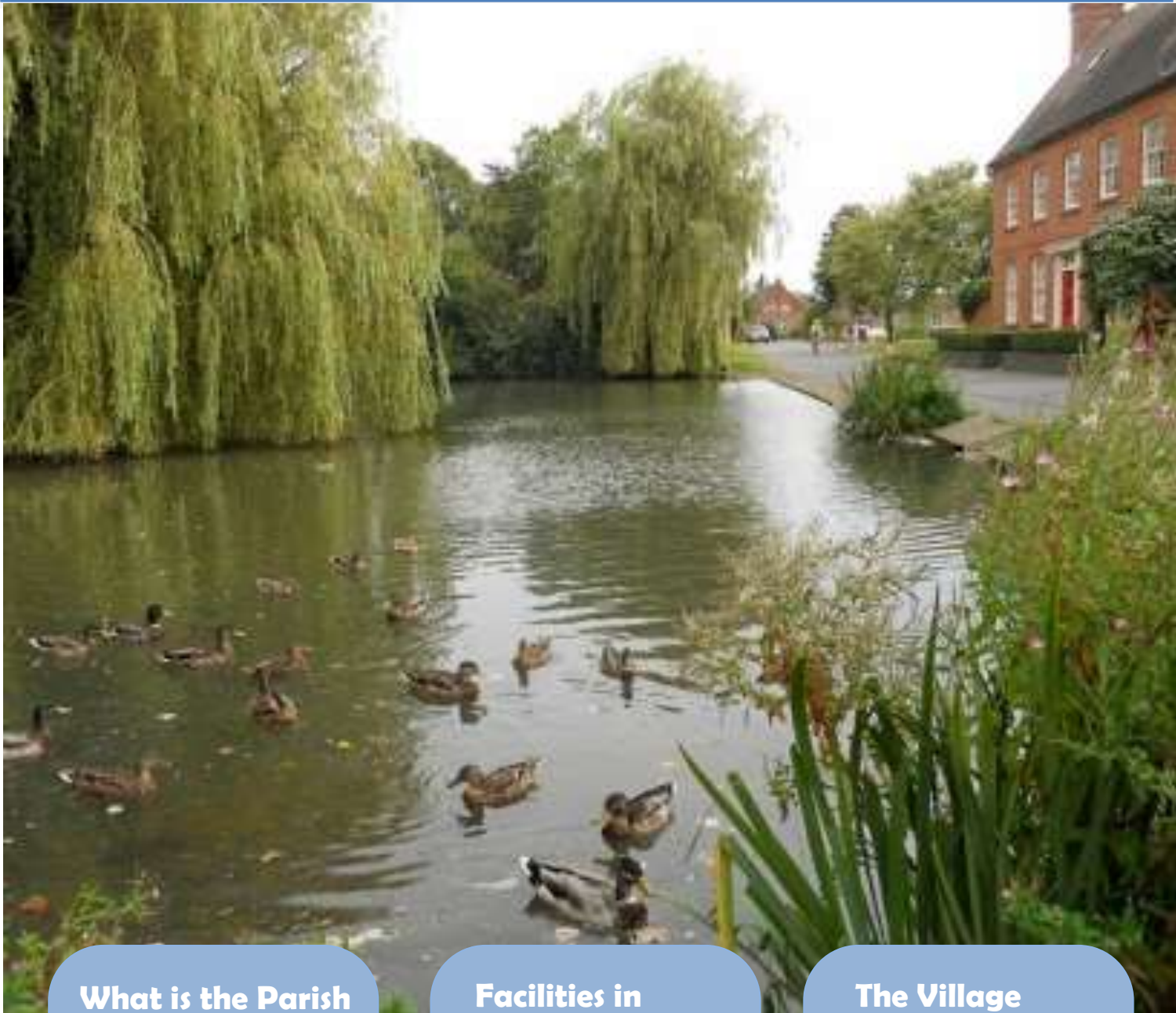


# WILLOUGHBY PARISH PLAN

## PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE



What is the Parish Plan for?



Facilities in Willoughby



The Village Environment



FOR UP-TO-DATE PARISH NEWS LOOK ONLINE [WWW.WILLOUGHBYWEB.NET](http://WWW.WILLOUGHBYWEB.NET)

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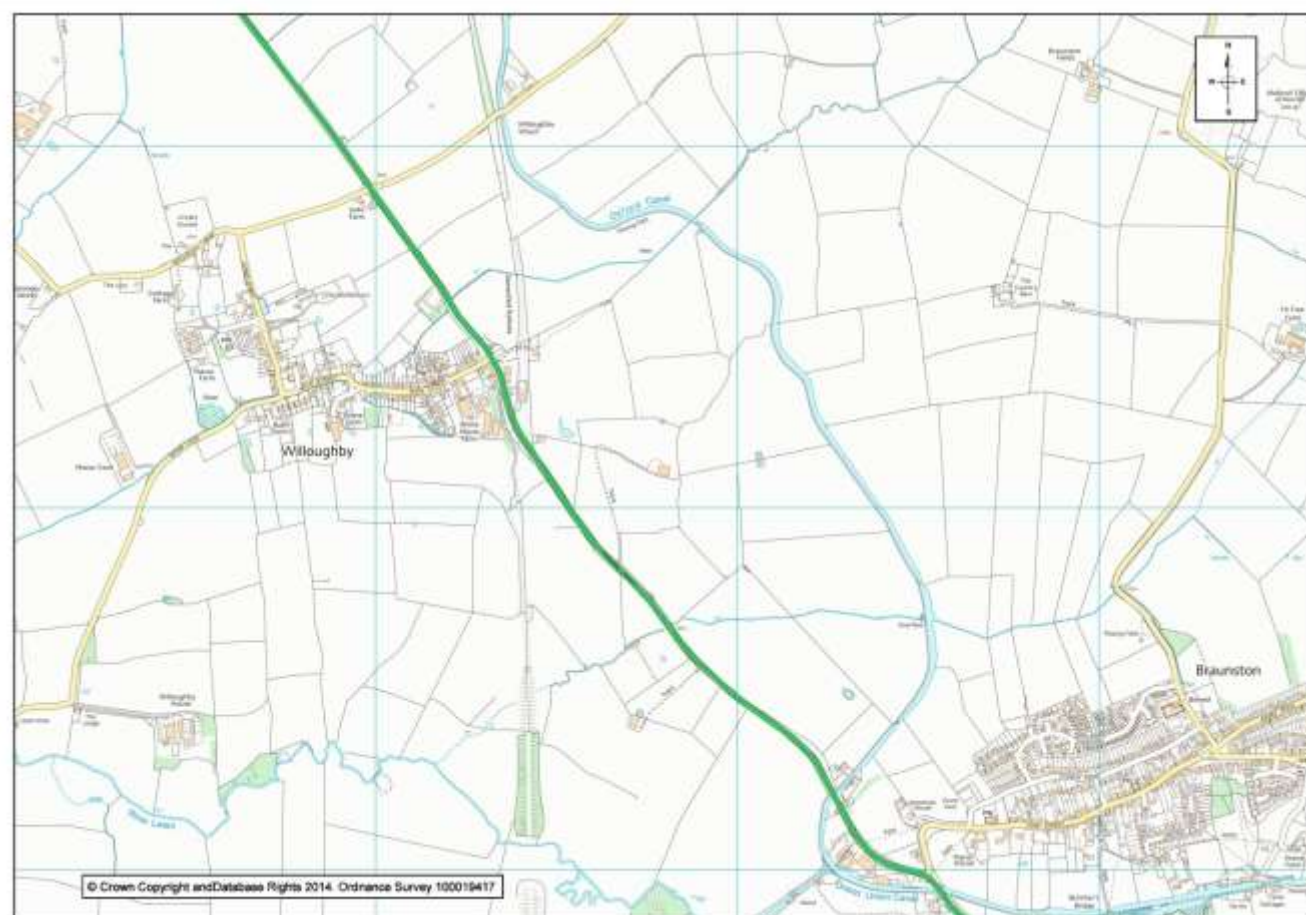
The Parish Plan is an important piece of work and helps us all consider how we want to influence the future of the village.

The number of residents who responded to the Willoughby Village survey was gratifying; the results from the survey have been used to develop this plan giving Willoughby resident's ownership of the Parish Plan.

We hope the Parish Plan helps the village to thrive and it continues to be the pleasant, attractive and safe village we all know and love being part of.

*Willoughby Parish Council*

*Parish Plan compiled in Oct 2013 and will be updated at regular intervals*



### A BRIEF HISTORY OF WILLOUGHBY

Willoughby sits on land once part of the sea bed millions of years ago. During the Ice Age water was trapped to form a vast lake, known as Lake Harrison. Ice sheets gouged out the valley, breached the Lake's banks, and left the mounds and ridges that we see today. Underground there are pockets of gravel and sand from the ancient sea bed and layers of clay have created aquifers, some holding mineral/chemical infused water.

The oldest known record referring to the Parish is the Domesday Book completed in 1086 which details five small manors. In 2012 a geophysical survey revealed evidence of a Romano-British settlement adjacent to Onley evidencing earlier occupation.

Domesday and later records spell the village's name in various ways ranging from Wilbi, Wylbi, to Wylughby. The origin is thought to be Willow Farm ('bi' being Norse for farm), perhaps the result of Viking raiders settling here.

In 1100 Henry I granted land in Willoughby to Wygan Algason, a Gascon, who had supported him. Eventually Wygan's family died out leaving its estate in Willoughby to the Hospital of St. John without the East Gate, Oxford.

The Hospital became the principal land owner in the parish. In 1248 King Henry III granted a charter for a weekly market and annual two day fair at Whitsun. 1285 saw a successful approach to the King's justices for recognition as Lord of the Manor. In 1458 the Hospital's estate was transferred to Magdalen College, Oxford. The College also had the right to nominate the parish priest (often fellows of the College). The College developed its estate until it was sold to tenants in the 1950s.

In 1437 John and Margaret Hayward established a charity for the village with land in the village and surrounding areas. The charity rented out its land for farming and allotments. Today the remaining assets are vested in two village charities.

Until 1760 agriculture was conducted on the open field system. The resulting distinct ridge and furrow profile is still evident in many fields - that remaining is a nationally important heritage asset. Enclosure took place in 1760 establishing a field pattern very similar to that today - some of the smaller fields have been merged into larger ones.

After enclosure the majority of the land was given over to pasture. There were at least two mills, one a windmill and the other a water mill on the Leam.





## A BRIEF HISTORY OF WILLOUGHBY CONT...

The discovery of sulphureted water in a new well in the 19<sup>th</sup> century led to two Spas in the parish, one was sited where Willoughby House is today and the other adjacent to the Four Crosses. The owner of the Four Crosses had the water tested, which was found by the Royal Institution to be similar to Harrogate's. Sadly neither enterprise was a success.

The A45 follows a long established route from London to Holyhead providing Willoughby with good communications. Ogilby's 1675 map of the route describes the section to Dunchurch as 'bad way' because it was difficult for horse drawn coaches – tarmacadam didn't arrive until 1911.

The Oxford canal was opened in 1790 hence the wharf and inn where Longdown Lane crosses. The last major development was the arrival of the Great Central Railway in 1898 many families in the village had members working on the railway which closed in 1956.



In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century the village was a busy place with, at one point, four inns, school, wheelwright/carpenter, smithy, post office, baker, butcher, and grocers. The farms employed a good number of residents.

As the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed employment and services were found elsewhere resulting in few living and working in the village today.



There are few old buildings remaining in the village as most would have been timber framed cob cottages that have been lost or condemned over time. The Church and Vale House in Lower Street are the oldest survivors.

The site of a moated farmstead, dated to the 1400s, in Moor Lane is designated an ancient monument by English Heritage.

## WILLOUGHBY TODAY

The village contains a mixture of housing, some of historical value, such as Vale House, located on Lower Street, a Grade 11 listed house which was built in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century and some very modern houses built on the site of an old orchard and now known as White Barn Close. The bungalows in Brooks close were built in the 1960's., the houses in Magdalen Road were built in the 1980's and originally the development was designated for starter homes. The agricultural barns near the church were converted to modern living in the 1990's.

Pye Court, originally Pie Court, a court associated with the market, issuing licences and punishing those guilty of misdemeanour or nuisance, is now a cluster of houses adjacent to the Willoughby Cricket Club.

St Nicholas parish church, parts of which date back to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, is located at the end of Brooks Close.

There are two farms located in the village and several old farmhouses now converted to domestic dwellings.

The old Methodist Chapel is now a domestic dwelling as is the old School House, the Old Post Office and the Old Bakehouse; all of these building are located on Main Street. There was also a chapel on Lower Street but this was incorporated with the neighbouring property.

Facilities

The Village Hall is well used by local clubs and societies as well as being the hub of social activity. The Rose Inn is a popular and thriving Gastro Pub, recently renovated and restored – a beautiful listed building in the heart of the village. The café, located on the A45, is also a popular spot for villagers and passing trade. A Beauty Salon / Hairdressers is located on Lower Street. A Car Wash facility is located next to the café on the A45. There is also a Garage / Car Sales site also located on the A45 opposite the café.

Willoughby has a large pond, located along Lower Street, home to numerous Ducks and Moorhens and a pocket nature reserve in Haywoods Lodge which can be accessed from the A45. The Playing Field / Playground is located behind The Rose Inn just off Main Street and the Amenity Garden is located between the pub and the Old Bakehouse.

Footpaths criss-cross the village and surrounding countryside – a haven of flora and fauna.





## Background to the compilation of the Parish Plan

The Plan is written against the backdrop of the Rugby Borough Council Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework March 2012. The Core Strategy CS1 incorporates policies providing guidance on the location and form of building and other development and identifies a rural settlement hierarchy, Willoughby is categorized as a Local Needs Settlement.

This means new housing and employment development will only be permitted to meet identified needs of the local community within the existing village boundaries. The Parish Plan reflects the views of residents expressed in the Survey Report, a many of whom stated no further homes were needed. As to location, residents who felt there was a need for further housing development advocated infill plots (thus, subject to local need, falling within the Local Needs Settlement criteria).

### Policy CS2: Parish Plans (From the RBC Core Strategy Policy Document)

Where the views of a community are expressed in a Parish Plan (or equivalent), they will be taken into account in the planning system. For the views of a community to be considered, the Parish Plan will need to:

- have been endorsed by Rugby Borough Council;
- be in conformity with the LDF; and
- be regularly updated if necessary.

The use of parish plans will principally inform:

- the determination of a planning application;
- the requirement and scope of development contributions associated with planning permission; and
- the assessment of schemes in the context of a need identified through the Parish Plan



## THE PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan is designed to reflect the views of residents as highlighted in the Parish Survey carried out in 2012.

Once adopted, Rugby Borough Council will refer to the Willoughby Parish Plan when making decisions which may affect our community.

Willoughby is classed as a local needs settlement and therefore is at the lowest level in the hierarchy of development.

Willoughby Parish Council has been working on the development of a Parish Plan for several years and as part of this development the Willoughby Survey was issued in 2012.

The results of this survey have now been used to create the Parish plan.

51% of Willoughby residents completed the survey; the age range within those respondents' households ranged from babies to residents of over eighty years old. 33% of respondents had lived in Willoughby for 1 – 10 years with 4% having lived in the village for between 71 – 80 years! 78% of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with living in Willoughby.



**WHAT IS THE PARISH PLAN FOR?**

The Parish Plan outlines the vision of how Willoughby residents wish to see the Parish develop, it identifies the action needed to achieve this vision, and identifies the features and characteristics of the community that people value. The plan also describes local problems as identified in the village survey and suggests solutions to those problems, allocating responsibility and a proposed timescale for completion.

Whose ideas does it contain?

The Parish Council devised a questionnaire which was issued to all Willoughby households in 2012. The results from this survey were collated and have been used to form the basis of the Parish Plan

What should you do with the Parish Plan?

We hope you will use the Parish Plan as a reference as it contains the views of Willoughby residents. The plan gives us a glimpse of what the future may hold for our community.

About Willoughby

There are 192 properties in the Willoughby parish with 317 electors over the age of 18. It is a small rural parish to the south-west of Rugby, located between Dunchuch and Daventry in the Leam Valley.

The A45 runs through the east of the village as does the Grand Union Canal and the majority of houses straddle Main Street and Lower Street. The village is surrounded by farmland, much of which is ancient ridge and furrow.

**THE RESULTS**

This next section of the booklet contains information about the results from the Parish Council questionnaire. Each section covers what you told us, what we are going to do and an action plan.

The following areas will be covered:

- 1. THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**
- 2. THE WILLOUGHBY COMMUNITY**
- 3. FACILITIES AND SERVICES**
- 4. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT**
- 5. HOUSING AND PLANNING**

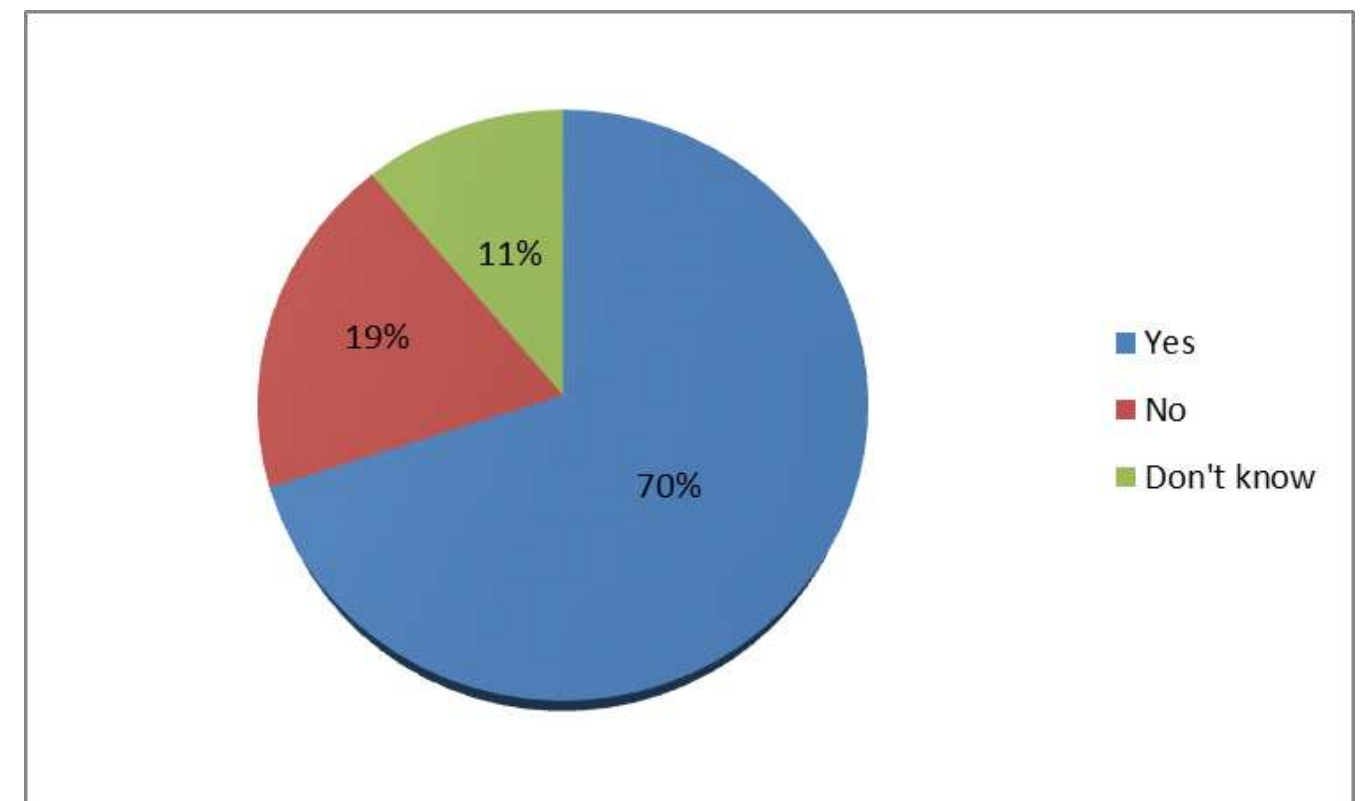
**1. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**What you told us

When asked 'Do you think there are parts of Willoughby that could be improved?', 70% of respondents said that they thought it could. Highlighted problems were fast cars, dog mess, and sewage and other smells. Litter was also highlighted as a problem for a small number of people. Barking dogs and dogs loose in the village also caused a problem as do cars parked on or over the pavement. Heavy, wide and tall vehicles passing through the village were cause for concern.

98% of villagers were very satisfied / satisfied with the waste collection facilities. However, many people would like to see better collection services for larger items and better recycling facilities in Willoughby.

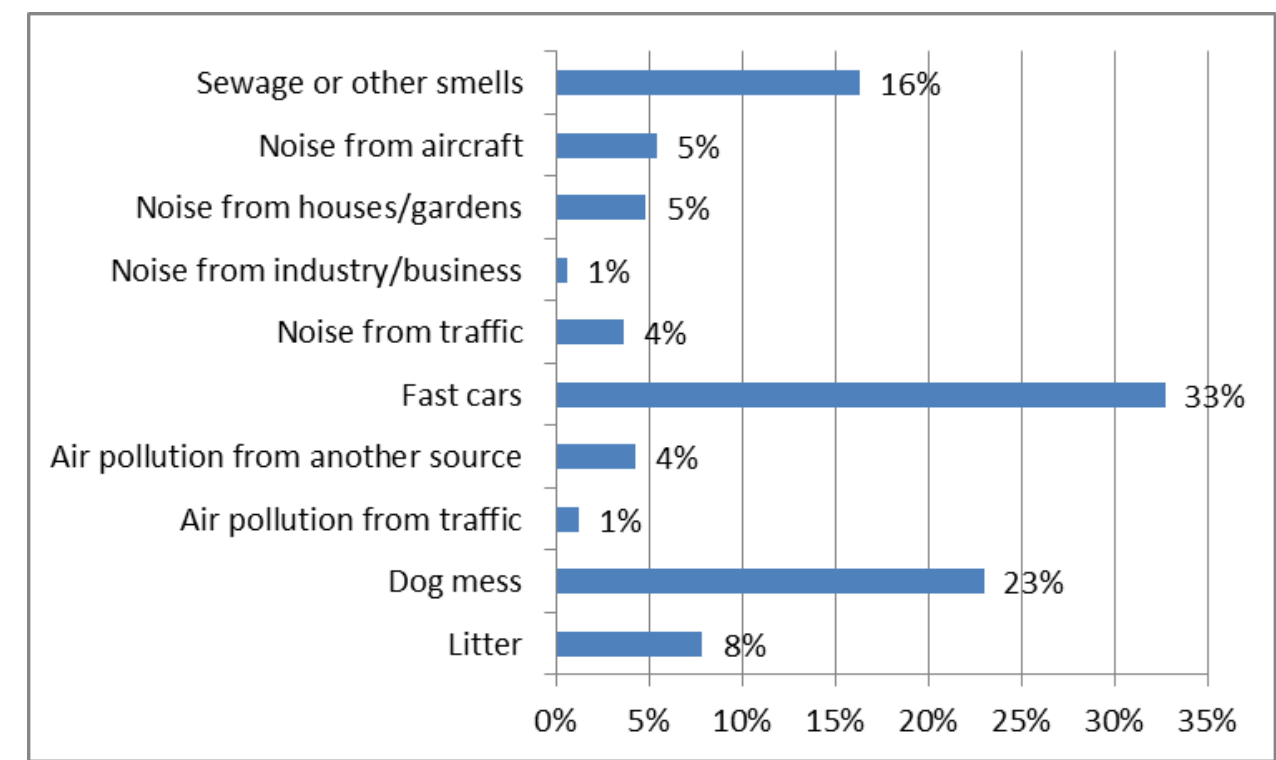
Reducing energy use in the home was voted the top environmental scheme for Willoughby, closely followed by the installation of solar panels. Only 11% of respondents would like to see wind turbines in or around the village.

Do you think there are parts of Willoughby, e.g. buildings or roads that could be improved?

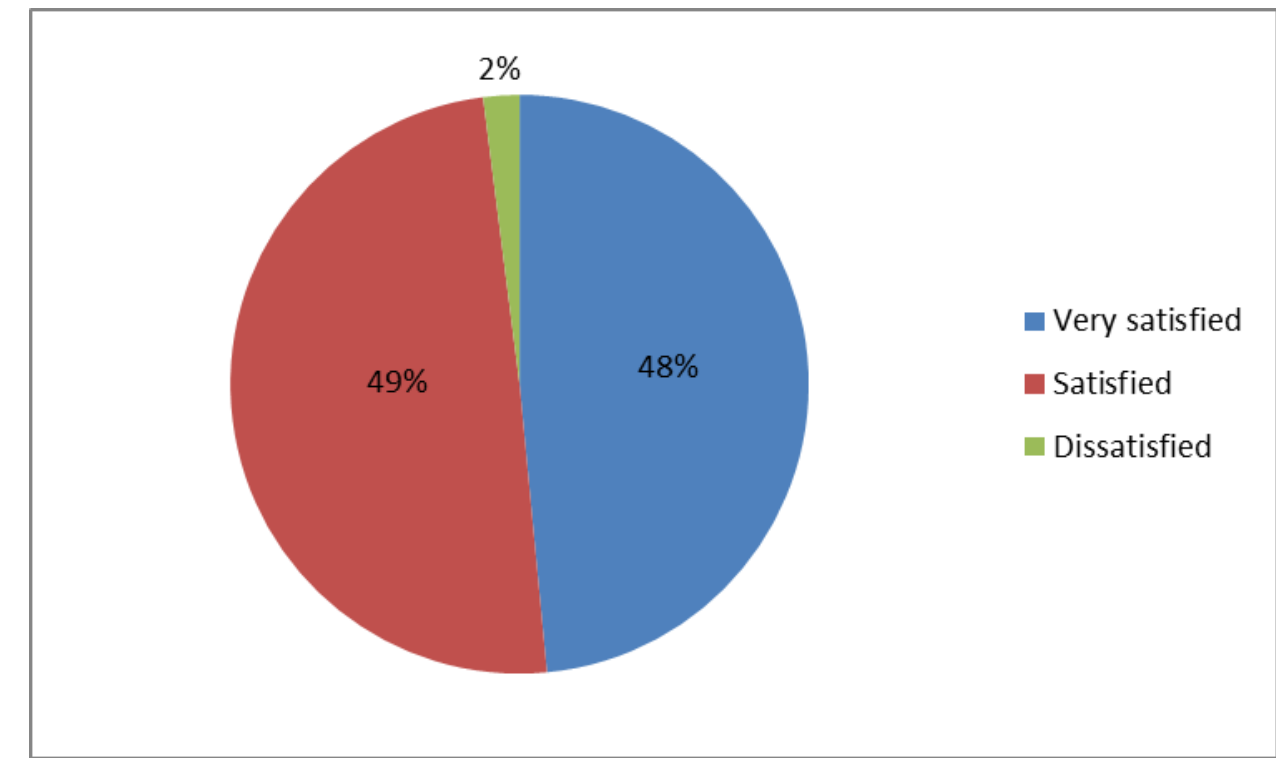




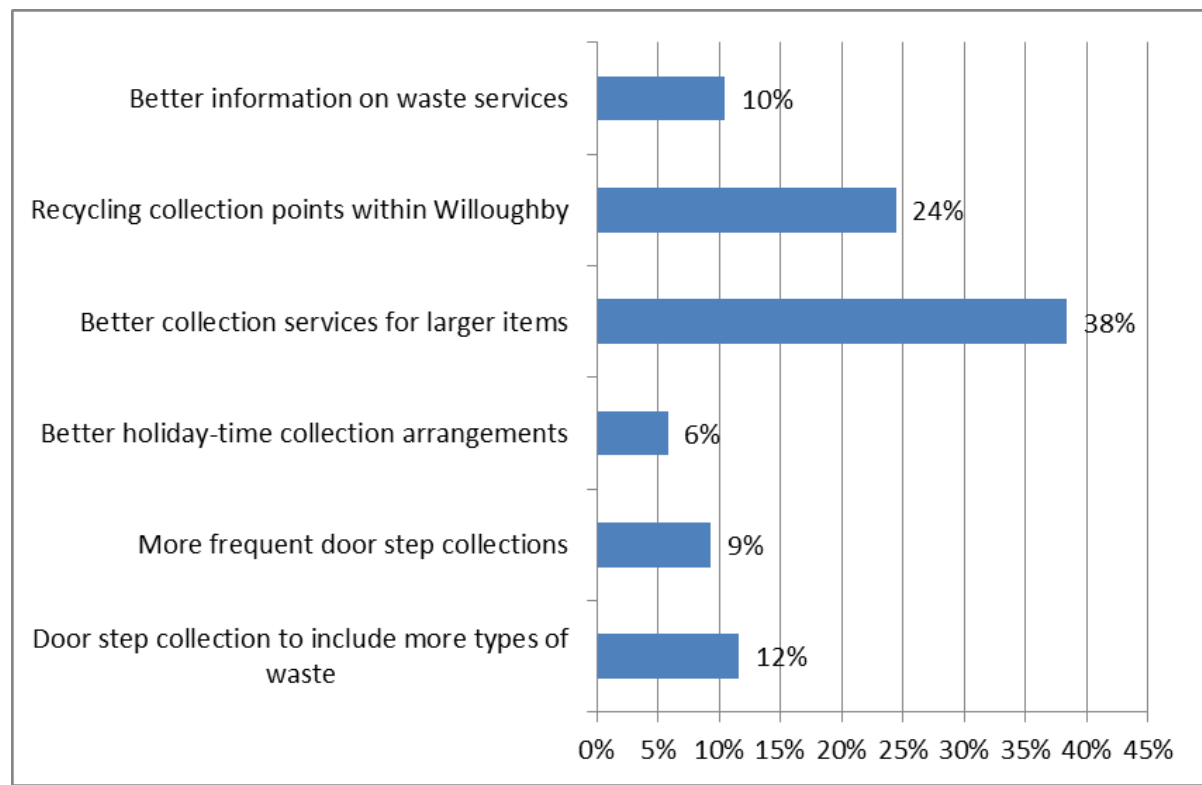
Do you experience problems with the following in Willoughby?



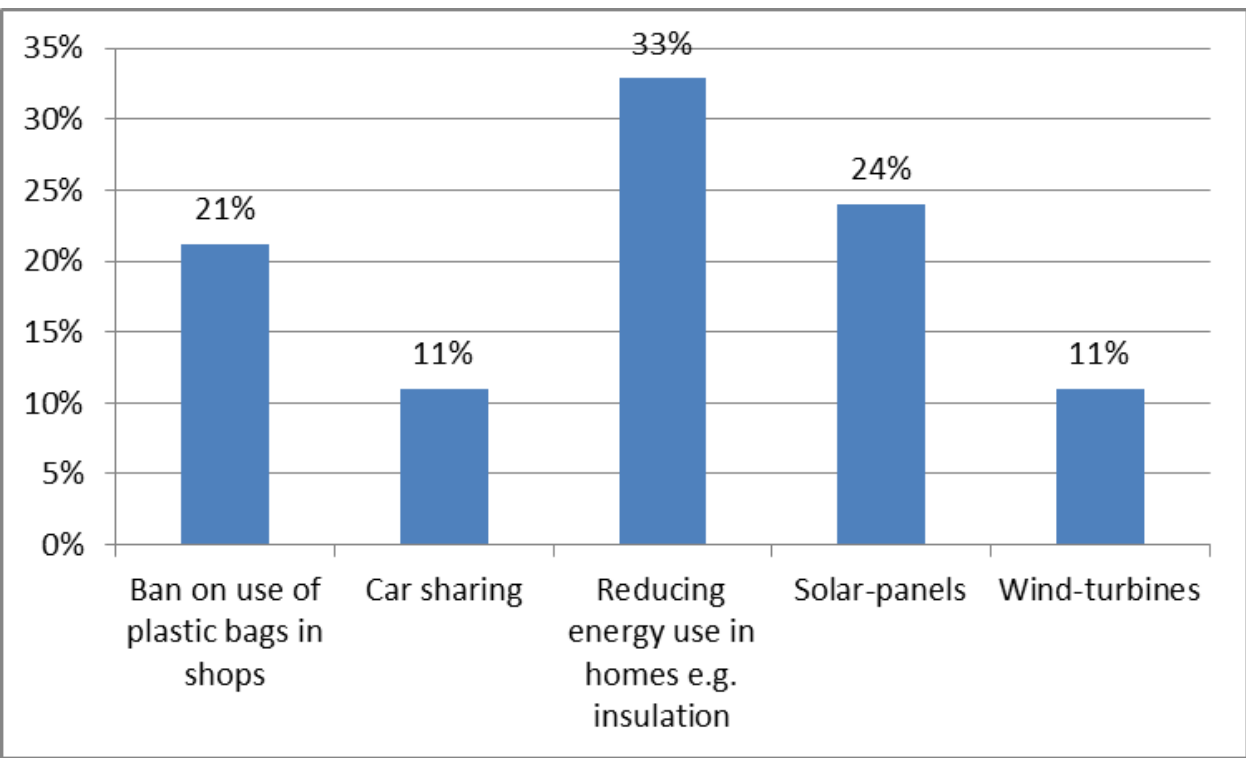
How satisfied are you with recycling and waste collection facilities?



Do you think any of the following would improve recycling and waste collection?



Would you support any of the following environmental schemes in Willoughby?



What we are going to do

As highlighted in the results, speeding, dog fowling and litter are the biggest issues when it comes to the physical environment. These areas, along with recycling and energy saving will be the main focus in the action plan.

ISSUE	ACTION	HOW	PRIORITY	BY WHO	TIMESCALE
Dog fowling	Consult Dog Warden	Report offenders to Warden	High	WPC	Already actioned
	Increased publicity	Willoughby monthly	High	WPC	Already actioned
	Obtain and display penalty notices	Work with the RBC	High	RBC	Six months
Litter	Willoughby Monthly article	Litter picking	Medium	WPC and villagers	Ongoing
	Residents and businesses to take responsibility for their own areas	Incentivise by aiming for an entry to Calor Village of the Year	Medium	WPC and villagers	Ongoing
Recycling of large items	Discuss with Sean Lawson (RBC)	Meeting and email	Medium	WPC and RBC	Six months
Energy saving	Investigation of schemes available	Arrange meetings	Medium	WPC and partners	12 months

2. WILLOUGHBY COMMUNITY

What you told us

There were many suggestions to how we could improve the community in Willoughby. Suggestions included welcome packs and information for newcomers, a befriending scheme for neighbours living alone, more information about the Parish Council and local Government activities, and the opportunity to be involved in the decision making for Willoughby.

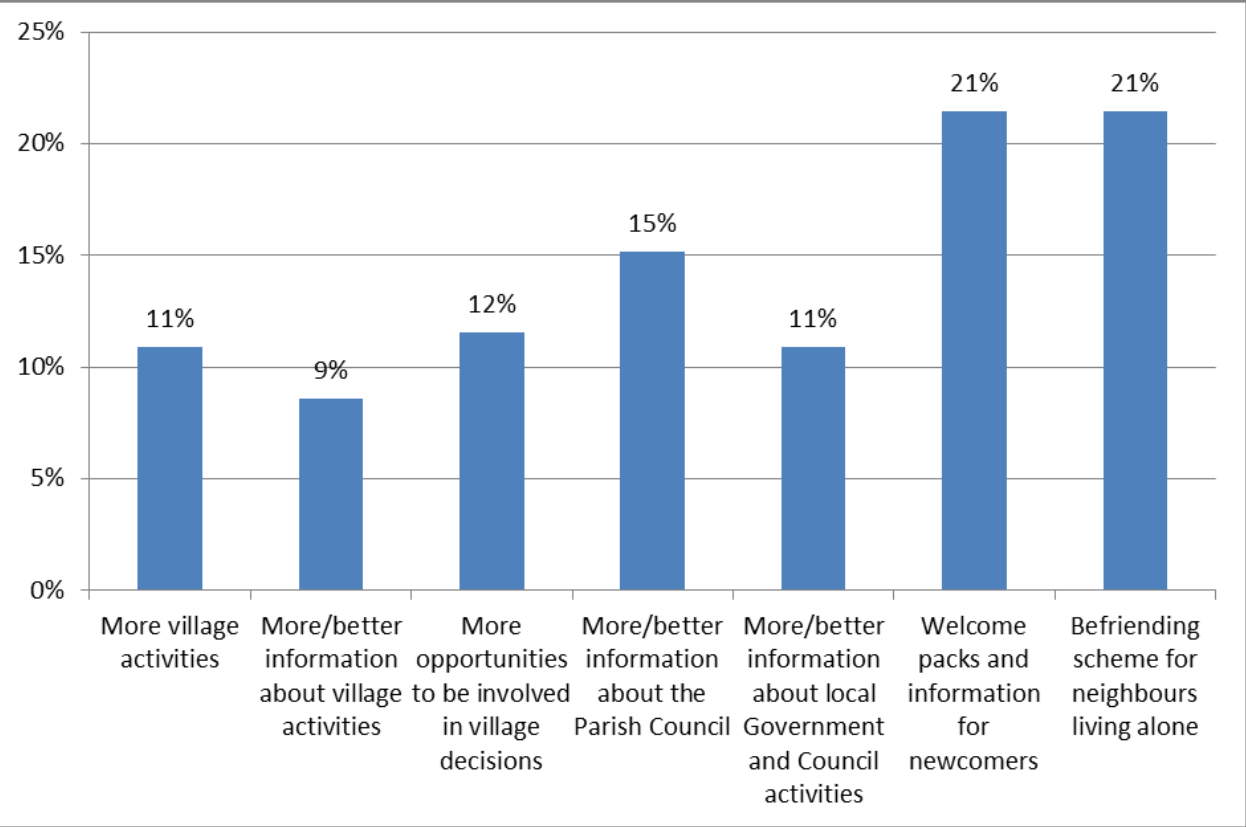
Respondents would like to see more activities for young people, an allotment scheme, and a post office and/or general store.

63% of respondents use the village hall less than once a month, although 10% use it once a week. The playing field is used less than once a month by the majority of people, however, 18% of people use it a few times a month and 12% use it at least once a week. The village pond and Haywards Lodge are used less frequently.

People would be more inclined to use these facilities if there were activities organised during the weekends, and better information about facilities and events.

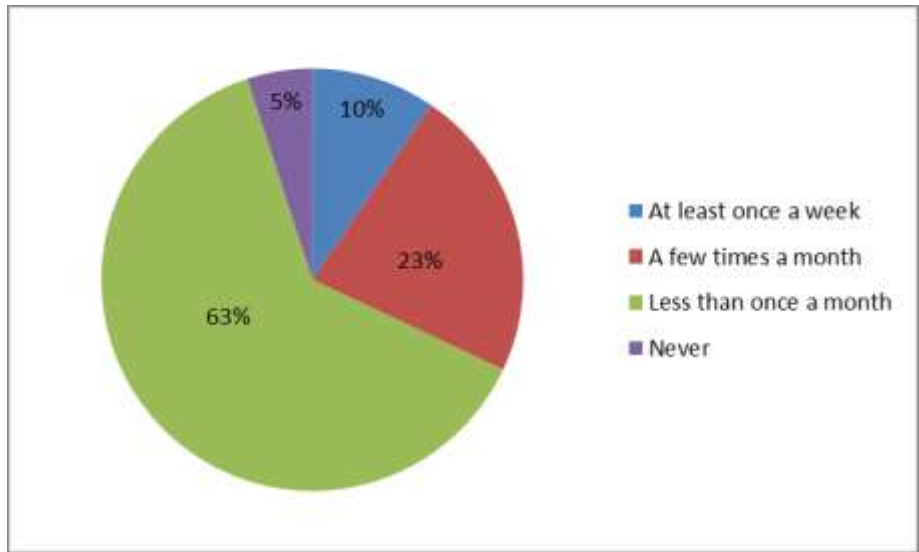
Suggestions include an improved park and playground for children, indoor activities such as table tennis, and a mum and tots playgroup. A gardening club was also suggested.

What could improve the community in Willoughby?

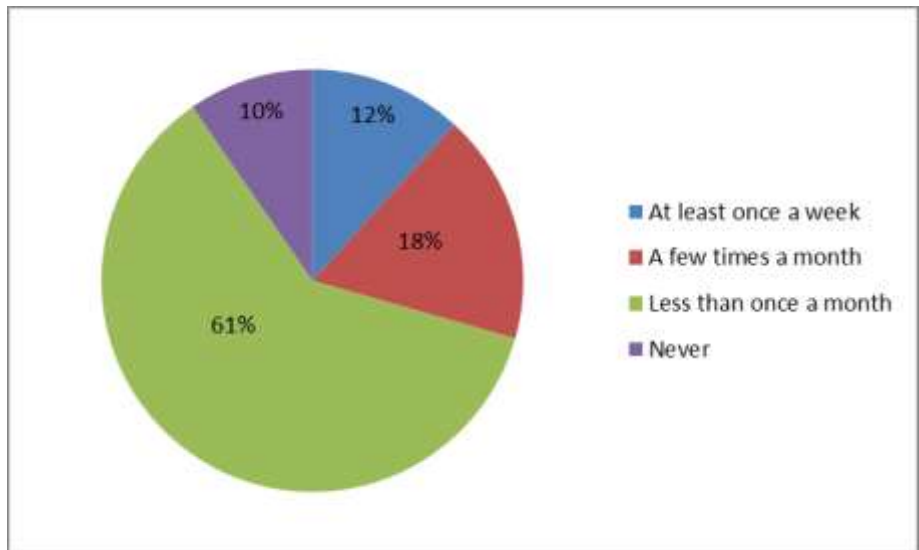


How often do you use the following facilities in Willoughby?

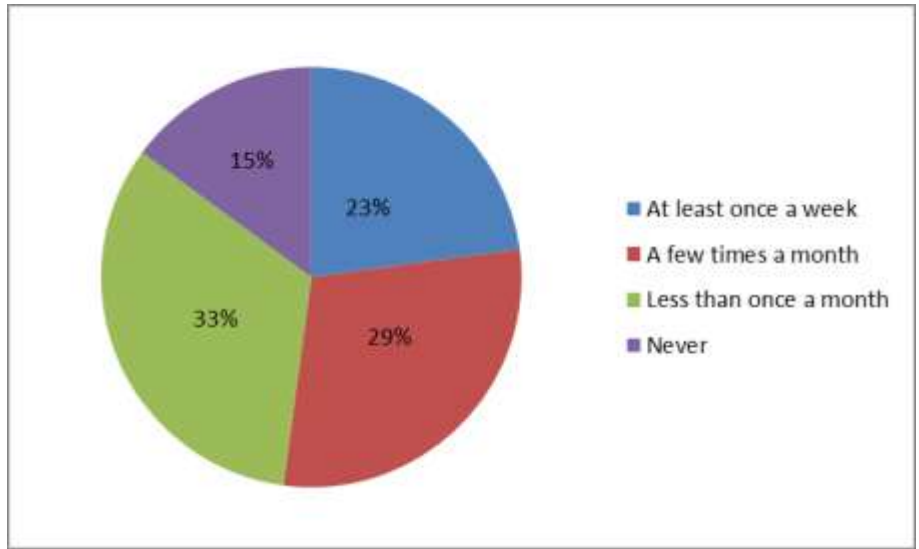
The Village Hall



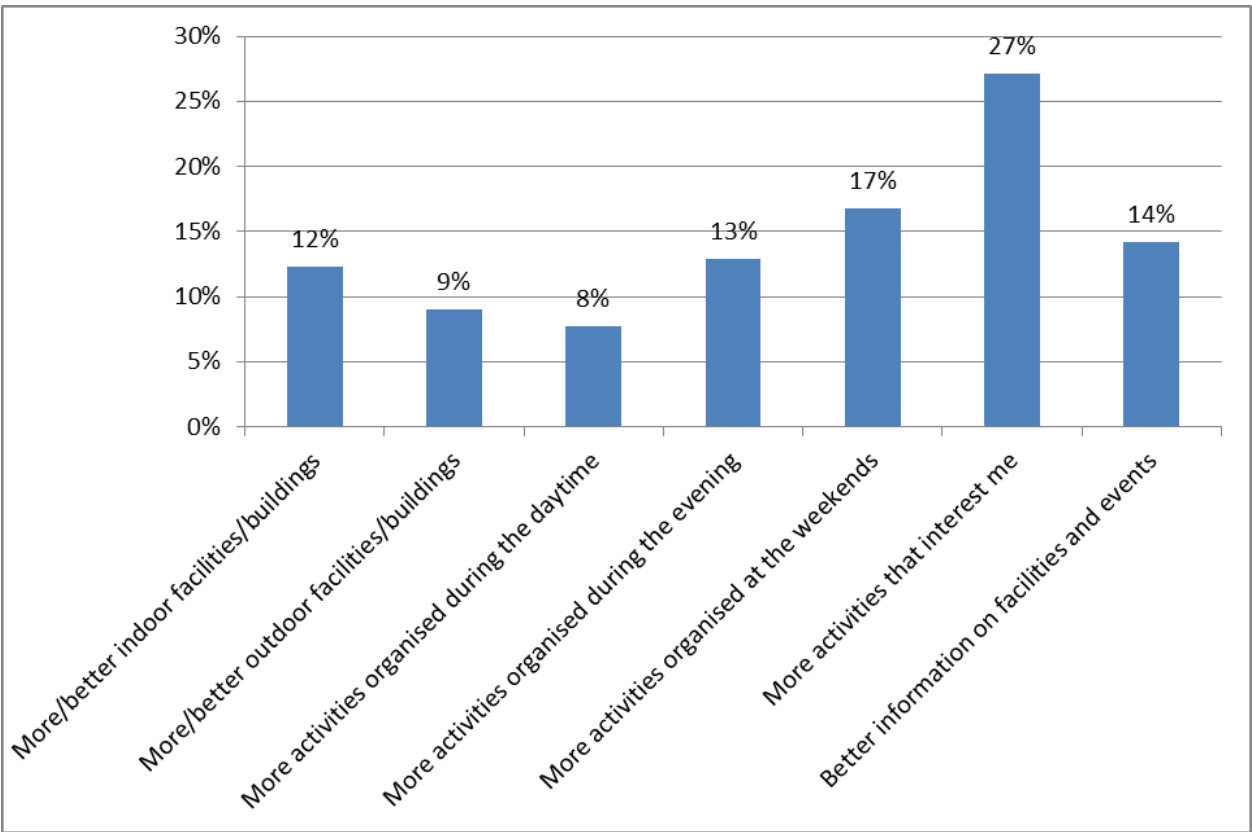
The Playing Field



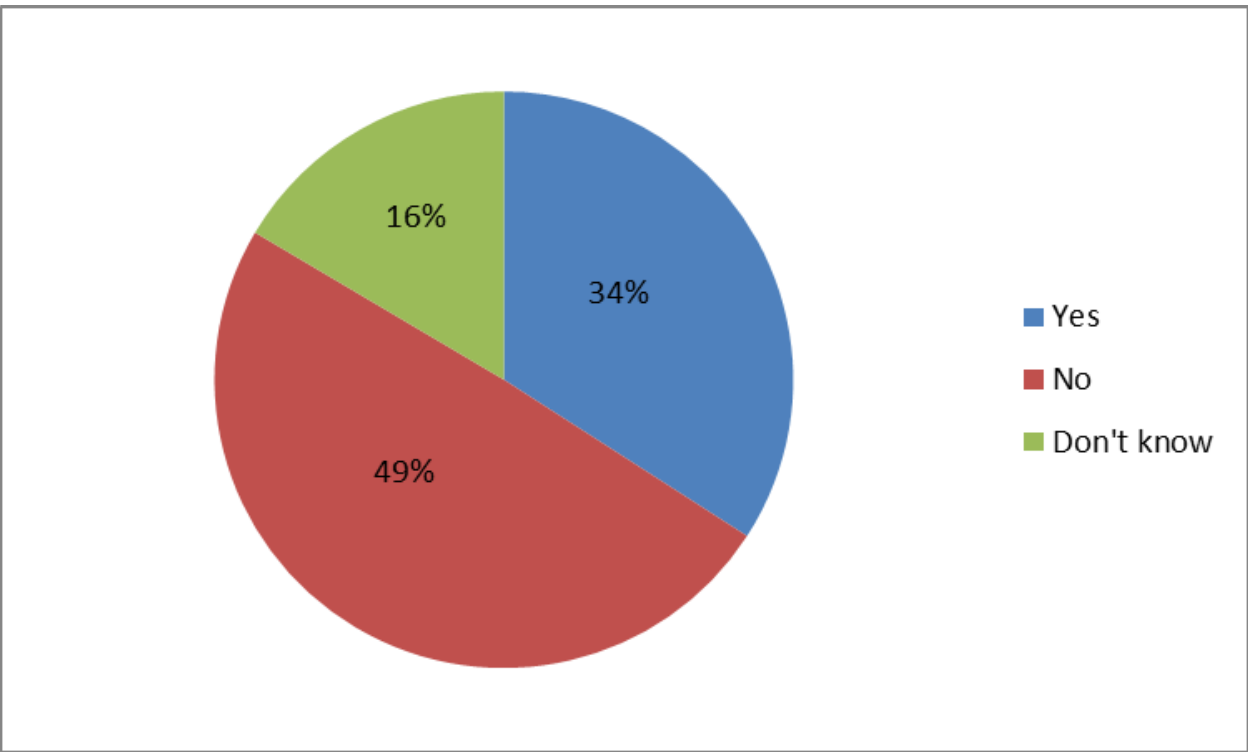
The Village Pond or Haywards Lodge



What would encourage you to use the recreation facilities more?

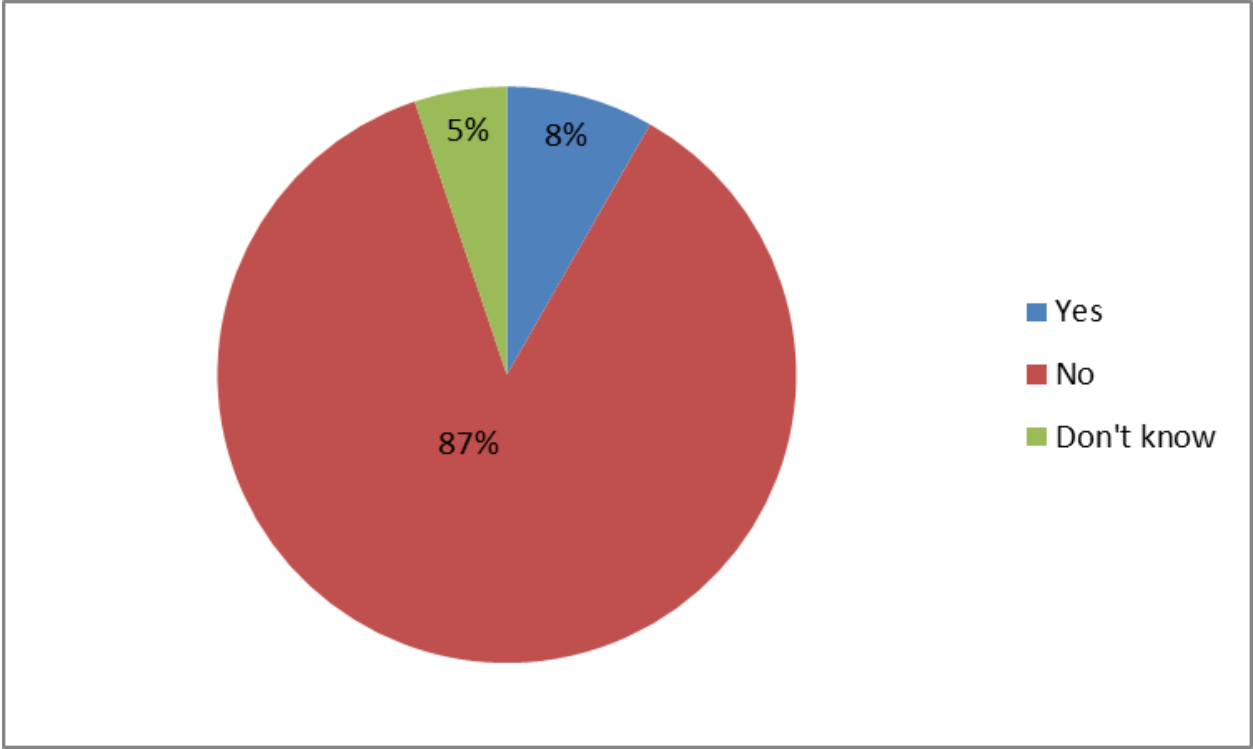


Do you think there are problems with crime and disorder in Willoughby?

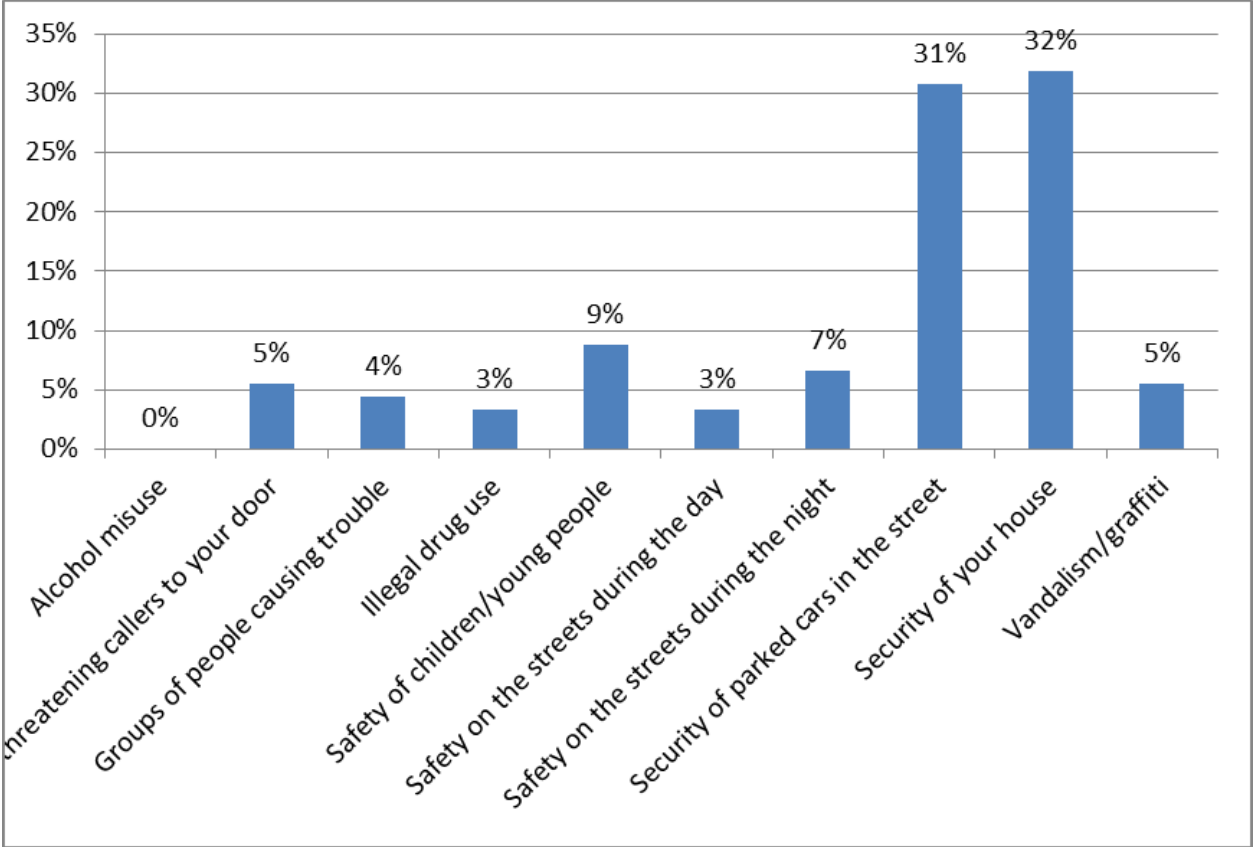




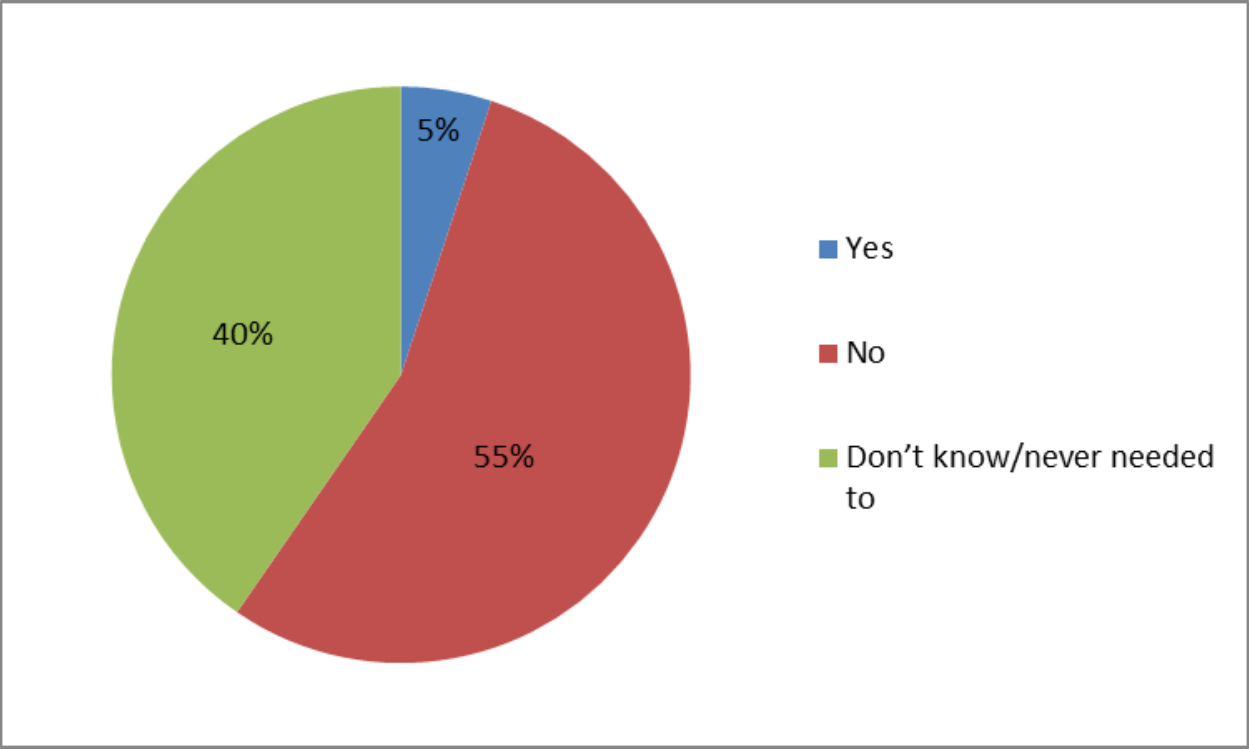
Are there parts of Willoughby where you don't feel safe?



Do any of the following issues cause you concern in Willoughby?



Have you had problems contacting the police to report a crime or problem?



What we are going to do

A lot of issues have been raised within with section ranging from welcome packs and activity groups to crime and disorder. These areas, along with allotments and a community shop will be the main focus in the action plan.

ISSUE	ACTION	HOW	PRIORITY	BY WHO	TIMESCALE
Welcome packs	Gather information and circulate to residents	Up-date information and format welcome pack	Medium	WPC	Six months
Information for WPC and RBC activities	Expand Willoughby newsletter	Gather information for Willoughby newsletter	Medium	WPC, RBC and WCG	12 months

ISSUE	ACTION	HOW	PRIORITY	BY WHO	TIMESCALE
<b>Increase village activities and information on existing activities</b>	Increase information published in the Willoughby newsletter and notice boards	Newsletter and discussion between WPC and village hall	Medium	WPC, VHC and village groups	12 months
<b>Allotments</b>	Procure land	Identify and purchase suitable land	High	WPC	Already actioned
	Increase fundraising	Grants Set up Allotment Society	High	WPC and Allotment Society	12 months
<b>Crime and disorder</b>	Public awareness and involvement	Set up a NHW scheme	High	WPC / Community / Police	Already actioned

### 3. FACILITIES AND SERVICES

#### What you told us

The village hall is the most used facility in the village. However respondents have suggested additional services such as shop/general store, newspaper delivery, school, playgroup, a chemist, and a doctor's surgery. Other suggestions included adult sports equipment, a cinema and a swimming pool.

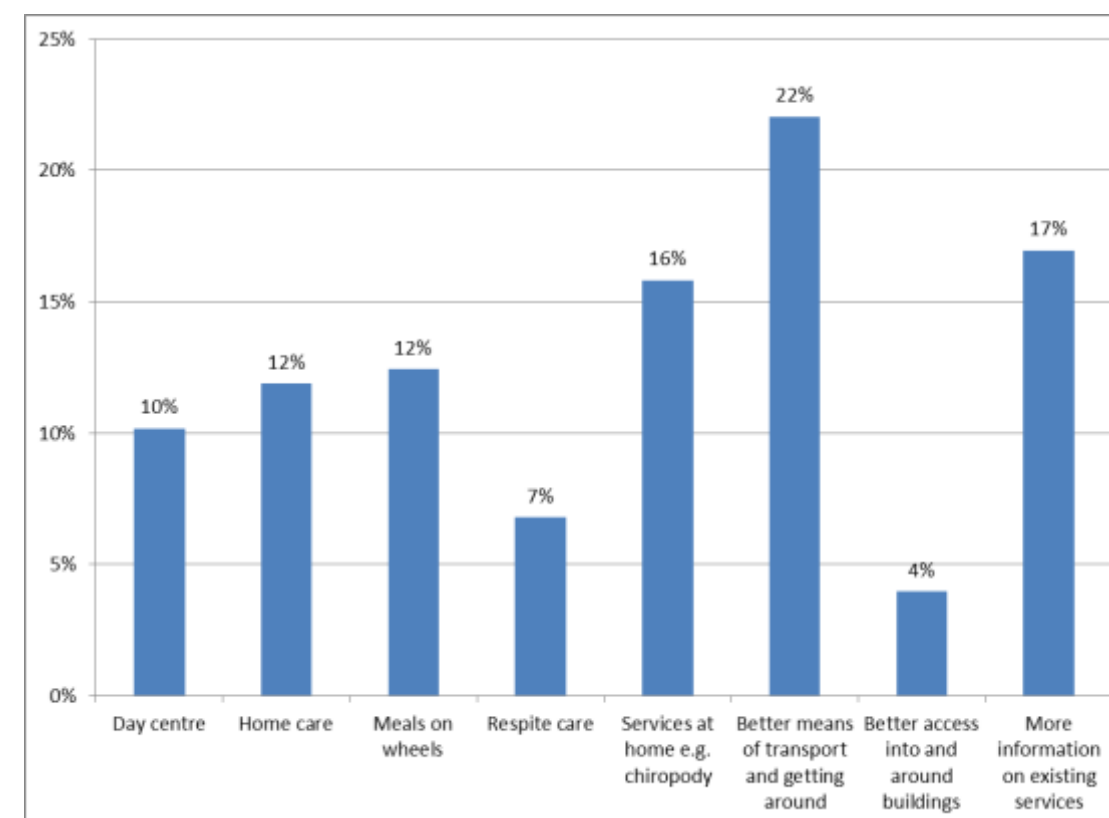
Many people had difficulty finding information about local childcare provision, and the Parish Council would welcome information about this to circulate within the community.

Many people would like to see improved facilities and activities for young people and children.

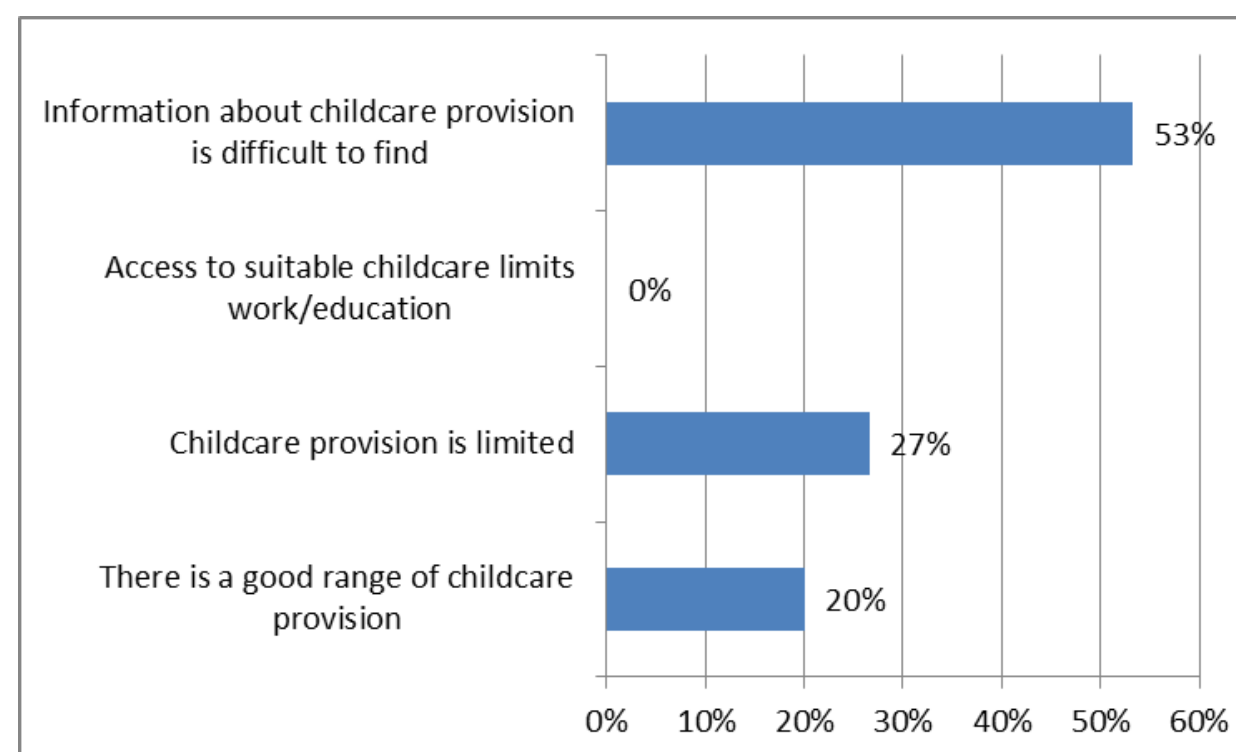
Concern has been expressed about the lack of transport in the local area and people would like more information on existing services and services in the home, such as chiropody and meals on wheels.

78% of respondents are very satisfied / satisfied with the services available. Although 23% would like to see the surgery open at weekends and 14% would like lifestyle clinics, weight loss classes and exercise classes available in the village.

What are the most important ways to improve facilities / activities for adult / older people or those with special needs?

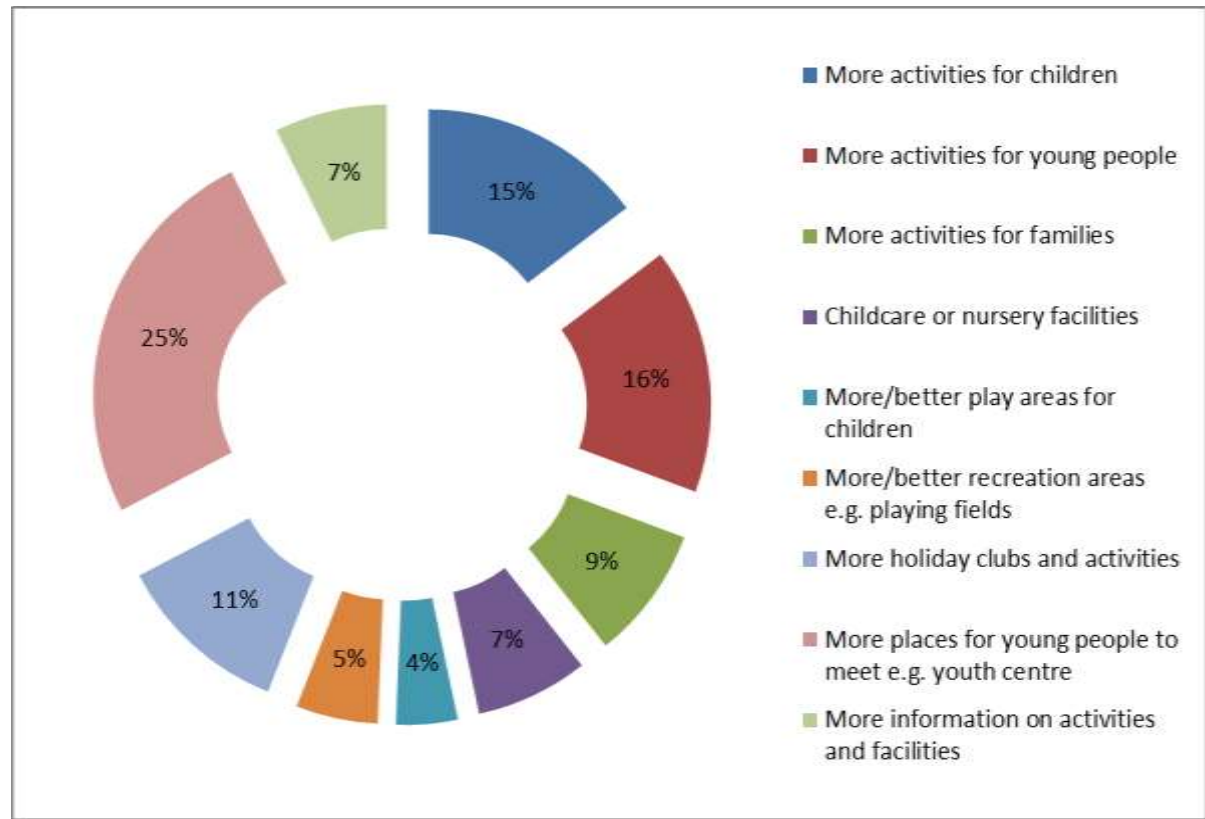


If you have children under 12 what is your opinion of childcare provision within the community?

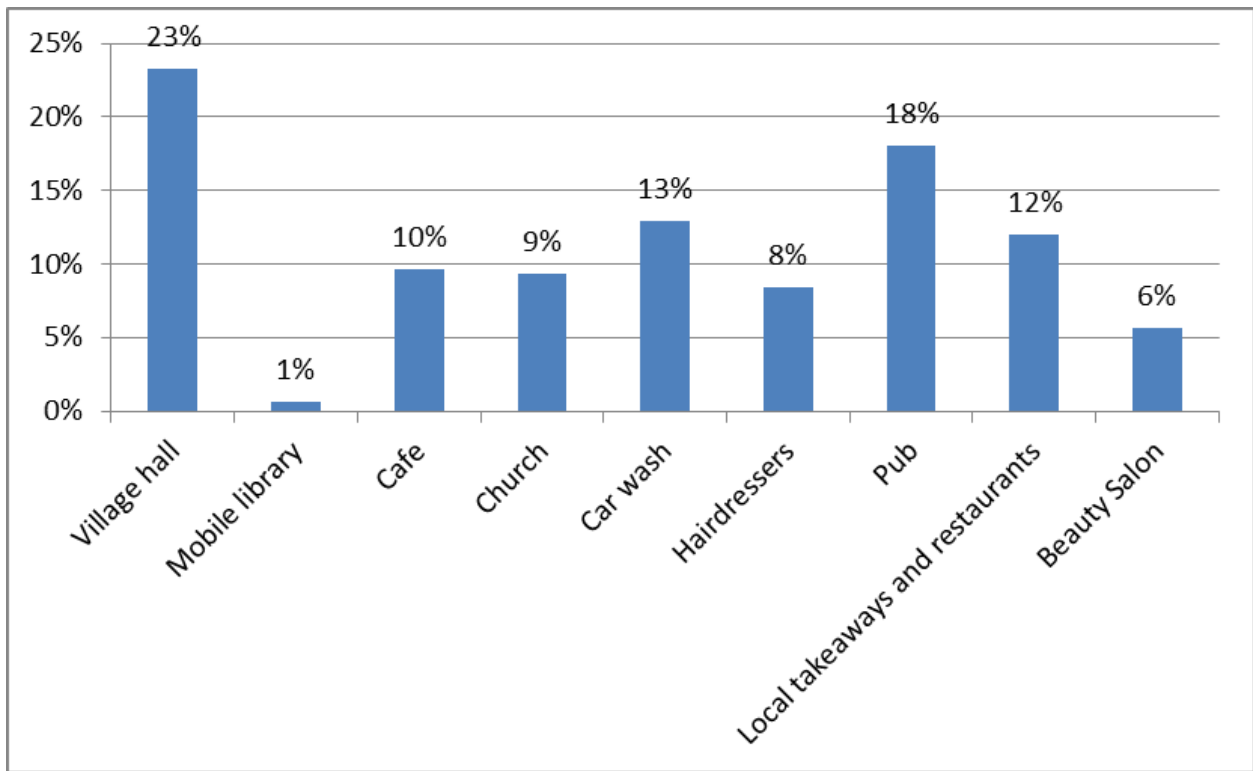




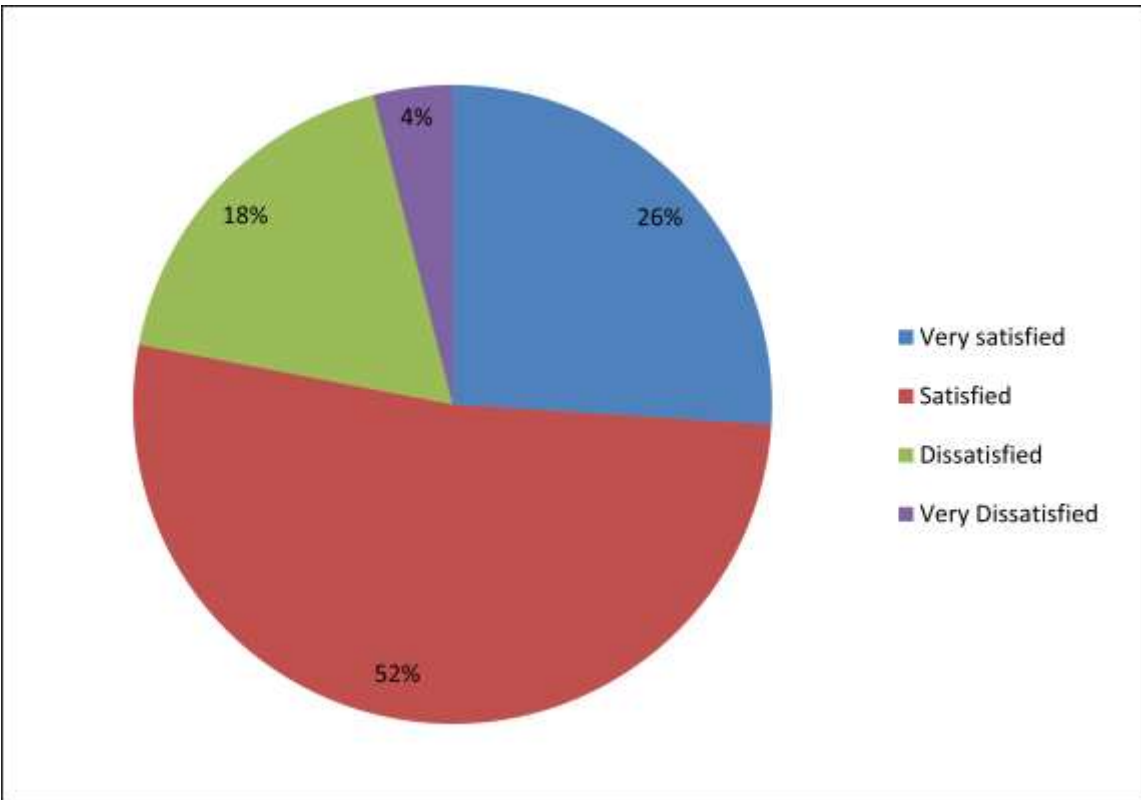
What are the most important ways to improve facilities and activities for young people and children?



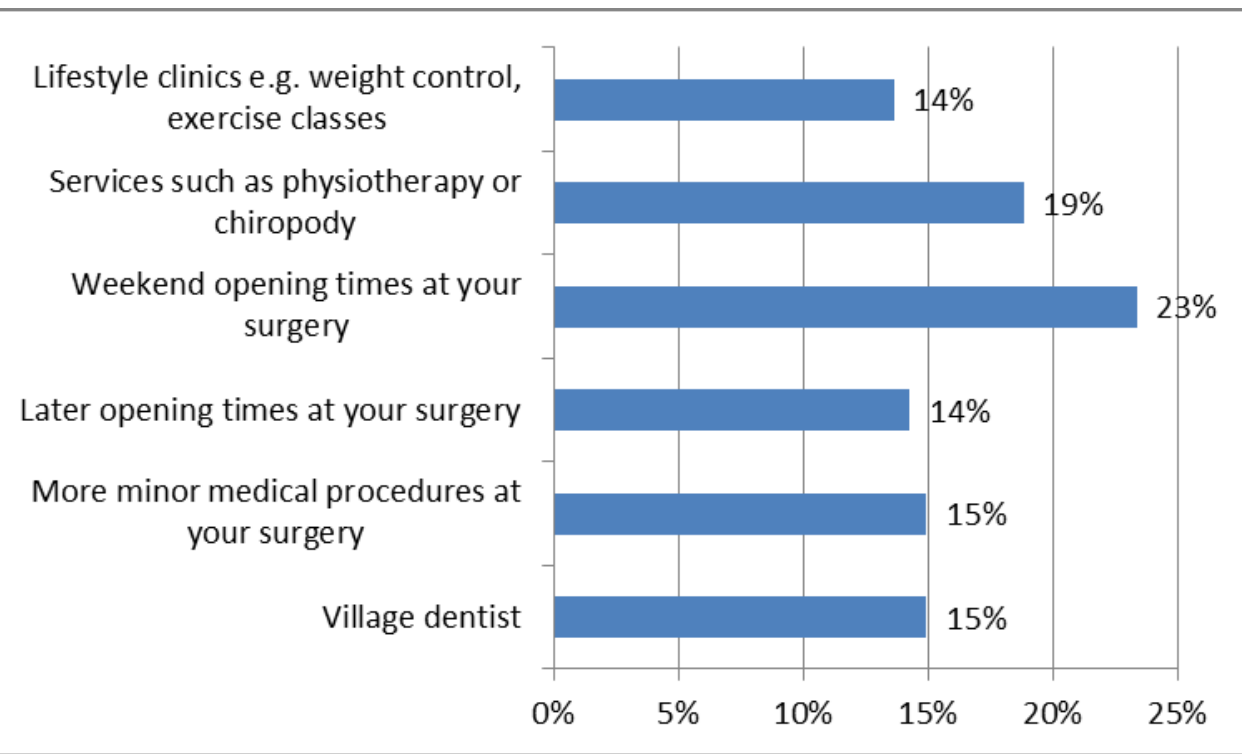
Which of the following facilities do you use in Willoughby?



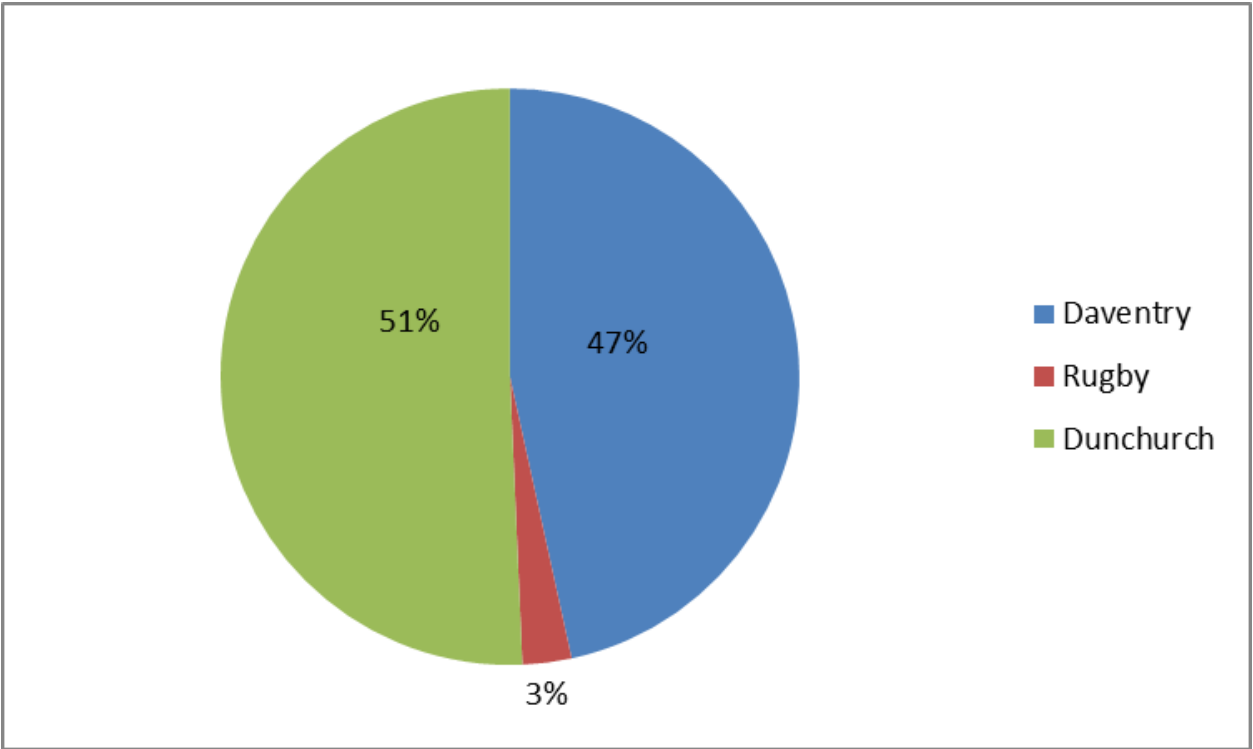
How satisfied are you with the health services available for Willoughby?



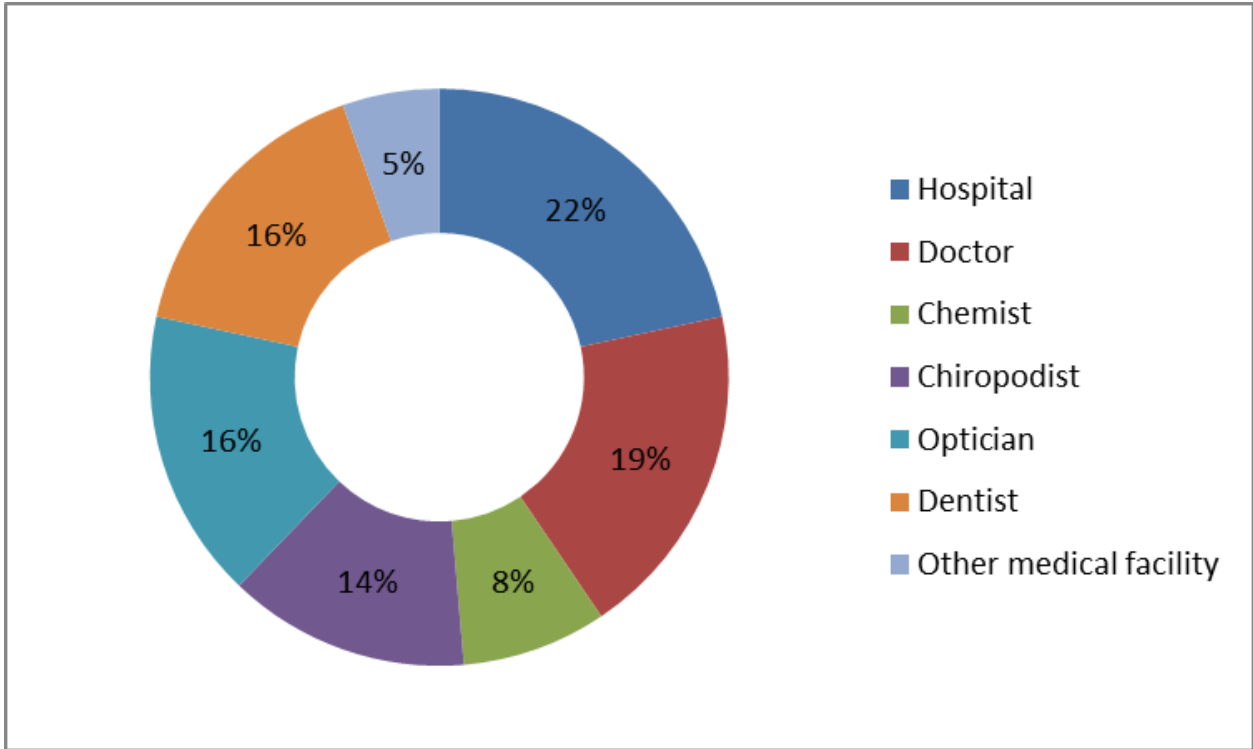
Would you make use of any of the following health services if they were introduced?



Which surgery do you use?



Do you or anyone in your household have difficulty getting to the following?



What we are going to do

The Parish Council would welcome information about local childcare provision to circulate within the community.

The Parish Council would like to hear from parents or anyone who wants to get involved in providing opportunities for young people to meet and participate in activities or help with setting up a youth club. The Parish Council would also assist in moving forward of the provision of a mother and toddler group.

The Parish Council would also like to hear from anyone who can provide transport to any of the local doctor’s surgeries. The DACT bus is available for small group outings.

If anyone with any internet access would like to help set up a home delivery food service, for those unable to travel to local supermarkets, please contact Mike Thomas or Rachel Settle.

The comments generated from this survey will be passed to the local Primary Healthcare Trust concerned.

ISSUE	ACTION	HOW	PRIORITY	BY WHO	TIMESCALE
Internet service point in village	Available financial assistance	Grant to village hall	High	WPC, VHC and Willoughby Society	Already actioned
Community shop	Investigate community scheme	Newsletters / flyer / rural partnership	Medium	WPC and local residents	12 months
Parent and tots group	Investigate feasibility of setting up grant	Newsletter / personal approach / VHC	Medium	WPC / VHC / Community	12 months
Youth club / activities for children	Investigate youth service providers	Meetings with ACTIVATE and RBC / WCE	Medium	RBC / WCC	12 months
Information for local childcare	Investigate youth service providers	Meetings with ACTIVATE and RBC / WCE	Medium	RBC / WCC	12 months



4. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

What you told us

34% of respondents travel between five and 10 miles to work, with 13% working from home. 74% of villagers use a car to get to work, school or college, with only 14% using the school or public bus. 2% use a car share, 2% cycle and 6% walk.

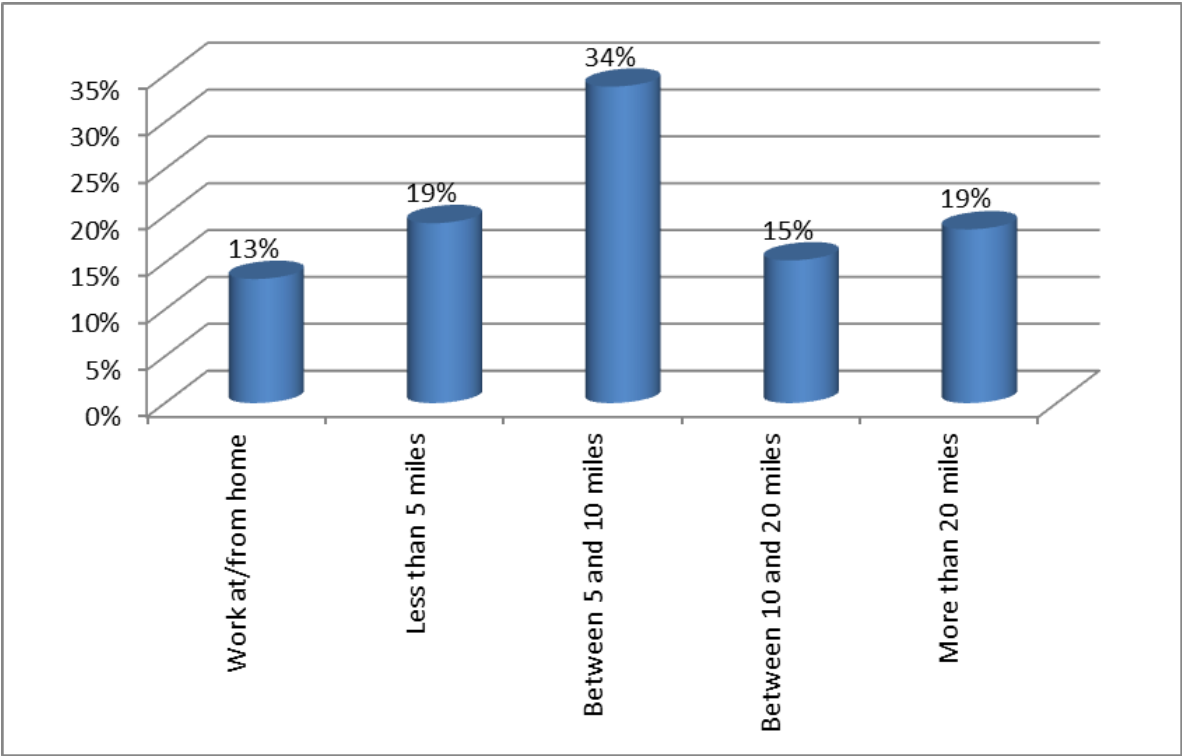
The majority of driving or cycling problems occur when leaving from or returning to the village at the Main Street/Woolscot junctions. 20% have a problem with speeding traffic and 15% have complained about the poor state of the roads. Additional comments include speeding on the A45, overtaking at both junctions in to and out of Willoughby, parking on both sides of the road in Main Street, and crossing the A45 at Long Down Lane junction.

To encourage less car use, 22% would like to see better cycling/walking routes, 22% would like to see more bus routes to different destinations, and 25% would like a more frequent bus service on existing routes. Additional comments include the provision of a local shop and a community bus.

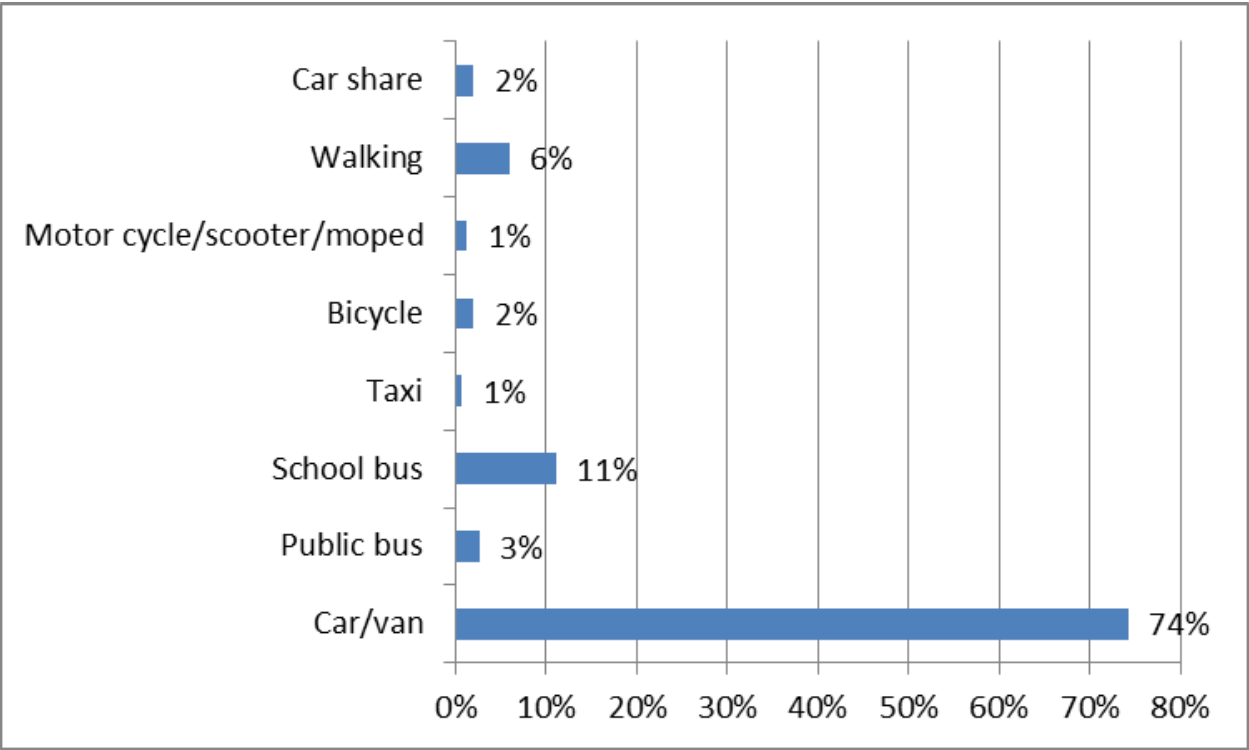
Walking in and around the village, mainly people had a problem with the behaviour of drivers, especially those speeding. 20% had problems with badly parked vehicles, 15% with the poor state of the pavements and roads, and 13% with over hanging hedges and bushes.

54% are very dissatisfied/dissatisfied with the bus service provided.

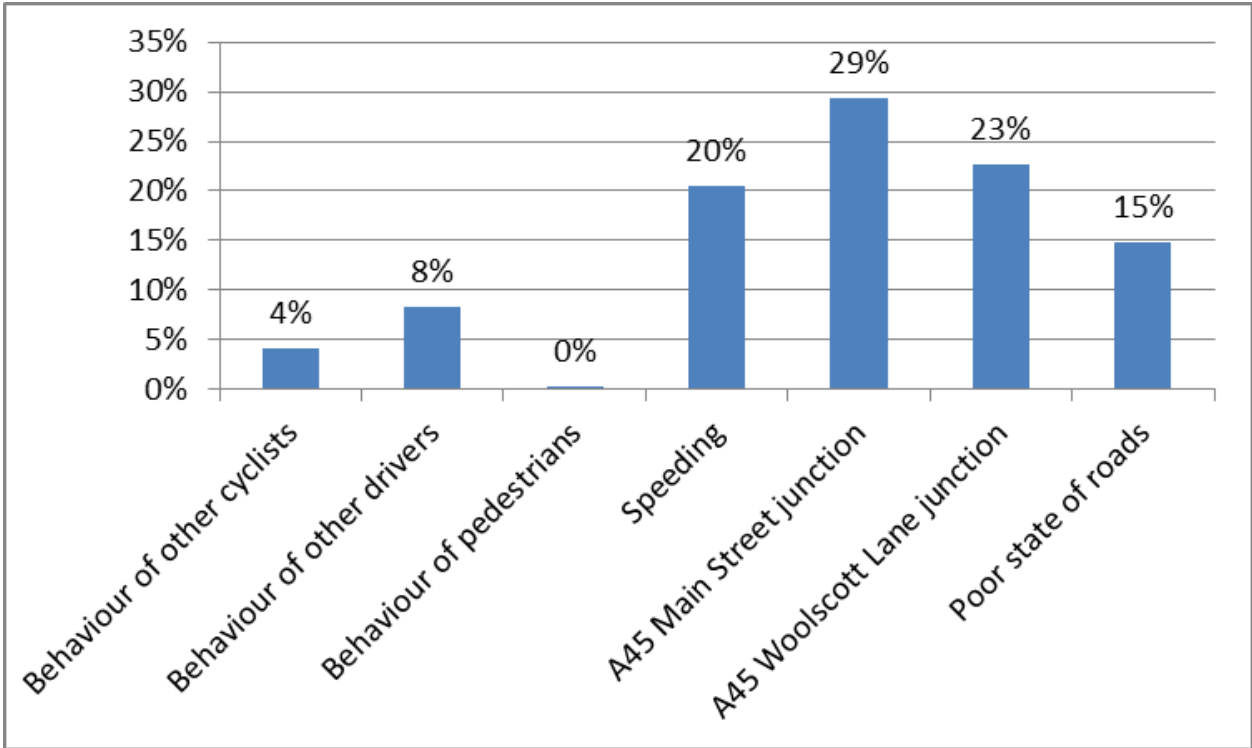
How far do those in your household usually travel to work, school or college?



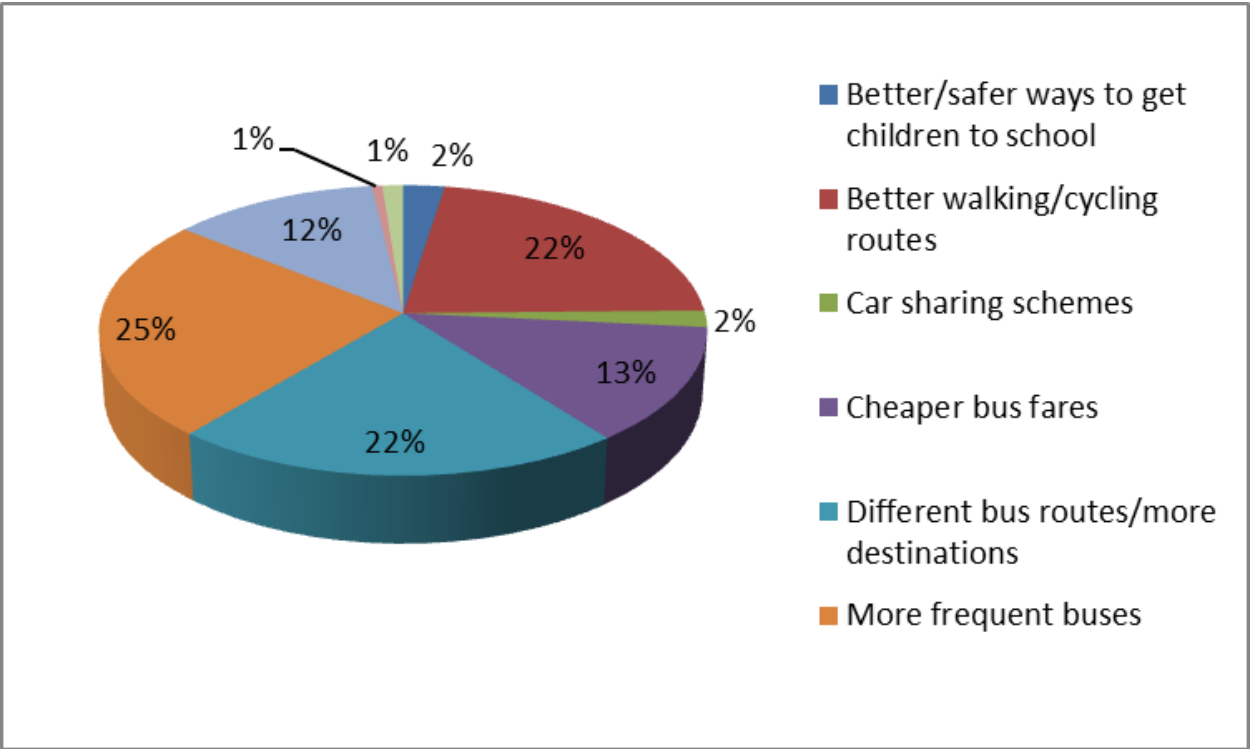
How do members of your household usually travel to work, school or college?



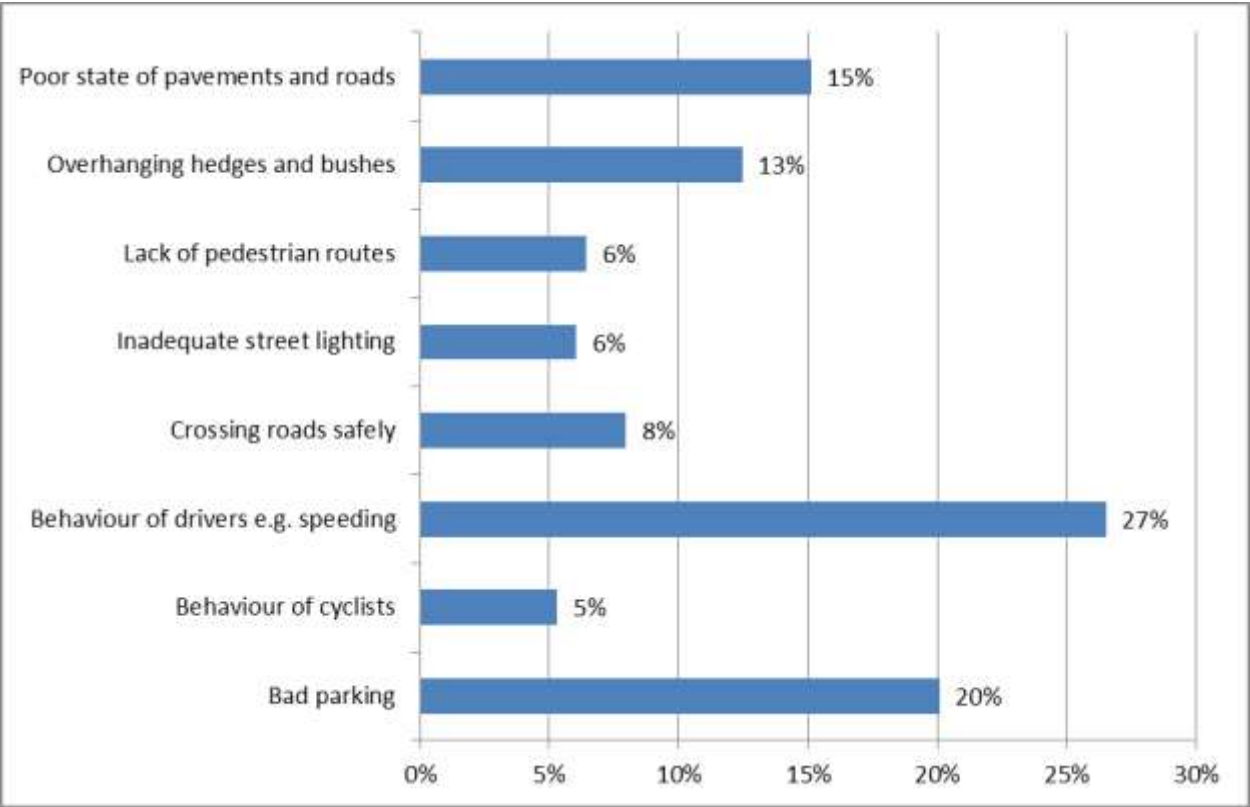
Do any of the following cause problems when driving or cycling in Willoughby?



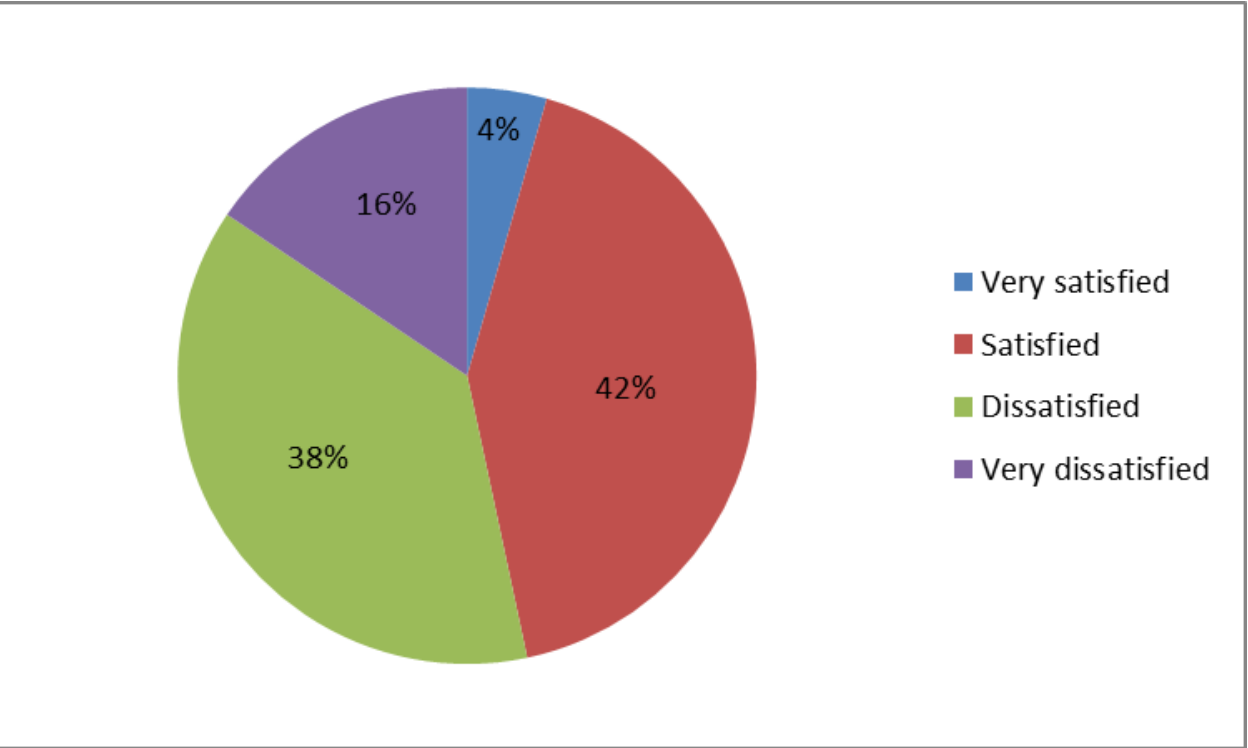
What would encourage you to use your car less, particularly for local journeys?



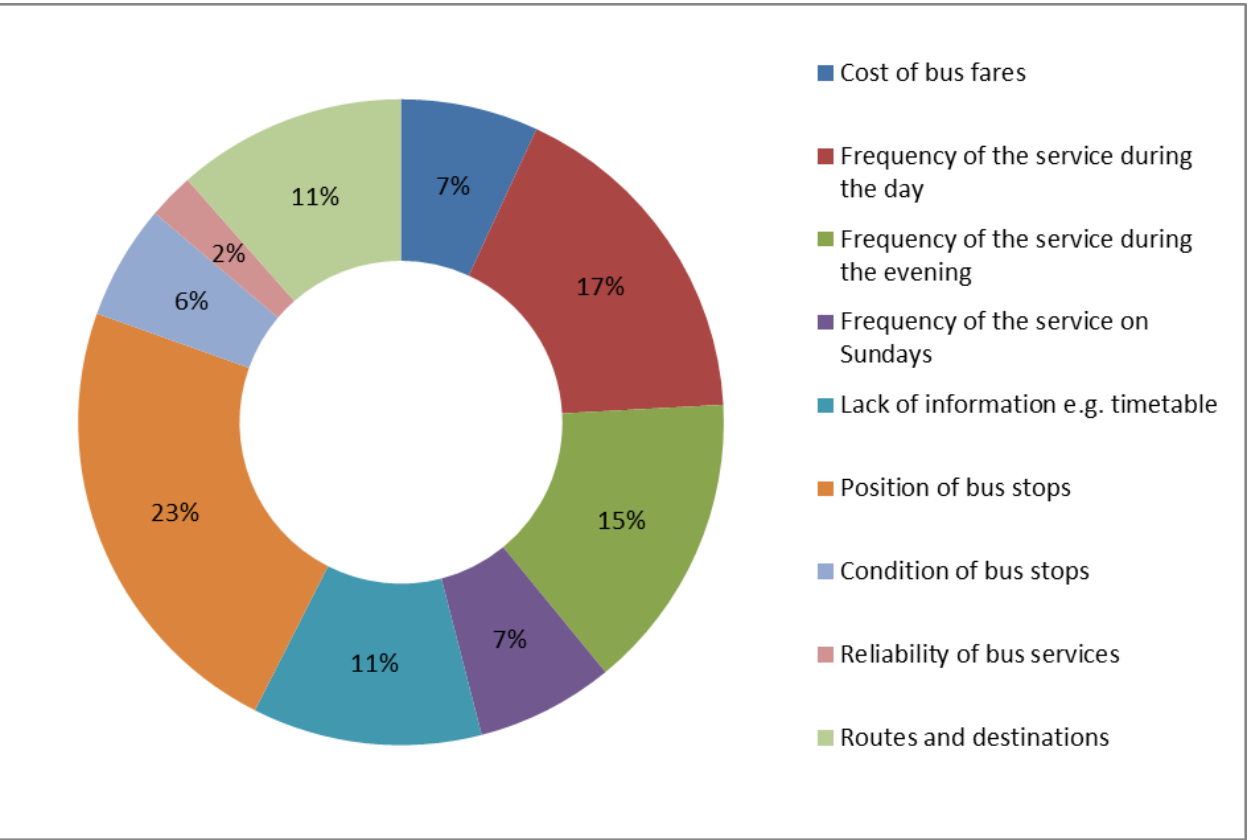
Do any of the following cause problems when walking around the village?



How satisfied are you with the Willoughby bus service?



Do any of the following cause problems when using the bus service?





What we are going to do

The Parish Council will pass on the comments about speeding, poor parking, poor state of the pavements and over hanging bushes to the appropriate of Rugby Borough Council and the Highways Agency.

Regarding issues with the junctions, the Parish Council will also pass on these comments.

Comments regarding the poor bus service and suggestion for improvements will be passed by the Parish Council to the local bus service companies involved. The Parish Council will try to move forward with the issue of the bus shelter – having an additional bus shelter on the A45 Daventry side.

ISSUE	ACTION	HOW	PRIORITY	BY WHO	TIMESCALE
Speeding	Consult with the WCC Speed Awareness team	Speed awareness signs	High	WPC	Already actioned
	Consultation with the Police	Monitor speeding traffic	High	WPC	Already actioned
Poor parking	Public awareness	Newsletter	High	WPC / Community Police	12 months
	Consultation with PCSO	Meetings with PCSO Helena Steadman			
Over hanging bushes	Consultation with RBC	Meetings with RBC	Medium	WPC / RBC	12 months
Poor bus service	Results of survey to be passed to relevant bus service providers	Letter and email	Medium	WPC	12 months

5. HOUSING AND PLANNING

What you told us

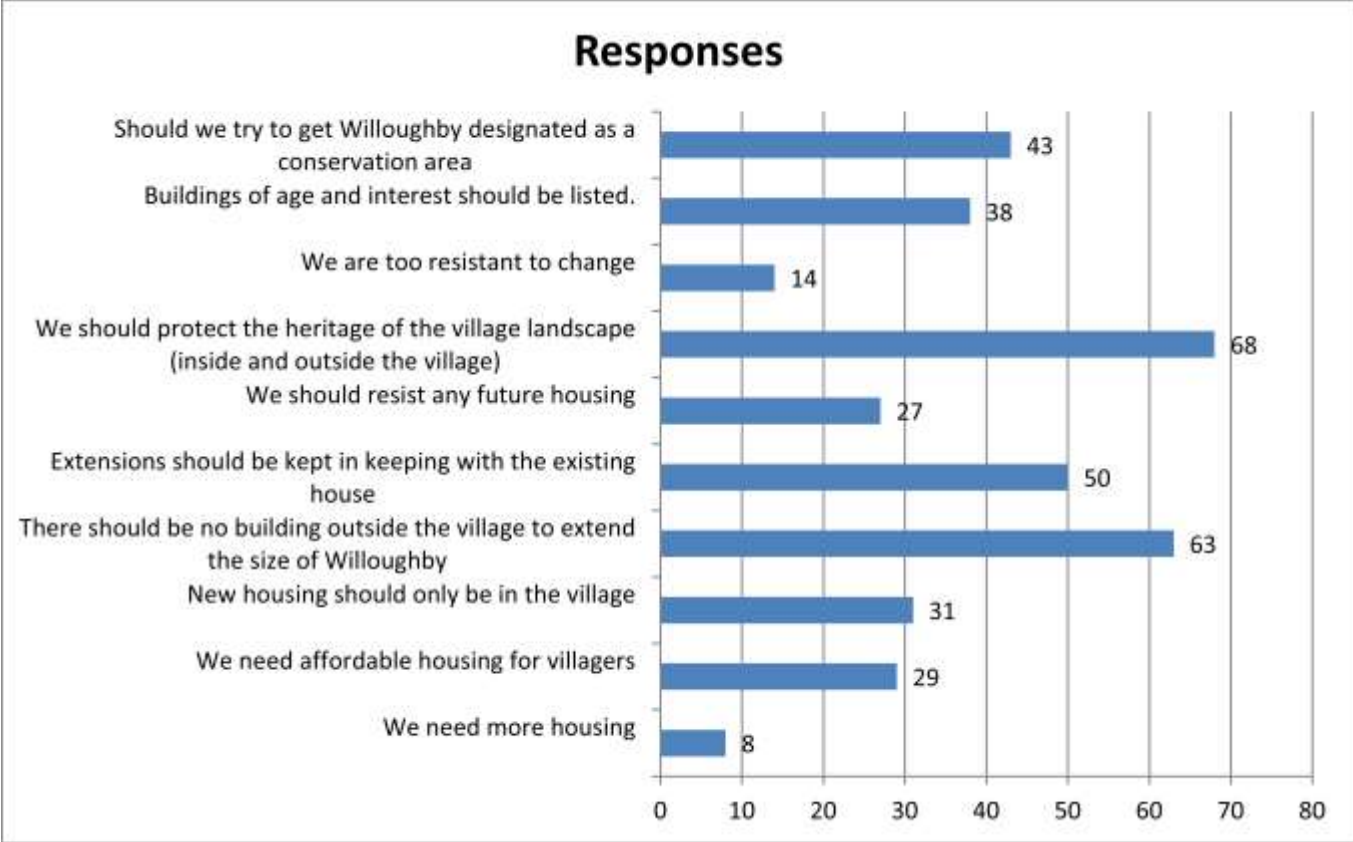
The biggest response from nearly all respondents was a resounding no to the crematorium. Respondents views on planning ranged from ‘we should protect the heritage of the village’ (18%), ‘there should be no building work outside the village boundary’ (17%), ‘extensions should be in keeping with the property and that of its neighbours’ (14%), ‘we need affordable housing’ (8%), and ‘we are too resistant to change’ (3%).

Additional comments include ‘we should resist any further housing other than infill’, ‘buildings of age and interest should be listed’, and ‘we should look at the pros and cons of Willoughby becoming a conservation area’.

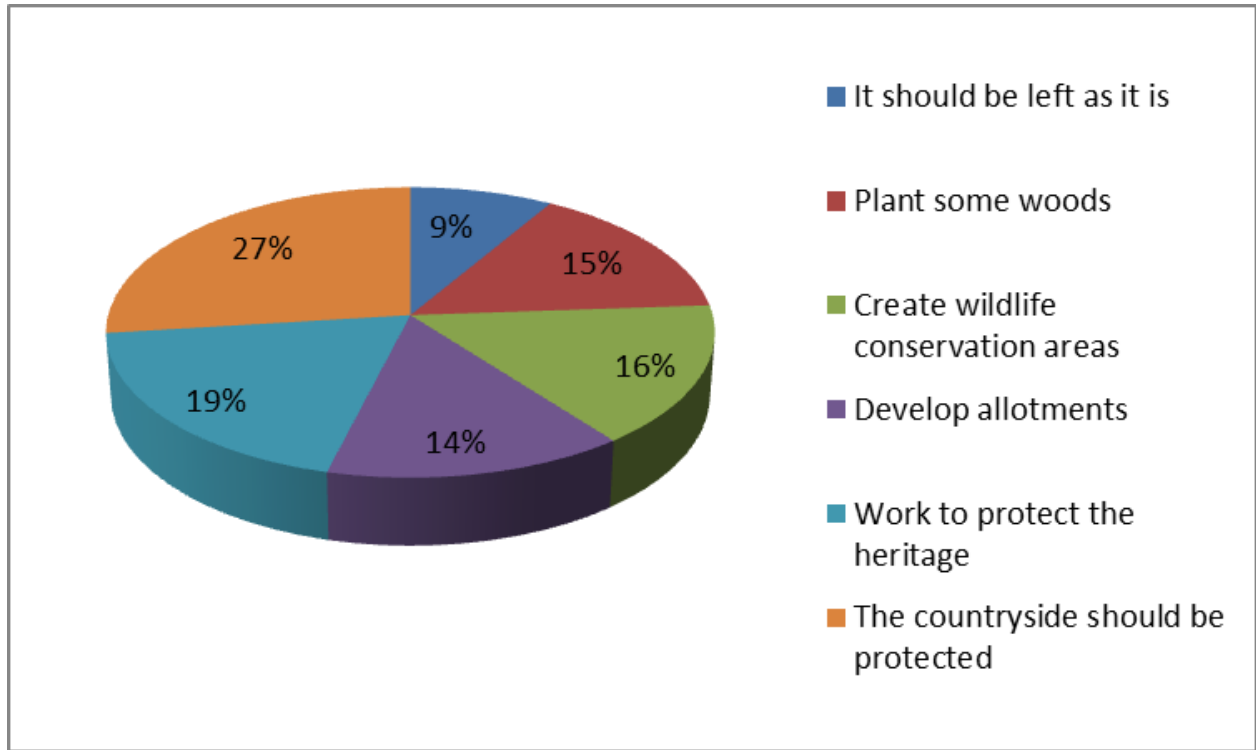
Comments about the countryside around Willoughby consist of ‘the countryside should be protected’ (27%), ‘work should be taken to protect the heritage of Willoughby’ (19%), ‘we should create wildlife conservation areas’ (16%), ‘we should develop allotments’ (14%), ‘we should plant woods around the village’ (15%), and ‘the village should be left as it is’ (9%).

With regards to amenity services within Willoughby, the majority of those who responded are happy with all the services, with the exception of broadband and mobile reception. 31% of respondents have access to broadband and 43% would like to see a public internet facility – perhaps in the village hall.

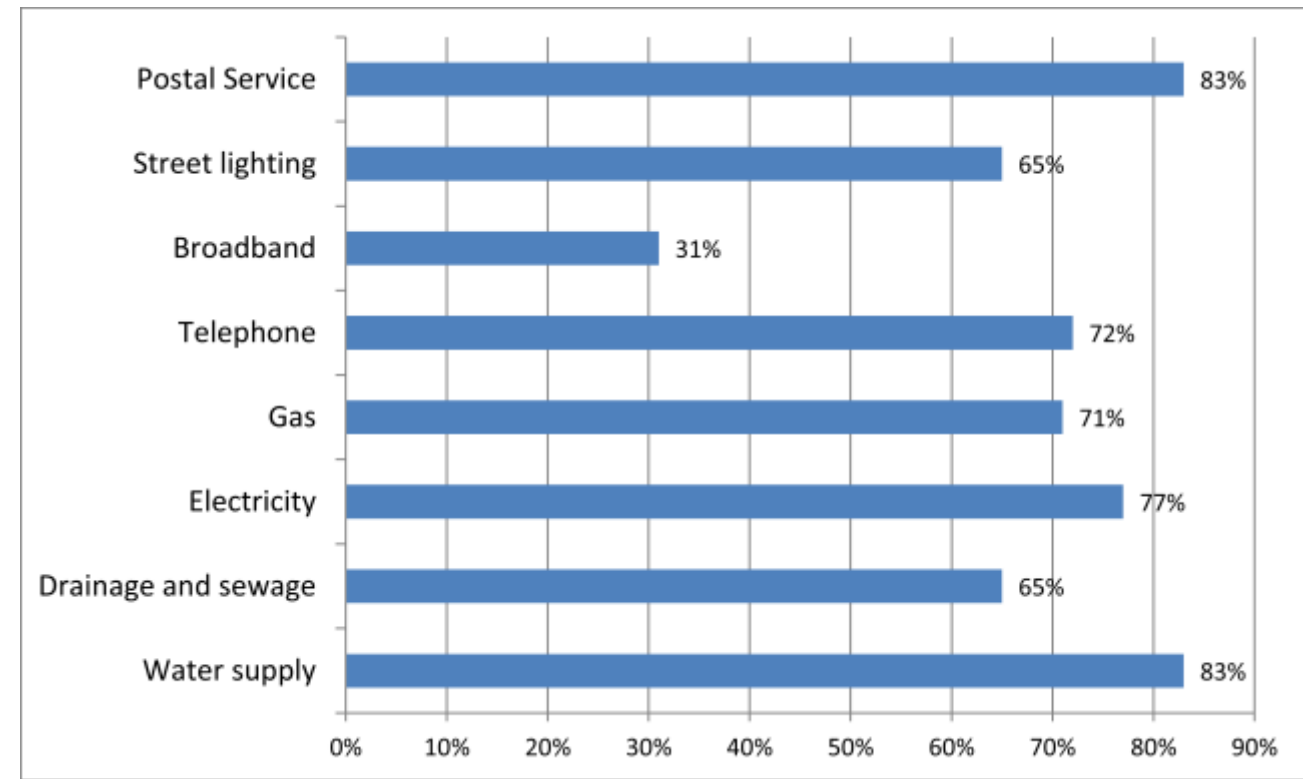
What are your views on planning in Willoughby?



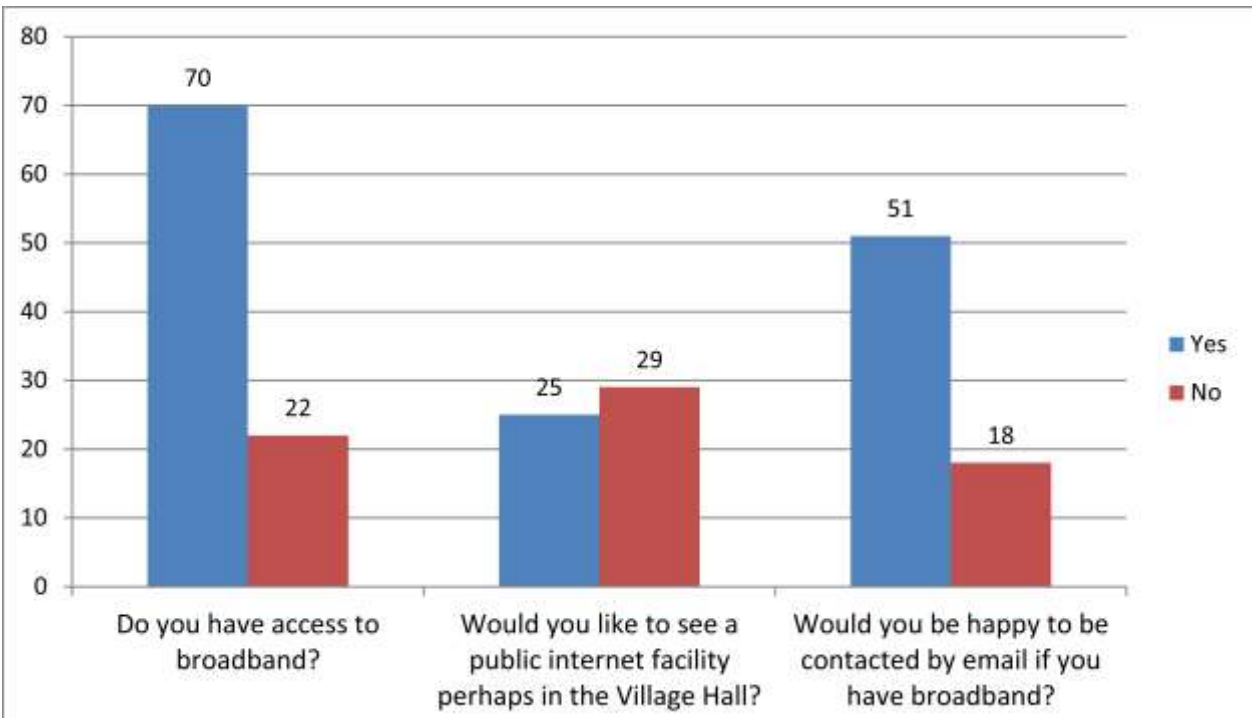
What are your views on the countryside around in Willoughby?



Are you satisfied with the following services in Willoughby?



Communication



What we are going to do

The VACC Committee worked hard on behalf of the Willoughby community to prevent the development of a crematorium on the outskirts of the village. Should an unsuitable major development again threaten our community, the Committee would reconvene.

The Parish Council is working on a village design statement to help influence future decision making on planning issues.

The Parish Council will work hard to ensure that footpaths and hedgerows are well maintained and that our open spaces are protected.

ISSUE	ACTION	HOW	PRIORITY	BY WHO	TIMESCALE
Overgrown hedges and trees	Consultation with local landowners	Meetings with local landowners	Medium	WPC	Six months
Reduce dog fouling	Prevent by making the offence more public	Obtain and display penalty notices	High	WPC	Six months



ISSUE	ACTION	HOW	PRIORITY	BY WHO	TIMESCALE
Lack of affordable housing	Carry out a housing needs survey	Create survey and issue to village residents	High	WPC / Midland Rural Housing	Six months
Untidy / littered village	Maintain the appearance and cleanliness of the village	Develop strategy for residents and businesses to take responsibility for their immediate area	Medium	WPC / residents / local businesses	Six months
		Offer incentive e.g. entry to the Calor Village of the Year competition	Medium	WPC / residents / local businesses	Six months
Poor state of pavements	Undertake survey of pavements and consult with RBC	Meetings and discussions with RBC	High	WPC / RBC	12 months
Poor awareness of WPC	Public awareness	Publish WPC news and information in Willoughby Monthly	Medium	WPC	12 months
	Consultation with PCSO				

OVERALL

When asked to list the top three things that could make Willoughby an even better place to live, taking in all the responses there were eight points raised by almost everyone:

- 1. Better amenities – such as a shop, post office, bakery, café and take away
- 2. Reduce speeding – both in the village and on A45
- 3. Better roads – in the village and surrounding areas
- 4. Improved bus services
- 5. Improved broadband and mobile phone signal
- 6. Local place for people to meet
- 7. No crematorium
- 8. More activities for young people

PARISH PLAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All the residents of Willoughby who have contributed ideas, comments and information for the Parish Plan

Willoughby Parish Council

Rugby Borough Council for consultation and advice

Laura Mullan – design of this document [www.myeasyreading.co.uk](http://www.myeasyreading.co.uk)

Richard Jackson and the Willoughby Society for the historical background

HA	Highways Agency	
Local Plan Policies	Policy CS1	Development Strategy
	Policy CS2	Parish Plan
	CS16	Sustainable Design
RBC	Rugby Borough Council	
The Plan	This Parish Plan	
The survey	The survey of all Willoughby residents carried out in October 2012 to establish areas of concern and future requirements of the community and also to allow residents to say what aspects of living in the village they enjoyed the most	
The VACC Committee	Village Against Cemetery and Crematorium Committee	
VDS	Village Design Statement	
WCC	Warwickshire Country Council	
WPC	Willoughby Parish Council	

WILLOUGHBY PARISH PLAN  
PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

