

# Cotham Hill – Early Engagement Survey

## Summary Report

January 2021



## Summary

Between Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Bristol City Council conducted an early engagement survey on how to improve walking, cycling and the street environment for Cotham Hill.

### How we engaged

To ensure the survey reached as wide an audience as possible the team did the following:

- Early informing letter raising awareness about the forthcoming survey to residents
- Paper copies of the community survey with a language template covering 12 languages were posted along with a free post envelope to 3348 local properties
- 25 posters were put up in the local area to raise awareness of the survey
- Online survey was compatible word reader software
- Local stakeholders and community groups were asked to help raise awareness of the survey
- Promoted the survey via online social media platforms which appeal to different age ranges
- Due to Covid19 restrictions the team offered virtual chats and phone appointments to anyone who didn't want to submit a written response but wanted to ask questions and provide feedback.
- Officers virtually met with local residential and community groups to hear feedback.

### Stakeholders

Over 143 key stakeholders (including emergency services), 167 equality, Voluntary and Community Sector and faith groups and 65 local businesses were engaged. Responses were received from the police and fire service who want to be kept in the loop once proposals emerge to ensure access is retained for emergency vehicles. Responses were received from the following citywide organisations:

- Bristol Walking Alliance,
- Bristol Cycle Campaign and
- Bristol Civic Society.

**Local Stakeholders** - meetings and phone conversations were held with members of the Hampton Park and Cotham Hill Community Group and the Redland and Cotham Amenities Society. Both of which are keen to be involved in the next stage of the project and want changes to look at the narrow pavements and parking arrangements.

### Business Operational Survey

The team also designed a Business Operational Survey for the local businesses to ascertain their operational needs looking at deliveries, waste collection, customers, parking, and anything else they wanted to comment on. Over 65 businesses were identified and 41 were contacted via email and 48 were called. Of the 17 businesses that engaged with the survey the comments ranged from:

- Encouraging changes to the road layout such as pedestrianisation or one-way arrangement
- Many in the food and drink industry were keen to outdoor seating space in the street

- Some were concerned about any road closure proposal and the effect on their businesses in terms of deliveries and customer access via the car.

### **Community survey**

A total of 2632 responses were received from the survey made up of 2075 online and 557 paper copies. The headline findings are:

- Over 60% of respondents said they were a local resident and lived within 1 mile of the street and just fewer than 45% of respondents are a regular visitor to the area.
- Over 80% of respondents walked to the street and over 65% visit the street over 3 to 4 times a week.
- Most respondents (around 90%) like Cotham Hill due to the “local high street economy” and “personality and character of the street”. Over 60% felt it was a “place for meeting friends and family” and over 70% like “supporting local jobs”.
- Over 85% of respondents think “pavements are too narrow” is a serious and moderate problem
- Over 80% of respondents “have wider pavements” as an essential and high priority for the street
- The main themes that came through the free text boxes were support for pedestrianisation, outdoor seating space and wider pavements.

### **Getting Bristol Moving Map - [Bristol COVID-19 transport request form - Bristol - Citizen Space](#)**

This is an online interactive map that was created when COVID-19 social distancing measures were brought in back in March 2020. The aim was to provide a platform for people to comment on where they would like to see improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure across the city. It was promoted via a press release and social media posts citywide during the first lockdown. It is a digital tool and anyone without online access can request a paper copy of a form where they can add their comments which can be posted back in and uploaded for them.

35 comments were posted on the active travel map: 21 for road closures, 9 for pavements, 3 for cycle lanes and 2 for local high streets.

- 487 likes were posted against the 21 road closures comments which indicated support for pedestrianisation
- 91 likes were posted against the 9 pavement comments which indicated support for pedestrianisation in some sections of the road
- 14 likes were posted against the 3 cycle lane comments which required better cycle infrastructure
- 42 likes were posted against the 2 local high streets comments which felt pedestrianisation would benefit the businesses