

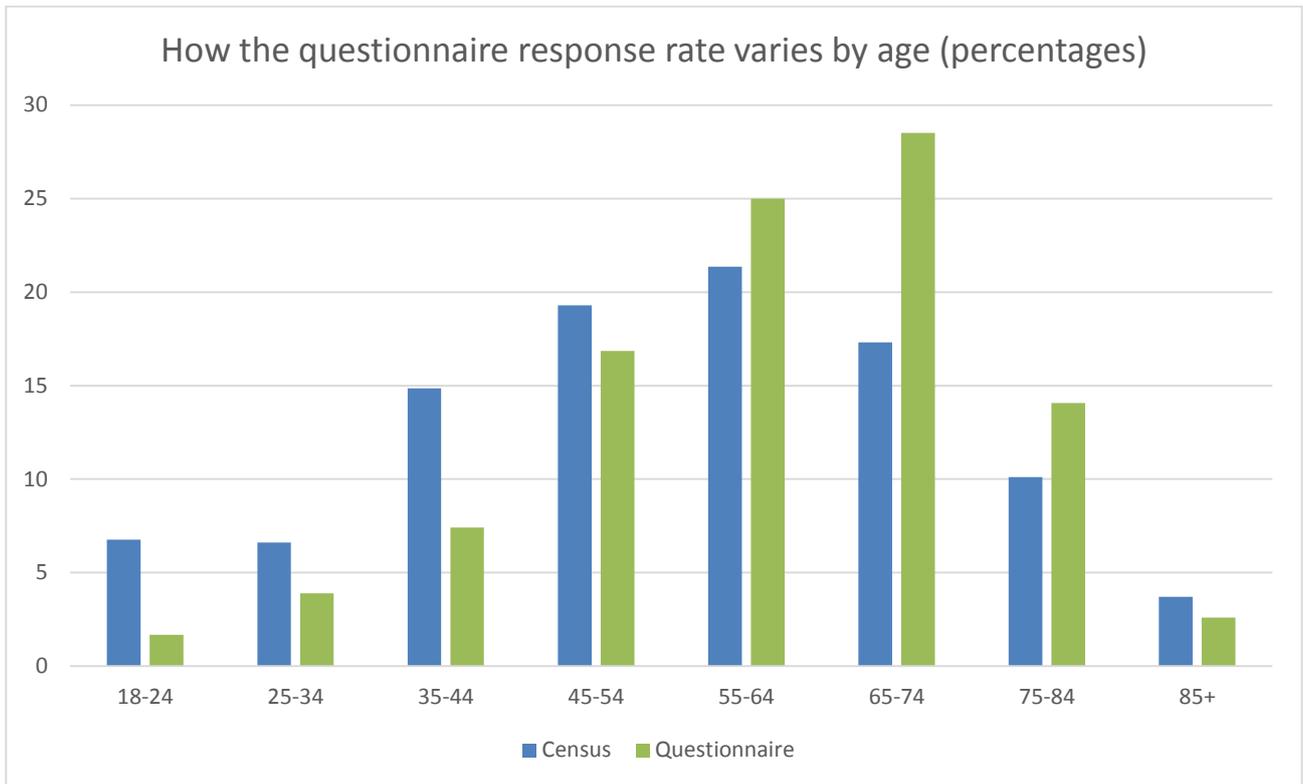
**Chapel & Hill Chorlton,  
Maer & Aston and Whitmore**



**your  
neighbourhood  
plan**

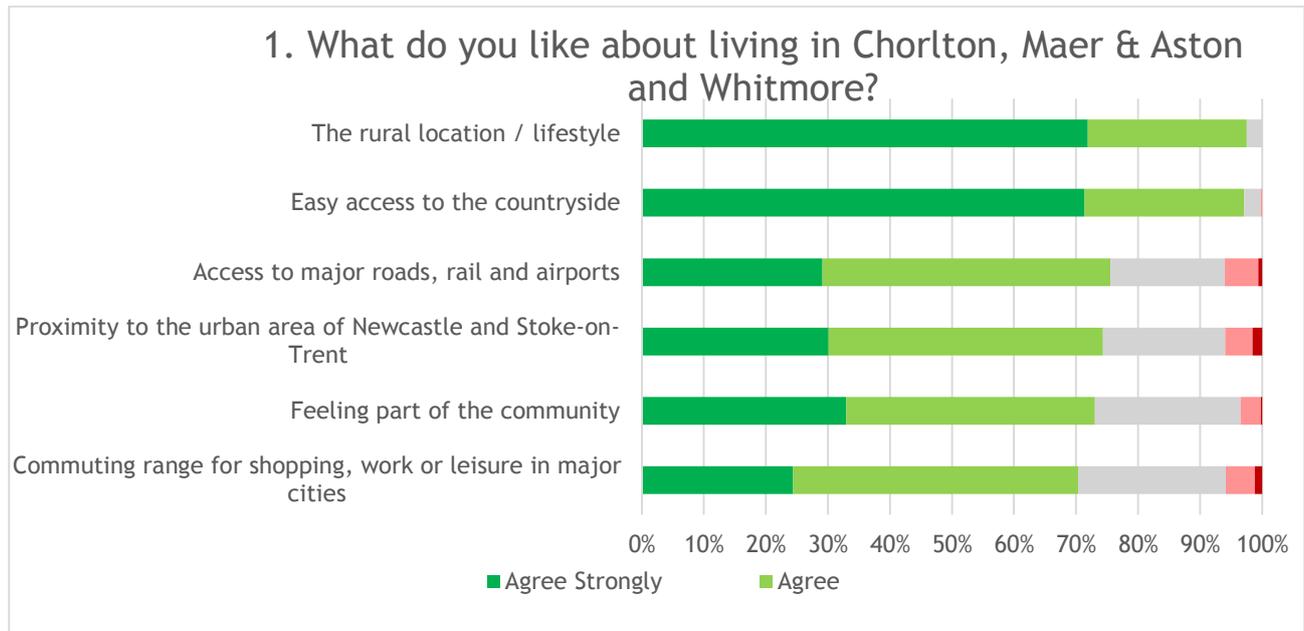
**Charts from the  
Questionnaire**

## Who responded to the questionnaire?



This chart shows the percentages of different age groups that responded to the questionnaire (in green) and compares them to the composition of the Neighbourhood Area population at Census 2011. There was a greater level of engagement with the questionnaire among the 55 and over age groups than among the younger parts of the population.

## Why we live in Chorlton, Maer & Aston or Whitmore



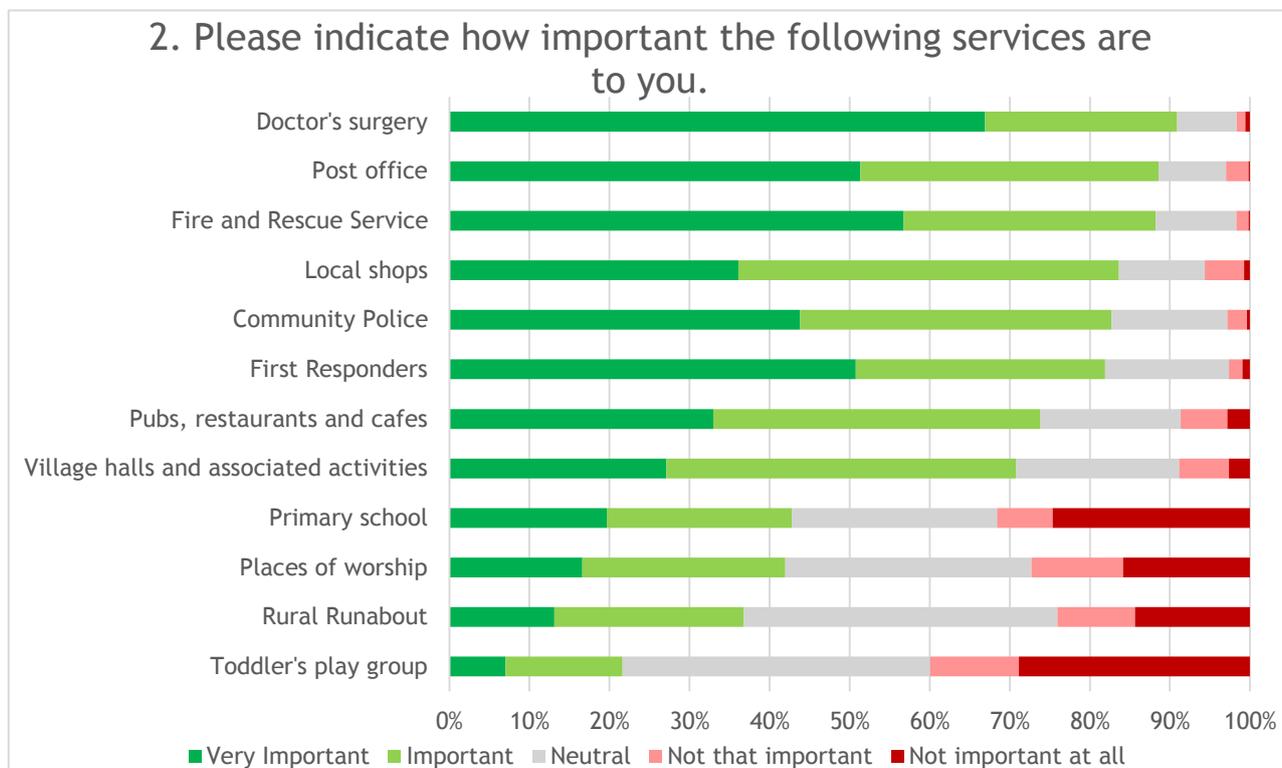
This is why we live here!

Of all the questions in the Questionnaire the location and access to the countryside received the highest ratings.

A good number of people also like the ease of commuting to the urban areas of North Staffordshire and further afield. (See chart No. 3. Shopping for more on commuting.).

A lot of people feel that the local community rates pretty well too.

## Local services and facilities

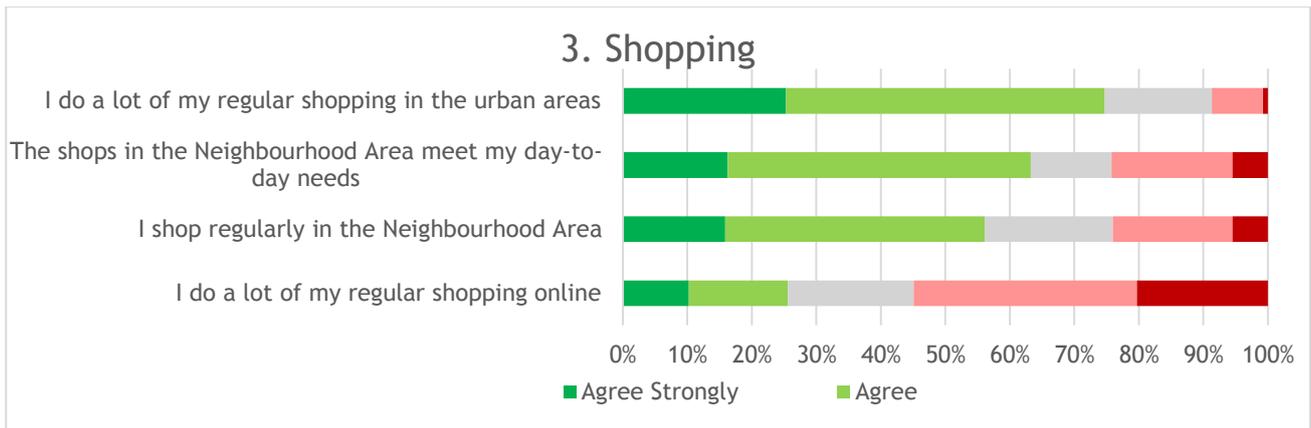


This chart helps us to understand how people use local and community services, and together with some of the other charts it shows how people relate to the Neighbourhood Area. There are a range of 'key' facilities and services that are widely used and valued. Other facilities meet the needs of smaller sub-groups within the community.

### Are there any other services important to you that are not mentioned in Question 2?

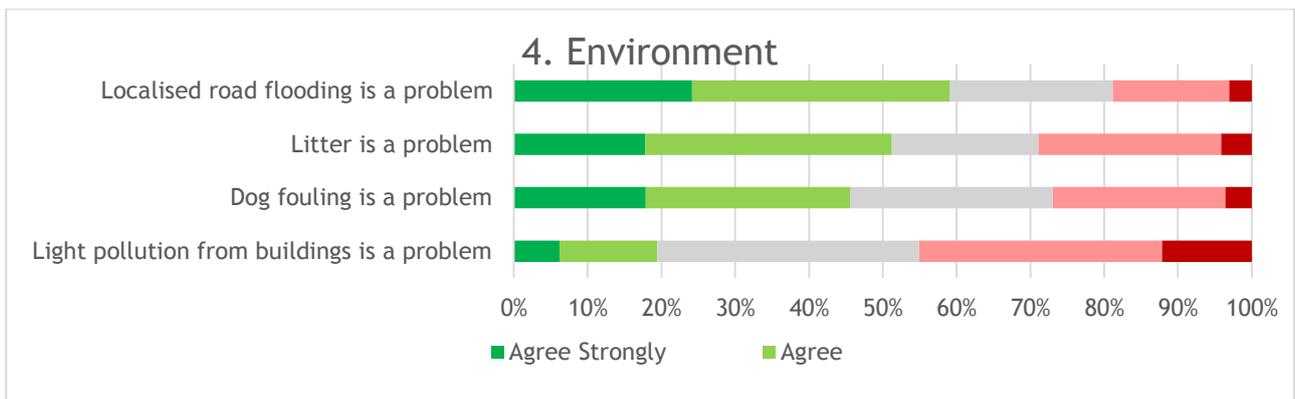
#### What people said:

Responses mentioned both existing services and currently non-existing services. Where services listed in Question 2 were mentioned, responses sometimes indicated that some change or improvement is desired. Other responses related to issues that are covered elsewhere in the questionnaire.

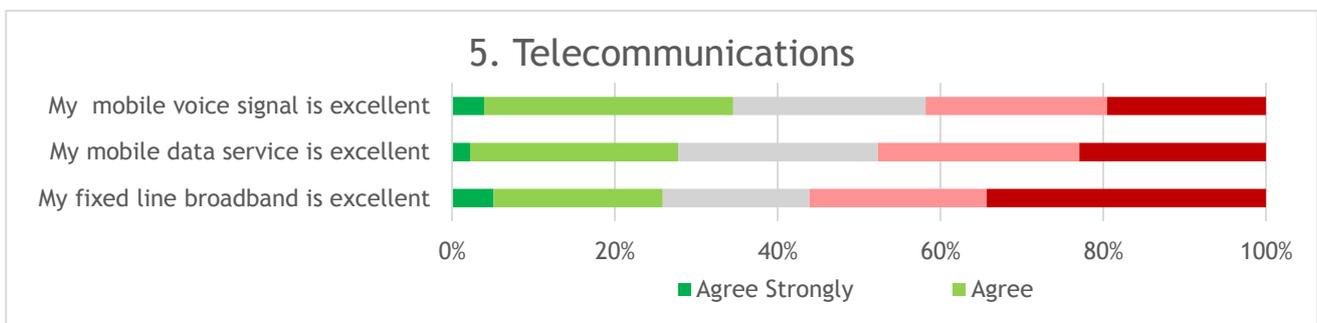


The local shops are well supported by many residents, but many of us commute to the urban areas for shopping.

What can we do to become less dependent on the town for our needs?



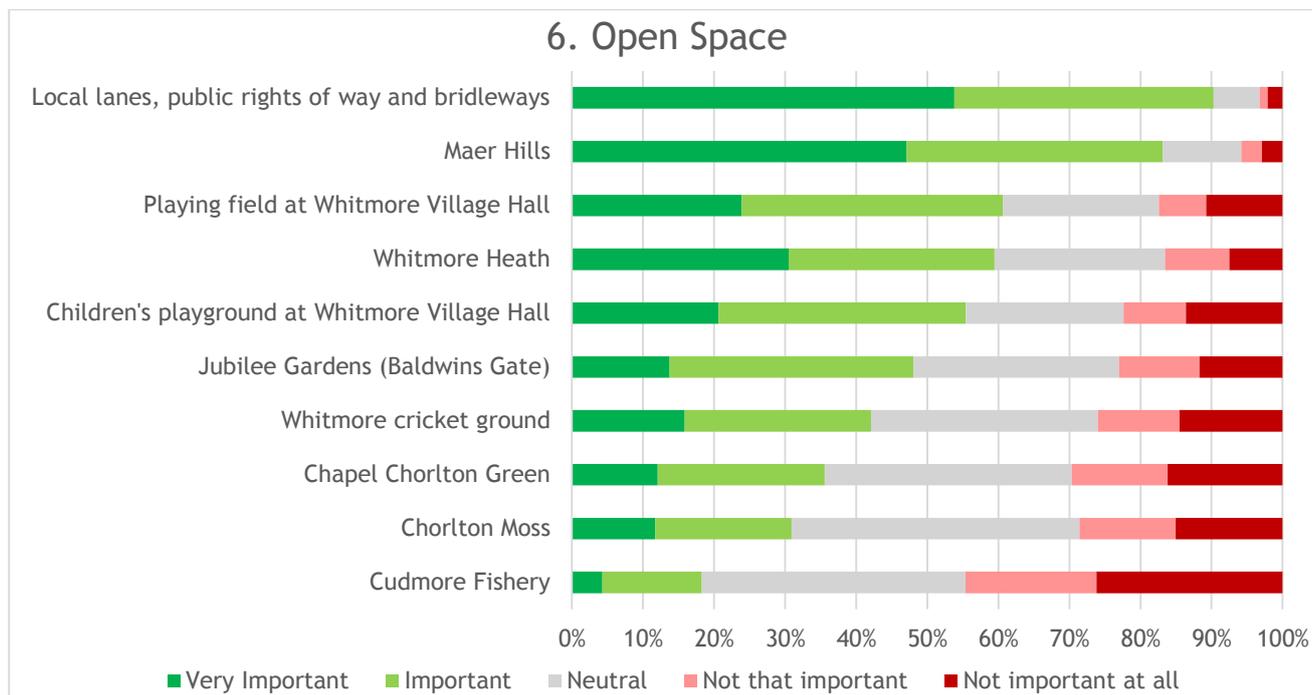
Along with issues identified in chart No. 28 (highways issues), these are mostly things to be dealt with by the Parish Councils. Light pollution from buildings (and from street lighting) in new developments can be dealt with through the Neighbourhood Plan.



We're not so happy with the telecoms services.

The rolling-out of superfast broadband will soon fix that problem. For our mobile services to improve we shall need to accept the installation of phone masts.

## Outdoor things (1)



Our open spaces are very important to us, especially our lanes, Public Rights of Way and bridleways.

How can our Plan help us to protect our favourite open spaces and green places?

Look at this chart alongside chart No. 1, and at chart No. 28 to see how we rate the maintenance of our walking routes.

### Are there any other places/open spaces which are important to you?

#### What people said:

Responses mention a wide range of additional places across the Neighbourhood Area, reflecting where people like to walk, or valued local views in their home settlement.

‘The beautiful fields and trees in Aston village and their public footpaths.’

‘Public footpath from Baldwins Gate to Stableford, beautiful open fields.’

‘The timeless beauty of the Meece as it meanders through Whitmore especially when bluebells and wild garlic are in flower.’

‘The hills and woods between Slaters and the guide cottage.’

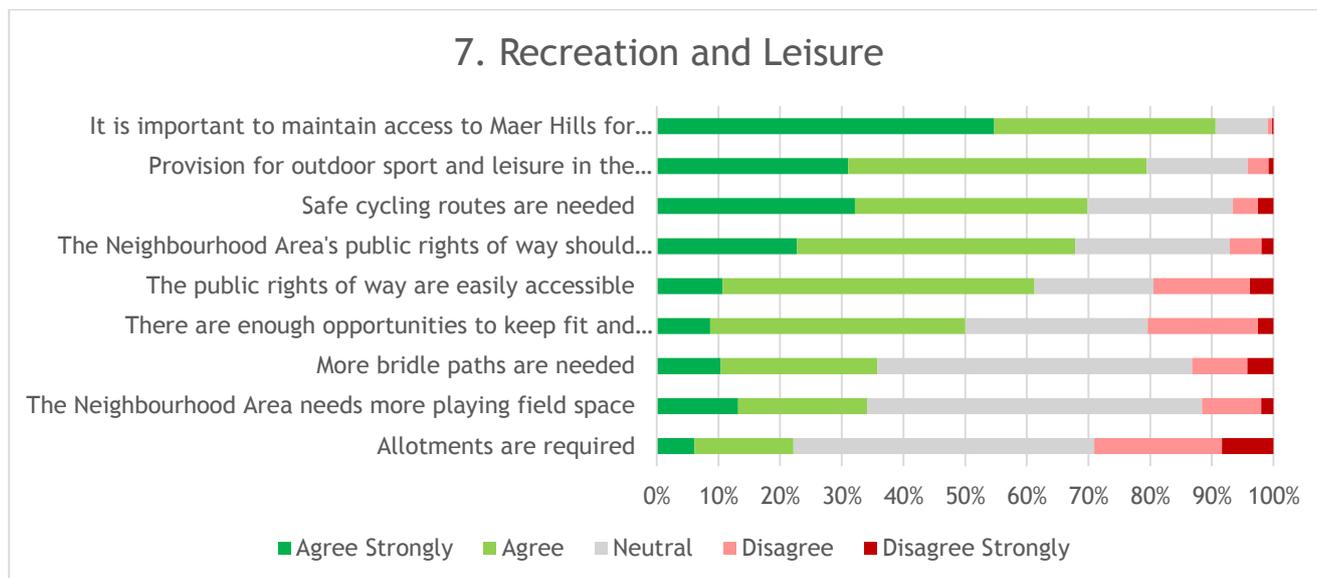
‘Woodland and isolated trees in the landscape.’

‘Quiet lanes in Acton and Butterton.’

‘Open field views towards Maer Hills and Madeley Park Wood.’

‘Maer to Blackbrook.’

## Outdoor things (2)



There it is again – walking and other outdoor forms of recreation are important. We don't give best marks to the promotion and accessibility of the Public Rights of Way.

Have we got it right when we give a lower score to finding more playing field space and providing allotments?

### **How could opportunities for recreation and leisure be improved?**

#### **What people said:**

A wide range of leisure activities and sports were mentioned. Issues related to footpaths and walking top the list, reflecting the prominence of this topic throughout the questionnaire. A need for better playing field space and better facilities for a variety of outdoor and indoor sports/activities (including during the evenings for working adults) is also clear.

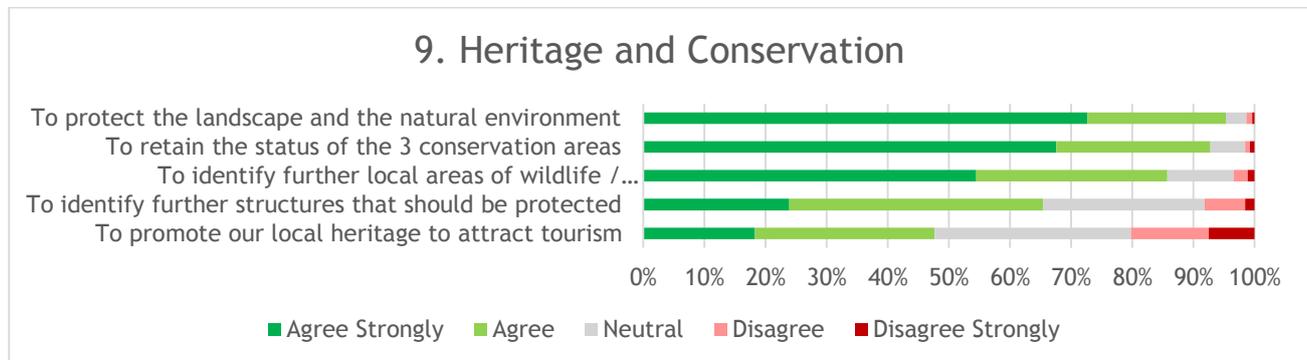
'There are no bridlepaths and public rights of way accessible to wheelchair users, elderly and infirm.'

'More and better playing-field space will be needed as the local population grows. The Gateway development in Baldwins Gate will bring about 45 more children into the area.'

'We could do with a small indoor gym to be used for the older age group, some of which may need help. Useful for everyone in the evenings.'

'Allotments. The gardens of most of the new houses in the village [Baldwins Gate] will be very small and not much use.'

## Our built and natural heritage



Top marks to the landscape, the natural environment and local built heritage.

We don't seem to be so sure about sharing our jewels with visitors. Can we find ways to accommodate others who'd like to enjoy them too?

### **Are there any buildings, structures or areas that you would like to see protected or listed?**

#### **What people said:**

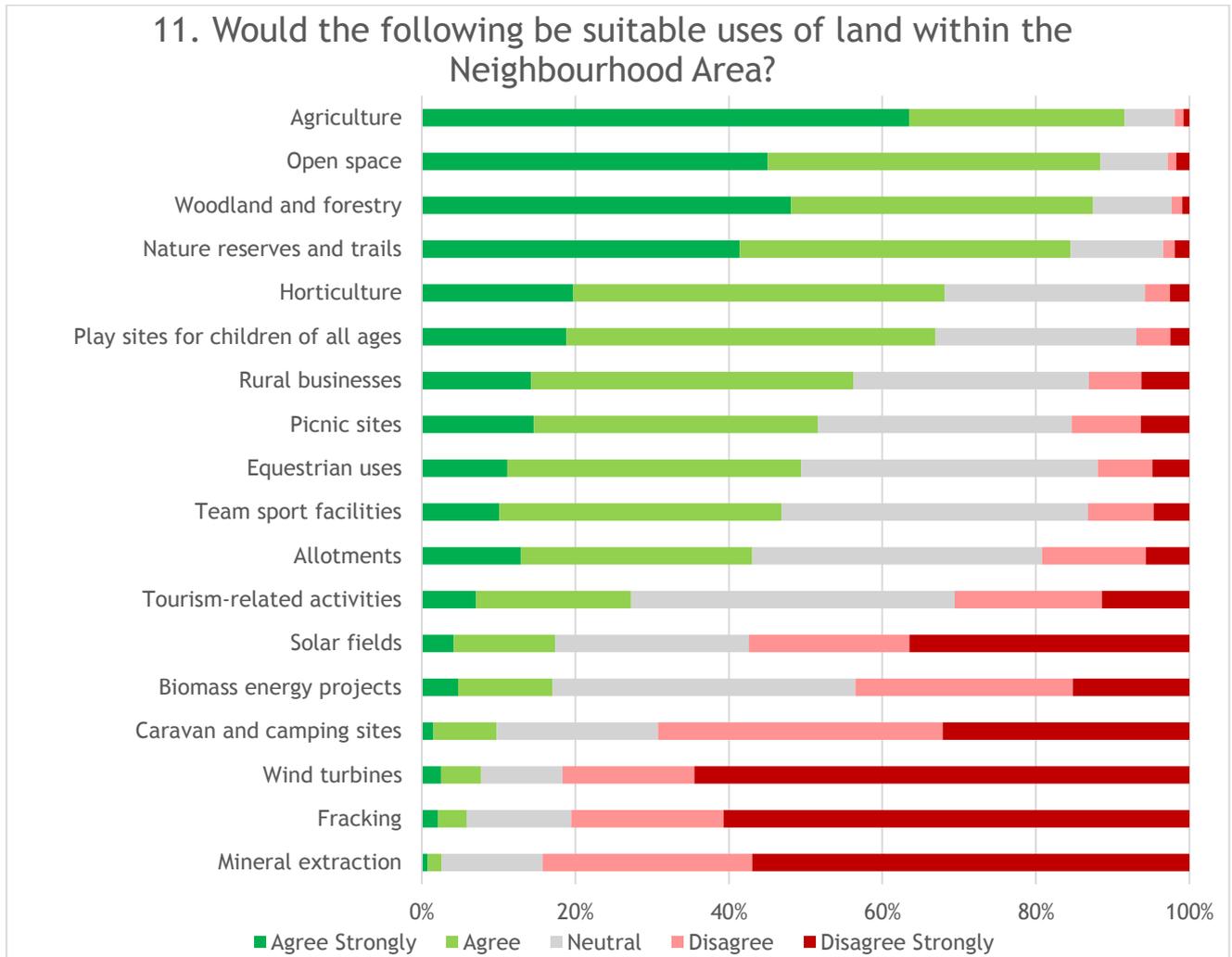
The structure most mentioned that is currently at risk is the Whitmore Station ticket office.

In terms of landscape and environment, the brook and hedgerows in Aston are mentioned, Chorlton Moss, woodlands between Whitmore Heath and Three Mile Lane, and agricultural land around villages. These responses reflect the value placed on the landscape, rural setting and wildlife and that is also evident in responses in other parts of the questionnaire.

'I would like details of listed buildings made available and publicised. Having lived here for 39 years I had no idea we had so many listed buildings!'

'Anything that is protected or preserved needs to be for a purpose, i.e. for a role that it plays in the present – essentially, for heritage/tourism.'

## Land use

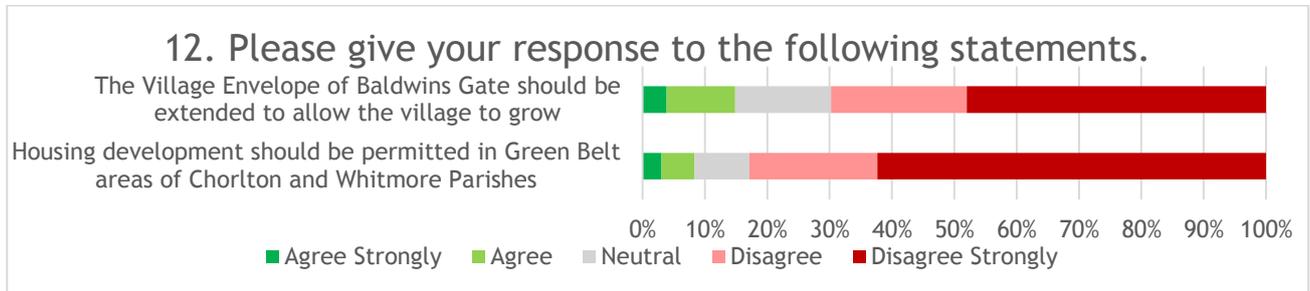


Top marks to agriculture, open space, woodland and nature reserves.

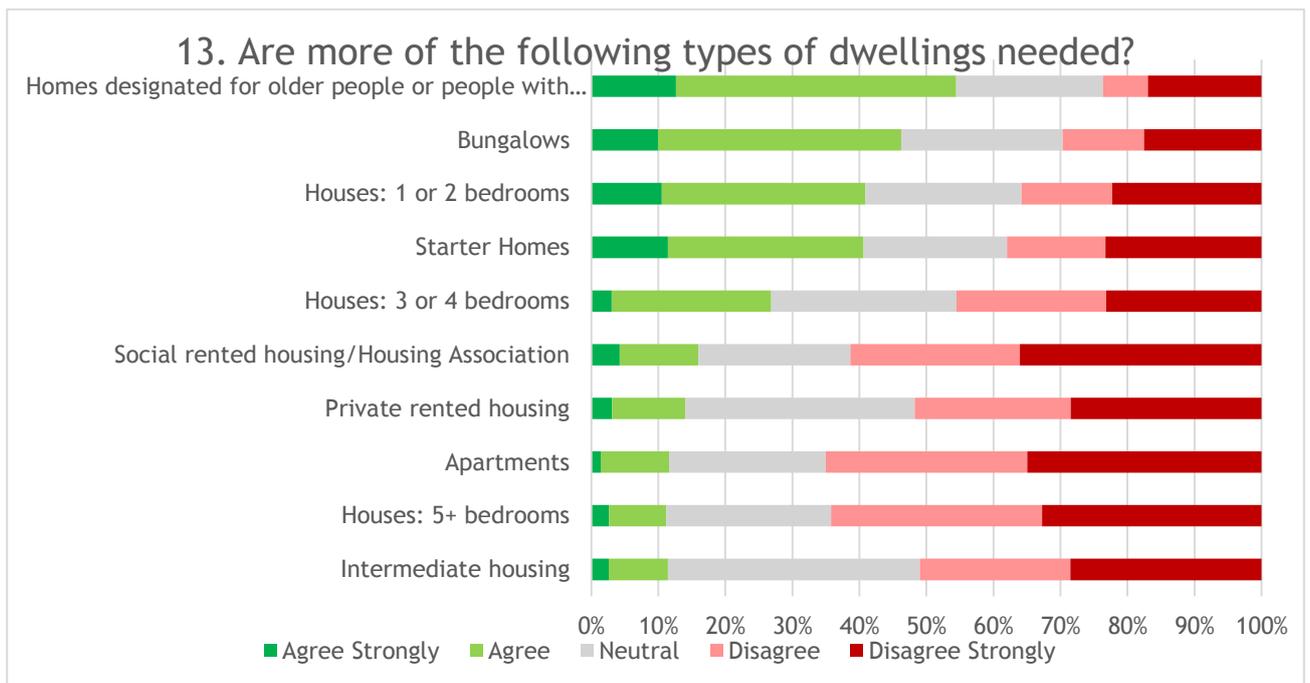
Agriculture means big tractors and machines. We must find ways to live with them. And it is always changing – new methods, new crops, new land uses. Farmers need to diversify in order to make a living from their land. That means farm open days and other outdoor visitor attractions, holiday accommodation, converting farm buildings to new uses.

The countryside is always changing. We need to find ways of allowing the change to happen while preserving the things we value.

## Questions about housing development (1)



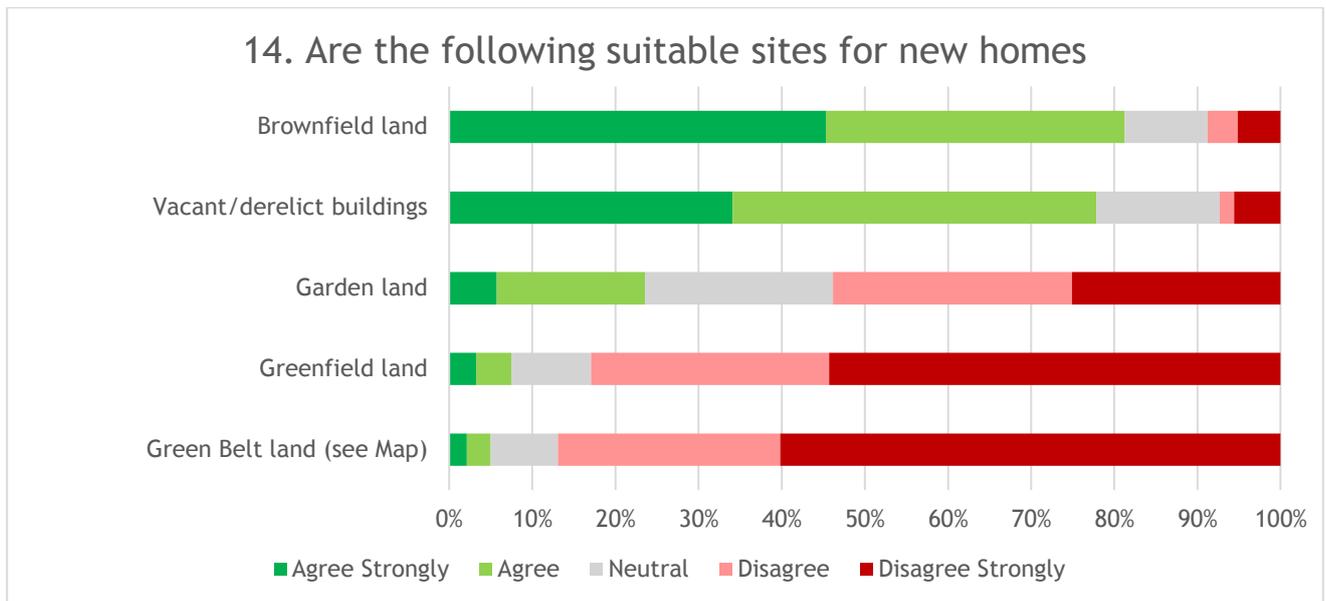
A resounding thumbs down to continuing growth (or urban sprawl?) in Baldwins Gate and development in the Green Belt. But the next few charts show that we're not entirely against new development.



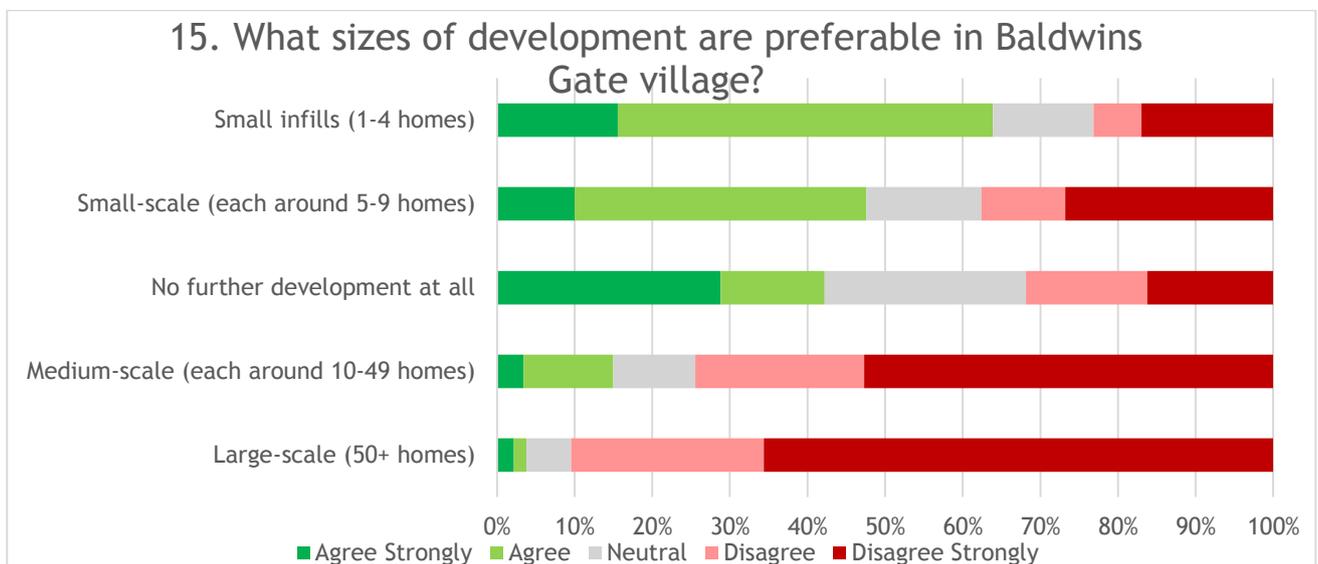
Smaller homes and homes for people with special needs – both young and old – are what we feel are needed.

There is little support for housing of affordable types, but without such housing it is difficult to impossible for young people to live here, or for those working in lower-paid jobs that are needed by a variety of businesses and in every community.

## Questions about housing development (2)

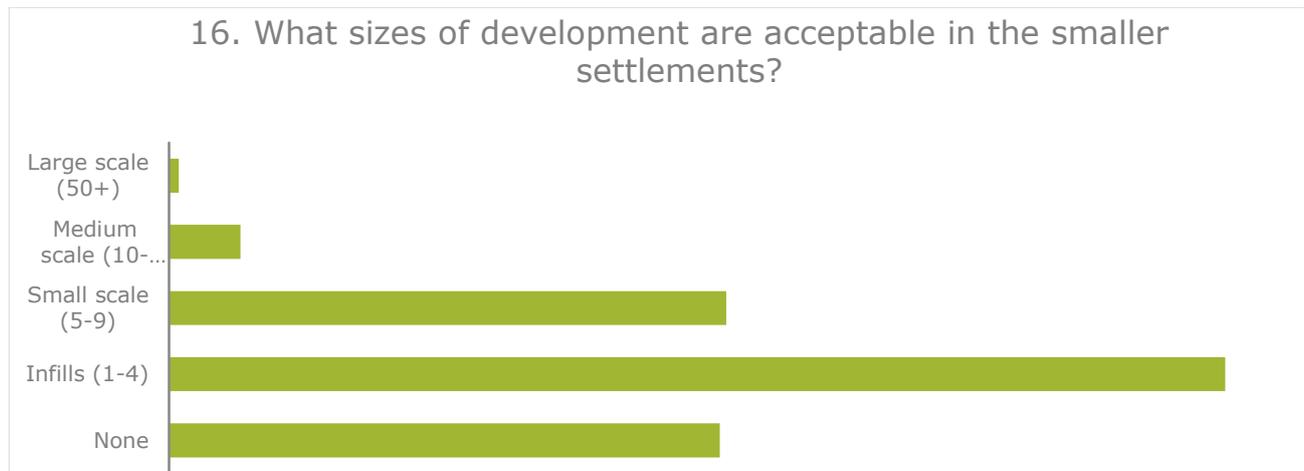


These preferences for development sites reflect people’s overall value for the countryside, the environment and rural businesses such as agriculture. They also complement the preference for small developments shown in chart No. 15.



Generally speaking, it is accepted that there must be some new development, but any developments larger than 9 homes are definitely out of favour. Smaller developments are suited to the kinds of sites favoured in chart No. 14.

### Questions about housing development (3)

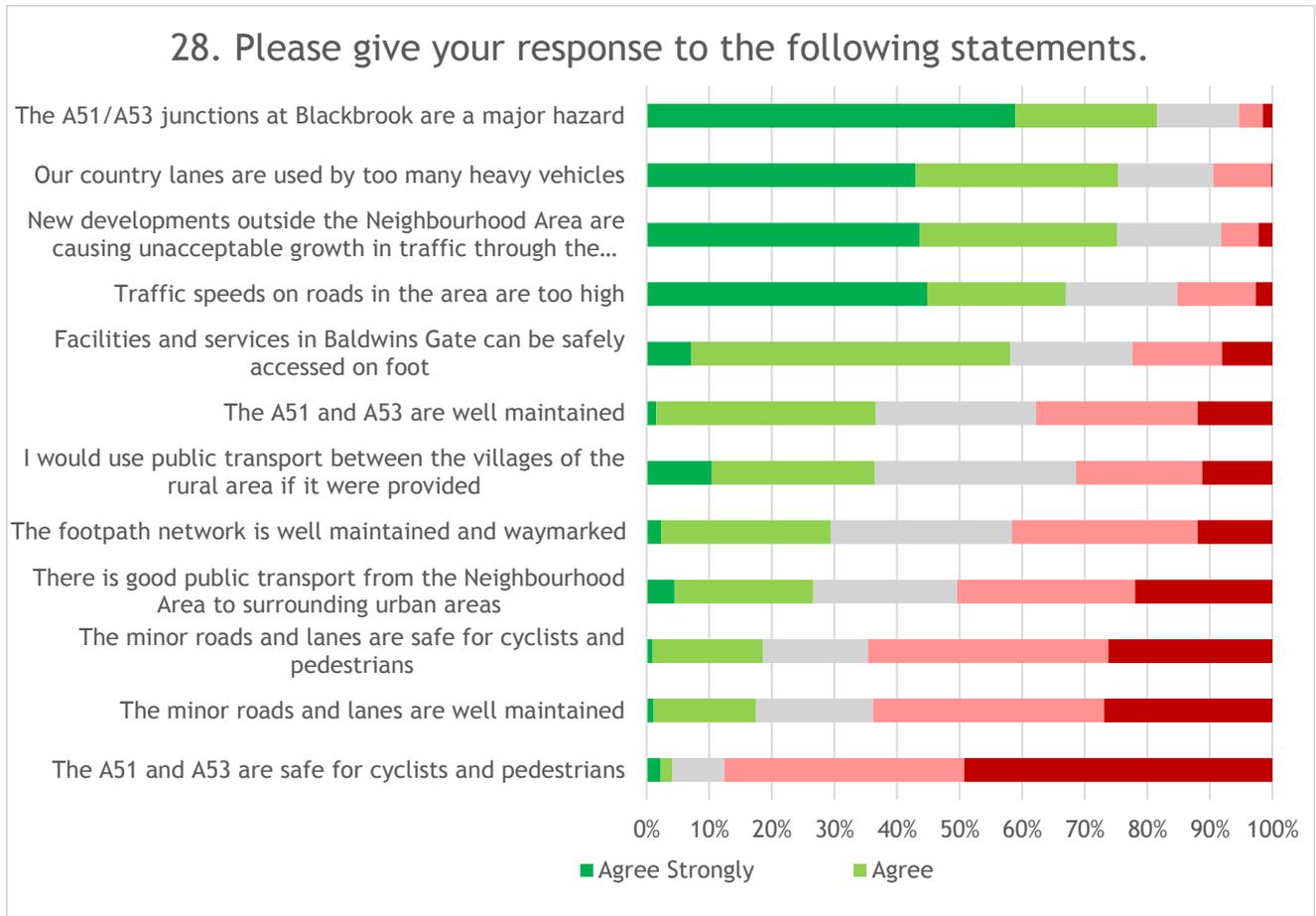


In the smaller settlements also it is accepted that there may be some new development, but again, any developments larger than 9 homes are definitely out of favour.



We like to have gardens and a place to park off the street. That means houses on large-size plots, not crammed together as we find in so many new developments. Energy efficiency also scores high. For a variety of reasons, some people have a need for an adaptable home.

## Highways issues

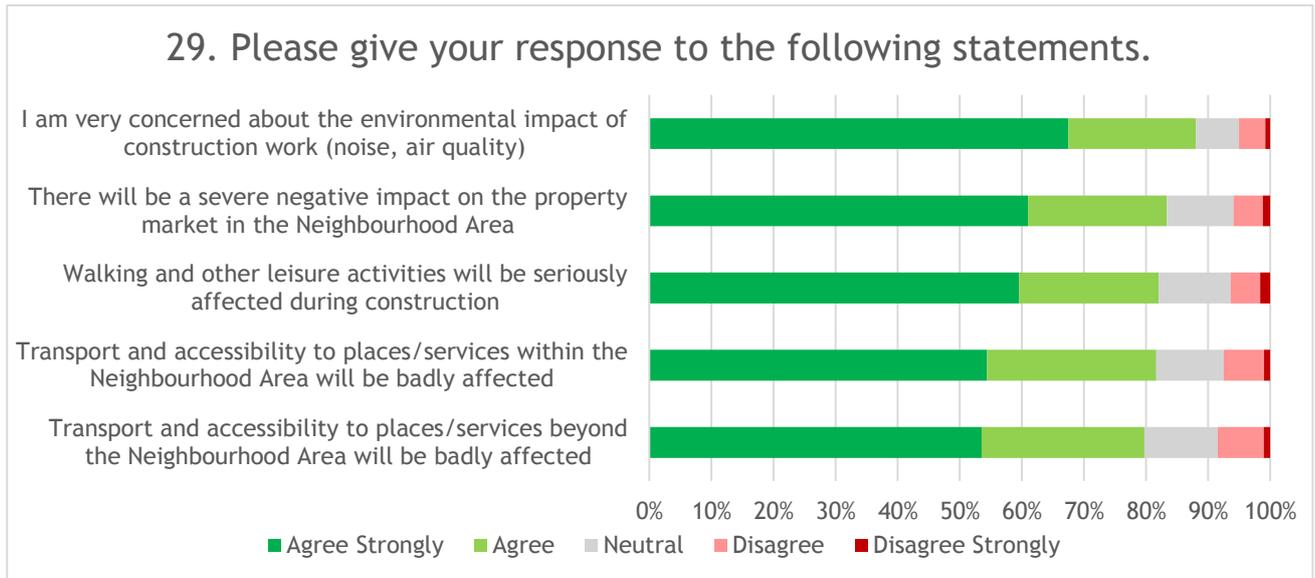


Our strategic highways are a problem and we need to resolve the conflict between people and traffic.

The Neighbourhood Plan is about land uses for new development for a variety of purposes – for housing, community uses, the local economy, transport, telecoms, green energy and the environment.

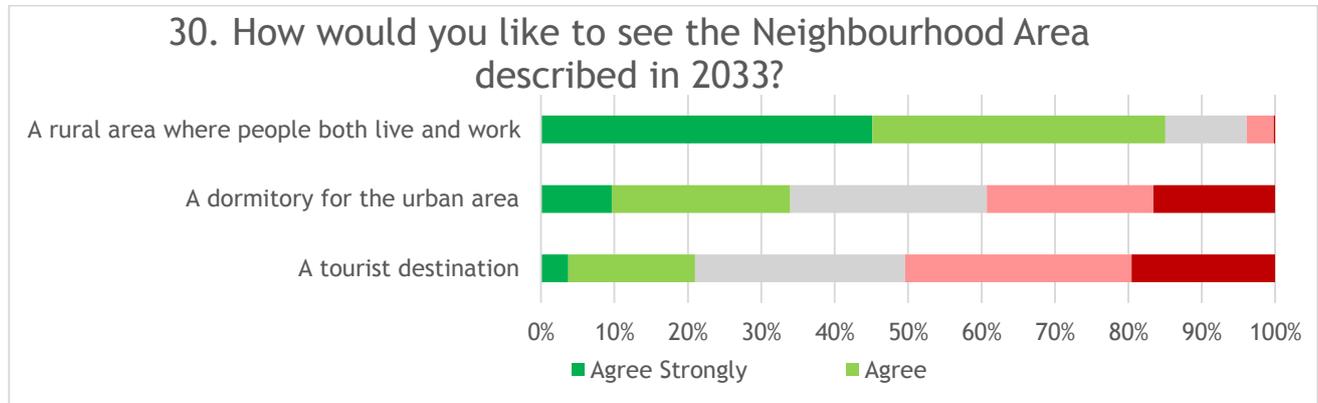
Many of the items listed here will go into a section in the Plan regarding issues that require action from the Parish Councils.

## HS2



We are definitely not happy about the expected impact of HS2 construction. HS2 Ltd has an obligation to carry out mitigation projects to compensate for negative impacts. We need to make a shopping list to present to them for projects to protect and enhance our countryside and help it develop in ways that we want.

## Our future vision (1)



Overwhelming support for an area where people both live and work. That will mean providing telecoms services, workspace for a variety of small/medium businesses, and opportunities for people to provide a range of business support services.

### Do you want to add any other description of the Neighbourhood Area in 2033?

#### What people said:

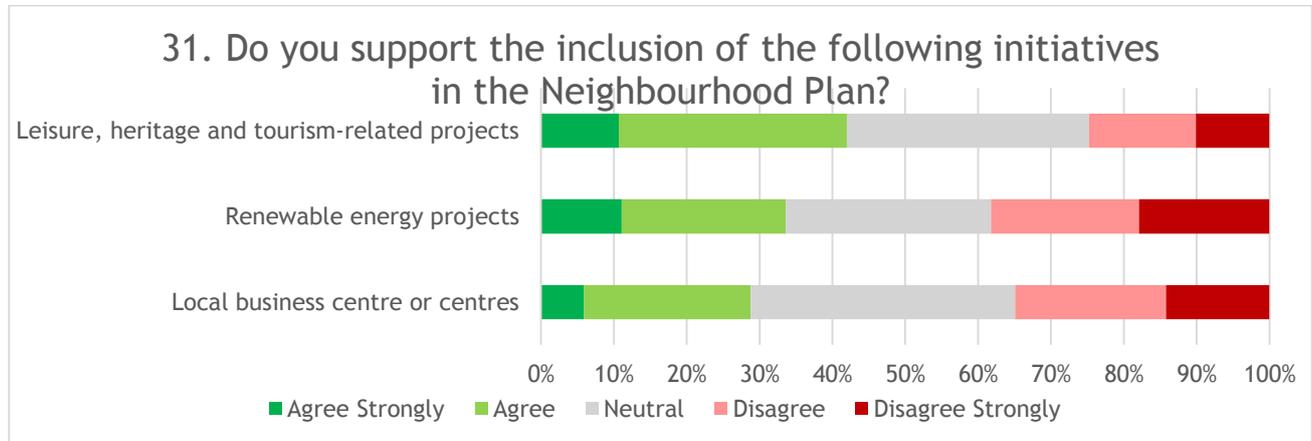
‘A community – in other words where people use local facilities, schools and if possible work. More use of public transport and bicycles. More buses connecting towns.’

‘A place for the locals and others to call home and bring up their families. People who value and enjoy their area look after it.’

‘A mix of people who are retired and people who work elsewhere as well as working from home.’

‘We need the type of development that encourages community, not the piecemeal type that has cursed Baldwins Gate over the years.’

## Our future vision (2)



Some mixed responses here. We need to find ways to make our built heritage work for the benefit of the local economy. Farm diversification will bring new leisure, visitor and other projects. A place where people live and work will need local enterprise centres, perhaps in converted farm buildings. Green energy projects exist that have no/ low impact on the landscape.

### **Are there any other key developments or initiatives that you would like to see included in the Plan?**

#### **What people said:**

'I would like to see some initiative to encourage the 18 plus age group who do not go on to university or further education, to be able to live and find work. i.e. low cost single bedroom housing and local help with transport.'

'I am not opposed to small projects of renewable energy.'

'Our local infrastructure would need more development to sustain further development, prior to any further expansion.'

'As with all these developments, it depends on the scale and how they're operated. I'm not against development per se but wouldn't want the whole character of the area to be changed.'