

Hartlip Parish Council - 15 January 2026

Munns Lane & Mill Lane Highways Consultation – Outcome Report for Residents

Following the completion of the public consultation on the proposed highways project for Munns Lane and Mill Lane, Hartlip Parish Council is publishing this summary report to inform residents of the outcomes and the decision taken by the Council.

Consultation Overview

The consultation ran from mid-October until 31 December 2025, a period of approximately 2.5 months. Residents were able to respond either online or using paper forms delivered to all homes and made available within the village. A total of 46 valid responses were received, with duplicate submissions removed.

Headline Results

Total responses received: 46

Responses in support: 26 (56.5%)

Responses not in support: 20 (43.5%)

While a majority of respondents expressed support for the proposal, the margin between supporting and opposing views was relatively narrow. Members also noted that overall engagement levels were modest given the length of the consultation period.

Key Themes Raised by Residents

Safety and Speed Concerns

Many residents highlighted safety concerns on Munns Lane and Mill Lane, describing narrow carriageways, limited visibility, blind bends, and use by pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists. Reports of speeding vehicles and near-miss incidents were common among supportive responses.

Cost, Enforcement and Priorities

Residents who did not support the proposal often raised concerns about the use of public funds, particularly the estimated cost of around £8,000, and questioned whether the level of engagement demonstrated a clear mandate for expenditure. Concerns were also expressed about the lack of enforcement of existing speed limits and whether signage alone would be effective.

Lower Hartlip Road and Wider Issues

Across both supportive and opposing responses, a recurring theme was the need to prioritise safety on Lower Hartlip Road, which many residents consider to present greater risks due to traffic volumes, vehicle speeds and recent accidents. Several residents suggested that any future work should form part of a wider, village-wide approach to highways safety.

Council Consideration and Decision

Hartlip Parish Council considered the consultation outcomes at its meeting and discussed the level of support, the themes raised by residents, and the financial implications of progressing the scheme.

The Council resolved to approve Option C: to explore alternative funding options before committing parish funds. This includes investigating whether external funding, such as support from Kent County Council through the Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) or similar schemes, may be available.

No decision has been taken at this stage to proceed with, amend or cancel the proposed scheme. Any future proposals will be considered in light of available funding, further evidence, and village-wide priorities.

Next Steps

The Council will now undertake further work to identify potential external funding opportunities and assess how highways safety concerns across the village, including Lower Hartlip Road, may be addressed in a coordinated way. Residents will be kept informed of any significant developments.