



The Stockwell - Wymeswold

WYMESWOLD PARISH PLAN

*A full report of the findings of the Wymeswold Parish
Plan Steering Group*

To be read in conjunction with the attached Action Plan

APRIL 2005

WYMESWOLD PARISH PLAN

Introduction

Welcome to the Wymeswold Parish Plan which reports the views of parishioners on issues that affect our daily lives and the things that mean most to us in the village.

A comprehensive 20-page questionnaire was designed and delivered by 50 volunteers to every household in the parish during July 2004. The questionnaires were well received and 630 were completed, representing 71 percent of households. Five 'Issues Groups' analysed the information given and this report contains a digest of the parish comments.

The things that people regard as important have now been identified and are listed as 61 action points. These are not just a wish list for a response by public service providers¹ but also a reminder to us all that everything we do affects others around us. The Action Plan describes what we need to do to ensure that Wymeswold continues to be our home of choice

Wymeswold is clearly a good place to live. Its strengths include the rural setting and friendliness of the people. Traffic is the main weakness, especially on the A6006.

Now is your chance to see how your own views compare with the rest of the parish so let's take a look at what was said...

'ups'

"Friendly, caring place"

"Attractive village"

"Location near countryside and major cities"

"Large enough to provide facilities, small enough to know who lives here"

'downs'

"The main road - it's too noisy and busy for a village"

"Loss of medical services"

"The thought of the village becoming a small town through over development"

Steve Johnson
Chairman, Parish Plan Steering Group

¹ These include Parish, Borough and County Councils; Primary Care Trusts; The Environmental Agency; the Local Education Authority; Leicestershire Constabulary; Parochial Church Council; village organisations.

About Wymeswold

Wymeswold is situated at the northern boundary of Leicestershire between the cities of Nottingham and Leicester. It is within 14 miles of the M1 motorway and 20 miles of the A1 trunk road. The agricultural market town of Melton Mowbray lies 11 miles to the east and the university and market town of Loughborough is 5 miles to the south-west. Loughborough provides a wide range of leisure amenities, rail and bus links and has recently benefited from additional retail parks. East Midlands Airport is within 15 miles of the village.

There are, currently, 472 domestic dwellings (including farms) and the population is just over 1000. There are several attractive 16th and 17th century cottages but most of the streets are characterised by the frontages of Georgian houses. The village is unusually compact and offers several vistas of Georgian 'streetscapes' as well as the picturesque setting of the River Mantle flowing through Brook Street.

There are four main shops comprising a post office, butchers, pharmacy, and a fruit/vegetable/newsagents/general store. There is also a pine furniture shop, one part-time hairdresser, two public houses, one restaurant, a primary school, parish church and Methodist church. St Mary's parish church, set upon a raised mound in the centre of the village, provides a focal point for photographers, historians and bell ringers as well as worshippers.

Wymeswold produced and published a full village appraisal document in 1990, *A Portrait of Wymeswold*, which was followed in November 2002 with another important booklet, *The Wymeswold Village Design Statement (VDS)*. These booklets describe the distinctive history, archaeology and architectural character of Wymeswold village and the surrounding parish.²

The conservation area of the village is particularly large by comparison to its size. Of 472 houses in the parish, 438 lie inside the village envelope with 294 of these situated within the conservation area that was defined in January 1974. Since the village settlement and its conservation area are compact and intricately entwined, the VDS has provided important guidance for the sympathetic treatment of vistas and buildings both from and within the village for developers and householders alike.

The Parish Plan extends the scope of the VDS. It defines the next stage of the future of Wymeswold based on 1004 questionnaires issued to all parishioners including a special questionnaire for younger parishioners.

In this document:

WPC refers to Wymeswold Parish Council
CBC refers to Charnwood Borough Council
LCC refers to Leicestershire County Council

² Electronic and hard copy versions of these documents are available from WPC.

WYMESWOLD PARISH PLAN

Report of the findings of Wymeswold Parish Plan Steering Group

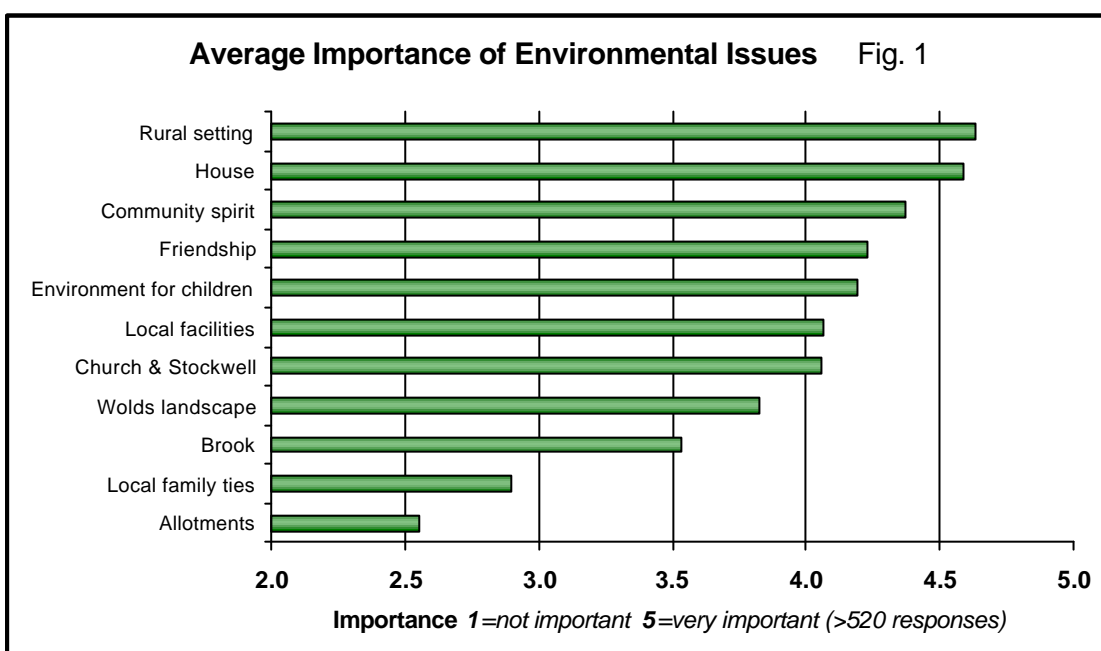
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ENVIRONMENT

Aspects of life in Wymeswold

A rural setting in which to have a nice house and a safe place to bring up children are high priorities. Community spirit and friendship are also important.



Responses to the family ties question show that there is still a strong family structure in the parish despite the number of people who have lived here for less than 10 years³. Surprisingly, allotment gardens are rated as ‘very important’ by twice as many respondents as actually rent them.

Environmental issues also figure strongly in the responses to Question 10 (respondents’ likes and dislikes of life in Wymeswold). In these responses the social environment gets a slightly stronger emphasis than the rural setting. There is little age bias in these results and the top four ‘likes’ and three of the top four ‘dislikes’ relate to the environment.

The environment, both physical and social is very important to the vast majority of parishioners. Planning for the future must clearly take account of these environmental factors.

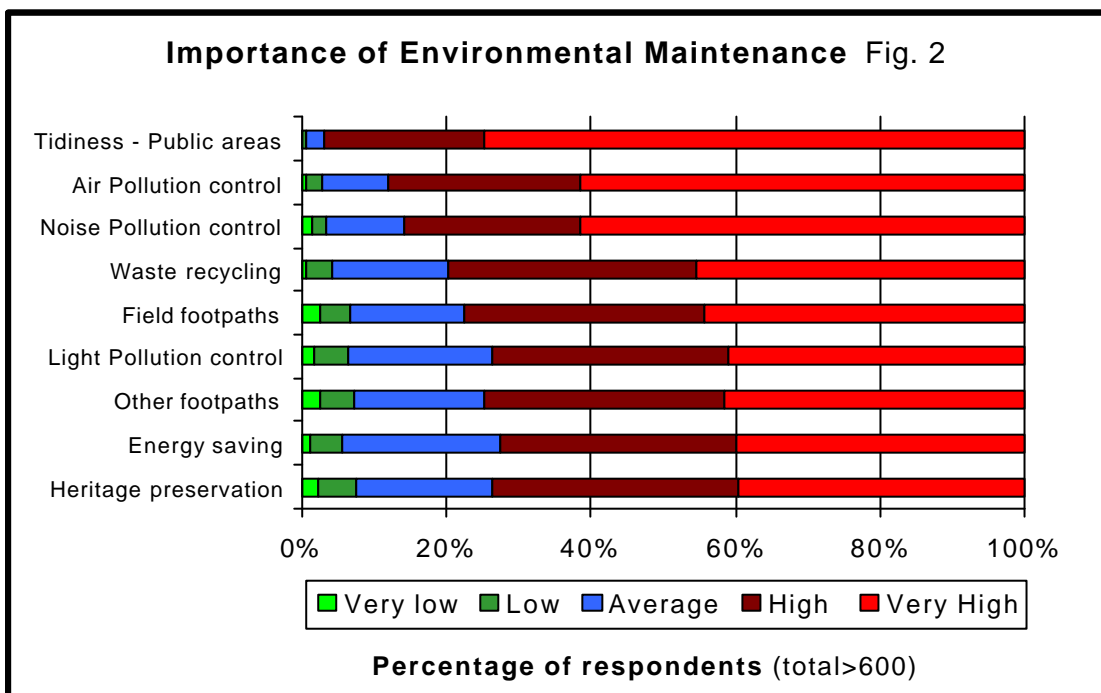
³ See Section 10 for distribution graph

Physical Environment Issues

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of specific physical environment issues including wider topics such as energy conservation.

The tidiness and cleanliness of public areas is very important to most respondents. This suggests that current problems are created by a minority of the population and the efforts of service providers to improve cleanliness and tidiness will be well received.

Air and noise pollution also rate highly as issues to be addressed. Parishioners rate physical environment issues as very important and are therefore likely to support measures that improve maintenance of the environment.

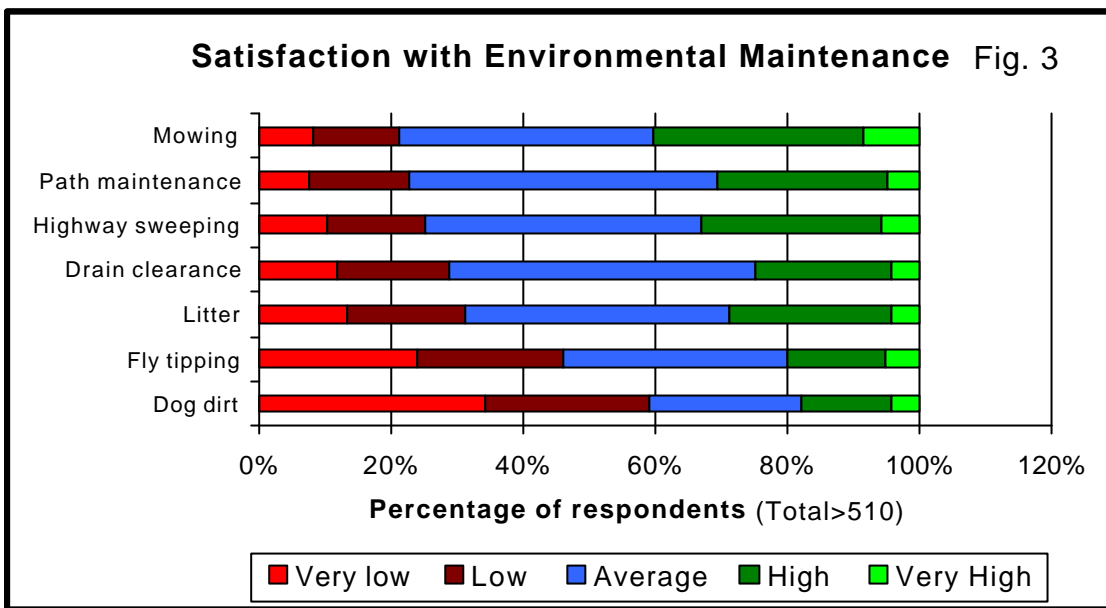


Action points:

1. Ensure that all parishioners are made aware of the importance of their own contribution to maintenance of the environment.
2. Support service providers and individuals in their efforts to improve maintenance of the physical environment.

Experience of environmental maintenance

The questionnaire moved on to assess experience of environmental maintenance. The issue of dogs fouling pavements was the most frequent subject of written comments in the questionnaire and there is a clear need for action. Dog owners please note. Fig.3 shows a lack of satisfaction of respondents with other areas of environmental maintenance.



This question also allowed respondents to enter their own maintenance issues. Of the 36 responses provided, 6 related to the maintenance of the River Mantle, 5 to trees and shrubs overhanging the pavement, and 5 to specific road/verge maintenance problems. Other comments⁴ related to issues mentioned later in the questionnaire.

Given the importance that parishioners placed on cleanliness and tidiness, there is much room for improvement in environmental maintenance control.

Action points:

3. Review situation on dog fouling. Encourage dog owners to ensure their dogs do not foul public areas.
4. Promote knowledge of procedures for reporting road defects.
5. Devise action plan with service providers for controlling and dealing with fly tipping; in particular to identify vulnerable areas and obtain information to support prosecution of offenders.
6. Service providers to comment on their own performance, as indicated above.

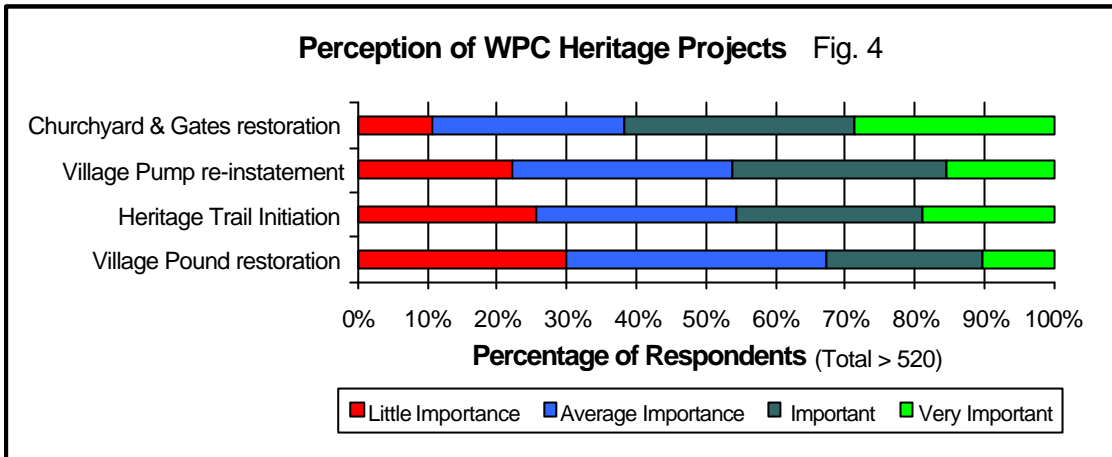
Heritage Awareness

This section assessed awareness and asked for opinions on a number of proposed heritage projects. Almost 50 percent of respondents seem to have low awareness of Wymeswold’s heritage. This may indicate that we are not providing sufficient information for newer residents or that the rural and community aspects of village life are more important. Minority views are also important and some respondents are concerned that the parish should not become a ‘museum’.

Parishioners wish to maintain their heritage and celebrate it – within reason.

⁴ Individual comments are listed in the additional information (see page 37).

Respondents gave a significant level of support to WPC proposals to restore a number of parish features.

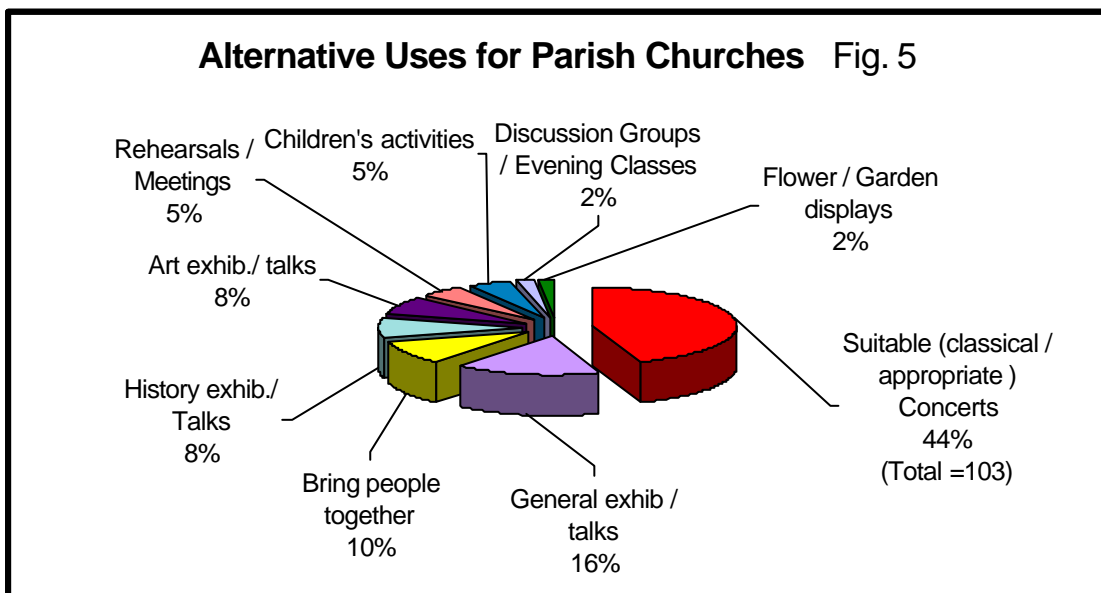


Action points:

- 7. Improve awareness of the heritage of the parish. There is potential for WHO⁵ to broaden membership. Education projects are a possibility, particularly for the young.
- 8. Pursue heritage projects taking account of the preferences shown.

Use of parish churches

This question specifically asked whether parish churches should be used for purposes other than worship. Of the 314 respondents who had a view, 82 percent supported wider use. The 103 suggestions for additional uses are summarised graphically below. Some respondents highlighted the danger of taking business, and hence income, from the Memorial Hall.



Parishioners would like to see more use being made of the parish churches.

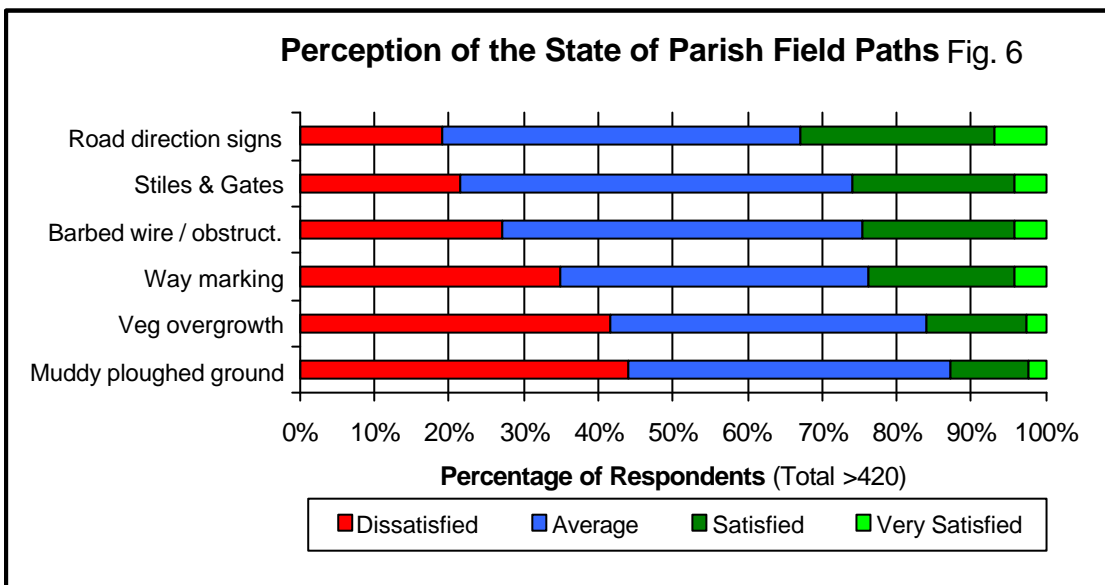
⁵ Wolds Historical Organisation

Action point:

9. PCC could review use of the Parish Church with the support of parishioners, to include provision of appropriate facilities for activities other than worship.

Use and condition of field paths and rights of way

Field paths are a unique feature of country life in England. Of the 504 parishioners that responded to this question, 83 percent sometimes use parish field paths and 26 percent use them regularly.



Experience of the condition of field footpaths varies but there are areas where improvement is desirable; in particular, the need to work with landowners to improve the condition of the paths.

Field paths are well used but require improvement.

Action points:

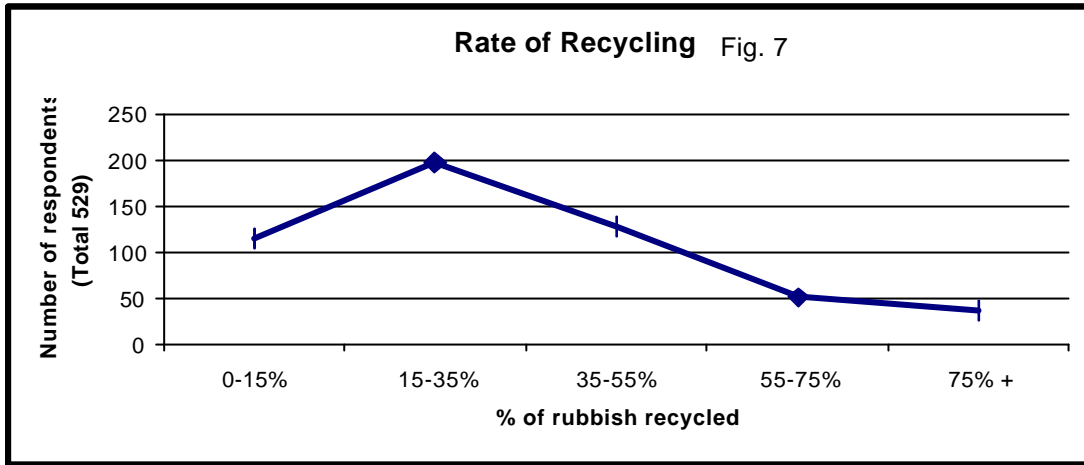
10. Work with LCC on the condition of footpaths.

11. Create a liaison group for landowners and users.

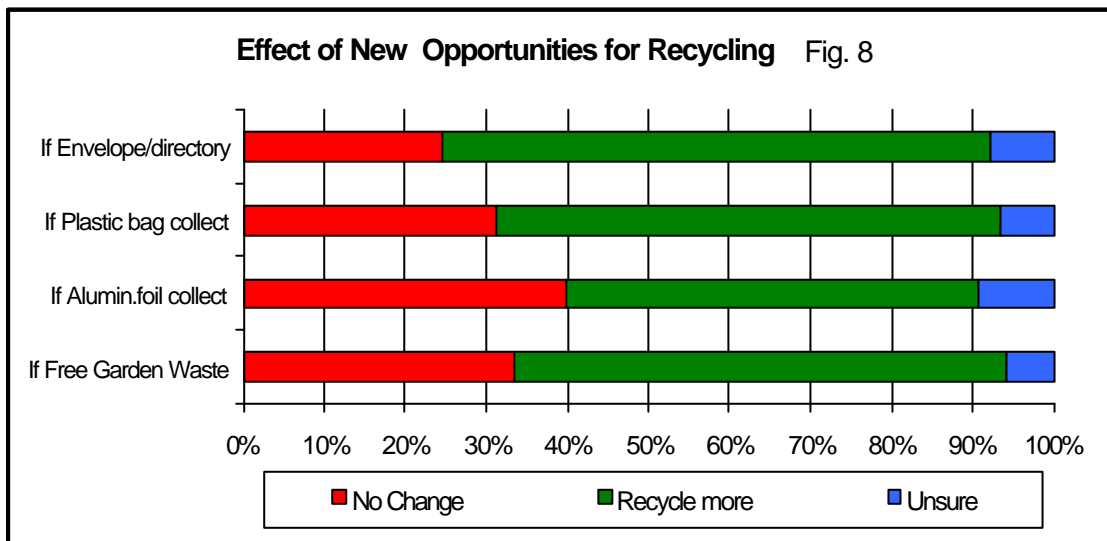
Recycling of waste

Arrangements for the collection and recycling of waste have recently changed and the survey was completed prior to the changes. The questionnaire was designed assuming the new arrangements would be completed. The graph below shows the current rate of recycling.

The average rate of recycling is 35 percent. However, this figure is inflated by the data from respondents who reported very high levels of recycling. The ‘median’ household recycling rate is about 25 percent as reflected in the questionnaire returns.



Specific questions were asked about further recycling possibilities. Generally, there was a positive response as shown in the graph below.



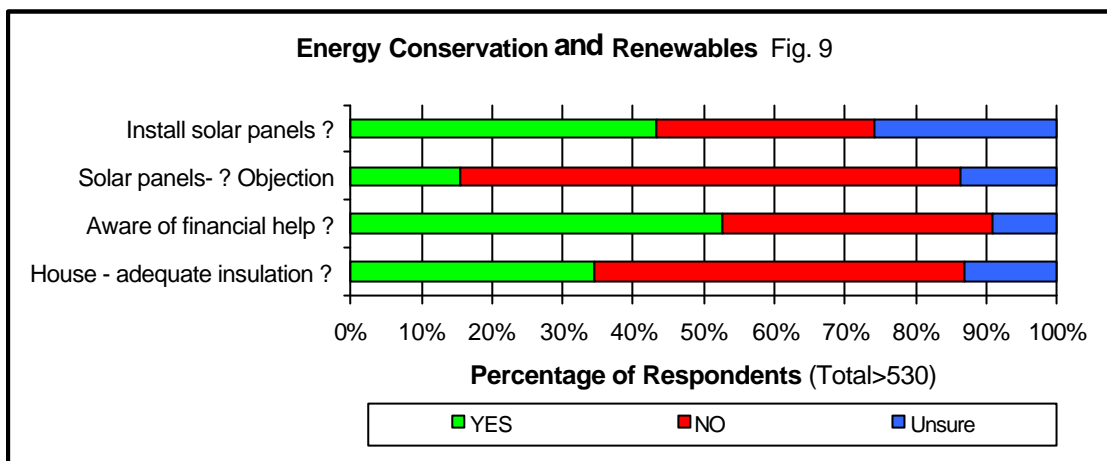
There is scope to considerably increase recycling rates.

Action points:

- 12. CBC to consider increasing range of materials recycled and give guidance to WPC on other possibilities.
- 13. CBC to comment on current recycling rates.
- 14. CBC / WPC / PPG to consider further survey to establish effect of new recycling facilities.

Energy conservation and renewable energy

Publicity about global warming seems to have had some impact. The chart below shows there is interest in energy conservation and renewable energy, with a significant interest in solar panels and few objections to roof installations.



Further research and public information are likely to meet a positive response. The number of respondents indicating that they have inadequate insulation may, in part, be due to the way the question was asked.

Parishioners have an interest in energy conservation and renewable energy.

Action points:

- 15. Develop contacts with Energy Saving organisations to improve access for parishioners to information and grants.

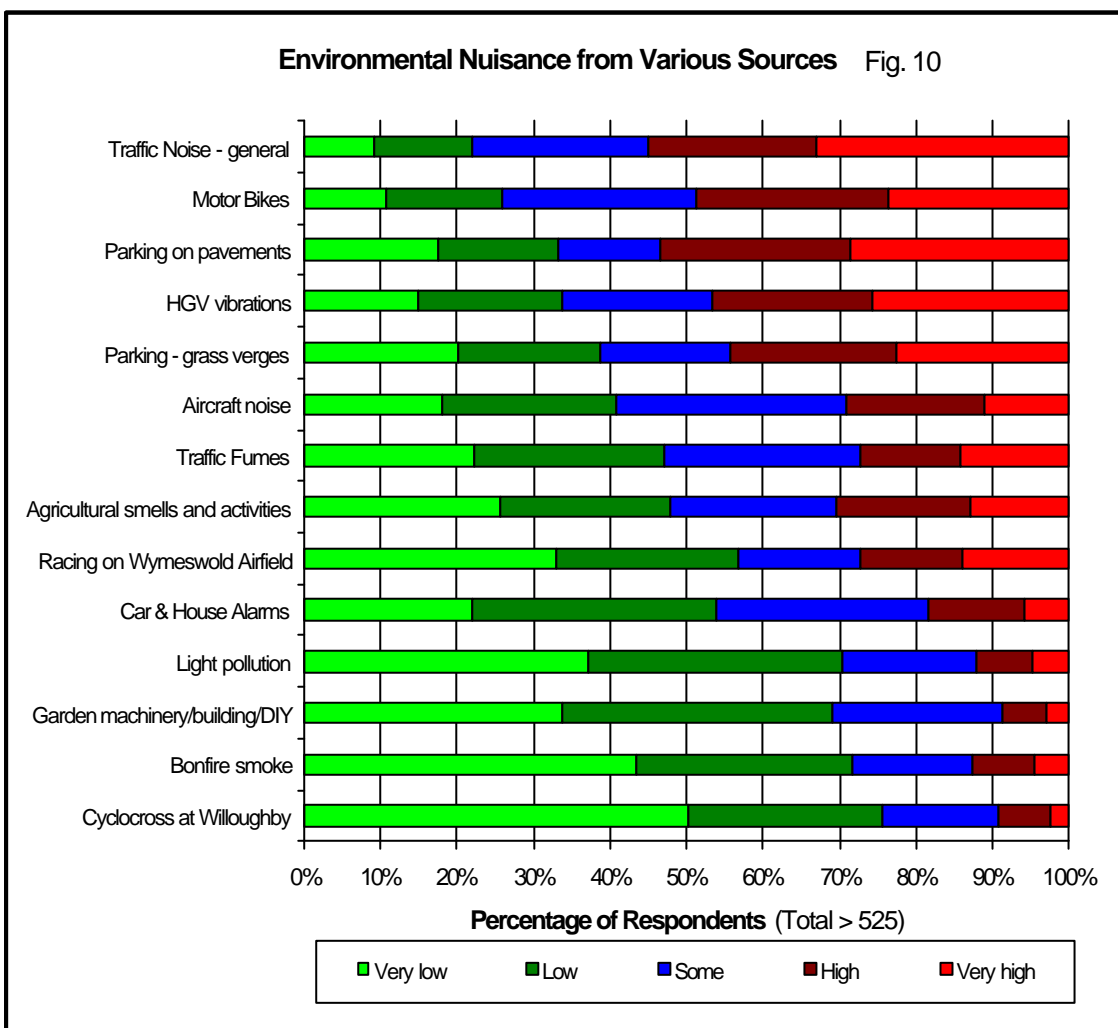
Parishioners’ environmental pet hates

This question gave an opportunity to highlight what respondents regard as the biggest environmental nuisances. Noise, in various forms, featured strongly and was highlighted as a serious problem by many respondents. This reflects the importance placed on a ‘quiet rural setting’ (see Fig.1).

There were 62 individual issues included by respondents in addition to the list provided in the questionnaire. The 5 most common were:

Respondents	Area of annoyance
22	Traffic volume, speed, noise and legal infringements
11	Noisy individuals and other anti-social behaviour
6	Chicken farm smell and traffic
6	Dogs barking and fouling the pavement
5	Thoughtless parking

Fig.10 summarises responses to the list of nuisances in the questionnaire. Traffic, particularly vehicle noise, is the biggest nuisance. Aircraft noise is less of an issue, as are smells, even though both affect the whole parish. Bear in mind that not all problems affect the whole parish. Location of respondents was not included to ensure anonymity so correlating location with the comments is not possible. However some reasonable assumptions can be made. For example, ‘racing on the airfield’ has the greatest effect at the western end of the village but, even so, 228 respondents thought it ‘some nuisance’ or a ‘real nuisance’ so clearly this is an issue to be addressed. A similarly argument applies to ‘Cyclocross at Willoughby’.



To gain a full picture of parish opinion on traffic the items highlighted above need to be considered alongside Section 8 which deals with specific traffic and safety issues.

Vehicle noise from all sources creates the most significant environmental nuisance to parishioners. Inconsiderate parking is also a problem.

In considering action points, account must be taken of the source of the nuisance. Most of us treat our cars as essential to our lives. We all buy goods that travel in heavy lorries along our roads. Many of us use the low cost airlines that fly out of Nottingham East Midlands Airport. Most of us eat chicken and so the list goes on. Some of the nuisances highlighted are from non-essential activities undertaken by enthusiasts who may or may not have contact with the parish. These include touring bikers (and some 'sports' car drivers) on the A6006 and rally drivers on the airfield.

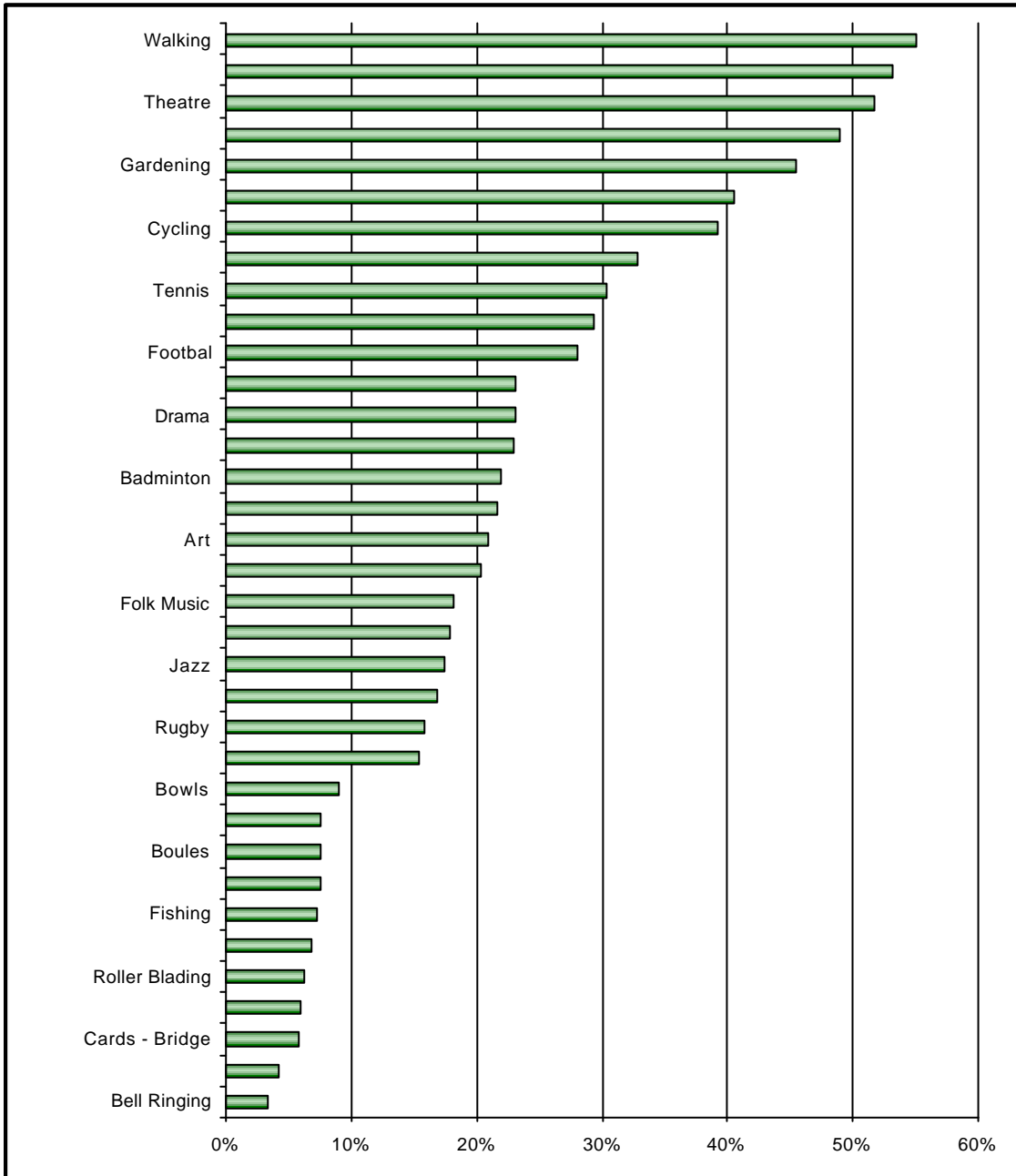
Action points:

16. LCC should consider actions that alleviate traffic noise as well as improve road safety. Very low speed limits and signs reminding motorists of the noise they are making would be useful. Initiatives in progress at present (and in the future) should be to include the issue of noise.
17. Police should be requested to carry out speed and noise checks on vehicles using the A6006.
18. Pursue motor sports noise with CBC on planning and environmental health grounds.
19. Use Parish Plan presentation as an opportunity to remind individuals that their actions, such as inconsiderate parking, affect others.

SPORTS AND LEISURE

Things we like to do...

Fig. 11



This question received 586 responses. There is a good case for a well-maintained and extensive footpath network and a need for parish resources for a number of sports and the performing arts.

Fitness and outdoor pursuits were the most numerous of the ‘other’ activities that respondents entered. Crafts and martial arts were also mentioned along with quite a number of one-off suggestions.

Surprisingly, more parishioners have not taken up bowls, given the high standard of the bowls facility available in the parish.

Action point:

20. Ensure parishioners and potential service providers are aware of our interests. There is clearly demand for more activities within the parish and the chart above gives some indication of the likely response. A leisure co-ordinator could help develop new activities and ensure maximum use of existing facilities.

Youth activities and clubs

Children under 11 are well catered for but the majority of 11-16 year olds felt there was a lack of activities for them in the parish.

A number of people expressed interest in joining existing clubs. Some also expressed a willingness to start up and run a new club. Particularly mentioned were a Youth Club and a Youth Drop-in Centre, a Youth Football team and a Gardening Club.

Action points:

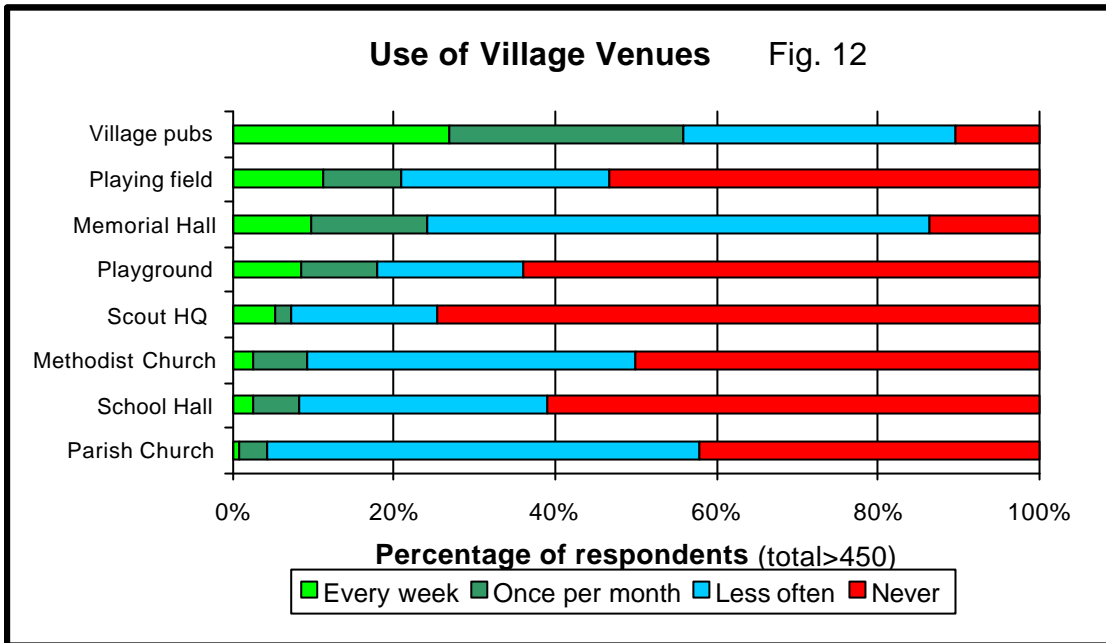
- 21. Bring together those who have expressed interest in particular activities.
- 22. Promote youth activities.

Venues

The village pubs are the most frequented of the facilities. The scout hut and the school hall are the least frequently used by the community. Both these venues have restrictions imposed, which limit their use. We would have expected the Memorial Hall to be more regularly used by the community.

Where respondents have expressed an opinion about the standard of the facilities at these venues, they are generally satisfied. However there were a number of comments worth highlighting. Cleanliness is an issue. The playing field pavilion would benefit from a refit of kitchen and toilet facilities. There is no disabled access to the upstairs of the Memorial hall. Some people preferred other venues for private functions as they felt the Memorial hall was too expensive.⁶

⁶ To obtain detailed comments see page 37.



Action Points:

- 23. Provide an overview of facilities available to potential users.
- 24. Promote youth activities with existing clubs.
- 25. Investigate Memorial Hall access problems.

EDUCATION

Pre-school education

63 respondents have pre-school children. The table below shows how they use or expect to use pre-school care and facilities.

	Use now	Expect to use
Nursery school	14	19
Playgroup	26	24
Reg. childminders	13	7
Full day care	5	6
Crèche	3	7
Holiday schemes	8	18
Faith based activities	6	5
Other	6	3

Playgroup has the most users, demonstrating its high value to the community.

Action point:

26. Look at the provision of holiday schemes to support the expected use.

Primary education

95 respondents have primary school children. 86 have children at Wymeswold Primary School. They all rate the breadth of education their children receive as ‘excellent’, a remarkable achievement for the school. The following table shows the use and potential use of other services provided for primary age children listed in the questionnaire:

	Use now	Expect to use
After school Clubs	46	14
Registered childminders	33	3
Holiday play schemes	24	17
Faith based activities	11	4
Other	17	-

This question asked for details of any further ‘facilities/services’ that the school could provide. The most popular request is for an after-school club. The various ideas for the type of club are summarised below.

The Primary School is a well-used and greatly respected education resource. Further use could be made of the buildings particularly for clubs ‘out of teaching hours’.

Requests	Service	Details
14	After school club	To include arts and crafts, languages as well as sports and recreation. Some would also like a breakfast club or even a ‘Rainy Sunday’ club. Food provision before and after school.
6	Additional school trips	In conjunction with other schools in the area to pool resources. Also share other resources.
3	Adult education	Computer, language courses etc. See below for more general responses on adult education requirements.
3	Facilities at school	More space and less Portacabins.
5	Various	Visits by dance groups, professionals; foreign language teaching; set up a youth club; computer access.

Action points:

27. Inform Wymeswold Primary School, Governors and PTA of the findings.

28. Investigate local action to provide an after school club.

Secondary education

76 respondents (14 percent) have children at secondary school. These children attend the following schools.

Harry Carlton Comprehensive School (NottsCC)		32
Loughborough Endowed Schools	(Ind)	17
Humphrey Perkins High School	(LCC)	14
Rawlins Community College	(LCC)	11
Other		5
De Lisle RC School	(LCC)	2
Ratcliffe College	(LCC)	1

The questionnaire did not ask respondents for their views on the secondary education received by their children. Noticeably, the majority of respondents send their children to secondary schools other than those provided by Leicestershire County Council (LCC).

The questionnaire asked for information about how primary and secondary pupils travel to school. In summary respondents said:

	ALL Primary Pupils	Wymeswold Primary Pupils	Secondary Pupils
Walk to school	84%	95%	-
Car journey	27%	20%	21%
School Bus	7%	-	73%
Service Bus	1%	-	16%
Total respondents	102	85	80

Percentages add to more than 100 percent due to multiple transport methods used by some pupils. Only 5 percent of pupils *never* walk to Wymeswold Primary School at any time although 25 percent sometimes travel there by car.

Higher Education

3 percent (almost all aged under 24) of respondents are in full-time higher education and 11 percent are in part-time further education.

38 percent of respondents have attended or are attending courses in Charnwood. Twice as many women as men attend courses. About one-fifth of respondents consider they do not have enough information on courses available.

If additional courses were offered in Wymeswold, the table below shows the possible interest.

Type of course	Respondents interested
Vocational training	34%
Courses leading to qualification	38%
Leisure	74%
Sport / health	76%

The majority of interest is in the age range 16-54 and suggestions for courses include: martial arts, languages, ICT, gardening, creative writing and music.

There is scope for developing further education in Wymeswold.

Action points:

29. Disseminate information to potential service providers.
30. Promote existing opportunities and possible new ones locally.

Library Services

Service used	Mobile	Loughborough	Barrow	East Leake	None
Respondents (Total > 510)	13%	28%	5%	19%	52%

The majority of parishioners are satisfied with the library or libraries that they use. Significantly, 48 percent of parishioners are library users and that 14 percent use more than one library.

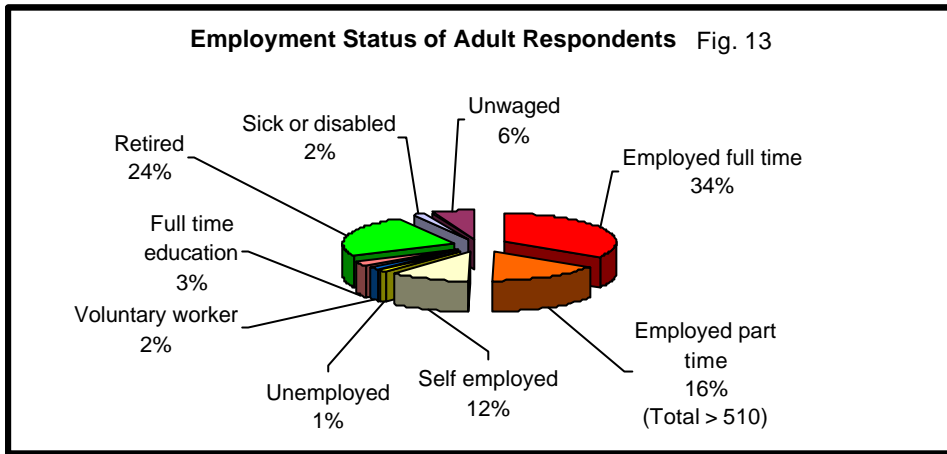
The library service is a well-used and valuable resource.

EMPLOYMENT, LOCAL SERVICES AND TRANSPORT

Employment

The following chart shows the employment status of adult respondents to the questionnaire. There is a low rate of unemployment, and nearly a quarter of the population is retired. 11 percent work from home, with a further 18 percent occasionally doing so. 9 percent run a business.

Of the 8 percent that have skills they can share with the parish, three-quarters would like to be included in a directory. A significant number of parishioners who work from home or run a business would like to advertise their skills and services locally.

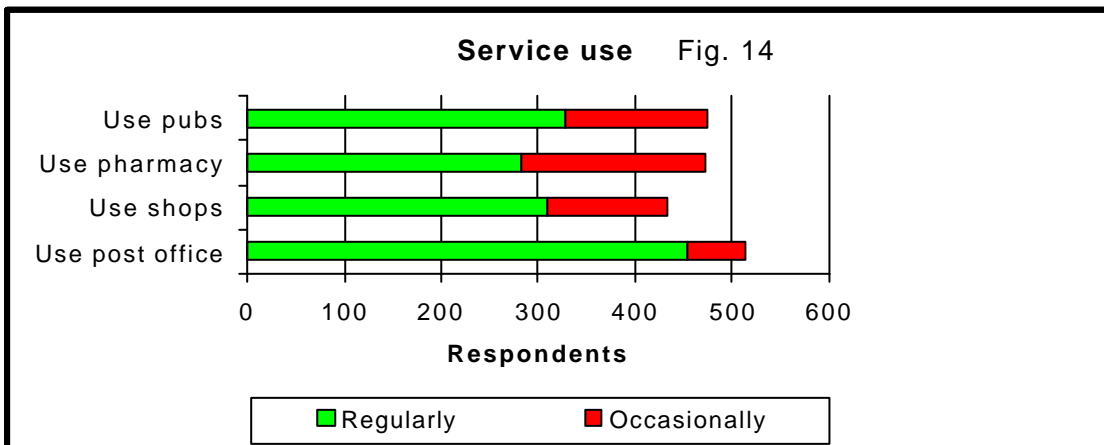


Action points:

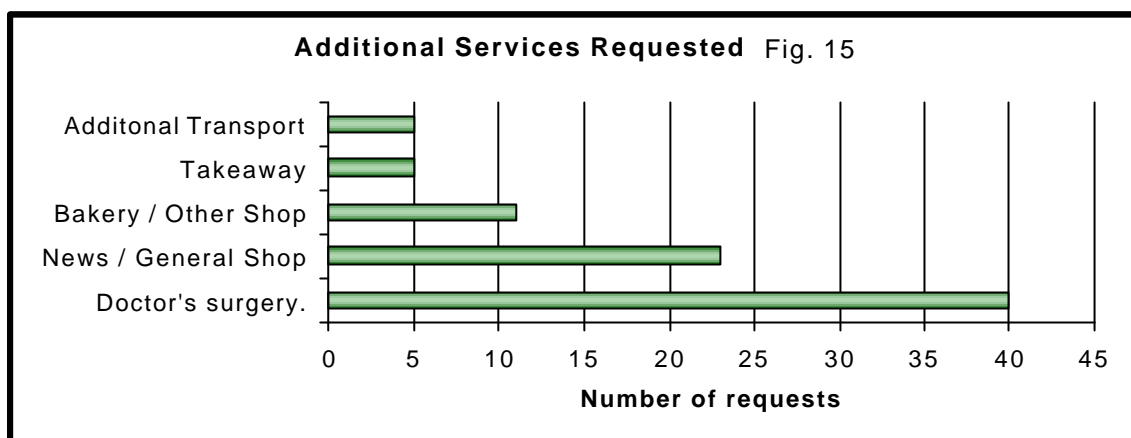
31. Prepare a *Local Services Directory* to be distributed annually with *The Christian Link* magazine. A small charge could be levied for inclusion in the directory.

Local Services

Parishioners were asked to comment on services available in the parish. Parish services are highly valued and well used. Approximately half of the parishioners use the Post Office at least once a week, while the other shops and the pharmacy are used slightly less frequently. The pubs are used at least once or twice a month by over half the population. About 10 percent of the population do not, or rarely use the services. The reasons given include inaccessibility, lack of the right type of service and lack of need. Of the additional services requested, a doctor’s surgery is the most sought after.



The questionnaire asked respondents to list additional services they would like. The opening of Granvilles shop has probably met the second most requested service, a newsagent and general store. There were a few requests for a cash machine.



The new mobile Chinese food van has also been good news for parishioners wanting a take-away service. Once again parishioners have taken the opportunity to highlight the lack of a doctor's surgery⁷ in the parish.

Local services are very important to parishioners and are generally well used.

Action points:

32. The Post Office has a facility for withdrawing money from certain banks. Ensure that parishioners are aware of all services offered by the Post Office by advertising in the proposed *Local Services Directory*.
33. Granvilles has a facility for 'cashback' at a minimal charge. This may need to be more widely promoted.

The questionnaire asked whether respondents had seen the *Welcome to Wymeswold* leaflet and what, if anything, might be added to it. 19 percent had seen it and most people found it useful for locating local service information.

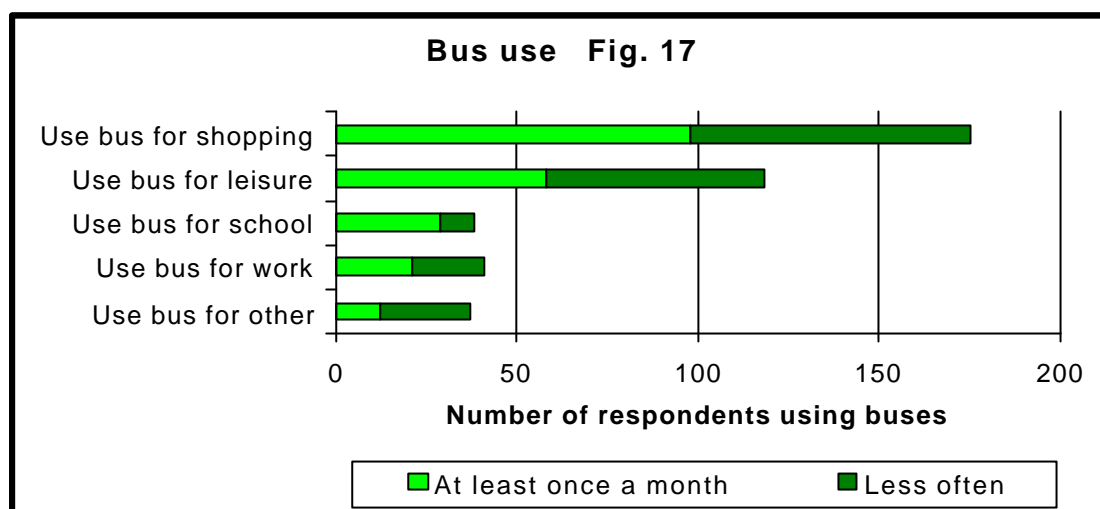
Action point:

34. Consider issue and distribution of the welcome leaflet. Possibilities include web site download, an advert in *The Christian Link*, or the Post Office to deliver.

Public Transport

The questionnaire asked about the use of the local bus service and the reasons it was used. 37 percent of respondents indicated that they use the bus service at least occasionally for one or more purposes. Young people expressed a special desire for a more frequent bus service, including Sundays and late evenings, particularly to Nottingham and Leicester. This might encourage more people to use the bus service for work. Some people would use the service only if they were unable to drive, and a few respondents required information about timetables. A quarter of respondents expressed an interest in a car-sharing scheme.

⁷See Health & Social Care section for further discussion of the surgery issue.



The local bus service is a valuable asset to many parishioners and would benefit from additional routes and services.

Action points:

35. Advertise timetables/services in proposed *Local Services Directory*.
36. Discuss with bus companies possible additional services to Nottingham, Leicester and later evening and Sunday services.
37. Explore the possibility of, for example, ASDA or Fosse Park running transport to and from the parish to their stores.
38. Consider promotion of a car-sharing scheme.⁸

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Disability

One-fifth (102) of respondents have a disability and approximately half of these say that the disability limits their activities in some way. Age is a significant factor with half the number being over 65.

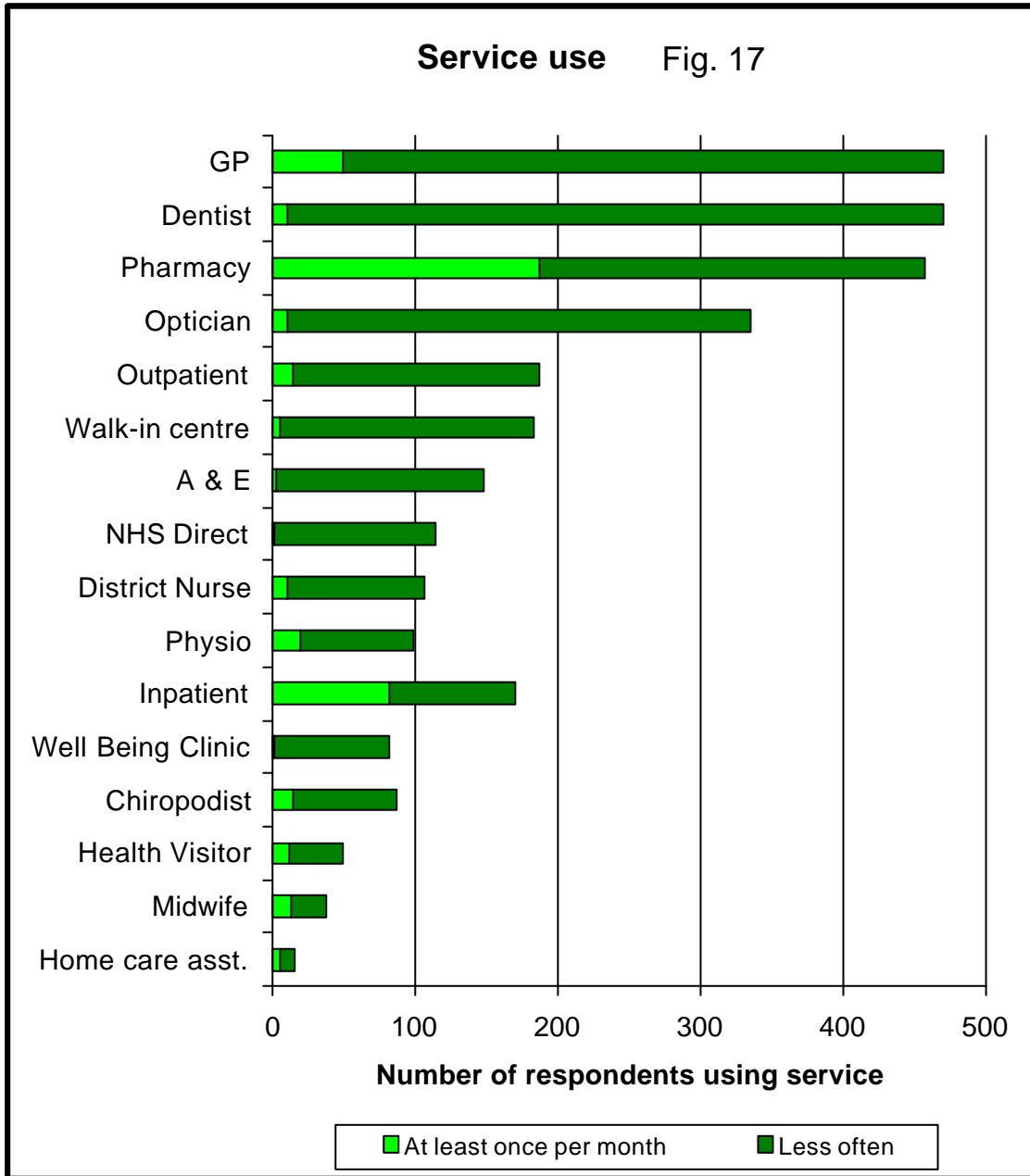
18 respondents are registered as disabled and 29 act as carers.

The number of disabled and partially disabled in the population indicates a need for significant support.

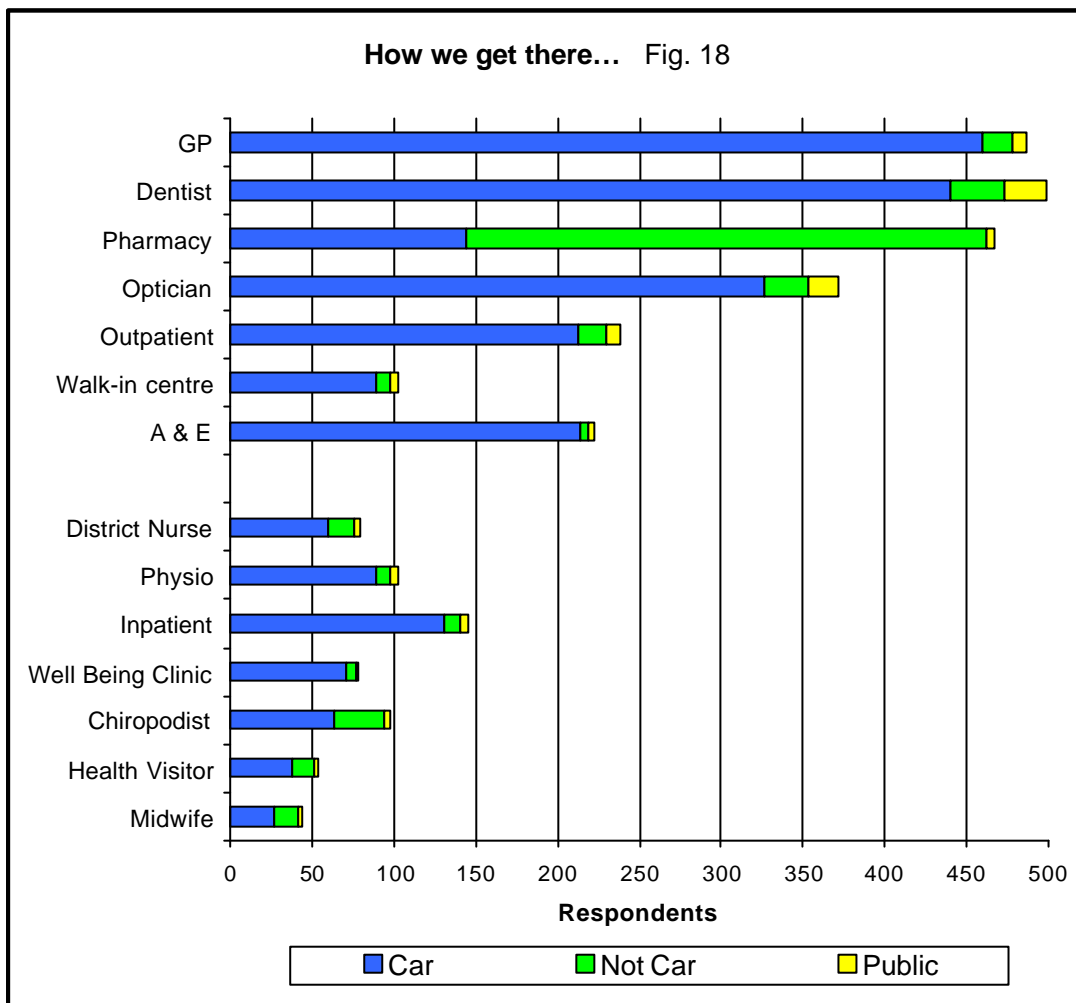
⁸ Active consideration is being given by some parishioners to supporting the 'Dial-a-Ride' scheme using volunteer car drivers.

Health Services

The questionnaire asked people to indicate the use of health services. In summary:



The next figure shows our almost total dependence on the car when we use services.



Many users of pharmacy services use the village pharmacy and walk there. This implies that, where an effective facility is available in the parish, it is well used.

The responses also revealed that 40 respondents have a problem reaching their services. The lack of a doctor’s surgery in the parish is cited most often as a problem. The lack of a bus service to East Leake is highlighted but this problem has been remedied to some extent by the provision of a bus service, on request, for visits to the East Leake surgery⁹. Initial feed back from users on the bus service is positive. Clearly, respondents of all ages would value a GP surgery more than any other service in the parish.

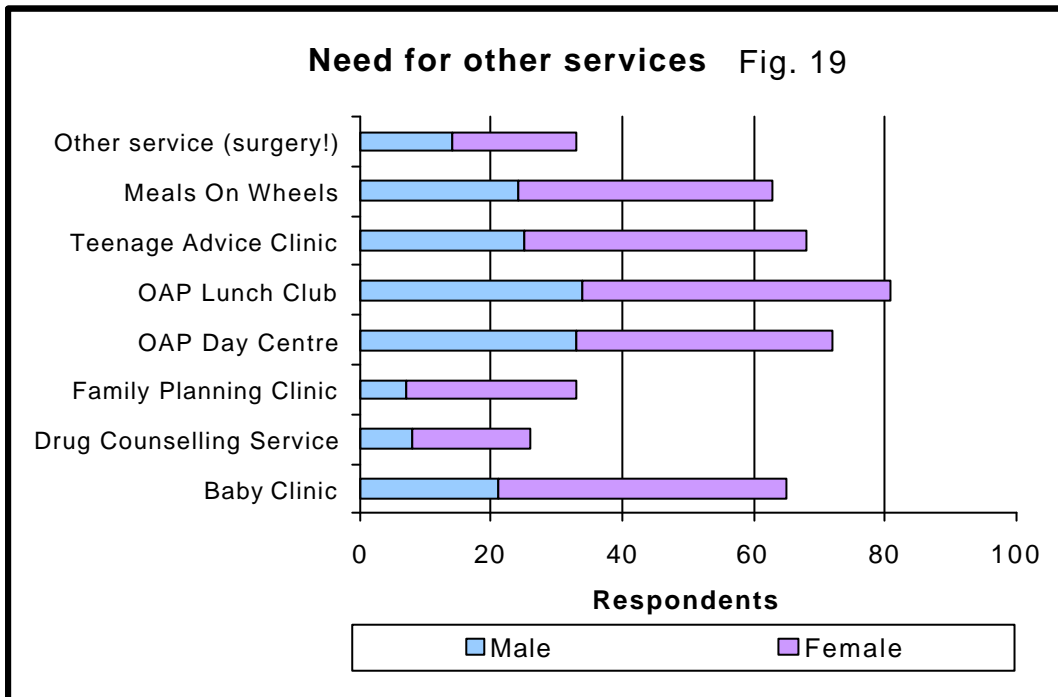
The use of (and therefore the choice of) services is largely dictated by the availability of car transport.

⁹ Details may be found from sources mentioned on page 37.

Action points:

- 39. Give detailed response to service providers for comment. Identify issues outside their control and raise with MP.
- 40. Look at ways to increase access to car transport at reasonable cost.
- 41. Is there scope for more self-help groups?

One question asked for responses and suggestions for additional services. The chart below summarises the response. The question also allowed respondents to enter their own suggestions; most requested a doctor’s surgery in the parish. The results give an indication of the need for particular services.



A number of needs have been identified and there is a need for additional services.

Action point:

- 42. Discuss suggestions with service providers.

Parishioners were also asked if they would like health and social care information made available in the parish. 35 percent said **yes**, 27 percent said **no**, and 38 percent didn’t know.

Many parishioners would value additional health and social care information.

Action point:

- 43. Identify sources of information and consider how these could be disseminated.

GP surgeries are used as follows.

Surgery used	Barrow	East Leake	Loughborough	other
Respondents	51%	44%	1%	4%

Barrow is difficult to reach by bus and respondents say that appointment times do not suit work schedules. There is a pronounced age variation in use of the surgeries. People under 25 are more than twice as likely to use Barrow as those aged 55-64.

Health services generally are moving further away from Wymeswold as the years go by. Parishioners do not understand why.

Access to GP services is a major concern for many parishioners. Transport to surgeries is clearly a problem but not the only issue.

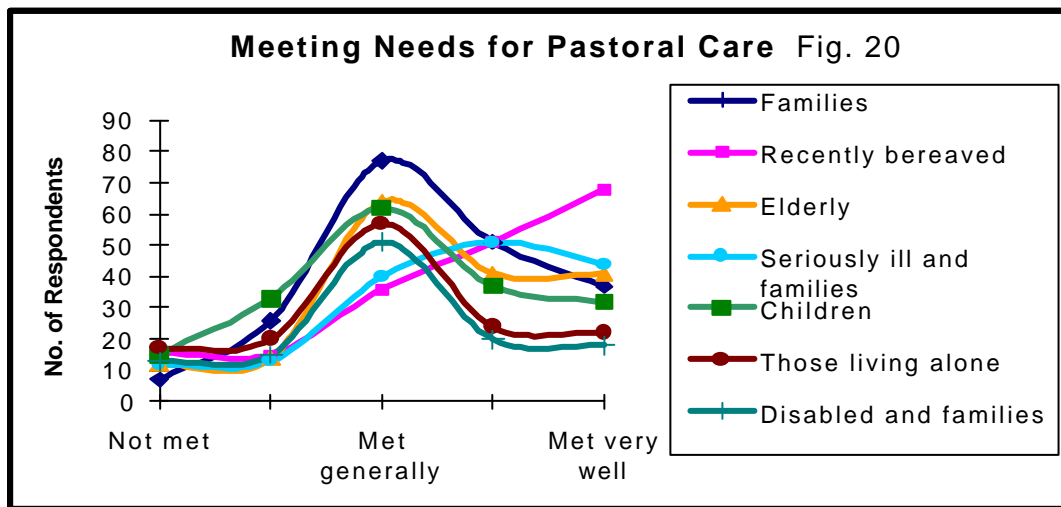
Action point:

- 44. The Primary Care Trust need to convince parishioners that their GP cover arrangements are adequate and should consider locating more services in the parish.
- 45. Raise any national constraints resulting from government policy with MP.

SPIRITUAL AND PASTORAL CARE

Religious affiliation

75 percent of respondents are Christian, 24 percent do not follow a specific religion and the remaining one percent follow other religions. 62 percent of the Christian respondents say that local services meet their needs. 9 percent feel that their needs are definitely not met.



The survey was carried out during an interregnum but the parish now has a non-stipendary minister.

The question prompted a number of responses about the need for a full-time vicar in particular and for pastoral care more generally. Some respondents felt the two church communities should co-ordinate their work more closely. One respondent highlighted the plight of those who do not have a particular faith and another the need for ‘carers’ to support pastoral work. The overall view on whether pastoral care met individual needs is summarised below. The responses are assumed to be based on provision by the Parish and Methodist Churches.

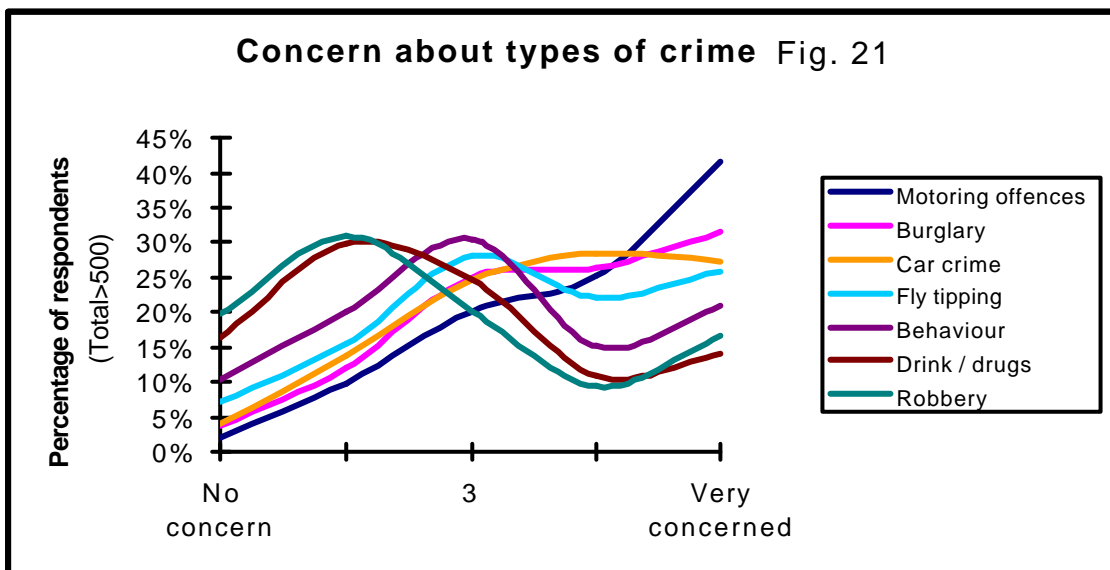
The attention of the PCC and other Church authorities is drawn to the Parish view concerning pastoral care.

Action point:

46. Refer information in full to PCC and Methodist Church authorities.

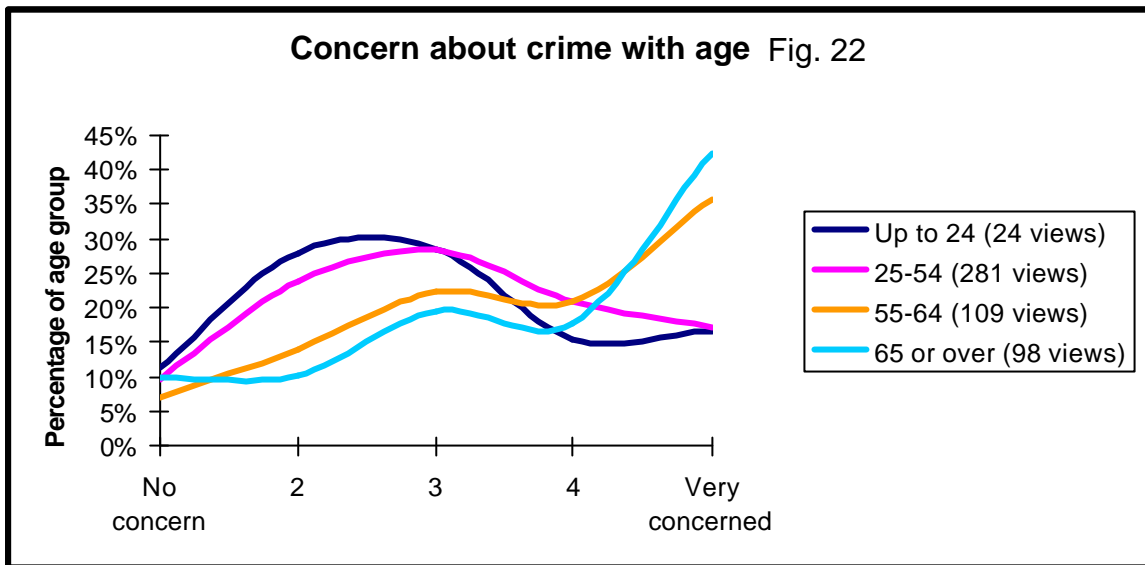
CRIME

Concern about crime

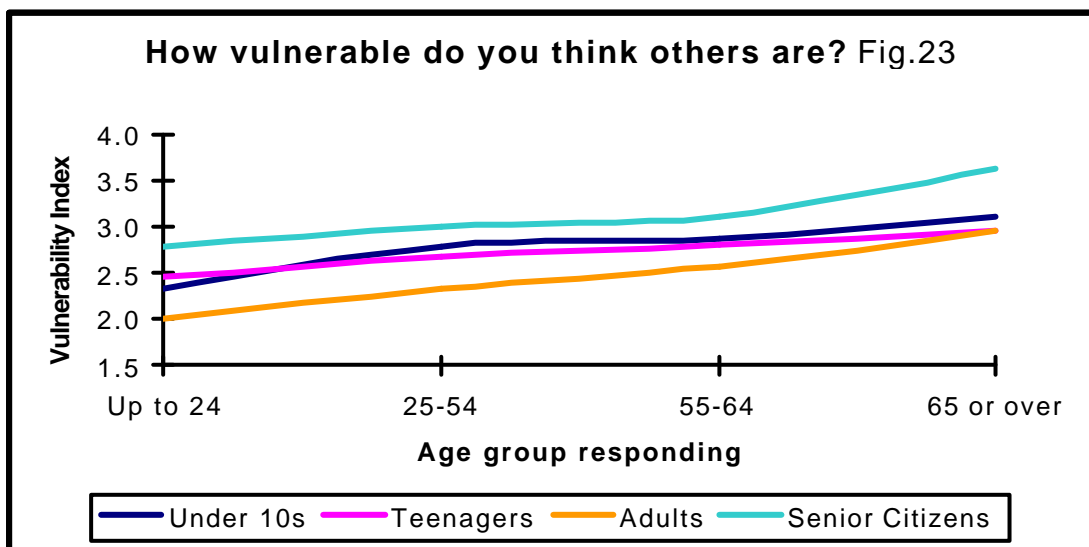


We all have a significant level of concern about crime. The chart above shows concern about different types of crime. Traffic and burglary are top of the list for many. The following chart shows how age influences concern. Older respondents are clearly more concerned about crime than younger respondents.

A trend with age is clearly shown in responses to the question which asked for parishioners views on the vulnerability of different age groups.



The vulnerability index¹⁰ is a simple measure of how vulnerable one age group thinks another age group is. Women generally have a more pessimistic view of vulnerability than men.



There is work to be done to reduce the feeling of vulnerability to crime particularly for older and younger parishioners.

¹⁰ Defined as the average score for vulnerability, where 1 is not vulnerable and 5 is very vulnerable.

Experience of crime

There were 27 crimes reported by 548 respondents in the questionnaire for the 12 month period up to July 2004. The crime rate on the basis of this result is 4.9 percent which is relatively low. This figure may be exaggerated, because we may have missed occasions where more than one person per household has identified the same offence.

Action point:

47. Examine ways of aligning the perception of crime with the reality, without encouraging complacency.

Crime Control Measures

Responses indicated strong support for electronic surveillance and particularly for speed cameras. 13 out of 19 additional suggestions for crime control referred to speed cameras or CCTV.

In considering how to reduce crime, the greatest strength of response was for a special constable or a more regular police presence within the parish.

Action points:

48. Fully explore opportunities for increasing police presence (either a regular or special constable) with the relevant authorities.

49. Explore active measures to restrict car and heavy vehicle speeding by the enforcement of speed limits.

TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY

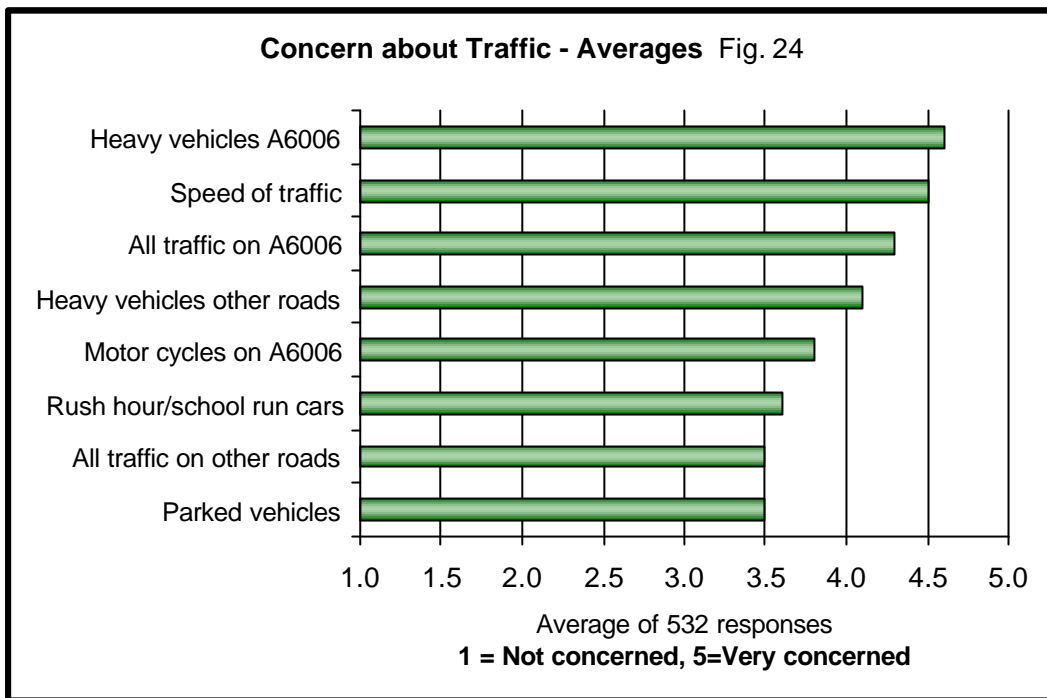
Your hottest issue

The issue of traffic and road safety elicited the highest level of concern of any of the topics covered in the questionnaire.

There is high concern about the level of traffic on all roads in the village. In particular 91 percent of residents are concerned or very concerned about heavy vehicles on the A6006. The following chart shows average concern levels greater than 3.5 to the eight questions on safety and traffic issues.

317 out of 888 responses about parishioners 'dislikes' cite volume, speed and/or noise of traffic. Most of us are car drivers but we still dislike traffic intensely.

Speed was mentioned in 20 out of 38 comments made by respondents in this section. The vulnerability of pedestrians was another strong theme.



Action points:

- 50. Lobby all authorities, regional, county, borough and parish to urgently pursue the issue of speed and its reduction.
- 51. Initiate and support discussion and debate on the full implications of a bypass and re-routing of heavy traffic for this and other villages nearby.

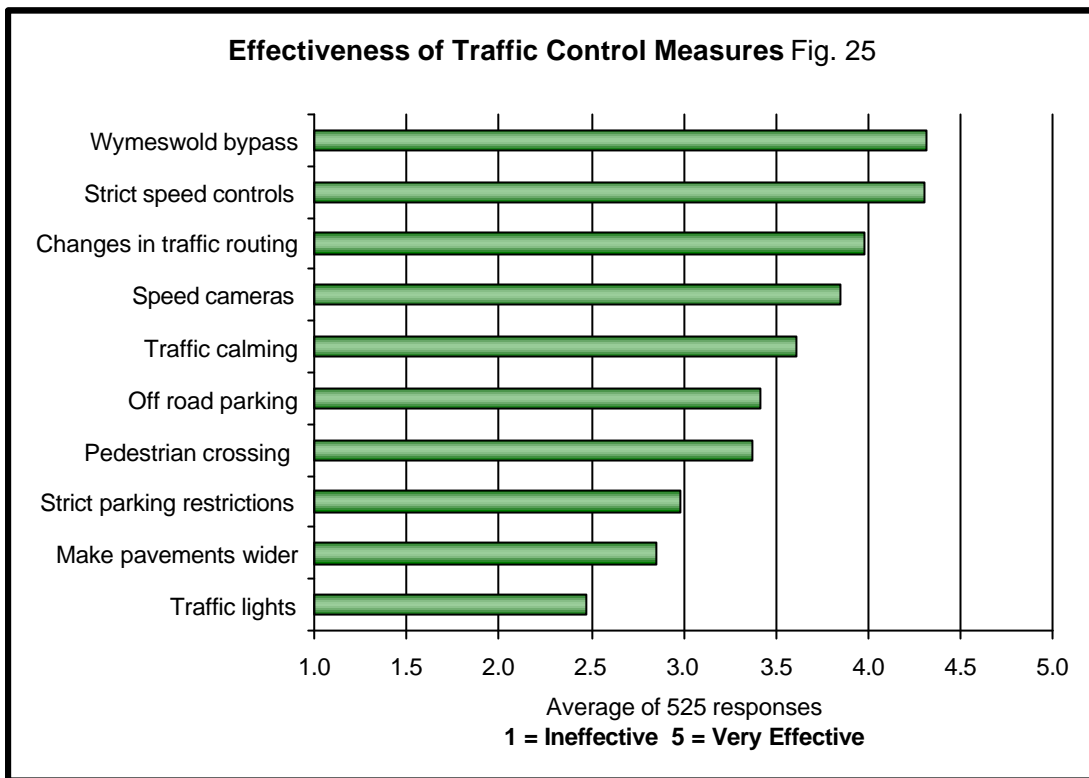
Traffic control measures

The questionnaire examined parishioners’ perception of various methods for alleviating traffic problems. Speed controls top the respondents’ solutions. An A6006 bypass is also seen as very effective but respondents have a divided view on the overall benefit of a bypass¹¹. The following graph shows the solutions offered by the questionnaire and the average response for each. Responses show confidence in all the proposed methods but there is considerable variation in level of confidence.

Most of the ‘other solutions’ suggested by respondents are developments of the list in the questionnaire, for instance, speed ‘warning signs’ rather than ‘speed cameras’. A number of specific local traffic problems were raised which will be passed on to the appropriate authorities. Traffic lights are surprisingly unattractive, probably due to the problems of adding delays to journeys. There is concern about inconsiderate drivers; for example, inappropriate parking generally and near the school in particular.

Residents contribute to the volume and behaviour of traffic around the parish.

¹¹ The average response to Q9.1 was 2.7 where 1 = bad and 5 = good.



Action points:

- 52. Ensure detailed and general information is disseminated to service providers, especially the police and the County Council.
- 53. Address all aspects of school-related vehicle movements, and inconsiderate parking.

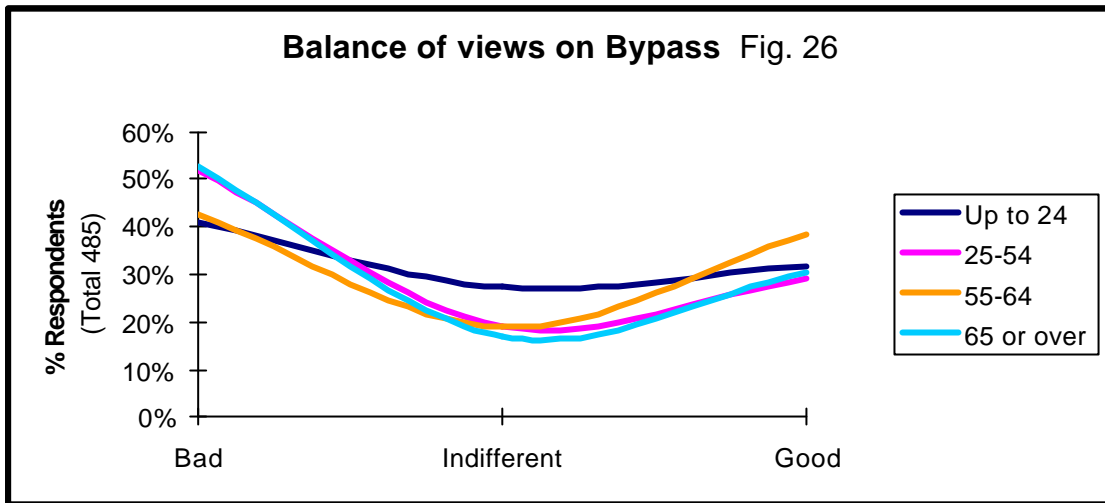
DEVELOPMENT

The need for a bypass

Responses to questions in this section demonstrate the ambivalence of parishioners concerning a possible bypass. Whilst results from the road safety questions show that parishioners think a bypass would have significant benefits, the overall view is that it would be, marginally, a bad thing.

Traffic re-routing which removed long distance vehicles from the A6006 would increase road safety in the parish without losing the perceived benefits of a local traffic route.

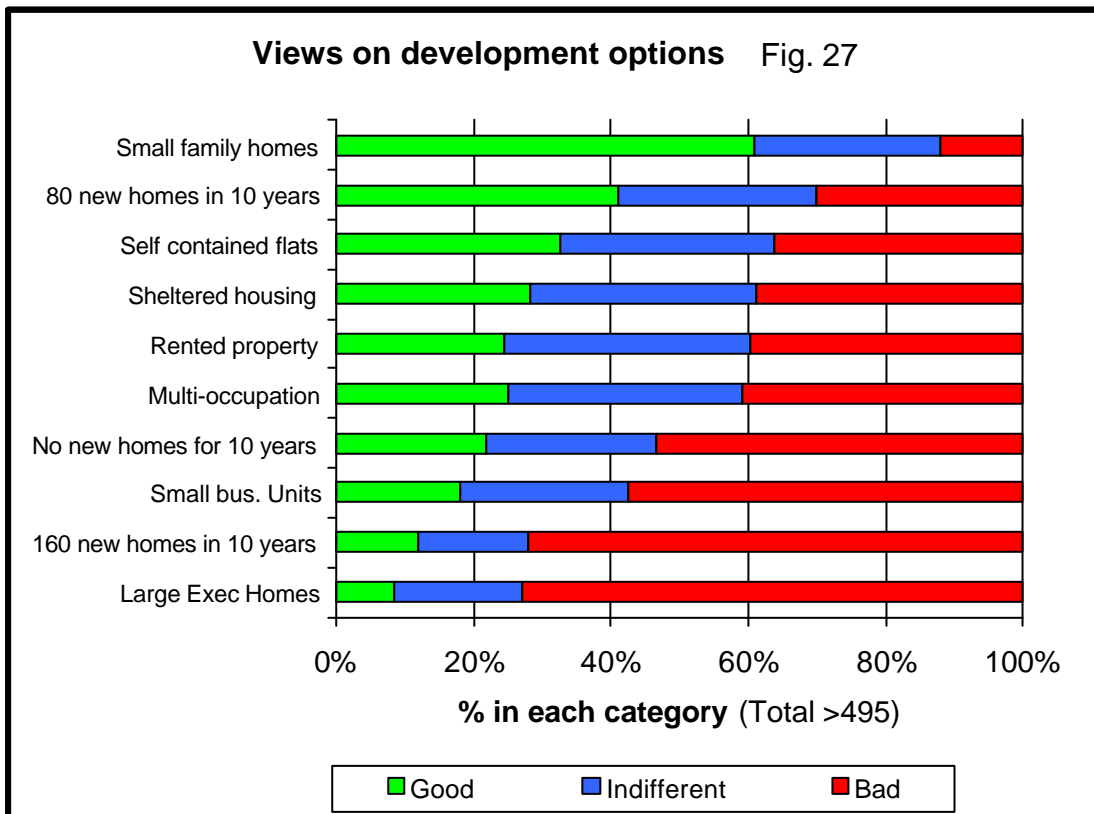
There is no clear desire for a bypass around Wymeswold but re-routing of through-traffic to trunk roads would be of great benefit.



Action point:

54. Liaise with other parishes, LCC and MP on the issue of east-west trunk traffic flows through the Wolds villages.

Optimum future development



The Village Design Statement¹² (VDS) dealt with detailed housing and landscape design considerations when it reviewed parishioners' opinions on future development within the village. Therefore the VDS is part of the Parish Plan

The questionnaire requested views about enhancing and/or preserving the parish's buildings. The overall view seems to favour development of about 80 new homes over the next ten year period which should include small family homes, self-contained flats and sheltered housing. Some multiple-occupancy and rented property would be tolerated. Business units, large housing developments and expensive executive homes are definitely not favoured.

Parishioners believe that the balance of housing development needs to be moved towards smaller units generally.

There is a strong market demand for large new houses on very small plots as evidenced by recent developments. The lack of interest in small business units is not surprising given the proximity of Wymeswold Airfield Industrial Park.

A housing needs survey was carried out by Midlands Rural Housing just before the Parish Plan questionnaires were distributed. This survey was well supported and it forms part of the Parish Plan. The report can be obtained from Midlands Rural Housing or from Wymeswold Parish Council.

Most parishioners view the parish as predominantly rural and agricultural and seem to wish the community to remain viable by limited development. Unfortunately this aim comes into conflict with developers' responses to the market. These are big issues that need to be discussed with our planning authorities and most certainly with our MP.

Action points:

- 55. Open debate with planners and MP about sustaining a rural community.
- 56. CBC, LCC, other authorities and interested parties should be invited to comment on the balance of housing development favoured by parishioners.

The questionnaire raised the issue of proposed development of Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA). Opinions are evenly spread, with slightly more concern than not. Increased aircraft noise and additional traffic are the main worries.

Action points:

- 57. Raise awareness of the NEMA development amongst parishioners.
- 58. A thorough analysis of the full impact on the parish of NEMA expansion and the M1 junction 24 developments should be undertaken at the appropriate time.

The questionnaire also looked at the impact of activities of Everyman Racing on Wymeswold airfield. Generally it is not seen as a major problem. Dense tree planting

¹² Electronic and hard copies are available from WPC.

would be a favoured solution to screen the site. There is room for a large area of forest on the airfield and its position in the landscape would favour this. However respondents did not think this would fully resolve the impact of screeching tyres from racing cars. Those directly affected by noise from the site suggested that resurfacing might help.

Airfields have to be built on open sites. Other land uses, such as large housing estates and noisy activities, are inappropriate given the amplified impact on the surrounding communities. A relatively small part of the parish is directly affected by airfield activities but there is sufficient concern that it would be wise for prospective changes to be discussed with the parish.

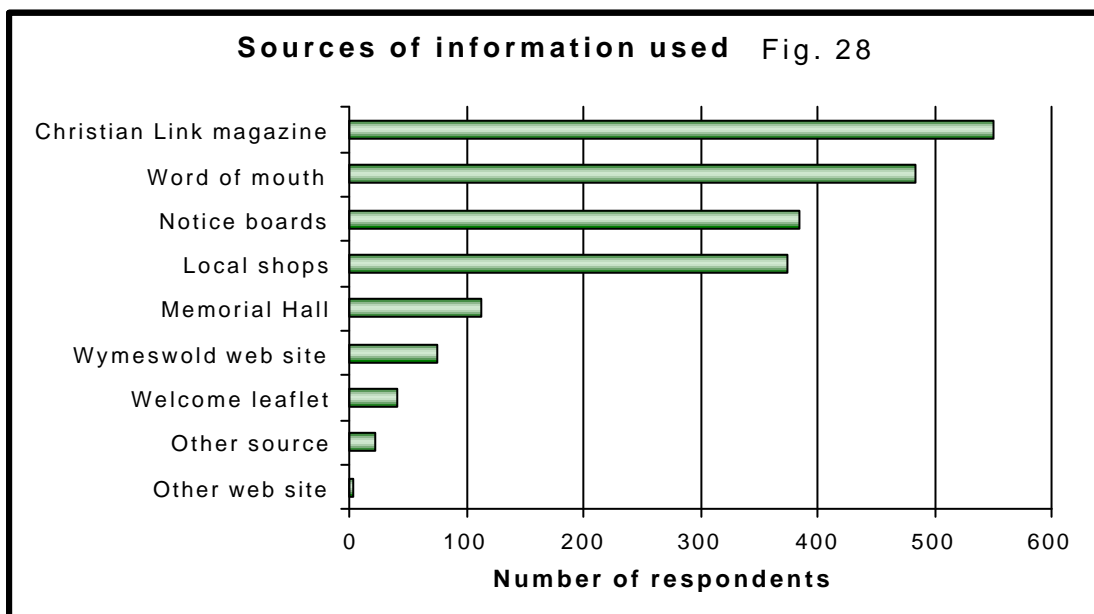
Action points:

- 59. CBC to be given the views of the community about motor sports activities on Wymeswold airfield. WPC and CBC to ensure full liaison concerning future developments.
- 60. Ensure that the Village Design Statement and Parish Plan Committees have full involvement with Wymeswold Parish Council on all planning matters so that parishioners' views are fully represented.

...AND FINALLY

Communications

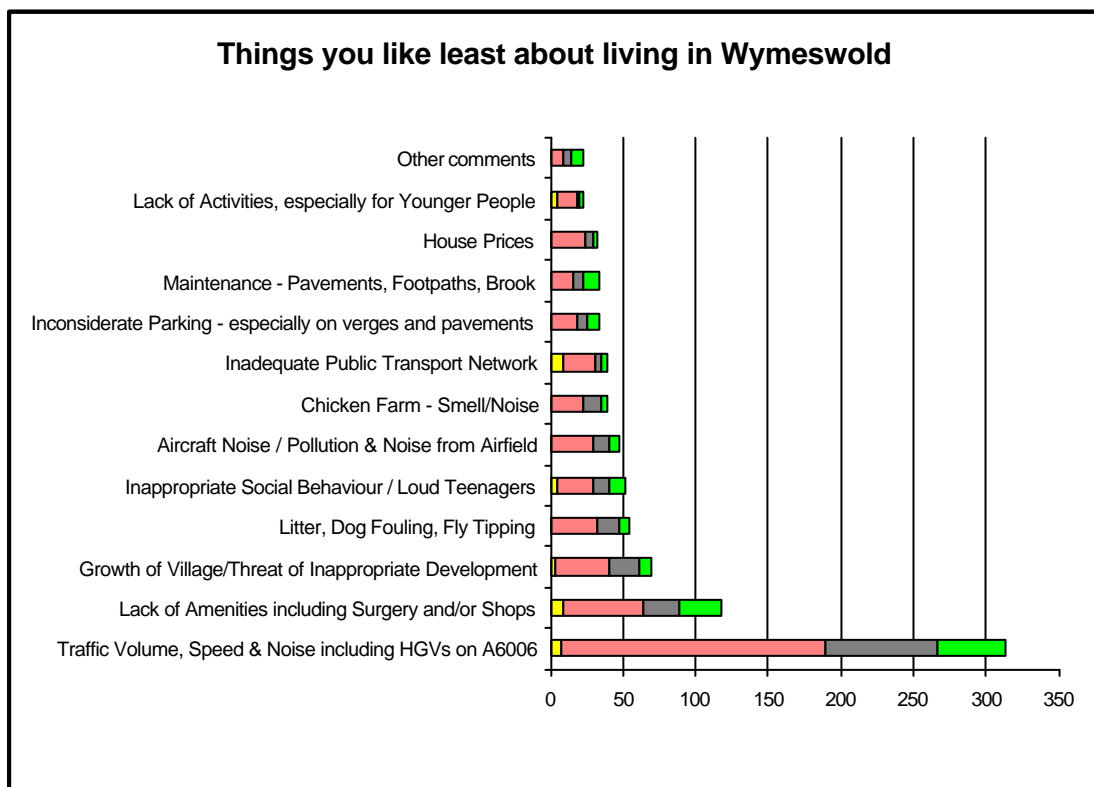
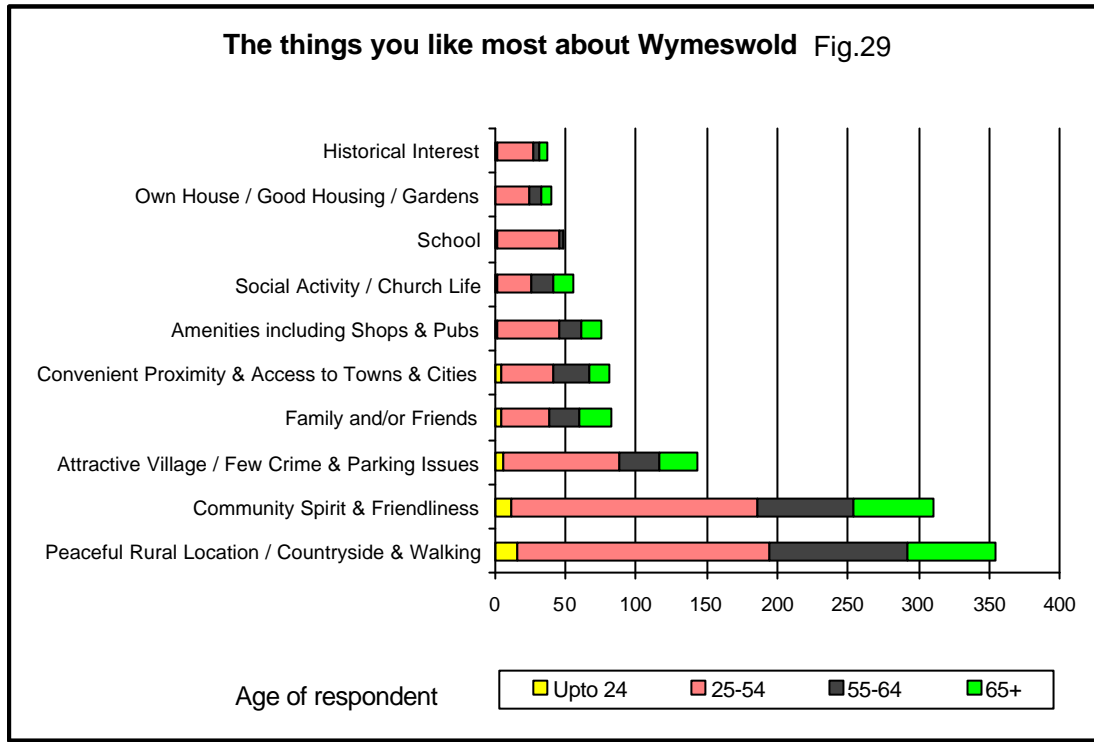
The Christian Link magazine plays a leading role in communicating with the parish.



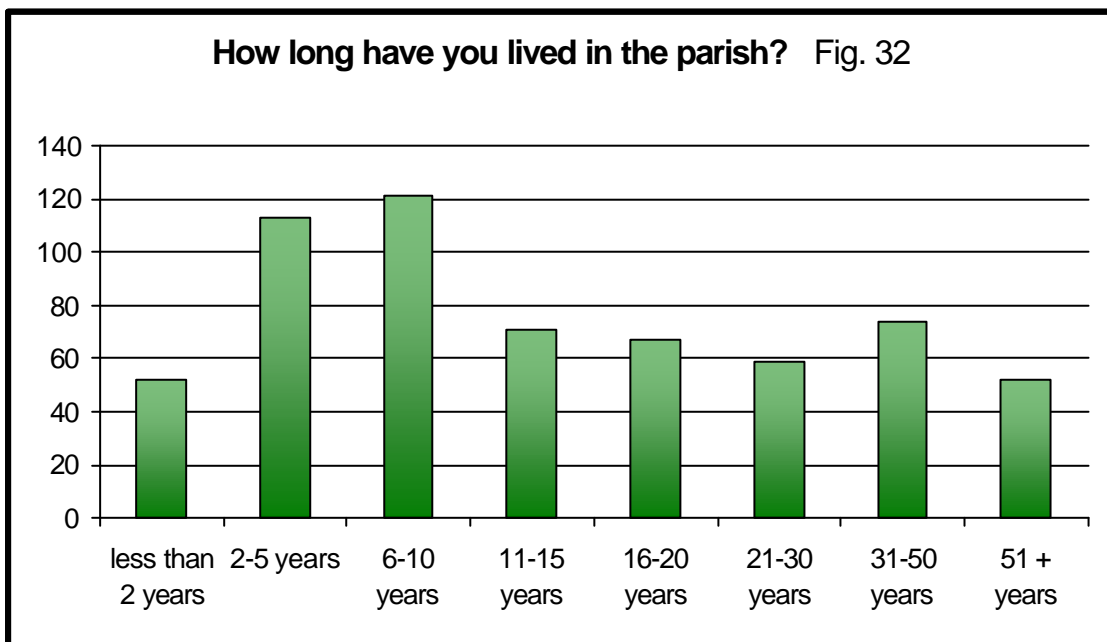
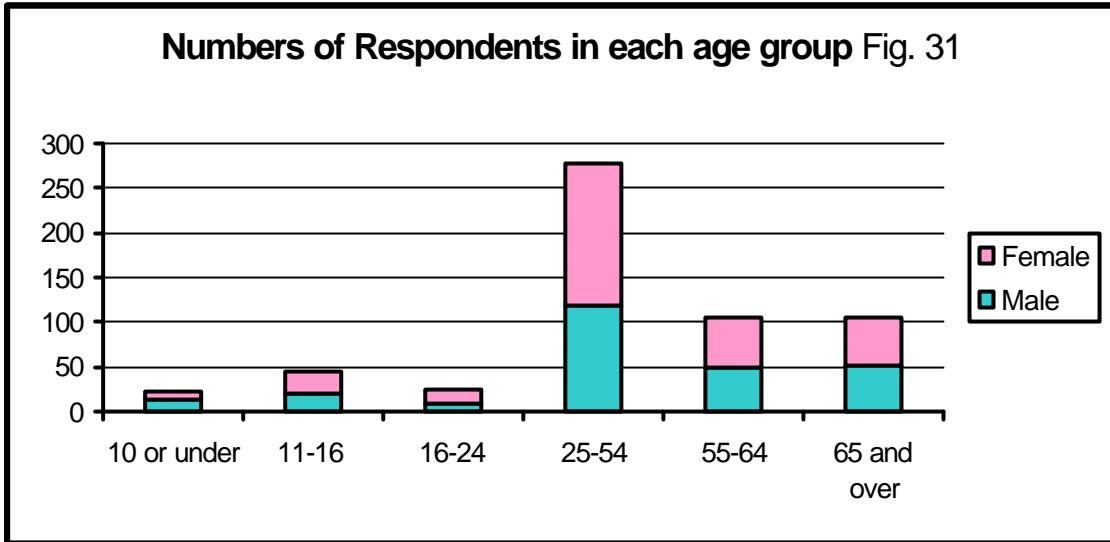
Action points:

- 61. Develop parish Web site to improve communications.

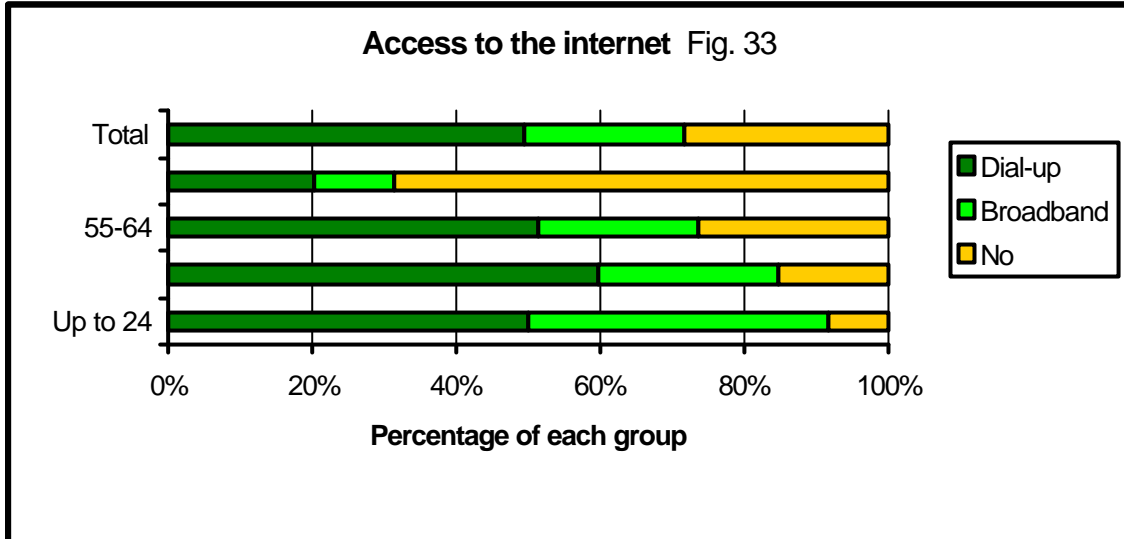
The questionnaire invited parishioners to say what they liked best about Wymeswold. There are some familiar topics here as there are with the things that were most disliked.



Respondents were asked to give their age and gender and how long they had lived in the parish.



...and finally access to the Internet.



HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The 630 completed questionnaires were analysed by computer to identify concerns and provide the source for the graphs and tables in this report. All this information is available as a CD-ROM, and at the following locations in hard copy:

Wymeswold Post Office
 St Mary's Parish Church
 Wymeswold Methodist Church
 From identified Parish Plan Steering Group Members (see Acknowledgements)

The electronic version includes a copy of this report in PDF format plus the appropriate source data and additional information.

All this information and data is in the public domain and not restricted for use. However, all users should acknowledge the source as 'Wymeswold Parish Plan' when using it for their own purposes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chairman extends sincere thanks to all brave souls who have played a part in the preparation of this Parish Plan, in particular, the Steering Group and the Sub-Groups. Many other people have contributed by delivering and collecting questionnaires, entering data into computers and helping with the editing and preparation of the reports.

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¹³ Part funded by Leicestershire County Council

