

Beech Hill Village Plan



Note

Note. Throughout this document the terms Village and Beech Hill refer to the parish of Beech Hill as defined in the map at Appendix C.

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Introduction

The Village Plan process commenced in Beech Hill in the autumn of 2011 when a steering committee was formed. The first consultation event was held to coincide with the annual November 5th celebrations. At the end of a torch lit procession everyone had a chance to meet the Committee to voice their ideas about pressing issues affecting the Village and to begin a dialogue continuing over the following year leading to the creation of Beech Hill's first Village Plan. A more formal consultation through a questionnaire followed in April 2012 which produced a very credible return rate of 44%. We know that several households opted to complete only one form per household, representing two or more people. Although we cannot be sure of these numbers, if we allow for them the likely response rate is probably 50%+.

As a small rural community Beech Hill boasts many assets, both in terms of its physical environment and its community spirit. But there are real concerns about our ability to maintain a good quality of life for all sections of our community under increasing pressures from development, traffic and the lack of local housing and employment opportunities for young people growing up in the village. These issues and many others have surfaced through the consultation process and the Steering Committee has taken great care to ensure that they are reflected in this Plan.

Whilst the Plan doesn't represent a hard and fast blueprint outlining how these issues will be resolved over the next five years or so, it does provide a clear statement of our priorities for the village, with some positive commitments backed by consensus. This will assist the Parish Council in discharging its duties and provide a road map for community organisations and individuals actively involved in enhancing the quality of life for everyone in our community. It also sends a clear message to West Berkshire Council to inform the decisions they have to make in the medium term on issues such as the environment, planning and traffic management.

It is a commonly held perception that decision making and influence in Beech Hill traditionally rests with a small clique which doesn't reflect the wishes of the wider community. If nothing else, this planning process has challenged this notion, with people leading the process who may not have been prominent in village life previously and a wide range of opinion represented through the consultation. The Plan is stronger for this and we are already seeing new ideas and initiatives arising out of the energy the planning process has inspired. We look forward to further developments powered by this greater sense of ownership.



Charlie Carter

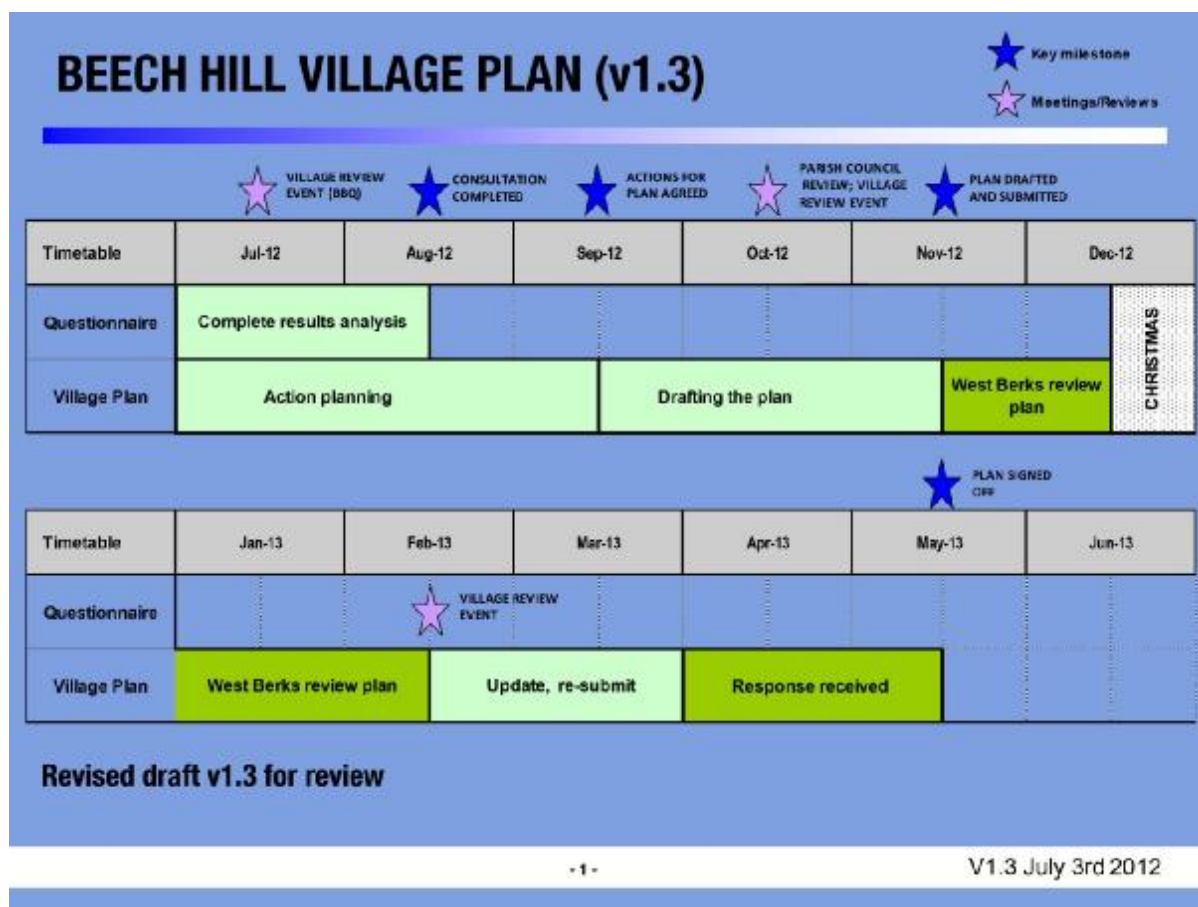
Chairman, Village Plan Steering Committee

Plan methodology and timescale

A project plan was drawn up in late 2011 showing that it should be possible to create a village plan and have it approved by the end of 2012 or early 2013. Creating, distributing and analysing a survey has taken a considerable amount of time, as has holding public meetings to present interim findings.

At the initial public meeting all villagers were invited to make comments about anything relevant to The Plan. Many people wrote their comments on charts, stuck them onto boards with post-it notes or just explained their thoughts to the initial Steering Group. As a result of the first meeting, several new people volunteered to join the Group.

All data initially gathered was used to create the first comprehensive village questionnaire. The Steering Committee split into sub-groups, analysed the initial data collected, grouped similar items together and added their own thoughts. A survey document was created and distributed by hand to all houses in the parish in April 2012. Strong efforts were made to ensure that every person in the Village knew about the survey and all were encouraged to complete and return the form. Three incentive prizes were offered. News about the survey and follow up activities was posted regularly on the Village web site and the three Village notice boards, and two printed notices were hand delivered to all houses by Steering Committee members. Everyone had the option to complete the survey in paper form or on-line.



The chart shows the last project plan prior to submission of the report. The Village Plan has been commissioned by Beech Hill Parish Council, but the Steering Committee is independent and represents the views of the Village as a whole. The Plan has been discussed with the Parish Council

and is being submitted by the Council to West Berkshire Council. A discussion will take place with West Berkshire Council before the Plan is accepted. See Appendix B for last minute changes to the plan.



Brief history of Beech Hill

An Anglo Saxon charter of 950 AD refers to the Foudry Brook and the surrounding area, although there is no known mention of Beech Hill in the Domesday book of 1086. The Priory (founded in 1170) would have been an important welfare and economic centre for the mediaeval community until it was declared an Alien prior by Edward III in 1345. Edward IV gave its land to Eton College, in whose possession it remained until 1924.

From the end of the mediaeval period until 1866 (when the common of about 80 acres was enclosed and 39 acres of old enclosures were redistributed) the Parish was a landscape and community of landed gentry estates and small farms. The landed estates were Beech Hill House, WoKefield Park (including Trunkwell) and Stratfield Saye. They owned farm labourers' cottages dotted throughout the Parish as well as a small grouping of houses supporting the community in the trades of blacksmith, wheelwright and brick making, centred around the present site of the old forge and adjacent cottages. Until 1867 the Parish was a tithing within the Parish of Stratfield Saye, Hampshire and as such was within the administrative hundred of Reading in Berkshire.

The present modern era of the community and landscape appearance of the parish started to evolve with the building of the school and school house in 1848 and the parish church of St Mary the Virgin and rectory in 1867. The enclosed parcels of land allowed for the former common land to be built upon. The main housing area in the Village is on the former common land.

The building of the church allowed for the creation of an ecclesiastical parish on 31 January 1869. Before this time people would have worshipped either at Shinfield or Stratfield Saye church, or at the Baptist Chapel situated in Beech Hill. This Chapel was first used as a place of worship in 1796, although non-conformist worship extends back to 1715.

Across the road from the parish church of St Mary the Virgin is the Memorial Hall, rebuilt in 2011 on the former site of the original Memorial Hall. The first hall was built in 1921 in remembrance of the people of the parish that served in the First World War.

Mains water, electricity supply and telephone services did not reach the community until the late 1930s and a mains sewer was not provided until the middle of the 1960s.

From 1894 to 1974 the parish was in Bradfield rural district; it was merged in 1974 into the new Newbury District. With the break up of Berkshire County Council in 1998 the parish became part of the West Berkshire unitary authority within the district ward of Mortimer.

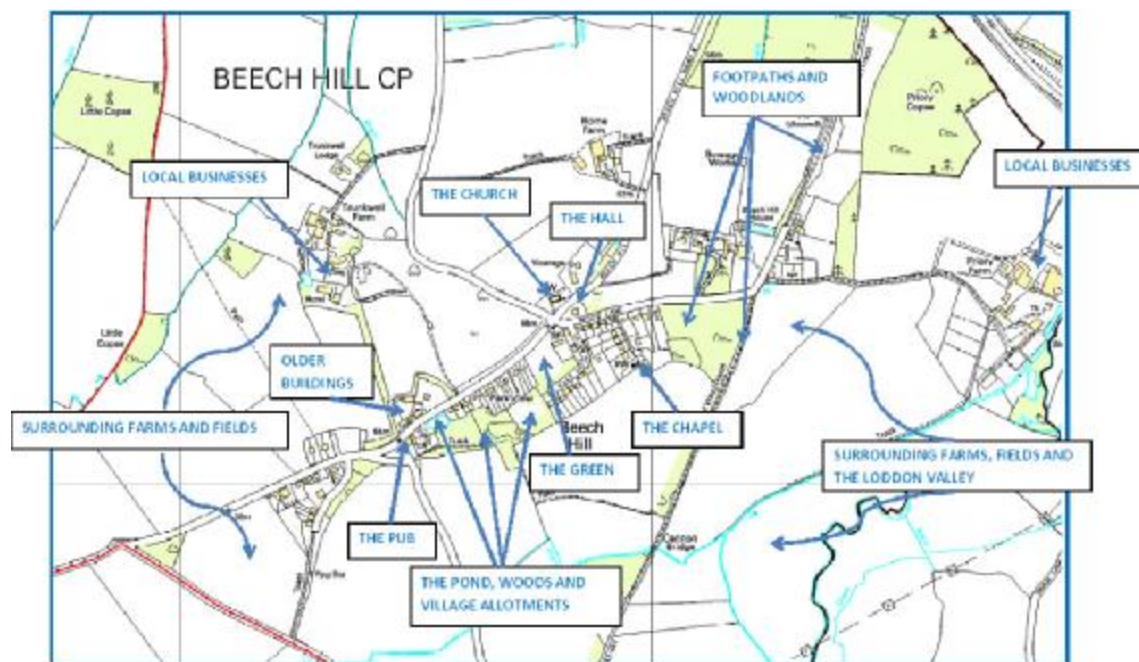
In 1994 a substantial part of the parish from the boundary of the main settlement area to the Priory and the River Loddon was designated as an area of special landscape importance, (ASLI).

The Village Today

Demographics

The population of the Village is around 300, made up of around 250 adults and 50 children.

Around a third of the adults are either retired or semi-retired, whilst 60% work either full time or part time. About half of these working from home at least part of the time, with 4% of the population being in full time further education. The unemployment rate in the village, including those who are unable to work, is very low at 3%.



Beech Hill Features

Geographic features

Beech Hill, in the extreme south east corner of West Berkshire, sits on a small ridge rising to 69m above sea level, with the River Loddon forming the south-east boundary and Foudry Brook the north. The soil is predominantly London Clay with some gravel and chalk.

Physical features

The Village covers an area of 470 hectares (1160 acres) and is predominantly agricultural, having 6 farms within the Parish boundary. With 130 dwellings, the main area of population is concentrated in the area bounded by the main road through the Village (Beech Hill Road) and Wood Lane, with smaller clusters and isolated dwellings in the north, east and south.

Main features within the Village

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, built in 1867 by William Butterfield, occupies a central location in the Village. The Beech Hill Baptist Church (believed to be the oldest in the district) was built in 1724 and is situated at the end of Chapel Drive off Wood Lane.

The Memorial Hall, built in 1921 as a memorial to those villagers who fought and fell in the First World War, was replaced by a larger, modern building on the same site in 2011.

At the south east corner of the Village is a copse surrounding a moat, all that remains of Beaumys Castle, believed to be the home of Sir Nicholas de la Beche, tutor to The Black Prince, from whom the name Beech Hill may have come.



The Jubilee Reservoir monument at the junction of Beech Hill Road and Trowes Lane, erected in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Silver Jubilee, replaced the pump by the village pond which had broken down. The village pond is now much reduced in size compared with 100 years ago, mainly due to nearby trees.

The village green, managed by the Beech Hill Allotments Trust, has a small play area for children, and a casual football area.

The Old Elm Tree Public House, named after a magnificent elm tree adjacent to it, was renamed The Elm Tree after Dutch Elm Disease caused the tree to be felled in 1972.



Key Businesses

Beech Hill has a varied number of businesses, mostly small, and some operating from home. These include:

- AJW Services (carpenter and handyman)
- Beech Hill Electronics (commercial electronics)

- Beech Hill Garage (garage services and sales)
- BJ Catering Equipment (catering equipment)
- Boardman Physiotherapy (physiotherapy)
- Brush & Bridle Saddler (riding supplies)
- Bulb Interiors (interior design)
- Digital Dimensions Limited (video and photography)
- Jigsaw Creative Care (care services)
- Karen Pounds Hypnotherapy (hypnotherapy)
- Leigh & G Joinery (joinery)
- Little Park Farm Bed & Breakfast (B&B)
- Lottie Crocker Horses (horses for sale, livery)
- Mortimer Garden Services (garden services)
- Southern Counties Automatics (games machines specialists)
- The Elm Tree Pub (pub)
- Thrive (horticultural therapy)
- Trunkwell Mansion House (conference and wedding centre)
- Unicorn Interglobal Ltd (software development)

Main Social Organisations

Beech Hill Book Club

The club meets monthly at The Elm Tree pub. Led by Christine Barry, members read and then discuss a chosen book each month in the relaxing atmosphere of the local village pub.

The Flower Club

A well-established monthly club for flower arranging held in the Memorial Hall on a Tuesday evening. Members include experienced villagers who are happy to share their knowledge with those wishing to improve their skills or just starting. The club members often volunteer to provide flower arrangements for services and weddings at St Mary's.

Beech Hill Cycle Club

Formed in Spring 2011, the club holds monthly bike rides during the spring, summer and autumn along quiet lanes in the area. Distances are normally around 15k to 25k at a leisurely pace.

Other Organisations

The Parish Council

Clerk: Janet Haines - clerk@beechhillvillage.co.uk

Chairman: Mike Methven

Other Councillors: Chris Bridges, David Simpson, Tom Lowthian, Tegwyn Johns

The Parish Council is elected by the village parishioners every four years to handle the administration of their village. It represents local issues to West Berkshire Council and other authorities, such as the Police and utility companies, on aspects such as planning applications, traffic, policing and safety as well as village maintenance.

It holds an open meeting every two months in the Memorial Hall with the agenda posted on notice boards and on the website. At each meeting it receives a report from our local district councillors, Cllr Mollie Lock and Cllr Geoff Mayes, who represent the Mortimer Ward on West Berkshire District Council.

In April every year, the Parish Council hosts an Annual Parish Meeting at which reports are received from all the village organisations such as The Allotments Trust, the churches and the Shop Committee.

The Allotments Trust

Clerk: Martin Plank

Chairman: Ian Blacker

Other Trustees: Maggie Bridges, Ken Tomkins, Hayley Sheridan, David Jones and Mike Methven.

Responsible for the village green, the playground and the area of land to the rear of Park View, currently used for grazing horses. The Trust was established and operates with a view to assisting those 'in need' in the village.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary the Virgin

A formal body (currently 10 members) that looks after the affairs of the Church, such as the graveyard and upkeep of the Church - both structurally and financially. PCC members do not have to be from the village and do not necessarily have to attend the Church. The PCC meets quarterly with an annual meeting to appoint/reappoint members.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Built by William Butterfield and completed in 1867, the Church is a beautiful Victorian listed building which boasts numerous stained glass windows, original Butterfield pews and a two-tier corona.

The Church is very popular for weddings and baptisms.

The Church is part of the Loddon Reach Benefice, which includes churches in Swallowfield, Spencers Wood and Shinfield. As a member of the Benefice, the Church shares in many of the activities of the other Benefice churches such as prayer meetings, clubs for young people and the quarterly joint Benefice service.

Services

1st Sunday – Holy Communion 10.30am

2nd Sunday – Celtic style service 5.00pm

3rd Sunday – Family Communion 10.30am

4th Sunday – Parish Praise – a lively service usually themed or with a guest speaker – 10.30am

Beech Hill Baptist Church

This small chapel has nestled at the end of Chapel Lane in Beech hill for over 200 years. Worship is led by pastor George Bell, leading a congregation of committed Christians, from within and outside of the village.

Services are welcoming, friendly and family orientated with the emphasis being upon teaching from the Bible. The Chapel actively involves itself in village life and has an annual 'songs of praise' which involves local choirs, brass bands and worshippers from other local churches. The chapel keeps in touch with its newsletter 'Salt & Light'.

Services are held every Sunday at 11.00am and 6.30pm, with a time of fellowship after the evening service with tea and biscuits. There is also a Ladies' Meeting every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm and prayer and bible study on Wednesday at 7.20pm.

Memorial Hall

The Beech Hill Memorial Hall Trust is a registered charity with a remit to maintain and oversee the Memorial Hall to ensure that it is available as a venue for a variety of community, social and educational events. There are twelve trustees, most of whom live in the village, plus a smaller management committee which oversees the day to day running of the hall. Meetings are held at least three times a year including one AGM, usually held in May. In 2008 the Trust undertook to raise funds to replace the ageing, original hall. By February 2010 the fundraising objectives were achieved and the new hall opened for business. It now provides outstanding facilities and is in every sense the hub of village life. In addition to overseeing the hall, the trustees organise and run five or six community events each year, including a barbecue, a quiz, and a bonfire celebration. Funds raised by these events go towards the upkeep of the hall.

Village Web Site

The Village website - www.beechhillvillage.co.uk - is maintained by the webmasters Peter & David Simpson. The site has pages showing many aids to Beech Hill village life: including a calendar of local events, train and bus times, refuse/re-cycling collection dates, minutes of Parish Council meetings and progress reports on projects like the Village Plan and Shop in the Church. There are pictures and videos of the Village and its community.

Summary of survey findings

The survey data has been analysed by three separate sub-groups. These groups reported back to the whole Steering Committee and the Committee has agreed that the results presented here are a fair representation of the wishes expressed by villagers in the survey.

An action plan has been drawn up in the format requested by West Berkshire Council. All actions are listed in this plan, shown below. The major recommendations are listed here.

Traffic

The traffic part of the survey had some of the strongest responses. Whenever traffic questions are raised, emotions run high. Perceptions in Beech Hill are that there is a major problem with speeding traffic on all parts of the main road that runs through the village. Many people have reported near miss accidents when walking along the main road. These near misses cannot be verified, but do support the popular opinion that residents of Beech Hill see road traffic as a major safety risk and a source of considerable nuisance. Official figures, however, show that average traffic speed through Beech Hill is not excessive, and that the accident rate is comparatively low.

In recent years WBC has taken several initiatives in relation to traffic:

- two Vehicle Activated Signs
- a grasscrete area for the police to carry out mobile enforcement
- gateway features at the start of the 30mph speed limit
- extending the 30mph speed limit
- used Beech Hill as the pilot for Community Speedwatch,
- carried out a Traffic Management Assessment to assess Beech Hill Parish councils concerns.
- traffic survey monitoring

Despite these measures local residents still feel strongly that physical traffic calming and other actions are needed to reduce risks and improve environmental quality. Since people have been asked for their opinions we have to take them seriously. The following actions will therefore be taken:

1. A further study will be carried out to attempt to reconcile the official data with local opinion and further understand the reasons behind any disparity. The study should be overseen by a sub-group of the VAG working in partnership with WBC. The VAG should be provided with official data on request. The VAG may call upon independent experts if required. Matters included in the study will be:
 - a. The potential costs and benefits of physical traffic calming
 - b. Consider ways to prevent Beech Hill unnecessarily being used as a through route.
 - c. The feasibility of preventing heavy goods vehicles (other than local farm and delivery vehicles) unnecessarily using Beech Hill Road as a through route.
 - d. The potential benefits and feasibility of extending footpaths to allow cyclists and pedestrians to get to popular local destinations safely.

Medium priority actions

2. Investigate the feasibility of extending existing Mortimer and Spencers Wood bus services through Beech Hill, especially to cover Mortimer Station and Reading. Most residents prefer links with Reading, Mortimer and Spencers Wood. Services to Newbury are not popular and money could be saved to support other routes. Such services would be especially beneficial to young people.

Community and Social

Topics in this area include: satisfaction with existing village amenities; other facilities required; clubs and organisations; nuisances.

People appear to be generally happy with the environment and the range of services and facilities offered. While more facilities, clubs and organisations across several areas would be welcomed, there is no strong level of support to help organise such initiatives. This section did attract most individual comments, so people clearly feel strongly about certain village facilities. Some of the issues involved in this section were spread over several questions. Grouping certain issues reveals strong support for action in the following areas: circular footpaths; park, allotment and play areas; reducing litter.

Actions in priority sequence:

1. Create an area or areas that can be used for gardening, allotments, children's play and a general park or wild area. Parts of these already exist, but are neglected. A co-ordinated approach is needed to provide these facilities.
2. Create more circular footpaths. We need to look at the existing public and private paths, come up with a plan for what would be desirable and approach private landowners where necessary to create more paths or links to existing paths. This ties in well with the general feeling that one of the most liked features of Beech Hill is the rural environment.
3. Reduce litter in all areas, including fly tipping, dog fouling and general litter. The combination of responses to these questions shows overwhelming support for action in all areas.
4. Publicise what people have asked for, give suggestions about how this can be achieved and encourage volunteers to come forward.
5. Increase the number of purchasing groups by communicating what can be done and encouraging people to join new groups.
6. Advertise Neighbourhood Watch and encourage people to join.

Environment and Planning

This section covers such areas as: environmental assets; village organisation and structure; services for different age groups (including shop, broadband, electricity, sewage etc.).

Whereas a broad range of issues was covered, three emerged as more important than others.

1. Many people were not aware of all the organisations that exist in the Village and felt excluded from some. There appears to be a willingness to become more involved, but many people do not know how, or feel generally excluded. A plan of communications should be drawn up to ensure that all village organisations are open, that they publicly communicate their activities and invite people to join where appropriate. A new 'Amenities and Social

Events' Association should be established to promote the use of local amenities, coordinate and organise social and recreational events, ensuring greater inclusion, especially relating to the needs of the elderly and the young.

2. There was a strong interest in the village shop and a demand to know more about plans and activities in this area. Since the survey has been taken there have been several communications on this topic through the Village web site. There has been a public planning enquiry and a church planning meeting. All planning approvals have now been granted and a full public meeting was recently held in the Memorial Hall. A new committee has been elected. It appears that sufficient activity is taking place under the direction of the new committee to satisfy the demands expressed in the survey.
3. The question of whether there should be further housing development in the village revealed that although around a third of responders opposed any growth, half were supportive of some small scale residential development. Given the critical link between village population size, the need to retain a young and growing population and the viability of certain local amenities such as the churches, the Memorial Hall and the proposed shop, it is essential that the issue of housing development is progressed. A group, accountable to the Parish Council, should be formed to explore the feasibility and likely impact of any further housing development within the village. This group should conduct a transparent dialogue with local residents, land owners and potential developers to inform its work.

Remaining issues

Each question in the original survey was analysed and given a ranking based on the response and number of comments made. The major issues and actions flowing from them have been identified above. The full list and its ranking is shown at Appendix D. As groups work through the issues, it may be possible to deal with some of the smaller issues at the same time as the more important ones. It is important to keep the momentum of the Plan going and for it to continue to deal with as many issues as possible. The Committee was keen to capture general comments in addition to answers to the survey questions. All comments have been listed at Appendix F and will be dealt with seriously along with the other survey responses.

Detailed action plan

Transport

PARISH ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE										
Name of Parish: Beech Hill										
Key:										
BHPCC Beech Hill Parish Council										
VAG Village Action Group, Beech Hill										
MHMC Memorial Hall Management Committee										
WBC West Berkshire Council										
PCC St Mary's Parochial Church Council										
SSBHET Stratfield Saye and Beech Hill Educational Trust										
Reference	Objective	Actions	Priority HWL	Start Date	Planned Finish Date	Project Manager/Lead Partner	Other Partners	Justification/comments (refer to community support from consultation)	Completed (Give Date)	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme (in this column put Safer, Prosperous, Healthy, Greener or Accessible)
Traffic										
	Examine whether speeding is an issue and propose 1 solutions	Develop traffic management policy; discuss possible options with WBC and traffic consultant.	H	Feb-13	Aug-13	VAG	BHPC, WBC, independent consultant, Police	Top concern raised in survey		safer, greener
	Examine whether traffic volume is an issue and propose 2 solutions	See 1	H	Feb-13	Aug-13	VAG	BHPC, WBC, independent consultant, Police	Changes in signs outside village have increased volume. Sat navs send large vehicles down narrow lanes.		safer, greener
	Make road crossing easier and improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.	See 1. Look at specific crossing options near church and pub.	H	Feb-13	Aug-13	VAG	BHPC, WBC, independent consultant, Police	75% of residents experience difficulty in crossing road. Chicanes and width restrictions most popular solutions.		safer
	Extend footpaths to assist safe journeys and encourage less car use.	Desirable to extend current incomplete footpaths to Mortimer Station, and Spencers Wood (cf. Sustans). Discuss options with WBC and land owners.	H	Feb-13	Aug-13	VAG	WBC, local landowners, Sustans, Police	176 new journeys on foot would be made each week if there were a suitable footpath.		safer, healthy, greener, accessible
	Improve public transport	Discuss with local bus companies and WBC how to extend local services through Beech Hill, especially to Mortimer Station and Reading	M	Feb-13	May-13	VAG	WBC, BHPC, Bus Companies	20 new journeys a week likely		prosperous, safer, greener

Community and Social

PARISH ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE										
Name of Parish: Beech Hill			Date Plan Adopted							
Key:	BHPC	Beech Hill Parish Council	WBC	West Berkshire Council	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme					
VAG	Village Action Group, Beech Hill	Memorial Hall Management Committee	PCC	St Mary's Parochial Church Council	Justification/comments (In this column put Safer, Prosperous, Healthy, Greener or Accessible)					
MHMC			SSBHEH	Stratfield Saye and Beech Hill Educational Trust	Completed (Give Date)					
Reference	Objective	Actions	Priority H/M/L	Start Date	Planned Finish Date	Project Manager/Lead Partner	Other Partners	Justification/comments (refer to community support from consultation)	Completed (Give Date)	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme
Community and Social										
		Advertise the village clubs through e mail shot to potentially increase membership. Start by trying to establish a new group eg Theatre group (need volunteer)	L	Aug-12	Ongoing	VAG		25% of survey respondents expressed an interest in the village clubs		prosperous, healthy
5	Increase inclusiveness of the village	Advertise the buying groups to increase awareness and potentially membership - Use examples to demonstrate the potential savings of groups	M	Aug-12	Ongoing	VAG	Buying group members	c. 50% of survey respondents expressed an interest in joining buying groups		prosperous
6	Increase membership of buying groups	Advertise the Neighbourhood watch scheme (s)	M	Aug-12	Ongoing	VAG	Neighbourhood watch group(s)	Just under 50% of survey respondents indicated that they would join a neighbourhood watch scheme		safer
7	Increase membership of Neighbourhood watch groups	Advertise the Neighbourhood watch scheme (s)	L	Aug-12	Ongoing	VAG	Neighbourhood watch group(s)	Just under 10% of respondents had experienced a premises burglary. This coupled with the stats on Neighbourhood watch, suggest that the neighbourhood watch scheme (s), could help to reduce crime.		safer
8	Reduce incidents of premises burglary	Reduce incidents of Neighbourhood watch scheme (s)	L	Aug-12	Ongoing	VAG	Neighbourhood watch group(s)	Just under 10% of respondents had experienced a premises burglary. This coupled with the stats on Neighbourhood watch, suggest that the neighbourhood watch scheme (s), could help to reduce crime.		safer
9	Create a plan for introduction of allotments, wild area, park area and improvement to play area.	List current assets that can be used, both public and private. Design multi use areas to meet all needs.	H	Jan-13	Jun-13	VAG	BHPC, local landowners	Q14, Q20 - three biggest areas demanded.		healthy, greener, safer, prosperous
10	Create more circular footpaths	Produce ideas for all possible linkups and discuss with council and local landowners.	H	Jan-13	Jun-13	VAG	BHPC, local landowners	About 70% considered this high priority.		healthy, greener, safer, prosperous
11	Reduce litter	List all litter related issues (including fly tipping, litter, dog fouling) and draw up a plan to reduce.	H	Jan-13	Jun-13	VAG	BHPC	Q17, concern with three areas reaches 90%.		healthy, greener, safer, prosperous

Planning and Environment

PARISH ACTION PLAN TEMPLATE										
Name of Parish: Beech Hill			Date Plan Adopted			Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme (in this column put Safer, Prosperous, Healthy, Greener or Accessible)				
Key:	BHPCC	Beech Hill Parish Council	WBC	West Berkshire Council	Justification/Comments (refer to community support from consultation)	Completed (Give Date)				
VAG	Village Action Group, Beech Hill	Memorial Hall Management Committee	PCC	St Mary's Parochial Church Council	Project Manager/Lead Partner	Other Partners				
MHMC	Memorial Hall Management Committee	Priority HM/L	SSBHET	Straatfield Saye and Beech Hill Educational Trust	Planned Finish Date					
Reference	Objective	Actions	Priority HM/L	Start Date	Planned Finish Date	Project Manager/Lead Partner	Other Partners	Justification/Comments (refer to community support from consultation)	Completed (Give Date)	Sustainable Communities Strategy Theme (in this column put Safer, Prosperous, Healthy, Greener or Accessible)
13	Ensure assets are listed/protected	List all assets	M	Oct-12	Mar-13 VAG		PCC, BHPCC	Key village assets enjoy 60%-70% support		green, prosperous
	Increase awareness of village committees and organisations	Establish protection mechanisms/systems	M	Oct-12	Jun-13 VAG			Key village assets enjoy 60%-70% support		
14	Establish whether village services can be improved and action accordingly	List & publish clubs/committees on website	H	Oct-12	Dec-12 VAG		Webmaster	Knowledge of village organisations varies from 45%-90%		healthy
15	Successful establishment of a community/village shop	Establish where issues are and if improvements can be made	M	Oct-12	Mar-13 VAG			Several key services ranked as poor or very poor		prosperous
16	Establish what amenities are required and establish if they be delivered/improved and action accordingly	Liaise with shop committee to identify support needed and action as appropriate.	H	Oct-12	Dec-12 VAG		Shop committee	67% consider shop important or higher.		healthy, prosperous
17	Establish an amenities sub committee to oversee improvement, awareness raising and activities to broaden usage of local amenities	Establish where issues are and if improvements can be made	L	Oct-12	Mar-13 VAG			70%-80% ranked amenities badly, especially for younger people.		community
18	Ensure position on new housing is clearly communicated	Establish an amenities sub committee to oversee improvement, awareness raising and activities to broaden usage of local amenities	M	Oct-12	Mar-13 VAG			70%-80% ranked amenities badly, especially for younger people.		prosperous
19	Ensure detail of any potential new housing clearly communicated	Define for plan document as possibly too contentious for website	M	Nov-12	Jun-13 VAG		Webmaster, BHPCC	More than 50% agree some development is needed		prosperous
20	Achieve limited growth in the village population to provide additional affordable accommodation	Define for plan document as possibly too contentious for website	M	Oct-12	Jun-13 VAG		Webmaster, BHPCC	More than 50% agree some development is needed		prosperous
21	Raise awareness of local amenities and improve participation in local social and recreational activities with a particular focus on children and young people	Commence a dialogue with interested local land owners to establish the feasibility and impact of a limited development of eight to twelve houses within the village	M	Jan-13	Jun-13 VAG		BHPCC	Most in favour of 3 bedroom and below		prosperous, accessible
22	To reduce fear of crime, personal harm and nuisance amongst local residents by improving community safety	Establish a Beech Hill 'Amenities, events and Social Activities Society to oversee and promote the major social and recreational activities within the village. Ensure that children and young people are represented on the committee	M	Oct-12	Mar-13 VAG		Webmaster	Less than 50% aware of some key village amenities		
23	To reduce fear of crime, personal harm and nuisance amongst local residents by improving community safety	Improve community safety activity through the appointment of a community safety volunteer, reporting to the parish council to liaise with the local police and mobilise local residents to improve awareness of community safety issues	H	Jan-13	Jun-13 VAG		BHPCC	30 burglaries and 25 acts of vandalism in last 3 years		safer

Conclusions

This is the first time that the residents of Beech Hill have been consulted thoroughly on their views on such a diverse range of topics. Although we should have liked to see a higher response rate, considering some of the comments that many people did not feel involved in village processes the response rate was good. The process has been very worthwhile and a greater degree of communication has already opened up in the village.

Prior to its formal submission the Plan was presented to the Village at an open meeting in November 2012.

There are other important issues plus a range of minor issues that can be dealt with by individuals and groups within the Village. In order not to lose momentum it is suggested that a Village Action Group, Beech Hill, (VAG) be established with the task of monitoring the Plan and encouraging local action to achieve the Plan goals in the best way possible. The Plan should thus be an evolving document rather than something that is filed away and forgotten.

The present Committee intends to stand down once the first release of the Plan is lodged and approved. This will be considered as a completed phase one. Phase two is the start of the implementation phase. A new group, as suggested above, should be formed. A public meeting should be called and all interested people in the Village invited to participate. It is likely that sub-groups would then be formed to tackle particular issues, including specific comments raised in the survey.

Appendix A

Members of Steering Committee

Charlie Carter (Chairman)

Christine Barry

Stuart Barry

David Price

David Simpson

Fleur Howles

Hannah Boston-Callier

Hayley Sheridan

Neil MacMillan

Peter Simpson

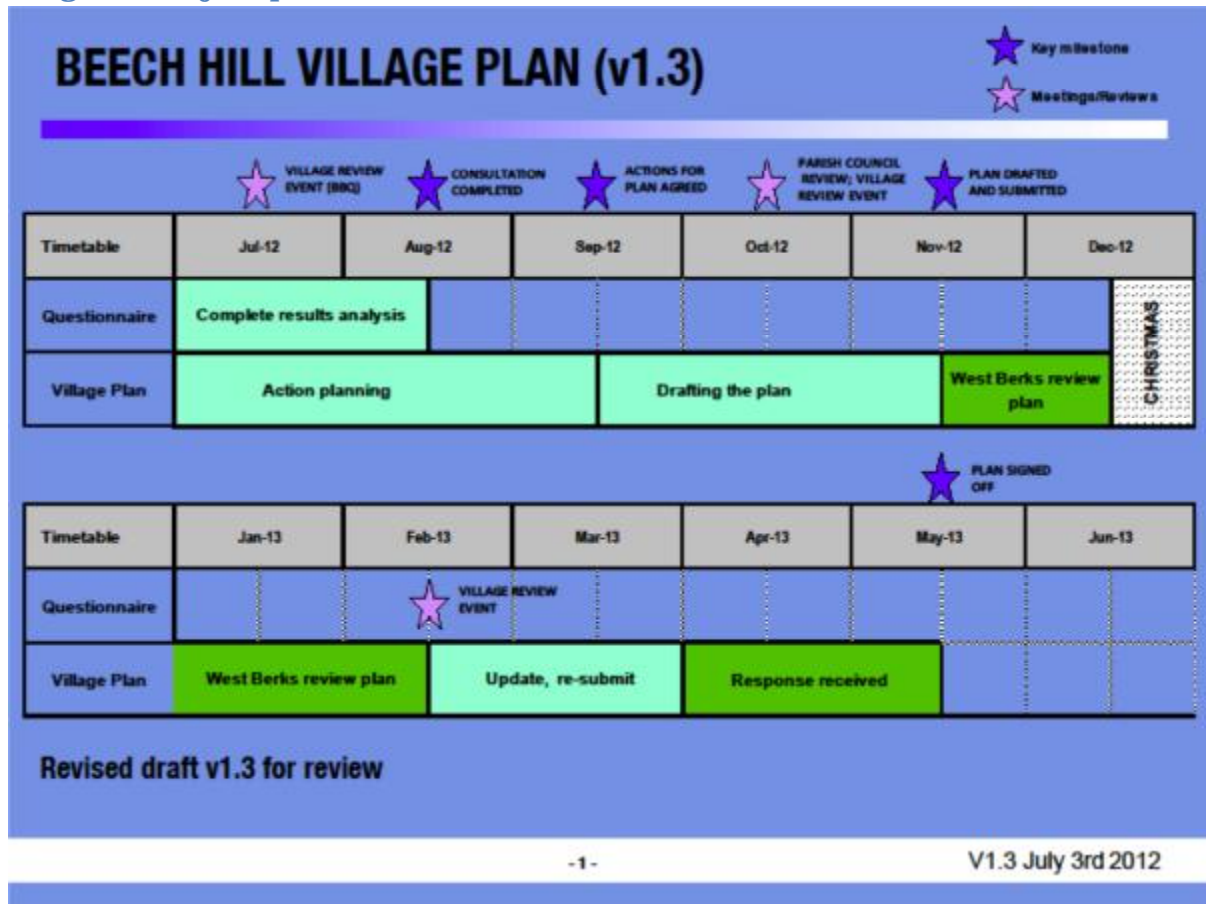
Phil Edwards

Robert Newman

Tremaine Callier

Appendix B

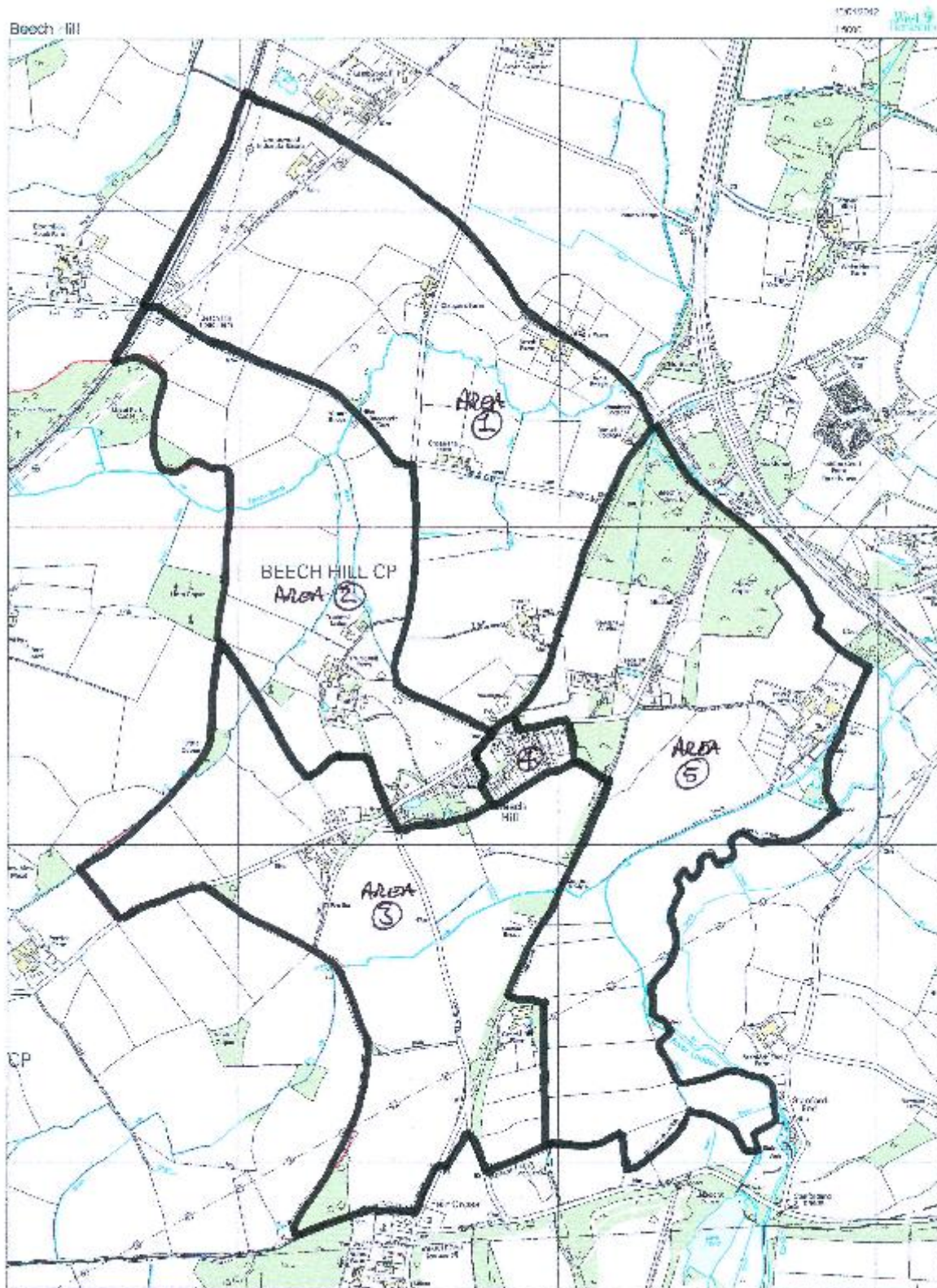
Original Project plan



The original project plan has been left here for reference. The final plan was submitted (after initial amendment) to WBC in February 2013 and endorsement by WBC is expected the same month. The final box ('response received') should be deleted from from plan as finally executed.

Appendix C

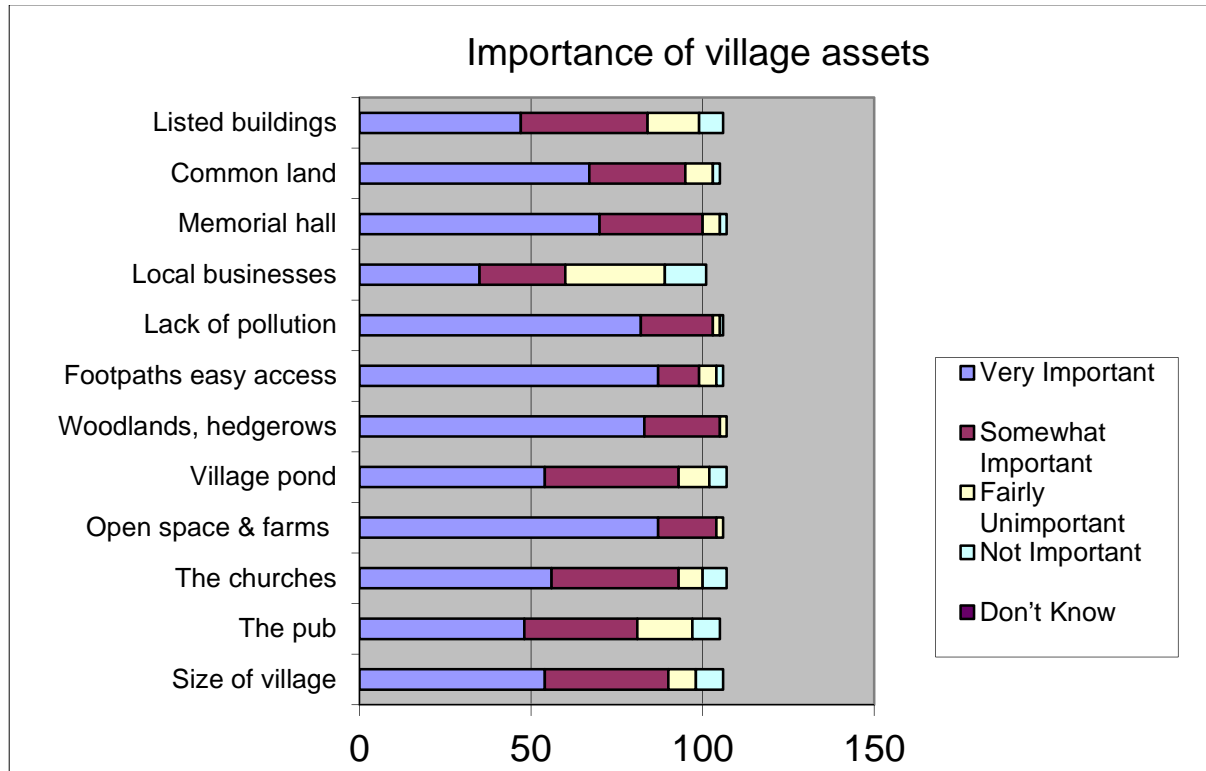
Map of Beech Hill Parish



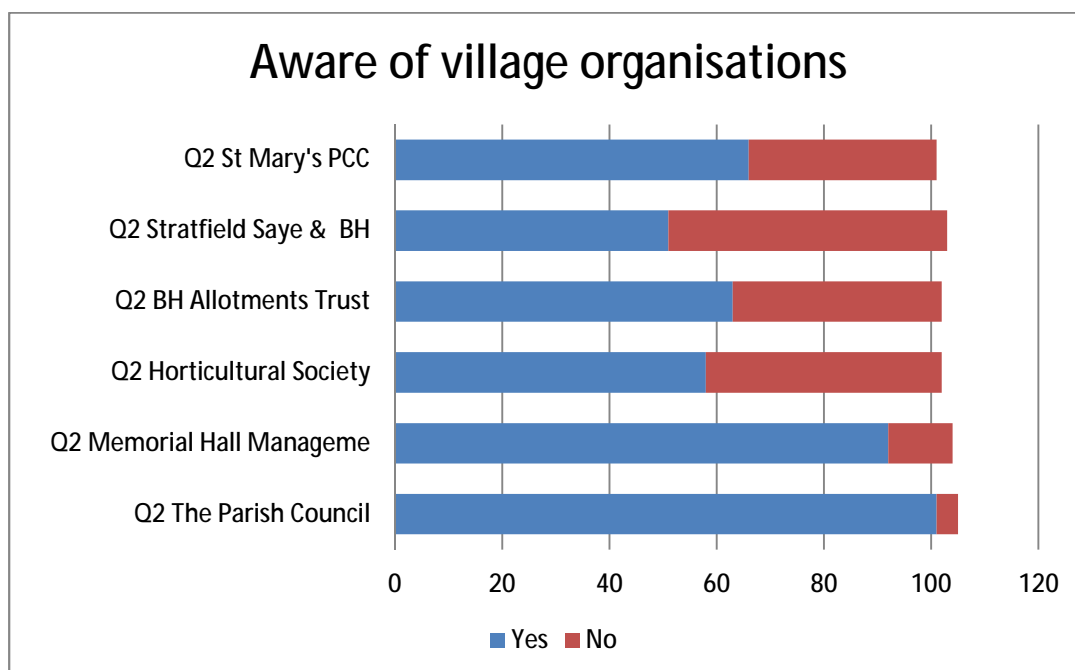
Appendix D

Graphs and chart

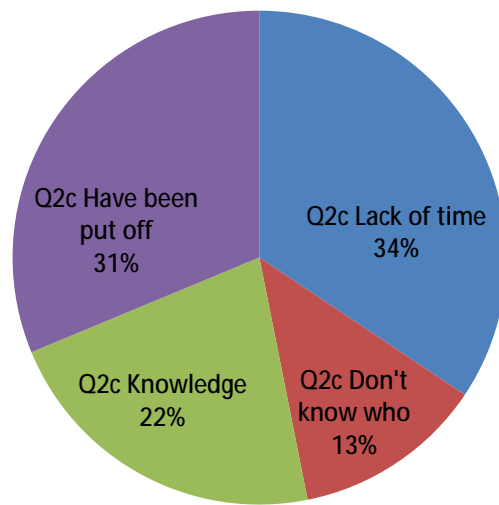
Question 1: How important or unimportant is it that the following assets exist in the village?



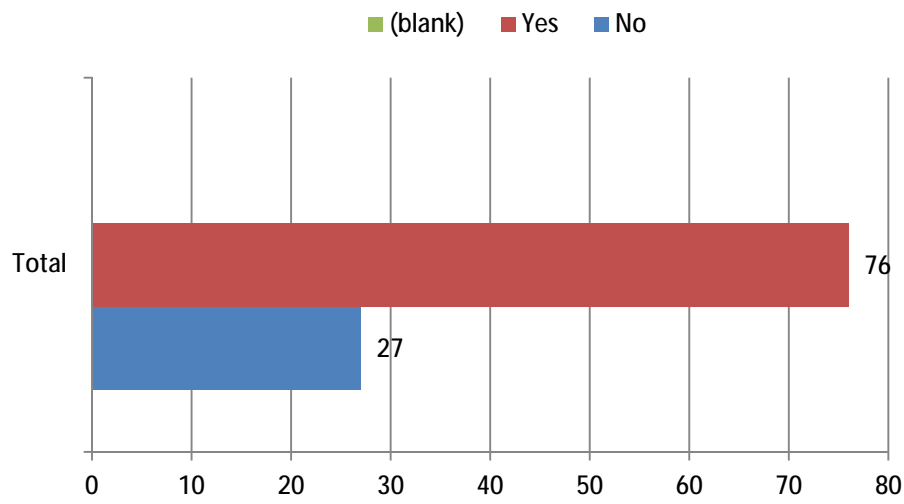
Question 2: (a) Are you aware of the following committees and organisations in the village? (b) Do you feel you have adequate involvement in and opportunities to participate in and influence local decision making regarding village affairs? (c) Which method of communication is most useful for village news and events?

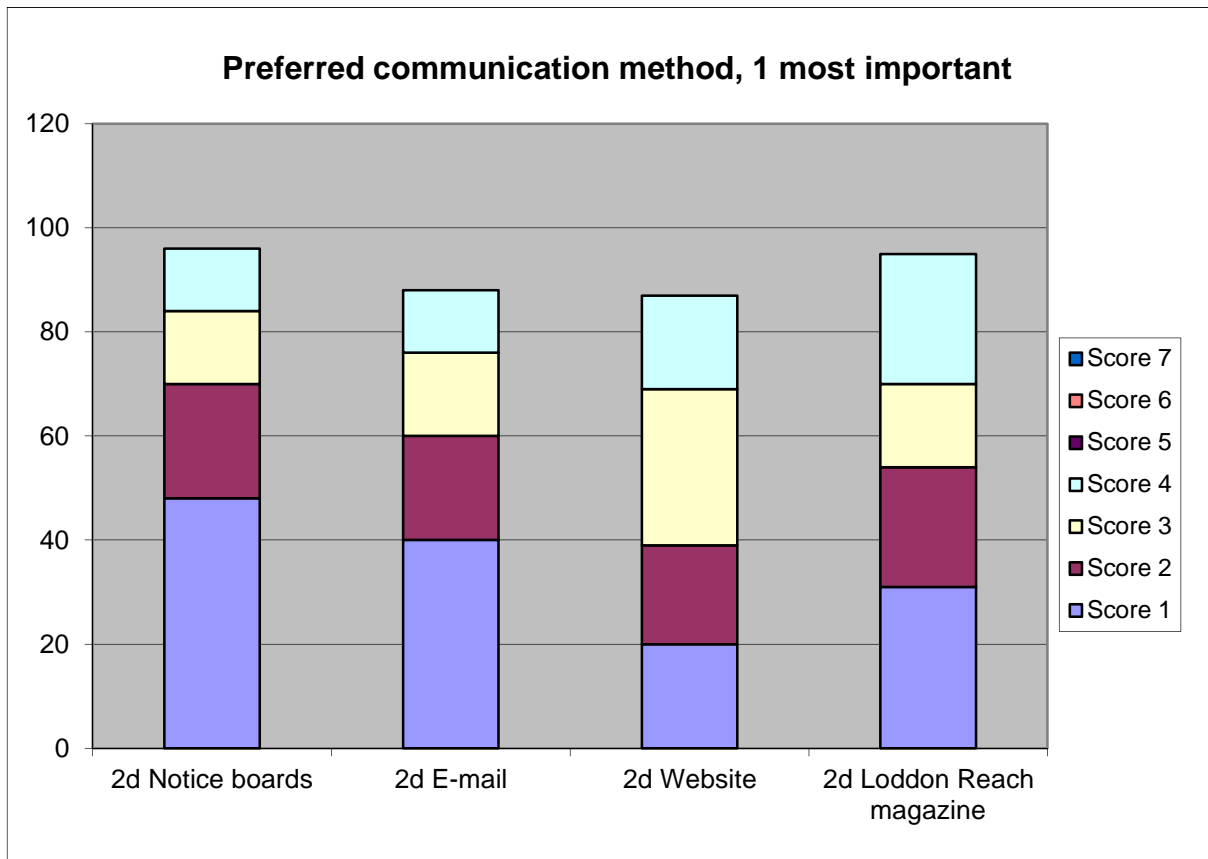


Why no involvement?

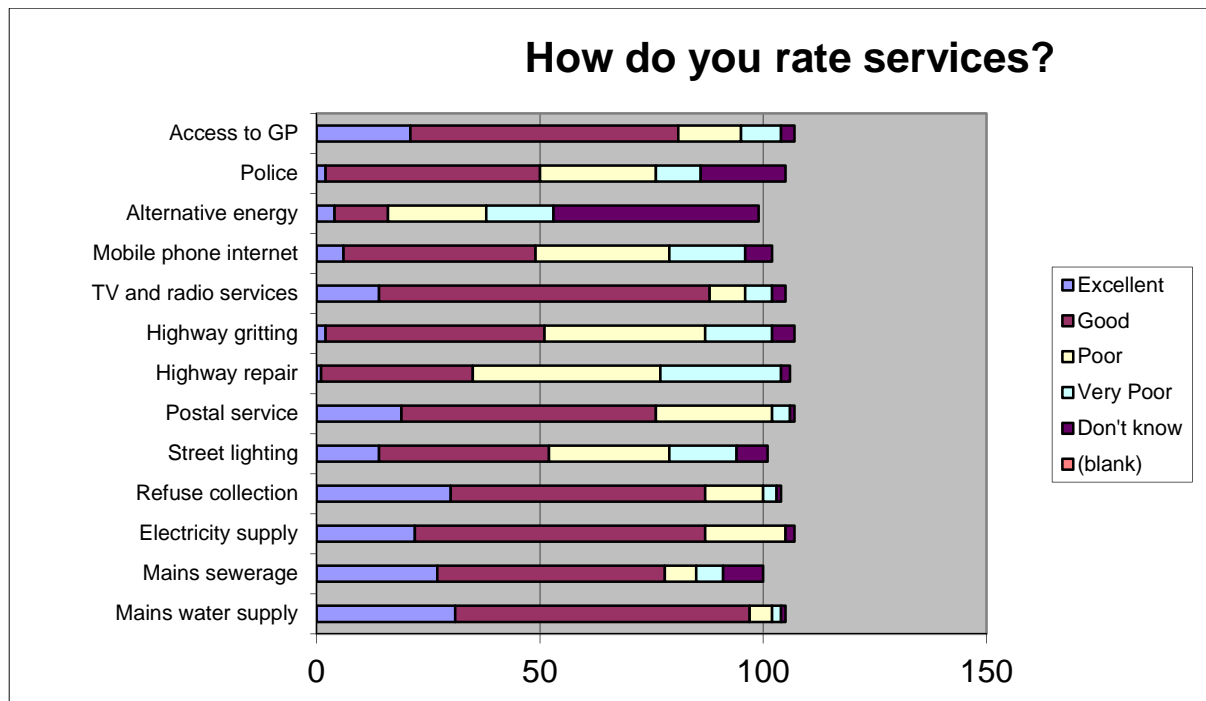


Influence village affairs?

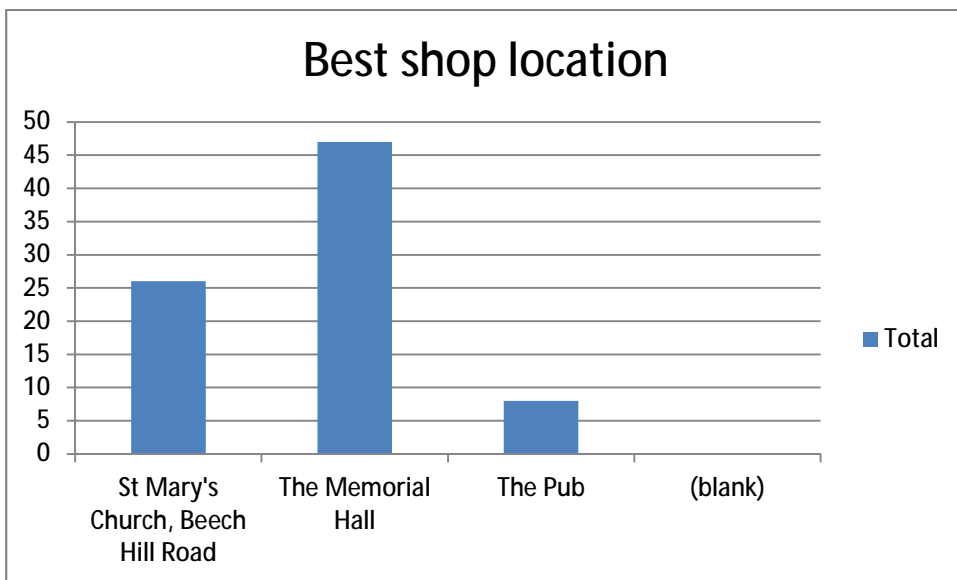
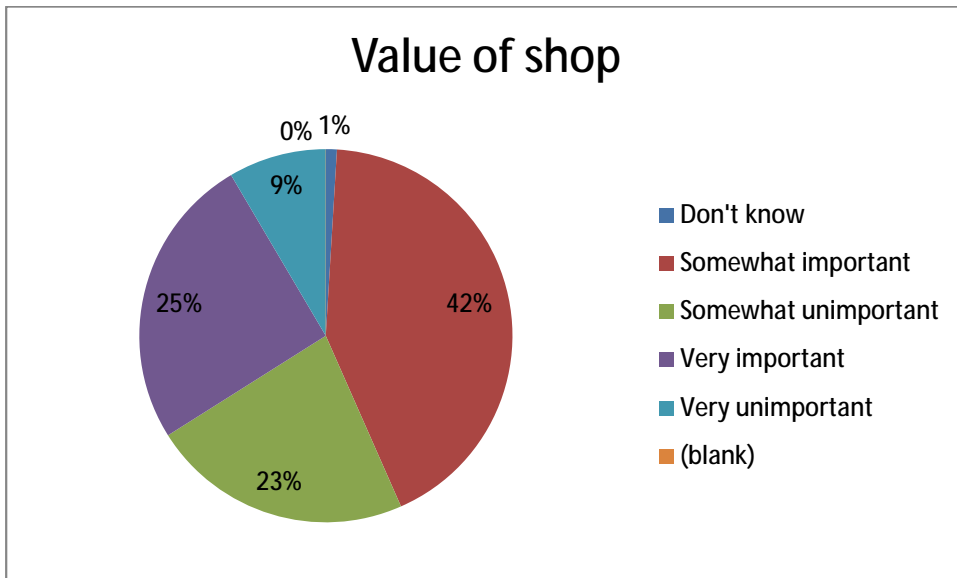


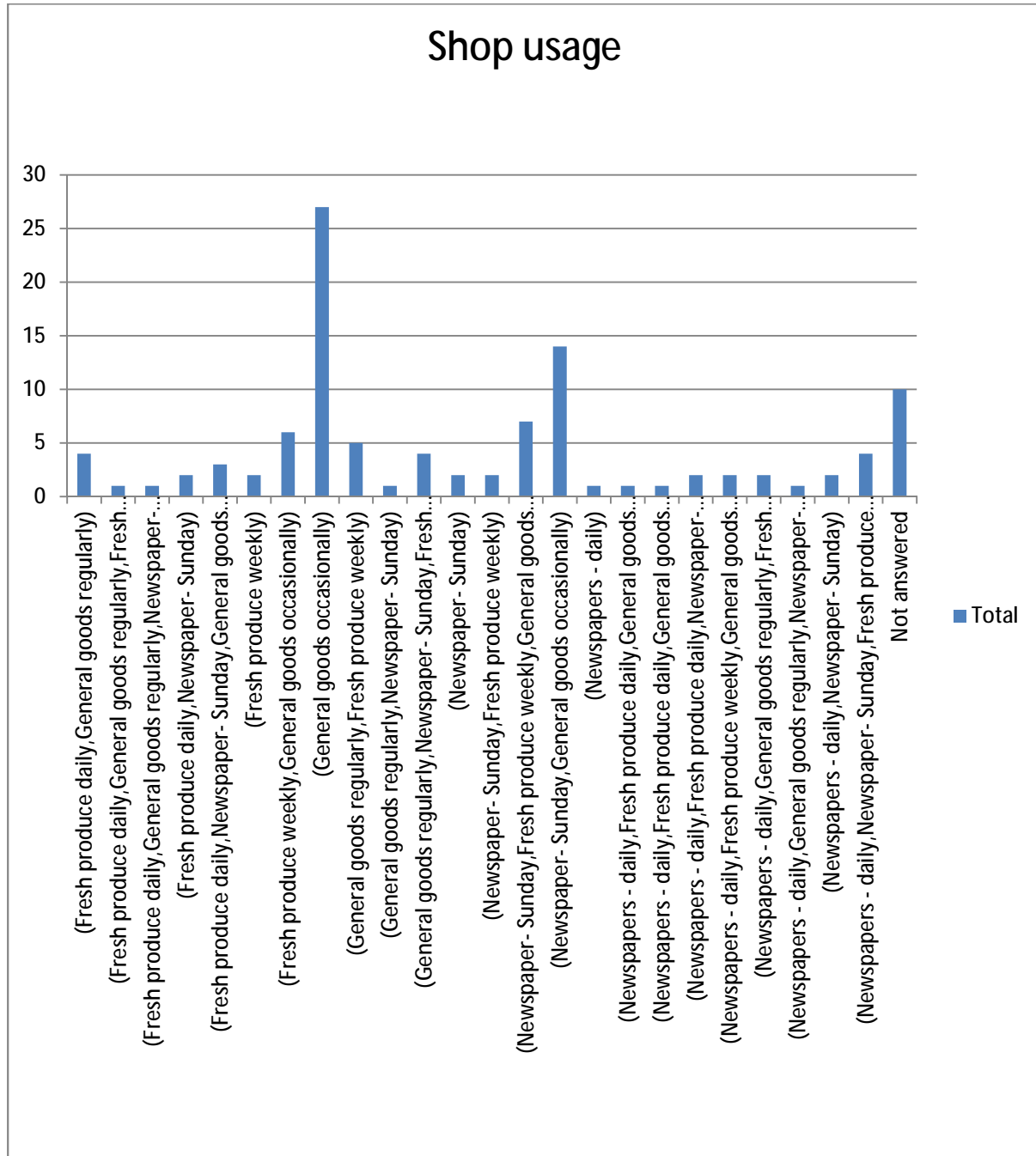


Question 3: How do you rate the following in the Village?

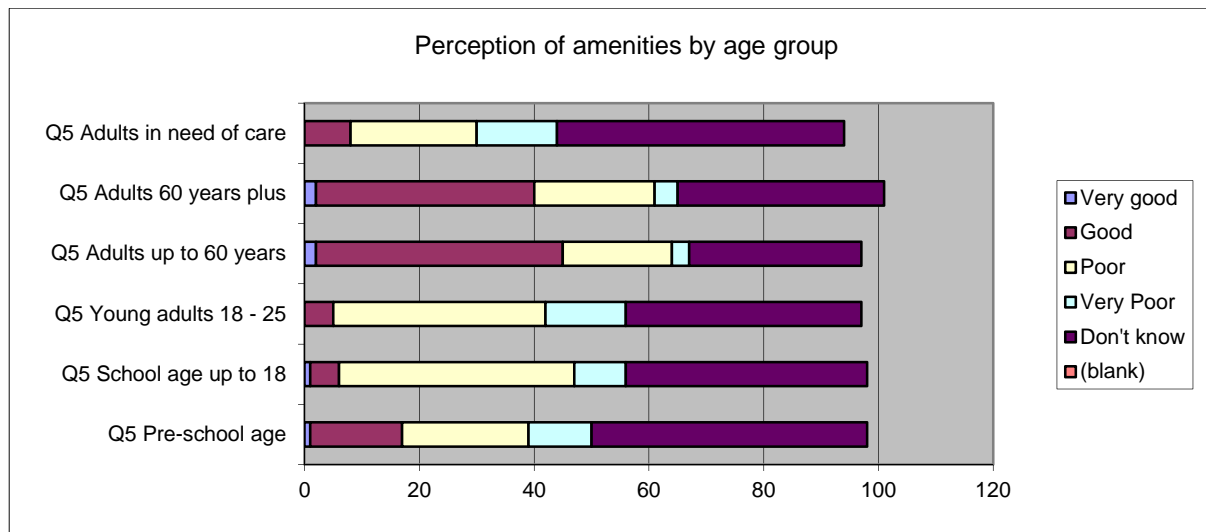


Question 4: There is currently no shop in the village. Please rate how important or unimportant it is to have a general shop if it were possible to provide one. If you rated this as very important or somewhat important, where do you think would be the best location for a general shop?

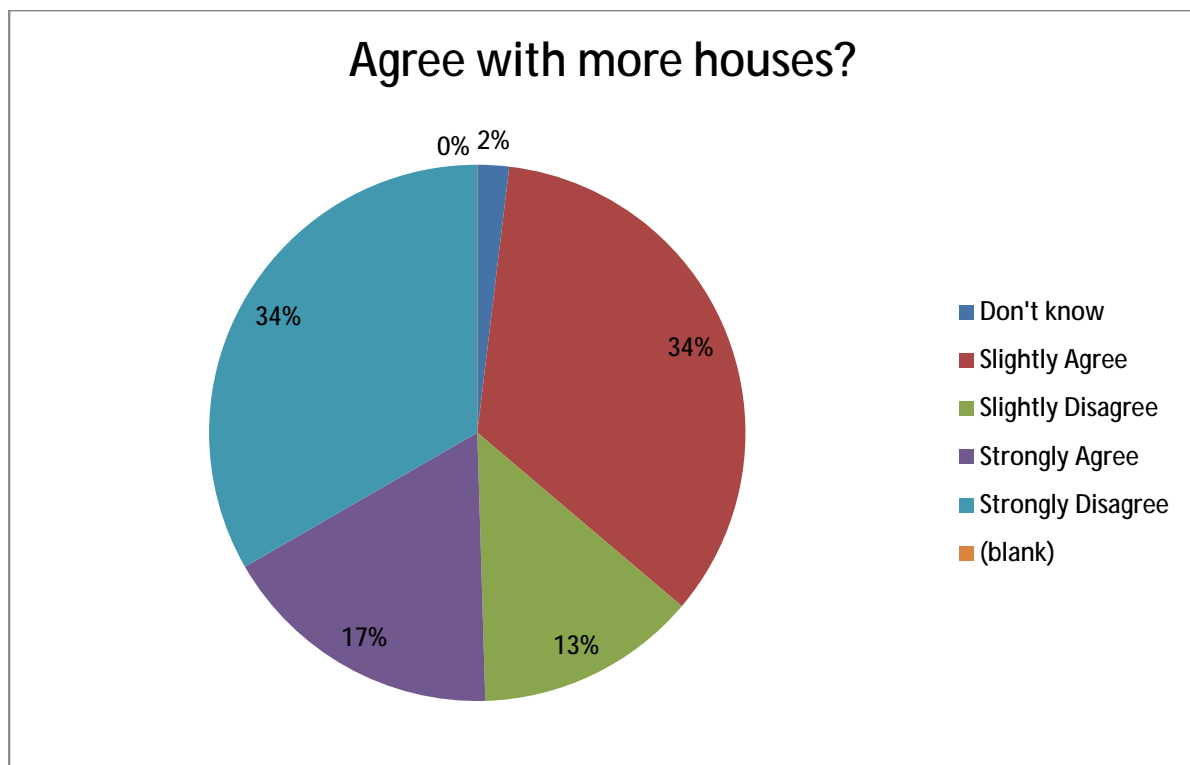




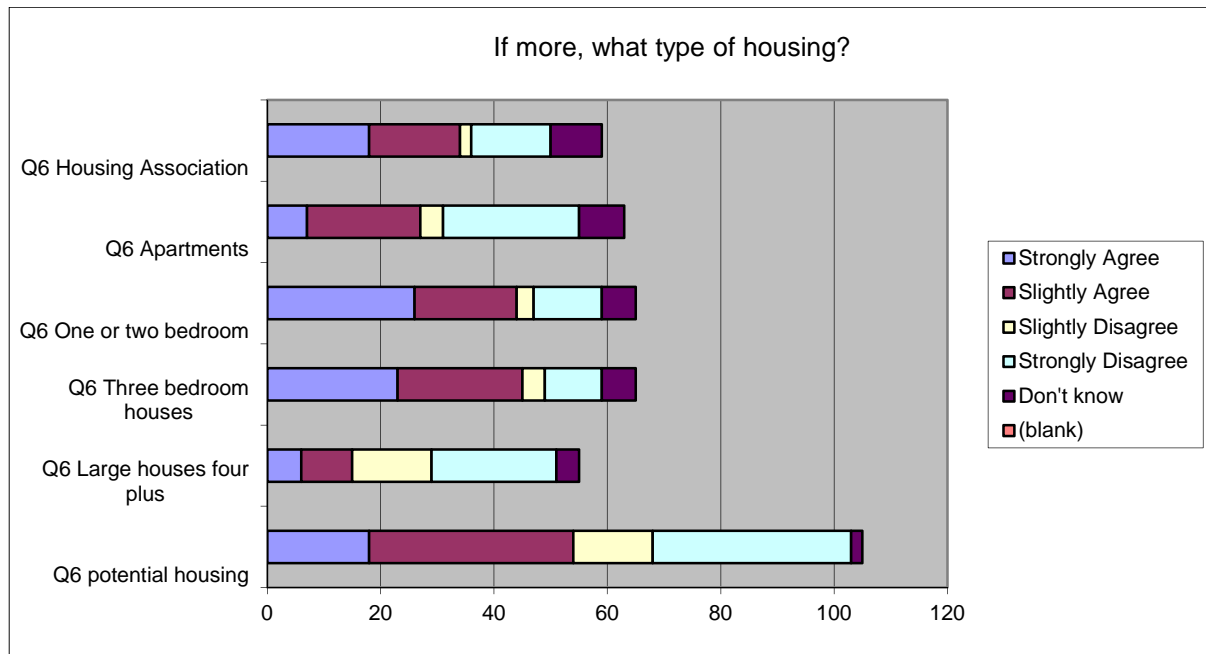
Question 5: Please rate the availability of amenities to meet the needs of all age groups within the village.



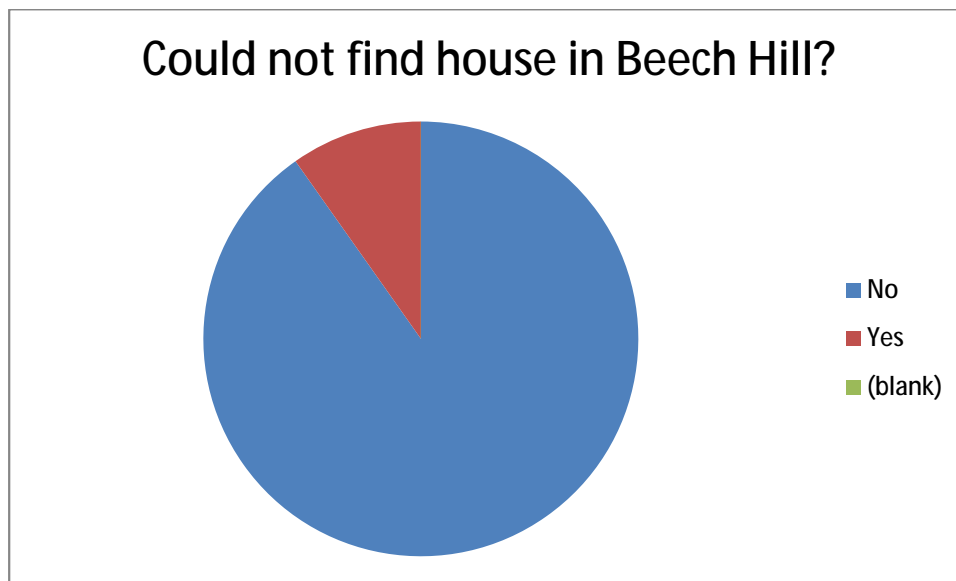
Question 6: Please state your opinion on potential housing development in the Village. If you believe there should be more housing built in the Village, please specify what type of development you think is needed. Do you know of a friend or relative who has been unable to move into Beech Hill in the last three years due to lack of suitable accommodation? If you believe there should be more housing built in the Village, how many units of housing would in your view be adequate?



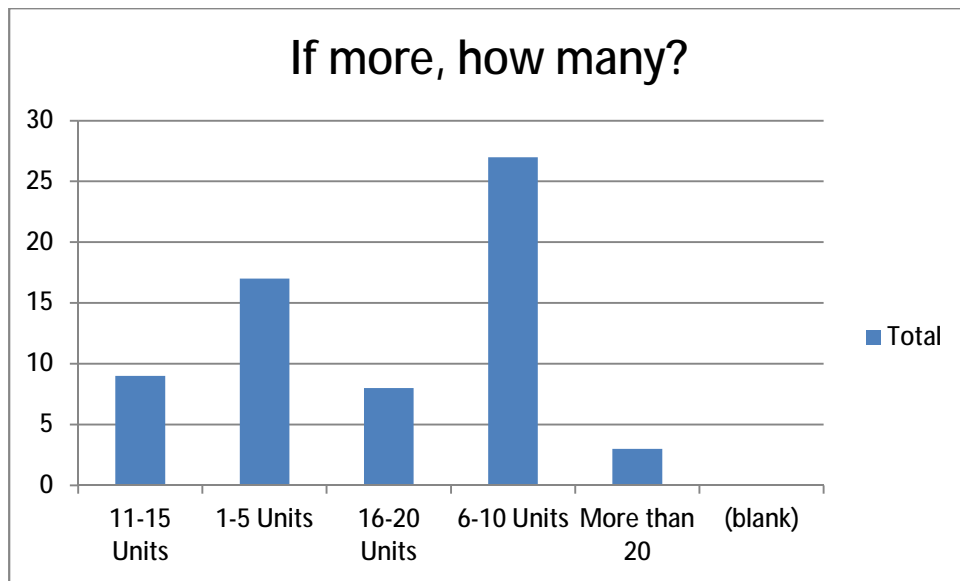
Question 7: If you believe that there should be more development what type of houses are needed?



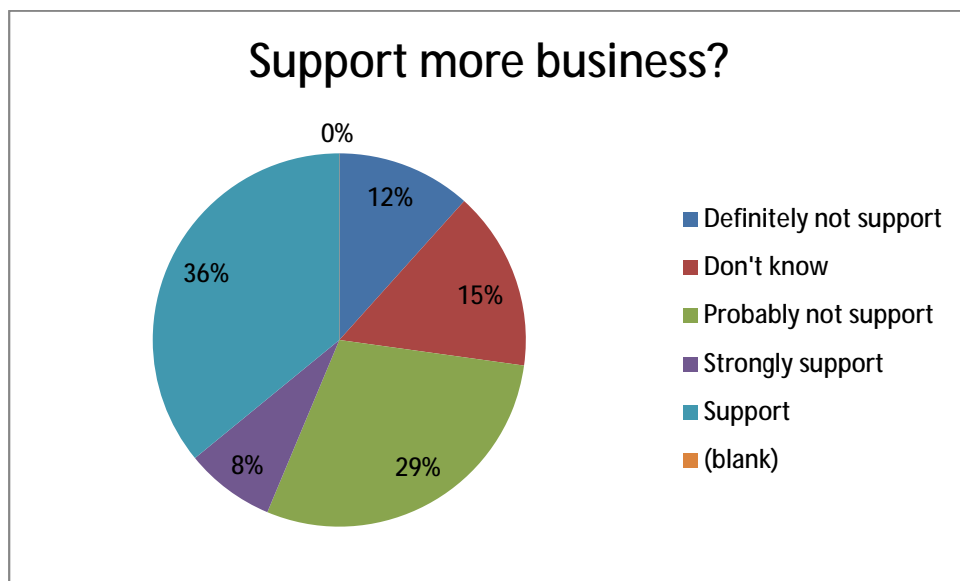
Question 8: Do you know of a friend or relative who has been unable to move into Beech Hill in the last three years due to lack of suitable accommodation?



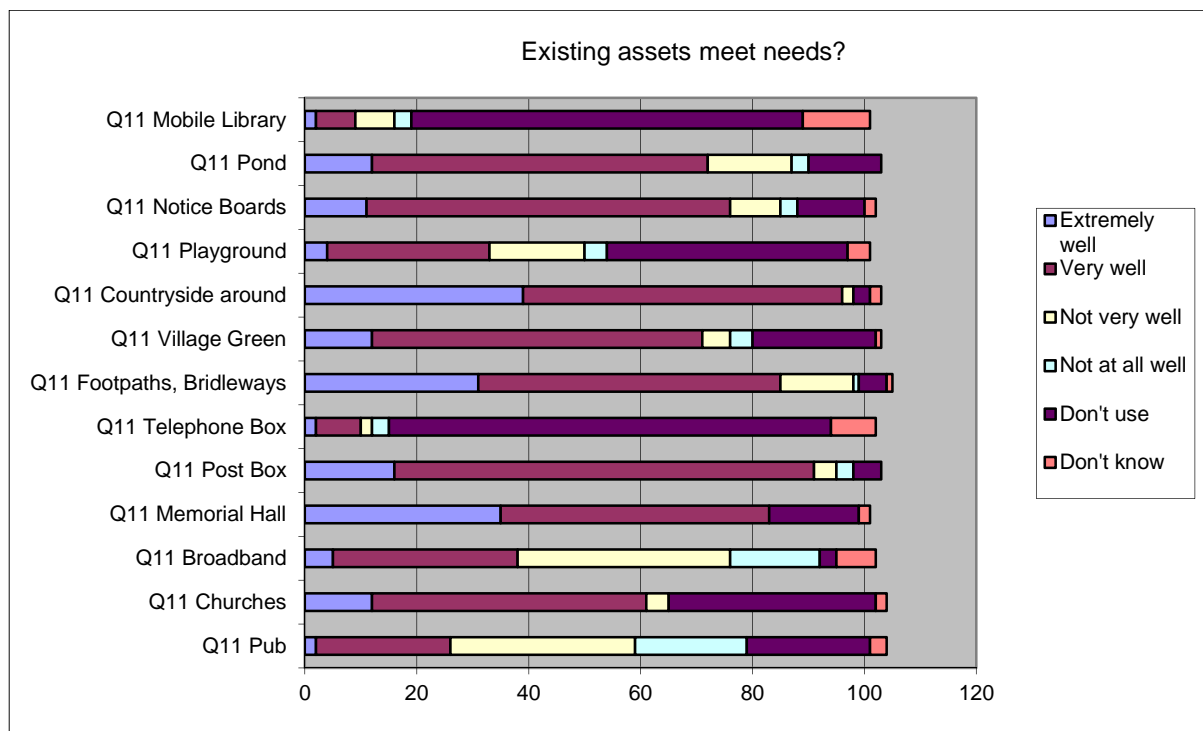
Question 9: If you believe there should be more housing built in the Village, how many units of housing would in your view be adequate?



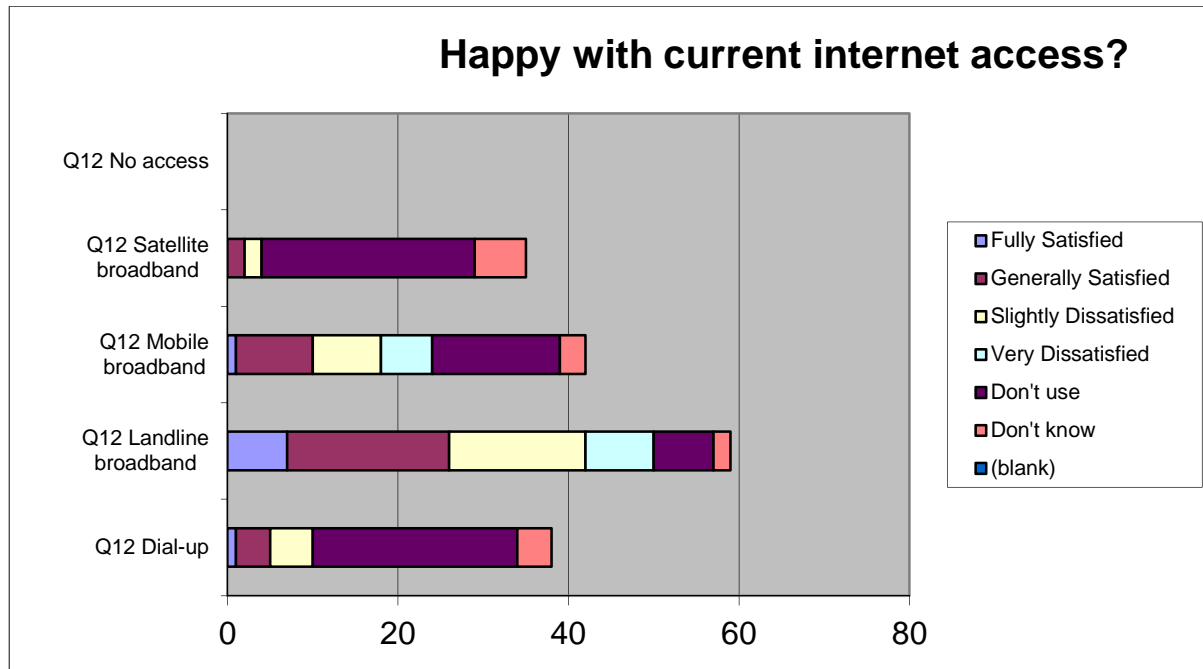
Question 10: Would you support or not support the physical expansion of local businesses and commercial activity within the Parish?



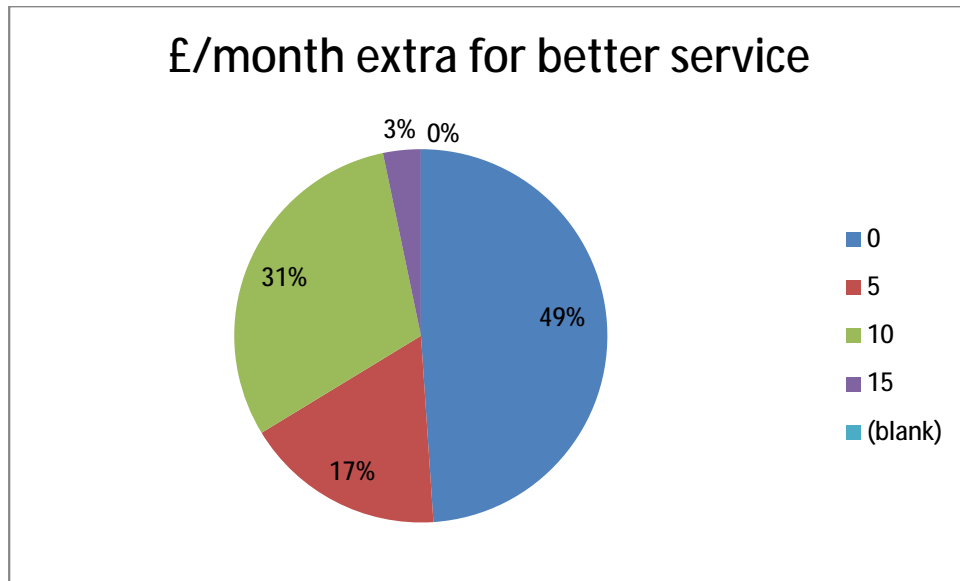
Question 11: How well do the following existing village amenities meet your needs?



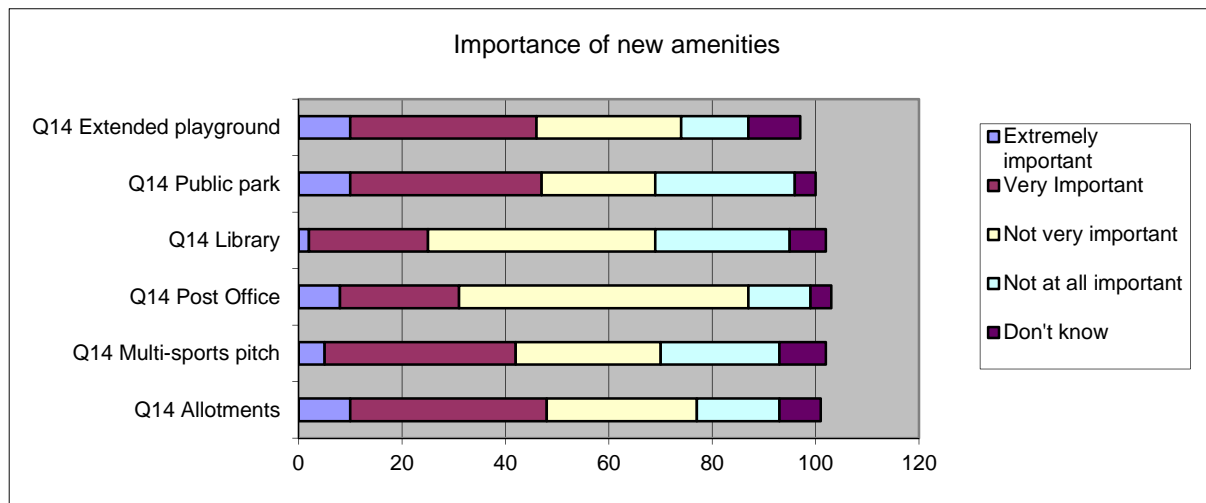
Question 12: Do you have internet access at home and are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the current level of service?



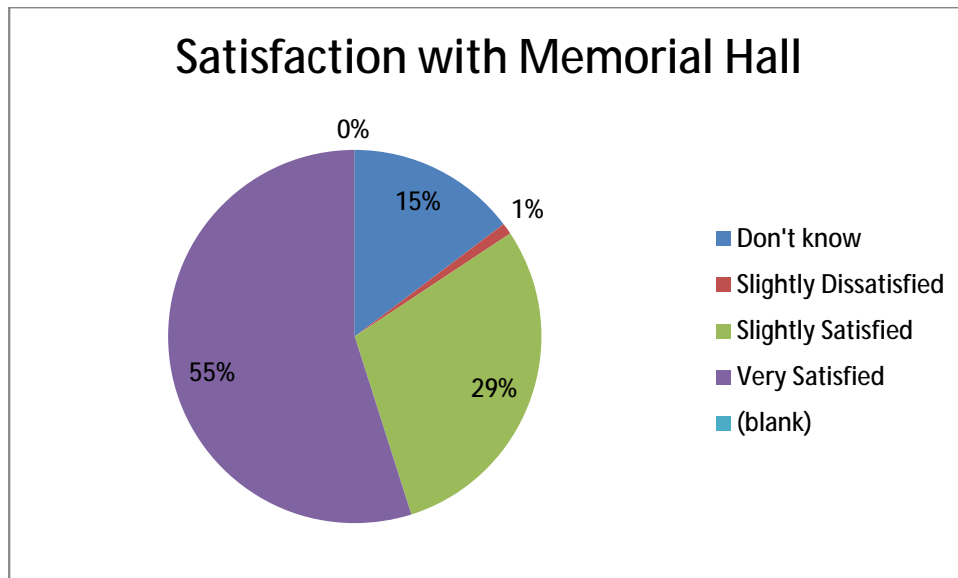
Question 13: If you would like fibre optic level broadband speed how much extra per month would you be prepared to pay?



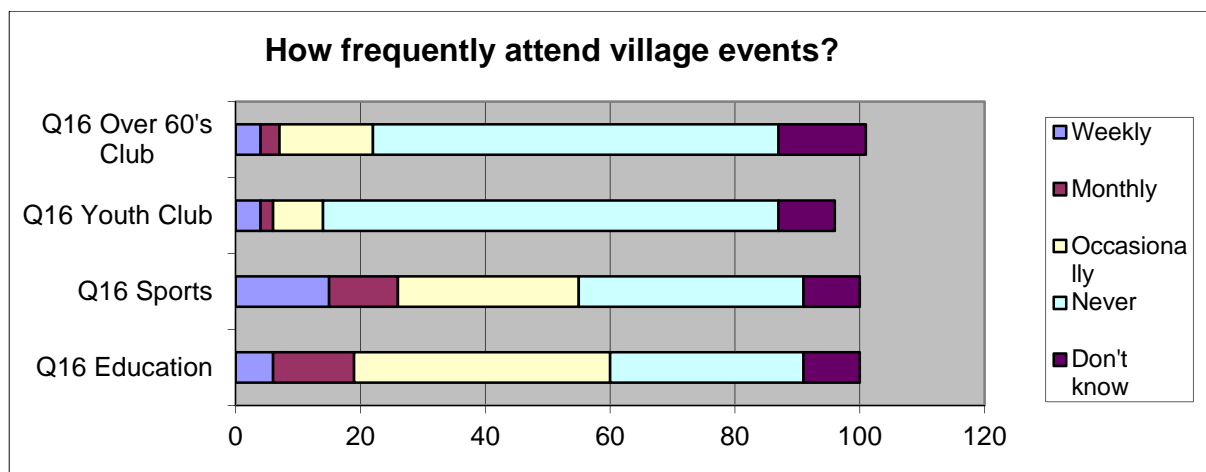
Question 14 – How much would you value the following village amenities if they could be made available?



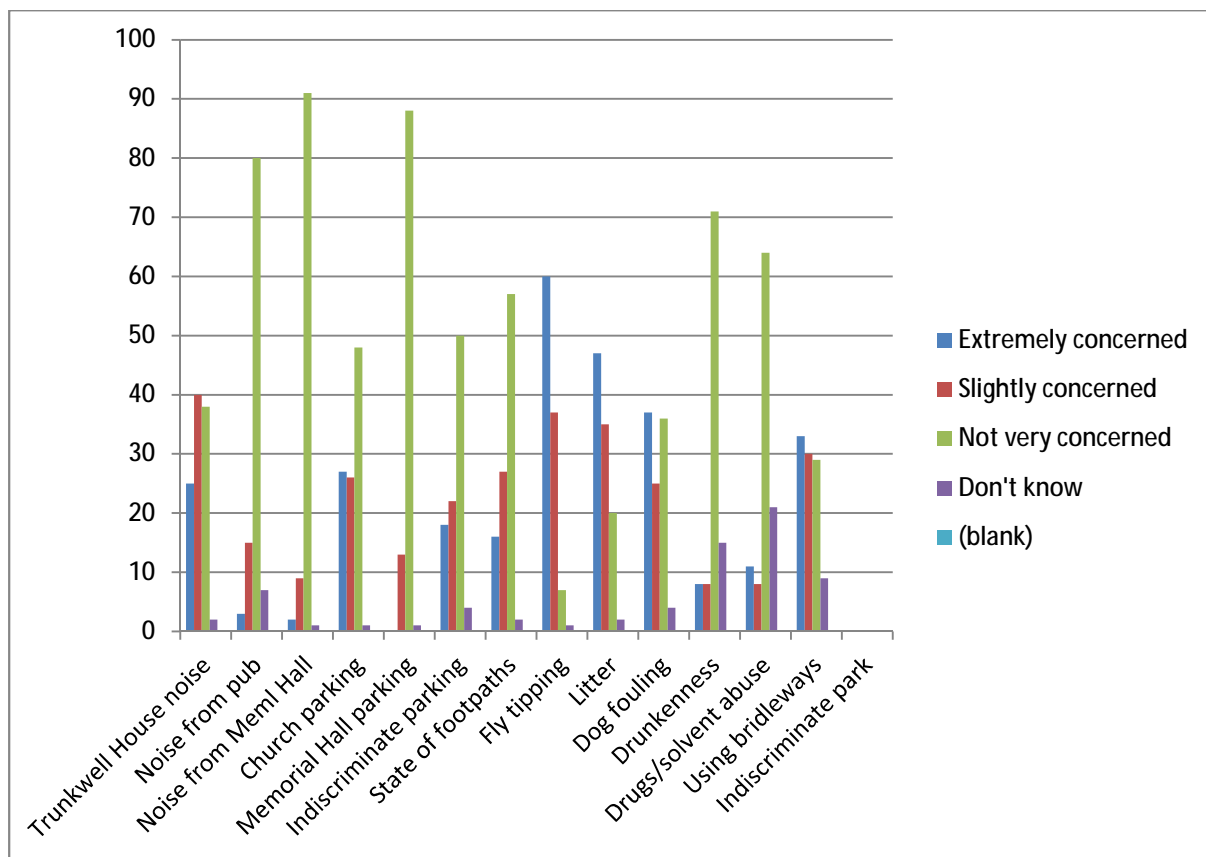
Question 15: How happy or unhappy are you with the current use of the Memorial Hall?



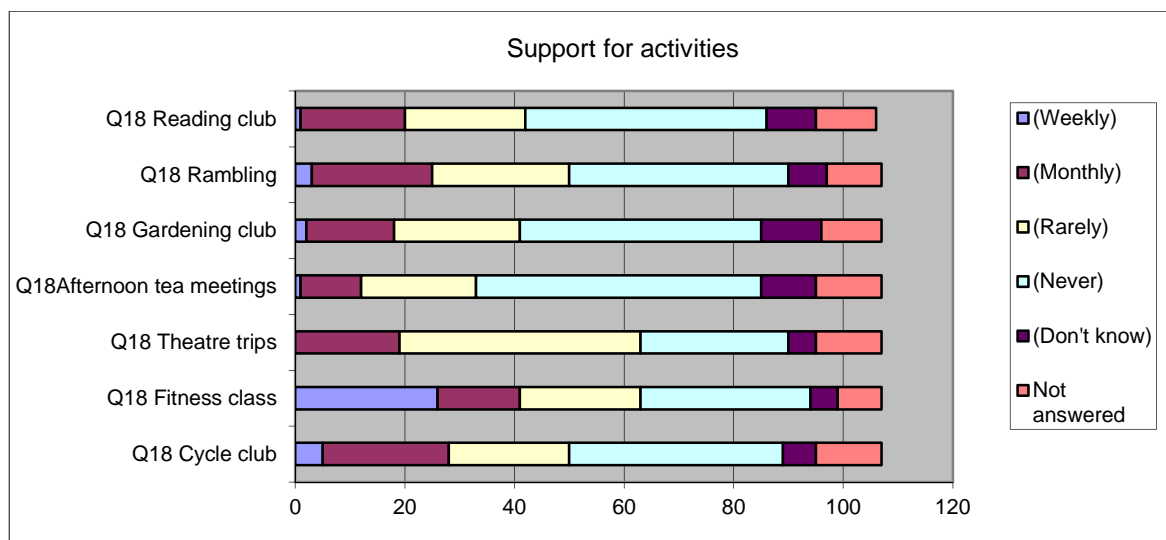
Question 16: How frequently would you attend village events such as the following?



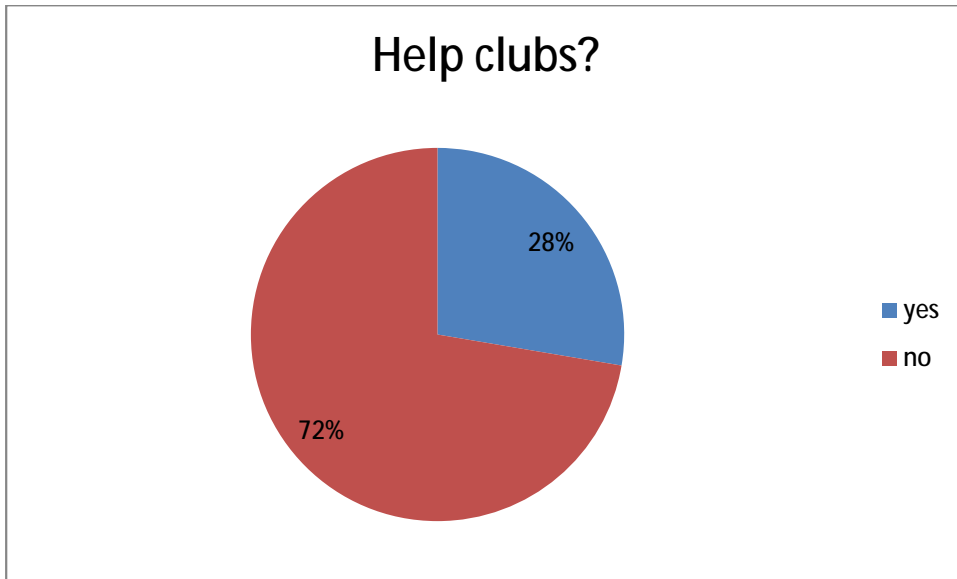
Question 17: Please indicate your concern or lack of concern about the following.



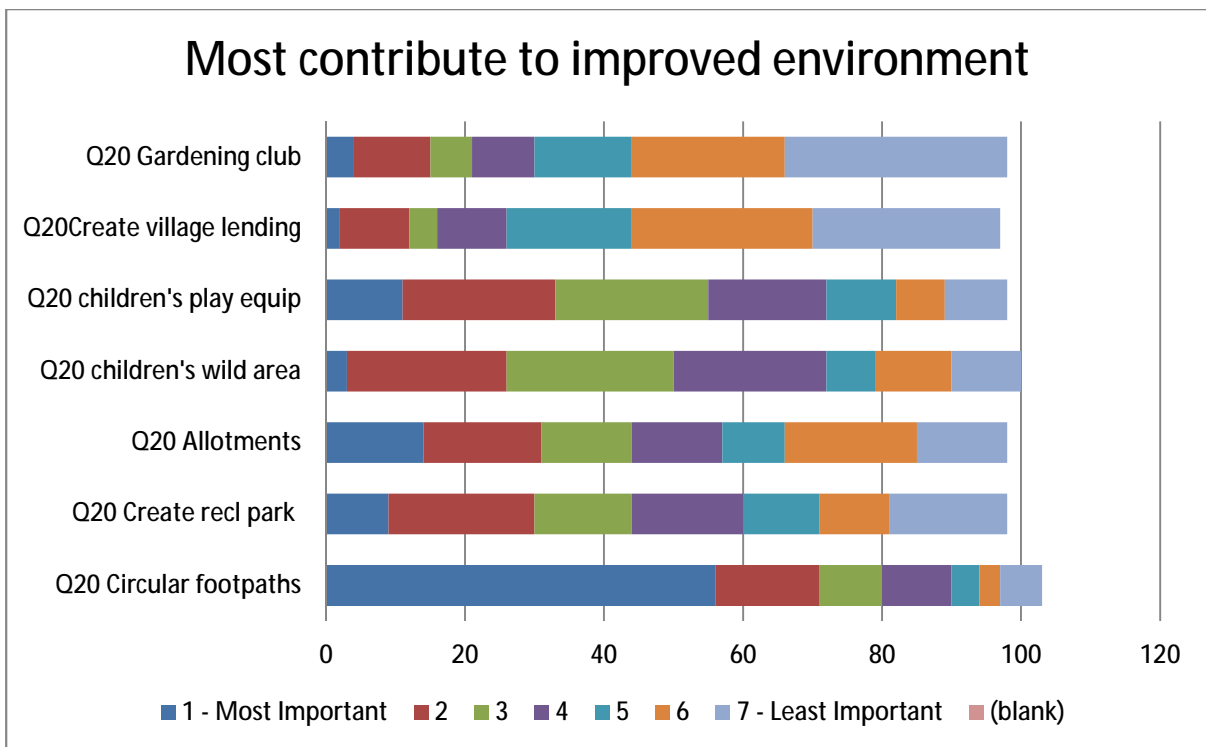
Question 18: Which of the following existing/potential organised activities would you support?



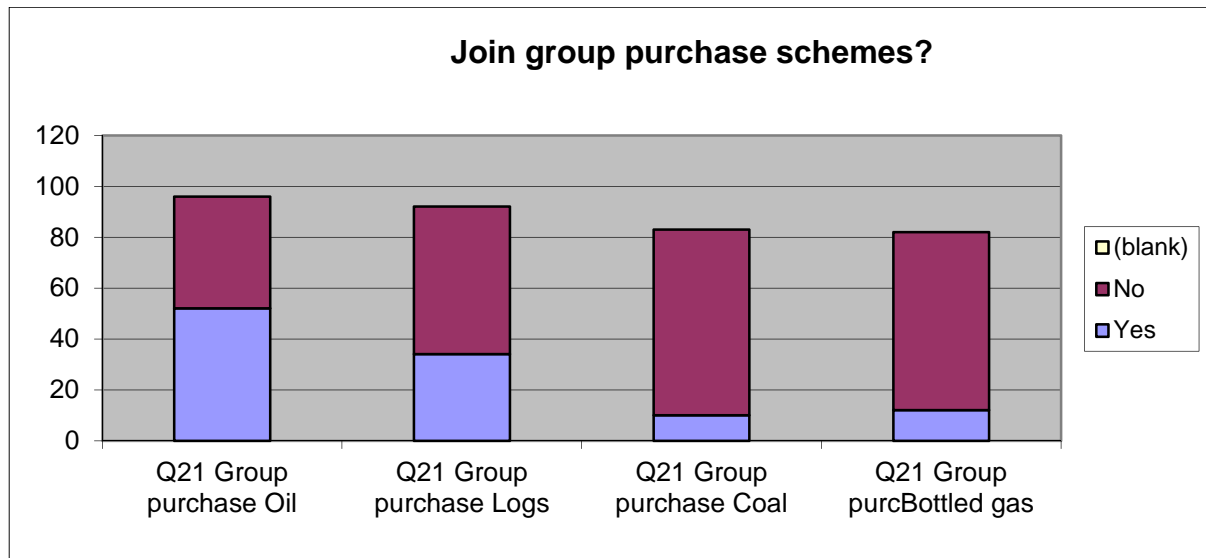
Question 19: Are you willing to help with clubs that meet your needs?



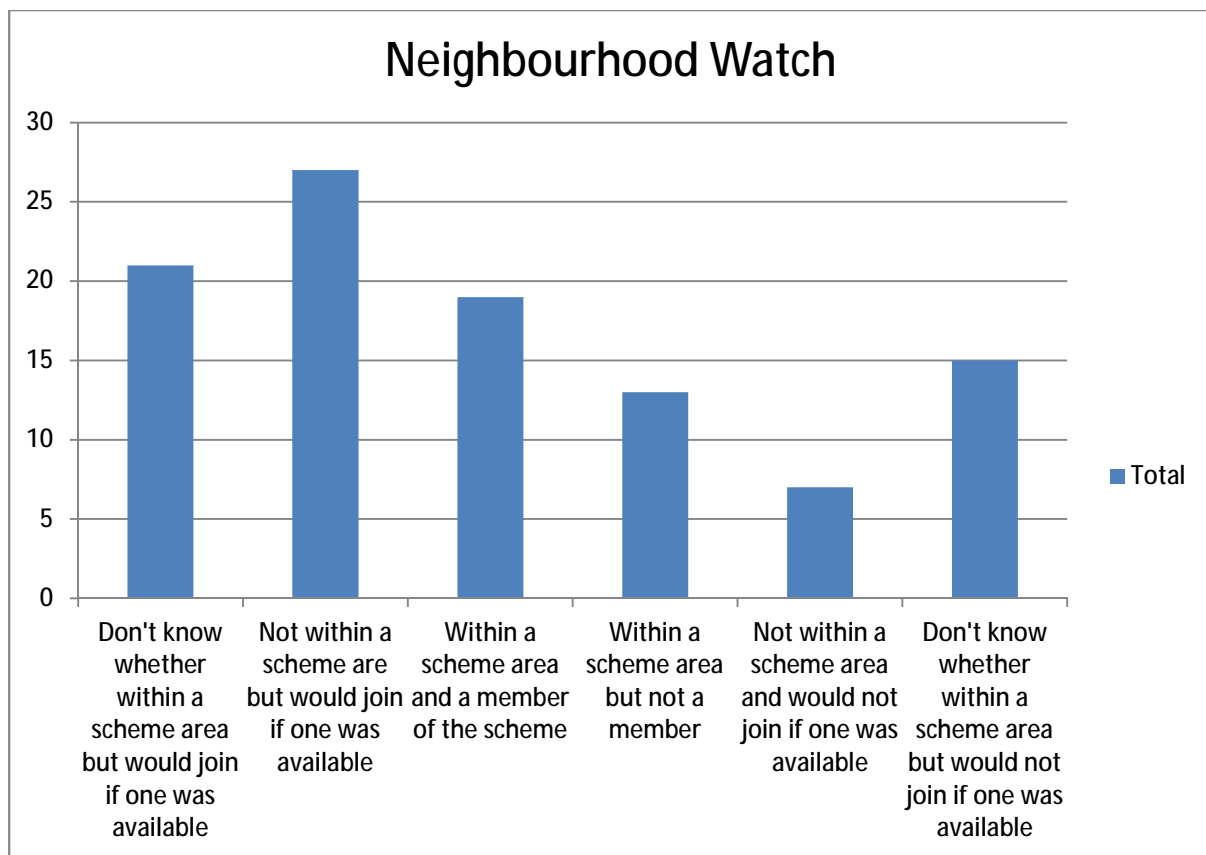
Question 20: Which of the following would most contribute to an improved environment?



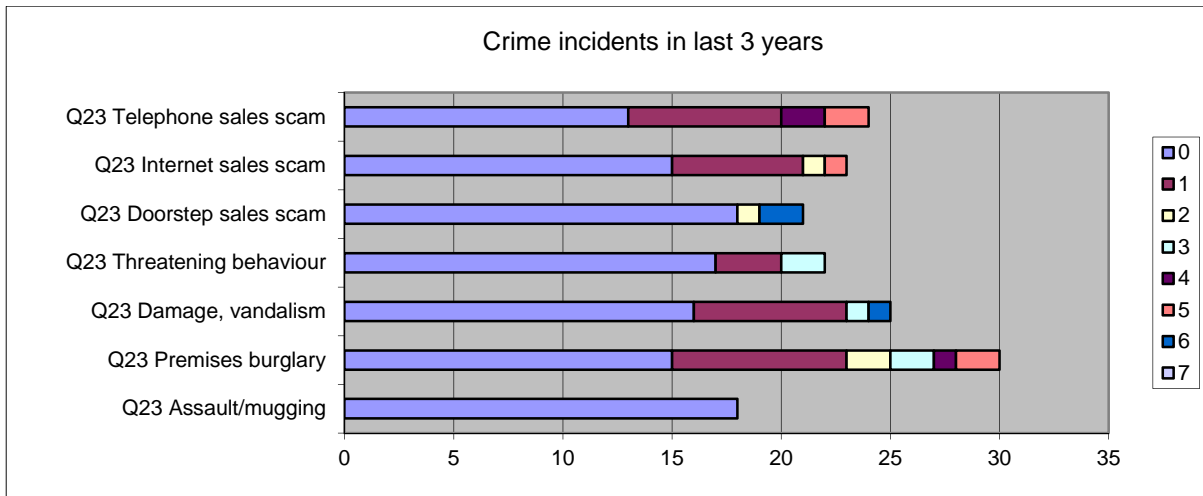
Question 21: Would you participate in any of the following group purchasing schemes if available?



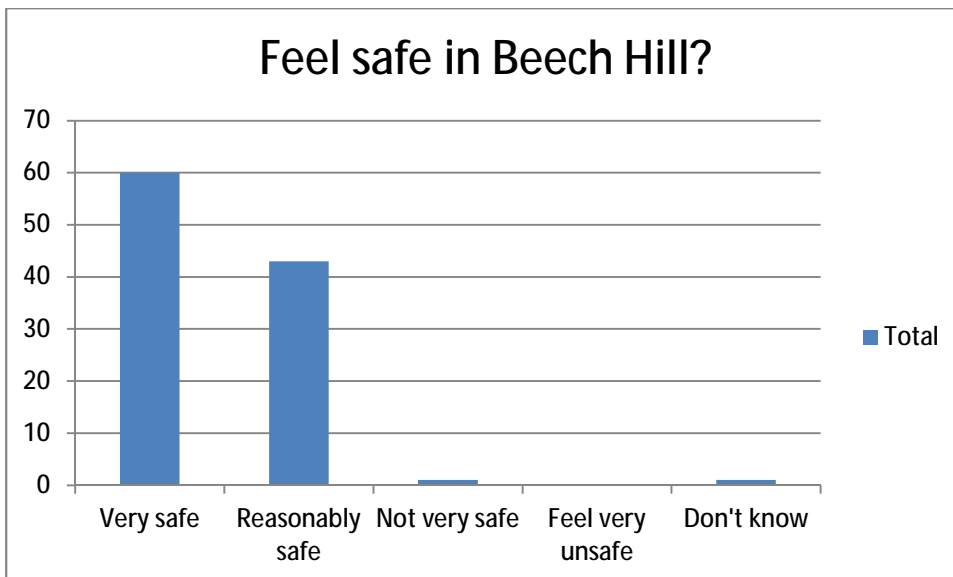
Question 22: Neighbourhood Watch membership



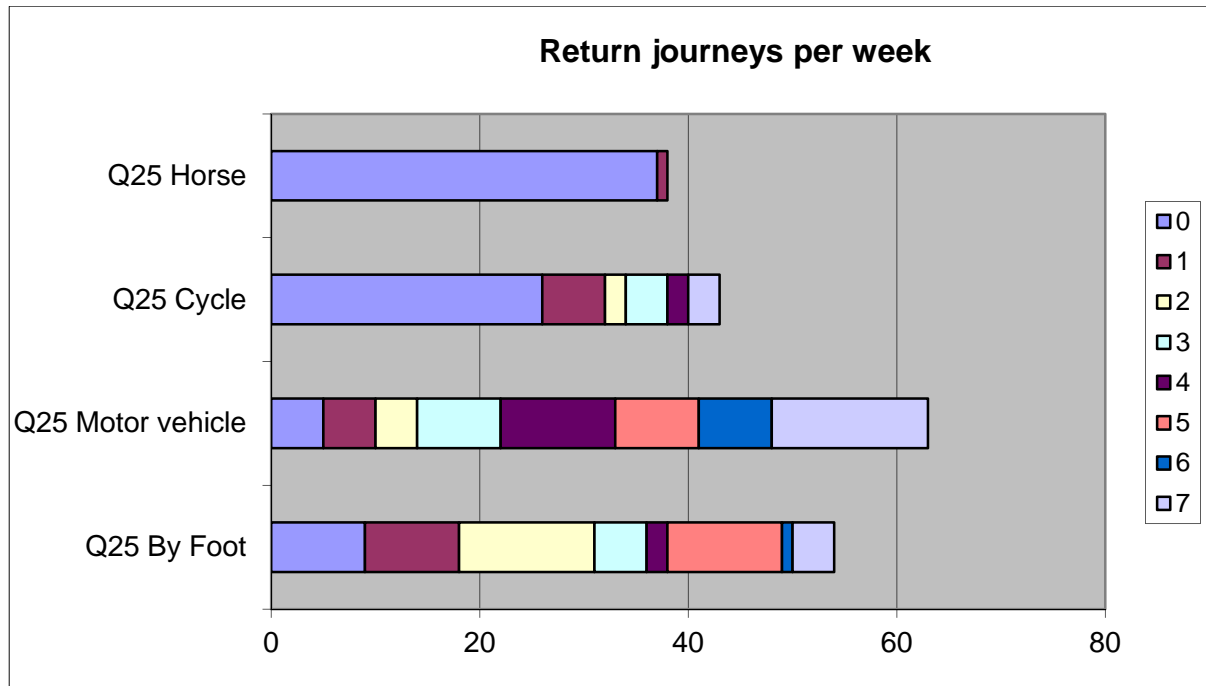
Question 23: Have you been the victim of any crime within the Village (other than motor accident) in the last three years?



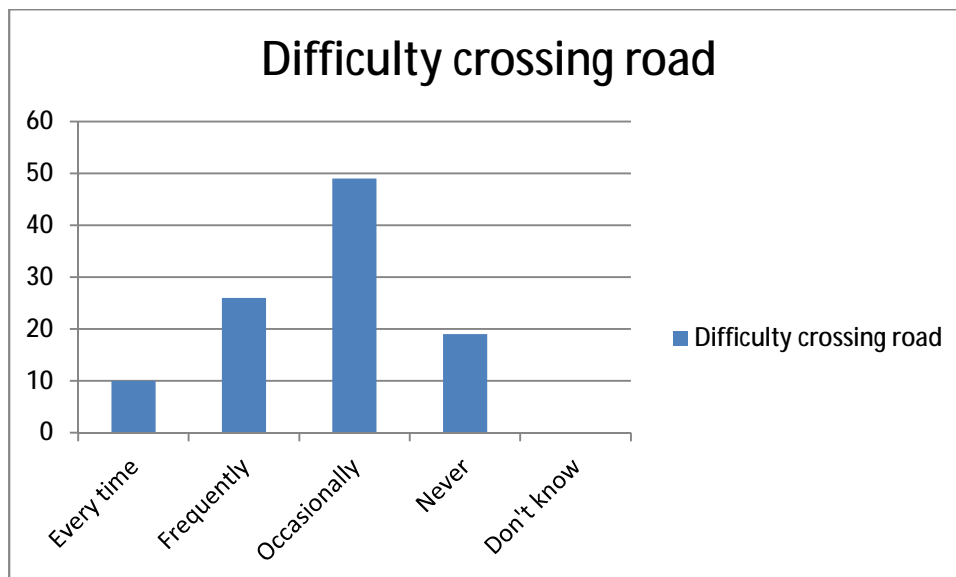
Question 24: How safe do you feel in Beech Hill?



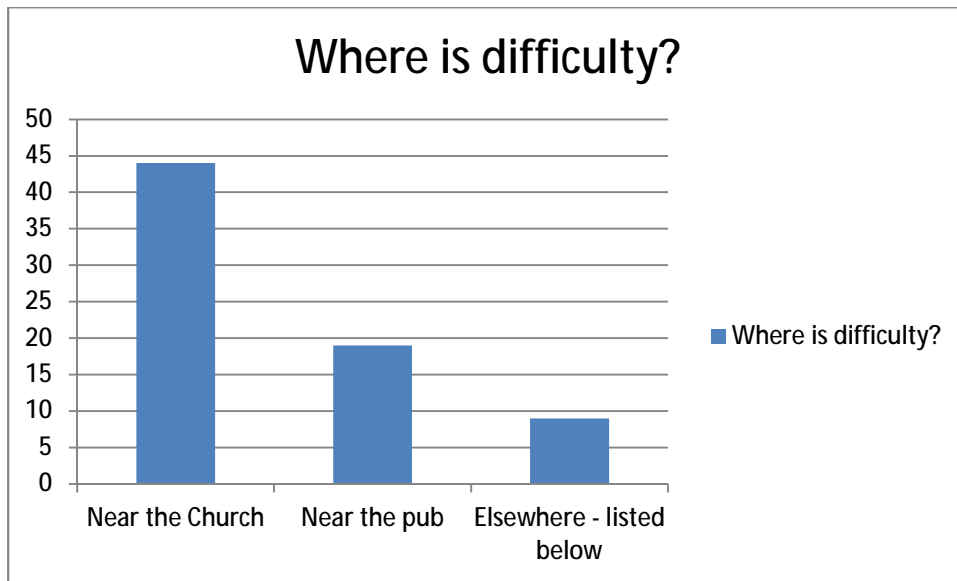
Question 25: Considering only the journeys that you make within Beech Hill or to neighbouring villages, please state how many journeys per week you make in the following categories.



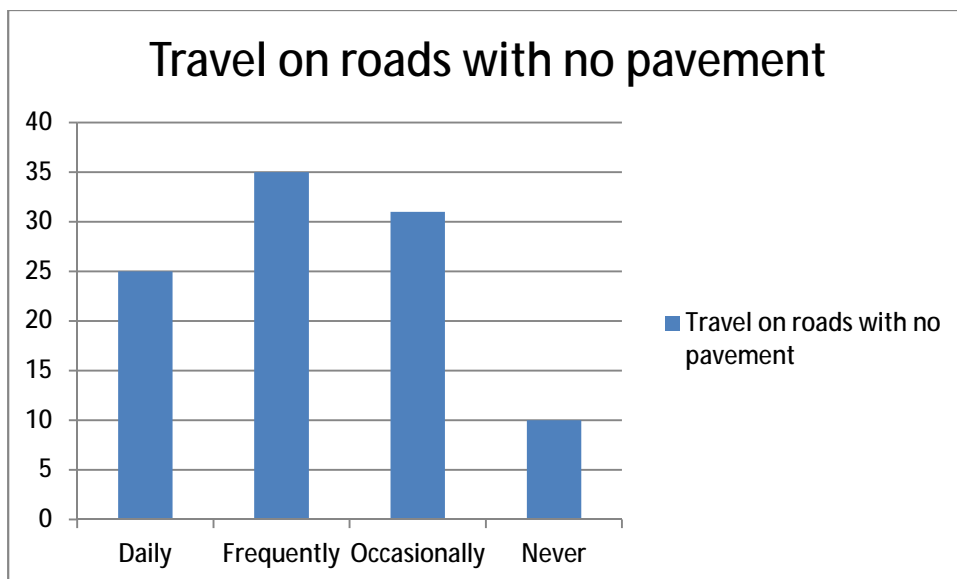
Question 26: Have you experienced any difficulties in crossing the road or pulling onto a road?



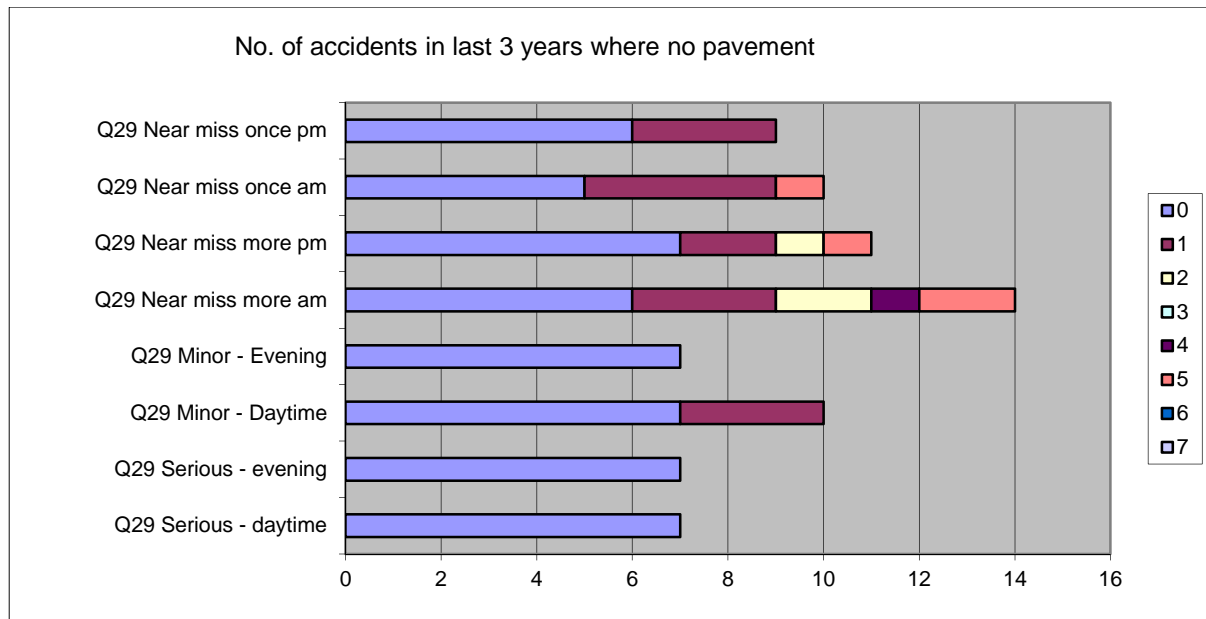
Question 27: Where do you have difficulty in crossing the road?



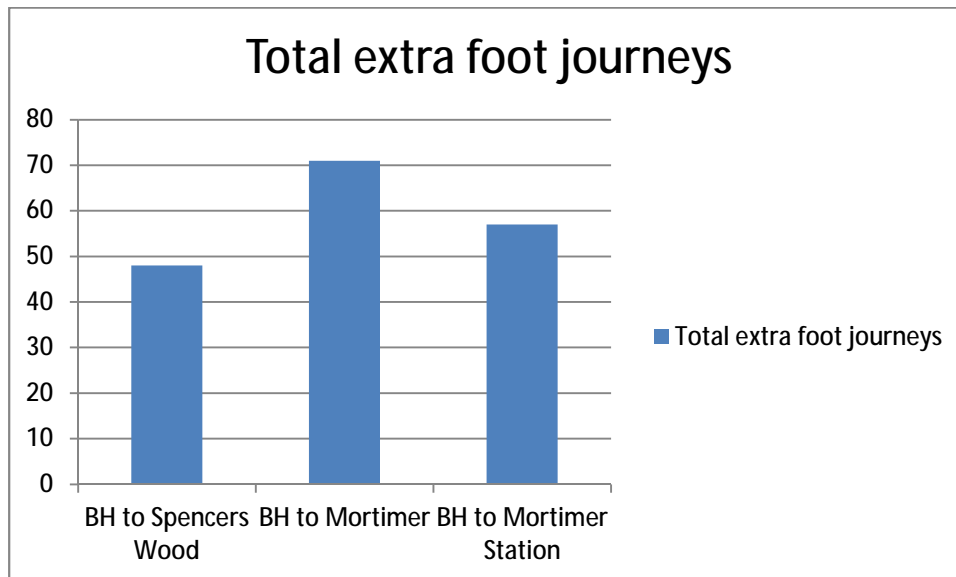
Question 28: Do you travel along roads where there is no pavement?



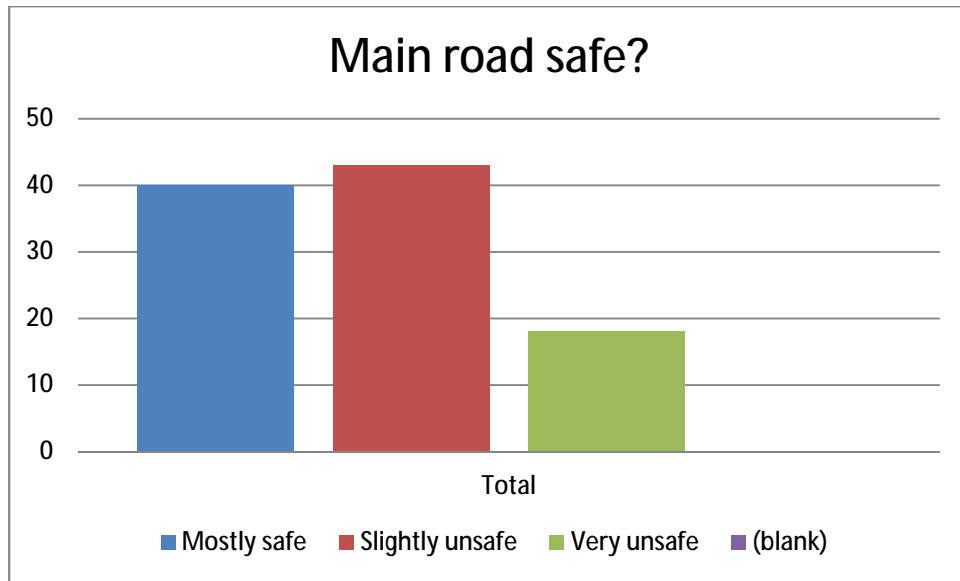
Question 29: If you do travel along roads with no pavement, how many times have you been involved in an accident in the last three years?



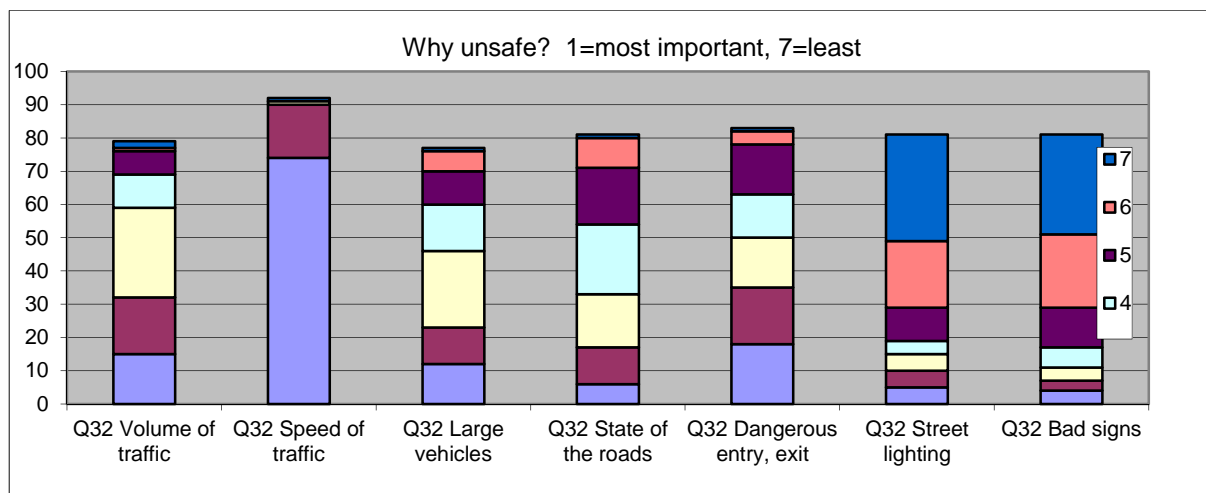
Question 30: If there are journeys that you do not make because there is no footpath, how many journeys per week would you make if a suitable path were made available?



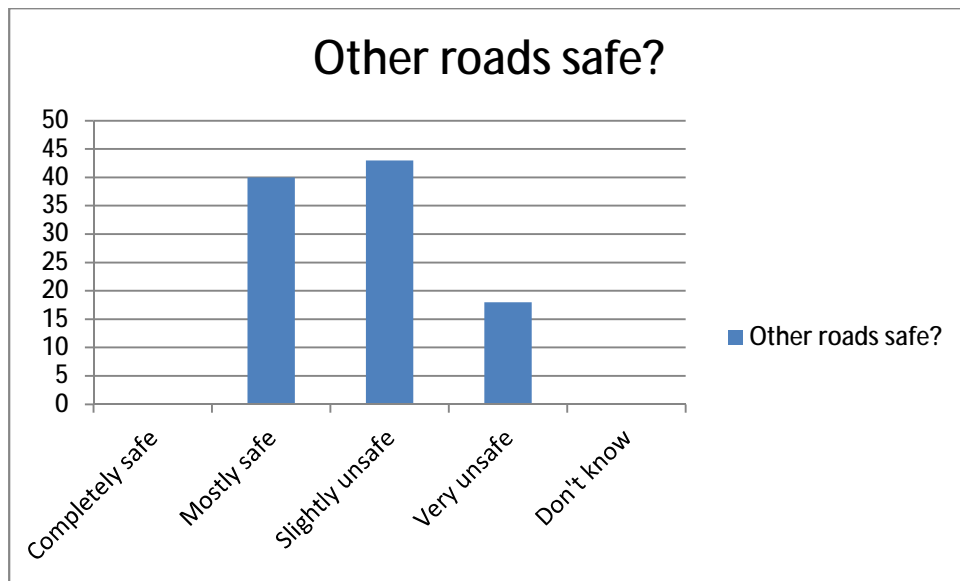
Question 31: Generally speaking, do you consider that the main road through Beech Hill is a safe or unsafe place to travel?



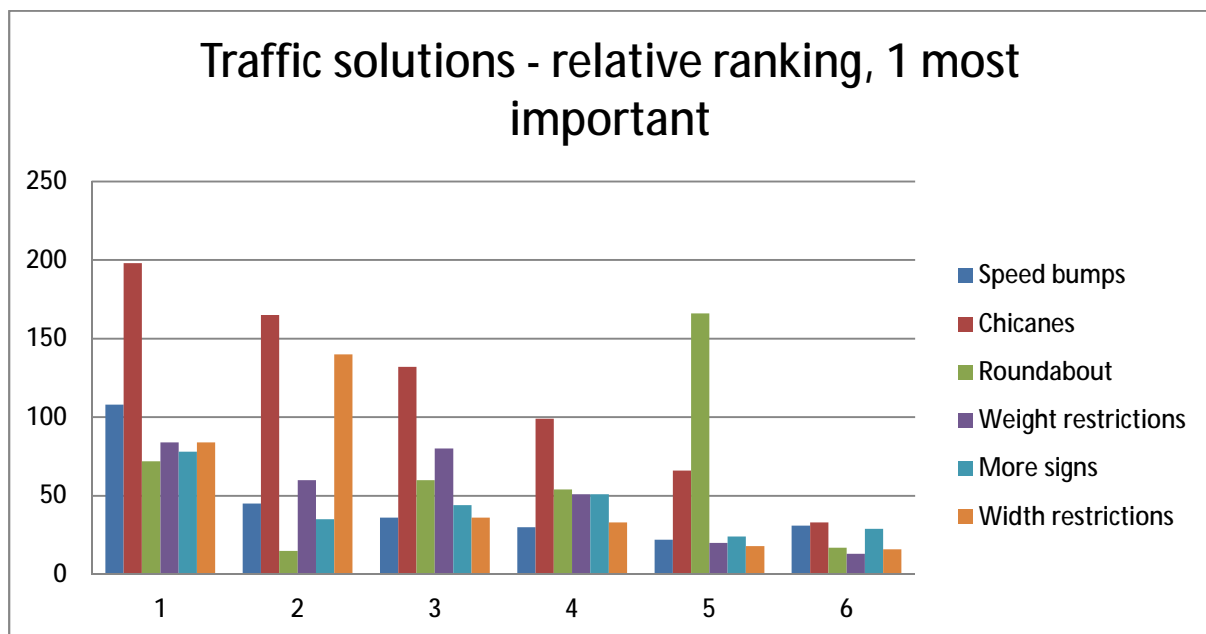
Question 32: If you consider it unsafe do you consider the risk is mainly due to:



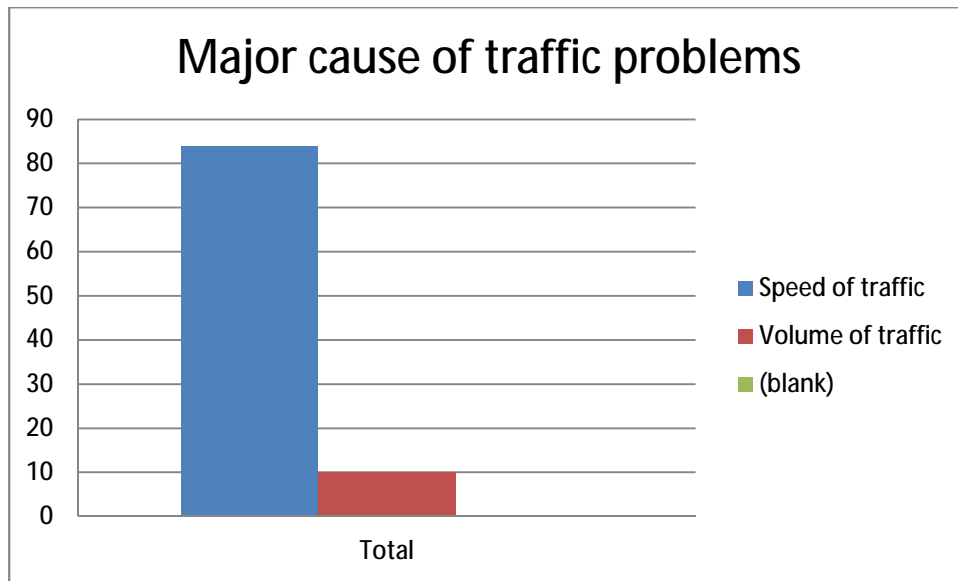
Question 33: Generally speaking, do you consider that other roads or pavements in Beech Hill are safe or unsafe places to travel?



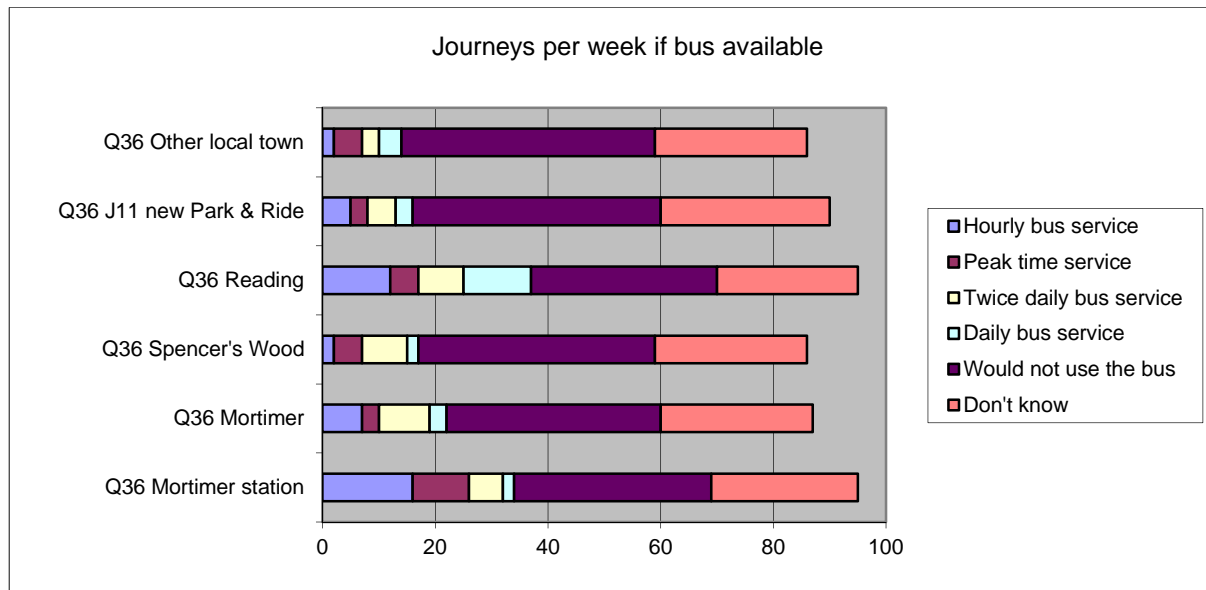
Question 34: If you consider that there are traffic issues, what would be your preferred solution to solving them?



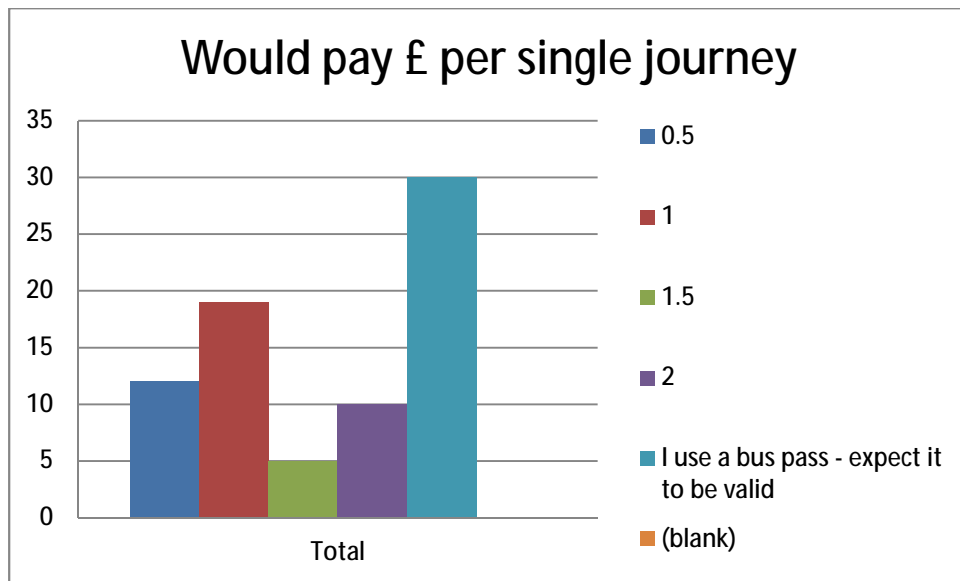
Question 35: If you consider that there are traffic issues, what is the chief cause?



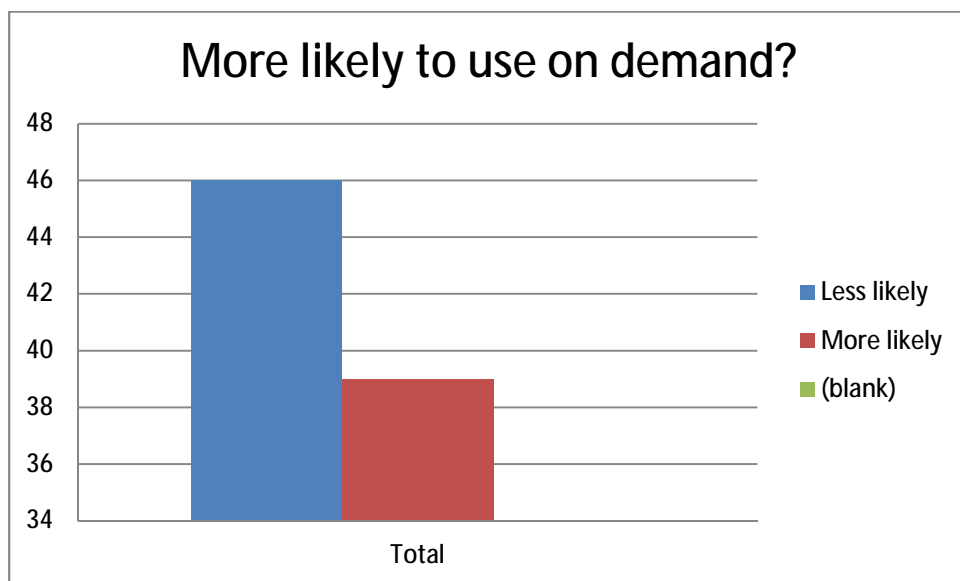
Question 36: Please state how many of the following journeys you would be likely to make in an average week if there were a bus service.



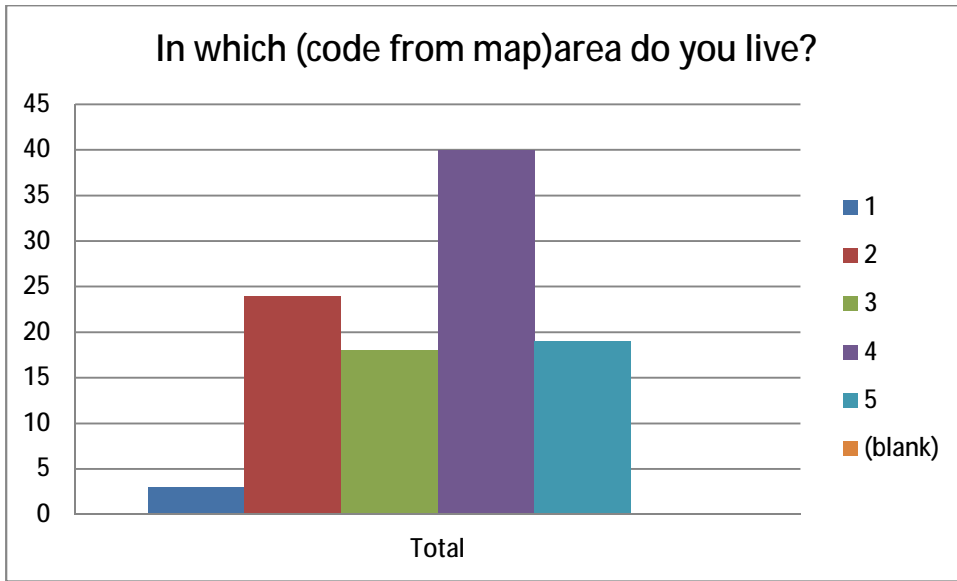
Question 37: How much would you be prepared to pay per single bus journey to a nearby village or station?



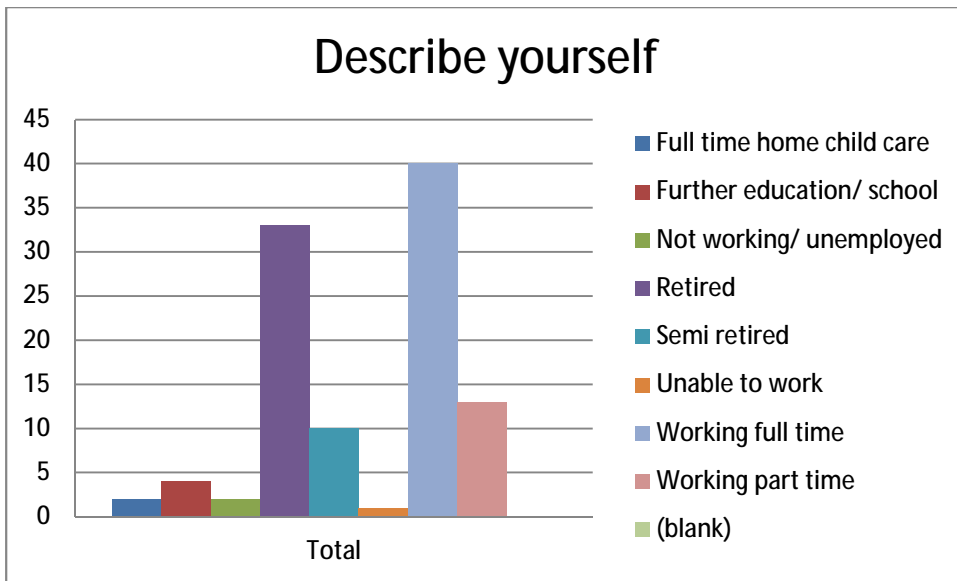
Question 38: If an on-demand bus service or car share club were available instead of the above bus routes would you be more or less likely to choose this option to replace personal car journeys?



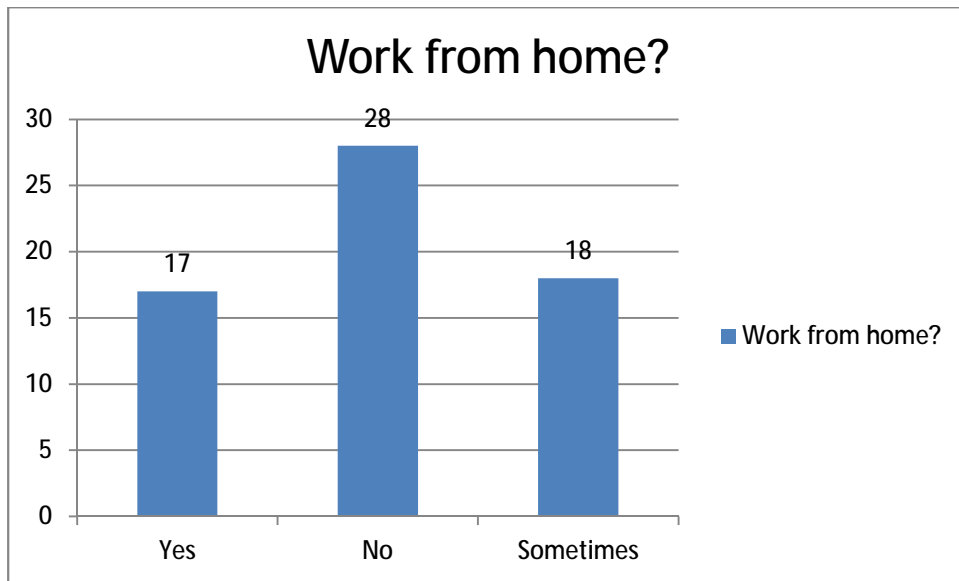
Question 39: In which area do you live?



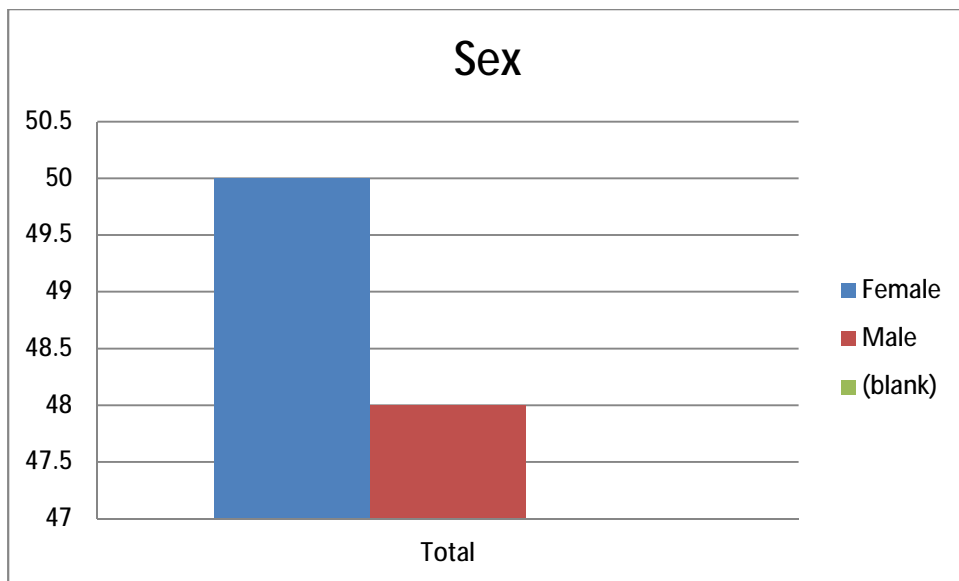
Question 40: Please describe yourself



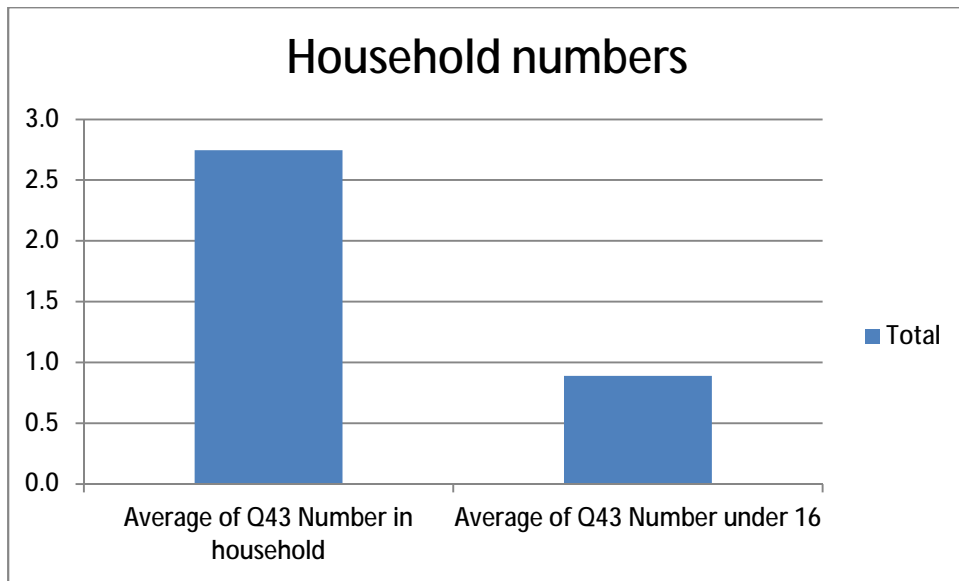
Question 41: Do you work from home?



Question 42: Are you male or female?



Question 43: How many per household?



Appendix E

Full list of action items and importance ranking

Voting for top issues							
Vote at meeting 12 June 12 on top issues							
Question	Yes	No	Category	Comment			
1		b	greener				
2		n	stronger				
3		b	prosperous				
4	y		stronger, prosperous	Village shop - wait for planning outcome			
5		n	stronger				
6	y		prosperous, greener	Housing			
7		see 6	prosperous, greener				
8		see 6	prosperous, greener				
9		see 6	prosperous, greener				
10		n	prosperous				
11		n	stronger				
12		n	prosperous, stronger	*			
13		see 12	prosperous, stronger				
14	y		stronger	Facilities			
15		b	stronger				
16		n	stronger				
17	y		stronger	Concerns			
18		n	stronger				
19		n	stronger				
20	y		greener, stronger, healthy	Facilities			
21		n	prosperous				
22		n	safer				
23		n	safer				
24		n	safer				
25		see 28	safer				
26		see 28	safer				
27		see 28	safer				
28	y		safer	Improve road safety			
29		see 28	greener, safer, healthy				
30		n	greener, safer, healthy				
31		see 34	safer				
32		see 34	safer				
33		see 34	safer				
34	y		safer	Reduce speeding			
35		see 34	safer				
36		n	greener				
37		n	greener				
38		n	greener				
39		b	greener				
40		b	stronger				
41		b	stronger				
42		b	stronger				

Appendix F

Other issues commented on

Since it was not possible to cover every possible topic in the survey there was plenty of opportunity to add comments. Below is a summary of the main comments that were made where action is needed. The Committee wishes to thank those who made the effort to express their feelings on particular points.

- Dog fouling on village green unacceptable. *To be addressed in Planning & Environment.*
- Issue with Spiritualist use of Memorial Hall. *Refer to Memorial Hall Committee.*
- More bridleways wanted. *To be addressed in Community & Social.*
- Good questionnaire.
- Poor facilities at pub, especially for children. *To be addressed in Community & Social.*
- Want Beech Hill to remain a backwater
- Good village – just needs more people to support it. *To be addressed in Community & Social.*
- Thank you to the Plan committee for a good effort
- Route external buses through Beech Hill. *To be addressed in Transport.*
- Made to feel like outsiders – very unhappy. *To be addressed in Community & Social.*
- Allotment area should be restored to village. *To be addressed in Community & Social.*
- Would love to be able to walk alongside Loddon. *To be addressed in Community & Social.*
- Noise from Trunkwell and Memorial Hall an issue. *To be addressed in Community & Social.*

Finally – a big thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts to the Plan and to the team who spent many hours of their own time analysing the results and producing this document. We should also point out that the Plan is an evolving one and that many of the actions here are to carry out further investigations prior to action being taken. Progress on all areas will be reported through the Village web site. There will be a contact area published so that villagers can continue to send suggestions and comments.