



Operation Awesome Village

Little Budworth Parish Plan

Provisional Results

22nd October 2013



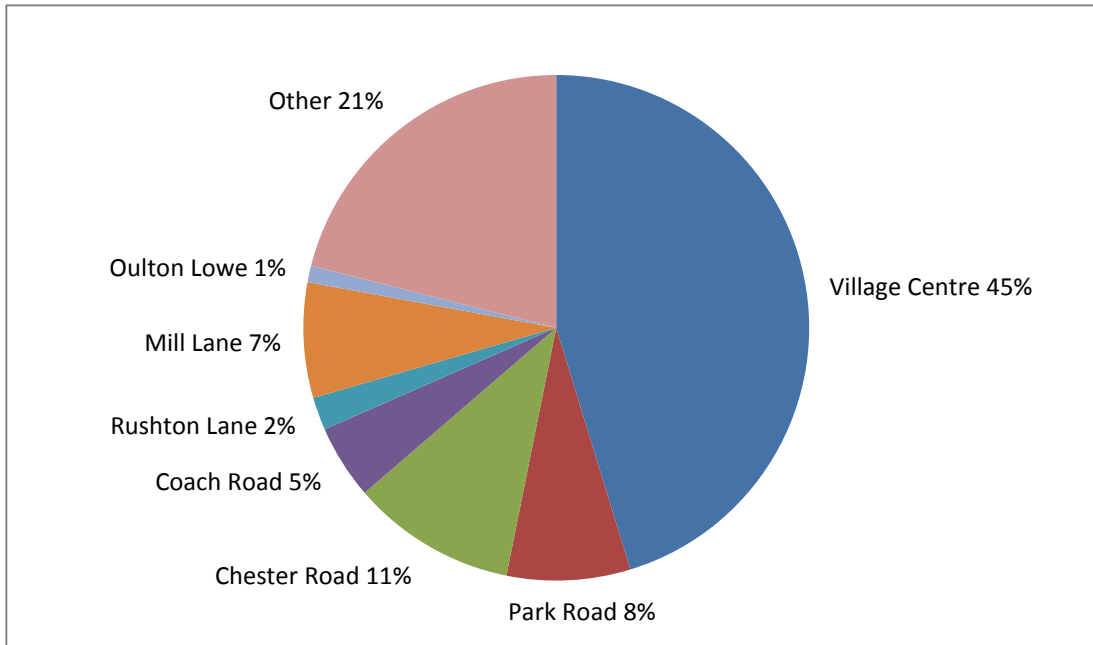
General Information

Total number of surveys distributed: 263

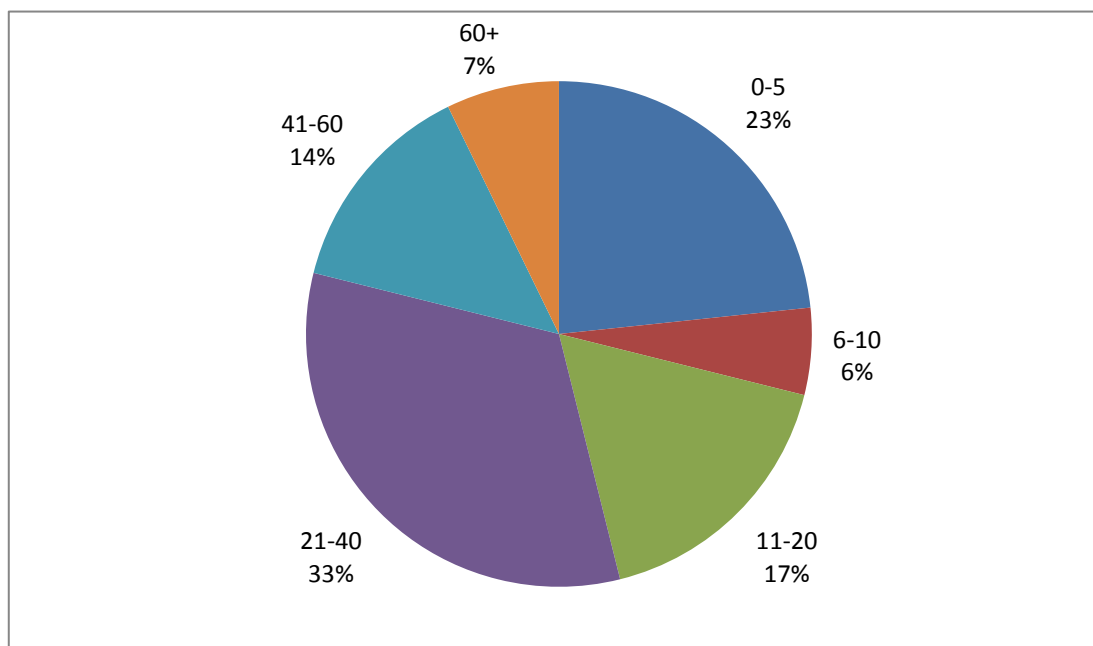
Total number of surveys returned: 192

Return rate: 73%

Where do the respondents live?

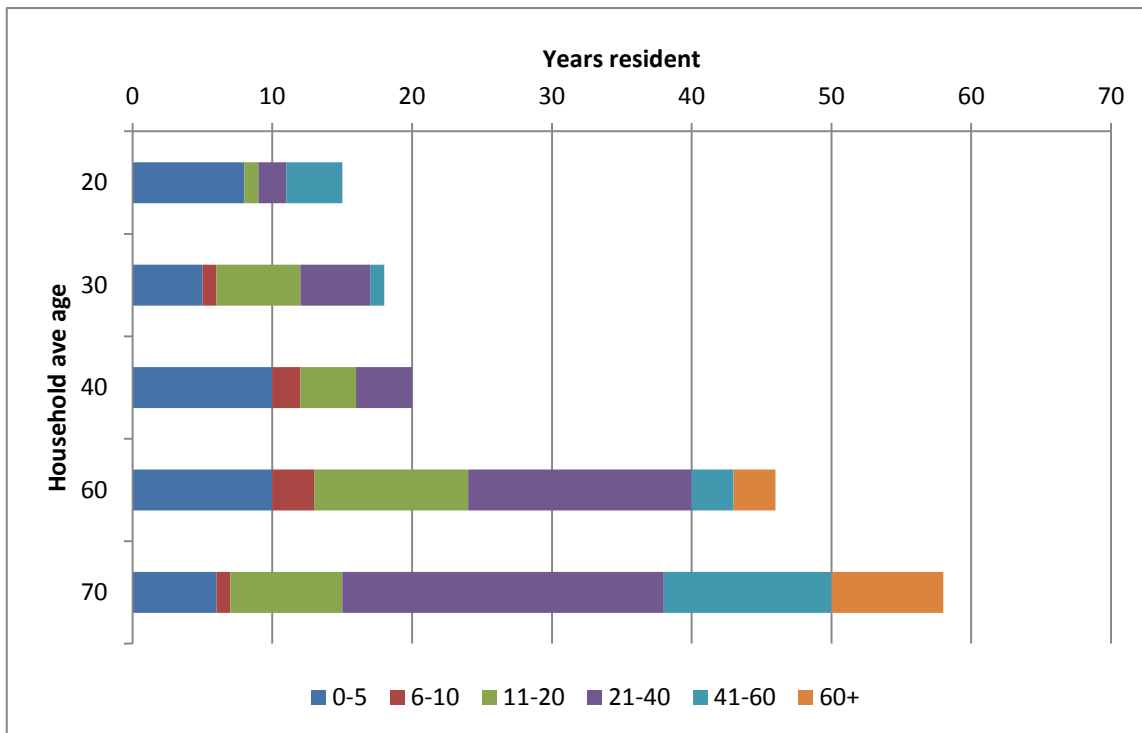


How many years has the longest standing resident lived in the parish?



General Information (continued)

What is the average age of the household and how long have they lived here?



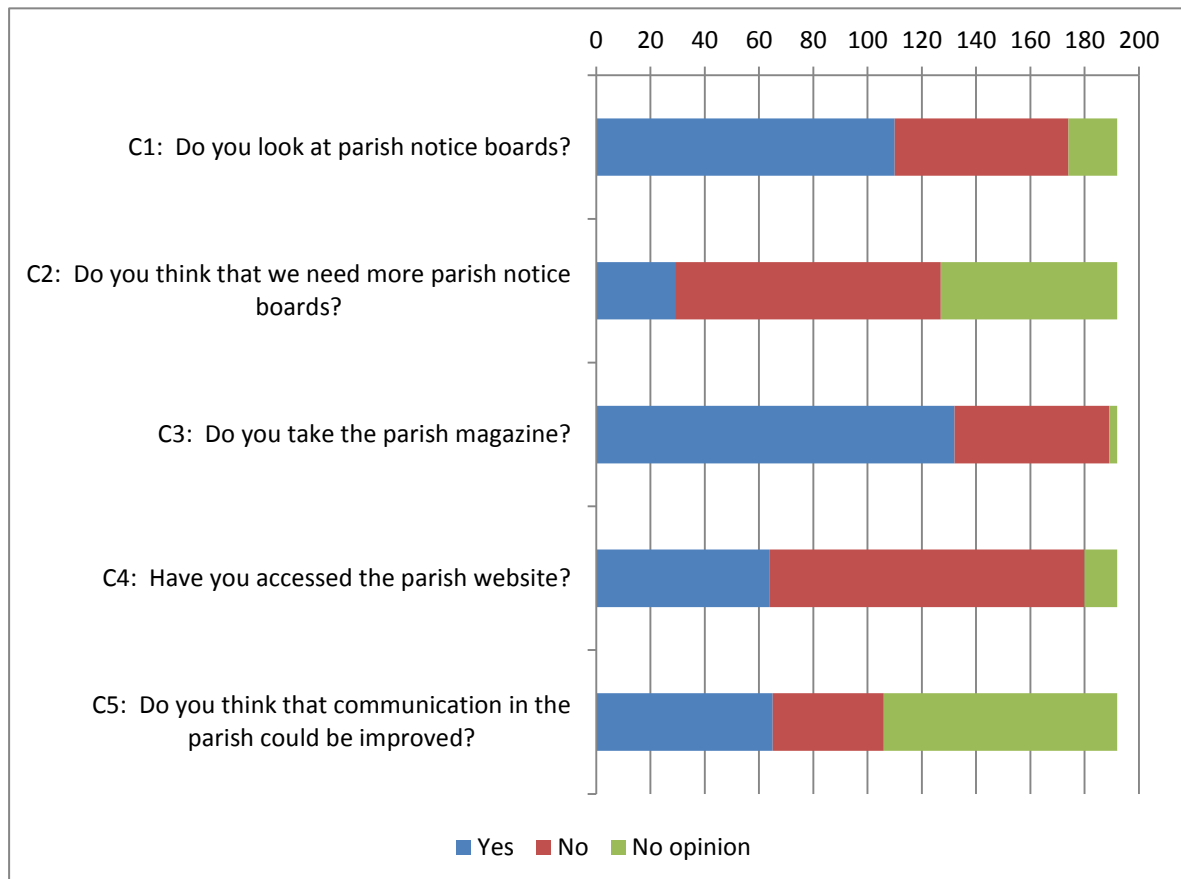
(Where indicated in the survey return)

Additional information

- There has been an excellent response to the survey, with representation from all areas of the parish.
- There is a balance of long standing residents and those who are relatively new to the parish.
- Although there are a large proportion of elderly residents who have lived in the parish for a long time, there is a significant proportion of residents in the 40-70 age group who have lived in the parish for 0-5 years (this is represented by the dark blue bar at the left hand side of the graph).

Communication

Residents were asked about communications in the village.....

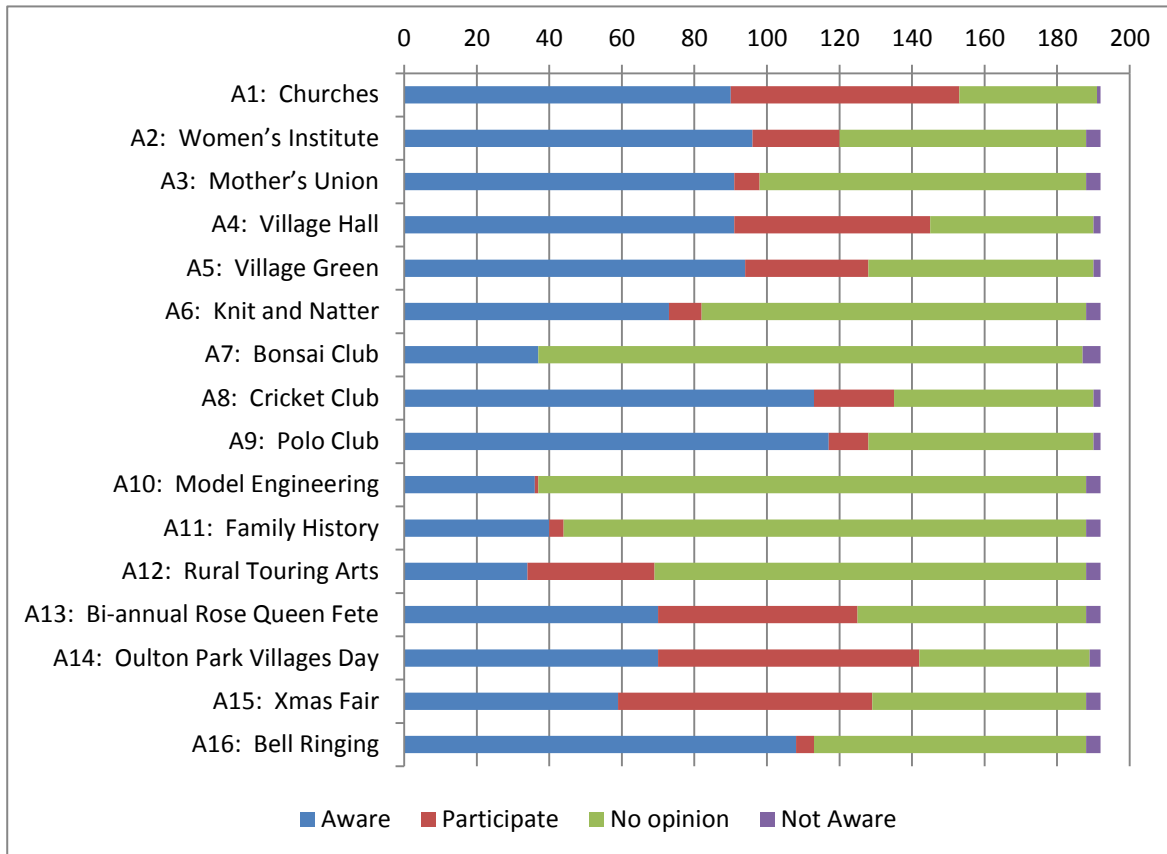


Additional information

- The parish notice boards are looked at by residents, but it might be interesting to know if those who do, live in the village.
- The parish website is not being accessed and this requires further analysis.
- Contrary to the response to question C5, comments made support a general improvement in parish communication. Further action should be considered and is supported by a selection of comments made:
 - More detail on noticeboards.
 - Free residents newsletter to each household, possibly emailed. Bulletins like 'homewatch'. A single A4 sheet would be about right.
 - Those in outlying areas find it hard to find out what is going on in the parish.
 - Some presented information on notice boards and in magazine is not current.
 - Greater use of email and the internet for the notification of events etc.
 - More noticeboards; for example on the A54 near the Shrewsbury Arms for visitors, or in the Hollies.
 - Convert the telephone box in the village into in information point.

Activities, associations, clubs and societies

Residents were asked about their participation in activities, associations, clubs and societies....

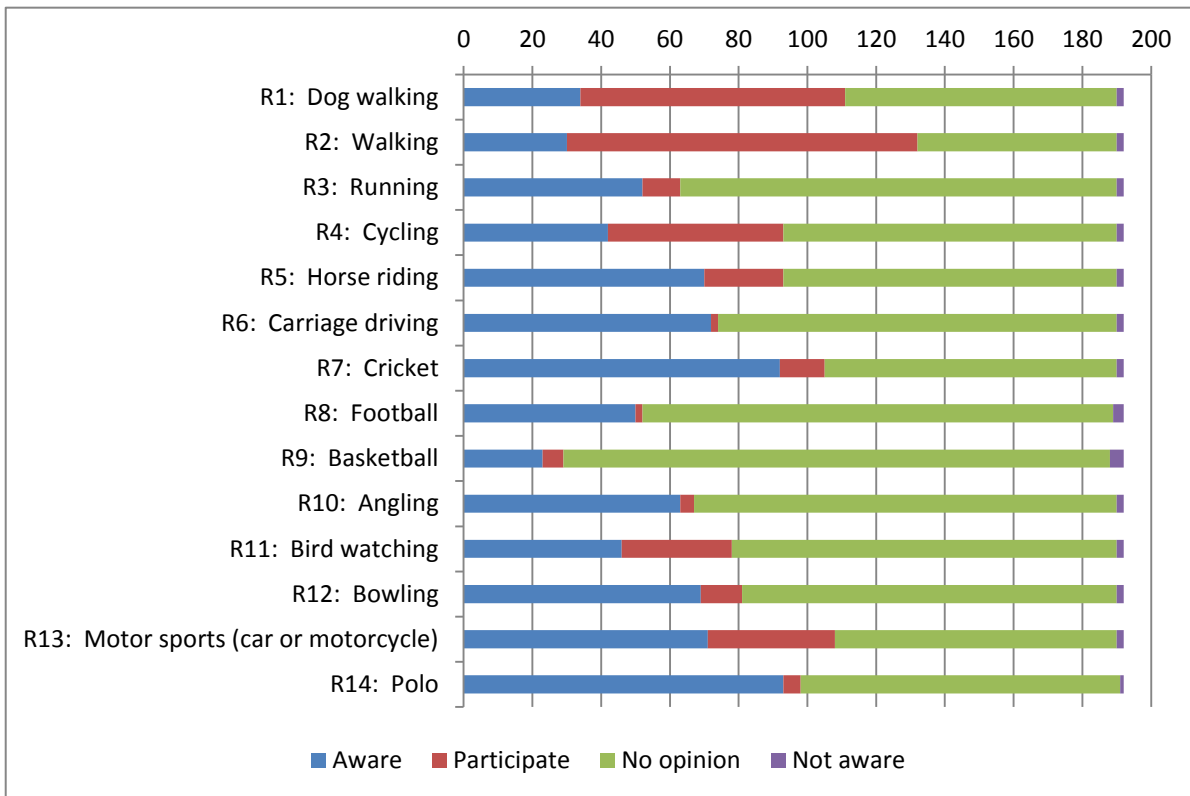


Additional information

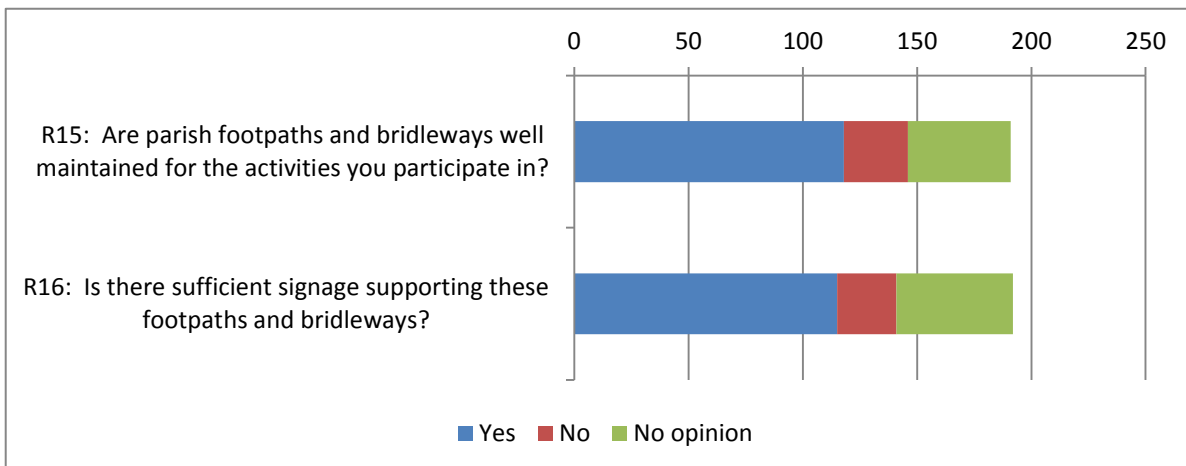
- This is useful information for the clubs listed who may wish to swell their numbers.
- To facilitate this, a 'Society Festival' could be run to encourage residents to find out more about activities in the parish and actively participate in them.
- The Society Festival could also be used to promote participation in community led initiatives (i.e. Snow Angels)
- Comments made in this section have been summarised below (greater detail exists for those who wish to be informed). This will give a view of new clubs or societies which there is interest in, but will require volunteers to initiate. The Society Festival would be an opportunity to gauge 'real' interest.
 - Youth activities; Sunday school, youth club, swings and more adventure structures on the common, sport coaching, holiday play schemes, games organised on the village green, beavers, scouts, skateboard area.
 - Clubs; gardening, photography, rambling, coffee mornings, cycling, table tennis, basket ball, football, bridge, walking, wildlife / birdwatching, drama.
 - Sports and fitness activities; badminton, tennis, Pilates, yoga, keep fit, aerobics.
 - Classes; Apple mac, computer, dance, watercolour, art, line dances, painting, basic DIY, languages, photography, zumba, flower arranging, sewing, baking, ballroom, local history.
 - Book swapping, fundraising (cheese and wine) in village hall, social evenings for the elderly, touring arts get booked up too quickly, car boot sales.
 - Evening and afternoon.

Sport and Recreation

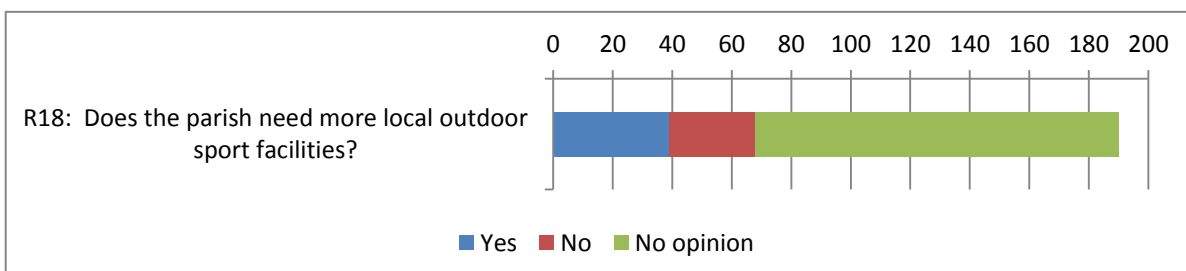
Residents were asked about their participation in sports clubs and activities....



Footpaths and bridleways.....

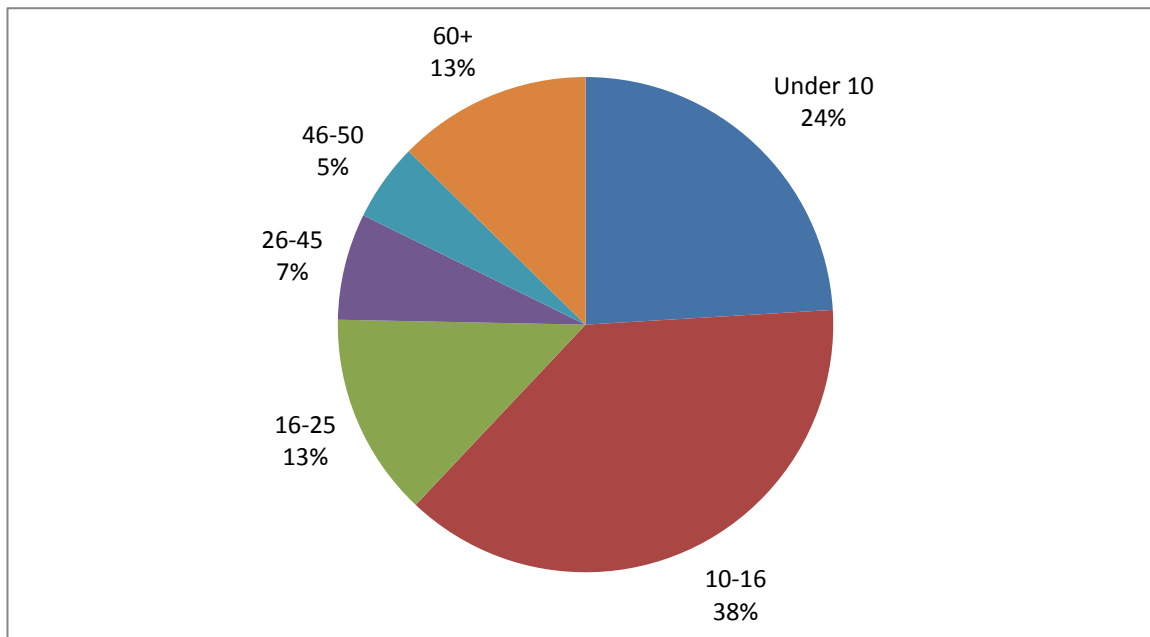


Regarding outdoor sport facilities.....

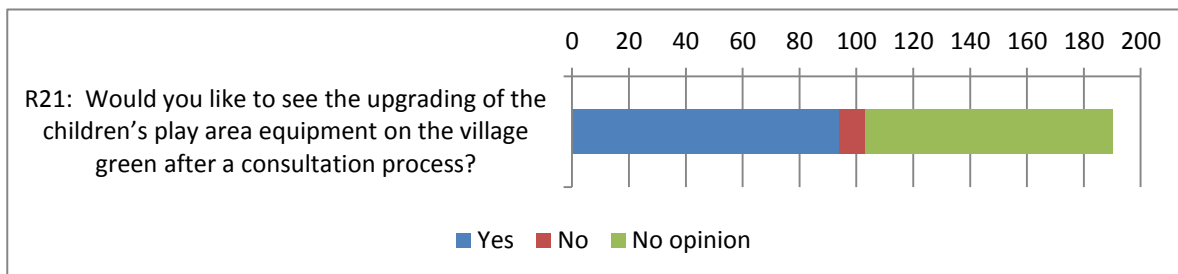


Sport and Recreation (continued)

Which age group(s) need more recreation facilities?



Regarding the village green play area equipment.....

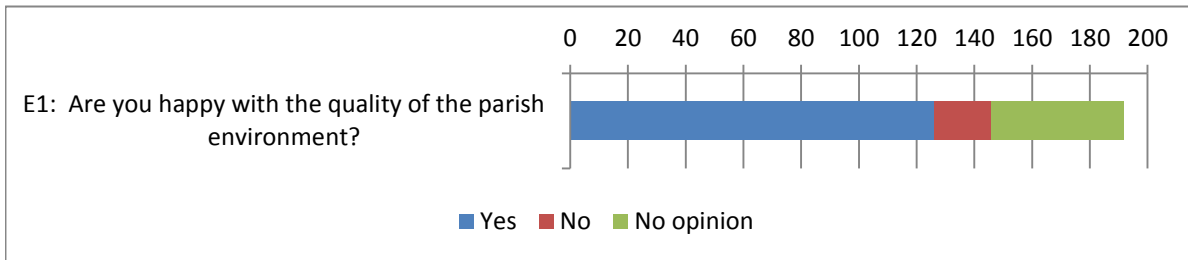


Additional information

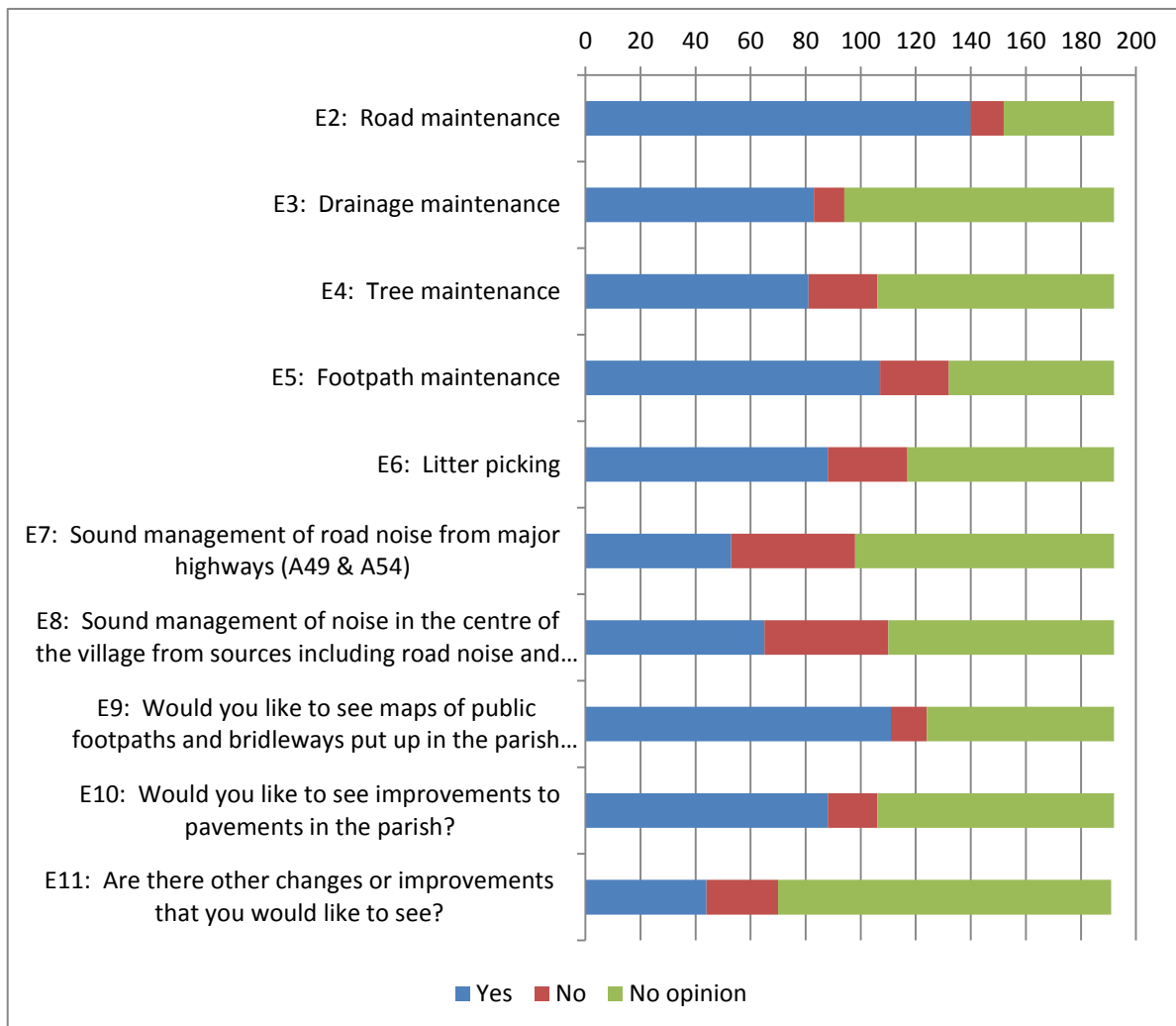
- Again, this is useful information for the clubs and activities listed who may wish to swell their numbers. The 'Society Festival' idea applies.
- Generally, footpaths and bridleways are sufficiently maintained. Later responses indicate general support for a community led initiative to maintain footpaths (CL7) and volunteers have offered their services in this area (CL7). Organised activities in this regard should be considered.
- There is not strong opinion with respect to additional outdoor sports facilities.
- Responses indicate that children and teenagers require more recreation facilities. Although unsurprising, this could be cross referenced with those specifically in that age group to make sure this is real and not the wishes of parents and grandparents.
- Those in the 60+ range also expressed a desire for more activities. This reflects the proportion of the population in this age range and may help to influence the start up of new activities
- Comments made in this section regarding other clubs and activities:
 - Sports; table tennis, bowls, slides and swings, multi use sports court, tennis, football, rugby,
 - Clubs and activities; nature walks, crafts, drama, crafts, music and dance, Cookery gardening for children, support for older people meeting up for coffee and lunches, den building / forest walks, treasure hunts.

Environment

Residents were asked about our local environment....

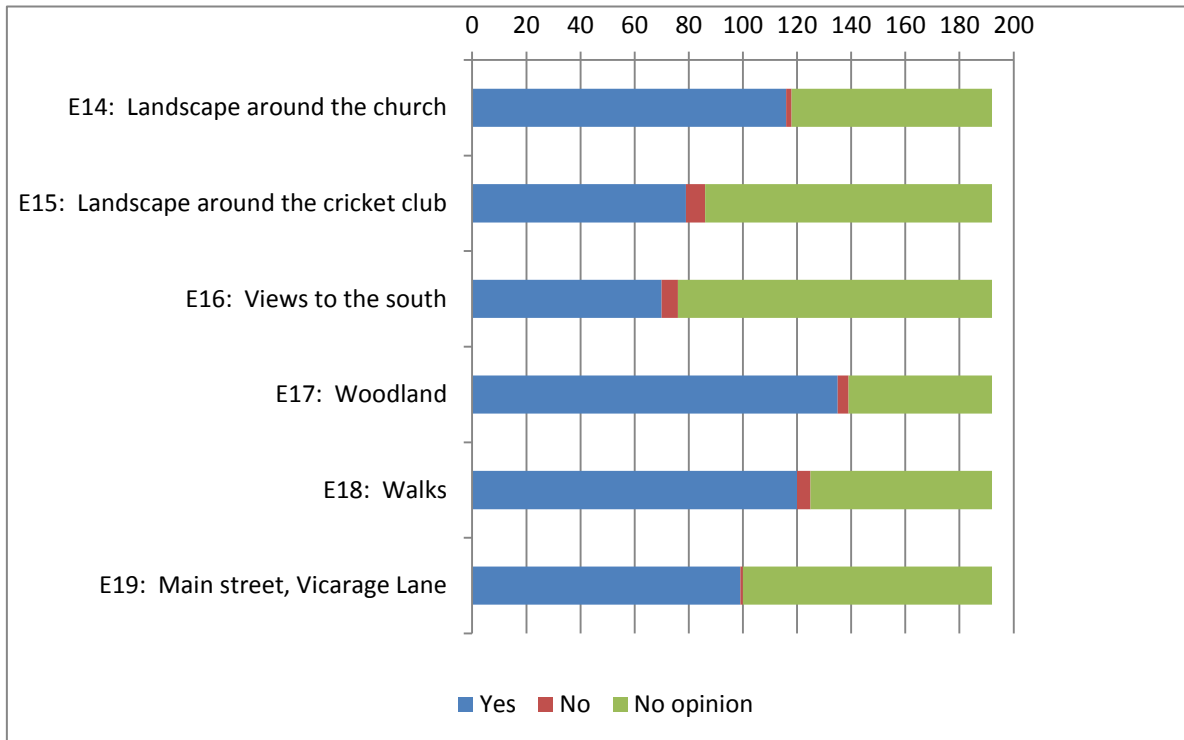


Would residents like to see improvements in.....?



Environment (continued)

What defines our 'spirit of place'



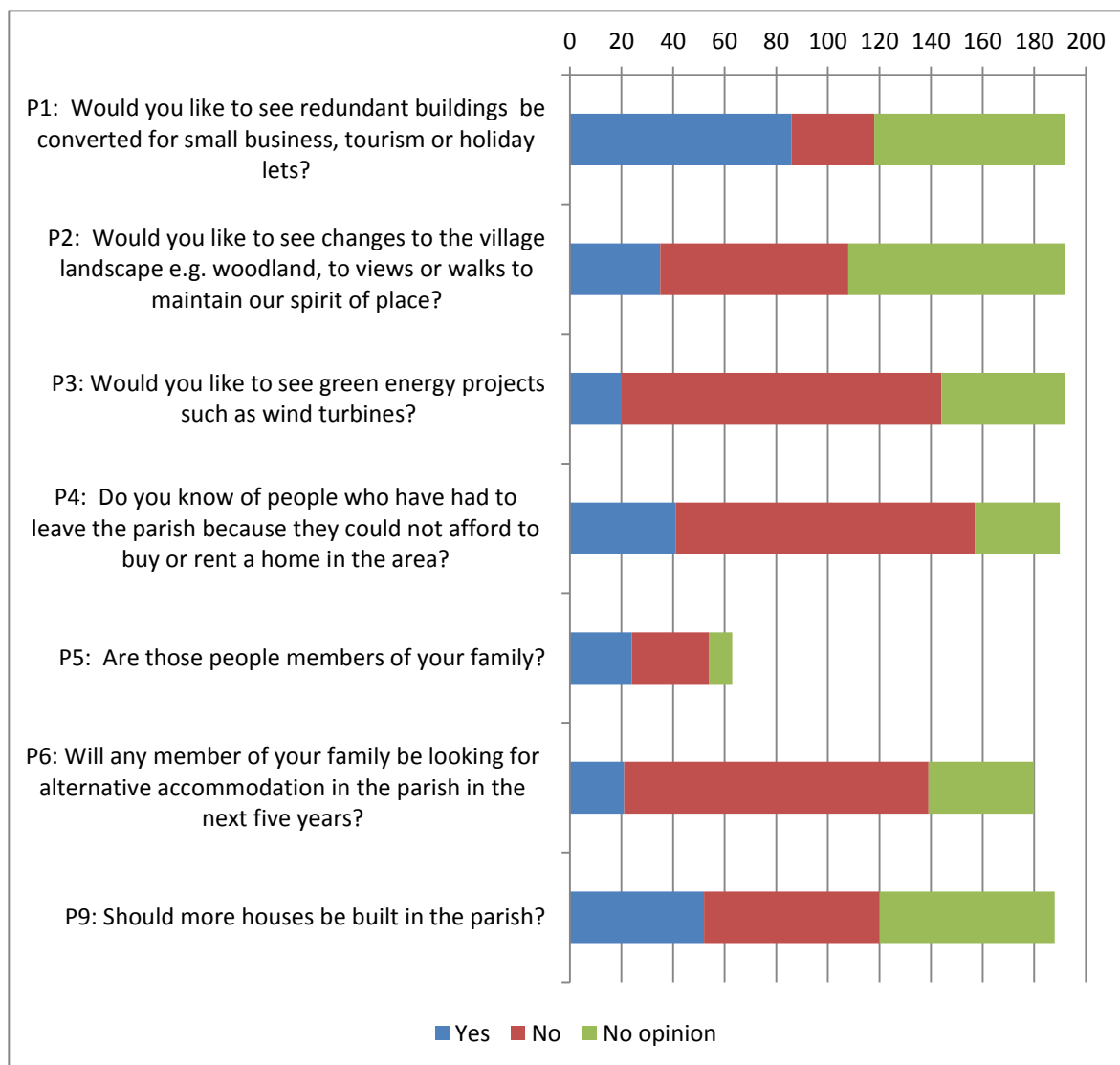
Additional information

- Another positive here. Generally those surveyed are happy with the quality of the parish environment, with a large proportion willing to express an opinion.
- Of the improvements suggested general maintenance of the environment was supported. There was a relatively high response to the subject of road maintenance which could result in a specific pressure group being formed.
- Again, later responses indicate general support for a community led initiative to maintain footpaths (CL7) and volunteers have offered their services in this area (CL7). Part of this activity could address the desire for maps of public footpaths and bridleways to be put up.
- Comments made regarding the environment:
 - Improvements could be made to street furniture, street lamps and signage, dog waste bins, flowers and hanging baskets though village and at entrances, overhanging hedges, litter picking, reduction in heavy traffic through the village.
- From the responses received, the concept of 'spirit of place' as a way of describing the essence of the parish resonated with respondents. The opinions expressed will help to describe and record that essence in our Parish Plan.
- Resident responses regarding 'spirit of place':
 - Quiet and tranquil, care for each other, mixed age community activities, old English village remains almost unspoilt, farmland rural, friendly and welcoming, off the beaten track, not a passing through route, sense of peace, beautiful vistas, rural approach to the village, beautiful woodland on our doorstep.

Planning and Housing

Little Budworth parish lies within open countryside where traditionally development has been restricted by housing and planning policies. The parish plan cannot directly influence these policies nor development proposals as they come forward, however it can help in terms of understanding the views of residents on the future of the village and setting out actions to help communicate these views to the parish council and local authority.

Residents were asked about our local planning and housing....



Planning and Housing (continued)

What type of housing is required.....?



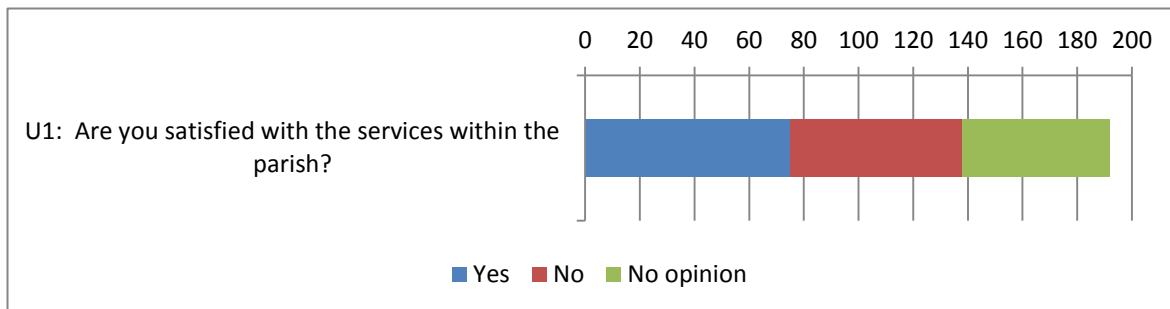
(Where indicated in the survey return)

Additional information

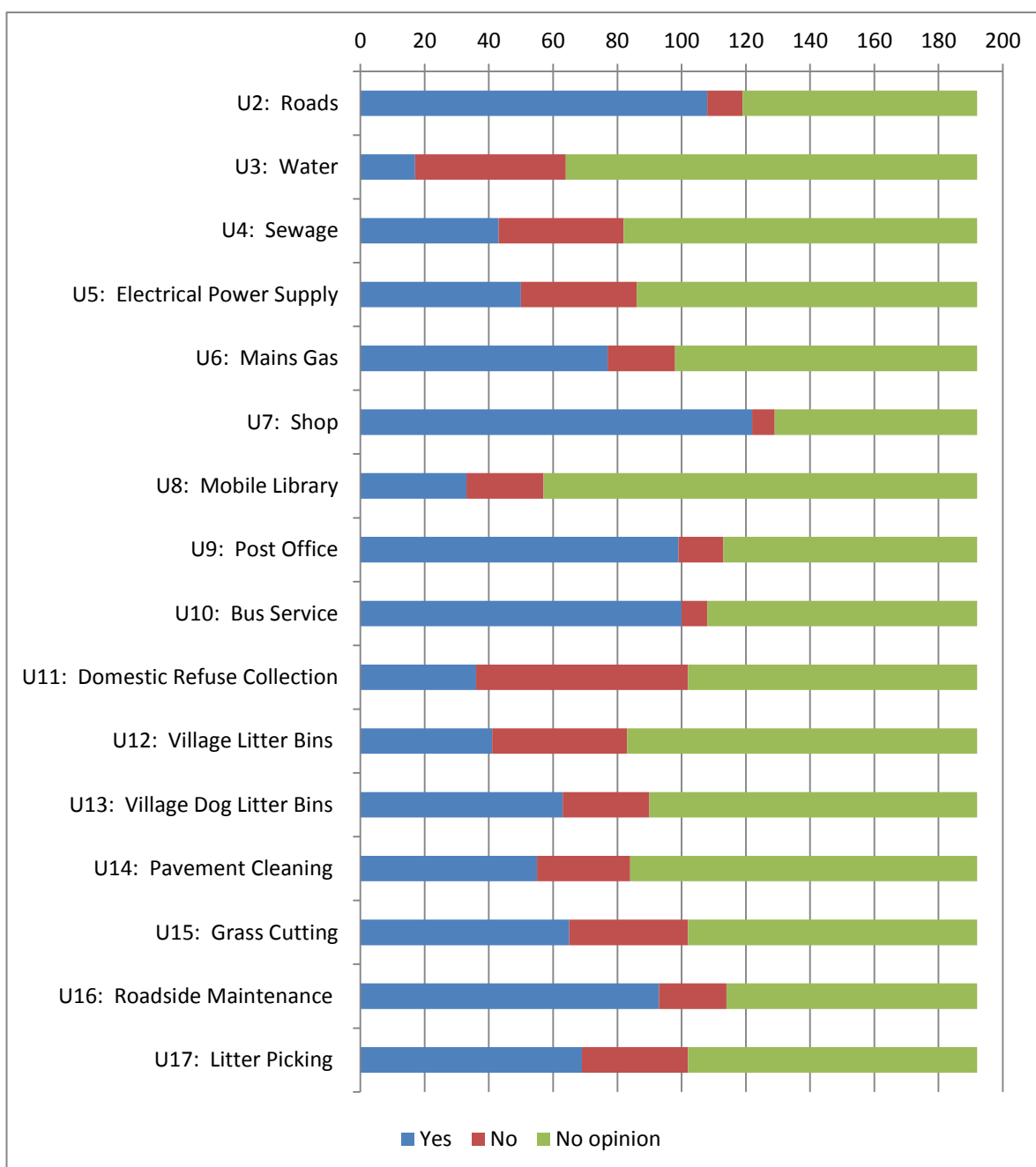
- It is important to remember that the responses in this section will not directly influence planning policies, but will be recorded in our Parish Plan to communicate views of the parish to the Parish Council and Local Authority.
- Following on from the general comments in the 'environment' section, the results here support maintenance of status quo with respect to the village landscape (P2) and green energy projects (P3).
- Affordability of housing in the parish has affected a small number of families and is reflected in response to the type of housing that should be provided if new houses are built.
- The surveyed population returned a balanced response to the question of more houses being built in the parish.
- A selection of comments:
 - Limited housing for local people, housing that encourages families, limited infill or small developments only, avoid building in the area, it will spoil the village, One bed bungalows are inadequate, housing for pensioners, any development would change the character of the village, any development must be in keeping, protect the character of the village.

Utilities and Services

Residents were asked about services within the parish....



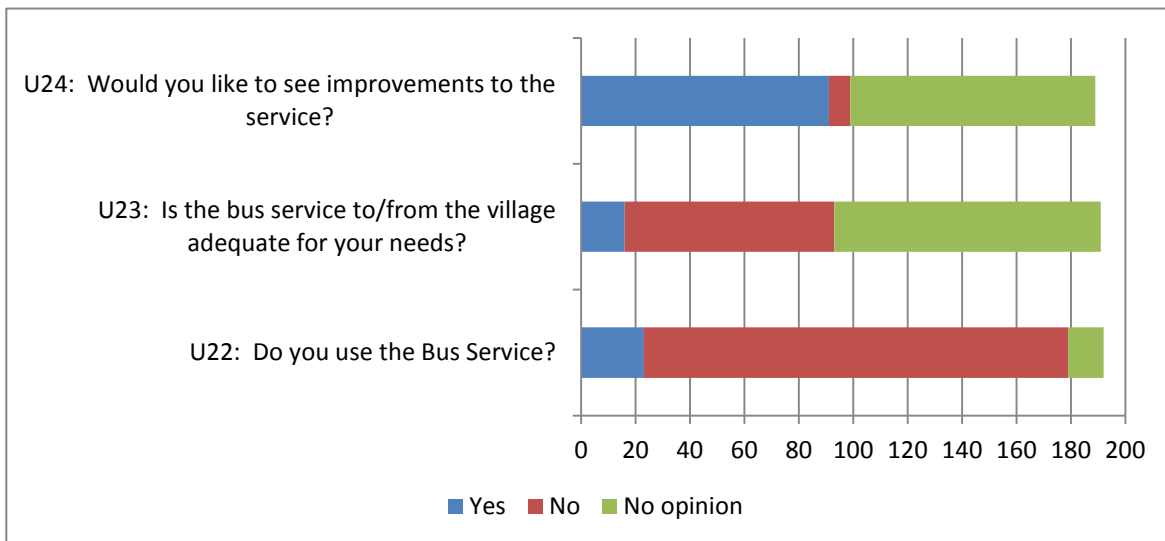
Which parish utilities should be improved.....?



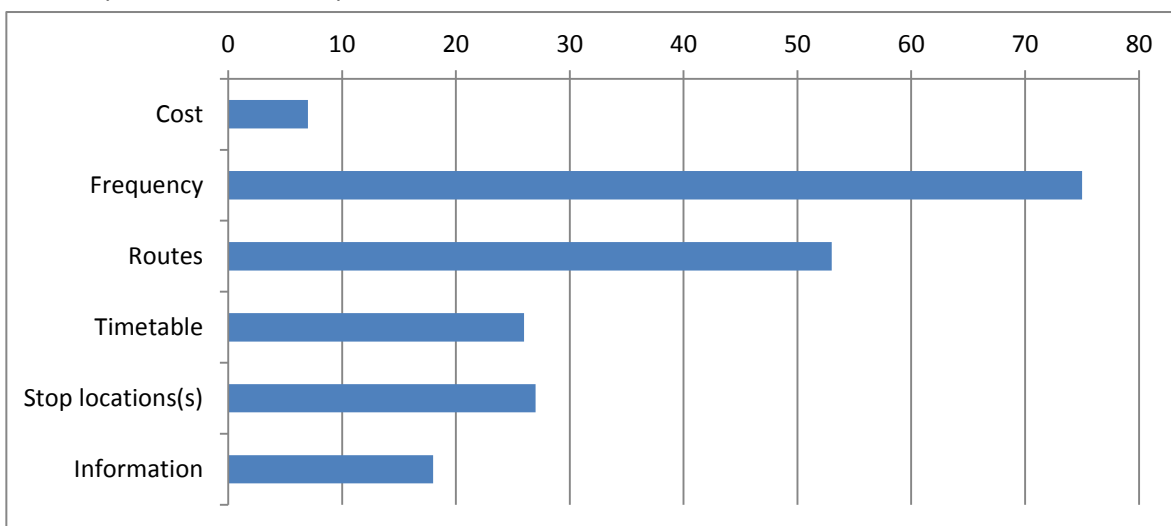
Utilities and Services (continued)

Bus Service

Regarding the local bus service.....



What improvements are required.....?



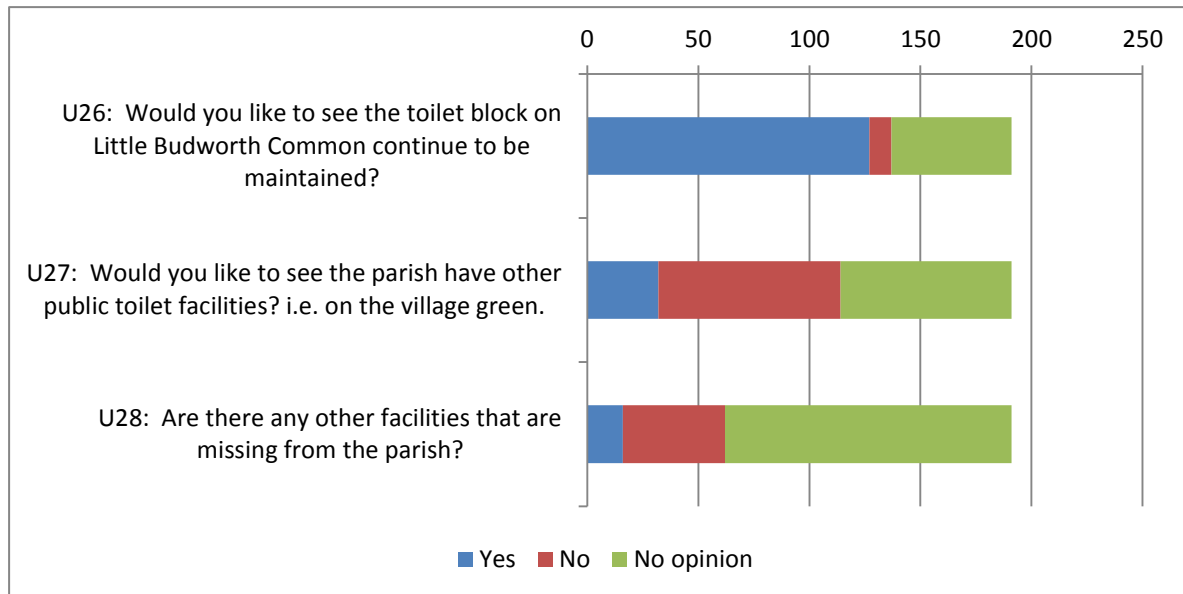
Additional information

- Respondents are generally satisfied with services in the parish.
- The general dissatisfaction with roads described in previous sections is reflected here.
- There is support for improvements to a shop, post office and bus service which have also been prioritised by respondents. Each of these could form the basis of a focus group to help understand what is required by the parish community and potentially implement it.
- Specific issues affect residents in certain areas, so focus groups could be set up in those areas to help address those issues.
- Availability of the toilet facilities on the common is appreciated by residents, but there is not a requirement for other toilet facilities in the parish.
- Other comments regarding utilities:
 - Would like gas, road grit and salt, internet must not fall behind other rural communities.

Utilities and Services (continued)

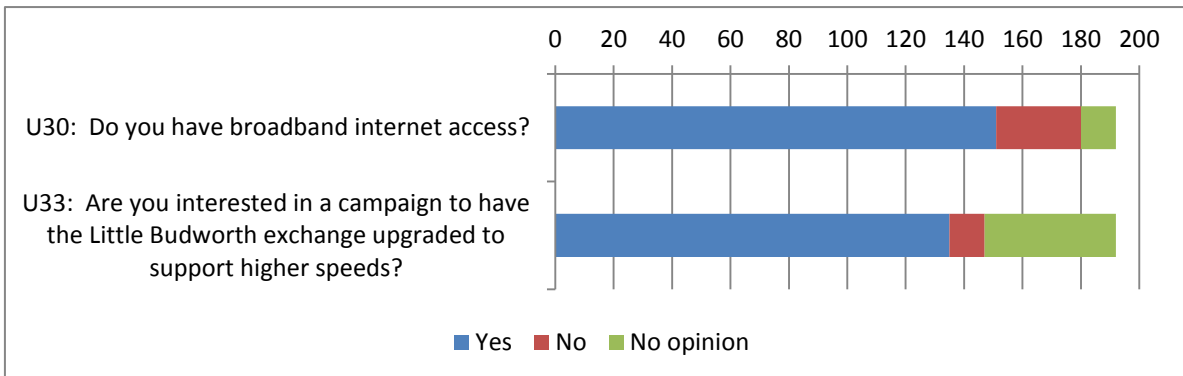
Facilities

Regarding the local facilities.....

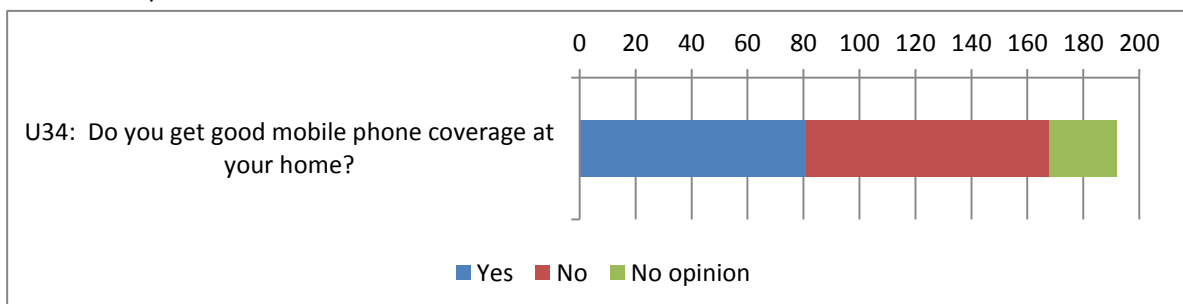


Broadband and Mobile Phone

Regarding broadband.....



and mobile phone.....

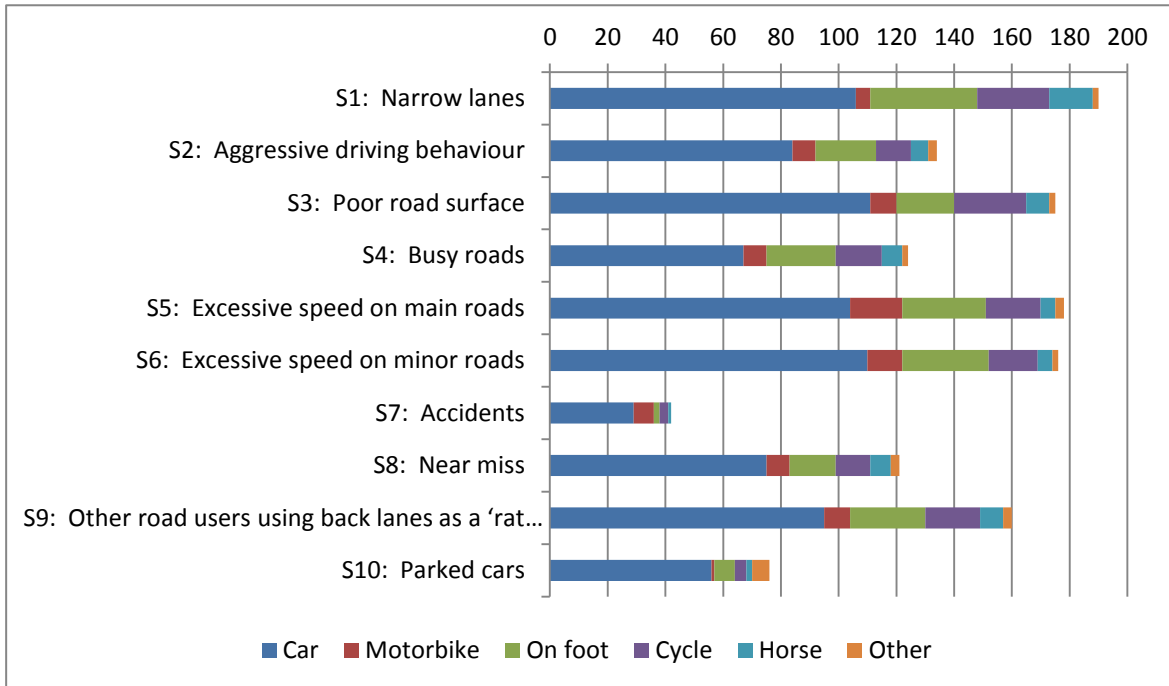


Additional information

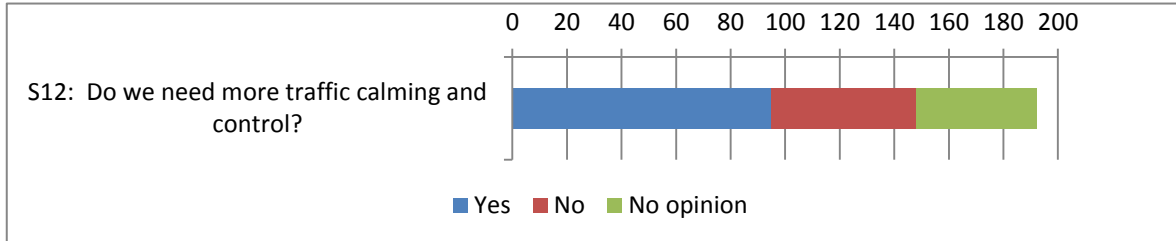
- A large proportion of the parish population have broadband access and are willing to support our campaign to increase the speed of the service.
- Mobile phone service is patchy depending on location and provider, as to be expected.

Safety

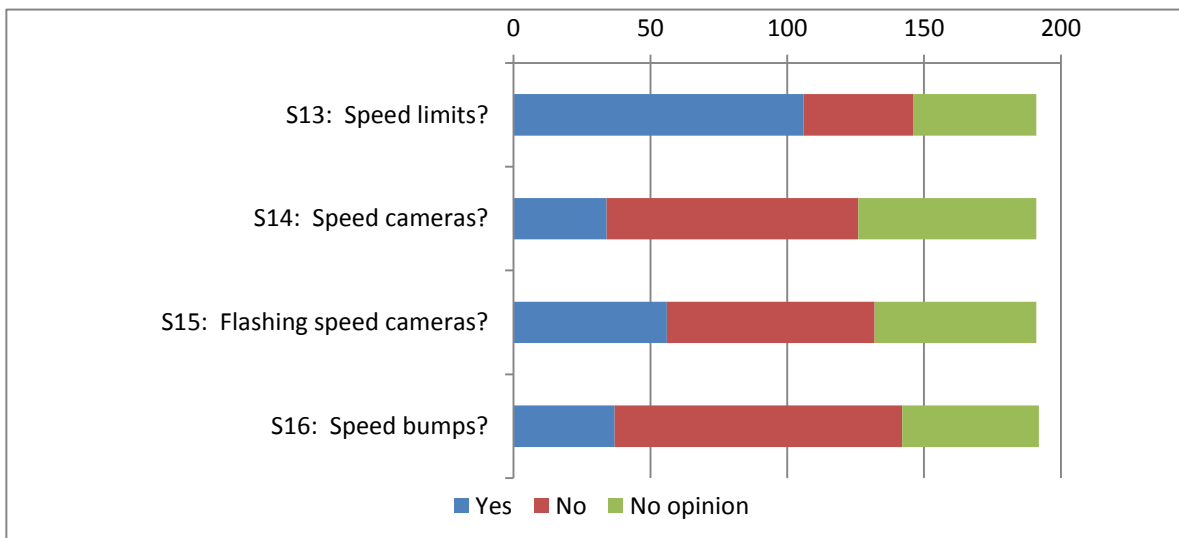
How traffic problems affect residents.....



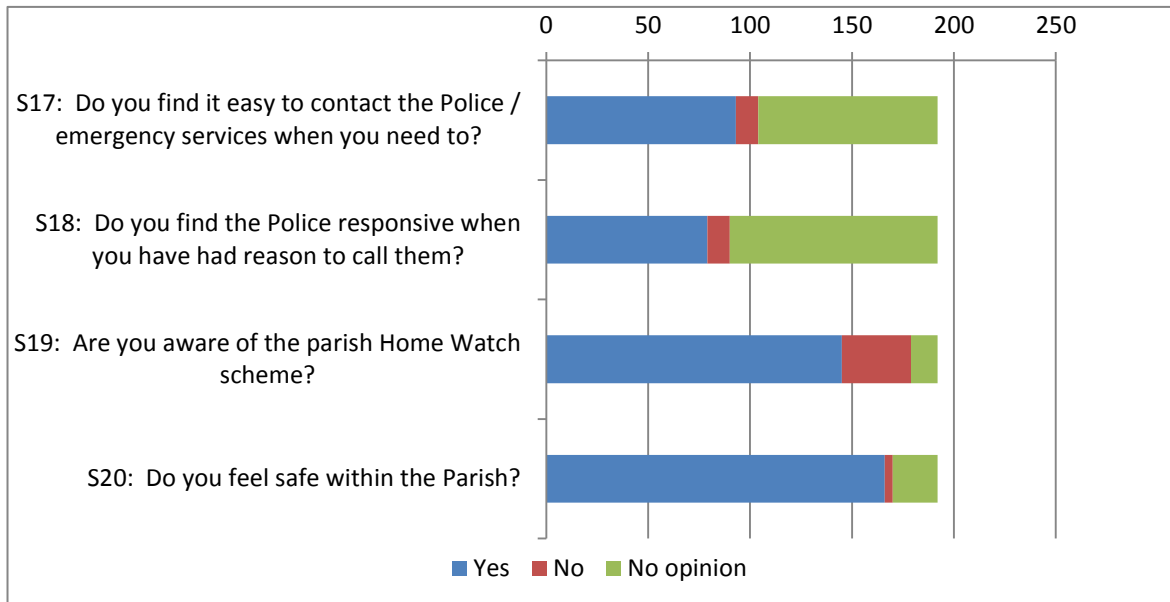
Regarding traffic calming.....



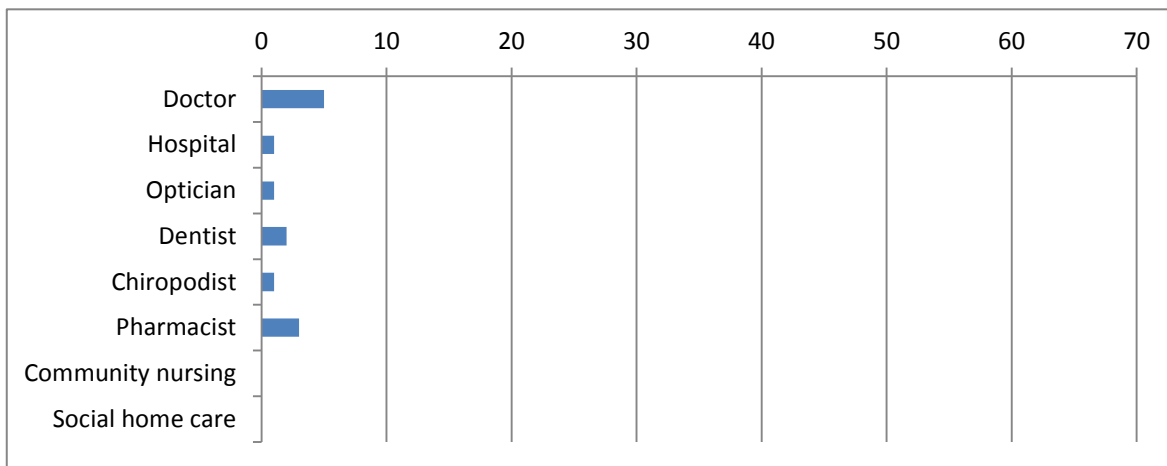
What method of traffic calming should be employed.....?



Safety (continued)



Do residents have problems accessing medical services.....?



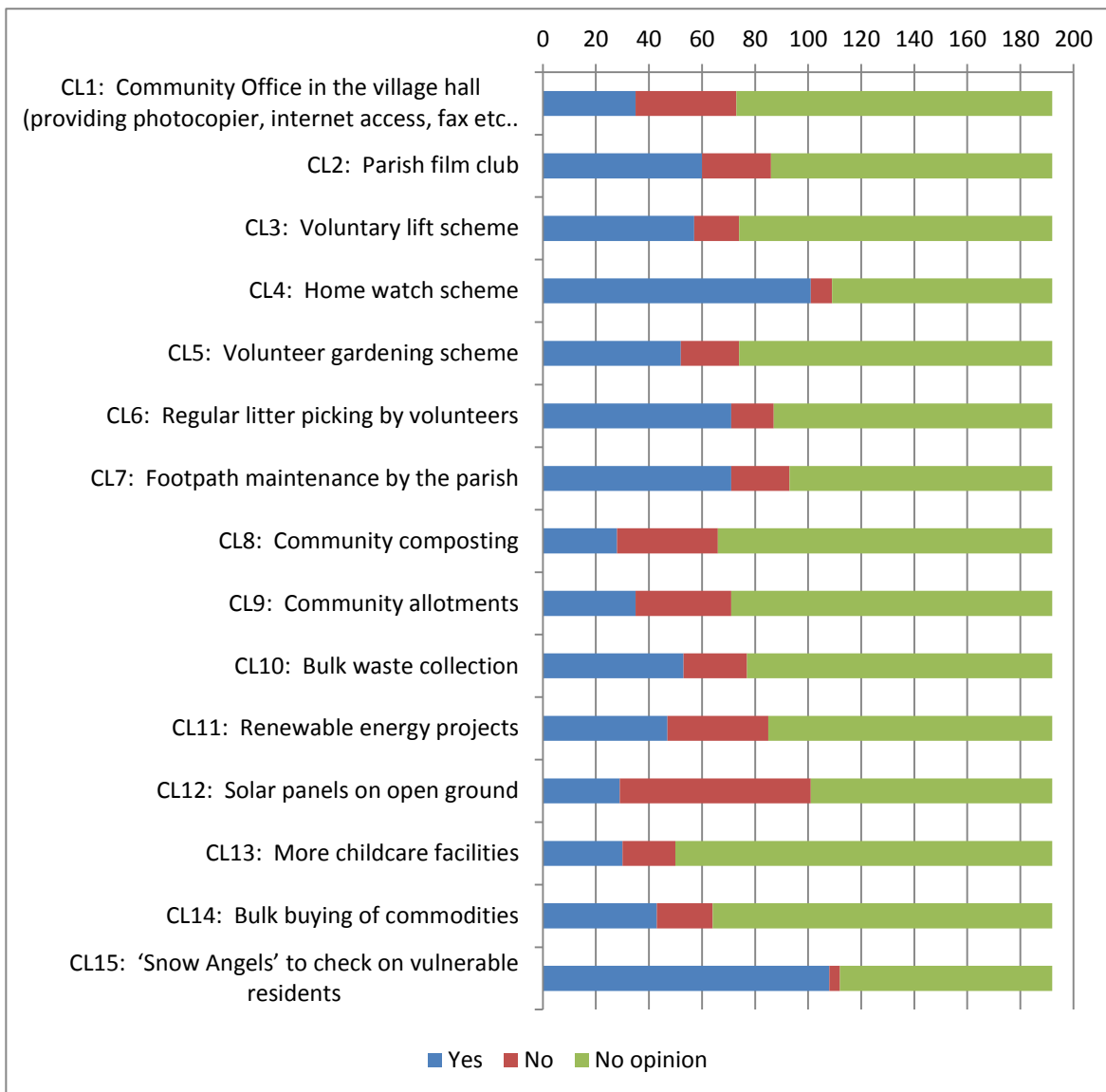
(scaled according to previous graphs)

Additional information

- As could be expected, residents in the parish have experienced various traffic problems, with narrow lanes, poor road surface, excessive speed and the use of 'rat runs' most widely reported. There have been a significant number of near misses and unfortunately accidents.
- Some residents have suggested that the use of certain rat runs has increased as a result of the redevelopment of the Sandy Brow traffic lights at the intersection of the A54 and A49.
- Regarding the suggested types of traffic calming, the application of speed limits is generally supported.
- There is strong opinion that residents feel safe within the Parish.
- Relatively, there is little difficulty accessing medical services from the Parish.
- All of the information and additional detail from this section can be used in discussion between the Parish Council and the relevant authorities.

Community Led Initiatives

Residents were asked if they would like to see the following....

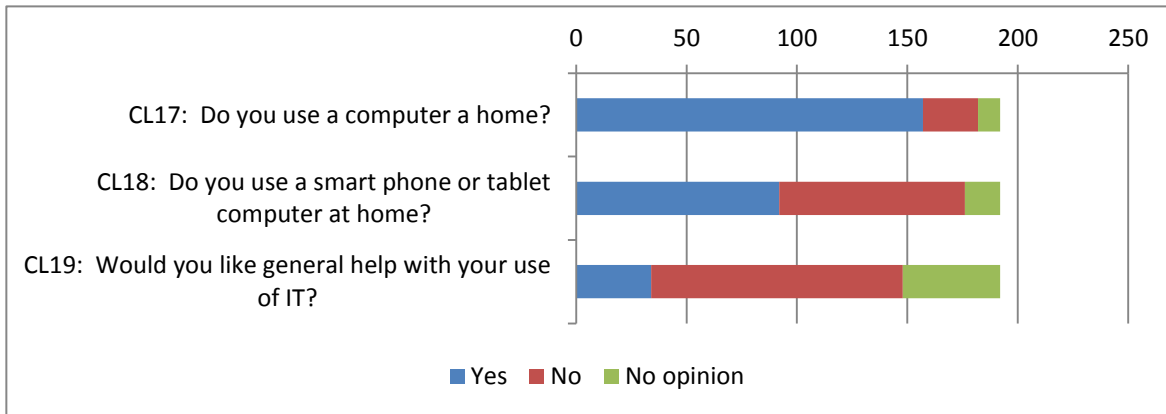


Additional information

- This is useful information that can be used in conjunction with the 'activities' and 'recreation' sections.
- These initiatives can only flourish with volunteers willing to run them and participants wishing to take part.
- As mentioned previously, a 'Society Festival' could be run to encourage residents to find out more about activities in the parish and actively participate in them.
- Some respondents have mentioned that less formal arrangements to enable a group of like minded individuals to meet may be appropriate. Examples include walking trips and rounds of golf which may not need the full overhead of an official club. The volunteer group could be engaged to help analyse this issue in more detail.
- Other thoughts from residents regarding community led activities:
 - Bulk buying of oil, tree planting, communal flower beds and hanging baskets, doctor's surgery in the village hall on day a week, depends on what the renewable energy projects are, gardening scheme for the village itself, would like to see some sort of way in which someone requiring help could ask for it, social activities for the elderly.

IT Awareness

Regarding computers and IT.....

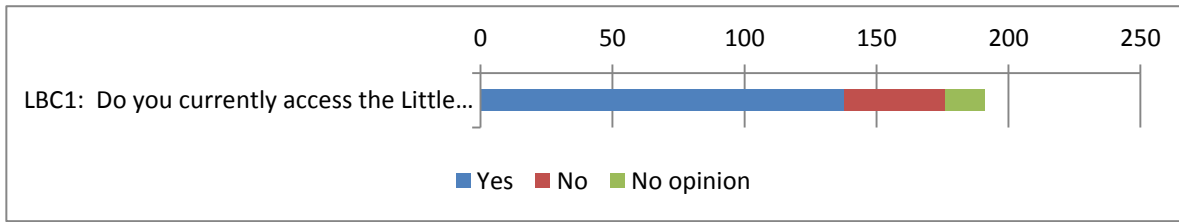


Additional information

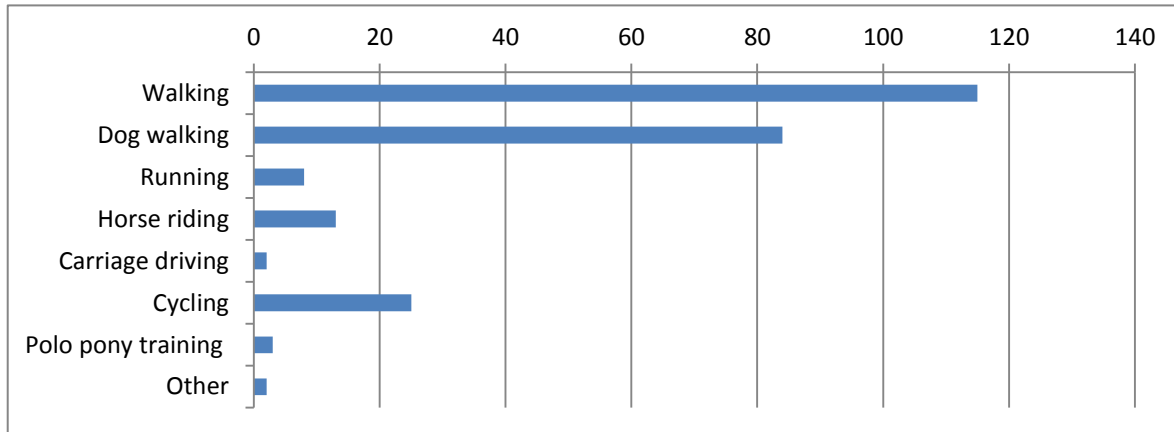
- There is a large proportion of computer users in the parish who generally feel capable in the use of their equipment.

Little Budworth Common

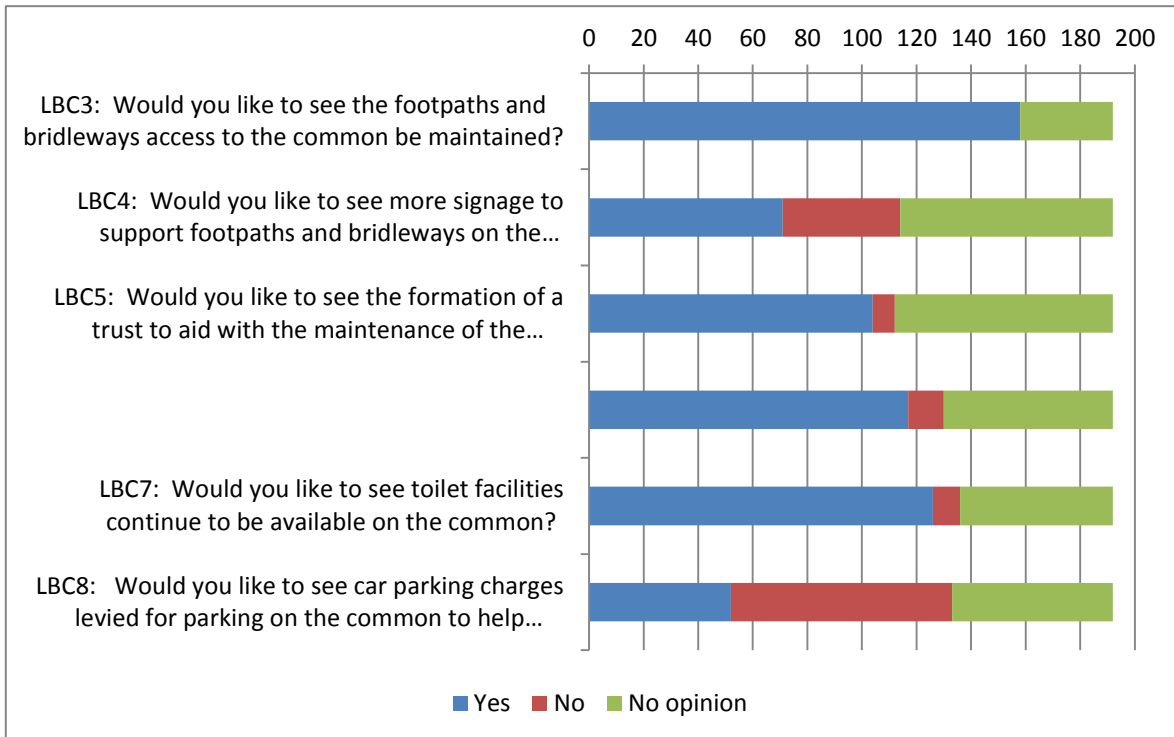
Residents were asked if they access the common....



If so, why....?



Regarding the common.....



Additional information

- This is useful information that can be used by the 'Friends of Little Budworth Common' support group when considering action to be taken in this regard.
- Comments include:
 - Do not over develop, please encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog, car park charges would make parking chaos, it is vital we maintain this asset, would like to see cycle routes.

Priorities

Residents were asked to list their top three issues in order of priority. Here is a selection of issues that respondents listed as their priorities:

- Maintain tranquillity. Keep the village 'quaint', that's why I like living here! Maintaining the village atmosphere as it is.
- Improve the play area. Good children's facilities (like Kelsall). Improving children's facilities on the green.
- Re-establish the pubs as a focal point in the village. Community spirit maintained.
- Maintenance of the common. Dog litter bins.
- Condition of roads. Road maintenance, pot holes repaired, quality of roads. Blind bend Vicarage / Mill Lane.
- Weeds on roads, paths and walkways to be treated more regularly. Litter. Dog fouling.
- Drainage on Coach Road. Cleanliness of parish.
- Home watch.
- A community shop.
- The countryside.
- High speed broadband and good mobile coverage.
- Communication. Free newsletters.
- Excess speeding around the parish. Speeding on the main roads and through village.
- Keeping roads safe and reducing dangerous driving. Traffic calming.
- Housing for the under 40's. Low cost starter homes. Growth of the village. Ageing population, need more children in parish.
- No major housing developments. Affordable housing for young families.
- Care for the elderly.
- A carbon neutral village.
- St Peter's Church.
- Sewerage, mains gas, electricity supply.
- More activities in the village hall for adults in the evening.
- More appropriate street lighting.