

A48 to Llangan Active Travel route options

Consultation report 5 April 2022

Introduction

A consultation was undertaken on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's proposals to construct an active travel route from the A48 to Llangan between 2 March and 23 March 2022. The public were asked to choose which of the three possible route options they would like to see developed.

The aim of the scheme is to provide a safer highway environment for pedestrian movements and provide opportunities for active travel, particularly for vulnerable road users and school pupils.

Funding for this scheme has been secured from the Welsh Government Additional Active Travel fund.

Consultation Activities

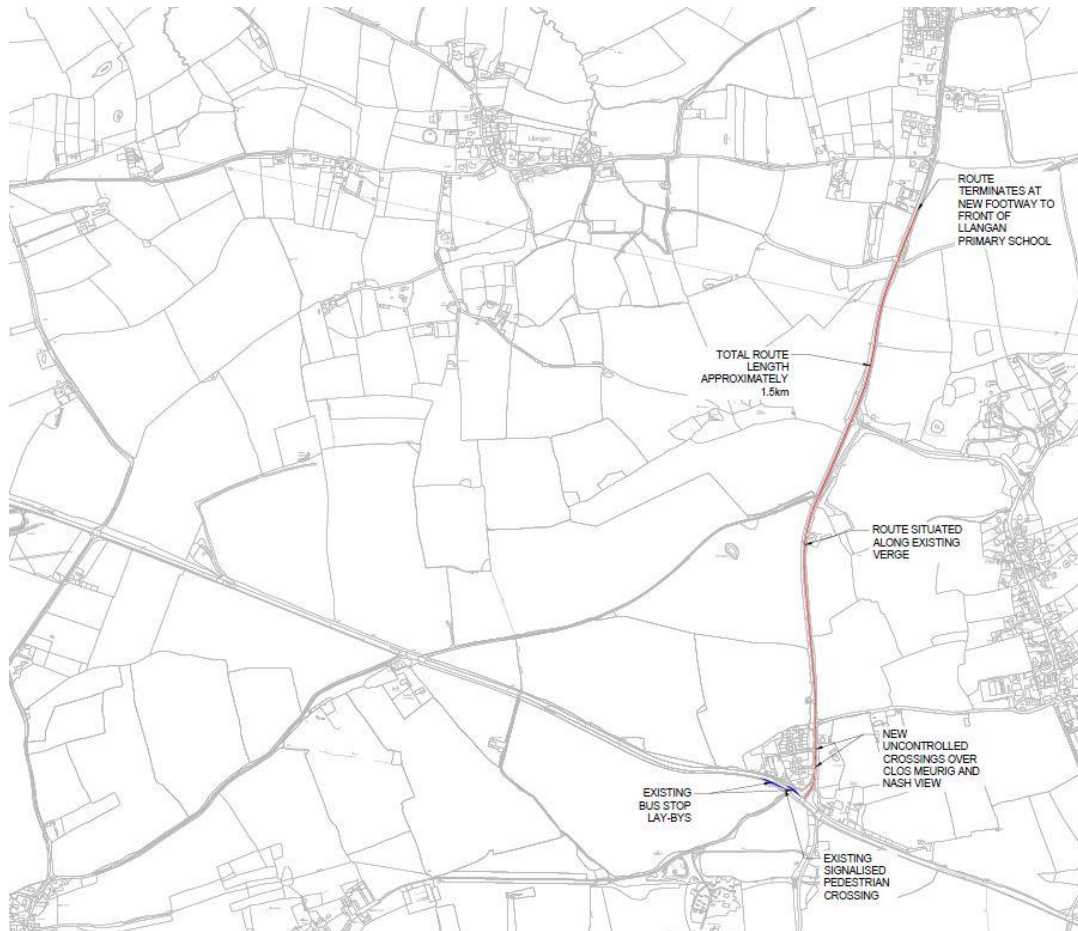
The following activities were undertaken to promote the consultation:

- Site notices in the vicinity of the scheme (included on the site notice was a telephone number to call to discuss the scheme)
- Email to stakeholders and statutory consultees
- Information on the Council Active Travel webpage
- Social media posts

An online survey was provided to record consultation responses. Paper copies of the survey were also made available on request.

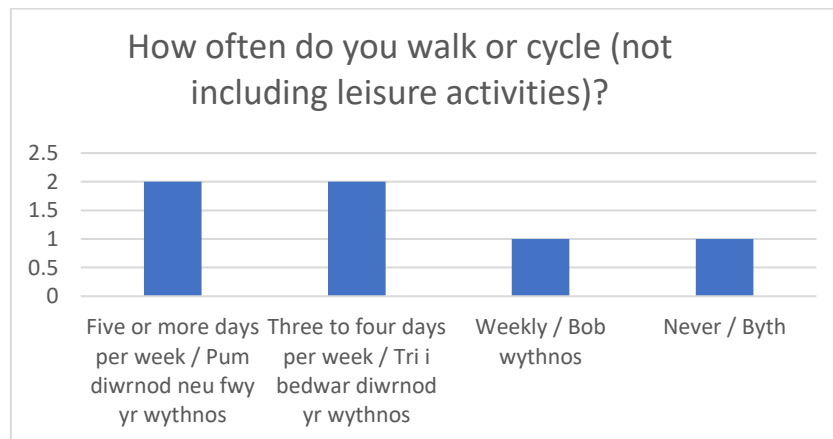
Consultation Results

We received 12 responses via emails and the survey. 100% of those that chose a preferred route option chose route option B.



Survey results

Question 1



Question 2 asked *What do you consider to be the barriers to walking and cycling between Llangan and the A48?*

The answers, included as they were received, were:

- Speeding traffic.
- No pavements which makes it extremely dangerous. Large vehicles passing accessing M4 from Llandow.
- No safe pavement access
- You cannot walk or cycle safely
- Yes
- Dangerous traffic, no pavements. I have children so would never let them walk up a 60mph road without pavements. I wouldn't either. I wouldn't risk bikes either.

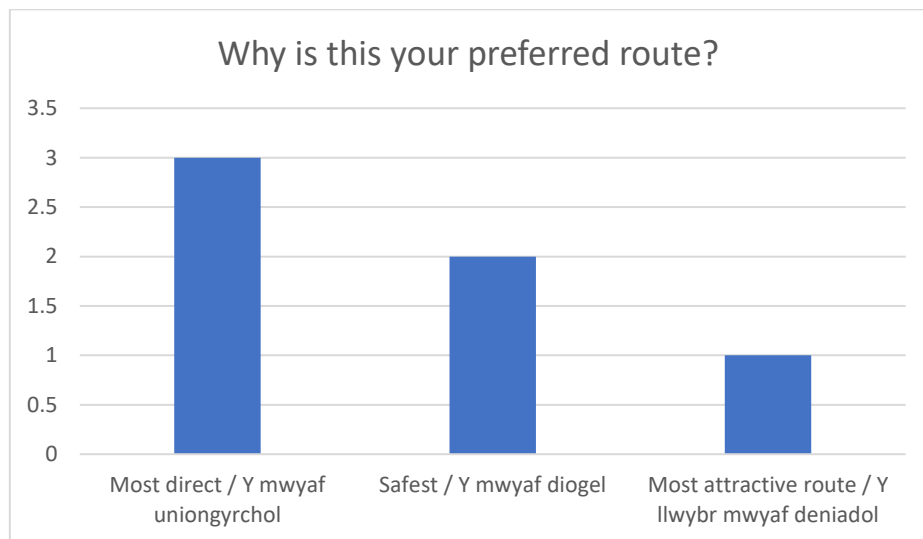
Question 3 asked *Do you think the proposal to develop an active travel route in this area is a positive one?*

The 6 respondents answered 'yes'.

Question 4 said *We have put together three proposals to improve the active travel link from the school to the A48. Can you let us know your preferred option? (see consultation document for plans)*

The 6 respondents answered 'route B'

Question 5



Question 6

Finally, if you have any additional comments or suggestions surrounding the proposals, please provide these in the space below.

Comment received	Council response
Very pleased you're considering this. Thank you.	Thank you for your support
Llangan has no facilities and the closest village that does is Graig Penllyn. Lack of pavements to walk there impacts usage.	Improvements for pedestrians and cyclists along the A48 are included on our Active Travel Network Map and funding

Could consideration be made to develop a safe pavement/access from Pentre Meyrick to Cowbridge so the new active trail could be used to access our nearest town?	opportunities to explore these will be sought.
There is no need to alter speed limits on the main highway as long as a small verge is retained between the pavement and highway. The A48 itself has this arrangement without the need to alter the speed limit to 30mph.	Lower vehicle speeds create a more comfortable environment for pedestrians and cyclists. Speed reduction would be considered as part of the next phase of design.
Building a travel route from Llangan to a48 would allow many people to walk to school rather to Han use cars. It also allows people in Llangan, Fferm Goch, St Mary Hill to use the bus service.	Agreed.
This route would allow me to walk my daughter and myself to Llangan primary school where she attends and I work. We live in Clos Murig but it also gives residents in timbers green, Fferm Goch, Heol Llidiard and surrounding villages access to the A48 for better access to a bus route, currently there is only a community bus service that you have to call in advance for.	Noted.
That route means residents can easily head to a bus stop as well as further on to Cowbridge – which is difficult for residents of Llangan and surrounding areas at the moment. More people would take the bus into Cardiff / Bridgend if they could walk to the bus stop. It would be safer for teens to cycle to Cowbridge comprehensive school too. It's definitely needed.	Thank you for your support.

4 emails were received to the consultation inbox:

1. Please could I request that you consider extending your plans to allow a safe cycle / pedestrian route between Llangan village and Llangan school? I have two young children and I struggle to walk up the narrow lane with a buggy. I will not be able to allow my children to walk to school on their own when they are old enough as it is not safe on the road. We are missing out on exercise, fresh air and teaching our children about the environment and active travel by driving the very short distance to school because of road safety concerns.
2. Of the three options a,b,and c I would support route B as it avoids any “lonely and unlit” stretches of road or unduly steep hills which are included in the other two routes.

However, I would ask that consideration be given to extending the northern end into Llangan Village. This extension would allow the residents of the village to benefit from a safe cycle/ pedestrian route both to the A48 and to Llangan School.

At present this short length of lane is very hazardous to both as it is very narrow and heavily used by school traffic. Consequently, parents including myself often drive my child to school over this very short length of lane, rather than risk even escorting her to school. Also, my daughter would love to ride her bike to school, currently this is not safe. There are too few

laybys' areas and we as parents cannot use it safely with buggies at any time. I also fear for my safety when walking my dogs, as I know many other residents in the village do.

Please consider this proposal.

3. Of the three options a,b,and c I would support route B as it avoids any "lonely and unlit" stretches of road or unduly steep hills which are included in the other two routes.

However, I would ask that consideration be given to extending the northern end into Llangan Village. This extension would allow the residents of the village to benefit from a safe cycle/ pedestrian route both to the A48 and to Llangan School.

At present this short length of lane is very hazardous to both as it is very narrow and heavily used by school traffic. Consequently parents will often drive their children to school over this very short length of lane, rather than risk even escorting them to school. There are few refuge areas and parents can not use it safely with buggy's at any time.

4. To whom it may concern. As a resident of Llangan with a child at the local primary school we are delighted to see this initiative.

Of the three options our preference would be to see route B selected as it avoids any "lonely and unlit" stretches of road or unduly steep hills which are included in the other two routes as well as linking into the school. However, we would ask that consideration be given to extending route beyond the school to the village of Llangan itself.

This extension would crucially allow the residents of the village to benefit from a safe cycle/ pedestrian route to Llangan School as well as the A48 which would allow residents safe passage to be able to walk/cycle to school (and beyond).

At present this short length of lane is very hazardous to both as it is very narrow and heavily used by school traffic. Consequently all the parents in the village choose to drive their children to school over this very short length of lane, rather than risk walking or cycling. There are few refuge areas and parents can not use it safely with buggy's at any time. As a parent of a child in the school we would love to be able to escort our son to school without using the car but particularly at peak drop off/pick up times it is simply too dangerous and unfortunately road users, just simply don't allow the courtesy of safe passage up the lane and we have seen some very close calls esp with kids on bikes, or with wider vehicles eg the school bus. Furthermore, if we want to take my son for a bike ride then we have to get in the car to drive to a park/safe space as the roads are simply too dangerous with no pavement/bike lane or space to pass traffic safely, especially for a young, novice cyclist.

As a family and community we would therefore be most grateful if you could please give serious consideration to this small extension as it really would make a huge impact to the local community, particularly the local children and would also allow us to prioritise an environmental agenda without jeopardising their/our safety.

The Active Travel Officer spoke to a resident, and this is a record of the conversation:

Thank you for talking to me just now about this proposal.

In summary, you are not objecting the scheme, but you do not support it until some form of traffic calming is put in place.

The road is a cut through to the M4 and is used by large vehicles.

Vehicles do not adhere to speed limits.

Vehicles overtake other vehicles doing the speed limits – particularly dangerous by Llangan Primary School

Suggestion that an average speed camera be installed, as RCT have done near Leekes of Llantrisant. GoSafe van works for a short period of time, but as soon as visible presence has gone the speeds are not complied with.

You have not responded to the consultation online and I will use this email as your response in the consultation report (all responses are anonymous).

Llangan Community Council submitted their response:

Thank you for sending the Community Council a copy of the Active Travel Route options. This is the Community Council's response. I have not used the online form as it is not suitable for a group response such as this.

The Community Council supports the improvement of sustainable travel routes with its emphasis on the vulnerable and school users. The Community Council assumes that vulnerability extends to cover issues such as affordability as rural communities are home to many financially disadvantaged residents.

The Community Council recognises that providing an active travel route in a rural community which lacks adequate public transport and basic infrastructure, such as pavements and safe crossing points, is difficult. The Community Council would argue that such difficulties need to be tackled urgently and the lack of any current safe options means that the more isolated rural areas, such as Llangan, should be the priority for action.

Having considered the three alternative routes, the Community Council takes the view that Route B, with possibly further amendment (see later), is the best option. This is because:

- residents of Fferm Goch and the new affordable housing next to the school will have a safe and direct route to a bus stop, bearing in mind that not everyone has a car
- people from the social housing in Pentre Meyrick will have a safe route to take their children to school. At present they have to walk down a very busy main "A" road which is used as a 'rat run and by many heavy vehicles
- it avoids any "lonely and unlit" stretches of road or unduly steep hills which are included in the other two routes.
- the verges along this route are very wide (as verges go) and could easily have a pathway incorporated onto them with less environmental impact, for such things as wild life, because hedges would not have to be ripped out. Also, there would be no need for hedge replanting which would take a very long time. Many of these mature hedges are hundreds of years old
- because the verges could be used for the route there would be no need to compensate farmers for taking their land
- it represents the most cost-effective use of public money

However, the Community Council would further suggest that Route B could be optimised by extending the northern end into Llangan village. This extension would allow the residents of the village to benefit from a safe cycle/pedestrian route both to the A48 and to Llangan School. At

present this short length of lane is very hazardous to both, as it is very narrow and heavily used by school traffic. Consequently, parents will often drive their children to school over this very short length of lane, rather than risk even escorting them to school. There are few refuge areas and parents can not use it safely with buggies at any time.

The route for this extension would be down the main lane then round the back through the fields to the school car park (please see attached route) cutting off the narrow dangerous stretch outlined.

The Community Council hopes these comments prove of assistance.

Recommendation

The Council will undertake concept design of an active travel route in line with the proposal listed as Option B. This will be fully funded by the 2022/23 Welsh Government Core Active Travel grant that has been awarded.

Route extension into Llangan village, as suggested by the majority of the respondents to the consultation, will be considered as part of the concept design.