05th December 2023

Re: Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Transport Management, Thursday, 14 December

I read with disappointment the recommendation to proceed with the proposed traffic calming measures for Harwell Village in their entirety without properly considering the comments, concerns and objections made by the residents of the village.

The survey that residents were invited to complete was inadequate – it only asked for opinions on the three proposed raised tables for the village and yet the proposal overall contains a great many elements beyond these three very specific measures. Even a cursory examination of the published responses amply demonstrates that the raised tables are not the principal concern. The comments in favour of the proposal also make no reference to any feature of the proposal other than the raised tables. Despite this, less than 50% of the responses were in favour of the proposal, with more responses raising objections or concerns.

This is a poorly thought through package of measures but the consultation appears to have been deliberately focused on a small number of specific proposals that were always unlikely to be controversial – and yet still couldn't generate a majority of respondents in favour of the proposal. You might as well have asked the residents of the village if they were in favour of world peace. Any recommendation to approve this proposal a) has no mandate from the village residents, and b) entirely fails to account for the wishes of the residents who have provided detailed constructive commentary on how to improve the proposal.

Kind regards,