

Richmond Climate Change and Air Quality Action Plan

Survey for Young People: Feedback Report

1. Introduction

This report sets out the feedback from the Richmond Climate Change Strategy and Air Quality survey for young people conducted between 6th September and 24th October 2019.

2. Background

The draft Climate Change Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan sets out how the Council aims to work to reduce its own carbon footprint and improve our air quality.



The purpose of the survey was to gather views from young people about climate change and air quality and to find out what ideas they might have for combatting our local carbon footprint.

3. Methodology

The survey was hosted on the Richmond Council online portal. Paper copies of the strategies and questionnaire were also available by post and at all associated public events. The questionnaire is included at Appendix B of this report.

The questionnaire was designed collaboratively with members of the borough's Youth Parliament. A separate adults' survey was run alongside the young people's version; the output from this work has been reported separately.

To maximise awareness and ensure that everyone had the opportunity to take part, the consultation was publicised on the Council website and via schools, press release and social media. Two Climate Change summits were held; one for children and young people and one for the whole community.

The consultation responses were analysed and reported by the Council's Consultation Team on an anonymous basis under the guidelines of the Data Protection Act.

4. Responses

The Council received 182 responses to this consultation.

A full demographic profile of respondents can be found in Appendix A of this report.

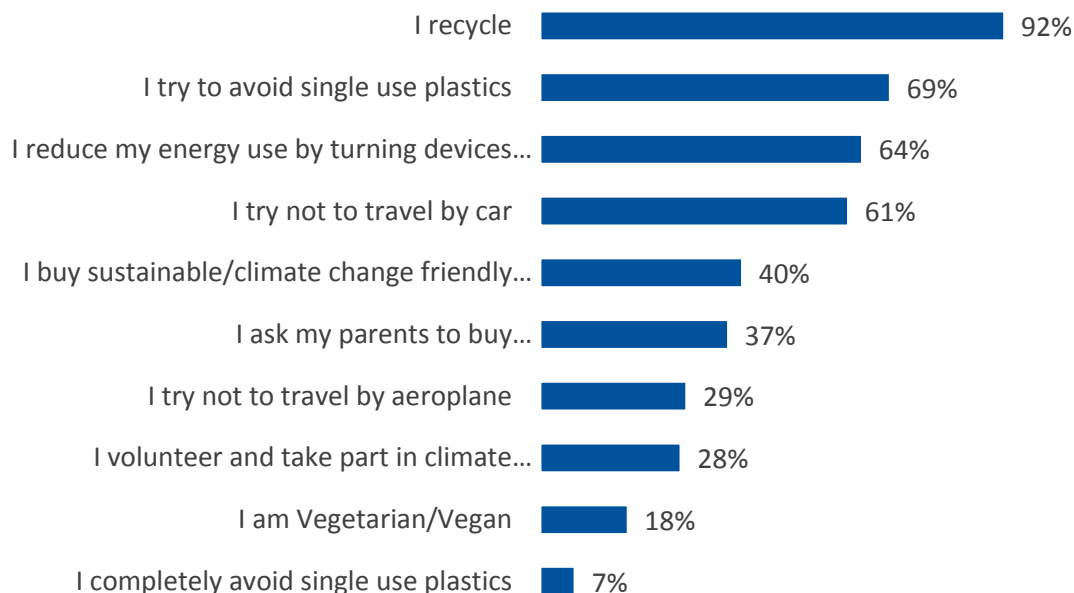
5. Results



What are you already doing to try and prevent climate change?

There were 182 responses to this question.

The most common actions young people are taking to combat climate change are recycling (92%), avoiding single use plastics (69%), reducing energy by turning off unused devices (64%) and trying not to travel by car (61%).

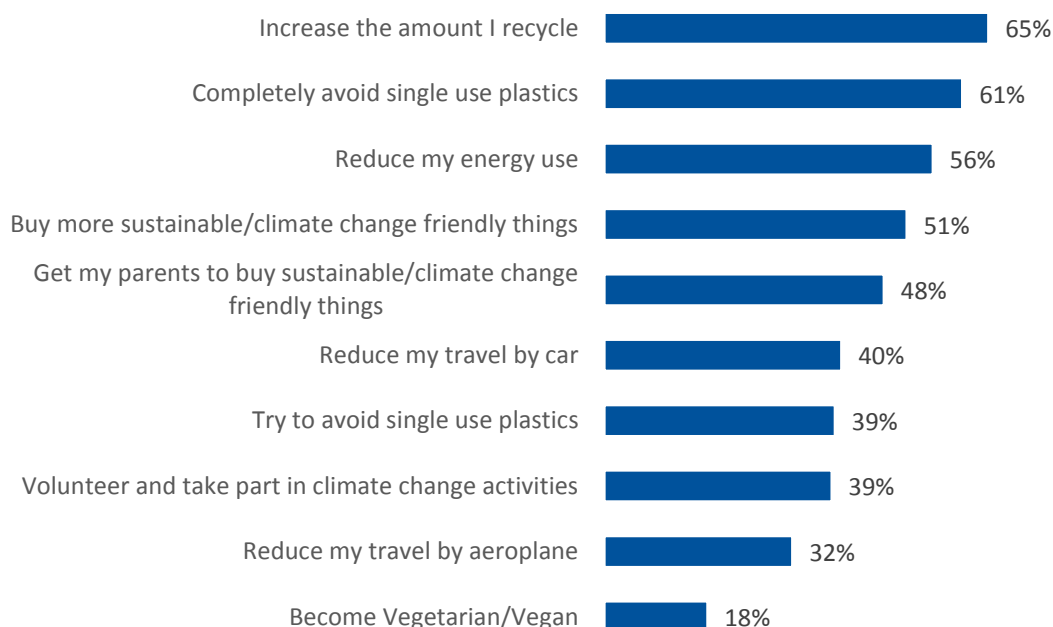


In the 'other' comments box 19 respondents gave a comment. Themes included avoiding meat (3 responses), picking up litter (3 responses), walking to school (2 responses), buying second hand clothes/using charity shops (2 responses).

What would you like to do to try and prevent climate change?

There were 181 responses to this question.

Almost two thirds of young people would like to increase the amount they recycle (65%) and avoid single use plastics (61%). Just over half of respondents would also like to reduce their energy use (56%) and buy more sustainable/climate change friendly things (51%).



What are the barriers that stop you doing what you'd like to do?

There were 161 responses to this question.

When the responses to this open question were analysed, 11 main themes emerged:

What are the barriers that stop you doing what you'd like to do?	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Theme 1: Prevalence of plastics/lack of plastic alternatives (eco products)	36	22%
Theme 2: Money/cost/expensive	31	19%
Theme 3: Parents/family (they control purchases)	22	14%
Theme 4: Not interested/reluctance to change/inconvenience	19	12%
Theme 5: Lack of time	13	8%
Theme 6: Food (I like meat/vegetarianism a barrier)	12	7%
Theme 7: Travel by car a necessity	9	6%
Theme 8: My age/kids don't have a voice/can't make a difference	7	4%
Theme 9: Like travel/Holidays/don't want to give up	7	4%
Theme 10: Lack of information/education	7	4%
Theme 11: My circumstances	6	4%

What do you think are the two most important things that need to be done to try to prevent climate change?

There were 180 responses to this question.

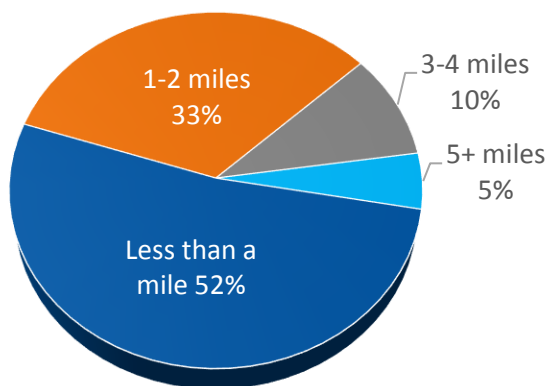
When the responses to this open question were analysed, 13 main themes emerged:

Themes	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Theme 1: Use less/don't use plastic/plastic alternative/less supermarket plastics	62	34%
Theme 2: Ban/cut back fossil fuels/cut (vehicle) pollution/need more electric vehicles	49	27%
Theme 3: Recycle (more)/re-use/buy more sustainably	43	24%
Theme 4: Ban single use plastic	32	18%
Theme 5: Eat less meat/become vegetarian/vegan/don't kill animals	32	18%
Theme 6: Government support/legislation/regulate industry	29	16%
Theme 7: Eco-friendly travel -walk more/reduce car usage/cut air travel	26	14%
Theme 8: Reduce CO2 emissions/greenhouse gas	17	9%
Theme 9: Environment - plant trees/stop deforestation/protect habitats	17	9%
Theme10: Use renewable/sustainable energy	13	7%
Theme 11: Education/awareness	10	6%
Theme 12: Use less energy	9	5%
Theme 13: Don't litter	8	4%

How far away do you live from your school?

There were 178 responses to this question.

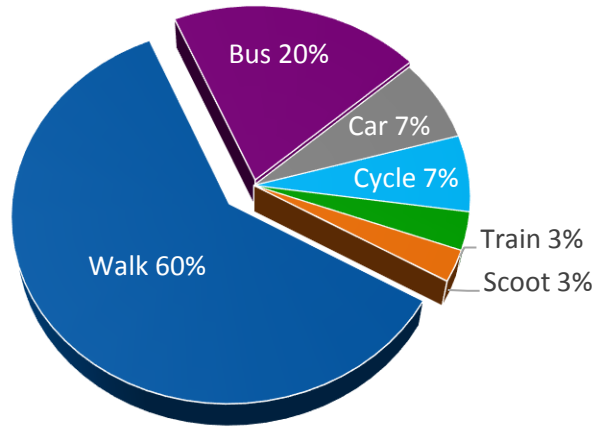
Over half of respondents (52%) lived less than a mile from school, a further third (33%) living 1-2 miles away.



How do you usually travel to school?

There were 181 responses to this question.

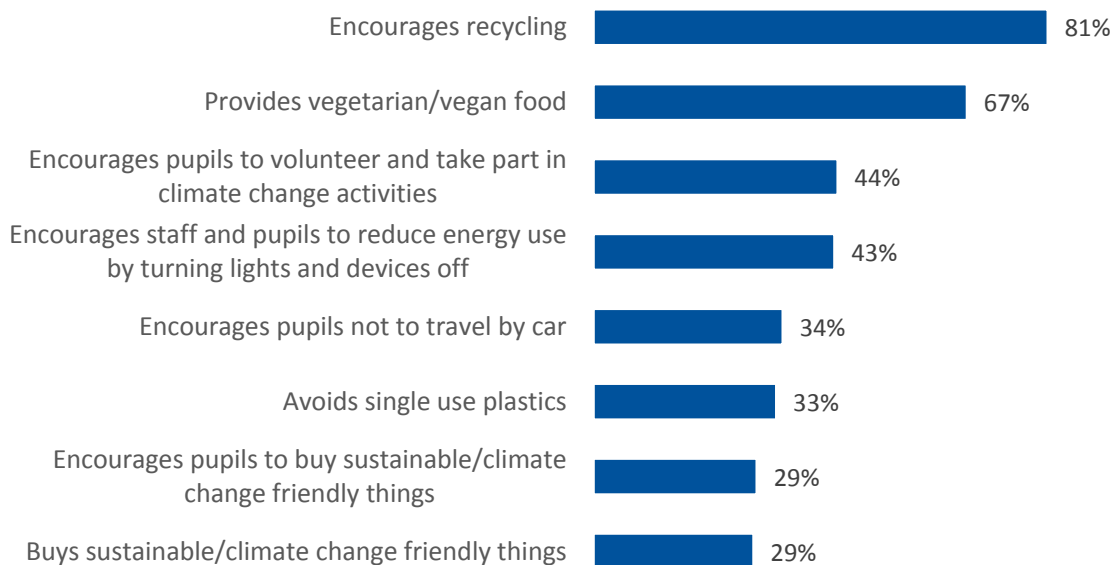
Six in ten respondents (60%) usually walk to school, and one in five travel by bus (20%).



What does your school/college do to try and prevent climate change?

There were 174 responses to this question.

Eight in ten respondents (81%) said that their school encourages recycling and two thirds (67%) said vegetarian/vegan food is provided at their school.

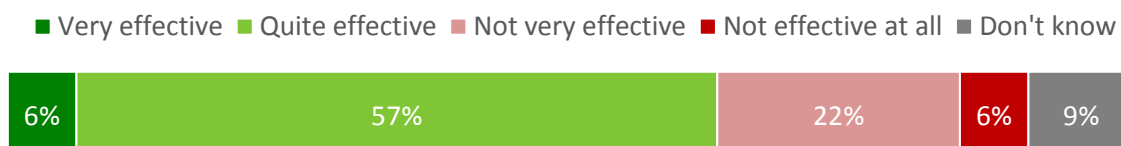


How effective do you think your school/college is at trying to prevent climate change?

There were 181 responses to this question.

Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) rated their school/college effective, but only 6% gave a 'very effective' rating.

More than a quarter (28%) rated their school/college as 'not very effective' or 'not effective at all' at trying to prevent climate change.



Is there anything else you would like your school/college to do?

There were 120 responses to this question.

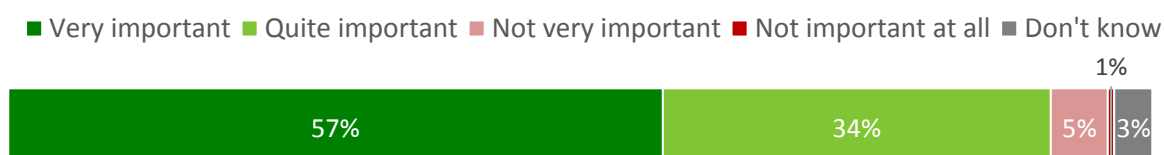
When the responses to this open question were analysed, eight main themes emerged:

Themes	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Theme 1: Cut back on single use plastics (especially in canteen)	47	39%
Theme 2: More recycling (more bins/make it easier to recycle)	22	18%
Theme 3: Food: less meat /more vegetarian food/less food waste	18	15%
Theme 4: No/not really	15	13%
Theme 5: Energy efficiency (save energy, have solar panels)	12	10%
Theme 6: Encourage student involvement	9	8%
Theme 7: Education about climate change/ living more sustainably	8	7%
Theme 8: Reuse products/less waste/use recycled packaging	5	4%

How important an issue do you think air pollution is in our borough?

There were 180 responses to this question.

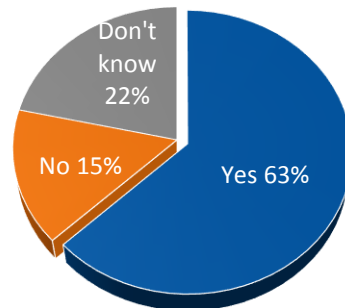
More than nine in ten respondents (91%) considered air pollution to be an important issue in the borough and over half (57%) considered it to be 'very important'.



Are you aware that you can significantly reduce your own exposure to polluted air by walking or cycling ‘one road back’?

There were 181 responses to this question.

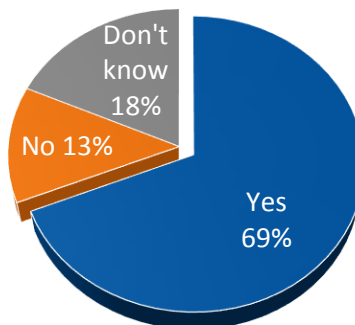
Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) were aware that they could reduce their exposure to polluted air when walking to school. 15% were not aware and 22% were uncertain.



Will you try and choose less busy routes now you know that the air is healthier to breathe?

There were 180 responses to this question.

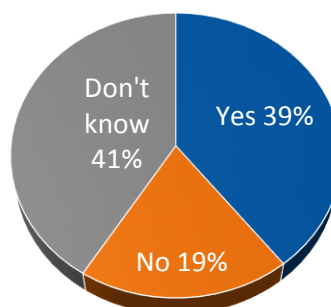
Over two thirds of respondents (69%) said they would choose less busy routes. One in six (13%) said they would not.



Will you try and create low pollution walking routes to your school/college and publish them on your school/college website?

There were 180 responses to this question.

Over a third (39%) answered yes to this, whilst 9% answered 'no' and 41% were uncertain.



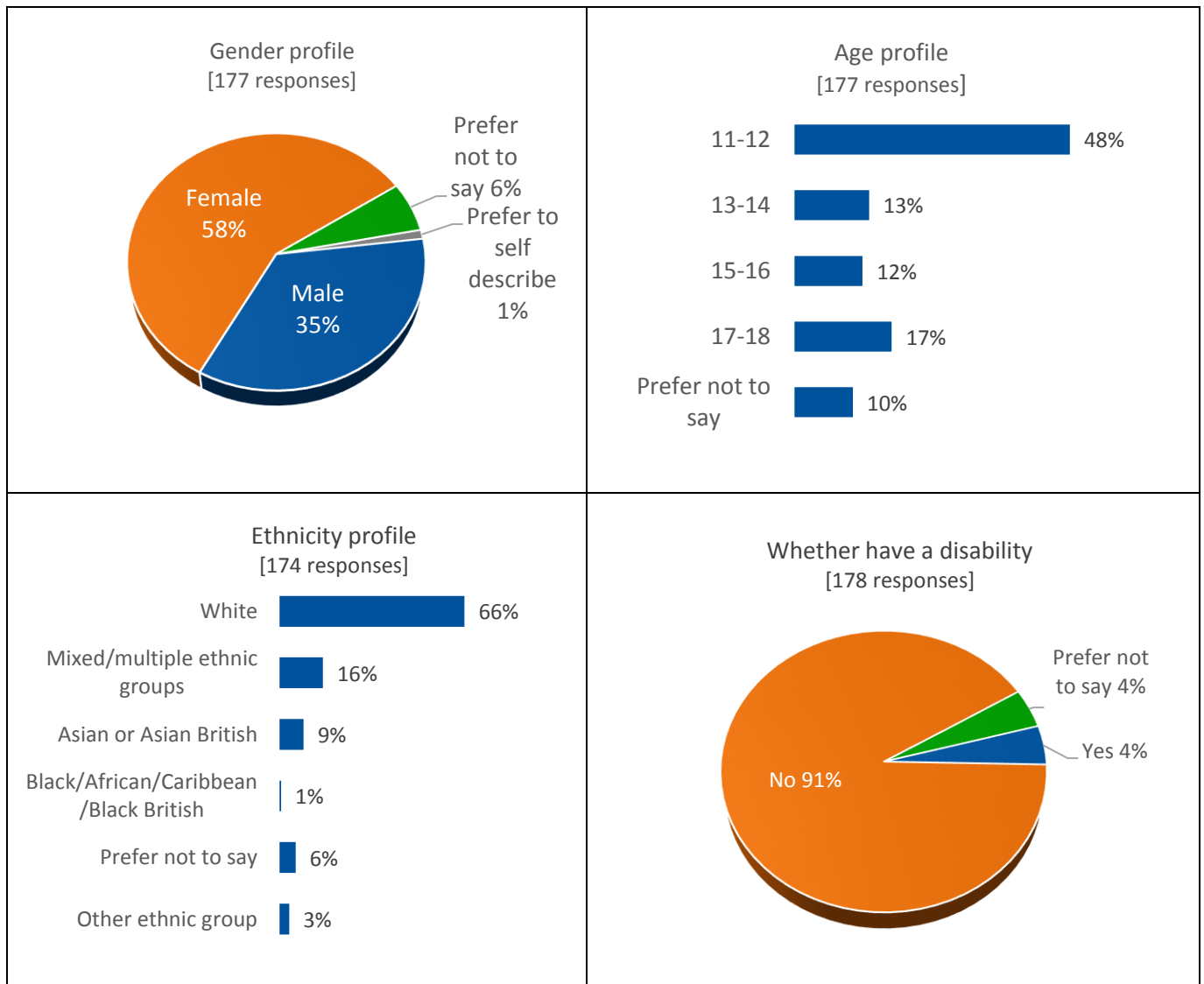
Have you heard of walkit.com?

(walkit.com is a website for finding quieter, cleaner routes.)

There were 180 responses to this question.

Awareness of the walkit.com website is very low; only 4% of respondents had heard of it and 96% had not.

Appendix A: Demographic profile of respondents



Appendix B: Questionnaire

Climate change and air quality questionnaire for young people

Climate Change is a major challenge facing our planet. We are already seeing the effects everywhere. Ice in the Arctic and Antarctic is melting, leading to rising sea levels. The frequency and strength of storms is increasing, leaving destruction in their wake. And rainfall patterns are shifting, causing devastating droughts and floods.

Tackling this will require action at global, national and local level.

Richmond Council recognises that we all have a voice. We all have a responsibility to protect our planet. We want young people to work with the Council to help influence change locally and help develop strategies that will make a difference in Richmond upon Thames.

The Climate Change Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan sets out how the Council aims to work to reduce its own carbon footprint and improve our air quality. It looks at our nature, our water, our waste and our air.



We want to know the views of young people. We want to know how young people are already seeing the impact of climate change, and what ideas they might have for combatting our local carbon footprint.

Please read the materials below and give us your views using the online survey.

[Climate Change Strategy - summary version](#)

See our animations:

[Overall Strategy](#)

[Our Nature](#)

[Our Water](#)

[Our Waste](#)

[Our Legacy](#)

You can also see videos on each theme from Councillors and local experts in each area. See the videos [here](#).

[Air Quality Strategy](#)

See our animation:

[Our Air](#)

You can also see videos on the strategy from Cllr Ehmann and local experts in the area. See the videos [here](#).

Have your say

Help us shape our strategy and action plan between 6 September – 24 October by completing the online survey below. Also give us your ideas about what you can do to reduce your own carbon footprint!

Questionnaire

1. What are you already doing to try and prevent climate change?

Please select all that apply

- I recycle
- I am Vegetarian/Vegan
- I try not to travel by car
- I try not to travel by aeroplane
- I try to avoid single use plastics
- I completely avoid single use plastics
- I reduce my energy use by turning devices off when I'm not using them
- I buy sustainable/climate change friendly things
- I ask my parents to buy sustainable/climate change friendly things
- I volunteer and take part in climate change activities

Other:

2. What would you like to do to try and prevent climate change?

Please select all that apply

- Increase the amount I recycle
- Become Vegetarian/Vegan
- Reduce my travel by car
- Reduce my travel by aeroplane
- Try to avoid single use plastics
- Completely avoid single use plastics
- Reduce my energy use
- Buy more sustainable/climate change friendly things
- Get my parents to buy sustainable/climate change friendly things
- Volunteer and take part in climate change activities

Other:

3. What are the barriers that stop you doing what you'd like to do?

4. What do you think are the two most important things that need to be done to try to prevent climate change?

1:

2:

5. How far away do you live from your school?

Please select only one answer

- Less than a mile
- 1-2 miles
- 3-4 miles
- 5+ miles

6. How do you usually travel to school?

Please select only one answer

- Walk
- Scoot
- Cycle
- Car
- Bus
- Train

7. What does your school/college do to try and prevent climate change?

Please select all that apply

- Encourages recycling
- Provides vegetarian/vegan food
- Encourages pupils not to travel by car
- Avoids single use plastics
- Encourages staff and pupils to reduce energy use by turning lights and devices off
- Buys sustainable/climate change friendly things
- Encourages pupils to buy sustainable/climate change friendly things
- Encourages pupils to volunteer and take part in climate change activities

Other:

8. How effective do you think your school/college is at trying to prevent climate change?

Please select only one answer

- Very effective
- Quite effective
- Not very effective
- Not effective at all
- Don't know

9. Is there anything else you would like your school/college to do?

10. How important an issue do you think air pollution is in our borough?

Please select only one answer

- Very important
- Quite important
- Not very important
- Not important at all
- Don't know

11. Are you aware that you can significantly reduce your own exposure to polluted air by walking or cycling “one road back”? So finding a parallel route to the main road, along another road, river or through a park?

Please select only one answer

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

12. Will you try and choose less busy routes now you know that the air is healthier to breathe?

Please select only one answer

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

13. Will you try and create low pollution walking routes to your school/college and publish them on your school/college website?

Please select only one answer

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

14. Have you heard of walkit.com? Great for finding quieter, cleaner routes.

Please select only one answer

- Yes
- No

About you

The following questions help us to be fair to everyone who lives in the borough. If there are any questions you do not wish to answer, please move on to the next question.

15. Are you:

Please select only one answer

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe:

16. What was your age last birthday?

Please select only one answer

- 11-12
- 13-14
- 15-16
- 17-18
- Prefer not to say

17. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Please select only one answer

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

18. How would you describe your ethnic group?

Please select only one answer

- White
- Mixed/multiple ethnic groups
- Asian or Asian British
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British
- Prefer not to say
- Other ethnic group, please specify: