

Woolpit Neighbourhood Plan

2017 Questionnaire Interpretation & Analysis

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SURVEY DATA

Questionnaire Metrics

The survey was hand delivered to all households in Woolpit Parish and forwarded to the majority of Woolpit businesses for completion online by their staff.

There are approximately 850-900 households in Woolpit Parish (835 per 2011 Census). Of 1200 booklets printed 943 were issued and 455 booklets returned for processing online by the Steering Group, the remaining surveys being completed online by the respondents themselves. The total number of fully completed online surveys was 637. A further 50 partial online entries, generally less than 25% complete, were received but these were not included in the end results.

The online survey mandated all questions to be answered. Where entries were missing from the paper copies the inputters made a note on a tally sheet against a pre-agreed entry. These tally sheets were consolidated and the data extracted from the survey adjusted to take account of these blank answers. They are shown here as 'Not Answered'.

Where a question was open to comments we have attempted to categorise these fairly by topic and analysed the quantity of similar responses. Full detailed comments listed by question are attached in the appendices.

Data Interpretation

When analysing the data provided by respondents it is clear to see that questions have generally been considered carefully and responses made relative to the question in hand rather than ticking boxes automatically. This can be seen in the Environment section, which was towards the end of the questionnaire, where a much greater percentage of people 'strongly agree' than have in any other section of the questionnaire.

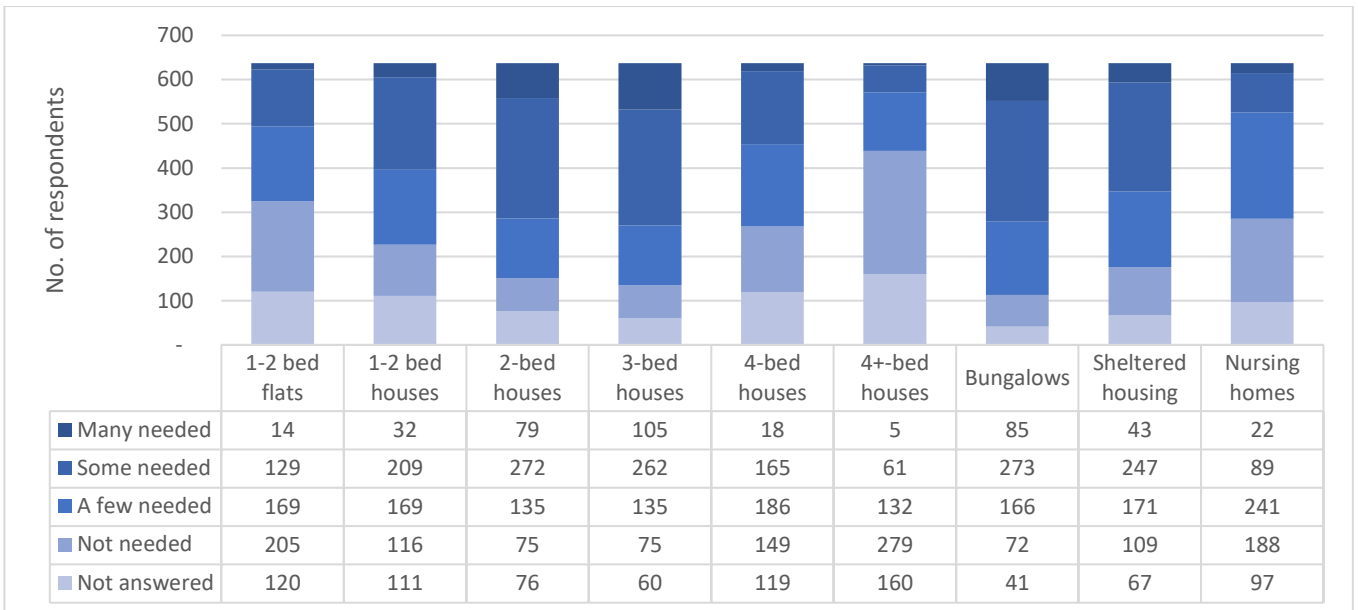
HOUSING

Q1: What are our housing needs for the future?

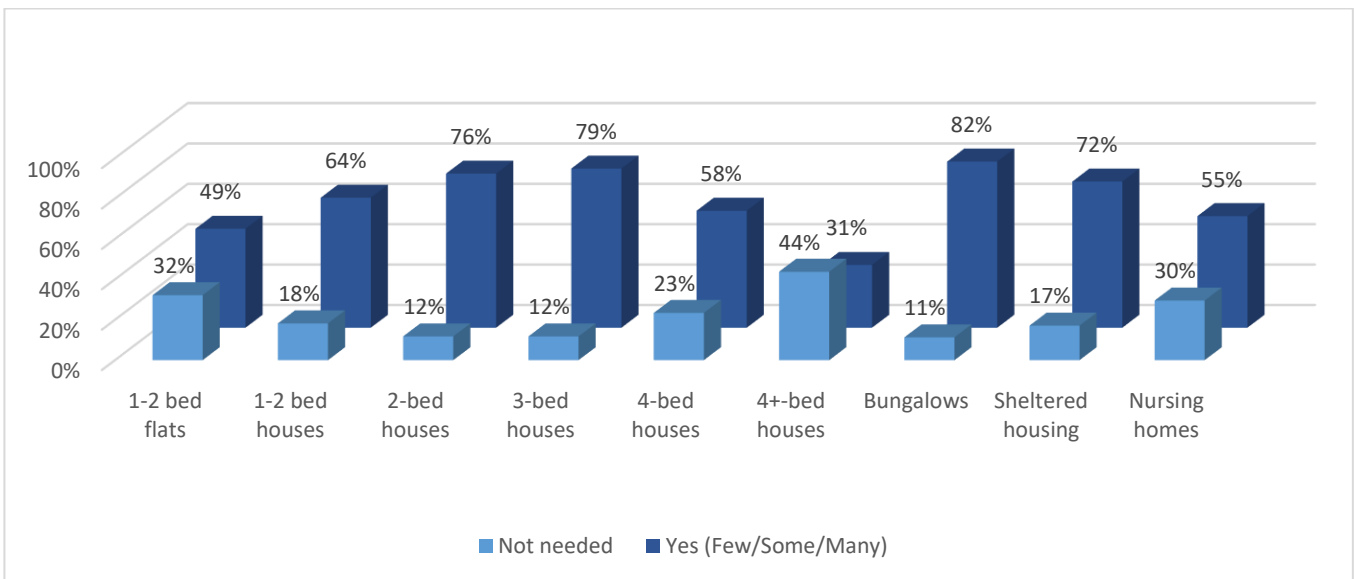
This chart clearly shows the majority of respondents feel that Bungalows are required in Woolpit. It is assumed that these would primarily be aimed at older residents which the sheltered housing and nursing homes would potentially also accommodate. All three of these categories showed a high level of respondents felt that some were needed although 30% also acknowledge that nursing homes would not be needed in Woolpit.

This reflects the demographic of the questionnaire respondents, over 50% being aged 65 or over, where future housing needs may release larger properties from within the current housing stock.

Aside from the provision of housing for retired/older residents it seems that middle-sized family homes are the top requirement. Some smaller flats/houses and a few larger houses may be required but the majority of people feel that 2 & 3 bedroomed houses are of greatest need in the village.

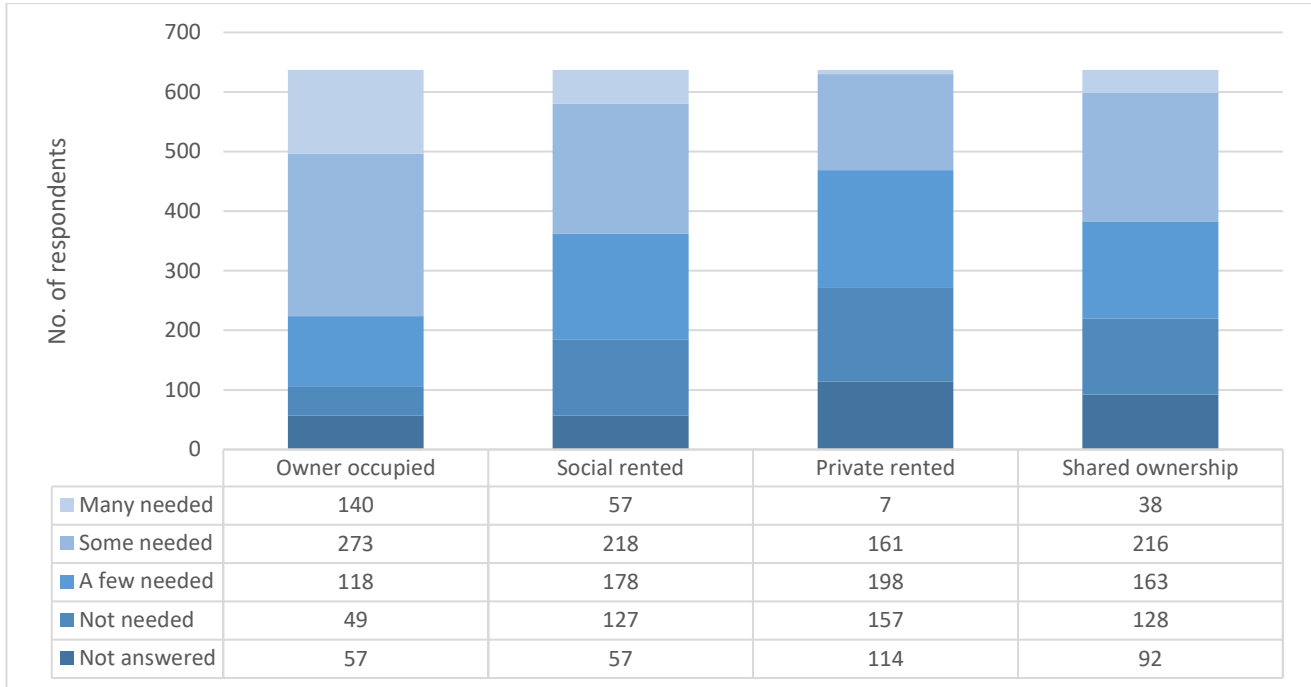


By excluding those who did not answer, the question shows the strength of views:

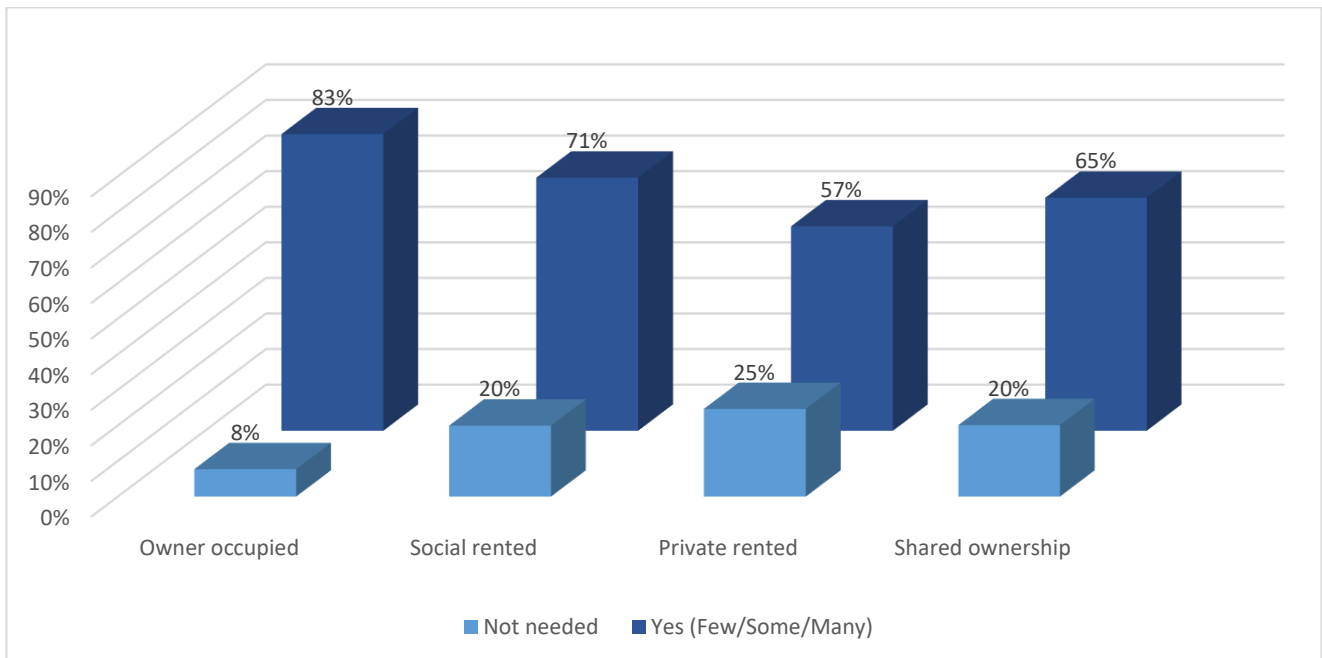


Q2: What type of home occupation is needed?

In line with the rest of Mid Suffolk where over 75% of properties are Owner Occupied¹, the majority of the residents of Woolpit would also like to own their own homes. However, the majority of respondents to the questionnaire have also clearly shown a recognition of the need for rented properties particularly in the social rented category. It is not known if this need is a specific requirement of the respondents or an opinion expressing a perceived need.



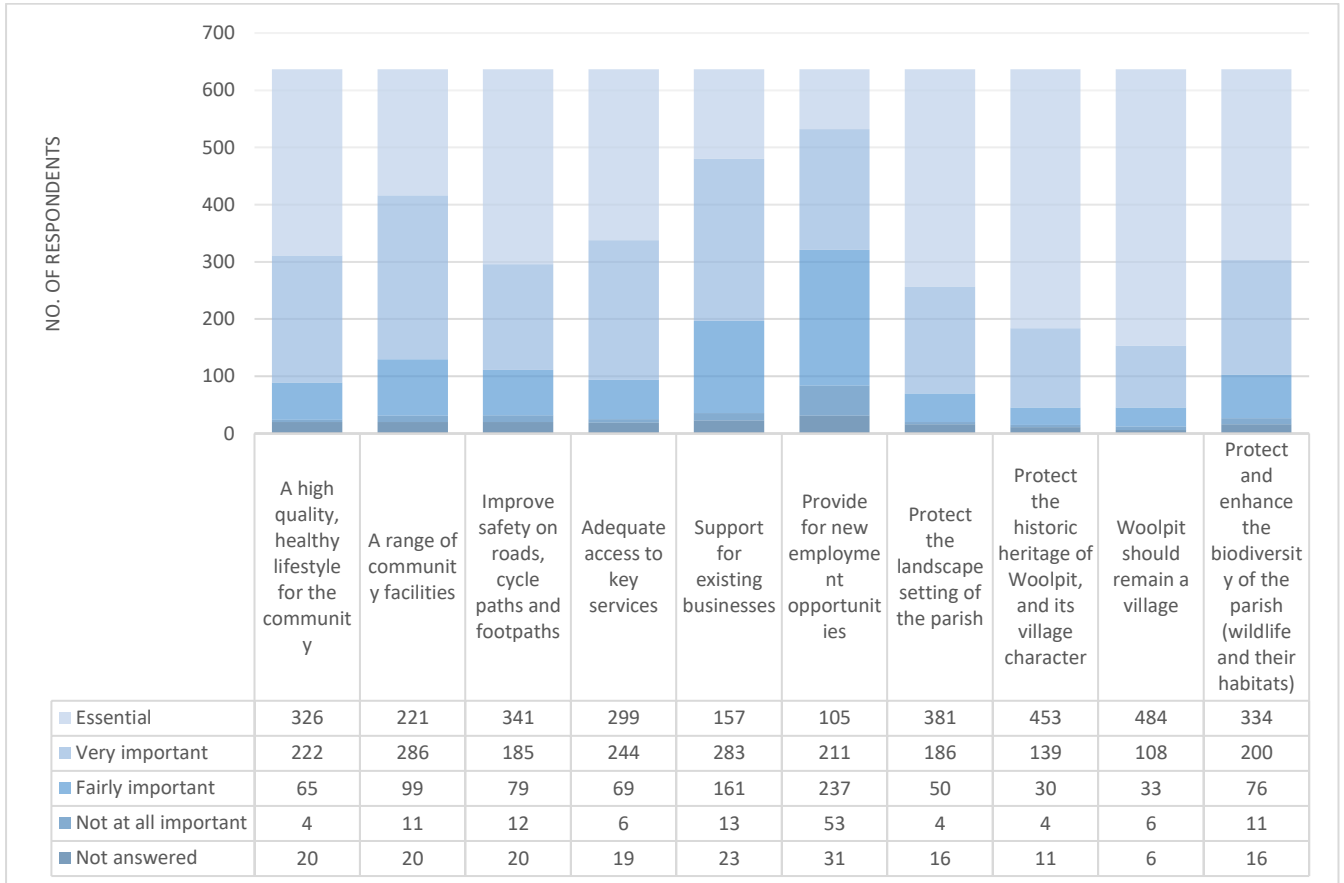
By excluding those who did not answer, the question shows the strength of views:



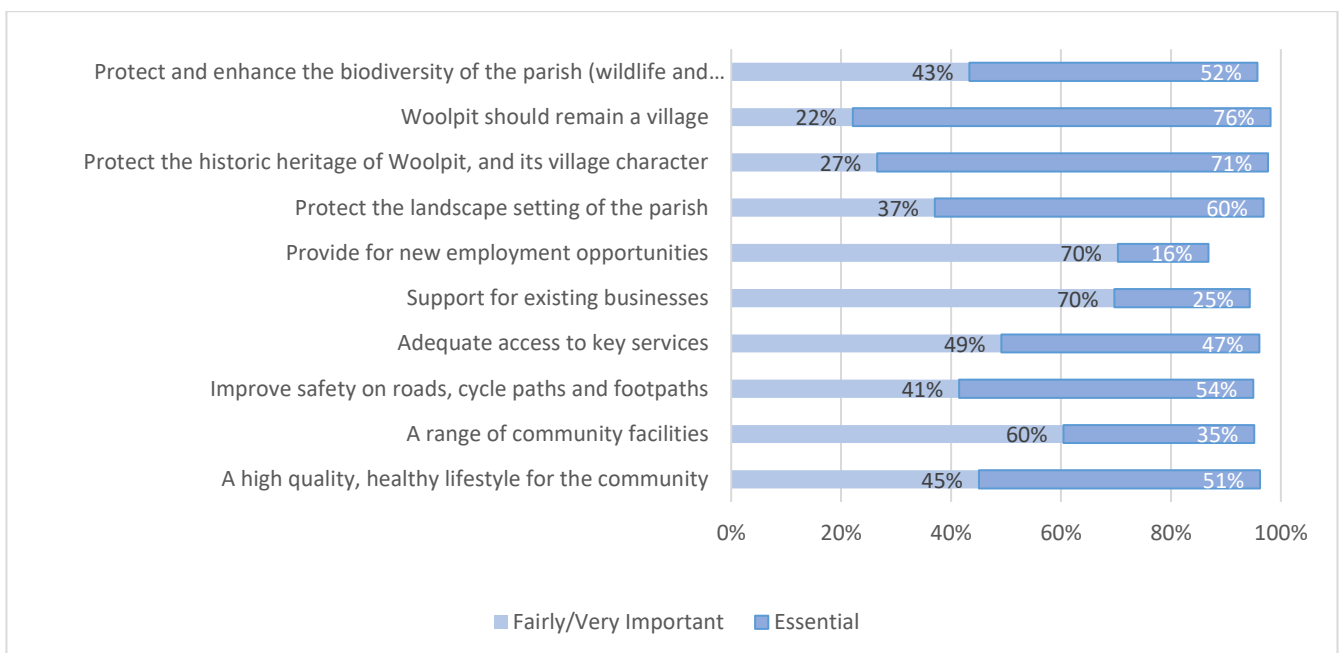
Q3: How important do you think are the following considerations?

This question is written in a way that suggests bias towards an idealistic-type settlement, however from this we can clearly see that the protection of the historic character and the definition of a village itself are of very high importance to a significant majority of respondents.

Although support for existing businesses is high the provision of new employment opportunities does not gain as much priority from respondents. This could be interpreted as the peoples view that there are already many employment opportunities in the village, or it could reflect the personal requirements of many of the respondents i.e. nearly 50% are retired.

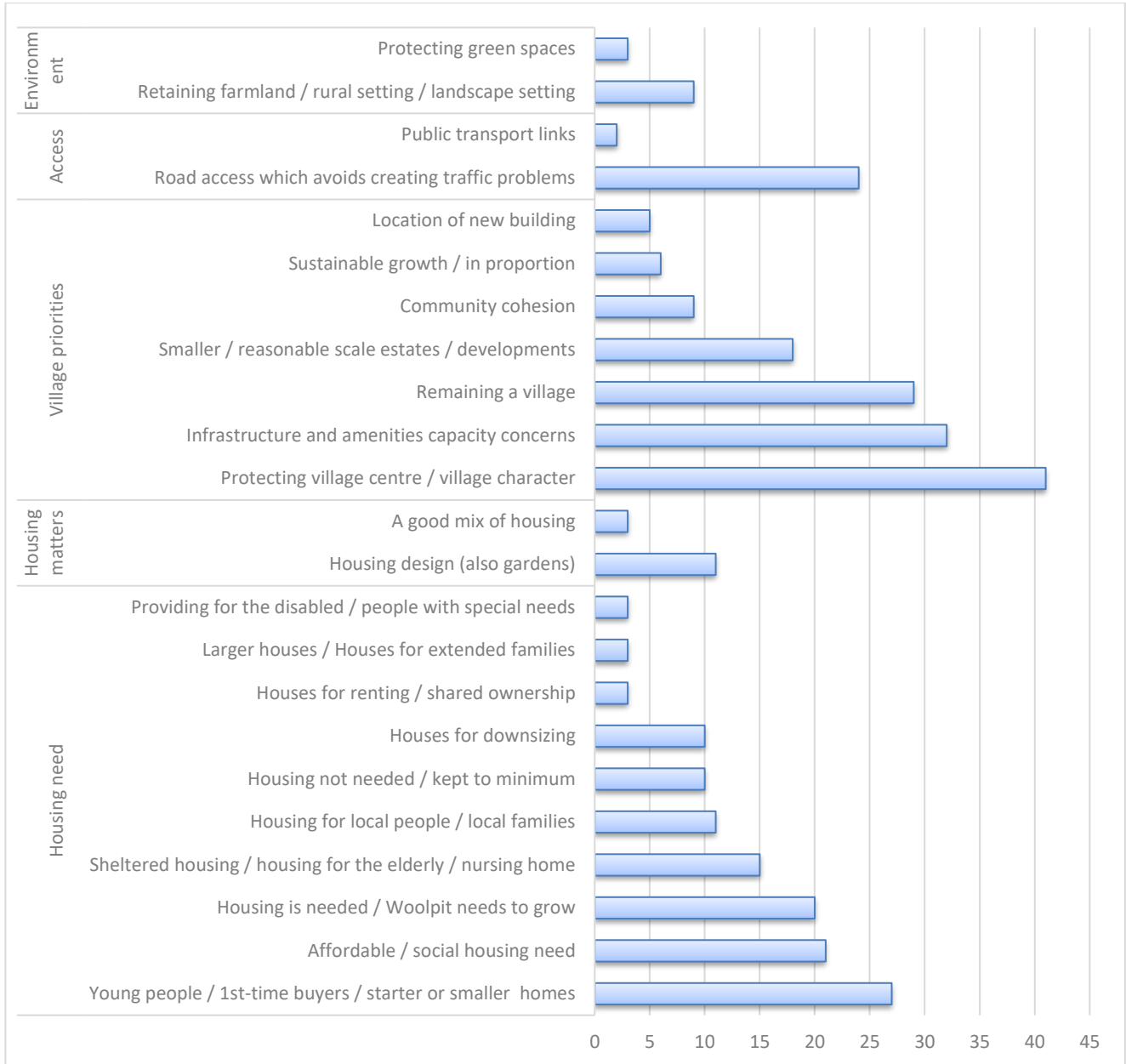


Close to 100% of people felt each of the described features were important or essential.



Q4: Additional Comments

There were 209 comments made, 18 of which have been excluded as they did not relate to housing. The comments in this section support many of the issues raised above as with Question 3, protecting the village character is of most concern to respondents. The comments reflect the strength of feeling regarding the need for starter homes that is not overtly apparent in Question 1. It does also back-up the assertion that housing provision for the elderly is required.

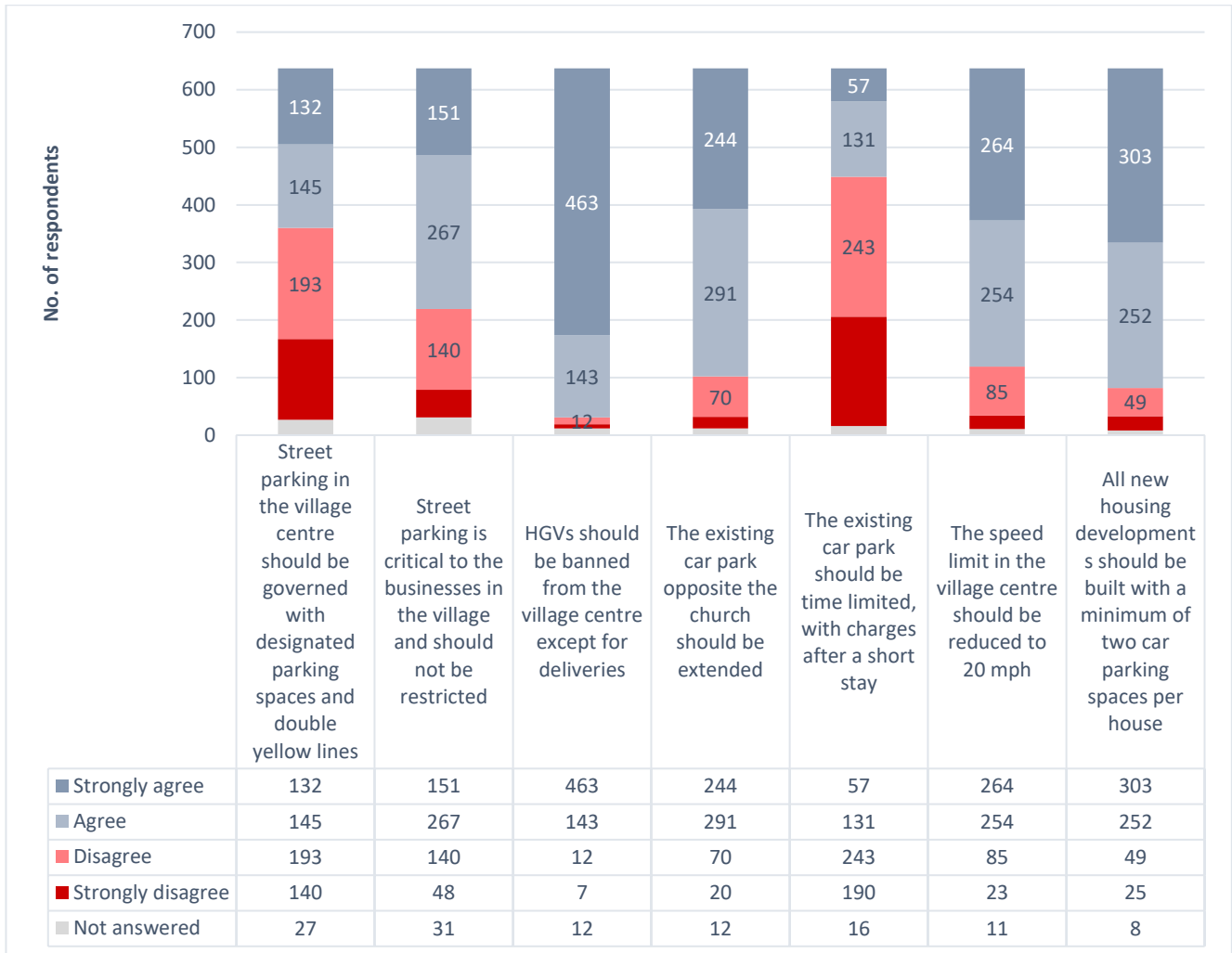


ROADS, FOOTPATHS AND CYCLEWAYS

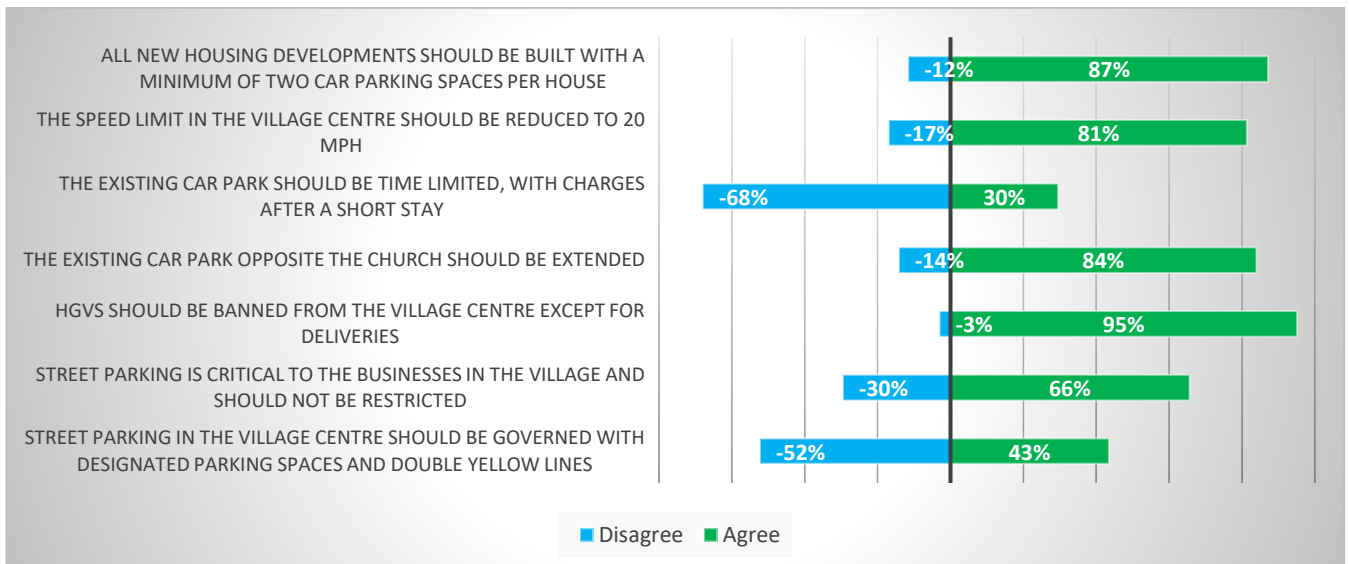
Q5: Traffic congestion in the village centre has been identified as a key concern. Do you agree?
90% of respondents agreed to this statement, 8% disagreed and 2% did not answer it.

Q6: Please state how you feel about the following statements:

It is good to know that our current highways restrictions for HGV's are supported. The majority view that the current car park should be extended but that parking should not be charged for.



Showing this simply as those who agree or disagree:



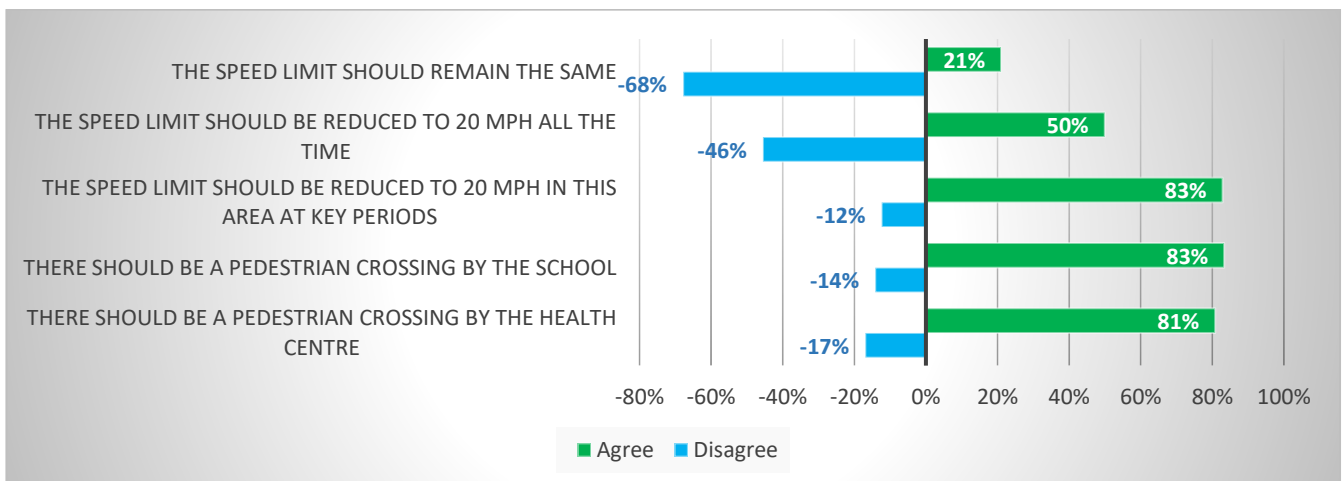
Q7: Safety on Heath Road, particularly by the Health Centre and School, has been raised as a concern. How would you feel about the following suggestions?

There is a definite majority of people who consider the speed limit should be restricted, whether that should be at key periods or all the time, though potentially at key times could be more popular. How this would be governed or regulated was not considered within this questionnaire.

Pedestrian crossing(s) in Heath Road would clearly be popular however the requirements of the Suffolk Highways regarding location regulations/standards were not considered in this questionnaire and may prove that a crossing is not appropriate unless changes were made to the road network.

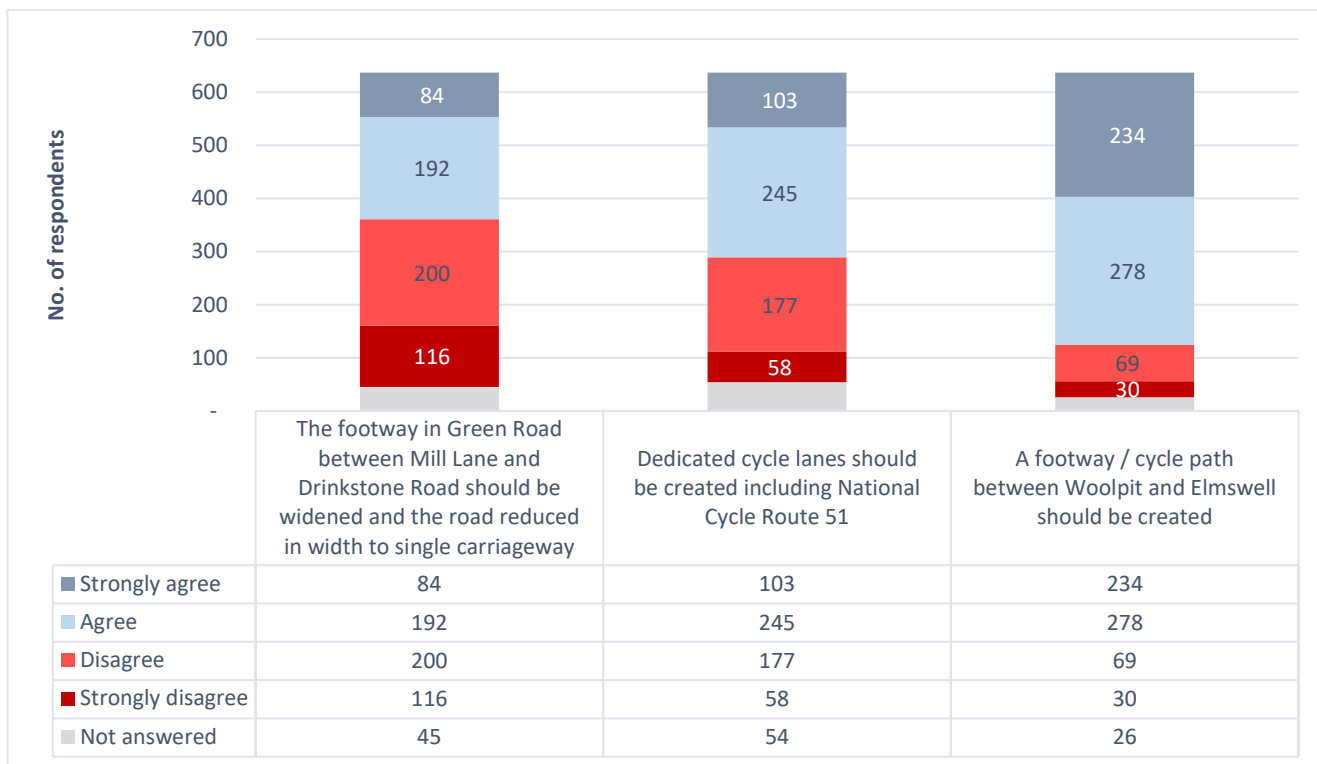


Showing this simply as those who agree or disagree:

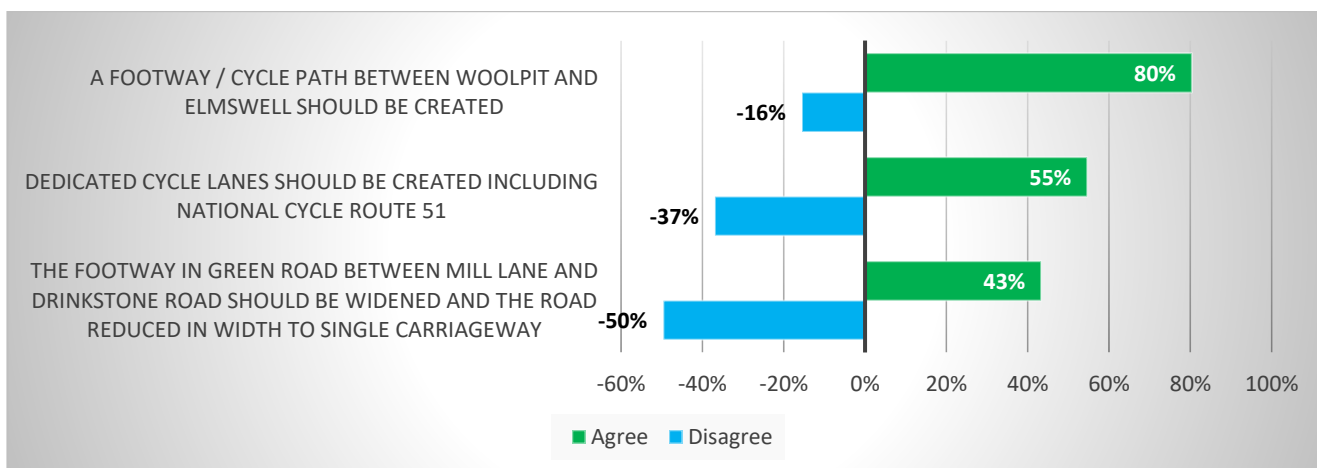


Q8: Footpaths and cycleways. How would you feel about the following suggestions?

The responses in this section highlight many issues regarding footpaths and cycle routes. Statements 1 and 2 can be interpreted in a number of ways. However, of clear recognition is the desire for a cycle/footpath between Woolpit and Elmswell. Over 80% of respondents were in favour of this.



Showing this simply as those who agree or disagree:



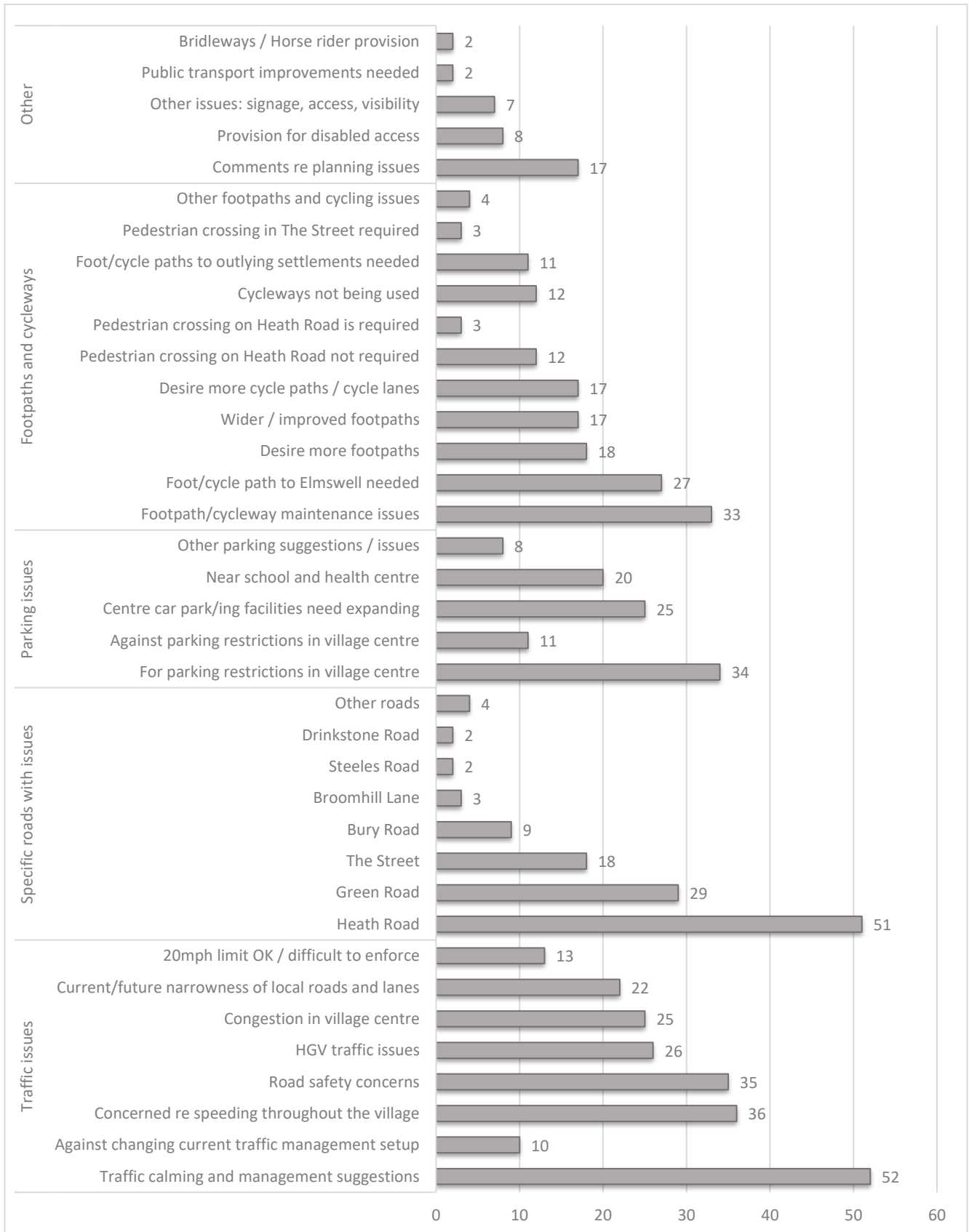
Q9: Additional Comments

There were 262 comments made, just 2 of which have been excluded as they did not relate to the topic. Most responses covered more than one topic so the answers have been analysed against a range of headings, dividing the comments into 628 different elements. The comments here reflect many of the views previously mentioned in Questions 5 – 8.

Strong opinions were also expressed regarding the perceived lack of maintenance of foot/cycle paths where undergrowth extends over the pathway. Whilst the centre of the village is perceived to have traffic and parking

issues, there is no outright agreement on how these should be managed with views varying from leaving as it is currently to installing yellow lines, one-way systems, pedestrianisation, time-limited free parking etc.

Additionally, Heath Road is considered to have traffic issues in terms of HGV traffic, visibility at Mill Lane exit on to the road, narrow paths, speeding, lack of footpath to Borley Green, and narrow footpath access to the health centre. Of those who expressed an opinion the majority did not feel there was a need for a pedestrian crossing in Heath Road, especially as there is a school crossing patrol currently active.

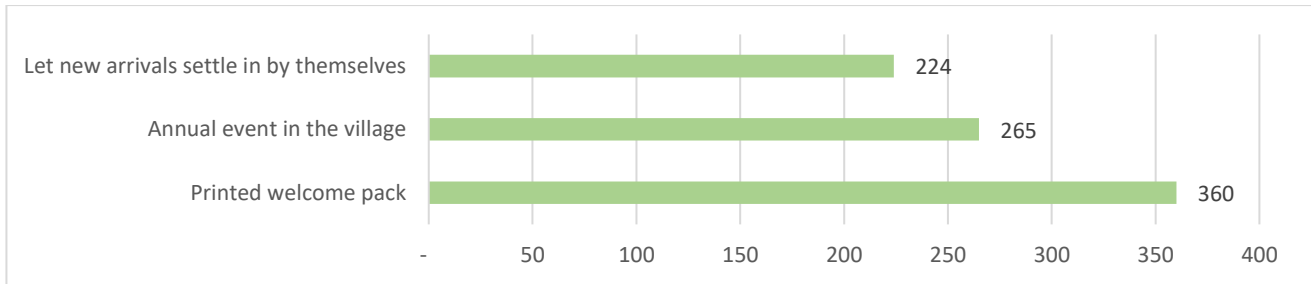


COMMUNITY

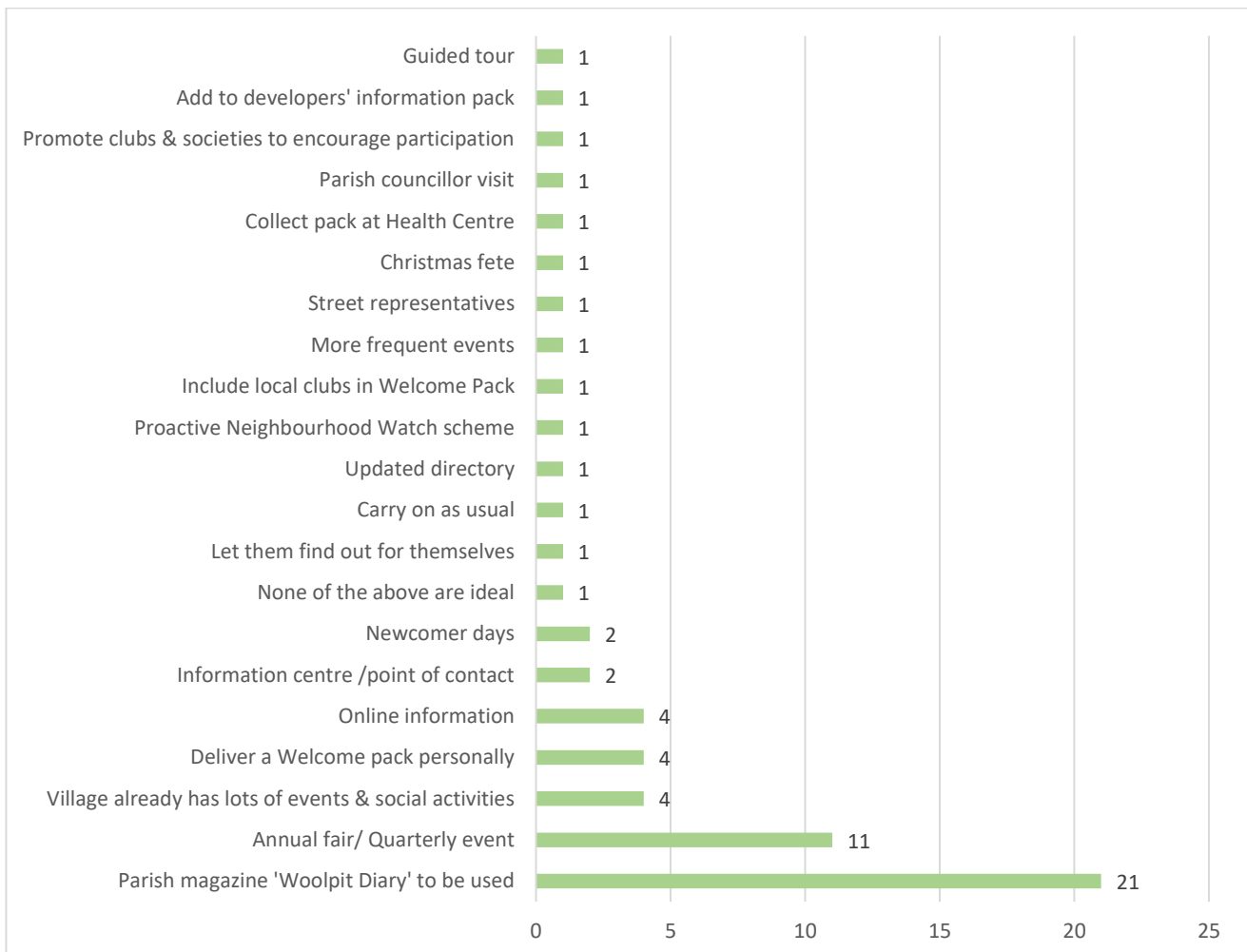
Many residents have said how important it is for Woolpit to remain a village. We must adapt to the needs of a growing population, and at the same time protect the historic centre. As more people settle in Woolpit, our community should welcome them and help them become part of village society. Otherwise we risk growing more like a town, with separate neighbourhoods. We risk losing our village character.

Q10: How should we welcome newcomers to Woolpit?

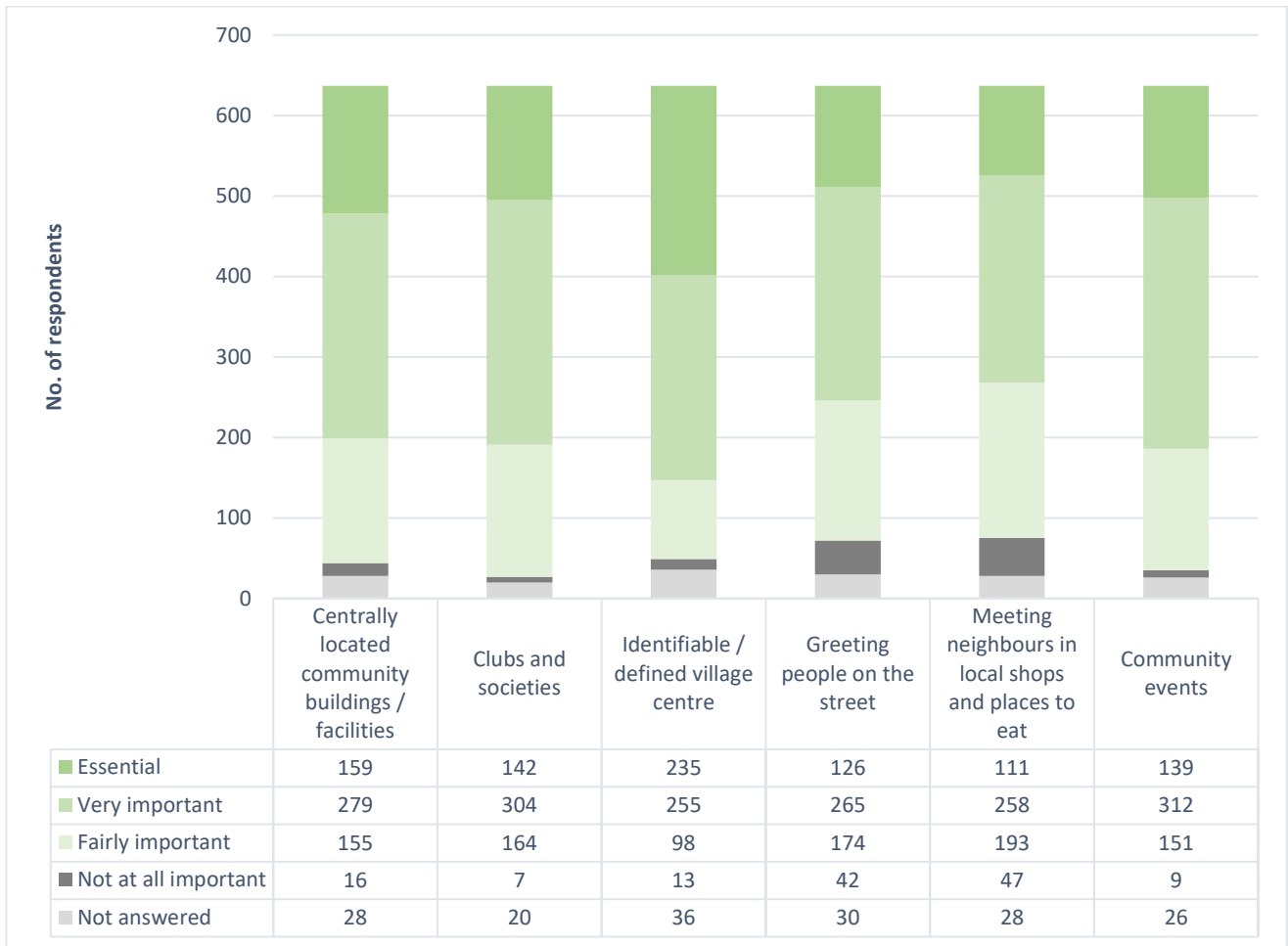
Questionnaire respondents could choose more than one recommendation.



Of the 87 Other Suggestions made, 30 were opinions rather than suggestions and they have not been analysed here. The suggestions were strongly in favour of the use of the 'Woolpit Diary' as it is currently whilst others suggested enhancements to the Diary, with specific focus on newcomers' information being expanded and given greater focus.

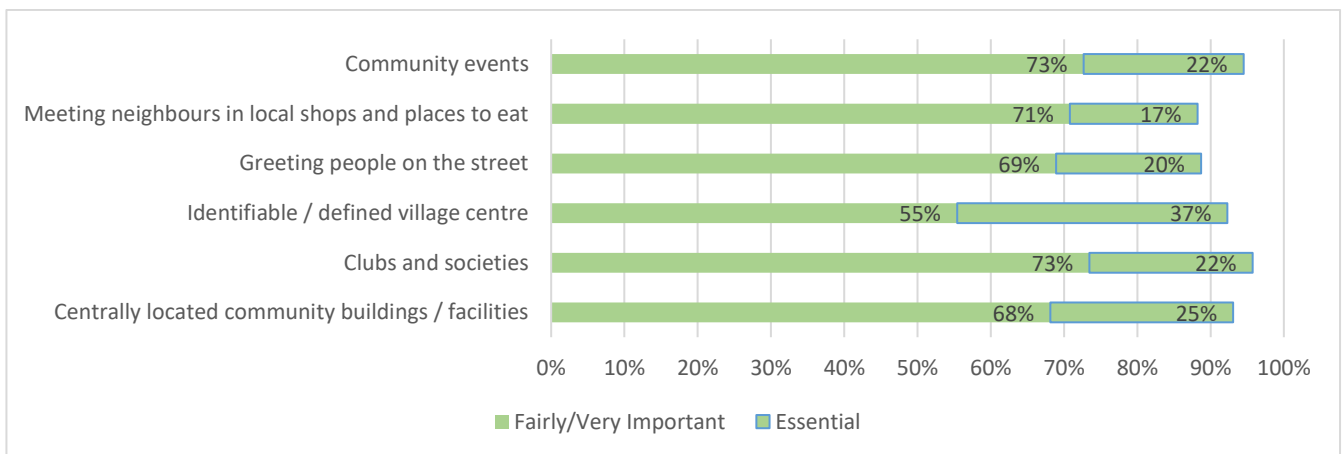


Q11: How important are the following in creating the 'community feel' within our village?



The below chart illustrates that all statements were of some importance to around 90% of respondents. This is of importance itself in backing up the first statement in this community section where initial research showed that Woolpit remaining a village is important for many residents.

Having an identifiable / defined village centre is most strongly favoured by the majority of people, however clubs and societies are of importance to more people.



Q12: Additional Comments

There were 125 additional comments related to Community made here. A sense of community is experienced differently by people so is very subjective, this is evidenced by the wide-ranging views expressed that were not easily summarised except under general headings. Community spirit is evident for over 10% of respondents but there are concerns that this may be lost in the future as expansion of the village progresses.

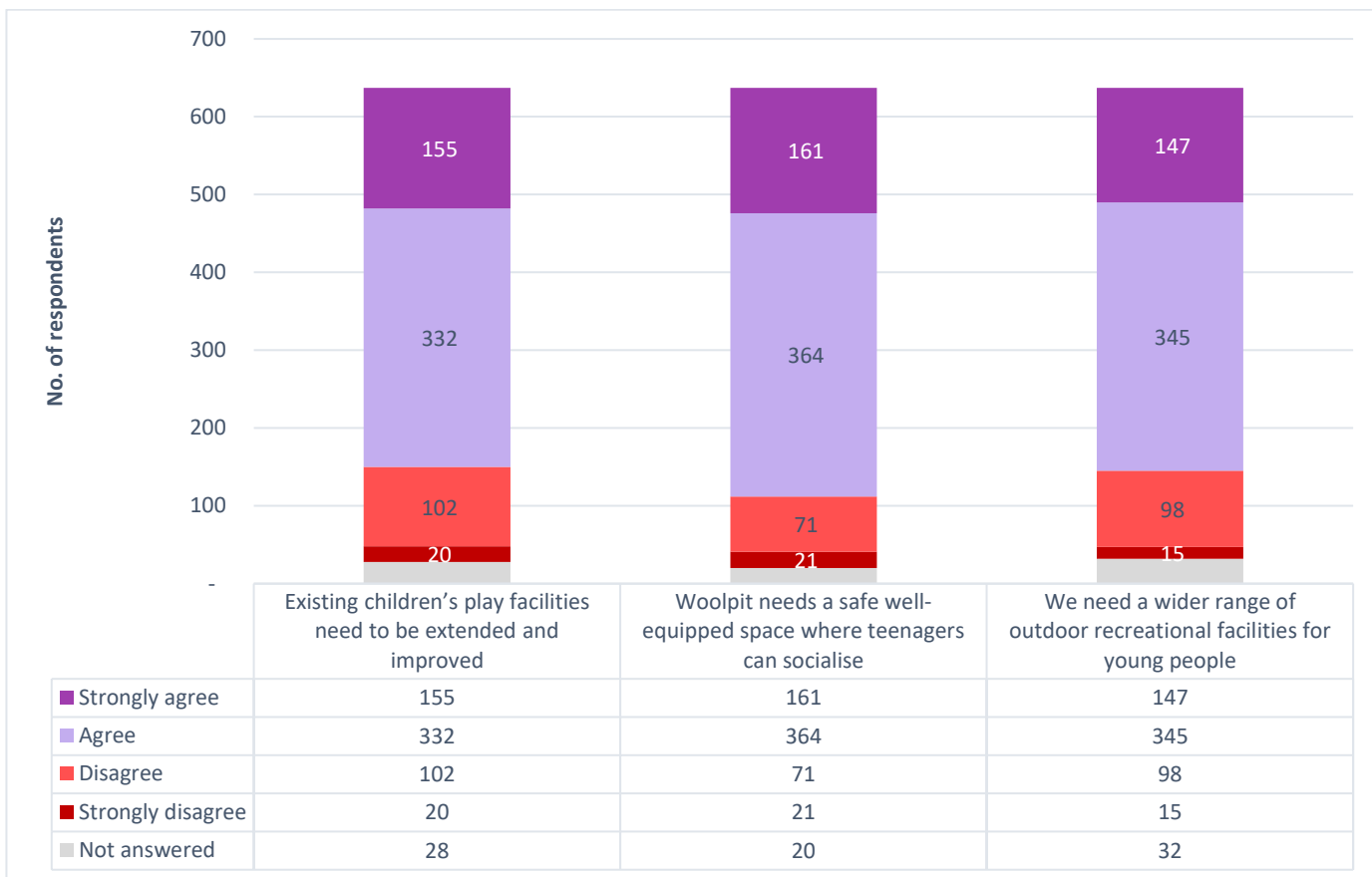
Please see Appendix A for a summarised list of comments.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

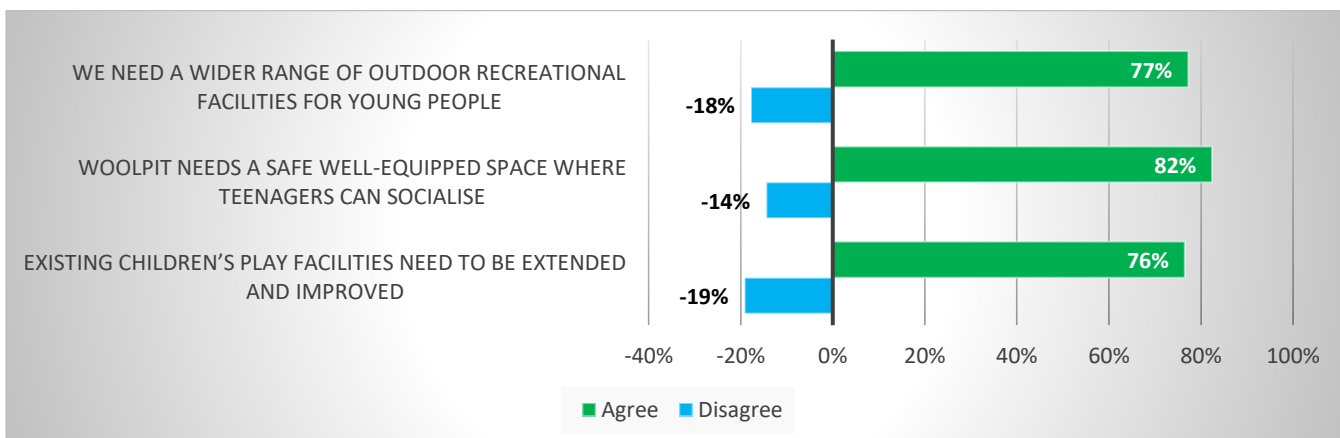
Woolpit is a well-served village. However public comments show some concern that services and facilities may struggle to keep pace with an increase in the local population. Health and schooling are matters for the public authorities. Other concerns include play facilities for young children and recreational space for teenagers, as well as future shopping facilities. Local planning policy requires new housing developments to include play areas for children.

Q13: How much do you agree to the following statements?

The majority of people who answered felt that the current facilities for young people and teenagers are not adequate for their current needs. This would suggest that any future developments should not only provide the required children's play facilities that regulations insist upon but should consider facilities for older children and teenagers as well.



Showing this simply as those who agree or disagree:



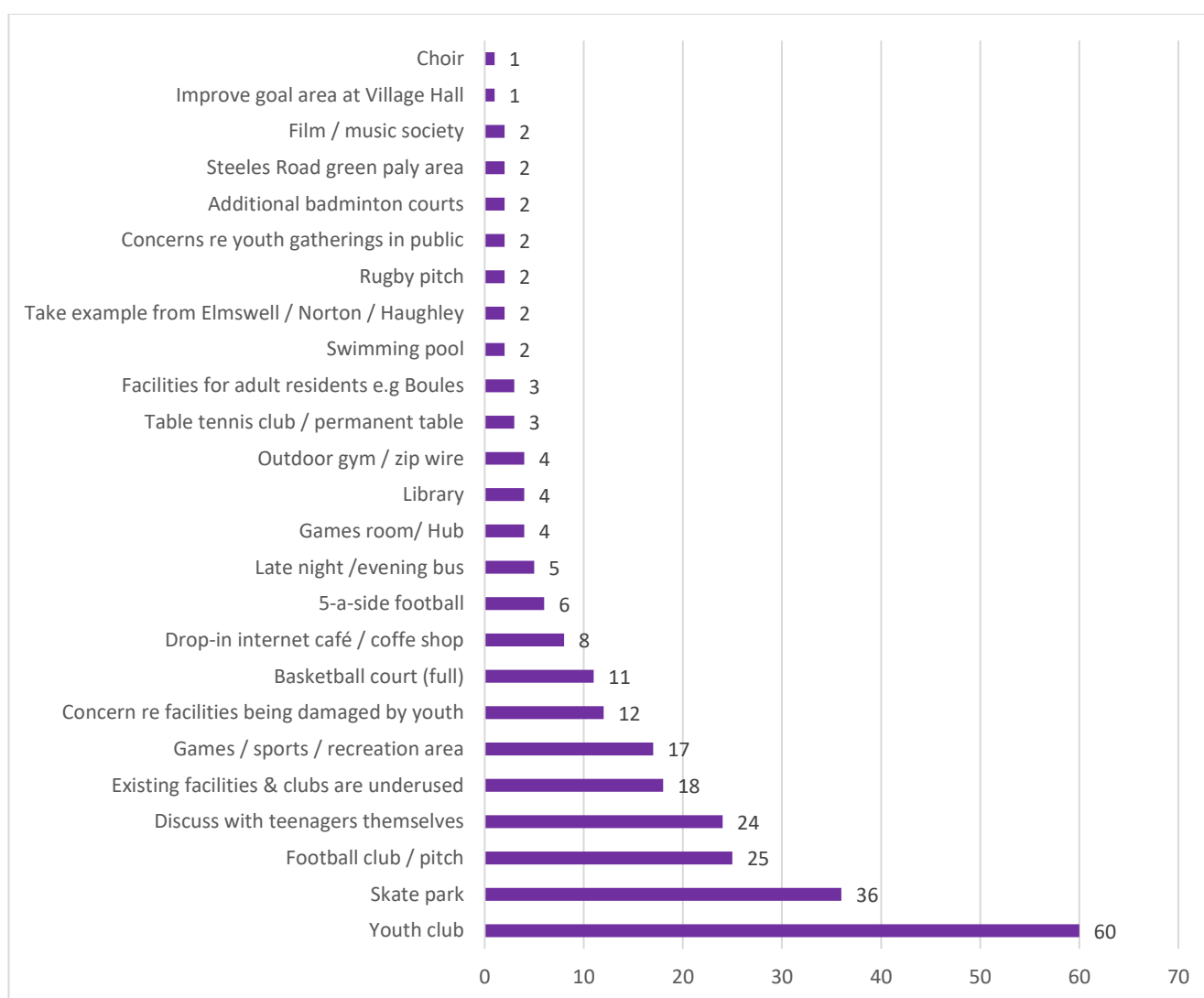
Q14: What facilities would you suggest for teenagers in Woolpit?

There were 207 comments in reply to this question, only one of which fell into the under 16 years old age group. They were concerned about how such facilities would be maintained rather than suggesting what the facilities should be. Meanwhile 93 comments were made by the over 65 age group and 113 by the 16-65 group; no further breakdown by age is possible.

Some comments were made asking why the questionnaire did not ask the same question regarding what facilities older residents would like to see in the village, hence suggestions such as Boules. Understandably given the respondents age ranges, there were 24 comments suggesting teenagers should be consulted themselves.

The most frequent suggestions were a youth club, skate park and football pitch/club. If 5-a-side football is added to football pitch/club then there were 31 votes for football in total.

Comments made did also express concerns regarding who would run and/or maintain such facilities, considering regulations such as health & safety etc. with one respondent volunteering to assist.

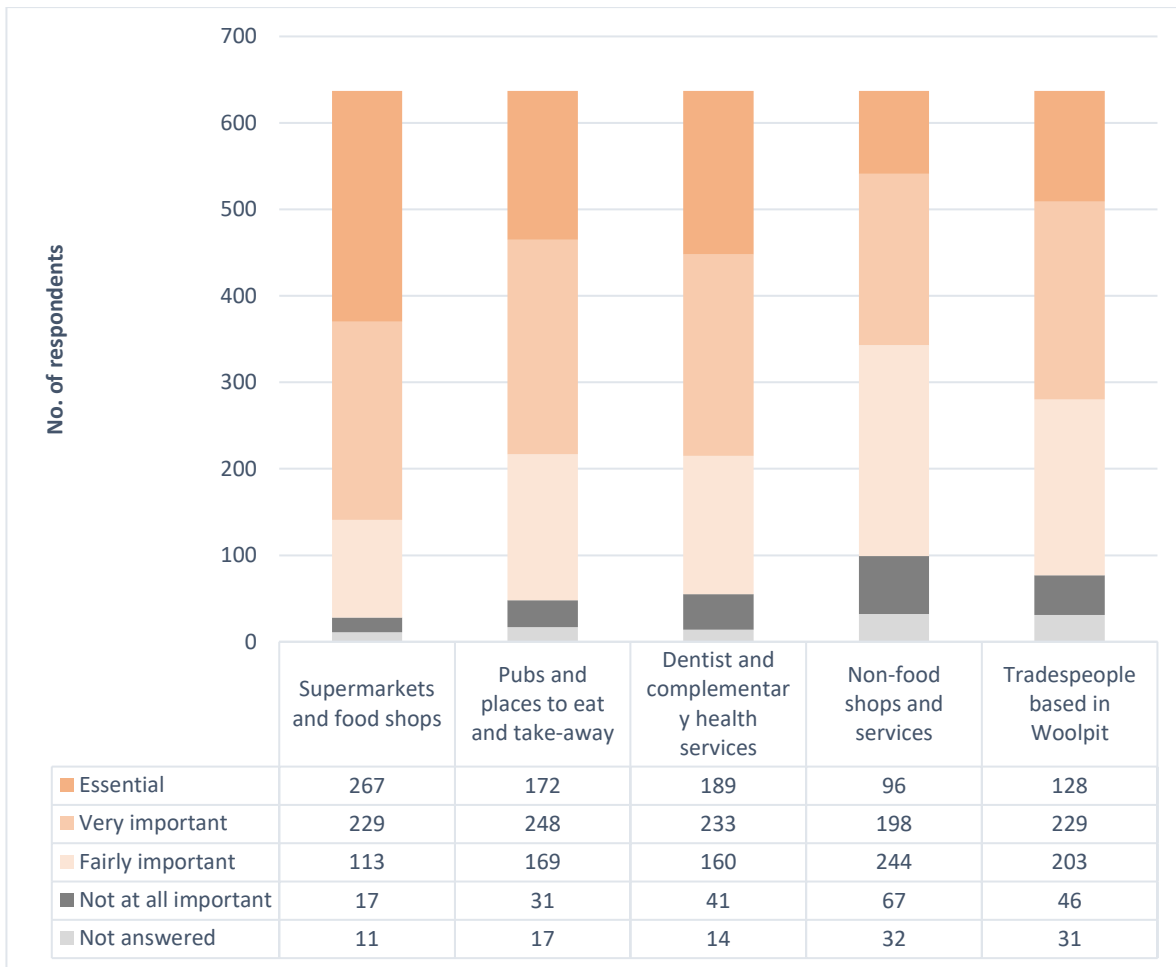


We have taken note of the 24 people who said we should discuss this with the teenagers themselves and although the questionnaire was sent to every household, so they did have the opportunity to express their views, we may get a higher response rate if we ask them specifically in another format.

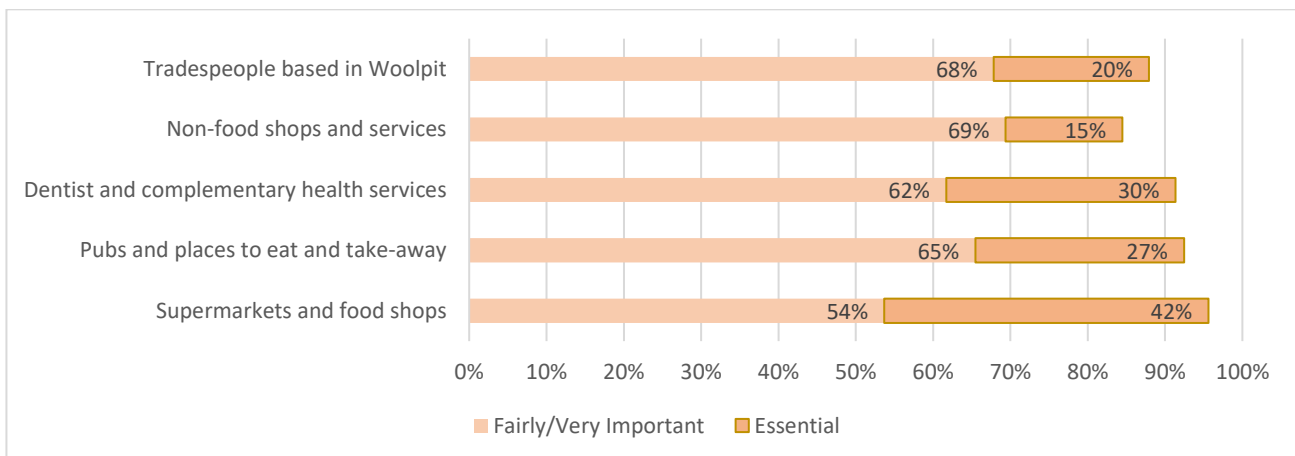
Teenagers as a group are talked about and portrayed within society as many different things, both positive and negative. As a group within the village of Woolpit there will be lots of individuals with diverse needs and wants. Therefore, the question of creating on facility that meets the needs of every teenager in our village is a very difficult one to solve.

SHOPPING

Q15: How important to you, individually or as a family, are the following amenities?



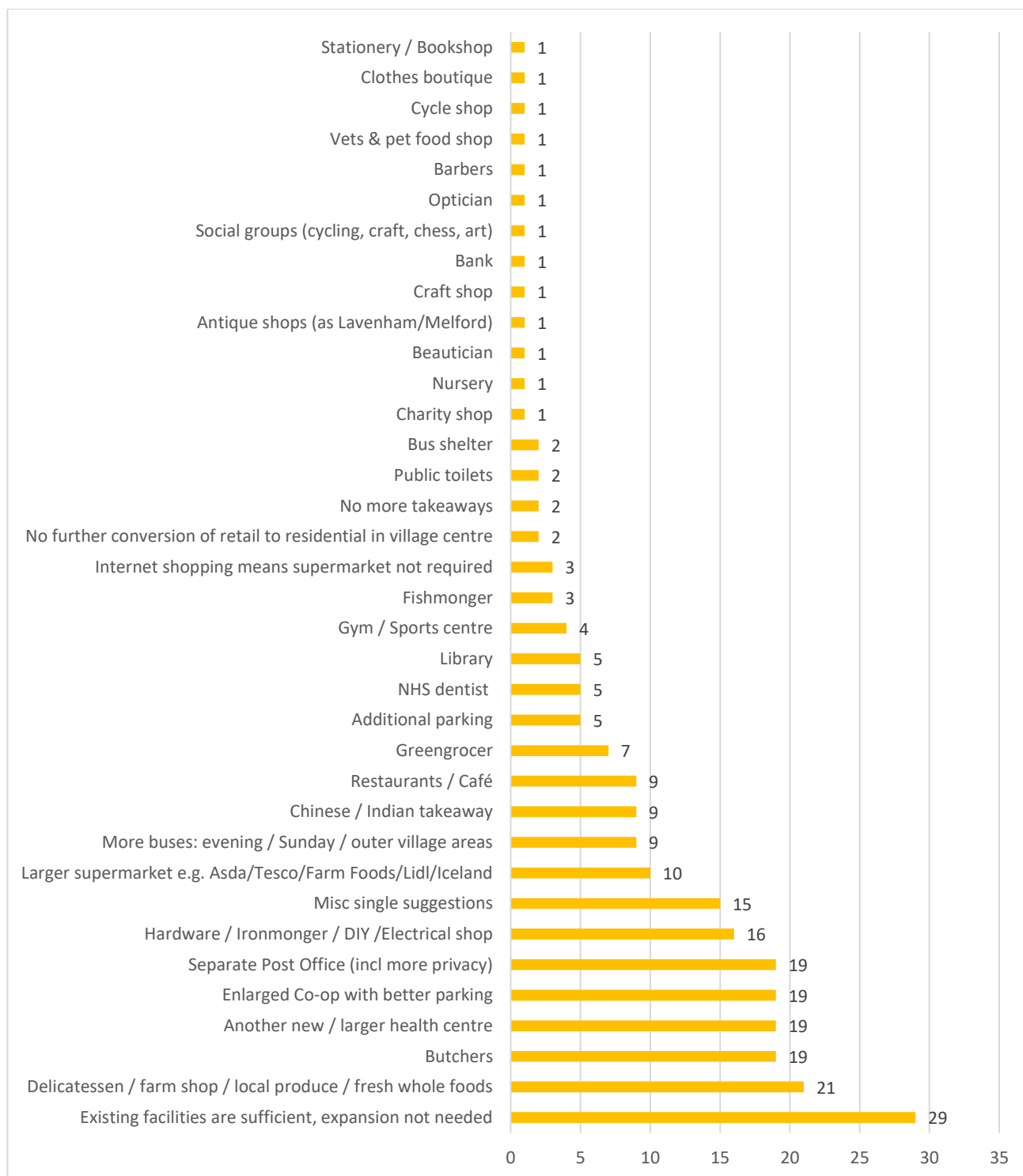
All statements were of some importance to at least 80% of respondents with the highest importance being placed on supermarkets and food shops.



Q16: What other shops and/or services do we need as Woolpit expands?

There were 195 comments made for this question. A significant number felt that the existing facilities were good and currently fulfilling their needs. This supports the statistics shown in Q15.

Concerns expressed but not easily categorised below were in relation to the capacity of the Health Centre and its ability to cope with increased population given current appointment waiting times. A common theme of those who were wanting to see a separate post office was the criticism of the current provision within the Co-op as having a lack of privacy and being in competition with shop sales for counter service.



In addition to the above responses both positive and negative comments were made regarding the existing village pubs and their facilities. There was a suggestion that a third pub of a different nature may desirable.

ENVIRONMENT

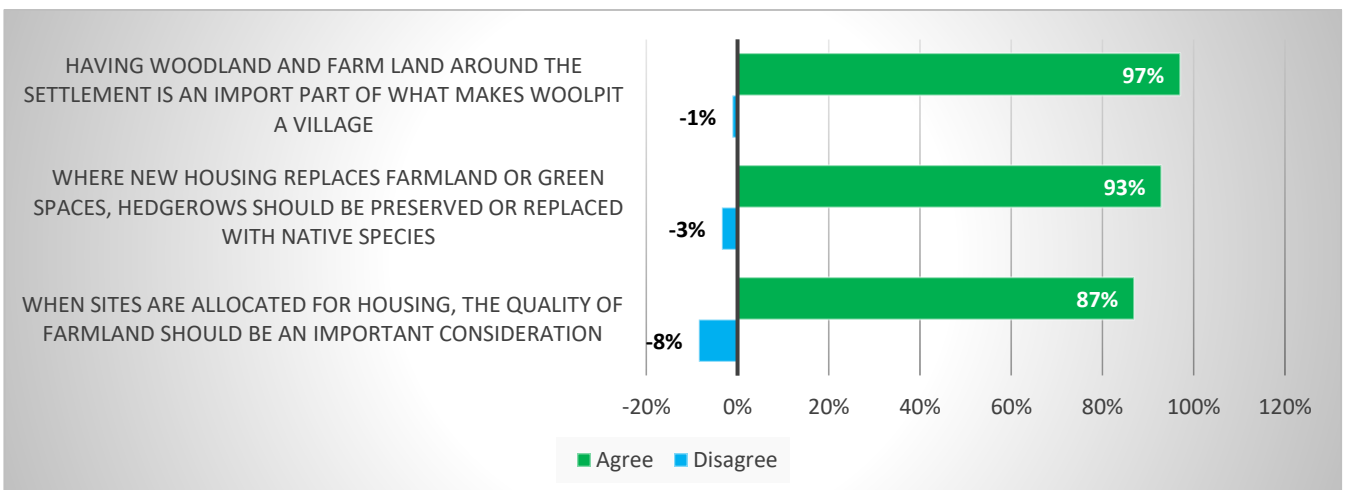
Green spaces and the rural setting are among the most attractive features of our village. Many residents feel that we should safeguard these assets. Some people are concerned that we are not making the best use of the Lady's Well 'pocket park'.

Q17: How much do you agree with the following statements?

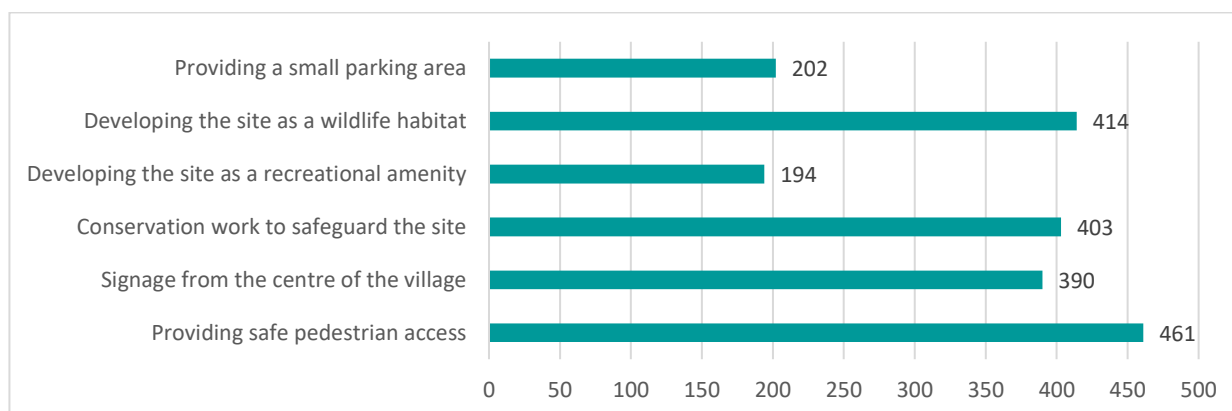
The majority of respondents value the environment we live in and would like to keep the rurality of the village.



Showing this simply as those who agree or disagree:



Q18: The value of Lady's Well as an asset for the village would be enhanced by:
Questionnaire respondents could choose more than one recommendation.



Other suggestions & comments regarding Lady's Well are summarised as follows but represent a wide range of views.

Information:

- *Information in local diary about the site.*
- *Leaflets (x2)*
- *Provide on-site information about the history/significance/archaeology/wildlife of the site. (x4)*
- *Signage & safe cycle routes, with long views / refreshment stops (pub/café) - marked interesting walks.*
- *Please avoid additional signage which becomes unsightly.*

Education and Activities:

- *Encourage school visits and young families to use for educational outside activities.*
- *Very occasional organised activities for children in holidays at Lady's Well to help them appreciate the space. Could be on an historical and / or nature wildlife theme.*
- *Picnic area (x3)*
- *Links with the local school could be developed to plan and implement changes to the way the site is used by young children and their families. Needham Lake is an excellent example of how this can be achieved without detriment to wildlife.*
- *Outdoor gym equipment, like London parks - more flowers, fields with orchids / wild areas - reduce bright lights e.g. lorry park - turn off street lights before midnight (11 pm?)*
- *Cooperation with Suffolk Wildlife Trust for activities to involve children and volunteers.*
- *Make it as a mini forest/park*
- *It depends on what you mean by a 'recreational amenity'. Mown lawns and picnic benches would not improve it.*
- *Do more events like bonfire night.*
- *Campsite.*
- *Consider displaying sculptures.*
- *Off-lead dog walking.*

Conservation and preservation

- *Lady's Well is part of our village heritage. It should be preserved and maintained at all costs*
- *Periodic warden inspections.*
- *Conservation work could be voluntary.*
- *Maintain the site.*

- *Lady's Well must be kept. As someone who works in London, do not underestimate green space.*

Access

- *Access from proposed glebe farm development*
- *Continue to rely on people walking or cycling to the site.*
- *Better visibility and safer access from the road.*
- *Use cricket ground's car park, with access, i.e. pedestrian crossing.*
- *It would not be a good idea to encourage cars / add parking area at Lady's Well. (x3)*
- *Making it disabled / wheelchair accessible (x3). Disabled parking only, to avoid misuse (x3).*

On the not-so-positive side:

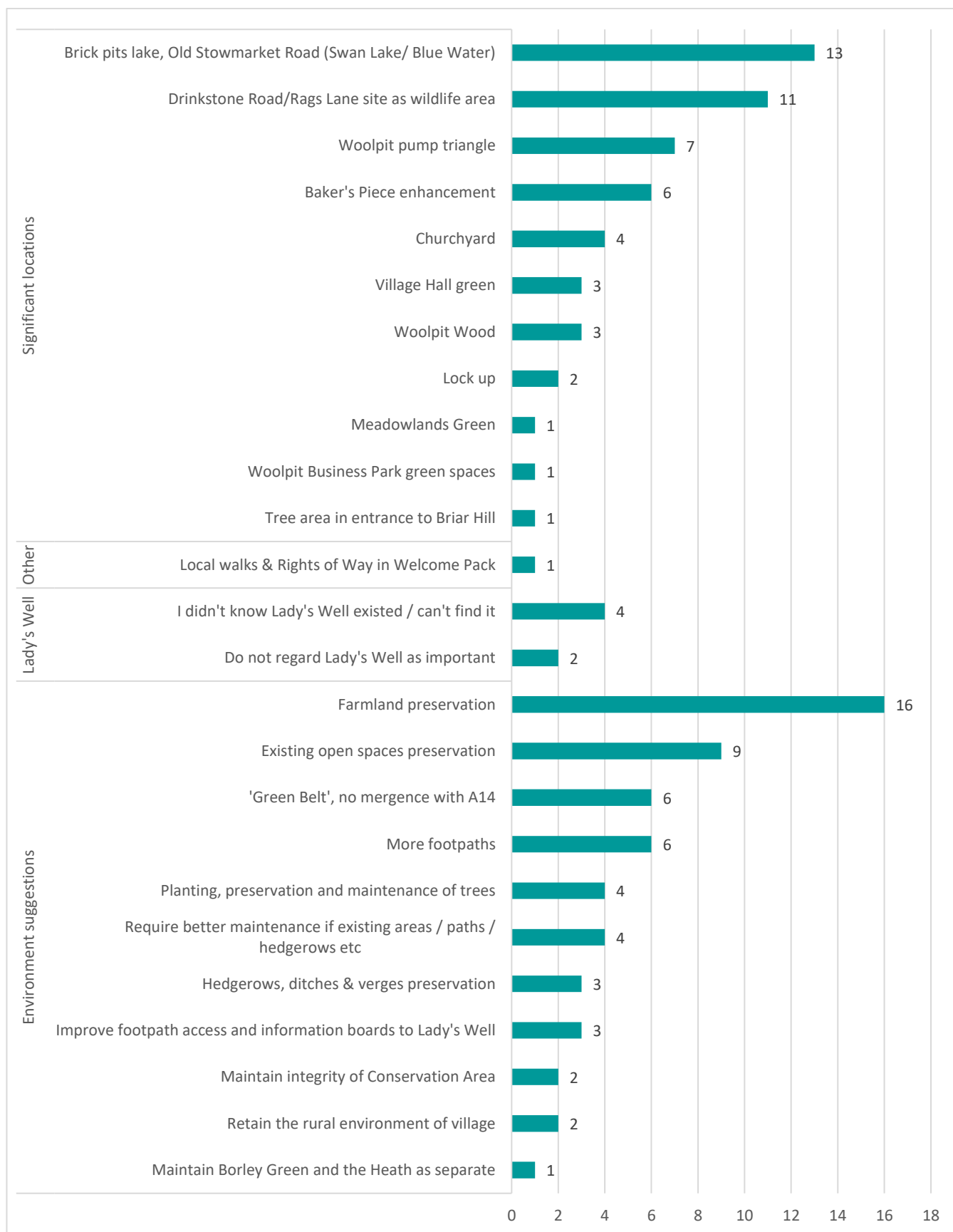
- *Not important to the village.*
- *Selling the site for business units.*
- *Who knows that the Lady's Well is there?! Other than the volunteers who currently take care of it once a month, no one is ever there. I am not sure how many people know it exists. Conservation would be fantastic as I believe heritage assets should be protected and conserved for the future but where is the money for this going to come from? By building houses around these heritage assets, you are also affecting their landscape and setting. Developers do not care about this when there is a profit to be made.*
- *Lady's Well has become completely overgrown which is a shame as it is inaccessible.*
- *I am not persuaded that the Lady's Well is widely regarded as a village asset. This may be because it is pretty inaccessible but even if one could get there safely and easily, I am not sure many would want to, and even if they did, am not sure whether that would be consistent with its being a good natural wildlife habitat. Leaving it alone seems as good a solution as any.*
- *At present this whole area is totally neglected especially on and around the roadside the length of the site. The ditch is level full and the trees have been allowed to grow on the ditch banks preventing access and maintenance.*

Some confusion over the site itself:

- *I had no idea it was even open to the public.*
- *I didn't realise the Public could use this area as paths around the lake have been blocked off at times. I thought it was just for fishing! I walk dogs & would love to walk there!*
- *We do not know of or have heard of Lady's Well (x5)*

Q19: Are there any other sites of environmental value in the village that should be considered in the neighbourhood plan?

There 118 comments made, 13 of which have been excluded from the analysis as they are not easily categorised or were views held by one person alone. Some comments did suggest locations of environmental value but they were not restricted to this subject alone.



The two areas with the highest concern (farmland and Swan Lake) are privately owned. It is clear by their existence that some of these areas are already highly valued by their owners for their environmental worth; it is hoped that they will continue to be so.

In addition to the above there were also comments expressing views about planning and environmental issues:

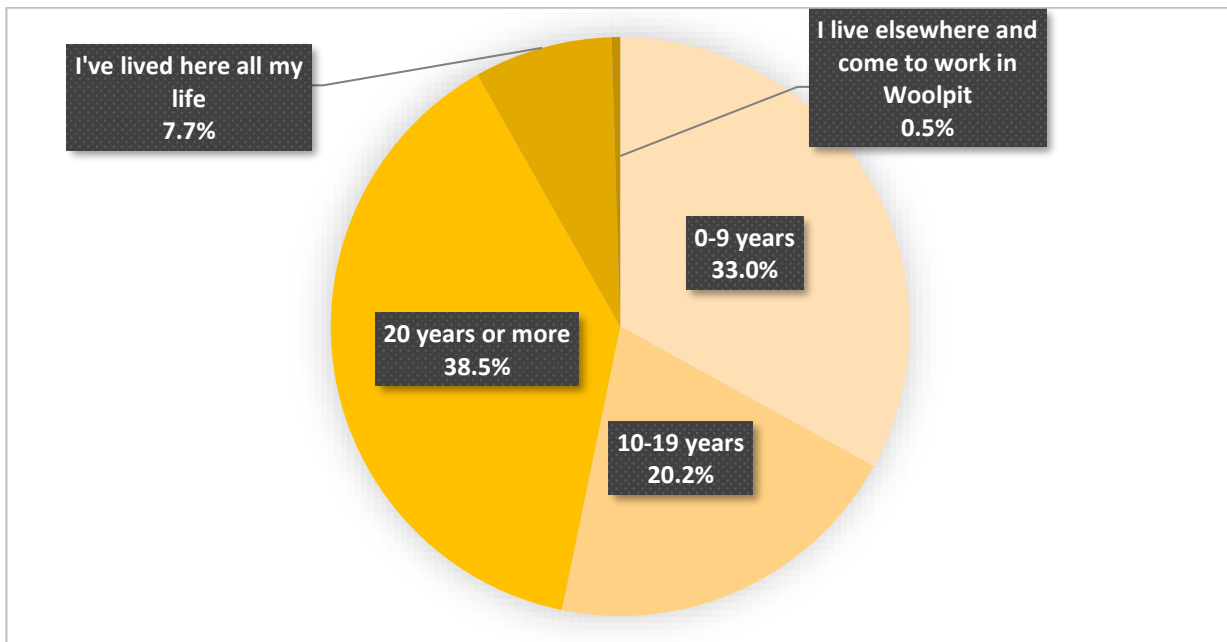
- *The entire village needs a bypass to protect it from increased HGV traffic.*
- *Woolpit's plan needs to be an integrated vision of sustainability, contributing at the local, national and international levels. To do this, it will need to address climate change through ensuring new infrastructure is zero carbon (to be consistent with the legally binding target of national 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050) and existing infrastructure is retrofitted to be. Biodiversity needs to be enhanced, through conservation of existing areas, corridors being planted/ maintained between them to allow populations to move, and to create new areas of natural planting as part of this network of habitats. Climate impacts also need to be considered, especially in hydrological management: managing water demand e.g. through use of grey water, installation of efficient showers etc, but also limiting areas that are tarmacked or otherwise under hard surfaces. Air pollution considerations must be mainstreamed into the plan, especially regarding transport. The plan needs to be holistic and future proof.*
- *We have very little green space - local landowners and developers should be asked to provide more.*
- *Keep all new developments out of the village centre and ensure access to the A14 without coming into the village (x2)*
- *Too many front gardens have been bricked over or covered in tarmac reducing the amount of green space and wildlife habitat. People worry about flooding but not when they increase the amount of run off and reduce the soak away space on their property. Need some sort of planning control on this.*
- *I think we should have more rough areas for wildlife in the village.*
- *Speed bumps (sleeping policeman) through the village.*
- *The area around the school - it shouldn't be built on, it is important for children to be surrounded by nature rather than houses.*

RESPONDENTS

The information in this section can be considered when looking at the previous responses to the questionnaire. Where possible, we have already referred to this data and the weighting effect it may have had on the answers.

Q20: How long have you lived in Woolpit?

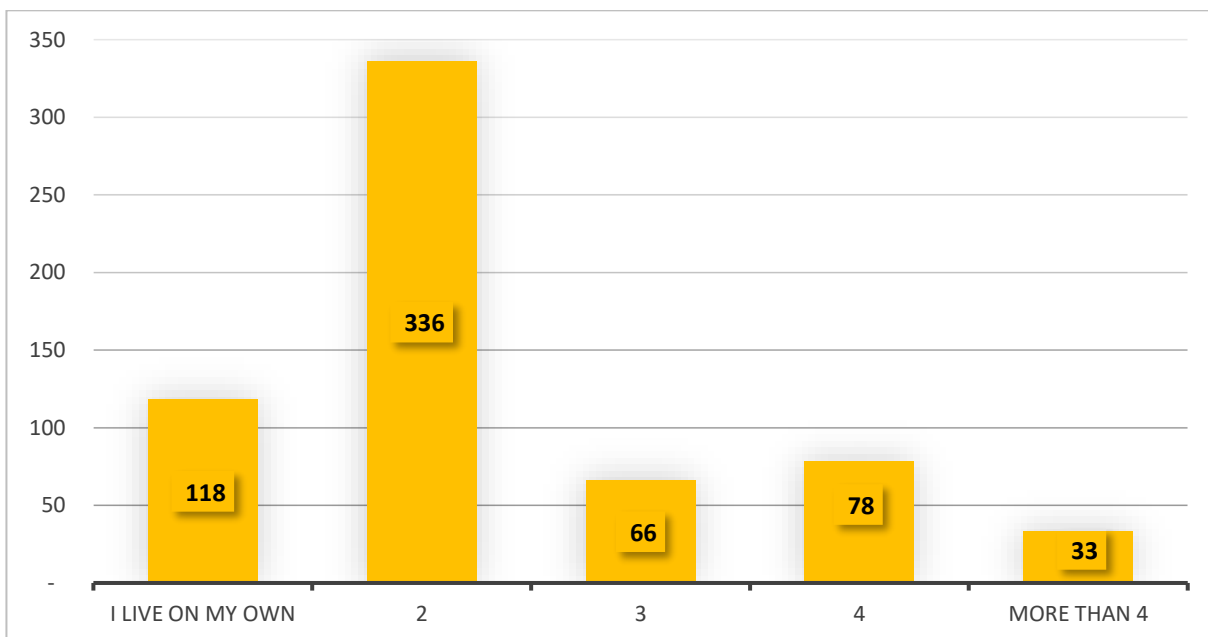
633 respondents completed this question.



Q21: How many people are there in your household?

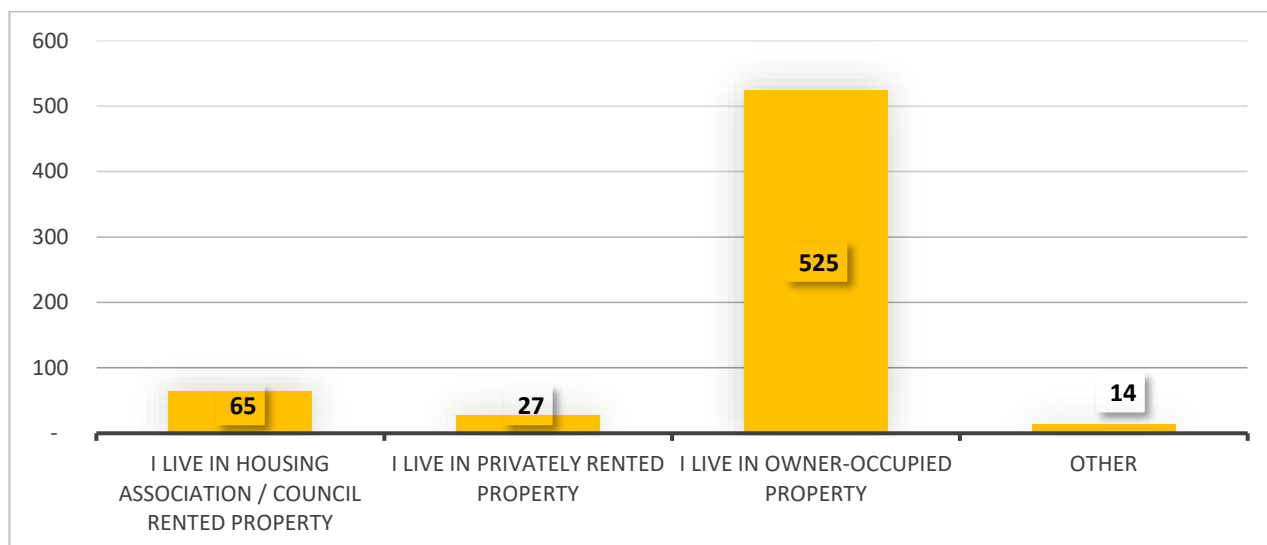
631 respondents completed this question.

A very general assumption could be made that only one respondent per household completed the survey (there is no evidence for this as there is no way to know for certain if this is either a true or false statement). However, if this was generally true, then the 631 respondents represent the households, but not necessarily the views, of very approximately 1465 individuals. This is 73% of the 1995 residents in Woolpit at the time of the 2011 census².



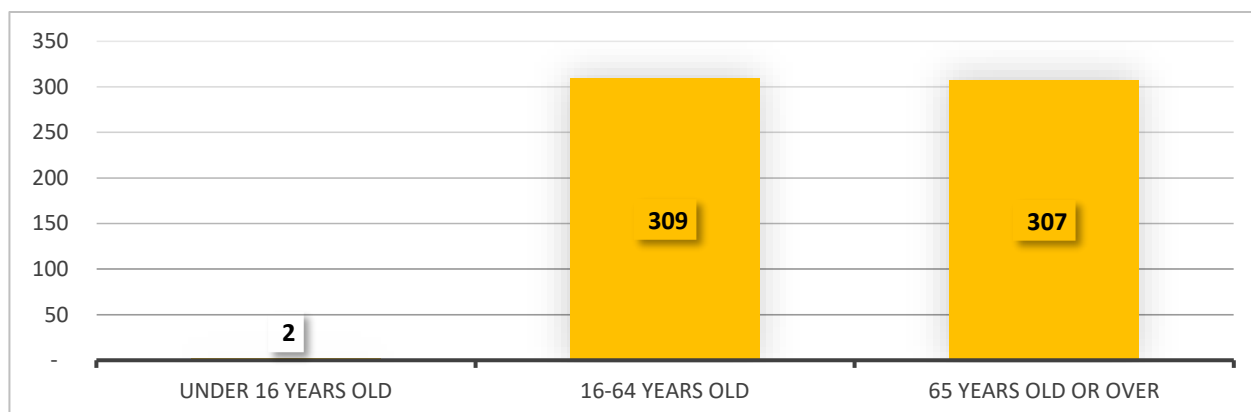
Q22: Which of the following statements best describes your living arrangements in Woolpit?

631 respondents completed this question.



Q23: Which age group are you in?

618 respondents completed this question.

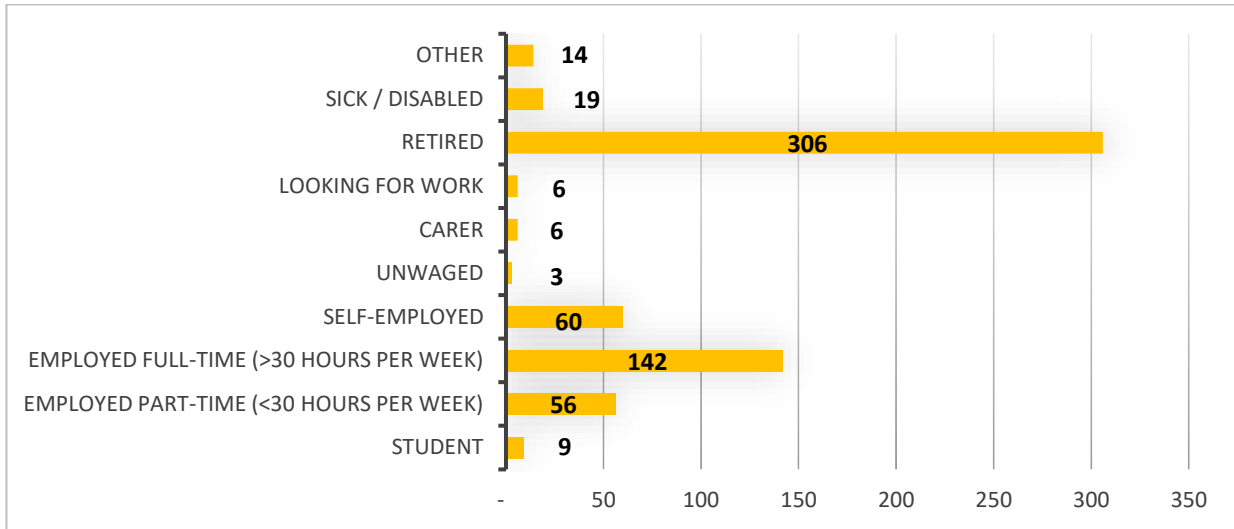


When compared to the percentage of residents in each age group as per the 2011 Census², the number of respondents to the questionnaire is skewed towards those over 65.

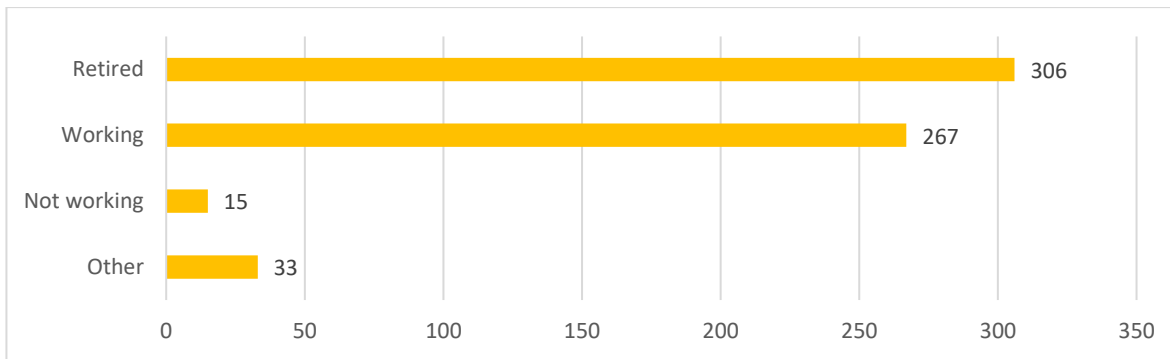
Population	Respondents	2011 Census	Percentage of population
Under 16 years old	2	315	1%
16-64 years old	309	1202	27%
65 years old or over	307	478	64%

Q24: Employment status

621 respondents completed this question.



The chart below is designed to give a clearer view of the relative influence over the results of the questionnaire that different types of employment status respondents will have had. The largest group of respondents was the retired followed closely by those that are working.

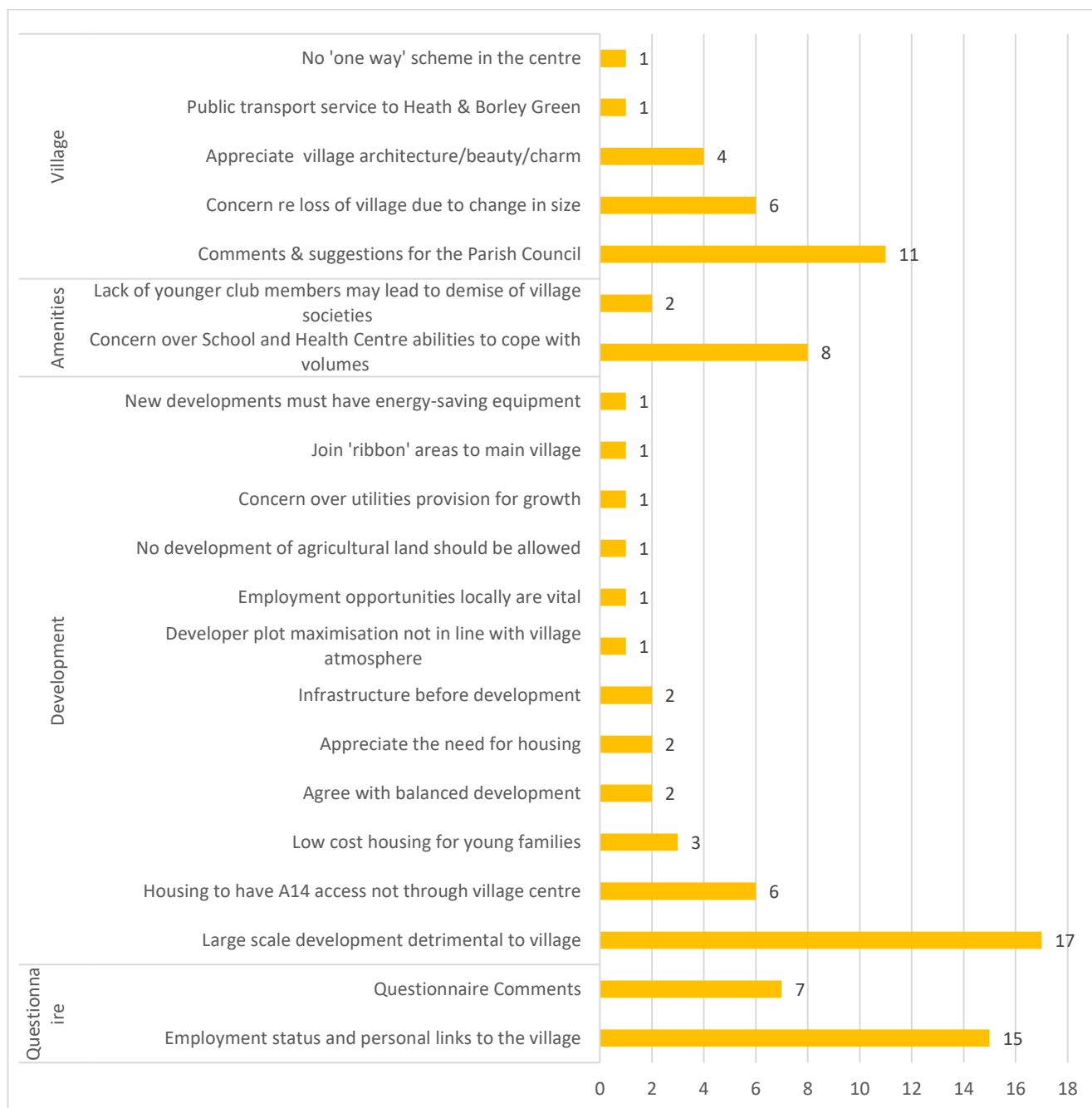


The same figures, when compared to 2011 Census² data specifically relating to Woolpit only, show a potentially even greater skew in the results of this questionnaire towards the opinions of retired as opposed to employed respondents. If the assumption is made that the population of Woolpit remains in the same proportions as at the time of the Census in 2011 then roughly 77% of the retired population of the village responded to the questionnaire. The other employment statuses are not as well represented, being significantly less than 25% of the potential number of possible respondents in each group.

Woolpit population	Questionnaire Respondents	2011 Census population	Percentage of respondents to population
Employed	267	1274	21%
Retired	306	395	77%
Other	48	326	15%

Q25: If you have anything further to add to this section, please comment in the space below.

85 comments were made.



References

1. Table 100 Dwelling stock: Number of Dwellings by Tenure and district: England; 2016, Mid Suffolk (www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants)
2. 2011 Census profile data for Woolpit

Woolpit Neighbourhood Plan

2017 Questionnaire Interpretation & Analysis

[Appendices](#)

Appendix A: Q12 Additional Comments

These comments related to the Community aspect of being a resident of Woolpit.

Appreciation of Woolpit as it is currently

- *This a friendly active village.*
- *I love Woolpit, it's a friendly place with everything we need even if you cannot drive. It needs to keep its identity. Don't change it too much.*
- *Part of what makes Woolpit special is the historic core and community facilities contained within the beautiful buildings. If you move these to the edge of the village then you are making redundant something that has been there for hundreds of years and the village will lose part of its charm and character and it will be a great loss to all.*
- *Surely, we have all the above anyway.*
- *Woolpit is a friendly village with a variety of clubs, facilities, etc. Teens seem to have less offered to them. Diary information lets people know of clubs, events & is a worthwhile addition to the village "community". But still many remain outside of the community. Also activities for the older folk, concerts, etc are great.*
- *Woolpit is a welcoming village. We are lucky to have a good mix of services. It is important that they are not overrun.*
- *This is an extremely pleasant village in which to live, where on every occasion, walking about the centre in particular, one meets several people we know - or at least recognise - it is comforting for (in particular) older people who may live alone. Lots of dog walkers etc.*
- *People generally are very friendly.*
- *I think we are already doing this and the village is very good at dealing with these.*
- *We must preserve our village ethos.*
- *Carry on as normal!!*
- *The village centre is a lovely place to meet people and chat. For this reason, it should be preserved and any enhancement carefully respect this.*
- *The Church, The Institute and the area round the Pump must remain the centre of our village.*
- *A village is not just a collection of buildings. The buildings and their setting create the conditions in which a community can develop. The village is people living in it. If the people want to create and be part of a village community they will, and do not need extraneous facilities to achieve this. If they do not, no amount of such facilities will "create" a community. Of the 1800 or so people living in the village, I would guess that not many more than 200 comprise the village community in the sense of participating in or helping to run village activities.*

Comments on an annual event/s

- *The street fair brought the Village together, we don't have a village fete, everything is shaped around the church and not everyone wants this.*
- *To help generate more income etc, why doesn't Woolpit hold a "Sale Trail" or "Fete" in the village hall to raise money for the church. Even a walking "Treasure Hunt" (for the whole family), Spring Sale, Autumn Sale with the good people of Woolpit donating their time and energy into helping to raise funds (if there are already Spring & Autumn sales then they must be advertised more, leaflets delivered to all the community, not just posters up, or in the Woolpit Diary. Most people look at the Diary once, then forget what and where things are on. We all need to pull together - not push apart!*
- *An annual village event is a must for all villagers, not just for newcomers. All the above exist / occur and should be supported.*
- *We would like to see more community activities - the Christmas tree festival was great but hasn't returned for several years, for example.*
- *Please bring back the annual street fair. (x6)*
- *Shame the Mayday street fair had to finish. Was a great event.*
- *An annual community event would help create a "community feel" by bringing everyone together through celebration.*
- *It's important that new people in the village know about community events. For example, people in the new houses could be given a welcome pack. Woolpit Festival needs to be more family friendly and have events that will appeal to everyone.*
- *I think the Woolpit Street Fair is missed, an annual family event to encourage young people and newcomers to feel part of the community.*
- *A village fete would be a nice add to the community (with a dog show!)*

- *The Parish Council could (should) do more to encourage a community feeling e.g. a Village Day which e.g. could incorporate the Open Gardens & Garden Club show with an event at the Festival e.g. monthly events at the village hall on say first weekend of the month to get a feeling of regularity.*
- *The Woolpit festival is lovely but not much we would take the children to. We have always supported the Jubilee and Prince William's wedding celebrations & the Christmas tree festival each year & thoroughly enjoyed them!*
- *The Festival Committee used to hold more events during the year as well as the Festival week. These seem to have stopped. Maybe more should be organised by an elected committee.*
- *In the Netherlands, the towns and villages hold a "greeting evening" when newcomers over a certain period are invited to come and have a drink & snack & meet other residents & representatives of the various societies & clubs / council. Also this discovers if there are any newcomers with talents to help youngsters or others & take part in the "Parish Council" equivalent.*

Concerning the expansion of facilities to match housing growth

- *Small and Large sports by their very nature require different sizes of area and cover as do children, teenagers and adults. The present balance in Woolpit is about right. But if you embark on expansion then the facilities must be made to match.*
- *Woolpit is a great place to live - it is thriving as it provides sufficient community for its existing residents. This is not by accident as the residents have created this community. As the population increases the community will suffer, this will be further compounded if the population increases rapidly or out of proportion with the existing village. New developments that place a large new population within a defined area will not integrate with the existing community or worse still will create a separate community - creating a disjointed and fractured village - in effect destroying Woolpit as we know and love it.*
- *Woolpit already offers plenty in terms of community, but I guess one of the advantages will be even more opportunities offered within the village*
- *I still have problems here with what is meant by 'village'. Towns, cities and suburbs can have a community feel as well as villages. The problem in Woolpit is that a much larger population will put too much strain on infrastructure, public services etc.*
- *It is impossible to imagine the local village school being able to accommodate the numbers of new children and as such the entire character of the village will change. The housing proposals which will all be granted prior to the village plan being implemented possibly makes much of the work being done redundant. Woolpit will become with the aid of MSDC a further urbanisation. It will be much less attractive as we the existing residents will have to endure the upheaval, increased traffic being the main thing, with zero upside for us. Who speaks for Woolpit? Clearly not the developers / planners.*
- *Community is a function of size. It is not scalable. Development should be such as to ensure Woolpit's community feel is not further eroded*
- *Having seen the proposals for developing 'Woolpit North' it would be very useful to hold a public forum for present residents to formulate ideas prior to the next presentation by Hopkins Homes. We can't prevent the development but should have some valid demands which should be incorporated in the planning application. I am very concerned about the roundabout at the junction with Wrights Way, and the road.*
- *We already have all the above facilities, so can't see the point of having any more, or are all the developers envisaging another Moreton Hall? I have just received a missive from Hopkins Homes which seems as though I might be right!*
- *Woolpit already has a community. the biggest issue will be new housing will be for people not using the village apart from sleeping/living, they do not form part of the community. Woolpit will become another Moreton Hall and the old village will become a mini village.*
- *Woolpit has a community spirit because of its current size. If there is uncontrolled or excessive development ie large estates of houses it will create sub communities and damage community spirit and potentially overburden existing facilities ie school & health centre. Develop more shops / retail outlets in the village centre. If the Community has to be developed, much more thought must go into the infrastructure generally, allowing Woolpit to stay as a village (which is why most of us live here) not a mini Town.*
- *Even the existing newer estates have not been integrated into the larger community, they have become dormitory areas, it is very important to accommodate all age groups in any new developments.*
- *Woolpit has a unique sense of caring and a friendly community which will be critically endangered if the village population is increased too much.*
- *Community & village are integral. The risk of losing both are a reality if major development or expansion of Woolpit is permitted.*

Notice boards and information

- Greater use of notice boards around the village - not just the central area.
- Step up Neighbourhood Watch - Modernise & extend no. of noticeboards - Structure the display of notices: sports, music, social events - Keep boards up to date - Publicise the Church magazine - Newsletter / website.
- Initially give a "flyer" directing people to an online welcome pack (lower cost) or option to request a printed copy. Annual event - any newcomer not able to attend to get an invite to the next year's annual event. (We have had experience of a welcome pack & annual event at different homes in the past & both were positive & useful.)
- Printed welcome pack is an extra expensive we don't need, money could be better used elsewhere. We have two village magazines now, newcomers could be given a copy of each and a face to face welcome by neighbours is much better.
- Maintaining and expanding information available in the Woolpit Parish magazines will help improve contact and awareness of available events and activities. Find a new site for a good notice board, sadly missing since the closure of the old post office. Give it a section for sale of items, business adverts and advertising, as well as upcoming events.
- It's important that new people in the village know about community events. For example, people in the new houses could be given a welcome pack.

Woolpit Diary

- Woolpit Diary is great source of information.
- We are lucky enough to have a diary delivered to each household 6 times per year, I think most people are impressed by it, it is a very comprehensive document
- Keep the diary going.....!!!
- Welcome pack should contain all relevant local details as in the diary.
- Parish magazine is fairly informative and could be made even more so.

Views of recent arrivals to the village

- We have only lived in the village for 3 years, and we are in our more senior years, but our overwhelming opinion is that the village is being run by a select few 'elder statesmen' who ensure that everything that goes on is biased to those that are 80 plus. Yes, it is difficult to get the younger generation involved in local community issues, but if the village is still to be a village in 20 years' time, this must be the focus of the council's attention - 'Diversity to ensure our future'. Meet neighbours in local places to eat! Where can this take place - we have 2 public houses - the Swan doesn't open Sundays or Mondays (and their menu has not changed in the last 2 years), the Bull is under new management so let's give them a chance, and a coffee shop. It's time the Steering Group gave feedback to the above premises that they can play a greater part in our community development.
- Woolpit is a delightful village. We have sold two properties here in the past 12 months and the feedback we have received from our purchaser's is that they chose Woolpit because it is a village, with a clear centre and good amenities for the current population. They each speak of having been welcomed by various organisations and by the local shop keepers.
- When I came to Woolpit 12 years ago it was lovely old fashioned village. Now we have no Post Office, only the Co-op which is not exactly helpful as you have queue with shoppers and that is very inconvenient. The heart is being ripped out of this lovely village. Building houses should be nearer to towns as the majority of people work there. So having to travel is destroying the atmosphere by pollution. Is this not what the government is trying to save - i.e. no diesel cars etc.
- I feel Woolpit as a village already does this. If people want to socialise they will. I don't we should pander to them. They've moved to Woolpit let them go out and mix with the villagers. I did!!
- Even in our 80s & 90s we find Woolpit a lovely place in which to live and we have experienced so much kindness and consideration by everyone we have met in our 7 years here. We do experience a degree of isolation because of the limitations imposed by the Street's narrow and inconsistent footpath & speeding vehicles well within the 30mph restriction. On Saturday afternoons and Sunday afternoons etc speed & noise of cars and m/cycles well within the 30mph limits is very annoying & disturbing, that is why I have marked use of 20mph limits & enforcement as a high priority in improving the quality of life.
- As a newcomer to the village we have been heartily welcomed at the Cricket Club and evenings with them.
- Having lived in Woolpit for less than 6 months, but having lived in several other villages in the UK, I would offer the thought that real community feeling is virtually impossible without some kind of shared communal space which is central (in some way). This does mean trying to (eg) restrict such potential spaces from becoming residential - I would think that might be a particular challenge here in Woolpit but I do believe it is essential.

- *This was one of the most noticeable and welcoming features of Woolpit when we moved here, people say Hello to those they don't know, good morning to those they do...this leads to conversation and getting to know people. people meet when they go shopping in the shops which are within walking distance, best place is tea cups and the use of the Tesco bus.*

Community spirit: found

- *Ruth does an amazing job when it comes to greeting people (and of course amazing when it comes to all other aspects of her role and her endless involvement in community- based projects, groups and meetings); she is always visible. Even when walking our dogs late in the evening, Ruth can often be seen out walking and always stops for a friendly chat. She is integral to our community and is a unique representation of values that seem to have been lost in the 35 years we have lived in Woolpit*
- *The church has opened doors to young families & Rev. Ruth & team are to be complimented.*
- *The people make the community. There is more to it than the place they meet or the activities they do.*
- *Community is something built up over the years, you cannot suddenly make it happen. As I have said, community is two-way - if the facilities/events are there people will join and come to them but only those who want to. Most of us have lived here for years and 'grown up' with each other - that's community. Long may Woolpit stay a village (larger than previous) with a centre and a heart!!*
- *People in the village are very friendly.*
- *'Community' is generated by tolerance and the ability of people to recognise another point of view without having to agree with it. We are lucky to have a good mix of people who have been in or around Woolpit for many years, and those who have only recently moved in.*
- *Woolpit is already one of the best served villages in Suffolk. It has, and attracts, community-minded people.*
- *Politeness doesn't cost anything therefore a smile or simple hello is fine but people should not feel overwhelmed by everyone they pass speaking to them. People are usually creatures of habit and will get to know neighbours who visit facilities regularly or go for walks, cycle etc. Community events are useful for getting to know others. Not entirely sure that provision of eating places or meeting in shops needs to be a priority.*
- *Greeting people on the street! We all love this in my house. Thanks for including it. Casual encounters between neighbours in neutral spaces are essential – hanging out in the centre is what makes Woolpit so special.*
- *I love the fact that people still say hello/morning on the street but sometimes feel we don't do enough family things in the village.*
- *One of the nicest things about Woolpit is the way that people still greet each other in the street; this should be maintained and indeed encouraged, particularly amongst the young.*
- *There are already community buildings and facilities suitable for village life in Woolpit. I prefer to make my own decision to whom I greet on the village streets.*
- *We are very fortunate as a village to already have all the things in question 11. We don't want to lose any of them.*
- *If we all smile at everyone we meet and say hello then people will settle in and feel welcome. The Parish Council already pay for a bimonthly diary which has good information. Most people will have checked on the Woolpit website. If new residents use the facilities, shops, church, schools, clubs etc. they will slot in.*
- *There is already a 'community feel' - it does not require re-inventing - just needs support of all the items listed.*
- *There is a strong community spirit at present. It will only be maintained by younger generations engaging and volunteering.*
- *Woolpit already has a strong community spirit for those who wish to take part in activities. All these are very well advertised in several sites throughout the village. There are 2 excellent venues in Woolpit for clubs etc. If newcomers wish to participate, they are open to do so or form other societies.*

Community spirit: concerns

- *The beauty of living in Woolpit is that it is still essentially a village. The historic centre must be preserved and the road system slanted in favour of pedestrians. It should be the hub where people meet and socialise. Too large an influx of newcomers would, I feel, destabilise the sense of community experienced at present.*
- *Little basic to assume people moving to the village will want to be part of the community. Community spirit likely to decline as village grows*
- *Woolpit is a lovely village with a strong community. I fear a large influx of new people might well destabilize the sense of community we experience at the moment. There has to be a limit on the number of newcomers as, if it is as large as present planning applications indicate, the current residents would be swamped and side-lined.*

- *The village is essentially welcoming already and it is up to the newcomer to make the efforts for inclusion. What is the most important factor is to keep the village a rural centre and not to expand the housing to such an extent that it is an extension to Bury St Edmunds or Stowmarket.*
- *The community at present is supportive and caring - too many new residents too quickly could destroy this.*
- *The village has a good community spirit and is a good place to live. It will be overwhelmed and thoroughly ruined by development out of sync with natural and gradual organic growth.*
- *One of the delightful things about living in Woolpit is the great sense of community that prevails. I cannot see how this will be retained if large-scale development is allowed.*
- *Any arrivals under 30 years of age do not engage in village activities except mother and toddler groups. We have all these items now. Woolpit North will kill all of this.*

Community spirit: not found

- *Once the community feel is lost, it will be gone for ever, and will result in increased vandalism etc.*
- *Everyone used to know everyone and everyone was polite but that has changed since the village was expanded. The Woolpit fair was always a good way to build the community but it no longer happens.*
- *Many new residents are not interested in a 'community feel' in the village, they use the school, health centre, but very few support village events.*
- *You can't force people to take part in village life, but you can encourage them by letting them know what facilities are available.*
- *I would not wish to see forms of 'nannying' being introduced. The existence of village facilities, annual events and a range of clubs and societies provides sufficient opportunity for integration.*
- *Greeting people on the street seems not to be much appreciated as is talking to people in the queues in the Co-op! Allotments? Neighbourhood Watch areas?*
- *The additional housing and the number of people who occupy these developments has contributed to a greater sense of loss of community living; it is increasingly feeling like a town environment with increased bullying and crime. Existing residents already feel like outsiders with newer residents overpowering amenities and dominating roads.*
- *You already have separate neighbourhoods, namely The Green, The Heath & Borley Green. It is hard living there to feel you are part of Woolpit.*

Community buildings

- *It is v. important that the village has the correct level of community buildings, but these do not have to be centrally located. Woolpit North (if developed) should be strongly considered as having an element of community buildings / facilities that will be created for the whole village.*
- *Woolpit already has community buildings and facilities in its centre. There are also many clubs and societies taking place each week/month. As for greeting people on the streets of Woolpit, that is an individual decision. We do not live in a nanny state where we have to be told to be sociable. Woolpit is already a friendly village.*
- *The school could (should) be more of a community asset. We need some public toilets for visitors to the village. A library would be good for the community. Outdoor pool.*
- *We are privileged in having a village hall (possibly underused). May be a 'drop in' at Church twice a year, refreshments etc.*

Facilities for the young

- *Must include all people in village! especially the young. Keep fit etc ... not just highbrow stuff! More needed for young families. Football pitch needed & team, not just things for old people.*
- *I think the village should have some clubs for children.*
- *The village is already quite good at this but provision for younger people is relatively lacking.*
- *We should encourage younger families to move into the village by making the facilities an incentive for children and teenagers.*
- *I feel that provision for "youth" needs careful consideration. we have tried to run a youth club in the village, but experienced problems getting regular help. There was a church run group and it may be time for secular input and for all the village to accept responsibility for the youth of village.*
- *I think the range of clubs is great in Woolpit for kids, through the school or not.*
- *Need more social clubs etc for younger children / teens / young adults.*
- *More provision for younger/teenage people is in short supply. More needed.*
- *If village is to have more family housing we need to have entertainment for the youngsters in the village or we invite trouble with bored youths causing trouble. We can't rely on Elmswell to provide it.*

Other comments and suggestions

- *Not sure where to write this but wondered about setting up a 'knit and natter group' or some such thing. Am not aware of any craft group like this but if there is then better advertising is needed?!*
- *Refurbish village hall/centre - needs to be more welcoming / user friendly.*
- *Make sure all societies provide a welcome for all people and cliques are not created*
- *Reinstate a proper Post Office.*
- *Don't know who to trust, with all these newcomers.*
- *The loss of the street fair has had a huge impact on the village. We should implement new clubs and societies to make the community stronger again. More shops and housing/people/schools will make us a town and take us farther apart*
- *Community watch/neighbourhood watch*
- *We must all try to keep the village as a village. The centre of the village is important. It must look its best because that is what visitors see first. The upkeep of the triangle is imperative. Is there a designated working party who look after this part of the village?*
- *Again we should encourage cultural exchange hosting a LGBTQ Pride event.*
- *It is to me a shame we do not have the street party with the funfair any more, I did hear it was stopped because of insurance reasons, what tosh, health and safety gone mad. Why do you need insurance, it's a street party for the community, thank God we are coming out of the EU with all their rules and regulations, I must say we are probably the only country in Europe who had all these laws put upon us from a rapidly growing dictatorship ie the EU.*
- *Need a bowling green*
- *Village Hall should be better utilised for community & club events etc. and better publicised. It is interesting to see the picture on the front of this publication of the village day a few years ago. You should be aware that attempts over 2 years 2015 & 2016 were made by the 'Woolpit Festival' committee with support from the ARC nursery school & the church but no interest was shown in it by the local population & was dropped from the agenda this year as a consequence.*
- *More walks needed!*
- *Develop circular walk routes for dog walkers & casual walkers.*
- *Pedestrianise the [triangle] area (safe for electric wheelchairs to be used), with cars parked in an extended car park opposite the church, or can this [triangle] be surfaced differently? for cars & pedestrians, e.g. Poynton, Cheshire.*
- *This survey has been commended by several as v. welcome but sadly years in coming.*
- *Problem is there's not many places to eat & meet. The Swan never open on a Sunday; not very welcoming on a Sat. night. The Bull isn't very impressive yet! It would be so nice to have a 'café/bar' so working people can go in the evening. Tea Cups is v. nice but really only caters for those at home.*