

Richard Huish College

Summary Report: Student and Staff Travel Survey 2022



Contents

Introduction	2
Summary Analysis	3
Survey.....	3
How students and staff travel to College.....	3
Parking, Park and Ride and Train Station Shuttle	4
Dedicated and Subsidised Bus Services	6
Other Matters Raised.....	7
Implications of the Data.....	7
Appendix 1: Student and Staff Survey Questions	9

Introduction

In 2020, the College produced a Travel Plan to help improve access for students and staff travelling to the main campus in Taunton and to improve sustainability of travel options against a growing climate change and decarbonisation agenda. The Plan sets out a range of actions which the College is seeking to pursue on a continuous basis.

One action identified in the Plan is a need to have better baseline data to inform and support positive change and actions both on the College campus site and off-site with regard to travel options and influencing measures which are the responsibility of other bodies.

In April / May 2021, a student survey was undertaken, followed by a survey issued to staff in June 2021. A summary report of the survey can be seen [here](#).

In May 2022, following further work in the preceding year to develop projects to encourage more cycling for local journeys and on buses for other parts of Somerset, the survey was tailored specifically to ask staff and students about a more selective set of issues. A copy of the survey questions is appended (Appendix1).

This report provides a brief summary analysis of the data. It is not intended to provide a detailed analysis or suggest solutions or actions as a result. It has been made available to Somerset County Council to inform and aid monitoring of the understanding of key issues relating to transport challenges, with the College one of the main destinations in the town during term time in terms of number of trips. On that basis it also demonstrates added value on a wider community basis with the data helping to inform the prioritisation of improvements to the cycling and walking / pedestrian network and to bus services / provision, as well as other types of support for students to get to and from College. This and subsequent similar reports can also play a role in information wider spatial planning and travel issues.

A travel survey is likely to continue to be undertaken on an annual basis to help establish trends and help to test the results of measures put in place, over time, to help students and staff overcome barriers to getting to and from College, improve their journey and assess the College's support of active and sustainable travel methods.

While the 2022 survey asked a different set of questions to that asked in 2021, it still allows some comparison to be made between the two.

It should be noted that Upper Sixth students answering the survey provide a "snapshot" but their answers can contribute to understanding trends over the long-term and also identify differences in travel modes used between lower sixth (Year 1) and Upper Sixth (Year 2).

Summary Analysis

Survey

Responses were received from 697 students and staff. 580 of these responses were from students. Response numbers were reasonably split with 239 from the Upper Sixth and 339 from Year 1 / Level 2 students. 2 responses were received from adult learners / apprentices.

1. Who are you?

[More Details](#)

Staff Full Time	71
Staff Part Time	46
Year 1/Level 2 Student	339
Year 2 Student	239
Apprentice/Adult Learner	2



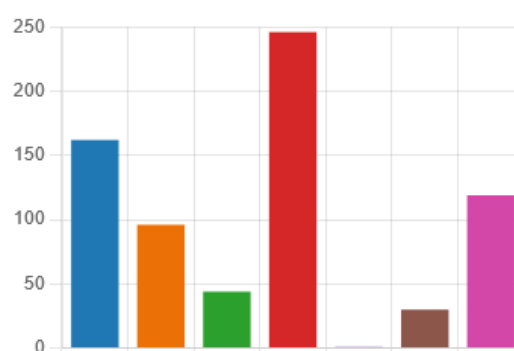
How students and staff travel to College

The largest number of responses suggested that most of the respondents surveyed travel to the College by bus. A significant proportion also replied “other” meaning that they travel by more than one transport mode to get to College. The data suggests that a large proportion of “other” answers involved travel by bus. Between “bus” and “other” answers, 301 students said that they use the bus, representing 52% of student responders.

2. How do you get to college?

[More Details](#)

Drive	162
Walk	96
Cycle	44
Bus	246
Train	1
I get a lift from someone	30
Other. Combination of the abov...	119



3. If you answered Other above, please give details.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

147

Responses

Latest Responses

80 respondents (54%) answered **Bus** for this question. ...

Bus and car lifts from friends college **Bus** walk lift or bus bus and sometimes drive Drive to the bus bus stop cycle walk Lift from someone & walk bus some days walk or get a lift bus and Walk bus or a lift Drive or cycle bus home days I get the bus cycle but drive bus and some times

Parking, Park and Ride and Train Station Shuttle

158 respondents have a full or occasional use parking permit to park in the College car park. 99 student responders drive, 46 of which said that they have a permit to park at the College. Of the 53 who do not have a permit, 43 said they park on-street. A small number (6) said that they would use park and ride instead if the College offered it as a free service. Only two members of staff said that they park on-street. 13 members of staff said that they would use a free park and ride service, 9 of which currently have a parking permit and 4 other using more than one mode of transport to get to College.

Altogether 109 staff and students said that they are likely or very likely to use Taunton Gateway park and ride and 83 said they might use Silks Mills park and ride if offered as a free service to and from the College direct. 40 of these said that they would use a park and ride instead of driving or other (more than one) form of transport.

When asked if they would use the free shuttle bus from Taunton station to the College, 73 respondents said that they would and would consider getting the train to Taunton as a result.

4. Do you have a permit to park a car on site?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Yes. Occasional User Permit	36
Yes. Full permit.	122
No	440



5. Do you ever park in the streets local to the college?

[More Details](#)



6. If you park on the streets please explain the reason why, and roughly where you park.

[More Details](#)

Insights

102
Responses

Latest Responses

30 respondents (29%) answered **Stoke road** for this question.



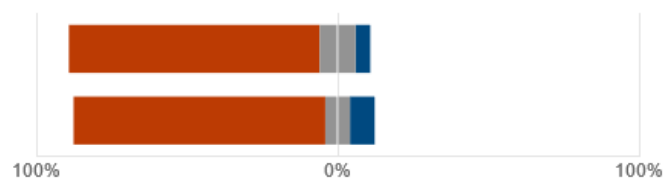
7. If we offered FREE use of a park and ride system coming directly to the college from Silk Mills or Taunton Gateway, how likely are you to use this service?

[More Details](#)

■ Very unlikely ■ Likely ■ Very likely

Taunton Gateway

Silk Mills

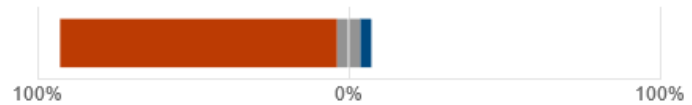


8. If we offered a FREE shuttle bus from Taunton Train Station to the college, how likely are you to start travelling to college by train?

[More Details](#)

Very unlikely Likely Very likely

Train and FREE shuttle bus



Dedicated and Subsidised Bus Services

The survey asked if staff and students would use a dedicated and subsidised bus service if one was provided by the College, from Uffculme, Chard, Minehead or Ilminster.

Regarding the Uffculme service, 71 said that they would use it if introduced (those responding “likely” or “very likely”). 1 of these respondents was a member of staff.

Regarding the Chard service, 43 said that they would use it if introduced. 1 of these respondents was a member of staff.

Regarding the Minehead service, 71 said that they would use it if introduced. 6 of these respondents were members of staff.

Regarding the Ilminster service, 50 said that they would use it if introduced. 2 of these respondents were members of staff.

These results should be treated with a little caution as some respondents suggested that they would use more than one of these services if introduced.

9. Would you consider using a DEDICATED and SUBSIDISED college bus service instead of your current method of transport from any of the following areas?

[More Details](#)

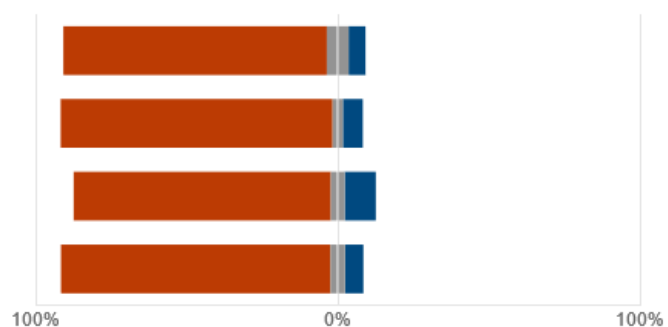
Very unlikely Likely Very likely

Uffculme

Chard

Minehead

Ilminster

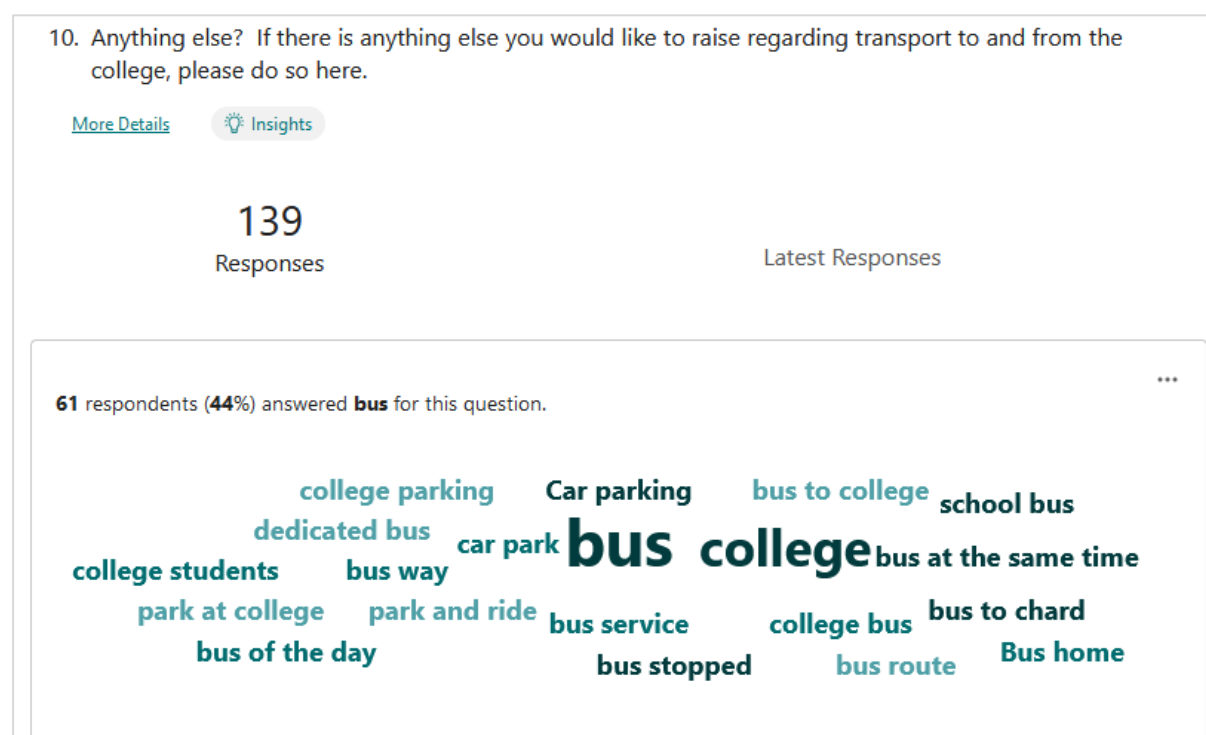


Other Matters Raised

The survey also asked if there were any other matters or issues which respondents wanted to raise.

Of the 139 responses to this question the key issues raised focused around the following:

- 63 respondents raised issues relating to bus travel. These mainly focused on cost, reliability, a need for additional routes and timetabling of services;
- 37 mentioned parking. These responses mainly focused on the cost of parking at the College, the permit scheme in a wider sense and other options such as use of the Wyvern Club or removing the residents' parking scheme on nearby streets; and,
- 8 mentioned cycling issues such as improved maintenance of the path behind the College to Vivary Park, a need for additional covered cycle stands and issues with negotiating the entrance gate to College while pushing a bike.



Implications of the Data

The data provides some useful steer and support for some of the measures currently being explored by the College through the Travel Plan. For example:

- One of the main barriers to students continues to relate to bus services. The College is continuing to explore improvements to bus services with partners such as bus service providers and the County Council. The data provides the evidence to support anecdotal understanding of the locations and service issues which cause problems for students. This includes gaps in services from some parts of Somerset and beyond and the journey time. Information on potential use of services which could be provided as dedicated and subsidised services has informed further consideration of these as options.
- Parking issues also remained a key issue, since the 2021 survey. The questions posed in the survey provide valuable data to support the introduction of measures such as a park and ride services which call / divert into the College in the morning and afternoon. Data also supports the College shuttle service to and from the station. Such measures can help to reduce parking issues at and around the College and also help contribute to reducing carbon emissions.

- The survey focused less on cycling and walking in 2022. However, measures continue to be developed as part of the Travel Plan to improve infrastructure in and around the College to serve those cycling and walking to College.

The data summarised and analysed in this report provides a summary analysis. Data can be further scrutinised by the College to help support further work on overcoming the travel challenges faced by students and opportunities which could be pursued to improve the position. Further surveys in subsequent years will help to show trends and patterns of change against a useful baseline and also to help measure the success of improvements and changes brought about.

A Travel Plan “Progress Report” provides an update of projects which are currently being pursued to introduce improvements to accessibility for students and staff to College.

Appendix 1: Student and Staff Survey Questions

Huish Transport Survey

One of our core values is Sustainability. We consider the environmental impact of our activities and actively seek more sustainable solutions. Through our behaviour and decisions we are committed to reducing our environmental impact. Understanding how students and staff travel to college is a key component of this commitment so we would be very grateful if you would complete this short survey, to get us started.

* This form will record your name, please fill your name.

How you currently get to college

1. Who are you?

- ☐ Staff Full Time
- ☐ Staff Part Time
- ☐ Year 1/Level 2 Student
- ☐ Year 2 Student
- ☐ Apprentice/Adult Learner

2. How do you get to college?

- ☐ Drive
- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Cycle
- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Train
- ☐ I get a lift from someone
- ☐ Other. Combination of the above. Please give details in question 3.

3. If you answered Other above, please give details.

Driving a car to college

If you drive to college please answer these questions. If not please go straight to question 7.

4. Do you have a permit to park a car on site?

- ☐ Yes. Occasional User Permit
- ☐ Yes. Full permit.
- ☐ No

5. Do you ever park in the streets local to the college?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

6. If you park on the streets please explain the reason why, and roughly where you park.

Future travel options

We are looking to trial some new travel options to improve our sustainability and reduce the pressure on parking.

7. If we offered FREE use of a park and ride system coming directly to the college from Silk Mills or Taunton Gateway, how likely are you to use this service?

	Very unlikely	Likely	Very likely
Taunton Gateway	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Silk Mills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. If we offered a FREE shuttle bus from Taunton Train Station to the college, how likely are you to start travelling to college by train?


	Very unlikely	Likely	Very likely
Train and FREE shuttle bus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Would you consider using a DEDICATED and SUBSIDISED college bus service instead of your current method of transport from any of the following areas?

	Very unlikely	Likely	Very likely
Uffculme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chard	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minehead	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ilminster	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Anything else? If there is anything else you would like to raise regarding transport to and from the college, please do so here.

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