

# Great Wilbraham Parish Council Highways, Transport and Cycleways Committee (HTCC)

## Resident Survey undertaken in September 2024

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## Summary

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### 1 Introduction

In Autumn 2024, the Highways, Transport and Cycling Committee (HTCC) of Great Wilbraham Parish Council sought guidance from residents about aspects related to highways that were of concern to them in order to develop a prioritised work plan and garner evidence of support for possible developments.

A survey was distributed to all Great Wilbraham residents in early September 2024. This was also available electronically via the Great Wilbraham website, Transport Working Group email lists and others.

The questionnaire provided background information and asked particularly:

1. Whether people would support the establishment of a pedestrian crossing at the School
2. Support for further traffic calming measures
3. Support for imposition of restrictions aimed at reducing the number of HGVs using the village as a through route.
4. Support for imposition of restrictions on HGVs using Church Street/High Street between Little Wilbraham and the junction with Mill Road
5. Whether people were concerned about cars parked on pavements and/or trees and hedges obstructing the pavements
6. Residents were asked to prioritise between the School Crossing, Reduction in HGVs and Action on Pavements

Paper copies were collected in the village shop and by door knocking, with reminders being given throughout September.

Questionnaire returns were collected until 30 September 2024.

## 2 Results

The full results were presented to the HTCC on Tuesday 22 October. These can be summarised as follows:

Number of responses: 130 (percentage of households = 46% NB total households 276 + small adjustment for 2-3 households where both adults answered).

Number of people represented in questionnaire returns: 207 (percentage of adults = 42% (population 18 years+ = 488 2021 Census)).

Number of people willing to help with further data gathering = 43

1. The PC believes that the 'narrowing' of the road outside the school is dangerous and would like it replaced by a formal pedestrian crossing. The school's parents' association carried out a survey recently; respondents said that the current arrangement was ambiguous and, as a result, dangerous. The PC has asked the County Council to detail what might be possible, and the approximate cost of different measures.

**Question**

**Would you support the establishment of a pedestrian crossing at the school**

● Yes	113
● No	15



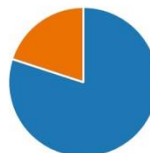
2. **Traffic calming measures**

Many of you have said that HGVs travelling through the village cause disturbance, particularly to those living on through routes, especially at night and in the early morning. Unfortunately, our ability to lessen the amount of traffic using the village as a legitimate 'through route' to local businesses is limited. The 20mph limit should help, perhaps both directly and by altering the routes recommended by satnav devices. If the speed limit does not have sufficient effect, other calming measures could be applied for.

**Question**

**Would you support further speed calming measures if they prove to be necessary?**

● Yes	100
● No	25



3. **Restrictions on HGVs**

It might be possible to put restrictions on vehicles that are not serving local businesses. This might be by restricting those above a certain weight or length, or before or after a particular time. We would like to measure support for such an approach before we start to develop any application.

**Question**

**Would you support the imposition of restrictions aimed at reducing the number of HGVs using the village as a through-route?**

● Yes	114
● No	15

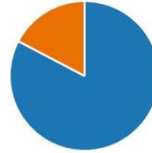


4. Restrictions on routes through Church Street/High Street  
 The road between Little Wilbraham and the Mill Road/High Street junction provides access to most of the village's facilities and resources, such as the school, nursery, shop, pub, playpark, church, Memorial Hall and dental clinic. It has been suggested this part of the through route should be closed to HGVs, which would then be required to route via Six Mile Bottom, the A11 and possibly Mill Road.

**Question**

**Would you support the imposition of a restriction on HGVs using Church Street/High Street between Little Wilbraham and the junction with Mill Road?**

● Yes	105
● No	22



5. The PC frequently receives complaints about the state of pavements in the village, often because of vehicle parking and overgrown hedges. We would like to measure the strength of feeling about what some residents describe as 'anti-social behaviour'.

**Question**

**Are you concerned about cars parked on pavements and/or trees and hedges obstructing pavements?**

● Yes	96
● No	33



6. Please use the up/down arrows to prioritise the three main areas mentioned - the most important being at the top



Further comments were received on topics of the 1) pedestrian crossing (including comments on the ambiguity at the current road narrowing, and general concern for the safety of pedestrians); 2) HGVs (high impact of HGVs, mounting pavements, straddling white lines, disturbing residents during the night, damaging the houses and problems exacerbated by parked cars and narrow roads – however concern that addressing only part of the village with restrictions would be divisive); 4) Speed and safety and the number of vehicles passing through the village; 5) Poor condition of roads and pavements; 6) Cycling and the need for safe routes out of the village.

### 3 Conclusion

The survey had a relatively high response rate and showed overwhelming concern about the main issues of the school crossing, HGVs and the poor state of the roads and pavements. Overall, residents placed the problem of HGVs as a top priority and the school crossing second. These results will be used by the Parish Council through its Highways, Transport and Cycleways Committee to prioritise actions and to provide supporting evidence for forthcoming bids through the Local Highways Initiative programme.