

Are areas with interventions to support increased levels of cycling and walking safer compared to areas without these interventions?

A comparison of perceived levels of road safety and collisions in Waltham Forest

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Active Travel Officer

# Overview

Waltham Forest is a diverse and vibrant place and is consequentially growing faster than any other borough. To ensure everyone can travel around the borough safely, we are introducing a range of initiatives including walking and cycling infrastructure, 20mph zones and CPZs.

Despite these wide-ranging and innovative schemes being introduced, we have little information and data on the changes in both the perceptive and actual levels of road safety since they have been established.



# Overview

Waltham Forest Council was successful in its funding bid from the Road Safety Trust in 2017 to undertake a three year research project which will address this knowledge gap by undertaking quantitative and qualitative research across the borough.

It focuses on how the perception of road safety of all road users changes over time, and if there is any correlation with where and how collisions occur.



# Objectives

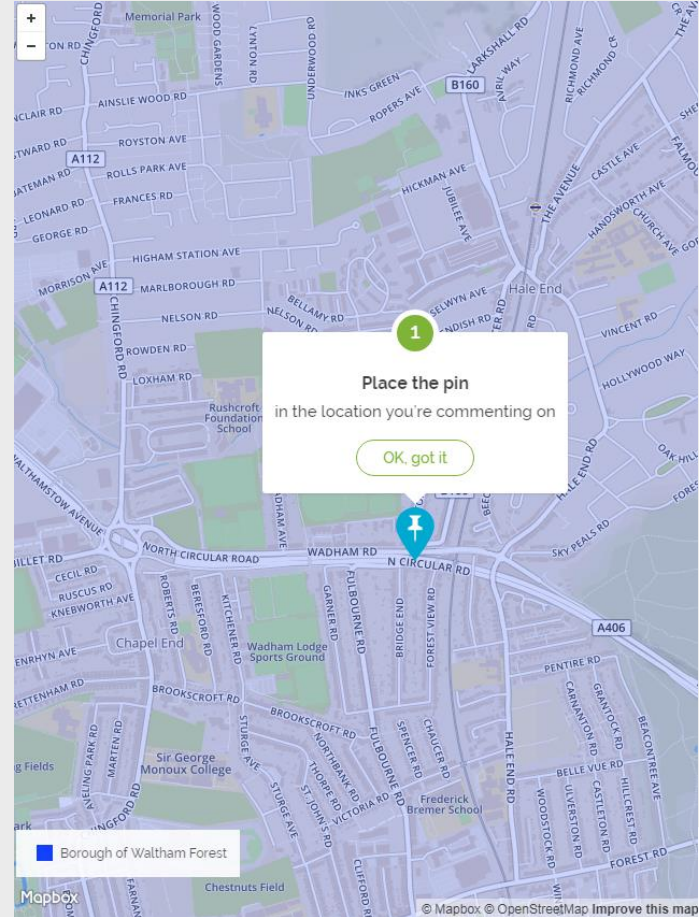
- To find out what effect, if any, the introduction of cycling and walking infrastructure has on perceptive and actual levels of road safety for all road users.
- To find out whether areas with new interventions to support increased levels of cycling and walking are safer for all road users compared to areas without these interventions.

# Timeline

- Spring 2017 – Applied for funding from the Road Safety Trust
- Autumn 2017 – Funding bid successful
- Summer 2018 – Initial data collection and engagement
- **Now** – Analysis of perception survey data in conjunction with collision data

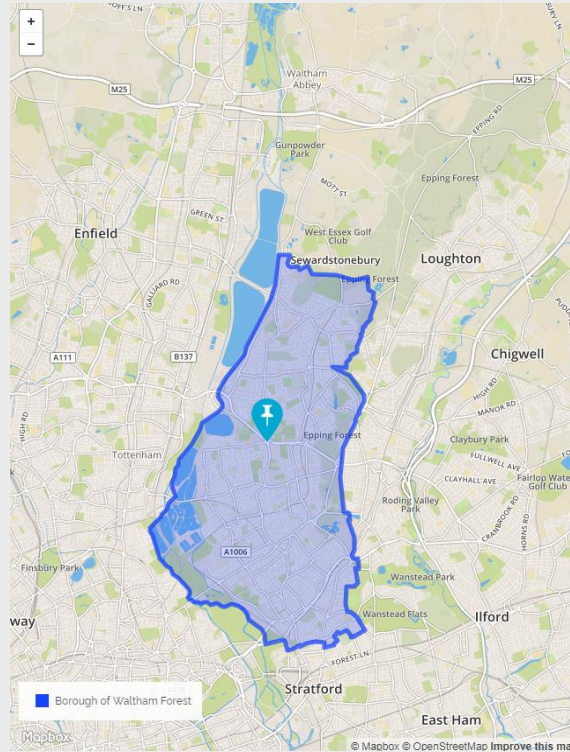
# Methodology

- We are collecting qualitative and quantitative data through the online engagement platform, Commonplace.
- Commonplace was chosen as it is an interactive, transparent and visual way of engaging with residents.



# Methodology

- Participants are able to geographically pin-point specific locations where they feel safe or unsafe.
- Participants are then able to select how safe or unsafe they feel using the slider.
- This gave us a number from 0 (very unsafe) to 100 (very safe).
- Participants could also provide qualitative comments.



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What is this place?  
the bus stop

How safe do you feel here?  
Very unsafe  Very safe

Do you feel like this when you are  
 Using public transport  Walking  Cycling  Driving  Other

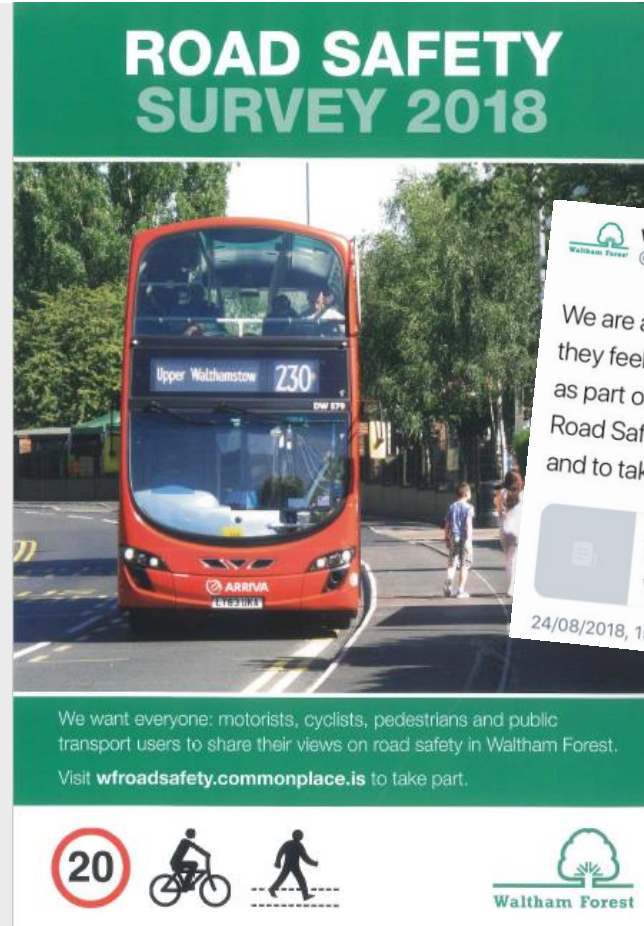
What is the issue?  
 Speed limit  Road layout  Road signs  Parked cars  Cycle paths  
 Hedges/trees  Crossing points  Dropped curbs  Lighting  
 Bus stops  Pavements  Traffic  Accessibility  Sight lines  Other

If other, please add ...

Any other comments?

# Engagement



- Our Commonplace survey went live on 16 July.
- The survey was promoted online on social media platforms and via posters in libraries, leisure centres and filling stations.





**ROAD SAFETY SURVEY 2018**

We want everyone: motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and public transport users to share their views on road safety in Waltham Forest. Visit [wroadsafety.commonplace.is](http://wroadsafety.commonplace.is) to take part.

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 Waltham Forest

 Waltham Forest

**Waltham Forest Council** @wfcouncil

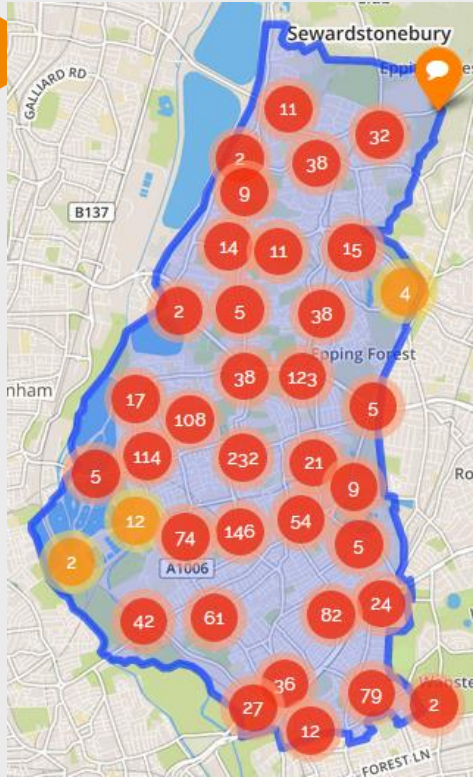
We are asking our residents how safe they feel travelling around the borough as part of a research project for the Road Safety Trust. To find out more and to take part visit:

Have your say on road safety in Waltham Forest  
[wroadsafety.commonplace.is](http://wroadsafety.commonplace.is)

24/08/2018, 15:00



# Engagement

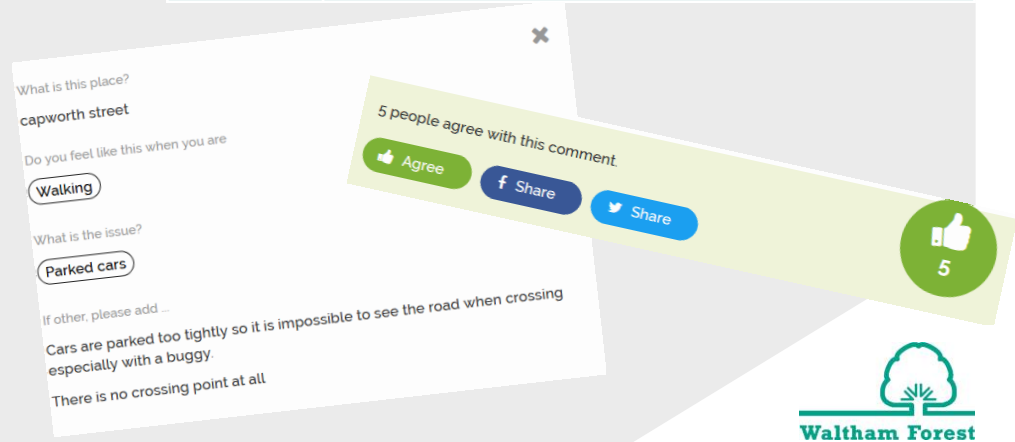


## Visitors\*

3,568	Total visitors
986	Total respondents

## Contributions\*

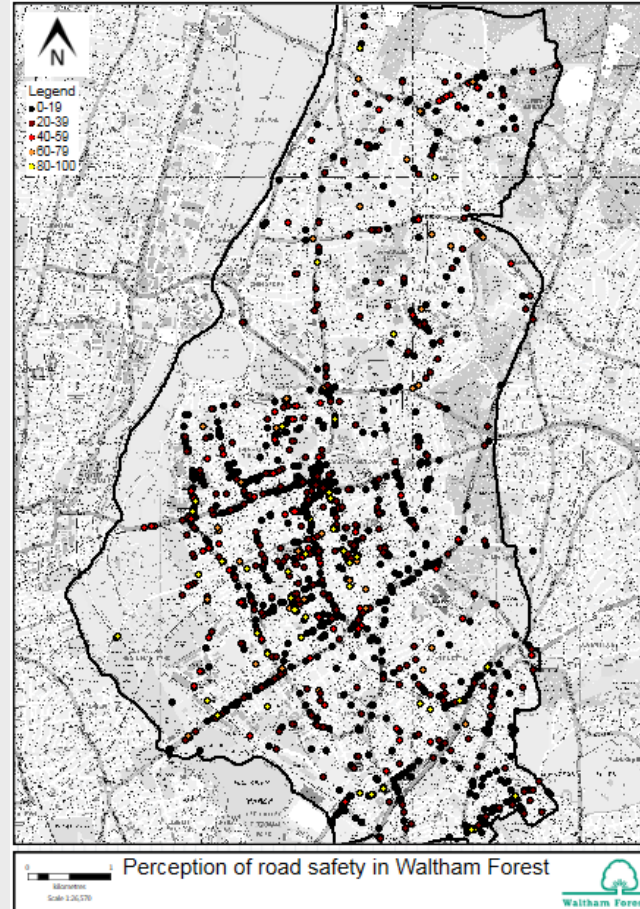
6,032	Total contributions
1,515	Web comments
4,517	Agreements



\*Figures correct as of 24 October 2018

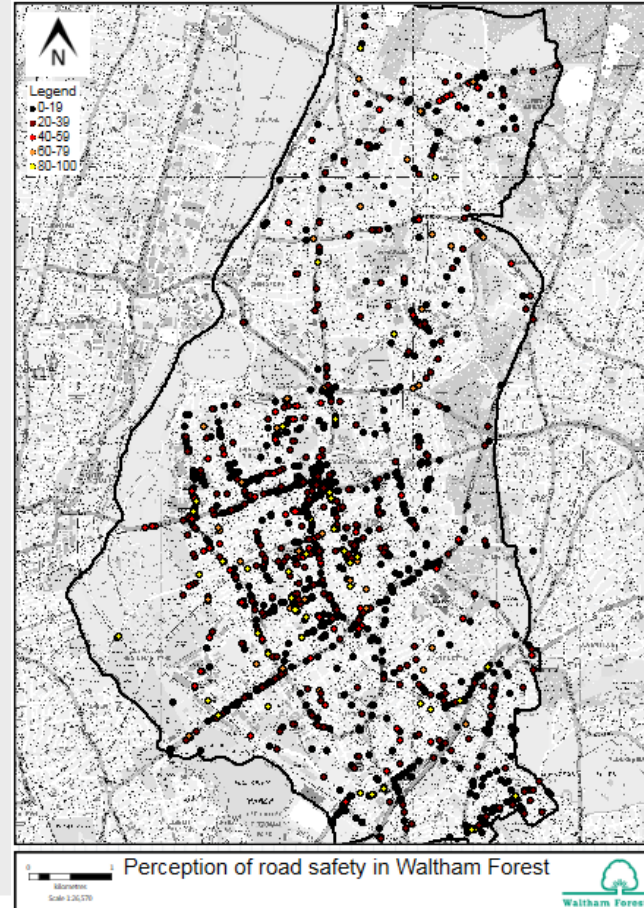
# Perception results

How safe do you feel here?	Number of responses
0-19 (very unsafe)	844
20-39	387
40-59	88
60-79	47
80-100 (very safe)	59

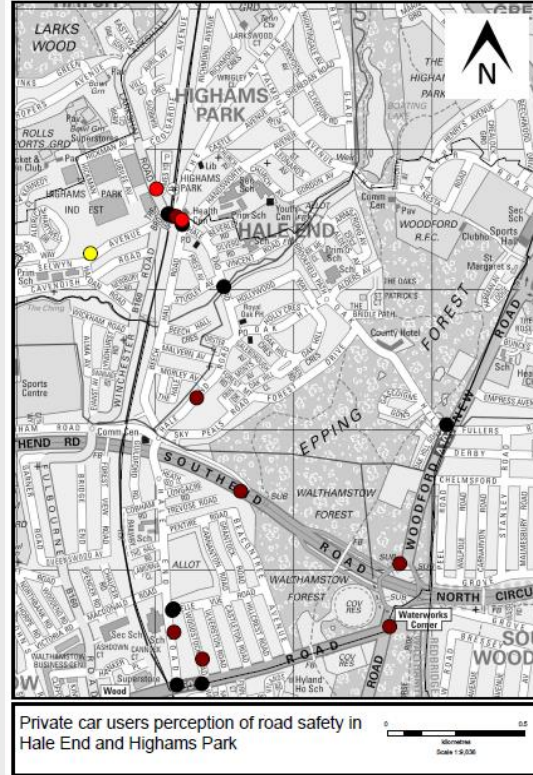
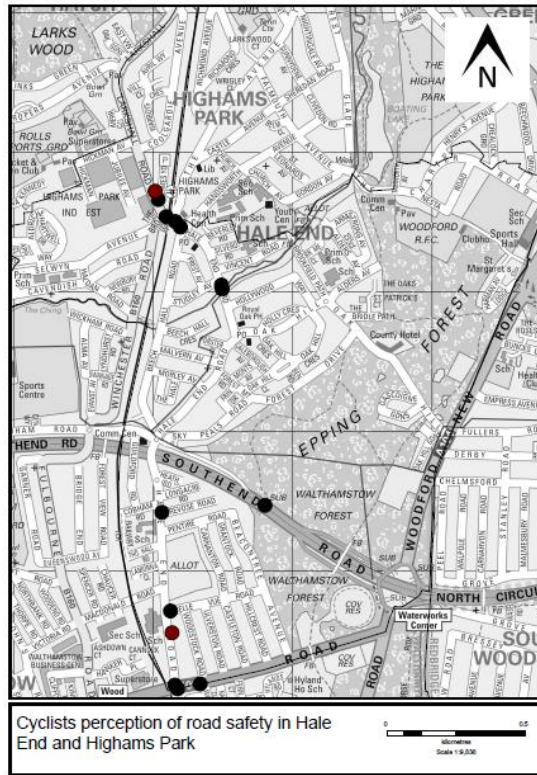


# Perception results

Mode	Average response to 'how safe do you feel here?'
Walking	19.1
Cycling	21.1
Driving	21.1
Public Transport	29.0
Other	29.4



# Perception results: case study



Average perception of road safety by cyclists – 5.4

Average perception of road safety by car users – 30.0

## Next steps

- We are currently analysing the perception data from Commonplace in conjunction with collision data.
- The road safety perception data is being mapped, and areas will be compared and contrasted to identify if there is any correlation between perception of safety and the locations of where collisions happen.
- The Year 1 report will be completed by the end of 2018.
- This is an ongoing project and we will review whether the perception of road safety has changed following infrastructure developments over the next two years.