

Footpaths Survey September 2020

1. Introduction

We ran an electronic survey for 10 days to 15th September 2020 in order to seek local views on footpaths, cycleways and bridleways in the parish of Long Ashton. The survey was advertised on the Parish Council Facebook page and along the main public rights of way in the parish.

2. Results

207 people responded to the survey. Given the limitations of time, access and publicity survey, this demonstrates a high level of active interest in the local Rights of Way. The results are:

Q1 Which of these statement apply to you? Please tick all that apply.

205 responses

I walk the local footpaths because I enjoy them	199	97.1%
I cycle along the cycle paths because I enjoy them	143	69.8%
I walk the local footpaths to get to school, work/shops/place of worship	101	49.3%
I cycle on the local footpaths to get to school, work/shops/place of worship	94	45.9%
I am a horse-rider	12	5.9%
I don't use the local foot and cycle paths as much as I would like to	9	4.4%
A foot / cycle path goes through the land I own / use / live alongside	20	9.8%
Other (running/dog-walking/nature walks/maintenance/don't walk on cycle path)	20	9.8%

Q2 Which local paths are most important to you? Please tick all that apply.

205 responses

The Village Circular Footpath/part of it (around Long Ashton)	180	87.8%
The Community Forest Path/part of it (Ashton Court ... Hanging Hill Wood-A38)	103	50.2%
The Monarch's Way/part of it (Longwood Lane ... A38)	127	62%
The footpaths across Long Ashton Golf Course	124	60.5%
The footpaths in Long Ashton woods (Iron Plantation and Ashton Hill Woods)	160	78%
The Gatcombe-Flax Bourton link	119	58%
The footpaths to Yanley or Barrow Gurney	107	52%
The Festival Way Cycle/Shared Use Path	181	88.3%

Q3 Do you or member of your family use a foot or cycle path to get to school?

201 responses

Yes	62	30.8%
No	139	69.2%

Q4 If you or a member of your family use a foot or cycle path to get to school(s), please say which school(s). Please tick all that apply.

63 responses

Birdwell School	19	30.2%
Northleaze School	27	42.9%
Ashton Park School	3	4.8%
Backwell School	7	11.1%
Nailsea School	4	6.3%
St Katherine's	0	0%
Occasionally	2	3.2%
Flax Bourton School / Nurseries	7	11.1%
Southville primary	1	1.6%
Bristol Cathedral Choir School	2	3.2%
Bright Horizons Nursery near Park and Ride	1	1.6%

Q5 Would you use any of the following 'missing links' if they were added to the local Public Right of Ways (PROWs)? Please tick all that apply.

200 responses

Cycle route from the Festival Way near Parsonage Farm to the Park and Ride	112	56%
A pavement linking the footpaths that join the B3130 (Clevedon Road) by the Kingcott Mill Farm Estate and the footbridge to the new houses at Cambridge Batch	78	39%
A path between the car park in Ashton Hill Woods and Tyntesfield	151	75.5%
None of the above	17	8.5%
Other (Festival Way, B3130 at Kingcott Mill, more off-road routes for horses)	14	7%

Q6 Which of these improvements would you like to see? Please tick all that apply.

203 responses

Better signposting	93	45.8%
Easier physical access	71	35%
Resting points e.g. benches	62	30.5%
Information and guidance about local facilities	71	35%
Safe road crossings	97	47.8%
Reduction in fly-tipping	113	55.7%
Regular litter picks	91	44.8%
Other - Cut back vegetation	15	7.5%
Other - Maintenance	4	2%
Other - Cycle related (other than maintenance)	3	1.5%
Other (Communications PACT, landowners, Council)	3	1.5%
Other - lighting and visibility	2	1%
Other - Dog friendly gates	2	1%
Other (signposting and route-marking, more paths, litter)	5	2.5%

Q7 If you ticked safer road crossings please say where

88 responses

Festival Way crossing B3128 to the link road by tThe Ashton	35	39.8%
Festival Way crossing Yanley Lane	10	11.4%
Festival Way crossing B3130 at Cambridge Batch	9	10.2%
Festival Way crossing Station Road Flax Bourton	1	1.1%
Main Roads through Long Ashton	16	18.2%
Assess to Ashton Court from Long Ashton Road	11	12.5%
Access to Ashton Court across Clarken Coombe	5	5.7%
access to Ashton Court generally	1	1.1%

Q8 Are you interested in joining a local foot and cycle path users group?

197 responses

Yes	46	23.4%
No	74	37.6%
Maybe	77	39.1%

Q9 If you want to keep up to date or you are interested in joining a local foot and cycle path users group, please supply your email address here.

91 responses

3. Initial comments

The size and nature of the responses demonstrates that for many people, the local footpaths are an important and pleasurable part of village life, providing safe routes to school and work as well as for fitness and recreation.

People are using the full range of local paths, within the Parish Council area and beyond. However their are major concerns about road safety and safer crossings. People would also welcome better sign-posting, easier access, rest points, information, safe routes to local amenities and the cutting back of vegetation. In addition there are some tensions between different users of Rights of Way with at least one person reporting an accident.

4. Next steps

The information will be used to:

1. Re-establish a Long Ashton Rights of Way Forum. In the current circumstances I am considering a quarterly on-line forum and regular 'Walk and Talk' events in small, socially distanced groups where we will discuss relevant issues as we walk and clear the paths.
2. Respond to the North Somerset Council Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan by 1st October 2020
3. Draft a Long Ashton Parish Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan in consultation with the local community

5. Thanks

I am very grateful to all the people who completed the survey, my fellow councillors Ruth McAllister-Kemp and Liz Lansley who helped to make it happen, and to Andy, my husband and Monty the dog who helped with publicity.

Catherine Fagg
Thursday, 17 September 2020