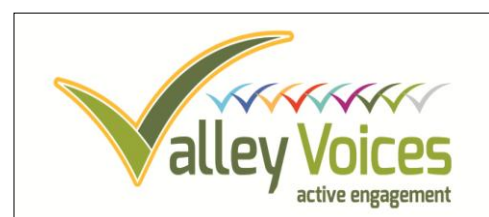




DWR Community Voice Project Door to Door Engagement

Survey Findings

Sian Tucker
Project Co-ordinator
21st March 2015



Contents

1	Executive Summary	Page 3
2	Introduction	Page 4
3	Background to the Project	Page 4
4	Brief Description of the Area	Page 6
5	Background to the Survey	Page 7
6	Survey Methodology	Page 7
7	Survey Findings	Page 8
8	Special Groups Analysis	Page 20
9	Conclusion	Page 25
10	Appendices	Page 26

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1** Community Council, aims to tackle the rural road safety problems within Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry and help the community to work together to address these issues with Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- 1.2** There are a number of issues previously identified in November 2010 at a community consultation event facilitated by Trilein Regeneration of Swansea, that seriously affect this rural greenbelt area including excessive speed, volume of traffic/rat-run for commuters and the fall of casual foot traffic that this has caused impacting on community life and community spirit.
- 1.3** The position of the villages within easy distance of Newport, Cardiff and Caerphilly and the close proximity to the M4 through the lanes encourages commuters to use the routes through the villages and adjoining lanes as a rat-run.
- 1.4** A number of consultations and surveys have been undertaken within the first year of this three year Big Lottery Community Voice Project, managed by DWR Community Council, however, to maximise engagement with the residents of Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry the project volunteers have recently undertaken a door to door engagement survey.
- 1.5** The DWR Community Voice Project Working Group designed a questionnaire and information leaflet and knocked every door within the community.
- 1.6** Focus groups have also been set up of Farmers/Smallholders and Commoners, Riding Club Committee and DWR Playgroup to gain their perspective on road safety issues.
- 1.7** The information has been recorded by the DWR Community Voice Project Co-ordinator on the survey findings spreadsheet and the information collated has formed the basis of this report.
- 1.8** The survey findings highlight the main areas for concern as speed and volume of traffic, support for calming measures and the reduction of the speed limit to 20mph in the villages and 40mph in the lanes.
- 1.9** The residential development potential within Waterloo and Rudry, as identified in CCBC's Local Development Plan to 2030, would increase three-fold the traffic through the villages and lanes and further exacerbate the road safety issues for this rural community.
- 1.10** A traffic survey will be undertaken in April 2015 from 7.00am to 7.00pm and it is hoped that the evidence gathered from this survey and other traffic speed surveys will support the residents' campaign to reduce the speed limit to 20mph in the villages and 40mph in the lanes.

1. Introduction

DWR Community Council has successfully received funding for a three year project which forms part of the Gwent Association for Voluntary Organisations Big Lottery Community Voice Portfolio. The DWR project is ostensibly a unique project both within the portfolio and across Wales. The project aims to re-invigorate and equip this rural community to engage effectively with key decision makers to address major threats to their environment and in the process increase the levels of pride and ownership of their community. A parallel objective is to identify suitable changes to the road environment which will have a positive influence on the attitudes and behaviour of vehicle users as they drive within the area.

The community council represents the three villages of Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry (DWR) and whilst the villages are within the boundary of Caerphilly County Borough Council they are also within close proximity of Cardiff and Newport.

This is a three year project and will employ a full-time project officer and her role is to engage with the community and recruit a bank of volunteers to undertake the consultation process and collect information to inform a body of knowledge for presentation to Caerphilly County Borough Council

2. Background to the Project

The issues as expressed by the DWR community voice project are:

The rural greenbelt and area of natural beauty between Cardiff and Caerphilly, containing the historic villages of Draethen (which is a Conservation Area), Waterloo and Rudry currently faces a number of growing and emerging threats to its rural environment and to the safety of all users of the area's roads. These 'roads' are in fact very narrow winding lanes where at many points it is difficult for oncoming vehicles to pass unless one vehicle backs up to a wider point.

Many road users show no respect for our villages, seeing them as just another bit of road. This obviously impacts on safety but also, and perhaps more importantly, on how residents use their village. The fall in casual foot traffic and reduction in conversation and intra-community communication, leads directly to a loss of community 'spirit' and personal interdependencies. Children are prevented from safely moving about in the area due to the traffic dangers.

Current problems are:

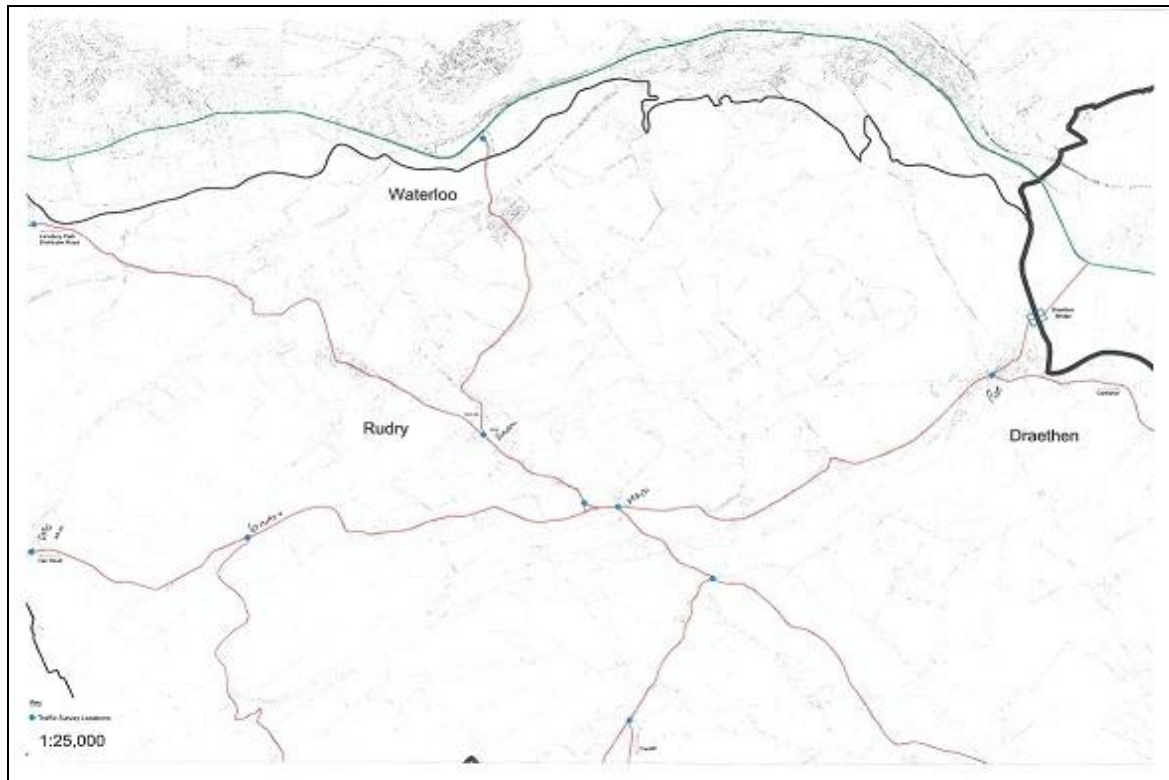
- In the lanes, the twisting narrow roads, potholes and poor visibility/short sight lines make the area dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and drivers alike. Within the villages, stonewalls projecting into the roadway,

concealed entrances and scarcity of footways create hazards for both residents and through traffic.

- Village life in the area has already been eroded by the loss of amenities, shops and pubs. When the Waterloo development moves forward, the school at Rudry will also disappear. There has been a loss of village identity and focal points, and a consequent fragmentation of the community.
- Few speed restrictions exist below the national speed limit (other than 30mph within the villages) and there are no active speed enforcement measures such as cameras, road narrowing, speed bumps etc.
- Increasing use of the villages and surrounding lanes as a 'rat run' by commuters in a hurry and/or seeking to avoid congestion on the main roads.
- Increasing use of the lanes by cyclists, ramblers and horse riders, whose slow speed in the narrow lanes relative to that of motor vehicles creates a special hazard
- Increasing use of the lanes by very heavy vehicles such as large tractors and trailers and lorries , which cannot reverse or manoeuvre in the narrow lanes
- The designation of the lanes as suitable for all vehicles by Sat Nav systems
- The use of the lanes especially at weekends by groups of off road motorcycles and quad bikes which often race at high speed through the area
- The illegal use of off road motorcycles in the forestry areas. This is acknowledged by PACT as a threat to both road safety and the legitimate use of forestry areas by walkers and other users
- The use of the lanes late at night by joy riders sometimes pursued by police which on occasions result in car crashes and abandoned stolen cars being set alight.

These problems need to be addressed now as they will be further exacerbated by the potential building of around 500 new houses in Waterloo which will have a huge impact on traffic volumes and consequently road safety within the lanes as residents of these houses attempt to bypass main road congestion points when travelling to Cardiff and Newport

3. Brief Description of Area



As previously stated the villages of Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry are situated in the rural greenbelt area between Cardiff, Caerphilly and Newport. Whilst the three villages are grouped together under the auspices of Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry Community Council each village is quite distinct due to the distance that separates them. There are 1.9 miles between Draethen and Rudry, 3.3 miles between Draethen and Waterloo and 0.9 miles between Rudry and Waterloo. Van Road, Caerphilly is 2.5 miles from Rudry and Lansbury Park Road, Caerphilly is 2.5 miles from Rudry. Rudry is 2.5 miles from exit 30 of the M4. Draethen village is 0.5 miles from the A468 Caerphilly to Newport road and 3 miles from Exit 30 of the M4. Waterloo village is approximately 0.5 miles from the A468 and 3 miles from Exit 30 of the M4.

The close proximity to Cardiff/Newport/Caerphilly and exit 30 of the M4 means that the lanes adjoining the three villages have become a rat-run for commuters and the volume of traffic using the lanes between 7.00am and 9.00am and 4.30pm and 6.00pm is a major problem.

4. Background to the Survey

The project has been running since November 2013 and has an effective working group of local residents representing the three villages of Drathen, Waterloo and Rudry. The project has 93 participants from the three villages and has established a Timebank of volunteers to work within the community to rekindle community spirit and bring the three villages closer together. During the first year of the project the community have been consulted and informed in the following ways:-

- a. Community Consultation 17th May 2014 at the Parish Hall**
- b. Telephone survey of 100 residents was undertaken in July 2014 by Beaufort Research, Cardiff**
- c. DWR Community Voice Newsletter has been distributed by volunteers to every house in Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry.**
- d. DWR Community Council website**
- e. DWR Community Voice Facebook page.**

To determine the views of as many residents as possible the working group decided to undertake a door to door survey to maximise community engagement.

5. Survey methodology

The working group produced an information leaflet explaining the project's aims and objectives and an accompanying questionnaire of 6 questions (see appendix). The volunteers from the working group then formed a sub-group for each village and divided the streets and houses between them and began knocking doors asking residents to spare 5 minutes to complete the questionnaires. This survey began in November 2014. The questionnaires were then returned to the Project Co-ordinator and the information from the questionnaires entered on the survey findings spreadsheet. In addition to the villages focus group meetings were also arranged with Rudry Riding Club, DWR Farmers, Smallholders and Commoners, DWR Playgroup and Rudry School.

6. Survey Findings

a) Response Rates

The breakdown of the properties and focus groups in Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry is as follows:-

Draethen – 40 properties

Waterloo – 100 properties

Rudry – 135 properties

Focus groups were also established of riders, farmers/smallholders, DWR Playgroup parents and Rudry Primary School Parents, ensuring that duplication did not occur.

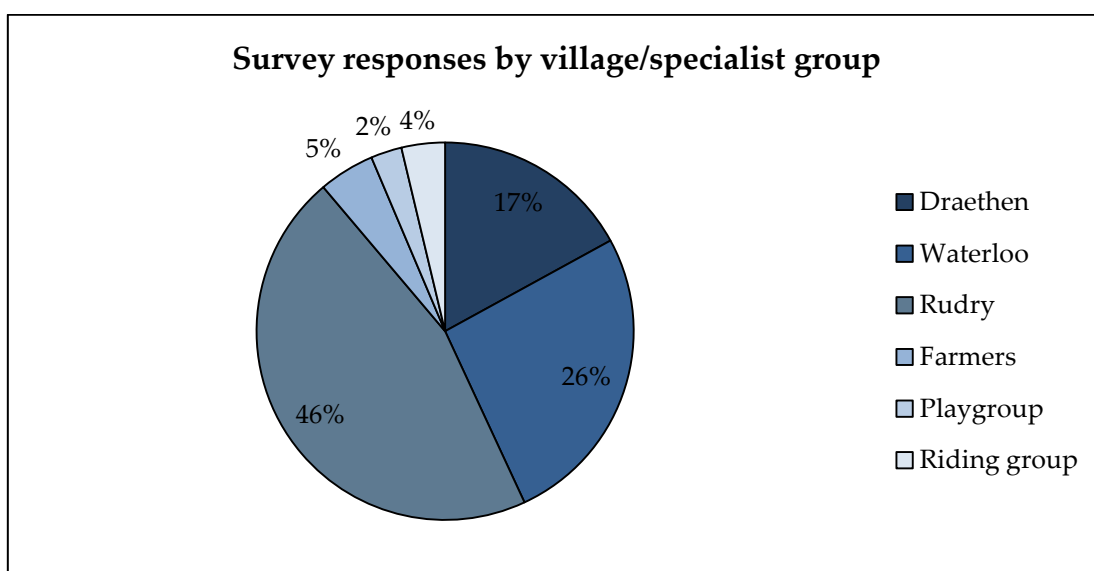
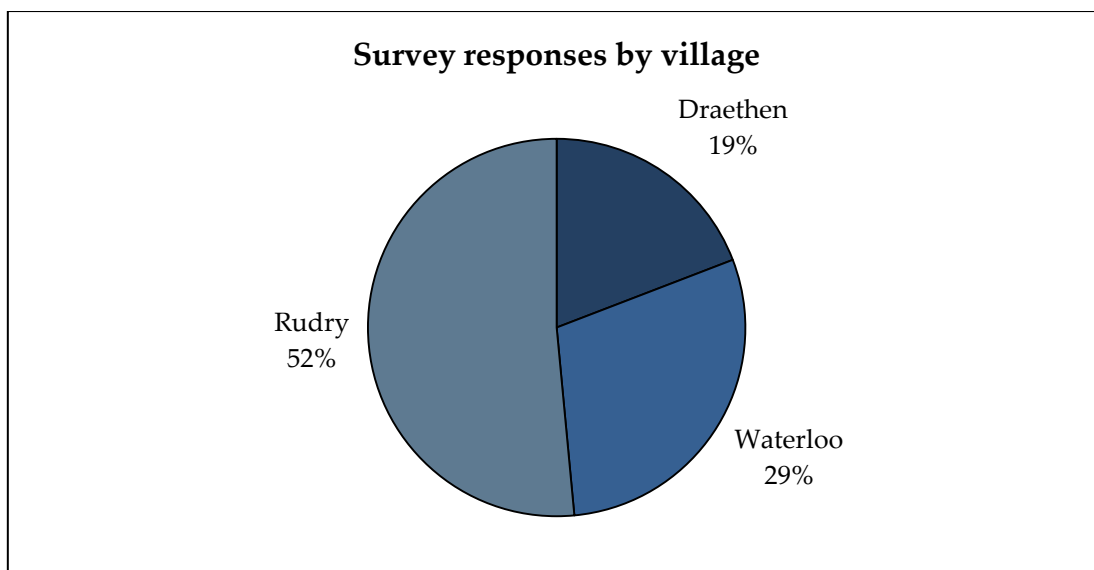
Outlying farms/smallholdings – 23

Rudry Riding Club Focus Group – 7 (Riding Club committee)

DWR Playgroup – 20

Responses by Village/Focus Group

			Responses	% of overall total
Village	Draethen		32	17.0
	Waterloo		49	26.1
	Rudry		86	45.7
	Village total		167	88.8
Specialist group	Farmers		9	4.8
	Playgroup		5	2.7
	Riding group		7	3.7
	Specialist group total		21	11.2
Overall total			188	100.0

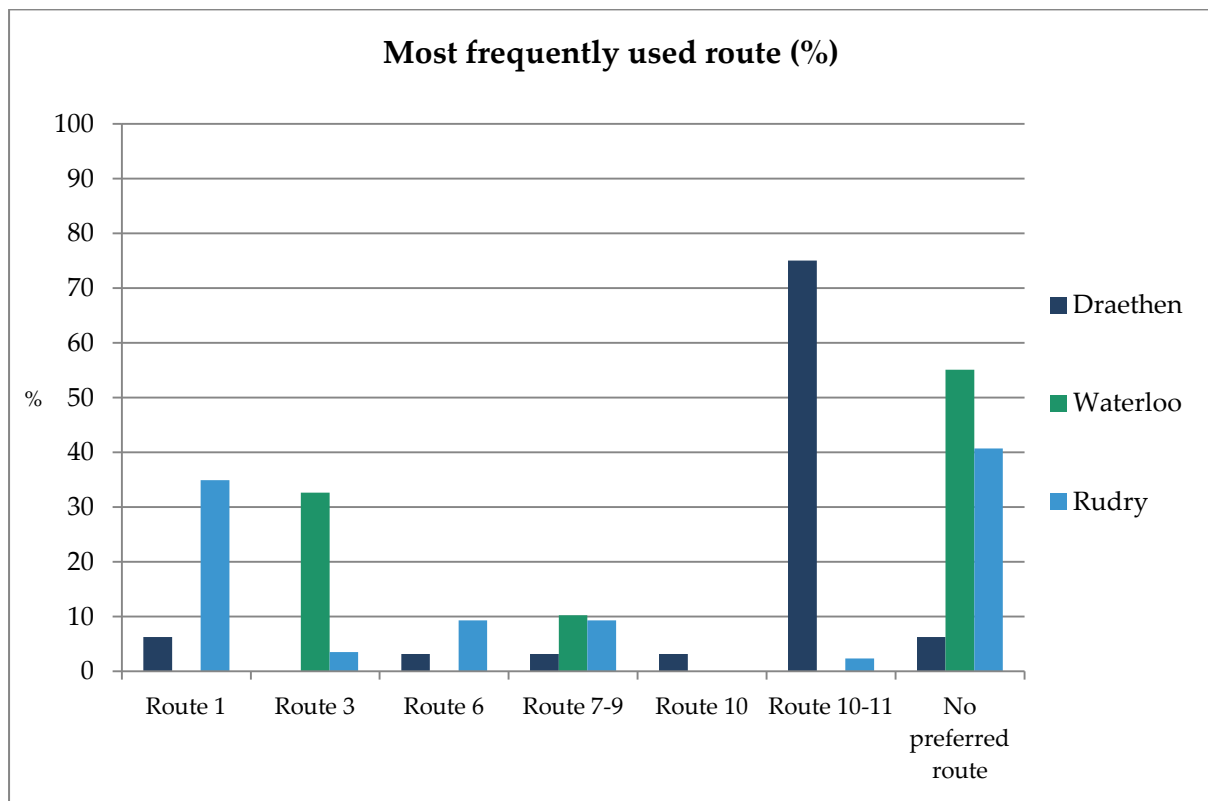


7. Traffic Flows

The routes in and out of the village were numbered on the map provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council Highways department and coded accordingly by the following routes:-

- Route 1 - Through Rudry to Lansbury Park
- Route 3 - Through Waterloo to Main Road A468
- Route 6 – Through Rudry Common to Van Road
- Route 7-9 - Maenllwyd to M4, Lisvane & Cardiff
- Route 10 – Hollybush, Draethen to Michaelstone-y-Fedw
- Route 10 -11 – Over Draethen Bridge to Main Road A468

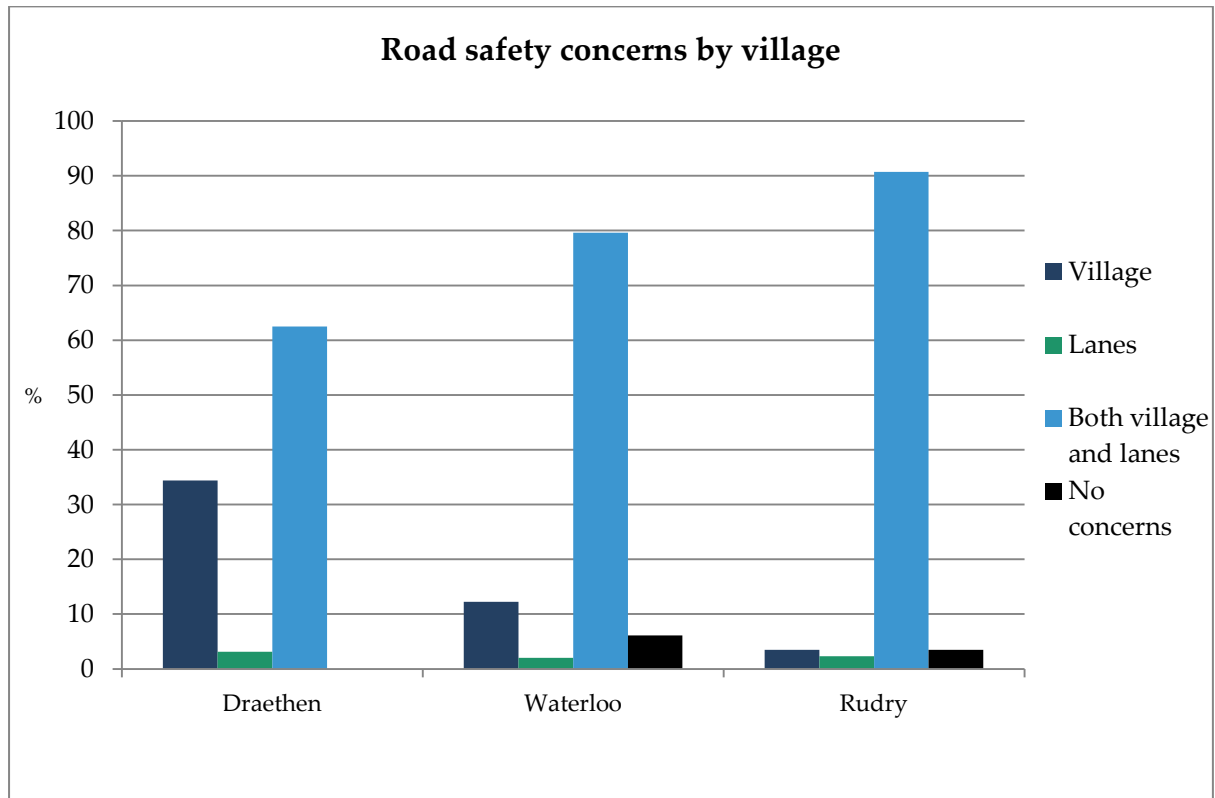
a) Routes Most Often Used



8. Community Safety Concerns

The questionnaire asked residents to share their concerns, if any, regarding road safety in the villages /lanes or both.

a) Any Road safety Concerns?



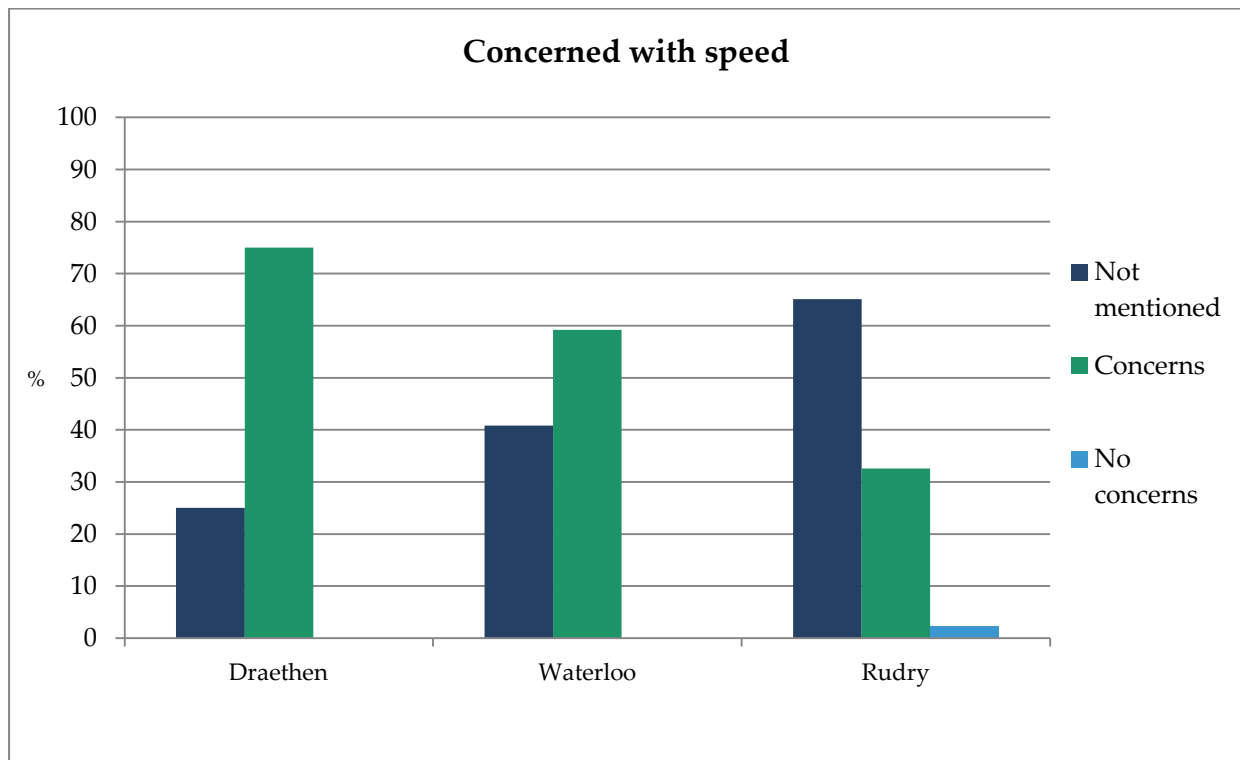
b) Concerns

The residents surveyed expressed the following road safety concerns:-

1. Speed of traffic
2. Volume of traffic
3. Parking
4. Access Only
5. Lack of Pavements
6. HGV
7. Waterloo Development
8. Condition of the lanes and the need for maintenance
9. Lack of consideration for riders/walkers/cyclists and pedestrians
10. Joy riders

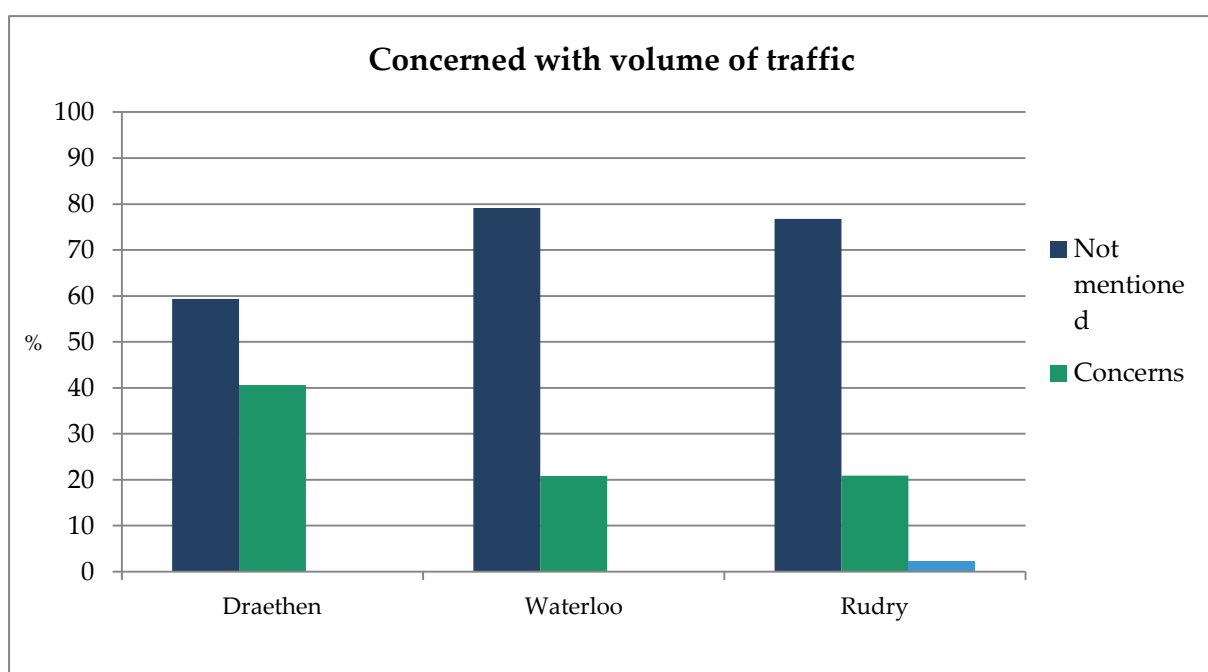
c) Concerned with Speed

Of those residents who expressed road safety concerns the biggest concern is the speed of traffic using the villages and lanes.

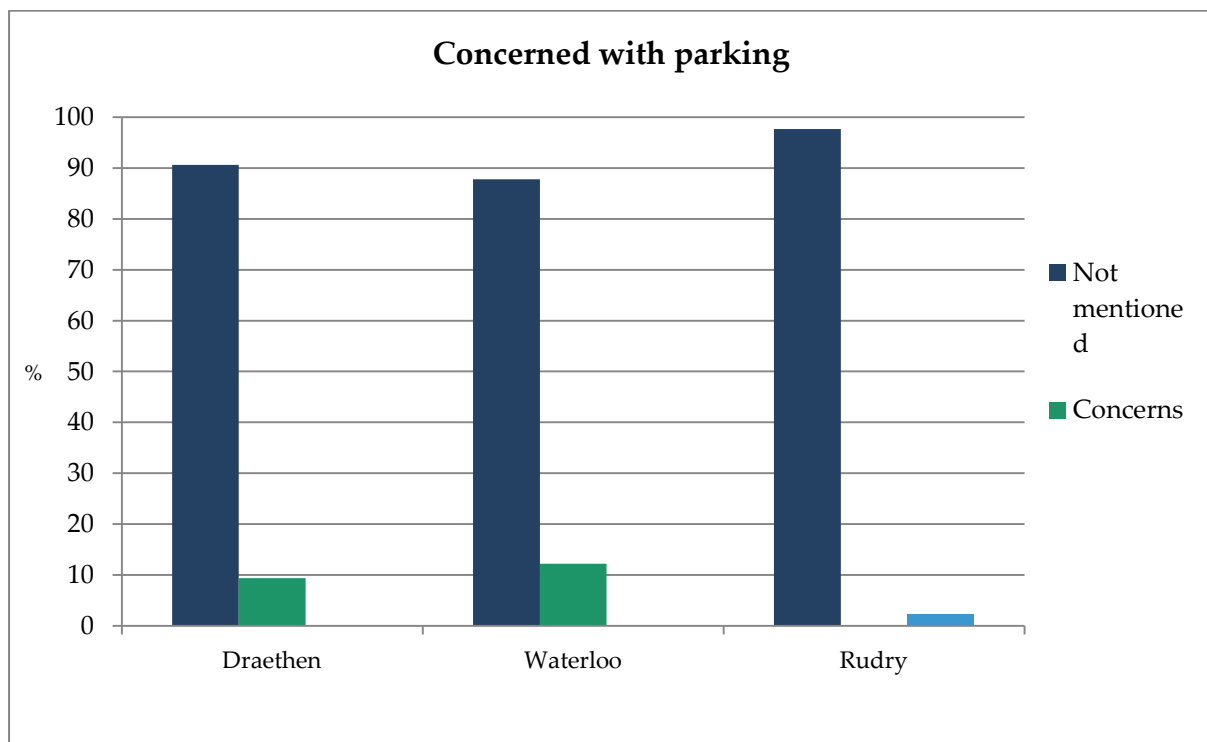


d) Concerned with Volume of Traffic

Volume of traffic is the next biggest concern for the residents and focus groups.



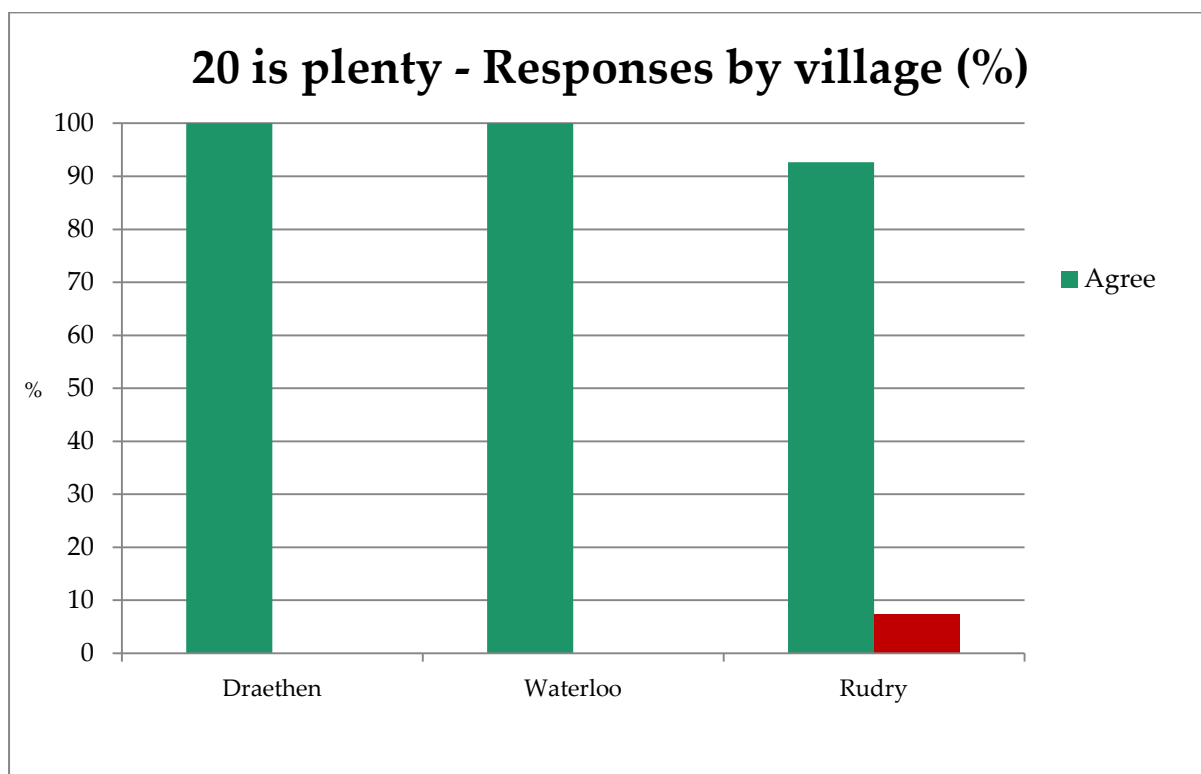
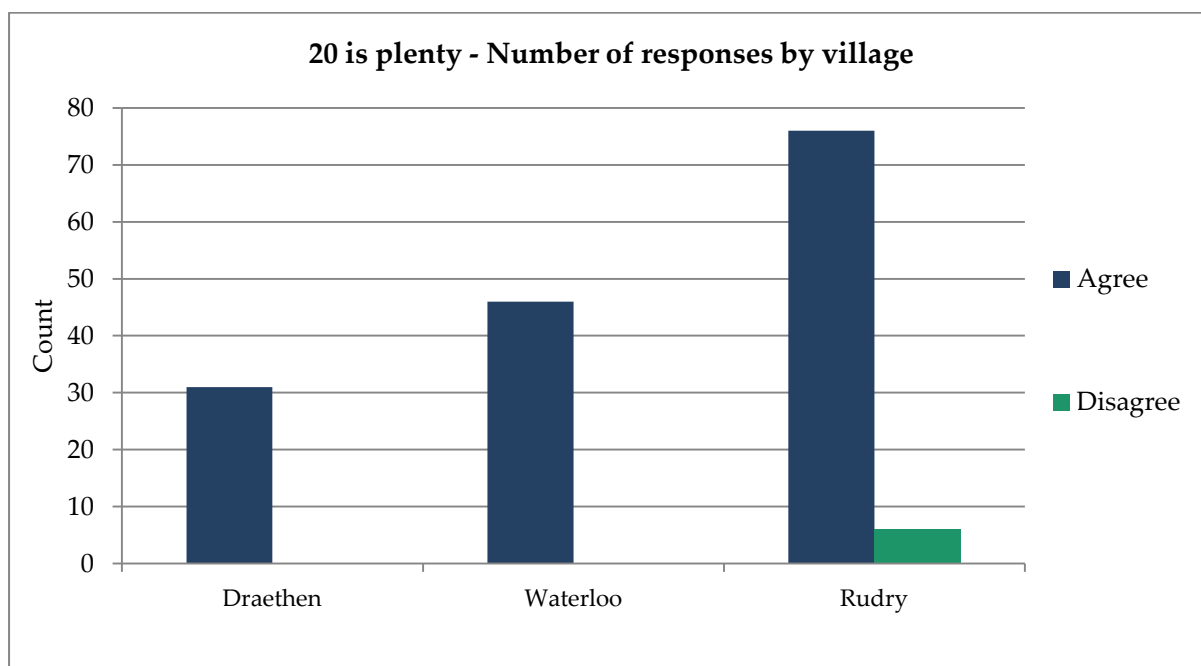
e) Concerned with Parking



9. The DWR Community Voice Project 20s Plenty Campaign/40mph in the Lanes

The reduction of the speed limit to 20mph in the villages is a fundamental part of the aims and objectives of the DWR Community Voice project as is the reduction of the speed limit in the lanes to 40mph. The project is now part of the UK wide 20s Plenty where people live campaign. The questionnaire sought to measure the support of the community for the speed reduction asking if they agree or disagree with the campaign.

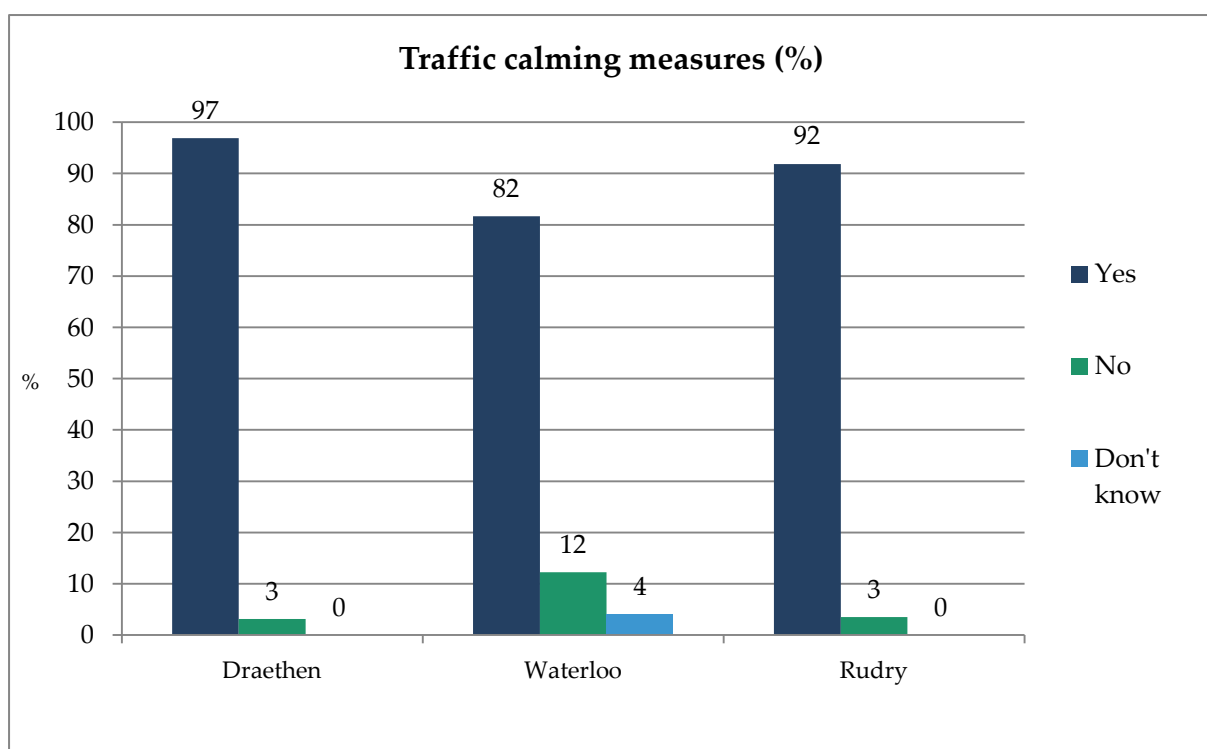
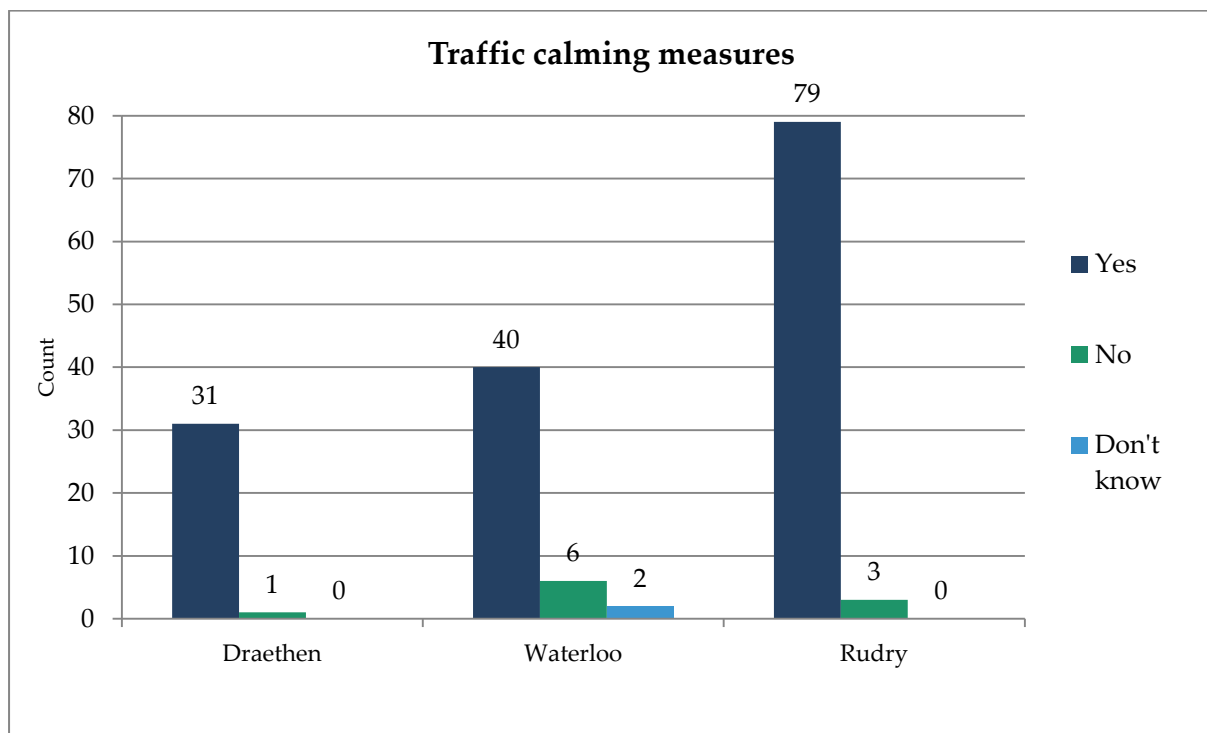
a) Agree/Disagree



10. Traffic Calming Measures

The questionnaire asks community members whether they would appreciate traffic calming measures in the area. It also provides the opportunity to suggest any calming measures residents would appreciate within the villages and lanes.

a) Traffic Calming Measures Agree/Disagree



b) Traffic Calming Suggestions

The questionnaire asked residents to state their preferred calming measure. The following traffic calming measures were suggested:-

1. Reduction in speed limit
2. Speed cameras
3. Speed bumps
4. Road narrowing
5. Textured road surface
6. More signage
7. Any measure in keeping with the environment
8. Mirror on S-bend (Rudry)
9. Something on the Bend at the bottom of Waterloo.
10. One way system through Rudry
11. Access only
12. Issues with junction at Newport Road
13. Satellite Navigation – not suitable for HGV
14. Reduce traffic
15. Calming measures close to the school.

The following table highlights the biggest **yes** response, biggest **no** response and biggest **not mentioned** response.

The introduction of speed bumps being the most contentious of responses as it received both the highest **yes** response and the highest **no** response.

Please see the table below.

Traffic Suggestions from all questionnaires – Highest Yes, No and Not mentioned responses

Measure	Response	Total	Total
Speed Bumps	Yes	63	35%
	No	43	23%
	Not mentioned	75	40%
Road Narrowing	Yes	52	29%
	No	21	12%
	Not mentioned	109	58%
More Signage	Yes	51	28%
	No	11	6%
	Not mentioned	120	65%
Cameras	Yes	28	16%
	No	21	12%
	Not mentioned	133	72%
Textured Road Surface	Yes	6	3%
	No	11	6%
	Not mentioned	165	90%



Biggest yes

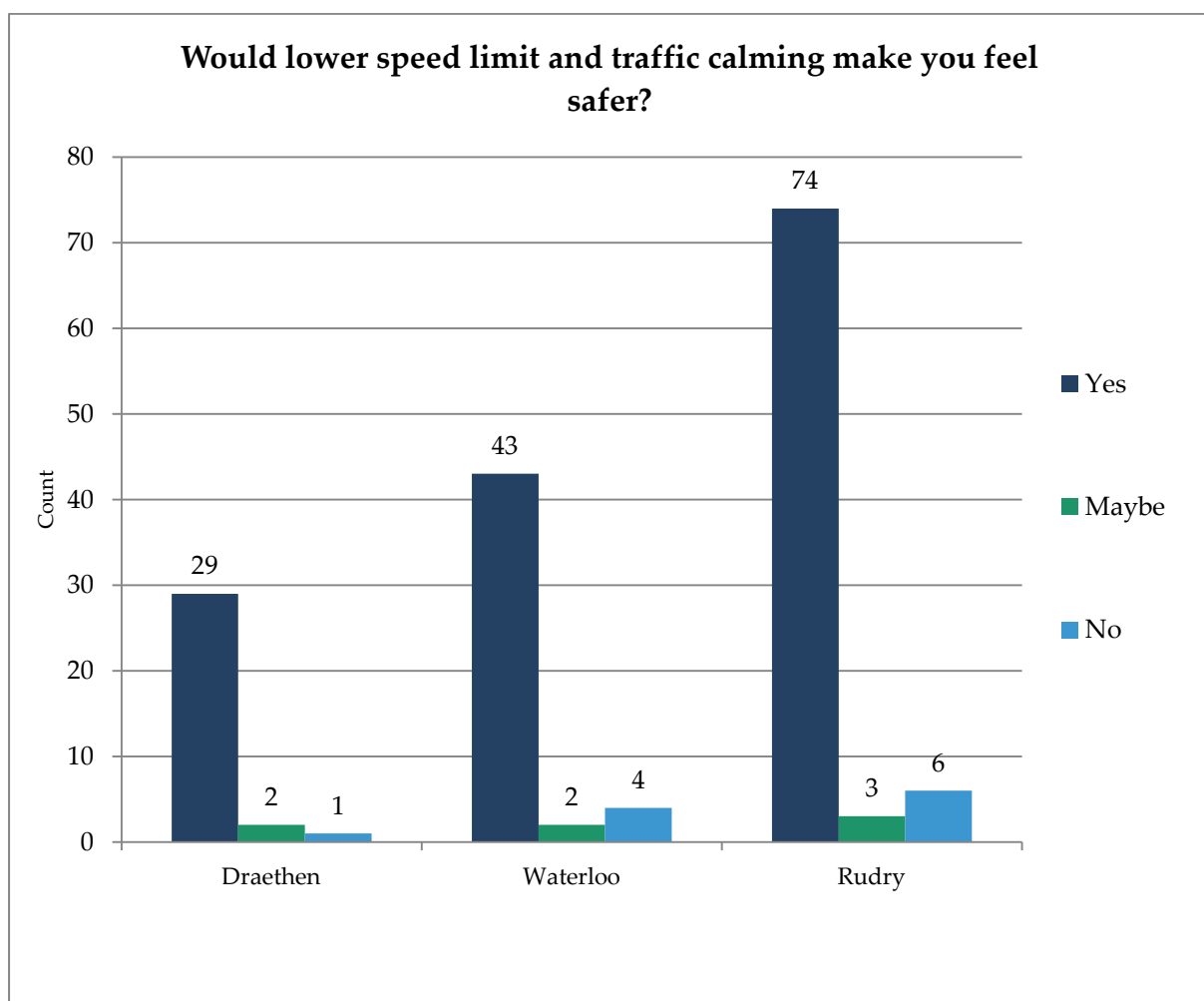
Biggest not mentioned

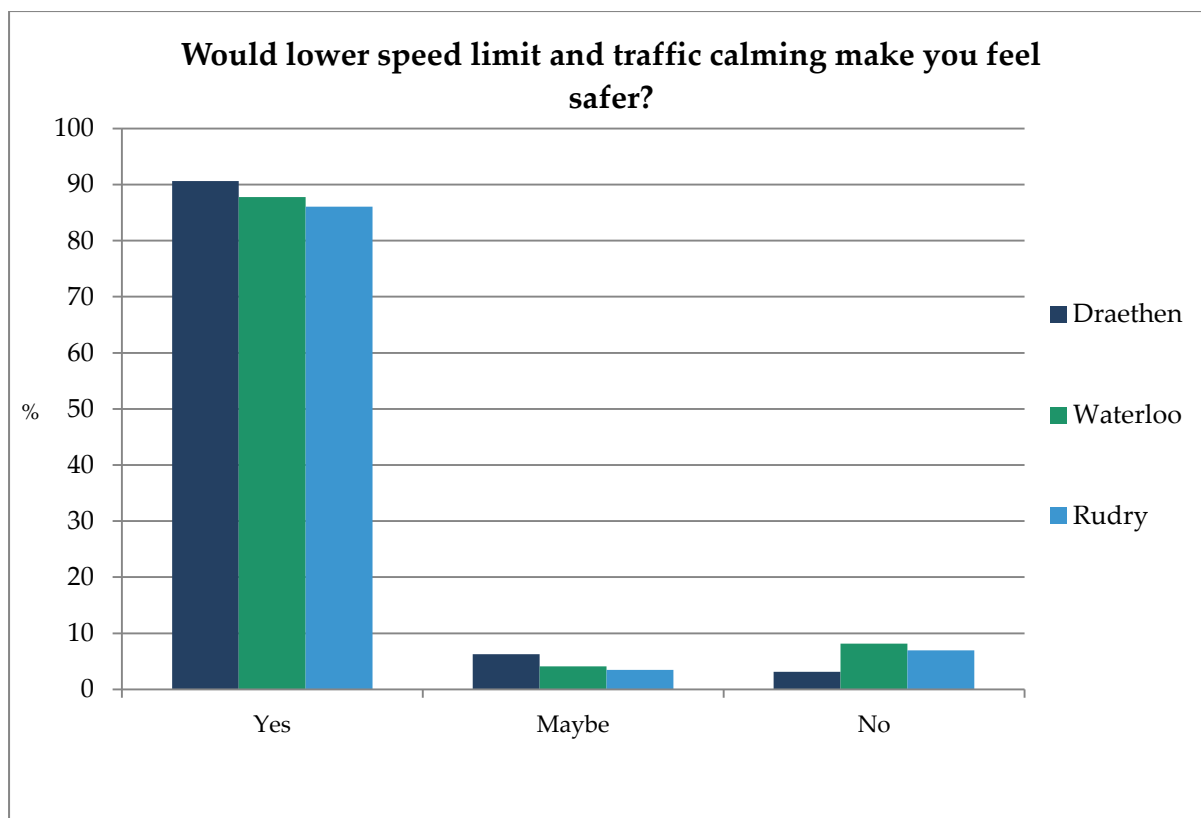
Biggest no

11. Health and Wellbeing

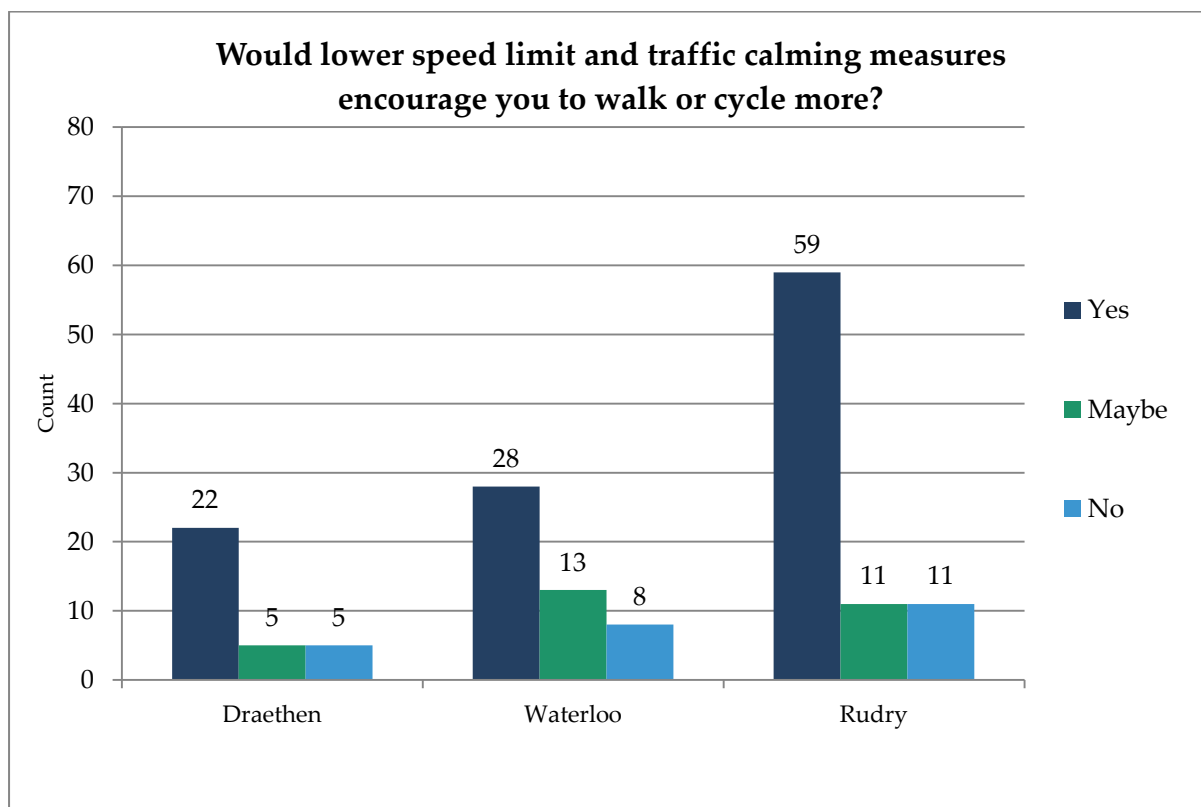
The initial project bid was very much concerned that the increase in traffic through the villages and lanes has been detrimental to the health of local residents as walking and cycling has declined as residents do not feel safe. The questionnaire asks residents if lower speed limits and or traffic calming measures would make them feel safer when using the road and more importantly encourage them to walk or cycle more.

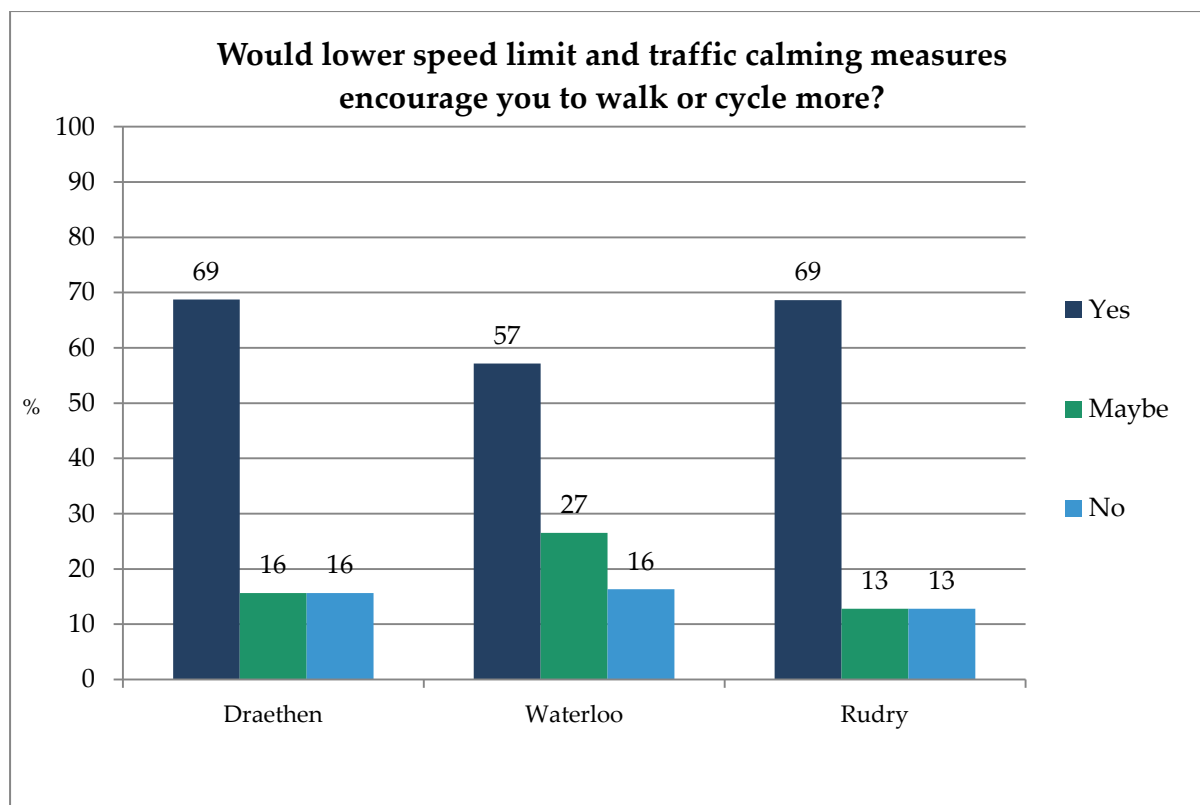
a) Would a lower speed limit and traffic calming make you feel safer?





b) Would lower speed limit and traffic calming measures encourage you to walk or cycle more?





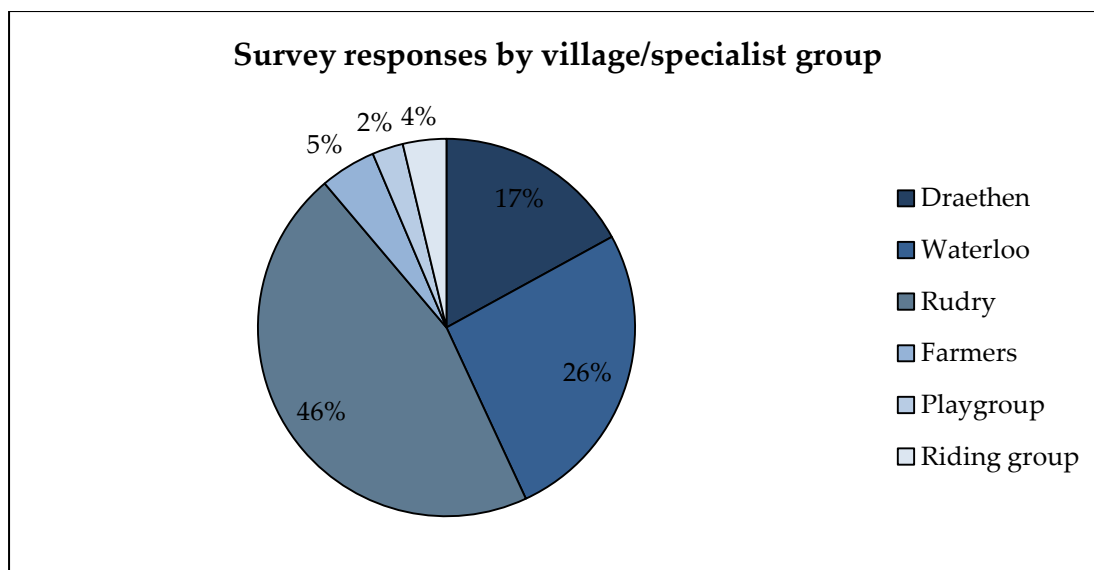
12.Special Groups Analysis

In addition to the residents from the three villages special focus groups have been set up to achieve a wider perspective of road safety problems encountered throughout DWR and the adjoining lanes. The focus groups include:-

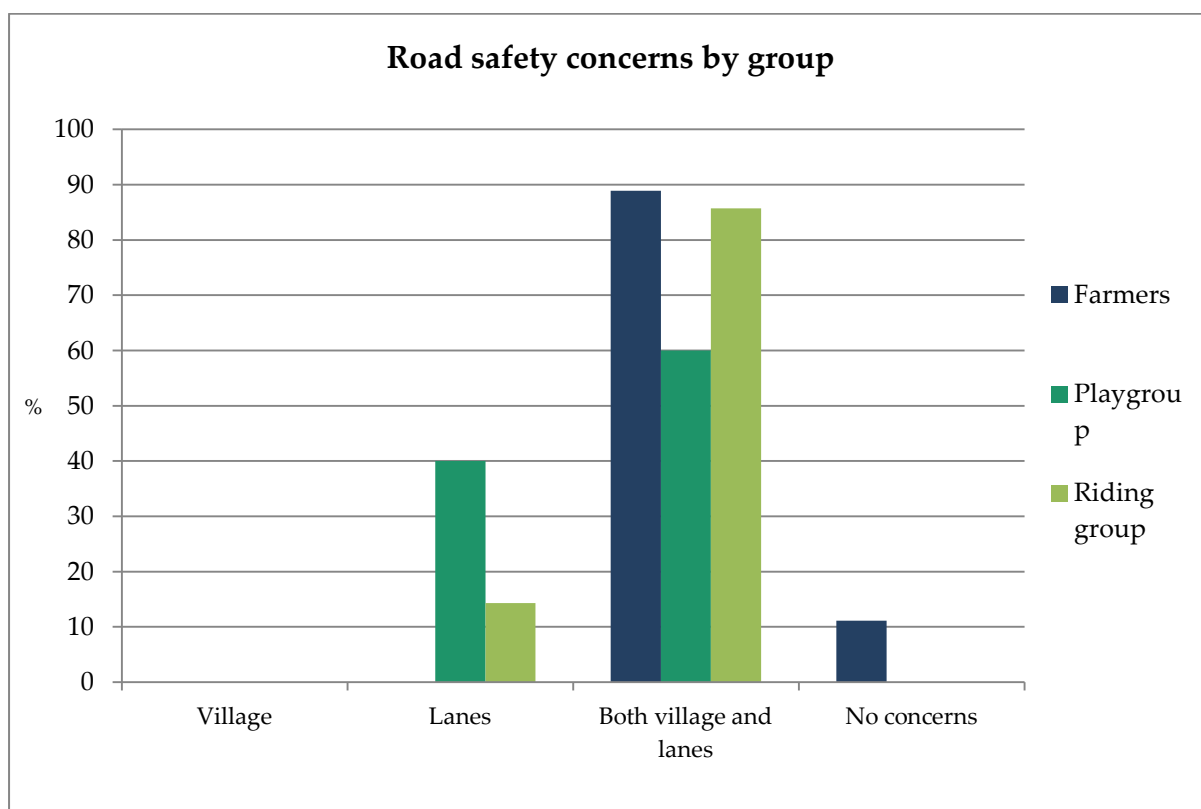
- Farmers/Smallholders/Commoners
- Rudry Riding Club
- DWR Playgroup

a) Responses from Focus Groups

Focus Group	Count	%	Focus Groups Total	Survey Total	Response rate
Farmers	9	39	23	185	13%
Riding Club Committee	7	100	7	185	4%
Playgroup	5	25%	20	185	3%

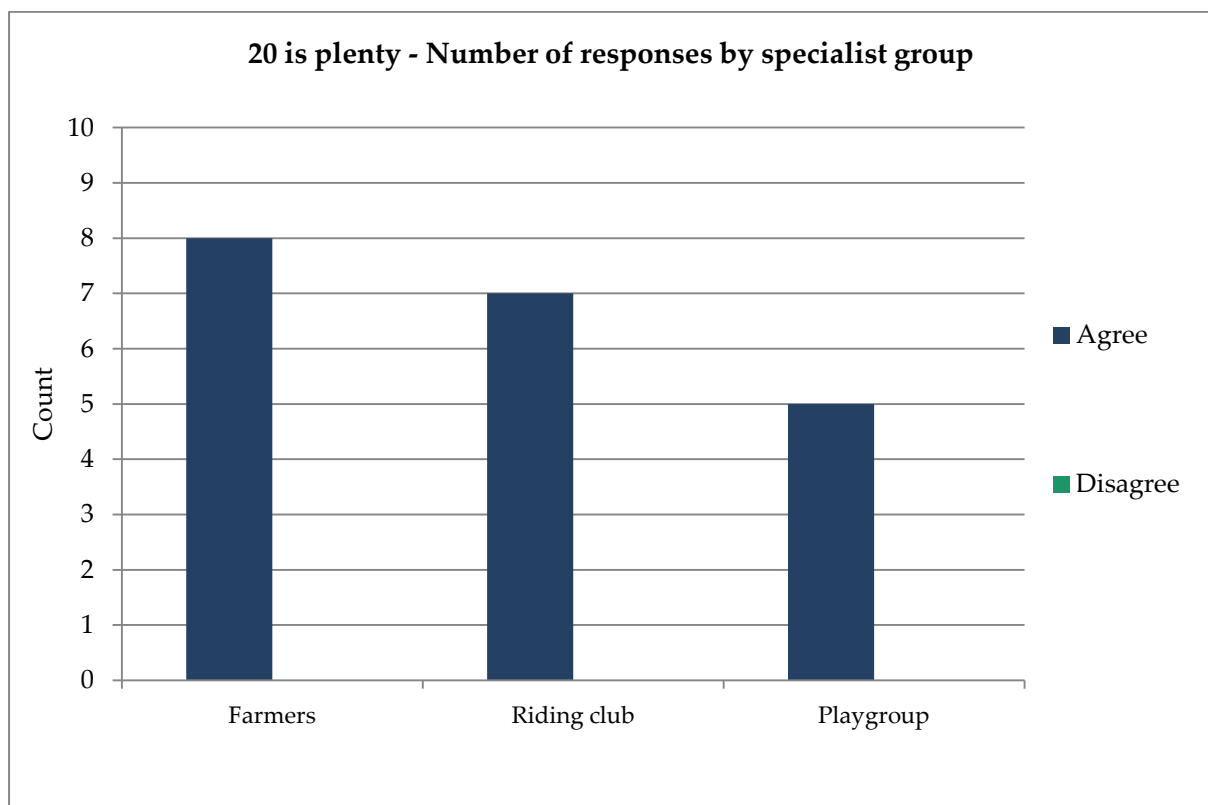
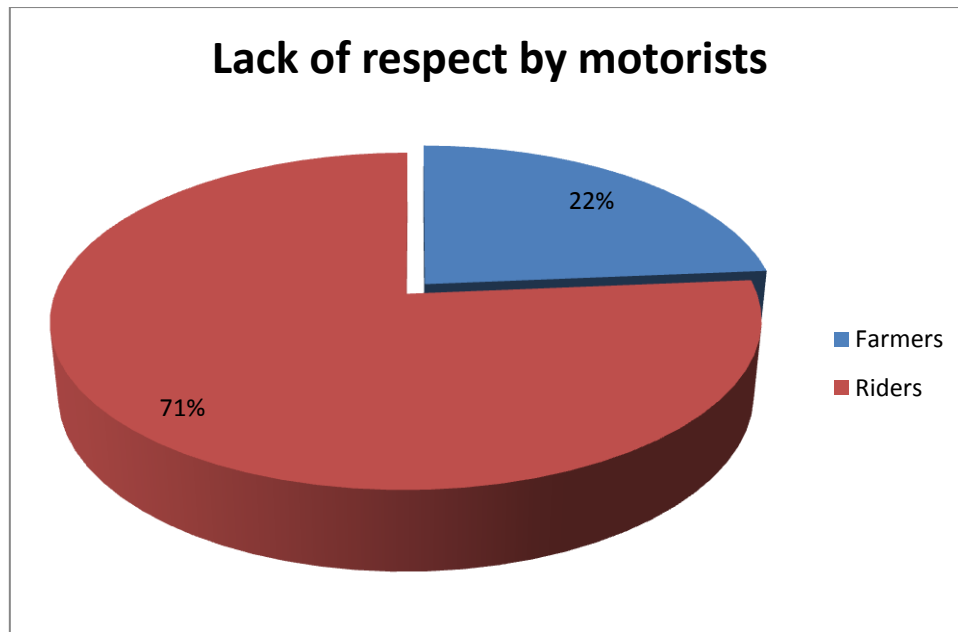


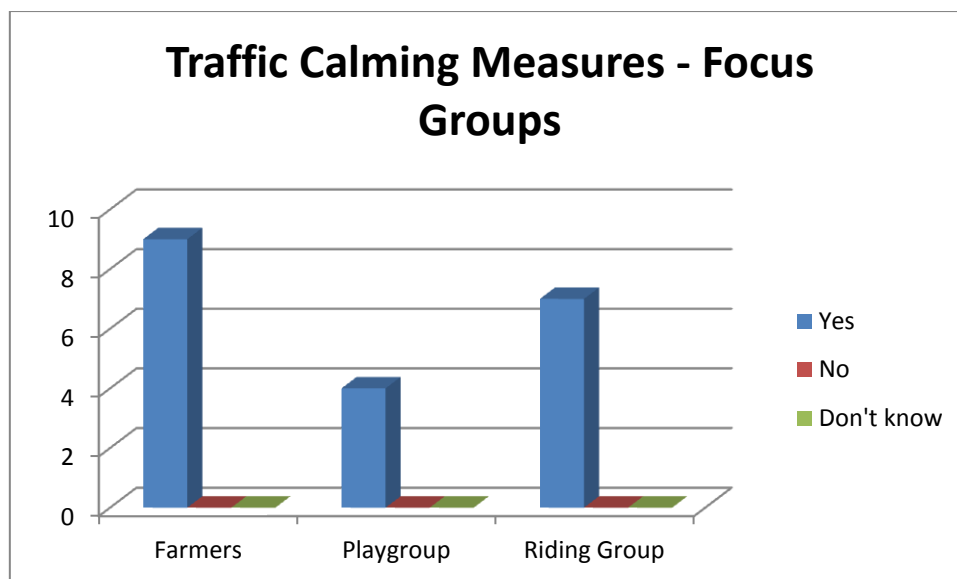
b) Road Safety Concerns



Whilst the focus groups also highlighted the speed and volume of traffic the Farmers and Riders were particularly concerned with the lack of respect shown to riders, cyclists and pedestrians by motorists. 71% of the riders within their focus group and

22% of farmers within their focus group mentioned lack of respect of riders, cyclists and pedestrians in what is a fundamentally a rural area.





See 10(b) for road calming suggestions table for all responses.

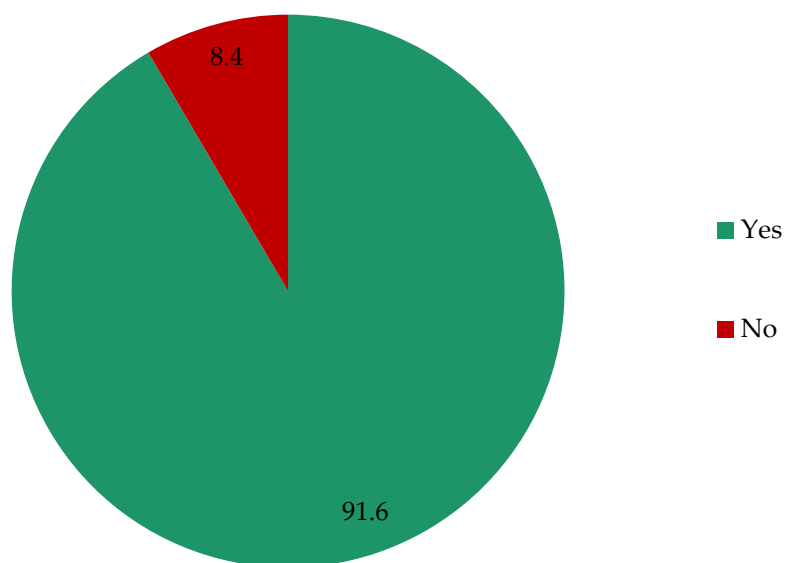
13.The Waterloo Development

The current road safety concerns will be further exacerbated by the development of the Paint Works site at Waterloo. Outline planning permission has been granted for 450 homes on this site. This will triple the size of Waterloo and increase the volume of traffic using the lanes for the daily commute to work in Cardiff. The DWR Community Voice Project has been raising awareness of this development within the community. The survey asks residents if they are aware of the development.

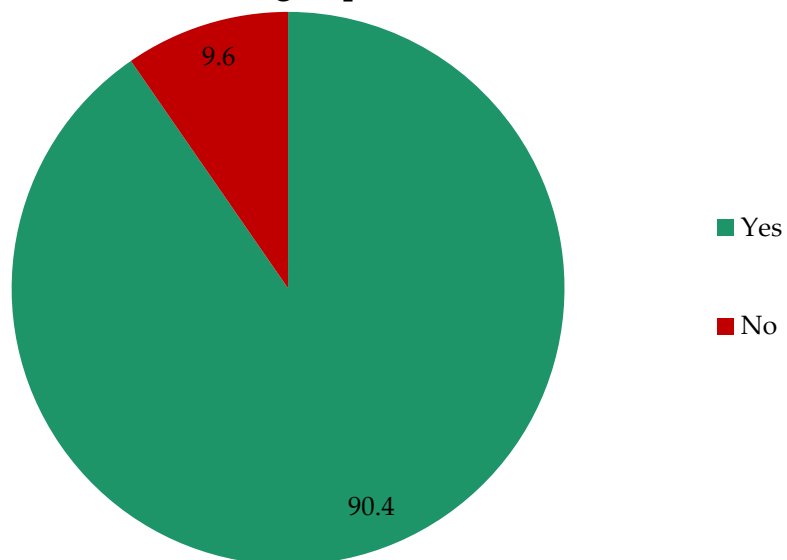
a) Awareness amongst residents of Waterloo Development

The possible development of 450 houses on the old paintworks site in Waterloo will increase the traffic using the lanes and will more than triple the size of Waterloo village. The working group felt that it was important to gauge awareness of this development amongst residents.

Awareness of Waterloo housing development - villages



Awareness of Waterloo housing development - all villages and groups



Since the completion of the door to door engagement survey Caerphilly County Borough Council has produced its Local Development Plan identifying land for possible residential development up to 2030. A number of possible sites have been identified in and around Rudry and Waterloo. The land at Gwern y Domen farm is particularly worrying as it is already owned by Persimmon Homes and could potentially hold in excess of 800 homes, if granted planning permission. Add this to the potential development of 450 homes at Waterloo and the road safety problems within Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry and the adjoining lanes would be multiplied three-fold.

14. Conclusion

In conclusion, the road safety problems in Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry have been a major concern for residents and the community council for a number of years. In November 2010 the community council commissioned Trilein Regeneration of Swansea to undertake a community consultation. Sixty residents from Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry took part in that consultation. The pressing themes for the communities that emerged from the Trilein consultation were traffic speeds, pedestrian safety and the need for roadway respect for rural communities. In addition to the traffic issues there was also major concern about the potential impact of the likely housing development at Waterloo. There were approximately 115 comments from the discussion 80% of these comments were traffic and motor vehicle related. Almost five years later the Community Voice Door to Door Engagement Survey results clearly show that the issues remain the same. The DWR Community Voice Door to Door Survey gathered responses from 184 community members, trebling engagement with community residents. Of the residents who completed questionnaire 62.5% Draethen residents, 80% Waterloo residents and 90% Rudry residents had concerns with road safety in the villages and the lanes. The three main issues that concerned residents and focus groups that completed a questionnaire were speed, volume of traffic and parking. 96.8 – 100% of those who completed a questionnaire agreed with 20mph in the villages. 88.9% - 100% of those who completed a questionnaire agreed with 20mph in the villages and 40mph in the lanes. 81.3 – 100% of those who completed a questionnaire agreed with the introduction of calming measures. Between 87.8% and 100% of those who completed a questionnaire said that they would feel safer on the roads if speed reductions were introduced. 57.1% - 85% of those who completed a questionnaire said that they would walk or cycle more if speed reductions were introduced. The DWR Community Voice Project team and volunteers will undertake a survey of traffic, in April 2015, at 20 location points around Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry to gather evidence to continue to lobby Caerphilly County Borough Council for speed limit reductions. The community will also work together to fight the effects of the possible large residential developments at Waterloo and Gwern y Domen Farm on rural road safety within Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry.

DWR Community Voice Project Door to Door engagement leaflet

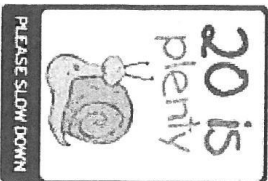
26

D.W.R. Community Voice Project—One Voice for a Safer Community

Our Community Voice Project is part of the wider Gwent Association for Voluntary Organisations portfolio and aims to re-invigorate and equip our rural community to engage effectively with key decision makers within Caerphilly County Borough Council to address major threats to our environment and in the process increase levels of pride and ownership of our community. A parallel objective is to identify suitable changes to the road environment which will have a positive influence on the attitudes and behavior of vehicle users as they drive within the area. The project aims to enable the community to engage with the local authority and relevant community groups to secure the implementation of the following measures to:

- Improve road safety in the community, particularly within the villages and outside community facilities, such as Rudyr Primary School and Rudyr Parish Hall.
- Support the community to feel empowered and to show pride in the place in which they live.
- Create the capability for special groups such as local farmers, ramblers, cyclists and horse riders to have their interests taken into account.
- Engage in an effective working partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- Raise the profile of the issues affecting rural communities.
- Protect, preserve and enhance the local environment.
- Encourage and build on the potential for environmental tourism in the area.

D.W.R. Community Council has been awarded £171,515 over three years to work with the community to deliver the above aims. What the project needs now is **YOUR SUPPORT** and **YOUR PARTICIPATION**. To deliver this project and achieve success we need you to come forward and work with us. This project belongs to everyone who lives in Draethen, Waterloo and Rudyr and gives us a fantastic opportunity to work together with one strong and clear voice to tackle the issues that affect us on a daily basis. Come on, help make this community safe, strong and sustainable for many years to come.

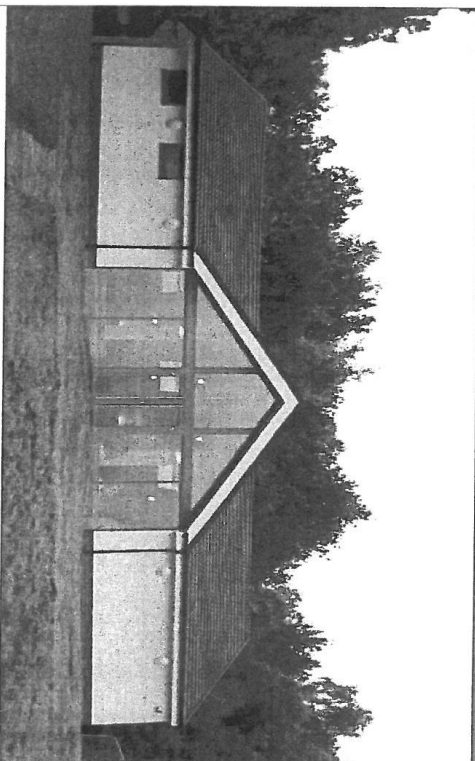


For more information please contact Siân on 02920851812 or 07939969003 or by email at siantuckerDWR@outlook.com.

Look out for us also on Facebook at DWR Community Voice Project

Call in and see us at Rudyr Parish Hall - we'll be delighted to meet you and share this exciting new opportunity for the whole community.

What Can You Do?



We have the funding and an enthusiastic team. What this project needs now is the support and involvement of everyone who lives in the community. You can participate in the following ways:-

- Join the working group
- Help with surveys to gather information and evidence to be included in a report to be presented to Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Deliver questionnaires/surveys and leaflets
- Help with transport
- General volunteering

If you have some time to spare please give us your support and let us work together with a strong voice to make our community safer, stronger and sustainable for many years to come.

Appendix 2

Questionnaire

Door to Door Engagement Questionnaire

- Introduce yourself and the DWR Community Voice Project and Timebank.
- Hand over the leaflet explaining all about the project.
- Invite your neighbour to spare you five minutes to share their views on the community (chat about community spirit) and the road safety issues.
- Ask the following questions and record the answers.
- Offer them a wheelie bin sticker/car sticker for the 20s plenty campaign and ask if they would like to be kept informed or to get involved. If yes please take contact details.

Name	Address	Contact number and email address

1. Have you any concerns with road safety in this village or in the lanes?

2. When travelling in and out of the village which route do you most often take?

3. Are you aware of the Waterloo Housing Development?

Yes ☐ No ☐

4. The DWR Community Voice Project is campaigning for 20mph in the villages of Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry and would like to achieve a 40mph speed limit through the lanes. Do you agree or disagree with this?

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐

5. Would you appreciate traffic calming measures and if so what calming measures would you like to see?

6. If there were lower speed limits and/or traffic calming through the villages and the lanes would that:

Make you feel safer when using the road? Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐

Encourage you to walk or cycle more? Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐