

Children and Young People's Workshops for the A9 Co-Creative Process

April 2018



As part of Phase 3 of the A9 Co-Creative Process, Children's Parliament engaged with children and young people who live in and around Dunkeld & Birnam to discuss their ideas of some of the proposed options and to explore how these might impact on the families who live in the community. We worked with 80 children and young people aged 5 to 16 years old.

Process

With the overwhelming number of options presented for Phase 3, it was important to help children and young people think about some of the proposed options as they relate to the experiences of the people who live in and around Dunkeld & Birnam. Instead of going through all 81 options, we selected a few options from key junctions to look at in more depth and consider how they would impact on families.

In order to personalise this process and help children and young people connect with it, Children's Parliament developed three examples of families who could live in the area. These families were created to reflect the vision for the future from the billboards as well as discussions from previous phases of the co-creative process. We wanted the children and young people to think about what these families do, how they travel in and around their community, including different modes of transportation, and how the dualling of the A9 might impact upon their lives.

- **Family 1** consists of a dad, mum, son (11yo) and daughter (3yo). They live on a farm just outside of Birnam. Mum drives to work in Dunkeld and the kids go to primary and nursery at the Royal School of Dunkeld
- **Family 2** consists of a mum, son (16yo) and gran. They live in Birnam near the train station. Mum takes the train to work in Perth, Gran volunteers in Dunkeld, and the son goes to school at Breadalbane Academy.
- **Family 3** consists of two dads and their daughter (1yo). They live in Little Dunkeld. Dad drives to work just outside of Dunkeld and Papa looks after the little girl during the day (doesn't have a car).

With these basic details, the children and young people then created more information about each family, including names, jobs, hobbies and family activities, identifying how each family member travelled to and from each.



Once the families were created, the children and young people looked at two options¹ for the junction that was nearest to each family and would have the greatest impact on them.

For Family 1, options for Birnam Junction were considered:

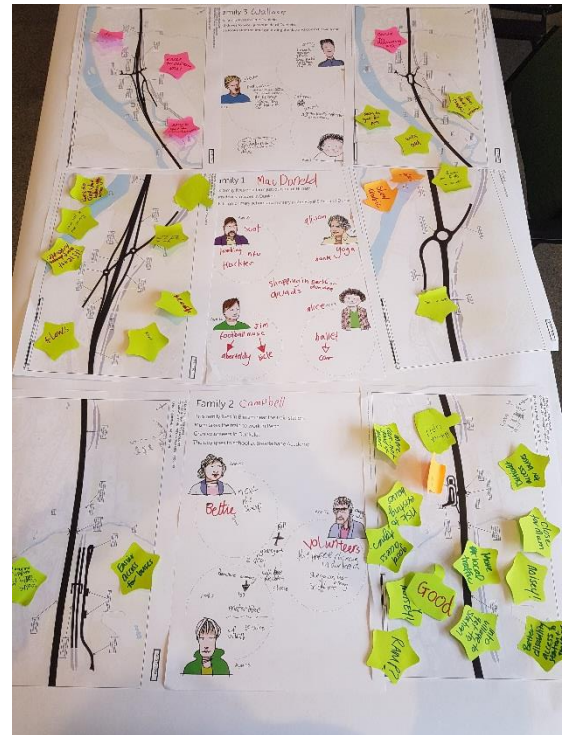
- BN.ST3.0001
- BN.ST3.0013

For Family 2, options for Dunkeld & Birnam Station were considered:

- DS.ST3.0004
- DS.ST3.0006

For Family 3, options for Dunkeld Junction were considered:

- DN.ST3.0002
- DN.ST3.0004



Children and Young People's Ideas

When looking at the two options for each junction used in this exercise, the children and young people highlighted a number of considerations that can be applied to the work generally.

- **Non-motor vehicle traffic** – the children and young people are very aware of how people get about Dunkeld & Birnam aside from motor vehicles and they expressed concerns for safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists in relation to the options for Birnam and Dunkeld Junctions. If pedestrians and cyclists are on pavements, going through tunnels or under underpasses, the children and young people want them to be brightly lit with wide pavements and insulated against sound from the road.
 - "What is going to happen to the cycle paths - could someone tell us?"
- **Footprint of proposed options** – the children and young people are concerned about the amount of land required for some of the proposed options. They don't want people to lose their homes or to have roads too near any buildings in the village. They also want to retain as much green space and woodland as possible around the village.
- **Congestion** – the children and young people are concerned about how different options might impact on congestion around Dunkeld & Birnam and they weighed this in relation to overall safety of the options. They also expressed concern about increased pollution as a result of congestion.
 - "The A9 is a scenic road. Big roundabouts on the main A9 not a good idea (because of congestion), but peripheral roundabouts of a new main road could work."
- **Changes to the station** – the children and young people highlighted that some of the options meant that station traffic would be routed through the village and would have impacts on traffic levels, noise, and pedestrian safety. Other options would move the entrance to the station farther

¹ Please note that these options were not selected in terms of preference, they were selected because they offered differences that were easy to understand in order to prompt discussion.

from the village, resulting in less accessibility for foot traffic and the building of other bridges, tunnels, pathways, etc. in order to support people without vehicles to get to the station.

- **Accessibility of the station** – the children and young people wanted to ensure that the station would be more accessible than it is now, particularly for young children, people with disabilities and elderly people. This included discussions about the height of the platform, distance from the village, lifts and ramps, lighting and adverse weather.
- **Construction time** – the children and young people highlighted that some options would be simpler and less time-consuming to build, while others were extremely complicated and would result in greater disruption during construction.
- **Noise levels** – the children and young people were generally concerned about the level of noise from the A9 and how it would be mitigated for those living, working and going to school in Dunkeld & Birnam.
 - “You can already hear the A9 from the primary school – it’s going to be deafening!”
- **Ease of use** – the children and young people discussed how easy the proposed options would be for local people and tourists to use. Some of the junctions felt too complicated and they thought drivers might get confused / lost. Generally, the children and young people felt that simpler designs would be better.