

EFDC Safer Spaces Commonplace report 19 October 2020

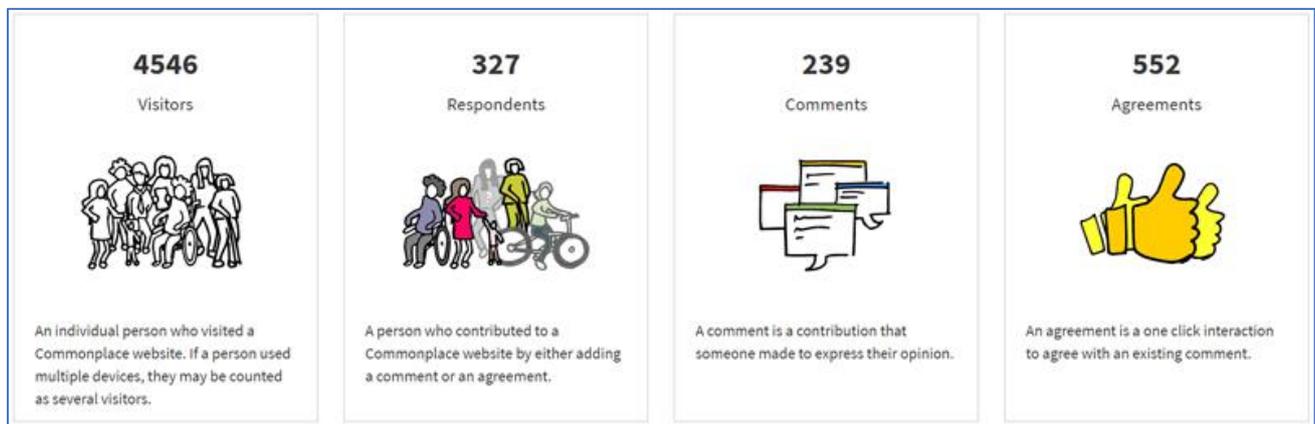
Visit the website and have your say at <https://efdcsaferspacescovid19.commonplace.is/>

Engagement

The EFDC Safer Spaces during COVID-19 commonplace platform launched on the 13 June 2020. Up to 19 October there were 4,546 visitors. An increase of 714 since 21 September.

Total contributions are now at 719 which is up by 15 since 21 September. The contributions are made up of 239 comments and 552 agreements. 114 people have subscribed to receive the project news by email.

Of the 325 respondents, 199 confirmed their email address to be genuine and are public. There are 35 comments and 113 agreements from 128 unconfirmed respondents which are not public.



The top 4 referrers are:

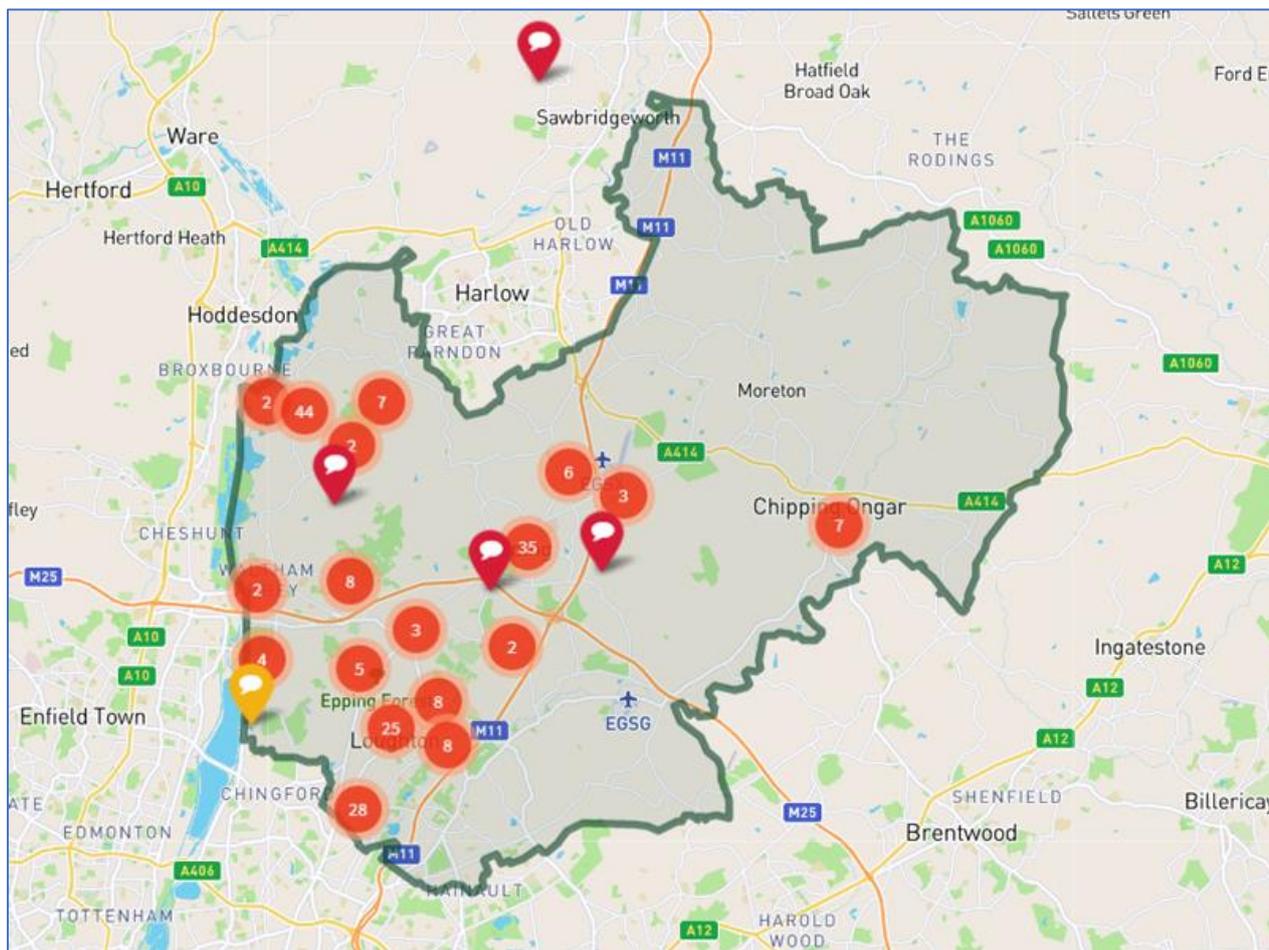
1. Facebook 852
2. Epping Forest District Council website 849
3. Visit Epping Forest website 620
4. Twitter 61

Visitors over last month



Comments across the District

The comments to date have been focused in the west of the district, with a large number about Lower Nazeing, Epping and Loughton. Additional comments since the report on 21 September have been made about Epping, Buckhurst Hill, Debden Broadway, Waltham Abbey and Loughton.



Above: Commonplace heat map on 19 October 2020.

What is the problem?

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

1. Fast traffic - 96
2. Bad driving – 69
3. Not enough space for social distancing – 69
4. Volume of traffic – 65
5. Pavement parking - 45

How could we make it better?

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

1. Slow down traffic - 84
2. Reduce speed limit - 67
3. More space for walking - 42
4. Restrict vehicle access - 41
5. Keep the pavement clear – 34

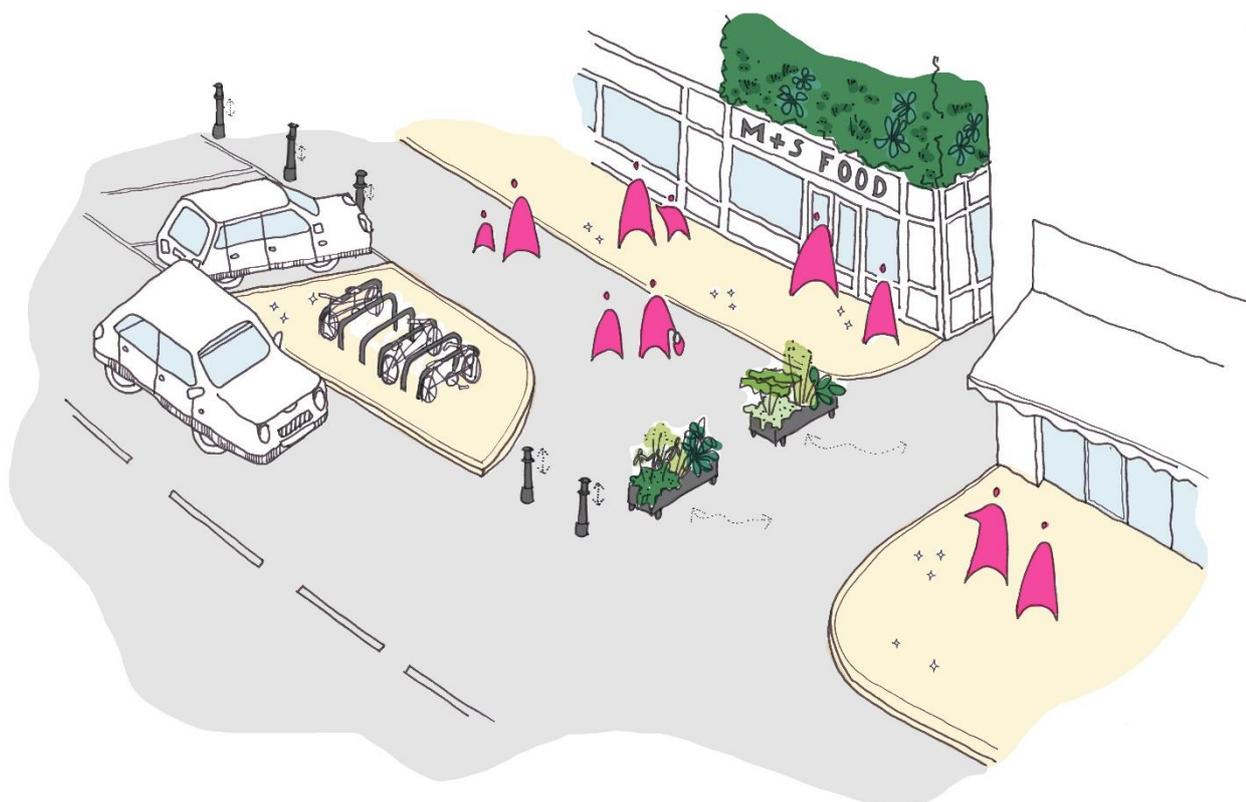
Actions

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 where available. 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.

High Street works

A report recommending enhancements and repairs to Epping High Street as part of Epping Forest District Council's Covid-19 Safer Places Project has been agreed by councillors. A range of measures are set out, to be carried out quickly, to support pedestrians and cyclists and improve socially distanced access to the High Street. The measures complement earlier emergency works at the start of the Covid crisis. Many of the improvements are being made with the help of the district council's brand-new Highway Ranger service.



Maintaining the functioning Epping Market is central to the works. The District Council funding above Essex County Council funding supports the installation of new retractable and lockable bollards. Uneven paving slabs are being re-laid to reduce trip hazards, and railings, signposts and bench seats are being repaired and repainted. New recycling-friendly street litter bins, moveable planters and a new LED solar lighting drinking fountain will be installed. For more information, see [Pedestrian-friendly improvements for Epping](#)

Councillors and staff are also in talks with representatives from other local high streets in other parts of the district, to see what measures could make quick improvements to the safety of pedestrians and health of local businesses.

Environmental Health Officers

Comments on Commonplace relating to social distancing concerns within specific premises or groups of premises continue to be relayed to the Council's Environmental Health Officers to take action where possible.

The Environmental Health Officers are visiting local hairdressers, barbers, beauty salons, nail bars and hospitality venues after reports of inadequate measures to protect customers and staff.

With Essex now in Tier 2 high COVID alert level, customers should not be afraid to speak up and walk out if they feel they are being put at risk. Supporting businesses and local shops that follow the rules will ultimately drive up the standards of all.

New footbridge

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

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

Further Actions

Some of the comments which are not exclusively to do with social distancing can and 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

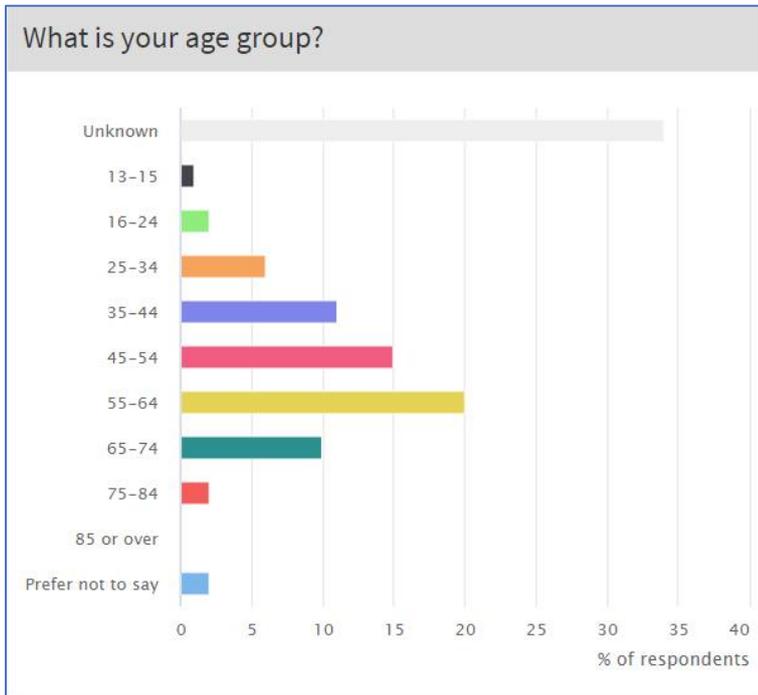
For issues with overgrown footpaths in Epping Forest – you can report to City of London - [City of London fault reporting](#).

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?

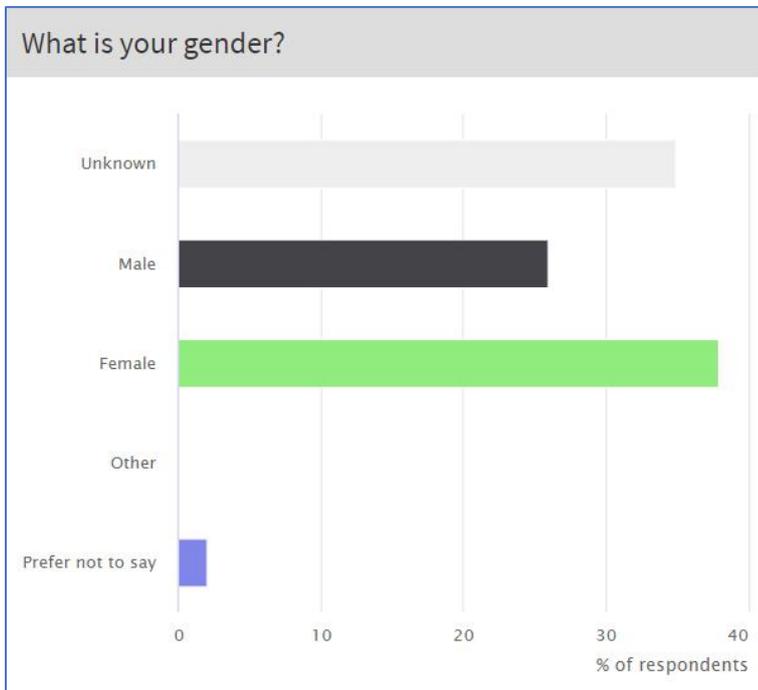


55-64 20%

Only 9% of respondents are younger people below the age of 35

34% unknown

What is your gender?

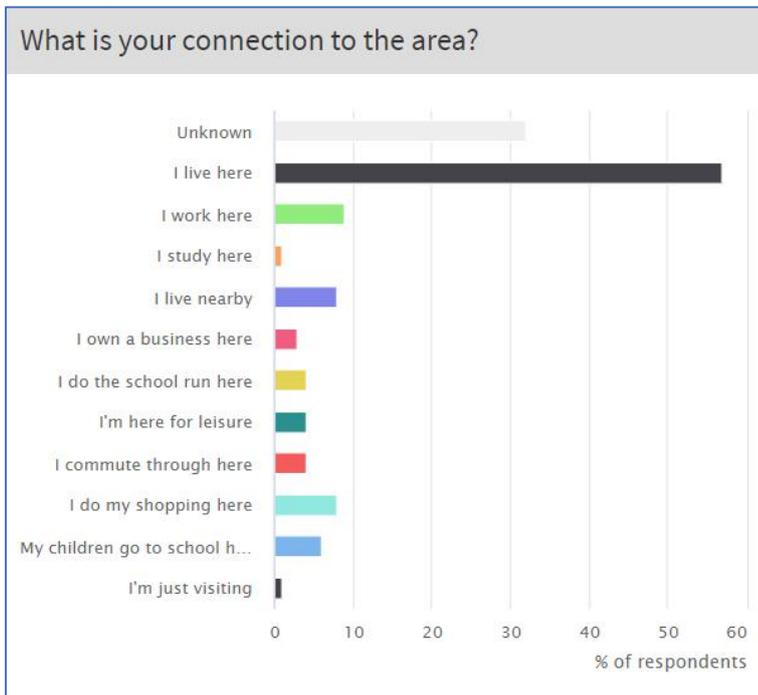


38% female

26% male

37% are unknown or prefer not to say

What is your connection to the area?



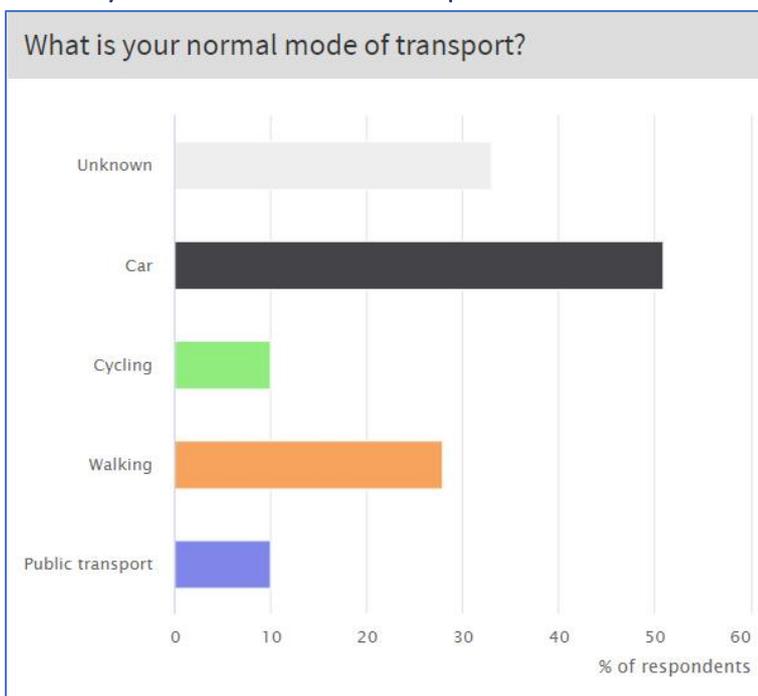
57% I live here

9% I work here

8% for both I live nearby and I do my shopping here

32% unknown

What is your normal mode of transport?



51% car

28% walking

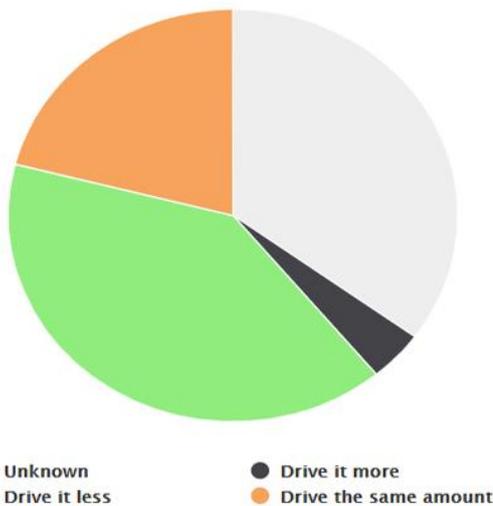
10% for both cycling and public transport

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?

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40% drive it less

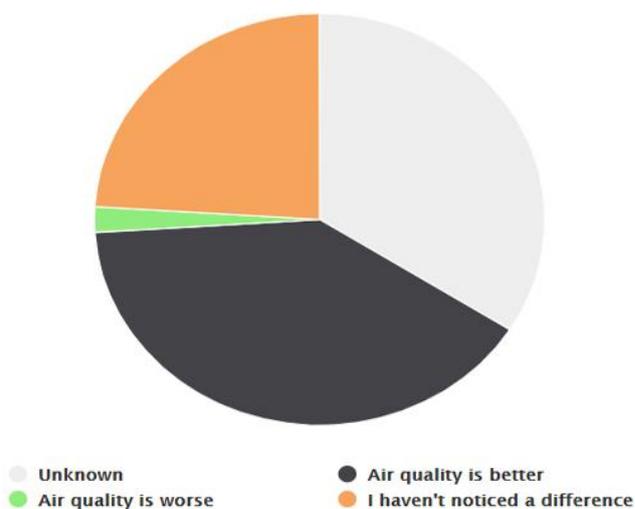
21% drive the same amount

4% drive it more

35% unknown

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

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40% air quality is better

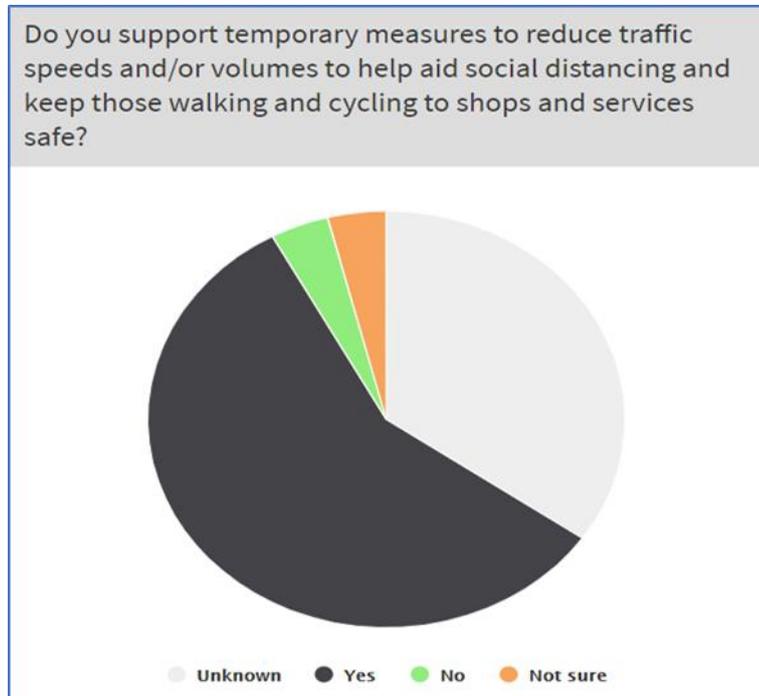
24% I haven't noticed a difference

2% air quality is 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.



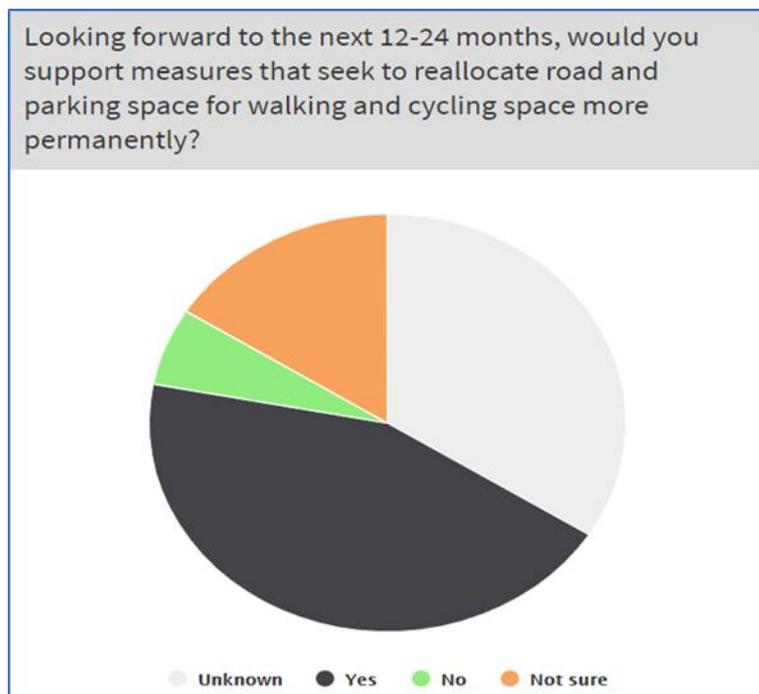
Do you support temporary measures to reduce traffic speeds and/or volumes to help aid social distancing and keep those walking and cycling to shops and services safe?

57% yes

4% no

4% not sure

35% unknown



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?

44% yes

6% no

16% not sure

34% unknown

Would you support these changes being made long term?

180 yes

4 would need to see the evidence

3 no

