

Winshill Neighbourhood Plan

Report of Public Consultation Questionnaire Survey



May 2015

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Background

In March 2015 the Lufton & Associates on behalf of Winshill Parish Council undertook an extensive questionnaire survey as part of the evidence gathering process working towards the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish area.

The survey questionnaire was distributed to 3,400 households in the Parish of which 700 households (just over 20%) were contacted directly.

The survey was done on a rolling basis with two weeks allowed for responses before the survey was collected. Attempt was made to collect every survey response from every household in the Parish.



A total of 382 questionnaires were completed giving a response rate of just over 11%. Given the difficulty of engaging the local community in neighbourhood planning and confusion over the different roles of the statutory authorities this was considered to be an excellent response. Most questionnaires were completed in full.

Parts of the parish such as off Canterbury Road where there are several complexes of flats were more difficult to survey and ensure every

household had a questionnaire delivered them. In some areas small displays were set up in communal areas of the property. Questionnaires were posted to some addresses that could not be accessed such as the Burton Flour Mills residential complex.

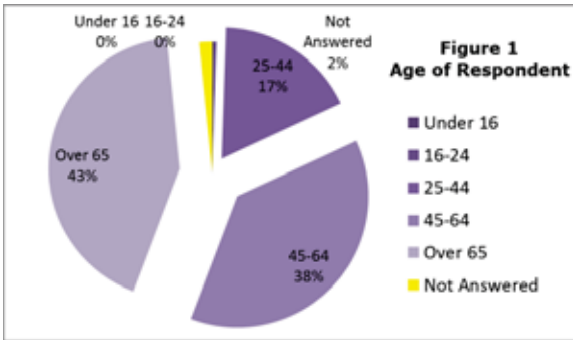


Response Rate and Age Profile of Respondents

About two thirds of the questionnaires were completed on behalf of a household and about one third by an individual.

Unlike a national population census the survey method was not sophisticated enough to distinguish concealed households (such as more than one family living in a single house or an extended family living in the same house). The size of the household was however recorded.

Figure 1 below shows the age profile of the main respondents to the questionnaire survey.



The proportion of responses from the over 65 age group at 42.7% of total compares to that proportion of the population over 65 in the Parish of 16.1% (2011 Census). In 26.4% of households according to the 2011 Census the head of household was aged 65 and over.

There are of course a number of explanations why the response rate of older age groups was better and could be a combination of having more time, more interest and perhaps more awareness of community and planning issues. It was noted that on the doorstep there was a prevalent interest in planning matters in the Dalebrook Road area because of developer interest adjacent to the Parish in South Derbyshire.



Whatever the explanation it doesn't appear to undermine the value of the

information received particularly if the assumption is taken that the all residents who were interested in the process have responded.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of respondents in terms of household size. 49% of responses came from two person households and 20% from one person households.

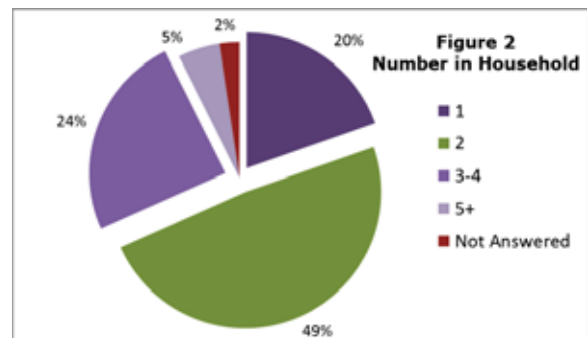
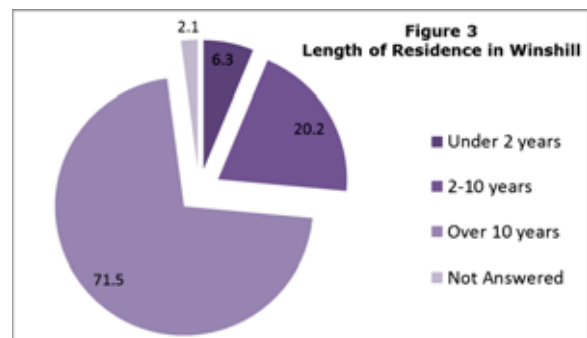


Figure 3 shows the classification of respondents by length of residence in the Parish, 71.5% having lived in Winshill for over 10 years.



The questionnaire asked if the respondent was a resident of Winshill, somewhat unsurprisingly 97.1% were resident, 1.0% were not and 1.8% didn't respond to the question. Of the non-residents these relate to some questionnaire returns from Bretby Lane where the residents seemed unsure of the extent of Winshill Parish.

58.9% of the responses indicated that they were made on behalf of the household and 39.5% made as individuals. 1.6% did not respond to the question.



Community Facilities and Amenities

The questionnaire sought to harvest an extensive array of information about the priority of importance attached to local facilities and amenities. This received some criticism in that some people felt too much information was being required and the questionnaire too lengthy and onerous to complete.

On balance it is considered that it was right to attempt to collect this information and gauge local opinion as it could be a very significant element

of the Plan strategy.

It was thought at an early stage that question should be a 'closed' one so that it was possible to analyse the data with some consistency and meaning. The inevitable difficulty with this being that there may have been other facilities and amenities that some residents would have liked to give a view on.

The 'list' of facilities and amenities is contextual to English planning law and the Use Classes Order. It is not possible to have any influence over some changes of use as these do not require planning consent, but others such as Hot Food Takeaways are specifically recognised in planning law.

Figure 4 shows the 'list' of facilities and amenities in order of importance specified in the survey. It is notable that there are differences in the rating of 'important' and 'very important'. GP Surgery while listed as fifth in terms of ranking on 'important' and 'very important' combined would be ranked second on the basis of 'very important' alone.

The data shows that bus connections, public open space (greenspace), post offices, local shops and GP surgeries all deemed as of significant importance by the majority of the population.

It is interesting to note that public open space (greenspace) is more highly regarded than greenspace given over to sports pitches and children's play areas.

Figure 5 shows attitudes towards public open space distinguished by the age of the survey respondents. Both broad age groups appear to highly value greenspace of all types and it is notable that the over-45 age group

deem children's play space with only marginal less importance than the under-45 year old age group.

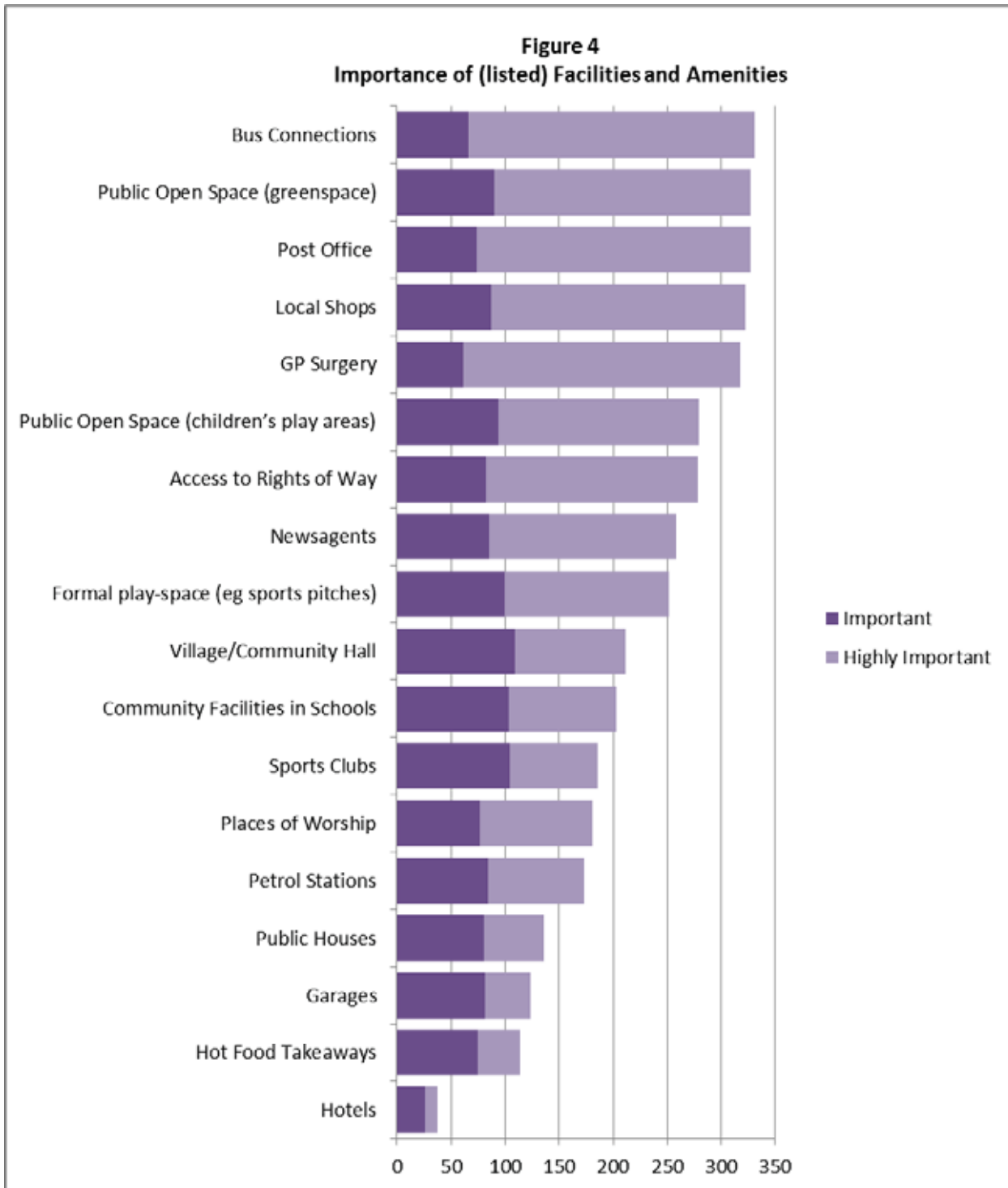
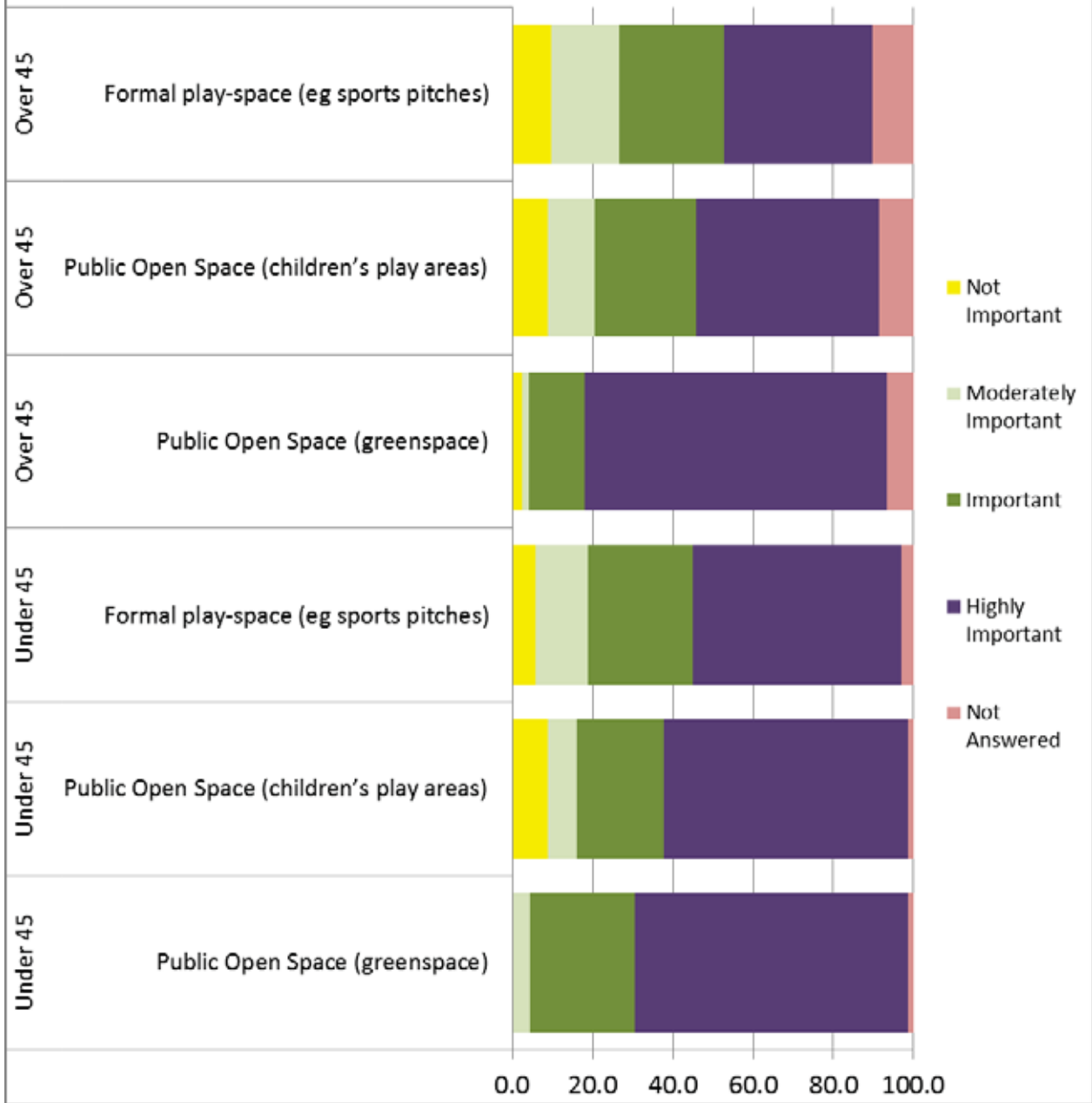


Figure 5: Importance of Public Open Space (greenspace)



75.1% of respondents aged over 45 and 68.1% aged under 45 regarded public open space (greenspace) as highly important and no-one in the under 45 aged group returned that it was not important.



As well as looking at the value attached to existing facilities and amenities the survey asked about the priorities for the future and what facilities and amenities local residents would like to see provided, improved or increased.

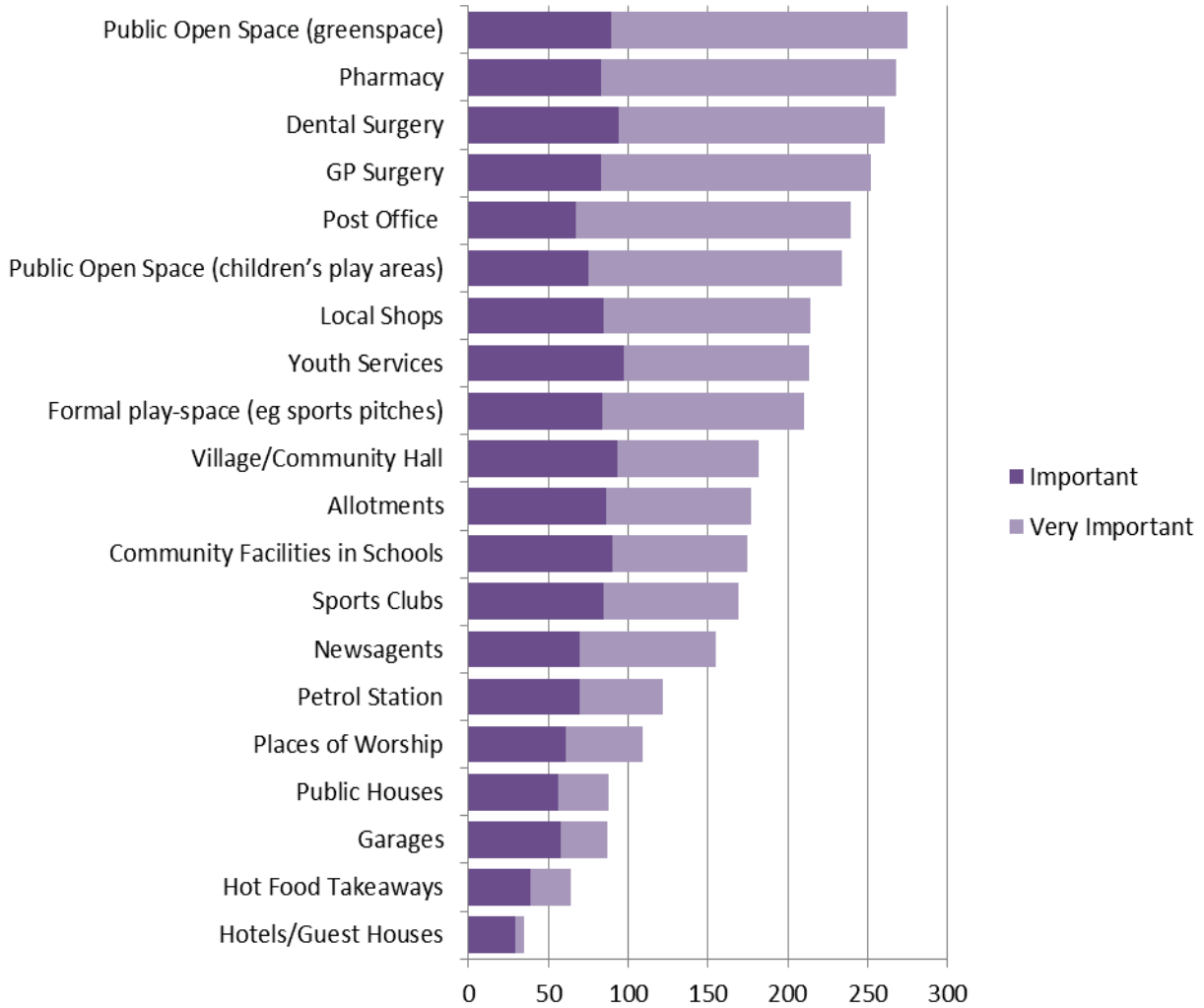
This again was a 'closed' list to allow for meaningful analysis and comparison. Figure 6 shows the results.

Public open space (greenspace) appears as the highest priority with medical services, pharmacy, dental and GP surgeries running closely after.

The priority attached to youth services is significant and particularly interesting again considering the demographic of the survey respondents in the higher age groups. Clearly there is an appreciation that new or improved youth services could benefit the community as a whole.



Figure 6: Priority for improvement, provision, or increased provision of Facilities and Amenities



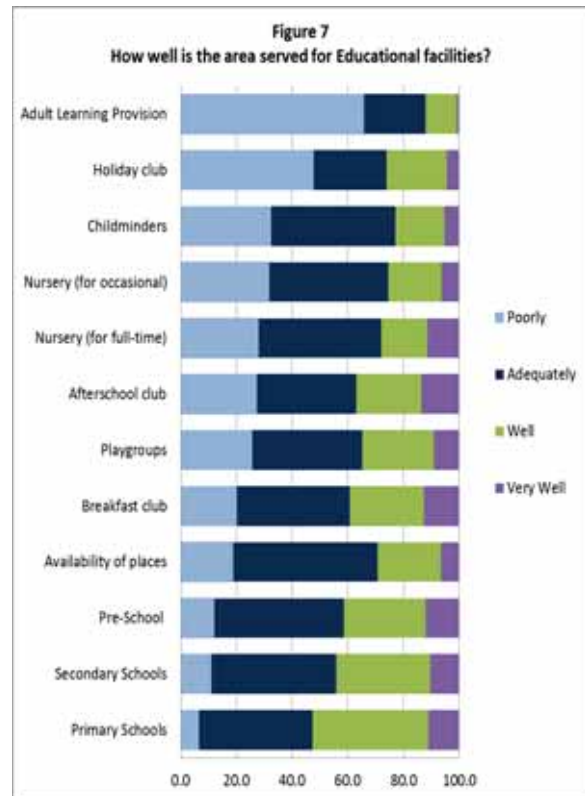
Facilities for Education

The survey sought views on various educational facilities and services. The response in terms of expression of the adequacy of the facilities is shown below in figure 7. These are percentages of respondents who provided an answer. The response rate to the question varied from a low of only 19.4% who expressed a view on childminders to the highest of 42.7% in relation to views on secondary schools.

The high rate of non-response fits with the older age profile of the survey respondents generally and the option given to express 'don't know'.



Adult learning provision that attracted a response rate of 32.2% performed worst with 65.9% of those who expressed a view indicating facilities being poor. Primary school provision was generally well thought of in terms of facilities with only 6.6% responding that facilities were poor, 11% and 41.8% responding that Winshill is very well served and well served respectively.



Housing and Housing Land Issues

To avoid over-complication and length the questionnaire sought response to five simple questions about housing issues in the Parish. Figure 8 shows the results of a very general question about the amount of housing in Winshill. Clearly this question was open to interpretation although it is assumed that most people thought of it in a demand or environmental dimension. Some qualitative points were made alongside the 'boxes' in a few cases expressing such factors as 'depends on need' or 'depends on demand'.



7.1% of respondents opted out and left this answer blank.



The majority held view of 56.8% responded that the amount of housing was adequate. The survey does not distinguish whether this is a response that reflected peoples view of their own housing circumstances in the Parish or was a more general reflection of a positive response to the range of housing types and tenures available.



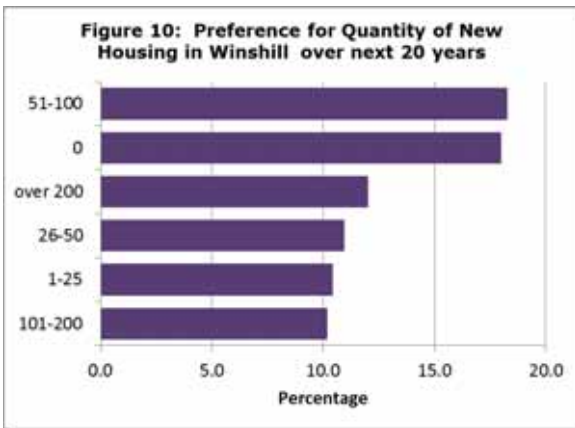
30.5% responded that some more housing or alot more housing was required.

Figure 9 provides the responses to the question about availability of housing in Winshill. This yielded very similar results to the question of the amount of housing with just slightly more respondents expressing a need for alot more availability of housing.

In respect to these issues the amount of housing could only be resolved through new build or conversion and sub-division, whereas availability is more dependant on an active market and turnover in rented stock.



Figure 10 shows the responses to the question of the preferred quantity of new dwellings in the Parish over the next 20 years.



The results are vary with almost equal amounts favouring no new housing building and a quantity between 51-100 dwellings. 12% of respondents expressed a preference for over 200 new dwellings to be built in the Parish in the next years.



In some respects this issue is constrained by the need to be in general conformity with the provisions of the emerging Local Plan in East Staffordshire. However, it does not appear that the Local Plan will necessarily provide a firm prescription and provided Winhill housing proposals fit with the general strategy this is a matter that appears the Neighbourhood Plan process should be able to resolve.



The question about broad types of housing developments provided more consensual responses. Figure 11 shows that four times as many people favoured the release of individual plots for housing development than the provision of one large residential estate.

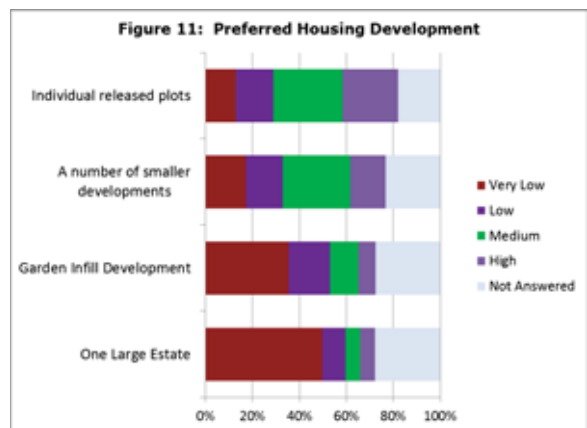
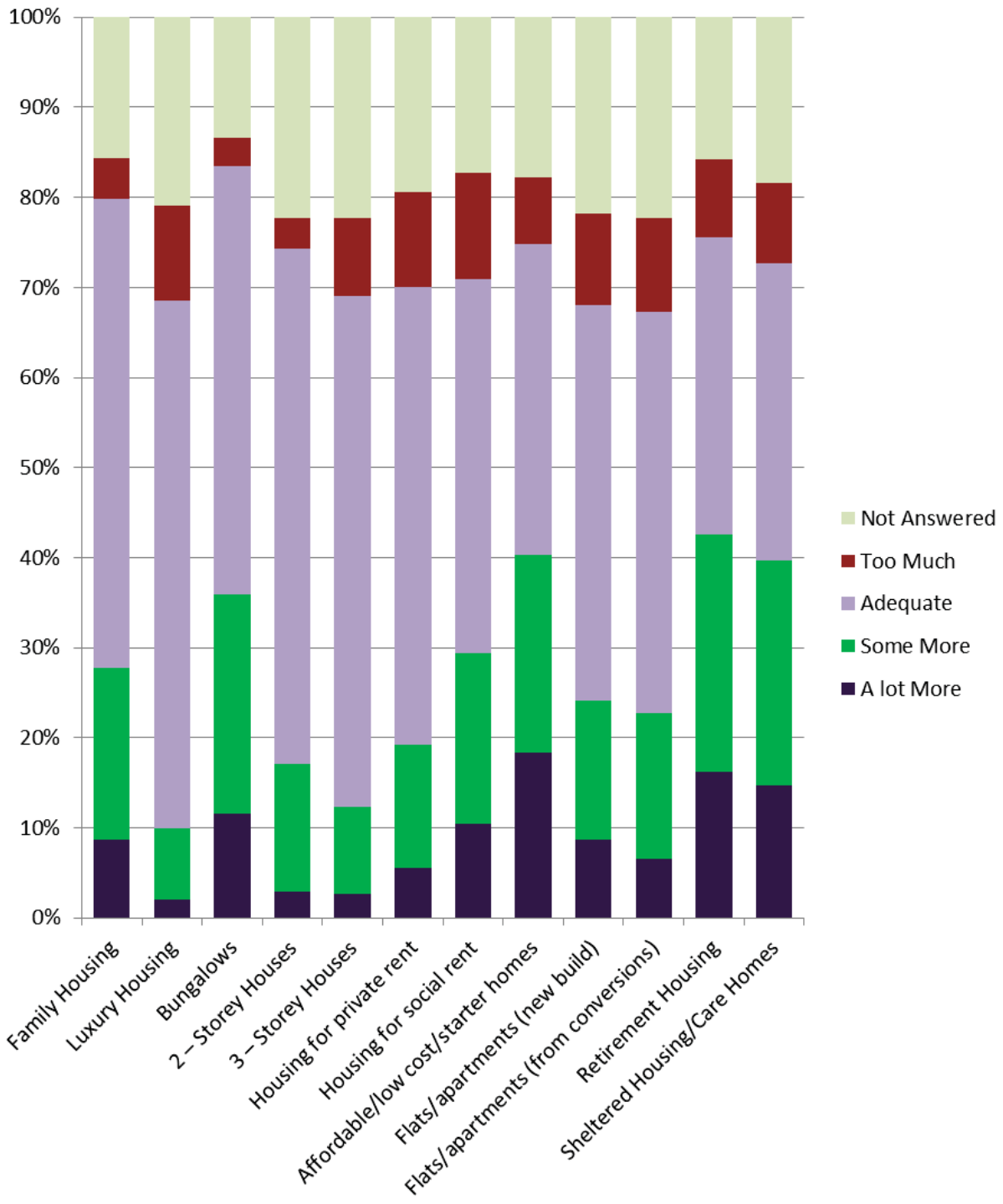


Figure 12: Preferences for Future Housing



The question on housing composition did not seek to look at mutually exclusive categories instead attempting to harvest as much useful data on dwelling preferences as possible. The vast majority of respondents did seem to understand

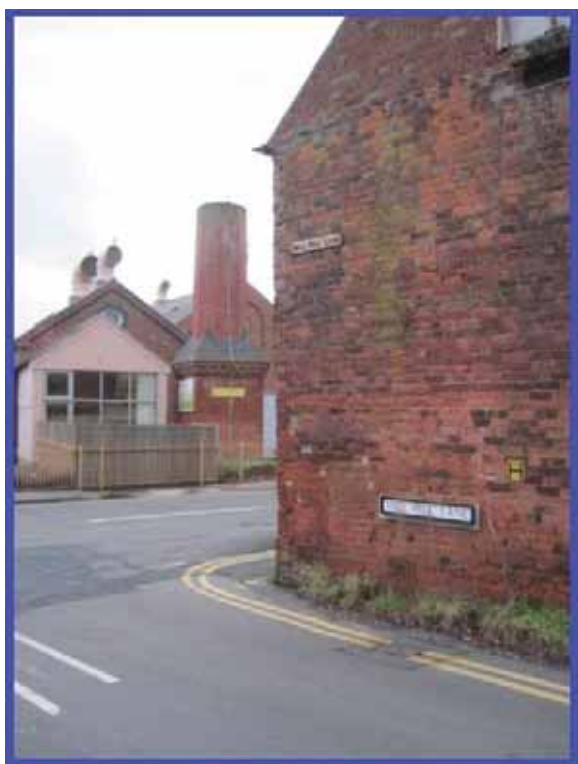
this and there was a good rate of response to every part of the question.

In terms of the provision that should be made for general dwelling need there was a clear preference towards

family housing over provision of 'luxury' housing (see figure 12).

Affordable/low cost/starter housing was preferred to more housing for private or social renting by a considerable margin.

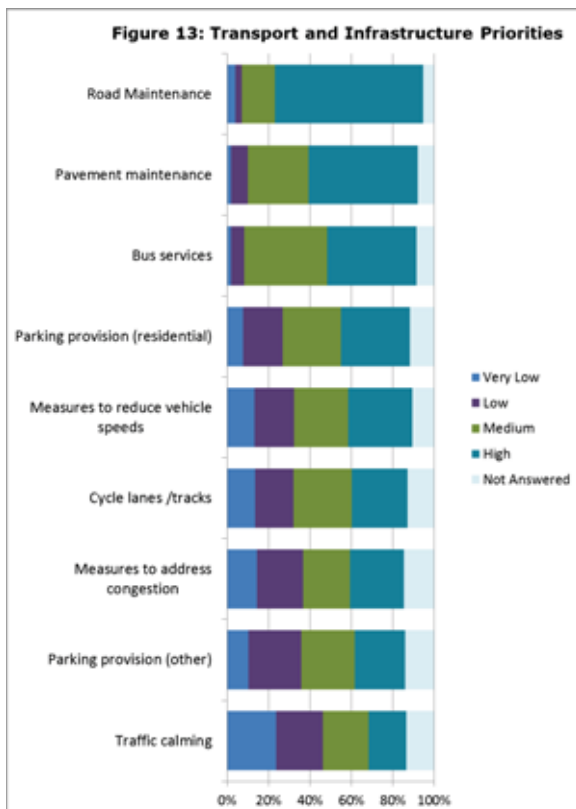
Provision of more bungalows was considered preferential to development of more 2 and 3 storey houses.



Transport Issues

Figure 13 shows the responses to the question on transport priorities ordered by the percentage rating them as of high priority from most to least.

It is interesting to note that while road maintenance is the highest priority with 88% of respondents expressing it to be of high or medium priority, traffic calming the lowest priority, still records over 40% of respondents responding that it is a high or medium priority.



The priorities for transport investment identified through the survey are generally in line with those of other national and local surveys. In particular, road maintenance typically features as the highest priority in any

survey of transport issues, and the provision of bus services also score highly in such surveys.



In the survey, each of these areas is rated as a high or medium priority for investment by more than 80% of respondents. *(The survey did not ask respondents to rate their current levels of satisfaction with transport facilities, and it is not therefore possible to infer that these priorities result from views of current inadequacy).*



The relatively low importance (fewer than 50% of respondents rating this as a medium or high priority) given to investment in measures to address congestion is in line with other studies which have found congestion to be a very localised issue in Burton and elsewhere in Staffordshire.

Road maintenance is not an issue which can be addressed through the Neighbourhood Plan, and residents should be directed to raise any particular issues with the County Councillor for the area, or identify them to the County Council through other reporting mechanisms such as those available on the Staffordshire County Council website.



The survey respondents are skewed towards the upper age brackets and as such some issues likely to be more relevant to younger age groups may be under reported in the headline figures.



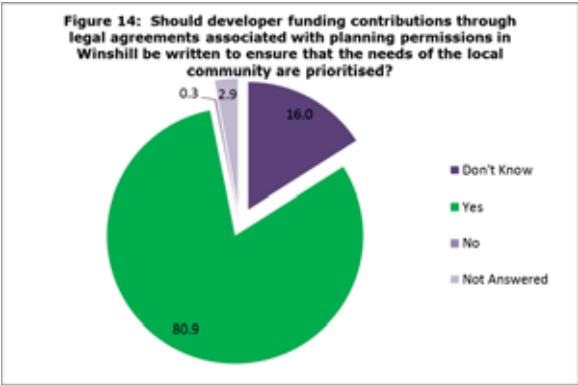
Winhill appears currently to be well served by buses when compared to other residential areas of Burton in particular, and Staffordshire in general. It is not immediately obvious from the survey that there are any issues which could be addressed through the inclusion of policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, and a stronger influence would in any case probably result from engaging with the development and implementation with the County Council's District Transport Strategy for East Staffordshire, which does not currently include any plans for investment in bus services or other transport infrastructure in Winhill.

A reference in the Neighbourhood Plan to the importance of bus services for the area would help to influence any future revision of the strategy.

An analysis of issues by age groups shows that in the majority of cases the results are common across all age groups; the exceptions relate to investment in residential parking and cycle lanes, both of which are rated significantly more important by those aged between 25 and 64 than by those aged 65 and over.

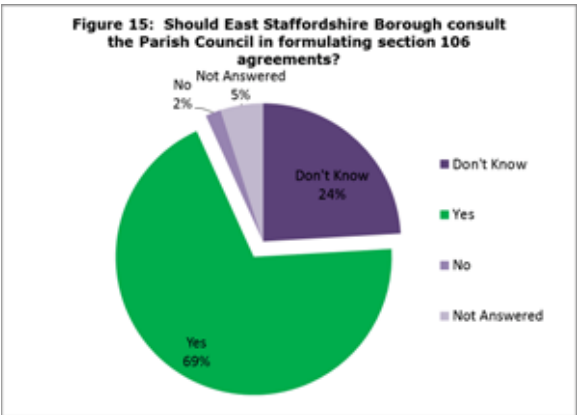
Cycle lanes are considered to be medium or high priorities by 62% of respondents aged under 65, compared to 47% of those aged 65 and above; Residential parking is considered to be a medium or high priority by 65% of those under the age of 65, compared to 55% of those aged over 65.

Whilst the response rate from the two lower age groups (25 -44, and 45 -64) is insufficient for the results to be considered statistically reliable, the results suggest that both issues merit further consideration, and there is likely to be local support for the inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan of specific policies relating to them.

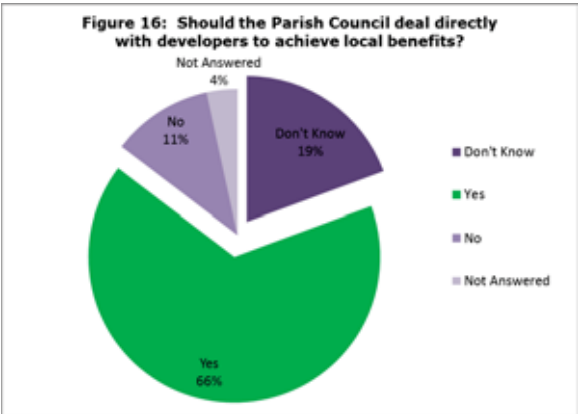


The question of whether the Parish should be involved directly in legal agreements with developers to achieve benefits for the community from new development was slightly more divisive, 66%, agreeing they should but 11.3% recording that they should not (figure 16).

Section 106 Agreements and Community Benefits for the Parish



An overwhelming majority of the survey respondents, 80.3%, agreed that future legal agreements related to developments in Winshill Parish should be prioritised towards the local area and 69.1% thought that the Borough Council should in the future consult the Parish when drafting legal agreements (see figures 14 and 15).



Further Work and Evidence

In the light of other public consultations in Winshill and by comparison to other areas engaged in formulating Neighbourhood Plans our view is that this survey and information gathering exercise has been very successful.



While only just over 11% of households responded those who did respond on the whole gave very comprehensive information to work from. It is very difficult to envisage with in the confines of reasonable time and budget how this could have been improved upon.



It appears to provide an excellent platform with other analysis and evidence to produce a draft Plan for consultation.



In some areas, particularly in relation to the issue of transport priorities, the survey responses suggests a need for further investigation, evidence appraisal and analysis. The provision of public open space and access to the countryside and the impact of new development and the role of the Neighbourhood Plan also appears another important area that more investigation may be beneficial.



At the time of doing the survey we were very conscious in speaking to residents on the doorstep in that planning and locality issues came across as very important to many people in Winshill. Lots of people proudly told us how long they had lived in Winshill and how concerned they were that the best elements of living there were protected in the future.

Most who had an interest generally in the survey appeared to be very supportive of a Neighbourhood Plan although they were often unsure of how the process will work and how it will influence the shape of the Parish in the future.