

Walditch traffic speed survey

89 out of 112 Upper Walditch residents want both 30 mph and 20 mph limits.

A survey was conducted between 20 and 27 January 2019 of 125 households in Walditch in the form of a questionnaire put through letterboxes on 20 January to be returned to Jim Basker by hand by 27 January. This asked individual members of each household whether they wanted a speed limit in Walditch, and, if so, what their preferences were for specific limits: 40 mph throughout; 40mph in rural areas plus 30 mph in the built-up area; 30 mph throughout; or 30 mph in the rural area and 20 mph in the built-up area. Space was given for comments and suggestions.

Response rate

Forms were distributed to 125 homes in Walditch. The number of forms returned was 59, a gross response rate of 47.2%. An estimated 20 homes were holiday homes or rentals, so the effective response rate can be estimated at 56.2%.

A total of 112 respondents expressed their views.

Results

Two respondents said there should be no speed limit in the village, either because there should be no signage in the village or there should be a 40 mph speed limit on the A35 from the top of the hill.

Of the other 110,

89 respondents (80.9%) stated their first preference as 30/20 mph limits.

53 residents (48.2%) stated their second preference as 30 mph throughout.

16 residents (14.5%) stated their first preference as 30 mph throughout.

4 residents stated their second preference as 30/20 mph.

4 residents wrote in their first preference as 20 mph throughout.

One resident stated their first preference as 40/30 mph.

Implications

There is a strongly significant view that there should be a 30 mph limit along Firch Lane, up Lower Walditch Lane, and up Walditch Road. From the beginning of housing, including The Hyde, there should be a 20 mph limit throughout the village or at least in the centre, where there are blind corners, no pavements and front doors opening directly on to the road, and round the Village Green.

Comments

Respondents made several additional comments:

1: The blind corner opposite Stoneleigh is the result of a hedge which could be cut down to improve visibility (5 respondents)

2: Erect signs at the Firch Lane entrance to indicate 'single track road', 'please drive slowly through our lovely village', 'Please do not exceed 20 mph through village', 'children in road', 'Walditch only', 'Welcome to Walditch'.

3: Access only from the A35, or to close Firch Lane and make traffic one way up Walditch Road and down Lower Walditch Lane.

4: Erect warning sign, chevrons or a mirror at the Hyde bend.

5: Paint SLOW signs on the road

6: Put in calming humps/Don't put in calming humps

7: Make Uplands 5/10 mph

8: Replace iron fencing on Walditch Road because it fouls the carriageway

9: Follow the advice given in the Traffic in Villages Toolkit, on www.dorsetaonb.org.uk. Follow Our Work, Rural Roads, to reach the Toolkit. This gives advice on how to get drivers to slow down.

[cut out road markings, plant shrubs or flowers at side of road and vary the edges of the street to make it look narrower and to persuade drivers they are in a village environment].

Survey Completed by Jim Basker

2 March 2019