



Spaces for People Project



Checking if the changes we made worked

About the Spaces for People Project



Spaces for People was a project from the Scottish Government. It ran from May 2020 to March 2022.



The project was started to help people travel safely in the COVID-19 pandemic.



We are Sustrans Scotland. The Scottish Government asked us to help them with the project.



The Scottish Government gave £33 million to different organisations and services.



The organisations and services used the money to run projects that helped people to travel safely.

Local councils, NHS services and transport services worked together to do things like:

- make lots of footpaths wider so people can physically distance

Physically distance means keeping a safe distance away from other people.



- make more cycle lanes and make old cycle lanes better



- make the speed limit lower in lots of places to make walking, **wheeling** and cycling safer





Wheeling means using a wheelchair or mobility scooter.



- make more places to park bikes



- closed some streets off so **vehicles** could not use them. This included lots of streets with schools on them



Vehicles are things like cars, vans and motorbikes.



Doing this meant that people can walk, wheel and cycle on them.

Finding out what people thought about Spaces for People

We did these things to check if the project had worked. We:



- asked people some questions in a survey



- counted how many people used the areas where we made the changes



- looked at how fast cars went



- talked to local people

Here are the 4 areas we worked on for the project



1

Make safe places for walking, wheeling and bikes



Physical distancing

More people started walking and cycling in places where we made changes.

Safety



Nearly half of the people we talked to said that they felt safer walking or cycling. They feel safer because of the changes we made.



Looking at the groups of people who felt safer:

- most younger people said they felt safer



- fewer older people than younger people said they felt more safe



- fewer people who find it hard to move around said they felt more safe than people who didn't find it hard to move around

Exercise



Making sure there are safe spaces to exercise helps keep people fit and healthy.



2 in 10 people we talked to said they did more exercise because of the changes we made.



Slowing traffic down

A lot of areas made changes to help vehicles go slower. Things like cars, buses, taxis.



This happened most in busy areas where there were lots of people.



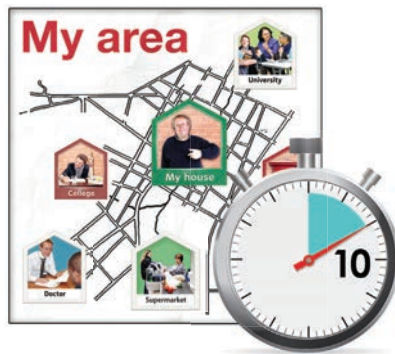
Because of the changes people did drive slower.

2 Support safe travel for essential journeys



During COVID-19 people could only make **essential journeys**.

Essential journeys means only travelling when you really have to. Things like shopping or going to work.



4 in 10 people in Scotland live within a 10 minute walk of one of the changes we made.



Half of these types of services in Scotland, were within a 10 minute walk of one of the changes we made:

- pharmacies
- dentists and Doctors
- universities
- supermarkets



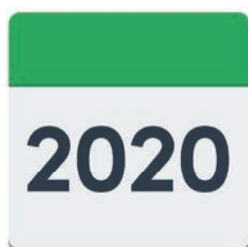
Over half of the people we spoke to said that changes we made helped them make essential journeys easier.

3

Show we can quickly make changes for more people to walk, wheel or cycle



In the first 3 months of the project, 258 changes were made.



By the end of the year, over 1 thousand changes were made.

4

Support to keep the changes that were made



Organisations said they would keep over half of the changes after the COVID-19 pandemic.



Contact us

If you have any questions about the project or this report you can contact us.



Email us:

SpacesForPeople@sustrans.org.uk

About the pictures on the front page



The pictures on the front page are owned by other people. They have said it is ok for us to use the pictures in this easy read.

Here is where the pictures are from:



This is a picture of George Street in Glasgow.

John Linton took the photograph in 2020.



This is a picture of Alloa in Clackmannanshire.

Julie Howden who works at Sustrans took the picture.