

Champion Hill

Quietway 7 - Elephant & Castle to Crystal Palace

Community engagement report

October 2015



Introduction

Quietways are a new network of direct and easy to follow cycle routes in London on quiet roads, parks and waterways. They'll make it easier for people who would like to try cycling, but would rather not cycle on main roads. Quietways provide an opportunity for communities to benefit from Transport for London investment that can make local streets more attractive for everyone.

Quietway 7 is proposed from Elephant & Castle to Crystal Palace. In Champion Hill it will follow Green Dale, cross Champion Hill raised junction and continue across Dog Kennel Hill junction into Camberwell Grove. Champion Hill experiences high volumes of traffic at peak times, and Southwark Council want to reduce these volumes to improve road safety for everyone and cycling conditions for the Quietway. To manage this two interventions were proposed - a **one-way going south from Denmark Hill**, or a **road closure at the junction of Dog Kennel Hill**.

47.5% of people supported a closure, and 34.18% supported a one-way. When asked how the street could be improved, many people also suggested that it should be access only and closed at one end or one-way.

Coupled with this support were many concerns around the impact of either option and feedback about current problems on Champion Hill, such as narrow pavements and pinch points.

Overview of process

Sustrans carried out the following engagement programme throughout August 2015.

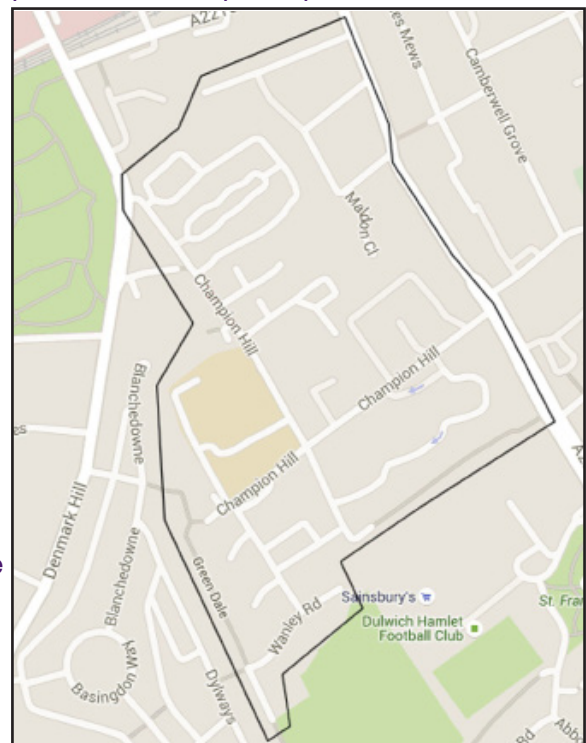
Pop up events

Surveying residents at different locations around Champion Hill with a questionnaire and providing information about the Quietway.

- These events took place on the 3rd, 6th, 10th and 12th August outside Ruskin Park House, Seavington House, Arnould Avenue and on Champion Hill crossroads (raised junction).

Mailout and questionnaire

A letter was sent to all Champion Hill residents and those on surrounding roads (see engagement area, right) with a questionnaire to gather a snapshot of how people felt about travelling on Champion Hill, and their opinion on two proposed interventions to manage traffic and ensure the street meets Quietway standard.



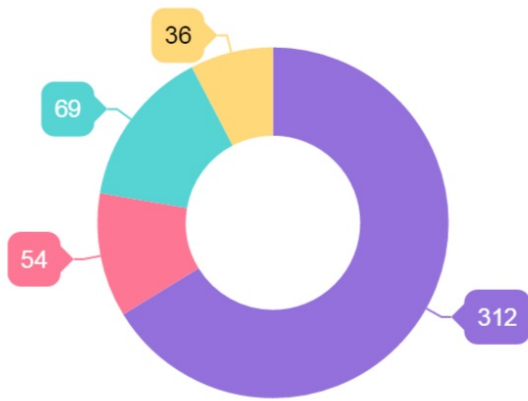
The questionnaire was also available online. 471 people responded, online, at an event or by returning the mailout.

We also met with local stakeholders and councillors, including:

- Kings College Halls
- SE5 forum members
- Southwark Living Streets
- Local schools



Where did respondents come from?



Zone 1: Champion Hill engagement area

Zone 2: Streets within approx half a mile of engagement area

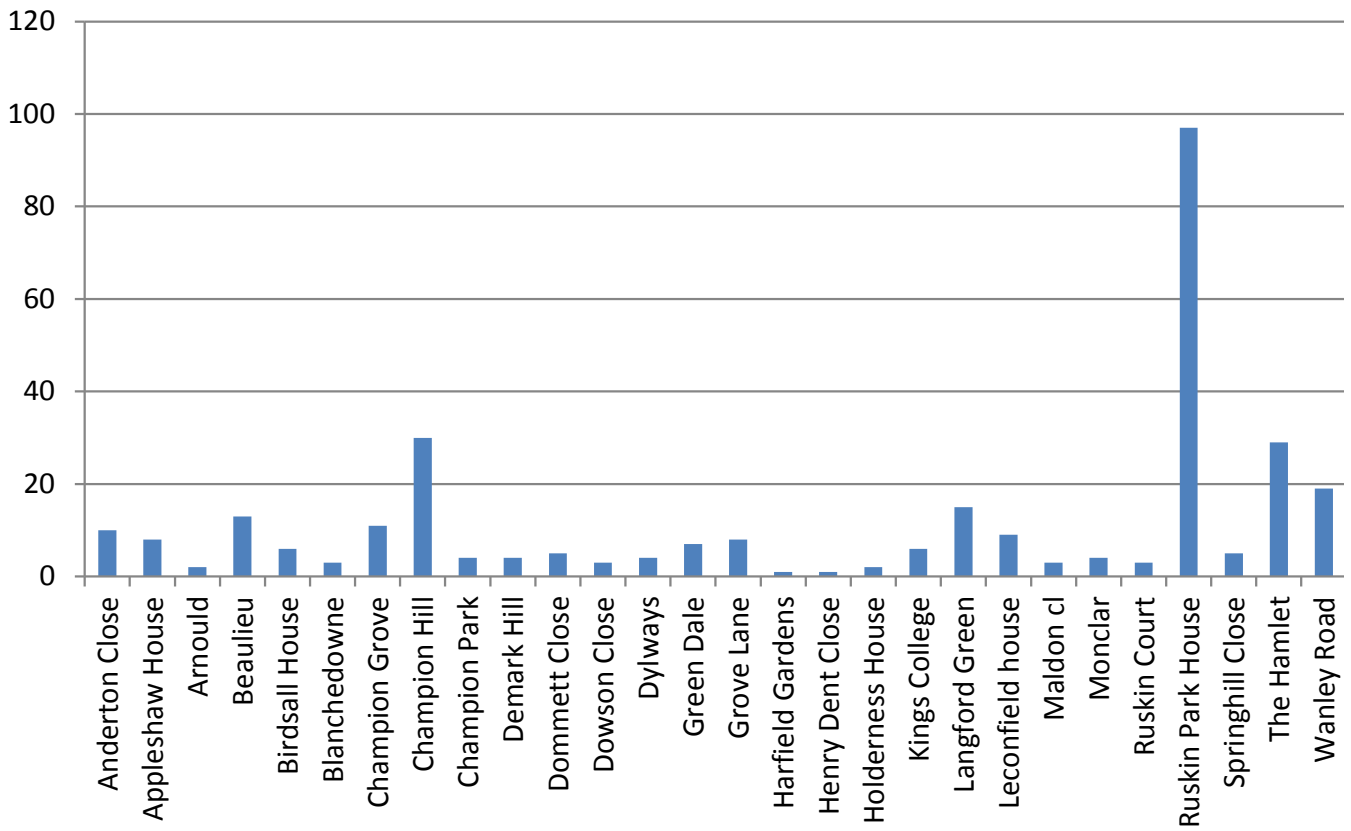
Zone 3: Outside of both of these

Zone 4: Unknown

■ Zone 1 (66%) ■ Zone 2 (11%) ■ Zone 3 (15%) ■ Zone 4 (8%)

Within the engagement area, respondents came from:

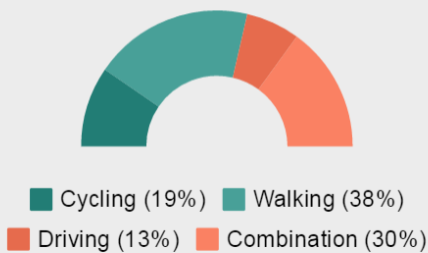
Respondents by street



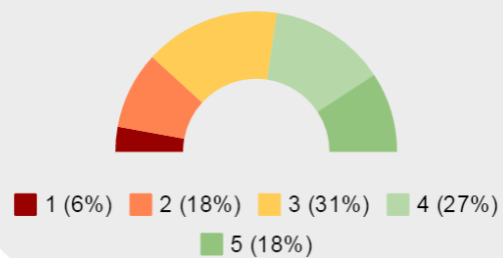
Champion Hill - Quietway 7: Elephant & Castle to Crystal Palace

The survey was sent to 1179 residents of Champion Hill and immediate area. 4 'pop up' street events were carried out along with 3 pop up events outside local schools. The survey could be returned by post or completed online. 471 people responded to the consultation which is a 40% response rate.

Q1: What is the most common way you travel on Champion Hill?

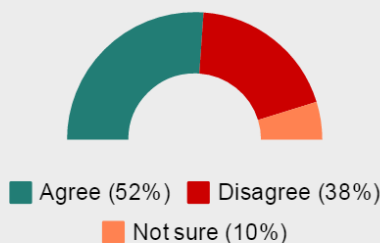


Q2: how would you rate your experience of using Champion Hill, where 1= very bad and 5= very good?

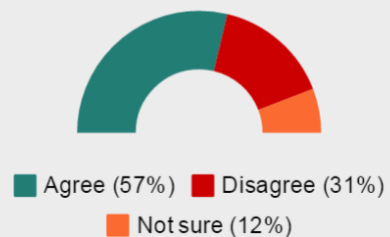


Q3: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Champion Hill?

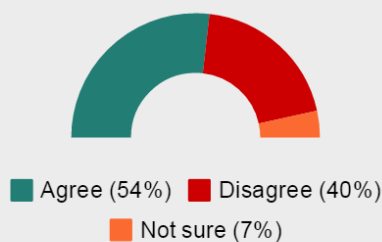
a) There is too much traffic



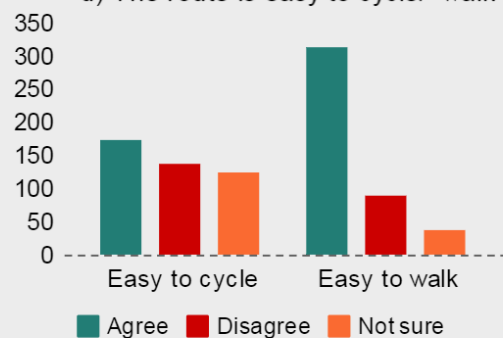
b) Road safety is an issue



c) Traffic is too fast



d) The route is easy to cycle/ walk



Question 4: Are there are parts of Champion Hill that you find particularly uncomfortable to use?

Many people perceived the area to be fine to use - quiet and leafy with no traffic problems. Of those who thought there were issues, the **raised junction** on Champion Hill was most often cited as difficult to use, with poor visibility, tight corners, and drivers cutting the corner and riding over the pavement at speed.

They also noted the junctions with Dog Kennel and Denmark Hill as areas which they found unsafe and confusing for cyclists, drivers and pedestrians. Some people commented that much of Champion Hill was hard to cross and that the pavement on the southern section was far too narrow. On the northern section people noted that speed bumps, traffic islands and parking create pinch points, causing conflict between road users.

Location/ issue	Comments
Champion Hill raised junction	Poor visibility - blind corner
	Cars cut the corner as the road and pavement are level
	It's very hard to cross as a pedestrian
	Cars drive around it at speed
Denmark Hill - raised junction	Traffic islands and parking cause pinch points
	Drivers are impatient and try to overtake
	Speed limit isn't enforced
	Pavements poor surface and sometimes slippery
	Cars drive the wrong way around traffic islands
Raised junction - Dog kennel Hill	Pavements are too narrow and it is intimidating for pedestrians, especially with children
	Should be able to turn right at Dog Kennel Hill
Crossings	Not enough crossings
	Crossing at all junctions (Denmark Hill, Dog Kennel and raised junction) is difficult.

People made many alternative suggestions, some of which would be addressed by a closure/ one-way:

- Restrict parking to one side of the road only/ near traffic islands and side roads to reduce pinch points
- Ban cars from overtaking on section between Denmark Hill and the raised junction
- Improve pavement surfaces and widen pavements
- Impose a width restriction to stop HGVs from using Champion Hill
- Improve pedestrian crossing facility throughout Champion Hill
- Enforce speed limit using cameras, or paint 20mph signs onto roads to remind drivers

Raised junction:

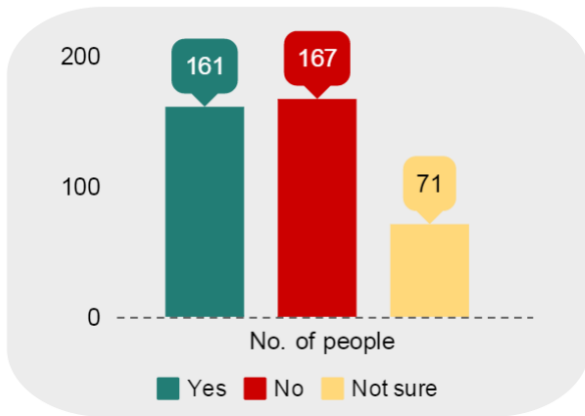
- Install a mirror to improve visibility
- Improve provision for pedestrians via a zebra crossing or traffic lights
- Put a bollard on the corner of the junction to stop cars from cutting it.

Closures

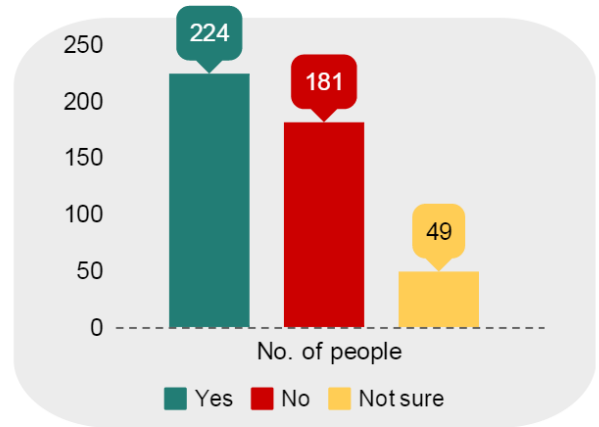
- Install closure on raised junction rather than at Dog Kennel Hill entrance, to enable residents access.
- Restrict traffic at peak times only



Q5: Do you think that a one-way system for southbound vehicle traffic (two-way for cyclists) between Denmark Hill and the raised junction on Champion Hill is a good idea?



Q6: Do you think a road closure at the junction of Champion Hill (still allowing cycles and pedestrians through) and Dog Kennel Hill is a good idea?



Of people opposed to a one-way:

- Many people were concerned about the effect it would have on driver speeds. Some highlighted the need for increased traffic calming if a one-way were put in place. Any trial of this option would therefore need to address those concerns.
- We received a comment from one resident who pointed out that Southwark Living Streets and Southwark Cyclists take a view against one way streets in general.

Of people opposed to a closure, many felt:

- The street is fine as it is and already has traffic calming measures - speed humps, islands and a 20mph limit
- It will create inconvenience for residents
- It will cause congestion on surrounding roads, particularly Grove Lane, and increase journey times for hospital traffic trying to reach Kings College Hospital on already busy roads.
- 'Would destroy easy access to home, a terrible suggestion!'

One way is here shown to be less popular, which may be because amongst people who would like to see traffic reductions and quieter streets it could be perceived as a half-measure, with concerns about increased speeds of traffic. Amongst people who are against any changes a one way may be the least inconvenient option however, allowing for more access to homes. People may also feel that a closure is too drastic, but a one-way is something they are more able to support.

Summary

There is reasonable appetite for a change in Champion Hill with a large number of people feeling that there is too much traffic cutting through and that they would like to see some way of managing it - however there are a certain number of people who see Champion Hill as a pleasant, leafy street and are worried about the impact of changes to their neighbourhood. Further work will therefore need to carefully address concerns about impacts on the wider road network and work closely with the community during any trial which takes place.

