

Town Centres - Unique Places

Blackwood Town Centre Pedestrian Crossing Survey

Background

Following the introduction of a zebra crossing within the centre of Blackwood High Street, a proposal was put forward to change the three additional crossings within the town centre from pelican to zebra.

In order to gauge the views of businesses within the town, a letter was sent outlining the proposals and giving them an opportunity to vote in favour of, or against the changes to the crossings. A total of 185 letters were sent to retailers and businesses within the town centre.

Results

A total of 32 responses were received, giving a response rate of 17%. Of these responses, 20 were in favour of changing the crossings, while 12 were against. Several respondents also took the opportunity to explain the rationale for their vote. Those against the crossing made the following comments:

"We do not support the change of the pelican crossings in Blackwood to zebra crossings in Blackwood Town Centre as zebra crossings are dangerous. However, there should be a crossing from Wesley Car Park to opposite side to Acorn Recruitment as this is a very dangerous road to cross."

"More than once I have started crossing on the zebra crossing on Gravel Lane and cars have intended to stop, but change their minds. I think there will be many accidents especially how fast many cars drive through Blackwood. Think about the elderly and disabled people."

"The Council have spent a vast amount of money on the relief road around Blackwood to ease the number of cars travelling through the High St. Why are these silly ideas being thought up, when just closing the High St. for pedestrians to shop and roam freely and safely and start using the new road layout as it should. More money wasting ideas."

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One retailer in favour of the crossing made the following comment:

“However, this needs to be policed as crossing by Gravel Lane can be dangerous, since numerous cars fail to stop. I do though, support the reasoning as an improvement to the High Street”

Therefore, the respondents show a strong vote in favour – 63%, compared to 37% against. The results of the survey will be passed to transportation colleagues and will form part of the decision-making process.

A separate response was received from Blackwood Town Council, which has been included in the response rate and is attached as Appendix B.

Appendices

Appendix A – Letter sent to businesses within Blackwood;

Appendix B – Blackwood Town Council response to the consultation.

