



St Stephen-in-Brannel Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Survey

June 2018

Introduction

St Stephen-in-Brannel Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group conducted a survey of households in the St Stephen-in-Brannel Parish in April/May 2018.

The survey was designed by Neighbourhood Plan consultants Boscawen CEP¹ and delivered to all households in the Parish using Royal Mail.

The aim of the survey was to draw out what was valued by residents of the Parish and how such elements may be affected by potential future development in the Parish.

Boscawen CEP were commissioned to collate and present a broad analysis of the survey findings. That analysis forms the basis of this report.

¹ www.boscawencep.com

Return rate

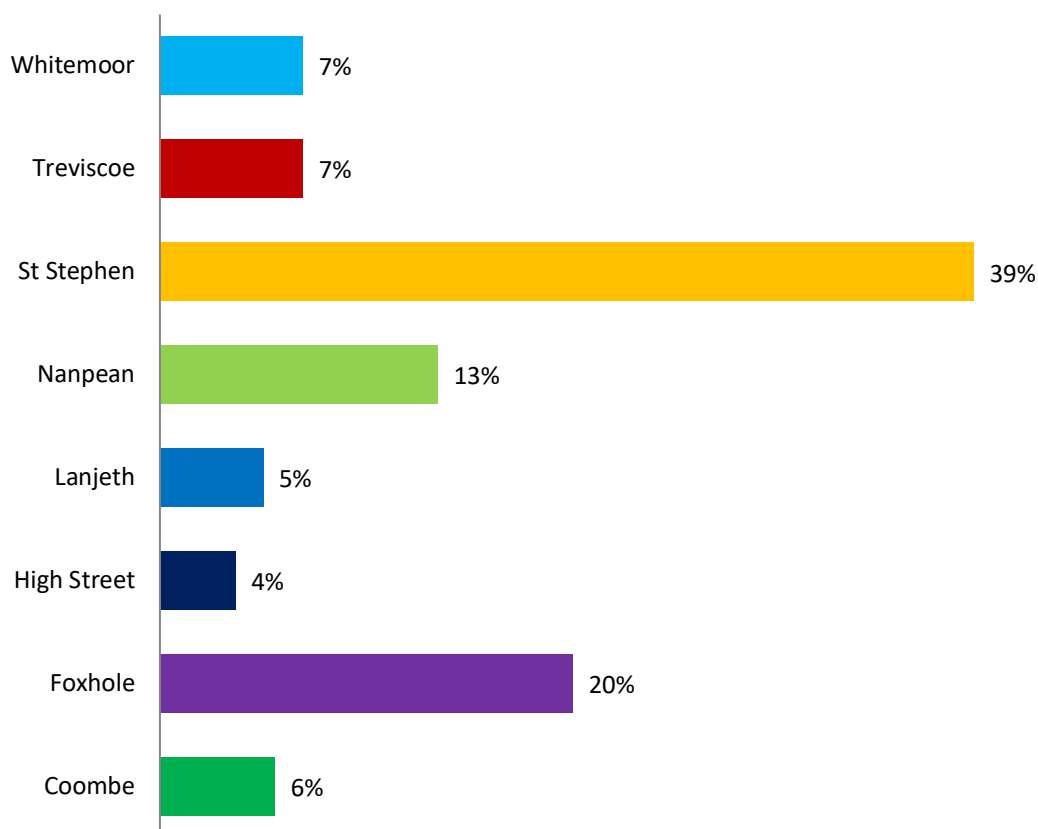
A survey was delivered by Royal Mail to all households within the Parish. The survey offered a number of inducements to parishioners to elicit an enhanced response rate, including one (A £50 Amazon voucher) aimed specifically at residents aged under 18 years.

Each survey contained a C6 freepost envelope in order to make returning the survey as easy as possible.

Of the 3,162 surveys distributed, 487 were returned using the freepost envelope. An additional 24 were returned by hand to the Parish Council offices and another 112 were completed online using SurveyMonkey. In total, there were 623 responses.

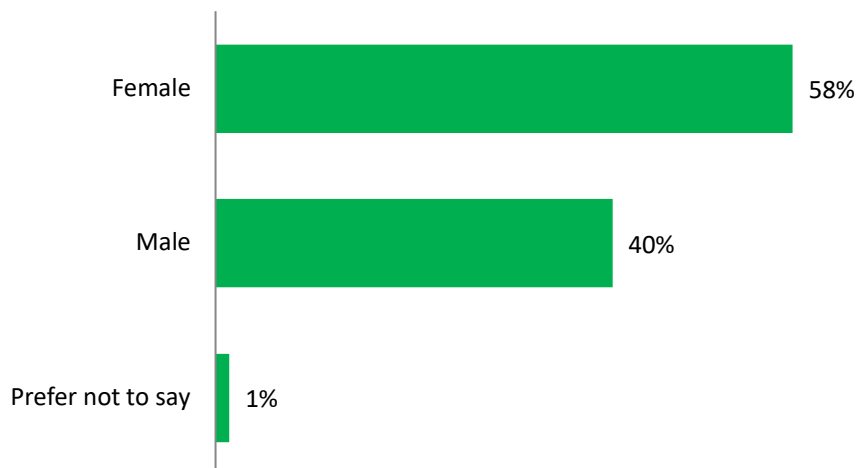
The questions

Q1: In which village do you live in?



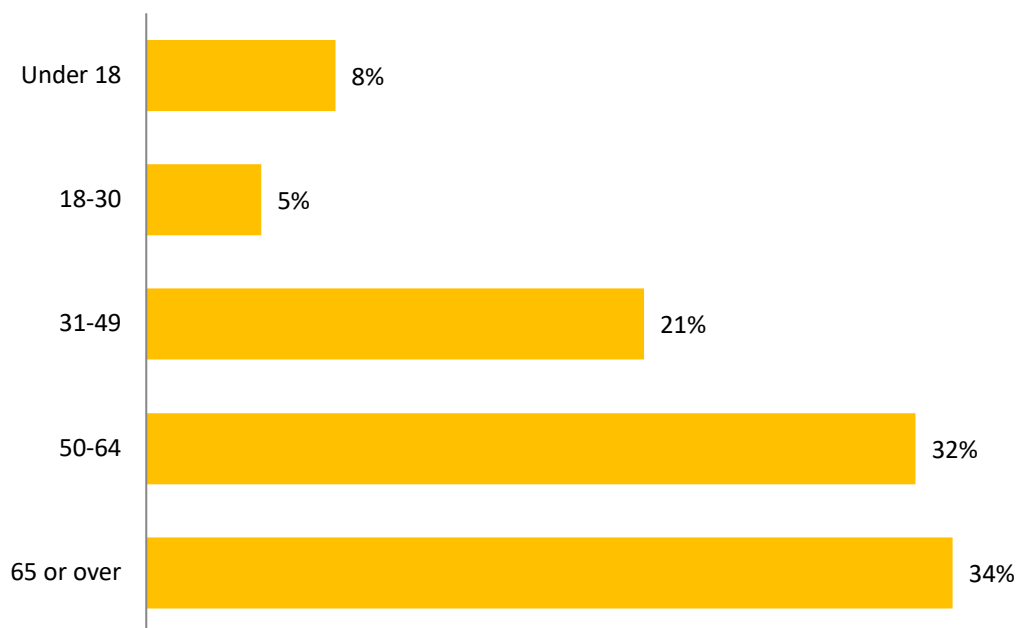
The majority of respondents were from the two largest settlements of St Stephen (39%) and Foxhole (20%). Although Cornwall Council do not provide population statistics for smaller villages, comparison with the electoral register shows that broadly speaking the return rate across the settlements was fairly even. The only significant variation was that St Stephen Village is over represented in the survey in comparison with its population, and Foxhole is under represented. Some 27 respondents wrote in their address as 'other' including respondents living in Trelyon, Goonmaris, Hay. There were also a number of rural postcodes.

Q4: What is your gender?



The gender breakdown of respondents was 58% female and 42% Male with 1.4% of respondents declining to answer the question. This appears to show a slight over representation of female responses when compared with the 2011 Census statistics for the Parish (Female 51.1%: Male 48.9%).

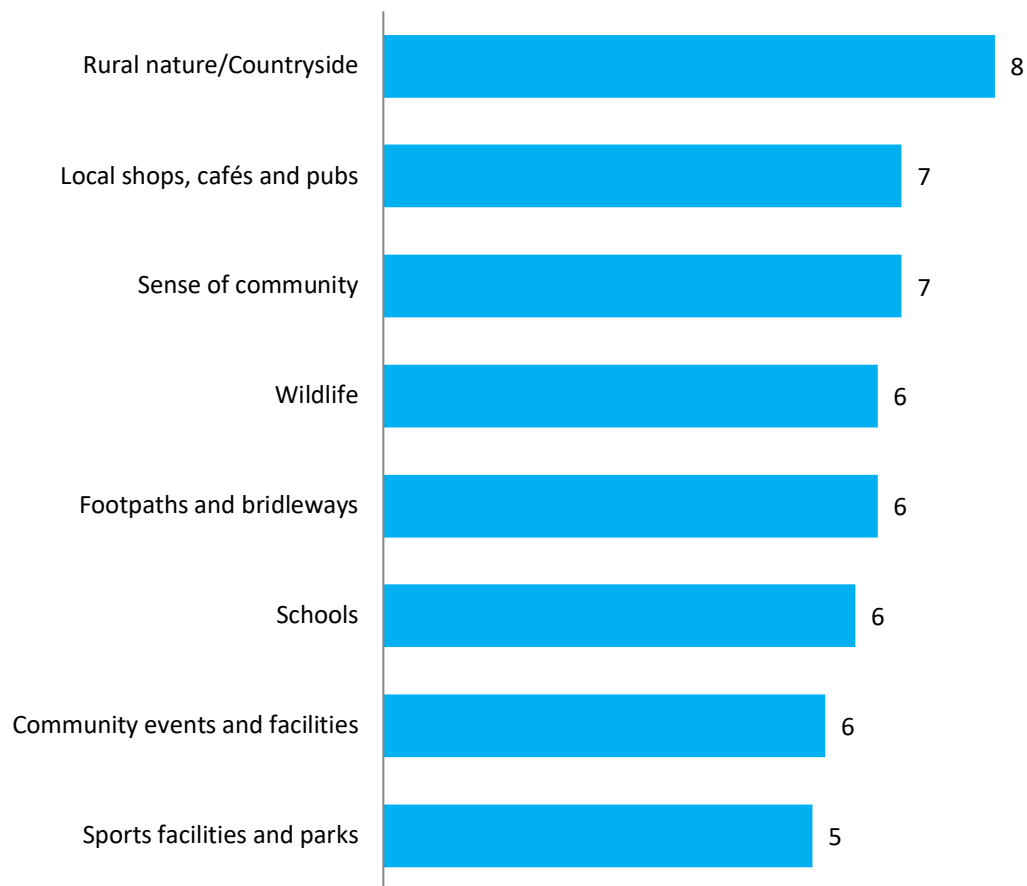
Q5: What age range do you fall into?



Surveys completed in other parishes have shown that older age groups tend to be over-represented in Neighbourhood Plan surveys. In an attempt to attract a younger demographic, an inducement (a £50 Amazon voucher) was offered to those aged under 18 in order to participate and the survey was also made available online through SurveyMonkey.

Whilst this was seen to be partially successful, leading to a spike in under 18 participation compared to those aged 18-30, the 2011 Census data shows returns from those aged 65 and over are considerably over represented, by approximately 13-14%. This over representation in the older demographic should be born in mind when drawing conclusions about residents' needs and wishes.

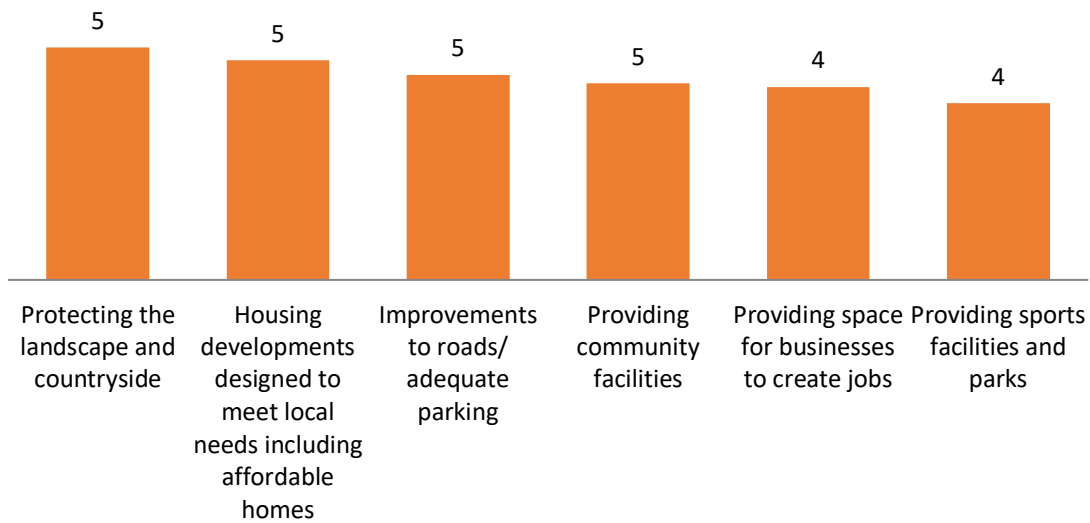
Q6: What are the three things you like most about living in our Parish?



Ranking questions calculate the average ranking for each answer choice so we can determine which answer choice was most preferred overall. The answer choice with the largest average ranking is the most preferred choice, taking into account the weight of ranked position and the response count for the answer choice.

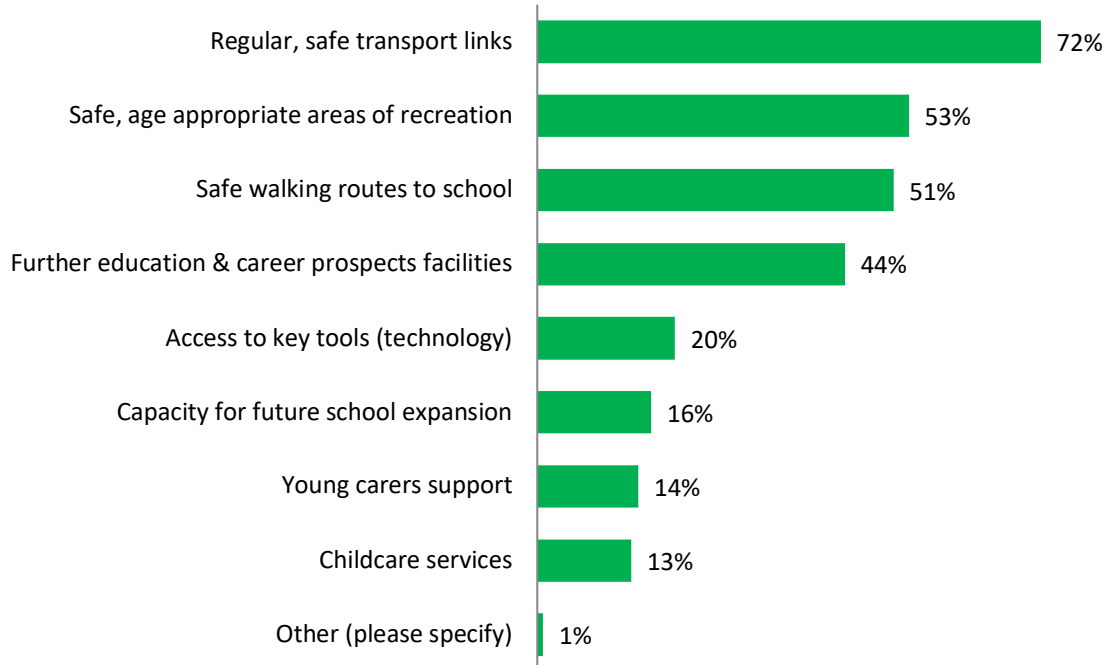
The rural nature/countryside of the area was clearly what people liked most about living in the Parish with 542 response counts and a ranking score of 7.68. Wildlife and sense of community scored second and third place respectively on response count and sense of community and local shops cafes and pubs scored second and third respectively in ranking scores.

Q7: When development proposals are put forward in our Parish in coming years, what are the three most important things that should be considered?



Protecting the landscape and countryside was thought to be the most important issue to consider when looking at development proposals. 490 respondents named this as one of their three most important issues.

Q8: Which of the following facilities or resources are most important to you?

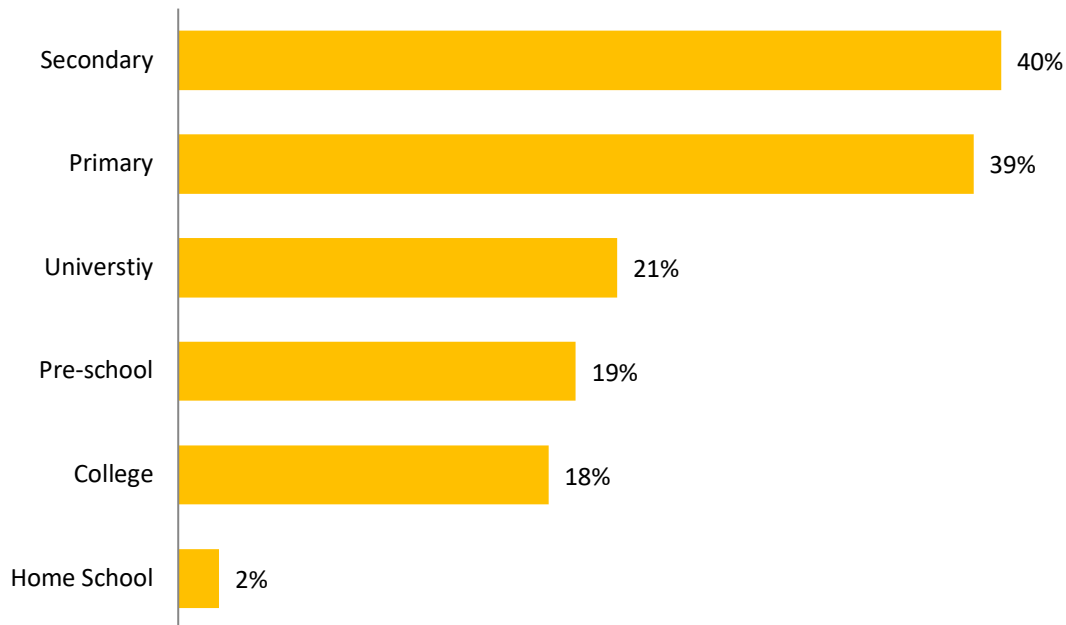


Regular, safe transport links was the clear top choice for which facilities and resources were considered the most important to young people with 72% (424) of respondents naming this as one of the top three most important resources for young people. Further education & career prospects facilities; safe, age appropriate areas of recreation; and safe walking routes to school also scored highly.

The following free text choices were also provided:

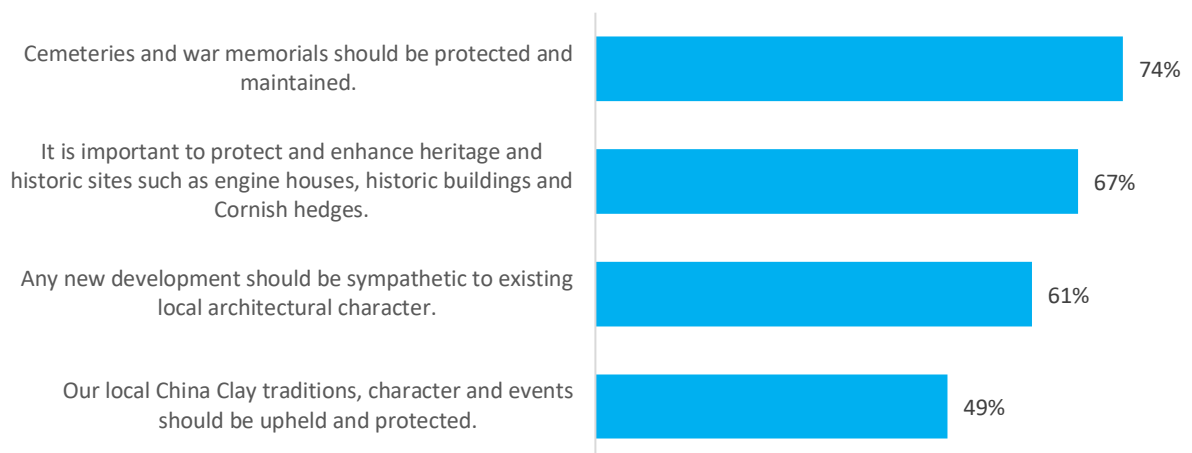
- Better schools
- Traffic calming
- Return of school to local authority control, to avoid paying for unnecessarily created academy managers/executives
- Cleanliness
- School transport for rural families

Q9: Do you have children in education? If yes, at:



149 respondents (24%) had children in education, mostly at primary and secondary school. This figure is likely to be under-represented given the over-representation of older respondents.

Q10: How strongly would you agree with the following statements?

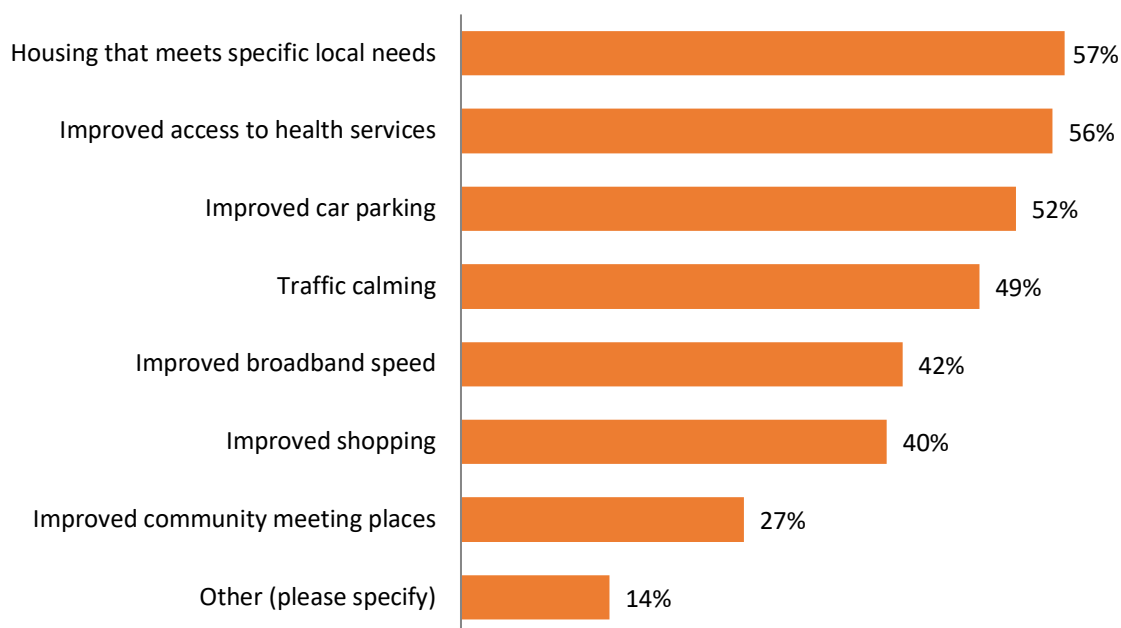


The chart shows the percentage of people who 'strongly agree' with the statements

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
It is important to protect and enhance heritage and historic sites such as engine houses, historic buildings and Cornish hedges.	67.48%	413	29.90%	183	2.29%	14	0.33%	2
Our local China Clay traditions, character and events should be upheld and protected.	49.26%	298	43.14%	261	6.12%	37	1.49%	9
Any new development should be sympathetic to existing local architectural character.	61.05%	373	33.72%	206	3.93%	24	1.31%	8
Cemeteries and war memorials should be protected and maintained.	73.80%	445	25.54%	154	0.33%	2	0.33%	2

The table above shows that most people strongly agreed with all of the statements.

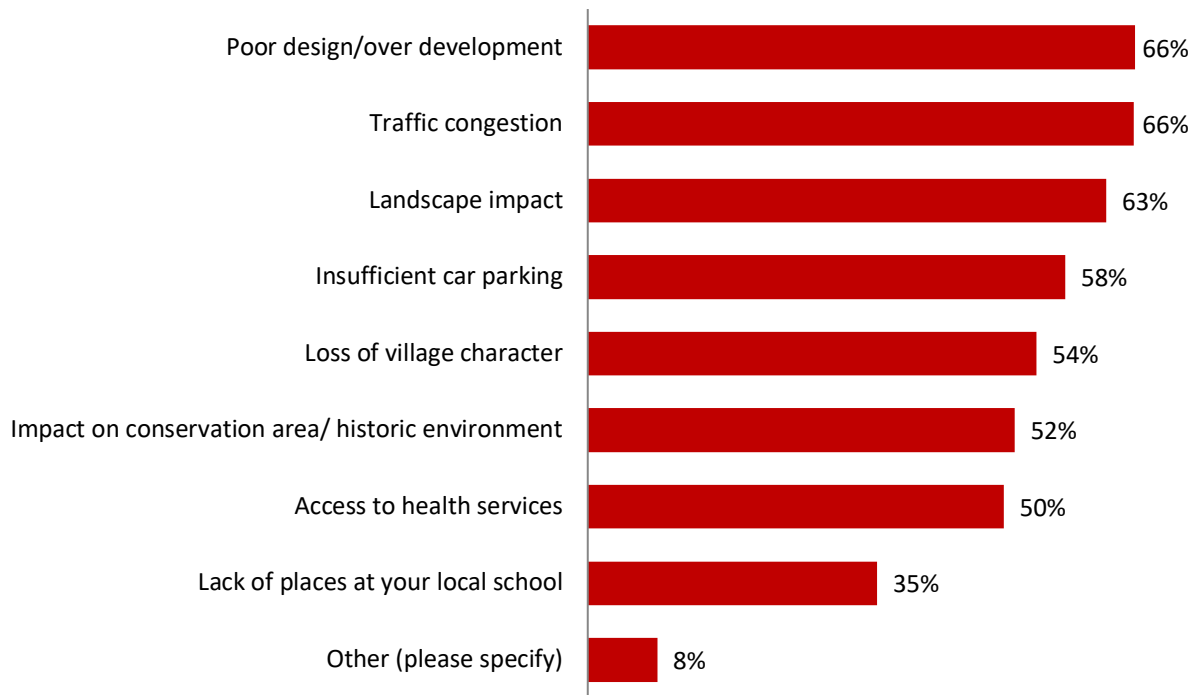
Q11: What improvements would you like any future new development to bring to your community?



The most popular choice for what improvements respondents would like any future new development to bring to the community was housing that meets specific local needs with 346 (57%) respondents choosing this option. More than half of respondents also selected improved access to health services and improved car parking.

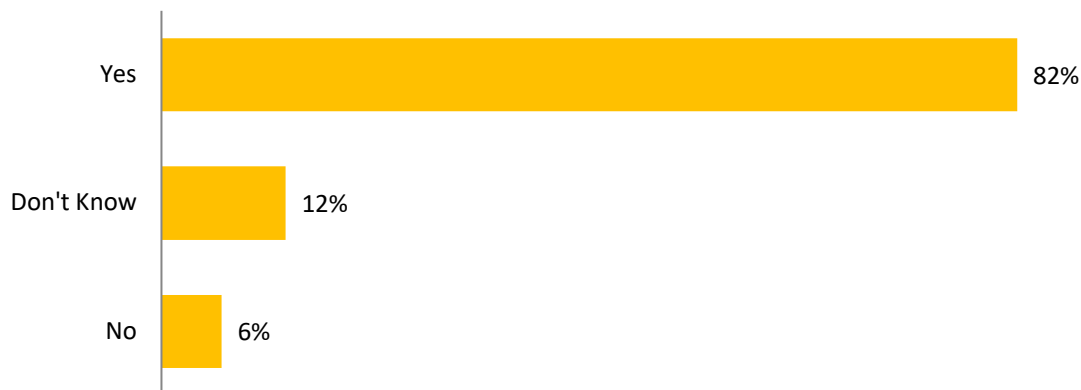
There were a number of 'other' responses with many focussing on reintroducing post offices and stating that there should be no development.

Q12: What concerns you about the potential negative impact of new residential development in your village?



Poor design/over development was the biggest concern for respondents. Over 60% of respondents also cited landscape impact and traffic congestion as a concern. There were a large number of 'other' responses with a focus on roads and traffic, crime, and affordable housing for local people.

Q13: Do you think building land should be made available to enable elderly, disabled or vulnerable people (with a link to the Parish) to live independently? For example, assisted accommodation for the elderly, buildings adapted for people with mobility issues, or a building capable of providing day care.



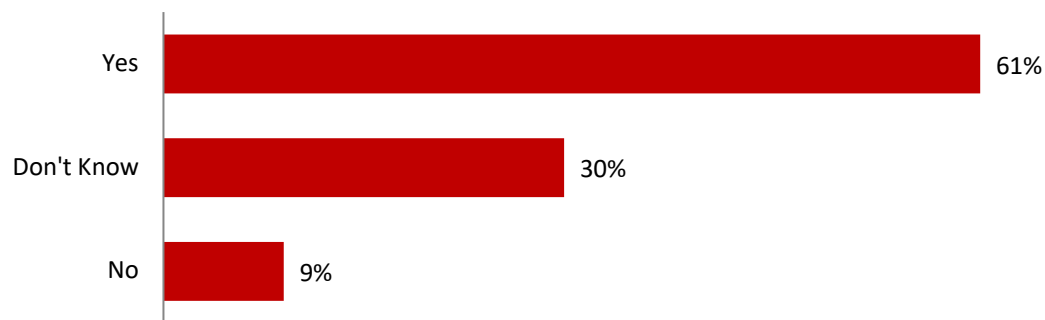
The clear majority of respondents (82%) felt that building land should be made available to enable elderly, disabled or vulnerable people (with a link to the Parish) to live independently.

Q14: Do you think that we should prioritise affordable new homes for people with a local connection?



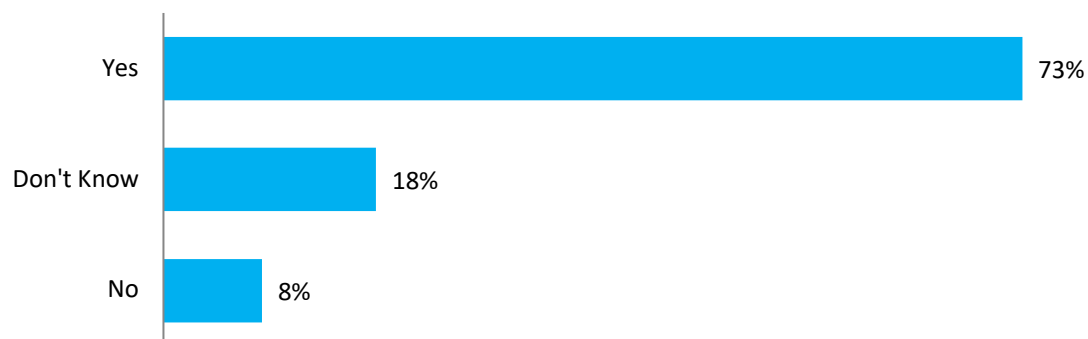
The clear majority of respondents (84%) felt that people with a local connection should be prioritised for affordable new homes.

Q15: Settlement boundaries around our villages could be used in the Plan to help contain new development. Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group should consider settlement boundaries further?



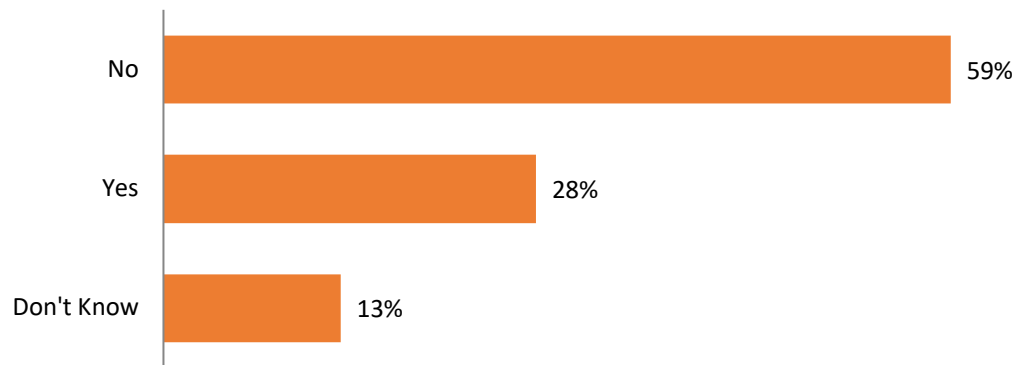
A majority of people (61%) felt that settlement boundaries should be considered further.

Q16: As part of the Neighbourhood Plan we could produce a Design Guide to inform developers about how we would like new developments to look and what features we want to see included. Do you think we should prepare a Design Guide?



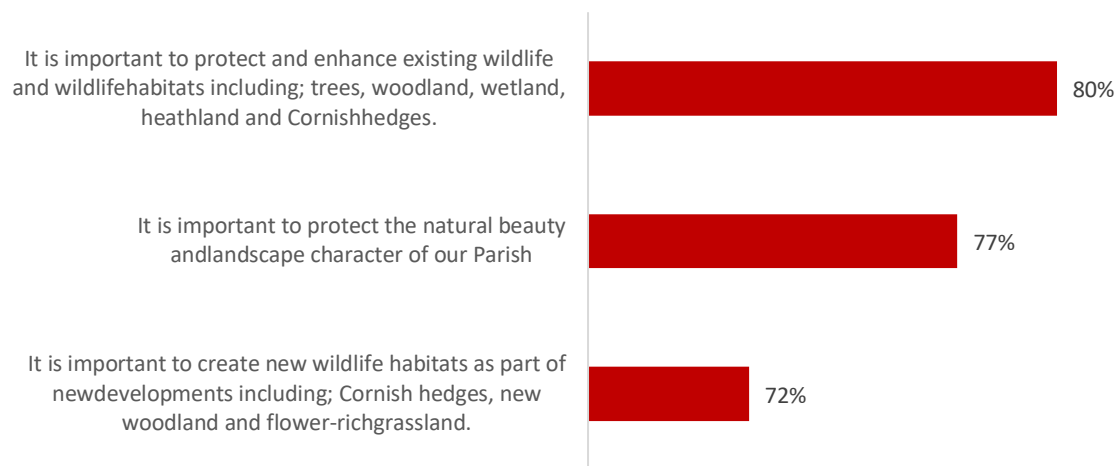
The majority of people (73%) thought that the steering group should produce a design guide.

Q17: If available, would you be interested in an affordable plot of land on which to self-build?



One third of respondents would be interested in an affordable self build plot.

Q18: How far do you agree with the following statements?



	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	
It is important to protect the natural beauty and landscape character of our Parish.	77.14	469	22.53	137	0.33	2	0.00	0	608
It is important to protect and enhance existing wildlife and wildlife habitats including; trees, woodland, wetland, heathland and Cornish hedges.	79.60	480	20.07	121	0.33	2	0.00	0	603
It is important to create new wildlife habitats as part of new developments including; Cornish hedges, new woodland and flower-rich grassland.	71.98	429	25.84	154	2.01	12	0.17	1	596

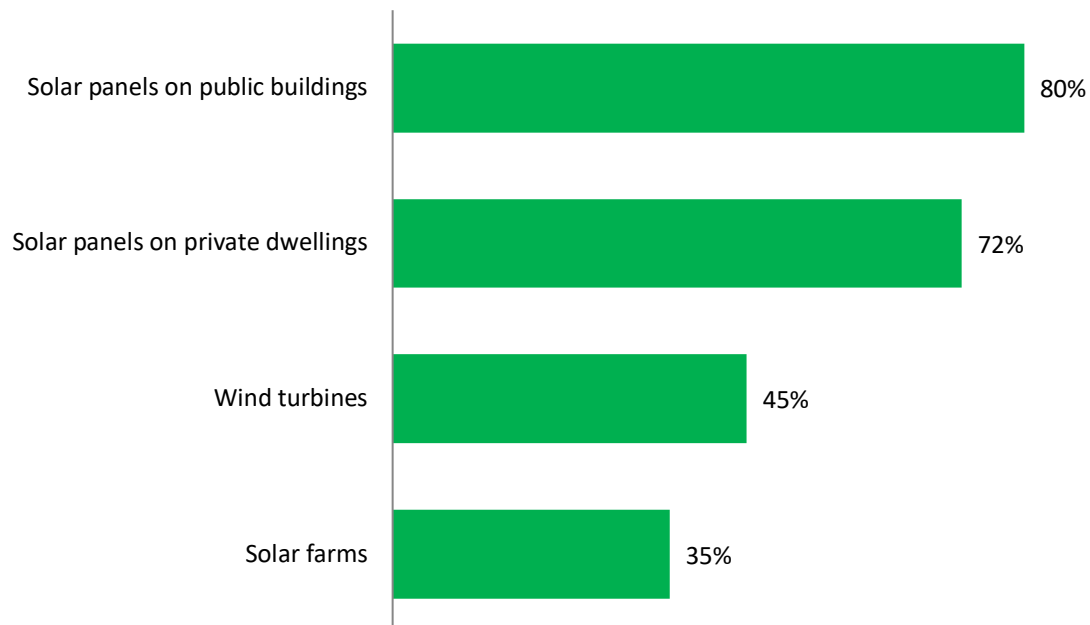
The majority of respondents agreed with the statements regarding landscape and natural beauty, with very few respondents feeling that landscape and natural beauty should not be a consideration.

Q19: Are you generally in favour of renewable energy in this area?



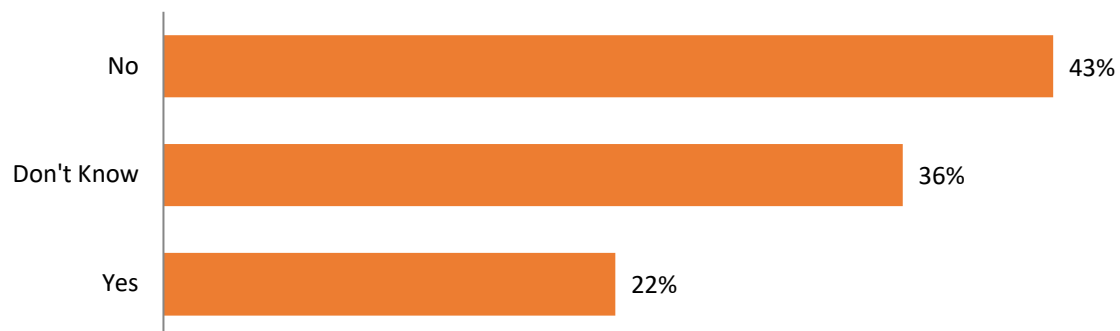
A clear majority of respondents (81%) were generally in favour of renewable energy. There was a variation as to whether respondents were generally in favour of renewable energy according to age. Of yes/no responses where we know respondents' ages, 93% of those aged 18-30 were in favour, whilst only 74% of those aged over 65 were in favour.

Q20: If your answer was YES to Q19, do you feel we should consider:



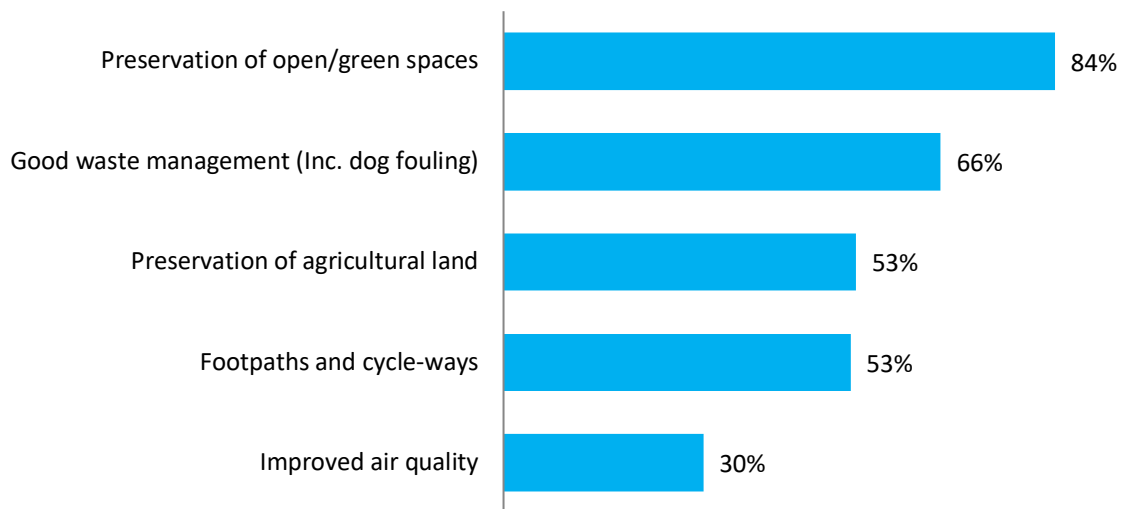
Solar panels were the most popular choice of renewable energy for the Parish with over 70% of respondents selecting these options.

Q21: If you answered 'NO' to Q19, would you change your mind if the renewables brought benefits to the local community?



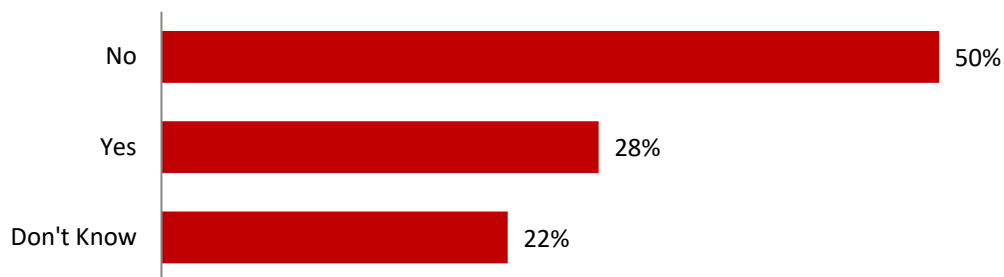
43% of respondents who were not generally in favour of renewable energy would not change their mind if renewables brought benefits to the community.

Q22: Looking ahead, which of the following do you think would be most important to you?



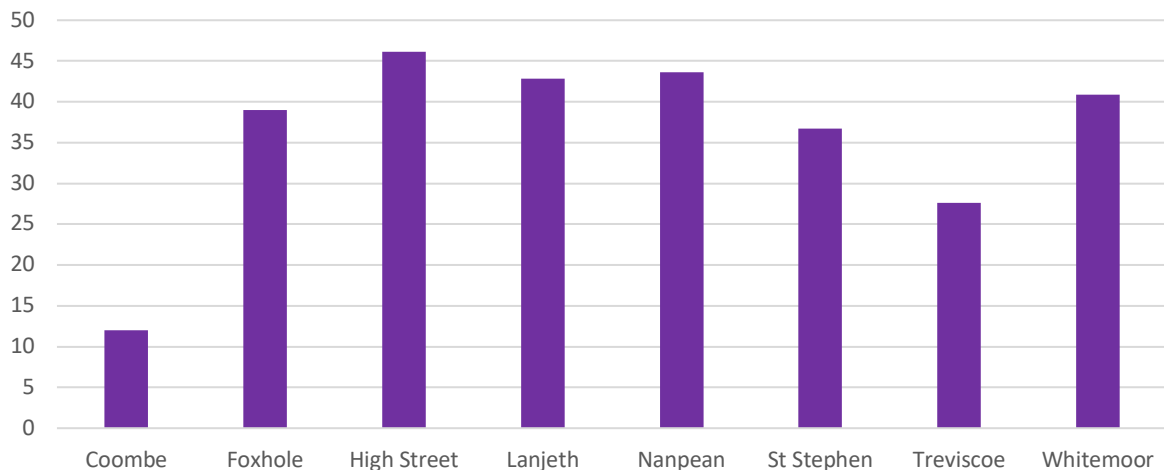
Preservation of open/green spaces is the most important issue for respondents with 54% of respondents selecting this choice.

Q23: Do you think that current public transport provision is adequate for the needs of your village?



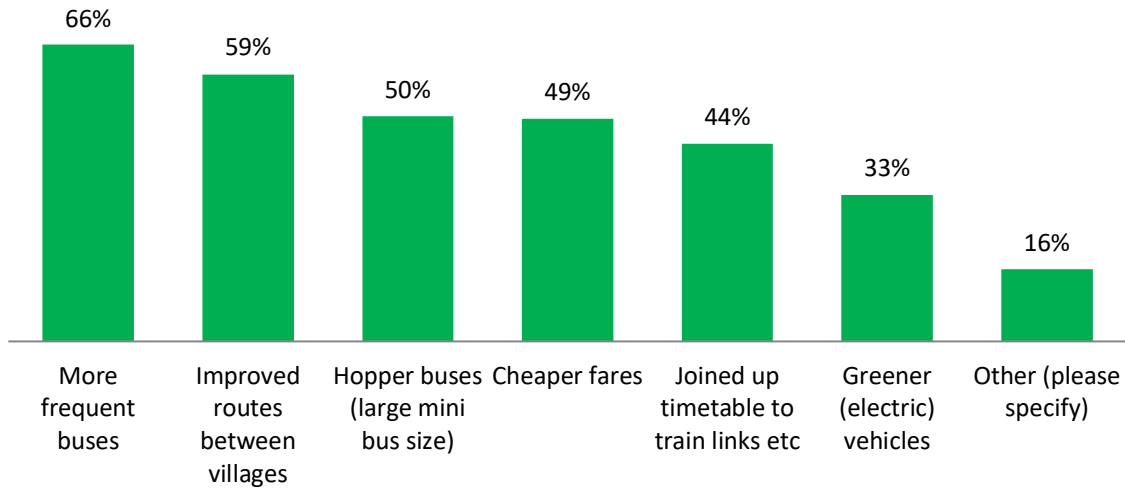
There was a mixed response on public transport, with 28% of respondents feeling that public transport provision is adequate, 50% feeling that it was not and 22% didn't know. There was huge variation between villages in response to this question.

Think public transport is adequate



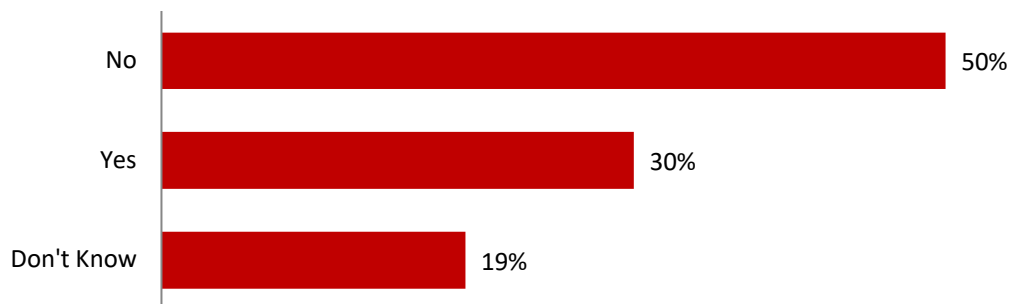
Of yes/no responses where we know the respondent's village, 76% of respondents living in Coombe felt that public transport provision for their village was inadequate, whilst only 12% of respondents living in Nanpean felt that public transport provision for their village was inadequate.

Q24: If you answered 'NO' to Q23, what could improve public transport?



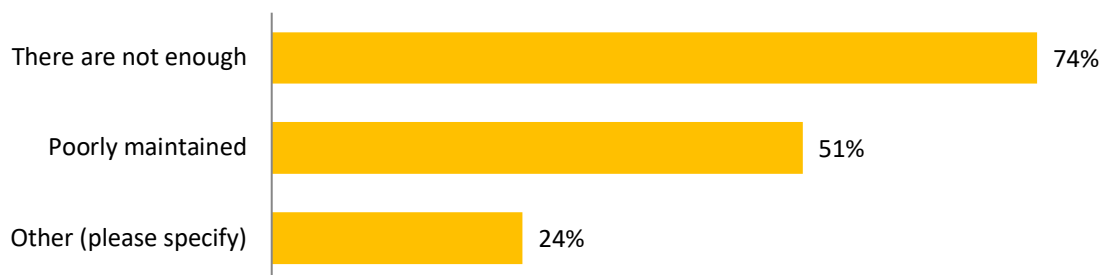
Over 50% of respondents who completed this question felt that more frequent buses, hopper buses, and improved bus routes between villages would improve public transport. There were a large number of 'other' responses, many with a focus on cycleways and train services (some using the former clay lines), later buses and buses on Sundays, and bus routes to rural areas.

Q25: Are bridleways, footpaths and cycle paths adequate within your area?



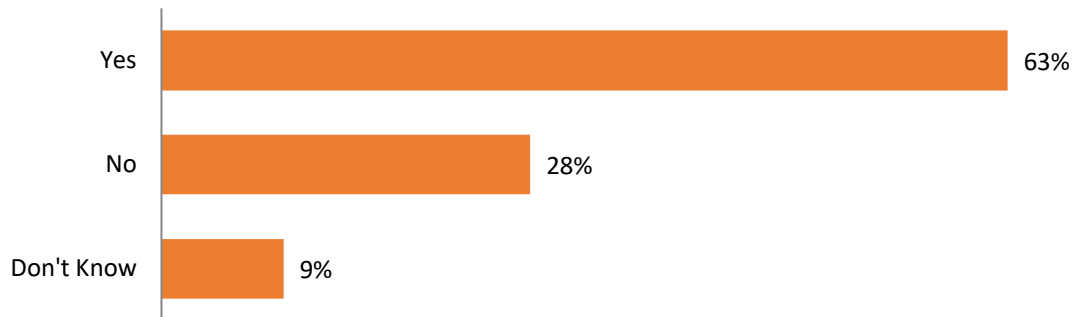
Half of respondents felt that bridleways, footpaths and cycle paths in their area were not adequate.

Q26: If you answered 'NO' to Q25, why do you think they are inadequate?

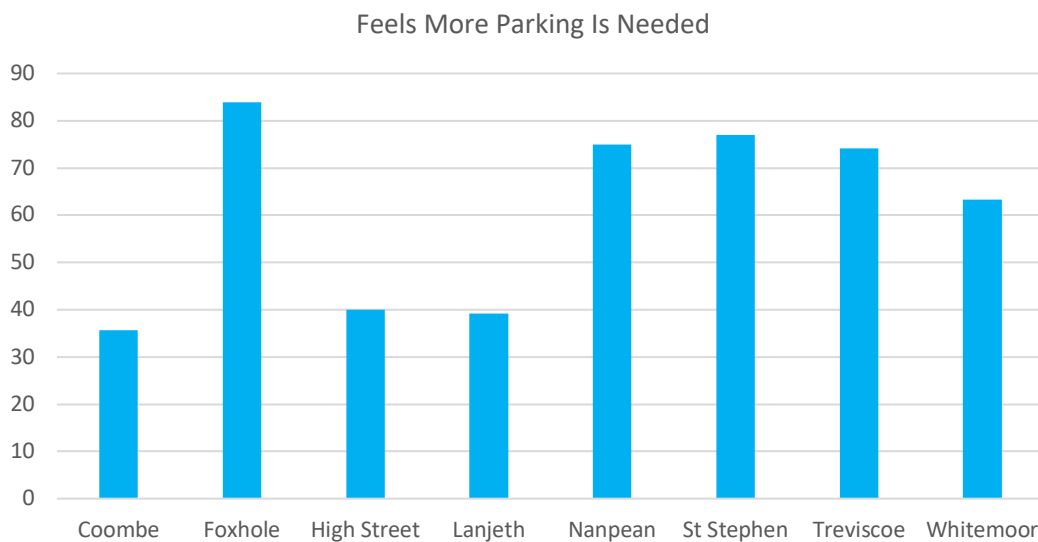


Three quarters of respondents who felt that bridleways, footpaths and cycle paths were not adequate stated that there are not enough. There were a number of 'other' responses including that they are not linked together, that they had been lost to the incinerator, and dog fouling was an issue.

Q27: Do we need more parking for cars in your local village?

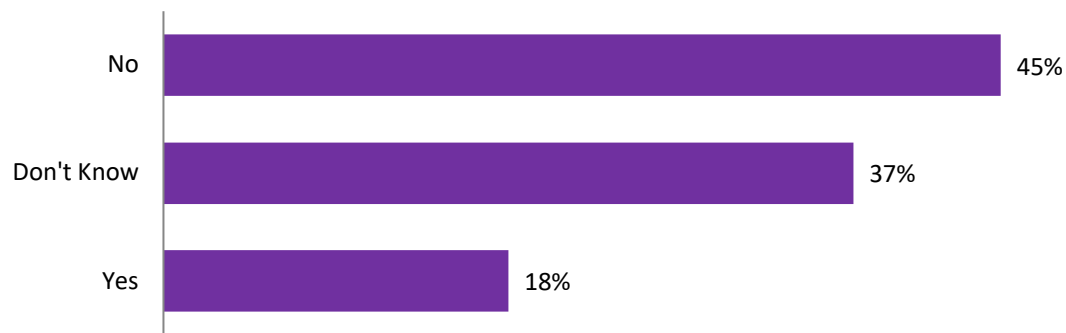


63% of respondents felt that more parking was needed in their village. There was significant variation between villages when respondents were asked if they need more car parking.



Of yes/no responses where we know the respondent's village, 36% of respondents in Coombe felt they needed more parking for cars in their village (perhaps unsurprising given the rural nature of the settlement). More significantly perhaps was the perceived need for more parking in some of the other settlements. This was especially the case in Foxhole, where 84% of respondents felt that more parking was needed.

Q28: Do we need more parking for cycles in your local village?



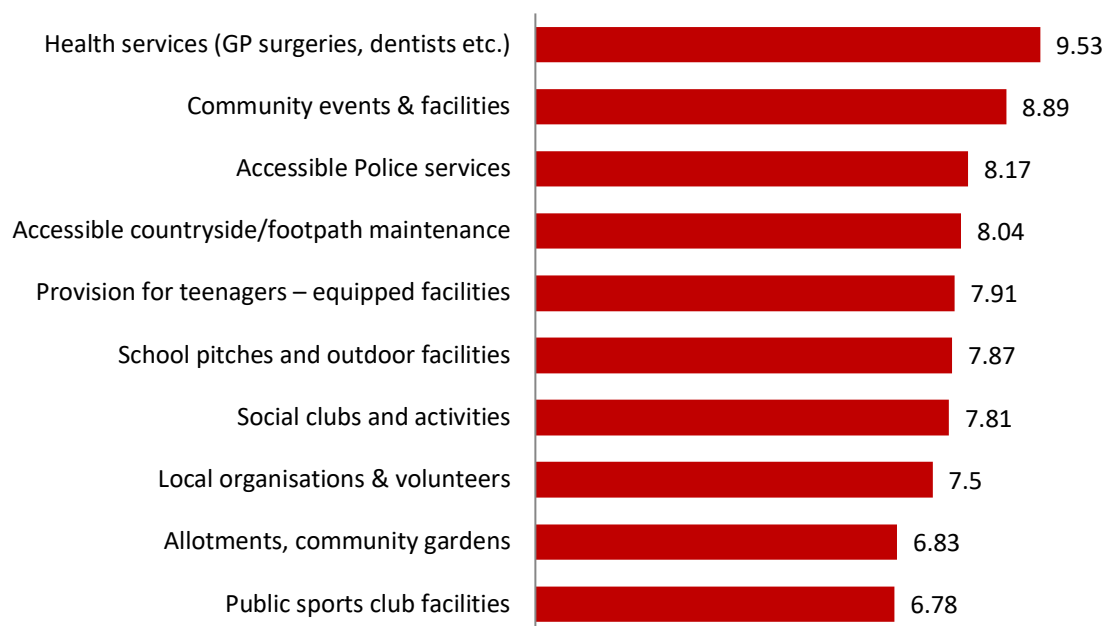
Nearly half of respondents felt that there was adequate parking for cycles in their village, but a significant number (37%) didn't know.

Q29: Should we have policies to support keeping amenities such as shops, post offices and pubs open, rather than be converted into private homes?



A clear majority of respondents (90%) agreed that there should be policies to support keeping amenities such as shops, post offices and pubs open, rather than be converted into private homes.

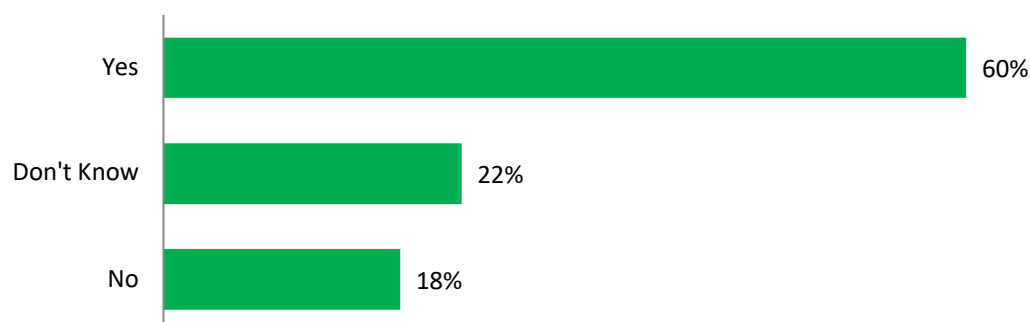
Q30: Please rate the importance of the following to you:



	1		2		3	
Community events & facilities	44.26%	108	20.08%	49	29.10%	71
Health services (GP surgeries, dentists etc.)	68.45%	345	23.81%	120	4.56%	23
Social clubs and activities	5.13%	6	23.93%	28	52.99%	62
Local organisations & volunteers	5.69%	7	30.08%	37	38.21%	47
School pitches and outdoor facilities	10.37%	14	35.56%	48	31.85%	43
Public sports club facilities	4.30%	4	24.73%	23	34.41%	32
Provision for teenagers – equipped facilities	9.47%	16	36.69%	62	36.09%	61
Allotments, community gardens	9.45%	12	29.13%	37	29.92%	38
Accessible Police services	12.10%	34	43.42%	122	33.45%	94
Accessible countryside/footpath maintenance	18.99%	49	25.58%	66	42.64%	110

Health services scored highest on what was most important for community and wellbeing locally. Community events & facilities, accessible Police services, and accessible countryside/footpath maintenance scored highly.

Q31: Do you agree that land should be made available for business use to create jobs in the Parish?



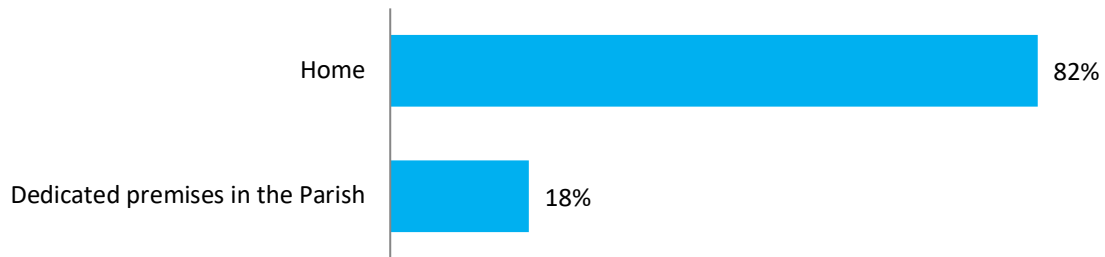
60% of respondents agreed that land should be made available for business use to create jobs in the Parish.

Q32: Do you run a business in the Parish?



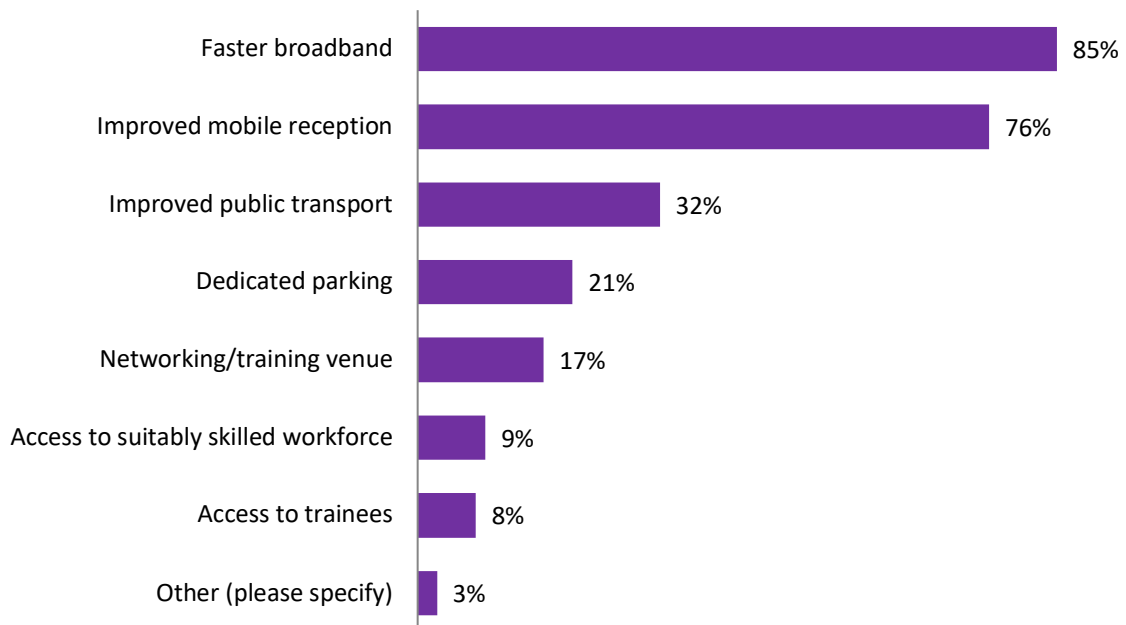
A significant number of respondents (10%) run a business in the Parish.

Q33: If you run a business, where do you run it from?



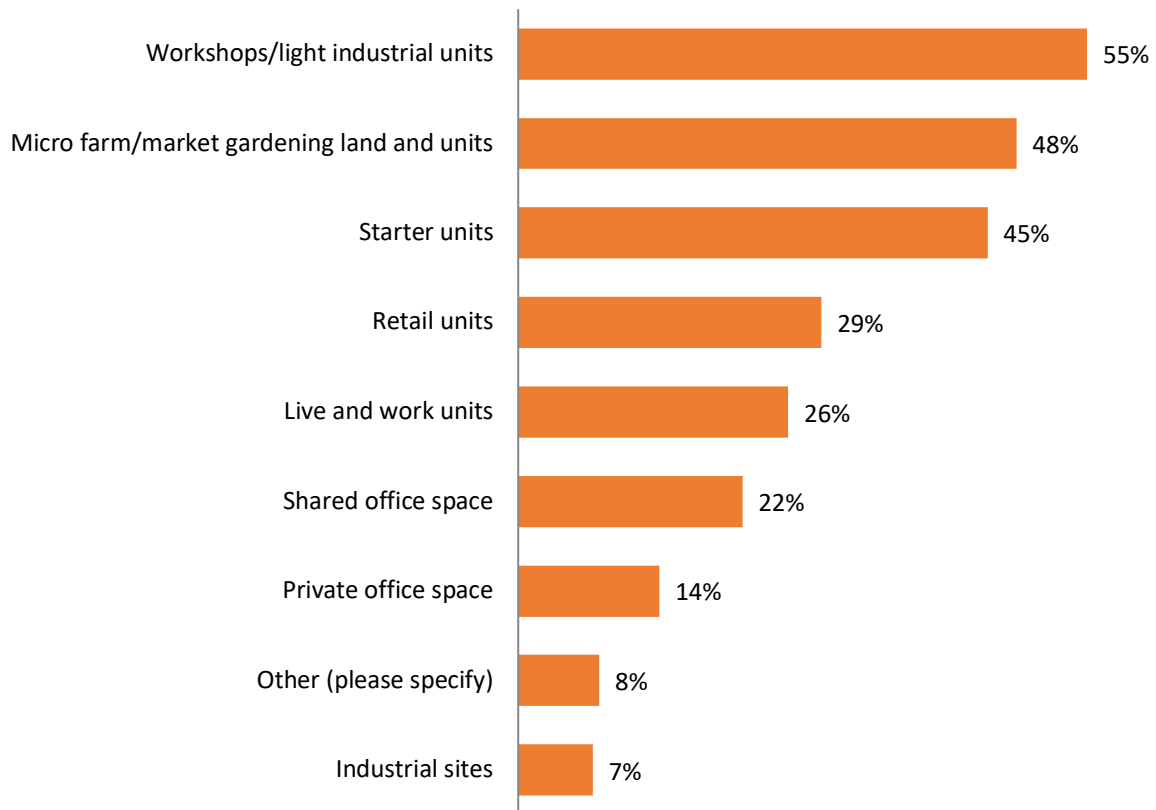
The clear majority of respondent who do run a business in the Parish run it from home.

Q34: Which of the following would improve your experience of running your business in its current location?



Of respondents who run a business in the Parish, 85% felt that faster broadband would improve their experience of running their business in its current location, and 76% felt that improved mobile reception would help.

Q35: What type of business units do you think are needed in the Parish



When asked what type of business units are needed in the Parish, around 50% of respondents selected workshops/light industrial units, micro farm/market gardening land and units, and starter units. There were a number of 'other' responses with a majority of those stating that there should be no further business units.

Q36: Do you think the Steering Group should carry on what we have started and complete a Neighbourhood Plan?



97% of respondents felt that a Neighbourhood Plan should be completed.

Conclusions

It is clear from the survey that the vast majority of respondents (97%) think that a Neighbourhood Plan for St Stephen-in-Brannel Parish is a good idea.

A household return rate of 499 (16%) for paper surveys plus an additional 96 online survey returns is not particularly high, but certainly not unusual amongst Neighbourhood Plan surveys. The return rate may partially reflect the large size and multi-settlement nature of the Parish. Larger parishes tend to have lower return rates and those with a single significant settlement, higher return rates.

This report reflects the basic conclusions that can be drawn from the data set with a few illustrative comparisons between the different settlements where this shows significant variation. A more detailed comparison between the various settlements is possible but the lower the numbers involved the less secure the conclusions we can draw from them.

Many clear conclusions can be drawn from the survey responses including the need for more affordable housing with a local connection. There is strong desire amongst respondents to protect and enhance existing community facilities such as local shops and pubs, and a need for more shoppers' parking in several of the villages. Although public transport is clearly adequate in some areas, the survey responses show a need for improvement in rural areas in particular.

Business leaders have indicated the need for faster broadband and improved mobile phone signal and public transport to help businesses prosper. There is a perceived need for additional light industrial and starter units and a surprisingly strong preference indicated for micro farms and market gardening units which should be investigated further.

Overall the rural nature of the Parish is clearly valued by local residents. How this can be protected and enhanced should be considered by the Steering Group.