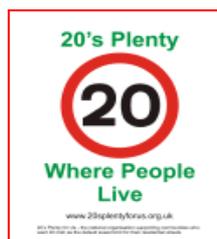


## Traffic Management - Part Four



The six-week public consultation to seek the views of residents on the traffic management proposals to improve traffic speed and pedestrian safety issues in Otford is now complete. The results of the Traffic Questionnaire are now available.

**Otford residents have their say.....** The results show significant support for slowing traffic speeds in the village with the vast majority, 87%, agreeing that slowing traffic speed would be beneficial and 78% of those believing that 20mph is the appropriate speed for some areas of the proposed zone. As one might have expected there are differing views about the location of the 20mph limit with, Station Road at 67% and 62% along Pilgrims Way East, however there is little doubt about the High Street with 87% believing that 20mph is the correct speed. The results for a 20mph limit on the remaining roads are close with Pilgrims Way West at 47%, Sevenoaks Road at 42% and Shoreham Road at 39%. The proposed traffic calming measures have also been popular with 5 out of the 8 measures seeking support by more than 50% of respondents; the speed tables were the most popular measure at 68%.

Over 51% of Otford households completed the Traffic questionnaire which in survey terms is extremely high. This robust set of results shows a clear desire by the overwhelming majority of respondents to make the village a safer, cleaner and more attractive place to live, work and visit.

All shops and businesses took part in the public consultation and it was promoted through village schools, clubs, societies and social media. The questionnaires received from this group show the same pattern of results as those for Otford residents and demonstrate that our proposals have the support from those who travel frequently to Otford to work, drop off school children or visit.

**Safer roads mean more residents will walk and cycle.....!** The questions on walking and cycling produced some interesting results with 76% of respondents indicating that they would walk more frequently if they felt safer and 61% that they would cycle more often if they felt safer on our roads. Based on the numbers who responded, this could equate to over 500 additional walkers and over 400 cyclists! If we were to extend this trend across the village and increase the number of residents using alternative modes of travel, this would create a significant reduction in the number of short car journeys. These results show that a lack of perceived safety on our roads is forcing residents to make more short car journeys and is contributing to the overall problem. It is clear from our findings that there are substantial societal benefits for all to be gained by improving road safety.

To view the full set of results and graphs for each road and traffic measure please visit Otford Parish Council Website at: [www.otfordpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.otfordpc.kentparishes.gov.uk) and select 'Traffic Management' or contact the Parish Office for a paper copy or a copy in an alternative format.

**What happens next.....?** At the Parish Council meeting in January Councillors voted to take the traffic proposals forward and to fund the appointment of a Traffic Consultant to draw up plans to be presented to Kent Highways. This decision represents a significant investment and commitment by the Parish Council in the process to implement the traffic proposals.

**And finally.....** The Public Consultation marks the end of the Traffic Management Study and the work of the Traffic group. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work over the last 18 months in both running such a successful campaign and putting together a set of proposals that were so well received by the public - I think we must all feel proud of our achievements and the outcome to date.

I would also like to thank all those members of the public and Councillors who have contributed along the way and to those of you who have taken the time to share your views on traffic and the proposals. My thanks also go to the Parish Clerks, Yvonne's, Otford Pharmacy, the Post Office and One Stop for kindly becoming posting stations during the Public Consultation for the Traffic Questionnaires.

Cllr Irene Roy