



RESULTS OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Part 1: Making Steyning a 20 MPH Zone

INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of the consultation was to get feedback on the idea of making Steyning and neighbouring parts of Bramber a 20 MPH Zone. This report summarises the results.

In Part 2 of the online version of the consultation, a series of additional questions were asked to test the appetite for further road calming and sustainable transport measures that could be considered at a later date. These results are presented in a separate Part 2 Report, which will also be made available on the Steyning Parish Council website.

Background

Steyning Parish Council has been aware for some time of local concerns over road safety and speeding traffic. In November 2020 it decided to convene a Community Working Party to consider the idea of creating a 20 MPH Zone in Steyning. The Working Party includes representatives from Bramber Parish Council, the District and County Councils, and three local community groups: Steyning & District Business Chamber, Steyning & District Community Partnership, and Greening Steyning.

Having considered various alternatives, the suggestion from the Working Party was that:

- The 20 MPH Zone should cover the whole of Steyning plus the Maudlin and Castle Lane areas of Bramber, and possibly some of Clays Hill.
- Prominent 20 MPH speed signs should be installed at each of the entrances to town, with reminder signs at intervals, mostly painted in the road.
- Some physical traffic calming measures may also be needed to slow traffic down in some places.

- The costs involved in implementing a 20 MPH Zone would be relatively modest and would be shared between West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and Steyning and Bramber Parish Councils. As both Parish Councils have funds earmarked for community infrastructure projects available, as a result of 'Section 106' levies on previous property developments, it would not need to come from local council taxes.

The Consultation

Details of any 20 MPH scheme will need to be worked out with WSCC's Highways Department, and will be subject to a further consultation before any plans are implemented. This preliminary survey was carried ahead of any formal application to WSCC in order to test reactions from local residents to these initial ideas.

The consultation was open to anyone who lives in Steyning or Bramber, or who travels here for work, school, shopping or leisure reasons. There was no age limit and more than one person from each household could take part.

The consultation was carried out via two methods:

- **A paper version** was distributed to every household in the affected parts of Steyning and Bramber. This outlined the idea of a 20 MPH Zone and asked residents whether or not they were in favour of it.
- **A more extensive online version** was launched in parallel using the online survey tool, Survey Monkey. This allowed room for comments and included in Part 2 a series of additional questions to test the appetite for further road calming and sustainable transport measures that could be considered at a later date. These covered further road traffic calming measures, reducing speed limits on the Steyning Bypass, encouraging walking and cycling, encouraging public transport, and installing electric vehicle charging points.

The consultation was open for 8 weeks, closing on 30 April 2021.

Response rate

The consultation was promoted widely and the response rate was excellent – much higher than for many similar surveys in other communities. A total of 1511 replies were received of which 1276 (84%) were online and 235 (16%) on paper.¹ The Working Party would like to thank everyone for their input.

The breakdown of where respondents live was as follows:

- 76% from Steyning
- 8% from affected parts of Bramber
- 3% from other parts of Bramber
- 7% from Upper Beeding
- 6% from elsewhere

Comments

The online survey provided space for comments and many respondents took advantage of this opportunity; more than 2700 comments were received in total, including over 650 on the 20 MPH idea. These have been read and analysed carefully, and are presented alongside the quantitative results below.

¹ Checks were carried out to confirm results were not being skewed by individuals making multiple responses.

CREATING A 20 MPH ZONE IN STEYNING

The combined results of the online and paper surveys are presented below.

Are you in favour of creating a 20 MPH Zone in Steyning?

Overall, just over 62% of respondents were in favour of the idea of a 20 MPH Zone, with 32% against, a ratio of almost 2 to 1.

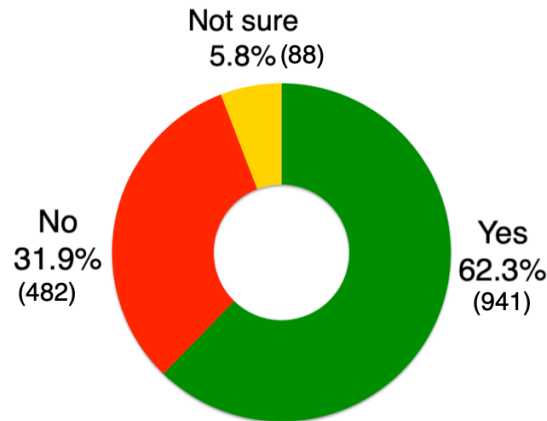


Figure 1: Overall results of 20 MPH Survey

The proportion in favour was significantly higher among those who filled in the paper survey compared to online respondents. Over 4 to 1 were behind the idea, possibly a reflection of the larger number of older residents taking advantage of the paper version.

Those living in the directly affected areas of Steyning & Bramber were also slightly more likely to vote “Yes” - 65% were in favour, compared to 61% for those living elsewhere.

What are the main factors influencing your thoughts?

Safety and air quality were the most important factors mentioned, with 90% considering these as ‘important’ or ‘very important’. Noise pollution and the impact on encouraging cycling & walking, and creating a more welcoming feel to the area, were also rated as ‘important’ or ‘very important’ by over 70% of respondents.

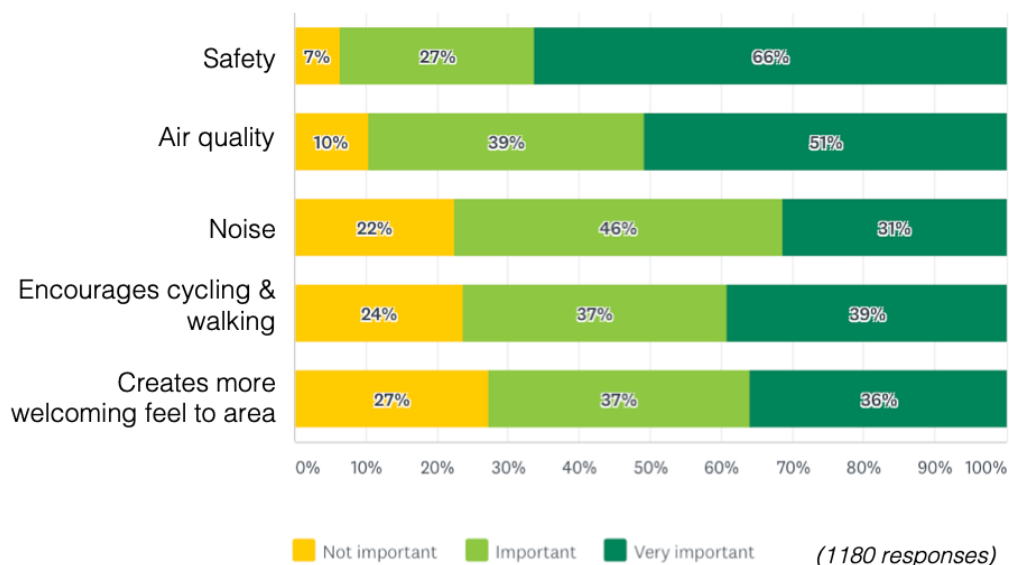


Figure 2: Influencing factors

Comments

There were 667 comments in total on the idea of a 20 MPH zone. There are clearly strong feelings both for and against it.

The main points raised are summarised below, clustered by broad theme and ranked according to the number of times each one was mentioned. Those that received more than 50 mentions are highlighted in blue.

Overall, there were slightly more comments against a 20 MPH zone than in favour of it. This reflects the fact that a larger proportion (72%) of people who questioned the idea made comments, compared to those who supported it (40%). Many also raised several points in their comments. These points were all counted separately.

All the comments have been shared with the 20 MPH Working Party for their consideration.

Theme	Points raised	No. of mentions
Overall comments in favour	Welcome it due to safety angle	52
	Excellent idea	49
	Will make it calmer, more pleasant, encourage community spirit	21
	Previous positive experience of 20mph schemes	6
	Will help reduce emissions	6
Overall comments against	Not needed and/or traffic is slow anyway especially in High St	132
	People will ignore it	53
	Terrible idea	51
	There is not enough evidence of a problem	41
	Too expensive, waste of money	39
	Biased survey	19
Concerns	Enforcement a problem	61
	Emissions could be made worse	53
	Need to avoid ugly signage	34
	Concern re speed bumps/pinch points	29
	Problems created by inconsiderate cyclists/scooters	26
	Could increase congestion	21
	It won't cut the number of accidents	19
	May deter people from coming to Steyning High St.	19
	Increased driver frustration (and tension in village)	12

Theme	Points raised	No. of mentions
Suggestions	Sort out parking in High St: enforce parking restrictions/ double yellow N side/repaint lines/ remove parking fees	71
	Keep 30mph on Clays Hill	38
	Improve school safety. Target Shooting Field area with 20mph speed limits/double yellows/wardens etc. Use Horsham Rd car park more	35
	Confine 20mph to High St or a small inner area	22
	Repairing pot holes is more of a priority	15
	School crossings/wardens are needed	13
	Keep the West end of Horsham Rd 30mph	11
	Need safe walking routes to school/wider & better pavements	7
	Make use of speed cameras or indicators	7

Some particularly dangerous hot spots were highlighted. The most frequently mentioned were: Newham Lane/Bostal (12 mentions); Horsham Rd (7); Church St (5), Clays Hill (5), Cannons Way (5), Tanyard Lane (3), Bramber Roundabout (3).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 20 MPH Working Party has met to consider the results of the consultation. Their conclusion is that although a significant number of people are doubtful about the idea, and some actively against it, a clear majority of nearly two-to-one are in favour. Given the high response rate to the consultation, this provides a sufficiently strong overall endorsement to go to the next stage in exploring the idea.

On this basis the Working Party are recommending to Steyning and Bramber Parish Councils that they go ahead with a Community Highways Scheme (CHS) application.

NEXT STEPS

If this recommendation is backed by the two Parish Councils, a Community Highways Scheme application will be made to WSCC Highways Department. WSCC will then carry out tests to assess current traffic speeds. On the basis of this data, and taking into account the feedback from this consultation, an outline scheme will be devised. This will include proposals on the extent of the 20 MPH Zone and what signage and road calming measures will be needed.

This outline scheme will go to a WSCC Moderation Panel to be considered alongside other applications from elsewhere in the county. If selected, WSCC will then develop a detailed implementation plan for the scheme.

A formal consultation will then be held, with residents living in areas directly affected by the proposed scheme being consulted to get their views. A final decision on whether to proceed will be made based on the outcome of that consultation.

If successful, implementation work would begin in 2022.

Report prepared by the 20 MPH Community Working Party

May 2021

