

WICKHAMBROOK PARISH PLAN

2011 - 2012

FINAL REPORT



Funded by the Big Lottery Fund and Wickhambrook Parish Council



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INTRODUCTION

In May 2010 a public meeting was called by Wickhambrook Parish Council to discuss whether the community was interested in developing a Parish Plan to provide a picture of what residents and business owners thought of the parish today and how they would want to see it develop over the following 5 to 10 years.

The meeting was well attended and with guidance from the Suffolk ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) representative, those present identified numerous issues of concern ranging from housing development to traffic problems to activities available for young people. It was agreed to invite volunteers to form a Steering Committee to be charged with creating a parish-wide questionnaire, distributing it to every household and business, analysing the results and issuing a final report and action plan.

A group of volunteer residents duly formed the Wickhambrook Parish Plan Steering Committee (WPPSC) and, with the further assistance of Suffolk ACRE, successfully obtained funding from the Big Lottery Fund and a donation from the Parish Council sufficient to produce and distribute a four-part questionnaire and to print a formal summary report, action plan and a final comprehensive report.

During November 2011 Household and Individual questionnaires were delivered to 505 homes. Additional Youth and Business questionnaires were delivered to every property identified as being relevant.

A total of 388 Household and Individual questionnaires were returned resulting in a 77% response rate. A total of 704 people responded to the Individual questions and an additional 81 Youth (ages 6-17) and 33 Business questionnaires were also analysed.

This publication is a full report of the results from all four questionnaires with observations, recommendations and ideas on significant issues that have been identified. It is best printed in booklet form on A3 sized paper.

All the relevant bodies will be provided with a copy of this publication, this will include Wickhambrook Parish Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Suffolk County Council, the local Emergency Services, Transport and Environmental Services and relevant local businesses.

Where we refer to an "Approval rating" of a service, the responses to "Adequate", "Good" and "Excellent" are grouped together and divided by the total responses to that particular service.

MEMBERS OF WPPSC (Wickhambrook Parish Plan Steering Committee)

S Sumner (Chairman)	J Ashling (Treasurer)	K Harrison (Vice-Chairman)	D Griffiths	G Ashling
A Morris	K Sammons	V Mayes	J Falco	S Bradbury

HELP AND SUPPORT


"On behalf of the WPPSC, I would like to thank Suffolk ACRE, Wickhambrook Parish Council, all the volunteers who distributed and collected the questionnaires and the MSC committee. A special thanks to the Big Lottery Fund for the generous funding which they gave to the project and which was key to enabling this Parish Plan to be completed. Thank you one and all"

Steve Sumner – Chairman WPPSC – June 2012

Wickhambrook Parish Plan

Household and Individual Questionnaire

2011/12





Prize Draw

Each household returning a completed questionnaire will be given a raffle ticket and entered into a draw for a cash prize of £50. Do not forget to tick the boxes on page 7 if you completed the questionnaire online.

Distributed & Collected by: _____

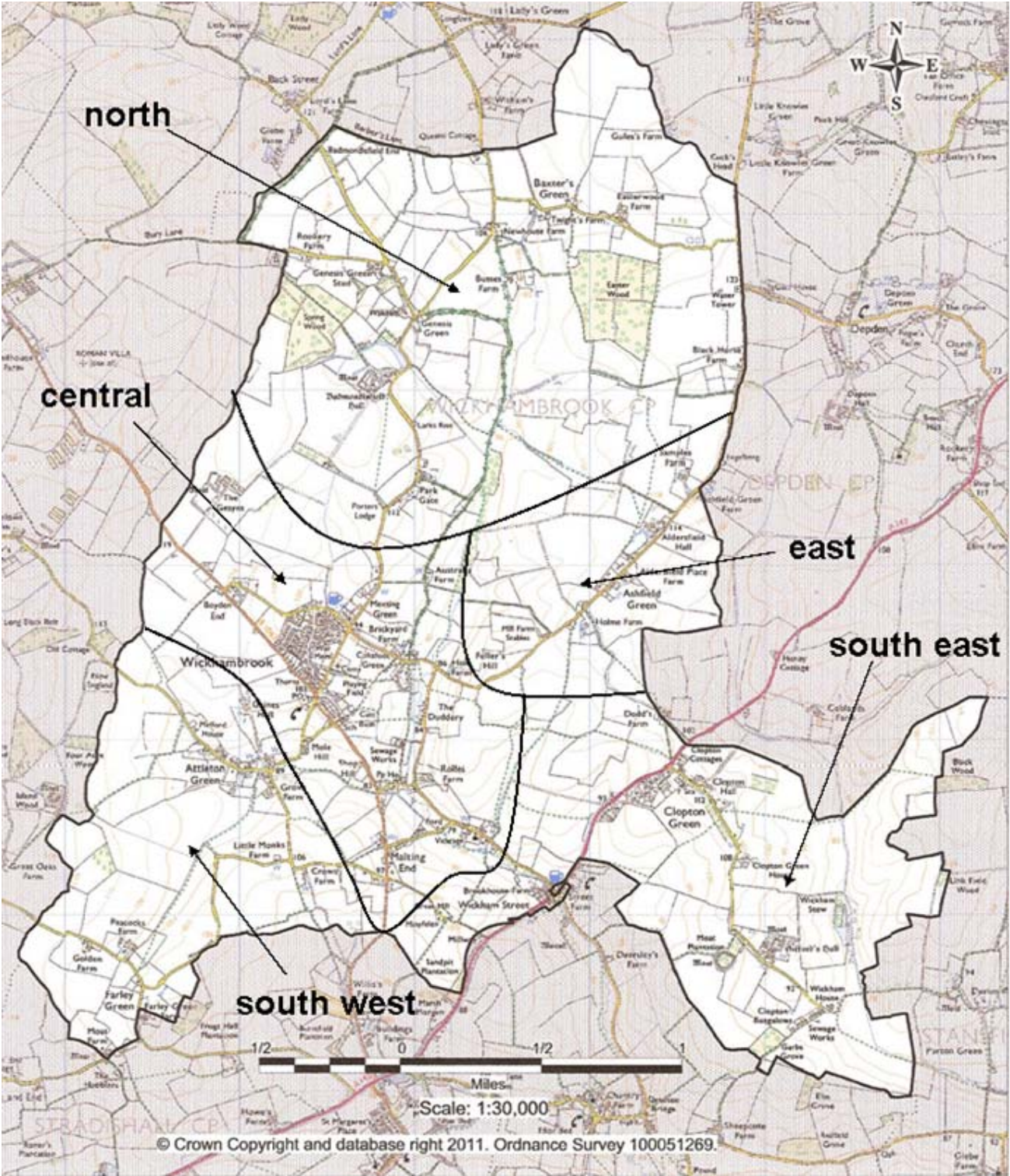
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WICKHAMBROOK PARISH MAP



WICKHAMBROOK DEMOGRAPHICS

Wickhambrook is based on a unique Saxon village pattern with houses in a number of separate greens.

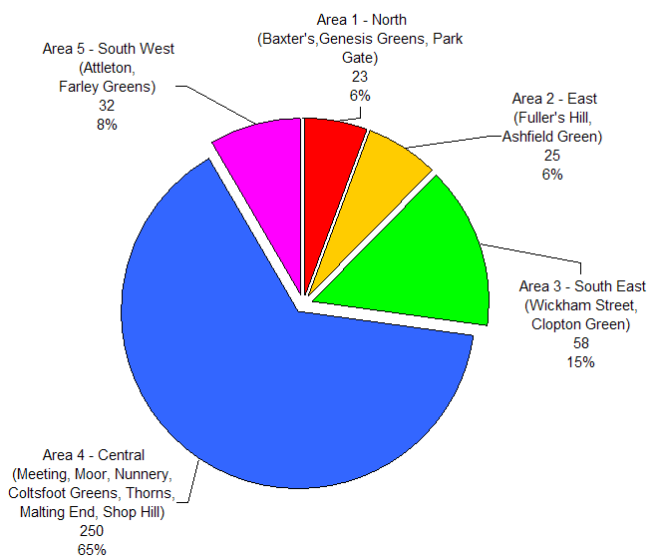
However, the majority of the homes (65%) are located in a central core of the village formed by Meeting, Moor, Nunnery, Coltsfoot Greens, Thorns, Malting End and Shop Hill.

Fifteen percent (15%) of households are in the southeast area surrounding the A143 (Wickham Street, Clopton Green), 8% in the southwest (Attleton and Farley Greens), and 6% in each of the north (Baxter's and Genesis Greens, Park Gate) and the east (Fuller's Hill, Ashfield Green).

Household Question 1

Where do you live ?

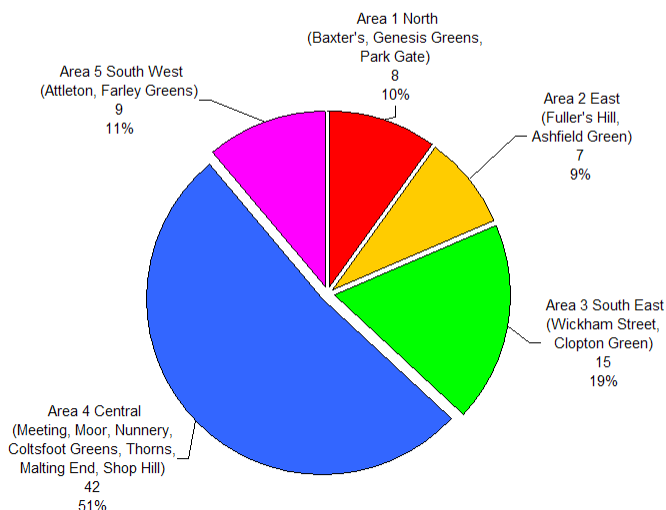
Single Selection Question - 388 households answered



Youth Question 1

Where do you live?

Single Selection Question- 81 people answered

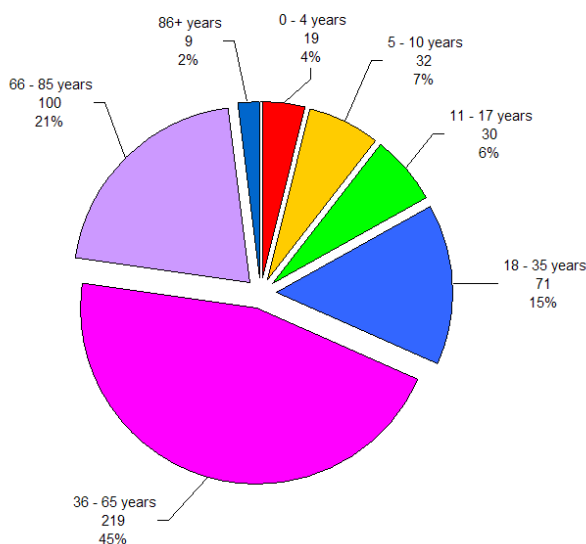


The responses from the Youth Questionnaire on where p figures with slightly fewer in the central core. The central core had 51% (youth) compared to 65% (household), the southeast 19% / 15%, the southwest 11% / 8%, the north 10% / 6% and east 9% / 6%.

Household Question 2

How many females in the following age ranges usually live in your household ?

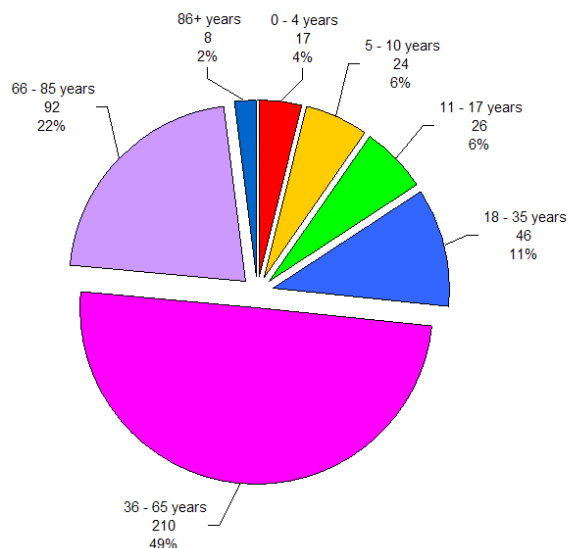
Rating Question - 358 households answered - 480 females total



Household Question 3

How many males in the following age ranges usually live in your household ?

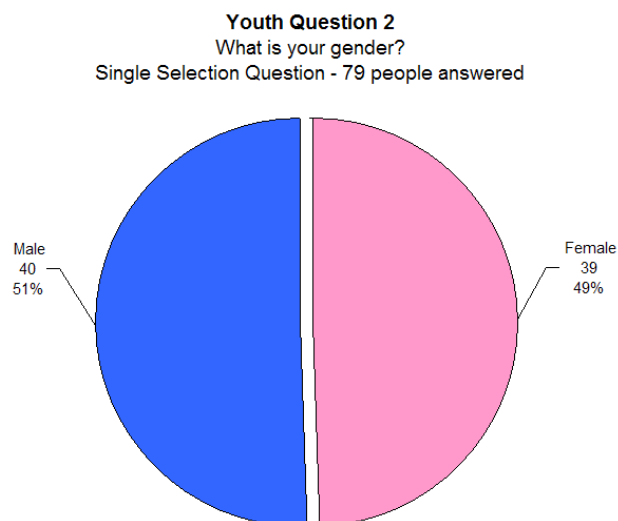
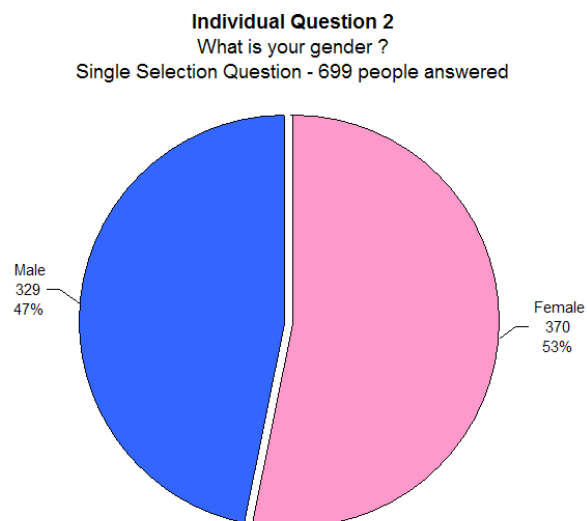
Ratings Question - 333 households answered - 423 males total



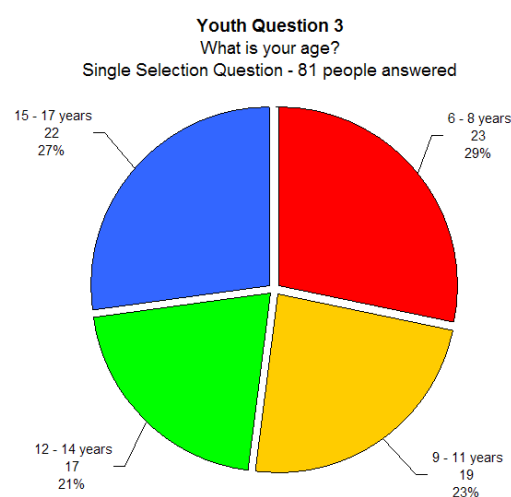
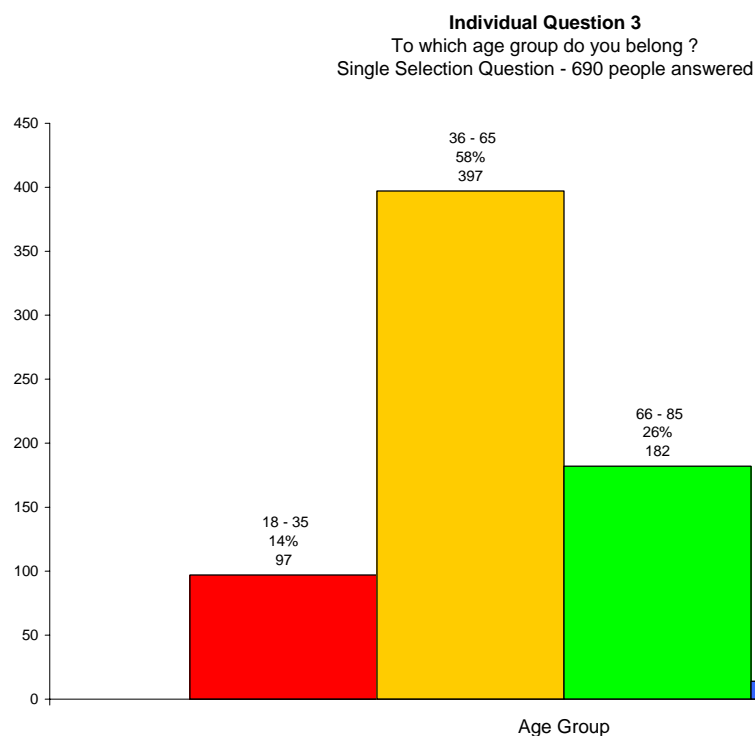
The total population of all ages reported to be living in the 388 households responding to the questionnaire is 904 (480 females and 423 males).

Assuming that Seventy Seven percent (77%) is a representative sample, the total Wickhambrook population is estimated to be 1,174 (625 females and 549 males).

Based on the percentages above, the total village population is estimated to be: 47 children of pre-school age, 73 children of primary/junior school age, 73 children of secondary school age, 709 adults of working age and 273 adults over the present retirement age of 65.



The Youth gender results are quite similar to the individual adult gender results.



The split of ages returned from the Youth questionnaire was almost equal.

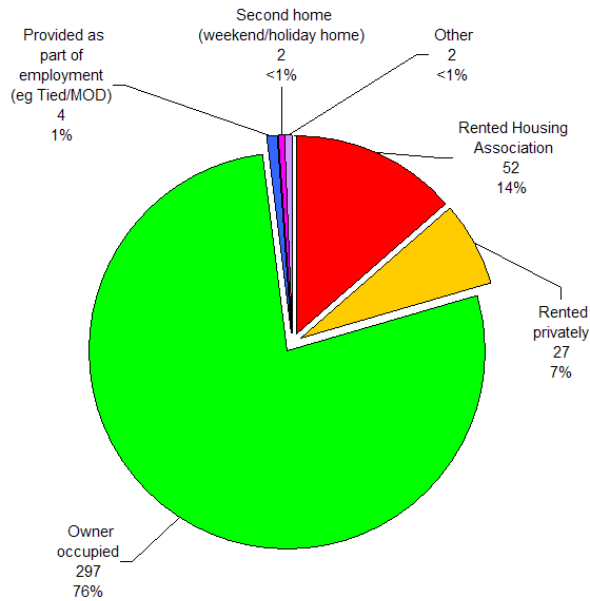
Our Individual questionnaire measured people over the age of 18 and showed a 58% grouping of people in the age range 36-65 and a 28% grouping of people over the age of 65. There is a quite low 14% group of people in the age range 18-35.

HOUSING

Over three quarters of households, 76% are owner occupied. Fourteen percent (14%) are housing association rented, 7% rented privately and 1% are employer-provided (tied). Less than 1% is second homes (weekend or holiday homes).

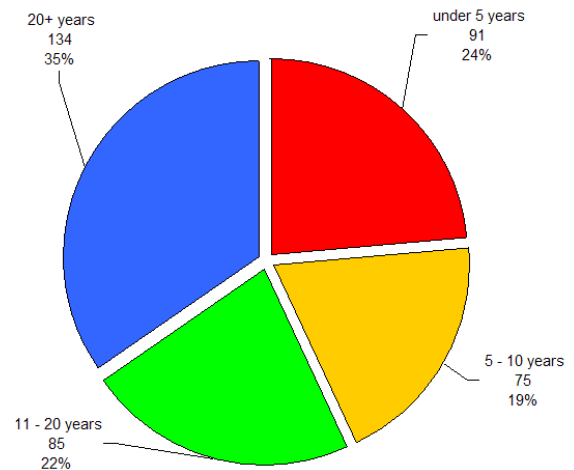
Household Question 4

In which type of property do you live in Wickhambrook ?
Single Selection Question - 384 households answered



Household Question 5

How many years has your family lived in this property ?
Single Selection Question - 385 households answered

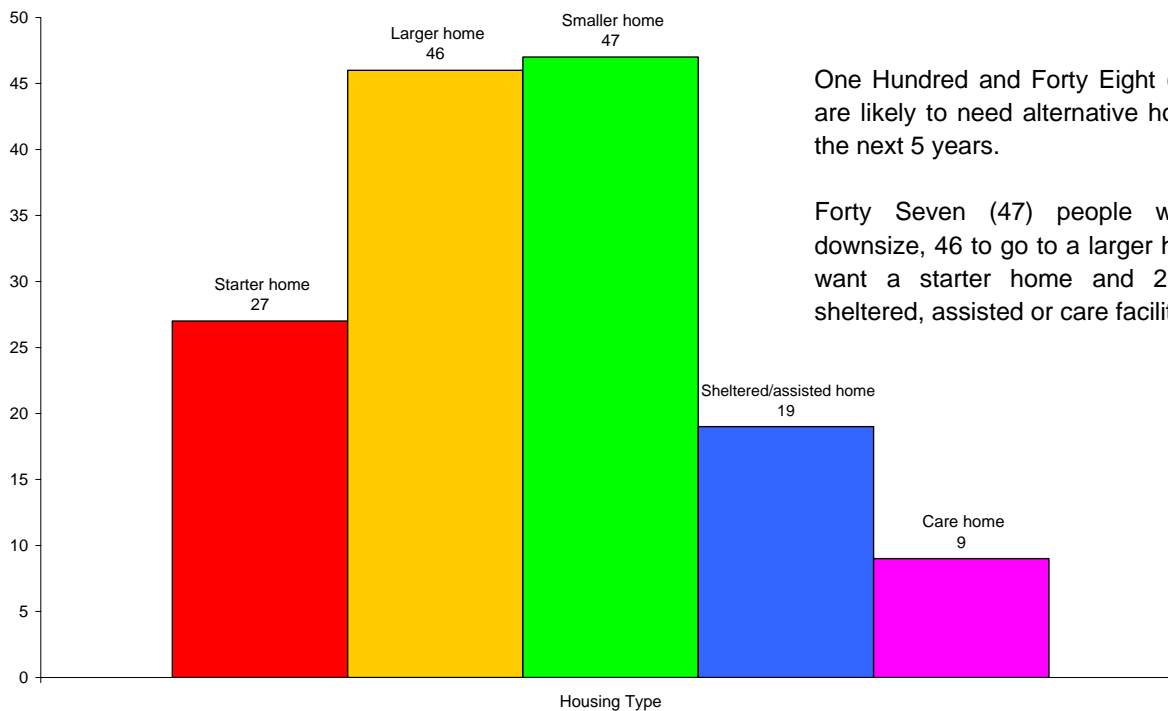


Thirty Five percent (35%) of homes have been occupied by the same family for over 20 years, 22% for 11-20 years, 19% for 5-10 years and 24% for less than 5 years.

HOUSING NEEDS

Individual Question 4

Will you need alternative accommodation/housing in Wickhambrook within the next 5 years ?
Single Selection Question - 148 people answered

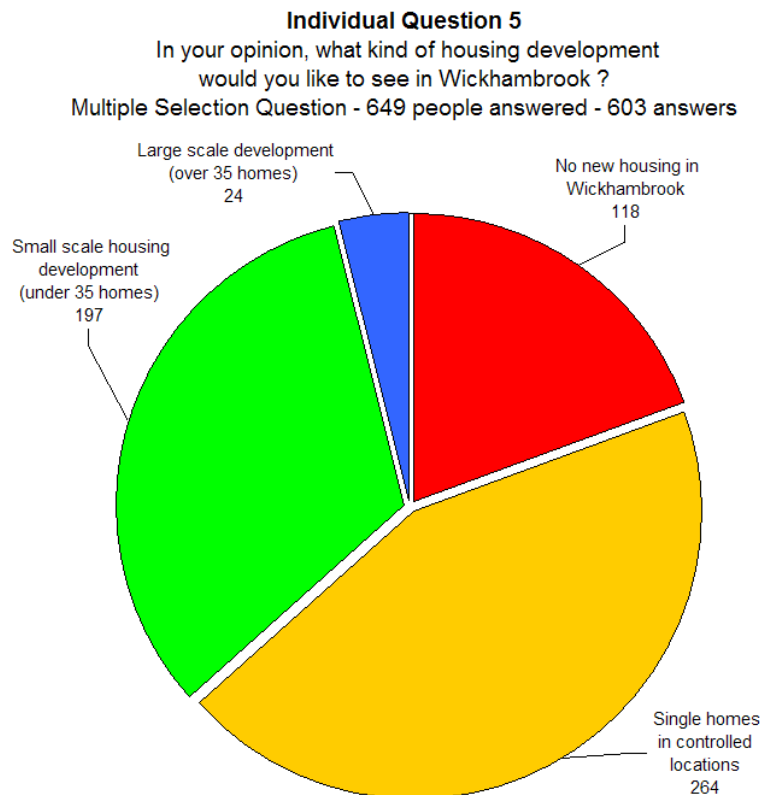


One Hundred and Forty Eight (148) people are likely to need alternative housing within the next 5 years.

Forty Seven (47) people will want to downsize, 46 to go to a larger home, 27 will want a starter home and 28 will need sheltered, assisted or care facilities.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Six Hundred and Forty Nine (649) people gave their preferences for the type of housing development they would like to see in Wickhambrook.



The expressed options in terms of the size of housing development were clearly stated by the majority of people (96%) as being no development at all or single/small scale development.

Only 24 people said they wanted to see large scale development of over 35 homes take place.

In terms of where the development should take place, 49 people said by Filling Gaps between Greens, 177 said Filling Gaps between Individual Houses.

In addition to these options a very significant 365 people expressed that they would like to see the Conversion of Redundant Buildings into housing.

It is felt that the responses to this question together with others, bear out the assertion that people want to retain the rural nature of the village and preserve the exceptional Saxon layout of multiple greens.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

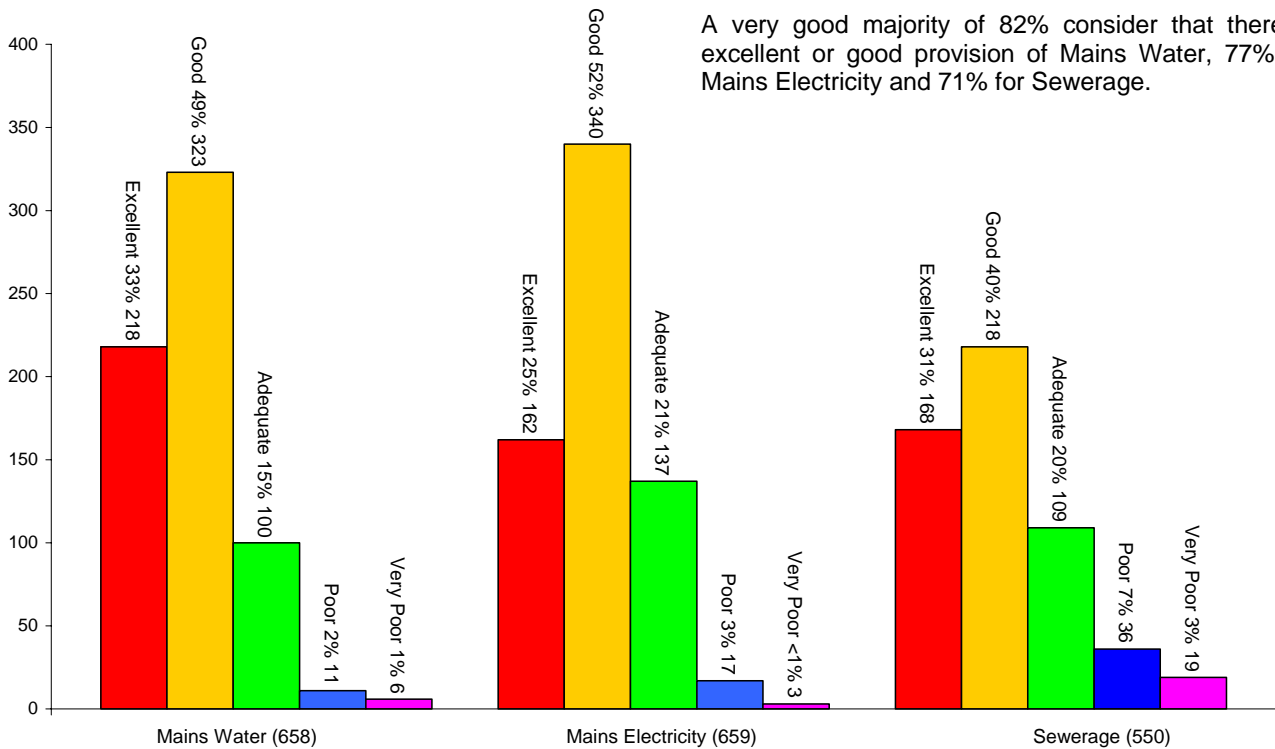
As part of the St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Local Development Framework consultations (LDF) on Rural Vision 2031, 37 Wickhambrook, Draft Policy RV20, we filed a submission for Housing Needs and Housing Development noting the following key points.

- Smaller and larger home needs are nearly balanced.
- There is a significant demand for sheltered/assisted/care accommodation that is not addressed by RV20.
- The least popular options (Filling in gaps between greens and Large scale development) are in keeping with LDF proposals 37.3 and 37.4b. The results confirm the majority opinion, expressed in various parts of the questionnaire, that not only the rural nature, but also the exceptional Saxon multiple green layout of Wickhambrook should be preserved.
- Since the search for development sites began, work has already started on 11 new homes within half a mile of RV20a – one on Bunter's Rd, two on Cemetery Rd, four in Meeting Green and four behind Wickhambrook Stores.
- 77% of respondents identify a lack of pavements – forcing pedestrians on to the road as a problem. Cemetery Road has no pavement between the RV20a site and the bottom of Cemetery Road in Meeting Green and the top at the village hall.
- Numerous dangerous crossroads and junctions in Wickhambrook were identified. Those at each end of Cemetery Road are of particular relevance to RV20a and were specifically mentioned in comments by residents.
- Over 80% of respondents identify speeding through the village and speeding on the A143 as a problem.
- Over 80% of respondents identify roads being too narrow for Lorries as a problem.
- 88% of working people in Wickhambrook use a car to get to work. Fewer than 1% use the public bus service

UTILITIES AND ENERGY SUPPLY

Individual Question 22

What are your views on the standard of the following public services in Wickhambrook ? Part: Utilities
Ratings question - 668 people answered - this part had 1,867 ratings

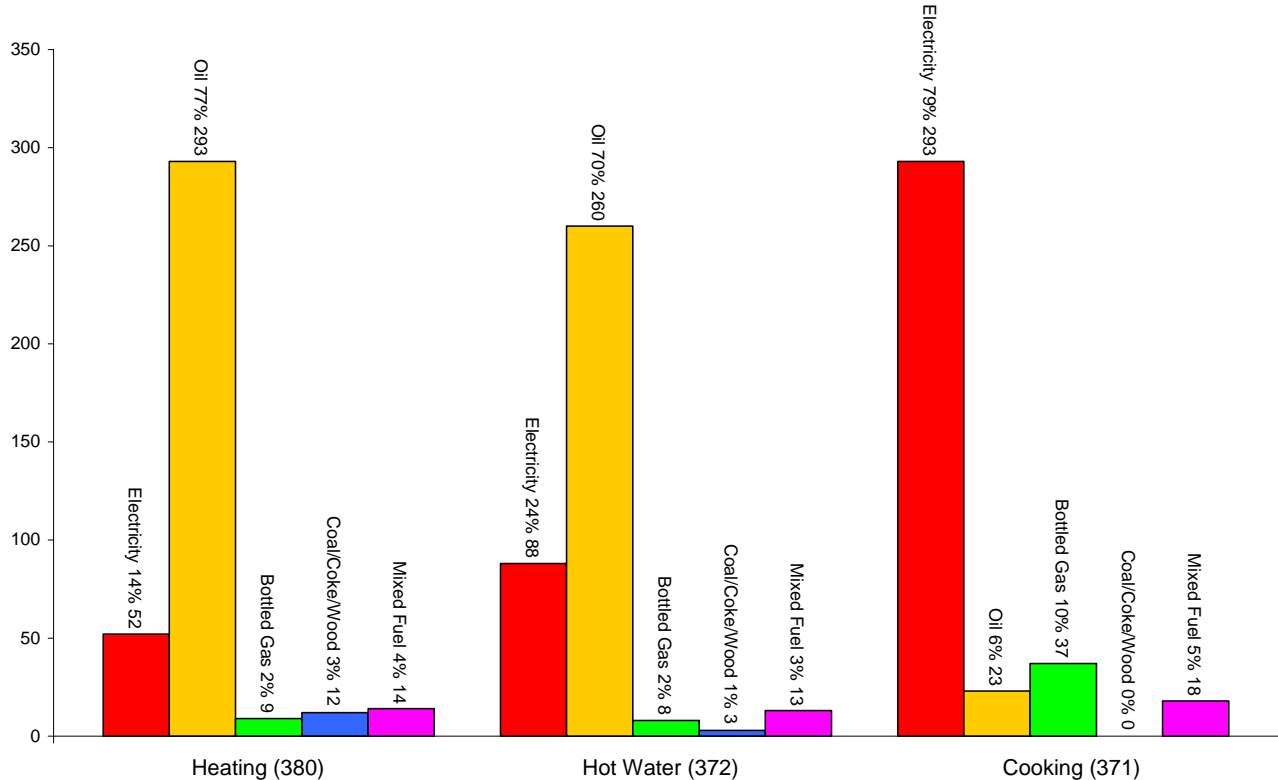


Oil is used by 77% of households for Heating and 70% for Hot Water. Electricity is used for Cooking by 79% of households. A significant number of households use Electricity for Heating (14%) and Hot Water (24%).

Bottled Gas is used for cooking by 10% of households. A further 5% use a mix of fuels for Cooking.

Household Question 6

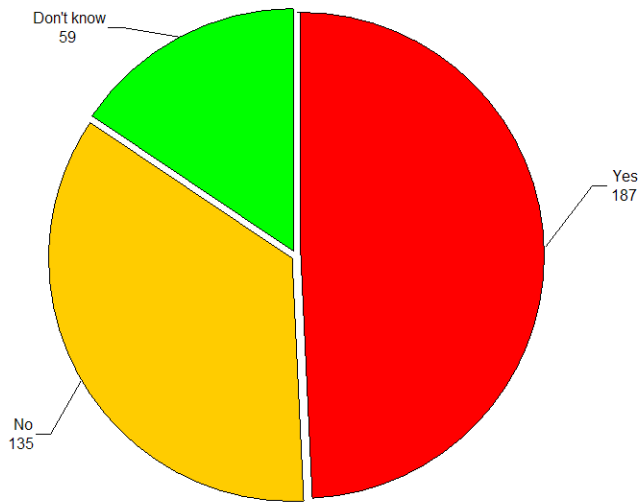
What is the main source of energy in your household for the following ?
Ratings Question - 382 households answered - 1,123 ratings



Given the predominance of oil as a household fuel and the recent price increases, it is not surprising that nearly 50% of households are interested in a parish buying plan for oil or other services. It is noted that since the questionnaire was distributed, a community-based oil buying service (www.communitybuying.org.uk/) has been introduced by Suffolk ACRE.

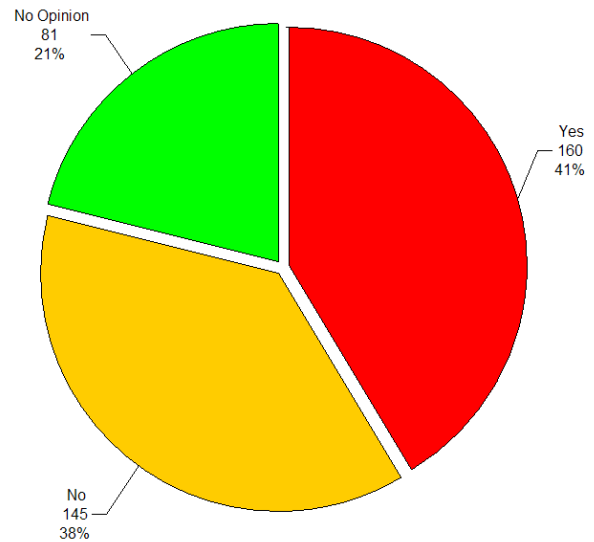
Household Question 7

Would you be interested in becoming part of a 'Parish Buying Group' ?
Single Selection Question - 380 households answered



Household Question 8

In your household would you be interested in, and give support to, mains gas supply ?
Single Selection Question - 385 households answered



Mains gas is not available in Wickhambrook. Forty Two percent (41%) of households would support a gas supply, 38% would not and 21% have no opinion.

Around 50% of householders are interested in finding out more about energy saving or renewable energy options for their homes. 120 are interested in a home energy check, 137 are interested in renewable options for the home, 125 in a community renewable project and 103 in having the village carbon footprint assessed.

PARISH COUNCIL

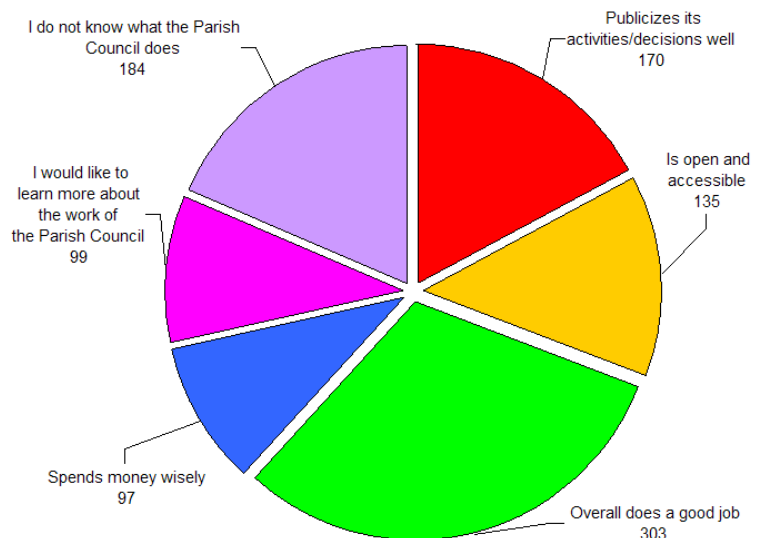
Three Hundred and Three (303) people (50% of respondents) feel that the Parish Council "Does a Good Job"; however, a significant 184 people do not know what the Parish Council does.

There were 99 people who said they were interested in learning more about the council's work.

The Parish Council are looking at ways to engage with people in the Parish more effectively as a result of the responses to the Parish Plan.

Individual Question 12

Please indicate which of the following statements concerning Wickhambrook Parish Council you agree with:
Multiple Selection Question - 608 people answered - 988 answers

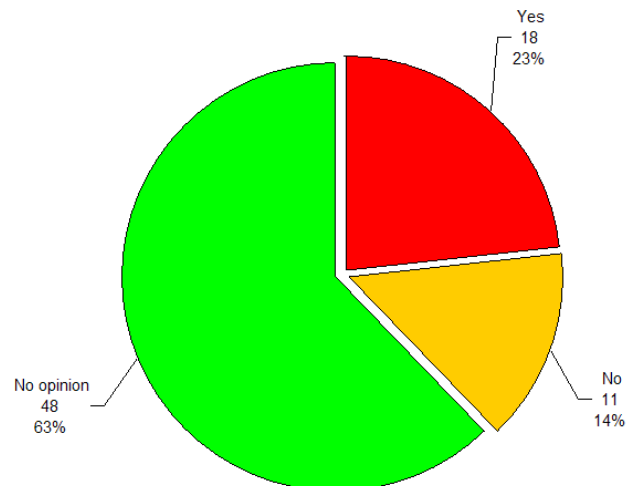


YOUTH COUNCIL

A Youth Council is a group of young people who represent the views of all young people living in the same village.

We asked in the Youth Questionnaire what people thought about Wickhambrook having a Youth Council, almost everyone replied, 23% said yes, 14% said no but a much larger 63% had no opinion which is probably as expected as there is not presently a Youth Council in place for people to know what it does and how it would work.

Youth Question 16
Do you think Wickhambrook should have a Youth Council?
Single Selection Question - 77 people answered



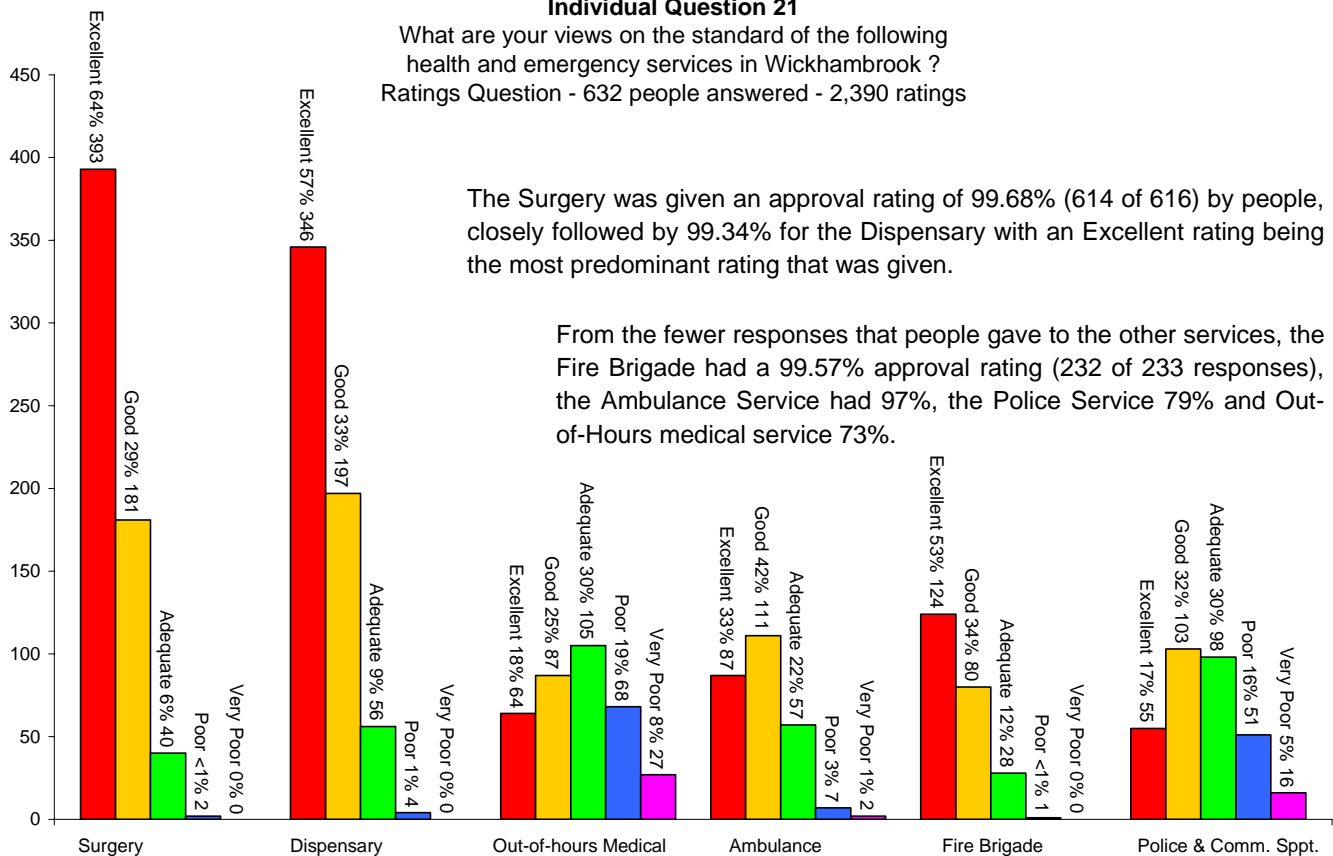
HEALTH AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Individual Question 21

What are your views on the standard of the following health and emergency services in Wickhambrook?
Ratings Question - 632 people answered - 2,390 ratings

The Surgery was given an approval rating of 99.68% (614 of 616) by people, closely followed by 99.34% for the Dispensary with an Excellent rating being the most predominant rating that was given.

From the fewer responses that people gave to the other services, the Fire Brigade had a 99.57% approval rating (232 of 233 responses), the Ambulance Service had 97%, the Police Service 79% and Out-of-Hours medical service 73%.



COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER

Community First Responder (CFR) volunteers are trained to attend emergency calls received by the Ambulance Service and to provide care until the ambulance arrives.

Three Hundred and Thirty Six (336) people thought that a CFR team was needed in Wickhambrook against 74 who did not and 186 who didn't know.

There were 26 people who were sufficiently interested to give their contact details and these have been passed on to the Parish Council, who kindly agreed to proceed with this project.

BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

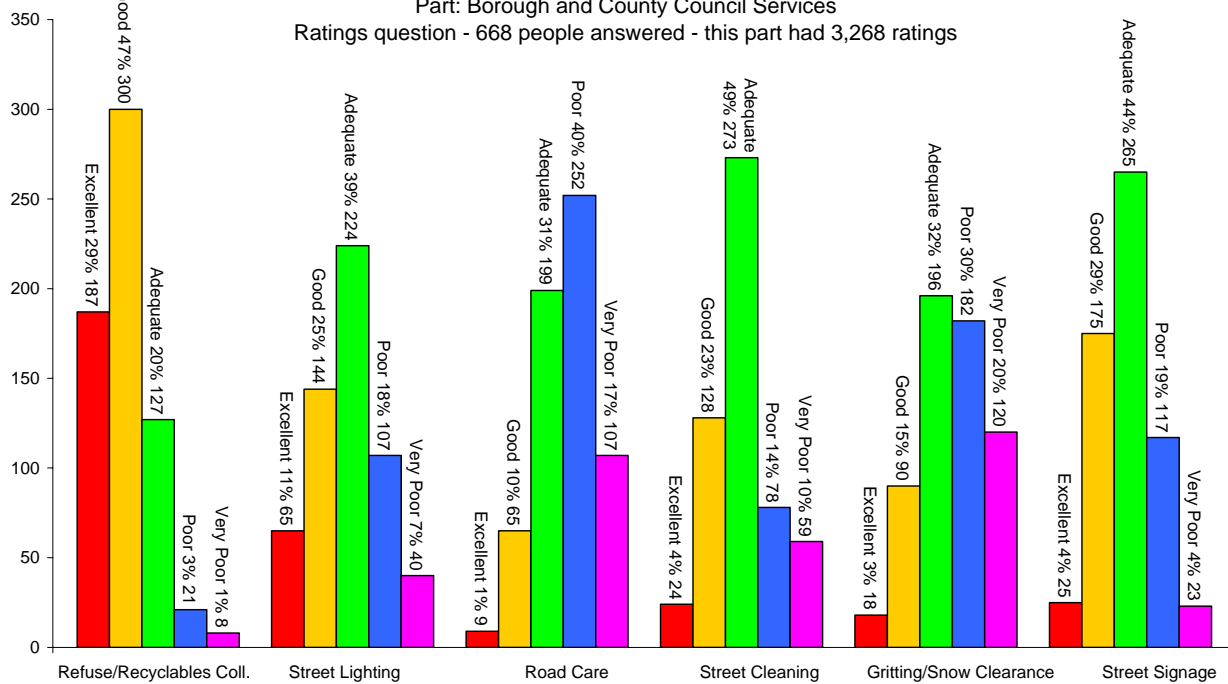
There was a very high 96% approval for refuse and recyclable collection. Good approval rates were given for Street Lighting of 75%, Street Signage 77% and Street Cleaning 76%. Only 50% approved of Gritting/Snow Clearance and a lower 42% approved of Road Care and whilst these are good rates, a significant number of people considered the services were poor or very poor, particularly Road Care with a 57% rating it as poor or worse.

Individual Question 22

What are your views on the standard of the following public services in Wickhambrook ?

Part: Borough and County Council Services

Ratings question - 668 people answered - this part had 3,268 ratings

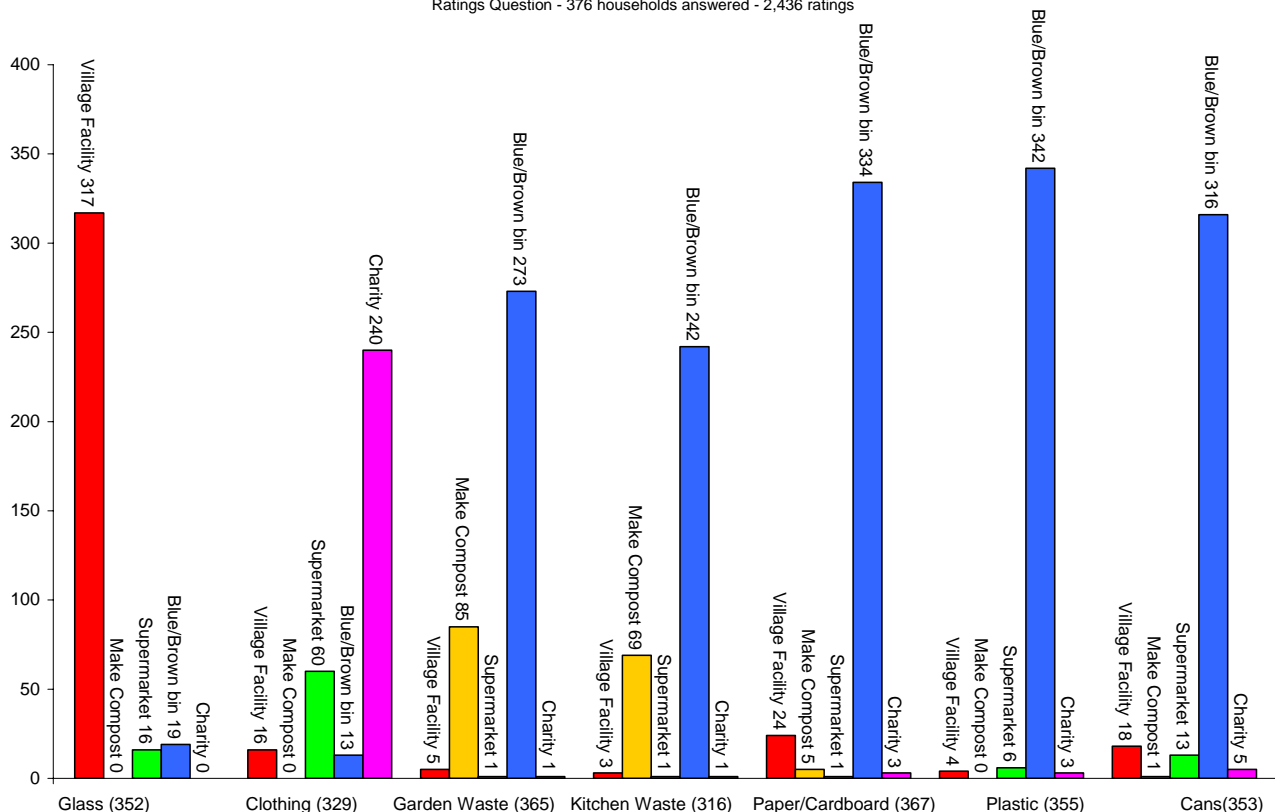


RECYCLING

Household Question 13

Where does your household mainly recycle the following?

Ratings Question - 376 households answered - 2,436 ratings



Excellent recycling rates for all types of materials were reported in the survey. 94% of respondents recycle glass and 90% of those that do, use the village facilities.

A few still use their bins for glass, which is not recommended by the Council.

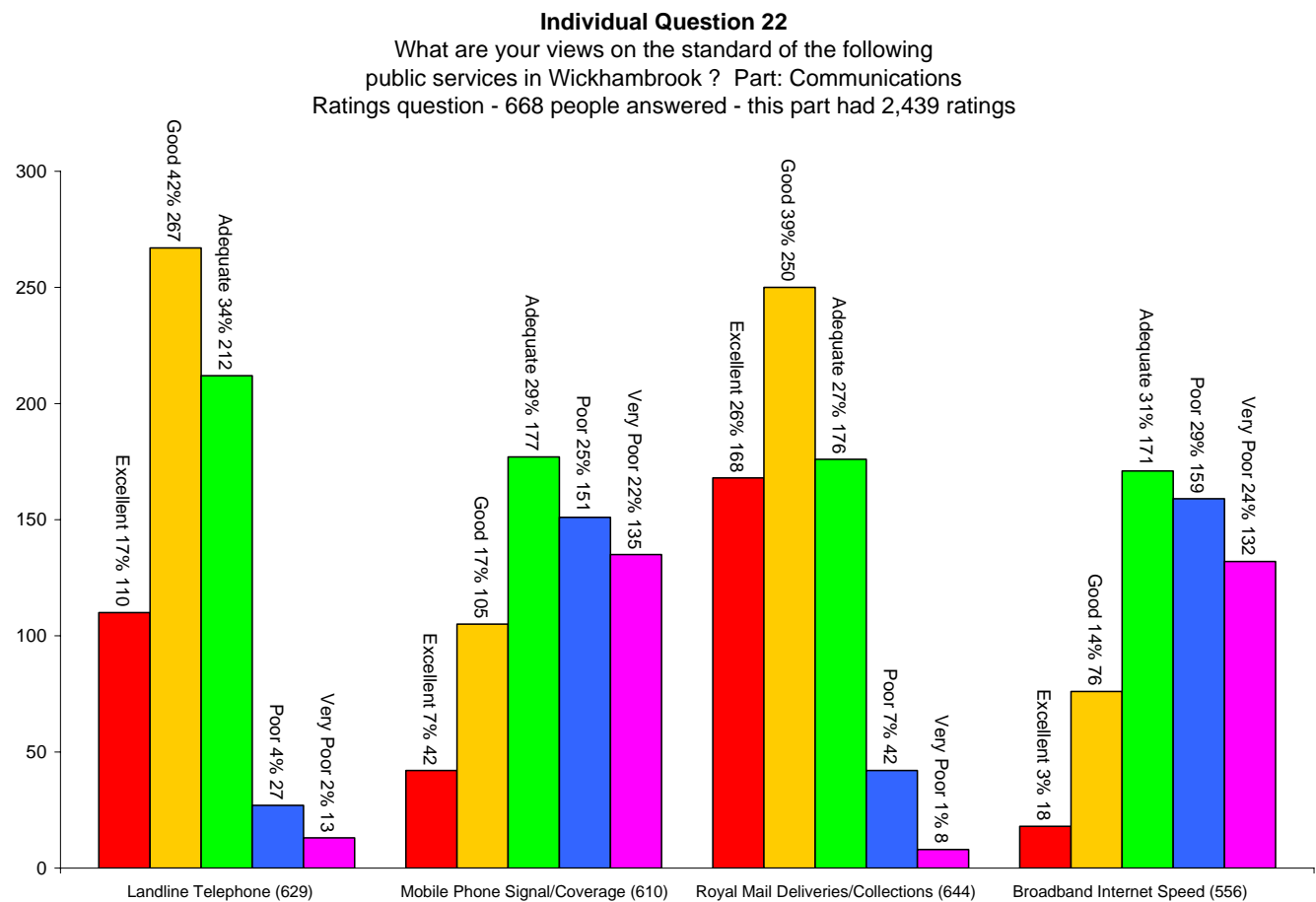
The lowest recycling rate, but still a respectable 88% was recorded for clothing. With the addition of a clothing bank at the Memorial Hall, this too can be expected to increase to the 90% level.

Thirty three percent (33%) would use additional village facilities, if provided. Specific items suggested include: cans, plastic bags, small electricals, books, DVDs and clothing.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

There were very good approval rates for the Landline Telephone service and the Royal Mail of 93% and 92% respectively. Mobile Phone coverage was approved by 53% with a significant 22% thinking it was Very Poor. Broadband was approved by 48% and again a significant number of 24% rated it as Very Poor.

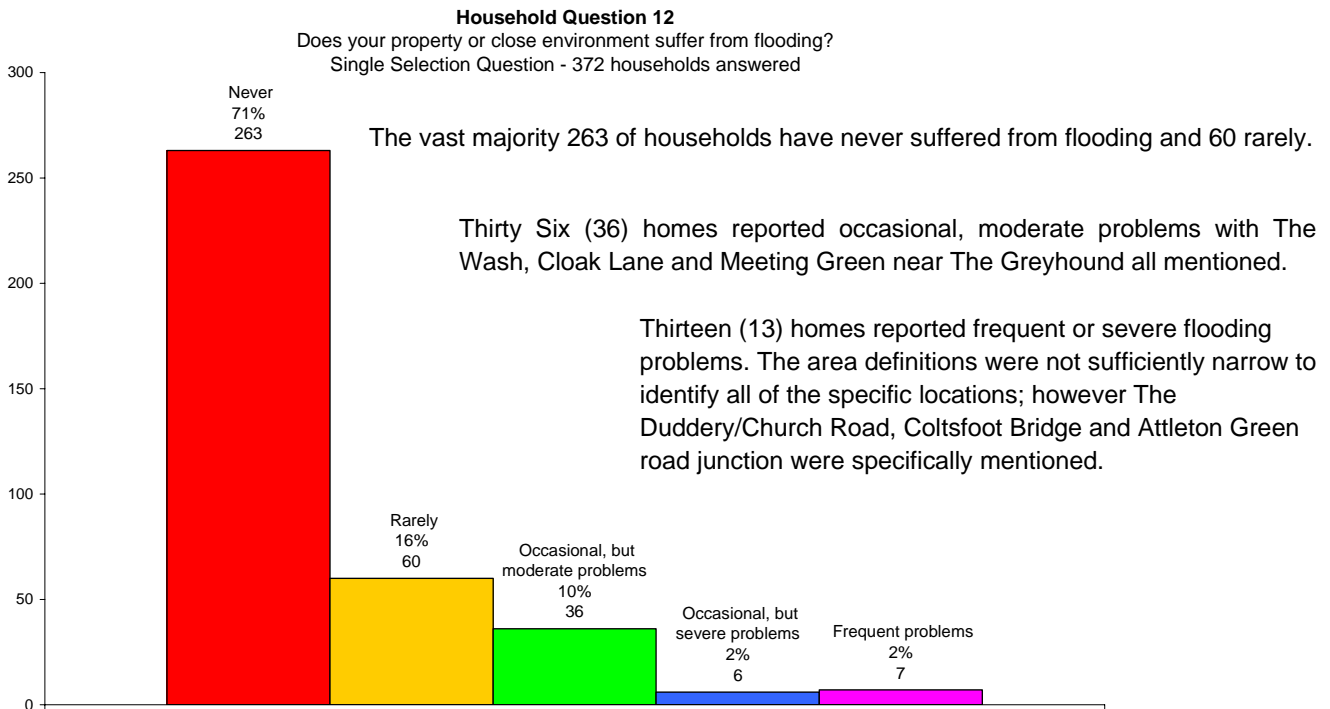
We understand that the Wickhambrook exchange is able to deliver ADSL Max broadband which has an upper speed limit of up to 8mb; no other speed improvements such as the 76mb BT Superfast Infinity broadband are planned for the village. Newmarket, Haverhill and Bury St. Edmunds will be able to provide BT Infinity in the future.



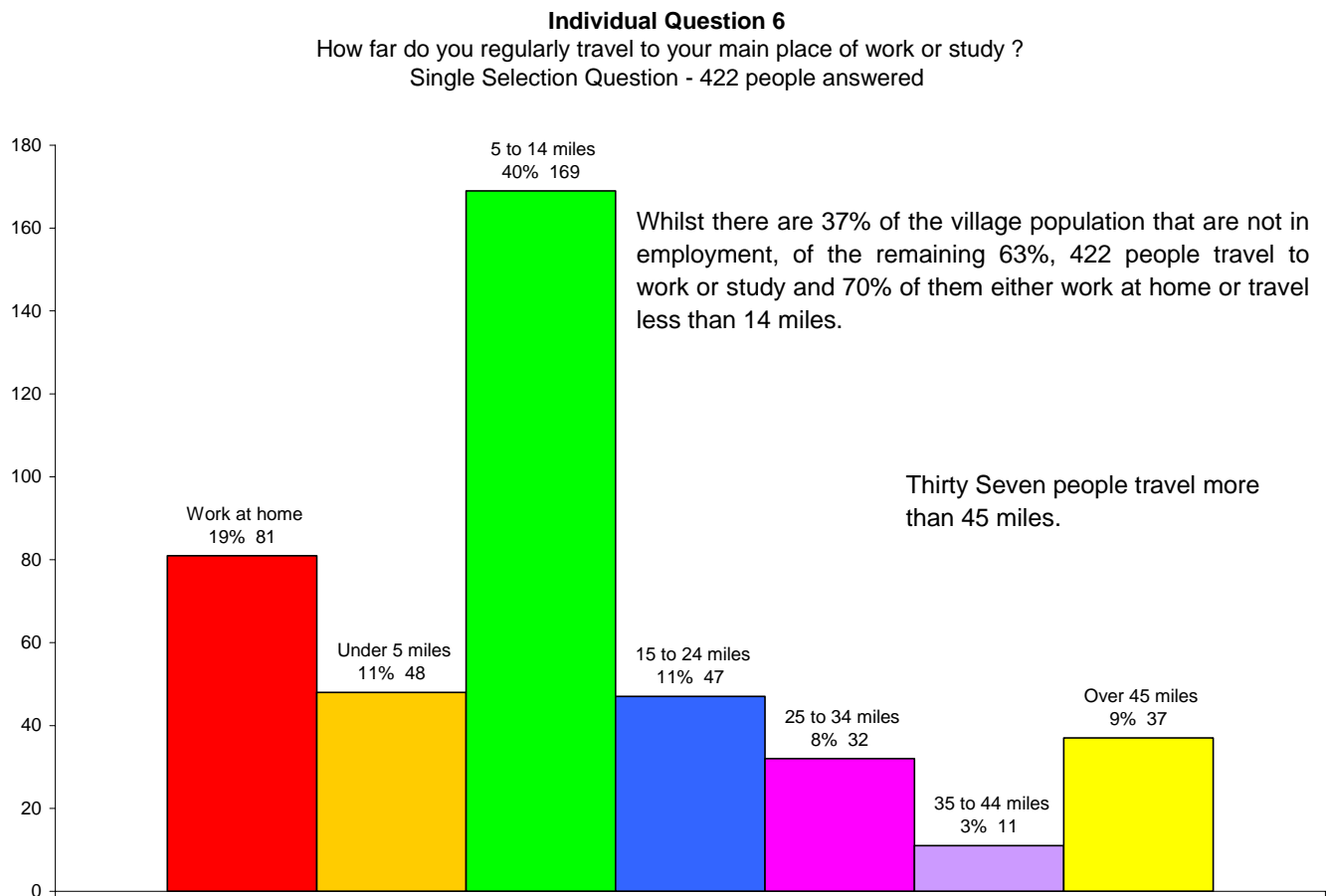
We asked in the Youth Questionnaire about their use of computers, mobile phones, the internet and email. Ninety percent (90%) had a computer with internet access at home, 76% had a satisfactory broadband connection, 68% had a mobile phone and 59% had their own e-mail account.

SEWERAGE AND FLOODING

Eighty percent (80%) of homes are connected to mains sewerage and 20% are not with the majority of those being in the outlying areas, particularly Ashfield Green, Fuller's Hill, Baxter's Green, Genesis Green and Park Gate. Of the 73 households not connected to mains sewerage there was a near even split between those wishing to be connected of 48% and those not wishing to of 52%.



TRANSPORT



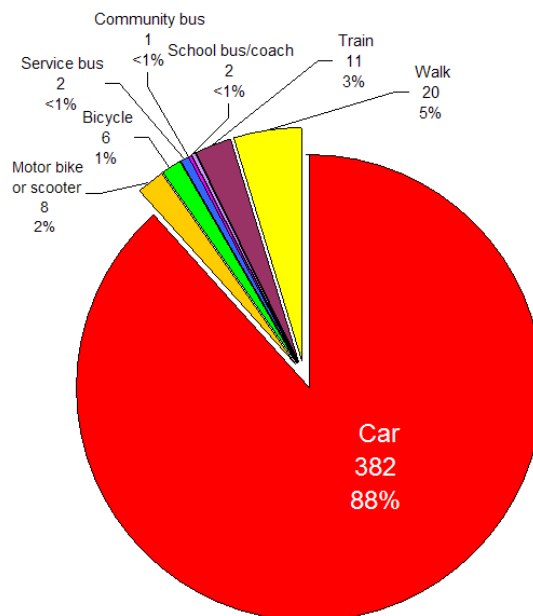
There were 432 people who responded to the question on what their major means of transport was for work or study, of these 382 people indicated that the Car was their means of transport, an 88% rating.

Five percent (5%) of people said they walked.

Half of the 656 people, who responded to the question asking whether they would use public transport if a better service was available, responded that they would rarely or never do so.

Two Hundred and Twenty Eight (228) people said they would occasionally use such a service. Ninety Six (96) people said they would use such a service on a daily or weekly basis.

Individual Question 7
What is your major means of transport for work or study?
Single Selection Question - 432 people answered



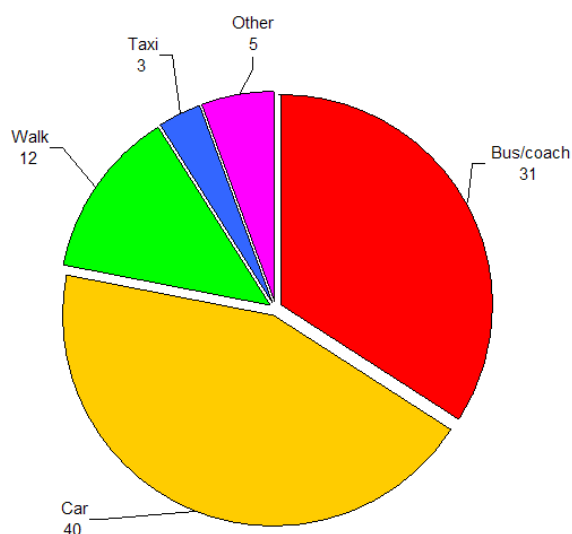
YOUTH TRANSPORT

Travel to school decisions might well depend on the age of the children concerned and of course the availability of transport, where they live and lastly how close they live to the school so the results here are merely an observation that 40 out of 79 children were taken by car for all or part of their journey to school and that 31 used a Bus/Coach.

Youth Question 10

How do you normally get to school?

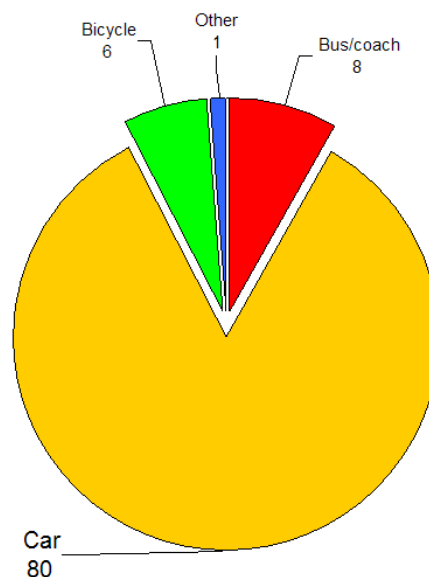
Multiple Selection Question - 79 people answered - 91 answers



Youth - Question 11

How do you get to places outside Wickhambrook for activities other than school?

Multiple Selection Question - 81 people answered - 95 answers



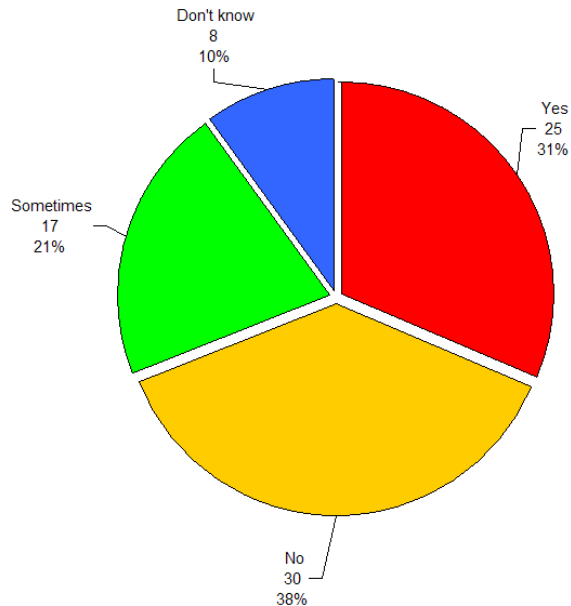
It was no surprise that 80 of 81 children say that they travel by car to places outside of Wickhambrook for activities outside of school. Interestingly 8 say they use a bus or coach but we do not have any information on what or where those activities are that they can travel to by bus or coach.

Just over half of the people who responded to the question in the Youth Questionnaire asking about whether or not cost was a factor in deciding where to travel said that cost was a factor sometimes or more often, 10% did not know and 38% said it wasn't.

Youth Question 12

Is the cost of transport a factor in deciding where to travel for leisure or work?

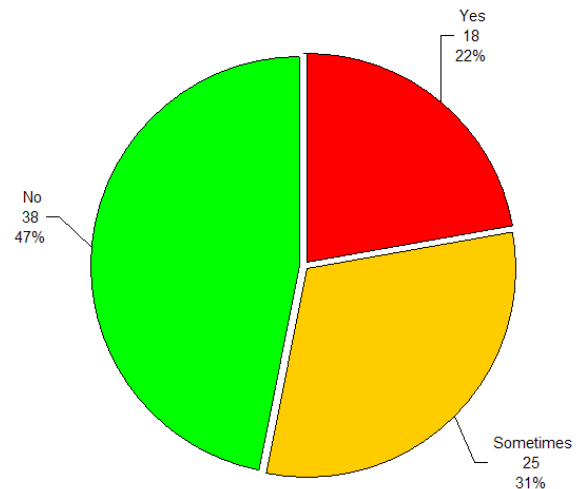
Single Selection Question - 80 people answered



Youth Question 13

Does the lack of suitable public transport stop you doing what you want to do?

Single Selection Question - 81 people answered



There is no information as to whether or not the people for whom cost is an issue would use bus/coach or indeed car more often, nor indeed if they use bicycle because bus/coach or car costs are a factor. What we did ask was whether or not the lack of public transport prevented people doing what they wanted to and 53% said sometimes or yes.

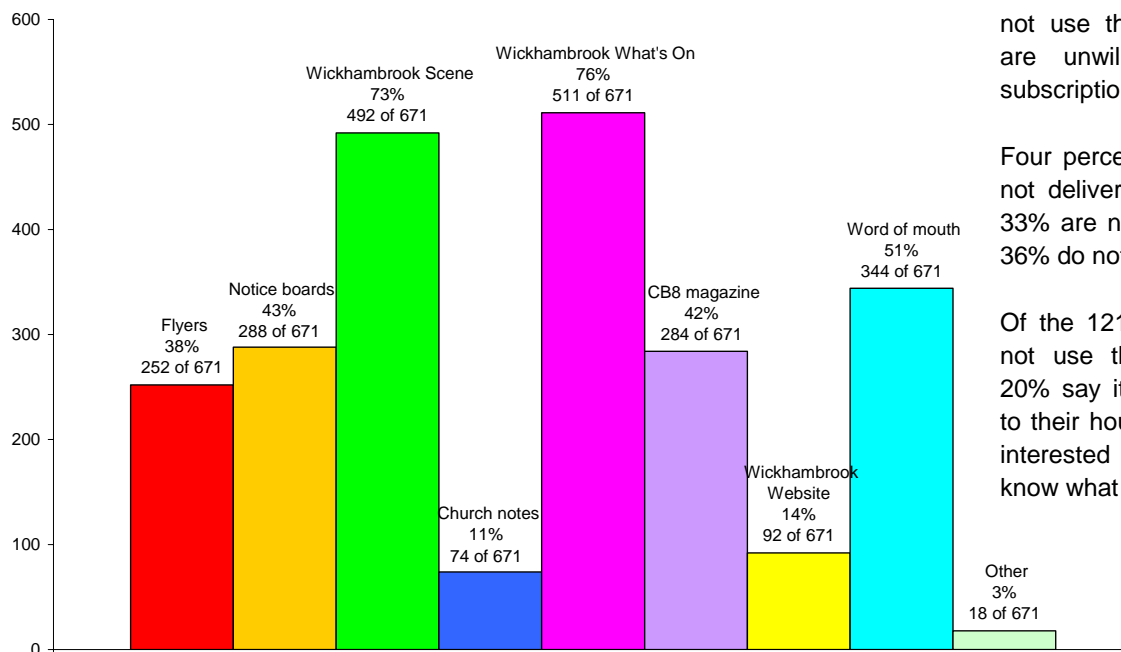
VILLAGE COMMUNICATION

Over 70% of people use the "Wickhambrook Scene" and/or the "Wickhambrook What's On" to find information about local events and activities. Over 50% use word of mouth and over 40% use "CB8" Magazine and the village noticeboards. The village website however attracts only 14% which reflects that people have to go to a website as opposed to having something delivered to them.

Individual Question 9

Where do you obtain information about activities/events taking place in Wickhambrook ?

Multiple Selection Question - 671 people answered - 2,355 answers



Of the 173 people who do not use the "Scene", 27% are unwilling to pay a subscription (presently £8).

Four percent (4%) say it is not delivered in their area, 33% are not interested and 36% do not know what it is.

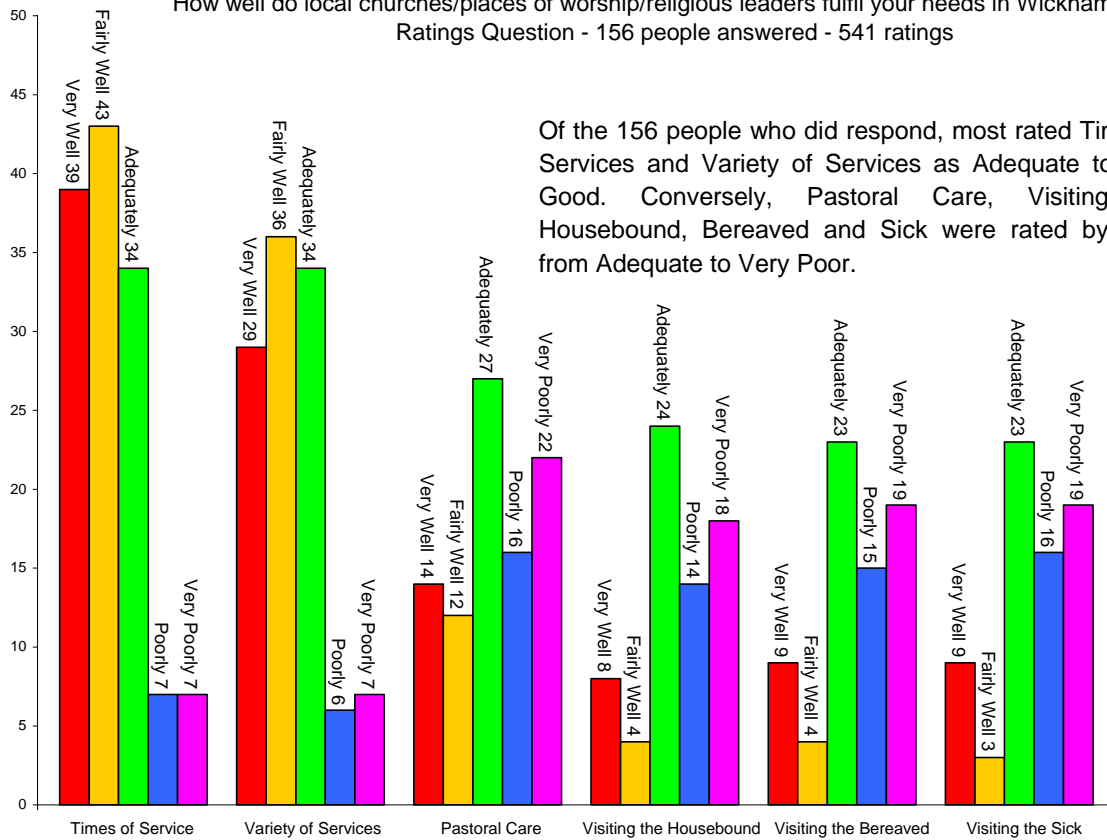
Of the 121 people who do not use the "What's On", 20% say it is not delivered to their house, 38% are not interested and 42% do not know what it is.

CHURCHES

Only 22% of respondents offered any opinions about local churches.

Individual Question 13

How well do local churches/places of worship/religious leaders fulfil your needs in Wickhambrook?
Ratings Question - 156 people answered - 541 ratings

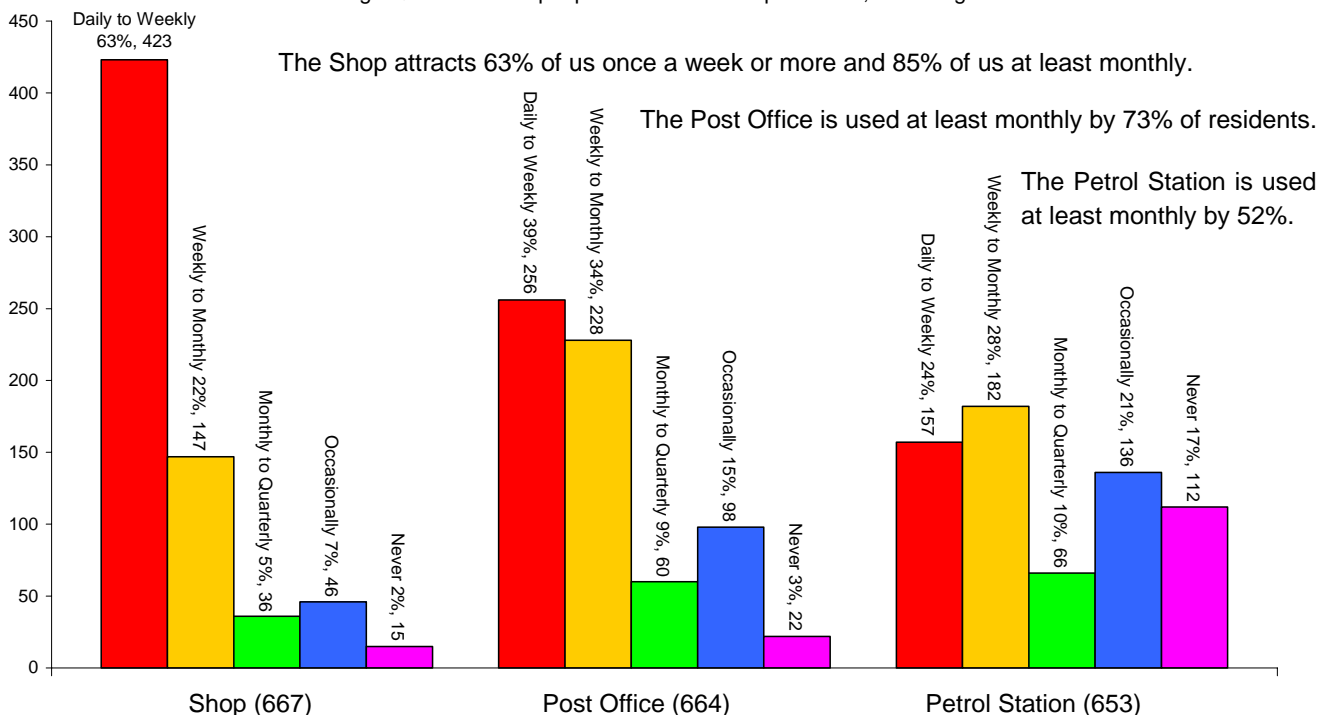


VILLAGE AMENITIES

The village is blessed with a good number of amenities, but with the exception of Wickhambrook Stores and Post Office most are only used regularly by a handful of people.

Individual Question 14

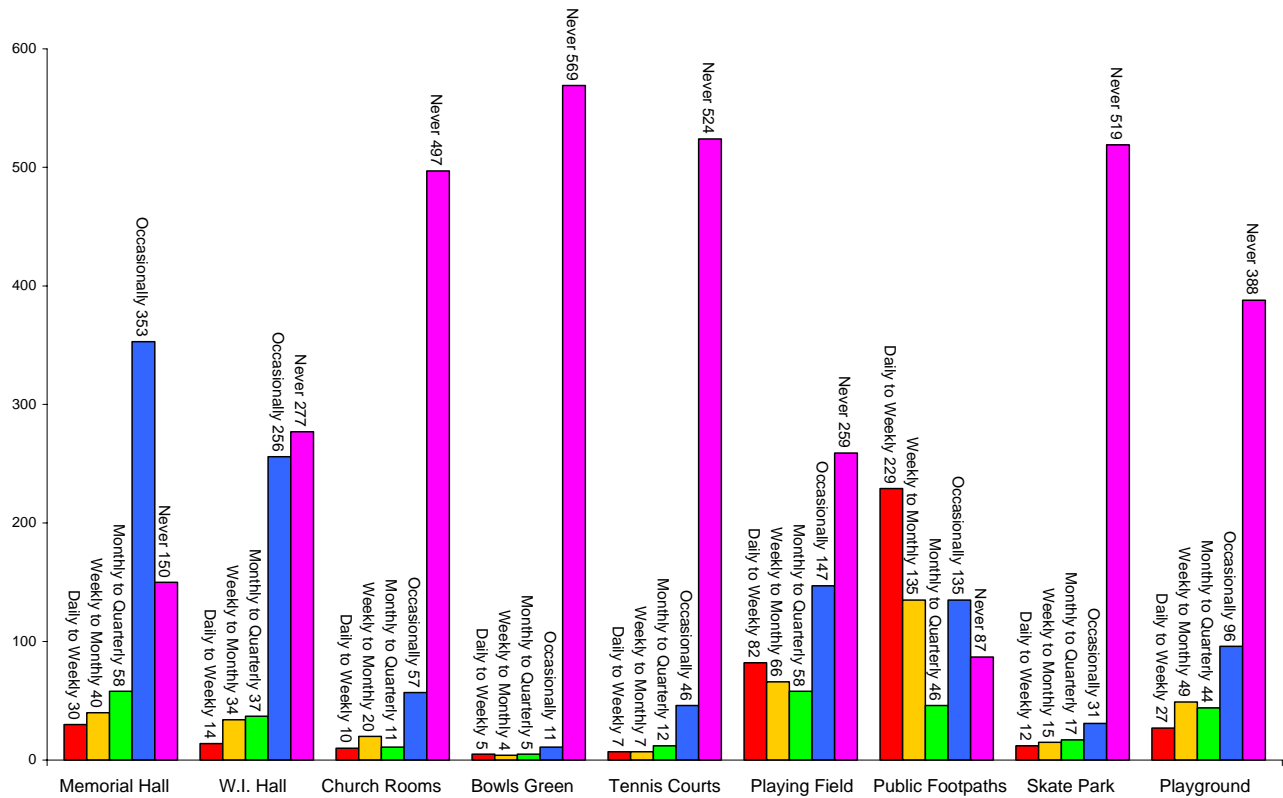
How often do you use each of the following amenities in Wickhambrook? Part: Village Shop
Ratings Question - 678 people answered - this part had 1,984 ratings



Other amenities that are well used monthly include: our Public Footpaths and Bridleways, Recycling Facilities, Milk Delivery, and Playing Field. There are a number of village amenities which are used by small numbers of people, Bowls Green, Tennis Courts, Skate Park and Playground. A moderate number of people occasionally use the Playing Field and the various Public Footpaths that there are around the village.

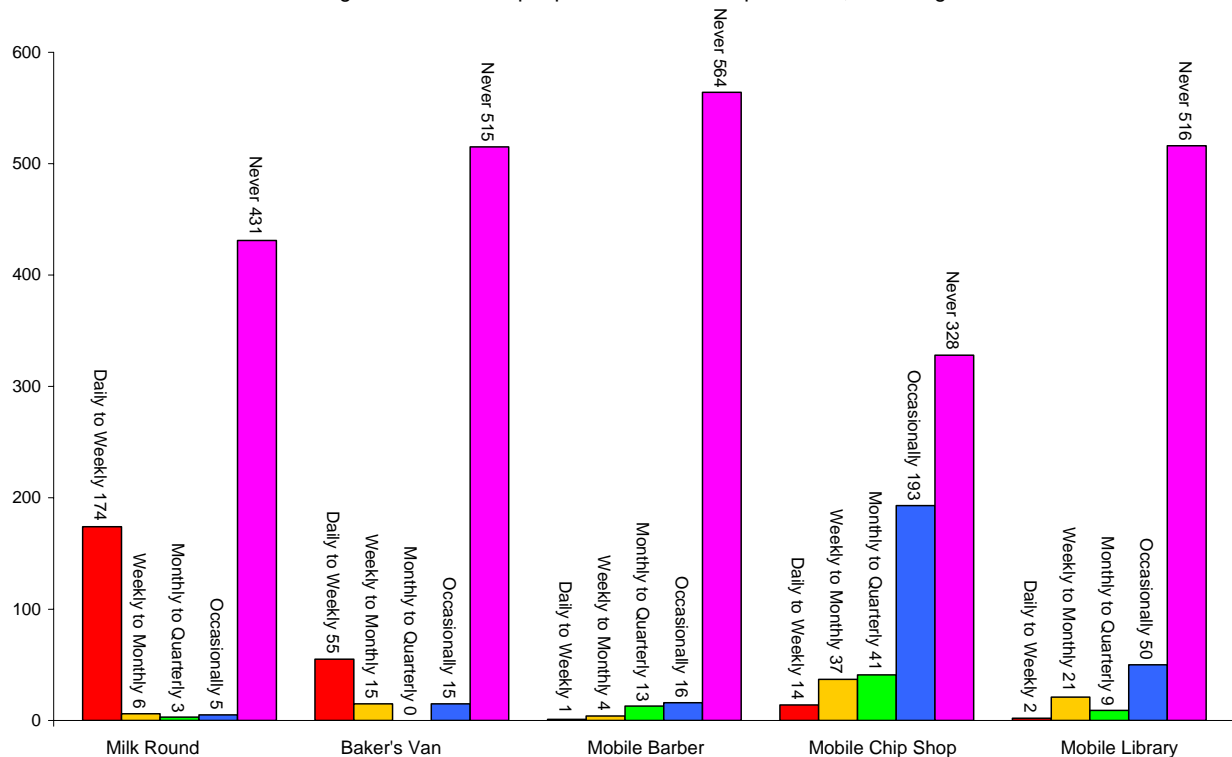
Individual Question 14

How often do you use each of the following amenities in Wickhambrook? - Part: Village Facilities
Ratings Question - 678 people answered - this part had 5,476 ratings



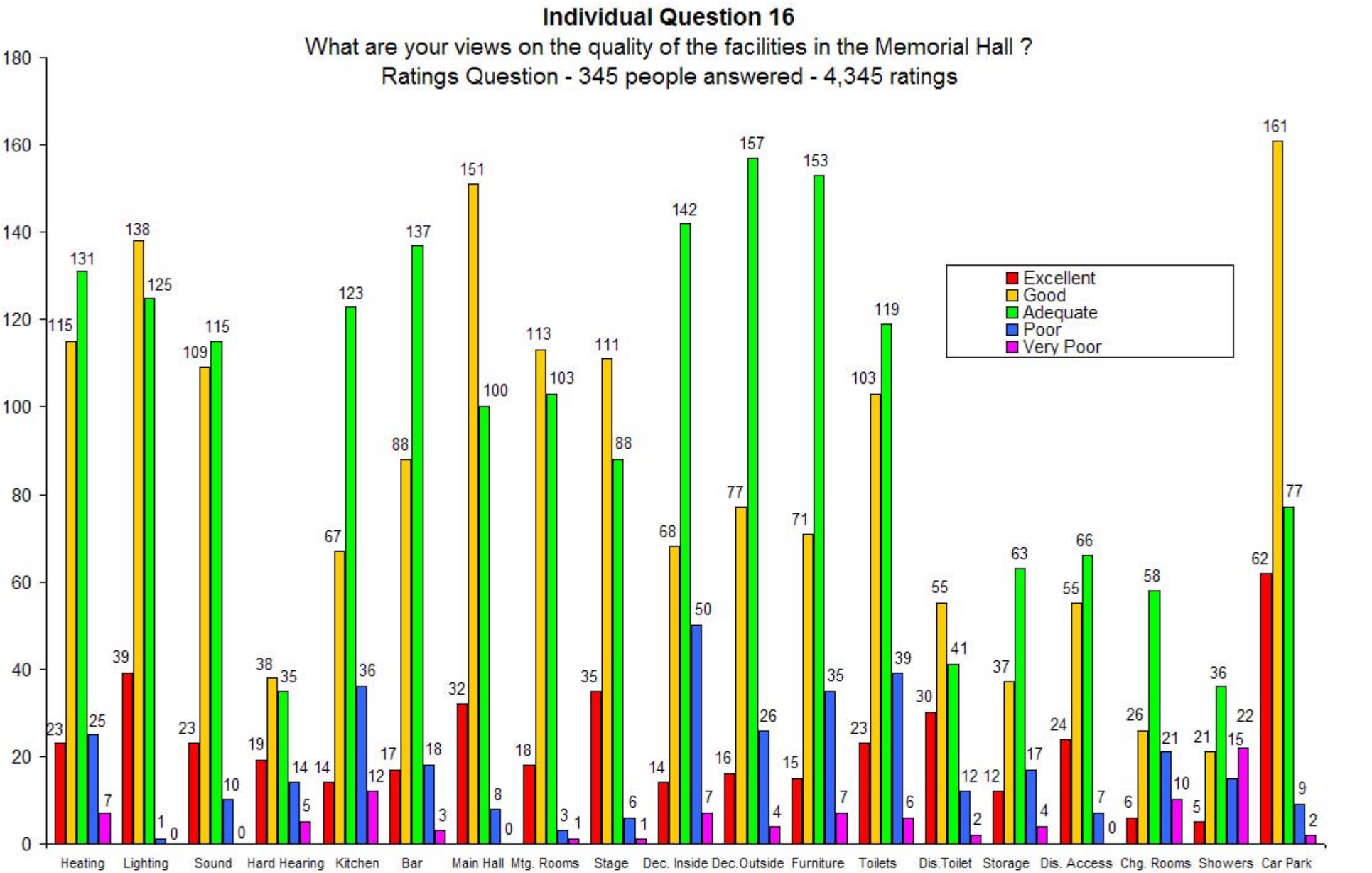
Individual Question 14

How often do you use each of the following amenities in Wickhambrook ? Part: Retail
Ratings Question - 678 people answered - this part had 3,028 ratings



MSC (Memorial Social Club)

The MSC received high approval ratings to almost all of the categories that people responded to.

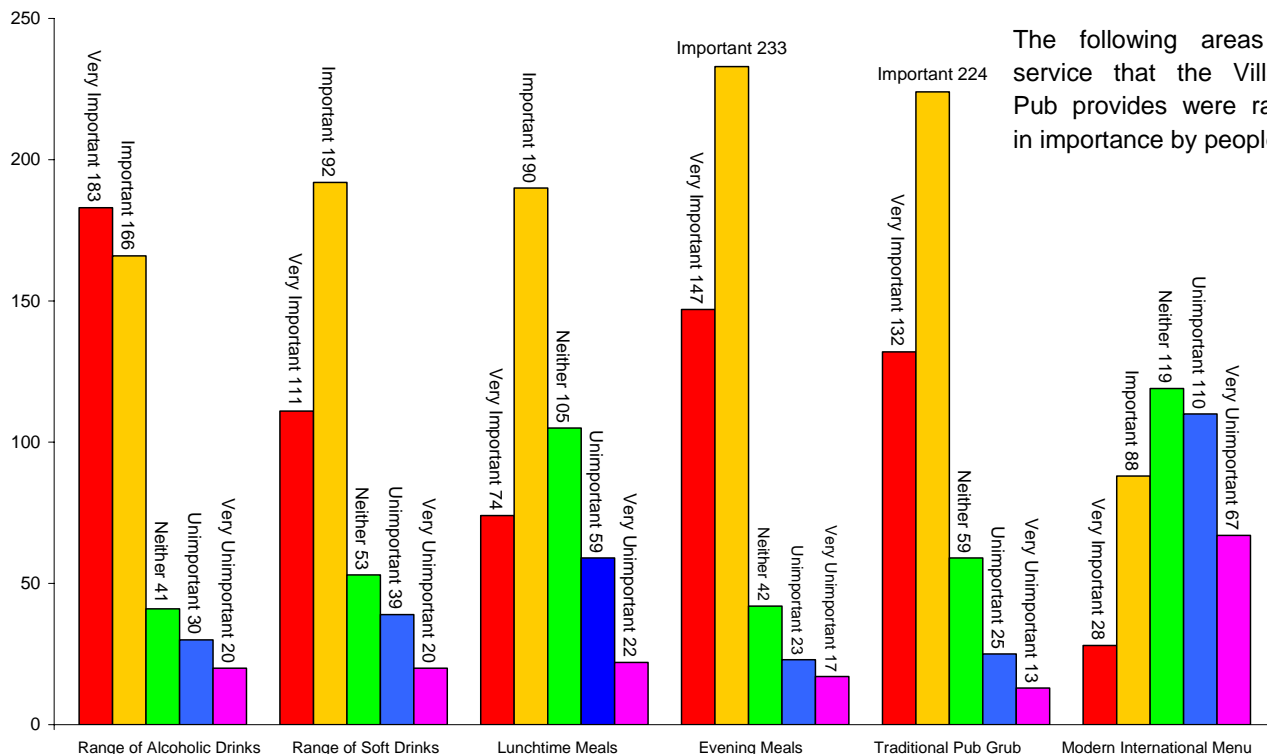


VILLAGE PUB

The Village Pub is not used at all by 329 people (52%) of the respondents, a further 194 people (31%) said they only occasionally used it, 36 people said they used the Village Pub on a daily to weekly basis.

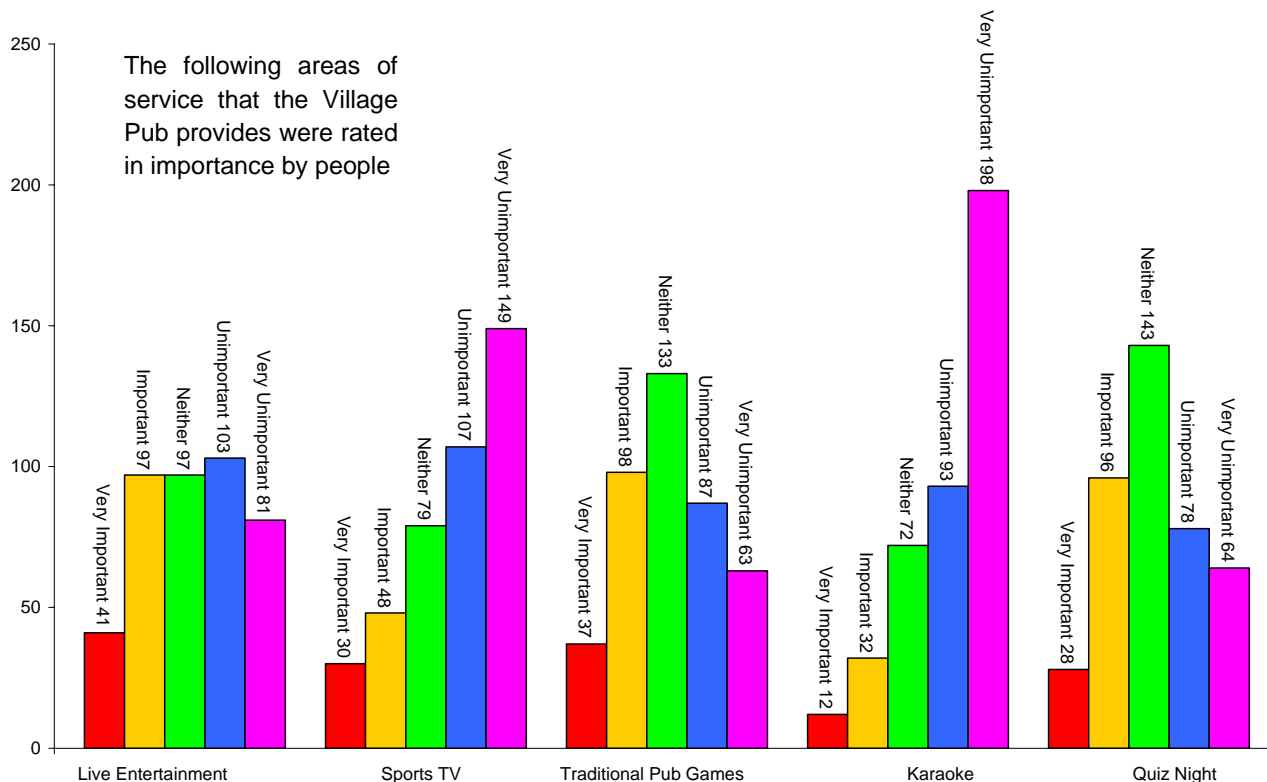
Individual Question 18

What services are important to you in a village pub ? Part: Food & Drink
Multiple Selection Question - 516 people answered - this part had 2,632 answers



Individual Question 18

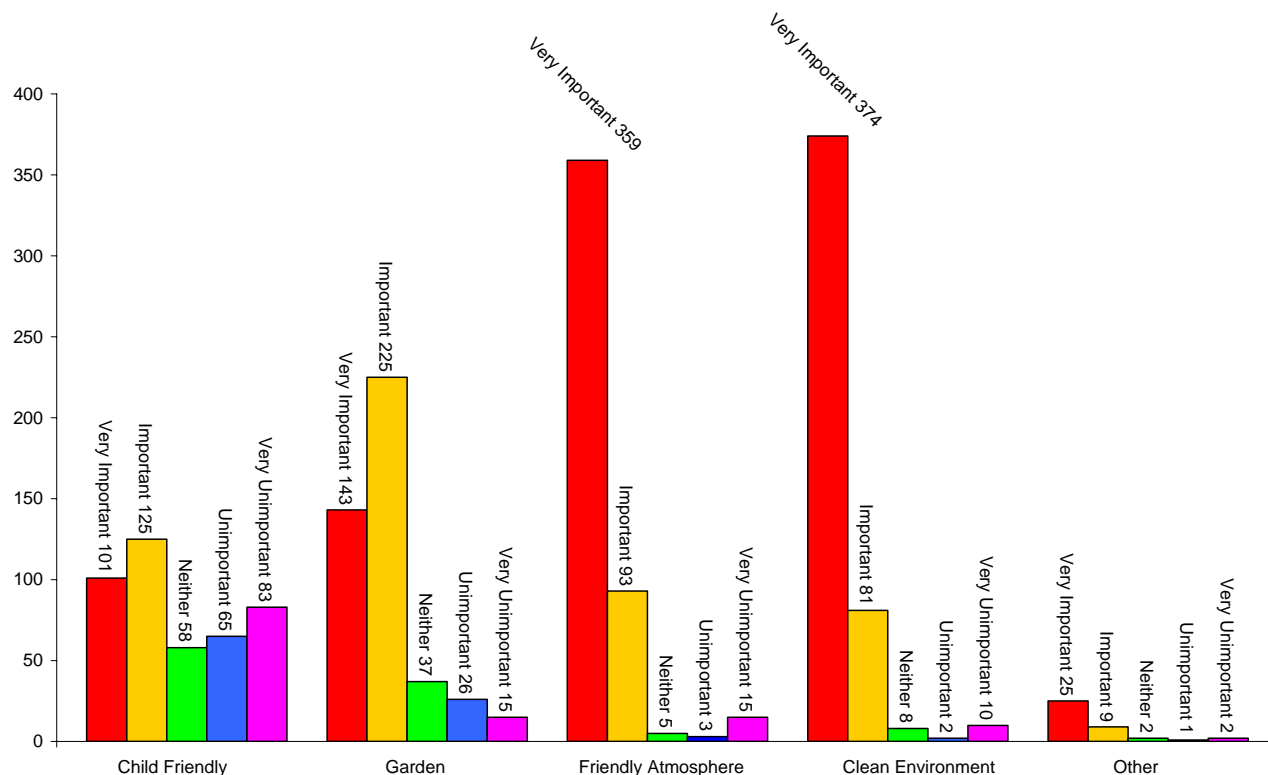
What services are important to you in a village pub ? Part: Entertainment
Multiple Selection Question - 516 people answered - this part had 2,066 answers



The following areas of the actual Village Pub itself were rated in importance by people

Individual Question 18

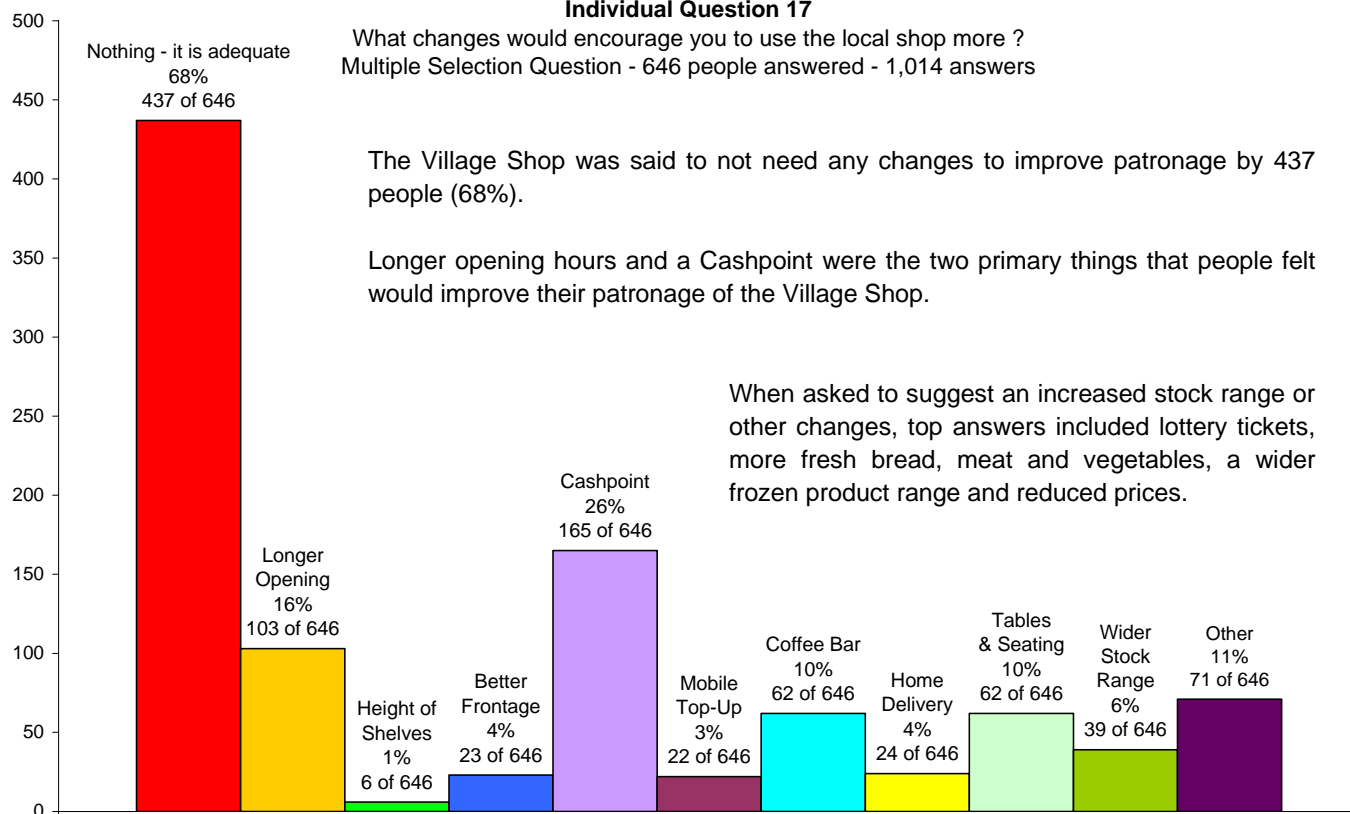
What services are important to you in a village pub ? Part: Pub Itself
Multiple Selection Question - 516 people answered - this part had 1,867 answers



VILLAGE SHOP

Individual Question 17

What changes would encourage you to use the local shop more ?
Multiple Selection Question - 646 people answered - 1,014 answers



The Village Shop was said to not need any changes to improve patronage by 437 people (68%).

Longer opening hours and a Cashpoint were the two primary things that people felt would improve their patronage of the Village Shop.

When asked to suggest an increased stock range or other changes, top answers included lottery tickets, more fresh bread, meat and vegetables, a wider frozen product range and reduced prices.

OTHER AMENITIES

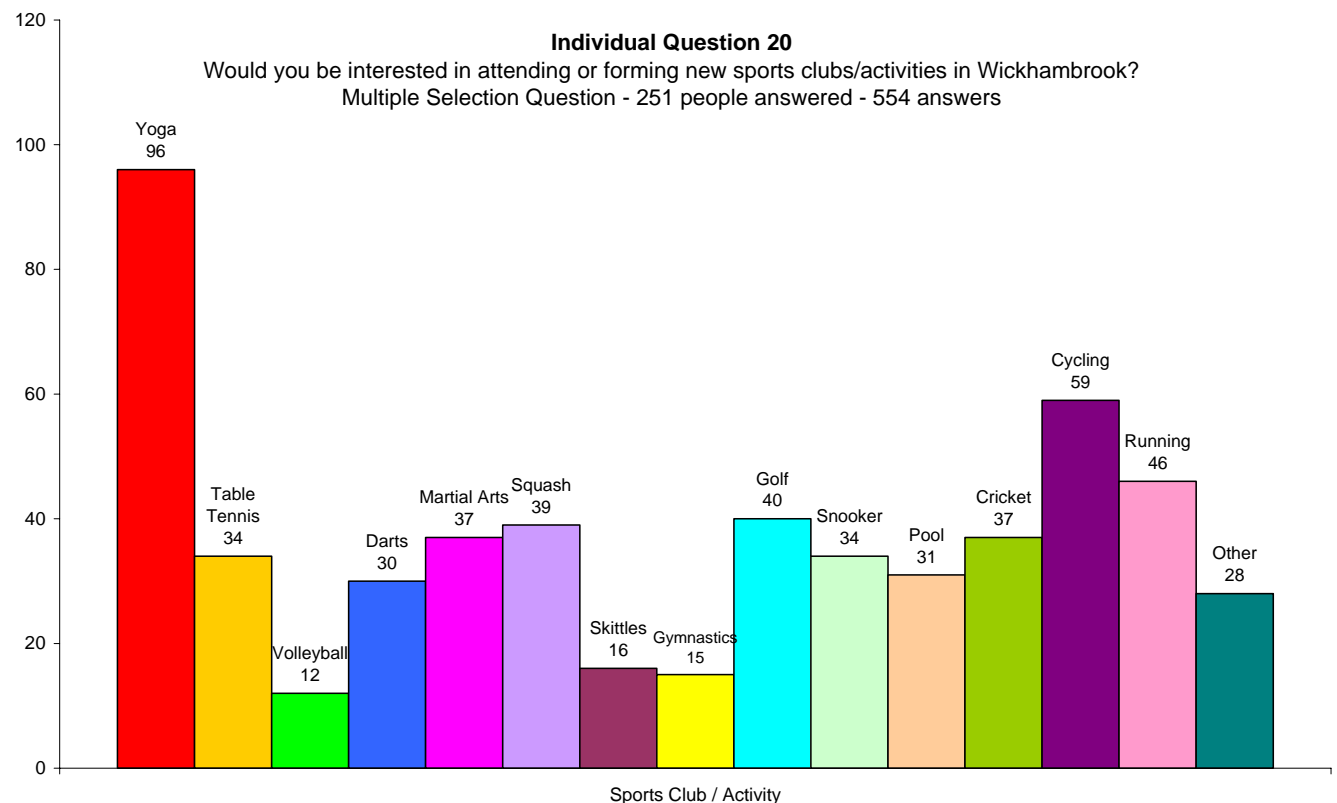
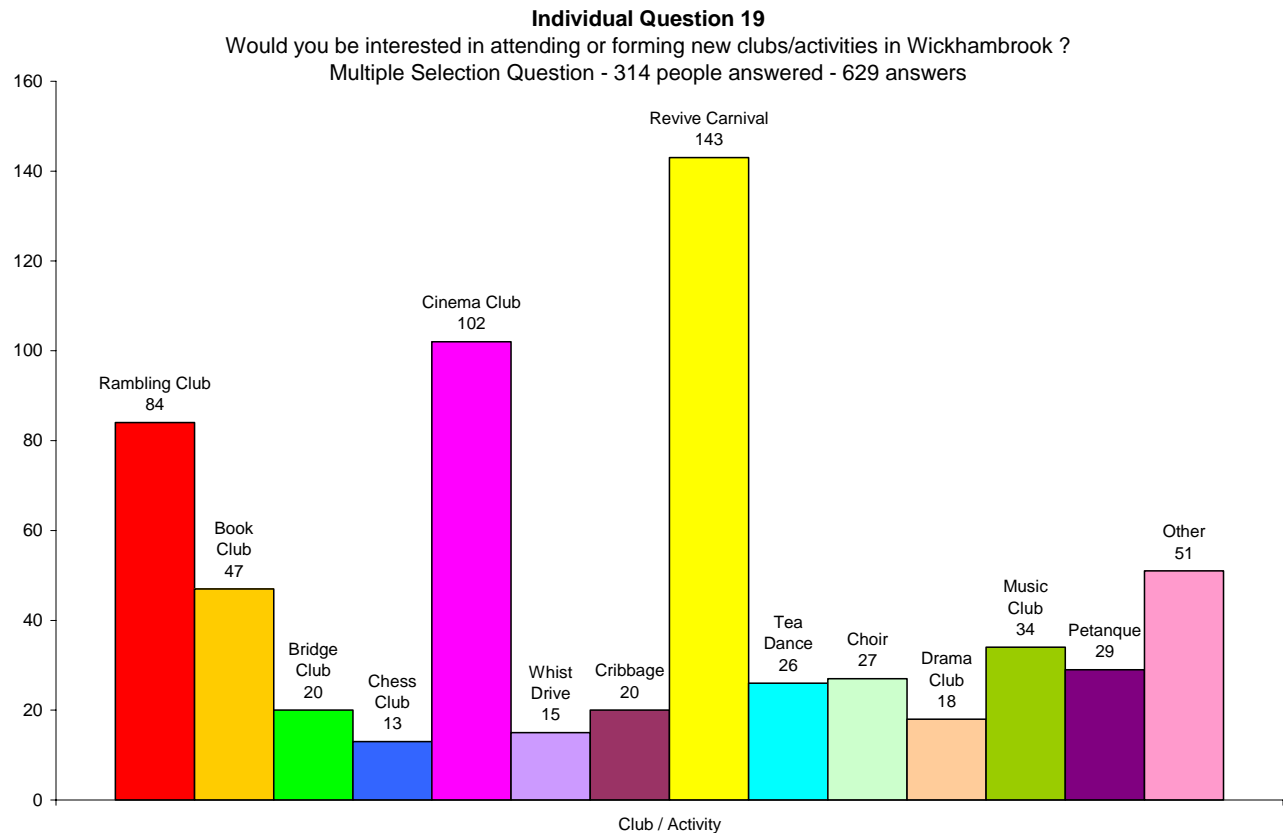
People were asked to suggest other amenities that they would like to see in the village, these suggestions were put into a Word-Cloud to indicate the relative popularity of each suggestion. A Word-Cloud increases the size of a word or phrase according to how often it is mentioned.

This question was answered by 156 people and as you will see below there are some recurring themes such as requests for a better pub and/or restaurant, a takeaway restaurant, coffee shop, farm shop/butcher/baker, hairdressers, improved bus service and better sports/play facilities.



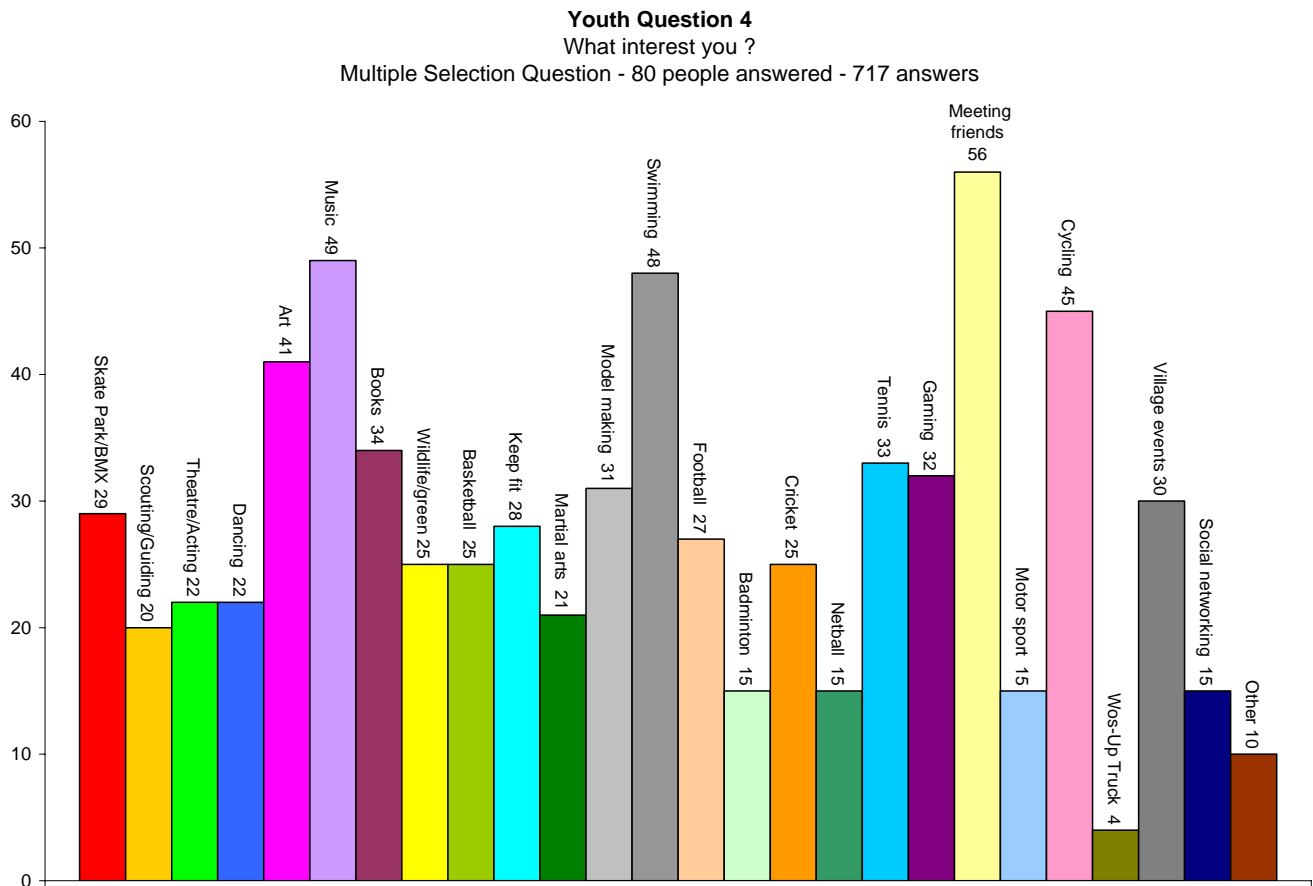
CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

People were asked if they would like to attend existing clubs/societies or forming new ones, Rambling, reviving the Carnival and Cinema Club received the most responses, followed by Yoga, Cycling and Running.

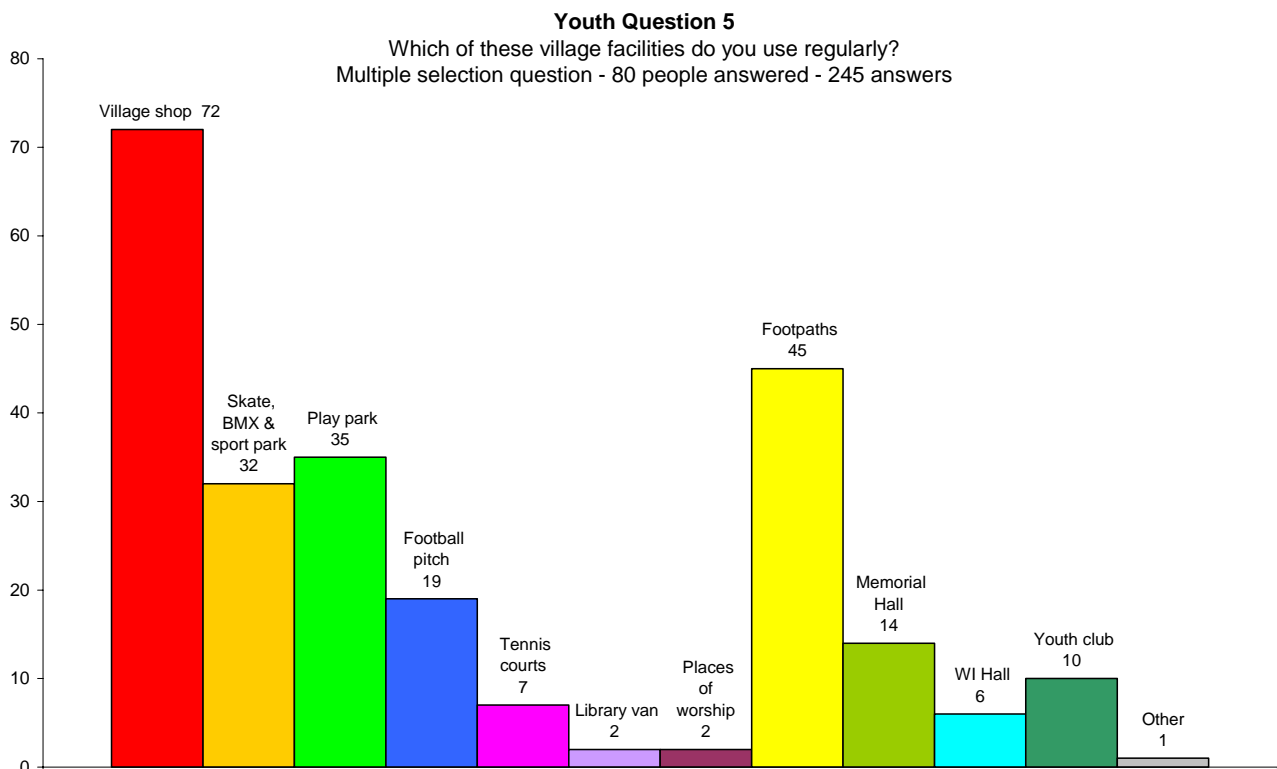


YOUTH INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

In the Youth Questionnaire we asked people what their interests were, Meeting friends was top, followed by Swimming, Music, Art and Cycling.

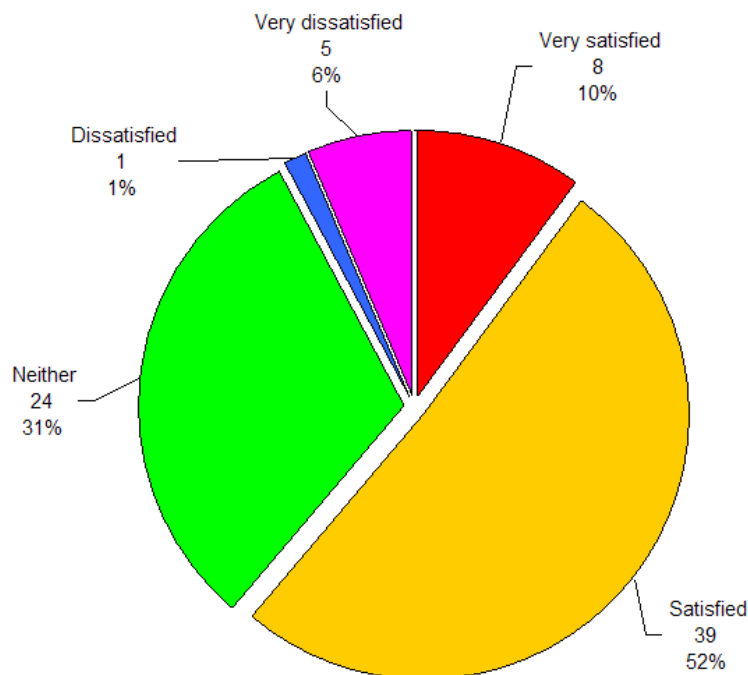


We also asked in the Youth Questionnaire which of the village facilities did people regularly use. The top answer was the Village Shop, followed by Footpaths, the Play Park and then the Skate and Sport Park.



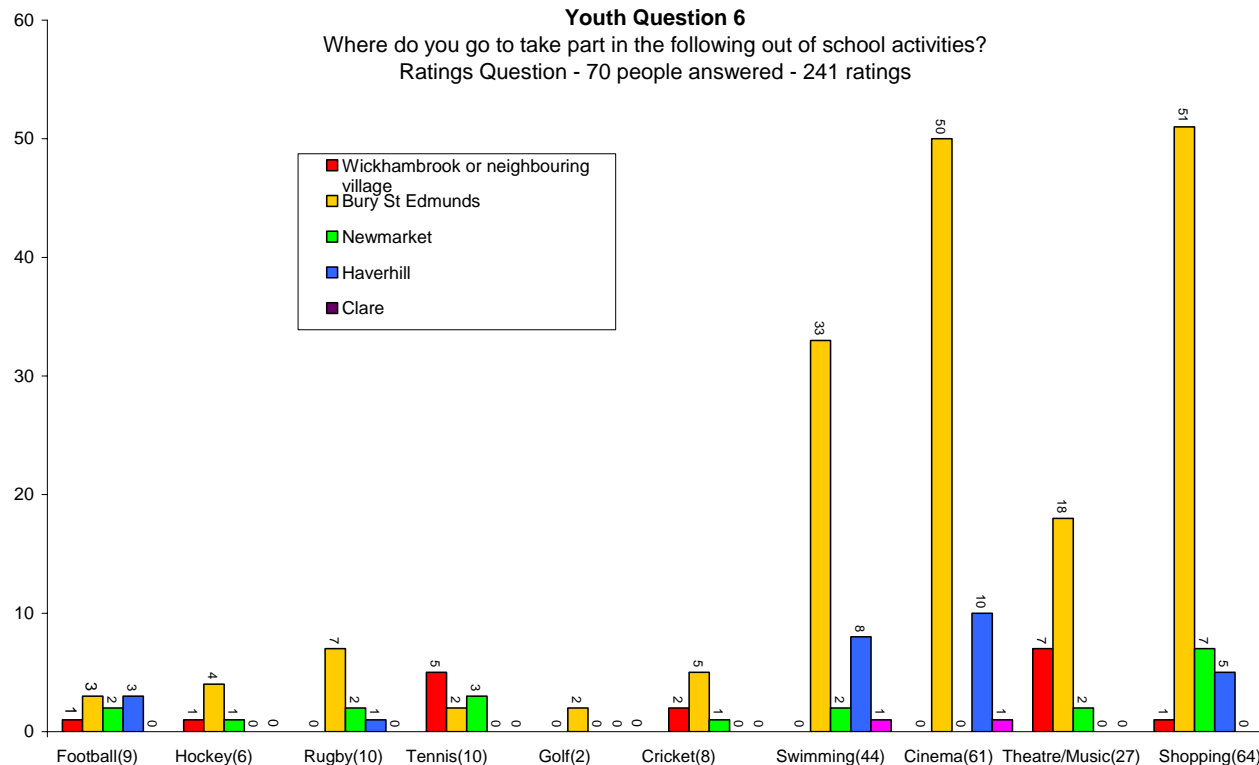
We asked people in the Youth Questionnaire how satisfied they were with the youth facilities in Wickhambrook, most people (52%) were satisfied and only a small 7% were dissatisfied.

Youth Question 7
Overall how satisfied are you with the current youth facilities in Wickhambrook?
Single Selection Question - 70 people answered



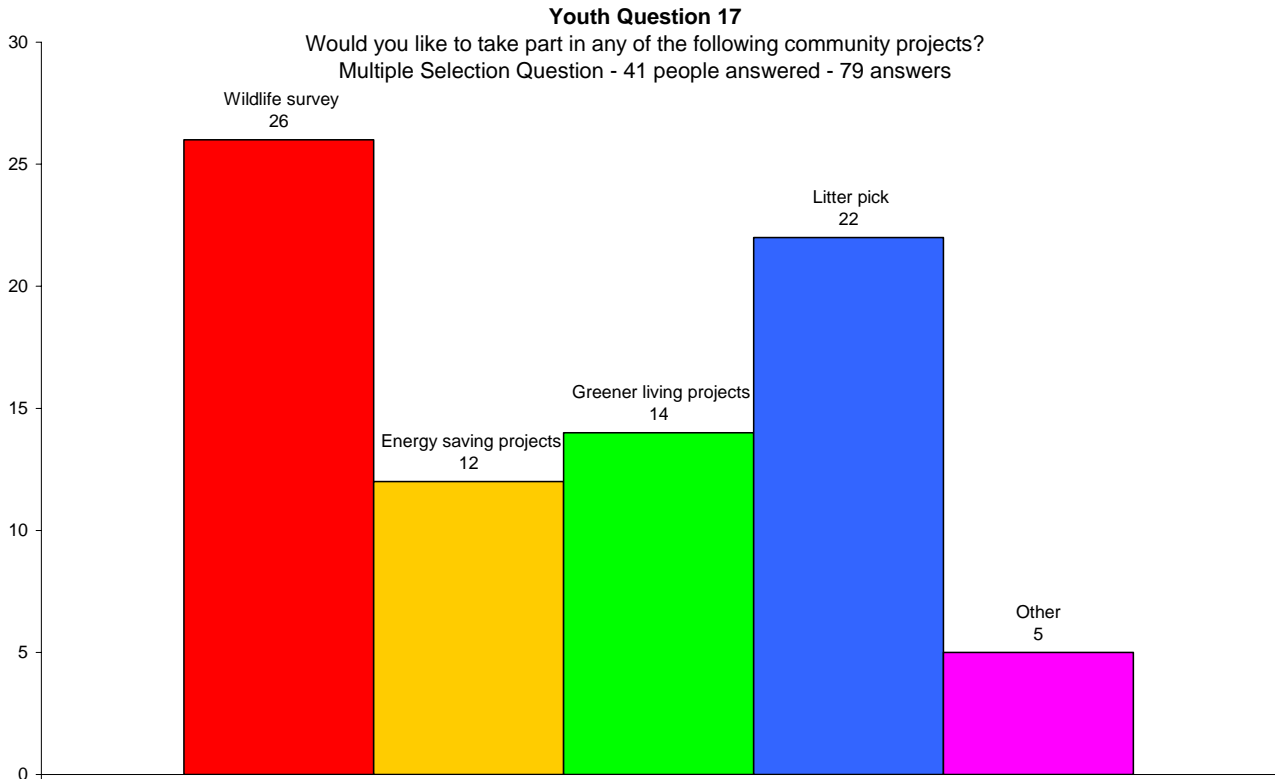
We further asked in the Youth Questionnaire where did people go to take part in out-of-school activities. Bury St. Edmunds was strongly ahead of all other areas in all of the activities with the sole exception of Tennis, where Wickhambrook was the preferred location.

Youth Question 6
Where do you go to take part in the following out of school activities?
Ratings Question - 70 people answered - 241 ratings



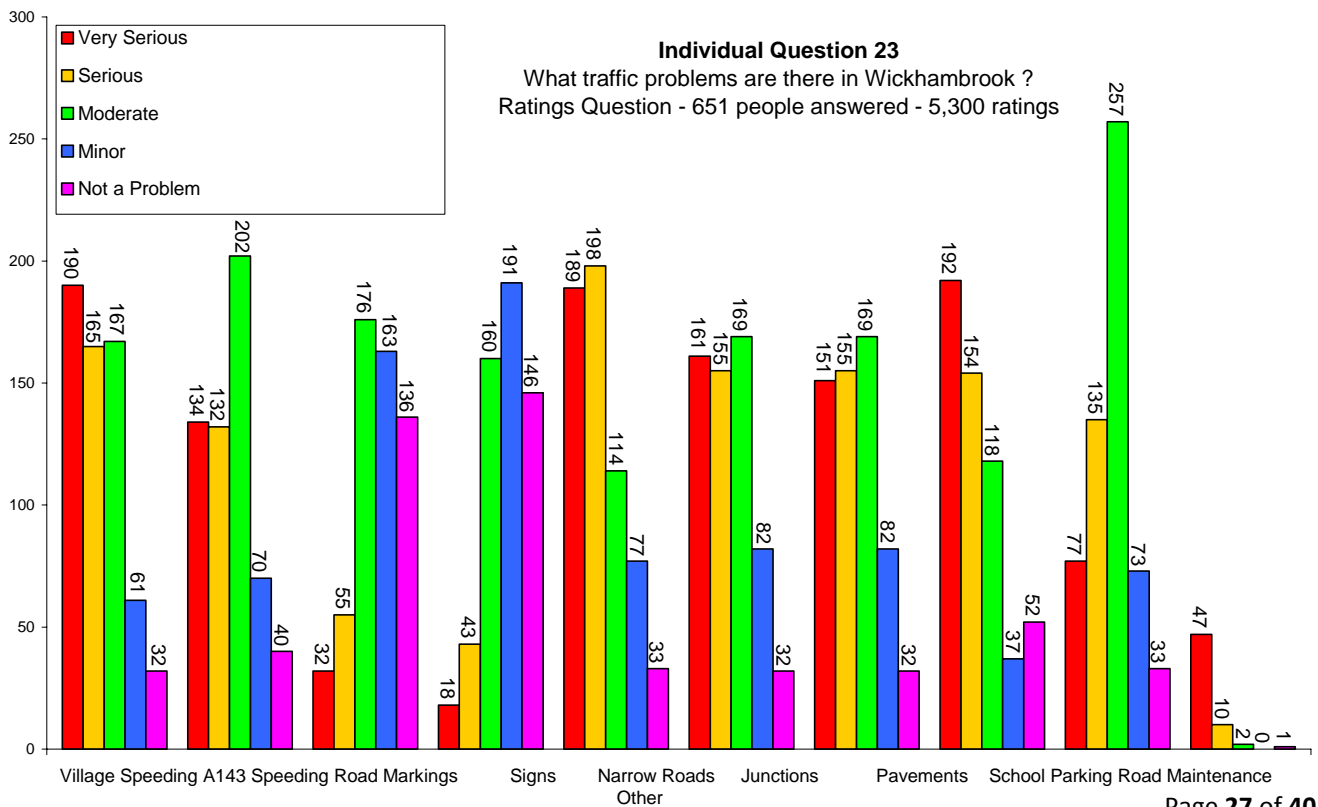
COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Youth Questionnaire asked people whether they would want to participate in a selection of community projects, a Wildlife survey and Litter Pick were the top two selections.



TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

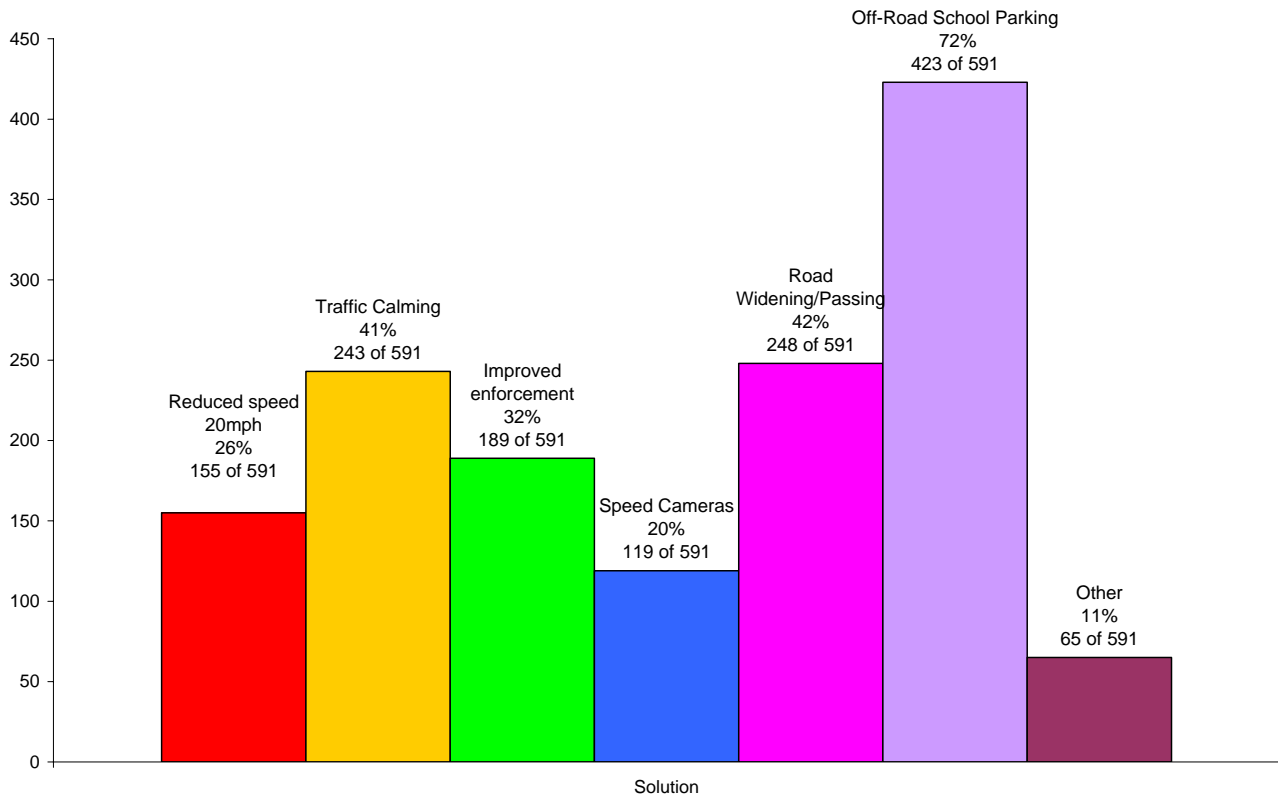
People identified a number of Very Serious or Serious traffic problems, Village Speeding, A143 Speeding, Narrow Roads, Junctions, Pavements, School Parking and Road Maintenance. Village Speeding, Narrow Roads and School Parking had the highest responses of seriousness. A high response rate was made to this question 651 from 699 people with on average 450 to 500 people classing an item as a Moderate to Serious problem.



Individual Question 24

What traffic solutions would you favour ?

Multiple Selection Question - 591 people answered - 1,442 answers



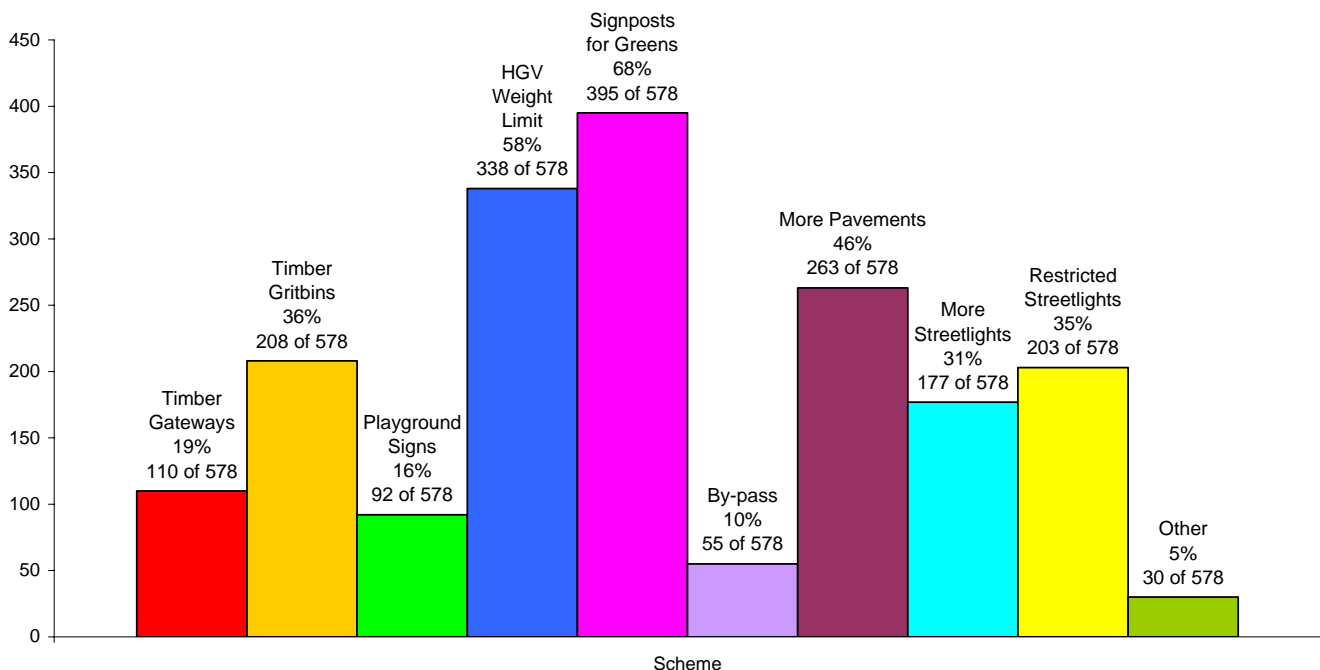
Several options were put forward as possible solutions to the Traffic Problems; the highest rated solution was off-street parking for the school, followed by road-widening with passing places and the third traffic calming.

People were asked whether they thought any of a range of schemes would improve Wickhambrook, 578 people responded. The top answer was Signposts for Greens, chosen by 68% of people closely followed by a HGV Weight Limit chosen by 58% and the third choice, More Pavements by 46%.

Individual Question 25

Do you think Wickhambrook could be improved by any of the following schemes ?

Multiple Selection Question - 578 people answered - 1,871 answers

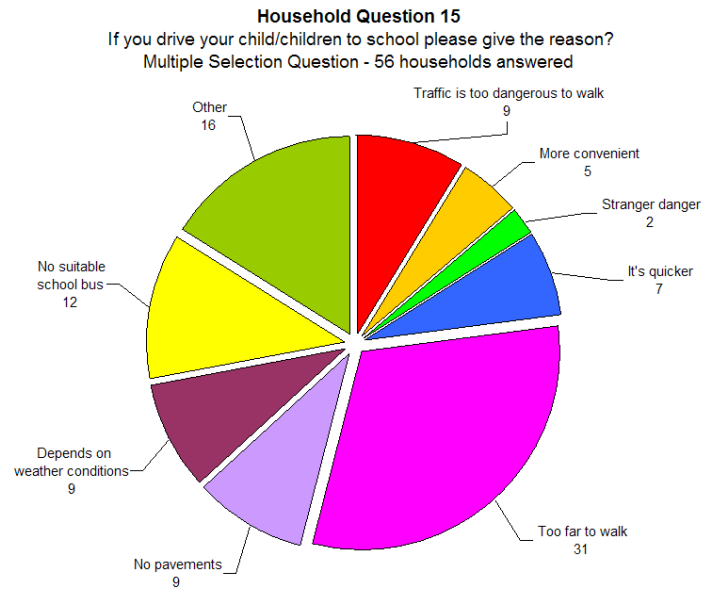


CHILDREN DRIVEN TO SCHOOL

One of the noted traffic problems by 464 responses was "Parking at the School".

This problem relates directly to how many parents drive their children to school so we asked the question about why they did drive their children to school, 56 parents responded and gave their reasons.

The most common reply was that it was too far to walk (31 of 56 households) with other reasons being: no suitable bus (12), depends on weather conditions (9), traffic is too dangerous to walk (9) and no pavements (9).

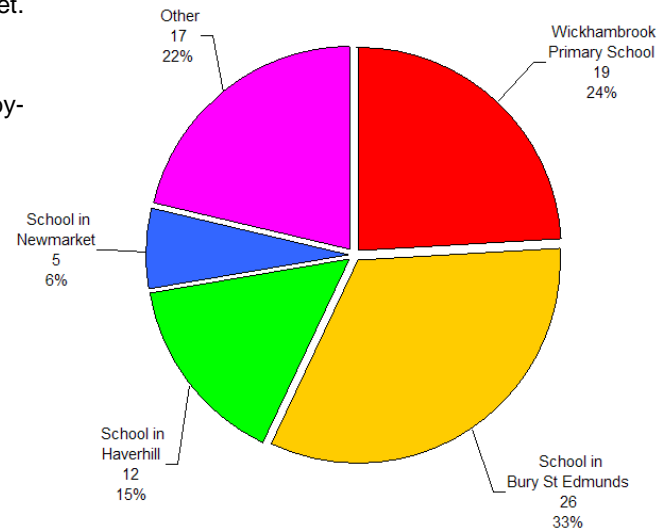


SCHOOLS

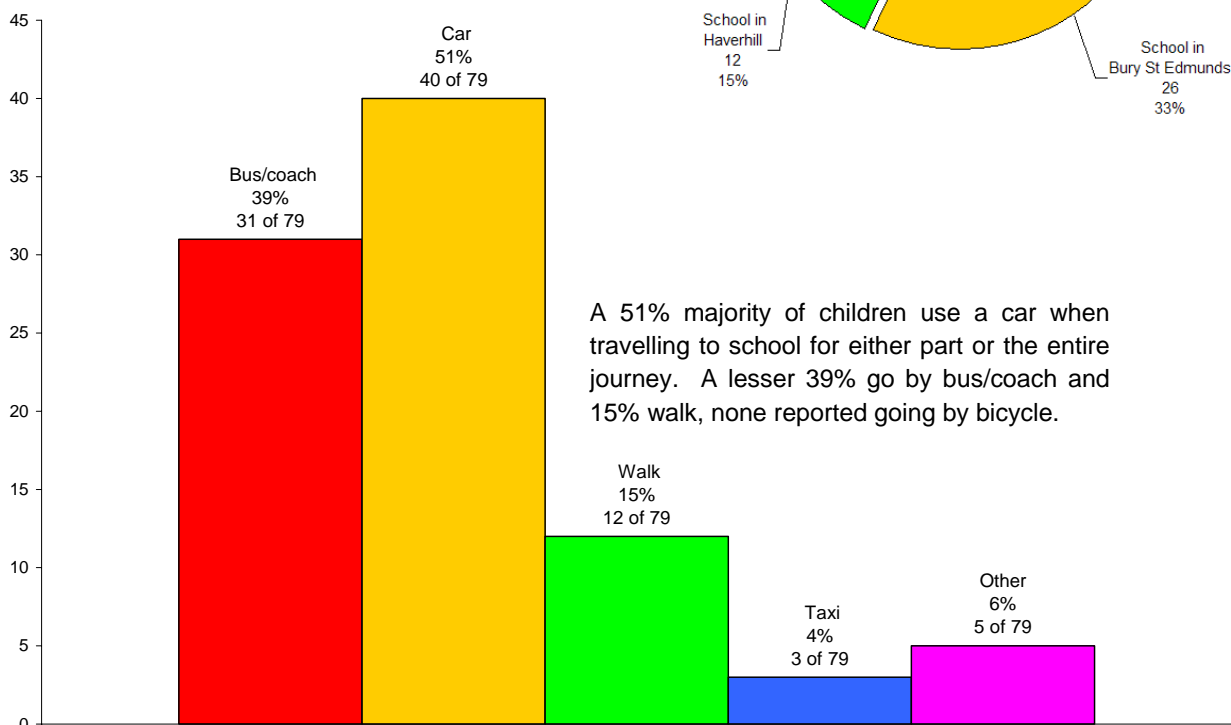
Children attend school far and wide. The majority of the youngest attend the local school, but 33% go to Bury St. Edmunds, 15% go to Haverhill and 6% go to Newmarket. None go to Clare.

Children also go to schools in Cambridge, Ely, Stoke-by-Clare, Risby, Tivetshall, King's Lynn and Wymondham.

Youth Question 9
Where do you go to school?
Single Selection Question - 79 people answered

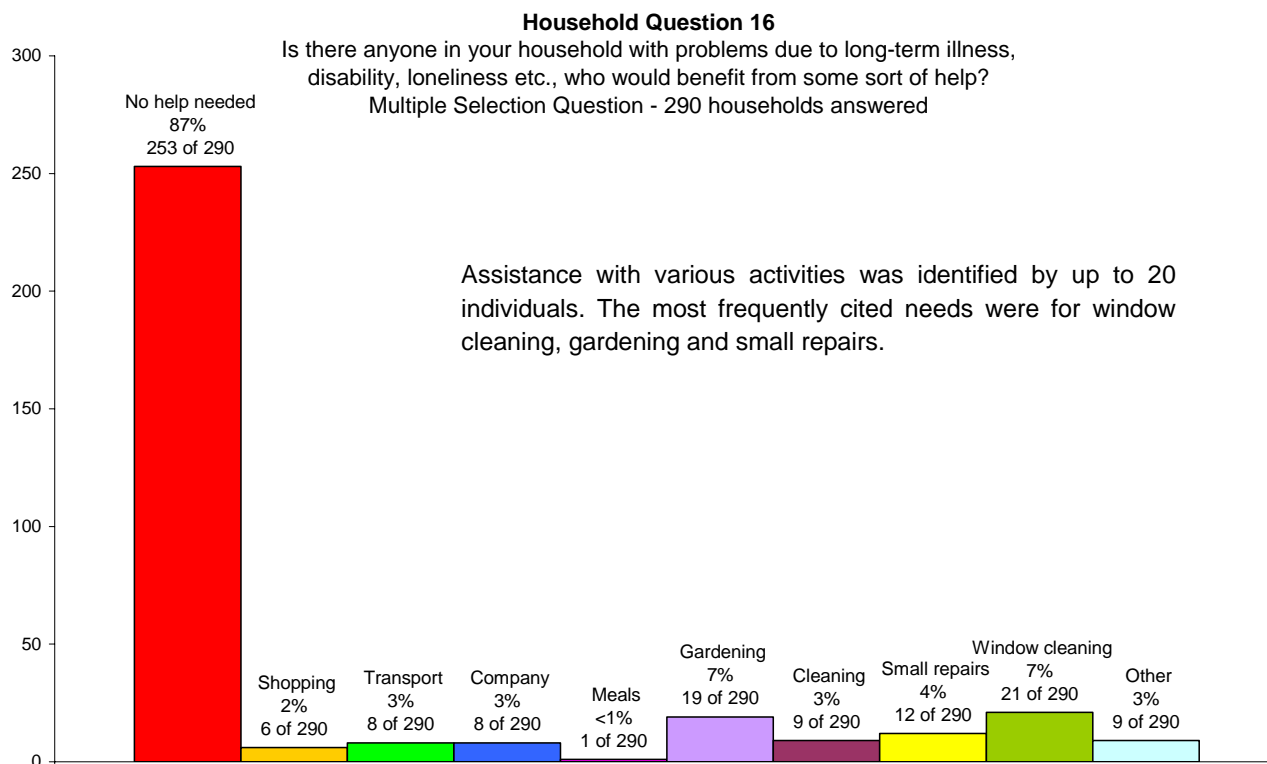


Youth Question 10
How do you normally get to school?
Multiple Selection Question - 79 people answered - 91 answers



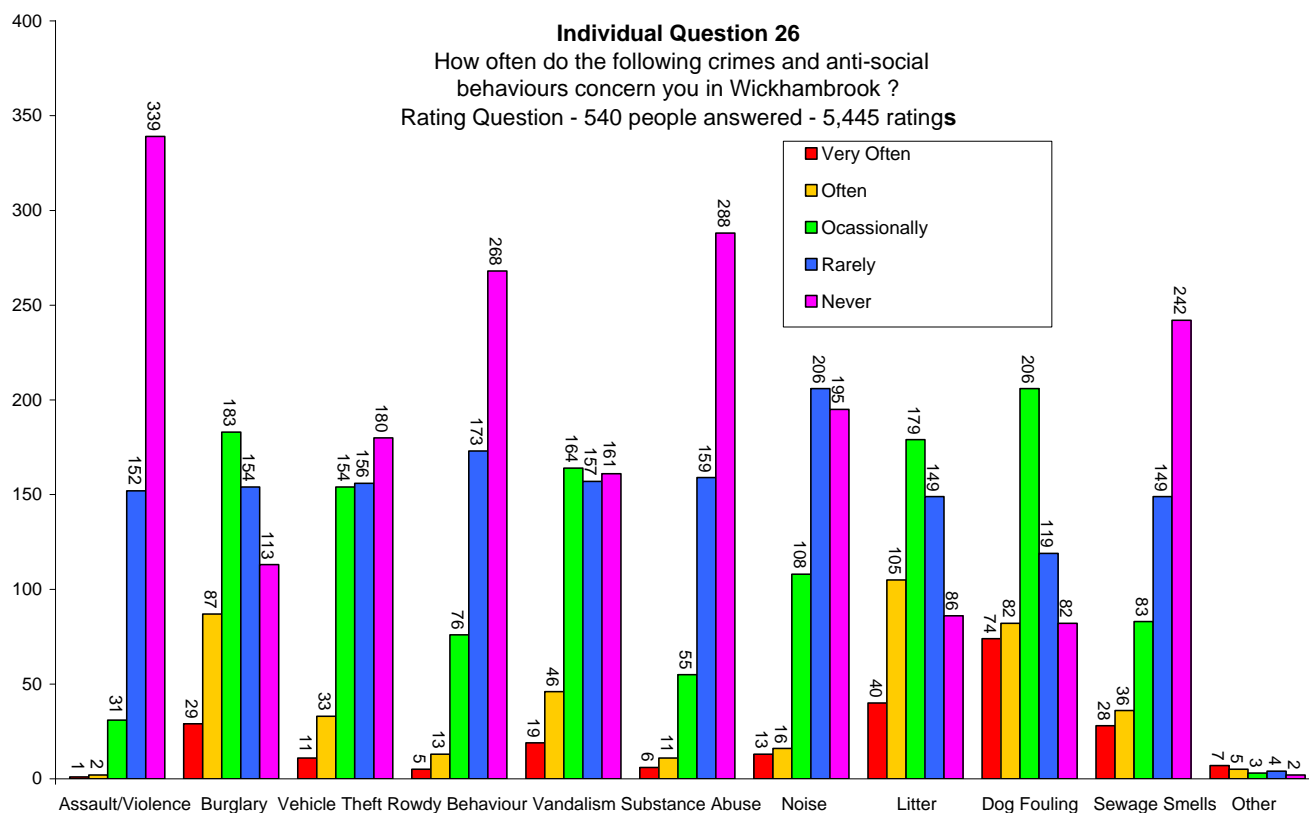
HELP FOR THE VULNERABLE

There was an 87% response from the 290 households who answered this question indicating that no help was needed at present. We are concerned though that with only 290 out of 389 household replying to this question there may be a greater need within the village than that suggested by the replies.

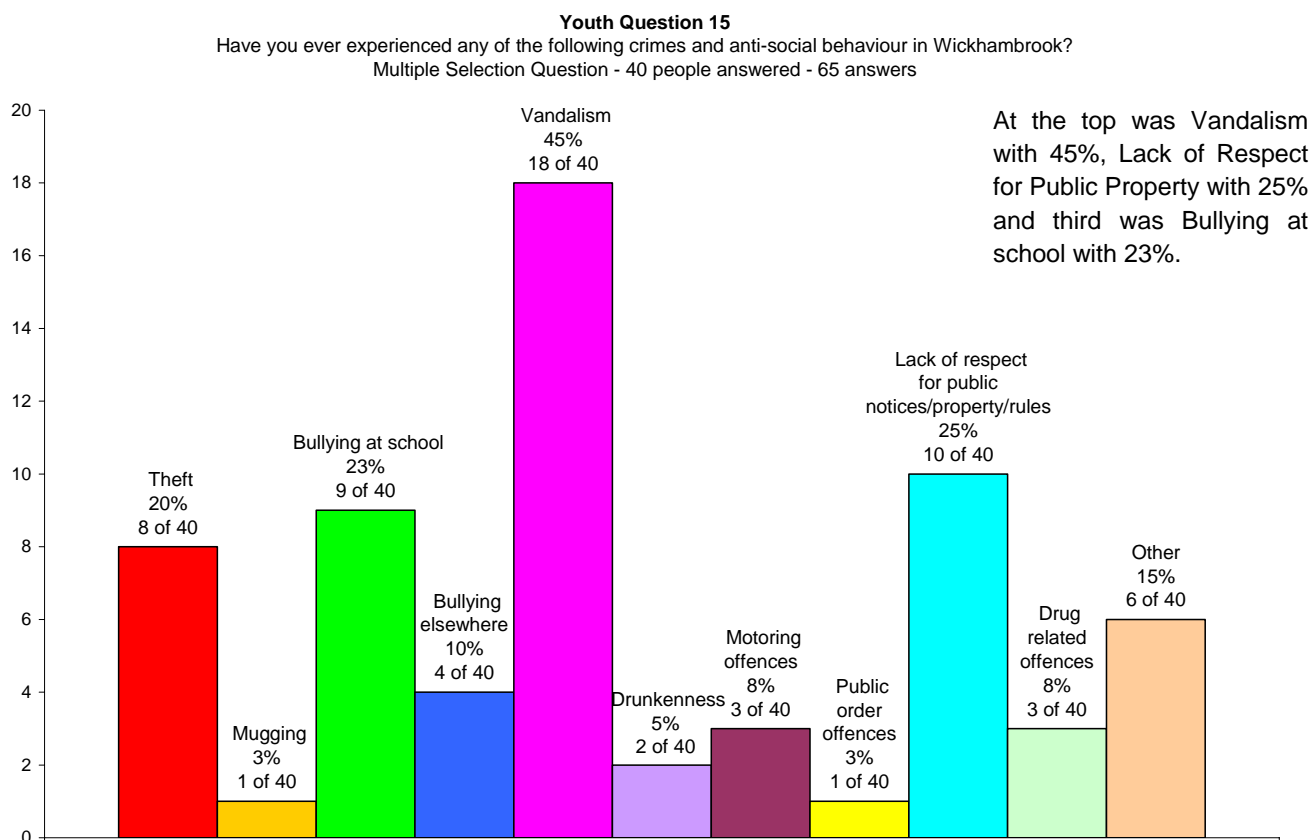


CRIME

Fortunately, the survey confirms that Wickhambrook is a relatively low crime area, but nonetheless there is significant concern about burglary, theft from vehicles, vandalism, litter and dog fouling.



We asked in the Youth Questionnaire about the experiences people had of crime and anti-social behaviour, just less than 50% of the 40 young people who answered the crime question indicated that they had experienced one or more of the listed incidents.

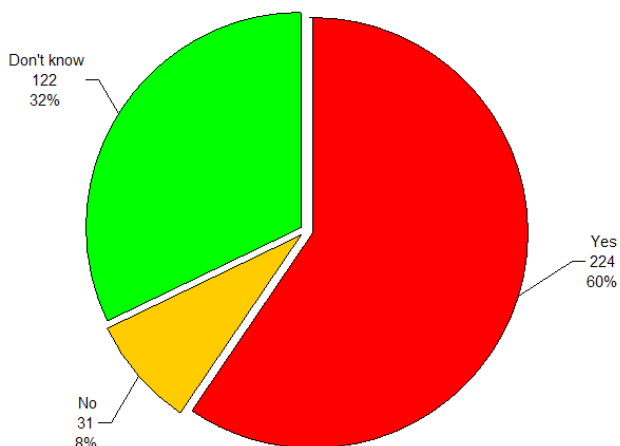


NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

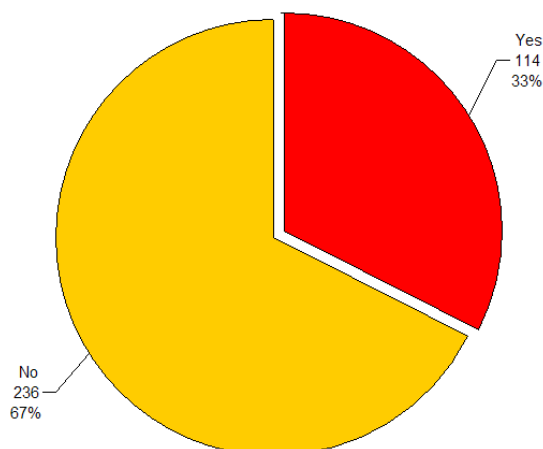
Thirty Two percent (32%) of householders do not know whether they are in a Neighbourhood Watch area or not.

Sixty seven percent (67%) of householders do not know the name of their Neighbourhood Watch coordinator.

Household Question 17
Is your home within a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme?
Single Selection Question - 377 households answered



Household Question 18
Do you know the name of your Neighbourhood Watch coordinator?
Single Selection Question - 349 households answered



WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT LIVING IN WICKHAMBROOK

walks and footpaths



WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO CHANGE ABOUT WICKHAMBROOK

A word cloud of suggestions for improvements in Wickham Brook. The words are arranged in a cluster, with 'SPEEDING' being the largest and most central. Other prominent words include 'TRAFFIC', 'BETTER BUS SERVICE', 'NOTHING', 'AFFORDABLE HOUSING', 'BROADBAND SPEED', 'FOOTPATHS', 'DEVELOPMENT', 'COMMUNITY SPIRIT', and 'SCHOOL PARKING'. The words are in various colors: yellow, red, green, purple, and blue. The word 'PLAYAREA' is written vertically on the right side.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

BROADBAND SPEED

SPEEDING

TRAFFIC

DEVELOPMENT

BETTER BUS SERVICE

FOOTPATHS

NOTHING

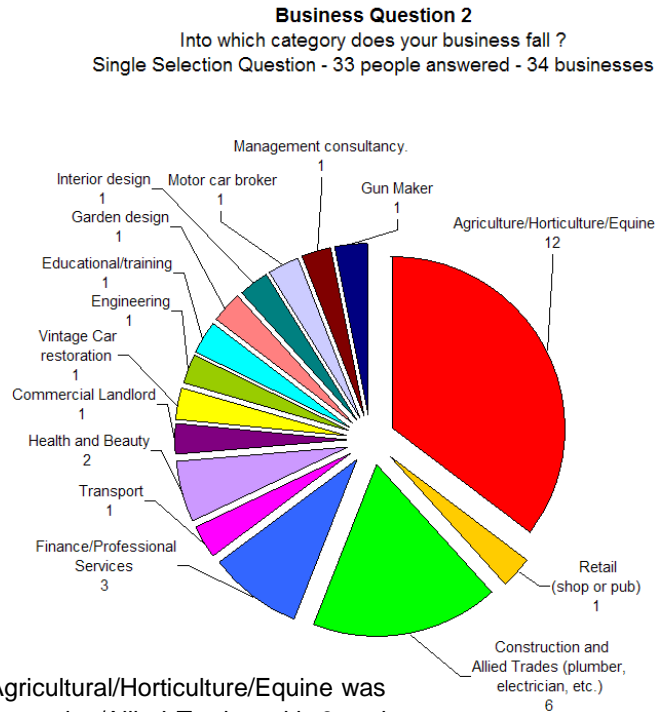
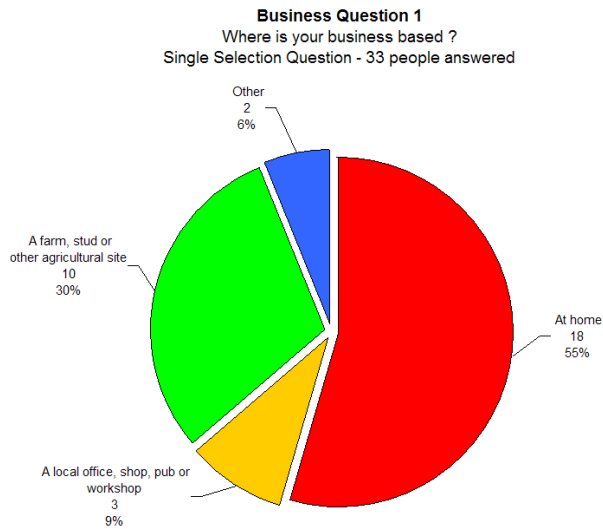
COMMUNITY SPIRIT

SCHOOL PARKING

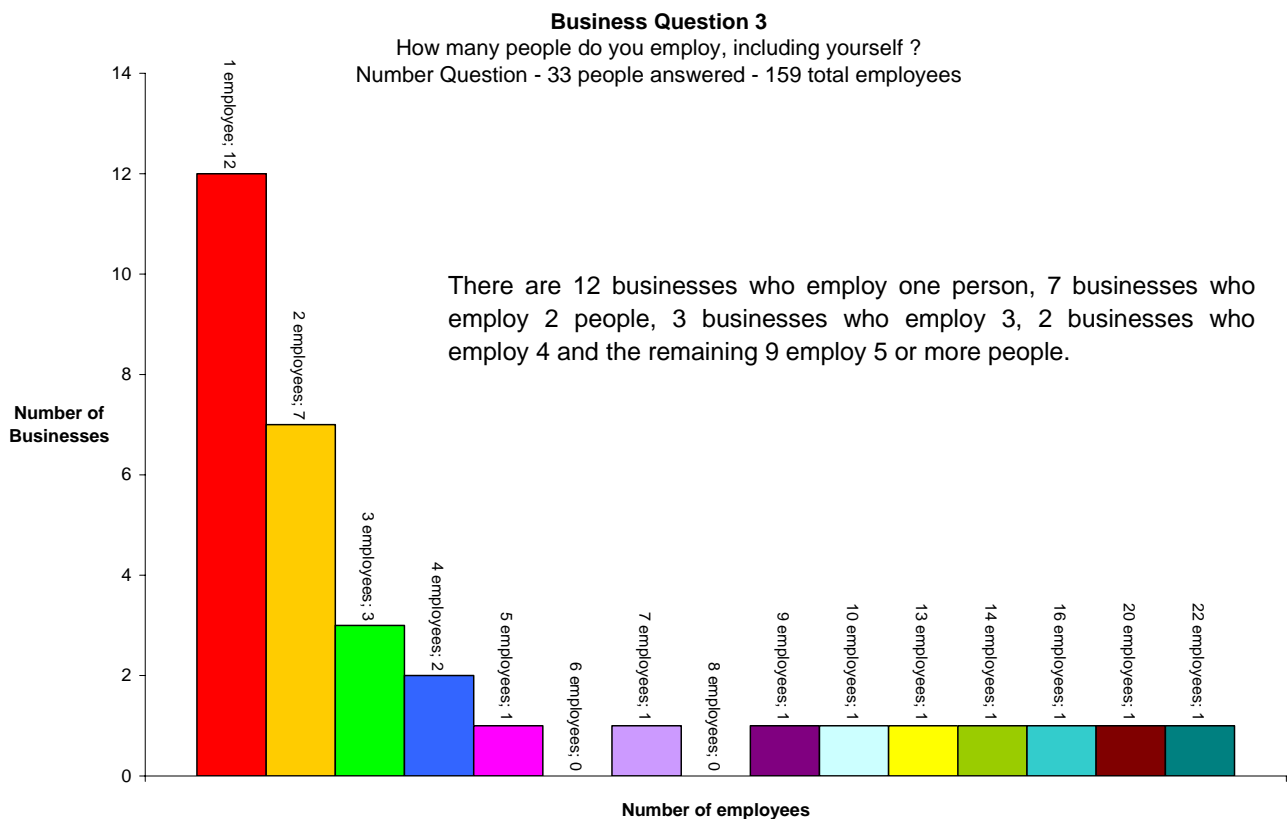
PLAYAREA

BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHICS

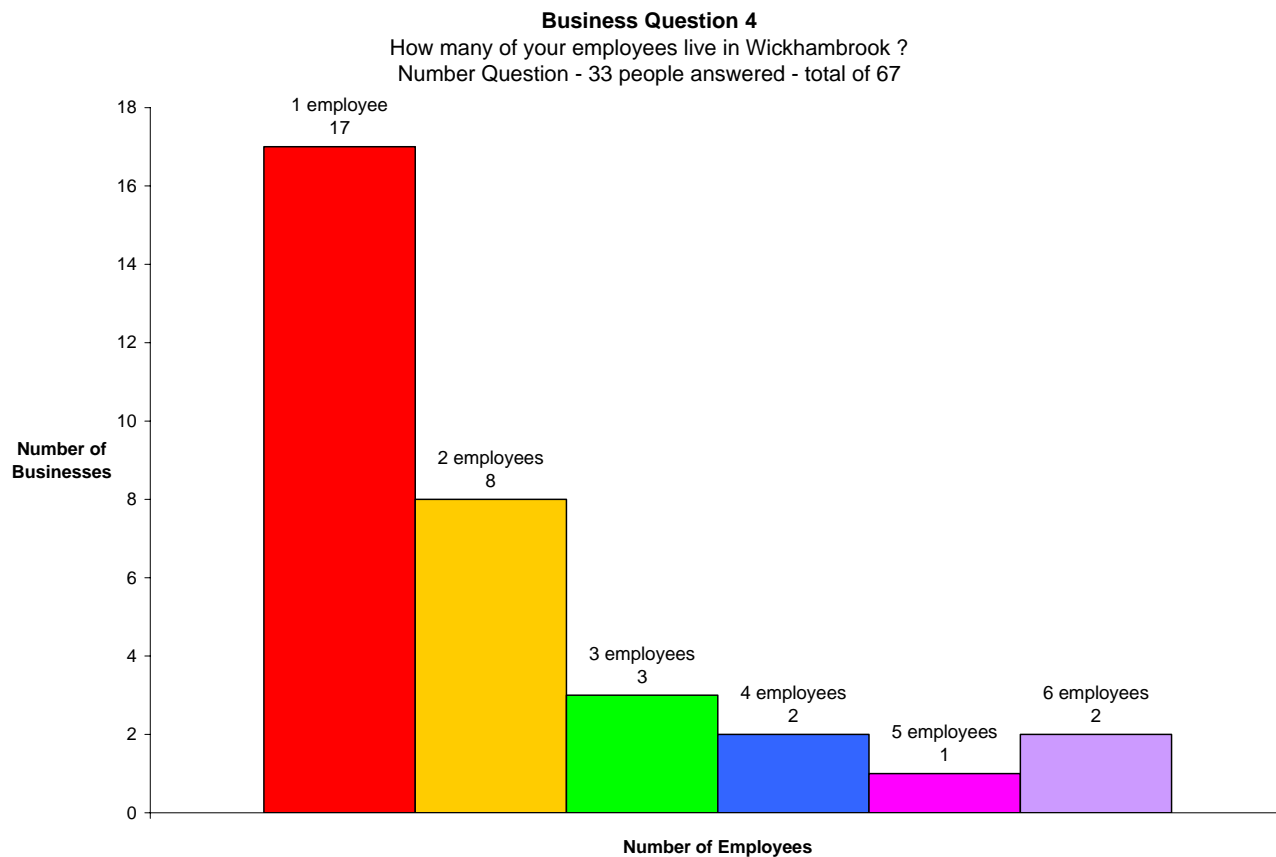
The majority of businesses (55%) are based at home, a significant 30% are based on a farm, stud or other agricultural site, a smaller 9% are based in local offices, shop, pub or workshop, of the remaining two businesses, one locates at different building sites in and around the village and the other one is the Doctor's Surgery.



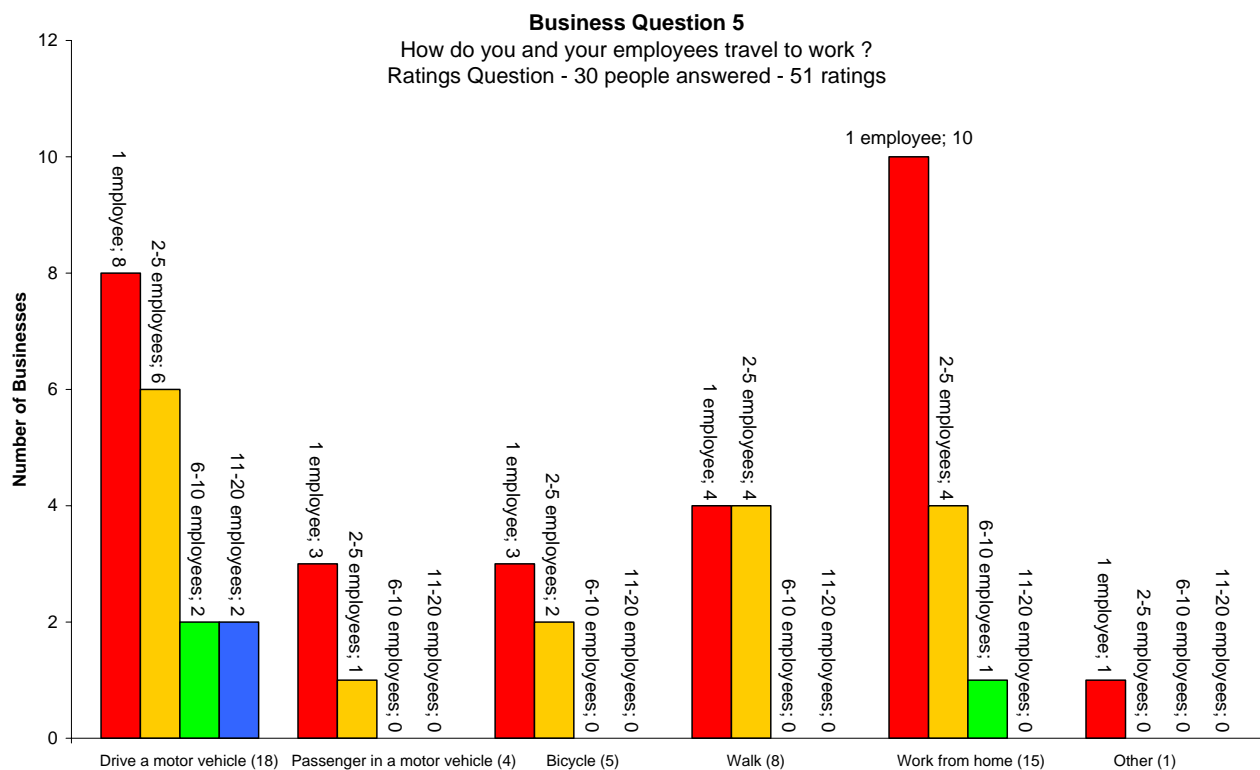
There is a wide variety of categories of businesses, Agricultural/Horticulture/Equine was the most frequent with 12 businesses, next was Construction/Allied Trades with 6 and third was Financial/Professional Services with 3.



We then asked those businesses how many of their employees live in Wickhambrook. There were 17 businesses who said they had one employee living in the village, 8 businesses said they had 2 employees, the remaining 8 businesses said they had 3 or more employees living in the village.



We followed this up by asking how their employees got to work. The majority of businesses had employees that used a car, a reasonable number had employees who walked to work and a few had employees who used a bicycle, there were none that used public transport. There was a significant number who worked at home.



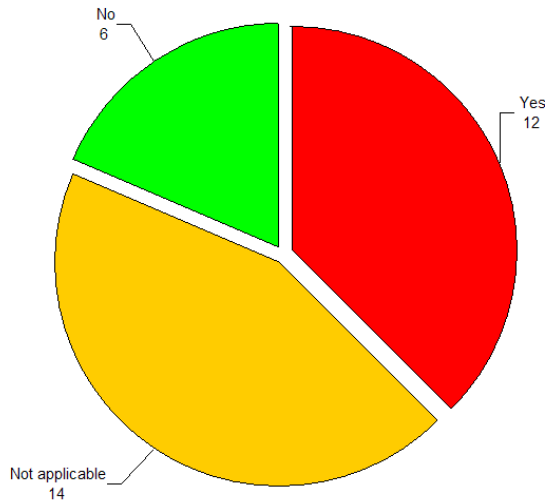
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Looking to the future for business in Wickhambrook, we asked whether businesses felt they would be able to expand the size of their premises in the village, we asked whether businesses had experienced any problems with planning authorities and followed these two questions by one about what job creation opportunities they thought they might be creating in the next 3 years.

There were 14 businesses who said expansion was not applicable to them. Of the 18 other businesses 12 said they felt they could and 6 said they didn't feel they could expand in Wickhambrook.

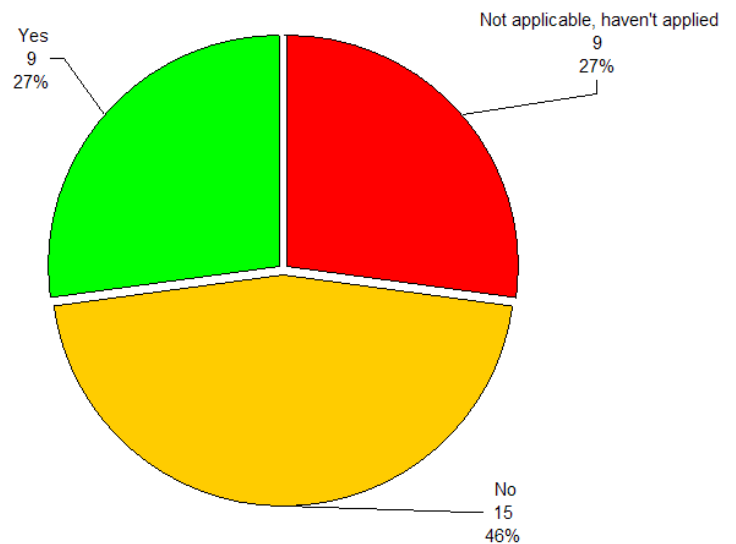
Business Question 6

If you needed to expand the size of your business premises, would you be able to do that in Wickhambrook?
Single Selection Question - 32 people answered



Business Question 12

Have you experienced any problems with planning authorities?
Single Selection Question - 33 people answered

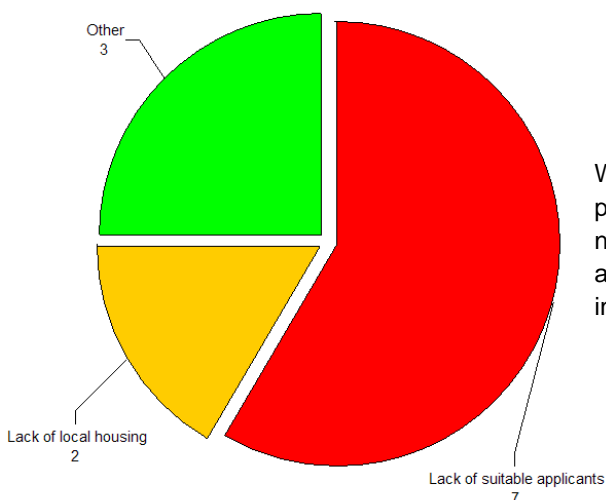


Nine businesses replied that they had not had any experience of dealing with the planning authorities, from the remaining 18 businesses, there was a 50/50 split, 9 had experienced problems and 9 had not.

On the question of job creation, the majority of businesses (62.5%) said they do not expect to create any job opportunities in the next 3 years. We do not know however whether that is because they do not want to employ additional people or because they feel they cannot. A further 31% said they felt they would create 1 to 4 new jobs, one said 5-10 jobs and one said more than 10 jobs.

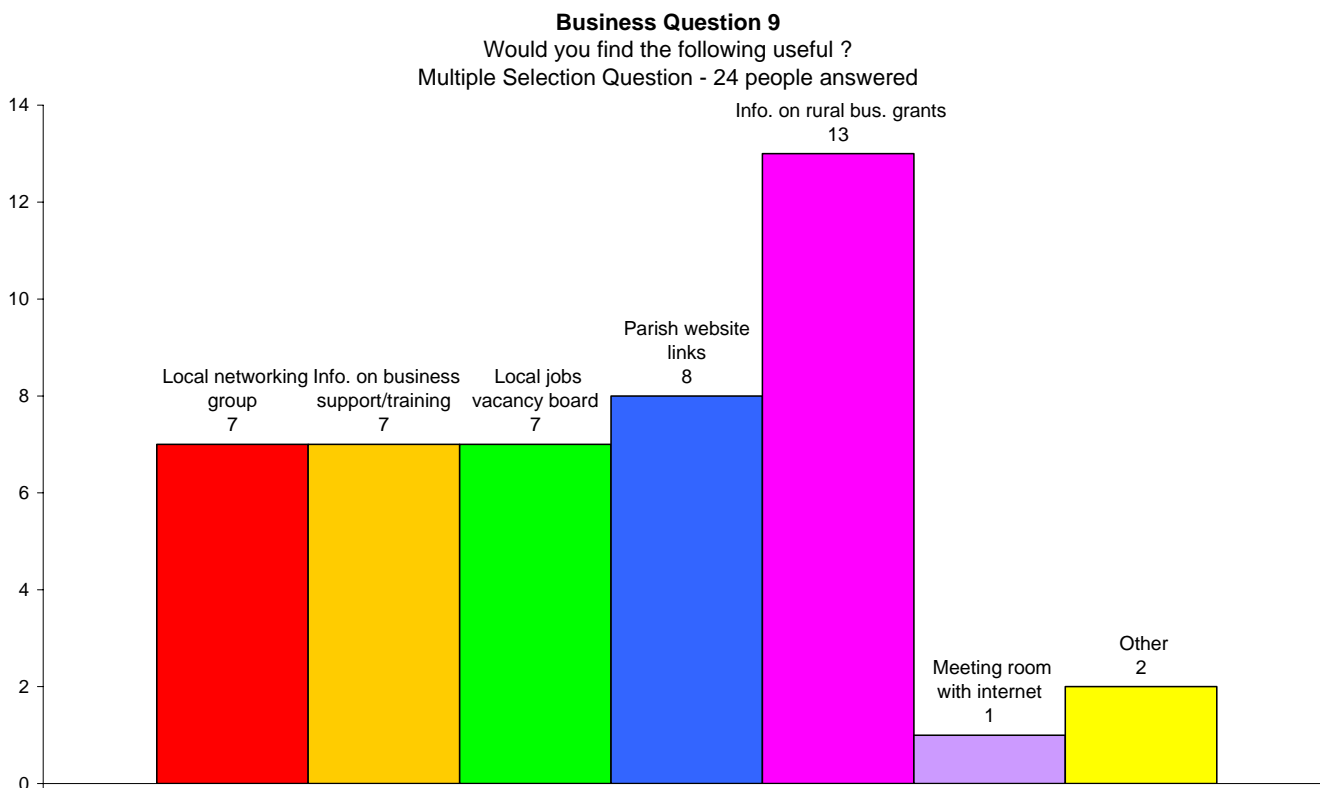
Business Question 8

If you had problems filling job vacancies, was it because... ?
Multiple Selection Question - 9 people answered



We asked businesses whether or not they had experienced problems filling job vacancies and if so why was it. There were nine people who replied with 7 responding a lack of suitable applicants, two a lack of local housing and the three other indicated the question was not applicable to them.

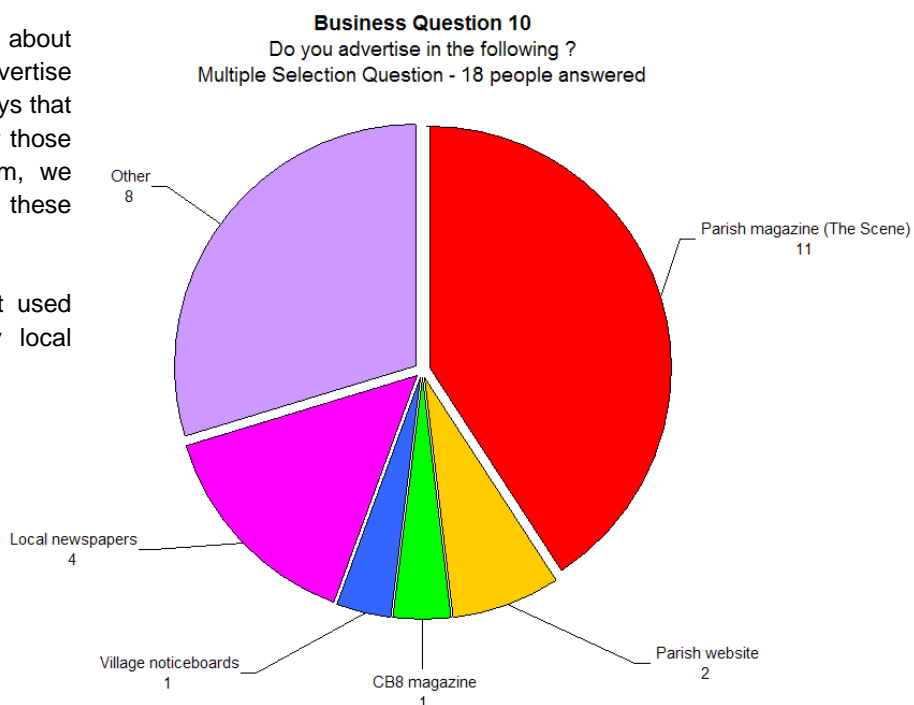
There are often various resources available to businesses to help them grow and develop, so we asked which of a choice of resources would be useful to them. Top was information on rural business grants, almost equal second were parish website links, information on local network groups, information on business support/training and a local jobs vacancy board. The other category was indicated by two businesses and both said faster and more consistent broadband internet service. Meeting rooms were only indicated by one business,



Lastly we wanted to know about advertising, where did businesses advertise so we gave them a list of different ways that are common around the village. For those who didn't advertise in any of them, we asked why they did not use any of these methods.

The Parish Magazine was the most used method of advertising, followed by local newspapers.

The other 8 responses, covered advertising in newspapers in Clare and Newmarket, using the business's own website, national magazines and online and specialist press.



The responses we had to why businesses did not advertise using any of the above methods were varied, most however related to local advertising not being appropriate or relevant to their business and what it sold and where it sold it; some said they did not need to advertise as their business was promoted by recommendation or by their own website, two businesses said they had not found advertising effective, two said they intended to look at it but had not yet done anything about it.

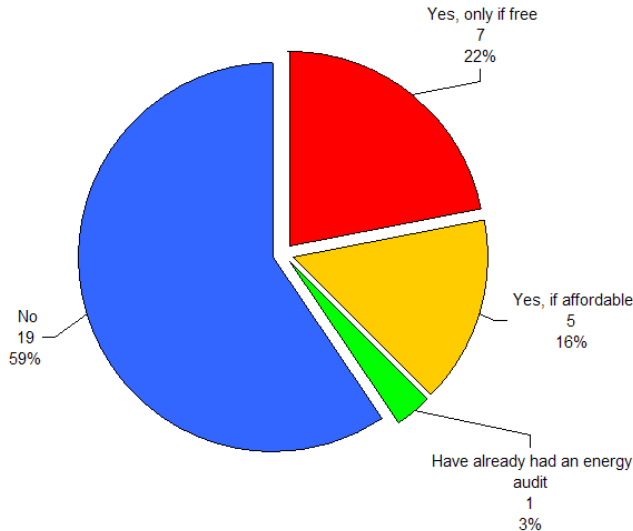
BUSINESS ENERGY

We asked businesses whether they would be interested in an Energy Audit and other Energy related initiatives. Only 3% had already had an Energy Audit, 59% said they had no interest in one, 22% said yes if it was free and a lean 16% were prepared to pay for one.

Business Question 13

Would you be interested in having an energy audit carried out to assess areas where savings could be made?

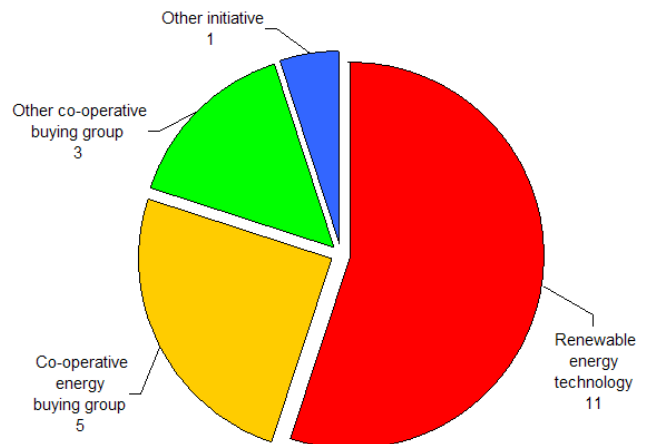
Single Selection Question - 32 people answered



Business Question 14

Would you be interested in any of the following initiatives for your business?

Multiple Selection Question - 17 people answered



On the initiatives question, 55% said they would be interested in renewable energy technology, 29% were interested in a co-operative energy buying group.

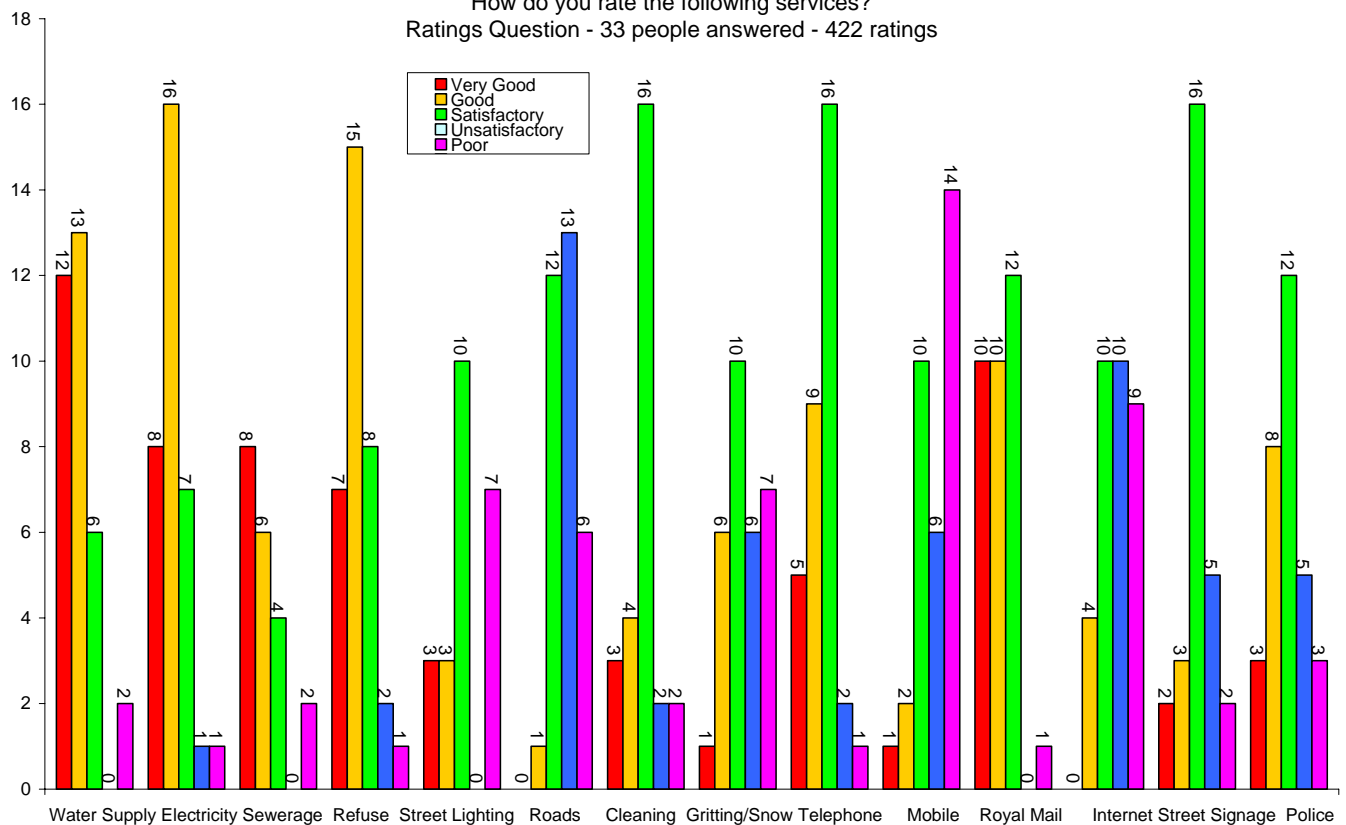
BUSINESS SERVICES

Lastly we asked businesses to rate the services they use from a list. Water Supply, Electricity, Refuse Collection, Sewerage, Telephone and Royal Mail were rated well. Mobile, Internet and Roads were rated poorly, Street cleaning, Street lighting, Gritting/Snow Clearance, Street Signage and the Police were generally satisfactory but had significant Poor ratings too.

Business Question 15

How do you rate the following services?

Ratings Question - 33 people answered - 422 ratings



PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN

A Parish Emergency Plan provides advice and guidance to a local community both in advance of and during any significant emergency, including events such as heavy snow, flooding, explosions, terrorist attacks, utilities failures and fuel shortages

There were 76 people who expressed an interest in the formation of a Parish Emergency Plan and 46 of those people supplied their contact details and again these have been passed on to the Parish Council, who kindly agreed to proceed with this project.

APPENDIX A - PROPOSED ACTIONS

- ❖ Send a full Parish Plan and Action Plan to the Local Authorities asking them to formally adopt our proposals.
- ❖ Promote existing, and solicit interest in new, community buying plans (e.g. heating oil).
- ❖ Request a response from the gas supplier regarding mains supply.
- ❖ Investigate energy saving and renewable energy options.
- ❖ Promote a 'good neighbour' campaign to look out for and help vulnerable residents.
- ❖ Notify all relevant housing authorities of the future housing needs and development preferences of the residents.
- ❖ Notify school and transport authorities of the parking, transport and traffic opinions of the residents.
- ❖ Urge the Parish Council and Memorial Social Centre Committee to review The Scene, What's On and village website with a view to widening and improving awareness of all village communications.
- ❖ Investigate ways to improve how the work of the Parish Council can be better communicated.
- ❖ Notify local churches of the opinions of residents.
- ❖ Investigate how interest expressed in forming new clubs and societies can be turned into action.
- ❖ Notify all relevant public services on the opinions of residents on all utilities and investigate options for improving those with low satisfaction levels (e.g. road care, mobile coverage and broadband speed).
- ❖ Notify Local Authorities and Police on the opinions of residents on traffic problems and recommend a working party to be created to investigate solutions.
- ❖ Notify Neighbourhood Watch and SNT Liaison Officers on the level of public knowledge of the Neighbourhood watch project.
- ❖ Investigate ways to action Community Projects for Wickhambrook Youth.
- ❖ Investigate ways to improve services and information for local businesses.

SOME CLOSING THOUGHTS

Thank you very much for reading this Final Report from the Wickhambrook Parish Plan Steering Committee.

An immense amount of work went into the preparation and production of the questionnaires, the processing of the responses to those questionnaires and the presentation of the results in both the summary report and this fuller final report. We wanted this report to reflect the commitment that villagers themselves made in completing the questionnaires and returning them to us, we cannot put every snippet of information that came out of the questionnaires but we feel this report is a fair reflection of the views expressed and the answers to specific questions.

The aim is that this document will provide a reference point to help any single person, group of people, organisation, club, society, community body, public service body or commercial service provider to understand the dynamics, the views, the wishes and the desires that people have who are connected to the village. There was a high completion rate of questionnaires and this gives credence and acceptance to the content contained within this report, it is not the result of a few but of many.

The future development of the village is often discussed and options proposed, there are clear messages in this report about the needs of villagers for now and the future and we encourage the relevant bodies to take full account of the contents of this report in their future planning.

Steve Sumner – Chairman WPPSC – June 2012

Funded by the Big Lottery Fund and Wickhambrook Parish Council

