

Old Buckenham Residents' Survey July 2016

WHAT YOU TOLD US

A massive thank you to all 255 residents who completed the survey! Your opinions will help the Parish Council to better represent you, and to try and find ways to make Old Buckenham an even better place to live. The results of the survey will not only be used to help formulate a Neighbourhood Plan, but have given us an increased understanding of what residents want to see happen in the village, which will help us to prioritise other work of the Parish Council.

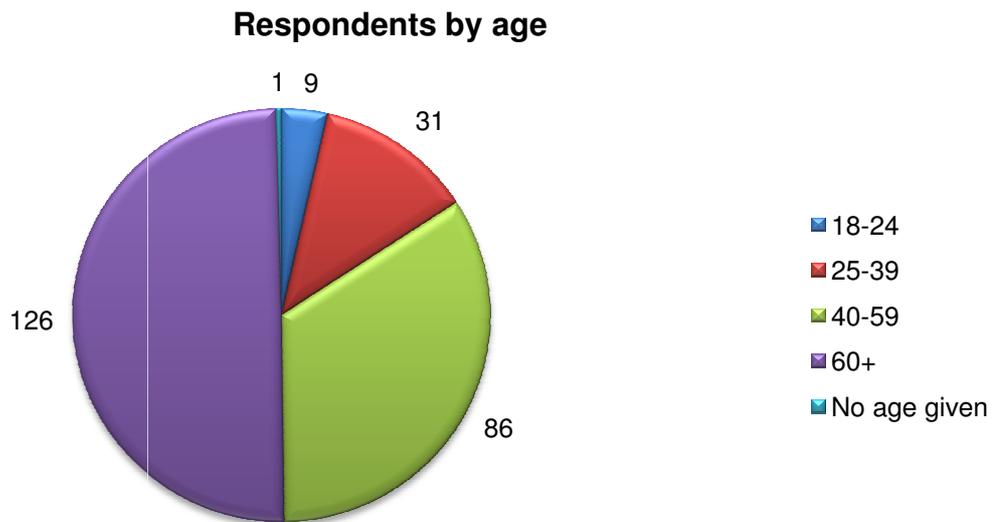
A summary of the results is given in this document, and the full figures are provided as an Appendix.

September 2016

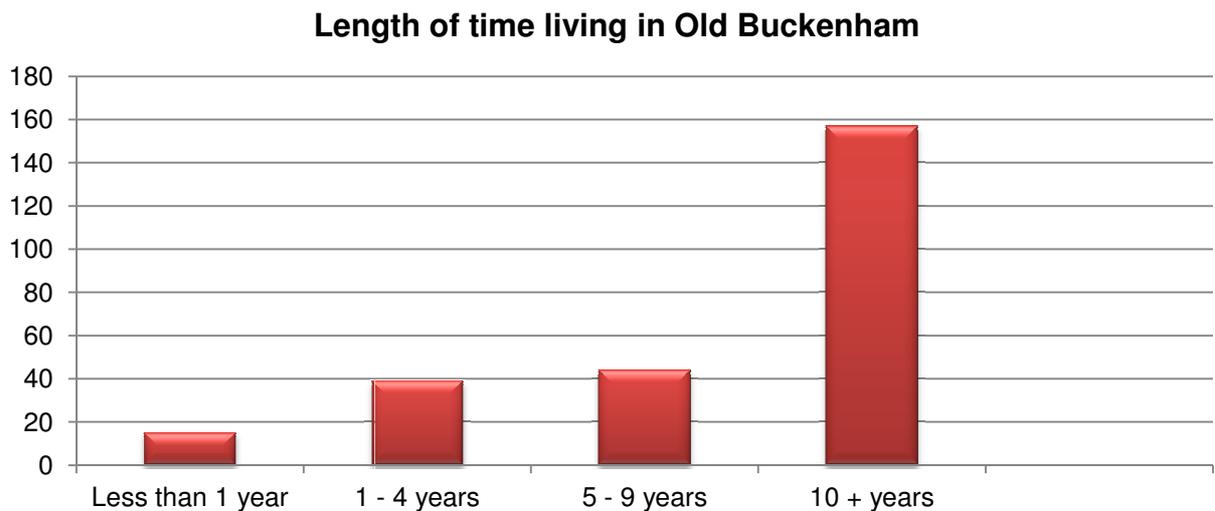
Sarah Hornbrook
Vice-Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan Working Party

WHAT YOU TOLD US ABOUT YOURSELVES

Almost half of those who completed the questionnaire were aged 60 or over, and whilst this age group makes up a significant proportion of the adults living in the village (approximately 36% according to 2011 Census statistics) this demonstrates that we need to work harder to engage with people from the younger age groups. Unsurprisingly, given the age profile of respondents, more than three-quarters of those completing the survey had no children living with them.



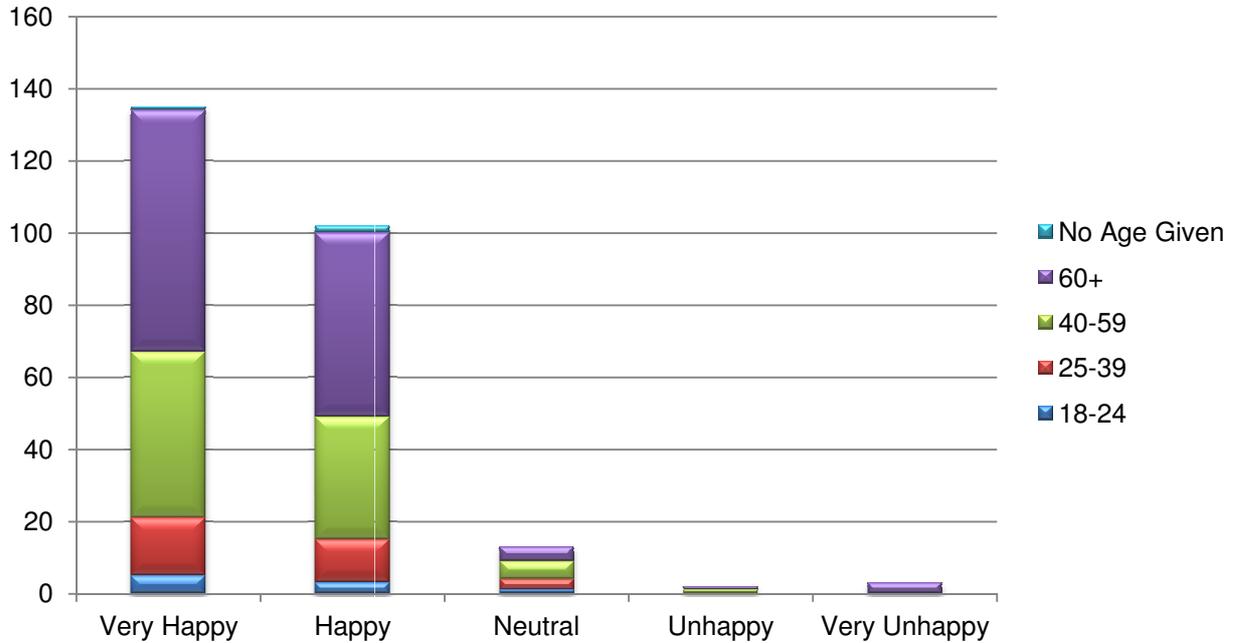
The majority of those who completed the questionnaire had lived in the village for 10 or more years (62%).



Those people who completed the survey had a wide range of employment circumstances, including employed, self-employed, retired and unemployed. 10% run a business from their home in Old Buckenham.

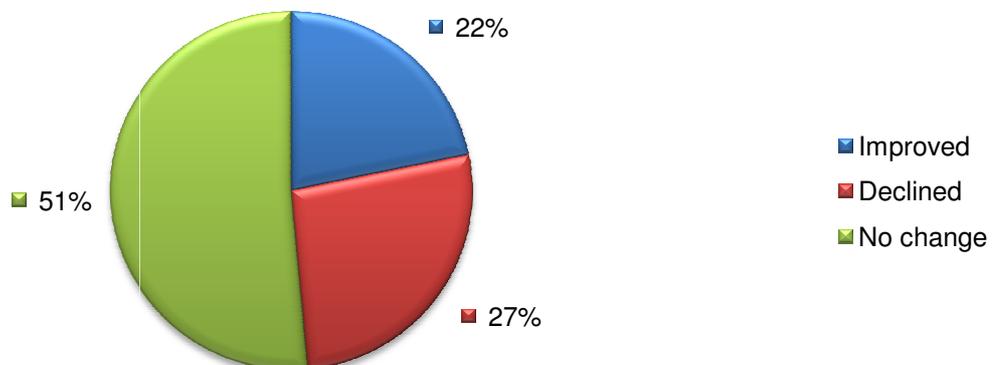
WHAT YOU TOLD US ABOUT OLD BUCKENHAM NOW

The vast majority were either very happy or happy living in the village, and only a very small number of people were either unhappy (2) or very unhappy (3).



HAS THE VILLAGE CHANGED IN THE LAST 5 YEARS?

Views on whether or not the village has changed, for better or worse, over the past 5 years were very mixed. Of those who have lived in the village for 5 or more years, over half felt that there had been no change, 22% thought things had improved, and 27% felt that there had been a decline.



THE BEST BITS:

“Friendly village, peaceful and an active community
with excellent schools in walking distance”

A wide variety of factors contribute to residents’ positive experiences of living in Old Buckenham, including:

People and neighbours are friendly	18%
Living in an unspoilt rural location/environment with plenty of open space	13%
Peace and quiet of the village	13%
The Green	12%
Public Houses, especially the Ox and Plough	10%
Village Shop/Post Office	8%
Sense of community/community spirit	6%

The most common reasons that people gave for feeling that the village had improved over the past 5 years were:

The Ox & Plough Public House	35%
Better footways	18%
Play area improvements	16%

THE WORST BITS:

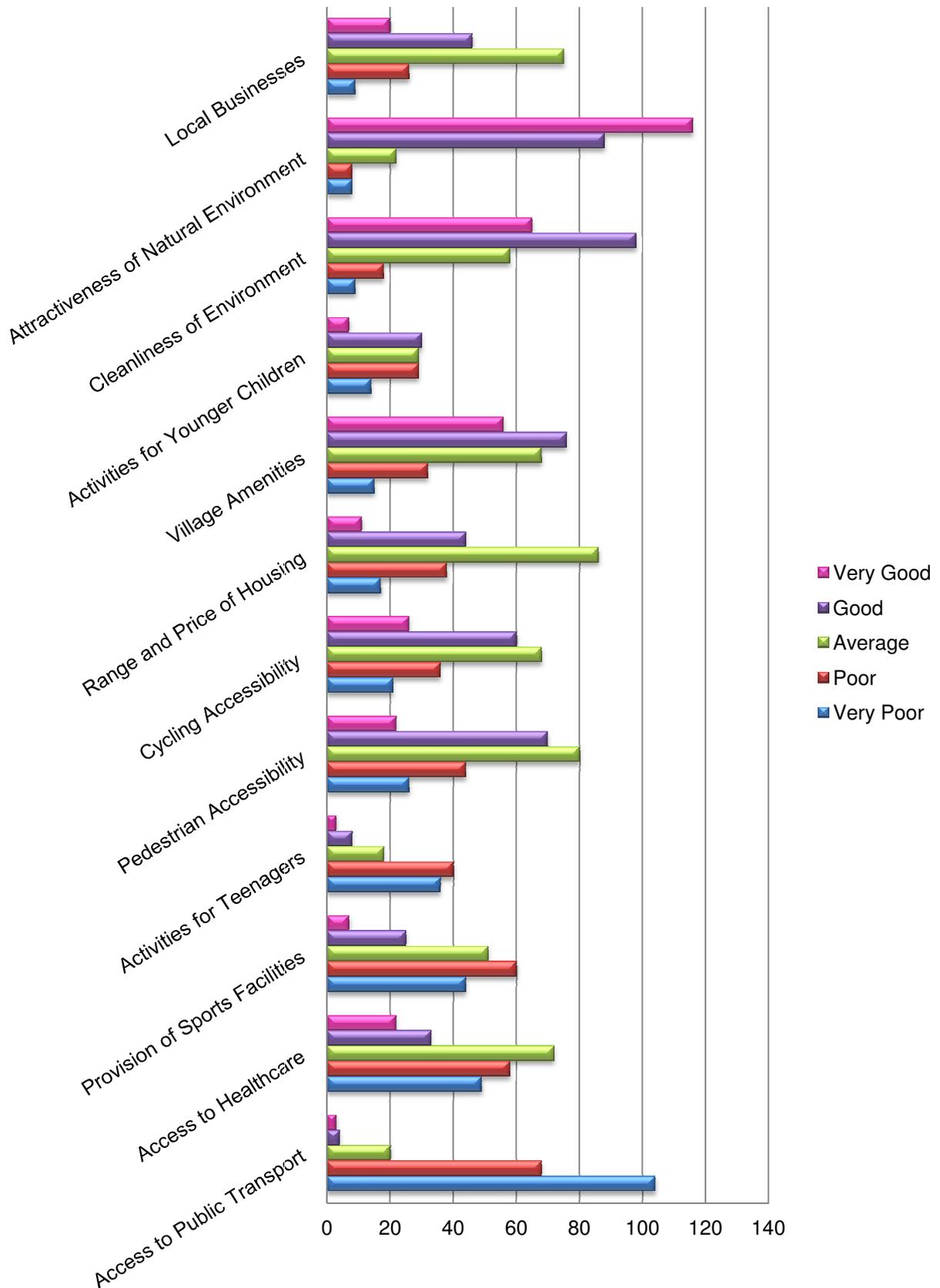
“Very poor public transport, no street-lighting, heavy traffic
on B1077 and only 1 shop left”

Traffic and lack of public transport were the most significant factors given as negatives about living in the village.

Amount and speed of traffic around the village including HGVs and agricultural machinery	32%
Lack of public transport	19%
Lack of village infrastructure/amenities including mains drainage, street lighting and shops	13%
Poor maintenance of the Green	8%
Parking issues	8%

Similarly, the main reason that people thought the village had declined over the past 5 years was traffic and parking issues (26%). Loss of village amenities and facilities, and an increase in crime were also cited as significant factors.

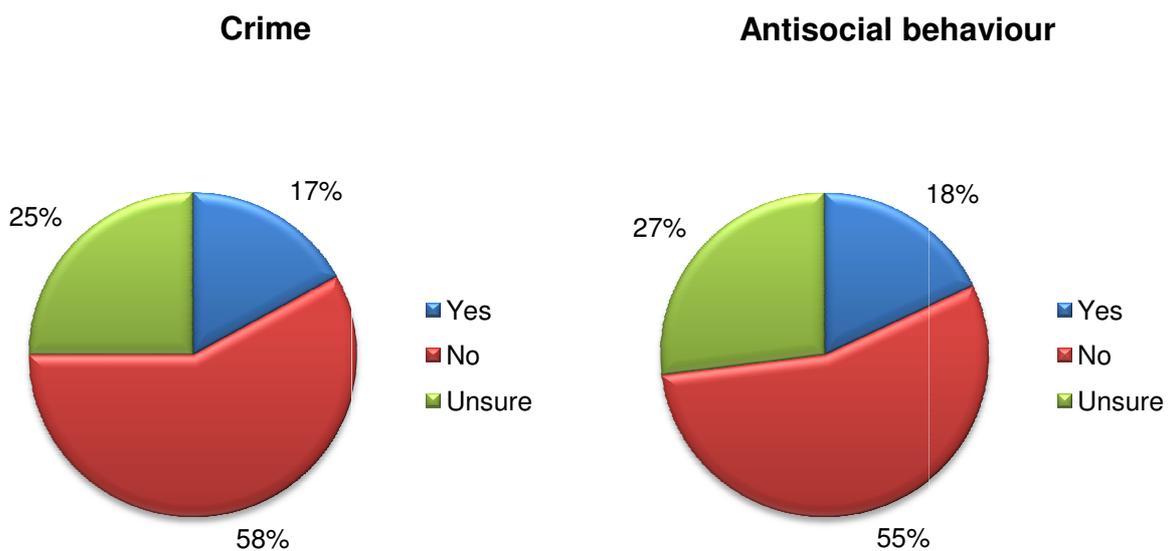
YOUR VIEWS ON THE QUALITY OF OLD BUCKENHAM'S SERVICES, FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT:



From the above chart, it is clear that the attractiveness and cleanliness of the natural environment in Old Buckenham is one of its key assets, with the majority of people rating these as good or very good. Views were mixed on pedestrian and cycling accessibility, which may be a direct reflection of where people live in the village i.e. whether they live close to footpath links or on some of the narrower roads. Views also varied on the quality of amenities in the village, and the range and price of housing available. At the opposite end, it is very clear the access to public transport is a major issue, and considered by the vast majority to be poor or very poor. Activities for teenagers and provision of sports facilities also appear to be an issue.

CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The majority felt that neither crime nor antisocial behaviour were a major issue in the village, but some residents had experienced theft from their homes, cars or outbuildings, and other had heard about criminal activity on social media. Vandalism of the play area was cited as the most common antisocial behaviour issue, with concerns also raised about inconsiderate driving/speeding, and intimidating youths in the play area.

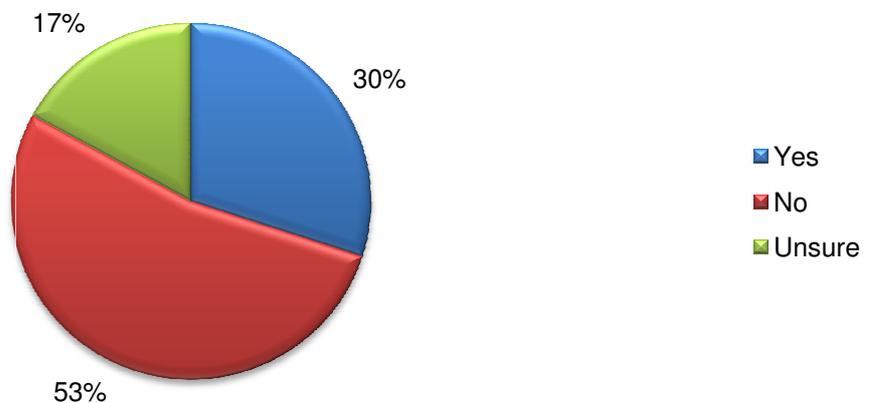


WHAT YOU TOLD US ABOUT THE VILLAGE IN THE FUTURE

HOUSING

“I am concerned that developers would do a poor job and infrastructure would not be improved”

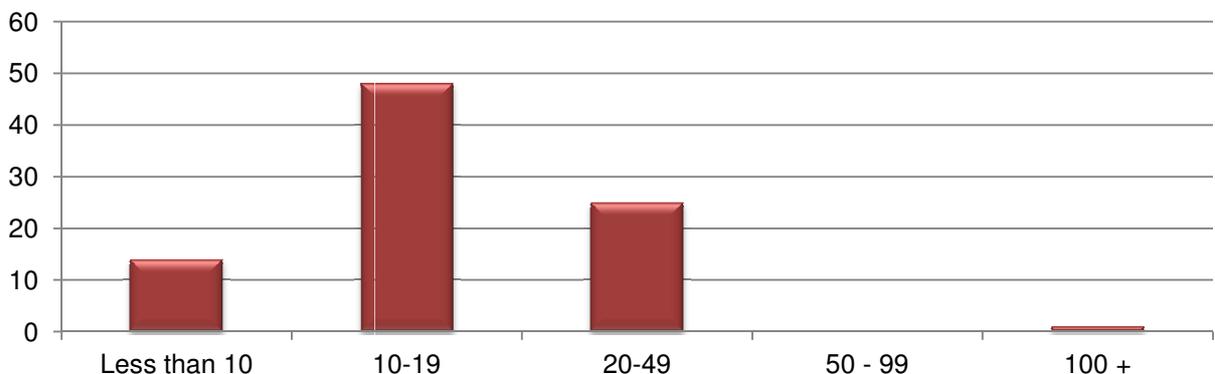
The majority (53%) of respondents would not like to see more housing built in the village during the next 20 years. However, 30% would welcome more house building and comments were made that more houses are needed to stop the village from dying.



Of those who would like to see more housing, the majority felt that in the region of 10-19 new houses over the next 20 years would be an appropriate scale.

“It is difficult to put a number on it, but we need to increase infrastructure however many are needed. An increase in housing may benefit the shop and create new businesses in the area”

How many houses would you like to see built in the next 20 years?



The majority (63%) thought that if housing is to be provided in Old Buckenham, it should be a mixture of affordable and private, and of the comments made on this topic 42% related to the need to have more cheaper and affordable housing. It was noted by several people that many

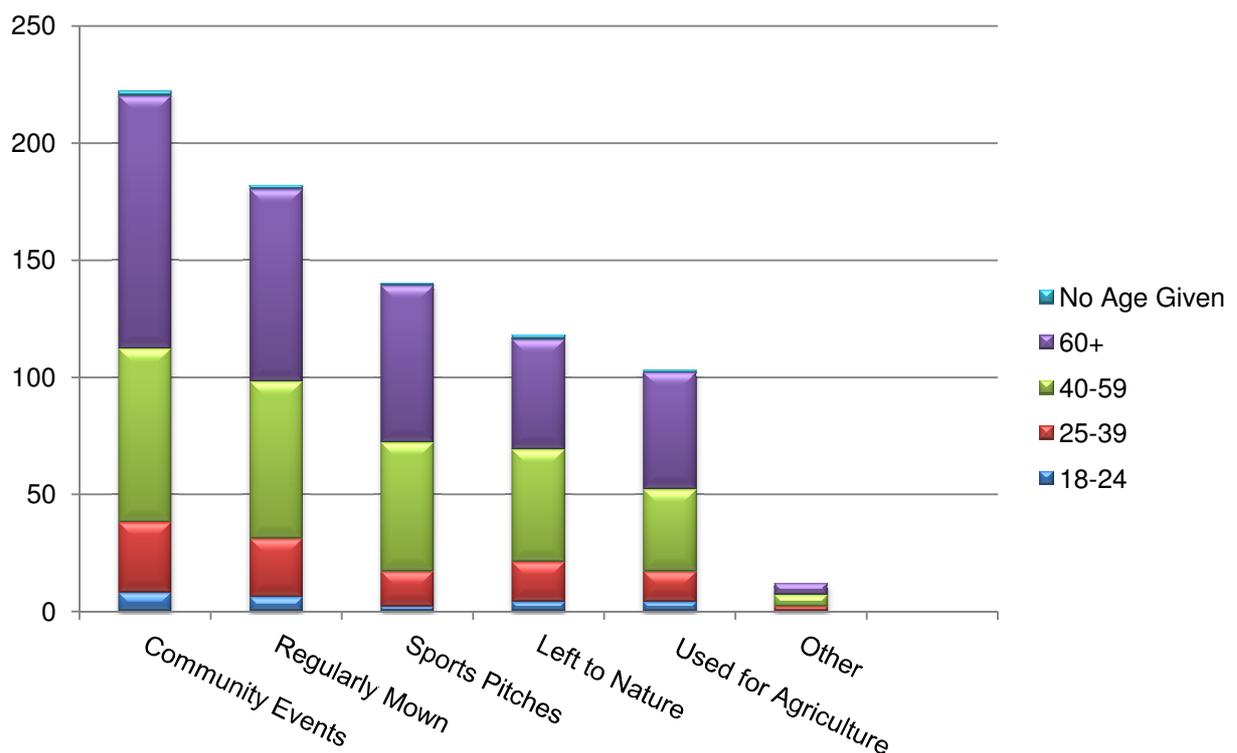
of the existing smaller houses are being enlarged, leaving few smaller and more affordable houses available to buy.

IS IT IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN AN UNDEVELOPED GAP BETWEEN ATTLEBOROUGH AND OLD BUCKENHAM?

YES: 93%

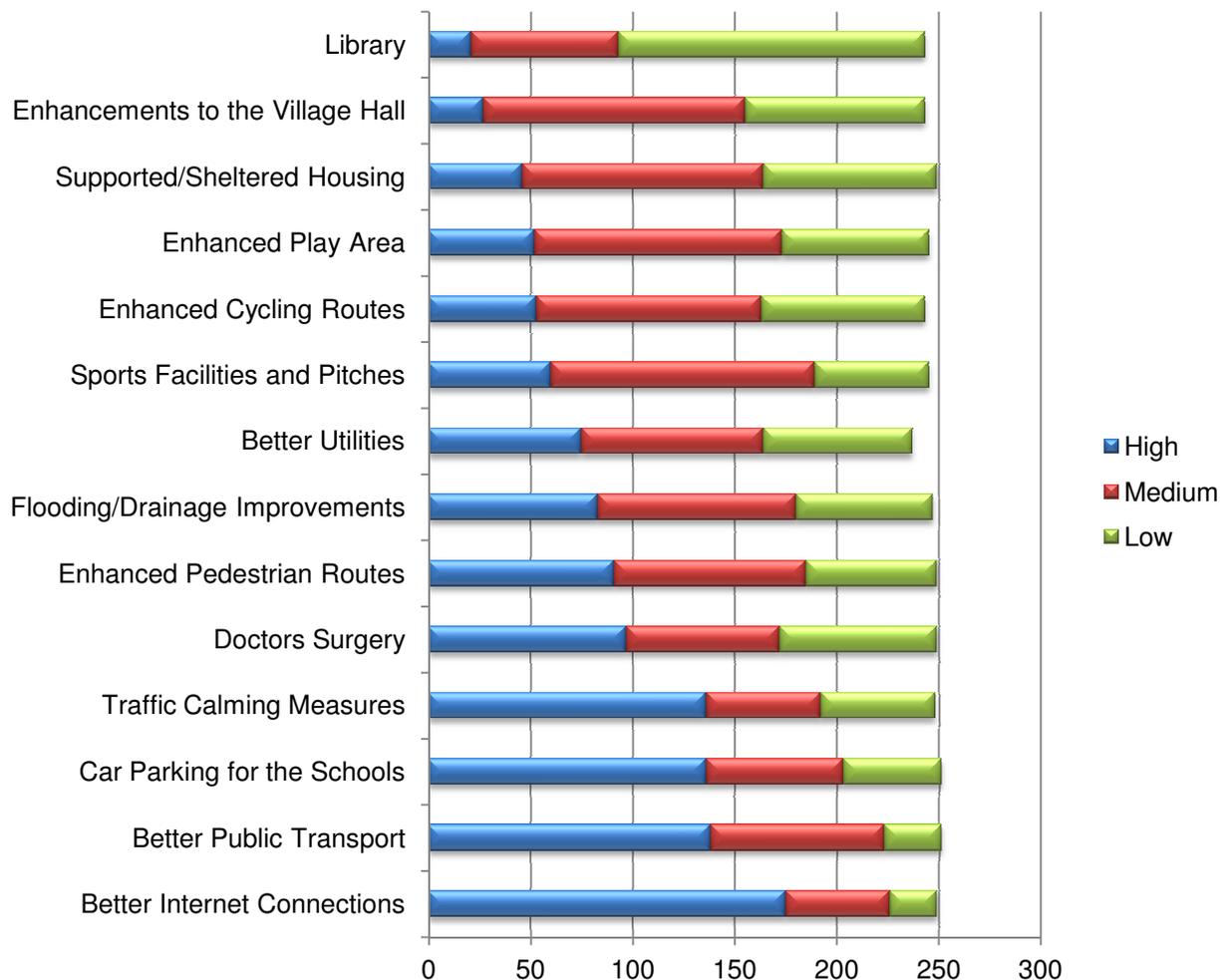
An overwhelming majority (93%) said they felt it important to maintain an undeveloped gap between Attleborough and Old Buckenham, to keep the village rural and/or with a separate identity. Concerns were raised that without such a gap, Old Buckenham risks becoming a suburb of Attleborough.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE GREEN USED?



There was significant support for all of the options suggested, with community events and regular mowing the most popular choices across all age groups. The majority of those who answered 'other' would like to see a mixture of uses.

POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VILLAGE – YOUR PRIORITIES:



The graph above shows a clear consensus on the key priorities for the village – better internet connections, better public transport, dealing with the car parking issues that arise from the schools, and traffic calming measures. In the medium-term, enhanced pedestrian routes, sports facilities and pitches, play area and other infrastructure improvements should be considered.

WOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO FUND THESE IMPROVEMENTS?

YES: 47%

NO: 53%

Opinion was very divided on whether or not additional development (housing building) should be accepted to fund such improvements. The main comments focussed on the need to ensure that any such development was in moderation, and carefully planned. Others commented that

there is insufficient infrastructure at present, and more development would just add to the existing problems.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TRY AND ACHIEVE?

There were 119 comments made with suggestions of what the Neighbourhood Plan should try and achieve, the most of which were:

- Deal with issues of traffic, parking and road safety, especially near the schools
- Manage further development very carefully
- Resolve issues relating to the Green
- Improvements to pedestrian and cycle ways
- Improve facilities for older children
- Improve broadband services

THE PARISH COUNCIL:

82% of residents are aware of the work that the Parish Council does, and 78% said that they would make any concerns they have regarding the village known to the Parish Council. However, only 46% said that they are likely to attend future Parish Council meetings – comments made indicated that people would attend when there are items on the agenda of particular relevance, or they have a particular issue to resolve. Issues with health or other personal reasons were given for not attending.