

## Hardening of Grass Verges Royston Avenue – Analysis Report

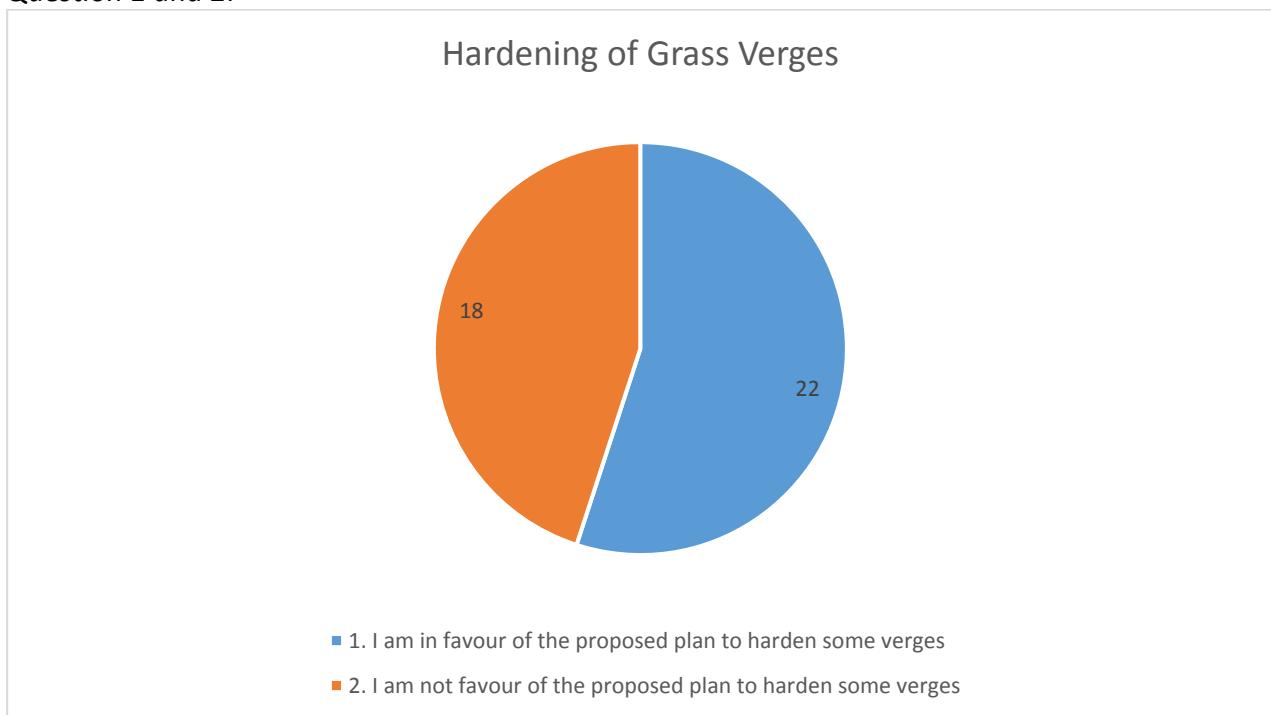
A four week consultation was launched until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017, which consisted of a letter, questionnaire and a plan showing the preferred solution to the issues currently experienced by bus services on Royston Avenue. Over 200 neighbour letters were delivered on 6<sup>th</sup> October by hand, to all of the residential/commercial properties on Royston Avenue.

### The results

A total of 43 people responded to the consultation using either the questionnaire or writing a letter of support or objection, responding to the questions set and using the free text part to raise any other issues in relation to the proposal and alternative option. These are included in Appendix 1 of this report.

*Please note: not all questions were completed by all participants.*

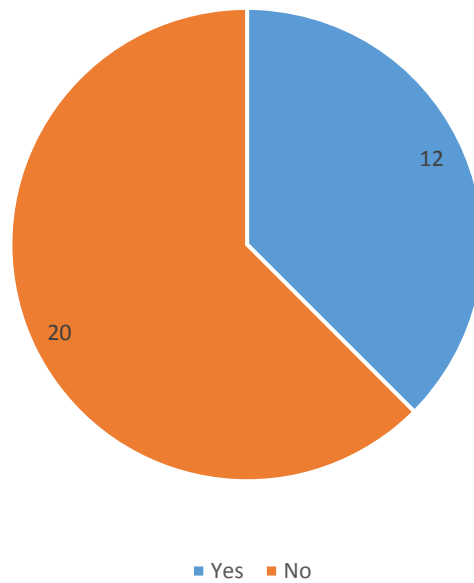
#### Question 1 and 2:



Although this was a positive response many were concerned about the impact the proposals would have on the ongoing speed problem, believing that if there were more road space vehicles will go faster.

Question 3:

3. Are you in favour of installing parking restrictions along one side of the road.



The overall consensus here was that the current option of installing parking restrictions would mean parking being greatly reduced and many being unable to park outside their homes. Some were also concerned about deliveries.

## Comments received on Question 2.1

Total of 32 individual comments received

Comments	
01	We are not in favour of the attached plans. Surely the diversion of the present bus route down Royston Avenue would be less disruptive and more cost effective? One household at the top of this road has 5 cars how is this fair when it comes to the new proposed plans.
02	Could there be more verge hardening with less Yellow Lines.
03	This has been an issues for many years and needs to be resolved. I think this is the best most achievable was to address it. I do have a concern about the bus stand being outside my house, across my drive, I am disabled I hope this won't be misused. I know there are no plans to remove any trees, but I hope that they will finally be cut back. I have seen other road trees which have been drastically cut back and this needs to happen as it is affecting my property, I have been waiting a few years.
04	I feel this needs to be thought out better as we stand we will be blocked in with cars opposite and outside having difficulty see up and down the road and pulling out.
05	It is absolute chaos trying to get off my drive due to vehicles parking in the roadway. Even worse for the buses trying to get through the parked cars.
06	We recently purchased this house due to it having off road parking (own driveway) and the road having grass verges where people couldn't park. I feel that the residents that chose to have a front garden rather than a driveway should make their gardens into driveways to reduce the parking on the road.
07	The area o/s 99 could also be hardened and also o/s 109 and 111 as there is no tree there now.
08	I am in favour of double yellow lines up Royston Avenue. However, there are none outside my house which means everybody will be parking their vans outside my house creating a blind spot for me and my wife when reversing of our driveway thus causing a major hazard. Therefore I would like continuous yellow lines.
09	I have no objection to the hardening of the verges but I do object to the amount of extra parking restrictions. The net result of your proposal is less parking available and more potential problems caused. I also note that your plan is inaccurate as it does not show the dropped kerb on my property (done by the Council 8 years ago) so I would question the accuracy of your plan. The problems for the buses are caused by a few inconsiderate people who park without using their common sense and I do not see why others should be punished by not being able to park near their homes. I also note that yellow lines are being proposed at the end of Royston Avenue beyond Norwich Avenue, which is not part of the bus route making your argument null and void for that part of the road.
10	We live at 140 Royston Avenue, and you have proposed double yellow lines. We would then have nowhere to park. The best area would be to put double yellow lines on the other side of the road as they have driveways that are not shared. From 132 to 142 half the grass verges to make more room, look forward to hearing from you! Oh and you could give us permits which I am sure we would be happy to pay for to stop people parking from Bournemouth Park Road parking in Royston.

11	There is greenery where I live anyway – change the bus route or make 6 months one side of the road parking and then the other side for next 6 months.
12	We have a single driveway where one side is located a streetlight. The issue I have is that as proposed plan shows parking outside our home as previously people park so close to our driveway entry and exit is sometimes nearly impossible not being able to give adequate turning circle. The proposal would increase this. If we had a double drive up this would irradiate the problem (or resite the lamppost). Are the Council prepared to give discount to get our drive enlarged?
13	Please could you put yellow lines opposite St Lukes Road, because Lorries coming up the road have a job to get out from the shops? Especially during school times.
14	We are long term residents of Royston Avenue for over 30 years and witness virtually every day speeding motorists and motorcyclist who use this residential road as a race track. These so called; 'boy racers' have no regard for residents, pedestrians or other road users. By hardening our green verges it will not only change the environment and outlook buy by 'opening 'the Avenue by removing the parked cars from the road it will create a 'drag strip' enabling these inconsiderate and dangerous road users to go even faster unheeded (a lower residential 20mph max speed limit would be of no use as nobody takes notice of the 30mph), this is a potential danger to everyone and with possible fatal consequences. It will also allow large HGVs access to take shortcuts when there are holdups on the main through roads around the town. We need to keep these speed reducing parked cars in place to reduce the capability of these speedsters and large HGVs. Cars being parked on a 'hard verge' position being closer to driveways can create a 'blind spot' on manoeuvring out of one's property and these could well turn into 'black spots'. Arriva buses should be encouraged to stop the buses on the 'Section A' side of Royston Avenue altogether, this will save the council money, create less congestion and possibly save a car door mirror from being damaged (although I have never heard of this happening). We have two bus stops in this section of the Avenue both very close to the main road junctions with Sutton Road and Bournemouth Park Road, both of which have bus stops already in place nearby. The buses could be re-routed to go around Eastern Avenue without any inconveniencing any bus user and in future this would probably be of good use to the public travelling to and from Fossetts Farm Estate Football Stadium and development. In closing, I do sincerely implore your good selves to look at any alternative other than hardening the verges, once lost they will never return and I cannot imagine anything more deeply saddening, we need measure to reduce the speed of vehicles in Royston Avenue not implement changes to increase them.
15	I currently live at 134 Royston Avenue and we already experience problems with people parking either side of the driveway blocking visibility and has already led to a number of near misses to cars using the road like a race track. Therefore I would propose you put yellow lines outside 132/134/136 Royston rather than put a bay making it worse.
16	I'm writing to you in relation to the letter you sent out regarding hardening of grass Verges in Royston Avenue due to the parking problems. We are at 143 Royston Avenue and we purchased this property just over a year ago. We have read the consultation that was put through our door and we have a number of concerns which we need to bring up. We have no issues with any hardening of grass Verges along Royston Avenue, but what we do have an issue with is you putting your proposed double yellow lines outside our property. When we purchased this property over a year ago one of the reasons was, is that we had a driveway and access to our property

	<p>via a dropped kerb, because I have a disabled mother and a blue badge holder, who on occasions has to use a wheelchair and I need to park outside the front of our house. As you can imagine receiving this consultation is causing us concern, Due to the fact, that we have more than one vehicle, our other problem is, if we have double yellow lines we will not be able to park outside our own property. In the summertime our vehicle was stolen from Wentworth road and reported to the police and never been found, so you can imagine, we would like our car to remain outside of our property. Because of the theft of our vehicle we have now installed CCTV and would like our vehicle to remain outside our property so we can keep an eye on our possessions. Parking our car somewhere else is just not an option that I'm willing to take lightly. I would be grateful for an assistance in this matter and look forward to hearing from you.</p>
17	<p>I should like to protest at the proposed plans to harden the present grass verges on Royston Avenue. The Avenue (often described by Estate Agents as very attractive) has seen many changes over the years during such time I have been a resident. Obviously many changes have taken places to accommodate the ever-growing number of cars and gradually trees have been removed. Presumably to harden the present grass verges more trees will go. In conservation areas, I notice that other residents in Southend and Thorpe Bay have had a more sympathetic and successful approach to our fast disappearing standards. Royston Avenue already seems to have become a racing thoroughfare and in doing this road this will worsen the problem. Please give this proposed plan your serious consideration.</p>
18	<p>After having two cars written off I am in favour of having some of the verges hardened. What I am not in favour of is the parking restrictions taking away valuable parking spaces for residents in an already overcrowded road. Surely the best option would be to re-route the buses, they do not need to come down Royston Avenue as there is a bus stop at either end in Sutton Road and Bournemouth Park Road. Passenger numbers using Royston Avenue bus stops are very low. This would be a much simpler solution to the problem and surely save you the Council thousands of pounds. In my opinion speed bumps would help by slowing down the traffic and reducing the amount of people using the road as a cut through.</p>
19	<p>Instead of partial double yellow lines between Lyndale Avenue and the junction of Walsingham Road/Wentworth Road – propose double yellow lines on both sides of the road. This will alleviate vehicles (some commercial) contravening Regulation 103 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Schedule 2 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988. Any vehicle(s) parked with the proposed permitted area (outside 150,152,154,145,147 Royston Avenue) would cause severe obstruction to vehicles exiting the driveways from 150,152,154,143,145,147 Royston Avenue.</p>
20	<p>We are in favour of hardening verges and parking restrictions that are enforced and neighbourhood friendly (e.g. no parking between 7am-8pm when buses run but you can when they stop). The end of Royston (Sutton Road) has parking restrictions. You never enforce them so the garage at the end park their cars dangerously. If you do not enforce that then there is no point in restricting the rest of the road. With hardened verges and double yellow lines your current plan shows that the net parking will reduce, can you do this in a way this isn't the case? Surely it's cheaper to re-route the bus and install new bus shelters. We are also warned about speed cars go down the road in excess of 40/50mph. It will be worse if it is more accessible.</p>

21	<p>I live at 60 Royston Avenue where one of the proposed hardening verges is to be placed. Firstly, if this proposal goes ahead I would like to know if I will still have access to my pull-in to enable me to park my car while the works are being carried out. Secondly, I am concerned that if this plan goes ahead that when the road is particularly busy (weekends and when Southend United are playing at home) that any cars wishing to park on the hard verges will try to get as many cars in these spaces and that cars will be parking over or part way over the access to my home, thus making it difficult for me to get in/out of my property.</p>
22	<p>I am also concerned that in the future if I wanted to open my entire front garden up for off street parking to allow my family to park that this will not be possible due to the hardened verges/parking already outside my home. I believe knowing there is (and only will be if this proposed hardened verge is carried out) only off street for one car this may put potential buyers off buying my home due to limited parking on the road. Also, residents that already living in Royston Avenue who have no off street parking would be using the available parking outside those houses designated for hardened verges. I believe a fairer option for all residents and visitors in the road is to have double yellow lines down both sides of the road and for parking to be available on alternate months of the year as already in use in other roads in Southend. This idea will give more parking spaces along the road than a few hardened verges and the rest of the road having yellow lines. Also, as parking will be available on one side of the road only buses and lorries will be able to get through safely.</p>
23	<p>I live at 212 therefore I am not on a bus route. You propose to remove most of parking, which would leave me unable to park outside my house. I have no access to off street parking and as there is a school and children's centre here parking is very difficult. I propose you mark bays and make it residents only parking therefore still making the most of available space whilst putting double yellows on pinch points of access. Or give me access to park on my property.</p>
24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As a north facing front it will bring parked vans closer and reduce my light further.</li> <li>2. It's a residential avenue, vans and lorries will continue to deliver and unload so this solves nothing.</li> <li>3. I would like to see proof of these bus accidents to see whose fault it was.</li> </ol>
25	<p>We are against yellow lines outside our property as our visitors who have mobility issues will suffer. It will also devalue our property. The problems arose when the Council made it unlawful to park two wheels on the kerb. This will solve the problem and make it unnecessary to implement hard standings if we were able to park two wheels on the kerb</p>
26	<p>Please note that I am opposed to parking restrictions on one side only as the road would become a 'high speed' cut through.</p>
27	<p>Where do you expect me to park? I have sent you plan back with my thoughts and insist you respond with answers. I live at 193 Royston Avenue shaded red, I park up to the double yellow lines shaded purple this doesn't obstruct the buses. Your plans create nothing but problems as far as I can see. Where does everyone park? If you carry this plan out you will have to allow me to park on my front crossing the grass area in front. I also notice the hard areas near me are outside commercial properties, I ask you again where do we park? Thank you</p>

28	None of these options will stop the high speed some cars or motorbikes go along Royston Avenue. But I believe item 1 maybe a better choice, Items 3 and 4 may be better for buses but will not stop the speeding.
29	Whilst not against some hardening in principle we do not agree with the addition of double yellow lines. This will greatly reduce road parking. What about deliveries or work being carried out on properties! What about dropped kerbs all along? Sorry but will argued against the plan as outlined.
30	We don't think it is necessary to have double yellow lines outside No 59 across our driveway as there will be a hardened verge, other than outside our property which is showing both.
31	Parking will be greatly reduced not meeting requirements for residents, visitors or deliveries. Residents are to have the road destroyed to accommodate Arriva bus company. Having resided here for 42 years in a quiet leafy road we have this imposed on us. Buses do not need to run between Sutton Road and Bournemouth Park Road They should use these two roads as they once did still serving residents both ends of Royston. (once an Oasis not anymore)
32	It's already a speed issue without making it worse by a wider run. Re-route the bus along Eastern Avenue. Parking is a problem now you are making it worse.
33	Looking at the plans enclosed, the proposal would significantly reduce the parking within the street. Either use verges all along both sides or leave it as it is. Why restrict the already dire parking with double yellow lines. Also: the car garage going towards Bournemouth Park Road at the end of Royston will be taking all the available space.