

Ardingly Parish Council



Village Survey

2012

The Ardingly Household Survey was conducted in April 2012 as part of their work in assembling a Neighbourhood Plan. The survey was compiled by Ardingly Parish Council with consultation from A.. in Rural Sussex (“AiRS”). The survey was distributed in hardcopy to all households and was also made available online. 318 surveys were completed from approximately [725] households representing a 43% response rate. Disappointingly, despite the high distribution of internet availability across the village, the majority of surveys were completed in hardcopy.

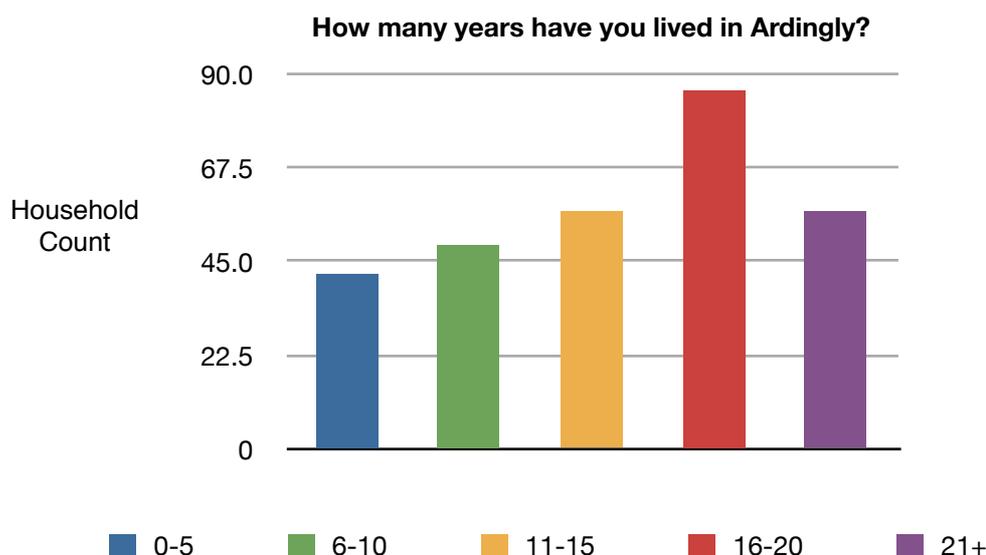
Acknowledged errors

Although techniques were used to avoid duplicate surveys, it is acknowledged that it is feasible that some households filled in multiple surveys.

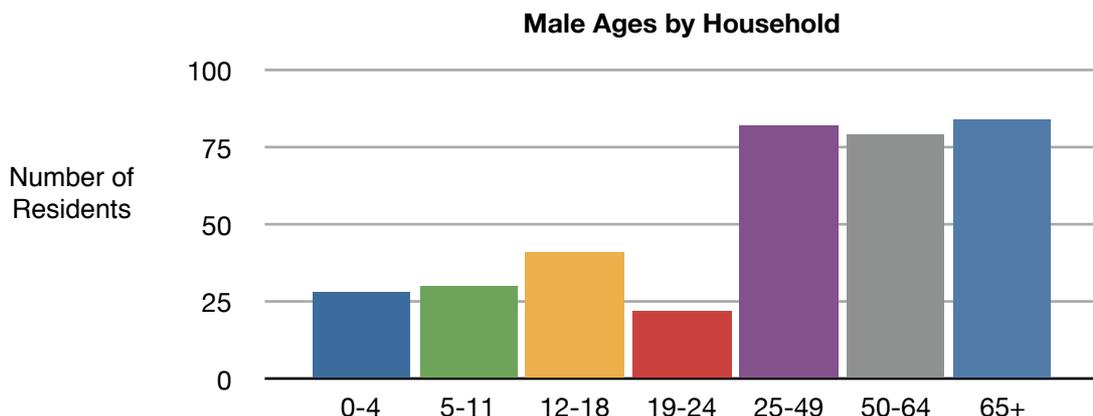
Furthermore, given some of the responses did not make logical sense (e.g. some respondents claimed the only people living in a household were 0-5 years old but had been living in the village for over 40 years) it is acknowledged there is some inconsistency in the data.

Overall, however, we believe the potential errors are not material and therefore the information collected is representative of the population that responded.

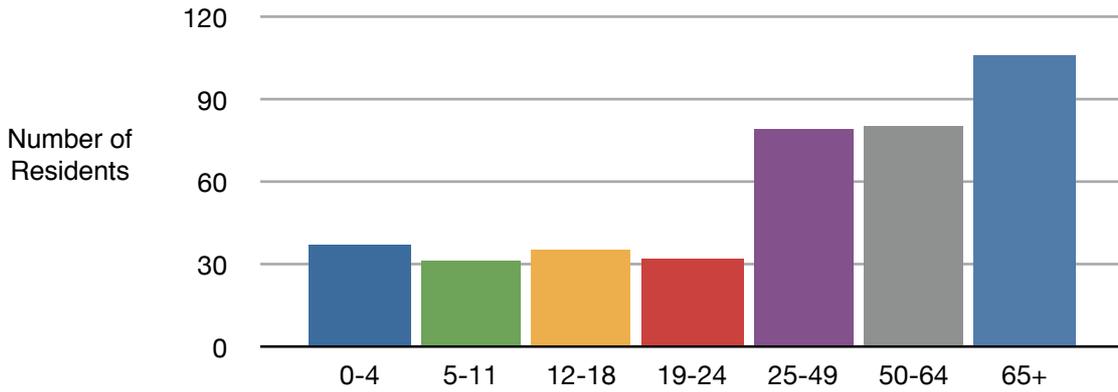
1. The majority of respondents have lived in Ardingly for more than 10 years



2. Almost 50% of respondents' households are over the age of 50:

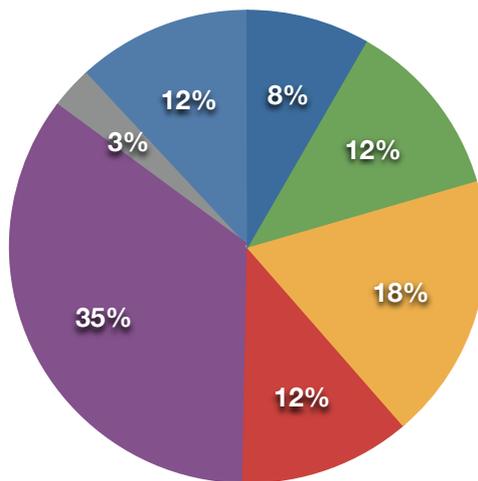


Females Ages by Household



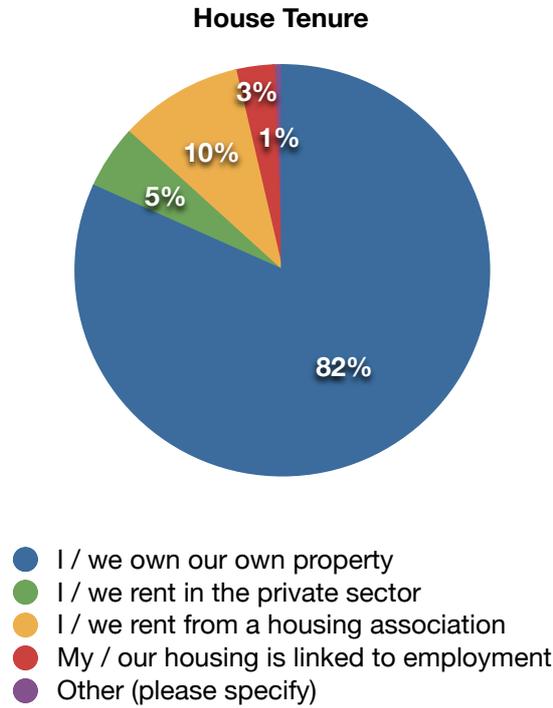
3. More people move to Ardingly due their love of the countryside than any other reason; the ease of commute is also a major contributing factor. Only 12% of respondents were born in the parish.

Reasons for moving to Ardingly

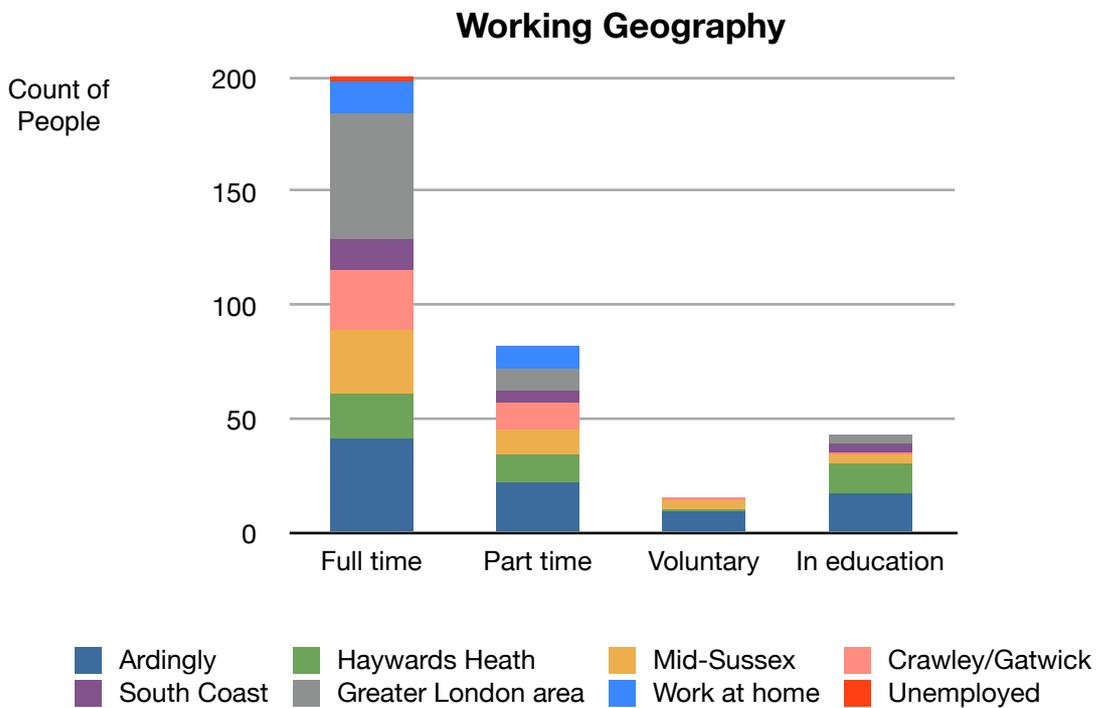


- Born here
 - Ease of commute to work outside parish
 - Love of the countryside
 - Other
- Work or own business in parish
 - Relatives live nearby
 - Offered retirement home in village

4. Over 80% of respondents own their own house; the next greatest band rent their houses from housing associations. The numbers are potentially skewed by the Right-to-Buy scheme that existed over the past 30 years.

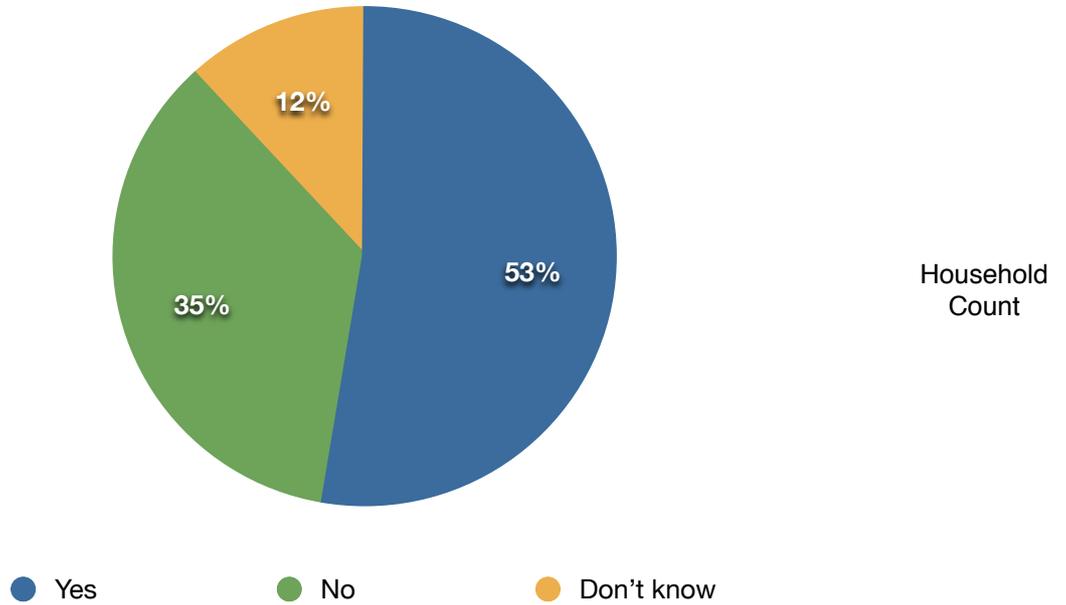


5. The majority of adults in respondents' households are in full time employment with the largest group of these working full time in London followed by Ardingly:

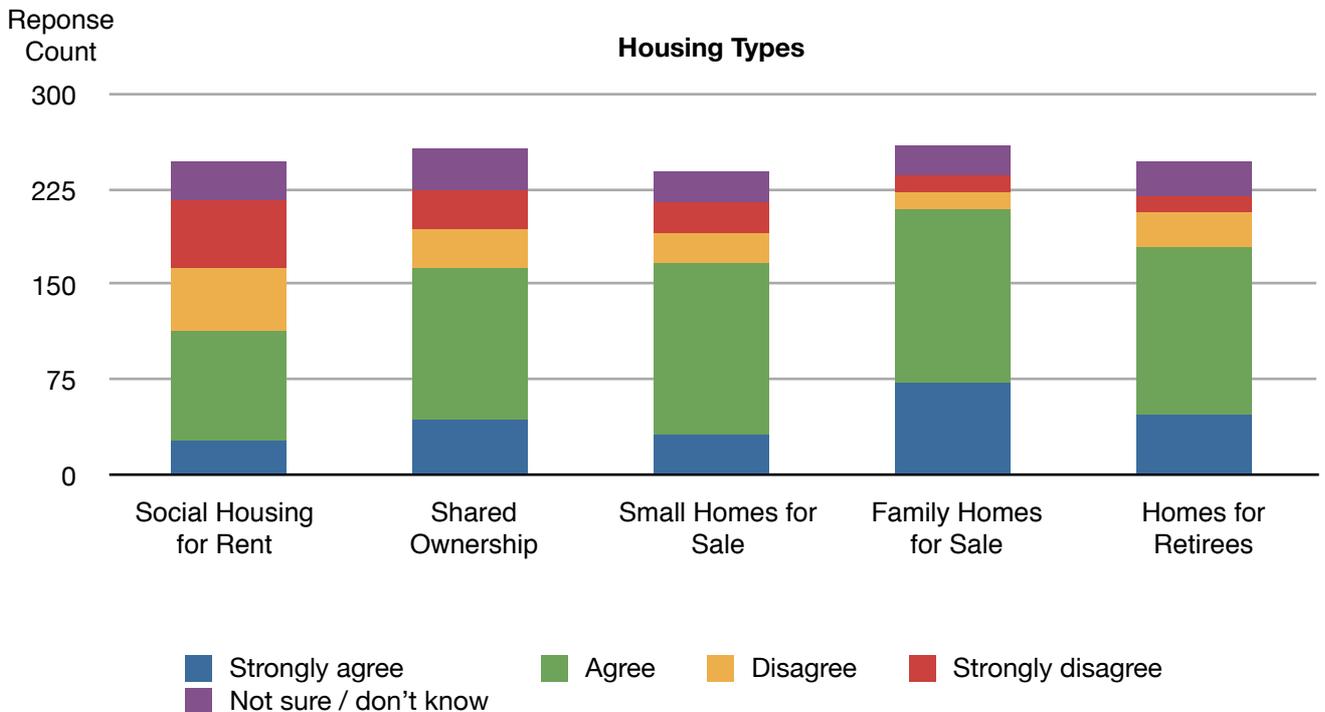


6. More than 50% of respondents feel there should be a housing development in or around Ardingly over the next twenty years:

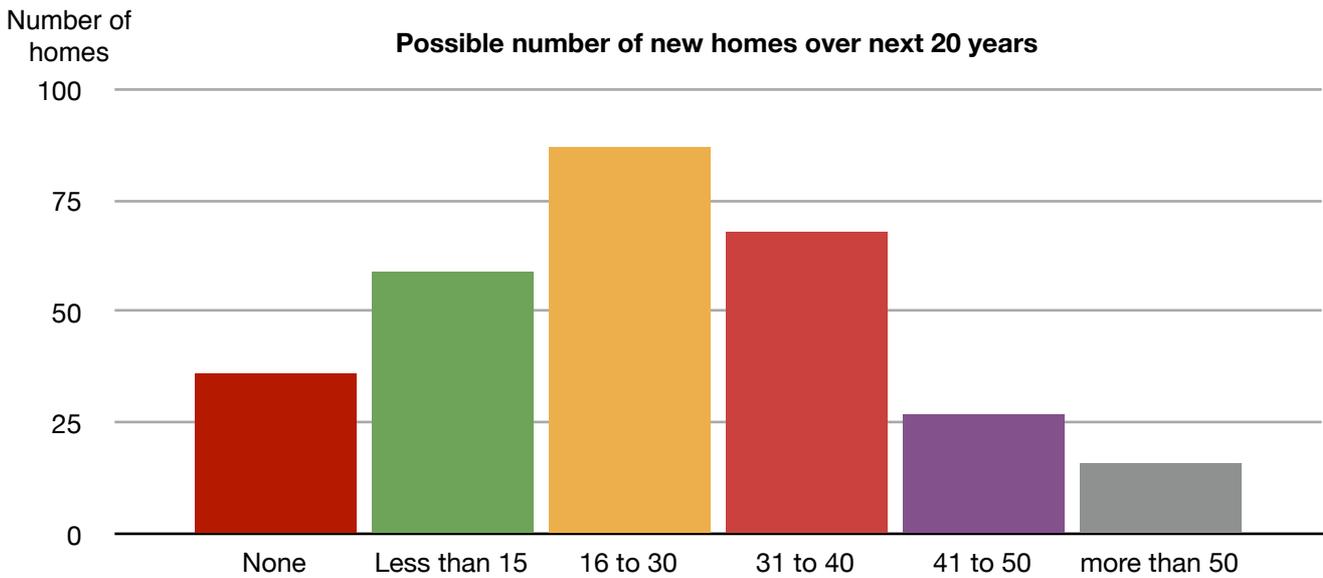
Should there be any housing developments in or around Ardingly?



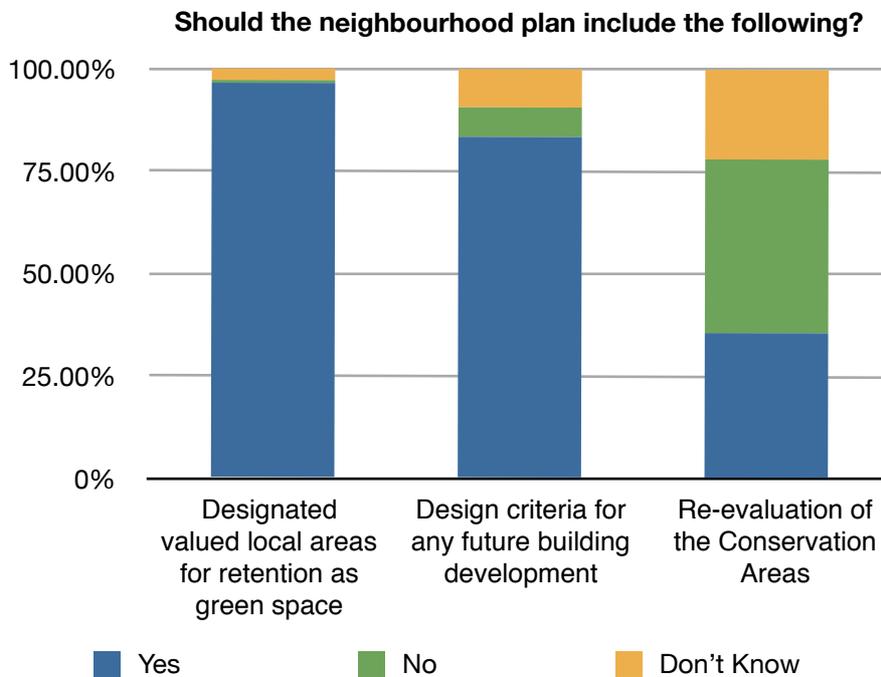
7. In terms of housing that should be built, there is most support for Family Homes for Sale and Homes for Retirees. There is less support for Social Housing for Rent with less than 50% of respondents supporting that type of housing.



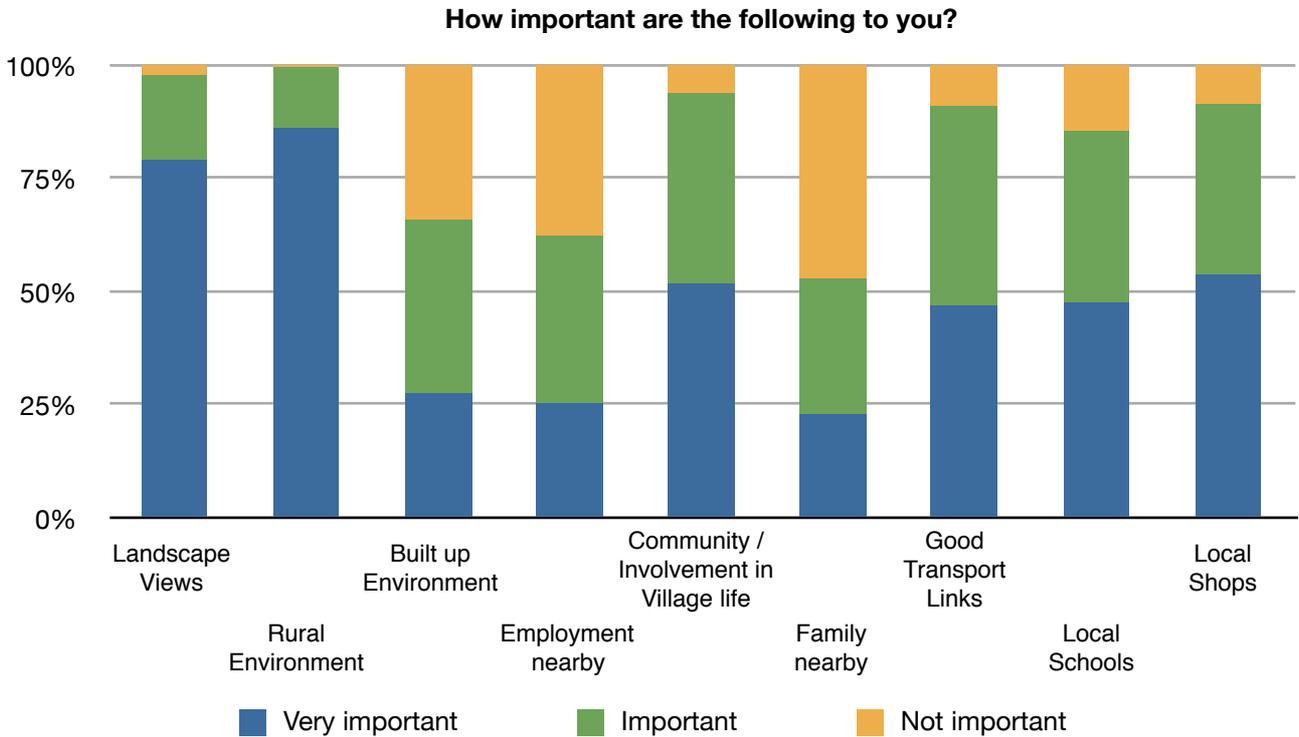
8. In terms of number of homes that should be built, there was a normal distribution centralised around 16-30 homes:



9. Although the vast majority of respondents would like to see designated areas for retention as green spaces and design criteria for future building developments within a neighbourhood plan, less than 50% would like to see re-evaluation of the conservation areas. It is not clear whether this latter concern indicates a concern that such a re-evaluation would see the Conservation area increased or decreased:

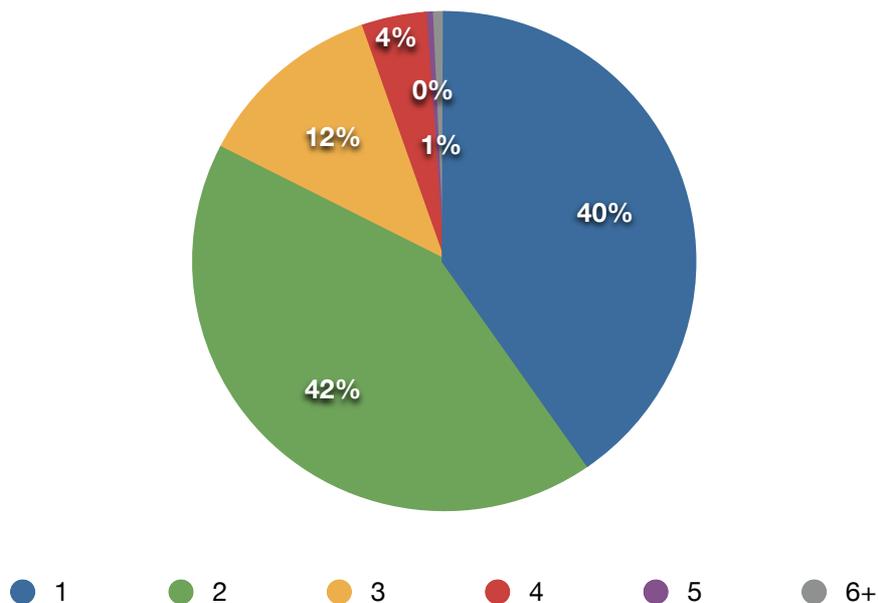


10. The landscape view and rural environment are of most importance to respondents. A majority felt all factors were important to them. The lack of requirement for employment to be nearby is probably reflected by the fact that respondents were older and the fact that commuters take advantage of the rail service to London.

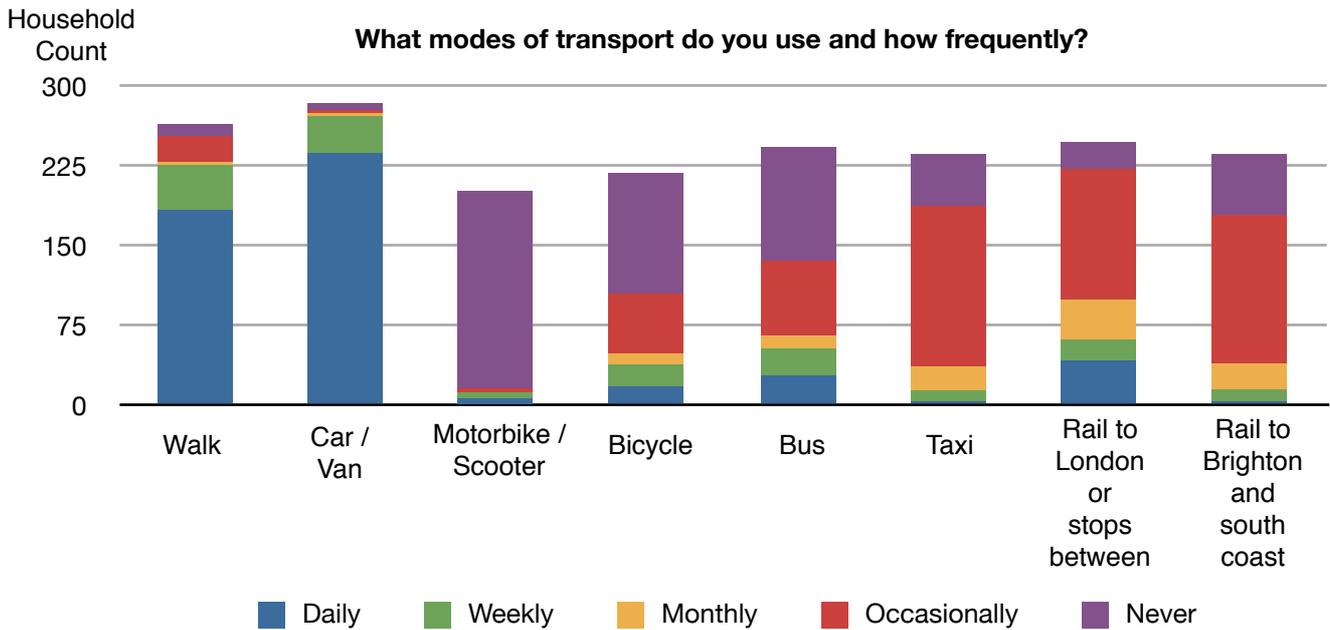


11. The majority of respondents had either one or two vehicles in their household. One percent of respondents had more than six vehicles in the household - which indicates that either the household is full of adults, they are car nuts or they are very wealthy.

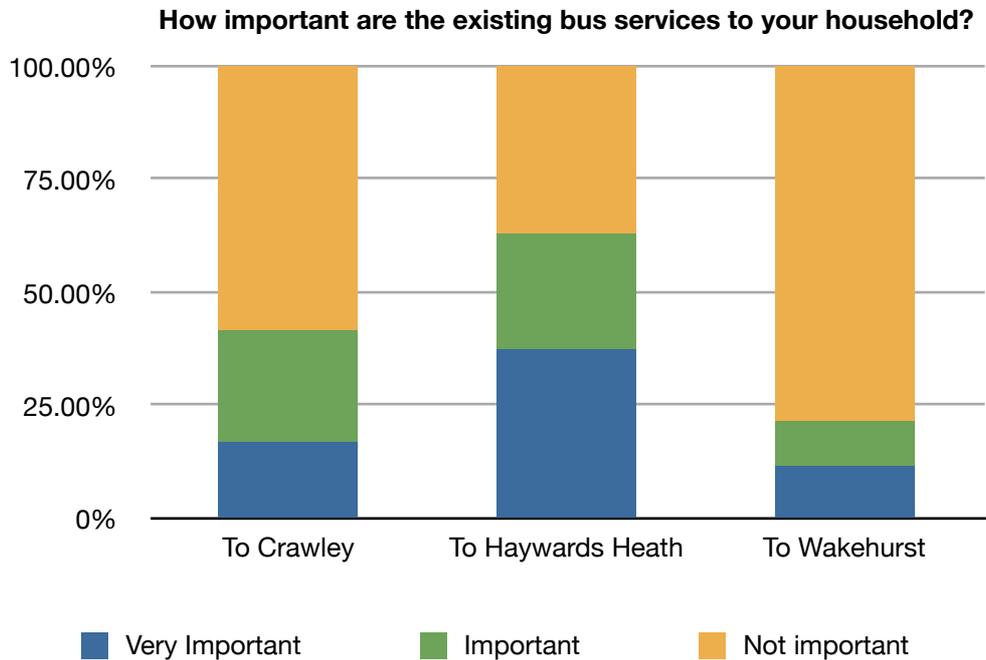
Number of motor vehicles in the household



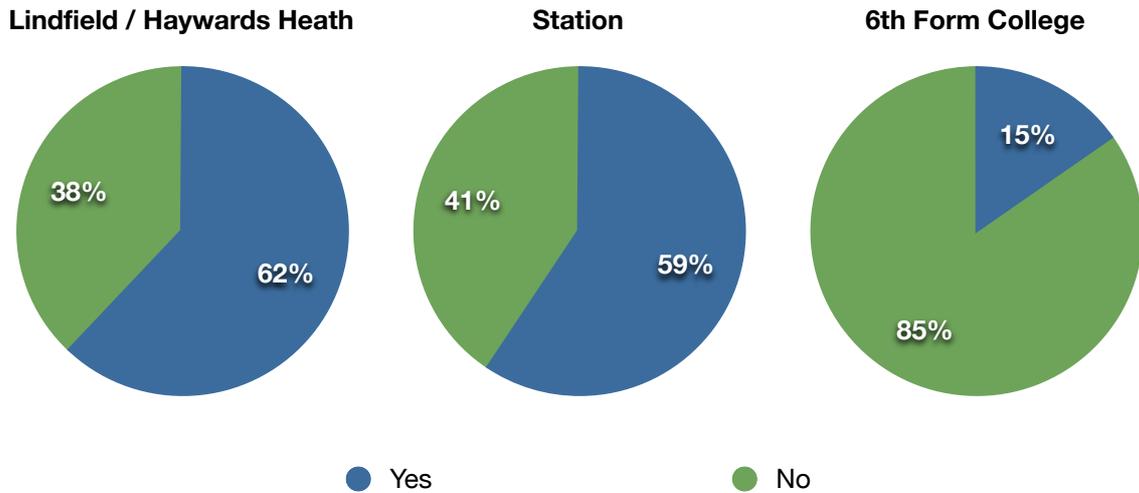
12. As would be expected for a rural community, our village relies upon car transportation:



13. A majority of respondents found the bus service to Haywards Heath to be of importance to their household; less than a majority felt a bus service to Wakehurst and Crawley was important to their household.



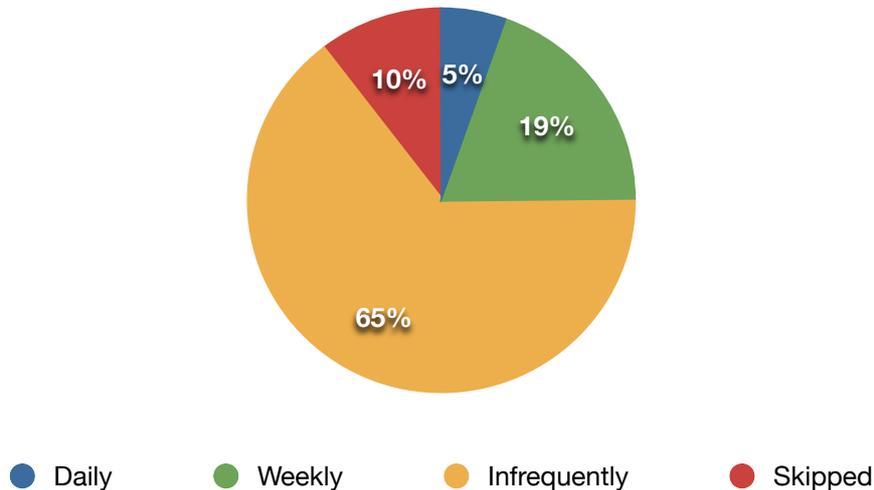
14. There was a strong demand cited for community buses. Note: the 15% that would like a bus to 6th form college is a high percentage given the numbers attending 6th form college.



15. Provision, signage and maintenance of footpaths is rated very highly; of those that expressed an opinion, the majority thought provision, signage and maintenance of cyclepaths was not satisfactory.

16. The majority of respondents use the village car park infrequently; five percent use it on a daily basis.

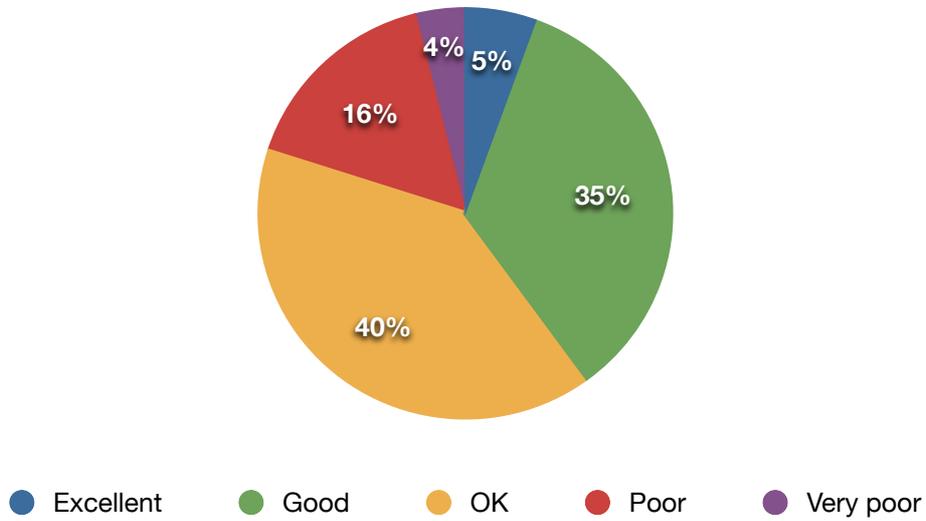
How often do you need to use the village car park?



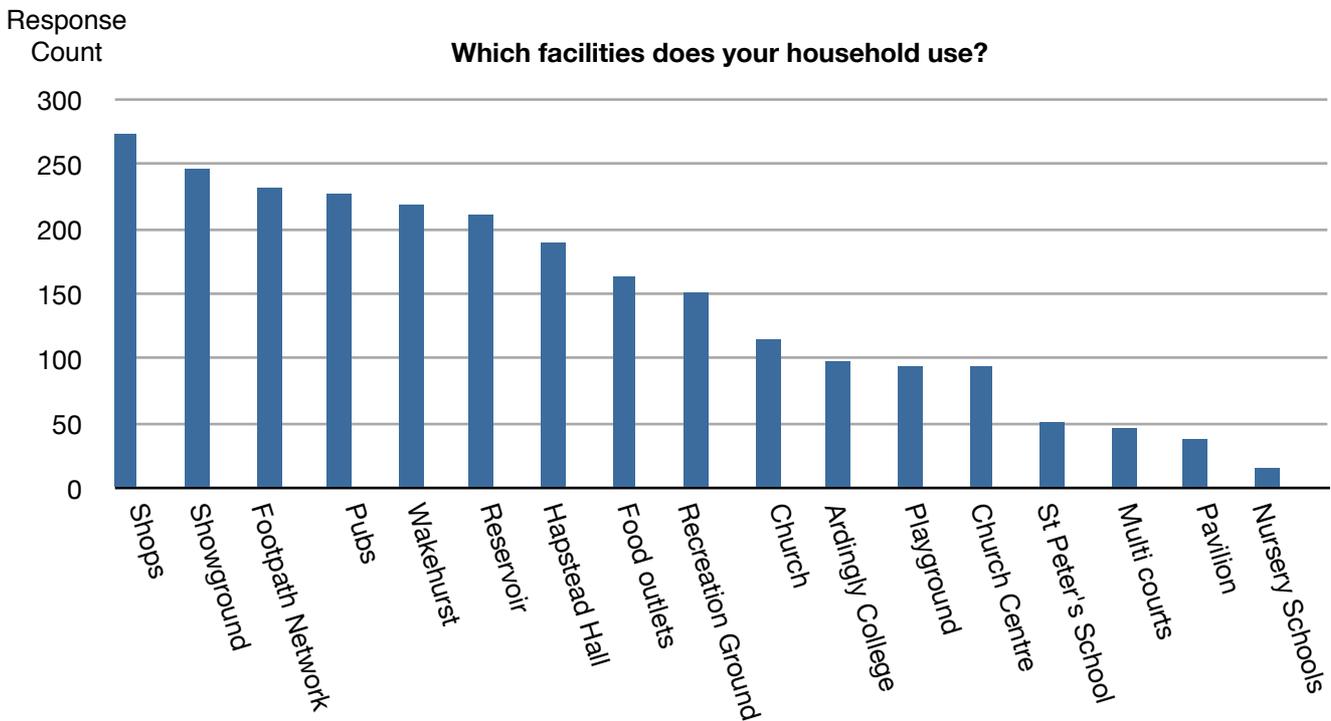
Of the 306 respondents, 11 park their car in the village car park, with 233 parking their vehicles on their own land.

17. Forty percent of those that responded thought they had a good or better broadband connection with another forty percent thinking they had an OK broadband connection.

How good is your broadband connection?



18. The village facilities are used by a large amount of respondents:



19. There were varying views on the statements made in the questionnaire that are best described by the full response table:

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
The Post Office is an indispensable village facility	286	4	6
The village hall facilities are adequate	228	8	51
Highway verges are adequately maintained	226	48	12
A regular doctor's surgery should be held in the village	209	39	42
The public toilets should be retained	199	46	42
There should be a better multidisciplinary pavilion at the recreation ground (eg for pre-school, events, bowls)	134	43	108
There is a need for facilities / entertainment / exercise for over 65s	110	33	138
The present facilities for pre- / nursery schools are adequate	104	10	163
An internet room/café would be of benefit to the village	80	97	103
The village support network for the elderly and infirm is adequate (eg meals on wheels, 'At Your Service')	68	18	200
There is a need for a skateboard facility at the recreation ground	60	108	118

20. Respondents' top three priority issues in descending order were:

Issue	Votes
Traffic speed/ pedestrian safety	208
Village shops and services	200
Protection of countryside	180
Public transport	68
Protect village identity/support networks	68
Policing/anti social behaviour	63
Affordable housing	34
Youth club/meeting place for young people	30
Improve car parking	28
Allotments	27

The general comments included did not uncover any additional information that varied from the conclusions elicited from the rest of the questionnaire.

**Ardingly Parish Council
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