The major news this month is that a maximum 18 month Experimental Traffic Regulation Order will be applied by Wiltshire Council, with the assent of the Town Council, to stop traffic (with the exception of buses and cyclists) going eastbound (uphill) on Silver Street, initially between 7am and 7pm

20mph speed limits at certain locations will also be applied and there will be the possibility of lots of monitoring and data collection and possible tweeks in the duration. Let's hope it works! More here

There are two transport consultations being carried out at present: the rather esoteric DfT Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Guidance Update (more here) which closes on Thursday 24th September, and the simpler Wiltshire Council Draft Freight Action Plan, the survey of which we hope you will complete, which is open until just before midnight on **Wednesday 23rd September** and has a generalised 4 question survey that is easy to complete.

The first question asks, on a scale of 1-5: 'To what extent does the draft Freight Action Plan address your concerns?' I would give it 4 – it's better than middling but not yet the full Monty.

Question 2 asks 'How important are the following (6) priorities for freight in Wiltshire?'. To my mind, five of the six are very important. What is more contestable is the priority of 'reducing congestion'.

It's well known in transport circles that if your intention is 'reducing congestion', then new traffic will come in to fill the 'hole' and you are back where you started – so I would answer 'Somewhat Unimportant' to that. Transport planners need to address why vehicles are on the road and encourage a modal shift to other forms to really address congestion

Question 3 asks 'If you could make one change to improve freight management in Wiltshire, what would it be?'. Although it's refreshing to see references to cycle freight in the summary, we hope the plan includes meaningful measures such as speed limit reductions, environmental weight limits, time based restrictions, planning interventions to reduce the need for HGVs and vans alongside the submission of bridge strike risk data to sat nav and route planning providers to help reduce HGV travel through sensitive routes such as the A350 across the county.

Question 4 asks 'Do you have any freight concerns that are not addressed by the plan?' which could include a second choice from question 3