

EFDC Safer Spaces Commonplace report 21 September 2020

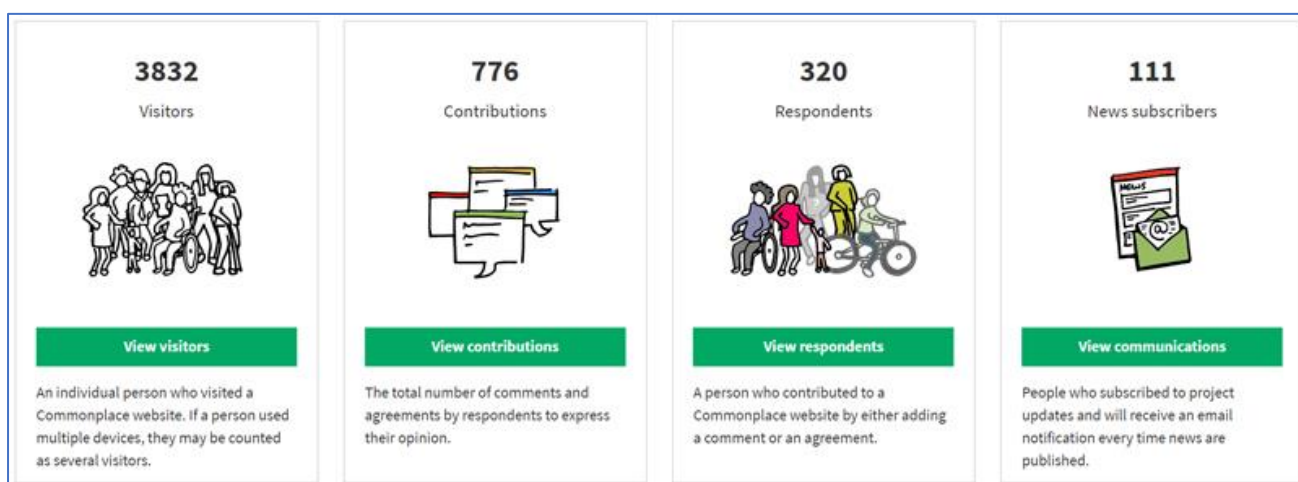
Visit the website and have your say at <https://efdcsaferspacescovid19.commonplace.is/>

Engagement

The EFDC Safer Spaces during COVID-19 commonplace platform launched on the 13 June 2020. Up to 21 September there were 3,832 visitors. An increase of 151 in 7 days.

Total contributions are now at 776 which is up by 16 in 7 days. The contributions are made up of 229 comments and 547 agreements. 111 people have subscribed to receive the project news by email.

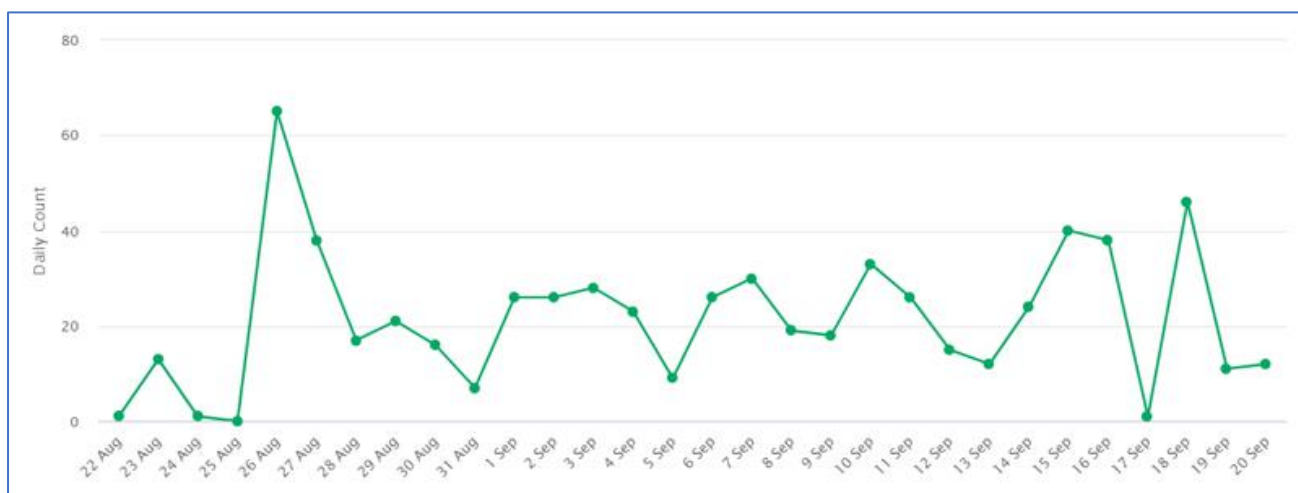
Of the 320 respondents, 194 confirmed their email address to be genuine and are public. There are 34 comments and 111 agreements from 126 unconfirmed respondents which are not public.



The top 4 referrers are:

1. Facebook 843
2. Epping Forest District Council website 792
3. Visit Epping Forest website 524
4. Twitter 61

Visitors over last month



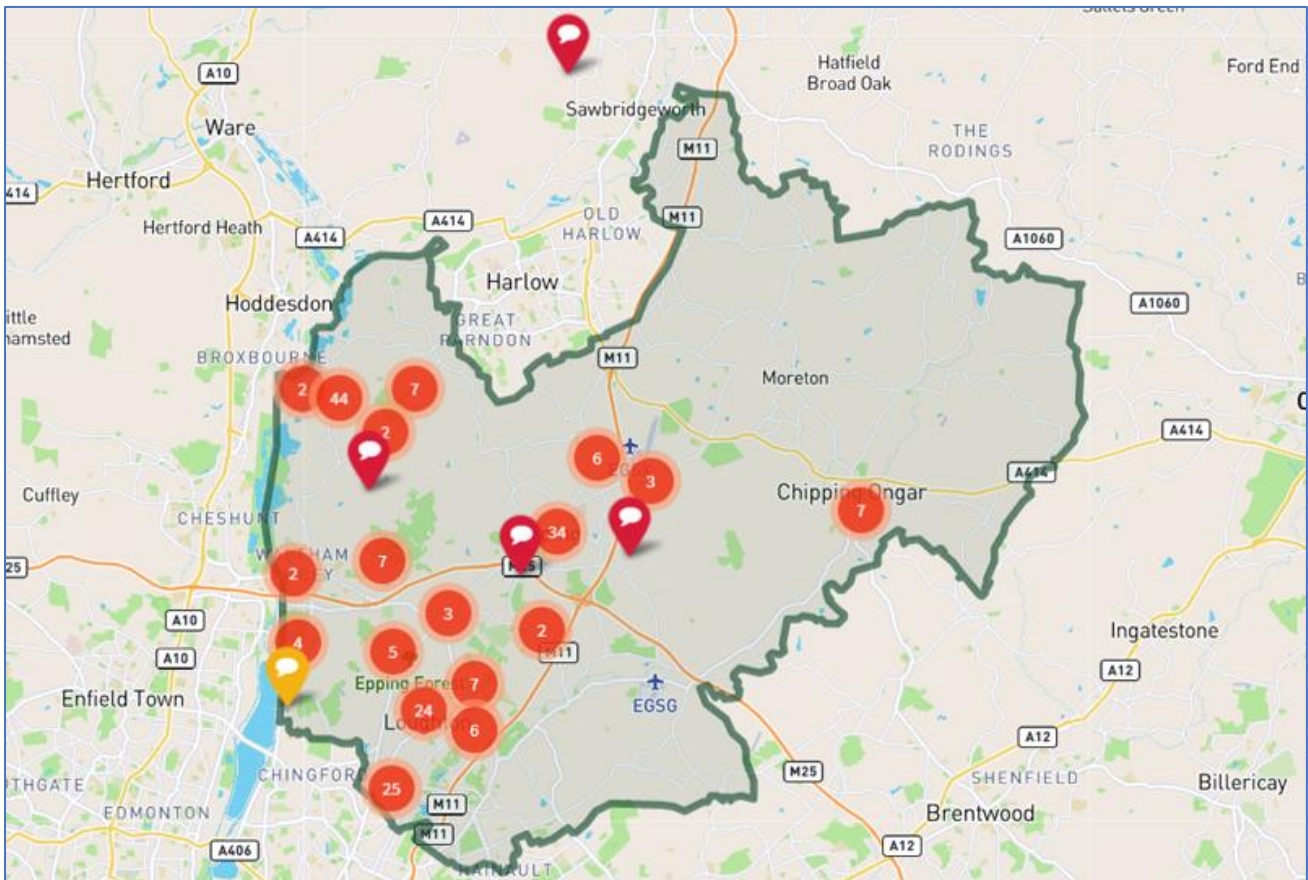
Comments

Across the District

The comments so far have been focused in the west of the district, with a large number about Lower Nazeing, Epping and Loughton.

Essex County Council have installed a new replacement bridge in Luxborough Lane, Chigwell bridging the River Roding to Buckhurst Hill. The main brideway bridge remains fully closed due to structural safety concerns. The temporary bridge adjacent to the current structure, is open for use by pedestrians, dismantled cyclists and riders with unmounted horses until a new, replacement bridge is available.

See [Essex County Council - Luxborough Way \(Bridleway\) Bridge, Luxborough Lane, Chigwell](#)



Above: Commonplace heat map on 21 September 2020.

Comments by Ward

Below reports on some comments received by ward. The top three for number of comments are in **bold**.

1. Broadley Common, Epping Upland & Nazeing – 13
2. Buckhurst Hill (East) – 4
3. **Buckhurst Hill (West) – 22**
4. Chigwell Village – 1
5. Chipping Ongar, Greensted & Marden Ash – 6
6. **Epping Hemnall – 29**
7. Epping Lindsey & Thornwood Common – 20
8. Grange Hill – 1
9. High Ongar, Willingale & The Rodings – 3

10. Loughton Alderton – 2
11. Loughton Broadway – 3
12. Loughton Fairmead – 2
13. Loughton Forest – 10
14. Loughton Roding - 3
15. Loughton St. John's – 10
16. Loughton St. Mary's – 15
- 17. Lower Nazeing – 48**
18. North Weald Bassett – 2
19. Passingford – 3
20. Theydon Bois – 3
21. Waltham Abbey High Beach – 19
22. Waltham Abbey North East – 1
23. Waltham Abbey Paternoster – 4
24. Waltham Abbey South West - 3

What is the problem?

When asked 'What is the problem' The top 5 issues are:

1. Fast traffic - 95
2. Bad driving – 69
3. Not enough space for social distancing – 64
4. Volume of traffic – 64
5. Pavement parking - 43

How could we make it better?

When asked 'How could we make it better?' The top 5 improvements are:

1. Slow down traffic - 83
2. Reduce speed limit - 67
3. Restrict vehicle access - 41
4. More space for walking - 41
5. Keep the pavement clear – 34

Collaboration and funding

Epping Forest District Council is working with Essex County Council Highways Authority, to propose and install some key interventions to enable social distancing and better active travel. The comments on Commonplace are helping to shape proposals that the District Council is discussing with the County Council, for them to bid for Government funding. We are continuing to review funding opportunities for social distancing, revitalising the local economy and reopening high streets safely. Epping Forest District Council is also reporting an overview of comments to Local Councillors, to ensure that the voices of those commenting are being heard by decision-makers in their area.

Actions

Environmental Health Officers

Businesses that fail to protect customers and staff by flouting Covid-19 rules, risk creating a second wave of Coronavirus. The Council's Environmental Health Officers are visiting local hairdressers, barbers, beauty salons and nail bars after reports of inadequate measures to protect customers and staff. Health officials have also been worried by poor levels of social distancing, hygiene, and track and trace records being kept

by some pubs, cafes and restaurants. All businesses are urged to comply with the latest laws requiring QR codes at their premises to support contact and trace, and to comply with the rule of six at tables and gatherings. Failure to do so risks heavy fines. Equally customers are asked to co-operate to help businesses comply with the law.

With Coronavirus infections levels increasing across Essex, customers should not be afraid to speak up and walk out if they feel they are being put at risk. Comments on Commonplace relating to social distancing concerns within specific premises or groups of premises are being relayed to the Environmental Health Officers to take action as necessary. Supporting businesses that follow the rules will ultimately drive up the standards of all.

Local Highways Panel – funded projects

There are some Commonplace comments which relate to highways issues and improvement projects for which funding has been agreed by the Local Highways Panel (LHP) for 2020-21, these include:

- Palmerston Road/ Westbury Road roundabout: Improvements to the signage and road markings
- Willingale Road, Loughton: Traffic management and Zebra Crossing
- Sewardstone Road, Waltham Abbey: Provision of improved carriageway surface skid resistance and refreshing markings, and increase repeater speed signs

A full list of LHP completed, funded and awaiting funding projects within the District can be seen here:

- [Epping Forest Local Highway Panel Schemes](#)

Report Directly

Some of the comments which are not exclusively to do with social distancing should be reported direct to the relevant body to action. These include:

Roads and pavements

For issues with roads and pavements such as blocked pavements or cycle lanes, and particular traffic concerns– you can report to Essex Highways - [Essex Highways tell us about road or highway issues](#).

Parking

For issues with parking – you can report to NEPP - [North Essex Parking Partnership \(NEPP\) contact us](#).

In Epping Forest

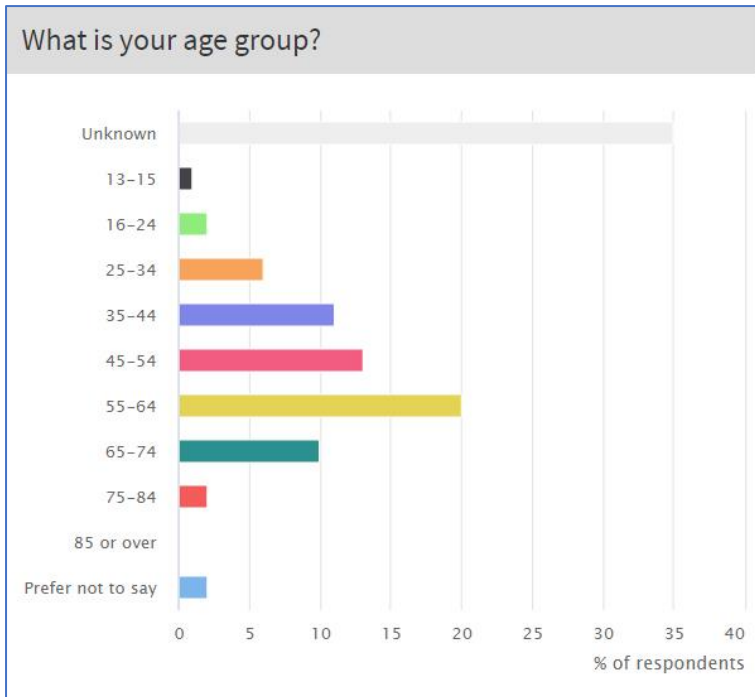
For issues with overgrown footpaths in Epping Forest – you can report to City of London - [City of London fault reporting](#).

Everything else

Other issues (such as issues with flooding, pollution, drainage, private water supply, high hedge, planning enforcement, crime and safety or food businesses) can be reported via Epping Forest District Council website - [Epping Forest District Council report a problem](#).

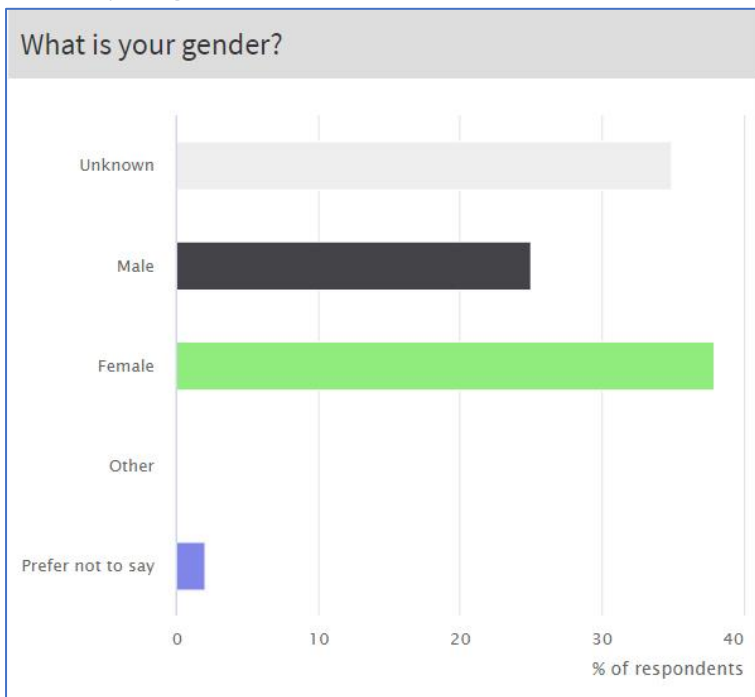
Demographics

What is your age group?



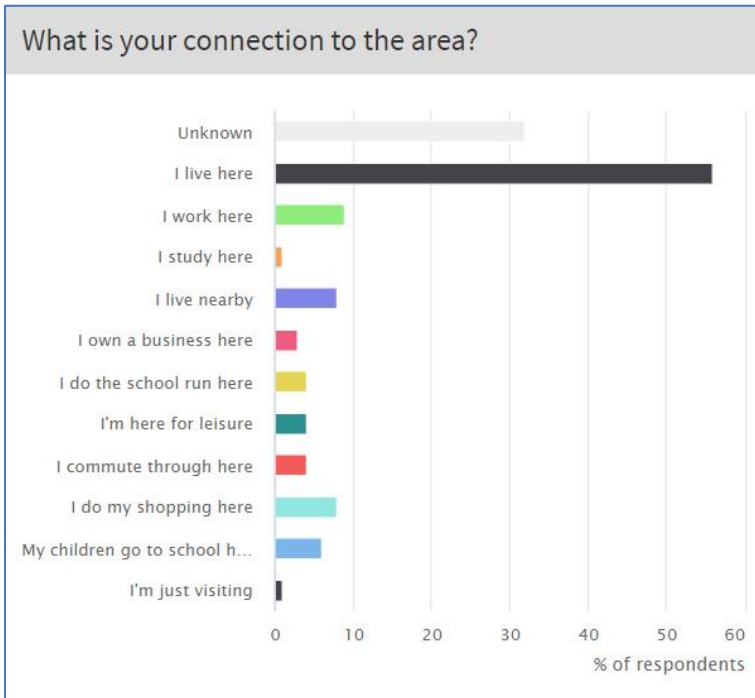
The age group most represented in comments is 55-64 with 20%. Only 9% of respondents are younger people below the age of 35. 35% are unknown.

What is your gender?



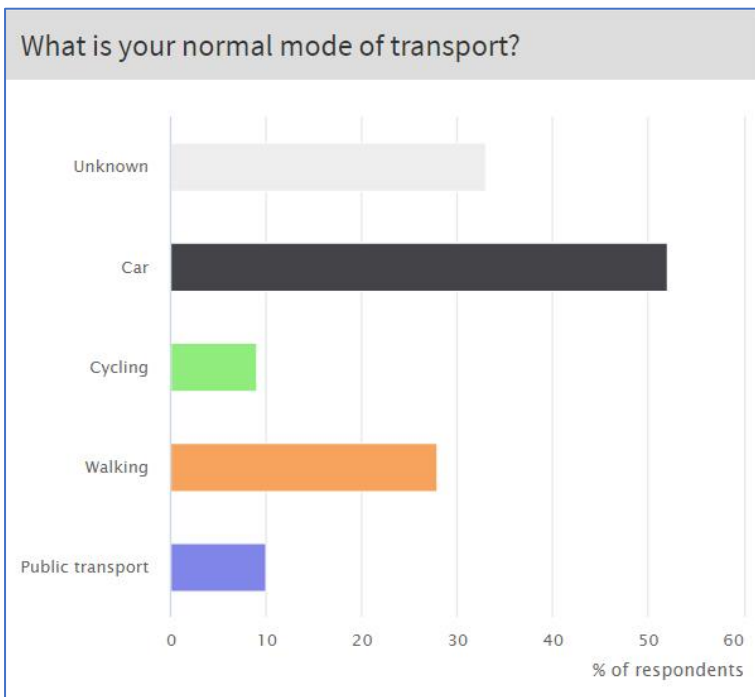
38% of respondents identified themselves as female and 25% male. 37% are unknown or prefer not to say.

What is your connection to the area?



56% of respondents replied I live here, 9% I work here and 8% I live nearby. 32% unknown.

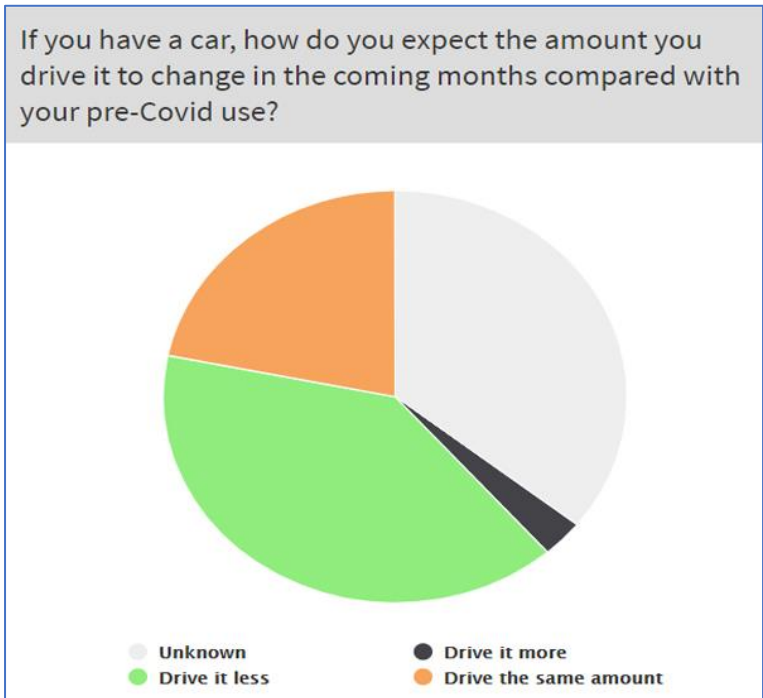
What is your normal mode of transport?



52% car, 28% walking, 9% cycling and public transport 10%. 33% unknown.

Transport and air quality

If you have a car, how do you expect the amount you drive it to change in the coming months compared with your pre-Covid use?



40% of respondents said they would drive it less. 22% said drive the same amount and 3% said they would drive it more. 36% unknown.

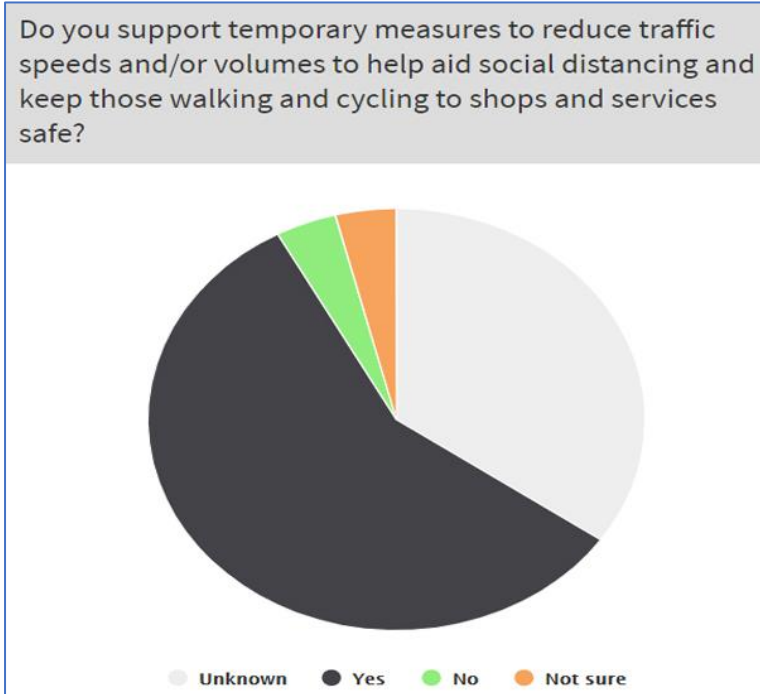
During this recent period of restricted travel, have you personally noticed a difference in the air quality in your area?



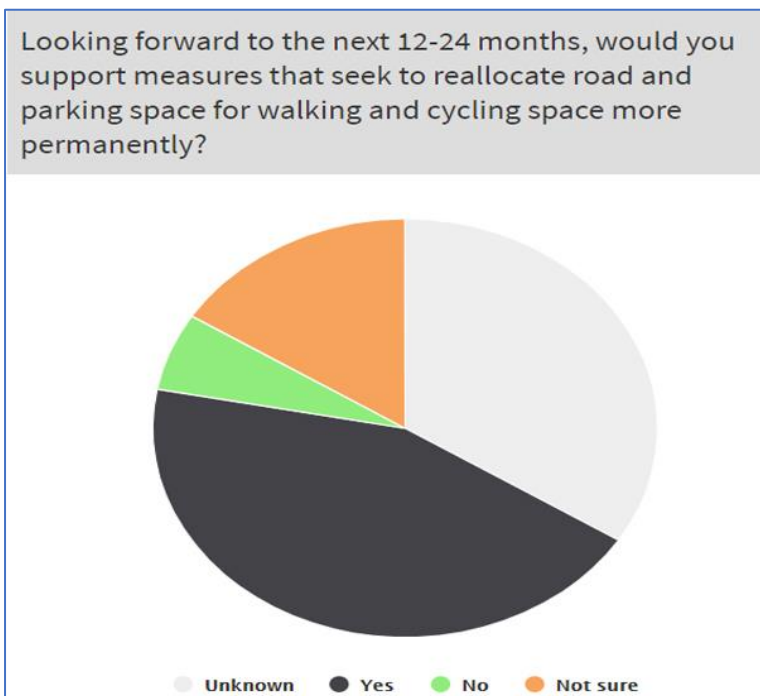
41% said air quality is better, 24% haven't noticed a difference, 1% worse. 34% unknown.

Support for interventions and measures

57% of respondents support measures to reduce traffic speeds and volumes to help aid social distancing, with 44% noting they would support measures that seek to reallocate road and parking space for walking and cycling more permanently.



Do you support temporary measures to reduce traffic speeds and/or volumes to help aid social distancing and keep those walking and cycling to shops and services safe?



Looking forward to the next 12-24 months, would you support measures that seek to reallocate road and parking space for walking and cycling space more permanently?

Would you support these changes being made long term?

172 respondents said yes, 4 would need to see the evidence and 3 said no.

