

# UPPER MARSHWOOD VALE GROUP PARISH

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Just prior to Christmas 2016 each household within the Upper Marshwood Vale Group Parish (Marshwood, Stoke Abbott, Bettiscombe and Pilsdon) was provided with a questionnaire and invited to complete and return them by the end of January 2017. Background information on the NP process was also provided on the [www.uppermarshwoodvale.org](http://www.uppermarshwoodvale.org) web-site.

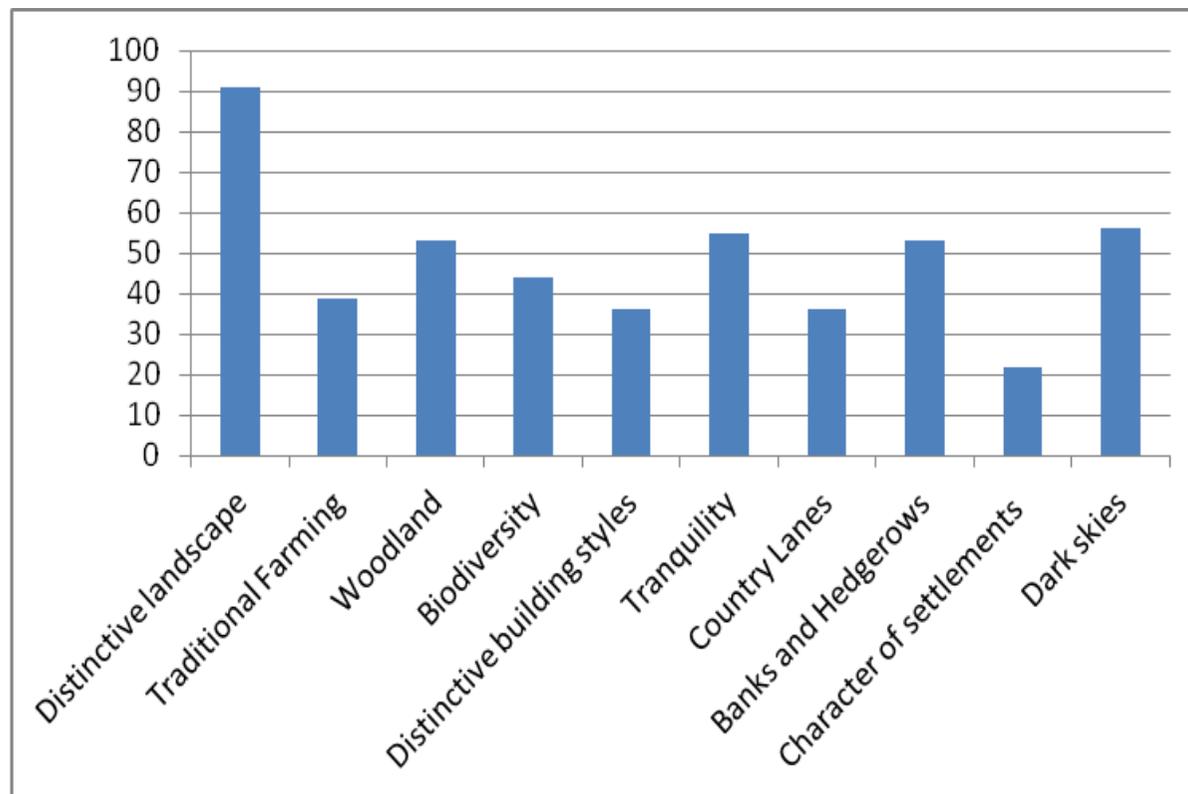
300 questionnaires were distributed, plus a further 100 to additional addresses within the parish boundary but with no corresponding names on the electoral register (some of these may be second homes or holiday lets) and a few others just beyond the parish boundary but adjacent to our main communities. By mid February we had received 101 replies, a response rate of 34% of the 300 on the electoral register (or 25% of the 400 total), a rather low return.

This report contains all of the questionnaire results including comments some of which have been coded so that they can be presented in graphical form. The results are presented together with a commentary to assist in looking at the results.

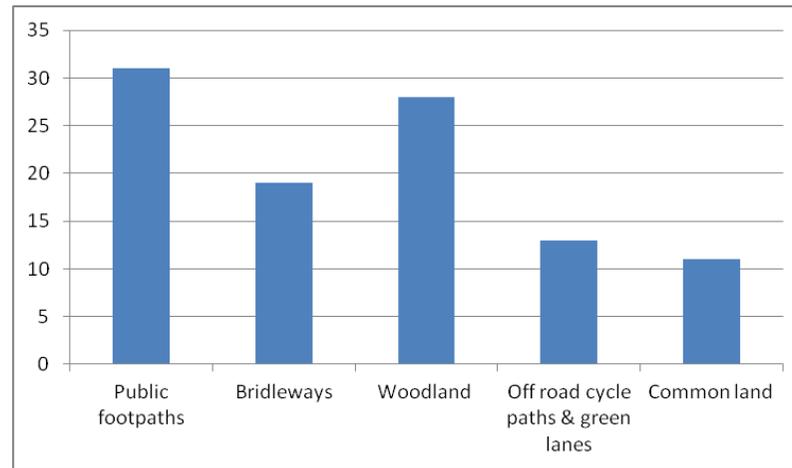
The response rate to each question was generally high (85% or higher) with a few low responses which are indicated in the text.

## THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

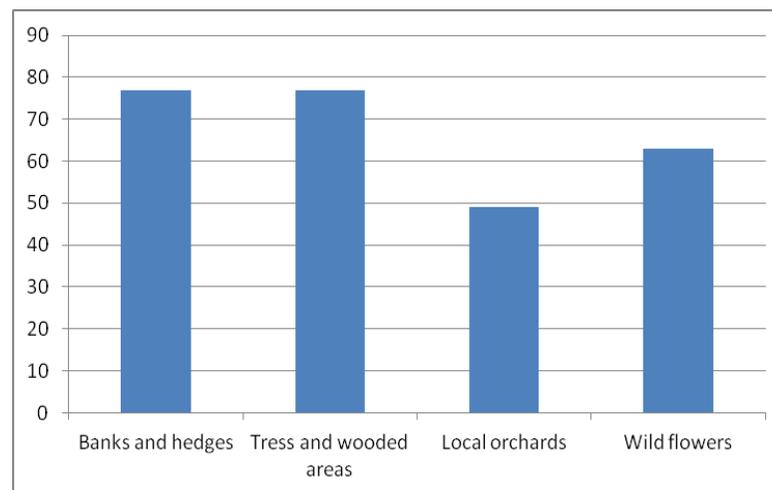
**Q1: Important qualities of the community.** People were asked to choose the five most important qualities (of 10) that make the area a special place. The spread of answers is shown below with numbers responding indicated on the left-hand scale. Two comments were provided, these listed separately in an annex.



**Q2: factors important to access and enjoyment of the countryside.** Public footpaths and woodland were judged the most important and 4 comments were provided

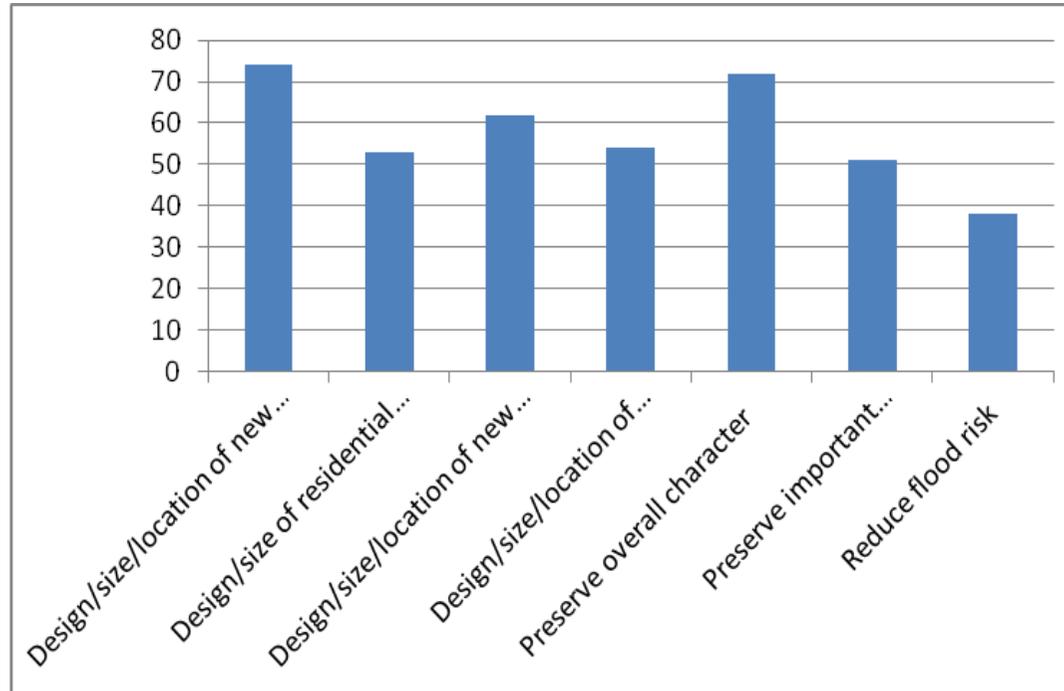


**Q3: specific protection policies.** Banks/hedges and trees/wooded areas received the most support for protection.



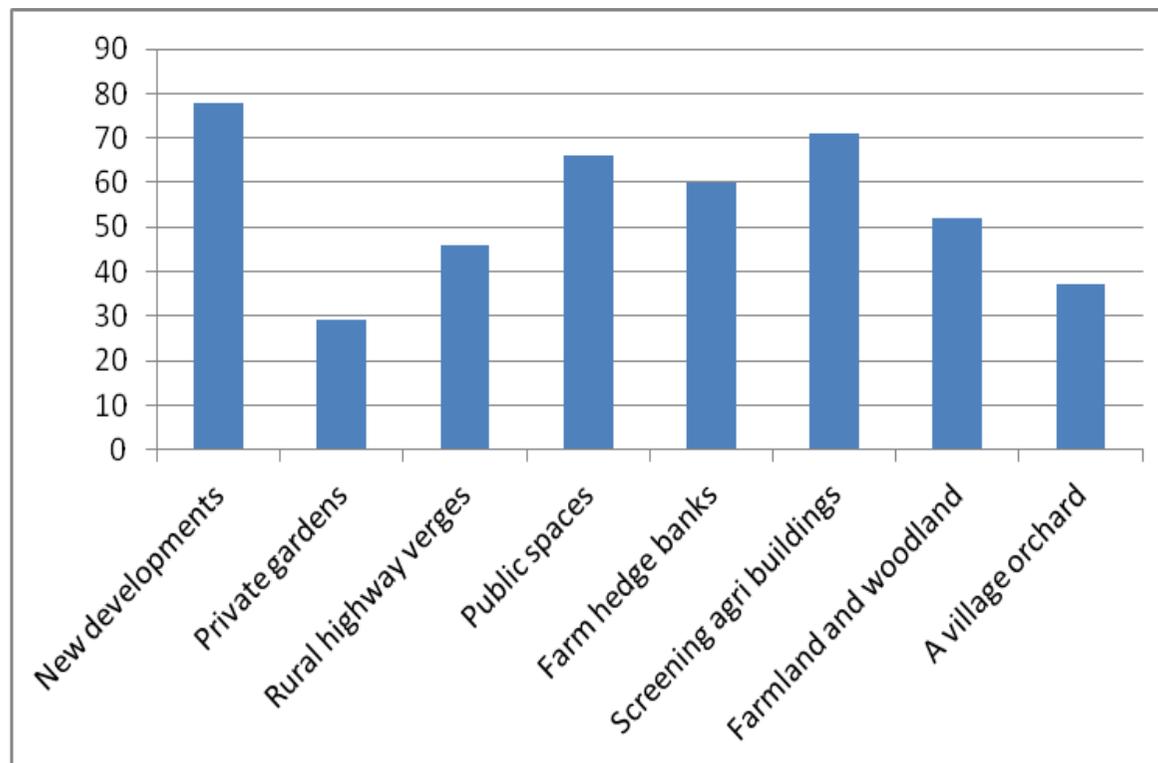
## BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

**Q4: NP priorities.** People were asked to choose their top 5 priorities (of 7) for the character of our built environment; design of new buildings and the preservation of overall character had the highest score.



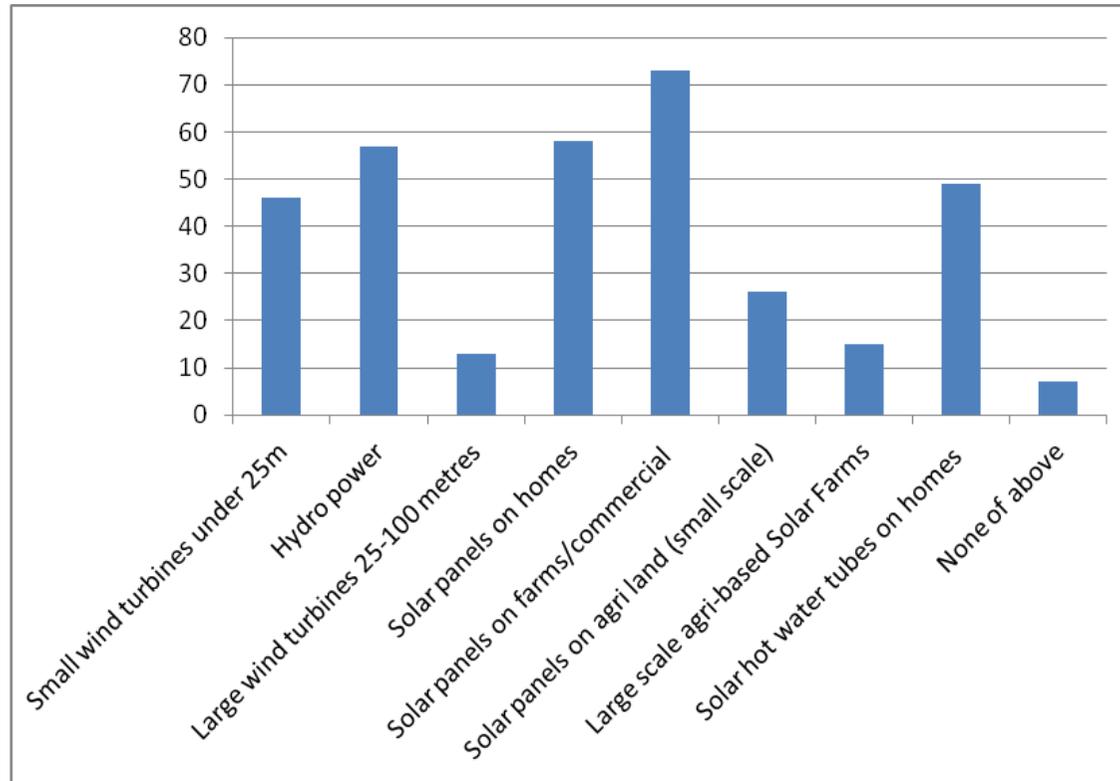
**Q5: Adequacy of flood defences.** The response rate was a bit low (75%) with 61% of respondents believing flood defences adequate and the remainder not; 14 comments were provided. There were 28 comments provided, almost all recommending to repair and maintain ditches and drains.

**Q6: Tree planting and locations.** Three choices were given for types of tree of which 'native species' scored the highest (54%) followed by 'fruit & nut' (36%) with 'non-native' having the least support. Preferred locations for trees was as follows and there were 3 comments provided.



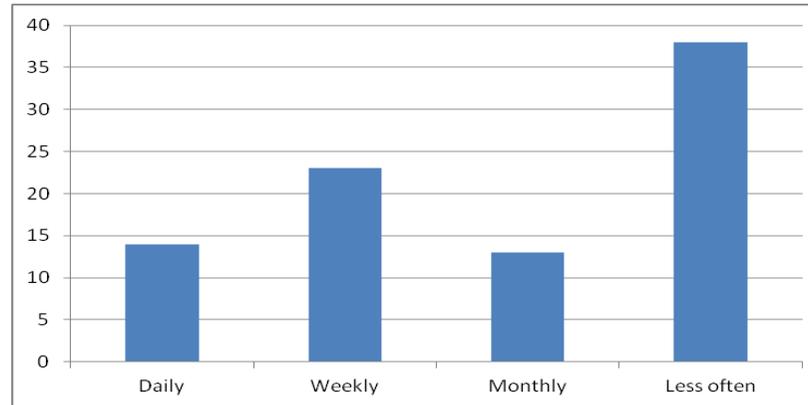
## ENERGY AND LOW CARBON

**Q7. Energy and low carbon alternatives.** The most support was for small scale renewable energy alternatives with very little support for large-scale types. 8 comments were provided suggesting to include ground & air source heat pumps as well as biogas.

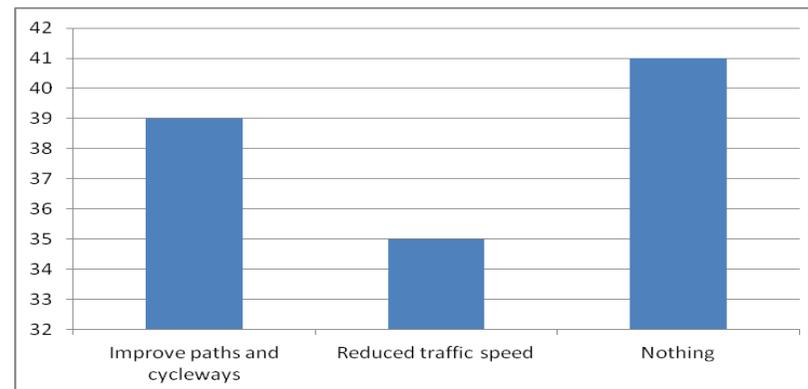


## TRANSPORT AND ACCESS TO LOCAL FACILITIES

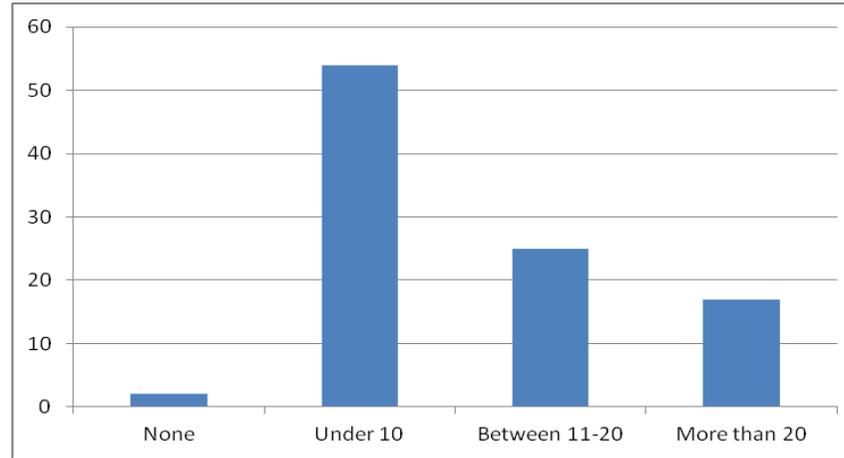
**Q8: Do you walk/cycle to local facilities:** few do daily. One comment (impossible to walk).



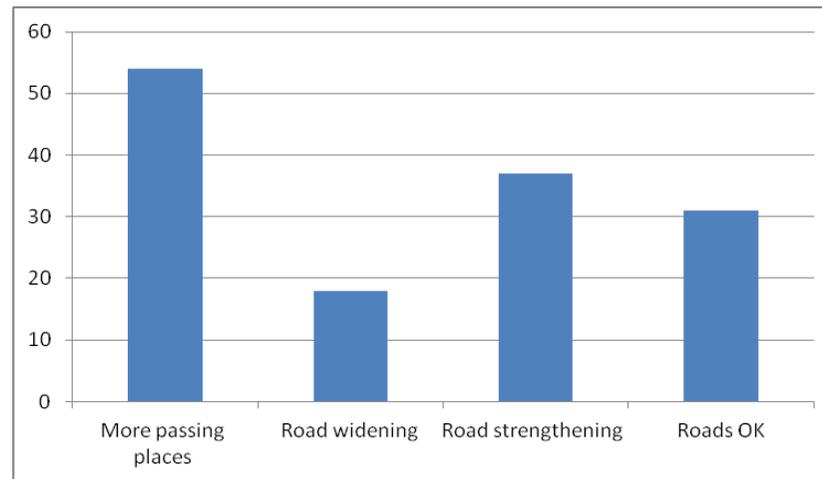
**Q9: Would anything encourage you to walk/cycle more:** 3 comments, 2 about speeding.



**Q10: Car journeys per week:** almost everyone drives, the majority about once per day.

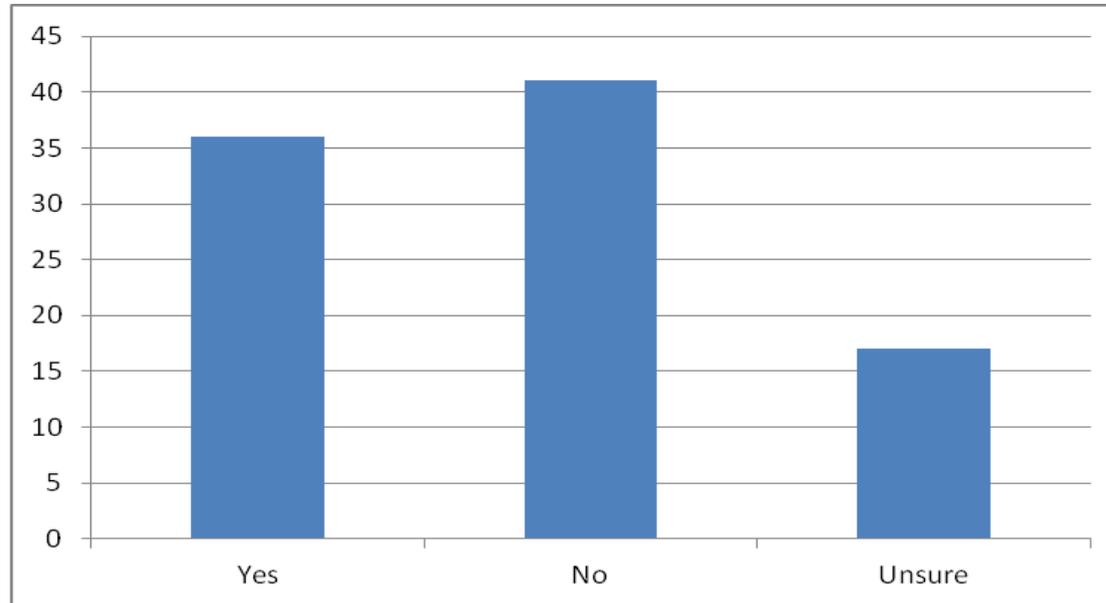


**Q11: Support for road improvements.** 7 comments were provided.



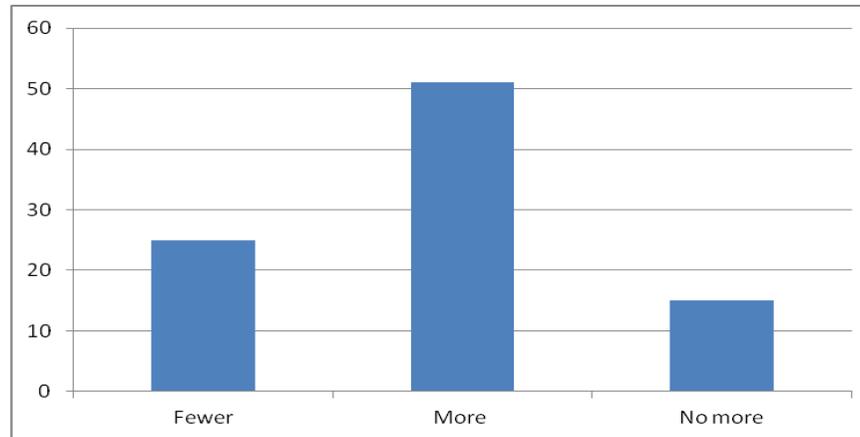
**Q12: Additional parish facilities.** Two suggestions were provided (car sharing and electric car charging points) but there was a low (23%) response rate and neither gained much support (16 and 14 respectively). 4 comments were provided.

**Q13: Reducing signage** was posed as an option. There was a higher (76%) response rate but no very clear preference: 6 comments were provided.

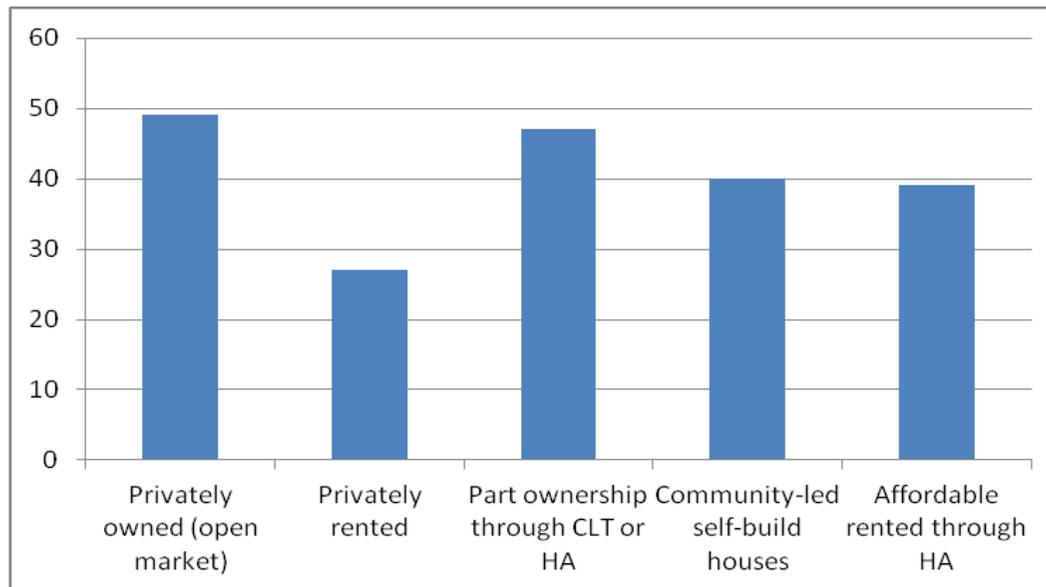


## POPULATION AND HOUSING

**Q14: How many homes in the next 15 years**, fewer or more than the 8 created within the last two years. There was a high response rate to this question as shown below. The question also asked “how many” to which a wide range of answers were provided (from 5 to 100 ! - see annex and Q16 below) on a 40% response rate.

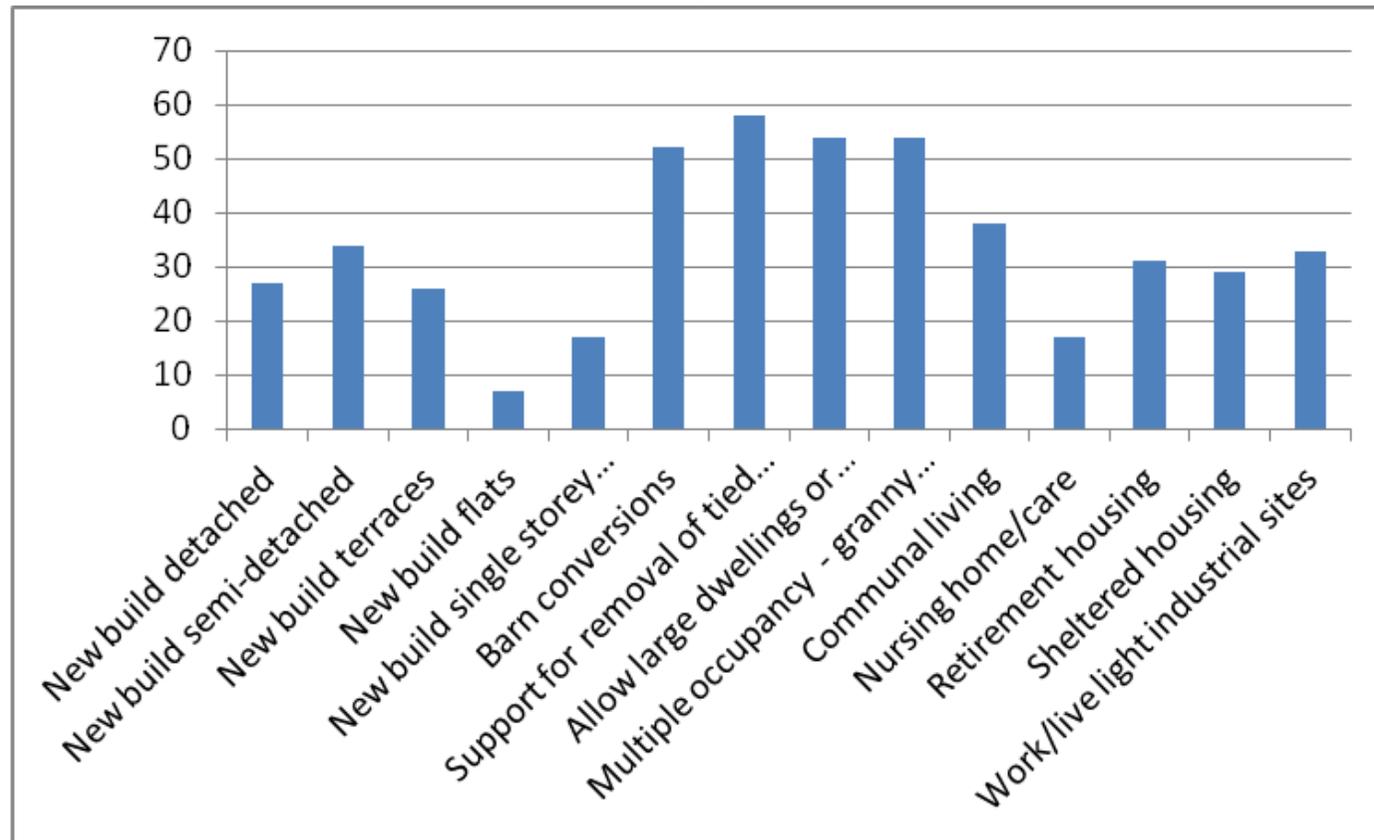


**Q15: Which tenures should be encouraged.**

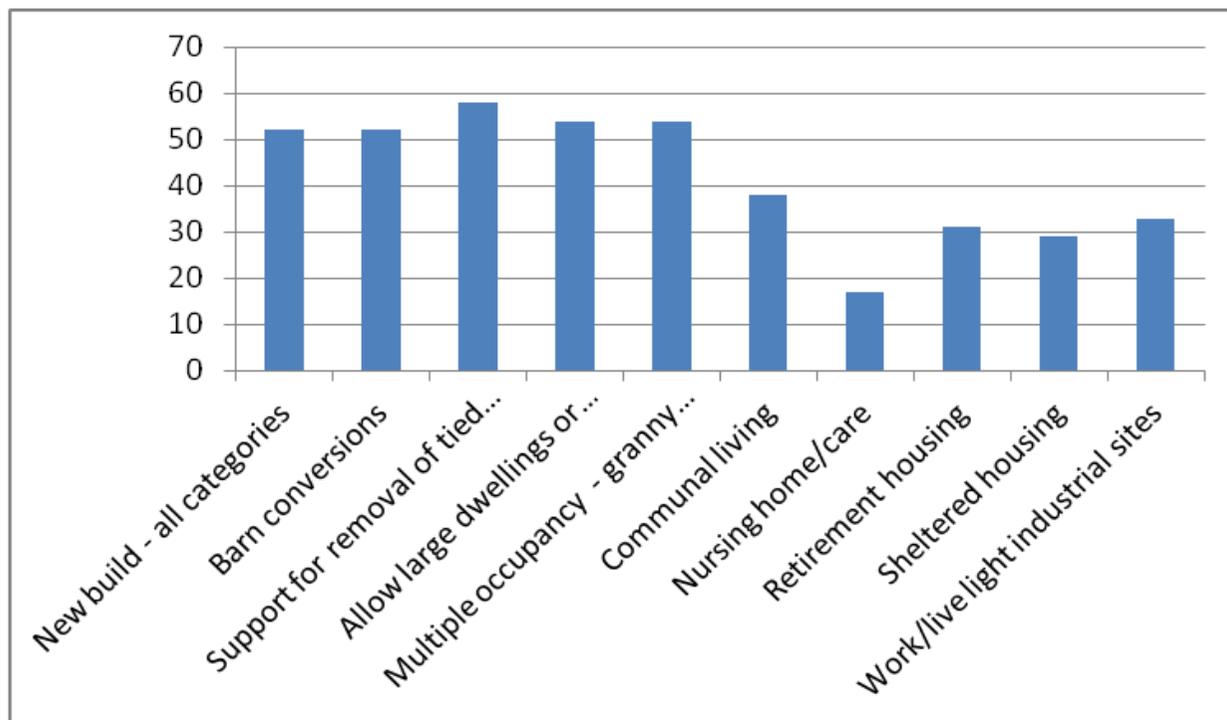


**Q16: What type of building should be encouraged.** Although there was support for new-build housing this was on a response rate of about 50% (compared to an overall rate of near 100%). The large range of possible answers to each of the four new-build options (1, 2, 3, 4-bed) may have caused confusion and led to this lower level of response. Although the level of response to each of the four new-build categories was low (7-34%) support was highest for semi-detached houses and lowest for flats with most support for 2 or 3-bed solutions over 1 or 4-bed.

The majority of responses appeared to favour development of existing buildings (barn conversions, removal of tied status, etc.).



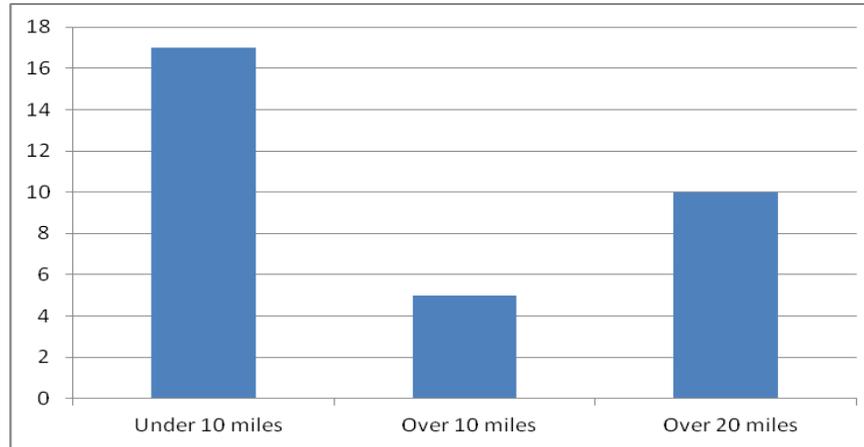
If we group the four 'new-build' categories into one, this puts 'new-build' on about the same level as changes to existing buildings.



At the end of Q16 landowners were invited to put forward land for development; there were three responses. One offered several redundant traditional & modern buildings and flats in Pilsdon/Bettiscombe and suggested 50-80 houses over the next 15 years. The other offered farm land in Bettiscombe, as a “perfect area to increase population of hamlet” suggesting 50 new homes over the next 15 years. The third proposed development of land previously used for chicken sheds at the rear of a farm in Marshwood.

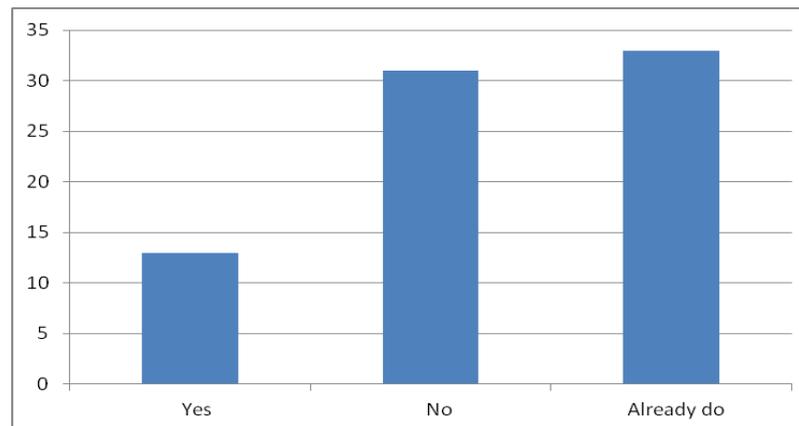
## ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

**Q17: If you are employed, how long and how far to work.** The response rate was low (38%), perhaps reflecting the number of people in work (see Q32), with about two-thirds spending less than 45 mins and a third more than 45 mins. Distances travelled to work were as follows.

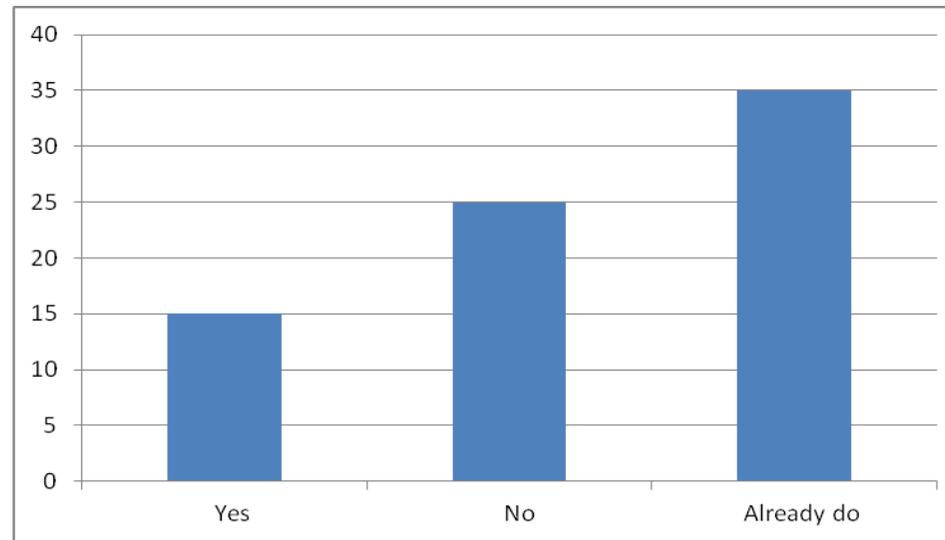


Q18, 19 and 20 also had lower (75%) response rates.

**Q18: asked if starting if starting a business from home had been considered**



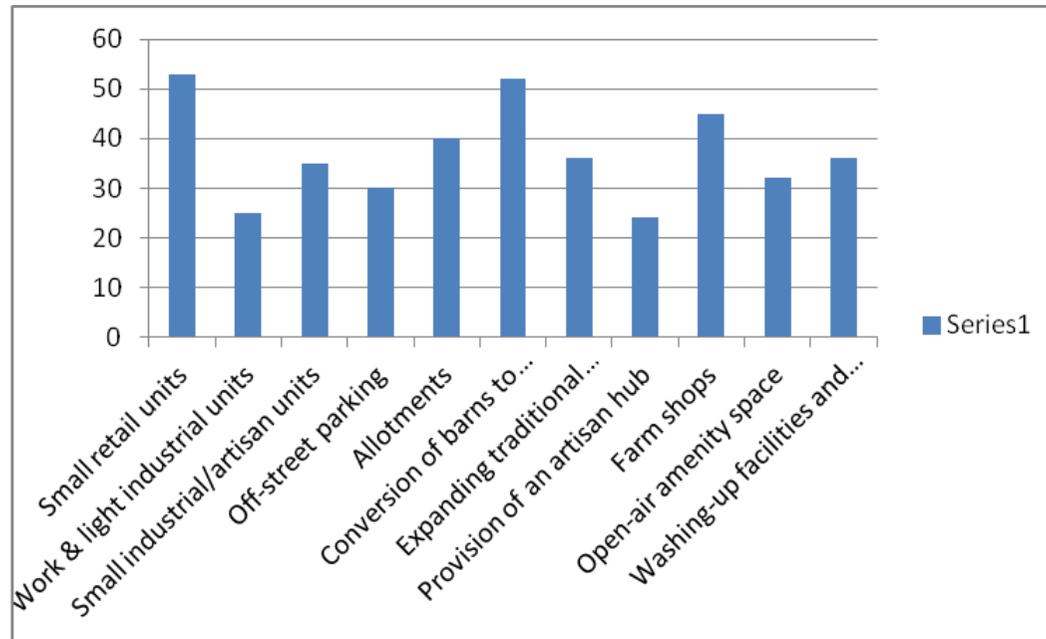
### Q19: asked if working from home had been considered



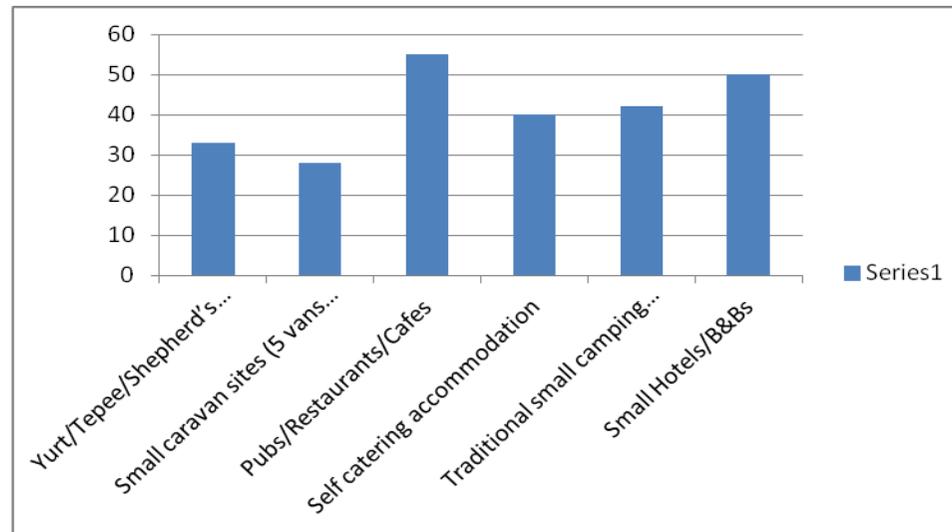
The number of 'yes' and 'already do' indicates the significant number of people involved, especially in Stoke Abbott.

**Q20 Asked if a 'hot desk' facility was of interest,** the answer seemed to be firmly not with only 6 out of 70 responses indicating interest.

**Q21: Support for local employment and community-use opportunities. 6 comments.**



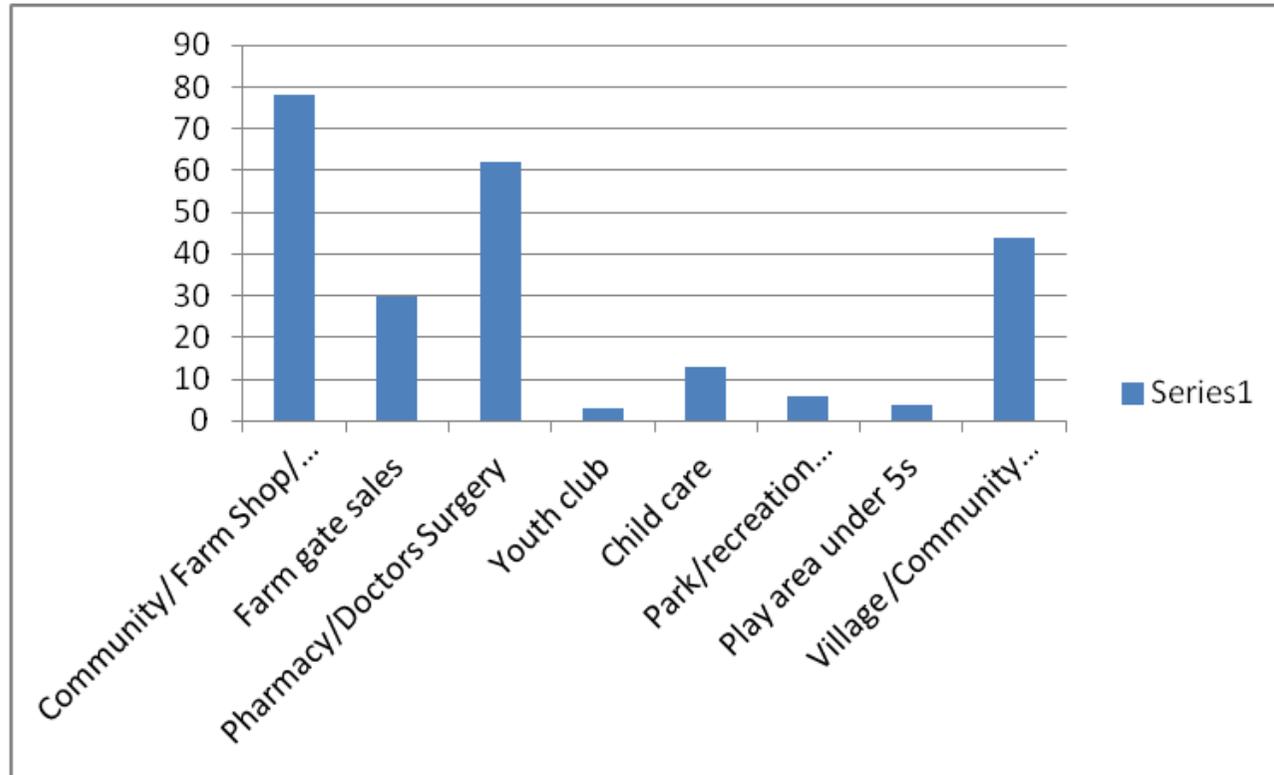
**Q22: support for forms of tourism. 4 comments**



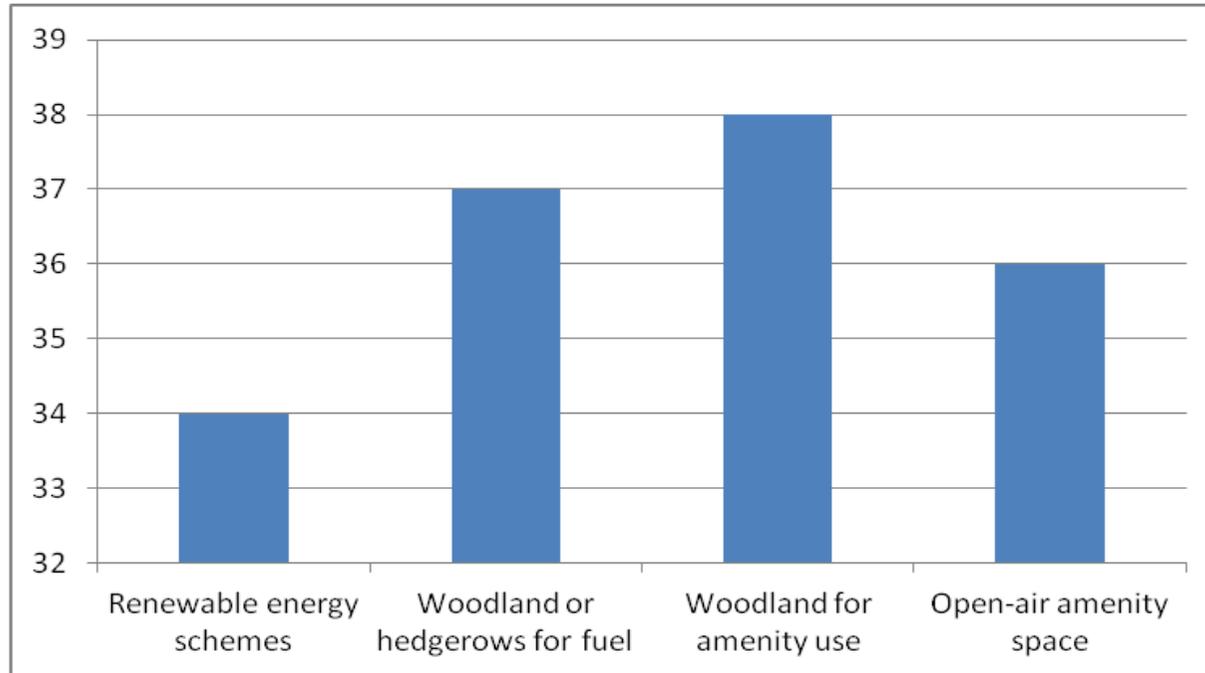
Q23 and 24 asked the benefits and challenges of living in a farming community. These are listed in an annex.

### SOCIETY, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Q25: was a survey on the use of local services. The figure shows the number responding in each category with visits to the shop averaging about 7 per month. Of those responding to the question about pharmacy/doctor visits, 60% travelled to Beaminster, 16% to Bripdort and 5% each to Axminster and Lyme

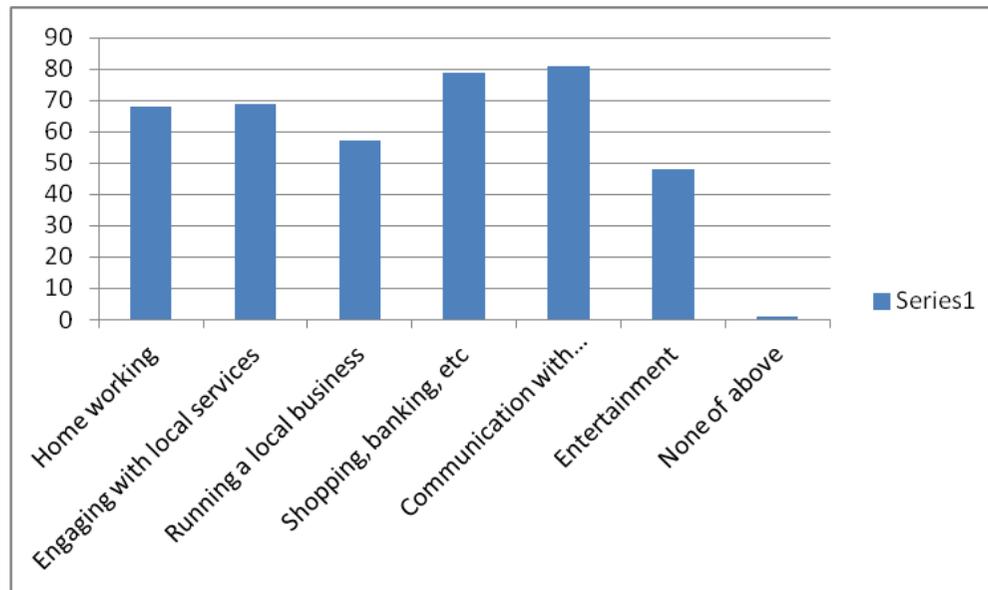
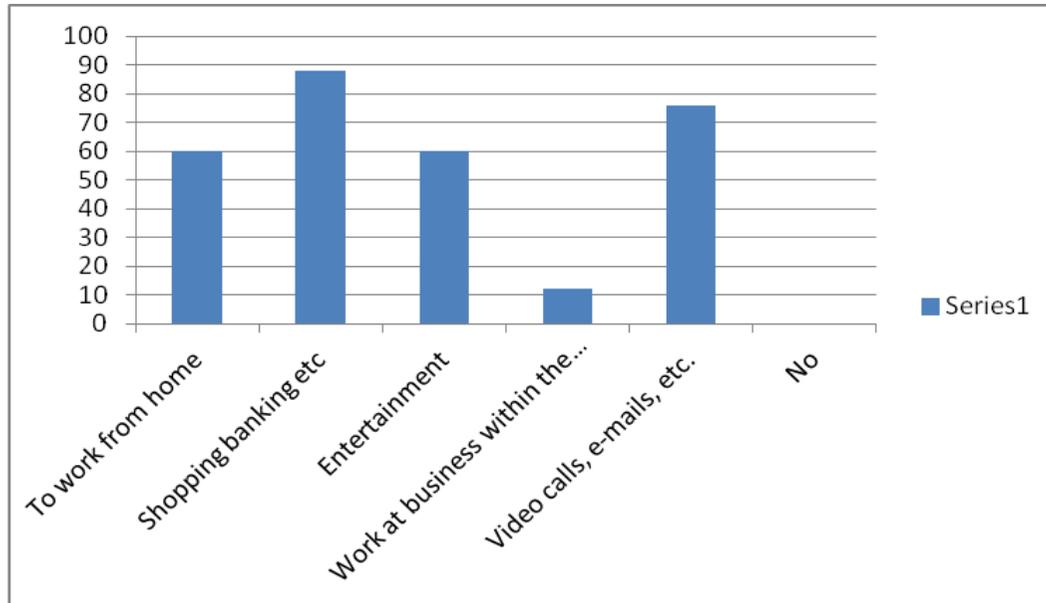


**Q26: Would you welcome community ownership of:** there were 7 suggestions for other community owned assets

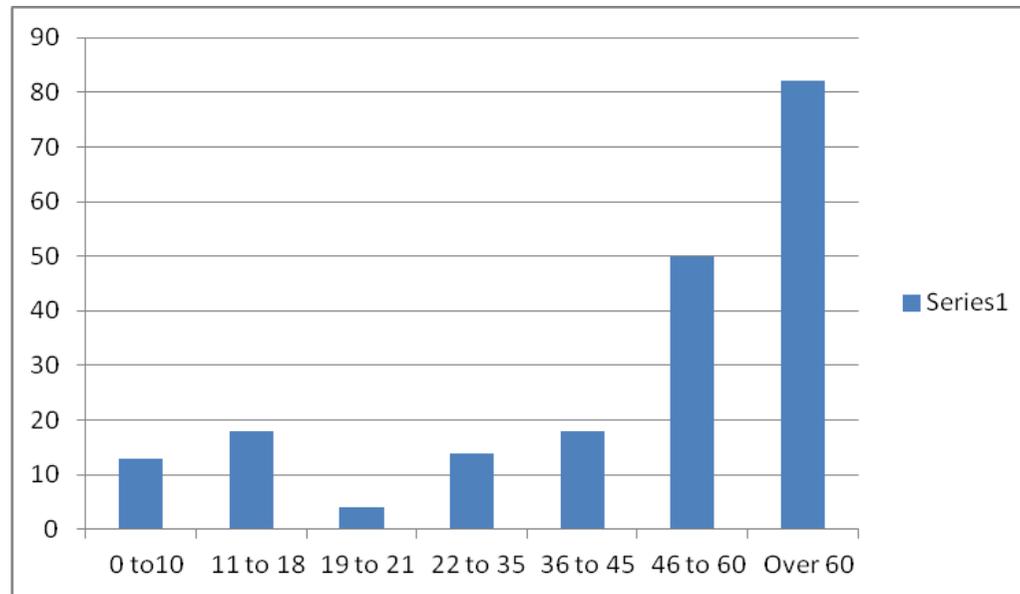


**Q27: Asked if people wanted a better mobile signal for phone and data calls and Q28 asked whether they would be prepared to have a mast near them.** The response showed a high demand for a better mobile signal and a split between those willing to consider a mast with 73% of the responses 'yes' (37%) and 'maybe' (35%) and 27% 'no' with two comments suggesting to use church towers for mobile masts.

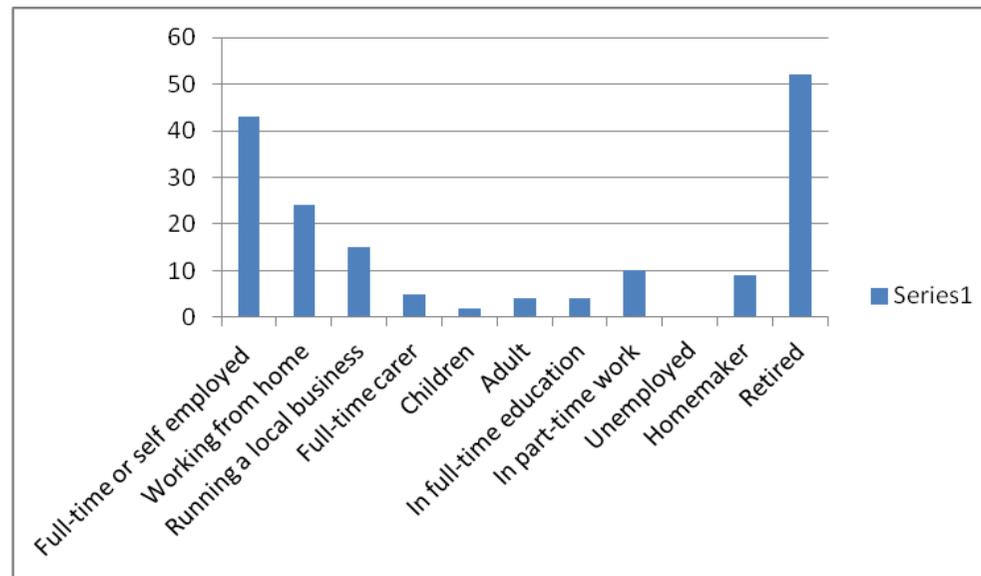
**Q29 & 30: Asked about internet use and perceived usefulness.** There were 8 comments provided.



**Q31: Asked people's age range.** These figures confirm what we learnt from the Parish Plan survey of 2014.



**Q32: asked people's occupation.**



**Q33: Asked how long resident in Parish**

