

WGRA Westgate Residents Association, Chichester
Westgate, Henty Gardens, Mount Lane, St Bartholomew's Close, Tannery Close

Bulletin No 47 June 2020

Dear Residents,

I am very conscious that the result of the questionnaire was sent out to our Councillors, local Resident associations, the developers of White House Farm and the appropriate Council Officers two months ago but has never been shared with our residents because the emergency took over, so this will be a 'one subject' edition of the Bulletin to rectify this.

The Questionnaire was a great success and although it does not give us the answer to every question, it will guide your team when normal service is resumed. Work on the building site has just recommenced although the wheels of the council are still turning slowly, and we must be alert so that we do not find the agreements or permissions have slipped through without scrutiny. Most meetings are cancelled at the moment, and although Miller Linden have promised to keep in touch through their website <https://westofchichester.consultationonline.co.uk/> there do not seem to be any updates since November last year which is typical of their lack of engagement with the community. They have however managed to submit an application for planning permission for the playing fields which has been passed, despite claiming that all activities and consultation were on hold. We have however had a recent response from the developers that they will try and arrange a ZOOM meeting of the Infrastructure Steering Group soon.

Here is the spreadsheet and report that went out to the Councillors and I have added the analysis of the 'comments' on the forms, which they have not seen.

Richard Brownfield

June 2020

Questionnaire Report

Congratulations to the residents of Westgate for the interest and commitment they have shown in the questionnaire. A response rate of 44.5% (105 completed forms from 236 forms, delivered to every property in our area) is exceptional for this type of survey. The replies give the committee good information about the opinions of residents.

The main table on the summary sheet (below) shows the percentage of residents who agreed or disagreed with the statements in the enquiry.

The green table is a score added together for each area where an answer of “5” (strongly agree) gets 2 points. “4” gets 1 point and so on to “1” (strongly disagree) which gets minus 2 points, this is an attempt to capture the depth of feeling about each subject and will be of more use to planners deciding where the degree of support or opposition to different ideas will be found.

The outstanding finding is the level of opposition to the plan to replace the roundabout at the Westgate/Orchard Road junction with traffic lights. 77% of residents object and only 10% think it is a good idea. The committee will report this to the developers and planners and will campaign to have this decision reversed.

There is a very strong opinion of about 70% of residents report that there is a problem with each of speed, volume and “rat-running” of traffic on Westgate. We will focus our future initiatives on addressing these.

Safer cycling is a concern to half the population, and half of responders (27% against) support the creation of a separate cycle path in the western section. Opinion is divided whether it is pleasant to walk along Westgate (36% don't know!).

Fifty four percent of responders from the ‘Narrows’ park overnight in the road.

The other suggestions for remedies for the traffic problems and creation of a safe cycle route along the whole length of the road by introducing one-way traffic or closing the road with a barrier, all get more opposition than support, 59% against making the whole road one-way (29% in favour), 50% against making the “narrows” one-way (40% in favour) and 50% against a road closure (34% in favour).

Items from the WGRA survey Comments to be followed up.

Each of these suggestions appeared on more than one form.

- 1) Pedestrian crossing near Henty Gardens
 - (a) requested by several older residents who find crossing Westgate difficult because of the speed and volume of traffic at times.

- 2) Reinstating kerbs in the narrows, when the road is resurfaced under s106 agreement
 - (a) requested to separate vehicles and pedestrians
 - (b) to stop parking on the edge of the pavement
 - (c) to stop cyclists riding on the pavement

- 3) Altering the bus route so that buses do not travel along the narrow part of Westgate east of Parklands Road – there is no bus stop in this section. The area could be served just as well by buses using, Parklands Road, Westgate west of Parklands Road and Sherborne Road.
 - a) Buses and other heavy vehicles cause the houses which are close to the carriageway to shake and vibrate – many of these 200 year old houses do not have foundations.

- 4) Improved signage was mentioned many times. We have repeatedly asked for the signage to be improved to help with implementation of the existing 20mph speed limit and 7.5Tons restriction.
 - a) We should like to see 20mph repeater signs on lamp posts, but this has been refused on the grounds that it would increase the street furniture. We feel that this is a small price to pay for improved compliance.
 - b) We have asked for the signs on the single tall post at the eastern end to be re-ordered with the 20mph sign at the bottom where it will be more visible to cars.
 - c) We have asked for the 7.5T sign near the Cathedral Way Roundabout to be moved to a more visible position. It is often shrouded by foliage and is on a difficult bend where drivers are likely to be concentrating on the road rather than looking at obscured signs.

WGRA WESTGATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, CHICHESTER Westgate, Henty Gardens, Mount Lane, St Bartholomew's Close, Tannery Close		Responses Received	Questionnaires sent			Weighted Scores			
		104	236			Area A (East)	Area B (West)	Area C (Side roads)	
A Questionnaire concerning local Traffic Management for Westgate		Response Rate = 44.1 %				Median = "0"			
Report no. 5 04/03/20.	check	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know	Max =				
Strongly disagree [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] Strongly agree		%	%	%		72	52	84	
1	There is a problem with "Rat running" in Westgate.	100	67	10	23	31	30	47	
2	There is a problem with the volume of traffic using Westgate.	100	71	13	16	36	30	47	
3	There is a problem with the speed of traffic using Westgate.	100	70	11	19	40	25	47	
4	It is safe to cycle along Westgate.	100	18	50	32	-22	-18	-17	
5	It is pleasant to walk along Westgate.	100	38	26	37	-10	12	13	
6	On-street residents' parking on the north side of Westgate between Parklands Road and the Orchard Street roundabout must be retained.	100	61	11	29	59	9	33	
7	Do you regularly park your car overnight on the street in Westgate? Yes	21	53	% of responders from Area A					
8	I support making the whole length of Westgate one-way.	100	28	60	13	-17	-14	-32	
9	I support making the "Narrows" (Parklands Road to Orchard Street roundabout) one way.	100	39	51	10	-6	-4	-32	
10	I support a closure of Westgate (except for emergency vehicles and buses) by a barrier somewhere between Henty Gardens and Parklands Road to create an area of low vehicle use and enable safe cycling between Parklands Road and the Orchard Street junction.	100	34	51	15	2	-24	-13	
11	I support replacing the planters on the northern side of Westgate (west of Parklands Road) with a cycle path, provided that adequate traffic calming measures remain.	100	51	27	22	28	0	19	
12	I support plans for replacing the Westgate/Orchard Street roundabout with traffic lights	100	11	77	13	-47	-42	-51	