

Consultation response Dobcross – traffic and transport

5. Here are the views of Dobcross residents on specific topics

Housing

- A narrow majority (54%) are in favour of more houses being built. Most of these residents would want to see no more than 50 new houses built over the next 20 years
- In broad terms, the development of affordable housing, family homes or smaller homes and apartments is seen as preferable to more executive homes
- Residents would prefer any new developments take place on existing sites or infill between sites rather than encroaching onto greenbelt areas
- The suggestions for possible sites focused on developing any unused mills or derelict buildings in the area
- Over 90% of respondents thought having parking spaces and access to a main road should be a prerequisite to gaining planning approval

Traffic

- Over 90% of respondents would be in favour of 20mph speed limits, particularly on Woods Lane, Sugar Lane, Platt Lane and around the Square. A number of people think the restriction should be extended to cover the junction between Dobcross New Road/Wall Hill Road and Delph New Road
- Most people would support the use of discreet speed cameras and other traffic calming measures on Woods Lane, Sugar Lane, Platt Lane and around the Square and near the junction between Dobcross New Road/Wall Hill Road and Delph New Road
- Speed cameras are generally preferred to speed bumps which could ruin the character of the village
- A majority of residents (58%) would not want to see a one-way system to reduce traffic flow
- A large majority of residents (75%) would like to see vehicle size restrictions through the centre of the village
- Many people (66%) expect to own an electric car in 5-10 years' time. Just over half of these felt they could charge it safely at home. For 44% it would be an issue.
- People were evenly split on whether the introduction of more charging points in Dobcross/Saddleshworth would make them more likely to purchase an electric car
- Most would like to see new electric charging points installed in any of the established car parks such as village car parks, supermarkets, garden centre, school car parks, band club

Pavements

- A small majority of people (54%) think that the lack of pavements on certain roads are an important issue. The areas that concern people are around the bridge near Dobcross School and along Platt Lane and Sugar Lane leading into the Square. Residents also highlighted issues at the top of Woods Lane and on Sandy Lane

Parking

- Most households have one or two cars (84%). A small number have three. Very few have none or more than four
- A small majority of residents (55%) would favour a parking permit scheme that covered the main roads through the village, Delph New Road and Dobcross New Road
- However, many expressed concern over the potential impact of a parking permit scheme on local businesses as well as visitors, especially visiting family and friends

- Most residents are not in favour of building a public car park in Dobcross however those that are in favour see the field behind Holy Trinity church, the site of the old garages on Sugar Lane and the disused quarry up past Sandy Lane as possible locations. Others thought the school car park should be left open during holidays and weekends

Public Transport

- Most respondents (70%) do not use the bus services that serve Dobcross however many say they could be persuaded to use public transport
- Direct links to the train and tram networks, more regular and frequent bus timetables, lower fares and more buses to Manchester would make the service more popular.
- Dobcross residents tend to be occasional rather than frequent users of the train services from Greenfield and the tram service from Oldham
- There is a general consensus that public transport serving Dobcross and Saddleworth could be improved by operating more frequent, reliable and direct services. With regard to buses many would like to see better links with the train and tram network

Business and employment

- There is a rough 50:50 split on whether more should be done to attract more business, industry and employment into the area
- Lower business rates, better broadband and easier parking would make the area more attractive but many expressed concern about the impact of yet more cars and how expanding business activity might affect smaller villages like Dobcross
- If more business is to be located in the area the preference would be for shops, cafes and restaurants but there is some support for office accommodation and light industrial units
- Over 80% respondents thought it was very important that Dobcross keeps its Post Office and shop

Infrastructure

- Most respondents are reasonably satisfied with their broadband
- Most respondents are reasonably satisfied with their mobile phone signal
- Most respondents are unsatisfied with the state of the roads and footpaths
- Most respondents do not have issues with sewage and drainage
- Most respondents are more than satisfied with their gas and electric supply

Community facilities

- The great majority (70%) of respondents feel Dobcross is not generally lacking in community facilities
- If anything, the village does need more facilities for young people and children
- A sports field, multi-functional community centre and youth club were all popular suggestions as well as improving the playground in the park

Schools

- The vast majority of respondents (75%) would prefer to see Saddleworth School located on the existing site in Uppermill
- Traffic and access problems are the main objections to moving the school to Diggle plus the fact that Uppermill has the infrastructure to absorb the school
- However, many expressed concern that the existing site is not fit for purpose
- Many respondents did not have a view on whether primary education in Dobcross is adequate and would meet the needs of future generations

- Of those that did have a view, many believed it was adequate, but an equal number expressed concern that building more houses could lead to the primary school being oversubscribed

Healthcare

- A majority of respondents (65%) said they were satisfied with the healthcare services available to Dobcross residents.

Heritage and conservation

- Most people (64%) feel the current planning regulations with regard to listed buildings, stone barn conversions and permissible building materials are about right
- A number of respondents thought cobbles in the Square would be a good idea to not only make it look more attractive but also slow down traffic
- A number thought white PVC windows and doors did not fit with the character of the village

Environment

- The vast majority of respondents (90%) were not concerned about a risk of flooding
- Most people would welcome the introduction of more renewable energy initiatives but not at the expense of spoiling the look of the village and its surroundings. There is more support for solar panels than wind turbines. The siting of a more wind turbines would need careful consideration.
- More people are satisfied with the recycling facilities provided by Oldham Council than dissatisfied
- There is a lot of support for creating allotments in the village. The fields near the church was mentioned most often as a possible location

Vision

- Most people would like Dobcross to remain very much like it is now in 20 years' time with the community spirit intact.

Appendix 1

Evidence to support traffic concerns

DVC local traffic count

Wednesday 18 October 2017 7.30am - 8.30am

Traffic through PLATT LANE AND SANDY LANE = 124

Traffic through WOODS LANE - THE SQUARE = 141

Total = 265

Thursday 19 October 2017 8.30am - 9.30am

Traffic through PLATT LANE AND SANDY LANE = 143

Traffic through WOODS LANE - THE SQUARE = 140

Total = 283

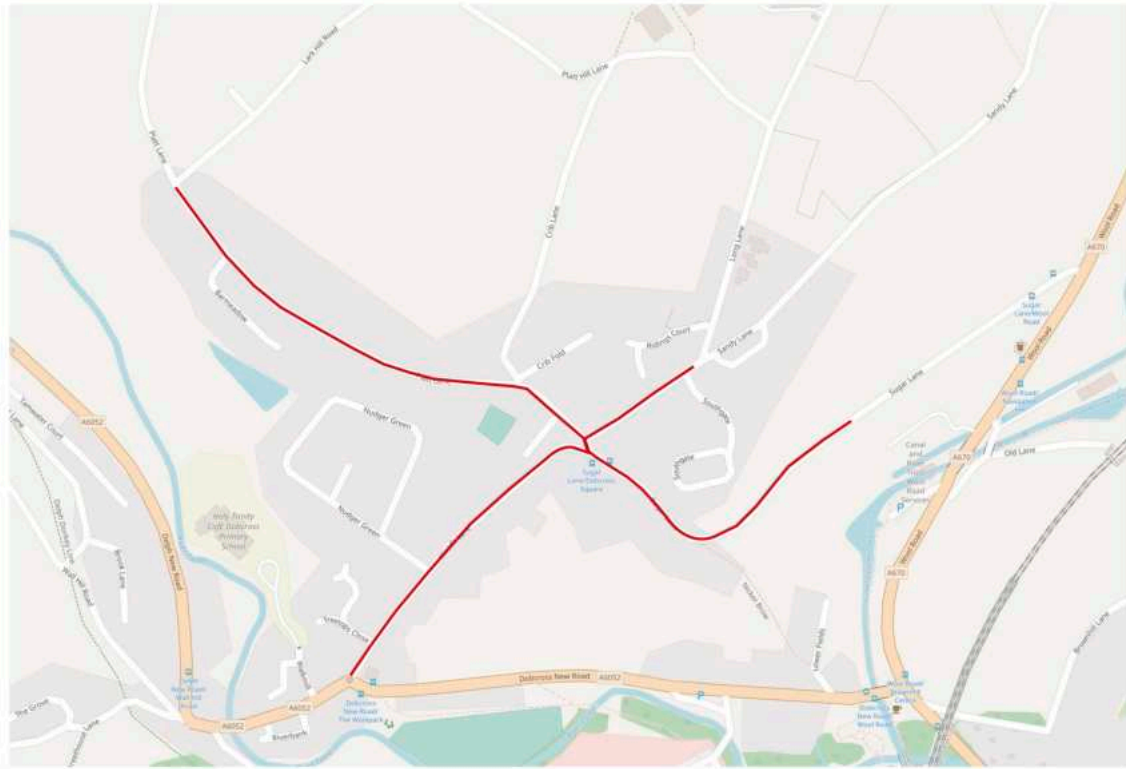
Highways Forecasting and Analytical Services (HFAS) Report 1778

21 March 2013 count of all motor vehicles (24 hours)

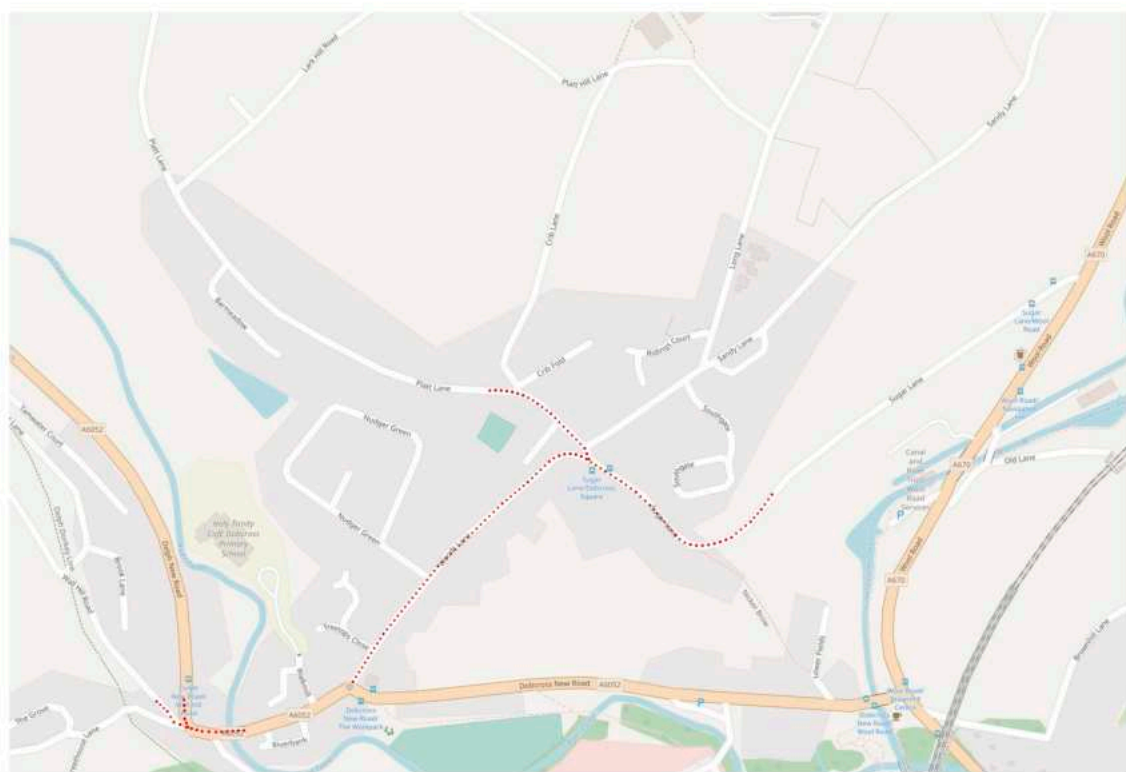
A6052 Dobcross New Road Total = 7,600

Appendix 2

Map showing suggested 20mph speed limit.



Map showing suggested area for additional traffic calming measures.



Disclaimer

The views expressed in this document are based on the Dobcross Village Community committee's interpretation of the results of the survey carried out in the autumn of 2017. In no event shall the DVC be liable for any errors or omissions or any direct or indirect, consequential or incidental damages or any damages whatsoever arising from the publication of this report.