

ABBOTS RIPTON and WENNINGTON PARISH PLAN 2017

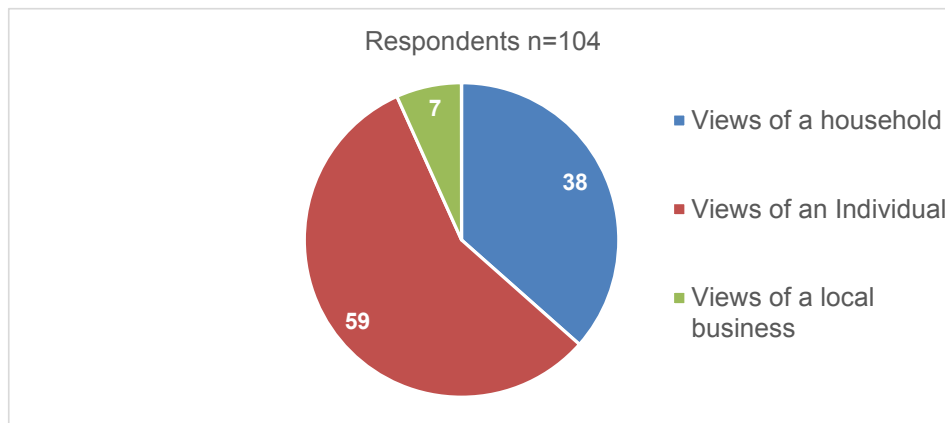


Introduction

Welcome to the Abbots Ripton and Wennington Parish Plan. Your questionnaire responses have been collated and analysed, and from these recommendations have been developed for further action, both locally through our Parish Council, and as a representation of the respondent's opinion on planning and development issues affecting the Parish, for consideration by other local government bodies.

The response from the Parish at both the original consultation meetings and in completing the Survey/Questionnaire has been outstanding. We thank you for that and your patience during the time taken to develop the plan from your feedback. The Plan Committee believe that the responses received are a good representation of opinion across the profile of residents in the Parish. A brief summary of the response statistics is given below:

Q1 Asked about the type of survey submission, the break-down of the **104 Questionnaires completed** is shown in the pie chart



Q2 asked if the respondent was over 18 if completing as an individual, 3 responses were received from under 18's, these are included in the "views of an individual". Although this is a low direct representation of the younger members of our community, the "views of a household" response is very likely to include opinions from younger family members.

How does our response rate compare to the Parish Population?

At the time of the Survey, 245 people were registered voters on the electoral roll. Taking "views of a local business" respondents as not necessarily being resident in the Parish, taking out the three stated under 18's, and assuming that the average "views of a household" represented **two** voting adults, will estimate that 132 of a possible 245 registered voters contributed to the questionnaire responses. This would indicate a circa **54% response rate**.

When compared to local election voter participation rates and feedback we have seen from other Parish and Community planning exercises this is a very solid and representative proportion of the community and demonstrates the level of interest and concern local residents have for issues affecting our Parish and the environment.

How the plan is structured.

The plan is structured into 10 sections following the format of the Questionnaire

- 1. Transport/Roads/Road Safety**
- 2. Network Rail and the Building of a Station near Abbots Ripton**
- 3. The Environment and Conservation**
- 4. Housing and Planning**
- 5. Alconbury Weald Development**
- 6. The Secret Garden Party**
- 7. Crime & Safety**
- 8. Local Facilities, Organisations, Groups and Leisure**
- 9. Communication**
- 10. Governance**

Each section shows the statistical responses to the questions and statements and a summary of the findings. Your comments were analysed and summarised to provide a more concise and weighted commentary to add to the statistics. It has not been possible to reproduce all the verbatim comments as written in response to each question and still keep this plan to a manageable size. Those interested in seeing all the comments can access them, by question, on the Survey Monkey website using the web address below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.net/results/SM-KQCKQNVR>

using the password **ABandW** to enter the site.

We cannot guarantee that the Survey Monkey Site will remain active through the life of the Parish Plan so we are investigating extracting the comments as a text file that can be made available through the Parish Council Website. We anticipate that the direct Survey Monkey link will work at least through 2017.

Each section also has recommendations and actions arising from the questionnaire responses and analysis. Following a summary of the recommendations, actionable issues are shown in a table style layout identifying the issue, the specific recommendations, stakeholders in addressing the issue, expected outcome and proposed next step.

We hope you will recognize that many of the issues raised require funding, support and approvals that are outside of direct Parish Council control or means. The Parish Council will act as our representatives to lobby for and progress the issues.

In some instances, the plan represents the views of the Parish on wider strategic planning and environmental issues that have no immediate direct action requirement, but that should be taken into consideration in the future as a collective view or wish of the Parish. It is expected that this input forms part of any future consultations or decision making processes affecting the villages and our immediate environment.

Thank you again for your input to this important document and your continued support as the Plan evolves.

Yours Sincerely

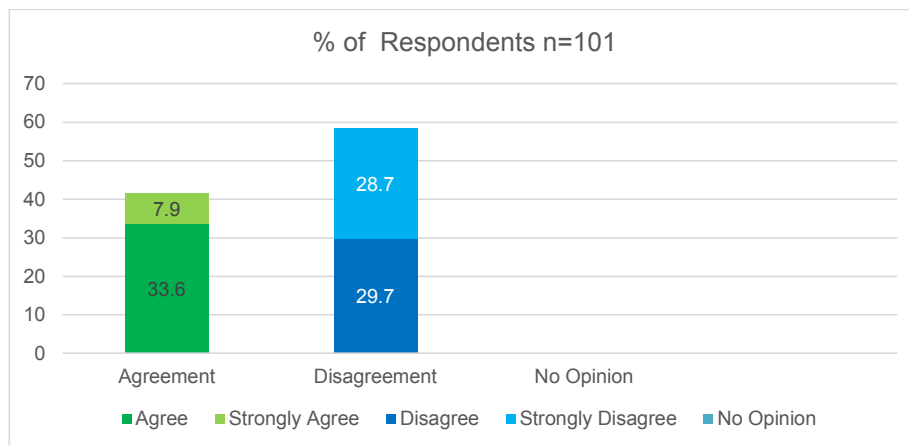
The Parish Plan Committee

Section 1 - Transport / Roads / Road Safety

Survey Questions 3-16

Q3

Traffic calming and speed management provisions are adequate.



41.5% of respondents agreed with the statement with 58.5% disagreeing. A clear majority would like to see traffic calming and speed management improved. The level of comment in this area was high, 58 respondents voiced opinions. A summary of key concerns is given below.

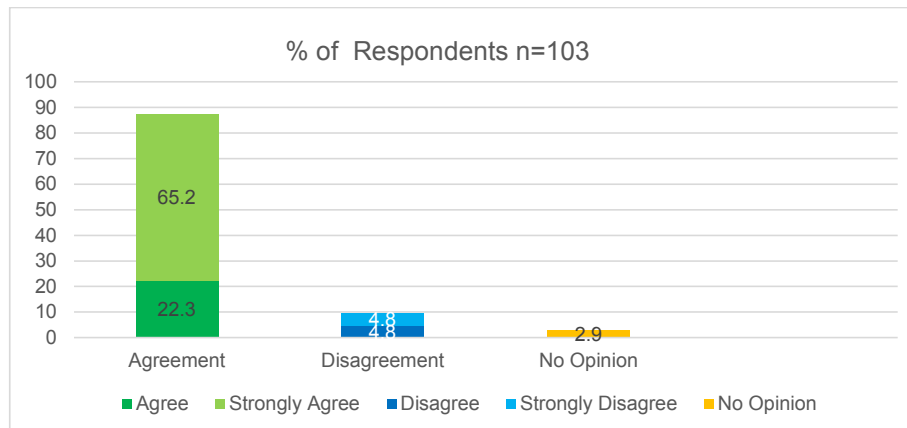
An overwhelming majority of the comments expressed concern at speeding through the village and the failure of the existing traffic calming measures to adequately control this.

- Several respondents observed that the 30mph restriction and chicane to the North of Abbots Ripton is poorly sited with restricted sight lines. More than one comment recommended re-siting to the junction with Clay Lane at the turn to the railway bridge.
- Several respondents recommended replacing the flashing 30mph school signs with electronic signs showing the actual speed of the approaching vehicle
- A 20mph section by the school and through Wennington village was also proposed
- The distance between the chicanes and the danger of vehicles speeding up by the time they reach the school was also noted. Provision of a formal pedestrian crossing at the central point in the village near the school was commented on although elsewhere concerns were raised about it being unnecessary.
- Speed bumps were both promoted and seen as a bad thing in the comments, with more in favour than against.

There were general comments on increased traffic volumes, particularly at peak times and the safety concerns of HGV traffic “short cutting” through Abbots Ripton. High speed motorcycle tourers, particularly at weekends were also noted as a safety and noise nuisance issue.

Q4

Developments beyond the Parish Boundary (Alconbury Weald, Wyton etc.) should include provision to manage traffic volumes through Abbots Ripton and Wennington (new roads, weight limits/ restricted access).



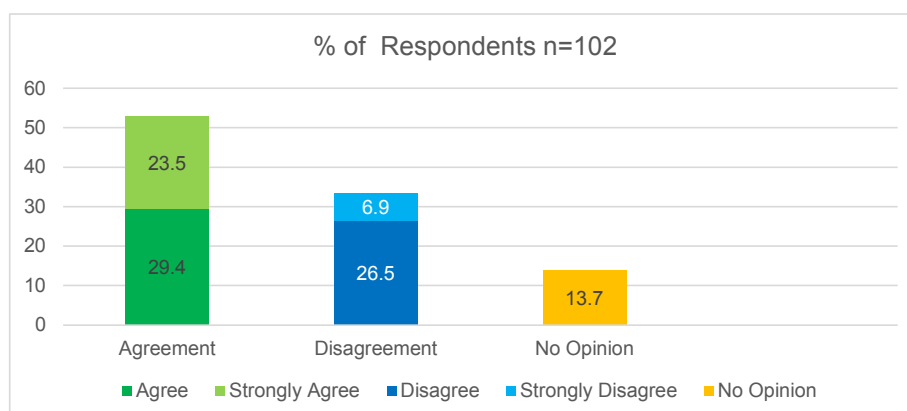
87.5% of respondents agreed with the statement with 9.8% disagreeing. A large majority of respondents would like to see traffic volumes managed through the villages.

41 respondents added comments with most of these expressing concern at increasing HGV traffic and speed.

- A large majority of comments express a wish for weight limits / HGV restrictions to be put in place through the villages with exemptions for local delivery and agricultural traffic.
- Opening a Clay Lane entry to Alconbury Weald without vehicle access restrictions would be a concern (bus, bicycle and emergency services only).
- Concerns were raised at the ability to actively enforce restrictions without the provision of physical controls such as more pronounced chicanes.

Q5

Speed limits should be lowered at peak times.

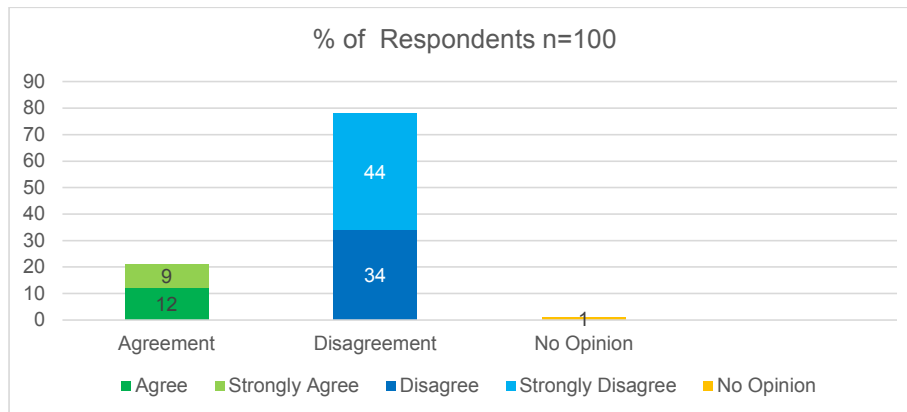


52.9% of respondents agreed with the statement with 33.4% disagreeing.

Few specific comments were received as many of the concerns were covered under Q3.

Q6

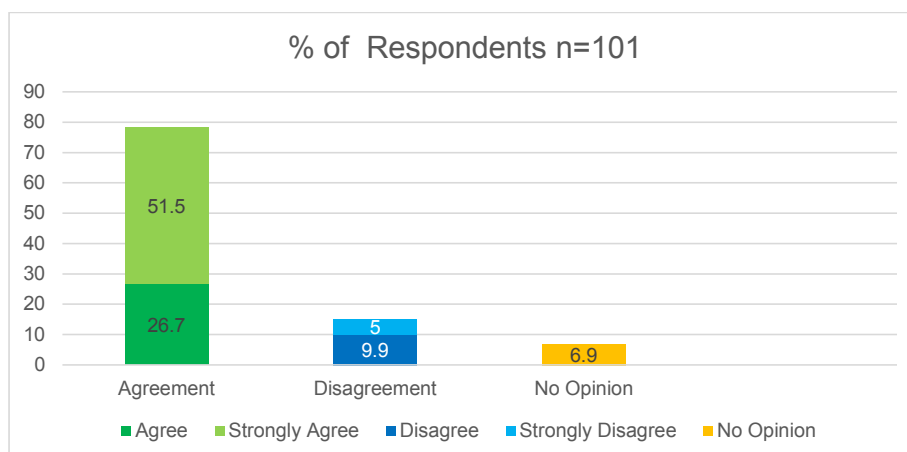
The County Highways program for road maintenance is adequate.



21% of respondents agreed with the statement with 78% disagreeing.

Q7

The current single track Abbots Ripton - Wennington Road should be re-surfaced and passing places improved.



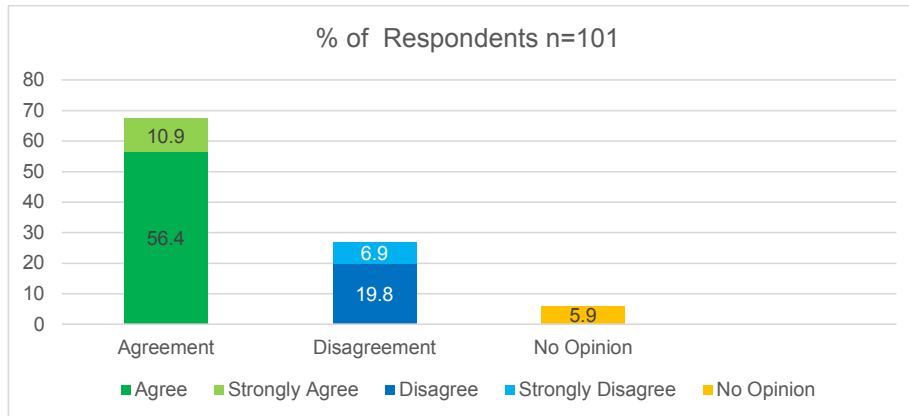
78.2% of respondents agreed with the statement with 14.9% disagreeing.

39 comments were received relating to Q6 and Q7 with a general strong feeling that road maintenance is inadequate with suggestions on priorities.

- B1090 to Huntingdon edges/potholes are a priority.
- Wennington Road, most comments recommend improvements to the passing places (tarmac refuges and not just widened unsurfaced areas) and the restitution of the carriageway edges.
- A few comments regard the poor state of the Wennington road as an indirect speed management and traffic calming improvement.

Q8

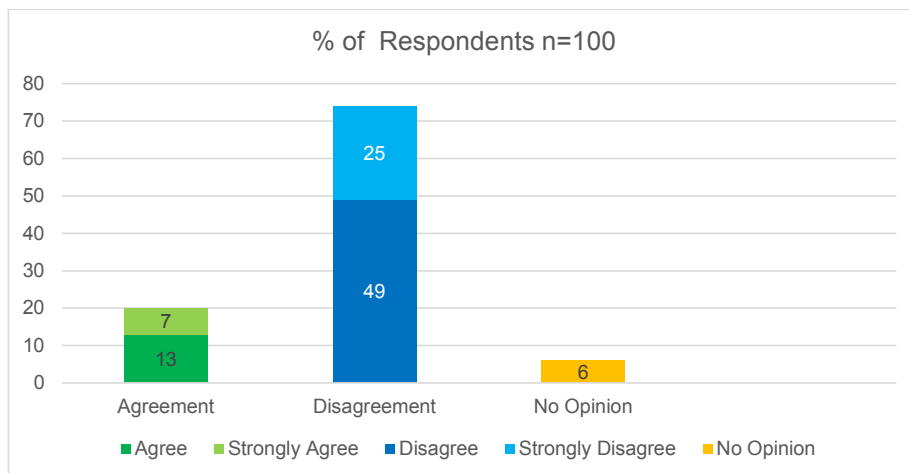
Parking provision in the Parish is adequate.



67.3% of respondents agreed with the statement with 26.7% disagreeing.

Q9

Parking restrictions (yellow lines) should be introduced.



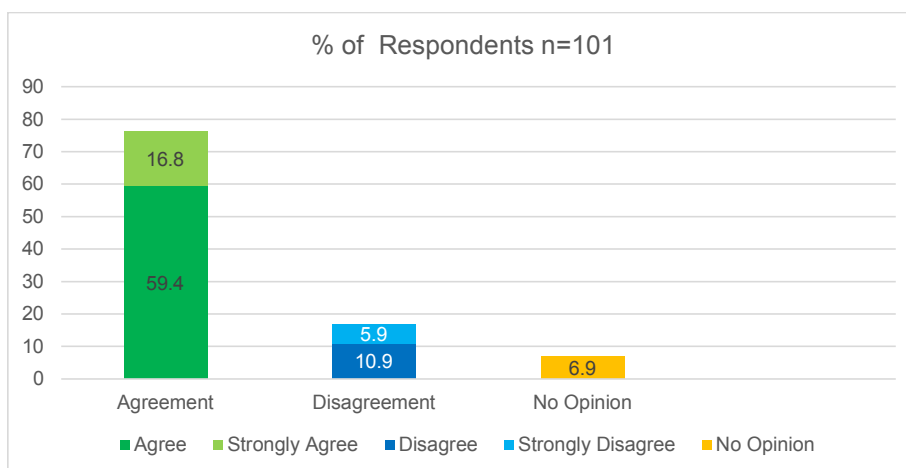
20% of respondents agreed with the statement with 74% disagreeing.

The general responses indicate that parking provision is adequate and a strong majority would not want to see yellow line restrictions introduced. Individual comments highlighted:

- School drop off parking issues, parents not using current car park and restricting the Wennington road at drop off/pick-up times
- Better parking at village shop would be an asset
- Bicycle stand provision at village shop and/or Jubilee bench by the Abbots Elm

Q10

Road signage in the Parish is appropriate and does not require change.



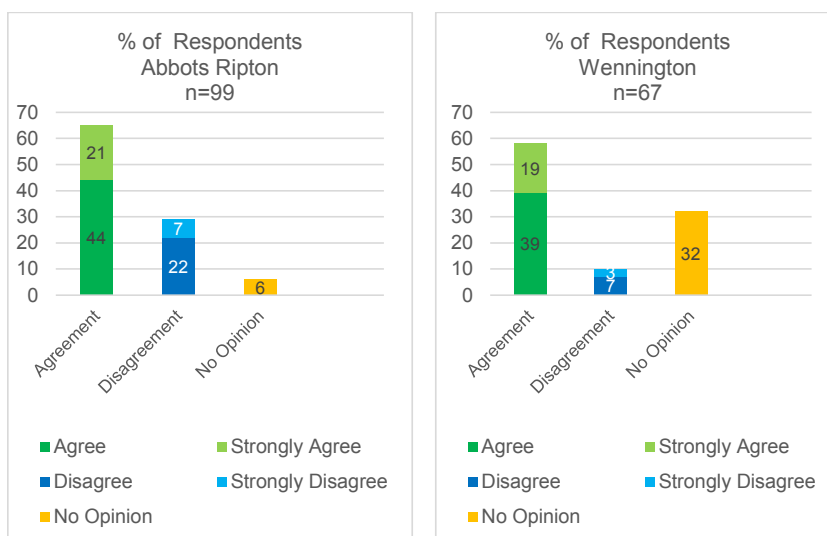
76.2% of respondents agreed with the statement with 16.8% disagreeing.

23 comments were received, the majority expressing that we have too much signage. Other comments recommended:

- Speed sensitive signage for the school – (driver actual speed signs to replace the current flashing 30mph signs at school times)
- Quality improvement of existing signage
- Add a central Village name plaque/sign for Abbots Ripton

Q11

Street lighting in the Parish is appropriate and does not require change.



65.6% of respondents agreed with the statement with 29.3% disagreeing for Abbots Ripton, and 58.2% of respondents agreeing with the statement and 10.5% disagreeing for Wennington. A clear majority in the Parish believe that the street lighting is adequate. Please note all respondents had the opportunity to comment on both Abbots Ripton and Wennington, the overall n number was 102 so some respondents had an opinion for both villages.

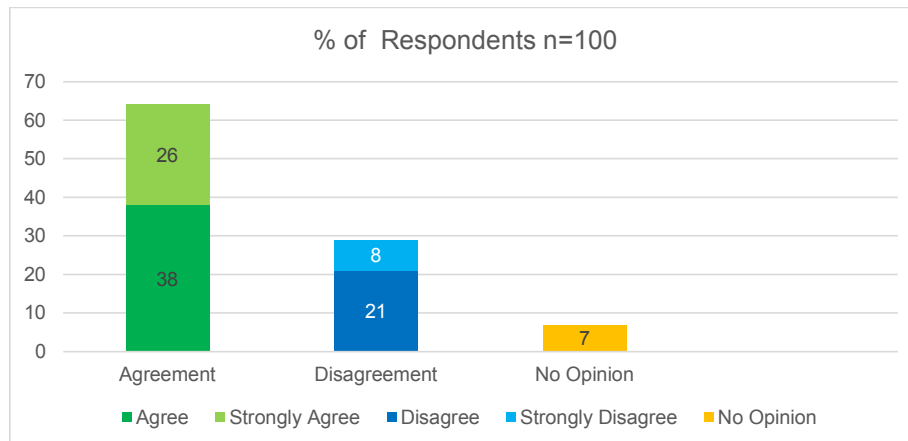
55 respondents commented:

- The majority reinforcing that the rural atmosphere and dark sky/lack of light pollution would be damaged by increased street lighting levels

- Improvements were also recommended
 - Move to LED for existing lights
 - Improve the aesthetic quality of the street lights (Wennington)
 - Lower light levels from Abbots Elm car park
 - Make specific improvements to street lighting from the Abbots Elm to Station Road

Q13

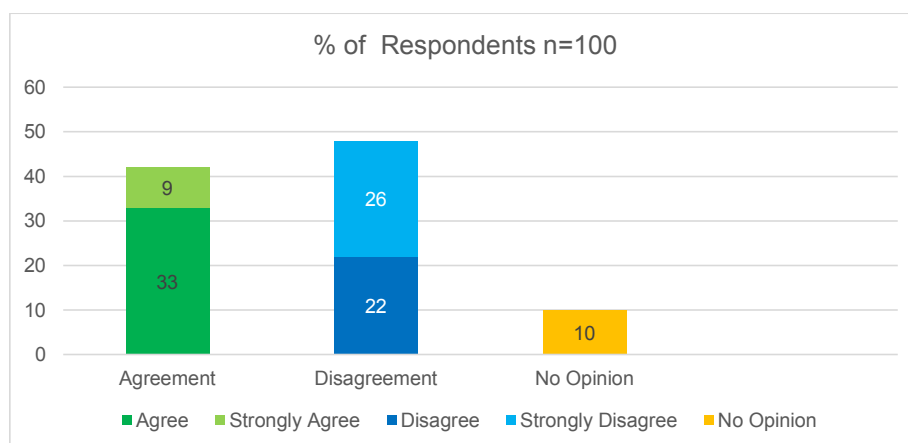
Abbots Ripton should have a controlled crossing point (zebra crossing) aligned with the footpath in front of the new houses by the church and the footpath on the school boundary.



64% of respondents agreed with the statement with 28% disagreeing. A clear majority of respondents support the provision of a controlled crossing point. This is strongly supported in several of the comments

Q14

Existing tarmac pavements and footpaths are adequate for safe child access to the school from all points in the village (AR).



42% of respondents agreed with the statement with 48% disagreeing.

A small majority hold the view that existing tarmac paths to the school are inadequate and the majority of the 39 comments received support that opinion. Key recommendations made include:

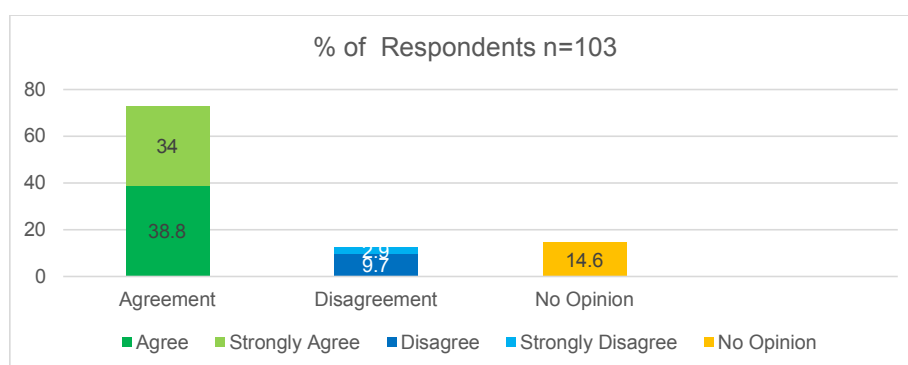
- Complete tarmac paths from all residential points in the village to the school in Abbots Ripton.

- Widen the path in the section from the Post Office to the school to improve safety
- A new rural footpath from the pub car park rear to the school car park across the back of Foxenfields avoiding road frontage.

A later section of the survey deals more comprehensively with footpaths in general. This section is specific to safe school access.

Q15

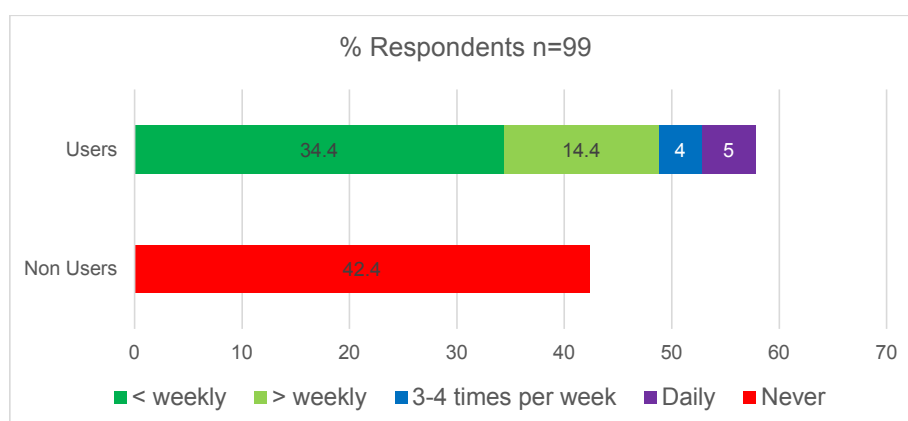
Abbots Ripton and Wennington need a regular bus service to connect to Huntingdon/St Ives.



72.8% of respondents agreed with the statement with 12.6% disagreeing. A clear and strong majority support the introduction of a bus service from the villages to Huntingdon/St Ives.

Q16

If a regular bus service were in place (say hourly), I estimate my usage to be;



57.6% of respondents estimate that they would make use of regular bus service.

Alconbury Weald developments are a potential facilitator for making an extension of the guided bus network viable and routing could be set to include Abbots Ripton and possibly Wennington. This would require a Clay Lane entrance to the Alconbury Weald site. The recommendations section will take into account both transport and Alconbury Weald impact concerns reflected in the survey responses to make a balanced response as part of the Parish Plan.

Recommendations/Actions arising from Survey responses to Section 1 Transport/Roads/Road Safety.

Summary

Clear concerns have been raised regarding traffic volumes and speed through Abbots Ripton and the general level of road maintenance. Recognising that improvement measures will require support from multiple external agencies (Council, Highways Department and Police) recommendations are made to help the prioritisation and assignment of funding when available to address these issues.

Safe pedestrian access to the school from all points in the village is a recurrent concern and is strongly linked to the road traffic issues.

The impact of Alconbury Weald, Wyton housing and commercial developments, and the opportunity for provision of public transport access in the Parish are further areas of interest eliciting strong responses from residents. Survey responses indicate that a clear majority of residents believe parking provision is adequate and that parking restrictions (yellow lines) should not be introduced in the future. The majority feeling is that there should be no increase in street furniture and current lighting levels in order to maintain the rural atmosphere in both Abbots Ripton and Wennington. There was no mandate for change.

Recommended actions for consideration based on the survey responses are:

Issue: Traffic calming / speed management through Abbots Ripton and Wennington. Both statistical response numbers and the narrative comments make this the top priority issue in the Transport/Roads/Safety section. Speeding through Abbots Ripton is a major concern.					
Recommended solution(s): <div>1. Re-site the start of the 30mph zone on the northern side of Abbots Ripton to just before the Clay lane junction and the railway bridge turn.</div> <div>2. Replace flashing 30mph school signs with electronic signs showing the actual speed of the approaching vehicle.</div> <div>3. 20mph section by the school and through Wennington.</div>					
Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes		Yes		Highways & Police
Priority	High				
Resources/ Funding Required: To be advised by the stakeholders					
Expected Outcome: Increased provision for speed management through the villages.					

Recommended Next Steps:

1. Proposal to be tabled by Parish Council for consideration by Highways department.
2. Currently under investigation by Parish Council. Infrastructure (the existing school signs) could be upgraded to speed activated dynamic signs.
3. Proposal to be tabled by Parish Council for consideration by Abbots Ripton School Governors and Council Highways department.

Speed management through Abbots Ripton will be further improved with enhanced traffic calming measures agreed as part of the planning granted for Alconbury Weald over a four-year period from 2016. Specific schemes will be developed by Highways department in consultation with the Parish Council.

Issue:

Potential increase in traffic volumes through the Parish with housing and commercial development of Alconbury Weald and Wyton

Recommended solution(s):

1. Construction traffic exclusion to Alconbury Weald via site access from Clay Lane.
2. Ongoing general access restrictions from Alconbury Weald to Clay Lane to avoid developing a further traffic short cut through the Parish to the A141 going east.

Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes	Yes		Urban & Civic, Highways & Police
Priority	High				

Resources/ Funding Required:

No particular funding required. See recommended next steps.

Recommended Next Step:

1. Undertaking has been given by Urban & Civic (Alconbury Weald) to the District Council and Parish Council that Clay Lane will not be used for Construction access to the Weald
2. Written undertaking received from Urban & Civic that Clay Lane shall not be used for access except for emergency vehicles and cyclists. In the event of a future bus service it is the intention that this would use the Clay Lane access. Physical barriers (rising bollards) will be implemented to prevent unauthorised access.

Issue:

Road maintenance Abbots Ripton to Huntingdon and Abbots Ripton to Wennington.

Concerns were raised at the level of "edge of carriageway" damage including potholes and in the case of the Wennington road inadequate passing places.

Recommended solution(s):					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urgent repairs to the B1090 and a better ongoing maintenance programme. 2. Resurfacing and edge reconstruction of the Wennington road. 3. Refuges/passing places to be surfaced to carriageway standards. 4. Lobby for better access roads around Huntingdon to alleviate through village traffic. 					
Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes		Yes		Highways Dept.
Priority	High				
Resources/ Funding Required:					
Resource prioritisation from County Council Highways Department.					
Expected Outcome:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patch repair work has been completed in 2016 to the worst affected areas however this is not a long-term solution compared to a thorough re-surfacing and edge reconstruction. 2. As 1 above. 3. PC to lobby County Councilor and Highways department. 4. PC to lobby County Councilor and Highways department. 					
Recommended Next Step:					
PC to lobby for resurfacing and improvements and to identify the likely schedule/timetable for future highways work and road improvements.					

Issue:					
Safe road crossing point for Abbots Ripton School access.					
Recommended solution(s):					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A controlled crossing point (zebra crossing) to be installed in a central village location (from the almshouses to the school boundary footpath). 					
Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes		Yes		Highways Dept. & Police
Priority	High				
Resources/ Funding Required:					
See recommended next step.					
Expected Outcome:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer access to Abbots Ripton School. • Enhanced speed management through the village. 					
Recommended Next Step:					
Parish Council to review feasibility.					

Issue: Safe school access from all points in the village.					
Recommended solution(s): 1. Complete tarmac paths from all residential points in the village to Abbots Ripton School. 2. Widen the footpath section from the Post Office/Shop to the school. 3. Develop a rural footpath from the rear of the Abbots Elm car park across the back of Foxenfields to the school car park avoiding road frontage.					
Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes		Yes	Highways
Priority	High				
Resources/ Funding Required: PC to review potential funding sources and any match funding available to cover items 1 & 2. Item 3 requires a detailed review with the landowners for feasibility.					
Expected Outcome: Improvements to school access footpaths.					
Recommended Next Step: PC to review and make recommendations against all three items					

Issue: Provision of a bus service from Abbots Ripton/Wennington to Huntingdon/St Ives. Recognising that extending a bus service to the Parish solely to serve the residents is unlikely to be viable, residents were surveyed to establish support and potential usage if future bus services planned for the Alconbury Weald development were to be routed through the Parish. A large majority of responding residents support the inclusion of Abbots Ripton in any planned services that may access Alconbury Weald via Clay Lane.					
Recommended solution(s): Include Abbots Ripton in the routing of services planned to connect Alconbury Weald to the Cambridge guided bus network and/or the Huntingdon/St Ives bus services.					
Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes	Yes		Bus Service Provider, Urban & Civic
Priority	High				
Resources/ Funding Required: No particular funding required. Inclusion in current public transport planning.					
Expected Outcome: Inclusion of the Parish in new bus routings from Alconbury Weald.					



A view from the Huntingdon Road



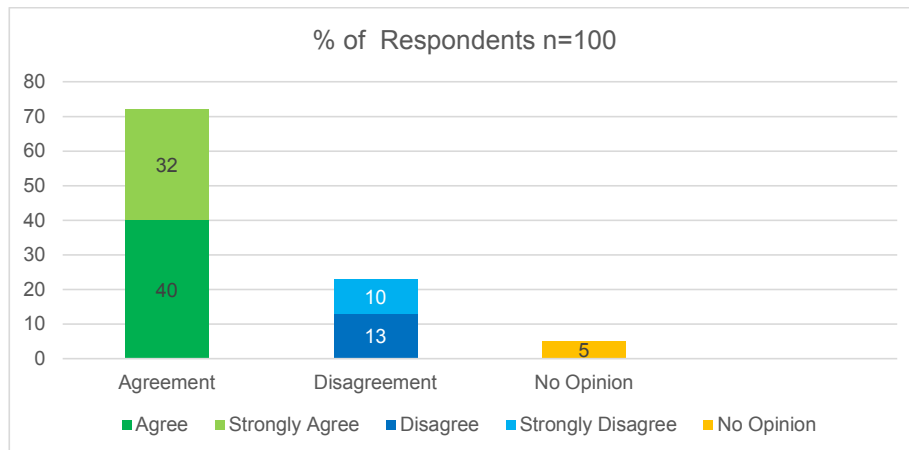
View towards Station Road

Section 2 – Network Rail and the building of a station near Abbots Ripton.

Questions 17-22

Q17

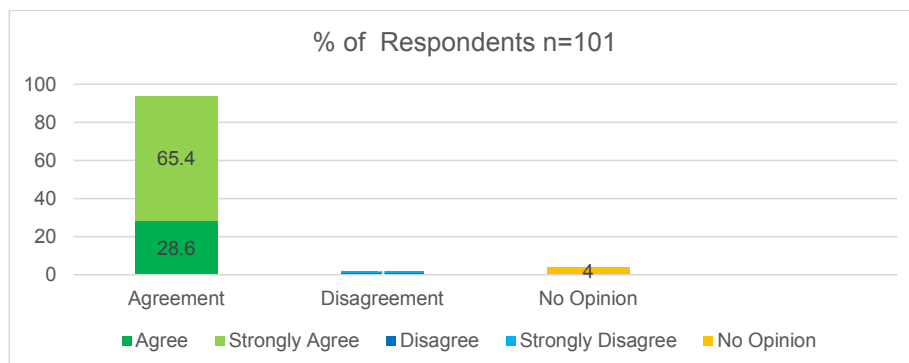
Building a railway station is advantageous for our Parish.



A high proportion (72.00%) agreed that the building of a railway station would be advantageous to the Parish. 23.00% disagreed and 5.00% had no opinion.

Q18

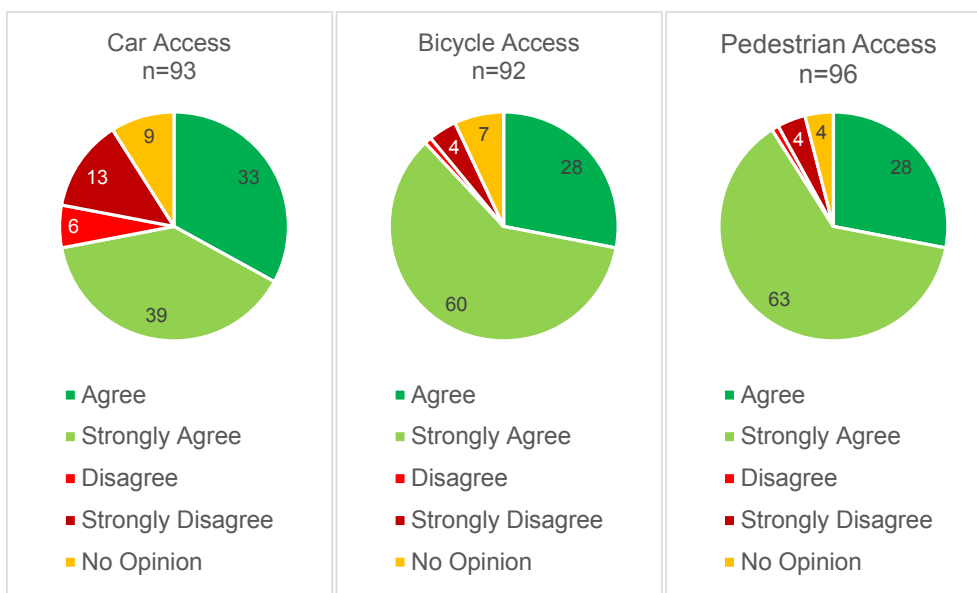
There should be liaison with the Parish about exactly where the station should be sited.



An extremely high percentage of respondents (94%) agreed that there should be liaison with the Parish about exactly where the railway station should be cited. 1% felt that there shouldn't be liaison and 4% had no opinion. At the time of asking respondents, the siting of the proposed station was not clear. Current information from Alconbury Weald has confirmed that the siting is proposed as shown on the enclosed maps and is within the Alconbury Weald boundary adjacent to the existing railway line.

Q19

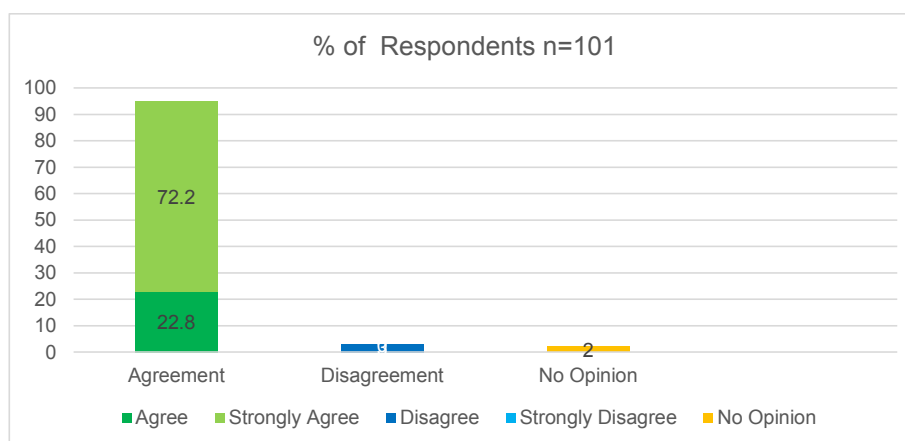
The station needs to be accessible for parishioners.



There was a strong feeling that a future station needs to be accessible for parishioners. 90.63% wanted it to be accessible by foot, 88.04% by bicycle and 72.04% by car. The strongest to disagree was access by car (at 19.35% and this section also had the largest group expressing a 'no opinion' (at 8.60%).

Q20

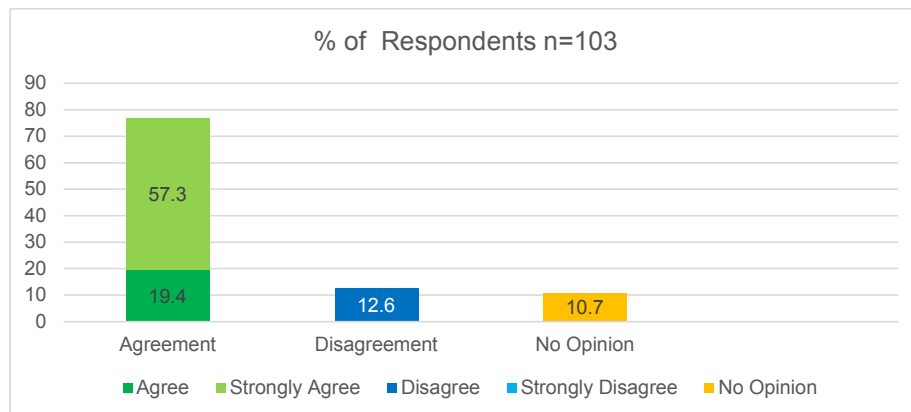
The Planners need to ensure that a railway station does not put additional pressure on the roads that run through the village.



An extremely high proportion (95%) agreed that planners need to ensure that a railway station does not put additional pressure on the village roads. Only 3% disagreed and 2% had no opinion.

Q21

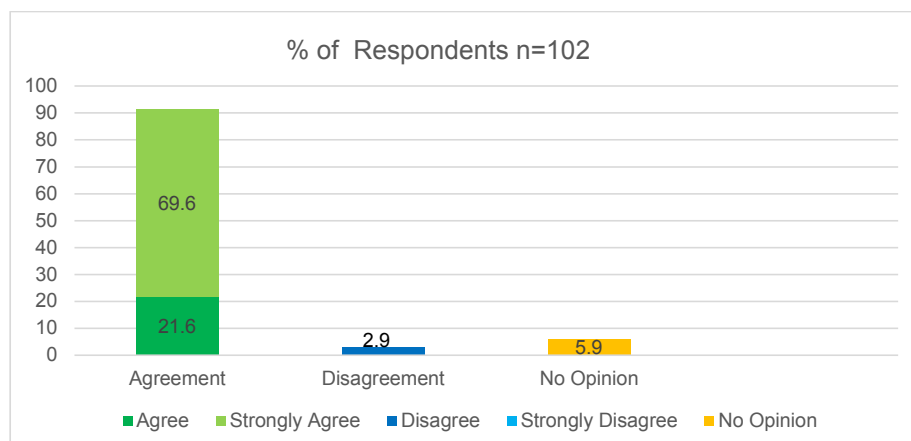
Construction access should be prohibited through Abbots Ripton.



A high proportion (76.70%) agreed that construction access should be prohibited through Abbots Ripton. 12.6% disagreed and 10.7% had no opinion.

Q22

Noise levels should be kept to a minimum (especially at night time) during the construction period.



An extremely high proportion (91.2%) agreed that noise levels (especially at night) should be kept to a minimum during the construction period. 2.9% disagreed and 5.9% had no opinion.

This section received 32 comments and the comments were rather varied:

- There were a few comments on how a railway station would benefit and be advantageous to the Parish.
- There were also several comments saying that it was completely unnecessary and not needed given the close proximity of both Huntingdon and Peterborough.
- There were a number of respondents who raised concerns about becoming a commuter village with all the ensuing potential traffic implications especially if neighbouring parishes found the new station easier to access than Huntingdon and Peterborough. There were some concerns about construction traffic going through Abbots Ripton and also Wennington.
- Parking concerns were also raised as being a significant issue.
- Numerous comments on how realistic a new station is and whether this is merely a hypothetical idea.

Recommendations/Actions arising from Survey responses to Section 2 Network Rail and the building of a station near Abbots Ripton

Summary

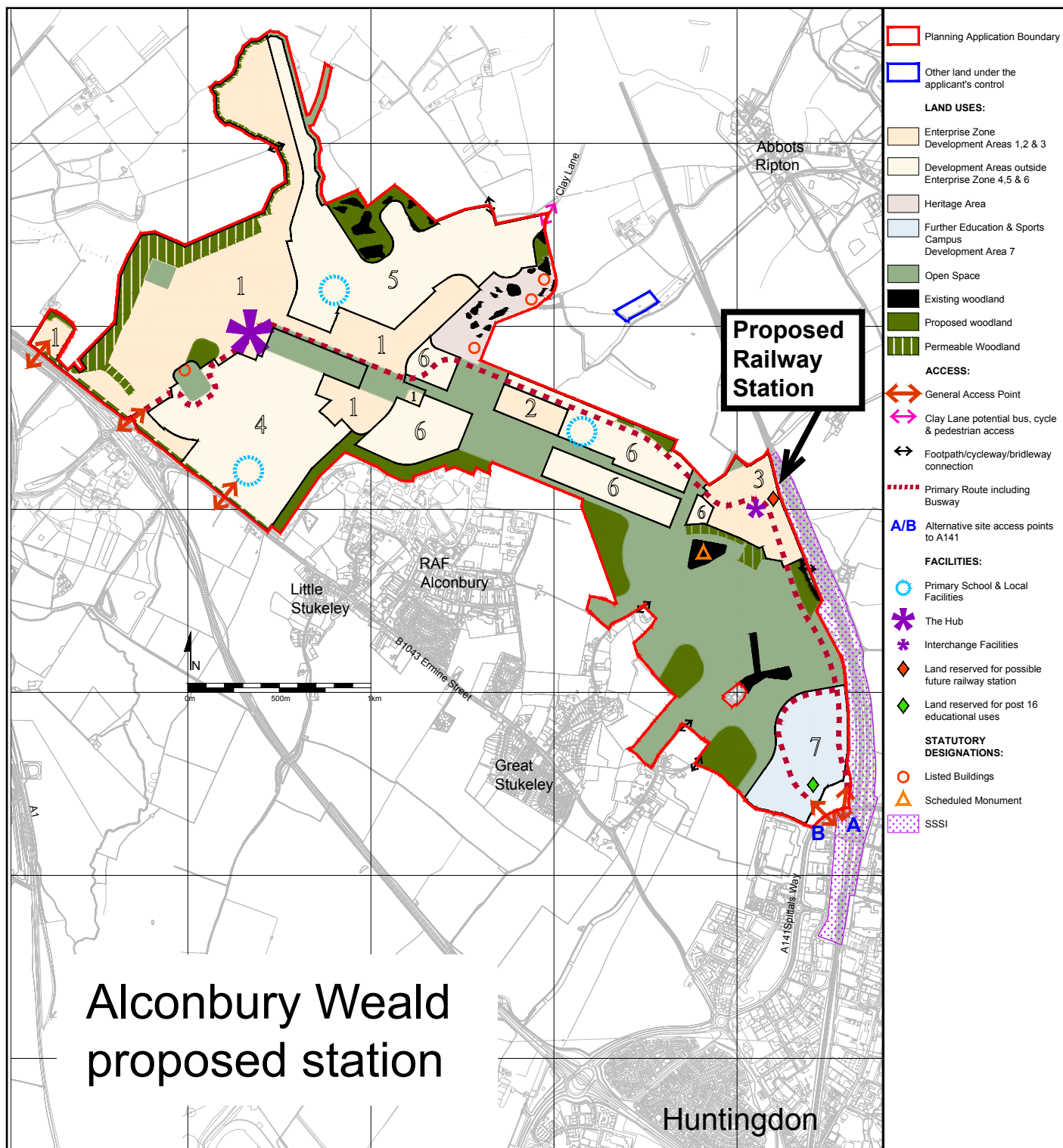
Since work originally started on the Parish Plan process there has been more information received regarding the future railway station. The location has been proposed but not yet fixed and indeed the business case for its construction has only recently been submitted by Urban & Civic (the Alconbury Weald developers) to the District Planning department. The illustration overleaf shows the proposed location in relation to Huntingdon and Abbots Ripton.

The station will be located on the west (northbound) side of the line and will not be accessed from the southbound side other than via one of the three access roads to Alconbury Weald; the existing Stukeley entrance, the Clay Lane entrance (only emergency vehicles, buses and cyclists) and a new entrance to the southeast of the site. Station parking will be to the west of the station i.e. there will be no parking facilities on the east side of the tracks i.e. the Abbots Ripton side.

In terms of the Parish Plan analysis there was an overall feeling that the building of a railway station would be advantageous to the Parish and there was almost unanimous agreement that despite not being situated in the Parish there should be close liaison with the Parish as to the exact location of the proposed station. A high percentage of parishioners wanted accessibility by car, by bicycle and by foot though somewhat contradictorily were also firm in their views that the new railway station should not put additional pressure on the village roads. There was a strong feeling that construction access through the village should be prohibited and the noise levels especially at night should be kept to a minimum.



The East Coast Main Line



Recommended actions for consideration based on the survey responses are:

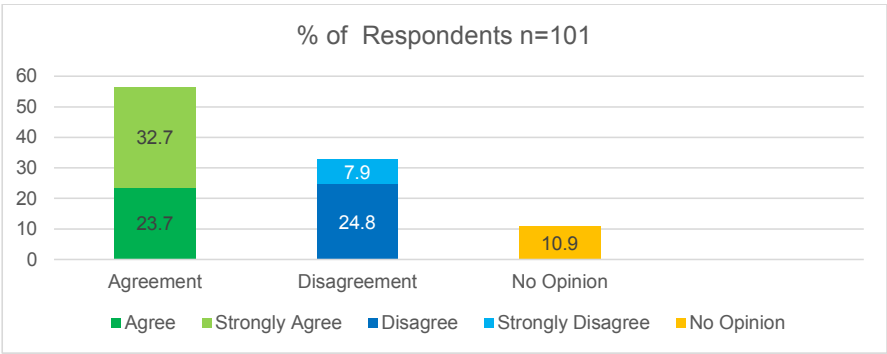
Issue: Ensuring now that the location has been agreed, that the railway station is accessible by a variety of means yet does not add to the pressure on the local roads.					
Recommended Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Stakeholders (PC, HDC, CC, Highways & Urban & Civic) to continue to look in detail at access roads / tracks serving the new station, to look at parking provision for the new station and endeavour to work together to predict traffic flows and possible rat runs.Real time communication with parishioners.Feeding back parishioners views to the decision-making bodies.					
Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes	Yes		Highways, Network Rail Urban & Civic
Priority	High				
Resources/ Funding Required: Leaflets, newsletters, possible hiring of Village Hall for information events.					
Expected Outcome: A fully informed community that feel that their views have been properly represented.					
Recommended Next Step: Continued on-going liaison with HDC, CC, Network Rail and Urban & Civic.					

Issue: Ensuring there are safeguards to prohibit construction access and keep construction noise to a minimum (especially at night).					
Recommended Actions: PC, HDC & CC to continue to lobby and influence with regards to the above. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Effective real time communication with parishioners.Feeding back parishioners views to the decision-making bodies.					
Stakeholders	Local/ PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes	Yes		Highways, Network Rail & Urban & Civic
Priority	High				
Resources/ Funding Required: Leaflets, newsletters, possible hiring of Village Hall for information events.					
Expected Outcome: A fully informed community that feel that their views have been properly represented.					

Section 3 - The Environment and Conservation.
(Questions 23-48)

Q23

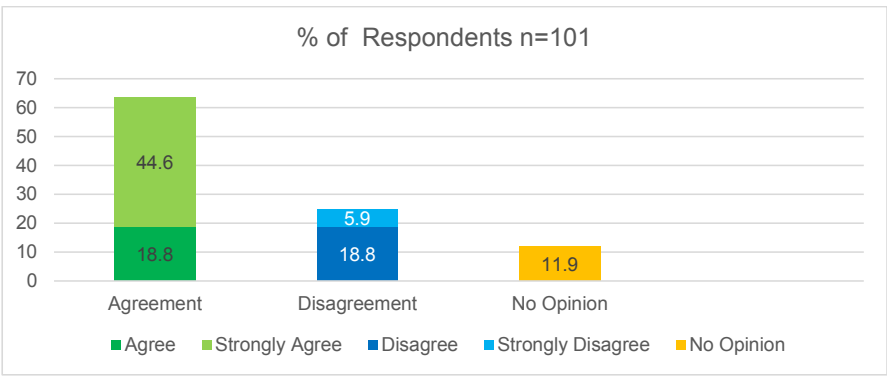
Further Solar Farm development near or in the Parish is undesirable.



56.4% of respondents are opposed to further solar farm development in the Parish with 32.7% supporting.

Q24

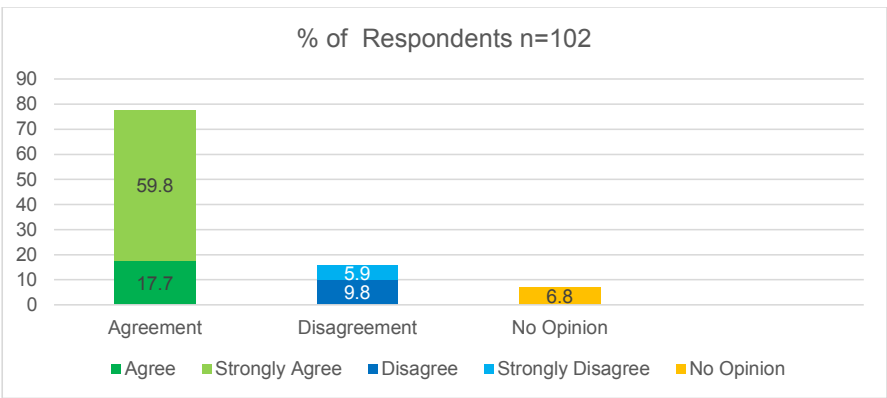
Wind Farm development near or in the Parish is undesirable.



63.4% of respondents are opposed to wind farm development in the Parish with 24.7% supporting.

Q25

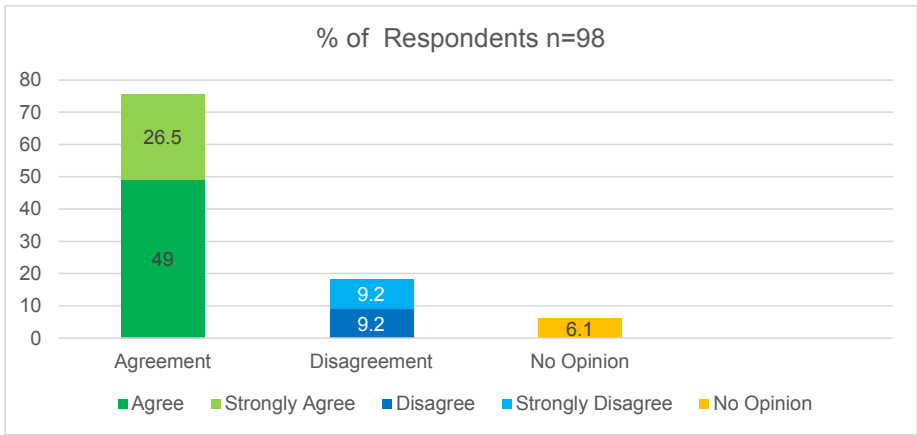
Shale Gas exploration (Fracking) or any other forms of mineral extraction near or in the Parish is undesirable.



77.5% of respondents are opposed to any form of mineral extraction in the Parish with 15.7% supporting.

Q26

Local individual renewable energy initiatives (solar, wind, combined heat and power/ biomass, self-generation and ground heating/cooling) should be supported subject to the normal planning processes.



75.5% of respondents support individual renewable energy initiatives, subject to planning consents, with 18.4% opposing.

Q27

Please add comments or suggestions you have regarding renewable energy development.

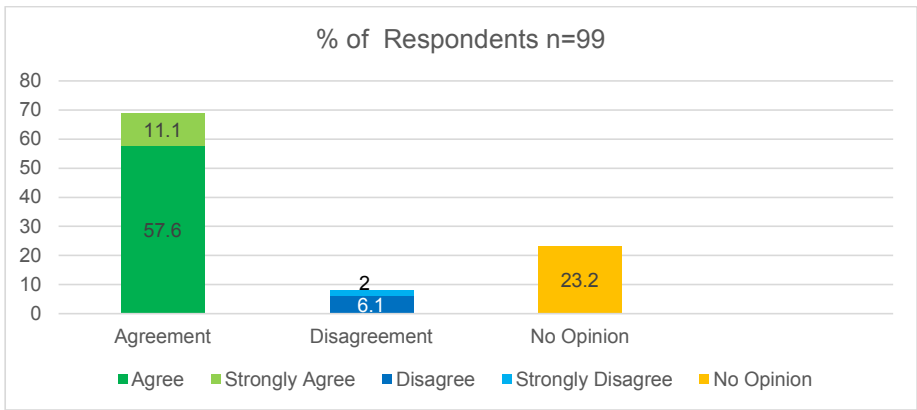
Answered: 20 Skipped: 84

20 comments were received regarding renewable energy development and mineral extraction. The **strong majority is opposed to further commercial development**, but also supportive of individual residential initiatives to increase renewable energy usage subject to local planning consents, recognizing the Conservation status of the villages.

Where support for renewables was expressed it was balanced with the need to be sensitive to the visual impact on our rural environment and the use of the land for food production.

Q28

Flood prevention measures are adequate in the Parish.

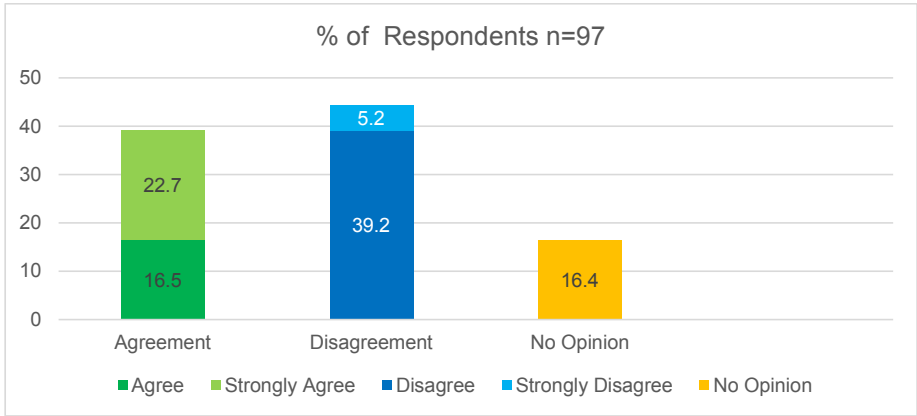


68.7% agree that flood prevention measures are adequate with 8.1% disagreeing.

15 comments from respondents were received. Some concerns were expressed at future impact of the large developments outside of the Parish (Alconbury and Wyton) on local water run off management on the network of local drainage ditches. Some respondents raised specific concerns at the maintenance of existing drainage ditches however the general consensus is strongly of the opinion that existing measures are adequate.

Q29

Light pollution is a problem in the Parish (strong invasive lighting in the villages or visible from surrounding areas i.e. Alconbury Weald).

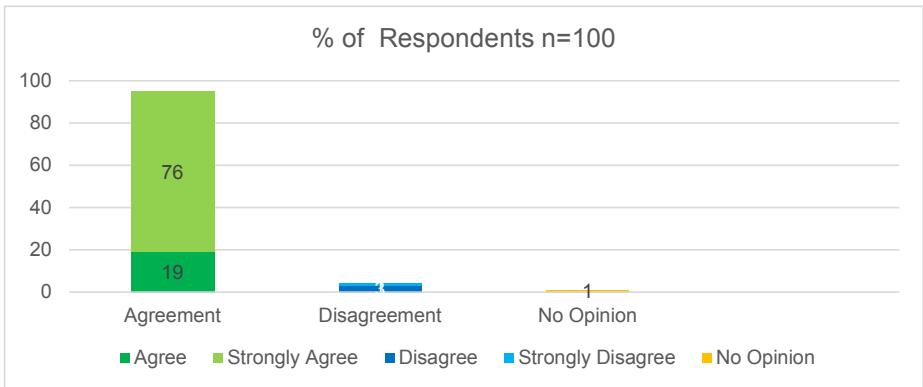


39.2% of respondents believe light pollution to be a problem with 44.4% disagreeing. Opinion is fairly evenly divided, however this topic did generate over 25 comments.

- The potential for Alconbury Weald to become a more significant light pollution contributor as it develops is a concern.
- Flood lighting at the Abbots Elm raised several comments regarding intensity and the direction potentially affecting traffic entering the village at night.
- Keep security lighting directed within the boundaries of the property.

Q30

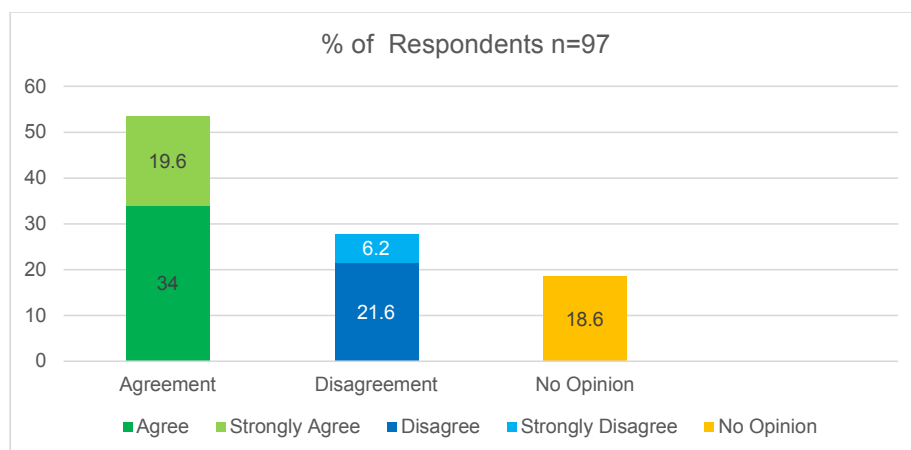
The open spaces available are an asset to the Parish and should be protected from development.



An overwhelming 95% of respondents are in agreement with the statement.

Q31

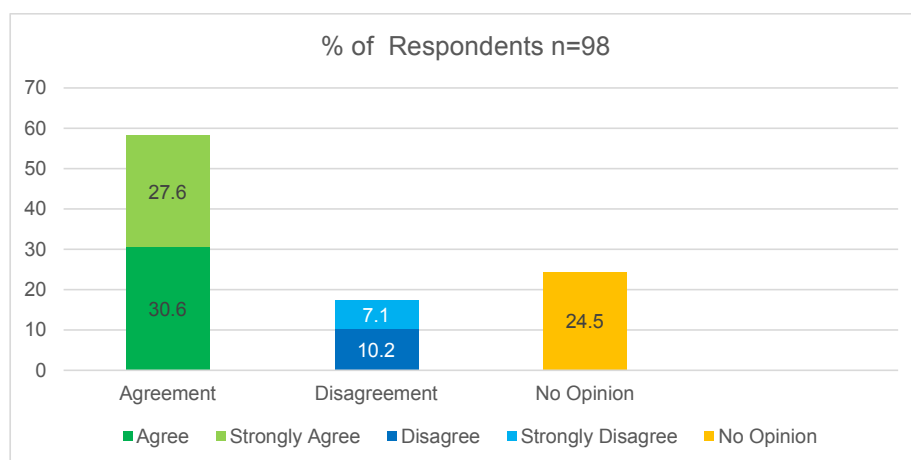
More / better access to open spaces is required.



The 20 comments received addressed making better use of the existing open spaces for village events and also concerns over footpaths that were consistent with the comments in other questionnaire sections. A need for safe footpath access to the school from all points in Abbots Ripton is consistently expressed throughout the survey responses. The need for a children's play area was also commented and this is covered in depth in following questions.

Q32

A younger child playground would be an asset for the Parish.



58.2% of respondents believe a younger child playground would be an asset with 17.3% disagreeing.

This question prompted a large number of comments (47) – mostly suggesting locations. Four locations were the most commonly mentioned, in order of number of comments received:

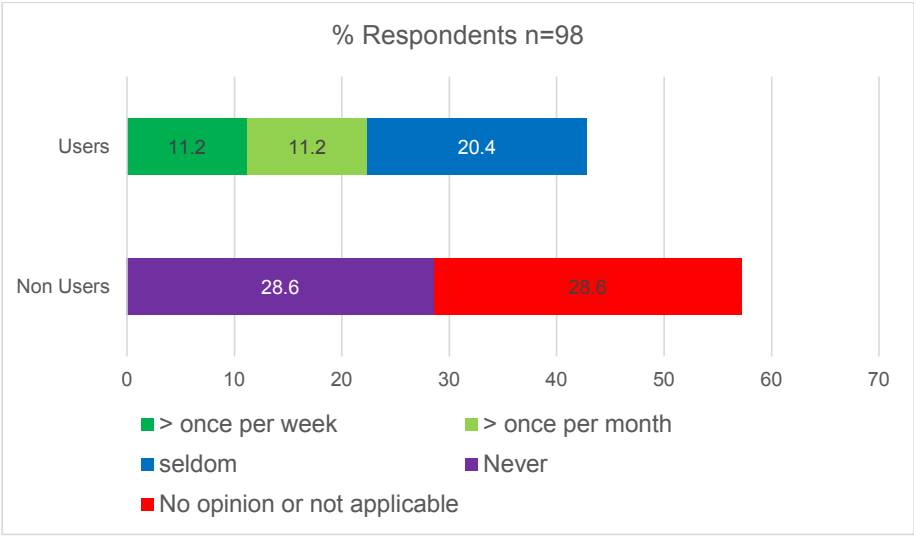
1. Village hall (11)
2. Glebe field (opposite Post Office) (9)
3. School grounds (5)
4. Brownie hut (4)

Other comments raised:

- Concerns of safe access and maintenance and liability insurance.
- Low numbers of resident children making the cost /benefit prohibitive.
- Covering older age ranges (Trim Trail, skateboard facilities).
- Sympathetic construction (wood not plastic).
- Priority relative to other potential areas of expenditure.

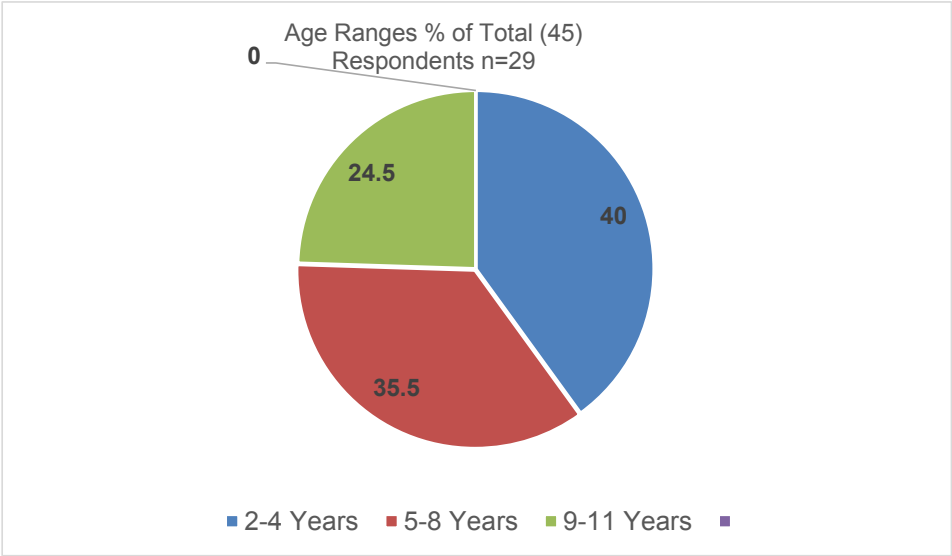
Q33

Would you and your family, or your visitors, make use of a play facility and what age ranges best suits your needs?



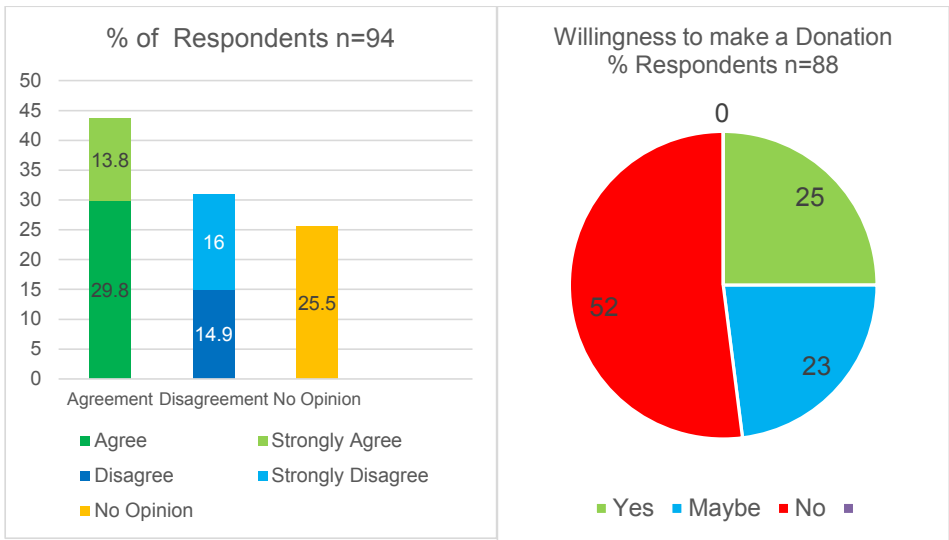
Q34

Please indicate the number of children in each age range likely to use a playground.



Q35 & 36

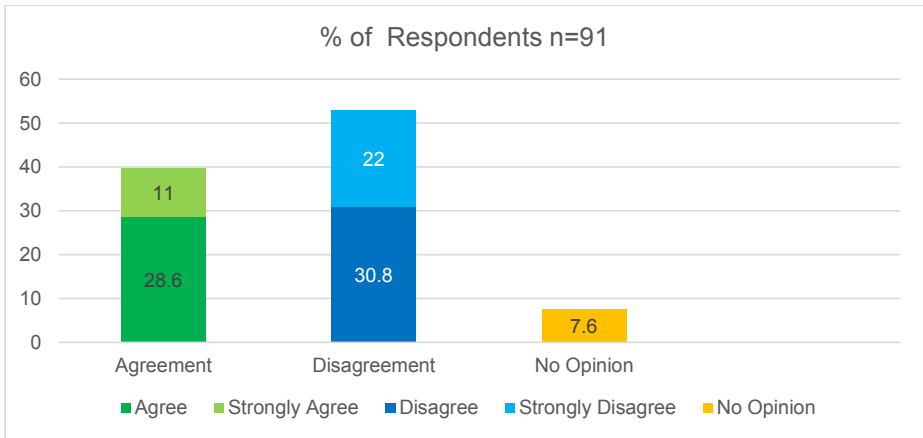
If match funding were available, I would prioritise spending from the Parish Council on a playground.



43.6% of respondents would prioritise Parish Council spending on a playground with 30.8% disagreeing. 48% of respondents are open to making a donation if matching funds were made available from the Council.

Q37

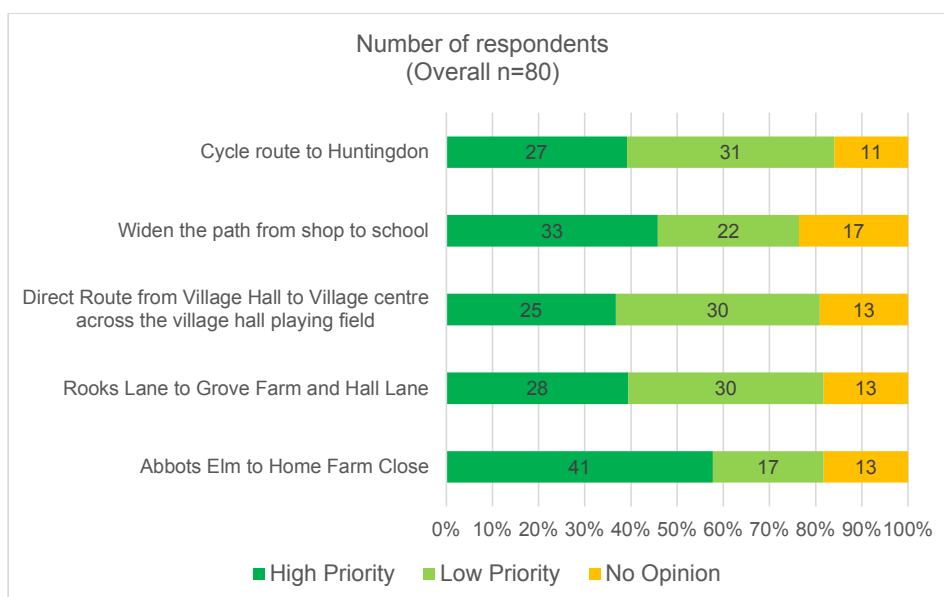
The current network of paths is adequate and needs no further development.



39.6% of respondents agree with the statement with 52.8% believing footpaths need further development. The questionnaire prompted several potential improvements and asked respondents to prioritise them. The results are tabulated in Q38.

Q38

If you believe the current paths should be improved/extended what priorities would you suggest.



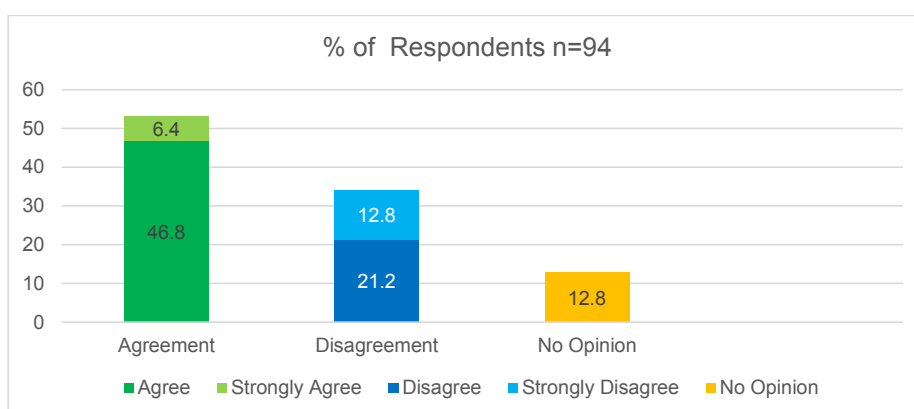
From those responding, the clear priority is to extend a footpath to Home Farm Close and to widen the existing path between the Post Office and the School.

Comments also recommended:

- Better access to the SGP site from Abbots Ripton.
- Connect from Station Road to Clay Lane (would create a circular village/rural walk.
- Open Estate gravel/concrete/tarmac footpaths to local residents for cycling.
- Connect all village paths.

Q39

Existing Footpath marking and maintenance is adequate.

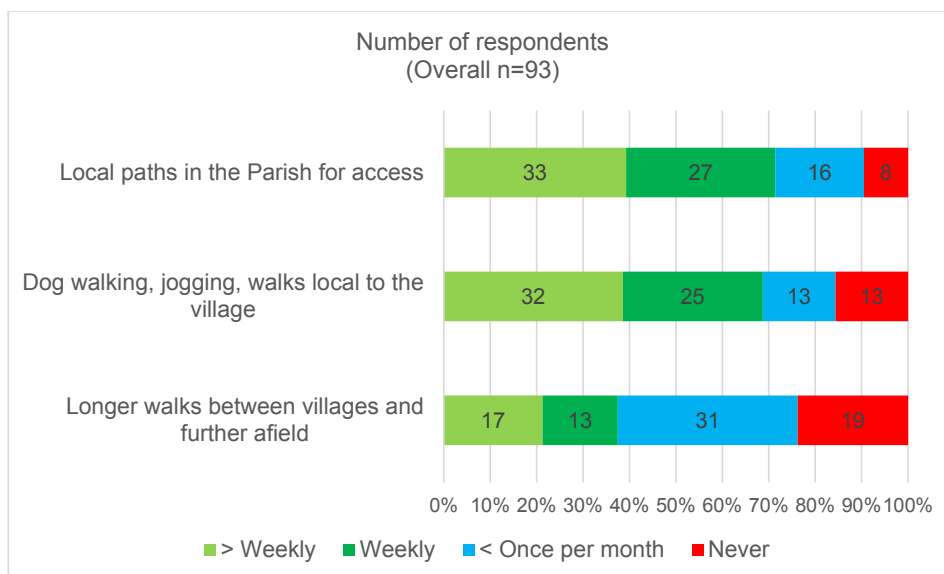


53.2% of respondents agree with the statement with 34.1% disagreeing.

Most comments express concern at the quality of the footpath access to the school from various points in the village.

Q40

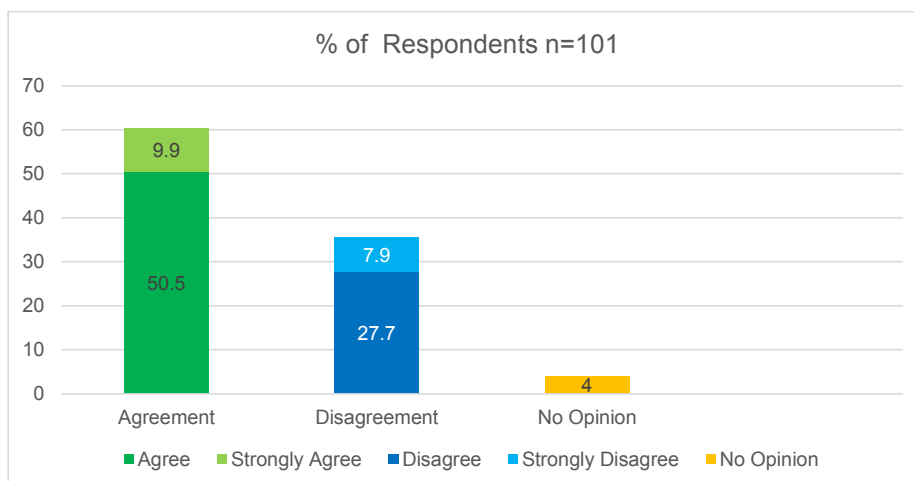
How often do you use the public access footpaths?



Circa 70% of respondents are making use of local village paths at least weekly with a significant group of 37% making use of the longer distance paths on a similar frequency. The existing network of paths is clearly an important and well-used facet of the Parish.

Q41

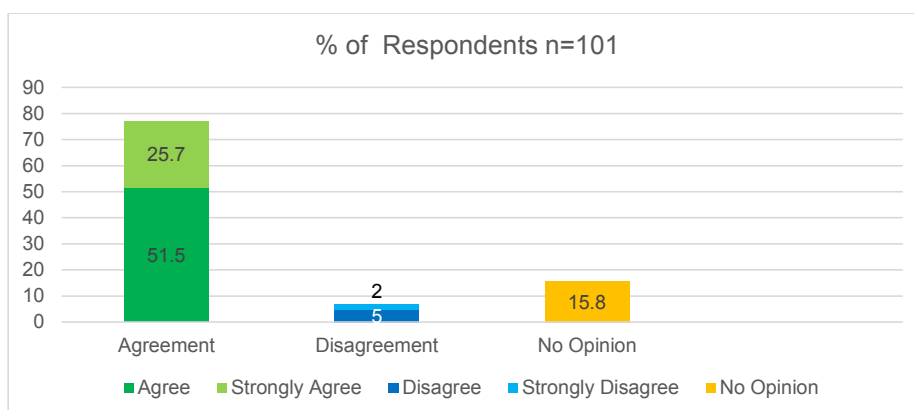
The existing frequency of verge grass cutting and hedge trimming by HDC or the AR Estate is adequate.



60.4% of respondents agree that the existing verge-cutting programme is adequate with 35.6% disagreeing.

Q42

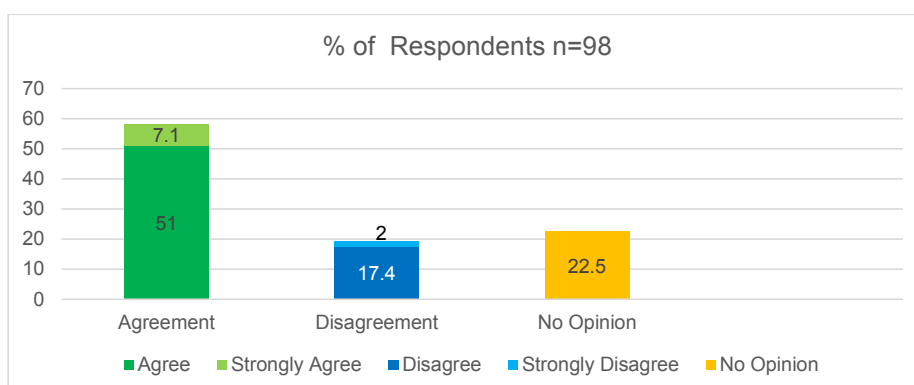
The Jubilee Garden is an asset to the village and should be maintained.



Respondents strongly support the maintenance of the Jubilee Gardens with 77.2% supporting the statement and only 7% disagreeing. Most comments recommend improvements to make it more usable, lowering the hedges and improving the grass cutting. Some comments reflected the play area responses recommending an adjacent location with access from one to the other.

Q43

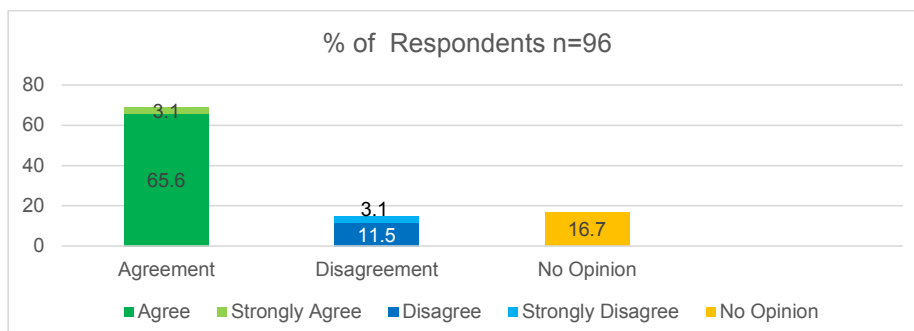
The Parish has enough benches overlooking our most scenic views.



58.1% of respondents agree with the statement with 19.4% disagreeing. Most comments came from the minority requesting more resting places citing Glebe Field, Wennington looking towards Abbots Ripton, and more on the village hall/green as possible locations.

Q44

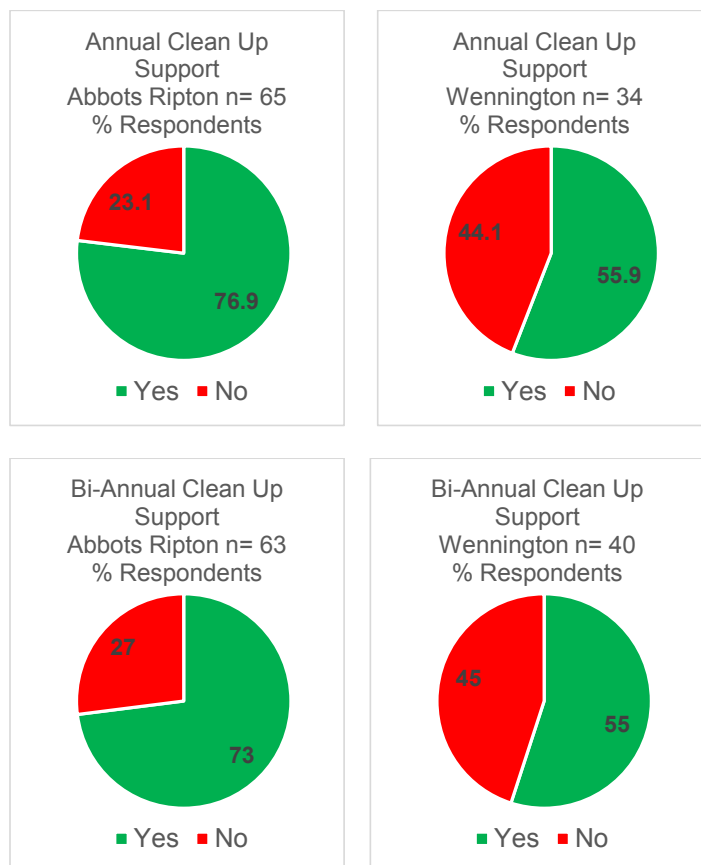
The Parish has adequate litterbins in the right locations.



68.7% of respondents agree with the statement with 14.6% disagreeing. 19 respondents commented with equal passion for and against increased bin numbers and dog poo bins. The more silent majority would indicate that current provision as adequate, although dog owners are to be reminded that even a rural footpath is no excuse to not “pick up” when the results are nestling on the path waiting for another walker’s footwear.

Q45

If the council provided suitable equipment and collection/disposal would you be willing to participate in an annual or bi-annual village clean-up day?



A strong majority of villagers in Abbots Ripton and a majority in Wennington would be willing to support a cleanup day.

Questions 46,47 and 48

These three questions were framed for open comment with no statistical response. As with all the comments sections, you can use the website link provided to look at all the results and all the verbatim comments directly in Survey Monkey – the site used to collate your responses. The summaries below bring out the main points raised in your responses where there are several similarly themed comments. It has not been possible to keep this document to a readable length and include every single comment or the very small minority view. In the same way hanging statements, standalone provocative remarks and anything that may be deemed offensive has been disregarded for the summary.

Q46

What additional facilities would you like to see in the Parish that would improve the environment?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 70

The following themes attracted multiple comments from respondents; if your comment, or the theme of it, is not included you hold a singular or small minority idea or opinion. Rest assured, readers will find it on the website and anonymity is preserved.

Key Themes:

- Traffic Management (Weight Limit, By Pass, Traffic calming improvements, speed measurement screens).
- Village hall – expanded facilities for sports teams, meetings etc.
- Footpaths – additional permissive paths in woodland and by the fishing lakes.
- Children's Playground.
- More planned flower planting in village public areas.
- Village name sign.
- Litter collection.

Q47

What do you most value in our surrounding environment? Please list.

Answered: 75 Skipped: 29

75 respondents took the time to add a comment with a high degree of common themes, so much so that the list below has been ordered by frequency of occurrence of the theme, the number of responses gives you an indication of the weighting of opinion.

Key Themes:

- Peaceful, quiet environment (22)
- Open spaces access to countryside (18)
- True village amenities – the package of school, church, pub, village hall, Post Office and shop (13)
- Beauty of the village (6)
- Footpaths (6)
- Wildlife (6)
- Sympathetic housing development (5)
- Trees (5)
- Village life (3)

Q48

What do you see as the greatest threat to our Parish environment? Please list.

Answered: 75 Skipped: 29

Again, 75 respondents took the time to add a comment with a high degree of common themes. As per Q47 the themes have been weighted by number of comments.

Key Themes:

- Increased Traffic (30) – a clear majority of comments were on this theme often joined in the same comment to concerns at the impact of Alconbury Weald and Wyton housing developments.
- Undesirable or unsympathetic development and over development (16).
- Wyton and Alconbury Weald housing developments in close proximity to the Parish (11).
- Lack of affordable housing/ loss of young families to village life as ageing demographic (2).
- Fly tipping and litter in general (2).

Recommendations/Actions arising from Survey responses to Section 3 The Environment and Conservation.

Summary

Survey responses show a great level of support for preserving the rural character of the Parish and maintaining the peaceful and quiet environment. The community value of the village amenities; open spaces, countryside access, school, pub, post office/shop, village hall and church, is recognised as being a rare combination in a Parish of our size and of tremendous importance in maintaining the atmosphere and character and in attracting people to want to live here. Many of these amenities only remain viable and sustainable in the long term through patronage from the wider community and from within the villages. Parishioners are encouraged to maximise their use of what they value and to encourage others to do the same.

The general feeling is that any planned developments should be sympathetic to both the nature and the scale of the Parish and should not adversely affect the overall character and footprint of the village including the “greenbelt “ around and between both villages. This is covered in greater detail in the Housing and Planning section. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the greatest threats to the environment were voiced as increasing traffic levels as reflected in the traffic section, and potential unsympathetic or over development of housing and commerce.

The survey asked for very specific opinions on a variety renewable energy developments including solar farms (which we have experience of), wind farm installations and potential mineral extraction developments including fossil fuels. In all cases, there is strong opposition to further commercial development. In short, large scale renewable energy developments are not supported by the majority of respondents to the survey. However, there was a strong majority who supported individual residential energy initiatives that are subject to the normal planning processes and environmental controls.

Preservation of the open spaces in the Parish and their protection from development is overwhelmingly supported by the respondents to the survey. Residents appreciate the maintenance of the footpaths across Abbots Ripton Estate land and the management of the environment in general. Greater flexibility in the use of safe permissive paths, i.e. defined access routes and made up roads/paths through the Abbots Ripton Estate that are not designated public footpaths, was a recurrent theme and the rigorous imposition of “no cycling” on the public footpaths is seen as an impediment to family enjoyment of our open spaces. These opinions as such are not actionable as part of this plan but are offered as feedback for consideration by the landowners and their agents.

Within the environment and conservation section there were some items that parishioners felt required no change or action to improve. These include: flood prevention measures, maintaining the jubilee gardens in Abbots Ripton, provision of benches/seating areas/litter bins and maintenance of verges and hedges and existing footpaths in the Parish.

Actionable responses were received regarding; light pollution, provision of better child play facilities, extending/improving the network of footpaths and litter clean up.

Recommended actions for consideration based on the survey responses are:

Issue:

Night-time light pollution (strong invasive lighting) from within the villages or visible from surrounding areas.

Survey responses were balanced, however a significant number of respondents feel light pollution is an important issue and many raised actionable comments for consideration. Recommended solutions below are directed to both corporate bodies in planning municipal and commercial lighting and to individual householders when looking at external lighting for their property.

Recommended solution(s):

- Alconbury Weald lighting to minimise night glow visible from Abbots Ripton.
- Flood lighting of Abbots Elm car park to be minimised/directed to lower light level seen from the road.
- Residents to keep outside lighting and security lighting to a minimum and keep it directed within the boundaries of the property.

Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes			Alconbury Weald
Priority		Medium			

Resources/ Funding Required:

Light pollution to be a consideration in all future planning.

Expected Outcome:

Formal recommendations to be made by Parish Council to the affected parties.

Recommended Next Step:

Parish Council to progress.

Issue:

The Parish has no freely accessible younger child play facilities in any of the open spaces. A clear majority of respondents to the survey supported the provision of a play area and the response rate was high. Given the demographic mix of the Parish it is clear that support comes from more than just those with children in the young age group, perhaps recognising that play facilities are not just an amenity for residents but also an attraction for potential young family residents, essential to sustain the villages in the longer term.

Recommended solution(s):

The survey responses indicated strongest support/need for play facilities catering for the 2-8 year age range and many comments quoted examples of good facilities in other villages in the region as a template for our Parish e.g. the villages of Graffham and Leighton Bromswold.

Potential sites were proposed in the comments with the village hall and glebe field (opposite the post office) most popular. The school grounds were also proposed but it is recognised that using school facilities outside of school hours has both security and liability implications.

Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes		Maybe – location dependent	Maybe- Diocese of Ely – Owners of Glebe Field
Priority	High				

Resources/ Funding Required:

A majority of those expressing an opinion would prioritise Parish Council spending on a play area if match funding were available from HDC or other bodies. 48% of respondents indicated yes or maybe to making a personal donation towards the costs if matching donations were offered by the council.

Expected Outcome:

A formal proposal to be developed by the Parish Council in consultation with parishioners so that applications for funding and planning permission might be sought.

Recommended Next Step:

Proposal to be taken forward by PC.

Issue:

Adequacy of the existing network of paths and better access to open spaces in the Parish. The Parish enjoys a network of maintained rural public footpaths and open access to the village hall playing field/cricket field and Jubilee gardens. Respondents have a majority opinion that more or better access is required citing better use of the open spaces for village events and the extension/improvement of some footpaths to improve connection of dwellings in Abbots Ripton to village amenities.

Recommended solution(s):

The table for Q38 of the survey shows the priority opinions of the respondents for pedestrian access and footpath improvements with the top priorities being

- Create a footpath from the Abbots Elm (termination of existing path) to Home Farm Close to create a safe pedestrian access from village housing to the shop/post office and school.
- Widening of the path from the Post Office/Shop to the school
- Extension of the footpath from the end of Rooks Lane to Grove Farm and Hall Lane

A safe cycle route to Huntingdon is also strongly supported but recognised as being a major undertaking – access to cycle routes planned for Alconbury Weald via Clay Lane, and tracking the route of the 4th rail line installation by Network Rail may be viable options.

Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Priority	High				

Resources/ Funding Required:

To be determined by Parish Council.

Expected Outcome:

Improvements to paths in the identified priority areas.

Recommended Next Step:

Feasibility and potential funding plan to be developed by PC.

Issue:

Litter clean-up to improve our environment. Respondents indicated overwhelming support for periodic (annual or bi-annual) litter clean up days to engage Parish volunteers to clear our verges and public spaces of litter. Much of the litter appears to be deposited from cars passing through or parking for refreshments and then leaving wrappers and packaging behind. There are occasional examples of “fly tipping” where larger amounts of refuse are deposited at the same time.

Recommended solution(s):

- Twice yearly clean up days to be organised/advertised by the Parish Council.
- Safety equipment to be loaned by HDC.
- Bags to be provided and collected by HDC.

Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes			
Priority	High				

Resources/ Funding Required:

Support from PC and HDC – no funding required.

Expected Outcome:

Clean village – encouragement to reduce littering – “see no litter / deposit no litter”.

Recommended Next Step:

PC to agree dates and publicise a Saturday clean-up day.

Continue to regularly lobby the fast food retailers at the Tower Fields site to conduct their own litter clean up exercises through the Parish Council.



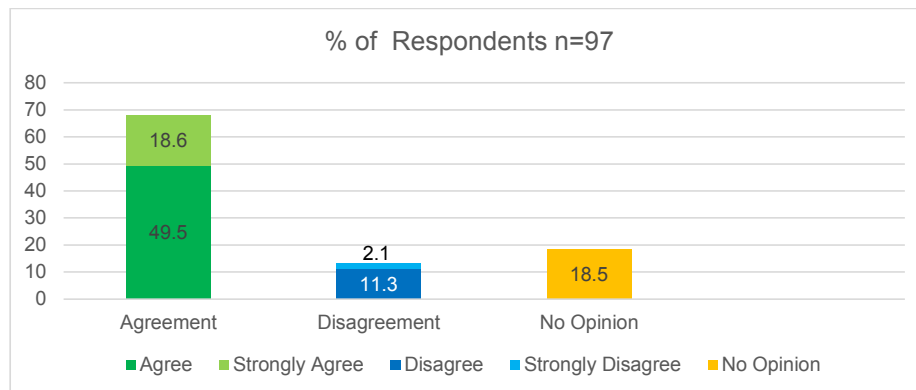
Thatching in the Parish

Section 4 – Housing and Planning.

Questions 49-52

Q49

The Abbots Ripton Farming Company manages its impact and local liaison in regards to planning and housing successfully.



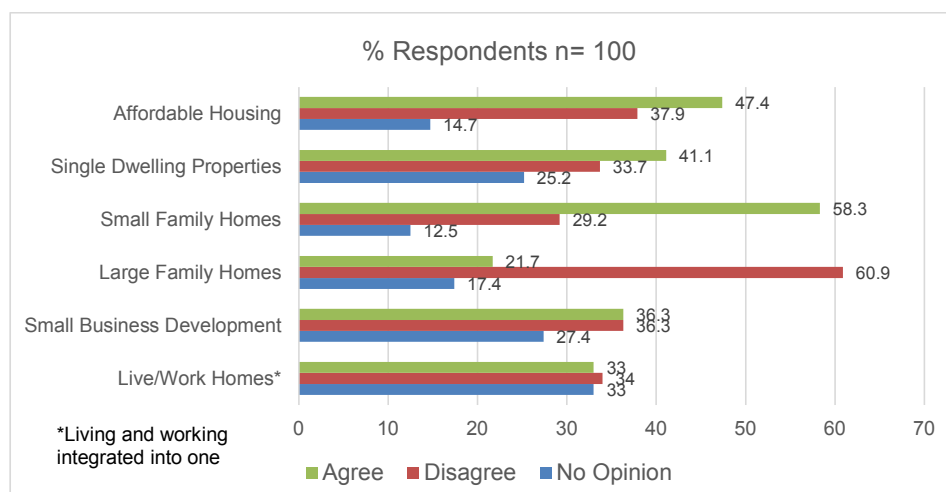
68.1% of respondents agreed that The Abbots Ripton Farming Co. manages its impact and local liaison in regards to planning and housing successfully. 13.4% disagreed and 18.5% had no opinion.

17 comments were received:

- The comments received requested far greater transparency and openness from Abbots Ripton Farming Company and the De Ramsey Estate in terms of future planning requirements and more local liaison consultation and engagement with Parishioners.
- There were requests to see both short term and longer term plans.
- There were a couple of comments saying that there needed to be far more consideration to parishioners / freehold owners as stakeholders.

Q50

The Alconbury Weald and Wyton developments will create many more demands on the surrounding villages with regard to housing. The parish is lacking in the following types of development.



In terms of type of the housing respondents felt was lacking in the Parish – small family homes received the highest percentage (at 58.3%). Affordable housing and single dwelling properties are also supported by a small majority of respondents. A larger majority (60.9%) do not want to see further development of large family homes in the Parish.

In terms of small business development there is an even split of those supporting and not supporting development at just over a third of respondents for each.

Support for live/work homes is also evenly split. This section received the highest proportion of those expressing no opinion.

There were quite a number of comments received and they were rather mixed:

Several comments saying that there were already enough larger family homes

There were various comments saying that they would like to see smaller family homes that also allow for down-sizing.

There were a couple of comments questioning the pressure to build and stating “we do not want to become a town”.

A few people said that they felt they would like to see affordable housing however there was also a concern raised that unless very architecturally sensitive affordable housing might look out of place and one comment stated “nothing is affordable here”.

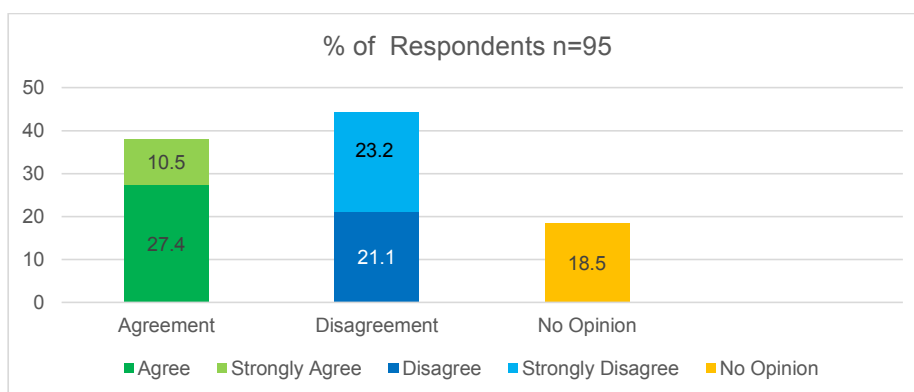
There was a number of comments that said we need to encourage young families into the community in order to keep the Parish and School viable.

There was a general feeling in the comments that the balance of the community needs to be re-addressed possibly through future housing as too many older people and not enough younger people.

The comments on farm buildings being used for business development and for retail purposes were rather mixed with a number of respondents saying that they would like to see sensitive and sustainable development of these buildings.

Q51

The area south of the Village Hall is suitable for development.



37.9% of respondents agreed that the area south of the Village Hall is suitable for development and slightly more disagreed (41.05%). 17.89% had no opinion.

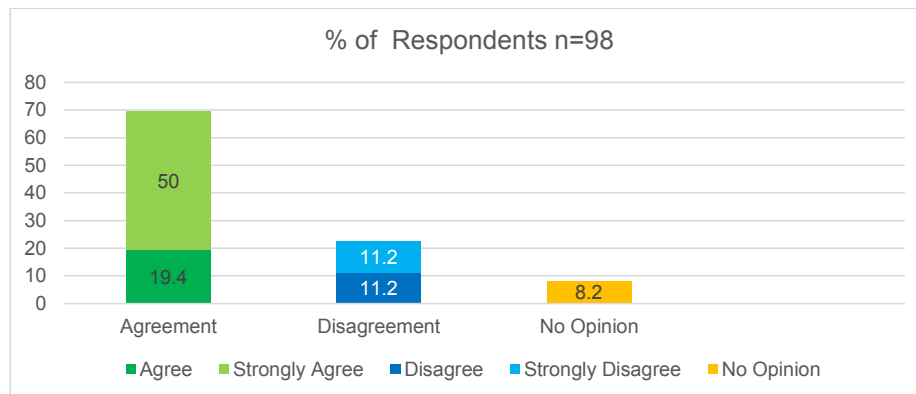
22 comments were received. To summarize:

- At least 4 respondents were not sure where the location is for this piece of land.
- A number of respondents did not want to see this land being developed.

- There were a few comments staying that there were other better possible sites (either infill or village edge locations) and that this area was not as well connected to shop & school as other possible sites.
- 3 respondents felt that it could be a possibility if it was done extremely sensitively. 1 comment said that road and the footpaths would need attention first.
- Other comments received were that the village was big enough, that it would accelerate the integration of Abbots Ripton with Huntingdon (not perceived as a good thing) and that there was already plenty of new homes in the general area.

Q52

The Glebe Field by the church is unsuitable for development.



69.4% of respondents agreed that the Glebe Field is unsuitable for development and 22.4% felt it was. 8.2% had no opinion.

There were 15 comments:

- There are a considerable number of respondents who said that it was unsuitable and should be kept as an open green space and was an important part of the village scene.
- A couple of comments stating that there were better locations for potential development.
- There were a couple of comments indicating that Glebe Field or Jubilee Garden would be a suitable location for a play area.

Recommendations/Actions arising from Survey responses to Section 4 Housing and Planning.

Summary

It was felt that Abbots Ripton Farming Company (ARFCo) and the De Ramsey Estate generally manages its' local liaison successfully though some respondents asked for greater transparency and requested that more future development planning is shared with parishioners.

In terms of the type of housing provision that parishioners felt they wanted to see in the village, small family homes seemed to be the most popular with a general feeling that there were already enough larger family homes. There was a general feeling that we have an older demographic in the village and families would help ensure the survival of the village school.

There were no particular strong feelings one way or the other in terms of the need for small business development and more live/work homes although there might have been a lack of understanding by some as to what live/work homes are.

With regards to pockets of land suitable for development the respondents did not want to see land to the south of the Village Hall or the Glebe Field given over for development.

Recommended actions for consideration based on the survey responses are:

Issue: As and when future building is considered note should be made of the wishes of parishioners to have smaller family homes.					
Recommended Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PC, HDC & CC to take note of Parish Plan Actions whilst considering future planning in the parish.• ARFCo to consider the request for greater transparency and more communication with parishioners.					
Stakeholders	Local/ PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes		Yes	
Priority	Medium				
Resources / Funding Required: No particular funding required.					
Expected Outcome: Over the longer term more smaller family homes.					
Recommended Next Step: As and when developments are submitted for planning, consideration should be taken to the wishes of parishioners for smaller family homes.					

Issue:

Ensuring that the land to the South of the village hall and that glebe field are safe guarded and protected from future housing development.

Recommended Actions:

- PC, HDC & ARFCo to take note of Parish Plan Actions whilst considering future planning in the parish

Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes		Yes	Church
Priority	Medium				

Resources/ Funding Required:

No particular funding required.

Expected Outcome:

These areas are kept free from development.

Recommended Next Step:

As and when developments are submitted for planning, consideration should be taken to the wishes of parishioners to preserve these two areas from development.



The view across Glebe Field



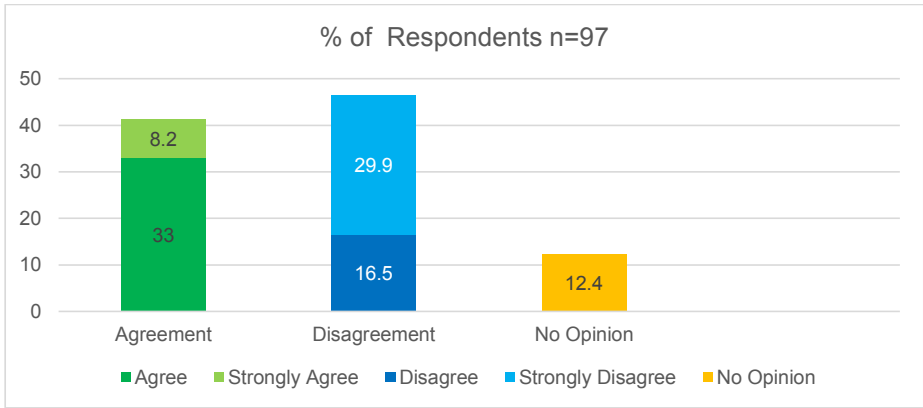
View from the Village Hall

Section 5 – Alconbury Weald Development.

Questions 52-57

Q53

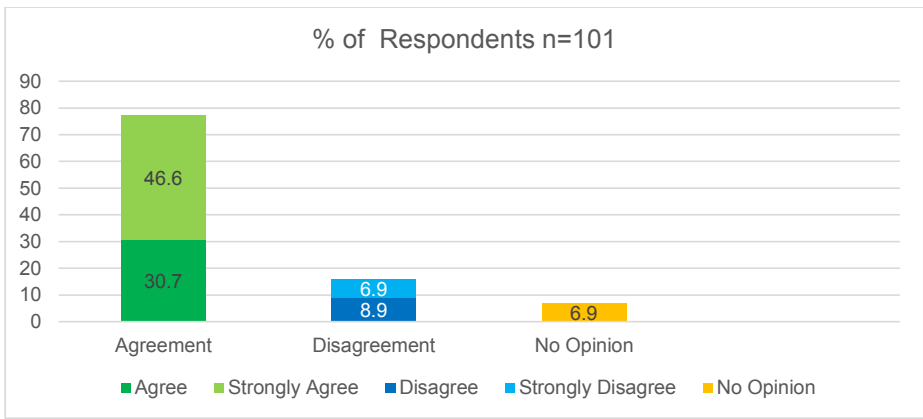
The Alconbury Weald development will have a positive effect on the lives of Abbots Ripton residents.



41.3% of respondents agreed that The Alconbury Weald development would have a positive effect with 46.4% disagreeing and 12.4% unsure.

Q54

A by-pass should be built to divert Weald and Wyton traffic from the village.

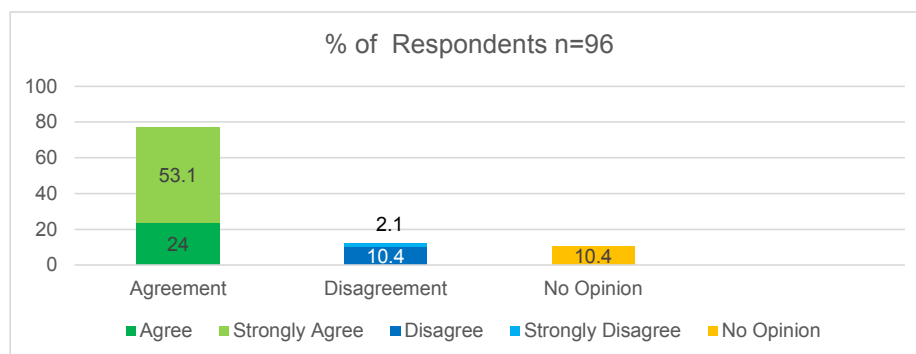


77.3% of respondents agreed that a by-pass should be built to divert Weald and Wyton traffic from the village with 15.8% disagreeing and 6.9% having no opinion.



Q55

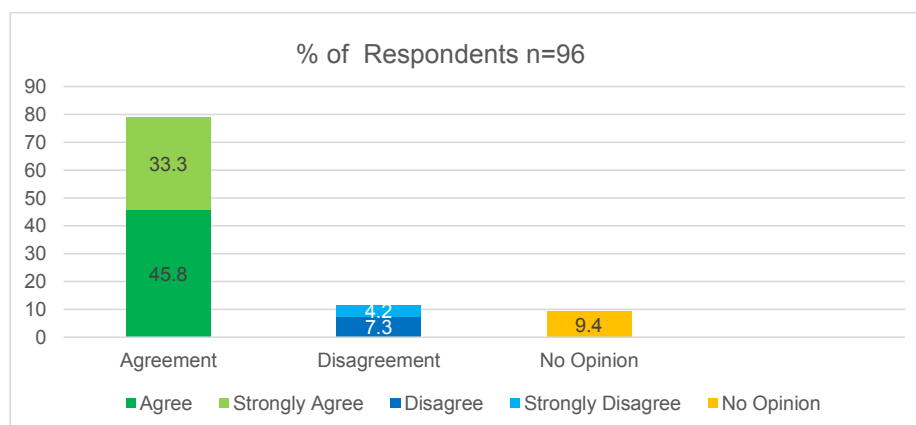
Clay Lane should be accessed only by buses and emergency vehicles.



77.1% of respondents agreed that Clay Lane should be accessed only by bus and emergency vehicles. 12.5% disagreed and 10.4% had no opinion.

Q56

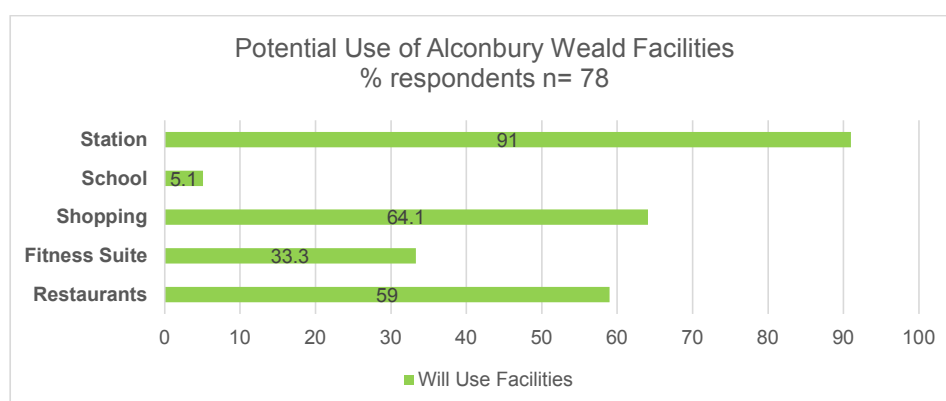
A cycle way should be built from the village to the centre of the site.



79.1% of respondents agreed that a cycle way should be built from the village to the centre of the site. 11.5% disagreed and 9.4% had no opinion.

Q57

I will use the following facilities on the Alconbury Weald development.



The vast majority of respondents (91%) said that they would use the station. 64.1% of respondents said that they would use shopping facilities, with 59% using restaurants and 33.3% would use the fitness suite. 5.1% would use the school.

Please add any comments or suggestions you may have on Alconbury Weald.**Answered: 26 Skipped: 78**

The proposed building of Alconbury Weald has divided the opinion of residents; 47% of whom consider it will have a negative effect upon the community, with 41% taking the opposite view. Of those who expressed an 'against' view a high percentage adopted the 'strongly disagree' position compared to the 'strongly agree' category in the 'for' camp. This tends to weight the opposition group more heavily than the 47% indicates, so one can conclude that a fair majority of residents are opposed to the development.

The presence of new facilities on the Weald is welcomed by a large majority of respondents who intend to use the retail and recreational facilities.

Few respondents intend to use the new school due to the obvious threat it poses to the village school in future.

The railway station is the most anticipated service arising from the Weald development, with 91% of the respondents proposing to use it in future.

The station will be located as shown on the map below with access gained via the new entry point to the Weald development to the south of the Tesco roundabout on the A141. This will mean that traffic from March, Chatteris, Upwood and Ramsey would not therefore drive into Abbots Ripton to get to the station but would instead join the A141 at some point and enter the station from the new entrance to the Weald.

It is the lack of infrastructure, both local and in the District, which concern residents the most. 77% of residents would like to see the village by-passed, although several robust responses suggest, probably correctly, that this is not likely to happen. However, the County and District Councils are considering ways in which the new A14 bypass can be used to receive traffic from the Wyton and Alconbury developments via new road systems which increase the capacity of the A141 and use a new river crossing to take traffic away from St Ives and the Riptons.

There is a strong call for improved cycle ways into the Weald from the village, but no recommendations were received on where the rail crossing would be located. Clay Lane was comprehensively confirmed as a non-public road for use only by buses and emergency vehicles, although this may offer a solution to the cycle way routing in future.

Recommendations/Actions arising from Survey responses to Section 5 Alconbury Weald Development.

Summary

The Alconbury Weald development seems to have rather divided our parishioners but the general feeling was that it would not have a positive effect on the Parish. There is a deep concern about lack of infrastructure and the effect this development would have on the local roads. A substantial majority would like to see a by-pass built to divert Weald & Wyton traffic from the village but realistically the possibility of a by-pass being built is extremely slim. The main entrance to the Weald site will be created just west of the railway bridge on the A141 and this will become the main access point for the railway station, the proposed community hub and housing to be built on the Grange Farm area of the site. The new combined authority are recommending that one of the early stage infrastructure projects supported by the devolved funding is that the A141 is upgraded at least from the Hartford roundabout to the Spittals Interchange and possibly beyond Wyton towards Warboys and further north. The delivery of a dual carriageway on the site of the existing ring road linking Wyton and Alconbury Weald to the upgraded main trunk road network is intended to reduce the incidence of cross country rat-running which Abbots Ripton residents fear. A substantial majority wanted to see Clay Lane accessed only for buses, cyclists and emergency vehicles and the Parish Council has informed us that recently this has been firmly agreed. Interestingly given most parishioners were rather negative about the development a significant number of parishioners said that they would envisage using the station and use the shopping facilities and restaurants. Many parishioners would like to see a cycle way built from the village to the centre of Alconbury Weald.

The Parish Council has for some time been attending the Urban & Civic development meetings so a close liaison with Urban & Civic is already established and this will continue going forward. The Parish Council have agreed that certain projects will be paid for out of developer contributions which will be released as stages of the development are completed.

Recommended actions for consideration based on the survey responses are:

Issue: Negativity around the Alconbury Weald Development and concerns about the demands on the local infrastructure and how it will impact our local roads.					
Recommended Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PC, HDC, CC and Urban & Civic to take note of parishioners’ concerns.• Urban & Civic to do more information sharing in an attempt to allay fears					
Stakeholders	Local/ PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes	Yes		Urban & Civic / Highways
Priority	High				
Resources / Funding Required: Possible hire of village hall for open information events for parishioners.					
Expected Outcome: Parishioners to gain a greater understanding of what the Alconbury Weald development will mean in real terms especially in relation to roads and traffic movements. Better communication.					

Recommended Next Step:

Continued on-going liaison between PC, HDC, CC, Highways and Urban & Civic.

Issue:

Exploring the possibility of building a by-pass and effectively communicating (managing the expectations) of parishioners.

Recommended Actions:

- PC, HDC, CC, Highways and Urban & Civic to take note of parishioners wanting a by-pass. Effective communication with parishioners so that they can gain a better understanding what might be possible in terms of traffic alleviation. Continuing lobbying with regards to CIL payments.

Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes	Yes		Urban & Civic & Highways
Priority	High				

Resources/ Funding Required:

Possible hire of village hall for open information events for parishioners.

Expected Outcome:

Better understanding of resources and issues involved.

Recommended Next Step:

On-going liaison between PC, HDC, CC, Highways and Urban & Civic.



St. Andrews Church



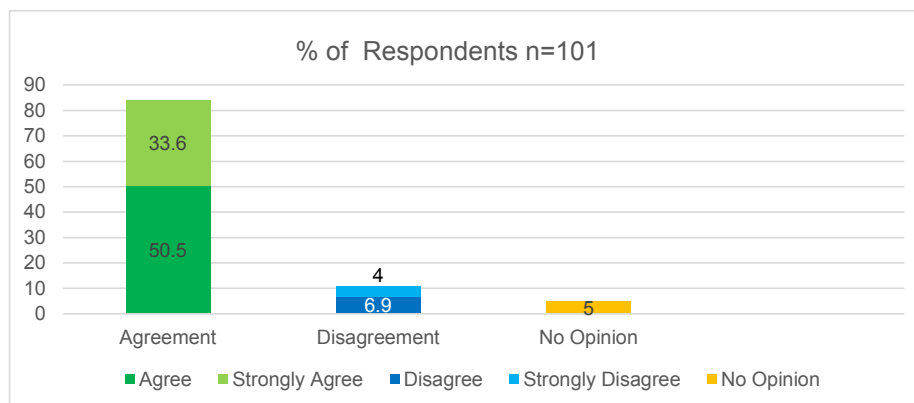
The Abbots Elm

Section 6 – The Secret Garden Party.

Questions 59-62

Q59

The SGP manages its impact and local liaison successfully

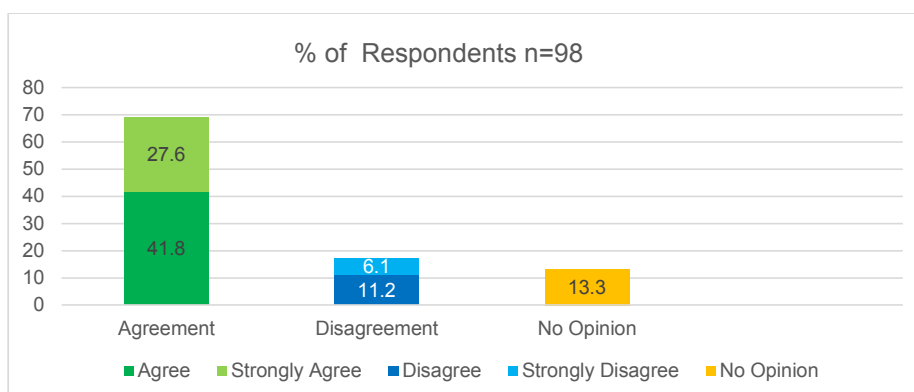


A high proportion of respondents agreed that the SGP manages its impact and local liaison successfully (84.1% as opposed to 10.9% who disagreed). There were 20 comments in total (out of 101 respondents). There were several positive comments saying that SGP was a good thing for the area and 1 respondent said that they felt safer with the large security vehicles patrolling the village. Concerns were raised about the size of the event and its impact in terms of noise and traffic. In addition, there were some concerns about footpaths, bus routes etc.

There was a common thread that parishioners wanted more transparency as to understanding the long-term strategy of SGP.

Q60

The distribution and process of local tickets meets the needs of the local community.

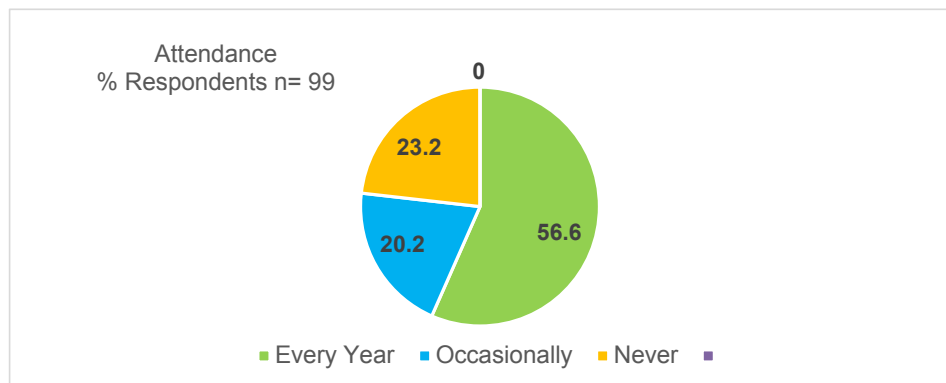


69.4% of respondents agreed that the distribution and process of local tickets meets the needs of the local community. 17.3% disagreeing and 13.3% not voicing an opinion.

There were 21 comments out of 98 respondents. There were a number of comments about how it would be good to be able to purchase a few additional tickets at a reduced rate for girlfriends / boyfriends of children of locals and for family friends of locals. There were also a number of comments about non-locals attending and about how many tickets are made available to the School and to a lesser extent the pub. There seems to be a general feeling that those who have to tolerate the noise and disruption i.e. in the immediate environment should be those that benefit.

Q61

How often do you attend the SGP?

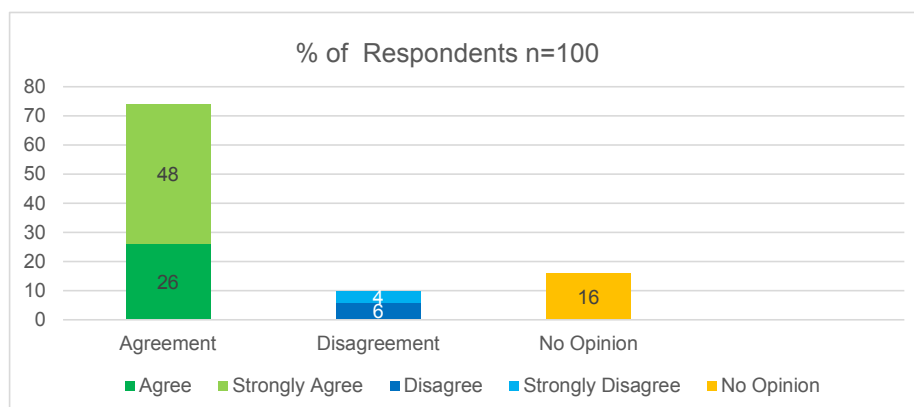


A high proportion (76.8%) of the local community occasionally or regularly attend the SGP. 23.4% have never attended.

There were quite a few respondents who cited a variety of reasons why SGP was simply not their scene.

Q62

A temporary footpath from Abbots Ripton into the SGP, avoiding the B1090, would be of use to the whole parish?



74% of respondents agreed that a temporary footpath into the SGP would be of use (with 10% disagreeing and 16% unsure).

Total comments again were 17. There were at least 12 comments stating that they would really like a temporary footpath and some respondents commented on the route but agreed that they would like an access point closer to the village. One of the above said that there should be an entrance via the Abbots Ripton garage gate for villagers and their friends and another suggested access via the Boutique Camping entrance.

Two respondents felt a footpath should be actively discouraged to further isolate the village from the event

Recommendations/Actions arising from Survey responses to Section 6 Secret Garden Party.

Summary

A clear large majority of respondents (84%) are supportive of the way the SGP administration manages the impact of the event and local liaison in general. This also reflects in the number of local residents that attend with over 56% participating every year and a further 20% attending occasionally. Whilst recognising this strong support and the measures taken to positively manage local impact, it is also important that the minority views expressing concerns at the disruptions caused by the event are considered.

Some of the strongest positive environmental feedback from the survey was the importance of the peace and tranquility of the parish which is inevitably disturbed for the 4 days of the party and the immediate set-up and breakdown. It is a credit to SGP organisers that the management of this disturbance has resulted in the positive majority support of SGP reflected in the survey. Framing specific actions that would be applicable over the longer term will depend to a degree on how SGP develops. The Parish Plan encourages the SGP management to keep up efforts to minimise impact on the day to day village life and access during the buildup and the event, and to keep noise abatement in focus with the siting and attenuation measures around the large “through the night” dance stages.

Specific recommendations arising from comments to the survey are detailed below:

Distribution and processing of local resident’s tickets.

The subsidised ticket policy for local residents is clearly appreciated with a strong majority of respondents agreeing that this meets the needs of the Parish community. Some recommendations on ticket policy were put forward by respondents for consideration by the organisers.

1. Priority for immediate vicinity residents (the Parish of Abbots Ripton and Wennington). There is a perception that larger numbers of the subsidised tickets make their way to non-locals that are not impacted by the event.
2. Concessions for reduced rate guest tickets to be available for purchase through local resident’s ticket assignment to accommodate non-resident family/ friends/boyfriends/ girlfriends of resident family members. Whilst accepting that the residents are not disturbed by the event, the ability of local residents to feel they can participate with their family and friendship group would encourage the ongoing support of SGP. Strict limitation on non-transferability and numbers to avoid any abuse of the privilege would prevent excessive ticket numbers being requested.

Local Residents access routes to the event.

Provision of a local temporary footpath to access the event from the Abbots Ripton village end (the access point used for the VIP camping) and avoiding the considerable walk to the main entrance along the busy B1090, was supported by a strong majority of respondents. This would be both a safety and convenience improvement for villagers accessing the event daily as pedestrians.

Since the survey was completed, SGP 2016 has taken place and vehicle access/parking for resident ticket holders was much improved with allowance to park in the area immediately adjacent to the main entrance. This greatly facilitated local day visitors using motor vehicles however it does still leave the unsafe pedestrian route unaddressed.

Secret Garden Party future development.

A common thread in the comments from Parishioners is for greater visibility and transparency of future plans and strategy for SGP. The village would welcome engagement and such involvement as is necessary. A regular SGP update published through the Ripton Area News and/or made through the Parish communications web presence (Parish Council website, Village Facebook Group etc.) would address this need.



Abbots Ripton Church of England Primary School



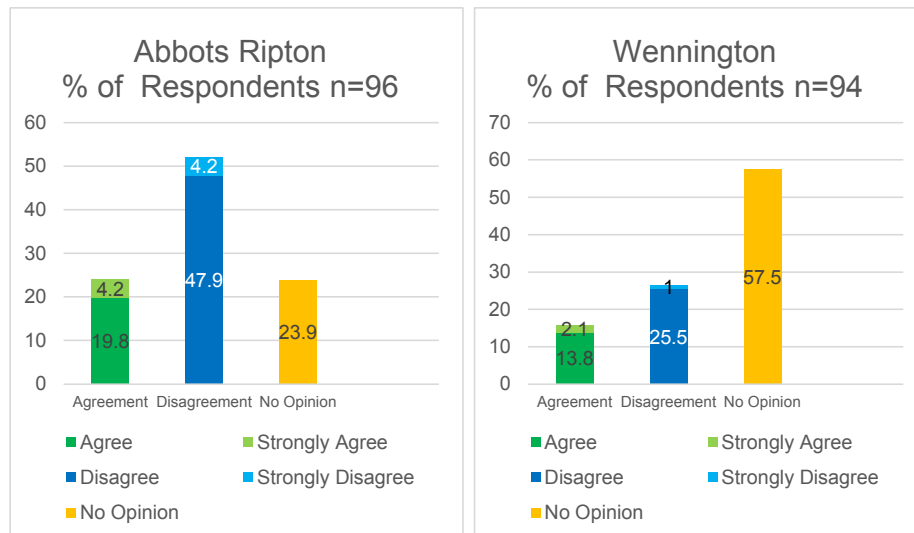
Abbots Ripton Village Stores & Post Office

Section 7 – Crime & Safety

(Questions 63 –71)

Q63 & Q64

I perceive crime is increasing in the Parish.



A clear majority felt that Abbots Ripton is a safe place to live with

52% of respondents disagreeing with the statement and 24% agreeing.

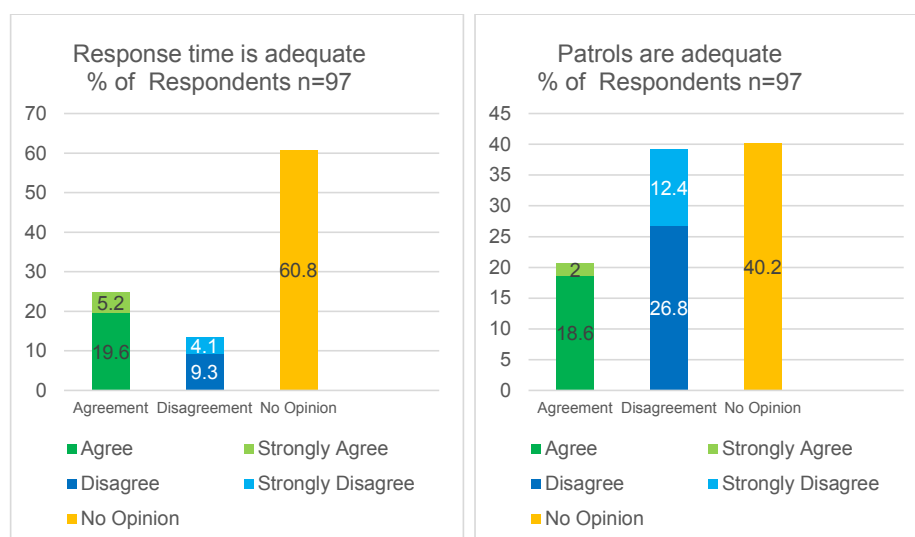
Only a couple of comments were made in direct relation to this question stating that they felt safe and had good neighbours.

26.5% of respondents disagreed with the statement whilst 15.9% of respondents perceived that crime in Wennington is increasing.

57.5% had no opinion.

Q65 & Q66

Police Presence.



The vast majority of respondents had no opinion as to the response time of Police to incidents, indicating the majority had no experience or need to call them. 24.7% agreed with the statement and only 13.4% thought the response time to be slow.

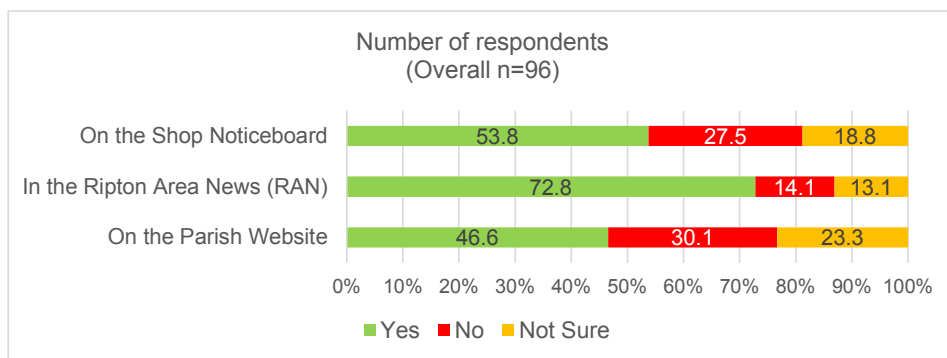
Of the four comments relating directly to response times 3 thought it was slow and 1 adequate, the introduction of a Rural Crime Unit may help. However, being a rural community, emergency response time from the Police, Fire and Ambulance will always be slower than in a city.

39.2% of respondents thought that there should be more patrols with 20.6% agreeing they are adequate. 40.2% did not voice an opinion.

Three comments were recorded relating directly to a lack of visible patrols.

Q67

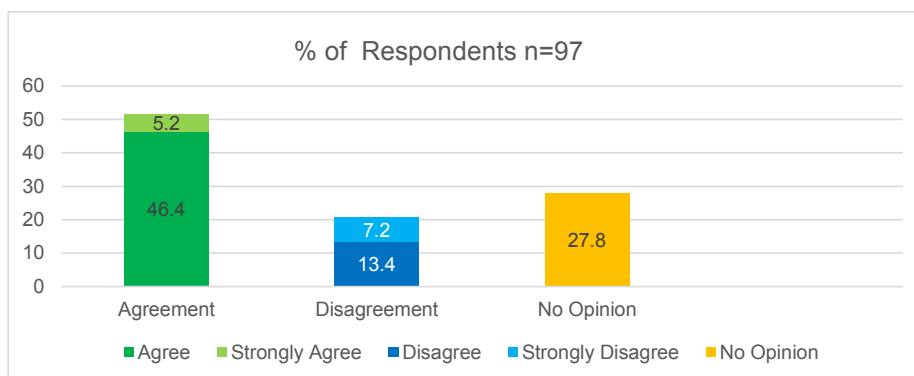
Would articles on crime prevention be of benefit to you?



Of those that responded to the statement, the preferred media would be the RAN 72.8%, shop notice board 53.7% and 46.5% preferring the Parish Council website.

Q68

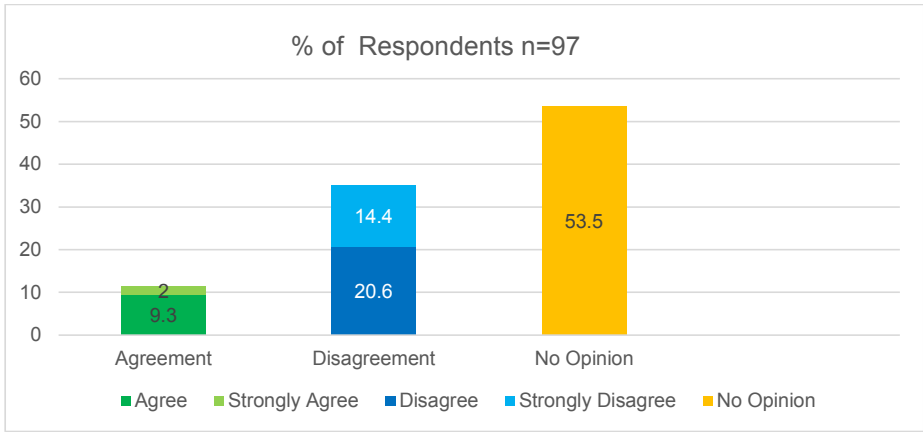
A talk from the local Police on security and personal safety would be of interest.



51.6% of respondents felt that such a talk would be of interest, 20.6% disagreed and 27.84% voiced no opinion.

Q69

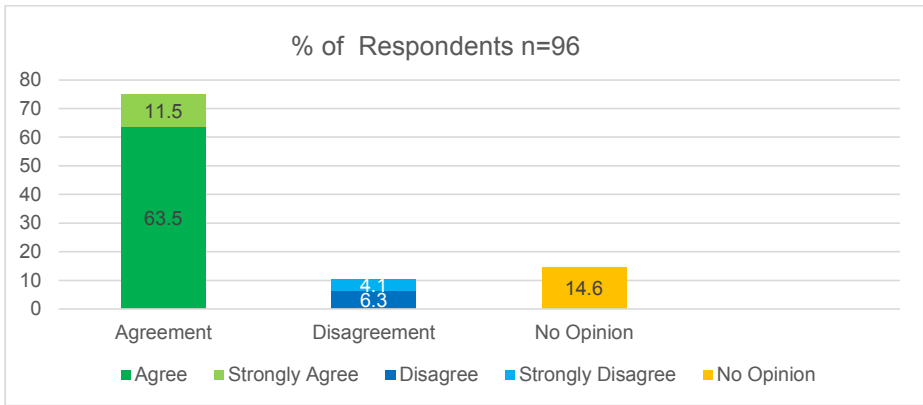
I regularly view the ‘e-cops’ web site.



11.3% of respondents regularly view the ‘e-cops’ website. 35% did not view regularly or at all and 53.5% did not know of its existence.

Q70

Details of qualified First Aiders within the parish would be of benefit.



75% of respondents would like to have details of First Aiders available. Only 10.3% of respondents did not want to know.

By far the highest number of comments were received on this topic. The majority asking for a defibrillator to be available at the village hall or shop, and courses arranged to train people to use them. These results along with the comments have contributed to the recommendations made in the Parish Plan.

Q71

Please add any comments or suggestion you might have.

Answered: 21 Skipped: 83

There were 21 comments. Several respondents commented on long delays from Police after having been called and a few commented on a negligible Police presence. A number of respondents also said that they felt pretty safe. In terms of a defibrillator, most approved having one located in the village hall.

Recommendations /Actions arising from Survey responses to Section 7 Crime & Safety.

Summary

The overall feedback from the survey is that crime is at a fairly low level. Respondents perceived that on the whole response times from the authorities when needed was adequate within our rural environment.

It is hoped that the introduction of the Rural Crime Unit will increase the number of patrols and a higher number of those engaged in criminal activities being apprehended.

The desire within the Parish to have information to help safeguard individuals and properties however is a clear indication that there are still concerns. As a community, it is in all our interests to be aware of our surroundings, look out for our neighbours, be alert and vigilant and to report any suspicious activities. Articles on home and business personal security are available from a variety of sources including the Police and the Ecops website. Please see recommended websites below:

Cambridgeshire Police / Ecops:

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/ecops/>

Huntingdonshire District Council:

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/crime-and-community-safety/>

The Cambridgeshire Rural Crime Unit:

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/GetCloser/RCAT/>

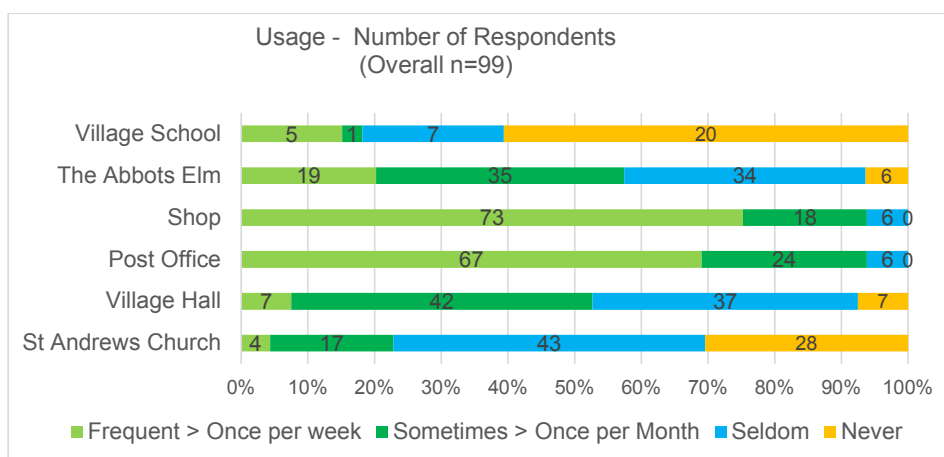
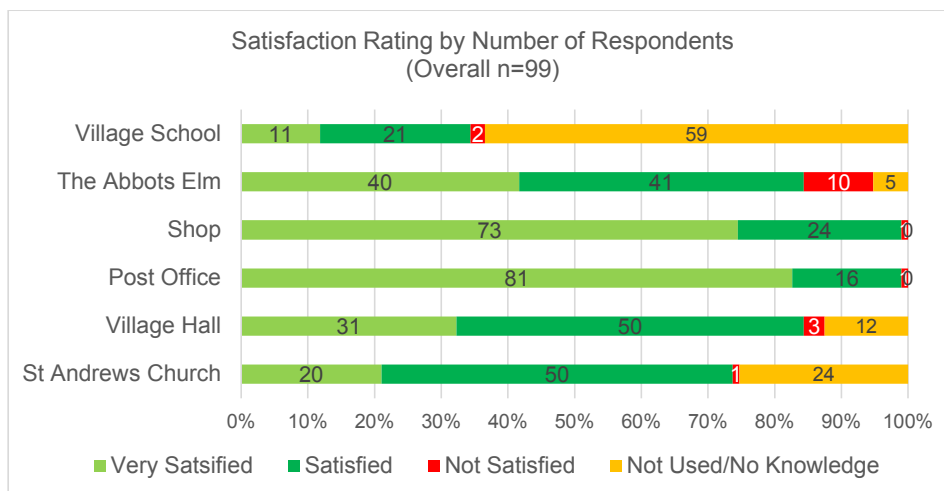
By far the highest number of comments in this section related to do with First Aiders and the introduction of a defibrillator to be located at either the village hall or at the village shop (possibly even both). Parish Council to be tasked with finding out what is required in terms of cost etc., and to look into the possibility of providing a first aid training course. The new defibrillators now come with both voice and LED instructions so a separate training session on usage might not be required.

Section 8 – Local Facilities, Organisations Groups and Leisure.

Questions 72-75

Q72

Thinking about the existing facilities in the village, how do you view the following:



Satisfaction ratings across all the facilities listed are very high, a credit to the owners, managers and volunteers concerned. Negative respondent ratings (in red) are few in number. The larger orange bars are indicative of the demographic mix of the community with less church goers and not all respondents having infant/primary school age children or other contact with the school.

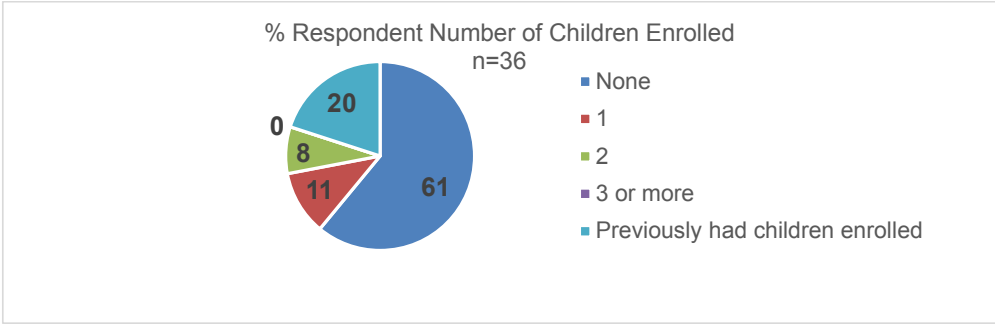
In terms of usage, again the Post Office and village store received the highest percentage of respondents who frequently or sometimes used them (94%). This was followed by the Abbots Elm (57%) and the village hall (52%). Less than a quarter of those asked said that they sometimes or frequently attended St. Andrews's Church.

There were 30 comments in total:

- The Post Office and village shop have a high number of very positive comments especially on how friendly and helpful the team are. There were a couple of comments saying that the Post Office should be retained and the need to 'use it or lose it'.
- Several respondents said they very much enjoyed the pub, however, a few felt it was rather expensive, not family friendly and some said they would like to see the menu changed more frequently.
- There was a recurring theme with the Village School that it should be more integrated with the village and village life and needs to be more visible in engaging with the community.
- The village hall had positive comments. Some respondents felt that there were not enough village events and activities taking place in the hall.

Q73

How many children do you have enrolled in the village primary school?

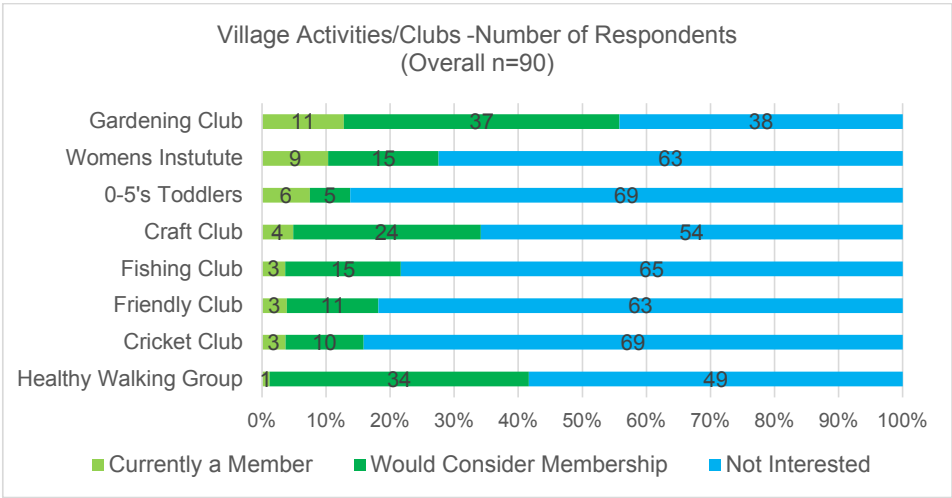


61.% have never or do not currently have children enrolled at the school, 20% have children that have previously been at the school and 19% currently have children at the school. There were 5 comments. A number of the respondents said that it was great to have a village school in the parish, how important it was for the Parish to support the school and equally for the school to engage with the Parish.

Q74

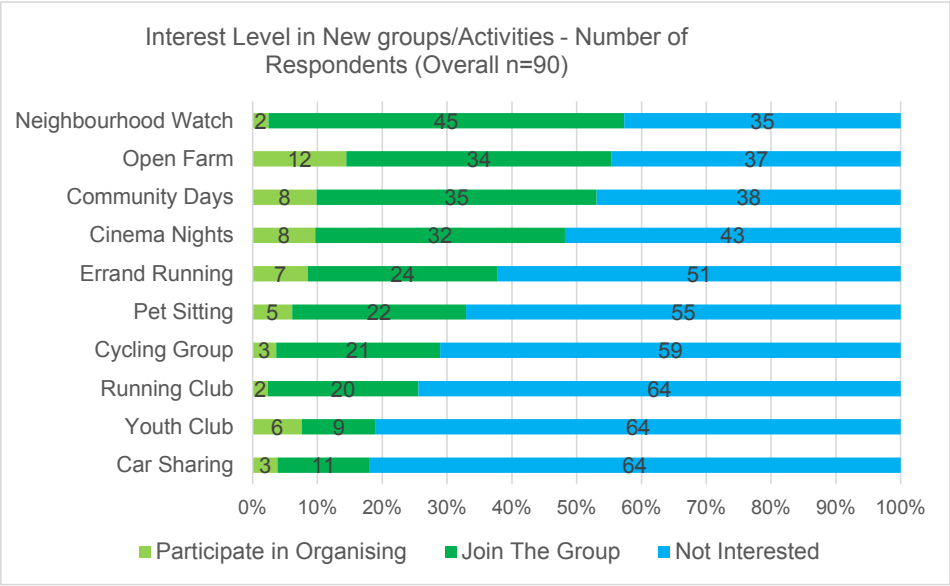
Village Activities.

There are various formally organized clubs or groups active in the Parish, the questionnaire asked for your views and comments on how important they are to you and any changes you would like to see or additions you would be willing to participate in.



There are a total of 21 comments. A number of people commented positively on the Gardening Club, the WI and the Cricket Club. There were a few respondents that were not aware of some of the clubs (especially The Friendly Club). The positive numbers of respondents that would consider membership of the various groups is encouraging for expanding community activity in a wide variety of interest areas. Information on joining the various clubs can be found on the Parish Council website, via the information section of the Ripton Area News and through the Abbots Ripton Village Facebook page.

During our consultations suggestions were made for the following Groups & Activities, would you attend or participate in the organisation of any of these?



There were 17 comments. Several respondents were not sure what ‘community days’ were. The clubs and activities that received most interest were Neighbourhood Watch, Open Farm, and Community Days. There was also considerable interest in a cinema club, errand running, and pet sitting.

Respondents that showed an interest in participating in the organisation of any of the activities are encouraged to use the village websites, Facebook page and/or the Ripton Area News (RAN) to call an initial meeting of interested parties.



The Village Hall

Recommendations/Actions arising from Survey responses to Section 8 Local Facilities, Organisations, Groups & Leisure.

Summary

The Parish Plan team would encourage the groups and organisations operating in the parish to look at the results of the Parish Plan to see whether there are areas that they can improve upon or areas where perhaps they need to communicate better with parishioners.

The clubs and activities that received most interest were neighbourhood watch, open farm days and community days. In addition, there was considerable interest in setting up a cinema club, errand running and pet sitting.

Recommended actions for consideration based on the survey responses are:

Issue: Look at setting up new groups and activities in the village.					
Recommended Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neighbourhood Watch. Look at resurrecting if now defunct – PC.• Open Farm – ARFCo.• Community Days – PC & possibly Village Hall.• Setting up new groups and clubs - see recommended next step.					
Stakeholders	PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes			Yes	Relevant groups in the parish and new volunteers
Priority	Medium				
Resources / Funding Required: None though advertising / communications via the RAN.					
Expected Outcome: Parishioners to feel that their wishes have been taken into account and feel an increasing involvement with the community.					

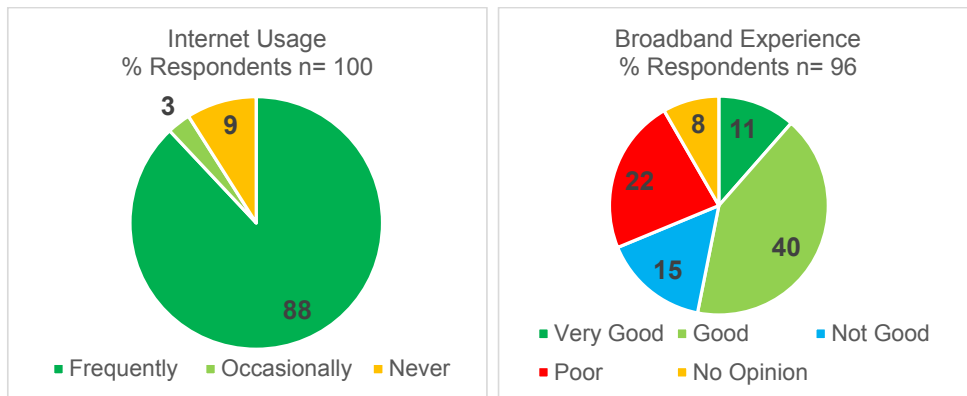
Section 9 – Communication.

Questions 76-86

Q76 & 77

Do you use the internet?

The Parish experiences good broadband service?



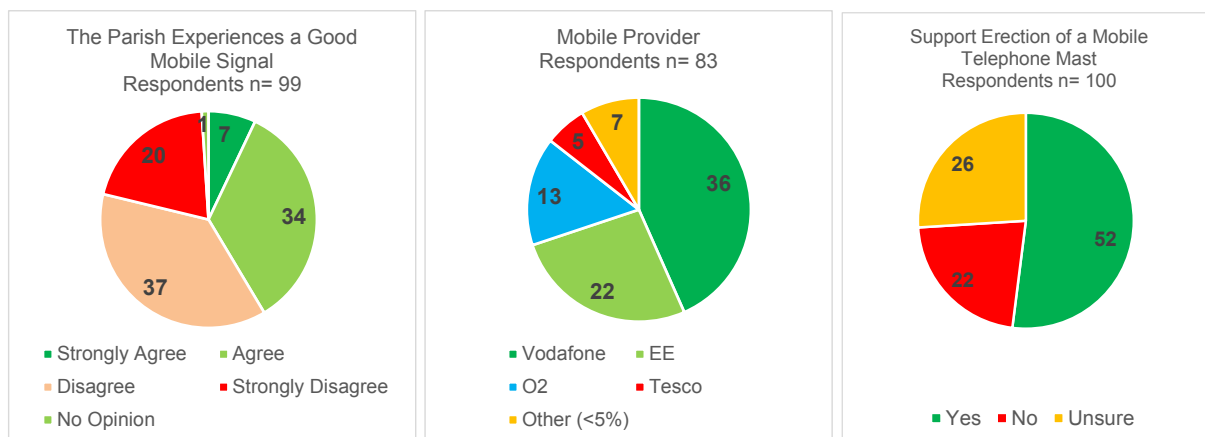
88% of respondents use the internet frequently with 9% never using the internet.

53% of respondents agreed that the Parish experiences good broadband with 38% disagreeing and 8% expressing no opinion.

There were 20 comments in total. A number of comments focused on the fact that broadband speeds seem patchy and haphazard and also that they vary greatly across the Parish (and especially between Abbots Ripton and Wennington). There was also some confusion by respondents as to whether they already have the fibre optic upgrade or not. 3 respondents commented that current speeds were unacceptable (described as very poor, pitiful and appalling).

Q78 & Q79 & Q80

- **The parish experiences good mobile signal?**
- **Which mobile provider are you with?**
- **To improve network coverage would you accept the erection of a telephone mast within the parish?**



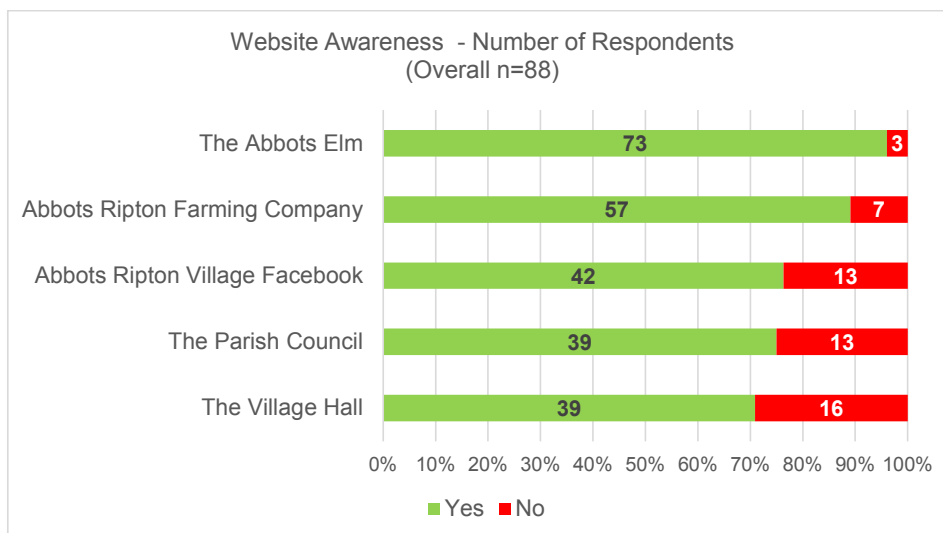
41% of respondents experience a good mobile signal with 57% not.

43% of respondents are with Vodafone, followed by EE (26%) and O2 (15%).

52% of respondents were for the erection of a telephone mast with 22% against.

Q81

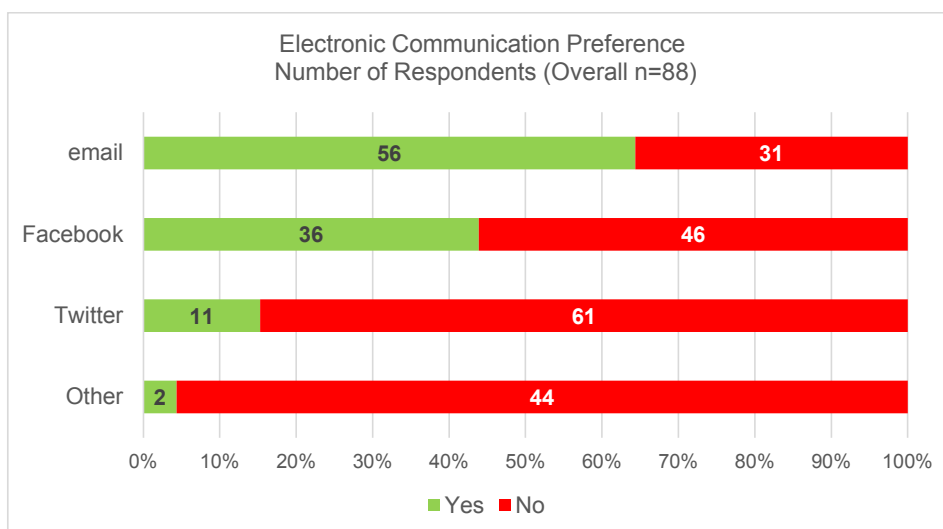
Are you aware that the following organisations have websites?



The best-known website was that belonging to The Abbots Elm (96%). The least well known was The Village Hall website with 16% of respondents unaware of its existence. Overall, knowledge of the main websites and Facebook pages pertaining to the Parish is very high.

Q82

Would you like to communicate electronically with other organisations?

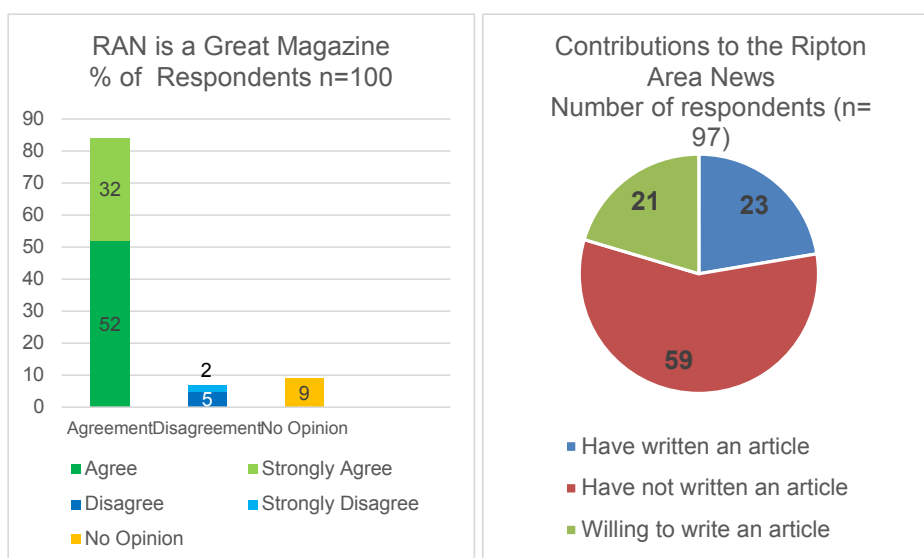


The preferred method of communication for the majority of respondents is via email and even this shows a significant minority that do not prefer electronic means. Facebook and Twitter are less well supported although it is worth noting that since the survey request the Abbots Ripton Facebook page has grown in popularity and has many more followers than at the time the Survey was completed. Use of social media is fast moving and allows very easy and far reaching publicity for local events amongst those that access it regularly.

Q83 & Q84

The Ripton Area News is a great parish magazine and I find it informative?

Have you ever written an article for the Ripton Area News and would you write one?

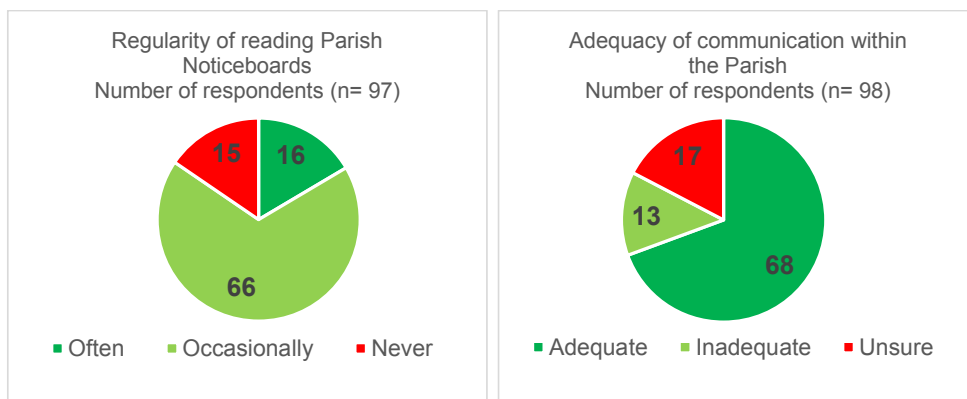


84% of respondents agreed that The Ripton Area News is a great parish magazine and find it informative. 7% of respondents disagreed and 9% had no opinion.

There were a number of common themes that came out of the 21 comments. In general, the publication is well regarded and is clearly valued by the respondents.

- A number of respondents felt that the publication needed to be re-energised and revamped as it is not used for its full potential.
- There were a number of comments that it needs more local events, stories and information and less adverts. One respondent suggested publishing an analysis of advertisement income vs. production costs.
- There were a few comments that the content and editorial was too personal.
- A substantial number of people commented that The Ripton Area News (RAN) requires more support and a wider variety of people to contribute as it is the same people putting the work in.

60.8% of respondents said that they had never written an article, 23.7% had written an article and 21.6% would write one in the future. The numbers in the pie chart will not add to 97 as answers are not exclusive, someone that has contributed could also select that they will contribute in the future. The life blood of the Ripton Area News is input from the local community and groups and businesses engaged in the Parish. The Editor is open to articles and information covering all aspects of village life so please feel free to dip your toe into local interest journalism.

How often do you look at the parish noticeboards?**Overall do you feel that you are adequately communicated with?**

84.5% said that they occasionally or regularly look at the parish noticeboards with 15.5% never looking.

69.4% said that they did feel that they were adequately communicated with, 13.3% of respondents did not feel this to be the case and 17.4% were unsure.

There were 12 comments (out of 98 respondents). Requests were made that the Parish Council needs to be more pro-active in their communications and that email notification should be used.

Recommendations/Actions arising from Survey responses to Section 9 Communication Infrastructure.

Summary

On the whole the feedback was that the Parish generally experiences good broadband but there were a number of comments about the inconsistency of broadband speeds throughout the Parish. There was greater dissatisfaction with regards to mobile signal with a significant majority of parishioners supporting the erection of a telephone mast if it were to help mobile signal. However, since the Parish Plan questionnaire there have already been some improvements with areas of the parish now getting 4G.

Generally, parishioners were aware of websites and were happy with communications although some would like communication via email. Parishioners generally felt that the Ripton Area News (RAN) was an excellent communications tool.

Recommended actions for consideration based on the survey responses are:

Issue: Patchy and variable broadband speeds. A number of parishioners also do not understand what the current speeds are and whether they currently have the fibre optic upgrade.					
Recommended solution(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC to lobby telecom providers for improvements to further develop the broadband service in the Parish. PC to communicate with parishioners on broadband in the Parish. The RAN to be used as a communications tool. 					
Stakeholders	PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes	Yes		RAN/websites
Priority	Med				

Issue: Poor mobile signal in the Parish.					
Recommended solution(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none">PC, to lobby telecoms companies however situation has already improved with 4G reception in the Parish.					
Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Priority	Medium				
Resources / funding required: No major funding required.					
Expected outcome: In time, increased mobile coverage.					

Recommended Next Step:

Contact with relevant personnel.

Issue:

The majority of parishioners would like to communicate with organisations in the village via email.

Recommended solution(s):

PC to look at options and advise on viability given data protection rules etc.

Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes				
Priority	Medium				

Resources/ Funding Required:

No major funding required.

Expected Outcome:

Easier access to information pertaining to the parish and village activities.

Recommended Next Step:

Access to information electronically is currently available through the following media:

PC Website address: <http://abbotsripton.org.uk/parish-council/>

Village Facebook page: Group Name: Abbots Ripton Village

Village Hall Website: <http://www.abbotsriptonvillagehall.co.uk>

Abbots Ripton Estate Website: <http://www.arfco.co.uk>

These are in addition to the Local Government websites for HDC & Planning.

PC to investigate feasibility of an email notification system with a link to their website for updates to remind subscribers of changes to the website.

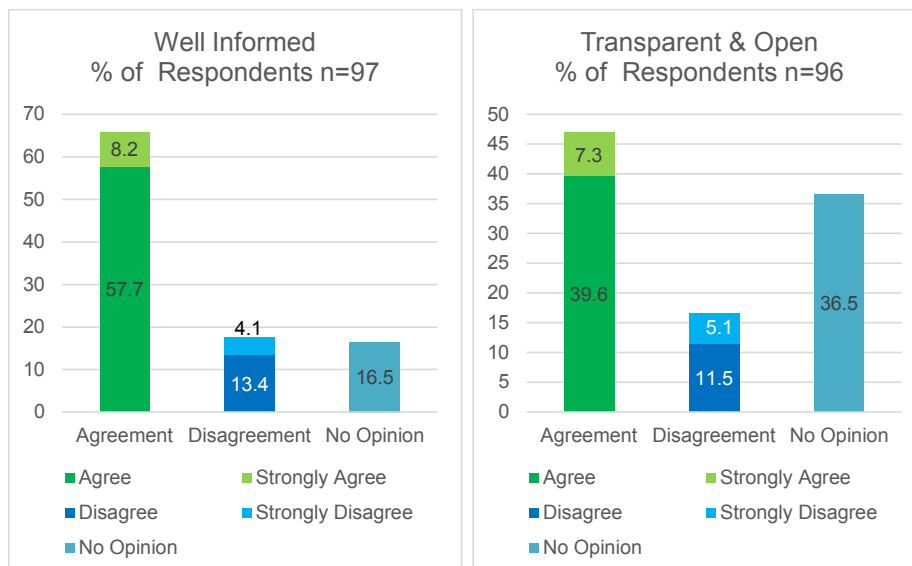
Section 10 – Governance.

Questions 87-91

Q87 & Q88

The Parish Council keeps the parishioners well informed.

Parish Council decision-making is transparent and open.



65.9% said that they did feel that the Parish Council kept parishioners well informed. 17.5% of respondents did not feel this to be the case and 16.5% were unsure.

There were 12 comments with a number requesting that the Parish Council needed to communicate more effectively with parishioners. Not all respondents were not aware that the Parish Council had a website or that it displays the Parish Council minutes. 3 comments said that the Parish Council could use The RAN to better effect.

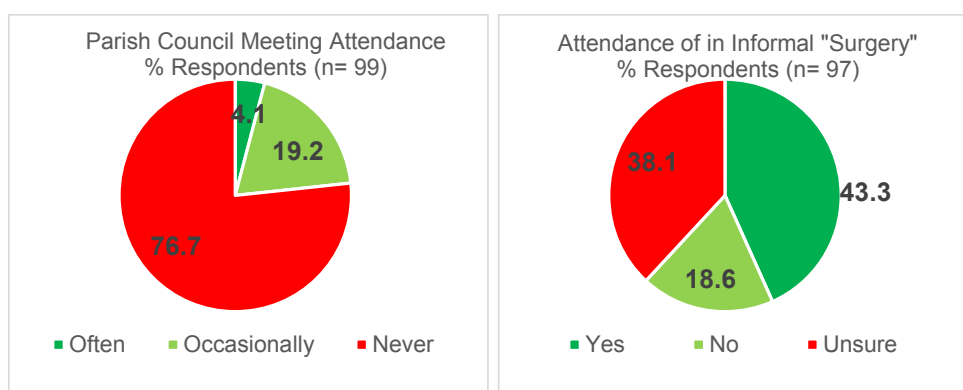
46.9% felt that the Parish Council's decision-making was transparent and open. 16.7% of respondents did not agree and a fairly high 36.5% were unsure.

There were a number of mixed comments but a common theme was not knowing what decisions are being made on parishioners' behalf and not aware of when meetings are held.

Q89 & Q90

How often do you attend Parish Council Meetings?

Would you attend a quarterly more informal 'surgery' run by the Parish Council?



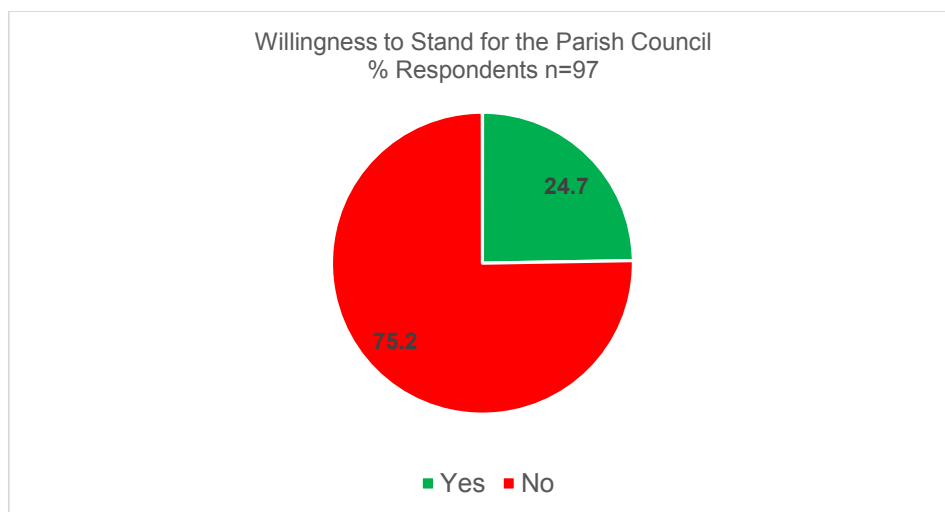
A high proportion (76.7%) of respondents have never attended a Parish Council meeting. 23.3% said that they occasionally or often attend.

There were quite a large number of comments (24 out of 99 respondents). A number of respondents said that they did not know about the Parish Council meetings or had not appreciated that the meetings were open to members of the public. Some respondents commented that even if they could attend they didn't have enough time and felt meeting times were inconvenient. There were a couple of respondents who were doubtful that their involvement could change the decision making.

43.3% felt that they would attend a quarterly informal 'surgery' run by the Parish Council. 18.6% of respondents would not 38.14% were unsure.

Q91

Would you be willing to become a Parish Councillor in the future?



A large majority would not consider becoming a Parish Councillor (75.2%) however 24.8% of respondents would, showing a healthy number of people willing to engage in local issues and the interface to local government. Election details for the Parish Council are published on Local Authority websites and existing members of the Parish Council would be happy to advise potential candidates.



Aerial view of Abbots Ripton

Recommendations/Actions arising from Survey responses to Section 10 – Governance.

Summary

The majority of parishioners felt that the Parish Council keeps parishioners well informed however many people did not understand the workings of the Parish Council or that the meetings were open for parishioners to attend. A number of parishioners said that they would like to see an informal 'PC' surgery and almost a quarter of respondents said that they would be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor in the future.

Recommended actions for consideration based on the survey responses are:

Issue: A need for better understanding as to the role of the Parish Council and Parish Councillors and their responsibilities.					
Recommended Actions: Investigate the setting up of an informal 'PC surgery' (Q&A session) and more advertising for future PC roles. Make improvements to the Parish Council Website to better illustrate the workings of the Parish Council.					
Stakeholders	Local/PC	HDC	County	ARFCo	Other
	Yes				
Priority	High				
Resources / Funding Required: Communications via the RAN / website and possible Village Hall meeting. Expected Outcome: Parishioners to gain a better insight into the workings of the Parish Council.					
Recommended Next Step: PC members to act on the recommendations above.					

How your Parish Plan will be taken forward.

The creation of the Parish Plan for Abbots Ripton and Wennington will help residents shape the way in which the Parish will evolve over the next 10 years or more. By having a collective voice, representative of the views of the Parish, we have created a point of reference for all future consultations and decision making where our collective opinion is relevant and should be known. Normal planning consultations and approval processes will always apply and create opportunity for further direct individual or group involvement through our Parish Council. Our Parish Plan document adds weight to the advocacy that we expect the Parish Council to apply when long term strategy is being developed and decisions are made.

Our Parish Plan is a vital information source for District Council Local Plan development over a 20-year period covering important issues of housing, local infrastructure and road development.

We hope you will engage with Parish Council members and other groups to ensure that our plan has an active life and remains relevant to the needs of our community.

The Parish Plan Committee:

Caroline Hannah

Steve Brown

Adrian Wardman

Nick Bolton

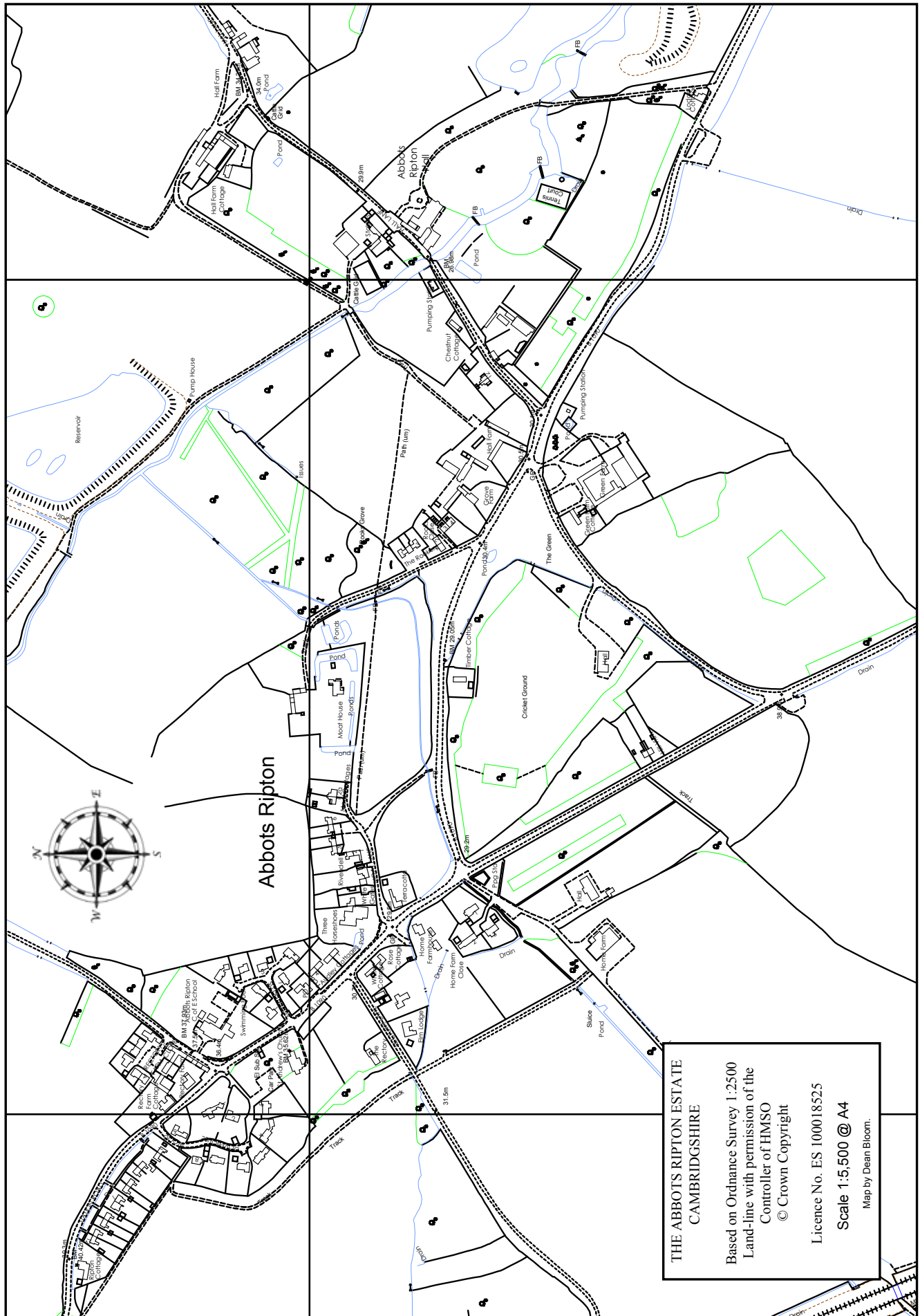
Robin Howe

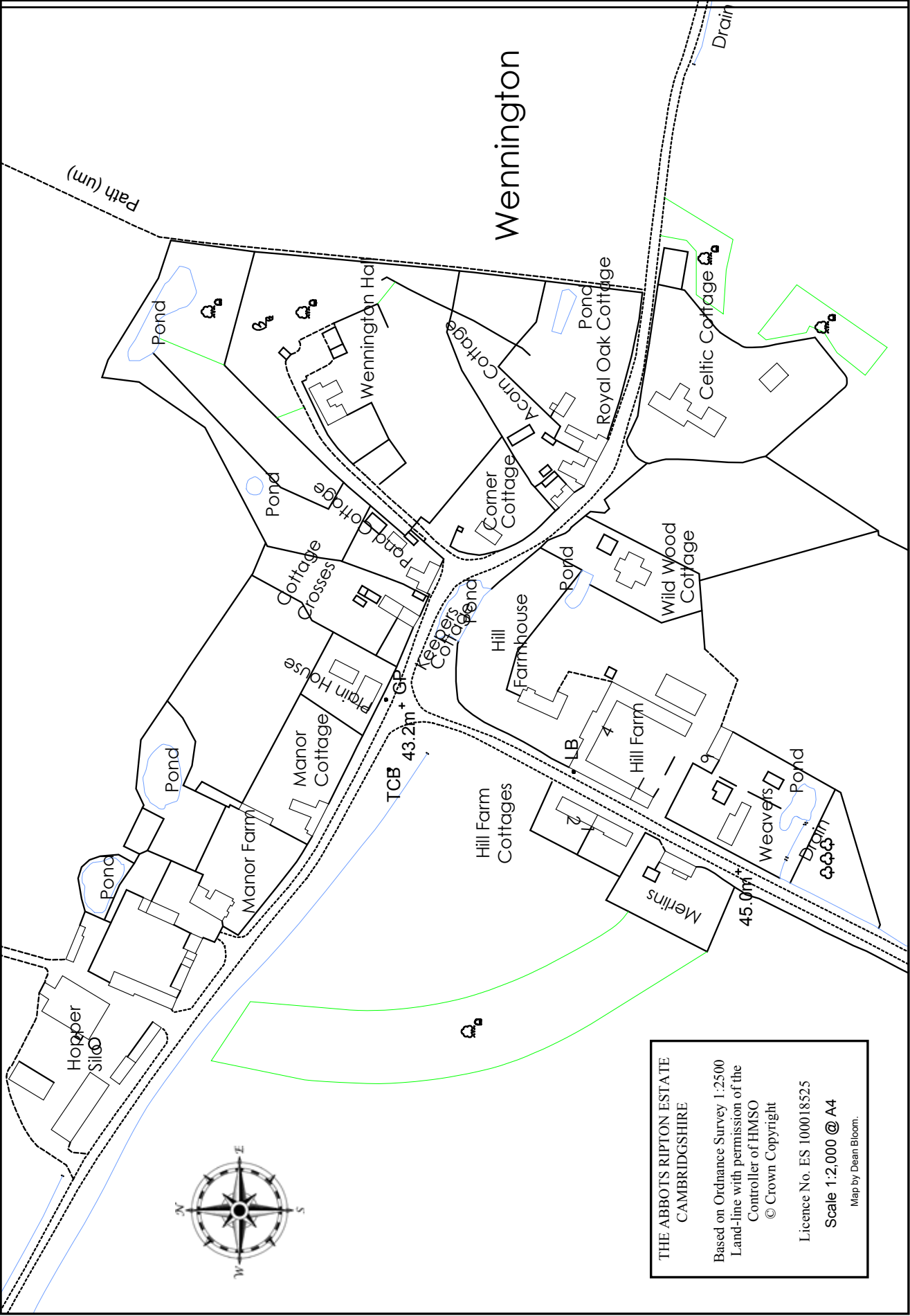
Freddie Fellows

Robert Mull

James Heading







In Memory of



In loving memory of our dear friend James Heading who sadly died as the Parish Plan was nearing completion and who will be sorely missed.

James was a true community man. He cared deeply about the residents of Abbots Ripton and Wennington and about the countryside in and around the Parish. He worked tirelessly for many years as Chair of the Parish Council. He was a warm and friendly yet modest man who believed in building relationships and the benefits of a collaborative approach. We would like to acknowledge and thank him posthumously on behalf of the Parish for his tremendous personal contribution.

James was an active early member of the Parish Plan team and he ardently believed that each and every one of us can make a real difference and shape our community. He very much believed in the benefits of a Parish Plan that reflects the majority opinion of the residents.

