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2023

ROAD SAFETY IN THORNHILL



How the survey was conducted

The survey was carried out after concerned residents of Thornhill got in touch with their local MP Alyn Smith. Afterwards the decision was made to go straight to residents to ask them their opinions on road safety in the local community.

The survey was conducted using an online questionnaire via Survey Monkey. A letter was also sent out to residents in Thornhill inviting them to take part. The survey was also shared online and through the local community council.

In total 163 residents took part in the survey, answering the following questions:

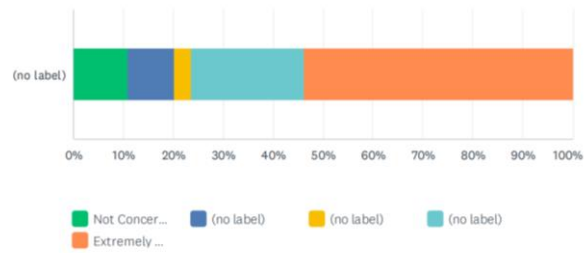
1. How concerned are you about speeding in Thornhill?
2. Do you believe there is a need for additional speed calming measures in Thornhill?
3. Which specific areas in Thornhill do you consider to be the most problematic for speeding and road safety concerns?
4. How safe do you feel when walking in Thornhill?
5. Would you support the installation of better traffic calming measures in Thornhill?
6. What additional road safety measures or improvements would you suggest for Thornhill?
7. Please share any other comments or suggestions related to road safety in Thornhill.

Closed Question Responses

Four questions in the survey were closed questions where respondents were asked to choose from a list of answers.

Q1 How concerned are you about speeding in Thornhill?

Answered: 158 Skipped: 0

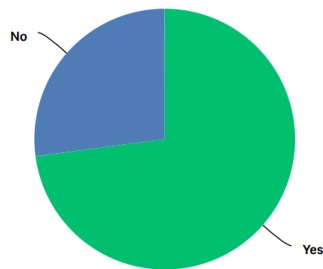


NOT CONCERNED AT ALL	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	(NO LABEL)	EXTREMELY CONCERNED	TOTAL
10.76%	9.49%	3.16%	22.78%	53.80%	
17	15	5	36	85	158

- 76% of total respondents are concerned about speeding in Thornhill to some extent

Q2 Do you believe there is a need for additional speed calming measures in Thornhill?

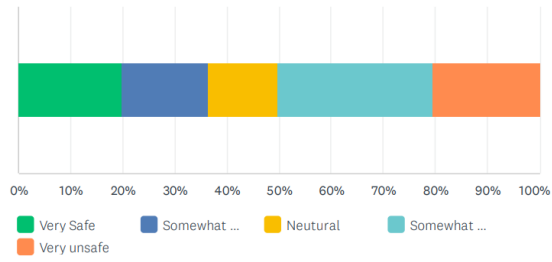
Answered: 155 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	72.90%	113
No	27.10%	42
TOTAL		155

Q4 How safe do you feel when walking in Thornhill?

Answered: 157 Skipped: 1

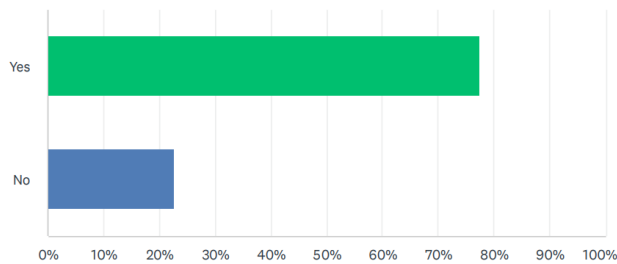


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Safe	19.75%	31
Somewhat Safe	16.56%	26
Neutral	13.38%	21
Somewhat unsafe	29.94%	47
Very unsafe	20.38%	32
TOTAL		157

- Roughly half of respondents state that they do not feel safe walking in their own community.

Q5 Would you support the installation of better traffic calming measures in Thornhill?

Answered: 155 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	77.42%	120
No	22.58%	35
TOTAL		155

What specific areas in Thornhill are most problematic?

Main Street

- Main Street mentioned in 65% of responses.
 - o It is the overwhelming concern that most traffic related issues in the Thornhill area stem from this road.
- Concern over the main road being used by too many heavy goods vehicles which are reported to be consistently breaching speed limits.
 - o Concerns that the roads are not built for heavy goods vehicles and that the streets are too narrow for them to travel along the main road.
 - o Current speed calming measures on the main road are ineffective.
 - The 'nibs' within Thornhill that are designed to slow down traffic were constantly brought up in responses as being useless and having no effect on traffic calming whatsoever.
- When entering from the East, it is reported that speeding starts just outside the Lion and Unicorn pub as the cars pass the 'nib'.

West side of Main Street

- Many residents stated that the turning corner at the west side of Main Street, outside the war memorial, has become problematic, especially for heavy goods vehicles.
- Most respondents stated that this corner is not suitable for large vehicles which is often leading to blockage and causing issues further down the road outside the primary school.

Kippen Road/Primary School

- Similar issues to Main Street, with many residents concerned for the safety of school children as speed limits are not respected and current traffic calming measures outside the school are seen as ineffective.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Heavy goods vehicles are a consistent issue that has come up within the responses. Many residents are not happy with the large volume of heavy vehicles that pass-through Thornhill. Many residents have stated that the village roads are in no way suitable for heavy vehicles and are concerned that many of them regularly breach the speed limits and mount the pavements on the Main Street that is already very narrow.

Suggestions from residents about what could be done to improve road safety and tackle speeding in Thornhill.

Speed Bumps:

- Several respondents suggested installing speed bumps along the whole Main Street
- Several respondents also suggested speed bumps being placed on the road outside the primary school.

Pedestrian Crossings:

- Some mentioned the need for pedestrian crossings, particularly for school children.

Digital Speed Displays:

- Suggestions included flashing speed indicators that show drivers their current speed.

Speed Cameras:

- Many respondents recommended the use of speed cameras to enforce speed limits.

Enforcement of 20 mph Limit:

- Some respondents called for stricter enforcement of the existing 20 mph speed limit such as a larger police presence within the community.

Improved Signage:

- Recommendations included larger, more obvious 20 mph signs, LED signs that flash when traffic exceeds the speed limit, and signage that warns drivers to slow down.

Traffic Lights:

- A few respondents suggested installing traffic lights at specific locations.
- It was suggested by a few respondents that traffic lights could be installed near or outside the school alongside a crossing.

Zebra Crossings:

- Recommendations for zebra crossings, particularly near the school.

Bypass:

- A few respondents mentioned the idea of a village bypass for heavy vehicles.

Double Yellow Lines:

- Suggestions to implement double yellow lines to restrict parking and improve visibility on Main Street.

Pavement Improvements:

- Raising pavements, changing pavement surfaces, or installing barriers to prevent vehicles from mounting the pavement.

One-Way Traffic:

- Some suggested making parts of the road one-way to improve traffic flow and safety.

Further Comments from Residents

The survey included a section for respondents to add in anything else they would like to say. There was no set question for this. Below is a summary of those comments.

Lack of Infrastructure:

- Pedestrian safety is a significant concern, especially for children and the elderly. The narrow pavements, limited crossing points, and the presence of cars parked on the main road make it difficult for pedestrians to navigate safely.

Visibility Issues:

- Several responses mention visibility problems at certain junctions, making it difficult for drivers to see oncoming traffic, which can lead to dangerous situations.

Lack of Police Presence:

- Some residents feel that the police are not proactive in enforcing speed limits and ensuring road safety, especially given the limited police presence in the area.

Alternative Routes:

- Suggestions include redirecting heavy vehicles to alternative routes and exploring the possibility of creating safer walking and cycling paths to reduce dependency on cars.

Community Engagement:

- Several residents express the need for better community engagement and communication to address road safety issues.

Conservation Area Concerns:

- The village's status as a conservation area adds an extra layer of concern regarding the impact of heavy traffic on historic properties.

Road Width:

- Concerns about road width and the impact on road safety are raised, with some suggesting that restrictions on road width are not effective in slowing down traffic.

Road Condition:

- A few responses mention the poor condition of the roads and the need for maintenance.