

## Culmington Road

This area is a former Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN), with residents expressing concerns about air quality, noise pollution, and through traffic. The engagement process focused on making crossing at the Elers Road and Lammas Park Gardens junction safer, improving access to Walpole and Lammas parks, and introducing more tree planting and rain gardens to enhance the area's green infrastructure. This aligned with ongoing efforts to create a more pleasant, sustainable urban environment that also prioritises pedestrian safety.

Proposed improvements to Culmington Road include:

- Better connection between Lammas Park and Walpole Park.
- Enhance biodiversity, making the road greener and more pleasant with plants and a community garden.
- Better pedestrian crossings.
- Improving the junction at Churchfield Road to make it safer for pedestrians.
- Build in-carriageway Electric Vehicle charging points.
- Reviewing the access of heavy and large vehicles.

## Drop-ins

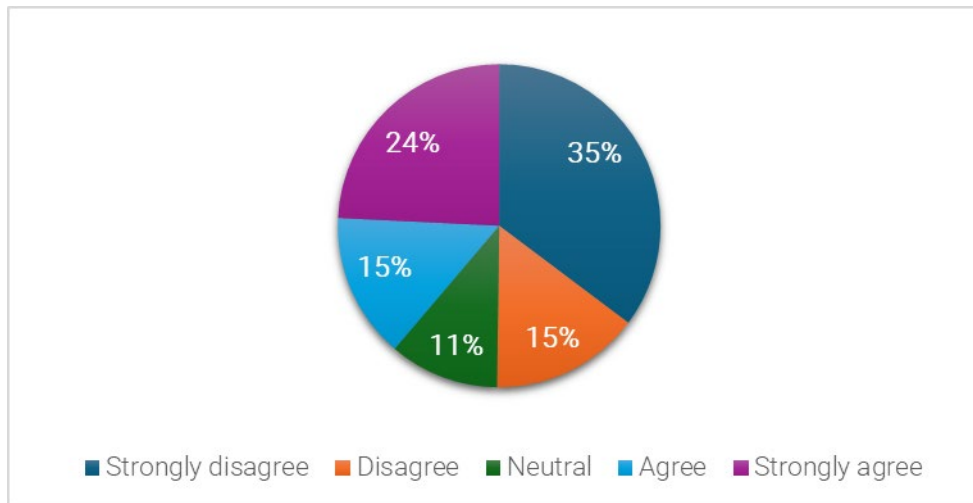
Two drop-ins were organised on Culmington Road, for which a gazebo was set up and iPads and hardcopy surveys were brought for surveying. These were held on Thursday 17 October from 4.30pm to 6.30pm and Saturday 19 October from 10am to 12pm. The team spoke to residents of the street and passers-by. In total, the team spoke to approximately 90 people, received 226 completed surveys and 13 emails with feedback on the proposals.



Figure 1. Drop-in on Culmington Road

## Survey

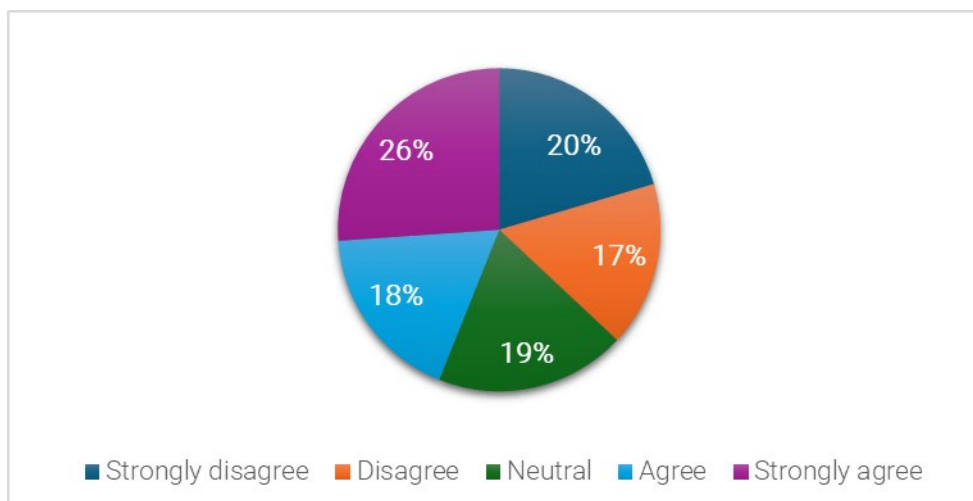
**Q1. Culmington Road is safe and pleasant to walk, wheel or cycle through.**  
Rate from 1 to 5, with 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree.



*Based on 227 responses*

In response to Q1 of the survey, 35% of participants strongly disagreed and 15% disagreed that Culmington Road is safe and pleasant to walk, wheel or cycle through. 15% agreed to the question and 24% strongly agreed. 11% of participants responded neutrally to the question.

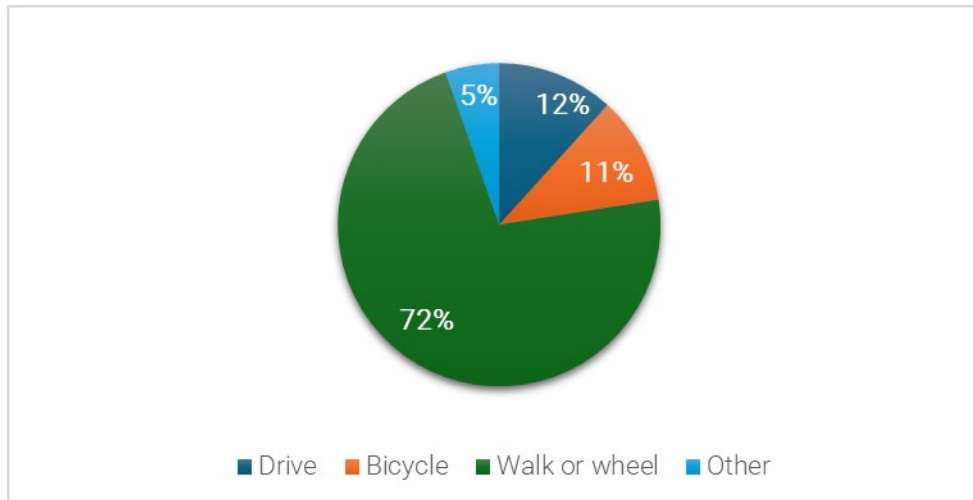
**Q2. Culmington Road is welcoming and attractive.** Rate from 1 to 5, with 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree.



*Based on 230 responses*

In response to Q2 of the survey, 26% of participants strongly agreed and 18% agreed that Culmington Road is welcoming and attractive. 20% of participants strongly disagreed and 17% disagreed that Adrienne Avenue is welcoming and attractive. 19% of participants responded neutrally to the question

**Q3. How do you typically travel through the Culmington Road area? Rate on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree.**



*Based on 235 responses*

In response to Q3 of the survey, 72% of participants selected walking or wheeling as their typical mode of travel through Culmington Road and 12% selected driving. 11% selected cycling and 5% of the participants selected 'other' as a response. Those that selected 'other' mentioned 'all of the above' and 'walking and cycling'.

**Q4. What changes would you like to see at the junction of Culmington Road and Churchfield Road? (219 responses coded for common themes)**

Below is a summary of the changes that participants would like to see at the junction of Culmington Road and Churchfield Road:

**Safety improvements:**

- Many residents expressed strong concerns about pedestrian and cyclist safety, highlighting instances of near misses and accidents, especially involving children and vulnerable individuals.
- Suggestions for pedestrian crossings, speed reduction measures, and traffic calming features like islands or narrowing the junction were prevalent.

**Traffic management:**

- A significant number of comments advocated for reducing traffic volume, particularly from Heavy Good Vehicles (HGVs) and rat-running motorists. Suggestions included width restrictions and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems to limit access.
- Some residents proposed making the junction one-way or fully pedestrianised to enhance safety and reduce through traffic.

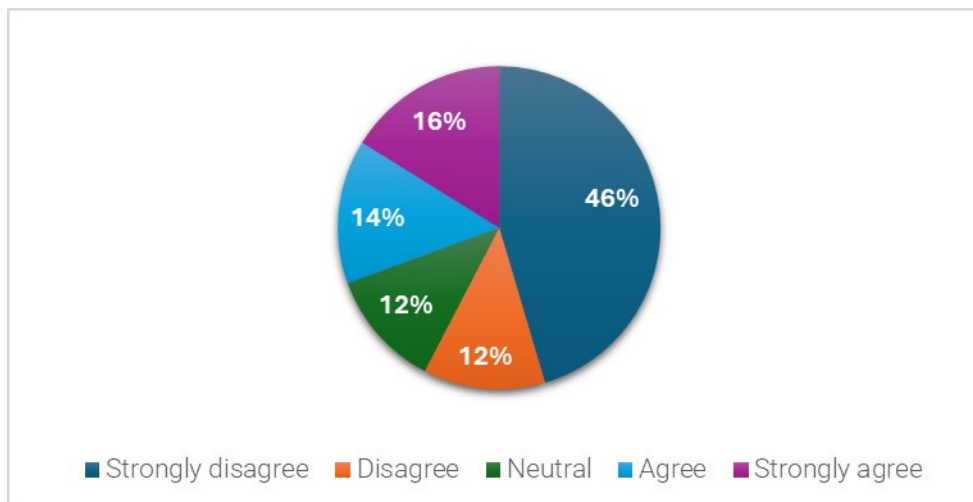
### Road design changes:

- There were calls for design changes such as narrowing the road, creating raised crossings, or introducing mini roundabouts to slow traffic and improve visibility for pedestrians.
- Ideas for increasing greenery and creating community spaces were common, with calls for planting trees, flowers, and possibly turning parts of the area into parklets or play areas.

### No changes:

- While a considerable number of comments highlighted the need for change, 10% of the survey respondents advocated for no changes, asserting that the junction functions adequately as it is.

**Q5. I feel crossing Culmington Road near Elers Road and Lammas Park Gardens is safe. Rate on a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = neutral, 4 = agree, and 5 = strongly agree.**



*Based on 229 responses*

In response to Q5 of the survey, 46% of participants strongly disagreed and 12% disagreed that crossing Culmington Road near Elers Road and Lammas Park Gardens is safe. 14% agreed that crossing Culmington Road near Elers Road and Lammas Park Garden is safe and 16% strongly agreed. 12% of participants responded neutrally.

## **Q6. What changes would you like to see at the junction of Elers Road and Lammas Park Gardens? (218 responses coded for common themes)**

Below is a summary of the comments made by participants on changes at the junction of Elers Road and Lammas Park Gardens:

- **Safety for pedestrians and cyclists:** A majority of comments emphasised the need for enhanced safety measures for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly families and vulnerable individuals. Many residents called for zebra crossings to facilitate safer passage between the parks. Residents repeatedly mentioned the need for clearer and more effective crossing points.
- **Traffic calming measures:** There were calls for measures to slow down traffic in the area. Suggestions included installing speed bumps, implementing width restrictions to deter heavy vehicles, and enforcing speed limits to enhance safety.
- **Pedestrianisation and reduced vehicle access:** Some comments suggested full or partial pedestrianisation of the area to limit through traffic and make it a safer environment for walkers and cyclists. Suggestions included making certain roads one-way or restricting access to residents only.
- **Community connectivity:** Several residents highlighted the importance of connecting the two parks and creating a more integrated community space. This includes better links for children and families accessing schools and recreational areas.
- **Concerns about heavy vehicles:** There were calls for restrictions on HGVs to reduce risks associated with fast-moving traffic and improve overall safety at the junction.
- **Visibility issues:** Visibility for both pedestrians and drivers was raised as a concern, with suggestions to remove obstructions (like trees and parked cars) that hinder sightlines at the crossing points.
- **Emergency response considerations:** Some participants proposed the addition of collapsible bollards for emergency vehicles while still restricting HGV access to ensure safety.
- **20% of respondents** suggested no changes in their responses.

## **Q7. Any other comments about Culmington Road? (168 responses coded for common themes)**

Below is a summary of other comments made by participants about Culmington Road:

- **Traffic safety concerns:** Many residents expressed concerns about the increasing volumes of traffic, especially HGVs and speeding vehicles, and the dangers posed to pedestrians and cyclists, especially children.

- **Desire for reduced traffic:** Several comments advocated for reducing traffic on Culmington Road, including support LTN's, restricting access for HGVs, implementing traffic calming measures (like speed bumps and road narrowing), and enhancing pedestrian crossings to improve safety and reduce congestion.
- **Need for improved infrastructure:** Participants suggested a need for improved infrastructure such as better crossings, protected bike lanes.
- **Maintenance of infrastructure:** Repair and level pavements to enhance safety and accessibility for all road users. A number of residents emphasised the importance of addressing issues like road maintenance, potholes, and litter, suggesting that these should take precedence over new projects.
- **Community involvement:** Residents requested more effective communication from the Council regarding planned changes, expressing the need for consultations that involve the wider community and address the unique challenges faced by residents.
- **Community and residential impact:** Residents expressed concerns about the road being used as a cut-through, negatively impacting the quality of life in the neighbourhood. They emphasised the importance of preserving the residential nature of Culmington Road while accommodating necessary traffic.
- **Mixed opinions on LTNs:** There are divided opinions about LTNs, with some residents advocating for measures that prioritise pedestrian and cyclist safety, while others fearing that such initiatives may lead to increased congestion on adjacent roads.
- **20% respondents** suggested no changes in their responses.

## Email

Thirteen emails were received with feedback on the Culmington Road proposals. The following themes have been extracted from this feedback:

- **Local democracy:** Feedback from residents directly affected by traffic changes should carry more weight in decision-making processes. Also, there is a call for more transparency regarding the criteria for selecting streets for interventions.
- **Increasing traffic and congestion:** The rise in traffic volumes, attributed to navigation apps such as Google Maps and Waze, has increased congestion and traffic at all hours.
- **Diversion of traffic:** There are concerns that changes to Culmington Road could divert more traffic to nearby streets like Elers Road and Churchfield Road, which are already experiencing issues with speeding vehicles and dangerous driving behaviours.



- **Safety concerns:** Residents mentioned that dangerous driving behaviours, such as speeding, overtaking, and unsafe manoeuvring at junctions, are common. These issues have led to damaged vehicles, near-misses, and pedestrian injuries, particularly at the Culmington Road T junction and Elers Road junction. Participants expressed frustration over the lack of effective traffic calming measures, and supported proposals to make crossings safer, particularly with the addition of zebra or pelican crossings at busy junctions such as those near Lammas Park and Churchfield Road.
- **Impact of HGVs:** There were concerns about the high volume of HGVs using residential roads to bypass congestion on major routes. The size and frequency of these vehicles are considered inappropriate for narrow streets, leading to traffic jams and damage to local infrastructure.
- **Health and pollution concerns:** There were concerns over rising pollution levels caused by increased traffic, particularly its impact on the health of children and families living near Culmington Road.
- **Prioritisation of cyclists:** Cycling improvements should be more proportionate to the number of cyclists, and cyclists should not receive disproportionate influence in planning decisions.
- **Maintenance:** There was some scepticism over the Council's ability to maintain new infrastructure. The lack of maintenance of nearby areas like Lammas Park was cited as an example.
- **Low traffic neighbourhoods:** Some residents who rely on vehicles for work expressed frustration over past experiences with LTNs, which they say disrupted their daily routines and ability to work.
- **Biodiversity and EV charging points:** Some residents questioned the need for enhanced biodiversity on Culmington Road, given its proximity to two large parks. Doubts were also expressed about the inclusion of EV charging points, as most residents already have access to off-street parking and at-home charging options.

## Key findings

Common themes extracted from the feedback include:

- Traffic safety is a particular concern in this area, with resident reporting some drivers cutting corners, speeding etc.
- Many participants emphasised the need for enhanced safety measures, such as zebra crossings, to protect pedestrians and cyclists.
- There are widespread calls for traffic calming measures, including speed bumps, road narrowing, and restrictions on HGVs.
- Participants expressed a desire for improvements to existing infrastructure and road and pavement maintenance to support active travel and maintain the quality of the area.