



Benson Parish Council
Serving Our Community

Benson Neighbourhood Plan Plan Revision 2022-2035

Submission Version - Sept 2022

Appendix D - Community Questionnaire Report

Appendix D is retained unchanged in this Plan Revision as a record of the independent Community Questionnaire exercise conducted for the Original Plan adopted in August 2018.



Benson

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT

FINAL DRAFT AUGUST 2016

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Helping communities help themselves

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INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

Benson is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. As part of its evidence gathering process, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group commissioned Community First Oxfordshire (CFO) to conduct a community questionnaire survey in May 2016. CFO is a charity that works with and supports communities across the county and has long-standing expertise in helping communities with consultation strategies.

The survey gave all households in the parish the opportunity to express an opinion on various issues (including parking, traffic, infrastructure and housing development) and to register their own housing need, should they have one.

The survey had six sections.

All households were asked to complete Part 1: *Your household*; Part 2- *Housing Development*; Part 3- *Transport, Traffic and Road Safety*; Part 4- *Community Facilities and Infrastructure*; and Part 5- *Green Space and the Natural Environment*.

Part 6 asked households living in Benson which need a different home in the parish to state their requirements.

DISTRIBUTION AND RESPONSE

- CFO, liaising with Benson Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG), prepared the survey content.
- The NPSG arranged distribution of surveys to 1400 households in May 2016.
- 595 questionnaires were returned directly to CFO by respondents via pre-paid *Freepost* envelopes: **a response rate of 42.4%**.
- CFO analysed the returned surveys and prepared this report.
- No information is known about the non-respondents, and no assumptions have been made about their opinions.

SUMMARY OF LOCAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEED

Indicative Local Housing Need

Applying residency criteria (see below) and ownership criteria (homeowners are generally not eligible for affordable housing) to survey responses:

Size of house needed	Number of households	Number currently on Housing Register
One-bed	9	0
Two-bed	2	1
Three-bed	4	3
Four-bed	0	0
TOTAL	15	4

IMPORTANT NOTE: THE BREAKDOWN IS INDICATIVE

Not all households are on the Housing Register. A household's needs would require full analysis of its circumstances through a Housing Register application. There are restrictions on the number of bedrooms that someone is considered eligible for, depending on the make-up of the household and whether the home is rented or purchased on a shared ownership basis. In addition, there may be additional Benson households already on the housing register which did not respond to this survey.

What is affordable housing?

Social rented and shared ownership are examples of types of affordable housing.

How does the District Council allocate affordable housing?

The allocation of homes is made by South Oxfordshire District Council and subject to an assessment of a household's needs. A household must be on the SODC Housing Register to be eligible for these homes

South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council- Housing Allocations Policy

Available at: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/housing/join-housing-register-and-find-home>

13.3 New Build Developments and "Strong" Local Connection

The councils will endeavour to use the flexibilities introduced by the Localism Act 2012 to enable local people to access developments in their parish whilst still giving due weight to the requirement to allocate housing in accordance with the reasonable preference categories.

To facilitate this, the council will adopt a target that aims to ensure that 20% of new build lettings, that are not rural exception sites or developed for a particular client group, are offered in the first instance to people with a strong local connection to that parish and who have a housing need as defined by the Allocations Policy (i.e. they are on the active Register).

Some schemes have distinct agreements setting out what the local connection requirements are for that scheme. These rules are often written into the Section 106 agreement. For schemes that do not have a separate agreement, the definition contained in section 13.3.1 will be used to determine local connection for these schemes.

13.3.1 Definition of Strong Local Connection for Purposes of Determining Priority for New Build Schemes

For these purposes, a strong local connection is:

- where the applicant(s) have lived in the parish for five years out of the last 8 and are currently resident there.
- where the applicant(s) had previously lived in the parish for at least 5 years and their parents or children still live there and have done for at least 10 years.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The report gives a detailed breakdown of answers to all 59 survey questions. The following is a selection of findings.

PART 1- Your household

95% of respondents (556) live in Benson;
5% (27%) live in Preston Crowmarsh

The largest proportion- 36%- of
respondents (208 out of 583) live in
detached houses

91% of respondents (530/584) are home-
owners

5.5 % of respondents (32) wish to move
house within the next few years but cannot

PART 2- Housing development

Most suitable locations for future housing
development:

- BEN 1: 45% (250/556 respondents)
- BEN 7: 37% (208/556)
- BEN 5: 37% (205/556)

Most suitable development option:

- Dispersed in smaller numbers across
a number of sites: 71% (383/540
respondents)
- All on 1 or 2 main sites: 29%
(157/540)
-

Top 3 choices for type of housing most
needed in Benson:

- Affordable housing: 71% (395/557
respondents)
- Semi-detached houses: 56%
(311/557)
- Supported housing: 52% (292/557)

Top three choices of supported housing
types needed in Benson:

- Housing Association Sheltered
Housing (warden-assisted): 61%
(276/455 respondents)
- Independent accommodation with
care support: 58% (264/455)
- Private Sheltered Housing: 52%
(237/455)

What do you think about infill policy?

- About right: 60% (332/552
respondents)
- Should be tightened: 36% (199/552)
- Should be relaxed: 4% (21/552)

PART 3 – Transport, Traffic and Road Safety

95% (526/554 respondents) have concerns regarding road issues in Benson

57% (313/551 respondents) have difficulties with parking in Benson

Road issues in Benson:

*Average rating of concern from 1-5
(1= not concerned to 5= very concerned)*

- Parking: 3.9 (437 respondents)
- Speeding: 3.82 (413)
- Traffic at busy junctions: 3.87 (388)
- Pedestrian/ cyclist safety: 3.77 (358)
- Heavy lorries: 3.98 (421)

Parking in Benson:

*Average rating of difficulty from 1-5
(1= not a problem to 5= extremely difficult)*

- High St. near shops: 4.15 (303 respondents)
- Near School: 4.27 (214)
- Near Marina/ Rivermead: 3.75 (203)
- Church Road: 3.5 (187)

89% (474/529 respondents) think there are road safety issues in Benson

Road safety in Benson:

*Average rating of concern from 1-5
(1= minor safety issue to 5= serious problem)*

- Crossing A4074 to Marina area: 3.86 (404 respondents)
- Crossing High St. between shops: 3.27 (384)
- Speed of vehicles in High St.: 3.53 (407)
- Crossing Watlington Road by the Parish Hall: 3.7 (396)
- Junction of B4009 and Castle Square: 4.08 (421)

PART 4 – Community Facilities and Infrastructure

Top 3 retail facilities used 'several times a week':

52% (290/561 respondents) are IN FAVOUR of new retail units outside the village centre

- Supermarkets: 54% (302/562 respondents)
- Greengrocers and butcher: 29% (161/559)
- Pharmacy: 14% (81/570)

PART 5 – Green Space and the Natural Environment

Value of green space and the environment:

Average rating of importance from 1-5
(1= not valued at all to 5= highly valued)

- Sustaining wildlife and nature through 'green infrastructure': 4.58 (546 respondents)
- Access to the countryside: 4.69 (546)
- Benson's setting in the rural landscape: 4.7 (546)
- Public parks and green spaces: 4.53 (545)

PART 6 – Does your household, or any person/s in it need a different home in Benson

54 WHOLE households intend to move within Benson in the next 5 years

41 WHOLE households intend to move within Benson in the next 5 years but CANNOT

42 MEMBERS OF EXISTING households intend to move within Benson in the next 5 years

34 MEMBERS OF EXISTING households intend to move within Benson in the next 5 years but CANNOT

Top 5 reasons for wanting to move to a different home:

- Want to downsize: 34% (51/151 respondents)
- Want to buy a new home: 24% (36/151)
- Want a larger garden: 24% (36/151)
- Want a larger home: 23% (35/151)
- Want a garage/ larger garage: 19% (29/151)

Top 3 reasons preventing people from moving:

- Unable to afford a new home: 56% (62/107 respondents)
- No suitable housing to meet my needs: 38% (41/107)
- Unable to afford moving costs: 18% (19/107)

Top 3 reasons for wanting to downsize:

- Lower running costs: 43% (26/60 respondents)
- Smaller garden: 40% (24/60)
- Other: 33% (20/60)

Top 3 type of homes needed:

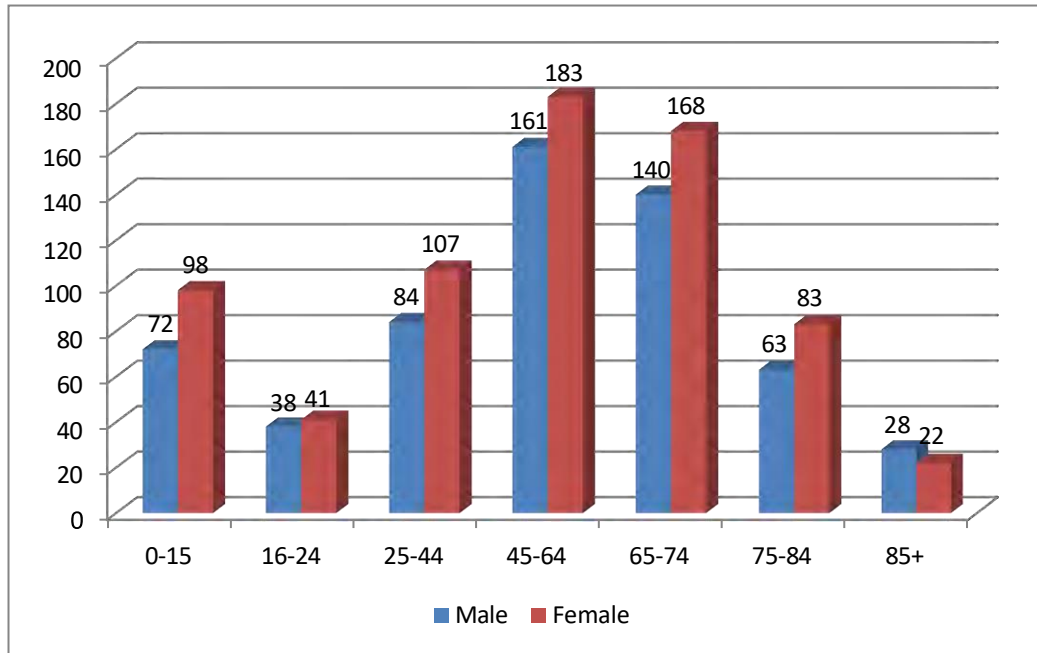
- Detached house: 52% (86/166 respondents)
- Detached bungalow: 37% (62/166)
- Semi-detached house: 36% (59/166)

13 respondents have a supported housing need

Detailed Results Part One- Your household

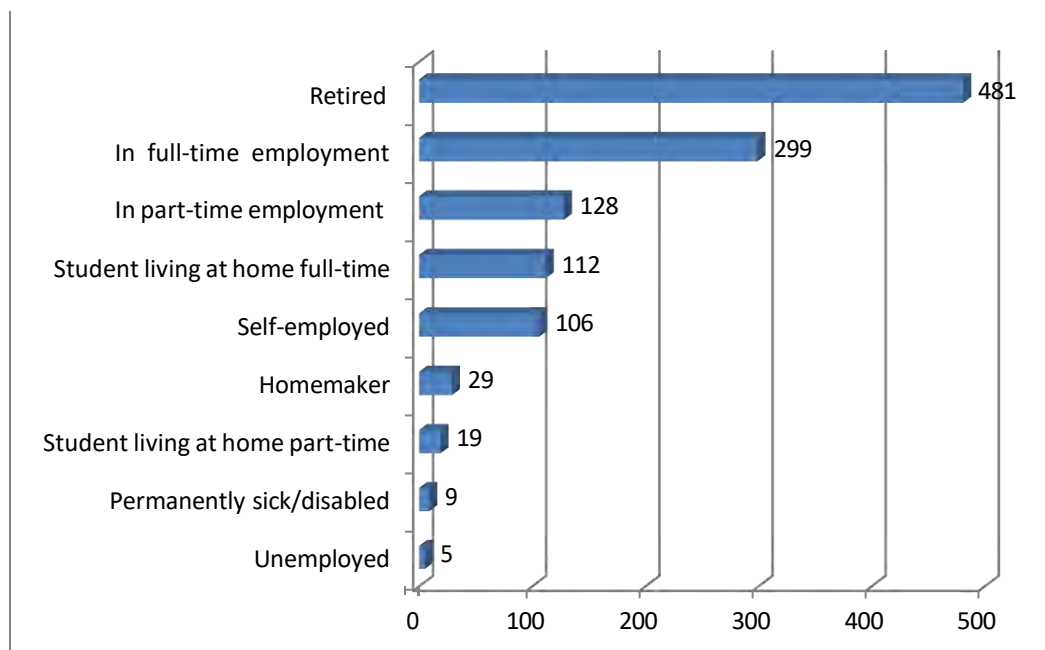
1. How many people of each age and gender live in your household?

583 respondents – 1288 individuals



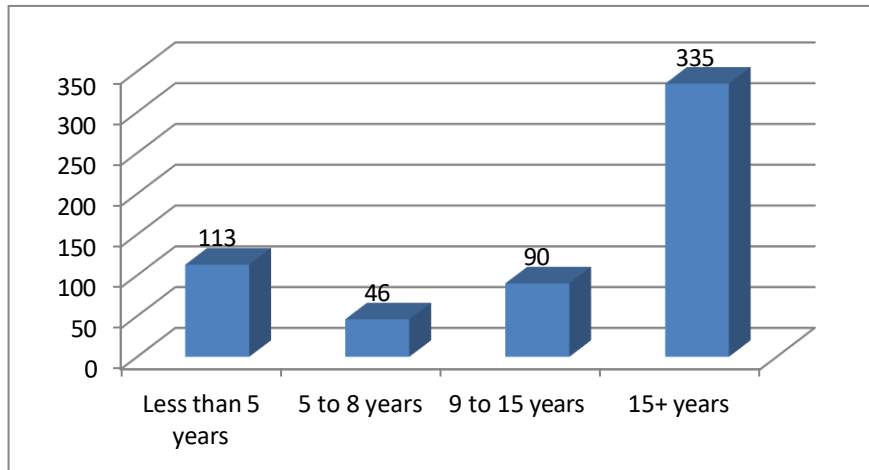
2. How many people in your household are...?

583 respondents - 1188 individuals



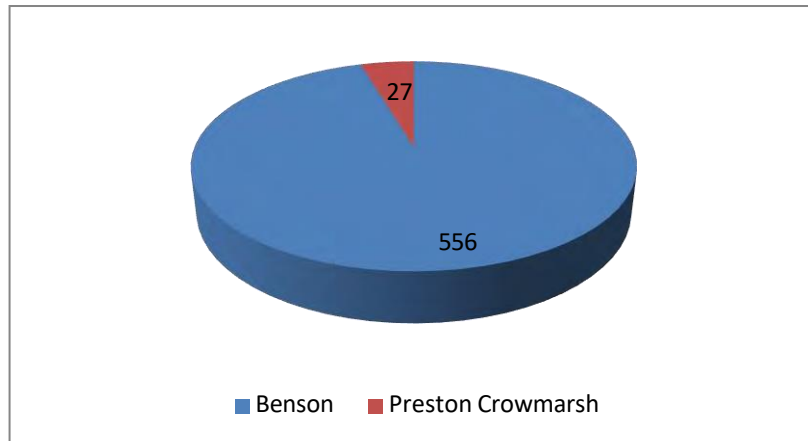
3. How long have you lived in Benson?

584 respondents



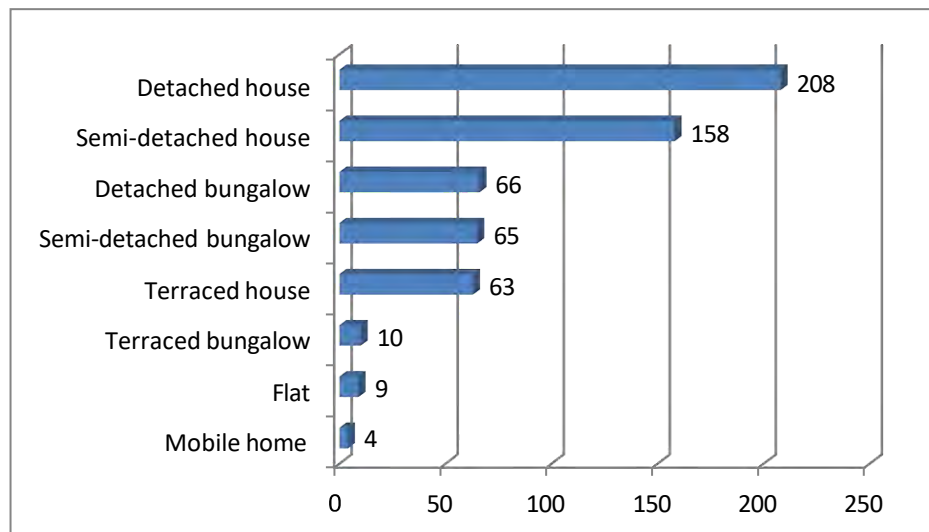
4. Where do you reside?

583 respondents



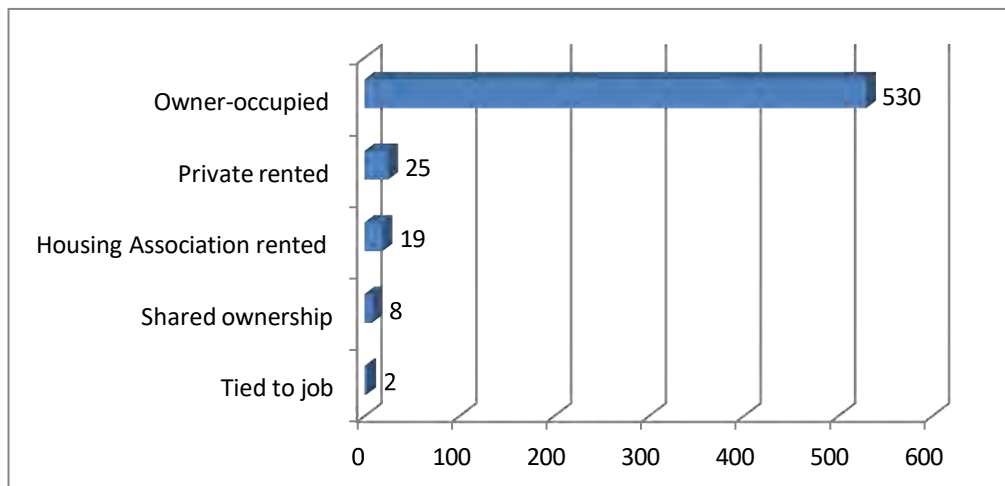
5. What type of accommodation do you live in?

583 respondents



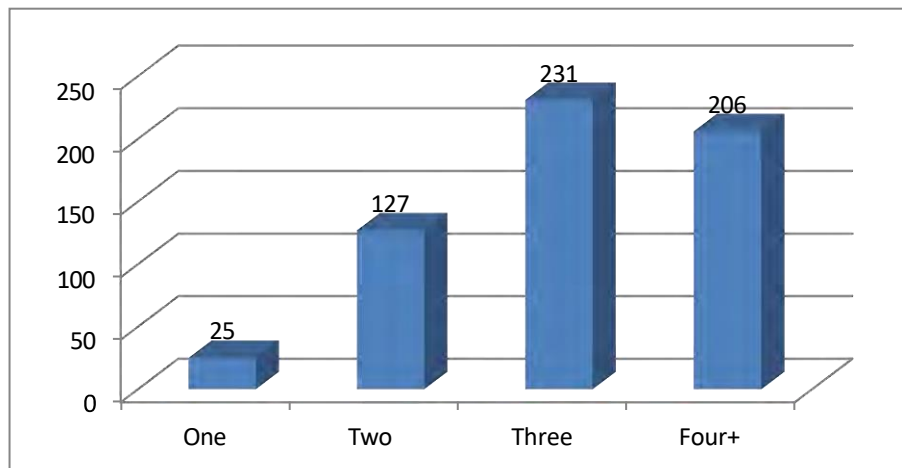
6. What type of property is your home?

584 respondents



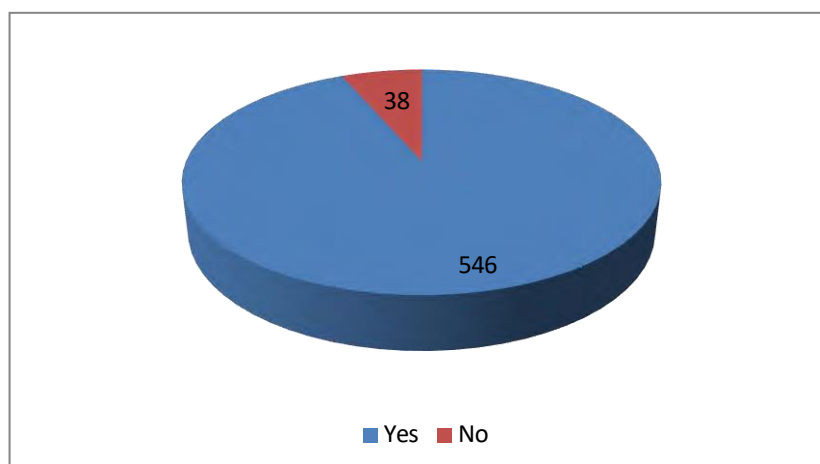
7. How many bedrooms does your home have?

589 respondents



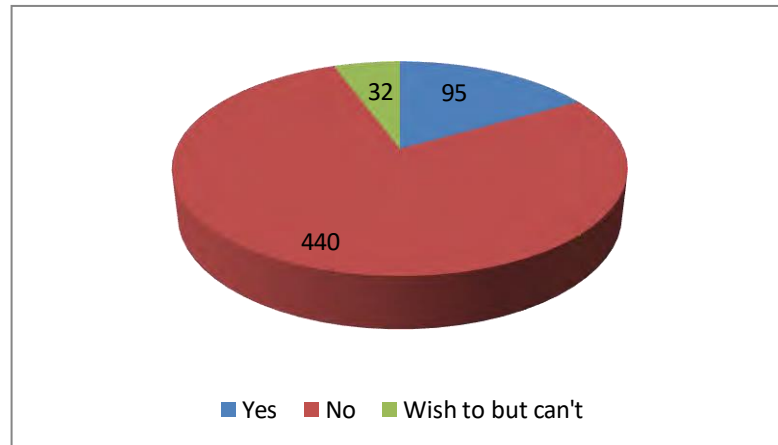
8. Does your current accommodation meet your needs?

584 respondents



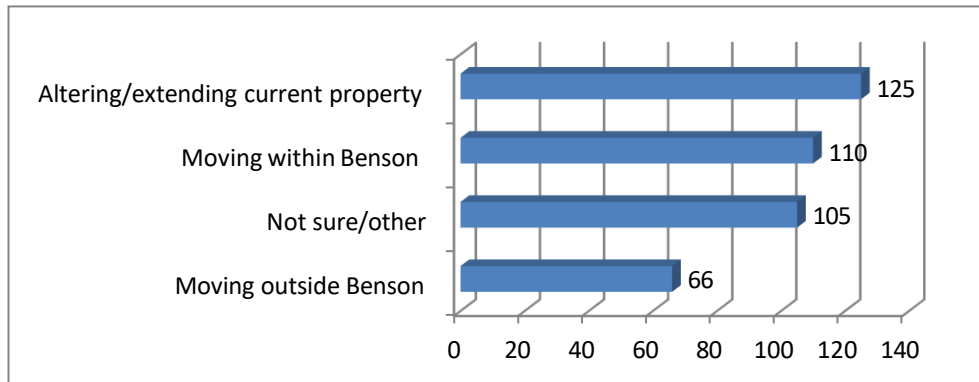
9. Do you intend to move house within the next few years?

567 respondents



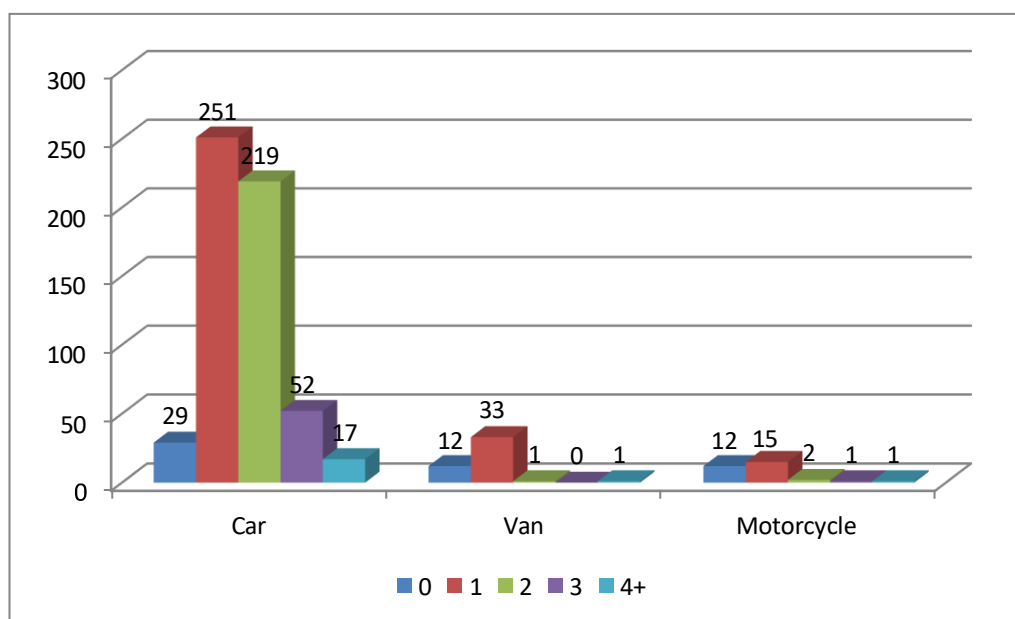
10. What would be your preference for meeting your housing need?

360 respondents – 406 total choices



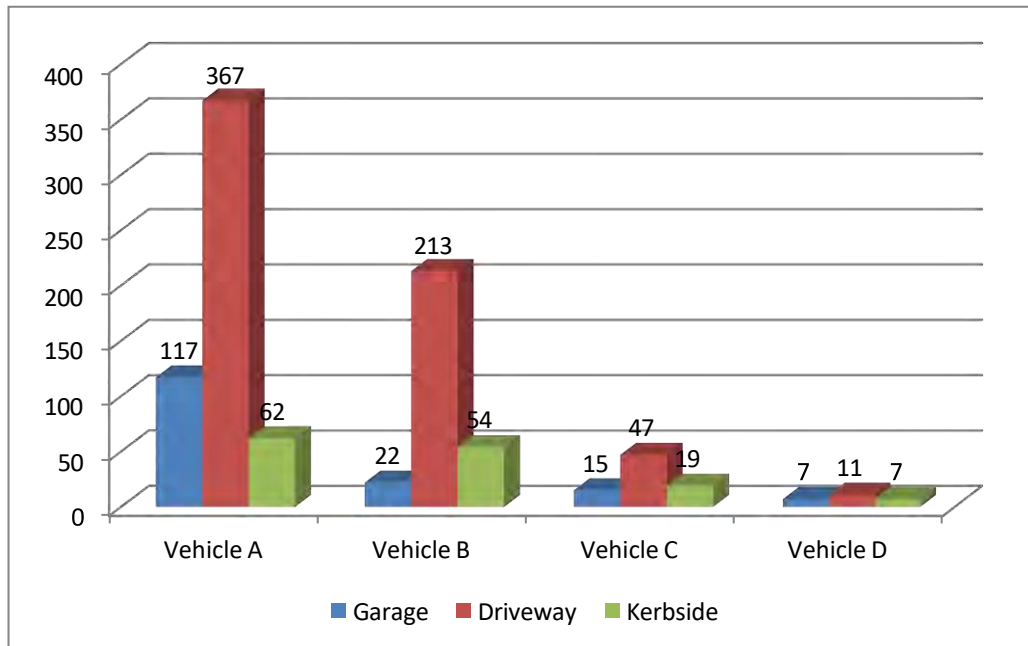
11. How many vehicles do you have in your household?

570 respondents – 646 total choices



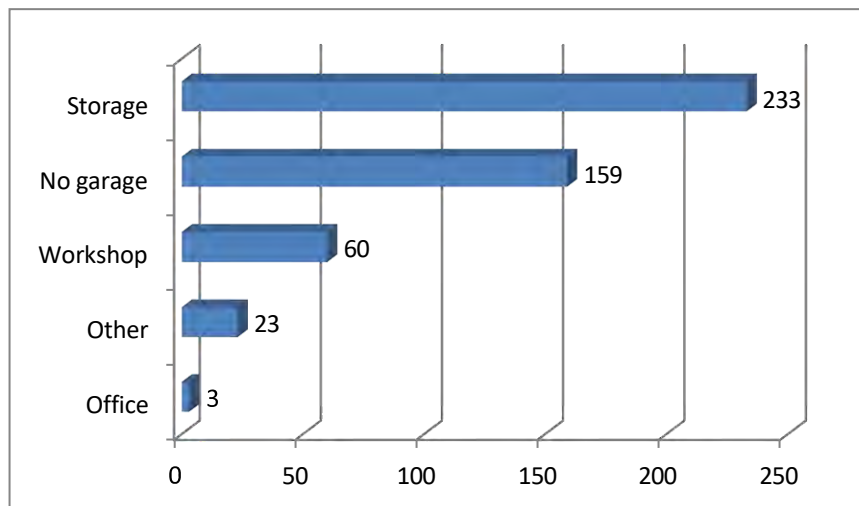
12. Where do you park your main vehicle when at home?

546 respondents – 941 total choices



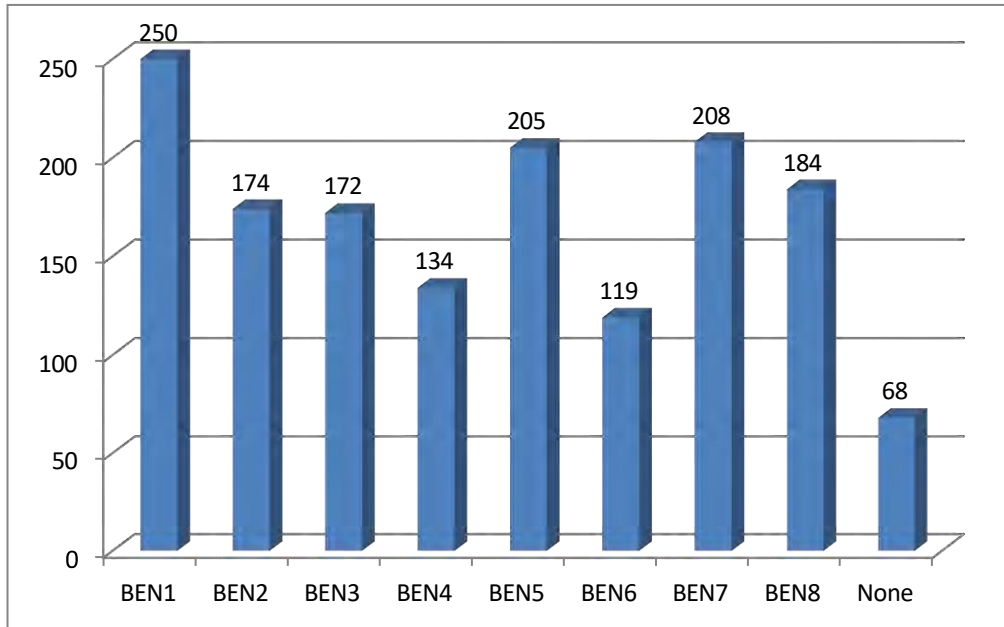
13. If you do not park your vehicle in your garage, what do you use it for?

422 respondents – 478 total choices

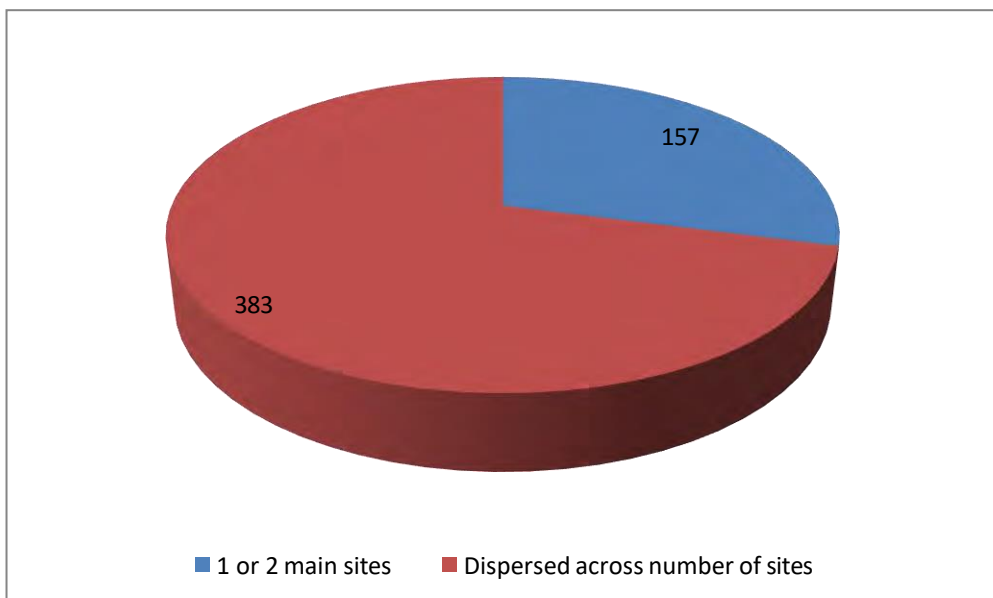


Detailed Results
Part Two- Housing Development

14. Which areas from BEN1 to BEN8 do you think are most suitable for future development?
556 respondents – 1514 total choices

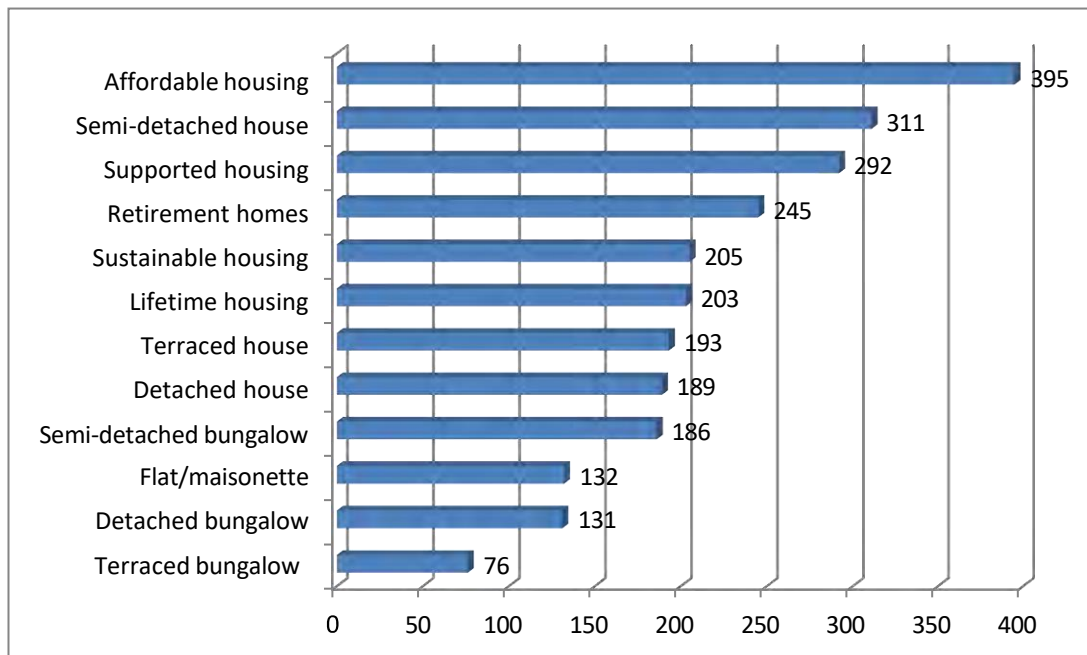


15. If planning permission is given for housing development in Benson, which option do you think is most suitable?
540 respondents



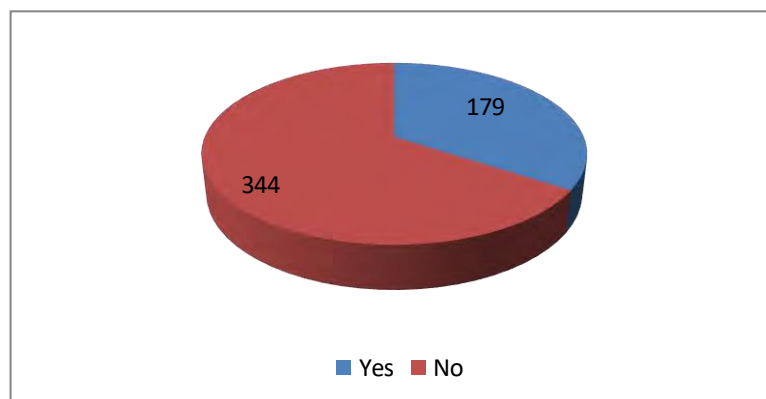
16. What type of accommodation do you think is needed in Benson?

557 respondents – 2558 total choices



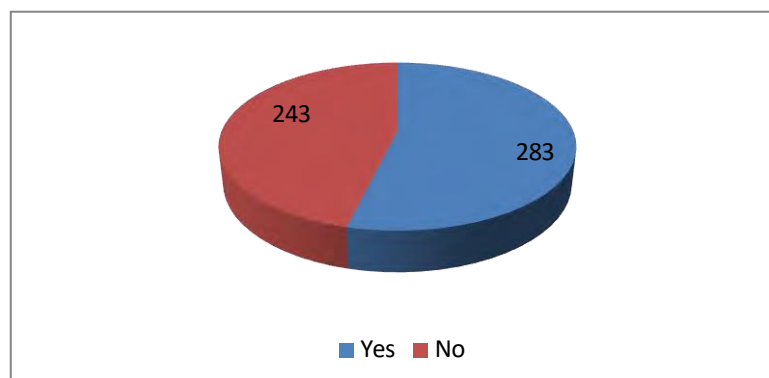
17. Do you think that there is a need for more private rental properties?

523 respondents



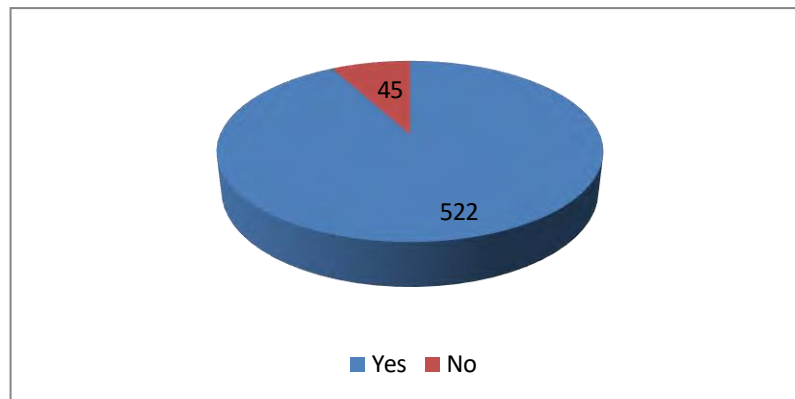
18. Do you think that there is a need for more social rented properties?

526 respondents

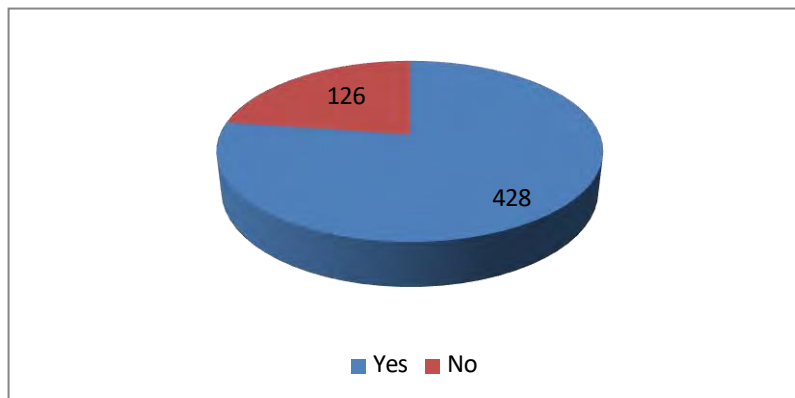


Affordable housing

19. Do you think that priority allocation of affordable housing should be given to those who live in Benson and/or relatives wishing to live in Benson? *567 respondents*

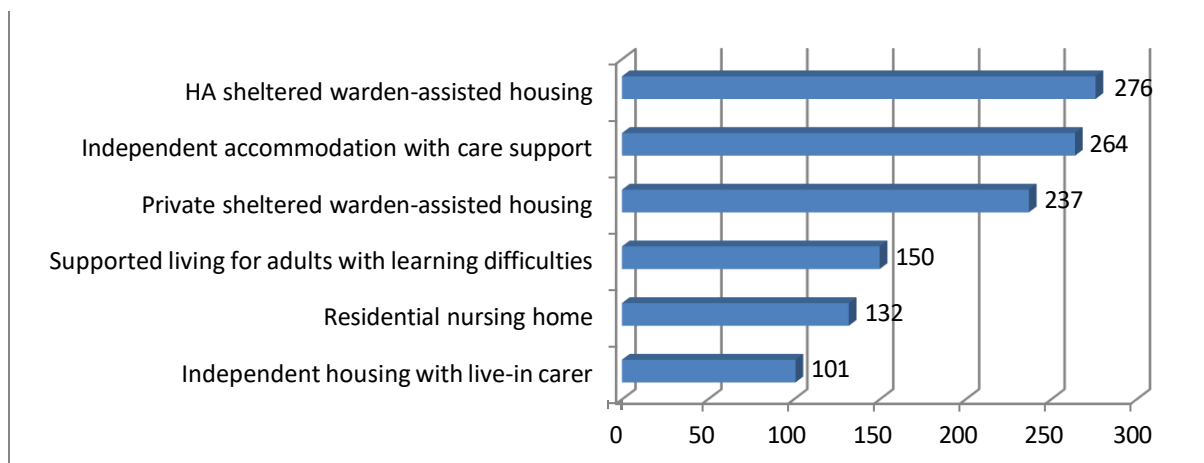


20. Do you think that affordable housing should be held in perpetuity for local people? *554 respondents*



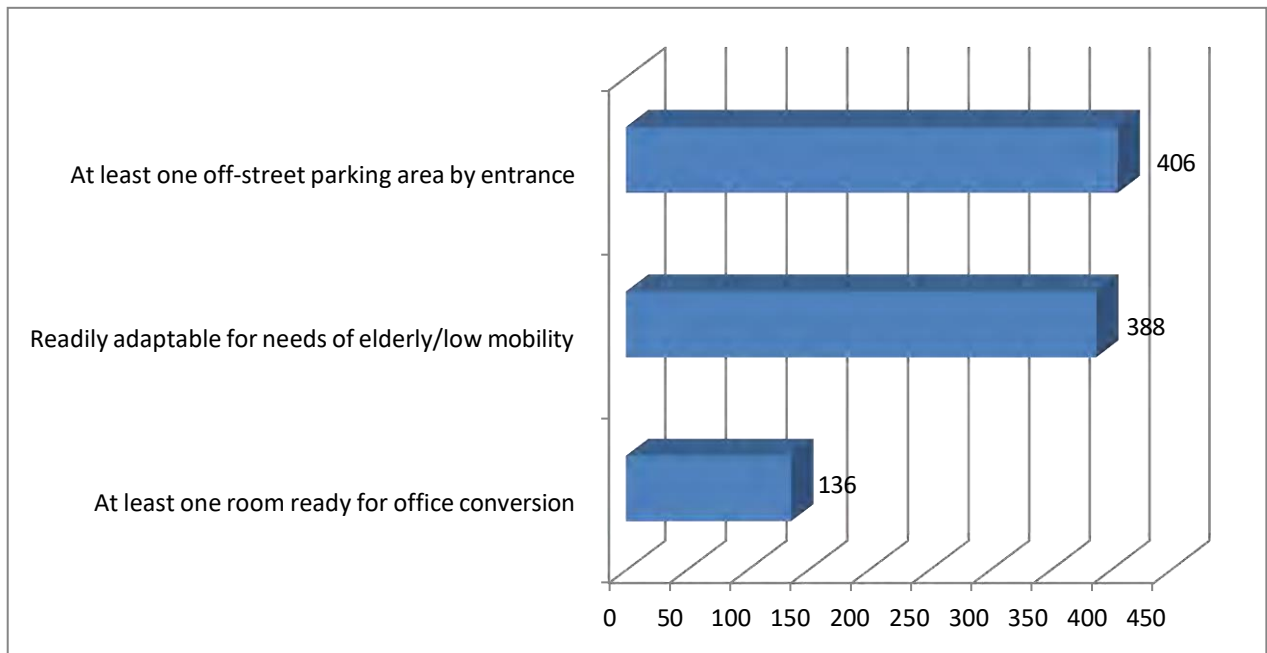
Supported housing

21. If you think supported housing is needed in Benson, what type should it be? *455 respondents – 1160 total choices*



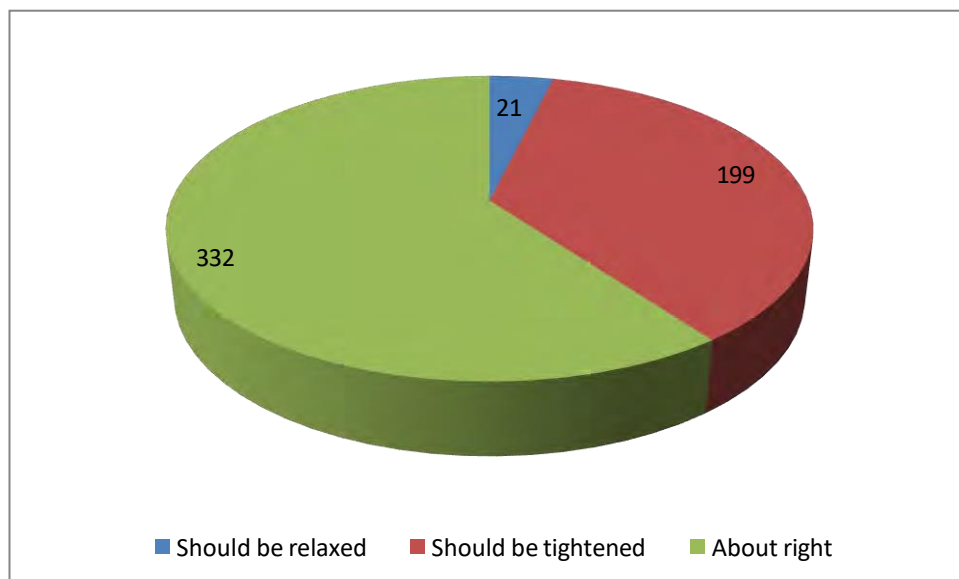
Lifetime homes

22. If new developments could accommodate lifetime homes designs, which aspects of them would you like to see? *499 respondents – 930 total choices*



Infill housing

23. Policy for infill development has so far required respect for the existing characteristics of nearby buildings – what do you think about this policy? *552 respondents*



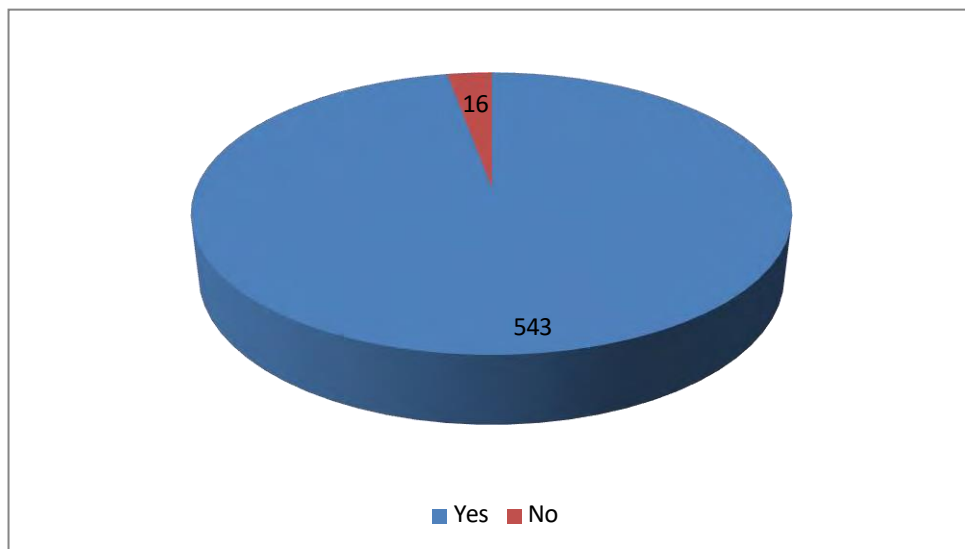
24. If you think the [infill] policy should be tightened or relaxed tell us why. 120 respondents

Reasons that policy should be TIGHTENED			
• 151 themes			
To help protect village character by preventing overdevelopment	43	To prevent overcrowding/ too much density/ keep space between houses	34
To ensure development is in keeping with existing styles/ building materials	28	To better respect neighbouring properties/ prevent overlooking/ loss of light	11
Enforce existing regulations	6	To prevent further parking issues	6
To reduce size of permitted plots	5	To keep green areas	4
To prevent over-use of infill	3	To tighten design quality	3
To protect environment and air quality	3	To prevent more traffic	1
To add a height limit	1	To require Environmental Impact Assessment	1
To protect brownfield sites	1	To achieve more sustainable buildings	1
Reasons that policy should be RELAXED			
• 3 themes			
To allow more brownfield development	1	To allow more imaginative, contemporary designs	1
Relax- no detail given	1		

Built environment and design

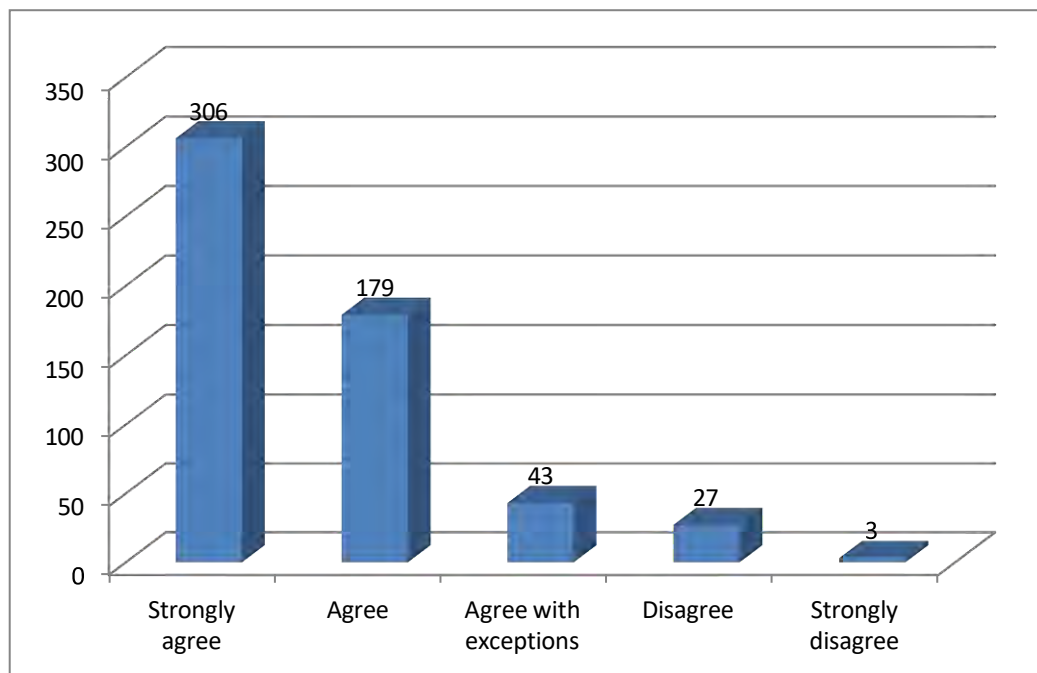
25. Are built environment and design matters important to you?

559 respondents



26. Do you think that reflecting the character of existing buildings, structures and layouts should be a major consideration for the design of future houses and developments?

558 respondents



27. If you answered 'agree' or 'strongly agree' to Question 26, is there anything that you would like to highlight as a particularly distinctive or valuable about the existing built environment of Benson?

140 comments

What is distinctive or valuable about the existing built environment?			
• 178 themes			
The historical village character/ style of buildings	64	Flint and limestone	26
Local brick style	24	Low height of buildings (1-2 storeys)	18
Cottage style	11	Traditional, locally distinctive materials	11
Gardens and green spaces	9	All is distinct/ difficult to be specific	6
Extensive footpath network	2	The variety	2
Not a lot of modern design	1	Bule headers	1
Georgian style	1	Hedging	1
Grade 2 properties	1		

28. If you answered 'agree with exceptions' to Question 26, please explain what exceptions you would like to see and why. **28 respondents**

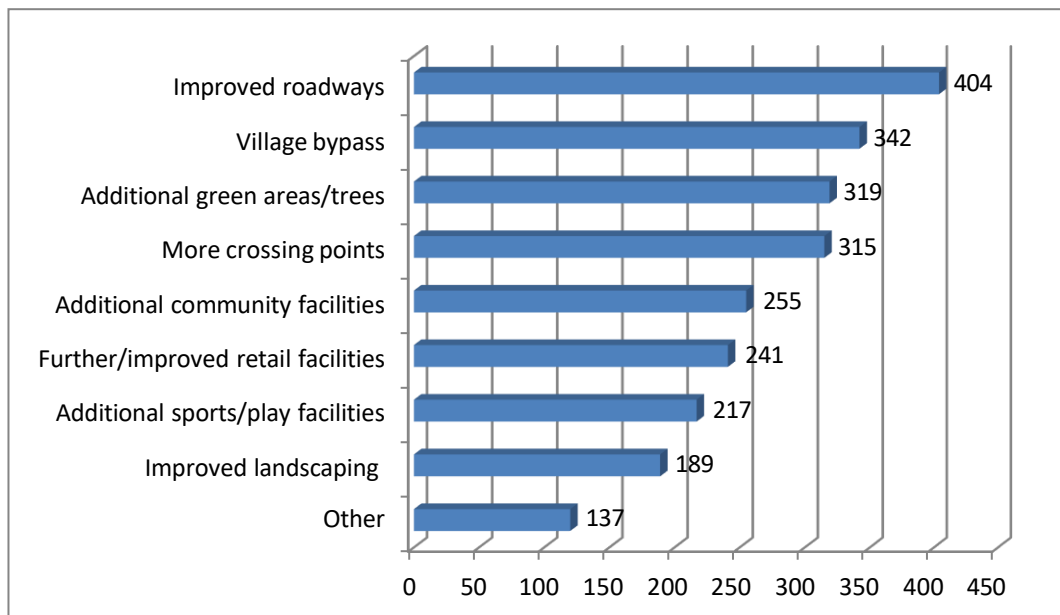
What exceptions would you like to see and why?			
• 28 themes			
To be in keeping/ complement existing surroundings	10	Better car access/ parking	4
Eco housing/ use of sustainable materials	4	Widen roads	2
Modern building techniques	2	Minimise impact on wildlife	1
Distinctive, attractive housing	1	Architectural individualism	1
Innovative design	1	Suitable footpaths	1
Protect important views	1		

29. If you answered 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree' to Question 26, please explain why and what design principles you would like to see instead. **24 respondents**

What design principles would you like to see instead?			
• 25 themes			
Good design needed, modern or vernacular	7	Modern, sustainable design	6
Variety of design	3	Well-design, practical houses	3
Sense of space and greenery	2	Innovation that fits with the village	1
No overpowering designs	1	Architectural individualism	1
Design should be allowed to evolve	1		

Benefits from new housing

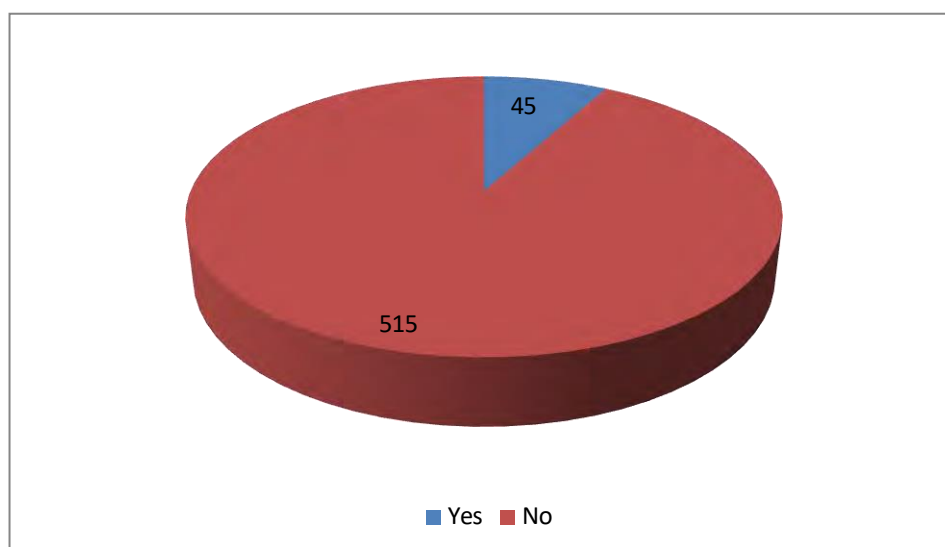
30. What benefits to the village would you like to see realised from any development? **575 respondents – 2419 total choices**



Other			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 114 comments • 137 choices 			
Improved education facilities	20	Improved parking	18
Improved health facilities	17	Better/ more retail facilities, incl. Post Office	9
Improved sports facilities	6	Improved infrastructure (general)	5
New Scout Hut	5	Bypass	5
Better bus service	5	Speed limits	4
Improved green areas	4	Better road maintenance	3
Improved footpaths	3	Improved/ bigger library	3
Improved sewage/ drainage facilities	3	Pedestrian priority areas/ crossing	3
Improved utilities (general)	2	History/ heritage centre	2
Improved utilities (general)	2	Improved traffic movement	2
Provision for disabled citizens	1	Underpass from Thames Path	1
Allotments	1	Crossing near school	1
Keep as is	1	Crossing at Wakeford Cafe	1
Usable community hall	1	Connectivity of new estates to High Street	1
Cycle paths	1	Upgrade pumping station	1
More police	1	Café and restaurants	1
Facilities for over-12s	1	Fix potholes	1
Limit ecological and environmental impact of development	1	A4074 roundabouts	1

Self-build housing

31. Is anyone in your household likely to register for a self-build or custom-built property in the next 5 years? *560 respondents*

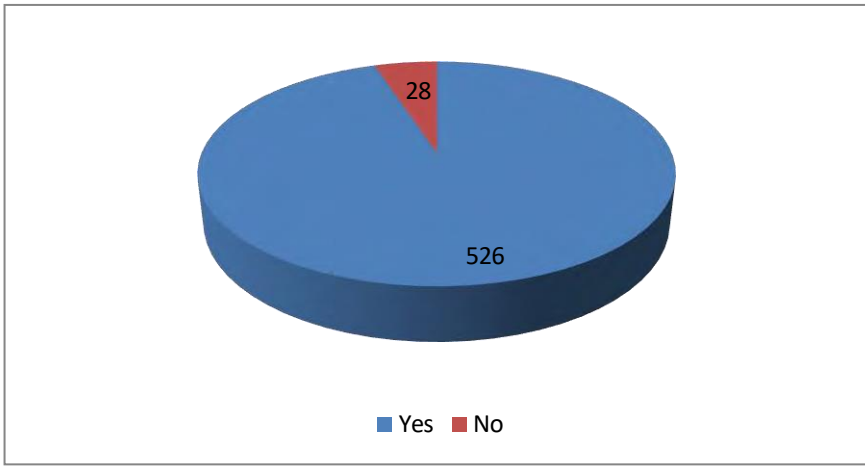


Detailed Results
Part Three- Transport, Traffic and Road Safety

Transport

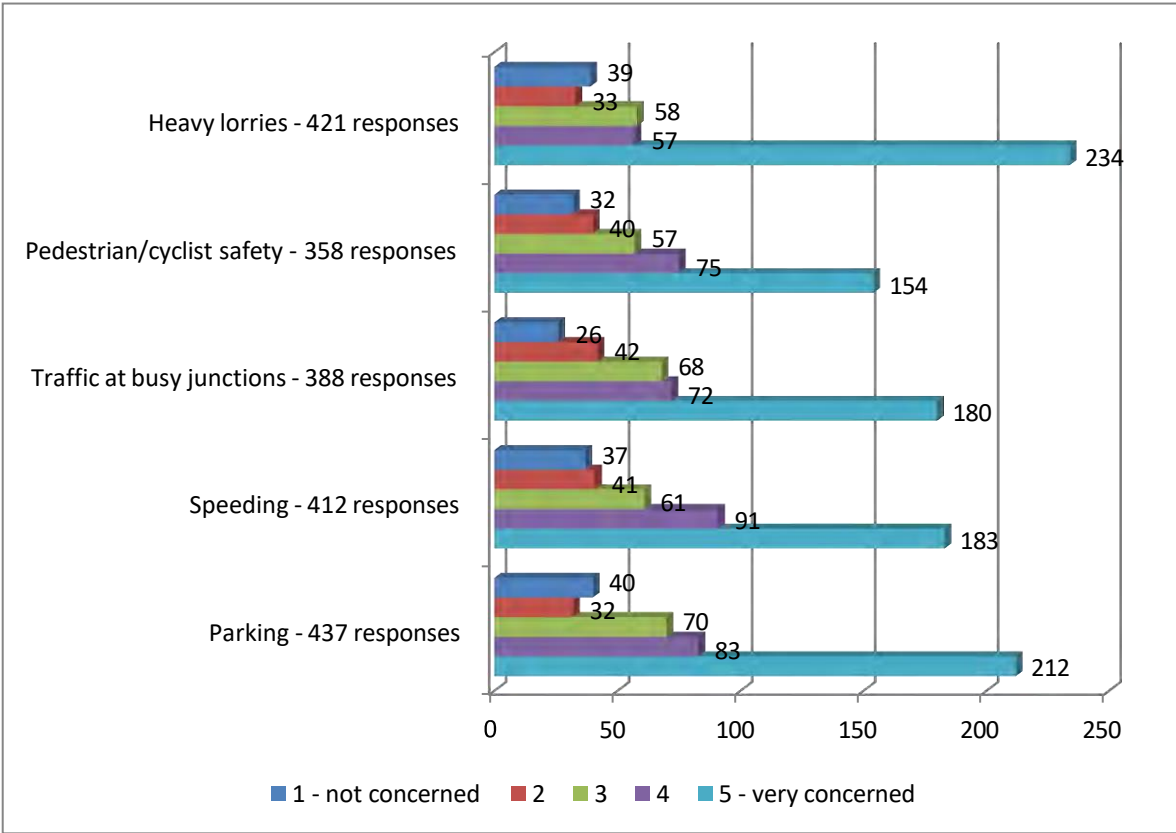
32. Do you have any concerns regarding road issues in Benson?

554 respondents



If 'yes', please rate your concern.

2017 total responses



Breakdown of comments regarding road issues:

- 468 comments
- 1392 total choices
- Locations have been segmented as described. There may be occasions where different descriptions refer to the same location.

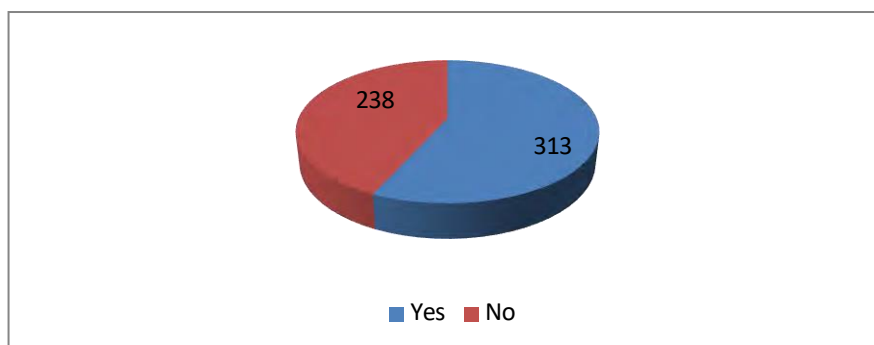
Where is parking an issue?			
• 332 choices			
High Street	77	Village centre	64
At shops	35	At school	18
Oxford Road	17	St. Helen's Avenue	17
Church Road	15	Castle Square	11
Benson in general	11	Castle Close	9
Brook St.	8	Benson Garage	5
Outside church	5	By surgery	4
Chapel Lane	4	Littleworth Road	4
Outside takeaways	4	Residential estates	4
On pavements	3	Outside Three Horseshoes pub	3
Crown Lane	3	Moorlands	2
At Preston Crowmarsh Lock	1	Marina	1
Sunnyside	1	Horseshoe Lane	1
Old London Road	1	A4074 bus stop	1
Marina bus stop	1	Gravel Close	1
Parking is not an issue	1		
Where is speeding an issue?			
• 398 choices			
High Street	72	Benson in general	59
Brook Street	54	Watlington Road	52
Oxford Road	34	Church Road	23
St Helen's Avenue	18	A4074	18
B4009	13	Littleworth Road	10
Around school	9	Blacklands Road	6
Castle Square	6	Lorry speeding	6
Old London Road	4	Westfield Road	2
Benson to Ewelme	2	Crown Lane	2
Outskirts	1	Chapel lane	1
Roads approaching village	1	Outskirts of village	1
Between Benson and Crowmarsh roundabout	1	Not a huge problem	1
The Sands	1	In housing estates	1
Where is traffic at busy junctions an issue?			
<i>Respondents also noted traffic in other locations as an issue, as reflected in the table</i>			
• 218 choices			
Church Road/ A4074	35	Castle Square	22
A4074 junctions	20	Watlington Road	19
Church Road	12	St Helen's Avenue/ Church Road	12
Littleworth Road	11	A4074 to Preston Crowmarsh	7
High St	6	Castle Square/ Church Road	4

At waterfront café/ bus stop	4	All junctions busy	4
Castle Square/ Watlington Road	3	Oxford Road	3
Church Road/ B4009	2	Crown Square	2
Castle Close	2	A4074 roundabout	2
Around war memorial	2	B4009	2
All through village	2	By school	1
Sunnyside	1	Crown Lane	1
Brook St	1	Old London Road	1
Middle of village	1		
Where is pedestrian and cyclist safety an issue?			
• 137 choices			
All roads and junctions generally unsafe	25	High St	18
At school	16	Castle Square	14
Church Road	8	Watlington Road	8
B4009	6	Oxford Road	6
Centre of village	5	By shops	5
Littleworth Road	4	A4074	4
Cyclists a hazard	4	Brook St	3
Roads without pavements	3	St Helen's Avenue and Church Road junction	2
Sunnyside	2	By library	1
By marina	1	A4074 to Ewelme	1
Little regard for cyclists	1		
Where are heavy lorries an issue an issue?			
• 244 choices			
Watlington Road	80	In village in general	40
B4009	34	Oxford Road	25
Church Road	21	High St	16
Castle Square	14	Littleworth Road	3
St Helen's Avenue	3	Brook St.	3
A4074	2	Old London Road	1
Near school	1	Reading Road	1
Other road issues?			
• 63 choices			
Potholes	17	Poor maintenance of roads in general	7
Traffic volume, flow and management	6	By-pass needed	5
Improved traffic calming needed	4	Illegal parking	3
One-way street/ pedestrian areas needed	3	More houses will mean more road infrastructure problems	3
Not enough residential parking	2	Through traffic to M40 could ruin village	2
No through road to A4074 from Church Road	1	Village not suitable for HGVs	1
Roundabout at Agrivert	1	Bus services need improving	1
30mph flashing signs needed	1	Carbon emissions	1
Speed of motorcyclists	1	HGV parking	1
Safety appraisal of all junctions needed	1	Cycle path to RAF Benson unsafe	1
Safe crossing for pedestrians needed at school	1		

Parking

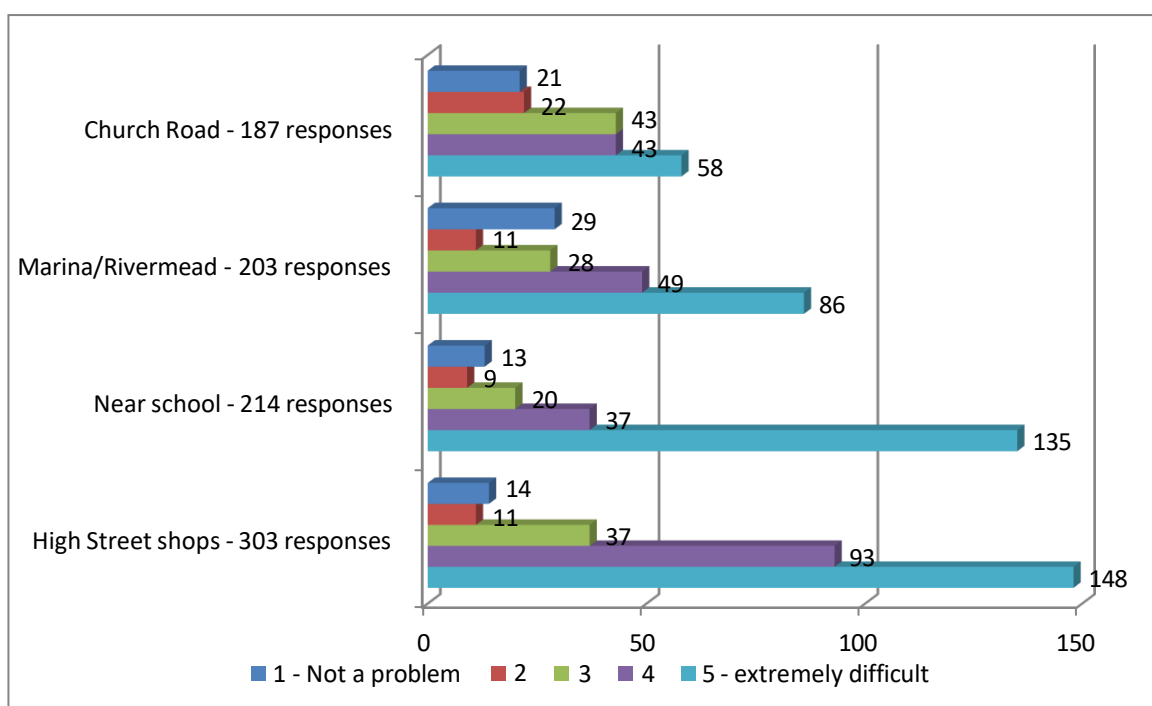
33. Do you have any difficulties with parking in Benson?

551 respondents



If 'yes', please rate your concern.

907 total responses



Breakdown of respondents answers to times of day that parking problems occur:

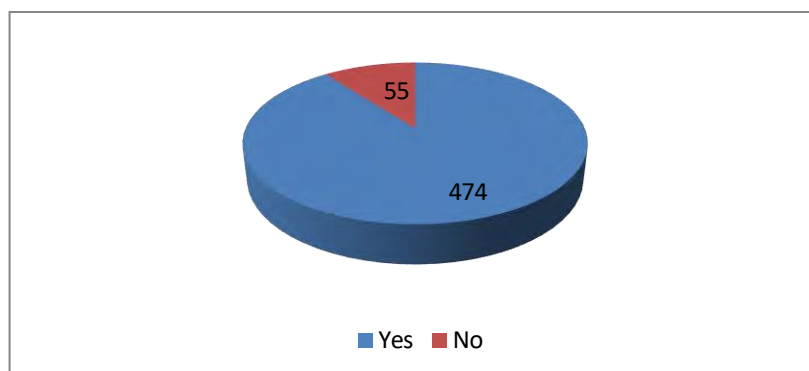
High Street near shops:			
During daytime/trading hours	86	Any time	30
Most of the time	22	Rush hour	21
Evenings	14	After school	13
After work	13	Mornings	12
Weekends	11	Saturdays	9
Lunchtimes	8	Variable	6
Early mornings	6	Afternoons	5
Mid-morning/mid-afternoon	4	Saturday mornings	4
Friday/Saturday evenings	2	Fridays	2
Late afternoons	2	Friday mornings	1

Saturday afternoons	1		
Near School:			
School drop off/collection times	146	All day	5
Any time	5	During the school day	4
Evening events	2	Most of the time	1
Weekends	1		
Near Marina/Rivermead:			
Weekends	41	All day	32
Lunchtimes	20	Sunny days	15
Any time	11	Early afternoons	5
Evenings	5	Afternoons	4
Most of the time	4	Sundays	3
Mid morning-mid afternoon	3	Mornings	2
5pm	1	Rush hour	1
Church Road:			
During church events	49	Sundays	29
Any time	14	All day	9
Rush hour	7	Various	5
Most of the time	4	Afternoons	3
Mornings	2	Evenings	2
Saturdays	1	Weekends	1
Other locations mentioned:			
St Helen's Avenue	24	Brook Street	9
Castle Square	9	Benson Garage corner	9
Blacklands Road	5	Castle Close	5
Chapel Lane	5	Oxford Road	4
3 Horseshoes Pub	4	Littleworth Road	4
Preston Crowmarsh	3	Westfield Road	3
Village car park	3	Crown Inn	2
Millstream	2	College Farm	2
Youth Hall	2	Residential streets	2
Crown Lane/Square	2	Mill Lane	2
Outside medical centre	2	Outside vets	2
Watlington Road	1		

Road safety

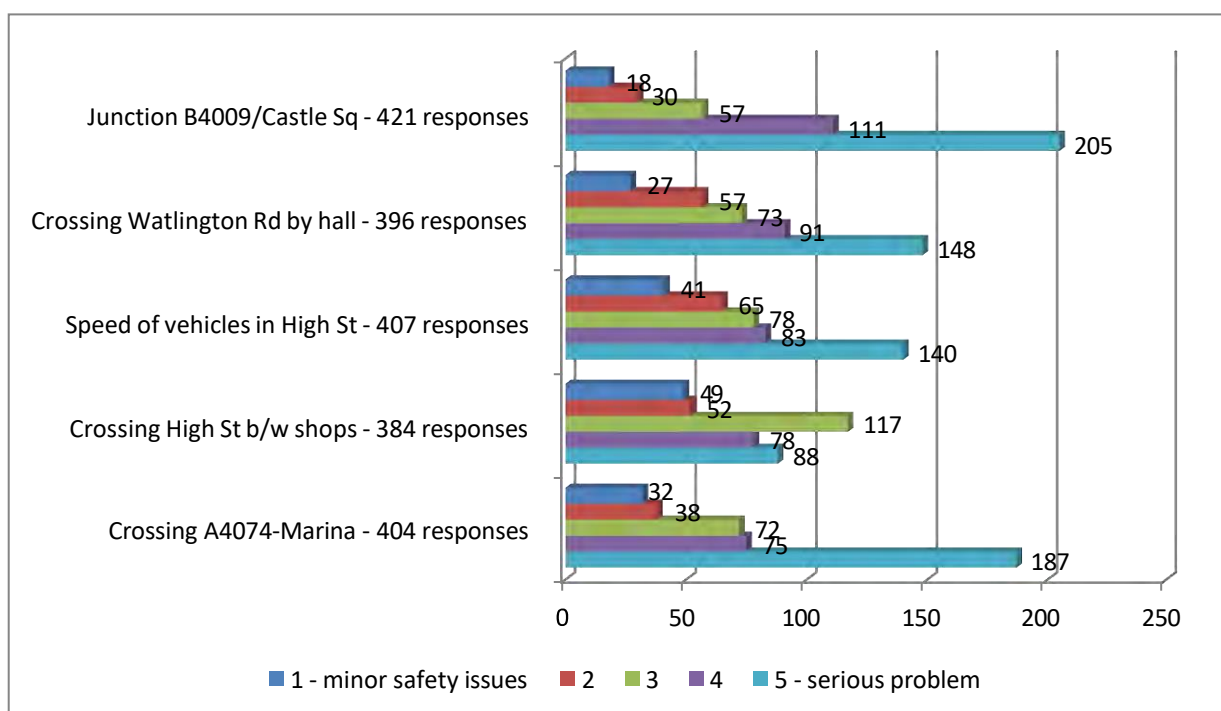
34. Do you think there are road safety issues in Benson?

529 respondents



If 'yes', please rate your concern.

2012 total responses



Breakdown of respondents answers to the nature of road safety issues at those locations:

Crossing A4074 to Marina area:			
Needs a pedestrian crossing	24	Speed of traffic	17
Dangerous	15	Heavy traffic	11
Traffic island helps	7	Difficult for bus users	6
Dangerous for children	6	Needs traffic lights	6
Dangerous right turns	5	Needs speed restrictions	5
Needs a bridge	5	Needs roundabout	4
Parked cars cause issues	2	Needs parking restrictions	2
Entry/exit is difficult	2	Difficult for wheelchairs	2
Bad at peak times	2	No footpath at Marina entrance	2

Needs traffic calming Reading-Oxford	1	Pedestrians don't look	1
Suggest a traffic survey	1	Always busy	1
Poor visibility	1		
Crossing High Street between shops:			
Parked cars cause issues	28	Needs a pedestrian crossing	12
Speed of traffic	8	Dangerous	5
Heavy traffic	4	Should be 20mph	3
Always busy	2	Dangerous for children	2
Pedestrians don't look	2	Needs speed bumps	1
Bad on Saturday mornings	1		
Speed of vehicles in High Street:			
Should be 20mph	14	Speed of traffic	9
Parked cars cause issues	5	Needs a pedestrian crossing	4
Bad drivers	3	Bad in evenings	2
Heavy traffic	2	People speed up once past Crown	1
Speed restrictions not obeyed	1	Especially Thames Travel Bus	1
Often caused by residents	1	Bad at school times	1
Bad 24/7	1	Dangerous with children	1
Poor visibility	1	Need speed bumps	1
Don't need speed bumps	1		
Crossing Watlington Road by the Parish Hall:			
Poor visibility/blind bends	38	Speed of traffic	18
Needs a pedestrian crossing	11	Dangerous	10
Bad at peak times	6	Littleworth development will worsen	5
Heavy traffic	3	Dangerous with children	2
Needs a speed sign	1	Increase the lighting by the Hall	1
Heavy lorries	1	Traffic from multiple directions	1
Bad at Littleworth Road	1	Especially by triangle/Chapel Lane	1
Should be 20mph	1	Should be 10mph	1
Grass verge needs cutting	1	Needs traffic lights	1
Junction of B4009 and Castle Square:			
Poor visibility/blind bends	22	Speed of traffic	10
Needs a pedestrian crossing	10	Dangerous	9
Dangerous for school children	9	Traffic from multiple directions	8
Heavy lorries	7	Needs a school crossing patrol	6
Heavy traffic	5	Parked cars cause issues	4
Junction not suitable for traffic	3	Too narrow for current traffic	2
People don't indicate	2	Bad at school times	2
Bad at rush hour	2	Should be 20mph	2
Always busy	2	Needs to be one-way by Memorial	1
2 accidents this month	1	Need to extend parking restrictions	1
Need better road markings	1	Used by people who don't know road	1
Should be 10mph	1	Dangerous for cyclists	1
Narrow pavement	1	People don't look	1
Poorly designed layout	1		

Other locations of road safety issues:			
Oxford Road (19 comments)			
No specific comment	7	Speed of traffic	7
School crossing	2	No safe crossing	2
Potholes	1		
St Helen's Avenue (12 comments)			
No specific comment	4	Speed of traffic	2
Poor visibility	2	Used as shortcut	1
Difficult bend	1	Heavy traffic	1
Often reduced to single lane	1		
Brook Street (10 comments)			
Speed of traffic	4	No pavement	3
Parked cars cause an issue	2	No specific comment	1
Castle Square (8 comments)			
No specific comment	4	Parked cars cause issues	2
Speed of traffic	1	Needs a pedestrian crossing	1
Church Road (7 comments)			
Speed of traffic	5	No specific comment	2
Benson Garage (7 comments)			
Large vehicles parked outside	5	Speed of traffic	1
No specific comment	1		
Blacklands Road (7 comments)			
Speed of traffic	4	Used as shortcut	3
By School (6 comments)			
No specific comment	4	Heavy lorries	1
Busy at dropping off times	1		
Littleworth Road/Oxford Road (6 comments)			
Poor visibility	2	No specific comment	2
Dangerous	1	Speed of traffic	1
Preston Crowmarsh (5 comments)			
Speed of traffic	2	No specific comment	2
Entry/exit needs roundabout	1		
Littleworth Road (4 comments)			
Littleworth development will worsen	3	Speed of traffic	1
Junction of Crown Lane/Old London Road (3 comments)			
Poor visibility	2	No pavement	1
Crossing on B4009 at Sandsway (3 comments)			
Speed of traffic	2	No specific comment	1
High Street outside takeaways (2 comments)			
Parked cars cause issues	2		
Hale Road (2 comments)			
No specific comment	2		
Westfield Road (2 comments)			
No specific comment	2		
Littleworth Lane (2 comments)			
Narrow pavements	1	No specific comment	1
Millstream (1 comment)			
Parked cars cause issues	1		
A4074 to Benson Lane (1 comment)			

Speed is 50mph	1		
Opposite Crown Pub (1 comment)			
No specific comment	1		
By Three Horseshoes (1 comment)			
Parked cars cause issues	1		
Opposite London Road (1 comment)			
Difficult bend	1		
Battle Barns onto A4074 (1 comment)			
Needs a roundabout	1		
Junction of B4009/Crown Lane (1 comment)			
Poor visibility	1		
Near Library (1 comment)			
Entry/exit is difficult	1		
By The Sun (1 comment)			
Narrow bend	1		
B4009 north of Castle Square (1 comment)			
Narrow footpath	1		
Watlington Road between Crown Lane and Westfield Road (1 comment)			
No pavement	1		
Sands Road (1 comment)			
Speed of traffic	1		
Crown Road to Watlington Road (1 comment)			
Dangerous	1		
Chapel Lane turning right (1 comment)			
Restricted view	1		
Walking from Cedars End to shops (1 comment)			
No specific comment	1		
Junction of Littleworth and Main Road (1 comment)			
Restricted view	1		
Main Road near church (1 comment)			
Turning right	1		
Crossing by Millers Crossing (1 comment)			
No specific comment	1		

35. Are there any other road safety issues for pedestrian or other road/pavement users that you wish to raise? **155 comments**

Other road safety issues raised regarding pedestrian or other road/pavement users:			
All over village (31 comments)			
State of roads/pavements/potholes	14	Cars parked illegally	7
Need speed limits/bumps	3	Too much through traffic	1
New development means no safe route to High St	1	Cycle paths need to be used better	1
Many pavements not buggy friendly	1	Heavy lorries mount kerbs	1
Not enough village cutting	1	Bins left on pavements	1
High Street (15 comments)			
Parked cars cause problems	9	State of roads and pavements	4
Lack of pavement	1	Footpath too narrow by pub	1
Brook Street (14 comments)			

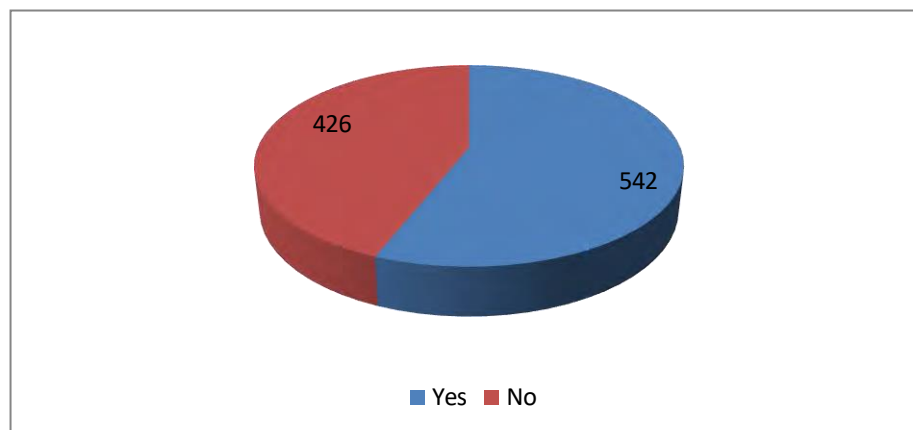
No pavement/footpath	10	Speed of traffic	3
Narrow road	1		
Church Road (12 comments)			
Potholes	5	Narrow footpath	4
Dangerous crossing	3		
Littleworth Road (11 comments)			
Narrow pavements	5	Speed of traffic	2
Proposed layout of narrow pavement	2	Traffic in new development	1
Narrow when cars are parked	1		
B4009 (9 comments)			
Narrow pavements	3	Need safe crossing (for school)	2
Speed of traffic	2	Potholes	1
Narrow road	1		
Near school (8 comments)			
Need proper crossing	3	Need large paved area	1
Potholes	1	Footpath messy	1
Congested at peak times	1	Used as ratrun	1
Oxford Road (7 comments)			
No clear crossing point	3	Speed of traffic	2
Pavement crosses sides	1	Cars parked on pavements	1
Castle Square (7 comments)			
Narrow footpath	3	Cars parked on pavements	3
No safe school crossing	1		
Crown Lane (6 comments)			
State of pavements	4	Speed of traffic	1
Lots of temporary parking	1		
St Helen's Avenue/Way (4 comments)			
Parked cars	1	Speed of traffic	1
Potholes	1	Need double yellow lines	1
Near Crown Inn (4 comments)			
Cars parked on pavements	2	Narrow footpath	1
Need pedestrian area	1		
Watlington Road (4 comments)			
Narrow pavement	2	No footpath Westfield Rd to Castle St	1
Replace broken sign	1		
Preston Crowmarsh Road (3 comments)			
Speed of traffic	3		
Near Library/Memorial (3 comments)			
Need safer crossing	2	Pavement uneven	1
A4074/Marina (3 comments)			
Need safer crossing	1	Speed of traffic	1
Cars parked on verge	1		
Sunnyside (2 comments)			
Dangerous if cars parked on bend	1	Difficult getting in/out	1
Benson Garage (2 comments)			
Obstruction of road by recovery lorries	2		
Old London Road (2 comments)			
Lack of pavement/footpath	2		
Crown Square (1 comment)			

Speed of traffic	1		
Chapel Lane/High Street junction (1 comment)			
Cars parked too close to junction	1		
High Street to Brook Street (1 comment)			
Need sign stating road narrows	1		
Westfield Road (1 comment)			
Cars parked on pavements	1		
Castle Close (1 comment)			
Cars parked on pavements	1		
Observatory Close (1 comment)			
Obscured by parked cars	1		
Blacklands Road (1 comment)			
Shortcut to High St	1		
A4074 (1 comment)			
Cyclists don't use bells			

Travel to work/study

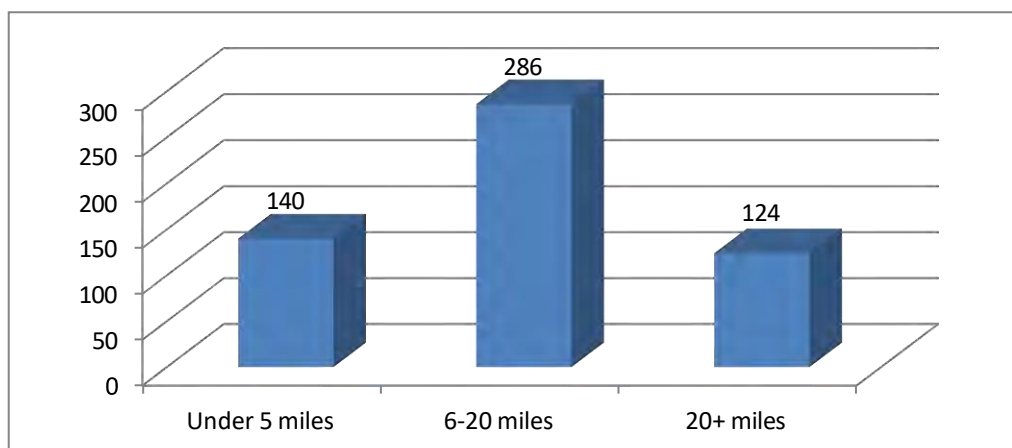
36. Do you travel to work/study outside Benson on a regular basis?

509 respondents – 968 total choices



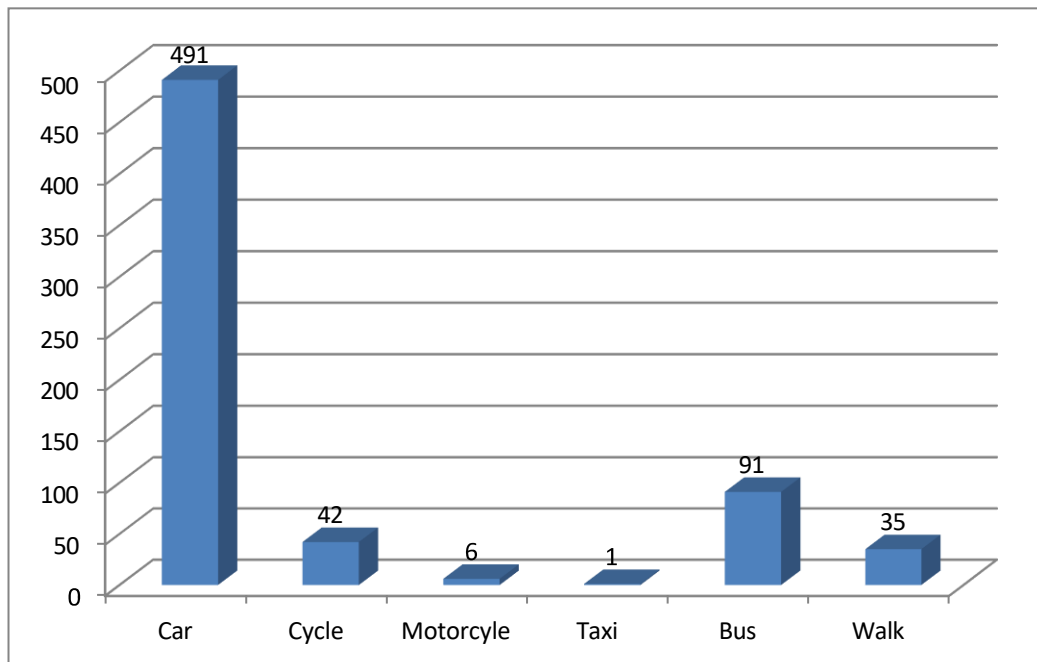
37. If 'yes' to Question 36, how far do you commute?

306 respondents – 550 total choices



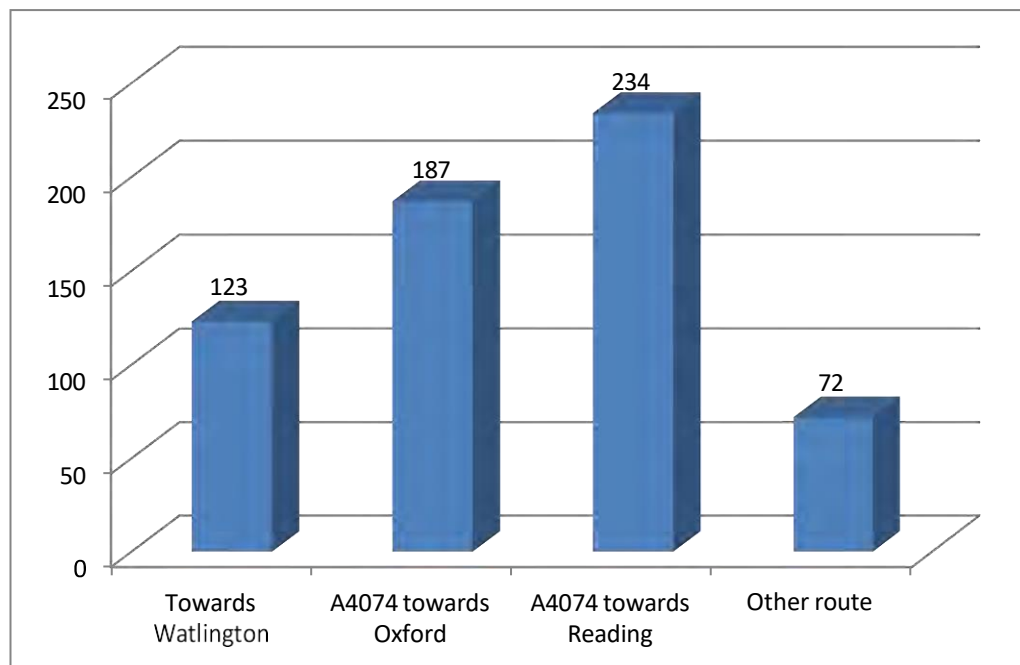
38. If 'yes' to Question 36, what transport do you use to commute?

310 respondents – 666 total choices



39. If 'yes' to Question 36, by which route do you usually leave Benson?

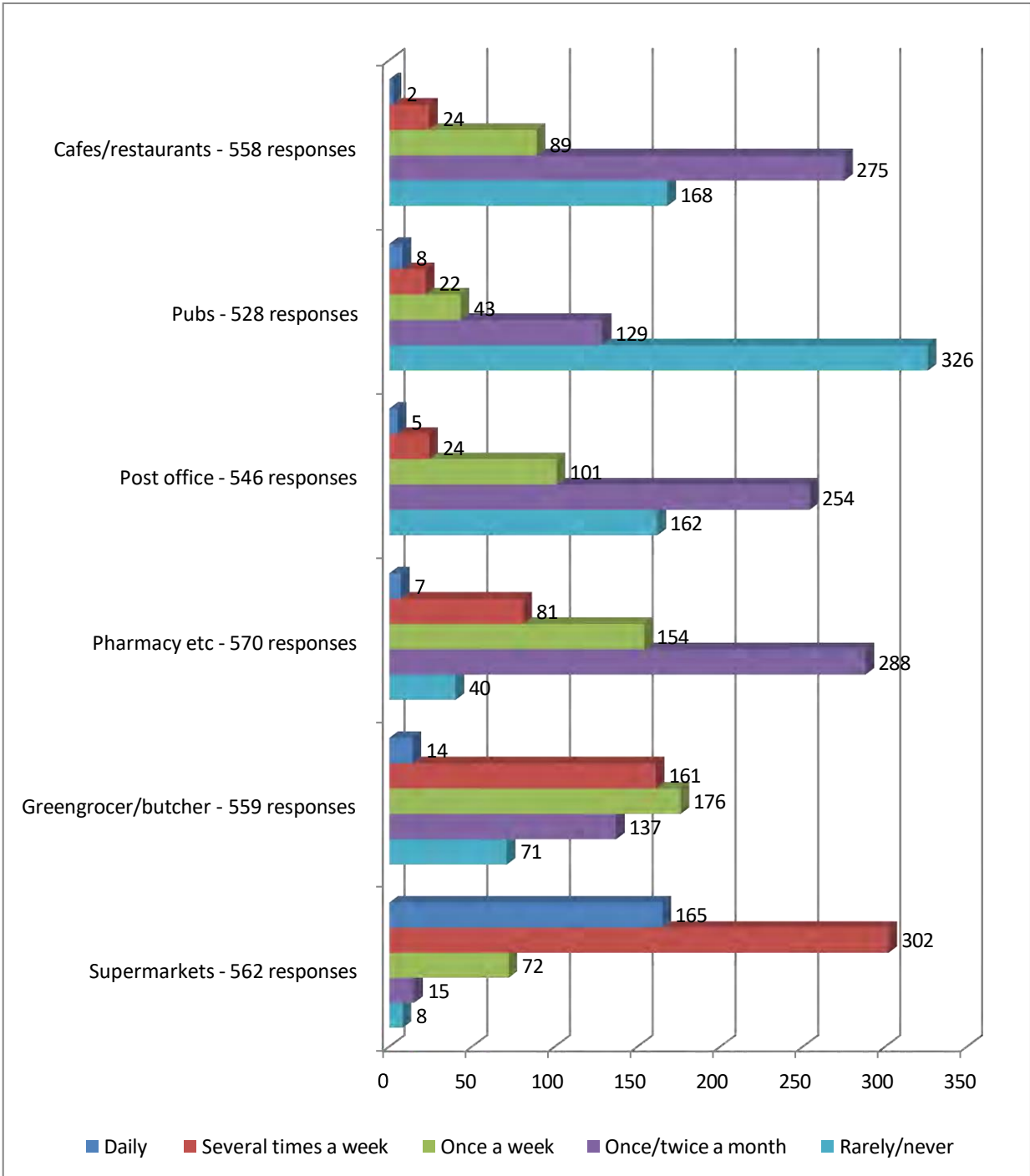
311 respondents – 616 total choices



Detailed Results
Part Four- Community Facilities and Infrastructure

40. How often do you or family members use the following retail facilities?

584 respondents – 3323 total choices

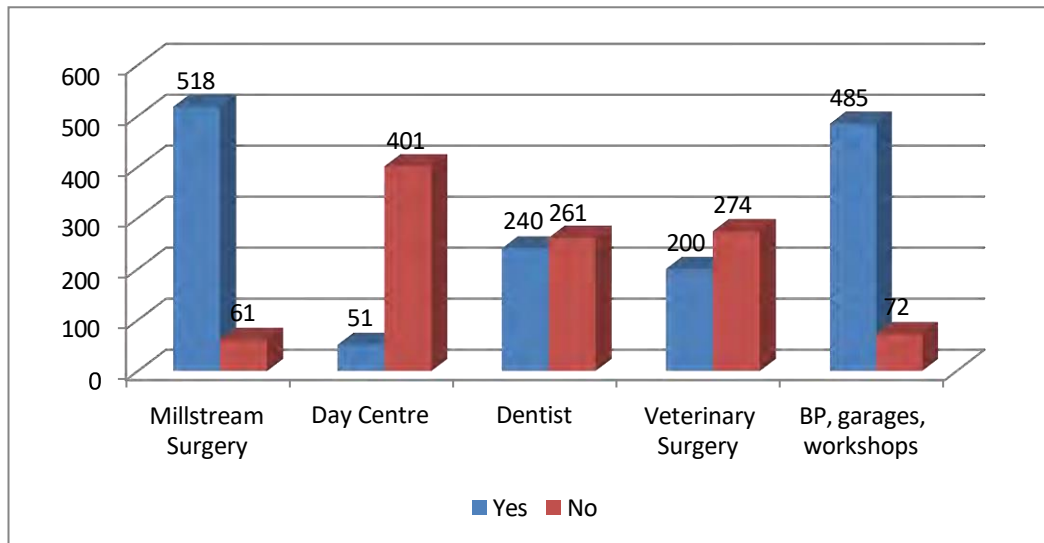


Breakdown of respondents answers to why they rarely/never use these facilities?

Supermarkets:			
Can't park	2	Too far to walk	2
Only use in emergencies	1	Queues too long	1
Too expensive	1	Shope elsewhere	1
Limited range	1	Shop online	1
Greengrocer/butcher:			
Prefer to shop at bigger supermarket	15	Too expensive	8
Don't need to use often	4	Unsuitable hours	4
Poor quality	4	Insufficient range	2
Special occasions only	1	Can't park	1
No organic produce	1		
Pharmacy and other service facilities:			
Don't need to use often	15	Too expensive	2
Use other pharmacy	1	Insufficient range	1
Can't park	1	Pharmacist was rude	1
Post Office:			
Inconvenient hours	38	Use other post office	13
Don't need to use often	11	Didn't know we had one	9
Inconvenient location	9	Shop online	3
Insufficient range	1	Too busy	1
Pubs:			
Don't go to pub often	29	Don't drink	21
Pubs not to taste	15	Prefer pubs elsewhere	13
Prefer to drink at home	6	Too expensive	6
Only go for occasional meal	5	Unwelcoming	5
Not family friendly	5	Need to limit expenditure	4
Poor quality	2	Too cliquey	2
Too busy	2	Poor choice	1
No family to take	1		
Cafes, restaurants and fast food:			
Don't eat out often	19	Prefer to go elsewhere	10
Too expensive	8	Need to limit expenditure	7
Prefer to eat at home	7	Too busy	4
Dietary requirements	3	Only when family are visiting	3
Poor quality	2	Unable to walk far	1
Can't park	1	Don't like them	1
Not child friendly	1	No family to take	1

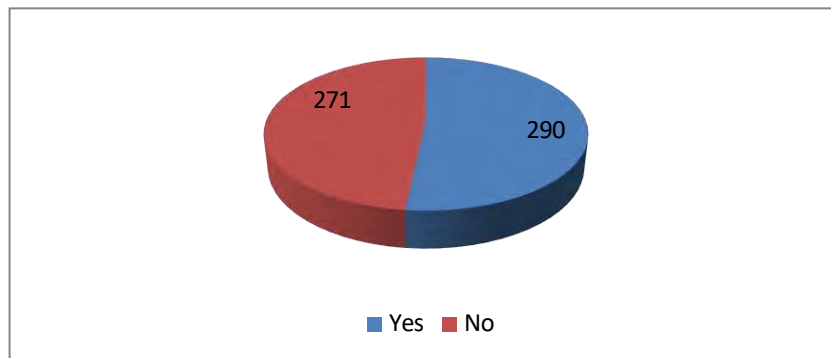
41. Do you use any of the following facilities?

583 respondents - 2563 total choices



42. Are you in favour of retail outlets outside of the village centre?

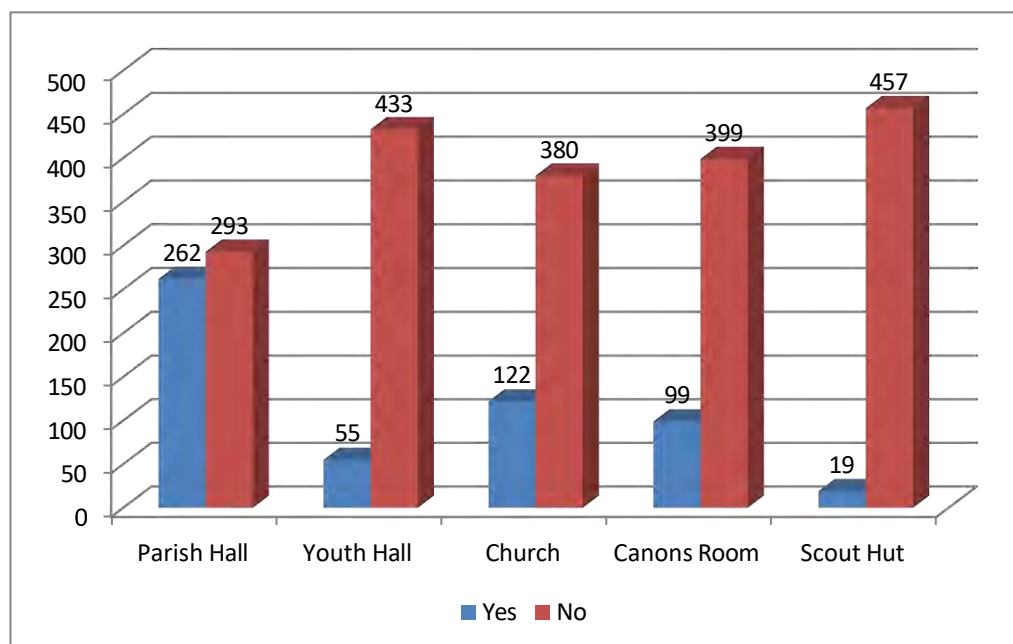
561 respondents



Comments on new retail outlets outside village centre:			
Those in favour - 50 comments			
If village is to expand, then more shops will be needed	24	Would relieve parking/congestion	11
Need a larger/different store, ie Tesco	6	As long as there is good parking	3
Provides competition for existing shops	2	Dispersed development is better	1
Would take strain off existing High St	1	Would save journey to village centre	1
Would split trade and ensure village centre is maintained	1		
Those not in favour - 111 comments			
Need to support existing shops in village centre	68	Need to keep the village centre as a hub, and invest in it	19
It would split the village	13	Existing shops are sufficient	8
Already 2 empty shops	3		
Undecided - 12 comments			
Pros and cons to both options	6	Depends on type of new development	6

43. Do you or any members of your family regularly use any of the following facilities?

573 respondents - 2519 total choices



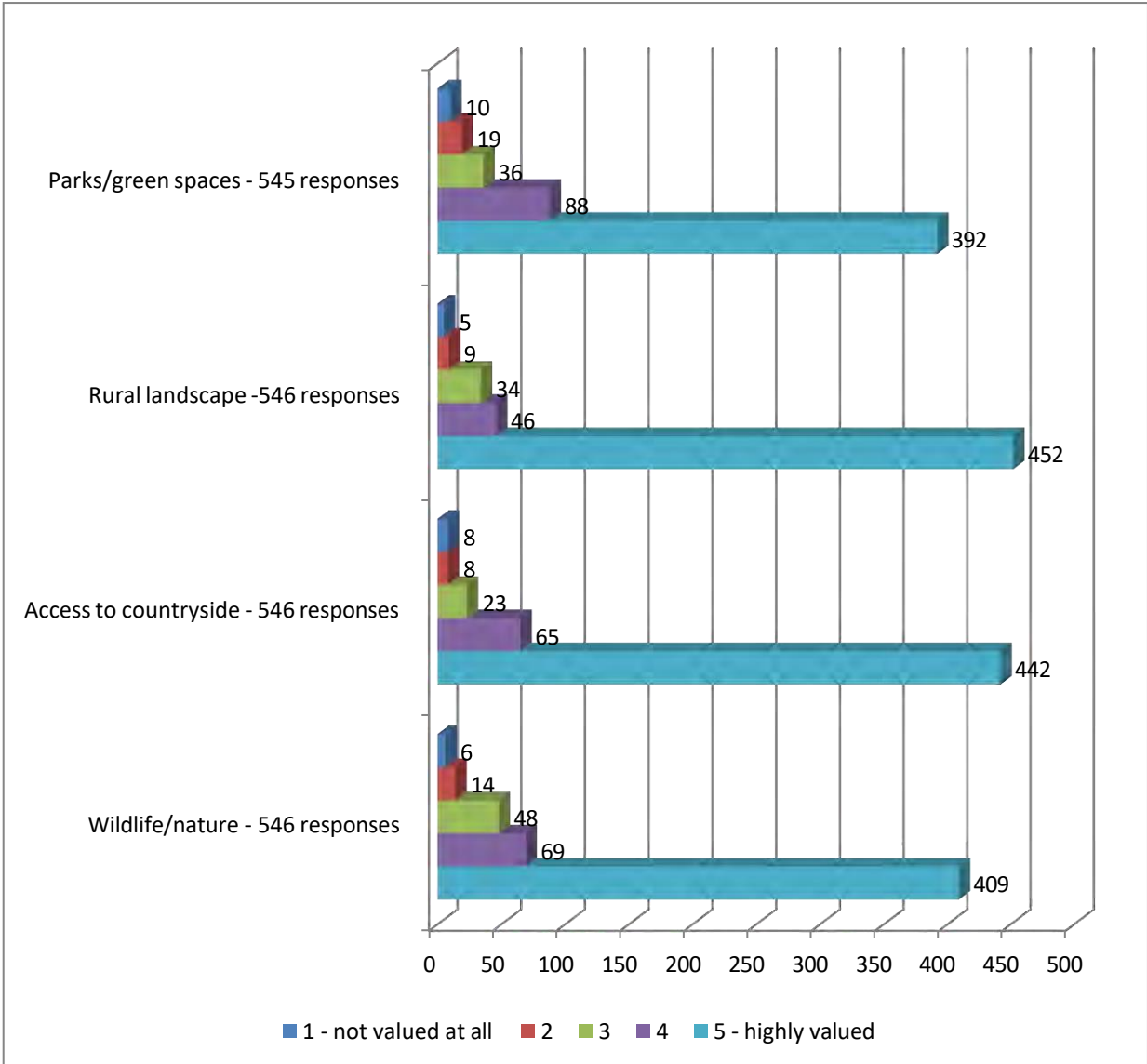
Additional community facilities suggested:			
- 106 suggestions			
Gym/sports centre	10	Swimming pool	9
Facilities for teenagers (social/sport)	9	New/improved play areas for children	9
New/improved youth hall	9	Skate park	8
Bowling green	7	New multi-use hall	6
Outdoor/green gym	6	Heritage/archive centre	6
New/improved scout hut	5	Floodlit all-weather football pitch	3
Badminton/squash courts	2	Designated Post Office	2
Café	2	Small rooms for hire	1
Additional playing fields	1	Fitness trails	1
Nature trails	1	Exercise classes	1
Cycle routes	1	Outdoor summer area	1
Canoe/board storage by river	1	Proper use of land from Bert West	1
WCs at park	1	Social club	1
Another pub	1	Care home	1

Detailed Results
Part Five- Green Space and the Natural Environment

44.

44. How important or valuable are the following matters to you? Please rate.

561 respondents – 2183 total choices

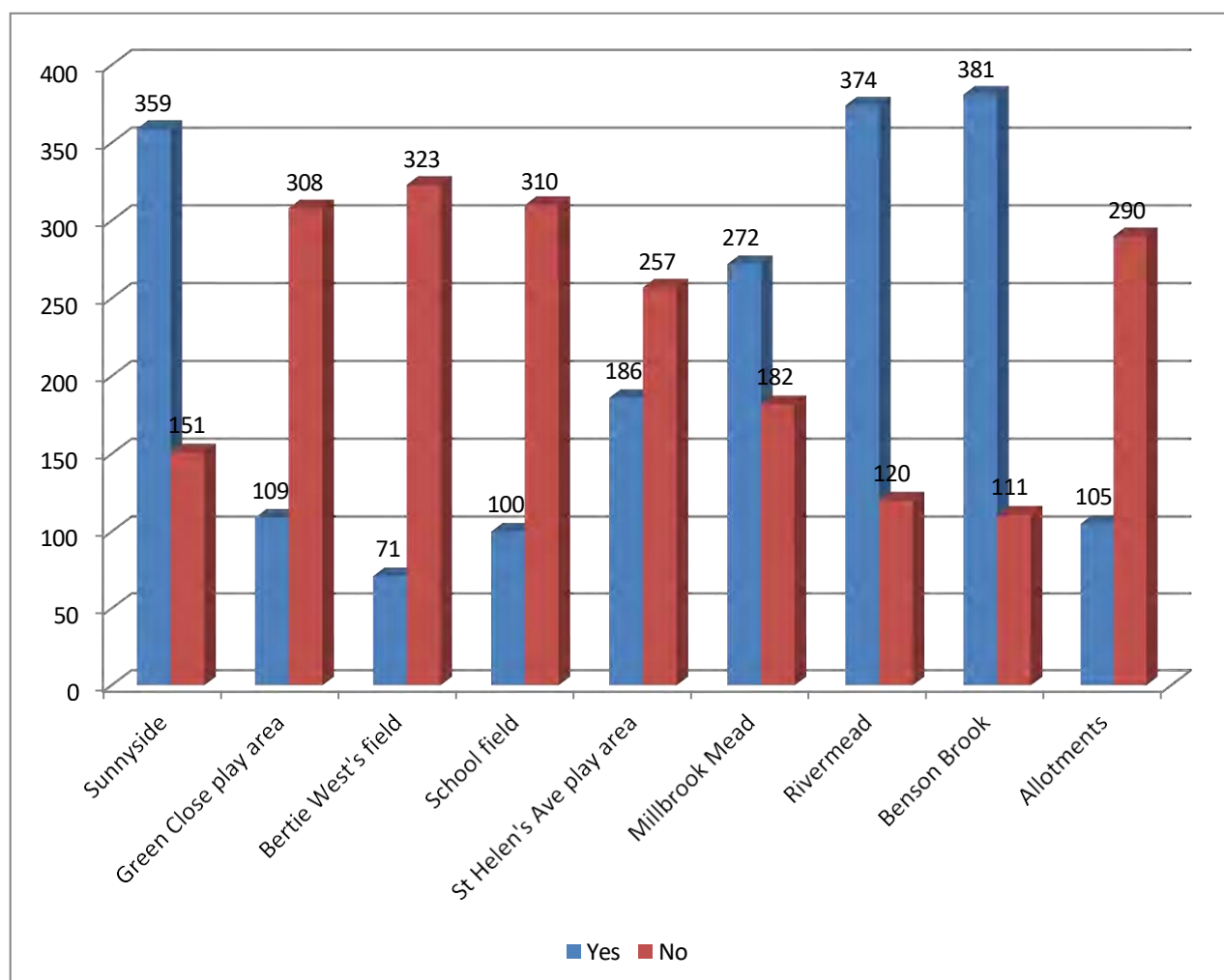


Breakdown of comments about value of green spaces:

Ability to sustain wildlife/nature:			
Important to sustain	13	This is what makes Benson a village	5
Lots of varied wildlife	5	Enjoyable aspect of village life	2
New developments should protect this	2	Work done by Benson Nature Group	1
Need more	1	Too many red kites	1
Don't remove hedges	1	Mostly looks scruffy	1
Uncut verges are dangerous	1		
Ability to access countryside:			
This is what makes Benson a village	5	Footpaths must be protected	4
Why I chose to live in the village	4	Important to retain	4
Great for dogs	3	Often too dangerous to walk/cycle	2
Regularly walk	1	Reduces pollution	1
More important than controlled spaces	1	More important as Benson expands	1
Should be available without car	1	Need more traffic calming/enforcement	1
Make footpath into cycle route between St Helen's Ave and A4074	1	Airfield is in the way	1
No more bikes, nuisance	1	Development as planned will not alter this	1
Setting in rural landscape:			
Important to retain	4	Lovely views	4
Why I chose to live in the village	4	This is what makes Benson a village	2
Only some houses benefit from views	2	Village envelope is important	1
Lucky to live here	1	Benefit to all who live here	1
Airfield is a problem	1	Don't want just a housing estate	1
No more housing in this area	1		
Public parks/open green areas:			
Needed for sport and recreation	4	Important for children	4
Important to retain	4	Sense of community	2
Need more trees	2	Currently well provided	1
Must retain existing	1	More if possible	1
Keep trying to build houses on them	1	But no dog fouling	1
More parks will encourage dog owners	1	Not sterile weed-free playing fields	1
We don't have parks	1		
General comments:			
Benson is a village not a town	10	Why I chose to live in the village	10
Important to keep all these things	7	Important for health and well-being	2
If keep building, no spaces left	2	Enjoy all aspects of village life	1
Once lost, gone forever	1		

45. Which of Benson's green spaces do you/your family use?

551 respondents – 4009 total choices



Breakdown of comments about usage of green spaces:

Sunnyside:			
Walk the dog	33	Play sports	28
Use with grandchildren	26	Play area	26
Go for walks	6	Multi-use facility	5
Dog fouling	4	Use regularly	4
Safe space for children/elderly	2	Village events	2
Children socialise here	1	Nothing for older children	1
Not fit for purpose	1		
Green Close play area:			
Use with grandchildren	17	Play area	5
Walk the dog	3	Go for walks	2
Play sports	2	Use regularly	2
Play to socialise	1	Needs renewing	1
Dog fouling	1		
Bertie West's field:			
Where is this?	18	Scouts/beavers	6

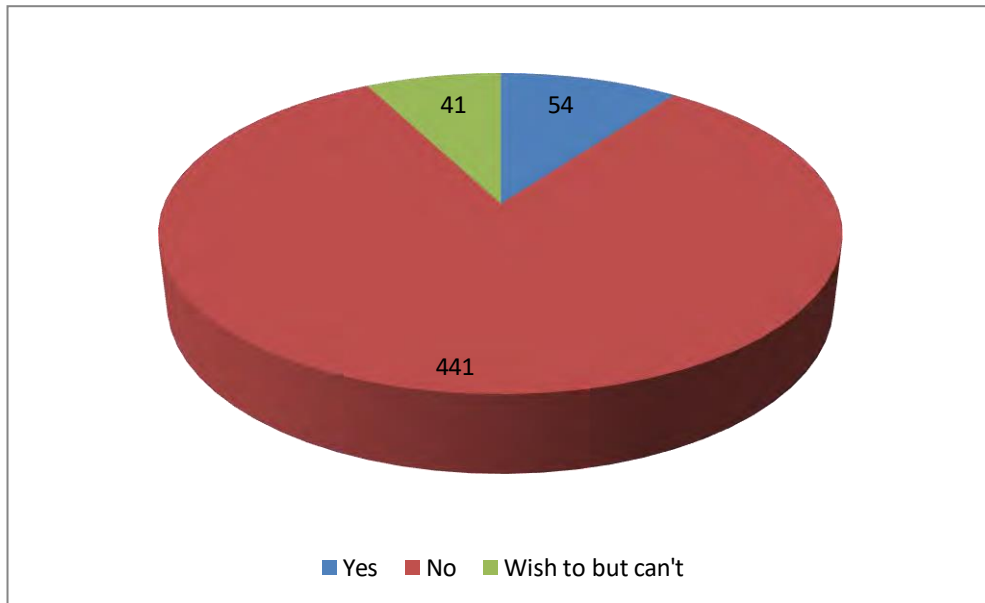
Use with grandchildren	2	Walk the dog	2
Use regularly	2	No real use	2
Wildlife	1	Used by school	1
Play sports	1	Could be used as nature reserve	1
Access is a problem	1	Sell for housing	1
School field:			
For school use	10	Play sports	8
Use with grandchildren	3	Use regularly	2
For access	2	Use for dog training	1
Dog fouling	1	Didn't know it was for public use	1
Should be shut out of hours	1		
St Helen's Avenue play area:			
Use with grandchildren	22	Play area	14
Walk the dog	6	Go for walks	5
Use regularly	3	Children socialise here	2
Nothing for older children	2	Play sports	1
Millbrook Mead:			
Go for walks	22	Wildlife	13
Lovely spot	7	Use regularly	6
Walk the dog	5	Where is it?	3
Good for children	3	Use with grandchildren	2
Use with guides	1	Help out there	1
Green gym	1	Needs better signage	1
Should have been skate park	1		
Rivermead:			
Go for walks	15	Lovely area to sit	11
Good for young families	10	Use with grandchildren	9
Use regularly	9	Paddling pool	5
Need to fill the pool more often	3	Walk the dog	3
Visit occasionally	2	Recreation	2
Fishing	1	To get to the café	1
Access to the river	1	Keep it natural	1
Need more areas like this	1	Never open when think of it	1
Needs improving	1	Needs WC	1
Benson Brook:			
Go for walks	34	Wildlife	8
Beautiful place/hidden gem	7	Use regularly	7
Walk the dog	5	Safe route to cross road	4
Where is it?	4	Good for children	3
Use with grandchildren	3	Peaceful	2
Fishing	1	Keep it natural	1
Visit occasionally	1	Recreation	1
High feature of village	1	Need more areas like this	1
A little overgrown	1	Can't get pushchair down	1
Allotments:			
Walk through	22	Have a plot	12
Important asset	12	Used to have a plot	3
Social interaction/community	3	Would use if didn't have garden	2
May use in future	2	Wildlife	1

Uplifting	1	Houses have been built on in past	1
Other green spaces used:			
All footpaths	18	Routes to Warborough and Roke	17
Thames path	8	Path to Wallingford	4
To/from lock	3	Field along St Helen's Avenue	2
Aldridge Triangle	1	Triangle at Littleworth Road	1
Golf club	1	Tennis courts	1
Elm Brook	1	Path to Ewelme	1
Path from St Helen's Ave to A4074	1	Cycling into Chilterns	1
Area opposite McDonalds/BP	1	Slipway at waterfront	1
Warwick Spinney	1		
General comments:			
Would use these if had children/used to use when had children	29	Too old	5
Not used but valued	2	Few homes have big gardens so need open spaces	1
Prefer to go elsewhere for play areas	1		

Detailed Results
Part Six- Does your household or any person/s in your household need a different home in Benson

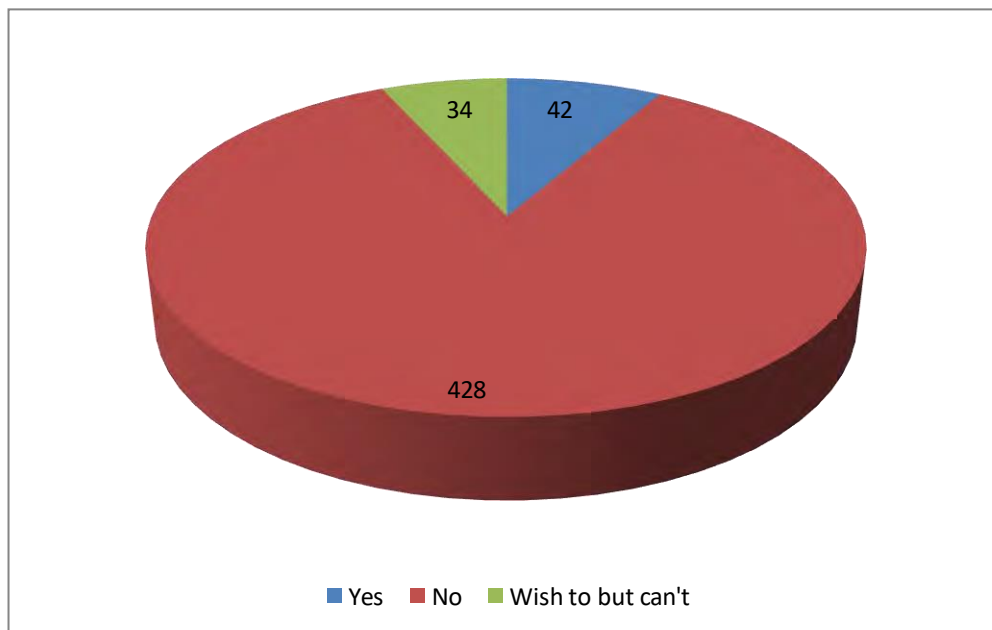
46. Is your whole household intending to move within Benson in the next five years?

536 respondents



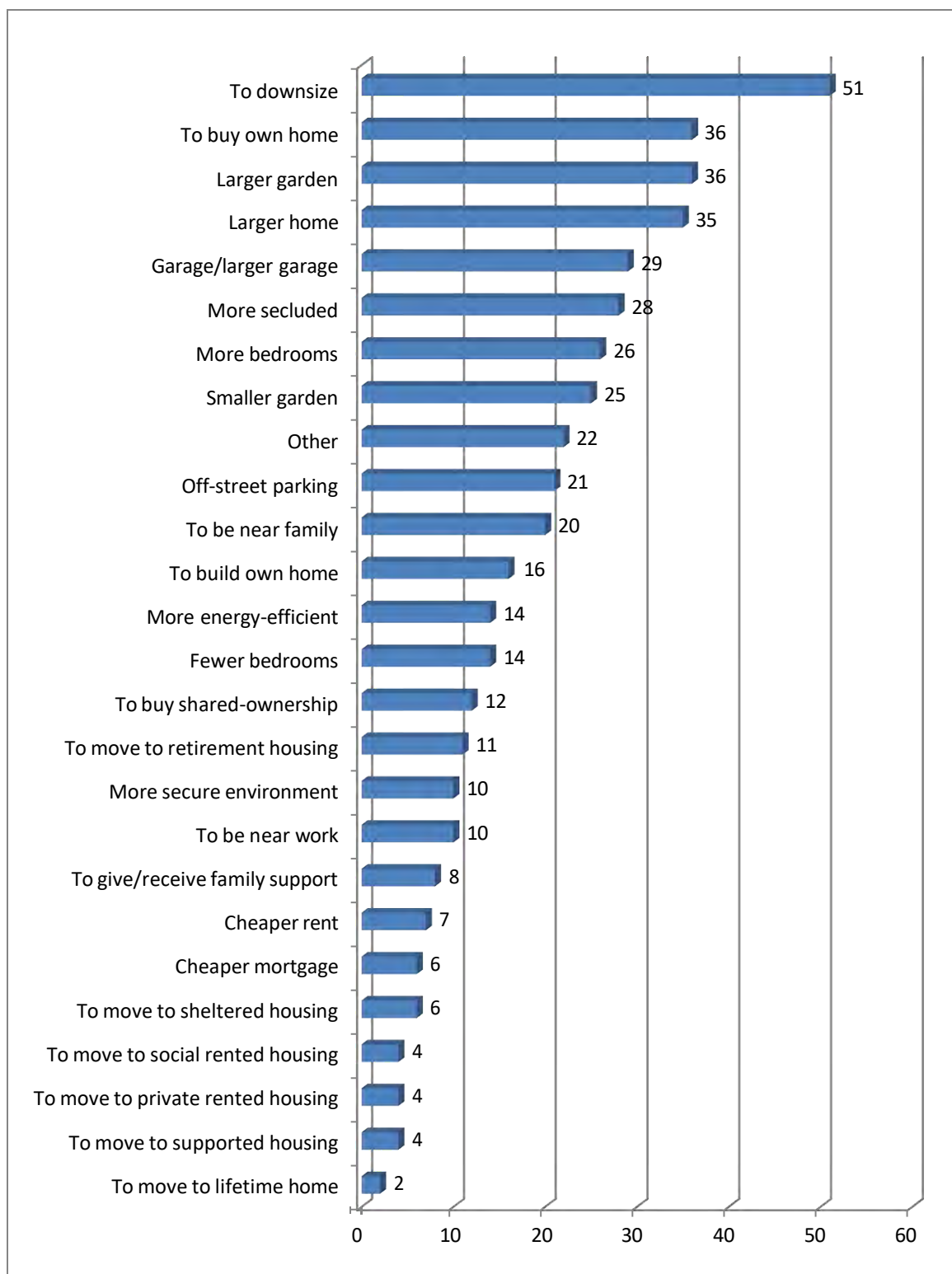
47. Do any members of your household wish or intend to move to their own home in Benson in the next five years?

504 respondents



48. What are your reasons for wanting to move to a different home?

151 respondents – 457 total choices

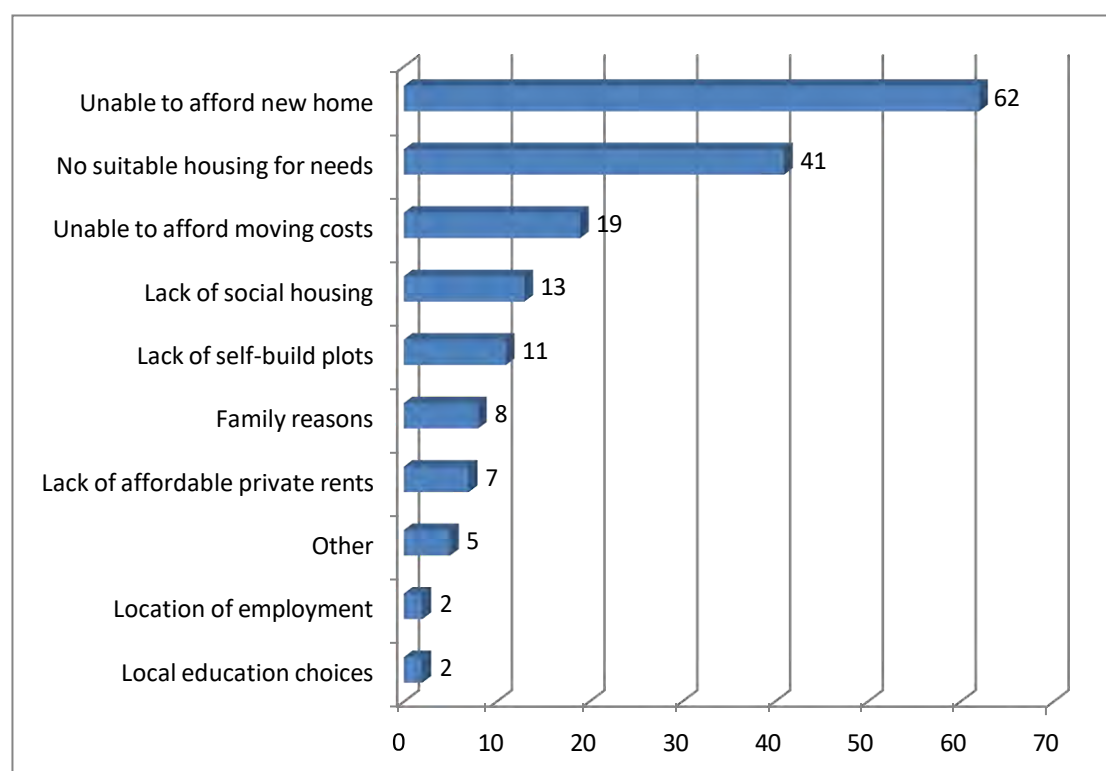


22 respondents selected 'other':

Other reasons for wanting to move to a different home:			
Need bungalow/adaptable house for mobility reasons	3	Child wishes to move here	3
Wish to move away if Benson is developed	2	To move closer to family who live elsewhere	2
To move out of home and be independent	2	Need to pay for mortgage so need to find cheaper rent	1
To move away from Littleworth development	1	To be near main line station	1
To move away for retirement	1	Want a detached property	1
May need residential care home	1	To continue to be able to park 2 cars	1
To be nearer children's school	1	No comment	2

49. If you wish to move but cannot, what are the reasons preventing you?

107 respondents – 170 total choices

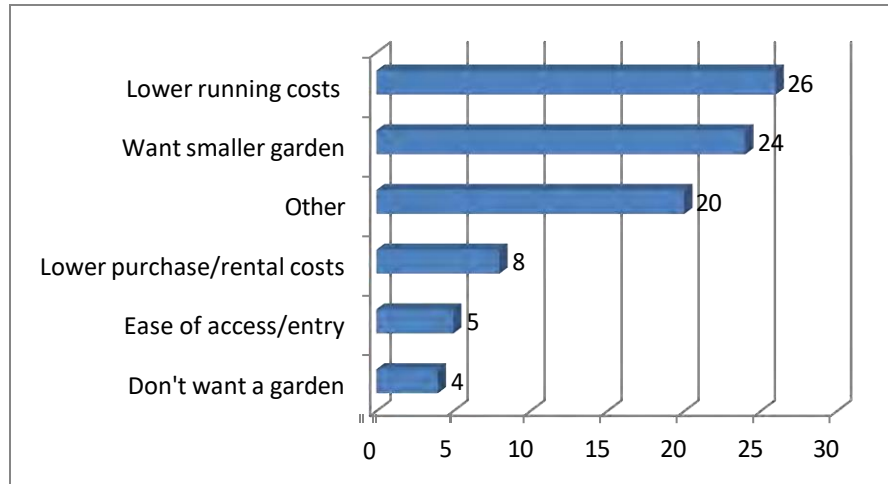


5 respondents selected 'other':

Other reasons why cannot move:			
Lack of choice	1	Want a bungalow with a small garden	1
Need an adapted home	1	Can't decide where to go	1
No comment	1		

50. If you want to downsize to a smaller property, what are your reasons?

60 respondents – 87 total choices

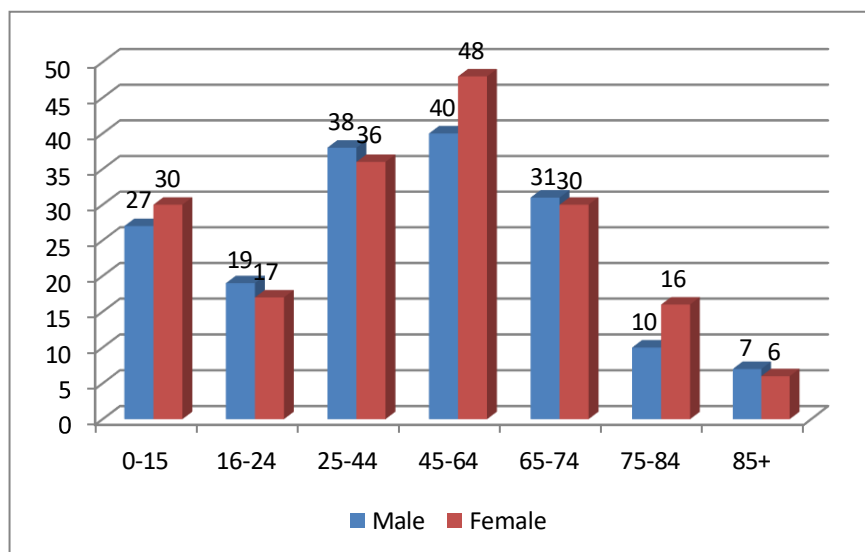


20 respondents selected 'other':

Other reasons for downsizing:			
Children have left home	2	Ease of running it	2
Lower council tax	1	Somewhere quieter	1
Not to be overlooked	1	Sheltered accommodation	1
Currently own large horse van	1	To release equity	1
To move to Spain	1	To repay mortgage	1
Smaller but more character	1	Smaller home but larger garden	1
Marriage split up	1	No stairs	1
No comment	4		

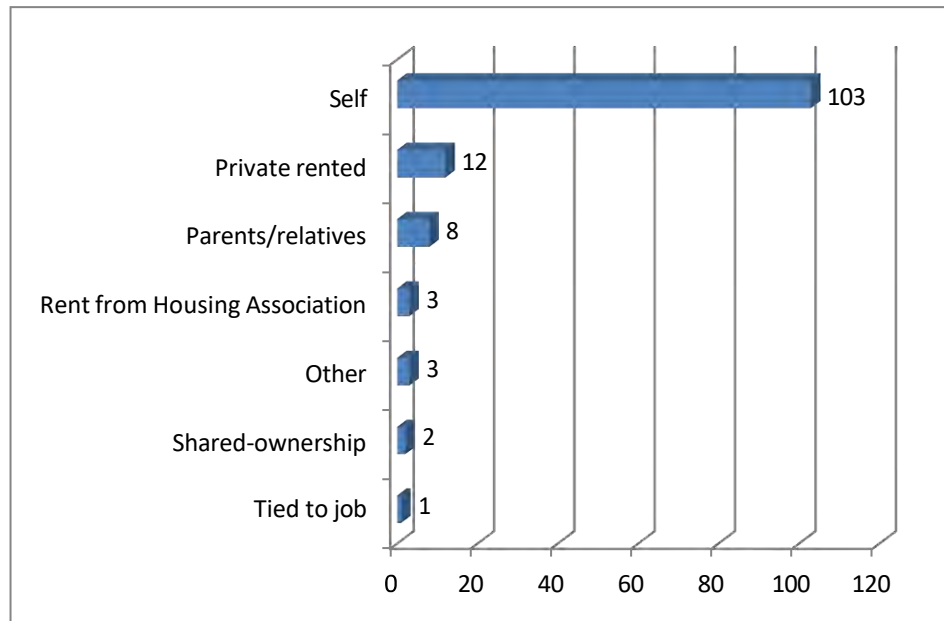
51. How many people of each age group would live in the new home?

159 respondents – 355 individuals



52. Who owns the home you live in now?

132 respondents

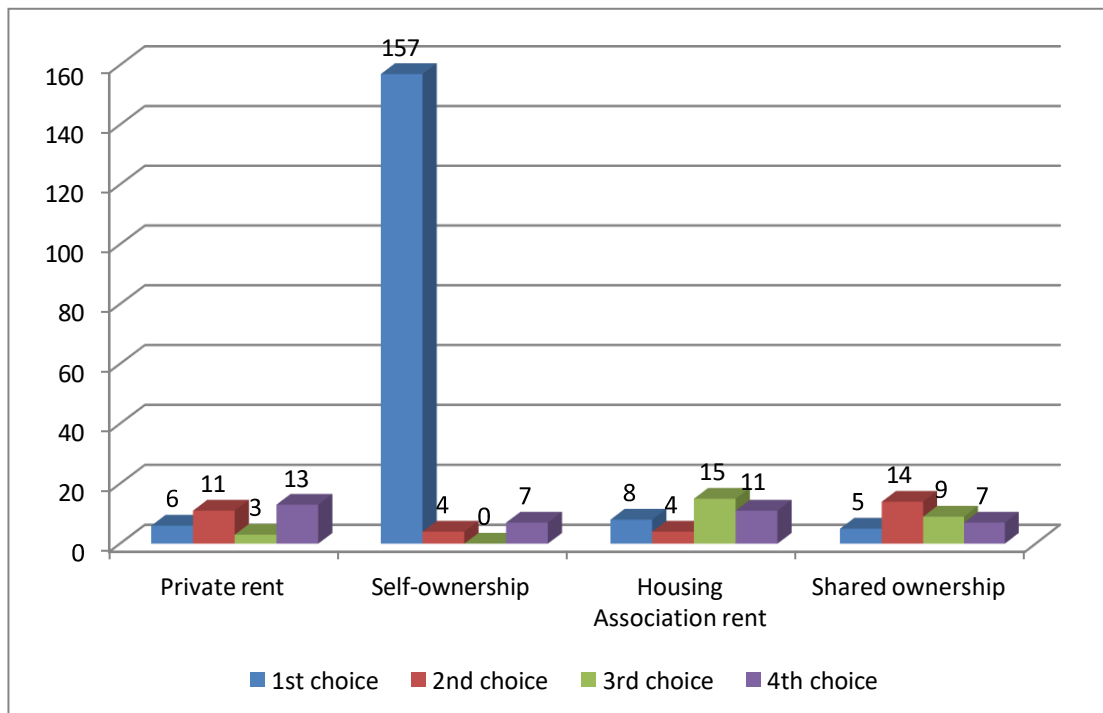


3 respondents selected 'other':

Other owner of home:			
Currently away at university	1	Self and ex-husband	1
50:50 with sister	1		

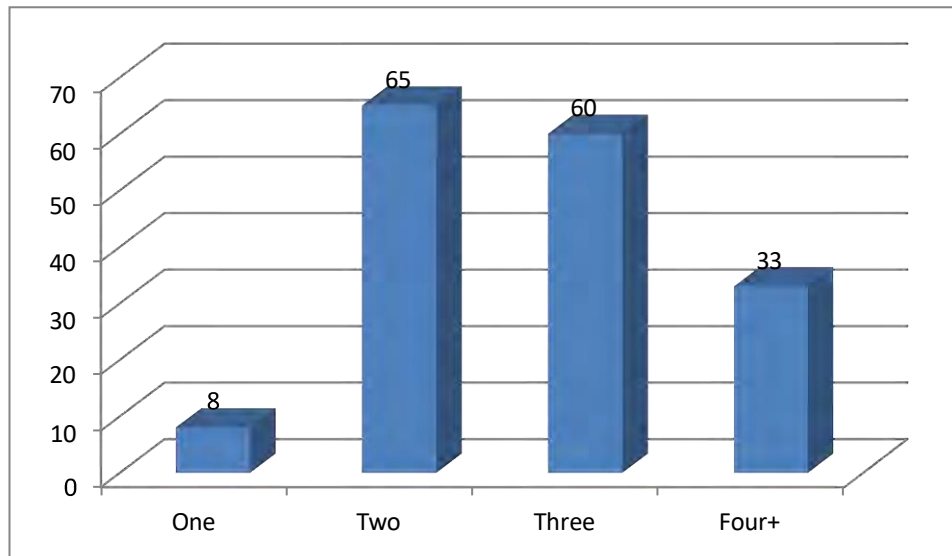
53. What kind of housing would you prefer?

196 respondents – 274 total choices



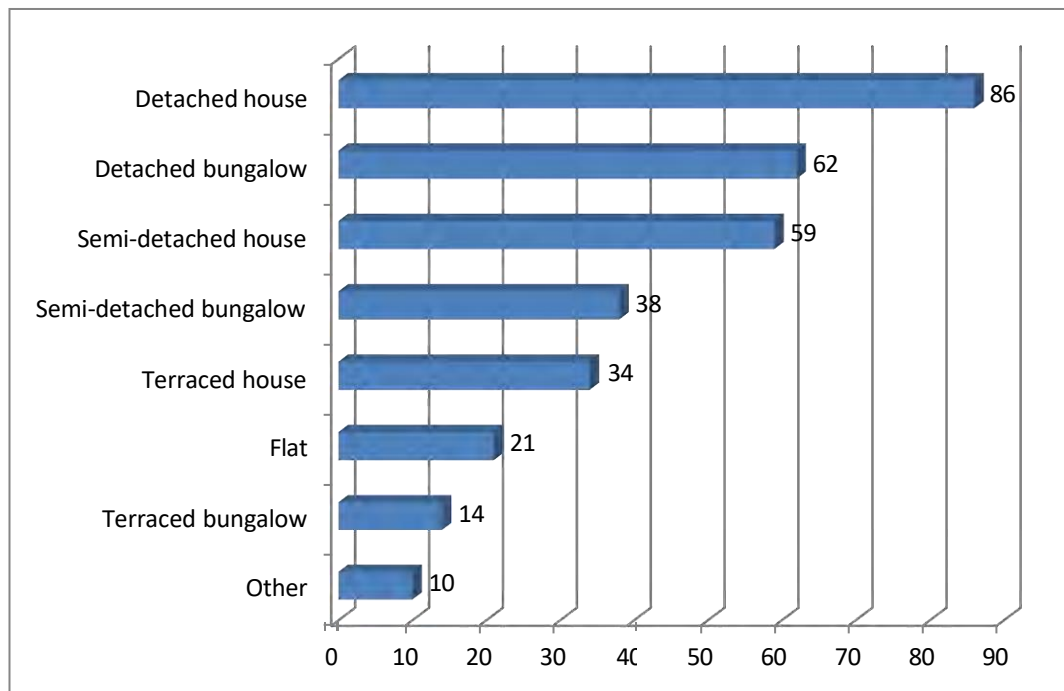
54. How many bedrooms would your new home need?

166 respondents



55. What type of home do you need?

166 respondents – 324 total choices

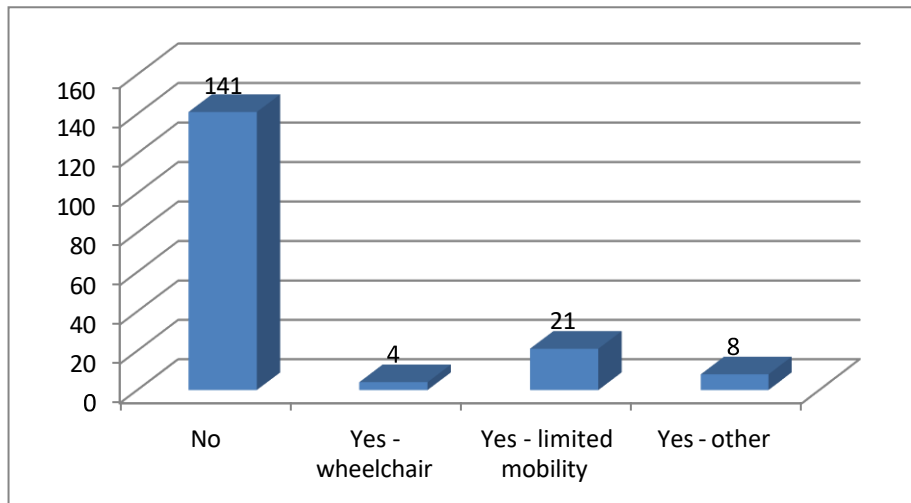


10 respondents selected 'other':

Other type of home needed:			
Any	2	Retirement home	2
Warden-assisted home	1	More parking/driveway	1
Self-build property	1	Ideally want to extend but can't	1
Barn style property	1	No comment	1

56. Does anything affect the type of home you need?

166 respondents – 174 total choices

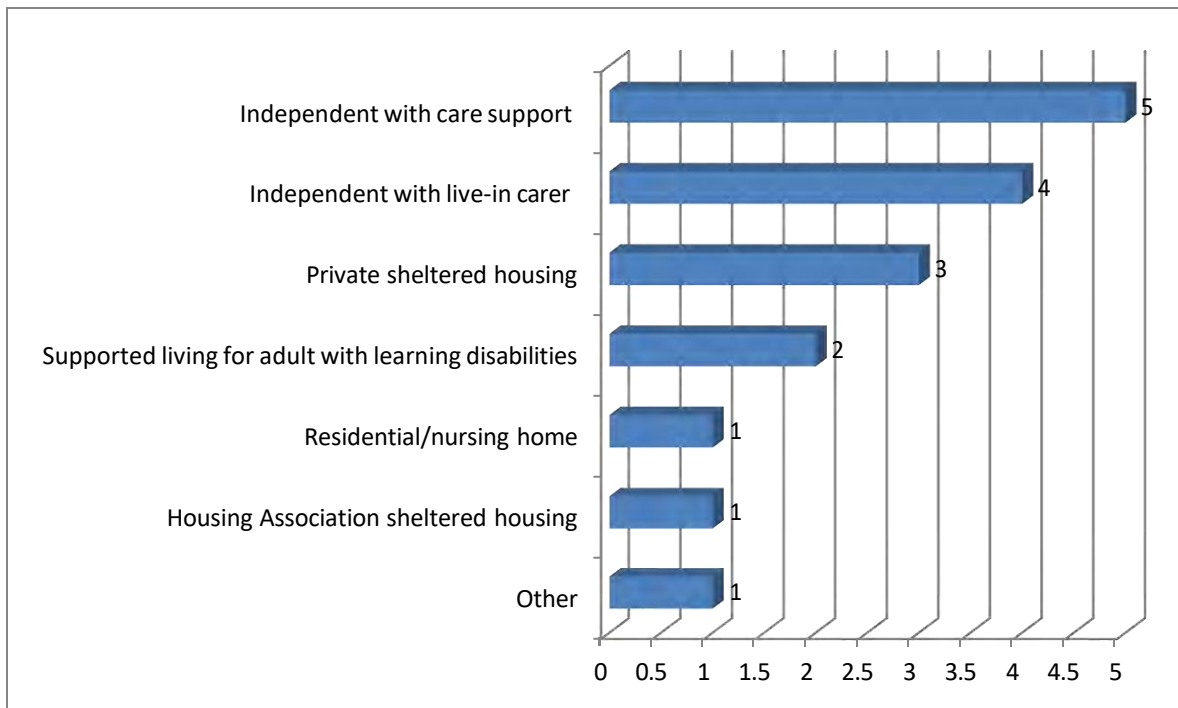


8 respondents selected 'other':

Other reasons for things that affect type of home needed:			
Need 24 hour care	1	Need smaller garden	1
Future proofing for old age	1	General old age	1
May need care home	1	No comment	3

57. Does anyone in your home have a supported housing need, if so what type do they require?

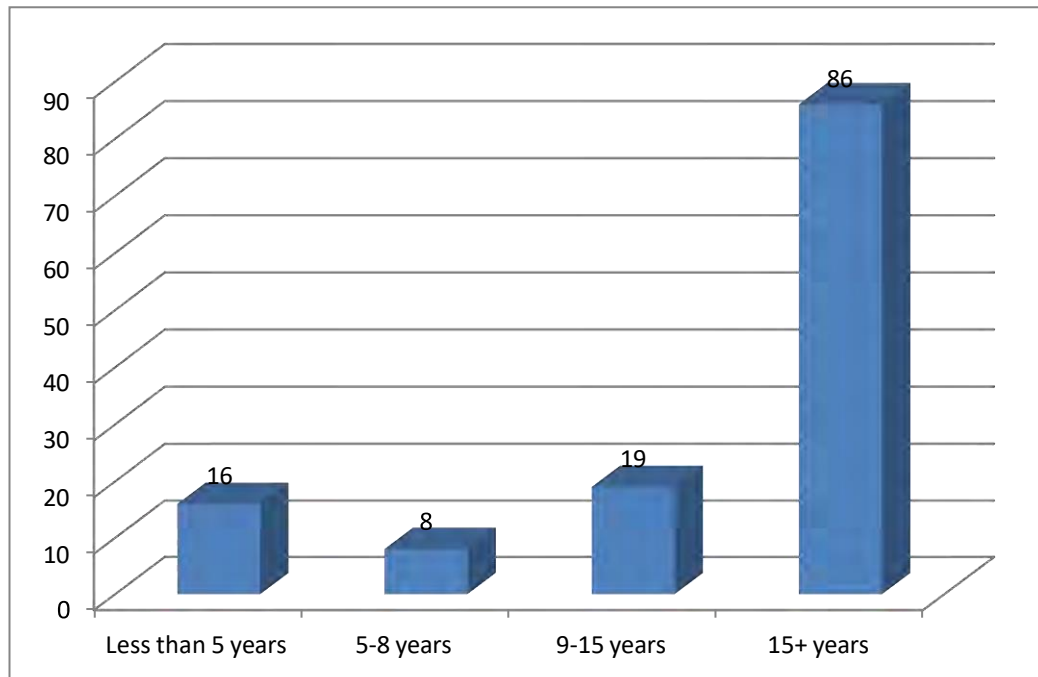
13 respondents – 17 total choices



1 respondent selected 'other' but there was no reason given.

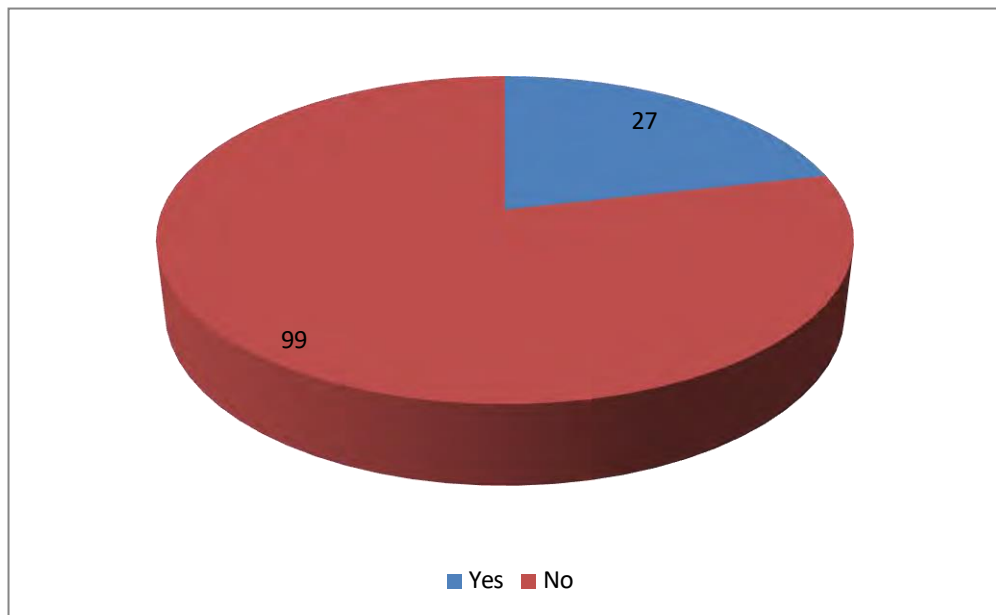
58. How long have you lived in Benson?

129 respondents



59. Are you on the South Oxfordshire District Council Housing Register?

126 respondents



SUMMARY OF NARRATIVE COMMENTS MADE ON FINAL PAGE OF SURVEY (I.E NON-QUESTION SPECIFIC)

- 595 surveys were returned
- 182 comments were made
- 279 broad themes were noted in comments

Breakdown of comments by theme

Theme	Number of comments
Infrastructure- <u>general</u> comment	
Concern regarding the impact of new development on local infrastructure in general	37
Infrastructure – comment on <u>specific</u> types of infrastructure	
<i>Traffic, speeding and roads</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General concern about existing traffic, speeding and roads issues and the potential impact of further housing development 	37
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for specific traffic, speeding and road improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need a bypass 20 - Need to improve weak/ narrow roads 3 - Need to improve pavements 2 - Need to introduce pedestrian priority 2 - One-way system needed 1 - More cycle and footpaths needed 1 - Roundabout needed at A4074-Church Road 1 - Traffic lights needed on A4074-Church Road junction 1 - Pedestrian crossing needed at library 1 	32
<i>Parking</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General concern about existing parking issues and the potential impact of further housing development 	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for specific parking improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use Benson library carpark for private parking in the evening 1 	5

- Limit parking on St. Helen's Avenue 1
- Charge for temporary parking 1
- Increase parking options in Castle Square 1
- Increase parking options in High Street 1

Health

Concern about existing health infrastructure (surgeries, dentist, chemist) and the potential impact of further housing development 13

Education (schools)

Concern about existing infrastructure and the potential impact of further housing development 11

Public transport

- Concern about existing bus service provision and the potential needs of additional residents 6

Retail and services

- Need for additional shops, supermarkets, cafes, restaurants etc.) to meet current and potential future 3
- Concern about existing infrastructure and the potential impact of further housing development 2

Sewage, drainage and water

- Concern about existing issues and the potential impact of further housing development 1
- Concern about existing issues and the potential impact of further housing development 1

Recreation

Need to improve leisure and recreational facilities to meet current and future needs 2

Development- general comment

Important to retain village character and 'feel' 27

Support for housing development provided infrastructure (in general) is first improved 14

Concern about plans for further housing development 13

Outright opposition to any new development 2

Development- specific comment**56**

Concern that new housing meets local needs and offers the right mix	9
Housing developments should have smaller numbers and be spread new development over several sites	9
Need affordable homes	8
New housing should be of good design	6
Design should be in keeping with character of existing houses	4
Smaller and more family homes needed (1-2 bedrooms)	4
New housing developments should have adequate parking	3
Houses should have garages and office space	2
Retain communal and green spaces	2
Housing should be high density	1
Housing should be low density	1
Housing to be built to high standards	1
Housing should be energy efficient	1
New development should ensure protection of wildlife and ecology	1
Need to improve run-down properties	1
Infill housing needed	1
Local preference for house buying	1
Build on brownfield	1
