

creating change in Devon



Catalyst

Brixton Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2030

Questionnaire Report

FINAL Version

July 2016

Martin Parkes

Telephone: 01392 248919

Email: mparkes@devoncommunities.org.uk

www.devoncommunities.org.uk

Catalyst, Devon Communities Together,
First Floor, 3&4 Cranmere Court, Lustleigh Close
Matford Business Park, Exeter. EX2 8PW

Devon Communities Together is the operating name for Community Council of Devon, a registered charity (no. 1074047), company registered in England and Wales (no.3694095) registered office as above. VAT registered (no. 942 0496 27).



**THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT
FORMAT UPON REQUEST.**

**PLEASE PHONE 01392 248919 TO REQUEST A
COPY.**

Contents Page

Key Findings	4
Introduction	6
Catalyst and Devon Communities Together	6
Neighbourhood Development Plan	6
Methodology.....	6
Questionnaire Responses	7
Section 1: Your Household.....	7
Section 2	11
Part 1: Environment	12
Part 2: Transport.....	15
Part 3: Employment	19
Part 4: Community Facilities.....	24
Part 5: Sport and Recreation.....	27
Part 6: Development in the Parish.....	29
Any other comments	32

Key Findings

- 1.1 The following table summarises the key findings from the Brixton Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire. The key findings are listed alongside the question responses that provide the evidence to support the finding.
- 1.2 In total 272, residents responded to the questionnaire, on 142 forms, however these were generally older and more likely to be homeowners compared to the broader parish population.

Theme	Evidence
Environment	
A. The natural environment is important to residents and should be conserved as much as possible.	Section 2 Question 1.1 Section 2 Question 6.1
B. Those who manage the land have an important role to play in conserving the natural environment and should be encouraged to do so.	Section 2 Question 1.2 Section 2 Question 6.1
C. Development should not be encouraged on greenfield sites.	Section 2 Question 1.3 Section 2 Question 3.2 Section 2 Question 6.1
D. There is interest in developing a community led renewable energy project.	Section 2 Question 1.5
E. The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designation is important to residents.	Section 2 Question 1.5 Section 2 Question 6.1 Section 2 Question 6.2
Leisure Activities and Transport	
F. Walking is a popular leisure activity and residents are keen for existing pathways to be better maintained.	Section 2 Question 2.7 Section 2 Question 4.2 Section 2 Question 4.3 Section 2 Question 5.1
G. Residents would like a public swimming pool within the parish	Section 2 Question 4.6 Section 2 Question 5.2
H. Cycling is a popular leisure activity. More people would be encouraged to cycle for leisure, shopping, transport to work, etc. if it were safer.	Section 2 Question 2.4 Section 2 Question 2.6 Section 2 Question 5.2
Employment and Economy	
I. Residents would like to encourage more agricultural, horticultural and aquaculture employment within the parish – although these aren't currently large employers.	Section 2 Question 3.1 2011 Census
J. Transport is seen as the key quality that would encourage new businesses to move to the parish.	Section 2 Question 3.4

K. Residents thought it was important to be able to shop for food and everyday items within the parish.	Section 2 Question 4.4
Housing	
L. People are currently leaving the parish primarily due to housing reasons.	Section 1 Question 1.6
M. Any further housing development should be small scale, sensitively designed and infill within the existing development boundary.	Section 2 Question 6.3 Section 2 Question 6.6 Section 2 Question 6.7

Introduction

- 2.1 Brixton Parish Council is developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The creation of a Neighbourhood Plan requires that everybody within the area has opportunity to engage with the process. To support Brixton Parish Neighbourhood Planning Group with this process, they engaged the services of Catalyst.

Catalyst and Devon Communities Together

- 2.2 Catalyst is the in-house consultancy service provided by Devon Communities Together. Catalyst and Devon Communities Together have provided support to over 50 Town and Parish Councils, and neighbourhood plan groups working on Neighbourhood Plans across Devon.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 2.3 Neighbourhood planning is part of the Government's agenda to help local communities play a stronger role in the shaping of their area. For the first time, local people can create a plan that allows them to develop planning policies that reflect the priorities of their area and have real legal weight. The whole community then decides at a referendum whether the local authority should bring the plan into force. Neighbourhood Plans must focus on guiding development rather than stopping it and need to be in general conformity with national policy and local planning policies.
- 2.4 Further information about Neighbourhood Planning can be found on the following websites:

Make a plan, make a difference: <http://www.neighbourhoodplanning.org/>

Methodology

- 2.5 Key themes that needed to be consulted on were agreed by the Neighbourhood Plan Group and a draft survey was written. This draft was reviewed by Devon Communities Together and further modifications made. The final printed survey was delivered to every household within the parish and returned to collection points within the parish. The survey was also available online.
- 2.6 The survey took place during June 2016. The Neighbourhood Plan Group also had a stall at the village fete during this time to encourage residents to complete the survey.
- 2.7 The completed surveys were delivered to Devon Communities Together where the responses were digitised and this report created.

Questionnaire Responses

- 3.1 The questionnaire was delivered to all households within the parish and was available online. 18 people completed the survey online, 254 completed the paper survey. The population of the parish 1715,¹ therefore 16% of residents took part in the consultation.

Section 1: Your Household

- 3.2 The first part of the questionnaire consisted of questions that could be responded to as a household.

Question 1.1 asked if respondents had completed the housing needs survey from April 2016.

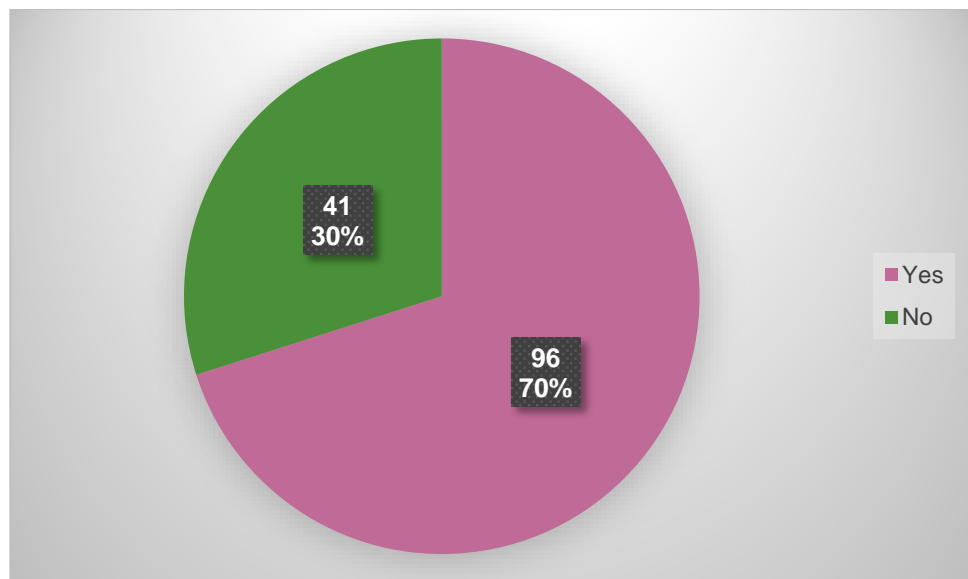


FIGURE 1

- 3.3 The results of the housing needs survey will be made publically available.

¹ 2011 Census

3.4 **Question 1.2** asked respondents for their postcode, the following map plots those postcodes given.

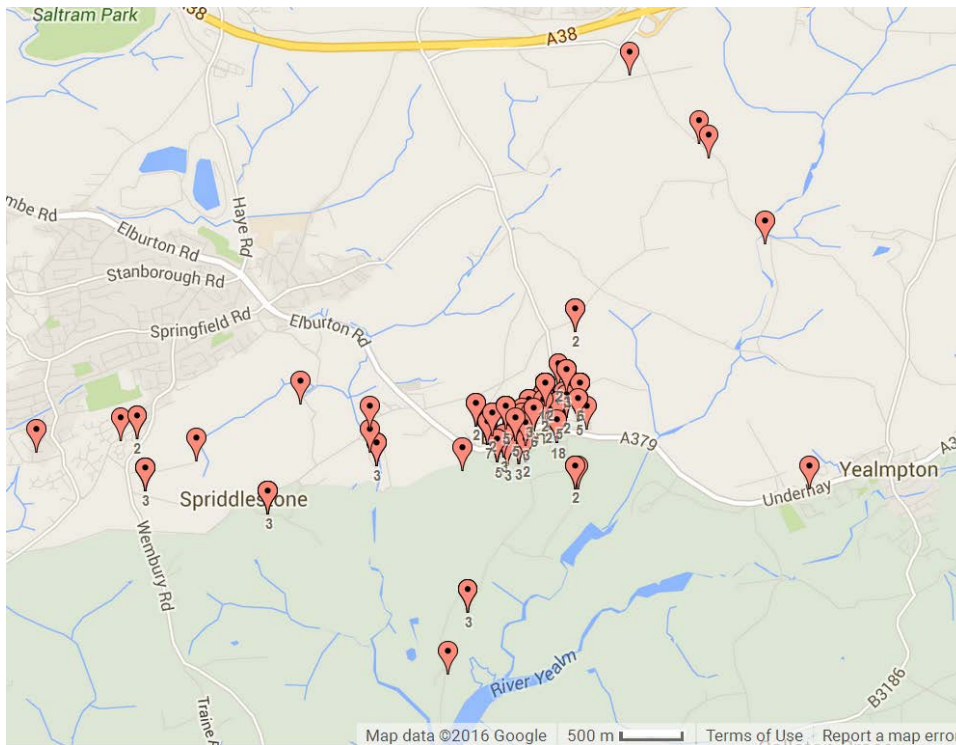


FIGURE 2

3.5 **Question 1.3** asked for the number of people living within the household.

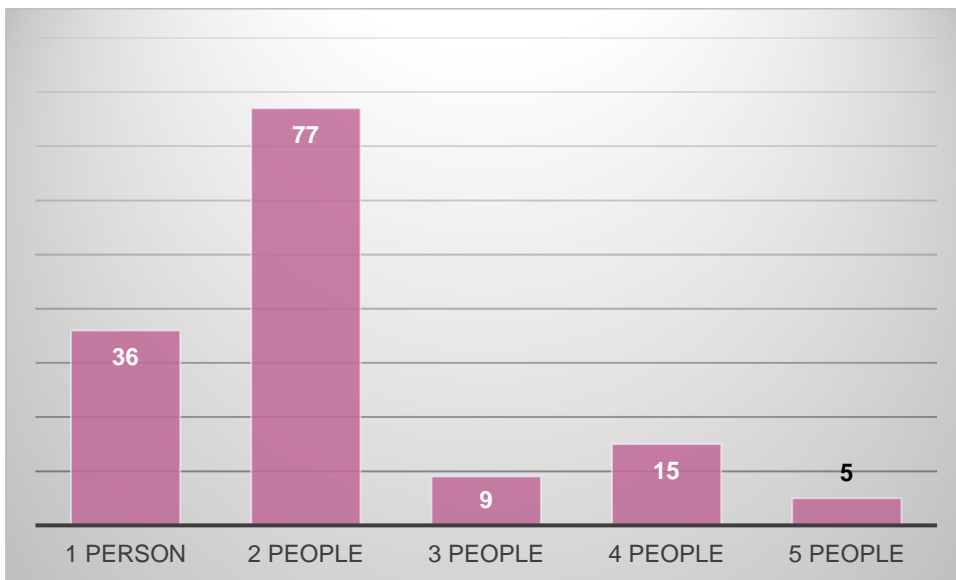


FIGURE 3

3.6 Given the low number of responses from households with 3 or more residents it suggests that very few families have responded to the survey. This is confirmed by the age profile of respondents discussed later in this report in relation to Section 2, Question 1.0.

3.7 **Question 1.4** asked for the type of property.

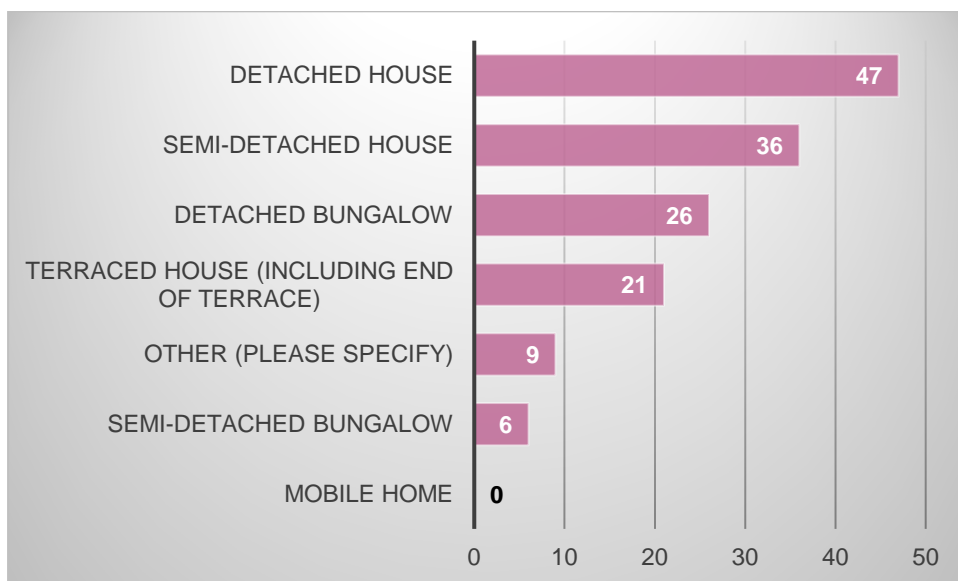


FIGURE 4

3.8 4 of the ‘other’ comments were from people living within flats, which represents 3% of responding households. However 15% of properties within the parish are flats and therefore these residents seem to be under-represented within the survey.²

3.9 **Question 1.5** asked what form of tenure the respondent had on their property. Within the following chart the bars are the representative percentages and the figures within the actual number of properties within that classification

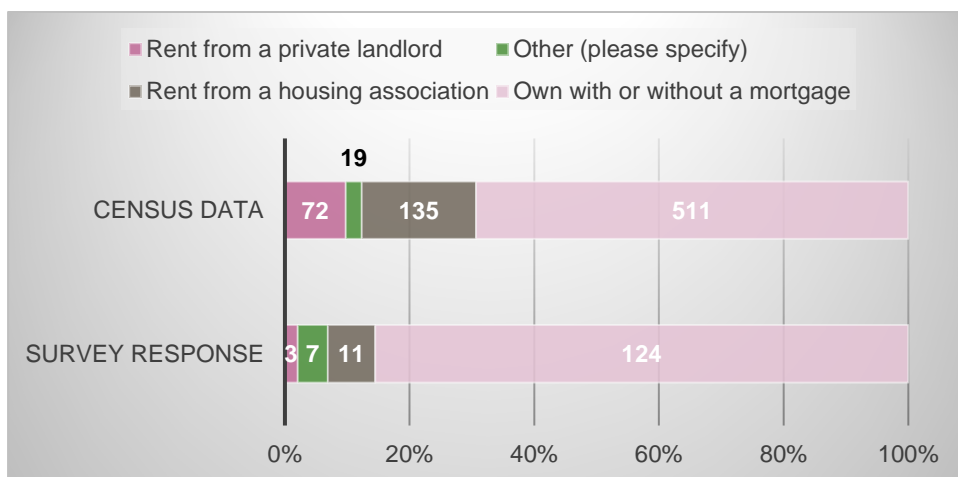


FIGURE 5

3.10 86% of those who have responded to the survey currently own, with or without a mortgage, their property. Only 69%³ of residents within the parish are in this

² 2011 Census

³ 2011 Census

situation and therefore those that rent their property have been underrepresented within the survey.

3.11 **Question 1.6** asked how many household members have left the parish in the last five years and why.



FIGURE 6

3.12 From the survey response 23 people have left the parish within the last 5 years. However the response rate was 16% of the a crude calculations suggests that maybe 63 people across the parish have left for housing reasons in total, 44 have left for employment and 31 for education.

3.13 **Question 1.7** followed this by asking how many of those that had left whether they would like to return within the next 5 years. In total 40 people were hoping to return to the parish in the next five years.

Section 2

3.14 Section 2 mostly contained questions that individuals within a household could respond to. The first question, **Question 1.0**, asked for people's age bracket.

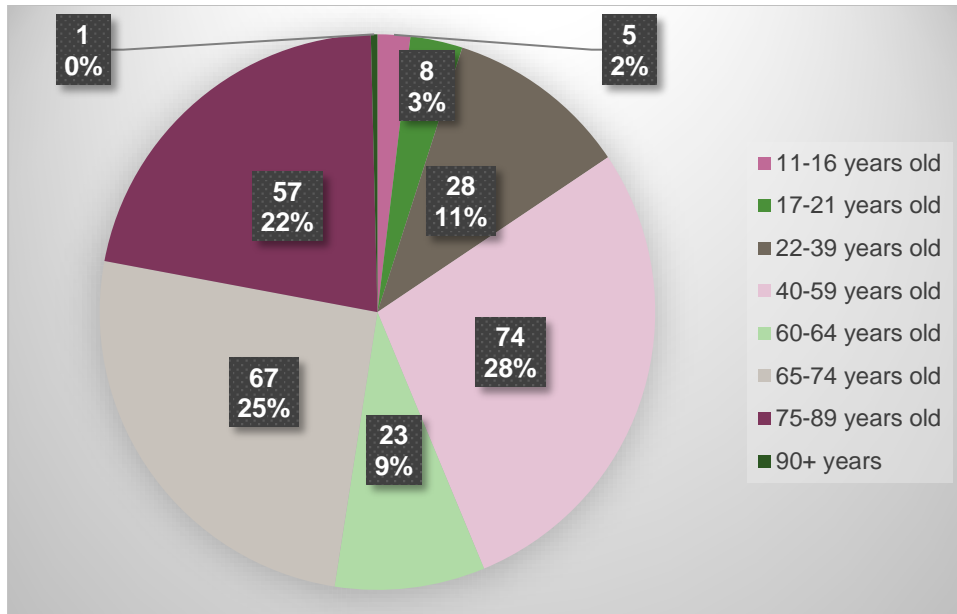


FIGURE 7

3.15 47% of respondents are 65 or older, whereas 21.4% of the population are over 65. Similarly, 16% of respondents are under the age of 40, whereas 41% of the parish population are under the age of 40.⁴ There is therefore a bias in the responses towards the opinion of older residents. Where the opinion of older people differs significantly from younger residents this has been highlighted.

⁴ 2011 Census

Part 1: Environment

Question 1.1 in this section asked about what respondents considered the most important environmental features.

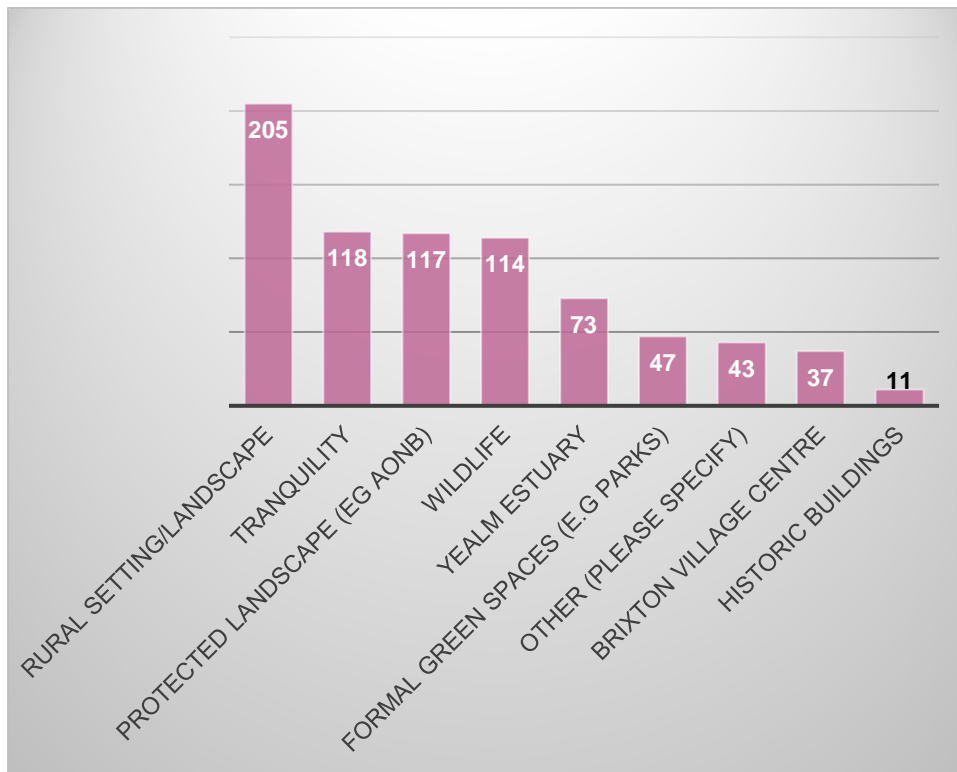


FIGURE 8

- 3.16 Each residents could choose up to three option. By far the most common was 'Rural setting/landscape' chosen by 79% of all those answering this question. No other feature was chosen by over 50% of those answering this question.
- 3.17 The built environment is also significantly less important than the natural environment to residents with only 14% choosing the village centre and 4% choosing historic buildings.
- 3.18 Many of the people who chose 'other' made a comment such as 'all the above'.

3.19 **Question 1.2** asked respondents which of the following they thought would protect and enhance the environment of the parish.

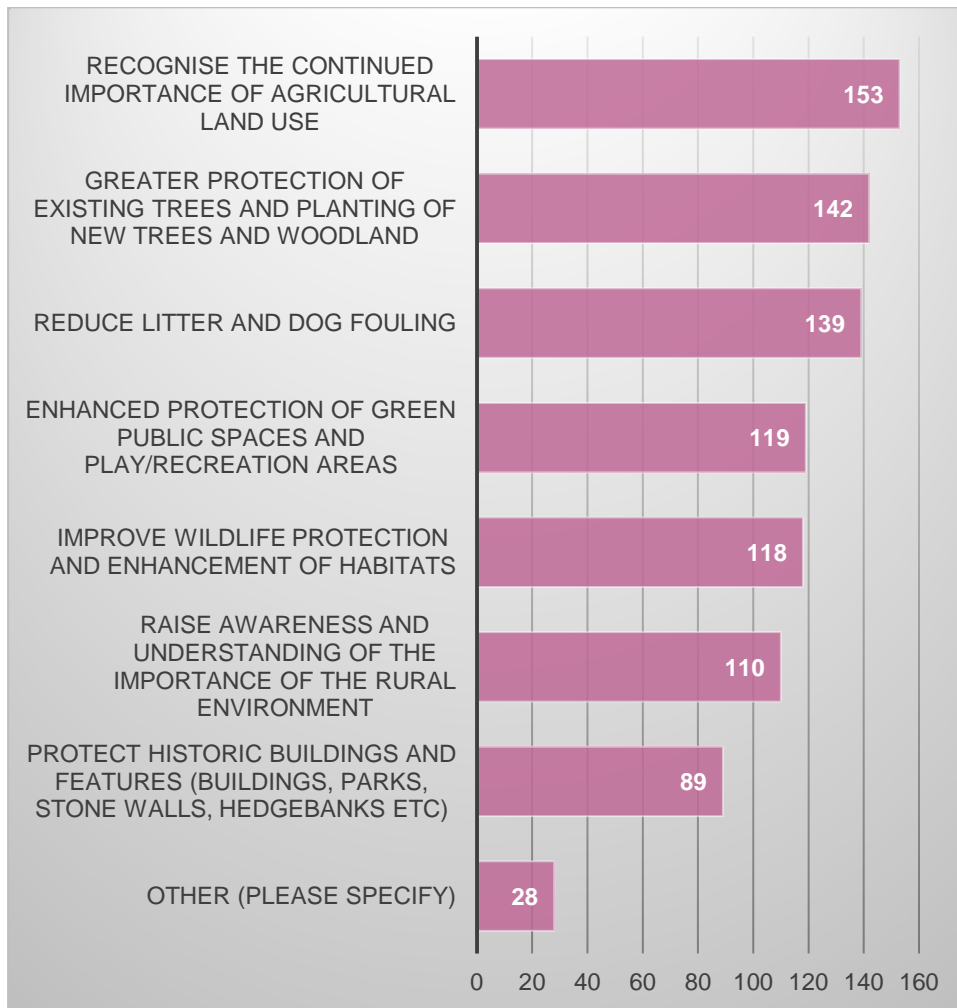


FIGURE 9

3.20 **Question 1.3** asked for suggestions about how the parish could be more wildlife friendly. This question was open-ended and 82 residents wrote a response.

3.21 The most common comment was about restricting development, particularly on greenfield sites. There were many comments regarding encouraging more wildflower meadows and hedgerows, and reducing the amount of cutting of these areas.

3.22 Furthermore planting of wildflower areas and encouraging more bird and bat boxes, and habitats particularly for hedgehogs were mentioned. Overall increasing awareness and education about the natural environment was also thought to be helpful.

3.23 Finally traffic, particularly speed and size of vehicles using narrow lanes, and litter were areas commented on.

- 3.24 **Question 1.4** asked for suggestions about how the community could reduce waste and improve recycling. Again this was an open-ended question and 96 residents commented.
- 3.25 By far the most common response to this was regarding the recycling of glass and bottles, whether by the introduction of household collection or locating a bottle bank within the parish. There were a number of comments related to a general recycling collection point within the parish to make it more convenient for residents.
- 3.26 The other common theme was to allow Brixton residents to use the recycling facilities as Chelson Meadow.
- 3.27 **Question 1.5** asked what would you like to see done to help improve energy saving and reduce carbon emissions.

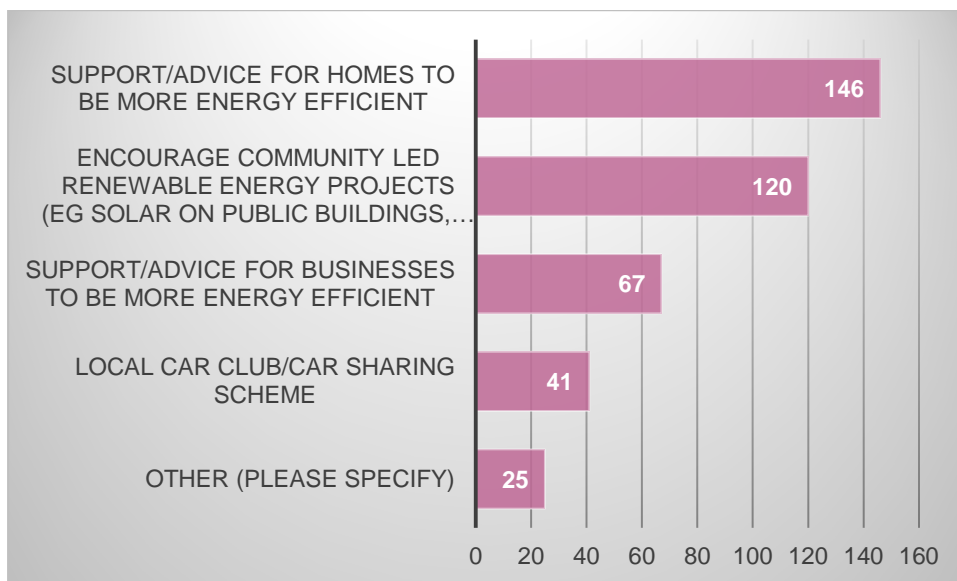


FIGURE 10

- 3.28 The two common 'other' comments were about:
- Improving public transport
 - Encouraging the use of solar energy on buildings, but not on agricultural land
- 3.29 120 residents have expressed an interest in encouraging community led renewable energy projects. This may be something that the Neighbourhood Plan could support and it may be useful to see if the responses to this survey reflect a commitment to exploring the viability of a local project.

Part 2: Transport

3.30 **Question 2.1** asked about how many vehicles there were in the household.

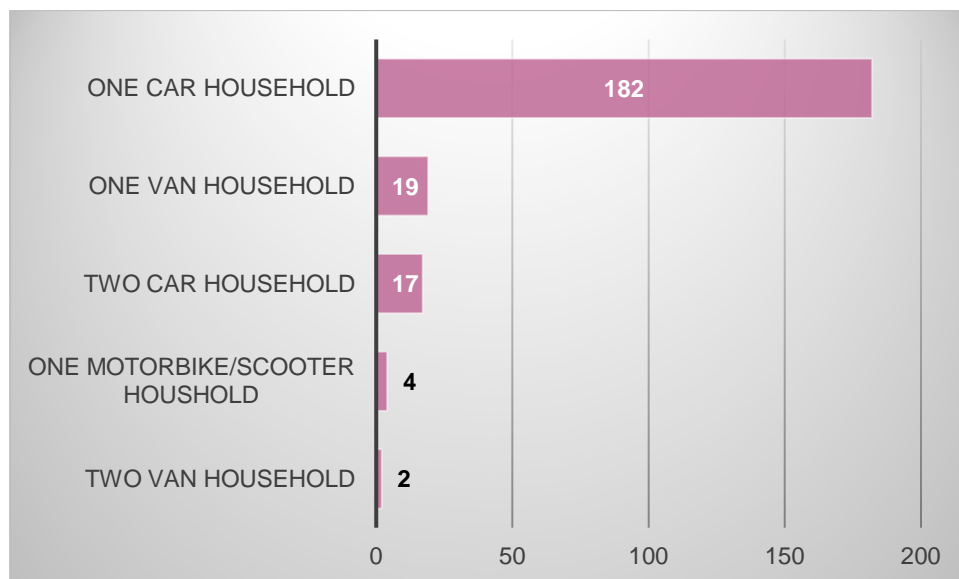


FIGURE 11

3.31 The following table compares the survey response for car ownership with responses to the Census for the parish, Devon as a whole and England.⁵

	Survey	Brixton parish (Census)	Devon	England
No cars	21%	9%	17%	26%
One car	69%	45%	44%	42%
Two car	8%	34%	29%	25%
Three car	2%	9%	7%	5%
Four car+	0%	3%	3%	2%

TABLE 1

3.32 Given the majority of respondents were over 65, these are the households most likely to have one car or none. Therefore the discrepancy between the survey response and Census response is not surprising. For reference the information from the Census provides a more accurate picture of car ownership within the parish.

3.33 **Question 2.2** asked where the household's vehicles are normally parked. 30% are parked in a garage or carport, 58% are parked off the road on a drive or parking area and 12% are parked on the road.

⁵ Census 2011

3.34 **Question 2.3** asked what do you use your main vehicle for.

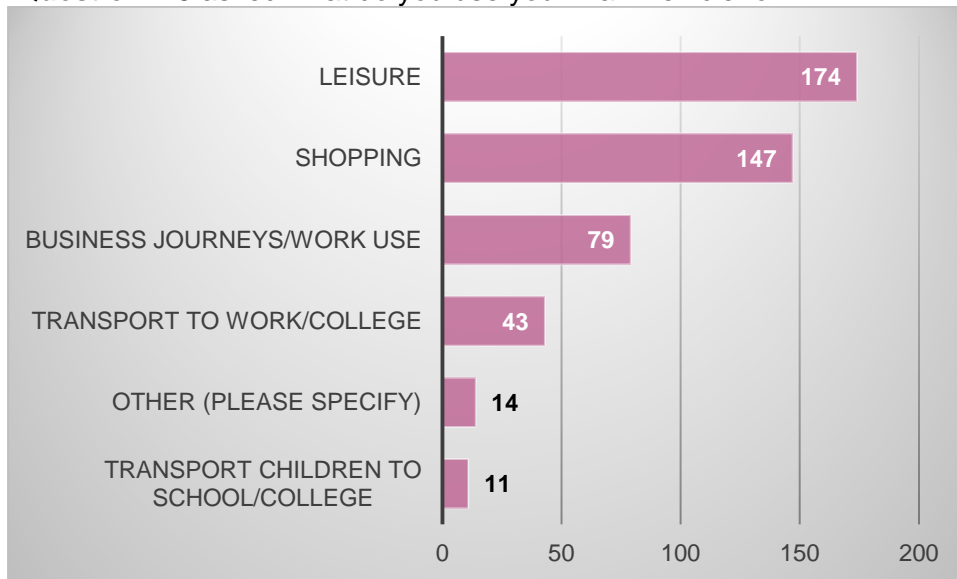


FIGURE 12

3.35 The age disparity has affected the overall response. As most people who responded are over 65 they are likely to be retired and therefore most likely to use their vehicle for leisure and shopping rather than transport to work, for work or to take children to school. The difference can be seen in the following graph.

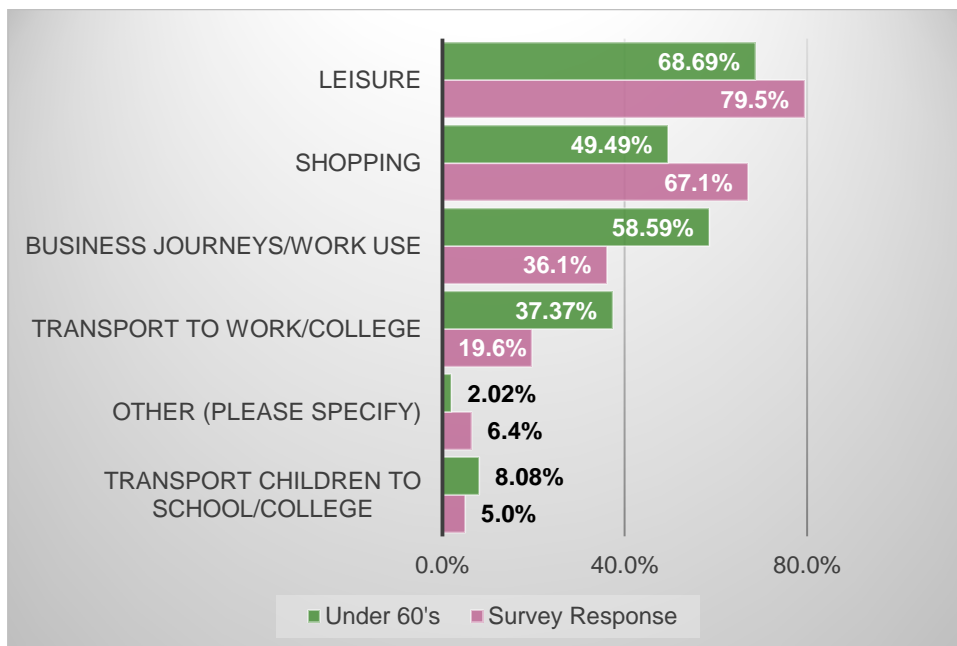


FIGURE 13

3.36 Furthermore the question only related to the 'main' vehicle. This is open to interpretation and it is possible residents might use a secondary vehicle for usage such as transporting children to school/college.

3.37 **Question 2.4** asked if respondents had a bicycle what they used it for. 88% of those that do cycle, do so for leisure and exercise. Very few people, less than 10%

of those who answered this question cycle for any other reason. Within the comments most related to feeling unsafe on local roads and the lack of cycle paths.

3.38 179 (66%) of respondents did not answer this question. However, again the age disparity of respondents impacts on the overall picture. 57% of respondents under 60 do cycle, primarily for leisure.

3.39 **Question 2.5** asked where residents would like better cycle access to.

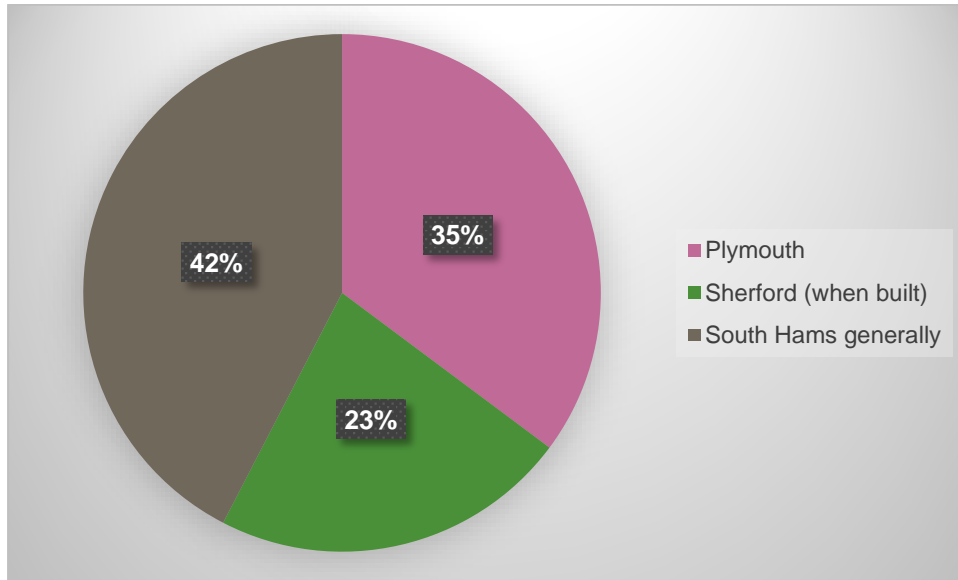


FIGURE 14

3.40 Access to Sherford is less of a preference than access to Plymouth and the South Hams more generally, but Sherford is not yet built.

3.41 **Question 2.6** asked if better and safer cycle access was developed if residents would be more likely to use their bicycle. 125 (46%) respondents answered this question compared to 93 who said they already do cycle within the parish, representing almost a third more people at least considering cycling. The table below the number of people who currently cycle for different activities compared to those who would if it were safer.



FIGURE 15

3.42 **Question 2.7** asked respondents if they walked regularly. 91% of those answering this question walk for leisure and 21% walk for shopping. 16% of respondents didn't answer this question.

3.43 **Question 2.8** asked about what improvements residents would like to road safety.

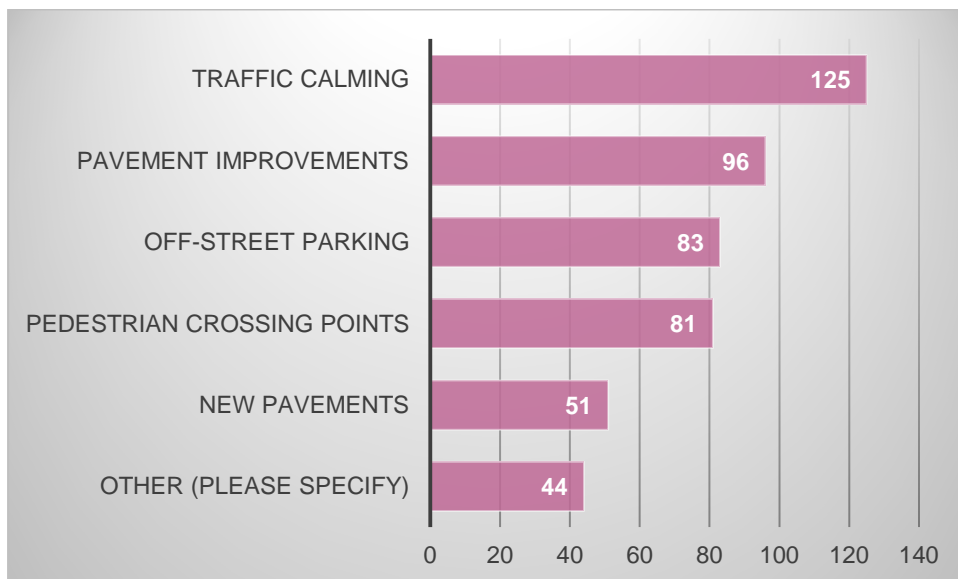


FIGURE 16

- 3.44 Many of the 'other' comments reflected options that were given in the question, for example they were specific forms of traffic calming, or where pavements could be improved. The two specific alternatives given were the introduction of speed cameras and reducing the on-street parking and parking on the pavement.
- 3.45 **Question 2.9** asked where these improvements are needed. 109 comments were made. The full list of these for consideration of the Neighbourhood Plan group are included in Appendix A.

Part 3: Employment

- 3.46 The first question in this section, **Question 3.1**, asked what sort of employment should be encouraged within the parish.

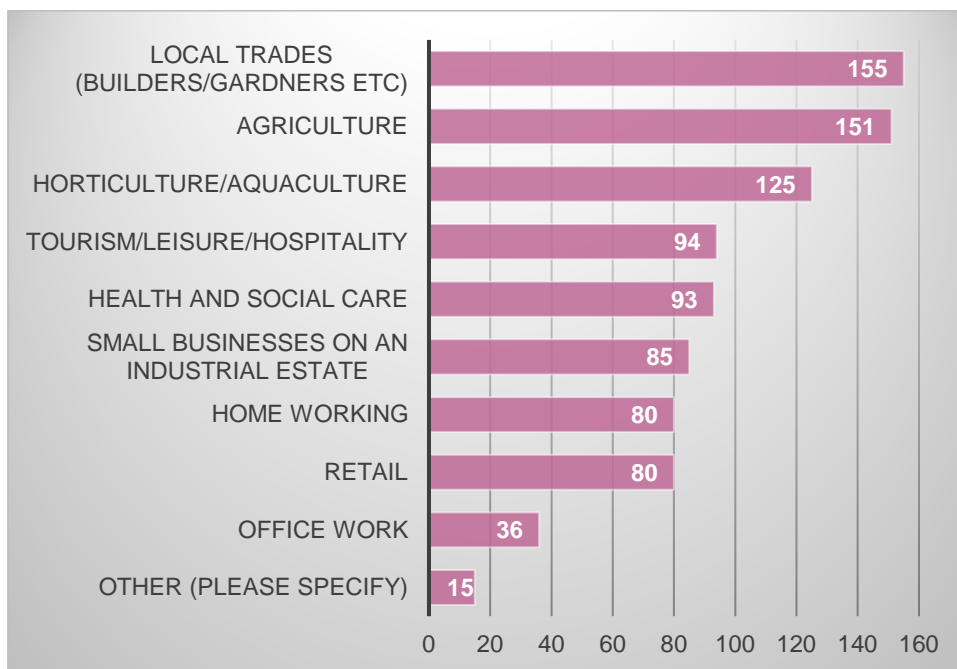


FIGURE 17

3.47 Currently the largest employment sectors within the parish are retail, health and social work, and education.⁶ Currently those in employment within the parish are within the following categories from the census.

Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles	121
Human health and social work activities	113
Education	85
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	74
Manufacturing	71
Professional, scientific and technical activities	67
Construction	54
Other	37
Administrative and support service activities	36
Accommodation and food service activities	35
Transport and storage	26
Information and communication	25
Financial and insurance activities	22
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	19
Real estate activities	15
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	5
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	4
Mining and quarrying	2

TABLE 2

⁶ 2011 Census

3.48 Of course many of those in employment do not work within the parish. Information about how far people travel to work is not available on a per-parish basis, the smallest denominator being the Middle Layer Super Output area used by the Office for National Statistics. For the area which included Brixton, and also includes Wembury and Newton Ferrers and surrounding areas, the following table shows the average commute.

Less than 2km	155
2km to less than 5km	238
5km to less than 10km	303
10km to less than 20km	201
20km to less than 30km	30
30km to less than 40km	26
40km to less than 60km	12
60km and over	89

TABLE 3

3.49 **Question 3.2** asked what sort of site would be preferable for employment development.

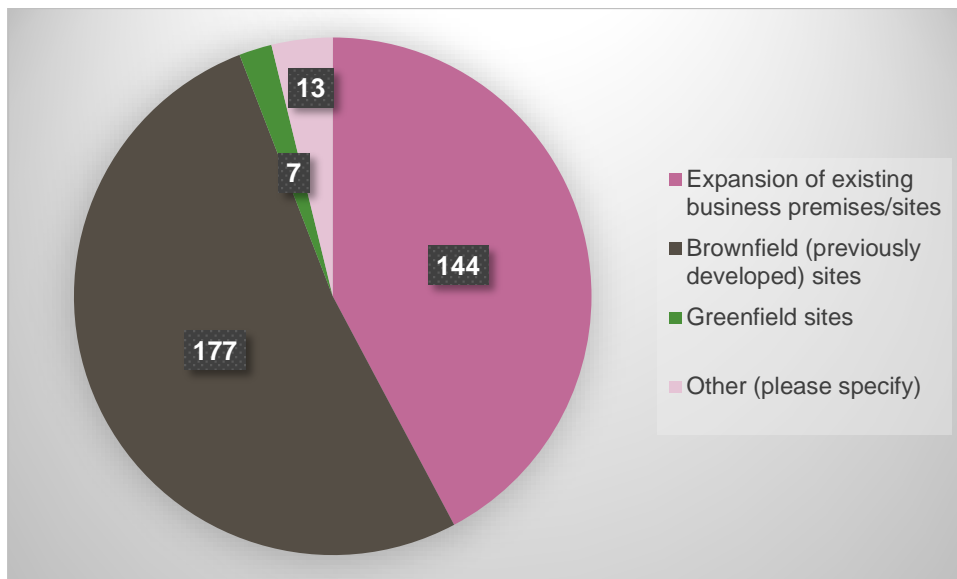


FIGURE 18

3.50 Most of the 'other' comments were about protecting greenfield sites.

3.51 **Question 3.3** asked if employment sites should be protected from change of use.

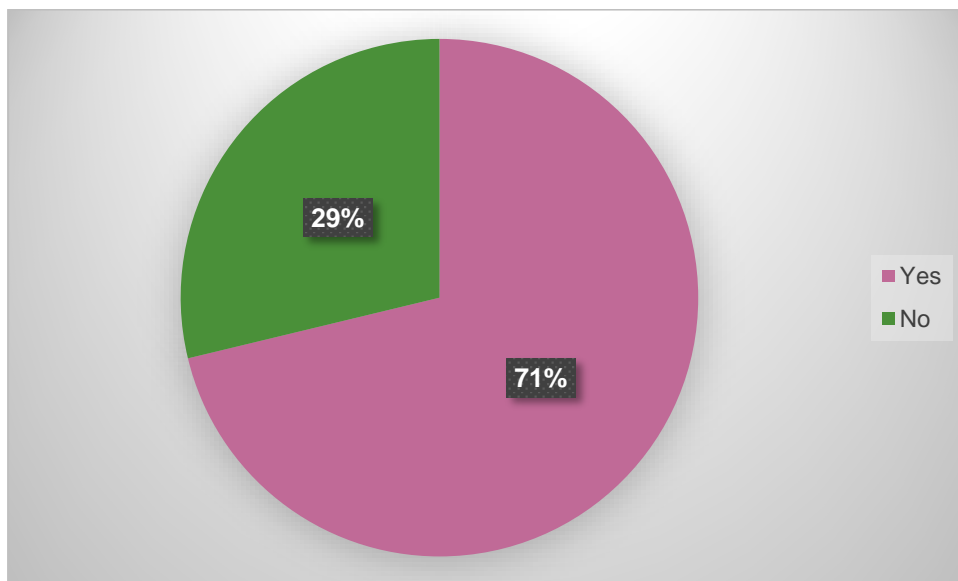


FIGURE 19

3.52 There is even stronger support for protecting employment sites from those under 40 with 90% wanting employment land to be protected.

3.53 **Question 3.4** asked what would encourage new businesses to locate to the parish.

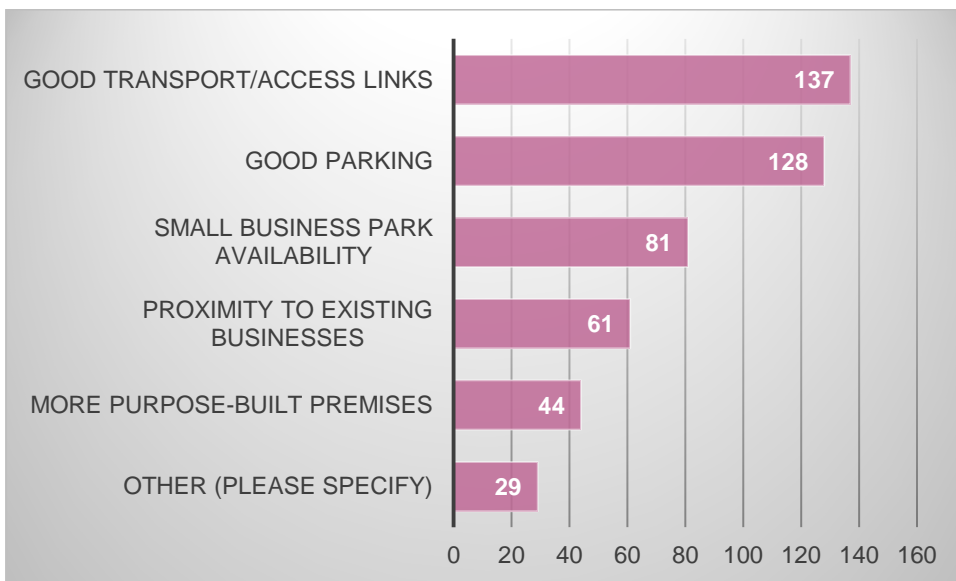


FIGURE 20

3.54 **Question 3.5** asked if anyone in the household would be seeking employment in the parish in the next 5 years.

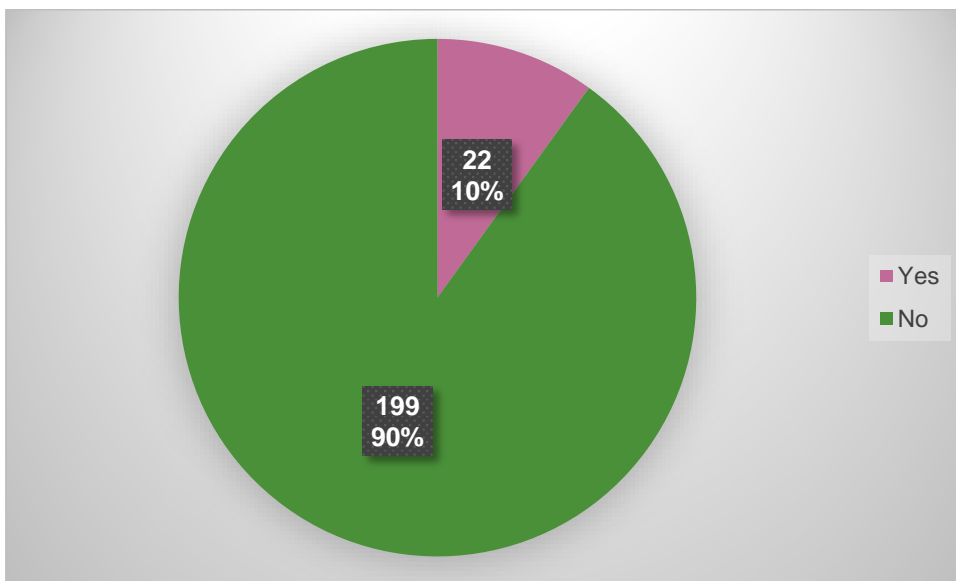


FIGURE 21

3.55 We know 22 people may be seeking employment within the parish in the next 5 years. As we have heard from 16% of local residents a crude calculation suggests there may be up to 138 people looking for employment within the parish in the next 5 years.

Part 4: Community Facilities

3.56 **Question 4.1** asked residents if they thought there should be more public open spaces within the parish.

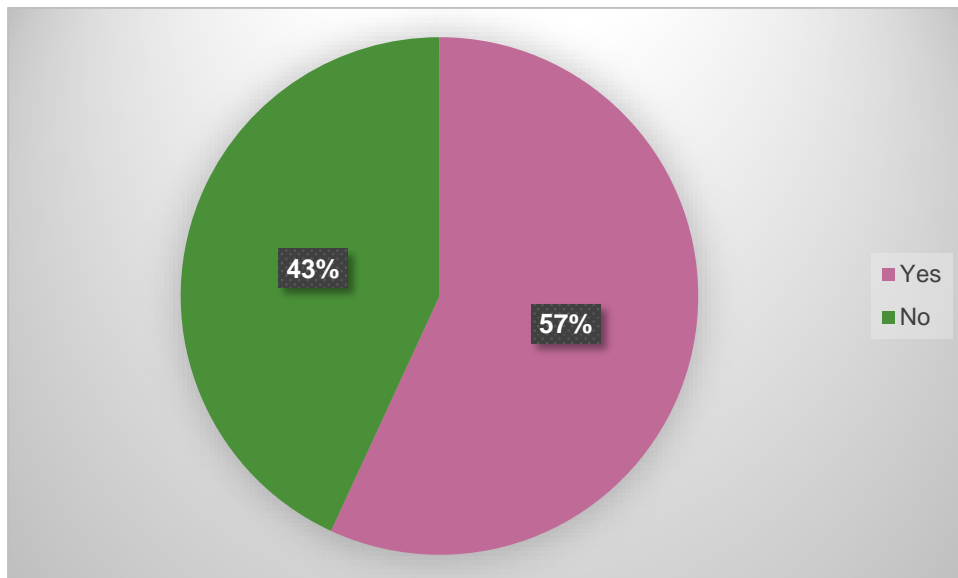


FIGURE 22

3.57 **Question 4.2** asked what people thought about access to the footpath network.

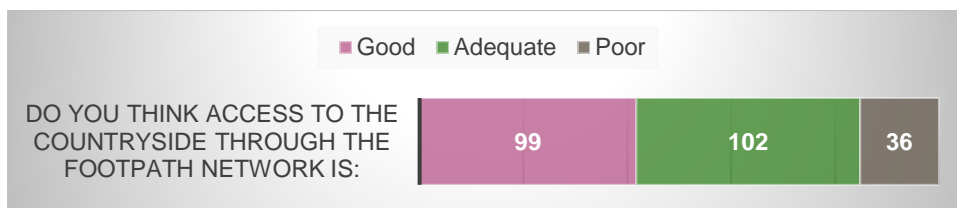


FIGURE 23

3.58 11 people had 'no opinion' and 24 didn't answer the question.

3.59 People could comment on their response to question 4.2. **Question 4.3** also asked for suggestions of how to improve the footpath network. The most common comments related to maintaining current footpaths, ensuring they are well signposted and maps available to help people explore what there is locally. The existing footpath maps will be made available at the shop.

3.60 **Question 4.4** asked how important residents thought it was to be able to shop for everyday items and food within the parish.

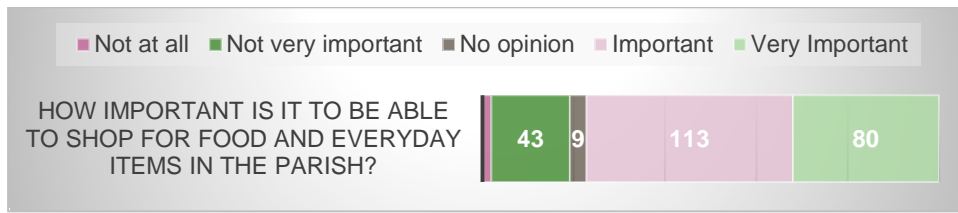


FIGURE 24

3.61 There is a desire from local people to be able to buy their food and everyday items within the parish. 77% of respondents thought it was 'important' or 'very important'.

3.62 **Question 4.5** asked if the parish needs public car parks and if so where they should be located.

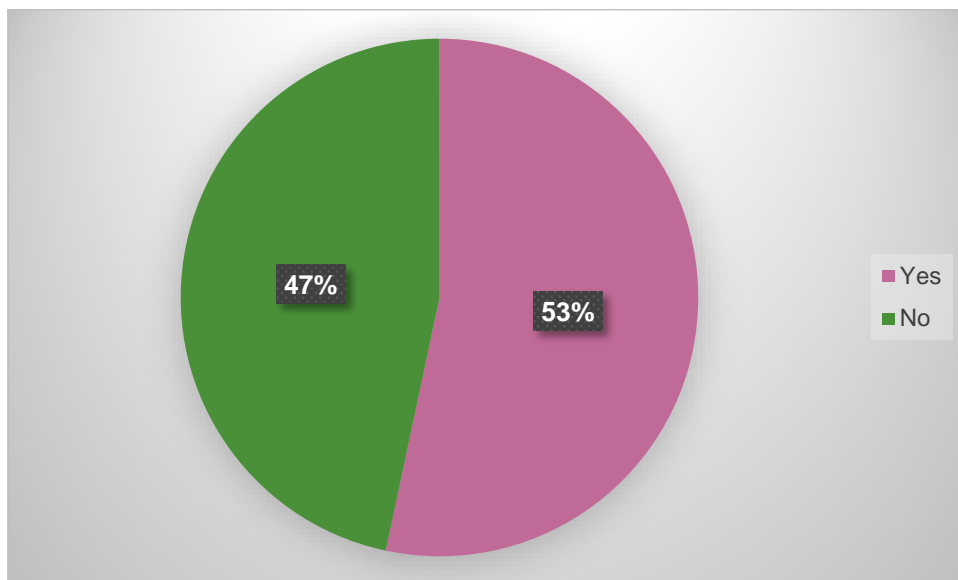


FIGURE 25

3.63 The most common locations related to the village centre or as close as possible.

3.64 **Question 4.6** asked what community facilities are required or needed within the parish. 70 people added a comment. A village or community hall and swimming pool were the most common specific items mentioned.

3.65 **Question 4.7** asked what 11-18 year olds would specifically like to be provided within the community. 19 comments were provided and are included within the table below.

A decent "on time" bus service taking them to the city if they wish or the beach!
Wifi (4G)
Youth club. Playing fields - football - cricket - rugby.
Skate Park or bike track
Meeting place
See above and possibly a youth club
A small youth centre or use the community centre where they could go to play snooker, ping pong table, play music, football, basketball (I know they use the primary school facilities). i.e. the front tennis court for basketball and football practice.
Sports hall Leisure centre which adults could use as well.
Soft drinks bar/cafe where they can chat, listen to their music.
Somewhere to meet and socialise.
Basketball hoop down the school
As above
Public swimming pool Basketball court. Mountain bike trail.
A youth club, a skate park, the swimming pool to be open outside school & weekends and holidays
Public swimming pool Basketball hoops Mountain bike trail
Faster broadband Basketball court Mountain biking paths
Rural mountain bike park / cycle route through woods, like at Lanhydrock.
sports ground
A place to meet

Part 5: Sport and Recreation

3.66 **Question 5.1** asked which of the listed sport and recreation activities listed the respondent took part in within the parish.

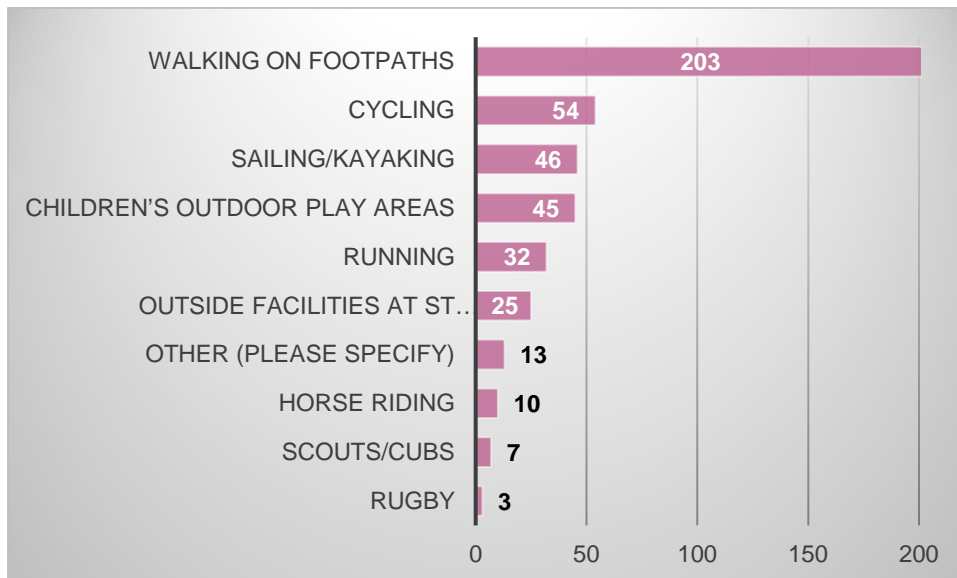


FIGURE 26

3.67 **Question 5.2** followed this up asking which outdoor activities respondents wished to take part in if the facilities were available or improved.

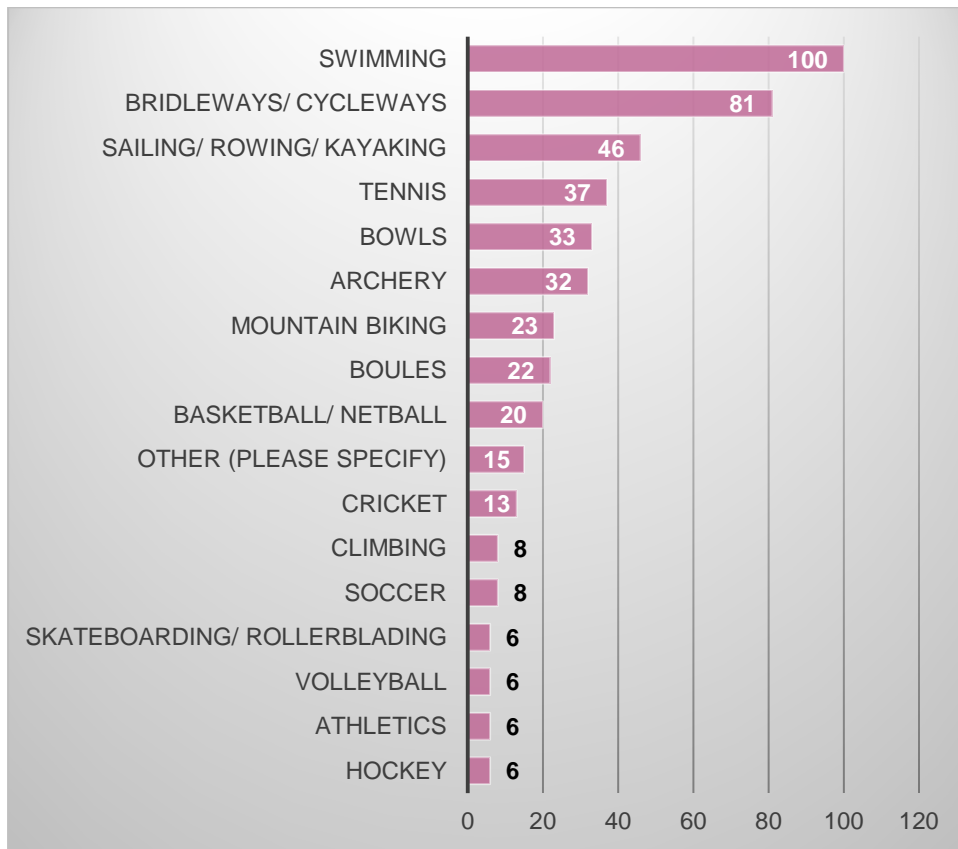


FIGURE 27

3.68 **Question 5.3** asked for suggested open space, sport or recreation projects requiring investment to improve the facilities or that could be created within the parish. A broad range of potential projects were suggested and a complete list is available in Appendix B.

Part 6: Development in the Parish

3.69 **Question 6.1** was an open-ended question and asked for the most important characteristic valued by residents. By far the most common characteristics identified by respondents were the natural, rural environment and views across it. The following graph illustrates this by showing how common specific words were in the responses given. The table includes all words with 10 or more responses, excluding common words such as 'the', 'and' etc.

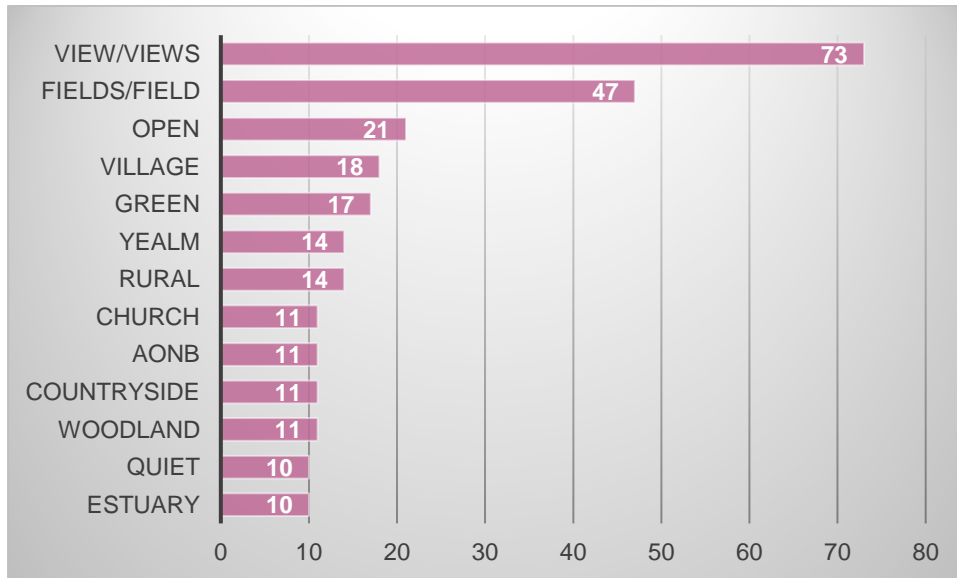


FIGURE 28

3.70 **Question 6.2** asked respondents to consider the parish as a whole and which specific features, views etc. are important to conserve or enhance. The church and AONB status were the most common specific features identified through these comments.

3.71 **Question 6.3** asked if the Neighbourhood Plan were to allocate sites for housing what scale of development should be given priority.

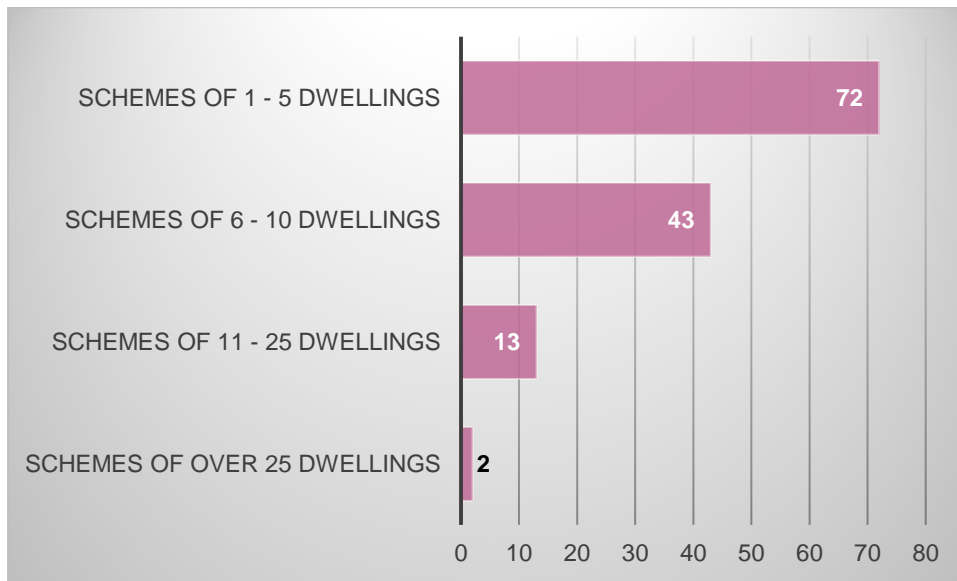


FIGURE 29

3.72 Clearly smaller sites are preferred. A further 152 people skipped this question. As 'no development' wasn't given as an option it is likely that a number of these people did not wish to see any further development.

3.73 **Question 6.4** asked which form of tenure should be encouraged for new homes.

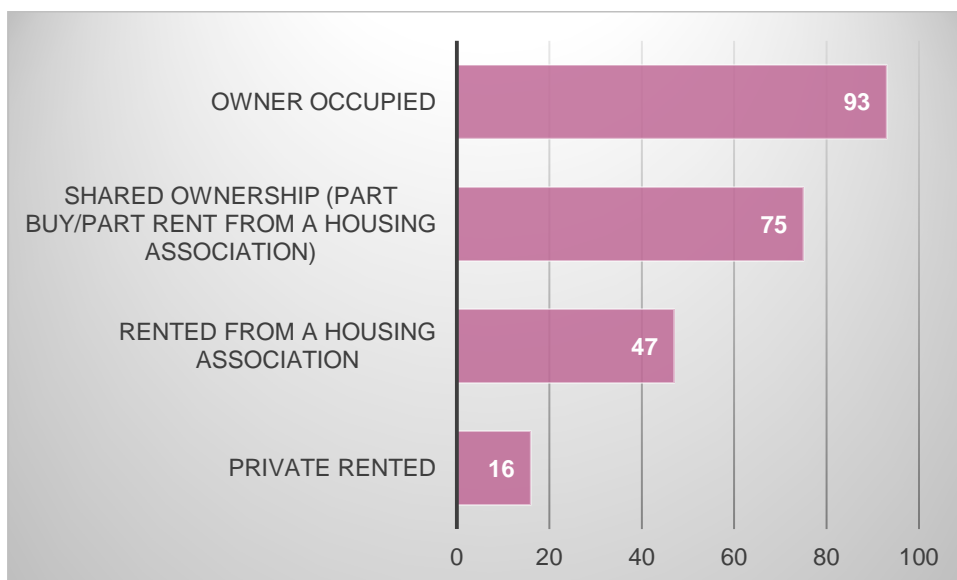


FIGURE 30

3.74 **Question 6.5** further developed this theme by asking what types of home residents would like to see across the parish.

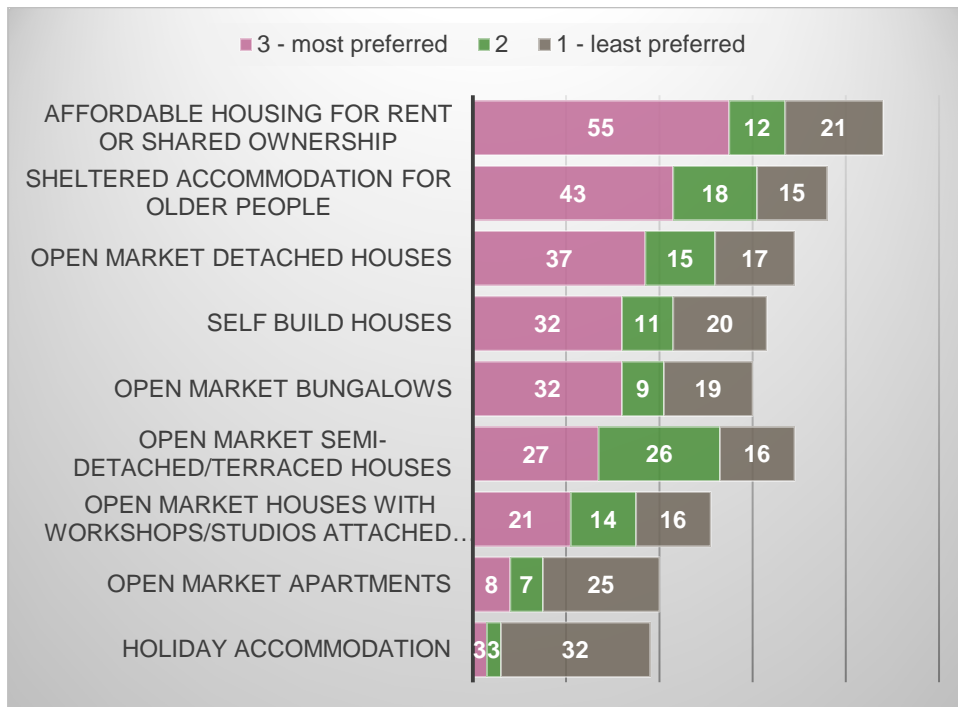


FIGURE 31

3.75 **Question 6.6** provided three specific statements regarding respondent's views on housing growth within the parish over the Neighbourhood Plan period, 2016-2030.

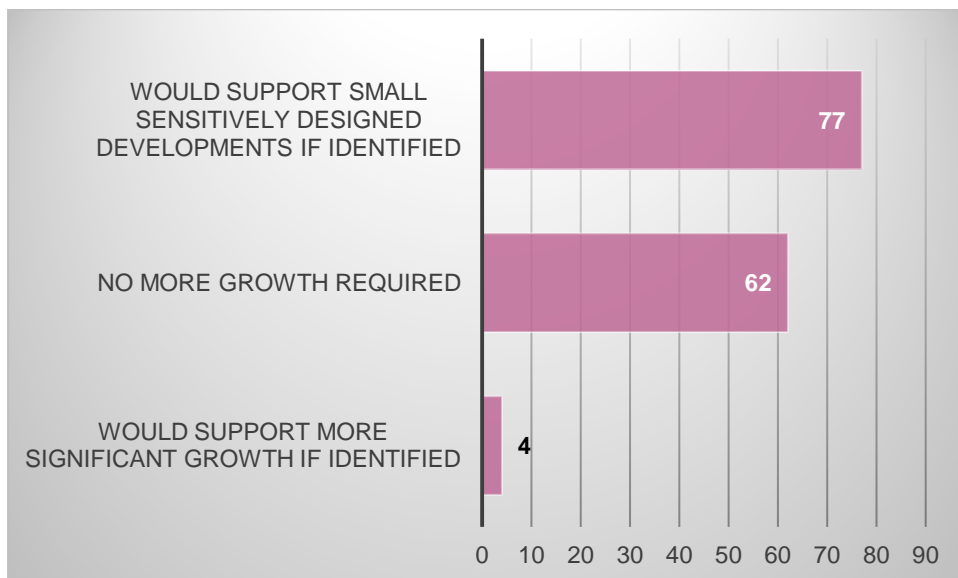


FIGURE 32

3.76 Finally **question 6.7** asked about the location of new homes if a need was identified. The options were ranked from 1 the most preferred to 5, the least.

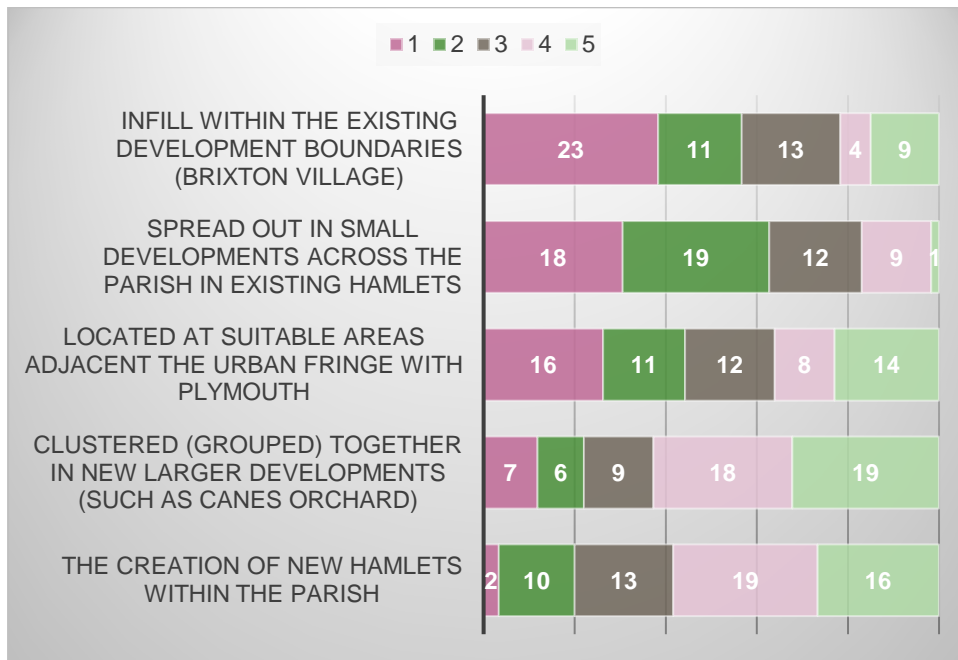


FIGURE 33

3.77 205 people skipped this question. Therefore the responses to this question may not be very representative.

Any other comments

3.78 There was a final box where respondents could add any further comments they wished. 57 residents provided additional comments. These were wide ranging and a complete list can be seen in Appendix C.