



Results of a survey of present and future students and parents of Goatstown Educate Together Secondary School January 2021 on safe and sustainable ways to get to the new school and suggestions on how Dun Laoighre Rathdown CoCo might implement this.

The Green Committee Goatstown Educate Together Secondary School

We are a group of students in the new Goatstown Educate Together Secondary School who soon will be moving to the old Glass Bottle Recreation Site on the Goatstown Road in Goatstown. As a committee we have been considering more environmentally friendly options for our new school such as the sourcing of an energy company who primarily sources their electricity from green, sustainable sources, the provision of compost bins on our site, growing and learning how to plant and grow vegetables and fruit amongst other exciting projects. We are also looking at how as a school community we can attempt to lower our carbon emissions by encouraging students to cycle or walk to school as well as being mindful that by walking or cycling to school we as a school community will be fitter, healthier and happier! We are very interested in and would very much like to be considered as part of the DLRCoCo Active School Travel Initiative and note that we may not be covered on all routes to our school by this. Hence we are writing to you to see if you could include Goatstown ETSS on this. In consultation with our teachers and researching what other schools have done to achieve this we set about doing a survey and surveyed present students and parents of current students and of new incoming students in September. The below are the results.

In consultation with other schools and Dun Laoighre Rathdown Traffic Section, who have been very supportive of this project and have helped enormously with feedback on this, from the results of the survey we have also put in maps of how students would get to school by bicycle or by foot safely and what would prevent them from doing so. We are aware that some of the bicycle lanes that we point out on the map are indeed in the process of planning, that some are temporary and that some cycle lanes just require safety, protected barriers such as bollards or curbs. For the

purposes of this document at the moment these do not exist however we do appreciate that they may be in planning and would be very supportive of this.

We are aware and welcome the fact that Dun Laoighre Rathdown County Council are in the process of providing safe routes to school for children and parents, through a mixture of traffic calming measures and protecting existing routes. The Green Committee at Goatstown Educate Together Secondary School would like to ensure that our school is also included in this project and that students and staff can get to school in a safe, sustainable way.

In this document we will share with you the results of our survey and suggestions from students and parents on safer routes to school by car or foot.

Here are the results of the survey from January 2021.

How will you your child get to the new school in Goatstown?

43% of existing students said that they would cycle or walk to school

43% of existing students said that they would take public transport

The rest would take a car – those who said that they would go by car cited the school was too far away to walk and cycling is too dangerous in Dublin

67% of parents for existing and future students said that their children would either walk or cycle to school

13% of parents for existing and future students said that their children would take public transport

How far do you live from the school?

100% of students lived less than 5km from the new school campus on both surveys – existing and future parents

Just over 50% of current students will be coming to the new campus from Dundrum direction – the rest from Goatstown/Kilmacud direction

There is a 50/50 split of current and future students coming from both the Dundrum and Goatstown/Kilmacud directions

Do you believe that you/your child would be better prepared for school if they got some exercise getting to school in terms of walking or cycling?

63% of current students believe that they would be better prepared for school if they got some exercise getting to school in terms of walking or cycling

84% of parents for existing and future students said that their children would be better prepared for school if they got some exercise getting to school in terms of walking or cycling

Do you believe that you would benefit from some cycling training?

63% of current students believe that they would benefit from some cycling training

89% of parents for existing and future students said that their children would benefit from some cycling training

Would you be interested in a cycling group to get to school?

88% of current students said that they would be interested in participating in a cycling group to get to school

Would you as a parent support walking or cycling improvements to school even if it meant limiting access by car?

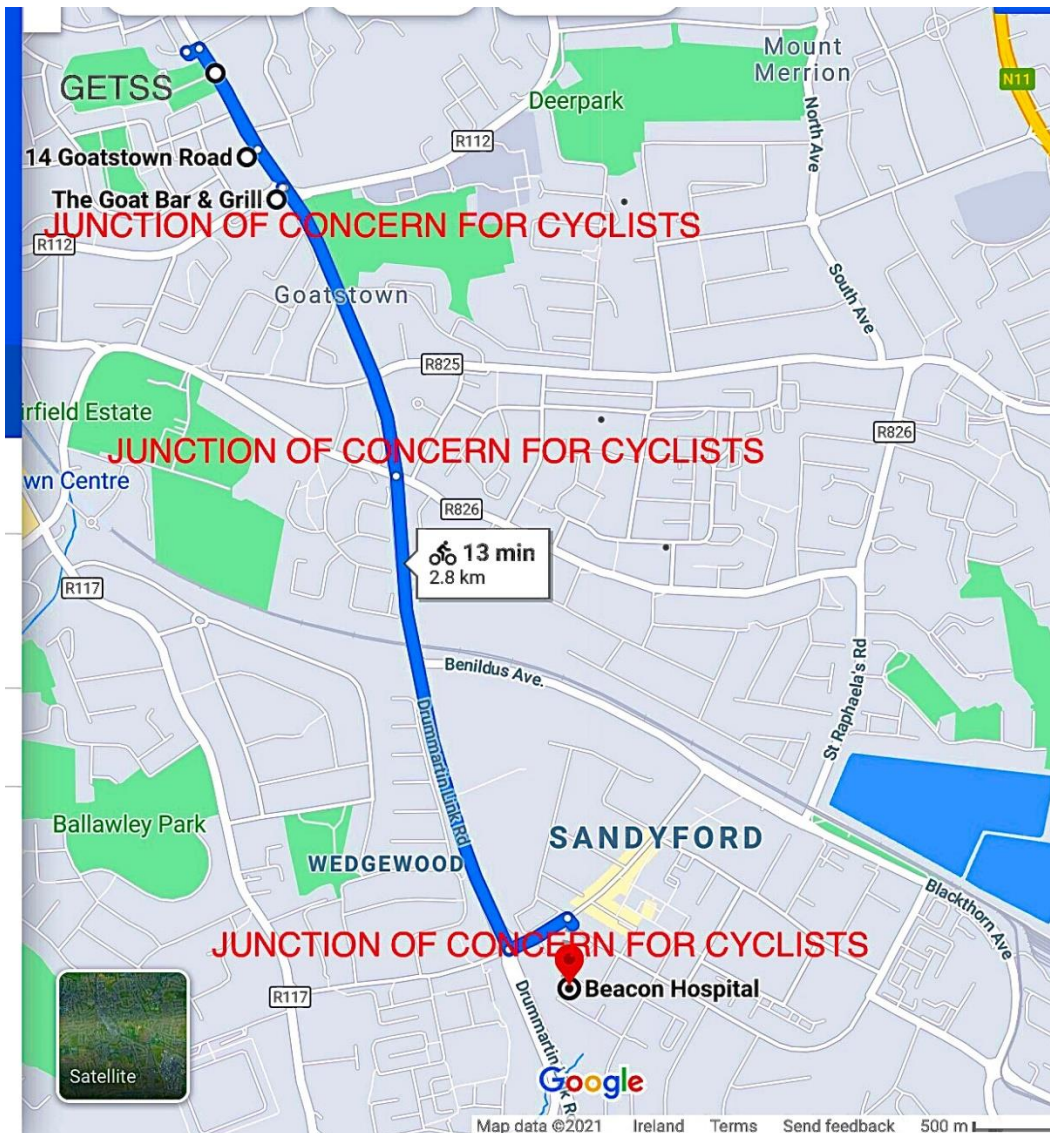
89% of parents for existing and future students said in principle they would support walking and cycling improvements to the school even if it meant limiting access by car

Other notes of interest in the comments section

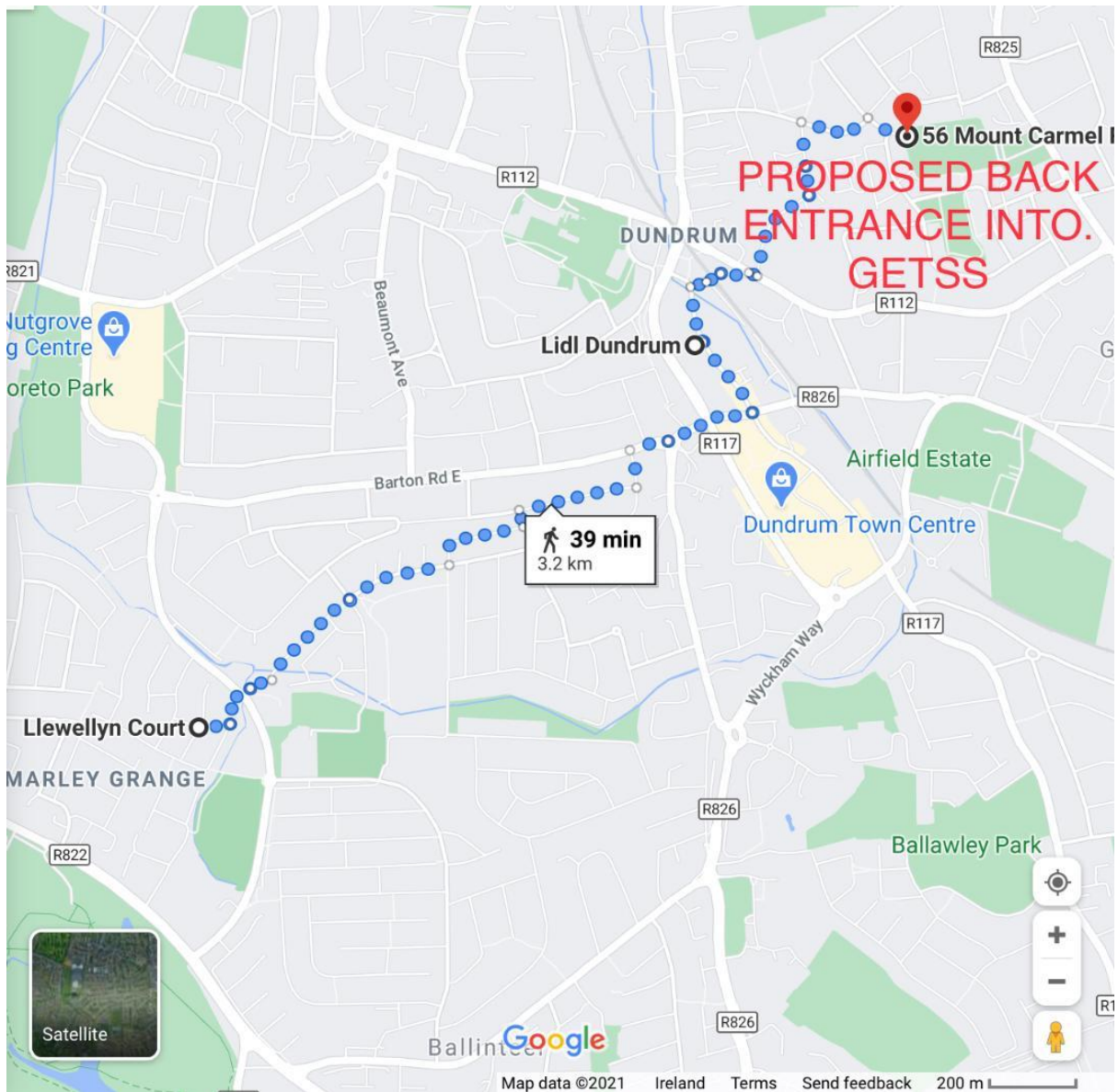
Both students, staff and parents lamented the fact that there was not better public transport options to the school.

Parents commented how beneficial pedestrian entrances at Farmhill Road and Mount Carmel Avenue would be which is in the planning phase.

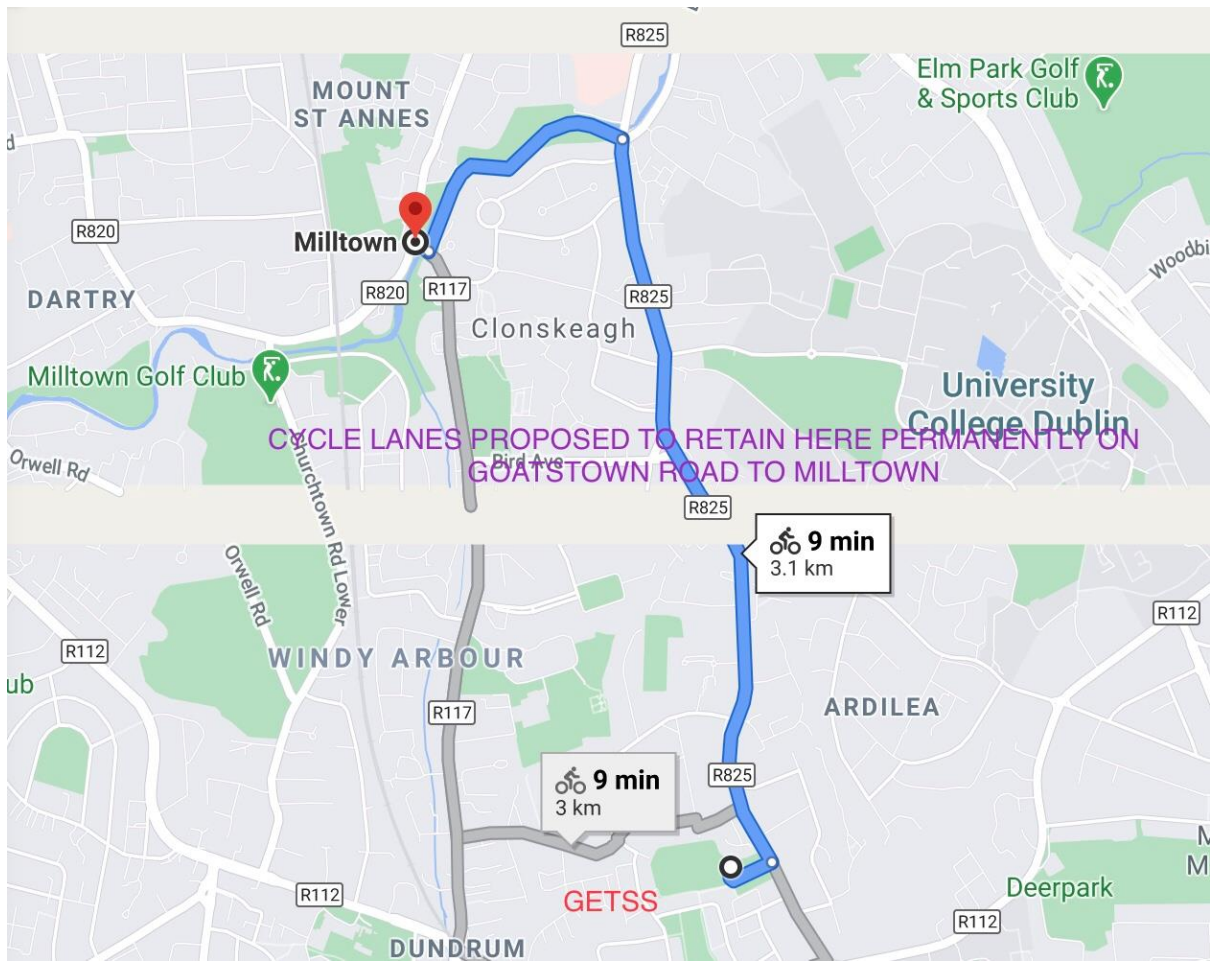
As can be seen above the vast majority of students and parents would like safe, healthy and sustainable means to get to school instead of taking a single use car. We asked students and parents if they could point out dangerous junctions and roads that they would be concerned about. The following demonstrates concern that students and parents would have. We of course understand that the Council are currently looking at making many junctions safer for pedestrians and cyclists but this how things stand.



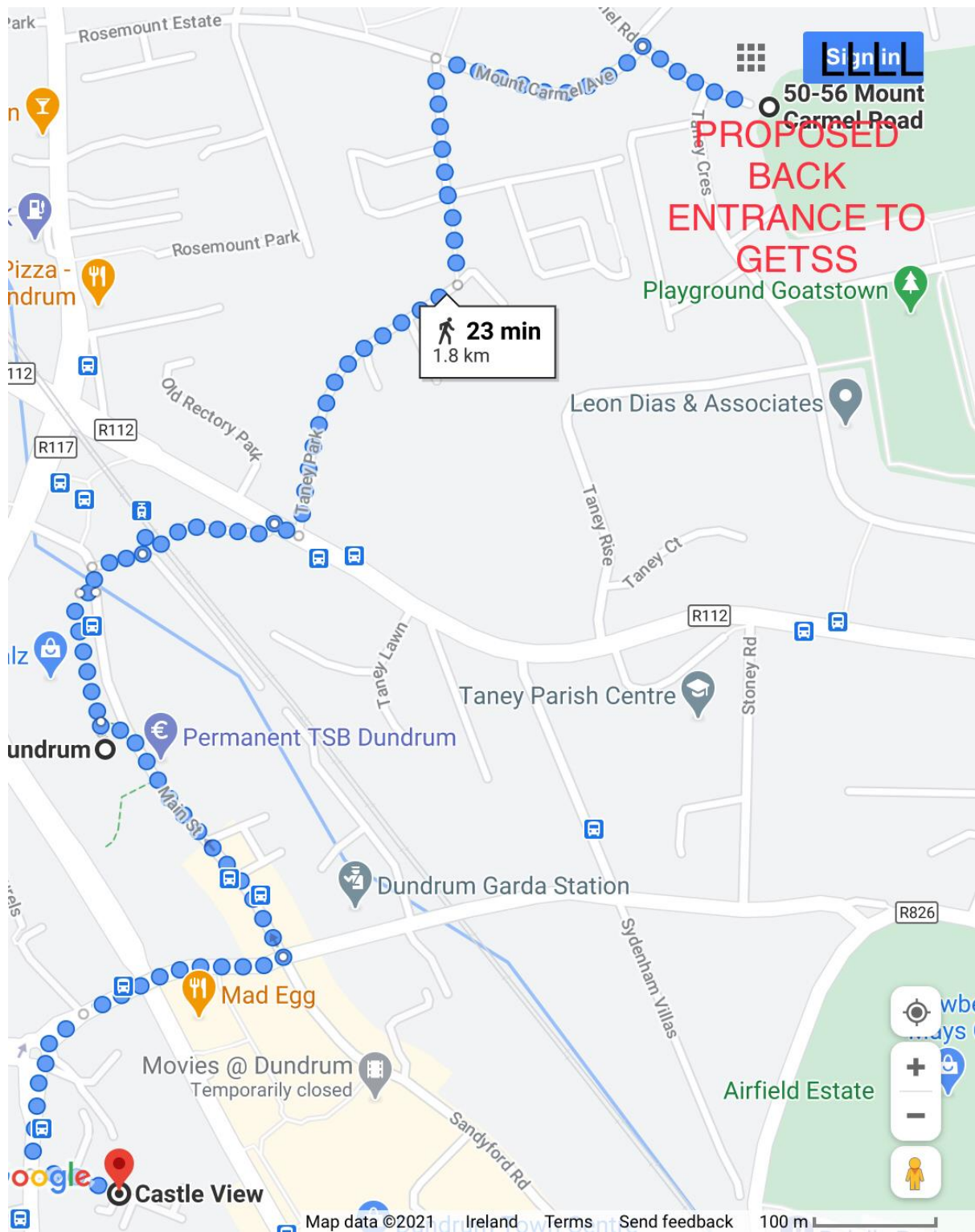
Students and parents have expressed concern for cyclists and students travelling from Sandyford Industrial Estate – many cycle lanes here are not protected by barriers or curbs.



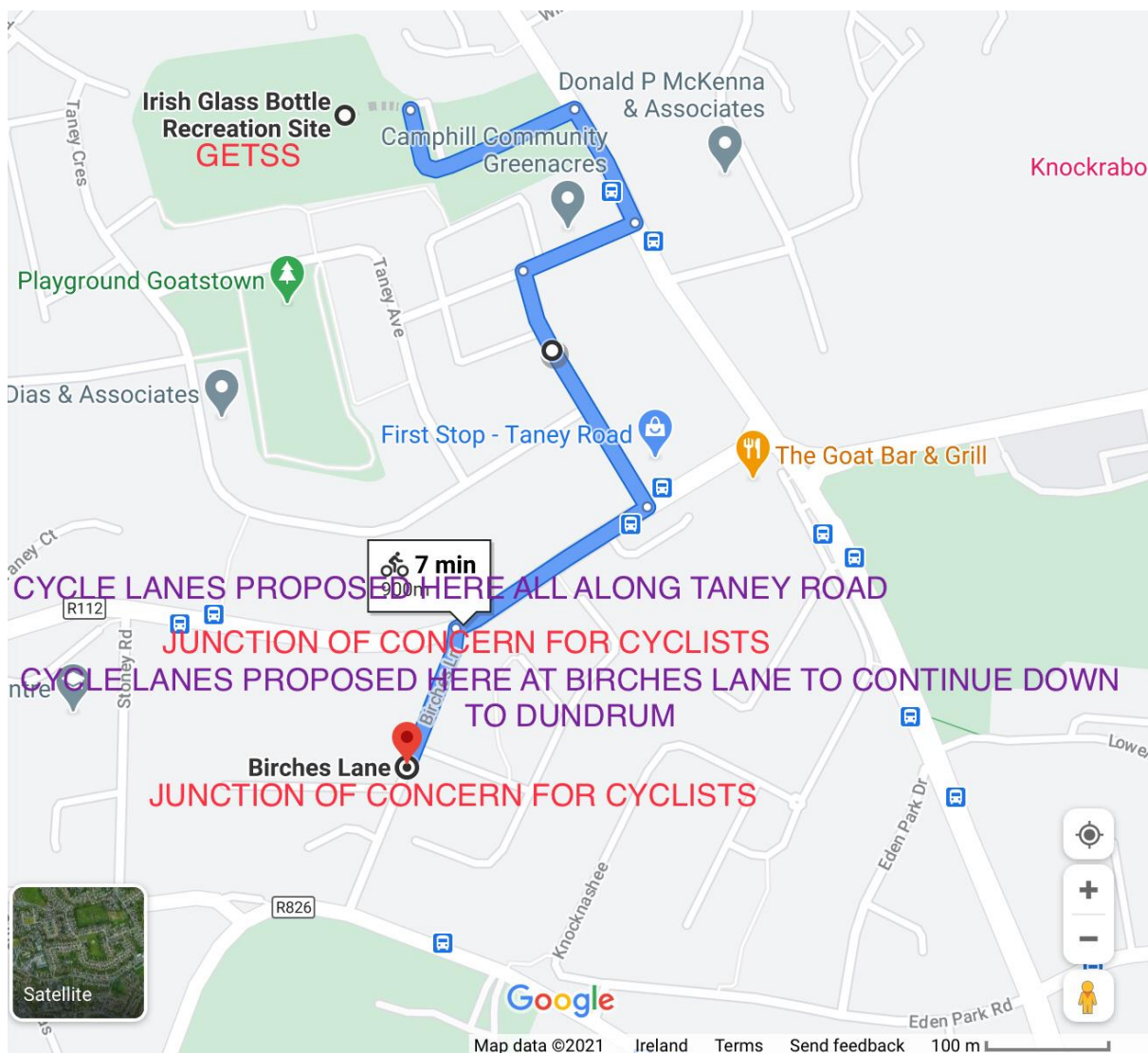
Proposed walking/cycling routes from Llewellyn Court in Ballinteer to Goatstown. We would encourage students to use back roads and not Barton Road. However some students will be coming from Barton Road so students and parents propose that the existing cycle lanes here become segregated lanes to add to cycle safety.



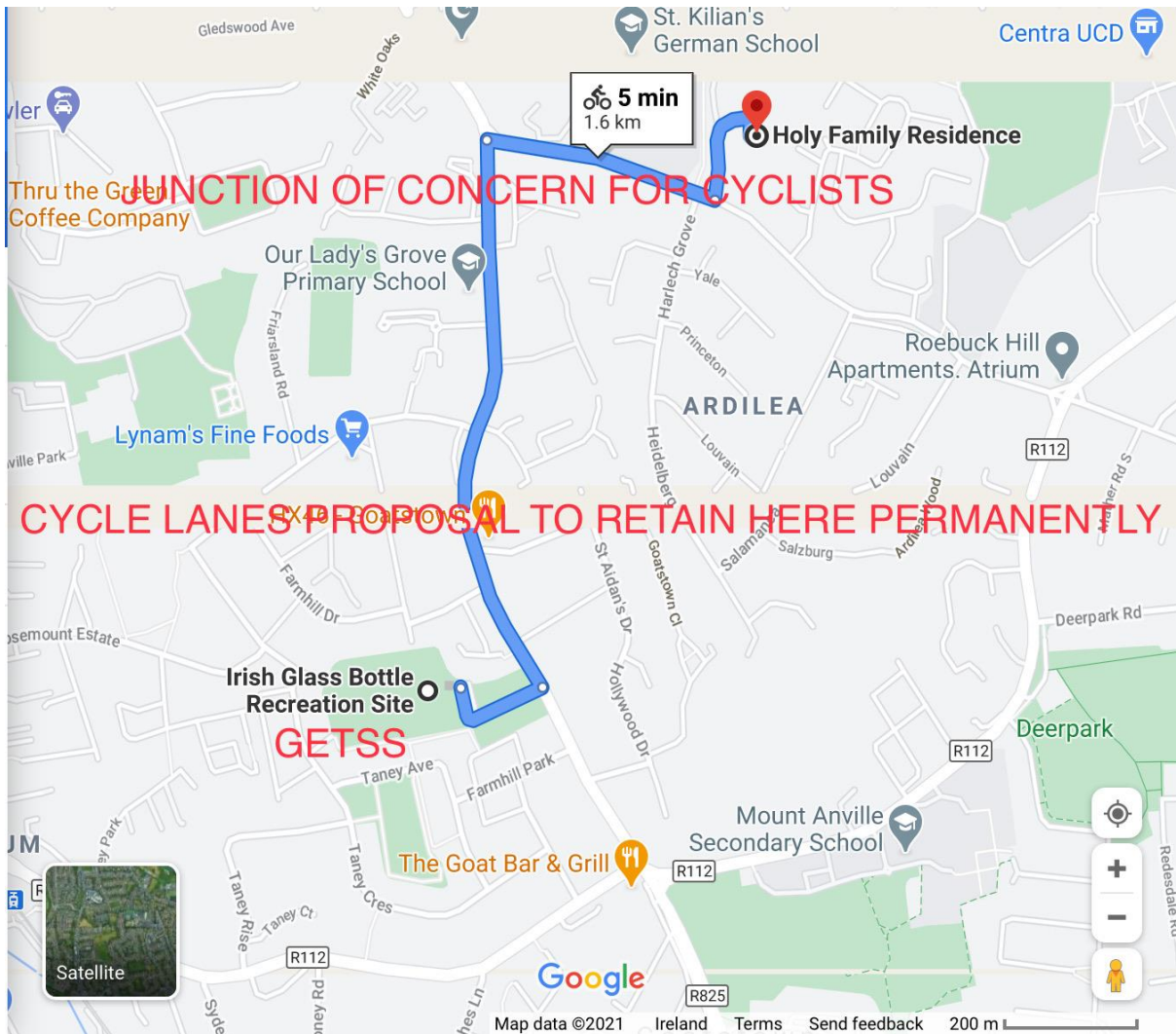
Students, parents and staff have asked that the protected bicycle lanes on the Goatstown Road remain in place.



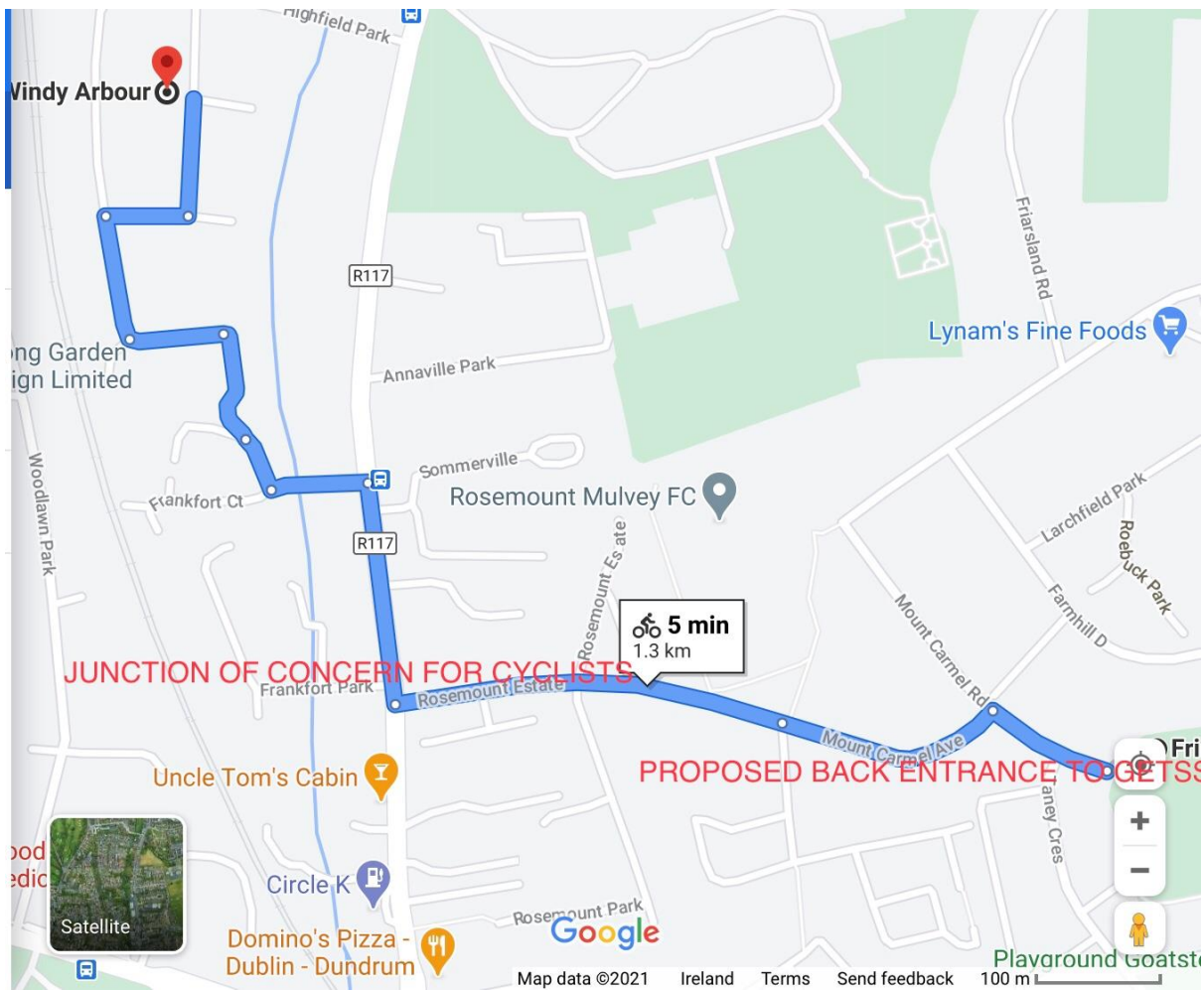
Students, parents and staff have asked that the segregated bicycle lanes in Dundrum Village remain in place. Students and parents have also asked for traffic calming measures through Rosemount such as bollards or no through access for cars Monday to Friday from 7am – 9am and 1pm – 6pm.



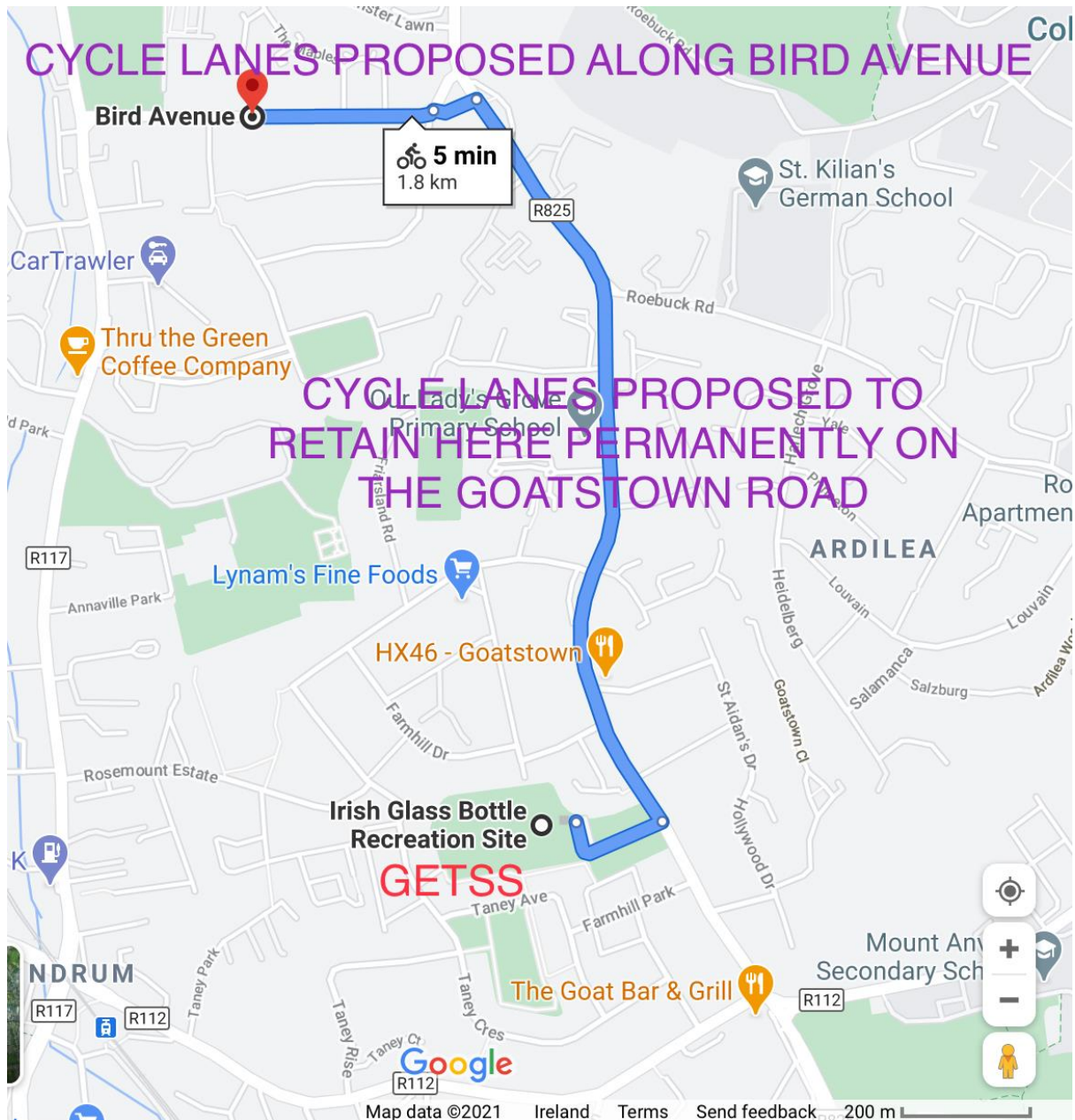
Students and parents have expressed concern for the junctions here at both the top and bottom of Birches Lane. Students and parents have expressed an interest for cycle lanes on both sides of Taney Road leading from Dundrum Road junction to the Goatstown Road junction.



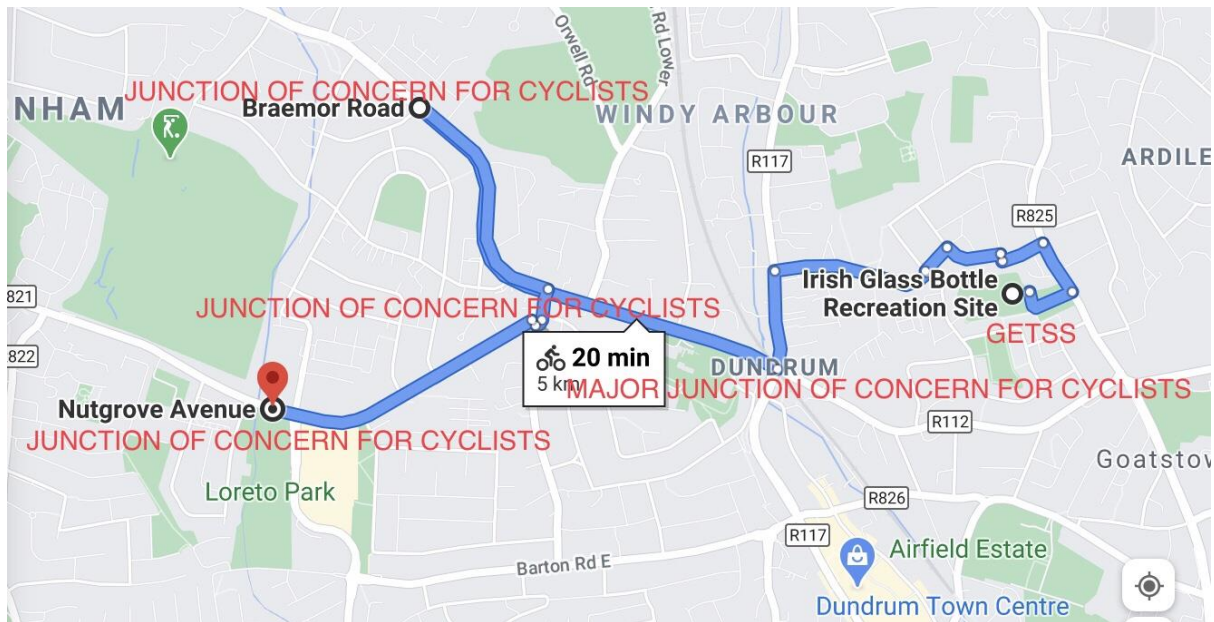
Students and parents have expressed concern for the junction from Goatstown Road and Roebuck Road of being dangerous. Students and parents would welcome existing segregated bicycle lanes to be retained and to be extended the whole way down the Roebuck Road leading to Foster's Avenue. There are some walls in existing housing estates and quieter roads that could be knocked through to provide for safe pedestrian and cycling routes to the school from Roebuck in order to avoid the dangerous junction at Goatstown Road and Roebuck Road.



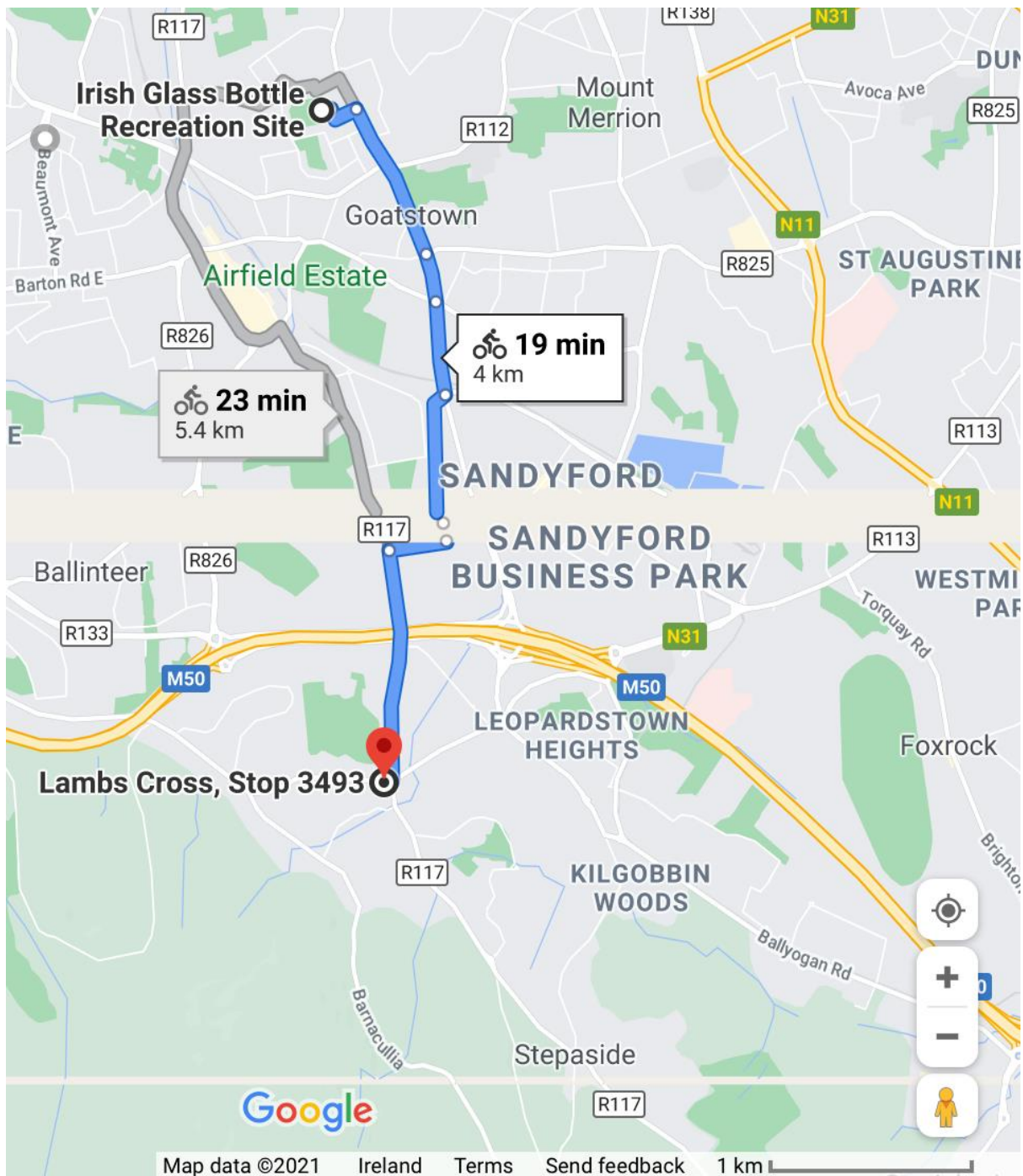
Students and parents have expressed concern regarding the dangerous junction and Dundrum Road for cyclists and pedestrians at the Rosemount Estate leading down to Windy Arbour. At the moment there are no cycle lanes here.



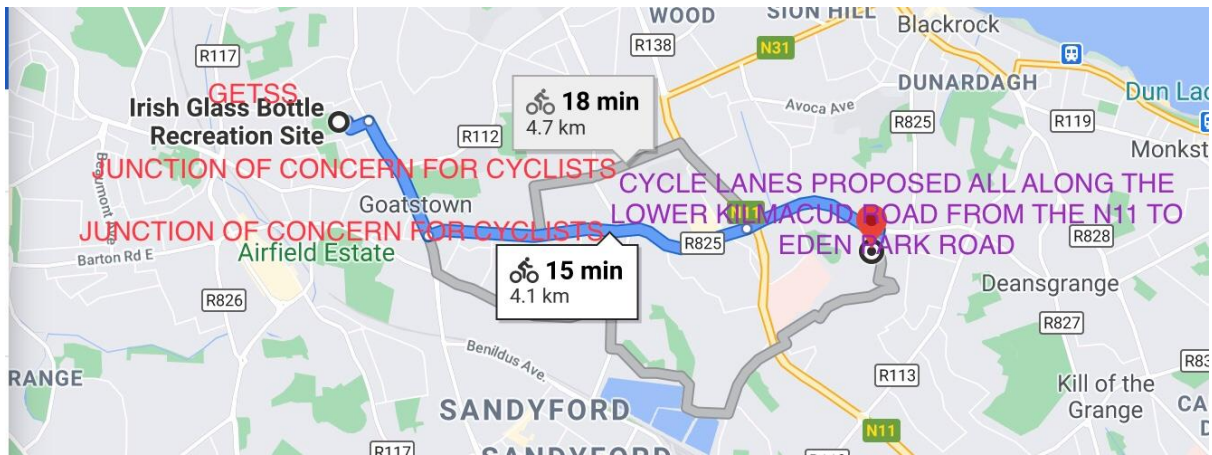
Students and parents have expressed concern that there are no cycle lanes on Birds Avenue and many cars parked on either side which is very dangerous for cyclists.



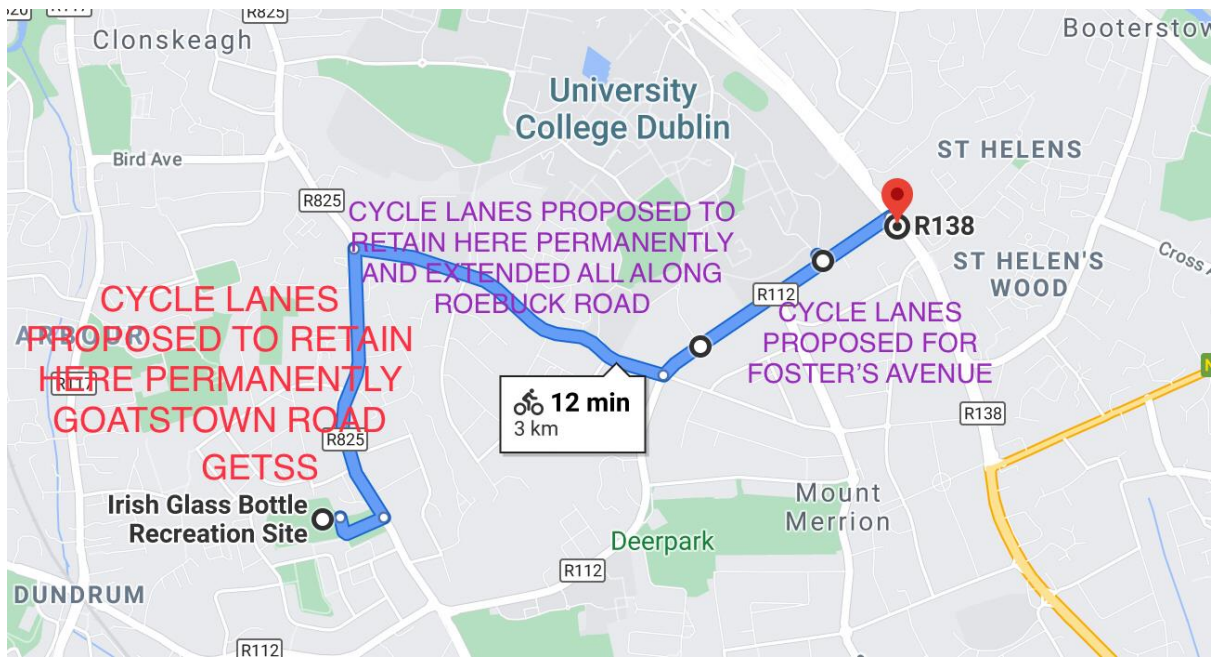
Students and parents have expressed major concern at the crossroads of Dundrum Road, Churchtown Road and Taney Road. This is deemed to be very dangerous for cyclists. Also of concern is the junction at Churchtown Road and Nutgrove Avenue. Whilst students and parents very much appreciate the bicycle lanes on Nutgrove Avenue and Churchtown Road and Braemor Road there is concern that many of these are not segregated bicycle lanes and it would be very much appreciated if these lanes could become segregated with either barriers or permanent cones.



Whilst it is acknowledged and very much appreciated that from Lamb's Cross to Goatstown ETSS that there are many paths it would be the feeling that the junctions need to be made safer and that the cycle paths need to be segregated from the traffic by either curbs or protective poles.



Many students will be travelling to the school from Stillorgan and Kilmacud. There is concern that at the moment there are no cycle lanes on the Lower Kilmacud Road and it is hoped that the recent cycle lanes at Stillorgan will be extended up to meet the Goatstown Road. There is also concern that the junction from the Kilmacud Road to the Goatstown Road is very dangerous for cyclists as is the junction at the Goat Pub which is extremely dangerous too. There has been a suggestion that maybe the DLR CoCo could provide cycle arrows to the school from Stillorgan up to Deer Park and across to the school in order to avoid the Kilmacud Road however again the junction at Mount Anville Road is very dangerous. Possibly there might be some safer roads through housing estates that the DLR CoCo could direct cyclists and if there are walls that pedestrian/cyclists could go through that would make for safer passages too and to avoid the Goatstown Road junction at the Goat Pub.



Students will also be travelling up Foster's Avenue and again there is concern that there are no cycling lanes on this road on either side. There are also no cycle lanes for half of Roebuck Road.

In conclusion

In conclusion we as a committee were overwhelmed by the positive response that we received from parents and students who said that they planned to walk or cycle to school but were concerned about the sharing of these roads with cars – the car seems to have the upper hand in terms of safety at the moment! We believe that we have demonstrated that with some more cycle paths, segregated cycling lanes and ways to slow down or make dangerous junctions safer that more students may indeed take a more sustainable and active route to school. With projected figures of up to 600/700 pupils for this new school and also another possible 300 or so for the Goatstown Educate Together Primary School on this campus we believe that functioning and safe cycle paths and safer walking routes to the new school campus will encourage more parents and students to not go to school by car. This will in turn will not only be better for the environment, will make for happier students, the safer cycling and walking routes will also decrease a potential rise in congestion in an area of Dublin where there is currently much congestion and will especially grow again after lockdowns are a thing of the past. With the possibility of lands being developed at the Central Mental Hospital and the Goatstown Pub sites this area will become especially heavily densely populated using the same current road infrastructure in a few years. We trust that this will be of help and interest to Dun Laoighre Rathdown Co.Co. to help ensure that Goatstown ETSS will be a safe destination to get to by bicycle or on foot.