

2019 Consultation Day

Information Boards & Conclusions.

Board 1 – “Start Here”.

We have reviewed the findings from the three Neighbourhood Development Plan Surveys carried out in 2017, and have now produced information boards relating to the policies needed to produce a Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan.

On each board we have listed your feedback from the survey to create the proposed policy.

Please sign in on the attendance sheet below.

Can you then place a sticker on the attendance map on the location of your property.

And finally can you please work your way around the boards and review the details displayed.

If you are in agreement with the concluding policy, please can you attach a **Green sticker below the policy. If you are not in agreement please attach a **Red** sticker below**

**the policy and write your reasons on a yellow note pad
and attach it to the board.**

**If you agree or disagree with comments written on the
yellow pads, please add a **Green** or **Red** sticker to the
comment.**

YOUR FEEDBACK IS VERY IMPORTANT.

Please stay and have a drink and a piece of cake before you go.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING.

Board 2 – “Survey Results”.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2017 QUESTIONNAIRES

Business Questionnaire.

Copy available to review on day, now on Parish Web Site.

Future Housing Needs Questionnaire.

Copy available to review on day, now on Parish Web Site.

Available Land Questionnaire.

The results from this questionnaire were still with the independent consultant awaiting criteria assessment on the consultation day. However, they are now available on the Parish Web Site.

Community Questionnaire.

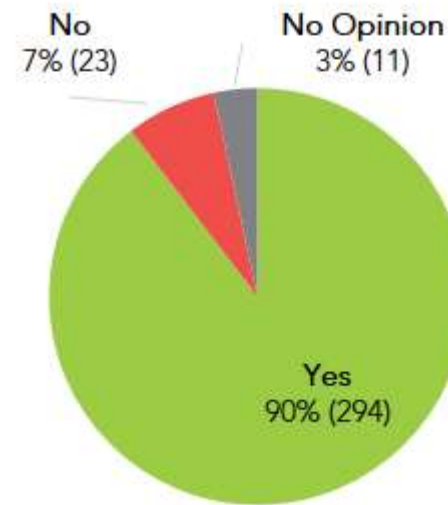
Copy available to review on day, now on Parish Web Site.

Board 3 – “Vision & Objectives”

VISION

“By 2031 Much Birch will have retained its rural character, whilst incorporating additional housing, improved facilities, safer paths, roads and highways that local people, both young and old can afford and also enjoy.”

The vast majority (90 per cent) of respondents agreed with the vision statement.

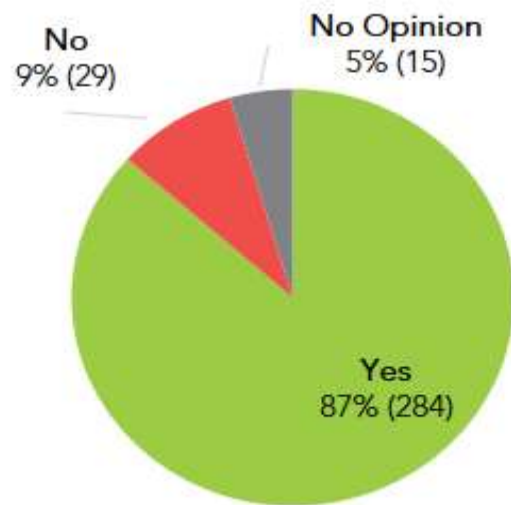


**Base = respondents to this question (328)*

	No	Yes	No Opinion	Total
% respondents*	7%	90%	3%	100%
# responses	23	294	11	328

OBJECTIVE 1

“To promote sustainable housing through controlled growth in the Parish by providing a mixture of open market and enduring affordable housing which prioritises people with defined local connections including both young and elderly people”.



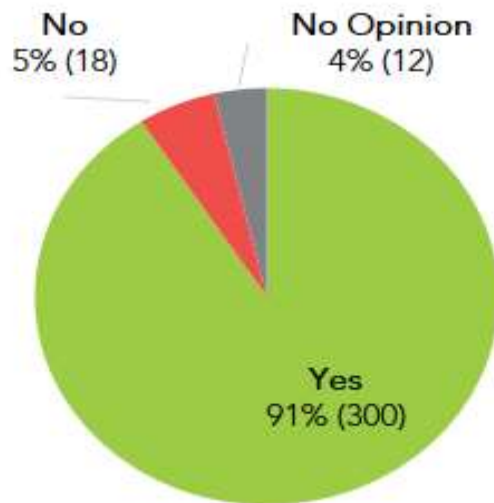
The vast majority (87 per cent) of respondents agreed with Objective 1.

**Base respondents to this question (328)*

	Yes	No	No Opinion	Total
% respondents*	87%	9%	5%	100%
# responses	284	29	15	328

OBJECTIVE 2

“To support farming and local businesses where these reflect the nature and scale of the Parish, in particular farm diversification and tourism”.



The vast majority (91 per cent) of respondents agreed with Objective 2.

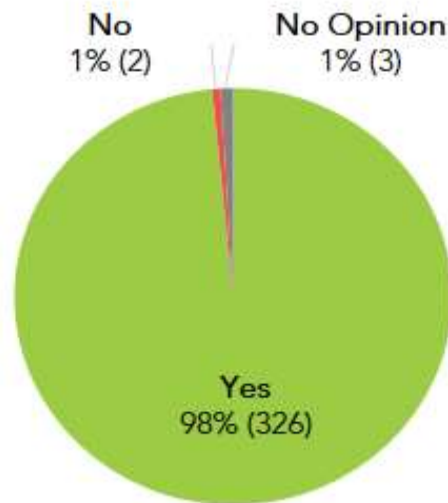
**Base = respondents to this question (330)*

	Yes	No	No Opinion	Total
% respondents*	91%	5%	4%	100%
# responses	300	18	12	330

OBJECTIVE 3

“To protect and enhance the natural and historical environment of the Parish and its landscape character, especially views and vistas across open countryside, ensuring access to these through the public footpath and bridle way network”.

There was strong agreement with Objective 3 with 98 per



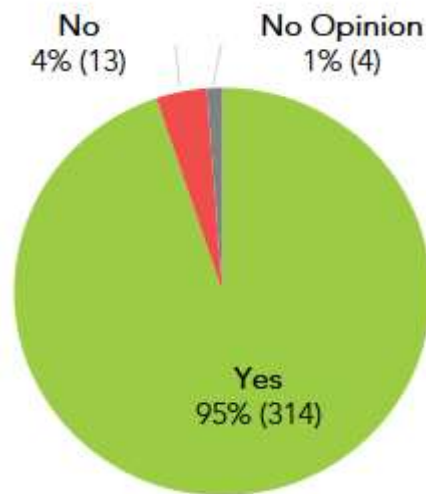
cent.

	Yes	No	No Opinion	Total
% respondents*	98%	1%	1%	100%
# responses	326	2	3	331

*Base = respondents to this question (331).

OBJECTIVE 4

“To address community concerns about the amount and speed of traffic; to ensure traffic generated by development can be accommodated successfully; to promote measures to support sustainable transport; and to reduce the need to travel by car, in order to make roads safer for pedestrians and motorists within the Parish”.



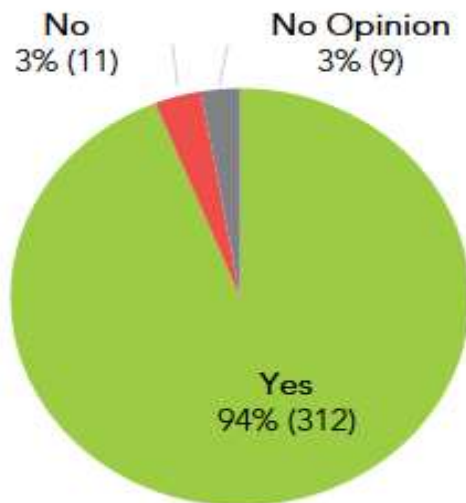
There was strong agreement with Objective 4 with 95 per cent.

**Base = respondents to this question (331)*

	Yes	No	No Opinion	Total
% respondents*	95%	4%	1%	100%
# responses	314	13	4	331

OBJECTIVE 5

“To maintain and support existing services and facilities, enhance the present educational, leisure and recreational facilities and enable new and improved provisions, e.g. for safety, health and care to serve the needs of all ages where practicable”.



There was strong agreement with Objective 5 with 94 per cent

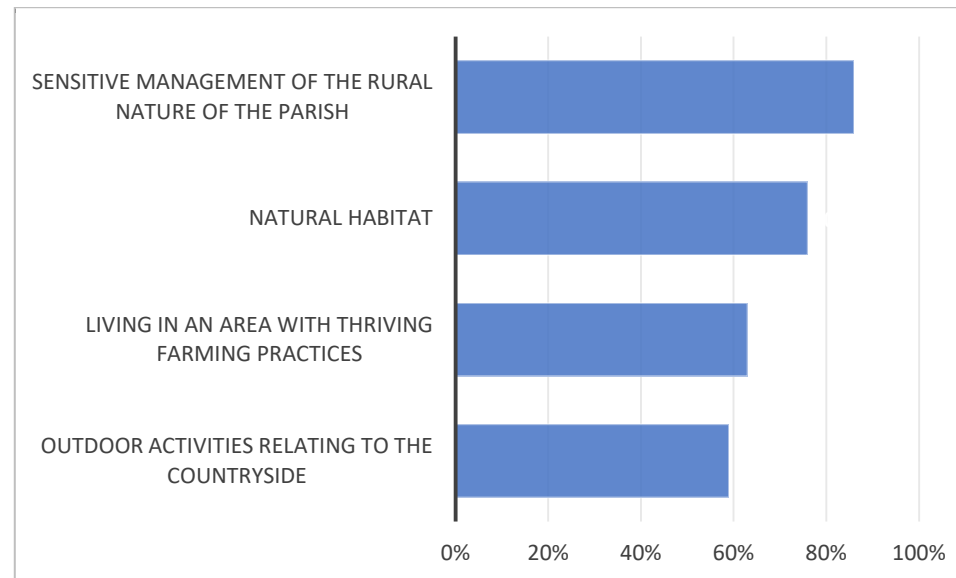
	Yes	No	No Opinion	Total
% respondents*	94%	3%	3%	100%
# responses	312	11	9	332

**Base = respondents to this question (332)*

Board 4 – “Environment”.

HERITAGE ASSETS.

Q. What is Important to you in the Parish?



To support the above results, we are proposing the following policy:

POLICY : Protecting Heritage Assets.

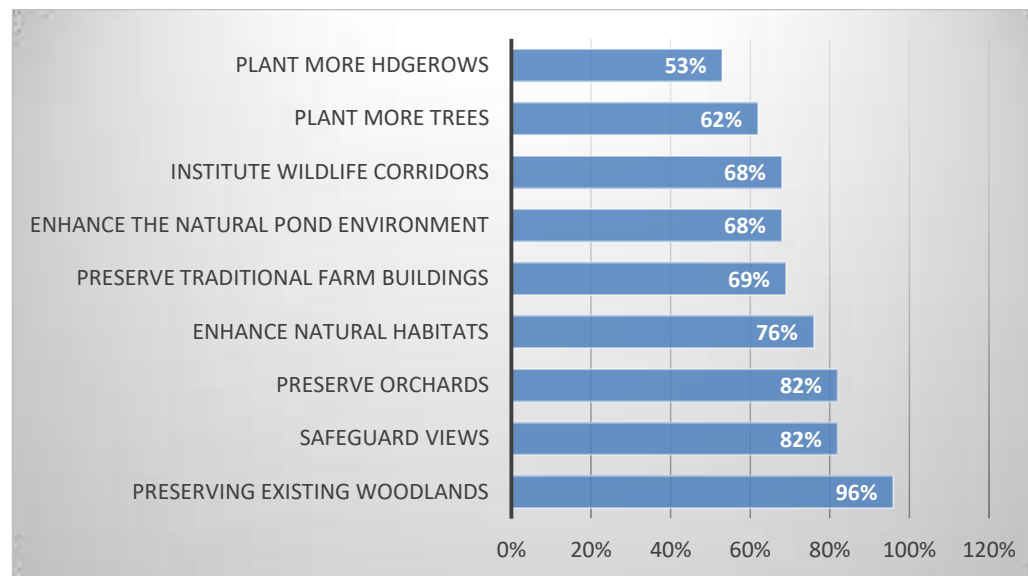
The significance of heritage assets and their settings within the Parish shall be preserved and enhanced through:

1. Requiring appropriate development proposals to be accompanied by full archaeological investigations and in the event of significant and/or extensive remains being found they should be preserved in-situ;
2. Resisting development that adversely affects features or the setting of listed buildings and other similar heritage assets; and
3. Ensuring every effort is made to retain and conserve buildings and heritage assets of local importance, especially historic farmsteads and other traditional rural buildings, including their contribution to the rural landscape, through allowing sensitive conversions and regeneration proposals where appropriate.

There was 97% support for this policy by attendees.

THE PARISH'S NATURAL BEAUTY.

Q. How should we preserve and enhance the natural beauty, amenity and landscape of the Parish?



To support the above results, we are proposing the following policy:

POLICY : Conserving the Landscape and the Natural Environment.

Development proposals should conserve, restore and enhance landscape character and the natural environment within the Parish through:

1. Ensuring important landscape features of the particular landscape character type within which the site falls are identified and effectively protected, managed and planned for in accordance with advice indicated in Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Guidance.
2. Preserving the landscape setting of the settlements within the Parish.
3. Retaining important trees, hedgerows, ponds, opens spaces, orchards and habitats, especially those with high biodiversity value. The protection of ancient or specimen trees will especially be required. Tree Preservation Orders will be made where any tree affected by development has amenity value.
4. Extending tree cover, including where appropriate within hedgerows and gardens, utilising native species where appropriate.
5. Identifying and protecting important views.
6. Include measures that contribute towards enhancing the effectiveness of the ecological network through creating or strengthening wildlife corridors and 'stepping stones' within the Parish and links to important habitats surrounding it.
7. Ensuring there is net loss of biodiversity, and the loss of any wildlife features, where absolutely necessary, shall be offset through full compensatory measures.
8. Providing for a net increase in biodiversity within the Parish through measures such as the inclusion of bird and bat boxes, new hedgerow planting and wild flower meadows.
9. Where development utilises or contributes to sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), including, where practicable, measures to support biodiversity.

To achieve this, for all but small development, landscape proposals should form an integral part of the design for the development, retaining as many natural features within or surrounding the site as possible.

There was 100% support for this policy by attendees.

Board 5 – “Environment”.

GREEN AND OPEN SPACE.

The following areas are designated as Local Green Space/Open Space

**The Millennium Green
and
Wormelow Cricket Ground.**

We believe the following policy would protect these areas:

POLICY : Protection of Local Green Space and Open Space.

Development should not result in the loss or diminution of their use or characteristics, as appropriate, will not be supported.

There was 100% support for this policy by attendees.

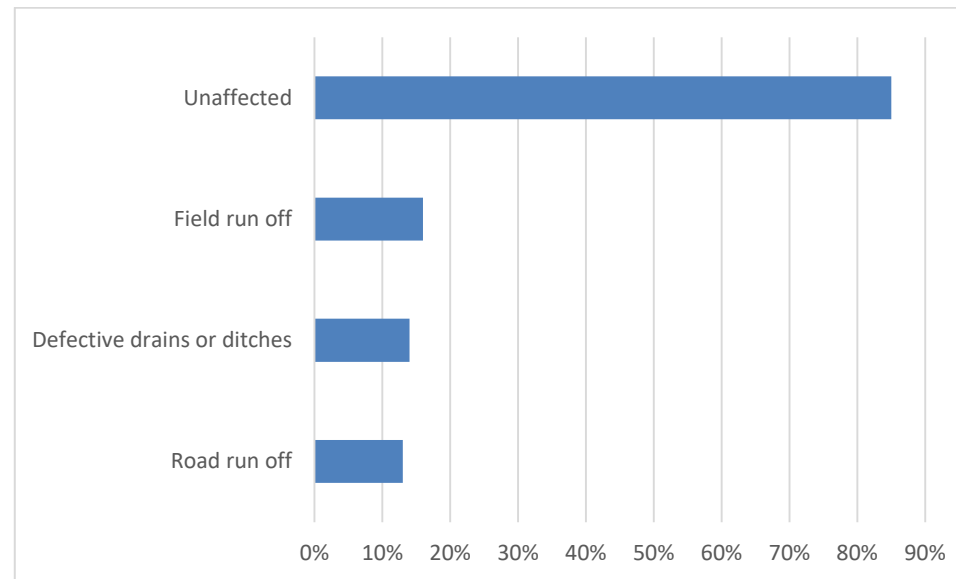
GREEN AND OPEN SPACE.

Q. Do you have any suggestions for open spaces you consider important that the Steering Group might consider?

There were no suggestions from the attendees.

WATER DRAINAGE.

Q. Has your property, land or access to property ever been affected by flooding?



To support the above results, we are proposing the following policy:

POLICY : Foul and Storm Water Drainage.

Developers should show, through appropriate evidence, that foul and storm water drainage can be accommodated without causing pollution or flooding to other properties and land. In addressing the management of drainage, developers should ensure any proposed scheme that meets the above requirement is fully implemented before development is brought into use. Developers should utilise or contribute to sustainable drainage systems (SUDs).

Where appropriate, new development shall be subject to the Flood Risk 'sequential' and 'exception' tests set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, and housing development will not be permitted in areas identified as flood zone 3.

There was 100% support for this policy by attendees.

Board 6 – “Housing”

LEVEL OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.

Between 2011 and the end of December 2018, 10 new houses have been built and planning permission has been given to a further 59 properties which have not yet been built.

We have therefore reached and exceeded the minimum required growth of 14% set for the Parish.

Herefordshire Council has advised that the requirement is a minimum and we should give consideration for more to be built if the parishioners wish.

During the survey period the Steering Group asked land owners within the Parish to submit sites through ‘Calls for Land’ that they wished to be considered for future housing.

This call for land resulted in 40+ packages of land being offered for consideration.

Should it be considered that further sites might be allocated for housing, the 'Calls for Land' will be considered against site criteria based on the Policies drafted from the results of Resident's Survey and today's consultation.

These will be used by an independent professional consultant to assess sites in order of suitability.

Please indicate which of the options below you prefer:

Option 1. That no further provision is made for new dwellings beyond small sites that might come forward within or around the settlement boundaries shown on the map presented today?

Option 2. That a limited number of relatively small and medium sized sites (up to a maximum of around 0.4 hectares [1.0 acres] capable of accommodating up to around 8 / 10 dwellings) be proposed.

Option 3. A larger site that would enable a greater range of house sizes including an element of affordable housing (this would need to be sufficient for at least 11 dwellings) be proposed.

Option 4. A combination of option 2 and 3.

Option One

There was 88% support for this option by attendees.

Option Two

There was 71% support for this option by attendees.

Option Three

There was 10% support for this option by attendees.

Option Four

There was 13% support for this option by attendees.

Board 7 – Housing.

DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARIES.

Parishes are advised to define boundaries for their settlements within the Neighbourhood Plans they prepare.

Residents within the Parish support the defining of boundaries for its settlements (64% in favour and 19% opposed).

We propose that the development boundaries will be based on the Historical Settlement Boundaries of Kings Thorne, Much Birch, The Cleaver, Wormelow, any houses that have already been built / given planning permission and any new sites selected from the site assessment process (which is subject to the outcome of this consultation).

The map below reflects houses built or with planning permission at February, 2019.

Q. Are you happy with the basis set for this approach?

There was 92% support for this approach by attendees.

Q. Should we define an additional boundary around the part of Much Birch containing the Primary School as suggested?

There was 3% support for this additional boundary by attendees.

SITE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA.

Should there be support to allocate one or more further sites, we will need to assess these against a range of criteria.

We would like your views / recommendations on the following assessment criteria which have been drafted by the Steering Group taking account of the Community Survey. The final draft will be used by our independent professional consultants to gauge the suitability of the land offered under the 'Calls for Land'.

To ensure that the proposed land is considered in line with the results obtained from the Much Birch Survey reports the Steering Group have agreed the following Site Assessment Criteria which will be used by our independent consultant.

The suggested criteria has also been given a priority and colour code.

1. Within or adjacent to built-up area of Parish	High
2. Effect on natural environment	High
3. Effect on landscape character/appearance/features.	High
4. Effect on amenity of nearby houses	High
5. Effects of noise/air pollution on residential amenity of existing neighbours	High
6. Effects on sewage/sewerage	High
7. Impact on wider infrastructure	High
8. Likely risk to land drainage or flooding	High
9. Effect on use of community services and facilities.	High
10. Provision of open spaces within proposed site	High
11. Safe vehicular access	High
12. Effects on highway network (e.g. volume of vehicles).	High
13. Effects on footpath/cycleway/PROW network.	High
14. Potential to improve traffic problems.	High
15. Effect of traffic/parking on residential amenity.	High
16. Risk of coalescence of settlement areas.	High
17. Provides opportunity for appropriate range of housing.	High
18. Provides affordable housing.	High
19. Utilises brownfield sites.	High
20. Promotes infill within settlements.	High
21. Avoids infill between settlements.	High
22. Fits sensitively into setting and character of settlement	Medium
23. Supports community facilities	Medium
24. Proximity to existing business/ employment sites	Medium
25. Effect on environment designations (SSSI's, SAM's, Listed Building).	Low

26. Effect of historical environment.	Low
27. Impact of building on greenfield sites.	Low
28. Impact of building on quality agricultural sites.	Low

Q. Are you happy with the criteria and the priority each has been given?

There was 96% support of the above criteria as noted by the attendees.

Board 8 – Housing.

HOUSING DESIGN AND APPEARANCE.

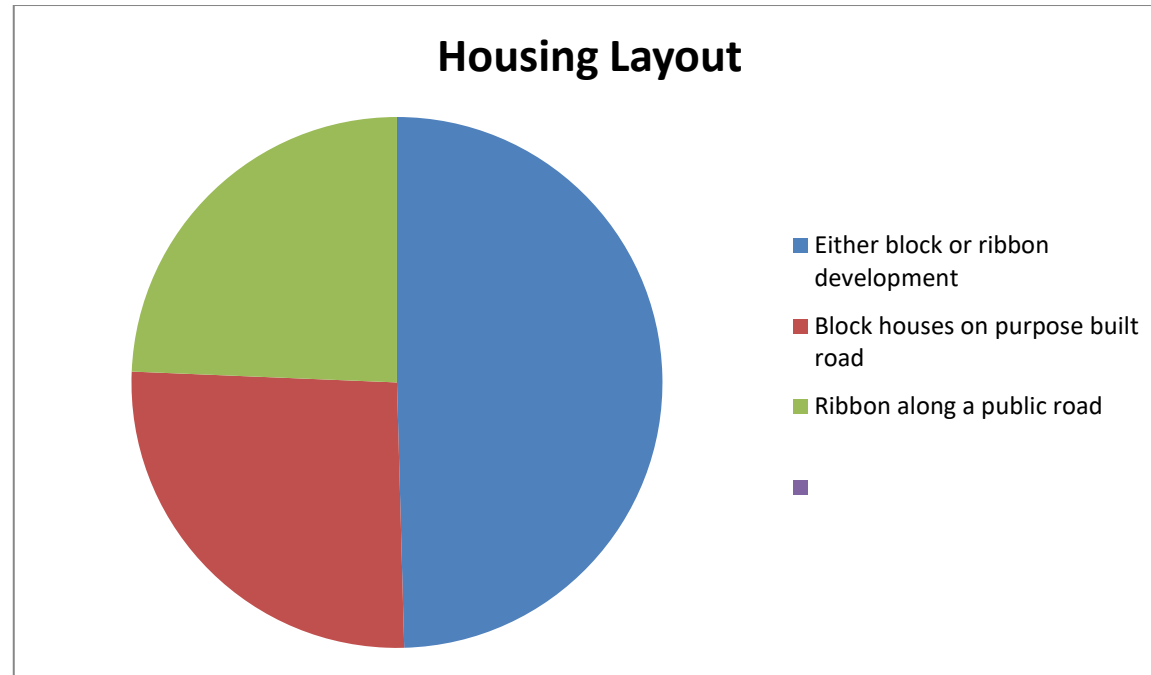
Q. Which forms of layout do you think are appropriate for houses in any one housing development within the parish?

Either block or ribbon developments – Yes 57%

Responses to the following were low but there were more in favour than against:

Block houses built on a new purpose built road connecting with a public road - Yes 30%

Ribbon houses built along a public road frontage – Yes 28%



Q. How important to you are the following when planning new developments?

The percentage of respondents who selected “Very Important” or “Fairly Important”.

Provide off-road parking - 93%

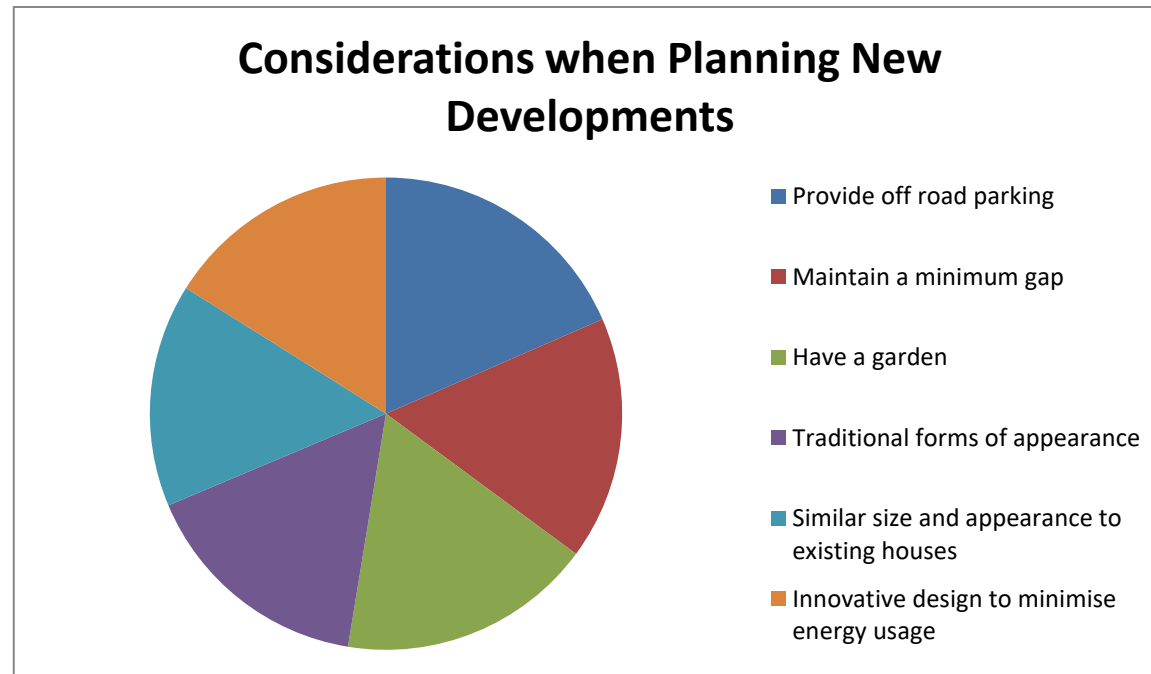
To maintain a minimum gap consistent with existing adjacent developments - 84%

To have a garden - 88%

Traditional forms of appearance in line with existing properties - 81%

Similar size and appearance to existing houses near/ around it - 77%

Innovative external design to minimise energy usage - 67%



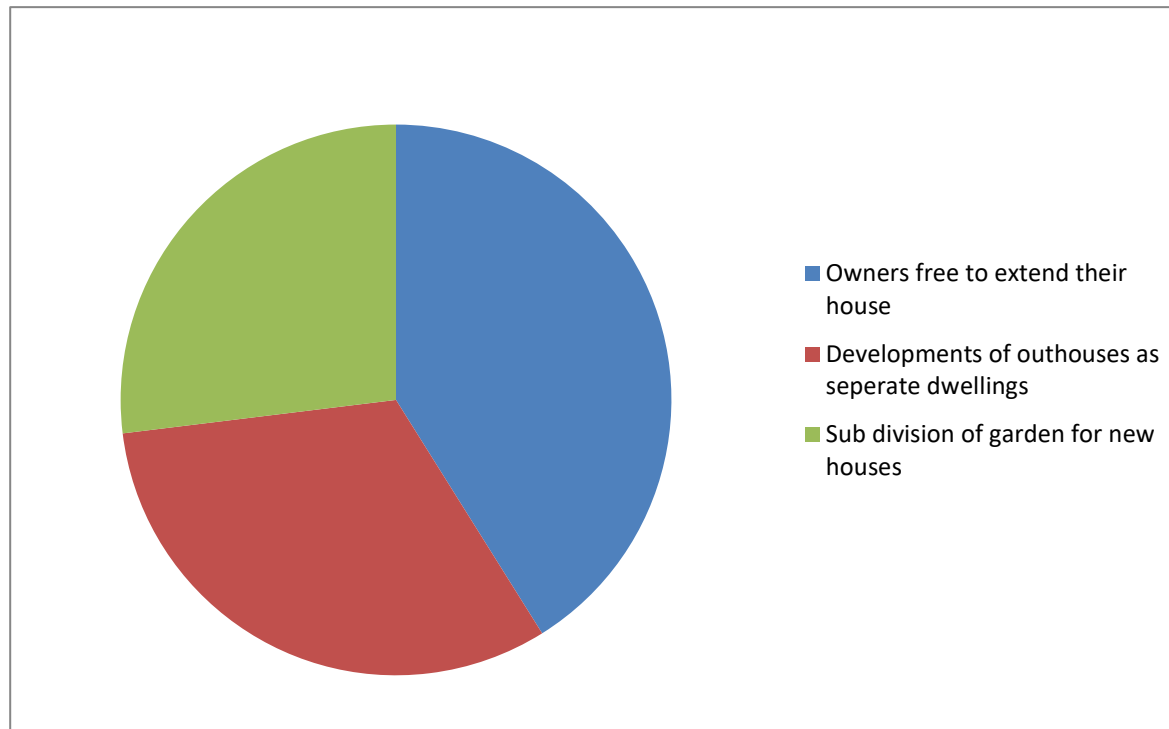
Q. What are your views on extensions to existing houses, sub division of gardens to create new houses, or conversion of outbuildings into new dwellings?

**Owners should be free to extend their house subject to prevailing planning constraints
- 90% Agreed.**

Developments of outhouses as separate dwellings should be permitted (subject to prevailing planning) - 70% Agreed.

Owners should be free to sub divide their garden for new houses, subject to prevailing planning constraints - 59% Agreed.

Development of existing properties



To support the above results we are proposing the following policies:

POLICY : Housing Design and Appearance.

"New housing development, including alterations or extensions to buildings, will be required to achieve good standards and variety of architecture and design particularly where there is a need to respect local distinctiveness and the traditional qualities and characteristics of the area within which it is to be located. This will be achieved by requiring development to:

1. utilise a range of materials and architectural styles that are sympathetic to the development's surroundings, including other dwellings, and incorporating appropriate locally distinctive features;
2. be of high quality and fit sensitively within the area concerned with regard to new innovative design or features;
3. to ensure dwellings to be of a scale, massing, density, building line and layout compatible with the character, size and form of the part of the settlement within which they are located;
4. be similar to established building heights, frontages and plot sizes where appropriate;
5. maintain the village street scene by ensuring off-street parking is designed as an integral part of the overall scheme;
6. avoid the subdivision of gardens where this would result in an uncharacteristic form of development;
7. protect the amenity and privacy of adjacent existing residential properties and ensure new residential development avoids locations where residents may suffer significant adverse effects from adjacent uses;
8. provide sufficient space for each property to maintain a functioning garden;
9. where appropriate, undertake visual landscape assessments in order to retain important views, vistas and panoramas.

Residents were more concerned about detailed design of dwellings than the layout although they wish to see a consistent approach reflecting the form within the area where development is to take place. There is concern that new development should fit sensitively with their surroundings and therefore this policy requires the form and character of the settlement or rural area within which it is to be located to be analysed and used to inform proposals. All the design features referred to in the policy are considered pertinent and important. In particular, it is considered that properties should have gardens that meet the needs of the type of housing to be developed through being of sufficient size and configuration to provide for a variety of purposes such as children's play and the growing of produce. This will add to the sustainability of any development. Development should also make provision for off road parking which should not detract from residential amenity. The new builds should be similar in appearance to the surrounding

properties with a minimum gap consistent with existing adjacent houses. This policy would apply to the extension of existing houses and also the conversion of buildings, which residents support”

There was 100% support for this policy by attendees.

Q. Which of the following affects are important in deciding the acceptability or otherwise of change of land use within the Parish?

All effects were “Important” to respondents.

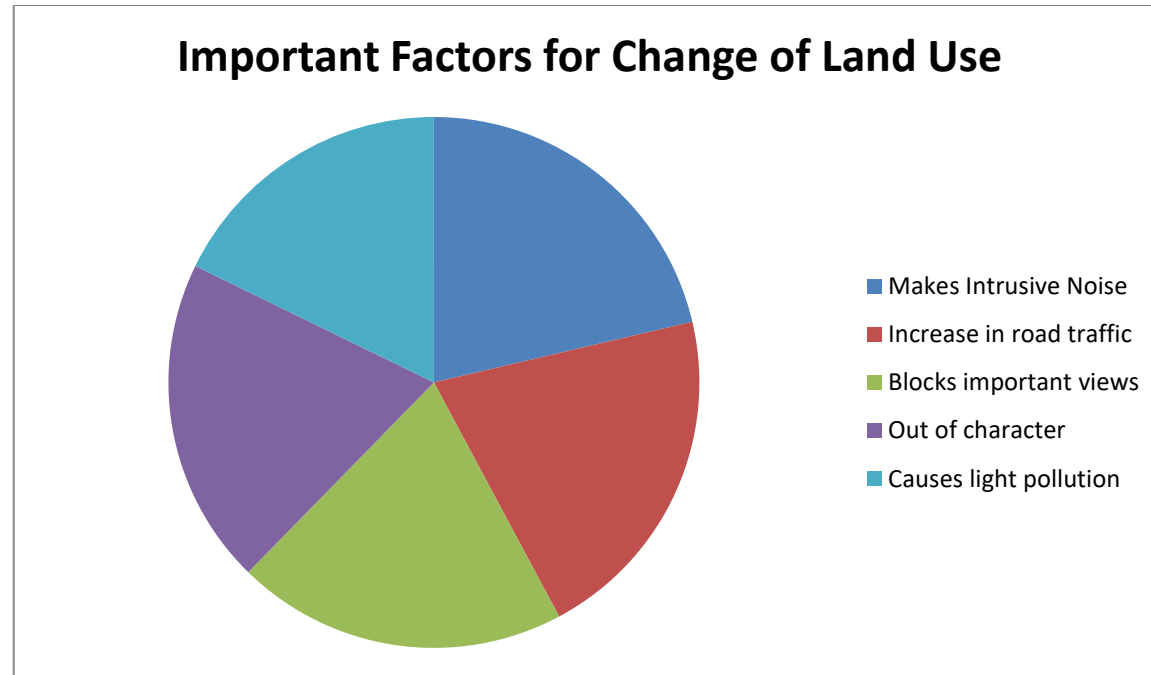
Makes intrusive noise – 90%

Causes noticeable increase in road traffic – 88%

Encroaches upon or blocks important views – 85%

Visually out of character with its surroundings – 84%

Light pollution – 75%



Q. What aspects of community living do you think we need to address to ensure that our Parish thrives as a place in which to live, work and play over the next 15 years and beyond?

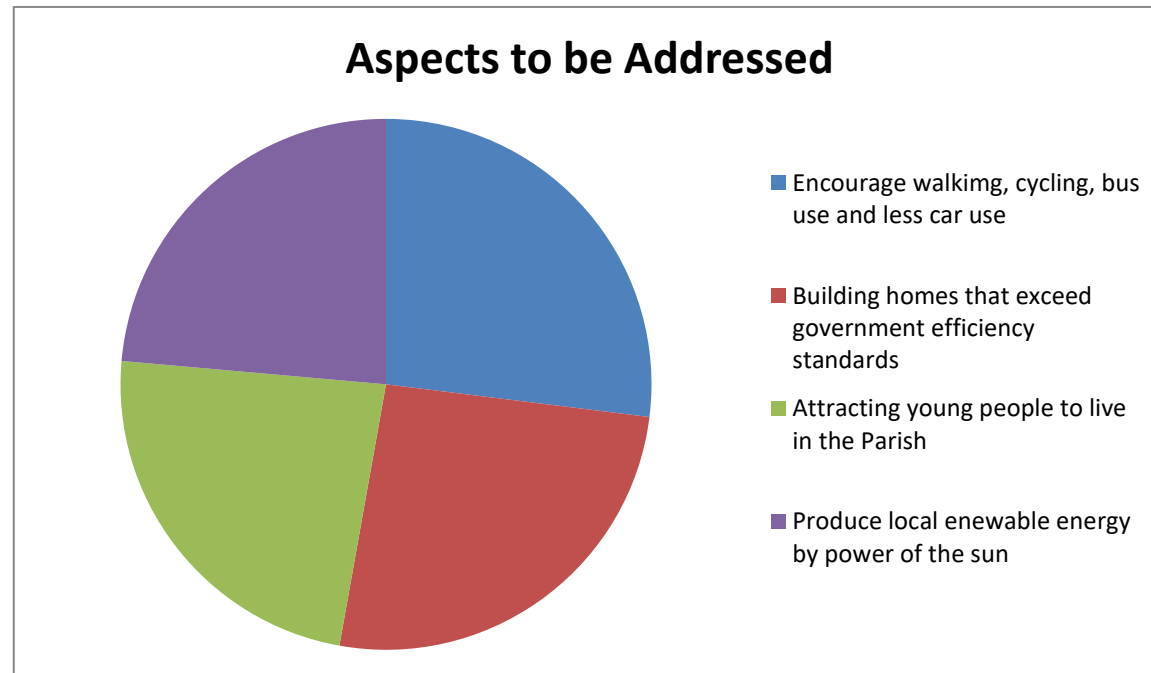
Percentage of respondents who “Agreed”.

Encouraging and facilitating greater walking, cycling and bus-use and less car use – 72%

Building homes that exceed government energy efficiency standards – 69%

Attracting younger people to live in our Parish – 63%

Producing local renewable energy by developing the power of the sun – 63%

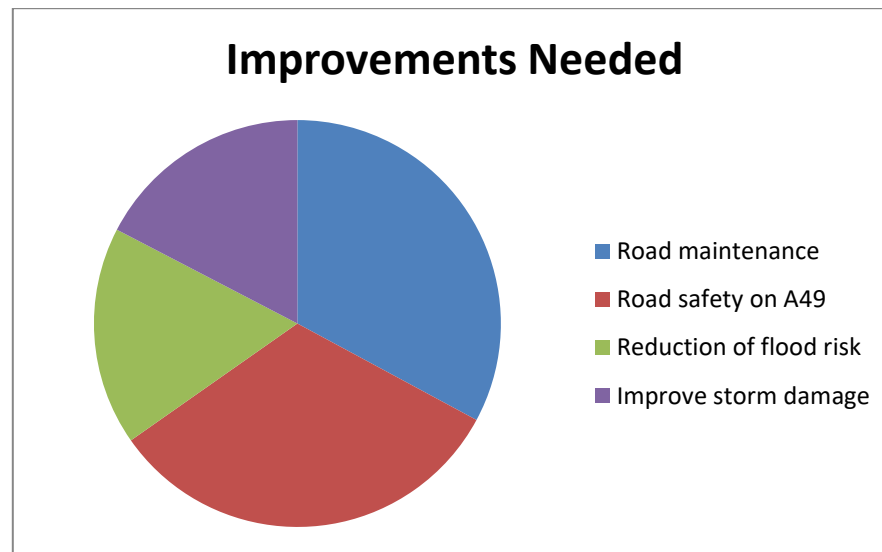


Q. Do you agree that improvements are needed in the following?

Percentage of respondents who either “Strongly Agreed” or “Agreed”.

Road safety on A49 and Road maintenance – 69-70%

Reduction of Flood risk/improve storm damage – 37%



To support the above results we are proposing the following policies:

POLICY : Sustainable Design for Housing.

"An integrated approach to achieve a high standard of sustainable design will be required to achieve the maximum possible reduction in the carbon footprint of any development. Development proposals should contain a co-ordinated package of design measures which could include:

1. Utilizing physical sustainability measures associated with buildings that include orientation of buildings, the provision of energy and water conservation measures, storage for bicycles and storage for waste including provision for recycling, broadband infrastructure, and renewable energy infrastructure such as photovoltaic panels where these do not detract from any historic fabric or settings;
2. seeking on site measures that support energy conservation such as through tree planting and other forms of green infrastructure to provide shade, shelter and for physical activity, and the maximum use of permeable surfaces;
3. integrating new homes fully into the existing neighbourhood and supporting a more pedestrian friendly environment through convenient links to local facilities and public transport connections which are suitable for those pushing pushchairs, in a wheelchair, walking with aids or using mobility scooters;
4. assisting offsite measures such as supporting infrastructure to promote sustainable travel and enabling a sustainable drainage system to serve a wider range of properties where opportunities exist;
5. where there is good reason to believe that contamination of land may exist on any site, including through agricultural processes, ensuring an assessment is carried out to establish the extent and nature of the contamination, and effective measures taken to ensure potential occupiers, and the wider environment, are not put at unacceptable risk;
6. where external lighting is required it should be appropriate to its purpose and supported by a lighting plan that demonstrates that it will not have an adverse effect through unnecessary glare, light trespass, scenic intrusion or sky glow;
7. minimising construction traffic and reducing waste; and
8. where new innovative sustainable design or features are incorporated, they should fit sensitively within the street scene and incorporate locally distinctive features to maintain the area's cohesive character.

Residents have expressed support for sustainable design and especially the need for energy efficiency, supporting exceeding the Government's standards in this regard, although it is acknowledged this is no longer possible in that the planning system cannot require the Building Regulation standards to be exceeded unless there are exceptional reasons. This NDP therefore sets out criteria that should be considered as part of a co-ordinated approach directed at sustainable design. This should be undertaken in an integrated way addressing measures related to individual buildings, site layout and landscaping and support for off-site measures where these are appropriate such as links to the public footpath network and

supporting public transport through such facilities as providing bus shelters. Measures to promote the health and wellbeing of residents should also be undertaken, for example by providing links to the public rights of way network and provision of open space. Residents are keen to see less car use and more cycling and walking. There is also concern that new development might result in light pollution and adverse effects on amenity through air pollution, intrusive noise and increased road traffic. Policies MB15 and MB16 address the detailed design issues raised by residents and they support Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy SD1.”

There was 84% support for this policy by attendees.

Board 9 – Economy.

HOME BASED BUSINESSES.

Q. What would encourage new Businesses?

Improved Broadband was the common reply.

Q. What would help develop existing Businesses?

Improved Broadband was the common reply.

To support the above results we are proposing the following two policies:

POLICY : Home Based Businesses.

Development proposals for home-based enterprises requiring planning permission, including the erection of an extension to a property, or a new building, or change of use of an existing building within the curtilage, or live/work units, will be encouraged where they:

1. Respect the scale, setting and nature of the area in which they are located;
2. Have no adverse effects on residential amenity, including from traffic generation, noise, smell or light pollution.

There was 100% support for this policy by attendees.

POLICY : Broadband and Telecommunication Infrastructure.

Proposals that will provide broadband and other telecommunications infrastructure will be supported where they will assist in ensuring higher speed, greater coverage, improved reliability and availability throughout the Group Parish by:

1. Supporting proposals for well-designed and unobtrusively located development, associated with the introduction of appropriate super-fast broadband equipment to provide high quality internet connectivity for business and residential users.
2. Supporting proposals for well-designed and unobtrusively located development, associated with the introduction of appropriate mobile telephone equipment, to provide high quality telecommunications for business and residential users.
3. Requiring new development to facilitate connection to high speed broadband by means of providing suitable ducting for telecommunication and fiber connectivity within development sites, linked to the local/national network, as appropriate.

There was 97% support for this policy by attendees.

SUPPORTING & ENCOURAGING LOCAL BUSINESS.

Q. What types of employment should be encouraged?

Tourism, Leisure & Crafts - Positive 78%

Community Services - Positive 73%

Pubs, Restaurants & Cafes - Positive 69%

IT & High Tech - Positive 53%

Industrial & Manufacturing - Negative 47%

Transport, Storage & Distribution - Negative 55%

Q. Should we encourage more land for employment?

47% Said Yes.

20% Said No.

33% Don't Know.

Q. If the answer was YES, what type of land should be used?

Existing Building - Positive 73%

Redundant Farm Buildings - Positive 73%

Brownfield Land - Positive 67%

Greenfield Land - Negative 51%

Q. Should existing employment sites be protected?

38% Said Yes.

29% Said No.

29% Don't Know.

To support the above results we are proposing the following policy:

POLICY : Rural Enterprises, Diversification and Tourism.

"Proposals for the expansion of existing or the creation of new rural businesses, diversification or tourism will be encouraged where they are suitable in terms of scale and character of the Parish. In determining whether proposals would be of suitable scale, the following criteria should be taken into account. Proposals should:

Not adversely affect the residential amenity of nearby dwellings by:

1. Being compatible with the character of the landscape within which they are to be located, respecting landscape character, visual appearance of the surrounding countryside, and avoiding the introduction of alien features into the landscape;
2. Ensuring any new buildings are of appropriate scale to the location and, where appropriate, sited in or adjacent to an existing group of buildings, be compatible in design and materials, and blend sensitively into the landscape;
3. Fully screening any external storage, parking and ancillary uses.

4. Safeguarding the character and landscape setting of the Parish settlements and its heritage and natural assets;
5. Re-using or adapting existing rural buildings where these are available.
6. Not resulting in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land, avoiding greenfield land where possible;
7. Generating traffic within the capacity of the local highway network and without adversely affecting the amenity of residents and the beauty and amenity of the landscape and its important features.

Measures to enhance biodiversity should be included in any mitigation works addressing the landscape element of scale. With regard to the conversion of rural buildings, proposals should address the full site comprehensively, and retain or enhance their character in order to contribute positively to the landscape. The reuse of brownfield sites for employment uses will be encouraged where the above criteria can be met.”

There was 100% support for this policy by attendees.

Board 10 – Community Facilities.

PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES.

Q. How often do parishioners use community facilities?

Most respondents used the Parish facilities monthly.

Q. Which assets in the Parish should be safeguarded?

92% Supported the Community Hall.

96% Supported the GP Surgery.

88% Supported the Local Hotel and Pubs.

90% Supported the Primary School.

87% Supported the Village Shop.

Q. What additional assets were supported?

83% Supported a Post Office Facility.

63% Supported a Playing Field.

To support the above results, we are proposing the following policies:

POLICY : Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities and Services.

Existing community facilities and services shall be retained and protected from development that might restrict unnecessarily their current use unless alternative provision is made in accordance with this policy. The retention of key services and facilities, including open space will be supported where possible through enabling development that would enhance their viability.

Services and facilities covered by this policy include:

1. Much Birch Village Hall
2. Wormelow Village Shop and Post Office
3. Much Birch Surgery
4. Tump Inn, Wormelow
5. Axe and Cleaver Inn
6. The Pilgrim Hotel

Proposals to enhance existing, replace or provide new or additional community facilities and services within the Parish will be supported where:

1. they fit within the rural setting and do not create unacceptable noise, fumes, smell or other disturbance that would adversely affect the amenity of neighbouring residential properties;
2. they do not cause traffic congestion, adverse traffic impact upon local amenity or adverse impact on traffic flow upon local roads;
3. access and off-street parking can be satisfactorily provided where required without harming existing residential and other uses; and
4. they include measures that encourage and promote active travel to and from the facility.

The loss of these key services or facilities through the change of use of premises to an alternative will be opposed unless it is clear that the service or facility concerned is no longer viable.

There was 100% support for this policy by attendees.

POLICY : Contributions to Community Facilities.

Where appropriate, new developments within Much Birch Parish should contribute towards necessary community infrastructure to address the demands that such development places on the area and to support the social dimension of sustainable development. Contributions should be made through Section 106 Agreements, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or other developer contribution mechanisms that may be available during the period of the NDP.

There was 100% support for this policy by attendees.

Board 11 – Traffic & Transport.

TRAFFIC MEASURES WITHIN THE PARISH AND HIGHWAY DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.

Q. Do you agree that improvements are needed?

Road Safety on & off the A49 – 90% agreed

Road maintenance (generally) – 93% agreed

Hedges & verges maintenance – 90% agreed

Passing places improvement on minor roads – 76%

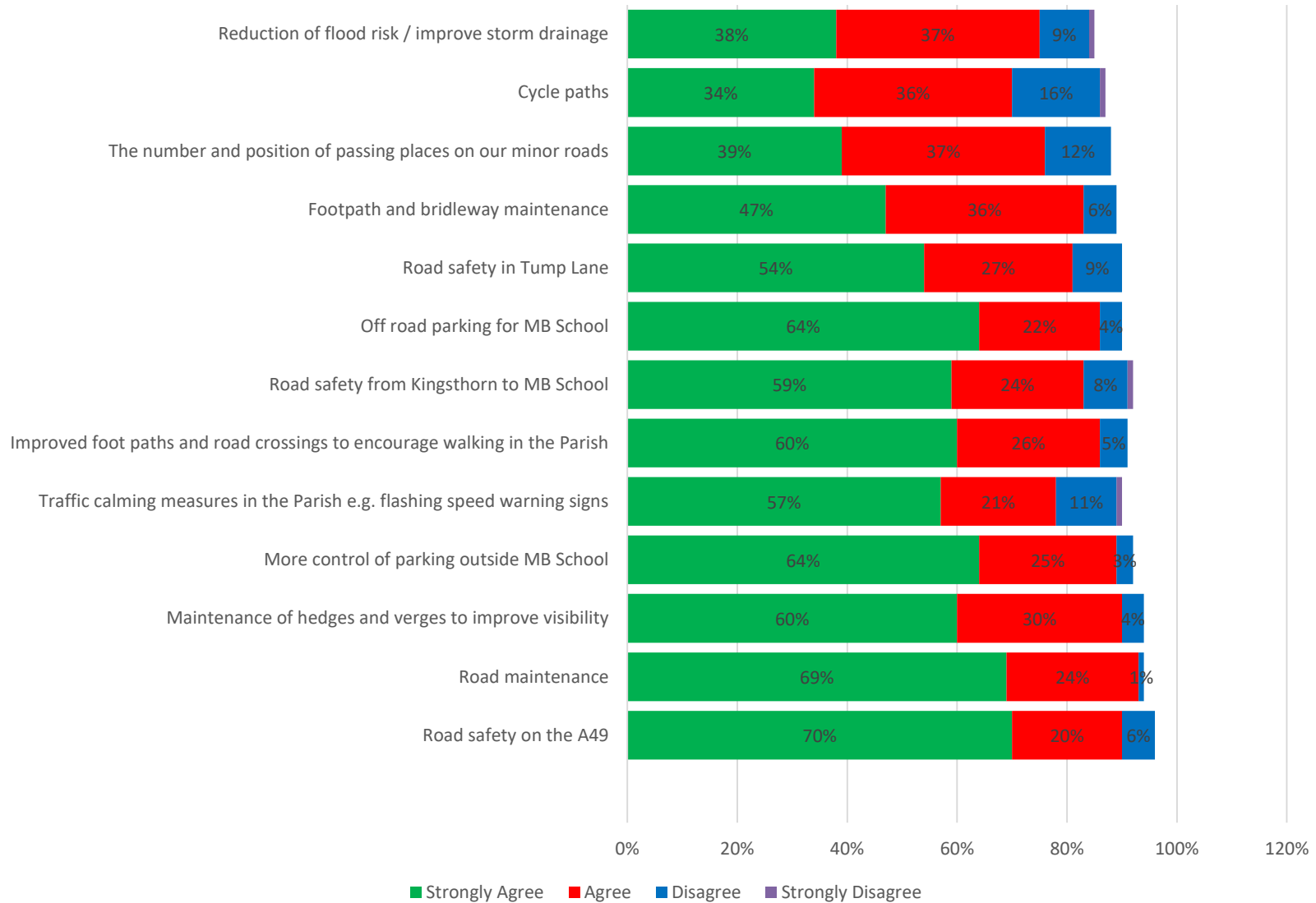
Reduction in flood risk/improved storm drainage – 75%

Parking control (MB School) – 89%

Improvements to footpaths & road crossings – 86%

Footpath & bridleway maintenance, cycle paths – 83%

Infrastructure - Improvements Needed



Q. How do you think road safety could be improved in the Parish?

Better pavements – 74% Said Yes

Pedestrian crossings – 59% Said Yes

Re-route HGVs – 58% Said Yes

Weight restrictions – 57% Said Yes

Speed indicator devices – 79% Said Yes

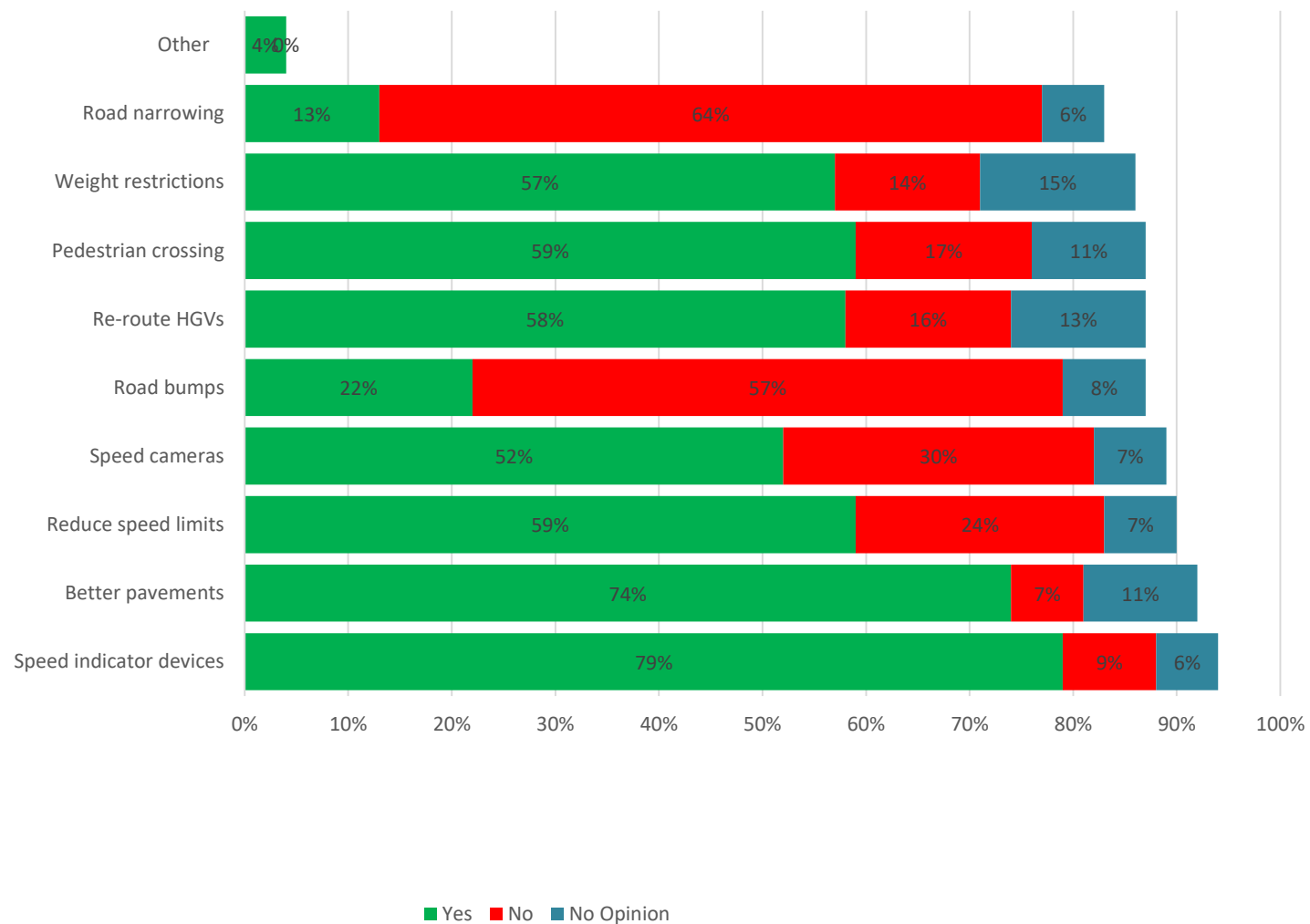
Speed cameras – 52% Said Yes

Reduced speed limits – 59% Said Yes

Road bumps – 22% Said Yes

Road narrowing – 13% Said Yes

Traffic & Transport - Road Safety



Q. Support for a community bus scheme?

Those who would use it – 31% Said Yes

Those who would drive for it – 10% Yes

To support the above results, we are proposing the following policies:

POLICY : Traffic Measures within the Parish.

"Much Birch Parish Council, on behalf of the local community, will work with Herefordshire Council, Highways England and developers to bring forward improvements to benefit pedestrian and cycle safety, endeavor to ensure safer access to local amenities, increase transport choices and reduce the impact of vehicles resulting from development upon its residents. Development proposals should, where possible and appropriate, propose positive measures to address the problems caused by vehicles through:

1. Introducing traffic calming measures to complement speed reduction on entry to settlements;
2. Measures to manage vehicle speed through settlements;
3. Seeking junction improvements;
4. Reducing the effects of traffic on residential amenity;
5. Seeking safe crossings;
6. Provision of passing bays on narrow lanes;
7. Seeking additional footpaths and cycleways, especially along the A49 to Ross-on-Wye;
8. Provision of additional bus shelters;
9. Seeking additional off-street car parking at the village hall and primary school; and
10. Promoting walking, cycling and the use of public/community transport.

Developer contributions resulting from development within the NDP area may be used to support additional traffic measures beyond those essential to enabling the development to proceed."

There was 100% support for this policy by attendees.

POLICY : Highway Design Requirements.

"Where development proposals are advanced, these should ensure:

1. The safety of pedestrians and of cyclists is protected and enhanced where possible, especially where there are no public footpaths or cycle-ways;
2. There is safe access onto and from the adjacent roads;
3. New accesses on the A49 should be avoided;
4. Proposals should not lead to a significant increase in speed or the volume of traffic travelling on roads that do not have sufficient capacity;
5. The amenity of residents is not adversely affected by traffic;
6. Proposals should not result in indiscriminate or on-street parking but should provide adequate off-street parking in accordance with Herefordshire Council's parking standards, and preferably address the reduction of any on-street parking problems that may exist within the vicinity;
7. Internal road layouts should comply with Herefordshire Council's Design Guide for New Development and ensure the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and of children in areas designed and located for their play. The requirements of service vehicles such as refuse lorries, should be accommodated. Appropriate drainage measures will be required;
8. The nature of the development does not lead to pressure for the provision of street lighting where this is not currently present within the area concerned;
and
9. Development proposals do not detract from the public rights of way network within the parish."

There was 100% support for this policy by attendees.

Please note the support shown during the communication day and the comments made by the attendees has been used to general the Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Thank you to all attendees.