



branston & mere
parish plan



Branston & Mere Parish Plan

March 2011



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Introduction

The Branston & Mere Parish Plan is the result of three years work by the steering group, formed from volunteers and local councillors, whose main aim is to ensure that Branston & Mere remains a **vibrant and sustainable community**; by protecting what is important to the residents and making improvements to enhance the existing way of life.

The idea of a Parish Plan originated as part of the government's White Paper in 2000 and is a statement of how the local community sees itself developing over the next few years. Communities constantly grow and change and most people have strong views on whether this change is for the better or not, but unfortunately, for the vast majority of individuals this is as far as their involvement goes. Parish plans give everyone in the community **the opportunity to influence and contribute** towards the development of their parish by determining the issues which affect the community. Parish plans are intended to be evolving documents;

outlining how a community would like to develop over the next ten years and ultimately to influence the actions and decisions of local government in order to protect, maintain and develop. The action plan details how these developments can be achieved and which agencies and organisations are responsible for their delivery.

The Parish Council was required to take the lead in the process and be prepared to adopt the plan at the end. It is however only a document, and requires the people to implement the goals identified and a willingness in local government to listen to **the needs and aspirations of those who live in the village** and integrate them into the wider plans of service providers. It is not about the Parish Council or anyone else imposing their ideas; it is about giving everyone the opportunity to have a say and share their ideas, if they choose to do so.

The Parish Council hosted an open meeting





in November 2006 to introduce the idea of a Parish Plan to the residents. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 members of the public, who voted in favour of producing a plan for Branston & Mere. Shortly afterwards, a steering group was formed to take on the task of consulting the people and assessing the most important issues. An extensive survey was devised and hand delivered to **every household** in November 2007. It was considered to be the most inclusive way to find out what people wanted. The response rate of 35% was pleasing and the steering group are grateful to the 640 households for their time and effort. In addition to the Householder Questionnaire, local businesses were consulted and a group of sixth formers adapted it to form a Youth Questionnaire. Those findings have also been incorporated in to the plan.

Already, some of the views expressed in the Questionnaire have been used as evidence of need to secure funding for work on Paddock Lane, the Jungle, the Village Hall, the play areas and a new

village noticeboard. Plans are also in hand to provide an Astro court.

Thanks go to all who gave their time to attend meetings of the steering group; to those who helped deliver and collect the questionnaires; to the Community College students for helping to consult the youth and also the technical assistance putting the figures into charts; to the speakers who attended the public meetings; to Community Lincs for their support and to all the residents who completed the Questionnaire.

We trust that you will feel that the Parish Plan reflects your **aspirations for our parish** and that it may inspire you to become more involved in **your community**.

Hilary Hawkyard
Chairman of the Steering Group





Parish History

Branston is a large community covering almost 5,400 acres or 8 square miles, and is set in the heart of rural Lincolnshire, south of Lincoln.

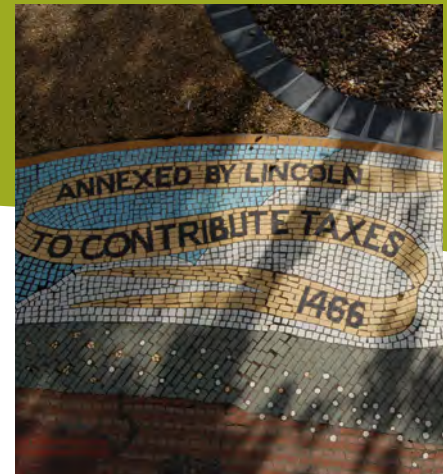
Incorporated into the parish boundaries are the communities of Branston Booths, Longhills and Mere. In the 13th century the Knights Templar were instituted at Mere, and in 1246, a hospital dedicated to St John the Baptist was founded there. The Domesday Book of 1086 recorded the village of Branzton(e) with a population of 350; a figure that stayed relatively stable until the beginning of the 20th Century when the population quickly increased to the current level.

Before the Enclosure of the parish lands in 1765, land in Kesteven lay open except for small crofts immediately adjoining villages. The arable land was cultivated on the three-field system - one field with winter corn, one with spring corn and the third left fallow. Both arable and meadow land were owned in strips and after the harvest, the sheep and cattle were allowed to graze the Common Fields.

The Church of All Saints dates back to Saxon times. It was one of the first churches in the country to be lit by gas in the 19th Century and until electricity came to the village in 1932. Gas was produced

in a small private gasworks built by the Melville family in 1867, at the back of the Old Barn in Rectory Lane. It supplied enough gas to light Branston Hall and also the Church, the Rectory and the Chapel and worked a pump to supply fresh water from the Waterwheel. There have been several alterations to the church; the latest major restoration was required when the church lost its organ, roof, east window, chancel and rood screen when it caught fire after morning service on Christmas Day 1962; possibly caused by an electrical fault behind the organ.

The first schoolroom in the village was added onto the church in the 1830's specifically for 'educating the children of the parish'. The Public Elementary School was built on the High Street in 1873 and extended in 1900 to hold up to 202 children. The original Branston Hall, situated on Hall Lane, was built by Lord Vere Bertie but was destroyed by fire in 1904. Branston Hall as it stands today is a large stone mansion set in 88 acres of wooded parkland and dates back to 1838 when it was the seat of Alexander Samuel Leslie Melville, son of the 7th Earl of Leven, Alexander Leslie Melville. Each son was named after his father, with the addition of the extra name; Charles, Samuel and David. The first in line takes the title Lord Balgonie and today lives on the family estate in the



Scottish Highlands; where many of the old halls treasures can still be found. The Hall was mothballed between 1922 and 1932 when it was purchased by Lindsey County Council and became a treatment centre for tuberculosis, known as the Branston Sanatorium, for nearly fifty years. It closed as a hospital in 1980 and later became a retirement home before being converted to a luxury hotel in 1988.

In 1908, the Honourable and Mrs Alexander Leslie Melville provided the extension to the cottage near the church, known as the Nurse's cottage, to celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary. The cottage was the residence of the local nurse and served as a surgery and dispensary where medical advice could be obtained and injuries treated. Alexander Leslie Melville also bestowed upon the parish the land for a Recreation Ground and Village Hall. The original village hall was provided in the early 1920s and was an old army hut.

The character of the village changed considerably during the post-war period but the village retained much of its historic centre; where the majority of buildings are constructed from local limestone quarried from sites within the parish. There are a number of listed buildings including Hainton House, the Georgian residence of the Reverend Peregrine Harrison Curtois,

built as a rectory in 1765; the "Bertie Arms", once a public house and Branston Hall, the residence of the Leslie Melville's. In the 1960's, the older part of the village was designated a Conservation Area.

The village has rich history and heritage which, with the recent launch of the Spires and Steeples heritage trail, is easy to explore. The trail starts at the top of Rectory Lane near the Beck, which flows through the village to the River Witham at the east end of the parish. The old Sheepwash was excavated in 2007 and the area refurbished; original slabs were incorporated and coloured paving shows where the sheep were dipped and the box in which the shepherd would have stood. The trail winds its way around the conservation area, past the fire station, the well, the waterwheel, the village green with its carved seats, the nurse's cottage, the forge and the mosaic which was created by the History Group in 2008. There are a number of streets and roads, which at the beginning of the 20th Century were known by different names. Modern, deliberate names are decided by the District Council from suggestions made by the Parish Council and developers; for example D'Aincourt Park, Curtois Close and cul de sacs on the estates to commemorate past heroes, benefactors and landmarks. The more traditional



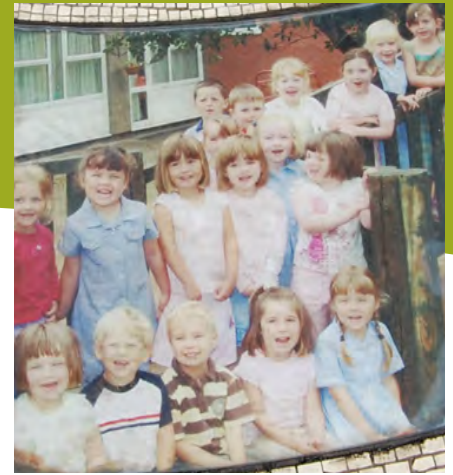
names often originated from general usage and sometimes changed. Silver Street was known as Bleak Street for reasons obvious on winter days. Heighington Road became known as Station Road with the arrival of the Branston and Heighington Railway Station.

The changes over the past 50 years have been considerable. The village has expanded with new housing, schools and factories. Today there are only a handful of shops left, although the buildings from bygone shops remain largely unchanged. Unusually for a relatively large village, Branston now has only one public house, the Waggon and Horses. One hundred metres further up the High Street is the Home Guard Club, a private members club with a licence to sell alcohol. It was built above a hop store, as a social club for old soldiers following the erection of the war memorial in 1922. Two other public houses were once located in the village. The Plough stood on the High Street opposite the Waggon and Horses, but was demolished in the 1970s to straighten a dangerous bend. The area of grass occupied by the Christmas tree is commonly known as Plough Corner. The Bertie Arms was a small public house on Hall Lane dating back to the 17th century but was converted into a private dwelling in about 1915 by William Cucksey.

In the mid 1960's there was a dramatic change in the village population with the development of the Valley Estate (Beech Road) High Moor (Fairleas) and finally Heathfield. Many smaller developments have added to the expansion of the parish. Today Branston is a flourishing community, fast approaching a population of 5000 and suitable land for further development is being sought by North Kesteven District Council which could stretch the village curtilage during the next decade.

Branston Booths is also part of the parish, originally used as summer grazing. It stands at the intersection of the Car Dyke, an old Roman canal, and Branston Delph Drain. Branston Booths has three causeways, or raised roads, which lead to the river Witham. The Branston Causeway or Bardney Road was once used by packhorses to take goods and produce to the Witham and on to Lincoln and Boston. In 1809 the River Board made a new cut and installed a lock system to take out the horseshoe-shaped bend in the river that caused navigational problems for the barges. The 200 acre block of land created is called Branston Island. It is tenant farmed but can be used to take water during times of flood.

A Wesleyan chapel was built in 1911 but has recently been converted into a dwelling.



The play area is on the site of a redundant clay pit. The old village hall was a distinctive wooden shack built by public subscription in 1934 and used as an ARP station during WWII. It was replaced with a new £360,000 building in June 2006 after successfully securing a grant from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental) for £250,000.

Longhills Hall, one mile east of Branston, is a stone building, built for the Rev Peregrine Curtois in 1838 by George Basevi who also designed Gatcombe Park and Belgrave Square in London. The cost of construction was funded by a legacy from Rev Francis Willis who as a doctor had treated George III. It was later bought as a wedding present for Eustace Abel Smith in 1873, by his father Desmond and remained in the Smith family until the 1950's when it was put on the market with a guide price of £12,000 and rented by the local removal company Barnes for storage. During WWII it was used as the billet for the First Airborne Division. The Smith family were bankers and it was the Union of London Bank and Smith Bank that compensated dependents of the Titanic disaster in 1914. The banks later amalgamated to form the National Provincial Bank and later became the National Westminster Bank. The Smith name can still be seen above the door of the Lincoln branch. The Abel Smith family now reside in Berkshire but gave the land

to extend the cemetery, part of which was sold to NKDC who had the bungalows built which form Abel Smith Gardens. The family also replaced the east window of the church following the fire in 1962 in memory of their son. Longhills was sold at auction in the mid-1960s and divided into apartments.



Business and Employment

Most people were happy with the level of business and employment in and around the parish and were divided about whether more business opportunities should be encouraged.

Few wanted to see more large scale industry or a new business park, fearing that it would destroy the nature of the village, but offices, distribution and retail would be encouraged. Rural workshops and associated agricultural business appeared to be particularly welcome; however a recent application to build an 8100 head dairy at Nocton received strong opposition on the grounds of animal welfare, transport and the effect on the quality of life for neighbouring villages.

It was felt that most of the businesses based in Branston valued their position within the community and regularly supported local groups by providing raffle prizes, venues or skills to make projects possible.

The youth were interested in more opportunities for part time employment in the evenings and at weekends. Almost 20% of youth respondents expressed an interest in a full time permanent position and interest was expressed in training, apprenticeships and opportunities to gain experience to enhance their profile.

Separate questionnaires were sent to all the businesses in the parish but failed to get a good response. The Steering Group acknowledged that the questions asked had not been given enough thought and a separate meeting for local business people

was held at the Waggon & Horses in 2008; with a local 'Business Ambassador' of the East Midlands Development Agency, Jon Thornes, present to offer advice.

Jon Thornes, founder of Cool Milk, suggested that 10% of businesses in Branston would go bankrupt during the recession; 80% would need to reduce their overheads by 20% to survive and 10% would grow. He said that Rural Advisors at Business Links could help and were able to visit people in the workplace if that help was sought.

Those present spoke on a personal level about the problems they faced including soaring overheads, lack of patronage from the local community and other businesses, apathy etc. Although requests had been made for specialist shops, a DIY store and a petrol station those present questioned whether the same residents would support such ventures over large chains in the city, with greater buying power and keener prices.

Jon Thornes stressed that it was important that businesses supported each other as it could be a lonely experience and strongly recommended the benefits of mentors – retired business people living in the community with a wealth of knowledge and experience, other businesses facing similar issues or the support of the larger businesses. He suggested that businesses should concentrate on their strong points and promote them as selling points (no need to travel, easy parking, and personal



service) and to appeal to those who want their product rather than trying to tempt everyone; if support comes from passing trade and not locals; so be it.

A Business Club seemed to be a positive way to encourage a cohesive support structure and become 'activators', with involvement from the Business and Enterprise students at the college suggested to help develop a marketing strategy; similar to Tastes of Lincolnshire or Lincoln BIG. To be successful, the business community would need to be willing to sign up to the idea. The possibility of an e-group for businesses to ask each other's advice and share tips and knowledge via e-mail was raised and could be a useful tool for the club. Jon suggested that local clubs and groups could help give constructive feedback on local businesses in a 'mystery shopper' style.

Jon's take on the Parish Plan, whether for the community or local business was: "it's about people getting together to help themselves".

Unfortunately, although invitations to the meeting had been delivered to every business, few businesses were represented and the three largest businesses were approached directly for further input. A detailed response was received from Branston Ltd which helped to explain life in Branston from a business point of view:

"Only 21 employees (7.1%) live in Branston; many living in shared accommodation and almost half in the city. A lack of affordable housing could be the reason why few staff

to live in the village. The lack of a cycle or footpath on Mere Road makes it dangerous to walk to work from the village; especially after dark as there are no street lights. Public transport does not use Mere Road and so most employees are forced to use cars to travel to work. It would be difficult to make an argument for public transport as it would be almost impossible to work around their daily 7am starts and shifts 'til finish'.

The Eastern Bypass would be a welcome addition for the company, helping to speed up deliveries from the north of Lincoln and assist outward haulage heading for the A46.

A community role is welcomed and some staff are already involved in a Business in the Community project at the college and improving the school allotments at Potterhanworth. The company was pleased to fill the funding shortfall to help provide new adventure trails in both villages during the summer of 2010 and hoped to support the provision of a floodlit Astro Court with a significant contribution in 2011".

The need for improved communications to add strength and vibrancy was apparent but the responsibility to lead an initiative is beyond the remit of a Parish Council.



Business and Employment - Action Plan

Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
Establish a support network for local businesses	Businesses feel isolated and unsure where to find help	<p>A local group linked by an e-group to share ideas and solutions to common problems</p> <p>Find mentors who have experience to share</p> <p>Local qualified people available to give useful business advice or other professional help</p>	<p>A support network would bring in further resources such as people to advise on marketing and grants</p> <p>Encourage retired business people to be part of the network in an advisory capacity</p>	Business Link LCC NKDC Local business people
Promote local enterprise – keep it local	<p>Residents are not aware of all the services available on their doorstep</p> <p>Potential customers prefer to take their trade to larger businesses in the city to gain a bigger choice and keener prices</p>	<p>Raise the profile of local businesses</p> <p>Develop a marketing image like "Tastes of Lincolnshire" for Branston businesses</p>	<p>Invite Branston Community College's Business Enterprise unit to help put a website together and carry out market research and devise marketing strategies as part of their work</p> <p>Involve other village organisations such as the WI, Ladies Group, Art Group, Friendship Group etc to help with ideas as to how to improve the</p>	Business Link LCC NKDC Local business people



Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
			customer experience Providing a local, high quality, personalised and friendly service	
Encourage employment and training opportunities for young people	Too few opportunities	Encourage smaller businesses to offer work experience positions	Canvass prospective employers by making them aware of the implications and benefits	Community College Youth Forum

Key

LCC: Lincolnshire County Council

NKDC: North Kesteven District Council

NB. The green text has been taken from the Youth Questionnaire and is representative of the young people in Branston



Community

While the majority of respondents felt that there was a sense of community in the parish, there was a considerable proportion who felt that it was missing. The most prominent reason suggested was the use of the village as a convenient dormitory community, by newcomers uninterested in becoming a 'villager'. The 'newbies' were accused of developing an impersonal attitude, not using village facilities and not taking the time to realise that there is more to Branston than its proximity to Lincoln. Some considered that Branston lacked a heart; was divided and snobbish and that community is generally in decline in today's society. The youth were equally divided on the issue; some saying that it was small and friendly; others that the village was too big or that it was for older people and that no one had any trust.

Most relied on the Newsletter and word of mouth to find out about local events. The quarterly Newsletter, produced by the church, has since been joined by a monthly edition of the Sheepwash Times which is also delivered free of charge to every household in the parish and four neighbouring villages. During the consultation, several residents said that they didn't read the Newsletter, binning it on arrival; reaching people with news of local events when the best opportunity is rejected makes criticism more difficult to take. A village website has been

established with a considerable number of visitors every month. The number of clubs and businesses who have responded to the invitation to be included is disappointing and leaves scope for improvement. The youth said that they wanted more events but claimed not to hear about anything being organised. The mediums suggested to publicise events are already used, apart from Facebook, so the problem remains.

Use of community venues like the church, village hall, library and play areas was low. The summer gala and Christmas market were criticised; both events have traditionally been organised by the church. Increasing age and health issues for the few who are willing to take it on have resulted in both being abandoned in 2010. One comment made stated that 'we need people with vision to drive it forward'.

The Play Areas were heavily criticised as 'dull' and 'boring' while Washingborough and Scopwick were held in high esteem. The Parish Council accepted the criticism and worked to secure a challenging play trail in each village which were completed in August 2010, with support from Lincolnshire County Council and Branston Ltd.

The Village Hall is a charity run by a management committee, traditionally made up of volunteers from the regular user groups and interested residents. The playgroup has always been a strong support for the committee but its relocation to the



infant school at the end of July 2010 further weakened the committee. A refurbishment programme, with funding from the County and District Councils, the Big Lottery and Lincolnshire Cooperative Ltd, has replaced the heating and lighting and greatly improved the internal decor.

Requested refurbishment and alterations to local business premises are not eligible for grants and can only be made at the discretion of the owner, when financially viable.

Suggested village events appeared to be in great demand but in practice recent events have been poorly supported. 2010 was the 20th anniversary of the Jungle conservation group and although there appeared to be great support for the Jungle and all children from the Junior School enjoyed a good, old fashioned nature walk at the end of term; the three events organised only attracted a handful of people; the final event being a picnic, had no interest whatsoever. Jungle workdays, fundays, skate park, parkour, cheerleading and a band concert have all been arranged with a similar lack of interest, although all who did make the effort had a good time.

The provision of education in the village was considered to be very good. Many expressed an interest in improved access to facilities at the college. North Kesteven District Council hopes to form a partnership between their leisure providers and the

college, which would improve leisure in the area but would also need to benefit the school.

The need for a multi use sports facility was highlighted. The Parish Council has responsibility for the sports field on Moor Lane and has carried out further consultation with the clubs who play there. The need to expand facilities was acknowledged and reserves were earmarked for the project. Branston Ltd guaranteed to support the venture and an application for match funding was submitted to Wren. If successful, the floodlit, multi-use Astro court and cricket net could be in use by April 2011 (1).

There seemed to be little interest in the Youth Club with the majority feeling that they had outgrown it and suggesting that it needed updating. The restricted access allowing one age group per evening and membership limited to children attending the college were also criticised. Few wanted more activities to be based at the school campus but most wanted a place to meet friends.

The opportunity for young people to play a part in local democracy through a Youth Council was supported by 78% of respondents. As this plan goes to print, arrangements are being made to encourage young people aged between 10 and 19 years to attend a forum and find out how to get involved. It is hoped that members of the



community can be persuaded to offer their support for this important venture.

The question on the worth of Neighbourhood Watch, car share schemes, help with gardening and shopping, a lunch club and litter picking groups all seemed viable, with a large number prepared to help with each. Unfortunately, as it was a confidential survey, those willing volunteers are unknown.

The survey showed that 298 were interested in expanding the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and 152 were willing to help. Several articles have since been placed in the newsletters and half a dozen people came forward but without real interest and willing volunteers, such schemes will not take off.

NKDC have been looking at the possibility of introducing people waiting for allotments to people who are struggling to manage a large garden. There have been various legal implications and the project is still at the planning stage.

The idea of a lunch club has been filled now by the Waggon & Horses serving a Tuesday roast for pensioners at a reasonable cost and taking care of the organisation and washing up! Additional lunches could be arranged if there is sufficient demand.

The WI arranged a community litter pick to coincide with the start of the Best Kept Village competition in 2009 but again failed to attract willing volunteers despite

100 ticking the box to say that they were willing.

Most people were aware that Branston had a twin town and interest was expressed in exchange visits, celebrations and a French market. Few had in-depth knowledge about our 'twin' and the possibility of making that information available would be considered.

(1) Funding for the Flood-lit Astro court was secured in December 2010.





Community - Action Plan

Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
Develop a sense of community	Village divided between existing residents and new residents Apathy towards village events	Encourage all sections of the community to work together on village events	Continue to publicise events Create a feeling of pride in the parish Encourage groups to work together to increase organised social events Work with the schools to promote events	Everyone Local clubs & groups Parish Council Community College
Extend the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to all parts of the parish	Only 10 streets are currently part of the scheme	Volunteers need to come forward from every part of the parish	Campaign to find volunteers with articles in the Newsletter and Sheepwash Times, and posters	Residents Police Parish Council
Establish a volunteer / good neighbour scheme to solve transport, shopping and gardening problems	Many vulnerable residents are isolated and lonely and feel unable to ask for help	Volunteers need to come forward from every part of the parish Residents extend the hand of friendship to neighbours in need	Campaign to find volunteers with articles in the Newsletter and Sheepwash Times, and posters	Residents Age UK NKDC LCC Parish Council
Establish a Youth Council to ensure that	Youth do not feel part of the community	A Youth Council	Support the youth to create a well run forum to	Parish Council NKDC



Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
the voice of young people is heard	Lack of understanding between generations		express their opinions	
Revitalise the Play Areas	The equipment is dated and boring	New play equipment - completed August 2010	Seek funding to improve the play areas	Parish Council
Renew the viability of the Village Hall	The facility has become dated	Undertake a programme of modernisation	Improve the interior of the building to make it attractive to modern hirers Encourage more residents to support the committee	Village Hall Management Committee
Provide a Multi-use sports facility	There are no floodlit facilities to allow training through the winter	Provide an Astro Court	Seek funding to build an Astro Court - funding secured in December 2010	Parish Council Local sports clubs
Make people aware of Branston's twin town	Not all residents aware of the relationship with La Chartre Few know more than the name on the sign	Provide information for those who may be interested	Make information available via the Newsletter	Twinning Association Interested residents

Key

LCC: Lincolnshire County Council

NKDC: North Kesteven District Council

NB. The green text has been taken from the Youth Questionnaire and is representative of the young people in Branston



Environment

Situated just three miles from the city, Branston suffers from more than its fair share of commuter traffic and the associated noise and air pollution, but still has beauty and plenty of peaceful spots that are valued highly by the residents.

Protection of the greenbelt is considered to be very important and the permissive footpaths help maintain the rural feel of the village. There is little escape from the sounds of the RAF who use the runway at Waddington and the surrounding airspace to train new pilots destined for front line action. In a county famous for its RAF connections and with Waddington camp on the parish boundary, it is part of life in Branston and unlikely to change.

There were complaints about the frequent firework displays at Branston Hall Hotel. Although within the time allowed by law; children and pets were regularly disturbed by the displays, given as part of wedding celebrations and private functions. The new manager has stopped offering fireworks in their brochure but still allows them if specifically requested. This has greatly reduced the occurrence of the displays and the hotel also offers prior warning to those particularly troubled by the noise.

The smell of barbeques, bonfires, loud music and shouting were listed as annoying but are difficult to resolve without some tolerance for changing lifestyles and

consideration for neighbours.

Fly tipping is an occasional problem on Moor Lane and Mere Road and more frequently at the lay-by on the B1188. The local tip at Great Northern Terrace is a really efficient way of disposing of rubbish for householders but will not allow large vans, trailers or business use. Trade or Commercial Waste is any waste generated by a business, tradesman or profit making organisation and they have a duty of care to ensure that any waste is disposed of appropriately. Unfortunately, that comes at a cost and some will not pay the price, preferring instead to deface the countryside. Anyone who sees a fly-tip or witnesses the act should report the incident to the District Council

Litter remains a particular problem on the main school routes and fast food wrappings are an issue on the B1188 where they are discarded by passing vehicles. The Parish Council responded to a request from the Junior school to put an additional litter bin near their school and while all bins are well used not everyone has good habits. The bin near the Chip Shop soon fills up with bulky chip papers and is emptied twice weekly by NKDC. The Youth Questionnaire also highlighted the nuisance of litter and suggested fines to combat the problem.

The Parish Council regularly appeals to residents to cut back hedges and shrubs which overhang footpaths and cause an



obstruction to pedestrians. Occasionally the Parish Council receives specific complaints and writes to the resident concerned.

Our Public Rights of Way are very popular, particularly with dog walkers, most of who conscientiously clean up after their pets. A stroll slightly off the main roads soon leaves the noise and pollution behind and instils the benefit of living in a rural location. There is a lack of PROW in Branston Booths. The permissive footpaths were recorded after WWII, based on information provided by farmers and parish councillors at the time. Delph Road, also known as North Causeway, is one of the few options for walkers in the Booths.

The History Group produced a heritage trail around the old part of the village that was very well received by the community and visitors. Further art projects were requested and a mosaic is currently under construction which will be fitted to the exterior wall of the Co-op and show their links with the village. Future projects will depend on the History Group's enthusiasm and money available to fund community art and protect heritage.

The Jungle is a unique area of wet woodland, bought for the village in 1990. Initially a conservation group, with their frog mascot called Plop, worked to create a usable recreation space and identify the many species of flora and fauna. The Parish Council has continued to maintain

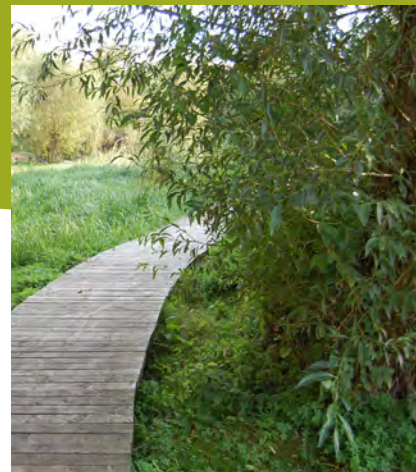
the Jungle, with considerable investment in 2007 to improve access and make the trees safe. Public workdays were organised to fill the breach left by the conservation group but failed to attract many willing volunteers. The services of Hill Holt Wood were employed in 2010 to maintain a tame wilderness. Events were organised by one of the original members of the conservation group to commemorate the 20th anniversary. A handful of the 400 people who expressed an interest in the jungle came forward to support the events.

Allotments are back in fashion again and enquiries are occasionally received about whether there are any available in Branston. The Council does not have any land that could be used for the purpose. Enquiries made to lease or buy land were unsuccessful as the cost was prohibitive. There are allotments at Canwick, Potterhanworth, Washingborough and Bardney and NKDC are working on a system to link those who want allotments with those who cannot manage their garden, although this is still in the early stages.



Environment - Action Plan

Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
Promote the attractions of the parish Promote the permissive footpaths	Many of the newer residents do not know the village beyond the key services	Make people aware of what is available on their doorstep	Consider ways to advertise walks and village features Post details on the website	Parish Council NKDC History Group LCC
Reduce the amount of litter	A considerable amount of litter is dropped every week, particularly on the main school routes	Education More bins On the spot fines for dropping litter	Consider areas that lack bins Work with the schools to educate the children to keep Branston tidy Place articles in the Newsletter to highlight the problem to parents	Parish Council NKDC Schools & Parents Police & PCSOs Public
Provide more benches around the parish Create a picnic area	Most of the benches are close to the B1188. Benches in quiet, green areas are needed	Create areas that can be enjoyed by residents of all ages	Consider improvements to the Garden of Rest, Waterwheel Lane and the Jungle field	Parish Council
Encourage further restoration and art works to promote our heritage			Work in partnership to protect heritage sites Support the History Group and other interested	NKDC Parish Council History Group Church



Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
Provide allotments	There are no allotments in the Parish	Identify suitable land to provide allotments	parties to add to the village features Look at the feasibility of purchasing a plot of land	Parish Council Landowners
Make the Jungle a safe and accessible recreation area	An area that is constantly changing and is difficult to maintain Few people are willing to volunteer but many value it	Employ help to maintain the area	Regular inspection and work by Hill Holt Wood rangers	Parish Council
Public Rights of Way for Branston Booths	There are no footpaths on the definitive map for Branston Booths	Establish and mark out a path	Liaise with Footpath officers, local residents and landowners to identify possibilities	LCC Parish Council

Key

NKDC: North Kesteven District Council

LCC: Lincolnshire County Council

PCSOs: Police Community Support Officers

NB. The green text has been taken from the Youth Questionnaire and is representative of the young people in Branston



Housing

There are a variety of types of housing within Branston ranging from stone dwellings with natural slate or pantile roofs in the old heart of the village; to estate housing from the '60s, 70's, 80's and 90's; to very modern executive homes. Planning policy has increased the density of development which in turn has reduced the size of gardens. Elsewhere in the parish, outside the settlement curtilage or building line, NKDC continues to protect the character of the open countryside.

Following an inquiry, North Kesteven and West Lindsey District Councils and the City of Lincoln Council agreed a target to provide 40,600 new homes between 2006 and 2026. Assessments to identify suitable sites were completed in March 2009, identifying land capable of accommodating three times the required amount. A vast swathe of land has been identified to the north of Branston which, if selected in its entirety, would link the City, Canwick, Bracebridge Heath, Washingborough and Branston; surrounding the proposed route of the Eastern Bypass. During the process to agree the preferred route for the bypass, assurances were given that the chosen route Z would protect the greenbelt from development south of the road. This will need to be monitored as residents were adamant that the greenbelt should be retained. These councils and the County Council intend to work with their communities to select the most suitable options for sustainable development. The task of producing a joint Local Development Framework started in June 2010.

A small site has been identified at the corner of Moor Lane and Sleaford Road and

a more significant area between Sleaford Road and Mere Road. The Parish Council has voiced concern that Branston could lose its identity as a rural village with an influx of commuters and without adequate infrastructure to cope; a viewpoint in line with comments made through the Questionnaire which showed a reluctance to accept further development and opposition to new estates.

Sometimes monies can be secured as part of the planning consent, to improve or provide additional facilities, currently known as a section 106 agreement. This agreement compensates the local community for any impact caused by a development through the provision of additional infrastructure in the form of land for public open space, affordable housing, more school places, improved health or additional facilities for the community. Section 278 agreements can include money to build new roads or improve old ones, to provide access to the development. The Labour government had proposed a new community levy for facilities not necessarily connected with the development itself. It is unclear whether this will be the case under the new government.

Affordable Housing means housing which is accessible to people whose income does not enable them to afford to buy or rent property on the open market and includes social-rented and intermediate housing.

Social-rented housing is rented housing provided by the local authority and registered social landlords for which rents are set through the national rent regime. Intermediate housing is at prices or rents above social housing but below market



price, including shared equity/ownership. It does not include low cost housing on the open market. Housing need is identified as households in need of subsidised housing because the cost of appropriate housing is more than 25% of the household's net income.

Subject to the purchase of suitable land, the Parish Council has given its support to the District Council's objective to provide affordable housing in Branston, to satisfy the need identified in the Housing Needs Survey carried out at the end of 2006. The need for 16 properties was identified including 5 one-bedroom flats and 5 two-bedroom houses. The need for single person accommodation was reflected in the questionnaire, second to the need for accommodation for the elderly.

In January 2010, NKDC successfully bid for funding to build new homes, including four units on Archer Road. Unfortunately the grant was subsequently frozen but alternative funding was sourced and the plan will go ahead, subject to planning permission. Any development of five or more dwellings has to include 35% affordable housing (Policy H5 NK Local Plan 2007) which included five homes on the Moor Lodge site as a result.

A practice that is rife in the south of England and commonly known as 'garden grabbing' has started to happen on a small scale in Branston. Garden grabbing is a practice where property developers snap up large detached houses, knock them down and then squeeze a small estate of new homes onto the same plot. This erosion of Britain's green spaces is made possible by

a loophole in the law which sees gardens defined as Brownfield sites, the same as old gasworks or railway sidings, making it almost impossible for councils to refuse permission. If the practice is allowed to continue, it is estimated that garden space equivalent to 2,755 Wembley football pitches will be wiped out by the year 2016.

A review of the issue was announced by the government in November 2008. The findings of the survey, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, show that between 2003 and 2008, councils granted planning permission for 26,688 new homes on land which was previously occupied by houses and their gardens. Some feel that it is a better alternative to building on the countryside. The Parish Council has already voiced concern about tandem development swallowing up gardens but until the policy is reviewed and the definition of Brownfield sites revised, developers are likely to take advantage of these windfall sites, as they are cheaper and easier to build on than industrial wasteland. The new government announced plans in June 2010 to reclassify gardens as Greenfield which would give local councils greater powers to protect gardens.



Housing - Action Plan

Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
Protection for village environment, curtilage and greenbelt Resist any large developments	Residents value the rural village identity and are concerned that Branston could become a mini town Rapid expansion would affect village life	Encourage small scale infill and conversion of existing buildings rather than new estates	Lobby for development to be suitable and enhance the community and its needs	NKDC Parish Council Developers
Give consideration to improving infrastructure to support new development	Services are already to capacity causing difficulties for residents e.g. GP surgeries	Significant future development must be supported by s106 monies	Petition NKDC as appropriate	NKDC Parish Council
Small / affordable houses and flats for single people to buy and rent so that young people can remain in the village	Too few starter homes and affordable housing available	Provision of true affordable housing Ensure conditions to retain affordable status	Parish Council to work with NKDC Encourage those in need to register on NKDC's housing register	NKDC Developers
Resist new developments that do not have sufficient off road parking spaces	Too much on street parking Parking partially on pavements affecting wheelchair and	Ensure that new developments include adequate provision	Petition as appropriate Issue warnings to vehicles obstructing footways and	NKDC Developers Parish Council Police



Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
	pushchair users		preventing wheelchair access	
Ensure that any new developments within the conservation area is in character	Character of conservation area at risk	Closely monitor all planning applications	Request review of conservation area Encourage developers to respect the character of the village Support those conserving and enhancing older buildings	NKDC Parish Council
Encourage greater provision of suitable accommodation for the elderly	Ageing population needing suitable accommodation to maintain independence	More purpose built accommodation or help to adapt to needs	Monitor need	NKDC Housing Associations Burland Court Parish Council Age UK

Key

NKDC: North Kesteven District Council

NB. The green text has been taken from the Youth Questionnaire and is representative of the young people in Branston



Services and Facilities

This section produced a shopping list of wishes with 270 respondents asking for more shops, including butchers, bakers, DIY and a petrol station.

Many of these used to be found in Branston but, with the growth of large stores and supermarkets with greater buying power and cut price deals, became unprofitable and were lost as customers were tempted away. For any of them to return it would need an independent business person to see an opportunity. Locals should consider the services still found in the village and support them to ensure that further losses are not seen.

Lincolnshire Co-operative was interested to hear the criticisms aimed at them and the wish list of the residents and has since made a considerable investment to improve their offering. A butchery counter was incorporated, fresh bread and an improved range of fresh and chilled products, in a store approximately 50% larger, satisfies many of the requests.

The Youth Club operates four nights a week but covers only one age group each night and is only open to children who attend the college. Those in the sixth form expressed a need for somewhere to meet that was away from the college campus. The Coffee Shop is under new management and considering the request made through the youth questionnaire to open as a trial in the evenings. Opening times have already

been extended to Sunday afternoons.

The Landlord at the pub is aware of the access difficulties but other than a temporary ramp and a strong arm, adaptations would be difficult and expensive. He is keen to be part of the community and has responded to the call for a luncheon club with an affordable Tuesday Roast. If there was enough demand the service could be extended. Some suggested a restaurant and remember the Moor Lodge Hotel. That also closed because it became unprofitable and the site has since been redeveloped. The kitchen hours have been extended at the pub but the early response has been disappointing.

The biggest single demand on both questionnaires was for a cash machine. Since then a machine has been installed at the Waggon & Horses and a free to use machine at the Post Office. The Co-op offers a cash back facility.

Some concern was expressed that the Post Office could be lost. Nationally, many services previously provided by the Post Office have been lost to Paypoint and Payzone, resulting in widespread closures as the business became unprofitable. Those that survive are generally attached to a shop and their survival will ultimately depend on them being profitable and well used by the community.

The majority of residents considered the Doctor's surgeries to be good or



excellent apart from complaints about the appointment system. Those comments have been passed on to the practice manager.

The Church, schools and library scored highly. It will become more important that the library is well used and valued as public spending cuts are sought. Some cuts were made in 2007 and 2008 and although the Parish Council successfully campaigned to reinstate evening sessions, future cuts will be based on usage and will be increasingly difficult to defend.

The Village Hall also scored well and the management committee has since undertaken a programme of improvements including heating, lighting and internal decoration to make it more attractive to the modern hirer. The licence allows a variety of entertainment to be held there; should local groups and people have the inclination to organise events.

The Police were heavily criticised in this survey and have since introduced a new beat team and worked hard to tackle the anti-social behaviour and vandalism problems. While it will never be possible or cost effective to have a policeman on every corner, the PCSOs have undertaken regular patrols around the known hotspots and the behaviour of the youth has greatly improved – most of the time! The majority of respondents said that they did feel safe in the village and at home with some concerns about after dark. Those concerns were also

shared by the youth who felt intimidated at night, especially near the Jungle. People were split over the need for a 'community caretaker' and half felt that they already paid for the service through their council tax.

There was little interest in tax payer's money being spent on a new burial ground. The Parish Council therefore decided not to take on the responsibility of becoming a Burial Authority and has since re-allocated the money that had been earmarked to recreation projects. It is understood that the Church has recently identified some additional land that may provide burial space for many more years.

There was a large demand for the play areas to be updated with more challenging equipment and the traditional offering was classed as 'boring'. Washingborough and Scopwick were regarded as ones to aspire to. Local parents and children from the Junior School were given the opportunity to say what was needed and a wooden adventure trail for both Branston and Branston Booths was installed in August; financed by council reserves, a grant of £15,000 from the County Council and £7500 from Branston Ltd. Care was taken to include pieces that would appeal to all age groups and abilities.

In response to requests for additional sports facilities, the Parish Council has earmarked funds towards providing a floodlit Astro court at the Moor Lane



recreation ground. A grant application was submitted in September 2010 to make up the shortfall and provide a multi-sport, all-weather facility to allow additional sport to be played and evening training sessions held through the winter. The success of that application will not be known until late December (1).

The provision of litter and dog waste bins is the responsibility of the Parish Council. Few people considered the bins to be excellent and several additional bins have since been installed, based on justified requests from residents. The Dog Warden continues to patrol the village each week and has issued the first fine in 2010; however some owners still do not pick up or throw the bag into the hedge or let the dog out alone. Litter-picking is done on the main school routes weekly and there is always plenty to be picked, even though there is an abundance of bins on Station Road. Some messages are difficult to get across.

The District Council's refuse collection was highly rated and justified the national awards that it has won. A few people wanted more frequent collections but that is unlikely. Larger black and green bins are available at a one off charge to help larger families.

It is always difficult to satisfy every customer's needs but it would seem that every effort is being made and deserves support to maintain our vibrant community.

(1) Funding for the Flood-lit Astro court was secured in December 2010.





Services and Facilities - Action Plan

Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
Maintain and improve shopping facilities in Branston	Many services are no longer available in the village	Improve the range of services available	Make local businesses aware of residents needs	Local enterprise
Improve access to free to use cash machines - available 24/7	Nearest cash machine is at Washingborough	Install a cash machine	Make local businesses aware of residents needs	Local enterprise
Develop the range of sports facilities available to the public	Limited access to sport and existing facilities. All sports centres are the opposite side of the city or in Sleaford. Travel to them is difficult and the hire expensive	Use of facilities at the College be made available to residents outside school hours Easier access to the tennis courts Astro Courts that are available for hire Better facilities at the Pavilion	Ask the College and NKDC to form a partnership Work to extend facilities to the public when not in use by members during school holidays Seek funding or partnership Extension to provide changing areas for women and children	LCC NKDC Tennis Club Parish Council
Make the play areas more challenging and exciting	The equipment is dated and traditional	Provide new equipment with more challenge	Parish Council to secure funding from grants and the precept and consult local parents and children on the design - Completed August 2010	Parish Council
Establish an indoor area, outside school premises where 13-19	Lack of venues for young people to meet	Cafe or burger bar	Make local businesses aware of the need	Local or social enterprise



Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
year olds can meet				
Improve the relationship with, and cover provided by, the Police	Poor cover and slow response times has disillusioned residents and made them reluctant to report incidents	Frequent foot patrols to combat anti-social behaviour	Build and maintain a close relationship with a local beat team	Lincolnshire Police Parish Council
Maintain and improve: Schools	Varying pupil numbers and government funding could affect viability	Lobby against reduction in services and closure	As need requires	LCC Parish Council
Post Office	Business less viable	Lobby against reduction in services and closure	As need requires Use local services	Residents NKDC Parish Council
Library	Fewer users will reduce hours to save money	Increase usage Lobby against reduction in services and closure	Encourage groups to use the library for social events As need requires	Parish Council
GPs	As population of the village grows, the ease of making appointments is more difficult	Improve appointment systems and extend hours to cope with increased demand	Make surgeries aware of resident's concerns	Practice Management
Improve feeling of safety near the Jungle	Poorly lit, shadowy area is intimidating	Footway lighting	Parish Council to lobby for additional lighting	NKDC

The need for a free cash machine was evident and that need has been provided for by the Post Office during their trading hours. The Co-op is considering a similar facility within their store but a cash back facility on purchases made with a debit card is already available. A machine has also been installed at the Waggon & Horses but its use does incur a charge.

Key

LCC: Lincolnshire County Council

NKDC: North Kesteven District Council

NB. The green text has been taken from the Youth Questionnaire and is representative of the young people in Branston



Traffic

The volume of traffic, speed and parking were identified as the main issues concerning residents, with more than half the respondents being aware of the problems; the Youth questionnaire echoed the concerns.

The B1188 is part of the Red Route and is in fact the only B-road in the accident reduction initiative. It was included in an enhanced verge maintenance programme in 2009, making additional cuts to verges and hedges to improve visibility of road signs and bends. In 2009 reactive signs displaying a speed camera image were also installed, in a trial to reduce speed. Mobile camera units regularly visit the lay by between Canwick and the village and a site near the Waggon & Horses. Other areas where the speed of traffic concerns residents are Sleaford Road, the conservation area and Beech Road.

The entrance to Longhills, home to about nine families, is on the outskirts of the village in the 60mph limit. Residents have expressed concern for their safety, both entering and leaving, due to the speed of traffic. Sleaford Road residents also identified speed as an issue but the road does not meet criteria to extend the limit to Longhills. A request has been made to make the 30mph signs more clearly visible as it was felt that they were hidden by the bus stop and other signage. There are insufficient pedestrians or cyclists to warrant an extension of the path to Longhills.

The conservation area has stone cottages built close to narrow roads and is regularly used as a 'rat-run' to avoid the traffic lights. The possibility of a one-way system has been rejected by Highways as counterproductive. One way systems actually increase speed as drivers are confident of a clear route without needing to consider oncoming vehicles. An 'Archer Survey' conducted in 2009 showed a lower vehicle count than expected; based on the number of residential properties in that area. A few incidents involving HGVs trying to use Church Hill and Rectory Lane on the instruction of their SatNavs has caused concern but is not a frequent enough occurrence to warrant additional signage.

Beech Road is different in that it is not a through route but one used by local residents, parents on the school run and customers of the shops on Linden Avenue; any problems in this area are of our own making. The local beat team do carry out enforcement when resources allow but the bends and the parked vehicles are considered to restrict the opportunity to speed. There are no plans for a school safety zone on Beech Road. The initial request for safety zones would need to be made by the school.

Beech Road, Station Road and the streets near the schools are lined with cars twice a day during term-time, causing obstruction to through traffic and frustration to the residents. Both the junior and infant schools



have tried to encourage parents to walk their children to school but many find this impractical due to the distance of their home from the school or having a child at each school needing to be collected within fifteen minutes of each other. Some parents are concerned about the safety of children needing to cross Station Road. Vehicles, including school buses from the Community College, regularly queue at the traffic lights beyond the school gate making it difficult to have a clear view to cross. A new 'lollipop lady' was employed in 2009 and a school safety zone with a recommended 20mph limit is due to be installed in 2010. The pedestrian count was too low for a signalised crossing, according to policy guidelines, and the road too narrow for a central refuge. Parents of children living the opposite side of the B1188 are concerned about their safety when crossing and tend to prefer driving.

Pedestrian crossings were also suggested near the care home and the pub. Current policy requires 40 pedestrians crossing during the four peak hours per day for a central refuge and 100 for a signalised crossing. The Parish Council is pushing for the volume of traffic to be taken into the equation but have little sway with national policy. The budget for crossings was among the first of the public spending cuts made by the County Council in response to government cuts.

There is little that can be done to limit the volume of traffic and the level is expected to continue to increase. There have been several requests to the Highway Division by the Parish Council to reduce the speed limit on the B1188. It is considered inappropriate for the 30mph limit not to take effect until beyond the care home and Play Park. The Village Appraisals of 1979 and 1986 both identified the need to reduce the speed limit; the volume of traffic now exceeds 12,000 vehicles a day but the road still fails to meet policy criteria for a reduction. A new request was submitted in January 2010 and current data was collected in April but failed to meet the policy's criteria. The Parish Council are continuing to lobby the County Council.

Resident parking has become more of an issue as most households have two or more vehicles and some have work vans. Grass verges have been rutted by parking residents who seem oblivious to the damage done and the eyesore they create or feel that they have no option. Disabled residents struggle to manoeuvre around vehicles parked wholly or partially on pavements. While drivers may think that they are avoiding congestion by parking off the road, people in wheelchairs or parents with prams are forced into the road or denied passage when they cannot negotiate a kerb. Blocking the pavement to this effect is an offence and the police team has been asked to issue offenders with a



notice to make them aware of the effect of bad parking. Few are prepared to walk far beyond their gate and this habit will be difficult to break.

The Eastern Bypass was first considered after the war; the application for planning permission was finally submitted in February 2010 following consultation on three possible routes. The preferred option (Z) crosses the B1188 within 400 metres/yards of the first house. Route Z will allow 10,000 houses to be accommodated by 2026; route X would have only allowed 5000 new homes and was likely to lead to more development on the Branston boundary. While the vast majority of residents believe that the bypass would be good for the village, the need to preserve a green belt was almost unanimous. Funding of £130m from the Department of Transport was expected to see work start on the project in 2013 and it open in 2016 in line with the Local Transport Plan. However, by June 2010, all regional transport projects had been put on hold, at least until the end of the government's spending review to reduce the UK's record budget deficit.

The need for cycle paths was highlighted in the householder and youth questionnaires, particularly along the B1188 to link with the city. This was to be achieved in four phases; the second phase was completed in 2009. At this time, it is unclear when phase 3 will be made as the funding has been frozen.

The youth were reluctant to use the path in the evenings, even if the track was widened and resurfaced, because of safety concerns after dark. Expense and policies to reduce light pollution make it unlikely that the route will be lit.

There were a few areas where additional streetlights were requested. The Parish Council has already requested additional lights on the Wisteria Road link and the pipeline footpath across the Jungle. The streetlights on Lincoln Road are considered inadequate but unlikely to be upgraded in the near future.

Most residents considered public transport to be good; the main request was for a direct route to the city. This is already available from stops on Sleaford Road and Lincoln Road. The free pass for over-60s was popular and well used although this could be changed or reduced by successive District Councils as economies are needed to deal with government cutbacks and the effect of the recession. The Youth expressed a need for reduced fares of 50 – 75% of the full price for under 18s; while a limited scheme during school holidays has been trialled, in the current economic climate, further discount is unlikely. The youth also suggested that a reduced fare would introduce young people to public transport and give them freedom and independence. Extending the routes to cover the more isolated areas would not be sustainable. The need for a Sunday service



is being trialled and its sustainability will depend on how well it is used.

Accessibility to walkers was generally considered to be good although concern was expressed about the state of repair in some areas, particularly Church Road and the Beech Road area. The Highway Division has been made aware of the concerns and any necessary repairs will be made when resources allow. A fly-gang attends to urgent needs, including potholes. Access for wheelchair users was more of an issue; additional dropped kerbs with raised bobbles have been added in phases, particularly around Beech Road and Abel Smith Gardens, in conjunction with the Wheelie Rally committee. The path on the High Street was deemed too narrow alongside a major road. The stone pillars reduce the width of the path to 1.2m at either end of the Garden of Rest leaving motorised wheelchairs and prams within inches of the edge of the kerb. Ways to widen the path are being considered but a satisfactory solution is unlikely. Residents are regularly reminded to cut back trees and shrubs that overhang the footpaths and cause a hazard to pedestrians and particularly those with poor sight.

The provision of grit bins is the responsibility of the County Council Highways Division. The last two winters have been extreme and the prolonged periods of sub-zero temperatures have resulted in several

requests for additional bins and complaints about empty bins. The policy for additional bins is to be reviewed during 2010. It may be necessary to re-site some existing bins under the revision, which will not be popular with all. They are expected to be placed where there is a significant gradient on a carriageway not on a priority salting route. Residents were asked to use the supply of grit responsibly, its purpose being for the highway and pavements. Refilling the 600 grit bins across the county is secondary to keeping the roads open and if abused by locals, wanting to clear driveways and garden paths, will be insufficient to meet needs. The icy weather has taken its toll on the roads and several potholes have since appeared. An online service, accessed from the home page of the County Council's website, allows residents to report potholes, overgrown vegetation and faulty street lights.



Traffic - Action Plan

Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
Improve safety on Station Road for school children	Parents are concerned about the hazard of children crossing the road at peak times and between stationary vehicles backed up from the traffic lights	<p>Install a pedestrian crossing</p> <p>Maintain a school crossing patrol person</p> <p>Create a school safety zone</p> <p>Encourage parents on school run to park away from school gate</p>	<p>Parish Council and School Council to lobby Highways Department</p> <p>Post filled 2009</p> <p>Installed 2010</p> <p>All schools to raise the profile of this issue with parents</p>	<p>LCC – Highways</p> <p>LCC - Highways</p> <p>LCC & Schools</p>
Reduction in the speed limit on B1188	The speed limits currently in place with the increasing volume of traffic is considered inappropriate. The 30mph does not come into effect until beyond the care home, play area and several junctions serving large residential areas	<p>Introduce a 30mph limit from Woodview Care Centre</p> <p>Introduce a 40mph limit from start of houses on Lincoln Road</p>	Parish Council to lobby Highways Department	LCC - Highways
Improve the standard of street lighting on B1188	Crossing the B1188 is hazardous. The footway lighting is below the required standard and inadequate for cyclists on a	<p>Install safe crossings</p> <p>Upgrade lighting from Sleaford Road to Canwick Hill</p>	<p>Parish Council to lobby Highways Department</p> <p>Parish Council to ensure adequate provision on new planning applications</p>	LCC - Highways



Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
	substandard cycle path.			
Encourage residents to park considerably	Households have more vehicles than parking spaces causing congestion around some streets and junctions. Parking partially or wholly on pavements causes inconvenience and obstruction to pedestrians and wheelchair users	Educate drivers on the difficulties faced by wheelchair users and appeal to their consciences, even if it means a short walk	Local police teams to issue notices to badly parked vehicles	NKDC
Construction of the Eastern Relief Road	Congestion through city centre causes access difficulties	A ring road would reduce the need for traffic to cross the city. The Eastern bypass would be the next phase	Planning Permission granted in October 2010	LCC – Highways
Reduce the speed of traffic entering the village	Traffic from the south fails to slow down until the Moor Lane bend	Reposition the 30mph signs to make them more visible	Parish Council to lobby Highways Department	LCC – Highways
Complete cycle path between Branston & Lincoln	The majority of the route is narrow and the surface in poor condition. Evening use is hazardous due to absence of lighting	Renew the path to modern standards Install adequate street lighting	The Parish Council to continue to lobby for the path to be renewed	LCC – Highways



Traffic - Action Plan (continued)

Objective	Problem	Solutions	Actions	Responsibility
Install a bus shelter on Station Road for Lincoln bound passengers	The old bus shelter was removed several years ago to discourage youths congregating. The stop is well used, especially by older residents and is exposed to the weather	Install a new bus stop	Ask the Parish Council to investigate the possibility	Parish Council
Introduce a student rate on public transport	Teenagers find the full fare restricting. Many requested a more direct route to the city although some wanted routes to encompass more isolated areas on the outskirts of the parish.	A student rate of 50% -75% of the full fare Advertise the direct route from Sleaford Road, High Street and Lincoln Road	Arrange a meeting with Bus Companies and LCC to discuss the feasibility	LCC Stagecoach Call Connect Brylaine

Key

LCC - Highways: Lincolnshire County Council Highways Department

NKDC: North Kesteven District Council

NB. The green text has been taken from the Youth Questionnaire and is representative of the young people in Branston



Other issues raised:

Disability access to some business premises was raised by a few. Smaller businesses are not expected to meet the same standards as national companies and the expense involved is often prohibitive.

Some suggested the need for more grit boxes and further requests were made during last winter. The Highways Dept is currently working on a policy for the provision of grit bins. The Parish Council has suggested fixing instructions to each bin as some residents are unsure how and where the grit should be used.

There were requests for additional street lights to be installed, specifically on the Wisteria link road and the pipeline footpath across the Jungle. The request has been submitted to NKDC and will be considered when funds allow.

While over 60s benefit from free travel on public transport, paying customers considered the fares to be excessive to the point that it was cheaper and more convenient to travel by car.



Successes

One questionnaire was returned with the following comment:

"In 1987 a plan for the future was to be introduced. Nothing has been done in 20 years. So what chance has this one?"

Results have been seen already, whether by coincidence or otherwise:

- The B1188 has been included in a new initiative for enhanced verge maintenance which will cut back the hedge from the cycle path and we have asked them to clear up properly to avoid punctures
- The second phase of the cycle path has been completed
- Working with NKDC on their Healthy Lifestyle survey we have introduced a keep fit class for over-50s which has proved to be very popular
- A new, weatherproof noticeboard has been provided at the Village Hall with the help of O2
- A free cash machine has been installed at the Post Office
- Work is on going to tidy the Jungle
- The path along Paddock Lane has been resurfaced, the trees made safe and the boardwalk replaced.
- Volunteer workdays and Junior Fundays have been held
- The fence at the end of the Branston Booths play area has been replaced with a secure palisade fence to keep children away from the old, water-filled clay pit
- The shopping facilities at the Co-op have been greatly extended
- The Food for Thought Coffee shop has changed ownership and is open longer hours, which will provide a good venue for young people to meet their friends
- The Waggon & Horses offers good quality, value for money food with OAP specials on Tuesdays
- The rundown empty shop on the High Street has been given a new purpose
- After losing the evening sessions at the Library, the times were reconsidered and again include 3 nights until 7.00pm
- Improved communications with the Police team have led to a better service
- The double yellow lines have been extended on the High Street and Silver Street to deal with congestion at the traffic lights caused by parked cars
- The Village Hall management has undertaken a refurbishment programme to update the facility
- A 'lollypop lady' has been found for Station Road
- A Craft Fair was held in November 2008 with more than 20 stalls
- The Christmas tree has been improved with new lights and a decorative fence
- The website has regular visits and has added to its menu
- Big improvements have been made to the Play Areas
- Money has been included in the budget to continue to maintain and improve the Jungle



Round the Next Corner:

- Funding has been secured for a mosaic in the centre of the village
- Match funding has been secured to provide a floodlit Astro court
- The Parish Council hopes to create a picnic area, possibly using designs by local students
- The Parish Council will continue to lobby the Highways Division to complete the cycleway improvements

For any Parish Plan to succeed everyone in the community must play their part:

Some responses showed a need for services and also a willingness to get involved and help, for example Neighbourhood Watch – 182 said they would help. However only 6 people responded to the article in the Newsletter, asking for volunteers to come forward; so including it in the Plan has to be questioned if so few are really interested. Similarly, there was real enthusiasm for the Jungle to be tidied up but few people have been willing to help on workdays and so alternative arrangements were made for 2010.

Not everyone's desire is achievable:

There was little interest shown in buying land for a new Burial Ground and the Parish Council has taken this as a sign that you do not wish your taxes to be spent this way and are not pursuing the purchase.

Other requests were beyond the remit of the Plan or simply not feasible – a petrol station; more play areas all over the village; building a new pub; moving the Post Office to a place with a car park.

Has it been a success?

Although it has taken twice as long as planned to produce, the Steering Group and Parish Council are pleased with the success of the project. The excellent response to the Questionnaire at the end of 2007 suggests that residents like to be consulted on issues affecting village life. You told us that you rely on the Branston Newsletter for village news and so when there is a major change or project to be consulted on, it will be delivered through the Newsletter or the Sheepwash Times; both of which are delivered to every household, free of charge. Please take the opportunity to continue to tell us what you want!

“ what is the village but the people ”
William Shakespeare



Appendix 1: Questionnaire Analysis

In November 2007, an extensive questionnaire was devised and hand delivered to **every household**. It was considered to be the most inclusive way to find out what people wanted. The response rate of 35% was pleasing and the steering group are grateful to the 640 households for their time and effort.

The breakdown of the 640 households can be seen below:

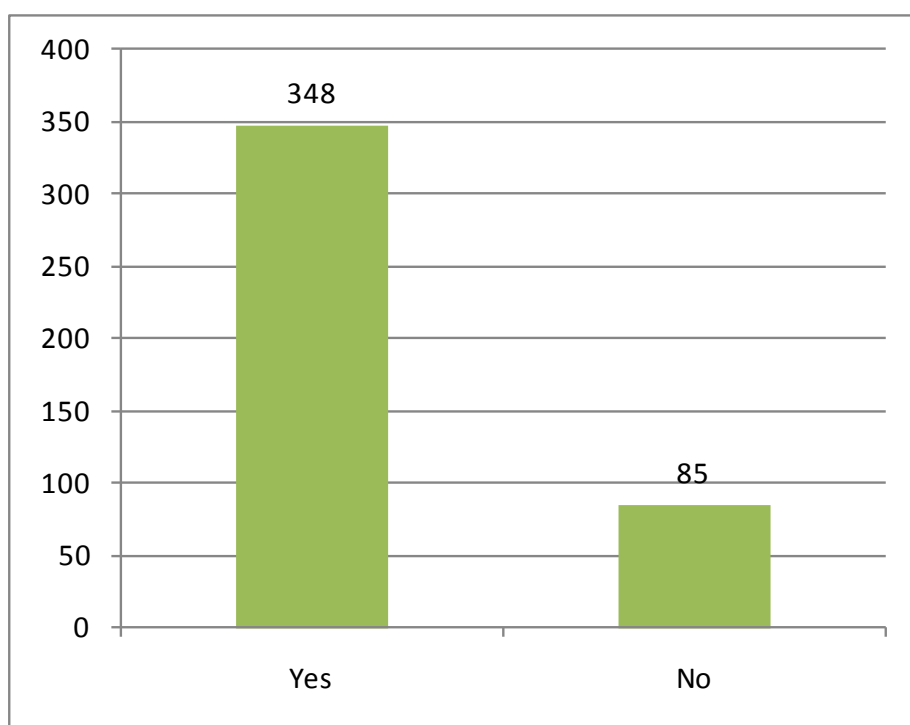
Age	14 - 18	19 - 25	26 - 40	41 - 60	60 +	Total
Male	1	4	34	106	155	300
Female	3	10	42	132	158	346
Unknown						165
Total						640

The analysis of the questionnaires can be seen in this appendix.

Traffic and Transport

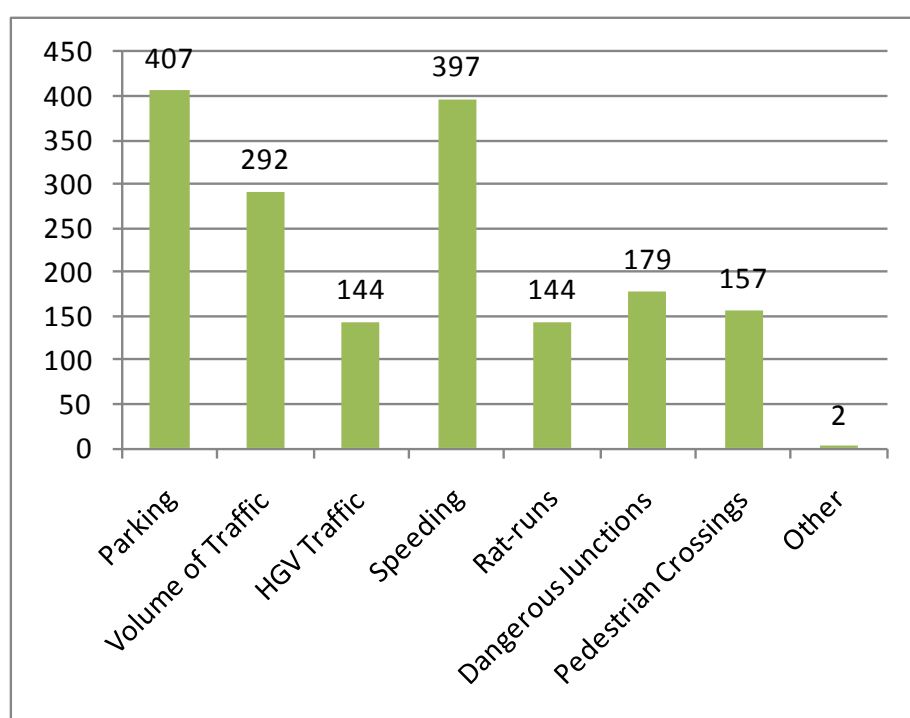
Are you aware of any problems with traffic in the Parish?

Yes	348
No	85



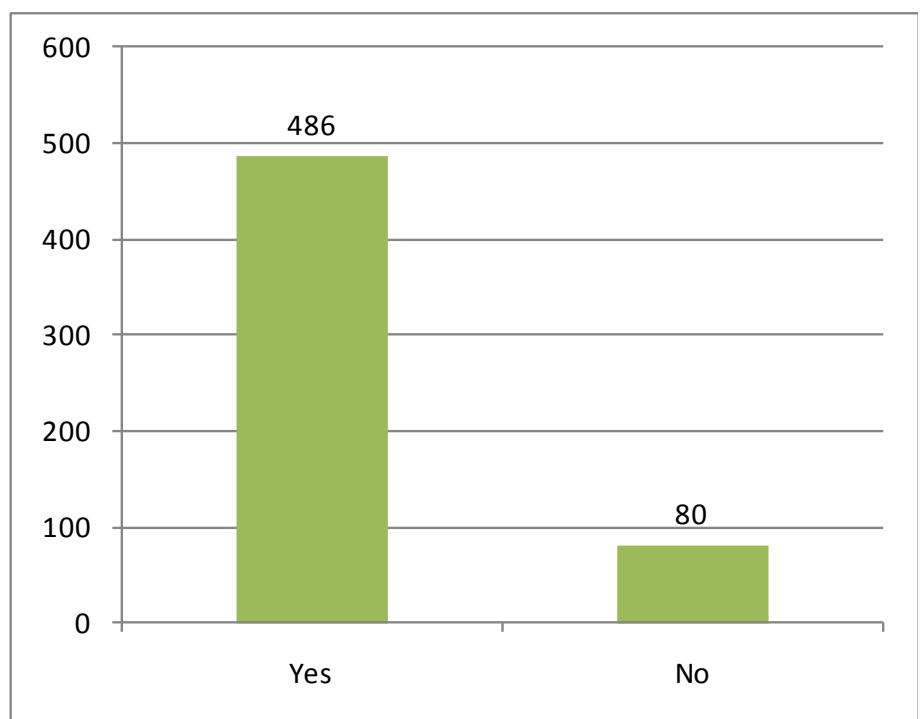
What traffic problems are you aware of?

Parking	407
Volume of Traffic	292
HGV Traffic	144
Speeding	397
Rat-runs	144
Dangerous Junctions	179
Pedestrian Crossings	157
Other	2



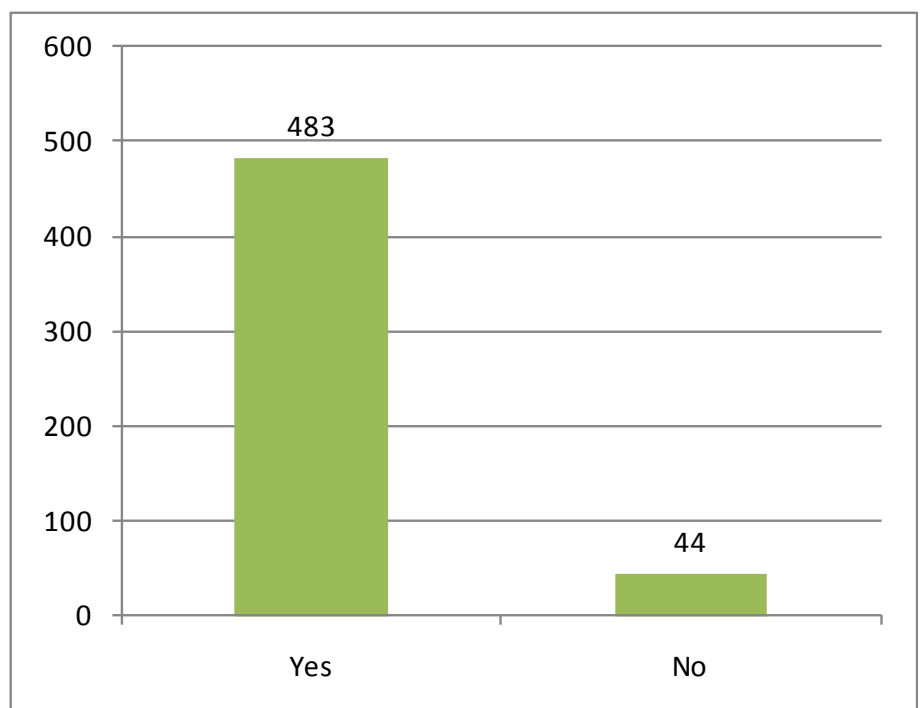
Do you think the Eastern Bypass will be good for the Parish?

Yes	486
No	80



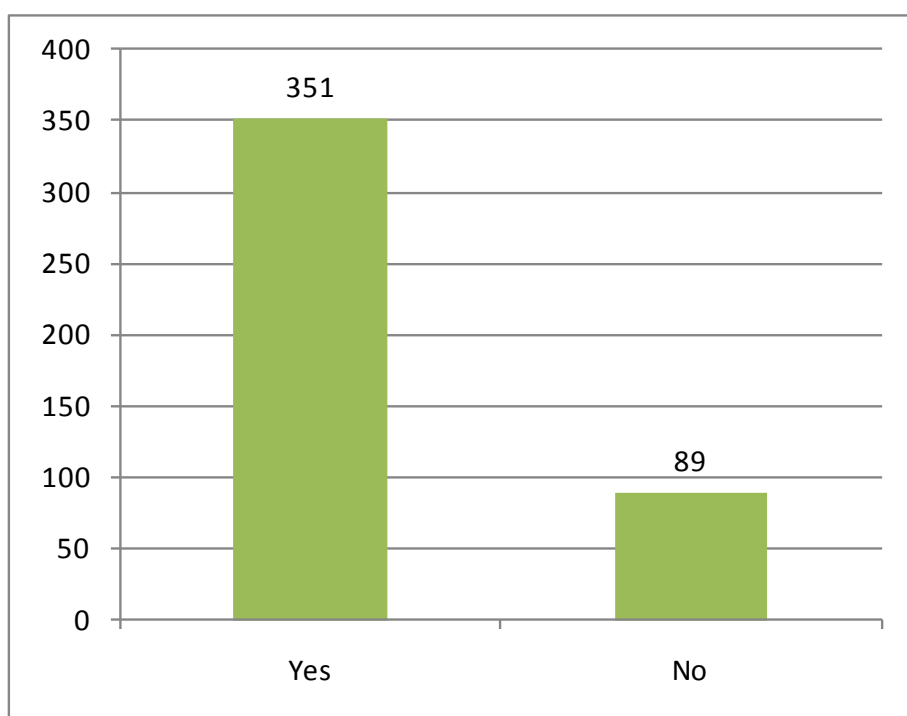
Should the greenbelt be maintained between Branston and the proposed bypass?

Yes	483
No	44



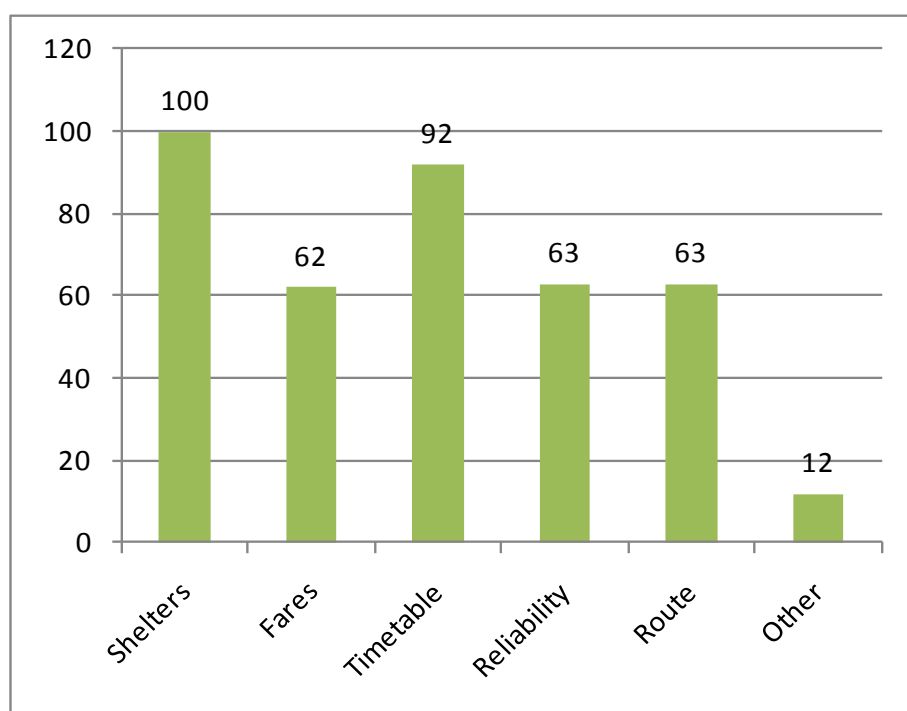
Does the public transport currently provided meet your needs?

Yes	351
No	89



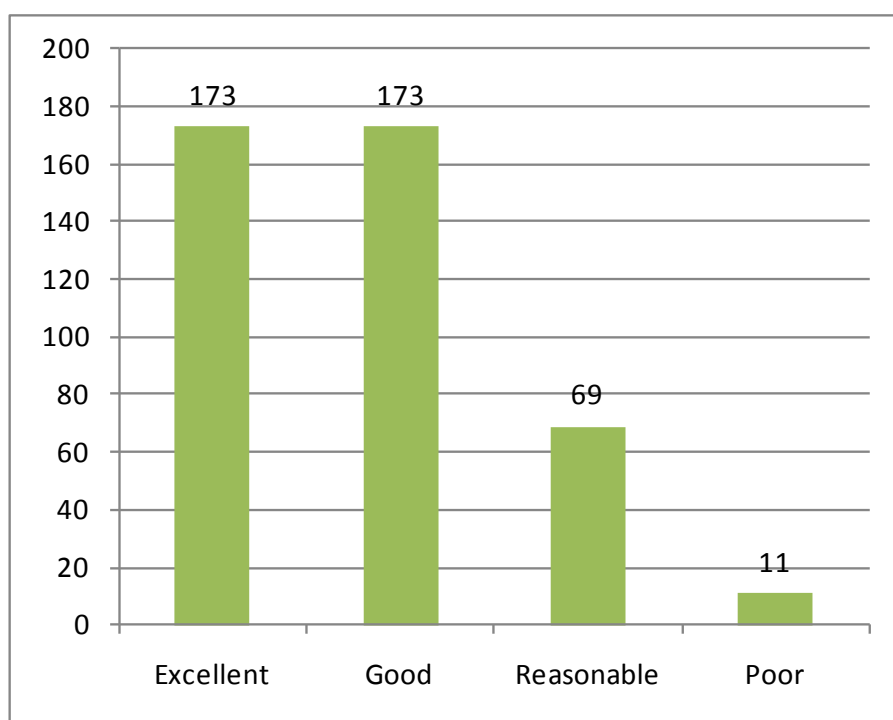
If no, what improvements should be made?

Shelters	100
Fares	62
Timetable	92
Reliability	63
Route	63
Other	12



How do you rate access in and around the Parish for... walking?

Excellent	173
Good	173
Reasonable	69
Poor	11



How do you rate access in and around the Parish for... cycling?

Excellent	80
Good	217
Reasonable	161
Poor	55



**How do you rate access in
and around the Parish for...
wheelchair and pushchairs?**

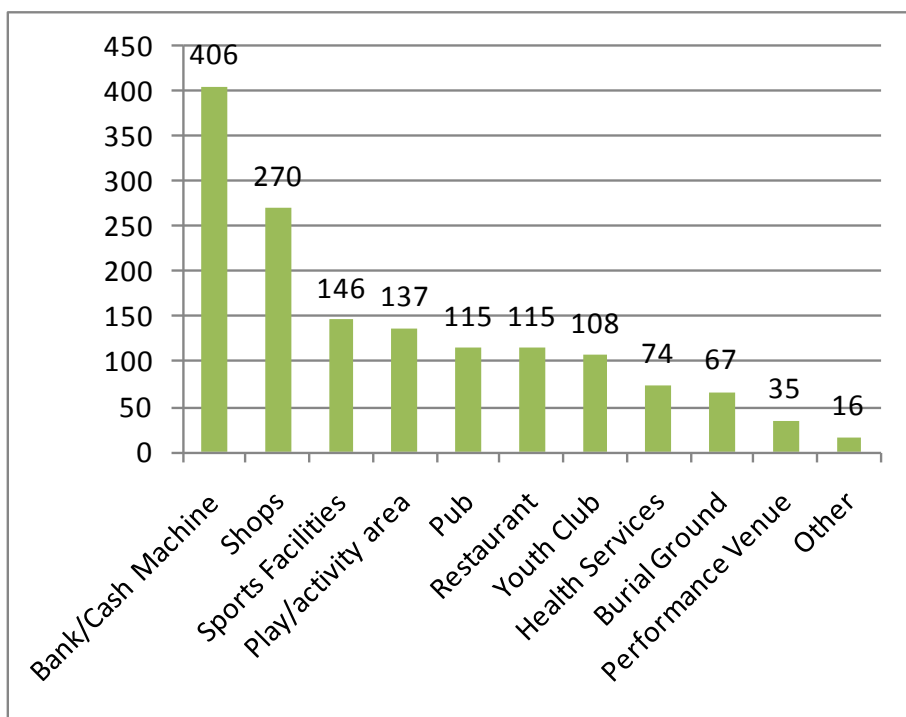
Excellent	44
Good	168
Reasonable	182
Poor	68



Services and Facilities

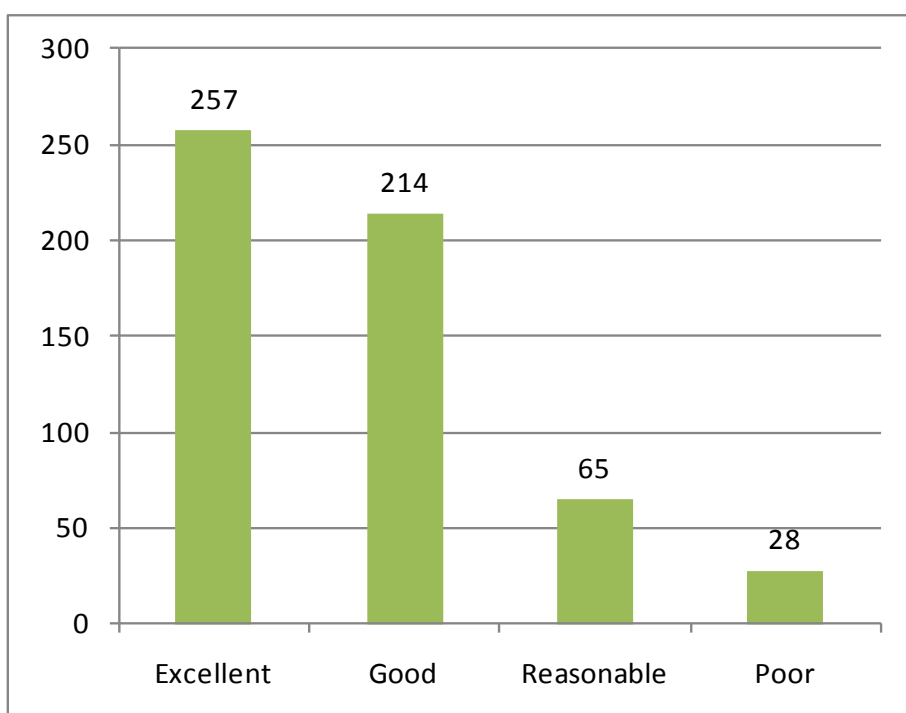
Which services and facilities do you feel the Parish lack?

Bank/Cash Machine	406
Shops	270
Sports Facilities	146
Play/Activity Areas	137
Pub	115
Restaurant	115
Youth Club	108
Health Services	74
Burial Ground	67
Performance Venue	35
Other	16



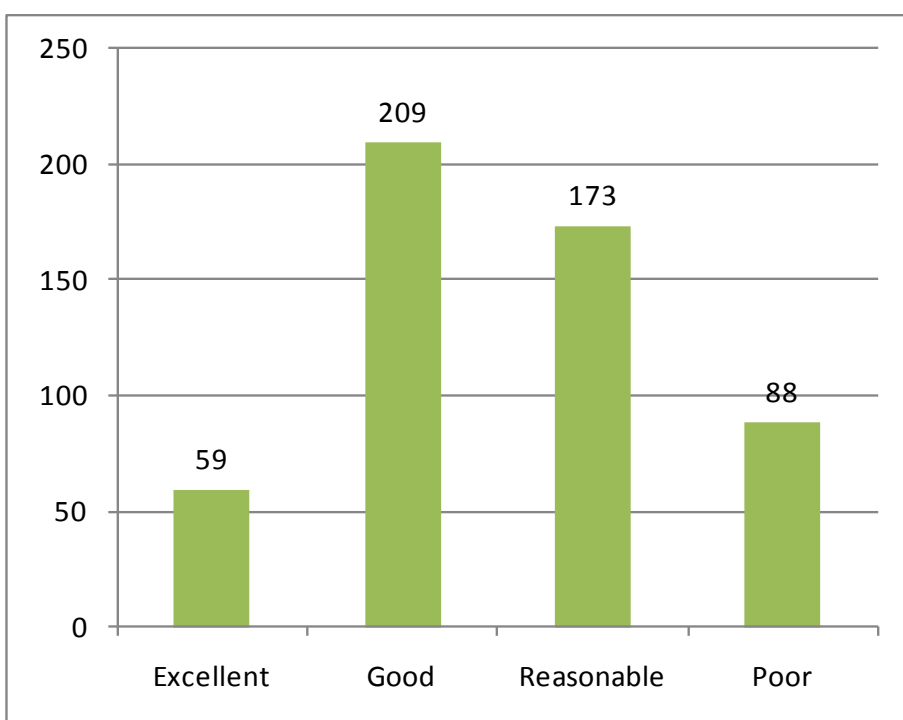
Are you happy with the standard of public services?
e.g. Refuse Collection

Excellent	257
Good	214
Reasonable	65
Poor	28



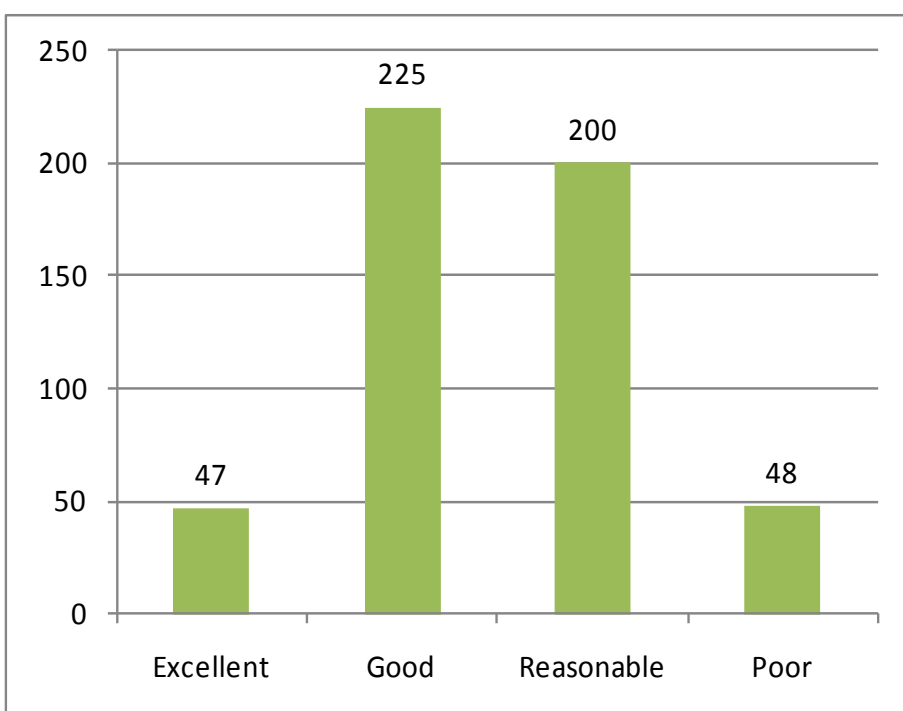
**Are you happy with the standard of public services?
e.g. Street Cleaning**

Excellent	59
Good	209
Reasonable	173
Poor	88



**Are you happy with the standard of public services?
e.g. Grounds Maintenance**

Excellent	47
Good	225
Reasonable	200
Poor	48



**Are you happy with the standard of public services?
e.g. Police Service**

Excellent	29
Good	131
Reasonable	222
Poor	191



**Are you happy with the standard of public services?
e.g. Schools**

Excellent	131
Good	265
Reasonable	69
Poor	6



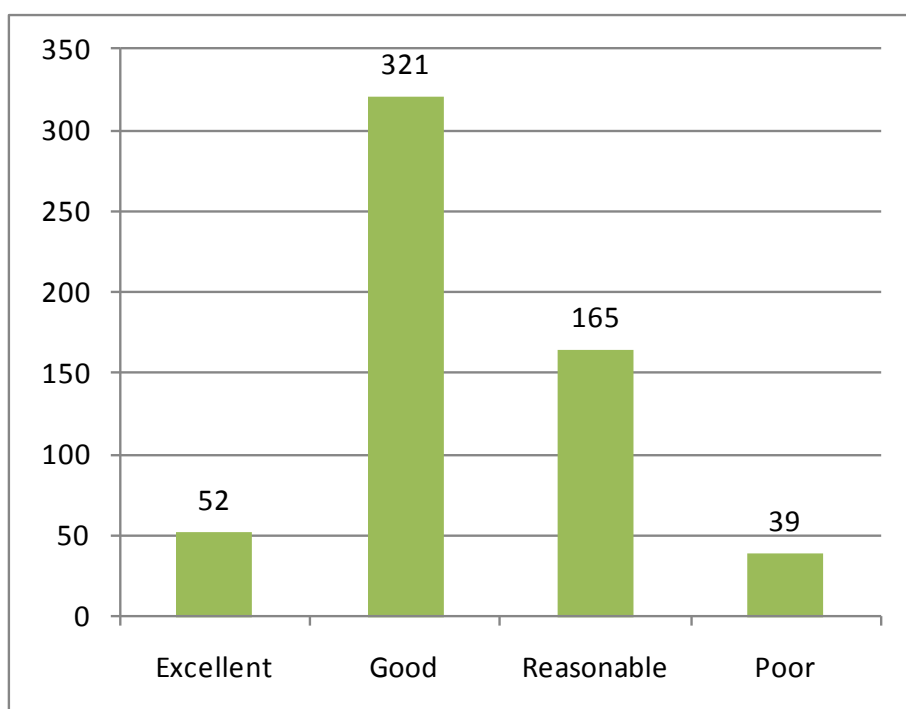
**What are your views of
Parish facilities?
e.g. Footpaths**

Excellent	50
Good	269
Reasonable	192
Poor	62



**What are your views of
Parish facilities?
e.g. Street Lighting**

Excellent	52
Good	321
Reasonable	165
Poor	39



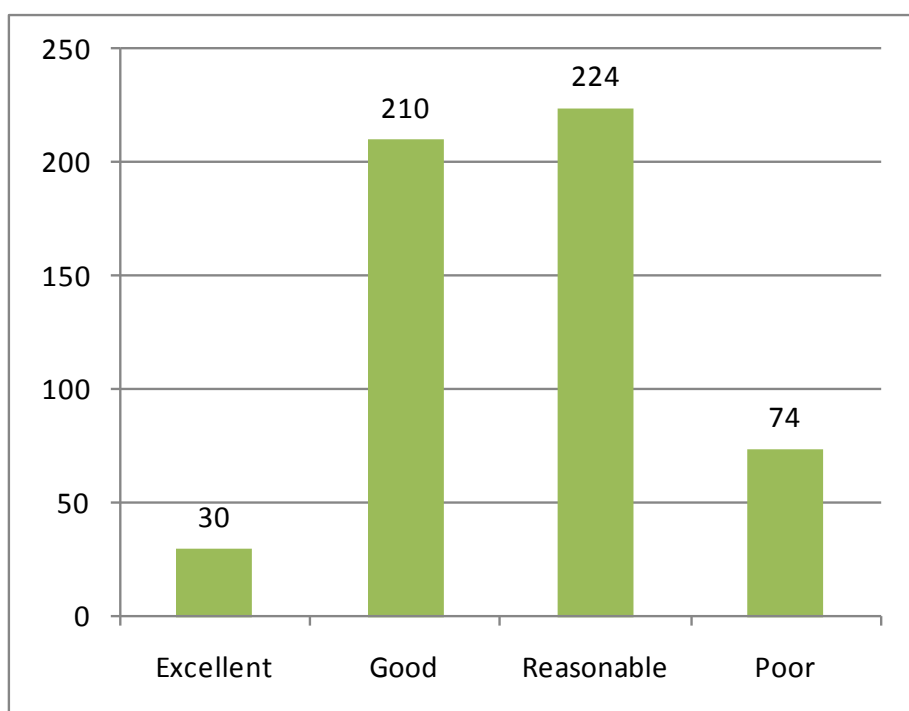
**What are your views of
Parish facilities?
e.g. Litter Bins**

Excellent	30
Good	198
Reasonable	220
Poor	113



**What are your views of
Parish facilities?
e.g. Dog Bins**

Excellent	30
Good	210
Reasonable	224
Poor	74



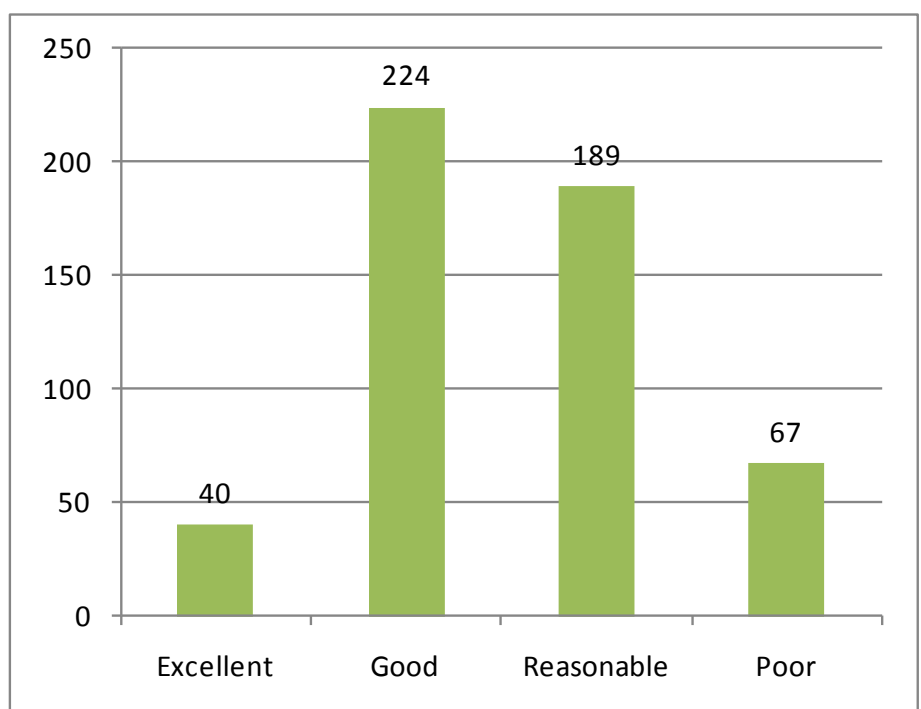
**What are your views of
Parish facilities?
e.g. Signs**

Excellent	37
Good	284
Reasonable	187
Poor	37



**What are your views of
Parish facilities?
e.g. Play Areas / Parks**

Excellent	40
Good	224
Reasonable	189
Poor	67



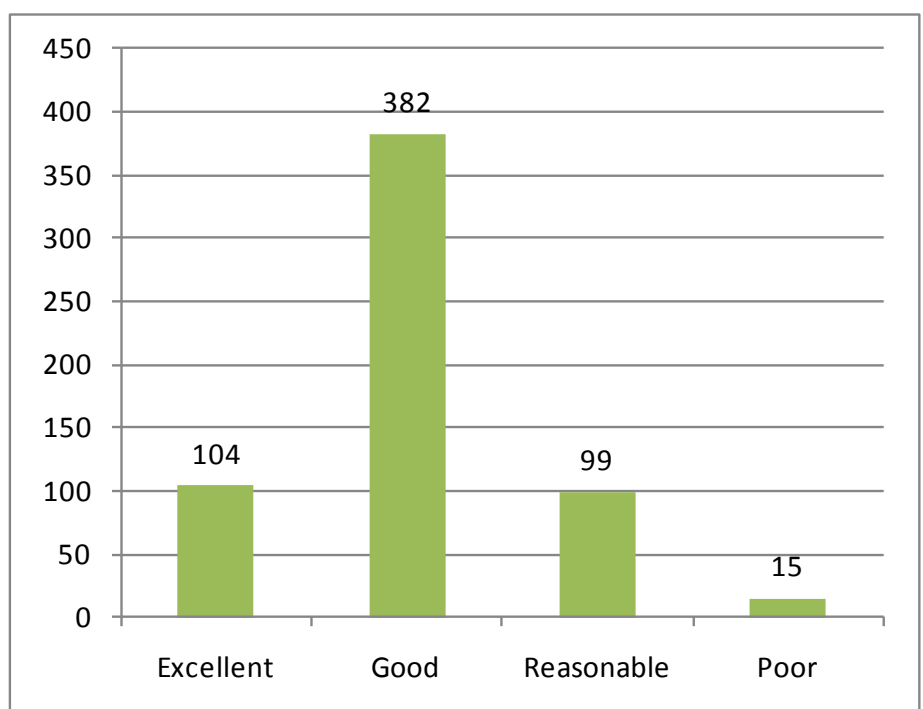
**What are your views of
Parish facilities?
e.g. Cycle Paths**

Excellent	39
Good	183
Reasonable	179
Poor	119



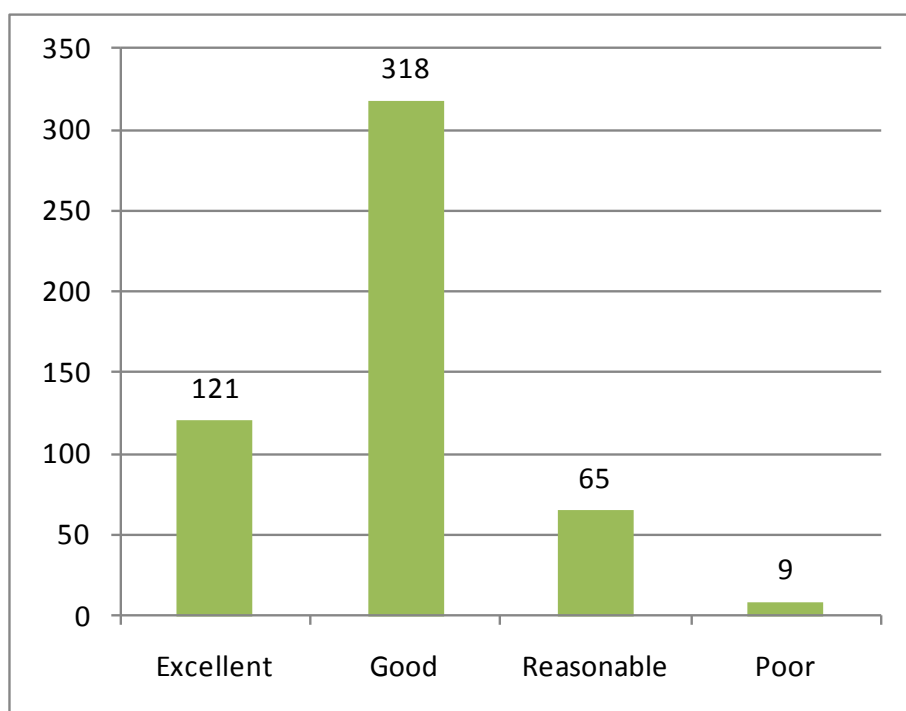
**What is your view of
Community Services?
e.g. Village Hall**

Excellent	104
Good	382
Reasonable	99
Poor	15



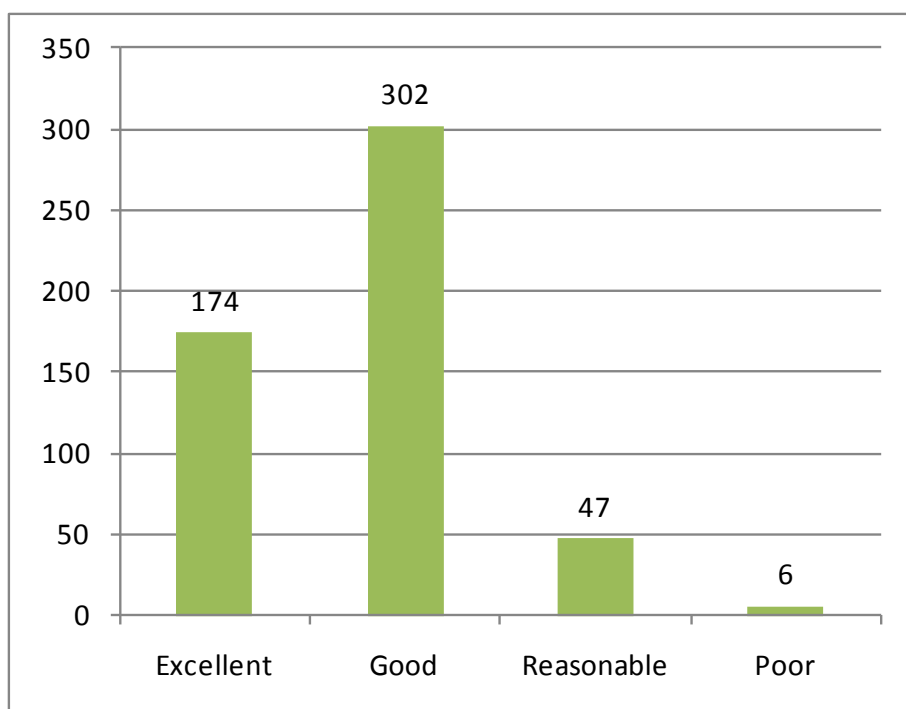
**What is your view of
Community Services?
e.g. Church**

Excellent	121
Good	318
Reasonable	65
Poor	9



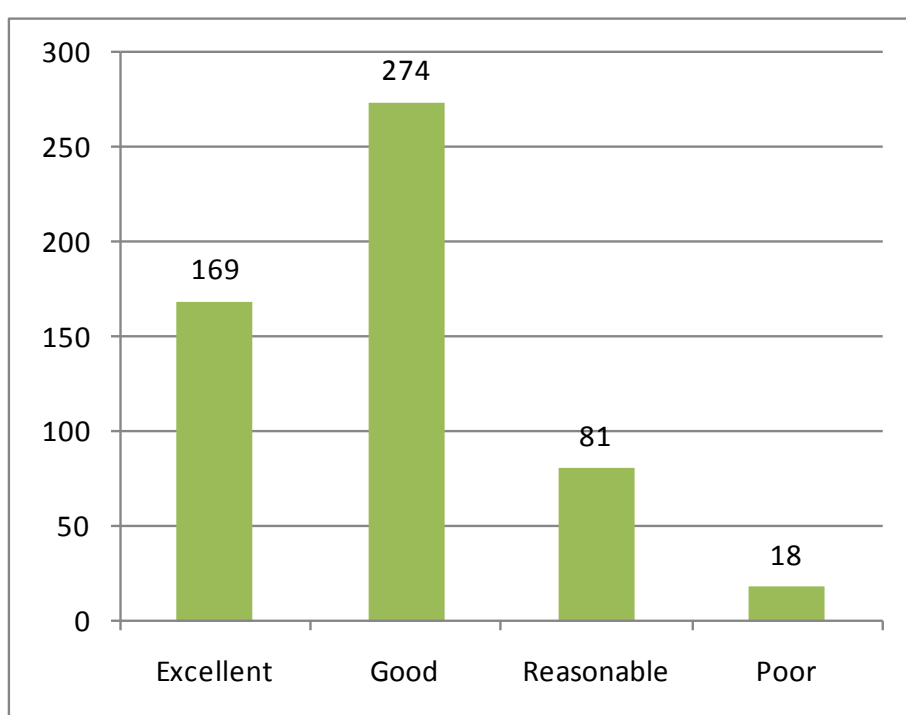
**What is your view of
Community Services?
e.g. Schools**

Excellent	174
Good	302
Reasonable	47
Poor	6



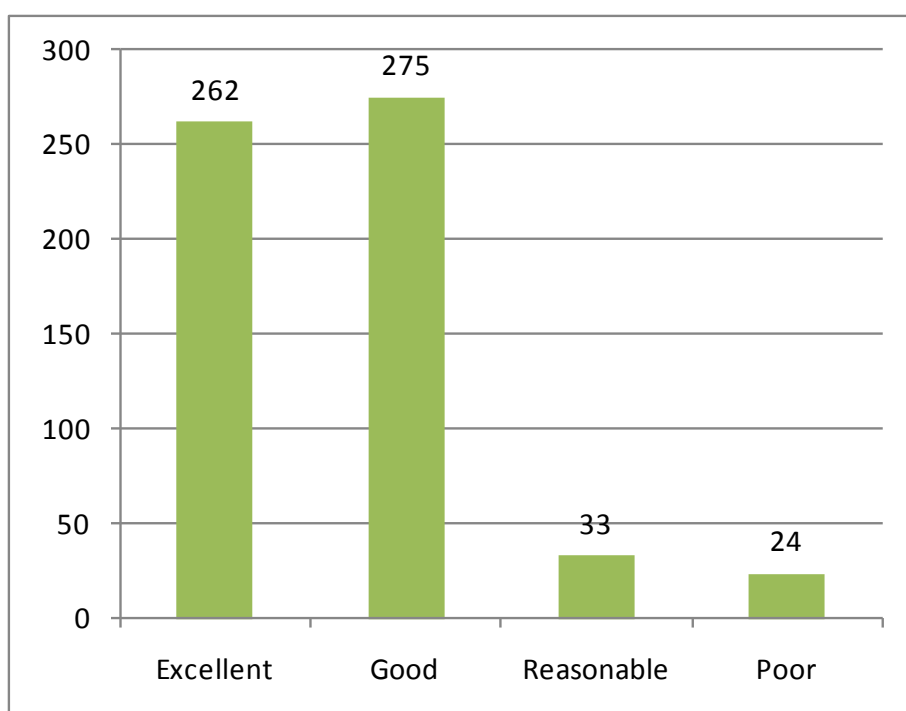
**What is your view of
Community Services?
e.g. Library**

Excellent	169
Good	274
Reasonable	81
Poor	18



**What is your view of
Community Services?
e.g. Post Office**

Excellent	262
Good	275
Reasonable	33
Poor	24



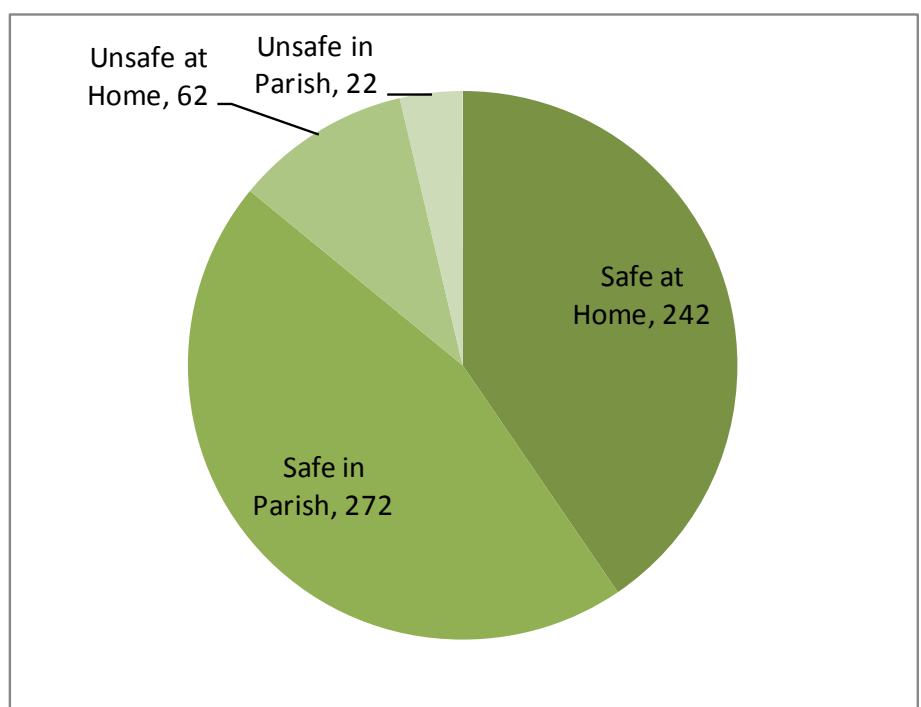
What is your view of Community Services? e.g. GP Surgeries

Excellent	242
Good	272
Reasonable	62
Poor	22



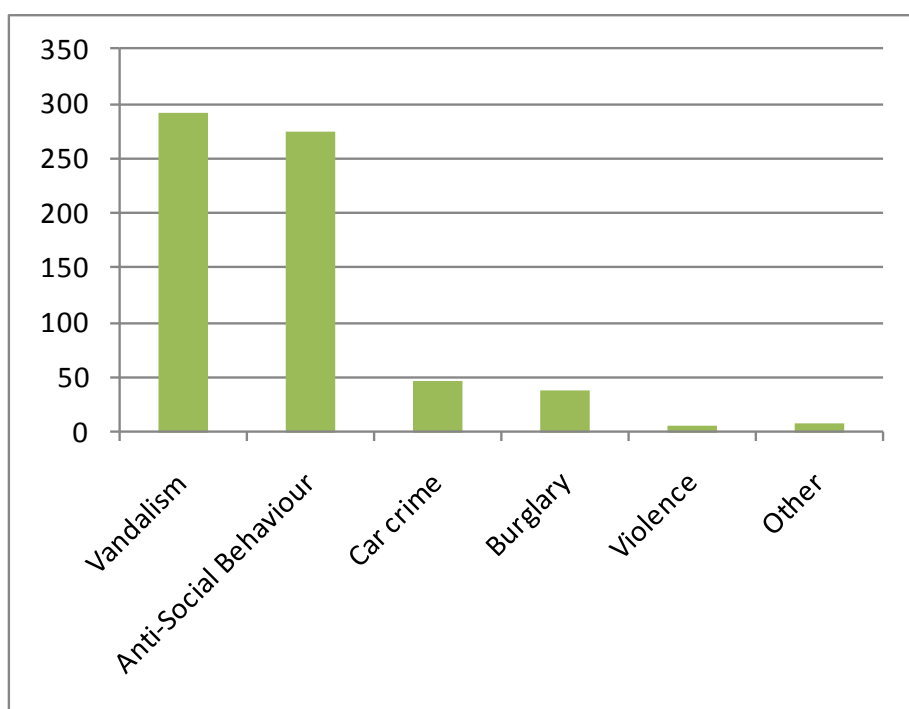
Do you feel safe in and around the Parish?

Safe at Home	522
Safe in Parish	458
Unsafe at Home	38
Unsafe in Parish	83



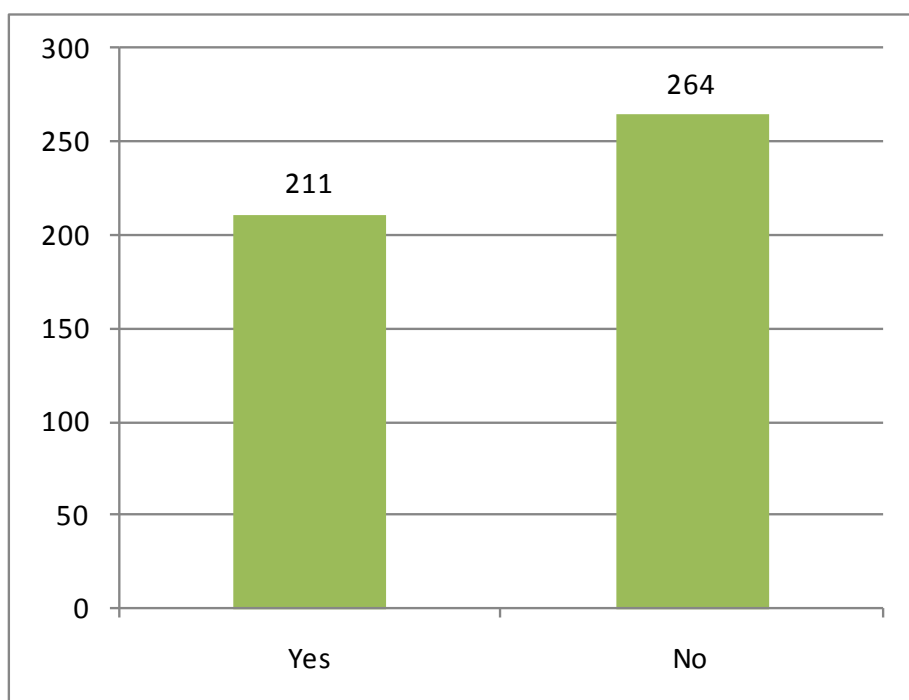
What problems are of concern?

Vandalism	291
Anti-Social Behaviour	275
Car crime	46
Burglary	37
Violence	6
Other	7



Would you be prepared to pay for a community caretaker as part of your council tax?

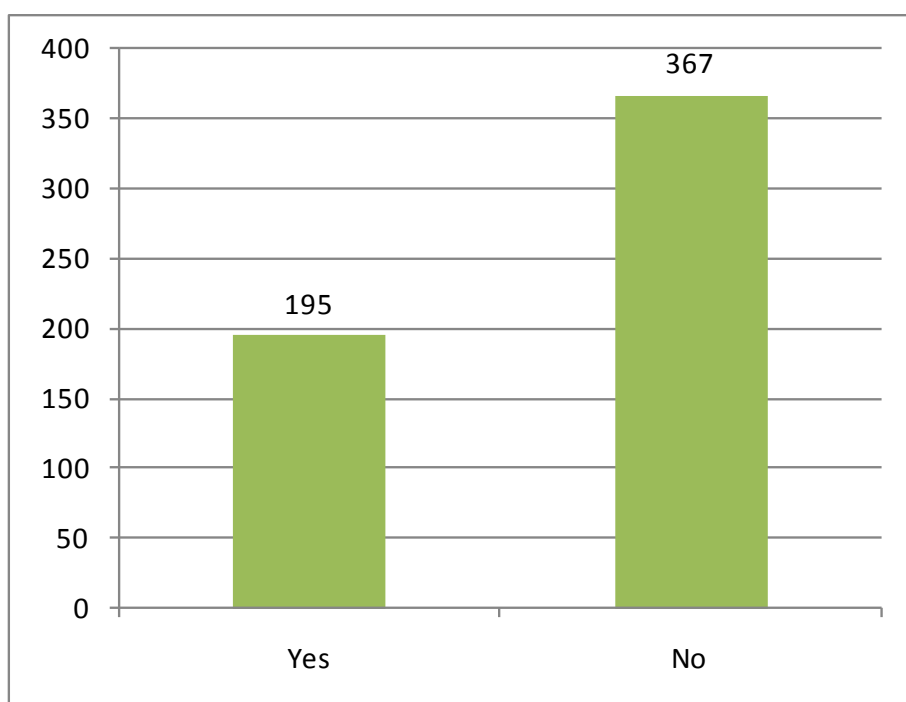
Yes	211
No	264



Housing

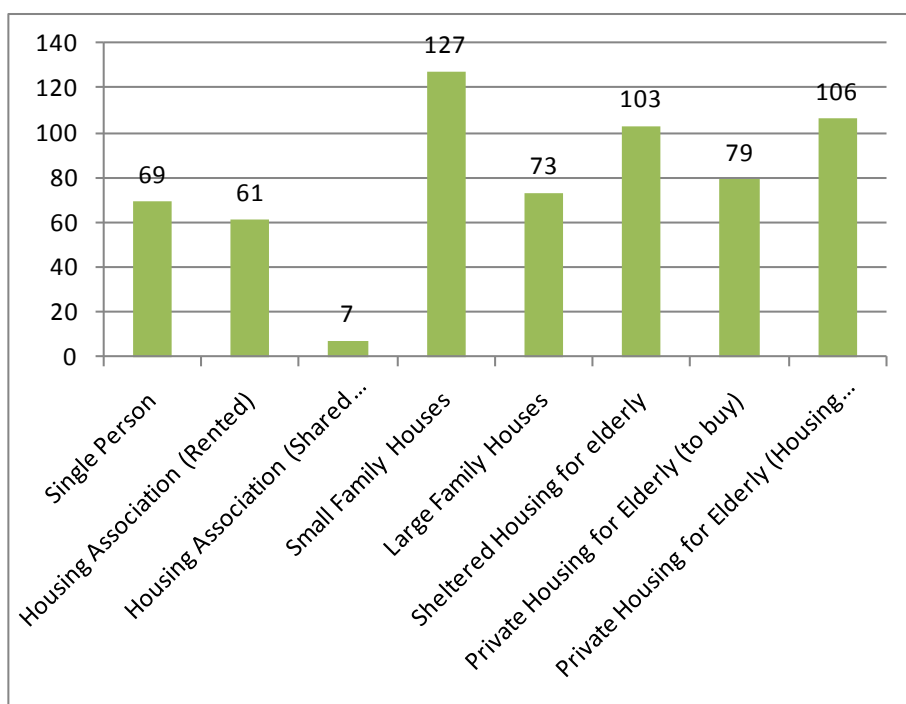
Are there enough homes in the Parish?

Yes	195
No	367



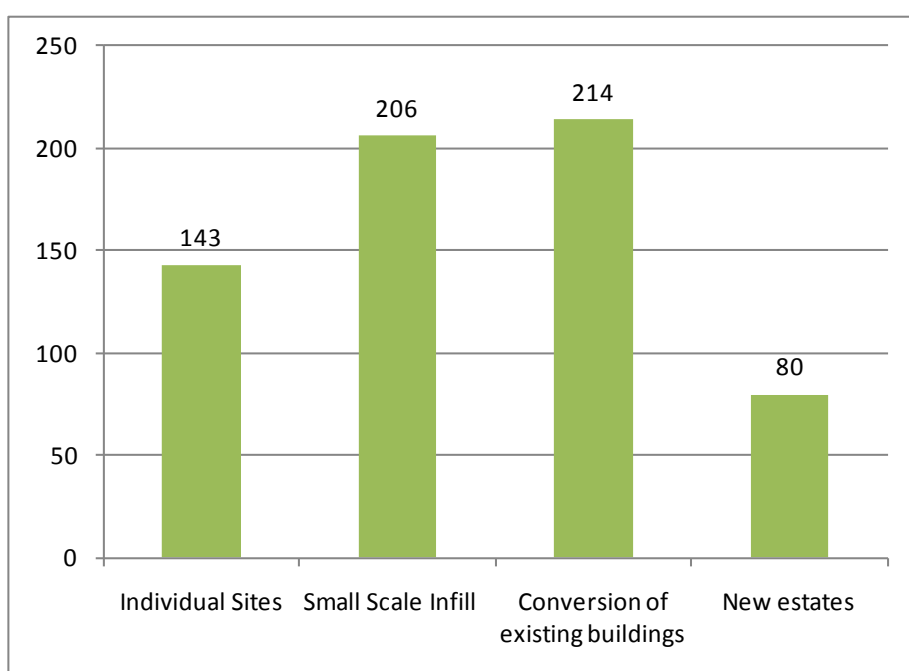
What housing type do you think should be provided?

Single person	69
Housing Association (Rented)	61
Housing Association (Shared Ownership)	7
Small Family Houses	127
Large Family Houses	73
Sheltered Housing for elderly	103
Private housing for elderly (to buy)	79
Private housing for elderly (Housing Association rented)	106



What types of new housing should be provided?

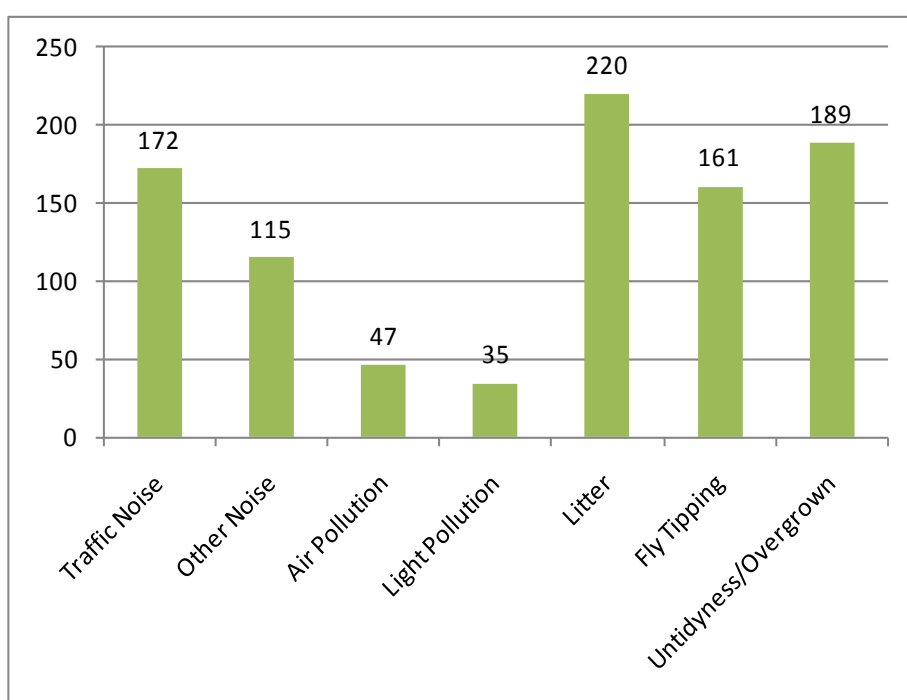
Individual Sites	143
Small Scale Infill	206
Conversion of existing buildings	214
New estates	80



Environment and Countryside

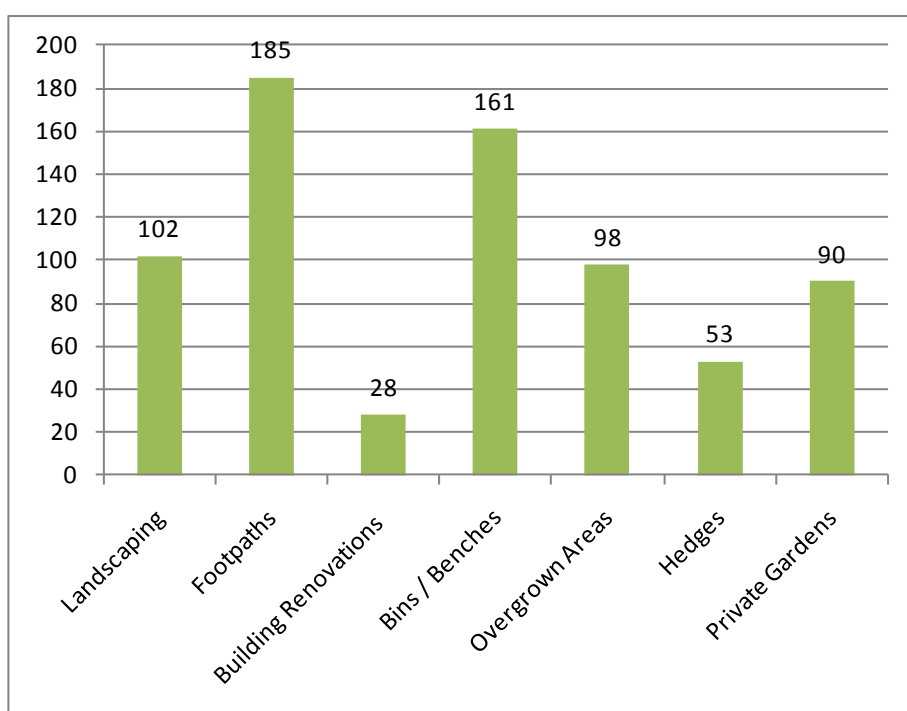
What problems do you feel the Parish has?

Traffic Noise	172
Other Noise	115
Air Pollution	47
Light Pollution	35
Litter	220
Fly Tipping	161
Untidyness/Overgrown	189



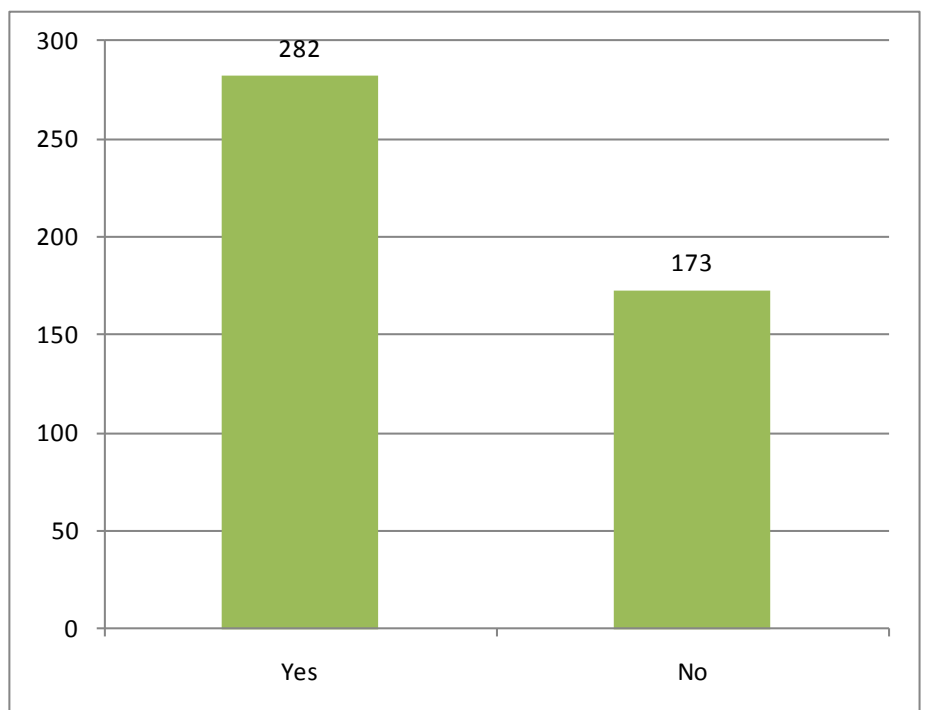
What improvements could be made to any part of the Parish and/or surrounding countryside?

Landscaping	102
Footpaths	185
Building Renovations	28
Bins / Benches	161
Overgrown Areas	98
Hedges	53
Private Gardens	90
Other	27



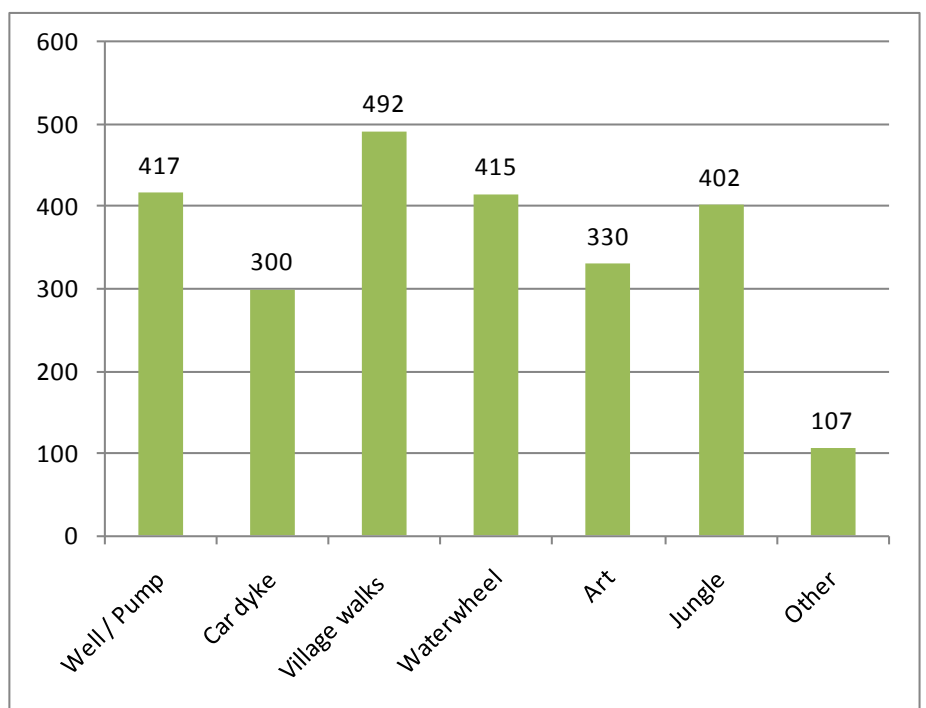
Do you think that we should encourage the 'tourist' to our area?

Yes	282
No	173



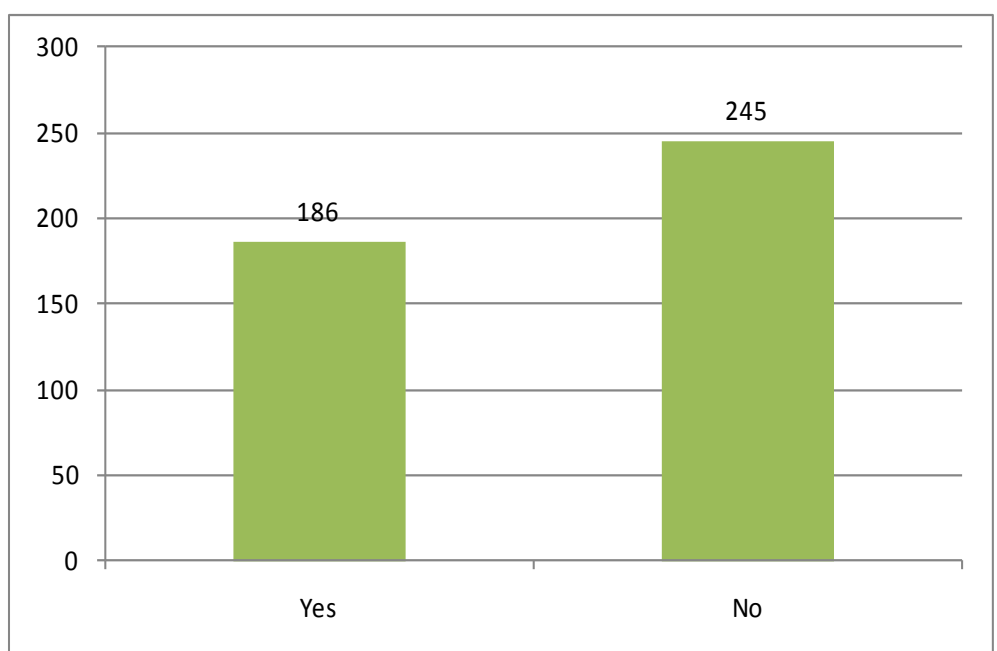
What projects would you like to see happen in the future?

Well / Pump	417
Car dyke	300
Village walks	492
Waterwheel	415
Art	330
Jungle	402
Other	107



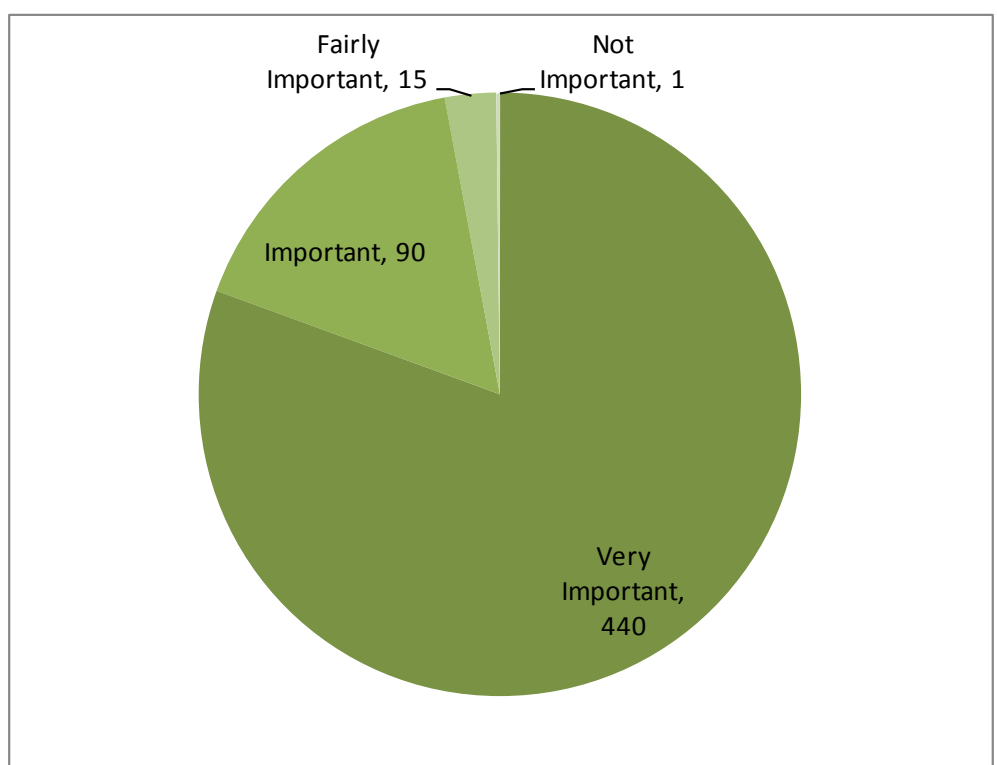
Do you think there is need for allotment gardens in the Parish?

Yes	186
No	245



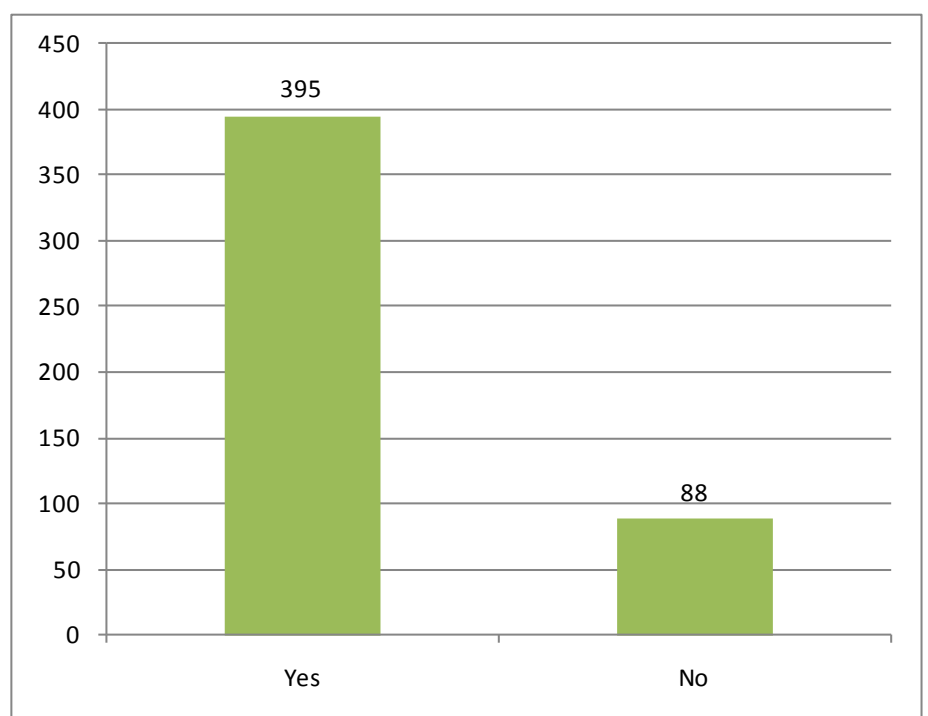
How important is the surrounding countryside to you?

Very Important	440
Important	90
Fairly Important	15
Not Important	1



Do you think that access to the countryside by creating more permissive footpaths should be encouraged?

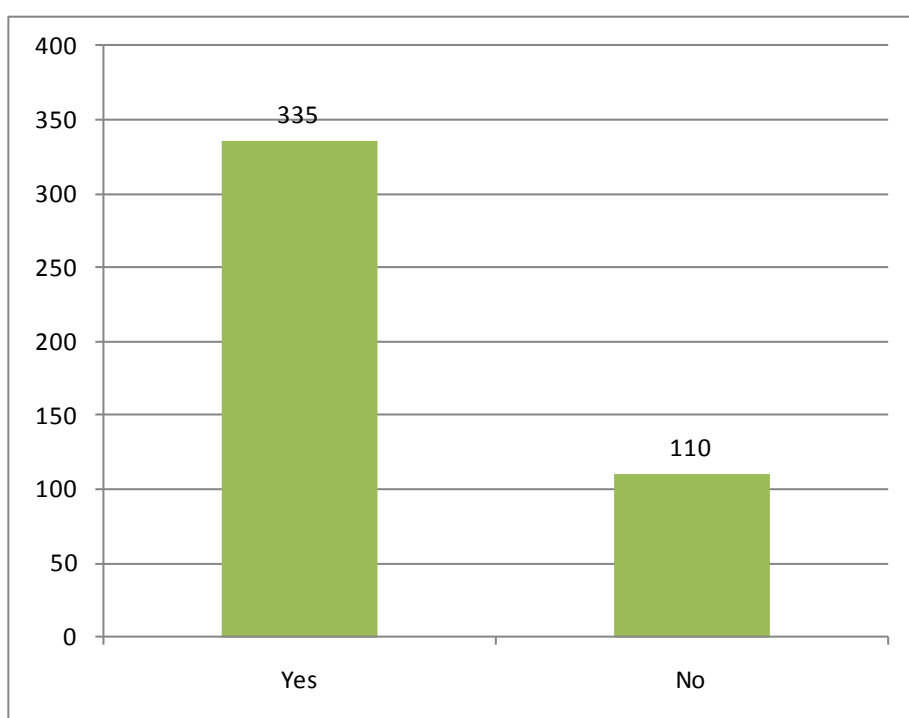
Yes	395
No	88



Business and Employment

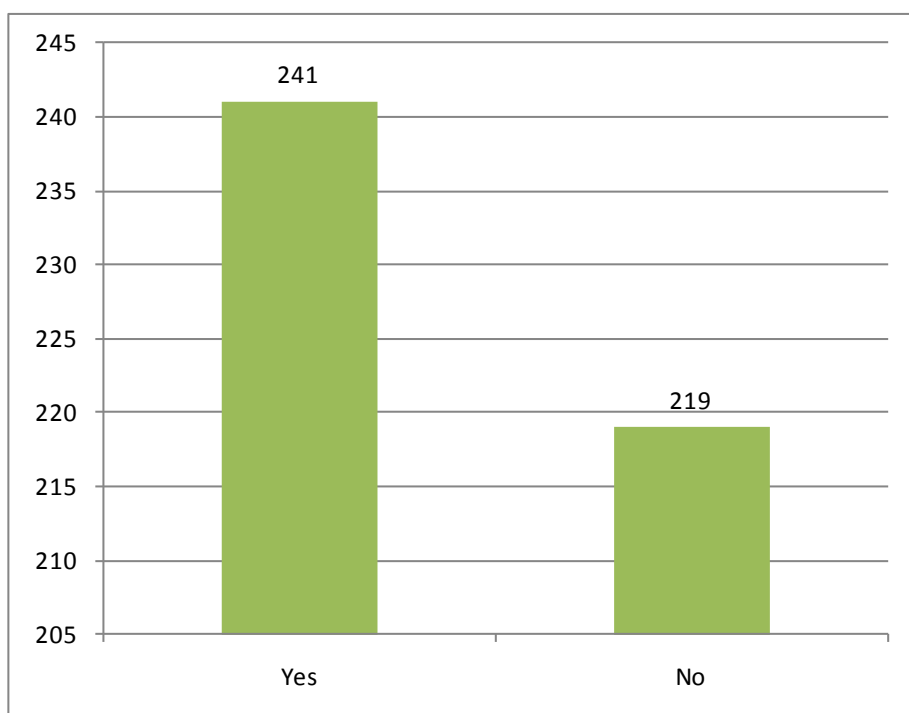
Are you happy with the current level of business/employment in/around the Parish?

Yes	335
No	110



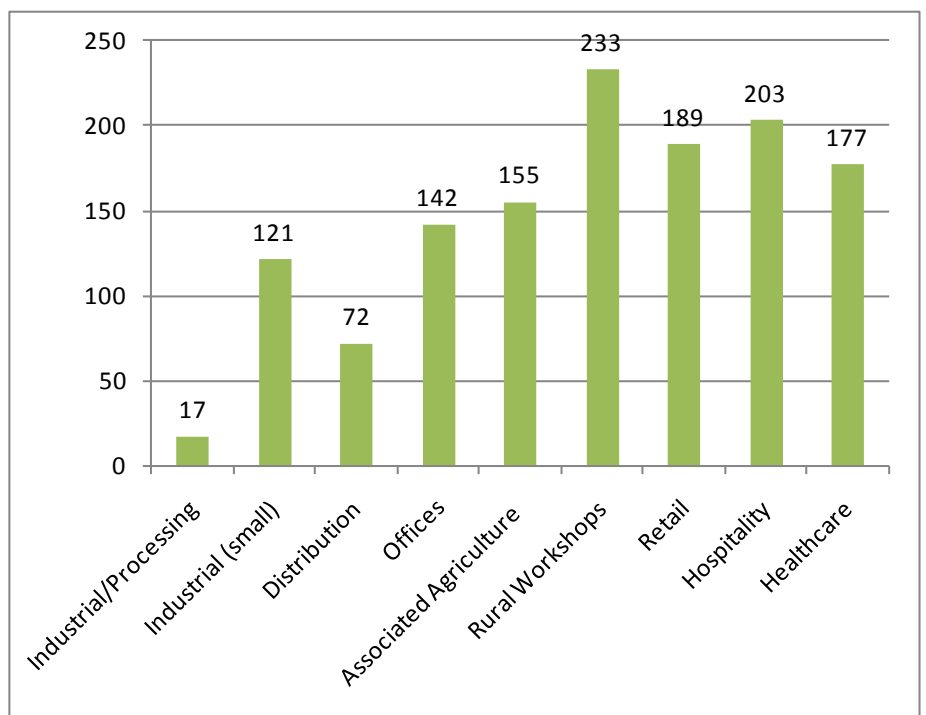
Do you think there is a need to increase 'local' employment opportunities available by enabling businesses to move to the Parish?

Yes	241
No	219



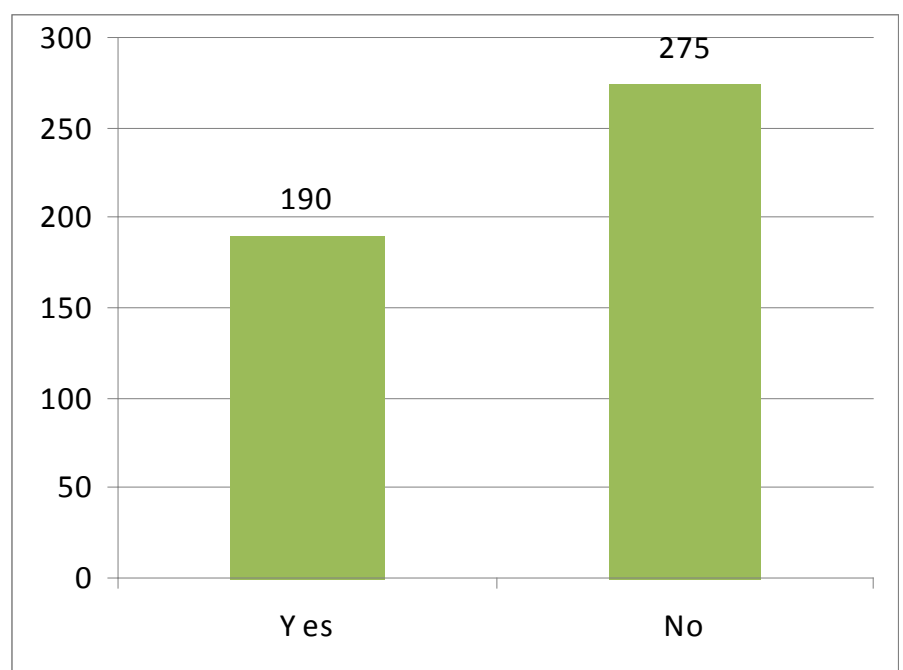
What sort of business activities would you encourage to the Parish?

Industrial/Processing	17
Industrial (small)	121
Distribution	72
Offices	142
Associated Agriculture	155
Rural Workshops	233
Retail	189
Hospitality	203
Healthcare	177



Would you support a new business park located in / around the Parish?

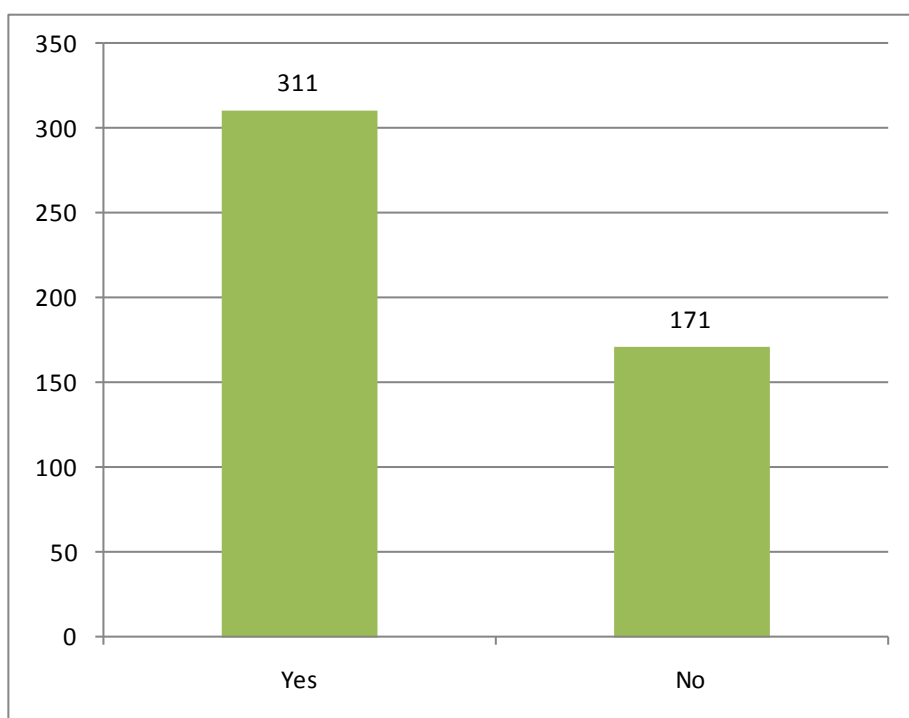
Yes	190
No	275



Community

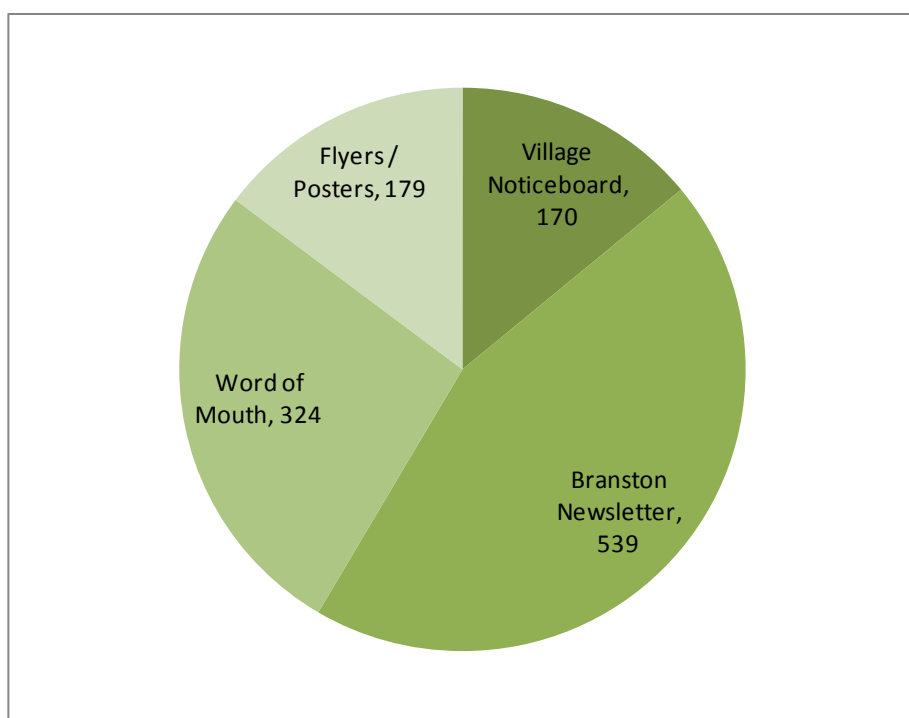
Do you think the Parish has a 'sense of community'?

Yes	311
No	171



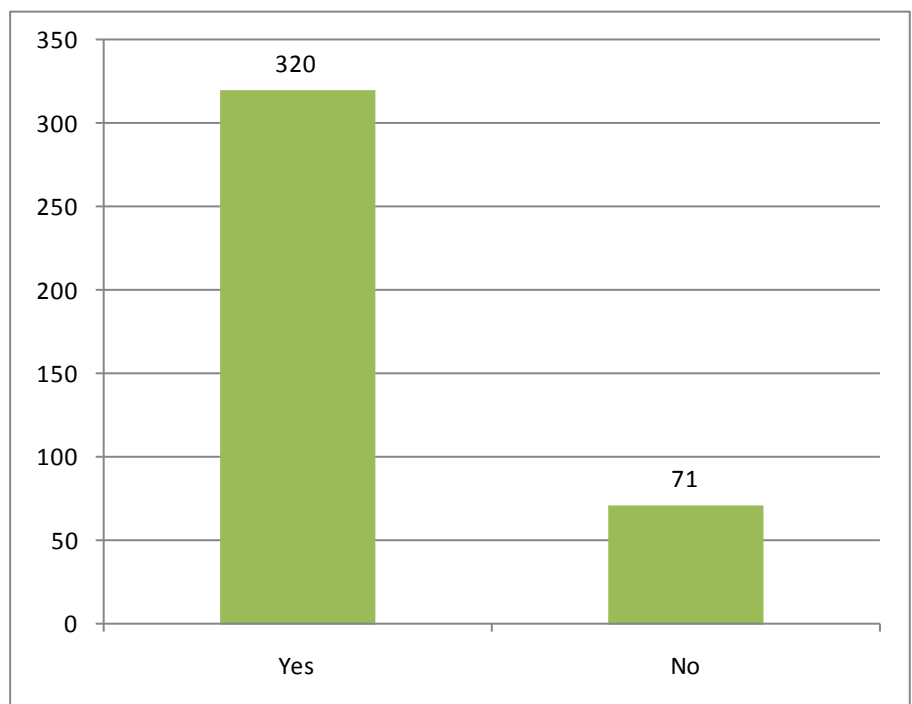
How do you normally find out about local events?

Village Noticeboard	170
Branston Newsletter	539
Word of Mouth	324
Flyers / Posters	179

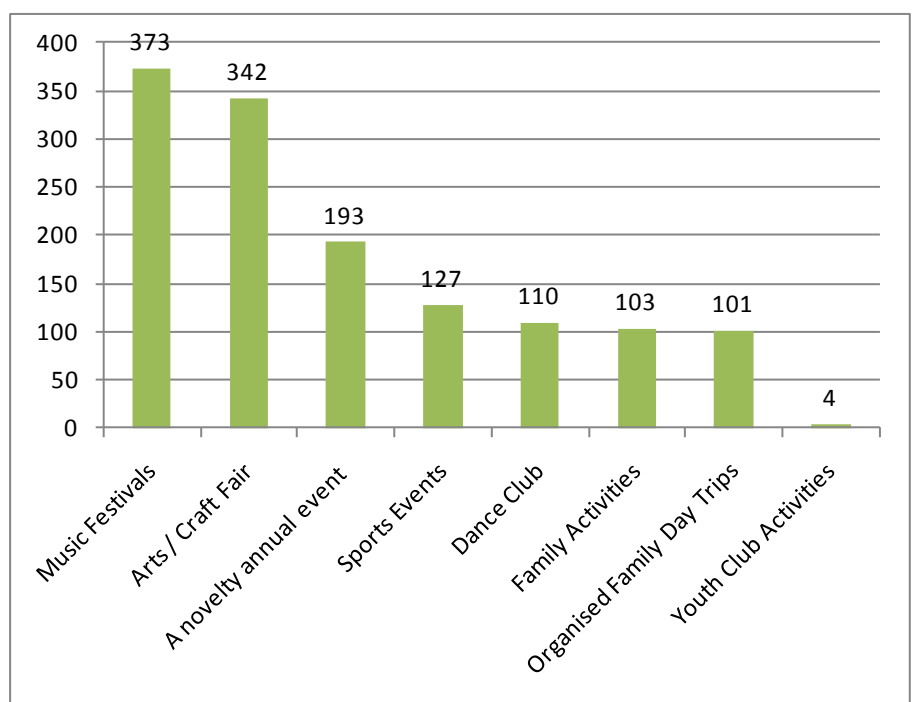


Is it satisfactory?

Yes	320
No	71

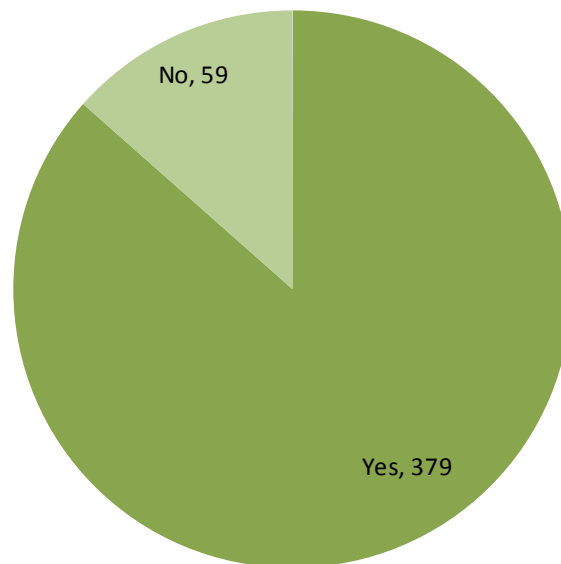
**Which of the following events would you be likely to attend if they were provided?**

Music Festivals	373
Arts / Craft Fair	342
Novelty annual event	193
Sports Events	127
Dance Club	110
Family Activities	103
Organised Family Day Trips	101
Youth Club Activities	4



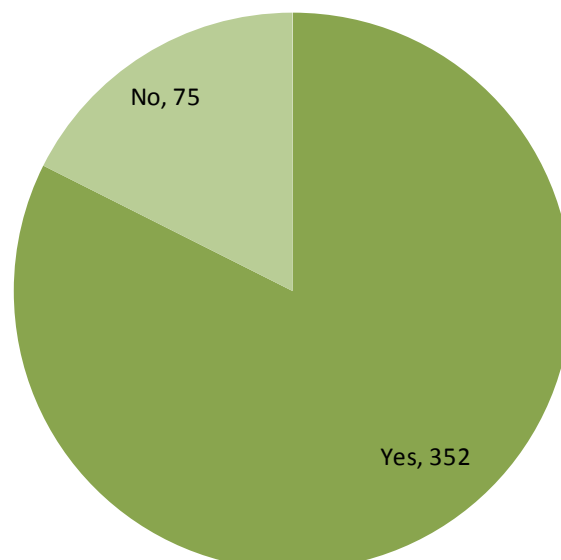
Do you think that a greater involvement of the Community College within village life would be beneficial?

Yes	379
No	59



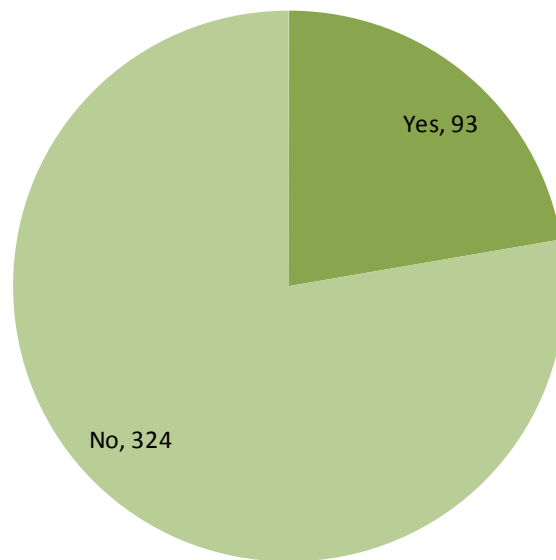
Would you take advantage of the facilities the college has to offer if they were made available to you?

Yes	352
No	75



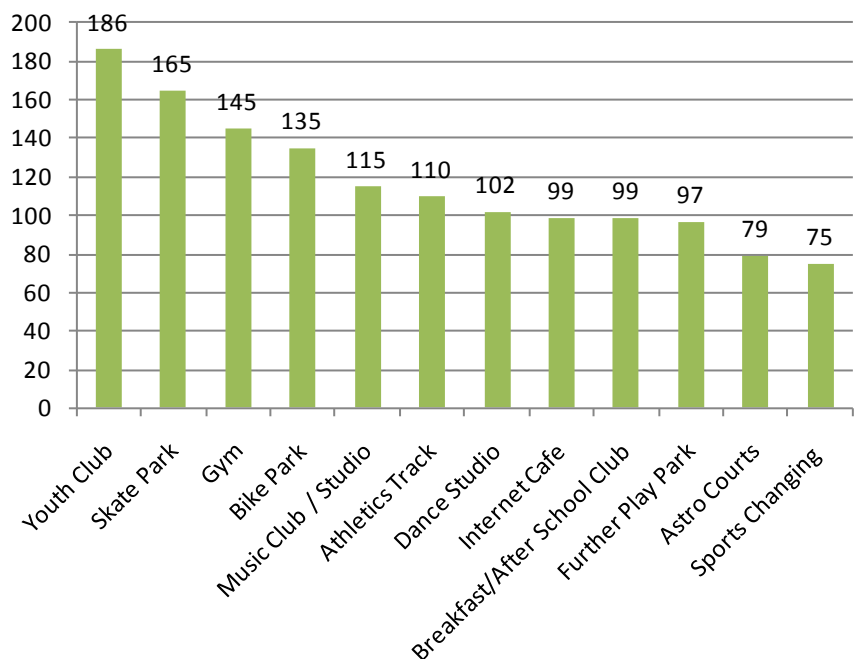
Are there sufficient leisure facilities available to young people in the Parish?

Yes	93
No	324



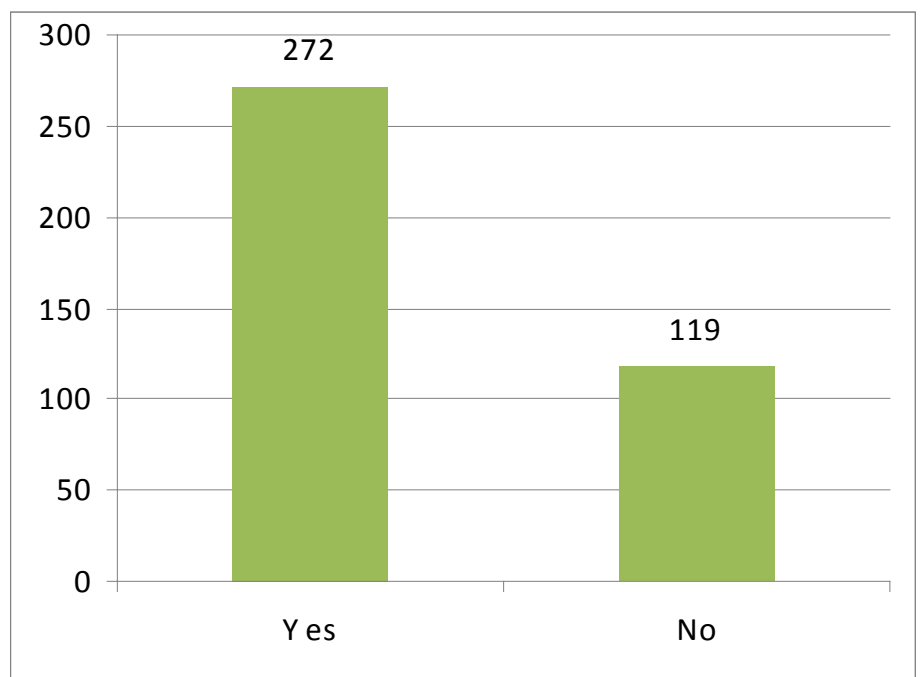
If no, would you support the introduction of any of the following?

Youth Club	186
Skate Park	165
Gym	145
Bike Park	135
Music Club / Studio	115
Athletics Track	110
Dance Studio	102
Internet Cafe	99
Breakfast/After School Club	99
Further Play Park	97
Astro Courts	79
Sports Changing Facilities	75



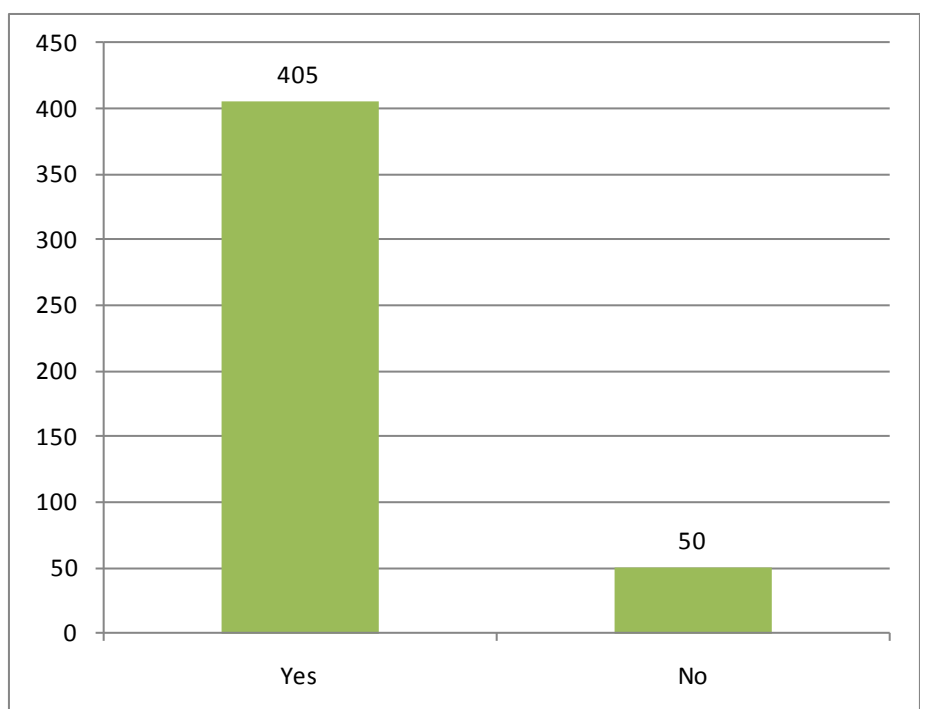
Do we need a multi-sport facility?

Yes	272
No	119



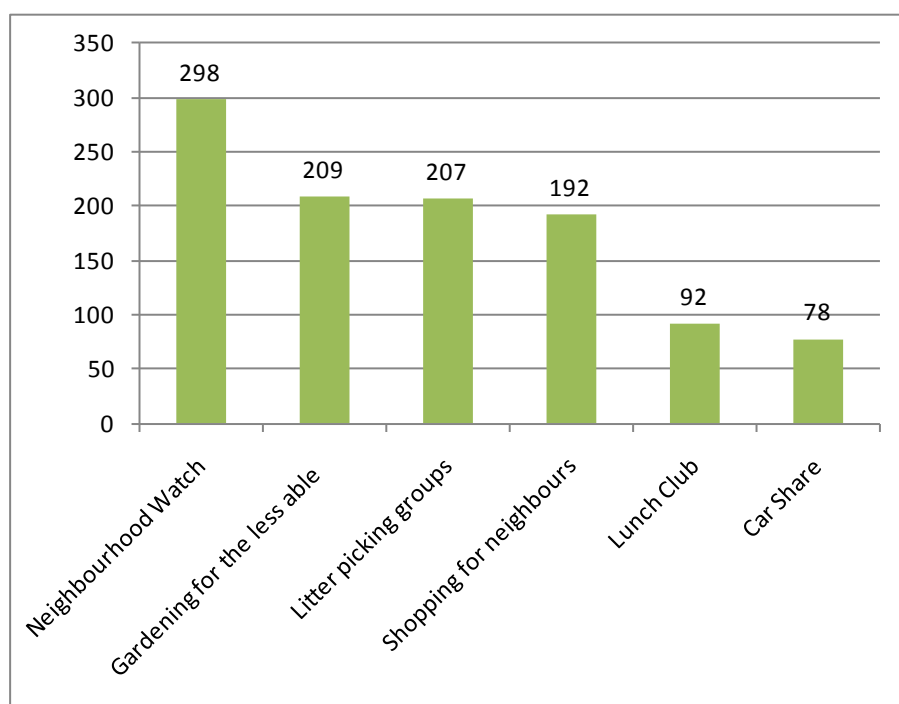
Do you think that a youth council which could present the thoughts and ideas of young people in the Parish Council would be a good thing?

Yes	405
No	50



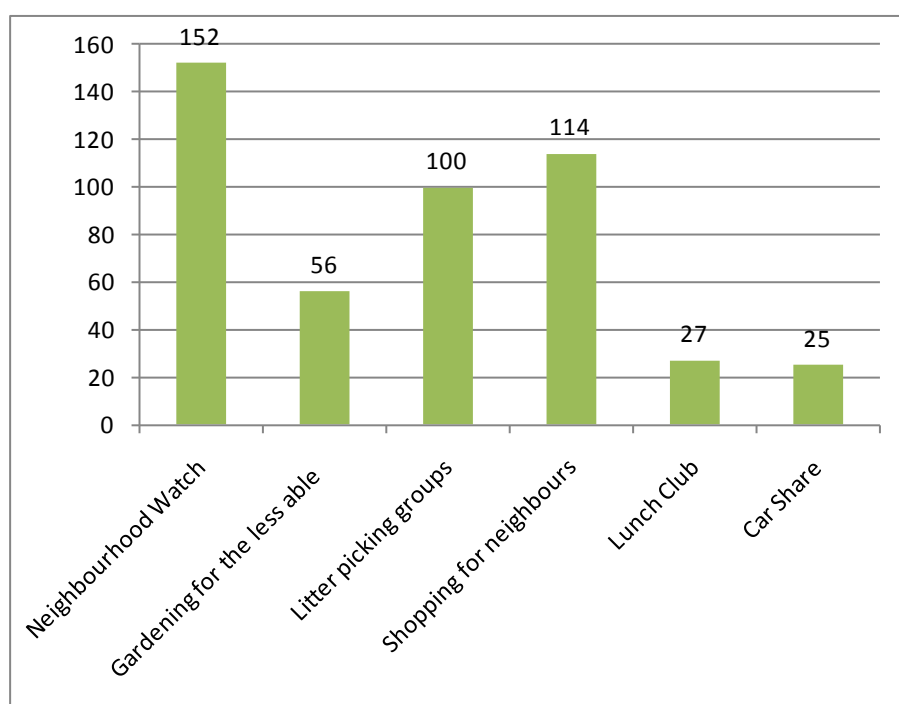
Do you think that your Community would benefit from any of the following?

Neighbourhood Watch	298
Gardening for the less able	209
Litter picking groups	207
Shopping for neighbours	192
Lunch Club	92
Car Share	78



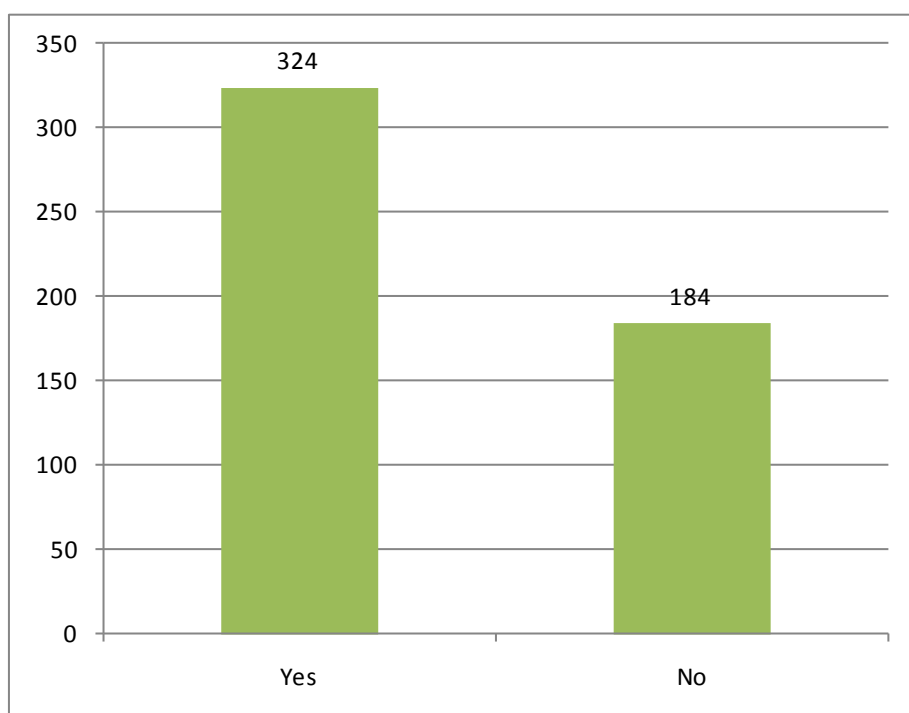
Would you be willing help with any of the above?

Neighbourhood Watch	152
Gardening for the less able	56
Litter picking groups	100
Shopping for neighbours	114
Lunch Club	27
Car Share	25



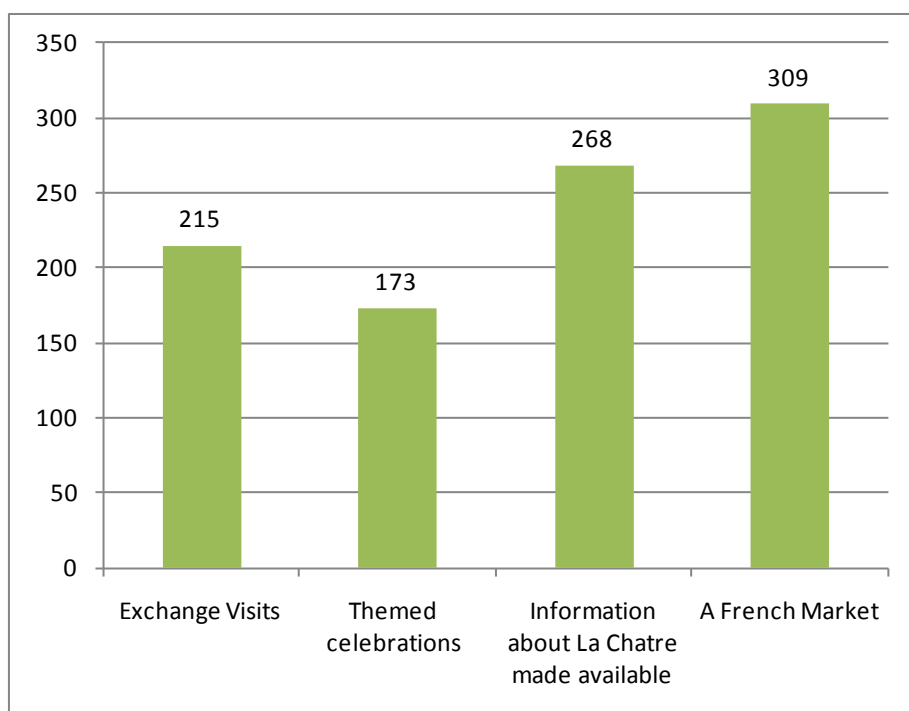
Did you know that Branston is twinned with La Chartre in France?

Yes	324
No	184



What events would you support?

Exchange Visits	215
Themed celebrations	173
Information about La Chartre made available	268
A French Market	309

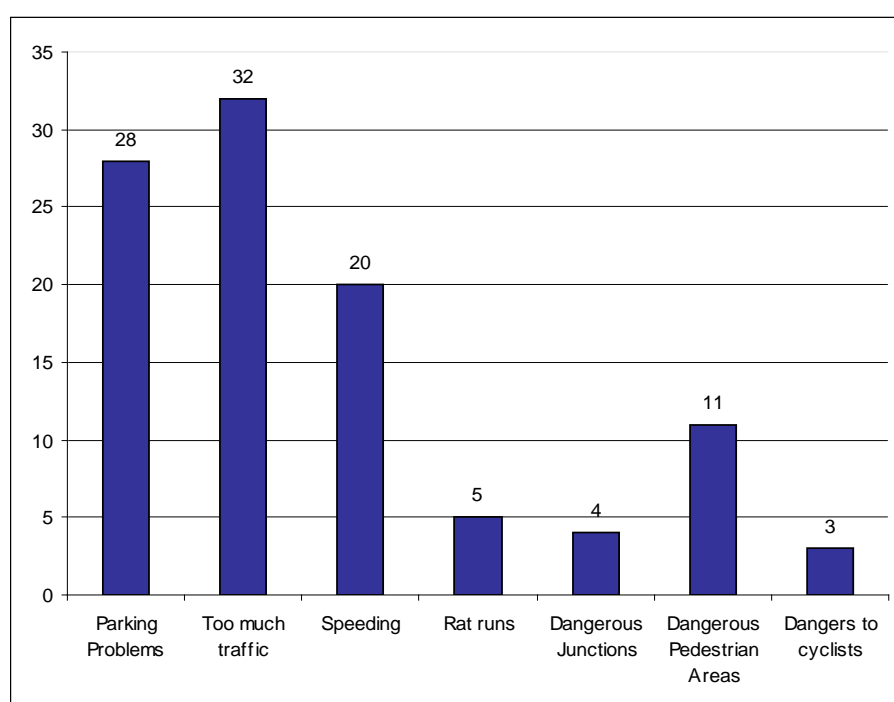


Appendix 2: Youth Questionnaire Analysis

Traffic and Transport

Are there any traffic problems in Branston?

Parking problems	28
Too much traffic	32
Speeding	20
Rat Runs	5
Dangerous junctions	4
Dangerous pedestrian areas	11
Dangers to cyclists	3

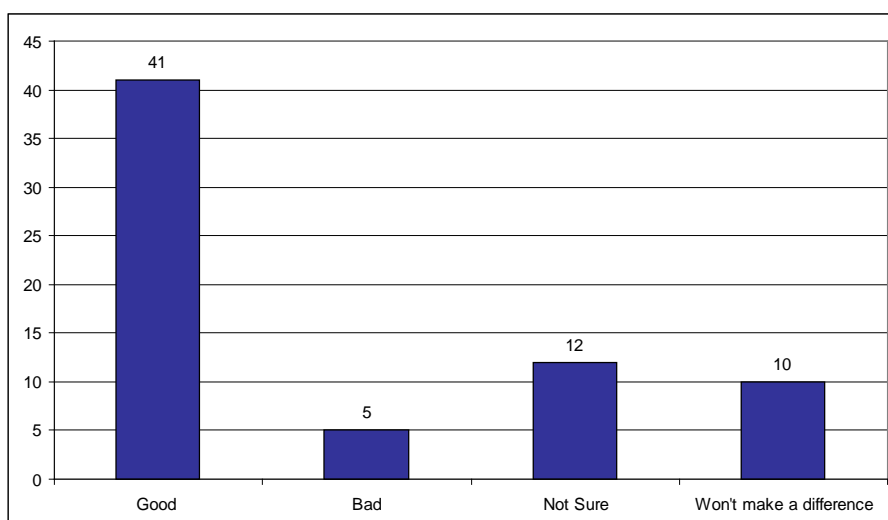


Where in Branston?

Station Road; Lincoln Road through the village; outside Junior School; outside Branston Community College; at the crossroads

Will the bypass be a good thing for young people in Branston or a bad thing?

Good	41
Bad	5
Not sure	12
Won't make a difference	10



Comments

Good - improve links to Lincoln; better access; reduce traffic

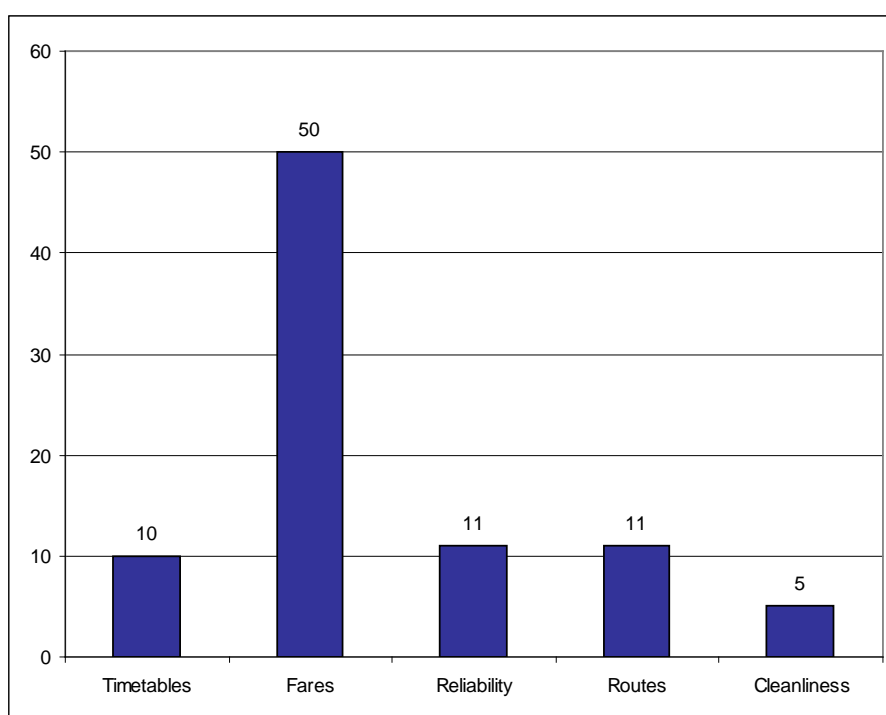
Bad - Not suitable for small village; will cause more traffic

Not sure - The current roads are fine; it might not cause more traffic

Won't make a difference - It's only a five minute drive

What improvements could be made to public transport to meet the needs of young people in Branston?

Timetables	10
Fares	50
Reliability	11
Routes	11
Cleanliness	5



Comments

Timetables - Don't come often enough; more often on Sundays

Fares - It costs too much; there should be a student rate; can't afford it

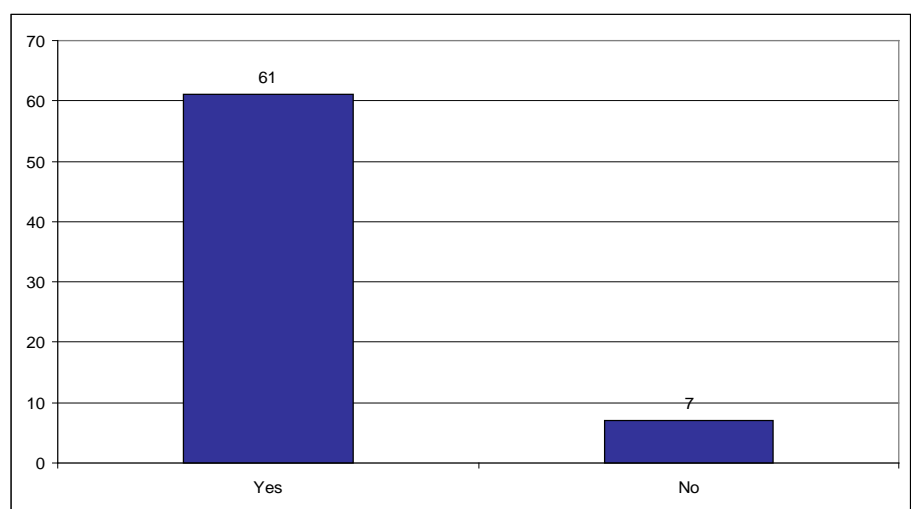
Reliability - Often late

Routes - Routes are too long; no direct route to Lincoln; limited routes to other neighbouring villages

Cleanliness - buses are often dirty

Do you think there should be a student rate for public transport?

Yes	61
No	7

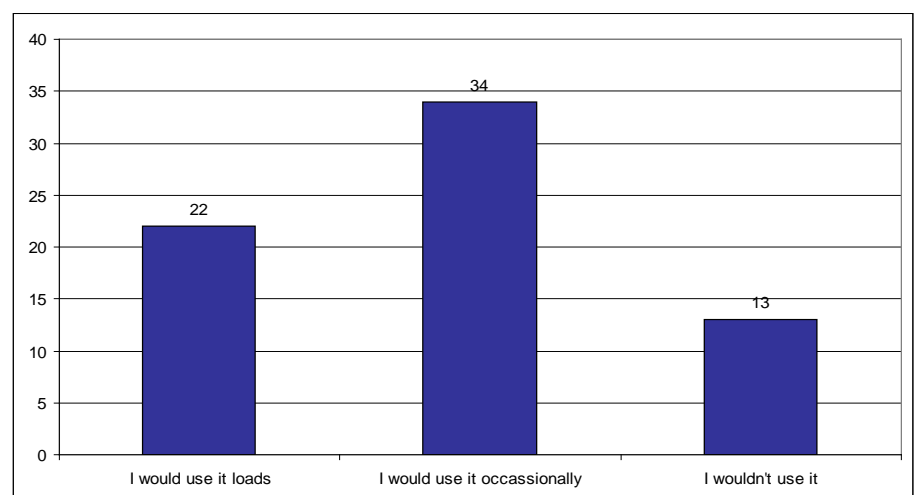


What should it be?

70% / 50% / 50p single / £1 return / between adult and child fare

Would you use a good well-lit cycle path to Lincoln?

I would use it loads	22
I would use it occasionally	34
I wouldn't use it	13



Comments

Use it loads - Good for kids to cycle rather than get lifts; just as quick as bus and free; the path is currently unsafe on Lincoln road

Use it occasionally - Depends how long the journey would take; would need somewhere safe to leave my bike; would need to be a good surface

Would not use it - Don't use my bike

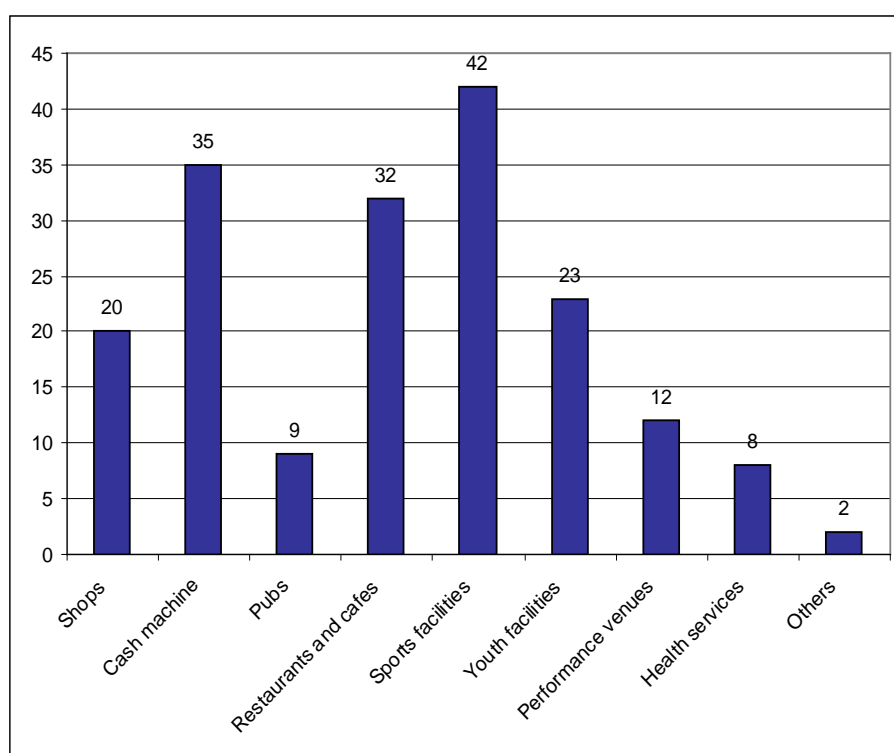
What other improvements could be made to transport and traffic in Branston?

More direct, frequent buses into Lincoln and other surrounding areas; the bypass; a train station

Stuff to do / Places to go

What do you think young people in Branston need more of?

Shops	20
Cash Machine	35
Pubs	9
Restaurants/Cafes	32
Sports facilities	42
Youth facilities	23
Performance venues	12
Health Services	8
Others	2



Comments

Shops - Eight different suggestions but no recurring ideas

Cash machines - One with no charges; suggested location: on Beech Road, in the Co-op or Post Office

Pubs - More pubs needed

Restaurants and Cafes - More needed, particularly a cheap cafe or sandwich bar where young people can hang out in a safe, friendly environment; Italian or Indian restaurant

Sports facilities - Public swimming pool; not enough sports facilities in general; would like better access to the tennis courts in the summer; more tennis courts built; athletics track; hard floodlit surface like on the Tower est. in Lincoln

Youth facilities - need more general facilities (such as cafe mentioned above); more facilities suitable for older teenagers; places for young people to drink non-alcoholic drinks; better access for young people to use local sports facilities

Performance venues - Venues for gigs

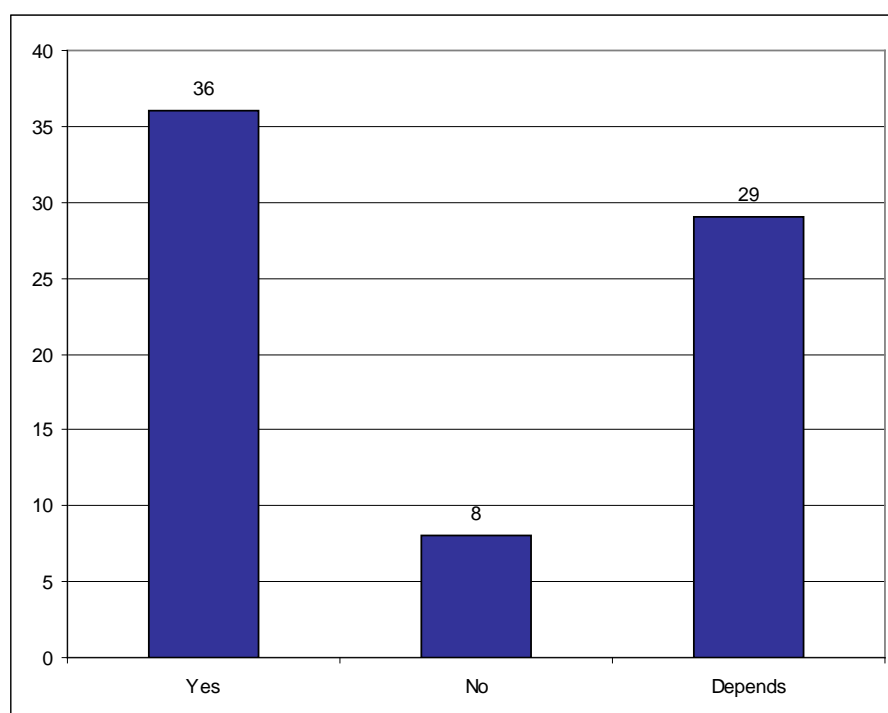
Health - Dentist; opticians; young people need easier access to make doctors appointments

What improvements could be made to services and facilities that are already available in Branston?

Improved sports facilities; better access to tennis courts, or more tennis courts; keep pool open for longer; more buses; more green spaces; tidy up the jungle area; more friendly attitude to young people within the village

Is Branston a safe place for young people to live?

Yes	36
No	8
Depends	29



Comments

Yes - Because it's well lit; there's no vandalism or crime; no rough areas

No - Too few police; traffic goes too fast

Depends - Some intimidating areas: Hillside est. and jungle area; lots of chavs hanging around; village hall and play area needs more lighting

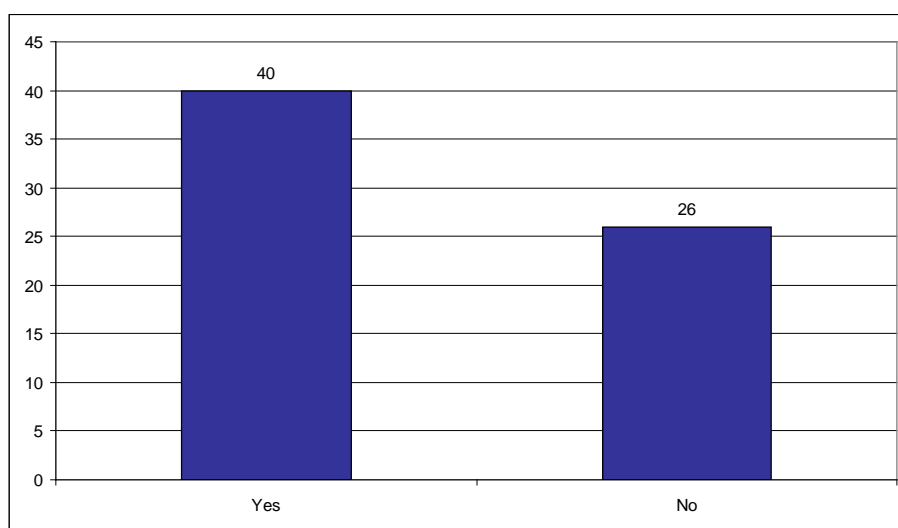
What could be done to improve the safety of young people in the village?

More activities for kids to keep safe of the streets, out of trouble, away from drugs etc; Better lighting; a zebra crossing at the junior school; more police / PSCOs; more parking near housing

Housing

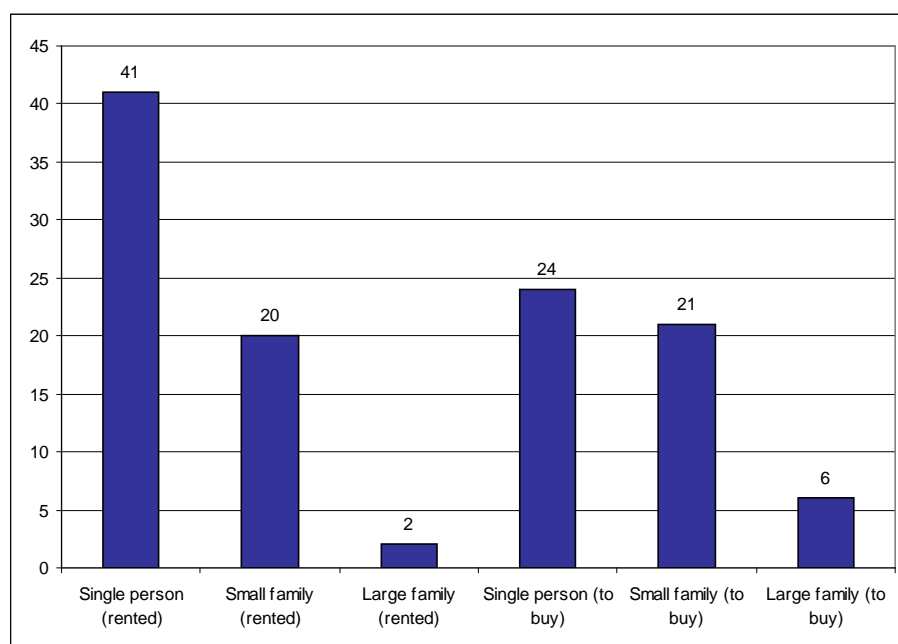
Do you think the current housing in Branston meets the needs of young people?

Yes	40
No	26



Which of the following types of housing would meet your needs over the next ten years?

Single Person (rented)	41
Small Family (rented)	20
Large Family (rented)	2
Single Person (To Buy)	24
Small Family (To Buy)	21
Large Family (To Buy)	6

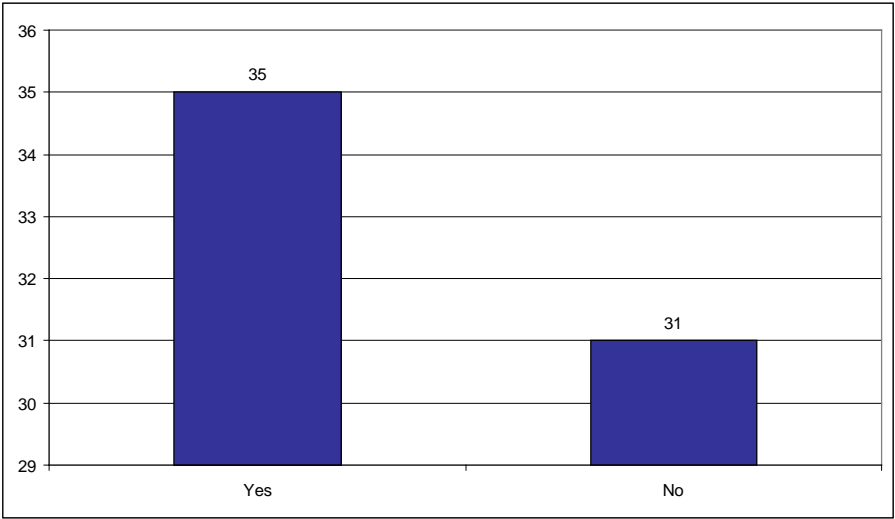


Comments

Uni students may want their own rented flats; graduates might want to buy their first home in Branston; young people have their families here and would like to raise their own families here; not enough affordable housing

Would you like more of a say in the type of housing that gets built in Branston?

Yes	35
No	31



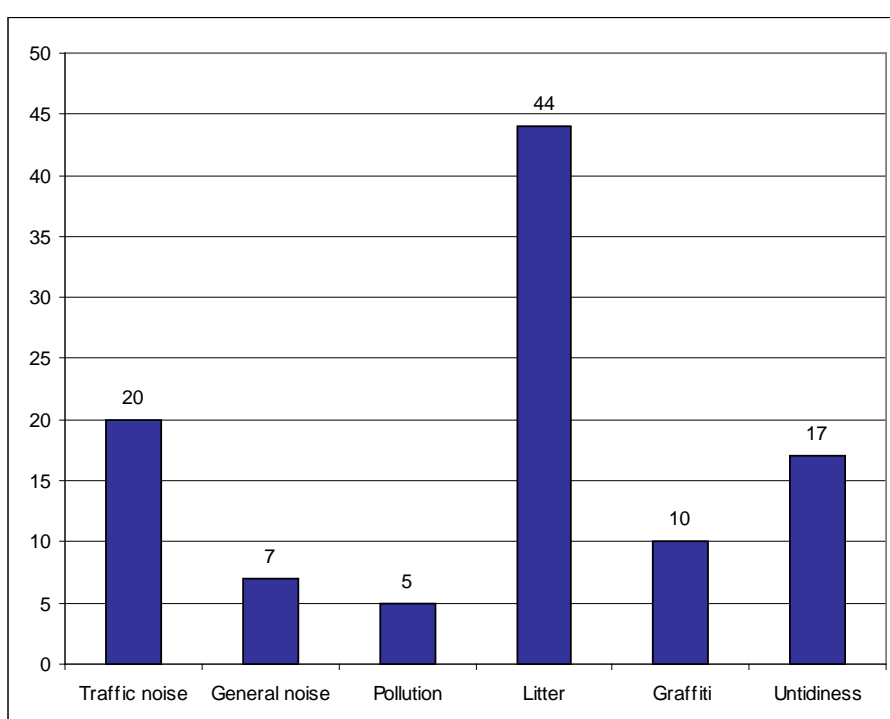
Where do you think new housing should be built?

Lincoln Road; Sleaford Road; outskirts of village; BCC area; end of Silver Street near Branston Potatoes; field near recreational ground

Environment and Countryside

What environmental problems affect you in the village?

Traffic Noise	20
General Noise	7
Pollution	5
Litter	44
Graffiti	10
Untidiness	17



Comments

Traffic noise - Main Road; Silver Street

Litter- The jungle; Station Road shops; park; Lincoln Road; Hillside; the beck

Graffiti - Hillside; the jungle

Untidiness - More trees at the park and co-op; Jungle; Hillside

What improvements could be made to the general environment within Branston?

A place for people to grow vegetables; more trees; more bins (esp. Station Road); CCTV; gardens; more social activities; more lighting; fines for dropping litter

Do you have any ideas to attract tourists to Branston?

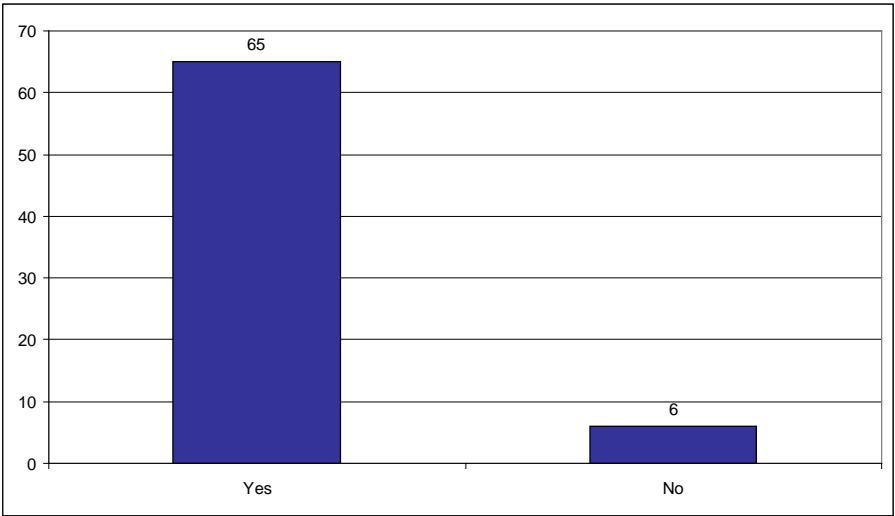
Cheaper hotels or B&Bs; walks in the countryside; antique shops; ghost walk; leisure/ entertainment centre; heritage centre; tours of the old village; Polish facilities; not suitable for tourism

Is Branston's history and heritage important to you?

Old buildings; Branston Hall; not important; gives village character

Is the surrounding countryside important to you and why?

Yes	65
No	6



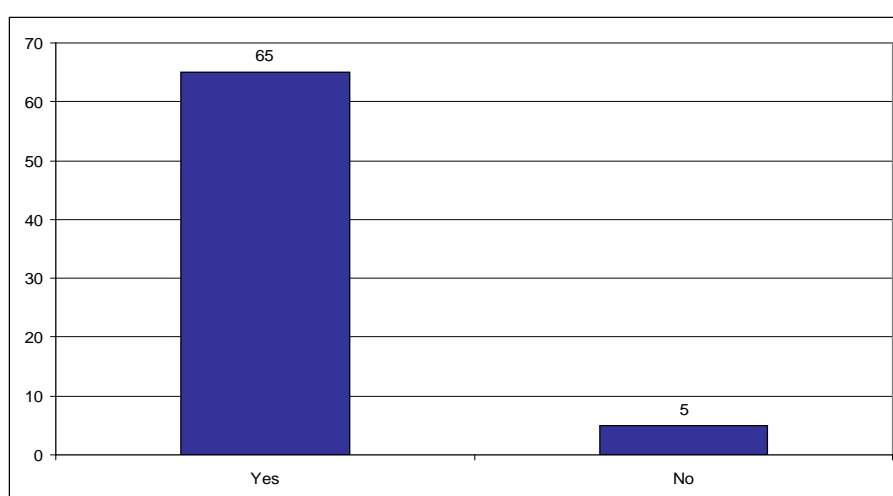
Comments

Good for taking walks and walking dogs; offers a place for agricultural economy; gives the village a rural feel; looks nice

Training and Employment

Would you like to see more work / training opportunities in Branston?

Yes	65
No	5

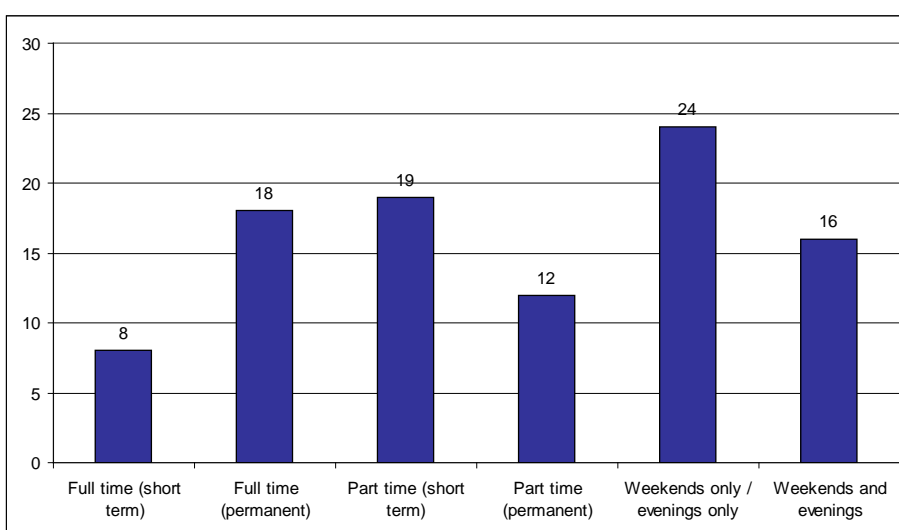


What kind of jobs would you be interested in if they were available?

Hotel jobs; retail jobs; hairdressing jobs; cafes or restaurants; working with the elderly; working with young children; working with the public; various others

On what basis would you like to be able to work?

Full time (short term)	8
Full time (permanent)	18
Part time (short term)	19
Part time (permanent)	12
Weekends only/ Evenings only	24
Weekends/Evenings	16



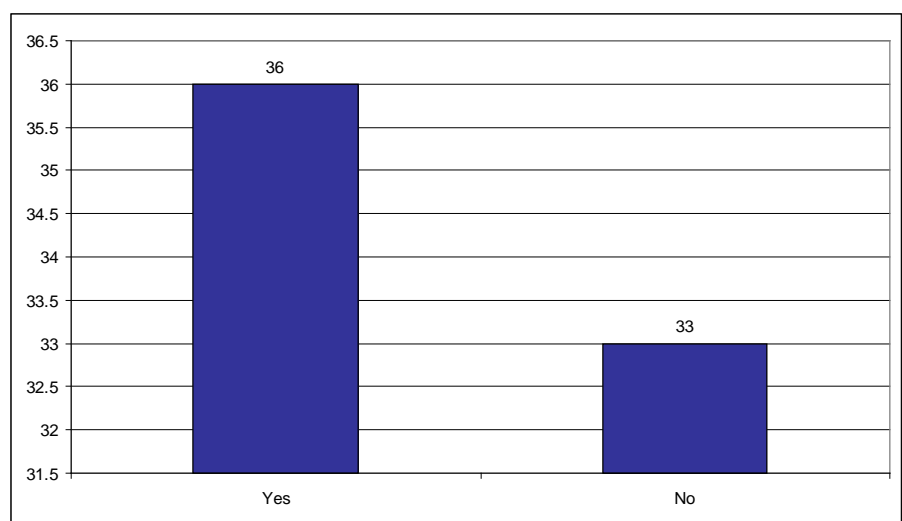
What kind of training would you like to have access to in Branston?

Access courses; apprenticeships; courses that count towards my UCAS profile; chef training; working with children; various others

Young People and their Community

Is there a sense of community in Branston?

Yes	36
No	33



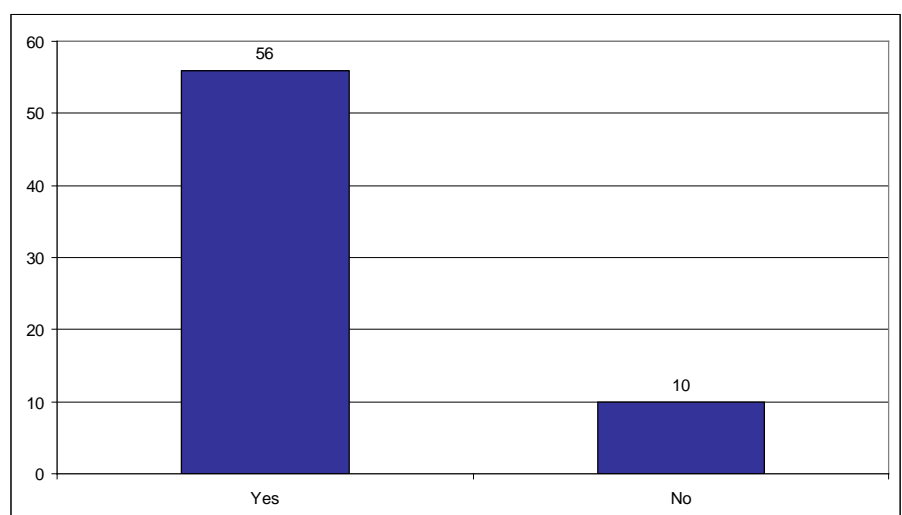
Comments

Yes - Feels like a village where people acknowledge each other; the general community are always helpful and friendly, saying hello etc.; feels like a small village where you know each other

No - Only a sense of community for older people; no-one trusts each other; people tend to stay in their own groups

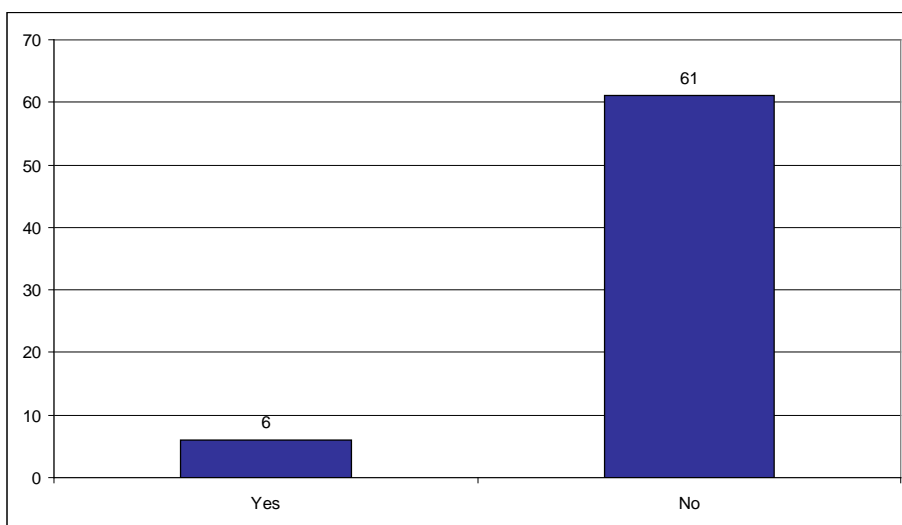
Do you think there should be more events for young people in Branston?

Yes	56
No	10



Do you ever hear about events for young people in Branston?

Yes	6
No	61

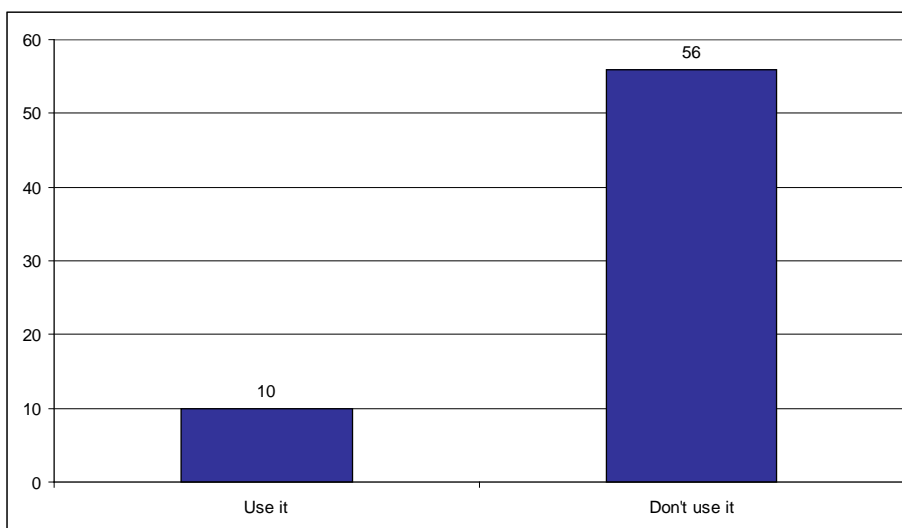


How do you think events for young people should be advertised?

Posters, newsletters, flyers, noticeboards, websites, facebook etc.

Do you ever use the Youth Wing?

Use it	10
Don't use it	56

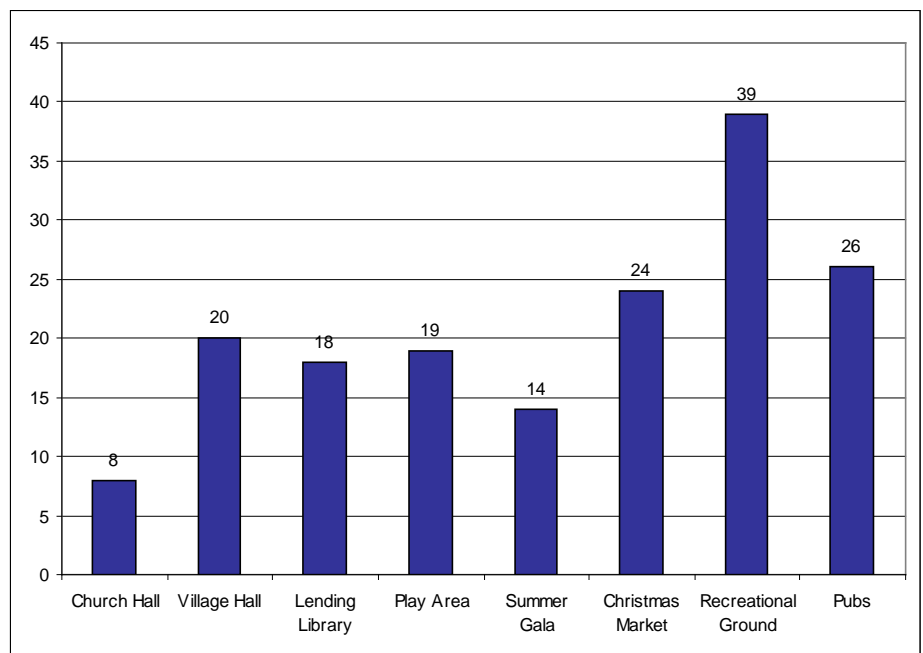


Comments

Use it - More sports should be available; get people to work together more; more facilities
 Don't use it - Used to use it but not anymore, it needs updating; used to use it but found it's not suitable for my age these days

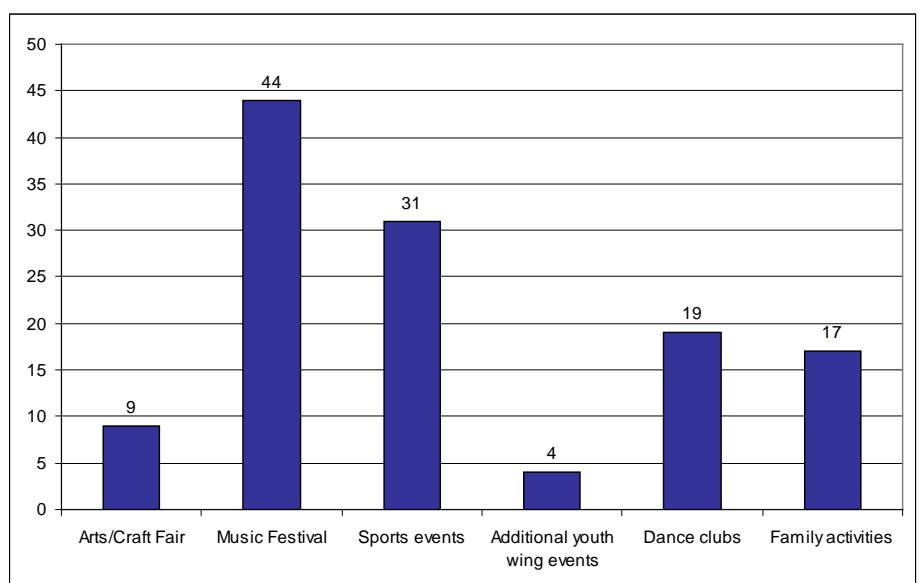
What other community based centres do you use?

Church hall	8
Village hall	20
Lending library	18
Play area	19
Summer gala	14
Christmas Market	24
Recreational ground	39
Pubs	26



Which events would you go to?

Arts/Craft fair	9
Music festival	44
Sports events	31
Additional Youth Wing events	4
Dance club	19
Family Activities	17

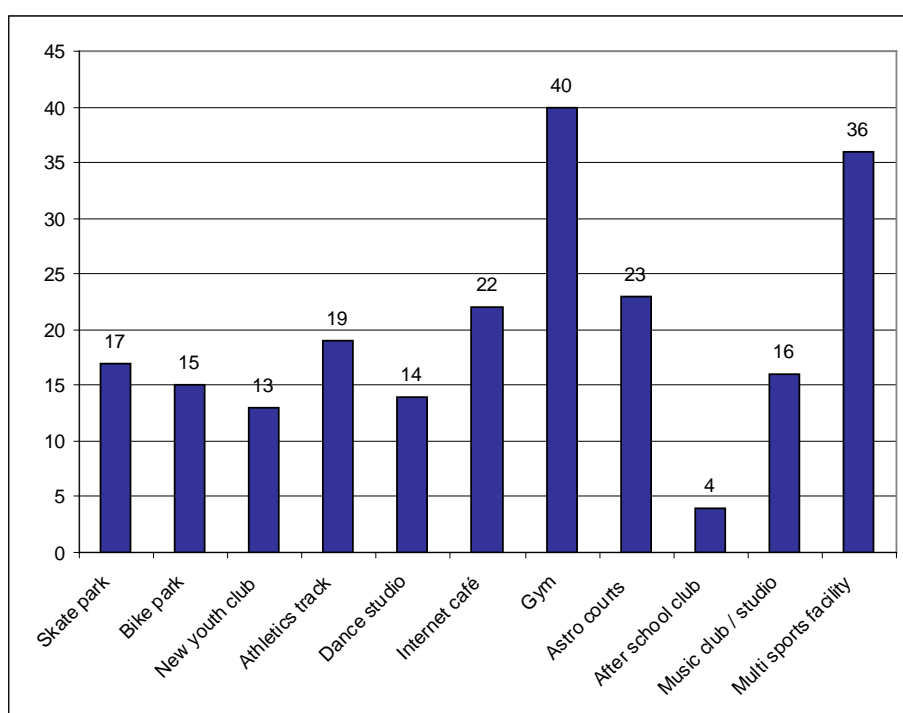


Are there any other facilities in Branston Community College that you would like to make use of?

Football field; gymnastics and trampoline; public gym; drama club; recording studios; swimming pool but not for lessons

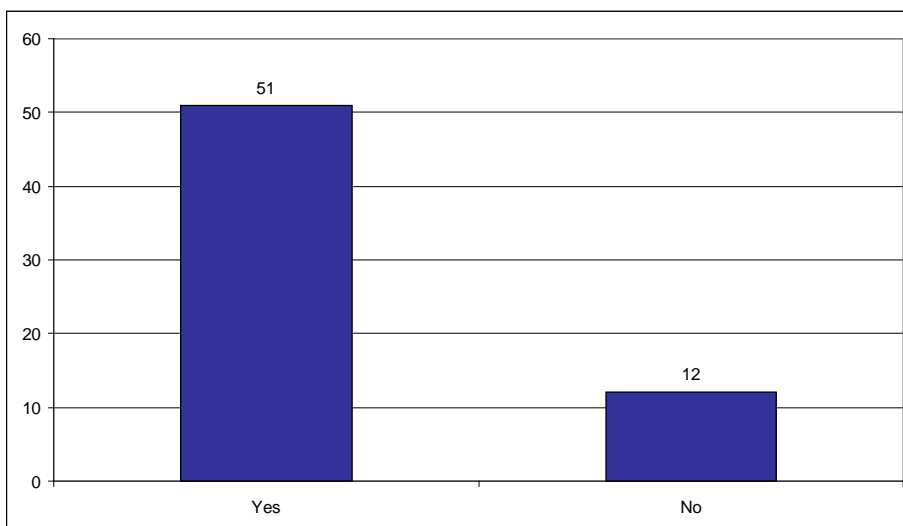
What leisure facilities would you like to see?

Skate park	17
Bike park	15
New Youth Club	13
Athletics Track	19
Dance Studio	14
Internet Cafe	22
Gym	40
Astro Courts	23
After school club	4
Music club/studio	16
Multi sports facility	36



Do you think a Youth Council would be a good idea?

Yes	51
No	12



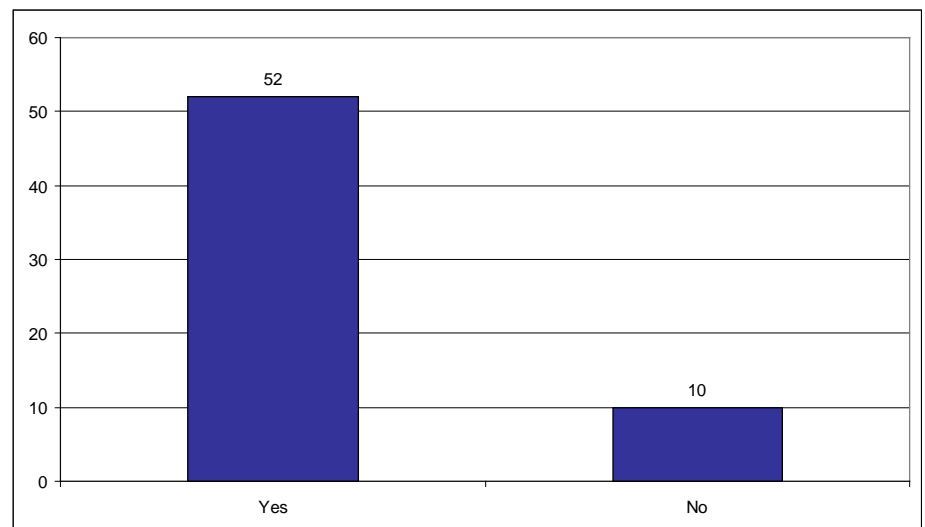
Comments

Yes - The opinions of young people count; young people should have a voice; they can organise events for young people; they can put their ideas across for new activities; older people will know what young people want

No - They will only represent the ideas of a small group; young people do what they want anyway

Do you think there should be a Youth Advocate?

Yes	52
No	10



Comments

Yes - They can express on our behalf; they can organise events; young people in the village don't get enough of a say; it would be an opportunity to bring young people in the village together

No - no comment

“Thank you
for taking the time
to read this Parish
Plan and for your
contribution to the
future of our
Parish”



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