



Stoke St Gregory Community Plan 2023 | Our Vision for the Future of Our Village

Survey Analysis Report

Introduction

Stoke St Gregory is a lively rural village of approximately 1,000 inhabitants, lying between Curry Moor and the River Tone to the north-west, and West Sedgemoor to the south-east. Dairy farming forms the main industry, while a small number of businesses continue with growing and basket making, which used to be the major industry in the area. The village has a pre-school, primary school, two churches, a Village Hall and a community owned pub, cafe and shop.

The Somerset Levels and Moors form a very particular landscape. Artificially drained since the 12th century, they are rich in wildlife, particularly wading birds attracted by winter floods. All of the moors around Stoke St Gregory are Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and there is a network of footpaths open to the public.

Stoke St Gregory has a reputation for being a quiet yet energetic and friendly community with a lot going on.

A lot has changed since the first Village Plan was published in 2003. These changes bring both challenges and opportunities. Now it is time to recognise those changes, to embrace the challenges and to make the most of the opportunities. To do that, it is essential to have a plan of action we can all get behind.

The Community Plan:

- Demonstrates that the improvements that we want to make are based on a thorough appraisal of the Village's needs, and that they have the support of the local community.
- Sets out a common understanding of what needs to happen to make the village an even better place in which to live and work.
- Reflects the views of those who live, work or actively take part in village life.
- Hugely strengthens any case we make when trying to secure additional grants/funds to make further improvements to Stoke St Gregory because it will provide evidence of demand.

In essence, the Community Plan will be a statement of our joint intent: things that we think should be done. It will remain a wish-list without a lot of hard work and without funding.

Methodology

In July 2022, Stoke St Gregory Parish Council was invited by the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) and SCL to apply for a grant (in the form of training and expertise) to allow us to prepare a village plan. The Parish Council asked for members of the community to volunteer to join a Steering Group that would be representative of the community and ultimately responsible for delivering a plan. The response from the community was very



encouraging and gave the Parish Council the confidence to submit an application to SALC and Smart Communities Ltd to secure the grant to allow us to prepare a plan.

In August 2022, it was announced that Stoke St Gregory's application had been successful and the Steering Group was formally created.

The first task of the Steering Group was to invite suggestions on the themes that people would like to see included in the Community Plan (then the Village Plan) survey, via a social media poll and idea walls in the village shop from Wednesday 26th to Sunday 30th October.

The final topics for the survey were based on the most popular suggestions from the online poll and idea walls. SCL, which has provided ongoing professional guidance and training on the plan process, then issued a range of questions from their 'question bank' on the chosen topics.

The Steering Group collectively reviewed the questions and selected those questions deemed most suitable for the survey. A number of questions were adapted to ensure they were bespoke to Stoke St Gregory and additional questions around the themes of farming and culture were also included.

The survey was uploaded to SurveyMonkey by SCL. The survey went live on 28th November 2022 and closed on 1st January 2023. A number of paper copies were distributed to those in the village who had been identified by the Steering Group as being in need of a paper copy. Residents were also invited to leave a request for a hardcopy of the survey in the village shop.

The Steering Group held workshops from 10am – 12pm from Monday 28th November to Friday 2nd December in the village shop to answer any questions from residents and to provide assistance to those who required help to complete the survey.

A separate, focused consultation exercise was carried out with Stoke St Gregory Primary School. Members of the Steering Group met with the acting Head who agreed to support the plan process in a number of ways, including asking all children to provide their views on what they like about the village and what they would like to see in the village. These results have been incorporated into this Community Plan.

We had 385 responses to the survey and a further 54 responses to the separate consultation with pupils at Stoke St Gregory Primary School.



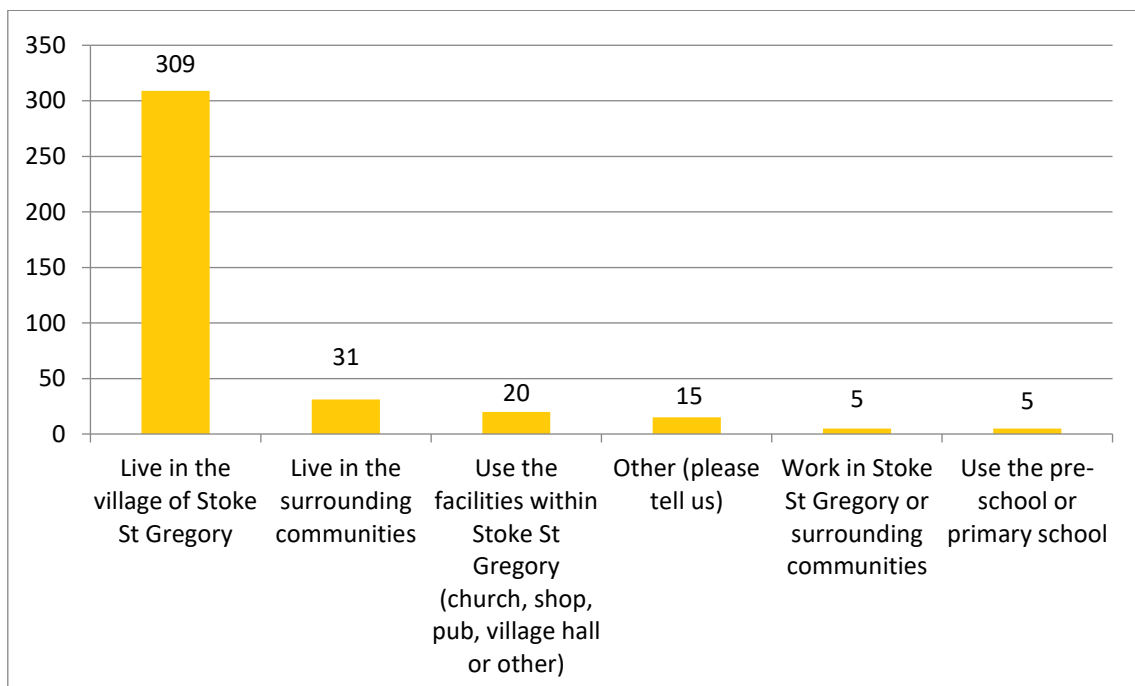
Demographics

An introduction to who has completed the survey, including some basic background questions about age, household size and how long they have lived in the area.

Q1 What is your link to the village?

Answered: 385

Skipped: 0



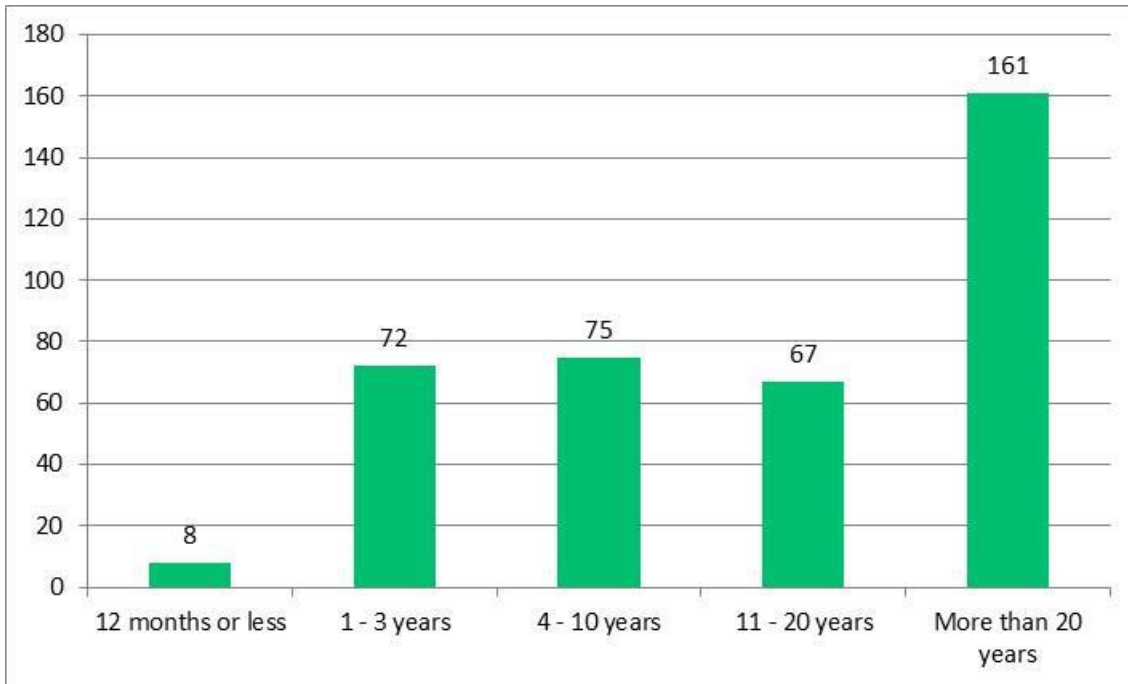
All 385 respondents answered this question. Overwhelmingly, 340 of respondents live in the village or surrounding communities. This is encouraging and means that the data is based on the views of those people who are directly invested in village life.



Q2: How long have you lived, worked or been involved in day-to-day life in Stoke St Gregory?

Answered: 383

Skipped: 2



Of the 383 respondents, 228 have lived, worked or been involved in the village for at least 10 years.

It is really encouraging that 80 respondents who are relatively new to Stoke St Gregory (3 years or less) also engaged with the Community Plan survey. The remaining 75 respondents have lived, worked or been involved in the village for between 4 and 10 years.

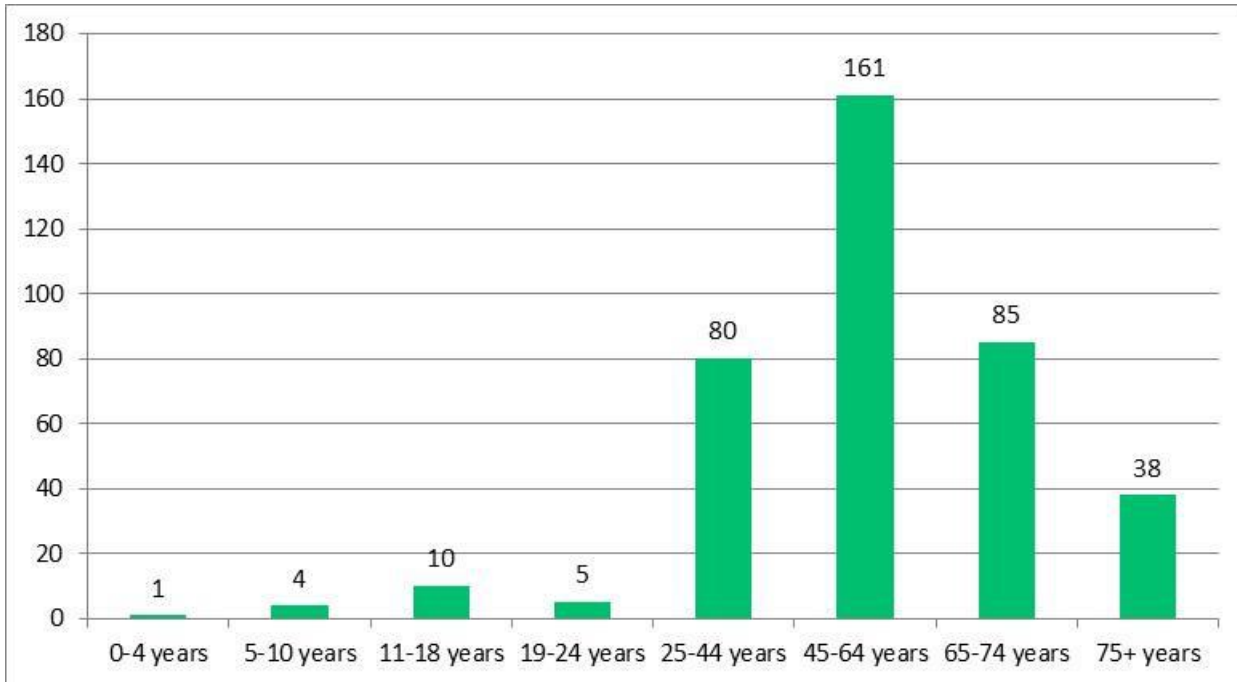
The above shows that respondents to the survey will have different experiences and perspectives on Stoke St Gregory, which provides a more accurate and robust data set.



Q3: What age group do you belong to?

Answered: 384

Skipped: 1



The above shows that the overwhelming majority of respondents (284) are aged 45 or over.

Although a decent response rate was achieved from young adults in the village, aged 19-44, (85), only 15 respondents were aged 18 or under, which is disappointing and shows that as a village we need to do much more to reach out and engage with that sector of society.

As set out in the Methodology above, we undertook a separate consultation exercise with the children of Stoke St Gregory Primary School (ages 4-11). We provide commentary on the feedback within the relevant sections below.

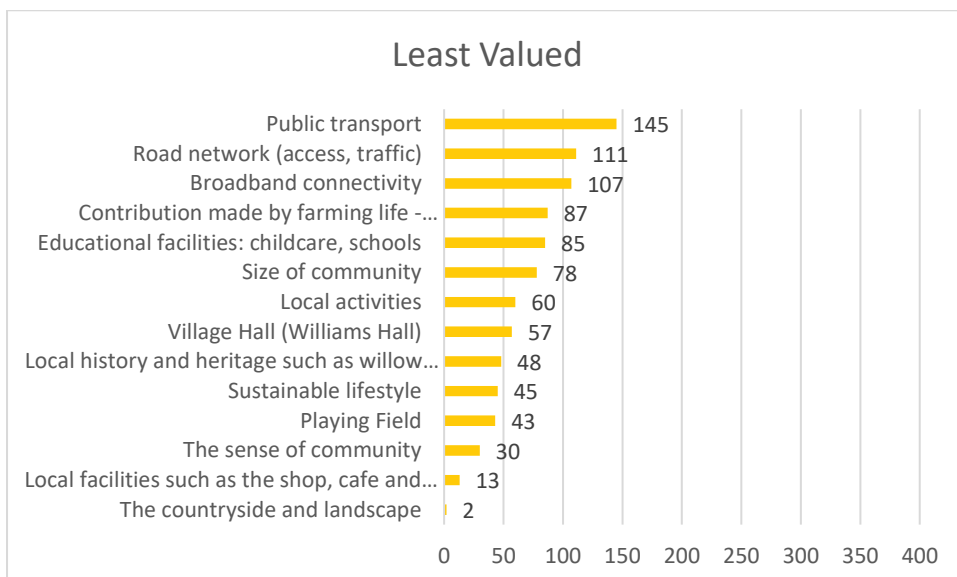
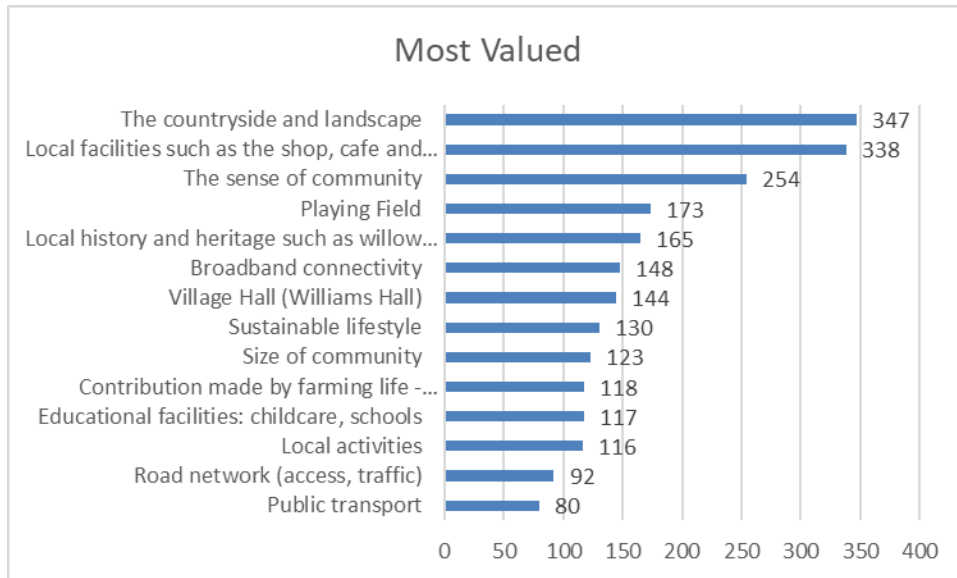


Our Village

Q4 What do you like the most (please tick up to 5) and the least (please tick up to 5) about living in Stoke St Gregory?

Answered: 383

Skipped: 2



There were spilt responses with regards to the contribution of farming life, educational facilities, broadband connectivity and the road network within Stoke St Gregory, but some comments in this section suggested that people struggled to interpret this question and were not sure whether 'least valued' meant it is not important to them or whether it meant that the current facilities weren't adequate. The comments and data suggest that where broadband connectivity has been selected as 'least valued' is because of its poor connectivity, not because it is not important to the individual and therefore it seems a considerable amount of people would like to see improvements to the broadband.



A very interesting result is the 254 respondents who selected 'sense of community' as being most valued, as this is a central part of the rationale behind the production of this Community Plan and it is therefore reassuring to see that this is something people care about. Additional comments made also reflecting this; 'good reliable friends', 'great people' and 'allowing children to play and be part of the village as they get older'.

The comments have running themes of a dislike for the amount and speed of traffic alongside a lack of maintenance for roadside drains, footpaths and hedges. There was also mention of light pollution being a negative and comments that suggest that the lack of street lighting is valued among the community. The results and the comments also suggest that there may have been some confusion with regards to how to answer this question as touched on above.

It is clear from the data that the overwhelming majority of those that completed this section that the most appreciated asset of Stoke St Gregory is the countryside and landscape with 347 respondents selecting it as most valued. This is closely followed by our local facilities (HOTV) with 338 respondents.

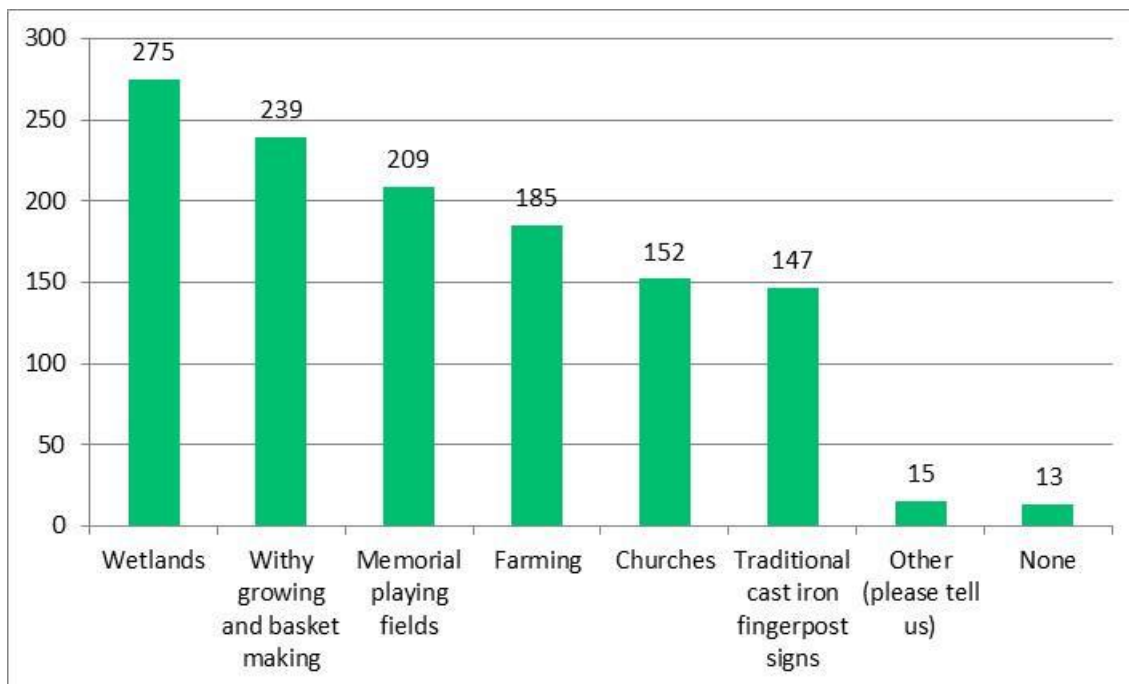
The children of Stoke St Gregory Primary School listed a range of things they liked about the village, including:

- The surroundings, environment and nature;
- The small size of the village and the fact that everyone knows each other;
- The park;
- The shop; and
- The school.

Q5: Which of the following historic and cultural aspects are important to you (tick any that apply)

Answered: 375

Skipped: 10



The most popular response was the Wetlands with 275 people answering that this was important to them. 13 people selected that no historic and cultural aspects were important to them. There was mention of farming in the comments and 185 people answered that this was important to them. Some of the comments suggested that farming is important, but the respondents felt like a more modern approach could be used by way of limiting waterways pollution and making farming in the village more sustainable. A suggestion in the comments was that it



would be nice to see historical plaques on properties to explain what they had previously been used for. Another comment that seems to coincide with the 'light pollution' comment made in question 4 was 'dark village policy'.

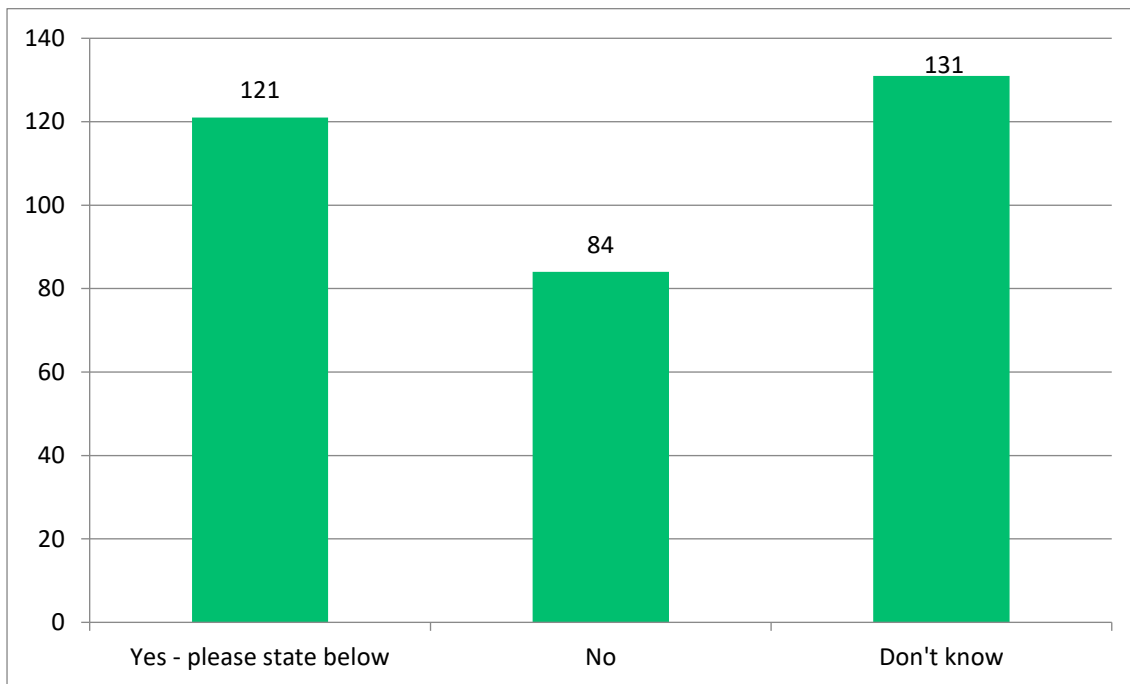
Other comments also suggest that hedgerows, footpaths and habitats for wildlife are considered paramount to some people.

The answers overall suggest that all the historical and cultural elements of Stoke St Gregory are important to more than just a few people or select groups, with each option being selected by at least 145 people. When making future plans and introducing new things to the village it is therefore important, according to the responses from the survey that the historical roots of the village are respected.

Q6: Are there any buildings / locations/ cultural activities that you would like to see improved?

Answered: 350

Skipped: 35



There were a variety of responses and suggestions to this question, as expected. The most notable theme throughout the answers was around the playing fields/play area and facilities, or lack thereof, available to children and teens. The suggestions varied from general improvement of the play equipment and grounds; to a suggestion of having more clubs and events hosted there. The responses show that a lot of people share the same views that the playing fields are not utilised anywhere near as much as they should be and that there are a lack of outdoor activities suitable for older children in the village to partake in. It was also mentioned that there is a lack of seating for adults in the play area and that the play area is not in a suitable location, which could explain at least in part why the park is not used as much as it could be. It is clear that the majority of people who responded to this question feel that the village has little to offer the younger generation and that this should be a priority moving forwards.

Another popular response was that the Royal Oak needs a chef as this is something people miss having access to. There were also suggestions for improving accessibility for disabled people. It is suggested from the responses received that if there was a chef, the HOTV may receive more support.



Other comments also ran similar themes with multiple mentions of more signage required throughout the village; such as a 'tennis courts' sign at the playing field entrance and a sign to make it clear the Royal Oak is a pub!

As a community it seems there is an overwhelming feeling that the village could be maintained far better than it currently is. The responses suggest the most obvious areas in need of maintenance are; footpaths, stiles, clearing of roadside ditches, clearing of droves, derelict properties and repainting of road markings. Another popular opinion was that there should be more wildlife preservation by way of planting trees and wildflowers.

It is clear from the responses that the village has buildings, locations and activities that are valued amongst the community, but it is almost unanimous that people feel that there is a lot that can be done to make improvements.

Climate Emergency/Environmental Issues

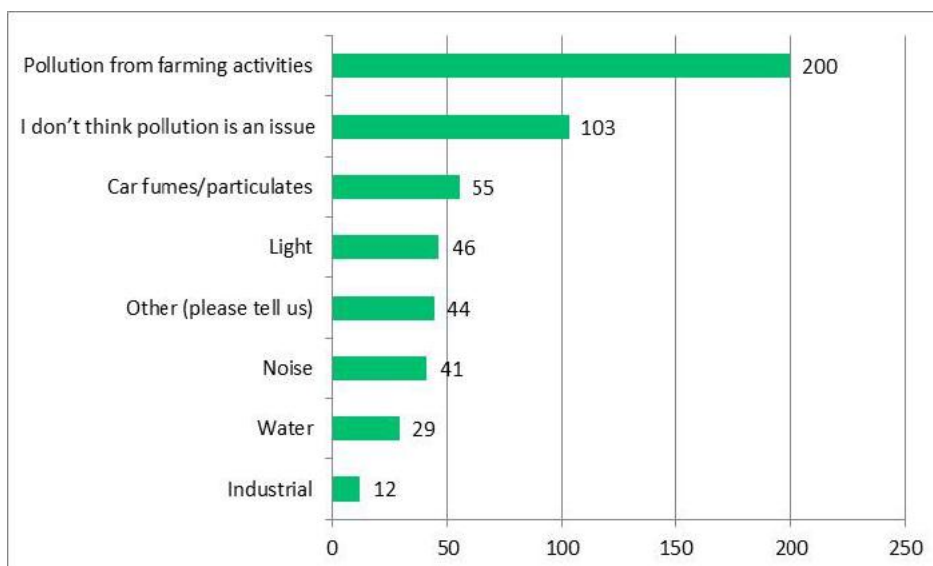
We must recognise the fragility of the environment and the threats arising from climate change. It is vital that the community of Stoke St Gregory takes care of our environment, taking positive steps to protect it, make informed and responsible decisions both individually and collectively, and to encourage our friends, neighbours and visitors to do the same. To protect both the current community and future generations it is necessary to act now to protect our planet and way of life.

The information gathered from our residents, businesses and other key groups in the village will highlight what we can all do as a community to help achieve the goal of being carbon-neutral by 2030 and to then help reduce excessive atmospheric carbon after that.

Q7: If you feel that pollution affects the village, what sort of pollution is it?

Answered: 346

Skipped: 39



The analysis of the responses to this question show us that 218 respondents experience pollution as a result of farming activities in some way or another.

At the other end of the scale, 103 respondents indicated that they do not experience any kind of pollution.



The remaining causes of pollution identified in the survey each accounted for 55 responses or less. Whilst these issues still merit attention, the data suggests that they are not a community wide concerns.

Given that the two most common responses to this question are at opposite ends of the spectrum (218 respondents identifying farm related pollution as a problem and 103 respondents indicating that pollution is not an issue for them), further investigation and analysis of the data is required before an action plan is agreed upon.

This further work should seek to achieve the following:

1. to establish if factors such as age, time a respondent has lived, worked or been involved in the village influence the respondents views on farming related pollution.
2. The same exercise set out above should be undertaken for those respondents who indicated that pollution is not an issue for them.

The 44 additional comments covered the following topics;

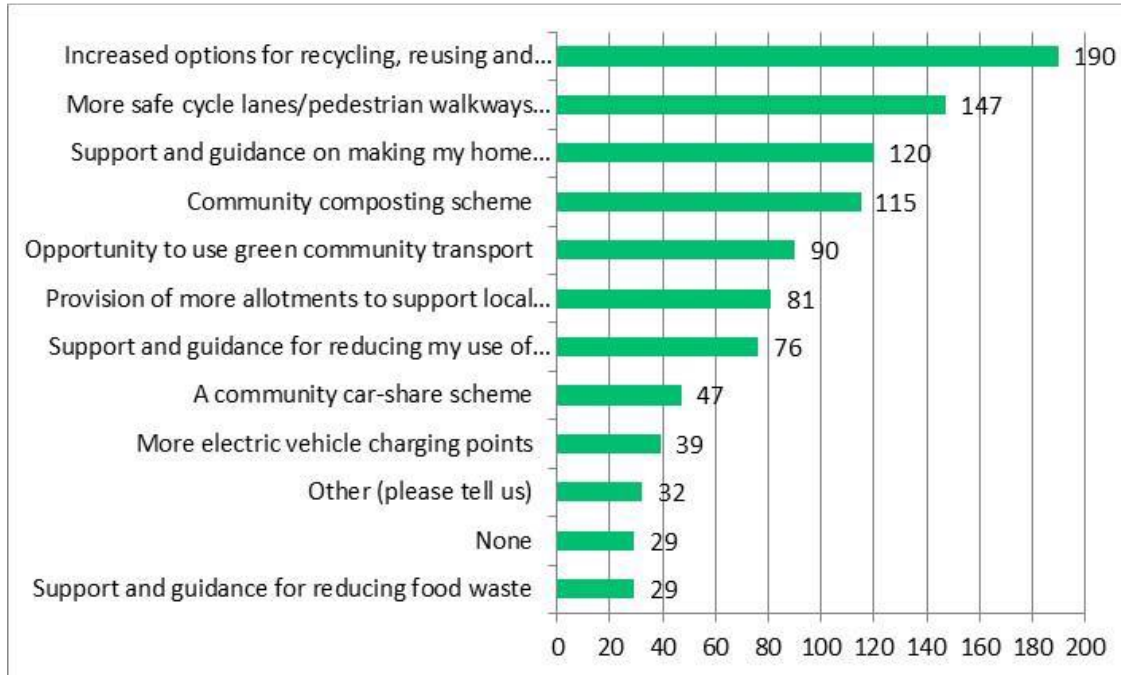
- 18x Pollution from farming activities, split down into
 - 7x farm traffic
 - 5x strong farm smells
 - 3x general farm activities
 - 3x farm water pollution
- 6x Pollution from bonfire, coal & wood burners, oil boilers
- 5x Pollution through littering
- 3x Pollution through phosphates
- 3x Pollution through general traffic
- 1x each Pollution from dog faeces / flood water / school buses idling / bright security lights / shooting / water sewage levels
- 3x comments were not relevant to this topic



Q8: What do you think would help you to reduce your own carbon footprint and help restore the area's natural biodiversity? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 348

Skipped: 37



A total number of 348 respondents completed this question (Respondents were allowed to select multiple answers, which explains the 995 responses received).

There was a broad spread of popular responses to this particular question, which demonstrates clearly that there are a range of measures that the village can adopt to reduce our individual carbon footprints in small ways, which when taken together will have a positive effect for the village as a whole. Many of these initiatives are achievable and, in some cases, have already been mooted by the Stoke Environment Group.

The table above sets out the response rates for the various options, with the most popular being:

- Increased options for recycling, reusing and repurposing.
- More safe cycle lanes/pedestrian walkways across the village
- Support and guidance on making my home more energy efficient
- Community composting scheme
- Opportunity to use green community transport
- Provision of more allotments to support local food production
- Support and guidance for reducing my use of energy and water

The 32 additional comments covered the topics ;

- 11x related to reducing car journeys (For example, introducing more bus routes, cheaper bus fares, community transport scheme, opening a gym and offering leisure classes in village, lower speed limits, greater offering of local produce within the village, better off-road horse access)
- 8x related to creating more community green space (woodland, space for nature, tree planting and allotments)
- 7x respondents sought support with home improvement (such as alternative energy and insulation)



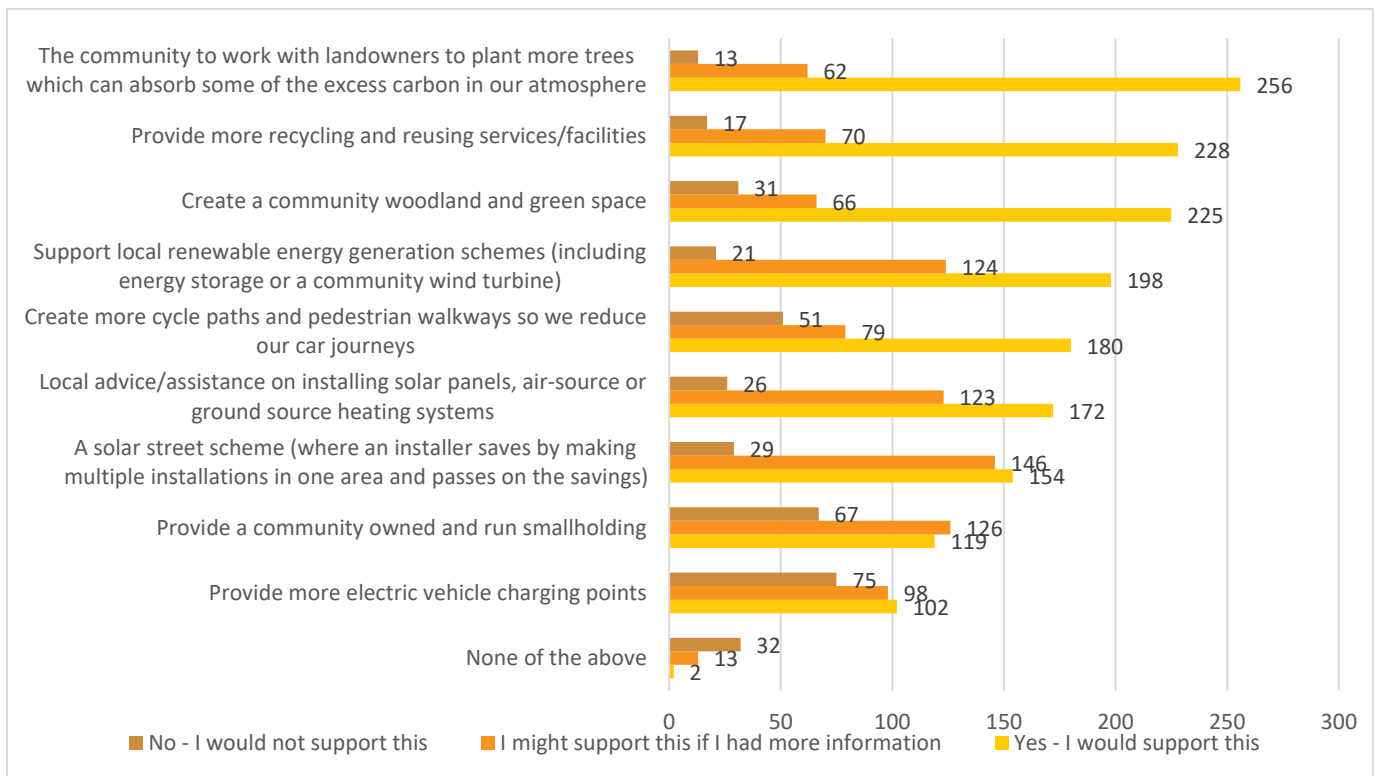
- 4x indicated that there was no need to reduce their own carbon footprint but instead pointed at the farming industry for their carbon output.
- 1x suggested less street lighting
- 1x suggested a reusable nappy library

None of the above 32 comments make a noticeable impact on the results of this particular question.

Q9: As a result of the impact of Climate Change, our community will have to take action to mitigate some of the effects, and we will need to adapt to new ways of doing things. Of the following actions, which would you support, or not support, to make our community more resilient for future generations?

Answered: 356

Skipped: 29



A total number of 356 respondents completed this question (Respondents were allowed to select multiple answers, which explains the 2,905 responses received).

By combining the two positively framed responses to each option (Yes I would support/I might support if had more info) ,we can reasonably conclude that there is a strong, positive interest in this topic as the top 7 results each score above 250 responses, namely:

- Support renewable energy generation (124+198 = 322)
- Work with landowners (256+62 = 318)
- Solar street lighting (146+154 = 300)
- More recycling/reusing facilities (70+228 = 298)
- Advice on solar/heating (123+172 = 295)
- Community woodland/green space (66+225 = 291)



- More safe cycle path / walkways (79+180 = 259)

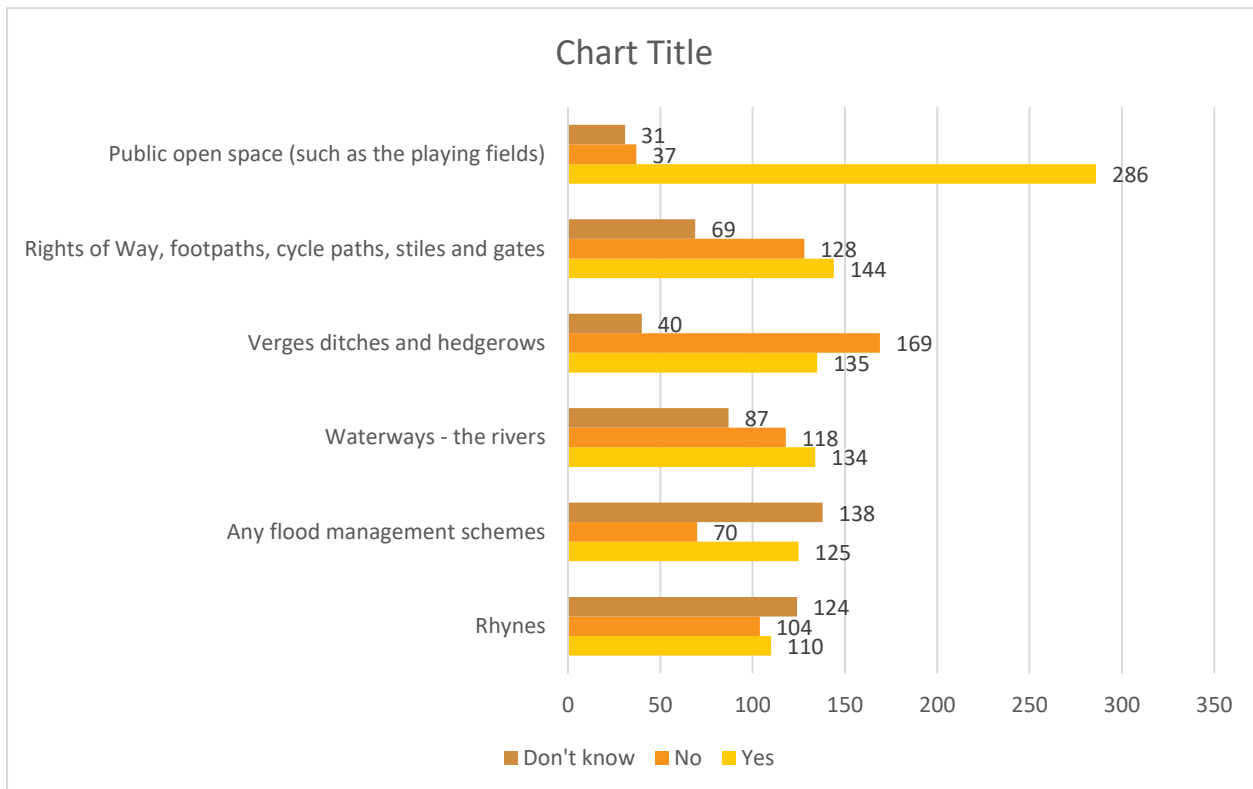
Respondents left 28 comments in addition to selecting the available options. The overall feedback points to a reduction of intensive/dairy farming. What also stands out is that there are strong feelings about rewilding and/or community green activities. There are those who are wholly for the idea whilst others seem totally against it, pointing out that we are already live in a very green environment. 3 separate suggestions suggest the use of a biomass digester.

The 28 comments do not change the ranking shown in the above graph

Q10: Do you feel that the following are well maintained?

Answered: 355

Skipped: 30



A total number of 355 respondents completed this question. (Respondents were allowed to select multiple answers, which explains the 2,049 responses received)

Respondents left 116 'other' comments.

The vast majority of those (48) mentioned negatives about the footpaths/rights of way. The poor condition of stiles, overgrowing and ploughed paths, a lack of signage and damaged existing signage were some of the key concerns, as well as requests for easier access to footpaths (turn stiles rather than climb over).

On a more positive note, some recognised the positive work the footpath group has started and hope this would continue.



20 people commented on hedgerows and verges, noting the damage done by farm vehicles to both. With respect to hedgerow, it is principally the method of trimming them that is being questioned. The increasingly large, heavy farm vehicles are seen as the cause of damaged road verges.

14 of the comments concerned potential flooding, overall water management, water pollution and maintenance of drains.

13 people (not included in the above 2 paragraphs) mention a whole list of things they are not happy about. They generally relate to negative feelings about state of ditches, verges, hedge flaying, pollution through slurry and a range of farm activities as the main cause of poor maintenance.

9 comments indicated they found the situation acceptable, but with room for improvement.

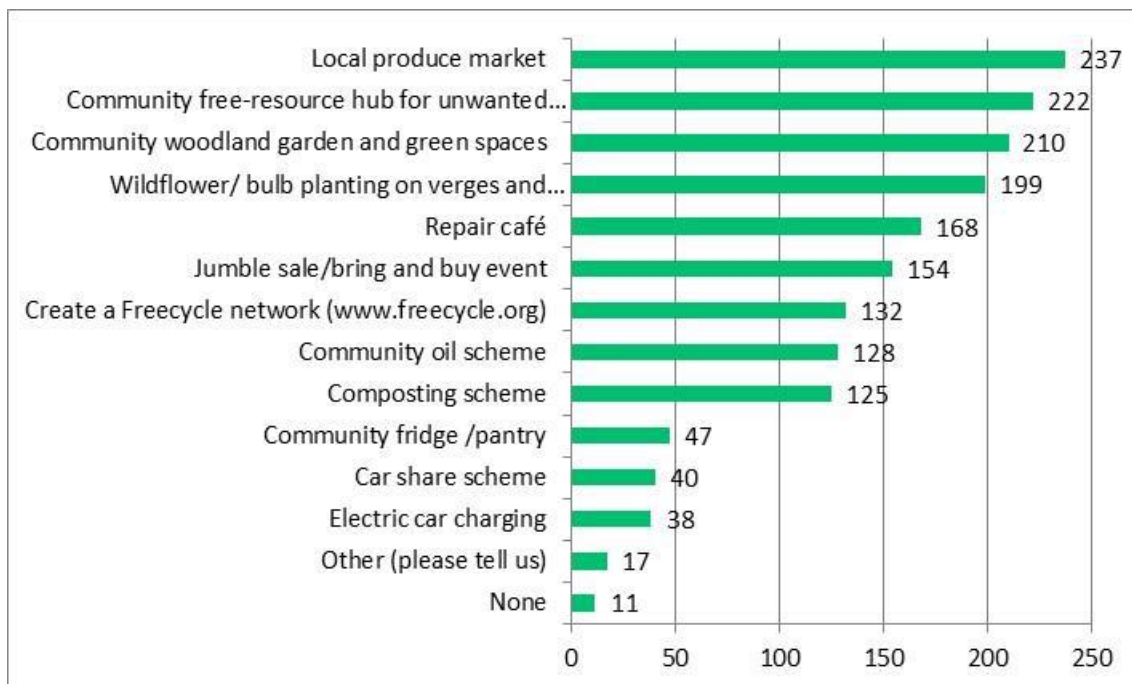
Individual comments were made about unsafe cycling and wheelchair conditions, dog faeces, lack of drains maintenance and the poor maintenance of the playground at the playing field.

Whilst none of the other options resulted in a clear positive or negative overall response, they all attracted a high number of responses. This suggests that the overall maintenance of many parts of the village is a concern to many of the respondents and action will need to be taken to address these.

Q11: What services or facilities would you use if these were available in the village? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 347

Skipped: 38



A total number of 347 respondents completed this question. (Respondents were allowed to select multiple answers, which explains the 1,728 responses received).

Respondents left 17 additional comments. The comments were varied with no clear theme or particularly skewed to the positive or negative. In many cases the comments referenced points that are covered in responses to previous



questions and as such they do not have a major bearing on the overall response to this question. Due to the number of comments being relatively small, with a range of views, none of them make any impact on the above table.

The response show that the top 4 categories have support from over half of respondents which would give them a good chance of gaining local support. Another 4 categories have support of between approximately a third and a half of respondents which, considering the high percentage of surveys completed, indicates a potentially sizeable audience for these initiatives.

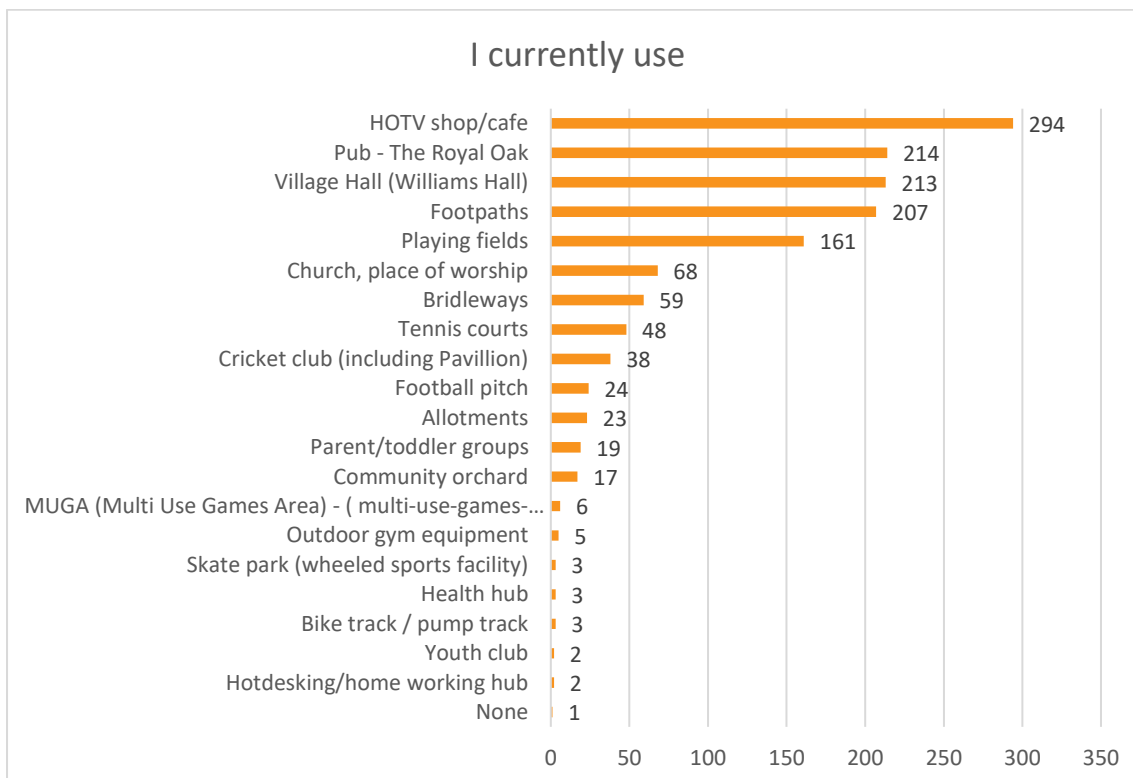
Community facilities

We have a number of community facilities in Stoke St Gregory, by that we mean buildings, equipment for recreation and places to gather for events and social gatherings. We want to understand whether the facilities are suitable for the community. We also want to understand if / where improvements are needed or new facilities are required.

Q12: Which facilities do you currently use in the village, where are improvements needed, and which would you use if they were available in the village? (tick any that apply)

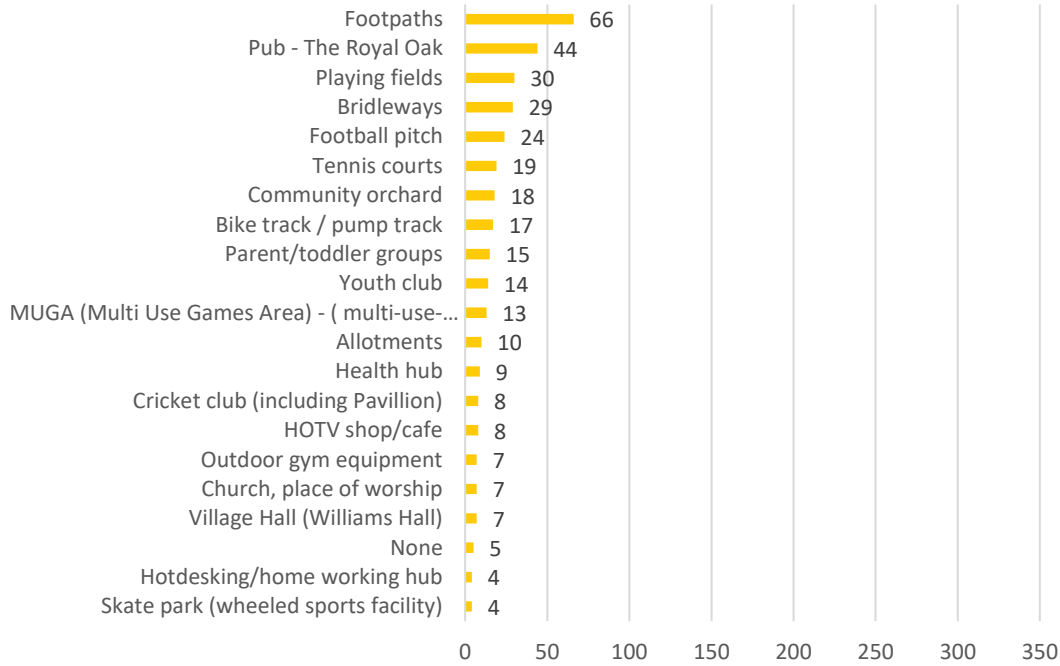
Answered: 350

Skipped: 35

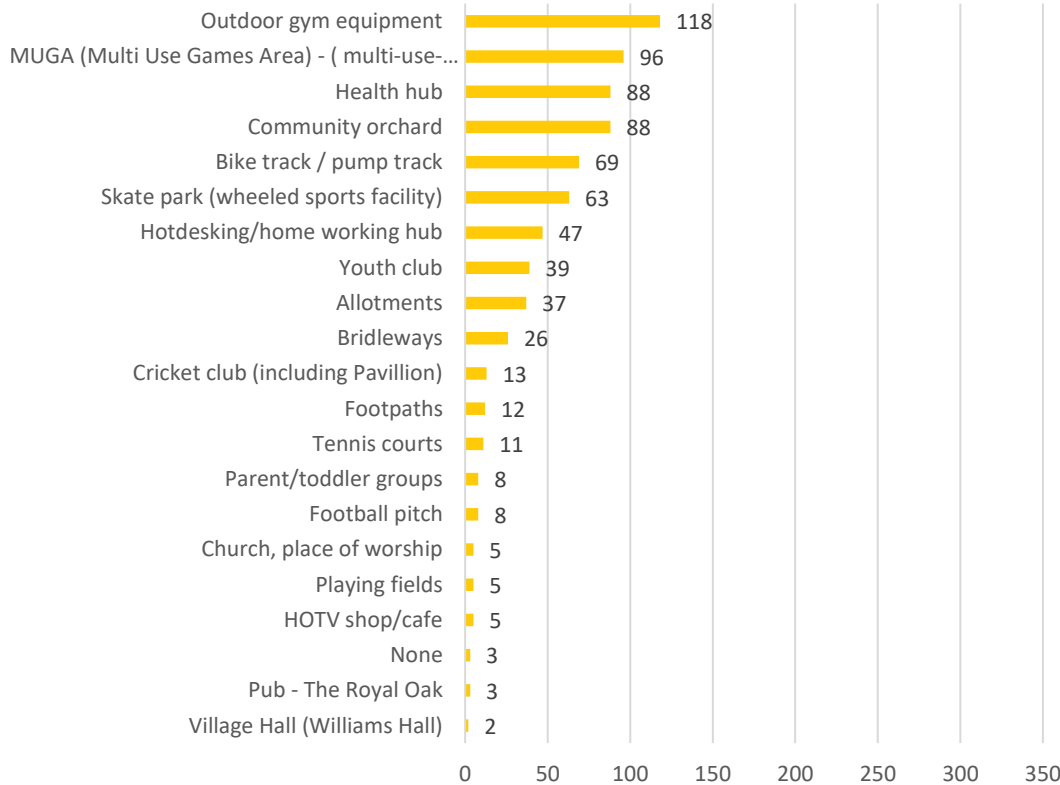




Needs improvement



Would use if available



This question is broken down in to three parts and allows respondents to select multiple options.



The first part of the question deals with facilities that respondents use currently within the village. It was unsurprising to see that core facilities in the village (HOTV, The Royal Oak, Village Hall, footpaths and the playing fields attracted the most responses (all over 160 respondents).

The results also highlights that there are opportunities to increase the use of some of our existing facilities such as participation in football, cricket and tennis, the three most dominant facilities at the playing fields.

An interesting results from the above table is the low number of responses to the question around what facilities require improvement in the village.

The final part of the question highlights facilities that respondents would use if they were available in the village. What is striking is that 5 of the top 6 responses centre around facilities linked to health and wellbeing, which reflects the fact that it is a topic very much at the forefront of people's minds, particularly since the pandemic.

Respondents provided 19 additional comments which ranged from suggesting a swimming pool and spa; questioning whether there was space for a MUGA or skatepark; questioning whether there was a need for a skatepark; asking that experts in the village are consulted on the construction of a pump track to avoid errors made with the previous track; requesting a music or food festival; suggesting a youth club, bowling green and outdoor seating and a bus around the village at night to link with pub usage.

We asked the children of Stoke St Gregory Primary School what they would like to see in their village. The responses generally focused on two key themes, namely the environment and more activities/play facilities.

We grouped the individual responses in to broader themes, with the top five most popular being:

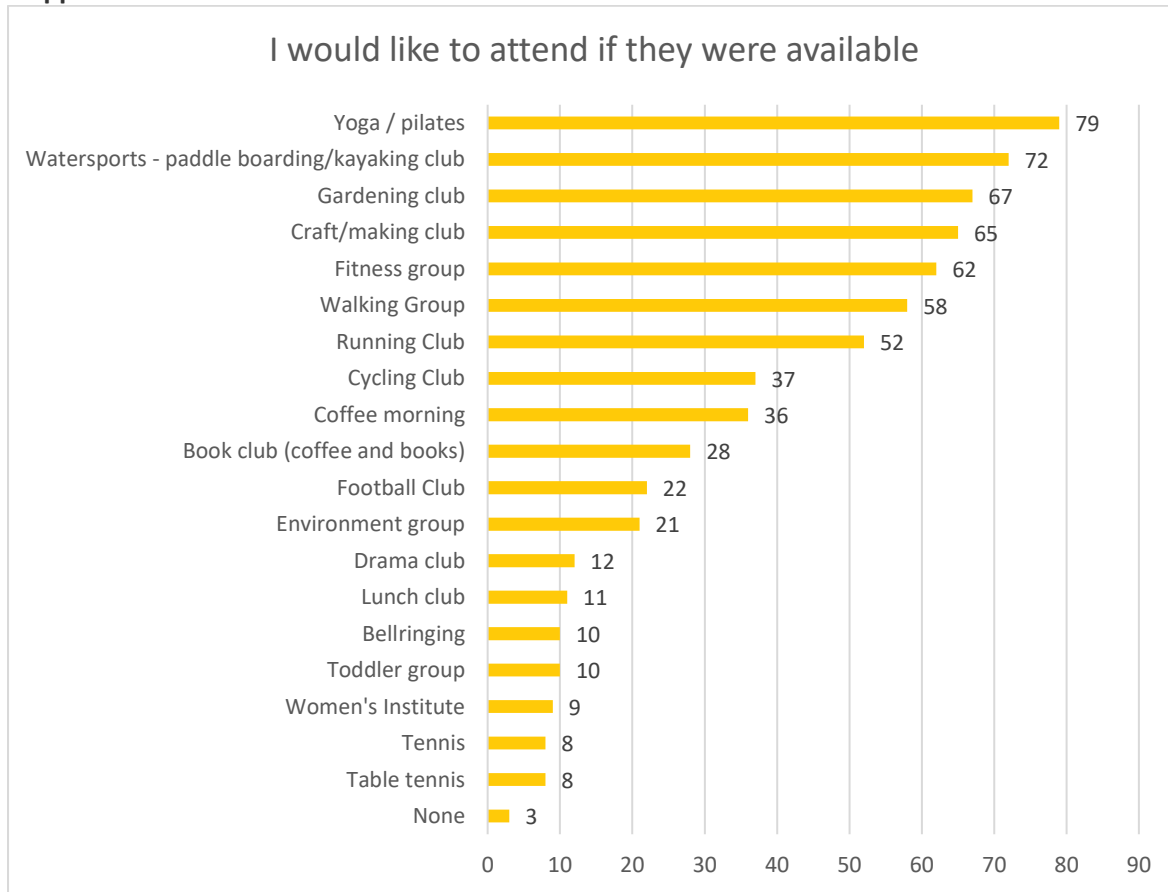
- SSG Park Improvements (48);
- More Benches (9);
- Wildlife Pond (8);
- Village Garden Area (6);
- Indoor Socialising Area (5); and
- Annual Village Xmas Tree Decorating (5).

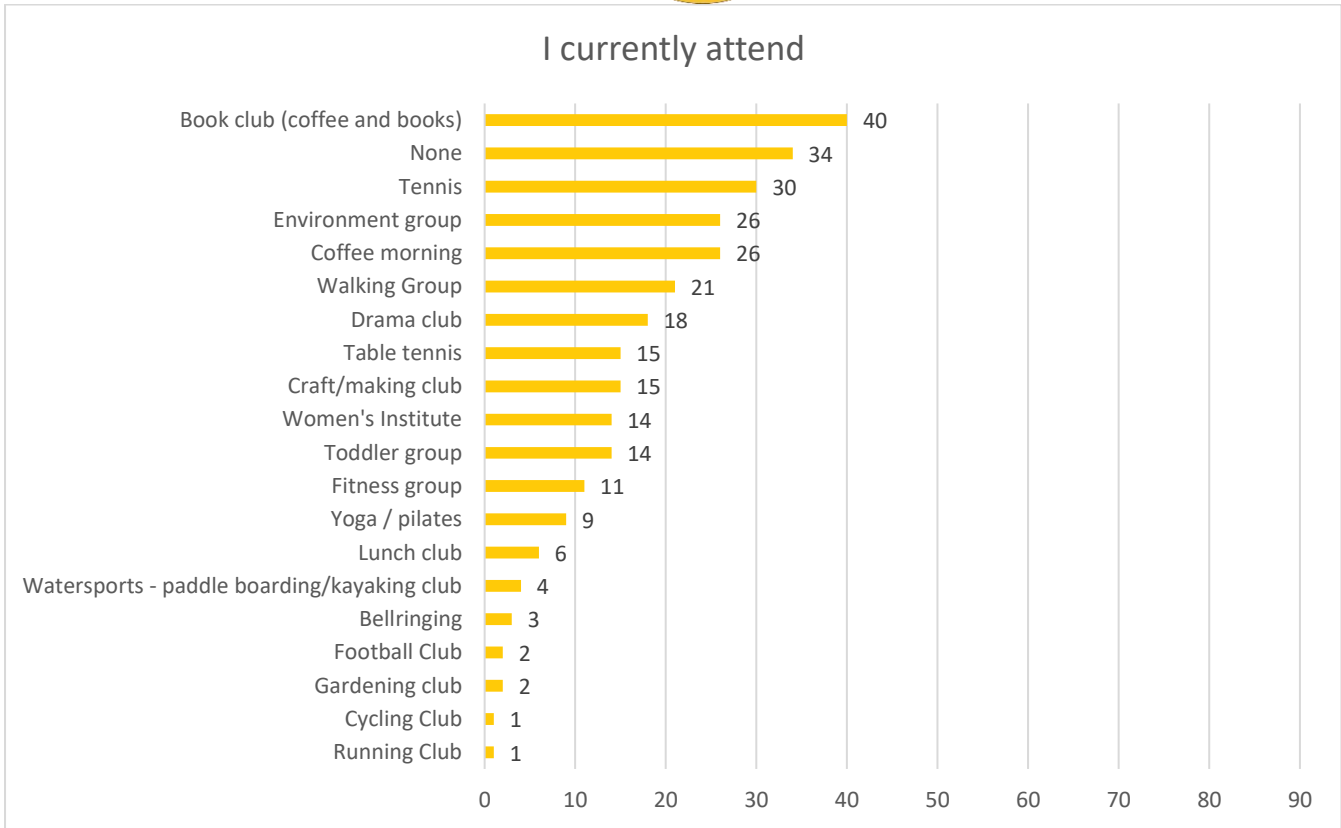


Q13: Which community activities do you currently attend or would like to attend in the village? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 289

Skipped: 96





A surprisingly large number of respondents (96) decided to skip this question. 289 respondents did complete the question and what the above table shows again is that a lot of the activities that people would like to attend if they were available focus on exercise and wellbeing. The types of activities selected is perhaps a reflection of the demographic of the participants of the survey. It is also interesting to note that many of the activities selected as 'I would like to attend if they were available' are activities which are already available in the village, which is perhaps indicates a need for better communication as to what is available for the community.

In contrast to questions 12 and 13, the greatest responses to these questions are from those who attend book club (coffee and books) or no groups. There is a clear gap in the provision of facilities provided in the village to enable people to take better care of their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

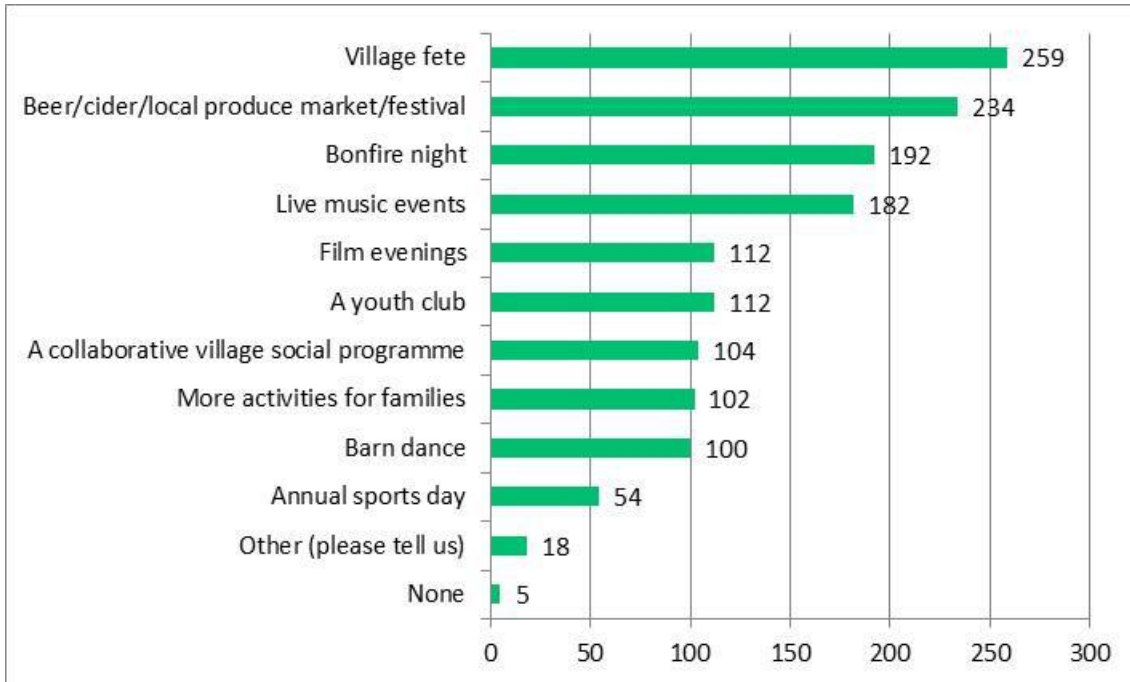
The additional 29 comments made in response to this question focus on a few key themes including: more weekend activities as many of the activities at present exclude the 'working population'; the desire for a village choir (again, something which is seen as beneficial to wellbeing); comments that people to take part in activities but that those activities take part outside of the village- largely in North Curry, as well as a clear theme that there needs to be better publicity around activities that are already underway.



Q14: What community events would you like to see take place in the village? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 335

Skipped: 50



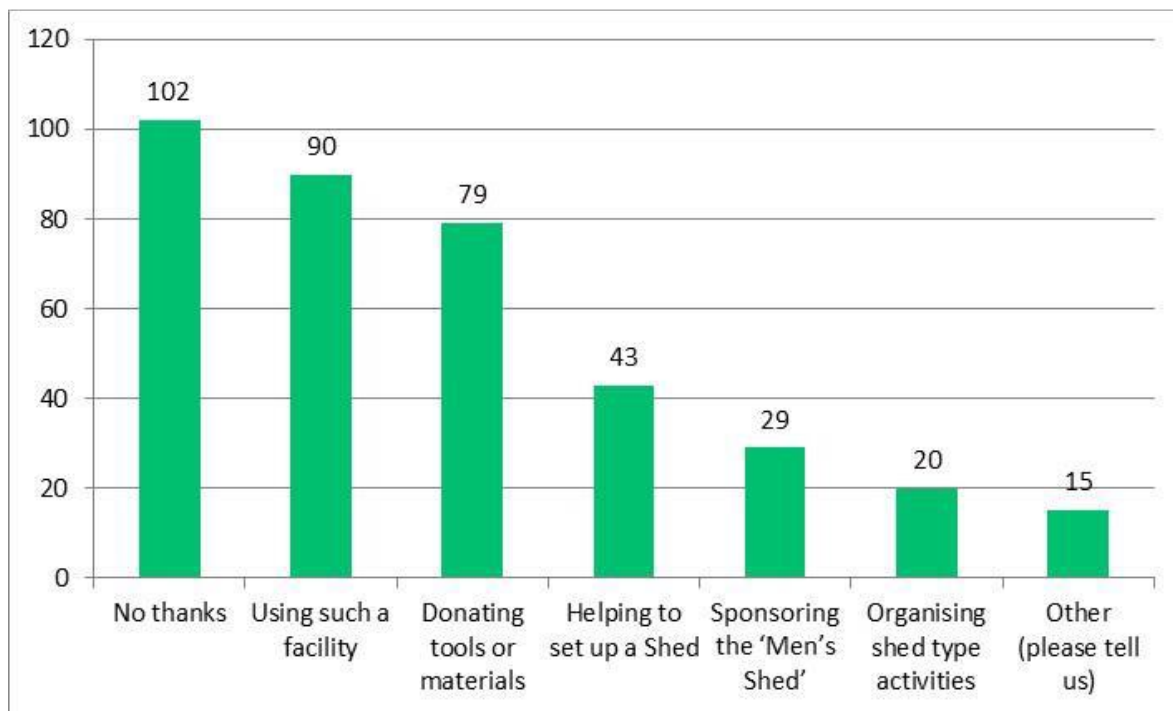
The large response rate to this question, with 335 choosing to answer is a demonstration that people would like to see more village events taking place. Front runners are a village fete and a beer/cider and/or local produce market or festival. There was also a lot of support for a bonfire night and live music events, although some of the additional comments made in response to this question raised concerns about such events because of the potential health and safety implications.



Q15: 'Men's Sheds' are community spaces that can help reduce loneliness and isolation, but most importantly they're fun. Activities in Sheds vary greatly but you can usually find woodworking, metalworking, repairing and restoring, electronics, model buildings, lots of material recycling, and even car building. Sheds typically attract older men but many have younger members and women too. Would you, or anyone in your family, be interested in? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 260

Skipped: 125



This question allowed respondents to tick multiple options, which explains the 363 responses.

The above table that of the 260 respondents, 102 (39.23%) would not use a 'Men's Shed'. Further analysis is required to understand the demographics of the people who responded in this way.

A similar number of respondents (90) indicated they would use the facility, which is a healthy number and justifies further investigation into the feasibility of such a facility. There were also very positive responses from respondents who were either willing to donate tools, help set up the shed, sponsor the shed or organise activities.

The theme of the 15 additional comments received was very positive with people praising the idea and asking for more information.



Young People and Children

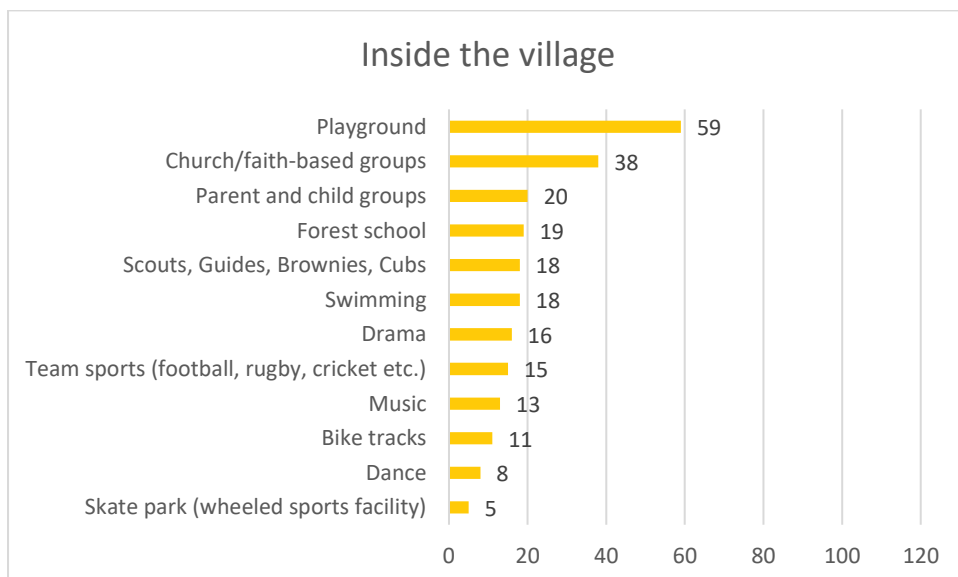
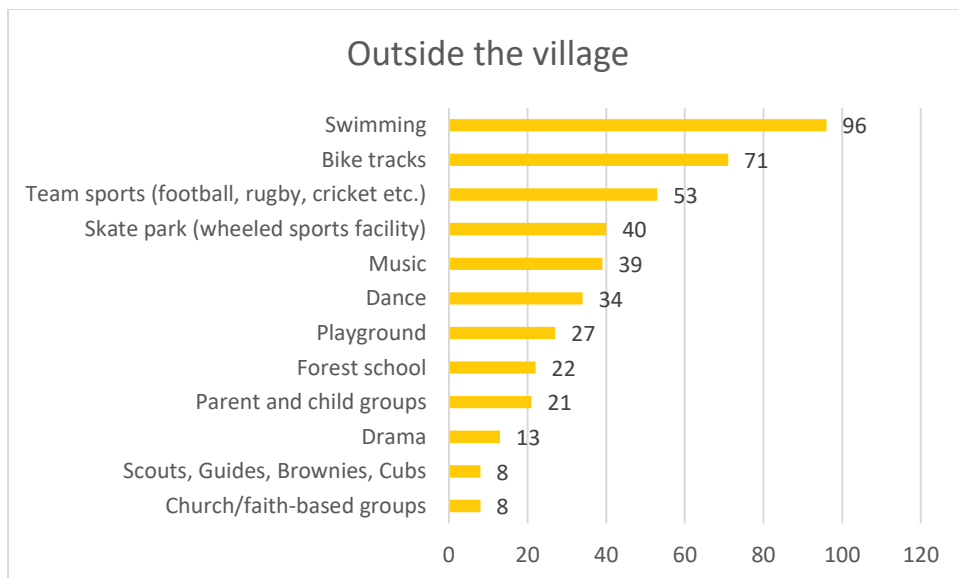
The younger generation are the future of this village. If we want Stoke St Gregory to thrive in the future, it is critical that we ensure that the village has plenty to offer the younger generation. We want to offer children and young people a fun and rewarding experience in Stoke St Gregory.

Understanding how you use facilities both in Stoke St Gregory and outside of the village will help us to provide facilities and plan for the future.

Q16: What activities do you or your family take part in and /or which facilities do you currently use, in Stoke St Gregory or elsewhere? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 198

Skipped: 187





As a starting point, it is worth remembering that only 3.9% of respondents were under the age of 18 and so this data needs to be interpreted within that context. We as a village need to do more to engage with that age group and a follow up event(s) targeting younger people should be arranged once the Community Plan has been published to gather their thoughts on some of the possible improvements that could be made.

There was a fairly even split of those respondents who skipped the question (187) and those who chose to answer it (198). Respondents were invited to tick as many options as applied.

Outside of the village, swimming (96), bike tracks (71) and team sports such as football, rugby and cricket (53) were the most popular. It is interesting to note that 53 respondents chose (or are forced) to take part in team sports outside of the village when the Stoke St Gregory has a playing field that is home to a well-drained football pitch and cricket square. This requires further investigation and suggest that much more can be done to encourage team sports for younger people in the village. As a comparison, only 15 respondents indicated they take part in team sports in the village.

Over 40 respondents travel outside of the village to use a form of wheeled sports facility. Other activities that respondents engage with outside the village, including music, dance, drama, forest school, parent and child groups are all either available in Stoke St Gregory or there are the facilities within the village to host such activities. This should all be investigated further.

It is not surprising that the playground is the most popular response for facilities that are used inside the village. It is one of the only freely available facilities that young people can use. The above table demonstrates the lack of things to do in the village for younger people. The village does have great facilities and this information can help us maximise the overall use of some of our facilities and spaces (such as the pavilion, playing fields and village hall) to deliver some of the activities that many respondents are having to take part in away from the village.

This question attracted 16 additional comments, 5 of which simply confirmed that the question was not applicable to them, or they did not have children. One response confirmed that a Tai Chi class has had to relocate to another village due to limited access to the village hall and two other comments refer to having to attend martial arts classes outside of the village. Playground improvements, horse riding, a properly constructed pump track and better access to the local swimming pool all attracted one response each.

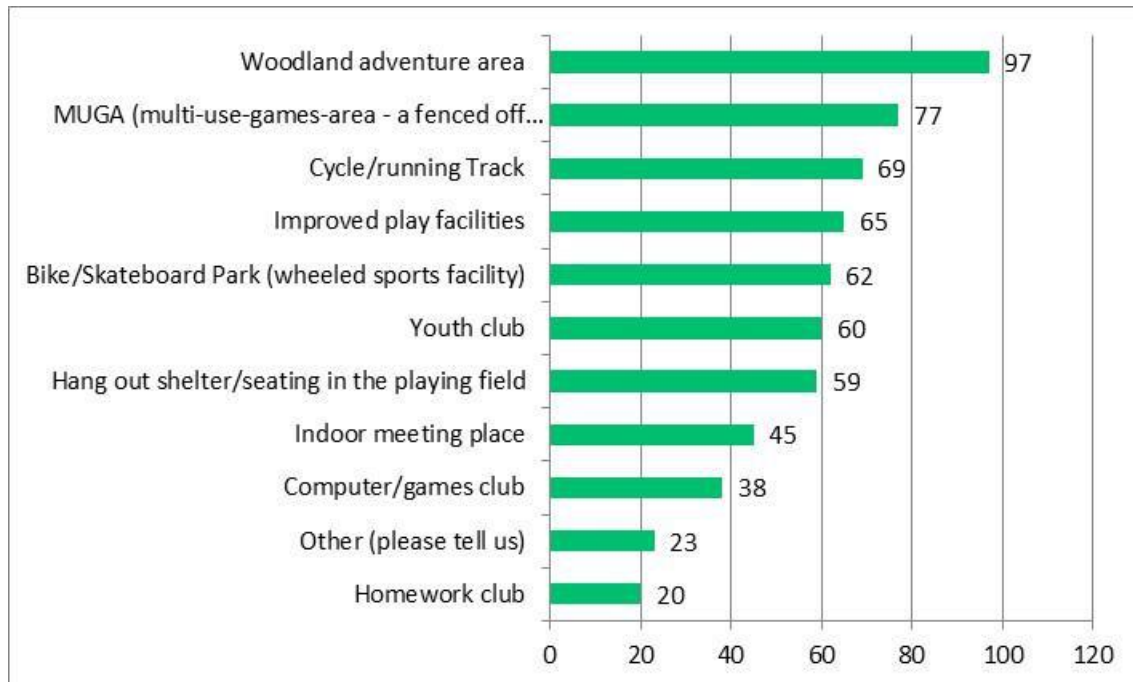
The responses to this question are not surprising and present a feeling of frustration about the lack of activities in the village. There are real opportunities here to improve this situation.



Q17: Would you/your family use any of the following facilities if they were to be provided in the village? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 177

Skipped: 208



This question was answered by 177 respondents and people were allowed to tick multiple options.

Once again, it is worth remembering that only 3.9% of respondents were under the age of 18 and so this data needs to be interpreted within that context. We as a village need to do more to engage with that age group and a follow up event(s) targeting younger people should be arranged once the Community Plan has been published to gather their thoughts on some of the possible improvements we could make.

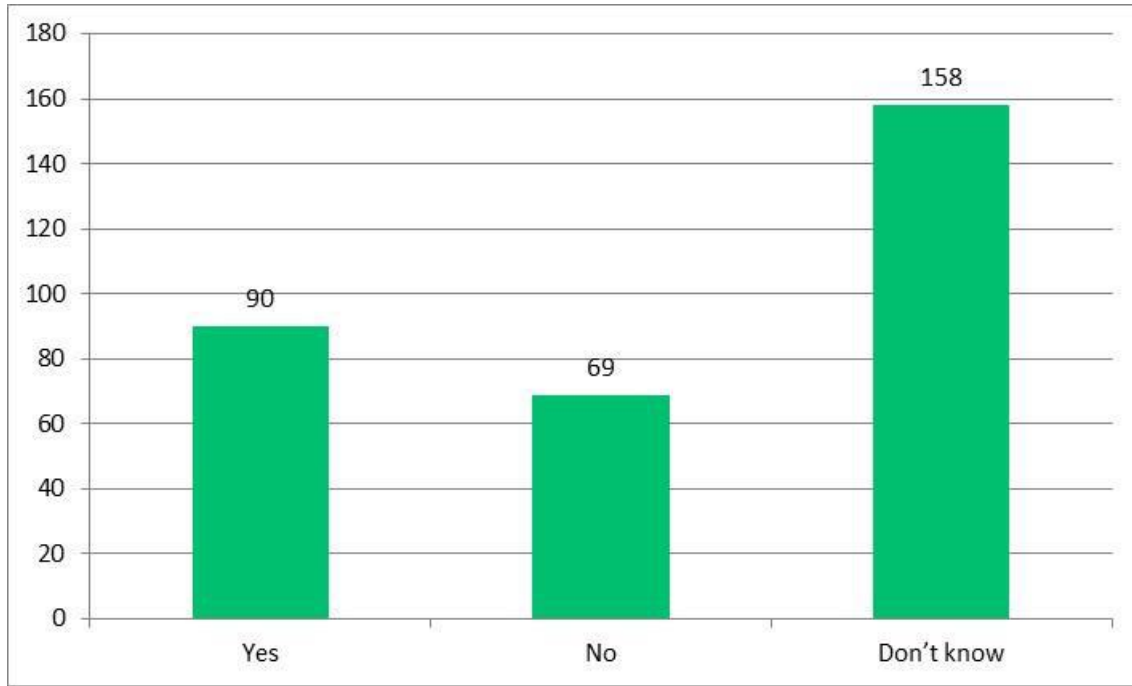
Whilst a woodland adventure area was the most popular choice, there were no other clear leaders with the next six most popular facilities split by only 18 responses. What the responses do show is that there is a real desire to see new facilities for younger people in the village



Q18: Do you feel there are enough activities and support within the village to enable retired and older people to stay active and engaged with the local community?

Answered: 317

Skipped: 68



Out of the 317 respondents which answered this question, 90 said YES, 69 said NO with 158 saying they DON'T KNOW if there are enough activities and support within the village to enable retired and older people to stay active and engaged within the local community.

107 respondents aged 65-75+, 55 respondents said YES, 27 said NO and 25 DON'T KNOW 134 respondents aged 45-64 years; 27 respondents said Yes, 28 said NO and 79 said DON'T KNOW 76 respondents aged 0-44 years; 8 respondents said YES, 14 said NO and 54 said DON'T KNOW

The results indicate more respondents who are of an older age or retired feel there are the activities and support available to them or they are better informed of such activities and support to stay active and engaged within the local community. Those in the mid-age bracket (45-64) and those who are younger (0-44) are not sufficiently aware of any activities and support, or if it is even available.

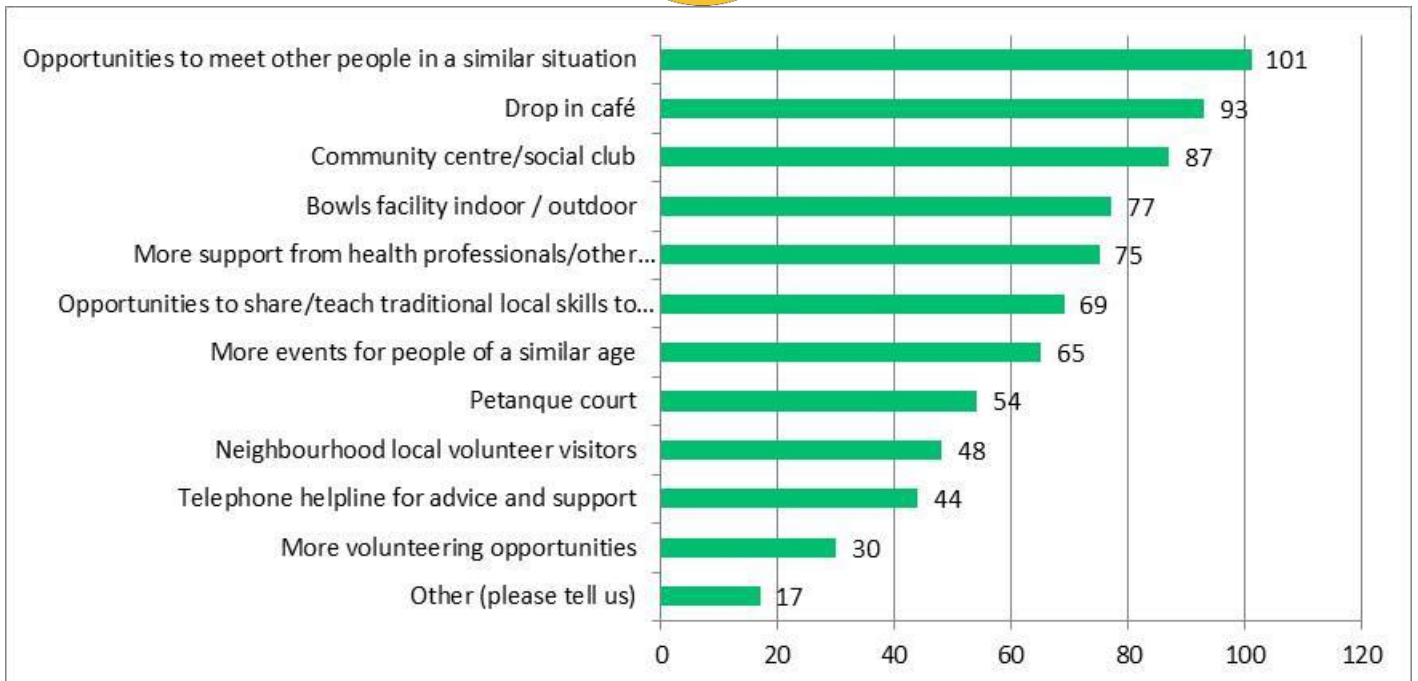
Retired and Older People

We are all living longer and as such it is essential that we make sure our village caters for the older generation, both in terms of facilities and activities but also in terms of providing the right support.

Q19: What could the community or other professionals provide to give you/ the older generation more support? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 220

Skipped: 165



This was a multiple-choice question. Respondents were asked to pick three.

91 of the respondents were aged 65+

84 of the respondents were aged 45-64

45 of the respondents were aged below 44.

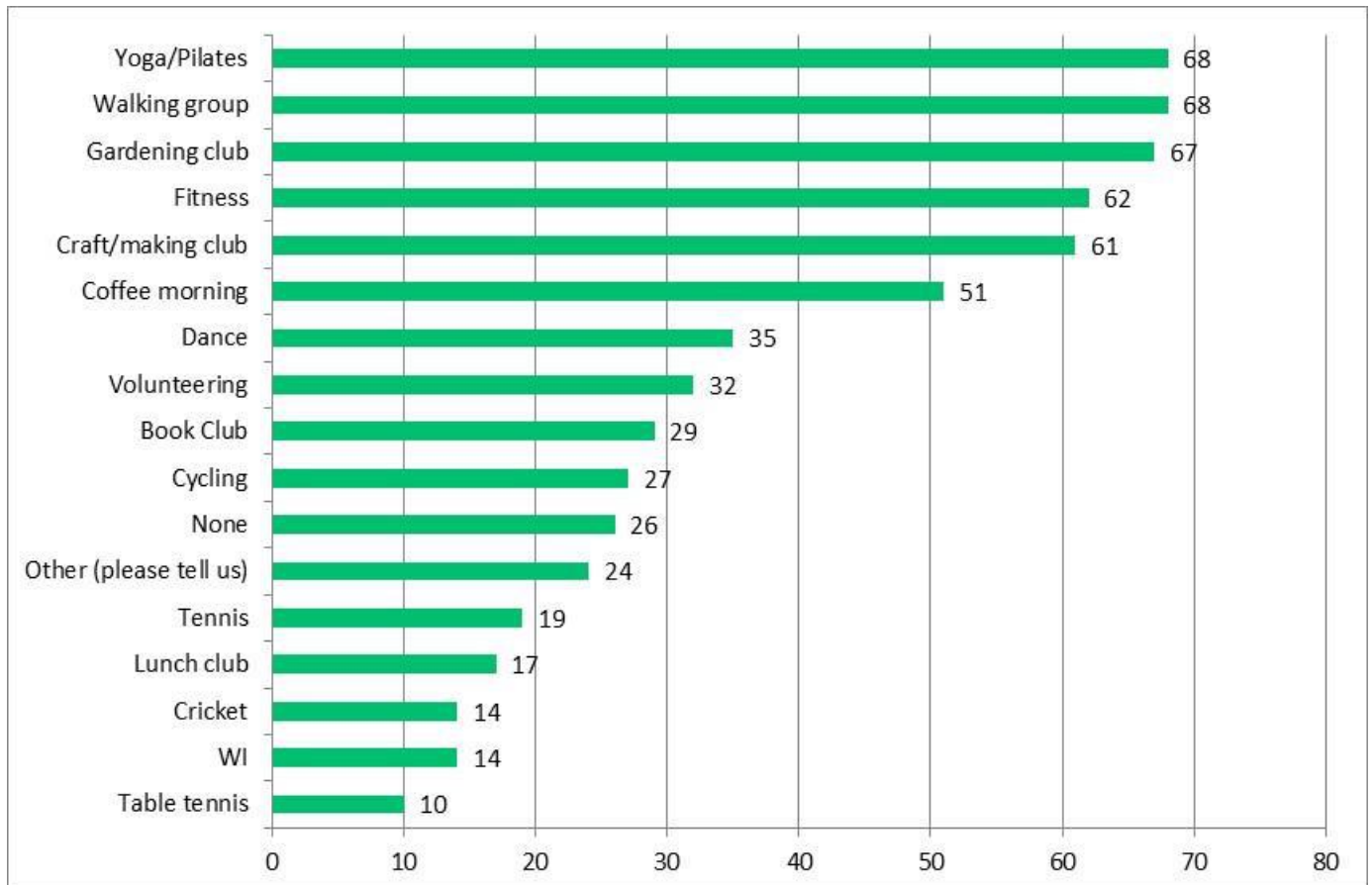
The results indicate more respondents aged 45+ answered this question. There is an overwhelming support for more general social engagements, activities, crafts/teaching local skills and more opportunities for interaction with the older members of the community. Other comments also suggest this too with 10 respondents recommending more multi-generational activities, crafts/workshops, carer support group and exercise groups aimed at those who are older and/or less mobile. 2 respondents identified transport and mobility issues provision being a problem.



Q20: Would you like to take part in more social and sporting activities within the village? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 231

Skipped: 154



This was a multi-choice question with respondents asked to tick those that apply. 88 of the respondents were aged 65+ 99 of the respondents were aged 45-64, 44 of the respondents were aged below 44

The results indicate more middle-aged and older people either take part or wish to take part in more social and sporting activities within the village. 203 respondents ticked Yoga/Pilates, walking group and a gardening group. Fitness and craft/workshops clubs accounted for 123 responses. Further physical activities such as football, rugby, pickle ball, Zumba and tai chi were also highlighted in 'other comments' as activities respondents would like to participate in. Respondents also identified the need for activities, groups and events aimed at bringing younger and various aged groups of the village together such as concerts and dance events.

Health & Wellbeing

Regular physical activity is one of the most important things you can do for your health. Being physically active can improve your brain health, help manage weight, reduce the risk of disease, strengthen bones and muscles, and improve your ability to do everyday activities.

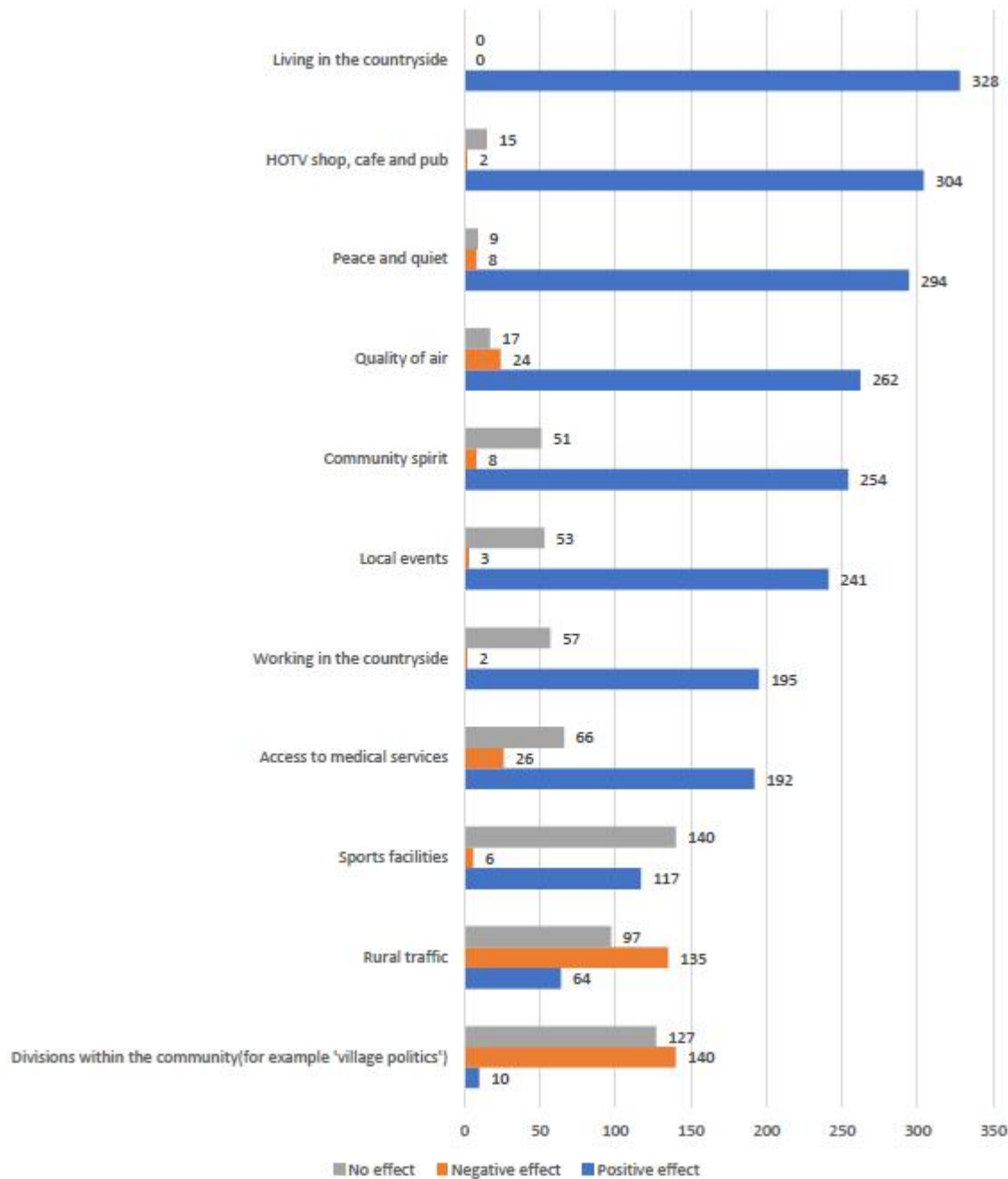


Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

Q21: Please indicate which of the following aspects of Stoke St Gregory life has a positive, negative, or no effect on your health.

Answered: 328

Skipped: 57



The results indicate that living in the peace and quiet of the countryside, the air quality, community spirit, the HOTV, local events and working in the countryside all score very highly as having a positive impact on the respondent's health and wellbeing and is important to the respondents. Friendships and the kindness within the community was

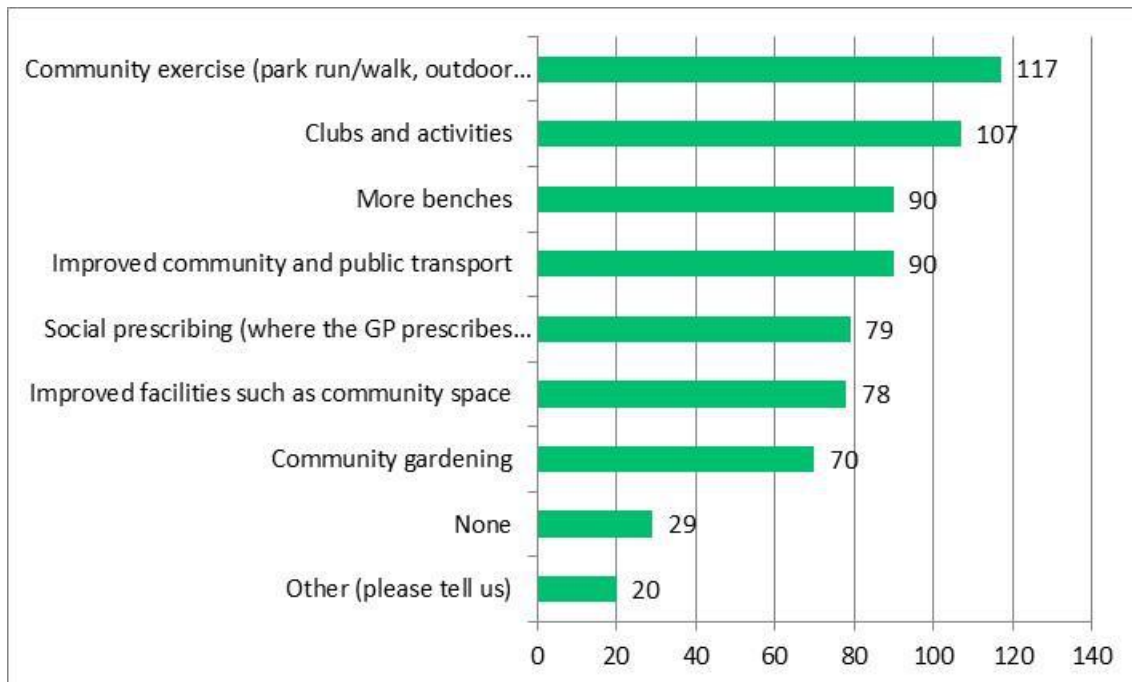


highlighted in 'other' by 6 respondents. Divisions within the community has the most negative effect on health and wellbeing (140). This was highlighted in other comments as there being a 'clique' and 'each to their own' mentality. Rural traffic also scored highly within negative effects (135) with 7 respondents commenting that large farm machinery, speeding vehicles and intensive farming practices have a negative impact.

Q22: What could be offered in Stoke St Gregory to help improve your health and wellbeing needs, including reducing isolation? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 275

Skipped: 110



Out of the 217 respondents; 117 wanted to see more community exercise provision with 107 requesting more activities and clubs. This was highlighted in other comments also with respondents suggesting better access and improved accessibility to the footpath network to improve health and well-being.

90 respondents request more benches with provision of seating made available at the village bus stops; in particular the stop in the village square/Dark Lane. 90 respondents suggest more social prescribing activities and improved facilities such as a community space. It was highlighted in 'other comments' by 4 respondents a community woodland should be considered to improve both of these aspects. 6 respondents highlighted an issue with slurry smells and the smells associated with movement of farm waste as needing to be addressed to improve general health and wellbeing.



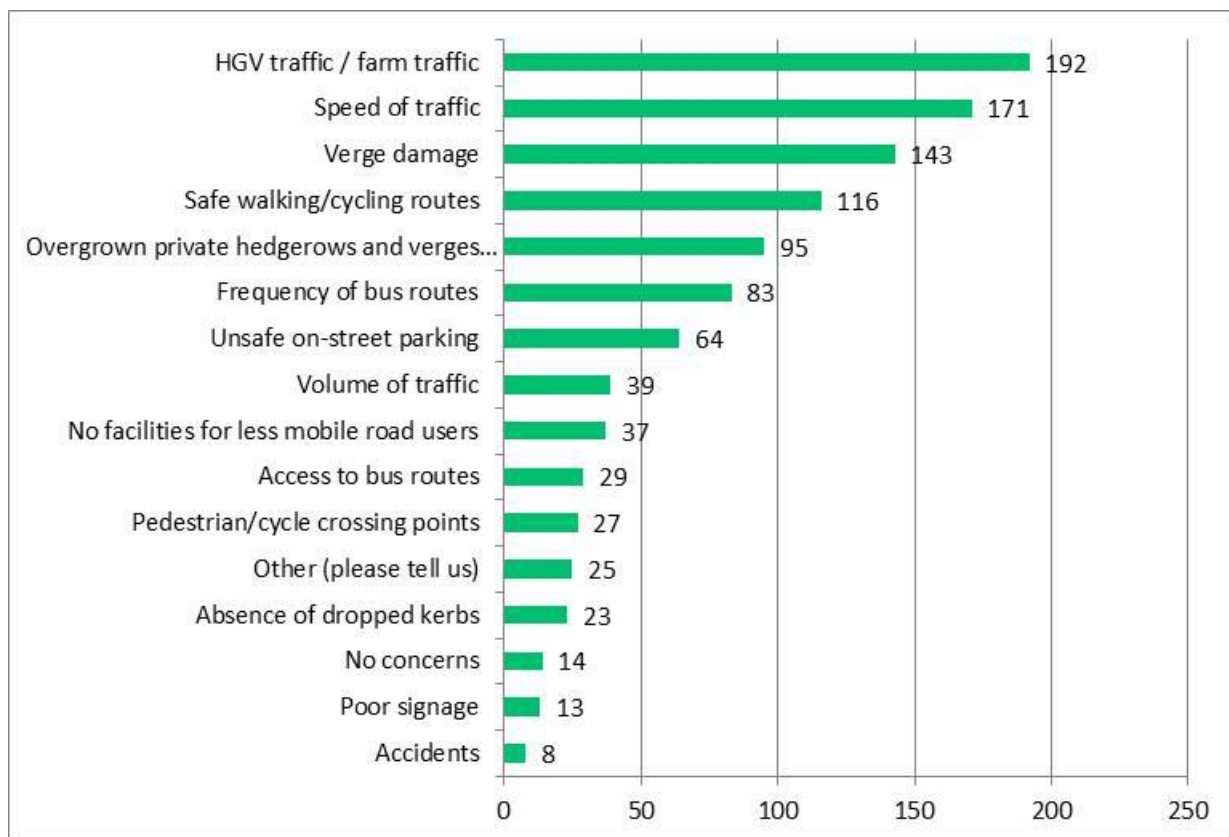
Traffic, Travel and Transport

Cars are essential for many people in rural areas, but to address the challenges of congestion and climate change, movement can be managed by improving the provision of public transport, and encouraging walking and cycling, so as to reduce car journeys.

Q23: If you have concerns about the local traffic, please tick the top three issues in the village which currently affect you? (tick up to three)

Answered: 327

Skipped: 58



A high response rate with only 58 respondents skipping this question.

As is expected in a rural community like Stoke St Gregory, over half of the respondents selected 'HGV/Farm vehicles' and 'Speed' as the two main traffic issues. There is also strong concern over the state of the verges, and the lack of safe walking/cycling routes, and poorly maintained hedges.

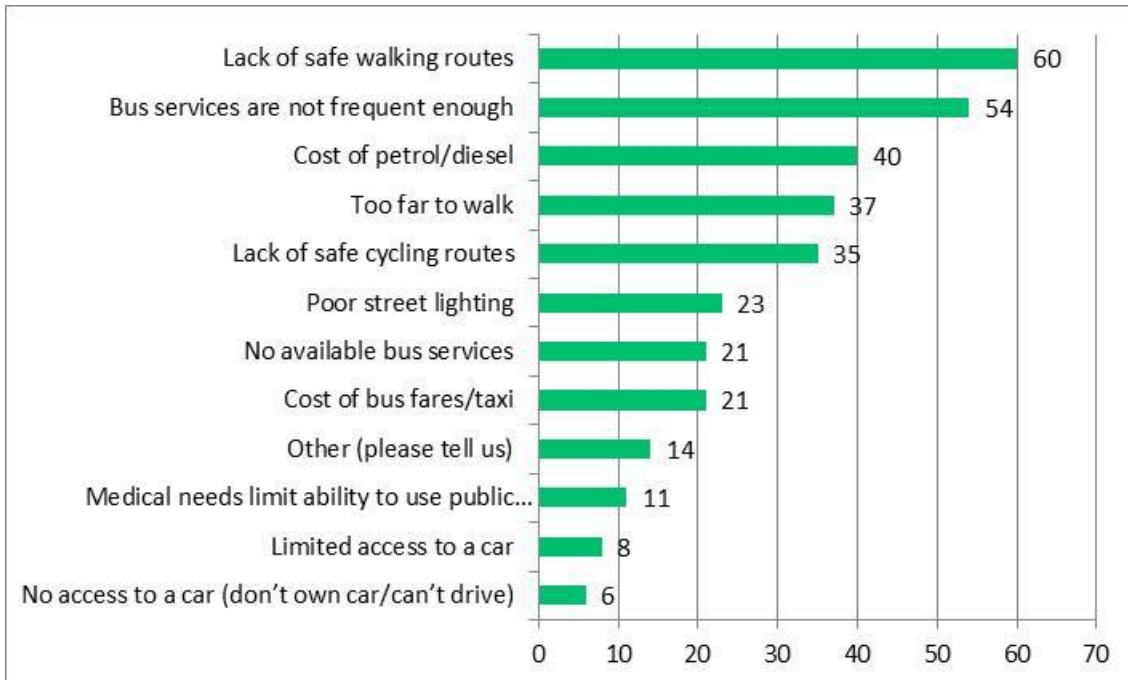
The majority of the comments provided reference speeding farm vehicles. However there is also concern over the parking in the centre of town around the school, pub, and shop. With dangerous parking and poor lighting raising potential safety concerns.



Q24: If you cannot easily reach your destination/amenities, what stops you from being able to get there? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 154

Skipped: 231



With 231 respondents skipping this section it suggests that the majority of respondents either do not have issues getting where they need to go, or that this is not a topic which concerns them. But of the 154 that did answer this question the main difficulties are the lack of safe walking routes and the Buses not running frequently enough.

From the few comments provided, there was reference to the distance to nearest train station, buses not running in evenings or not reaching certain areas. There was also a couple of suggestions for a local taxi company to be established.



Communication

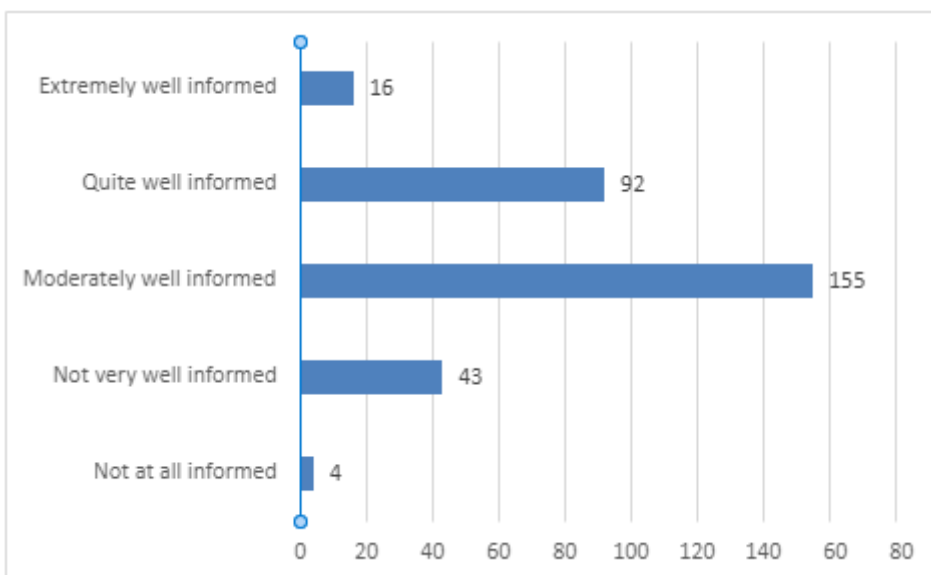
How do you like to keep in touch with what's going on? Is information easily available to you? We would like to understand which methods of communication you are using to find out about what activities and events are going on in Stoke St Gregory, as well as how you keep up to date with village matters.

The results will help us improve our methods of communication throughout the village and ensure that we communicate with the whole community effectively.

Q25: How well informed, if at all, do you feel about activities and events in your local area?

Answered: 310

Skipped: 75



A strong response rate with 310 respondents answering this question.

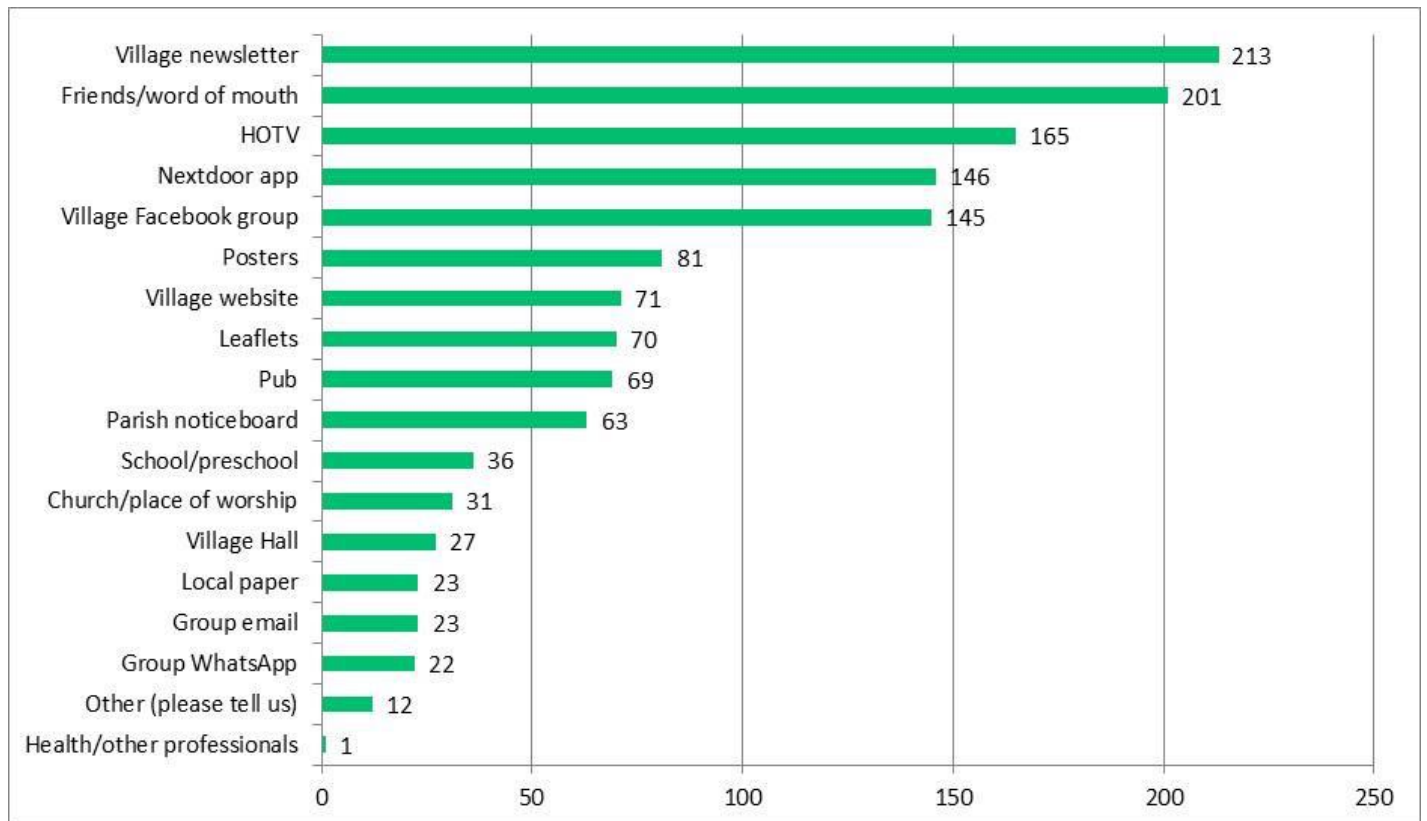
The overwhelming majority feel that they are well informed and only 4 felt they were not at all informed, but there does still appear to be room for improvement in respect of communication.



Q26: How do you find out about what's going on? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 320

Skipped: 65



A strong response rate with 320 respondents answering this question.

The two clear favourites for finding out what's going on in the village are the 'newsletter' and 'word of mouth'. The 'HOTV', 'Next door app', and 'facebook' groups are also good sources of information.

The comments provided back up these results.

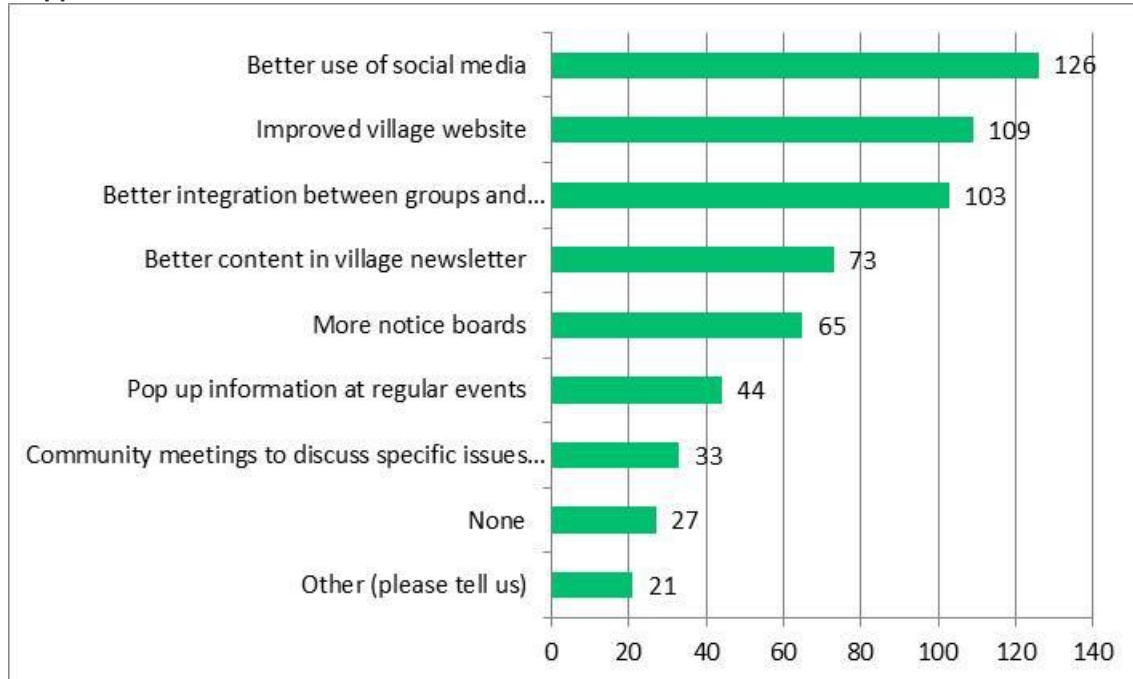
This is helpful to understand when publicising not only the Community Plan, but the outcomes and actions to follow from it.



Q27: What improvements could be made to keep you informed about local issues? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 287

Skipped: 98



A quarter of respondents skipped this question and 27 said no improvements needed. The remaining respondents felt that better use of social media, and improvements to the village website are needed. There was also a strong feeling that better integration is needed between the various community groups.

21 additional comments were received, which suggested more noticeboards or visual advertisement was made available within the village (4), a more comprehensive or regular village newsletter (6). A number of comments acknowledged that different people digest information in different ways and so more than one communication medium should always be used.



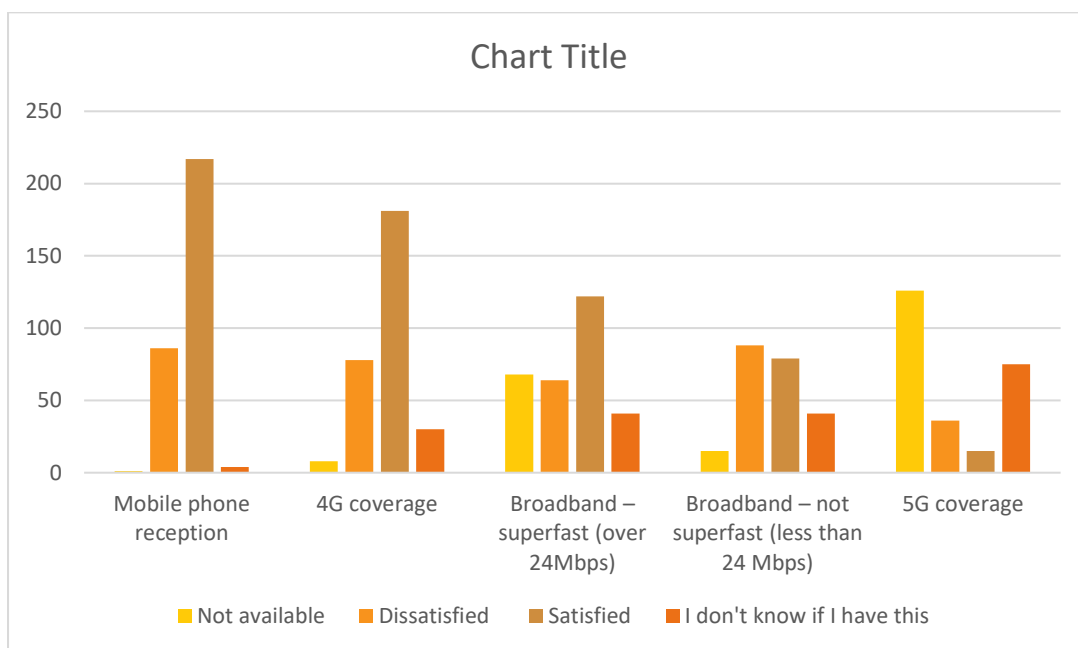
Technology

Internet access and mobile phone coverage is seen by many as an essential part of life, especially as people are choosing to work from home but to date, provision in rural areas has been patchy. It is important that the village has an understanding and overview of your experience of internet and mobile usage. This will help us when exploring how we can improve internet access and phone coverage.

Q28: Are you satisfied with the technology where you live?

Answered: 317

Skipped: 68



High uptake on this question with only 68 skipping. Generally, people are satisfied with mobile phone & 4G coverage, with very few having access to 5G. And as expected for a rural community less than half of the respondents have access to super-fast broadband.

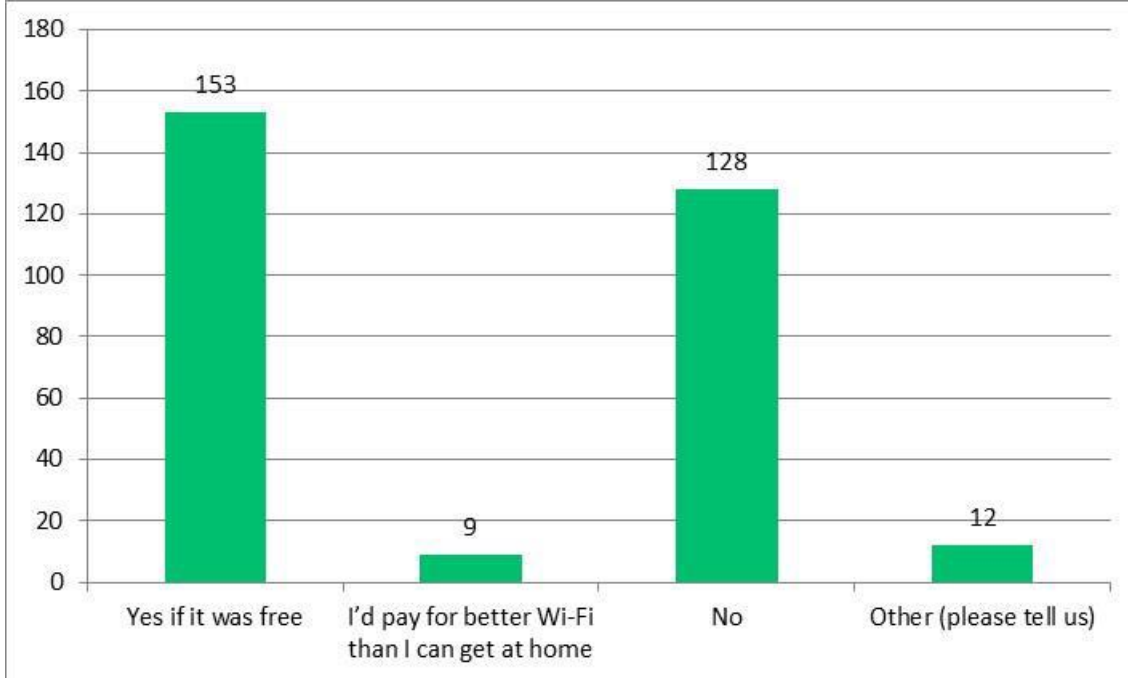
In the comments section, as expected, there's some strongly worded feedback from those with poor speeds.



Q29: Would you use Wi-Fi at the HOTV, or elsewhere in the village, if it was available?

Answered: 302

Skipped: 83



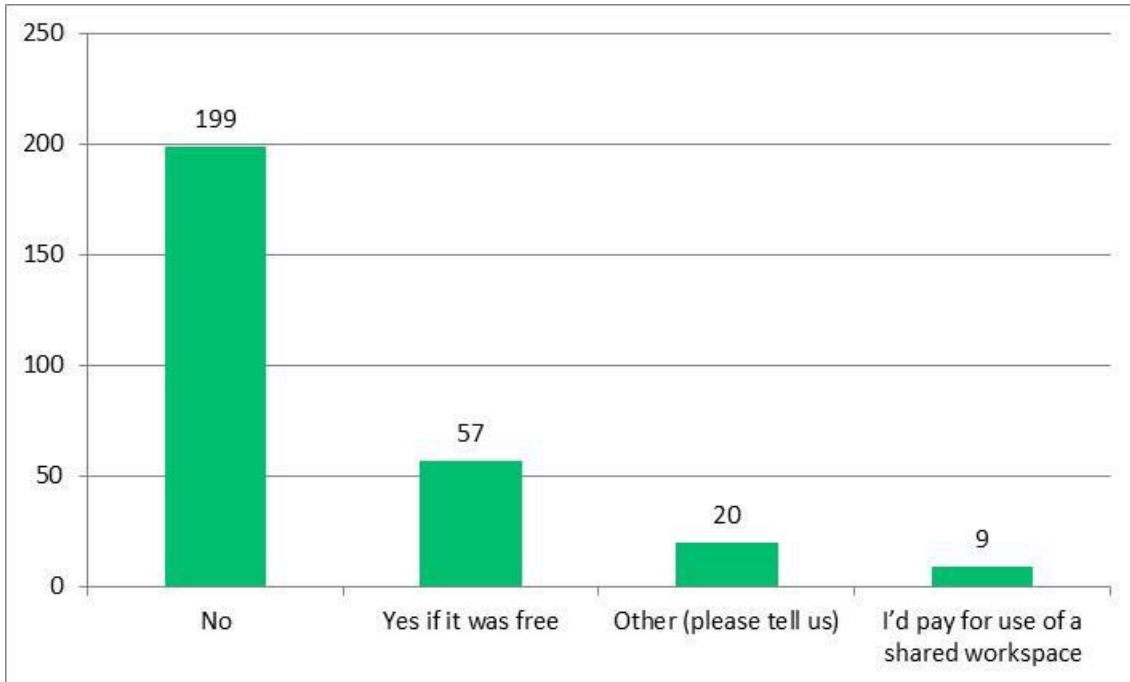
No clear winner on this topic. It's pretty even with yes tipping the scales. In the comments section there are several people advising that this is already available. And others who've said yes have clarified that while they would use it, it would not be for work purposes.



Q30: Would you use a shared/community workspace, if it was available?

Answered: 285

Skipped: 100



The overwhelming consensus on this question is NO. With 100 people skipping the question, and 199 of those that did answer saying NO, which in itself is interesting feedback.