

DORCHESTER 2030 AND BEYOND SURVEY REPORT

March 2024



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ABOUT COMMUNITY FIRST OXFORDSHIRE

CFO is a community development charity. We help communities and individuals to identify issues that affect them and find their own solutions. We support and advise volunteer-led actions in Oxfordshire, helping hundreds of volunteers fulfil many roles in their communities. We support the principles of Asset-based Community Development. We think that stronger, more sustainable communities are built using the skills and gifts that people already have.

COMMUNITY-LED PLANNING

CFO is funded by South Oxfordshire District Council **to support community groups undertaking a Community-led Plan (CLP)**. Our team has supported over 100 Oxfordshire communities in carrying out CLP's and related social action projects.

Community Led Planning (CLP) is an inclusive and effective, step by step comprehensive planning tool that is structured to support and empower a community to reflect upon, research, identify and address a range of different social, economic, environmental, and cultural issues. These might include land use, housing issues, community facilities, play areas, transport and services, or responses to COVID-19 related challenges.

The community of Dorchester is currently undertaking a Community-Led Plan.

AIMS OF THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

A comprehensive community survey is one of the key means of finding out what residents think about a range of issues.

The survey is an important part of the evidence base underpinning the plan, with the results helping guide the next stage of plan-making, including the discussion of priorities and the drafting of the CLP Action Plan.

CFO, liaising with the Parish Council, prepared the survey questions. CFO analysed the survey returns and produced this report. CFO also created a Survey Monkey version of the survey to facilitate online responses.

DISTRIBUTION AND RESPONSE

In order to carry out the Community Survey, hard copy questionnaires were delivered to Dorchester residences and businesses in September 2023 alongside the 'Dorchester News' newsletter with additional copies available at the Co-op and an electronic version publicised through the 'Dorchester News' and on the Parish Council website.

The survey deadline was 6 November 2023.

267 surveys were returned – 190 online and 77 via hard copy

HEADLINE FINDINGS

The following tables give an overview of responses to selection of survey questions (% are calculated by using the number of people who responded to each question - response rates to each question vary). Details of responses to all questions can be found in in the next section - **Detailed Findings**.

Top 3 things (by first priority) that people like about living in Dorchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural setting/ countryside, views, nature & wildlife - community spirit/ feeling - Friendly, helpful, caring, supportive people 	Top 3 things (by first priority) that people least like about living in Dorchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise from the bypass - Poor public transport links/ no bus service through the village - Too many parked cars on High Street
<p>Of those who responded to the question 17% feel VERY INVOLVED and 52% feel FAIRLY INVOLVED IN VILLAGE LIFE</p>			
<p>COMMUNITY TRANSPORT TO HEALTH APPOINTMENTS AND APPRENTICESHIPS/WORK SHADOWING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES were most strongly supported initiatives for those with health conditions/impairments and for young people living in the village</p>			
<p>The most important activity or amenity in Dorchester is the SHOP followed by ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE AND FOOTPATHS</p>			
Top 3 most important issues to life in the parish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean rivers/ flourishing wildlife - Relative peace and quiet - Views across countryside 	Top 3 priorities (in order of preference) that would benefit the parish environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove litter - Control roadside weeds/ debris - Restriction of vehicles parking on verges/ public spaces
<p><u>MOST</u> important water-related matters are THE CONDITIONS OF WATERWAYS & SEWAGE MANAGEMENT</p> <p>95% of respondents would <u>SUPPORT</u> A NATURE AND WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN</p>			
<p>PUBLIC FOOTPATHS & PUBLIC BUS SERVICE are the <u>MOST</u> important transport facilities from the options given (on a scale of 1-5)</p>			
<p>Top traffic concerns from options given (on a scale of 1-5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise of vehicles on the bypass (Safe access to bus stop on bypass) - Safety of access for those with pushchairs/ mobility issues - Potholes 			
<p>When asked about HOUSING DEVELOPMENT in the parish in the next decade 32.5% would like to see no development, 35% circa 10 houses and 32% circa 20 houses</p>			
WHO should the housing benefit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 55.5% Anyone - 52% Those with a local family connection - 37% Those who already live in the village 	Most supported types of new housing (from options given)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 69% Schemes for those struggling to access cost effective housing - 40% Open market - 30% Specialist housing for older people

NARRATIVE OVERVIEW

DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

267 responses were received through online and hard copy versions, potentially representing 27% of the people living in Dorchester-on-Thames – recorded as a population of 990 people in the 2021 Census.

Of the 267 respondents, 254 provided information about their age and gender. The largest age group represented are residents between the ages of 55-64 (30 females, 27 males and 4 people who describe themselves in a different way). The most underrepresented group are those who are 5-15 (3 male respondents) and 16-24 (6 males and 2 females) although the 15-24 age band is the smallest group in the 2021 census. The next lowest response was in the 25-34 age range (4 males, 5 females and 1 person who describes themselves in a different way). Although there is not an age breakdown by sex/gender in the census there is a split of 52.5% female and 47.5% in the population figures. Based on this ratio the percentage of male respondents are slightly proportionately under-represented in the 45-54 and 75-84 groups and women underrepresented in 55-64 and 65-74 age groups.

It is suggested that targeted outreach to younger age groups would be useful to gain additional views on their perspective of village life. The research found the 5-16 age group difficult to consult due to safeguarding issues. Please see recommendations for engaging young people going forward.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY SECTIONS

Part 1 Living in the Parish

The first question which asked, 'what three things do you most like about living in the village,' was answered by majority of people suggesting that overall, people value where they live. The most popular reasons are, the 'rural setting' (views of the countryside and nature and wildlife), the sense of community and that people are, 'friendly, helpful, supportive and caring.' The second question, 'what three things do you least like about living in the village,' was also answered by most respondents. Key issues mentioned are, the 'noise from the bypass (especially motorbikes),' 'poor public transport links' (no bus through the village) and 'too many parked cars' (especially on the High Street) and 'poor parking in general' followed by traffic congestion/speeding issues. This is also reflected in overall priorities for action in Question 29, with 'noise reduction on the bypass' the third most selected issue, followed by 'transport (community transport, better public transport)' and 'speeding – traffic calming and parking' selected by 71 people and putting it at number seven for priorities (question 29). It is clear that the location of the village and having supportive neighbours is important to residents, but that traffic issues are a major concern and have a detrimental impact on village life.

Part 2 Community

In general, most people feel part of village life with 17% responding that they feel 'very involved' in village life and 52% selecting the 'fairly involved' in village life option in Question 3. This is further emphasised by 82 survey respondents offering to support the *Dorchester 2030 and Beyond* follow-on activities. A high percentage also agree they are 'fairly' (62%) or 'very informed' (30%) about village life with the *Dorchester News*, followed by word of mouth, posters, and the village Facebook page

selected as the preferred methods of communication. This suggests that communications are very good in the village and that there is a good level of community interest and participation in the village, with an annual village fete/BBQ, seasonal gatherings such as a village bonfire and community volunteer action days all popular suggestions for additional activities/events in the village.

In Question 7, a community transport scheme, followed by a Good Neighbour group and then 'improved accessibility to pavement and parking' are the preferred ways to better support those with health conditions or impairments. A question about potential initiatives to offer young people was answered by less people (211) perhaps due to the older demographic in the village and across the respondents. However, 70% thought 'apprenticeships/work shadowing with local businesses' is a good way to engage young people followed by training in the village hall and intergenerational skill share sessions. 'Other' comments also mention the need for affordable housing, youth clubs, mentoring on employment/education and better transport to facilities and job prospects outside of the village.

Part 3 Recreation and Leisure

The shop/'Co-op' is ranked the most important service in the village receiving the highest weighed average across Question 9, which looks at which activities and amenities residents value most in the community. This is followed by 'access to the countryside and footpaths' with The Hurst the highest 'other' suggestion, again highlighting the important of the rural environment alongside the recreation ground, Abbey, pubs, tea rooms and the village hall.

78 people selected, 'support for the village hall' in Question 29 'Top five priorities', making it number five in preference for action across the survey issues. It is clear that local amenities are central to local life. Question 10, about facilities for young people, appears to have less general importance with 3.83 being the highest weighted average (5 represents the facility that residents are most keen to see) and 249 respondents, in comparison to Question 9 in support of the shop with 263 people answering the question. Ranking for facilities for young people show most would support a 'junior sports club/cricket,' then improved playground facilities followed by 'Brownies/Guides and/or Cubs/Scouts.'

Part 4 Environment and Sustainability

In Question 11, the three most important environmental issues to life in the parish are, 'clean rivers and a flourishing wildlife', 'relative peace and quiet' and 'views across the countryside'. The 'top three priorities to benefit the parish environment' are the 'removal of litter', 'control of roadside weeds and debris' and 'restriction of vehicles parking on verges or public spaces.' The 'conditions of the rivers, streams and ditches' and 'sewage management' are the most important water related matters. The priorities shown in this section are also reflected in the main priorities section in Question 29 with 'river quality and water related issues' the top priority and 'village upkeep' including 'litter, dog fouling and clearing footpaths' the second most prioritised across all areas.

There is good support for a green energy initiative with a 'community renewable energy scheme' being the answer most selected (out of options given) and 95% of respondents in favour of the development of a nature and wildlife action plan with the 'planting of native trees, flowers and plants' which are also, 'bee/moth/butterfly-friendly' the most important initiatives. In Question 29 priorities, 'Nature –

recovery plan and projects' is the sixth most important priority with 75 people or 29% of respondents including it in their top five priorities.

Question 17 about 'improving access to the local countryside around Dorchester' is seen as slightly less important than a nature and wildlife action plan but still heavily supported, with 73% of respondents in favour and the improvement/repair of existing public rights of way the most popular means to increase access.

The environment in and around Dorchester is clearly important to residents, whether retaining the countryside that people love and their access to it, enhancing its benefit to wildlife through a nature recovery plan, ensuring village upkeep, or a marked concern about water quality.

Part 5 Roads, Traffic, Transport, and Personal Safety

When looking at modes of transport, walking (233 people) and using personal cars (243 people) are those used most often (at least once a week) with less people using commercial vehicles (8 people), motor bikes, scooters (6 people) and taxis (5 people) at least once a week.

In Question 20, 'public footpaths' and 'adequate pavements' rank first and third for the most important transport facilities for the parish, which complements question 19 and people's preference for walking and question 21, which asks the frequency of use of public footpaths through and around the parish. This shows 156 people or 61% use the footpaths at least once a day and a further 80 people/31% use them once a week. Only five people/2% never use the footpaths.

The public bus service is the second most important transport facilities in question 20 but previous questions highlight the need for improvements to the service which is the fourth most important priority for action in question 29.

In question 22 when asked 'how often do you cycle from or around the parish', 14 people selected, 'at least once day', 59 people chose 'at least once a week', with a further 50 people responding, 'at least once a month', making up just under half of respondents (123 out of 253 people) with the remaining people (130) selecting 'never' for the frequency of cycling. Most people, 171 of 183 respondents, would use new cycle paths 'for leisure and exercise' and 85 people selected, 'to get to social events or activities', suggesting that they have a role in ensuring wellbeing for those who cycle. The remaining respondents would use new cycle paths to travel to work (32 people) and to school (17) contributing to greater commuting options.

Traffic matters were captured in question 24 which showed again that the 'noise of vehicles on the bypass' is the top concern, followed by 'safety of access for those with pushchairs/mobility scooters' – this could encompass the quality of pathways as shown in question 20 but also 'inappropriate parking' (fourth ranked concern in this question), including obscuring dropped kerbs. 'Potholes' were also in the top three concerns, while 'safety for cyclists' was the fifth area of most concern.

In the same question, an additional option of 'Safe access to bus stop on bypass' was included in the physical survey but was accidentally omitted from the online survey. Therefore, it is not possible to report on 'Safe access to bus stop on bypass' as a whole. However, of the 75 respondents who replied using the physical survey, 68 answered this option. The weighted average from the 68 respondents

equals 4.3, making it the issue of most concern for this question in the physical survey. Although the online response may not have been the same it is worth considering this as a key issue.

When given free reign to comment on traffic concerns in question 25, 'the speed of traffic through and around village' and the need for enforcement was mentioned in some form by the highest number of people (24), followed by 'bypass noise from motorbikes' (16), the 'danger/inadequacy of the bus stop on the bypass' (15) and the need for a bus service through the village (14). These comments corroborate the findings above and is further highlighted in question 29 ('top five priorities for action') which shows 'noise reduction on the bypass' at number three and 'speeding – traffic calming and parking' at number seven.

Planning, Housing and Development

Question 26 looks at the level of new housing development in the parish in the next decade. The majority of respondents are in favour of some new housing development - 35% of people 'only wish to see further housing development of circa 10 additional homes' and 32% 'wish to see further housing development of circa 20 additional homes.' However, 32.5% wish to see 'no development beyond what is already approved.'

The majority believe that the housing should benefit 'anyone' (135 people) then 'those with a family connection' (126 people), while 'those who already live in the village' also had support (89 people). The most mentioned additional comments identify, 'young families', 'low cost housing for young people' and 'key workers' as groups which should also benefit.

In question 28, most people (169) would like to see 'schemes for those who are struggling to access cost effective housing', followed by 'open market housing' (99 people) and 'specialist housing for older people' (73 people) suggesting low cost or affordable housing is an important consideration.

Looking at the 'top five priorities for action' in Question 29, 'investigations into community-led housing' was selected by 52 people. When looking at Question 31, and Dorchester in ten years time, there were a number of comments which directly mentioned or suggested the need for affordable housing so, 'that different ages and people from different backgrounds can benefit from it all.'

Additional housing may be contentious to some due to an additional use of infrastructure and the potential to exacerbate traffic issues and impact the peaceful, historic, and rural location which is valued by most residents. Comments in Question 30 mention, 'sympathetic development' and 'development which is gradual and managed' as well as the 'need for housing for villagers.'

Priorities – top FIVE priorities for action

Question 29 – the top priorities in this question have been integrated with the comments above and suggest the following key themes:

1. River quality and water related issues (154 people)
2. Village upkeep (litter dog fouling, clearing footpaths) (126 people)

3. Noise reduction on the bypass (118 people)
4. Transport (community transport, better public transport) (94 people)
5. Support for the village hall (78 people)
6. Nature – recovery action plan and projects (75 people)
7. Speeding – traffic calming and parking (71 people)

Question 30 - further comments, ideas, and/or opinions:

The top 'further comments' (those with four or more similar responses) generally align with the priorities above, such as parking issues/ controlling speeding cars, bypass noise and concern about safe access to the bus stop. A few other comments, mentioned two or three times highlight other issues such as, 'development of pavilion' and 'support for development at Bishop's Court Farm', the need for a 'better bus service' and a 'pedestrian crossing at the High Street,' the 'potential to become a major nature- friendly village' (including 'improving river access/use'), 'more activities for teens to mix' and 'more events/activities for all ages.'

Question 31

Respondents were asked, 'in 20 words describe how you would like to see Dorchester in 10 years time..... .' Below is a summary of the main themes. Please note some of these responses have been edited for brevity and maintaining confidentiality.

The descriptions about Dorchester in the future say much about Dorchester today. Many people want to retain what is good about the village – 'great place to live', 'friendly', 'full of history and character' and 'surrounded by beautiful countryside' but with some changes ranging from 'subtle' to more fundamental – 'set up for the next 2000 years!', 'not hiding in past' and everything in between.

Suggestions include a more varied community make-up, accessible housing, improved maintenance of what is already there, better community facilities and public transport, less traffic/noise and greener with more focus on the conserving and supporting the natural environment. A smaller number want Dorchester to stay 'just the same' or 'unchanged.' Some moved to Dorchester because of how it is now so they 'would not wish it to see it noticeably change.'

The community

The Dorchester community of the future is described as 'vibrant', 'buzzing', 'flourishing', 'active', 'welcoming' and 'friendly. 'A thriving community that puts people and the environment first', which is 'strong' and 'community-led' and 'well supported by lots of citizens (rather than the usual suspects)' with a suggestion that, 'younger people [take] over the community activities currently provided by older residents.'

Activities are also seen as a way to create community, a 'healthy agenda of events' such as a village fete, sports activities and 'recreational activities for all.' A few comments point out that more is needed for children and younger people, 'increased child-centred activities to maintain youthful population', 'more clubs and activities for teens,' 'with much more for younger residents.' Overall, activities can be used to bring the community together both existing and new residents.

Many comments advocate for the village to be inclusive and diverse, 'a village with more diversity of socio-economic/cultural backgrounds,' a 'broad range of occupants', 'where everyone one can identify themselves with the village.' For some, this is also about ensuring, 'a mixed age community', 'with a more balanced age distribution (more young [people])', with 'up-to-date facilities for all ages', so that 'different age groups all look out for each other and their welfare' and create 'opportunities for intergenerational learning.'

It is noted that, 'the village needs to move with the times' and can 'lean[s] too much towards the sizeable older generations living in the village. More needs to be done to encourage younger families.' This is not to forget the older generation who should be 'well supported' but have 'much more for younger residents' with, 'healthy and active older generation participating in activities.'

Creating a more balanced or diverse community is linked to many comments in support of a 'progressive housing solution that supports young families and different housing needs' and 'affordable housing for young people,' mindful that this could be 'for people with local connections' as much as encouraging, 'an influx of younger people,' and a 'fresh population.'

As a counterpoint, other comments wish to see 'little change in the built environment,' 'a limit to commercial development,' 'not any significant increase in housing' or 'no new houses.' There is a fear that development will ruin the village: 'don't let it become too built up it will spoil it' so any development should be a 'sensitive development of houses and local facilities and businesses.'

The village

Again, the village is described as 'vibrant' and 'busy/lively/bustling', a 'culturally thriving,' 'forward thinking,' and 'creative' place although it is important for some this should not come at the cost of tranquillity and stay a 'thriving but peaceful village' which 'remain[s] the same welcoming friendly village.'

Cultural heritage is an important consideration and the need to 'retain the existing character,' 'with full recognition of the village's historical significance', maintaining 'its special status as an historic village.' For most this does not mean without improvement. 'Dorchester needs to accept some change and progress,' 'it is a special place to live so just enhance what is here to keep it safe for future generations.' One suggestion which could help would be to 'limit any new building developments and impose restrictions on traffic speed and volume.' Others mention the village being 'cared for and valued by all,' with 'improved maintenance of what we treasure,' in order to be cleaner, tidier, and 'well-kept', with suggestions of less litter and dog fouling.

Part of Dorchester's charm is its peaceful setting, and it is important that this is maintained to ensure, 'an oasis of calm,' and 'a quiet refuge' in the future. Others comment that they would prefer, 'a quieter village' with reasons for noise given as cars and motorbikes, barking dogs and outside events. Safety is also mentioned with a wish for Dorchester to 'provide safe comfortable living for young and old,' and a 'safe environment' being important for a family to raise children but also to be able to 'walk without being harassed or mugged.' Linked to safety as well as walking, a few wrote about the importance of the upkeep of paths, stating the need for 'fewer muddy paths' to ensure they are 'accessible'.

To contribute to peace in the village, there are comments about traffic including, 'control of speeding and parking' and noise, with 'a car parking plan to get cars off the High Street', or at least 'slower traffic on the High Street/fewer parked cars in High Street,' with perhaps, 'residents-only parking.' This could be complemented by 'signs for speed limits throughout the village' and a 'public car park for events.' Noise on the bypass was also mentioned with people wanting a 'quieter bypass,' with restrictions such as speed cameras and possible police enforcement.

Amenities and services are important to village life, and many envisage a 'flourishing shop and pubs', cafes, tearoom, and hotel, 'thriving businesses', 'with a good school and amenities for all who live here.' A few comments include community events and 'good food in the pubs.' Some wish for an 'upgrade to infrastructure especially community facilities' or more facilities such as more shops and a gastro pub and 'more facilities for youngsters.'

Other community assets were mentioned. A few visions commented on the Abbey with mixed opinions from 'less focus on the Abbey' to 'better support for the Abbey,' 'an upgrade [to the Abbey],' 'a vibrant Abbey community,' with 'external events held (at the Abbey).' Some propose the 'renovation of the pavilion and village hall' whilst others suggest they should be rebuilt and the pavilion also used as a village or 'community hub.' Others would like to see a 'thriving school' and suggest 'a curriculum focussing on our local wildlife' but it is mentioned that this may rely 'on housing that younger families can afford so the school does not close.'

Connectivity is referenced as 'strong links to the surrounding area, including Berinsfield,' being 'connected to the nearby communities,' and 'well connected with Oxford and surrounded towns.' For some this could be achieved through 'good or better public transport' and improved transport links such as 'cycle and bus connections to neighbouring towns and village'. 'Better transport facilities for the elderly' are specifically mentioned.

Dorchester is also seen as a 'destination for people wishing to experience a thriving natural world.' With a call to 'welcome visitors' and create 'access for all whether residents or visitors' and 'disabled access to attractions' as well as being 'welcoming to everyone, including those with no car or having disabilities' to encourage tourism to thrive. It was also noted that 'more employment opportunities' were needed, 'without having to travel'.

The countryside

Many future visions included phrases about the 'beauty' of the surrounding countryside and how it should be maintained and conserved with a greater emphasis on the environment and green initiatives: 'positive environmental attitude and lots of initiatives to preserve and enjoy our local environment.' One respondent described the future village as 'close to nature', with others seeing the countryside as, 'a more biodiverse place.' Respondents imagined, 'a continuing haven for animals and plants surrounded by flourishing water and trees,' 'buzzing with insect life, alive with birds, snuffling with hedgehogs.' The rural environment is very important and many people mention maintaining access to the countryside whilst others feel this should be 'secured for the future.' Similarly, access to the river and 'improved river access... for small boats' are mentioned alongside a number of comments wanting clean or 'cleaner' rivers and waters.

To complement the love of local nature, many respondents would like Dorchester to be 'environmentally-friendly' have 'more eco-friendly features' and 'evolve green initiatives.' Suggestions to create a 'greener' village are to use 'renewables and recycling in public life,' be 'carbon neutral... with few fossil fuel machines' and have 'more self-sufficient food.' Green energy was also mentioned with Dorchester having its 'own local energy generation and storage scheme.'

It is clear from the visioning that Dorchester is a well-loved community, village and environment. The majority of respondents wish to protect and enhance what is valued, change what is causing challenges such as traffic and noise and do what is necessary to ensure it thrives so that it is sustainable in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Bypass – noise and bus stop**

Discuss the noise on the bypass and the safety of bus stop (lighting, need for an improved shelter and better access with potentially more bus stops) with Oxfordshire County Council/Highways.

- For example, speed restrictions on the bypass could be considered to reduce noise n.b. there is no legal limit to road noise: <https://www.gov.uk/noise-pollution-road-train-plane/noise-from-roads>

- **Maintenance of roads, pavements and public hedges and verges**

Discuss with Oxfordshire County Council/Highways. Also:

- Consider a village clean-up to tackle verges as well as litter and general village maintenance.
- Register all potholes on Fix My Street: <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>
- A volunteer team could be initiated to undertake community-led highways services. Such as Fix My Pot Hole 'Super Users' to speed up the repair process: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/our-work-communities/oxfordshire-together/volunteer-highways>

- **Speeding traffic**

Implement the proposed 20 mile an hour speed restriction (pending confirmation) to help with traffic calming. In liaison with the County Council (*see above*), potentially restrict parking on verges and also ensure there are adequate road markings to restrict parking near dropped kerbs and look at ways to manage parking.

- Suggestions in comments are: 'parking on only one side of the High Street' and 'stop people parking on pavements'. Additional road signage and restrictions could be helpful and investigating parking spaces that could be utilised away from the High Street to divert parking pressure.

- **Transport**

Poor public transport and the lack of a service through the village has been cited in the survey. However, there are two types of buses servicing Dorchester, the River Rapids service (X39/X40) to and from Oxford, Wallingford, and Reading, picking up on the bypass and more local buses running through the village (Going Forward Buses and The Dorchester Flyer).

It could be assumed that residents would benefit from a bus to Oxford which picks up from village bus stops to aid accessibility but more consultation would be helpful to ascertain the exact services needed and discussions had with the relevant parties such as Oxford Bus Company and Going Forward Buses.

- In Question 7, a community transport service was highlighted to better support those with health conditions or impairments. Options could be discussed with The Oxfordshire Comet service before considering a local transport scheme/Good Neighbours Group. A comment was also made in question 7, 'Wallingford Volunteers do provide some transport to health appointments'.

- **Environment**

Consider forming an environmental group to look at the upkeep of waterways and green spaces and developing a Nature and Wildlife Action Plan. A community energy initiative could also be considered.

- Discuss river water quality and other water issues with the Inland Waterways Association. Research could also be conducted on community monitoring of water quality such as through the Catchment Based Approach and the Catchment Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) Hub:
<https://monitoring.catchmentbasedapproach.org/>
- A Community Action Group as part of CAG Oxfordshire could be a helpful mechanism for creating an environmental focused group:
<https://www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk/>
- Nature 2030 – the Parish Council could consider supporting this national campaign – supported by many in Oxfordshire’s environmental community – to ask political parties to adopt five landmark policies for nature’s recovery ahead of the 2024 General Election: <https://www.oxeb.org.uk/nature-2030.html>
- The Low Carbon Hub work with communities to develop community renewable energy schemes: <https://www.lowcarbonhub.org/community-members/community-grants-fund/>

- **Village hall/ Pavilion**

Suggestions for the village hall included updating it and making better use of the facilities with more events and clubs using the space. Although the pavilion came lower in the top five priorities for action, it seems that some residents see an overlap between, 'update the pavilion' and the 'development of pavilion could replace village hall (maybe sell to pay for it).'

An audit of the use of the two facilities and costings for upgrades or rebuilding could be sought. Community First Oxfordshire have a Halls Advisor who can support with advice and resources for upgrading and fundraising for village halls and amenities.

- **Countryside access**

Investigate cycle/walking routes. See Oxfordshire County Council Active Travel initiative: [Oxfordshire County Council Active Travel](#).

- **Housing**

Although not rated in the top ten of 'priorities for action' in question 29, roughly two-thirds of respondents to the housing questions were in favour of development, 35% circa 10 houses and 32% circa 20 houses . The 2022 Housing Needs Survey identified the need for 12 houses and it is understood that investigations are ongoing to potentially bring forward a Rural Exception Site/s for affordable housing for local people.

Reviewing the current Neighbourhood Plan would offer an opportunity to revisit and potentially update the strategic vision of the parish council in relation to future housing development (as well as multiple other themes addresses in this report). With regard to housing and village character, survey feedback in relation to sympathetic development and 'development which is gradual and managed' could be incorporated into revised policies.

- **Consultation with young people**

There was a low response to the survey from young people and it is recognised that this is not the best mechanism to gain input from those at school and teenagers. Engagement through a session at the primary school and via theme based working groups such as an environmental group could be useful ways to encourage participation in community decision making and provide a forum for young people to share their point of view. In question 29 (Top five priorities for action), 63 people selected, 'new groups/activities and facilities for young people' as a priority. Comments around this area included, 'young people don't want events organised by adults unless sport,' 'lack of facilities/activities for children and teenagers,' and 'encourage young people to use allotments/ get involved with the parish council/ share their skills, etc.' It is clear that young people need their own voice in this process.

- **Community events**

If considering more community activities, most respondents are in favour of village wide events, such as an annual fete or BBQ and other seasonal gatherings.

NEXT STEPS

Once the findings of the Community Survey have been shared a village meeting could be held to discuss priorities, responsibilities, and next steps.

DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS

- Total responses: 267
- Note: graphs are based on total responses. Where the total is less than 267, a respondent(s) declined to answer the question.
- Comments may have been edited for brevity and to maintain confidentiality.

PART 1 – LIVING IN THE PARISH

1. What three things do you MOST LIKE about living in the village?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 263

263 respondents, 800 total comments			
Surrounding countryside/rural setting / views/nature & wildlife	125	Community/community spirit/ community feeling	87
Friendly, helpful, supportive, caring people	78	History/historic character/heritage/architecture/old buildings	68
Access to and choice of local walks and paths	51	Active community/number and range of clubs, activities and events	46
Co-op	44	Village amenities in general	37
Peace and quiet	35	The Abbey (and its events)	34
Beautiful, pretty, attractive place	32	Pubs (and restaurants)	28
Proximity to rivers	20	Feeling of safeness / low crime	14
Proximity to Oxford and other towns	12	Small size / small population size	10
Location	10	Sports teams and facilities	6
Clean	5	School / pre-school	5
Dog walking / dog friendly	4	Easy for commuting / access to roads	4
The Snug café	4	The Hurst	4
Bishops Court	3	Church	3
Mix of people and ages	3	Active community of volunteers	3
Accessibility	2	The Clumps	2
Cemetery	2	Rec ground	2
Abbey bells	2	Lack of light pollution	2
Dyke Hills	1	Hotels	1
Playground	1	Proximity to GP and vet	1
Limited traffic	1	Safe roads	1
Not on main road	1	Mix of housing	1
Clean air	1	Biodiversity	1
Strict planning limits	1	Upholding high class standards	1
Propserous people	1		

2. What three things do you LEAST LIKE about living in the VILLAGE?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 256

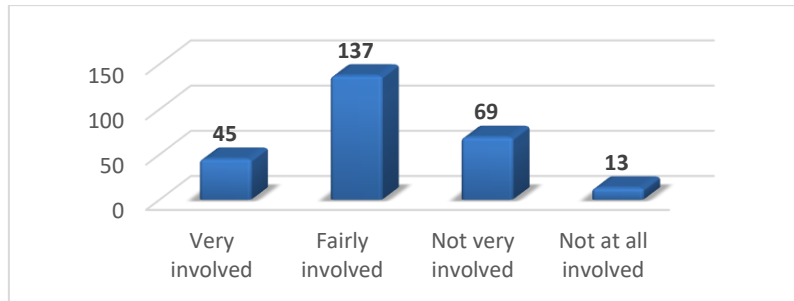
256 respondents, ? total comments			
Noise from the bypass (especially motorbikes)	92	Poor public transport links/ no bus service through the village	62
Too many parked cars on High Street	44	Poor parking in general	40
Traffic congestion/noise	36	Speeding cars through village	33
Poor road maintenance / potholes / uneven pavements	19	Dog mess / inconsiderate dog owners	18
Cost of houses / lack of affordable houses	17	Unkempt roadsides, pavements, verges – too many weeds etc	16
Lack of diversity / inclusiveness	13	Litter	12
Threat of over-expansion/ development	11	No post-office	11
Limited shops/facilities	7	Lack of facilities/activities for children and teenagers	7
Unsafe bus stop on bypass	7	Poor road drainage / sewage overflow	6
People not always friendly/helpful – lack of community spirit	6	Not enough young people and families	6
Average age of residents (older)	5	Average pubs / lack of good pub food	5
Lack of proper street lighting at bus stop	5	Poor street lighting in general	5
Lack of safe cycling route to nearby towns and villages	5	Poor telecommunication services	5
Some snobbiness / cliqueness / judgement	5	Stuck in past / too conservative and non-progressive / bit right wing	5
Dominance of the Abbey for events	4	Untidy, tatty	4
Poor state of pavilion	4	Village hall needs updating / made better use of	3
Lack of activities outside working hours / in evenings	3	Lack of activities in general / not a lot to do	3
Muddy slippery footpaths in winter	3	Smell from sewage plants	3
Noise in general	3	Inappropriate speed limits	3
Lorries / farm vehicles	3	Closure of and lack of support for pubs	3
Too many crows/kites	3	Lack of etiquette on FB	3
Sense of isolation/seclusion	3	Too dark	2
No GP	2	Shop too expensive	2
Difficulty of senior school catchment	2	Polluted rivers and waterways	2
Too many tourists	2	NIMBYs	2
Lack of small businesses	2	Lily's tea shop closing	2
Not as peaceful as used to be	2	Expensive to live	2
Low flying planes/helicopters	2	Distance to railway station	2
Flooding	2	Ignorance of natural environment / not too nature friendly	2
Inappropriate / poorly planned developments	2	Lack of positive housing development	1
Prohibitive planning issues	1	No new in-keeping houses being built	1
Potential social housing	1	Ugly buildings	1
Lack of energy in people	1	Vocal seem to get wider voice	1

People who move in from towns and try to run things	1	Residents who don't contribute	1
Young generation not giving back	1	Difficulty for newcomers to integrate	1
Change for change sake	1	Shift in resident values	1
Same handful of people at core of most events	1	Not very family friendly	1
Old vs young attitude	1	Bit gossipy	1
Mess outside White Hart		Public toilets need closing	1
Lack of communal spaces (non-religious)	1	Lack of facilities for aging population	1
Difficulty accessing facilities for elderly/disabled	1	Lack of off-street parking for High Street residents	1
Traffic by school at drop off/pick up	1	Behaviour of parents outside school	1
Lack of access to other local areas	1	Junction of A4074	1
Cars using Queen St as ratrun	1	Having to drive to services	1
Having to drive to worship	1	Cost of taxis	1
Poor childcare options	1	New street lighting	1
Light pollution	1	Pollution in general	1
No definitive collection time for postbox	1	Assumption re. media consumption tools in community	1
Football pitch should be astro	1	Anti-social behaviour at rec	1
Lack of village plan to save wildlife	1	Lack of relaxing green area	1
Lack of paths within village	1	Risk of country paths being blocked by barbed wire	1
Allotment arguments	1	People wrecking footpaths	1
Not enough trees and flowers	1	Loss of dog walking space	1
Horse muck	1	Cost of council tax	1
Boring food options in co-op	1	Lack of interesting places to visit	1
Lack of village whatsapp	1	Too many big events	1
Not enough people of all ages at events	1	No pub quiz	1
Lack of part-time job opportunities	1	Lack of help for disabled with access to hospitals	1
Noisy church bells	1	Grumpy fishermen	1
Uncertainty of future	1		

PART 2 - COMMUNITY

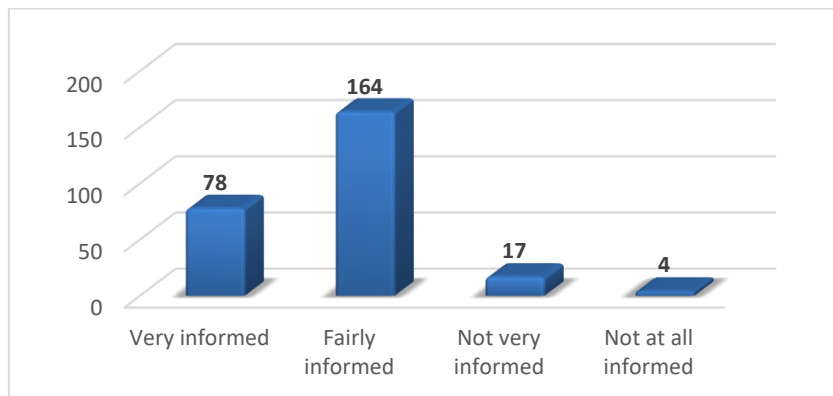
3. How involved do you feel in village life?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 264



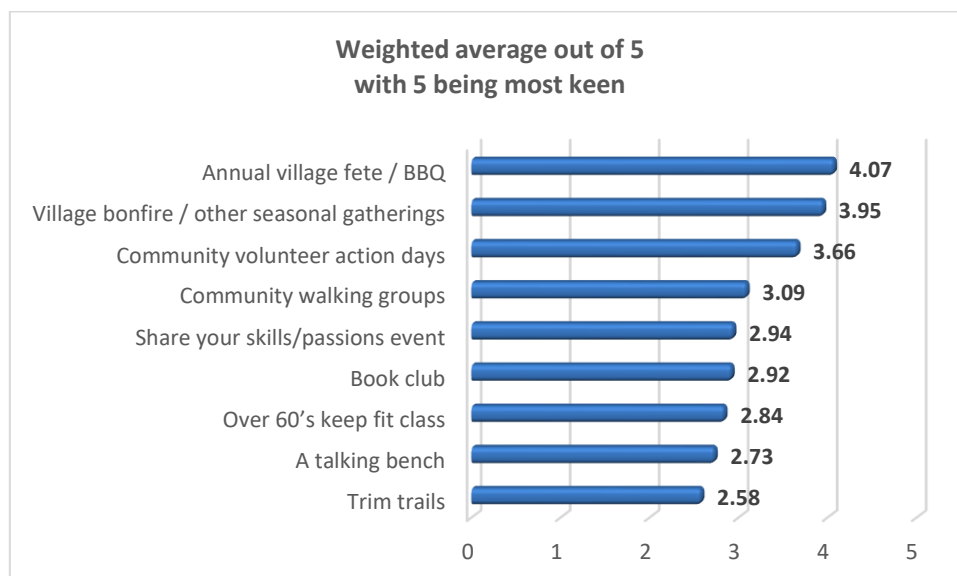
4. How well informed do you feel about village life?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 263



5. If it were possible, how keen would you be to see the following activities and events in the parish, on a scale of 1-5?

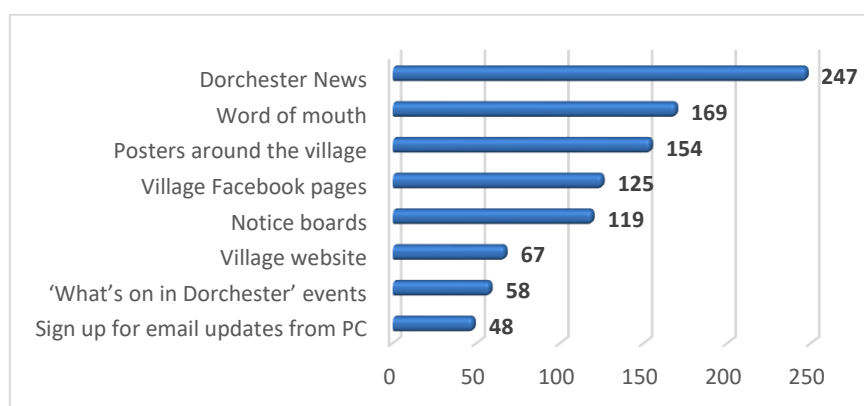
TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 261



Other: 43 respondents, 54 total comments			
Water/river based activities	4	Many of these already take place	3
Secular music group/events	3	Running club / regular running event	3
Wild swimming	2	Group exercise classes	2
More events at Village Hall	2	Campaign to stop dangerous/speeding motorbikes	2
Bonfire/fireworks not environmentally friendly	2	Support group for new residents	1
Continuation of Abbey events	1	Bring back historic Church gatherings	1
Volunteer drivers to/from hospital	1	Caring for nature events	1
Scouts/Guides	1	Youth meet ups	1
Childrens groups	1	Annual family disco	1
Under 60s exercise class	1	Outdoor dynamic fitness group	1
Cycle-based events	1	Dance classes	1
Yoga/pilates	1	Fitness class at time for working people	1
Aunt Sally	1	Chess group	1
Film evenings	1	Cookery/art lessons for different ages	1
Birdwatching club	1	Country craft skills	1
Wine tasting	1	IT assistance	1
Repair shop	1	Women's night out	1
More evening events	1	More tourism	1
Encourage young people to use allotments	1	Community flowering garden / herb garden	1
Communal green park areas	1	What about shy people?	1

6. How do you like to find out about what is happening in and around Dorchester?

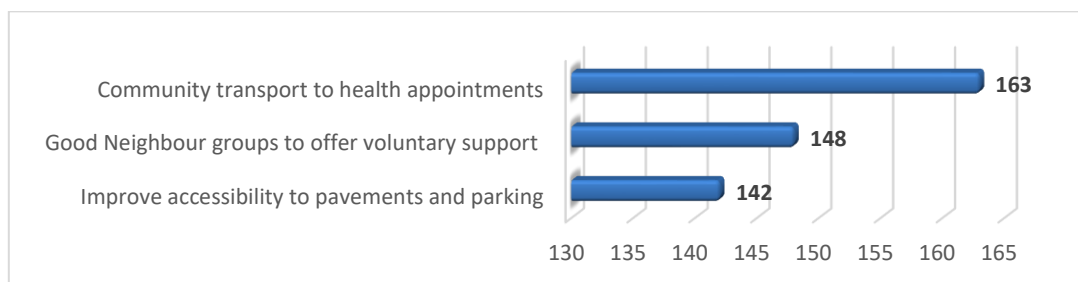
TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 263 (987 TOTAL CHOICES)



Other: 10 respondents, 10 total comments			
Twitter / X	1	Abbey weekly e-mail	1
Websites of individual organisations/ activities	1	Local club update links to Dorchester website	1
Bulletin from website (when ran)	1	Mailing list for OSJ / Christmas concerts	1
South Oxon and OCC planning websites	1	The Snug	1
Would like village WhatsApp	1	Use noticeboards for 'for sale/free'	1

7. What could Dorchester do better for people with health conditions or impairments living in the village?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 234 (453 TOTAL CHOICES)

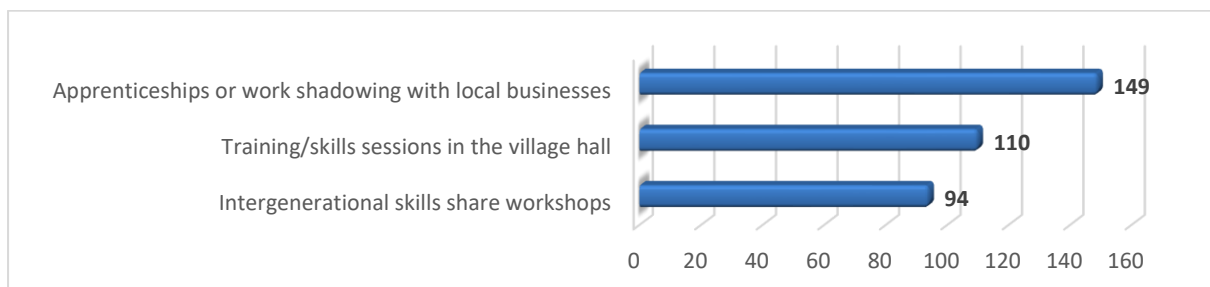


Other: 31 respondents, 34 total comments

Remove stiles and replace with gates	4	Increase transport links	3
Stop people parking on pavements	3	Better access to bypass bus stop	3
Parking on one side of High Street only	2	More benches	2
Fix old style kerbs	1	Fix potholes	1
Improve paving	1	Cut back plants over pavements	1
Better community transport generally	1	Traffic-calming measures	1
Better disabled access to facilities	1	Access to Hurst gates	1
Pharmacy outreach	1	Road crossing on High Street	1
Better street lighting	1	Exercise classes/events for less abled	1
Emergency buttons that vulnerable people can press	1	Befriending network for those living alone	1
Wallingford Volunteers do provide some transport to health appts	1	Volunteer support / community lifts do happen but ad hoc only	1
Should include those on outlying roads not just village centre	1		

8. What could Dorchester offer to young people living in the village (in addition to recreational groups and facilities)?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 211 (353 TOTAL CHOICES)



Other: 39 respondents, 39 total comments

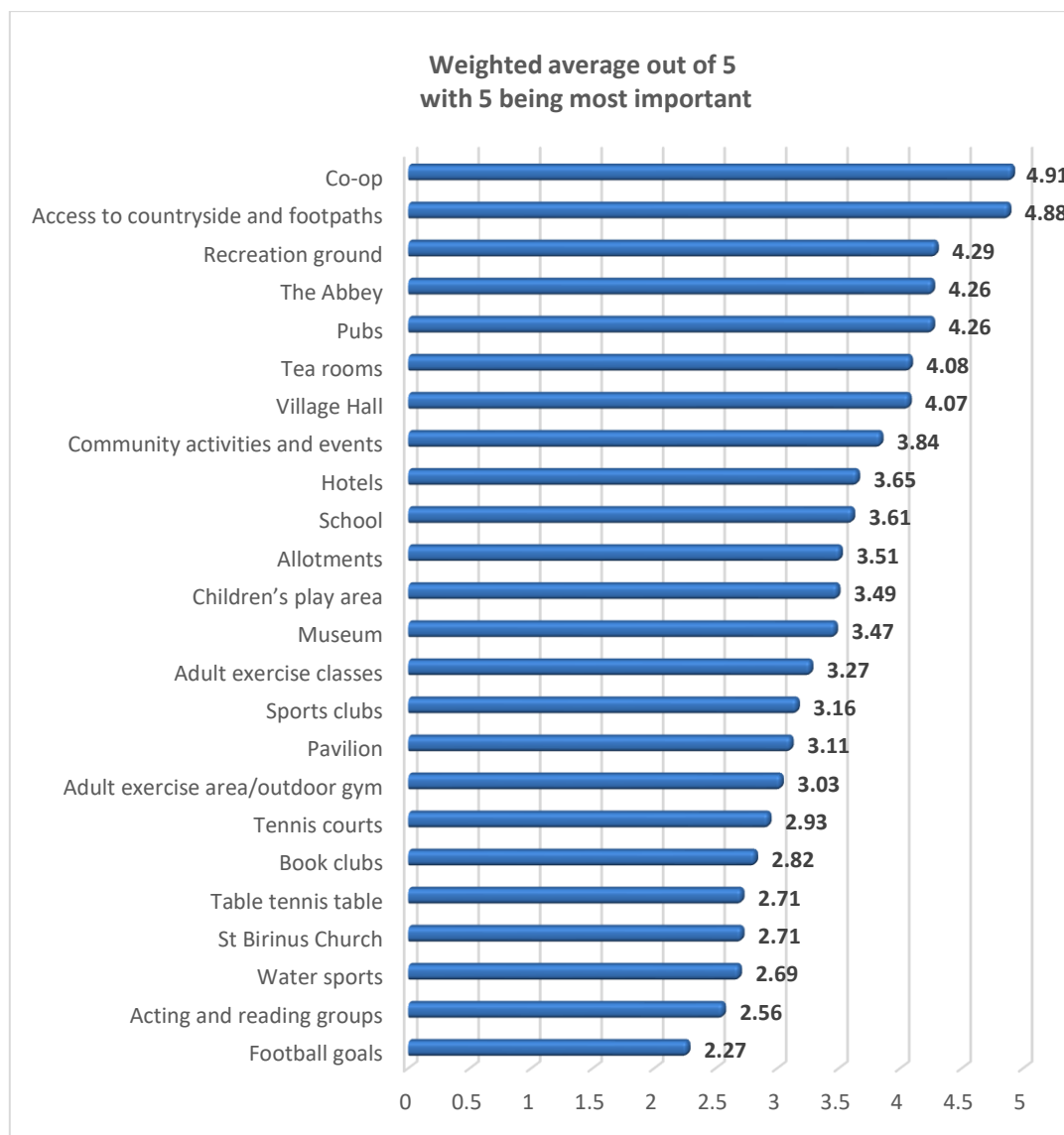
Affordable housing / accommodation	6	Youth clubs	4
Mentoring/advice on employment and education	4	Better public transport (to towns, leisure centres, local employment etc)	4
Safe cycle routes	1	Update pavilion	1
Open day access for youth tennis/cricket	1	More detail on what sports clubs are available	1

Group sports and activities	1	Social sessions, ie, painting	1
Abbey youth group	1	Coding club	1
Teen/young adult band	1	Intergeneration story swaps / cooking	1
Skills database	1	Young could share their skills too	1
Encourage young to volunteer more	1	Encourage young to get involved with PC (youth PC?)	1
Opportunities for young to help in events	1	Fun and educational activities that help understand where they live	1
Jobs for young teens	1	Venue for weekly get together	1
More family-focussed pub	1	Crossing on High Street for safety	1
All good ideas but are there enough people to make it viable	1		

PART 3 – RECREATION AND LEISURE

9. How important are the following activities and amenities to you, on a scale of 1-5?

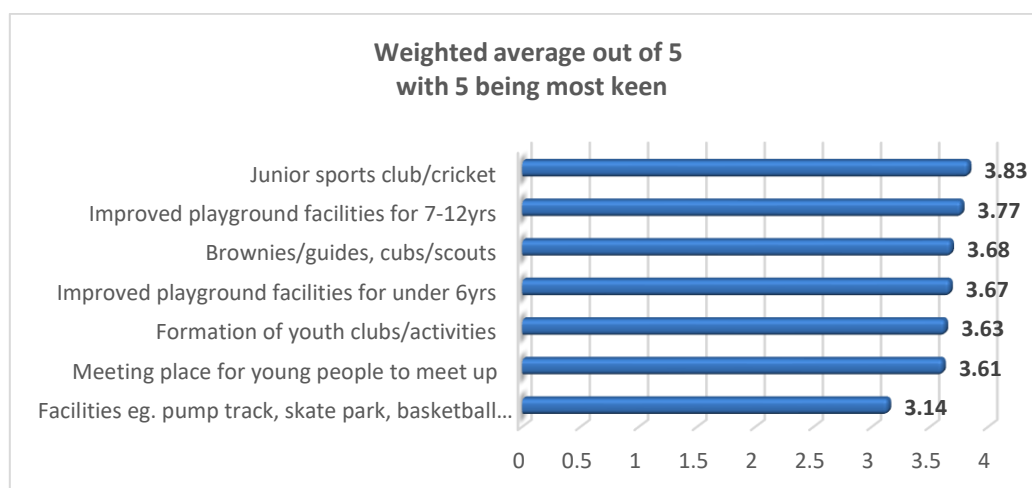
TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 263



Other: 26 respondents, 32 total comments			
The Hurst	5	The Snug (and sessions there)	3
Rivers	2	Choir	2
Voluntary work	2	Other supermarket	1
Post office	1	Butcher	1
Good gastropub	1	Cheaper tearoom	1
Weekly chip van	1	Cycle paths and cycle locks	1
Footpaths and bridleways	1	Rowing club	1
Environmental activities, ie, tree planting	1	Historical environment	1
Pre-school	1	Abbey bells	1
Benches	1	Existing groups	1
Remove fences / allow freedom to roam	1	A4074 bus stop	1
Housing development	1		

10. How keen are you to see the following facilities for young people in the parish, if they were possible and if money was available, on a scale of 1-5?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 249

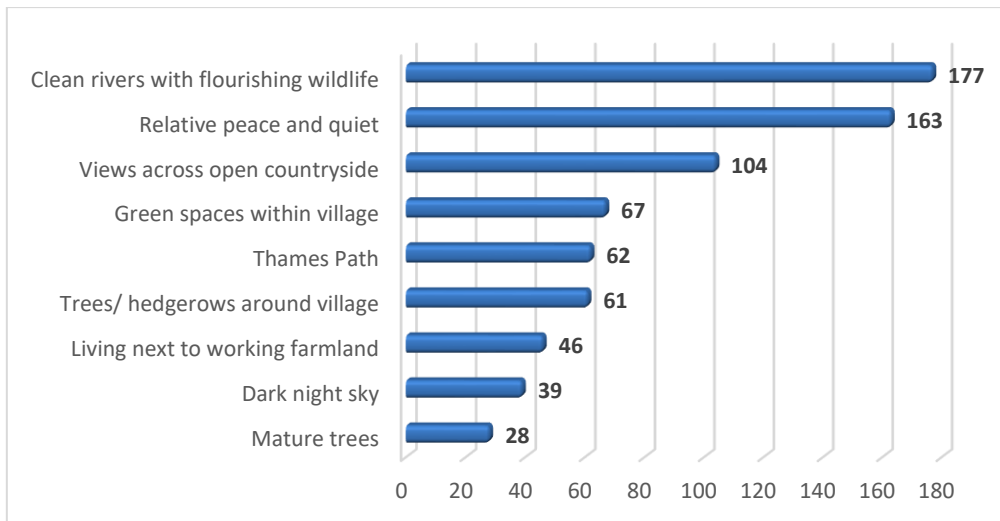


Other: 14 respondents, 16 total comments			
More seasonal trails for families	1	Safe cycle tracks	1
Transport to nearby facilities	1	Junior Parish Council	1
Tuck shop	1	Church youth group	1
Youth conservation groups	1	Woodcraft	1
Watersports club	1	Jumps into the water	1
More opportunities for girls to socialise	1	Arts/music facilities	1
Intergenerational mixing	1	Use Wallingford Sports Club	1
Scouts in Clifton Hampden great but hard to sustain in Dorchester	1	Recent attempts at youth activities have been unsuccessful	1

PART 4 – ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

11. Which THREE ISSUES are the most important to your life in the parish?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 258 (747 TOTAL CHOICES)

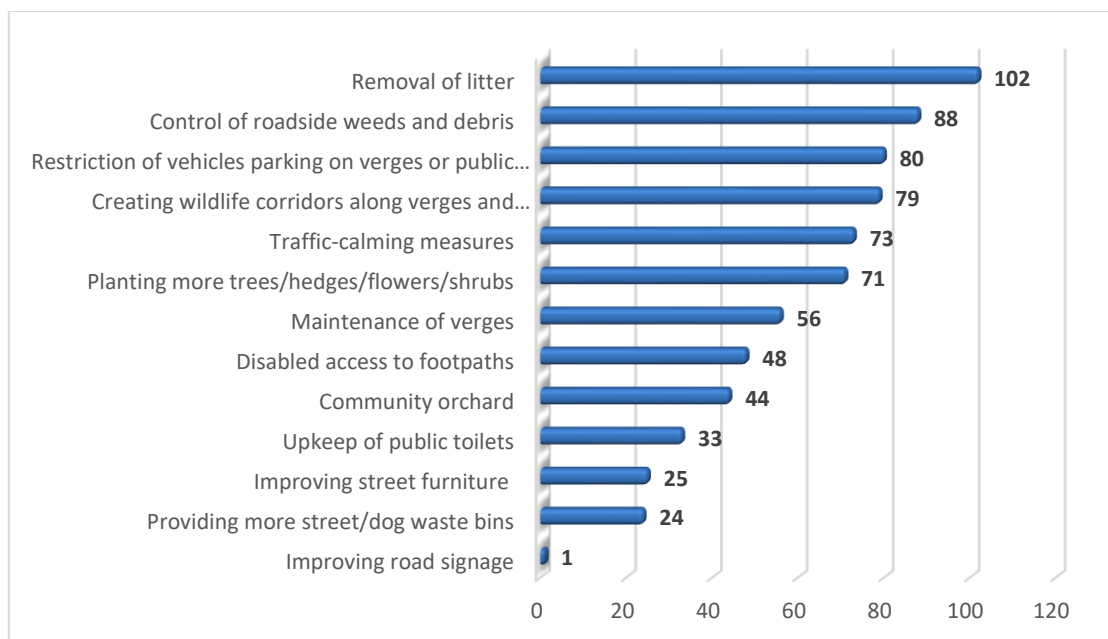


Other: 5 respondents, 5 total comments

Housing	2	Public transport	1
Road safety	1	Grateful to live beside Earth Trust and non-spraying farm – hope insect numbers improve	1

12. Which THREE PRIORITIES do you think would most benefit the parish environment?

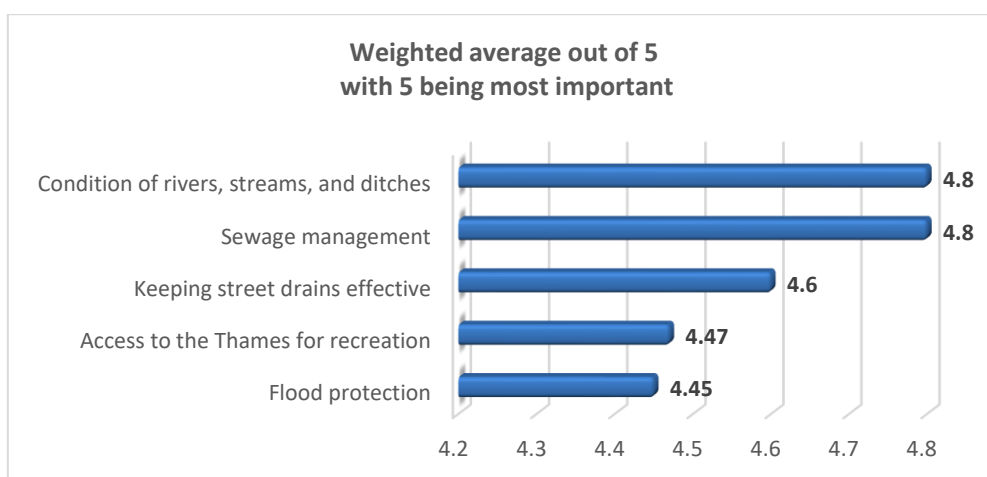
TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 258 (724 TOTAL CHOICES)



Other: 22 respondents, 27 total comments			
Leave verges to grow wild / concertededly welcome nature	3	Reduce bypass noise	3
More street lighting	3	Parking on one side of High St only	2
20mph speed limit	2	Average speed limit	1
Speed cameras	1	Reduce traffic by calming away from busy areas	1
More bypass bus stops	1	Payable car park for visitors	1
Cycle routes	1	Remove public toilets	1
More litter bins that get emptied	1	Reduce dog mess	1
Stop people putting up 'Residents only' parking signs outside houses	1	Remove unsightly signage	1
Bathing status cleanliness for our stretch of the Thames	1	Village green area status for land around the Thames	1
Voluntary code of conduct for those undertaking building work	1		

13. How important are the following water-related matters to you, on a scale of 1-5?

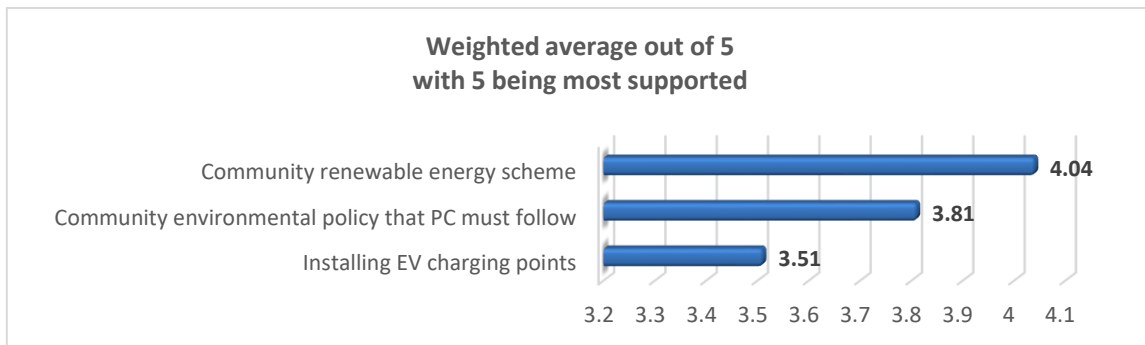
TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 257



Other: 12 respondents, 13 total comments			
Surface water drainage	2	Separate sewage from rain water	2
Reduce smell from sewage plant	1	Access to Thames Path	1
Access to Thames for recreation	1	Place to launch small boat/kayak etc	1
Being able to swim safely in the Thames without risk of sewage	1	Community clear-up of litter in the river	1
Leave Thames as river not leisure facility	1	Raised pathways where there is flooding by Hurst/river	1
Beavers	1		

14. How strongly would you support green energy initiatives in the parish, on a scale of 1-5?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 253

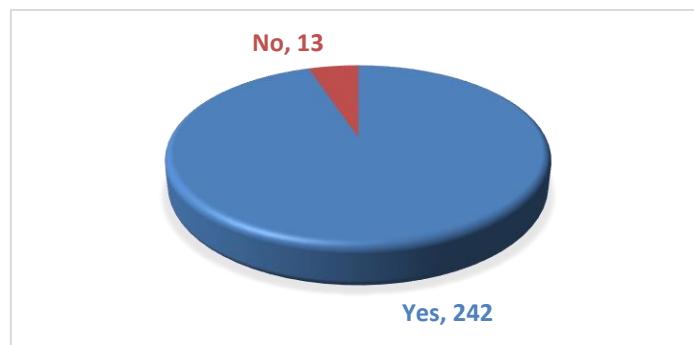


Other: 10 respondents, 10 total comments

Support to insulate home / insulation scheme	2	Solar panels on all industrial/farm buildings	1
Use of rivers for renewable energy	1	Split public waste bins: waste/recycling	1
Initiatives for buying local	1	Replanting hedgerows and coppicing	1
Anything that reduces fossil fuel use	1	Not sufficient energy infrastructure for many EV charging points	1
Waste of time versus need for housing development	1		

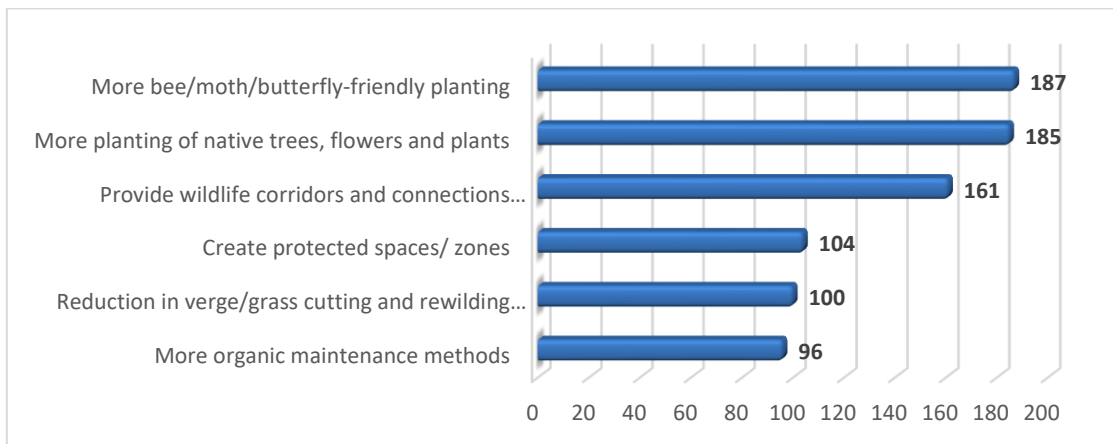
15. Would you support a nature and wildlife action plan to conserve and enhance nature biodiversity and wildlife?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 255



16. If you answered yes to Q15, which of these nature projects do you consider are important for the parish, subject to funding permissions?

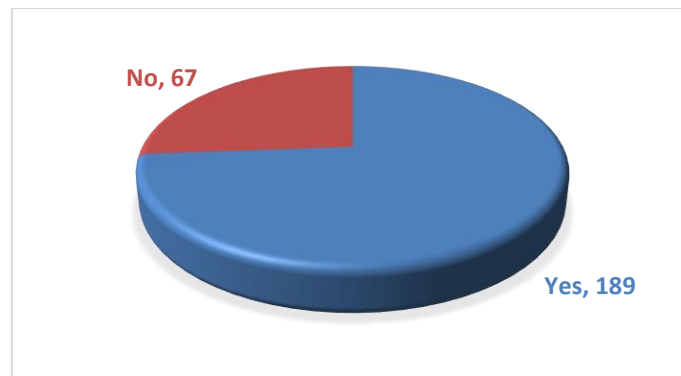
TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 242 (833 TOTAL CHOICES)



Other: 19 respondents, 19 total comments			
Cleaner waterways / annual clearance of Thames / monitoring river pollution	3	Water and sewage management	2
Ongoing maintenance should be planned for	2	Village tree audit resulting in village map	1
Community orchard/woodland	1	Access to local (now private) lakes	1
Less gardening of natural spaces	1	Removal of sycamore seedlings	1
Right plant, right place – not just for sake of it	1	Manage dog walking in sensitive areas	1
Educate, maybe with specific green organisation	1	Clear guidance from BBOWT on how to tend public spaces and gardens	1
Support existing initiatives	1	Conserve what is already there	1
Nature wrecked by senseless townies filling in ditches and concreting green spaces	1		

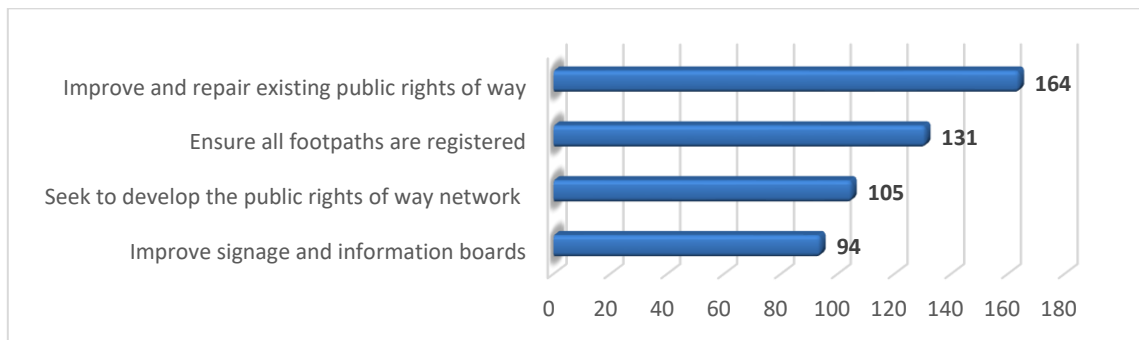
17. Do you think improving access to the local countryside around Dorchester is a priority?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 256



18. If you answered yes to Q17, how do you think access to the local countryside could be improved?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 192 (494 TOTAL CHOICES)



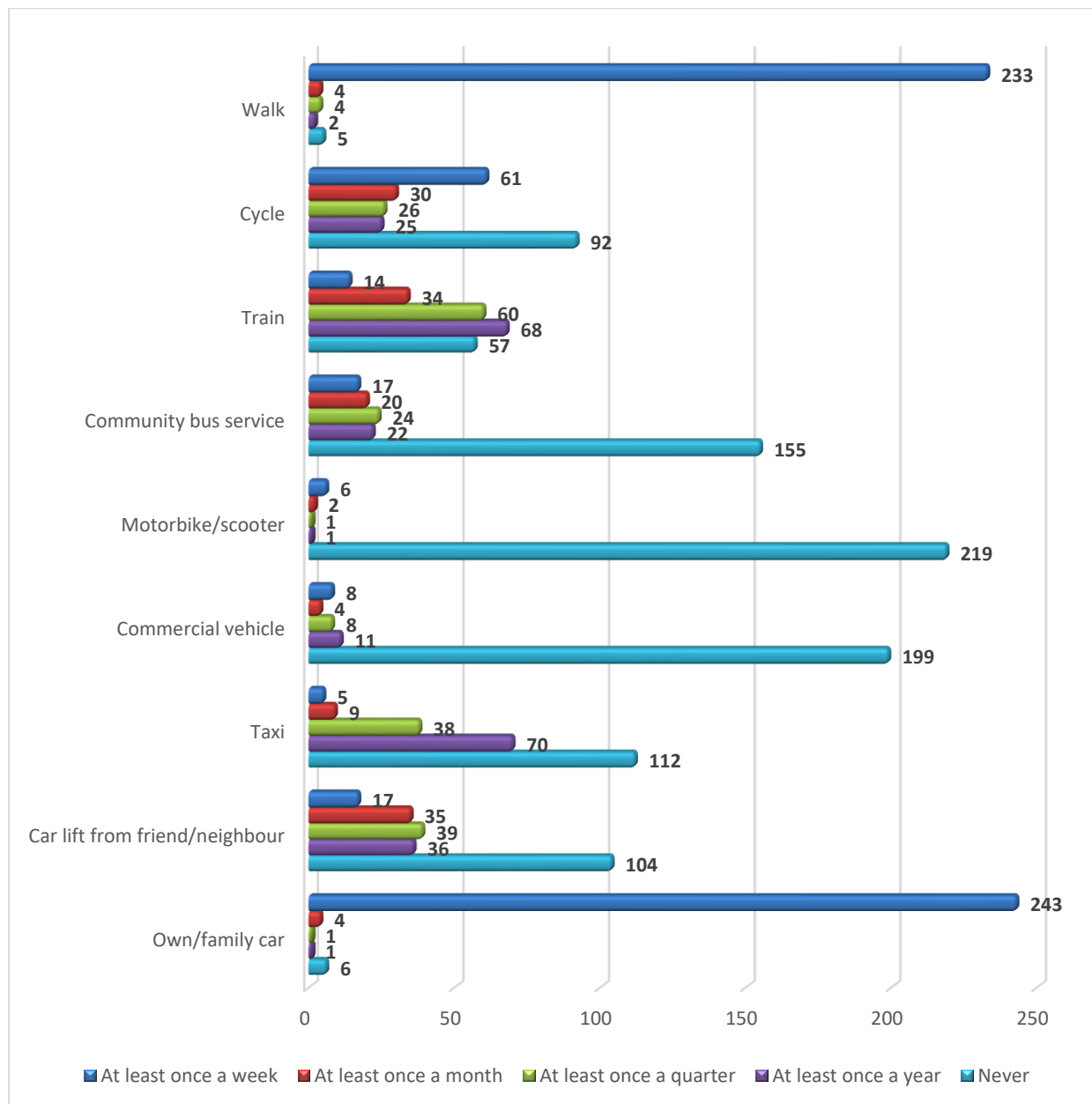
Other: 17 respondents, 18 total comments

Re-establish Thames Path at Shillingford	2	Improve path between Dorchester and Shillingford for safe cycling/walking	2
Thames Path very muddy in winter – improve accessibility	2	Improve disabled/wheelchair/buggy access to footpaths	2
Better cycle routes	2	Push landowners to give permissive access	2
Make map available at village amenities	2	Safe cycle and pedestrian route to/from Oxford	1
Replace stiles with gates	1	Signage to indicate suitability of paths for disabled people	1
Not in favour of tarmacking over paths	1		

PART 5 – ROADS, TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT, AND PERSONAL SAFETY

19. How often do you currently use the following modes of transport?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 256

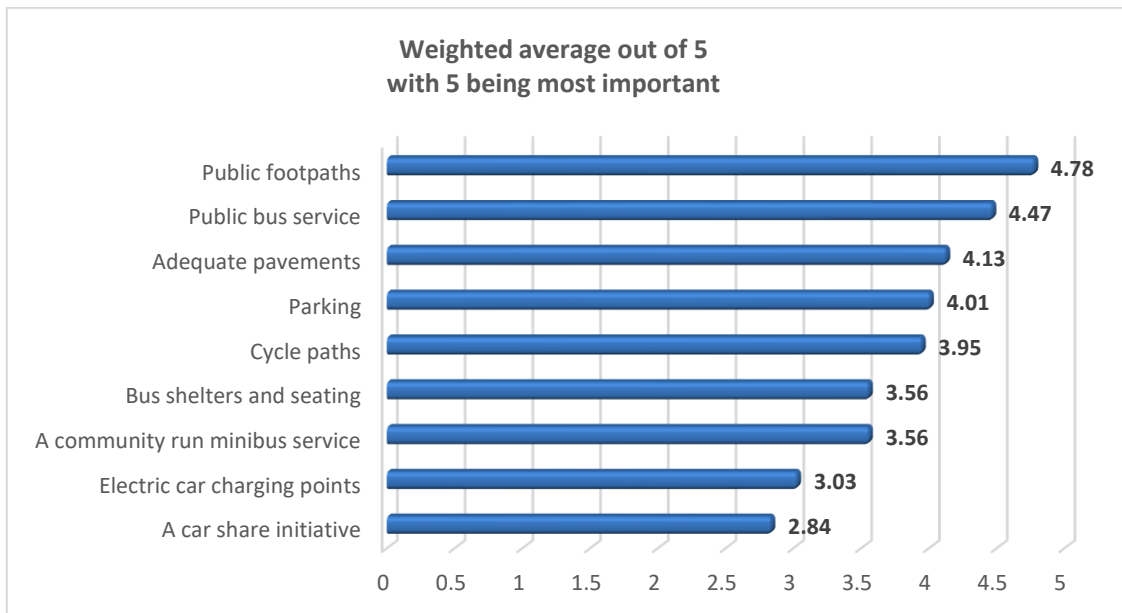


Other: 12 respondents, 13 total comments

X39/40 bus	10	Run	2
Park and Ride in Oxford	1		

20. How important are the following transport facilities for the parish, on a scale of 1-5?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 253

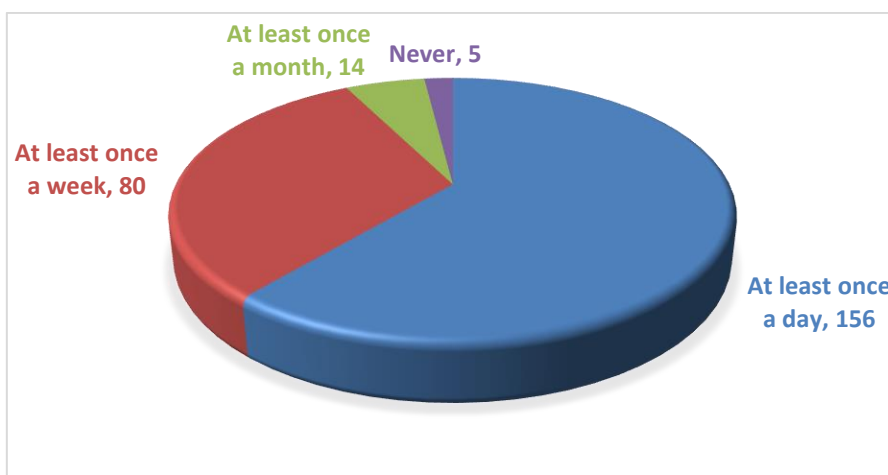


Other: 10 respondents, 10 total comments

Traffic calming on Abingdon Road	1	Cycle path adjoining A4074	1
Cycle paths that don't use footpaths	1	Footpath to bus stop muddy in winter	1
Dorchester-Shillingford footpath	1	Shared taxi initiative	1
Stop people parking opposite junctions	1	Properly managed parking	1
Maintenance of current bus shelters/seating	1	Public bus and cycle paths will never happen	1

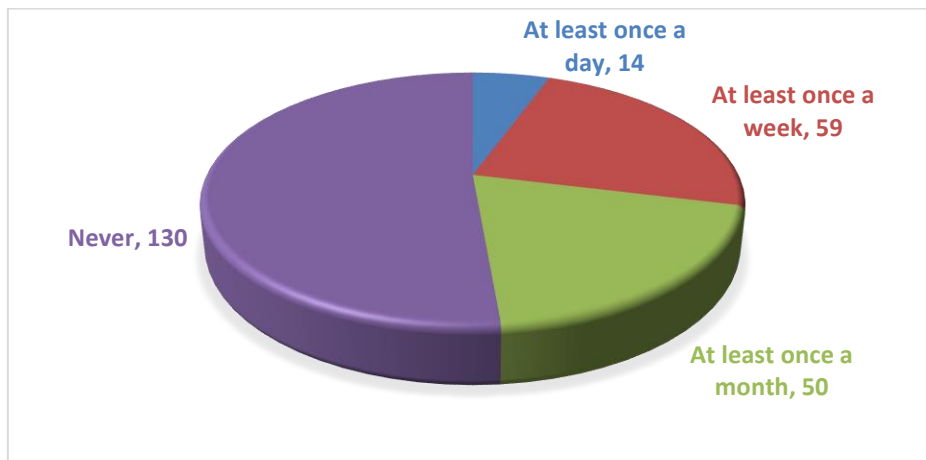
21. How often do you use public footpaths through and around the parish?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 255



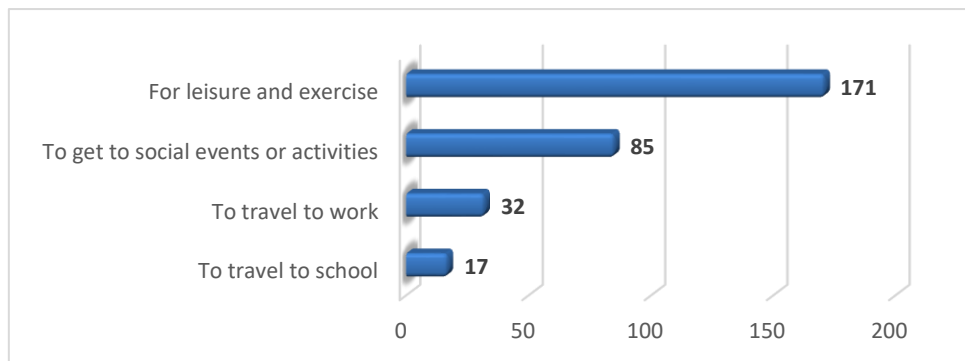
22. How often do you cycle from or around the parish?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 253



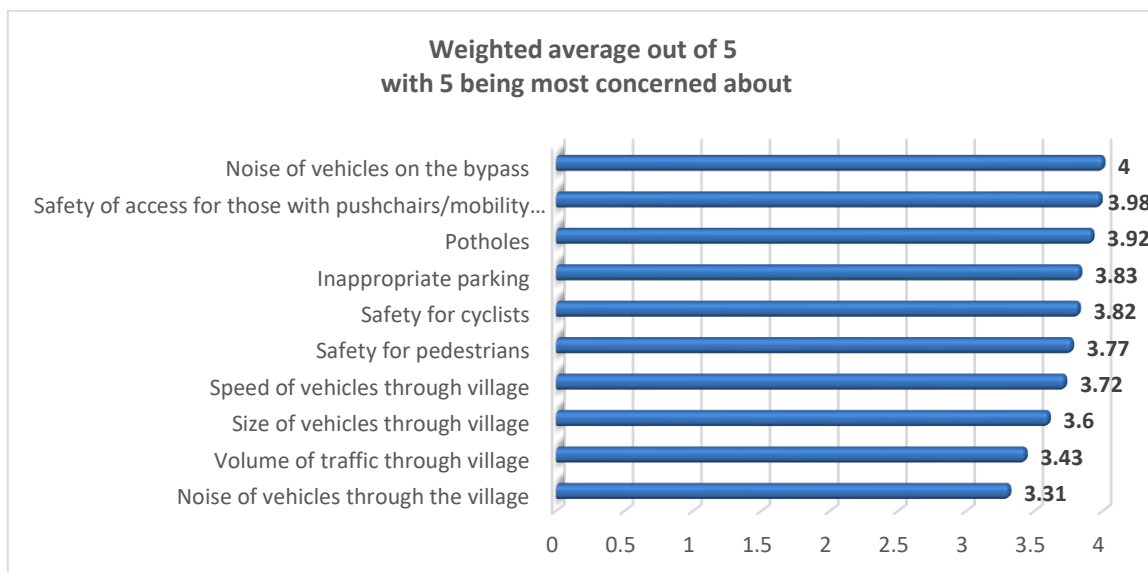
23. If cycle paths were created, which of the following reasons would you use them for?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 183 (305 TOTAL CHOICES)



24. How concerned are you with each of the following traffic matters, on a scale of 1-5?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 256



Note - An additional option of 'Safe access to bus stop on bypass' was included in the physical survey but accidentally omitted from the online survey. It is not possible to report on 'Safe access to bus stop on bypass' as a whole, therefore, or include the data in the chart, but of the 75 respondents who replied using the physical survey, 68 answered this option. The weighted average from the 68 respondents equals 4.3, making it the issue of most concern.

Other: 20 respondents, 20 total comments			
Motorcycle nuisance, especially on Monday nights	4	Speed of vehicles at edge of village	1
Lack of speed limit enforcement	1	Speed limit on Abingdon Rd too low	1
Majority of speeding by residents	1	Lack of safety for crossing road	
Number of vehicles being encouraged into village	1	Delivery vans reversing blind into High Street	1
Large farm vehicles driving into village	1	Safety for people on horses	1
Lack of parking	1	Parking when Abbey events are on	1
Idling vehicles when parked	1	More bike parking at facilities	1
Put LTN on street by school	1	Access to medical help	1
Lighting on bypass bus stop	1		

25. What, if any, particular concerns about transport do you have?

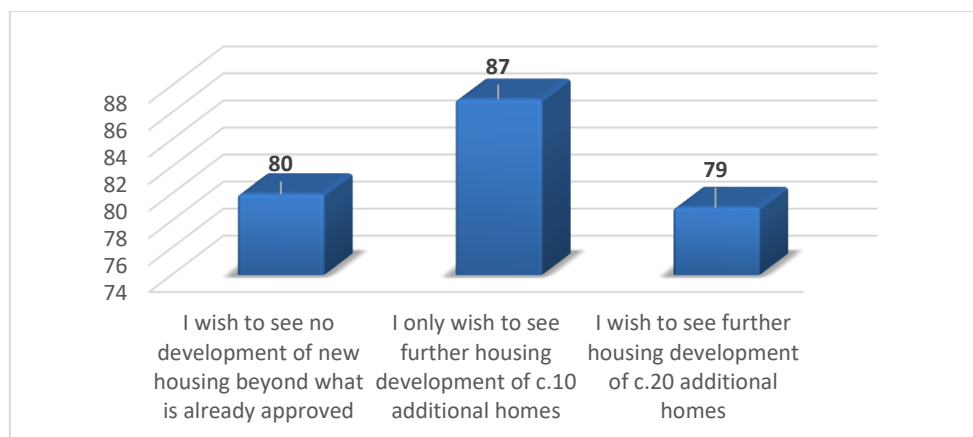
TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 104

Comments: 104 respondents, 135 total comments			
Speed of traffic through and around village / needs enforcement	24	Bypass noise from motorbikes	16
Danger/inadequacy of bus stop on bypass	15	Need bus service through village	14
Parking on High Street	12	Parking on pavements / unsafe parking	7
Continuation of current bus service	4	Volume of traffic has increased	4
Lack of bus to Abingdon	4	Lack of bus to Oxford	3
Lack of bus to train stations	3	Need parking for visitors away from main village / lack of respect by visitors	3
Volume of visiting traffic	3	Too much car use	2
Appalling traffic into Oxford	2	Safety of children at school times	2
Lack of safe crossing at High Street	1	Safety/access for wheelchairs etc	1
Safety for horse riders	1	Long snarl ups	1
Lack of safe pedestrian/cycle paths to Oxford and Wallingford	1	Cycle paths should be separate from roads	1
More bike racks	1	HGVs through village	1
Potholes on main road	1	Watling Road needs resurfacing	1
Increasing population without road improvements	1	Roaside parking on Queen Street	1
Lack of transport links to London	1	Idling cars whilst parked	1
Sometimes Abingdon bus (school bus) doesn't stop	1	Village bus run by village volunteers	1
Frequent changing of timetables	1		

PART 6 – PLANNING, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

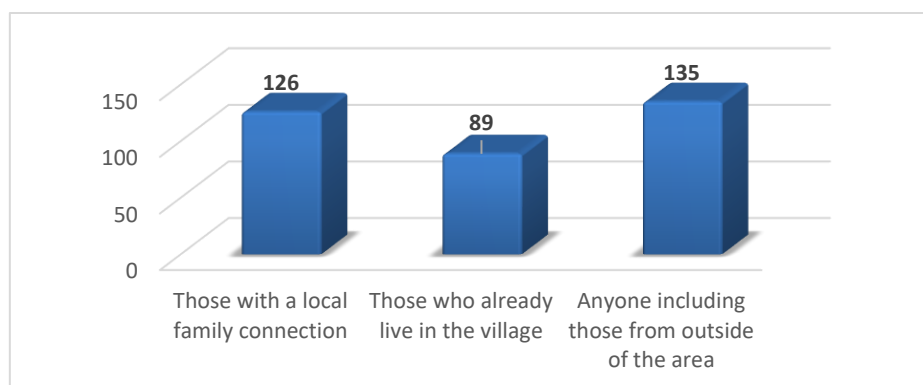
26. Which of the following comes closest to the housing development you would like to see in the parish in the next decade?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 246



27. Who should the housing benefit?

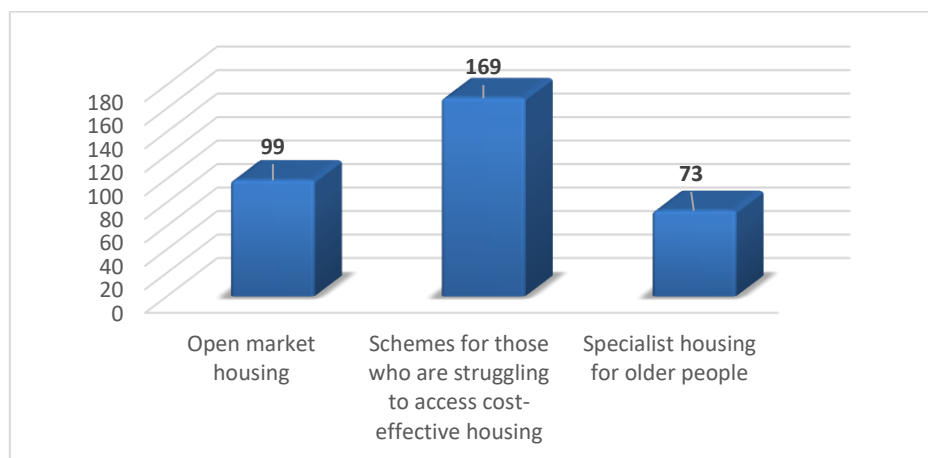
TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 243



Other: 36 respondents, 40 total comments			
Young families	5	Low cost housing for young people	5
Key workers	5	Affordable housing for those in need	3
Locally employed people	2	First time buyers/renters	1
Priority to children of villagers	1	Those who've lived in village 5+ years	1
Those in need who will contribute to village life	1	Anyone prepared to pay for high quality housing	1
Significant proportion should be controlled rental properties	1	Remove restrictions to village links for affordable housing	1
Housing for refugees	1	Options at various price points	1
Diversity improves a place	1	Everyone	1
Affordable is most important	1	More complicated than this	1
Limited to green belt rules	1	Only on brown belt	1
Sewage system can't cope currently	1	No more houses	1
No more development at Bishops Court Farm	1	A system that prioritises people with family/local connections seems unfair	1
Too late, village has died	1		

28. Which of the following comes closest to the type of housing you would like to see in the parish?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 246

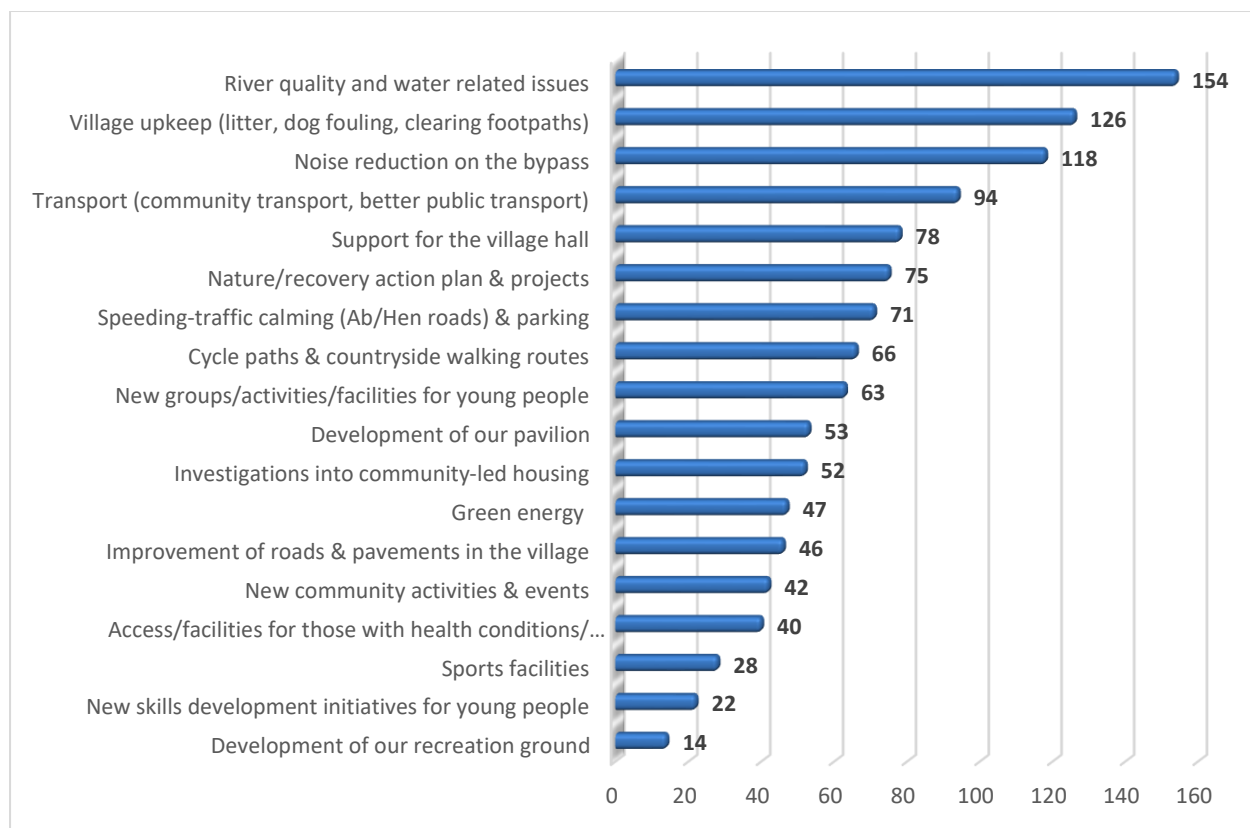


Other: 28 respondents, 31 total comments			
Housing style to be in keeping	3	Attract more young families	3
Affordable homes for key workers	2	Council/social housing	2
Rental properties at reasonable cost	2	Encourage downsizing to free up large houses	2
Not in conservation area / not on brownfield land	2	No new housing	2
CLT would provide long-term affordable homes	1	Make existing smaller houses more affordable for first time buyers	1
Defined affordable/social housing schemes managed by HA	1	Low cost housing availability	1
Priority to children of villagers	1	People who already live in the village	1
Small apartments	1	Various sizes and price points	1
Must cater for all requirements	1	As long as doesn't impact SSI/AONB	1
Don't care as long as high quality	1	Sewage system can't cope currently	1
House prices too high to live happily	1		

PART 7 – PRIORITIES

29. Please select your top FIVE priorities for action from the issues discussed in the survey.

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 258 (1189 TOTAL CHOICES)



Other: 11 respondents, 14 total comments

Manage parking on High Street	3	Control speeding on High Street	2
Housing	2	Support development at Bishops Court	1
Ban HGVs through village	1	Safe cycle route to Oxford	1
Traffic calming on streets without pavements	1	Expansion of use of gravel lakes for recreation	1
Control road flooding	1	Lead the way in biodiversity recovery	1

30. If you have any further comments, ideas, and/or opinions, please write them below.

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 49

Comments: 49 respondents, 69 total comments

Resolve parking issues, especially on High Street	5	Deal with bypass noise and speeding, especially motorbikes	4
Control speeding of cars (through village / Abingdon Road)	4	Improve bus stop on bypass with better access points and lighting	4
Development of pavilion could replace village hall (maybe sell to pay for it)	3	Support development at Bishops Court Farm	2
Need better bus service	2	Need pedestrian crossing at High Street	2
Improve river access/use	2	Potential to become major nature-friendly village	2

More activities for teens to mix	2	More events/activities for all ages	2
More awareness of village plan	1	Community decision-making must separate from commercial interests	1
Bishops Court development pending construction of new access road	1	Maximise opportunities for development at Bishops Court	1
Housing – build at end of Manor Road and on Abingdon Road	1	Need for housing for villagers	
Sympathetic development	1	Development gradual and managed	1
New building away from flood plain	1	Clear drains	1
Stop development of Minchin Rec	1	Remember we live in historic village	1
Would appreciate update on development of tearoom, museum	1	Maintain and support facilities we already have	1
Make attractive to young people	1	Young people don't want events organised by adults unless sport	1
Consider making traffic one-way	1	Better connection to Didcot	1
Survey of impact of HGVs on buildings	1	Public access/signage to lakes	1
Extra gravel on paths in winter	1	Improve access to paths for disabled, elderly, pushchairs	1
Support for local school	1	More social events	1
Higher impact fitness classes	1	More clubs using village hall	1
Abbey is wonderful resource and festival/arts scene great	1	Choice of plays put on is deplorable – what about classics?	1
Affordable co-working space and units for businesses	1	Dan from website – work for co-operative and could provide info	1
Consider PC appointing member to attend Abbey PCC	1	Impressed with actions already undertaken by council	1
Continue Dorchester News	1	Unfriendly group of people here	1
Questions more suited to a town than a village	1		

31. Finally, in 20 words describe how you would like to see Dorchester in 10 years time....

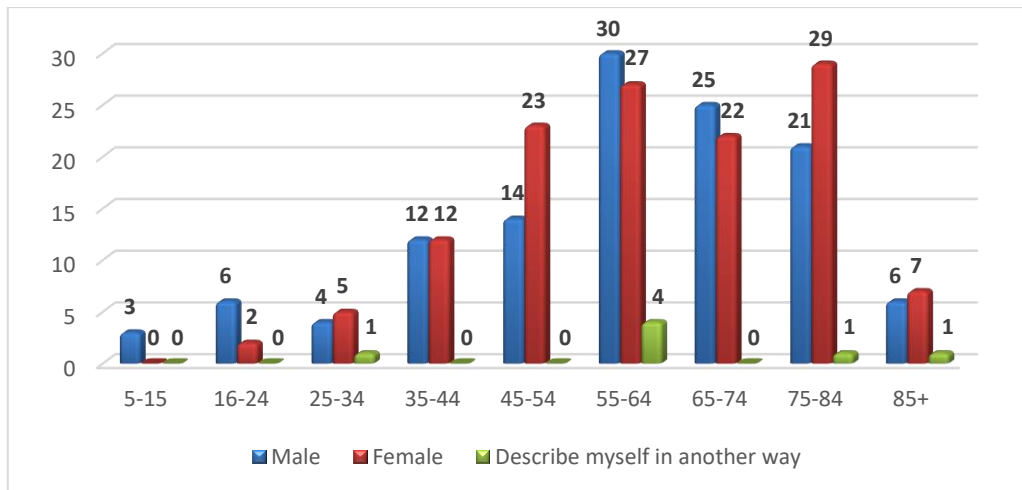
TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 175

These responses have been represented as a narrative in p.9

PART 8 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

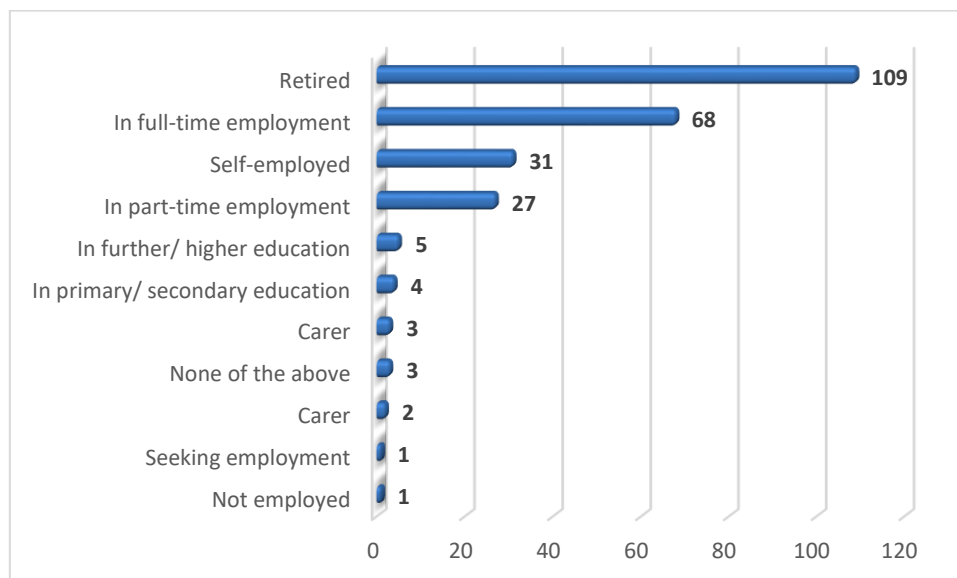
32. Which age category and gender do you fit into?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 254



33. Which of the following best describes you?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 254



PART 9 – GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE COMMUNITY

34. Please let us know if you would like to help out with the *Dorchester 2030 and Beyond* plan and the potential projects and initiatives to bring it to life?

TOTAL RESPONDENTS = 82

Contact details have been separately collated.