

**Princess Victoria Street - Early Engagement Summary Report**

**January 2021**



## Summary

Bristol City Council conducted early engagement at the end of 2020 on how to improve the street environment for Princess Victoria Street. This has involved ongoing discussions with community groups and businesses, submissions to the interactive active travel map, and the distribution of a Community Survey and Business Operational survey.

### Community Survey

A total of 907 responses were received from the survey made up of 482 online and 425 paper copies. Of the above responses, 58 were from businesses with a further 13 businesses completing operational surveys. The headline findings are:

- Over 85% of respondents like the street for both “the local high street economy” and “the personality and character of the street”
- 32% of respondents felt that “the streets are busy with traffic” is a serious problem and 30% thought it was a moderate problem
- 28% of respondents felt that “narrow pavements” is a serious problem and 29% thought it was a moderate problem
- 35% of respondents felt that “there is not enough car parking” was either a serious problem or a moderate problem. 54% felt it was a minor problem or not a problem at all.
- The top 4 priorities for respondents were “more outdoor space for café/restaurants”, “cleaner air”, “more greenery/planters”, & “wider pavements”. All had similar scores when combining essential and high priority responses of between 48% - 52%.

Over 2000 open ended responses were collected from four different questions. The top themes from the comments were around providing additional support for pedestrians (95 responses), lack of residents parking (25 responses), concerns around displaced traffic (23 responses) and the need to reduce traffic (22 responses). More detail can be found in section 5.1.

A majority of respondents feel there is a problem with traffic levels and narrow pavements and would like to see some changes. A majority feel a lack of car parking is not a problem, although there is still a sizeable number who feel it is a problem.

### Suggestions submitted by the community

In addition to the general questions, some specific suggestions submitted by the community were included in the survey;

- 68% Strongly agree or agree with the suggestion to “widen pavements” on a stretch of Princess Victoria Street. 21% Strongly disagree or disagree.
- 56% Strongly agree or agree with the suggestion for “a daily timed closure” on a stretch of Princess Victoria Street. 34% Strongly disagree or disagree.

- 53% Strongly agree or agree with the suggestion for “a full closure” on a stretch of Princess Victoria Street. 40% Strongly disagree or disagree.

### **Business Feedback**

The responses from local businesses differ from the trends above. From the community survey, 61 respondents identified as local business owners.

- A small majority of 45% Strongly agree or agree with the suggestion to “widen pavements on a stretch of Princess Victoria Street”. 41% Strongly disagree or disagree.
- A majority of between 57%-59% Strongly Disagree or Disagree with the suggestion for timed or full closures. 38%-39% Strongly Agree or Agree.

From the Business Operational Survey, we had 13 further responses detailed in section 6.2. Of these, nine included responses opposed to road closures with four including responses agreeing with some form of pavement widening.

BID Clifton Village were approached to help the council engage with the businesses. They remain neutral on the approach, as they represent multiple levy payers. However, based on business feedback, they have expressed concern around the timing of the engagement (between two lockdowns and spanning the busy Christmas period). They have suggested an alternative approach to address street changes much more widely across Clifton Village may get more buy-in and do more to meet objectives of the council.

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

An interactive mapping tool was launched in the Summer of 2020 to capture the public’s views on possible changes for transport and travel in Bristol. 17 comments were posted on the active travel map relating to Princess Victoria Street and the immediate surrounding streets.

- 121 likes were posted against the 6 road closures comments which indicated support for pedestrianisation
- 9 likes were posted against the 3 suggestions that 'no changes are required'
- 15 likes were posted against the 2 comments for removing parking and increasing space for walking, both specifically on Waterloo Street
- 18 likes were posted against the suggestion to improve crossing at the junction of Merchants Road and Regent Street.
- 18 likes were posted against the 2 suggestions for cycle infrastructure improvements, including cycle parking on The Mall and a cycle lane on Merchants Road.