



SNP Supporting Document 5:

Engaging with the community – the two questionnaires

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The Stowupland Neighbourhood Plan Sub-committee (formerly Group) carried out two questionnaires with all copies delivered to all properties on the parish newsletter's (Telstar) circulation list, that is all residential properties and business premises. Responses were analysed, and a report published in subsequent editions of Telstar. The presentation of results included graphs and charts with commentaries. The first questionnaire quickly became known as the mini-questionnaire, and the subsequent, longer questionnaire is referred to as the full questionnaire.

The 'Mini' Questionnaire

The Stowupland Neighbourhood Plan group started work in February 2015. By May 2015 the group had produced a Mini-Questionnaire to initiate the start of engaging the community with the Neighbourhood Plan. This was distributed to every household with the May *Telstar*, in the form of a detachable flyer, inside the award-winning village magazine. We only used paper copies for this initial questionnaire.

By September 2015 the results had been collated and a report written. This was treated as a prequel to the full Questionnaire. We particularly wanted the results to make people feel that it was well worth their while to spend time and effort, in order to produce a thorough and inclusive eventual result, when the full Questionnaire was launched later. Throughout, our aim was to show people what we had found in a simple, accessible way, so the Mini Questionnaire results which follow had a plain English commentary, accompanied by easy-to-read diagrams of illustration, to show the answers to the questions posed.

We published the results of the Mini Questionnaire in the September 2015 edition of Telstar. Our aim at all times, in the production of the Mini Questionnaire, and the dissemination of the results following analysis afterwards, was to attract the attention of the maximum numbers of residents possible. We wanted firstly, to ensure that everyone felt their voice was heard and listened to and secondly, probably more importantly, that they were enthused enough to complete the Full Questionnaire. This was a first step in the public process.

The following is the report of the mini-questionnaire results that was published in Telstar.



Results of the Mini Questionnaire

The Neighbourhood Plan Group was set up earlier this year to work towards production of a Neighbourhood Plan. The intention is to ascertain what people living and working in the village want from the village, to determine what they like about it and things they might like changed. Unlike the earlier Parish Plans in 2005 and 2010, the outcome of this Neighbourhood Plan can have a real bearing on how the village changes and adapts for life in the 21st Century. Much of the work done in 2005 and 2010 has been replicated so that the answers can be compared. The most important difference between the Parish Plans and this Neighbourhood Plan is that this concerns, in particular, planning for building. For this reason, the application for the huge development of 190 houses was a major motivator in starting this project. In the past Planning departments and Government initiatives have been major influences, but if we can involve the village population in preparing this plan we can have a real impact on what happens here in the future.

In May we distributed an initial Mini Questionnaire with the Telstar magazine. This is not intended as a final Questionnaire, and we will follow this with a more extensive and comprehensive Questionnaire, but it has provided us with an excellent starting point. Clearly, not everybody responded, and there were some issues with the eventual collection process, but we managed to obtain responses from about 30% of the village residents.

We trust that what we have started here will be expanded in a more comprehensive full questionnaire to give us a more complete picture. Therefore this is just a taster of what is to come. We hope you find the information interesting, and that it will inspire you to look forward to the next one when there will be more room for comment. What follows is the result of the answers we have received this time:

Q1: Living in Stowupland - It is immediately evident that people like living in Stowupland and many have lived here for a long time. At present well over half the people answering the questionnaire have lived here over 21 years (59.04%), and many for over 50 years. Now there are about 950 houses, but in 2005 there were 853, so quite a lot fewer; of the population in 2005 around 20% had been here for less than 5 years, but now just under 14% have been here for 5 years or under.

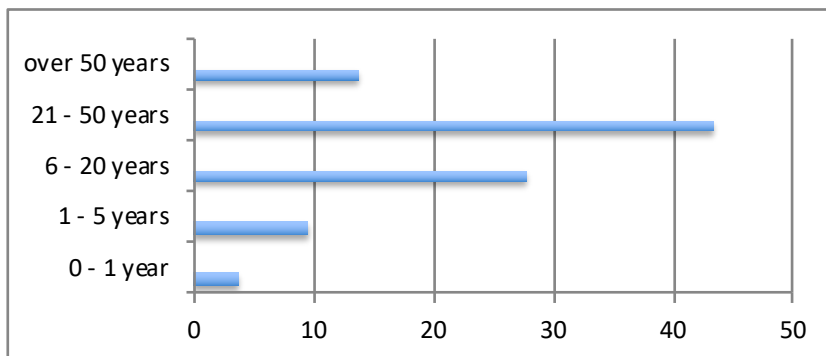
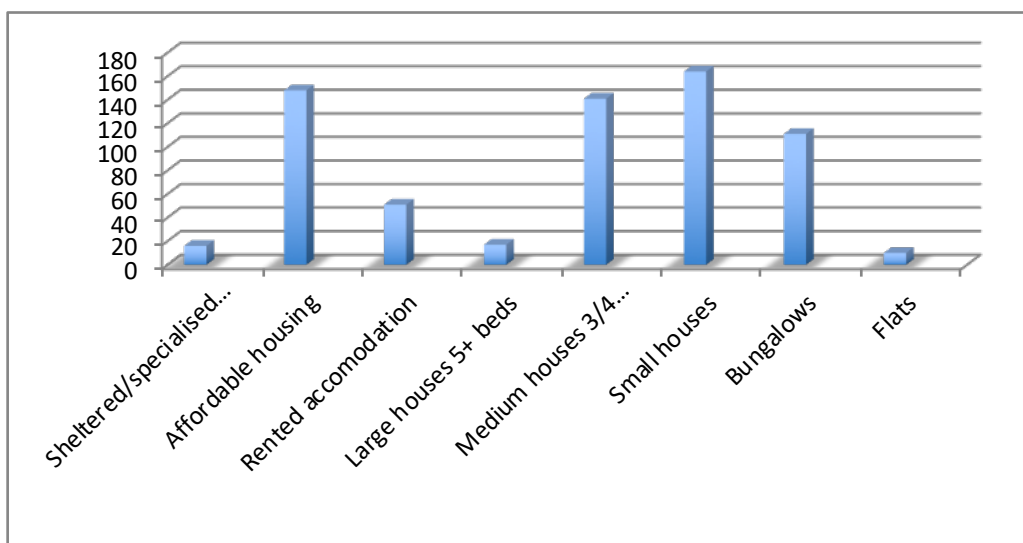


Chart showing the percentage of residents who live here, and for how long

Q2: Businesses in Stowupland - 85.67% of respondents neither owned a business here, nor worked in Stowupland. Only 14.33% of the 293 people who answered this question had a business in the village or worked here.

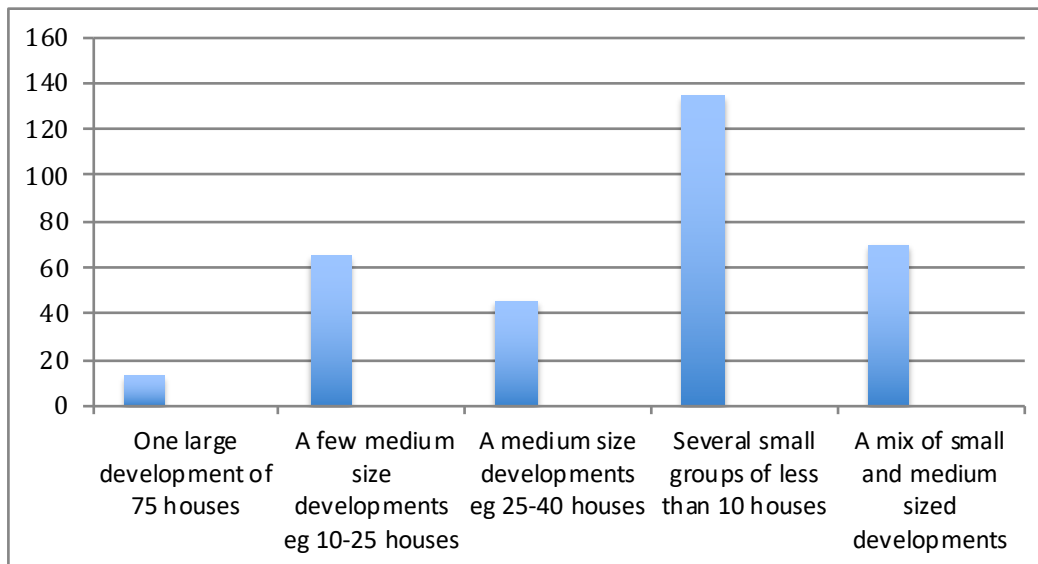
Q3: What type of homes do you think Stowupland needs? With the current Government emphasis on increased housing and the appeal of the decision by MSDC to reject the current proposal for 190 new homes, people seem to acknowledge the need to provide extra housing in Stowupland. In the 2005 Parish Plan 35% of replies said there was no need for further housing at all. This Mini Questionnaire finds a different reaction. In this instance, people were asked to tick the types of development they would prefer to see in the village (these are not therefore percentages but raw numbers).

Types of homes needed in the village, numbers approving of different types of building



A mere glance at this chart shows that there is a distinct bias towards smaller and more modest houses and away from the large ones. Although people approve of more modest accommodation there is little appetite for increased numbers of flats, specialized accommodation or large houses.

Q4: What size development do you think suitable for future housing in Stowupland?



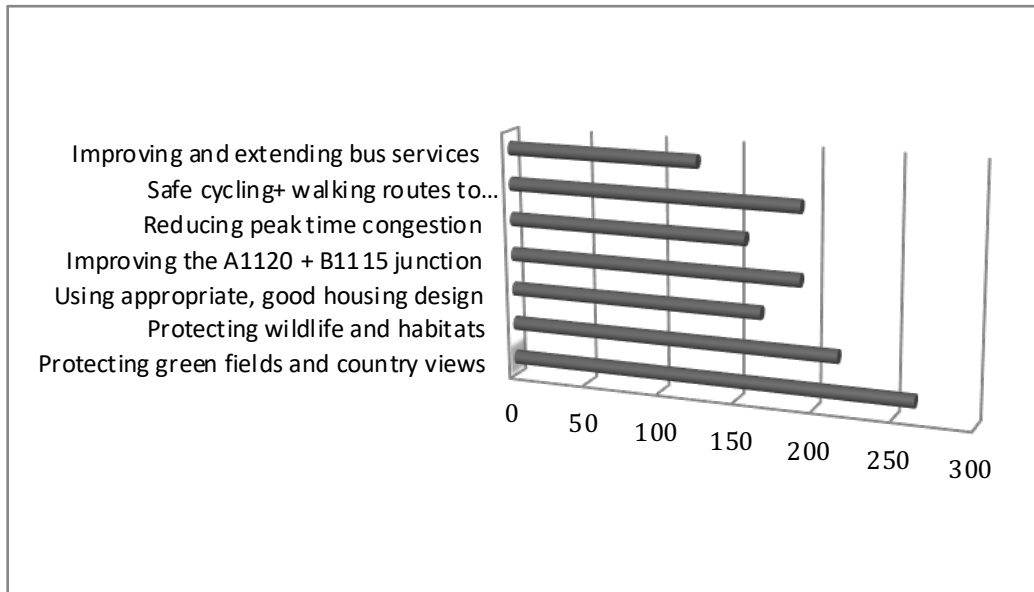
Here again, respondents could choose what they prefer, and many chose more than one type, so the numbers shown in the chart are numbers and not percentages. By far the most widely picked choice was for several small developments (135 people or 47.87% of the responses), with an obvious bias against any one large development (13 people or 4.61% of the responses).

Q5: Do you think land should be reserved for business growth in the village?

Answered by 281 people, 65.12% did not want business growth in Stowupland, but 34.88% would like that.

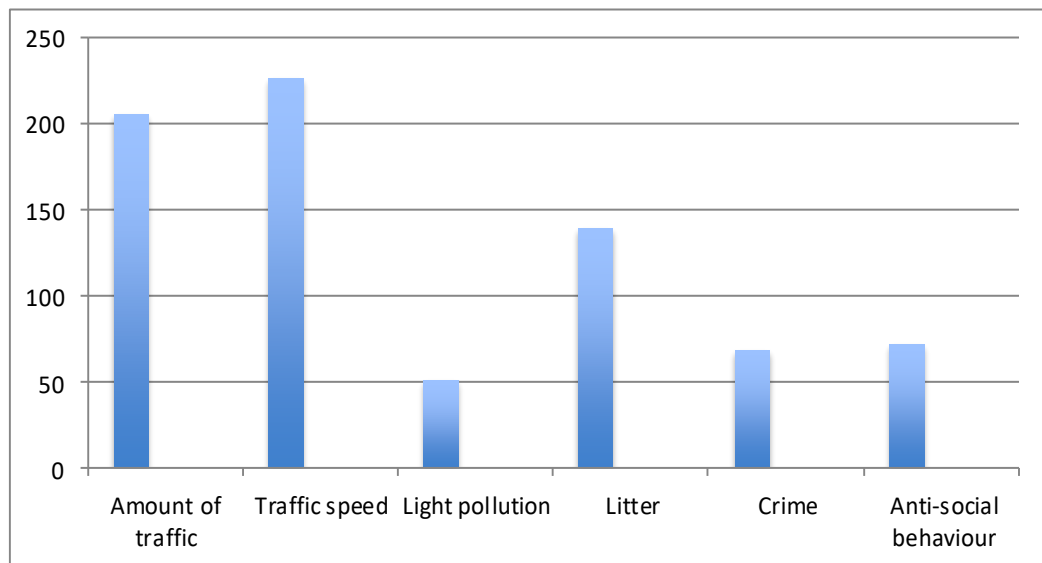
Q6: What are the most important issues for you and your family?

From the choices offered (shown here) it is clear that the people of Stowupland feel themselves to be true country people. Significantly the most important things to them are green fields, country views, wildlife and habitats, with all the other possibilities less favoured.



Q7: Are you concerned about the following in and around the village?

Here again, raw numbers are shown as respondents could select several that were important to them. Traffic is seen as a very important concern for many, both the speed of traffic (80.71%) and the amount (73.21%) of traffic. Litter is also fairly high on the list.



Q8 Do you use any of the Parish Recreation facilities?

The replies to this question were sometimes extensive and complex, and it wasn't simple to analyse. Key words from 'facilities' were about clubs and buildings, rather than the landscape. The most frequently mentioned things were: The Village Hall, the Greens, footpaths, and the Children's Play Park. Other facilities often mentioned included: the pubs, Community Sports at the High School, Church and Chapel, the Sports and Social Club, and mentions were made to the various village sports, football, bowls – in particular, cricket, pilates and yoga, not forgetting Good Neighbours, allotments and quizzes, amongst others.

Q9: Would you like to see more or improved recreation facilities in the parish? If yes, what sort of recreation facilities? Often the replies to this posed as many questions as they answered. The two things most often mentioned, by far, were improved facilities for small children (sometimes linked to better or different equipment), and things for young people, youth clubs etc. Some wanted more football, others wanted less on the Green; some wanted better facilities at the Sports and Social Club, others wanted a club not connected to sport. There were several pleas for tennis courts, swimming pools, outdoor gyms, hockey etc.

Q10: Are there any services or facilities that you feel are under strain, insufficient or need expanding or improving. If so please tell us which ones and why you feel this is so. This question clearly opened the floodgates for many people, allowing them to vent their anger at things that they dislike at present. Many of the fears people have are related to any possible expansion of the village and the impact it will have on life here. Large numbers of people mentioned the changes that will happen following the move to a two-tier school system in Suffolk, putting extra pressure on both the High School and Freeman Primary. Many of the fears were about inadequate parking, and protection of the Green, with mention of the traffic of students to and from both schools. But by far the most frequently mentioned individual thing is the fear that Doctors' surgeries will be unable to cope with added numbers, and often included a plea for a surgery in the village. Other specific things mentioned several times are: broadband speed, bus services and frequency, water pressure/sewerage inadequacy, insufficient village post boxes and requests for another village shop. Additional suggestions were for relocation of the Post Office to the village, improvements to the children's play area, lighting, and even for public toilets near the Cemetery.

Q11: What are the things that you think a new development might help to fund in the village?

This produced a wild variety of suggestions! When the Neighbourhood Plan group met, one wise member, said that these questions became more like wish-lists than anything else. No one person's wish-list would be the same as another's, so that there were many things with which one either violently agreed, or totally disagreed. Neck and neck in the lead of things mentioned, were the idea of a Doctors' surgery for Stowupland, and road improvements. Some wanted not only a Surgery, but also opticians and chemists. When the roads were most often mentioned, it was the junction between the A1120 and the B1115; the impossibility of crossing from the Green to the Garage was frequently mentioned, as was the idea of a roundabout in that position, or a pedestrian crossing to make it safe. Again there was mention of improvements to: footpaths, cycle ways, and paths (and for those in wheelchairs); an outdoor gym; schools – youth facilities; Village Hall and Social Club improvements (with a mention they could usefully combine); lighting, tennis courts, better parking,

pavements by the A1120 to Tesco, and not to be forgotten – buses! Interesting different suggestions included: green energy for the Village (particularly mentioned for new houses, if built) and help for small businesses

That's all Folks!

But look out for our next, larger and more comprehensive questionnaire.

The Full Questionnaire

By late Autumn 2015 and following results of the Mini Questionnaire, published in September 2015, the Neighbourhood Plan group were ready to issue the much longer and more complete Full Questionnaire. This Full Questionnaire was available to do on-line or in a paper format; although some did choose to use the hard-copy paper format, many chose the on-line version, which was also much easier and quicker to analyse. Well over half the households in the village responded; this proved that we had succeeded in engaging large numbers of village residents.

Our aim at all times, both in the production of the Mini Questionnaire, and the dissemination of the results following analysis afterwards, was to attract the attention of the maximum numbers of residents possible. Again, with the Full Questionnaire, connecting with and including the maximum number of residents was key to our work. We wanted everybody to be, and feel, included.

The full Questionnaire enabled us to correct the open-ended questions of the Mini Questionnaire (for example those concerning recreational facilities, services and areas of concern, Q8, 9, 10 in the Mini Questionnaire). These open questions had tended to become like 'wish lists' rather than clear-cut options. Following the Mini Questionnaire, we were able to offer relevant options with confidence that they were pertinent in the Full version. By including far more multiple-choice questions in this Full Questionnaire (e.g. Q9, and 120), the results of the Full Questionnaire are therefore firstly much more informative and, secondly, they were also more readily analysed.

The text of questions asked in the full questionnaire is included here, together with an aerial photograph of the parish with locations relating to question 11 marked on. The article reporting the responses to the questionnaire published in Telstar follows the questions.

Text of the questions in the full Questionnaire (December 2015)

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

Mid Suffolk District Council has a Local Plan that means further growth and development will be coming to Stowupland (which is one of the 12 villages designated for this). The Neighbourhood Plan gives us the opportunity to manage that growth in line with the needs, priorities and aspirations of the people who live here. The following questions are intended to help us to understand what your priorities and aspirations are for Stowupland over the next 15 years.

Part one - A shared vision for Stowupland

Q1) What do you enjoy/cherish about living in Stowupland?

Please select one or more of the following

- | | A |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 Village identity/feeling part of a community | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Green spaces and footpaths within the village | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Easy access to the countryside | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Village facilities (church, schools, shops, pubs etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Community activities, clubs, groups, and social life | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q2) Which of the following features are important to you about living in Stowupland?

Please rate the following

(1) = Important (2) = Quite important (3) = Important (4) = Very important

- | | A |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 Easy access to the A14 and/or Railway Station | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Close to Stowmarket for shops, doctors, and other services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 The green spaces, open views, surrounding countryside, community woodland, rural village character | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The character and mixture of building styles and sizes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Having a good butchers and fish and chip shop, co-op shop, petrol station, car repairs and Post Office within the village | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Having a nursery, primary, high school within the village | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Two pubs, a good village hall, sports and social clubs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Living in a village seperate from the town | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 The churches, the good neighbour scheme, sheltered housing, and or feeling in a caring community | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Community, social and leisure activies including allotments | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q3) Which of the following concerns do you have about the village?

Please select one or more of the following

- | | A |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1 Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 2 Amount of traffic
- 3 Speed of traffic
- 4 Amount of HGV traffic
- 5 Frequency of bus services
- 6 Location of bus stops
- 7 Lack of pavements
- 8 Poor broadband
- 9 Lack of post boxes
- 10 Lack of recycling points

Q4) Thinking about Stowupland how would you like it described in 15 years time?

Please select one or more of the following

- A
- 1 Accessible
 - 2 Affordable
 - 3 Attractive
 - 4 Friendly
 - 5 Prosperous
 - 6 Rural
 - 7 Safe
 - 8 Traditional
 - 9 tranquil
 - 10 Vibrant

Part 2 - Housing

Q5) Do you intend/want to stay living in Stowupland in the future?

Please select one answer only

- A
- 1 Yes
 - 2 No
 - 3 Don't know

Q6) What type of housing are you in now?

Please select one answer only

- A
- 1 Flat (Owned/Mortgage)
 - 2 Flat (Rented)
 - 3 Bungalow (Owned/Mortgage)

- 4 Bungalow (Rented)
- 5 House with 1-2 beds (Owned/Mortgage)
- 6 House with 1-2 bedrooms (Rented)
- 7 House with 3-4 bedrooms (Owned/Mortgage)
- 8 House with 3-4 bedrooms (Rented)
- 9 House with 5 or more bedrooms (Owned/Mortgage)
- 10 House with 5 or more bedrooms (Rented)
- 11 Warden assisted housing

Q7) Thinking about your next move, what type of home would you want to move to if you were to stay in Stowupland?

Please select one answer only

- A
- 1 Flat
 - 2 bungalow
 - 3 1-2 Bedroom House
 - 4 3-4 Bedroom House
 - 5 5 or more Bedroom House
 - 6 Smaller Retirement Housing
 - 7 Warden Assisted Housing
 - 8 Residential Care
 - 9 Self-build

Q8) Thinking about the needs of others in Stowupland, what types of housing do you think are needed?

Please select one or more of the following

- A
- 1 Flat
 - 2 Bungalow
 - 3 1-2 Bedroom House
 - 4 3-4 Bedroom House
 - 5 5 or more Bedroom House
 - 6 First Time Buyers/Starter Homes
 - 7 Smaller Retirement Housing
 - 8 Warden Assisted Housing
 - 9 Self-Build
 - 10 No opinion/don't know

Part 3 - Future Development

Sustainable development is a core principle of Neighbourhood Planning. It says that development that brings benefits to a community should generally be approved. In short, sustainable development is development that is good for people and their sense of community; supports the local economy; gives people the opportunity to live and work here; does not waste resources; and protects green places and wildlife. Our Neighbourhood Plan needs to set out what type of development we want to see in Stowupland, as well as what we don't want to see and why.

Q9) Bearing sustainable development in mind, what do you think are the biggest benefits development could bring to Stowupland? Please tick up to five?

Please select one or more of the following

- | | A |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 A community with a balance of ages and incomes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Broadband speeds | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Facilities and services for young people | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Facilities and services in general | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Leisure facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Local jobs and businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Medical and care facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Protection of the countryside and local assets | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Safe cycle routes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Safe pedestrian routes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Shops and services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 Transport links | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 Variety of housing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 Village identity and sense of community | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 Road and/or junction improvements | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q10) Given the need for growth over the next 15 years, what size of housing developments do you think would be most appropriate to meet the need for housing in Stowupland? Please tick all that apply.

Please select one or more of the following

- | | A |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 Very large development (over 100 homes) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Large developments (25 - 100 homes) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Medium developments (12 - 25 homes) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Smaller developments (fewer than 12 homes) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Infilling or individual homes | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q11) To your knowledge, are there any areas in Stowupland unsuitable for housing?

Please tick all the sites that you feel are unsuitable for housing development and give reasons using the numbers below:-

- A = Flood risk
- B = Close to historic and traditional buildings
- C = Nature conservation and protected species
- D = Close to visually important open spaces
- E = Greenfield land
- F = Countryside outside the village boundary
- G = Includes public rights of way

Please select one or more of the following

- | | A |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 Site 1 (Land between allotments and Mill Lane) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Site 2 (Land between Thorney Green Road and A14) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Site 3 (Lane between Columbine Hall and Rendall Lane) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Site 4 (Planning application/Appeal site) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Site 5 (Land between planning application/Appeal site and Post Office/Farm Shop) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Site 6 (Land on Rendall Lane behind Gipping Back Road) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Site 7 (Land on Rendall Lane behind Saxham Street) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Site 8 (Land after houses on Saxham Street, West Side) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Site 9 (Land after houses on Saxham Street, East side) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Site 10 (Land opposite Stowupland Hall) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Site 11 (Land between Stowpland Hall and Barn Cottages) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 Site 12 (Land opposite Barn Cottages) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 Site 13 (Land on Church Road from Chapel to Primary School) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 Site 14 (Land behind the garage) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q12) What worries you about further development in Stowupland? In other words what outcomes of further development would you say are unsustainable?

Please select one or more of the following

- | | A |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 A weaker sense of community | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Light pollution | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Urbanisation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Increase in crime and anti-social behaviour | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Increased traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Insufficient sports and leisure facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Lack of school/childcare places or school/childcare overcrowding | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Loss of countryside or green space between existing settlements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Overloaded sewage and drainage systems | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 10 Overstretched healthcare services (e.g doctors, dentists etc)
- 11 Unsafe pedestrian and cycle routes
- 12 Insufficient local employment
- 13 Poor public transport services

Q13) Do you think the services below need improving to meet the future needs of the village?

Please select one or more of the following

- | | A |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Healthcare services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Police | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 School places | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Sports and Leisure facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Public transport | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Surface water drainage | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Sewage system | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Electricity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Gas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Water | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Broadband | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 Mobile telephone network | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 Recycling/rubbish collection | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q14) In order to retain local distinctiveness should any new development have to be in keeping with any of the following design features already present in Stowupland?

Please select one or more of the following

- | | A |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 To be in keeping with the existing street scene | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 To be in character with existing buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Infill housing should be in scale with surrounding properties | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Materials should reflect local character (e.g pan tiles/slate roofs and red/white/rendered walls) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Maximum of two storeys on housing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Layout/design of groups of houses to accommodate sufficient/visitor parking | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Individual houses to have sufficient off road parking | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Part 4 - Transport

Q15) What form of transport is most used in your household?

Please select one or more of the following

- A
- 1 Car/Van
 - 2 Bus
 - 3 Bicycle
 - 4 Train
 - 5 Motor Bike
 - 6 Mobility vehicle/wheel chair
 - 7 Walking
 - 8 Taxi
 - 9 Car share

Q16) Do you/people in your household drive on a daily basis to travel to work/college/school?

Please select one or more of the following

- A
- 1 Person one
 - 2 Person two
 - 3 Person three
 - 4 Person four
 - 5 Person five
 - 6 Person six

Q17) How many miles for you/people in your household normally travel to work/college/school each day?

Please select one or more of the following

- A
- 1 Person one
 - 2 Person two
 - 3 Person three
 - 4 Person four
 - 5 Person five
 - 6 Person six

Q18) In your opinion are any changes needed with regards to the following transport issues?

Please select one or more of the following

- A
- 1 Extending the 30mph limit through the village
 - 2 More frequent bus service

- 3 Improvements to road maintenance
- 4 Provision of cycle paths
- 5 Speed humps/traffic calming
- 6 Restrict HGV traffic
- 7 Extension of bus route to more of the village
- 8 Pedestrian crossing

Q19) Do you think that traffic problems in Stowupland are related to any of the following?

Please select one or more of the following

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| | A |
| 1 There isn't a traffic problem | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Lorry traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Agricultural vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Pedestrian/vehicle conflict | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Traffic speed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Lack of parking | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Volume of traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Location of services (Post Office, Garage/Shop, Fish shop etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Narrow pavements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Lack of pavements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Rat running | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 Congestion at A1120/B1115 junction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 Road danger spots (please specify in the box at the end of the questionnaire) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 Lack of cycle lanes/paths | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Part 5 - Business and Local Economy

Q20) If you run a business in Stowupland, into which category does it fall?

Please select one answer only

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | A |
| 1 Agriculture/Horticulture | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Finance/Professional Services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Catering/Food Processing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Retail | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Hospitality, Tourism, Pubs, B&B etc | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 8 Transport
- 9 Healthcare
- 10 Childcare
- 11 Other services (Hairdressing etc)
- 12 I don't run a business in Stowupland

Q21) How important is it that the following businesses, on a small scale, should be encouraged to stay or come to Stowupland?

Please rate the following

(1) = Not important (2) = Quite important (3) = Important (4) = Very important

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| | A |
| 1 Commercial businesses (eg Mill Street business units) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Home and Work units | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Hospitality and Catering | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Pubs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Small home-based business development | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Small manufacturing/craft workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Small offices | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Shops | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Other (Please specify in the box at the end of the questionnaire) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Part 6 - Your Household

We would very much appreciate if you could complete the following demographic questions. This information will demonstrate that we have gained the views of a cross section of the population, but will not be used as part of the decision making process for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Q22) Where do you live?

Please select one answer only

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| | A |
| 1 Church Road | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The Heights Area | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Reeds Way/Trinity Walk Area | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The Green & Columbyne Close | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Saxham Street | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Mill Street | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 None of the above (including countryside) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Q23) How many people normal live in your household?

Please enter a number

Q24) How many FEMALES in the following age ranges live in your household?

Please select one or more of the following

A

- 1 0-4 years
- 2 5-10 years
- 3 11-15 years
- 4 16-18 years
- 5 19-24 years
- 6 25-44 years
- 7 45-59 years
- 8 60-64 years
- 9 65-74 years
- 10 75-84 years
- 11 85+

Q25) How many MALES in the following age range live in your household?

Please select one or more of the following

A

- 1 0-4 years
- 2 5-10 years
- 3 11-15 years
- 4 16-18 years
- 5 19-24 years
- 6 25-44 years
- 7 45-59 years
- 8 60-64 years
- 9 65-74 years
- 10 75-84 years
- 11 85+ years



Results of the Full Questionnaire

You will recall that the Neighbourhood Plan Group was set up last year to work towards the eventual production of a Stowupland Neighbourhood Plan. A comparatively small, but enthusiastic, group of volunteers has been meeting regularly since, to work on this. We aim to provide a sound basis on which to allow the voices of the villagers, themselves, to influence future development and building in the village. To this end we have presented displays at various events. A Mini Questionnaire was distributed in May 2015 and then in Autumn 2015, a Full Questionnaire was distributed to every household in the area.

The aim of this is to be able to prove that we have sounded out villagers' views so that they can form a firm basis for building development planning for the future. The Parish Plans prepared both in 2005 and 2010, which were for our own use, were more general. This Neighbourhood Plan should be able to provide a concrete basis for future planning for building, specifically, in the village in the 21st Century.

This Full Questionnaire, responded to by well over half the village households, means we have a clear picture of exactly what the residents like, and dislike, and how they wish the village to adapt for the 21st Century. The application for the huge development of 190 houses had been a major motivator in starting this project. This was followed by a further application for 175 houses, but both have been refused consent by Mid Suffolk District Council. Now, a Public Enquiry is to be held beginning in April, to hear an appeal from the applicants.

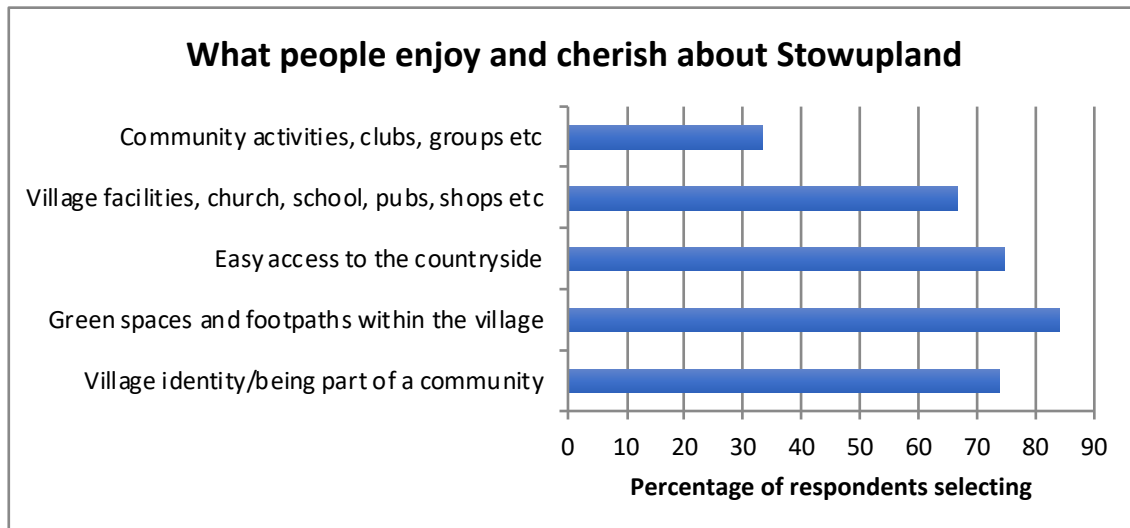
We hope you find this glimpse at the major points of information interesting; we will follow this, with some further more detailed analysis and eventually there will be the opportunity to vote to accept or reject our findings.

What follows is the results, so far assessed, to the answers we have received to the Full Questionnaire....

Part 1: A Shared vision for Stowupland

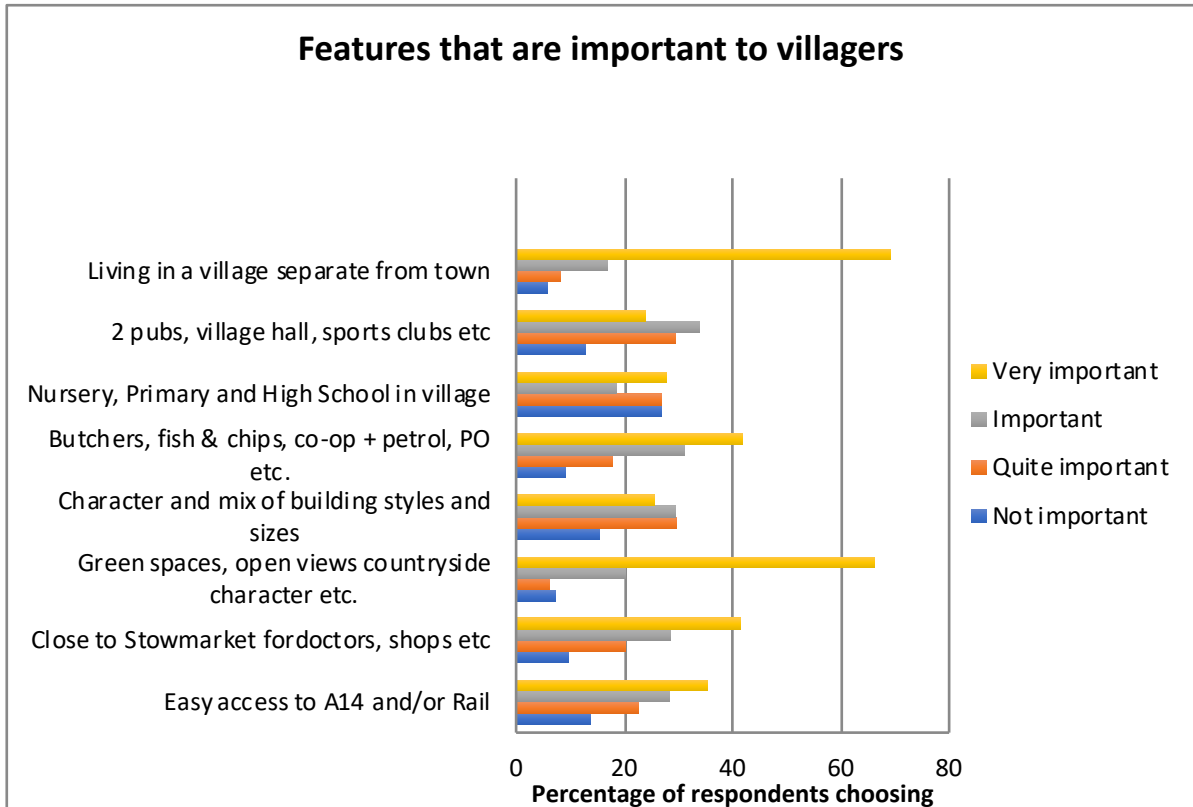
Question 1: What do you enjoy/cherish about living in Stowupland?

As with the Mini Questionnaire which we analysed in the Autumn 2015, there is no doubt at all about what we all appreciate, when we live in Stowupland: we consider ourselves to be a village of true country people, who enjoy the easy access to green space both inside and around the village, and views of the surrounding country.



Question 2: Which features are important to you about living in Stowupland?

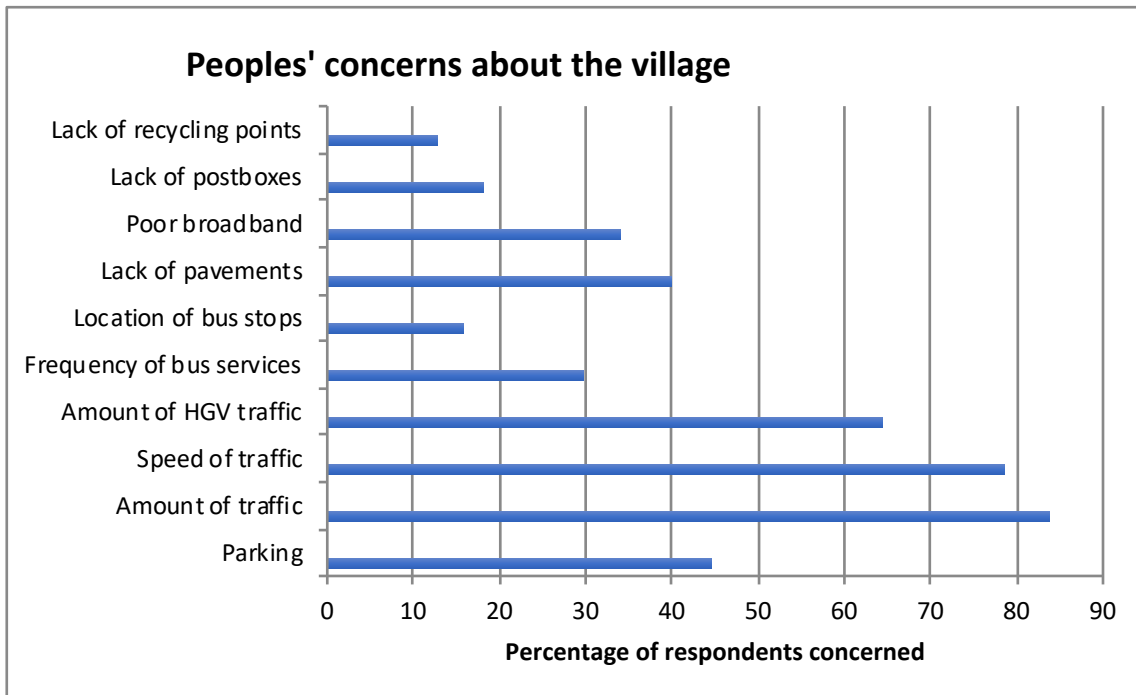
Looking at these responses, it could not be clearer that in Stowupland we regard ourselves as a village separate from Stowmarket itself. The vitally important two features, standing out a mile from the other responses, are this separation from the town, and the access to the open country and green spaces. Although many like to be near the rail and shops, this is in no way as significant as the access to country.



Part 1: A shared vision for Stowupland (continued)

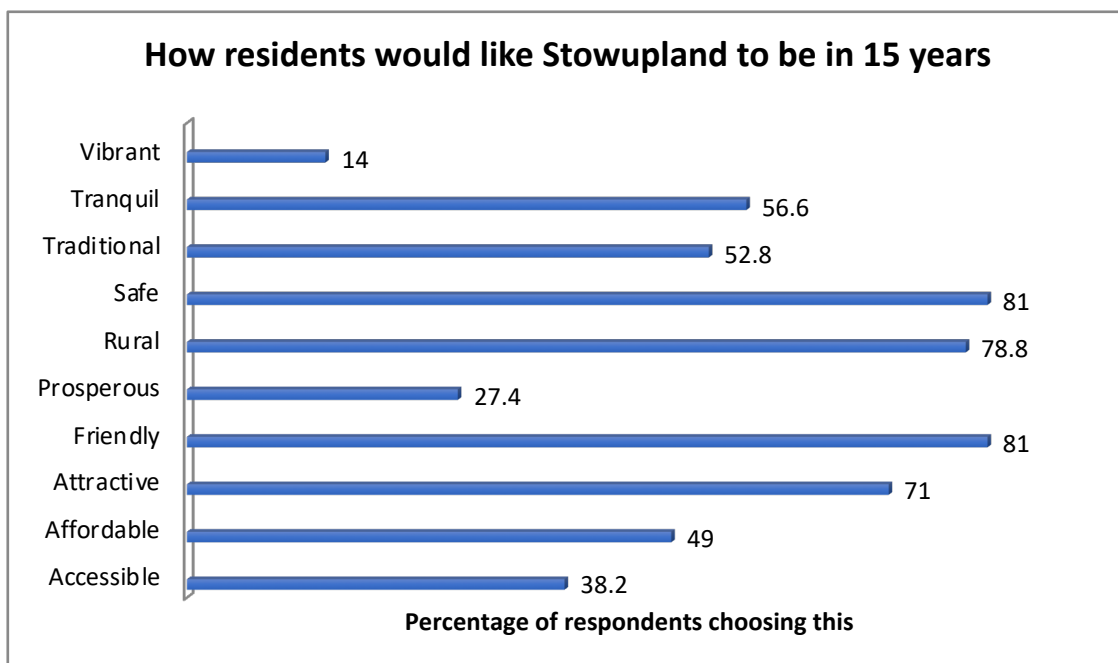
Question 3: What concerns do you have about the village?

When we did the Mini-Questionnaire in the summer of 2015 it became apparent that traffic was a major concern and this is completely upheld by these results. This graph shows that the four most significant concerns are all to do with traffic: the quantity of HGV traffic, traffic speeds, traffic levels and parking. It appears that the village is still reeling with the impact that the school reorganization has had on our traffic. Even the fifth most significant concern, the lack of pavements, is related to traffic.



Question 4: Thinking about Stowupland, how would you like it to be described in 15 years time?

The answer to this question, show a rather endearing lack of 21st Century ambition: not for Stowupland is there a desire for vibrancy or prosperity. Here what we want most is a safe and friendly rural community, which is attractive and tranquil. This is why people like it and want to stay.



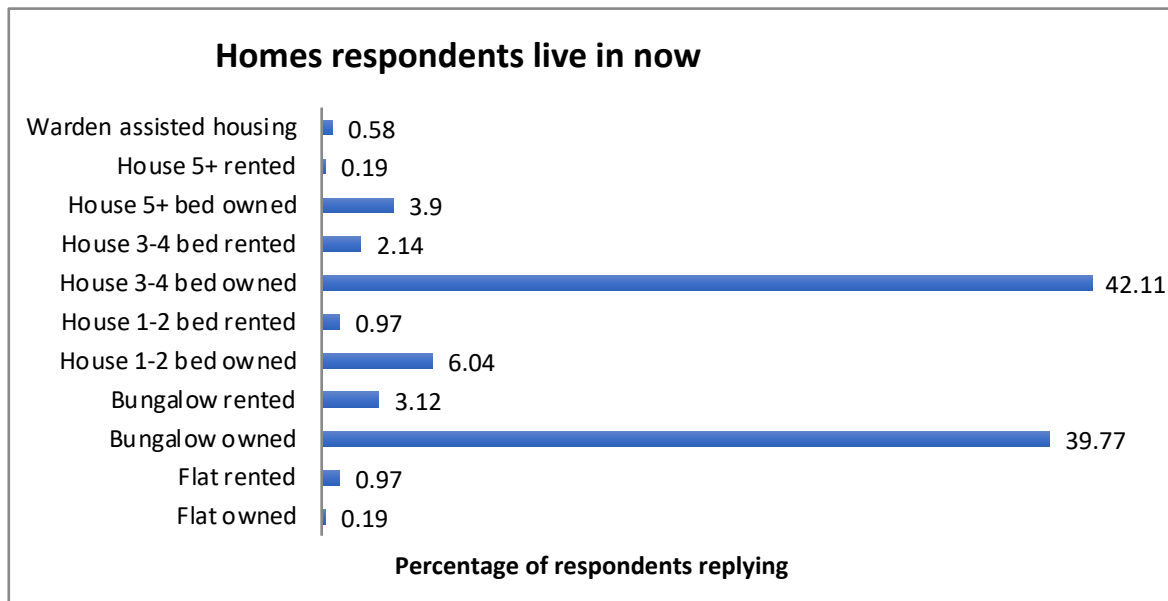
Part 2 – Housing

Question 5: Do you intend/want to stay in Stowupland?

Here it follows that, valuing the stability that comes with being a safe, friendly and rural community, unsurprisingly we want to stay here. Unlike an urban and constantly shifting population, residents here want to stay. Of all the questions asked, this was the one that elicited the most answers, with 514 responses – 448 people responding “yes” and only 10 responding “no”. People are clearly more definite about this than anything else at all. Once here most villagers want to stay; it is clearly a great place to live.

Question 6: What type of housing are you in now?

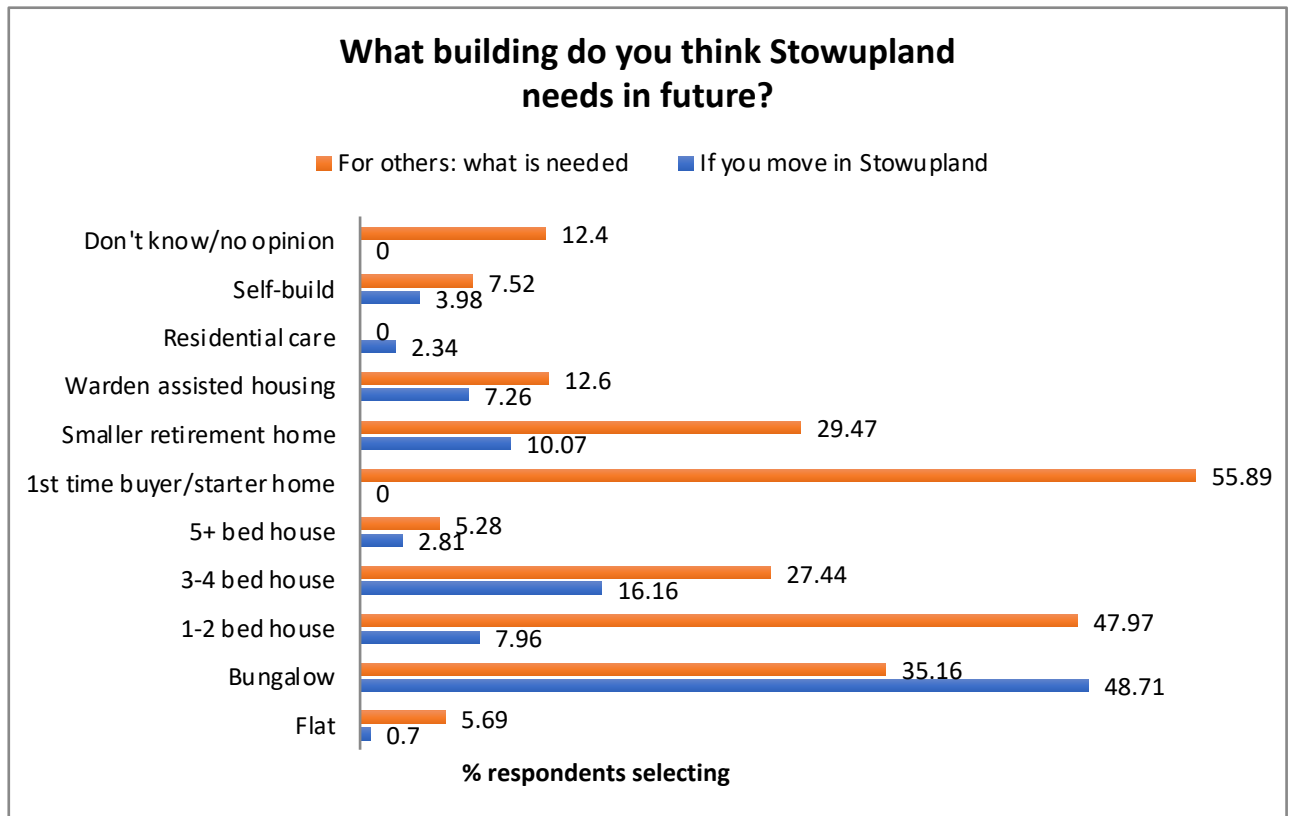
The majority of those replying to this question live either in a bungalow, or a three or four-bedroom house, which they own. Of course there are flats and larger houses, but far fewer.



Questions 7 and 8: Your next move, what type of home would you want to move to if you were to stay in Stowupland? For others, what types of housing do you think are needed?

Here, the sympathy for those not on the ‘housing ladder’ shows clearly: we would like most to see starter homes, or small houses. Many residents are concerned that their children, who would like to stay, cannot at present manage to do so. There is very little appetite for larger homes of over 5 bedrooms. Bungalows, not mentioned by developers, are where people hope to move to, should they move inside the village.

Part 2: Housing (continued)

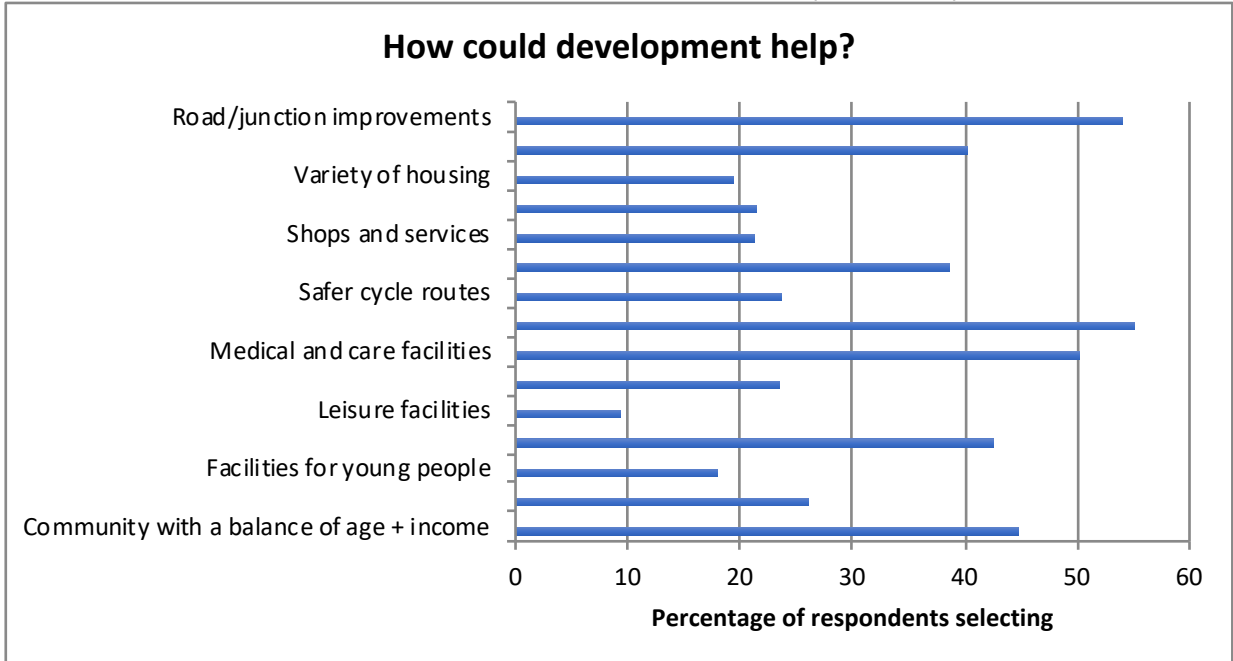


Part 3 – Future Development

Question 9: Bearing sustainability in mind, what do you think are the biggest benefits development could bring here? Please tick no more than 5

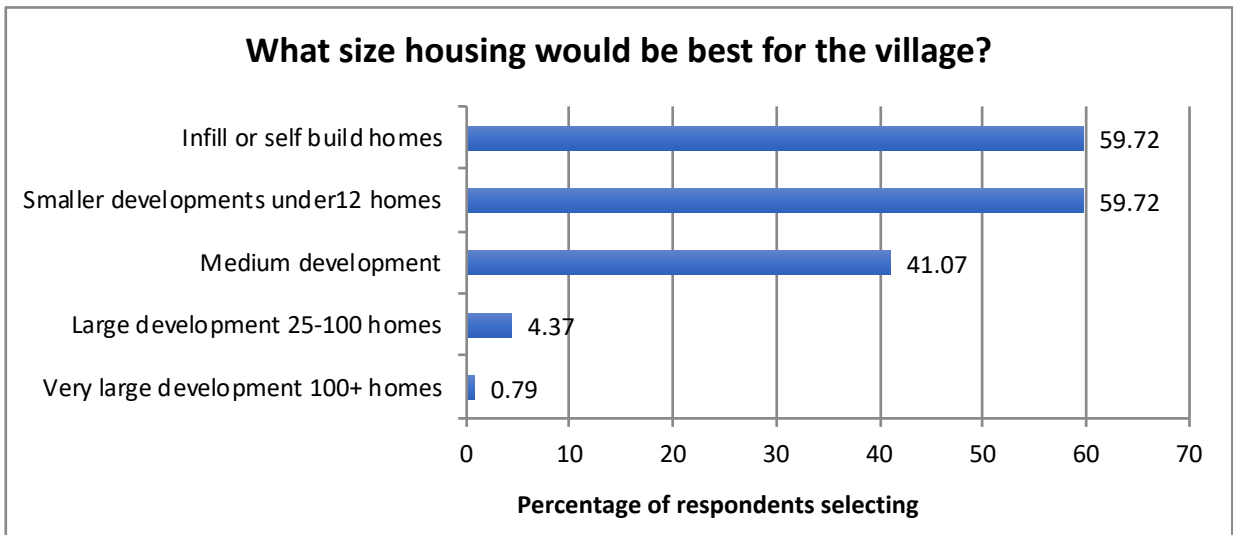
The answers to this question seem to have transmogrified into a 'wish list' for things people would like to happen here. Because they love the countryside, they hope it can be protected. Because our traffic, particularly in the mornings and at school times, is intolerable, they want to see improvements, especially at junctions. People would love to retain the village identity and at the same time, would love improved medical facilities and other services.

Part 3: Future Development (continued)

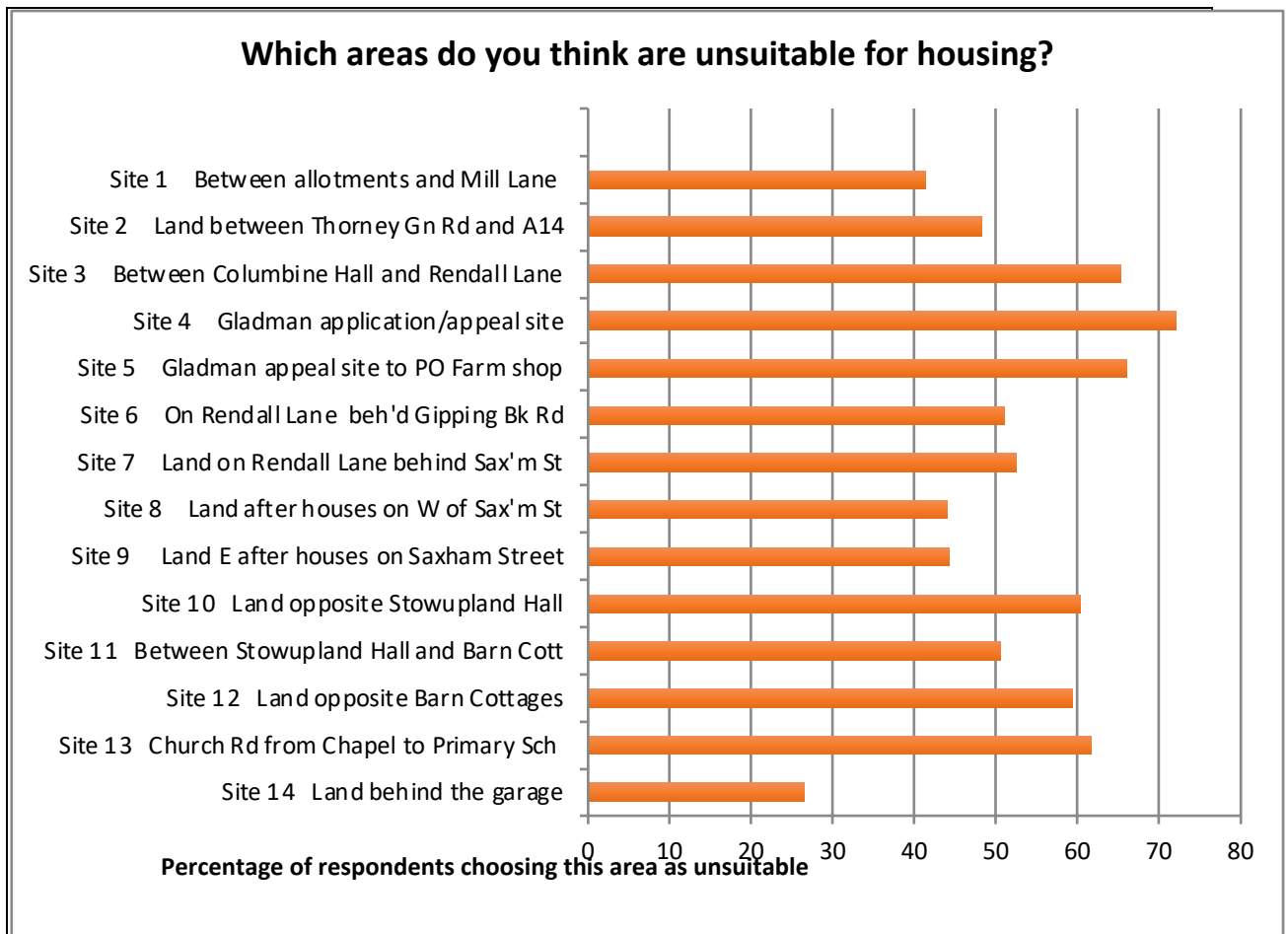


Question 10: Given need for growth over the next 15 years, what size of housing developments do you think would be most appropriate in Stowupland? Tick all that apply

This question elicited the most clear-cut of all responses: there can be no doubt that large development is not what is wanted. To retain the 'village' character and feel, what everyone wants is smaller parcels of development and infill, with nothing larger than 25 houses.



***Question 11: Which areas in Stowupland do you think are unsuitable for housing?**



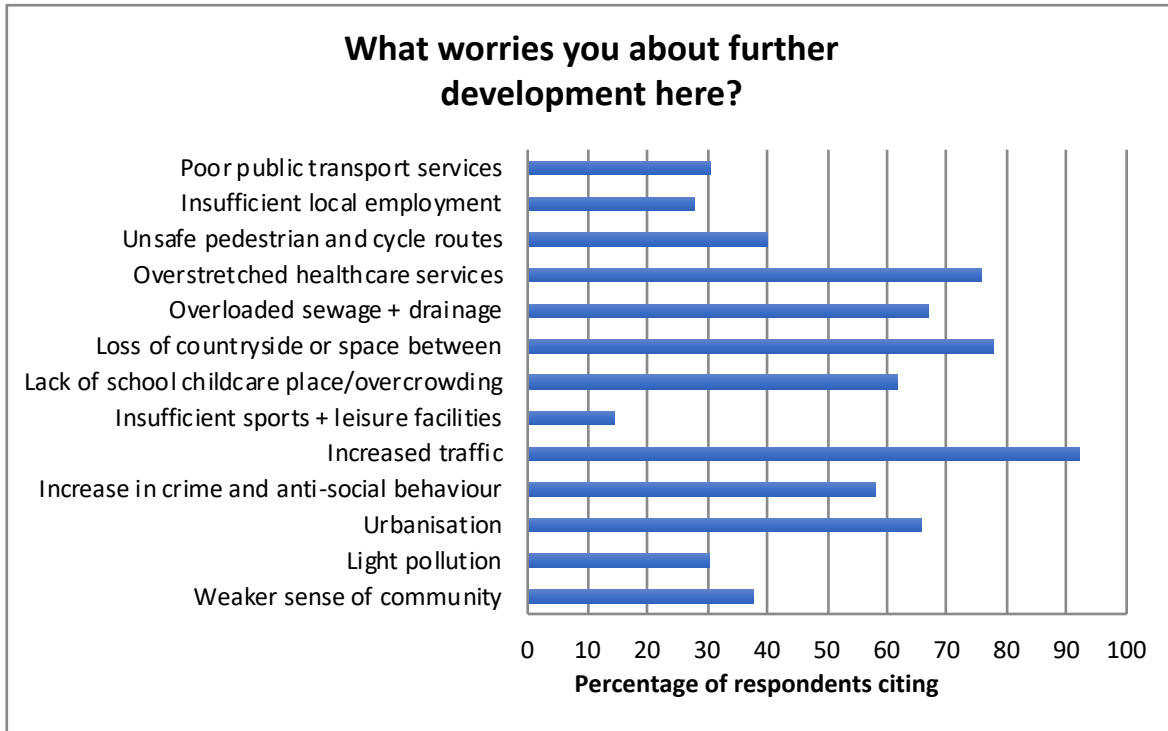
**Note: question 11 was accompanied by an aerial photograph identifying the 14 areas listed above.*

Unsurprisingly, despite the fact that residents know there must be some development, somebody dislikes every area mentioned. The four areas to which there are the fewest objections are: between the allotments and Mill Lane, the land both East and West after housing ends, on Saxham Street and, the land that drew the fewest objections of all to development, the most favoured site for building, is the land behind the Garage.

Top of the list as being the most unsuitable is the Gladman appeal area; this is an area of countryside that is close to many in the village, much used, and clearly well loved. The conclusion one must make is that residents recognise the separate areas of housing in Saxham Street and the main Village, and regard them as such. The one area, and the only one, with fewer than 30% replying that it is unsuitable for development, is that behind the garage. This is where villagers feel housing could best fit.

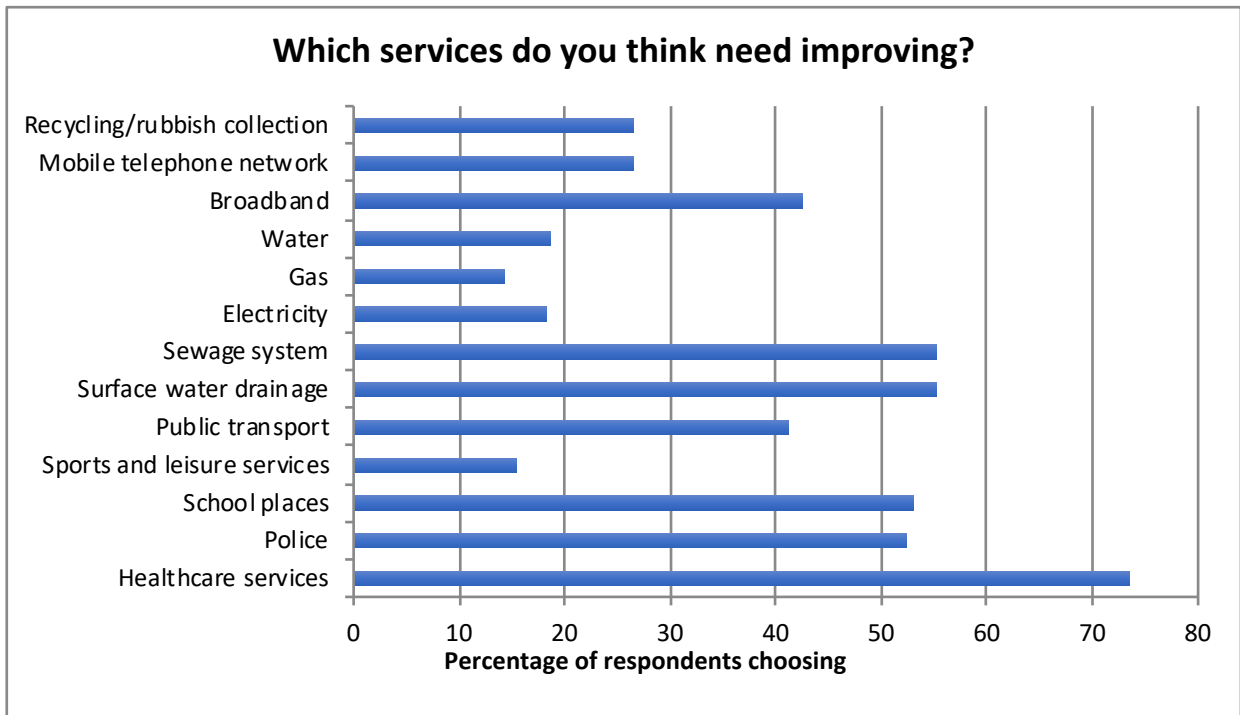
Question 12: What worries you about further development in Stowupland?

From the Questionnaire, we see only too clearly that, yet again, traffic is the main worry people have around development. Suffering the sudden impact on traffic of the schools' re-organisation, this is uppermost, by some way. The possible loss of countryside and space is the second most significant concern, followed closely by that of overstretched health services, sewage with drainage, and urbanization.



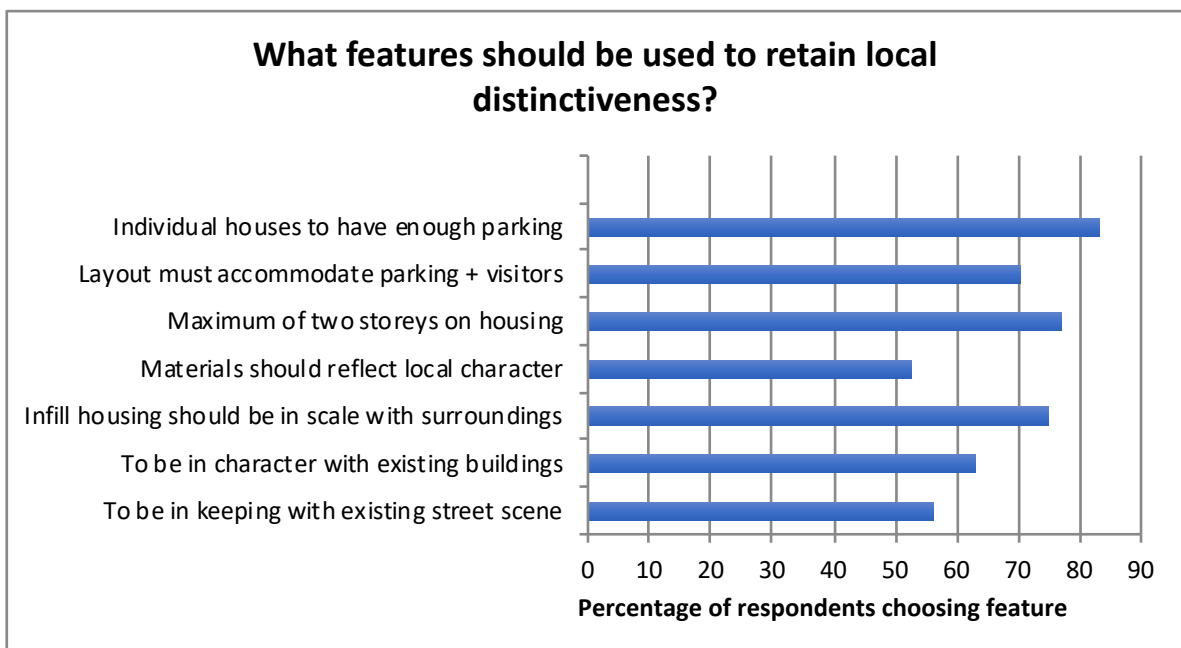
Question 13: Do you think the services mentioned below need improving to meet the future needs of the village?

Like many in Britain at present, those in Stowupland are particularly concerned about the NHS; healthcare services are those which people are most worried about, by some distance. In addition, one of the GP practices in the town has recently suffered from retirements and gaps in staffing, which may have influenced these results. There have been real concerns about surface water drainage and sewage too, which have quite likely been exacerbated by this Winter's weather; we may live on a high plateau, but there have been problems here. School reorganization and has had a huge impact on traffic and everyone's awareness of the rising numbers at school in both the Primary and High School here. Gas supply is the one that seems to get least mention, but not all the village has this available.



Question 14: Should new development have to use any of the following mentioned design features to retain local distinctiveness?

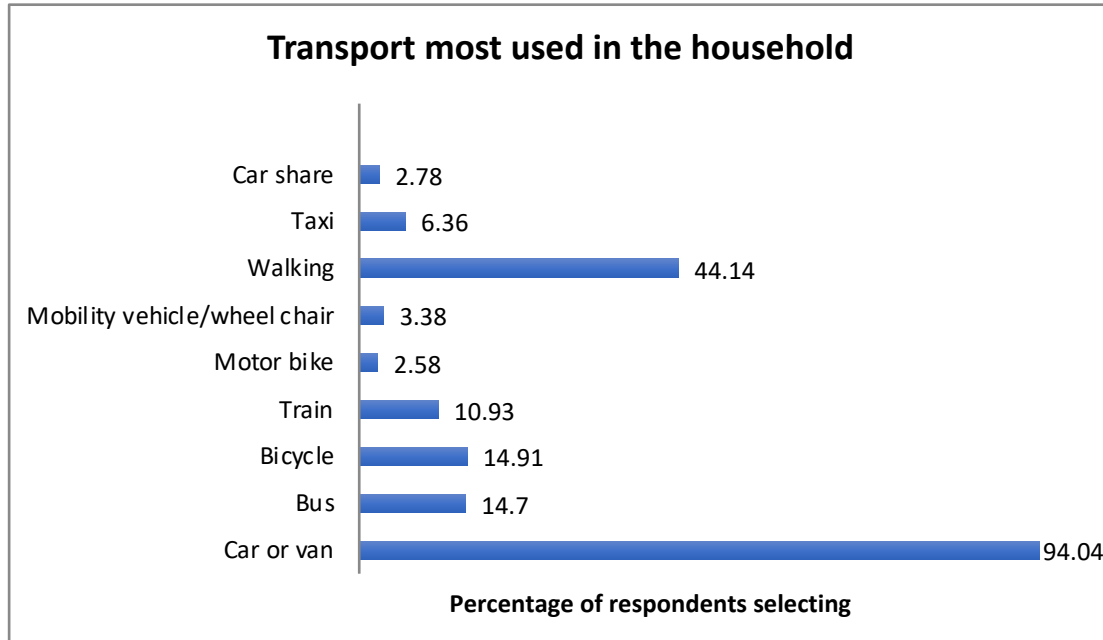
Shown in the chart below, there is a definite desire for housing to be in keeping with the surroundings and existing buildings, but most of all, tying in with concerns displayed in other questions, for parking to be catered for amply. There have been some recent infill buildings, which have drawn criticism for being too tall, or different, which explains the selection of the design features to limit height to 2 storeys, and for the surroundings to be in scale and character.



Part 4: Transport

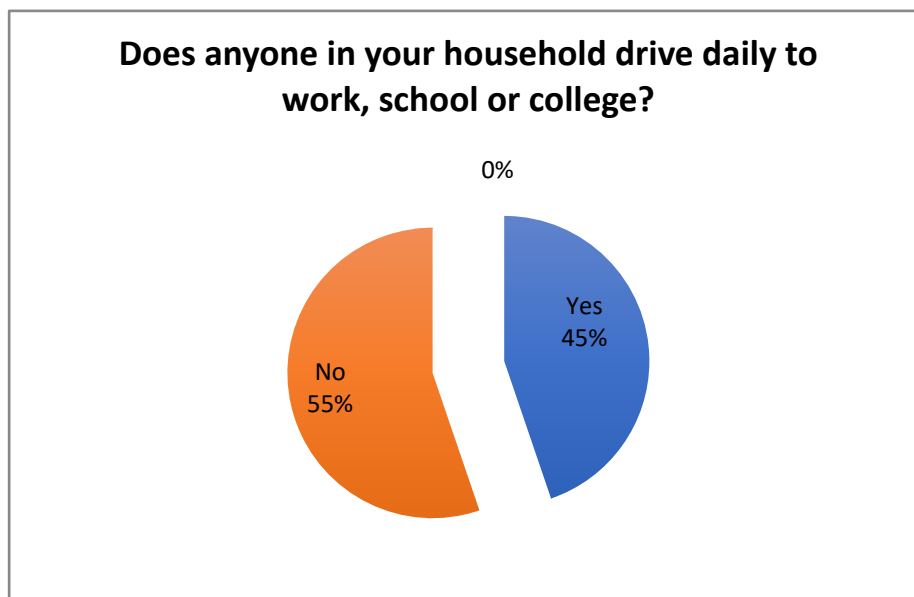
Question 15: What form of transport is most used in you household?

Unsurprisingly, given the limited public transport available, most residents use cars or vans, but many walk.



Question 16 Do you/people in your household drive on a daily basis to travel to work/school/college?

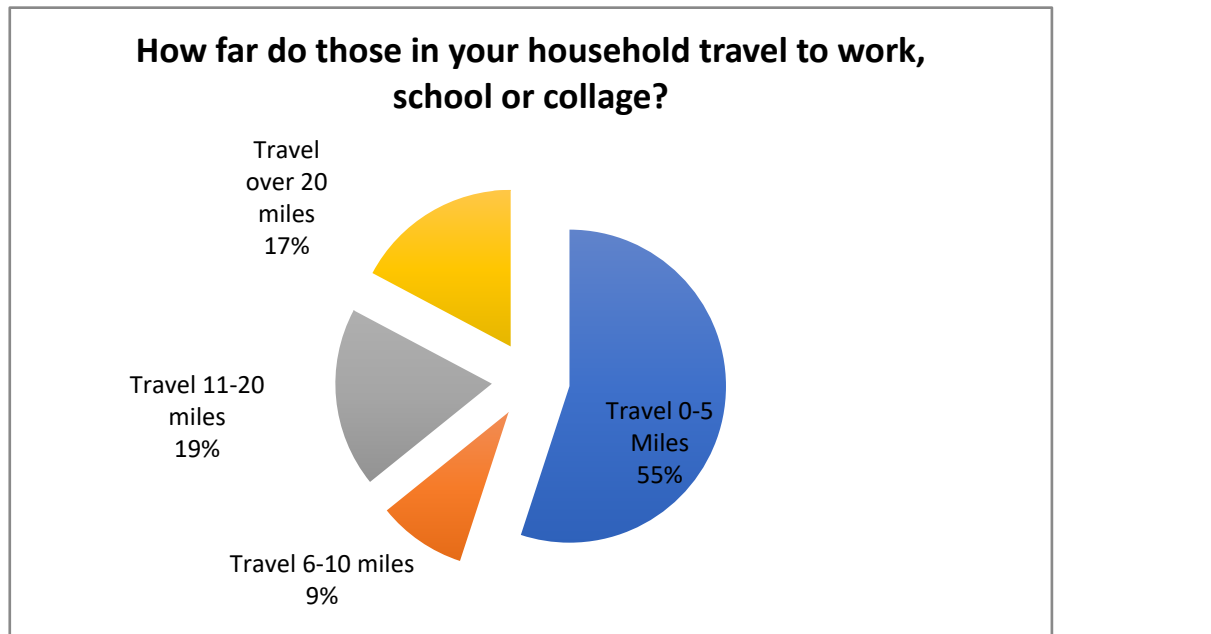
Less than half of the respondents replying to this question had anyone in their household who travelled by car daily, for work, school or college. This must be because we are in the fortunate position where it is easy to walk or cycle to the station or town, and we have schools on our doorstep. Quite a number of those who replied were of retirement age, so one can assume they do not necessarily travel regularly.



Part 4: Transport (continued)

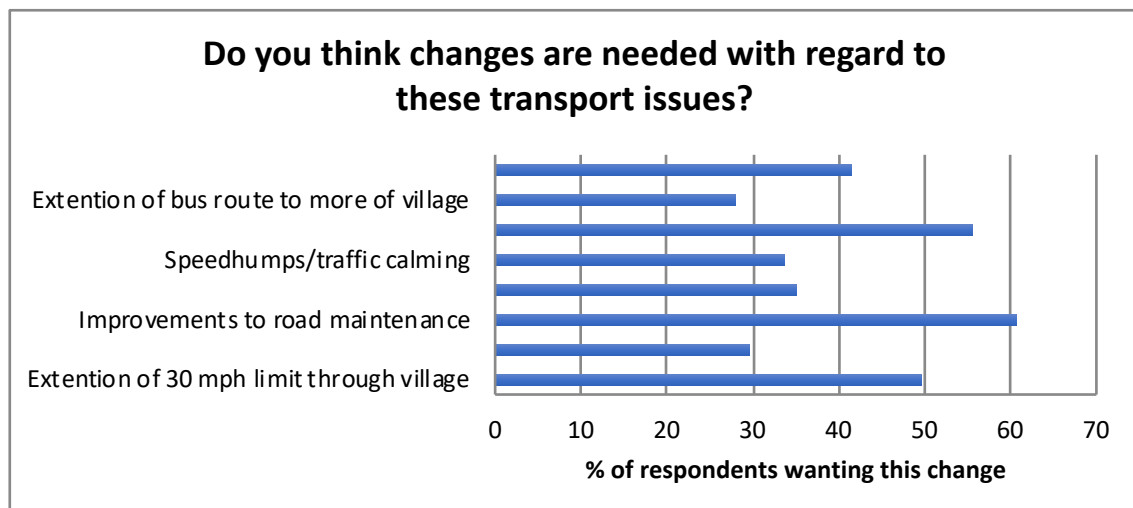
Question 17: How many miles do people in your household normally travel to work/college/school each day?

Again, this question shows that of those travelling regularly, less than half go over 5 miles; we have not only a comparatively static population, but one where people find work/learning within 5 miles, in large measure.



Question 18: In your opinion are changes needed with regards to the following transport issues?

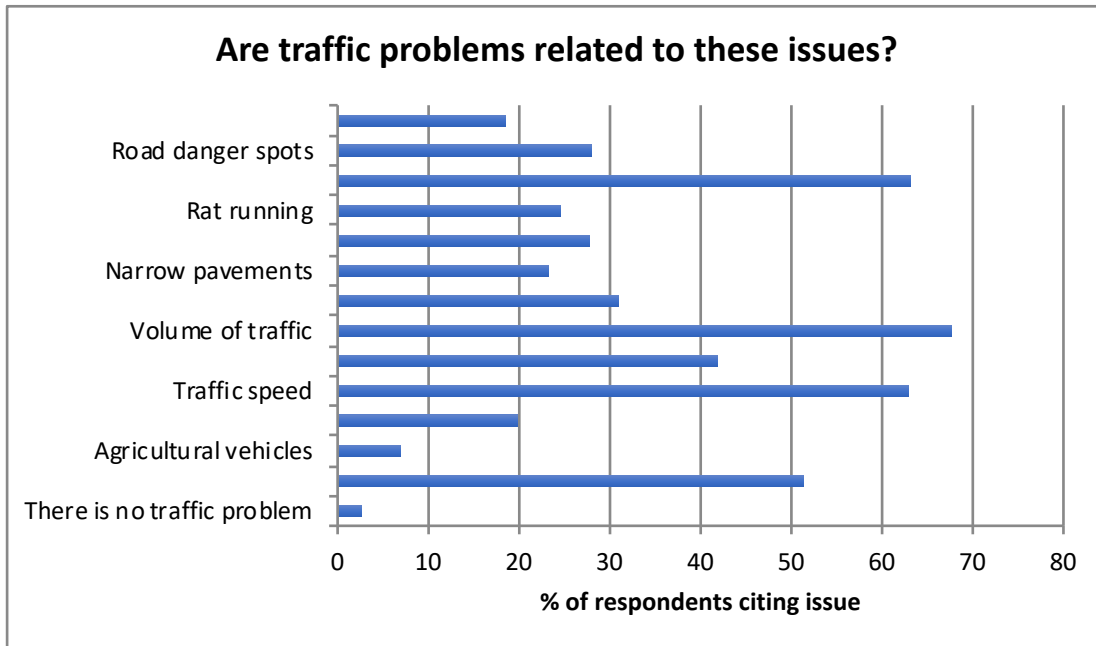
We know the residents of Stowupland see traffic as causing many problems. This question revealed that the three most important areas needing change were seen as road maintenance, a restriction of HGV traffic and an extension of the 30mph limit. A pedestrian crossing is also requested. Bus concerns, speed humps and cycle paths are all considerably lower down the list.



Part 4: Transport (continued)

Question 19: Do you think that traffic problems in Stowupland are related to any of the following?

When asked about specific traffic problems, the volume of traffic is cited by 67.66% of respondents, this is closely followed by congestion at the A1120 and B1115 junction, the speed of traffic and lorries. The lack of parking, mentioned by over 40% and the location of services, together with several other problems are seen as less significant. The farmers will be glad to see that very few find the agricultural vehicles a problem, but almost no one feels there are no problems at all.



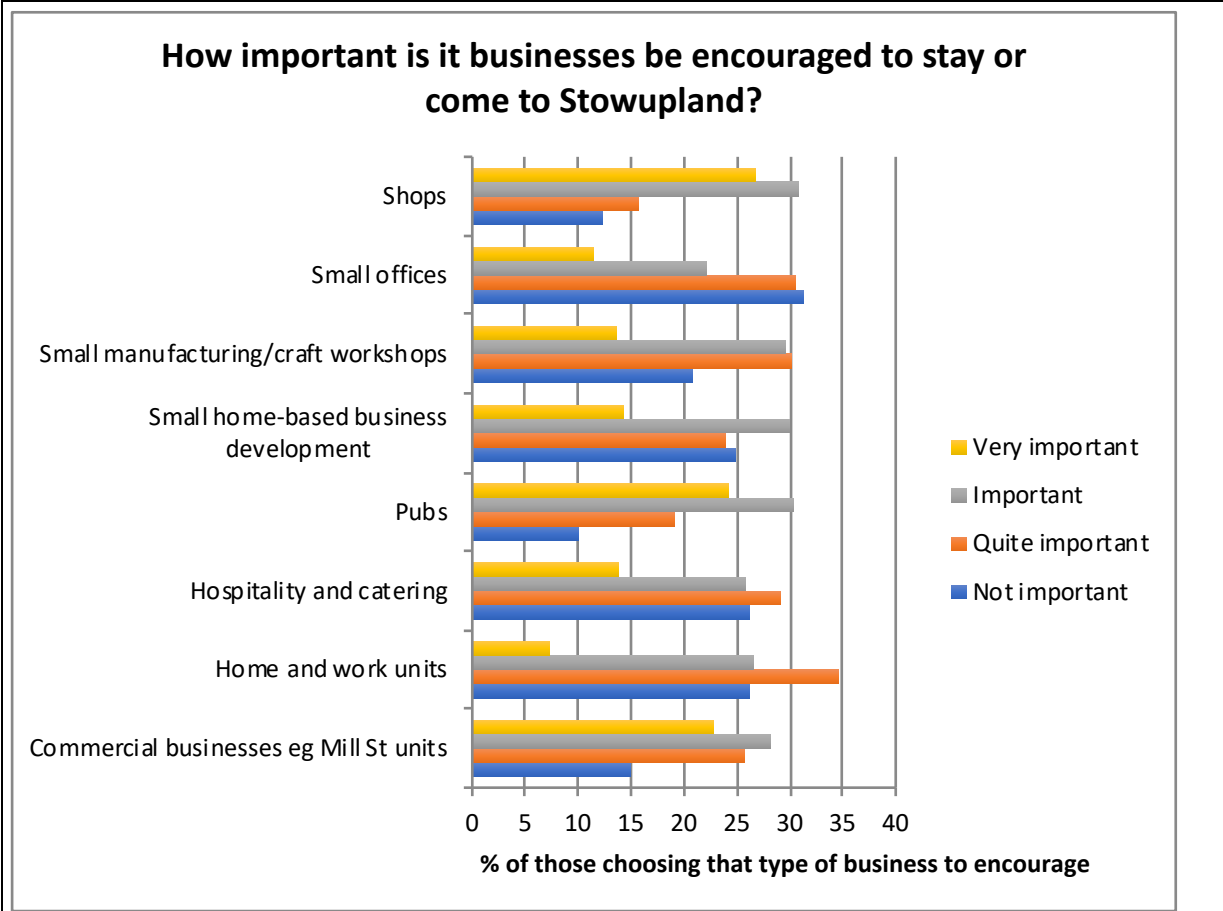
Part 5: Business and Local Economy

Question 20: If you run a business in Stowupland, into which category does it fall?

This question elicited answers from 451 respondents, of whom 410 did not have a business in the village. There were 8 (1.77%) involved in construction, 7 in financial/professional services, 7 in other services, 5 in agriculture or horticulture, 4 in hospitality/pubs, 3 in childcare, 3 in retail, 2 in manufacturing, 2 in catering and just 1 (0.22%) in transport, and in healthcare.

Question 21: How important is it that the following businesses, on a small scale, should be encouraged to stay or come to Stowupland?

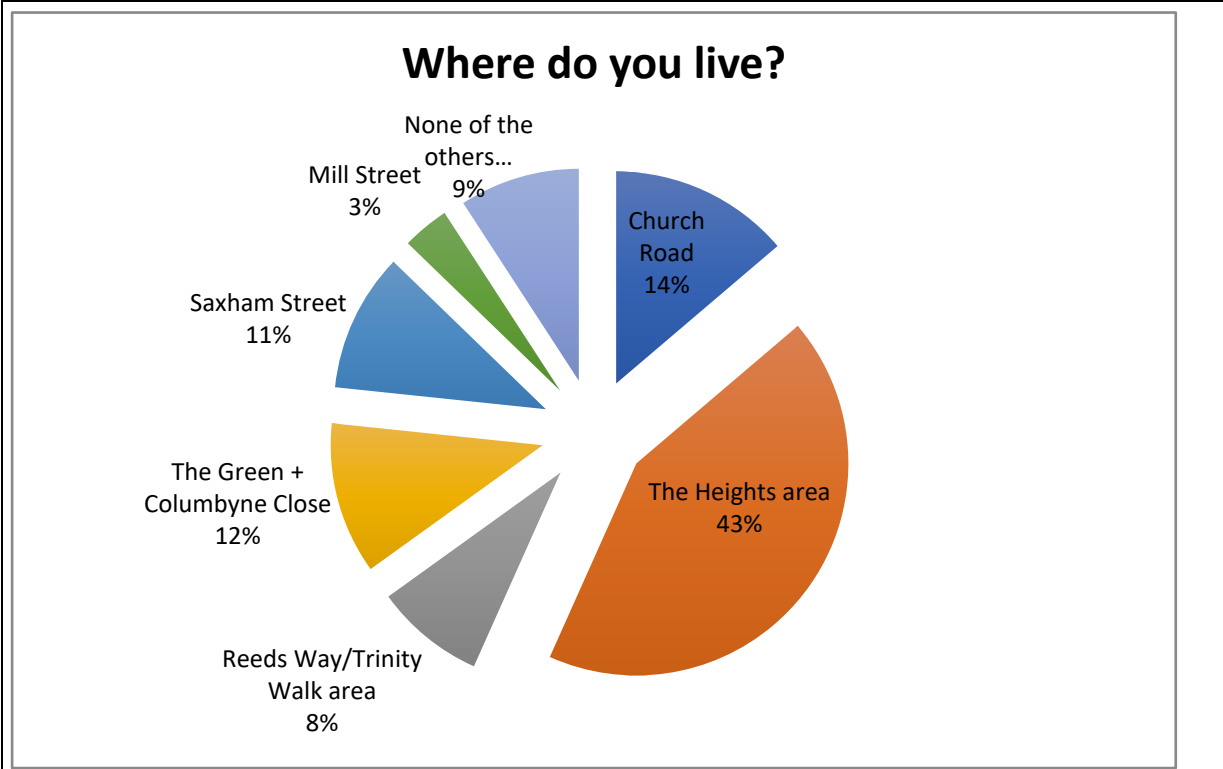
This question provoked a rather mild response from most. No particular type of business stands out as being in particular need of encouragement, but all get some support. In strong contrast with some of the earlier questions, there is no area at all which can be seen as particularly significant.



Part 6 – Your Household

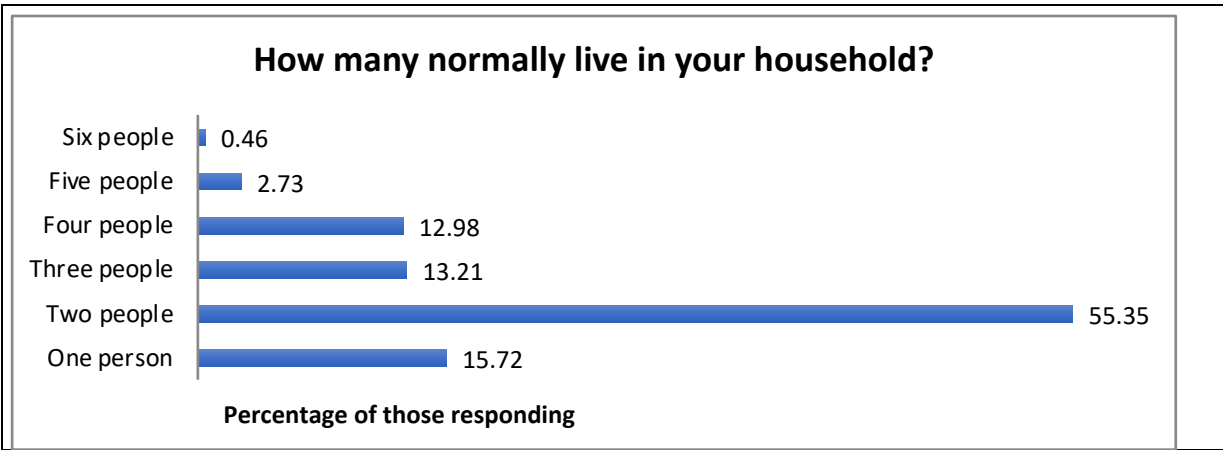
Question 22: Where do you live?

The vast majority, 43% of the respondents lived on the Heights. The only area that appears, possibly, to be underrepresented is the not inconsiderable Trinity Walk/Reeds Way area.

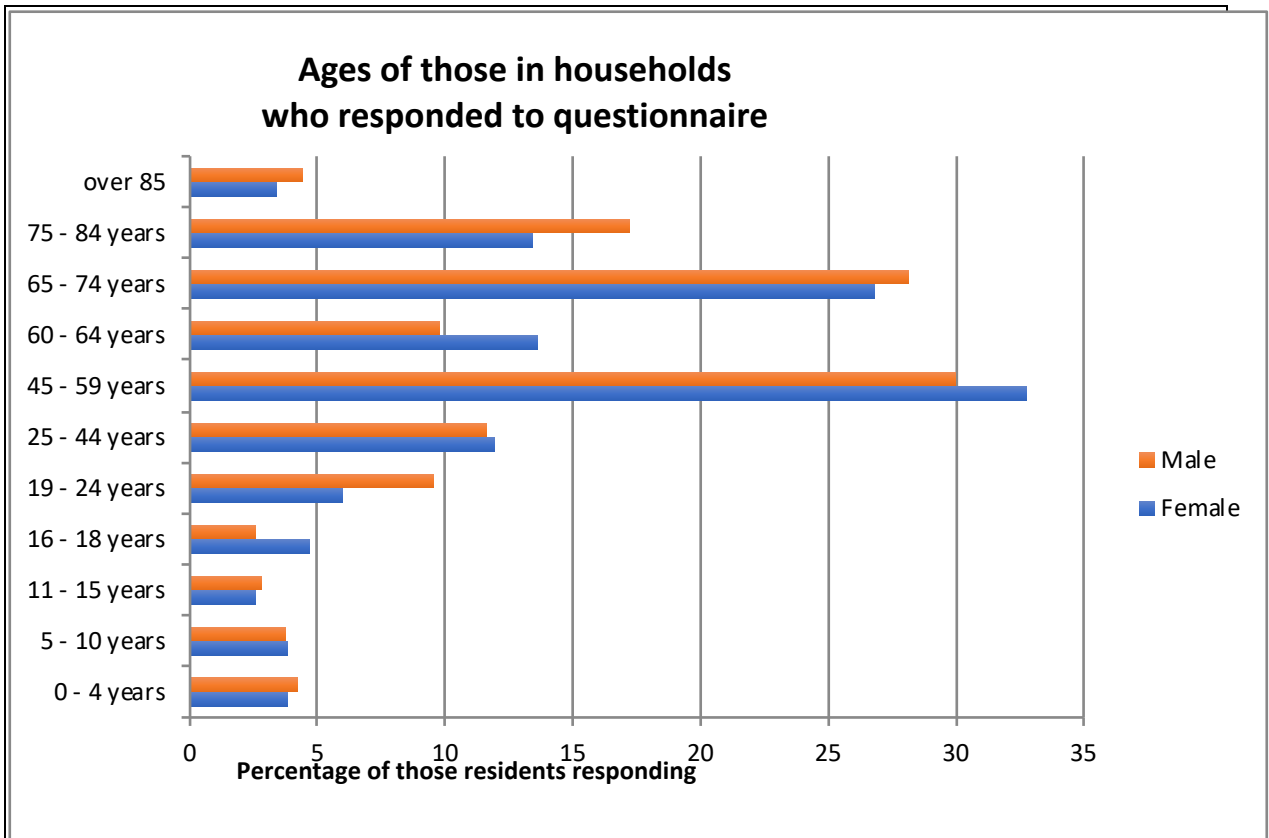


Questions 23/24: How many people normally live in your household?

Over half the respondents live in two people households, but only 2 households (0.46) have over 6 in the house. In age, there are a large number of respondents who are over retirement age, more men over 64 completed the form than women, but in the 25-59 age-group more women completed the questionnaire. This is possibly just demonstrating how time-pressed younger people are, as there are plenty about.



Part 6 – Your Household (continued)



Finally, The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would like to thank everybody who took the time and trouble to fill out the Questionnaire enabling us to collate this information. We hope you will find it interesting; we also trust that it will enable us to complete a full Neighbourhood Plan soon, on which the whole village can eventually vote.

February 2016