



BECKINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Residents Survey Results

What follows are the detailed results of the survey conducted in April, which the Steering Group will be taking into account when preparing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you to all who participated. A short summary of these results has already been delivered to all households in the Parish.

If you have any comments or queries, contact
npsgbeckington@gmail.com

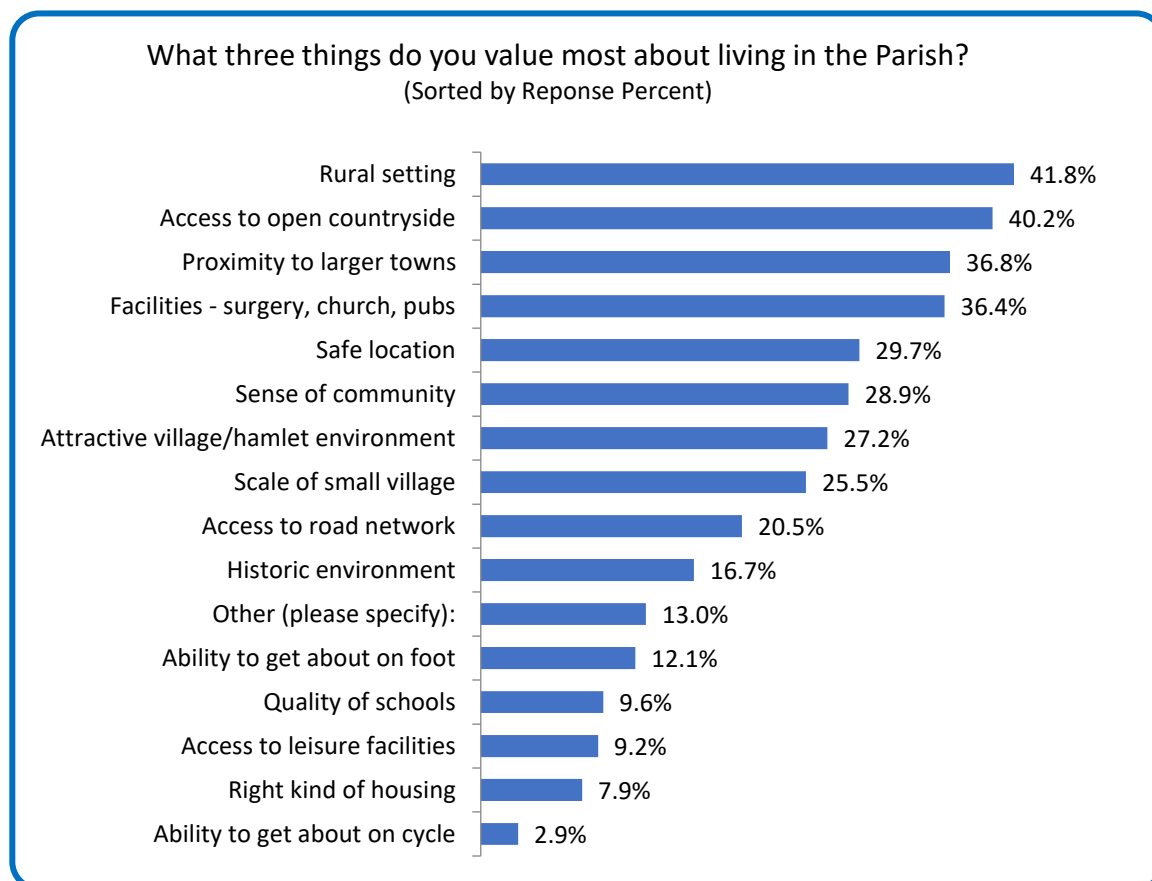
* * * * *

LIVING IN THE PARISH

QUESTION 1 What three things do you value most about living in the Parish?

Please tick from the examples below or specify others

239 respondents answered this question; skipped by 4.



The top 4, selected by more than a third of respondents were **Rural setting**, **Access to open countryside**, **Proximity to larger towns** and **Facilities**.

More than a quarter of all respondents valued **Safe location**, **Sense of community**, **Attractive village/hamlet environment** and **Scale of small village**.

Views of the countryside / farmland and **Conservation area** (the historic centre of Beckington) were cited specifically under 'Other' as well as in the comments.

"I value more than the above: 1. the conservation area and 2. amazing agricultural views from footpaths"

"It's rural but close enough to towns and cities,...well connected via public transport and road network"

"Views across the beautiful countryside and walks"

"I value most the spectacular views of the open countryside that we are so lucky to have in the Parish. So views above all the above"

"Protection of historic appearance of buildings within the conservation zone is obviously key to the ongoing attraction of a village such as Beckington"

QUESTION 2 What three things (if any) do you dislike about living in the parish?

178 answered this open-ended question; skipped by 65.

The key themes were:

1. Traffic

A third of respondents (65; 37%) raised traffic issues. These included **excessive traffic and congestion**, including use of Beckington as a 'rat run' (36, 20%), **traffic speed** (14, 8%) and **road noise**, predominantly from the A36 (12, 7%). Speeding cyclists were mentioned by two respondents.

Related comments included the lack of a safe way to cross the A36 (9, 5%) and the state of the pavements (9, 5%).

"The general increase in volume of traffic on surrounding lanes and roads and people coming through the village as a 'short cut' off the main road"

"Even with the bypass (I remember its construction!) the village of Beckington is still used as a thoroughfare for traffic"

"Speeding traffic, 20mph please"

"No traffic calming schemes"

2. Parking

Related to traffic and impacting on congestion, the joint second most common dislike about living in the Parish was parking, raised by 46 respondents (26%). Main locations mentioned were Bath Road (9) and Goose Street (9). Complaints included:

- parked cars causing congestion (9), with limited access for emergency vehicles (2)
- high number of parked vehicles (8), and inconsiderate on road parking (8)
- lack of street (7), off-street (1), safe (1) parking
- large increase in cars parked around the village (3)
- unspecified difficulties with parking (4)
- village used as a park and ride (2)
- parking at Doctor's surgery (1)

"Vastly increased parking around the village"

"Irresponsible parking on junctions restricting view and on narrow sections where vehicles have to mount the pavement"

"On road parking making narrow streets difficult to pass, and impossible for emergency vehicles to pass sometimes"

3. Development

The joint second most common dislike about living in the parish concerned development, with a quarter of respondents (47; 26%) listing **housing developments and expansion**. These included:

- the threat of building on fields around the village of Beckington (15)
- over-development (12)
- inadequate infrastructure (5)
- inappropriate housing (style / cost) (4)
- lack of community spirit by landowners (3)

"Constant threat of loss of first class agricultural land surrounding Beckington, Rudge & other nearby villages"

"Worry that views of sheep and fields will be lost to housing estates. this would impact the quality of life in our beautiful village"

"Endless threat from local landowners/developers wishing to expand the village beyond its capacity and ruin its rural setting and landscape"

"The thought that there may be more housing developments when our roads, infrastructure and facilities are stretched to breaking point"

4. Community

36 respondents (20%) commented on aspects of community life, with some divergent opinions. Half the respondents referred to **Community Spirit** (18), with the majority (12) commenting that it had been diminished. Newcomers, cliques, elitism, 'new vs old', and lack of respect were attributed causes of divisions within the community, described by two respondents as "*politics*".

The welcoming friendly community spirit has weakened since the total number of homes increased so rapidly over a few years. Not as many people say hello."

"Divisions in community. General lack of understanding of each other. General lack of respect for each other."

"Gossip, cliques and small mindedness of some in the community"

"Newcomers trying to change things"

"General attitude of resistance to change... Older people in the village behaving as if they are better than others"

5. Lack of facilities

32 respondents (18%) highlighted the lack of amenities in the Parish, namely **shop(s)** (15), **post office** (12) and **community hub**.

Other amenities lacking or inadequate include **leisure facilities** (5) and **children's play area**(2). Deteriorating facilities and lack of investment were contributing factors according to two respondents.

The **GP surgery** was a cause for concern for 13 respondents (7%), due to: traffic limiting access (5), difficulty getting appointments (3), access and parking (3), being inadequate and over-subscribed (1).

"Lack of a real central hub to the village with facilities such as a shop, PO, cafe facilities for young and old to meet"

"No Post Office, affordable store. I know villages which have all 3 together and it's a great place to meet the community"

"When I came 68 years ago we had no need to leave the village. Everything on hand. Lots of clubs got going. Now all finished."

"Huge amount of traffic along Goose Street and Sandy Lane accessing the surgery by people who do not live in the Parish or immediate surrounding hamlet"

Rudge

Seven residents of Rudge provided comments in response to this question. Two respondents raised concerns over the **traveller community**, and others raised the **lack of community spirit**, **feeling forgotten**, **limited policing**, and **traffic speed** on Rudge Lane.

Standerwick

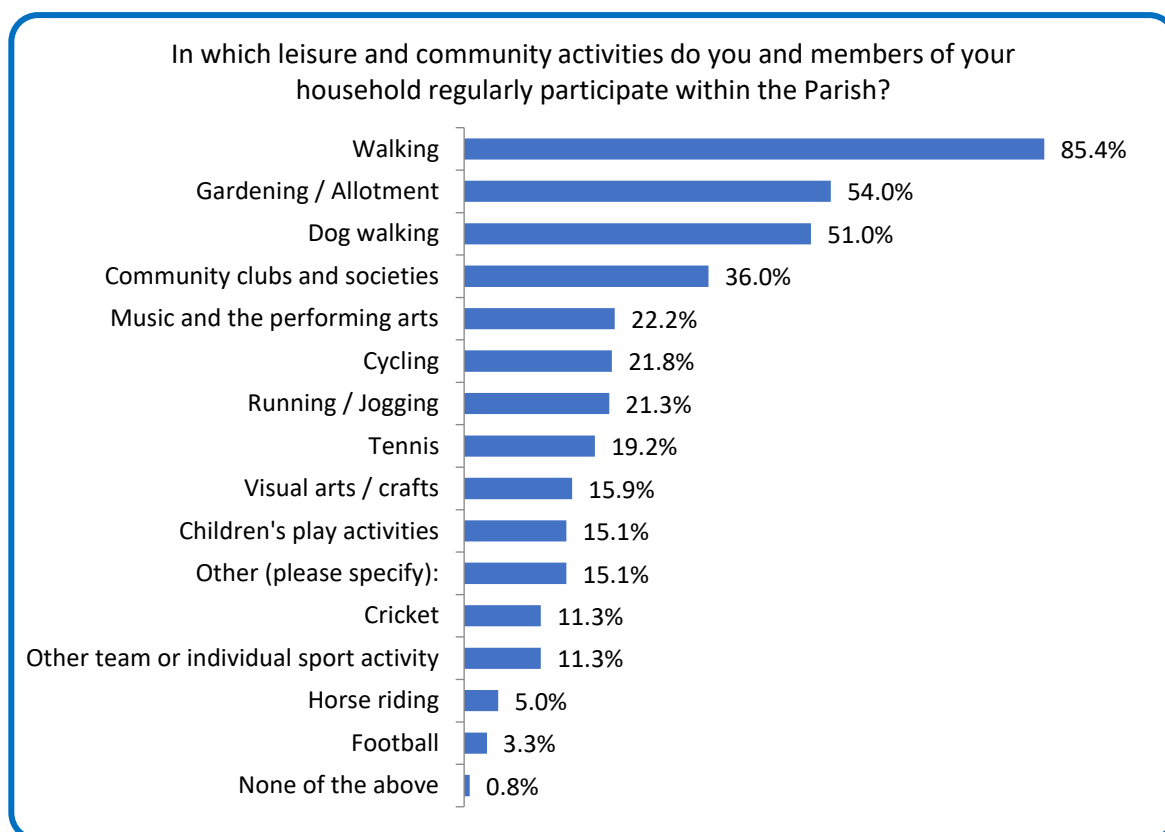
None of the surveys from residents of Standerwick addressed this question.

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

QUESTION 3 In which leisure and community activities do you and members of your household regularly participate within the parish?

Please tick all that apply.

239 answered this question; skipped by 4.



The top 3, ticked by more than half the respondents, were:

Walking, Gardening/Allotment and Dog Walking,

Followed by:

Community Clubs and Music and Performing Arts

There were some responses (8-38) for all other activities listed, with two respondents indicating 'none of the above'. Other activities:

- Most (9) for **church** (not perceived as a 'community club or activity'), also **bellringing** (2)
- **Pubs**, perceived as a 'leisure and community activity' (3)
- Two mentions each for **book club, quizzes, yoga / exercise classes** and **village hall events**
- Of relevance to the environment, **bird watching, litter picking** and **the poor state of footpaths through farmers' fields** were noted.

"Brilliant Lunch Club. Attending St George's Church and supporting fund raising activities."

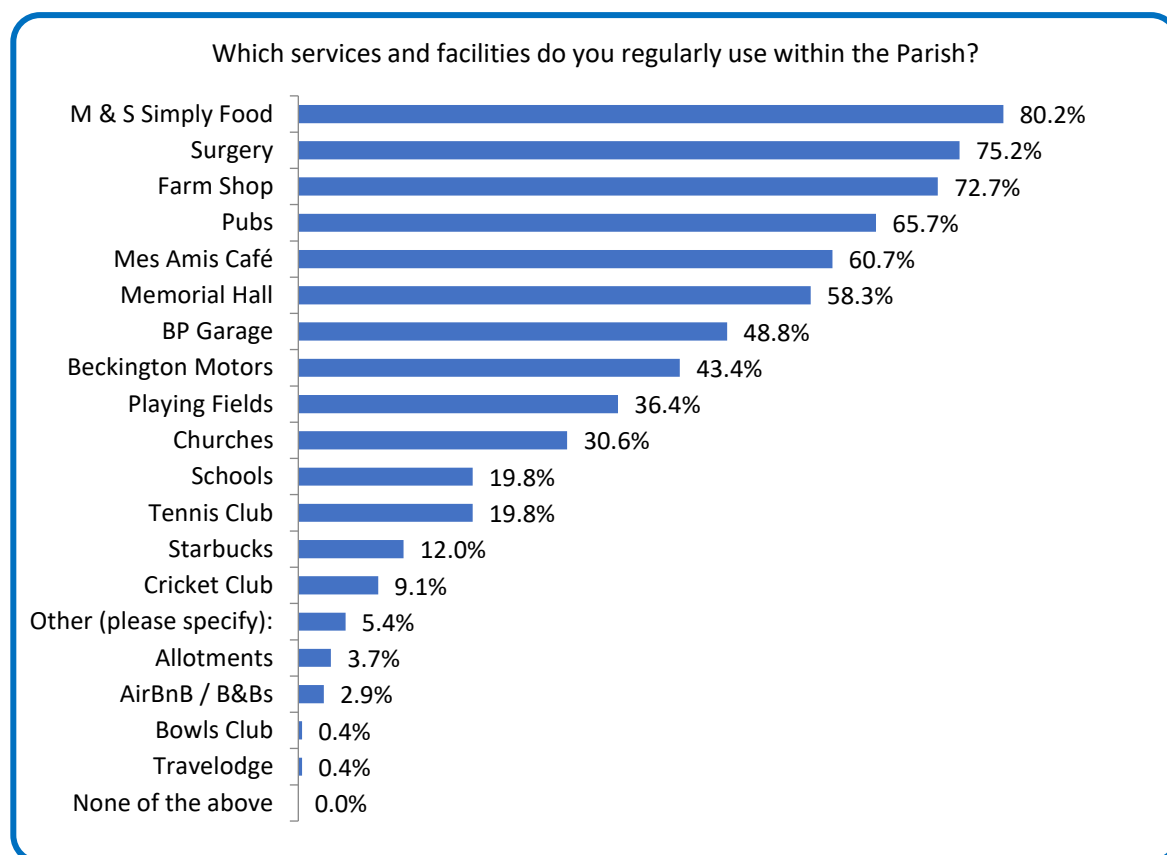
"Access to Frome for some of my leisure activities is important for me"

"Pub and clubs at Memorial Hall"

QUESTION 4 Which services and facilities do you regularly use within the parish?

Please tick all that apply.

242 answered this question; skipped by 1.



The top 5, with more than 60% uptake were:

M&S shop, Surgery, Farm shop, Pubs and Mes Amis.

The **Memorial Hall** and **Playing fields** are well used, as well as the **two garages, churches** and **schools**.

Other services and facilities mentioned in the comments included:

- Footpaths, children's playground and book exchange (old telephone kiosk?)
- Mole Valley and Standerwick Market auctions, mentioned by one, but they are outside the Parish.
- Air B&Bs in the Parish got two negative comments about there being too many of them.

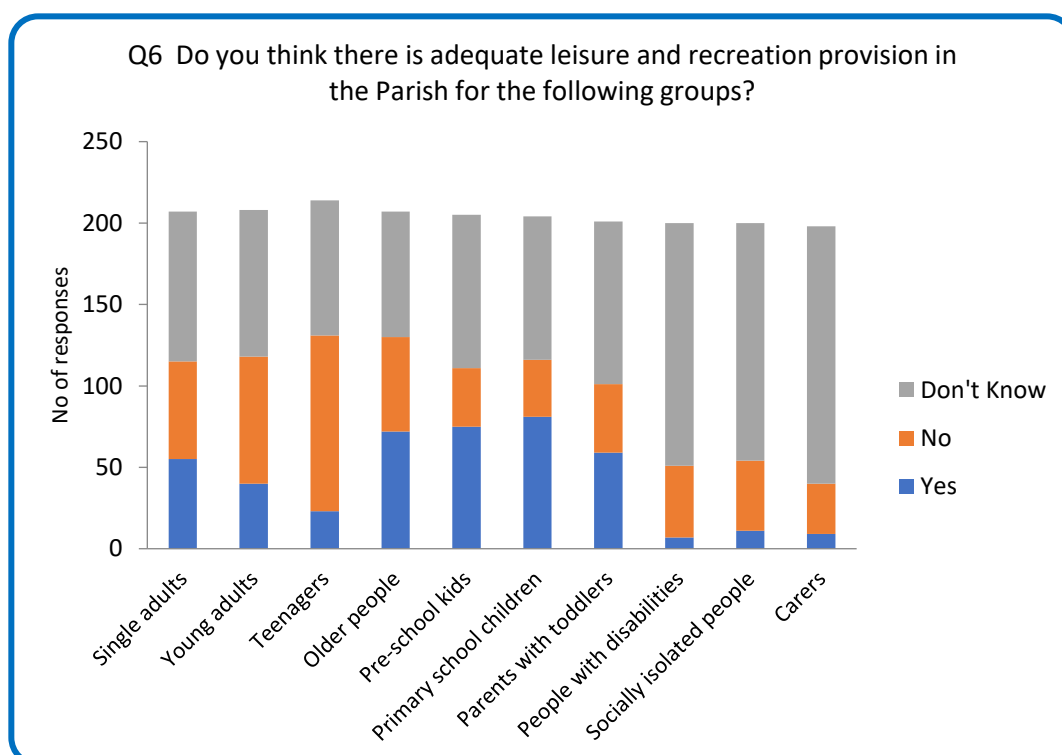
"Playing fields when not overtaken by cricket"

"Bowls Club - we don't have one but would be nice in Beckington"

"No more AirB&B - too many now"

QUESTION 6 Do you think there is adequate leisure and recreation provision in the Parish for the following groups?

222 answered this question (but not every line); skipped by 21.



There was a high rate of 'Don't know' answers (from 37% to 80% of respondents for different categories). Focussing on the YES/NO answers:

- Two thirds thought **provision for pre-school kids and primary school children is adequate**, while a small majority (72 versus 58) thought **provision for older people is adequate**.
- On the other hand, respondents **rating provision for teenagers as inadequate** (108) outnumbered those that were satisfied with provision (23) by more than 4 to 1. The difference of opinion regarding **young adults** was somewhat less striking, with around 2 to 1 thinking that provision is inadequate. Numbers were equally balanced for **single adults** of any age (55 versus 60 respondents), and marginally in agreement that **provision for parents with toddlers** is adequate (59 versus 42).
- The final three categories had the highest 'don't know' rates (all over 70%). Assuming the YES/NO respondents are those best placed to judge, leisure and recreation provision for **persons with disabilities, socially isolated people** and **carers** was deemed inadequate by the majority (by about 4 to 1).

QUESTION 7 If you responded 'no' to any category in Question 6, what do you think is missing?

91 answered this open-ended question.

Answers generally echoed responses to Question 5. Many commented on lack of facilities without specifying deficiencies or desirable additions.

The largest number of specific answers (15) were in favour of better **sports facilities**, catering for the range of sports previously seen in answers to Q5., namely:

- Skateboard pitch (7)
- Football (5)
- Table tennis (pin pong) (4)
- Bingo (2)
- Darts (2)
- Gym trail (2)
- Padel Court (2)
- Basketball (1)

There was significant interest in having a **youth club** or **youth organisation** for socializing and organized activities (12) and it was noted that there used to be one.

The **playground** was highlighted as being inadequate (8).

Additional suggestions (without always indicating the sector of the community that would most benefit) included:

- Community Hub /social club (7)
- Post office / shop (2)
- Restaurant (1)
- Community land (2)
- Creative spaces (1)
- Better access and accessible walks for disabled persons (5)

There were also positive comments about leisure and recreation provision in the village, notably:

- Lah's Place social space
- Transport links (for accessing leisure facilities in Frome)
- Cricket and tennis club atmosphere

Representative comments included:

"The only leisure and recreation provision in the Parish is an unsafe playground and a cricket pitch – this cannot be deemed adequate" (omitted to mention the tennis courts)

"We have very few leisure and recreation facilities within the parish. I don't think anyone is fully catered for. We have one 'play park' in Beckington which is not in great condition and there are very few events put on within the parish the would be adequate for any group."

"There is nothing for teenagers / older children to do in this village, they do not even have a football goal post at the village hall"

"Need a space for children to play"

"I don't know of anywhere has adequate leisure facilities but this village has some good ones"

"Accessible walks for less able and elderly"

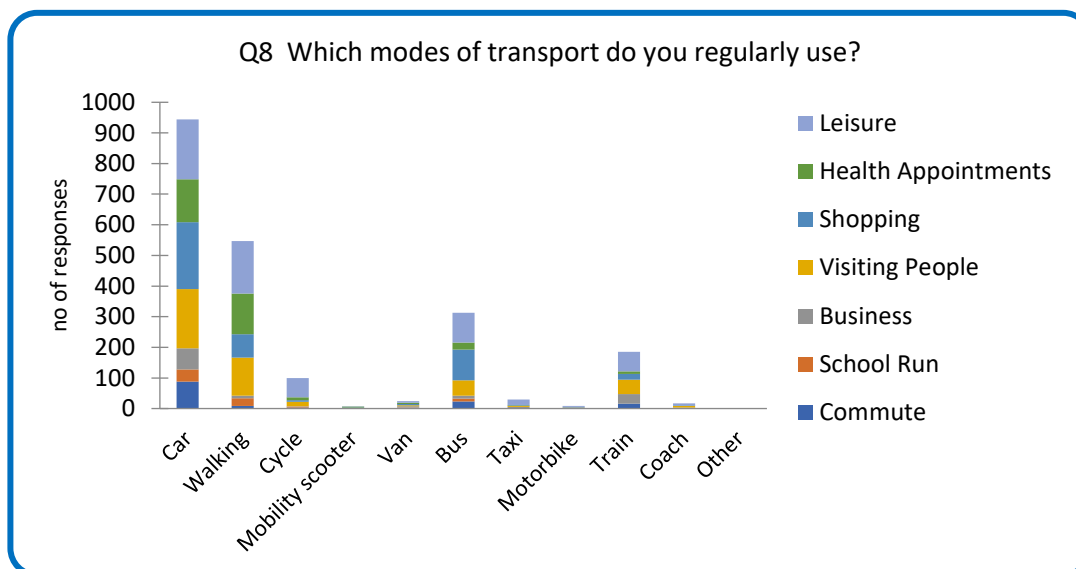
"Teenagers are often at a loose end and have to travel to Frome or Bath"

"More parent/toddler activity groups"

TRANSPORT

QUESTION 8 Which modes of transport do you regularly use? Please tick all that apply and the purpose of your trip

241 answered this question; skipped by 2.



This is a complex set of answers, combining two variables: mode of transport and purpose of journey. The five predominant modes of transport are, in order:

Car, Walking, Bus, Train, Cycle,

with three main purposes: **Leisure, Shopping, Visiting People**

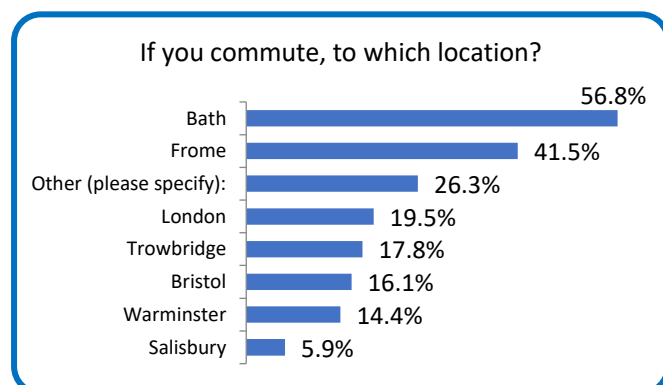
The other modes of transport listed had fewer than 20 mentions and no other means of transportation were reported.

Health appointments were predominantly undertaken by car or walking, in equal measure, whereas **Business** and **Commuting** were carried out principally by car and to a lesser extent by train (car, bus or taxi would be necessary to reach a train station).

Car, walking and bus were used for the **School run**, with use of car predominating.

QUESTION 9 If you commute, to which location?

118 answered this question; skipped by 125.

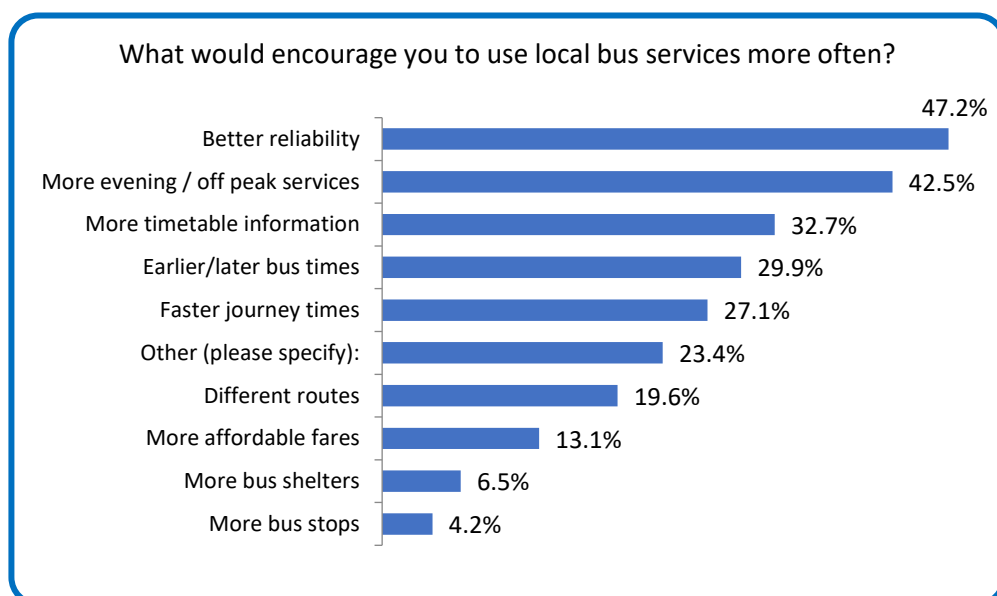


Bath and Frome are the major destinations;

26% of respondents indicated 'other locations', notably **Westbury** (6 respondents)

QUESTION 10 What would encourage you to use local bus services more often?

214 answered this question; skipped by 29.



Better reliability was the biggest factor, noted by almost half the respondents. However, 8 comments endorsed the current service as *'good'*, *'very good'* *'fine'* *'satisfied'* *'very happy with it'* and 5 said they never use the bus.

More off peak services, **Earlier or later bus times**, and **Faster journeys** also ranked highly.

Better access to **Timetable information** was raised by a third of respondents.

There was less call for **More bus stops** or **Bus shelters**.

Comments under 'Other' included additional destinations, with **Warminster**, **Westbury station** and the **RUH** named (but there was no consensus supporting any particular destination).

Lack of provision for Rudge, with no car parking available near the bus stops in Beckington, was raised.

"PARKING at or very near the stops! Would love to be able to use the bus to Bath"

"Important to continue the good service through Beckington"

"Rudge has no service"

"Different Routes - Warminster for school commute. Later bus times from Frome to Beckington"

"Bus route to a train station eg Westbury"

"I have lost confidence in the bus as it's very unreliable at times and I tend to drive everywhere now"

"Satisfied with current provision and use it"

"I use the bus service regularly, timetables are a problem, they keep changing"

"Print timetable in Parish magazine"

QUESTION 11 What would encourage you to cycle more within the parish?

131 answered this open-ended question; skipped by 112.

While a dozen respondents said they were regular cyclists or happy to cycle, or used to cycle when younger, two related themes emerged from those who were less satisfied with cycling or would like to cycle more:

- **Safer roads** (20 comments), with the number and speed of cars highlighted, on both main roads and lanes;
- Provision of **Cycle lanes** (25) on main roads and /or dedicated **Cycle routes**.

Six respondents specifically mentioned the A36/A361 as dangerous for entering and crossing.

A route specifically named for a cycle path was the road into Frome

“Dangerous at night on the rural lanes between Beckington and Rudge and Rode. The cars drive very quickly. Cycling to Frome from Beckington doesn't feel safe”

“Safer interaction for cyclists with the A36. Cars travelling at 70mph and racing to get round both roundabouts as fast as possible is far from appealing”

“Safe cycle lanes on the main A roads”

“I regularly use my bicycle however I can understand why people are reluctant to cycle due to the speed of traffic and cars passing without adequate care and attention”

“Safe cycle routes to Frome and Rode”

QUESTION 12 What would encourage you to walk more within the Parish?

145 answered this open-ended question; skipped by 98.

While a number of respondents (23) said they already walked a lot, enjoyed it and had nothing to add, there were many comments with more negative sentiments. These can be divided into issues relating to rural walking versus walking in built up locations.

- The biggest number of comments (30) concerned the **upkeep of footpaths**, for accessibility and for seeing the views. There was also considerable demand (18) for **better footpath information** (e.g. a parish display board or up to date book of walks) and **signage**. A similar number of comments (16) highlighted the **difficulty and danger of crossing the A36** where the road transects public footpaths.
- The **volume and speed of traffic** was also raised (15) as a disincentive to walking, in relation to both crossing the A36 and walking in the local lanes.
- In the more built up area of Beckington village, 12 respondents argued for **improved lighting** and **better path or pavement surfaces**.
- There was some call for more dog walking areas, while others complained of dog mess.

“It would be good to ensure that all the footpaths identified on the OS maps are signposted and paths are clear”

“More signage where I can walk off the road. I'm not always sure where footpaths are”

“The footpaths get very overgrown which makes them less easy and enjoyable to use - and block the views from them of the countryside and fields”

“To safely be able to walk to White Row Farm Shop”

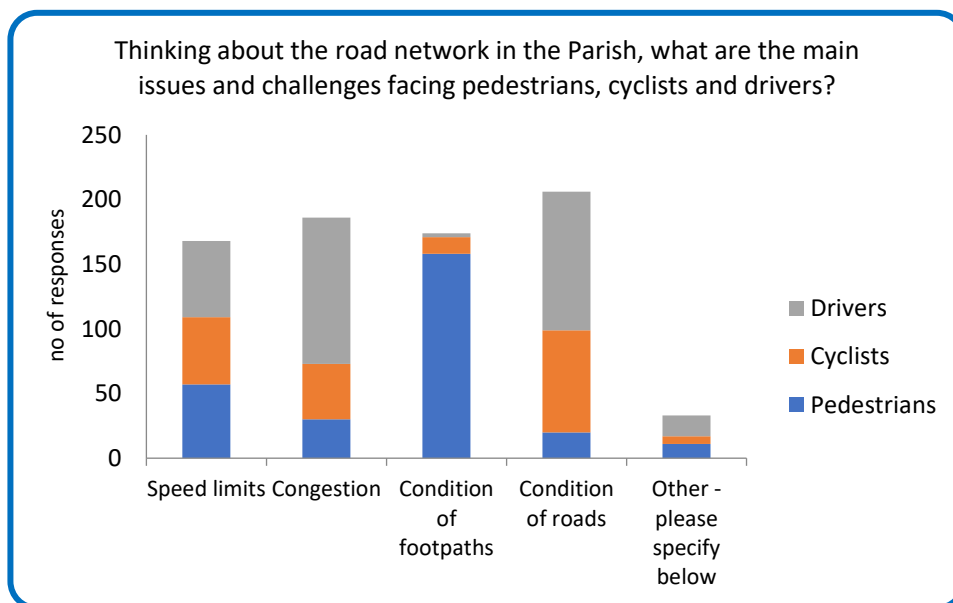
“There are many kerbs that it would be very difficult to surmount in a wheelchair or with a pushchair”

“Improved lighting in winter and better surfaces”

ROAD NETWORK AND PARKING

QUESTION 13 Thinking about the road network, what are the main issues and challenges facing pedestrians, cyclists and drivers?

222 answered this question, skipped by 21.



- **Speed** was a key issue for all three categories of road users with a desire for **speed limits** (168).
- A need for **Traffic calming** was only included in the on-line survey (so not shown on graph) - about half of the respondents (42) were in favour.
- The **Condition of footpaths** is a big issue for pedestrians (158) as is the **Condition of roads** for drivers (107) and cyclists (79).
- **Congestion** due to parking was the biggest issue for drivers (113), with pedestrians (30) and cyclists (43) also finding it a challenge.

Speed limits:

"The 20 mph limit should be extended to the narrowest roads and removed from the wider parts. There is no evidence that any of the limits are ever enforced."

"A 20mph limit on Warminster Road would hopefully stop the speeding cars"

"Traffic calming required along Warminster Road and Frome Road, particularly approaching Springmead School"

"No significant road / traffic issues though some drivers do speed through the village"

"Difficult to access a safe cycle route out of the village"

"Access across the A36 to the Farm Shop is dangerous for anyone with mobility issues. I will not be able to walk for my shopping when I can no longer sprint across the road."

Conditions of roads and footpaths:

"Lots of pot holes!"

"Sewage on the road and pavements in the centre of Beckington after heavy rainfall"

"Insufficient footpaths on roads in Rudge"

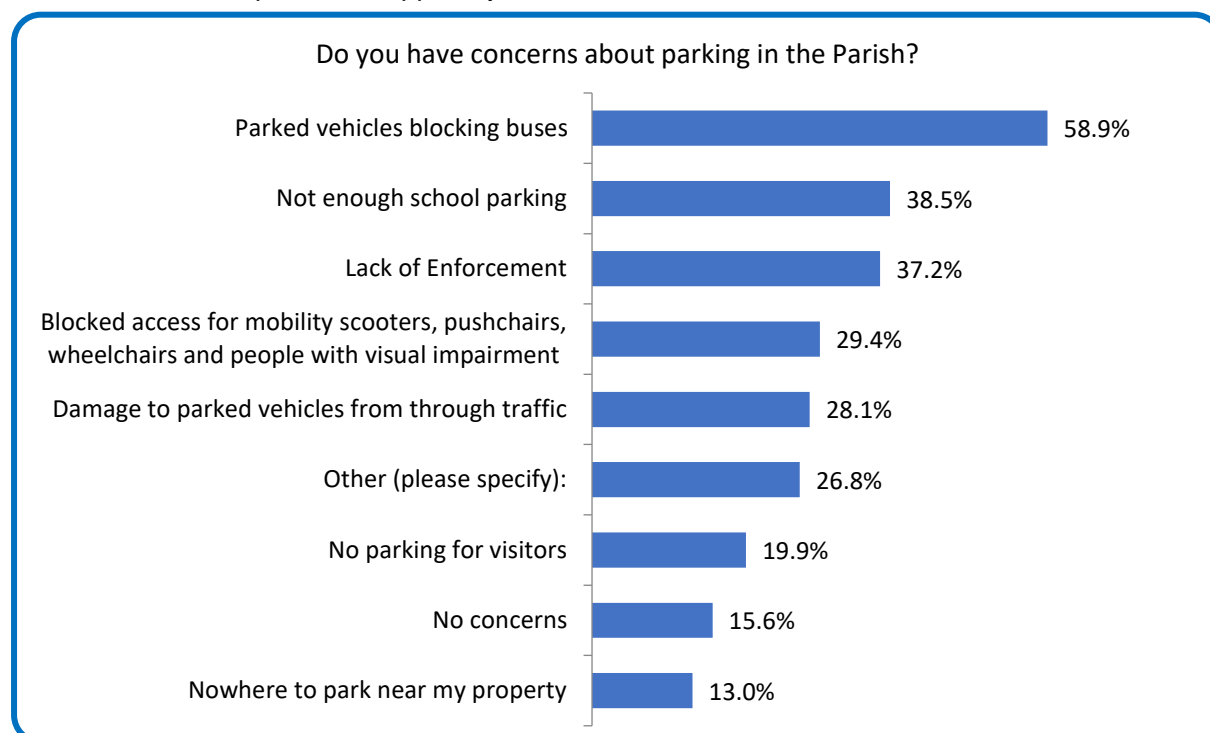
"Street lighting for pedestrians - not always/consistently good"

"The pavement on Bath Road opposite Mill Lane is very narrow. No good for wheelchairs and hard to navigate safely with small children."

QUESTION 14 Do you have concerns about parking in the Parish?

Please tick all that apply.

230 answered this question; skipped by 12.



The biggest concerns were **Parked vehicles blocking buses**, **Not enough school parking** and **Lack of enforcement**. School drop offs and pick ups at both Beckington First School and Springmead were an issue. There were also concerns about **Blocked access for mobility scooters, wheelchairs and pushchairs**.

There was a large number of comments. Issues raised included:

- Congestion on Goose Street, with parked cars and the volume of traffic going to and from the Surgery, and the impact on access for emergency vehicles serving the surgery.
- Too many vehicles parking on Bath Road through the village, including *inconsiderate parking, particularly on corners and pavements*.
- Parking by commuters and those using the buses, *with cars left all day*.
- The need for a *clearly signed parking area* for Beckington village.

Some other comments:

"I have seen buses not able to get through on numerous occasions which is very bad and selfish of those who park where they shouldn't and has significant ramifications for many"

"Parking at Springmead during drop off times is seriously congested with inconsiderate parking and turning. The original planning for the school said there would be very little drop off and that pupils would use school transport on the whole."

"People parking on Bath Road to use the bus into Bath and the congestion around Beckington Motors and Mes Amis"

"People use the village as a Park & Ride car park"

"Goose Street parking is unnecessary, unsafe at times and not enough space for an emergency vehicle to pass through (ie to get to the surgery)"

"Limited parking near my property. No electric charging points at roadside."

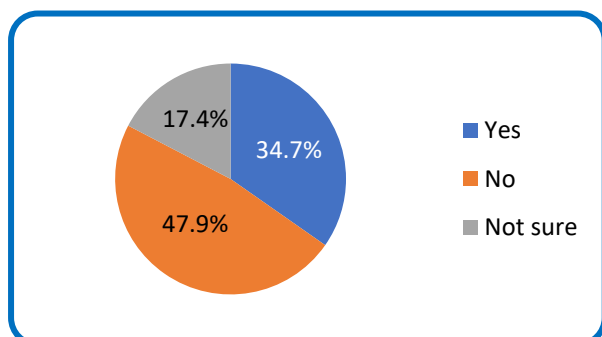
"Congestion due to lack of parking for those without off-street spaces"

"Parked vehicles blocking other road users especially on Church Street and Church Hill"

HOUSING ISSUES

QUESTION 15 Do you support more housing in the Parish?

242 answered this question; skipped by 1

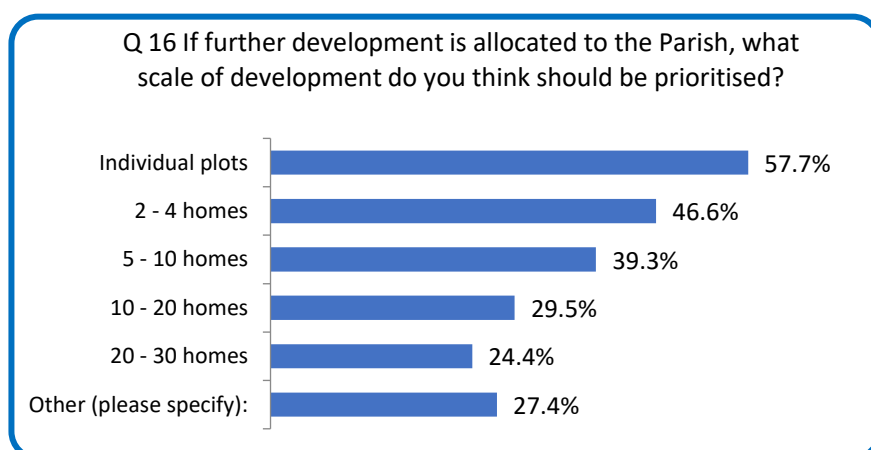


The Parish appears to be split on this issue, with just over a third of respondents supporting more development versus just under half against any further development.

The views of the *not sure* could tip the balance either way.

QUESTION 16 If further development is allocated to the Parish, what scale of development do you think should be prioritised? Please tick any that apply.

234 answered this question; skipped by 9.



The preference was for **individual plots** and **smaller developments**.

'Other' produced 63 comments (27% of respondents). Some were strongly in favour of development (6) but many placed priority on affordable housing/homes, and properties suited to those in lower income brackets (19). Limitations of current infrastructure (sewerage, roads, surgery) were also emphasised (9).

"Affordable housing- not just expensive 'posh' houses - the village is a community and should provide for all sectors"

"I don't mind how many houses are built as we need more housing nationally as long as AFFORDABLE housing or social housing built for local people so can stay in village"

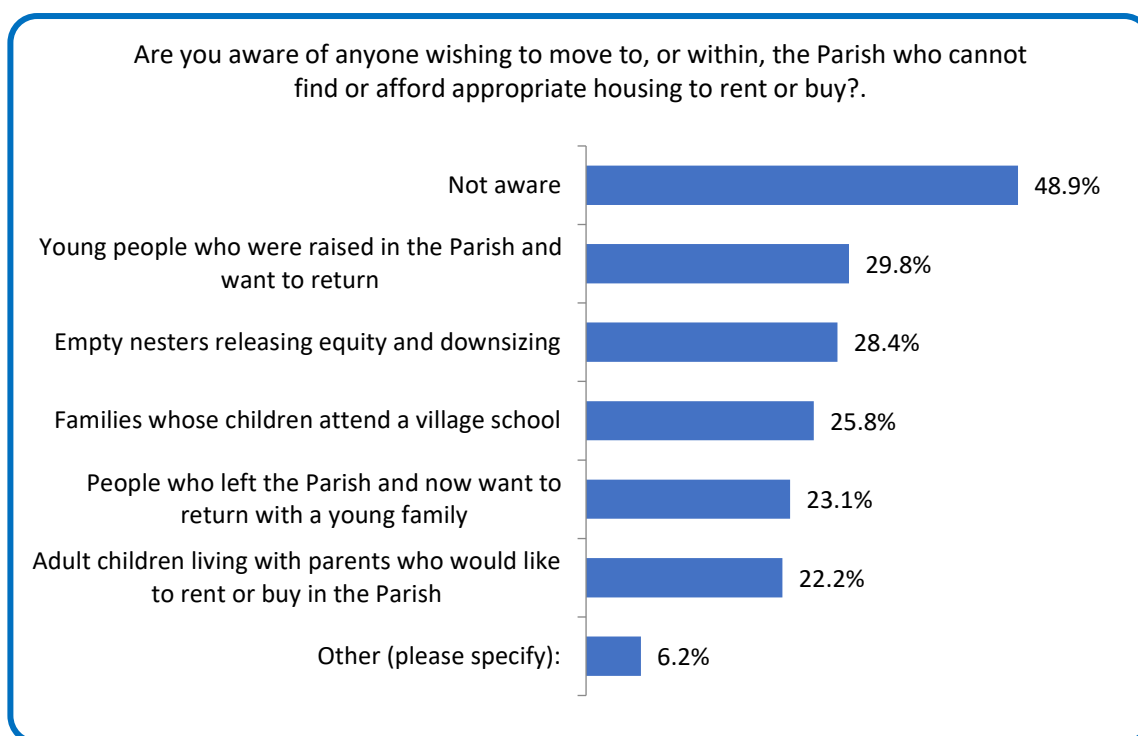
"1 & 2 bedroom bungalows so that elderly and disabled can stay in village"

"Small groups of mixed housing is most commensurate with village setting"

"I don't have an issue with more development. I live in a new house in the village so it would be hypocritical of me to say I didn't approve of more housing. Previously there was a big number of new houses and the essential infrastructure wasn't upgraded which caused and still causes issues."

QUESTION 17 Are you aware of anyone wishing to move to, or within, the Parish who cannot find or afford appropriate housing to rent or buy? Please indicate.

225 answered this question; skipped by 18.



While half the respondents were not aware of anyone wishing to move to, or within, the Parish, a quarter of respondents knew of interest for each of the categories listed.

"Beckington is a very desirable place and we know lots of people that would like to move here"

"First time buyers, young couples and young couples with young families"

"I'm renting (v.lucky to find in Beckington). I'm looking to buy for £500k and I don't think I'll be able to even when the market picks up"

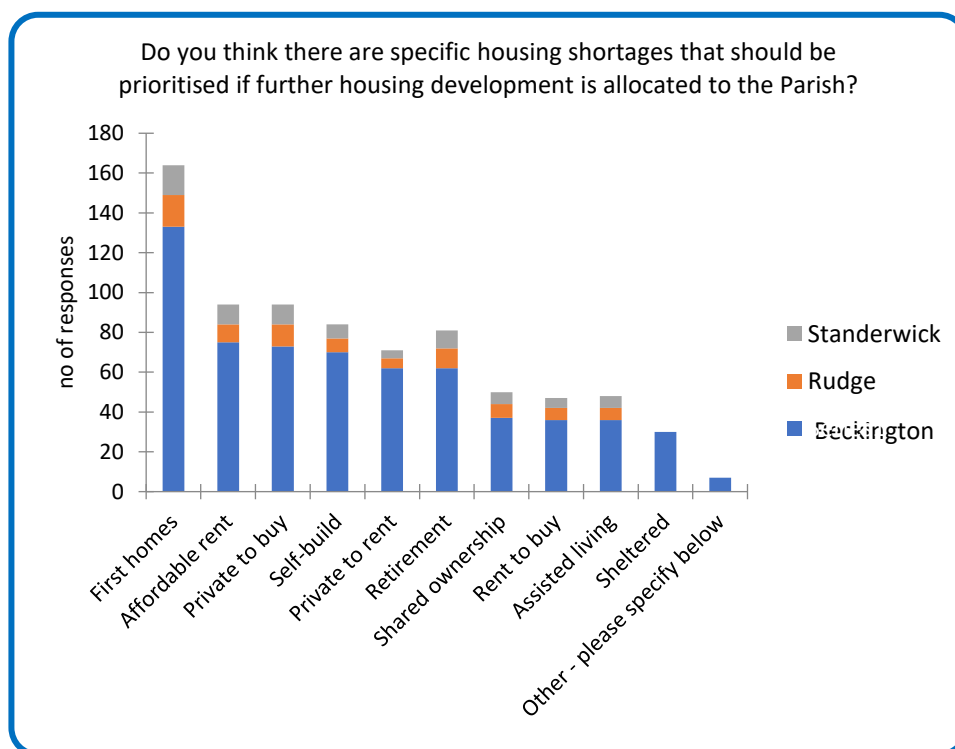
"I know someone who currently has a house outside the village but wants to buy within Beckington but cannot afford anything"

"Bungalows for 'downsizers' are in very short supply"

"A young family who would like to move to the village but all properties are unaffordable"

QUESTION 18 Do you think there are specific housing shortages that should be prioritised if further housing development is allocated to the Parish? Please tick all that apply.

188 answered this question; skipped by 55.



There was a strong preference for **First homes** (170 responses, 90% of respondents) followed by **Affordable rent**, **Private to buy** and **Self build**, each supported by about half the respondents.

The pattern was similar for the 3 communities, except for a greater appetite for **Shared ownership** in Rudge and Standerwick.

In response to 'Other', 35 comments were submitted (19% of respondents)' and included:

"While all the above are worthy considerations they all relate to large developments which I wouldn't want to see in the village"

"Affordable housing for local people only"

"Housing that will enable young couples and families to stay in the village"

"Bungalows"

"There is very little single story accommodation in the parish for elderly folk. There are large numbers of elderly people in the village who would want to remain in the village and purchase single story properties."

"We should be enabling young people to have a home of their own either by reasonable renting or buying"

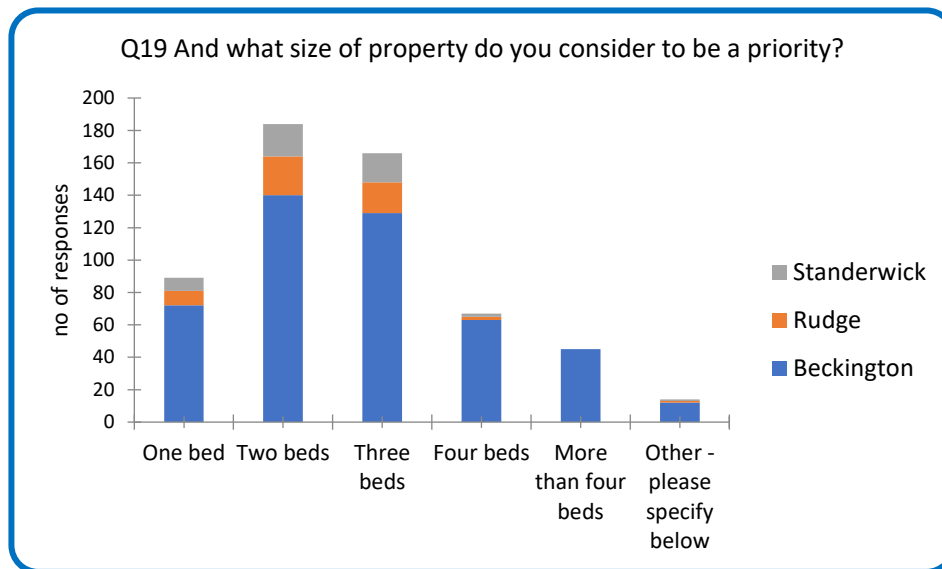
"I am concerned that with the increase of Air BnB and holiday lets this is reducing the possibility of reasonable renting for those who cannot afford to buy"

"The integration of social housing has to be carefully considered"

"If there are any more affordable homes they should be for people with links to the village"

QUESTION 19 And what size of property do you consider to be a priority?

188 answered this question; skipped by 55.



The overwhelming preference, in all three communities, was for **two** (184) and **three** (166) **bedroom homes**, with properties of **one bedroom** (89) or **four** (67) or **more** (45) bedrooms being less desirable.

Very few were in favour of 'other', with no clear alternatives given.

33 comments were submitted (18% of respondents). There was a wide range of views, echoing responses to previous questions. These ranged from "*no development needed*" (2) to a need for all sizes of property (8), bungalows (2), and large and medium family homes (1) versus smaller affordable family homes (1).

"There is a need for all sizes and types of housing - the key is the design"

"Houses of all sizes but mainly large and medium family homes, retirement properties and starter homes"

"Because I feel more affordable housing is lacking I think limitations on size would probably make this more realistic. We have a large number of big houses already"

"Modest homes for families or downsizing"

"A few bungalows"

"A range of all these across all 3 locations, at achievable prices"

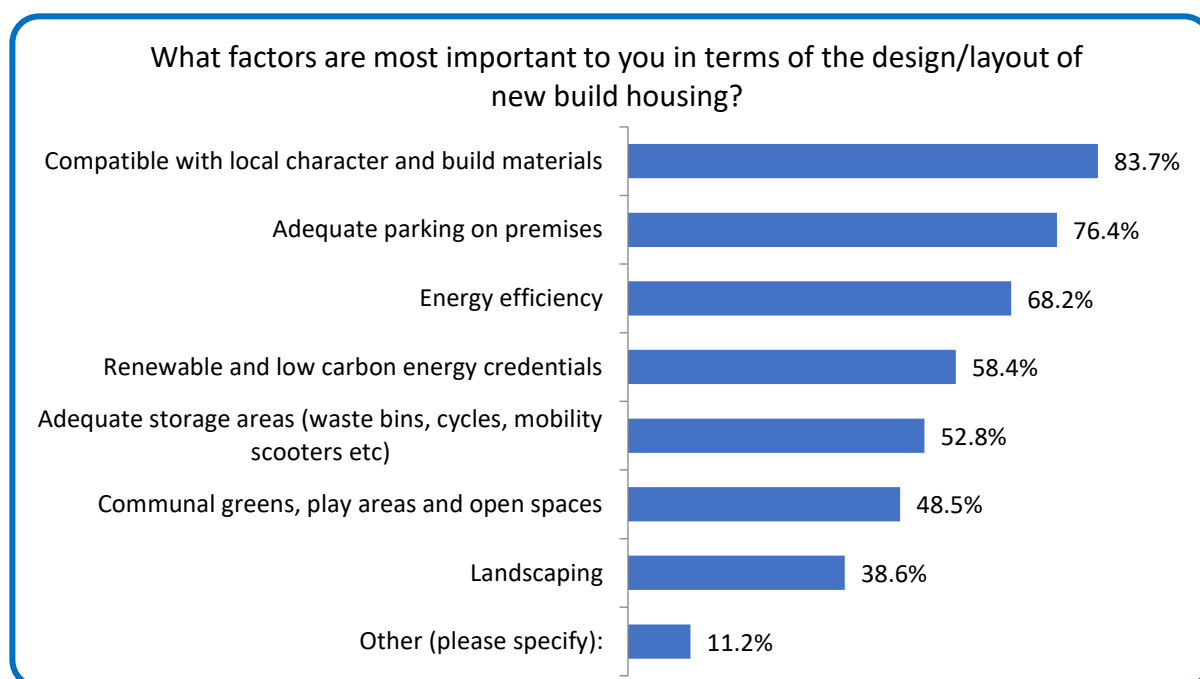
"Definitely DO NOT need any larger homes. Prioritise affordable homes"

"Bigger houses needed as well, all needs should be met"

"I live in a 4 bedroom 8-year old house in a newish very attractive development with a good variety of designs and sizes. Ideal."

QUESTION 20 What factors are most important to you in terms of the design/layout of new build housing? Please tick all that apply.

233 answered this question; skipped by 10.



Although all the options were supported, the **top three** are:

Compatible with local character and build materials, Adequate parking on premises and Energy efficiency.

25 Comments were submitted (11% of respondents). Some argued for no developments on 'virgin countryside' or the protection of views, which are not directly pertinent to this question.

"All of these. Design is the most important part of housing and bad design leads to significant local issues."

"Wildlife encouragement, allotments, gardens. One communal space for community activities"

"Needs to fit with the existing streetscape and style"

"Infrastructures such as surgery, parking, drains need to be improved"

"Haven't ticked communal greens, play areas and open spaces, landscaping and storage areas because these all relate to large developments which I think we have had enough of"

"Location - so that the village does not sprawl, neither it is to become denser"

"Needs to fit with the existing streetscape and style. David Wilson homes could have done a lot better on Warminster Rd"

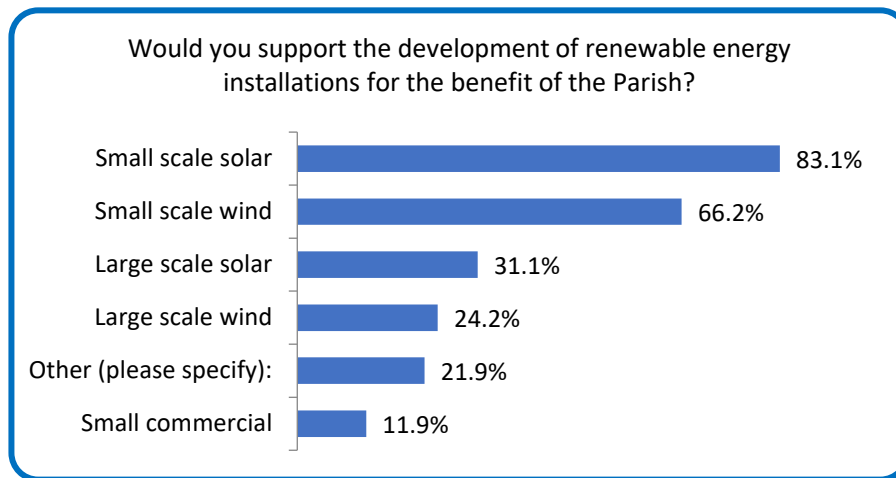
"More modern new designs"

"Impact on water supply and parking in Beckington village"

"We are narrow minded about housing styles. We should look at what Scandinavia & other countries do. New can be beautiful."

QUESTION 22 Would you support the development of renewable energy installations for the benefit of the Parish? Please tick those that apply.

219 residents answered this question; skipped by 24.



- There is considerable support for **Small-scale development of solar** and **wind energy**.
- Larger scale or commercial developments garnered less support.
- Other ideas include hydroelectric power from water turbines on the River Frome (8), community ground heat pumps, solar panels on the village hall roof or on new developments.

"Hydro on rivers. Many weirs on the River Frome - constant power from hydro generation"

"Addition of small scale solar and wind energy with special rates for locals would be a big benefit"

"Would support renewable energy on a very small scale only – perhaps ensuring solar panels on domestic and business properties and new builds"

"No field of solar panels or turbines in rural beauty spots"

"Solar panels on the village hall roof"

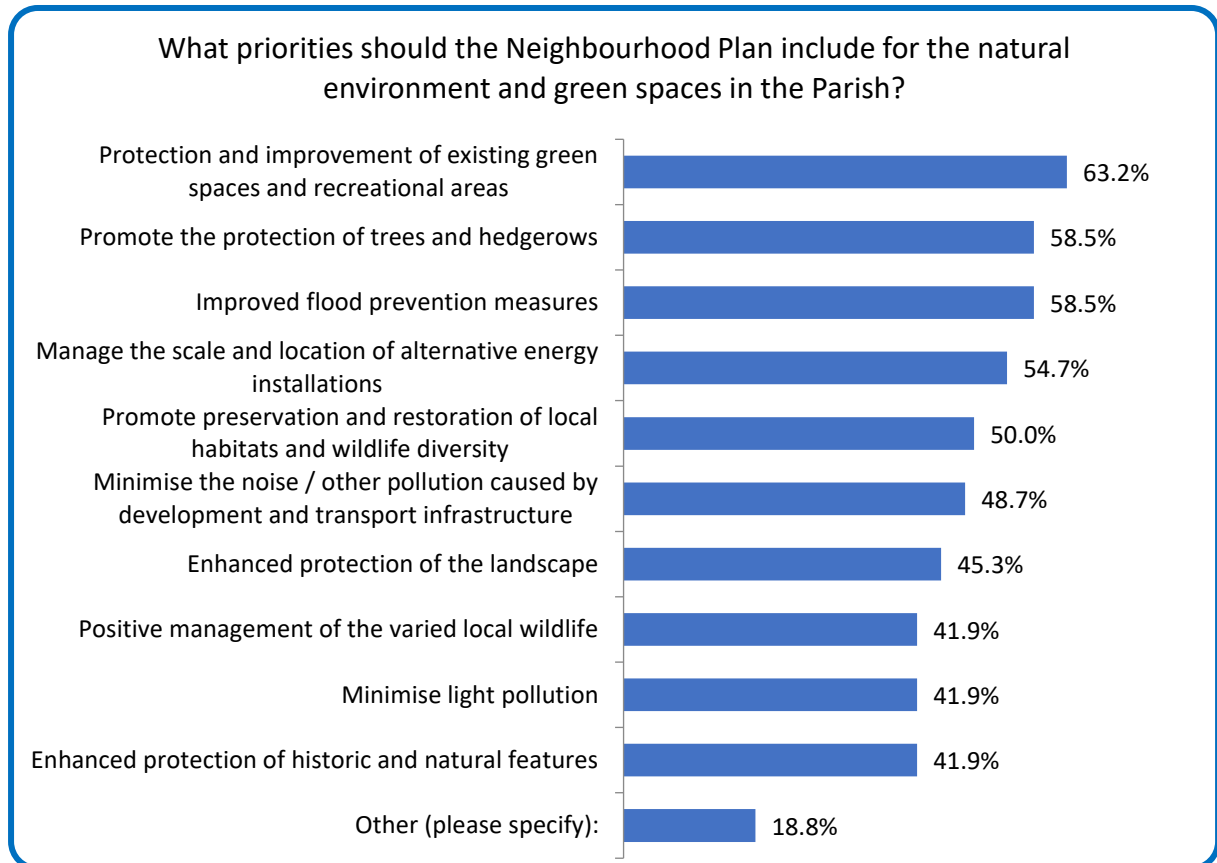
"What does 'for the benefit of the Parish' mean? Who would define this / make a decision? A developer?"

"Water turbines. To make the most of the River Frome going through the village"

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACE

QUESTION 23 What priorities should the Neighbourhood Plan include for the natural environment and green spaces in the Parish? Please tick.

234 answered this question; skipped by 9.



The top 5 categories all attracted more than 50% support.

All the other categories received support from at least 40% of respondents.

Comments were provided by 43 respondents. Many of these were not focussed on the natural environment. The call for views to be protected was reiterated by 16 respondents

"The main priority should be protecting the fields that are the main views loved and enjoyed by everyone. Plan any new housing near the A36 and to the east that is already mainly modern not heritage homes and non conservation area."

"All of them. Everything is car orientated - needs to be pedestrian and wildlife focused"

"Do we need street lighting for all the hours it's provided for?"

"Protection of green views and grade 1 agricultural land"

"The fields behind the church - Sue's walk"

"Active restoration of river habitat – especially related to raw sewage discharge"

QUESTION 24 Are there any green spaces in or around Beckington, Rudge or Standerwick that you feel should be protected? Please indicate any areas below by location.

153 answered this open-ended question; skipped by 90.

Comments can be divided into two categories:

1. Green spaces within Beckington village:

- Recreation Ground at Memorial Hall (49; 32%)
- Tennis courts and adjacent fields (18, 12%)
- Fields on both sides of Sue's Walk (15, 10%)
- Fields next to St George's church (10, 7%)

2. Surrounding countryside:

- Fields south of Mill Lane / Beckington Loop (46, 30%)
- All the farmland/fields around Beckington and Rudge (19, 12%)
- Fields to the west of Beckington village (6, 4%)

"The landscape around the Beckington Loop and the wider Frome valley"

"We need to keep our wild spaces eg between the Redrow estate and Bath Rd where we have deer accessing and a good variety of birds. More areas of wild meadow for butterflies."

"Beckington, Standerwick and Rudge are all approached through the green spaces/fields that surround them. This is what makes them 'villages' - these areas are all significant."

"The surrounding countryside in Beckington and Rudge"

"All around the chickens and church in Beckington"

"No building by developers on green field sites"

"All agricultural land around Rudge. Change of use without planning / consultation is not acceptable"

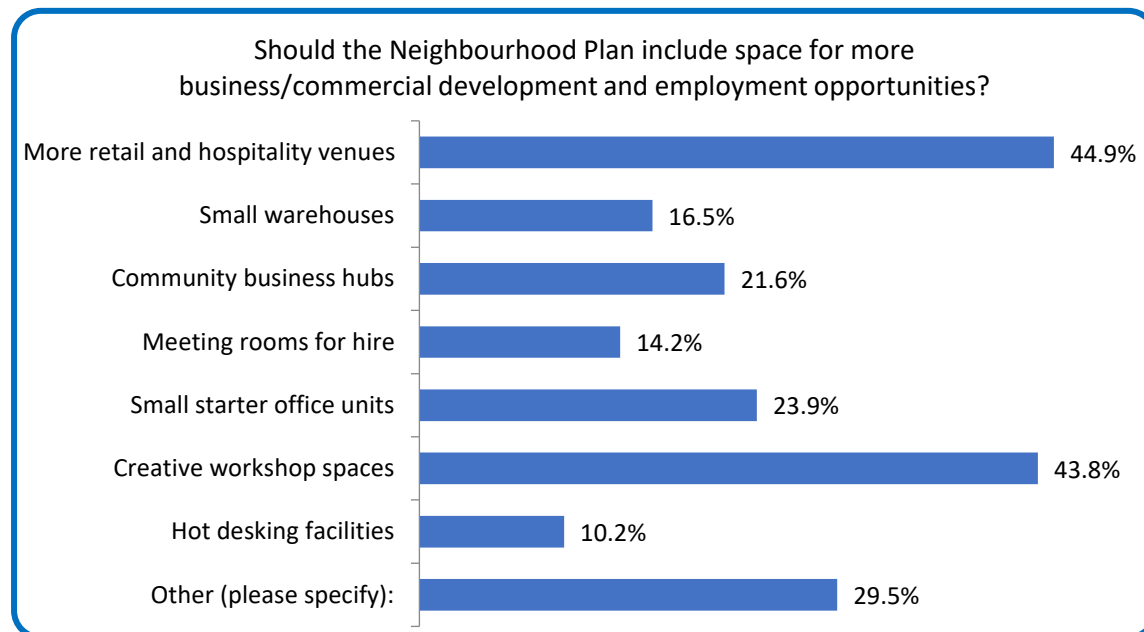
"It would be nice for Rudge to have a designated 'green' space for the community"

"Fields adjacent to Sue Conway's footpath in Beckington"

Employment & Business

QUESTION 25 Should the Neighbourhood Plan include space for more business /commercial opportunities in the Parish? Please tick any you feel would be appropriate.

176 answered this question; skipped by 67.



The top two were **Retail and hospitality venues** (79 respondents) and **Creative workshop spaces** (77).

Almost a quarter of respondents supported **Small starter office units** (42) and **Community business hubs** (38).

Under **Other**, 52 comments were provided:

- The largest number (20) wanted no commercial development, citing the adverse impact on that the increased traffic would have, and the proximity of Frome for such provision.
- There was some interest in a community hub / café / post office or banking hub (12 respondents), with repurposing of existing buildings favoured (3).
- Several respondents felt any development should be sympathetic to the existing character of the Parish and would require the provision of adequate off-street parking.

"There seems to be office space in the village that is currently empty / for sale / to let and no demand for what we already have"

"We have the hall and Clifford Suite that serve as meeting rooms for hire, workspaces etc. They are never fully booked so why do we need any more?"

"Support all but only if it can be provided form existing building, not new build"

"Small and community focused. Could look at repurposing of existing or to be sold buildings. eg Baptist Chapel."

"Cannot have any of the above UNLESS there is generous off-street parking provided"

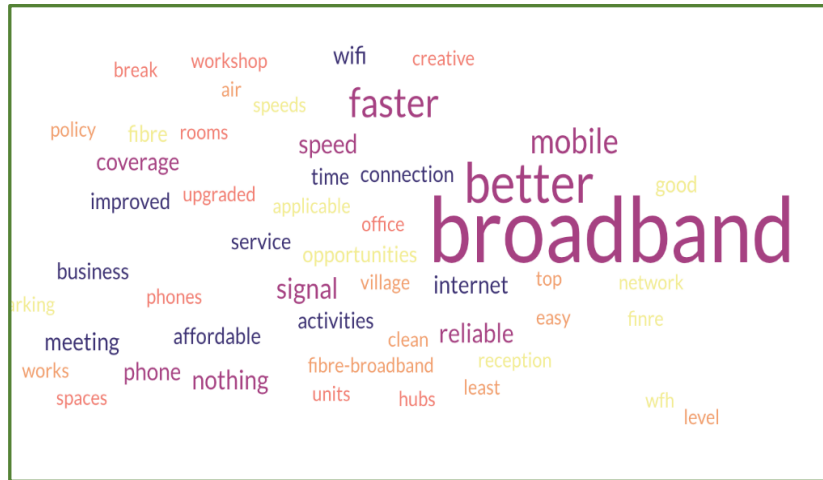
"Any of the above as long as it was sensitively built"

"I would support most of these IF demand was demonstrated. We do not want empty offices / premises with 'Too let' signs."

"Beckington is a rural village, let's keep it that way"

QUESTION 26 If anyone in your household works at home what would improve their effectiveness? Please specify.

Only 62 answered this open-ended question; skipped by 181.



The majority of home workers wanted better / faster broadband (34 respondents, 56%) and/or better mobile reception (5, 8%).

Five respondents said no improvements were needed.

"The wifi not cutting out all the time"

"Better phone and wifi signal"

"Nothing – works well"

"More reliable and faster Broadband signal"

"Business hubs, meeting rooms, office units, and creative workshop spaces"

"Group walks or break time activities to get together"

"Community business hub meeting opportunities. Cross fertilisation of ideas and meeting opportunities of other people in the Parish."

"Hot desk with shared facilities"

YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD

QUESTION 27 In which Parish community do you live?

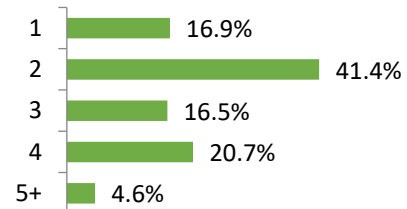
236 answered; skipped by 7.

Beckington	233
Rudge	9
Standerwick	4

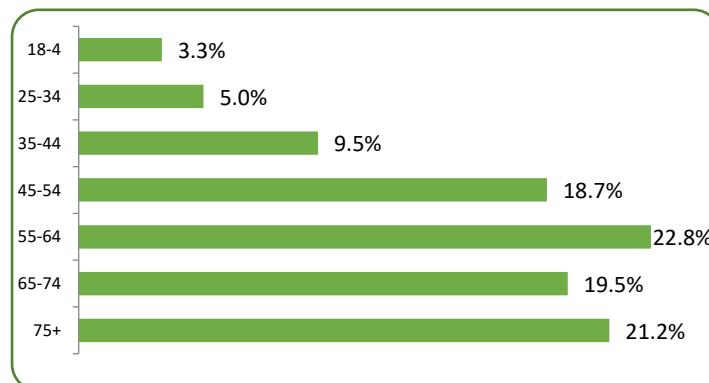
QUESTION 28 How many people live at your address?

237 answered; skipped by 6.

- The biggest number of respondents (98) were from **two person households**;
- Similar numbers of respondents were from **one** (40), **three** (39), and **four person households** (49).
- Eleven respondents were from households of **five** or more.



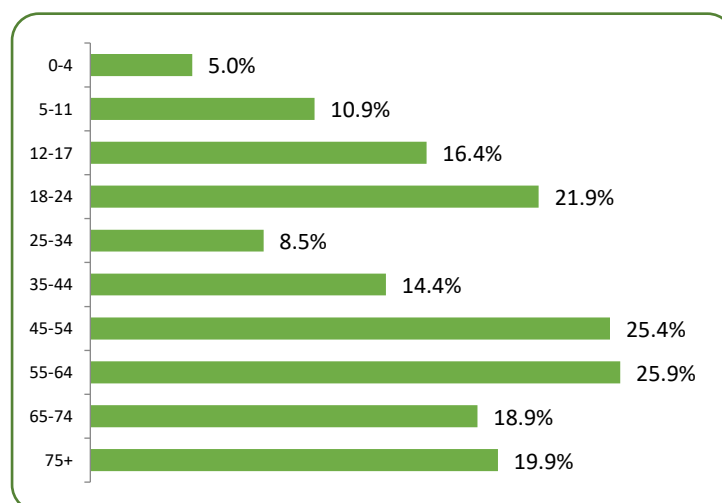
QUESTION 29 To which age group do you belong?



241 answered; skipped by 2.

- There was a broad spread of ages represented, from 18-75+, with most representation (over 80%) from those aged 45 and over.

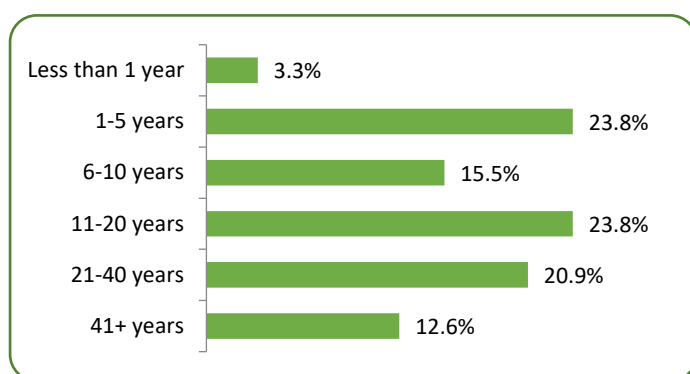
QUESTION 30 To which age group do your household members belong?



201 answered; skipped by 42 (predominantly single person households: 40 from Q28)

- There were 30-50 responses for each category of household with members aged 11y or over, with one exception: 25-34 year olds, were under-represented with only 17 responses.

QUESTION 31 How long have you lived in the Parish?



239 answered; skipped by 4.

- A broad spread, from newcomers to long term residents. Only 8 respondents have lived here for less than 1 year.

QUESTION 32 What is the work/education status for you and members of your household?

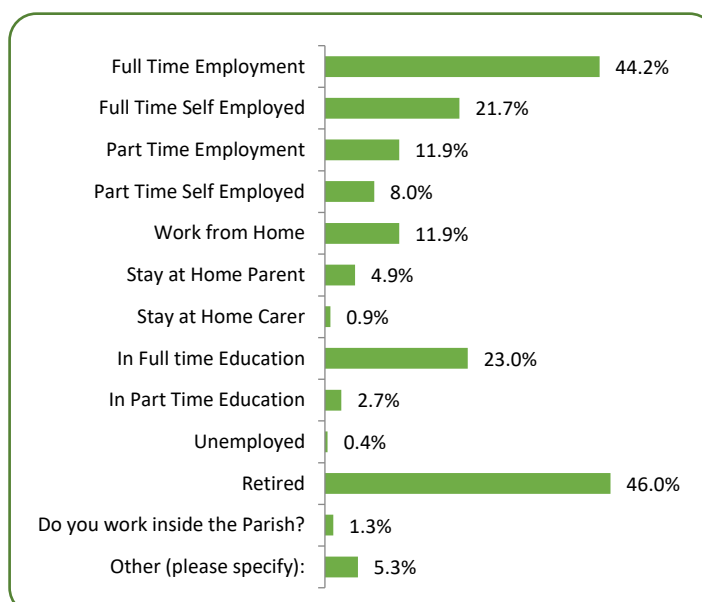
226 answered; skipped by 17.

There is some ambiguity in numbers because of the inclusion of all household members.

The majority (104) were **retired**, closely followed by those in **full-time employment** (100), with smaller numbers (~25) in **part-time employment** or **working from home**. Only 3 claimed to work within the Parish.

52 were in **full-time education** and 6 were in **part-time education**. Only one respondent or member of household was **unemployed**.

Volunteering and supporting village-run committees were flagged as other occupations.



GENERAL COMMENTS

93 respondents left comments in the general section at the end of the Survey document.

The predominant themes were development and traffic. Many commented on village life, its character and the impact of change, for good as well as bad.

"We are relatively new to the village but have always lived locally, we know and love Beckington and we hope to stay here for a considerable time and raise our family. There is a generally good feel to the village and everyone has been welcoming, but there seems to be a general strong resistance to new development. Since we have moved here we have noticed that this is consistent topic of conversation in certain sections of the community. All settlements need to increase and develop overtime, with increased development comes improved infrastructure and local investment. Beckington is such a lovely village and has a lot to offer its no wonder its in high demand."

"The sewerage system is and has been at capacity for many years which creates huge issues, which as far as I see are no closer to getting resolved. We do need some new houses and new people living in this village but any new development should not be in a location where they will tap into the main sewerage system, as it will be a disaster. Learn by previous mistakes! I genuinely love this village as does my partner and children, but I am disappointed with the way attitudes have changed in recent years and the negativity and selfishness that seems to have been introduced as a result."

"I don't think there should be anymore mass development. Beckington has already fulfilled the housing requirement. Fear that further development will dilute the character of the village as, most of it was unoriginal and a pastiche of styles that bear no resemblances to the architectural styles within village."

"I live in a new development which is lovely and I support more housing in the village so people like myself can enjoy the benefits of living in Beckington. I have friends in the village who have been affected by the sewage problems in the village so no new development should be allowed where it connects to the existing system as it would only get worse."

"Things are very stale in Beckington at the moment! Its ageing population and most vocal residents appear to resist change, but the future of the parish is not just theirs to dictate. Where are our young people going to live when they grow? Where are our older people going to go when their big houses are too big for them? What chances do those who grew up here have to buy or rent a home allowing them to be near their loved ones? Our school is filled with families from Frome who have to drive and create parking/traffic issues for the village. The church has no parking, Springmead has no parking, Mes Amis has no parking, Beckington motors have multiple vehicles parked on the street. We have a lovely village but I feel it's deteriorating, mainly by the attitudes of a few who shout the loudest."

"I love living in Beckington - the community spirit is excellent. I fear that if too many more houses are built the sense of 'united community' will disappear and be dispersed - and the 'village' will become yet another suburb - losing all that is precious, beautiful and unique about village life."

"I would wish to highlight that any development which takes place is appropriate and in a suitable place. Wish to not extend development limits in Rudge."

"There is a shortage of affordable housing which is a concern, given that we have three teenagers. We would support more housing provided it is affordable and adequate improvements are put in place such as drainage facilities."

"Beckington has had its quota for housing. I feel it should stay as a village and not be propelling towards being a town. I have lived here for 43 years. I have seen many changes in that time. People seem to be able to build new homes but not address the infrastructure before they build which leaves peoples gardens to be flooded with sewerage which is unacceptable. After storms, promises are given but never fulfilled and the village is left reeling from this."

"Very important to look back at what has happened in our neighbourhood - some things undoubtedly good and others far from it. With Beckington village we have had 2 large 'estates' built most recently that has altered our village for ever. I also with utter dismay think that the style of houses have no connection with anything else in the village. The 'estates' can be seen in any development up and down the country with same house styles. Think carefully, plan carefully and preserve the enjoyment of living in rural somerset."

"The amount of building in the last few years has been high and increased the size of the village considerably. It is an historic village and its character should be protected."

"The identification of the parish is: 'The parish is a rural sensitive setting with historic agricultural vernacular'. If we wish to preserve this identification, and it may be just that reason we have chosen to live in the parish, then the 3 things that count most heavily:

- 1. The rural aspect*
- 2. The historical aspect/conservation of buildings/walls/wells and other historic landmarks*
- 3. The agricultural aspect*

How can we best integrate new services and development to fit the parish setting to enhance it for a greater overall structure and aesthetic? Considerations: Apart from recreation field at Memorial Hall,

what about other community green spaces other than for sports, say re-wilding/allotments/well-being areas, if there is to be more housing development?"

"Parking is another issue in the centre of the village and seems to be getting worse by a combination of Mes Amis customers, vehicles parked on the street from Beckington Motors and resident parking. It's surely not right that buses can't get through the village! Maybe a field close to the centre can be converted to a carpark for the use of visitors, customers of the local business, parents doing school drop off and people attending our church. This should free up considerable space for resident's parking?"

"I personally believe the way forward in improving things for Beckington is to firstly invest in its current facilities and upgrade what we have, there has been a serious lack of investment in recent years and many things are now looking extremely tired as a result. If there are little or no immediate funds then let's get the community spirit up and running again and raise some money Change the outdated and previously failed approach of saying no to everything. Work with and not against businesses and landowners to mutually benefit both parties and ultimately the village. Please don't add to the existing issues of the village by building in the wrong place and make the sewerage and drainage problems worse or further increasing the traffic issues on the farm shop roundabout. Please protect our leisure facilities and don't allow development next to them so new residents complain and get them closed down. For example cricket balls hitting new houses or lights from the tennis courts shining in people's windows. These are our vital existing facilities and need your protection and enhancement."

There were some comments about the Neighbourhood Plan and the Survey:

"Thank you for all the work you are doing on our behalf."

"This all seems a little rushed. I and others I have spoken to feel more than a little uneasy about the speed, the process and the overall agenda of what is trying to be achieved in this plan."

"Bravo for organising this survey."

"Great initiative - thank you to all involved. We'd love there to be more of a community feel to the village, our facilities are poor and underused, we don't need more houses to make this happen. We'd also love there to be more consideration to protecting our natural environment, we have a responsibility to do this for the younger generation!"

"Hope this will be a proactive survey and not just a paper poll exercise!"

"Thank you for giving us this opportunity to give our views. We appreciate the time and effort you have donated to our community."

"It is likely that only a certain proportion of the population will bother to answer this and so it can never reflect everyone's views. Not sure how you can include everyone. I've seen some of these surveys put in recycling bins already! You're doing a good job though, thanks"

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TROUBLE
TO PROVIDE THEIR VIEWS