

## Background Document BD1 Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire and results

Note that this document was circulated via the PC website (October 2012) and presented at workshops



### Introduction

**Why is Wye with Hinxhill Parish Council developing a Neighbourhood Plan?** The parish faces considerable development pressure, and the Localism Act 2011 gives communities like Wye the option to influence planning decisions about new housing, commercial and other developments in their area. In July 2012, a team of 53 patch-workers distributed a household questionnaire to each occupied dwelling in the parish. The questions were based on the results and experience gained from the Wye Village Design Statement 2000, the Wye Parish Plan 2007, Wye Housing Needs Survey 2009 and other recent surveys. **Just over 75% of all households in the parish have now responded - THANK YOU.**

The survey produced over 10,000 pages of information, and a great many hand written comments. The Parish Council has collated these, and a summary is presented after the numerical data. The This report was displayed in an exhibition at the parish church and in the library. The questionnaire helped to guide a series of design workshops and exhibitions that led to the development of policies for the WNP.

### Background to this report

Government guidance states that neighbourhood plans will help communities to:

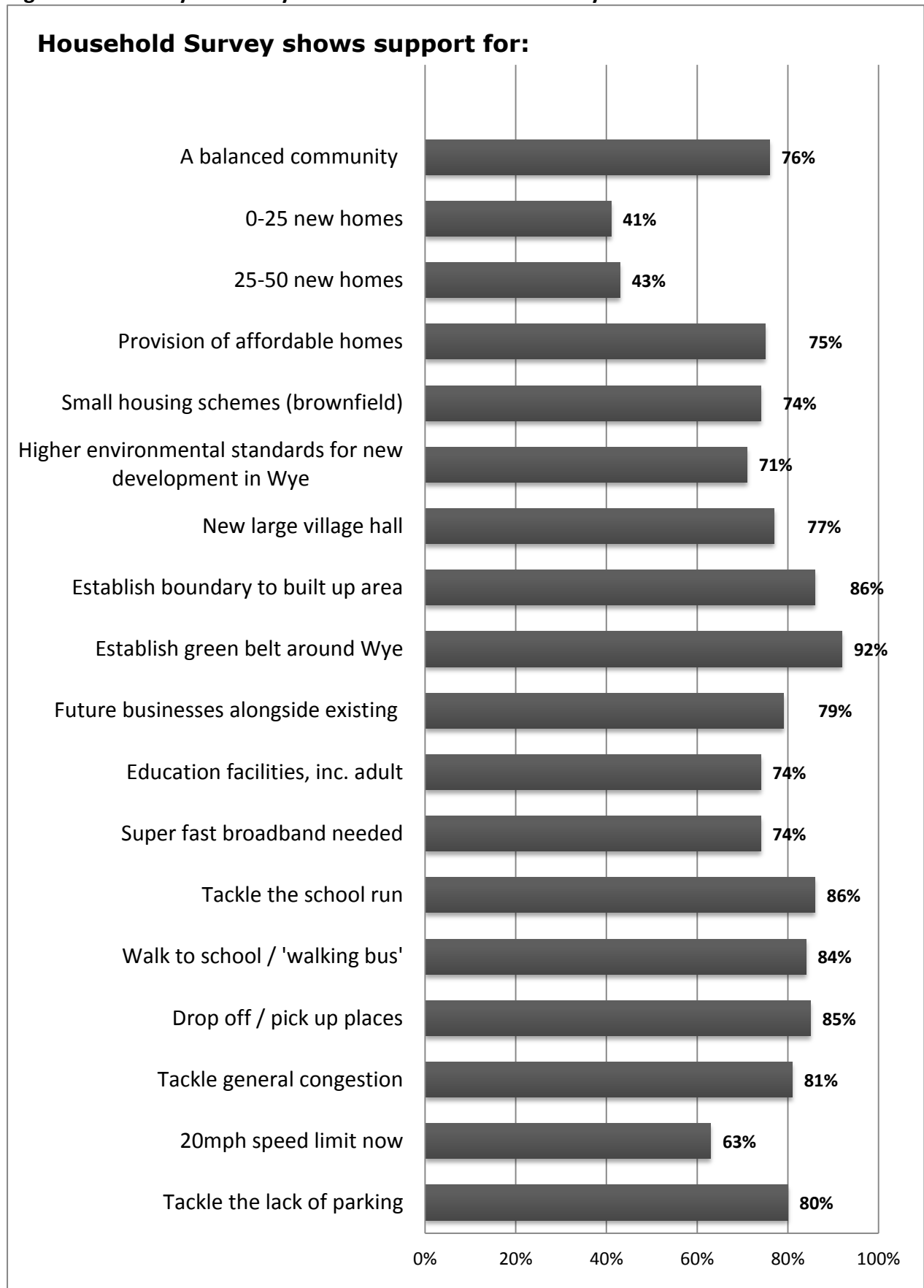
- Influence the planning of where they live and work;
- Decide where and what kind of new homes, shops, employment opportunities and other development should be built;
- Decide what to do with developed land that is no longer being used;
- Identify and protect important local green spaces and historic buildings;
- Influence what new buildings and other development should look like;
- Influence how S106 funds and Community Infrastructure Levy is spent;
- Contribute to the sustainable development of Wye as a place to live and work;
- As long as the document complies with national and local planning policies.

### Next steps

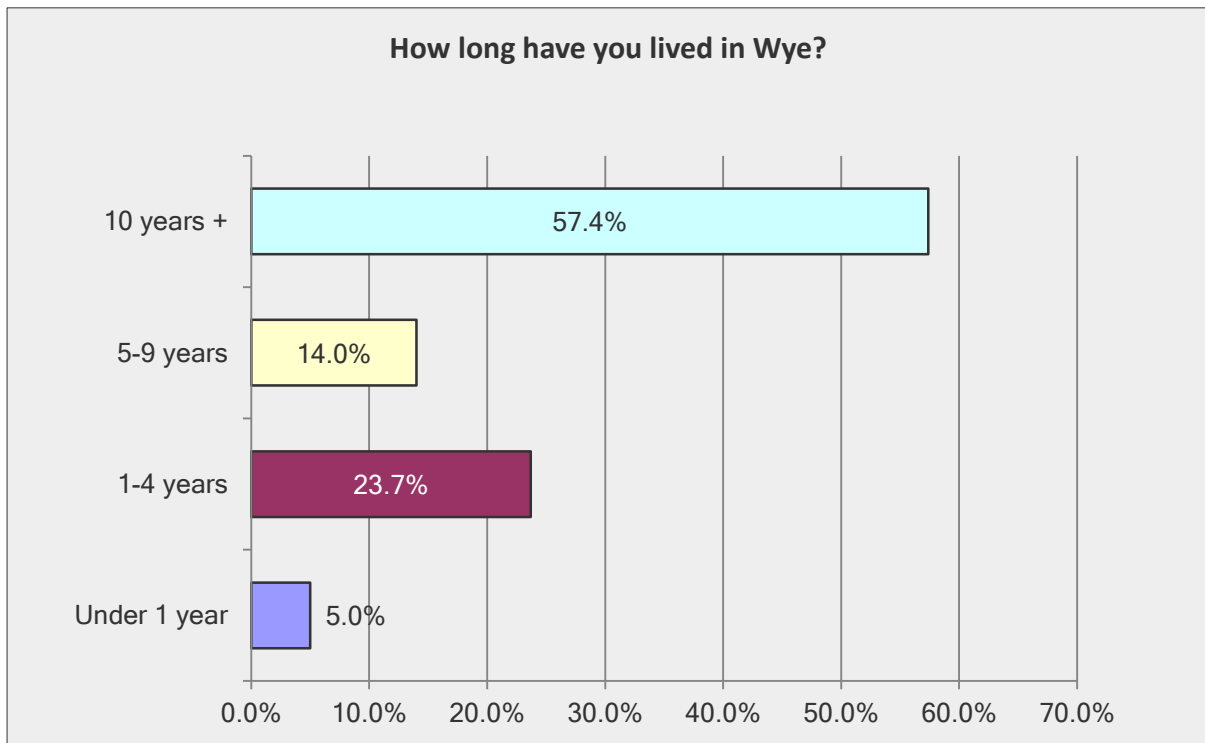
Until Christmas the focus will be on workshops and public exhibitions. The survey results will inform the discussions, and shape the new policies and design guidelines for development in the parish of Wye. These workshops will produce a draft plan for public consultation. After amendments, the final draft will then be independently examined. If it passes this and other tests, Wye electors will have a vote in a referendum on whether or not to approve the plan. **For further details please ask your patchworker, or keep an eye on the Parish Council's noticeboards, Wye Library and [www.wyeparish.info](http://www.wyeparish.info).**

**Note:** The percentages quoted in this report are rounded to the nearest whole number. The household samples varied between 730 and 794 replies per question. A further 17 households returned blank forms. These are not included in the total of 974 responses. The data shown as recorded 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012, and is as yet unaudited.

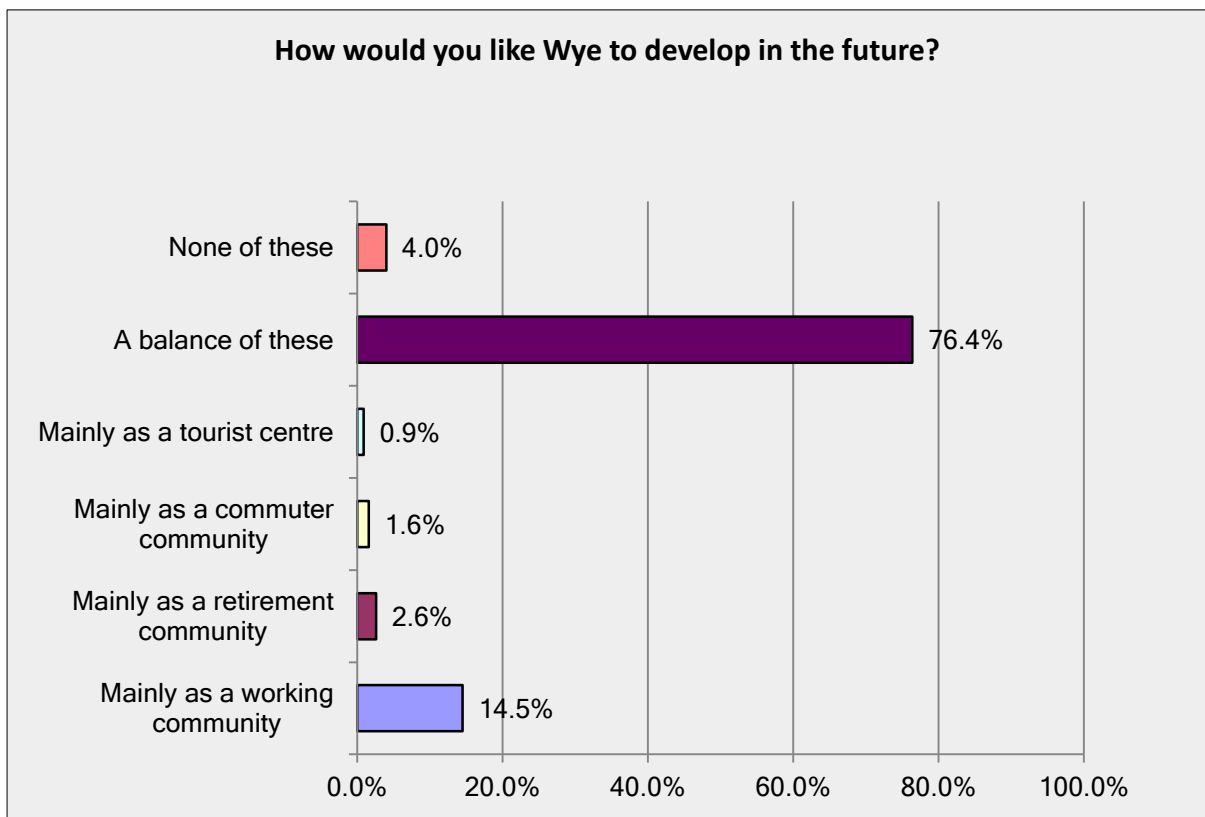
**Figure 1: Summary of the key results of the household survey**



**Figure 2: How long have you lived in Wye (744/793<sup>11</sup>)**

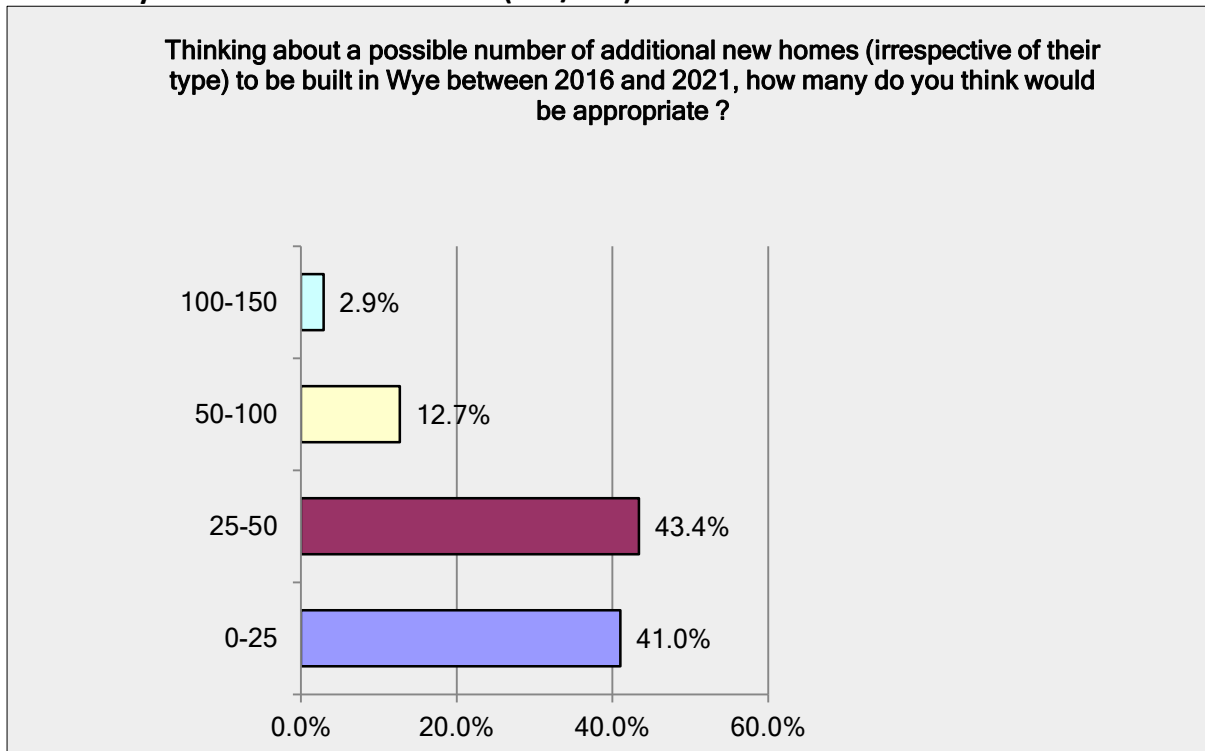


**Figure 3: How would you like Wye to develop in the future (768/793)?**

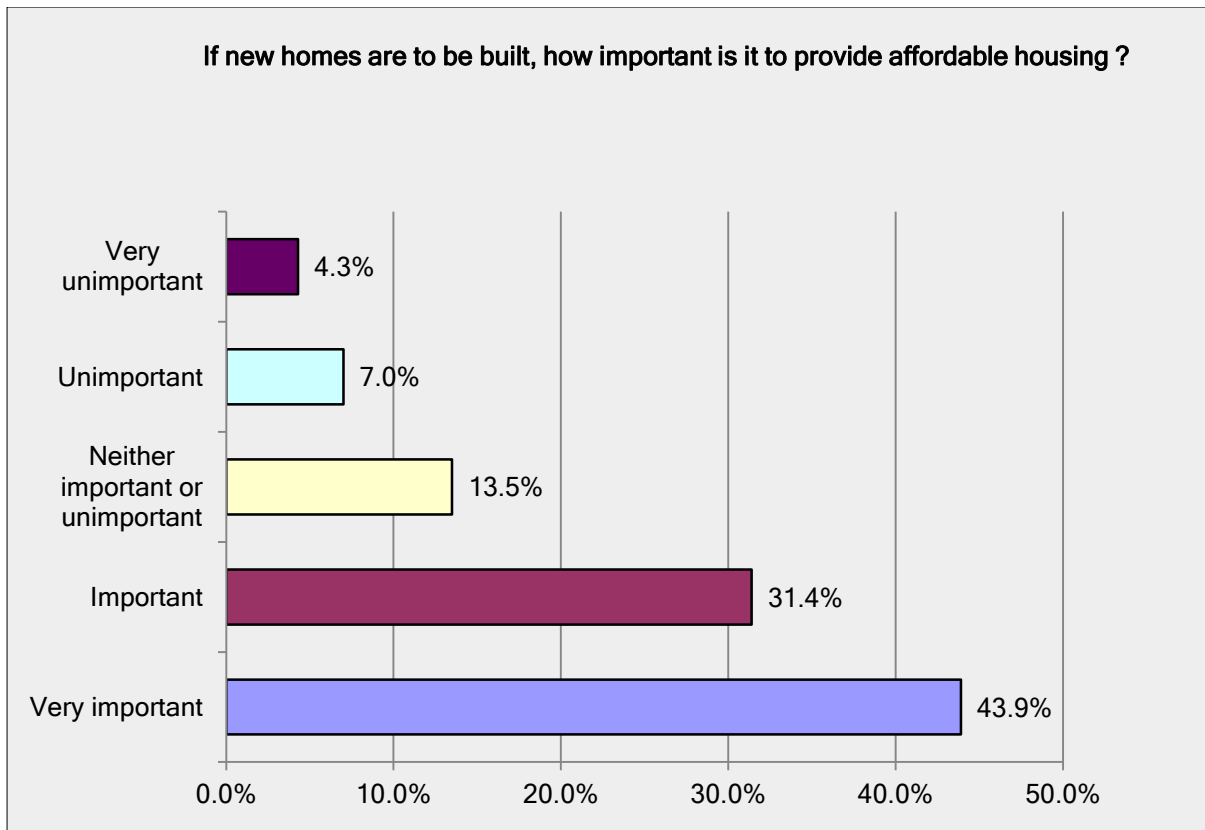


<sup>11</sup> The numbers in brackets are the total number of people who answered the question set against the total number of people who attempted the questionnaire. The %s are based on the total number who answered the question rather than the total number who attempted the questionnaire.

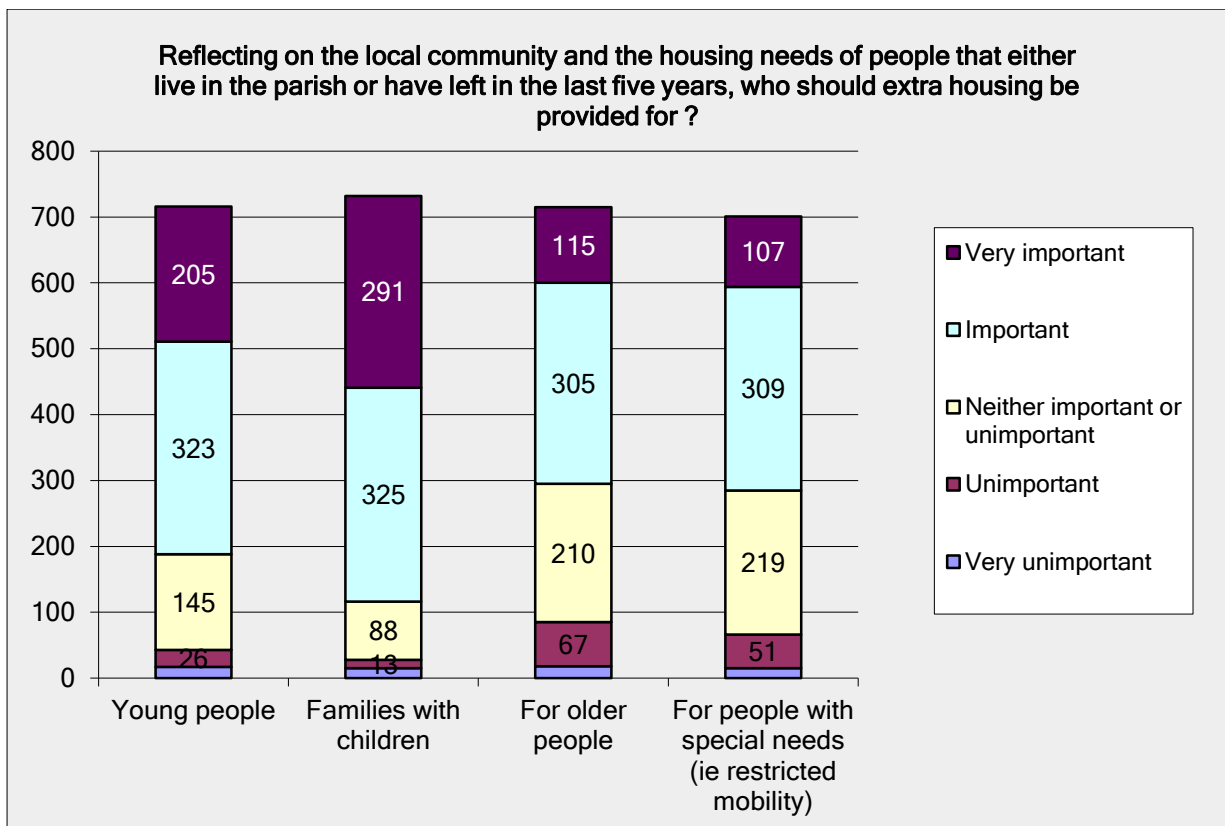
**Figure 4: A possible number of additional new homes (irrespective of their type) to be built in Wye between 2016 and 2021 (756/793)**



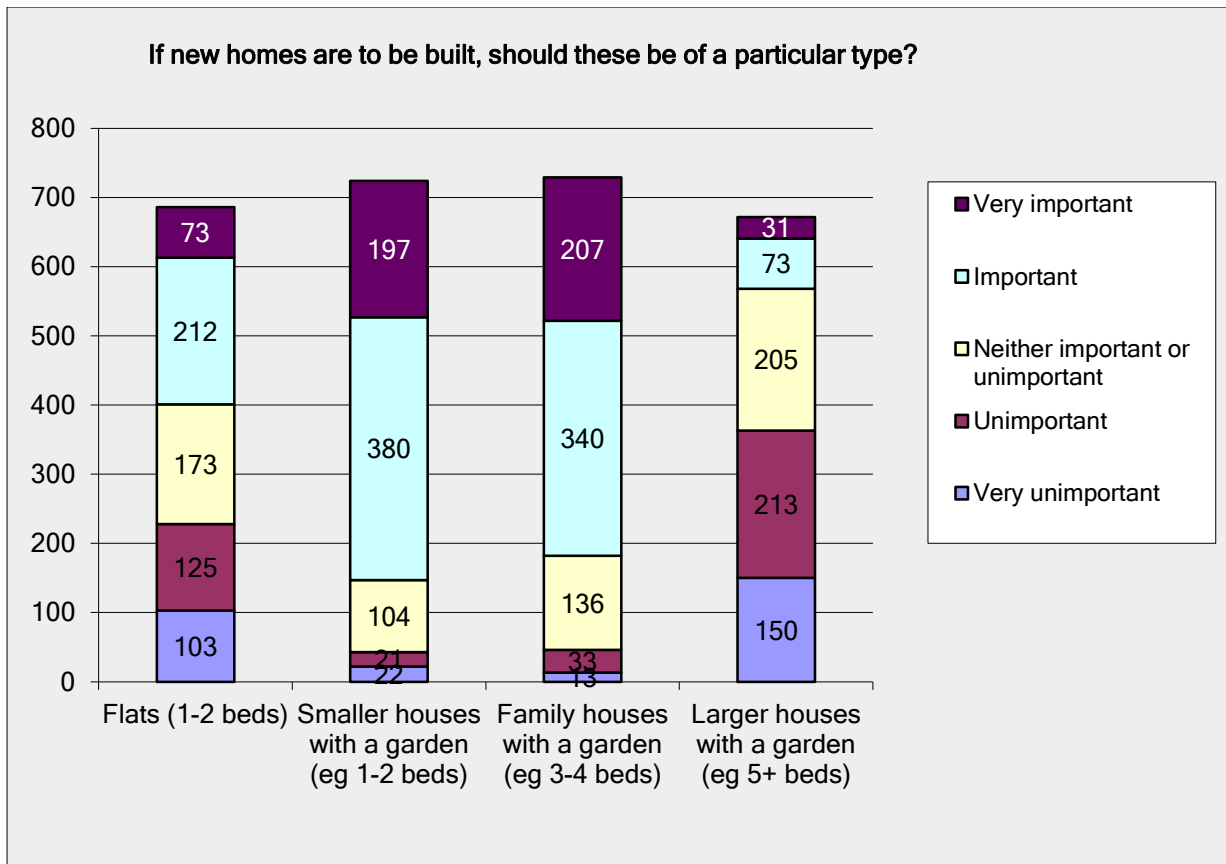
**Figure 5: How important is it to provide affordable housing (773/793)**



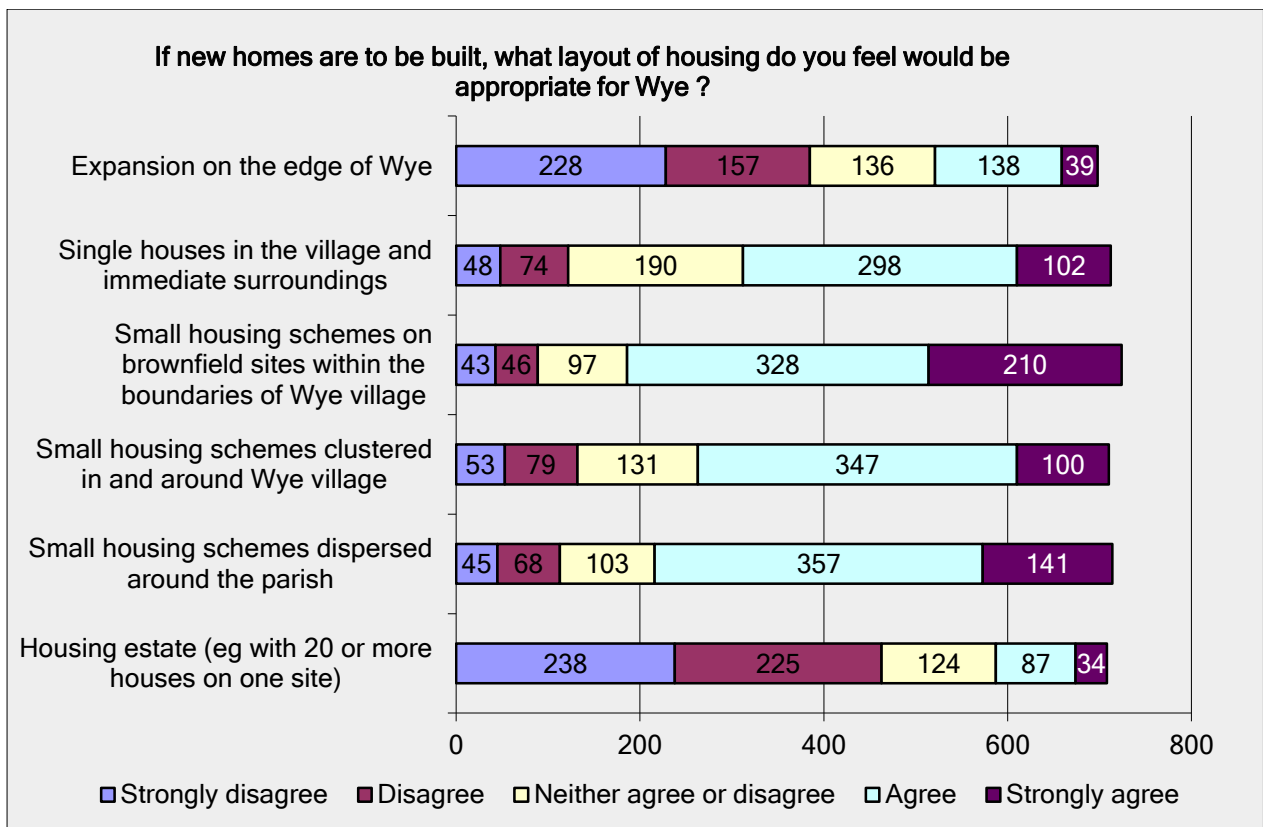
**Figure 6: Who should extra housing be provided for (773/793)?**



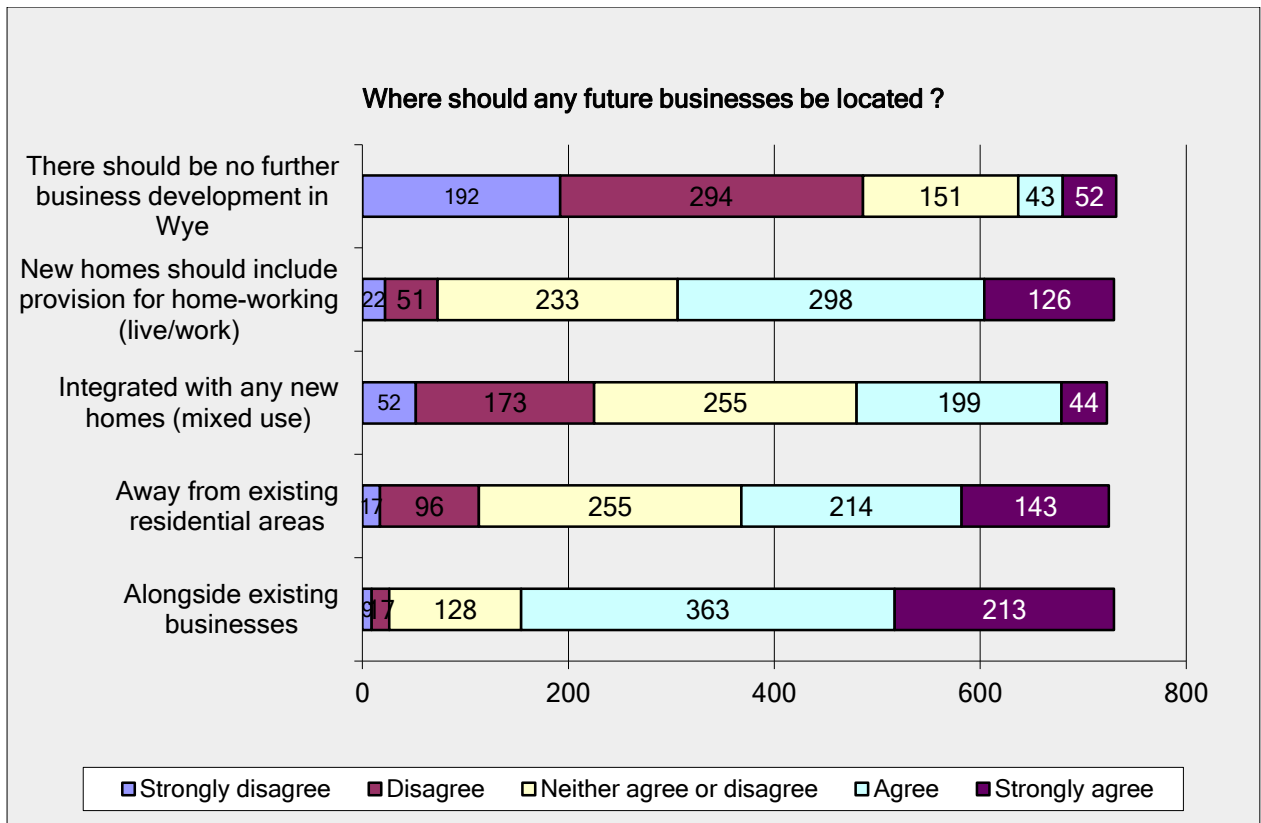
**Figure 7: Type of new homes (773/793)**



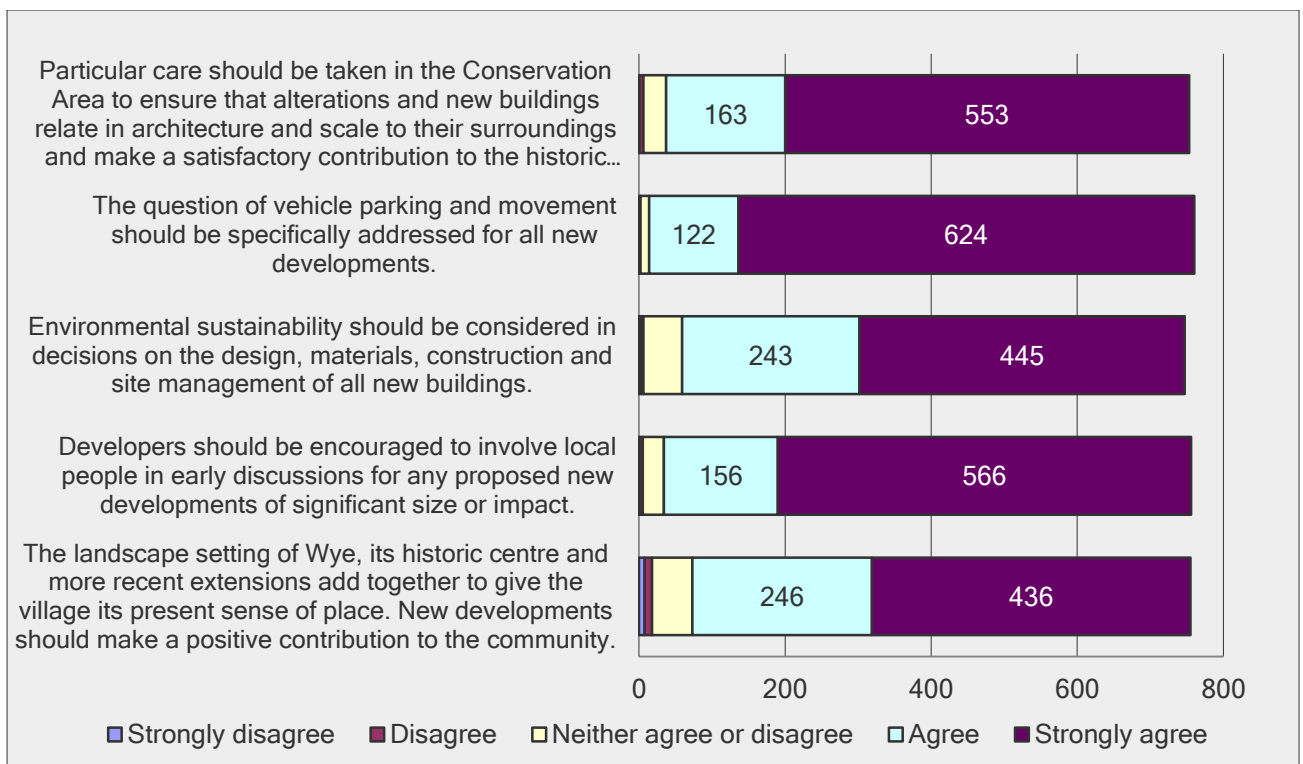
**Figure 8: Layout of new homes (774/793)**



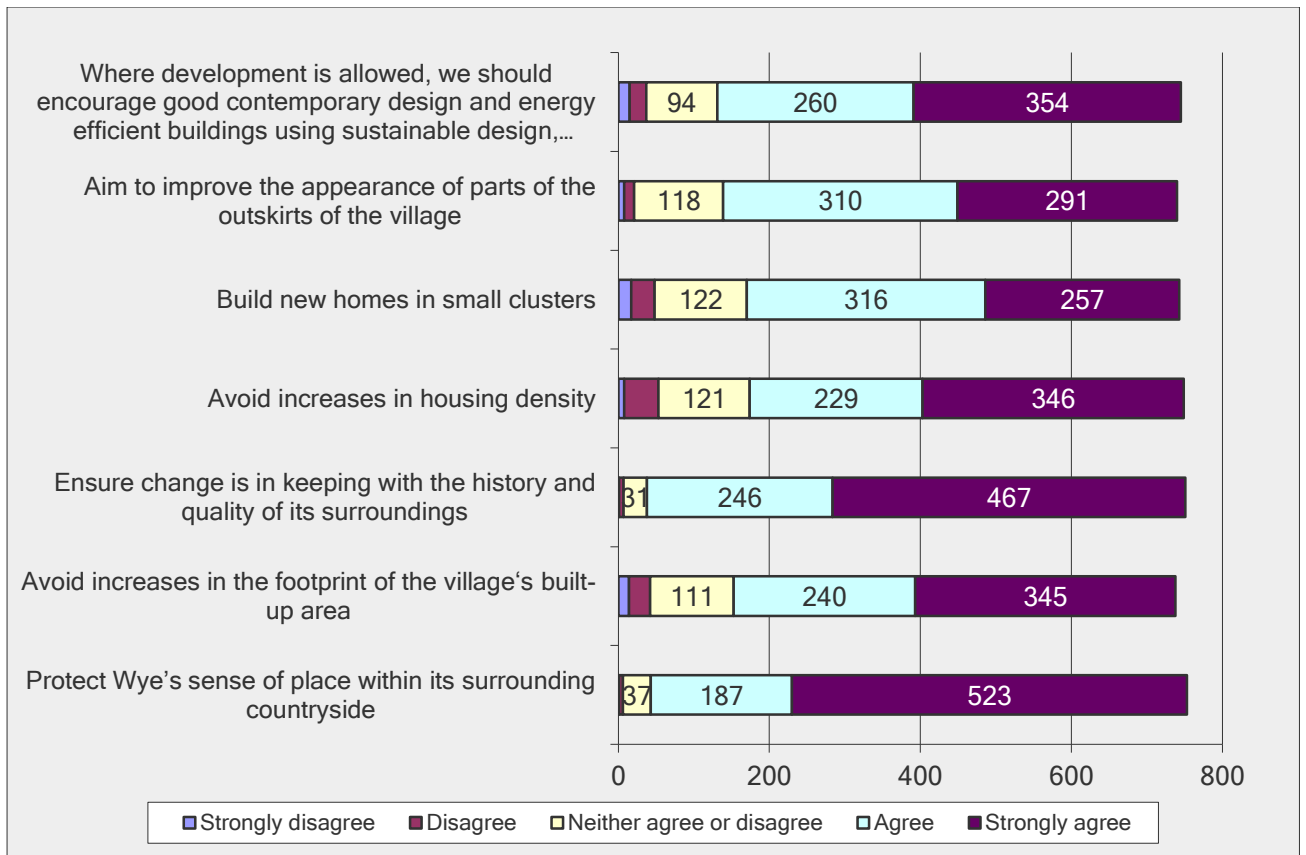
**Figure 9: Location of new businesses (765/793)**



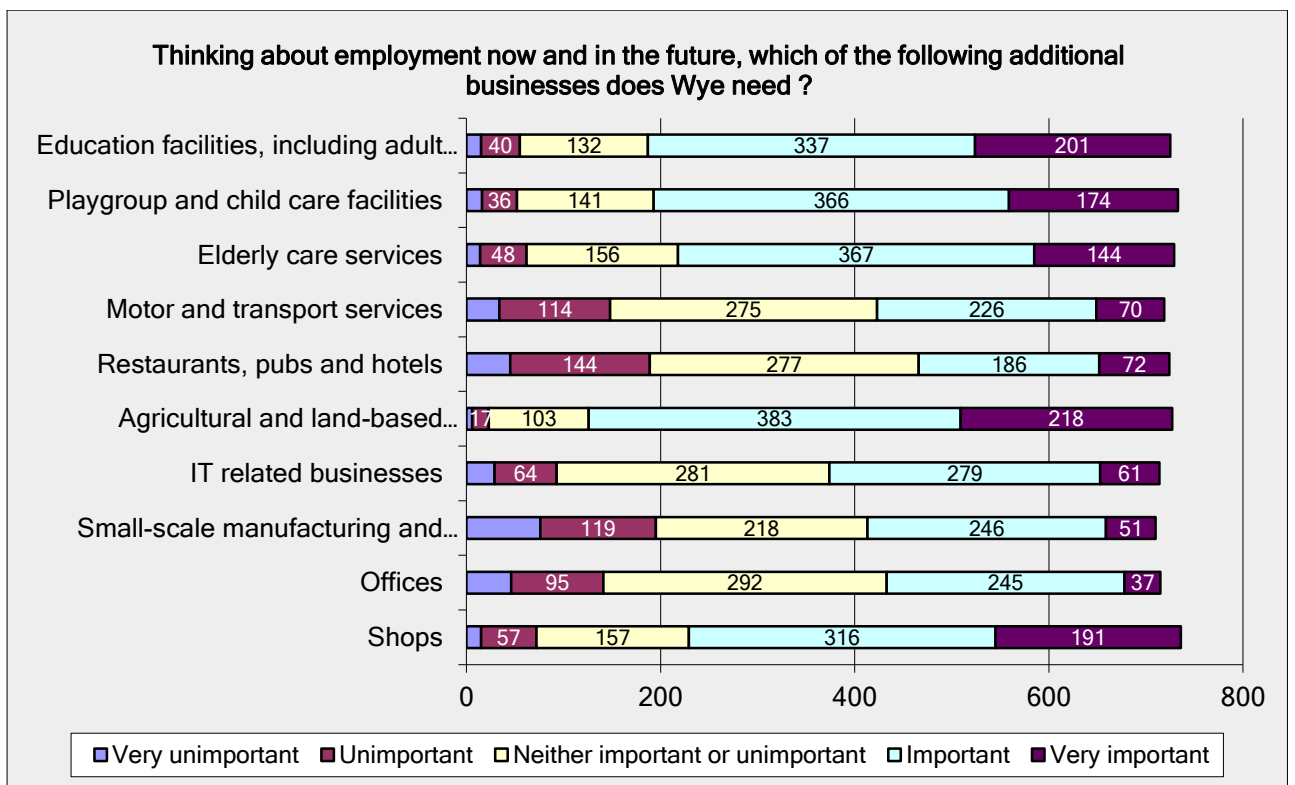
**Figure 10: Village Design Statement 2000 principles still relevant (773/793)**



**Figure 11: New objectives, for inclusion in the new Neighbourhood Plan (765/793)**

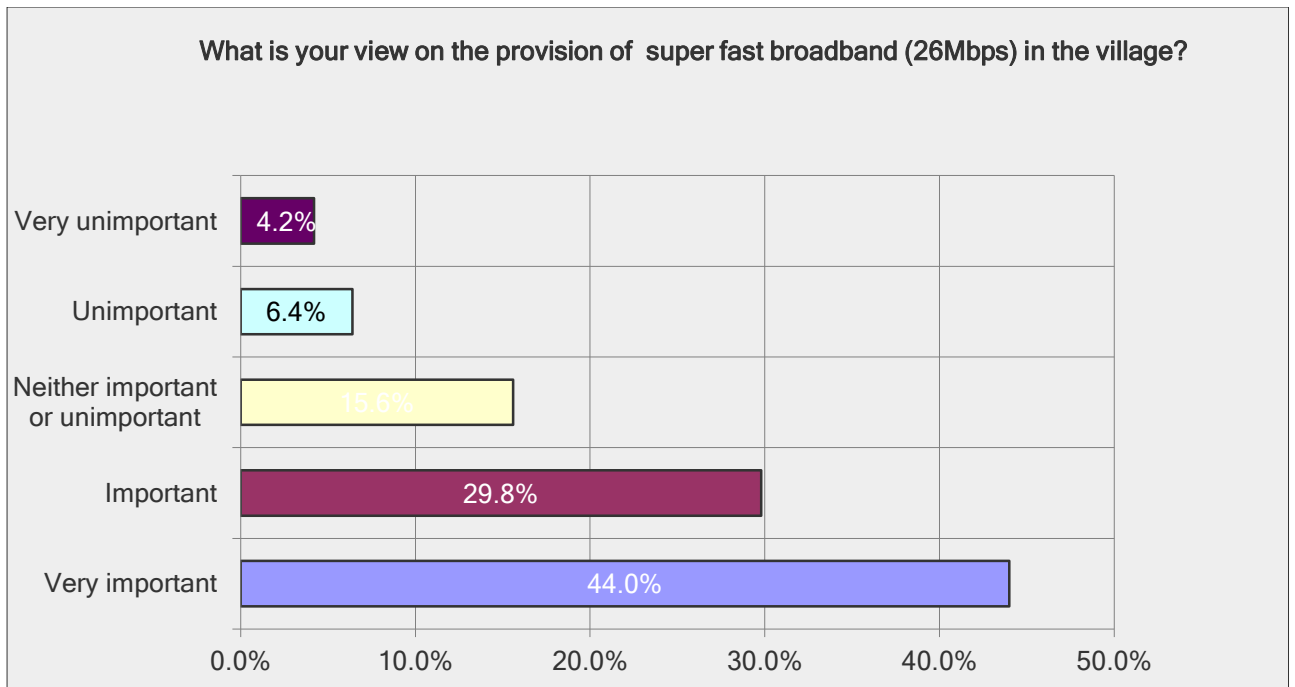


**Figure 12: What additional businesses does Wye need (766/793)**

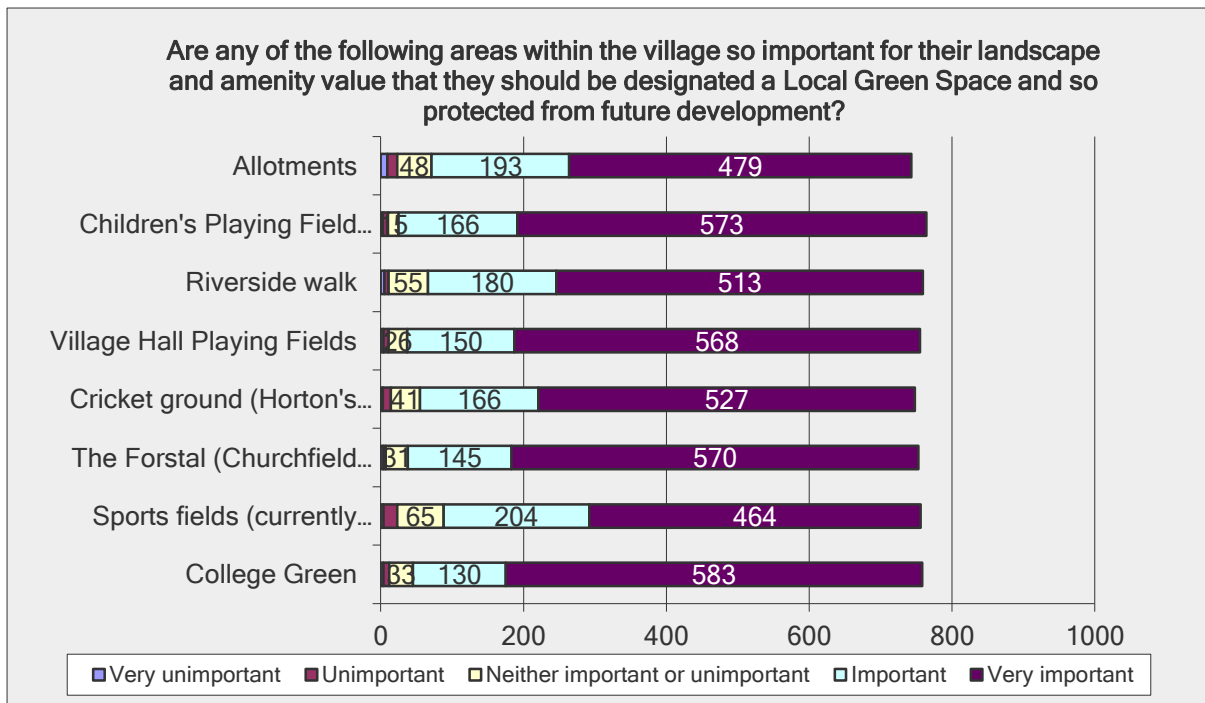


**Figure 13: Support for superfast broad band (745/793)**

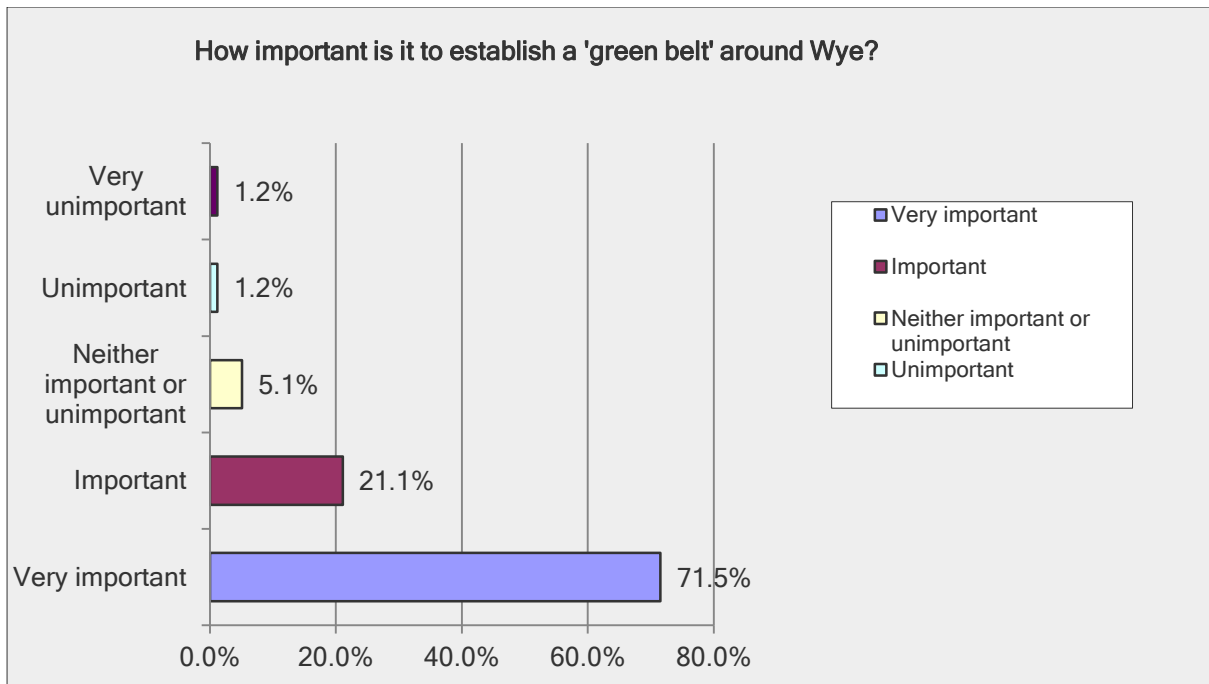




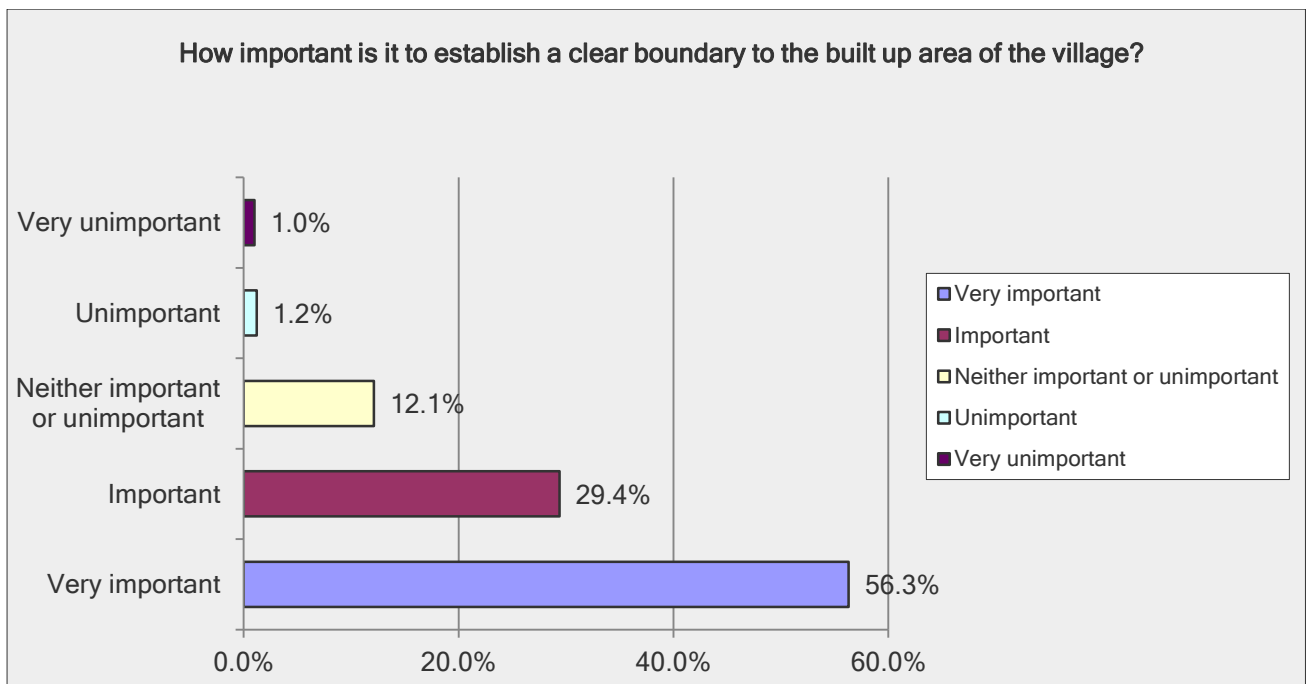
**Figure 14: To be designated as Local Green Space and protected (774/793)**



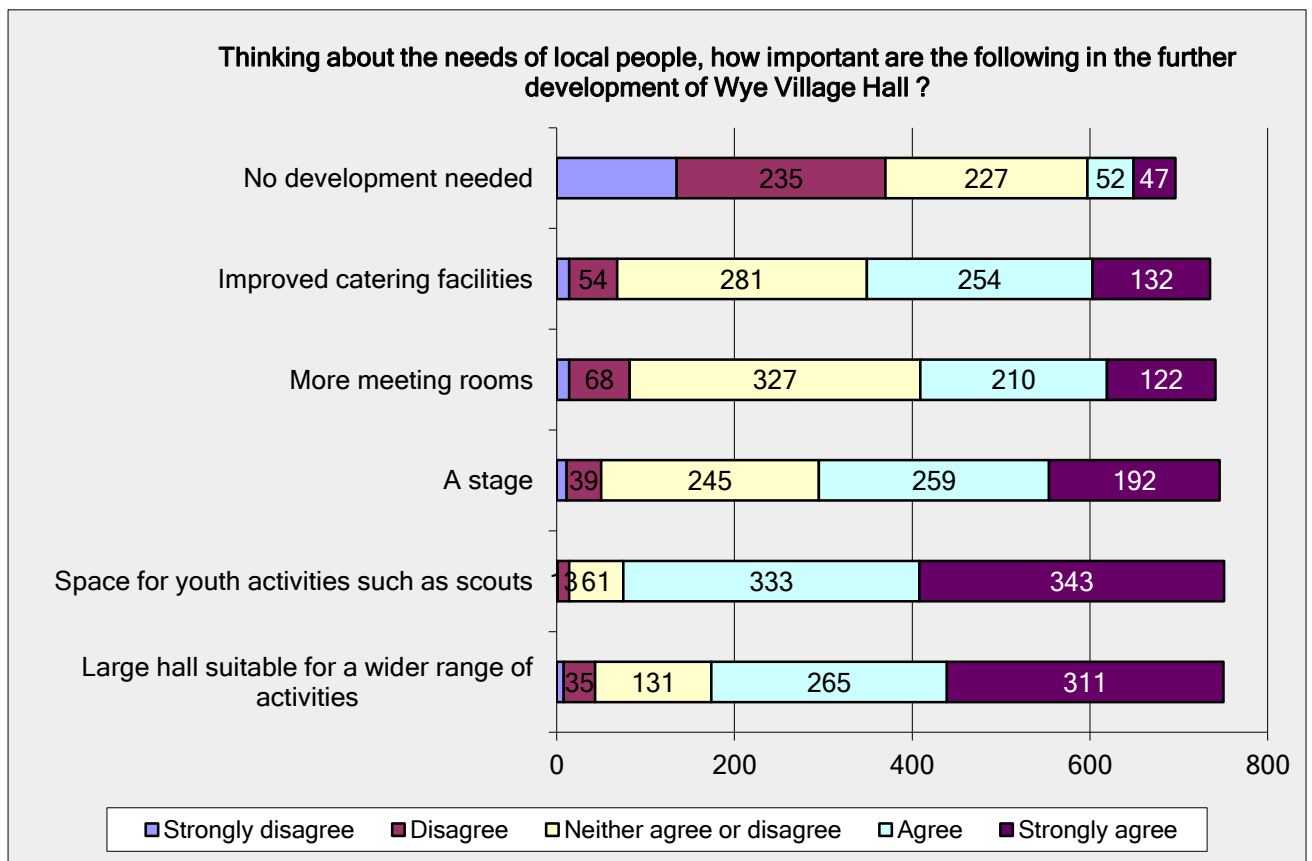
**Figure 15: Establish a Green Belt (772/793)**



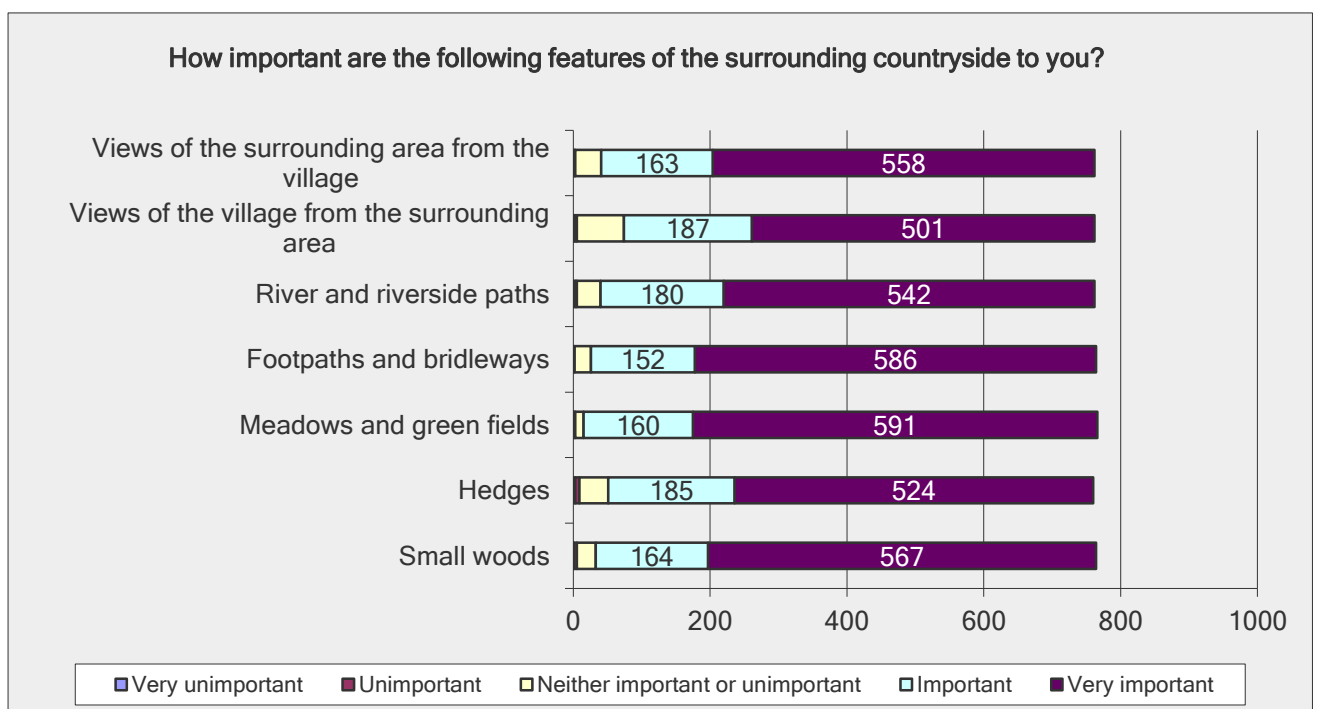
**Figure 16: Establish a clear boundary (766/793)**



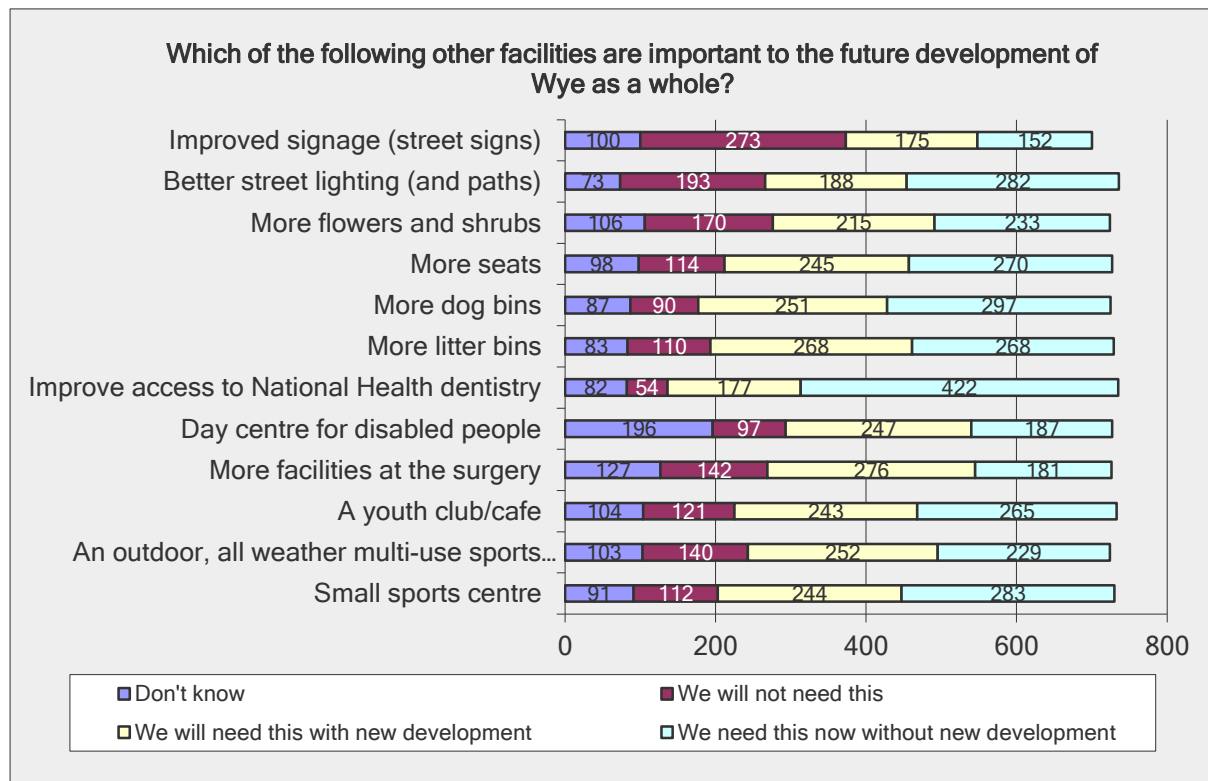
**Figure 17: Development of existing Village Hall**



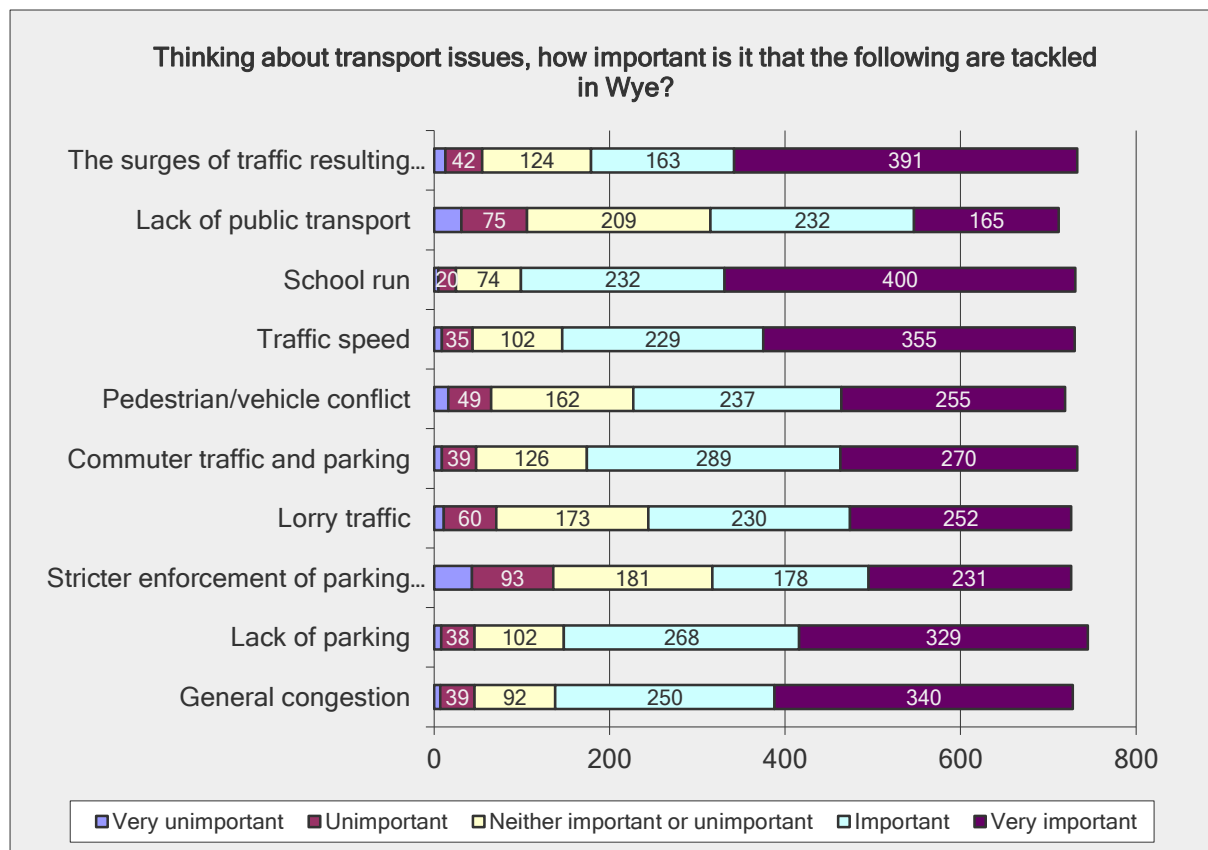
**Figure 18: Surrounding countryside and landscape (772/793)**



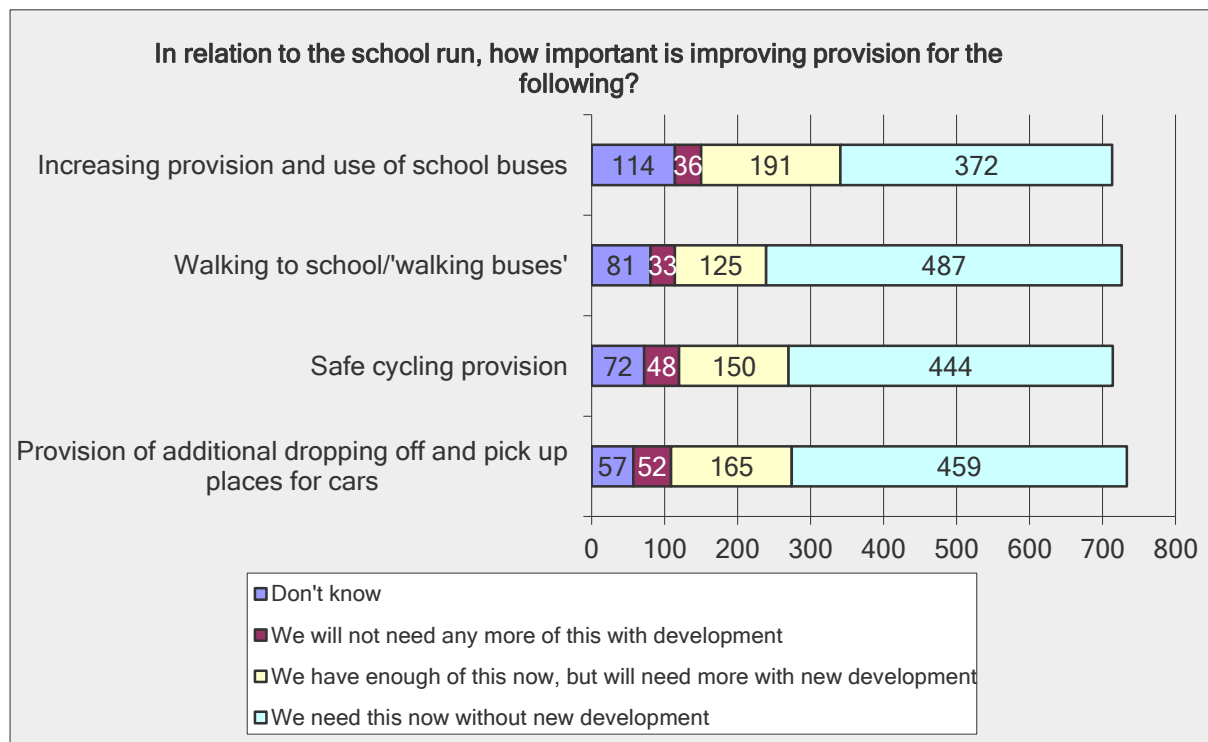
**Figure 19: Which of the following other facilities are important to the future development of Wye as a whole (767/793)?**



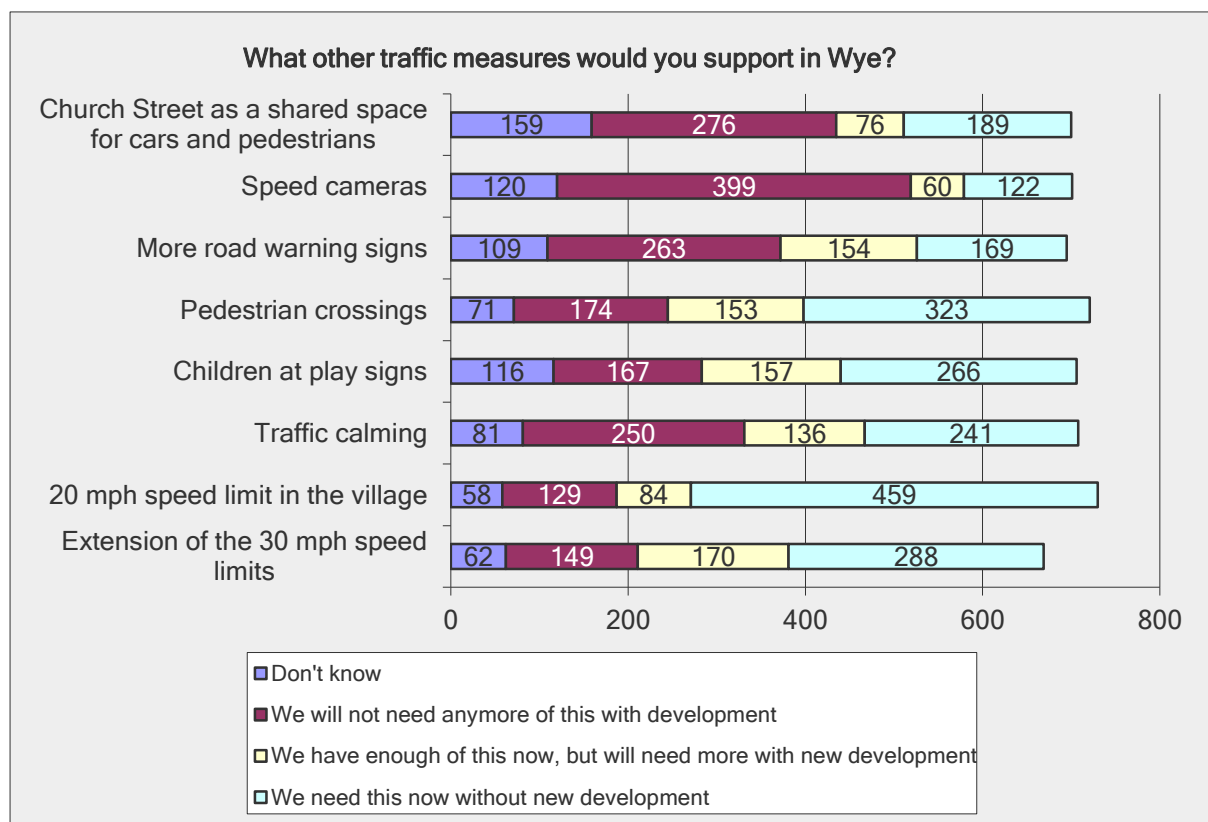
**Figure 20: Transport issues to be tackled (765/793)**



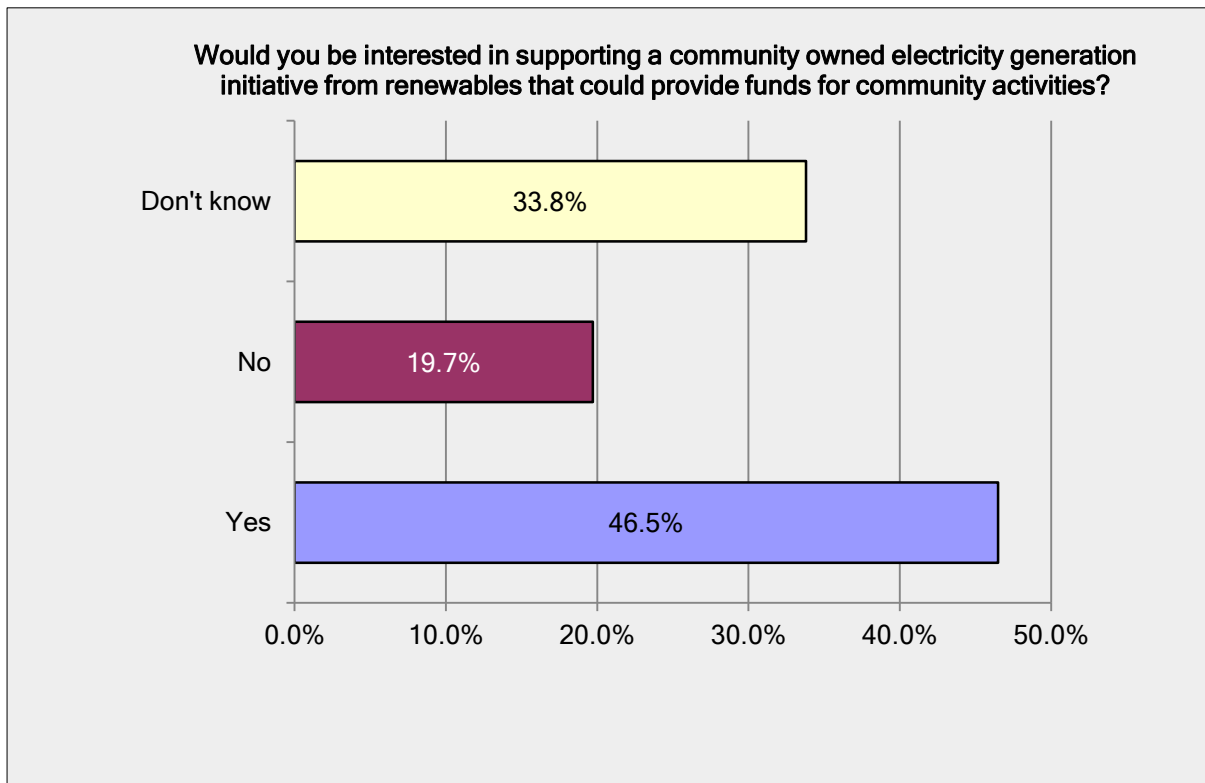
**Figure 21: Needs tackling in relation to school run (750/793)**



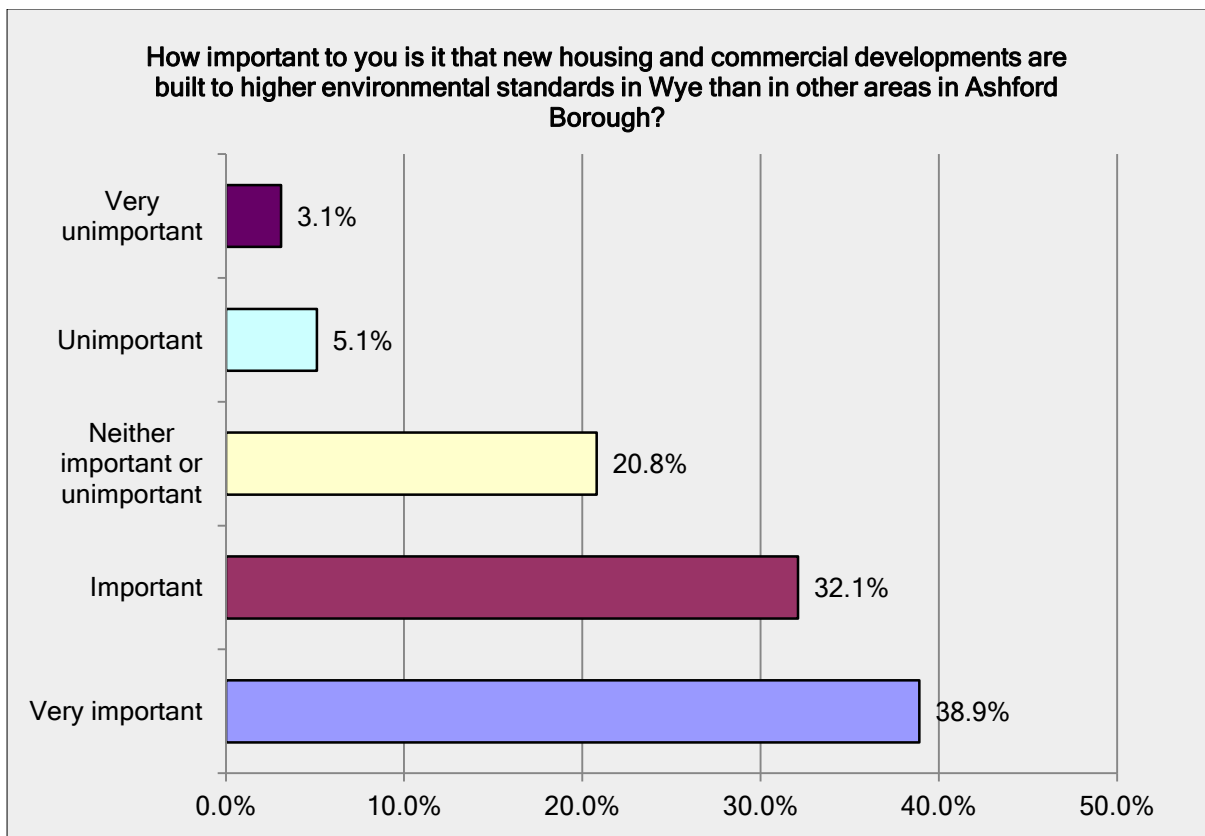
**Figure 22: Other traffic measures for Wye (758/793)**



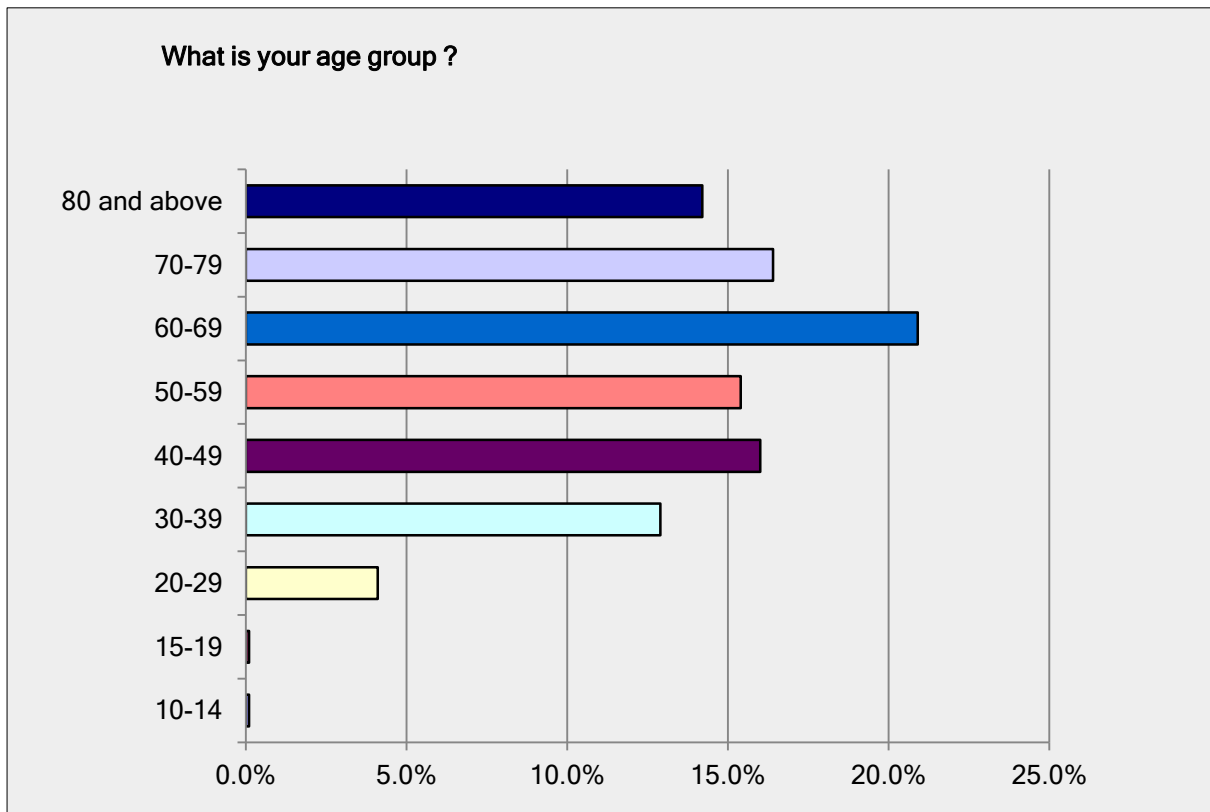
**Figure 23: Community owned electricity generation from renewables (748/793)**



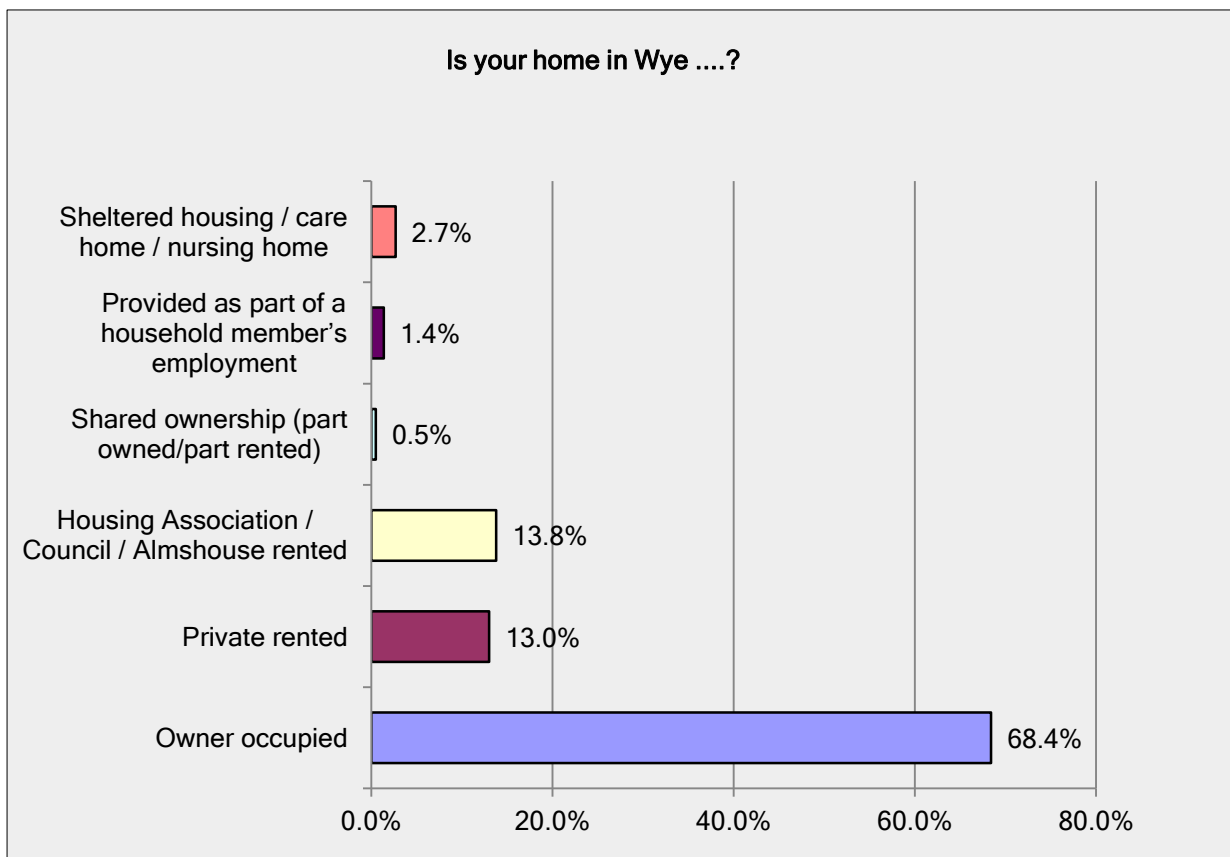
**Figure 194: New housing and commercial developments built to high environmental standards (745/793)**



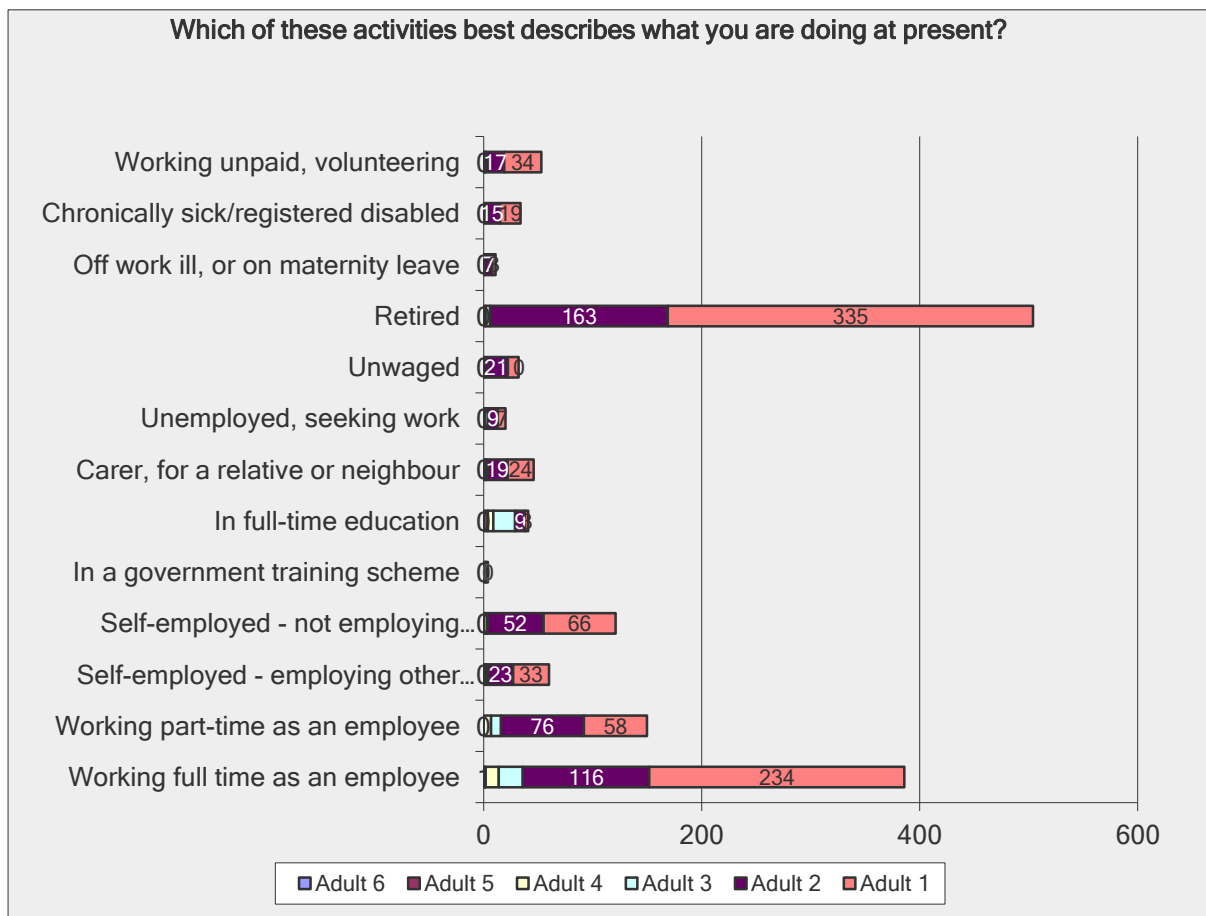
**Figure 25: Age group of respondents (762/793)**



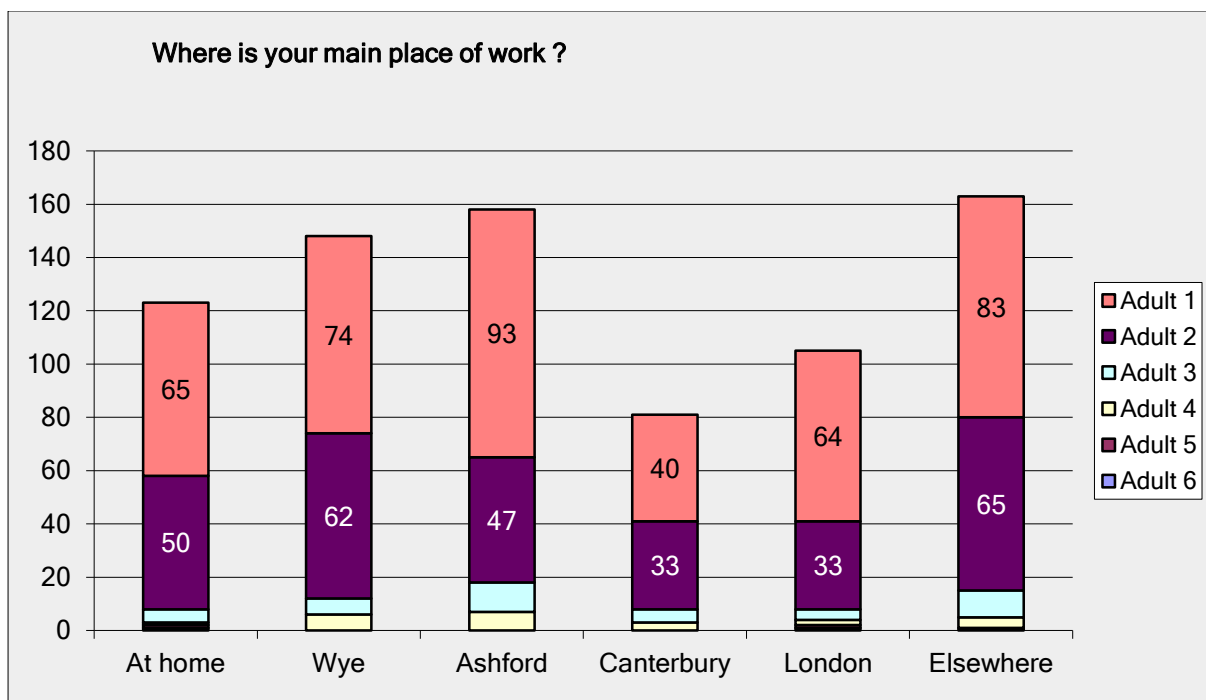
**Figure 26: Do people rent or own their homes (767/793)**



**Figure 27: Employment status (766/793)**



**Figure 28: Where Wye residents mainly work – only answered by those in work (413/793)**





## **ANALYSIS OF COMMENTS**

The data obtained from the questionnaire required analysis to identify those issues that most concern parishioners, looking ahead until 2030. The comments were considered alongside the ticked box replies and provide a clear steer for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. Five different approaches used for comment analysis are summarised below.

### **1. Questions receiving the most comments**

Several questions dealt with related topics eg housing. In order to gain an insight into the areas of most concern to parishioners it is necessary to identify which topic generated the most response taking account of the number of questions about the area. The total numbers of comments on the key topics and an average per question are recorded below.

- **Transport, including cycling and walking**  
Five questions covered transport and received a total of 1235 comments, giving an average of 247 comments per question
- **Environment and sustainability**  
Questions on the environment received a total of 193 comments, giving an average of 96.5 comments per question
- **Housing**  
Six questions related to housing and received a total of 380 comments , giving an average of 63.3 comments per question
- **Business**  
Two questions dealt with business opportunities and received a total of 107 comments , giving an average of 53.5 comments per question
- **Facilities and the village hall**  
Two questions concerned facilities and received a total of 105 comments, giving an average of 52.5 comments per question

*In conclusion, concern about transport now and in the future is the most emotive topic to emerge from this approach to the analysis of questionnaire comments. The second most frequently stated comments were about the environment and this set was dominated by pleas for better recycling. The average scores for other areas were fairly comparable.*

## 2. Topics receiving the most comments

A second approach is simply to group all comments covering a particular topic irrespective of the question that generated the response.

The analysis of such comments provides a good insight into what Parishioners feel are the most important issues - worth putting down in writing, rather than just ticking a box.

Where the same or a very similar comment has been made the number of repeats has been noted below showing the top comments– receiving more than 30 citations in the questionnaire sample.

*Where the same comment has been made to different questions the total is presented  
With a breakdown of numbers from each question in brackets*

Keep Wye as a village 209 (31+16+45+20+1+18+10+4+64)  
Improve bus services 185 (2+3+132+11+9+9+7+7+4+1)  
Traffic management, calming devices, 20mph restriction 168 (58+2+20+6+10+19+34+19)  
Control parking at danger points eg dropped kerbs, pavements 136 (84+48)  
Pavements and footpaths need improvement 133 (6+119+8)  
Current recycling provision is inefficient we need a proper system, up to  
national standards at least 126 (15+106+5)  
Improve school run chaos 122 (103+3+12+4)  
Install automatic crossing gates 106 (61+22+12+11)  
Public transport good as it is particularly the train service 83  
Parking restrictions to allow buses easy access 71 (48+23)  
High speed train to stop at Wye 67 (55 +12)  
Improve crossing but not necessarily by automatic gates 46 (24+7+10+5)  
Community farm should link closely with primary school  
and the Free School 39  
Pedestrian crossings, particularly on Church St and Churchfield Way 36 (32+3+1)  
Build a swimming pool 31 (18+7+6)

### *Breakdown of key areas*

- Traffic control, including the school run 426
- Keeping Wye as a village by controlling development 203
- Improved local bus services 192

### 3. The great debates: for and against

Some issues seem to split the Parish. All sets of views must be taken into consideration. It is helpful to balance comments for and against certain proposals.

*For example:*

#### The level crossing

Automatic crossing gates needed 106

*No need to make gates automatic 34*

#### Transport

Improve bus services 192

*Transport services quite good as they are particularly trains 83*

High speed train should stop at Wye 67

#### Business opportunities

More businesses needed 31

*Enough already village is full to overflowing 18*

#### Recycling

We need a proper recycling system up to national standards at least 106

*Our recycling leads the way promoting local jobs 10*

### 4. Issues that have emerged as less high profile than anticipated

At the start of the questionnaire many parishioners may have had pet topics that they felt would dominate responses. Some possible issues that have, perhaps, not generated the level of comment expected are summarised here with the frequency of some contradictory statements noted.

#### State of the village hall complex

Hall is a good facility as it is 21

*Build a swimming pool 31*

#### Sustainable electricity generation

More photovoltaic electricity generation 3

*No wind turbines 11*

Yes to wind no to incinerators and nuclear 4

#### Free School

Support Free School 30

*No to Free School 18*

### Concluding remarks to the analysis of comments

The emerging dominant themes are concerns about development, whether houses or business premises, and the impact that this will have on traffic in the village that is already a cause for considerable concern. Surprisingly few comments have argued *for* development to *generate funding* for more facilities.

## 5. Comparison between comments made and boxes ticked on the questionnaire

There is plenty of agreement when comparing the comments made on the questionnaires and ticked box data, but some interesting differences do emerge.

**AGREEMENT** *A clear consensus is apparent from the following questions from which the conclusions reached are closely comparable. Comments generally confirm and strengthen the message from the ticked boxes*

*Qs 4 and 5 Housing* The strong conclusion is that parishioners want to see minimal development – no more than 50 houses in addition to those already allocated.

*Qs 6, 7, 8 and 9 Type of housing* Strong support for affordable housing but in comments there is more emphasis on a mixed community. There is agreement that there should be no new estates like Havillands.

*Q 14 Protection of green space* There is good consensus on the need to protect green spaces and first look at the potential development of brownfield sites.

*Qs 23, 24, 25 and 26 Transport* There is no doubt that transport problems, whether illegal parking or the need for cycle paths, is a clear issue both from the comments made and boxes ticked. The general open questions about life in the Parish also generate plenty of comments on transport and the state of paths. Something needs to be done *now* about the school run for the primary school and there are warnings about the potential impact of the Free School.

**CONFLICT** *In contrast to the earlier questions, others generated conflicting views from comments and ticked boxes*

*Qs 12, 13 and 16 Business development and broadband* The ticked boxes generally encourage business development as a much needed means to keep the village alive and self-sustaining in the future. By contrast, many comments caution against too much development because of traffic implications and infrastructure constraints. There is strong agreement that businesses should develop alongside those already established. Comments indicate far less concern about the need for fast broadband than is evident from the ticked boxes.

*Qs 21 and 22 Facilities and improvement to the village hall* The ticked box data strongly indicate that improvements to the hall are needed now and also that new facilities will be required with any housing development. Comments conflict with these conclusions, arguing that the hall is fine as it is and that there are plenty of facilities already for a village community. There is also frequent comment that we should not consider increased housing numbers for the sake of generating new facilities through a contribution from the developers.