

READING ROAD RESIDENTS TRAFFIC QUESTIONNAIRE NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2019

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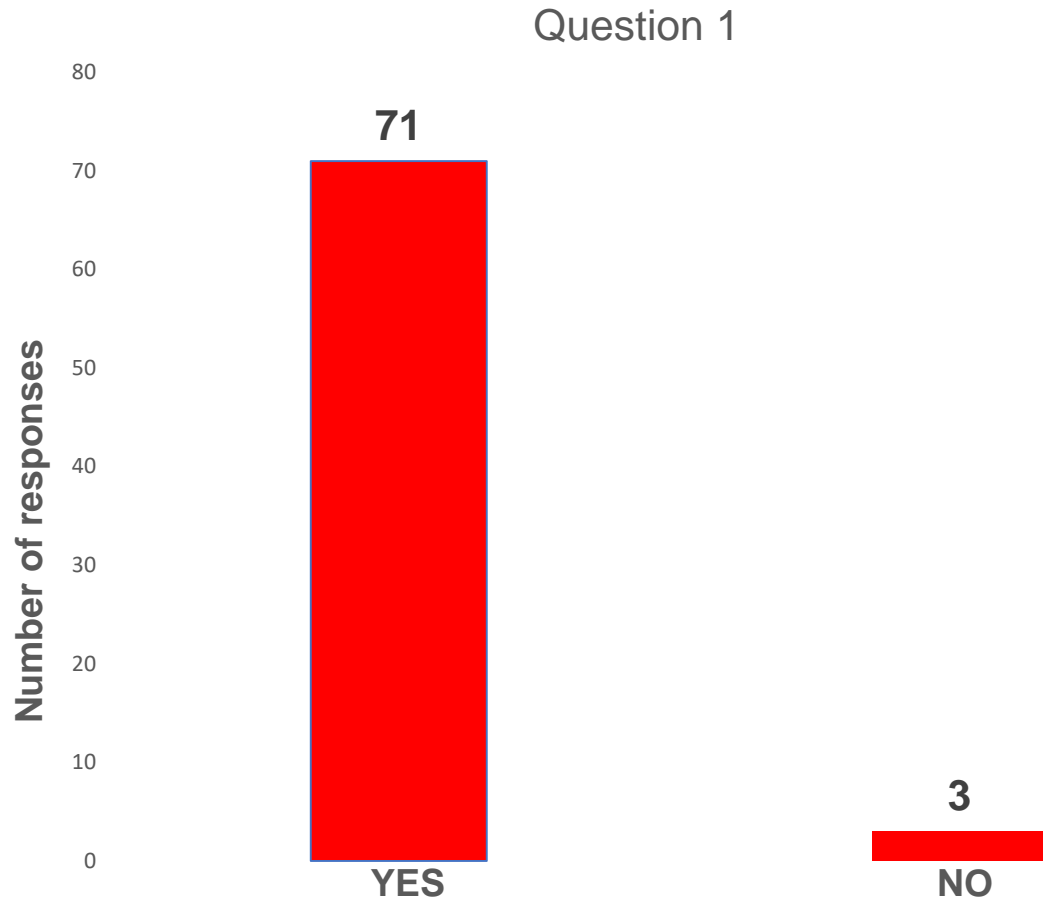
February 11th 2020

Overview

- The questionnaire was conducted by knocking on doors and conversations with residents. The raw data therefore contains many actual and valuable comments made by residents.
- The number of returns was 74
- 3 had no problem with traffic on the A417 and therefore returned no further information
- Therefore the analysis has been completed based on 71 returns.

Q.1 As a resident in the close vicinity of the Reading Rd do you have concerns about the traffic using the road at present? Yes / No

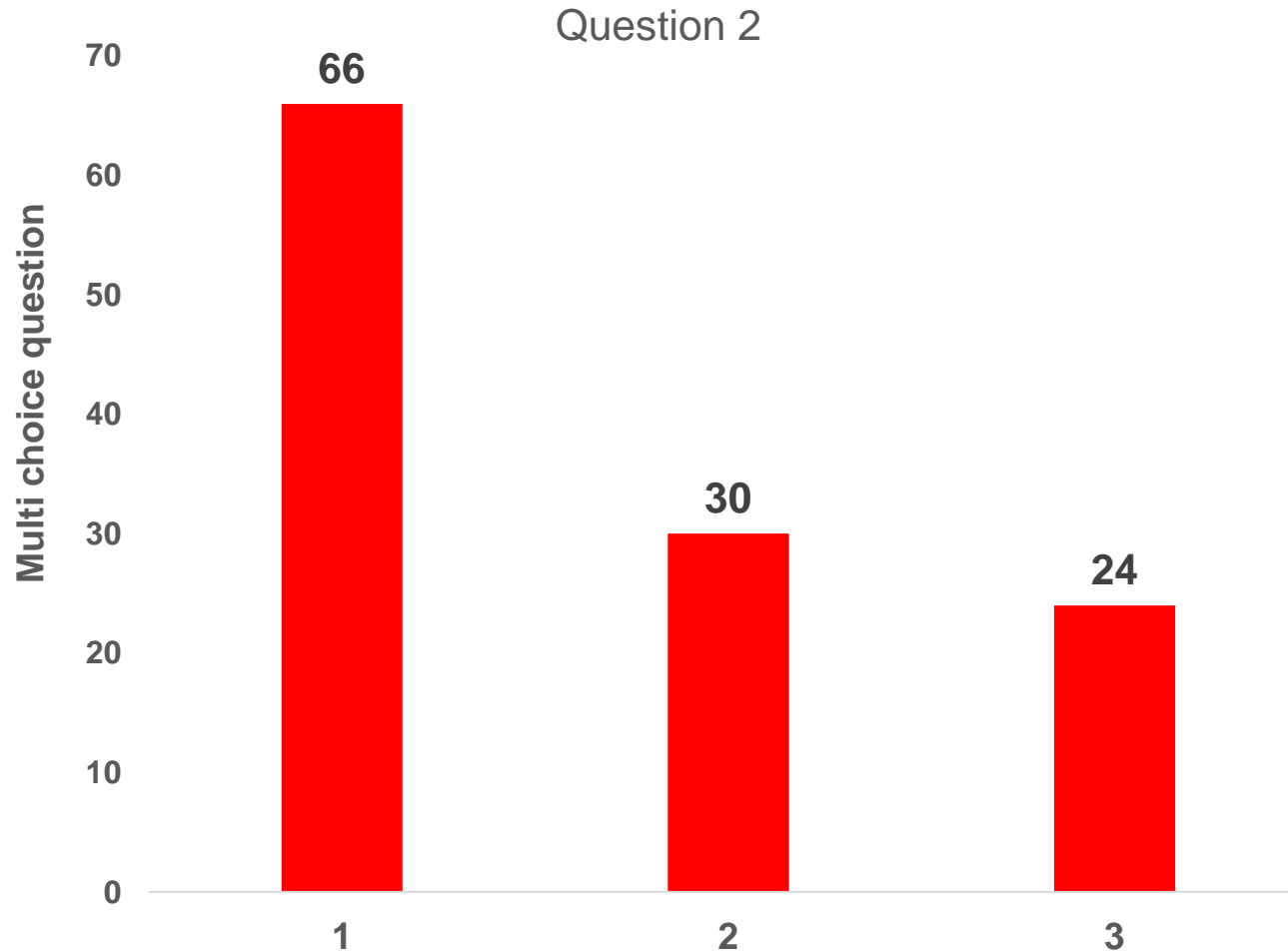
If no then finish here, if yes then continue with question 2



Number of responses 74.
3 had no problem with the traffic and therefore no further information was given.
The analysis has been done based on 71 returns.

Q.2 What causes your main concerns:

- 1.Speed
- 2.Type of vehicles
3. Lack of traffic calming measures along the Reading Rd
4. Other



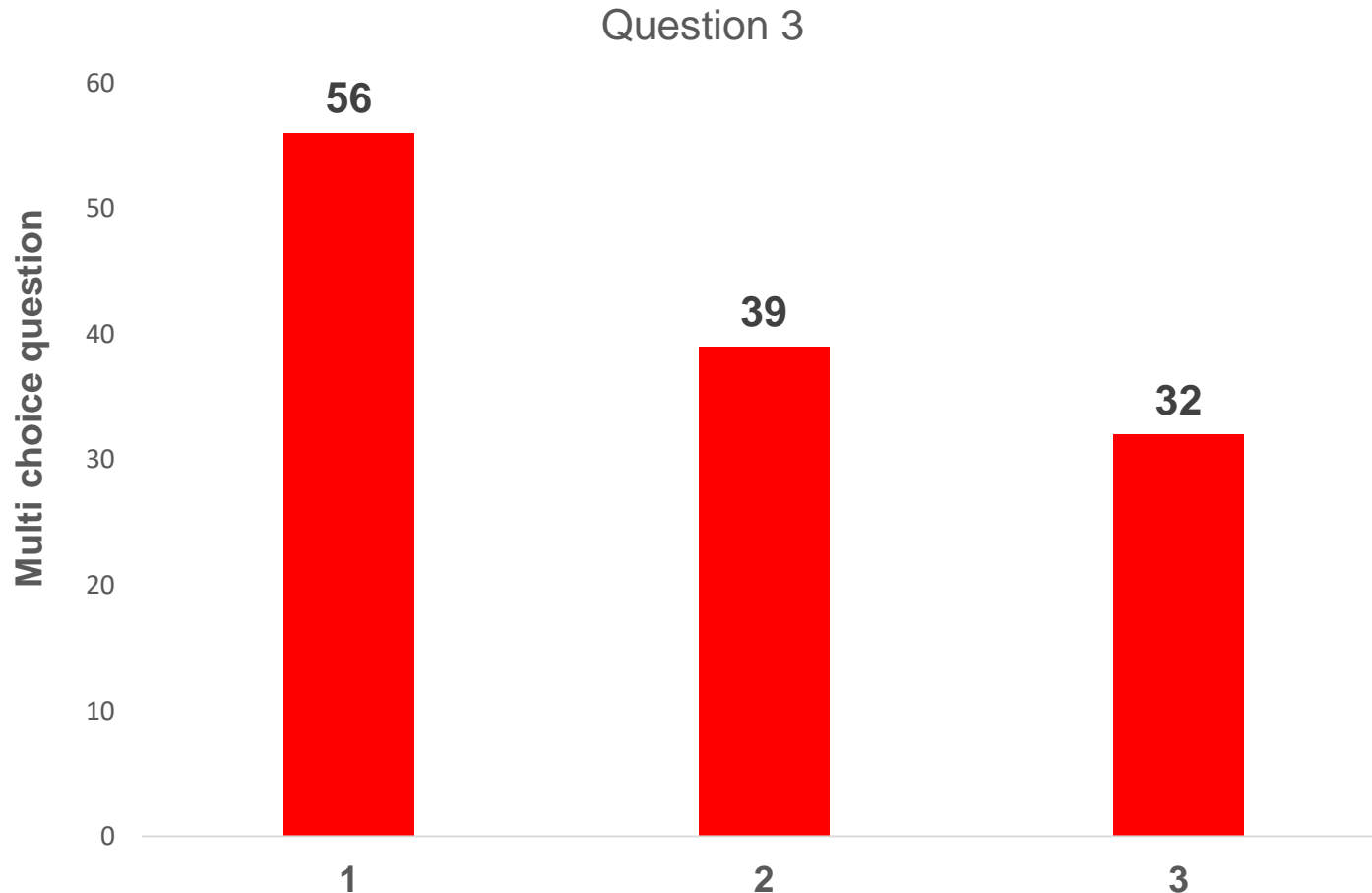
Residents could choose as many answers as they wished and speed is clearly the main cause of concern.

4. Other concerns:

- 11 people identified volume of traffic
- Specific vehicles were identified- Earthline lorries and agricultural vehicles i.e. tractors
- Lack of signage
- Rec alongside a busy road.
- Driver's lack of awareness of village
- Damage to road and properties

Q3.What impact does the traffic have on you:

1. Road safety issues
- 2 .Noise/Air pollution
- 3 .Inconvenience



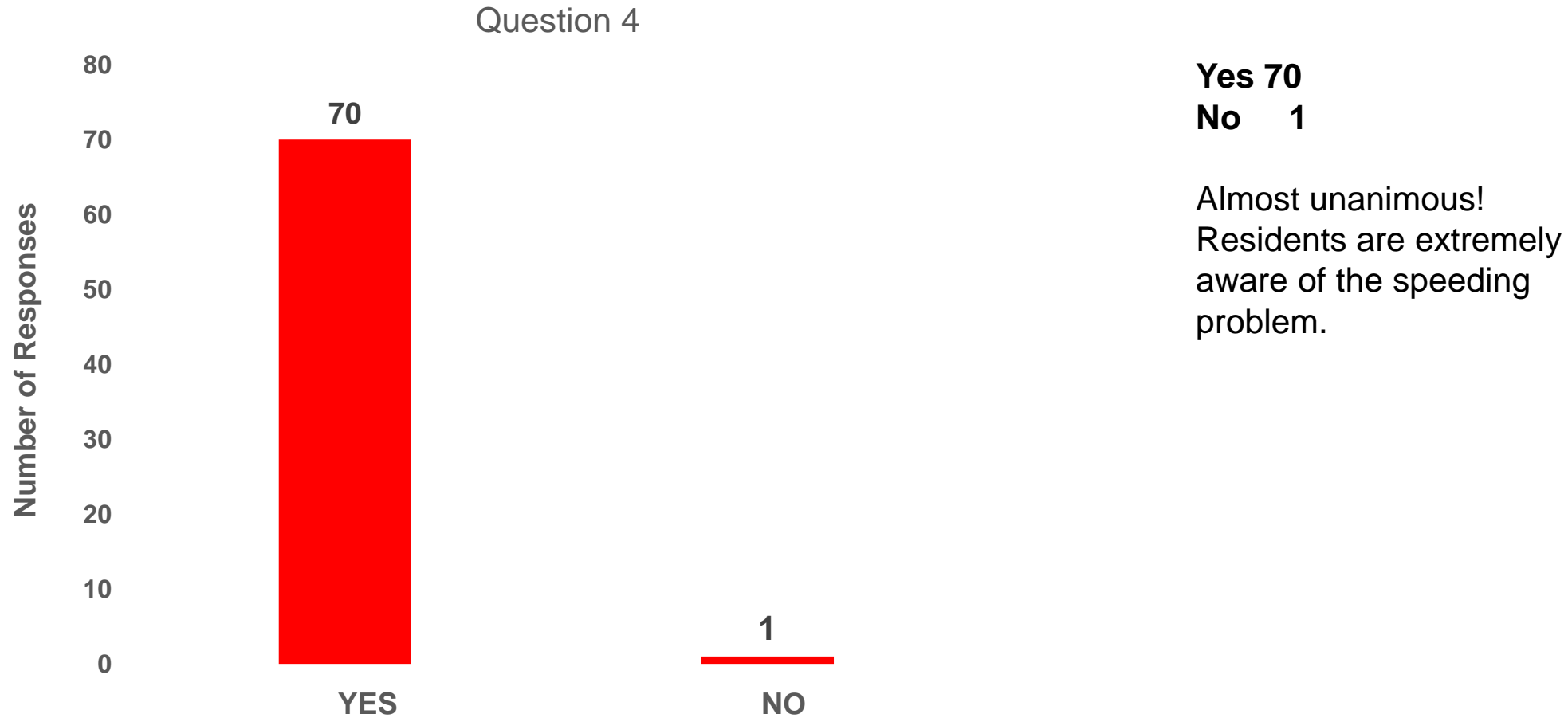
A multi choice question.

Other concerns:

- Limiting lifestyle- getting out of the drive, crossing the road and noise problems inside houses.
- Vibration and structural damage
- Having to use cars instead of walking- speeding cars with narrow unsafe pavements, dangerous for children and dog walkers.

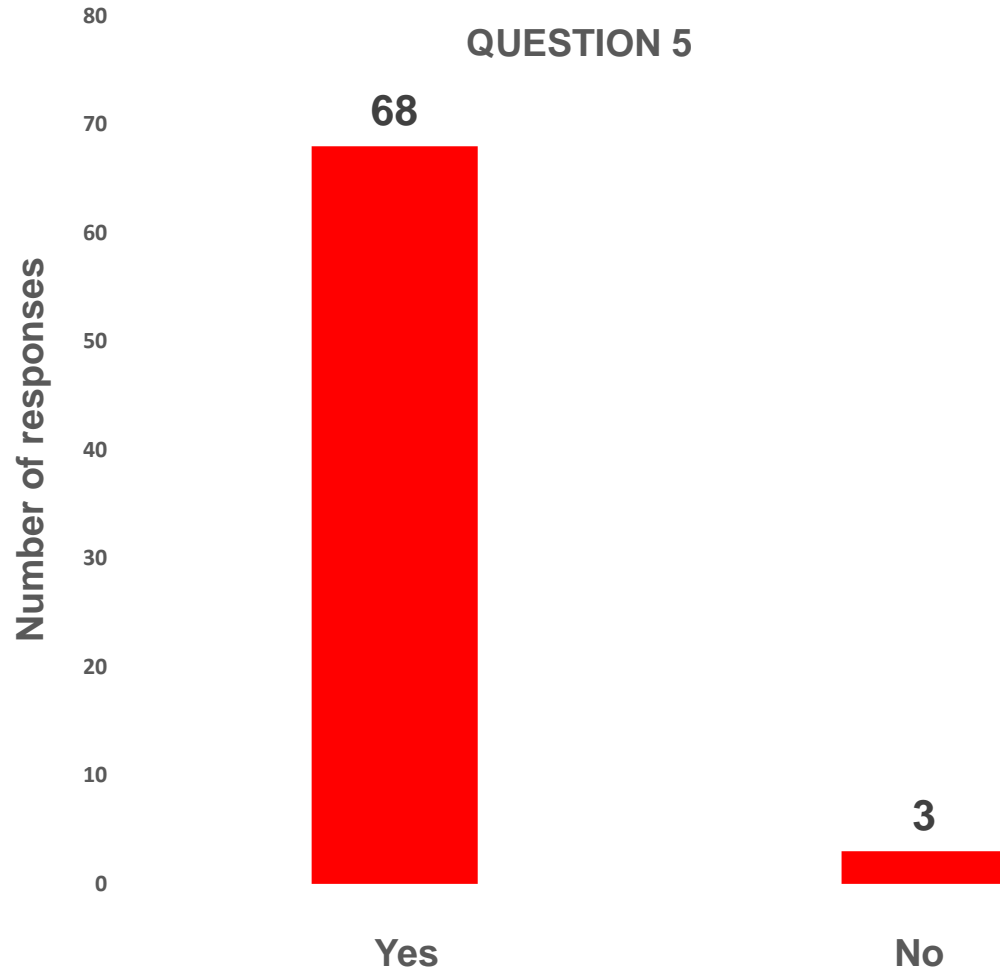
Q.4 Do you think there is an issue with drivers ignoring the speed limit on the Reading Rd?

Yes / No



Q.5. Does this have an impact on you? If so what is the nature of the impact?

Yes / No



Yes	68
No	3
Total	71

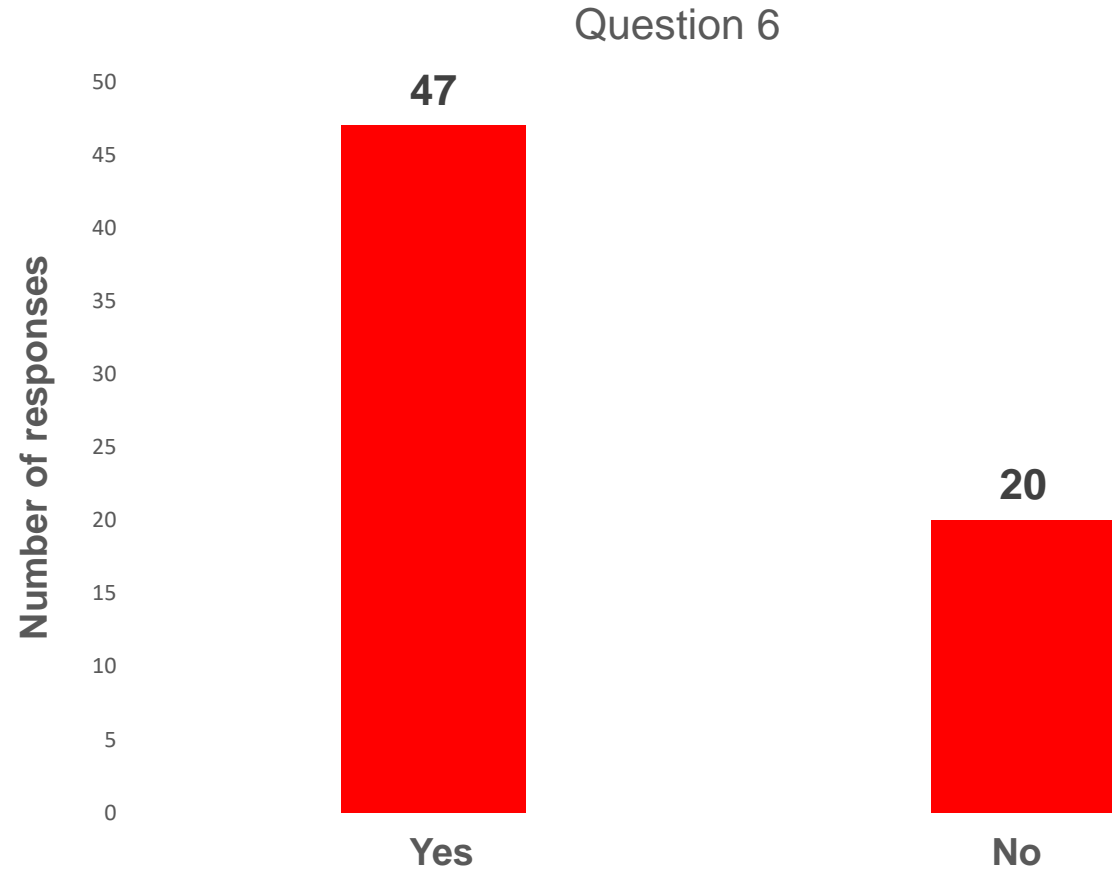
Traffic clearly does have an impact on residents

Nature of impact

- Disturbs sleep
- Safety issues with entering and leaving drives
- Anxiety- speeding drivers are often aggressive
- Feel vulnerable crossing the road
- Increased noise because of speeding vehicles
- Particular anxiety caused by speeding traffic coming from the roundabout and blind corners limiting vision
- Elderly residents hospital appointments are often early and this is peak time for traffic.

This is of real concern as traffic problems are having an impact on health- sleep deprivation, anxiety and lowering the quality of life.

Q.6.Does the number and size of larger vehicles e.g. large tipper lorries using the road have an impact on you? Yes / No

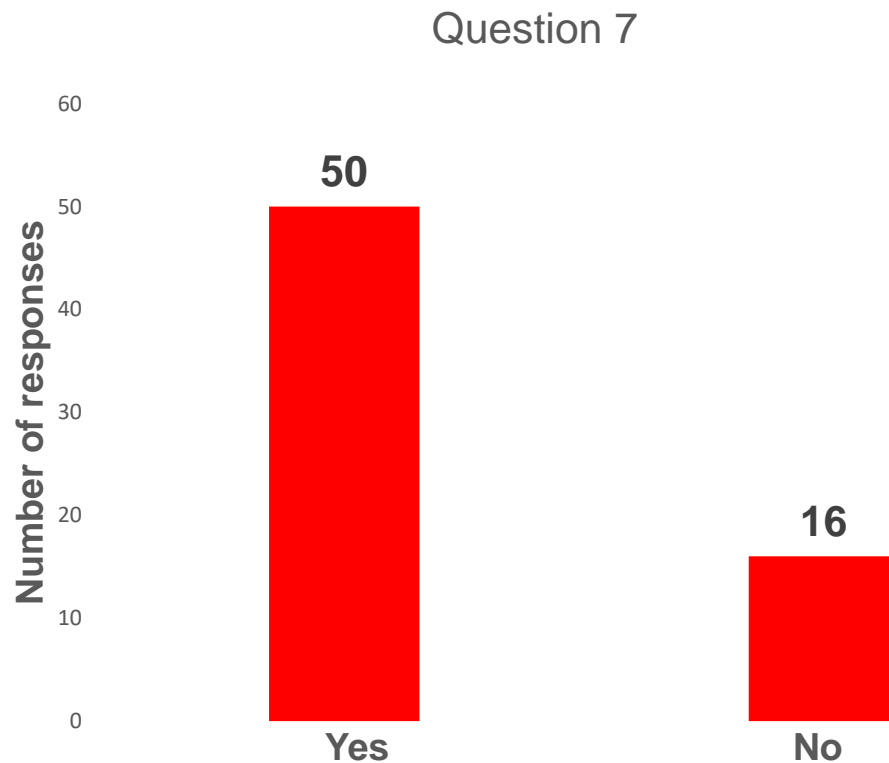


Yes 47 No 20 Abstentions 4

Impact on residents

- Even houses which sit back from the road still suffer the noise and vibration of heavy lorries and this is far worse for houses near the road.
- Residents are reporting cracked walls and the potholes and bumps in the road increase the impact of heavy vehicles.
- Residents also expressed concern over road safety as LGV vehicles are longer and require a greater stopping distance. They also cause additional hazards to cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders.

Q. 7. Are you aware of an increased amount of traffic using the road since the new Link Rd opened?
Yes / No



Yes	50
No	16
Abstentions	5
Total	71

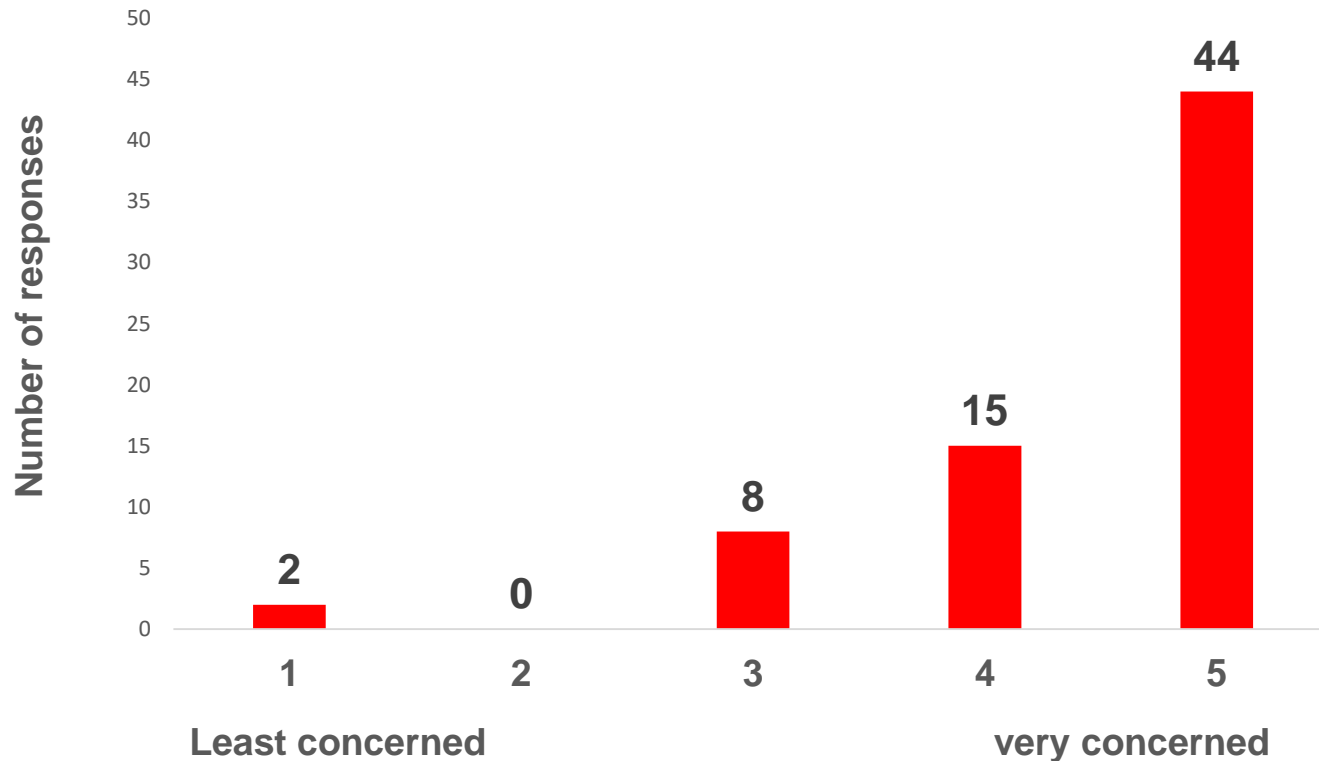
A majority of residents clearly notice an increase in traffic as a result of the new link road. This is to be expected as the village is now much quieter and the absence of the planned extension road to Chilton.

Q.8.How concerned are you about safety on the A417 going through the village?

1 2 3 4 5 (5 being the highest)

There were 2 abstentions

Question 8

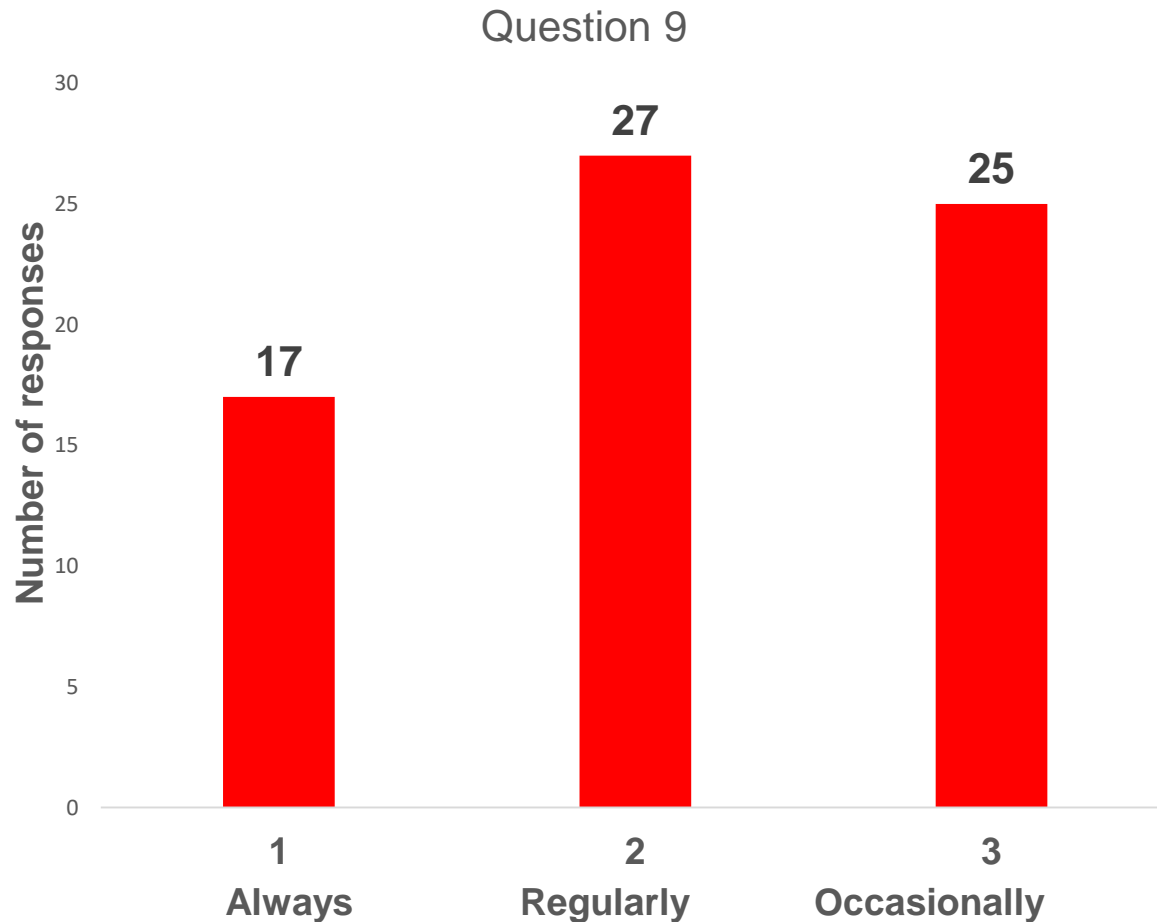


44 residents chose 5
15 residents chose 4
59 residents therefore demonstrated a high level of concern about road safety on the A417.

Resident comments:

- Several houses are being put on the market as a result.
- Concern that safety issues on the A417 are being ignored.
- Many were asking the question- do we have to wait for a fatality before the matter is addressed.

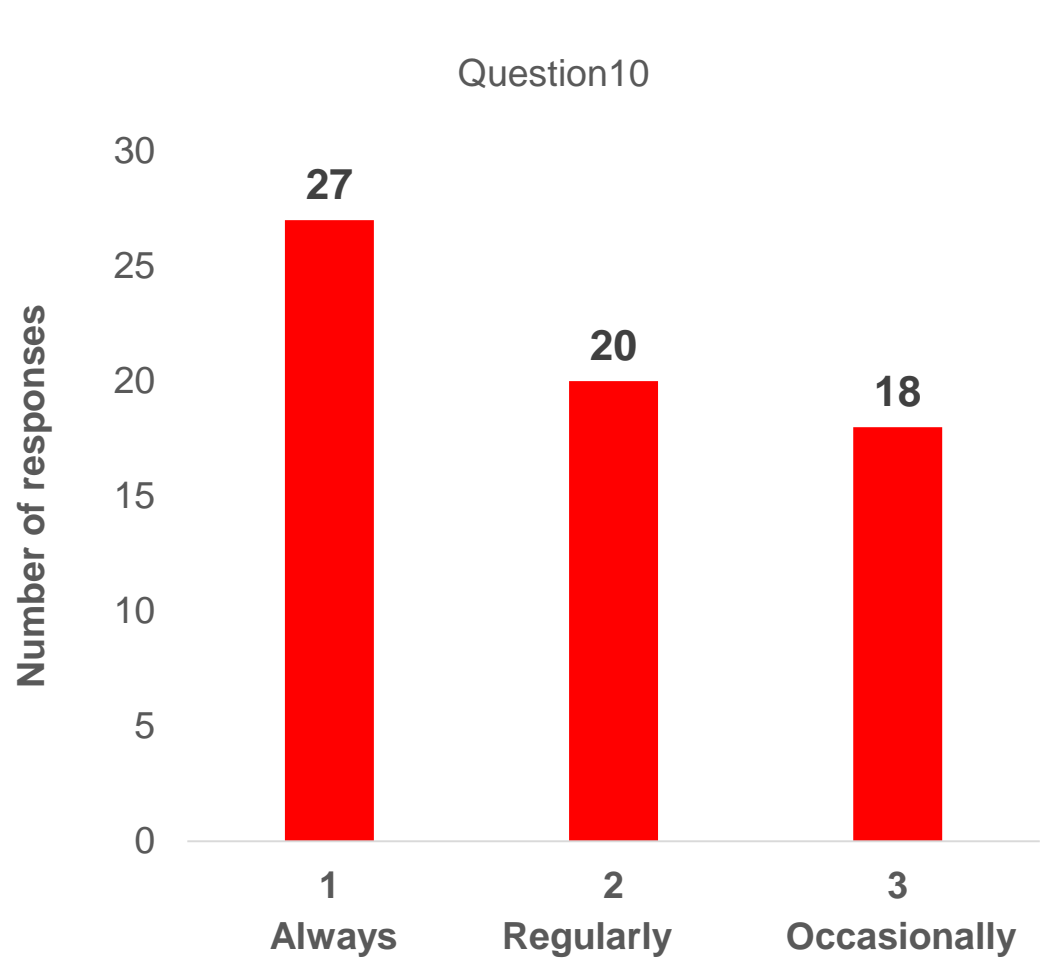
Q.9 Do you find it difficult to cross the road? Always / regularly / occasionally



Always	17
Regularly	27
Occasionally	25
Abstentions	2
Returns	71

This highlights the difficulties 44 residents either always or regularly experience as pedestrians. As a result children are not allowed to cross the road on their own to visit the rec or to go to school, dog walkers report difficulties and residents often go by car on short journeys - walking can be hazardous next to speeding vehicles.

Q.10 Do you find it difficult to get out of your drive? (1) Always (2) regularly (3) occasionally

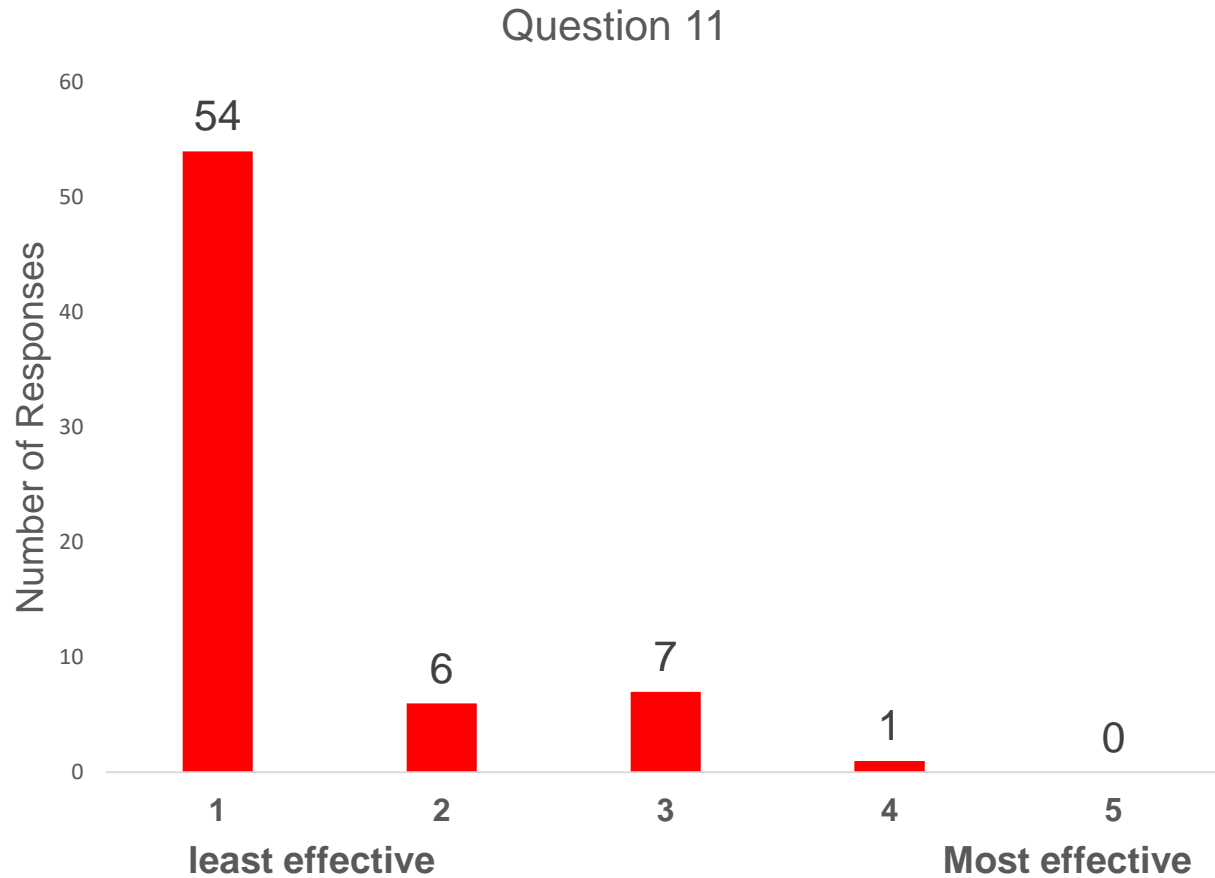


Always	27
Regularly	20
Occasionally	18
Abstentions	6
Returns	71

47 residents identified a real problem with getting out of their drives. Residents have to plan when they can go out. There are also several concealed drives with no signage. Speeding drivers mean there is less time for manoeuvring and blind spots in the road mean impeded vision. People with the biggest issues are those living near a bend with impaired views And speeding drivers cause greater risk.

Q 11. How effective do you think the present signage is for controlling traffic speed?
1 2 3 4 5 (5 being the most effective and 1 the least)

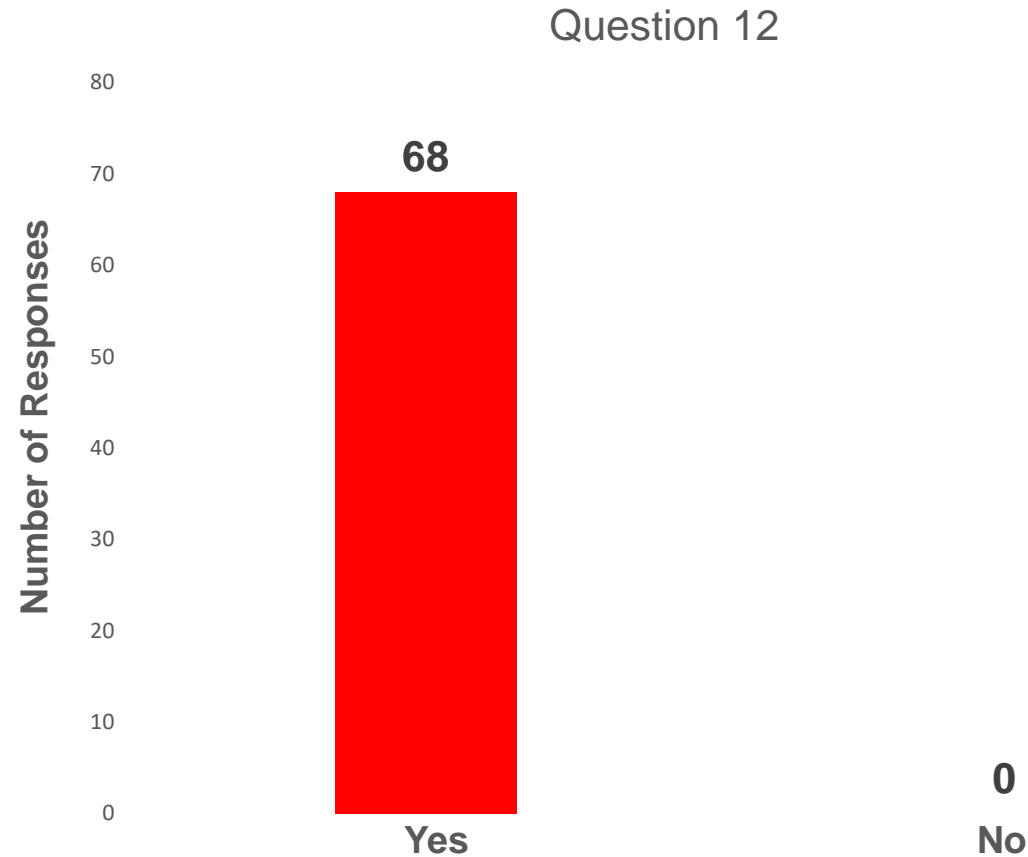
There were 3 abstentions



Combining the two most negative responses, there is a total of 60 residents who indicated their lack of confidence in the signage. Comments included:

- Present signage is tired, dated, badly placed and inadequate
- Concerns over the 40mph stretch- giving encouragement to speeding and causing confusion.
- Entrance to village needs to be much clearer- with gates, large welcome signs, repeater speed limits

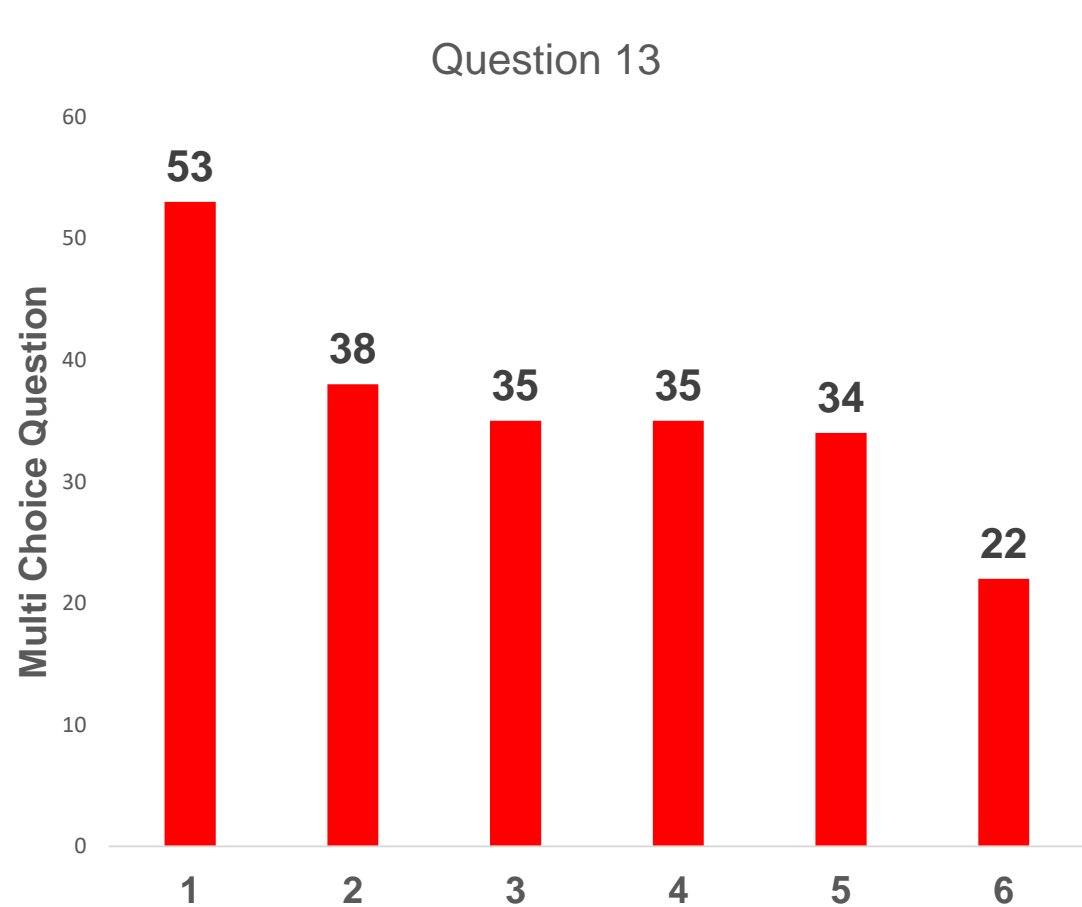
Q 12. Would you like to see extra traffic control on the A417? Yes / No



Yes	68
No	0
Abstentions	3
Returns	71

Overwhelmingly residents are united in expressing a need for extra traffic control.

Q 13. Which of these traffic calming measures do you think would have most impact on Reading Rd traffic:



Multi choice answers

1. Safety cameras	53
2. Crossing	38
3. Weight restriction	35
4. Increased signage	35
5. ½ gates	34
6. Pedestrian refuges	22

This is obviously a question which needs much work but residents would like a strategy which they have seen to be effective and at the moment safety cameras fits that description.

Q14 Do you have more ideas about traffic calming which you would like to see along the Reading Rd?

Question 14

Residents comments include:

- The traffic issues facing the Reading Rd have been disregarded.
- Continue with the original roundabout plan- this would make the T junction much safer.
- Have one speed limit from Rowstock to Silverdown- psychologically the 40mph sign encourages drivers to go faster.
- No chicanes as these can cause traffic queues and therefore more pollution
- Introduce a weight restriction to encourage lorries to find routes which do not go through the village.
- Give more indication to drivers that they are entering a village- ½ gates, signs and a flower bed. Decorated sign- perhaps this is needed to give Harwell an identity at each entrance to the village.
- Calming measures painted on the roads- stripes, crocodile feet. There is an existing red patch on the road but it is so faded it is hardly noticeable.

Summary and proposed way forward

- This has proved to be a huge undertaking but hopefully it has provided a useful body of information.
- Many of the major traffic concerns of Reading Rd residents have now been highlighted.
- The residents are keen to move forward from words to actions and will be interested in knowing the council's views on the results of the questionnaire.
- Our next step is to undertake a comparison between the 2014 and 2019 Traffic surveys in order to provide more information.
- We would like an article on the results of this questionnaire to go into the Broadsheet- is this something we should do or will it be covered in your report.
- Thank you for listening.