

# WHITLEIGH SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL 2011

## Consultation Results: Preliminary Report



**1.0 Aim:** The purpose of this report is to provide a high level summary of recent consultation on the WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable Travel scheme and set out the next steps for the development of the Whitleigh programme.

**2.0 Introduction:** The WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable Transport programme will trial an area based approach to road safety delivery and the use of 20 mph speeds in residential areas with the intention of rolling it out citywide during LTP3 subject to assessment of outcomes.

The Council has put in place 20mph speed limits outside schools and a number of schools have had road safety measures introduced. However, the implementation of limits outside a school does not make the rest of the journey to school any safer, or provide the wider benefits for the community. We want to look at ways of improving road safety and local travel that benefit whole communities instead of one small area and this is what the Council will be trialling through the Whitleigh; Safer and Sustainable Travel scheme

The scheme will improve safety, encourage sustainable travel, improve the urban environment, encourage healthy lifestyles and improve access to employment opportunities and green spaces by tackling excess speed, making road crossing easier and safer, making cycling easier and safer, improving permeability and making it easier for buses to pass each other.

Whitleigh has a busy community of about 7,300 people, and schools that serve many other areas of Plymouth. However, Whitleigh also has the highest number of child pedestrian collisions in Plymouth, which is why we are looking at piloting a new, 'low-infrastructure' approach to road safety in the area that may involve reducing speeds without traditional traffic calming measures.

Between March and May 2011 the Council engaged in consultation with the Whitleigh Community in order to understand the key barriers and opportunities to safe, sustainable travel, in the Whitleigh area. This paper sets out the high level results from this consultation

### 3.0 Consultation summary.

**Table 3.1. Consultation undertaken in Whitleigh**

Consultation Activity	Dates
Woodfield Primary School Playground Surgery	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
Whitleigh Primary School Playground Surgery	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
Whitleigh Green	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
Whitleigh Neighbourhood Meeting	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2011

Whitleigh Green Fitness Festival	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2011
Leaflet consultation	<p>Copies of the leaflet were available from Wednesday 20 April until Friday 6 May at the Whitleigh Plymouth Community Homes housing office, St Chad's Church and the Albemarle pub as well as local community centres.</p> <p>Limited house to house leaflets drops were also made.</p>

### 3.1 Leaflet Consultation

The Whitleigh: Safer and Sustainable travel leaflet asked a number of questions about walking, cycling and road safety in Whitleigh. Thirty two responses were received and the results are recorded below.

#### SPEED REDUCTION

##### Qu. Do you think reducing speed in Whitleigh is a good idea?

10 out of 32 respondents answered this question. All 10 respondents thought it was a good idea to reduce speed in Whitleigh with one respondent adding that they agreed "as long as it's policed".

#### WALKING

##### Qu. Are there any areas that could be improved to make it easier or safer to walk?

Suggestions received for improving areas to make it easier or safer to walk included:

- Pavement upkeep / replacement of flagstones
- Better signage (the junction of Milford Lane and Budshead Road was mentioned as a specific location)
- Encouraging cyclists (especially young cyclists) to use a bell to advance warn pedestrians when they will be passing them, as many areas of footways are shared use and often pedestrians are unaware of cyclists until they have passed them. It was suggested that providing school children who cycle with a free bell for their bikes may act as an incentive.

##### Qu. Would a map of the local area encourage you to walk more?

7 out of 32 respondents answered this question with two respondents saying that a map would encourage them to walk more, but 5 respondents saying that it would not encourage them.

#### CYCLING

##### Qu. Do you think more local cycling facilities are needed?

Only one respondent answered this question, however, they did respond that they thought more local cycling facilities were needed. A respondent commented that marked areas for cycling were needed. There are currently some marked cycle lanes in Whitleigh, and the Strategic Cycle Network identifies a circular route following the periphery of Whitleigh.

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

### **Qu. Are the bus stops in the right place?**

Once again only one respondent answered this question, however, they were happy that the bus stops were in the right places. A survey was carried out by Plymouth Citybus in conjunction with PCC consultation asking whether the bus route through Whitleigh should be changed to a one way service. The response to this survey was a clear “keep it as it is”. It would seem that residents are reasonably satisfied with the current bus service.

### **Qu. Do the operators provide you with information that is easy to understand?**

Two respondents answered this question, one answered yes, and one answered no. It remains unclear, therefore, as to whether the bus companies provide understandable information in the area or not.

## **MAP SUGGESTIONS**

Residents were also asked to write or draw their comments on a map of Whitleigh provided in a consultation leaflet. All of the comments received are listed below.

- Resurface of Budshead Road
- Remove some of the chicanes - they present hazards where none existed before
- 30 mph limit Budshead Road, 20 mph limit all other roads
- Speed bumps near St Peter's RC School are needed
- Crossing patrol for Woodfield Primary School
- Zebra crossing to the doctor's surgery near Whitleigh Green is needed
- No. 46/47 is needed to return for hospital and St Budeaux Clinic to and from Whitleigh
- Create more off road parking as at the end of Lancaster Gardens (use the grassed areas!)
- Make all roads one way
- Make all roads 20 mph
- Put in chicanes / sleeping policemen
- Take away layby [at Whitleigh Green] to allow you to see the road when leaving the shops - Motorhome has been [parked] there for more than 10 weeks
- If you cannot do the layby then make a road out of the Green. To make a road out of the Green make [Trowbridge Close] the way in one way
- Make [Shrewsbury Road] one way

## **OTHER CONSULTATION EVENTS**

During recent consultation events carried out in Whitleigh, including Playground Sessions and neighbourhood meetings, PCC officers spoke to residents about the scheme and collated their comments. Through these events residents have suggested the following:

- There is a need for pedestrian crossings, especially between the doctor's surgery and Whitleigh Green and outside the schools.
- There is a need for cycle parking at Whitleigh Green.

- In some areas buses are finding it difficult to pass each other due to parked cars.
- Some people have suggested introducing one ways on roads in Whitleigh such as Taunton Avenue and Lancaster Gardens.
- There are concerns about speeding traffic especially on Taunton Avenue, Budshead Road, Shrewsbury Road and Brentford Avenue.
- Issues with parking have been raised including concerns about poor visibility when exiting Whitleigh Green due to vehicles parked in the lay-by.
- There is a need to address potholes, particularly on Taunton Avenue and Budshead Road.

These comments are recorded on the attached map.

#### **4.0 NEXT STEPS**

In conjunction with the consultation activities a cycling, public transport, speed and walking audit were undertaken in Whitleigh. The latter activity was carried out by the Local Access Forum on behalf of the Council. These audits, and the consultation responses, will be used to develop a programme for Whitleigh which will be presented to the Portfolio Holder for Transport in the coming weeks for consideration prior to commencement of the works.