

Houghton Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

PRODUCED BY

Houghton Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group
From the results of the village questionnaire in January 2018

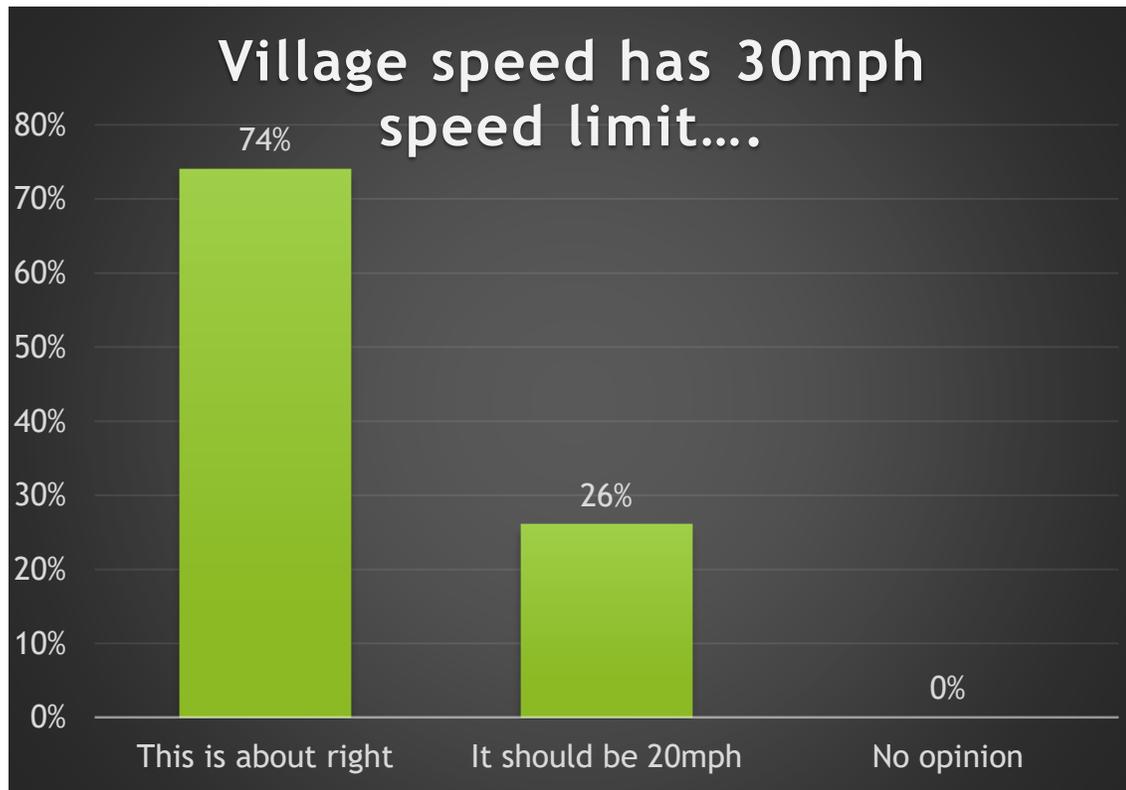
Introduction

- ▶ A paper survey was carried out in Houghton in January 2018 to try and understand the residents' views on the future of the village with regards to:
 - ▶ Traffic
 - ▶ Housing/development
 - ▶ Community facilities
 - ▶ Business and general infrastructure
 - ▶ Environment
- ▶ 191 questionnaires were delivered. Every household in the village received a questionnaire and some households with multiple occupants requested to complete more than one.
- ▶ 95 questionnaires were completed and returned.

TRAFFIC

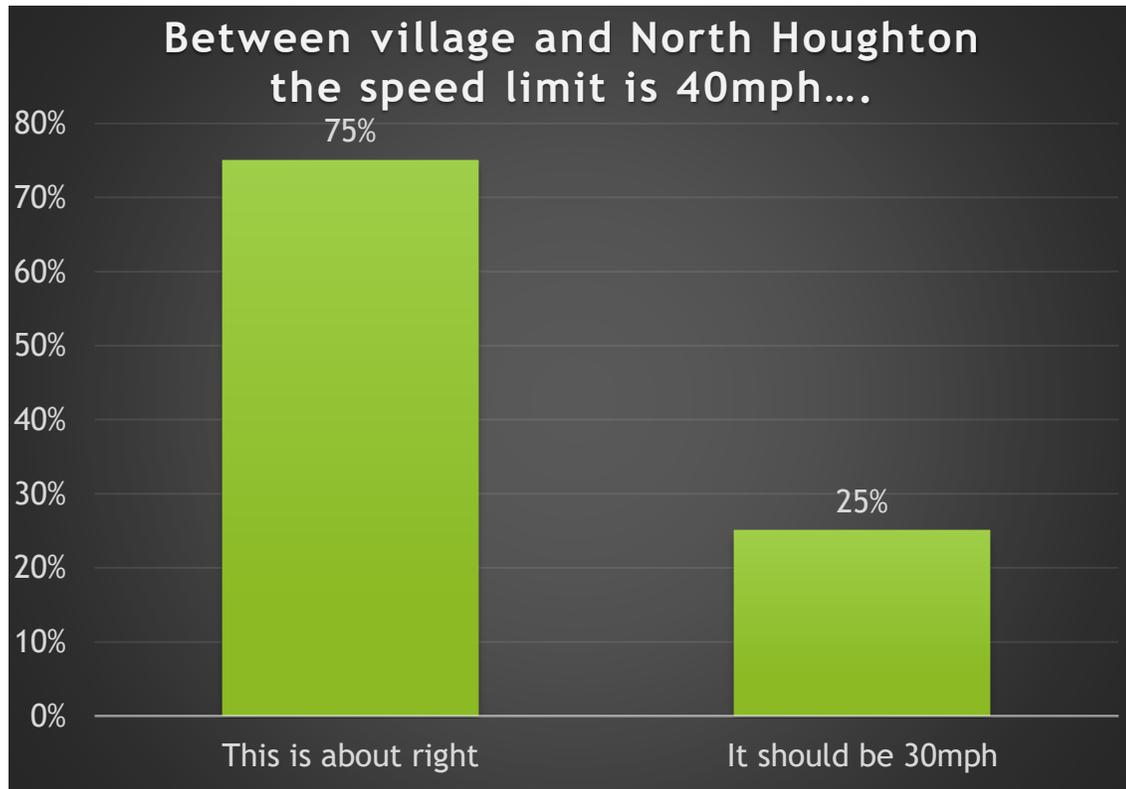
Walking, Cycling and Safer Roads

Road speed in the village



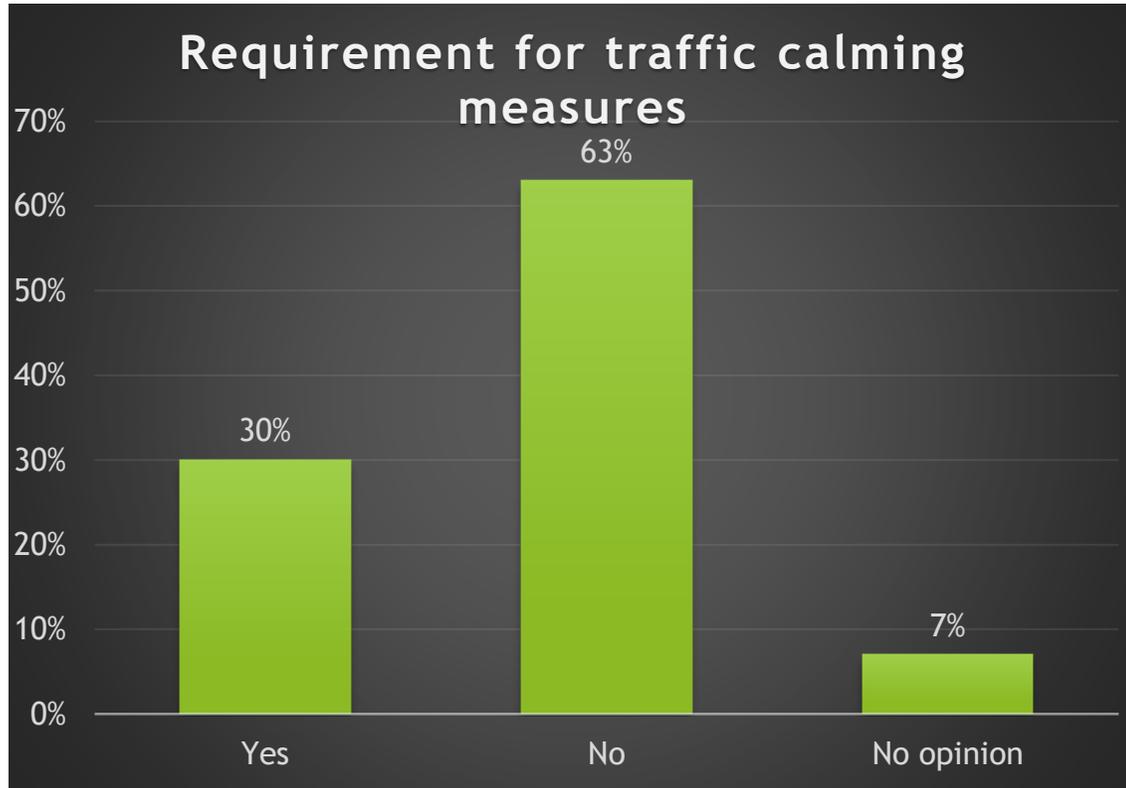
- 74% of respondents believe that the 30mph is about right
- 26% of respondents believe that it should be lowered to 20mph

Road speed between the village and North Houghton



- 75% of respondents believe that the 40mph is about right
- 25% of respondents believe that it should be lowered to 30mph

Traffic calming measures



- 30% of respondents believe that there is a requirement for traffic calming measures through the village
- There were varying suggestions for where these traffic calming measures should be with no clear theme. Responses are displayed on next slides.

Where should traffic calming measures be used?

Stevens Drove road from the village hall to the estate. Delivery drivers and commercial traffic to the factory drive at excessive speeds up here and it is dangerous with children coming in and out of the estate. The 40mph zone is often broken so some measures here. Dangerous for cyclists.

All through the village as far as Stockbridge

N, SE & SW entrances at speed restriction signs but not bumps or pinch points. Suggest rumble strips on road surface

Cars speed up by Kents Orchard

Let the experts decide

Where there isn't a footpath or pavement

Throughout from Houghton Garage to bend by Houghton Lodge

Stevens Drove and from Faithfulls Drove to just past the Boot

Between The Boot and North Houghton

Not sure where but intermittent measures so people cannot build up speed

Between Freemantle Farm and the Village hall

Entry, middle, exit

Where should traffic calming measures be used?

From Lodge Hill to T junction at south end

Occasional police speed traps

The whole village so as to deter the village being used by hoards of cyclists who speed through the village dropping litter and shouting and swearing

Village hall area/Chapel Close, Kents Orchard

Between the pub and village hall

Narrow landscaped areas that have priority approaches as seen in other calming areas. If landscaped well and planted appropriately this can enhance the village

From Houghton Lodge to Sheepbridge

From Houghton Lodge to Sheepbridge

After Drayton corner entering village from Stockbridge

Between village hall and Boot Inn and between North Houghton and Houghton

Speed bumps - village hall road from the Boot to village hall or close. i.e. traffic calming

Pinch points

Everywhere

Throughout the village

Between T junction and Chapel Close entrance

TRAFFIC SURVEY CONDUCTED BY HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The survey was carried out for 24 hrs each day between Tuesday 3 July and Monday 9 July 2018, inclusive. The camera was sited between The Boot and Drayton's Corner.

An average of 1124 vehicle movements was recorded through the village each day

Speed:

Approx. 30% of vehicles travelled at 30mph or less

Approx. 60% of vehicles travelled at 31-40mph

Approx. 10% of vehicles travelled at over 40mph

Peak speed was measured at 56 mph

Vehicle type:

Approx. 86% of vehicles were less than 5.2m long i.e. domestic cars and vans.

Approx. 14% of vehicles were over 5.2m i.e. larger vans and lorries.

Mobility

respondents were asked what would make it easier to get around if they had mobility problems - not clarified as to whether or not respondents of these questions actually had mobility problems. These are all the individual responses given.

-  Keep vehicles off the pavements
-  Stop motorists parking on the pavements
-  Pavements
-  Lift to the Boot and back
-  Using a wheelchair it is impossible to access Sheepbridge
-  More pavements better access to footpaths
-  Not applicable to this household. However village road needs resurfacing, edges with pot holes repaired. Surface can be very slippery in places when icy

Other comments on walking, cycling and safer roads

- ▶ The most common theme was around vehicles driving too fast through the village.
- ▶ This was followed by many comments suggesting a need for more pavements/pathways.

As per the Parish Plan, we should still be trying to implement walkable grass verges throughout the village where they or pavements do not already exist. This has not been included as a survey question but it should be a key feature of any NDP.

A continuous pavement from one end of the village would protect pedestrians. Cars should be prevented or at least discouraged from parking on the pavement. Pedestrians, people with prams, dogs etc should not be forced into the road.

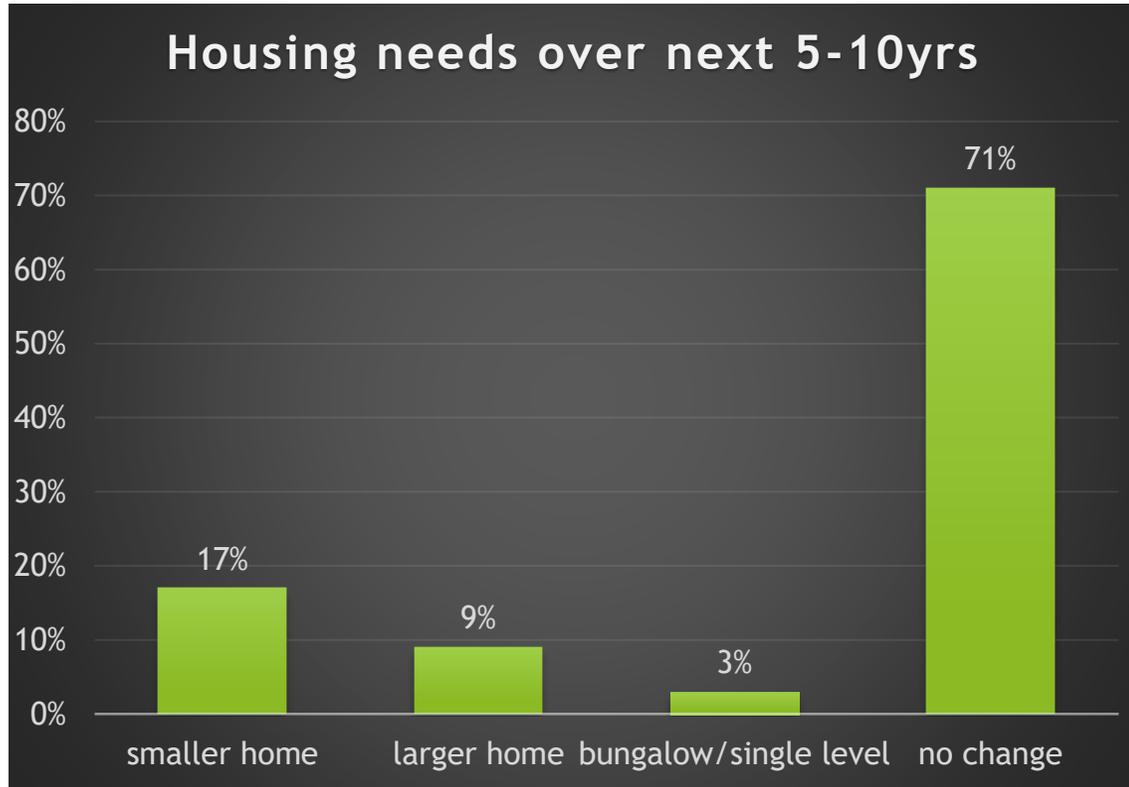
Bearing in mind much of the village has no pavement, the speed limit is crucial. No idea how to police it but people go far too fast.

The village road is becoming a danger with increasing traffic speeding through. It is a small village street

HOUSING/DEVELOPMENT

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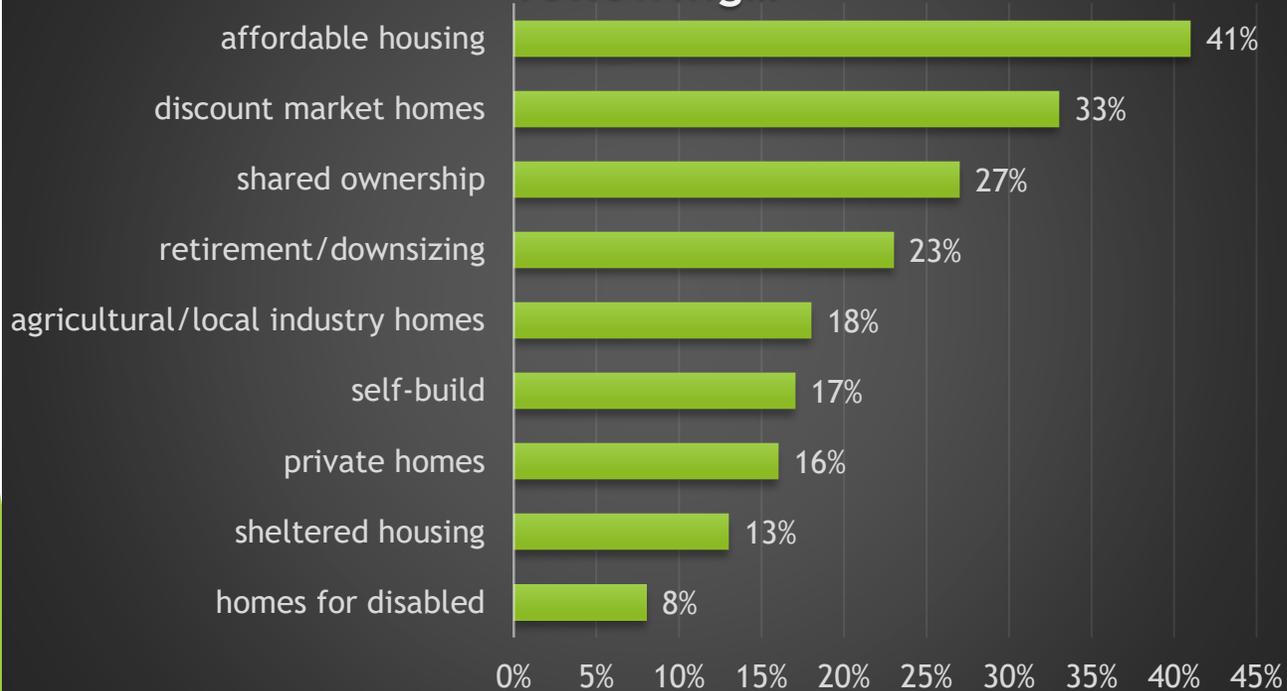
Housing needs



- 71% of respondents said that they didn't think their housing needs would change over the next 5-10 years.

Land use

Should land be identified for any of the following...



- The top three needs that were identified were
 1. affordable housing
 2. discount market homes
 3. shared ownership
- This was closely followed by retirement and downsizing yet only 17% of respondents felt that they would need a smaller home in the next 5-10 years and even less still would require a bungalow or single level property (see previous slide).

Housing comments

respondents were asked if they had any other comments on the topic of 'housing'

- ▶ 14 out of the 36 respondents to this question felt that there was already enough housing and that no further development should be permitted
- ▶ 10 out of the 36 respondents to this question felt that any further housing development should be more affordable, in particular to enable younger people to buy/live in the village.

There are too many large expensive houses being built in the village. There should be a variety of housing which will allow the village community to flourish at all levels

I think there should definitely be more affordable/local authority housing so youngsters/young families can move back to the village that have had to move away

A disgrace that only large expensive homes have been built that local people can't afford. We do not need any more millionaires driving out the working class people.

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

A postal survey carried out by Action Hampshire in April 2018

- There was a 36% response rate from residents - 77 responses
- 34% of respondents plan to move in the future and 6% have family members who plan to move
- 44% gave the need for smaller accommodation as the reason for seeking a move

Most who expressed a plan to move were seeking:

smaller accommodation

a bungalow

a detached property

3 bedrooms

Family members (19 in number) planning a move:

87% aged between 16 & 34 years old

Starting first home given as the main reason

Most wish for 1 or 2 bedroom property

£125K - £250K given as main targeted price range

Of those willing to rent - prepared to pay £500-£700 per month

5 wish to remain in the village

73% felt there were not enough suitable properties in the parish. Affordability and number of bedrooms were the main reasons, alongside the need for a wider tenure range.

77% respondents supported smaller development of 0-5 homes per year in the village.

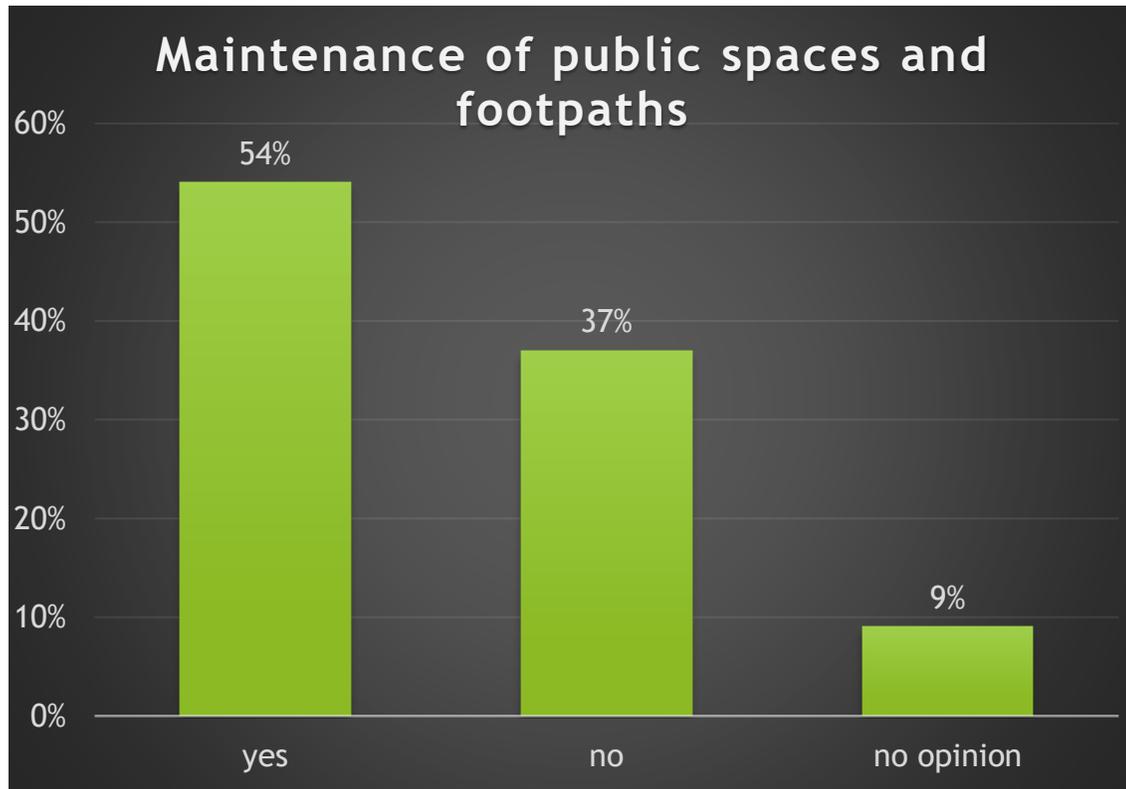
12% respondents supported development of 6-10 homes per year in the village

Few respondents supported large developments.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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Public spaces and footpaths



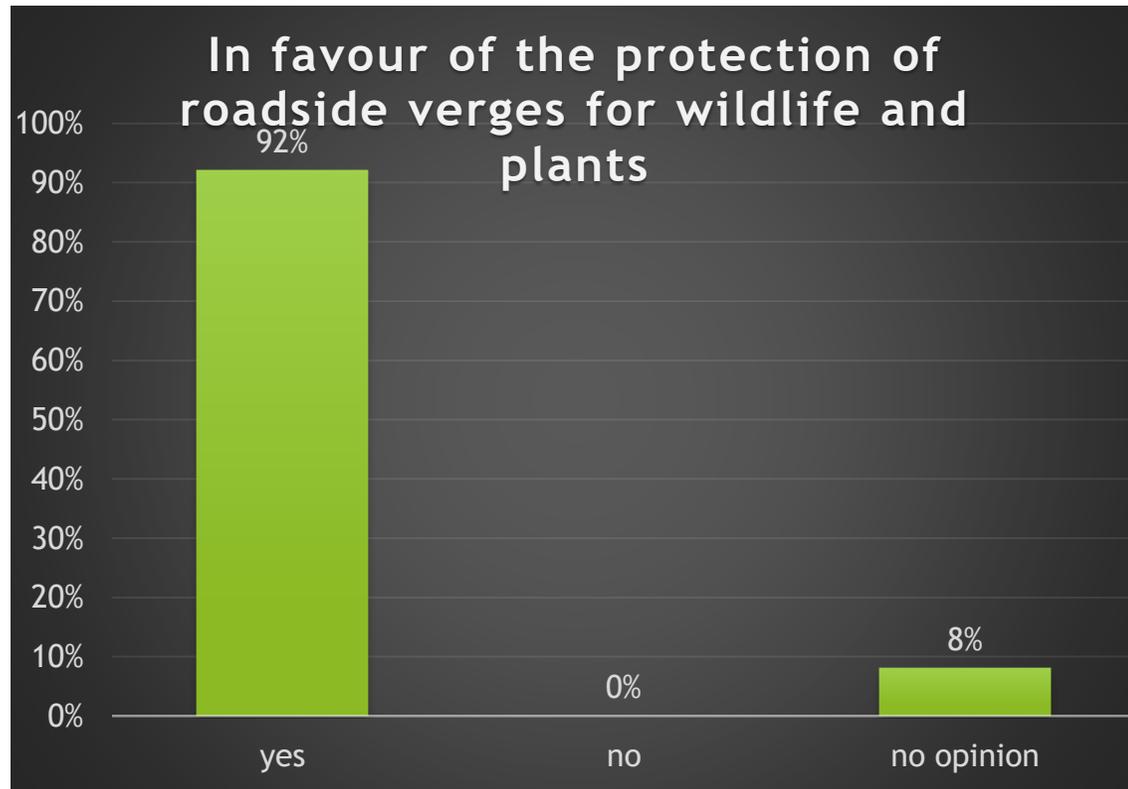
- 37% of respondents feel that the maintenance of public spaces and footpaths is inadequate.
- The most common reason for saying that areas were inadequate was due to them being overgrown.

The drove is overgrown in the summer and is difficult to use.

Stevens Drove is a mess. Hedgerows often allowed to overgrow.

Public footpaths become difficult to navigate when overgrown hedges impose

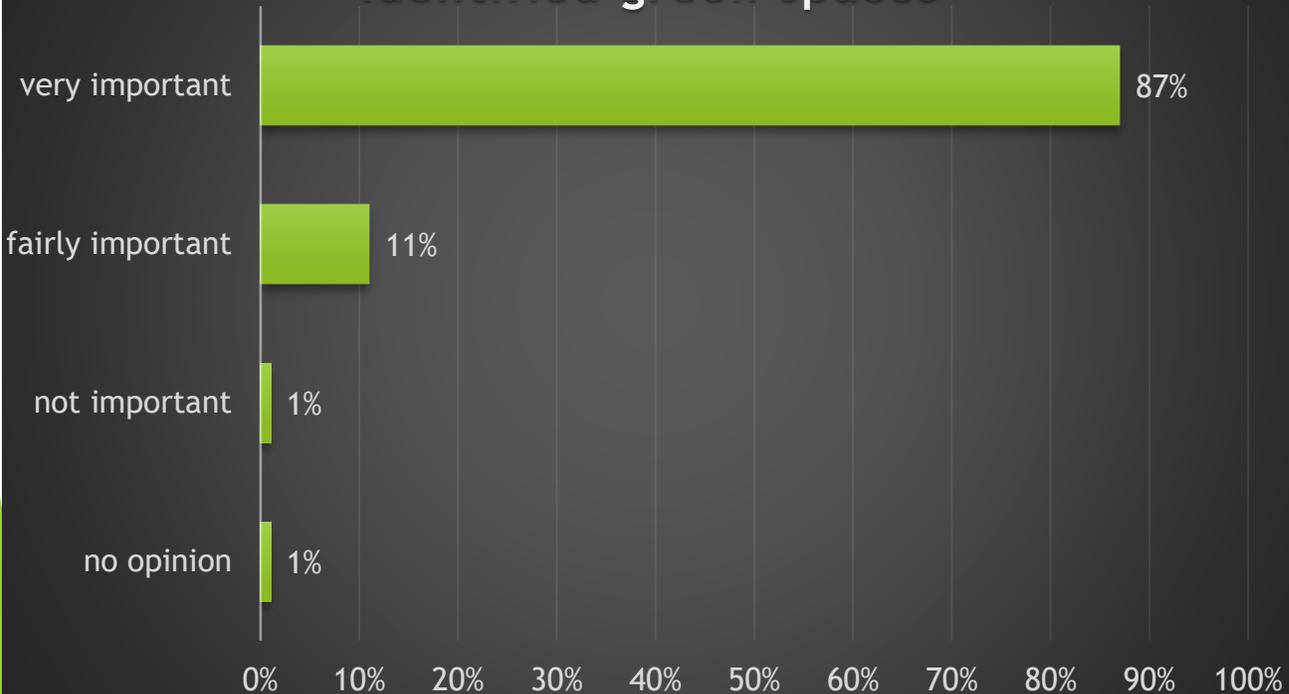
Roadside verges



- 92% of respondents feel that the roadside verges should be protected for wildlife and plants

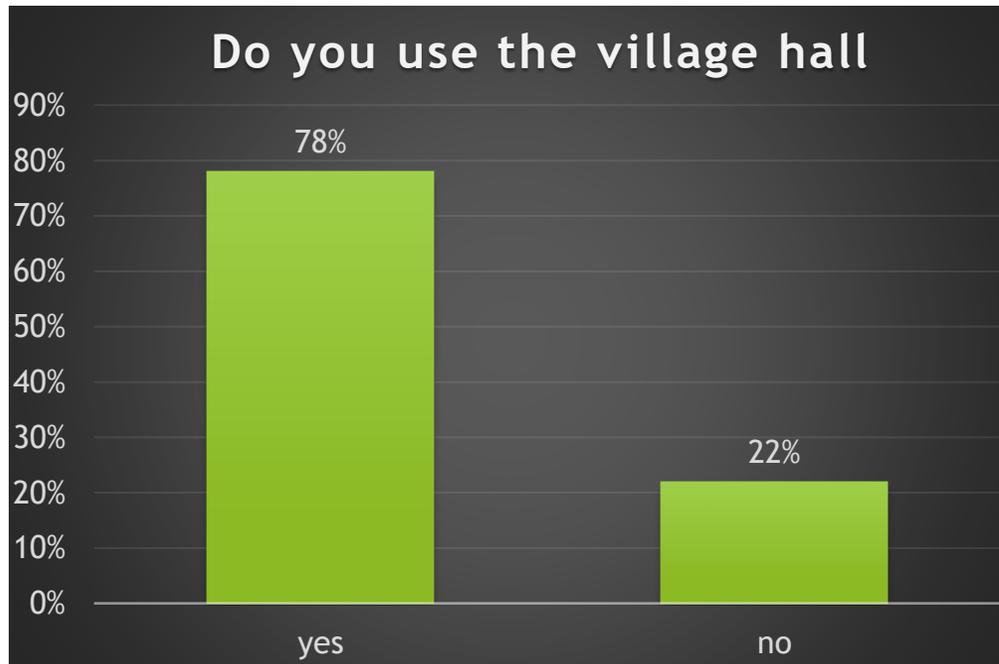
Green Spaces

How important is the protection of the identified green spaces

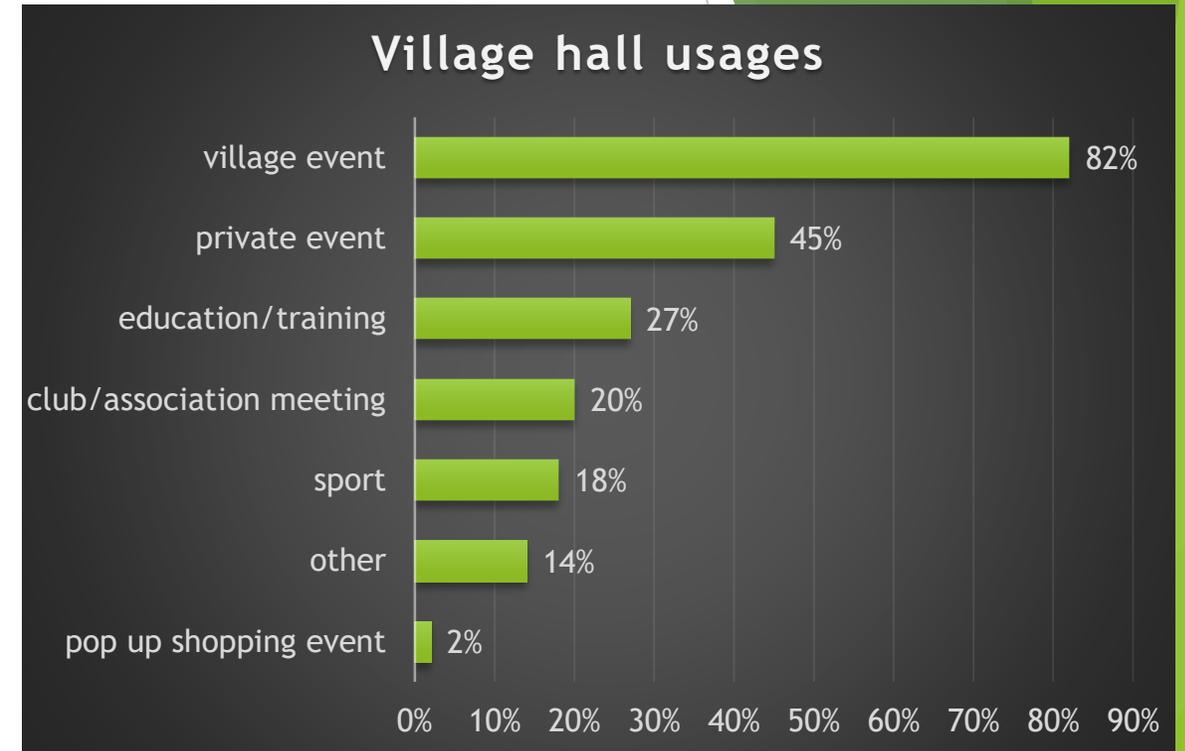


- 87% of respondents feel that it is very important that the green spaces identified in the Village Design Statement are protected.

Village hall

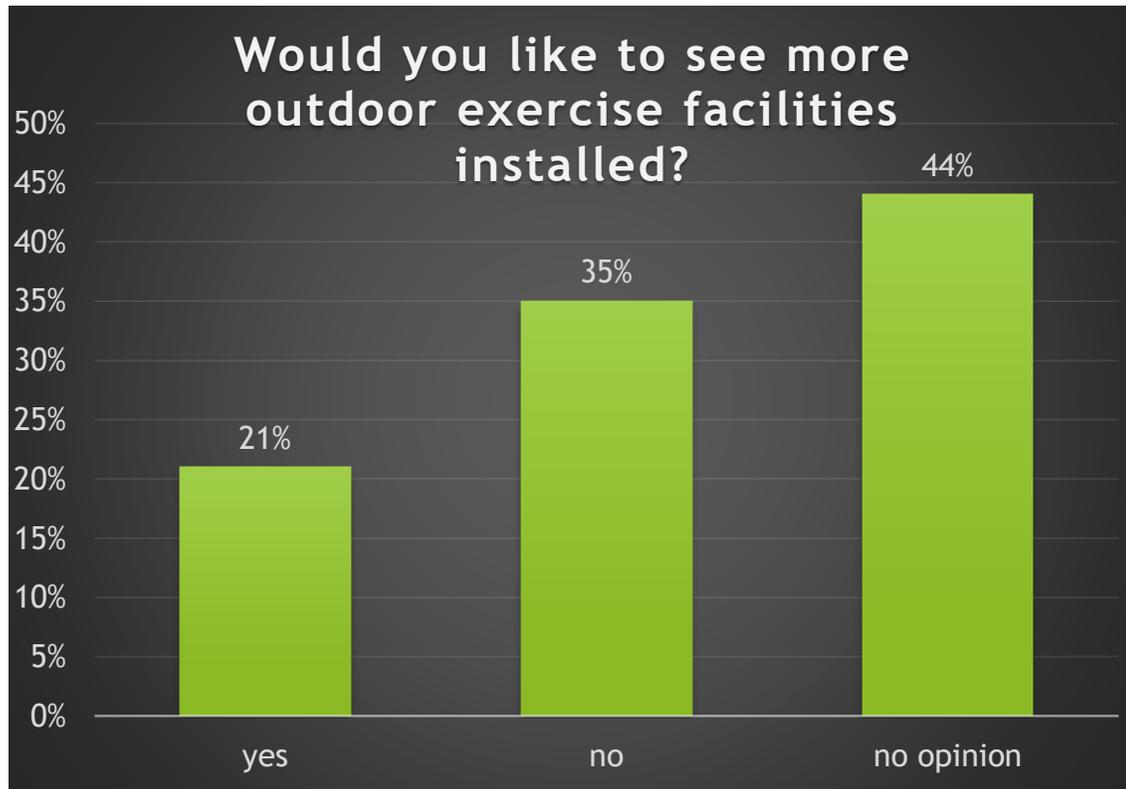


- 78% of respondents say that they use the village hall



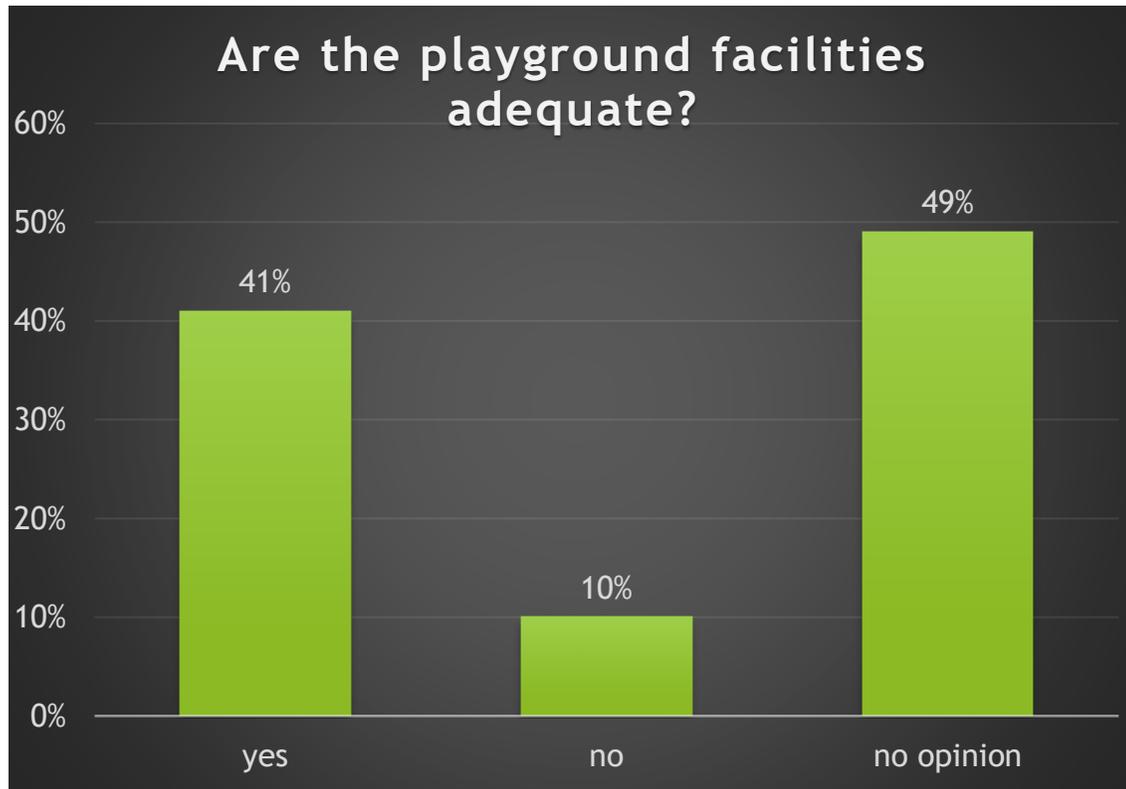
- Of those who said they do use the village hall, the most common reason given for using it was for a village event.

Outdoor exercise facilities



- 21% of respondents would like to see more outdoor facilities installed
- The most common suggestion was sports courts or pitches, particularly tennis courts
- Other suggestions included fixed exercise equipment or a trim trail

Playground facilities



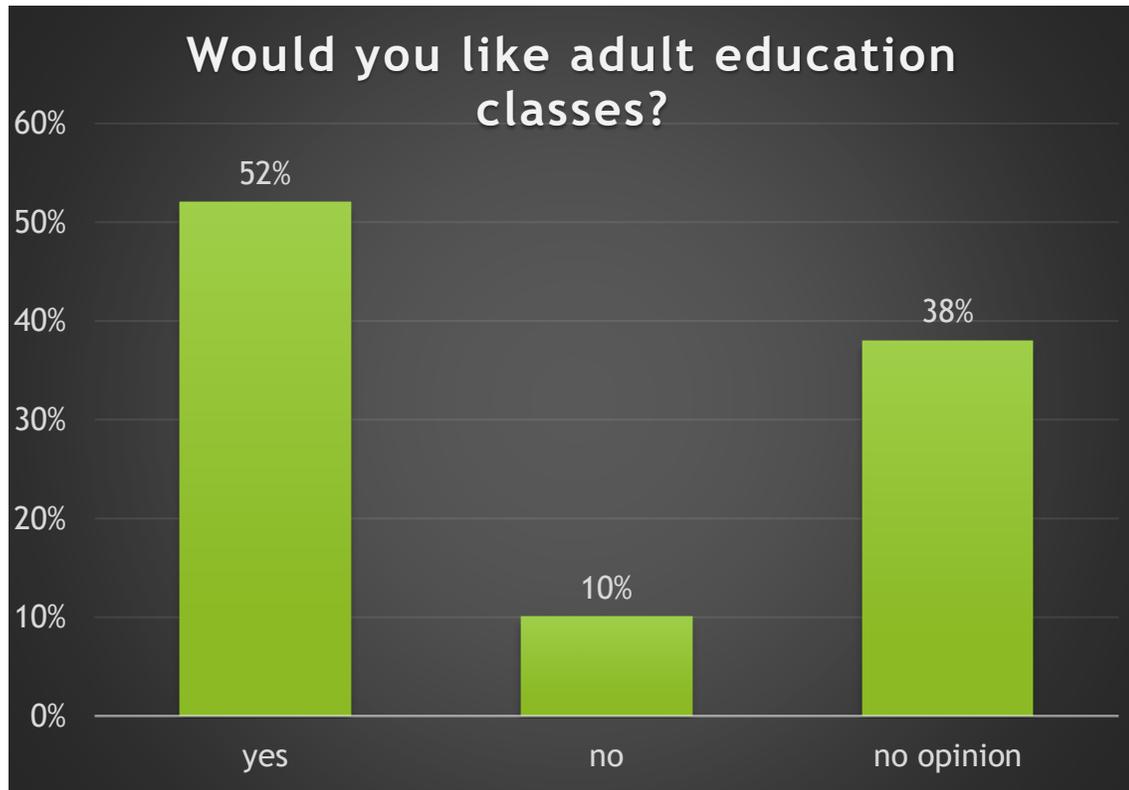
- Only 10% of respondents said that the playground facilities were NOT adequate for them or their children
- Nearly half of respondents had no opinion suggesting that the playground is not used by these.

Youth Centre



- 23% of respondents feel that there should be a youth centre
- Nearly half of respondents had no opinion on this.

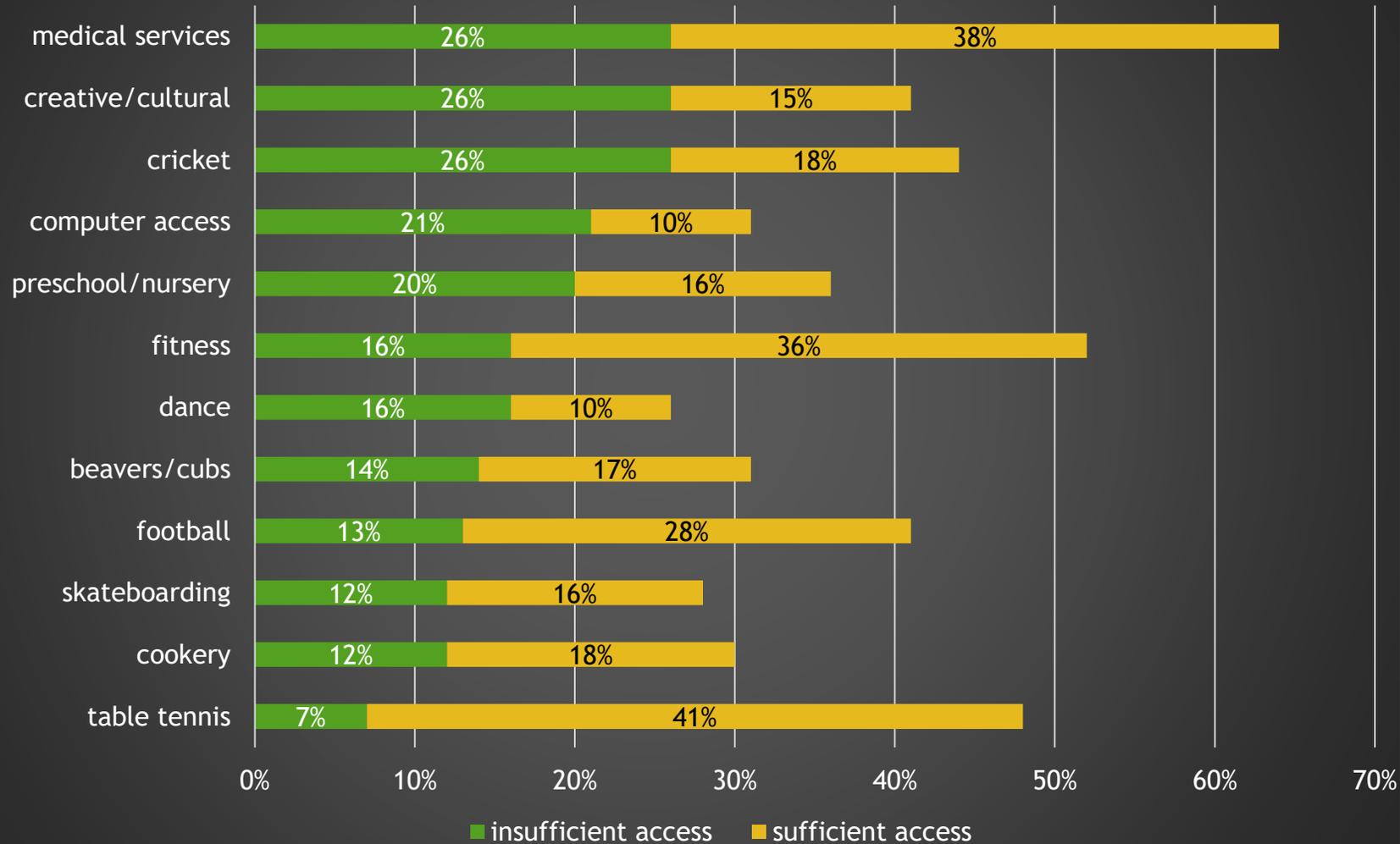
Adult education



- Over half of respondents (52%) would like to see adult education classes held in the Parish.

Access to facilities or social opportunities

Is there sufficient access to.....?

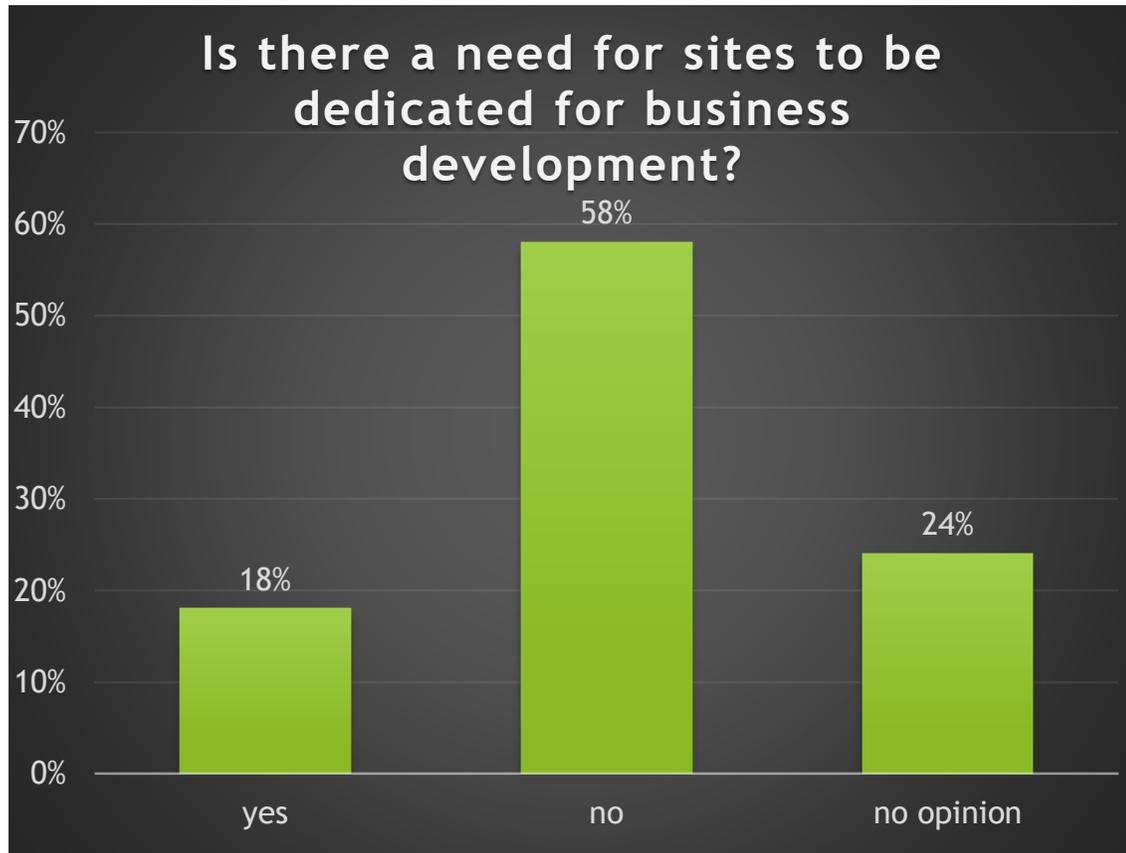


- The top three things that came out as having insufficient access were
 - medical services (this also scored highly on having sufficient access - opinion quite divided on this one)
 - creative/cultural activities
 - cricket
- These percentages are based on all respondents (including those with no opinion)

Business and general infrastructure

The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles and polygons of various shades, ranging from light lime green to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily concentrated on the right side of the frame, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The rest of the background is plain white.

Business development



- The majority of people do not feel that there is a need for sites within the Parish to be dedicated for business development.

Requirements for business premises

Note there are currently small business sites within the parish

Local business would revitalise a village which at the moment is top heavy with older people

There are many disused or frequently available units already around the village. They should be utilised rather than allowing further development

There are sufficient ex agricultural buildings etc

Excellent use has been made in recent years by rotation of former farm buildings

Stockbridge has facilities

I don't believe there is a need

No need for a business site - ok to apply under normal planning regs

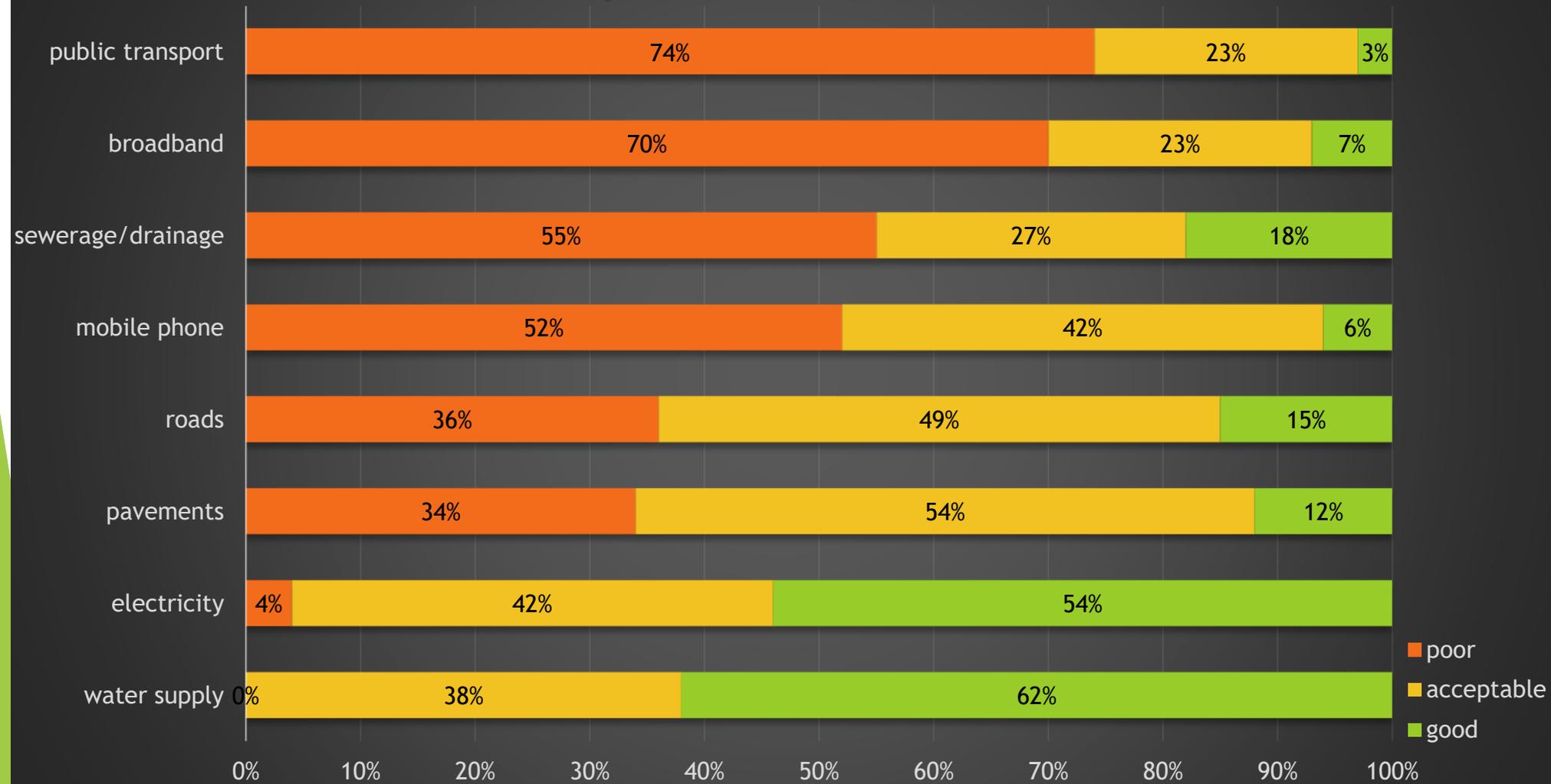
We need to create local employment to reduce the need to travel and to promote skill sharing, mutual support and social cohesiveness

A small shop would be ideal

Stevens Drove business there already

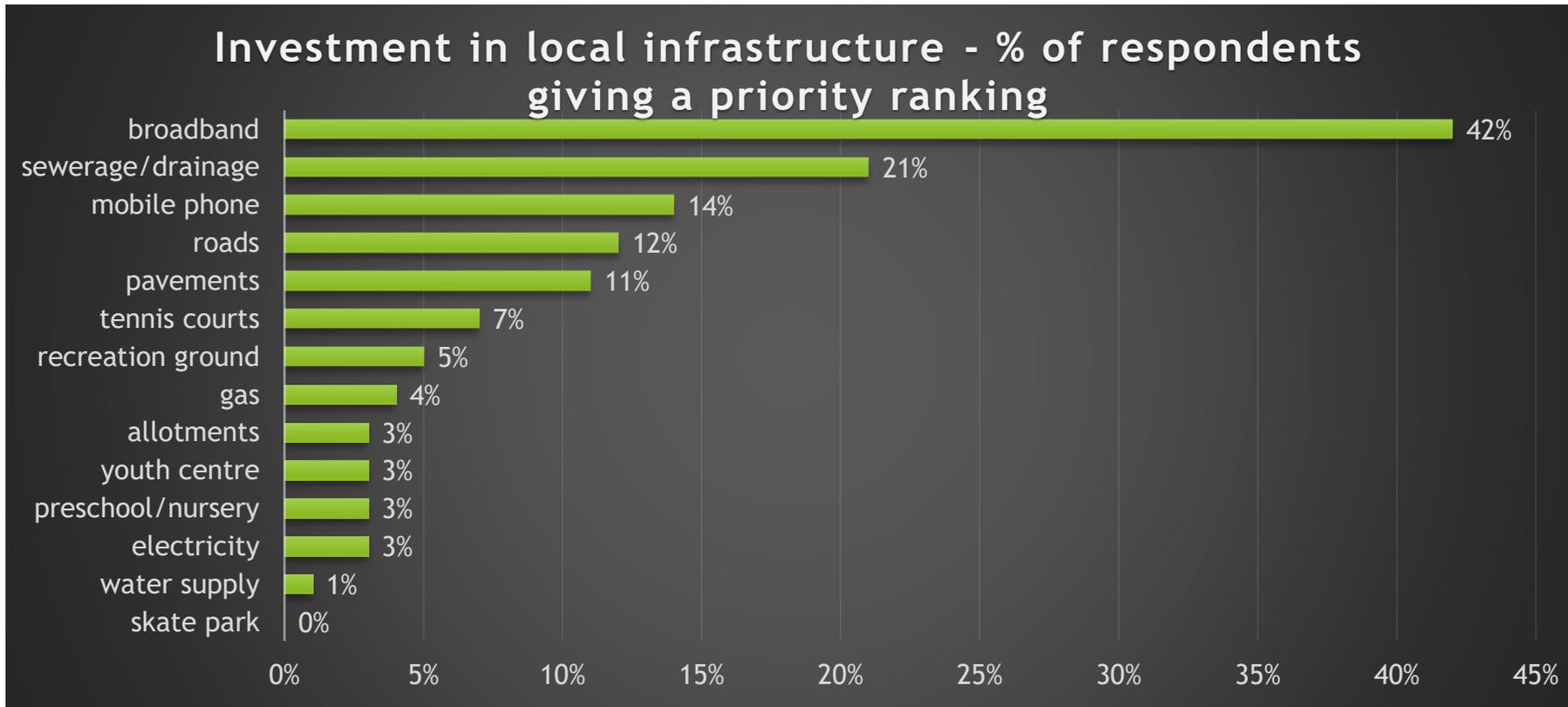
Infrastructure rating

Please tell us what you think about the infrastructure where you live



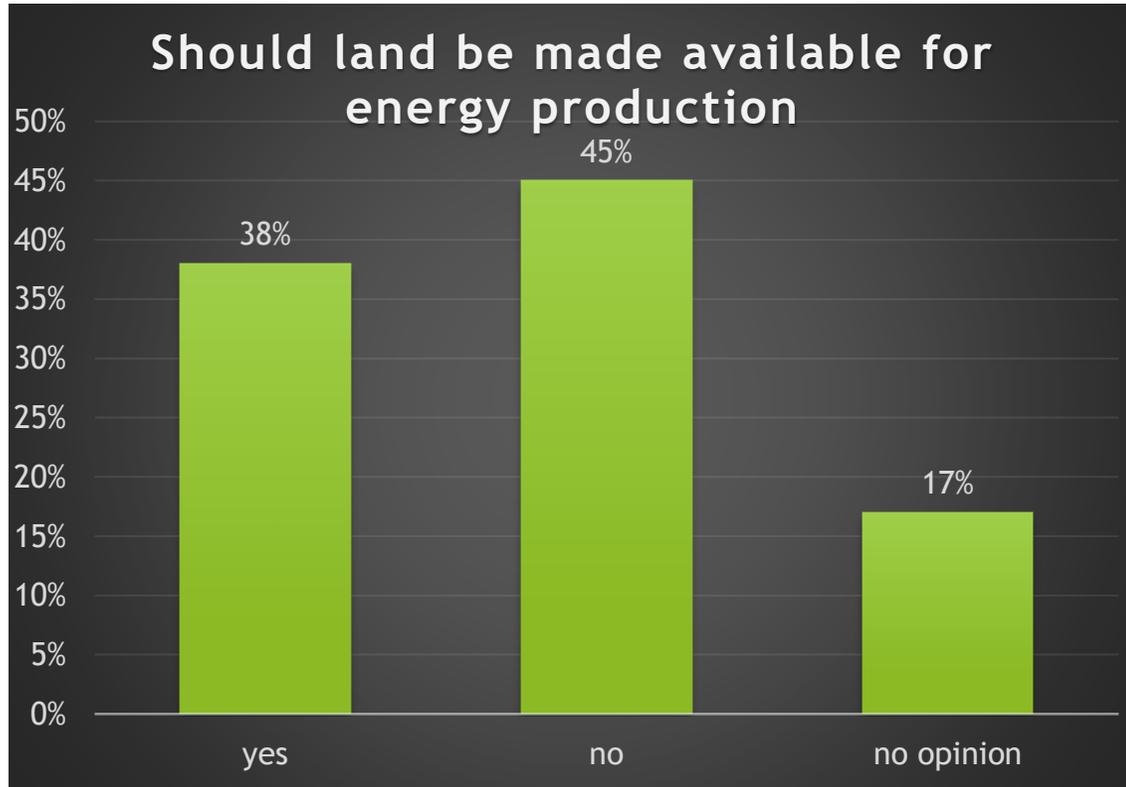
- Public transport is rated the worst with 74% of respondents saying it is “poor”.
- 70% of respondents said that broadband was “poor”.
- Water supply and electricity are rated the highest.

Investment in local infrastructure



- Broadband is considered the priority for investment in local infrastructure amongst respondents
- This was followed by sewerage and drainage

Energy production



- Over a third of respondents believe that the Neighbourhood Plan should support land being made available for energy production.
- Amongst those answering yes, the most favourable option for energy production was geothermal solar.

Opinions or comments on Business and Infrastructure

Respondents' comments were predominantly around energy production (previous question). The main feelings were that there was already a large solar farm in the village and so no further sites should be added. Also respondents were averse to fracking.

Large solar farm already built. No need for further energy production

Absolutely no to fracking

No wind farm but hydroelectric would be acceptable. No to fracking as not renewable

What is most valued about living in Houghton

The top response for what is most valued about living in Houghton referred to **THE PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY FEEL.**

This was followed by...

- ▶ The character of the village
- ▶ Peace and quiet
- ▶ Recreational activities (walking/cycling etc.)

The relative peace and tranquility of the area

Attractiveness and quiet of village

Active community

Friends and neighbours who have been so helpful this last month.

Community spirit

Rural, quiet, not surrounded by large housing developments

Enjoy countryside walks

Community engagement as newcomers made to feel welcome and encourage to join in

What is most disliked about living in Houghton

The top response for the what is most disliked about living in Houghton was regarding the **inappropriate/over development including loss of habitat and conservation areas.**

This was followed by...

- ▶ Having no shop
- ▶ Slow broadband
- ▶ Lack of affordable homes
- ▶ Poor public transport
- ▶ Vehicles driving too fast

Vulnerability to planning applications due to a settlement boundary which was too widely drawn

At present nothing. However, should more development take place it will spoil the nature and feel of the village

No facilities, doctor surgery, shop etc

Speeding traffic not observing speed limit

Recent over development which is not in keeping and changes the character forever

Increasingly affluent with little attention paid to lower cost housing for young and old alike

Lack of public transport - useful to get to Stockbridge and back

No post office/shop for newspapers and milk

Poor tech communications - mobile phone/broadband

Summary

- ▶ 74% of respondents believe that the village speed of 30mph is about right
- ▶ 71% of respondents didn't think their housing needs would change in the next 5-10 years
- ▶ The top three needs that were identified for land use were affordable housing, discount market homes and shared ownership schemes
- ▶ Respondents either commented on there being enough development already in the village or that development should be for more affordable homes, particularly to help younger people buy/live in the village.
- ▶ 37% of respondents feel that the maintenance of public spaces and footpaths is inadequate - the main reason for this response was due to them being overgrown.
- ▶ 92% of respondents feel that the roadside verges should be protected for wildlife and plants.
- ▶ 87% of respondents feel that it is very important that the green spaces identified in the Village Design Statement are protected.
- ▶ The village hall is used by many, mainly for a village event or a private event.
- ▶ Only 21% of respondents would like to see the installation of more outdoor exercise facilities.
- ▶ The playground facilities are considered to be adequate.
- ▶ The majority of respondents either didn't see a need for a youth centre or had no opinion on the matter.
- ▶ Over half of respondents (52%) would like to see adult education classes held in the Parish.
- ▶ Respondents would like to see investment in the broadband services as well as sewerage and drainage.
- ▶ Opinion was quite divided as to whether or not it was felt that land should be made available for energy production - there was a common feeling that the solar farm in the village was enough.
- ▶ "People and the community" was what came across as being most valued about living in the village.
- ▶ "Inappropriate/over development including loss of habitat and conservation areas" was the top reason given for what was most disliked about living in the village.

HOUGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

VISION

The village of Houghton will be a peaceful and tranquil village with a strong sense of community. It will have maintained its rural character, protected its heritage and be surrounded by accessible unspoilt countryside.

OBJECTIVES

Built environment

To conserve the rural character of the village and to preserve and enhance the things that are valued by the people of Houghton such as its peace and tranquillity.

To ensure that any future development is in keeping with the rural setting and meets the needs of the community.

To protect the conservation area, important buildings and open spaces.

To ensure that any future development takes account of the impact on the community including infrastructure and amenities.

Community

To protect the recreational areas and access to open countryside.

To protect and enhance the community facilities.

Potential priorities to be taken forward by working groups

- ▶ Housing and land use
- ▶ Community including green spaces
- ▶ Infrastructure including energy production
- ▶ Traffic