

Consultation Response for Hobsons Footpath: Gates

Report by: **James Ogle – Project Officer**
To: Stakeholders

1. Purpose

To outline the feedback from the consultation and analyse the responses giving an indication/recommendation of the preferred way forward so we can move towards implementation.

2. Background

In March 2020, the South Area Committee approved an Environmental Improvement Project application to install gates on Hobson's Brook Footpath. This application was supported by the Hobsons Conduit Trust, Cambridge Past, Present & Future and Clare College.

The projects purpose was to reduce the impact of bikes on the fragile footpath and improve safety by slowing down bikes on a much-used pedestrian footpath. The footpath predominantly is for pedestrian use for leisure and commuting with many pupils using this route to local schools and colleges. Whilst cyclists continue to use the route, this is not encouraged due to safety concerns and damage to the fragile brook bank which the footpath runs close to in many places, there are also many alternative routes available on the local cycle-way network.

The intention is to install 1 kissing gate and 1 self-closing gate on the footpath that runs along the Brook. The timber kissing gate is intended to be installed at one end of the footpath just before the Bentley Road vehicular access to Clare College Sports Ground and the black steel self-closing gate at the start of the footpath just down the steps off Brooklands Avenue.

3. Consultation Method

Several media options were undertaken to encourage and ensure the general public were able to interact and give feedback on their views on the potential project options. Camcycle and Hobson's Conduit Trust were contacted to inform them that the consultation was live. Electronic consultation made available on Cambridge City Council consultation webpage and ran from 10/08/2021 until 27/09/2021.

4. Responses

Wider Public Consultation, August/September 2021

From the various consultation media and response to the wider public consultation there were 84 responses received:

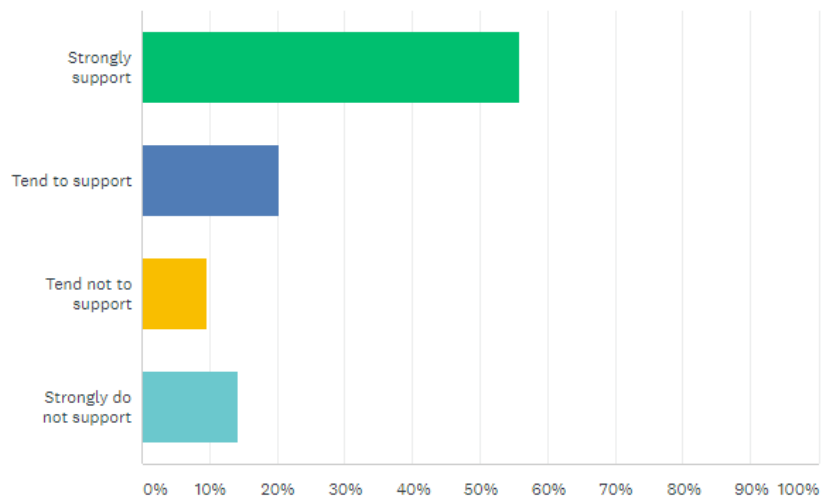
To the question asking, **'Overall, do you support the project to install 2 x gates on Hobsons Brook Footpath?'**

84 responded as below:

- Strongly Support – 47 people or 56% of the respondents indicated they strongly support the proposal to install 2 x gates on Hobsons Brook Footpath.
- Tend to Support – 17 people or 20% of the respondents indicated they tend to support the proposal to install 2 x gates on Hobsons Brook Footpath.
- Tend not to Support – 8 people or 10% of the respondents indicated they tend not to support the proposal to install 2 x gates on Hobsons Brook Footpath.
- Strongly do not Support – 12 people or 14% of the respondents indicated they strongly do not support the proposal to install 2 x gates on Hobsons Brook Footpath.
- So overall 86% supported the idea of 2 x gates on Hobsons Brook Footpath and overall 24% of the respondents did not support the proposal to install 2 x gates on Hobsons Brook Footpath.

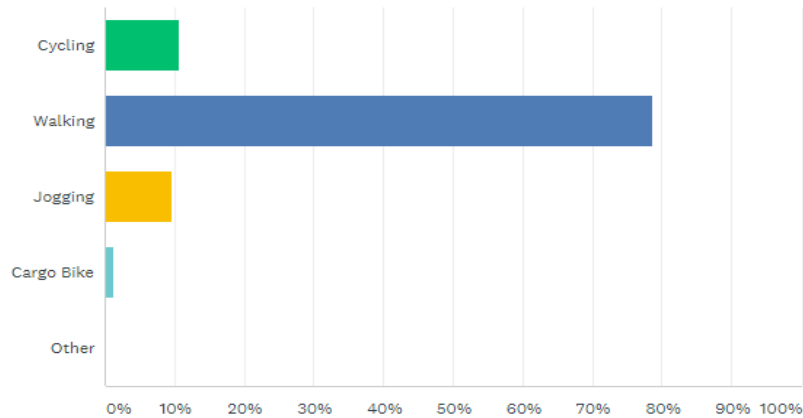
Overall, do you support the project to install 2 x gates on Hobsons Brook Footpath?

Answered: 84 Skipped: 0



To the Question 'How do you primarily travel along Hobsons Brook Footpath' of the 84 respondees:

- 9 or 10.7% said they cycled
- 66 or 78.6% said they walked
- 8 or 9.5% said they jogged
- 1 or 1.1% said they used a cargo bike



Question 4 – The first 3 digits of your postcode below (Optional).

cb1	9
cb2	53
cb3	5
cb4	8
cb5	2
Total Responded with Postcode	77

The majority of the responses were from the areas in and around Hobsons Brook footpath being CB2, CB1 and CB3

5. Proposals

Following consideration of the responses to this survey it is our intention to install 1 kissing gate and 1 self-closing gate on the footpath that runs along Hobsons Brook.

Appendix One – Summarised Further Comment responses.

We received 25 further comments on **Question 1**, 'Overall, do you support the project to install 2 x gates on Hobsons Brook Footpath?'

Comments in summary:

- 13 of the 25 further comment responses supported the proposals too either a lower or higher degree, some of the responders would go further and fully ban cycling on the footpath.
- 2 responders cited LTN 1/20 as a reason not to proceed with the proposed project
- 6 responders were against the idea of discouraging cycling/biking along the footpath.
- 7 responders were concerned that the proposal could cause issues with disabilities access.

Responses

- Comments noted
- It is not an official cycle route on the Cycleway network therefore LTN 1/20 does not apply.
- The gates are not intended to prohibit bikes, but to slow bikes down near the gateways and discourage frequent use for nearby cycling/biking alternatives.
- The kissing gate and self-closing gates both comply with the equalities act and are designed to be wheelchair accessible.

We received 48 further comments on Question 3 - Do you have any further comments on this proposal?

Comments in Summary:

- 25 of the 48 further comment responses supported the proposals too either a lower or higher degree
- 10 responders were against the idea of discouraging cycling/biking along the footpath.
- 10 responders were concerned that the proposal could cause issues with disabilities access.

Responses

- Comments noted
- The gates are not intended to prohibit bikes, but to slow bikes down near the gateways and discourage frequent use for nearby cycling/biking alternatives.
- The kissing gate and self-closing gates both comply with the equalities act and are designed to be wheelchair accessible.