Dobwalls and Trewidland Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Survey

July 2018

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Introduction

Dobwalls Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group conducted a survey of households in the Dobwalls Parish in July 2018.

The survey was designed by Neighbourhood Plan consultants Boscawen CEP[1] and delivered to all households in the Parish using Royal Mail.

The aim of the survey was to identify 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 (approximately 1022. The survey offered a cash prize of £50 as an inducement to parishioners to elicit an enhanced response rate.

Each survey contained a freepost envelope in order to make returning the survey as easy as possible. I addition the survey was offered online using the SurveyMonkey platform

Of the 1022 surveys distributed, 231 were returned using the freepost envelope. An additional 27 were completed online using SurveyMonkey. In total, there were 258 responses.

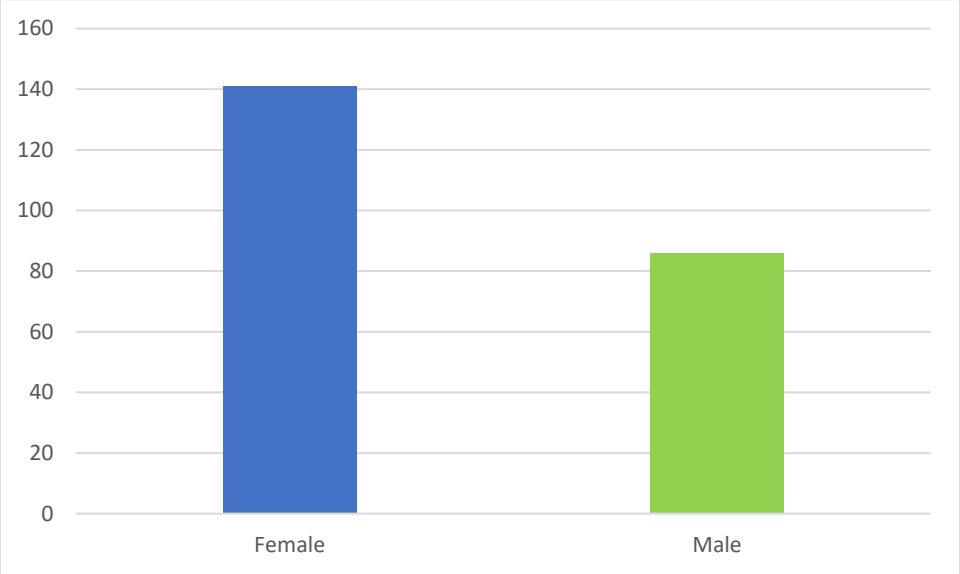
Geographical spread of responses

The majority of respondents who identified with a village were from Dobwalls 177 and Trewidland 22. Some 50 respondents did not enter a village name. Although Cornwall Council do not provide population statistics for smaller villages, comparison with the electoral register shows that broadly speaking both Dobwalls and Trewidland are overrepresented in the sample and Doublebois and rural hamlets are under represented.

Village	Number of Respondents
Dobwalls	177
Doublebois	4
Horningtops	1
Looe Mills	1
Moorswater	1
Plashford Bridge	1
South Bopuel	1
Trewidland	22

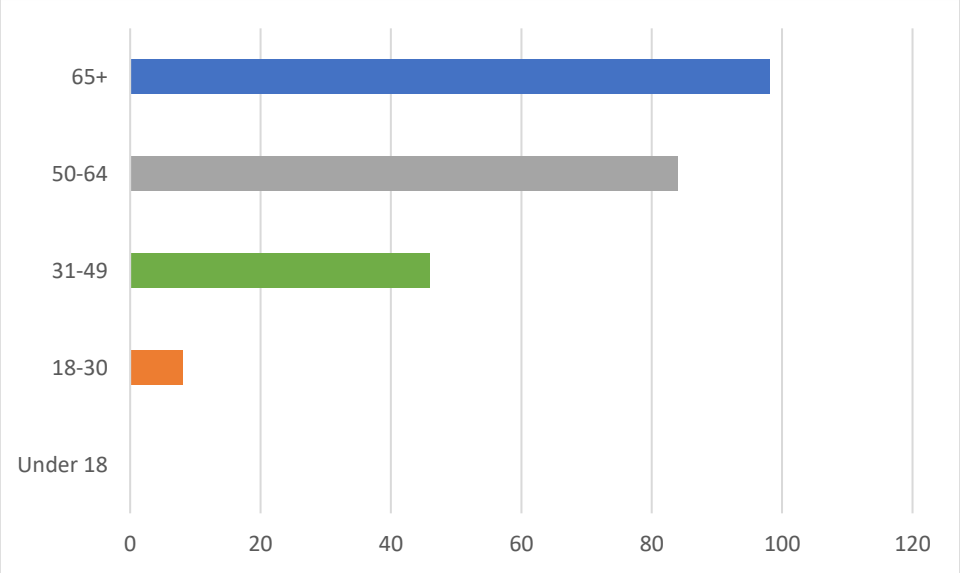
Gender Breakdown

The gender breakdown of respondents was 62% female and 38% Male. This appears to show a considerable over representation of female responses compared with the 2011 Census statistics for the Dobwalls and Trewidland Parish (Female 51.5%: Male 47.5%).



Age range

Surveys done in other parishes have shown that older age groups tend to be over-represented in Neighbourhood Plan surveys. In an attempt to attract younger demographic, the survey was made available online through SurveyMonkey. Despite this there were no respondents under the age of eighteen.



Comparison with the 2011 census shows those in the 65+ age group are considerably over represented (by 16.6%) whilst those aged 30-64 are under represented by 7%. Those age between 18 and 30 are underrepresented by 10.2%.

Age group	Census 2011	Survey 2018	Over/under representation
18-29/30	13.6%	3.4%	-10.2%
30-64/5	62.0%	55.1%	-6.9%
Over 65's	24.9%%	41.5%	+16.6%

This over representation in the older demographic should be born in mind when drawing conclusions about residents' needs and wishes.

The questions

LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Introduction: In our initial survey you stated that the rural feel of our Parish was important to you. Specifically, you said that you valued our local landscape, open spaces and the natural environment.

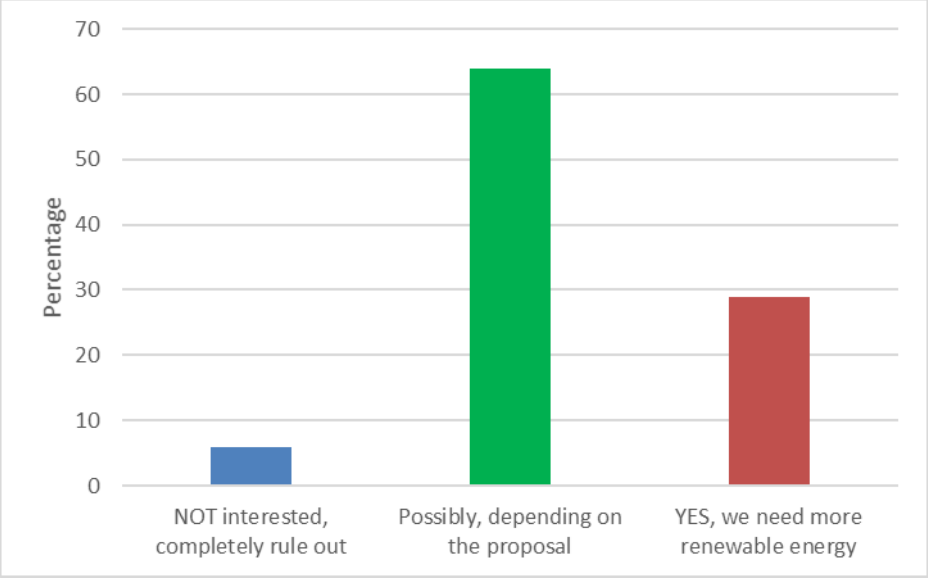
Q1: How far do you agree with the following statements:

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
It is important to protect the natural beauty and character of the landscape of the Parish.	83%	214	17%	43	>1%	1	0%	0
It is important to protect and enhance existing wildlife and wildlife habitats including; trees, woodland, wetland, heathland and Cornish hedges.	81%	207	19%	49	>1%	1	0%	0
It is important to create new wildlife habitats as part of new developments. Amongst other things this may include; trees and woodland, wet features, Cornish hedges and flower-rich grassland.	71%	185	26%	68	2%	5	>1%	1

The table above shows that most people strongly agreed with all of the statements, although it can be said that more people agree more strongly with the protection of wildlife habitats than see the need to create new ones.

Introduction: In our initial survey, provision of renewable energy scored relatively poorly on your list of priorities. We just wanted to check we understand how strongly you feel on this.

Q2: If the provision of renewable energy brought tangible benefits to our community, how would you view this?



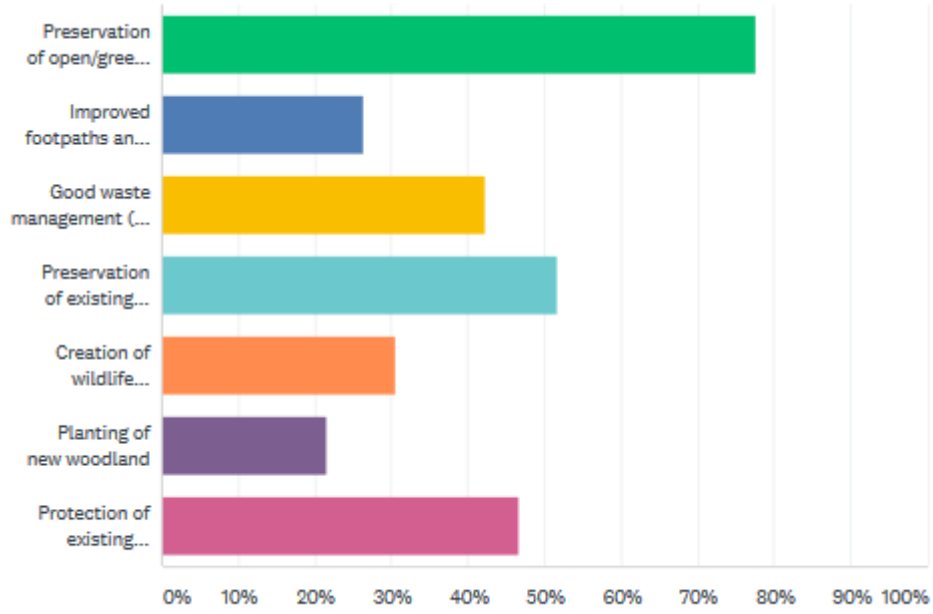
A clear majority of respondents (95%) would be willing to consider renewable energy favourably, **IF** they felt it would bring tangible benefits to the community, **AND** depending on the proposal.

There was a variation as to whether respondents felt we needed more renewable energy according to age. Within the 18-30 age group 50% of respondents were more strongly in favour of renewable energy compared to just 24 – 31% in the other age groups.

Age group	Not interested	Possibly	Yes please
18-30	0%	50%	50%
31-49	4%	72%	24%
50-54	12%	59%	29%
65+	2%	67%	31%
All ages	5%	61%	34%

Q3: Looking ahead, which of the following would be most important to you?

Preservation of open/green spaces is the most important issue for respondents with 78% of respondents selecting this choice with preservation of existing agricultural land and the protection of existing settlement boundaries also being important.



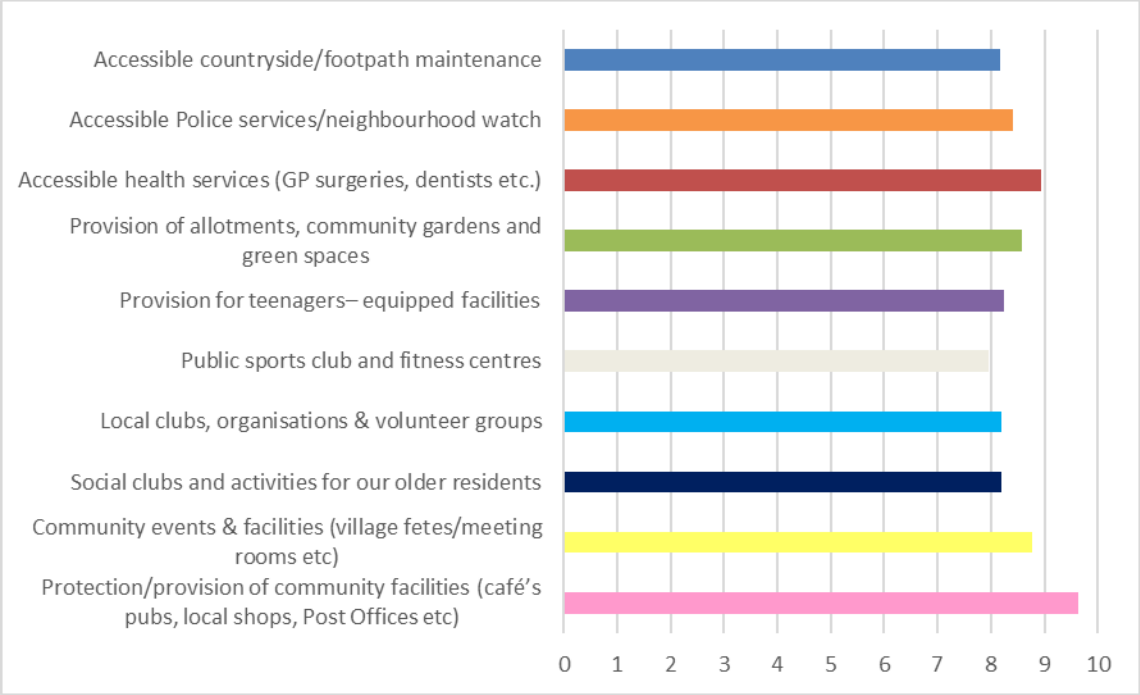
COMMUNITY SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Introduction: It is clear from the results of our initial survey that local community facilities are valued and, in some places, could be significantly improved.

Q4: Please rate the importance of the following, where 1 is very important, 2 is important and 3 is not so important to you.

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.

Although all choices were popular, protection/provision of community facilities (café's pubs, local shops, Post Offices etc) was the most popular with 143 response counts and a ranking score of 9.64.

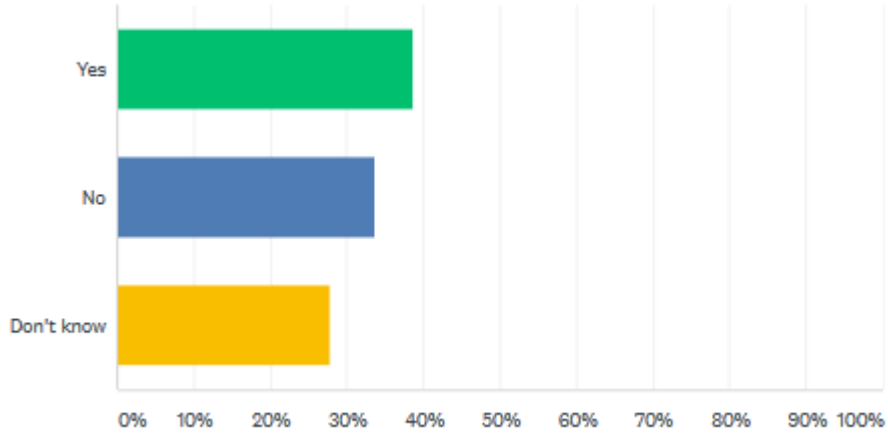


CONNECTIVITY, TRANSPORT AND LOCAL SERVICES

Introduction: The Neighbourhood Plan can influence the type and scale of new infrastructure. There is also some potential for improving existing infrastructure and transport links through projects.

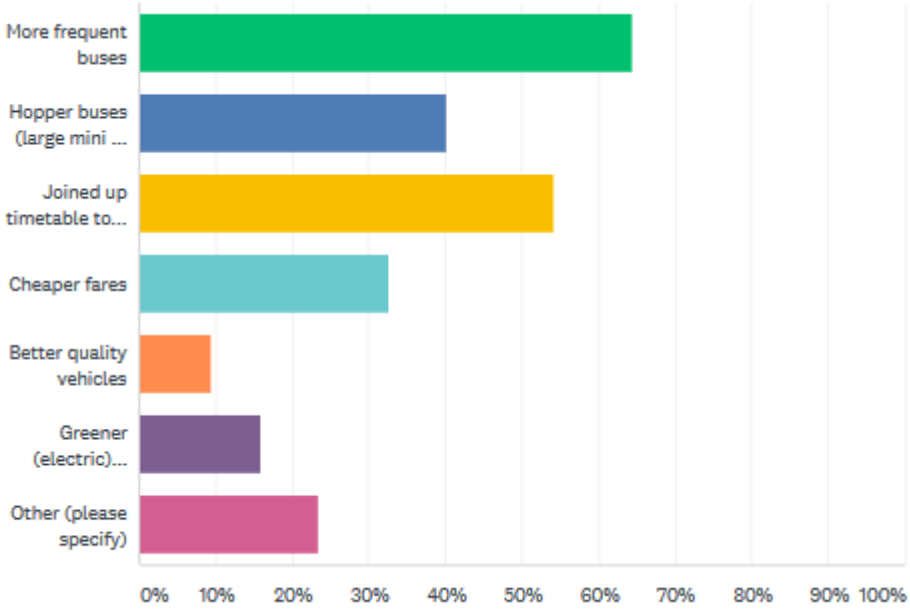
Q5: Do you think that current public transport provision is adequate for your needs?

The biggest proportion of respondents (39%) felt that public transport provision is adequate, however, a significant proportion (34%) felt that it isn't. A more detailed study against village communities may reveal a more significant pattern.



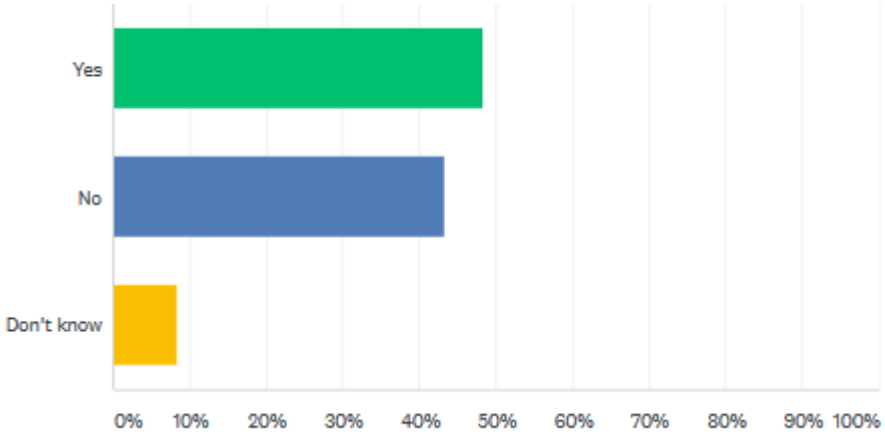
Q6: If NO, what would improve the situation for you?

Of respondents who felt that public transport was not adequate, 65% felt that more frequent buses would improve this situation and 54% felt that joining up the timetable to other transport links would be beneficial.



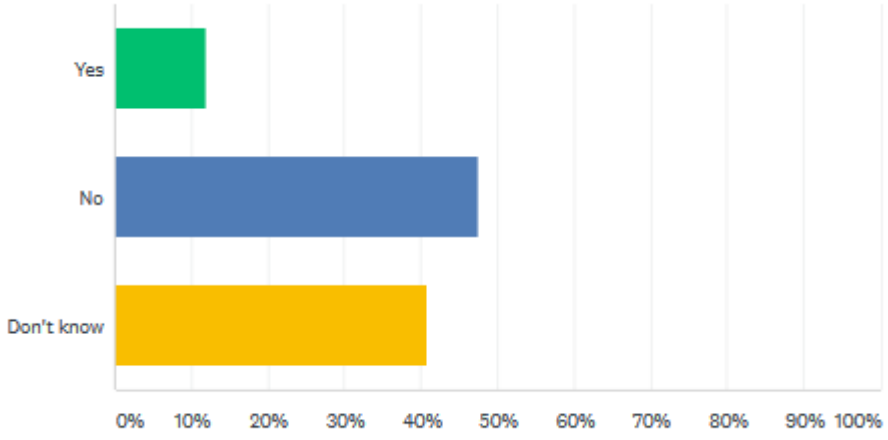
Q7: Do we need more shoppers' parking for cars in your local area?

48% of respondents felt that more shoppers' car parking was needed, however, 43% felt that no more shoppers' parking was needed. Parking was understandably needed more I the larger settlements than rural areas.



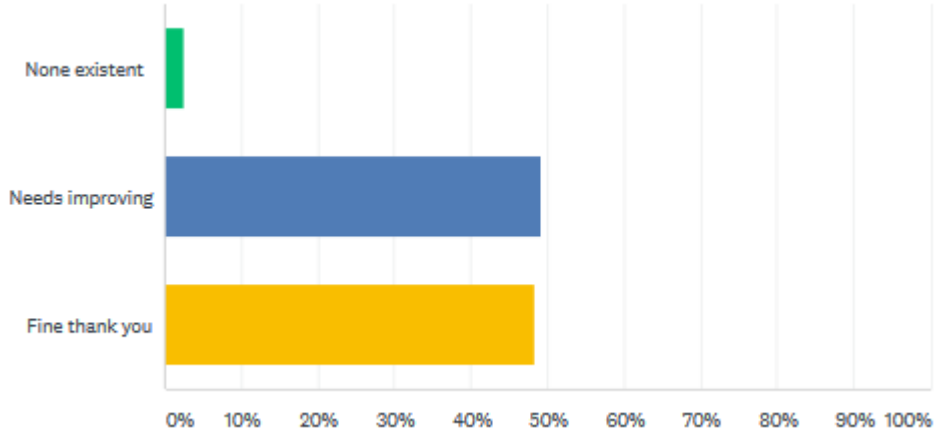
Q8: Do we need more parking for cycles in your local area?

The majority of respondents (47%) felt that there wasn't a need for more parking for cycles.



Q9: How would you describe broadband in your area?

49% of respondents felt that their broadband needs improving, however, 48% felt it was fine. Again, a more detailed study against specific settlements may reveal a more significant pattern. Broadband reception tends to be worse in more rural areas.

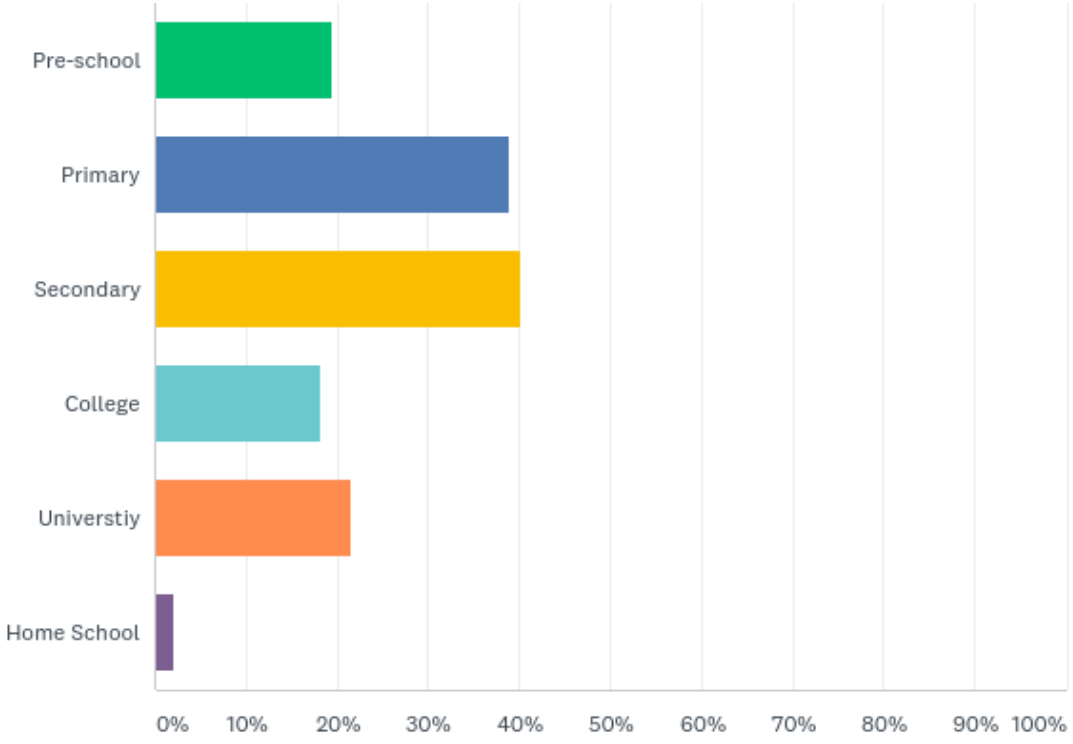


EDUCATION AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Young people are the future of our community. In our initial survey improved facilities for young people scored highly in your priorities. The next few questions are designed to assess their future needs.

Q10: Do you have any children of school age? If YES, what stage of education are they at?

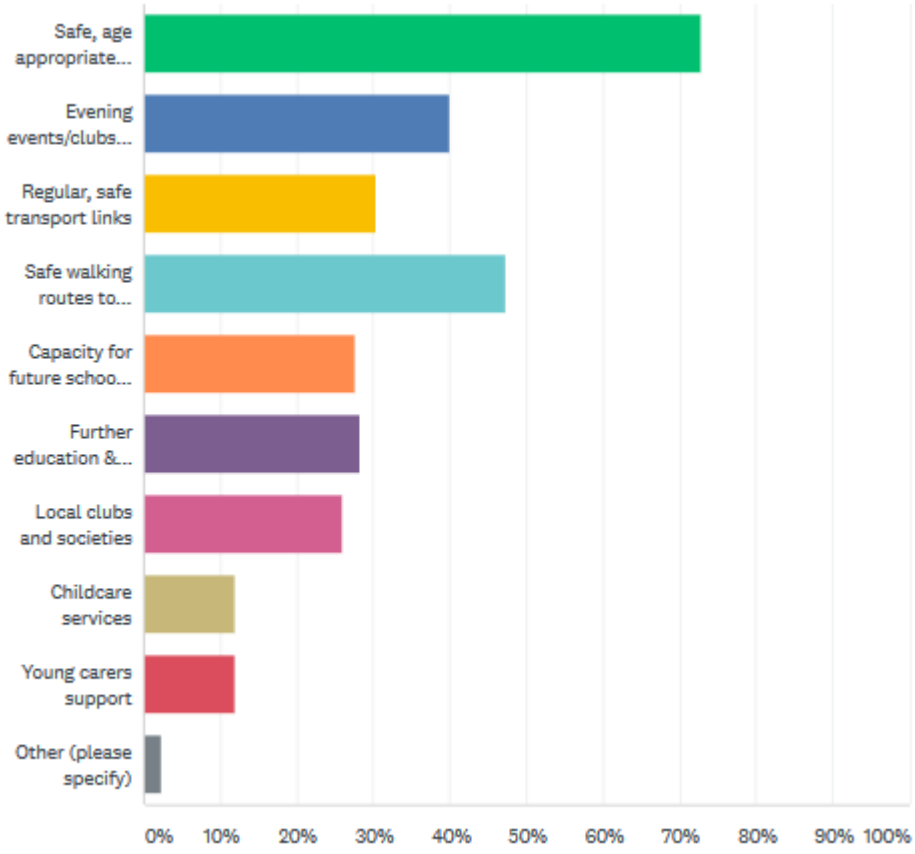
149 respondents (24%) had children in education, mostly at primary and secondary school. This figure is likely to be under-represented given the proven over-representation of older people within survey respondents.



Q11: Thinking of young people. Which of the following facilities or resources do you consider to be the most important?

When asked what the most important facilities and resources for young people were, 73% of respondents felt that safe, age appropriate areas of recreation were most important, 47% felt that safe walking routes to school was most important and 40% felt that evening events/clubs for teens was important.

Given the bias towards older residents in the survey, these results tend to reflect the older view of what is important. Significant effort should be made to obtain the views of younger people.



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

LOCAL CHARACTER AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Introduction: We are lucky to live in a parish that has such a rich cultural heritage and is dotted with important historic sites form many different periods.

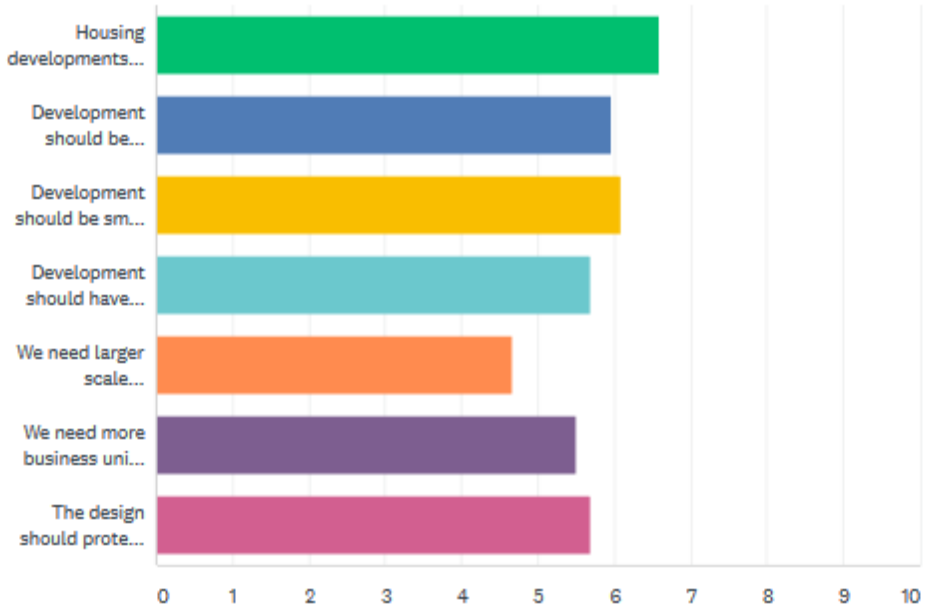
Q12: How far would you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
It is important to protect and enhance heritage and historic sites, historic buildings, ancient industrial sites and Cornish Hedges.	68%	174	32%	81	<1%	2	0%	0
Effort should be made to preserve local tradition and customary events.	48%	122	49%	126	3%	7	0%	0
We should do more to present our local Parish and settlement history.	32%	81	62%	157	6%	15	0%	0
Our cemeteries and war memorials are being appropriately maintained.	24%	61	63%	160	12%	29	0%	0

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

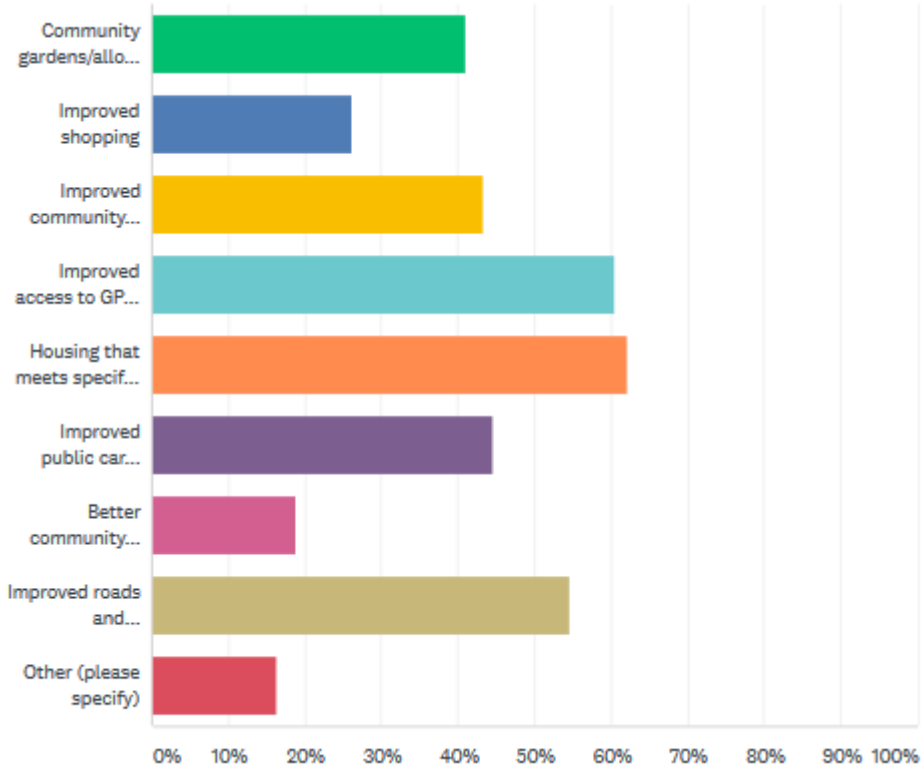
HOUSING NEED

Q13: If development proposals are put forward in our Parish in coming years, what are the three most important things that should be considered?



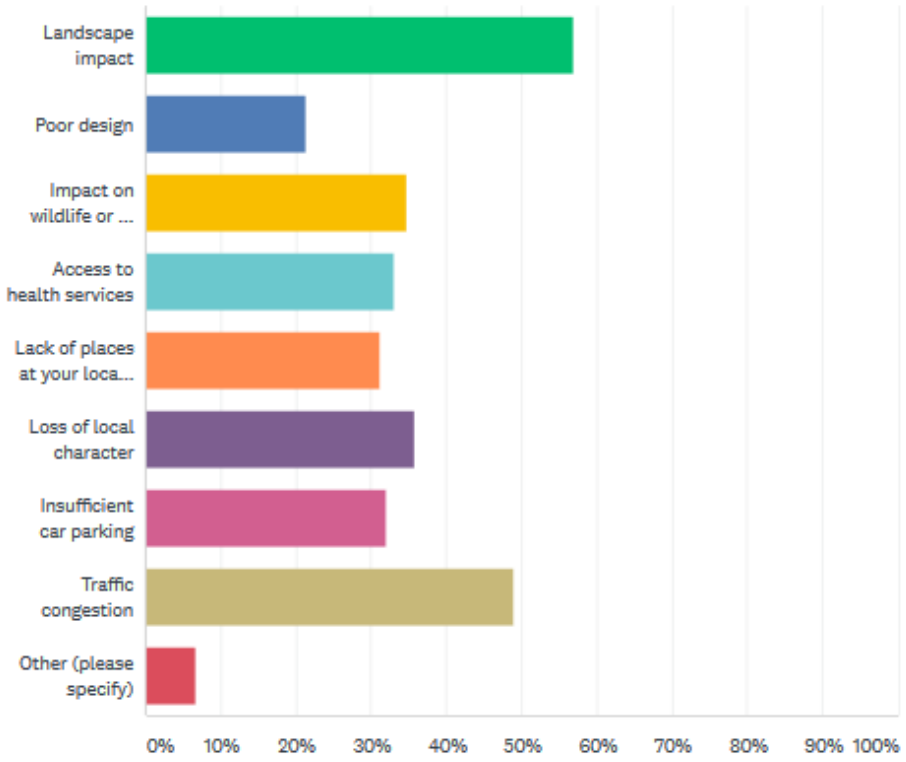
All of the options received considerable support. However, 72% of respondents ranked 'housing developments designed to meet local needs including affordable homes' as the most important consideration in new development proposals.

Q14: What improvements would you like any future new development to bring to your community?



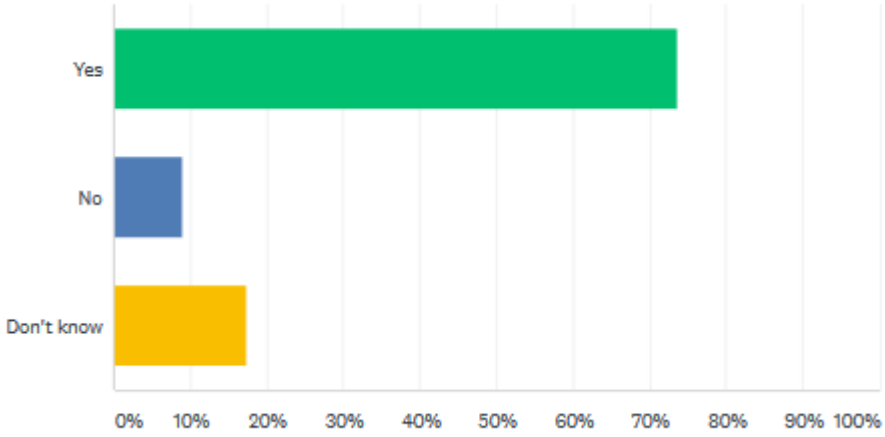
The top three improvements respondents would like to see developments bring to their community are housing that meets specific local needs (62%), improved access to GP services (61%) and improved roads and infrastructure (55%). There were also 42 'other' responses, mostly requesting that there be no new development.

Q15: What concerns you about the potential impact of new residential development in your village?



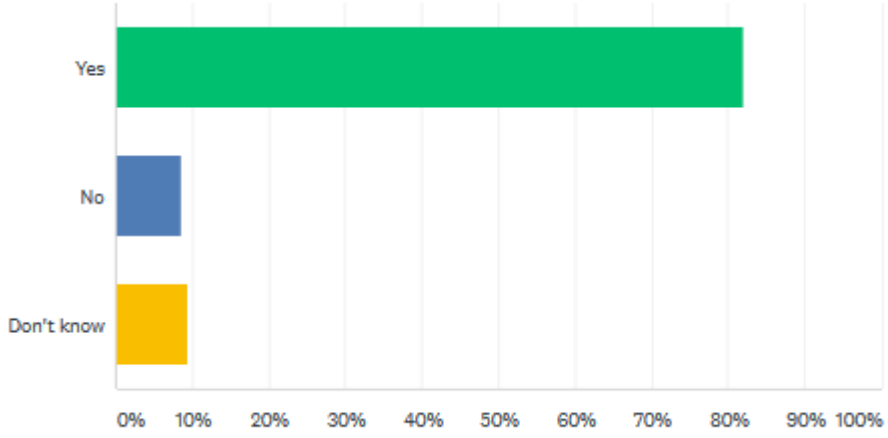
The three top concerns about new residential development in the Parish are landscape impact (59%), traffic congestion (49%) and loss of local character (36%).

Q16: 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?



The clear majority of respondents (74%) felt that building land should be made available to enable elderly, disabled or vulnerable people with a link to the Parish to live independently.

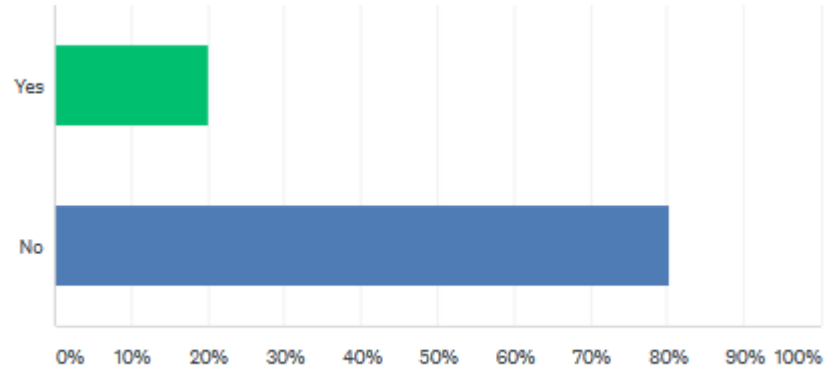
Q17: Do you think that we should prioritise affordable new homes for people with a local connection?



The clear majority of respondent (82%) felt that we should prioritise affordable new homes for people with a local connection.

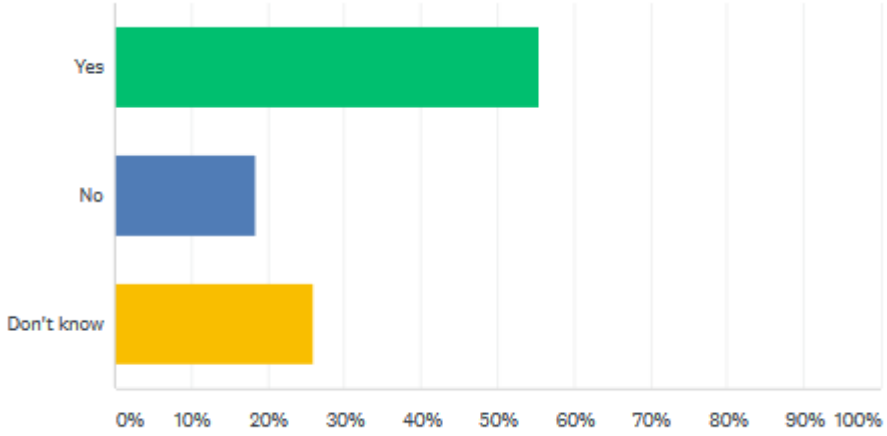
Q18: If such were available, would you be interested in an affordable plot of land on which to self-build?

One fifth of respondents were interested in an affordable plot of land on which to self-build.



Introduction: Settlement boundaries around our villages could be used in the Plan to help contain new development.

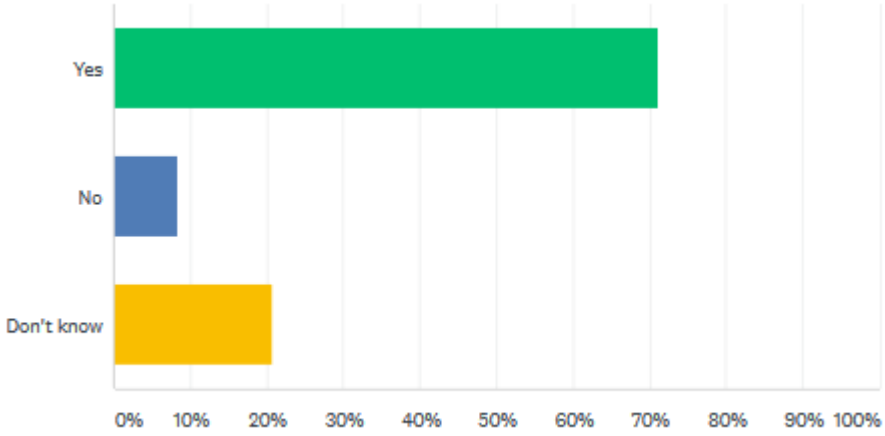
Q19: Do you think the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group should consider settlement boundaries further?



Around half of respondents felt that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group should consider settlement boundaries further, however, nearly half felt they shouldn't or didn't know.

Introduction: 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.

Q20: Do you think we should prepare a Design Guide?



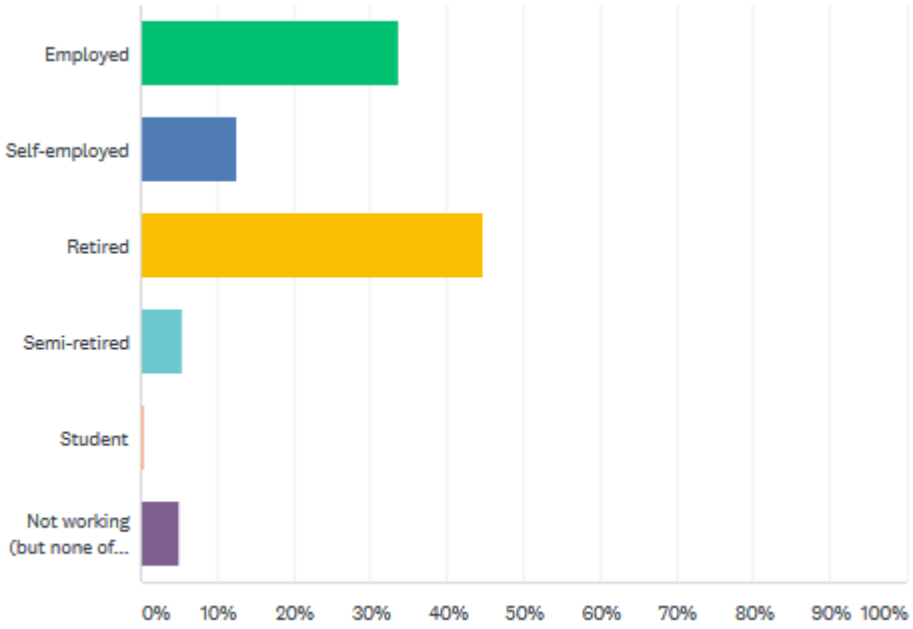
The majority of people (71%) thought that the steering group should produce a design guide.

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY

Introduction: It is important to provide employment and encourage business development. To help us understand local need please answer the following questions.

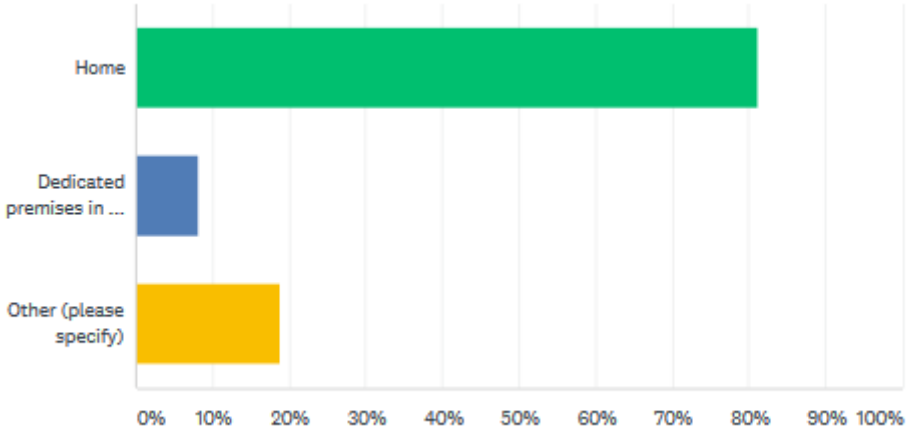
Q21: How would you describe your employment status?

The greatest proportion of respondents (45%) were retired. This does not reflect the demographics of the Parish and should be taken into account when reviewing this survey. A significant proportion (13%) are self-employed.



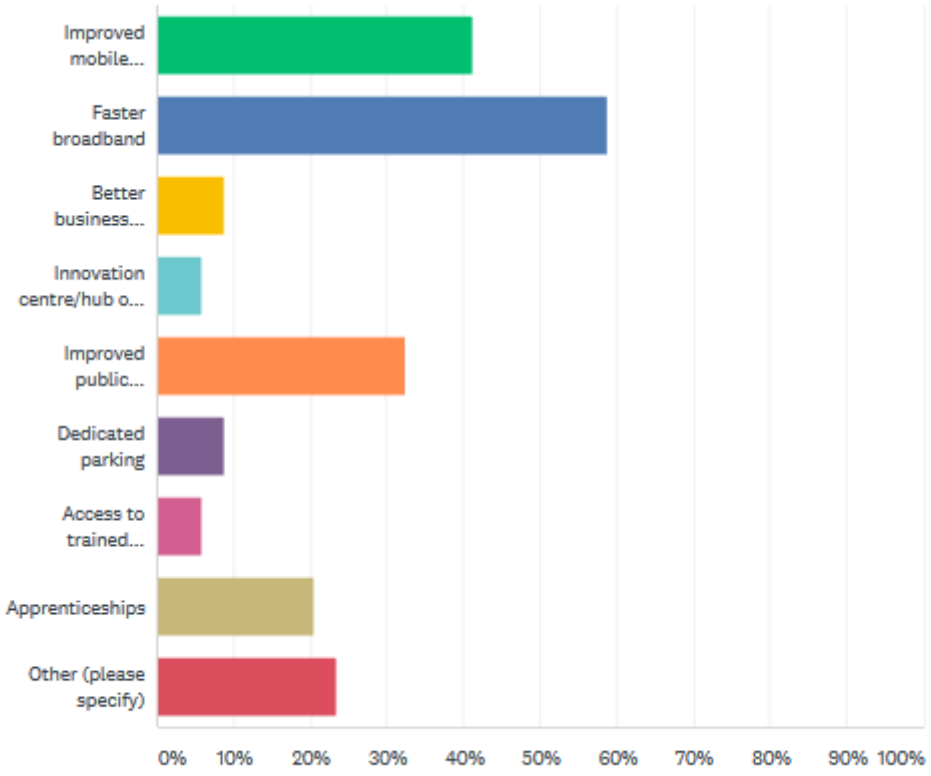
Q22 and 23: Do you run a business in the Dobwalls and Trewidland Parish? If you do run a business in the Parish, where do you run it from?

14% of respondents did run a business in the Parish, and the majority of those (81%) ran it from home.



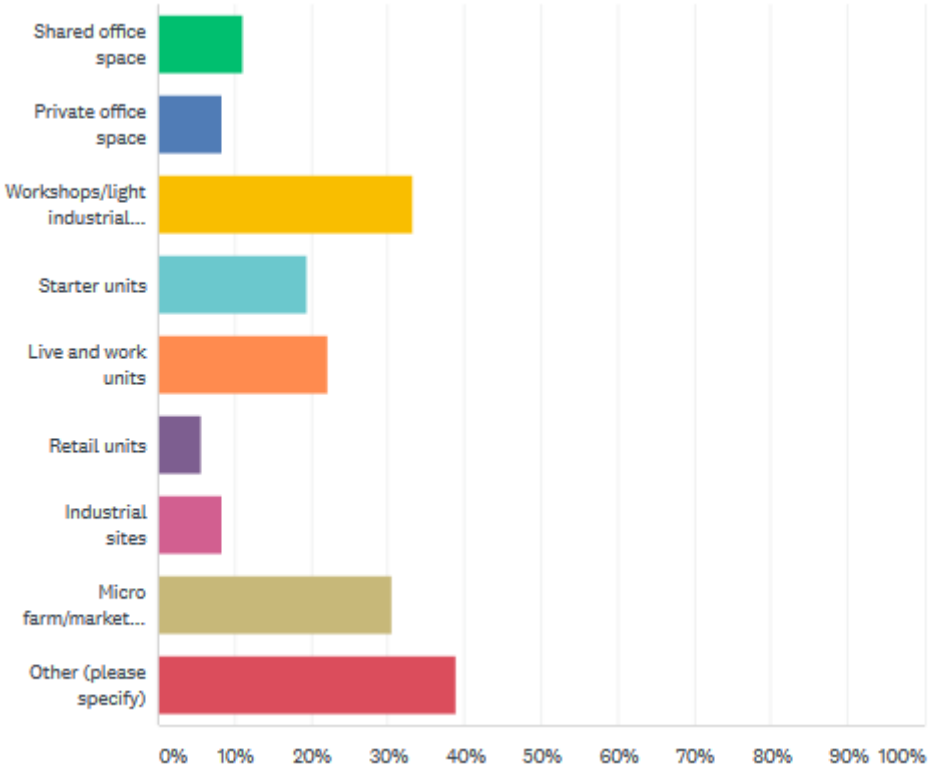
Q24: If you do run a business in the Parish, which of the following would improve your experience of running your business in its current location?

The top three things respondents with businesses felt would improve their experience of running your business in its current location were faster broadband (59%), improved mobile reception (41%), and improved public transport (32%).



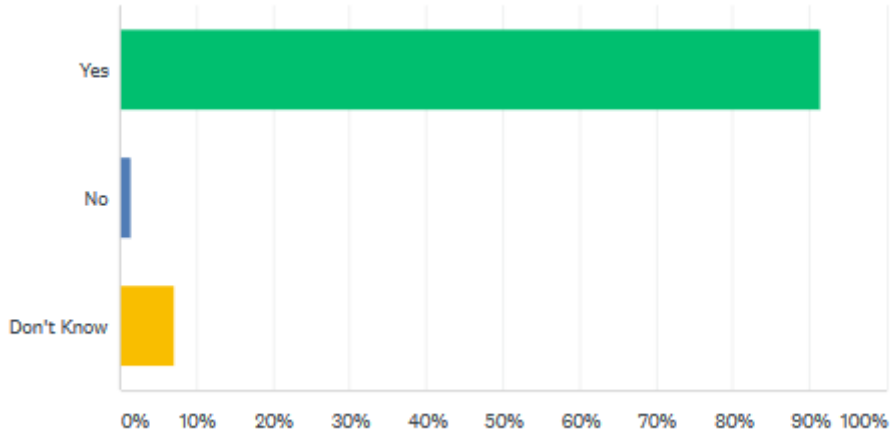
Q25: What type of business units do you think are needed in the Parish?

The top three types of business units respondents thought were needed in the Parish were workshops/light industrial units (33%), micro farm/market gardening land and units (31%) and Live and work units (22%). 39% of respondents specified 'other' suggestions, mostly stating that the Parish should have any new businesses.



Q26: Do you think that we should create a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Dobwalls and Trewidland Parish?

The clear majority of respondents (91%) felt that the Steering Group should complete a Neighbourhood Plan.



Anything else?

90 respondents included other comments and suggestions, mostly concerned about the overdevelopment of the Parish.