

# **Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme**

## **Consultation Analysis Report**

Date: August 2019

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# Executive Summary

## Introduction

Birmingham City Council (BCC) and Southside Business Improvement District (BID) have developed plans to create a vibrant and high quality public square outside the Hippodrome Theatre.

In 2011 the council adopted the Big City Plan which included proposals for improved streets and a public square in Southside.

The City Council have now completed the changes to traffic movements in the area. The final step is to transform the pedestrianised area outside the Hippodrome into a high quality, lively public space suitable for everyday use and special events. The square will create a new heart for Chinatown and will provide an enhanced setting for the Hippodrome and Back To Back Houses plus a gateway to the Gay Village. It will also transform pedestrian and cycling links between New Street Station and Birmingham Smithfield development. We expect that these improvements will add value and appeal to the area, attracting more visitors to this part of the city.

Well known as one of the most diverse and creative areas of Birmingham, Southside BID supports a diverse range of businesses. This truly unique public space will create a cultural heart for Southside to further promote the area, whilst celebrating and highlighting a huge range of local talent.

Not only will this be a great opportunity to attract new visitors and tourists to the Southside district, it will also increase dwell time and provide an exciting new space for events, festivals and entertainment to take place and act as a magnet to drive footfall.

## Who took part in the consultation?

95 individuals responded to the consultation via BeHeard and 5 responses were received separately from key stakeholders and businesses/ organisation. Birmingham City Council also ran a number of public events to discuss the issues and answer questions.

## Headline findings from the consultation

Of the 95 total respondents to the online questionnaire 82% of respondents said that they liked the scheme, of which 45% really liked the scheme. Additionally, 83% of respondents felt that the proposed scheme will have positive effect on businesses.

Analysis of the consultation responses identified key themes and concerns from local individuals and organisations including:

- 51% of respondents expressed their support for the proposed public realm scheme;
- 19% of respondents showed support for the chinese archway in particular; and
- 19% felt that the proposed cycle route needs to be segregated across Hippodrome Square.

## Birmingham City Council

The City Council has thoroughly read and analysed each response to this consultation. Any aspects of the proposed design that has been highlighted through the consultation that can be changed will be considered when the scheme moves forward to detailed design. The responses to this consultation will also form part of the Full Business Case (FBC).

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# 1 Consultation Process

## 1.1 Background

This report will look at the consultation process including various response channels. As well as the methodology used for the analysis of the consultation responses and the results of this analysis. This chapter provides an overview of the consultation process, outlining the methods of communication used by Birmingham City Council to promote the consultation as well as engaging with members of the public, businesses and other stakeholders.

The consultation was launched on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and ran for 5 weeks until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

The aim of the consultation process was to seek feedback from individuals and organisations that live or have a business in the Southside area on the proposals for the public realm improvements. Specifically identifying:

- Thoughts on the proposed public realm changes; and
- Perceived impact on businesses in the area.

## 1.2 Publicising the consultation

Birmingham City Council, along with its partners, used a number of different channels of communication to spread the word about the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme consultation. This included:

- Existing stakeholder and community networks;
- Existing email and other electronic communications (corporate BCC, Birmingham Connected);
- Press briefing (undertaken by the BID team);
- Letters delivered to all residents and commercial properties surrounding the scheme area. See **Appendix A** for the letter drop boundary plan;
- Social media activity including Facebook and Twitter (undertaken by the BID team); and
- Public events.

## 1.3 Response channels

Where contact was made through a channel other than Be Heard, we encouraged people to also complete the questionnaire online.

Other response channels included:

### 1.3.1 Online – Be Heard

All publicity directed citizens to BeHeard directly at <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/southsidepr/>

The following documents were available to view or download on the BeHeard site:

- Before and after Computer Generated Images (CGIs) of the proposed scheme; and
- Proposed technical plan of the scheme area.

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### 1.3.2 Email correspondence

All email correspondence sent to [transport.projects@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:transport.projects@birmingham.gov.uk) was logged, acknowledged and responded to where relevant and appropriate. 5 emails relating to the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme were logged and responded to accordingly.

### 1.3.3 Public drop in sessions

Three face to face drop-in sessions were held. Two events were held in the Birmingham Hippodrome and one event at the Chung Ying Cantonese Restaurant. Consultation materials including CGIs and the proposed scheme plans were displayed at these events. The events attracted different levels of interest, with an average of 20 attendees per event.

**Table 1: Time, location and number of attendees for each of the public consultation events**

Location	Event date	Approximate number of attendees
Birmingham Hippodrome - Thorp Street Entrance, Hurst Street, B5 4TB	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2019 (15:00-19:00)	23
Birmingham Hippodrome - Thorp Street Entrance, Hurst Street, B5 4TB	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019 (10:00-14:00)	19
Chung Ying Cantonese Restaurant, 16-18 Wrottesley Street, B5 4RT	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 (12:00-14:00)	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>

The consultation materials were also on display at the Southside BID office.

### 1.3.4 Stakeholder Communication

Emails were sent to stakeholders inviting them to give their views on the proposals via BeHeard, see **Appendix B**. Attached to the email was:

- A letter outlining the scheme and information about the drop-in sessions; and
- The Scheme Consultation Plan detailing the proposals.

Other stakeholder communication included Birmingham City Council Officers engaging with taxi representatives in informal discussions about the scheme prior to the consultation.

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## 2 Methodology

Responses to the consultation were collated and analysed by Birmingham City Council. The results of this analysis are set out in this report.

### 2.1 Confidentiality

All responses to the survey were made anonymously and confidentially, with no personal details being requested that could identify the respondent, however postcodes were collected in order to ascertain how people living in different locations responded to the survey. The respondent's personal data was held by Birmingham City Council as the data controller. The survey was conducted in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

### 2.2 Consultation Survey

The survey was a mixture of qualitative and quantitative questions, with the qualitative questions requesting people's comments in order to explain their views and give suggestions.

### 2.3 Analysis of Consultation Responses

#### 2.3.1 Quantitative Analysis

Analysis was conducted on all responses to the quantitative questions. Percentage figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number for the majority of questions and, as a result, not all responses totals may equal 100%.

#### 2.3.2 Qualitative Analysis

Each of the qualitative responses was read, analysed, and assigned to a theme or themes relevant to the question asked.

While the numbers of respondents mentioning particular themes and issues have been recorded and noted, caution should be applied in viewing and using the figures alone to support a particular position. A large proportion of respondents chose not to provide answers to all the qualitative questions in the consultation; therefore, it is difficult to view these numbers as indicative of the views of the entire set of respondents. It is important, therefore, that views and suggestions are taken on their individual merits and qualities, rather than their apparent popularity.

That being said, being able to view the number of respondents who highlighted a particular theme does provide valuable insight into key drivers for the views expressed in the quantitative questions.

We have set a minimum number of 15 responses by individuals mentioning a theme for them to be included in the analysis tables in this report. A list of additional themes mentioned by fewer respondents is set out after each question.



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## 3 Respondent Demographics

### 3.1 Summary

95 individuals responded to the consultation via the questionnaire on BeHeard.

5 responses were submitted separately to Birmingham City Council from organisations and individuals including Transport for West Midlands and Hammerson.

### 3.2 Demographics

Optional equality questions were asked at the end of the questionnaire to be able to understand who had responded to the consultation. This data has been compared with demographic data from the 2011 census of Birmingham. Some demographics may be slightly under or over represented due to the diverse characteristics of Birmingham as a whole compared to the extent of the proposed scheme area.

#### 3.2.1 Age

21% were under 29, with 27% aged 30-39, 20% aged 40-49, 17% aged 50-59 and 4% aged 60 or over. 10% gave no answer or preferred not to say.

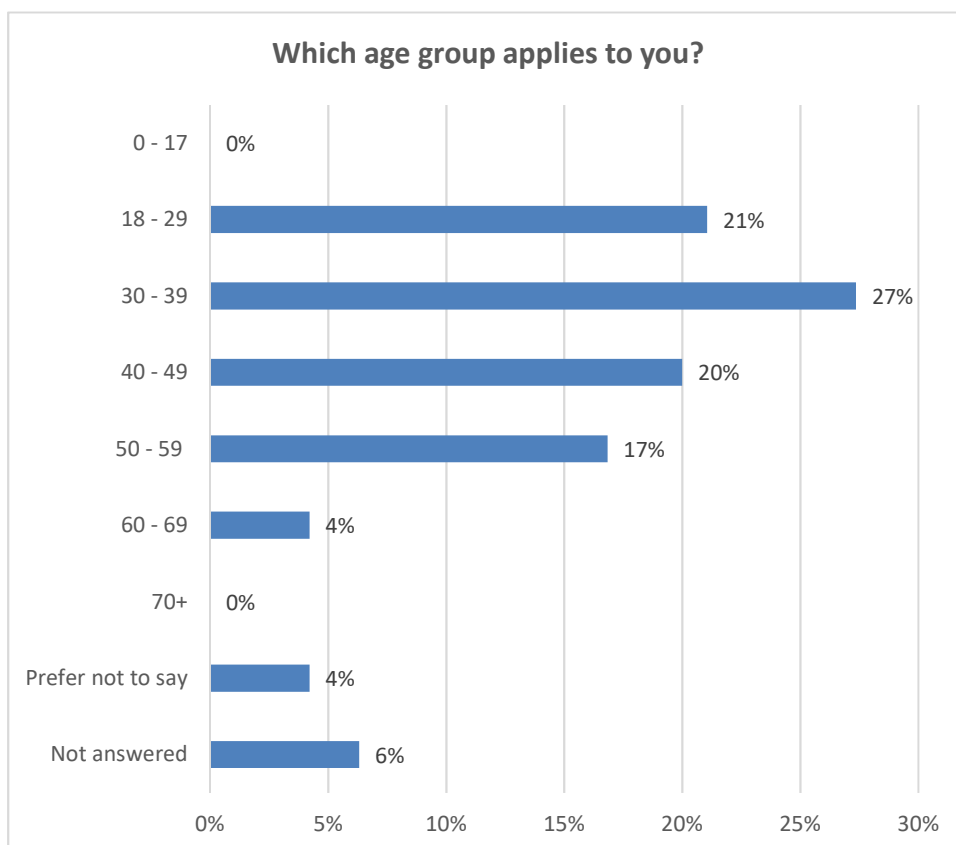


Figure 1: Which age group applies to you?

#### 3.2.1.1 Comparison to Birmingham Population

The under 18s age group is significantly under-represented, as might be expected in this type of consultation. As a result, other age groups are over-represented in the

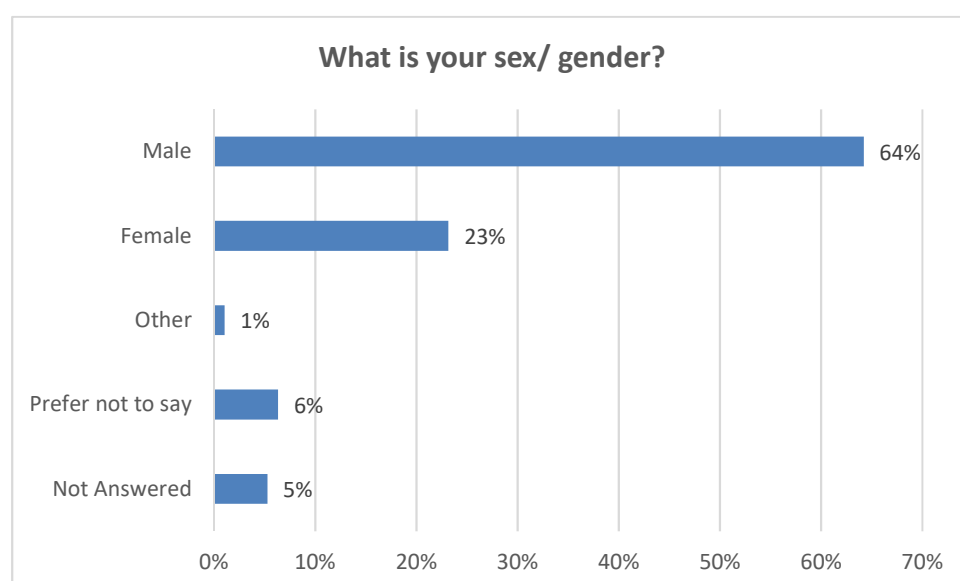
respondents to the survey, with the exception of those aged over 60 where this is an under-representation.

**Table 2: Demographics - Age**

Age Group (Data from Census 2011 for Birmingham)	% of questionnaire respondents	% of Birmingham Population	Difference
0-17	0%	23.9%	- 23.9%
18-29	21%	14.0%	+ 7%
30-39	27%	15.5%	+ 11.5%
40-49	20%	12.7%	+ 7.3%
50-59	17%	12.0%	+ 5%
60-69	4%	9.1%	- 4.9%
70+	0%	13.0%	- 13%

### 3.2.2 Sex/ gender

64% of respondents were male and 23% female, with 11% not answering or preferring not to state their sex/ gender.



**Figure 2: What is your sex/ gender?**

#### 3.2.2.1 Comparison to Birmingham Population

The survey has an under-representation of respondents who are female, when compared to the Birmingham population this is due to the small size of the sample.

**Table 3: Demographics – Gender**

Gender (based on ONS Mid 2016 Population Estimates)	% of questionnaire respondents	% of Birmingham Population	Difference
Male	64%	49.5%	+ 14.5%
Female	23%	50.5%	- 27.5%

### 3.2.3 Disability

8% of respondents reported having a disability (defined as having a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more). 74% said they did not have a disability and 18% either did not answer or preferred not to say.

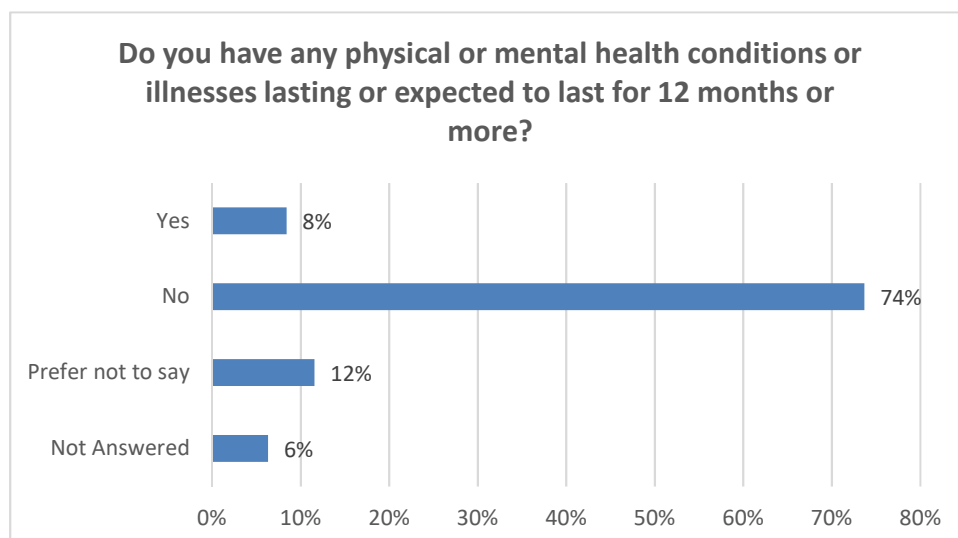


Figure 3: Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more?

#### 3.2.3.1 Comparison to Birmingham Population

The survey has a slight under-representation of respondents with a disability, when compared to the Birmingham population.

Table 4: Demographics – Disability

Disabled population (Data from Census 2011 for Birmingham)	% of questionnaire respondents	Difference
18.4%	8%	- 10.4%

### 3.2.4 Ethnicity

71% of respondents described their ethnicity as White English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British. 3% selected 'Other White background'. 3% described themselves as mixed/ from multiple ethnic groups. 5% reported that they were Asian/ British Asian. 1% said they were Black African/ Caribbean/ Black British. 3% of respondents described their ethnicity as from another ethnic group and 12% did not answer or preferred not to say.

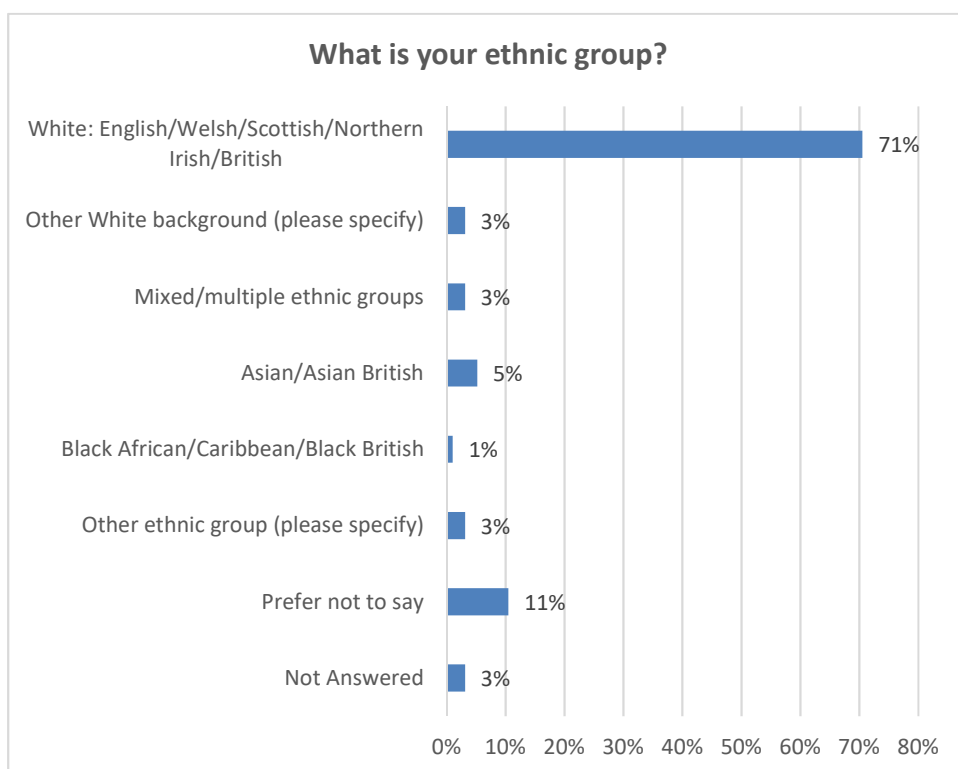


Figure 4: What is your ethnic group?

### 3.2.4.1 Comparison to Birmingham Population

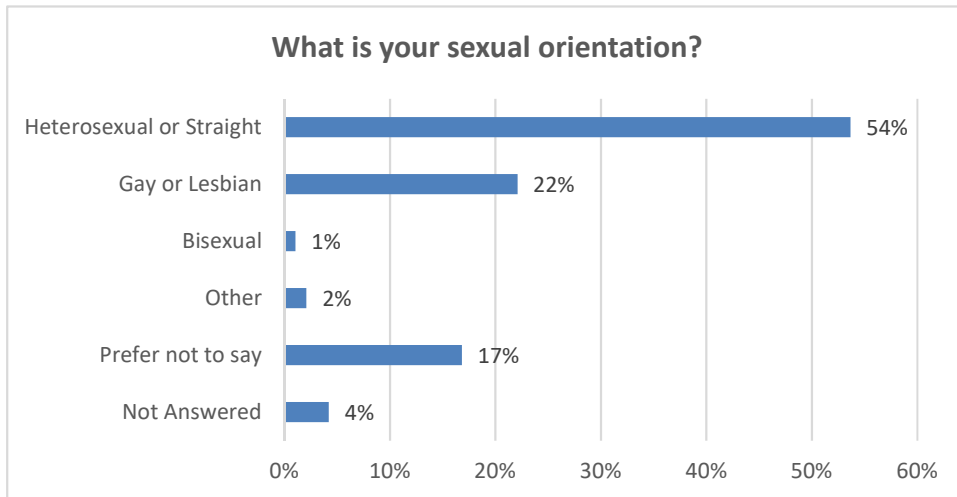
The survey has an under-representation of respondents from Asian/Asian British and Black/African/Caribbean/Black British ethnic backgrounds, when compared to the Birmingham population. This has resulted in an over-representation of people from White ethnic groups.

Table 5: Demographics – Ethnicity

Ethnicity (Data from Census 2011 for Birmingham)	% of questionnaire respondents	% Total Birmingham Population	Difference
White	74%	55%	+ 16%
Other white	3%	3%	0%
Asian/ Asian British	5%	27%	- 22%
Black African/ Caribbean/ Black British	1%	9%	- 8%
Mixed/ multiple ethnic groups	3%	4%	- 1%
Other ethnic group	3%	2%	+ 1%

### 3.2.5 Sexual Orientation

54% described their sexual orientation as heterosexual, 22% as gay or lesbian, 1% as bisexual and 21% preferring not to say or not answering.

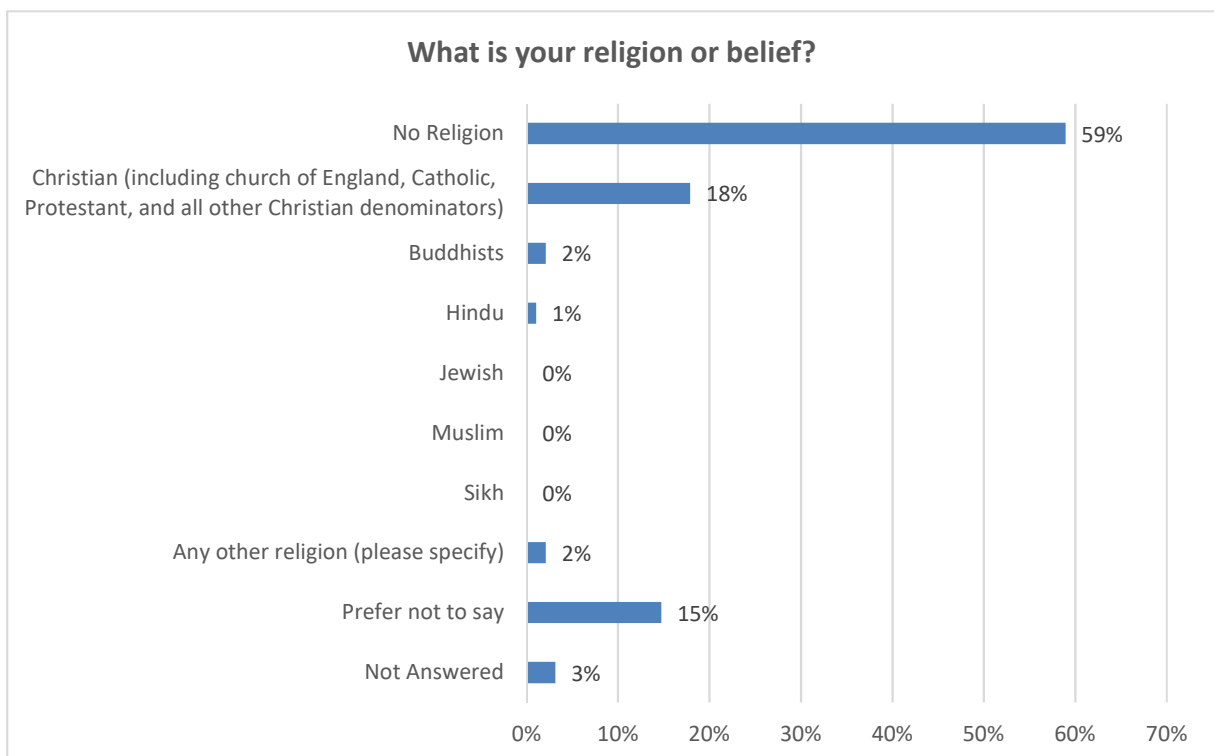


**Figure 5: What is your sexual orientation?**

This question was not asked in the 2011 Census therefore there is no comparison to the Birmingham population.

### 3.2.6 Religion

59% described themselves as having no religion, while 18% said they were Christian and 2% were Buddhists. 1% said they were Hindus whilst 18% did not answer or preferred not to say.



**Figure 6: What is your religion or belief?**

#### 3.2.6.1 Comparison to Birmingham Population

The survey has an under-representation of people who identify as being from Christian and Muslim faiths, due to the small sample size compared to the total population of Birmingham.

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**Table 6: Demographics – Religion**

<b>Religion (Data from Census 2011 for Birmingham)</b>	<b>% of questionnaire respondents%</b>	<b>Total Birmingham Population</b>	<b>Difference</b>
No religion	59%	19%	+ 40%
Christian	18%	46%	- 28%
Muslim	0%	22%	- 22%
Religion not stated	18%	7%	+ 11%
Sikh	0%	3%	- 3%
Hindu	1%	2%	- 1%
Other religion	2%	0.5%	+ 1.5%
Buddhist	2%	0.4%	+ 1.6%
Jewish	0%	0.2%	- 0.2%

### 3.2.7 Location of respondents

Figure 7 shows the location the respondents to the consultation listed as their home address

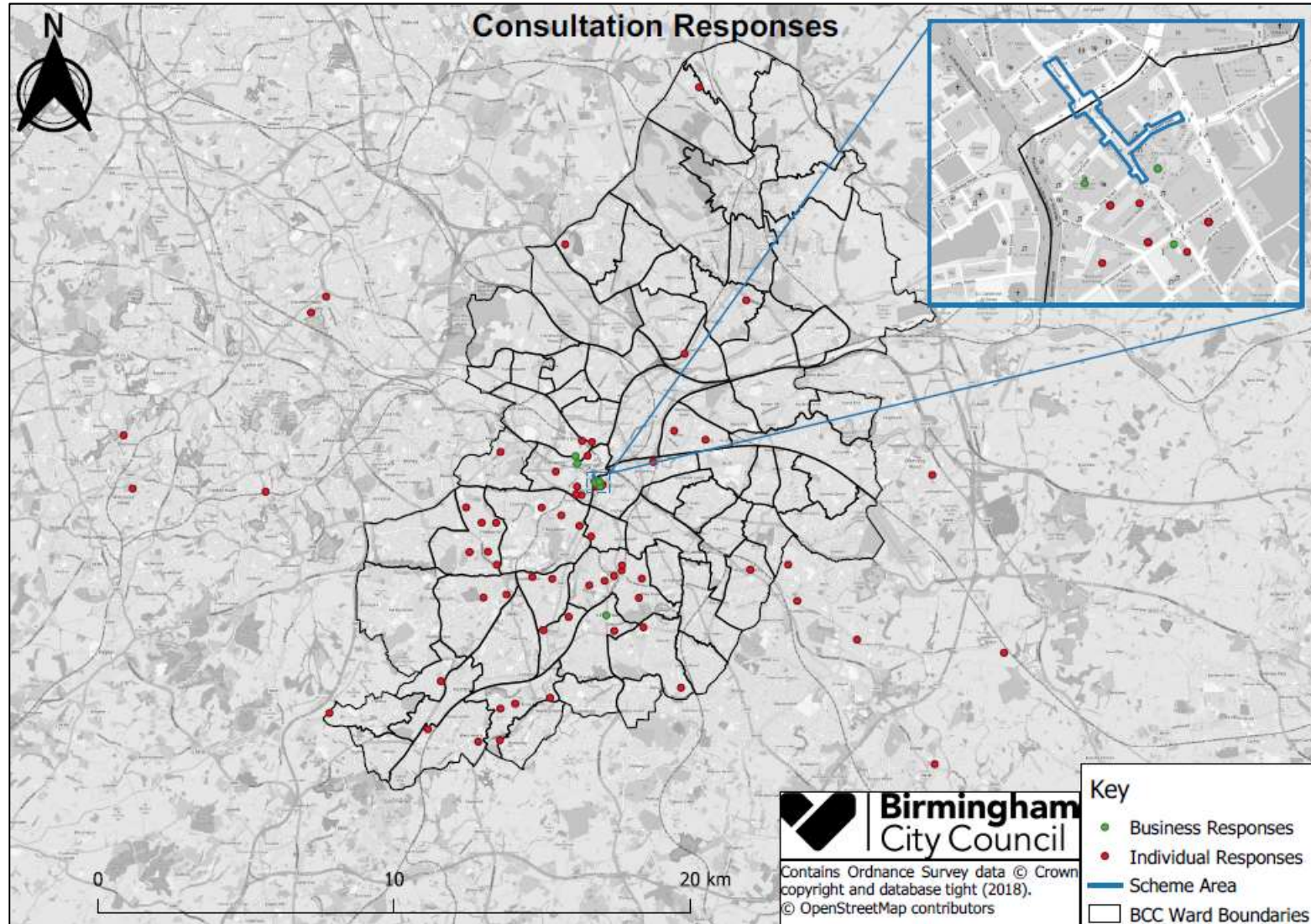


Figure 7: Location of responses for the Birmingham area.

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## 4 Findings

### 4.1 About you

#### 4.1.1 Q1. Who do you represent?

92% of respondents represented an individual citizen and 8% said that they were a representative of a group or organisation (including elected members).

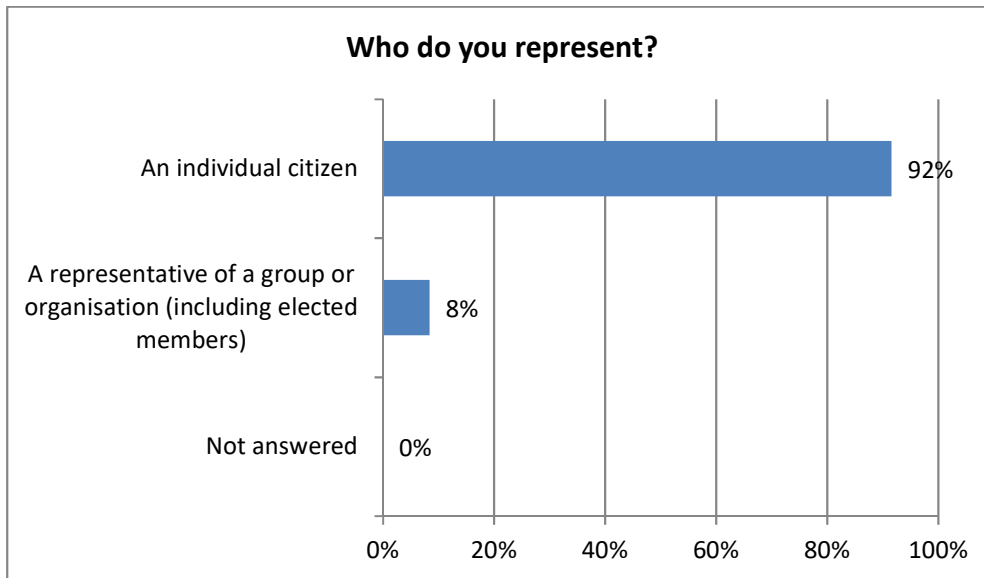


Figure 8: Who do you represent?

#### 4.1.2 Q2. What is your home postcode?

See **Section 3.2.7** for location of respondents.



#### 4.1.3 Q3. How often do you travel in Birmingham city centre by the following types of transport? - Walk

45% said that they travel by this mode at least twice a week. 7% travel by this mode once per week and 4% walk in the city centre once a month. 6% travel by this mode less than once per month and 11% never travel by this mode. 26% chose not to answer.

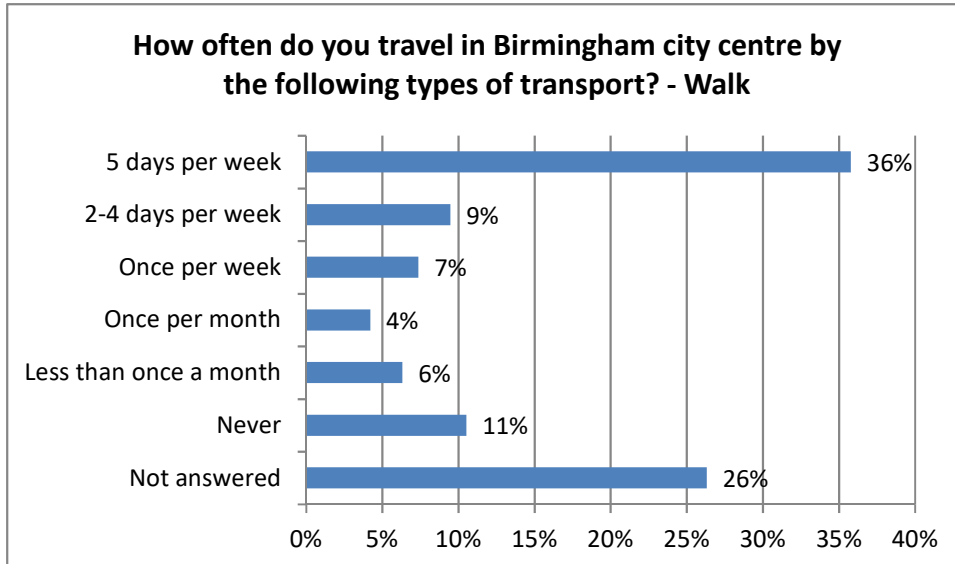


Figure 9: Trips by walking

#### 4.1.4 Q4. How often do you travel in Birmingham city centre by the following types of transport? - Cycle

23% said that they travel by this mode at least twice a week. 6% travel by this mode once per week and 5% cycle in the city centre once a month. 33% never travel by this mode. 33% chose not to answer.

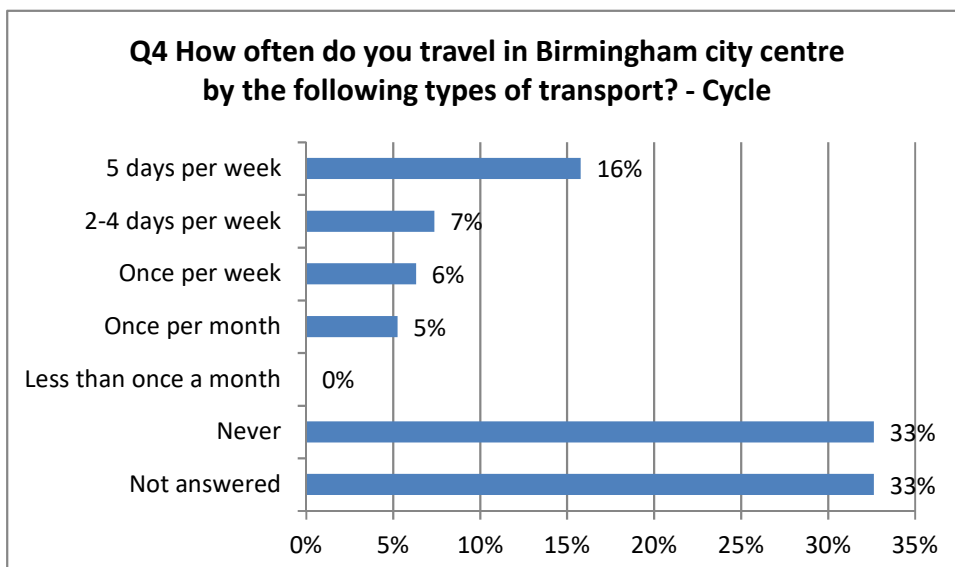


Figure 10: Trips by cycling

#### 4.1.5 Q5. How often do you travel in Birmingham city centre by the following types of transport? - Bus

13% said that they travel by this mode at least twice a week. 11% travel by this mode once per week and 13% travel by bus in the city centre once a month. 12% travel by this mode less than once per month and 20% never travel by this mode. 33% chose not to answer.

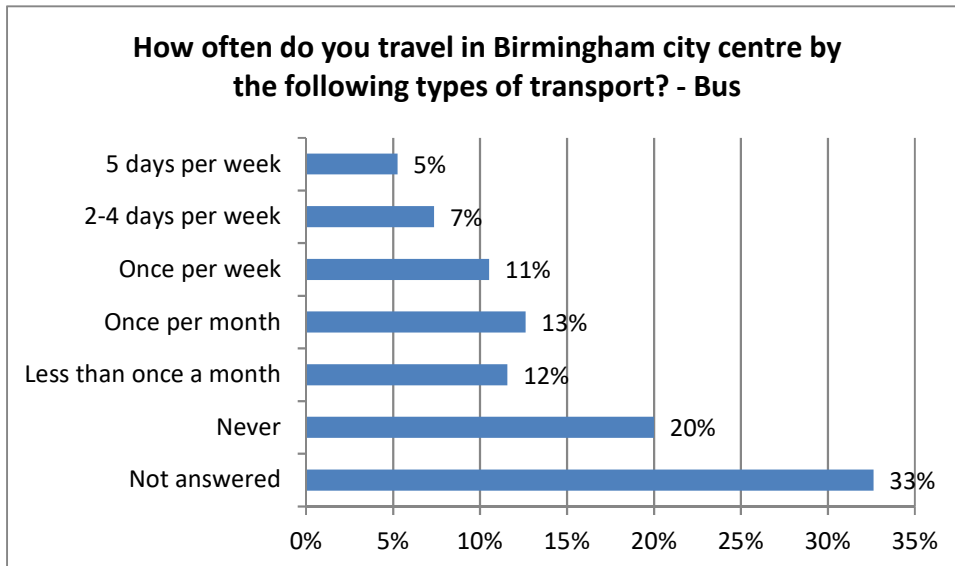


Figure 11: Trips by bus

#### 4.1.6 Q6. How often do you travel in Birmingham city centre by the following types of transport? - Train

23% said that they travel by this mode at least twice a week. 12% travel by this mode once per week and 17% travel by train in the city centre once a month. 15% travel by this mode less than once per month and 11% never travel by this mode. 23% chose not to answer.

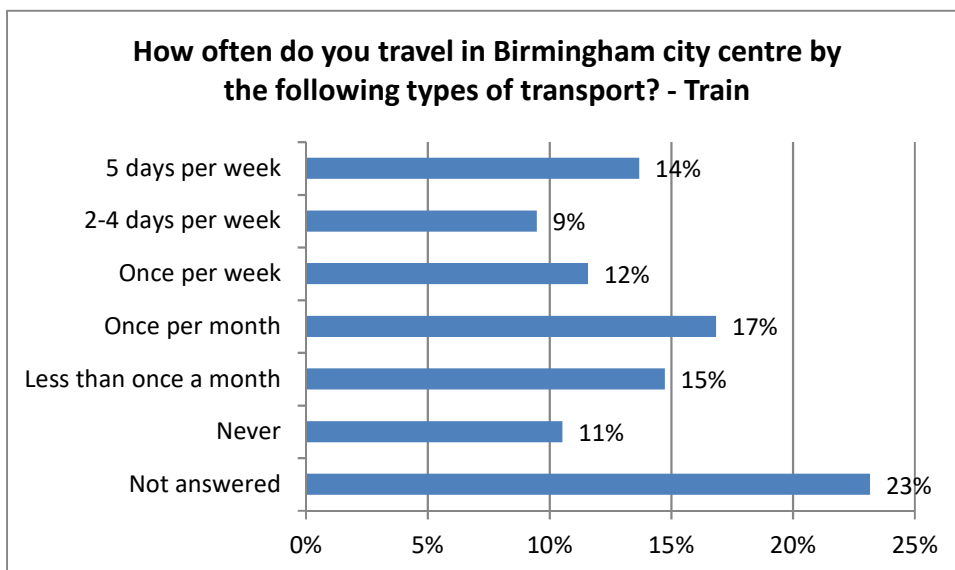


Figure 12: Trips by train

#### 4.1.7 Q7. How often do you travel in Birmingham city centre by the following types of transport? – Tram (Metro)

2% travel by this mode once per week and 4% get the tram (Metro) in the city centre once a month. 20% travel by this mode less than once per month and 38% never travel by this mode. 36% chose not to answer.

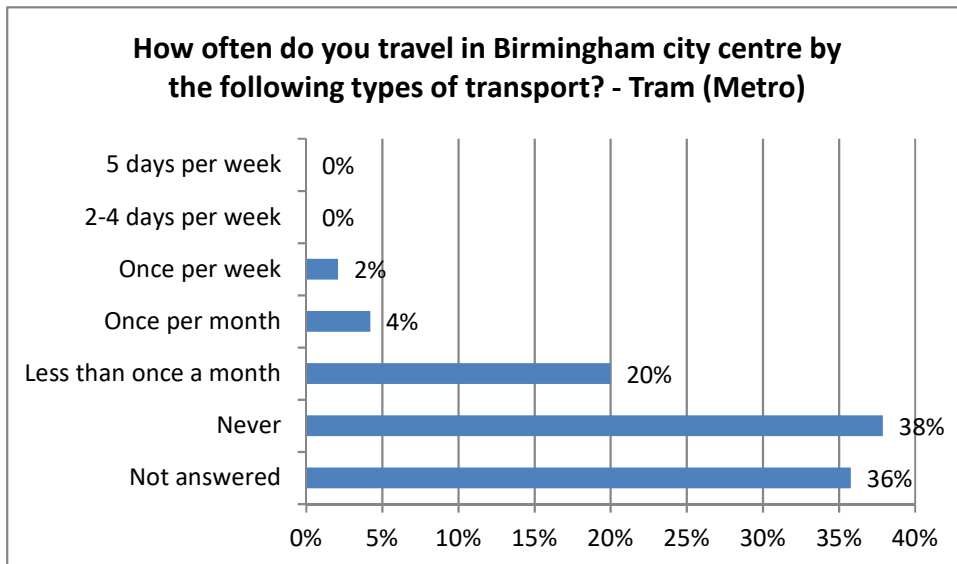


Figure 13: Trips by tram (Metro)

#### 4.1.8 Q8. How often do you travel in Birmingham city centre by the following types of transport? – Motorcycle

63% never travel by this mode. 37% chose not to answer.

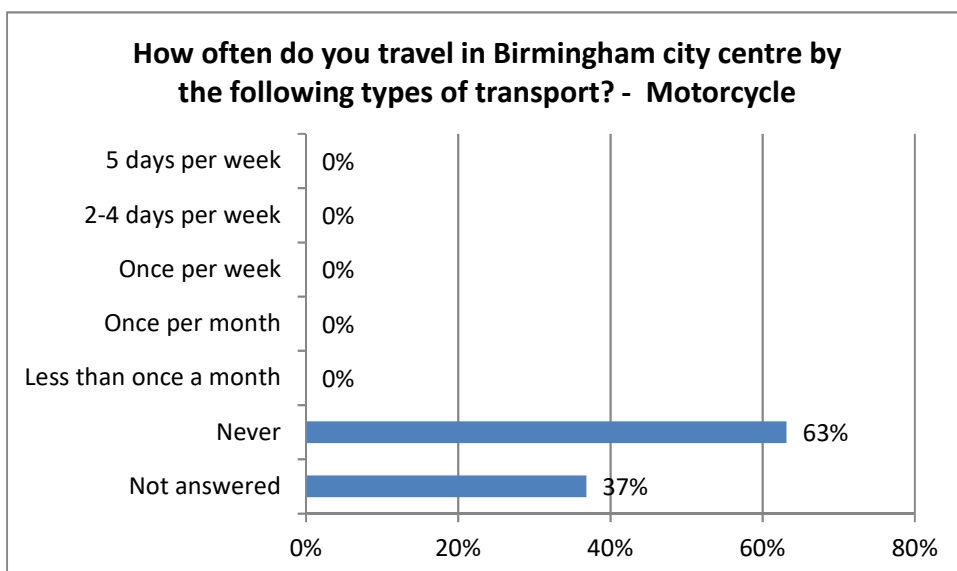


Figure 14: Trips by motorcycle

#### 4.1.9 Q9. How often do you travel in Birmingham city centre by the following types of transport? – Car/ Van

16% said that they travel by this mode at least twice a week. 11% travel by this mode once per week and 13% travel by car/ van in the city centre once a month. 13% travel by this mode less than once per month and 24% never travel by this mode. 24% chose not to answer.

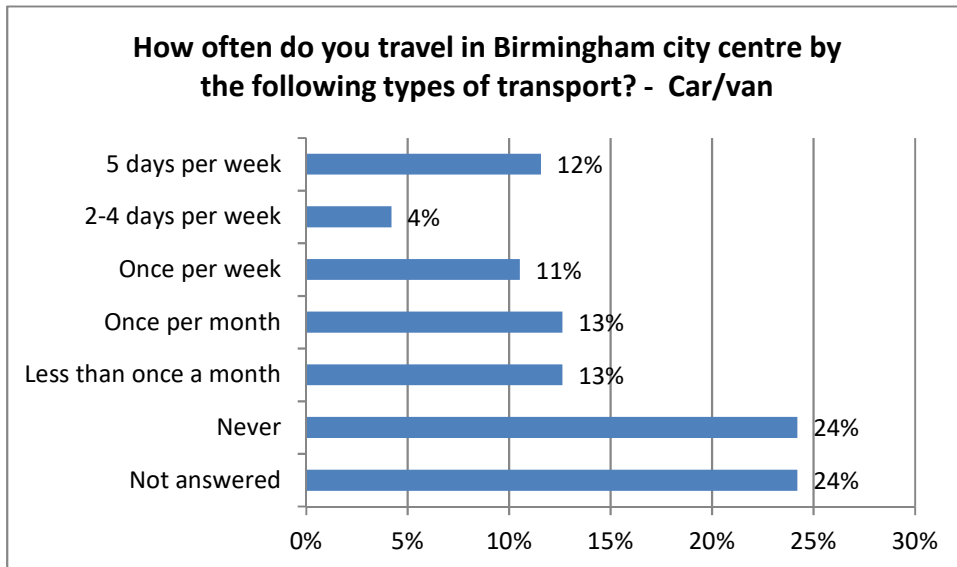


Figure 15: Trips by car/ van

#### 4.1.10 Q8. How often do you travel in Birmingham city centre by the following types of transport? – Taxi/ Private hire (including Uber)

19% said that they travel by this mode at least once a week and 12% travel by taxi/ private hire in the city centre once a month. 24% travel by this mode less than once per month and 15% never travel by this mode. 31% chose not to answer.

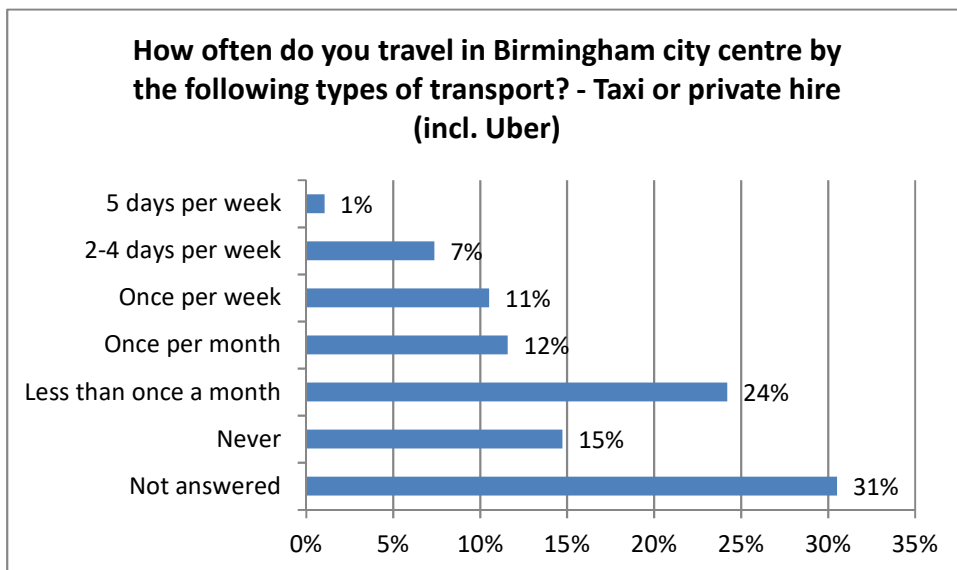


Figure 16: Trips by taxi or private hire (including Uber)

## 4.2 About the scheme

### 4.2.1 Q15. What do you think of these proposals to improve the public realm in Southside?

82% of respondents liked the scheme, of which 45% really liked the scheme. 8% had a neutral response and 9% did not like the scheme.

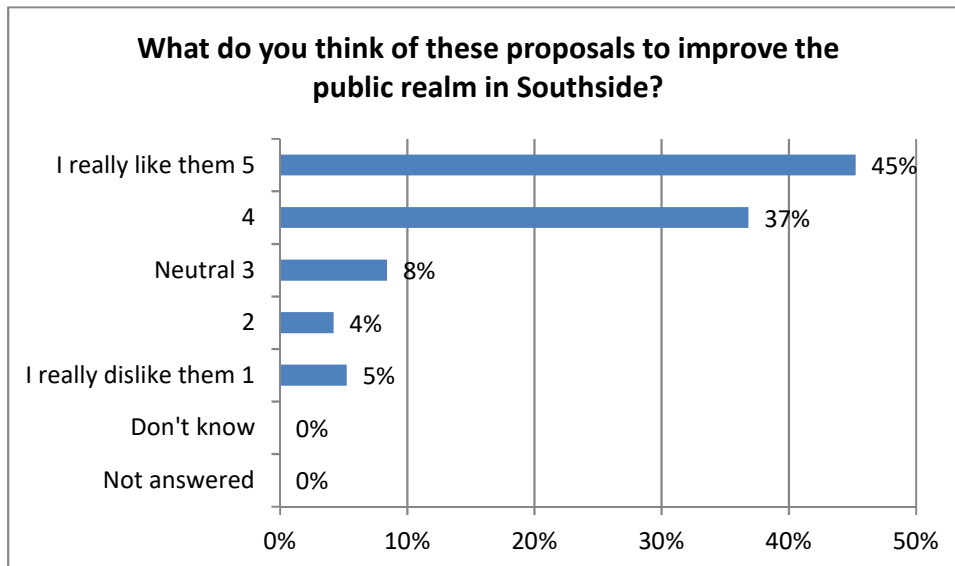


Figure 17: What do you think of these proposals to improve the public realm in Southside?

### 4.2.2 Q16. What impact do you think the proposals will have on businesses in the area?

83% of respondents feel that the scheme will have a positive effect on businesses in the area, of which 56% think the scheme will have a very positive effect. 6% believe that the scheme will have a negative impact on businesses. 2% answered do not know.

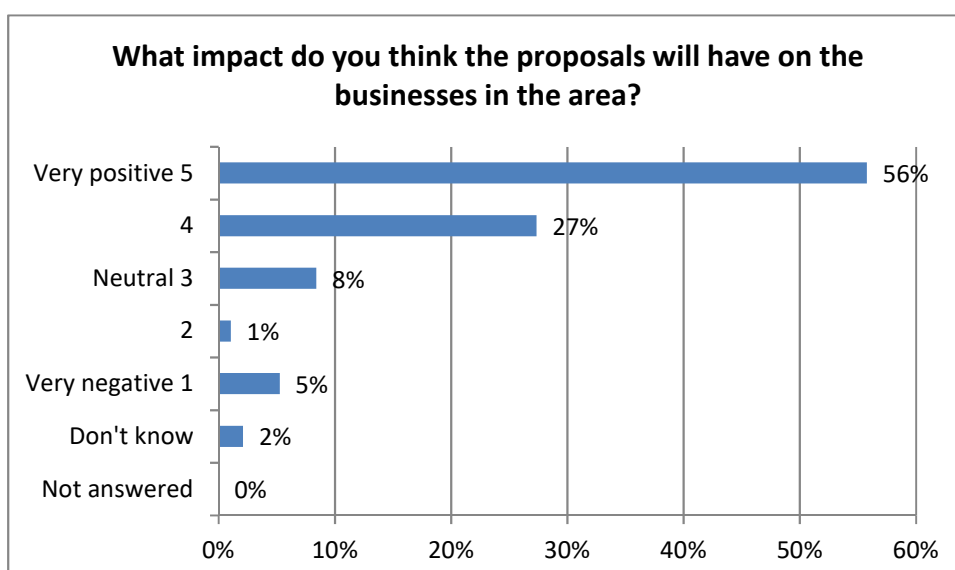


Figure 18: What impact do you think the proposals will have on the businesses in the area?

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### 4.2.3 Q17. Please use this space to give us your views on the proposal, why you do or do not like it, and anything you think should be done differently

Respondents were also asked to provide their reasoning as to why they liked/ did not like the scheme and if anything should be done differently. There were 88 responses to this question and of these the most common themes are shown below:

Table 7: Views on the proposals – Most common themes

Theme	No. of responses mentioning this theme
Supports the public space changes	45
Support for the archway	17
Continue the improvements to other areas	15
Cycle route across Hippodrome Square needs to be segregated	17

#### Supports the public space changes

The majority of the respondents expressed support for the scheme. Many made reference to the public space improvements and how these improvements would make the area more attractive. Respondent's comments included:

*"Really important step for Southside - great to see investment in a high quality public realm...."*

*"Really looking forward to the redevelopment of Hippodrome Square. This will transform the area to an exciting multicultural destination part of Birmingham and home to the Chinatown arch"*

#### Support for the archway

One aspect of the scheme which respondents showed support for was the Chinese Arch. Some respondents commented that the addition of the archway would make the area a destination.

*"I'm happy to see the arch is finally going ahead it should make the area more of a destination"*

*"Overall I really like the proposals. I think a public square in this area is vital to allow footfall to pass freely in this area and the Chinese arch could be a landmark for years to come..."*

#### Continue improvement onto other areas

Some respondents felt that the proposed improvements should extend to include other areas. Other areas which respondents have suggested are the Gay Village, Wrottesley Street and further along Hurst Street.

*"Really need to see this continued into the Gay Village also, with a second square somewhere on the lower part of Hurst Street potentially with some form of shared space near Sidewalk/Kent St."*

*"It is my firm belief that side streets, especially Wrottesley Street, should be improved. Such thoroughfares attract small independent businesses which are the lifeblood of our city and which excite customers. The present neglected state of Wrottesley Street is a detriment to such businesses."*

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### Improvements to the cycling provision are needed

Many respondents, who are supportive of the scheme, expressed reservations about the proposed cycling provision. Many felt that the proposed shared use section across Hippodrome Square would negatively impact on safety for both cyclists and pedestrians.

Respondent's comments included:

*"Excellent plans overall which I support, however I am concerned about the cycleway cutting through the middle of the pedestrianised square which I think could be a safety risk..."*

*"Without clear markings, or a segregated cycleway, I can see this square being quite hazardous to cycle across. There will be times, when this square is quite full, like at the end of performances at hippodrome for example. Trying to cycle across a busy square, where visitors may not be aware it's a shared space, is bound to lead to misunderstandings and possible, confrontations."*

Additional themes that were highlighted include:

- Improvement to the area is much needed
- Will encourage more visitors to the area
- Continue the improvements to other areas
- Include more greenery, trees and outdoor seating
- Remove the phone boxes
- Negative impact on businesses

#### 4.2.4 BCC's response

For BCC's responses to these comments are shown below in

**Table 8: BCC's response to themes highlighted in Q17**

Theme	BCC's response
Supports the public space changes	
Support for the archway	
Continue the improvements to other areas	
Cycle route across Hippodrome Square needs to be segregated	

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## 4.3 About the consultation

### 4.3.1 Q18. Do you feel that the information provided has enabled you to make an informed comment on the proposals?

89% of respondents felt that the information provided enabled them to make an informed comment on the proposals.

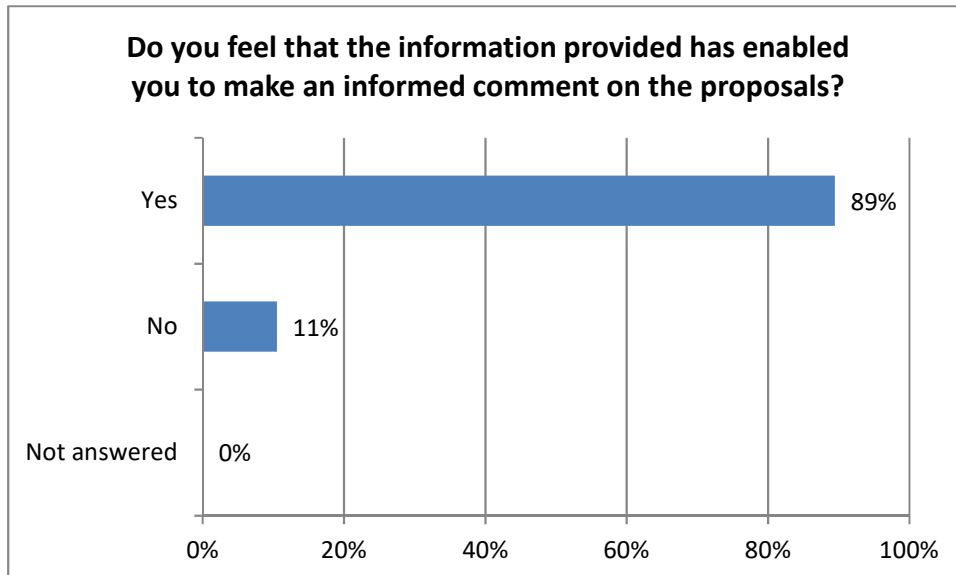


Figure 19: Do you feel that the information provided has enabled you to make an informed comment on the proposals?

### 4.3.2 Q19. What additional information would have helped you to comment on the proposals?

Respondents were also asked to provide comments or suggestions on what extra information could have been provided. There were 27 responses to this question and of these the most common theme for this question was that respondents would have like more and clearer visuals.

#### Would like additional and clearer visuals

Over half of the respondents to this question would have like to have seen more visuals of the proposed scheme. Some respondents would have liked clearer visuals of the proposed area to understand fully what the area will look like. Respondent's comments included:

*"More visuals would have been helpful."*

*"More artistic impressions from different angles to see proposed plans clearly."*

*"Maybe more artist impressions but the information seems fine."*

Additional themes that were highlighted include:

- More information on the proposed materials to be used
- For the consultation to have been better publicised
- More information on cost/ funding
- Aims of the scheme / what issues does it address
- Information on the construction and delivery timeframes



- 
- Process of how the comments are read and passed on
  - More information on the types of events going to take place in the area

#### 4.3.3 BCC's response

For BCC's responses to this theme is shown below in **Table 9**:

**Table 9: BCC's response to themes highlighted in Q19**

Theme	BCC's response
Would like more and clearer visuals	

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## 4.4 Key Stakeholder Feedback

The table below shows the feedback received from key individuals, businesses and organisations and Birmingham City Council's response to their feedback. Also included in the table is a response by the schemes partner, Southside BID.

**Table 10: Key Stakeholder Feedback**

Stakeholder	Response	BCC's response
Allison Kennedy	See <b>Appendix C</b> for full response	
Accor Invest (owners and operators Ibis Birmingham New Street)	See <b>Appendix H</b> for full response	
Century Management Ltd	See <b>Appendix H</b> for full response	
Hammerson	See <b>Appendix D</b> for full response	
Simon Needle	See <b>Appendix G</b> for full response	
Southside BID	See <b>Appendix H</b> for full response	
Staycity Service Apartments	See <b>Appendix H</b> for full response	
The DanceXchange Ltd	See <b>Appendix H</b> for full response	
The Arcadian	See <b>Appendix H</b> for full response	
Tim Gibbons	See <b>Appendix E</b> for full response	
Transport for West Midlands	See <b>Appendix F</b> for full response	
William Hill	See <b>Appendix H</b> for full response	
WMGC	See <b>Appendix H</b> for full response	

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## Appendix A

### Letter drop boundary

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Figure 20: Letter drop boundary

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## Appendix B

### Stakeholder email

Dear Stakeholder,

The City Council in partnership with Southside Business Improvement District (BID) has today launched its public consultation on the Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme which aims to create a vibrant and high quality public square outside the Hippodrome Theatre suitable for everyday use and special events. The square will create a new heart for Chinatown, an enhanced setting for the Hippodrome and Back To Back Houses and a gateway to the Gay Village. It will also transform pedestrian and cycling links between New Street Station and Birmingham Smithfield development.

We expect that these improvements will add value and appeal to the area, attracting more visitors to this part of the city. A letter with plan showing the proposals is attached, and includes:

- High quality natural stone paving, suitable for pedestrians and cyclists, replaces the existing footway and old black top road.
- New lighting will be installed and old street clutter (e.g. poles from road signs) will be removed to create a new space for events in front of the Hippodrome.
- New trees will improve the look of the area and bring environmental benefits.
- The cycle route through the area will be retained, with a new central island on Hill Street to improve segregation from vehicles.
- Changes to taxi facilities.

Consultation will run for a period of 5 weeks from **Monday 17 June 2019** to **Friday 19 July 2019**.

You can view full details of the consultation and provide feedback online via [Be Heard](#), by attending one of our public drop-in sessions at the Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre, Hurst Street, B5 4TB on:

- Monday 24 June 2019 3pm to 7pm
- Wednesday 3 July 2019 10am to 2pm

If you require any further information or have any other queries, please contact us at [transport.projects@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:transport.projects@birmingham.gov.uk)

We look forward to hearing your views.

Kind regards

Infrastructure Delivery

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## Appendix C

### Allison Kennedy's Response

Hello

As mentioned, just a few comments and questions about the cycling elements.

#### Notes

- National Cycle Network Route 5 passes through Southside Public Realm and is probably our busiest cycle route to and from the city centre. We have had some comments previously from cyclists saying that they are confused when crossing Smallbrook Queensway between Hurst Street and Hill Street (as it's two-way on Hurst Street but contraflow cycle lane on Hill Street)
- The new A38 blue Birmingham Cycle Revolution route starts from Kent Street just off Hurst Street.
- Our interim plans are to link the new A38 blue Birmingham Cycle Revolution to New Street Station and beyond to the A34 route by taking cyclists up Hurst Street and right onto Smallbrook Queensway.
- There is existing cycle parking within the pedestrianised area opposite Hippodrome foyer

#### Suggestions

- Would it be possible to have some markings across the Smallbrook Queensway junction to show that northbound cyclists need to take a diagonal line across?
- Could the scheme include some cycle direction signs, incorporating NCN5 and linking to cycle direction signs to be installed shortly for new A38 blue Birmingham Cycle Revolution route, as well as signs to New Street Station and Moor Street Stations?
- I assume that cyclists can make all turning movements at Smallbrook Queensway and it will only be motor vehicles banned from turning right?
- Could you add advanced stop lines for cyclists on Smallbrook Queensway?
- Can you show the cycle parking on the plans for the public realm? 'M' stands seem to be our standard design now.

Thanks

Alison

Alison Kennedy  
Principal Transport Policy Officer  
Inclusive Growth Directorate - Birmingham City Council  
0121 464 9608 0788 523 5157

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# **Appendix D**

## **Hammerson's Response**

### **Bullring – Southside Public Realm Improvement Scheme**

#### **Transport and Connectivity**

#### **Birmingham City Council**

Birmingham City Council and Southside Business Improvement District (BID) have published plans to create a vibrant and high quality public square outside the Hippodrome Theatre, which include retaining existing cycle ways and adding new cycle paths and widening of footways. This representation welcomes the improvements as a whole around the Hippodrome Square, but is seriously concerned for the effects of all the proposed changes north of Smallbrook Queensway and would require a reconsideration of those proposals.

We would welcome a discussion with the scheme sponsors.

The plans change the operation of the Queensway / Hill Street / Hurst Street junction significantly. This junction gives the principal access to three main car parks associated with Grand Central / Bullring shopping centres, of which Hammerson is the owner.

#### **Routes for access to Car Parks**

##### **Summary**

Hammerson has reviewed the current parking provision and access to the Bullring car parks and the signing on the highway, with a view to rationalising, reducing and enhancing the signage for customers heading to the Bullring and Grand Central. A separate paper will discuss this with Birmingham City Council, but the work has demonstrated how the majority of vehicles arrive. There are 1195 spaces at Moor Street (Selfridges), accessed mainly by Park Street currently, 1015 spaces in the main centre car park, accessed by Smallbrook Queensway and 850 spaces at Edgbaston (Debenhams) car park on Dudley Street accessed via Hill Street.

##### **Issue**

The current proposals on the north side of Smallbrook Queensway propose 1) a Left Turn Only lane into Hill Street, 2) Hill Street narrows with widened footway and enhanced contraflow cycleway, 3) widening of the footway on Smallbrook Queensway and new pedestrian crossing and central island to NE.

##### **Problem**

All these proposals throttle traffic for the Bullring estate car parks down to a single lane, within 50m of the merge from Holloway Circus and exit from the Radisson hotel. This will generate a clash for those wishing for the outer lane to proceed straight on and not forced to turn left up Hill Street. Furthermore, the carriageway narrowing on the other side of the junction will generate increased clashes by inevitable vehicle movements that do not follow the segregated turn.

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This will increase delays and consequently the air quality pollutants by unnecessary emissions, which the proposals should be addressing. There is a negative safety issue as well, when traffic flows clash, combined with the expected increased pedestrian movement.

The proposals also do not make clear how the two way segregated cycleway on Thorp Street integrates with the one way southwards cycle lane on Hill Street. Signals co-ordination will mean that allowing greens for exiting Hill Street (which would otherwise not be required) will add delay in reds on the main road. It is assumed that some traffic modelling has been provided as part of the proposals and it would be useful to review that.

### **Recommendation**

Access from the north and west to any of the Bullring car parks is most likely via M6 J6 and the A38(M) Aston Expressway and the ring road. These all lead to Holloway Circus and Smallbrook Queensway. The main Centre car park is directly ahead on that road and the Debenhams and Moor Street Car parks have to be accessed via Hill Street. In view of the delay and pollution that will inevitably be generated by reducing the number of lanes on the approaches, we would recommend removal of all the current changes on the north side of Smallbrook Queensway. There may be other initiatives that could support the improvements on the south side and Hippodrome Square, but these particular ones will not succeed.

JCB

18 July 2019

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## Appendix E

### Tim Gibbon's Response

Please can the below be added to the consultation responses:

I have no objection with the scheme proposals and support the scheme. As part of this scheme can the below be considered as this is an issue that has been present for some time and links into the scheme proposals:

- The existing the contra cycle lane, which starts to the south of the drawing and links Inge Street to Hurst Street towards its junction to Bromsgrove Street has received complaints from cyclists that they are getting complaints from motorists who think they are incorrectly cycling against traffic.
- The existing cycle lane in the opposite direction from Bromsgrove Street travelling into Hurst Street suddenly stops in front of a parking bay on Hurst Street (near its junction with Bromsgrove Street).
- Both these items need to be reviewed to consider what can be done to improve the existing facilities for cyclists, this might require the amendments of TROs.

The above cycling infrastructure were part of an earlier Projects scheme from 2007 approx. and the Southside public realm scheme could give an opportunity to address these issues and improve the area as a whole.

I'm happy to meet to explain and discuss further if required,

Best wishes,

Tim

Tim Gibbons MSc MCIHT  
Local Engineer  
Summerfield Community Centre  
Winson Green Road  
Birmingham  
B18 4EJ  
Tel 0121 303 5406

Email: [tim.gibbons@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:tim.gibbons@birmingham.gov.uk)

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## **Appendix F**

### **Transport for West Midland's Response**

Hi,

There are some comments below from the cycling and walking team at TfWM. Apologies that they are late.

Emma

- There are no details on cycle parking in the development area.
  - Signage to lead people to the A38 cycle route needs to be included within these plans.
  - Should be shared space – share with care and move away from cyclist dismounting – it is more awkward to walk alongside a bike then it is to ride it slowly through a shared area (depending on the level of foot traffic). Also not everyone can easily mount/dismount and they are using their pedal cycle for mobility purposes (inclusive cycling). Leicester has done this for many years now.
  - Hinckley Street/Hill street is an issue. People don't look for cyclists coming down Hill Street and they look to the traffic going up they are trying to merge with.
  - Signage and wayfinding for people on pedal cycle needs to be better. Only the most experienced people on pedal cycles know what to do once they get into town.
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## Appendix G

### Simon Needle's Response

Hi

Just from a BCC arboricultural policy perspective a few questions – which I have raised before.

- What is the impact on the existing 4 x hornbeam (not indicated on plan) currently in the pedestrianised section of Hurst Street? If these are to be removed we need to know the CAVAT value of these.
- What is the impact on the existing trees on the start of Hill Street 2 x Lime (not indicated on plan) - then as above CAVAT value etc.
- What species are proposed for replanting
- Has the tree species been matched to available rooting volumes – or if there is to be constructed tree pits then details should be shown of this – ideally these should incorporate SUDS.
- Assuming trees are well planted and expected growth occurs what is the projected CAVAT value of the replacement trees - is there a net gain or does any loss need to be evaluated and compensated for?
- Expected mature trees size should be indicated - to show potential clash with built infrastructure
- Has clash detection been undertaken with existing/ proposed CCTV considering both planted and mature tree size.
- Path resurfacing works are likely to impact on the existing trees on Smallbrook Queensway – Arb method statement would be required to detail working practices.

I know this is a public facing document but I have a lot of contact from well informed individuals who understand the benefits and requirements of trees and impacts on trees through development.

Happy to discuss

Regards

*Simon*

Simon Needle TechArborA.

**Principal Arboriculturist/ Principal Ecologist**

Inclusive Growth | Planning and Development | City Design and Conservation Team

Birmingham City Council

1 Lancaster Circus Queensway,

Birmingham B4 7DJ

PO Box 14439,

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## Appendix H

### Business responses from BeHeard

Below in Table 11 are the responses from businesses in the area that were submitted to BeHeard.

**Table 11: Responses from businesses that were submitted to BeHeard**

Stakeholder	Response
The Arcadian	The area is in a very poor state and really needs to be upgraded to help with antisocial behaviour, littering and graffiti.
Staycity Service Apartments	The area certainly needs a spruce up, it will only help with footfall and appealing to visitors to the area. Currently the area under proposal looks tired and messy, and I feel the Chinese gateway is just what the 'Chinese Quarter' needs.
William Hill	As a business and a resident of Birmingham the proposal looks great. However I would like to make one recommendation that the phone box located outside William Hill/Albany House is removed as part of these works. Currently the phone box is linked with ASB/criminal activity. This has been reported to BT, police and the local BID
Southside BID	Really looking forward to the redevelopment of Hippodrome Square. This will transform the area to an exciting multicultural destination part of Birmingham and home to the Chinatown arch
WMGC	Meets the needs of Southside and its businesses to have a public open space for performance, festivals and other activities Brings the urban landscape of an important central area of Birmingham city centre up to a good quality Enhances route-finding and wayfinding Gives an iconic landmark to this area of Birmingham city centre
The DanceXchange Ltd	DanceXchange is based in the Birmingham Hippodrome where we deliver classes, performances and projects, and we also run Birmingham International Dance Festival which takes place in outdoor spaces across the city. These proposed developments will greatly improve people's perceptions of the area and in general are very positive. Our concerns, however, are that the Foo Dogs and Chinese Arch might impact on the permeability and access into the site (e.g. for performance sets and technical set up as well as audiences) and they might therefore limit the types of performance we can present in these outdoor spaces. We are also concerned that the Arch might 'block' East-West transit / connectivity to Smithfields / Digbeth. In addition, the unusual lampposts look like they may impede certain performances and visibility to the Hippodrome digital signage. Please also be aware that the city's signature festival, Birmingham International Dance Festival, produced by DanceXchange, along with the Hippodrome's B-Side and Summer-in-Southside festivals, take place over the summer so it is essential that the actual works to Hippodrome Square are not begun until Autumn 2020, AFTER the main festival period Jan – Aug. It will be important to work closely with Hippodrome partners in order to ensure that these much-needed improvements are not counterproductive, limiting our potential to put on exciting cultural events that showcase this quarter of the city and attract visitors to the area. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any of my comments.

	<p>Many thanks,</p> <p>Clare Lewis, Executive Director DanceXchange clare.lewis@dx.dance / 0121 6679464</p>
Century Management Ltd	<p>As local managing agents representing 28 individual businesses (shops, restaurants, car parks etc) in this immediate vicinity we weren't at all sure about the impact the road closure would have and we continue to be concerned that some businesses have been impacted negatively. As time goes by we feel our tenants and their customers have slowly got used to it, but the delays in completion mean that the area looks very peculiar and disjointed. The proposals are welcomed and we hope there are no further delays in the timetable to complete the works.</p> <p>We do feel that all of the improvements and investment of significant funding has been concentrated to the top half of Ladywell Walk and Hurst Street, with the lower end of Ladywell Walk and particularly Wrottesley Street being ignored. These are as much a part of, and contribution to the "Chinese Quarter", but they feel left out and neglected. It is hoped some investment could be made to improve these areas to make them more inviting and attractive to visitors.</p> <p>We understand the benefits of the regular events such as Gay Pride, Chinese New Year, Cycle events etc, but during these events the roads leading to Ladywell Walk and Wrottesley Street are closed off and our car park tenants (surface car park fronting China Court and APCOA multi-storey car park on Wrottesley Street) suffer very badly as no cars can enter or leave. They get no choice in the matter or any compensation for a day's lost takings and these events seem to becoming more and more frequent now the pedestrian square is established. Hopefully something can be done to assist them.</p>
Accor Invest (owners and operators Ibis Birmingham New Street)	<p>We own and operate Ibis Birmingham New Street.</p> <p>We object to these proposals due to the alterations to the existing Ibis drop off facility. This is going to cause significant disruption not only to our business but also in-turn to the area which will counter productive. We do not believe the area will be able to operate with this alterations.</p> <p>The proposed land is not big enough to create a loading bay once measured.</p> <p>We reserve our right to object further but have requested an on site meeting to discuss our objection in full, by way of a General Manager, this with your Julia Robinson, Jaswant S Chawal and Wendy Lane.</p>

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# Appendix I

## Consultation questionnaire

Question 1: Are you responding to this consultation as:

Question 2: What is your home postcode?

Question 3: How often do you travel in Birmingham city centre by the following types of transport?

- Frequency of mode - Walk
- Frequency of mode - Cycle
- Frequency of mode - Bus
- Frequency of mode - Train
- Frequency of mode - Tram (Metro)
- Frequency of mode - Motorcycle
- Frequency of mode - Car/van
- Frequency of mode - Taxi or private hire vehicle (including services such as Uber)

Question 4: What is the name of your group or organisation?

Question 5: What is the postcode of your group or organisation?

Question 6: What is your name?

Question 7: Please confirm you are authorised to respond on behalf of your group or organisation.

Question 8: What do you think of these proposals to improve the public realm Southside?

Question 9: What impact do you think the proposals will have on businesses in the area?

Question 10: Please use this space to give us your views on the proposal, why you do or do not like it, and anything you think should be done differently.

Question 11: Do you feel that the information provided has enabled you to make an informed comment on the proposals?

Question 12: What additional information would have helped you to comment on the proposals?

Question 13: Which age group applies to you?

Question 14: What is your gender?

Question 15: Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more?

Question 16: What is your ethnic group?

Question 17: What is your Sexual Orientation?

Question 18: What is your religion or belief?

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