

## EFDC Safer Spaces Commonplace Reporting – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### Engagement Overview

Our EFDC Safer Spaces during COVID-19 platform (<https://efdcsaferspacescovid19.commonplace.is/>) launched on the 13 June 2020, and up until 20 July 2020 has had 2503 visitors to the site, with 698 contributions (comments and agreements), and 193 comments. These reports will also be available to subscribers to 'Get Project News' on the platform, which can be accessed here: <https://efdcsaferspacescovid19.commonplace.is/news>.

### Demographics overview

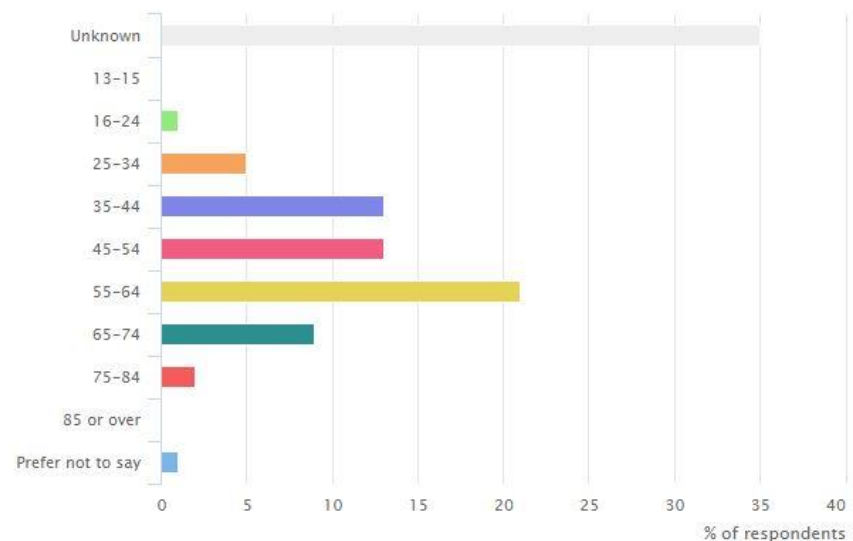
The age group most represented in comments is 55-64, with less representation of younger people of below the age of 35.

There are a number of respondents who are unknown or prefer not to say, with 38% female and 25% male respondents.

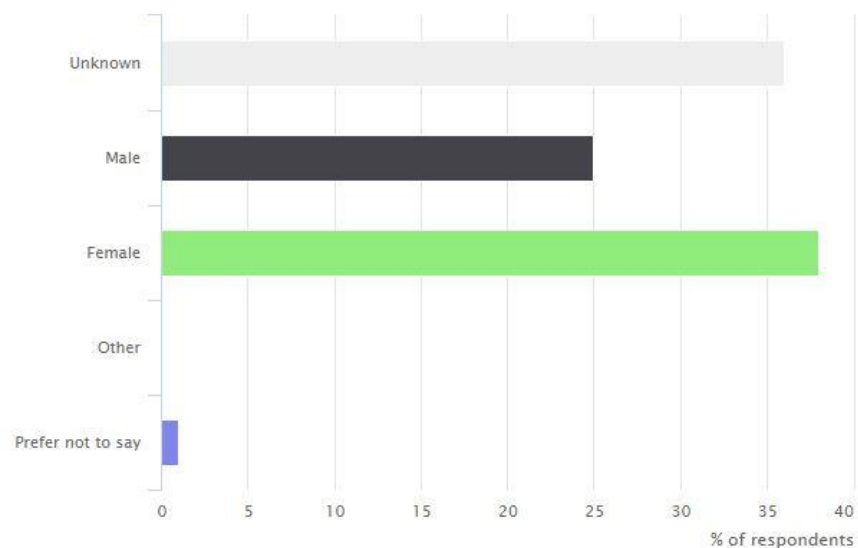
The majority of respondents (50%) are white, with 1% Asian/ Asian British, 1% Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British, 1% Mixed/ multiple ethnicity, and 3% prefer not to say.

5% of respondents have noted that they have a disability which affects their mobility.

#### What is your age group?

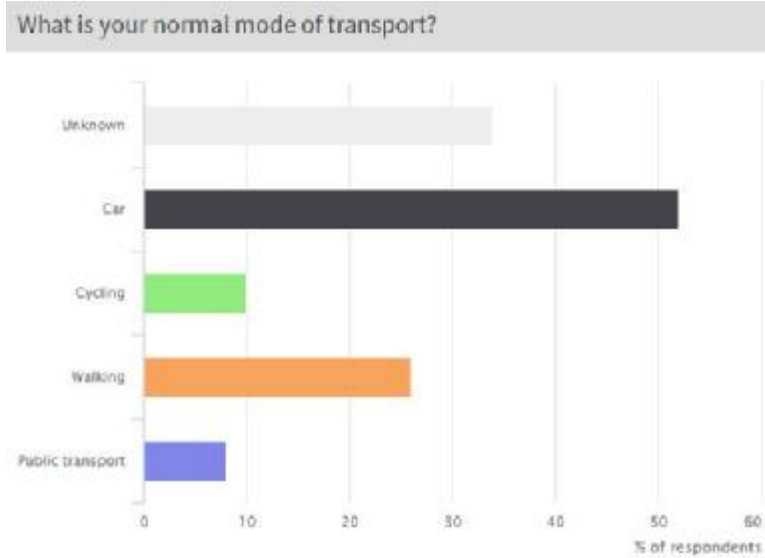


#### What is your gender?

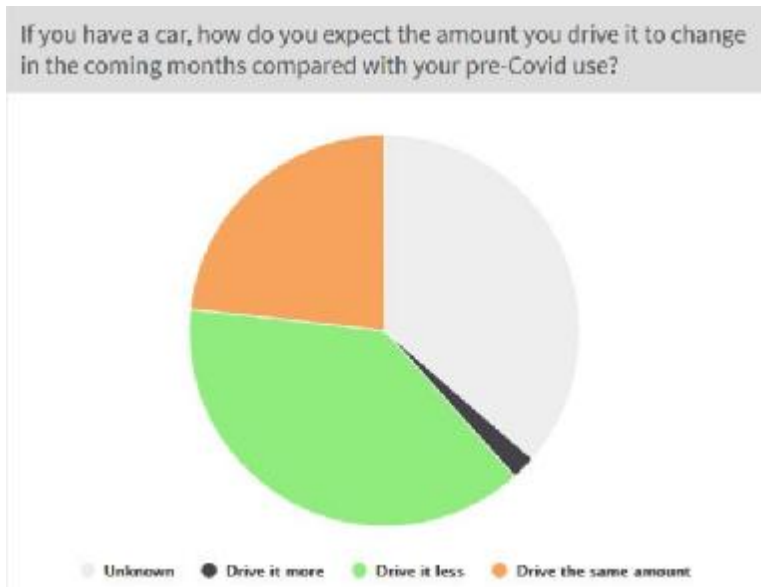


## Transport and air quality

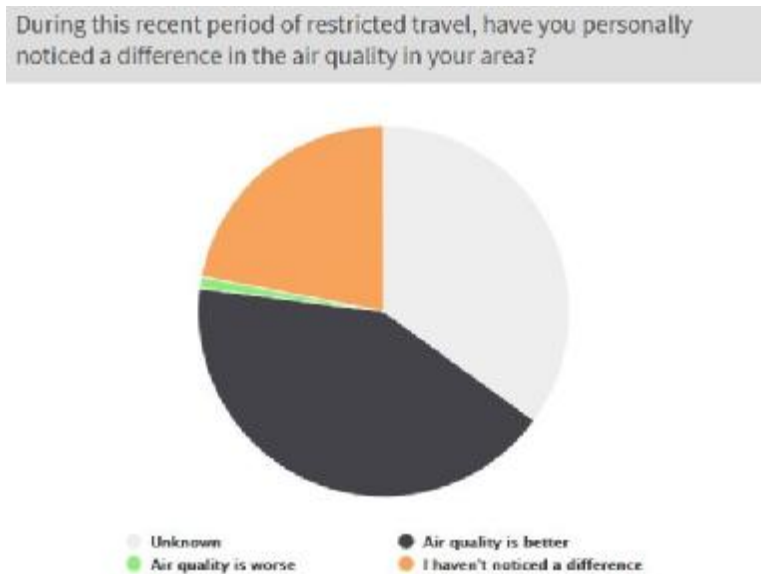
53% of respondents noted their normal mode of transport was the car.



39% also noted they expected to drive their car less in the coming months, as opposed to 22% who expected to drive it the same amount and 3% who expected to drive it more, with 36% unknown.



43% of respondents have personally noticed that air quality is better during the recent period of restricted travel.



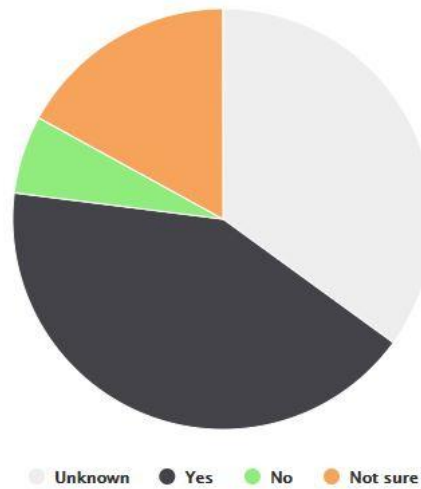
## Support for interventions and measures

58% of respondents support measures to reduce traffic speeds and volumes to help aid social distancing, with 43% noting they would support measures that seek to reallocate road and parking space for walking and cycling more permanently.

Do you support temporary measures to reduce traffic speeds and/or volumes to help aid social distancing and keep those walking and cycling to shops and services safe?

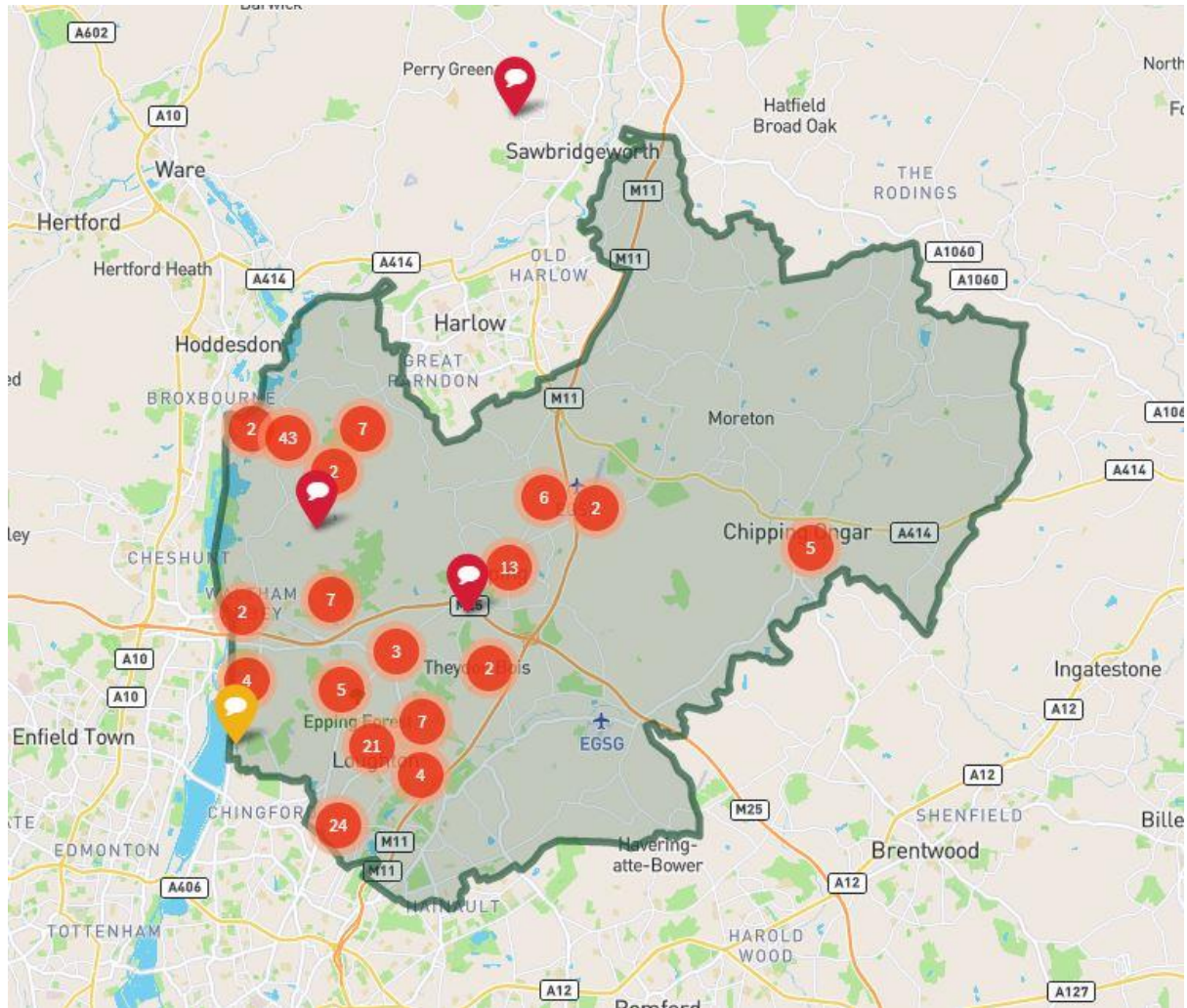


Looking forward to the next 12-24 months, would you support measures that seek to reallocate road and parking space for walking and cycling space more permanently?



## Comments across the District and actions

The comments so far have been focused in the west of the District, with a large number of comments in Lower Nazeing, Loughton, and Buckhurst Hill, amongst other areas west of the M11. We are seeking to review comments to see what interventions the Council can propose to help create safer spaces with good active travel options in the District, as well as what can be actioned quickly or passed to the relevant body to action to enable social distancing in the more immediate term.



Above: Commonplace heat map on 20/07/2020

For example, there have been 22 comments across the District which suggest cutting back foliage to enable better walking and cycling routes and social distancing. The EFDC Grounds Maintenance team will review these comments and their location to see whether this can take place and action where possible. There have been 39 comments across the District which relate to pavement parking issues, and 21 suggesting restricting parking – these comments will be reviewed and passed on to the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) as appropriate to see what action or enforcement can be taken to improve the situation. Similarly issues relating to speeding vehicles, speed enforcement and potential reduction of the speed limit will be provided to Essex County Council, to enable review of speed management across the District. Comments are being reviewed by the EFDC Safer Spaces Team and Implementation Team to take into account and incorporate where possible into potential proposals for interventions on High Streets, Town Centres and areas of high footfall.

## Popular comments

The comment which currently has the most agreements on the platform (50 agreements) relates to the green in front of Kings Oak, High Beach with issues such as pavement parking, lack of social distancing and anti-social behaviour concerning drugs and alcohol, which have been compounded by COVID-19. A further police presence has been provided in this area and so this will need to be an issue that is monitored to see if there are improvements. The next two most agreed with comments (with 12 agreements each) both relate to Middle Street, Nazeing and speeding traffic and the volume of traffic, without a safe way to cross the road, issues of foliage, and not enough space for social distancing when walking. Reviewing the speed limit, crossing points and volume of traffic can be discussed with Essex County Council, whilst EFDC can look to review where foliage needs to be cut to create a safer and more attractive walking environment.