

Old Somerby Neighbourhood Plan Baseline Questionnaire Analysis Report

October 2016



Community Lincs

Community Lincs is a Lincolnshire charity working to sustain and improve the quality of life for individuals and communities across the county. Established in 1927, Community Lincs has used its extensive knowledge of Lincolnshire's communities to develop a range of projects and support services. This support helps local groups and volunteers to provide services and facilities within their communities. In addition to our general advice services, we offer targeted consultancy and business support.

- Community Lincs helps communities identify local need and implement viable solutions;
- Community Lincs works in partnership to achieve sustainable communities;
- Community Lincs champions the issues and concerns of communities across the county;
- Community Lincs delivers a range of professional consultancy services.

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Background

Old Somerby Parish Council is currently undertaking a Neighbourhood Planning exercise on behalf of their community to create a Neighbourhood Plan which can help inform and influence the South Kesteven Local Plan.

The group have already held an awareness raising event in the community to explain the Neighbourhood Planning process and its benefits and have sought the support of those in attendance which was given by the majority. The group would now like to extend this consultation further to the whole community by way of a questionnaire to help identify the key themes that the majority consider important when considering influences of development on the community.

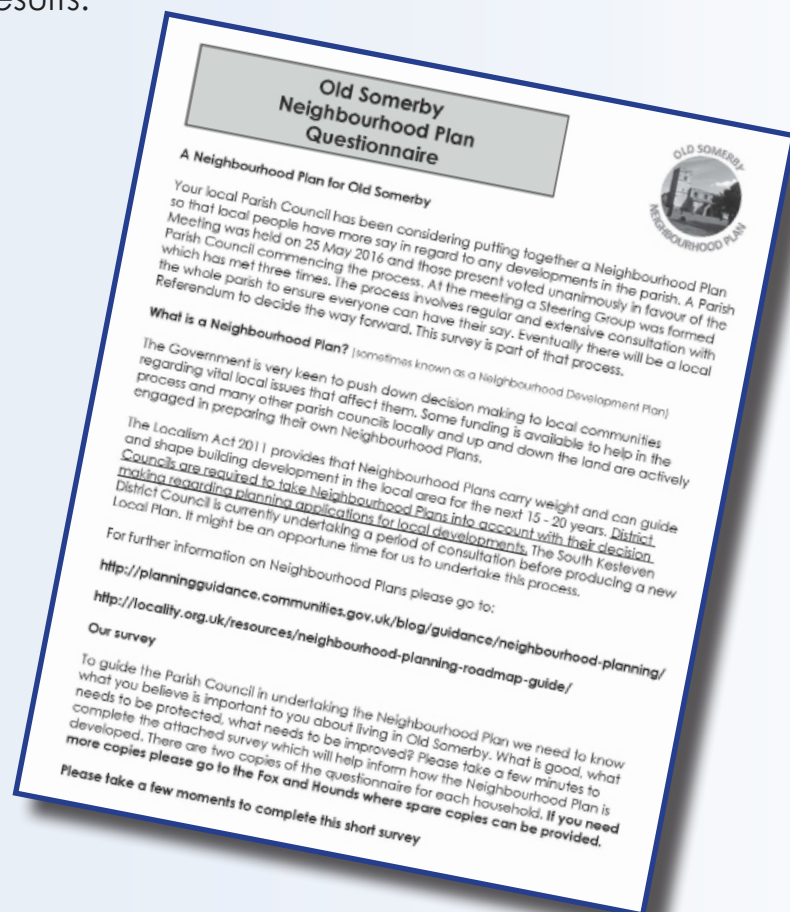
The Neighbourhood Planning Group was successful in securing Village SOS funding, which is delivered through Community Lincs in Lincolnshire, to fund this next stage of the consultation process.

Client Brief

Community Lincs were asked to:

- Design a questionnaire in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Planning Group for distribution to all households in the parish of Old Somerby.
- The purpose of the questionnaire was to undertake a baseline assessment of the key themes that concern community members when considering the prospect of building development in the parish.
- Also assist in raising the awareness of the Neighbourhood Planning process across the community.
- And to ascertain and quantify the level of support for the Neighbourhood Planning process to be undertaken within the parish.
- Produce 250 copies of the questionnaire for distribution based on 2 copies per household for individuals to complete. (The 2011 census indicated that there are 95 households in the parish therefore 190 questionnaires to be distributed).
- Provide questionnaires to be ready for distribution to take place week commencing 22nd August 2016.
- Distribution of questionnaires to be undertaken by members of the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

- The closing date for the return of questionnaires to be Monday 19th September.
- Collection to be via return points at the Fox and Hounds public house and group member David Holmes' letter box. For those with mobility issues a member's telephone number was provided to request collection.
- Community Lincs to data process the returned questionnaires and produce a report of the results.



Analysis of the questionnaire results

Of the 250 questionnaires printed 190 were distributed to the 95 homes within the parish, based on two per household for individual householders to complete; further copies were available if required from the Fox and Hounds public house. Of the 190 distributed 76 questionnaires were returned which represents a 40% return on the numbers distributed.

The questionnaire data was input to Survey Monkey for analysis independently by Community Lincs. Analysis is drawn from the Survey Monkey report.

It should be noted that one returned questionnaire contained spurious additional comments which have been excluded from this analysis.

Set out below are the results of the analysis.

Q1. Data Protection

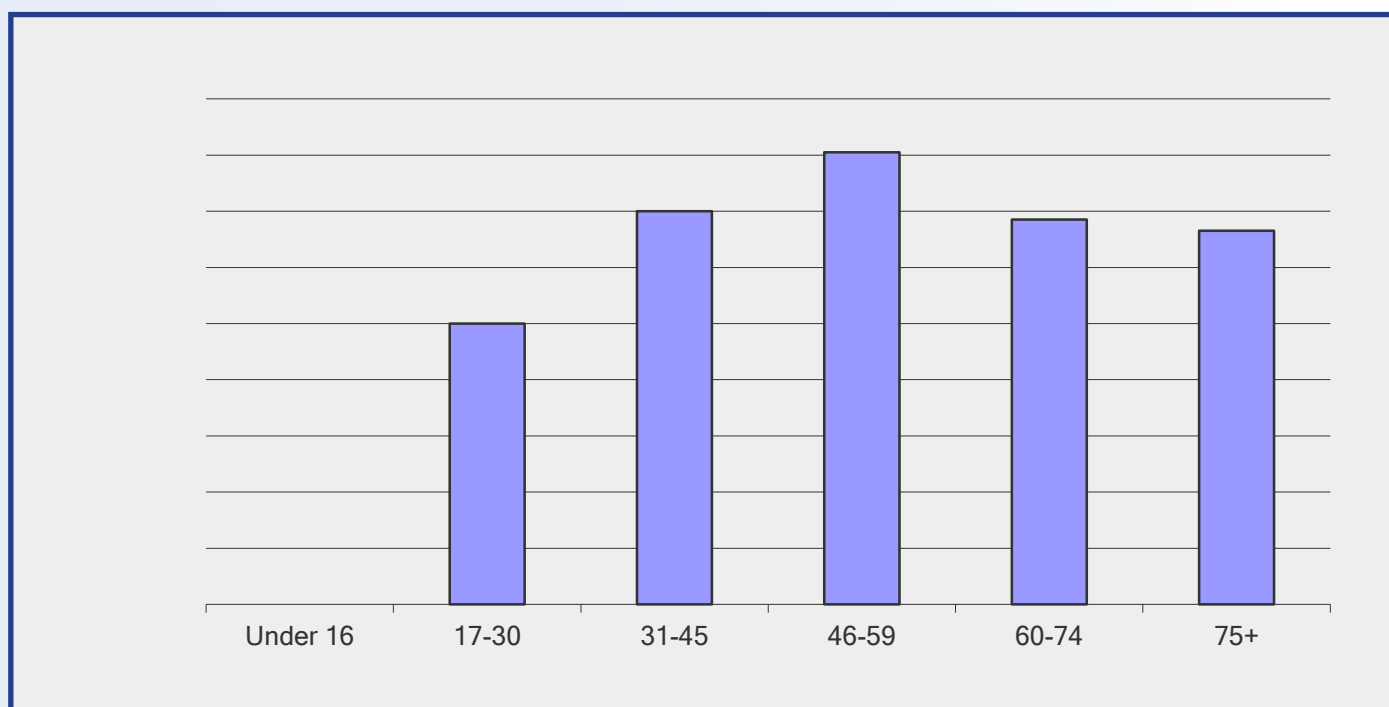
Please indicate that you have noted our data protection statement and are happy to proceed with the survey.

74 of the 76 questionnaire respondents replied affirmatively to this question while just two people skipped responding.

No individual or family is identified in the analysis of this data nor in the report. The completed questionnaires are retained securely by Community Lincs for the duration of the project and will be destroyed at its completion.

Q2. To help us understand the local demographic please tick the box that applies to you.

75 respondents answered and 1 skipped this question



Graph 1

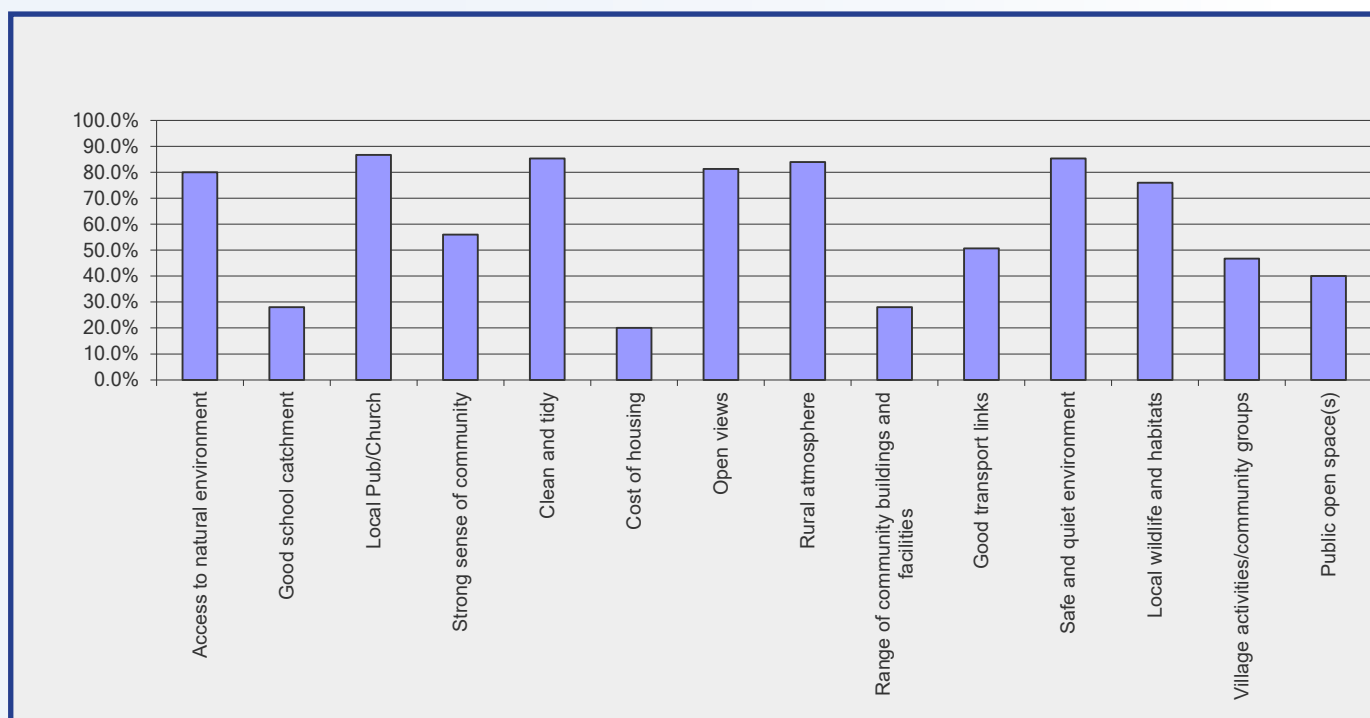
It should be noted that the majority of respondents were in the over 45 age bracket (93%) while only 7% were below 45 with none in the 0 – 16 age group.

The gender split was women 44% and men 56%.

There is an issue that additional ways of consulting with the community need to be considered to attract a response from those under 45 and especially from young people under 16.

Q3. When considering community facilities which we have or which we might wish to have what do you enjoy about living in Old Somerby?

75 respondents answered and 1 skipped the question.



Graph 2

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Access to natural environment	80.0%	60
Good school catchment	28.0%	21
Local Pub/Church	86.7%	65
Strong sense of community	56.0%	42
Clean and tidy	85.3%	64
Cost of housing	20.0%	15
Open views	81.3%	61
Rural atmosphere	84.0%	63
Range of community buildings and facilities	28.0%	21
Good transport links	50.7%	38
Safe and quiet	85.3%	64
Local wildlife and habitats	76.0%	57
Village activities/community groups	46.7%	35
Public open space(s)	40.0%	30
Something else? Please tell us:		10
answered question		75
skipped question		1

Table 1

7 of the 14 options included in this question each received over 75% support as features that are valued for living in Old Somerby. These were:

- Local Pub/Church
- Clean and tidy
- Safe and quiet environment
- Rural atmosphere
- Open views
- Access to natural environment
- Local wildlife and habitats

Only three options fell below the 30% support level, these were:

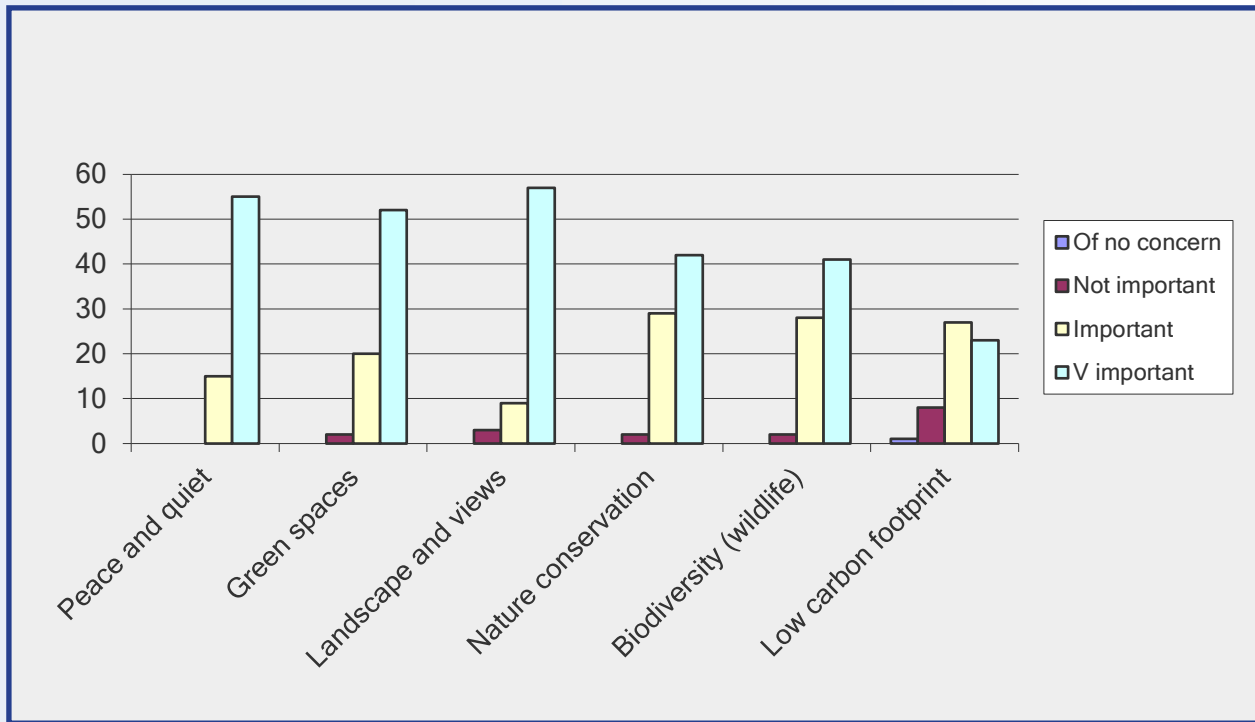
- Good school catchment
- Range of community buildings and facilities
- Cost of housing

Ten additional comments were given (appendix 1) which included:

- Play area
- Post office/shop
- Footpaths reinstated
- Speed camera
- Tidy grass verges
- Neighbourhood watch

Q4. When considering any development proposals in the parish what aspects of the Natural Environment is it important to protect?

75 respondents answered and 1 skipped the question.



Graph 3

Answer Options	Very important	Important	Not important	Of no concern	Response Count
Peace and quiet	55	15	0	0	70
Green spaces	52	20	2	0	74
Landscape and views	57	9	3	0	69
Nature conservation	42	29	2	0	73
Biodiversity (wildlife)	41	28	2	0	71
Low carbon footprint	23	27	8	1	59
Something else? Please tell us:					9
answered question					75
skipped question					1

Table 2

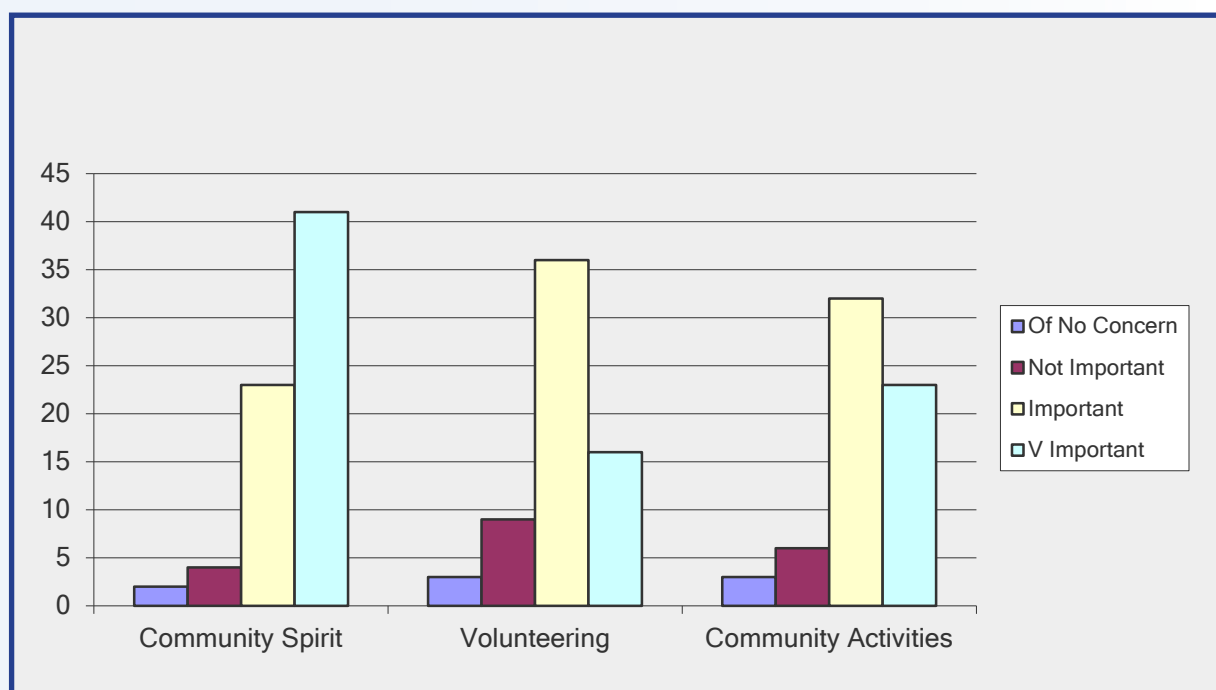
There was a consistent response rate across the options for this question with nearly all receiving over 90% support as 'important' or 'very important'. Only two options fell below this high level namely 'Landscape and views' at 88% and 'Low carbon footprint' at 66%.

9 additional comments were given (appendix 1) which included:

- Increase of traffic, degradation of roads/repair of roads.
- Abide by EU guidelines on hedge cutting at bird nesting times.
- Nothing [above] 2 storey
- Location of any other development projects to be very carefully considered.
- Village owned sports/activity crew
- Any development will be in keeping the character of the village.
- Villagers should be encouraged to keep the grass outside their properties tidier and cut regularly.
- More volunteers to litter pick.
- Natural drainage routes (prevention of flooding issues)

Q5. When considering any development proposal in the parish what aspects of the Village Ethos is it important to protect?

70 respondents answered and 6 skipped the question



Graph 4

Answer Options	Very important	Important	Not important	Of no concern	Response Count
Community Spirit	41	23	4	2	70
Volunteering	16	36	9	3	64
Community Activities	23	32	6	3	64
Something else? Please tell us:					9
answered question					70
skipped question					6

Table 3

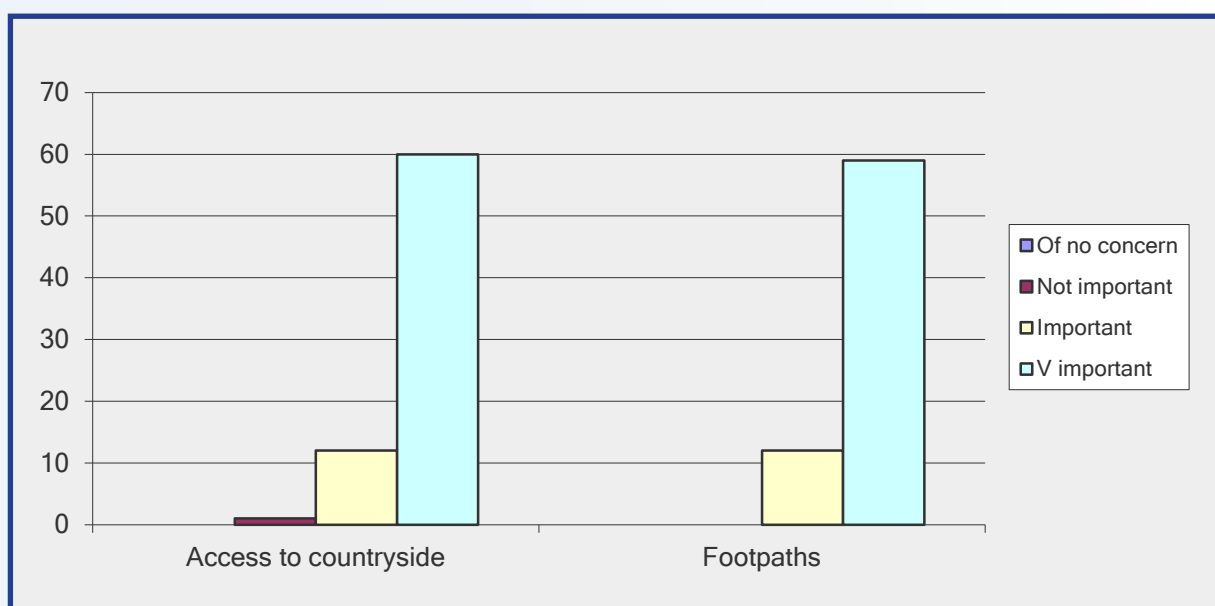
Of the three options offered for this question the one considered most important was 'Community Spirit' with over 90% viewing this as v. important/important, while the other two options received support in the 'seventy percent's'.

Nine additional comments were received (appendix 1) which in summary included:

- Volunteering is brilliant but not if it takes away jobs from people.
- A helpful ethic however it depends on the kind of volunteering e.g. no volunteering where it replaces paid employment.
- Community spirit has room for improvement.
- Neighbourhood watch/safety/crime prevention very important.

Q6. When considering any development proposal in the parish what aspects of Recreation is it important to protect?

73 respondents answered and 3 skipped the question.



Graph 5

Answer Options	Very important	Important	Not important	Of no concern	Response Count
Access to countryside	60	12	1	0	73
Footpaths	59	12	0	0	71
Something else? Please tell us:					10
answered question					73
skipped question					3

Table 4

Only two options were included for this question and both received over 80% support as 'very important to the community when development is being considered'.

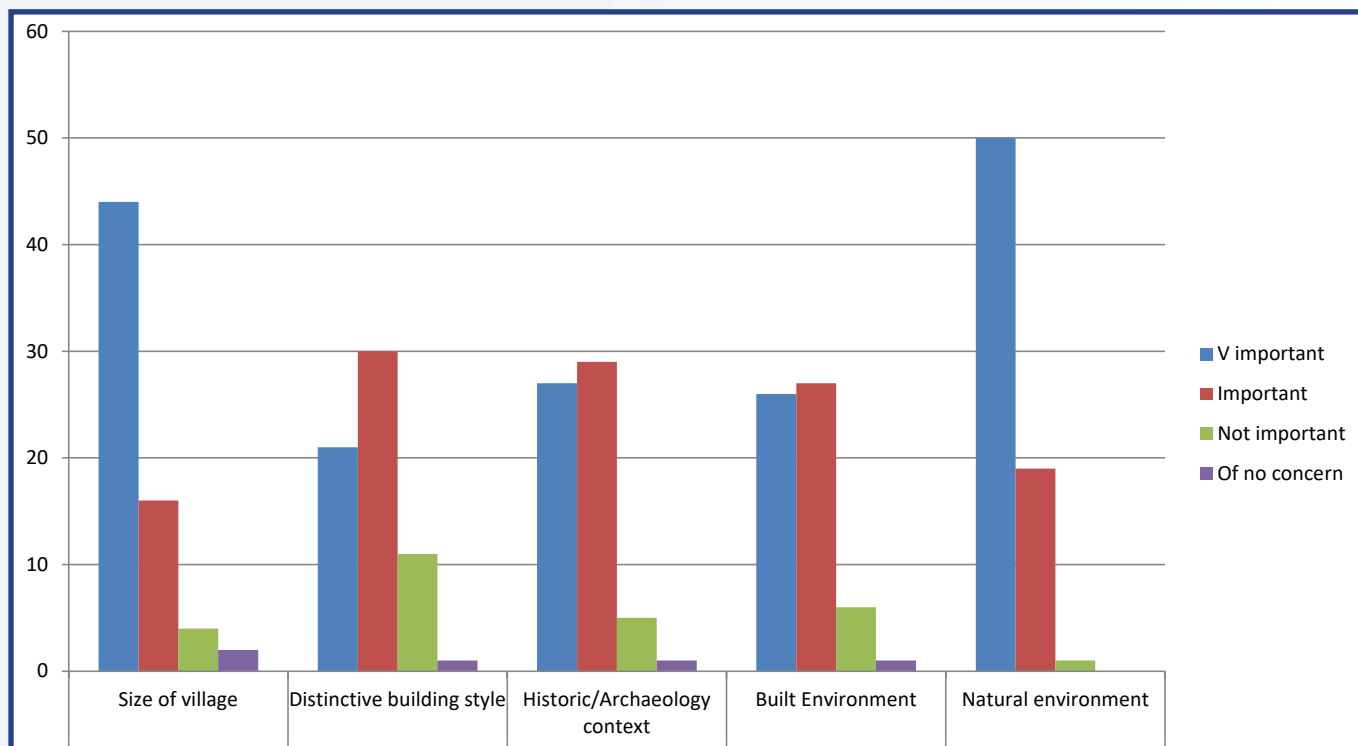
Ten additional comments were received (appendix 1) which in summary included:

- Additional footpaths/bridleways
- Playing field/area for children
- A community building/somewhere to meet



Q7. When considering any development proposal in the parish what aspects of the Environment is it important to protect?

74 respondents answered and 2 skipped the question.



Graph 6

Answer Options	Very important	Important	Not important	Of no concern	Rating average	Response count
Size of village	44	16	4	2	1.45	66
Distinctive building style	21	30	11	1	1.87	63
Historic/Archaeology context	27	29	5	1	1.68	62
Built Environment	26	27	6	1	1.70	60
Natural environment	50	19	1	0	1.30	70
Something else? Please tell us:					8	8

Table 5

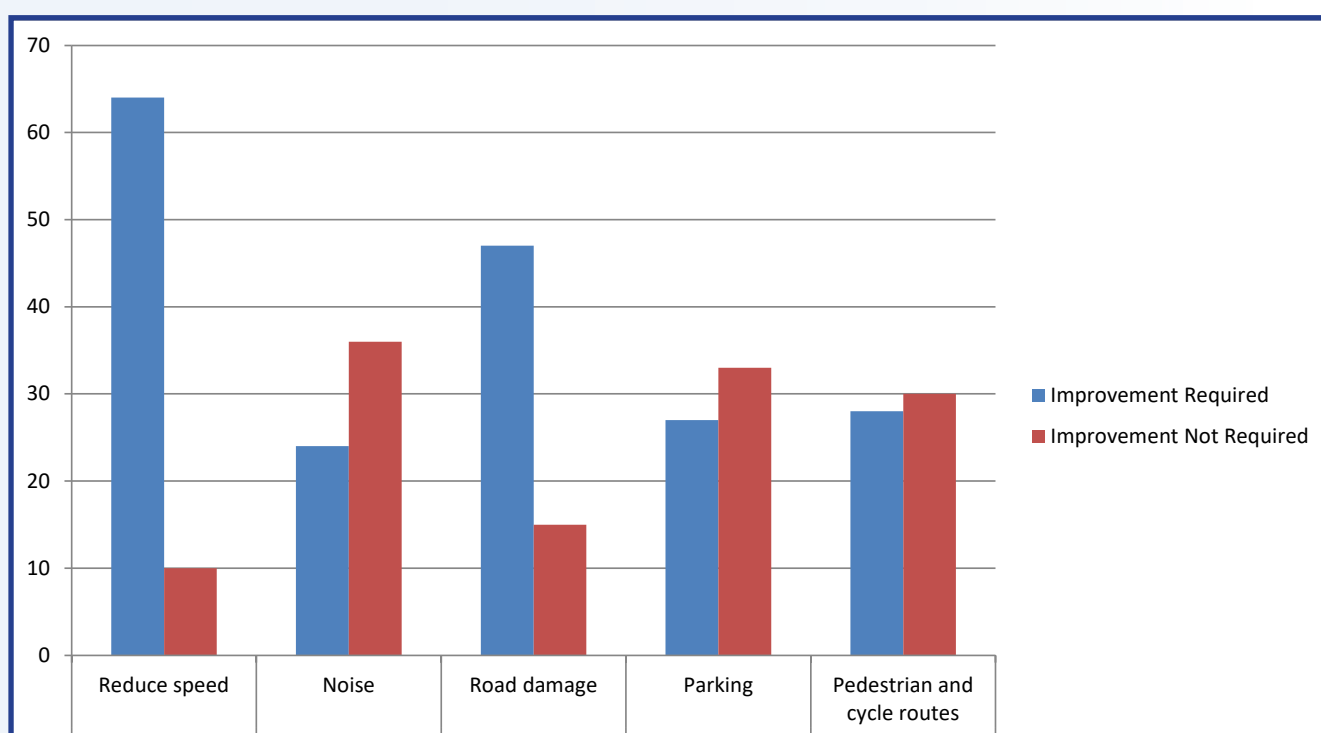
Responses to this question generated a slightly more divergent range of views while still gaining strong support for all the options. The option considered most important was 'Natural environment' with 93% viewing this as v. important/important. The 'Size of village' was the next most important option with 81% viewing this as v. important/important and the remaining options all ranged between 69% and 76%.

Eight additional comments were received (appendix 1) which summarised included:

A view that there is no particular building style to preserve in the village and minor features such as inappropriate garden fencing or flying flags can detract from the look of the village.

Q8. When considering any development proposal in the parish what Traffic Improvements are needed?

75 respondents answered and 1 skipped the question.



Graph 7

Answer Options	Improvement required	Improvement not required	Rating average	Response count
Reduce speed	64	10	1.14	74
Noise	24	36	1.60	60
Road damage	47	15	1.24	62
Parking	27	33	1.55	60
Pedestrian and cycle routes	28	30	1.52	58
Something else? Please tell us:				18

Table 6

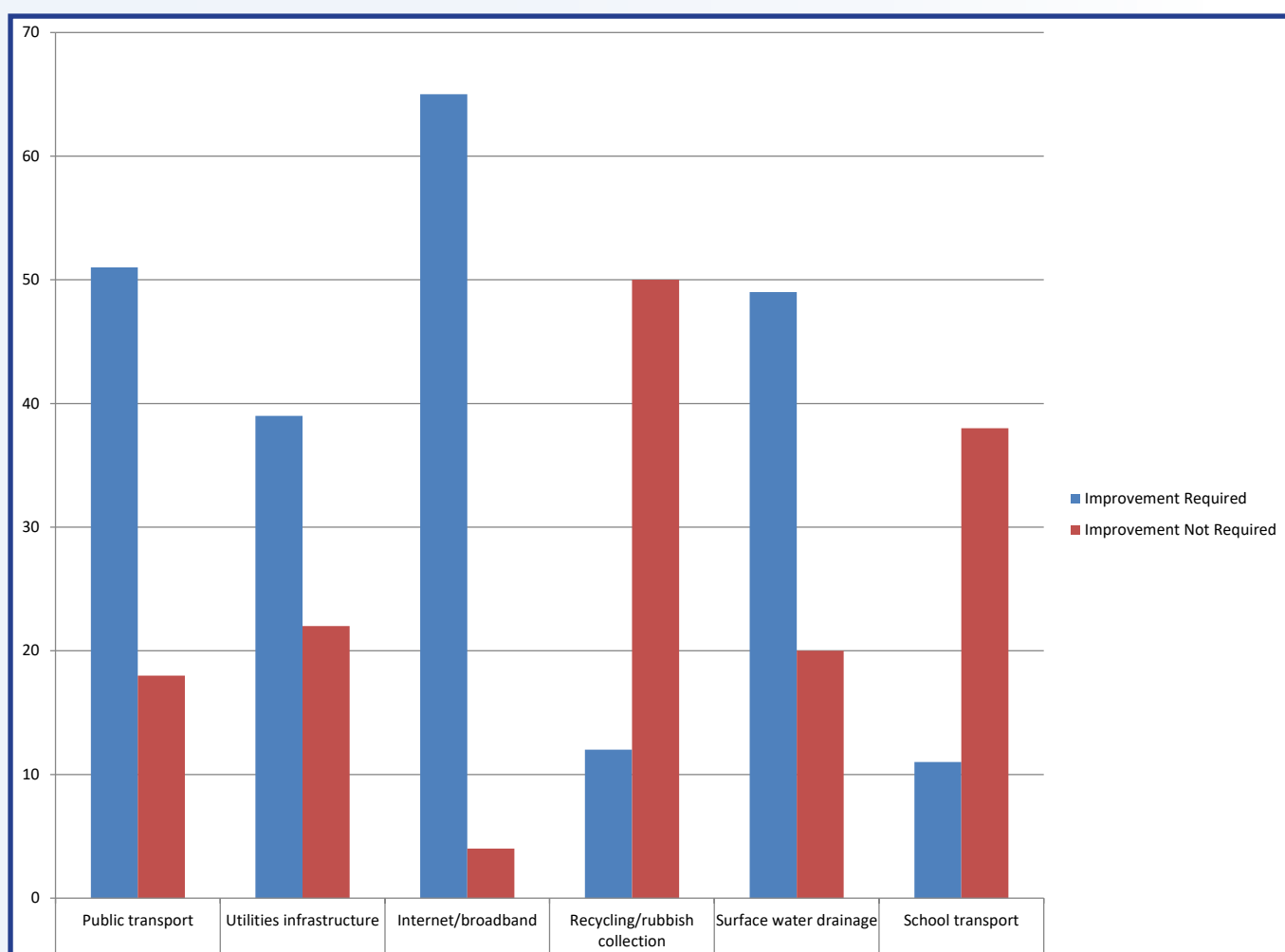
The key option which most respondents suggested was in need of improvement was 'Reduction of Speed' 86% and this was followed by 'Road Damage' 63%. The remaining three options all ranged in the thirty percent's for needing improvement.

Eighteen additional comments were received (appendix 1) which in summary included:

Most comments received related, as in the options above, to the issue of speeding through the village with particular emphasis on the need for traffic calming measures. Additionally, comments were received relating to the issue of parking, especially on the footpaths and in School Lane. Motor bike noise and circuit riding through the village was also a concern.

Q9. When considering any development proposal in the parish what aspects of General Services need improvement?

73 respondents answered and 3 skipped the question



Graph 8

Answer Options	Improvement required	Improvement not required	Rating average	Response count
Public transport	51	18	1.26	69
Utilities infrastructure	39	22	1.36	61
Internet/broadband	65	4	1.06	69
Recycling/rubbish collection	12	50	1.81	62
Surface water drainage	49	20	1.29	69
School transport	11	38	1.78	49
Something else? Please tell us:				4

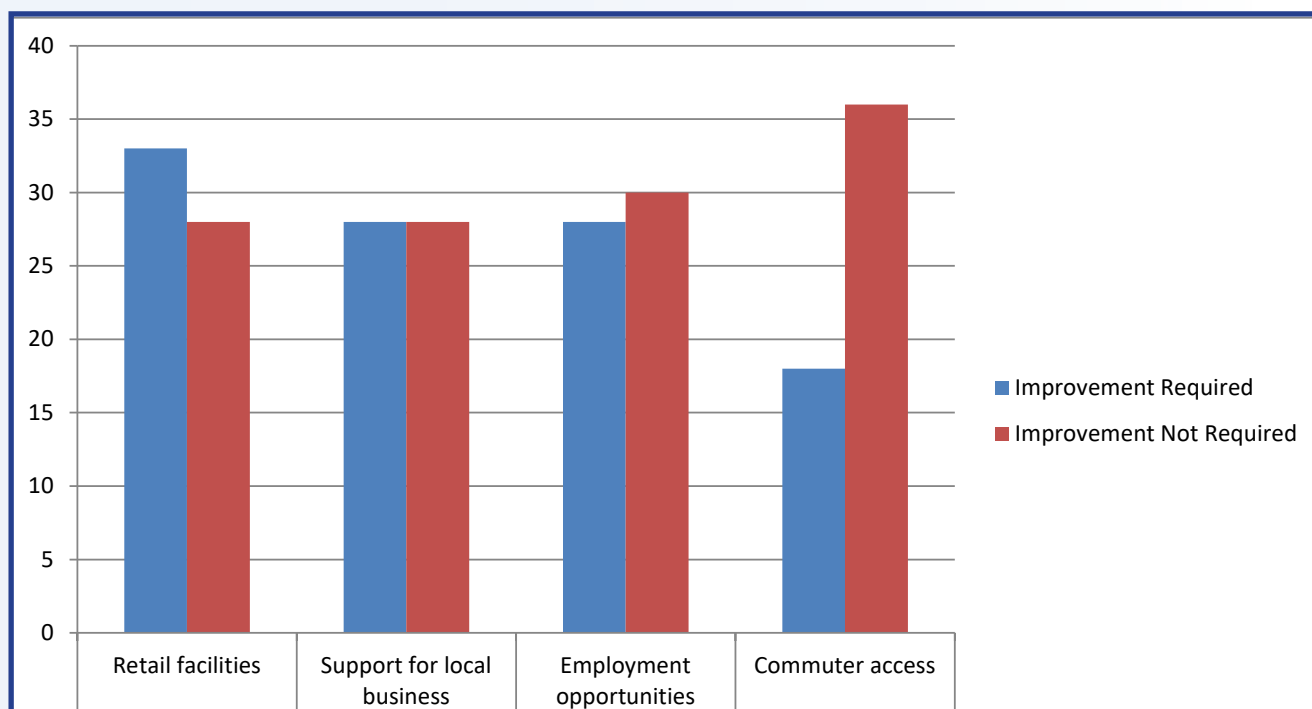
Table 7

The single most important factor needing improvement under General Services was suggested as 'Internet/broadband' with 89% support. This was followed by 'Public Transport' 70% and 'Surface Drainage' 67%.

Only four additional comments were received (appendix 1) of which 'Dog Poo bins' was the main point raised.

Q10. When considering any development in the parish what aspects of Business and Employment need improvement?

69 respondents answered and 7 skipped the question.



Graph 9

Answer Options	Improvement required	Improvement not required	Rating average	Response count
Retail facilities	33	28	1.46	61
Support for local business	28	28	1.50	56
Employment opportunities	28	30	1.52	58
Commuter access	18	36	1.67	54
Something else? Please tell us:				6

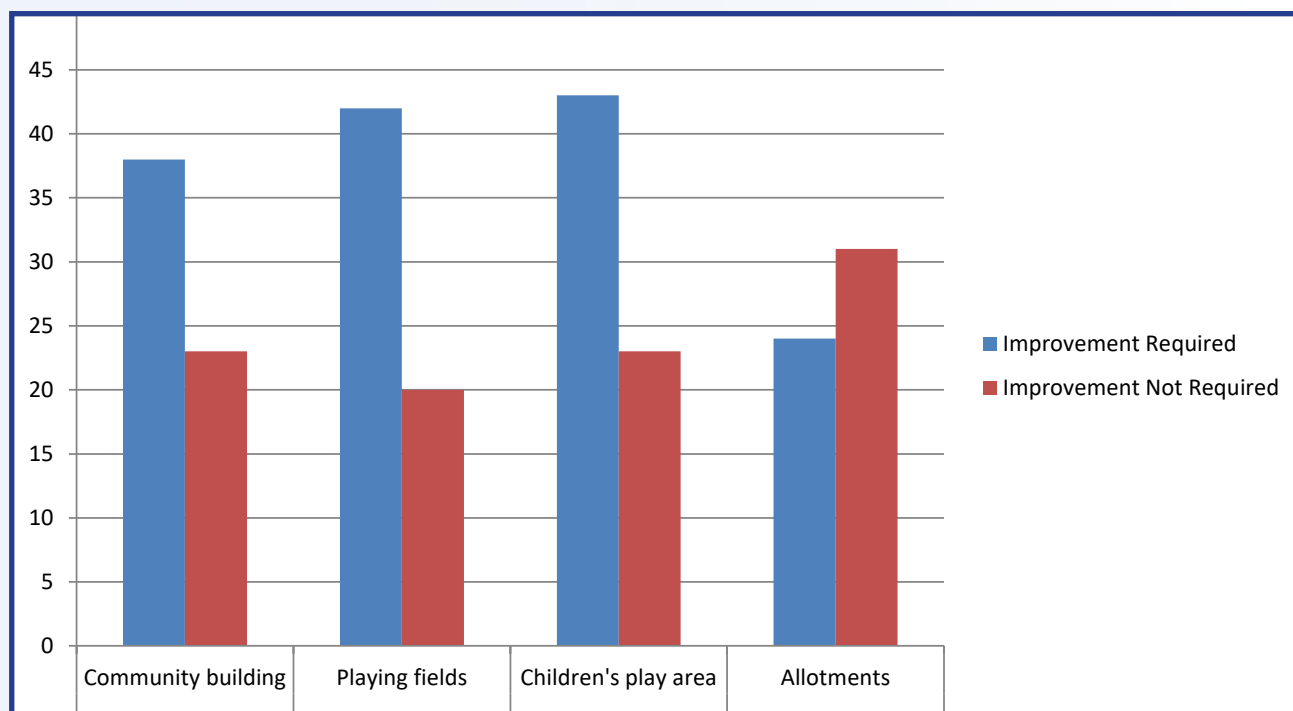
Table 8

This question produced a more even response range between those who thought options required improvement and those who did not. Most of the options were close to 50:50 in responses with only 'Commuter Access' showing a clearer view that improvement was not required.

There were six additional comments (Appendix 1) which primarily indicated the desire for a village shop.

Q11. When considering any development in the parish what aspects of Community Facilities are needed or need improvement?

68 respondents answered and 8 skipped the question.



Graph 10

Answer Options	Improvement required	Improvement not required	Rating average	Response count
Community building	38	23	1.38	61
Playing fields	42	20	1.32	62
Children's play area	43	23	1.35	66
Allotments	24	31	1.56	55
Something else? Please tell us:				7

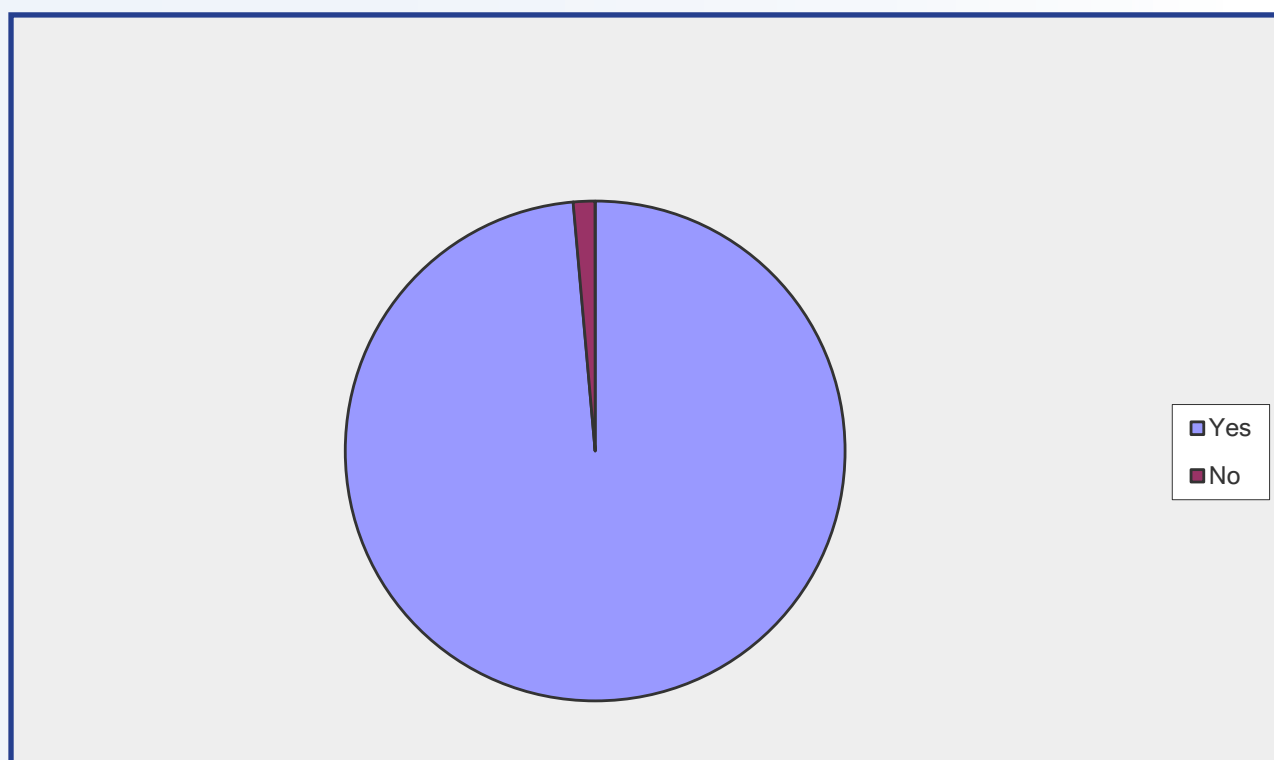
Table 9

The response to this question reinforces the comments made in earlier questions which suggested a need for a Children's play area, a Playing field and a Community building. Each of these options received approximately twice as many responses for improvement than not needing improvement. The only option with a majority view for no improvement was for Allotments.

There were seven additional comments (Appendix 1) which again indicated the desire for a village shop and the installation of a children's play area. One further comment was the need for a bus shelter.

Q12. Do you support the Parish Council undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan for Old Somerby?

74 respondents answered and 2 skipped the question



Graph 11

Answer Options	Response percent	Response count
Yes	98.6%	73
No	1.4%	1

Table 10

There was an almost unanimous vote of support for the Parish Council to pursue the undertaking of the Neighbourhood Planning process for Old Somerby, with 73 of the 74 respondents supporting this project.

Q13. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Twenty nine respondents added comments to this question which are included in appendix 1. Key themes which came out in these comments include:

- Use the pub as a community asset
- The need for Broadband improvement
- The need for playing field facilities for children
- Make use of the church for community use
- Create a website to keep residents informed and as a social link
- Give consideration to reducing carbon footprint
- There is a need to reinstate public footpaths which have been lost through farming activities

End of Report