



Writtle Parish Council

Summary Report on the 2018 Neighbourhood Plan Survey



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Writtle NP Steering Group
February 2019, V5

Writtle Community Survey 2018

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1. Introduction and Objectives:

The Writtle Neighbourhood Plan is being written by residents of the community and the Parish Council to help influence how the Parish evolves over the next twenty years. Once adopted, the Writtle Neighbourhood Plan will be used in determining planning applications, as it will form part of Chelmsford City Council's statutory planning documents.

To shape the proposals that will be contained in the plan, the Writtle NP Steering Group, together with IDA, designed a survey questionnaire to gather opinions from households in the Parish, with the objective of providing a robust basis as input to help:

1. Prioritise the needs of the community
2. Build the Neighbourhood Plan
3. Serve as a 'lobbying tool' to resolve issues
4. Gather evidence for Council and Community Planning

The survey was conducted during November 2018. By the survey close date 747 valid responses had been received: 331 online and 416 on paper. The survey respondent base is broadly representative of the Parish overall according to available census data, except that younger people may be somewhat under-represented, which is typical of community consultation surveys. Where opinions vary by age group, this needs to be kept in mind when interpreting the findings.

This report summarises the main survey findings, which in tabular form have been analysed in full, cross-profiled by age group, presence of children, household size, size of home (number of bedrooms), working status, bus users, would like to stay, and data source (online/paper). The tabulations analyse every question in the questionnaire, on an anonymous basis, showing aggregated numbers giving each answer and percentages based on all respondents, plus a % not answered. Where questions have free-text answers, a small team in the village entered all the verbatim answers into a separate data file made available to the NP Steering Group to be read in detail. The analysis is done in accordance with the MRS Code of Conduct on respondent anonymity, and under the rules of the Data Protection Act. Individuals are not identified in the data so GDPR does not apply.

2. Summary:

The survey provides a good representation of the views of adults in Writtle. One survey questionnaire was delivered to each household in the Parish, so it is likely that most survey responses will be one per household, but some households may have done more than one since an online option of the survey was also available. The response rate is good, at c.30% of households, or c.12% of adults, which provide robust overall 95% confidence limits of c. ± 4 % points.

However, the age distribution of the survey respondents is skewed compared against the 2011 census data of adults, with a much higher age profile.

<u>Age groups:</u>	<u>2011 Census</u>	<u>2018 Survey</u>
18-24	13%	3%
25-44	26%	17%
45-59	23%	23%
60-74	24%	32%
75 +	14%	25%

So, the younger (under 45) age groups are under-represented in the responding sample – correspondingly, the 60+ age group is over-represented here. However, the census is 8 years old and there is some evidence that the average age in Writtle has increased in that period, thus reducing the skew somewhat. The answers to some of the survey questions do vary by age group, so we will comment when that occurs.

Living in Writtle. Most people like living in Writtle and value the sense of community, the proximity to the countryside as well as to Chelmsford's facilities and to the motorway network, and generally want to stay if they can. Employment for the younger age groups and retirement for the older groups are the two factors most likely to cause people to move away, although several express concerns about traffic (all age groups): more than two thirds say they dislike the levels of traffic.

Getting about,

Although residents of Writtle make fairly good use of the buses, cycling and walking, the car remains the main mode of transport. Residents view traffic as the worst aspect of

living in the village, feeling that the village cannot sustain much more, particularly when it is used as a rat run to avoid Chelmsford. A northern bypass would attract substantial support, as would a number of traffic and speed control measures, especially a 20mph speed limit near the greens, schools and college, and vehicle activated speed warnings, as well as clear obligatory road markings.

The countryside,

Nearly all residents say that the Natural Environment around Writtle is very important to them, most notably the break between the Village and other settlements, open spaces, the lack of pollution, wildlife and nature, and tranquillity. They are very keen to preserve the Metropolitan Green Belt, Nature Reserves, and the Green Wedges, and also very keen to create Wildlife/Nature reserves in small woods, open areas and river/stream valleys. Similarly, almost all say they support the conservation and management of existing river, pond and other water features in and around the Village.

Whilst in general good use is made of local cycle and walking pathways, it is noteworthy that the youngest group, those aged under 25, make the least use of these facilities.

There would be good support for the introduction of outdoor facilities, although again, the youngest, 18-24 age group are the least keen.

Village design,

Residents are broadly happy with the existing mix of buildings, and strongly believe that it is important to preserve Writtle's historic buildings and landscape features. To this end a small majority recommend supporting the Archives/Historical Society, whilst about half recommend having Information Boards and generally enhancing and caring for locations. A further third feel that publicity leaflets could be produced, but there is less support for the possibility of building a heritage centre.

The maintenance of footpaths and roads is the single most frequently mentioned thing to improve the look and feel of the village. Apart from that, keeping existing green spaces tidy, landscaping, and tree/bush/bulb planting, and reducing traffic, are the most popular proposals to make Writtle more attractive. Other improvements mentioned include addressing litter and car parking.

There is reasonably good support for having some public art to Writtle, in the village or in new developments - two thirds agree, particularly for work by local artists/craftsmen.

Housing and development,

The survey introduction explains that the Chelmsford Local Plan is likely to require that Writtle accommodates some new housing, and looks at what preferences people may have. Residents would prefer new houses to be built in traditional design, with a mix of densities and locations. Gardens are generally considered to be important, although much less so provided there is a communal open space nearby. Houses should be no higher than 2.5 storeys, and although apartments might be acceptable, they should not be higher than 3 storeys.

Many, perhaps one in five households, say they are likely to need to relocate within Writtle in the next five years, indicating a need for downsizing to properties such as small or medium homes or a Retirement Home for the 'active retired'. Medium and small family homes are the most favoured types of housing for new development, along with 'Younger families affordable housing'.

Brownfield is easily the most acceptable type of development site, followed by converting some farm or commercial property and infilling small plots with sustainable energy efficient housing.

If there are funds made available by a developer for new facilities or infrastructure, a village-owned renewable energy power supply is the most favoured option, followed closely by roundabouts at either end of the green and improved cycle facilities.

Local facilities.

Overall, the survey indicates that residents are happy with the current retail and business facilities in the village, and that, with the possible exception of the Post Office, they are more or less in the right places. Additional facilities that are most likely to be used include more/better pedestrian crossings, better recycling facilities, a café, a hardware shop, and vehicle servicing.

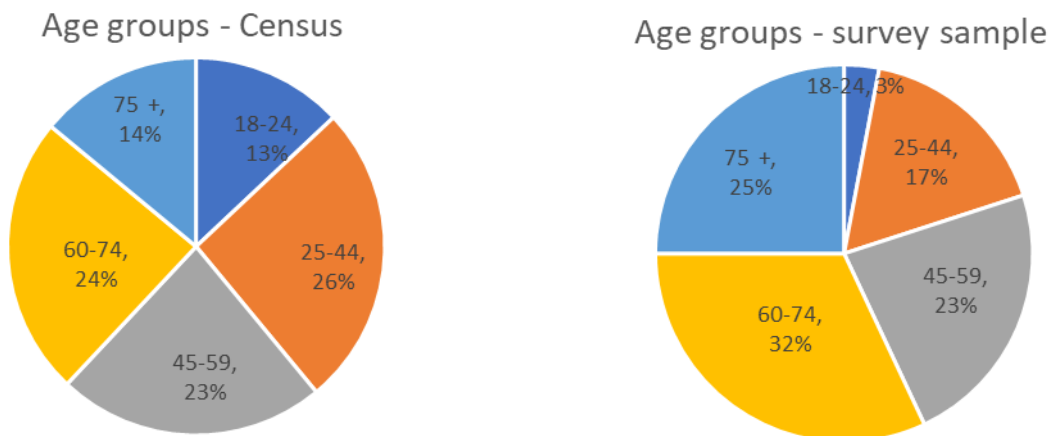
- Two thirds feel plans should continue for cycleways
- Three quarters feel that plans should continue for a more reliable power supply

Respondents feel that the existing facilities should be promoted more around the village. The most frequently used sources of information about the village are, in order, Writtle News, Word of Mouth, Nextdoor Writtle, and the Writtle Village website.

3. Methodology and Respondent Profile:

A questionnaire was designed by the NP Steering Group, with advice from the independent research agency IDA, to address the issues faced. It was delivered by hand by volunteers to every household in the Parish, with further promotion (including an online option) on the PC and NP Steering Group Twitter feed, Facebook page, websites and on notices placed around the Parish. Completed questionnaires were returned in sealed envelopes to designated points in the village. Every adult had an opportunity to participate. An online option was provided and promoted. A cover letter from the Chairman of the NP Steering Group explained the survey objectives to residents, giving assurances on confidentiality.

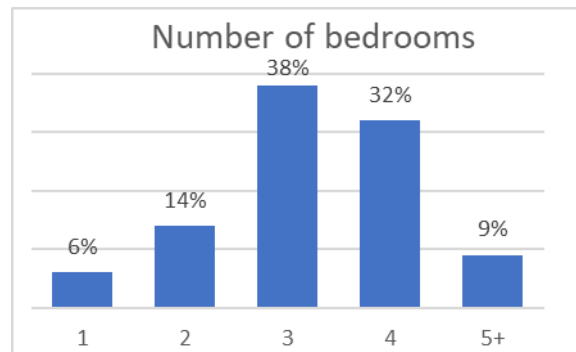
Against a census population of 2,400 households and an adult population of circa 4,500, the survey generated answers from 747 respondents, providing overall 95% confidence limits of c. $\pm 4\%$ points, so the survey sample overall is considered to be reasonably representative of the population and thus provides a robust measure of the opinions of the Parish residents overall, with the proviso relating to issues where there are any significant variations in opinions by age group.



Nearly half of the respondents say they do not work / are retired.

Although postcode was collected and recorded in the data, no attempt is made to distinguish between respondent groups by ward or area.

Nearly a third of respondents say that they live in their home alone. 21% have children under 18 at home, and 14% have adults other than their partner sharing the home. The majority (70%) of dwellings are 3 or 4 bedroom; 20% are 1 or 2 bedrooms, 9% have 5 or more bedrooms.



Writtle has a low turn-over of residents: 44% say they have lived in the village for 25 years or longer, particularly the older age groups. However, 20% of respondents say they have lived in Writtle for less than 6 years, including 36% of those with children.

One in five of those who are working, not retired, say they work in Writtle. These are mainly professional jobs (29% of those working), education/child care, tradespeople, medical or care services, and other roles not specified.

5. Main findings:

5.1 Living in Writtle

Nearly all residents, 96% of those answering the question, say they would like to stay in Writtle for the foreseeable future if their circumstances permit, although this proportion is very much lower (43%) among the 18-24 age group.

Most say they came to live in Writtle simply because they like it, and that it is a good community. 17% comment that they have a job nearby. 'Other reasons' are much more frequently mentioned among the younger age groups, many of whom mention the village environment, having been born and brought up in the village, or the schools/education.

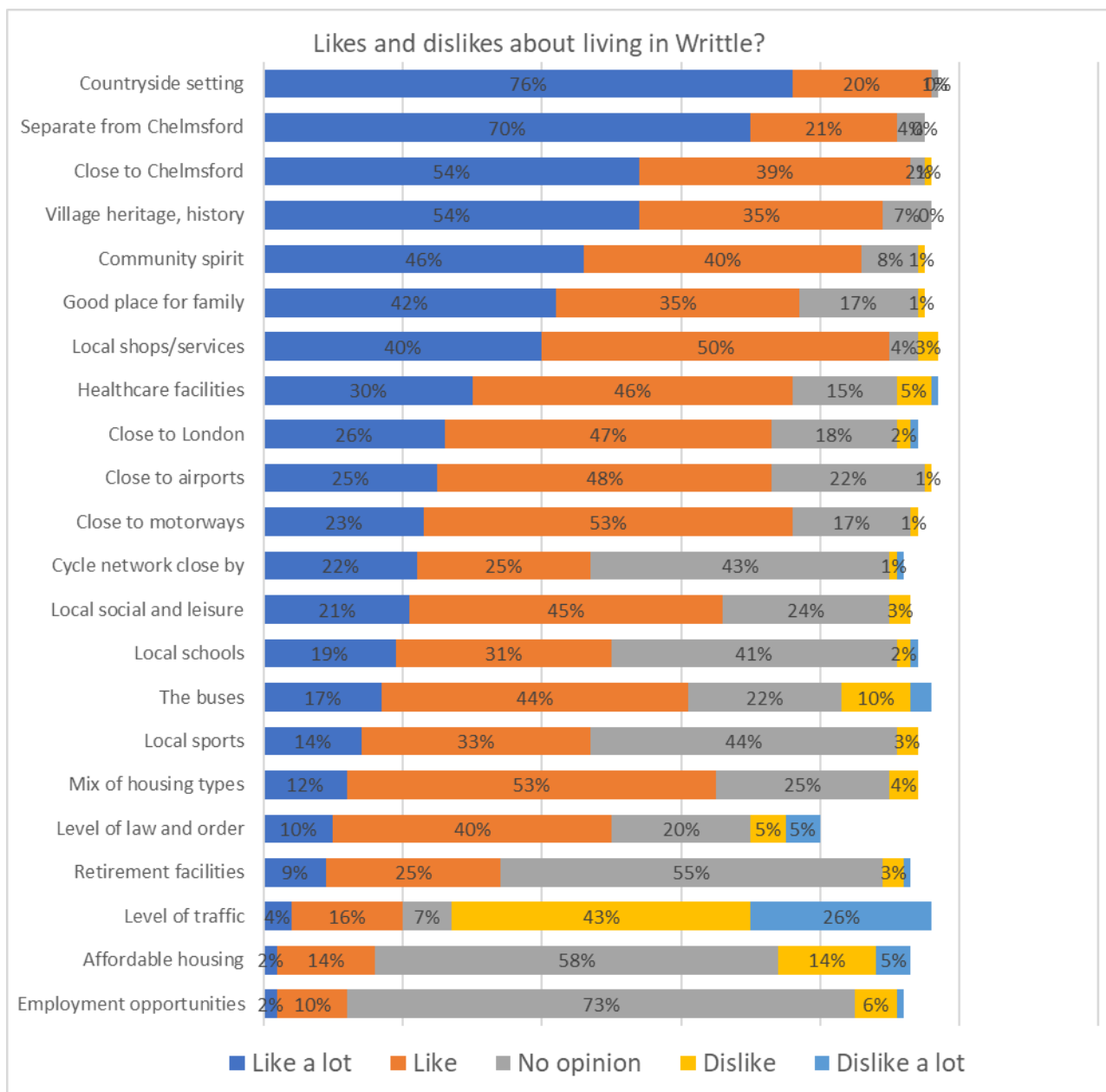
Why did you come to live in Writtle?

	Total	18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	74+
TOTAL	747	21	128	172	236	186
I/we just like it	51%	10%	55%	57%	55%	41%
Good community	25%	5%	37%	33%	24%	15%
Job nearby	17%	0%	11%	19%	16%	22%
Easy commute	17%	5%	20%	22%	19%	10%
Family here	14%	10%	20%	12%	12%	15%
Born/raised here	12%	19%	19%	14%	6%	11%
Cost of housing	12%	5%	9%	9%	14%	14%
Friends here	10%	5%	9%	9%	8%	13%
Married into Writtle	8%	5%	8%	6%	8%	8%
Retired here	8%	0%	0%	1%	13%	14%
Other	16%	38%	23%	18%	13%	10%

Asked what might cause people to move away in the next few years, 'Traffic' was easily the greatest reason, especially among those aged 25-59. Retirement relocation will cause those aged 60+ to move away, whilst the village becoming overcrowded is a concern across all age groups but especially those aged 25-59.

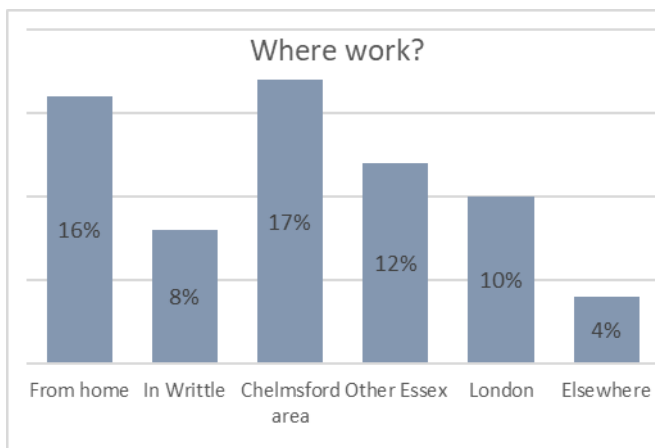
	Total	18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	74+
TOTAL	747	21	128	172	236	186
Traffic	39%	14%	45%	52%	36%	29%
Retirement relocation	24%	0%	2%	18%	36%	33%
Over crowded	24%	19%	38%	30%	25%	9%
Crime	20%	5%	30%	25%	21%	11%
Family	17%	19%	21%	17%	17%	15%

The chart below summarises what people overall like and dislike about living in Writtle, ranked on how much each aspect is liked. The likes focus mainly around the village environment and countryside and village feel and heritage. Traffic is far and away the greatest single dislike. The amount of affordable housing is the next largest significant dislike. Whilst separation from Chelmsford, a separate feeling and identity, is considered to be very important, so too is proximity to Chelmsford and its facilities. Naturally, some aspects of importance (and likes), such as education or 'family', and retirement facilities or employment opportunities, will vary significantly with age.



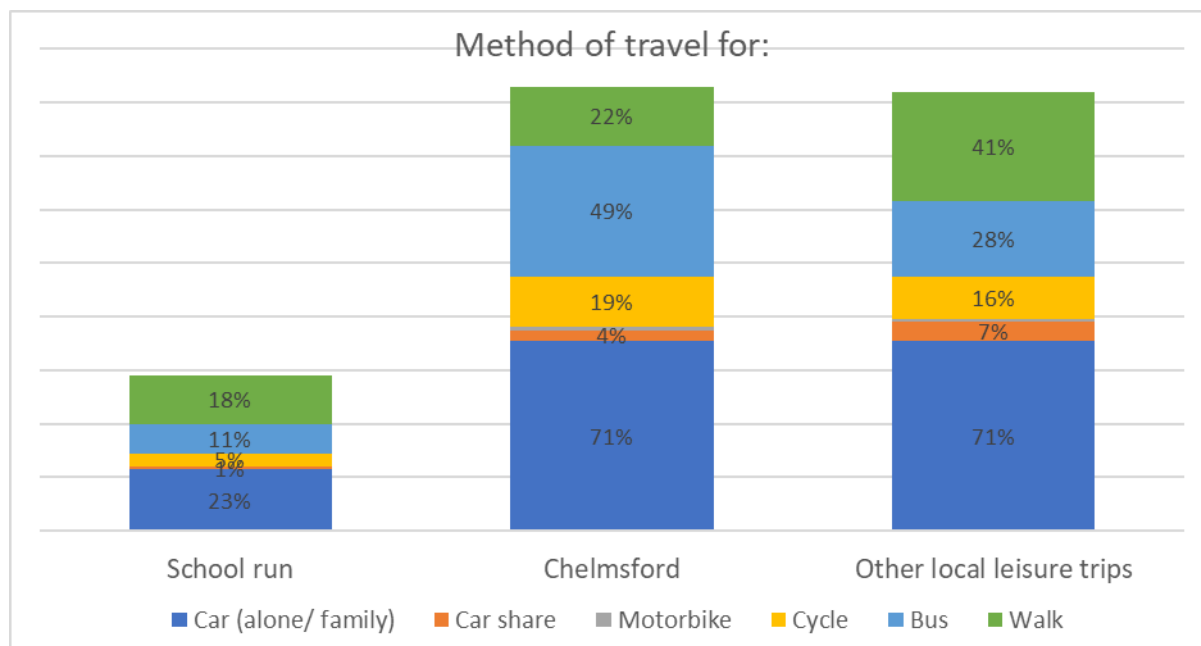
5.2 Getting around Writtle

Most residents who work do so locally. 16% say they regularly work from home. Nearly one in ten respondents say they work in Writtle, whilst 17% work in the Chelmsford area and 12% elsewhere in Essex. 10% go to London. 4% work elsewhere.



Most who travel to work, three quarters of those answering the question, do so by car, alone. 20% go by train, 16% cycle, and 14% use the bus. Just under 6% use car sharing.

Looking at other local journeys, the car (alone or with family) is easily the most commonly used mode of transport, including 23% of respondents who say they use the car for the school run. The bus is quite extensively used for trips to Chelmsford and for other local leisure trips. Nearly one in five say they sometimes cycle to Chelmsford.



In general, residents say that they would be willing to consider making more use of buses (20% said not), cycling (14% said not), or walking (32% said not).

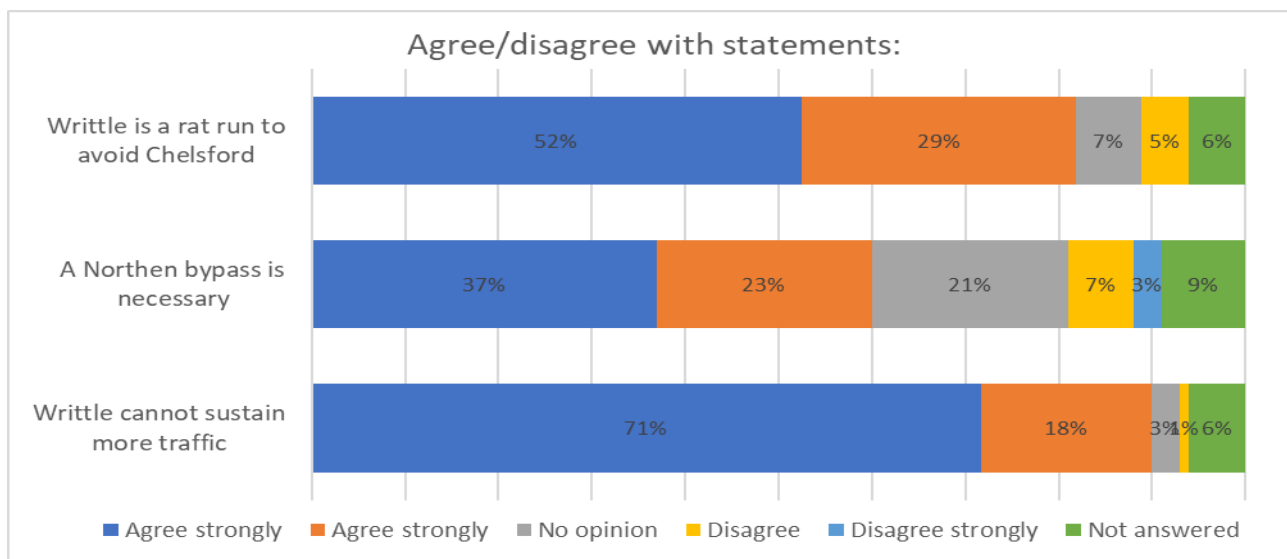
	<u>Buses</u>	<u>Walking</u>	<u>Cycling</u>	<u>Car share</u>
Locally	25%	58%	30%	9%
To Chelmsford Centre	62%	26%	32%	12%
To Springfield or Great Baddow	8%	2%	7%	5%
No	20%	14%	32%	51%

Asked what might encourage more use of alternative methods of travel, answers are given in verbatim form and can be read in detail in the verbatims file. Broadly:

- More use of buses would be most encouraged by lower costs vs parking, including family/group tickets, better timetable reliability, great frequency, and a faster direct service to Chelmsford. 58% gave some comment.
- More use of walking would be most encouraged by better maintained and lit footpaths, and possibly footpath maps. 37% gave some answer, although many of those said they already do walk a lot.
- More use of cycling would mostly be encouraged by better safety, designated cycle paths/lanes, less traffic, lit and better maintained cycle paths. 33% gave some answer.
- More use of car sharing would be encouraged by knowing people who need/are interested, make it easier to find people, better organised. 20% gave some text answer, although half of those were simply negative.

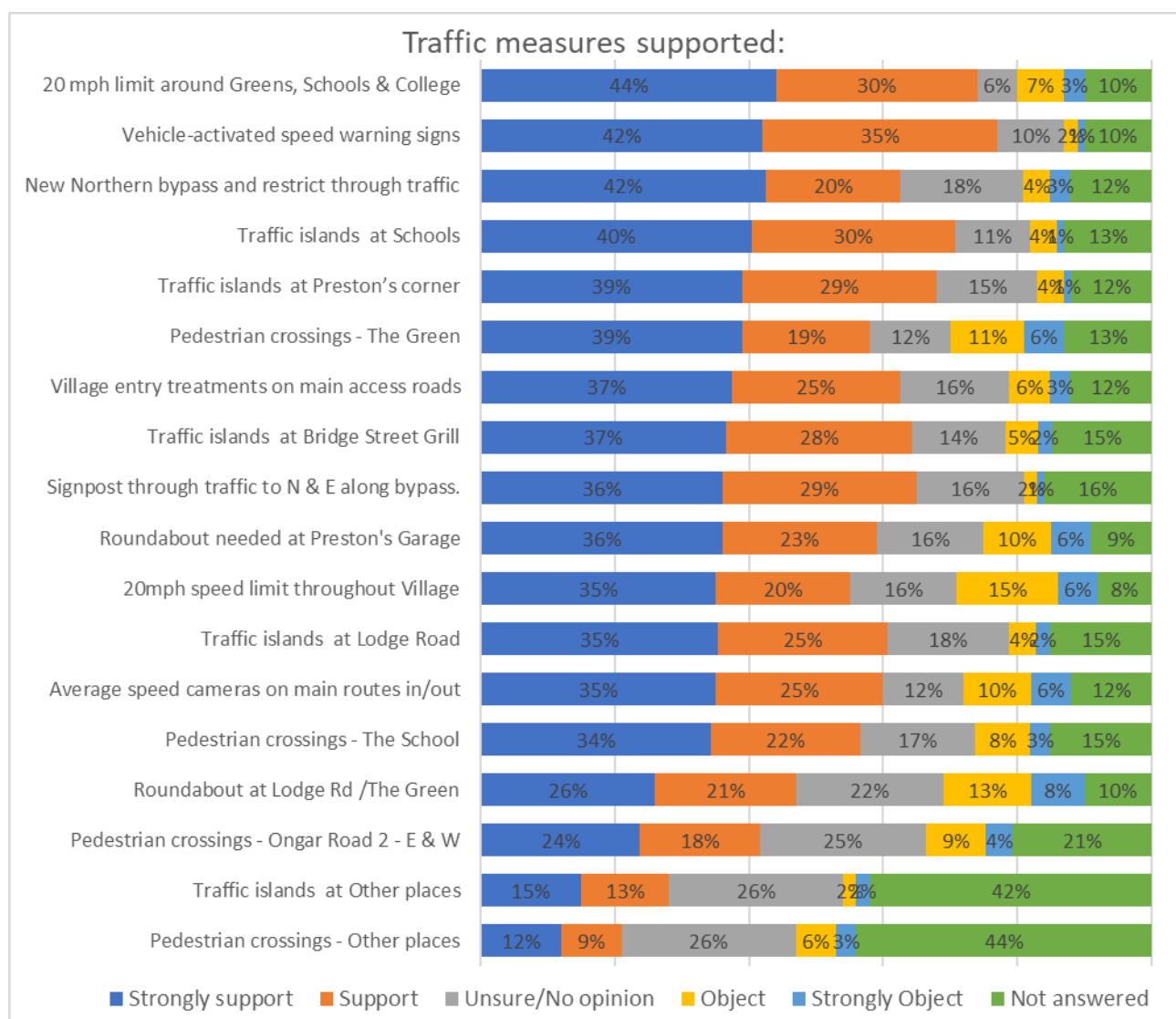
The strong majority (70%) of respondents feel that Writtle should have electric vehicle charging points: 59% suggested having them in car parks, 34% at shops and businesses, 27% at schools and university college, and 11% elsewhere, mainly garages.

On the matter of traffic and roads, there is overwhelming agreement with the proposition that Writtle cannot sustain more traffic, across all age groups but slightly less strongly among those aged under 15. 81% feel that Writtle is used as a 'rat run' to avoid Chelmsford. There is good support for a northern bypass, although 21% are unsure.

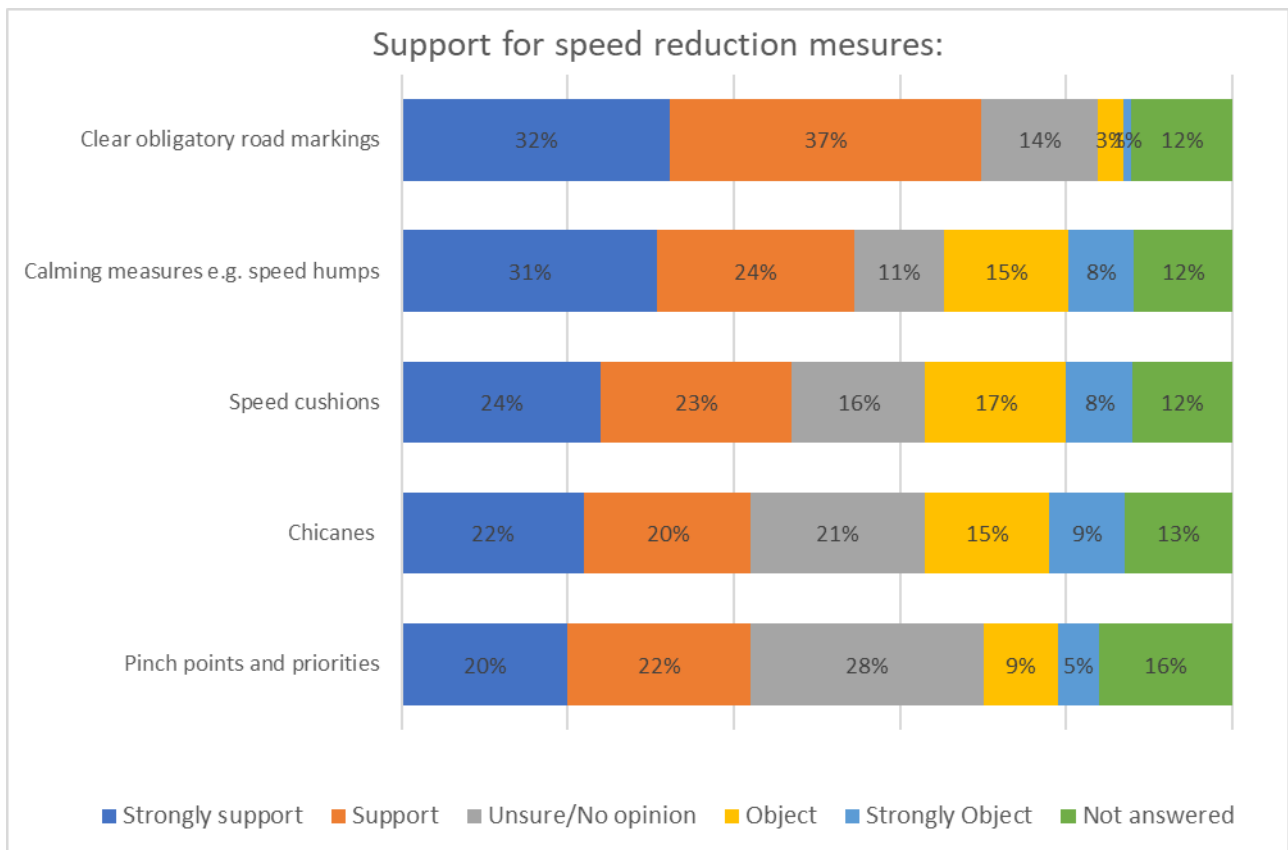


Peak time traffic is the greatest problem. Just 3% of respondents said they thought that the level of traffic going through Writtle is satisfactory. The majority, 59%, feel that it is 'mostly satisfactory but too heavy at peak times' – and a further third feel that traffic levels are 'too heavy most of the time'. Again, those aged under 25 are rather less dissatisfied with traffic levels than are those aged 25+.

The chart below shows which traffic measures would get the highest levels of support in the village, most notably a 20mph speed limit around the greens, schools and college, and vehicle activated speed warning signs, a Northern bypass, and traffic islands. Since the younger age groups are rather less concerned about traffic levels, their support for traffic measures is correspondingly a little lower than average on most measures.



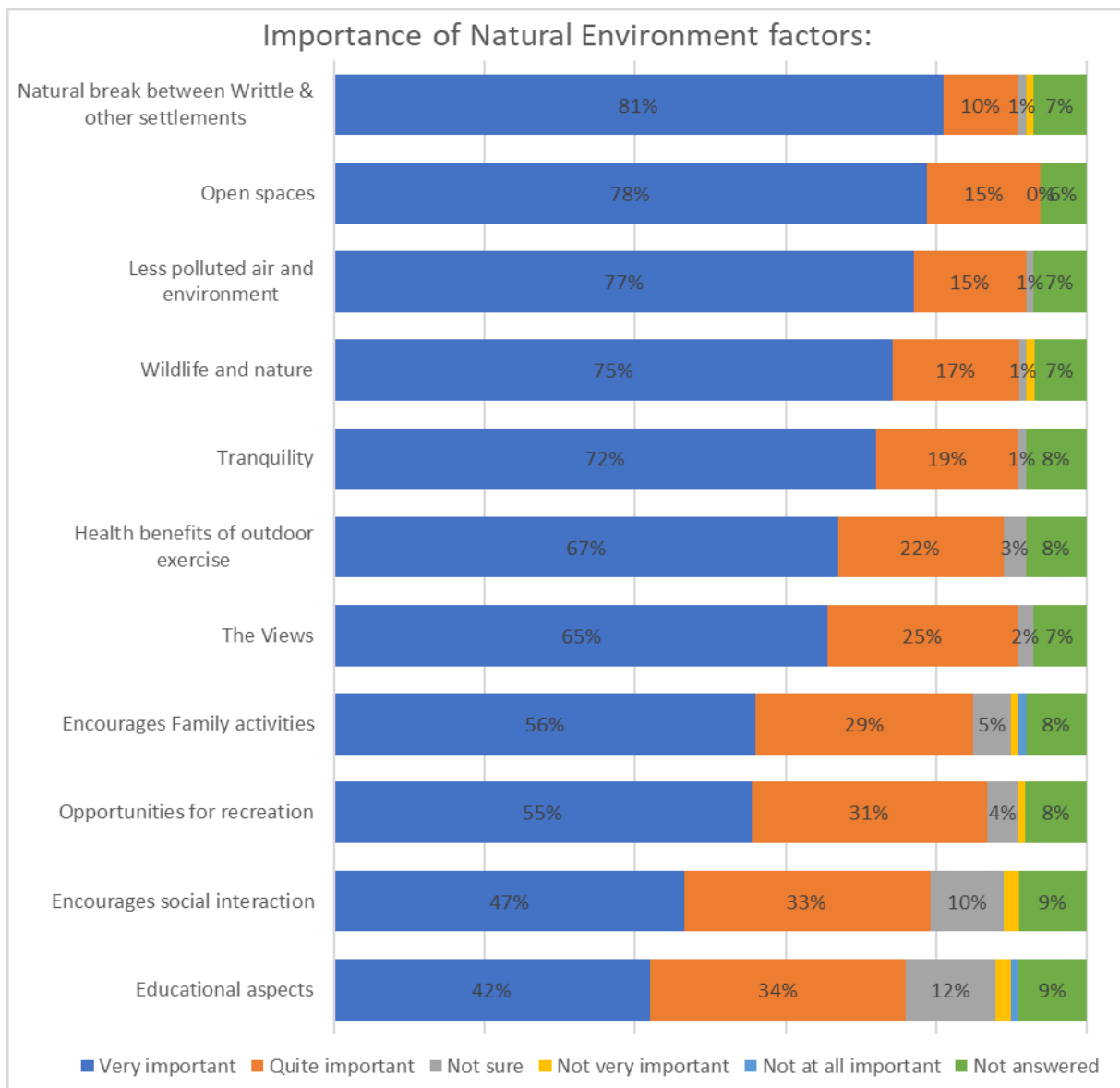
Support for speed restriction measures is good, particularly for clear obligatory road markings and for road calming measures such as speed humps, and is generally fairly even across age groups. However, those aged over 60 tend to be less enthusiastic than others in respect of traffic calming measures such as speed humps or cushions, or chicanes. The 25-44 age group are the most supportive on all speed restriction measures.



5.3 The Countryside

The countryside is considered to be very important to most in Writtle: 91% of those answering the question said it was 'very important' that Writtle is surrounded by the Natural Environment.

Many factors contribute to the feeling of a Natural Environment, but the most important to those in Writtle are seen as having a natural break between Writtle and other settlements (especially for those aged 60+), open spaces, low pollution (most noted by the youngest), wildlife and nature, and tranquillity (both most important among those aged 18-59).



The 18-24 age group residents appear to make the least use of the footpaths and cycleways in the Parish, whilst those 25 to 59 make the most use, with levels trailing off then with age.

	Total	18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	74+
Use Parish footpaths - often:	60%	24%	73%	76%	60%	40%
. - occasionally:	28%	24%	17%	17%	35%	38%
Use Parish cycleways - often:	25%	5%	41%	41%	22%	8%
. - occasionally:	27%	19%	33%	34%	33%	12%

Residents are keen to retain designated/statutory areas around Writtle, particularly the Metropolitan Green Belt (86% feel this should be retained), Nature Reserves (78%), and Green Wedges (73%), although in all three cases those aged under 25 are significantly less concerned. Residents are also keen to create Wildlife/Nature Reserves, in Copses/small woods (84%), in Open/wild areas (81%), and in River/stream valleys (81%), although again, those aged under 25 are much less enthusiastic. To make these potential reserves more accessible to the public, most (84%) respondents suggest having designated footpaths, whilst 60% support information boards, 47% mention disabled access and 38% mention parking areas. A strong majority, 84%, feel that new wildlife/nature reserves should be created along with groups/trusts to manage them. People were asked to suggest specific sites they would like to see designated as green space, Green Belt, Green Wedge, Nature reserves, SSSIs etc, to protect and prevent them from being developed – the verbatim answers should be read for ideas and any common ground.

There are several rivers, ponds and water features in the Village of environmental and/or historic importance. Almost all respondents, 98% of those answering the question, say that they support their conservation and management.

There is good support for having outdoor facilities to encourage the youth/young adults. 59% supported having outdoor pursuit areas, 58% supported hiking trails, and 54% supported off-road bike trails. For all activities, the 25-44 age group are the most keen, with enthusiasm waning with age, whilst the 18-24 age group are the least keen.

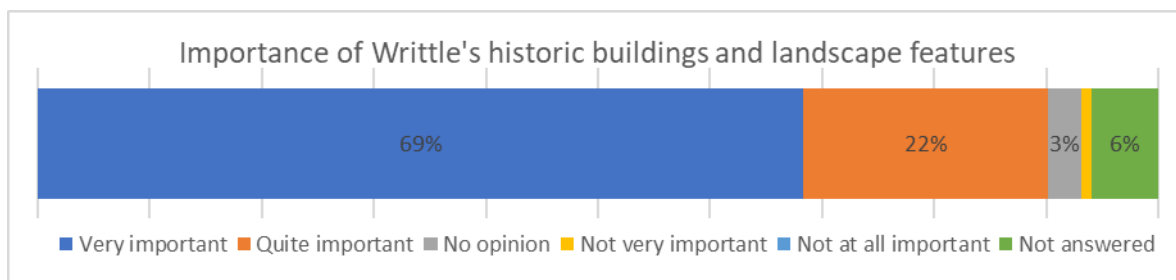
5.4 Village design

The strong majority of residents in the survey feel that any developments should be kept within the village envelope: 90% of those answering the question agree, although 10% disagree.

The existing building types in the village are generally well liked:

- 91% say they like the church
- 90% like the historic houses
- 88% like the Victorian houses
- 76% like the college (2% dislike it)
- 59% like the mixture of houses (36% have or give no view)
- 42% like the 1960's houses – 16% disagree, whilst 41% express no view

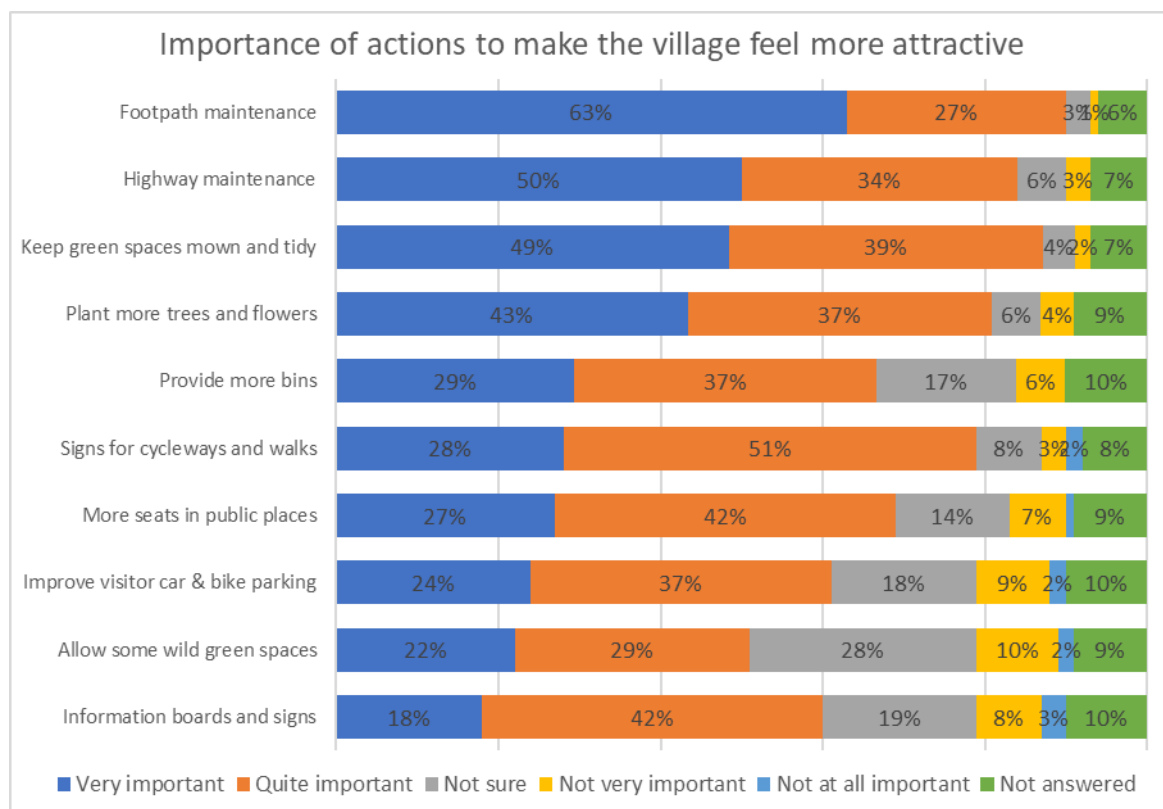
Most (91%) residents agree that Writtle's historic buildings and landscape features are important – more than two thirds say they are very important.



Asked what should be done to encourage the recording and preservation of the village heritage and history, the majority, 61%, recommend supporting the Archives / Historical Society. About half recommend having Information Boards and generally enhancing and caring for locations. A third recommend producing publicity leaflets, whilst just over a quarter feel that a heritage centre should be built.

Most (more than three quarters) agree that tree/bush planting schemes can make future development schemes more attractive. Two thirds feel that bulb planting and landscaping would be beneficial, whilst about a third are in favour of information boards and signposting.

Maintenance of footpaths and roads are the two most important issues for improving the look and feel of the village, closely followed by keeping existing green spaces mown and tidy and then the planting of more trees and flowers. Whilst all the suggestions are considered important, this chart shows their relative importance to residents.



A quarter of respondents suggested other ideas to help make Writtle look and feel more attractive, most notably litter picking, taking better care of existing features, better maintenance, and preventing cars from parking where they shouldn't (especially on pavements) – see the verbatim listings.

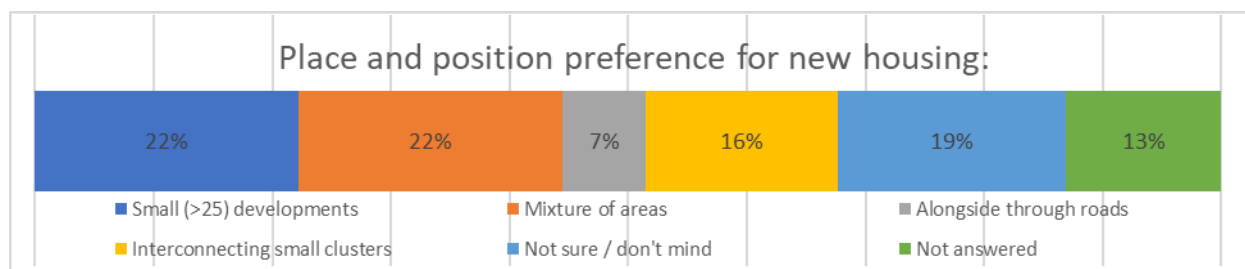
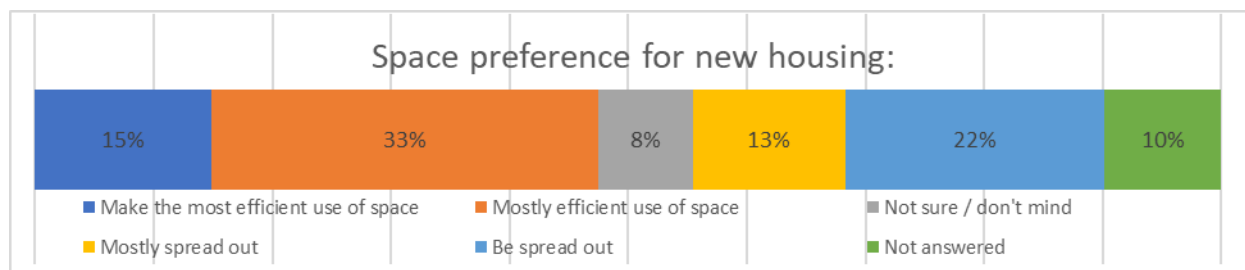
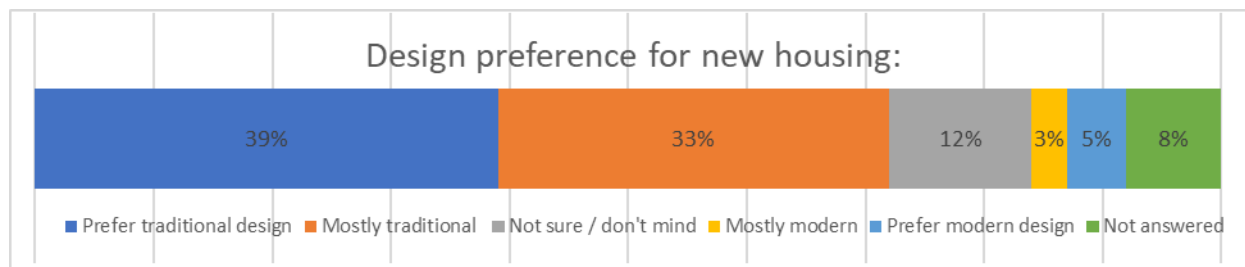
Asked if they would like to see public art in the village, or in any new developments, two thirds said they would like to see some, particularly work by local artists/craftsmen:

- 52% said they would like to see public art in the village by local artists/craftsmen
- 24% would like to see something commemorative
- 23% would like something traditional
- 13% would like something modern

However, the older the respondent the more likely they are to say they would like to see some form of art in the village, so actual support among all residents will be slightly lower due to the age skew in the survey sample.

5.5 Housing and Development

The Chelmsford Local Plan indicates that Writtle will have to accommodate new housing. Overall, residents would prefer new housing to be all or mostly traditional design, mostly making good use of space (although a third feel they should be spread out), and with a mixture of places and development sizes.



Thinking about gardens, 21% overall feel that houses should have large gardens, but twice as many feel that small gardens are OK so long as there is nearby open community space, with some variation by age group. 27% feel small gardens are OK.

	Total	18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	74+
All houses should have big gardens (80 sq.m or more)	21%	24%	34%	24%	20%	11%
Smaller gardens are okay, provided there is communal open space nearby	41%	19%	38%	48%	41%	41%
Small gardens are okay anyway	27%	10%	18%	17%	32%	37%

The majority feel that new houses should be restricted to 2 or 2.5 storeys, with the older age groups preferring a restriction to 2 storeys.

	Total	18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	74+
2 storeys	39%	19%	27%	33%	44%	48%
2.5 storeys	39%	14%	45%	40%	41%	36%
3 storeys	8%	10%	10%	10%	8%	4%
No limit	5%	10%	9%	8%	3%	3%

Apartments are not considered to be acceptable at all by nearly a third of respondents overall. Those aged under 25 are less concerned about height, although only half of that age group answered the question. The strongest view overall is that apartments should be no more than 3 storeys high.

	Total	18-24	25-44	45-59	60-74	74+
Up to 3 storeys	35%	19%	31%	37%	35%	39%
Up to 4 storeys	7%	5%	9%	9%	6%	7%
Up to 5 storeys	1%	0%	2%	2%	3%	0%
6 storeys or more	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Any, if not intrusive	15%	14%	18%	16%	14%	12%
Not acceptable at all	31%	14%	31%	25%	35%	33%

Relocation within Writtle. Some 18% of respondents say they are likely to need to relocate within Writtle in the next 5 years. With a 30% response rate that projects to c. 400 households. Those aged under 25 are much more likely (29%) to need to move. 88% of those saying they are likely to need to relocate within Writtle in the next 5 years say it would be for downsizing, indicating a strong need for Retirement homes for the 'active retired', medium sized family homes, and bungalows.

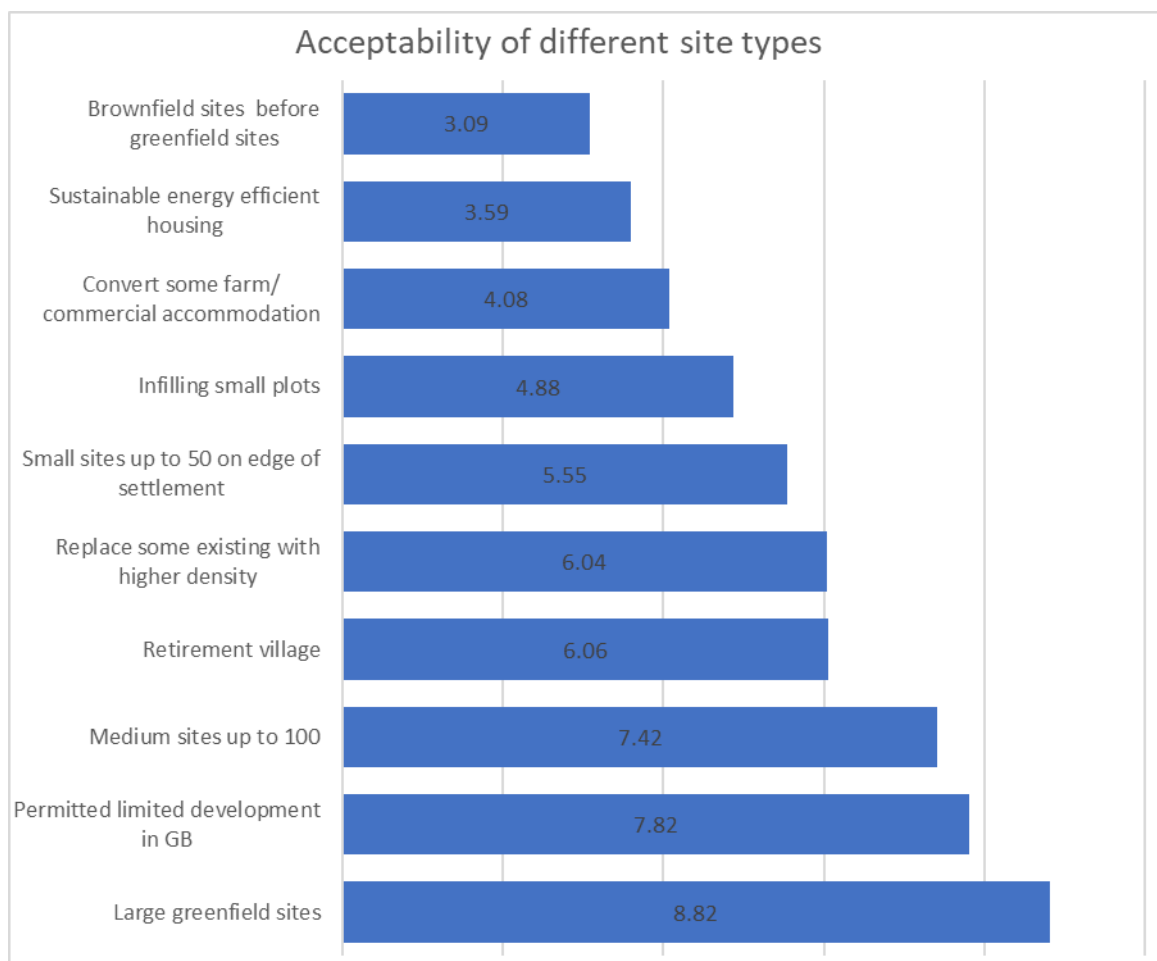
Asked what types of homes should be built if the Chelmsford Plan requires more housing be built in Writtle, there is a mixture of opinion, with 'Medium family homes' being the most frequently mentioned, followed by 'Small family homes', then 'Active retirement homes' and 'Younger families affordable homes'. Support for student accommodation, affordable homes, small family homes, and for bungalows was highest among the older age groups.

What types of homes should be built?

Medium family homes	67%	Bungalows	42%
Small family homes	57%	Warden Controlled retirement homes	39%
Retirement homes for the 'active retired'	53%	Nursing homes for elderly/infirm people	26%
Younger families affordable homes	51%	Executive (i.e. large family) homes	25%
Affordable starter homes / apartments to include rented /shared equity schemes	45%	Apartments - all sizes	18%
Smaller homes for single people	43%	Student accommodation	16%

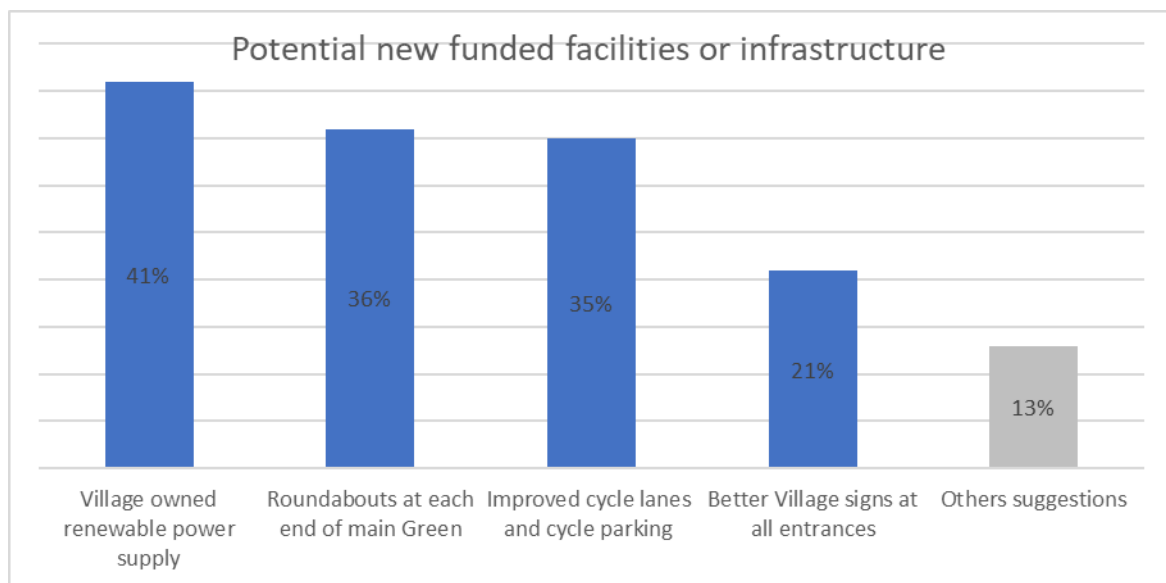
Asked which of these should take priority, which are most needed, the top three are seen as 'Small family homes', 'Younger families affordable homes, and 'Medium family homes', followed by 'Affordable starter homes'.

There is a strong preference for brownfield sites to be developed before greenfield, for sustainable energy efficient housing, and for converting some farm/ commercial/ industrial accommodation. Scoring out of 10, the **lower** the score the more acceptable.



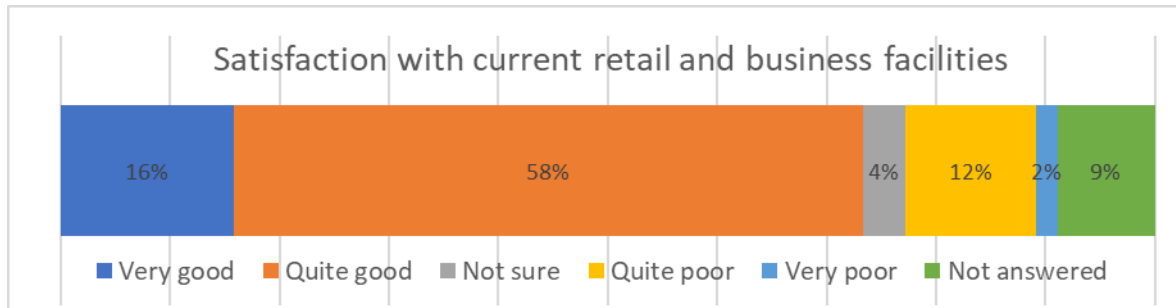
Asked what suitable and acceptable locations there may be for development, one-in-five gave an answer (see verbatim listings), several specific suggestions are made, but no strong common themes emerge.

Sometimes developers provide new facilities or infrastructure for a community – if that is the case then Writtle residents would primarily prefer renewable energy power supply for the village – mentioned by 41%. A third would wish for roundabouts at each end of the main green or for improved cycle lanes and cycle parking.

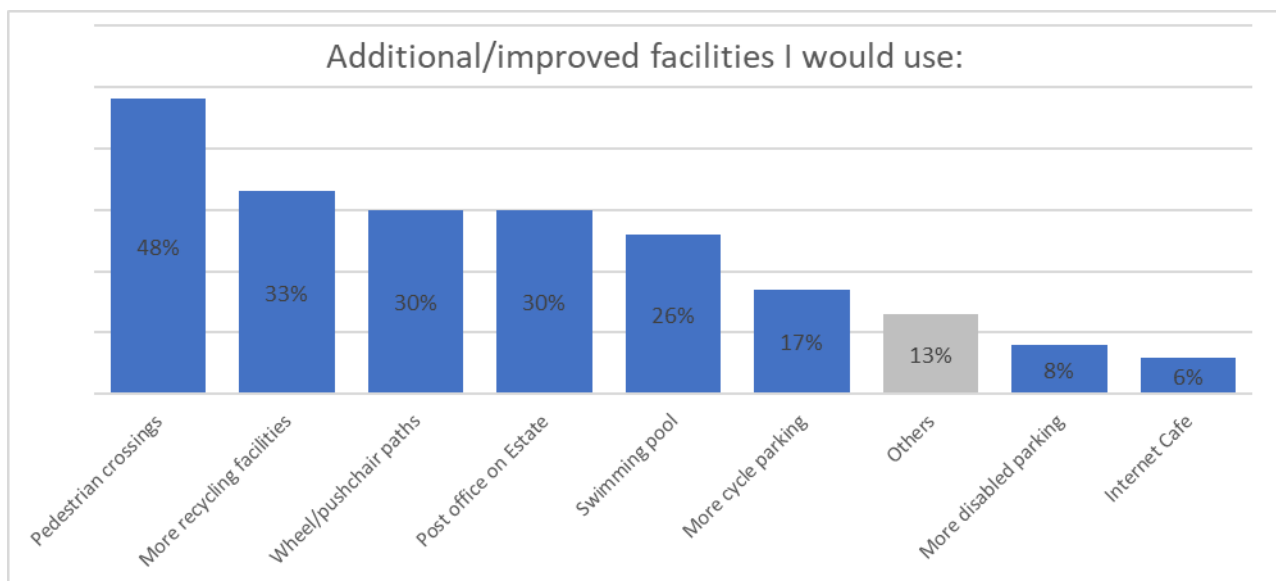


5.6 Local Facilities

Overall the survey indicates that Writtle residents are quite happy with the current retail and business facilities in the village. 16% say they are 'very good', although overall 14%, particularly those aged under 45, feel they are poor.



Improved pedestrian crossings are the single most likely improvement to be used by residents, followed by improved recycling facilities, better footpaths for wheelchairs/pushchairs, and a Post Office on the Estate. An internet café is unlikely to be used much – some in the under 25 age group, some in the 45-59 age group.



There are current official plans for Writtle to propose improvements in respect of cycleways and power supply in the village:

- Two thirds of respondents feel plans should continue for cycleways
- Three quarters feel that plans should continue for a more reliable power supply

Internet speeds are considered by many to be variable and unreliable. 59% of responding residents who answered the question (36% did not) feel that this needs attention for business, 62% for education, and 72% for private use.

Residents were then asked what additional facilities they would like to see in the village. Retail outlets such as cafes/snack bars, hardware and hobbies, and vehicle servicing would be the most popular. For the youth and young adults, many respondents recommend better evening transport links, indoor sports facilities, youth clubs and exercise areas or all-weather meeting points, although this is a guide only; further research would be appropriate specifically among younger residents.

Would you like to see more:

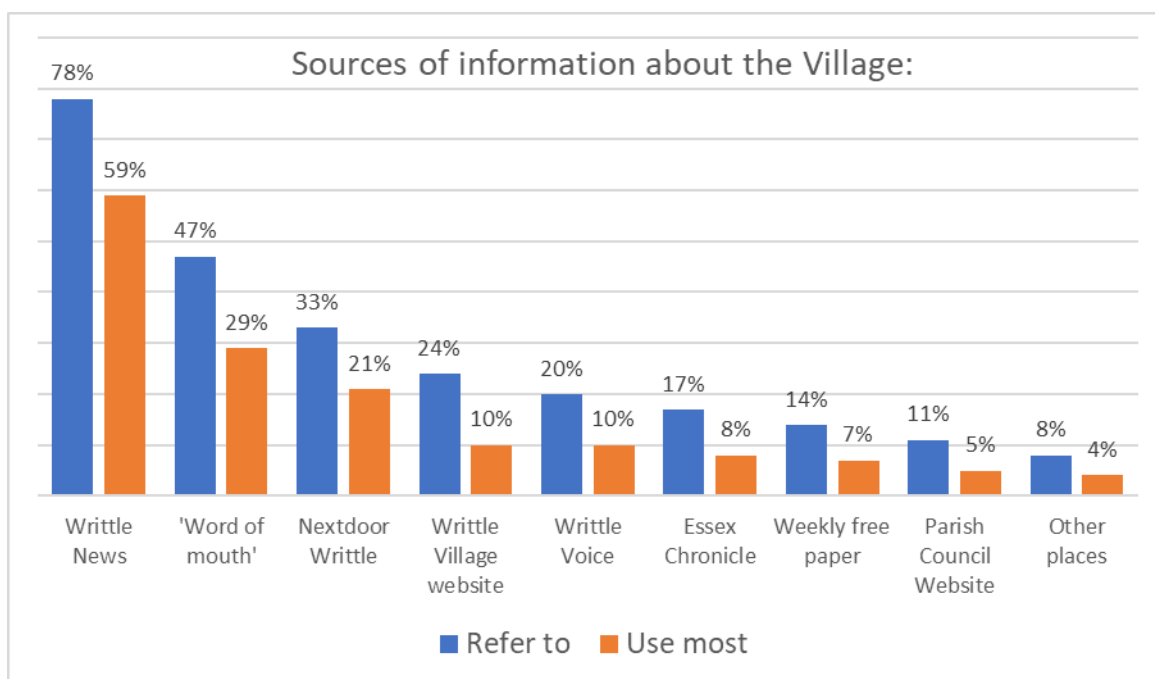
Café/ Snack bars	31%		
Restaurants/eateries	23%		<i>Facilities for the youth and young adults:</i>
Other food & drink	14%	Better evening transport links	43%
Pubs & bars	10%	Indoor Sports facilities	39%
Hardware and hobbies	39%	Youth clubs	38%
Various specialty shops	37%	Exercise areas	24%
Other retail	12%	All weather meeting points	20%
Vehicle servicing	59%	Skateboard/BMX tracks	14%
General repair/engineering	38%	Internet café	12%
DIY facilities/tools	24%		

Nearly all (92%) of those answering the question – 18% did not – said they feel that current facilities and businesses are conveniently located around the village. The few who disagreed mention that the outlets are spread out, and that the Post Office, chemist and Co-op are not central.

Similarly, nearly all (96%) of those answering the question feel that the current facilities are in keeping with their location. Very few make any negative comment, and those who do cover a wide range of issues, mainly parking and variety and concerns over closures.

However, many are concerned that facilities, clubs, societies and businesses are not sufficiently promoted around the village and Parish – 40% of those answering the question do not feel there is enough promotion. In the youngest age group, 18-24, more disagree than agree, although more than half do not answer the question at all.

Overall, Writtle News is the resident's most frequently used source of information about the village: more than three quarters use it, and for 59% it is the source they find **most** useful. 'Word of mouth' is the second most common source, followed by Nextdoor Writtle and the Writtle Village Website. There are some variations across age groups: those aged 45 to 74 are the most likely to use Writtle News, the Writtle Village website, or Nextdoor Writtle. whilst the youngest group, aged 18-24, those who answer the questions, are more likely than others to use the Essex Chronicle and Writtle Voice but are much less likely than others to use Writtle News.



5.7 General comments

The final question asks if people have any further comments about how Writtle might improve its built, social and natural environment. This 'open' question generates a wide range of answers and does not reveal any new subject areas in significant numbers. Rather, it provides some indication of people's priorities – what they are most concerned about. Many make reference to very specific issues, roads, or locations. Several also express gratitude for being asked their opinions - conducting the consultation. Overall, two thirds make some comment at this stage – these verbatims can be read in the text file provided. Some fairly typical (varied) examples of 'general' comments are:

"The parish council to enforce and stop cars being parked on green areas off road e.g. green area grass in front of houses in Ongar Rd, just before Redwood Drive. Also parking in Lodge Rd outside retirement houses the grass area / in front off rd (on bend) with Chequers rd."

"Duck pond has been in a state for a long time - larger notice needed to tell people to avoid feeding with bread. Need for affordable housing for young. Retain traditional aspect, avoid ugly signs, bins etc which spoil outlook."

"A zebra crossing by the chemist specifically for old people and older people's buggies, Pavements are in need of repair as so uneven even for us older folk. Folk and older people with buggies especially to the Coop Bridge Street and the other Coops. Butchers and hairdressers in Long Brandocks , pavements in these areas are very unsafe for older folk"

"[Lifted from D9 as it is a general point rather than a response to the question] We need better and more equipped properties for older people and disabled and families. Keep them together not separate them and modernise them and do not push them into sheltered accommodation against their will and when you are 50+ it is like a death sentence. [2] [Lifted from E7 as it was not related to the question] After school activities is very important and holiday activities. [3] Get rid of the bungalows on Lodge [Road] they are like a prison. People that move in here gets very depressed and it has an impact on their health & lives. My first year here 7 people died one after the other. One of my neighbours said her mother calls these bungalows "death's door" and it really is. That's how you feel living here."

"It is increasingly dangerous, stressful and time consuming to exit Mayfield Road with visibility up the Ongar Rd almost nil due to the curvature of the road. We desperately need a roundabout of triangular shape to incorporate the existing (Preston's triangle) grass area by the slip road (Green to Ongar Rd) so that we only have to cope with the N flowing traffic rather than at present, the S flowing too, plus the traffic from The Green"

"Many areas need tidying up by Writtle College and W.P.C. attention to footpaths / bench along Sustrang / lighting of cyclepath to Chelmsford / replacement of willow by pond with another willow. More tree planting / improvement of area in front of nursery, Foxburrows / lower and widen, hump back bridge Lordship Rd / more attention to pavements. I am not sure if the neighbourhood plan will ever be of any good if i remember correct, there was a village plan some years ago, and very little of it was carried out. I remember tree planting being agreed on, but considering our large loss of trees in the village including the loss of many acres of trees from college orchards and the loss from development in Foxburrows Lane I can see very little change in attitude, from this plan and do not support the cost and time involved. we pay for a parish council to do this looking after village, not another group, perhaps there is another advantage we have not been fully informed of, that's one of worries with such a village as Writtle, the residents are not told the full story of happenings, just a watered down version"

"Thank you for the huge thought and planning given in this questionnaire...I hope people respect what you are trying to achieve and that the responses are encouraging. I wish we could get more people to take a pride in the village and how it looks...there is so much rubbish left at times on the pavements or on the verges rather than going into bins. The dogs mess is still evident in alley ways. The state of houses in general on the housing estate has deteriorated over the last 20 years.... there seems less pride in keeping the properties looking clean and maintained. Parking along Long Brandocks during the school run continues to be a problem. Can we try to encourage those WHO LIVE in the village to let their children be walked...I have seen people driving their children and I KNOW they live in Writtle but they insist in parking so close to the school with the least amount of walking required. People are allowed to have 5, 6, 7 or even 8 vehicles around and on their front garden...destroying the grass and making the area look run down. Large vans and food delivery trucks often drive on the verges and in winter this creates large craters of water. I think the school nursery should factor in extra parking space for staff as they now park down Long Brandocks every day and one side of the road is permanently populated by these parked cars which do not depart until the work day is overhence Long Brandocks is in part reduced to a single lane road. Tempers fray...arguments happen as there are just too many vehicles concentrated in that end of the road. If you planned trees on the estate main arterials, this would in time make people think twice and force them to consider walking (some would - obviously others would just have to walk further). Just a few observations but thanks again for putting this questionnaire together!"

GLOSSARY – WRITTLE 2018 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY REPORT

TERM	REFERS TO
Census	UK census 2011
Chelmsford Local Plan	Chelmsford City Council’s new plan to shape future growth and development of the City Council's area until 2036
Data Protection Act	The Data Protection Act 2018 (c 12) is a <u>United Kingdom Act of Parliament</u> which updates <u>data protection</u> laws in the UK. It is a national law which complements the European Union's <u>General Data Protection Regulation</u> (GDPR)
GDPR	The General Data Protection Regulation (<u>EU 2016/679</u>) is a <u>regulation in EU law</u> on <u>data protection</u> and privacy
IDA	Independent Data Analysis Ltd engaged by the Writtle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to provide professional services for survey design, data processing, survey analysis and report production
MRS code of conduct	Professional standards as prescribed by the Market Research Society
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
PC	Writtle Parish Council
SSSIs	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

