

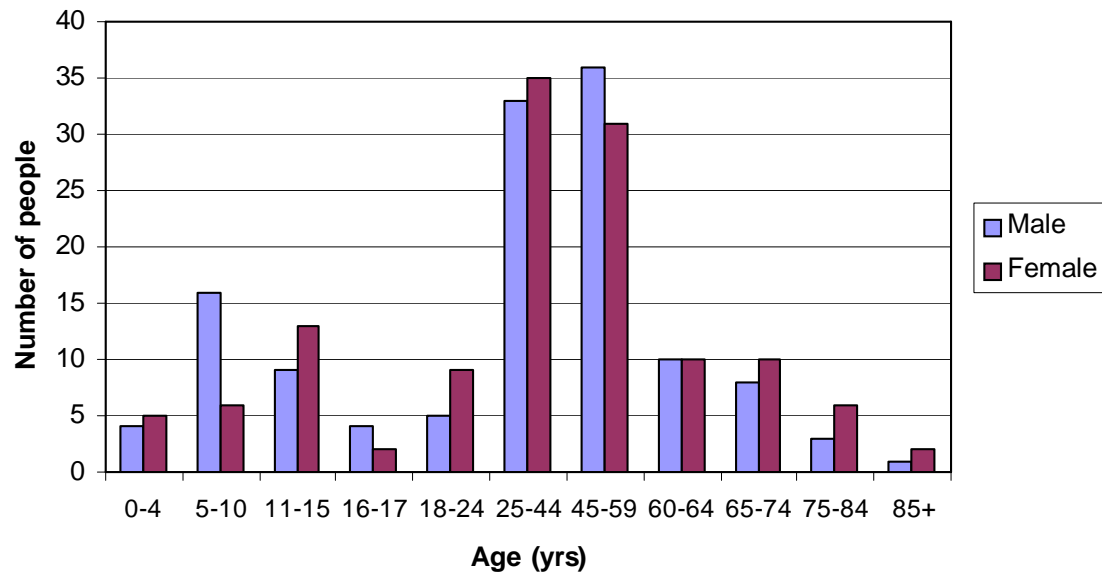
Witcham Parish Plan

2006 Questionnaire

## Household Section

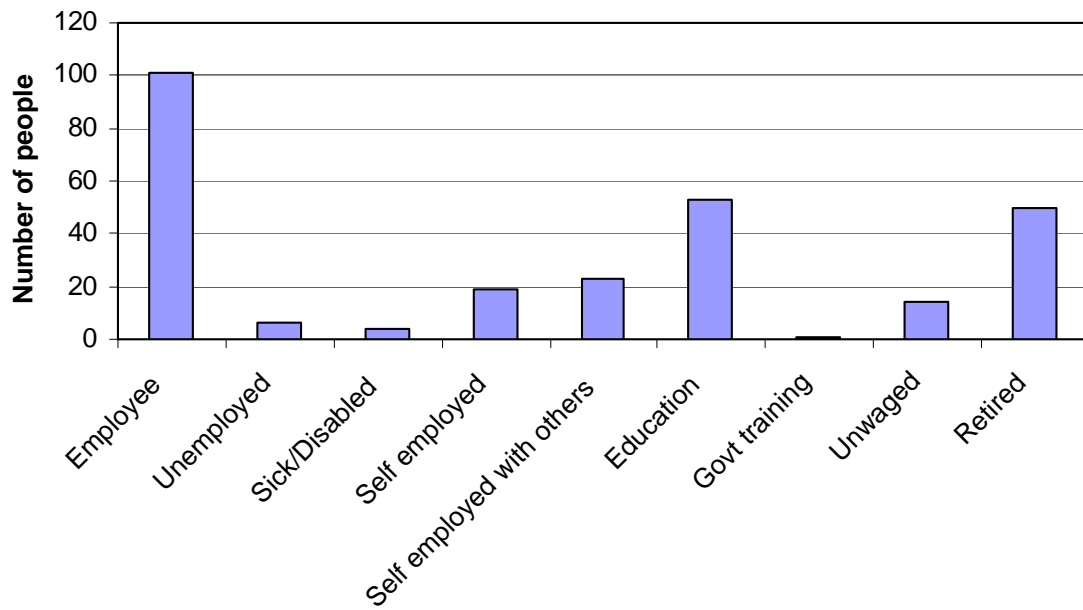
### 1. Please enter the number of people in your household in each group/sex

*N.B. 13 of the household survey responses were completed incorrectly and are not included in the analysis below*



- Of the households that responded, the total household gender composition of Witcham is a 50/50 split of 129 males and 129 females
- The majority male household composition was in the 45-59 age bracket
- The majority of female household composition was in the 24-44 age bracket

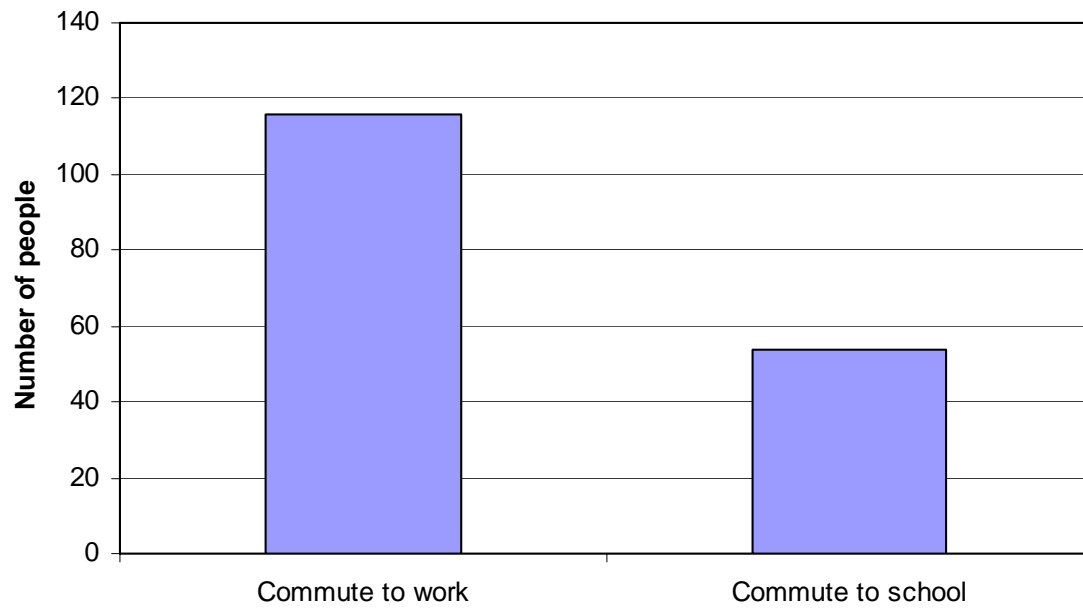
2. Please enter the number of people in your household who are at present:



- Just over a third (37%) of the people in Witcham who responded to the survey were employed
- A fifth (20%) were in education
- 18% were retired
- 8% were self employed and were employing others
- 7% were self employed

**3. Please enter the number of people in your household who are at present:**

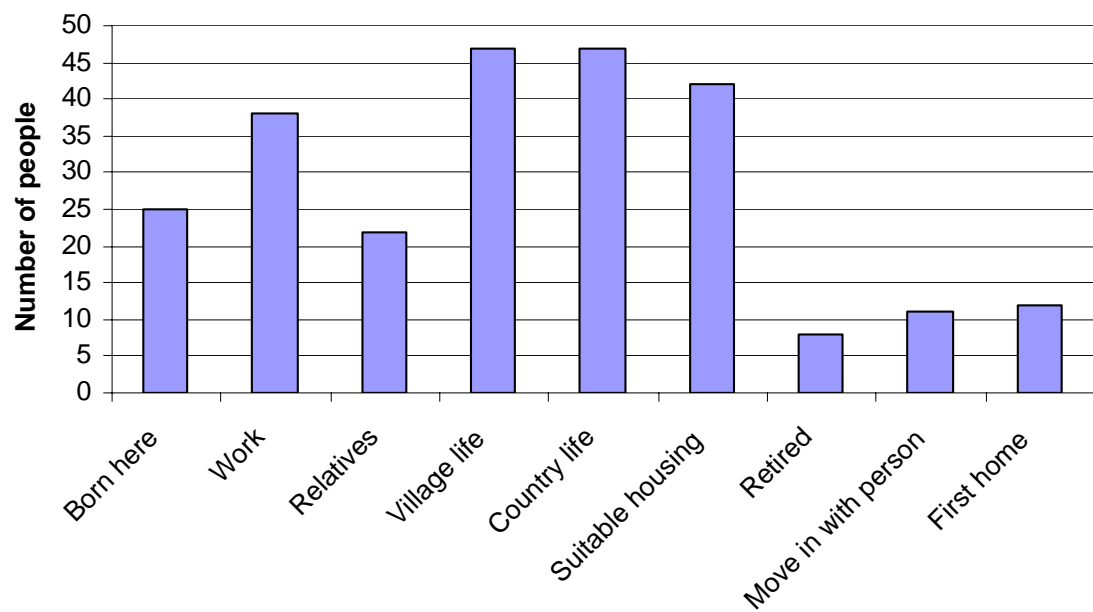
*N.B. 29% of households that responded to the Witcham survey did not answer this question*



- Two thirds (68%) of people that responded, commuted to work
- One third (32%) commuted to school

#### 4. How did you come to live in the village?

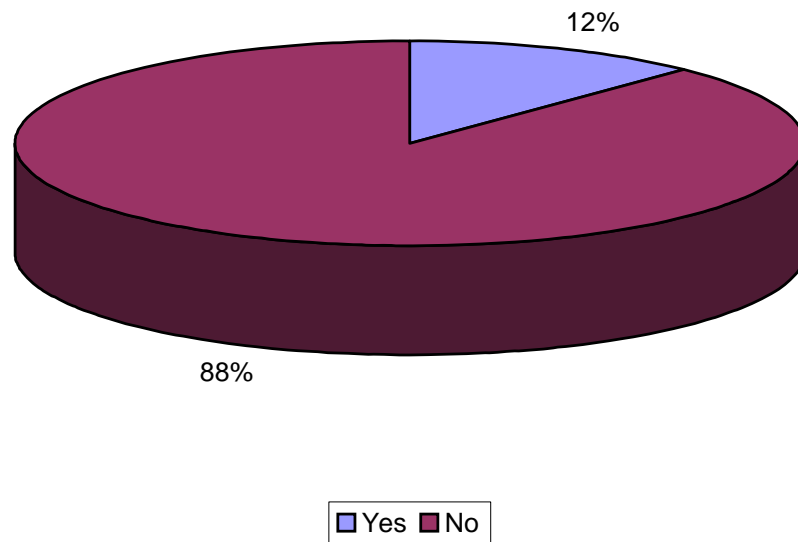
*N.B. This was a multiple choice question*



- 41% of households moved to Witcham because of a love of village life
- 41% moved, also moved to Witcham because of a love of country life
- 36% moved, also moved to Witcham because of the availability of suitable housing
- One third (33%) moved, also moved to Witcham to work in the area

**5. Do you, or does anyone in your household, intend to move in the near future?**

*N.B. Two households that responded to the survey did not answer this question*

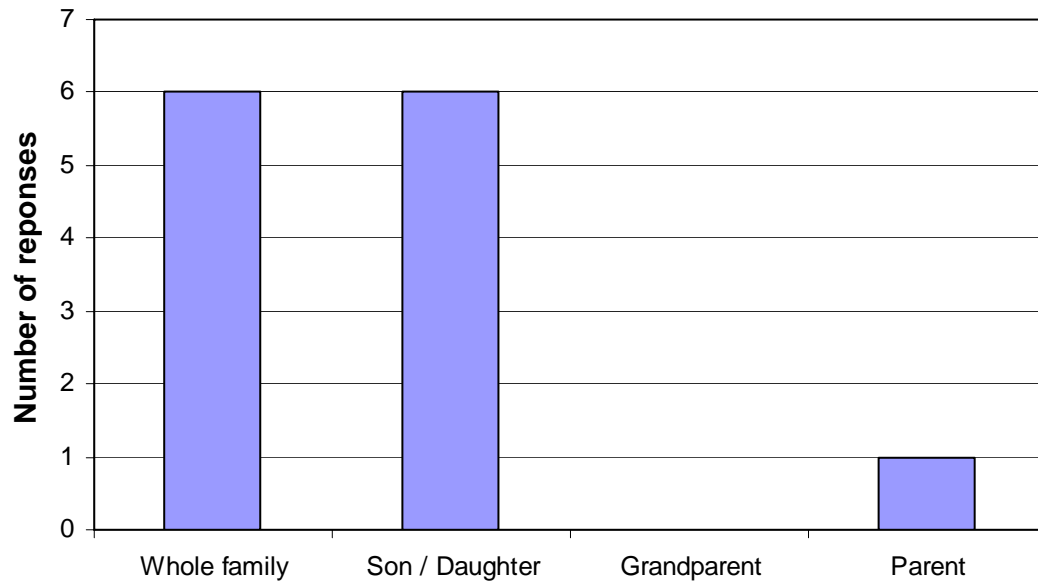


- The majority of households (88%) did not intend to move in the near future

6. If you answered yes to question 5, who intends to move, why and where to?

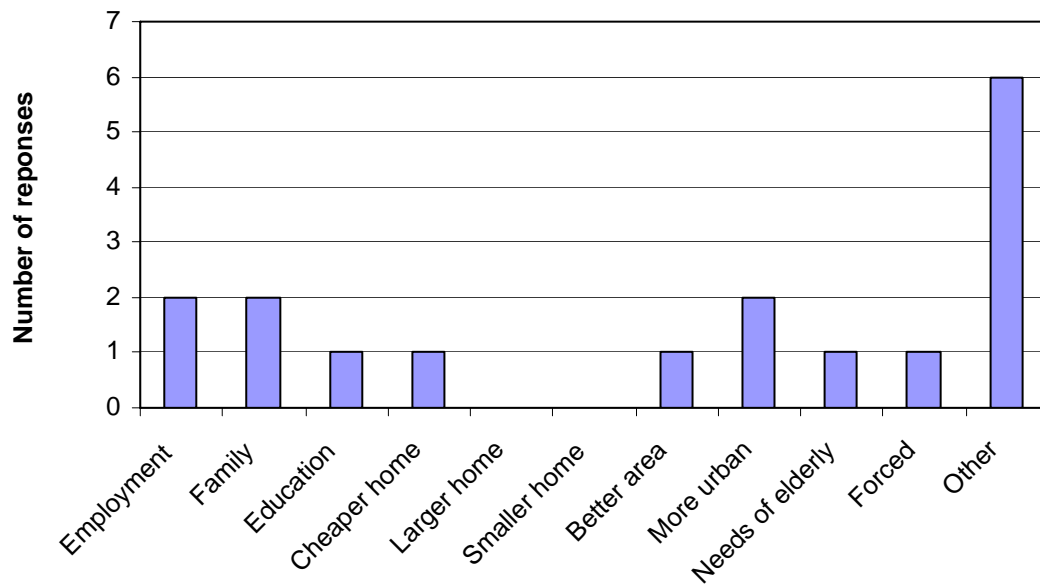
**Who**

*N.B. One household who intends to move did not answer this question*



- Of those households that intended to move, 46% intend to move the whole family
- For 46% of households, only the daughter/son were moving
- For 8% of households, the parents were moving

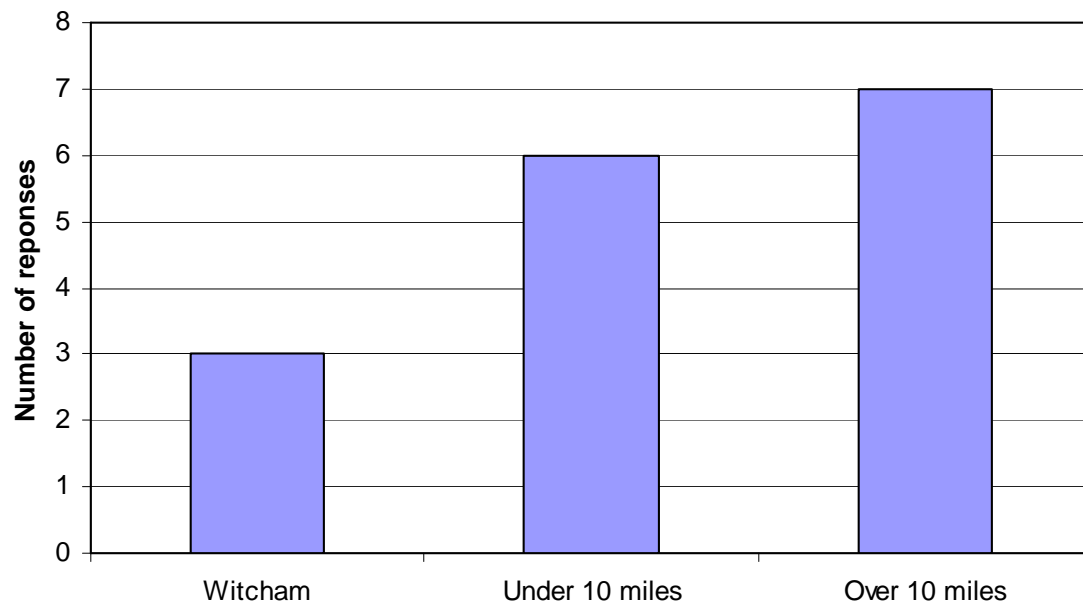
## Why



- The main reason for moving was a reason not listed in the questionnaire
- Other reasons included employment, family and wanting a more urban area

## Where

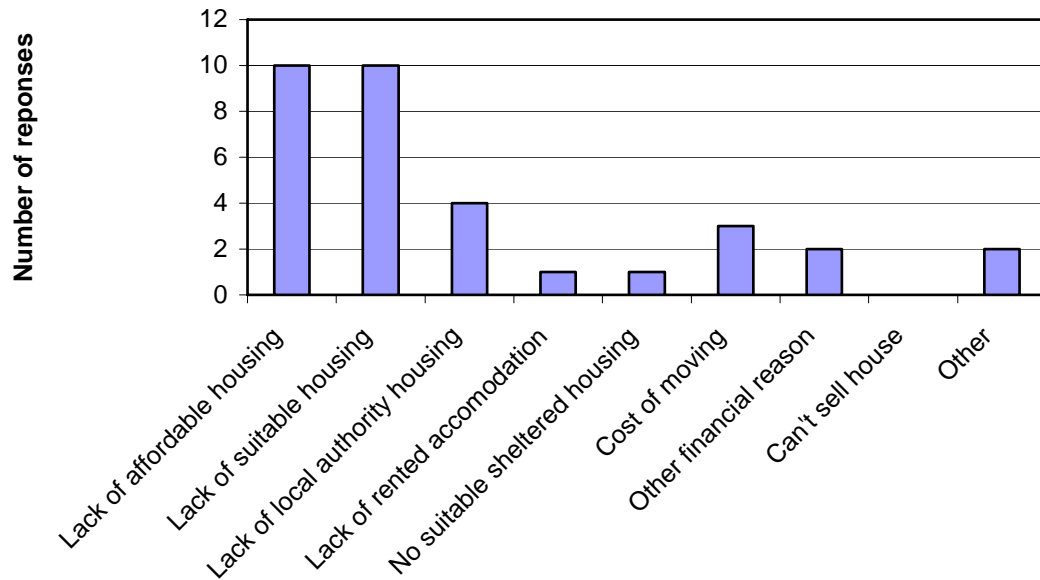
*N.B. Two households who intend to move did not answer this part of the question*



- Of those households that intended to move, 44% would move more than 10 miles away
- 38% intended to move less than 10 miles away
- 19% intended to move within Witcham

**7. If anyone in your household wishes to move within Witcham are they unable to due to the following reasons?**

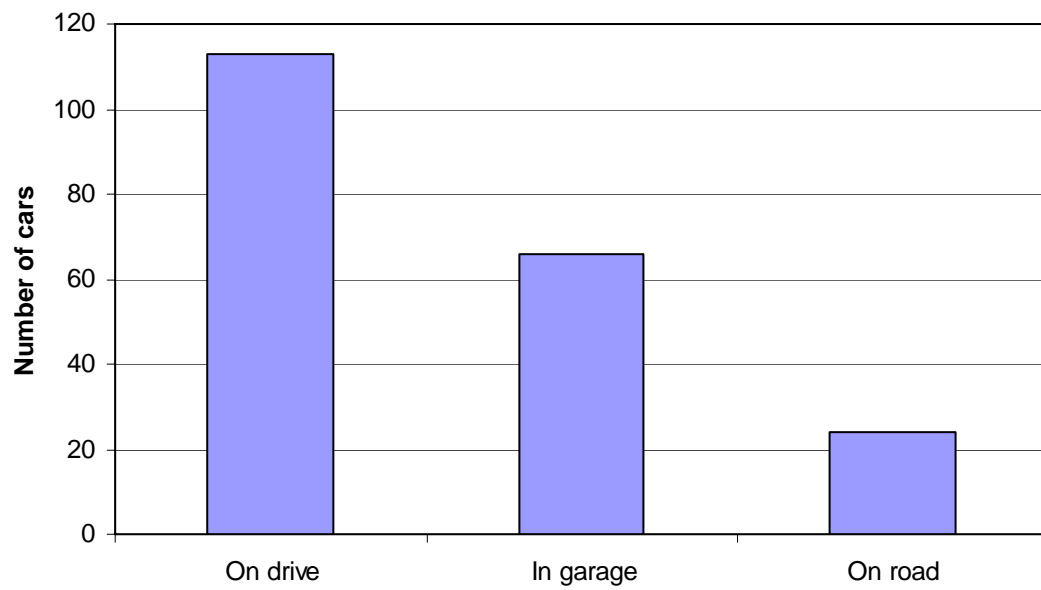
*N.B. 73% of households who intend to move did not answer this question*



- The main reasons for not moving within Witcham were a lack of affordable housing and a lack of suitable housing
- Other reason included a lack of local authority housing, lack of rented accommodation, lack of suitable sheltered housing, the cost of moving and other financial reasons

**8. How many vehicles does your household regularly park as follows?**

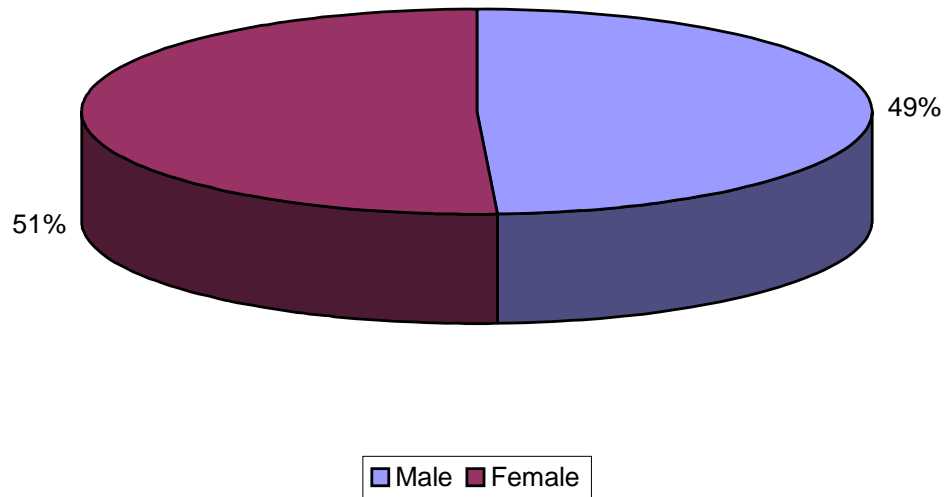
*N.B. Seven households did not answer this question*



- Over half the cars (56%) were regularly parked on the drive
- A third (33%) were parked in the garage
- 12% were parked on the road

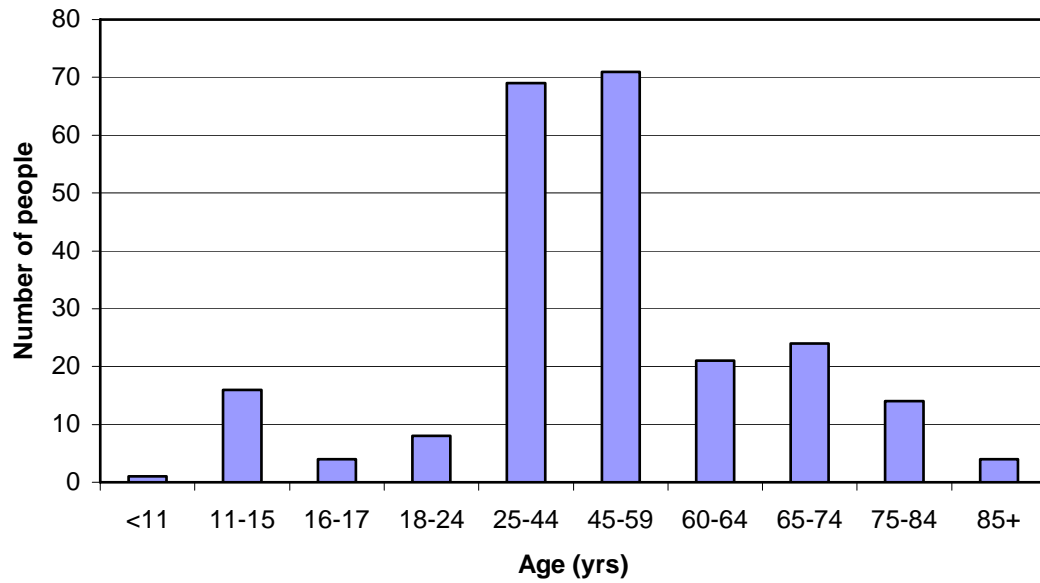
## Personal Section

9. Are you male or female?



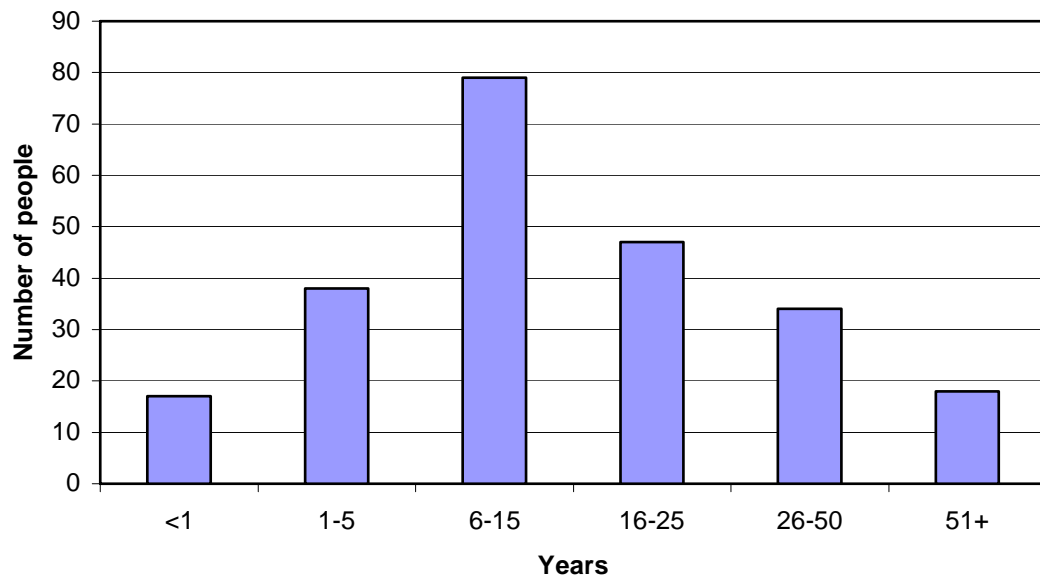
- Just over half (51%) of respondents to the Personal Section of the survey were male
- 49% were female

10. What age group do you belong to?



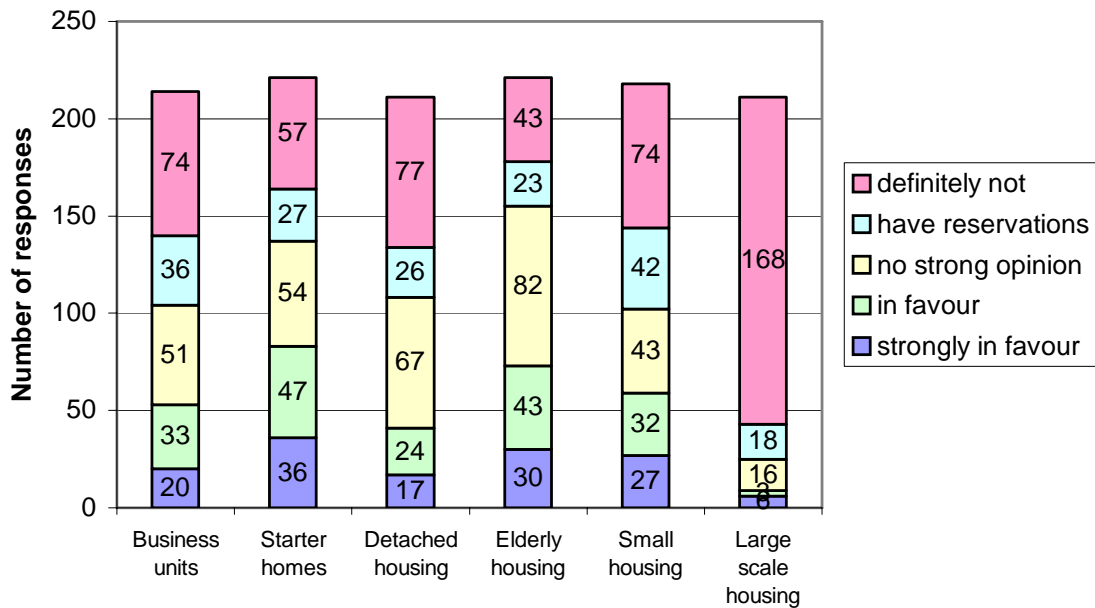
- Over a quarter (28%) of respondents were aged between 45-59 years old
- 27% were aged between 25-44 years old
- 10% were aged between 65-74 years old
- 8% were aged between 60-64 years old
- 6% were aged between 11-15 years old and the same percentage were aged between 75-84 years old

**11. How long have you lived in Witcham?**



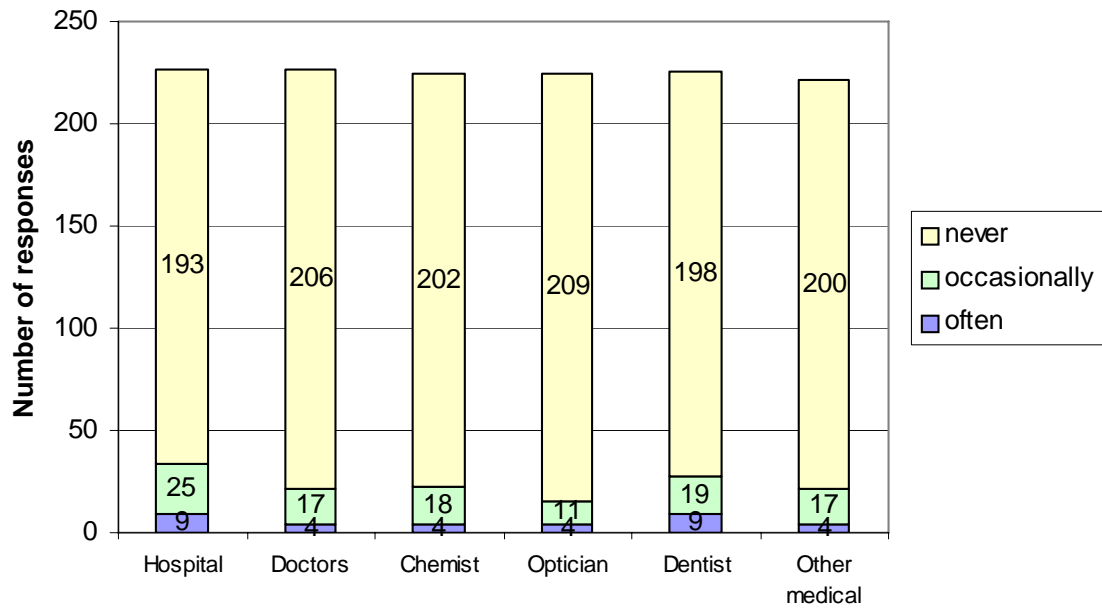
- Just over a third (34%) of respondents had lived in Witcham for 6-15 years
- One fifth (20%) had lived in Witcham for 16-25 years
- 16% had lived in Witcham for 1-5 years
- 15% had lived in Witcham for 26-50 years

12. Should the following be encouraged in and around Witcham?



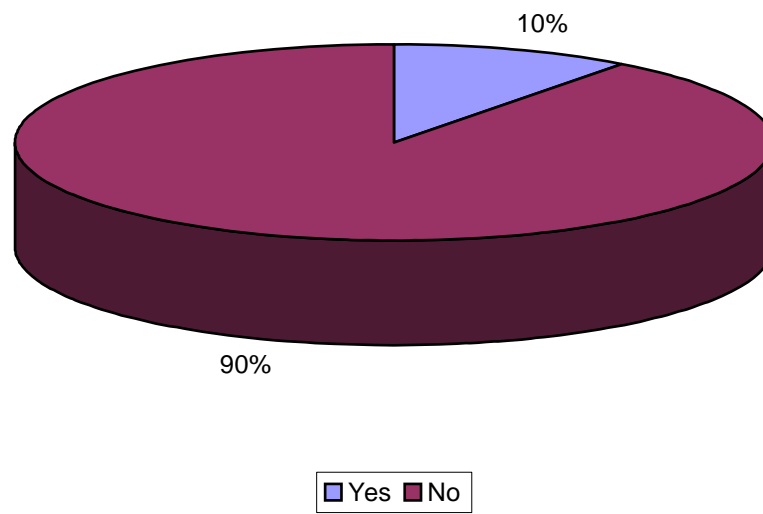
- The main area the respondents were concerned about was the encouragement of large-scale housing. Over two thirds (72%) of respondents thought this should 'definitely not' be encouraged
- The main area the respondents were most in favour of was the encouragement of starter homes. Over a third (36%) were either 'in favour' or 'strongly in favour'.
- Elderly housing was also an area respondents felt needed encouragement. Almost a third (31%) were either 'in favour' or 'strongly in favour'.

13. Do you have difficulty in getting to any of the following?



- The vast majority of the respondents 'never' had any difficulty in getting to any of the listed services.
- Of those services where respondents found it 'occasionally' or 'often' difficult to get to, 15% said the Hospital, whilst 12% said the Dentist.

14. Do you have a health problem/disability which affects your day-to-day living?

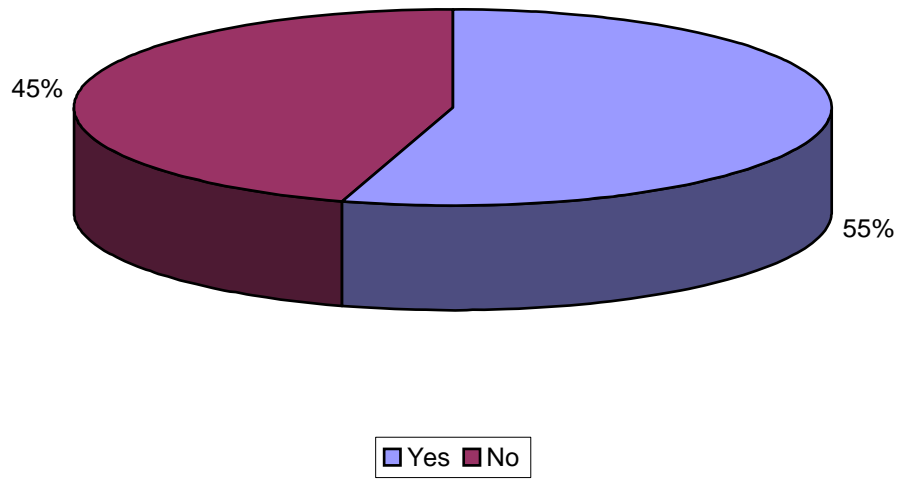


- 10% of respondents did have a health problem that affected their day-to-day living

If you need additional help, please specify what kind of help is required to make your life easier

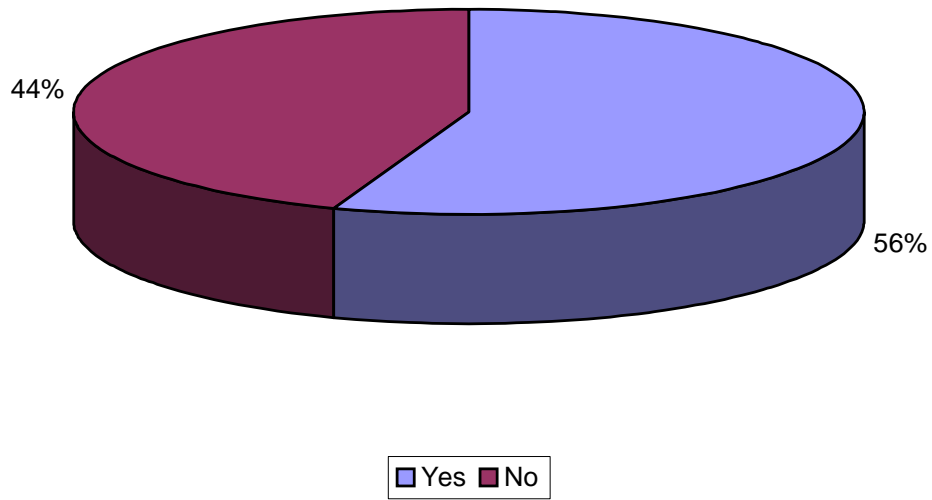
- Have a team of carers
- Use of wheelchair sometimes. Would like a downstairs bedroom.
- Snake victim, wheelchair bound

15. Would you volunteer to help with a 'good neighbour' type scheme in Witcham?



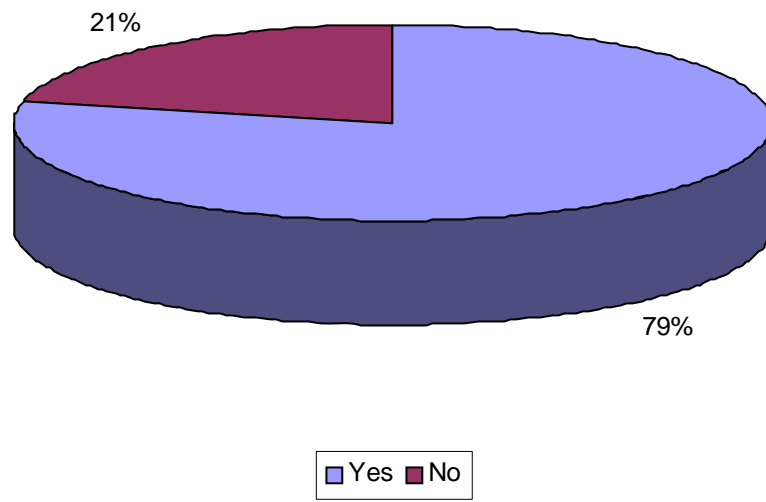
- Just over half of the respondents (55%) would volunteer to help with a 'good neighbour' type scheme in Witcham

16. In your opinion would the village benefit from a more formal neighbourhood watch scheme?



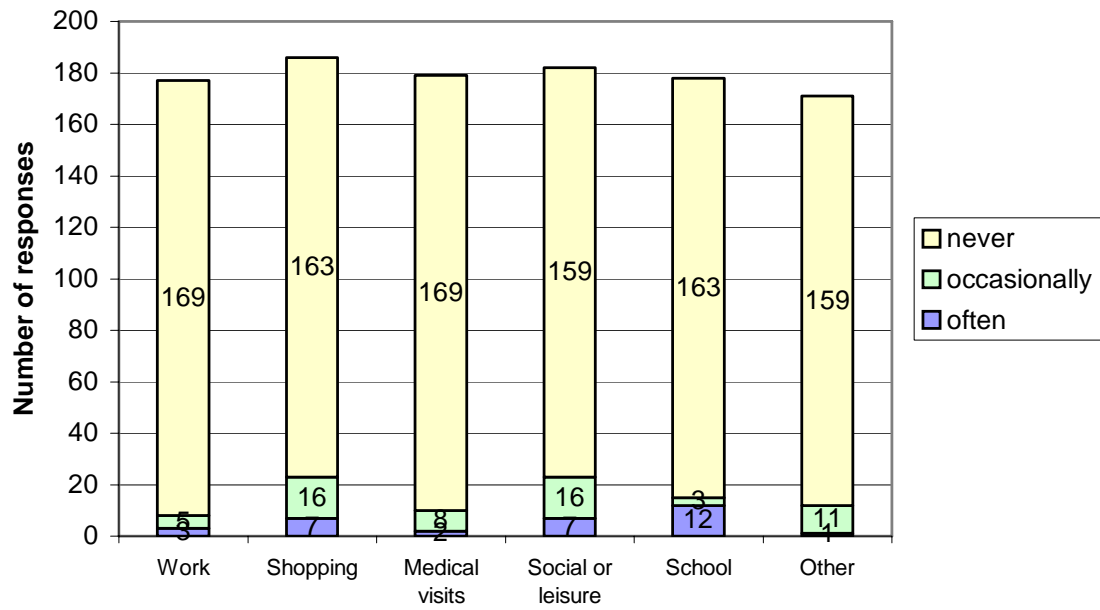
- Over half of the respondents (56%) felt the village would benefit from a more formal neighbourhood watch scheme

17. Do you feel safe from crime living in Witcham?



- The majority of respondents (79%) do feel safe from crime living in Witcham

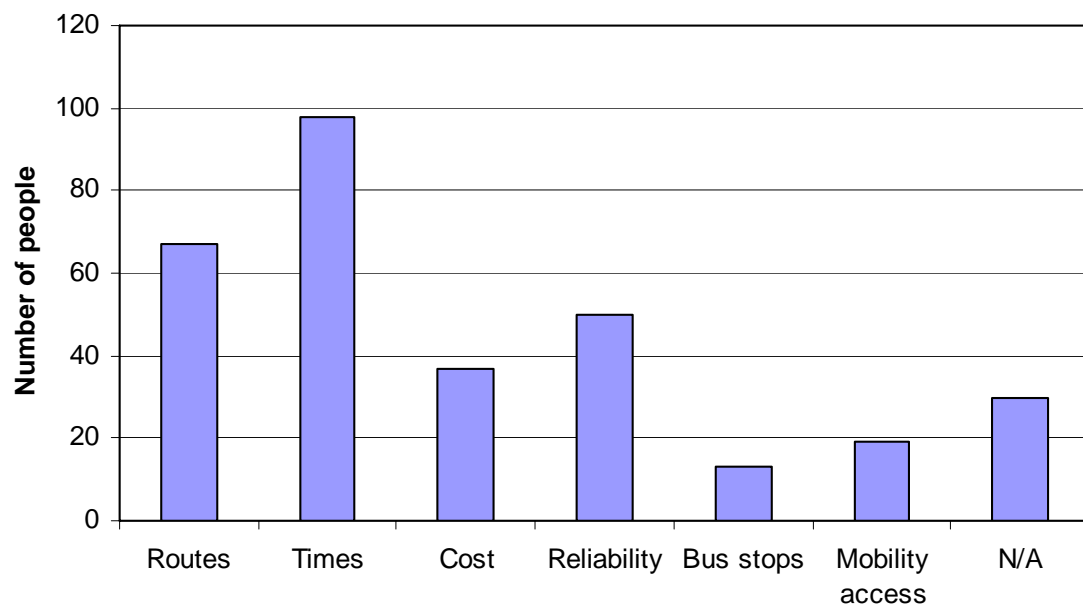
18. If you use the public bus service, what do you use it for and how often?



- The vast majority of the respondents 'never' used the public service
- 10% of respondents 'occasionally' or 'often' used the public bus service for shopping and the same amount used it 'occasionally' or 'often' for social or leisure activities
- 6% 'occasionally' or 'often' used the public bus service for school

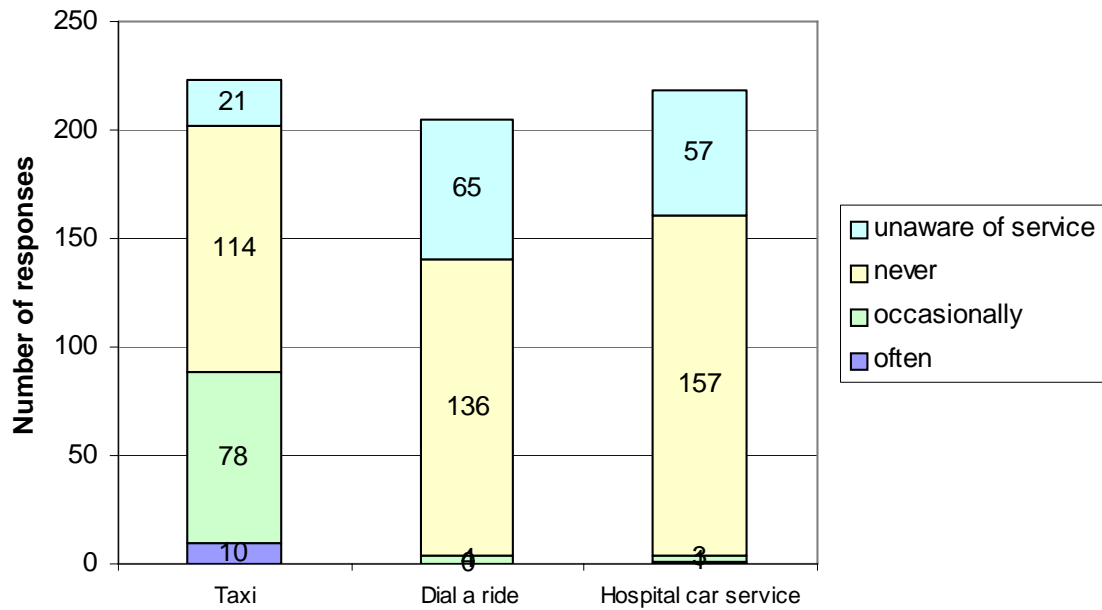
**19. Would you like to see any improvements to the bus service with regard to the following?**

*N.B. Just over a third (34%) of respondents did not answer this question. This was a multiple choice question*



- Of those people that did respond, the vast majority (86%) would like to see an improvement to the timetable
- 59% would like/also like to see an improvement to the routes
- Reliability (44% of respondents) and cost (32%) were also seen to need improvement

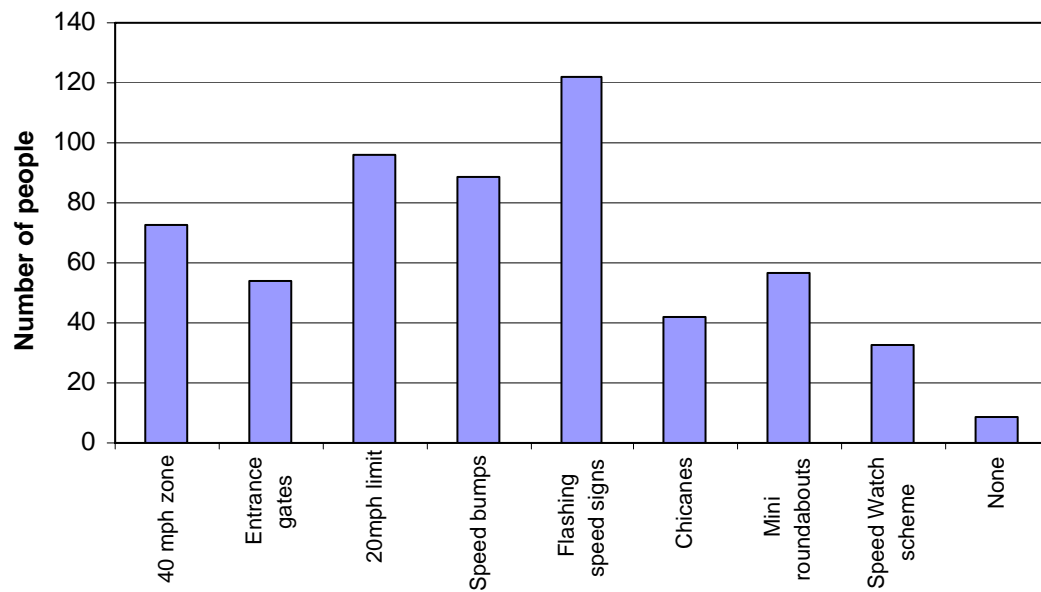
20. How often do you use the following transport services?



- The majority of the respondents 'never' used the listed transport service
- Over a third (38%) of respondents 'often' or 'occasionally' used the private taxi services; this was the most used transport service.
- Over a quarter (28%) were unaware of the dial-a-ride service whilst just under a quarter (24%) were unaware of the hospital car service

**21. Which of the following speed control measures would you support in Witcham?**

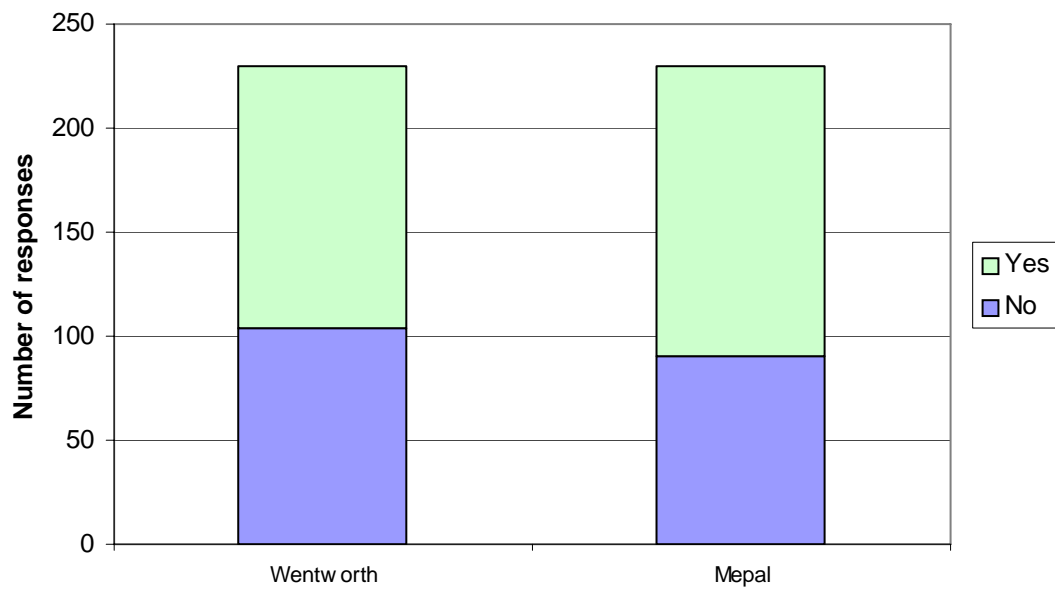
*N.B. Nine respondents did not answer this question. This was a multiple choice question*



- Just over half of respondents (52%) would support flashing speed signs
- 41% would/would also support reducing the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph
- 31% would/would also support introducing a 40mph zone for the village perimeter
- Mini-roundabouts (24%), entrance gates to the village (23%), chicanes (18%) and a resident run Speed Watch scheme (14%) would also be supported.

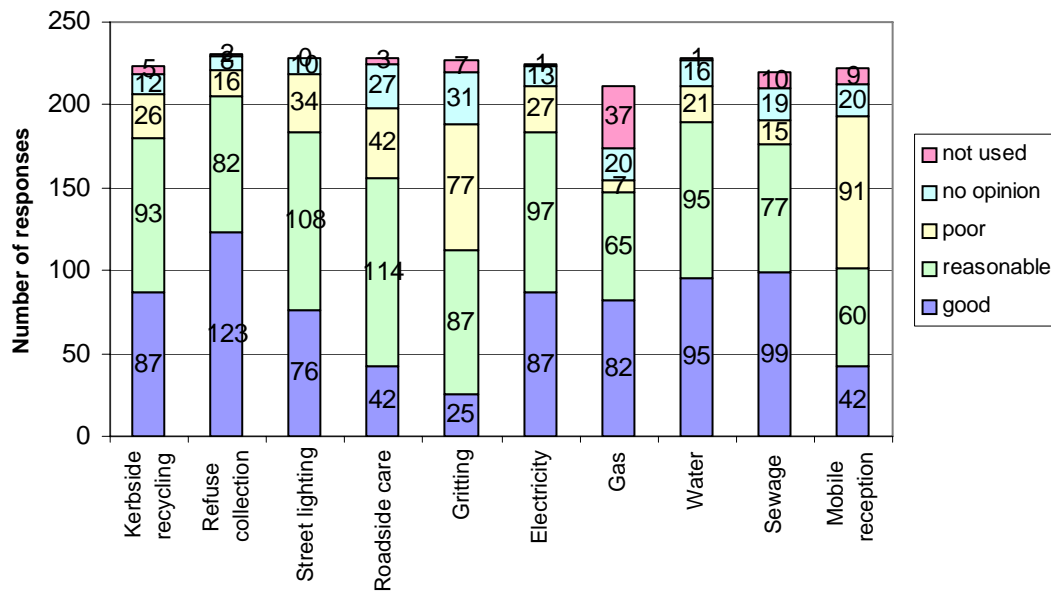
**22. Would you use new cycle paths linking Witcham to the existing path running from Wentworth into Ely/a new path to Mepal?**

*N.B. Four respondents did not answer this question*



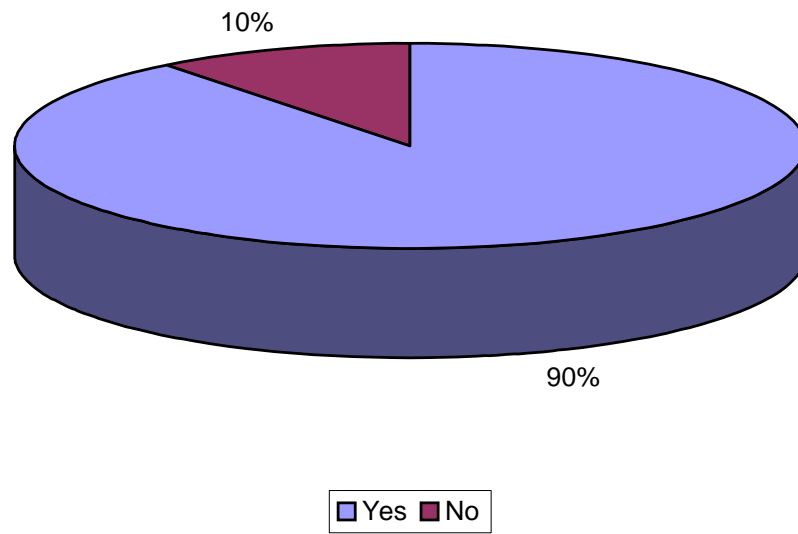
- 60% of respondents would use a cycle path which linked Witcham to Mepal
- 55% of respondents would use a cycle path which linked Witcham to Wentworth

23. What are your views on the standard of the following services in Witcham?



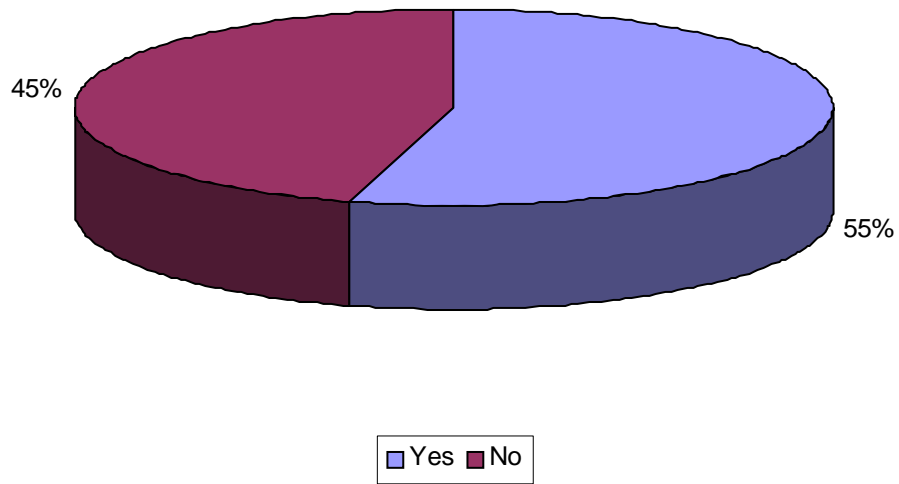
- The vast majority (88%) of respondents thought the refuse collection was 'good' or 'reasonable'
- Water (81%), street lighting (79%), electricity (79%), Kerbside recycling (77%) and sewage (75%) services were also thought to 'good' or 'reasonable' by the majority of respondents
- The service that fared least well was for mobile phone reception, where 39% of respondents thought the reception was 'poor'
- Another service that fared less well was the winter weather service (gritting) where a third (33%) of respondents thought the service was 'poor'

24. Would you support the introduction of bins for dog waste?



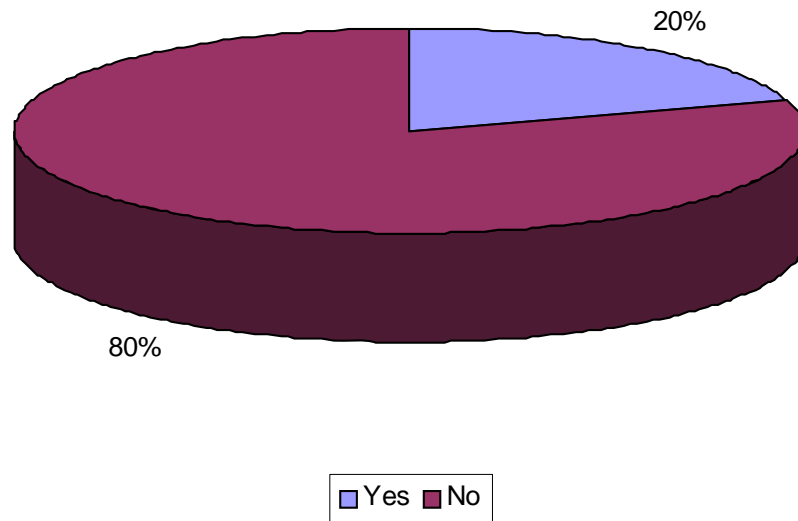
- The vast majority of respondents (90%) would support the introduction of bins for dog waste

25. Would you support the introduction of a wheelie bin system for normal waste and recyclables?



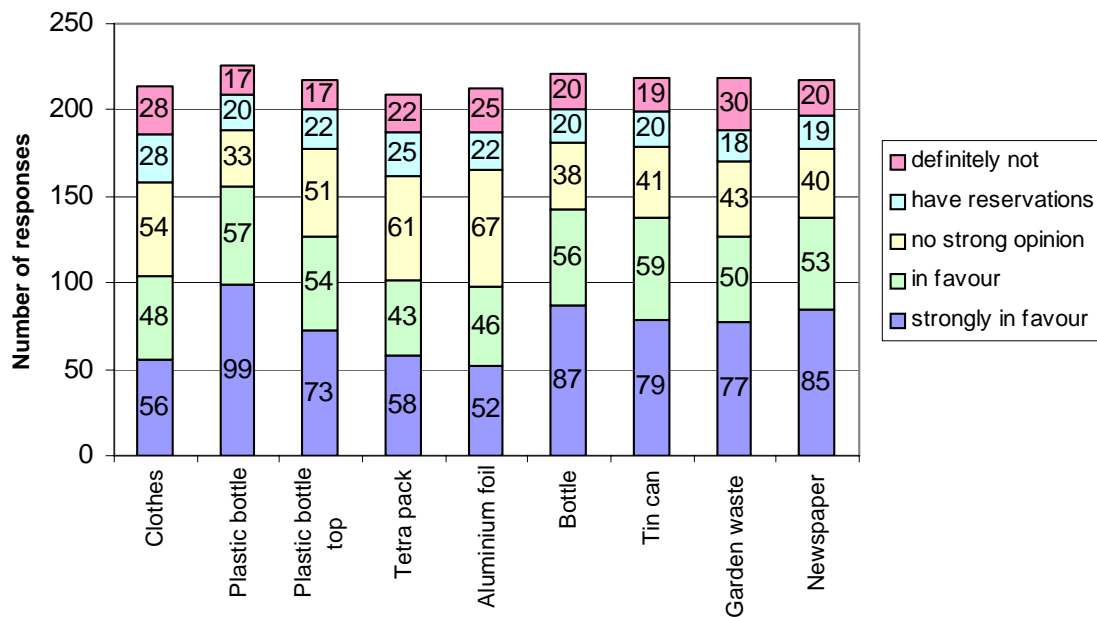
- Just of over half of respondents (55%) would support the introduction of a wheelie bin system for normal waste and recyclables

26. Would you support the introduction of a fortnightly collection of your household waste (alternating weekly collections for recyclables and waste?)



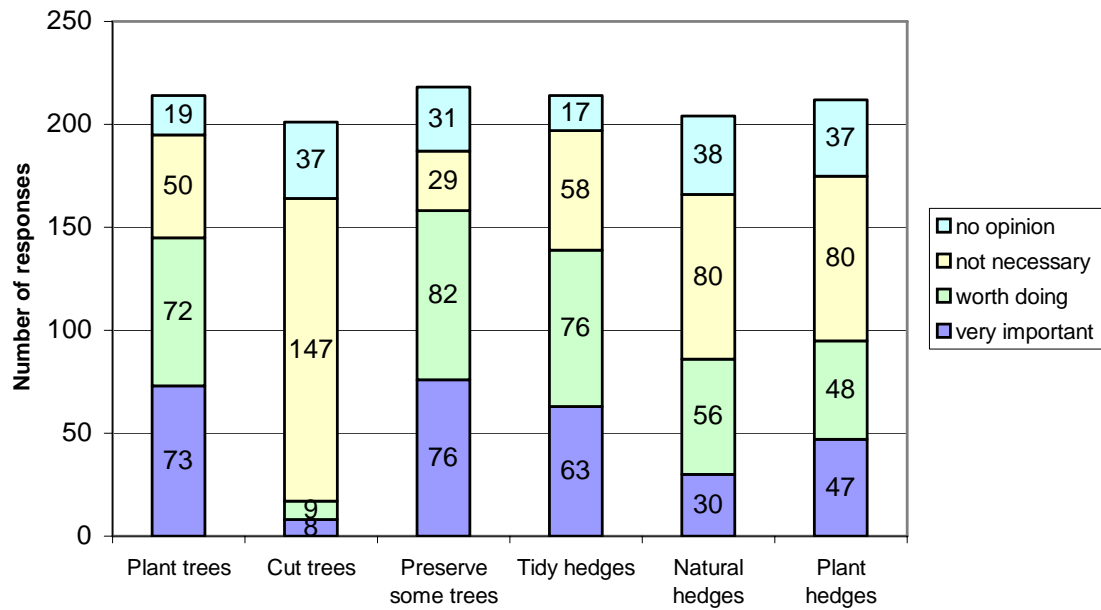
- The majority of respondents (80%) would not support the introduction of a fortnightly collection of household waste

**27. Would you support the introduction of the following recycling banks in Witcham to supplement the current kerbside collections?**



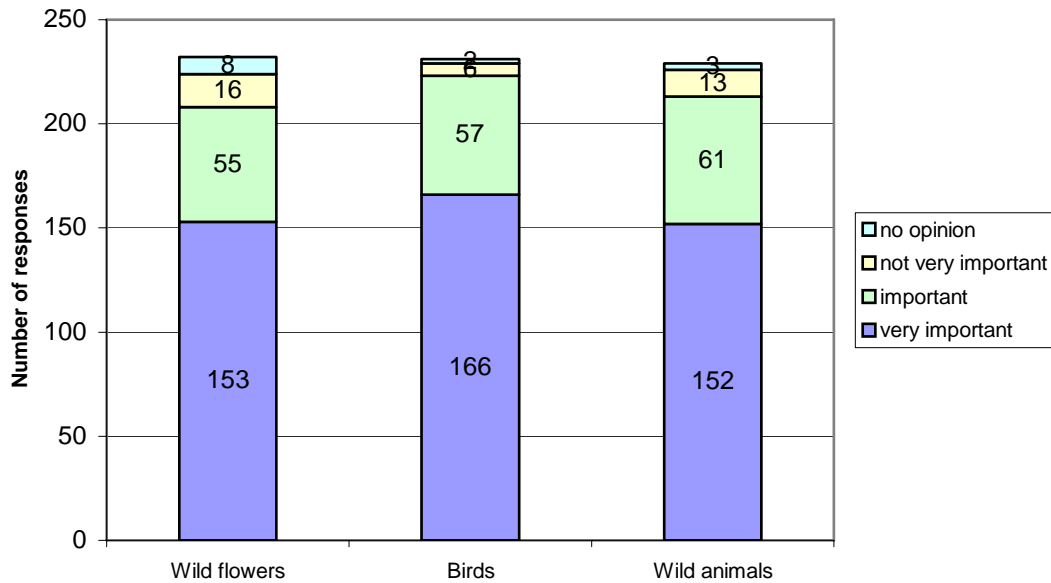
- The majority of respondents (67%) were 'strongly in favour' or 'in favour' of introducing recycling banks for plastic bottles
- 61% were also 'strongly in favour' or 'in favour' of introducing recycling banks for bottles
- 59% were also 'strongly in favour' or 'in favour' of introducing recycling banks for tin cans and the same amount were/were also 'strongly in favour' or 'in favour' of newspaper banks

**28. What do you think could be done to improve Witcham's environment?**



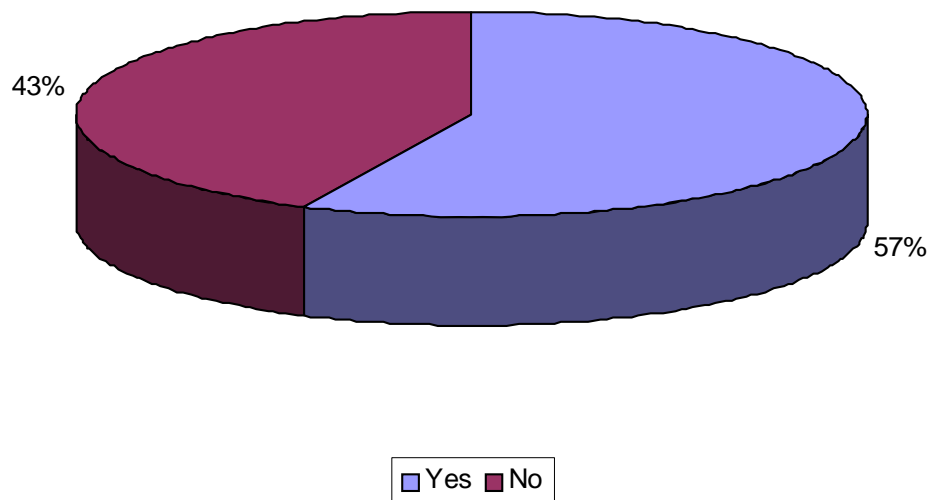
- Over two thirds of respondents (68%) thought preserving single trees in special places was 'very important' or 'worth doing'
- Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) did not think it was necessary to cut down trees
- 62% thought planting more trees was 'very important' or 'worth doing'
- 59% thought keeping hedges short and tidy was 'very important' or 'worth doing'

29. How important are the wild plants, birds and animals of the countryside around the village to you?



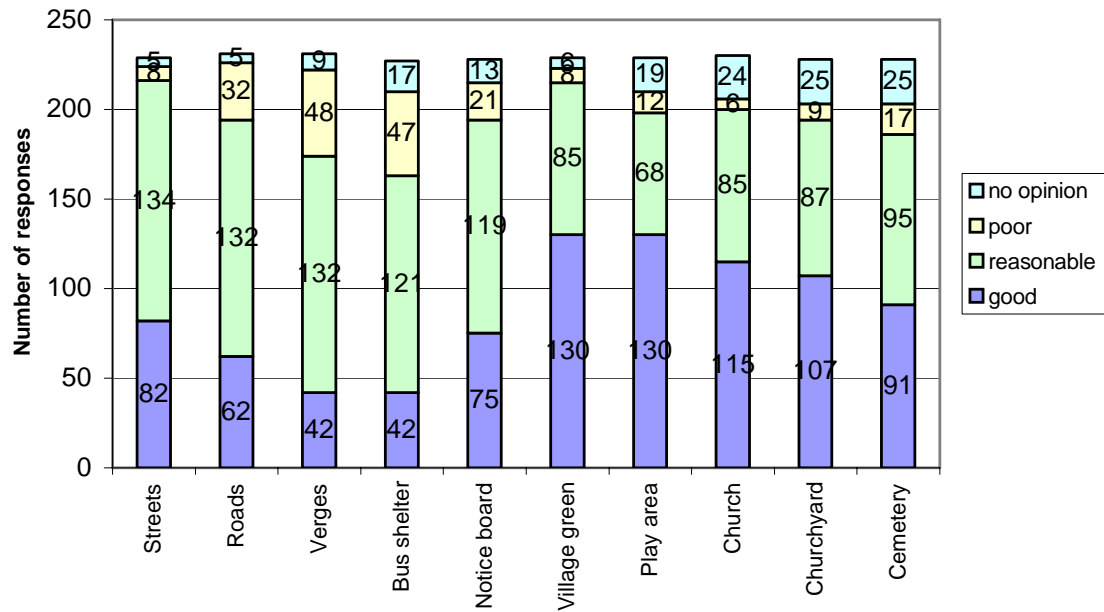
- The vast majority of respondents thought that wild plants, birds and animals of the countryside around the village were either 'very important' or 'important'
- A small proportion (7%) of respondents thought wild flowers were 'not very important'

Would you be prepared to help with conservation work for the above?



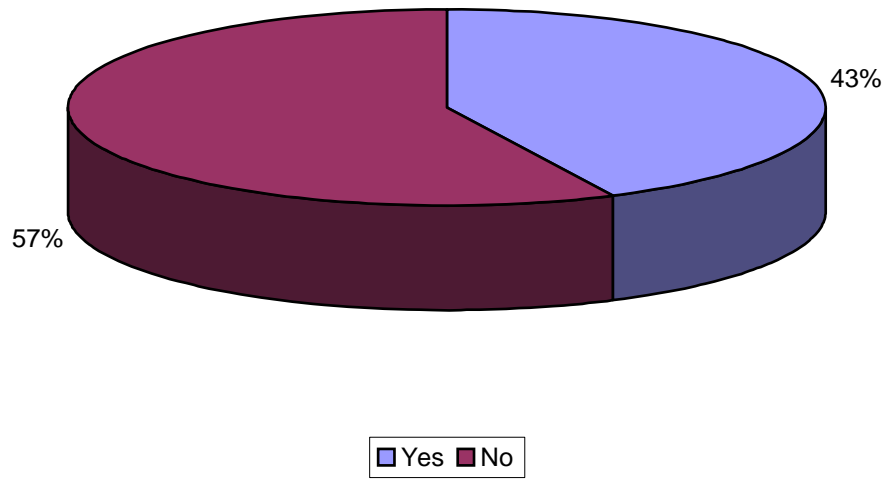
- Over half (57%) of respondents would be prepared to help with conservation work

30. How would you rate the condition/appearance of the following?



- The vast majority of respondents (92%) thought the Streets in Witcham were in 'good' or 'reasonable' condition. The same amount also thought the village green was in 'good' or 'reasonable' condition
- The verges least well with just over a fifth (21%) of respondents rating its condition/appearance as 'poor'

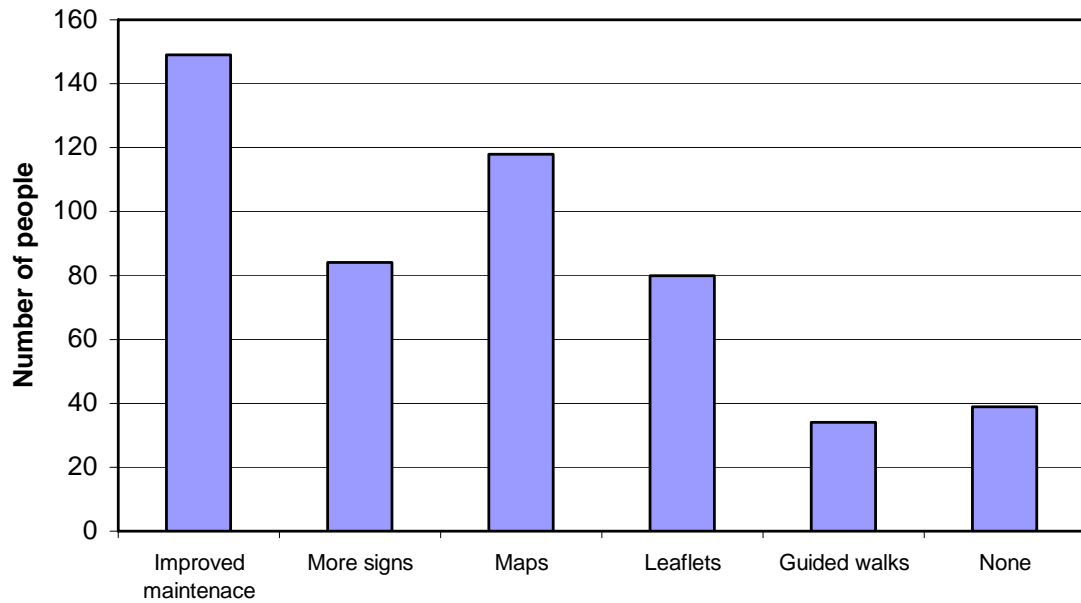
31. Do you consider fly-tipping a problem in and around Witcham?



- Over half of the respondents (57%) did not consider fly-tipping to be a problem in and around Witcham

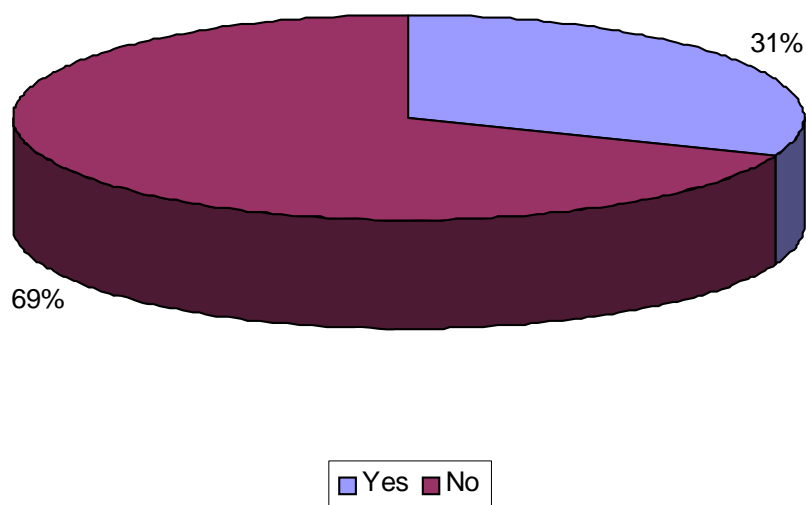
**32. In relation to footpaths, droves and bridleways, would you like to see any of the following?**

*N.B. 10 respondents did not answer this question. This was a multiple choice question.*



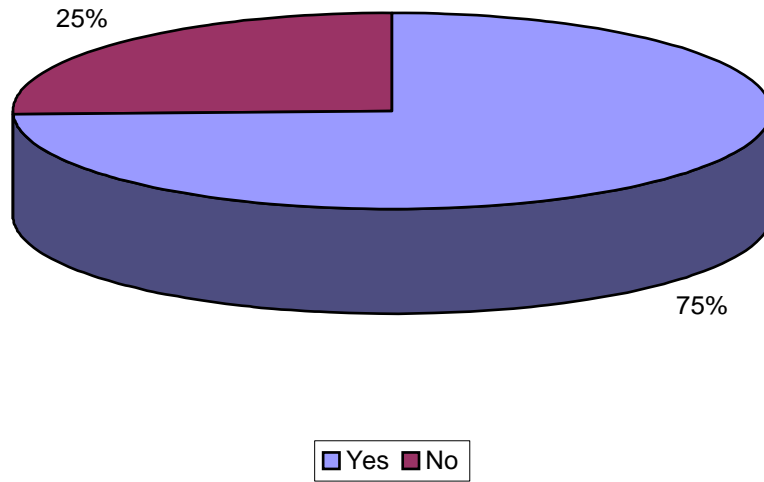
- Of those who did answer the question, just over two thirds (67%) would like to see improved maintenance of footpaths, droves and bridleways
- Just over half (53%) would/would also like to see maps of local paths
- 38% would/would also like to see more signs whilst 36% would/would also like to see leaflets of walks available

**Would you be willing to help maintain the footpaths/bridleways?**



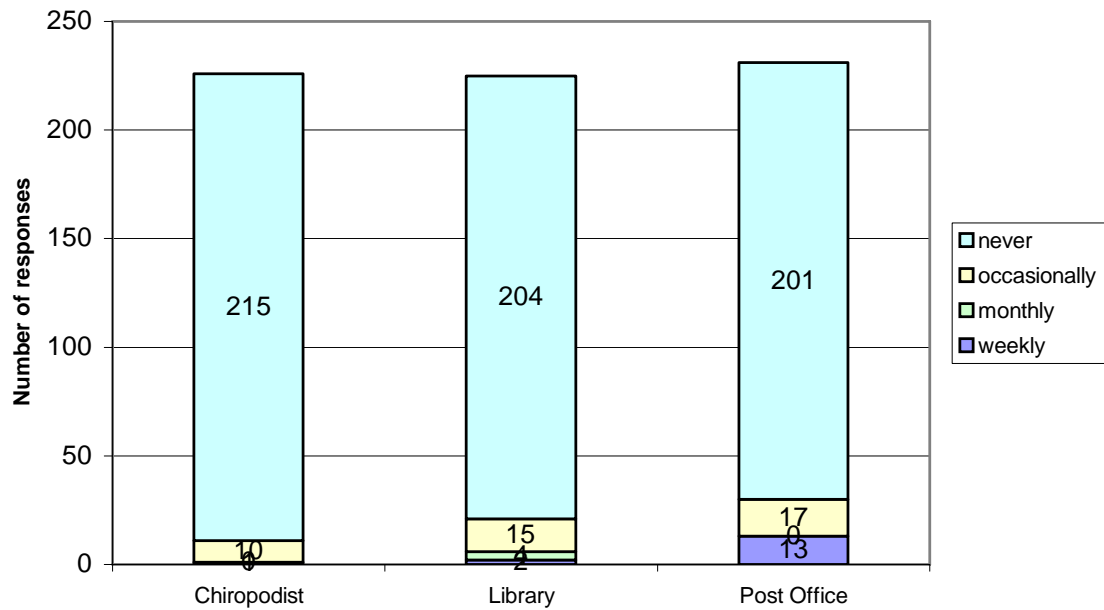
- Almost a third (31%) of respondents would be willing to help maintain the footpaths and bridleways

33. Would you support a scheme to close some droves to certain motorised traffic during the winter months (NB farm vehicles, would be still be allowed)



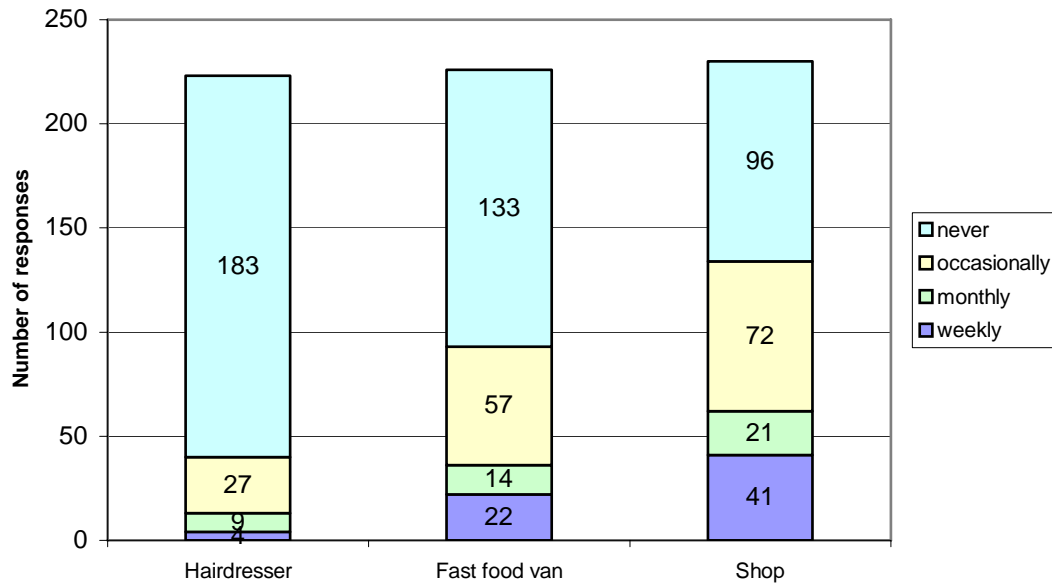
- Three quarters (75%) of respondents would support a scheme to close some droves to certain motorised traffic during the winter months

34. How often do you use the following mobile services?



- The vast majority of respondents 'never' use the listed mobile services
- The Post Office was the most popular mobile service, with 13% of respondents using the service either weekly, monthly or occasionally
- 9% use the mobile library and 5% use the mobile chiroprapist either weekly, monthly or occasionally

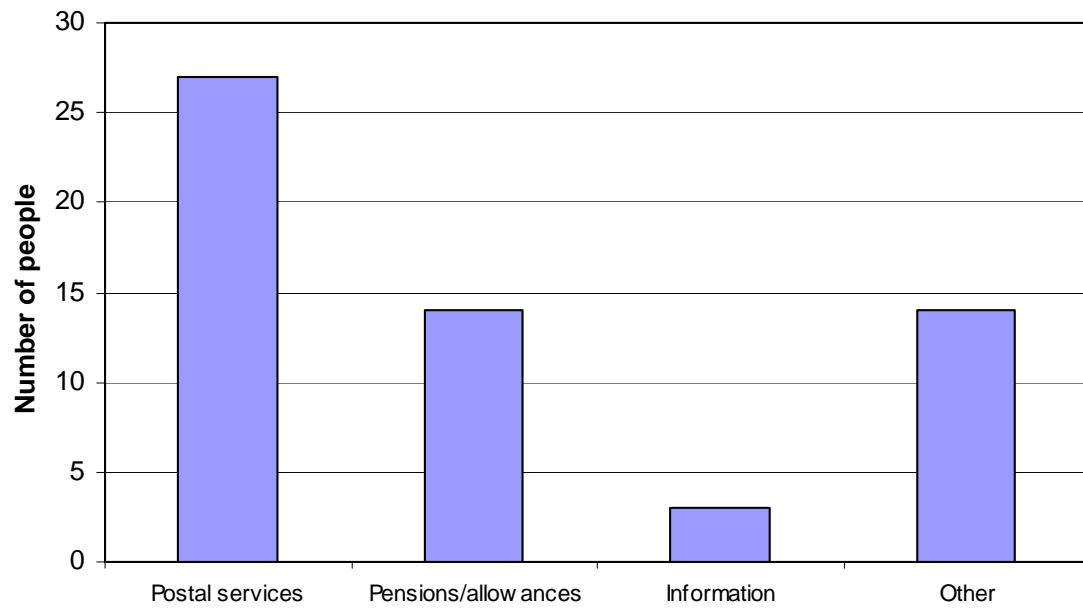
35. How often would you use the following mobile services if they could be arranged?



- A regular shop in the village hall would be the most popular mobile service, with 57% of respondents believing they would use the service either weekly, monthly or occasionally
- 40% would/would also use a fast food van
- 17% would/would also use a hairdresser

**36. If you currently use the Post Office facility in the village hall, what do you use it for?**

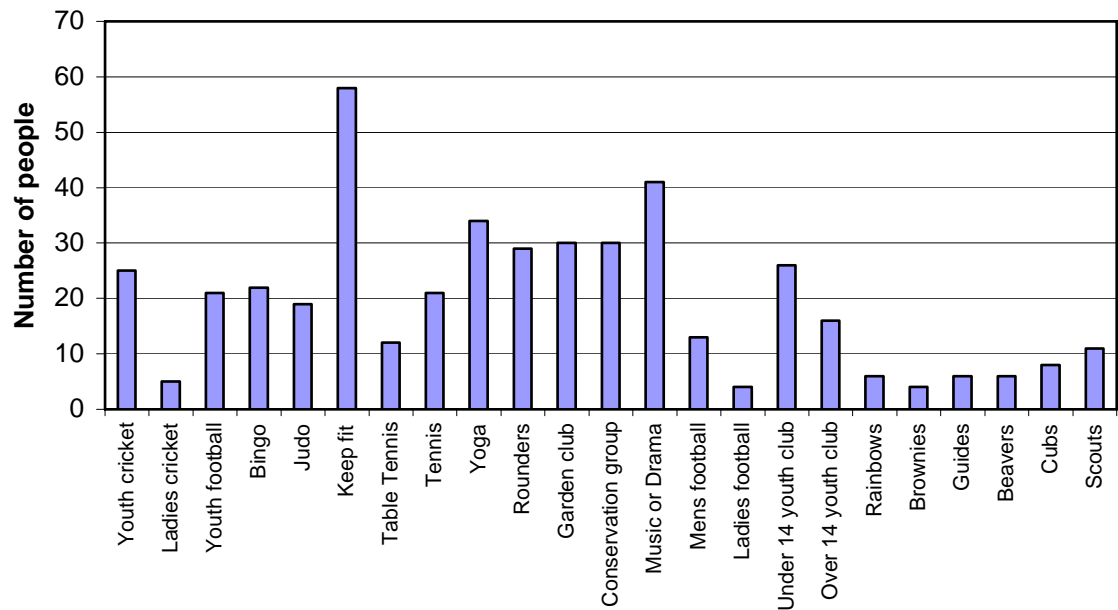
*N.B. 85% of respondents did not answer this question*



- Of those who did answer the question, almost half (47%) used the Post Office facility in the village hall for postal services
- Almost a quarter (24%) use the Post Office for pensions/allowances
- A small proportion (5%) use the Post Office to find information

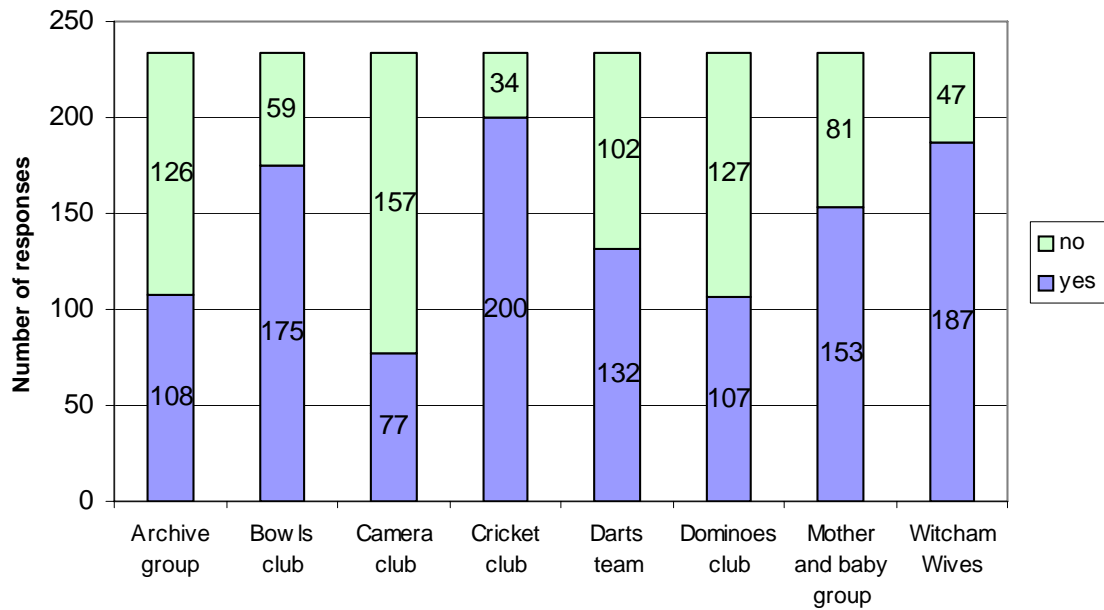
**37. Which new sports clubs/activities would you/your child attend in Witcham if they were provided?**

*N.B. 38% of respondents did not answer this question*



- Of those who did answer the question, 40% would attend a keep fit class if it were provided
- Over a quarter (28%) would attend a music or drama group
- Almost a quarter (23%) would attend a yoga class
- Other popular activities were Rounders, the Garden Club, the Conservation Action Group, an under 14 youth club and youth cricket.

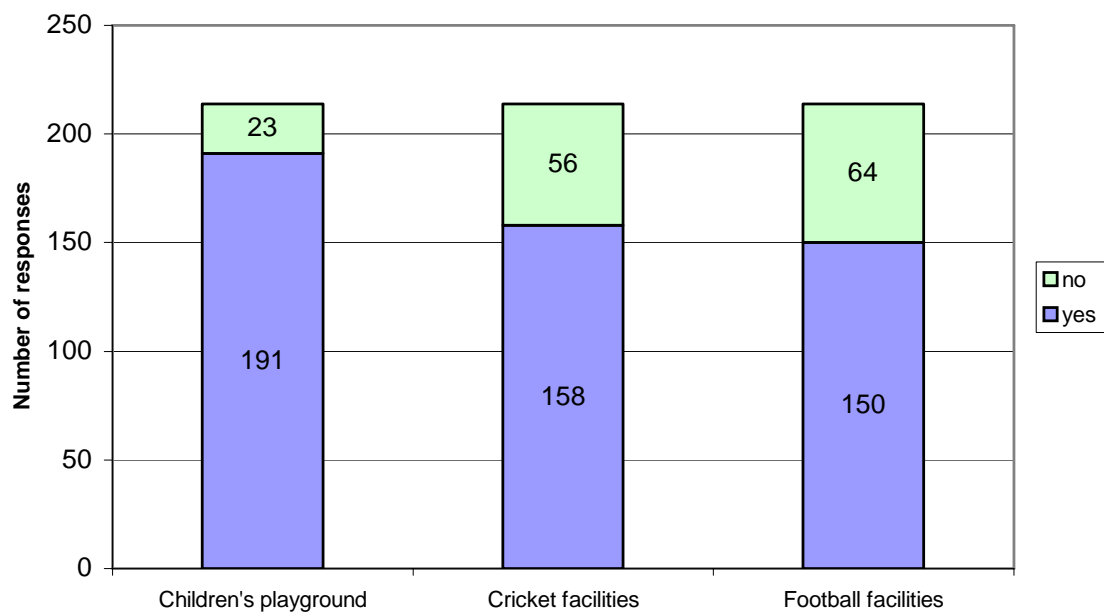
**38. Are you aware of the existence of the following groups?**



- The main groups the respondents were aware of were the Cricket Club (85% of respondents) and Witcham Wives (80%)
- Three quarters of the respondents (75%) were aware of the Bowls Club
- Almost two thirds (65%) were aware of the Mother and baby/toddler group
- The group with the least awareness was the Camera Club with a third (33%) of respondents aware of its existence

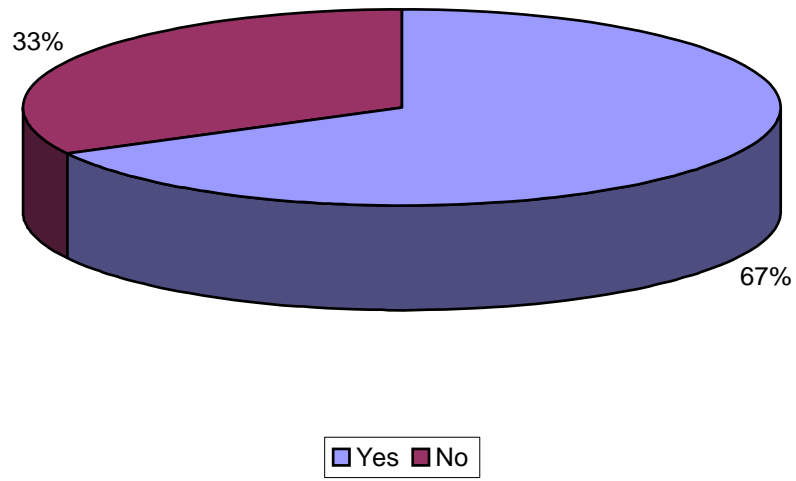
**39. Are the following facilities on the green adequate?**

*N.B. 9% of respondents did not answer this question*



- The majority of respondents thought all three of the facilities were adequate with 89% believing the children's playground was adequate, 74% believing the cricket facilities were adequate and 70% believing the football facilities were adequate
- Out of the three facilities, the football facilities fared the least well

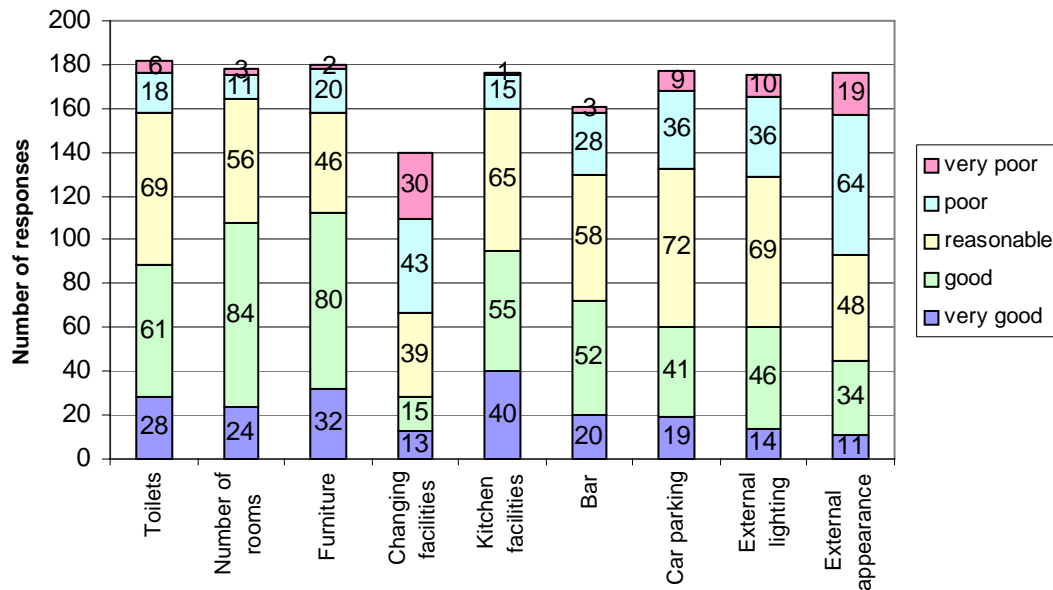
40. Do you use the village hall?



- Just over two thirds (67%) of the respondents use the village hall

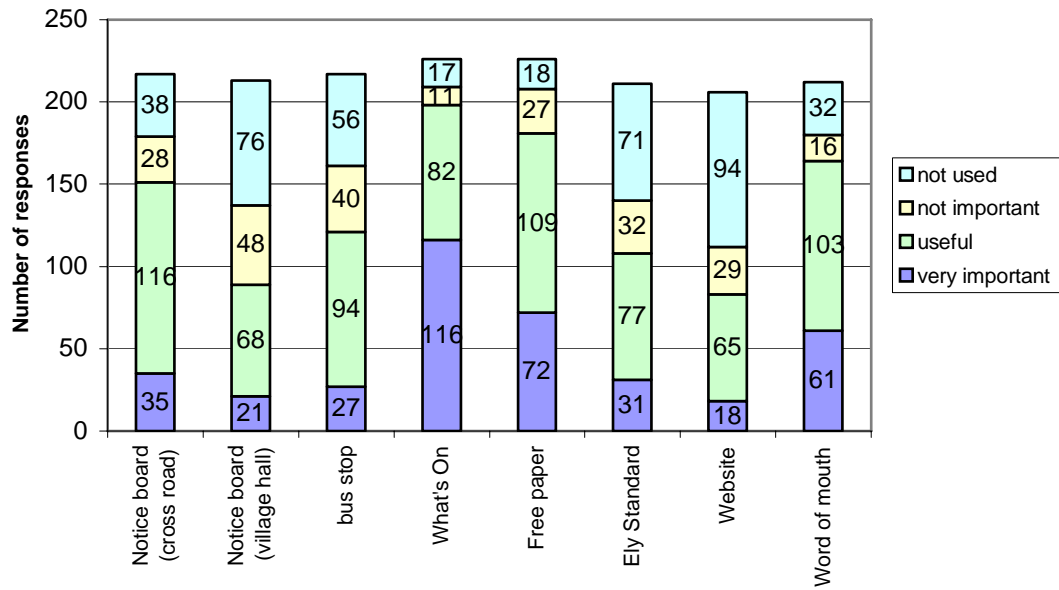
**41. What is your opinion of the village hall with respect to the following?**

*N.B. 21% of respondents did not answer this question*



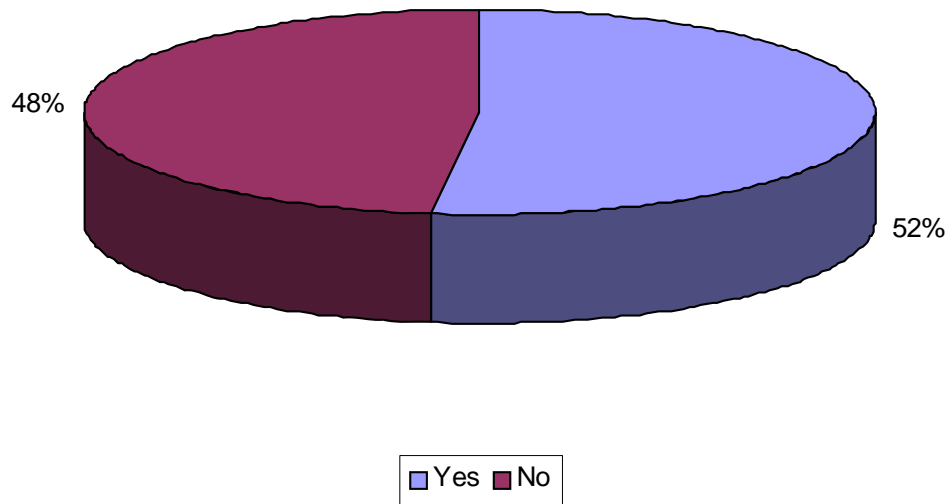
- Almost half of respondents (48%) thought the village hall furniture and furnishings were either 'very good' or 'good'
- 46% thought the number of rooms were 'very good' or 'good'
- 41% thought the kitchen facilities were 'very good' or 'good'
- The external appearance of the village hall scored the least well with over a third (35%) scoring it as 'poor' or 'very poor'
- The changing facilities was also seen to need improving with almost a third (31%) scoring it as 'very poor' or 'poor'

42. How important are the following sources of village news to you?



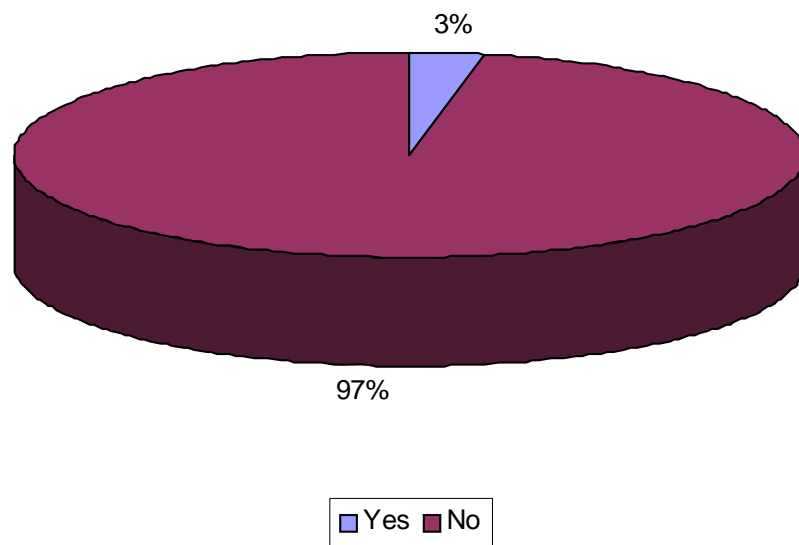
- 'What's On' was 'very important' or 'useful' for the majority (85%) of respondents
- The Free Paper was also 'very important' or 'useful' for just over three quarters (77%) of respondents
- Other important or useful sources of village news were Word of Mouth (70% of respondents) and the notice board at the cross roads (65%)
- The least used or least important source of village news was the website, with over half (53%) of respondents scoring it as either 'not important' or 'not used'

43. Would you like more information about the activities of the Parish Council?



- Just over half (52%) of respondents would like more information about the activities of the Parish Council

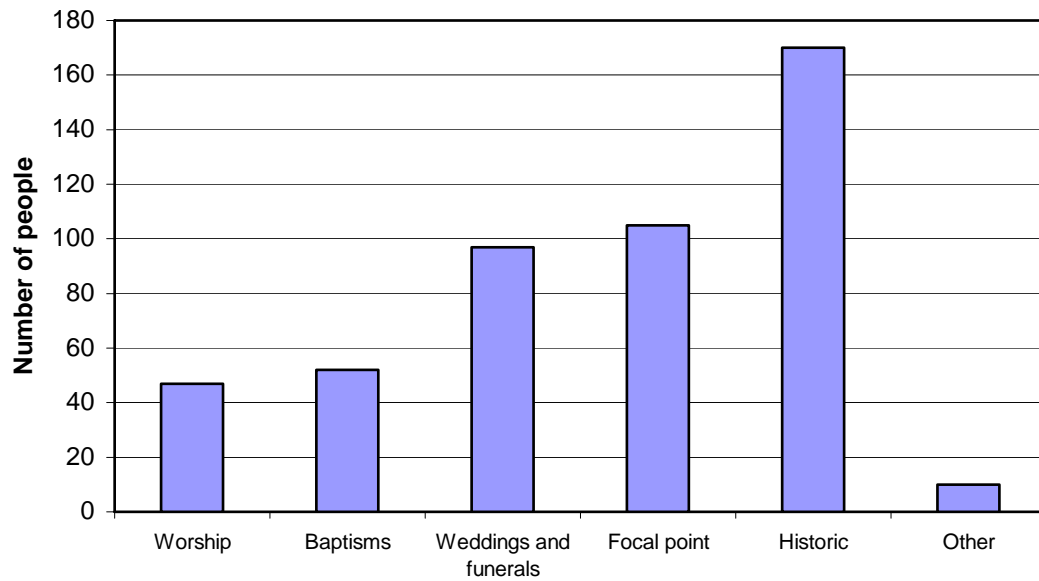
44. Are you interested in being involved in the Parish Council?



- The vast majority of respondents (97%) of respondents were not interested in being involved in the Parish Council

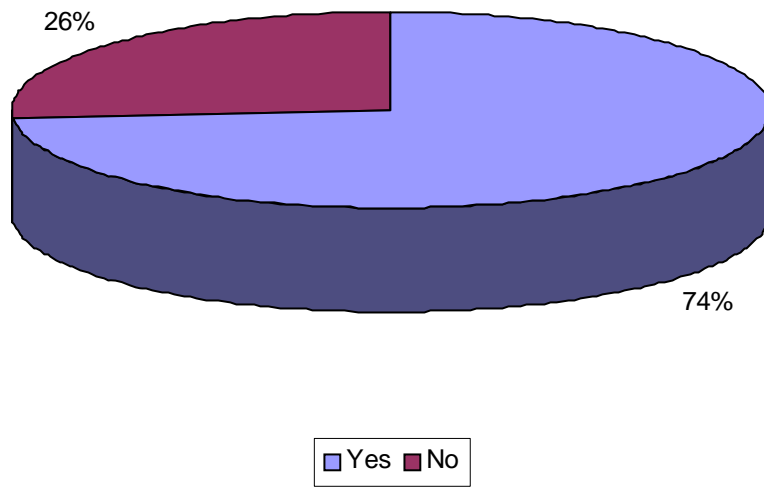
**45. Is St Martin's church important to you for the following reasons?**

*N.B. 18% of respondents did not answer this question*



- St Martin's Church was important for historical reasons for the vast majority of respondents (87%) that answered the question
- For just over half of respondents (54%), the church was important as a focal point
- For half of respondents (50%), the church was important for weddings and funerals
- It was also important for baptisms (27%) and worship (24%)

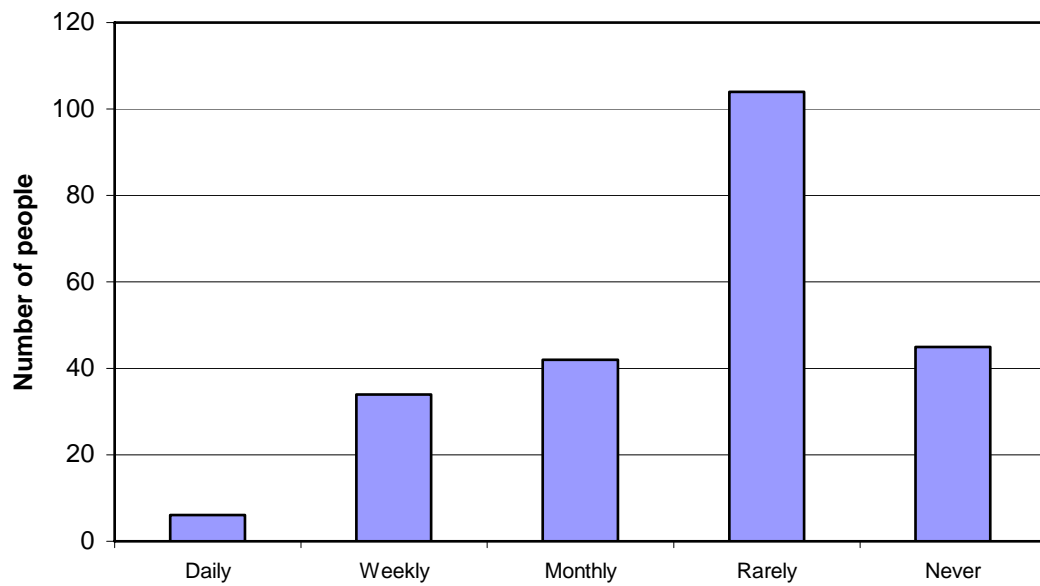
46. Is the presence of a pub in the village important to you?



- Almost three quarters (74%) of respondents felt the presence of a pub in the village was important to them

**47. Please tick how often you visit the pub, The White Horse?**

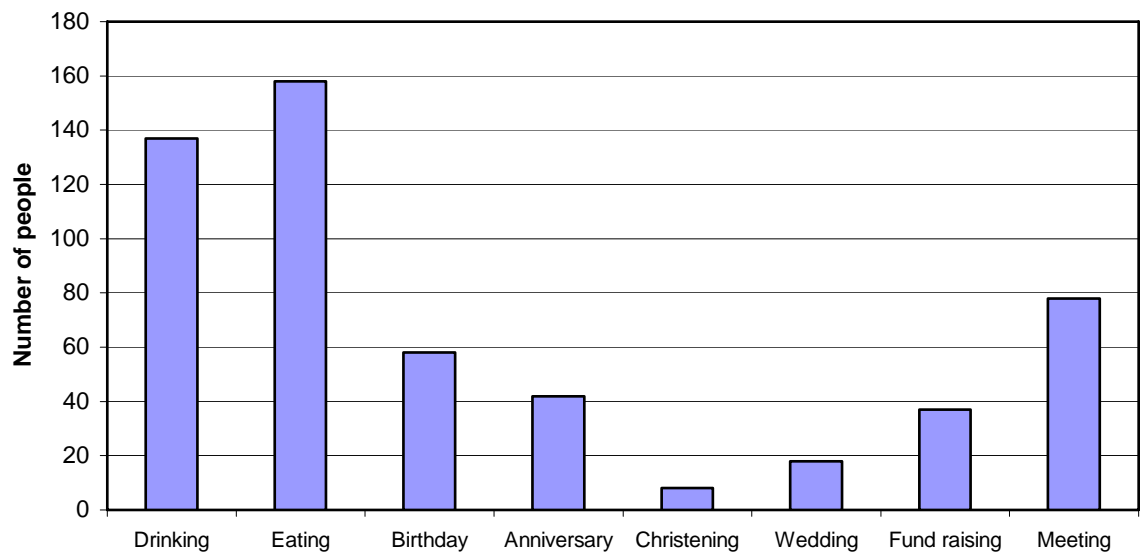
*N.B. three respondents did not answer this question*



- Almost half (44%) of respondents rarely visited The White Horse pub
- Almost a fifth (19%) never visited the pub
- 18% visited the pub monthly
- 15% visited the pub weekly
- 3% visited the pub daily

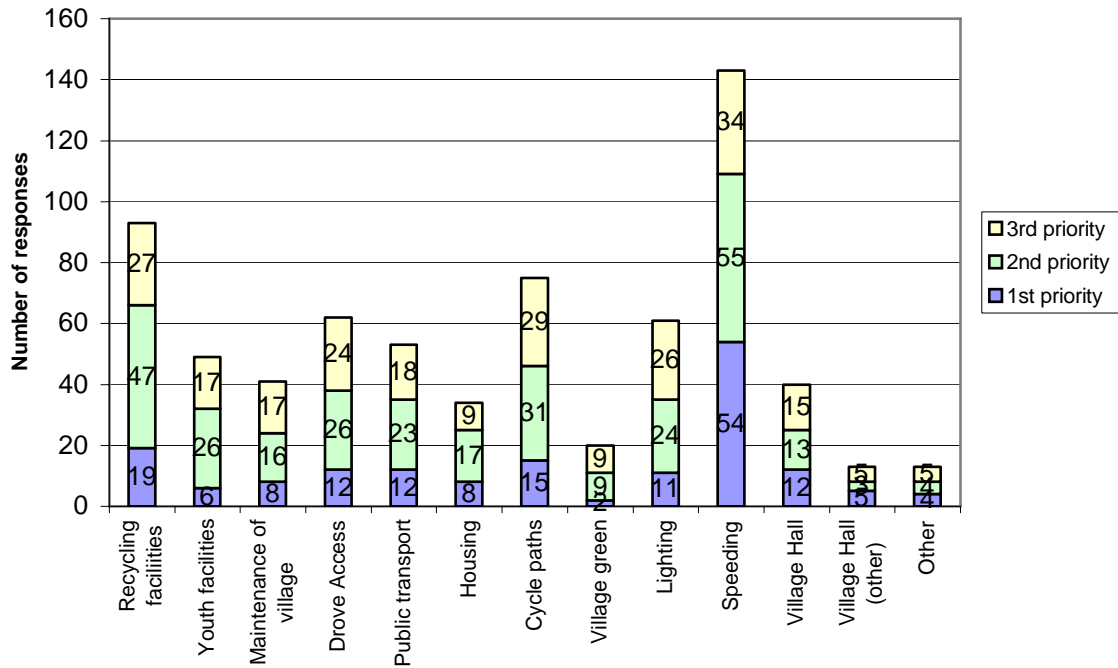
**48. Please indicate which facilities you do/would use The White Horse for**

*N.B. 17% of respondents did not answer this question*



- The majority (80%) of respondents do/would use The White Horse pub for eating
- 70% do/would use the pub for drinking
- 40% do/would use the pub for as a meeting venue
- 29% do/would use the pub to celebrate birthdays
- 21% do/would use the pub to celebrate anniversaries
- 19% do/would use the pub for fund raising events
- 9% do/would use the pub for a wedding reception
- 4% do/would use the pub for a christening

49. To summarise, from the following list please rank your personal top three priorities for change in the village in the next five years



- The top priority for Witcham by far was speed reduction measures. 60% of respondents put it in their top three priorities. Almost a quarter (23%) of respondents put it as their top priority, whilst the same proportion put it as their second priority and it was the third priority for 14%
- Additional recycling facilities were the next priority for Witcham residents with 39% of respondents putting it in their top three priorities.
- Other priorities included new cycle paths (in the top three priorities for 32% of respondents), improvements to Drove access (26%) and street lighting (26%)

## Comments Section

### Question 49 comments

- Need better control of dog waste on verges and more responsibility by dog owners.
- Activities that 40+ can get involved in that do not require for you to have a small child or that you are retired.
- Other - more signposted footpaths for dog walking and better pavements. Q.14 - Other Village Hall improvements - generally renovate the hall it is very old, dated, basic, empty, cold and none homely.
- Street/road cleaning of winter debris e.g. leaves out. Also drainage of the drive beside our house - water pours down into our garage when rains happen.
- village hall improvements = outside lighting, interior decoration/modernisation, fix roof.. Some pathways in the village are cracked/cracking (e.g. west side of green)
- Resurface car park at village hall and mark out parking bays
- Road and verges in poor condition in our area (Sharmer Headleys Lane), currently maintained by a 74 year old neighbour - no input from the council. Also prone to worrying water levels during rainfall. Off roaders (4 wheel drive and motorbikes) cause much damage to droves and leave mud on roads. I would support any efforts to stop them.
- A top priority is to prevent motorised access to pathways and droves during winter months (except farm vehicles)
- prevent motorised access to pathways and droves during winter months (except farm vehicles)
- There should a hairdresser or a shop where young children can work between the ages of 13-16yrs and get paid.
- More use of the village hall as a bar and social meeting place in the evenings and weekends
- What happened to the Woodland burial ground?
- Other village hall improvements - the external appearance needs smartening/cheering up
- A village shop
- Street lighting is too bright, we need to be able to see the night sky and stars - please use the correct lighting!
- The external appearance of the village hall does not reflect the general standard of the facilities inside. The front elevation in particular needs attention with a view of re-designing it.
- Need for changing and showering facilities for sports activities. The external appearance of village hall needs improvement
- General refurbishing inside - toilets, kitchen and bar facilities. Outside appearance could be made to look far more attractive and more in-keeping with its situation on the village green. Must have changing rooms

## Comments related to other questions

- Q.12 - We prefer the present status as infill only. Business units should be encouraged on the Mepal Park.
- Q.21 - easier access to A142 at Witcham Toll.
- Q.25 - provided weekly collections maintained. Q.26 - unless you want Witcham infested with rats.
- Q.33 - No point, farm vehicles are worst for rutting droves.
- Q.34 - I do not use the village chiropodist as there are no facilities to sterilise instruments and no water supply in the room for washing his hands between patients
- Q.39 - Cricket stops everyone else's use of the village green. Dog poo on streets is horrible; owners found not clearing up should be punished! I love hearing the sound of bells, drifting in the wind over from Sutton.
- Q.39 - the 'net' was removed at the time of the upgrade of the kids play area, with the promise of a replacement. To date there has been no replacement, which prevents practice for current players and coaching for youngstersQ.42 - it would be nice if we got Ely Standard free, like most other villages.
- Q.45 - I think it is important for at least one denomination to maintain a presence within each village community. If I could not easily attend Methodist Church in Ely I would be happy to share fellowship with the Anglicans in Witcham.

## Facilities / village hall comments

- Should be nets in the cricket season. Most important of all these suggestions, for the social and physical health of the community, is the introduction of cycle path extensions.
- Improved changing and shower facilities badly needed at the village hall for the cricket teams. This would probably also encourage the setting up of a football team for the younger members of the village. Dog waste bins are also essential. This may encourage the few who do not at present, clear up after their dogs to do so.
- Cricket facilities need changing rooms and showers
- Cricket and football facilities have no changing and washing facilities.
- I would support the fortnightly collection of waste only if large wheelie bins were provided
- For a large number of people a village shop is the centre of the village. It's a place to meet, chat and make friends in an informal way. A walk to the garage is too far so a car journey becomes involved to Ely, Sutton and Mepal.
- Improve football nets
- The play area is only suitable for very small children. Children from 10 years to teenager in age are bored with what is there as there is nothing exciting for them to do
- The children's play area is rubbish and there is nothing for teenagers to do in the village. We did petition for a skate park and said we would get a response but we didn't, not everybody likes football or cricket. If it had a mini ramp it would be good.

- Village hall needs painting (externally)
- We need more things to do on the green. A youth club only for Witcham. I would like a shop in the village and more things to do around the village.
- On the village green we need to put some 7-12 year old children things to play on because there is nothing to play on or do up there. More things to do around the village. Get a village shop because some people have to ask someone else to take them somewhere and it's not fair to do that.
- Changing room facilities for football/cricket are inadequate. Support fortnightly collection of waste only if wheelie bins are introduced.
- Cricket nets not up. Football - needs to keep moving to prevent mud on green
- The goals are potentially dangerous and could cause a potential head injury to a child.
- Better changing room and nets for cricket
- No permanent changing facilities, only a porta cabin for cricket facilities, no shower for example. Definitely wouldn't support fortnightly collection of waste.
- I do think we could benefit from a village shop.
- The children's facilities are too spread apart, and poorly laid out. Cricket nets are essential.
- Football goals not well enough secured. Have seen them tipping over onto child. Adults stepped in.
- Stop exclusive use of green by cricket all summer weekends.
- It would make sense for Witcham to join with Mepal, say for their football and perhaps arrange some co-operative car share system to get people to their ground and facilities and contribute to it.
- I would benefit in having some youth clubs eg. Girls football
- I think that there should be more exciting play equipment e.g slide, more swings, a roundabout, seesaw and a climbing frame
- I greatly regret the changes to the play area. They look nicer now but before they had MUCH better play equipment that appealed to younger and older children. The trim trail and TWO swings replaced by a super slide, seesaw, four swings and a climbing frame. The new fenced under 5's play area is lovely but what about the older children?!
- We need some nets for the cricket
- The play equipment on the village green is basic and only of interest to very young children. It would be nice to see larger climbing equipment for older children.
- The village hall needs painting (externally)
- What about a new football field? Improved car parking at village hall? Daytime pensioner events and trips out.

### **Speeding / road / traffic comments**

- Signs at the top of Hive Road are confusing for those who drive from Witcham Toll

- Hive Road is not posted properly for people driving from Martin's Lane - they think it is Mepal Road. 30mph sign should be moved a few yards down Mepale Road so people driving from Mepal wouldn't enter the bend around cemetery at high speed.
- Despite the recent speed modifying measures, Witcham Toll is still a very dangerous junction. The 50mph limit is frequently disregarded. At peak times, people attempting to leave the village cannot get into the traffic stream on the A142. The number of vehicles coming from the direction of March and wishing to turn right towards Haddenham can mount up and cause a major hazard to vehicles travelling towards Ely. There is insufficient traffic approaching Witcham from Ely to make a mini-roundabout beneficial to traffic coming out of Witcham.
- Stop 4X4 vehicles and horses ruining the bridle ways and byways. Stop scramble motorbikes doing the same.
- A mini roundabout and crossroads is very important.
- Silver Street is too narrow for much more traffic - there needs to be a radical plan if further housing is to occur.
- Slow drivers down - on the High Street, the A142!
- I would like to see some greater effort made to reduce speeding through the village and the High Street where small children run into the road from the green.
- The only things I would like to see it improved speed restrictions as I think speeding is a real and dangerous problem in the village
- Speeding through-traffic is a major problem, particularly for younger people and those involved in the equestrian industry. Controls on speed would be welcome and any move to make travel by foot or cycle easier and safer would deserve funding.
- Cars parked along High Street become a problem.
- Cars parked on blind corner along High Street makes it dangerous to see oncoming vehicles

## **Other comments**

- Bottle banks and plastic banks are a good idea, Mepal have these. Footpaths and droves keeping open and passable would be good. Bike path for Witcham to Wentworth would be excellent. Maps of local footpaths would be good too.
- Wheelie bins are a nightmare! Mustn't overfill, fines if you put something in incorrectly. Where does one keep them! I could not pull mine up my slope for collection. They would be standing in front of lots of houses, which would distract the appearance of the village.
- How about a welcome pack for new residents giving details of village and local activities and associations.
- We only need recycling banks if the village benefits financially, otherwise remain as now. Keep hedges short near public footpaths. There is a problem of some hedges and shrubs overhanging footpaths making walking difficult especially for people with children. Let hedges grow naturally when not overhanging i.e. in the droves.
- I support the introduction of bottle banks and newspapers bins. Keep hedges short and tidy on road verges, approaches to roads and others beside footpaths. Let hedges grow

naturally in Drovers but width of Drove left to allow a tractor and trailer or lorry width to remain. Plant more trees on approach roads to village also on perimeters of playing field and group of trees in a corner of field, such as Oak, Ash trees (not Lime).

- Additional recycling measures would be great - but only if receptacles can be emptied quicker than they become full. There is more depressing than visiting Tesco's recycling, for example, and seeing plastic bags full of rubbish beside the bins which are full and overflowing. For the last question, dog walking - it would be good to have a circular well-lit walk for dog walking. Around the playing field would be good.
- The village has lost some of its rural character in the last 15 years, some of its wildlife has declined in number. In the early nineties, 25-30 swifts could be seen circling over the village, in the last two years only 8-9 are visible. The number of swallows has fallen, from the days when up to 200 could be seen gathering on telephone wires in early September. Barn conversions have resulted in the loss of nesting sites. The meadows at the end of Bury Lane and the meadows between Market Way and The Slade are village assets. Perhaps the village should consider creating more wildlife areas - a meadow or woodland area, as achieved in Haddenham by the Conservation Society.
- Witcham is a lovely village with a great community. We are very impressed with the enclosed children's play area on the village green. It would be great to see some dog litter bins around, as there still seems to be dog mess on the pavements. The green area around Westway Place looks a little run down and some recycling bins near the village hall would be a welcome facility.
- We have been here for three months and enjoy the village atmosphere. The people seem friendly generally and we moved here to enjoy the expansive fields and views from our garden. We would not like to encourage new housing estates on pleasant open land or for the only good dog walking area to be removed. Small business units may be a good idea for local people who may want employment, but not on large scale. People should be encouraged to clean up their dog's mess in case the facility is withdrawn. I often pick up other dog mess from the pathway for this very reason.
- Like many people, I would be happy to help on occasion for all sorts of village things but am not confident enough to wade in and find out what is needed. Posters, leaflets, notice boards and websites are all very well but what usually motivates people to get involved is simply being asked by another person. We have here 18 months and hardly know anyone, so would feel uncomfortable turning up to Village Hall or Church events. Chicken and egg - I know!
- Prevent the growth of housing to avoid another Mepal. Witcham is broadly a nice place to live.
- Very important to preserve the identity of Witcham as a small but friendly village. Small scale housing development however, like the development in Silver Street brings new people and life to the village and should be encouraged. I would particularly like to see the presence of a weekly shop in the village hall or more frequently if possible. The priority over the next five years should be to try and secure funding to dramatically improve village hall as a focal point for the village and increase recycling facilities over and above that is currently provided by the district council.
- Living on the edge of the village, I would strongly support closure of the droves (except for farm vehicles, horses and walkers etc), to try and prevent the convoys of bikes and off-road vehicles that ruin the peace and ruin the roadways that lead to them (the droves themselves). I have reduced the amount of walking I do around the droves and will only walk at certain times of day in order to avoid them. The front of our house is permanently splattered with mud from the constant wheel spinning as they shoot by. Witcham is a beautiful village and rare because of its abundance of trees - don't remove them please.

- As a small village it has a small number of people prepared to run the activities of the village. We need to generate more active involvement in the village, not more items to be run by those who volunteer to help.
- If Witcham in the near future requires more houses, my suggestion is that the back-way drove from St Martins Lane to the north end of Hedley's Lane was made a hard road then a small could then a small development could be built along there and thus still keep the village compact.
- We are new to the village and are very pleased with all the facilities and the general appearance of the village.
- Overall I think that there should be more for younger people to do with friends. This may give them more chance to make friends and give them confidence. It may make them happier.
- The bus facilities are very poor. There should be more than one bus in the morning and one bus at night that come into the village for the elderly especially. Better paths between here and Mepal would be great; this way children can travel by bike to meet friends at Mepal. Between here and Wentworth would be great too as in the summer the year 10/11 students who are more responsible could bike to meet friends and to college.
- This is a very nice village to live in. The people are helpful and friendly and the facilities are good. I also think that people do not take advantage of the beautiful walks around the village because the droves are in such bad condition, not helped by the 4X4s that use them.
- Village development is inevitable and we should ideally all have a view and speak up to make our views known. This survey is helpful as part of that process. The gradual erosion of family houses with larger 'rural' gardens is a sad change and control as far as possible would be welcome. This of course must be balanced with provision of housing, especially where this can help keep extended families in contact with the area. The local droves are a major amenity for this village but in practise access for walking is poor across a large part of the year.
- I think that someone should try to pick up all the rubbish along the Witcham toll road. I have gone out many times and have picked up many bits of rubbish.
- Cycle paths would be great - I'd love our children to cycle to Ely but worry about the volume of traffic and their unfamiliarity with cyclists making anything other than back roads dangerous.
- The village of Witcham at this moment in time is the worst it has been in my lifetime with little hope of improvement
- Can we, as a village, continue to lobby for a roundabout at Witcham toll. The alternative at Mepal isn't that much safer either.
- We need more support for the Post Office, if we don't get it we will lost it. The 106 bus service is good for shopping etc but not for the Sutton Doctors - if you haven't got a car you rely on other people.
- Additional recycling bins to complement the existing kerbside collection for plastics etc. Speed awareness in all streets in the village - not just Martin's Lane and Slade please. Re- dog bins, responsible owners will always clear up after their dogs and take waste home with them. Dog bins will not improve the irresponsible people who allow their dogs to foul pavements as they will not carry bags to deposit in the bins. Fly tipping is a problem on Hive Road to Wardy Hill (tyres, rubbish etc).

- In icy conditions turning into the Slade from the High Street is pretty lethal because of downward approach
- We chose to live in a village because we like certain aspects of village life e.g. hearing cocks crow, feelings part of a small community and so on. Dog fouling is an ongoing problem - we have a dog and clearing up after her isn't really a problem. How can people be so thoughtless?
- This questionnaire is too long!
- Improve Backside - worst it's been for 85+ years. Cut down trees at No.1 Silver Street for view of traffic coming up the Slade
- To reinforce:- better transport links (cycle, bus) and speed reduction
- The pub is unwelcoming, I avoid going there if possible
- Insufficient lighting down Headley Way. My daughter can't walk to and from school bus because of darkness.
- Dog walkers to realise that Market Way carries same laws as footpaths and to clean dog mess up. Also people using fields or walking down droves should be no parking on byway or field entrance at end of concrete road. No parking signs would be appropriate to make people aware.
- Just because you buy a horse doesn't mean you own the countryside.
- Street lighting required along Market Way. Dog owners to be more considerate and clear up after dog foul.
- The customary bureaucratic agenda of looking busy because things must be seen to be done? Not sure that any of the local quiet roads counted as a 'cycle path' already and the suggestion of village road gates is baffling. A number of areas in the scheme of things would be an improvement - the state of the hedges and the winter walkability of the droves especially. I look forward to seeing what comes out of the survey, still more to seeing how it will be paid for by the District Council!
- We have recently moved to the village from Haddenham and found people to be very friendly and helpful and hope Witcham stays quiet and unspoilt
- I trust that the results of the previous village questionnaire are also taken into account when drawing up the five year plan.
- As we are both retired, active and are able to drive, many of the questions hardly apply. However, it is vital for a small community to have access to shopping, public transport and a safe, clean and pleasant environment
- Although "Old fashioned and a stick in the mud", I believe change for the sake of change is not necessary. You only have to look at Ely whose special charm was being a very small, compact Cathedral City; housing expansion is rife, the shops in the centre are in massive decline and a lot of people who use the cities facilities now avoid it. And, please, NO SPEED BUMPS!