Suffolk Rural Services Report 2015-16

COMMUNITY ACTION SUFFOLK
Strengthening the voluntary and community sector

Suffolk Rural Services Report 2015-16

Results from the Community Action Suffolk Rural Services Survey

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Forward

Many people find rural Suffolk a wonderful place to live, valuing its quality of environment and sense of community.

For some, this may compensate for the absence of some facilities that are easily available elsewhere. However, living rurally should not deny people an equitable deal on services. For example, access to transport in rural areas is crucial for people who are less affluent or less mobile, both young and old.

Many Suffolk communities benefit from access to a variety of facilities but there are those, especially in smaller or isolated villages, who are not so fortunate. These communities must take it upon themselves to fill the gaps in basic service provision that others take for granted.

For example, Good Neighbour Schemes are helping people to carry out every day tasks such as getting to doctor and hospital appointments, to get to a banking facility, or simply to the shops.

This social action not only fills the gaps, but is helping communities to thrive and be sustainable, which is central to Community Action Suffolk's mission.

This is the first Rural Services Survey undertaken by CAS and gives a detailed picture of what exists in rural communities across Suffolk. It will help local agencies to identify the gaps and better target their limited resources, whilst it also identifies existing community assets which can be supported and developed further.

It provides an updated understanding of the complex and changing picture of service provision in rural Suffolk, following on from the information gathered in previous Rural Services Surveys in 2008 and 2012, by Suffolk ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England).

I would like to thank all those who responded to this survey which contributed to a fantastic 85% response rate. We trust that this report will help everyone understand more about the priorities as we work together to improve service delivery and quality in Suffolk communities.

Janice Banks
Interim Chief Executive – Community Action Suffolk

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Executive Summary

Community Action Suffolk carried out the Rural Services Survey to present a snapshot of rural services available throughout Suffolk as at Autumn/Winter 2015.

The survey determines the type and number of services and facilities currently in rural parishes across Suffolk and whether there have been any significant changes in these numbers since previous surveys carried out in 2012 and 2008. Previous Rural Services Surveys were carried out by Suffolk ACRE (now CAS).

CAS invited appropriate respondents from 421 eligible parish and town councils[1] in Suffolk to contribute to the survey. 359 parishes responded, giving a response rate of 85%.

It is important to note that all of the responses are from the parishes themselves.[2,3] Community Action Suffolk has chosen not to validate this information. This reflects the perception of the services that exist as well as those that actually exist that respondents are aware of.

Areas of Highest Concern

The survey asked participants to rank their top concerns for their parish, these were:

1. Roads and Road Issues
2. Transport and Bus Services
3. Technology and Broadband

Roads and Road Issues

Concerns around “speeding” were raised by the most parishes, and received the highest combined severity of concern rating; the “condition of roads” closely followed, as well as the “volume of traffic”.

Regarding safety, the number of parishes which has a Police Community Support Officer has fallen to 52% (2011/12: 57%, 2008: 56%)[4].

[1] The 11 towns which have populations of over 10,000 are Ipswich, Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Felixstowe, Stowmarket, Newmarket, Kesgrave, Sudbury, Mildenhall and Beccles.
[2] Some have responded as a collective from the Parish Council, Town Council or Parish Meetings; others are the views of an individual respondent.
[3] Whilst all rural parishes were invited to take part in 2015, 2012 and 2008 Rural Services Survey, there were some parish representatives that completed one and not the other survey, and this should be borne in mind when considering the comparisons.
[4] Percentage of all rural parishes (population of less than 10,000) in Suffolk:- 2015-421 parishes, 2012-413 parishes, 2008-411 parishes

Transport and Bus Services

Concerns around “No Public Transport / Inadequate Services” were raised by the most parishes; other issues raised included the “Need to Increase Services/Frequency” and the “loss of bus routes and cuts”. Many parishes also commented that it was “difficult to get about without a car”.

The number of parishes with scheduled bus services in rural areas has declined. Only 53% of parishes have any scheduled bus service serving them (2011/12: 68%, 2008: 73%). 28% of parishes had a bus service that could be used to access a hospital (2011/12: 37%). With hospital car parking charges frequently discussed in the local media, this is perhaps surprising.

However, communities are working together to address the lack of public transport in rural communities, with 49% of parishes having a formal or informal voluntary or community transport scheme available in the parish (2011/12: 51%, 2008: 44%). This could include community car schemes, good neighbour scheme car journeys, community minibuses and dial a ride services.

Technology and Broadband

The top three concerns raised under this area were that “Broadband speeds were slow or inconsistent within the parish”, that “Broadband and Mobile Phone coverage was patchy” and that “Better Broadband” was required.

Surprisingly, only 13% of respondents reported having a “Good or Excellent Quality” broadband coverage, which is almost identical to the 14% of parish respondents in 2011/12. With the amounts of funding going into improving broadband speed and reliability in Suffolk, this implies that progress is slow, even taking into account that respondents’ expectation of “Good or Excellent” may have become more demanding in the four years since the last survey, particularly with the recent introduction of superfast, fibre optic broadband.

With regards to mobile phone network coverage, 10% of respondents had a “Good or Excellent” mobile phone coverage, whereas in 2011/12 16% indicated that their mobile phone coverage was good or excellent, so this rating has seen a downward trend in the past four years. However, this may again be due the respondents’ expectation of what is “Good or Excellent”, particularly with the recent roll-out of 4G.

Strengthening Communities and Community Life

Village Halls are often seen as the hub of village activities and 67% of parishes have a Village Hall or Community Centre, which is an increase in numbers on both of the previous surveys (2011/12: 65%, 2008: 59%)

One of the uses of village halls has often been by **youth organisations**. There was a significant drop in the number of youth organisations at the time of the last survey, which disappointingly has not recovered, with only 25% of parishes still having a youth organisation within them (2011/12: 23%, 2008: 44%).

Shops are present in 38% of parishes have some form of Shop, with 10 shops continuing to be run by their community since at least 2008. This is really positive, as it shows that the community shops are run for their communities, by their communities, in a sustainable way.

Mobile shops or delivery services have decreased slightly to 52% of parishes (2011/12: 60%, 2008: 57%); however this may be due to the increased availability of online supermarket orders and deliveries.

Post Offices or related services are in 28% of parishes have a (2011/12: 24%, 2008: 26%), with five parishes having community run post offices (2011/12: three, 2008: three). However there is a trend of depleting Banking Facilities in rural areas, in line with the national picture, where just 25% of parishes have some form of Banking Facility (2011/12: 31%, 2008: 39%).

Public houses are present in 50% of parishes, with some parishes having more than one pub in them (2011/12: 55%, 2008: 60%). However this downward trend is being addressed by certain communities throughout the county, who are coming together and taking ownership of the problem. 10 pubs are run by the community, and although a relatively low number, the number of community-run pubs is on the rise (2011/12: six).

Affordable Housing[5] is present in 40% of parishes, which remains a positive number (2011/12: 42%, 2008: 22%), with 26% of parishes actively pursuing plans for new or further affordable housing development.

Education, Health and Wellbeing

One of the most concerning factors to come out of the survey has been the sharp decline of **Adult Classes** in Literacy, Numeracy and/or IT, with only 5% of parishes having such (2011/12: 25%, 2008: 48%).

13% of parishes have a permanent or visiting **doctors surgery**, which has remained reasonably static over the survey periods and 10% of parishes have a Pharmacy within them.

Residential care homes or facilities for Older People has seen a slight increase, possibly reflecting demand from an aging population, with 20% of parishes having these facilities (2011/12: 17%)

[5] This is local needs housing including social rented accommodation, mid-market rented accommodation, shared ownership, shared equity, discounted low cost housing for sale including plots for self build, and low-cost housing without subsidy

Early Years Childcare Facilities have fluctuated with 35% of parishes currently have some form of provision (2011/12: 42%, 2008: 39%). With regards to out of school childcare, the availability of such services fell slightly to 15% (2011/12: 17%, 2008: 12%).

Conclusion

Overall there remains a good spread of services and facilities across rural Suffolk. Village Halls and Community Buildings continue to be an important central hub for communities across the county, and these along with other Community Assets are essential in creating and maintaining resilient and sustainable communities in the future.

Rural areas continue to have mobile shops and deliveries helping those that don’t have access or ability to travel far. Mobile library services still offer the opportunity to access library services.

With the majority of parishes (70%) having a parish newsletter or village magazine, there are mechanisms in place to communicate local news and what is going, which all helps to nurture community wellbeing.

The developments of local affordable housing are enabling young families to remain in the communities they grew up in and older people to remain in the parishes that they have always known. 10% of parishes are currently looking into the possibility of developing their Recreation and Playground Facilities.

Lunch Clubs and other social networking groups and amenities help improve people’s health and wellbeing across the county tackling issues such as loneliness and encouraging people to engage with others in their local community. Activities included, but are not exclusive to, are parents and toddlers, sports clubs, dance and fitness classes, uniformed groups such as brownies, cubs, guides and scouts, dog training, wood turning, faith groups, photography classes, knit and natter groups and carpet bowls. These are essential for rural communities that help, often provided by or supported by local volunteers to make Suffolk a thriving county and a good place to live.

1. Introduction

The Suffolk Rural Services Report 2015-16 was undertaken by Community Action Suffolk. With the exception of 11 towns whose population exceeds 10,000[6], every other town and parish in the county was invited to participate. Out of 421 a response was received from 359 equating to an 85% response rate.

The purpose of the survey is to establish the type and number of services currently in rural parishes throughout the county of Suffolk and whether there have been any significant changes in the numbers of services since previous surveys were carried out in 2012 and 2008. This survey is undertaken every three to four years and builds on similar work in the past undertaken by Suffolk ACRE. These reports enable Community Action Suffolk to have a picture of rural communities and changes that have occurred over time. This survey presents a snapshot of rural services available throughout the county of Suffolk as at autumn 2015.

Parish representatives were asked to rate what the most important concerns in their community at present were. 66% (276) of parishes took this opportunity to raise the areas of concern that were most important to their community.

The majority of concerns raised were around roads/highways, with most respondents raising concerns with speeding and the conditions of roads. The second highest concern raised was Transport and travel issues, and the third most important concern was Technology, which included Broadband availability and speeds as well as Mobile Phone coverage.

In terms of the information capture, all parish and town councils, and parish meetings within Suffolk were asked to complete a questionnaire about what services were and were not available and this Report reflects the collation of this information. 421 Parish and Town Councils and Parish Meetings (with up to 10,000 population) were contacted and where no response was made from these then other voluntary and community sector groups were approached to provide help. In total 359 responses were received, equating to an 85% response rate.

Along with information from Parish Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, the OCSI Rural Deprivation Reports and other research, this evidence base will support our advocacy and influencing work in favour of greater community empowerment and social action. We also want partner agencies to use this body of information in their service planning and in considering new models for service delivery.

[6] The 11 towns which have populations of over 10,000 are Ipswich, Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Felixstowe, Stowmarket, Newmarket, Kesgrave, Sudbury, Mildenhall and Beccles.

It should be borne in mind throughout this report that all of the responses are from the parishes themselves, some have responded as a collective from the Parish Council, Town Council or Parish Meetings; others are the views of an individual respondent. Community Action Suffolk has chosen not to validate all of the information, but this does reflect the perception of the services that exist as well as those that actually exist and respondents are aware of.

2. The 2015 Suffolk Rural Services Report

359 eligible parish councils, town councils, parish meetings and voluntary and community sector organisations completed the 2015 Suffolk Rural Services Survey. Town Councils and Parish Councils with a population of over 10,000 were excluded from the survey, in this instance being classed as urban. The 359 responses therefore represent 85% of the eligible total of 421 parish council, town council and parish meeting areas.

Response rates from each district/borough were as follows:

- 84 % of parishes in Babergh responded (64 parishes)
- 90 % of parishes in Forest Heath (18 parishes)
- 85 % of parishes in Mid Suffolk (96 parishes)
- 86 % of parishes in St. Edmundsbury (57 parishes)
- 88 % of parishes in Suffolk Coastal (90 parishes)
- 77 % of parishes in Waveney (34 parishes)

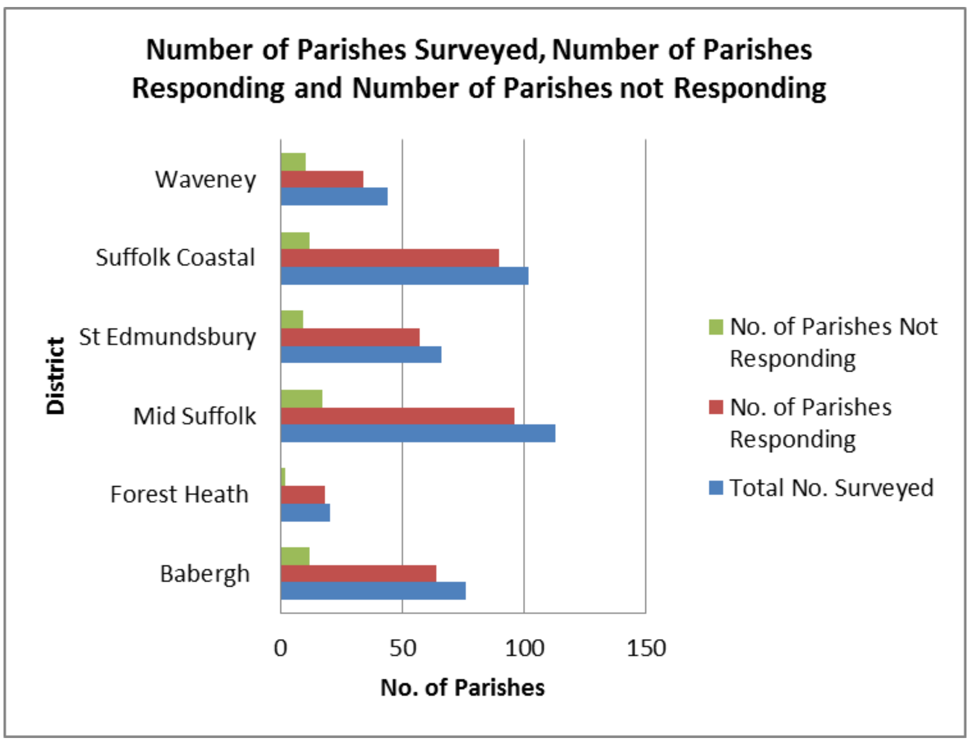

Figure 1: The Number of Parishes Surveyed, Responding and Not Responding

Figure 2 illustrates the location of responding rural towns and parishes.

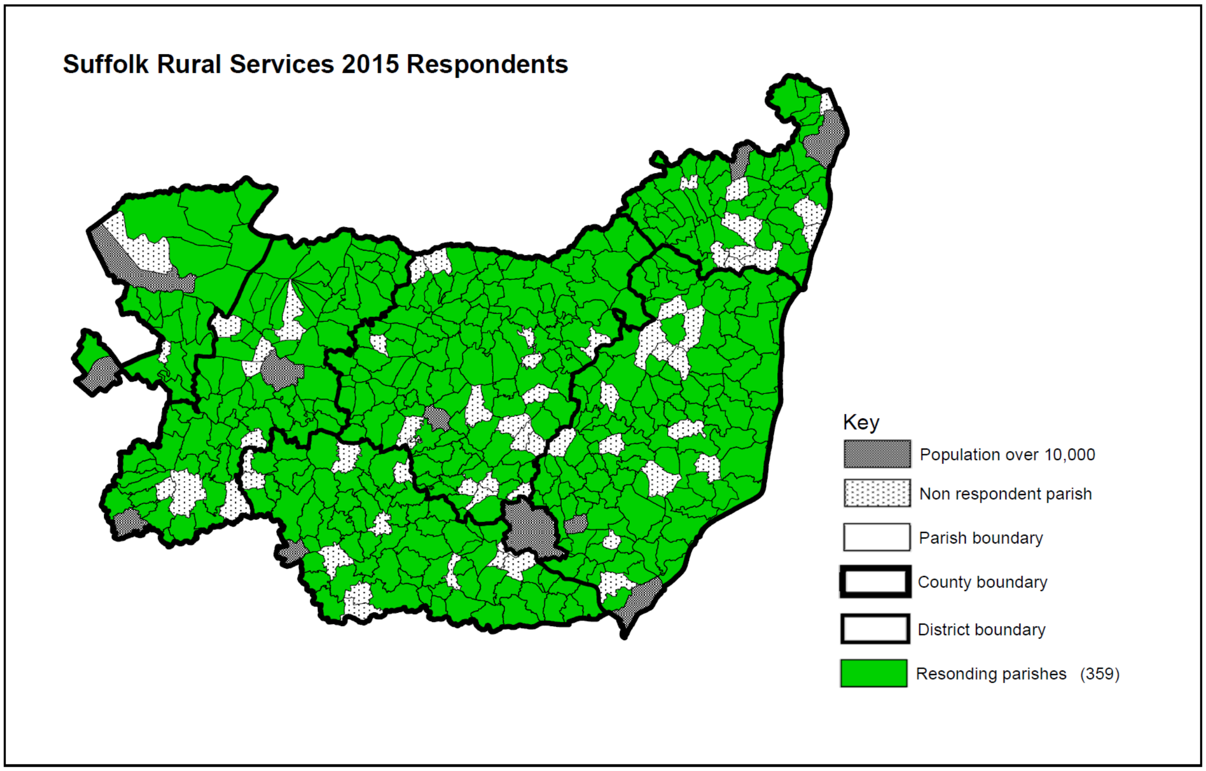

Figure 2: Suffolk Rural Services Survey Respondents

3. Key Services: Analysis and Results

3.1 Post Offices

117 parishes (28%) indicated that they had a post office or post office service.

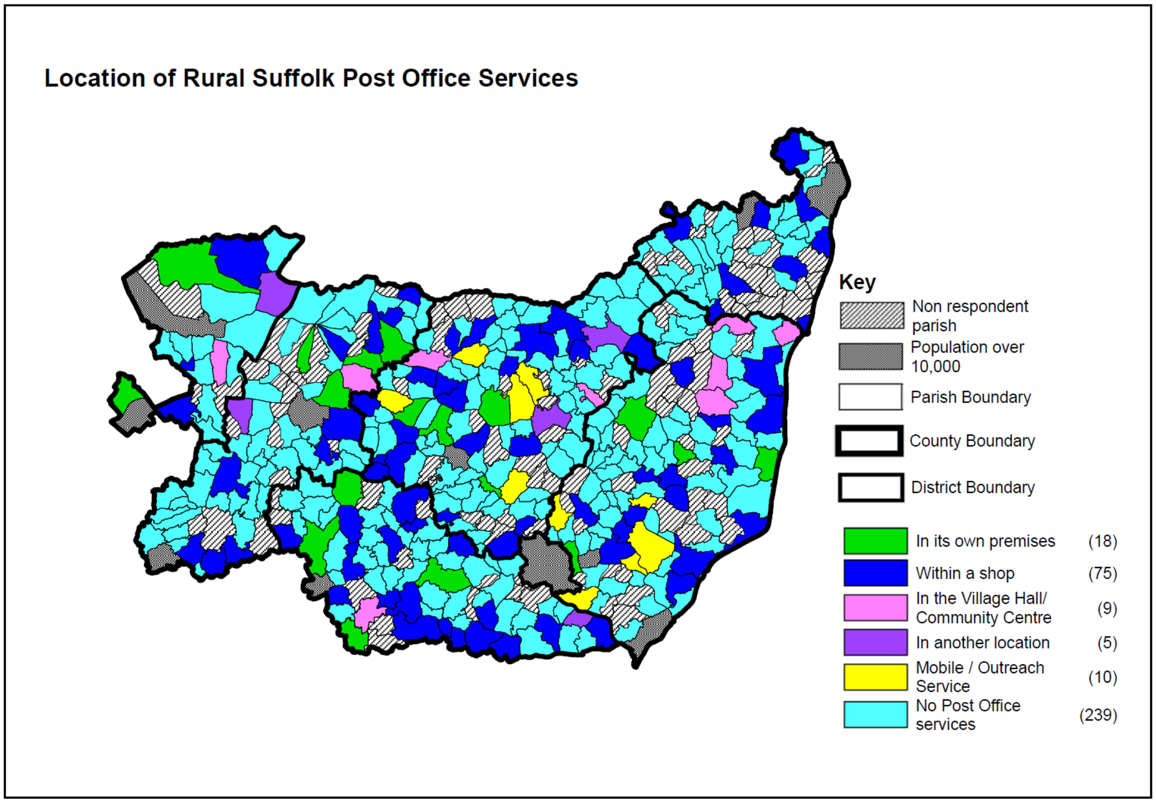

Figure 3: Location of Rural Post Office Services

A breakdown of post office locations in percentage terms is shown in Table 1:

Detail	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Do not have a Post Office	239	57%
Yes, in its Own Premises	18	4%
Yes, within a Shop	75	18%
Yes, in the Village Hall/Community Centre	9	2%
Yes, Mobile / Outreach Service	10	2%
Yes, in another location in the Parish – • In a converted barn in the village shared with a coffee shop, estate agents and equestrian and country pursuits shop • Adjoined to a private dwelling • Currently in own premises but will be moving into co-op • Library	5	1%

Table 1: Post Office Locations

3.2 Post Office Management Model

Management Type	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Parishes Surveyed
By the community on a part time basis	5	1%
Privately on a full time basis	79	19%
Privately on a part time basis	24	6%

Table 2: Post Office Management Type

3.3 Banking Facilities

Type of Banking Facility	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
No banking facilities	249	60%
Post Office Counter	99	24%
Bank or Building Society	16	4%
Cash point Machine	49	12%
PayPoint Facility	17	4%
Credit Union	2	0.5%

Table 3: Type of Banking Facility

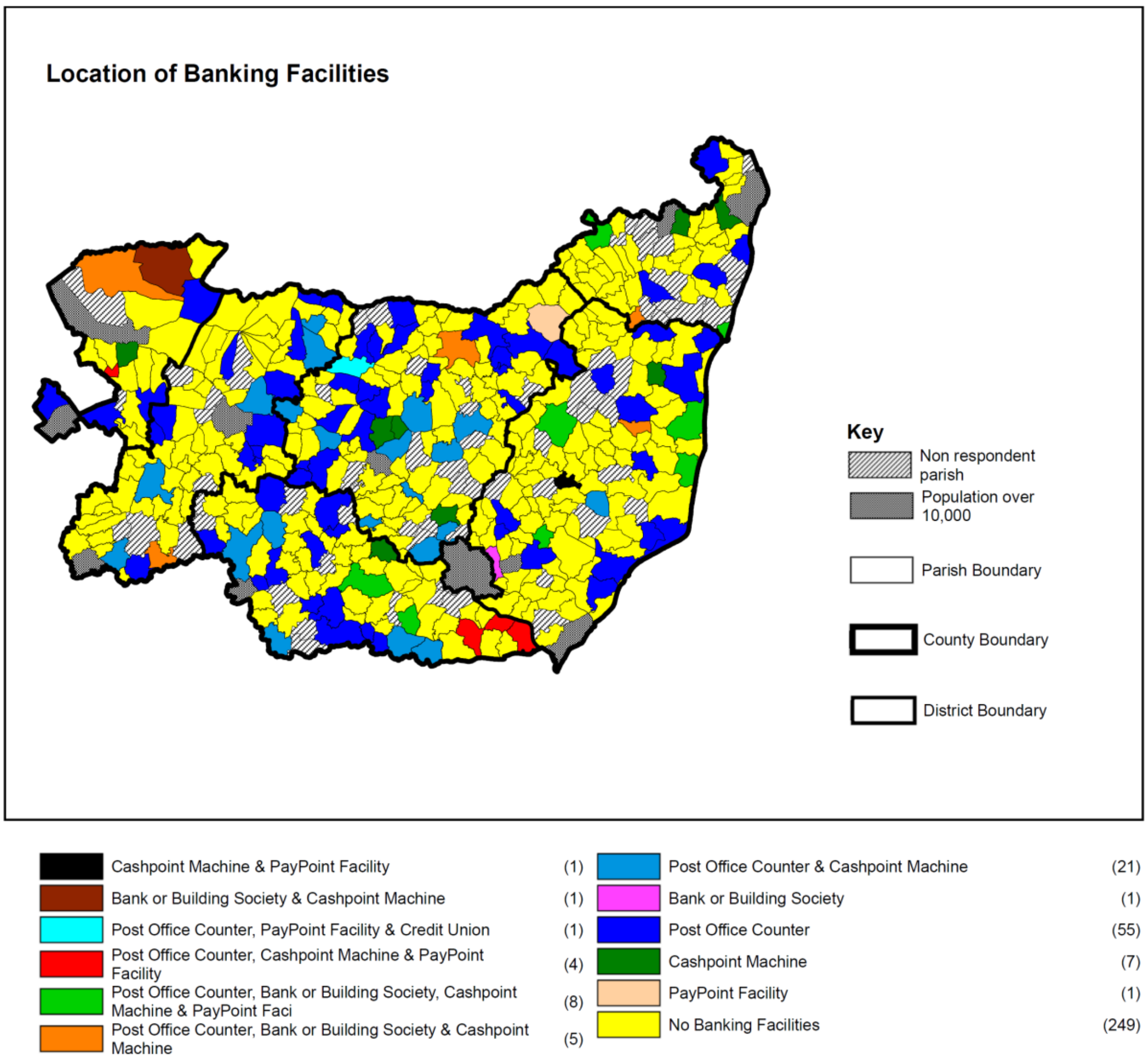

Figure 4: Location of Banking Facilities

3.4 Shops

Types of Shop	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Bakery	31	7%
Butcher	41	10%
Chemist	32	8%
Farm Shop	37	9%
Food Bank	11	3%
Food Co-operative	9	2%
General Store	110	26%
Greengrocer	21	5%
Newsagent/Confectioner	61	14%
Other shops	50	12%
None	23	6%

Table 4: Types of Shops

110 parishes (26%) have a General Store. Of these, 100 (24%) were privately operated, and 10 (2%) were community run.

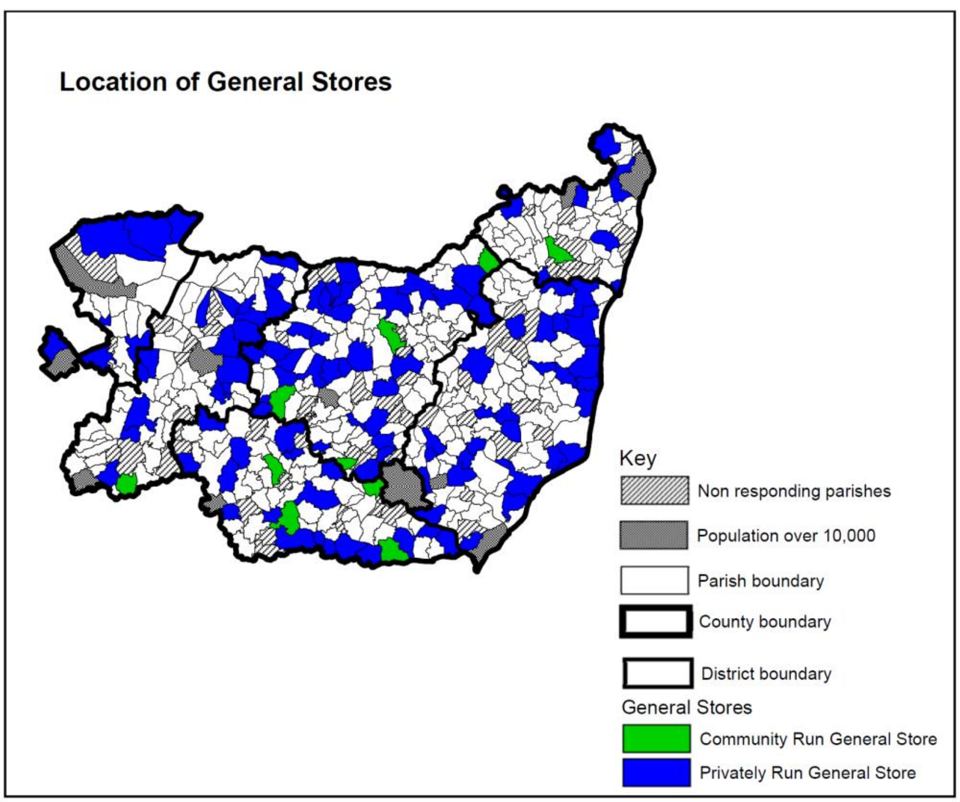

Figure 5: Location of General Stores

31 parishes (7%) have a Bakery, 1 (0.2%) of which are run by the community.

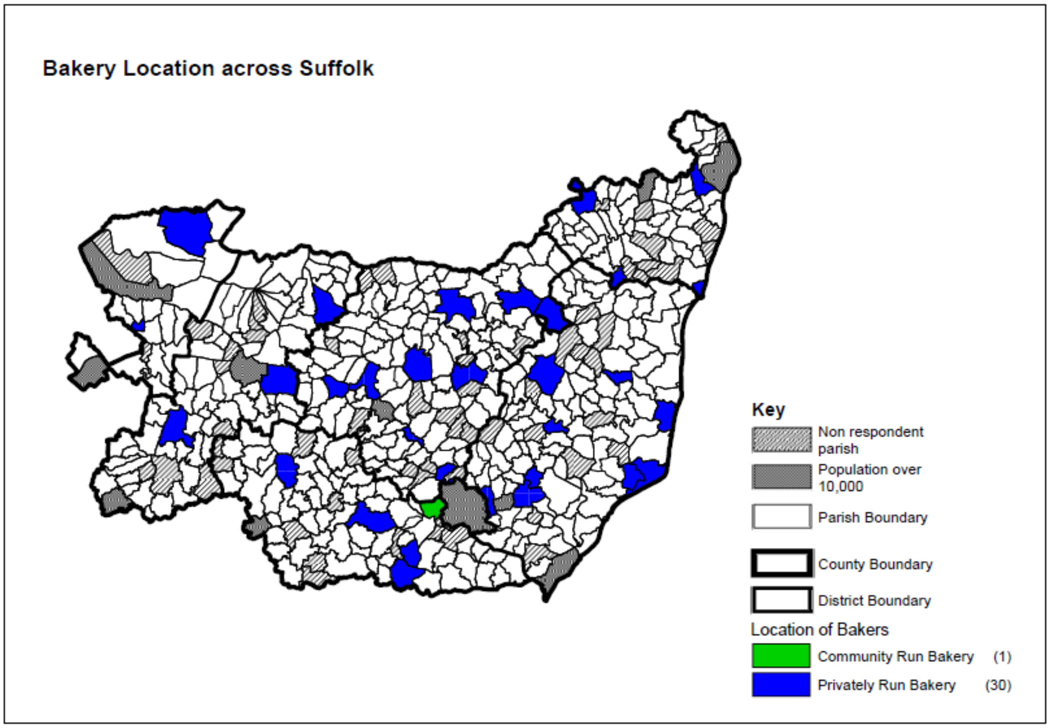

Figure 6: Bakery Locations

41 parishes (10%) have a Butcher, of which 1 (0.2%) said they were run by the community.

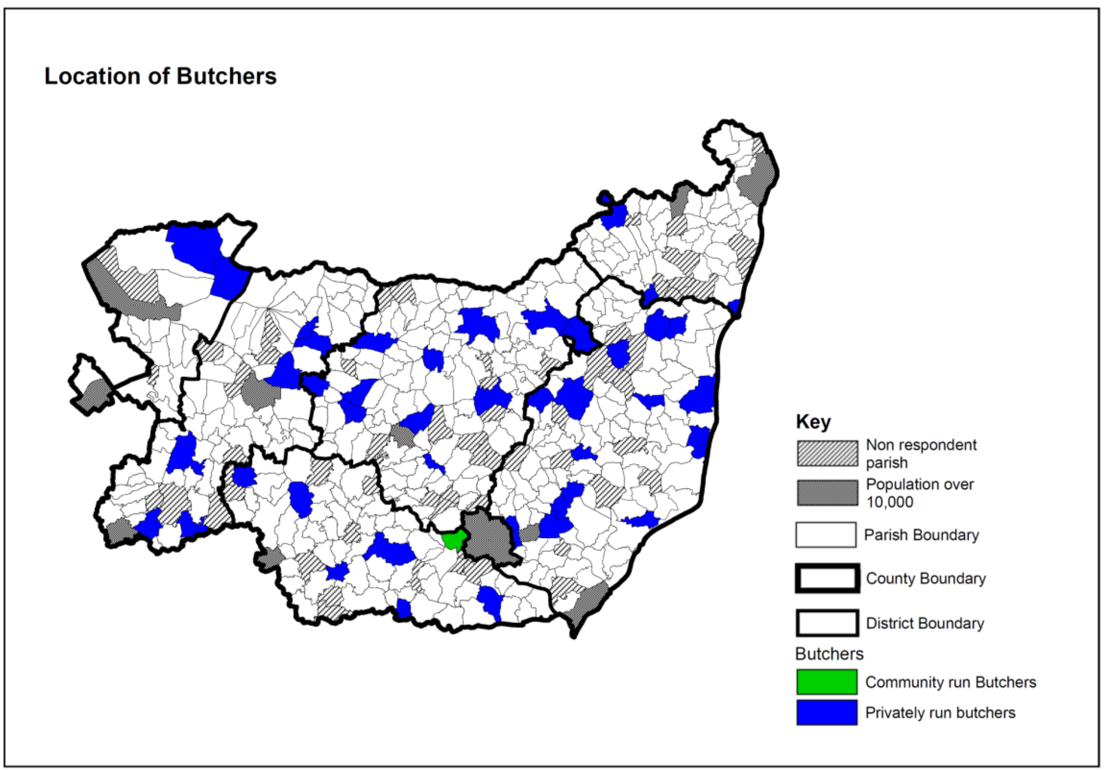

Figure 7: Location of Butchers

32 parishes (7%) have a Chemist, all of which were privately run.

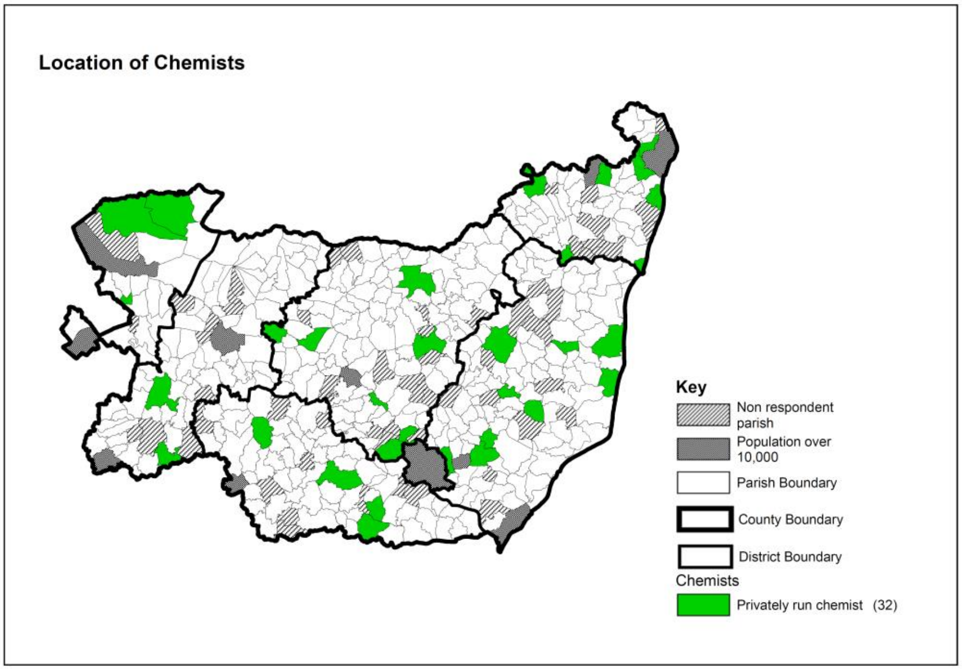

Figure 8: Location of Chemists

37 parishes (9%) have a Farm Shop, 1 (0.2%) of which was run by the community.

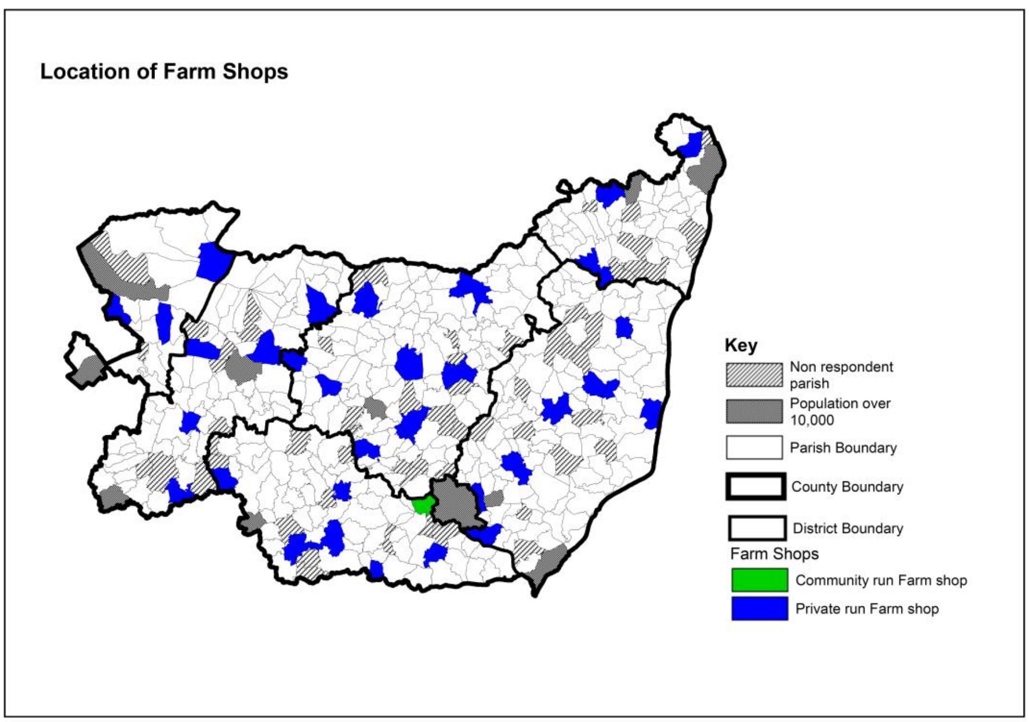

Figure 9: Location of Farm Shops

11 parishes (3%) have a Food Bank.

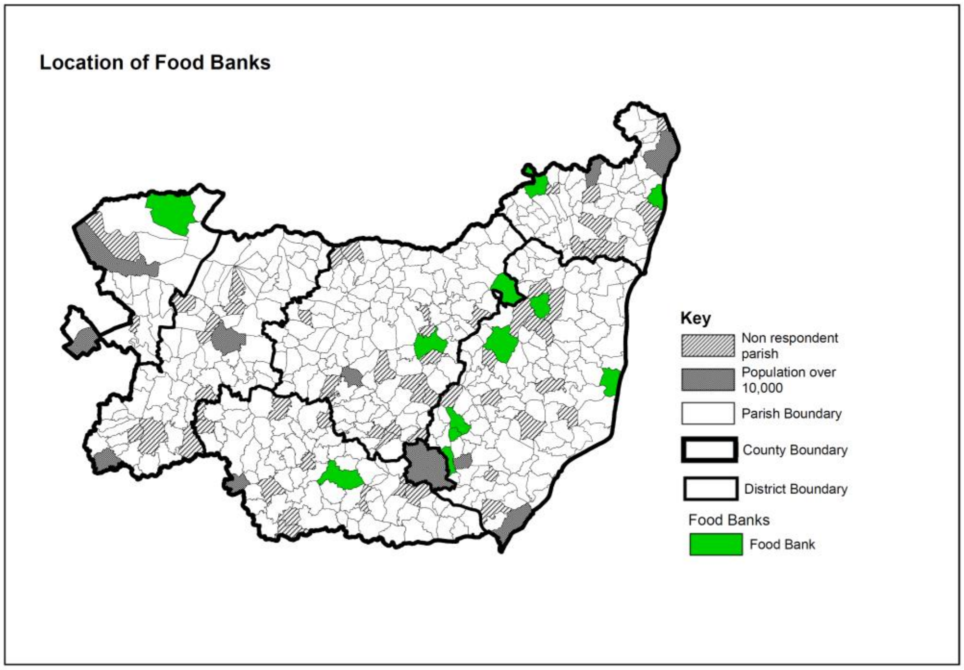

Figure 10: Location of Food Banks

9 parishes (2%) have a Food Co-operative, all of which were privately run.

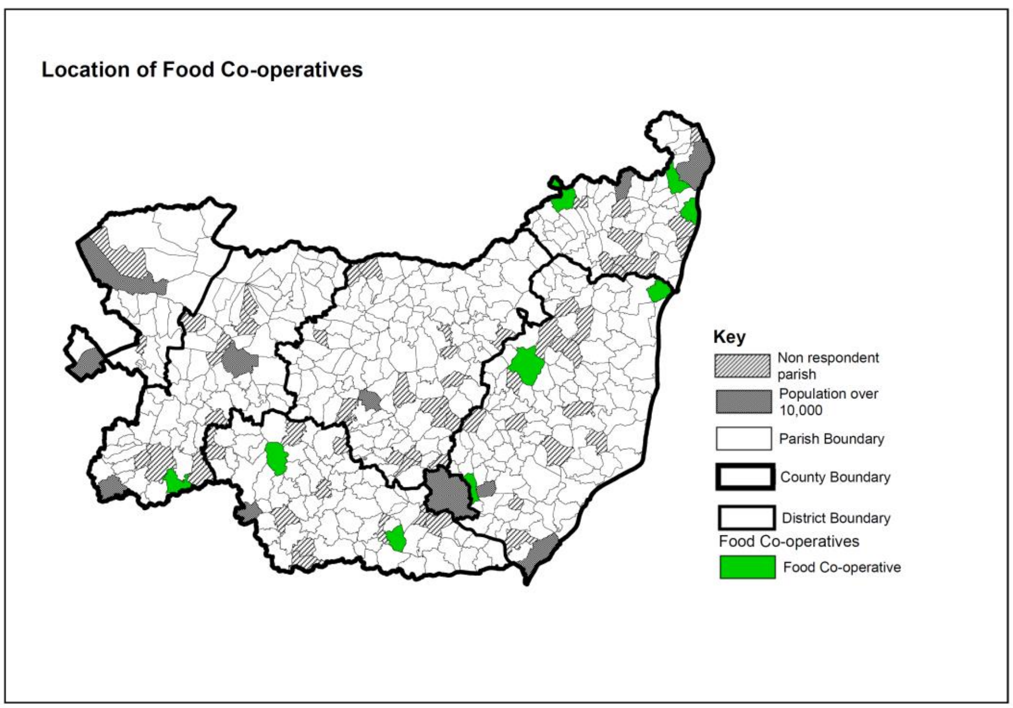

Figure 11: Location of Food Co-operatives

NB Some parishes have an East of England Co-operative store rather than a food co-operative which may have caused confusion for some respondents.

61 parishes (14.5%) have a Newsagent/Confectioner, 59 (14%) of which are privately run and 2 (0.5%) are run by the community.

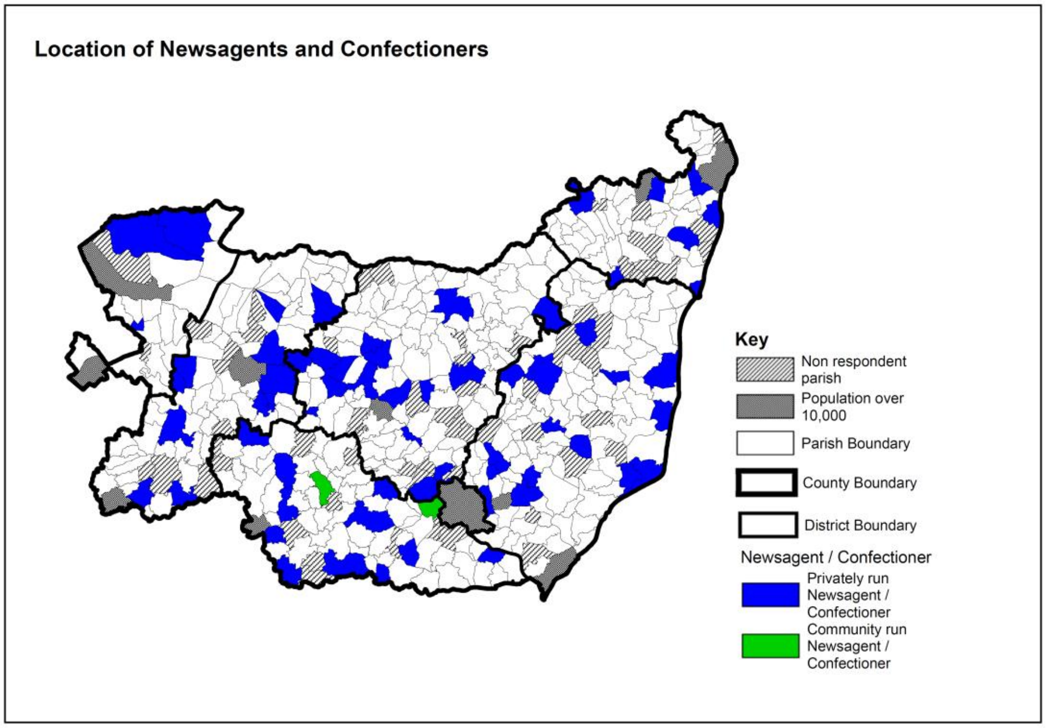

Figure 12: Location of Newsagents and Confectioners

21 parishes (5%) have a Greengrocer, 1 (0.2%) of which is run by the community.

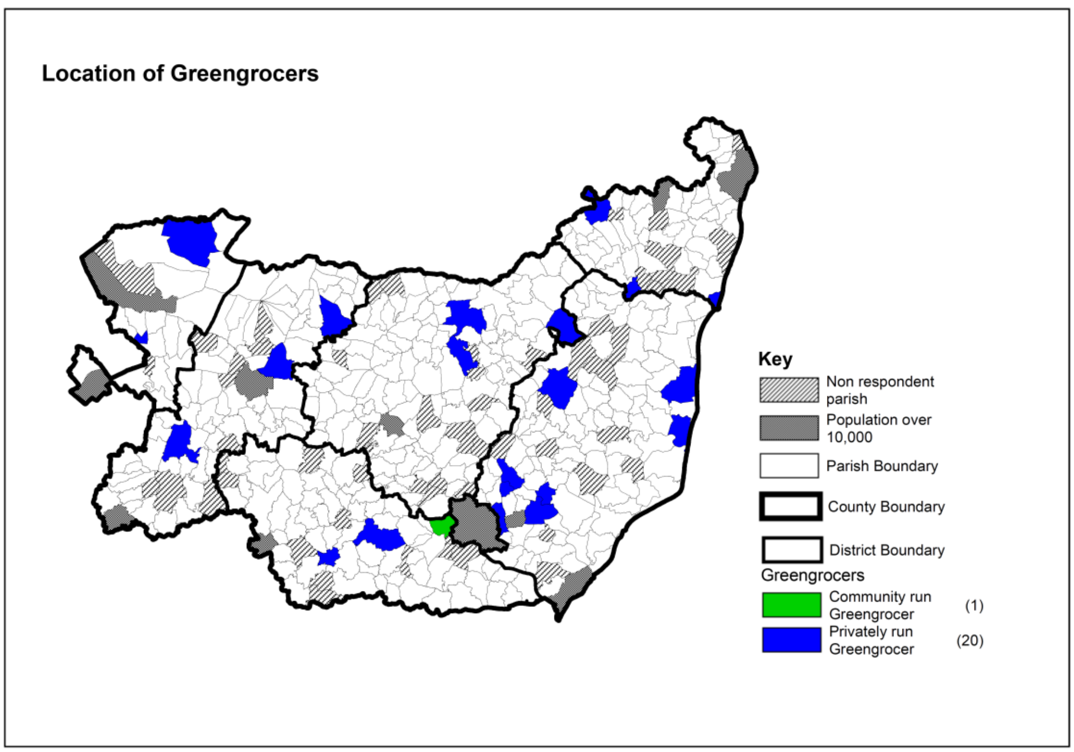

Figure 13: Location of Greengrocers

50 parishes (12%) stated that they had an “Other” shop available within the parish, of which 46 (11%) were privately run and 4 (1%) were community operations. Figure 14 shows the locations of these parishes.

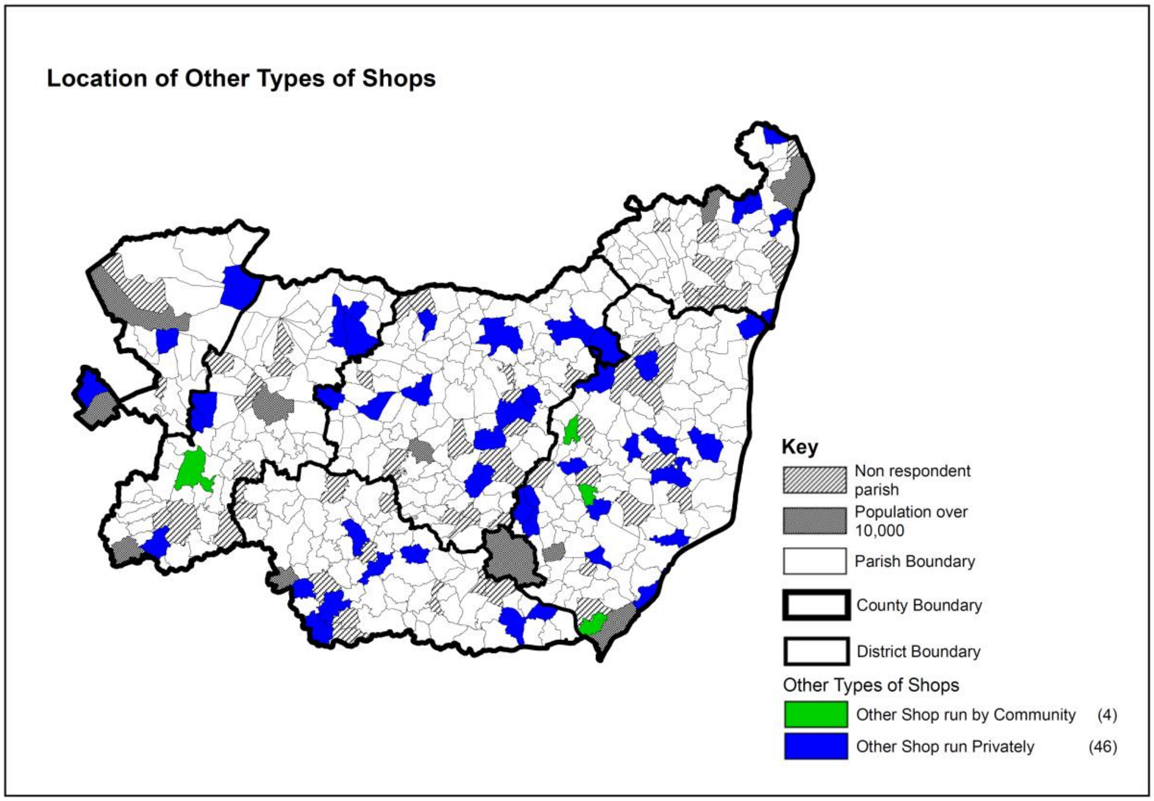

Figure 14: Location of Other Types of Shops

Details of these other shops mentioned are included in the Appendix.

3.5 Markets

Types of Market	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
General Market - Weekly	10	2%
General Market - Fortnightly	1	0.2%
General Market - Monthly	3	1%
Farmers Market -Weekly	2	0.5%
Farmers Market - Fortnightly	2	0.5%
Farmers Market - Monthly	19	5%
Other form of Market	7	2%

Table 5: Types of Markets

3.6 Mobile Shops and Delivery Services

Respondents were asked about mobile shops and delivery services that visit the parish. 219 parishes (52%) confirmed they had a mobile shop or delivery service.

Types of Mobile Shop and Delivery Van	Number of Responding Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Baker	2	0.5%
Butcher	16	4%
Fish and Chip Van	48	11%
Fresh Fish	83	20%
Milk, Dairy and Soft Drinks	136	32%
Veg Box Scheme	33	8%
Other	41	10%

Table 6: Types of Mobile Shop and Delivery Van

41 of parishes (10%) indicated that they had some **other** form of mobile shop or delivery services in their parish and these details can be found in the Appendix.

3.7 Pubs, Cafes and Restaurants in the Parish

Type of Food Establishment	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes	Number of which are run by the community
Hotel	31	7%	0
Pub which serves food and provides overnight accommodation	49	12%	1
Pub which serves food, but does not provide over night accommodations	161	38%	7
Pub which serves only drinks	37	9%	2
Café	73	17%	6
Restaurant	36	9%	0
Other	26	6%	8
None	27	6%	-

Table 7: Type of Food Establishment

Of those that said other, full responses can be found in the Appendix.

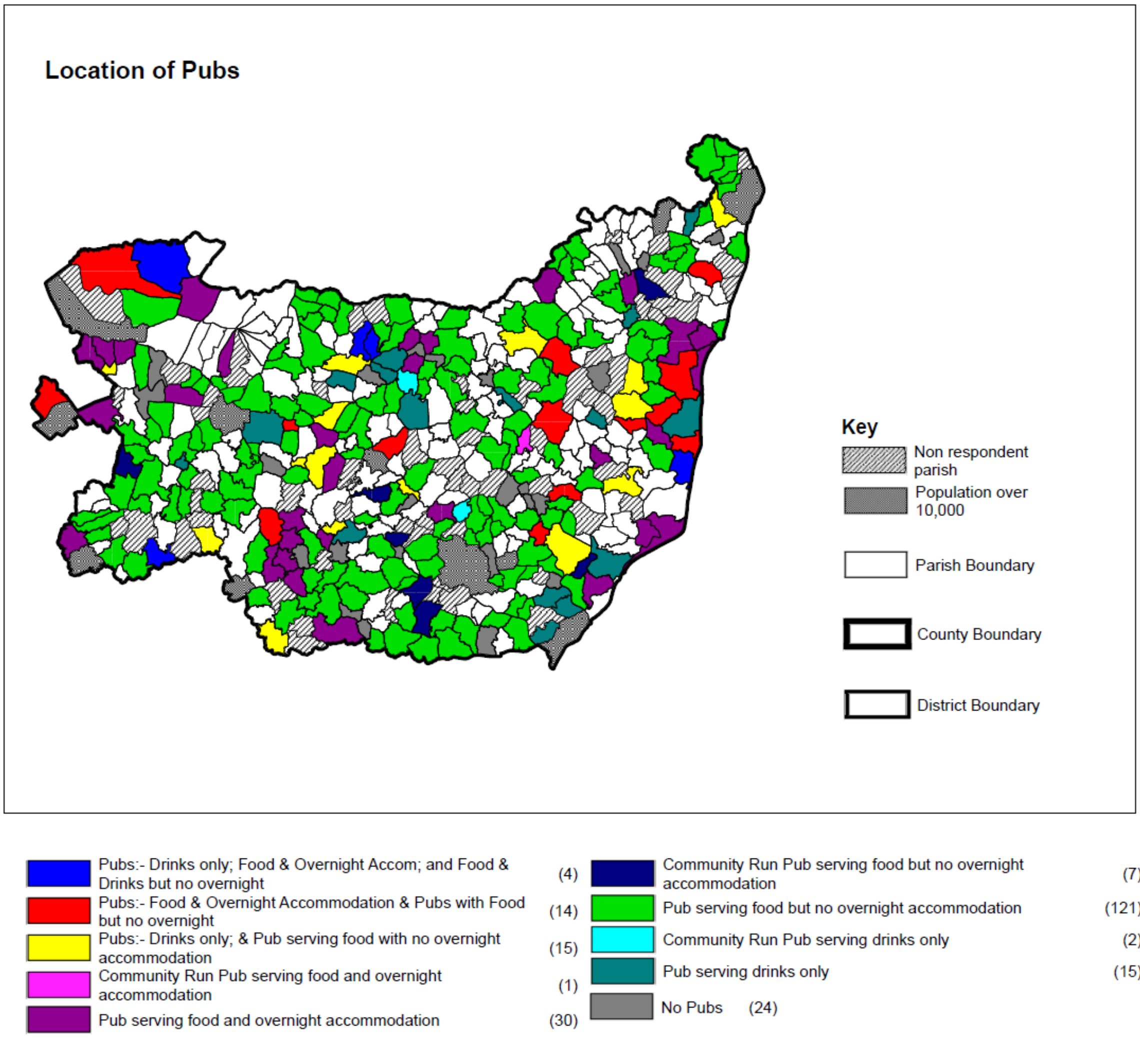

Figure 15: Location of Pubs

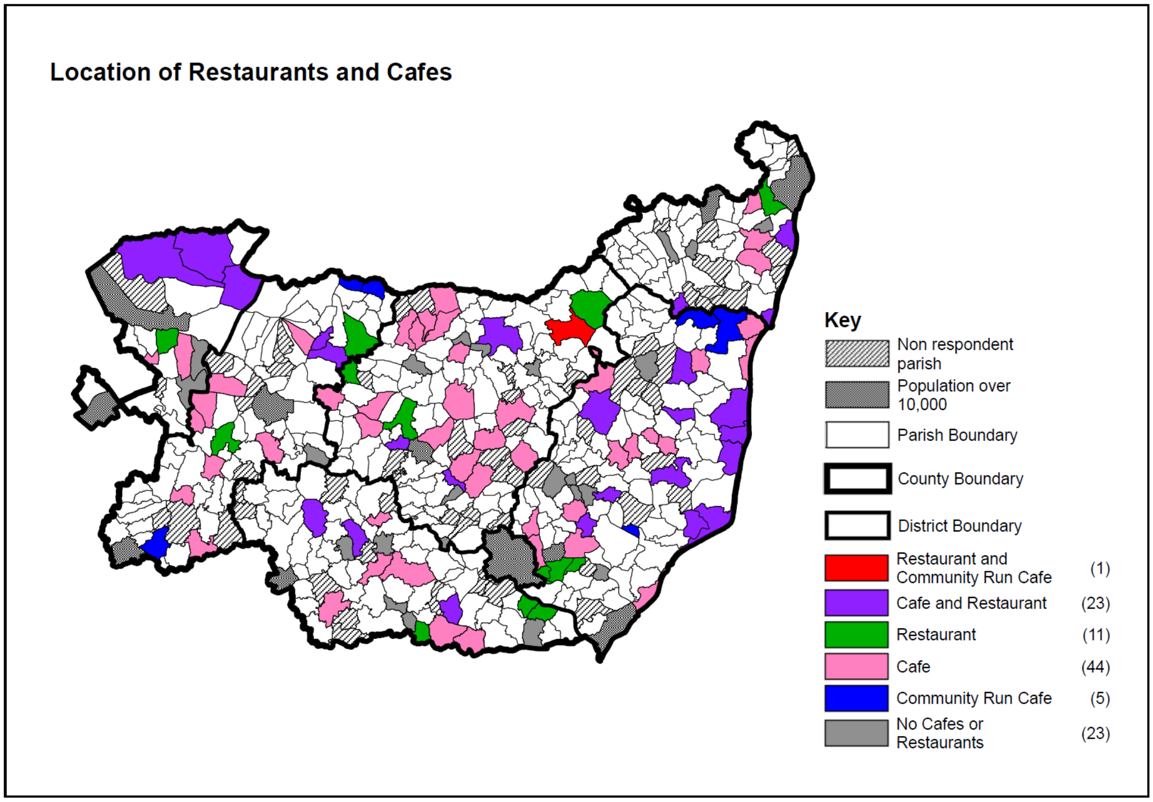

Figure 16: Location of Restaurants and Cafes

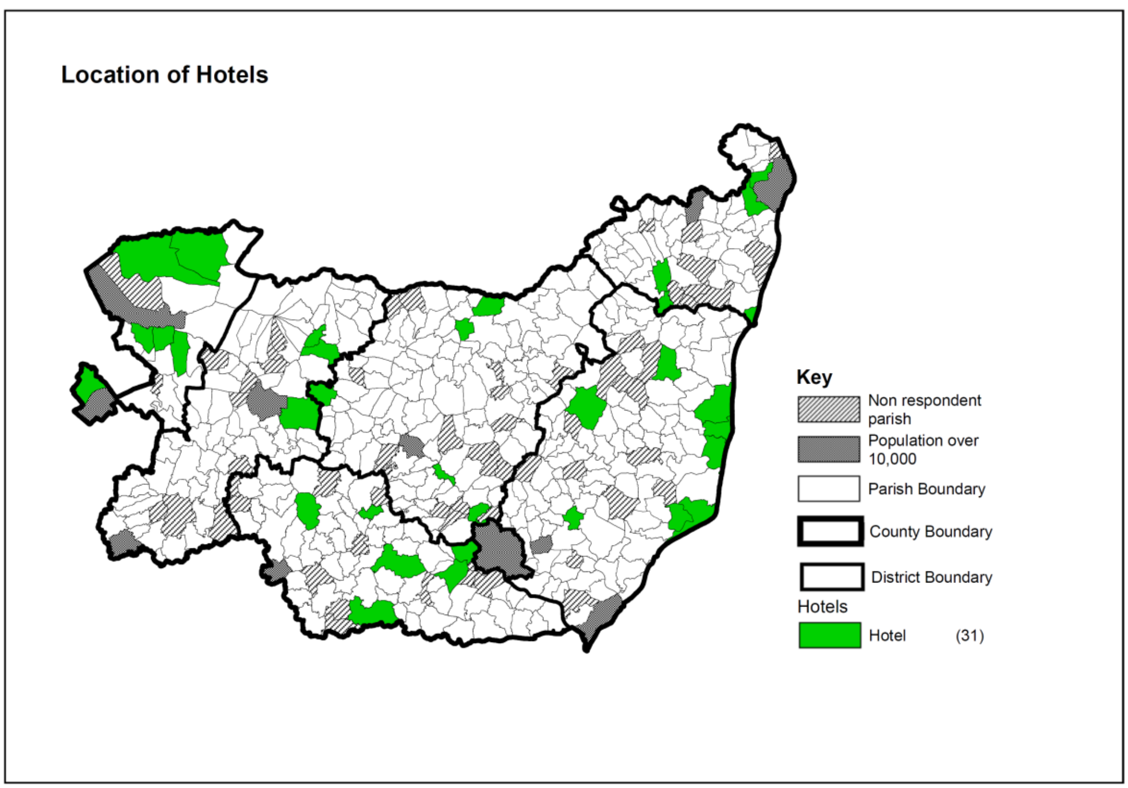

Figure 17: Location of Hotels

Throughout 50% of the surveyed parishes, there are 247 public houses (some parishes have more than one pub in them), of which 10 (2%) are run by the community. Public Houses have been and still are an important asset for the community. There is increasing interest from communities in taking on community ownership of Public Houses, a number of which are starting to develop around Suffolk. The Battisford Punchbowl and The Case is Altered in Bentley are two such examples of communities getting together to realise their local need and following this through to fruition. The registration of pubs as community assets is something that is increasingly being undertaken by communities in order to try to preserve them in the future, to give the community a "right to bid" should the need arise. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has created an interactive map of community rights which shows assets of community value: DCLG Interactive Map.

3.8 Childcare & Education

Types of School	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Primary School	137	33%
Middle School	5	1%
Secondary or High School	21	5%

Table 8: Types of Schools

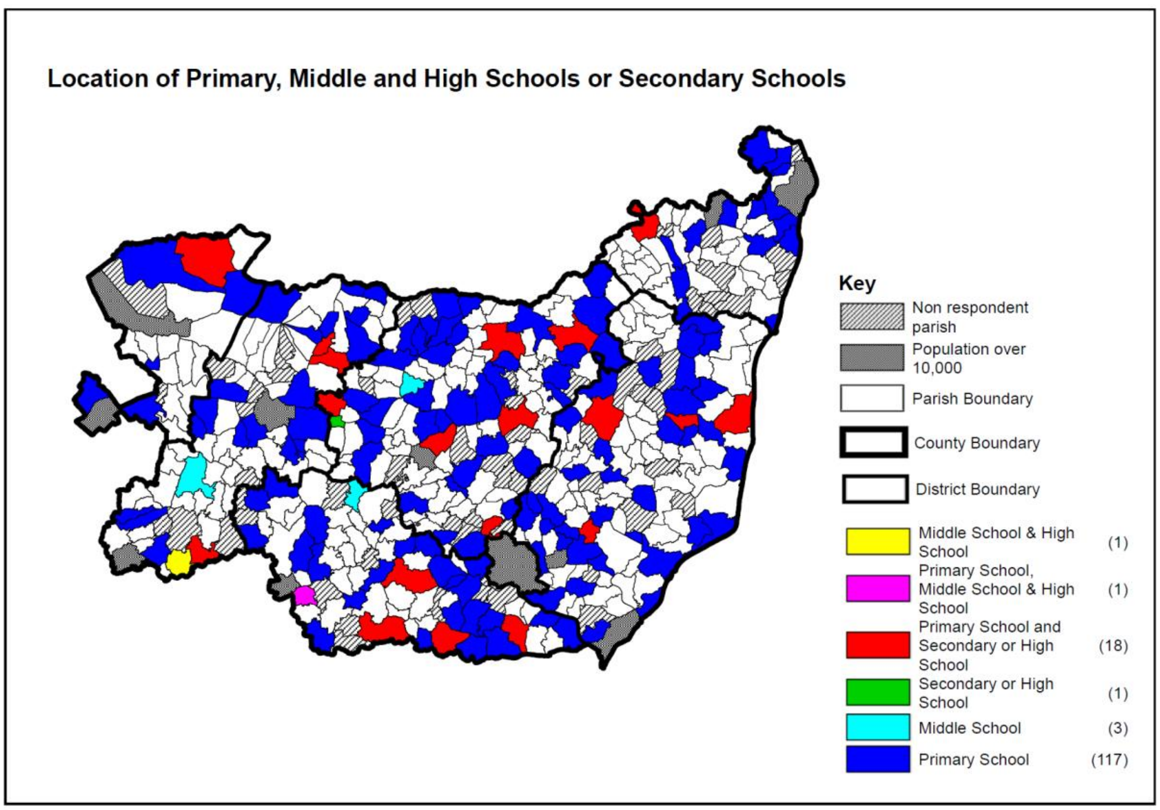

Figure 18: Location of Primary, Middle and High Schools of Secondary Schools

3.9 School uses in the wider Community

Of the 141 parishes (33%) that have at least one school within them, 76 (18%) said that the school was not available for community use, whereas 60 (14%) said the School is made available as a venue for use by other services to the community. These are included in Table 9:

Use of School by the Community	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Breakfast club/after school club	4	1%
Brownies / Scouts / Uniformed Groups for School ages	9	2%
Children's Centre	1	0.2%
Community Centre / Village Hall	2	0.5%
Hall for hire / Venue for Events	9	2%
Library	3	0.7%
OAP lunches periodically	1	0.2%
Parish Council / Annual Meetings / Public Meetings	4	1%
Sports Centre / Clubs / Facilities / MUGA	14	3%
Venue for local groups	8	2%

Table 9: Use of Schools by the Community

3.10 Early Years and Out of School Childcare Facilities

Early Years Childcare Facilities				
	Run Privately	Run by the Community	Run by the School	Total
	Number of Parishes (Percentage of Surveyed Parishes)			
Nursery	45 (11%)	0 (0%)	11 (3%)	56 (13%)
Parent and Toddler Group	37 (9%)	35 (8%)	5 (1%)	77 (18%)
Pre School Playgroup	74 (18%)	14 (3%)	8 (2%)	96 (23%)
Other (Please specify)	6 (1%)	1 (0.2%	2 (0.5%)	9 (2%)

Table 10: Early Years Childcare Facilities

Out of School Childcare Facilities				
	Run Privately	Run by the Community	Run by the School	Total
	Number of Parishes (Percentage of Surveyed Parishes)			
After School Club	28 (7%)	3 (0.7%)	22 (5%)	53 (13%)
Breakfast Club	18 (4%)	3 (0.7%)	16 (4%)	37 (9%)
Holiday Club	14 (3%)	5 (1%)	6 (1%)	25 (6%)

Table 11: Out of School Childcare Facilities

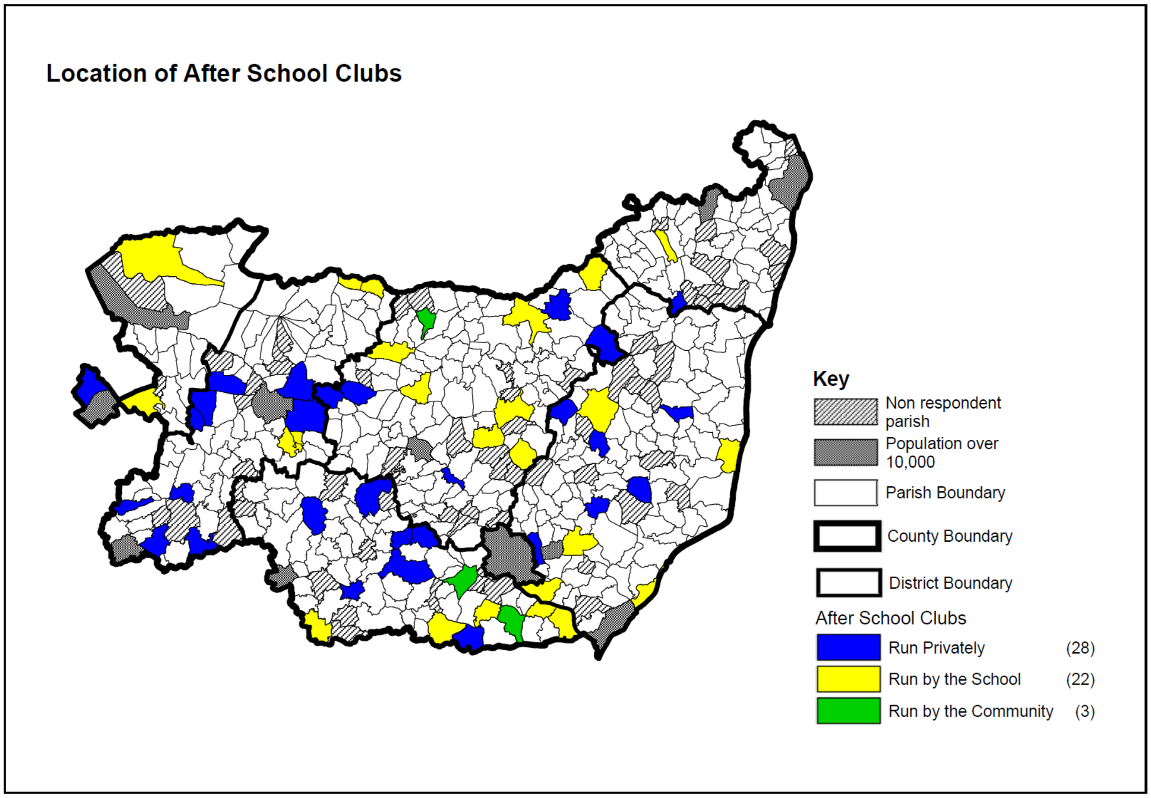

Figure 19: Location of After School Clubs

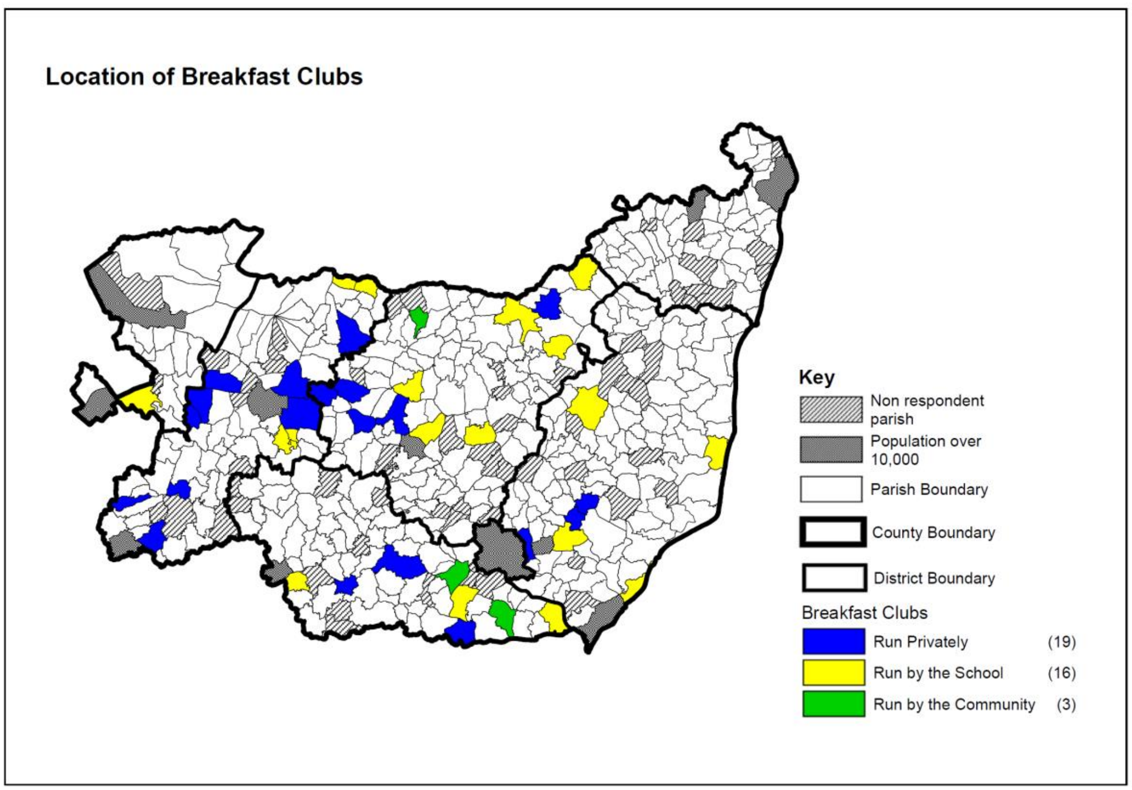

Figure 20: Location of Breakfast Clubs

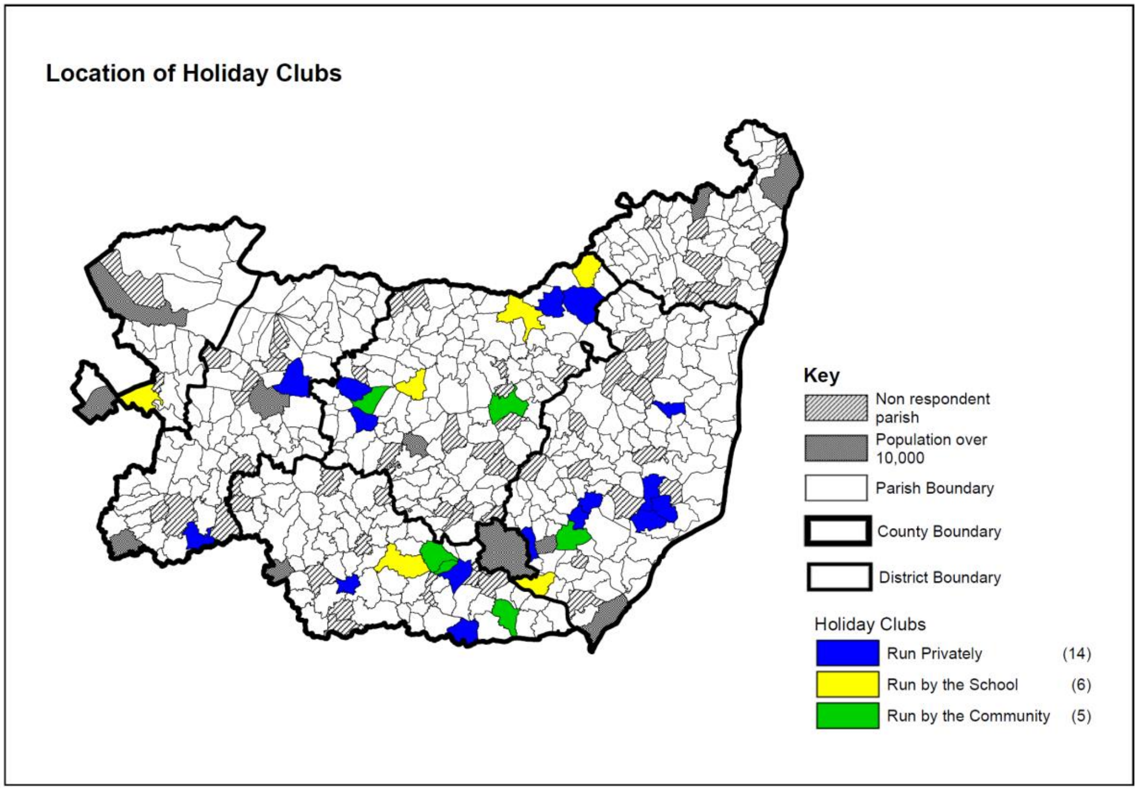

Figure 21: Location of Holiday Clubs

3.11 Adult Classes

Types of Adult Classes	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
IT / Computer Skills	19	5%
Literacy / Numeracy	7	2%
Other Adult Education (e.g. Languages, Local History, Art, Yoga, Pilates, etc.)	64	15%
No	266	63%

Table 12: Types of Adult Classes

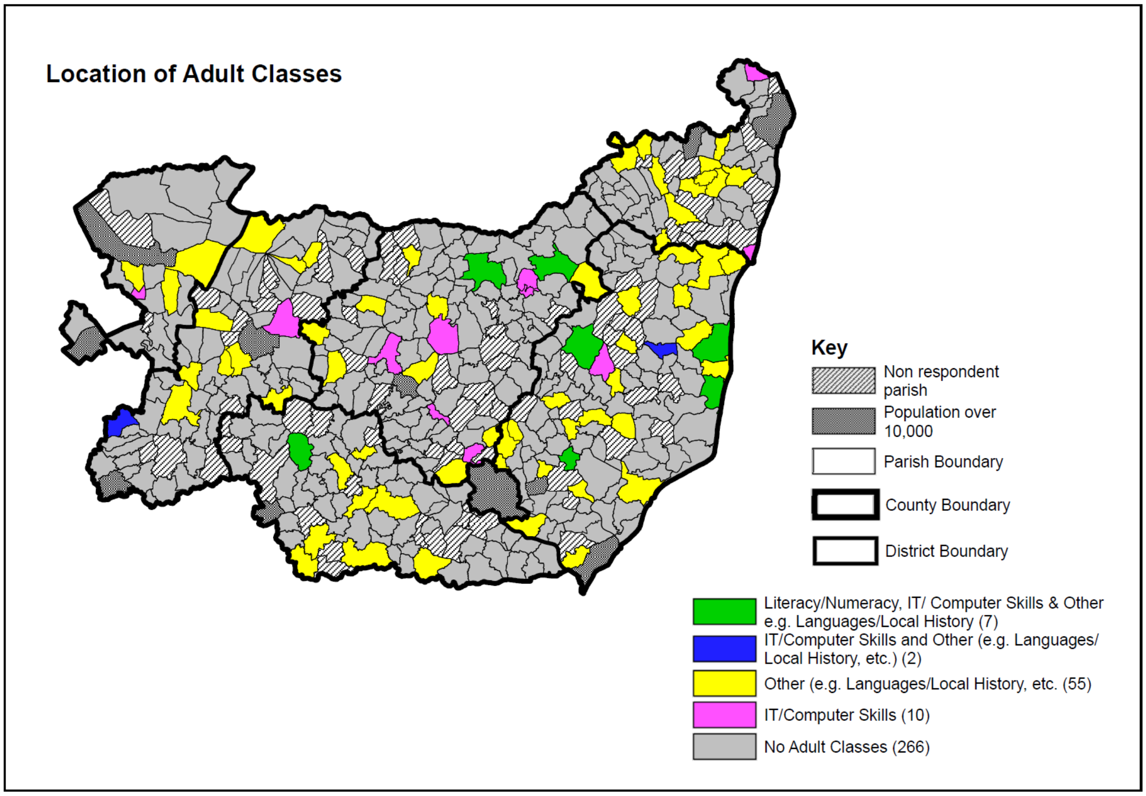

Figure 22: Location of Adult classes

3.12 Doctors Surgeries

Doctor's Surgery In Parish	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Parishes which do not have a Doctor's Surgery within them	292	69%
Parishes which have a permanent Doctor's Surgery within them	50	12%
Parishes which have a visiting Doctor's Surgery within them	6	1%

Table 13: Doctor's Surgeries

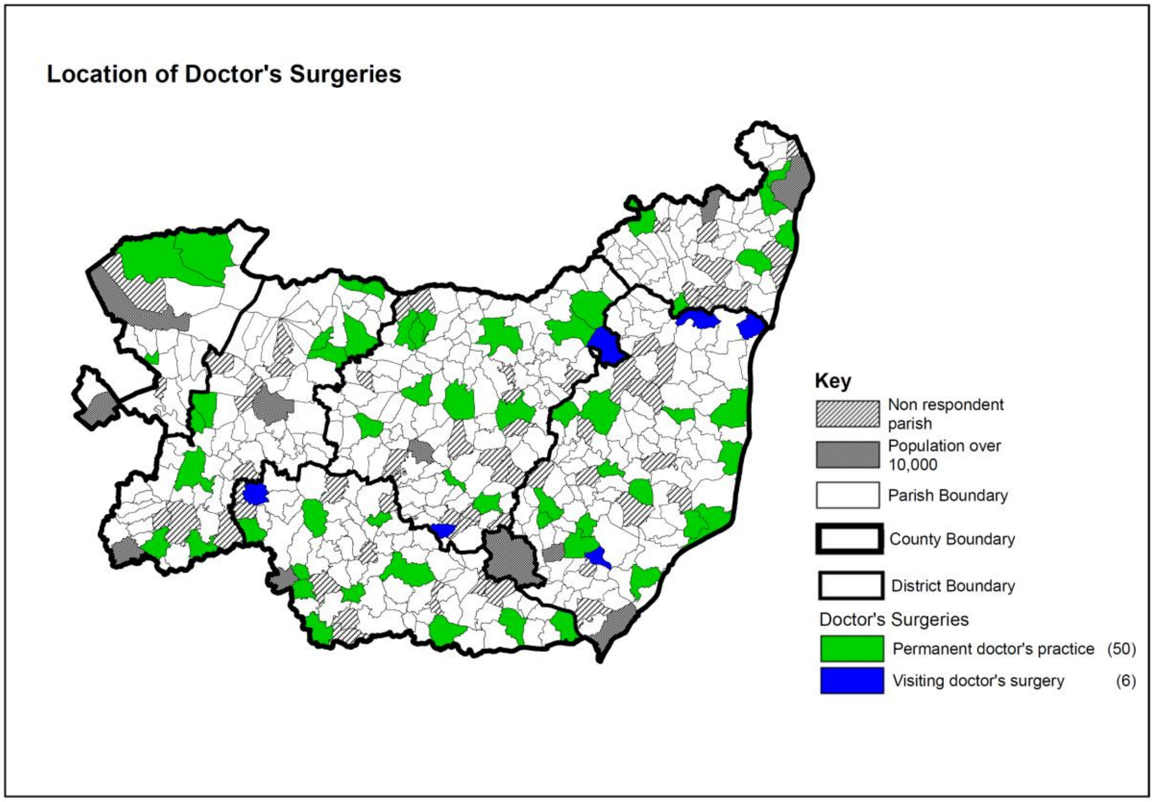

Figure 23: Locations of Doctor's Surgeries

These responses have been corroborated in in Figure 24, which shows the distance responses, and the actual locations of GPs, and then in Figure 25, 3 mile circles have been drawn around each official GP location.

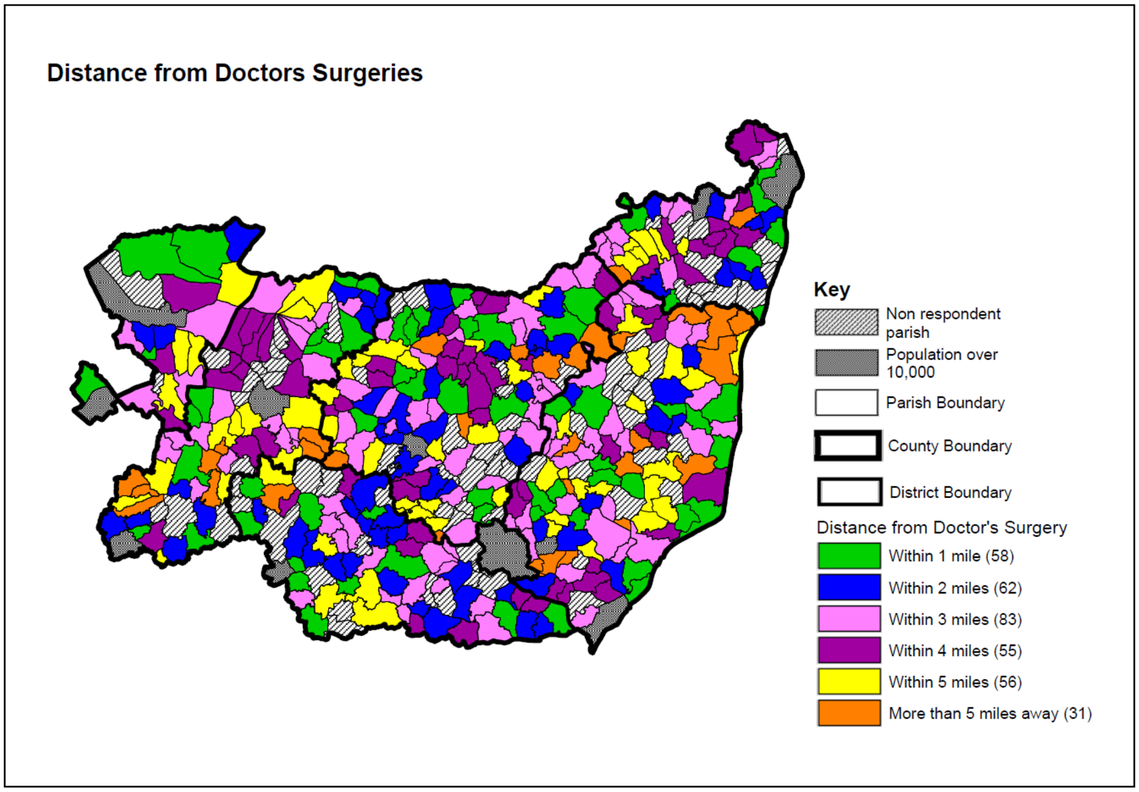

Figure 24: Distance from Doctors Surgeries

Survey participants were asked how far their Parish was to the nearest Doctor's Surgery. The results are in Table 14:

Distance from Parish to nearest Doctor's Surgery	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Within 1 mile	58	14%
Within 2 miles	62	15%
Within 3 miles	83	20%
Within 4 miles	55	13%
Within 5 miles	56	13%
More than 5 miles	31	7%

Table 14: Distance from Parish to nearest Doctor's Surgery

The respondents who indicated their distance from their nearest doctor's surgery were then plotted on the same map. As can be seen on Figure 25, the majority of respondents' perceptions reflected reality, in that they were indeed more than 3 miles from their nearest doctors. In some cases though, those that look as if they are within 3 mile radius of a doctors, may be as the crow flies, however, this may not be the case by road.

Accessibility for those that are less than 3 miles away is also an issue for all sectors of society, as, in rural areas, the availability of pavements and footpaths varies on a parish-by-parish basis. Although in theory a distance may be manageable for an able-bodied person to walk, in reality, it may be too dangerous to attempt due to the lack of a safe or practical pavement or footpath, even if the patient were feeling well enough to make the journey on foot.

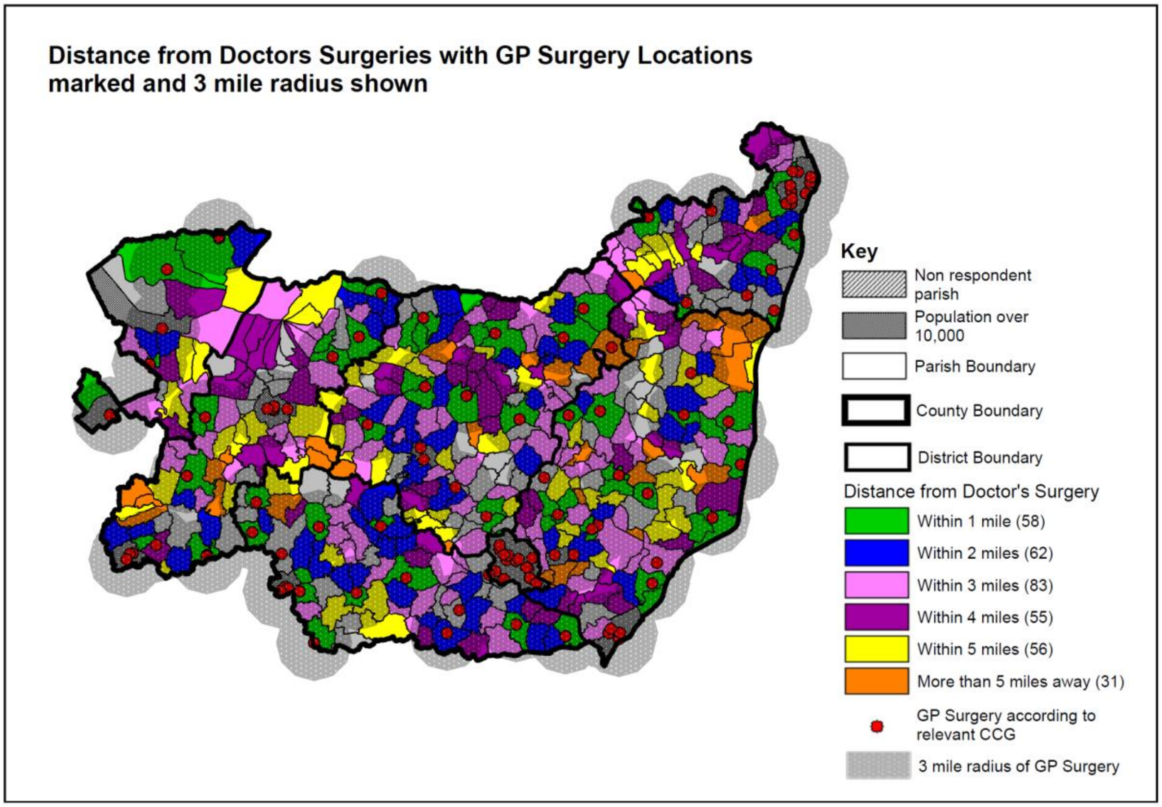

Figure 25: Distance from Doctors Surgeries with GP Surgery Locations

Respondents were also asked whether their nearest Doctor's surgery was accessible by Public Transport. Only 72 parishes (17%) indicated that it was possible, but various caveats to this were added by some. A summary of these responses can be found in the Appendix.

3.13 Dental Surgeries

Dental Surgeries	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Parishes which said they don't have a Dental Surgery within them	322	76%
Parishes which have a Private Dental Surgery within them	12	3%
Parishes which have an NHS Dental Surgery within them	3	0.7%
Parishes which have both an NHS and Private Dental Surgery within them	11	3%

Table 15: Dental Surgeries

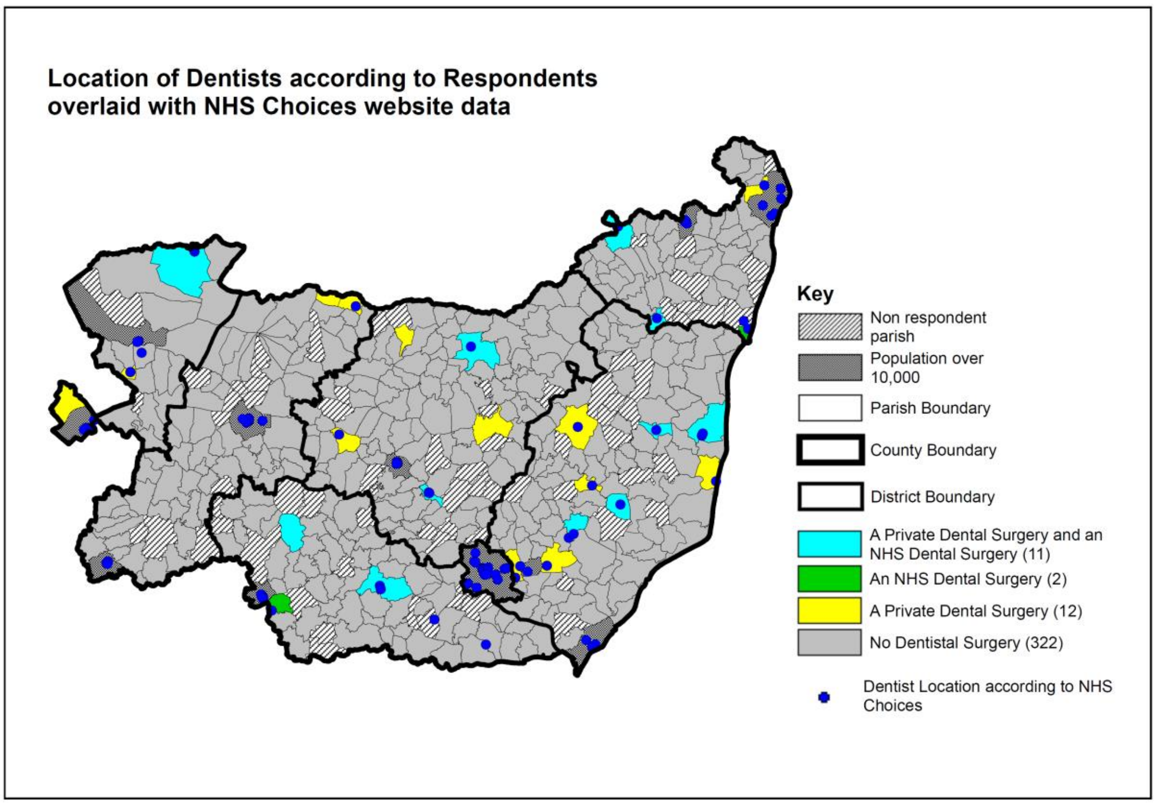

Figure 26: Location of Dentists

Survey participants were then asked about the distance required to travel to the nearest NHS dentist. The results are in Table 16:

Distance from Parish to nearest NHS Dental Surgery	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Within 1 mile	22	5%
Within 2 miles	32	8%
Within 3 miles	64	15%
Within 4 miles	37	9%
Within 5 miles	59	14%
More than 5 miles	123	30%

Table 16: Distance from nearest NHS Dental Surgery

Respondents may have indicated the distance to the nearest dental practice – be it Private or NHS, rather than NHS specifically. On checking the NHS Choices Website, the numbers of dentists in Suffolk are in Table 17:

	Total Number	Percentage
Dental Surgeries in Suffolk	115	100%
Currently accepting new adult patients that pay for their care (as at 09/12/15)	55	48%
Currently accepting new adult patients that are exempt from paying for care (as at 09/12/15)	57	50%
Currently accepting new patients aged between 0-18 years (as at 09/12/15)	75	65%

Table 17: Number of Dental Surgeries in Suffolk

When asked if the Dental Surgery was accessible by Public Transport, 73 parishes (17%) indicated that is were possible, but various caveats to this were added by some, and have been included in the Appendix.

3.14 Health Services

The other health services available within the Parish can be found in Table 18:

Type of Health Service	Number of Parishes with a Health Service Visiting or Permanent (Percentage of Surveyed Parishes)	Any Comments
Pharmacy	42 (10%)	
Prescription collection point	63 (15%)	
Prescription Delivery Services	78 (19%)	
Parish Nurse	35 (8%)	
Chiropody	39 (9%)	
Counselling	14 (3%)	• by appointment
Mental Health & Wellbeing Services	14 (3%)	• Clinical worker via surgery • by appointment
Dementia Café /Support Services	18 (4%)	• fortnightly • WI have tried to set something up but to no avail
Alternative Therapies	25 (6%)	• Sports massage and yoga • Reflexology • Holistic
Volunteer Car Scheme to doctor's / hospital appointments	63 (15%)	• Run from Eye • Available from outside parish • Good Neighbours scheme • CATS • Parish Funded Service • Village Care Group organises Car Scheme
Other	8 (2%)	• Good Neighbour Scheme • prescription collection point above for over 60's only • Debenham Project Services • High Suffolk Community Bus • Prescription delivery service for housebound patients
No Service	37 (9%)	

Table 18: Types of Health Service

Figure 27 shows the locations of parishes who stated that they had pharmacy facilities.

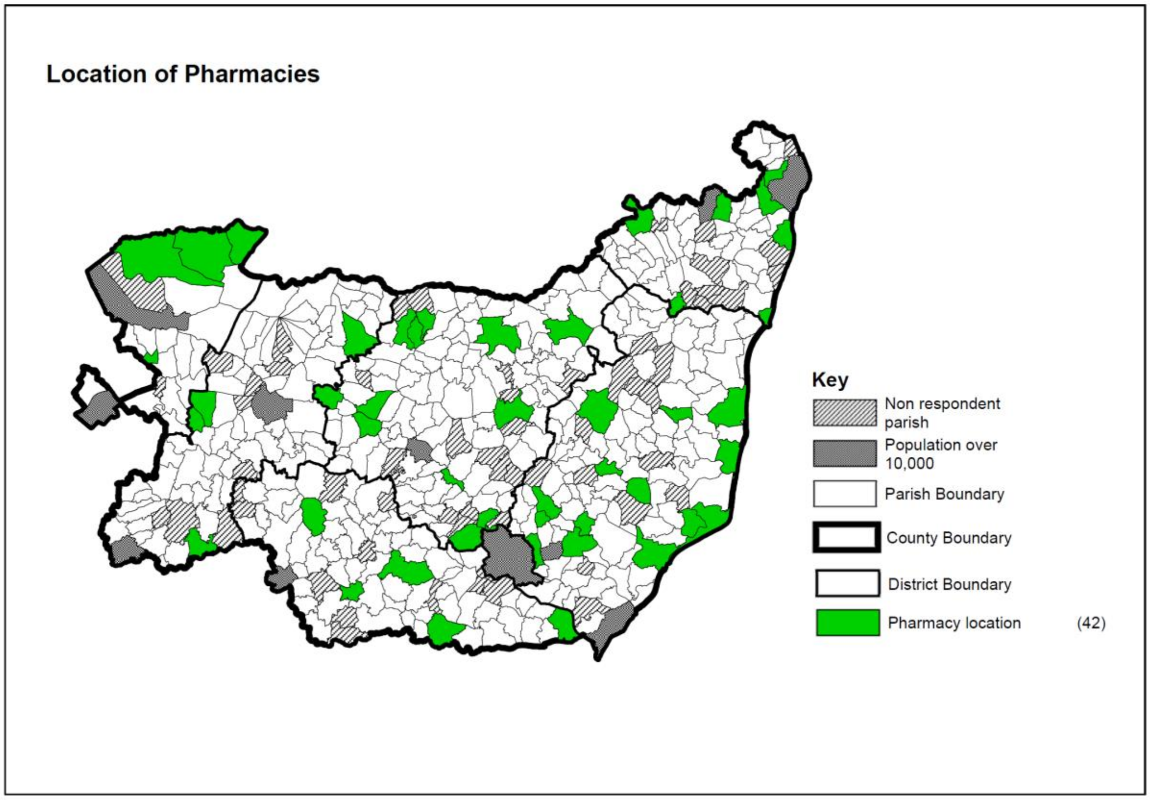

Figure 27: Location of Pharmacies

3.15 Facilities for the Older People

Parishes were asked about Residential Homes or Care Facilities. 137 parishes (33%) indicated that they had some form of facility available for older people, whilst 45 (11%) responded to say they did not.

Facilities	Run Privately	Run by the Community	Run by a Housing Association	Run by a Voluntary Organisation	Run by Other	Total
	Number of Parishes (Percentage of Surveyed Parishes)					
Residential Home	53 (13%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	3 (0.7%)	58 (14%)
Retirement Housing	16 (4%)	2 (0.5%)	9 (2%)	1 (0.2%)	4 (1%)	32 (8%)
Sheltered Housing	11 (3%)	1 (0.2%)	22 (5%)	0 (0%)	9 (2%)	43 (10%)
Day Care Centre	5 (1%)	2 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (0.5%)	9 (2%)
Lunch Club	14 (3%)	37 (9%)	1 (0.2%)	11 (3%)	8 (2%)	71 (17%)
Meals on Wheels	8 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11 (3%)	7 (2%)	26 (6%)
Good Neighbour Scheme	7 (2%)	25 (6%)	0 (0%)	6 (1%)	4 (1%)	42 (10%)
Befriending Schemes	1 (0.2%)	6 (1%)	0 (0%)	4 (1%)	2 (0.5%)	13 (3%)
Dementia Care Services	7 (2%)	1 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	3 (0.7%)	2 (0.5%)	13 (3%)
Informal / Formal Carers Groups	3 (0.7%)	2 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	4 (1%)	1 (0.2%)	10 (2%)
Other	3 (0.7%)	9 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.2%)	13 (3%)

Table 19: Facilities for Older People

The respondents, who indicated an “Other” facility or service, were asked to expand, and the responses are included in the Appendix. Community Action Suffolk helps Good Neighbour Scheme projects, which benefit any community by helping to knit the community together and building new friendships between villagers. Teams of volunteers are raised to help with:

- Transport – giving people lifts to hospitals, doctors surgeries, shops or social trips
- Domestic tasks – changing light bulbs, testing smoke alarms, moving furniture and many other household jobs
- Mobility problems – volunteers can help by collecting prescriptions and pensions, shopping and posting letters for anyone who is incapacitated

- Befriending – visiting the lonely or bereaved to give emotional support
- Advocacy – help with letter writing or filling in forms
- Outside jobs – occasional garden tidying, dog walking and other odd jobs

The existence of a Good Neighbour Scheme may help to allow people remain in their own homes and communities for longer than those without such a support network. Some of the Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers Community Action Suffolk has worked with have continued to support people when the time does come to move into a care home, and continue to visit, to allow them to retain some link to their own community, even if they are no longer able to live in their own home.

3.16 Faith and Religion

Churches continue to be a large network throughout the county with 339 (81%) parishes indicating that they did have at least one church or other faith building. In many cases, even for people that do not hold strong religious beliefs of any kind, Churches continue to play an important part of the rural community. The was something brought out in the recent Cinnamon Faith Action Audit Report 2015 which wants "to see local churches and other faith groups more empowered, more encouraged to take up their place as they serve at the heart of the community."

When asked whether Parishes have a church or chapel with a Minister resident in the Parish, Table 20 displays the responses:

	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
None	5	1%
Other	13	3%
Yes, with a Minister resident in the Parish	80	19%
Yes, with a Minister resident outside the Parish	125	30%
Yes, with a Team Ministry including several churches in the area	167	40%

Table 20: Ministries

When asked whether there were any Church or other Faith buildings in the Parish that were available for community use, Table 21 shows the responses received:

Church or other Faith Buildings available for Community Use	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
No	173	41%
Yes, as an Information Point	23	6%
Yes, Church Room / Hall available for Community Use	94	22%
Yes, Church Room / Hall available for Private Hire	73	17%
Yes, Other (please specify)	38	9%

Table 21: Faith Buildings available for Community Use

When asked to expand on the types of other use, Table 22 lists the examples put forward:

Other Church or other Faith Buildings available for Community Use	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Area at back of the Church soon to be provided with Kitchen and Loo	1	0.2%
Available but most use village hall	1	0.2%
Chapel	2	0.5%
Church	4	1%
Church but limited because of pews	1	0.2%
Church can be used as a venue for meetings, activities, coffee mornings	10	2%
Church hall is leased to the PC and referred to as the village hall by most people	1	0.2%
Churches can be used for community - produce market, concerts	1	0.2%
Free Church	1	0.2%
Greek Orthodox	1	0.2%
Methodists Schoolroom	1	0.2%
Occasional non-religious use	1	0.2%
Plymouth Brethren	1	0.2%
Redundant church available	1	0.2%
Roman Catholic & Evangelical Church	1	0.2%
Services, Weddings, Funerals	1	0.2%
URC Chapel Hall	1	0.2%
Vestry can be use for small community functions	2	0.5%
Village Hall	4	1%

Table 22: Other Church or Faith Buildings available for community use

3.17 Libraries

Library Type	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Permanent Library	25	6%
Mobile Library Van	202	48%
Informal book-sharing point (e.g. phone box)	22	5%
No library within the parish	114	27%

Table 23: Type of Library

Figure 28 shows the survey respondents who indicated that they had a permanent or mobile library service in their parish, as well as the many informal book-sharing points.

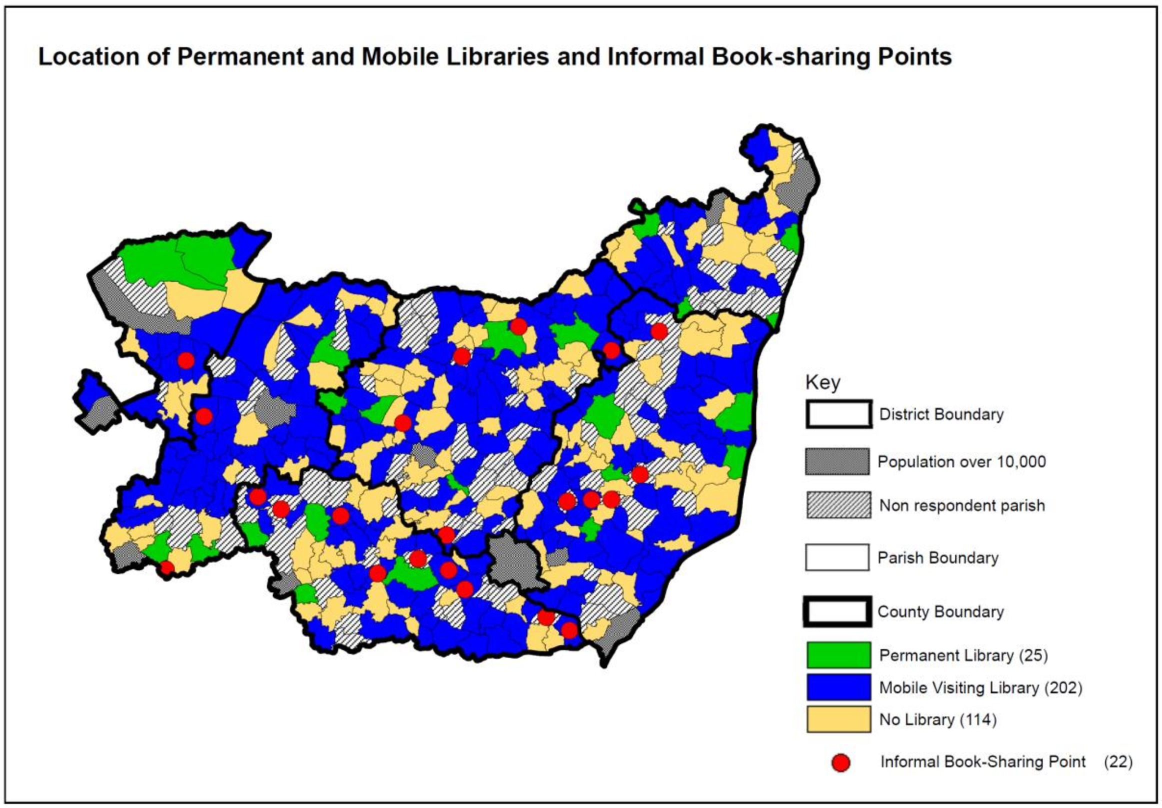

Figure 28: Locations of Libraries and Book-sharing Points

3.18 Information Services

When asked about other information services in the Parish, Table 24 shows which information services were available in responding parishes:

Information Service	**Number of Parishes**	**Percentage of Surveyed Parishes**
Village Newsletter	296	70%
Village Website	276	66%
Public Notice Board	318	76%
Email contact address for the Parish Clerk	301	72%
Village Email	108	26%
Parish Twitter Account	8	2%
Parish Facebook Account	32	8%
Parish Radio Station	4	1%
Other Information Services	5	1%

Table 24: Information Services

3.19 Village Halls and Community Centres

282 (67%) of the responding parishes indicated that they have a Village Hall or Community Centre. Some parishes chose not to answer this question when it is known that they have a hall in their parish, however, the respondent may not have felt that they could answer questions on the facilities available, which may account for them not completing the question.

The facilities available in Village Halls and Community Centres in Parishes can be seen in Table 25:

Facility	Number of Parishes	Percentage of surveyed parishes
Bar	76	18%
Cafe	16	4%
IT / Broadband	34	8%
Kitchen / Self Catering Facilities	245	58%
Library	10	2%
Local Information Point	97	23%
Meeting Rooms	232	55%
Post Office	11	3%
Presentation Equipment e.g. PA, Projectors, Screens, etc.	101	24%
Shop	1	0.2%
Other	42	10%

Table 25: Facilities in Village Halls and Community Buildings

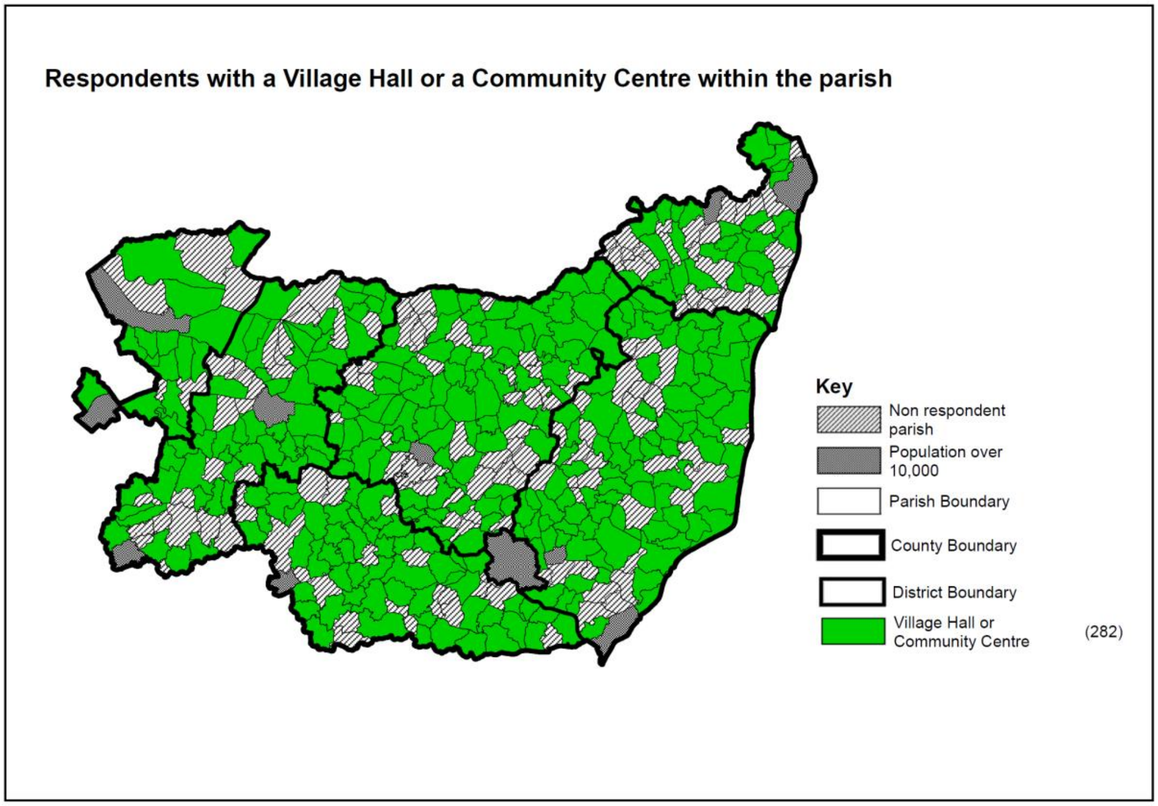

Figure 29: Locations of Village Halls or Community Centres

3.20 Parish Amenities and Activities

Parish Amenity / Facility	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Total Parishes responding to this question	340	81%
Children's Play Area	219	52%
Sports Field	184	44%
Village Green/Open Space	190	45%
Uniformed Groups for children e.g. Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs etc.	70	17%
Youth Club	45	11%
Specialist interest clubs e.g. Horticultural society, history group, cheese and wine club, photography club, wood turning club, book club, dog training classes etc.	147	35%
Social Events e.g. Bingo, barn dance, quiz nights, village treasure hunt, village cinema/film nights etc.	206	49%
Coffee mornings, afternoon tea, social groups etc.	111	26%
Keep Fit / Exercise Classes e.g. Pilates, yoga, zumba etc.	149	35%
Multi Use Games Area	65	16%
Outdoor Green Gym	22	5%
Children's Faith Groups	45	11%
Women's Institute Meetings, Neighbourhood Watch, Residents Association, Speedwatch	174	41%
Art and Craft Groups e.g. painting	103	25%
Cards and Games Clubs e.g. Bridge, scrabble etc.	56	13%
Royal British Legion, Lions, Rotary, Masons etc.	41	10%
Social Groups e.g. coffee mornings, knit and natter, friendship clubs etc.	139	33%
Lunch Clubs	78	19%
Gardening Club	75	18%
Amateur Dramatics, Choir, Singing Groups, Pantomime, Music Groups	78	19%
Dementia Support Group	13	3%
Carers Support Group	11	3%
Outdoor Activity clubs e.g. Cycling, walking, running	37	9%
Ball Sports e.g. football, rugby, netball, basketball, etc.	78	19%
Carpet / Indoor Bowls / Outdoor Bowls	150	36%
Other (please specify)	36	9%
Racket sports e.g. tennis, badminton, etc.	67	16%

Parish Amenity / Facility	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
None	25	6%
Dancing Classes e.g. line dancing, country dancing, jive, salsa, ballroom, disco, etc.	70	17%
Over 50s Club / Over 60s Club / OAP Groups / Darby and Joan Club etc.	78	19%
Uniformed Groups for Young People e.g. Scouts, Guides, Rangers, Girls and Boys Brigades, Sea Cadets, etc.	49	12%
Allotment Society	71	17%
Youth Faith Groups	18	4%
Slimming Clubs e.g. Slimming World, Weight Watchers etc.	34	8%
Martial Arts e.g. Judo, Karate etc.	27	7%
Older people's exercise e.g. Seated exercise classes	21	5%
Community Cafe	29	7%
Social Services Day Care	5	1%
U3A (University of the Third Age)	6	2%

Table 26: Parish Amenities and Activities

3.21 Rural Communications Technology

With regard to technological advancements, Parishes were asked to rate the quality of Broadband availability, Mobile Phone coverage, and Digital TV receptions. 325 (77%) of parishes answered this question and gave their views of the coverage of these different technologies.

When asked to rate the quality of the service available, Tables 27, 28 and 29 show the percentage response rates received. It should be borne in mind that responses may be the views of the respondent, some have responded as a collective from the Parish Council, Town Council or Parish Meetings; others are the views of an individual respondent. Community Action Suffolk has been unable to validate all of the information, but this does reflect the perception of the quality of services that exist as well as those that actually exist and respondents are aware of:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unavailable
	Number of Parishes (Percentage of Surveyed Parishes)				
Public Internet access points	4 (1%)	13 (3%)	21 (5%)	30 (7%)	101 (24%)
WiFi public access points	5 (1%)	6 (1%)	26 (6%)	25 (6%)	108 (26%)
Broadband coverage generally	7 (2%)	47 (11%)	68 (16%)	156 (37%)	25 (6%)
- ADSL (Standard broadband)	3 (0.7%)	25 (6%)	56 (13%)	116 (28%)	16 (4%)
- Fibre to the Cabinet (Fibre connections going from the telephone exchange to the green telephone cabinets in the area)	19 (5%)	40 (10%)	37 (9%)	34 (8%)	62 (15%)
- Fibre to the Home	8 (2%)	25 (6%)	24 (6%)	34 (8%)	73 (17%)
- Wireless Broadband (usually in areas where landline broadband is slow or unavailable)	4 (1%)	18 (4%)	24 (6%)	46 (11%)	50 (12%)
- Satellite Broadband (No phone line required, generally used where other options are unavailable/required)	2 (0.5%)	7 (2%)	13 (3%)	12 (3%	58 (14%)
Community Broadband Scheme provision	0 (0%)	5 (1%)	1 (0.2%)	3 (0.7%)	70 (17%)

Table 27: Broadband Availability

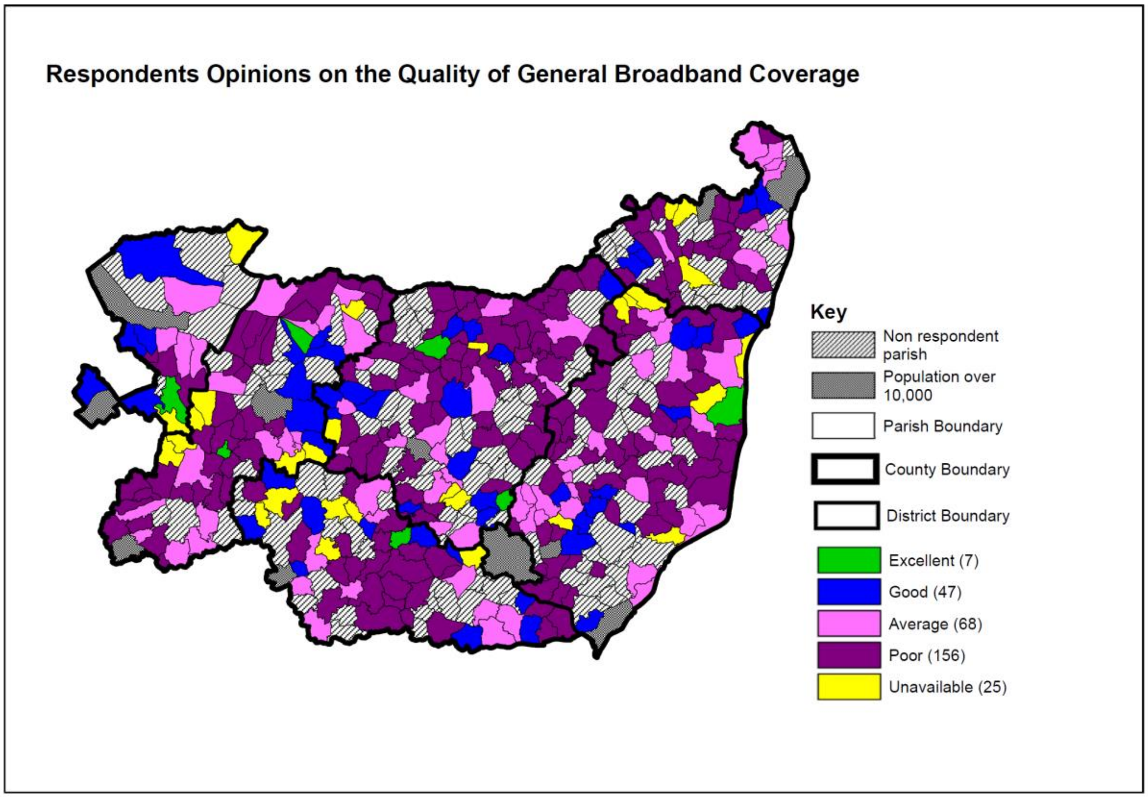

Figure 30: Opinions of Quality of Broadband Coverage

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unavailable
	Number of Parishes (Percentage of Surveyed Parishes)				
Mobile Phone coverage in general	6 (1%)	37 (9%)	79 (19%)	139 (33%)	25 (6%)
- 3 network coverage *	5 (1%)	23 (5%)	36 (9%)	83 (20%)	18 (4%)
- EE network coverage (includes Orange and T-Mobile networks) *	11 (3%)	22 (5%)	59 (14%)	89 (21%)	20 (5%)
- O2 coverage *	7 (2%)	30 (7%)	60 (14%)	102 (24%)	15 (4%)
- Vodafone coverage *	10 (2%)	35 (8%)	63 (15%)	98 (23%)	15 (4%)
- Asda Mobile coverage *	3 (0.7%)	9 (2%)	20 (5%)	56 (13%)	19 (5%)
- Sainsbury Mobile coverage (EE network)	3 (0.7%)	12 (3%)	24 (6%)	59 (14%)	16 (4%)
- Tesco Mobile * (O2 network)	4 (1%)	14 (3%)	33 (8%)	65 (15%)	17 (4%)
- Virgin Mobile coverage *	3 (0.7%)	12 (3%)	20 (5%)	60 (14%)	18 (4%)
3G availability	8 (2%)	24 (6%)	44 (10%)	62 (15%)	28 (7%)
4G availability	6 (1%)	9 (2%)	20 (5%)	40 (10%)	65 (15%)

Table 28: Mobile Phone Coverage

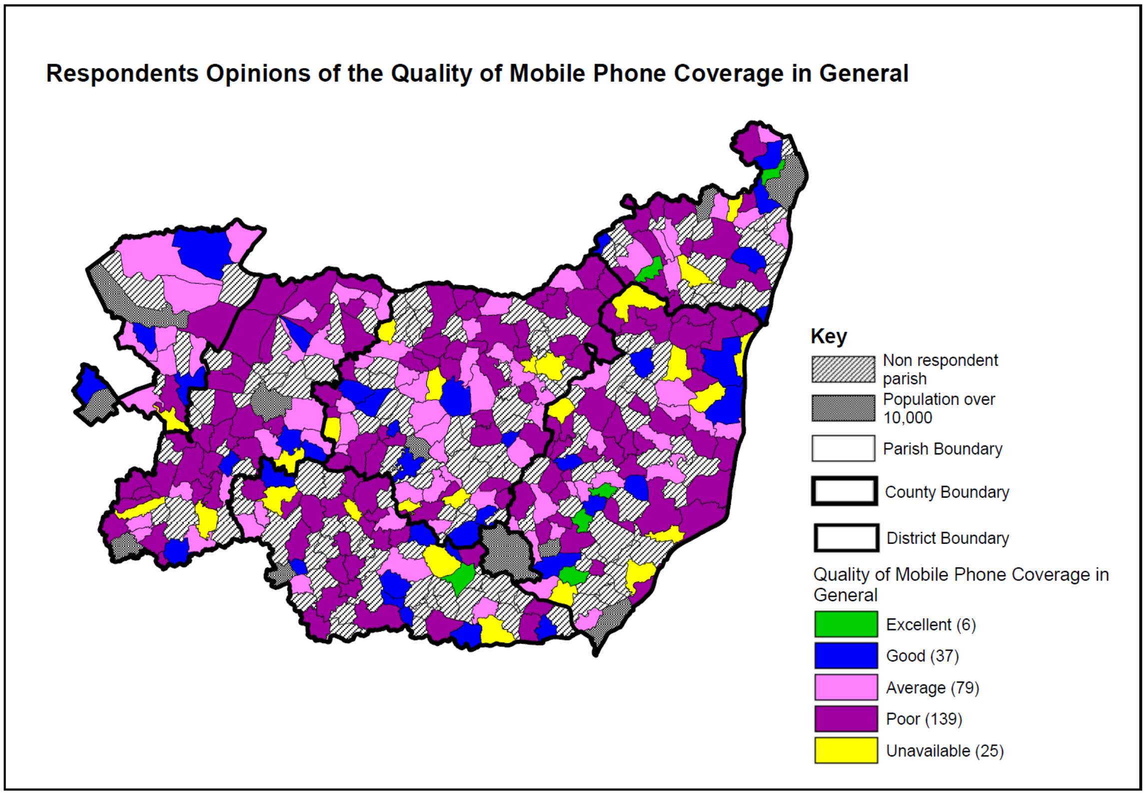

Figure 31: Opinions of Quality of Mobile Phone Coverage

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Unavailable
	Number of Parishes (Percentage of Surveyed Parishes)				
Digital TV (Freeview coverage - channels 1-5)	37 (9%)	66 (16%)	74 (18%)	29 (7%)	6 (1%)
Digital TV (Freeview coverage with additional channels)	35 (8%)	56 (13%)	68 (16%)	31 (7%)	6 (1%)
Other Comments	4 (1%)	2 (0.5%)	1 (0.2%)	6 (1%)	9 (2%)

Table 29: Freeview Coverage

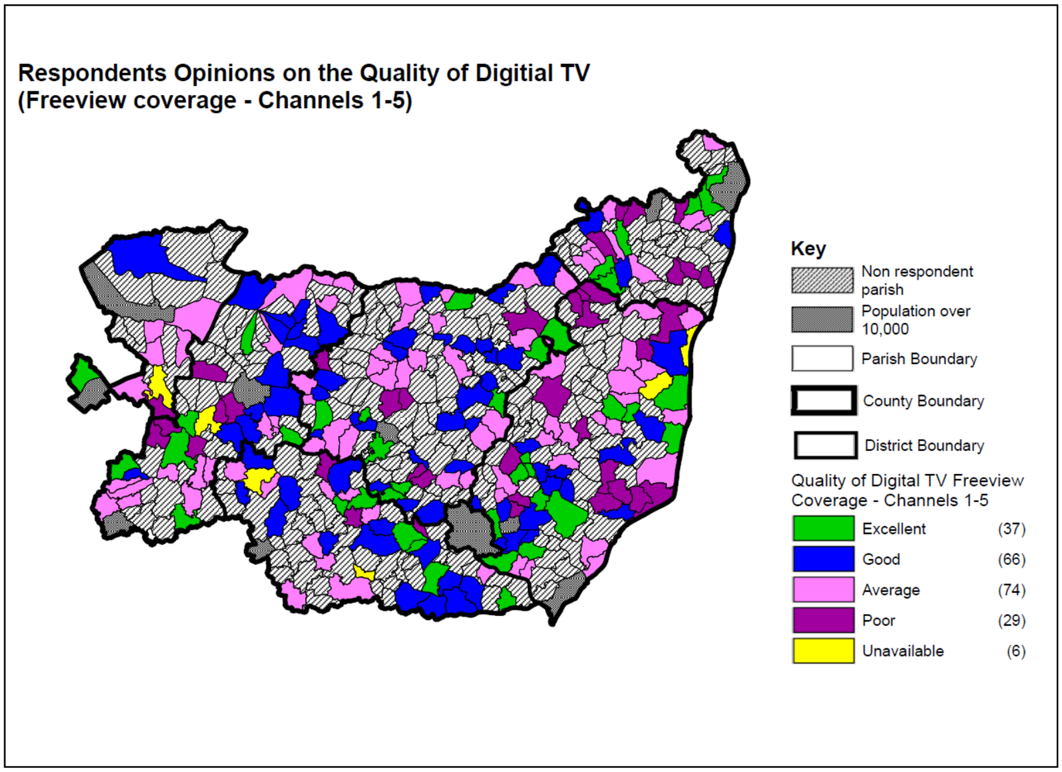

Figure 32: Opinions on Quality of Digital TV (Freeview Coverage Channels 1-5)

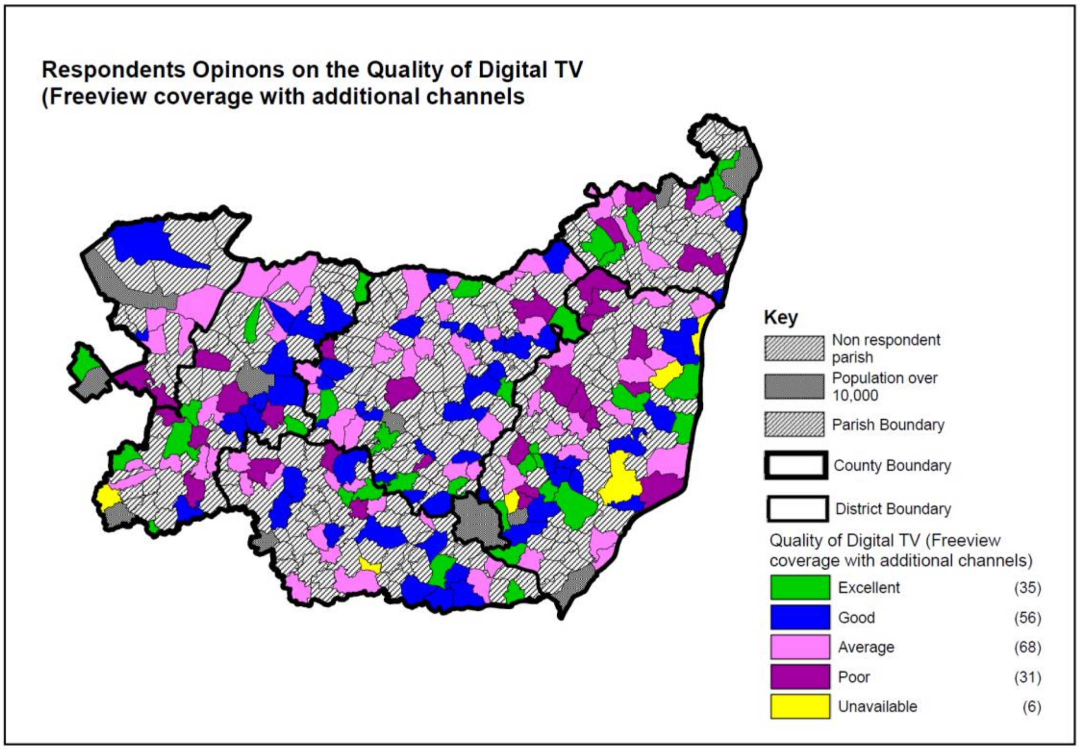

Figure 33: Opinions on Quality of Digital TV (Freeview Coverage with Additional Channels)

3.22 Impact of Poor Broadband Coverage or Poor Mobile Phone Reception

With technology moving on rapidly, the next question was to clarify the impact that lack of broadband access or mobile phone reception has had on rural communities? Has poor communications provision affected the parish in any of the way? It should be borne in mind that responses may be the views of the respondent, some have responded as a collective from the Parish Council, Town Council or Parish Meetings; others are the views of an individual respondent. Community Action Suffolk has been unable to validate all of the information, but this does reflect the perception of the impacts of poor services that exist as well as those that actually exist and respondents are aware of:

Potential Impact of Poor Communications	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Poor Broadband Speeds have prevented businesses starting up	87	21%
Poor Broadband Speeds have caused businesses to leave the village	27	7%
Poor Broadband Speeds have reduced the sustainability of existing businesses	99	24%
Poor Broadband Speeds have prevented people moving in to the village	68	16%
Poor Broadband Speeds have affected children and young peoples access to education / resources	125	30%
Poor Broadband Speeds have reduced availability of access to doctors and hospital appointments	48	11%
Other Broadband Comments	42	10%
Poor Mobile Phone Signals have prevented businesses starting up	40	10%
Poor Mobile Phone Signals have caused businesses to leave the village	14	3%
Poor Mobile Phone Signals have reduced the sustainability of existing businesses	64	15%
Poor Mobile Phone Signals have prevented people moving in to the village	33	8%
Poor Mobile Phone Signals have affected children and young peoples access to education / resources	58	14%
Poor Mobile Phone Signals have reduced availability of access to doctors and hospital appointments	44	11%
Other Mobile Phone Signal Comments	52	12%

Table 30: Potential Impact of Poor Communications

Some respondents also added other comments, which were quite extensive and can be read in full in the Appendix.

3.23 Availability / Distance to Transport Provision

Transport Type	In Parish / Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Over 5 miles away	Total
	Number of Parishes (Percentage of Surveyed Parishes)			
Railway Station	21 (5%)	103 (24%)	169 (40%)	293 (70%)
Taxi Service	61 (14%)	119 (28%)	111 (26%)	291 (69%)
Scheduled Bus Service	223 (53%)	44 (10%)	31 (7%)	298 (71%)
Dial a Ride (door to door accessible service)	67 (16%)	31 (7%)	47 (11%)	145 (34%)
Demand Responsive Service (e.g. Suffolk Links)	100 (24%)	39 (9%)	41 (10%)	180 (43%)
Community / Volunteer Car Service	56 (13%)	25 (6%)	38 (9%)	119 (28%)
Other (please specify)	2 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	2 (0.5%)	4 (1%)

Table 31: Availability and Distance to Transport Provision

With regards to the Scheduled bus services, it should be noted that the responses may have been received from people who do not use public transport, and therefore may be unaware of the services available in their locale, but these responses also indicate the perception of service provision. Some of those that reported no scheduled bus service went on to elaborate on what was available, which has been summarised in the Appendix.

The questionnaire did asked respondents to specify the frequency of scheduled bus services to the parish. 165 parishes (39%) went on to give a frequency of the public transport serving their villages. The apparent high availability of scheduled bus services should be treated with caution as many parishes only have a scheduled service that operates on one day per week.

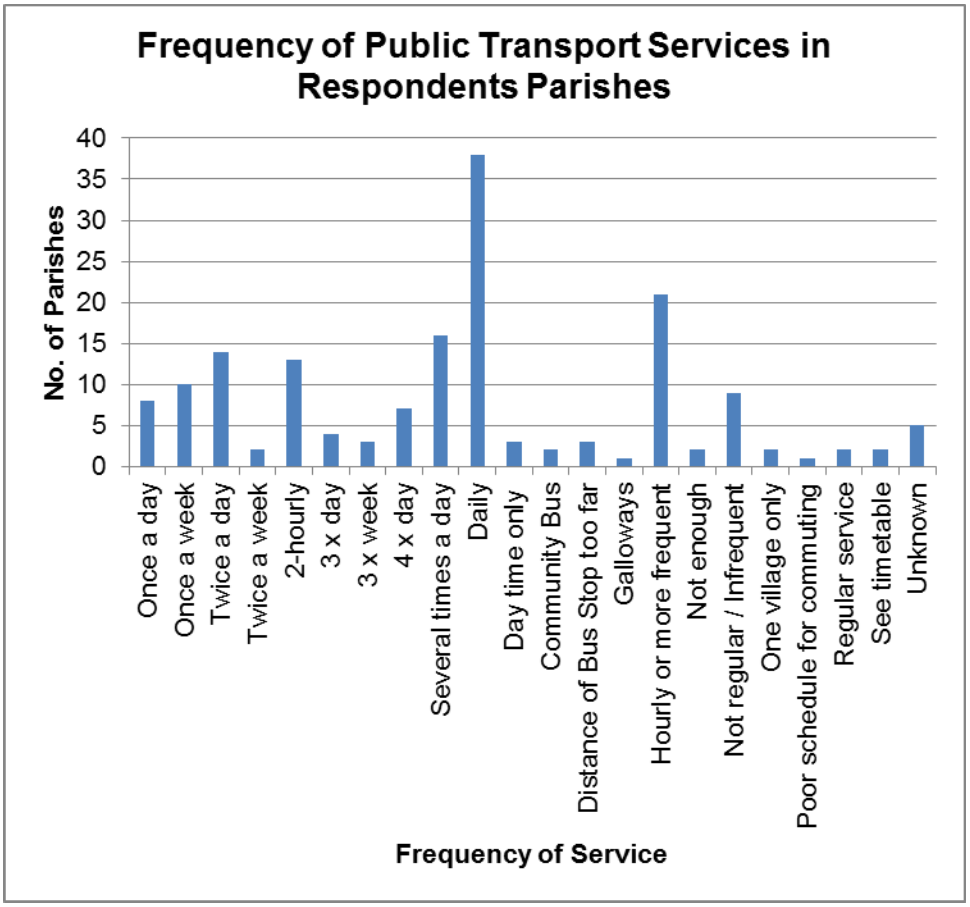

Figure 34: Frequency of Public Transport Services

246 parishes (58%) stated that the bus service could be used to access main shopping areas; 170 (40%) stated that the bus service could be used to access main employment centres; 163 (39%) stated that the service could be used to access leisure and entertainment venues; whilst 117 (28%) stated that the bus service could be used to access a Hospital.

Distance of Voluntary and Community Transport

In rural areas, voluntary transport schemes have often grown from grassroots level in response to the needs of rural people to access facilities that they cannot reach through scheduled public transport provision.

Voluntary and Community Transport Schemes	In Parish / Within 1 mile	Within 5 miles	Over 5 miles away
	Number of Parishes (Percentage of Surveyed Parishes)		
Demand Responsive Service (e.g. Suffolk Links)	67 (16%)	31 (7%)	47 (11%)
Dial a Ride (door to door accessible service)	100 (24%)	39 (9%)	41 (10%)
Community / Volunteer Car Service	56 (13%)	25 (6%)	38 (9%)
Other	2 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	2 (0.5%)

Table 32: Voluntary and Community Transport Scheme Availability

Voluntary and Community Transport Schemes serving Parishes
Parishes were asked what Voluntary and Community Transport Schemes serve their parish. 208 parishes (49%) have at least one voluntary or community transport scheme.

Voluntary and Community Transport Scheme	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Community Minibus	68	16%
Dial A Ride (door to door accessible service)	126	30%
Car Sharing Scheme	6	1%
Community Car Scheme	30	7%
Good Neighbour Car Scheme	35	8%
Other	29	7%
None	86	20%

Table 33: Voluntary and Community Transport Schemes

The Suffolk County Council website – Suffolk on Board (http://www.suffolkonboard.com/community-transport/community-transport-in-suffolk/) shows the availability of Community Car Schemes, Dial a Ride Schemes and Demand Responsive Transport Scheme across the county.

3.24 Community Safety

Community Safety	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Access to the Safer Neighbourhood Team	187	44%
Police Community Support Officer	218	52%
Neighbourhood/Home Watch Scheme	166	39%
Police Direct text service	81	19%
Permanent Police Station - open part time	24	6%
Farm Watch Scheme	41	10%
Mobile visiting Police Station	20	5%
Shop Watch Scheme	2	0.5%
Permanent Police Station - open full time	3	0.7%

Table 34: Community Safety

Figure 35 depicts parishes that indicated they have a police station of some kind, overlaid with the actual locations of permanent police stations in current existence.

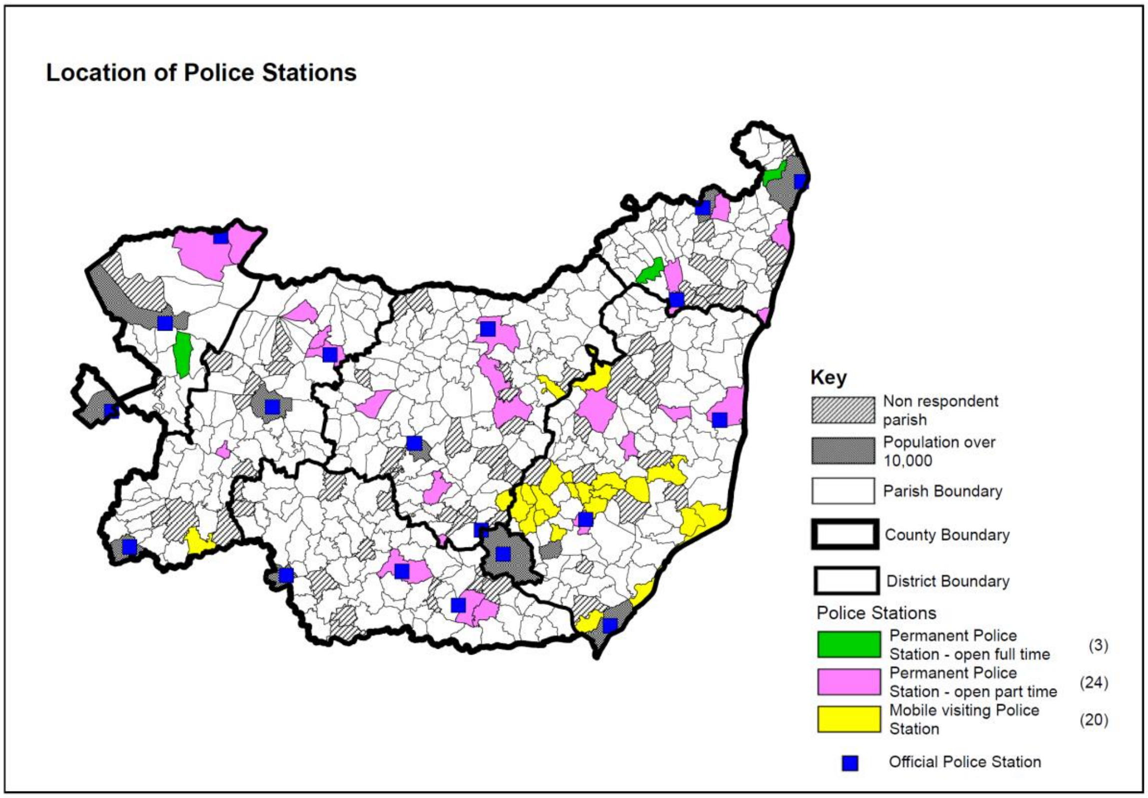

Figure 35: Location of Police Stations

3.25 Affordable Housing

Affordable housing[7] continues to be a subject in the headlines, as housing prices increase beyond the means of first time buyers, and rural areas suffer the affect of second homes ownership creating a lack of housing at an affordable price to local people in rural areas.

167 Parishes (40%) indicated that they have affordable housing in their Parish, whilst 155 (37%) do not. Parishes that had affordable housing were asked how many units were available and what the accommodation type was. The responses varied quite considerably from 1 unit to "Numerous". Types varied from 2-bed and 3-bed houses and bungalows. Rental and shared ownership along with mixed development locations were also highlighted.

Parishes were asked whether there were plans for further affordable housing. They were asked to respond to one or more of the stages in the process, see Table 35:

[7] This is local needs housing including social rented accommodation, mid-market rented accommodation, shared ownership, shared equity, discounted low cost housing for sale including plots for self build, and low-cost housing without subsidy

Are there Plans for further affordable housing in the Parish?	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Yes, we are considering	55	13%
Yes, we are planning/undertaking a Housing Needs Survey	13	3%
No, we have completed Housing Needs Survey and shows no need	17	4%
Yes, we have completed Housing Needs Survey and shows need	45	11%
Yes, currently researching potential sites	27	6%
No plans	194	46%

Table 35: Plans for Affordable Housing

3.26 Recycling Facilities

Parishes were asked about the recycling collection services that are provided by the District/Borough Councils.

Recycling Collection Services	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Paper collection services	309	73%
Card collection services	296	70%
Plastic collection services	290	69%
Can collection services	289	69%
Garden Waste collection services	304	72%
An other collection service	26	6%

Table 36: Recycling Collection Services

When asked about recycling facilities and banks in the Parish, as shown in Table 37:

Recycling Facilities in the Parish	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Paper Bank	99	24%
Bottle Bank	202	48%
Clothes and Textiles Banks	86	20%
Can Bank	25	6%
Other recycling facility	10	2%
None	118	28%

Table 37: Recycling Facilities

3.27 Allotments

Parishes were asked how many allotment plots there are. Of those parishes that indicated they did have allotments, the number of plots and whether they are undersubscribed or oversubscribed was queried, and if oversubscribed, what the size of the waiting list was.

Number of Allotment Plots	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
1-10 allotment plots within their parish	43	10%
11-20 allotment plots within the parish	47	11%
21-30 allotment plots within the parish	15	4%
Over 30 allotment plots in the parish	24	6%

Table 38: Number of Allotment Plots

32 parishes (7%) indicated that the allotments were current undersubscribed, with 81 vacant plots across the 32 parishes. A further 32 parishes (7%) though indicated that they were currently over subscribed, with 56 people on waiting lists across the responding parishes.

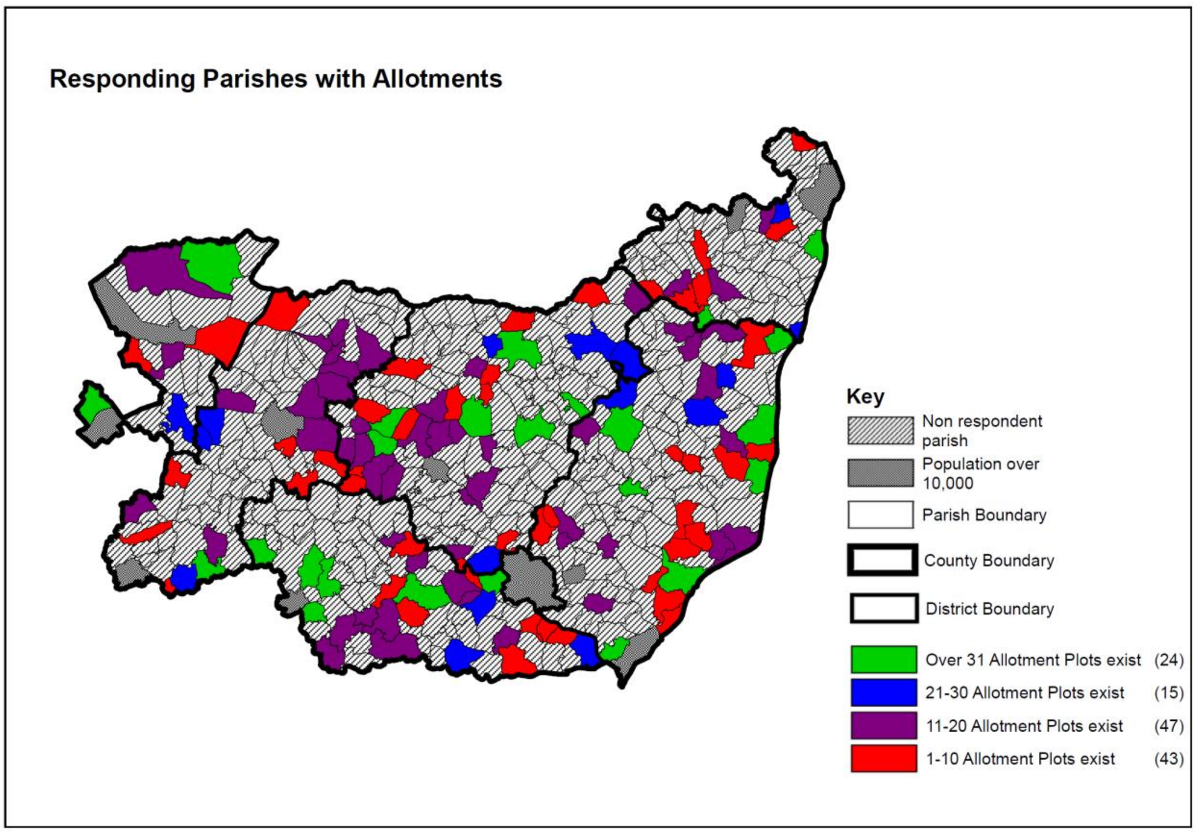

Figure 36: Parishes with Allotment Plots

3.28 Community Renewable Energy Generation Projects

Parishes were asked about Community Renewable Energy Generation projects both in the planning stages and existing within parishes. 21 parishes (5%) indicated that they had either existing, planned or both planned and existing community renewable energy generation projects. 12 (3%) of the Parishes indicated that they have existing projects and 8 (2%) of Parishes confirmed they had planned projects.

Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes	Existing Schemes
12	3%	Existing Schemes
of which		
9	2%	Solar
3	0.7%	Wind
0	0%	Other

Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes	Planned Schemes
8	2%	Planned Schemes
of which		
5	1%	Solar
1	0.2%	Wind
1	0.2%	Water
1	0.2%	Other

Table 39: Community Renewable Energy Generation Projects

Parishes which indicated they had existing schemes or planned schemes in Table 39 are included in the Appendix.

4. Community Consultation and Development

Parishes were asked about community consultations that had taken place in the village. 198 (47%) of parishes indicated that they had undertaken some form of consultation. Table 40 is a breakdown of the different types of consultations that have taken place.

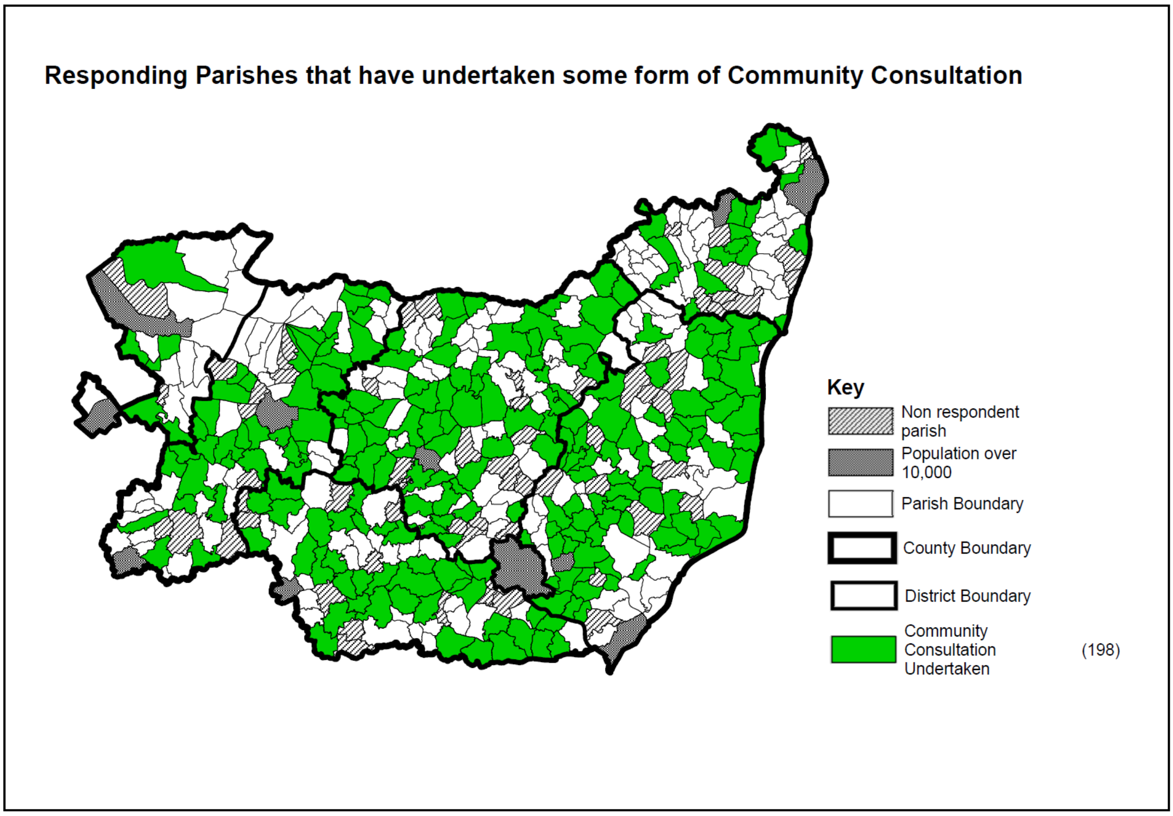

Figure 37: Parishes that have undertaken Community Consultation

Type of Consultation	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Village Review	32	8%
Parish Plan or Village Appraisal	117	28%
Market Town Healthcheck	3	0.7%
Village Design Statement	10	2%
Housing Needs Survey	80	19%
Action Plan	16	4%
Neighbourhood Plan	41	10%
Other consultation	24	6%
None	105	25%

Table 40: Type of Community Consultation

4.1 Community Development Plans

Parishes were asked if they were aware of any other plans for community developments. Table 41 shows the responses:

Theme	Number of Parishes	Percentage of Surveyed Parishes
Allotments	10	2%
Broadband	27	6%
Community Shop	7	2%
Community Building / Sports Pavilion	34	8%
New community groups or activities	8	2%
Good Neighbour Scheme	6	1%
Pub	16	4%
Transport service	4	1%
Recreation Facilities / Playground	52	12%
Other	11	3%
No	166	39%

Table 41: Community Development Plans

5. Parish Concerns

Parishes were asked what the most important areas of concern in their community at present were under a number of themes, and were then asked to rate them in order of concern, from very mild concern (1) to very serious concern (5). 276 parishes (66%) took this opportunity to raise the concerns that were most important to their community.

Figure 38 illustrates those concerns that were mentioned by parishes. Of all of the responses, by far the greatest area of concern to parishes is Roads with 225 (53%) raising this, followed by 182 parishes (43%) raising Transport; then third highest area of concern was Technology with 146 parishes (35%) raising this as an area of concern.

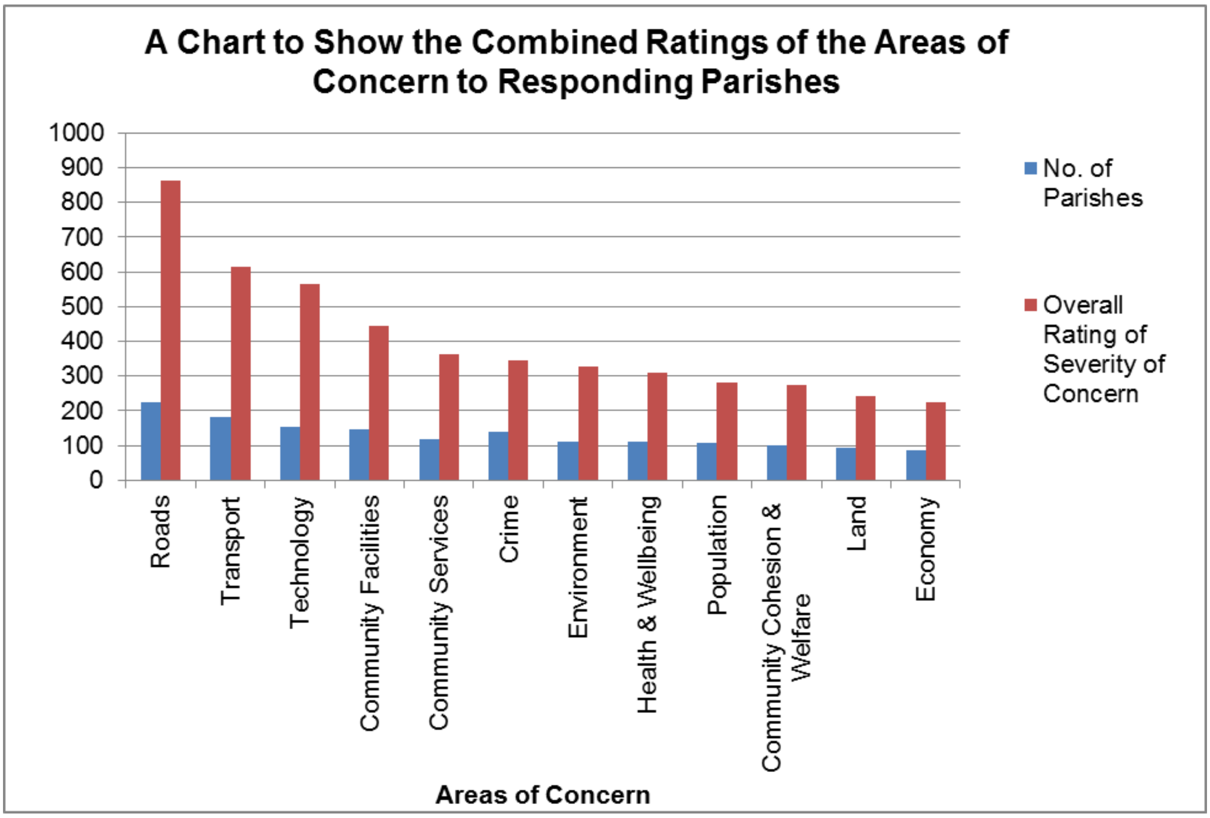

Figure 38: Areas of Concern

Of the 225 parishes (53%) that raised Roads as one of their areas of concern, 70 Parishes (17%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed in Figure 39. A logarithmic scale was applied and it can clearly be seen that Speeding and the Conditions of Roads were the top concerns raised in this section, with the rating of the severity of concerns around speeding reaching 124 and the condition of roads reaching a combined rating of severity of 86, far outstripping the other concerns raised.

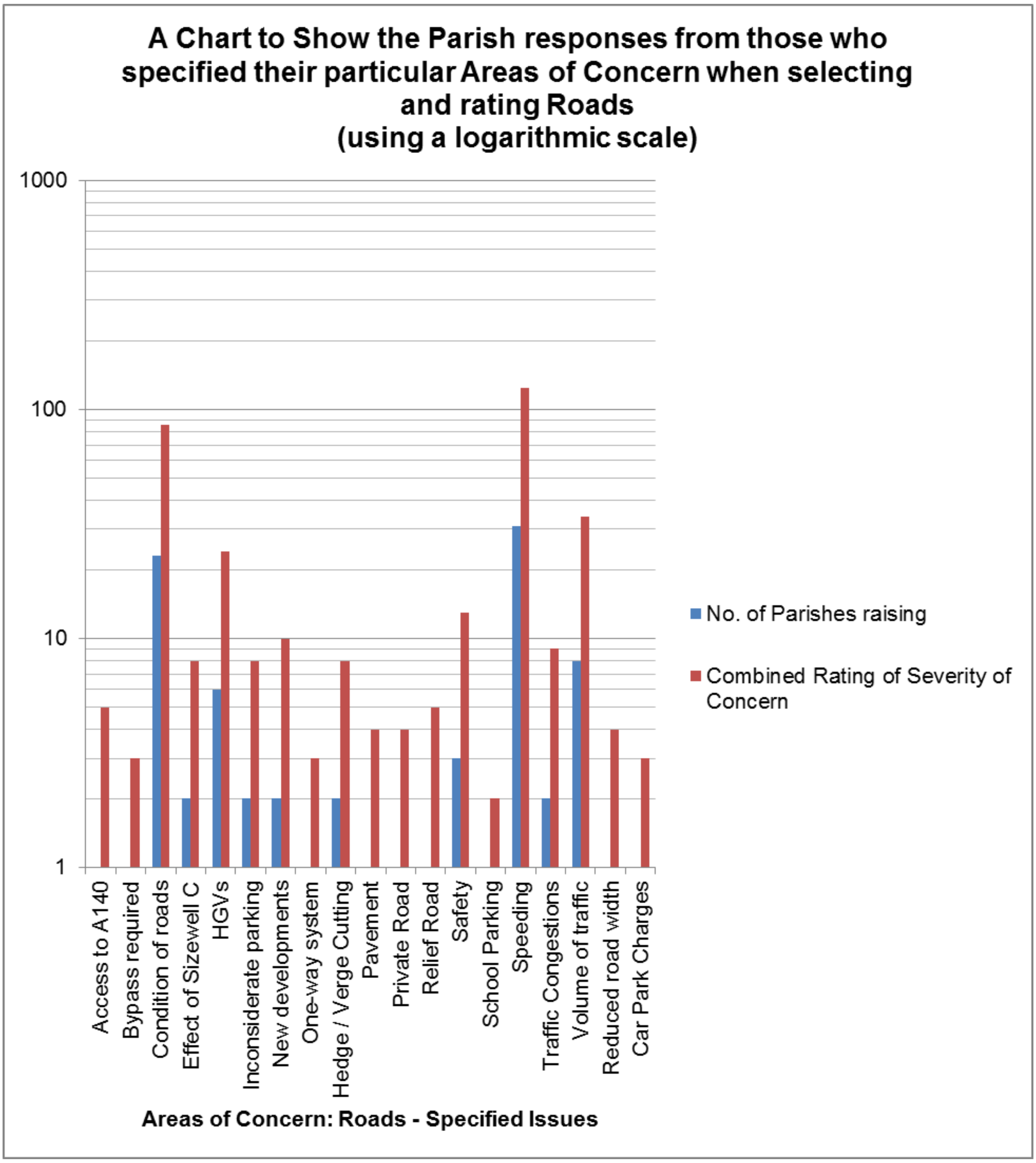

Figure 39: Areas of Concern: Roads

Of the 102 of parishes (24%) that raised Community Cohesion and Welfare as one of their areas of concern, only 13 Parishes (3%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed in Figure 40.

The fear of the parish becoming a dormitory village and the need to keep villages together and addressing the impact of new developments were equally the top rated area of concern under this heading.

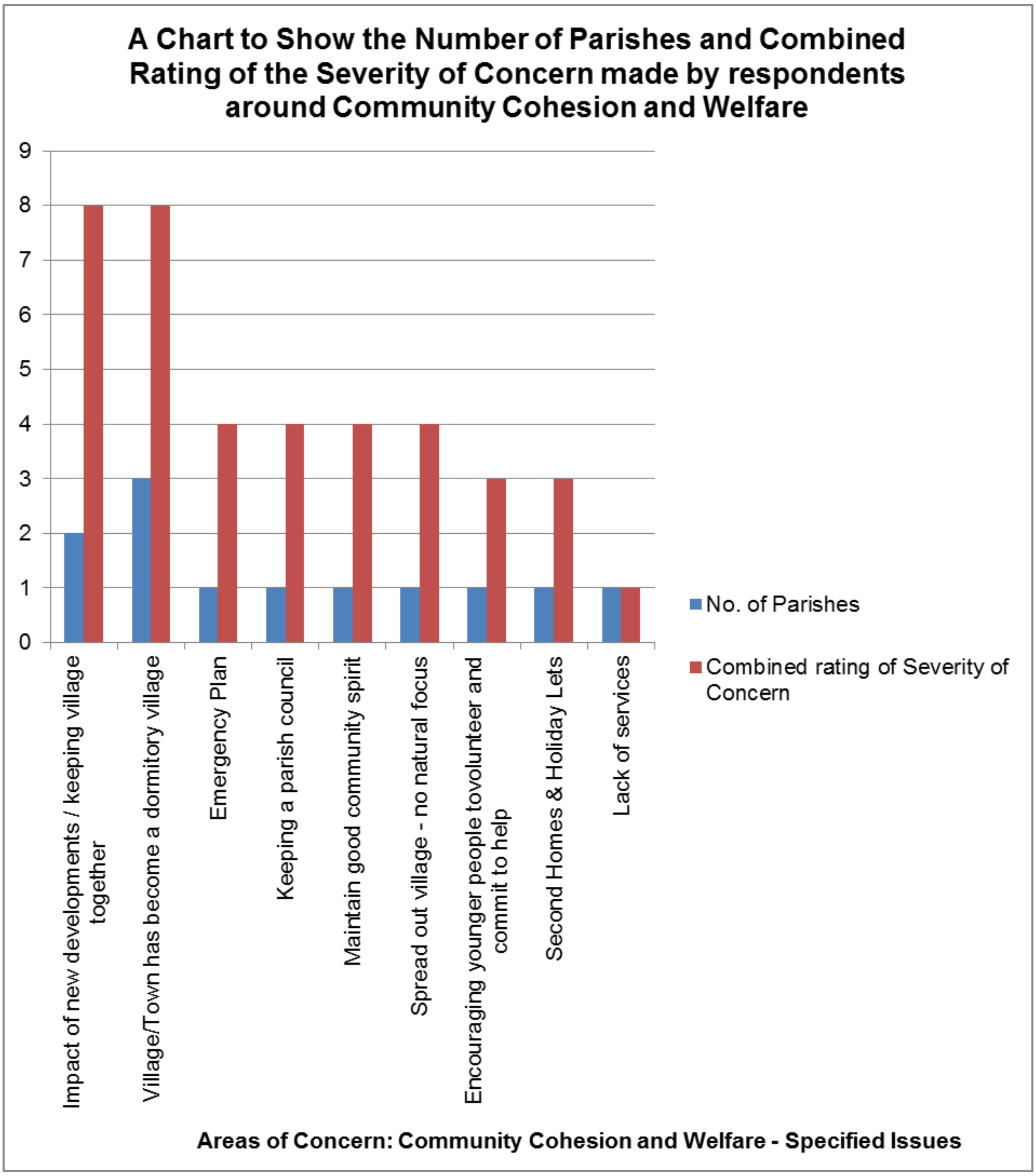

Figure 40: Areas of Concern: Community Cohesion and Welfare

Of the 146 of parishes (35%) that raised Community Facilities as one of their areas of concern, 28 Parishes (7%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed in Figure 41. As can be seen, the top rated concerns were around the village hall and either its refurbishment or replacement. The second highest rated area of concern was the lack of facilities and services.

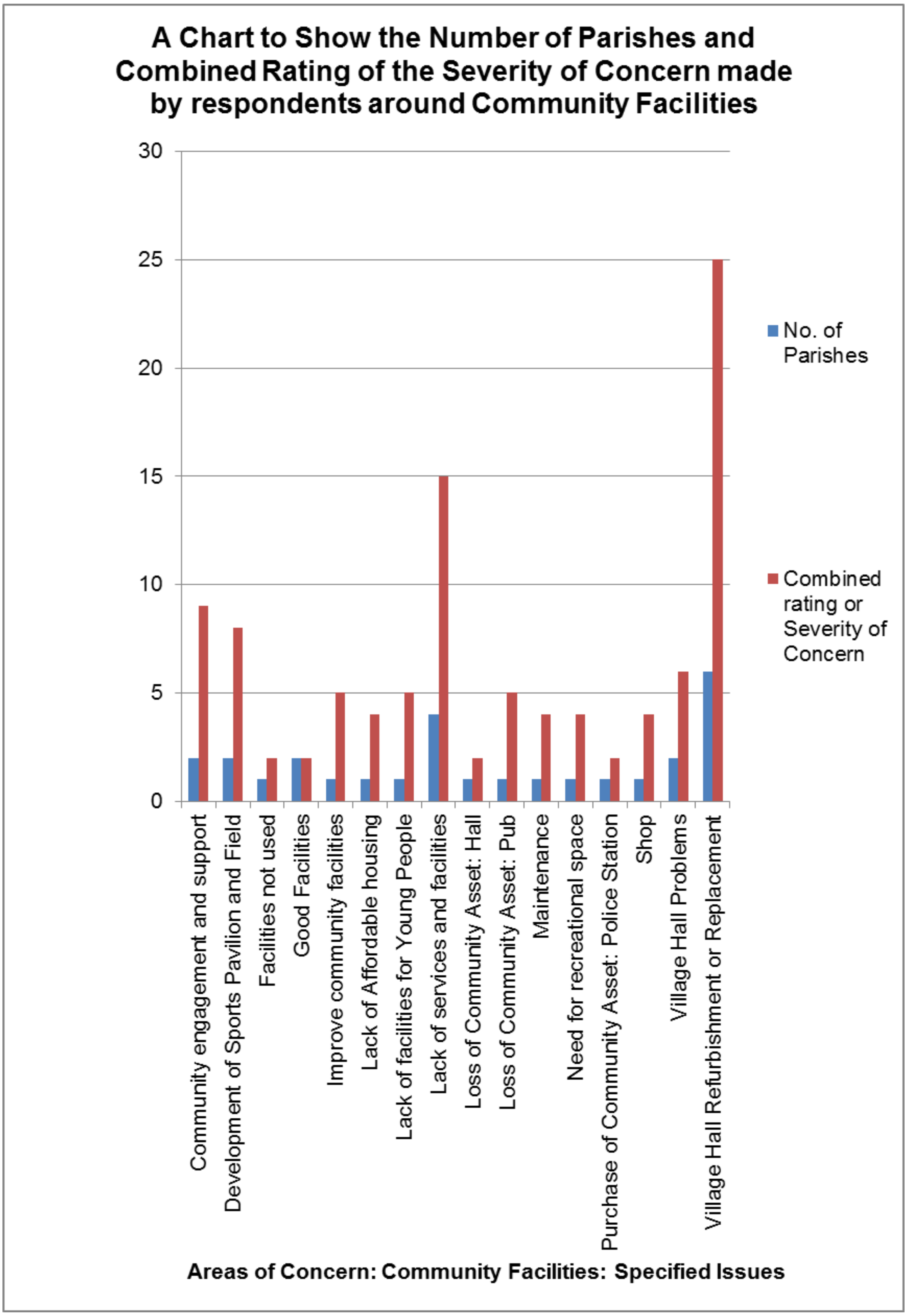

Figure 41: Areas of Concern: Community Facilities

Of the 120 parishes (29%) that raised Community Services as one of their areas of concern, 11 Parishes (3%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed in Figure 42, the top rated area of concern was poor community services and lack of services in the parish.

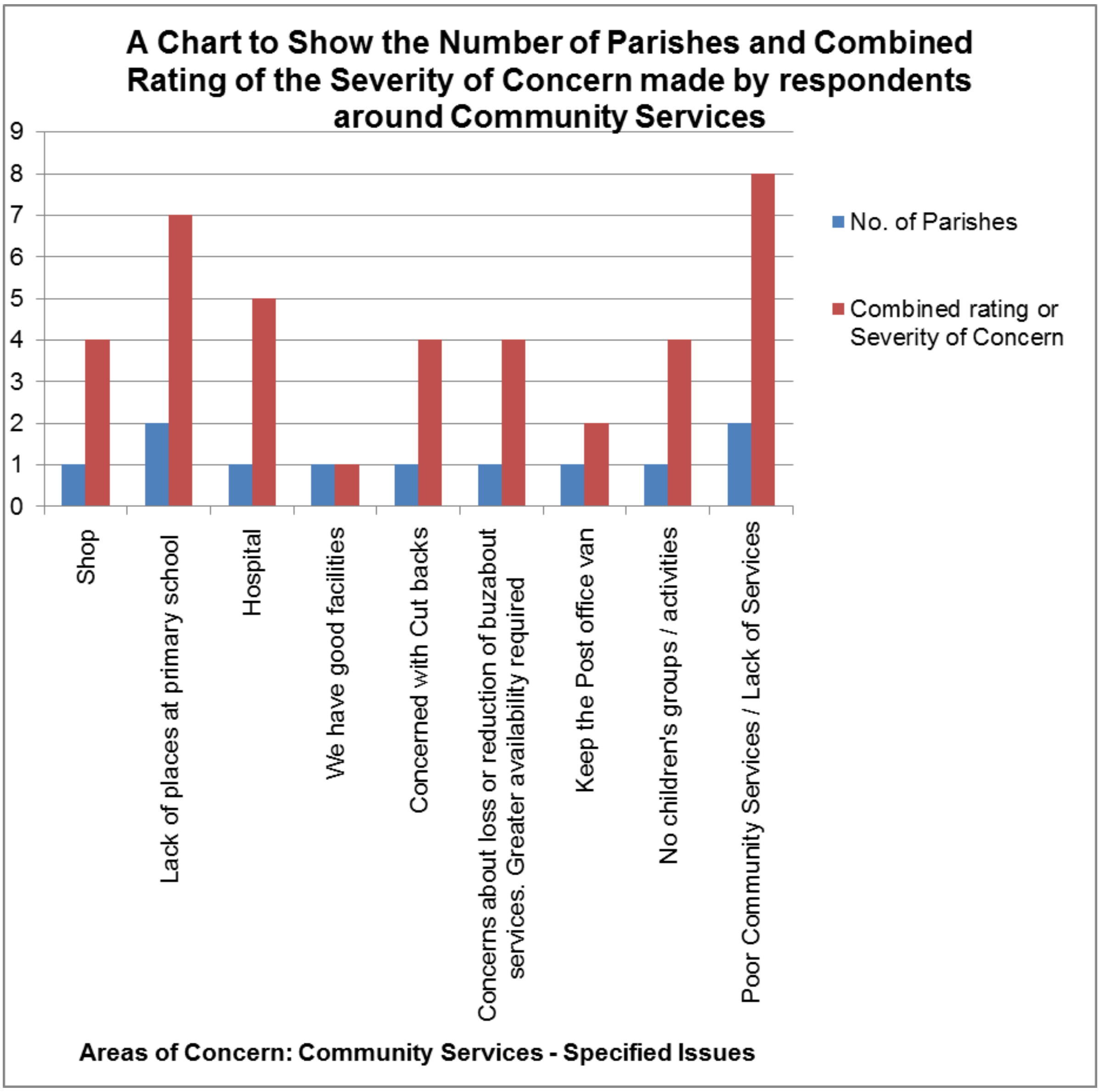

Figure 42: Areas of Concern: Community Services

Of the 140 parishes (33%) that raised Crime as one of their areas of concern, 19 Parishes (5%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed in Figure 43. As can be seen, the top rated concerns were around burglaries and break-ins. The second highest rating area of concern was the fear of cuts to the police budgets.

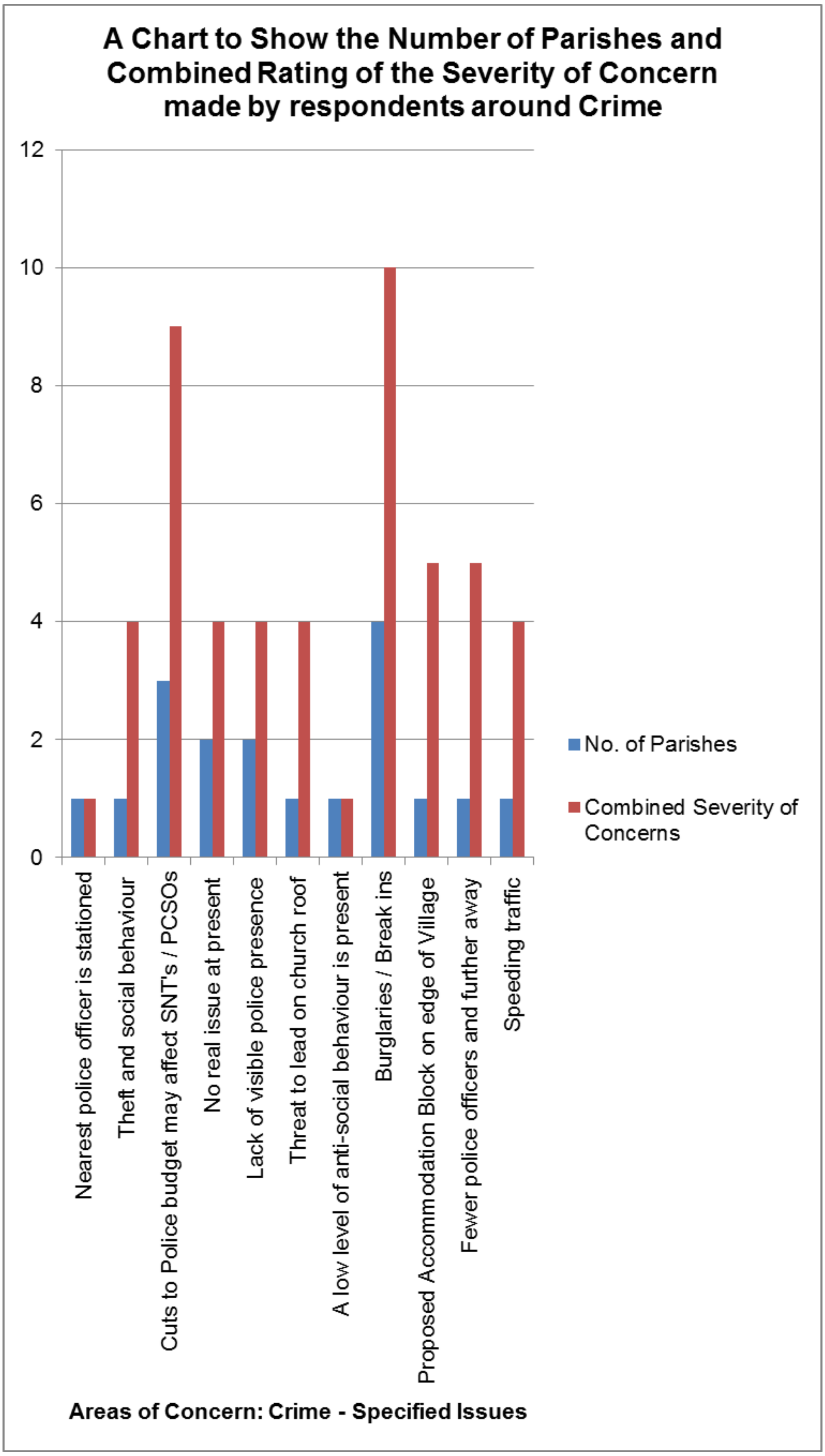

Figure 43: Areas of Concern: Crime

Of the 88 parishes (21%) that raised the Economy as one of their areas of concern, only 9 Parishes (2%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed in Figure 44.

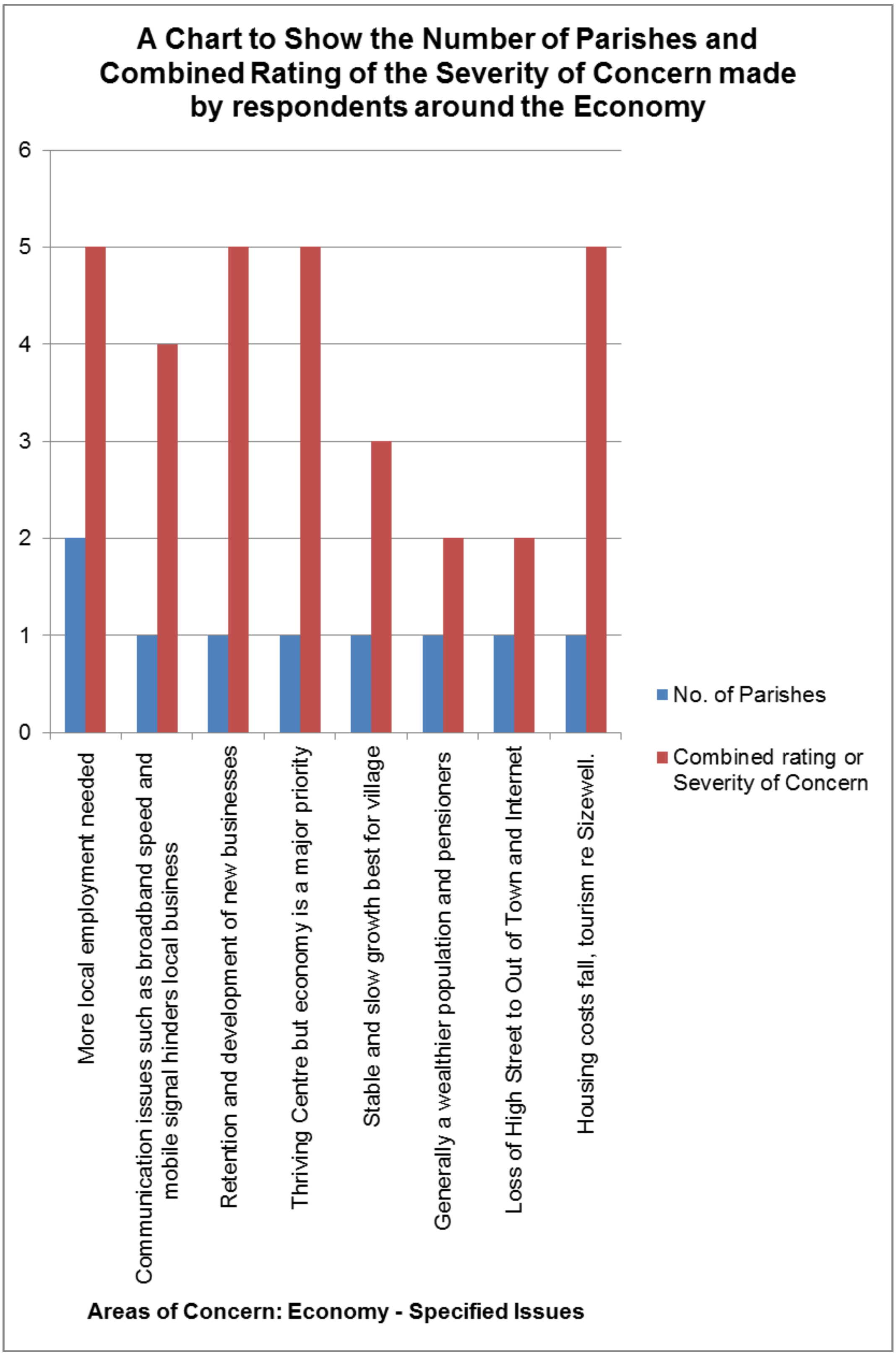

Figure 44: Areas of Concern: Economy

Of the 112 parishes (27%) that raised the Environment as one of their areas of concern, only 12 Parishes (3%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed in Figure 45.

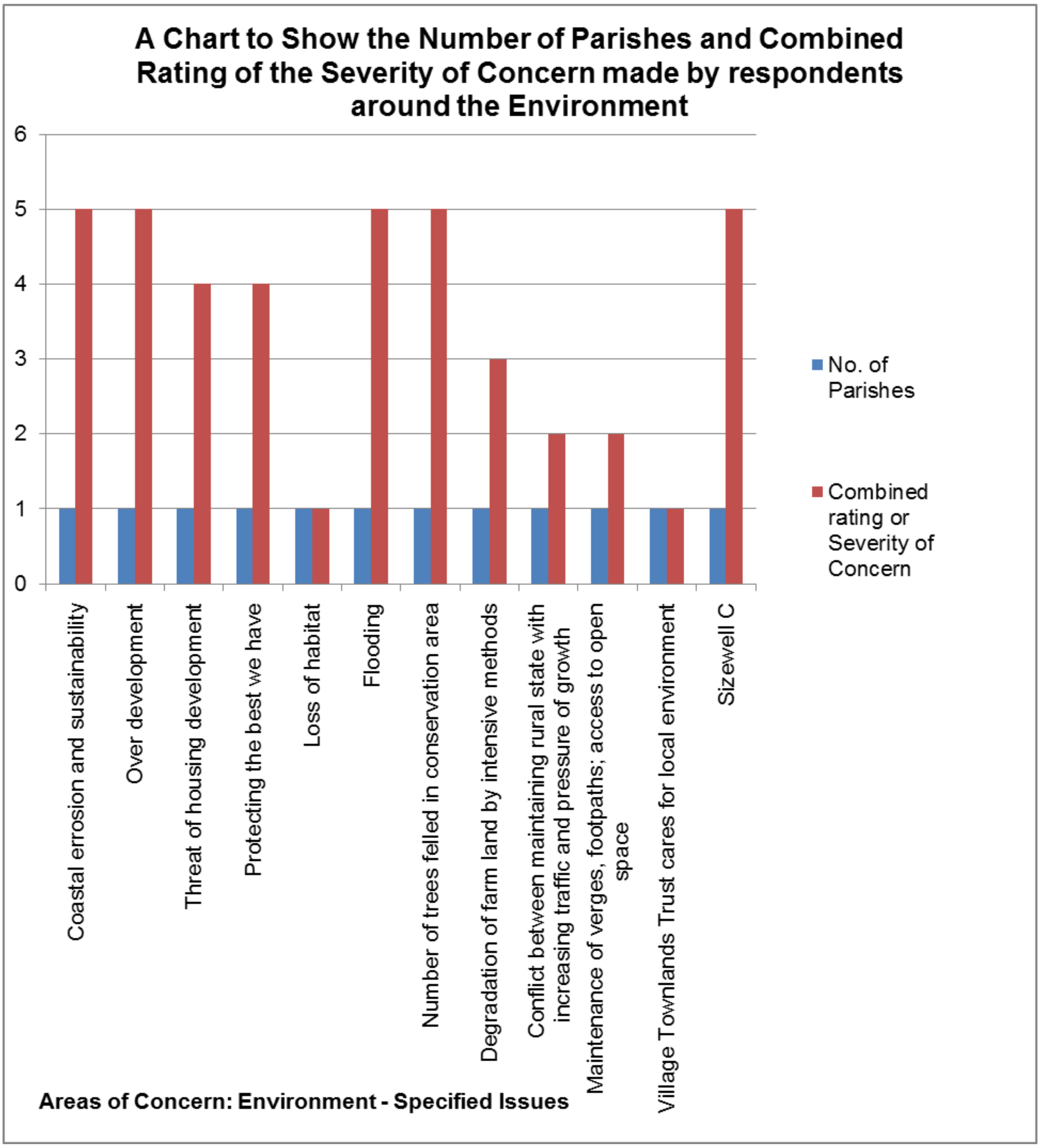

Figure 45: Areas of Concern: Environment

Of the 112 parishes (27%) that raised Health and Wellbeing as one of their areas of concern, 18 Parishes (4%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed Figure 46. The top rated concerns were around the ageing population and the pressure on GP services.

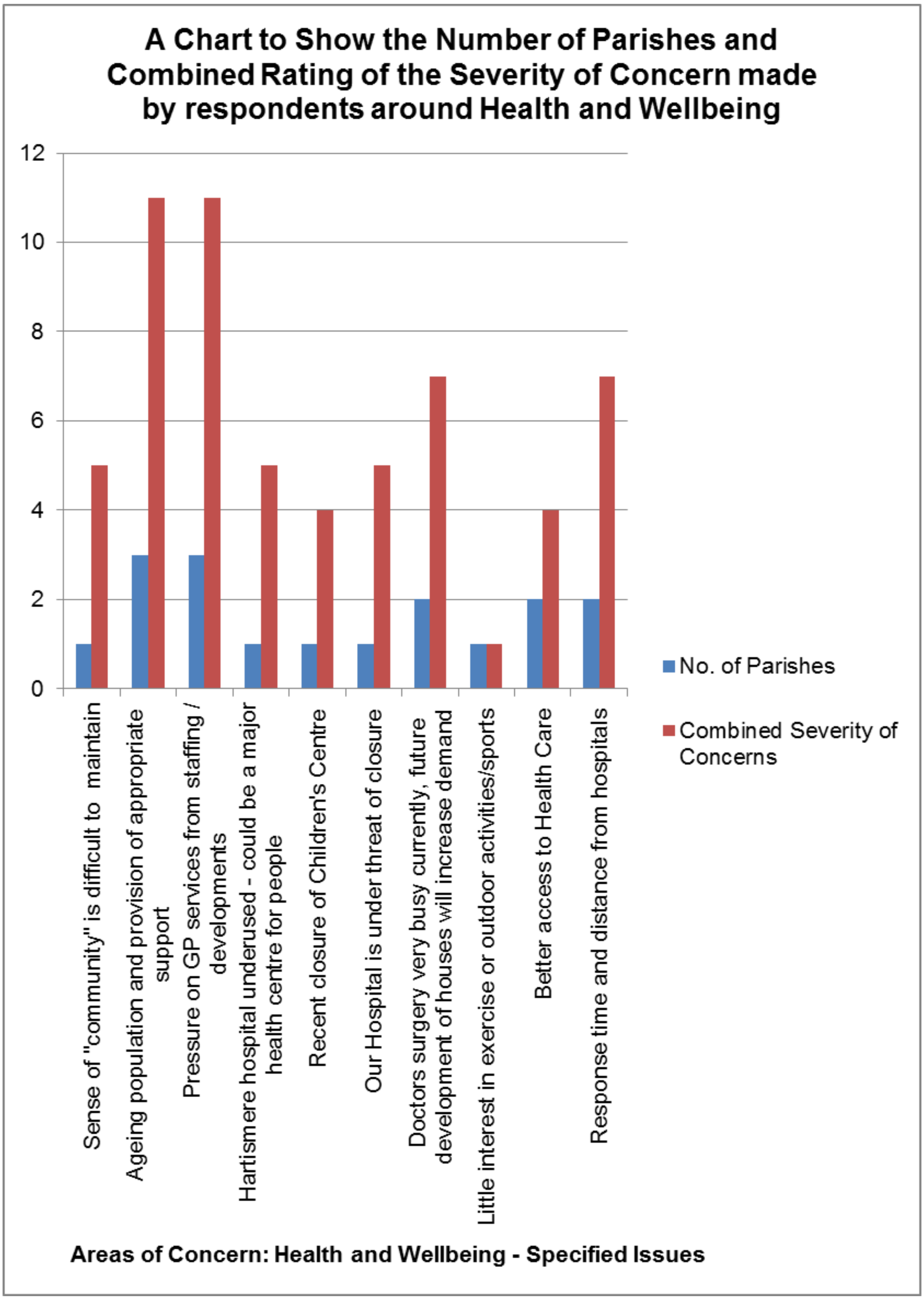

Figure 46: Areas of Concern: Health and Wellbeing

Of the 93 parishes (22%) that raised Land as one of their areas of concern, 14 Parishes (3%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed in Figure 47. The top rated concerns were around development and the second highest rating concern was the loss of open space and Greenfield sites.

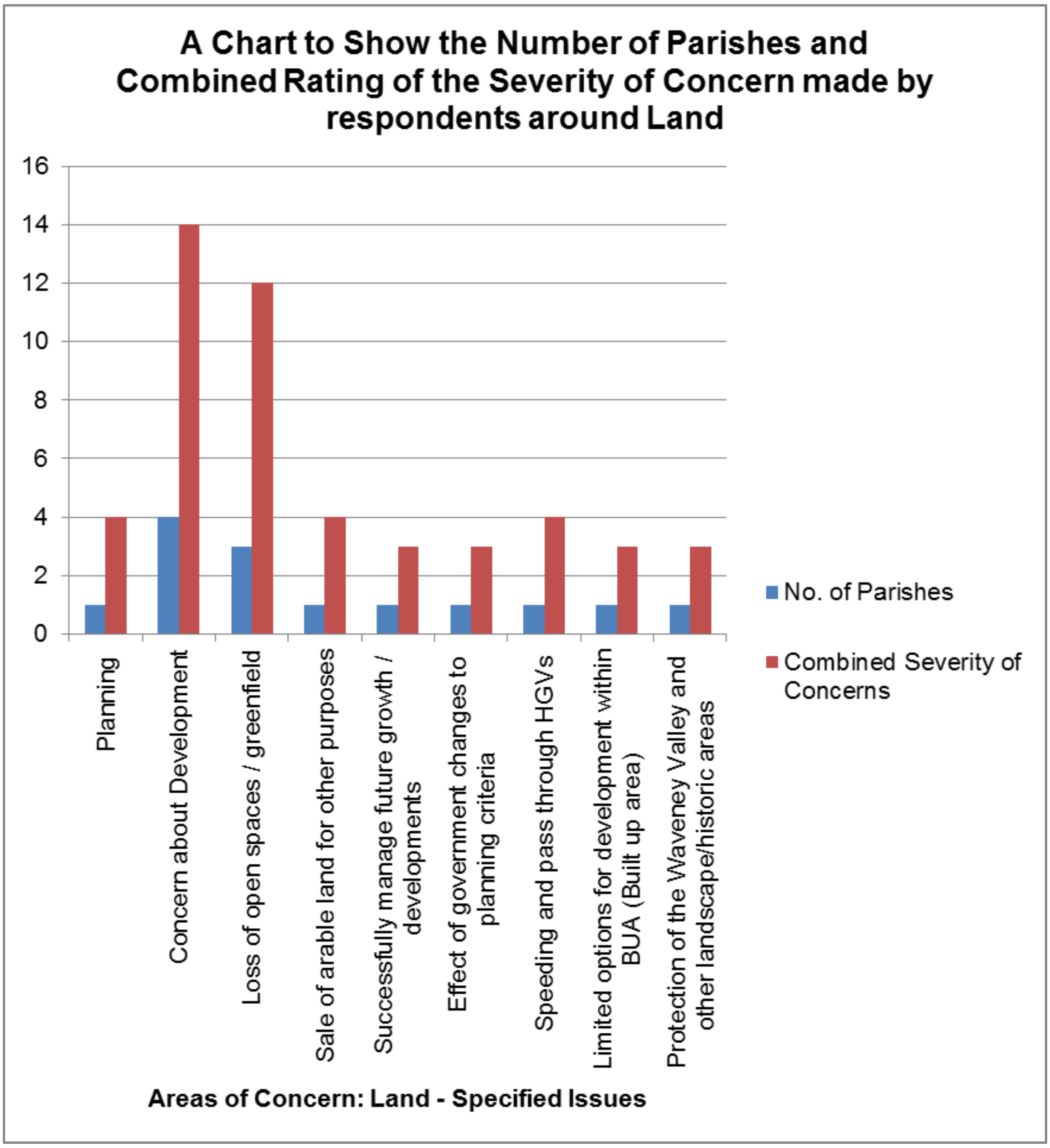

Figure 47: Areas of Concern: Land

Of the 107 parishes (25%) that raised Population as one of their areas of concern, 25 Parishes (6%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed in Figure 48. The top rated concerns were around too many second homes and not enough affordable housing.

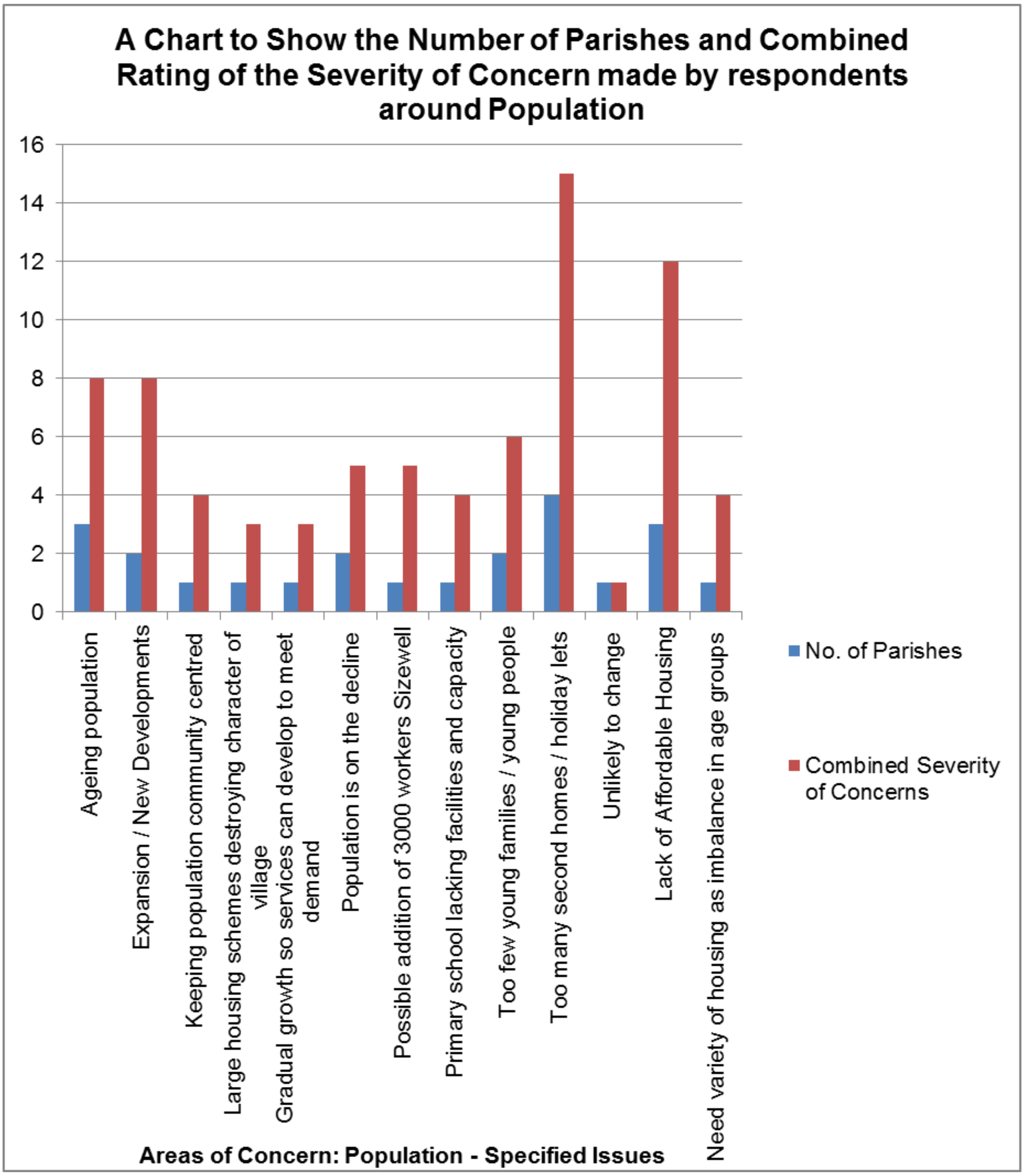

Figure 48: Areas of Concern: Population

Of the 155 parishes (37%) that raised Technology as one of their areas of concern, 34 Parishes (8%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed in Figure 49. The top rated concerns were around the desire for better broadband, improved broadband speeds and patchy coverage.

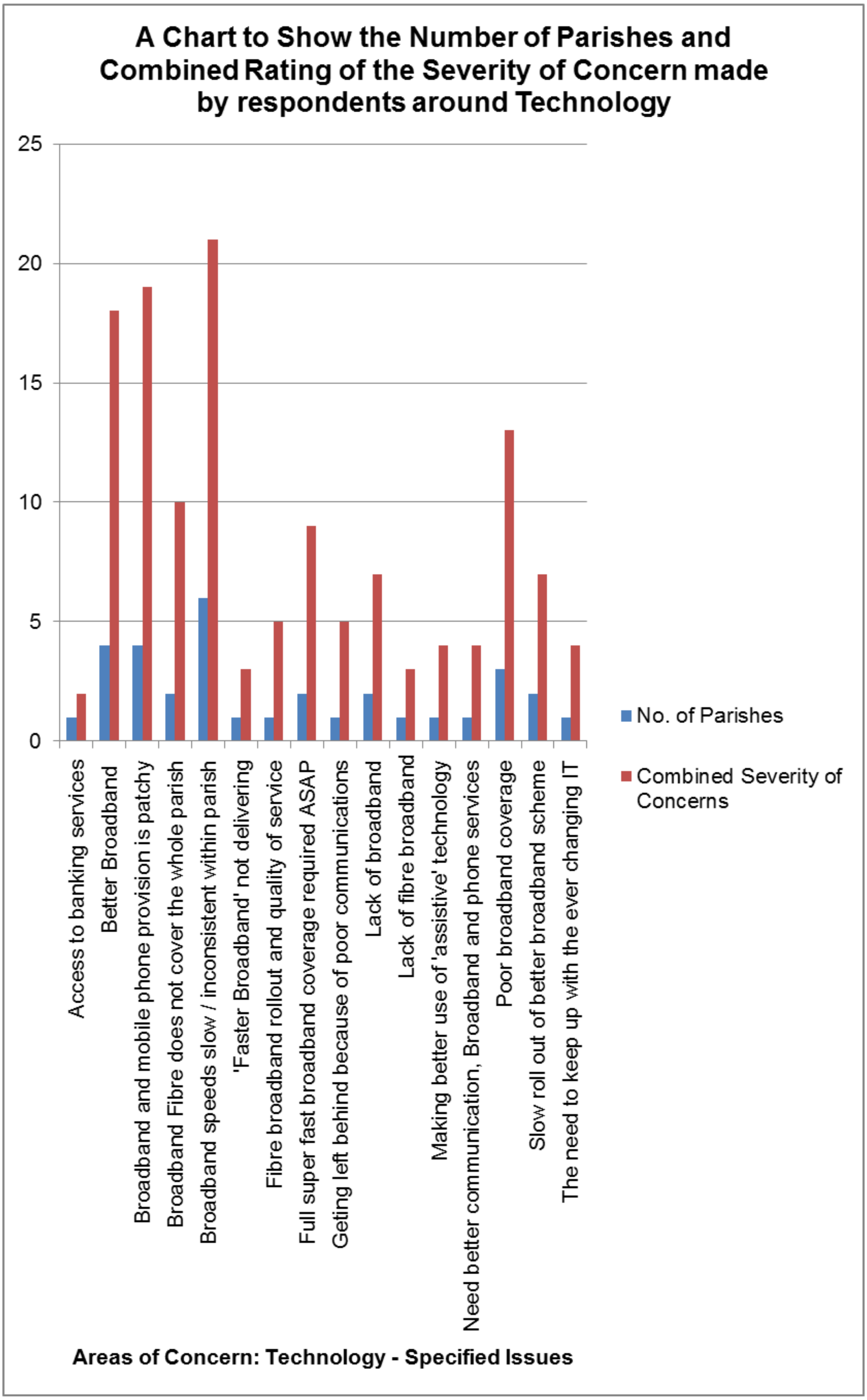

Figure 49: Areas of Concern: Technology

Of the 182 parishes (43%) that raised Transport as one of their areas of concern, 38 Parishes (9%) went on to specify their particular key concerns, which are displayed in Figure 50. As can be seen, the top rated concerns were lack and inadequacy of current public transport and the need to increase the frequency of public transport services.

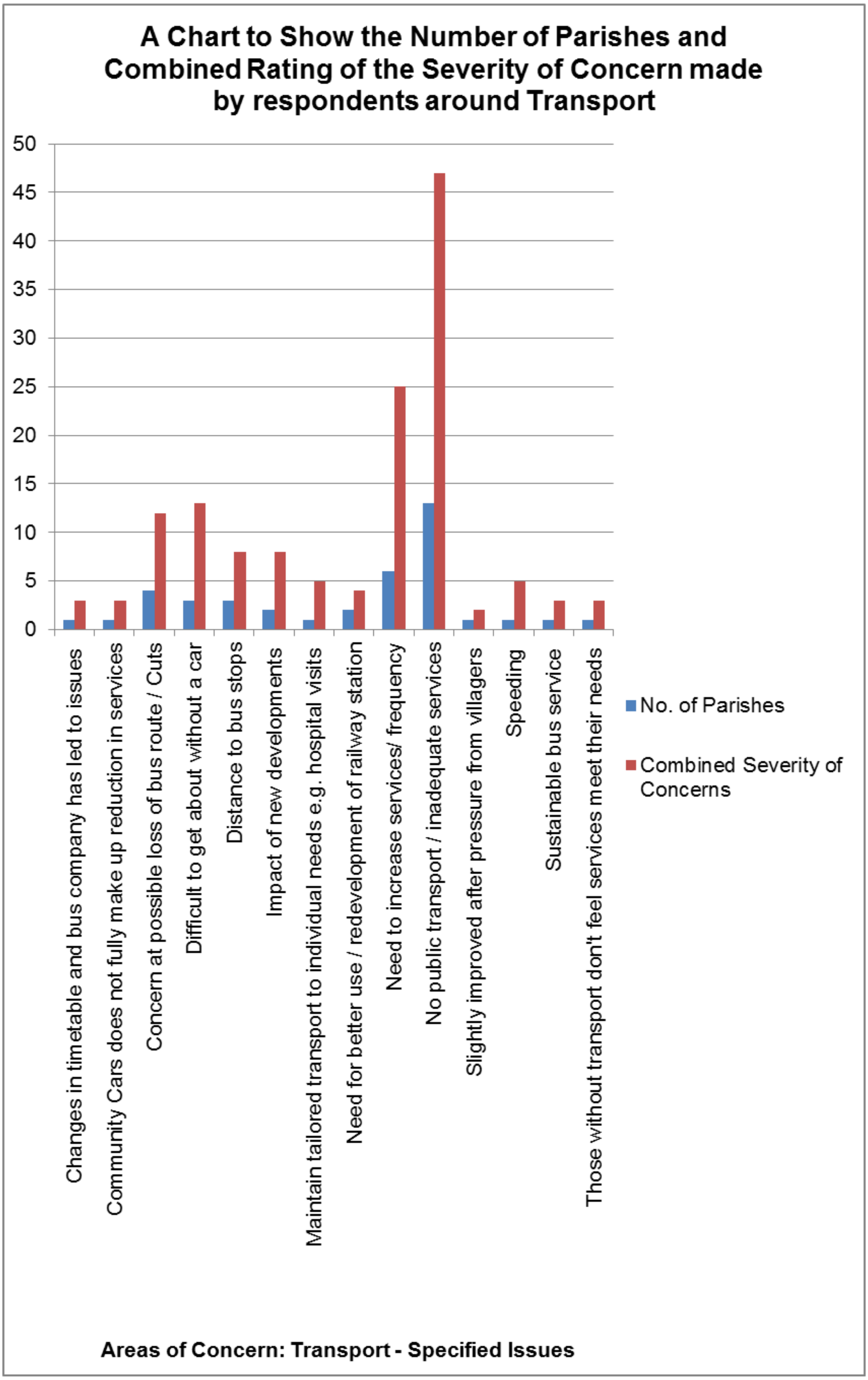

Figure 50: Areas of Concern: Transport

6. Comparisons

The main findings from respondents during this survey compared with the picture of services in 2008 and 2012 are in Table 42:

Changes in Services or Facilities

Section	Service of Facility	2015-16	2011-12	2008	Analysis
		No. of Parishes (%)[8]			
3.11	Parishes with Adult Classes in Literacy/ Numeracy and/or IT	19 (5%)	103 (25%)	196 (48%)	Decreased
3.21	Parishes with Youth Organisations	107 (25%)	95 (23%)	179 (44%)	Decreased
3.3	Parishes with Banking Facilities	105 (25%)	127 (31%)	159 (39%)	Decreased
3.7	Parishes with a Public House	209 (50%)	227 (55%)	247 (60%)	Decreased although there has been an increase in interest in community ownership of public houses, or registering them as a community asset.
3.23	Parishes with a scheduled bus service	258 (61%)	282 (68%)	298 (73%)	Decreased
3.0	Parishes undertaking community consultation	198 (47%)	265 (64%)	257 (63%)	Decreased
3.16	Parishes with a Church or other faith building within them that is still in use	339 (81%)	331 (80%)	332 (81%)	No Change
3.1	Parishes with a Post Office	117 (28%)	100 (24%)	108 (26%)	No Change
3.4	Parishes with a General Store	110 (26%)	110 (27%)	105 (26%)	No change

[8] % of all rural parishes (population of less than 10,000) in Suffolk:- 2015-421 parishes, 2012-413 parishes, 2008-411 parishes

3.8	Parishes with a Primary School	137 (33%)	141 (34%)	128 (31%)	No Change except the closures of middle schools in some parts of the county has now been reflected
3.8	Parishes with a Secondary or High School	21 (5%)	20 (5%)	13 (3%)	
3.12	Parishes with a Doctor's Surgery	56 (13%)	69 (17%)	50 (12%)	No Change
3.15	Parishes with residential care homes or care facilities for older people	85 (20%)	69 (17%)	74 (18%)	No Change
3.17	Parishes with a permanent Library	25 (6%)	24 (6%)	23 (6%)	No Change
3.20	Parishes which have a village hall or community centre	282 (67%)	269 (65%)	240 (58%)	Increased
3.26	Parishes with a Police Station	27 (6%)	34 (8%)	23 (6%)	No Change
3.22	Broadband Quality Rating of Good or Excellent	54 (13%)	58 (14%)	N/A	No Change
3.27	Parishes with affordable housing within them	167 (40%)	183 (44%)	98 (24%)	Increased

Table 42: Changes in Services or Facilities

Parishes Top Rated Areas of Concern

Top Rated Areas of Concern
The 2015 Survey asked questions in a slightly different way, giving Key Areas of Concern and asked Parishes to rate them in order of severity. Though the question has been asked differently, the top responses to the 2008 and 2012 survey are included in Table 43, and the key areas of concern remain as Roads, Transport and Technology.

Area of Concern	2008	2011-12	Area of Concern	2015-16	Details
• Road Issues	21%	37%	• Roads	82%	The top Roads concern rated was **Speeding**, followed by the **Condition of Roads**, which is a new concern
• Community Facilities	37%	20%	• Technology	56%	**Broadband** was in the Technology Section of the 2015 Survey, but is still rated as an area of concern
			• Transport	66%	**Transport** was the second highest rated area of concern for respondents, with the highest rated concerns being around **Bus Services** and their inadequacies.
			• Community Facilities	53%	The top area of concern under Community Facilities was around the refurbishment or replacement of the **Village Hall or Community Centre**.
• Planning Concerns	17%	18%	• Population	39%	**Lack of Affordable Housing** and **too many second homes** were the two top areas of concern in the Population section.
			• Land	34%	**Development** and **loss of open space and greenfield sites** was the top concern in the Land Section
• Environ-mental Issues	11%	10%	• Environ-ment	41%	**Environmental** concerns varied from each of the responses

Area of Concern	2008	2011-12	Area of Concern	2015-16	Details
• Crime	5%	9%	• Crime	51%	The greatest area of concern under the heading of Crime was **Burglaries and Break-ins**
• Community Issues	9%	6%	• Community Cohesion and Welfare	37%	The impact of **new developments**, ensuring "**community**" remains and the parish becoming a **dormitory village** were all raised as area of concern
			• Health and Wellbeing	41%	The greatest areas of concerns under this heading were the **ageing population** and the **pressure on GP services**
			• Economy	32%	**Economic** concerns varied across each of the responses
			• Community Services	43%	**Community Service** concerns varied across each of the responses

Table 43: Top Rated Areas of Concern over Survey Periods

7. Conclusions

Overall there remains a good spread of services and facilities across rural Suffolk. Village Halls and Community Buildings continue to be an important central hub for communities across the county, and these along with other Community Assets are essential in creating and maintaining resilient and sustainable communities in the future.

Rural areas continue to have mobile shops and deliveries helping those that don't have access or ability to travel far. Mobile library services still offer the opportunity to access library services.

With the majority of parishes (70%) having a parish newsletter or village magazine, there are mechanisms in place to communicate local news and what is going, which all helps to nurture community wellbeing.

The developments of local affordable housing are enabling young families to remain in the communities they grew up in and older people to remain in the parishes that they have always known. 10% of parishes are currently looking into the possibility of developing their Recreation and Playground Facilities.

Lunch Clubs and other social networking groups and amenities help improve people's health and wellbeing across the county tackling issues such as loneliness and encouraging people to engage with others in their local community. Activities included, but are not exclusive to, are parents and toddlers, sports clubs, dance and fitness classes, uniformed groups such as brownies, cubs, guides and scouts, dog training, wood turning, faith groups, photography classes, knit and natter groups and carpet bowls. These are essential for rural communities that help, often provided by or supported by local volunteers to make Suffolk a thriving county and a good place to live.