exists for these journeys to be made by active travel modes as an alternative to car use.

The most common feedback themes that respondents identified would encourage them to:

Cycle



Segregated cycle routes with separation from other modes of travel
Direct cycle routes
The cycling routes proposed within the consultation
Better driver attitudes towards cyclists
Less traffic on the roads

Walk



Better maintained pavements and segregated footways
More direct walking routes
Less traffic on the roads
Having more time available
Lower speed limits

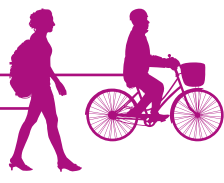
We also requested further feedback, particularly on routes you would like to see developed as quieter alternatives to the draft priority network. Routes from St Bees featured heavily, with 89 respondents commenting on this particular question supporting a dedicated cycling and walking route from St Bees to Whitehaven.

Out of 316 respondents, 51% would cycle more often and 39% would walk more often if improvements to cycling and walking routes were made.

Next Steps

The results obtained during the consultation period will help us to progress the LCWIP plans further, with the comments and feedback we have collected being used to inform the development of the LCWIP for Whitehaven. The responses we have received have given us essential data and are crucial in understanding the localised issues which are key to successful LCWIP development.

Further refining of the LCWIP will take place over the coming months, with a follow up consultation on the priority cycling and walking network plans being held at the start of 2022. The next consultation will seek comments on the final proposed priority cycling and walking networks. Following the consultation at the start of 2022, the LCWIP will be finalised and provide a clear 10 year plan for investment in Cycling and Walking in Whitehaven.



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