

# Lydiard Millicent NDP Review

## Results of the Community Questionnaire



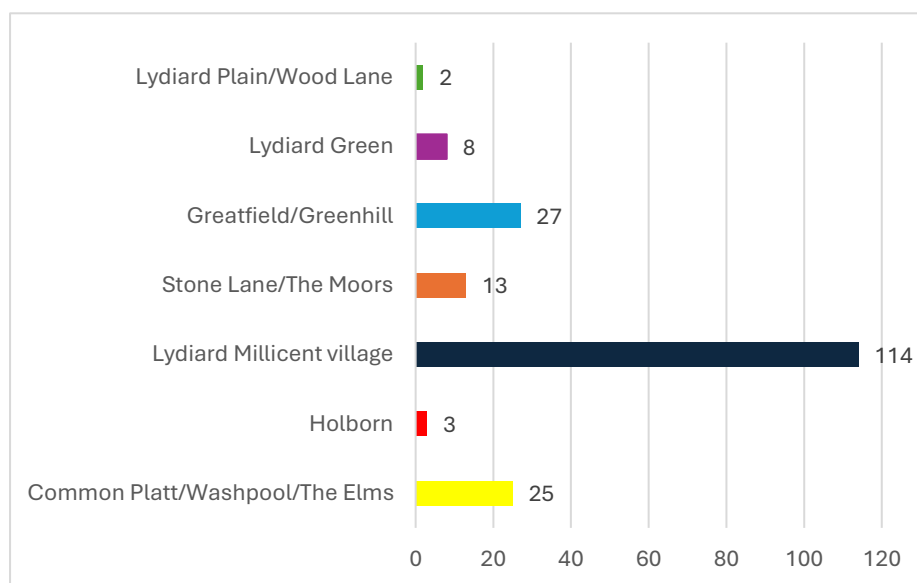
### March 2025

A printed community questionnaire was delivered to every household in the Parish by volunteers at the start of March 2025. An online version of the survey was also available, with links and a QR code provided on the paper copy and the Parish Council website. The questionnaire was also shared via social media, and through posters across the village, with every effort made to reach all age groups of the community. The questionnaire was open until 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Respondents were asked to return their completed forms to drop off boxes in the Sun Inn, Jubilee Club House, Toomers Garden Centre, or Greatfield Nurseries.

A total of 192 responses were received. 98 completed the form online and 94 completed paper copies. These have been combined for purposes of presenting the results below. Not all respondents answered all questions, the number of respondents for each question have been noted.

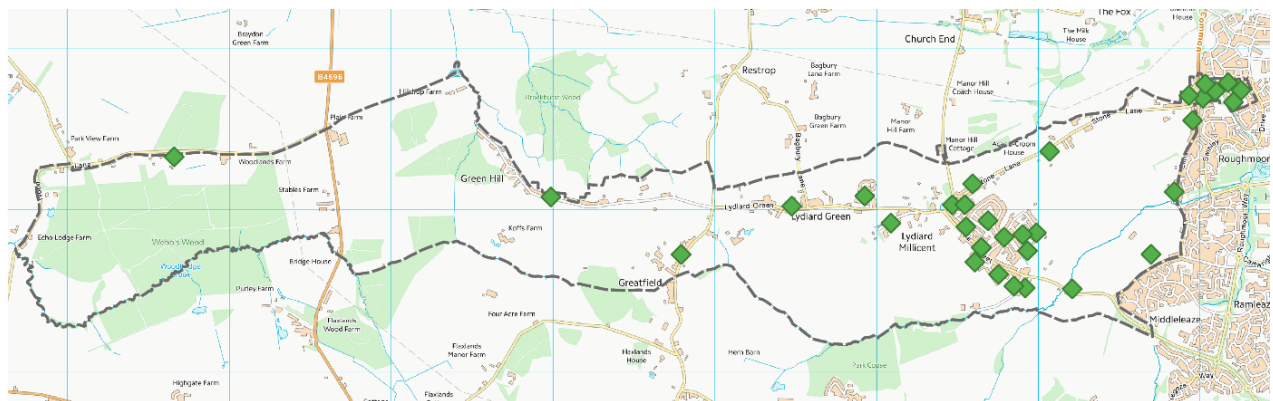
### Part 1: Respondent Background

#### Q1 Where do you live within the Parish (192 responses)

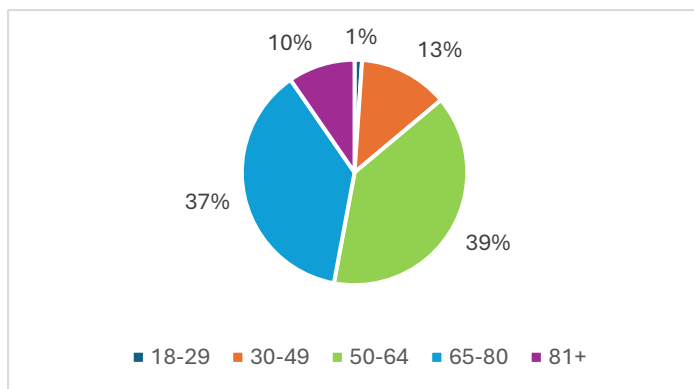


Results show that responses were received from across the entire Parish, although the majority of respondents live in Lydiard Millicent Village.

The map below shows the spread of postcode data received.



### Q2 How old are you? (187 responses)



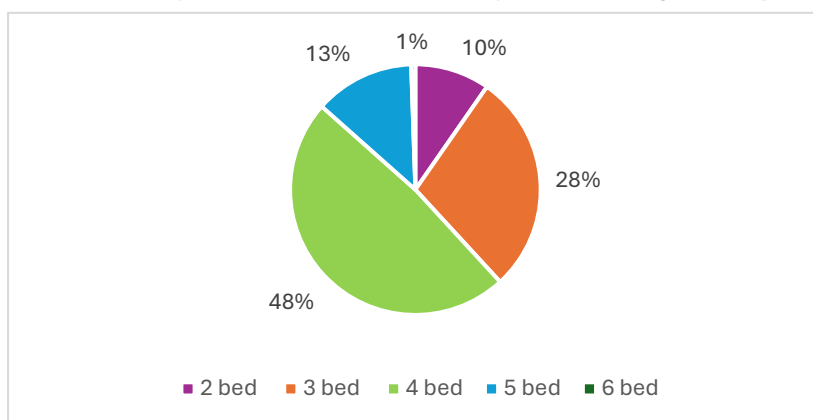
The majority (over 76%) of respondents were between 50 and 80 years old. 11% of respondents were below the aged of 50.

### Q3 How many people of each group live in your home? Please include students living away during term time. (191 responses)

Results from this question demonstrated most households comprise of two people (52% of responses). 18% of households contained 4 or more people, 17% a single person and 13% comprise of 3 people.

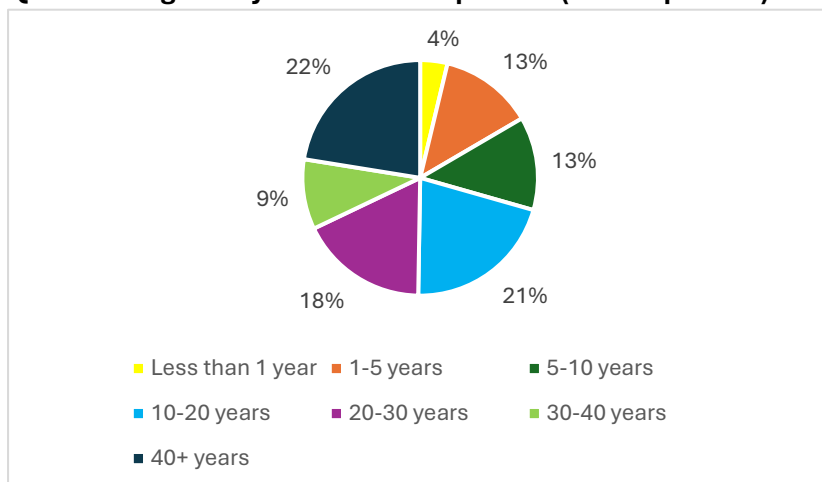
The majority of 2-person households comprised of two people who are retired. However, in total the largest group of people recorded were those who are employed or self-employed with respondents recording a total of 192 individuals. 172 individuals were recorded as retired, 64 being a child or student, 25 being a main homemaker or carer, and only 2 were unemployed.

### Q4 How many bedrooms are there in your home? (187 responses)



Almost 50% of respondents recorded having a 4-bedroom home. While less than 10% were 2-bedroom homes, and there were no 1-bedroom homes.

### Q5 How long have you lived in the parish? (187 responses)



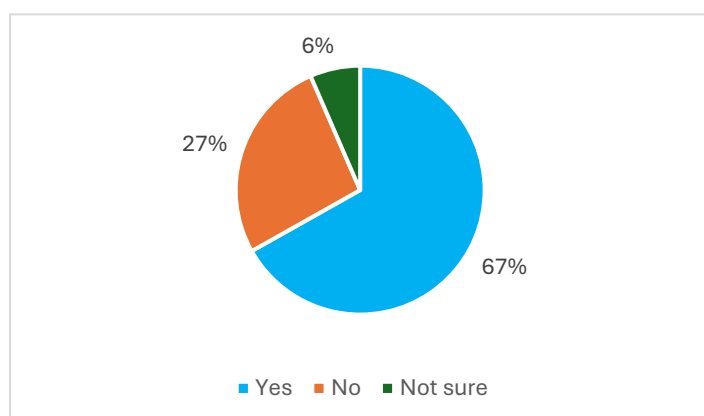
## Q6 Do you work within the Parish? (190 responses)

Only 21 respondents (11%) work within the Parish. When asked about their occupation, these people gave the following answers:

- Production Manager
- Leadership Development Direction
- Internal Communications Manager
- Accounts Manager
- Psychotherapist and counselling supervisor
- Personal trainer & fitness instructor
- Dog walker / home boarder
- Beekeeper
- Director
- IT consultant
- Writer
- Police Officer
- Higher Level Teaching Assistant
- Antique Dealer and Musician
- Audio producer and coach
- Parish Clerk
- Administrator
- Chartered Architectural Technologist.
- Retired.

## Part 2: Existing Neighbourhood Plan

### Q7 Were you aware of the existing Neighbourhood Plan prior to completing this survey? (184 responses)



67% of respondents were aware of the existing neighbourhood plan, while 27% were not and 7% were unsure.

### Q8 Do you agree with the existing objectives of the current Neighbourhood Plan? (189 responses)

The table below outlines the percentage of respondents who agreed or disagreed with the existing objectives, and summarised the comments received.

	Yes	No	Not sure	Comments
Protect and support community facilities	96%	1%	3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We also need a shop.</li> </ul>
Conserve heritage assets, high quality of design, safeguard conservation areas	96%	1%	3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider area should not be a conservation area.</li> </ul>
Support new and existing businesses	75%	6%	19%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depends what businesses they are i.e. are they noisy, dirty and if so they're not welcome.</li> <li>• New business: we need a convenience store situated near the pub/garage</li> <li>• We support small existing</li> </ul>

				<p>business, but any news business should be sized appropriately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business's need very strict control if allowed to build and move into our community as we already have had issues with a few of those already within the area.</li> <li>• Add in sustainable perhaps as certain industrial/business uses are inappropriate and having a negative impact on the environment and quality of life for residents.</li> </ul>
Provide housing for the needs of the community	62%	14%	24%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehousing of elderly who want to stay in the village/ Provide lower cost housing for older residents who wish to downsize but stay in the community, or younger buyers who can't afford the large houses in the village.</li> <li>• The village simply doesn't have the infrastructure to support large scale developments.</li> <li>• Housing needs for the community - questionable. Does this mean that those growing up in the area need housing, therefore increasing the need for new builds?</li> <li>• The reason I have put no to `provide housing` is simply that Lydiard is big enough and there is not the infrastructure to support more housing.</li> <li>• More family facilities needed as the community grows.</li> </ul>
Facilitate measures to manage traffic	93%	4%	3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of traffic in areas of the street where no or inadequate footpaths exist should be considered. Blind driveway exits should be addressed.</li> <li>• Traffic management is too reactive and fails to reduce the volume of speeding cars travelling through Lydiard Millicent.</li> <li>• I would like to see investment in the roads through the village. It is becoming increasingly busy and the speed that drivers come through the village is much</li> </ul>

				higher than the recommended speed limit.
Sympathetic management of the countryside	95%	1%	4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sympathetic management of the countryside - mainly by farmers and land owners.</li> <li>• We need to retain the countryside landscape</li> </ul>
Encourage moves towards a low carbon economy	69%	12%	19%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whilst I support move to low carbon we must not let it get in the way of other priorities.</li> <li>• No care of wildlife.</li> <li>• What does this mean?</li> </ul>
Maintaining the gap between Swindon and Lydiard Millicent	96%	1%	3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitely - The Local Gap must be maintained to protect the identity of the village. Essential to keep the village atmosphere and prevent the village joining up to Swindon.</li> <li>• Gap doesn't do anything for Washpool residents, so no</li> </ul>

**Q9 Are there any other objectives you feel should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan? (107 responses)**

Respondents gave the following suggestions (the results below are summarised):

- Local Views section should be given more prominence/weighting as avoiding development within the areas covered by these views is key to the objective of maintaining the gap between Lydiard Millicent and surrounding areas.
- Connecting cycle paths and pedestrian paths to amenities that are missing from the village i.e. shops. Safe and accessible footpaths and cycle ways, including linking up between Lydiard Park and Swindon.
- Effective management to prevent flooding (particularly on The Street) and destroying local heritage.
- Requirement for bungalows for both elderly and those with a disability.
- Protect Green Spaces & Local Character. Designate green belt and open spaces as protected areas.
- Strengthen policies on environmental conservation to preserve nature and wildlife habitats with biodiversity more explicit.
- Set limits on building heights and densities to maintain the local character. Prioritise Small-Scale, Sustainable Development.
- Set a clear settlement boundary, preventing urban sprawl.
- Ensure we keep some level of public transport and that the existing service isn't scrapped/ Better transport facilities to Royal Wootton Bassett for people needing to get to work who don't drive
- Maintaining a gap between Purton and Lydiard Millicent
- Neighbours who are having major work done to their property should have to submit plans to the parish.
- Parking restrictions around the school.

- Neighbourhood plan should take in all areas of the parish, not just Lydiard. Washpool roads are not looked after and the residents are not listened to, as well as wildlife and safety.
- Try to encourage the re-introduction of a community shop.
- Identify possible locations for one off or small groups of new houses.
- Wind turbines - small ones

**Q10 The existing Neighbourhood Plan designates the Chestnut Springs Recreation Ground and the Parish Hall Community Field as Local Green Spaces. Are there any additional areas that you think should be protected within the Neighbourhood Plan? (114 responses)**

Respondents gave the following suggestions:

- The land between Lydiard and Lydiard Park
- The small green area in the walk through between The Mews and Meadow Springs.
- The Green land to the rear of the Sun Inn
- The land between Meadow Springs, The Orchard and The Street - It's presently a wildlife haven that is home to a vast array of birds, deer, badgers, foxes and bats to name but a few. It also serves as an important neighbourhood gap between the village of Lydiard Millicent and Swindon preserving the village heritage.
- The buffers between Swindon and Lydiard Millicent behind Badgers Brook, around Holborn and on Stone Lane should be protected both to ensure coalesce but also to promote nature diversity.
- Greenhill green spaces
- Lydiard Green/ Lydiard Village Green
- Pasture land at Lydiard/Greatfield crossroads behind the 2 houses with cattle should be protected.
- Field next to the Parish Hall. Look into the purchase of Bailey's Piece and protect.
- Brockenhurst Wood, Lydiard Plain, Firth Copse, Flaxlands, and Webb's Wood, there are many public footpaths connecting these areas of natural woodlands.
- The field(s) at Grid Ref SU 098 861 which are covered by Local View 'View 1: From Buryfield, looking East' in the Lydiard Millicent Neighbourhood Plan.
- The common land
- Fields between Rec and Washpool
- Grass verges around the village
- Yes, the Clay Pits and surrounding area should be protected from building on
- Park within The Mews
- The gap between the Elms and Lydiard Village, it is a buffer that should remain, no road access and egress.
- The church pond
- Land by pill box

**Part 3: Perceptions of Lydiard Millicent**

**Q11 How important to you are the following aspects of the Parish? (182 responses)**

Respondents considered the most important aspects to be the surrounding countryside and open space, the peaceful and safe neighbourhood and the distinct village identity. Local employment opportunities were considered to be the least important, followed by appropriate housing availability.

	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Not important</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
The surrounding countryside / open space	95%	4%	-	1%
The distinct village identity and separation from surrounding communities	86%	12%	1%	1%
Community spirit	65%	33%	1%	1%
Peaceful and safe neighbourhood	95%	5%	-	-
Lots of things going on (clubs and events)	24%	49%	22%	5%
Good public transport	45%	33%	20%	2%
Appropriate housing availability	16%	35%	41%	8%
Local employment opportunities	10%	32%	47%	11%

Other answers of importance were as follows:

- Ease of getting around the village/ Pedestrian and cyclist safety
- The village has very few amenities of its own necessitating all residents to travel for shopping or have shopping delivered. A local shop of a reasonable size would assist in alleviating this, reducing pressure on the roads by minimising traffic.
- The current boundary footprint.
- The parish has managed to avoid much of the antisocial behaviour which has blighted Swindon e.g. vandalism, graffiti and litter. However, this should not be taken for granted.
- I love the introduction of different food vans coming to the village hall. Would love to see more of this. Would be good for more village run events to take place.
- The preservation of peaceful and safe countryside lane, hedgerows.
- Biodiversity, wildlife - clear skies also.

#### **Q12 How important to you are the following facilities within the Parish? (190 responses)**

The footpaths, cycle paths and Bridleways were considered by most to be the most important, followed by the Parish Hall, Pub and School.

	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Not important</b>	<b>No opinion</b>
Church	28%	41%	20%	11%
Recreation/Sports Field (Meadow Springs)	47%	43%	5%	4%
Pub	58%	35%	5%	1%
School	58%	23%	16%	3%
Parish Hall	60%	35%	3%	2%
Footpaths, Cycle paths and Bridleways	78%	18%	3%	1%
Bus Services	48%	37%	14%	1%

Other important facilities were considered as follows:

- New Local Shop
- Open fields surrounding village
- Local Farms
- Little library in phone box
- Greatfield Garden Centre and Toomers
- Parking
- Doctors and pharmacies in Purton



The word cloud below identifies the key words used by respondents, with those mentioned most, in larger text.



#### Q15 What, if any, additional facilities are needed? (135 responses)

The most common response was a village shop, being suggested by 45% of respondents. Other suggestions included the following:

- A Footpath between Lydiard Millicent and West Swindon.
- Post office/ Café/ Pub
- Community field to be laid out to garden area.
- Private bungalows for residents wishing to downsize
- Improvement of pavements
- More buses
- Skate Park/ youth clubs/ children's play area
- Better parking facilities for School, Church and Parish Hall.
- Better traffic management and calming
- Speed Cameras
- EV charging
- Dog poo bins/ Litter bin
- Swimming pool/ tennis courts
- Defibrillator
- Seating in Green Hill

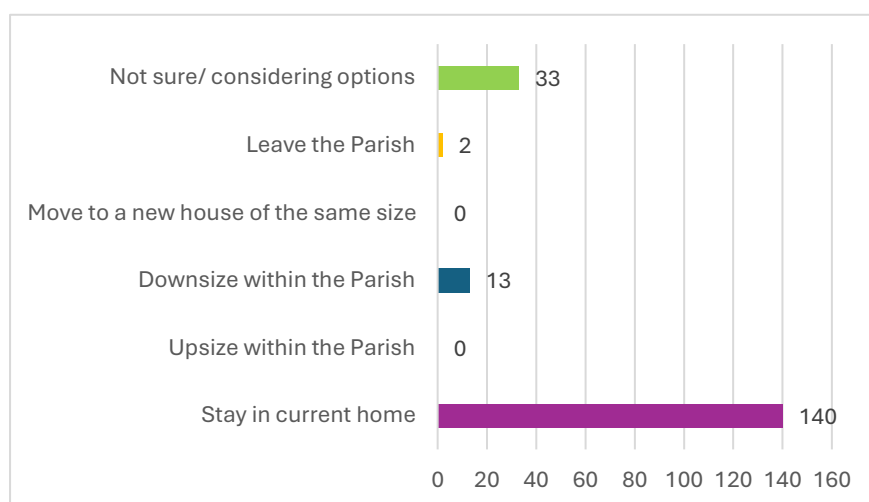
### Q16 What improvements, if any, could be made to existing facilities? (100 responses)

Suggestions included the following:

- More speed restrictions/ traffic calming measures
- Improvements to paths/ styles/ gates
- Flood defences and drainage maintenance
- Road improvements
- School, church and village hall parking
- Improved bus service and bus stops
- Events held on green spaces
- Play area in sports field could be a bit more exciting
- Internet provision
- Provide a village noticeboard where people can leave messages and share events.
- Seating at the recreation ground
- Provision of more dog bins

### Part 4: Your future housing needs

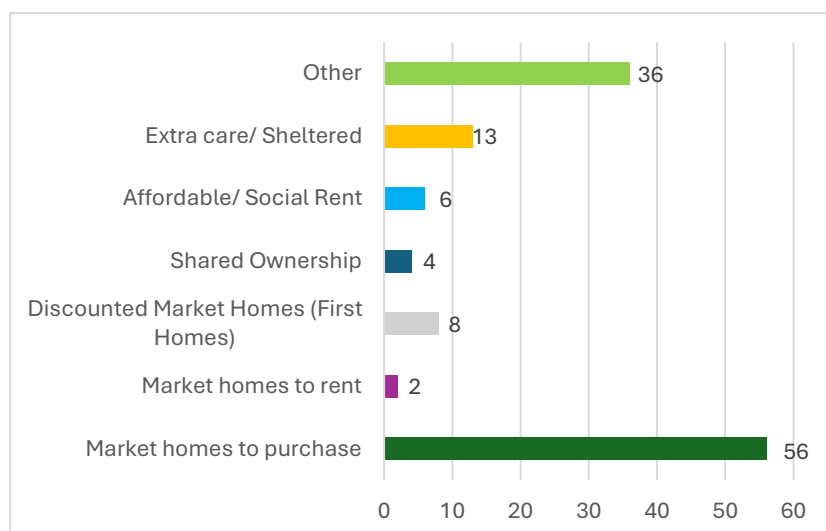
#### Q17 What are your future housing aspirations? (188 responses)



74% of respondents wish to stay in their current home.

7% are looking to downsize, while 1% are looking to leave the parish. 18% are currently unsure or considering options.

#### Q18 If you, or anyone in your household, wishes to move within the Parish in the next 5 years, what type of accommodation do you require? (tick all that apply to your household) (105 responses)

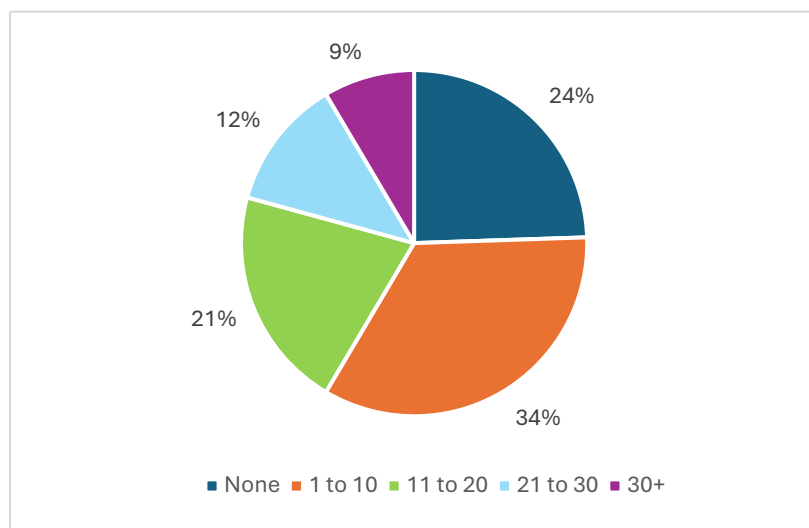


The most popular type of accommodation selected was for market homes to purchase. Followed by care or sheltered homes.

Those who selected other left comments such as 'not looking to move' or 'no development' however some suggested smaller bungalows or bungalows for the elderly.

## Part 5: Development needs of the whole Parish

**Q19 How many new homes should be built in the Parish in the period to 2036? Tick one only (188 responses)**



24% of respondents said there should be no new homes built in the Parish.

34% said 1 – 10 new homes.

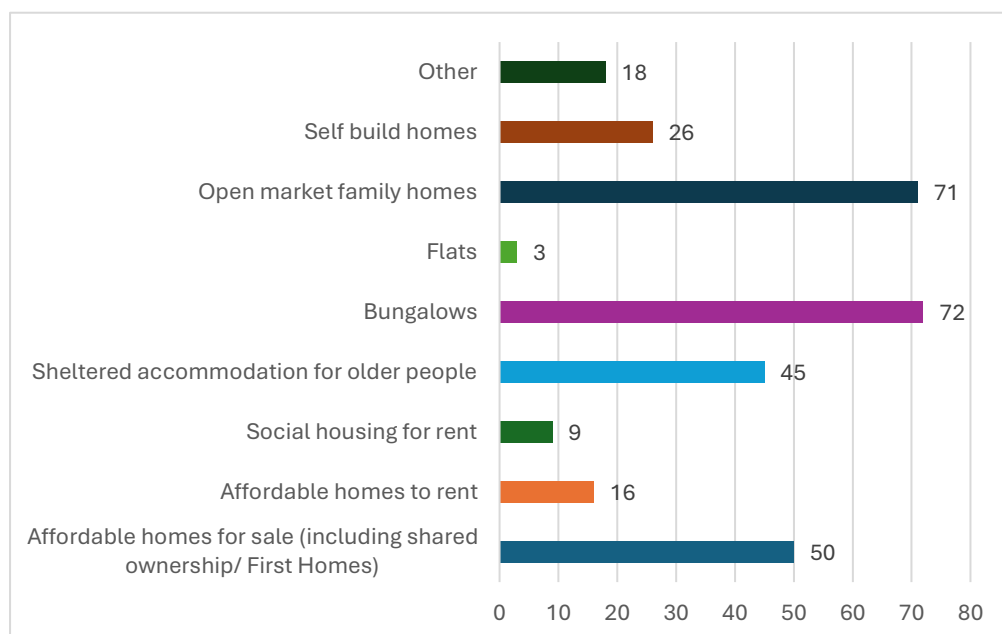
21% said 11 – 20 new homes.

12% said 21 – 30 new homes.

9% said 30+ new homes.

76% of respondents felt the Parish should have some new homes over the next 10 years.

**Q20 Which types of new homes are needed in the Parish? (tick all that apply) (164 responses)**



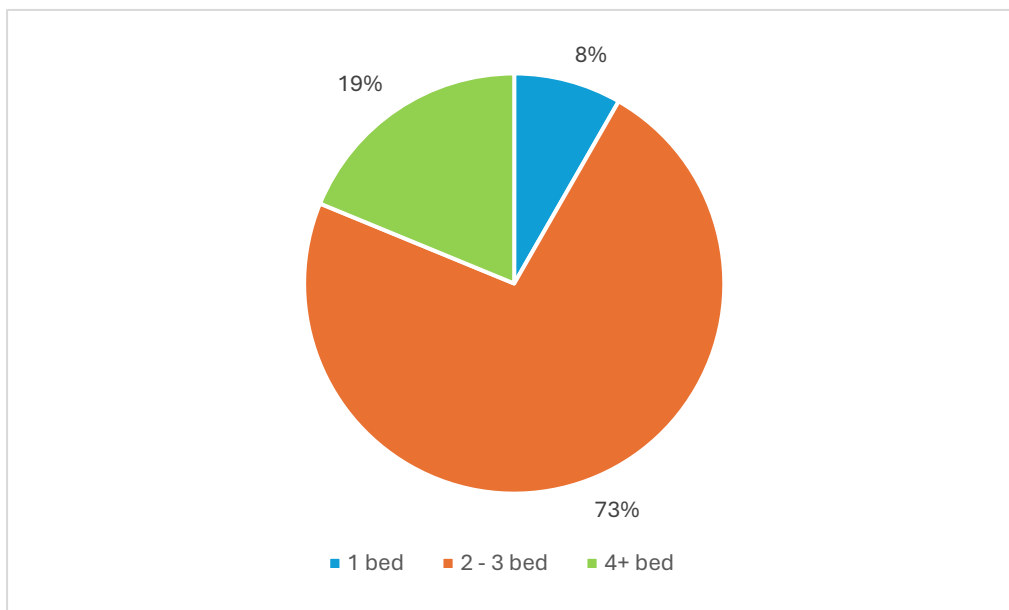
The most popular type of housing respondents thought the parish needed was bungalows, very closely followed by open market homes.

Affordable housing for sale, including shared ownership and first homes, was the next most popular suggestion.

Flats were least selected, closely followed by social housing for rent.

‘Other’ suggestions included higher quality house builds which are consistent with existing housing stock, while some respondents answered ‘none’.

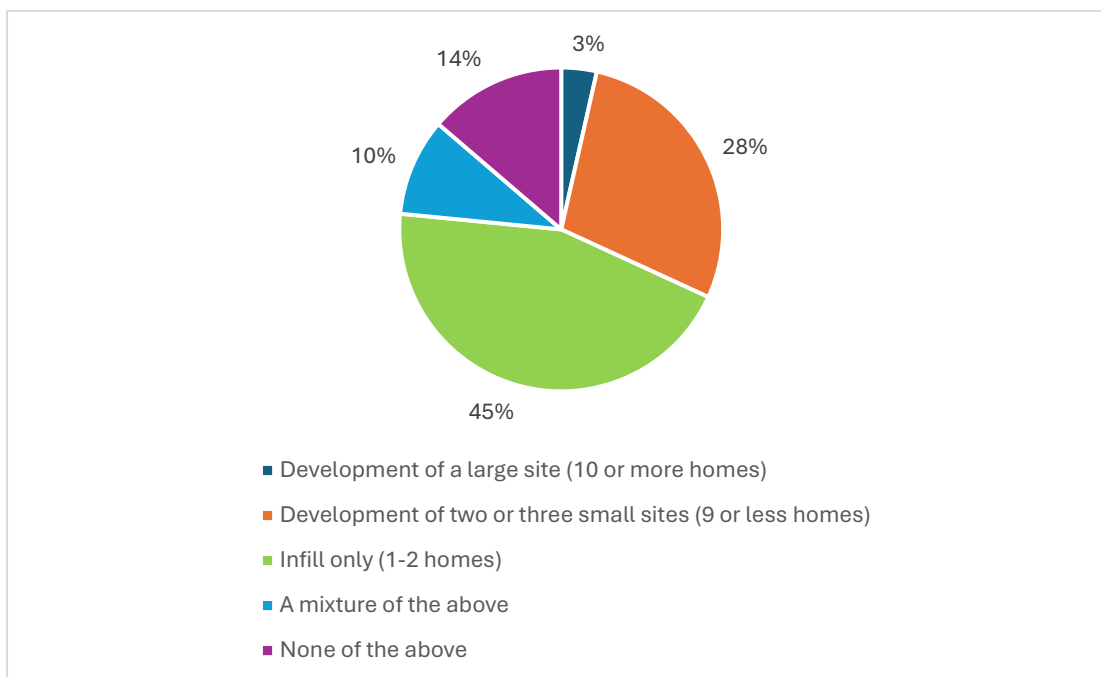
**Q21 What size homes are needed most? (154 responses)**



73% of respondents felt 2-3 bed homes were needed most.

19% felt 4-bed homes, while 8% felt 1-bed homes were needed.

**Q22 Which approach to future development do you favour? (185 responses)**



45% of respondents preferred infill only of 1-2 homes. 28% would support development of two or three smaller sites of 9 or less homes. Only 3% would support development of a large site, while 14% said none of the above.

**Q23 If new homes are built, what is your preference for their location? Please rank in order 1 to 6 with 1 as preferred and 6 as least wanted (152 responses)**

The overall ranking of the locational preferences was as follows:

1. Brownfield (previously developed) sites
2. Redevelopment of existing housing areas
3. Redevelopment of farm buildings
4. Within back gardens
5. Further ribbon development
6. Greenfield sites within the parish

**Q24 How important to you are the following aspects of residential development? (185 responses)**

Overall, respondent's felts that the style of buildings (height/scale) and the integration with the surroundings were the most important aspects of residential development.

	Very important	Important	Not important	No opinion
Style of building; height, scale	78%	17%	2%	3%
Types of building materials	48%	38%	10%	4%
Eco or renewable features	35%	48%	11%	6%
Amount of outside space/open space	45%	44%	6%	5%
Sustainable construction	37%	47%	9%	7%
Integration within surroundings	80%	16%	1%	3%

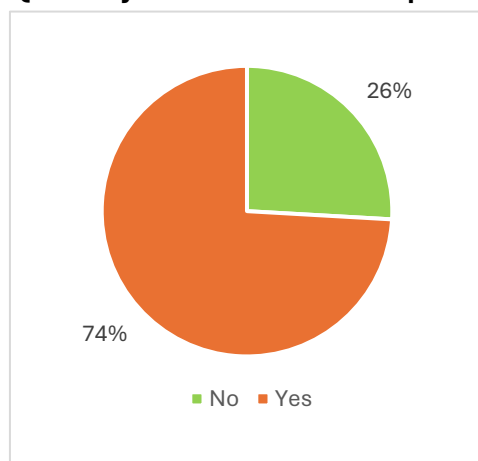
**Part 5: Infrastructure Considerations**

**Q25 How important are the following to you? (186 responses)**

Footpath improvements were the most important consideration, while a shop was thought to be the least important.

	Very important	Important	Not important	No opinion
Sustainable transport	44%	39%	15%	2%
Highways improvements	59%	37%	3%	1%
Footpath improvements	69%	26%	4%	1%
Community Shop	42%	33%	19%	6%

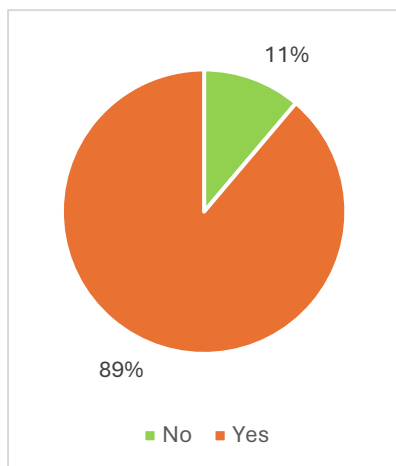
**Q26 Are you concerned about parking issues? (168 responses)**



The key areas of concern include:

- Around the school
- Around the Service Station
- The Street
- Areas around the village hall
- Meadow Springs
- Around the Church
- Greenhill Lane
- Greatfield
- The Butts

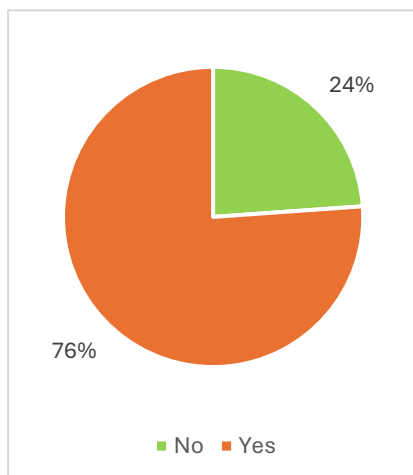
### Q27 Are you concerned about other traffic issues? (169 responses)



The traffic issues of concern included:

- Introduction of 20mph speed limit
- Footpaths need improving for safety
- Size of vehicles using the road
- Speeding
- Traffic volumes and people using the village as a cut through
- Washpool Bridge should have priority signs installed for right of way
- Infrastructure is at full capacity
- Poor road surfaces/ potholes

### Q28 Are you concerned about the provision for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders? (156 responses)



The key areas of concern included:

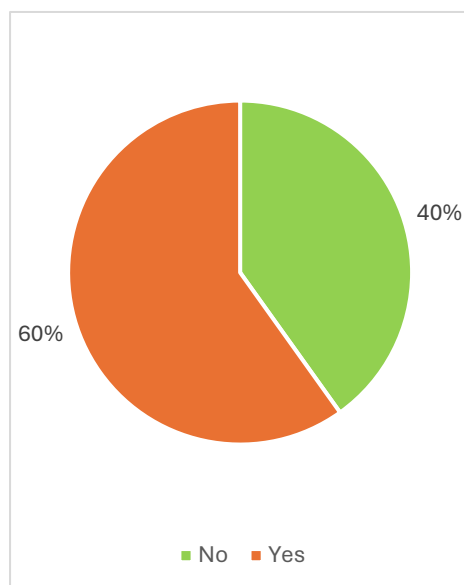
- Poor or non-existent footpaths
- Need better cycleways to local amenities in Swindon
- Pushchairs and wheelchairs can't move from one end of the village to other without risking being in the road.
- Horse riders should be able to use the roads without the threat of heavy traffic.
- The traffic through the village is far too heavy and there is insufficient traffic calming in place.

### Q29 What parking or traffic improvements would you like to see? (130 responses)

Respondents gave the following suggestions:

- 20mph throughout/ Speed cameras/ Traffic calming measures
- Policing of weight limit/ prevention of HGVs through village
- Signage and mirrors for blind exit driveways
- Monitoring of unsafe parking for school drop off and pick up
- Improvement to lane from village to Purton. Needs proper kerb and vision improved at the narrow places.
- Yellow lines should be added to the road adjacent The Butts or on The Street
- Car park extended at the Parish Hall to avoid the chaos of school parking.
- Public path at Holborn
- Repair the potholes
- Remove the chicane outside church as too many inconsiderate drivers don't give way
- Better road marks or middle lane markings to clearly show which side of road to drive on.
- Zebra crossing over the Street especially for school children to catch the buses.
- Options on Stone Lane for pedestrians.

**Q30 Are you concerned about flooding within the Parish? (157 responses)**



The key areas of concern include:

- The Street
- Stone Lane
- Holborn
- The Mews
- Outside Greatfield Nurseries and Swindon Caravan Centre
- The Butts
- Washpool
- Lydiard Green
- Common Platt
- Past Badgers Brook
- Greenhill
- Downs View Car Park

**Q31 How important to you are the following in the Parish? (188 responses)**

Increased walking and cycling; improved public transport; and better insulating of existing homes were considered the most important characteristics to the most respondents. Large scale renewable energy was considered the least important.

	Very important	Important	Not important	No opinion
Home renewable energy generation	25%	44%	23%	8%
Large scale renewable energy generation	13%	24%	54%	9%
Reduction in energy use	23%	53%	16%	8%
Better insulation of existing homes	41%	47%	6%	6%
Rainwater harvesting	31%	47%	13%	9%
Greater recycling of waste	42%	43%	10%	5%
Improved public transport	41%	36%	20%	3%
Increased walking and cycling	45%	37%	14%	4%

**Q32 Are there any other features/habitats/views/buildings which you feel are important characteristics of the Parish and should be conserved / enhanced? Please briefly explain why? (89 responses)**

A summary of the responses is included below (not repeating key issues that have already been drawn out in the above questions):

- There is evidence of grass snake and newt habitats in the village and future housing plans should be accompanied with independent reports for any proposed sites.
- It would be an asset to have a well-defined central area to the village, such as developing a village green space adjacent to the Parish Hall, opposite church.
- Protection of woodlands, hedgerows, and meadows – important for biodiversity, wildlife corridors, and maintaining rural character, as well as local rivers, streams, and ponds – support ecosystems and help with flood prevention.
- A plan to promote, enhance and improve accessibility to the wooded and grassed areas could form the base for the Parish as being an area for engaging with the country,

improving our understanding and appreciation of our flora and fauna; and a haven from the hustle and bustle of city/town life.

- Concern over pressures for solar developments.
- Countryside views towards Lydiard Plain.
- View towards Purton cricket field captures village setting.
- Perhaps a reservoir to be built to supply Wiltshire and beyond.
- Trees should be protected at all costs.
- The Clay Pits are a conservation nature reserve for many of our wildlife and wild flowers.