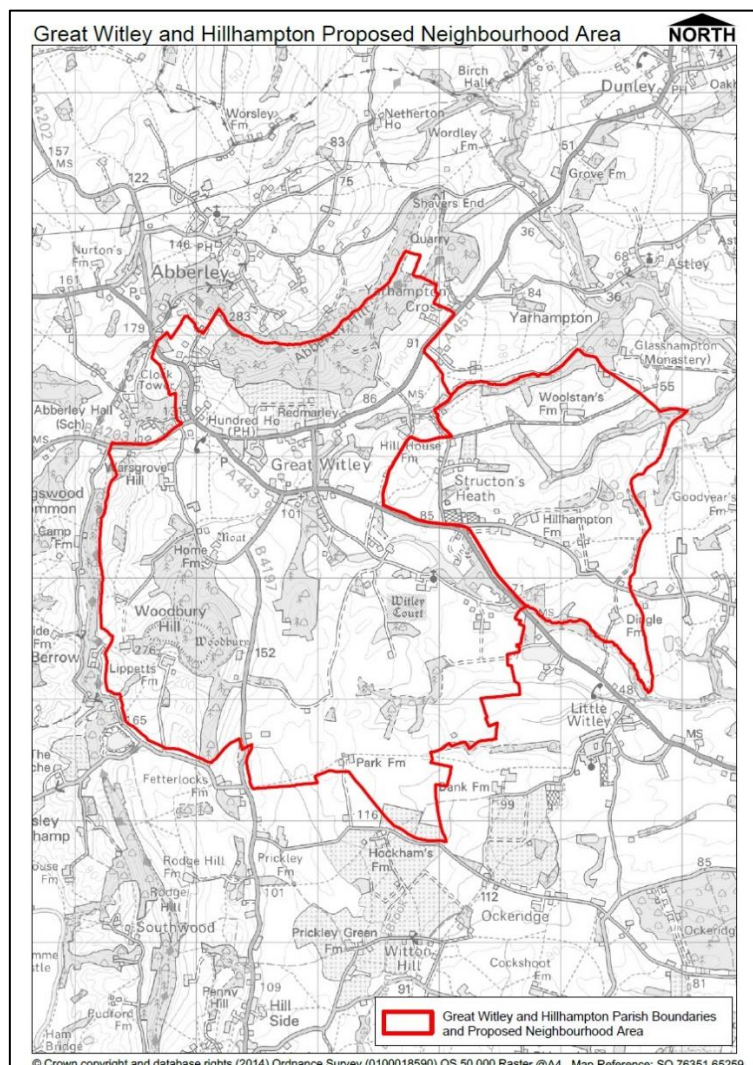


Great Witley and Hillhampton Neighbourhood Plan

Questionnaire Survey 2023

Results report



DJN Planning Limited

March 2023

For Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council

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CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| 1 Introduction | 1 |
| 2 Summary of results | 2 |
| 3 Survey method | 6 |
| Responses to questions on: | |
| Vision and Objectives | 7 |
| The Parish environment | 10 |
| Local Green Space | 12 |
| Infrastructure | 15 |
| Housing | 18 |
| Community Services and Facilities | 26 |
| Economic Development | 29 |
| Many thanks for getting this far | 33 |
| Information about you | 34 |

1. Introduction

Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. To help inform the Plan, a questionnaire survey of residents was undertaken in February 2023 which sought views on a draft vision and objectives for the NDP, environment, local green space, infrastructure, housing, community services and facilities, and economic development.

This report sets out the results of the survey. The report:

- provides a summary of the main findings (section 2);
- outlines the survey methodology, describes the overall response, and explains how the results have been presented in this report (section 3); and
- sets out on a question-by-question basis the response to the questionnaire, dealing with the following topics:
 - draft Vision and objectives – questions 1 to 3
 - environment – questions 4 and 5
 - Local Green Space – questions 6 to 8
 - Infrastructure – questions 9 and 10
 - housing – questions 11 to 15
 - community services and facilities – questions 16 to 18
 - economic development – questions 19 and 20
 - information about the respondent – questions 21 to 24.

A copy of the questionnaire is available separately.

This report has been independently prepared for Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council by Dr. D.J. Nicholson.

March 2023

2. Summary of results

The survey was undertaken in February 2023 and achieved a response rate of 26%.

Vision and Objectives

- There was significant support for the draft Vision and objectives.
- Comments focussed on housing; the environment; and services, with concerns that the School, GP Surgery, sewerage, water, and energy supply networks were already at or near capacity and needed to be improved in advance of development.
- On housing, many thought that there was no need for more homes on any significant scale, including on land south of Stourport Road, with other comments on the preferred size, type and design of new dwellings.
- The top three things which residents valued about living in the Parish were proximity to countryside, the low density of housing and their current dwelling. Relatively little weight was given to local facilities and services, community spirit, and outdoor activities.

The Parish environment

- In minimising the impact of development on the Parish environment the top priority was road traffic levels and safety, followed by protecting landscape features and views within and from Great Witley village. The lowest rankings were for maintaining biodiversity and air quality.
- Views of the countryside surrounding Great Witley village were seen by many as important, with Abberley, Warsgrove and Woodbury Hills and local heritage features such as the Abberley Hall School clock tower and Witley Court being frequently mentioned in this context.
- Key views and viewpoints were from the entrance to Great Witley village from Worcester; Quartermain's Field; and from the west of the village, to the north and south of Hundred House.

Local Green Space

- There was significant support for the designation of part of Quartermain's Field between Bowen's Field and the School/Village Hall as Local Green Space.
- The land was seen to be of particular importance and significance because of its contribution to village feel and settlement character, as a wildlife habitat and a space for informal recreation/community events, and in providing a safe walking route to village facilities. Its tranquillity and beauty, including the views offered of the surrounding countryside, were also acknowledged.
- Several other areas were proposed for designation as Local Green Space, notably Pain's Field to the east of the village, followed by the remainder of Quartermain's Field.

Infrastructure

- The priorities for improvement were footpaths and pavements at Great Witley village; the extent and enforcement of traffic speed limits; traffic calming measures; and the safety of vulnerable road users. The lowest priorities for improvement were signage for roads and pavements, passing places, and the school bus service.
- Comments focussed on a range of traffic/transport issues including the amount and speed of traffic, the challenges of walking around the village, and bus services. There were also comments on flooding and drainage, water supply, broadband, energy, and services and facilities.

Housing

- Most respondents preferred to see small family homes (3 bedroom), followed by starter (2 bedroom) dwellings and then larger (4 bedroom and above) houses.
- Almost two-thirds of respondents agreed with new housing being built as individual homes on “infill” plots between existing dwellings, with half also supporting the development of smaller sites, each providing up to four houses, adjacent to existing properties.
- In contrast, larger developments of more than five houses, which would include some affordable housing, were opposed by more than two-thirds of respondents.
- There was support for adapted/easy access homes such as bungalows, housing for older people, and accommodation associated with start-up small farming businesses.
- The priorities for new housing were to:
 - maintain Parish character and appearance
 - retain trees and other landscape features
 - match character of neighbouring property
 - have an acceptable impact on infrastructure.
- The lowest priorities were to maintain a variety of house sizes, and for new development to be able to access local services and public transport on foot or cycle without using main roads.
- In terms of the proposed development of land south of Stourport Road, there was majority support for including a wide range of measures in the Neighbourhood Plan to maximise community benefit. Highest levels of support were for requirements to mitigate loss of wildlife habitat; secure acceptable drainage, open space and landscaping, and footpath links to village facilities; and to ensure that the new dwellings respected the amenity of existing residents.
- Other comments on how the site should be developed addressed:
 - the overall planning of the site, which should reflect village character and incorporate green areas and wildlife habitats
 - infrastructure and services, to ensure existing facilities were expanded as required and new provision considered
 - scale and phasing

- type, size and design of new houses, with an emphasis on environmentally friendly provisions
- continued opposition to any development.

Community Services and Facilities

- The Post Office/shop, GP Surgery, Village Hall and petrol filling station were used by most survey respondents in the preceding year, with less use made by this group of the Primary School, Pre School or Scouts/Guides.
- Priorities for improvements were to public open space, the Village Hall and opportunities for older people to keep in contact.
- Comments suggested many ways in which village facilities and community life could be improved.

Economic Development

- Favoured types of economic development were small-scale retail such as a shop or café, small-scale farming/horticulture, market gardening/plant nursery, farm diversification and equine businesses.
- A majority were opposed to small-scale storage and distribution, large areas of glass-housing or polytunnels, and to intensive livestock units.
- The priorities when considering the impact of any new economic or business developments were to minimise traffic on main roads through the village, ensure any operation was appropriate in scale to the rural community, improve broadband speed and mobile reception, and reduce noise and light impacts. The lowest priorities were those associated with maintaining or increasing economic activity, such as supporting the extension of existing business premises or the development of live/work units.

Many thanks for getting this far

- Comments raised a wide range of topics:
 - development in Great Witley village and the adverse impact on its character, with many re-iterating opposition to any further large-scale growth, particularly on the land south of Stourport Road
 - the amount and speed of traffic on the main roads through the village, speed limits and enforcement, pavements and footpaths, pedestrian safety, bus services, and street lighting at road junctions
 - the need for services in the Parish and village to keep pace with new development
 - suggestions for the village to develop its own ground source heat pump and solar solution; support for a solar farm subject to visual impacts on residents; for new development to be as 'green' as possible; and for the character and significance of the local heritage based around Witley Court and the Church to be protected and enhanced.

- on the economy, responses pointed out that there were limited employment opportunities locally, so that new housing inevitably gave rise to commuting; and that farmland should be retained as such.
- other responses addressed the enforcement of planning conditions; catering for all age groups; enabling property downsizing, to release larger homes; and the future of Abberley Hall School.

Information about You

- In responses to the survey the following groups were over-represented when compared to mid-2020 population estimates:
 - females
 - age groups over 65.
- Compared to Census 2011 information, full-time and part-time employees were under-represented in survey responses. The retired were over-represented.
- Over half of respondents had lived in the Parish for 11 years or more, and over one-third had lived in the Parish for 25 or more years.

3. Survey method

Method and response

The survey questionnaire was developed by the Steering Group with professional support. Account was taken of issues raised to date, including in an earlier survey carried out in 2016. Key topics were identified as: vision and objectives, the Parish environment, Local Green Space, infrastructure, housing, community services and facilities, and economic development.

The survey asked 20 questions on these topics. Responses could be provided either as multiple choices or as free-write comments. There was a further opportunity to add comment on any other matters thought to be relevant to the NDP. The questionnaire concluded with four questions on respondents' gender, age, economic activity, and length of residence.

Two copies of the survey booklet were hand-delivered to all households in the Neighbourhood Area at the start of February 2023. The booklet comprised a covering letter, a set of frequently asked questions, a map of the Neighbourhood Area (the Parish of Great Witley and Hillhampton, see front cover of this Report), and the questionnaire itself.

All residents of the Neighbourhood Area aged 16 or over were asked to take part. The mid-2020 population estimate for this age group is 705 persons (this is the latest available age data for this geography pending the release of Census 2021 information).

Responses to the survey could be made online via SurveyMonkey or by completing the printed questionnaire. These could be returned to a collection box at Great Witley Post Office or by post. The closing date was 28 February 2023. A contact point was provided to enable any queries from residents to be answered and to request additional copies of the printed questionnaire if required.

Overall, there were 185 replies to the survey, a response rate of 26%. Of these, 62% were made online and 38% using the printed questionnaire.

Presentation of the results

For the multiple-choice questions, tables and bar charts show the number of responses against the given options. Table percentages are based on the total number of completed questionnaires (185). This aids comparison of results overall and between questions by utilising a consistent base. Each table confirms the percentage base. Percentages are rounded to whole numbers.

Free-write comments have been summarised in terms of the key topics raised. Pie charts are used to illustrate the number of comments per topic. Individual comments may refer to several topics. A full set of all the comments made is also available (see separate Comment Listings report).

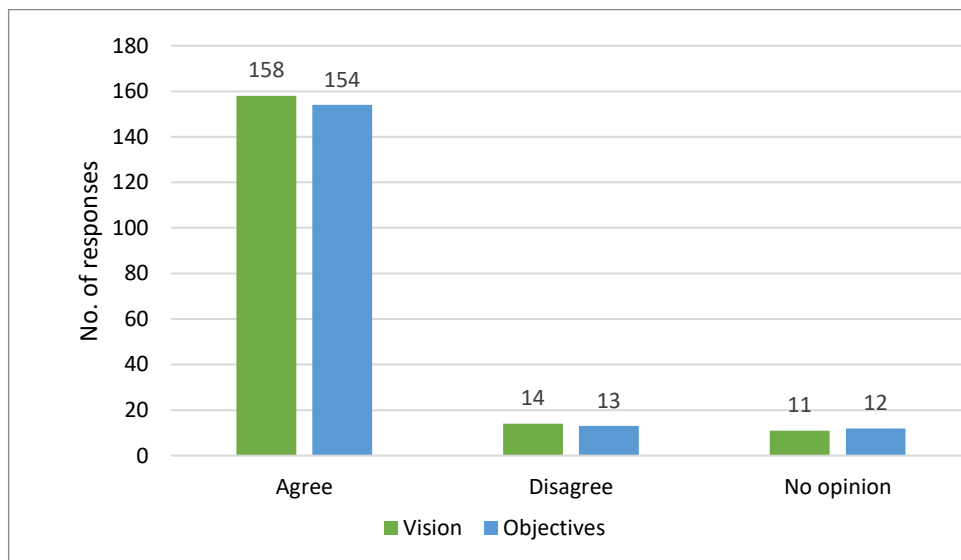
Vision and Objectives

The questionnaire asked for views on a draft Vision for the Parish of Great Witley and Hillhampton in 2041 and on objectives relating to individual planning topics.

Question 1: Do you agree or disagree with the vision and objectives? (tick one box per row)

| | Agree | | Disagree | | No opinion | |
|------------|-------|-----|----------|----|------------|----|
| Vision | 158 | 85% | 14 | 8% | 11 | 6% |
| Objectives | 154 | 83% | 13 | 7% | 12 | 6% |

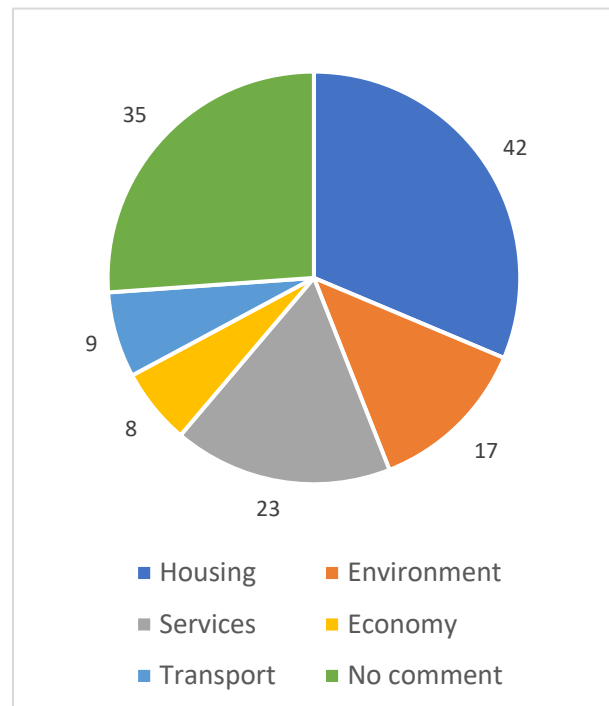
Percentage base = 185



- There was significant overall support for both the draft Vision and the objectives, with many respondents taking the opportunity to make supplementary comments in answering Q2 (see overleaf).

Question 2: If you have any comments on our Vision and objectives please tell us in the box below.

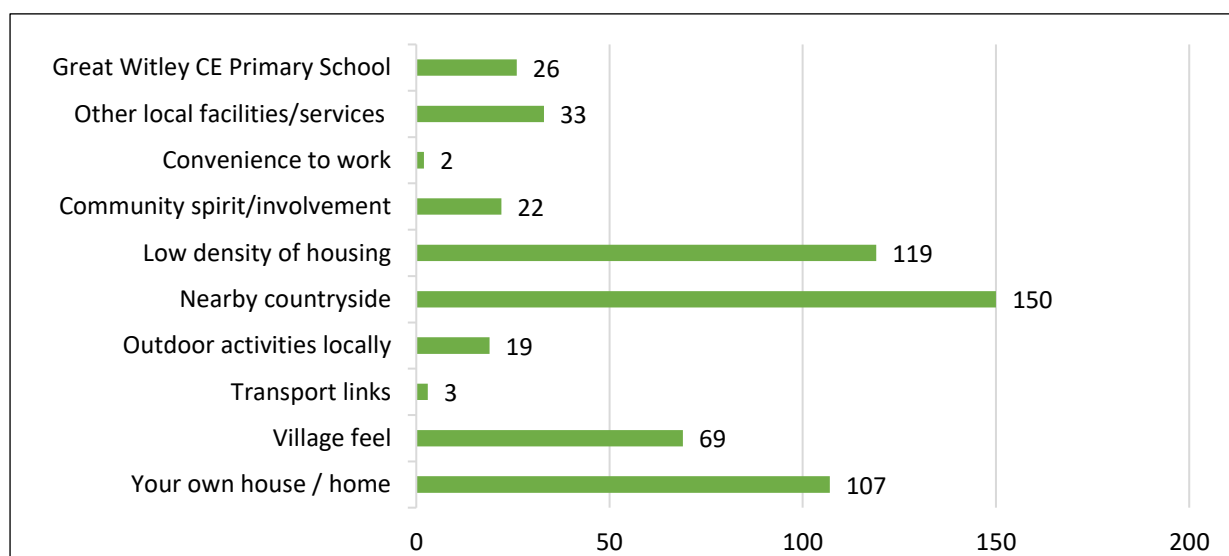
- This question was answered by 118 respondents (64%). There were several suggestions for making the Vision and objectives more locally relevant.
- Comments on **housing** (42) covered a range of issues:
 - many thought that there was no need for new housing on any significant scale, such as by developing land south of Stourport Road, and that this would threaten the identity of the village.
 - The size and type of any new housing. There should be a mix of house sizes, and housing should *“be affordable and accessible to all ages young or old, single or families, sheltered or otherwise”*.
 - Design considerations including choice of materials, with a desire to avoid ‘copy and paste’ schemes in favour of developments which are *“in keeping with the rural and historic environment, while being of high environmental standards”*.
- There were 17 comments on the **environment**, with many referring to the need to retain village green spaces rather than see them being lost to development. There were also comments on the need to preserve and enhance the natural environment more generally, including views, nature, sustainability, and the distinctive landscape. Several pointed to heritage assets such as Witley Court and the Church with calls for these to be referenced in the Vision.
- Comments on **services** (23) identified concerns that the School, GP Surgery, sewerage, water, and energy supply networks were already at or near capacity and questioned their ability to cope with any more housing unless improved in advance of development.
- Eight comments on the **economy** focussed on a desire for the village not to become a commuter settlement in the context of a limited provision of local jobs: *“there is little genuine local work and almost any new residential accommodation will mean multiple cars travelling to workplaces elsewhere”*.
- On **transport** (nine comments) there were concerns expressed about the volume, speed, noise, and type of traffic, and with provision for pedestrians at Great Witley. Improving the latter should be included in the objectives, along with promoting access to the countryside.
- There were 35 ‘no comments’ including those reiterating the position expressed in answering Q1 with no further elaboration.



Question 3: What are the TOP 3 things you value most about living in Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish? (tick up to 3 boxes only)

| | No. | % | | No. | % |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------------|-----|-----|
| Great Witley CE Primary School | 26 | 14% | Nearby countryside | 150 | 81% |
| Other local facilities and services | 33 | 18% | Outdoor activities locally | 19 | 10% |
| Convenience to work | 2 | 1% | Transport links | 3 | 2% |
| Community spirit/involvement | 22 | 12% | Village feel | 69 | 37% |
| Low density of housing | 119 | 64% | Your house/home | 107 | 58% |

Percentage base = 185



- The most valued features were proximity to countryside, the low density of housing and current dwelling. All these aspects of life in the Parish were valued by more than half of respondents, particularly the nearby countryside (81%).
- These were followed by the village feel at 37%.
- Relatively little weight was given to local facilities and services, community spirit, and outdoor activities. The convenient access afforded to workplaces and to transport links were valued by only 1-2% of respondents.

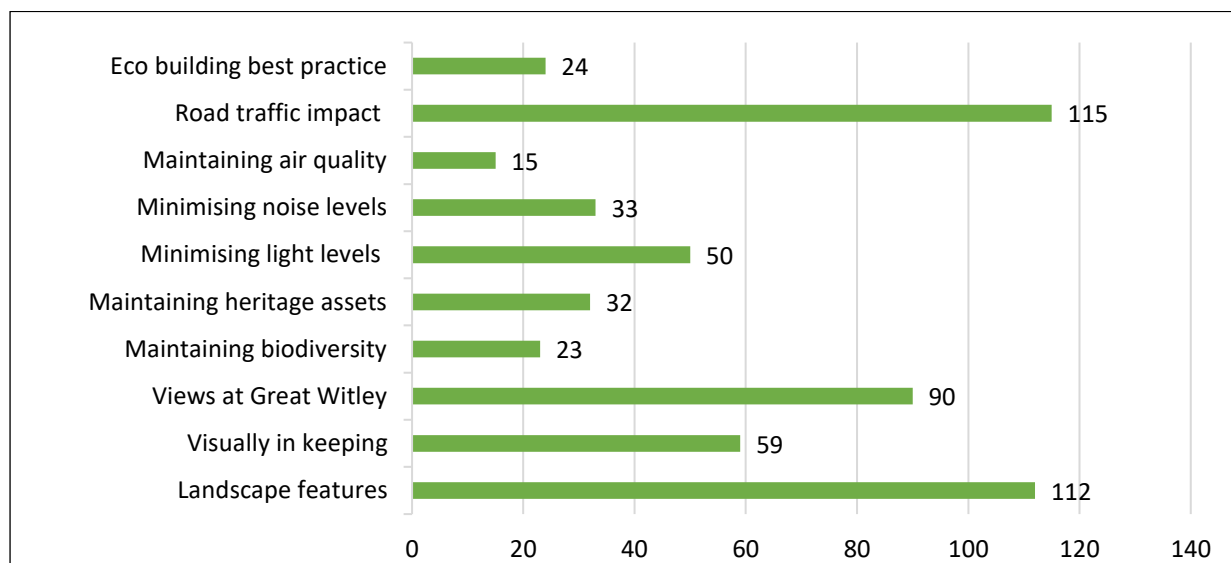
The Parish environment

This section sought views on how best to protect aspects of the environment through the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Question 4: In minimising the impact of new development on the Parish environment, which 3 things are most important to you? (tick up to 3 boxes only)

| | No. | % | | No. | % |
|---|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|
| Eco building best practice | 24 | 13% | Maintaining heritage assets | 32 | 17% |
| Impact on road traffic levels/safety | 115 | 62% | Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity | 23 | 12% |
| Maintaining air quality | 15 | 8% | Protecting views within and from Great Witley village | 90 | 49% |
| Minimising noise levels | 33 | 18% | Visually in keeping with the surroundings | 59 | 32% |
| Minimising light levels to protect dark skies | 50 | 27% | Protecting traditional landscape features | 112 | 61% |

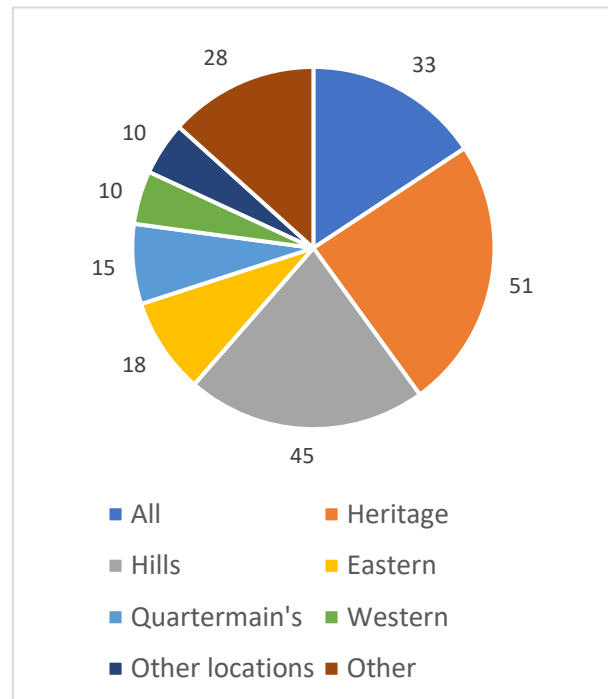
Percentage base = 185



- In minimising the impact of new development, respondents prioritised road traffic levels and safety (62%), and protecting landscape features (61%) above the other options.
- Other priorities were views at Great Witley (49%), development to be in keeping with its surroundings (32%), and minimising light levels (27%).
- Maintaining air quality was the lowest priority at 8%, suggesting that concerns over road traffic do not extend to the air pollution generated.

Question 5: The Plan will be able to identify locally important views of the surrounding countryside for protection. If there are any such views that you think should be protected, please describe them below.

- This question was answered by 137 respondents (74%), with comments ranging from the general to the specific.
- There were 33 comments to the effect that **all views** should be protected: *“it is not possible to distinguish particular views”; “all views are important”*.
- Two important components of views were identified as local **heritage features** in the landscape such as the Abberley Hall School clock tower, Witley Court, Stourport Lodge, and the Church (51 comments), together with the surrounding Abberley, Warsgrove and Woodbury **Hills** (45 comments).
- In terms of more specific locations identified, there were 18 comments describing views on the approach to Great Witley from the **east**, including notably from Worcester near to Stourport Lodge: *“entering the village from Worcester is a view that defines Great Witley - a feeling of open space with the field on the right (by the surgery), a lovely view across to the Abberley Hills and the magnificent hill behind Walsgrove Farm”*. The field referred to here, Pain’s Field and the views afforded, was mentioned in 15 of these comments.
- Views associated with the centrally located **Quartermain’s Field** including from Glendower Way, The Glebe and Bowen’s Field were described in 15 comments. These referenced views towards Redmarley, Abberley Hill, Stourport Lodge, and the eastern horizon.
- There were 10 references to views from the **west** of the village, including north and south of Hundred House: *“views across the fields in both directions (N towards Abberley Hill and S towards Woodbury/Walsgrove Hills from the Hundred House area)”*.
- **Other view locations** were identified in 10 comments, including east from Martley Road/Woodbury Hill; from the Worcestershire Way at Warsgrove Hill; at Goodmans Farm; and from Hillhampton (including Yewtree Cottages) and Structons Heath.
- A range of **other** comments included several references to the adverse implications of new housing for views from and of the village. These included reference to the proposed development of land south of Stourport Road (part of Quartermain’s Field). Local wildlife; traffic speed and volume; and walking were also addressed.



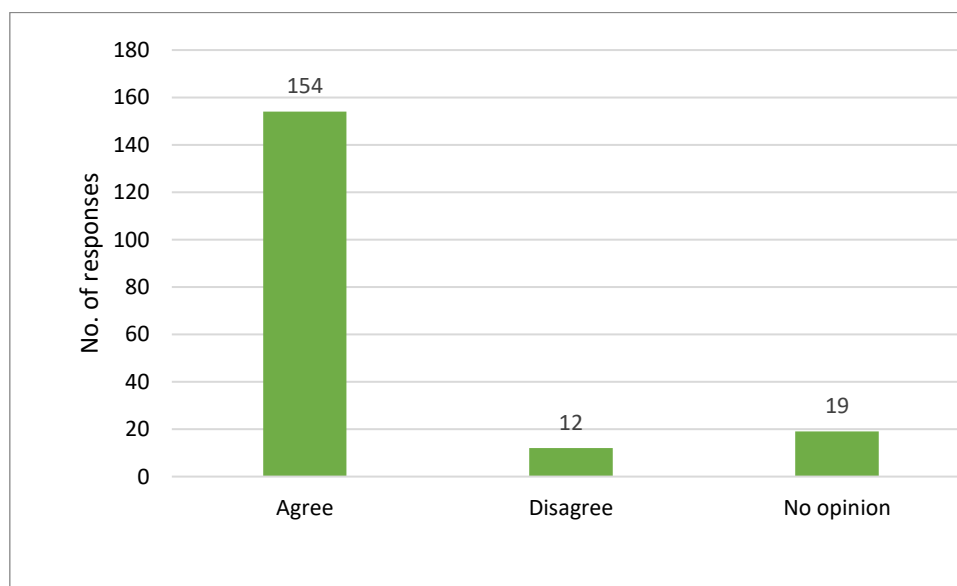
Local Green Space

This section asked for views on possible areas of land for designation as Local Green Space, beginning with land at Quartermain’s Field, Great Witley village. The western part of the field is being proposed for housing development in the current Review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). Q6 and Q7 refer to the remaining eastern part of the Field.

Question 6: Do you think that land between Bowen’s Field and the School/Village Hall should be designated as Local Green Space? (tick one box)

| | No. | % |
|------------|-----|-----|
| Agree | 154 | 83% |
| Disagree | 12 | 6% |
| No opinion | 19 | 10% |

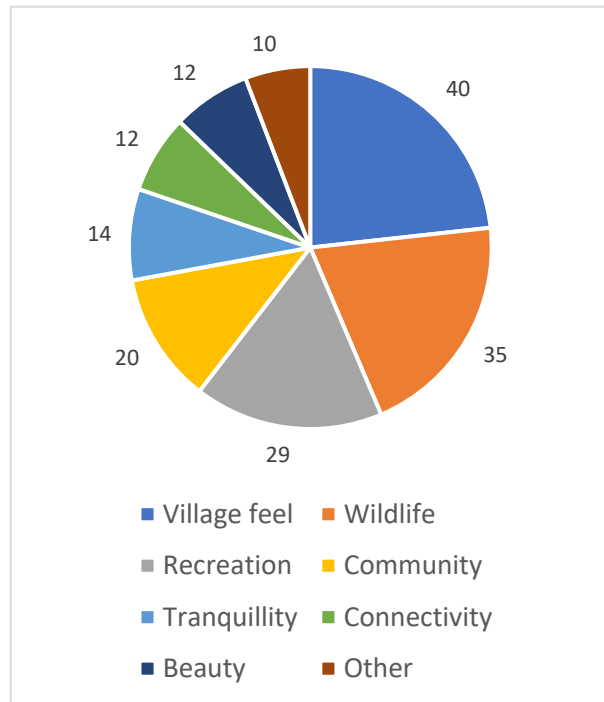
Percentage base = 185



- There was significant support (83%) for the designation of the land between Bowen’s Field and the School/Village Hall as Local Green Space, with only 6% disagreeing with this proposal.

Question 7: If you selected “Agree” in Q 6, please tell us why you think the land is of particular local significance.

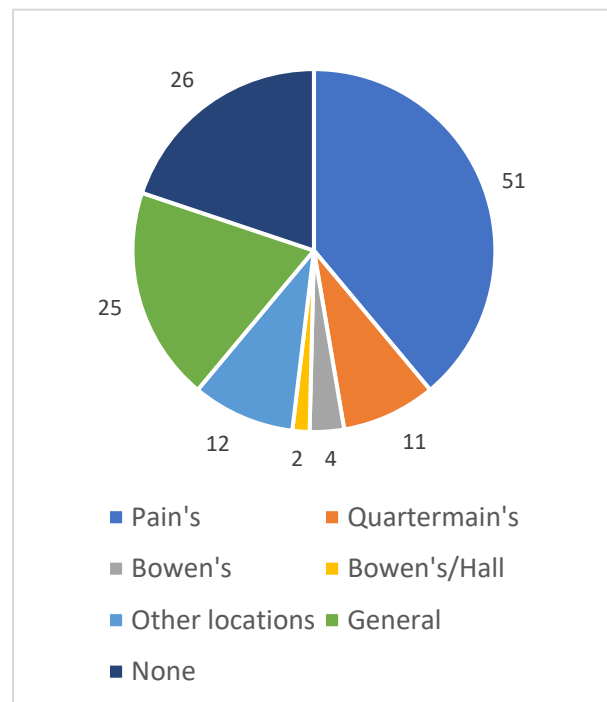
- This question was answered by 156 respondents (84%), the highest response rate to the free-write questions.
- The question was designed to establish why respondents considered the land to be of local significance, against the criteria identified in the National Planning Policy Framework (para. 102) which were explained in the introduction to this topic.
- There were 40 comments referring to the contribution of the land to **village feel and settlement character**, noting its central location in the ‘triangle’ between the Stourport and Worcester Roads: *“it is important to keep a ‘green heart’ to the village to provide natural amenity and preserve a village feel”*.



- **Wildlife and the preservation of natural habitats** were referred to in 35 comments, with references to the local flora and fauna.
- The land was valued for its **informal recreational** contribution to village life in 29 comments, as a place for walking, jogging, dog exercising, and generally appreciating nature: *“there is nowhere else in Great Witley for people to walk their dogs or play or picnic”*.
- It was also appreciated as a venue for **community events** which was accessible for everyone (20 comments): *“it is a local green space that has brought the community together at times by hosting bonfires/fireworks and fayres”*.
- There were 14 comments appreciative of the **tranquillity** it represented and acknowledging the value of such a ‘breathing space’ in the village which was seen as *“of huge benefit to people’s health and emotional well-being”*.
- The land was also valued for the **safe pedestrian connectivity** provided between the main roads and to village facilities (12 comments): *“crossing this land eliminates the need to walk on our narrow footpaths along very busy roads when heading for the school, village hall or doctors surgery”*.
- There were also 12 comments acknowledging the **beauty** of the land including the views it afforded of the surrounding countryside and the Abberley clock tower.
- **Other comments** (10) disagreed that the land was significant or merited protection, with some seeing it as suitable building land because of its village location.

Question 8: If there are any other areas of land you think meet the criteria for Local Green Space designation, please describe them below.

- This question was answered by 124 respondents (67%).
- The most frequently identified area of land thought to meet the criteria for Local Green Space designation was **Pain's Field**, identified in 51 comments. This land accounted for 52% of responses to this question after excluding those who answered 'no' or 'none'. Many comments referred to the public footpath running through the land, seen as one of the best-used public footpaths in the village; to the views afforded: *"this field has beautiful views up towards Redmarley and the orchards, west towards the Abberley clock tower and then in the opposite direction to the gate house which is a listed building"*; and to its contribution to the character of the village on the eastern approach from Worcester.
- This was followed by 11 comments relating to **Quartermain's Field**, either as a whole or to the part now being proposed for allocation in the SWDP Review: *"if this is filled with housing it will no longer be a village, just a conurbation"*.
- There were four comments suggesting **Bowen's Field**, and two comments on the land between **Bowen's Field and the Primary School/Village Hall** which was the subject of Q7.
- Several **other locations** were suggested in 12 comments, mostly around Great Witley village. Land north and south of Hundred House attracted five comments. Others included Home Farm, Stourport Road orchards, fields around Woodbury Hill and Home Farm Lane, land south of Abberley Hill, land at Goodman's Farm, and the area around Witley Court.
- **General** (that is, not locationally specific) suggestions were made in 25 comments. These included public rights of way, farmland, fields surrounding the village, any space not currently developed, Abberley Hills, woodland, and all land outside the current settlement boundary. In this context, it is worth noting that Government Planning Practice Guidance states that the blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements as Local Green Space will not be appropriate.
- Finally, 26 respondents answered 'no' or 'none' to this question.



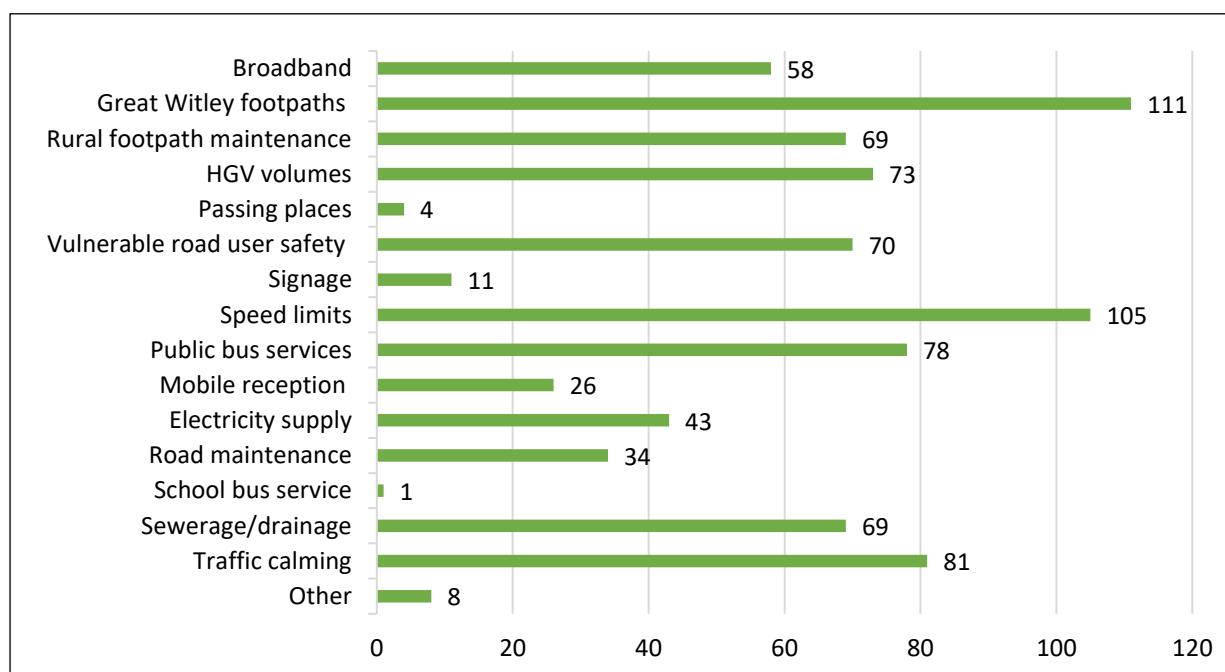
Infrastructure

This section of the questionnaire explained that whilst existing conditions regarding a wide range of Parish infrastructure were outside the land use scope of the Neighbourhood Plan, wider community aspirations on these matters could be recorded as 'Community Actions'.

Question 9: What are the TOP 5 things to be improved in the Parish? (tick up to 5 boxes only)

| | No. | % | | No. | % |
|---|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Broadband speeds | 58 | 32% | Public bus services | 78 | 42% |
| Footpath and pavement provision at Great Witley | 111 | 60% | Mobile reception | 26 | 14% |
| Rural footpath/ bridleway maintenance | 69 | 37% | Reliable electricity supply | 43 | 23% |
| HGV volumes | 73 | 40% | Road maintenance | 34 | 18% |
| Number and position of passing places | 4 | 2% | School bus service | 1 | 1% |
| Pedestrian, cyclist and horse rider safety | 70 | 38% | Sewerage and drainage | 69 | 33% |
| Signage for roads and footpaths | 11 | 6% | Traffic calming measures | 81 | 44% |
| Extent and enforcement of traffic speed limits | 105 | 57% | Other (please specify in Q10 below) | 8 | 4% |

Percentage base = 185

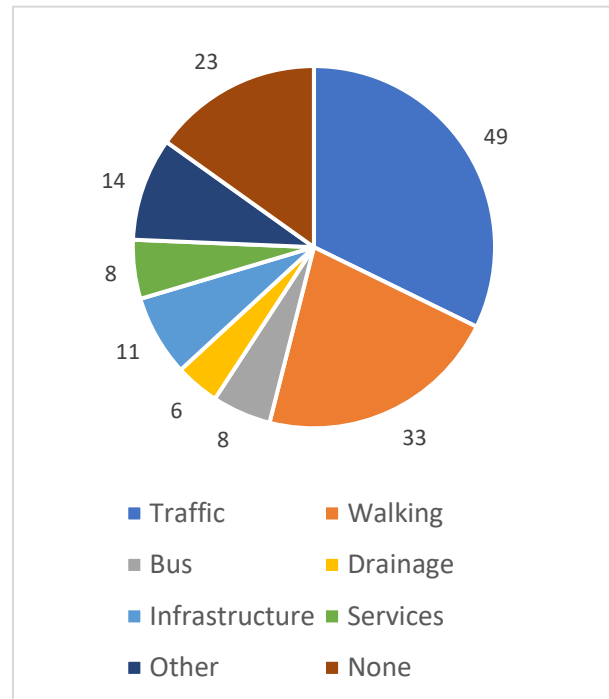


Question 9, continued/

- The replies to Q9 focussed on issues relating to the impact of road traffic on life in the Parish. The provision of footpaths and pavements at Great Witley village was the priority for improvement, being selected by 60% of respondents. This undoubtedly reflects the position of the village at the junction of the A443 Worcester Road, A451 Stourport Road and B4197.
- The extent and enforcement of traffic speed limits was second priority (57%).
- The related aspect of traffic calming measures were supported by 44%, followed by improved safety for vulnerable road users such as walkers, cyclists and horse riders (38%).
- The order of priority for the remaining options was:
 - public bus services
 - HGV volumes
 - equal support for sewerage/drainage and maintenance of rural footpaths and bridleways as improvement options
 - broadband speeds
 - reliable electricity supply
 - road maintenance
 - mobile reception
 - signage for roads and pavements
 - number and position of passing places
 - school bus service.

Question 10: If you have specific recommendations for improvements, please give details of what and where below.

- This question was answered by 125 respondents (68%).
- **Traffic speeds and volume** were the most-frequently raised topics (49 comments). Suggestions for improvement included the enforcement and extension of speed limits, a 20-mph zone, traffic calming, road markings, speed cameras, speed indicator devices, and a dual-carriageway bypass.
- Many of the 33 comments on **walking** reflected the linked point that speeding traffic particularly HGVs can make *“walking in the village sometimes feel quite dangerous”*, this being exacerbated by the narrow or absent pavements. A typical comment was to *“widen pavements on main road and/or provide new footpaths from area of Glendower Way and Fountain Court to shop, school, surgery, and village hall to main road”*. Lighting, parking restrictions, hedge cutting, maintenance, and signage were also identified as areas for improvement in the interests of walking and pedestrian safety.
- There were eight comments calling for improved **bus services** to provide better links to Stourport, Kidderminster and Worcester: *“the village needs a 7 day bus service extending into the evenings which enables people to travel to work, shops, school, and for social events such as theatres, cinemas. This would reduce traffic levels and pollution considerably”*.
- Issues around **drainage** were raised in six comments in relation to both surface water flooding and sewerage, with the existing arrangements for the latter deemed *“barely adequate”*.
- Other aspects of **infrastructure** requiring improvement (11 comments) were water supply, broadband, mains gas, and the electricity supply. There were suggestions for a community renewable energy scheme (wind, solar).
- Village **services** were raised in eight comments, both in terms of the need to expand the GP Surgery and the School and calls for improvements such as more space at the Village Hall for daytime access, public house, or restaurant/café.
- **Other comments** (14) addressed litter picking; no more new houses; lack of employment; design of development; light pollution; improved facilities for children; height of fences; allotments; condition of footpath stiles; retention of green spaces; housing for local people; future of Abberley Hall School.
- Finally, 23 respondents answered ‘no’ or ‘none’ to this question.



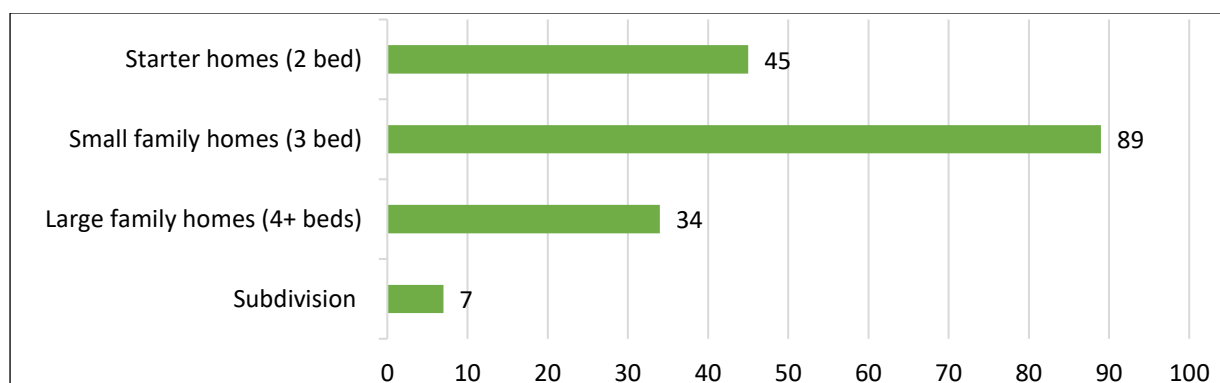
Housing

The questionnaire asked about residents' priorities for the size, type, and design of new housing in the Parish, set in the context of the strategic requirements arising from the SWDP and its current Review.

Question 11: What size of new homes is the **MOST** important? (tick 1 box only)

| | No. | % |
|--|-----|-----|
| Starter homes (2 bedrooms) | 45 | 24% |
| Small family homes (3 bedrooms) | 89 | 48% |
| Large family homes (4 or more bedrooms) | 34 | 18% |
| Subdivision of larger properties for more than one household | 7 | 4% |

Percentage base = 185



- Smaller family homes of 3 bedrooms were seen as the most important, being favoured by 48% and well ahead of the next most popular option, starter homes (24%).
- There was less support for larger dwellings of 4 bedrooms or more, and less still for the subdivision of larger properties.

Question 12: What type of new housing should the Parish have during the lifetime of the plan – up to 2041? (tick one box per row)

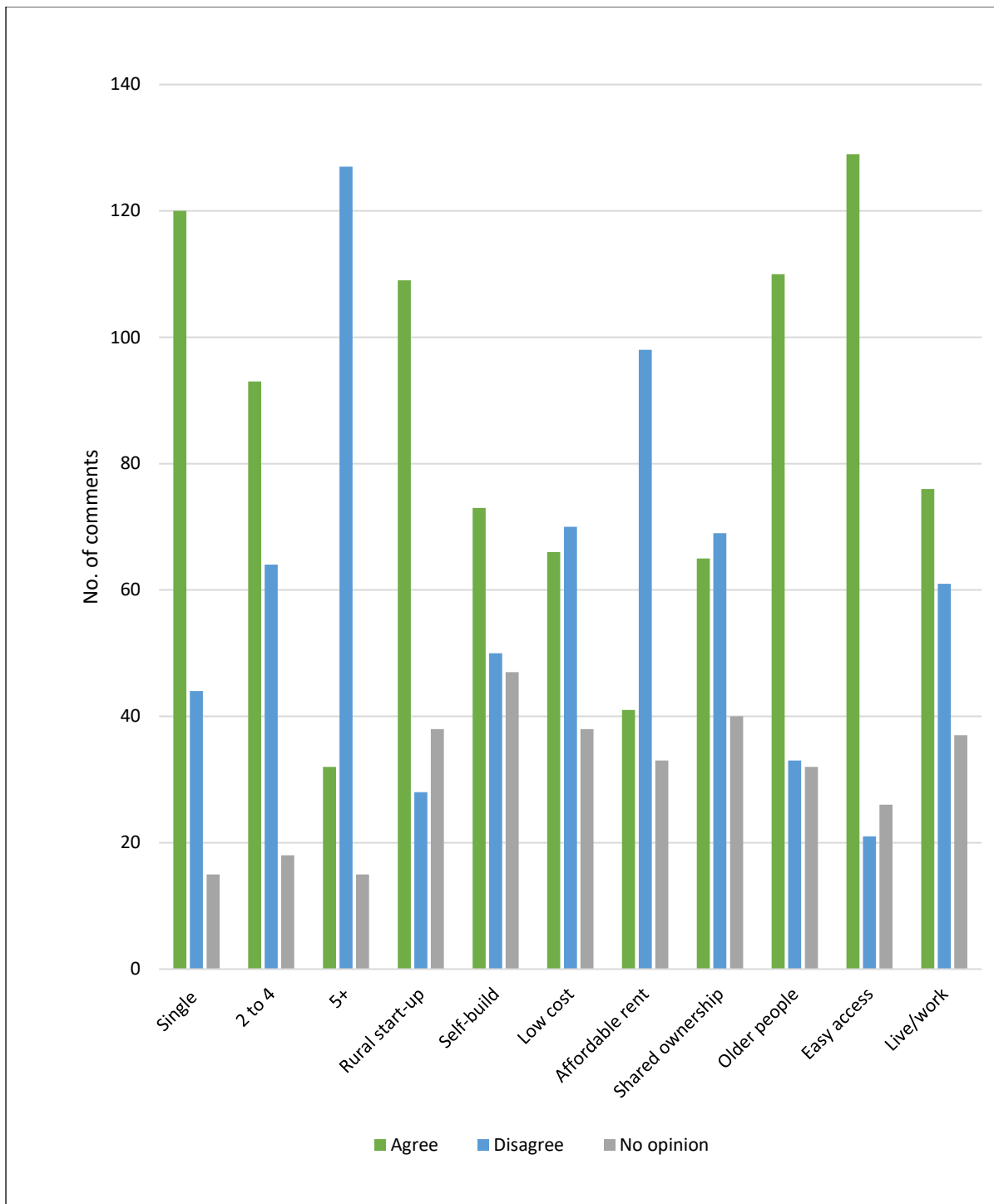
| | Agree | | Disagree | | No opinion | |
|--|-------|-----|----------|-----|------------|-----|
| Individual houses on “infill” plots between existing dwellings | 120 | 65% | 44 | 24% | 15 | 8% |
| Sites for 2-4 houses within or adjacent to existing homes | 93 | 50% | 64 | 35% | 18 | 10% |
| Sites for 5 or more new houses – to include some affordable housing* | 32 | 17% | 127 | 69% | 15 | 8% |
| Accommodation associated with start-up small farming initiatives | 109 | 59% | 28 | 15% | 38 | 21% |
| Self-build | 73 | 39% | 50 | 27% | 47 | 25% |
| Low-cost housing for sale | 66 | 36% | 70 | 38% | 38 | 21% |
| Affordable housing rented from housing association | 41 | 22% | 98 | 53% | 33 | 18% |
| Shared ownership homes (i.e. part buy, part rent) | 65 | 35% | 69 | 37% | 40 | 22% |
| Supported/ sheltered accommodation for older people | 110 | 59% | 33 | 18% | 32 | 17% |
| Adapted/ easy access homes (e.g. bungalows) | 129 | 70% | 21 | 11% | 26 | 14% |
| Live/ work homes with workshops/ offices | 76 | 41% | 61 | 33% | 37 | 20% |

* Affordable housing is defined as housing provided for eligible households whose needs are not met by the open market.

Percentage base = 185

- Levels of support for new housing declined with an increasing size of development. Almost two-thirds of respondents agreed with the provision of individual new homes on infill sites (although a quarter disagreed). In contrast, 69% disagreed with the development of sites for five or more dwellings, and only 17% were in support.
- Half of respondents supported the development of sites for between two to four new dwellings, with one-third disagreeing.
- There was support for adapted/easy access homes such as bungalows (70%), housing for older people, and accommodation associated with start-up small farming initiatives (both 59%).
- A majority were opposed to affordable housing for rent (53%), which was supported by only 22% (the second lowest level of agreement for all the options). Though more finely balanced, opinion was also against shared ownership homes and low-cost housing for sale.
- Overall, the replies to this question suggest support for new housing where provided by developing smaller sites for between one to four dwellings, with a preference for individual infill schemes; for bungalows and older peoples’ dwellings; and to support small-scale farming initiatives.

Question 12, continued/



Question 13: What are your TOP 3 planning priorities for new houses and for home extensions?

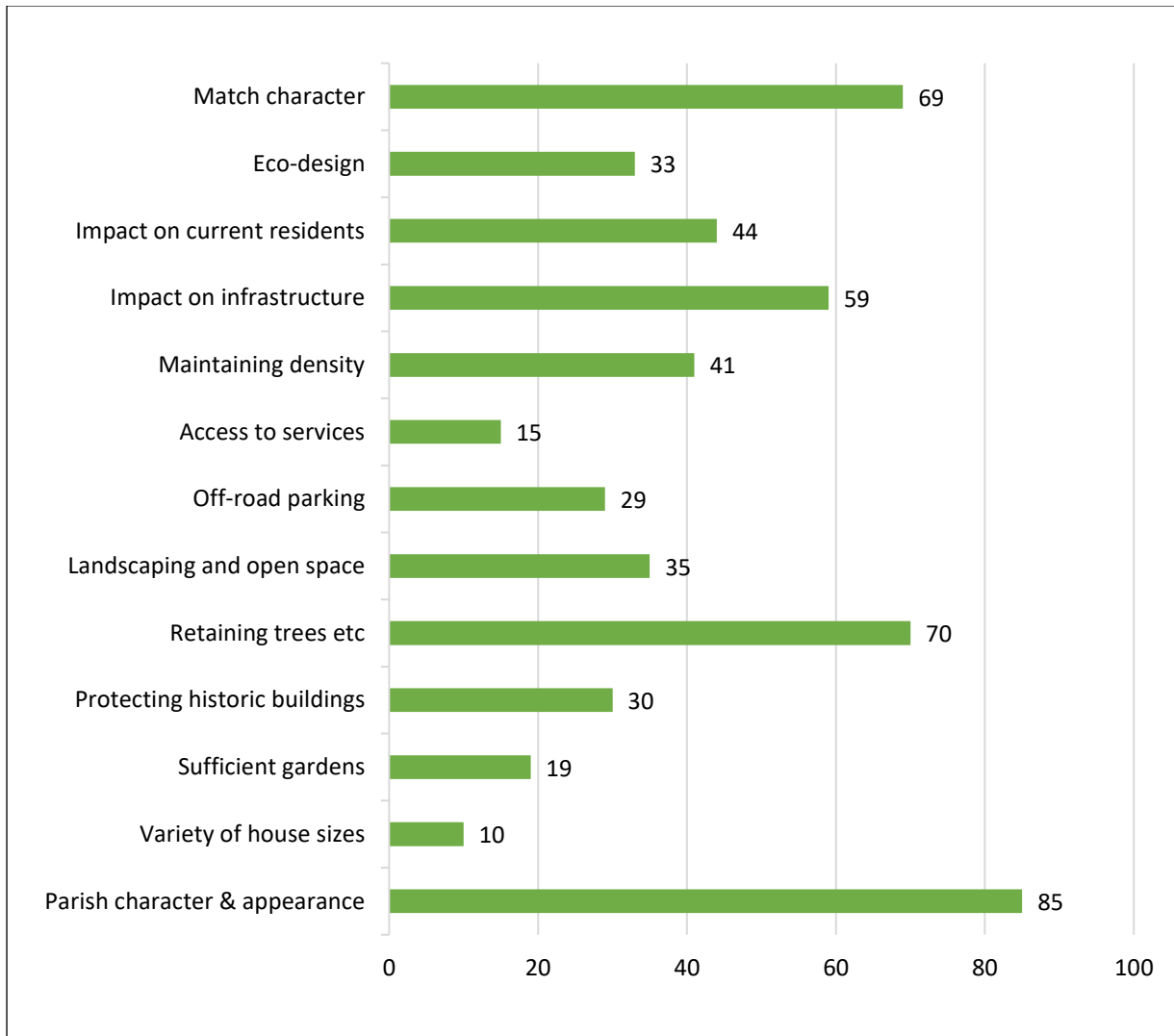
(tick up to 3 boxes only)

| | No. | % |
|---|-----|-----|
| Designed to match the character of neighbouring development (e.g. height, materials and architectural detailing), or of the original dwelling in the case of extensions | 69 | 38% |
| Sustainable, eco-designs including electric vehicle charging points | 33 | 18% |
| Acceptable impact on amenity of current residents (e.g. overlooking, vehicles passing close to houses) | 44 | 24% |
| Acceptable impact on infrastructure (water, power, broadband, roads) and other local services | 59 | 32% |
| Maintaining the existing density of development in the vicinity | 41 | 22% |
| Ability to access local services and public transport on foot or cycle without using main roads | 15 | 8% |
| Providing sufficient off-road parking, with extensions not leading to a need for on-road parking due to loss of on-site parking | 29 | 16% |
| Providing landscaping and open spaces | 35 | 19% |
| Retaining trees and other important landscape features (e.g. hedgerows, orchards, ponds etc) | 70 | 38% |
| Ensuring historic buildings and other heritage assets are protected, including their settings | 30 | 16% |
| Providing sufficient private garden space, with extensions not leading to over-development of the plot | 19 | 10% |
| Maintaining a variety of house sizes | 10 | 5% |
| Maintaining the character and appearance of the Parish | 85 | 46% |

Percentage base = 185

- The top priorities to be addressed in providing new housing were: maintaining the overall character and appearance of the Parish (selected by 46% of respondents); retaining trees and other landscape features (38%); that new development match the character of its neighbours (also 38%); and an acceptable impact on infrastructure (32%).
- Maintaining a variety of house sizes was ranked as least important (5%), followed by the ability of new development to be able to access local services and public transport on foot or cycle without using main roads (8%). This is at odds with the emphasis placed on the provision of footpaths and pavements at Great Witley village in replies to Q9.

Question 13, continued/



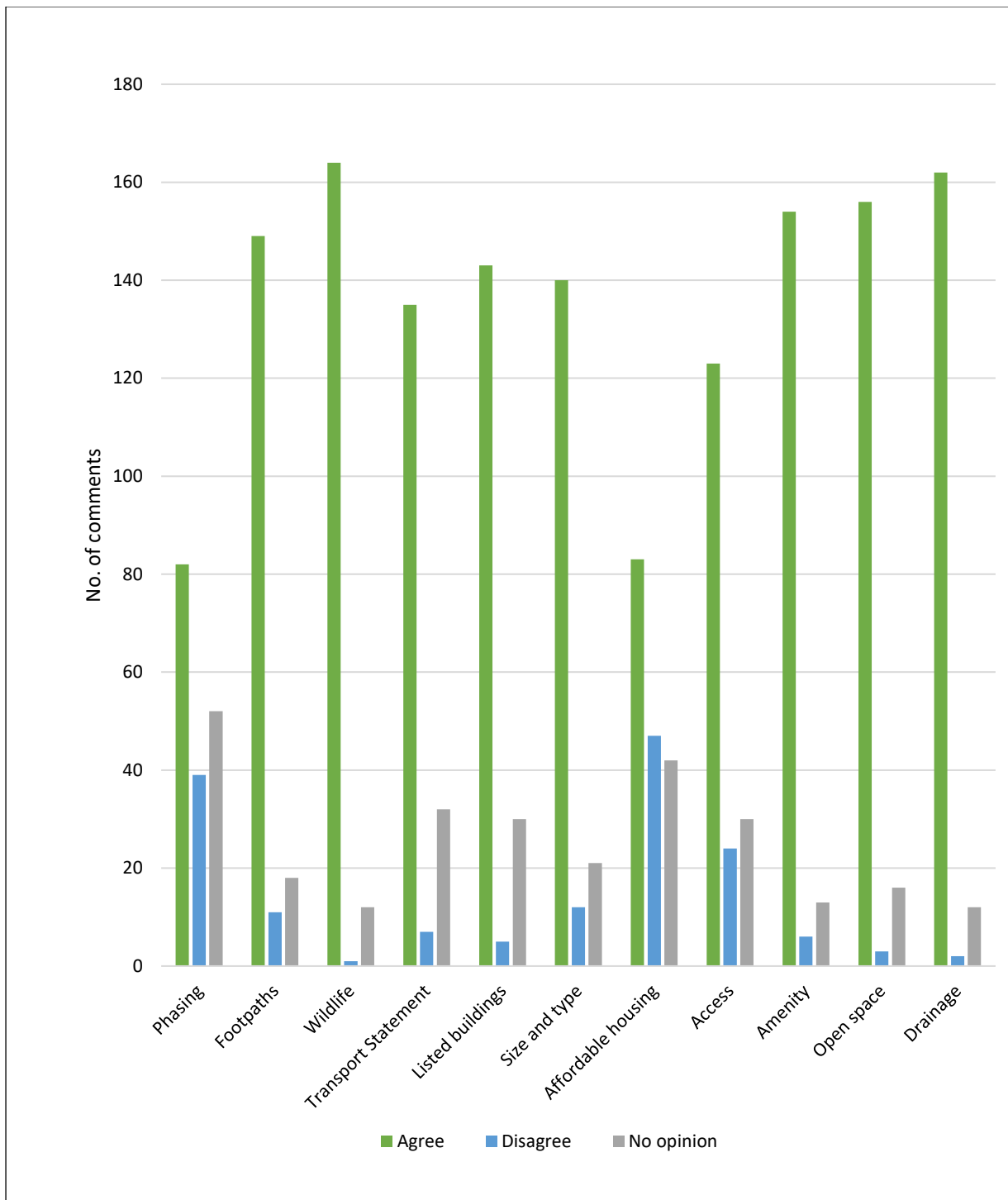
Question 14: What planning requirements should we include in the Neighbourhood Plan to deliver maximum community benefit from the development of land south of Stourport Road, and to mitigate impacts? (tick one box per row)

| | Agree | | Disagree | | No opinion | |
|---|-------|-----|----------|-----|------------|-----|
| Develop the site in two equal phases to minimise disruption and promote assimilation | 82 | 44% | 39 | 21% | 52 | 28% |
| Provide footpaths to link existing housing, Bowen's Field and the Village Hall/School | 149 | 81% | 11 | 6% | 18 | 10% |
| Include measures to mitigate loss of wildlife habitat | 164 | 89% | 1 | 1% | 12 | 6% |
| Provide a Transport Statement to show how the site can be safely accessed by all | 135 | 73% | 7 | 4% | 32 | 17% |
| Conserve nearby listed buildings and their settings | 143 | 77% | 5 | 3% | 30 | 16% |
| New dwellings of a size and type which meet local housing needs | 140 | 76% | 12 | 6% | 21 | 11% |
| Provide affordable housing in line with South Worcestershire Development Plan | 83 | 45% | 47 | 25% | 42 | 23% |
| Be served by a single vehicular access from the A451 Stourport Road | 123 | 66% | 24 | 13% | 30 | 16% |
| Siting, orientation, and design of new dwellings to respect amenity of existing residents | 154 | 83% | 6 | 3% | 13 | 7% |
| Provision of open space and landscaping using native species | 156 | 84% | 3 | 2% | 16 | 9% |
| Include acceptable foul and surface water drainage | 162 | 88% | 2 | 1% | 12 | 6% |

Percentage base = 185

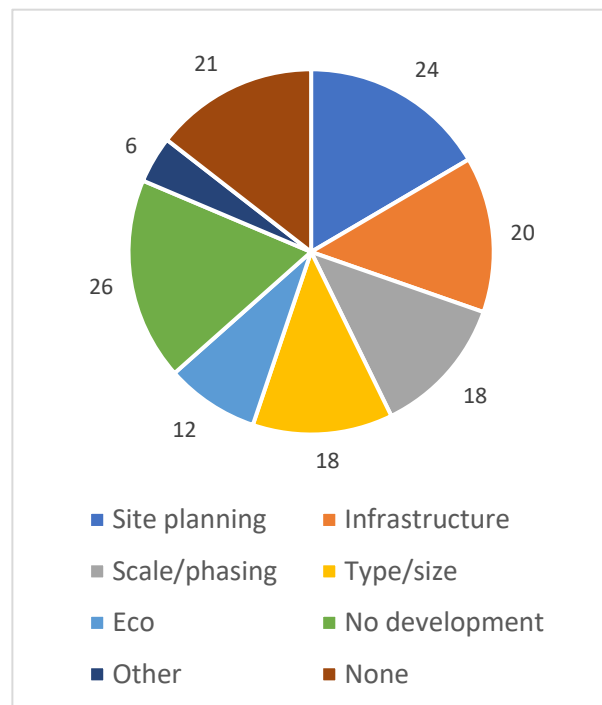
- All the planning requirements mooted in Q14 were agreed for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan by a majority of respondents, except for phasing and the provision of affordable housing (which is already addressed in the SWDP). Some 49% of respondents either disagreed with or had no opinion on phasing (44% agreed).
- Highest levels of support were seen for measures to mitigate loss of wildlife habitat; secure acceptable drainage, open space and landscaping, and footpath links to village facilities; and to ensure the new dwellings respected the amenity of existing residents (all above 80%).
- Around three-quarters of respondents agreed that heritage assets and their settings should be conserved, that new dwellings should be of a size and type to meet local housing needs, and that a Transport Statement should accompany the planning application, with a single vehicular access from the A451 supported by 66%.

Question 14, continued/



Question 15: If you have any other suggestions for how the site should be developed, please tell us below.

- This question was answered by 117 respondents (63%).
- Matters linked to the overall **planning of the site** were raised in 24 comments. For one respondent, the scheme “*should comprise well designed development in character with the village in layout, design, materials and hedge/tree planting*”, with the existing footpath link respected. Others sought landscaped areas, woodland, and wildlife habitats alongside development.
- There were 20 comments on **infrastructure and services**, referencing the need to expand or upgrade existing provisions to cope with additional development, as well as desirable new facilities such as a pub/restaurant and better shopping e.g. a mini-supermarket.
- The **scale and phasing** of the development were considered in 18 comments, with limits put forward on the total number of dwellings and the period over which they should be provided: “*restrict development to the minimum enforced by the local plan*”.
- There were 18 comments on the **type and size** of the new houses. These included the release of plots for self-build; a mix of types and styles; and a concern to meet local needs rather than commuters: “*not every home to be 4/5 bed executive homes. First time buyers and low incomes are not catered for in this area*”; “*some small houses to attract youngsters and also bungalows to enable older residents in outlying family houses to move nearer the village amenities*”.
- **Environmentally friendly** designs for the new houses were sought in 12 comments, by including solar panels, fibre cabling, rainwater harvesting, limited or no lighting, and air source heat pumps: “*emphasis on modern, sustainable, eco-friendly building materials and practices*”. A village-wide ground source heat pump scheme was also suggested.
- A number of respondents made clear their **opposition to any housing development** on the site at all (26 comments, 22% of those who answered this question).
- Six **other comments** addressed property sightlines; levels of opposition to the development; ideal site for development; impacts on existing residents; and maintaining a distinction between Great Witley and other villages.
- Finally, 21 respondents answered ‘**no**’ or ‘**none**’ to this question.



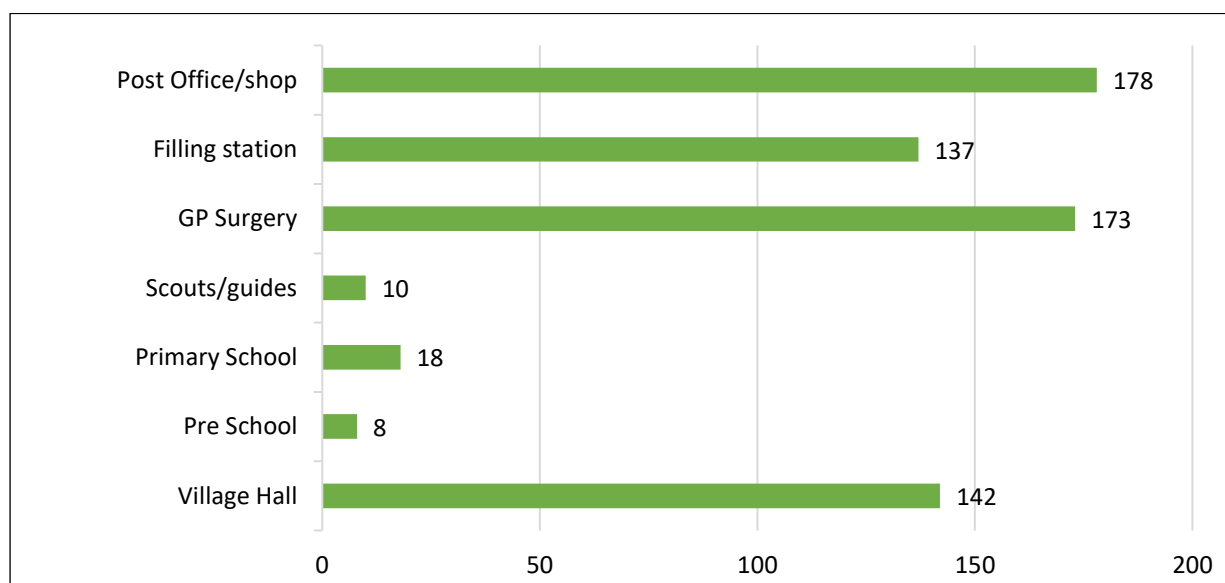
Community Services and Facilities

The questionnaire asked about residents' views on both existing community facilities and ideas for improvements.

Question 16: Which of the following services and facilities in the Parish have you used in the last 12 months? (tick all that apply)

| | No. | % | | No. | % |
|------------------|-----|-----|----------------|-----|-----|
| Post Office/shop | 178 | 96% | Primary School | 18 | 10% |
| Filling station | 137 | 74% | Pre School | 8 | 4% |
| GP Surgery | 173 | 94% | Village Hall | 142 | 77% |
| Scouts/guides | 10 | 5% | | | |

Percentage base = 185

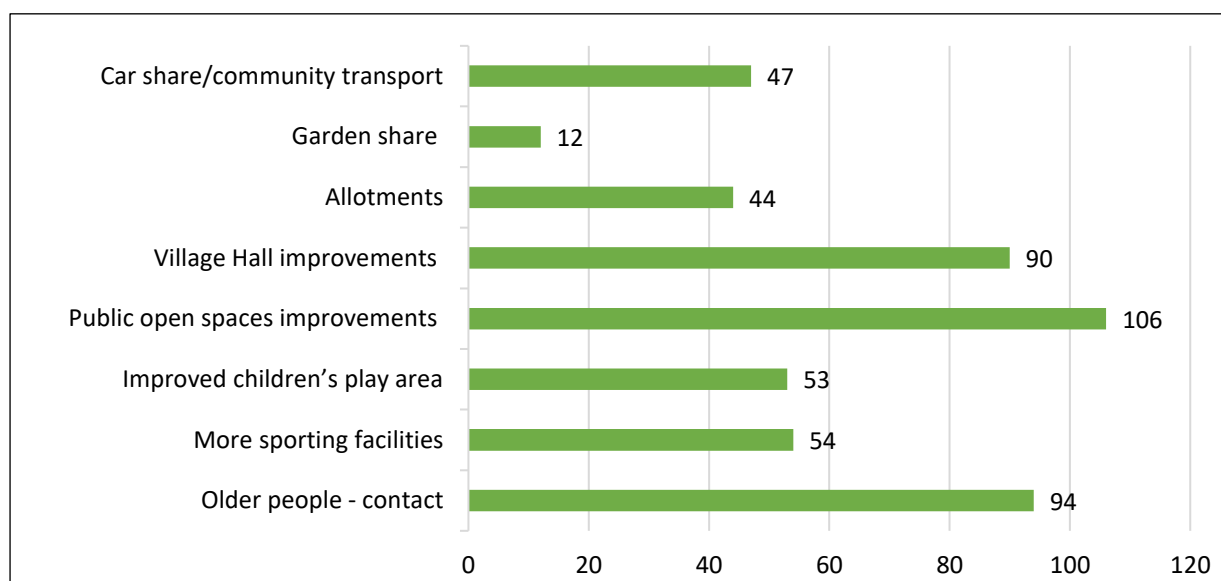


- Those responding to the survey made notable use of the Post Office/shop, GP Surgery, Village Hall and the petrol filling station in the last year. The Post Office/shop was used by 96% of respondents. In contrast 10% or less of respondents had used the Primary School, Pre School or the Scouts/Guides in the survey period.
- This pattern likely reflects the demographic profile of survey respondents (see answers to Q22) as well as the nature of the services and facilities involved.

Question 17: Which of the following improvements to community services and facilities would you like to see introduced? (tick all that apply)

| | No. | % |
|--|-----|-----|
| Car share scheme/ community transport | 47 | 25% |
| Garden share scheme | 12 | 6% |
| Allotments | 44 | 24% |
| Improvements to the Village Hall | 90 | 49% |
| Improvements to public open spaces | 106 | 57% |
| Improved children's play area | 53 | 29% |
| More sporting facilities | 54 | 29% |
| More opportunities for older people to keep in contact | 94 | 51% |

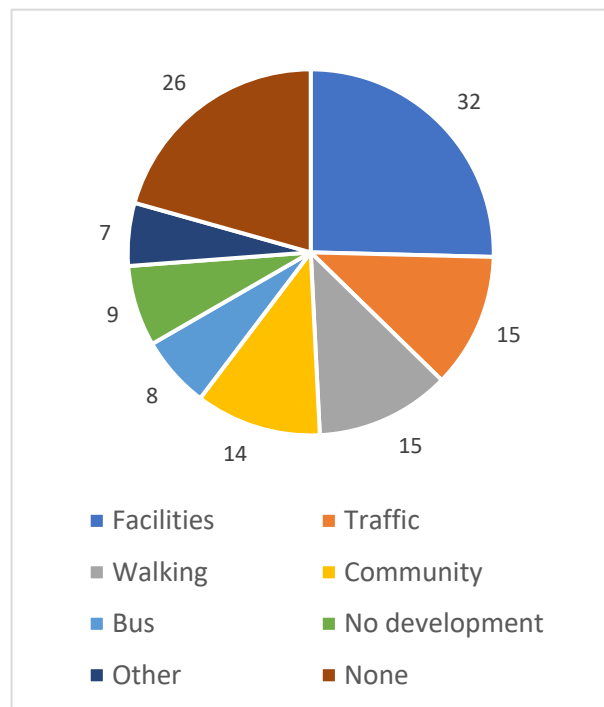
Percentage base = 185



- Key priorities were for improvements to public open spaces (57%) and the Village Hall (49%), and for more opportunities for older people to keep in contact (51%).
- There were broadly similar levels of support, between 29% and 24%, for additional sports facilities, improved children's play area, a car share scheme, and allotments.
- The suggested garden share scheme was supported by only 6%.

Question 18: If you have any other suggestions for how the Parish Council could improve life in Great Witley and Hillhampton, please describe them below.

- This question was answered by 104 respondents (56%).
- There were 32 comments on many aspects of **facilities** in the village, with several calling for the opening of Henry’s Bar at the Hundred House. Other ideas included expanding existing facilities to reflect growth; to provide more activities at the Village Hall, e.g. a library or daytime events for older people; and the provision of a pub/restaurant, a warm space at the Scout/Guide Hut, allotments, outdoor gym equipment, children’s play, retirement homes, and a community garden.
- **Traffic and walking** both attracted 15 comments, generally echoing points made in response to Q10 on infrastructure.
- Ways of improving **community life** were mooted in 14 comments. Thought should be given to the needs of different groups in the community including new residents, older people and teenagers, and there were suggestions for events to nurture a village feel (the coronation, Remembrance Sunday, harvest festival, family fun day). Another idea based around communication was *“to have/create an online interactive parish magazine/notice board with information/events in some form of social media ... to encourage more community involvement/have a quarterly ‘parish council social’ at the village hall linked with fish n chips/charlie’s bar”*.
- **Bus services** were again identified as needing improvement (8 comments).
- There were nine comments **against any more development** in the village, with concern that *“the scale of proposed dwelling increase will turn this rural village into suburbia”*.
- There were seven **other comments**, covering broadband, requiring larger plot sizes to avoid urbanisation, protection of the environment and village character. One respondent summed matters up as follows: *“Protect our natural environment, protect the distinctive look of the village with a diverse range of interesting houses (not a housing monoculture), protect the beautiful views of the village set in between the cluster of hills, celebrate the heritage of the village and its origins near Witley Court and the parish church”*.
- Finally, 26 respondents answered ‘no’ or ‘none’ to this question.



Economic Development

The questionnaire asked for views about policies in the NDP to guide and promote new economic development in and around the Parish.

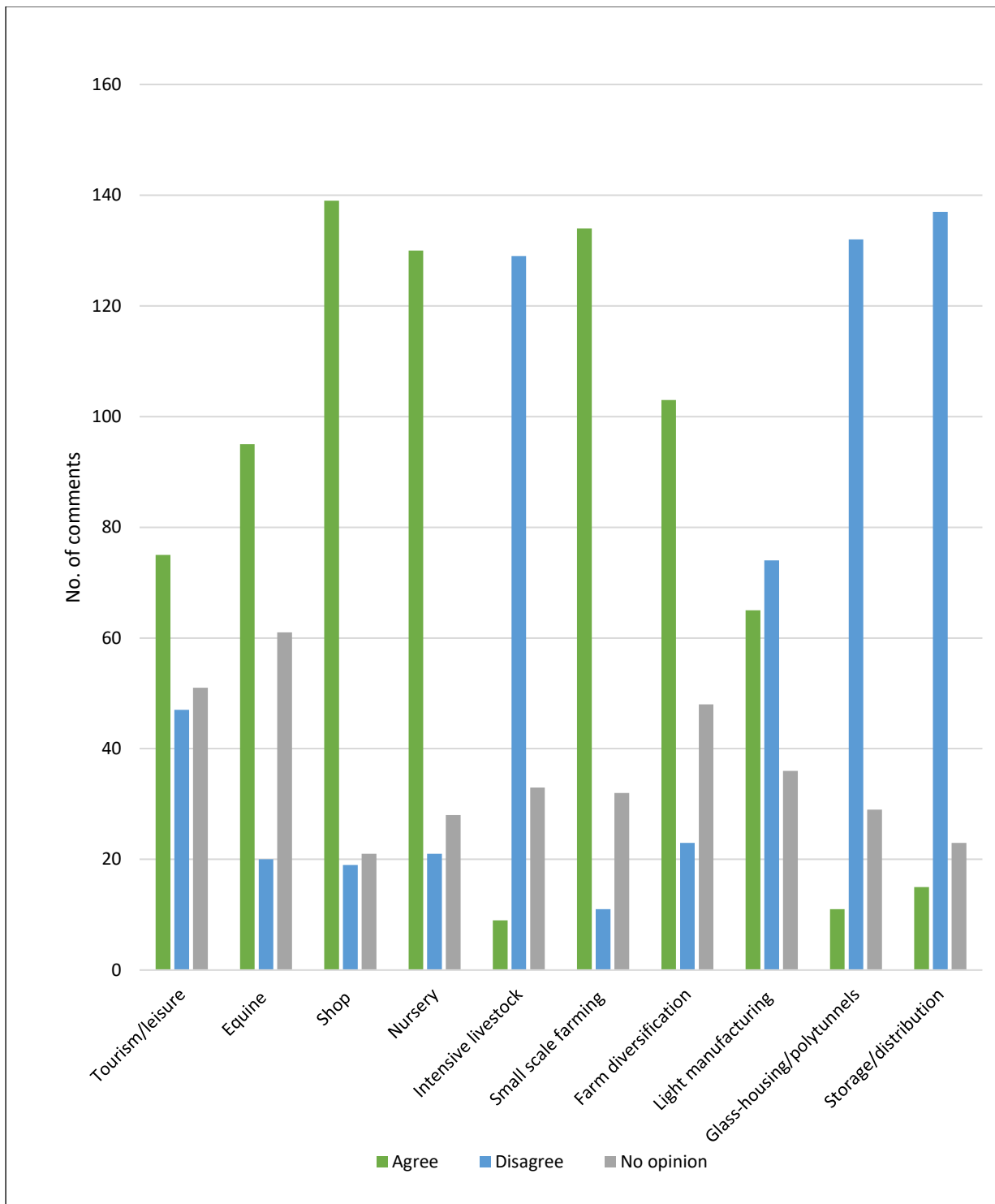
Question 19: What types of economic development should be encouraged in the Parish? (tick 1 box per row)

| | Agree | | Disagree | | No opinion | |
|--|-------|-----|----------|-----|------------|-----|
| Tourism/leisure-related businesses | 75 | 41% | 47 | 25% | 51 | 28% |
| Equine businesses (e.g. livery, stabling) | 95 | 51% | 20 | 11% | 61 | 33% |
| Small scale retailing (e.g. café, shop, craft outlets) | 139 | 75% | 19 | 10% | 21 | 11% |
| Market garden/plant nursery | 130 | 70% | 21 | 11% | 28 | 15% |
| “Intensive” livestock units | 9 | 5% | 129 | 70% | 33 | 18% |
| Small scale farming or horticulture | 134 | 72% | 11 | 6% | 32 | 18% |
| Agriculture and farming diversification | 103 | 56% | 23 | 12% | 48 | 26% |
| Light manufacturing/craft workshops/offices | 65 | 35% | 74 | 40% | 36 | 19% |
| Large areas of glass-housing or plastic polytunnels | 11 | 6% | 132 | 71% | 29 | 16% |
| Small scale storage and distribution | 15 | 8% | 137 | 74% | 23 | 12% |

Percentage base = 185

- Types of economic development which were favoured by over half of respondents were small scale retail such as a shop or café, small-scale farming/horticulture and market gardening, together with farm diversification and equine businesses. One-third of respondents had no opinion on equine businesses.
- There was also support for tourism/leisure businesses (41%), and to a lesser extent for light manufacturing (35%).
- Types of economic development which were not favoured were small scale storage and distribution (74% considered this should not be encouraged), large areas of glass-housing or polytunnels (71%) and intensive livestock units (70%). Only 5% of respondents thought the latter should be encouraged.

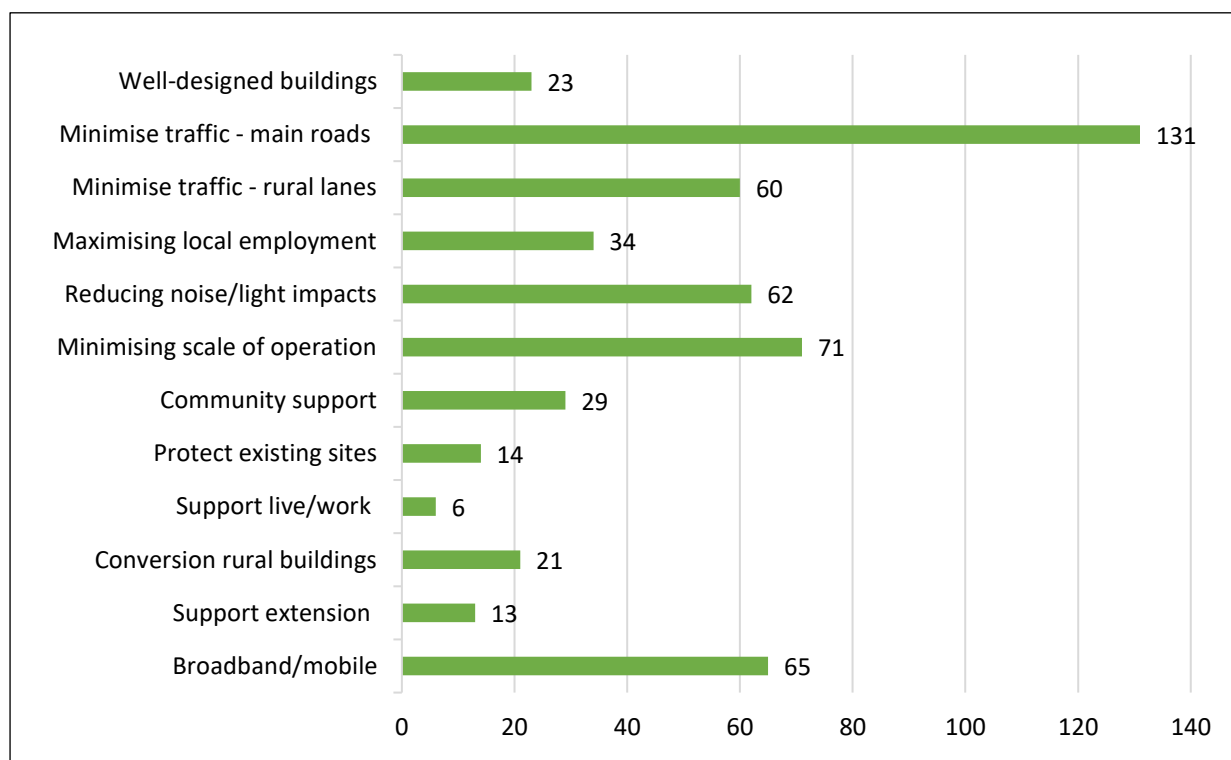
Question 19, continued/



Question 20: Thinking about the impact of economic/business development in the Parish what are your TOP 3 planning priorities? (tick up to 3 boxes only)

| | No. | % | | No. | % |
|---|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|
| Allowing well designed new buildings for small-scale employment uses | 23 | 12% | Overall community support | 29 | 16% |
| Minimising increases in traffic on the main roads through the village | 131 | 71% | Protecting existing employment sites from changes of use | 14 | 8% |
| Minimising traffic on rural lanes | 60 | 32% | Supporting the development of live/work premises | 6 | 3% |
| Maximising local employment opportunities | 34 | 18% | Supporting the conversion of rural buildings for business | 21 | 11% |
| Reducing noise/light impacts | 62 | 34% | Supporting the extension of existing businesses | 13 | 7% |
| Minimising scale of operation as appropriate in a rural community | 71 | 38% | Enabling working from home by improving broadband speed and mobile reception | 65 | 35% |

Percentage base = 185



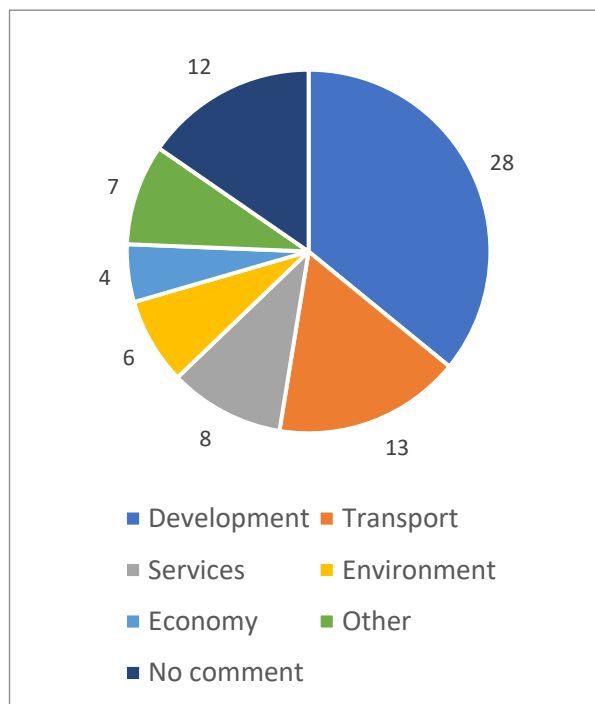
Question 20, continued/

- The priority for managing the impact of new economic development was to minimise the increase in traffic on the main roads through the village. This option was supported by almost three-quarters of respondents. In contrast, minimising traffic on the rural lanes was a priority for 32% of respondents.
- Weight was also given to minimising the scale of operation as appropriate in a rural community (38%), improving broadband speed and mobile reception (35%), and reducing noise and light impacts (34%).
- The remaining options addressed various aspects of maintaining or increasing economic activity. Generally, these attracted lower levels of support. Maximising local employment was a priority for 18% of respondents. The provision of well-designed new buildings for small-scale employment uses and the conversion of rural buildings for business use were supported by 12% and 11% respectively. These measures were followed by the protection of existing employment sites (8%), extension of existing businesses (7%) and the development of live-work premises which was a priority for only 3% of respondents.

Many thanks for getting this far

If you believe there are others matters relevant to the Great Witley and Hillhampton Neighbourhood Plan that you think we have missed, please give details below.

- This opportunity was taken up by 68 respondents (37%), with comments covering a wide range of issues, including some raised in answers to previous questions.
- There were 28 comments on **development** in Great Witley, with many opposing any further large-scale new housing in general, and specifically on the land south of Stourport Road, in the interests of preserving village character: *“just keep Great Witley a village”*.
- **Transport** concerns regarding the amount and speed of traffic on the main roads through the village, speed limits and enforcement, pavements and footpaths, pedestrian safety, bus services, and street lighting at road junctions were raised in 13 comments.
- There were eight comments on **services**, emphasising the need for provision to keep pace with new development, querying what has happened to the ‘village facility’ at the Hundred House, and suggesting more social events for those aged 20-50 to enhance the village feel and community facilities.
- On the **environment** (six comments), there were suggestions for the village to develop its own ground source heat pump and solar solution, so that it could be ‘off-grid’; support for a solar farm subject to visual impacts on residents; for new development to be as ‘green’ as possible; and for the character and significance of the local heritage based around Witley Court and the Church to be protected and enhanced.
- Four comments on the **economy** drew attention to glasshouses at Hillhampton and storage and distribution nearby at Martley; pointed out there were limited employment opportunities locally, so that new housing inevitably gave rise to commuting; and that farmland should be retained as such; *“livestock and farming is part of the community”*.
- **Other** comments addressed enforcement of planning conditions; catering for all age groups; enabling property downsizing, to release larger homes; and the future of Abberley Hall School.
- There were 12 ‘no comments’.



Information about you

Q21: Would you describe yourself as:

| | Questionnaire responses ¹ | | 2020 population estimate ² | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Male | 78 | 43% | 343 | 49% |
| Female | 97 | 54% | 362 | 51% |
| Non-binary | 1 | 1% | - | - |
| Other | 0 | - | - | - |
| Prefer not to say | 5 | 3% | - | - |

1. Percentage base = 181 (respondents to Q21)

2. Percentage base = 705 (persons in Great Witley Neighbourhood Area aged 16 and over, mid-2020 population estimates).

- Females were over-represented in the survey responses compared to the mid-2020 population estimates for the Neighbourhood Area.

Q22: How old are you?

| | Questionnaire responses ¹ | | 2020 population estimate ² | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|
| 16-17 | 0 | - | 8 | 1% |
| 18-24 | 2 | 1% | 40 | 6% |
| 25-34 | 7 | 4% | 63 | 9% |
| 35-44 | 13 | 7% | 92 | 13% |
| 45-54 | 23 | 13% | 141 | 20% |
| 55-64 | 31 | 17% | 143 | 20% |
| 65-74 | 57 | 31% | 120 | 17% |
| 75-84 | 33 | 18% | 75 | 11% |
| 85 and + | 5 | 3% | 23 | 3% |
| Prefer not to say | 10 | 6% | - | |

1. Percentage base = 181 (respondents to Q22)

2. Percentage base = 705 (persons in Great Witley Neighbourhood Area aged 16 and over, mid-2020 population estimates).

- Age groups up to and including 55-64 were under-represented in terms of level of response, compared against the estimated population for these groups in mid-2020.
- The older age groups were over-represented to varying degrees. Most notably, whilst 31% of questionnaire responses were provided by residents aged 65-74, this group is estimated to have accounted for only 17% of the 16 and over population in mid-2020.

Q23: How would you best describe your main “economic activity”? (tick 1 box)

| | Questionnaire responses ¹ | | Census 2011 ² | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| Employed full-time | 47 | 26% | 178 | 34% |
| Employed part-time | 16 | 9% | 80 | 15% |
| Self-employed | 19 | 10% | 93 | 18% |
| Unemployed | 0 | - | 7 | 1% |
| Full-time student | 1 | 1% | 26 | 5% |
| Retired | 87 | 48% | 107 | 20% |
| Looking after home/family | 1 | 1% | 16 | 3% |
| Long-term sick/disabled | 3 | 2% | 9 | 2% |
| Other | 0 | - | 8 | 2% |
| Prefer not to say | 7 | 4% | - | - |

1. Percentage base = 181 (respondents to Q23)

2. Percentage base = usual residents in Neighbourhood Area in 2011 aged 16 to 74 (524) (KS601EW)

- Full-time and part-time employees and the self-employed were under-represented in survey responses compared to the Census 2011 position (this is the latest available such data for this geography pending the release of Census 2021 information).
- Amongst the other economic activity groups, the most striking feature is that whilst the retired accounted for just under half of survey responses (48%), they represented only one-fifth (20%) of those aged 16-74 in the Neighbourhood Area in 2011.

Q24: How long have you lived in Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish?

