

Holy Family National School
Dunedin Park, Monkstown Farm, Dún Laoghaire
Safe Routes to School 'School Zone'
Post Public Consultation Report

January 2023



INTRODUCTION

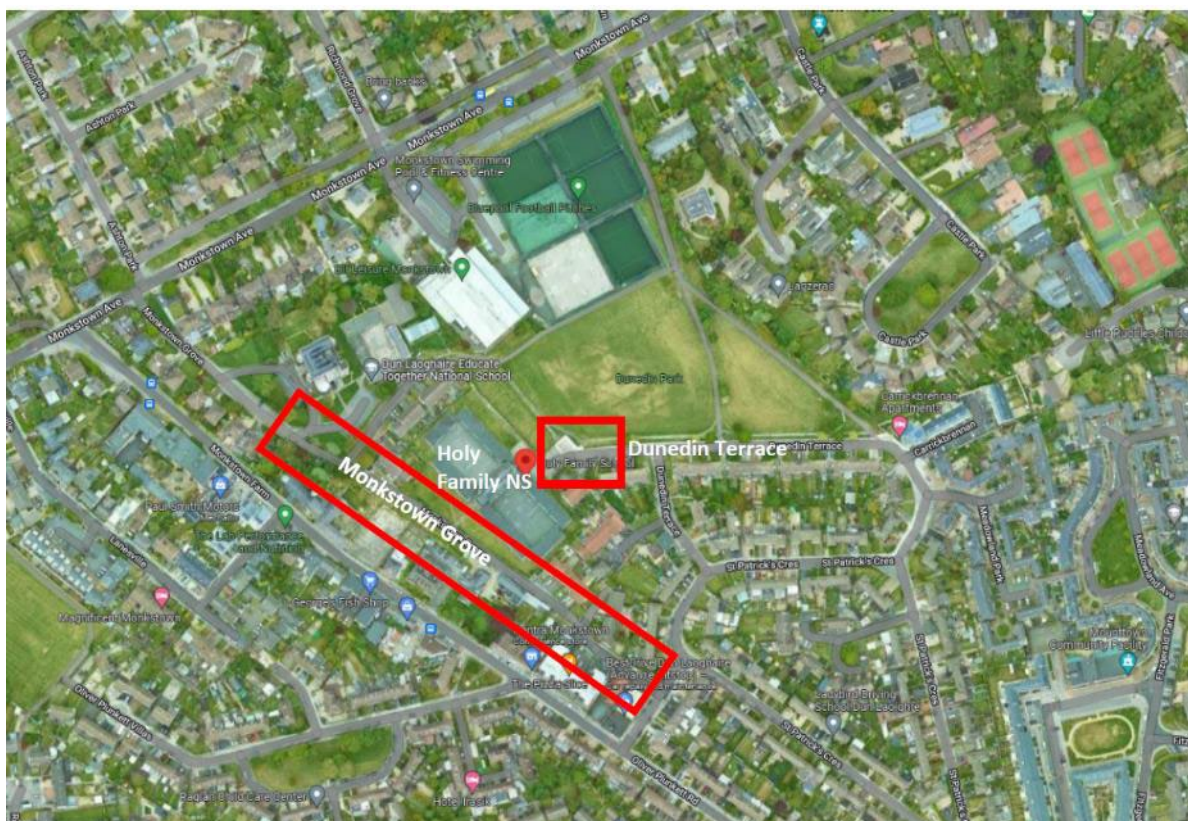
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, in conjunction with An Taisce and the National Transport Authority, is proposing to improve road safety adjacent to schools in the county as part of the NTA Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme. The purpose of the schemes is to make the areas immediately adjacent to the schools safer so that children can be encouraged and facilitated to walk and cycle to the schools safely.

A period of non-statutory public consultation was run for proposed traffic and road safety works outside the Holy Family National School, Dunedin Park, Monkstown Farm, Dún Laoghaire which aim to improve safety at school entrances, improve access routes to school and encourage pupils to walk and cycle.

The Scheme is being prepared in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

SCHEME DESCRIPTION

A Parent Survey carried out in 2021 indicated that 94.2% of the parents of children in Holy Family National School support works at the front of school that improve student safety and put pedestrians and cyclists first.



Source: Google Maps

Image 1: Indicative locations of the proposed works.

Holy Family National School, Dunedin Park has two entrances, one on Dunedin Park and one on Monkstown Grove. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has developed proposals for public realm upgrades at both these locations.

The proposals include:

- Interventions to discourage vehicle congestion and dangerous traffic manoeuvres at the school entrances;
- Highlighting the presence of the school through carriageway colour and coloured road markings, feature bollards and traffic signage;
- Provision of additional raised pedestrian crossings;
- Provision of enhanced pedestrian space at the school entrances;
- Provision of enhanced footpaths on approach to the school;
- Upgrading of the Monkstown Grove public realm outside the school.

The design features will be consistent with those proposed nationally under the NTA Safe Routes to School Programme.

Appendix A: Scheme Design Drawings of this report contains the design drawings that were presented as part of this public consultation process.



Image 2: Artist impression of the proposed school entrance on Dunedin Park

NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Following a briefing of Dún Laoghaire Ward Councillors on Monday 27th June 2022 a period of non-statutory public consultation was carried out for a period of 4 weeks from Thursday 4th August to Thursday 1st September 2022.

Feedback was gathered through an online questionnaire, which was advertised through the following channels:

- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council website
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Facebook
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Twitter
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Instagram

Letters informing of the consultation were posted to eight residential properties immediately adjacent to the school's entrances on Dunedin Park and on Monkstown Grove.

At the closing date for the consultation, we received a total of 17 submissions (16 via citizens space, 1 via email and 0 by post). All 16 citizen space submissions received were unique.

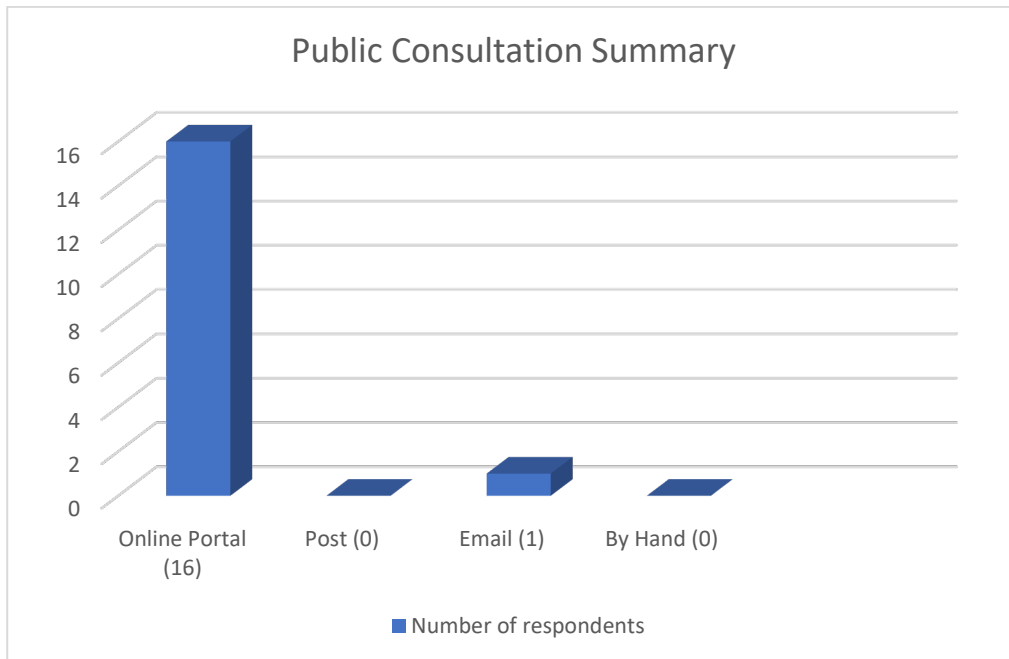


Chart 1

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK RECEIVED

DLR Citizen Space was the primary portal for feedback from the public during the consultation process. The responses received have been combined with the feedback received by email and by post to compile the charts below.

In summary the following preference was indicated as part of the feedback:

- 88% were in favour of the scheme proceeding as proposed at the front of school on Dunedin Park;
- 88% were in favour of the scheme proceeding as proposed at the front of school on Monkstown Grove;
- 6% did not want the scheme to proceed at the front of school on Dunedin Park;
- 6% did not want the scheme to proceed at the front of school on Monkstown Grove.

88% of respondents (15 no.) think that road safety is a problem on Dunedin Park around the Holy Family National School.

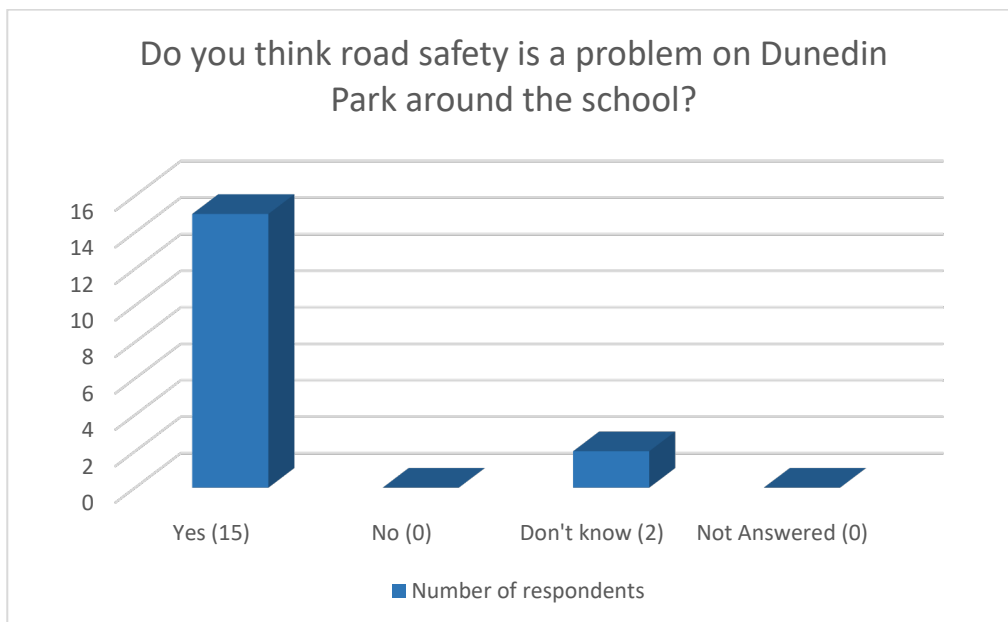


Chart 2

77% of respondents (13 no.) think that road safety is a problem on Monkstown Grove around the Holy Family National School.

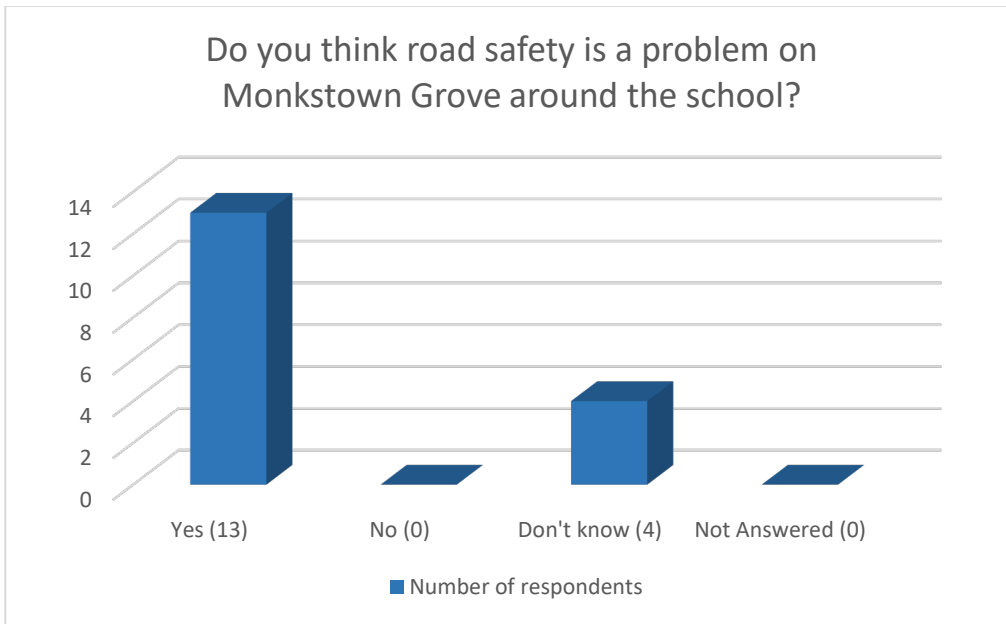


Chart 3

The overall response of 94% showed that the vast majority are in favour of the progression of this project on both Dunedin Park and on Monkstown Grove.

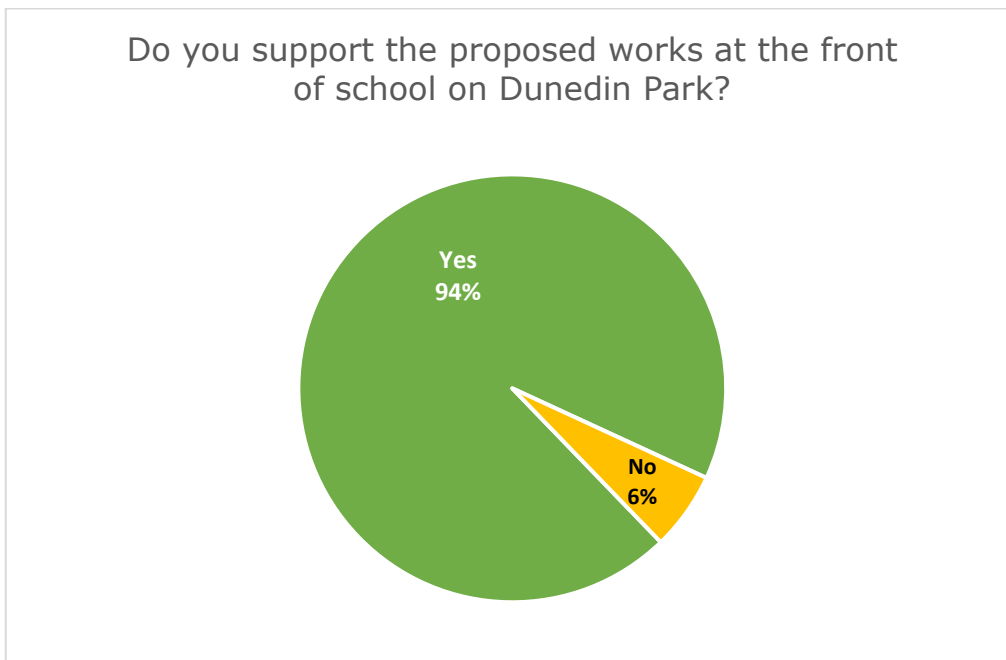


Chart 4

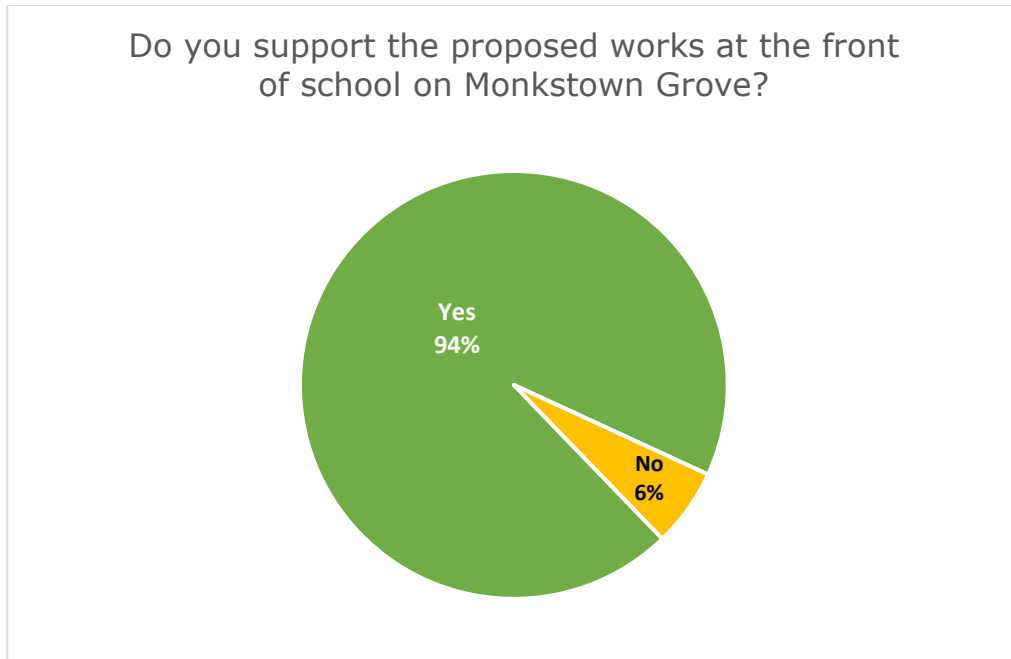


Chart 5

94% of respondents support works that improve the walking and cycling routes to schools and that the proposals will provide a safer environment for school children.

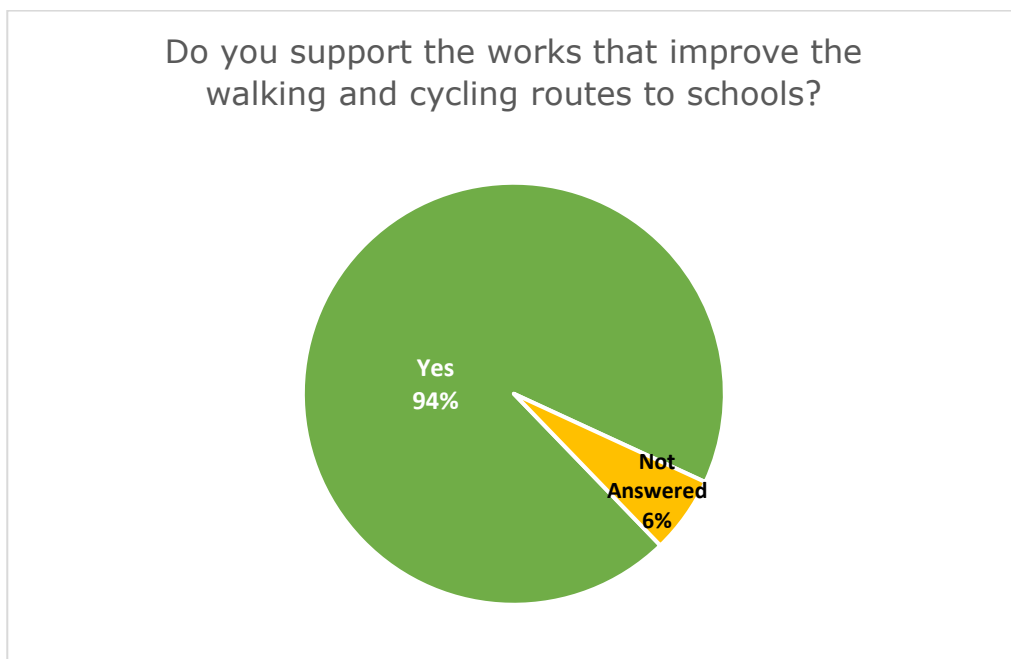


Chart 6

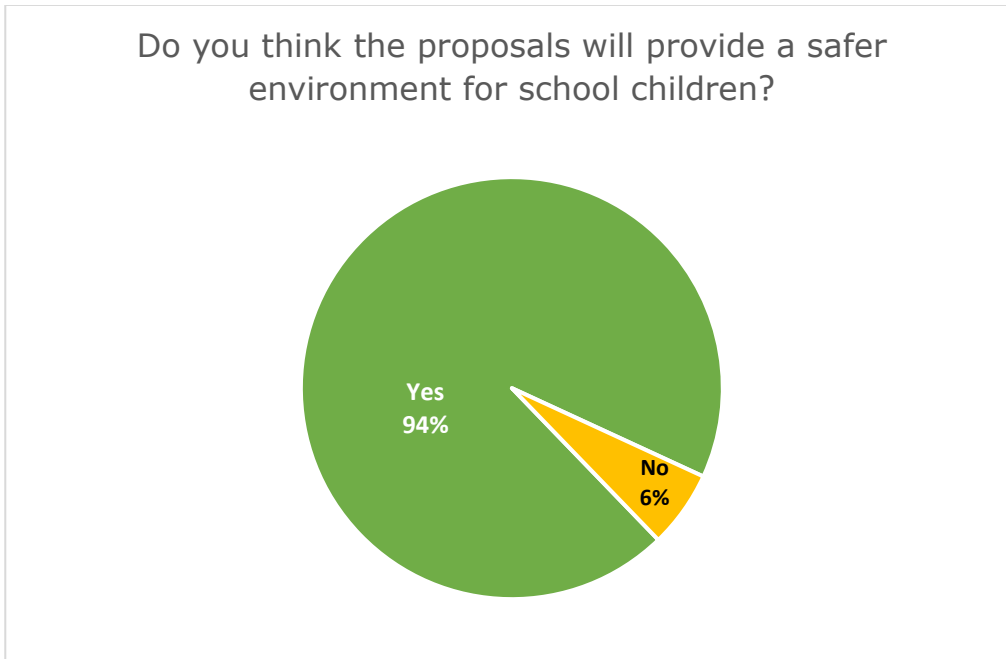


Chart 7

There was a wide recognition that the proposals will provide a safer, more attractive environment for pedestrians and cyclists generally – 88% of respondents.

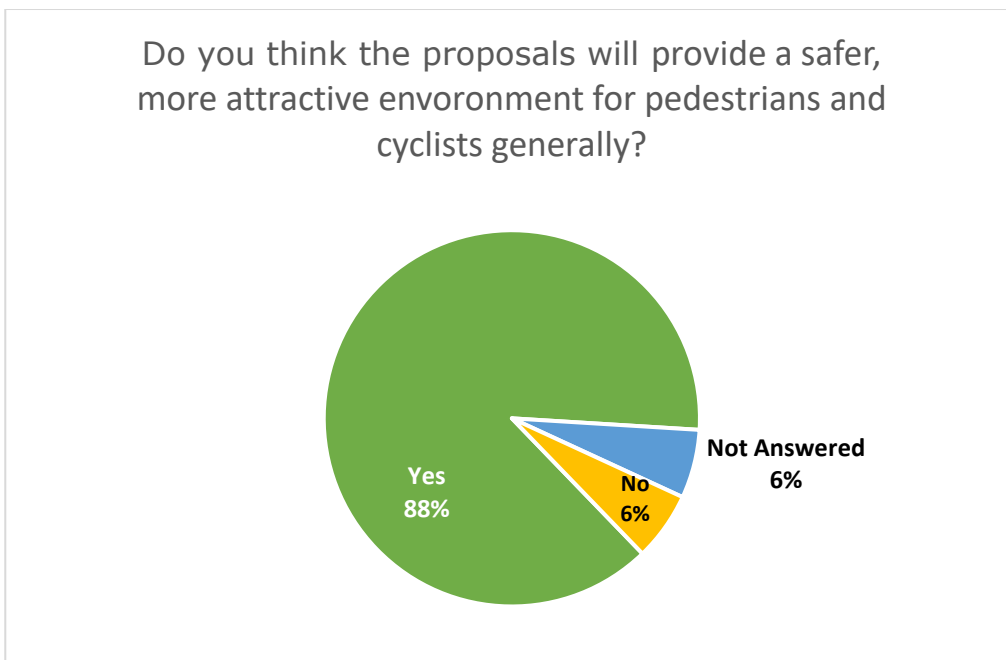


Chart 8

The questionnaire also gave us the opportunity to state the nature of participants' interests in the scheme.

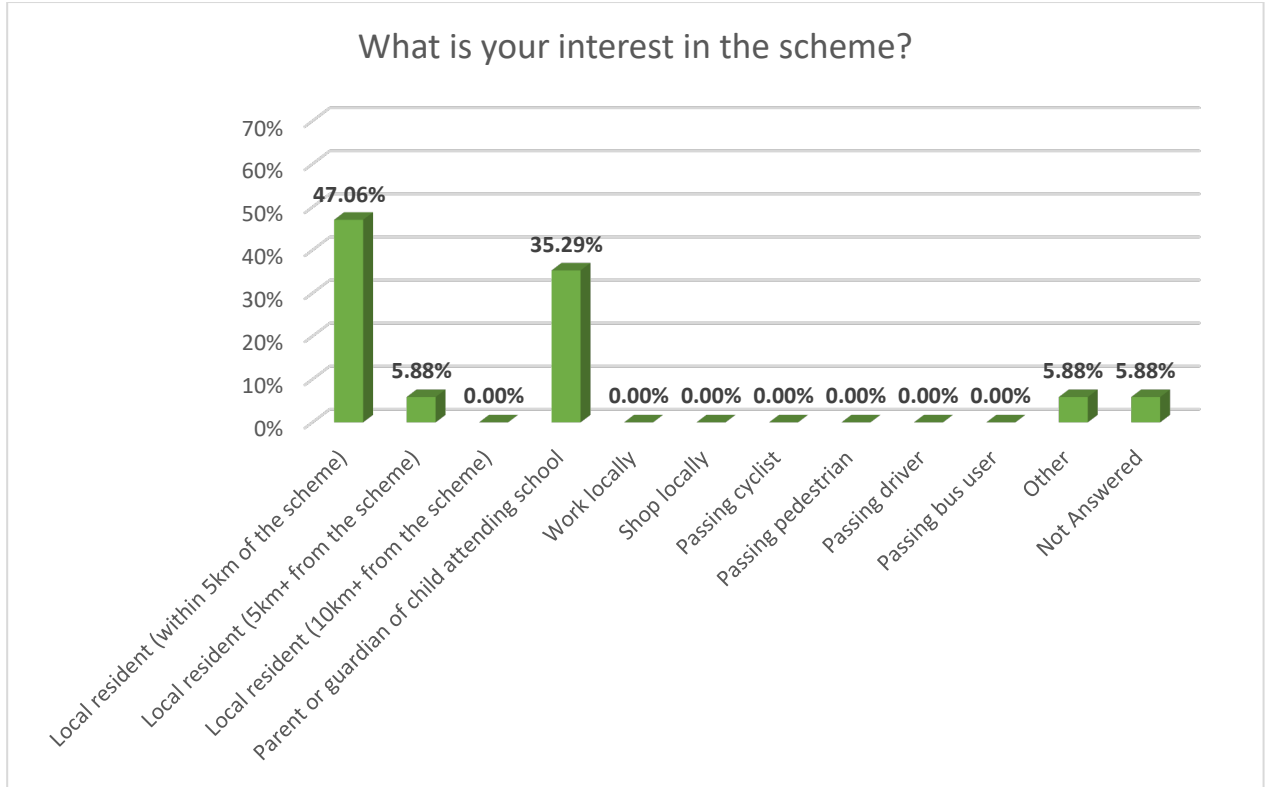


Chart 9

DETAILED FEEDBACK RECEIVED

Various comments were received as part of the submissions. These are summarised and responded to in the *Appendix B: Public Consultation Responses*.

Please note that some submissions commented on issues outside of this scheme e.g., other projects, issues around parking enforcement, education programme for parents and teachers, etc These did not relate to this project and have not been included.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

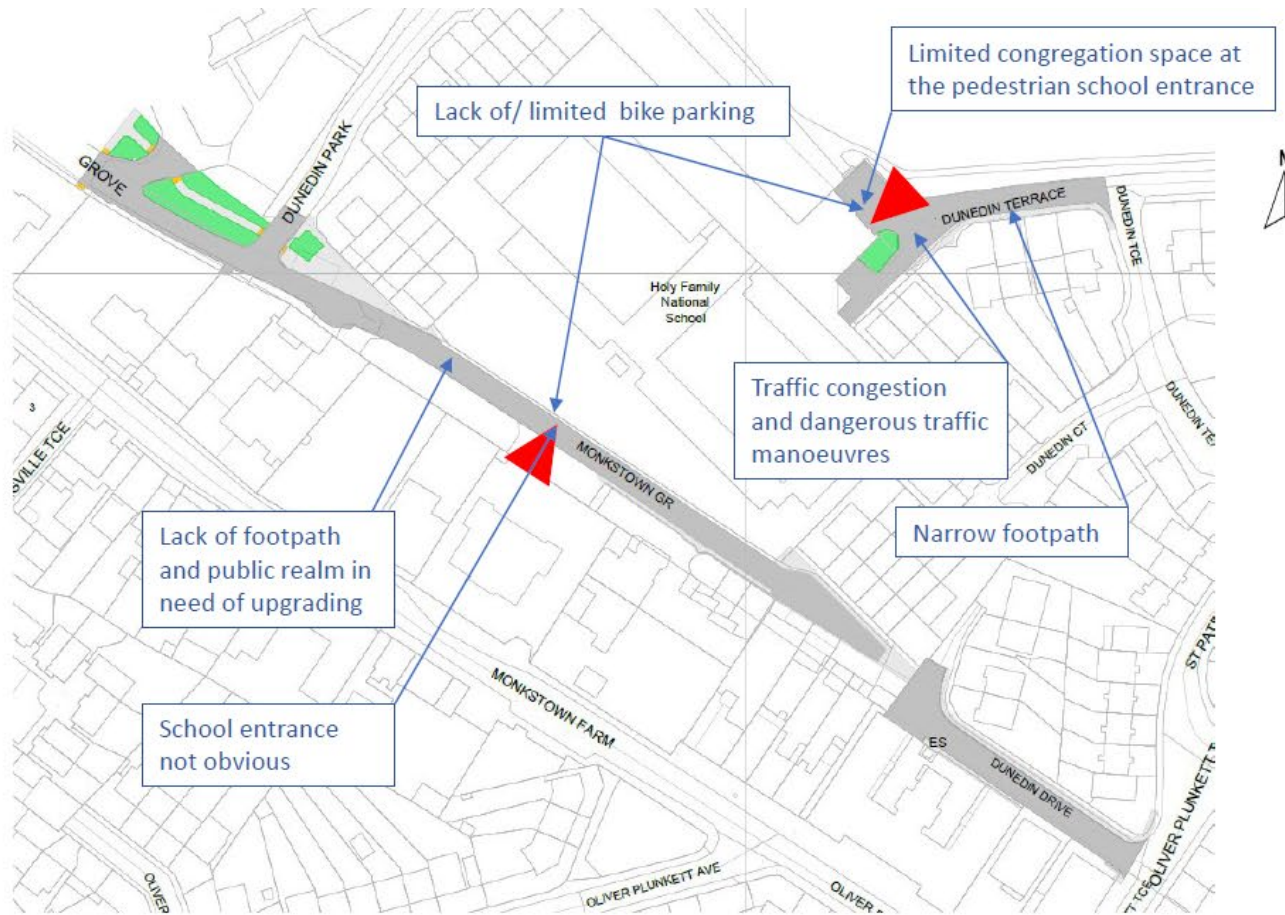
The majority of feedback received acknowledged that the proposed scheme would improve the walking and cycling routes to schools and provide a safer environment for school children. It was widely recognised that the proposals would provide a safer, more attractive environment for pedestrians and cyclists generally.

The proposed scheme received strong support with several submissions making comments on the current situation and some suggestions on how the scheme could be improved or expanded. Several comments raised by the public relate to items that are outside the scope of this scheme at this time. For more details please see the *Appendix B: Public Consultation Responses*.

The National Transport Authority have confirmed funding is available to progress such schemes in 2023. Subject to detailed design being completed and the necessary approvals and requirements being met, it is anticipated that construction will commence Quarter 2 or 3 in 2023.

It is recommended that the scheme proceeds to detailed design and construction.

APPENDIX A: SCHEME DESIGN DRAWINGS



Safe Routes to School 'School Zone' Concept
Holy Family National School, Monkstown

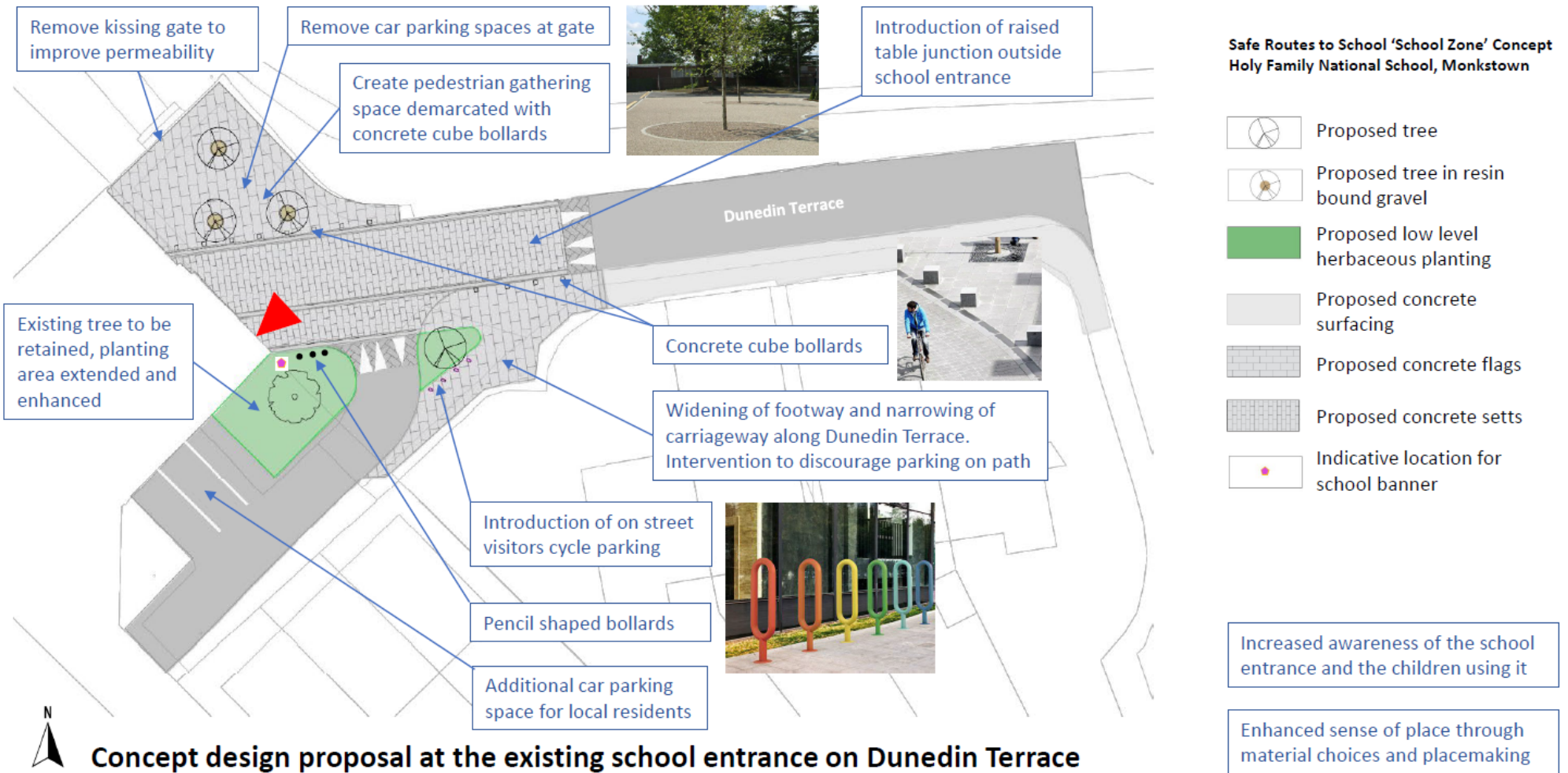


Improve safety of children approaching school

Need to increase awareness of the school entrance and the children using it

Challenges at the existing school entrances

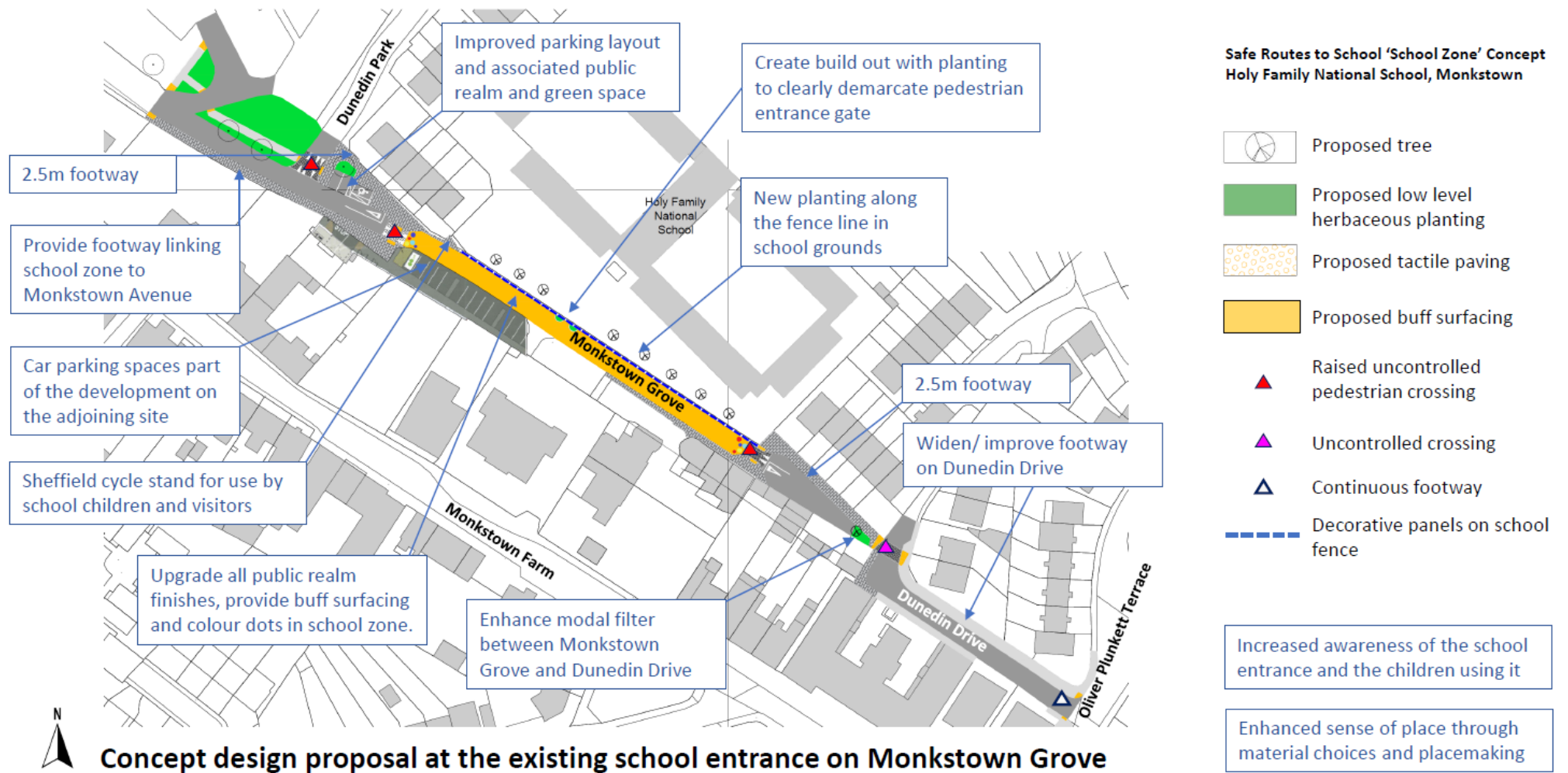




Rialtas na hÉireann
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Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040





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Safe Routes to School 'School Zone' Concept
Holy Family National School, Monkstown

Design Elements developed by NTA which
are being incorporated as per the Safe
Routes to School Design Guidance

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES

	Submissions	Frequency	Responses
1	Traffic safety/ congestion		
	Speeding cars are a major issue.	1	Reallocation of road space and introduction of a new plaza in front of the entrance on Dunedin Terrace as well as introduction of buildouts, buff surfacing, artwork and trees to highlight the entrance to the school, all aim to improve road safety, including encouraging drivers to slow down in the vicinity of the school, reduce vehicular traffic and congestion, keep cars away from footpath, reduce vehicle drop-off and pick-ups and idling.
	Traffic restrictions needed at the turn into the school.	1	
	Footpath is needed on Monkstown Grove.	1	
	Bad quality of road surface and potholes are an issue on Monkstown Grove.	1	
	Cars should be banned from dropping off and picking up within 400 yards of the school.	1	
			The scheme includes improvements to the footpath provisions at the Dunedin Park end of Monkstown Grove, on both sides of the carriageway. It is proposed to provide a raised uncontrolled pedestrian crossing to connect both sides. From here a new future footpath will connect to the existing footpath at the Dunedin Drive end of Monkstown Grove, to be constructed on the southern side of the Monkstown Grove as part of the future private development (Planning Application Ref. No. D19A/0798 and An Board Pleanala Ref. No. ABP-30746820). In the meantime the scheme is introducing shared surface zone demarcated with buff colour surfacing and art elements both on the horizontal and vertical surfaces to highlight presence of the school.
			This scheme proposes to provide a new, good quality road surface.
			Introducing this suggestion would inconvenience parents and children with disabilities or those who cannot walk, cycle or scoot to school for various reasons.

	Submissions	Frequency	Responses
1	Traffic safety/ congestion cont.		
	How will the additional car parking space for the residents be achieved?	1	The minor change to the layout and re-surfacing of this area will provide 3 no. full size car parking spaces in place of the current 2 no.
	Any increased traffic problems and loss of on-street parking that result are acceptable.	1	One of the aims of the scheme is to reduce traffic problems in the area, including illegal parking especially during the school drop off and pick-up times. Proposals include retaining car parking space numbers on Monkstown Grove and increasing car parking spaces at the end of Dunedin Park from 2 no. to 3 no.
2	Cycle lanes		
	There is no provision of safe, segregated cycling lanes for students to reach the school.	2	A significant number of cycle schemes are currently at various stage of development around the County with the aim to create a continuous network for cyclists. Routes also exist in residential areas near the school to provide options for cyclists that have less traffic.
3	Other		
	Explicit full support for the works.	3	Thank you for your support for the SRTS Programme.
	Joined up thinking is required.	1	Comment noted.
	A change of mindset is required, as well as the infrastructural support.	1	Comment noted.

	Submissions	Frequency	Responses
3	Other cont.		
	The proposed works are all concerned with landscaping rather than actually improving student road safety.	1	Providing attractive public realm, which includes landscaping, is one of the range of design features proposed nationally under the NTA Safe Routes to School Programme and are some of the measures that encourage drivers to slow down in the vicinity of the school, highlights the entrance to the school, reduces vehicular traffic and congestion and keeps cars away from footpath – thus improving student road safety.
	It's a shame that this scheme only encompasses 4 schools. Everything is a postcode lottery in this country.	1	The Safe Routes to School Programme was open to all schools in Ireland to apply for. 932 schools applied (almost 1 in 4 schools nationwide) and 25 schools in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown requested participation in the Programme. The schools selected for Round 1 (current) were assessed against a range of criteria including school type, location and the school's commitment to sustainable travel. Schools that have applied this year and who have not been included in the first round of funding will not be required to reapply as they will come into the programme on a rolling basis.

APPENDIX C: SECTION 138 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001

Background

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, in conjunction with An Taisce and the National Transport Authority, is proposing to improve road safety adjacent to schools in the county as part of the NTA Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme. The purpose of the schemes is to make the areas immediately adjacent to the schools safer so that children can be encouraged and facilitated to walk and cycle to the schools safely.

Scheme Details

The proposals include:

- Interventions to discourage vehicle congestion and dangerous traffic manoeuvres at the school entrances;
- Highlighting the presence of the school through carriageway colour and coloured road markings, feature bollards and traffic signage;
- Provision of additional raised pedestrian crossings;
- Provision of enhanced pedestrian space at the school entrances;
- Provision of enhanced footpaths on approach to the school;
- Upgrading of the Monkstown Grove public realm outside the school.

Notification under Section 138 of the Local Government Act, 2001

In accordance with Section 138 of the Local Government Act 2001, we are hereby notifying the members of the elected Council of the intention to proceed with the works to construct these Safe Routes to School improvements on Dunedin Park around the Holy Family National School and on Monkstown Grove around the Holy Family National School.

The National Transport Authority have confirmed funding is available to progress such schemes in 2023. Subject to detailed design being completed and the necessary approvals and requirements being met, it is anticipated that construction will commence Quarter 2 or 3 in 2023.