

Pedestrian Survey- Cheriton Parish Council: May- June 2022.

This report outlines the results taken from a survey of Cheriton residents on their experience as a pedestrian in Cheriton. Every household had a paper questionnaire delivered to their home. Residents were invited to complete the questionnaire and return it to collection boxes within the village. Respondents were asked to provide the first line of their address to evidence that they were responding as a resident of the village.

The results provide clear evidence of the impact of driver behaviour and poor infrastructure on pedestrian's confidence when walking within Cheriton, in particular on the roads that lead from the outskirts to the village centre.

There was a clear mandate for the Parish Council to argue for a reduction in the current speed limit throughout the village to 20 mph but also for additional measures to manage specific areas where pedestrians feel most vulnerable: on blind bends and where the roads are most narrow.

Certain types of vehicle are causing pedestrians specific problems: HGVs and large farm vehicles, electric vehicles and cycles. There is potential to raise awareness of the needs of pedestrians within road users in these groups.

A total of **125** questionnaires were returned.

(103 residents of Cheriton. 6 partially completed with no address. 13 residents of Lower Kilmeston. 3 parents of children at the school who live out of the village.)

1. How safe do members of your family feel?

A small majority of respondents felt safe (7) or generally safe (58) when **walking within the village centre**. However, a significant number of respondents felt fairly unsafe (43) or very unsafe (13) when walking within the centre of the village.

Residents feel less safe when **walking into the village from the outskirts of Cheriton**. 94 respondents felt fairly unsafe or very unsafe (55 and 39 respectively). This compares with 2 respondents who felt very safe and 23 who felt generally safe.

2. Where do residents feel most vulnerable?

The consultation held in February 2020 correctly identified many of the common issues and areas that cause pedestrians concern:

- Lack of pavements *"Anywhere without pavements which is the whole village"*
- Vulnerability of pedestrians as cars come round a bend- particularly at Riverside Cottages , the bottom of Dark Lane, North End bends.
- Walking from centre of the village to New Cheriton
- Walking alongside the river at the White Railings
- Walking from the village centre to The Flowerpots/ navigating the junction at the bottom of Brandy Mount

- Walking from the Village Centre to North End / North End bends (the Millenium Path does not serve all properties along this stretch. Some households have to walk on B3406).
- The B3406 as it runs alongside the Village Green/ crossing this road/ exiting the Village Hall or Church Path
- Outside the shop particularly impacted by parking
- Crossing the B3406 at the bottom of Hill Houses Lane
- Around the school at drop off/ pick up time

New areas identified in this survey:

- Residents who live along A272 feel vulnerable even when walking on pavements there
- The area between the bottom of Markhall Close and Raebarn Close
- Navigating parked cars causes some residents a problem
- Some residents feel that large lorries and farm vehicles are travelling too fast as they pass pedestrians *"I know that tractors and trailers have a job to do but they go very fast bordering on dangerous..."*.

3 residents stated that they didn't feel vulnerable anywhere in the village

Examples of comments:

"I live in Raebarn Close and walk my children to/from school most days. I have never felt safe. People drive too fast through the village and I fear that it is only a matter of time before a child is seriously injured. A 20 limit or even better an alternative footpath would help our family keep safe."

"Drivers do not take into account that the road is a shared space with pedestrians. They do not seem to be able to anticipate pedestrians particularly on corners."

3. What aspects impact on your experience as a pedestrian?

The majority of respondents find the **speed of vehicles** as they pass (108) and **vehicles passing too close** (88) have an impact on their experience as a pedestrian.

"One previous experience comes to mind, when a 4 wheel drive drove past me (by the river where the railings are), it was driven by a person on their phone. I had to pin myself up against the railings due to them driving too fast and too close."

Walking with children and animals also makes a big difference for 67 respondents. A smaller number mentioned erratic driving (26).

16 people identified their **own needs** as something that impacts their feeling of safety when a pedestrian:

“Sometimes there is nowhere to go. In keeping in tight I once tripped on the verge where the tarmac was missing and fell heavily” Resident aged 74.

“Mobility issues which affect balance particularly when vehicles pass too fast.”

Respondents also mentioned concern for young people when moving round the village independently. A number of residents mentioned difficulty hearing electric vehicles and cycles coming up behind them.

4. A majority support a 20mph speed limit

Residents were asked to indicate whether they would support a **20 mph speed limit** throughout Cheriton.

104 Cheriton residents responded to this question

YES : **101** NO: **3**

13 Lower Kilmeston residents responded to this question

YES : 12 NO: 1 (+ 1 partial agreement).

“Speeding traffic has caused damage to railings at both ends of the village centre and 2 cars have had crashes outside our house recently. Worse still a dog was killed whilst on a lead.”

Please see attached breakdown of responses from the questionnaires for more detailed data.

Sue Herdman

July 2022.