

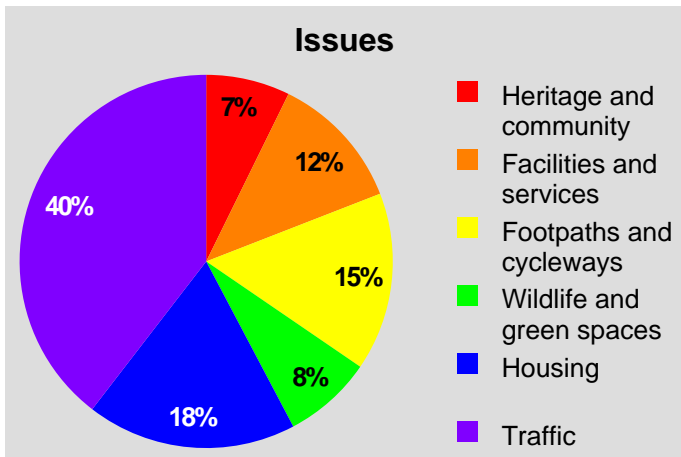
**Community consultation interim report**

**You tell us: the issues that matter in Woolpit**

At least one hundred of Woolpit's residents have visited our pop-up stand at six venues in different parts of the village. Nearly all of them have written comments on post-it notes about a range of issues. So far, we have received 220 comments, which have been entered on a spreadsheet, and analysed. This chart shows the response to the main issues.



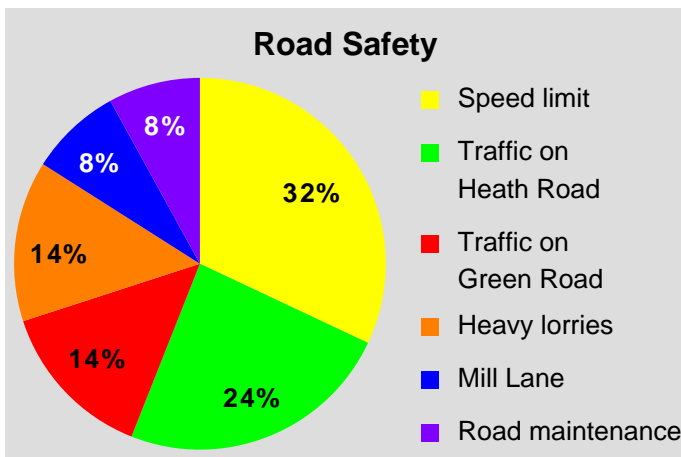
[www.woolpit.org/WNP/](http://www.woolpit.org/WNP/)



Traffic is clearly the major issue for most residents. Within this category, most comments focus on three areas: road safety, parking, and traffic congestion in the centre of Woolpit.

**Road safety**

Roughly one-third of road safety comments are concerns about vehicle speeds, as this chart shows.



A representative selection of comments made:

*We need a 20mph speed limit in the village to make it safe for pedestrians and cyclists*

*Speed bumps or similar to control speeding traffic - 30mph area*

*There needs to be traffic calming out on Heath Road all along the Heath, not just at the start of the village*

Almost one-quarter of road safety concerns mention the traffic on Heath Road.

**Parking**

The lack of parking space, particularly in the village centre, produced a lot of comments, among them:

*I would like to see yellow lines outside Co-op and Bull. Maybe make the Street one-way!*

*We need protected disabled parking by the Co-op and bread shop*

Solutions must be found that meet conflicting needs.

**Traffic congestion in the centre of Woolpit**

Some people felt that parking restrictions would help relieve the congestion in the village centre. The question then is, where can drivers park? The shortage of parking spaces is already keenly felt. Perhaps we should consider a different approach, as this person suggested:

*The traffic in the centre of the village is horrendous. It would be great to divert traffic around outside of village and pedestrianise the centre of the village*

Another offered this thought:

*Any building in Woolpit should be restricted to areas which have easy access to the A14 and [do] not increase traffic through the main village*

This seems in principle to be a sensible approach, although it may not be quite so simple to implement.



### Affordable homes

So far, housing is the second most important issue. While many comments urge setting a limit to new development, many more (37% of the Housing category) focus on the need for affordable housing. This one succinctly sums up the feelings of most:

*We need social housing and affordable starter homes for young folk to get on property ladder*

A lot of comments recognise the need for the village to grow, but insist that growth must go hand in hand with improvements to services and the infrastructure.

### Retirement housing

Less expected was the demand for bungalows and flats — partly so that older residents can downsize, and free up their larger houses for young families. And this comment makes a further important point:

*Smaller homes are needed for older people who wish to remain in the village*

It is essential for us to work towards inclusive solutions.

### Better footpaths and more cycleways

Approximately one in twelve of all comments are pressing for wider, safer, better maintained footpaths and pavements, as well as a footpath all the way to Elmswell. The route to Elmswell is of concern to cyclists, too, as well as clear and safe cycling routes. It was pointed out that this would encourage more people to walk or cycle to the station, and that at present many people don't think there is a safe route for year 5 and 6 children to cycle to the school.

Under the other issues — community, services and green spaces — the only concern which garnered a considerable tally (5% of all responses) was well expressed by this comment:

*Please leave our village as a “village”, with village feel and good community feeling!*

If you would like to contribute your views on any of these issues, please contact

[puffin.cix@gmail.com](mailto:puffin.cix@gmail.com)

or any member of the Steering Group — go to

[www.woolpit.org/WNP/contact.html](http://www.woolpit.org/WNP/contact.html)

### Proposed housing developments

#### Old Stowmarket Road — application approved

Mid Suffolk District Council discussed and approved this application on 3 August, subject to conditions:

- 35% affordable housing
- 136-space car park for Woolpit Health Centre, with a pedestrian link via the Health Centre to Heath Road
- bungalows along the boundary with Saffrons Close
- on-site public open space
- travel plan
- recommendations by SCC Highways (walking and cycling improvements on Heath Road, traffic calming, changes to the junction with Old Stowmarket Road, and other improvements to footways and pavements)
- other conditions relating to drainage, archaeology, ecological and landscape management
- approval of reserved matters (layout and design)

All the relevant documents can be found on the MSDC website. The planning reference number is unchanged (1636/16), and **public comments can still be made online until 10 August.**

Please copy any comments you make to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as well, via

[peggy.woolpitpc@btinternet.com](mailto:peggy.woolpitpc@btinternet.com)

#### Green Road

As reported on our website, Woolpit Parish Council rejected this application in early June. There has also been strong criticism from SCC Highways. MSDC will decide on the application by 24 August.