

EFDC Safer Spaces Commonplace report 9 November 2020

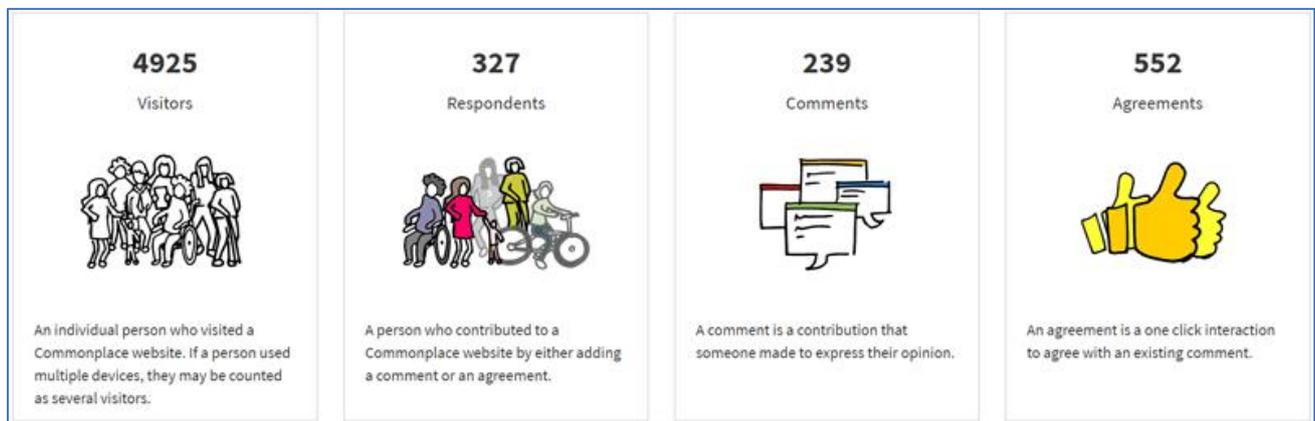
Visit the website and have your say at <https://efdcsaferspacescovid19.commonplace.is/>

Engagement

The EFDC Safer Spaces during COVID-19 commonplace platform launched on the 13 June 2020. Up to 9 November there were 4,925 visitors. An increase of 379 since 19 October.

Total contributions are now at 791 which remains unchanged since 19 October. The contributions are made up of 239 comments and 552 agreements. 114 people have subscribed to receive the project news by email.

Of the 327 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:

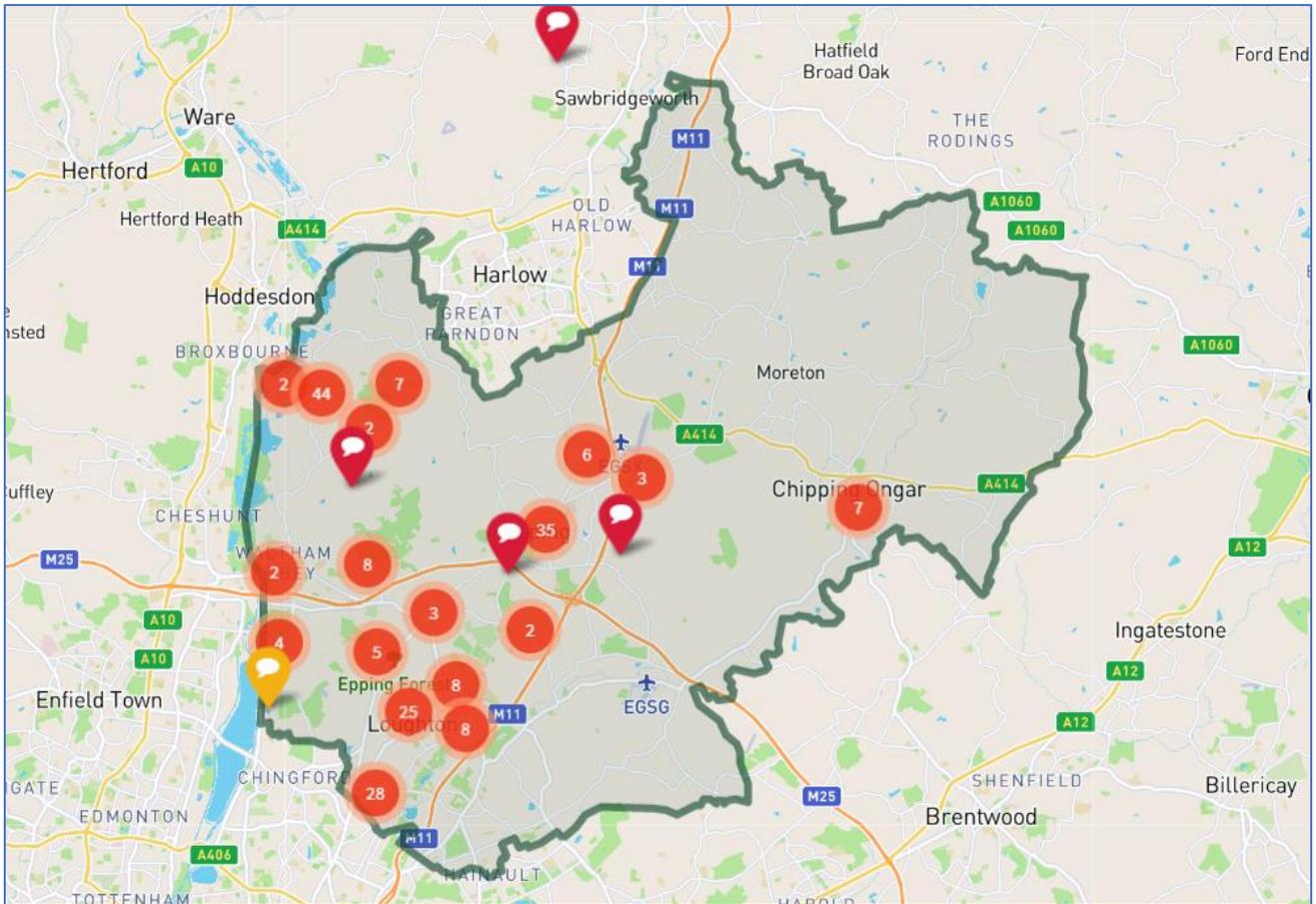
1. Facebook 876
2. Epping Forest District Council website 850
3. Visit Epping Forest website 683
4. Twitter 61

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 area.



Above: Commonplace heat map on 9 November 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. 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.

Social distancing stickers

Given the latest restrictions in place due to COVID-19, a reminder that our social distancing stickers are in place outside a number of essential shops, to ensure that people can stay safe whilst queuing. Please do keep safe distance and follow government guidelines to help stop the spread of COVID.

High Street works

Improvements to Sun Street, Waltham Abbey and Epping High Street are currently being undertaken by the District Council's new Highway Rangers service. Uneven paving slabs are being re-laid to reduce trip hazards and make walking to local shops more accessible. Railings, signposts and bench seats are due to be repaired and repainted.



Above and next page: EFDC Highway Rangers working on Epping High Street – November 2020



For more information on Epping High Street works 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.

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

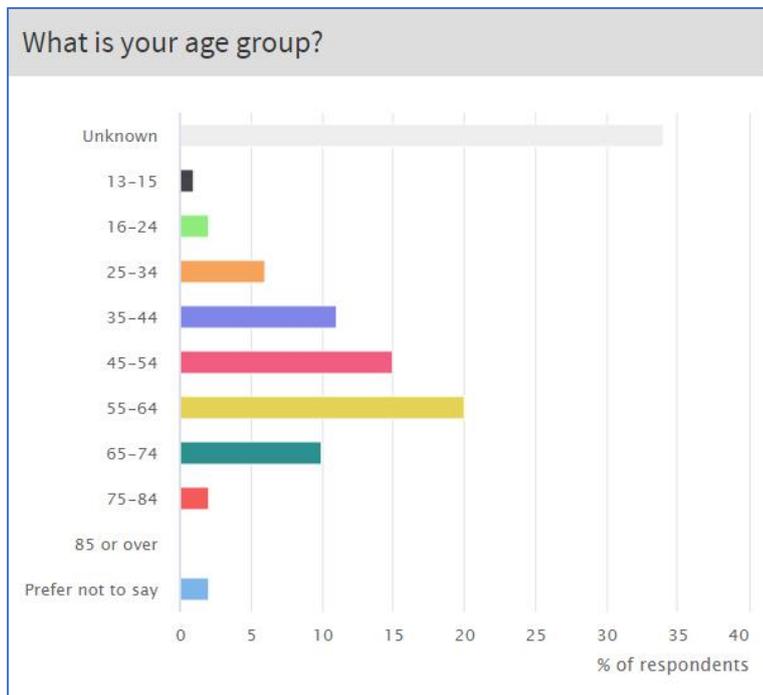
For issues with overgrown footpaths in Epping Forest – you can report to City of London - [City of London fault reporting](#).

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%

45-54 15%

35-44 11%

65-74 10%

25-34 6%

16-24 2%

75-84 2%

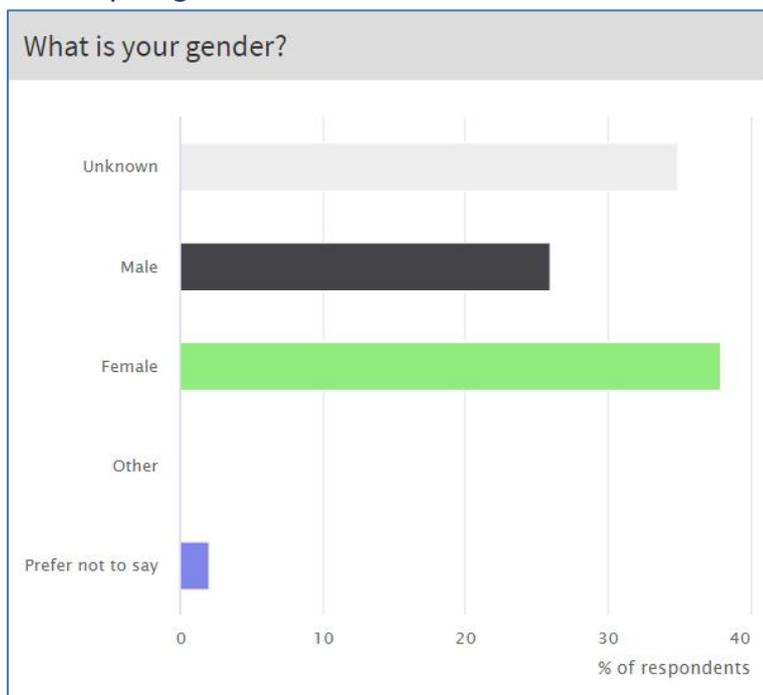
Prefer not to say 2%

13-15 1%

Unknown 34%

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

What is your gender?



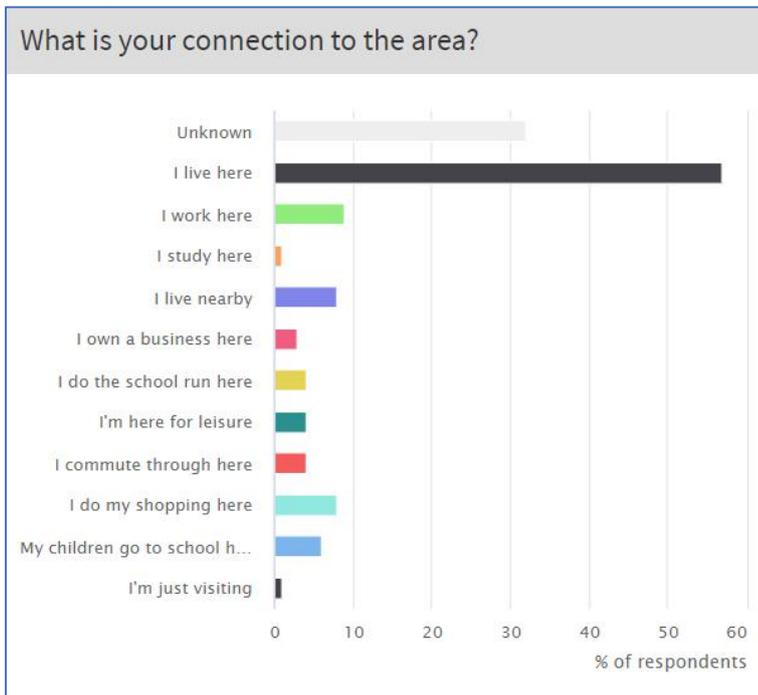
38% female

26% male

2% prefer not to say

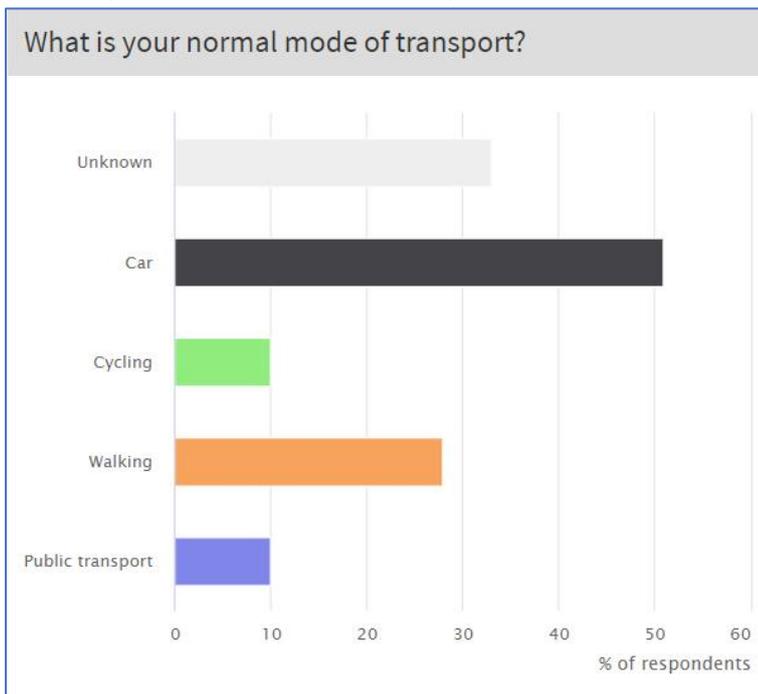
35% unknown

What is your connection to the area?



- 57% I live here**
- 9% I work here**
- 8% I live nearby**
- 8% I do my shopping here**
- 6% My children go to school here**
- 4% I commute through here**
- 4% I'm here for leisure**
- 4% I do the school run here**
- 3% I own a business here**
- 1% I study here**
- 1% I'm just visiting**
- 32% unknown**

What is your normal mode of transport?

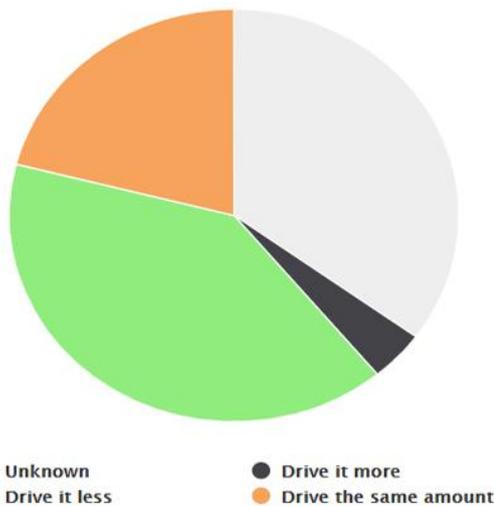


- 51% car**
- 28% walking**
- 10% cycling**
- 10% public transport**
- 33% unknown**

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

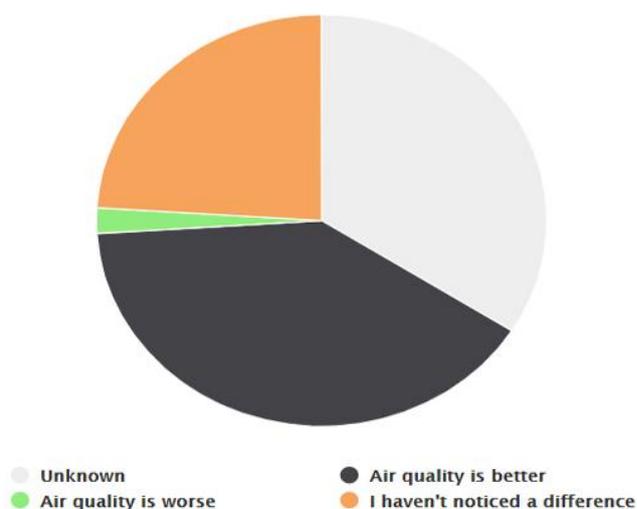
22% drive the same amount

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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41% air quality is better

24% I haven't noticed a difference

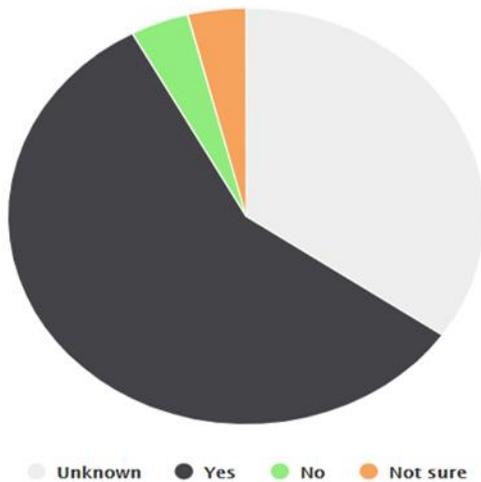
2% air quality is worse

34% unknown

Support for interventions and measures

57% of respondents support measures to reduce traffic speeds and volumes to help aid social distancing, with 45% 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?



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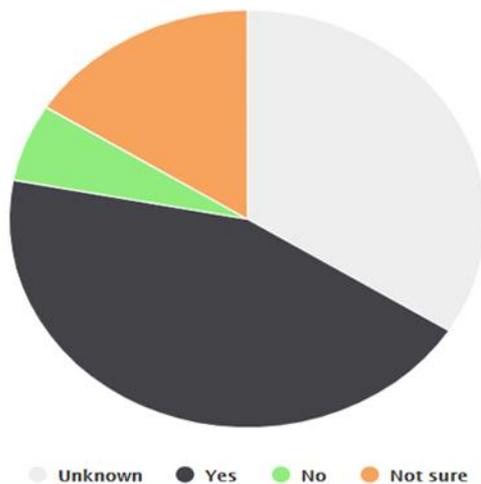
57% yes

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?



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45% 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

