

CASTLE HEDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

20s Plenty for Castle Hedingham survey

Background

Castle Hedingham Parish Council adopted the 20s Plenty pledge in January 2023 in response to frequent concerns raised by residents about speeding traffic in the village. Due to other priorities including a change in Councillors in May 2023, further engagement with residents was delayed until early 2024, when the “Essex 420” group was established and initiated regular meetings with Parish Council representatives.

Essex County Council has a “Net Zero” aim for zero road deaths by 2040 – we are now in year 3 or 4 of the strategy and moving further away from the target. The ECC Speed Management Strategy will go to public consultation probably in Q3 of 2024. The Essex 420 group advises putting pressure on ECC before the consultation is finalised to get input to how it is constructed. Cllr Kevin Bentley, Leader of ECC, represents Rowhedge which has 20mph limits which he supports. A total of 5 communities in Essex now have 20mph speed limits but these were all achieved in different ways. The aim is for Essex County Council to give proper consideration to 20mph speed limits in their consultation and Speed Management Strategy Review so the application process is more straightforward.

It is recognised that villages such as Castle Hedingham generally want minimum highways intervention if 20mph speed limits are introduced, with 20mph signs but with no speed bumps etc. so they don't look urbanised.

Methodology

Following the March 2024 Parish Council meeting, a survey was constructed and published on the website www.castlehedingham.org. This listed all the roads in the village, asking respondents for a “Yes” or “No” answer to whether they would support a 20mph limit at each one. The survey aimed to raise awareness as well as collect data, so responses were not restricted in any way except to require verification that the respondent was a human being. As well as the website and Facebook posts, publicity included Parish Council minutes published in the Parish Magazine, posters in noticeboards, and the support of De Vere Primary and Hedingham School in informing parents of students. Despite the lack of restrictions for respondents, the results show no evidence of inappropriate or malicious responses. Data was saved at various stages of the survey to enable tracking of inappropriate responses should they arise at any point.

Results

At the beginning of April, 40 responses had been received, of which 38 were Castle Hedingham residents. By the end of the survey, thanks to the support of both schools, a total of 92 responses had been received, 68 from residents of Castle Hedingham and 24 from non-residents. An additional three emails were received from respondents who wished to make comments – these were not generally in support of 20mph limits, although one requested a 15mph limit at a specific location in the village.

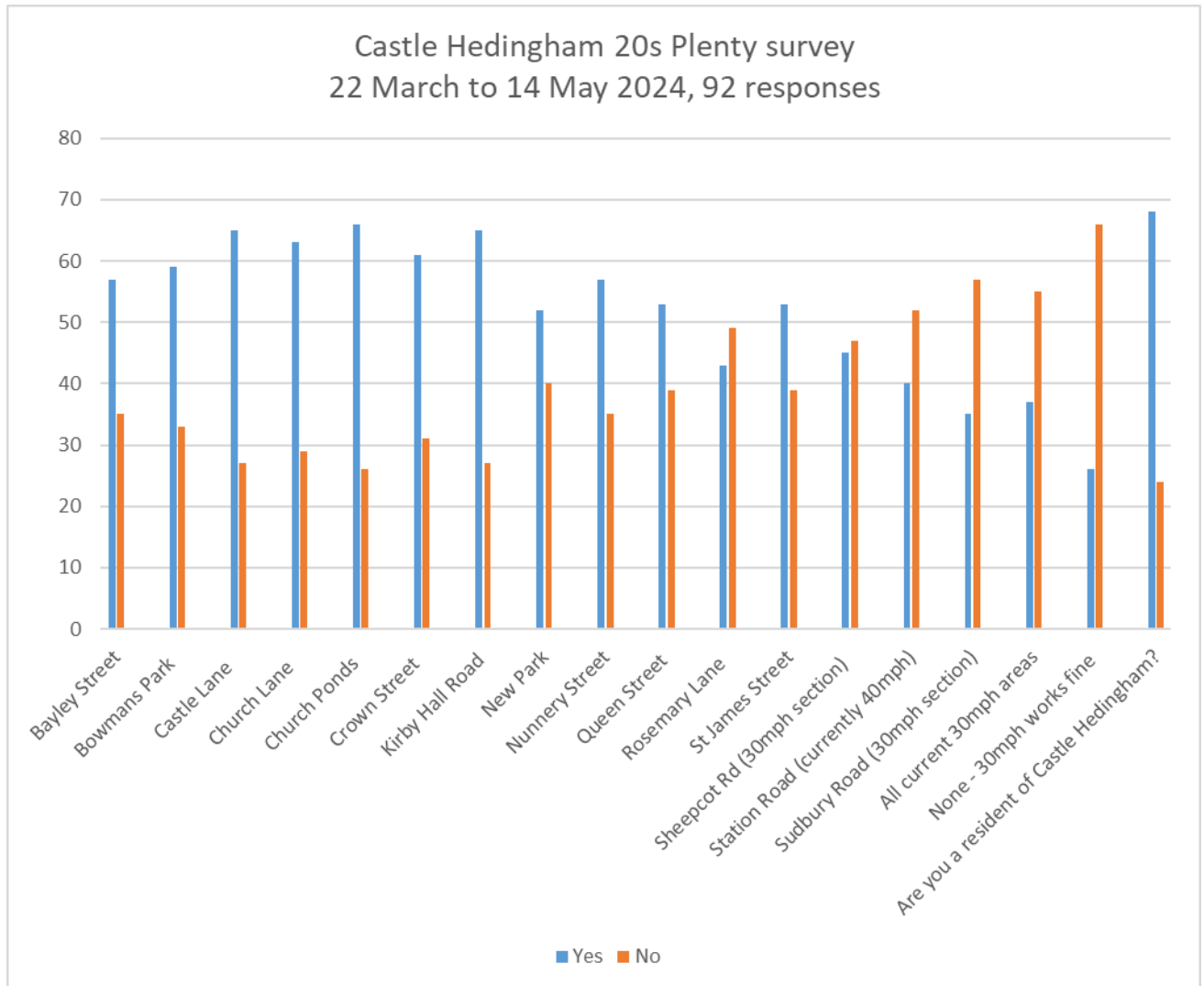
For further information about the 20s Plenty campaign, please see <https://www.20splenty.org/>.

To contact the Essex 420 group: 20splentyforessex@gmail.com – open to individuals to join, not just Parish Councils.

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Survey responses:

Do you support a 20mph speed limit at the following locations?



With thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to our survey.