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# Findings of the Trudoxhill Community Review 2023

## Executive Summary

The Community Review was conducted in early 2023 by the Parish Council. Its purpose was to gain the views of all residents of Trudoxhill and create this plan for the community. The 2021 census data stated that 439 people live in the Parish. 125 surveys were completed providing us with the circumstances and views of a good proportion of individuals or households in Trudoxhill.

The responses indicate that 56% of residents are younger citizens and 36% are senior citizens. Open countryside is what people particularly like about living in Trudoxhill followed by a quiet environment and proximity to Frome.

While the majority like to receive communications about Parish matters digitally, a significant number like hard copies. There was support for further activities in the Village Hall; in particular a cinema club and further wellness activities.

Shared car schemes, e-bike schemes or an electric charging point were not likely to be used by the majority of respondents but 26 people reported that they would use community transport to local shops.

Speed of travel through the village was a clear concern with half of respondents favouring a traffic calming scheme of some description.

The majority support home extensions and are opposed to large scale developments or extending village boundaries for development.

A large proportion of respondents are actively involved in environmental issues domestically and would like sustainable practices to be promoted where possible.

There is a range of businesses operating in Trudoxhill including a number of home-based micro-businesses.



## Survey Origin and Methodology

The Parish Council and volunteer members of the Parish, with the assistance of Smart Communities Ltd (SCL), devised the survey and distributed it in early 2023. The aim was to enquire into topics of interest to households. Questions were asked about demographics; living and working in Trudoxhill; communications; community facilities and services; traffic, travel and transport; climate and environmental issues including building development, wind turbines and businesses. The final question encouraged any other comments about these or any other matter.

A flyer for the survey with links to access it online or to request a paper copy was delivered by councillors to every household in the Parish. Emails were sent with the flyer and links to the survey to all parishioners on the Parish Clerk's list (for the newsletter and Your View). The flyer was also put on the community Facebook page and Parish Council website. There were posters on noticeboards and a few posts in the village.

125 surveys were returned and although they each came from individuals many of them are thought to represent the views of their households providing a substantial foundation on which to base our Parish Plan.

All responses to the survey have been read and the findings are shown below with their conclusions. The responses included answers to specific questions by ticking a box and, in certain instances, answering a request for further 'Other' comments or wider explanations for their answers. The full results will be made available to view online but this Summary contains the main survey findings and some of the 'Other' comments are also referenced.

Where questions are open ended the Summary aims to note opinions that occur more than once.

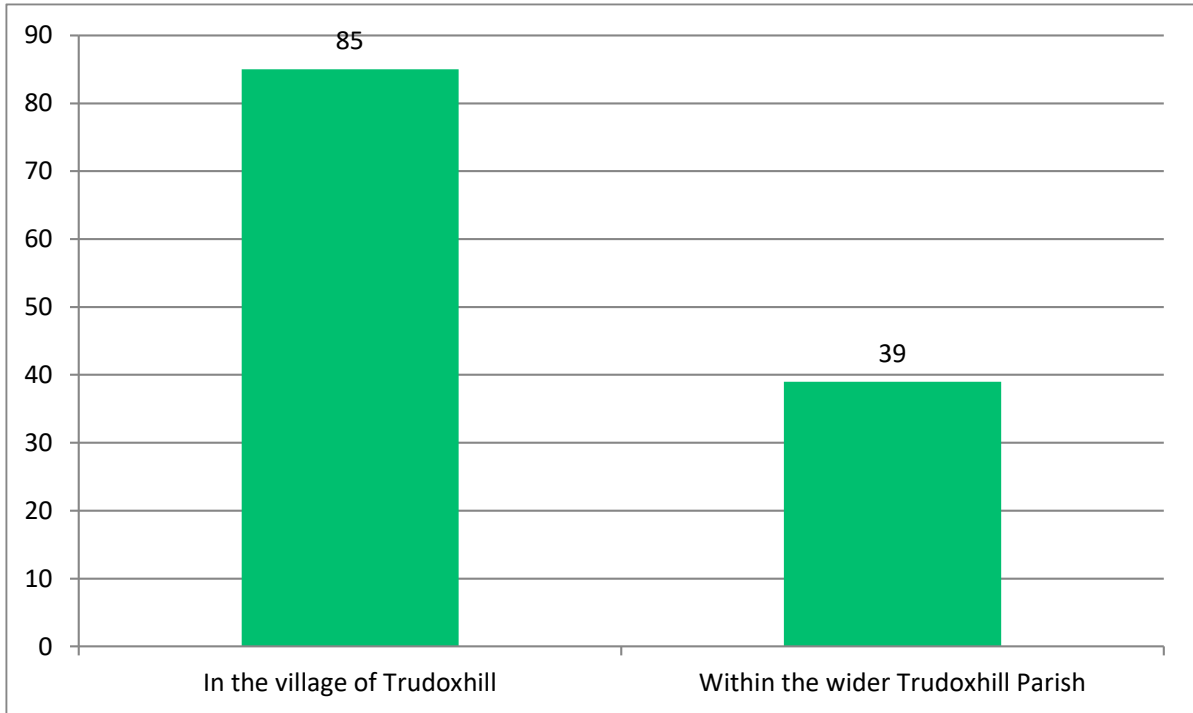
# The Survey Results



## Demographics

### Q 1. Where do you live?

Answered 124 Skipped 1

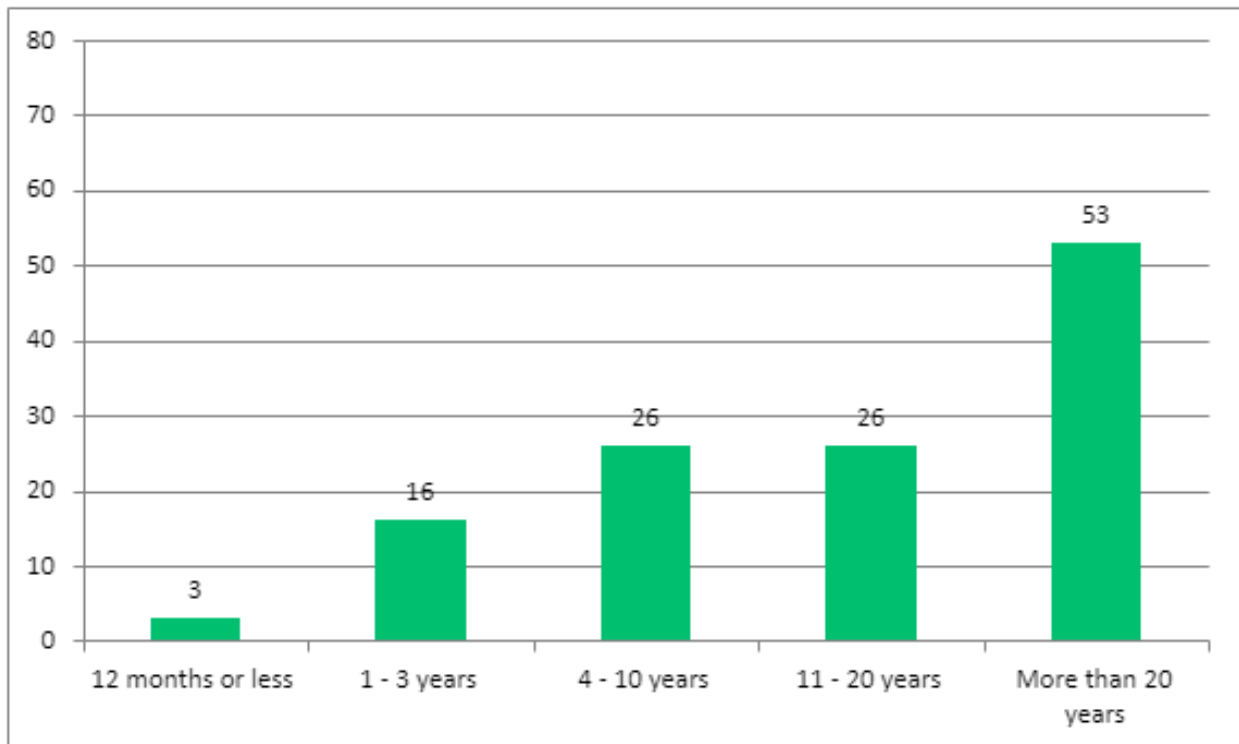


70% of the 124 respondents live in Trudoxhill village and 30% in the wider Trudoxhill area. It was noted that none of the residents who are on the Parish Council live in the village. All live in the Parish outside.



## Q2. How long have you lived in Trudoxhill Parish?

Answered 124 Skipped 1

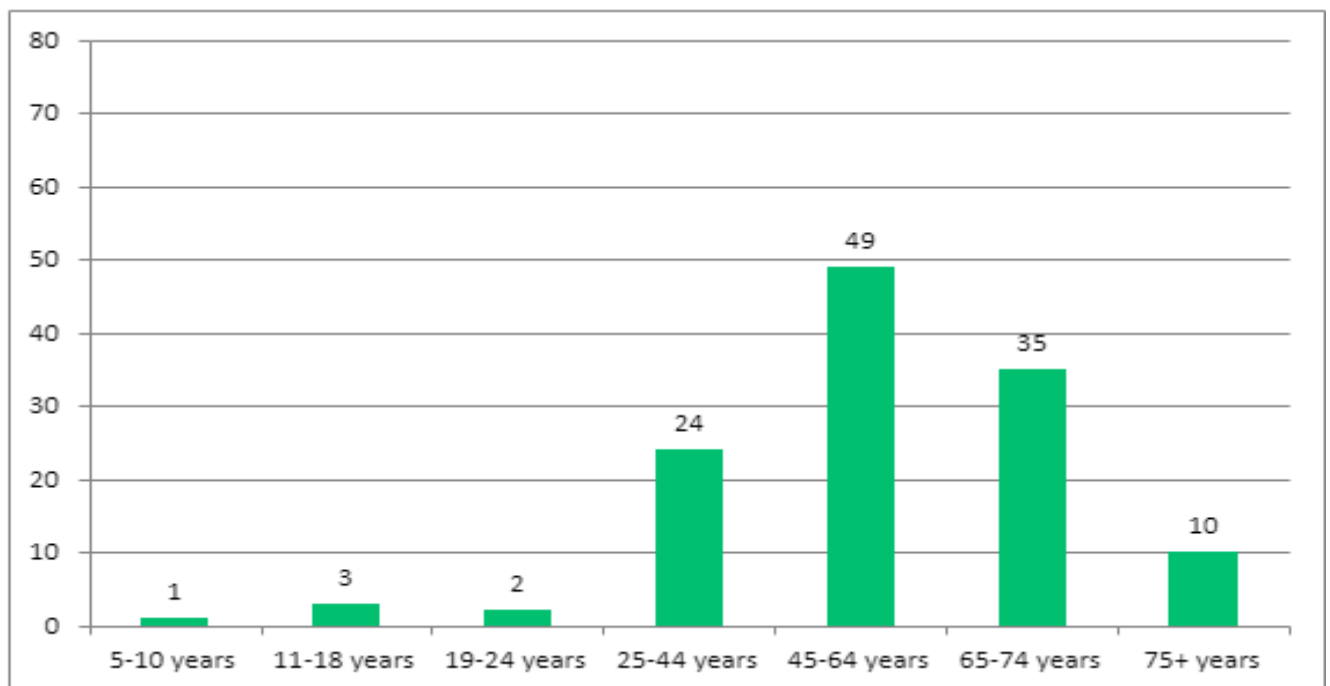


Nearly 43% of the 124 respondents have lived here for over 20 years.



### Q3. Could you specify your age range?

Answered 124 Skipped 1



75% of the 124 respondents are over 45 years old and 36% are senior citizens over 65 years.

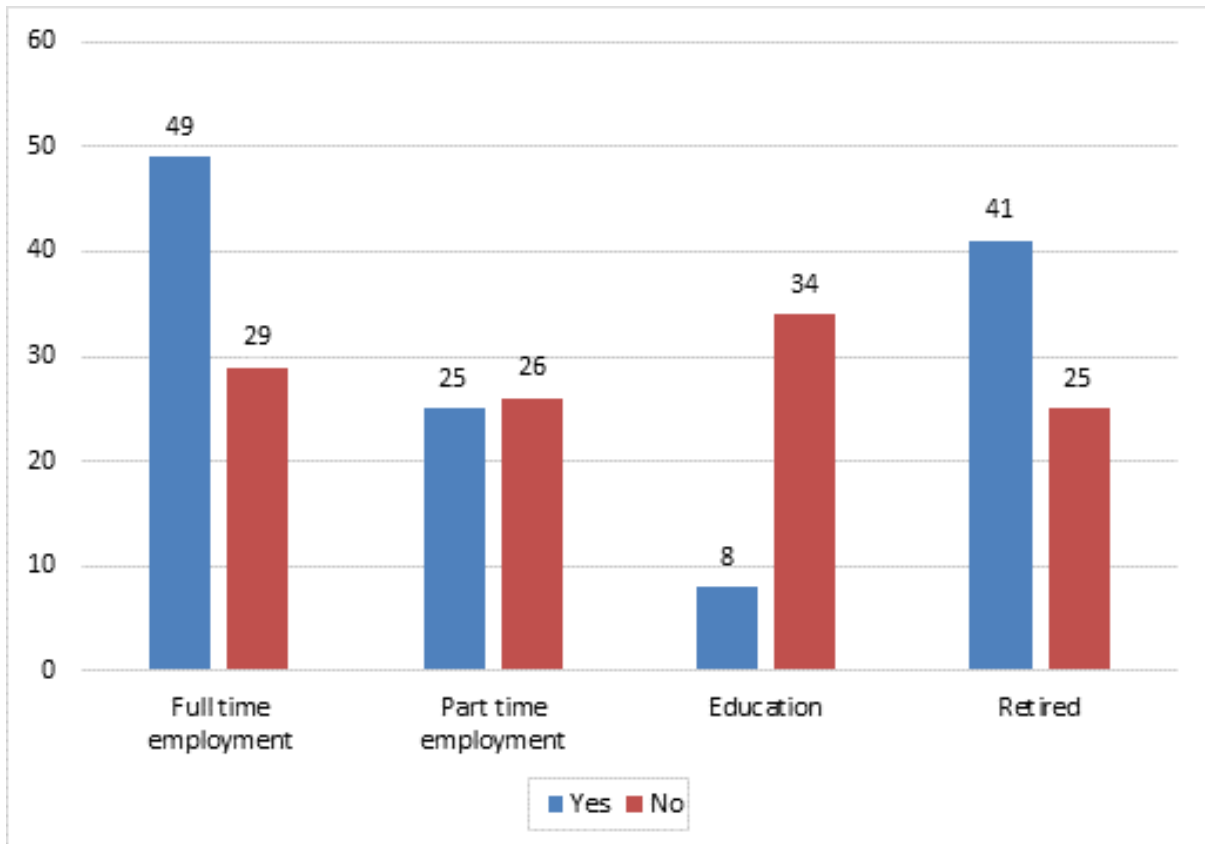




## Employment

### Q4. Are you working, in education or retired?

Answered 119 Skipped 6



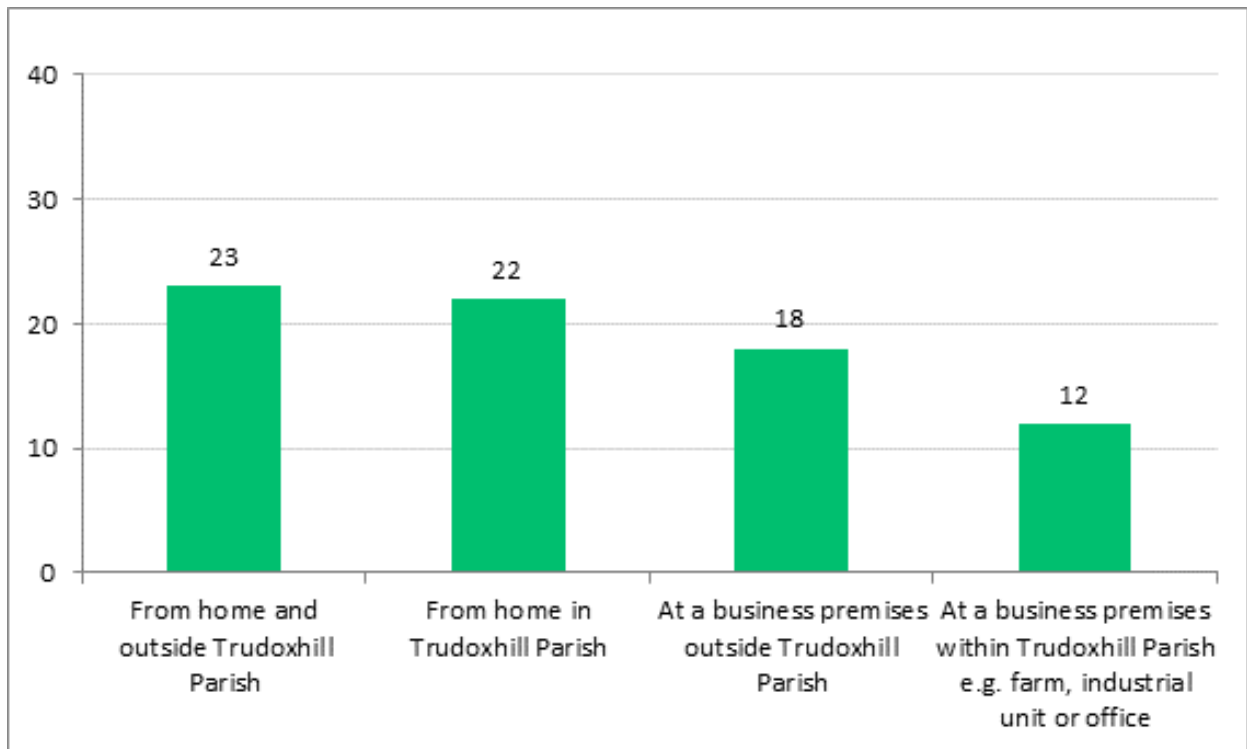
49 of the 119 respondents are in full time employment, 41 are retired, 8 are in education. Some respondents may be in both part time employment and education





**Q5. If applicable, do you work in Trudoxhill Parish, outside of the Parish, or from your home in Trudoxhill?**

Answered 75 Skipped 50



23 of the 75 respondents work a few days per week from home and a few days away from Trudoxhill. 22 work only from home. 18 work away from Trudoxhill but 12 work in businesses within the Parish. Of the 75 people who provided information on where they work, 57 are based either full or part time in Trudoxhill.

These statistics appear to reflect a national trend of increased home working since Covid lockdowns and the development of more micro-businesses run by home-working individuals.

**Q6. If you do not work from home, what is your main means of transport to work or education? (No more than two)**

Answered 71 Skipped 54

Answer Choices	Responses
Car	60
Other (please specify)	6
Car share	4
Train	3
Cycle	2
Taxi	1
School bus	1
Walk	1
Bus	0

Of the 71 respondents, 60 of those who work away from the Parish travel to work by car. 4 use a train 1 uses a plane (and presumably travels by car to a station or airport), 2 use a bicycle to commute, 1 uses a taxi and 1 uses Somerset Council's community transport (Slinky Line).

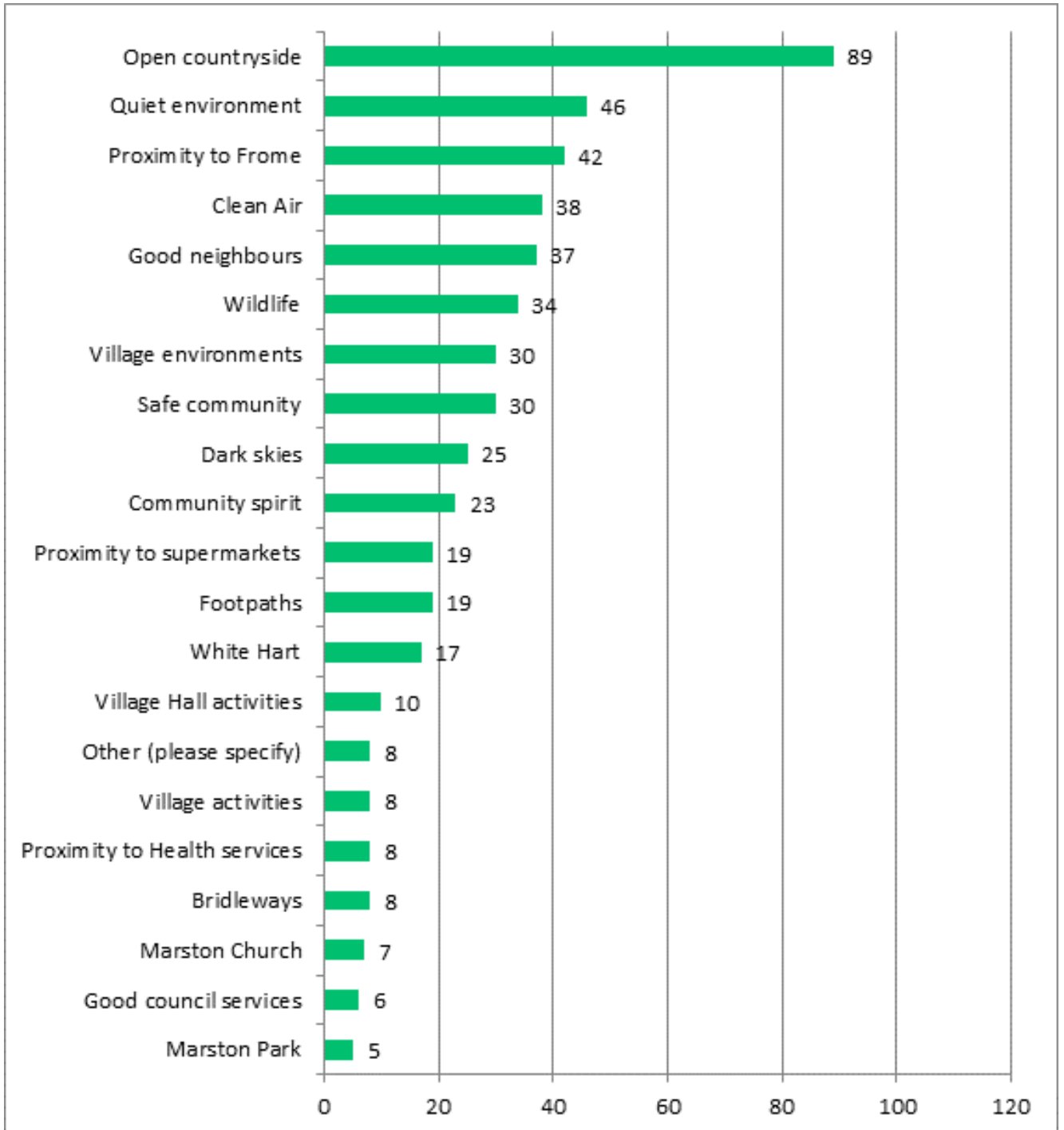




## Our Parish Environment

### Q7. What is it you particularly like about living in this area? (Top 3)

Answered 118 Skipped 7



The top reasons for particularly liking our area given by the 118 respondents was 'open countryside' (89), 'quiet environment' (46), the 'proximity to Frome' (42). Clean air, good neighbours and wildlife were also ranked highly.

The Other comments included; 'Active businesses', 'Hall Hire'. 'Playground', and 'Postlebury Wood'.

**Q8. Which of the following (if any) concern you about living in our area? (Top 3 dislikes)**

Answered 109 Skipped 16

Answer Choices	Responses
Fly-tipping	65
Speeding vehicles	50
No local shop	41
Other (please specify)	26
Heavy traffic	23
Lack of Open Recreational Space	21
Thefts from premises	18
Distance to shops	15
Poor council services	13
Distance to Health Facilities	10
Noise Disturbance	4
Crime	3

Fly tipping, speeding vehicles and the lack of a local shop ranked highly in the concerns of 109 respondents. Heavy traffic and lack of recreational space also featured. Of the 26 Other responses, 9 people mentioned 'lack of public transport', 3 people mentioned 'poor quality of pavements' and 2 people mentioned 'broadband'.





## Communication

### **Q.9 How well informed, if at all, do you feel about activities and events in your local area?**

Answered 112 Skipped 13

Not at all informed	Not very well informed	Moderately well informed	Quite well informed	Very well informed
1	10	34	49	18

Most of the respondents 101 felt well informed ('moderately' 34, 'quite' 49, 'very' 18) with only 11 out of 109 people feeling either 'Not at all informed' or 'Not very well informed'.

### **Q.10 How do you keep in touch with activities and events in the village? (Top 3 used most frequently.)**

Answered 115 Skipped 10

Answer Choices	Responses
'Your View' newsletter	72
Community Facebook group	67
Friends/word of mouth	60
Parish council email	52
Parish website	11
Parish noticeboard	11
Posters- please specify where you see them in 'Other'	10
Other (please tell us)	10
Pub noticeboard	7
Village Hall Facebook or website	7
Frome Times	2
Village Hall noticeboard	1
Somerset Standard	0

Of the 115 people who answered this question 72 said they keep in touch with activities and events via "Your View" newsletter'. 67 said 'Facebook' and 60 cited 'word of mouth' as the most common means of keeping in touch. The Parish Council email is also well used, with 57 responses.

The Other comments stated that people used - 'Leaflets', 'Posters placed around the Village' and the 'Phone Box'. One person stated that 'Village Hall notice board does not say what's on for the month ahead'.

**Q.11 Would you like assistance or training to access the internet?**

Answered 117 Skipped 8

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	1
No	116

Of the 117 people responding to whether they needed assistance or training to access the internet only 1 respondent answered 'yes' to learning to access the internet. We can see clearly this is not a need in our Parish.

**Q.12 Please tell us which would be your preferred mechanism for the Parish Council to communicate with you? (Top three preferences).**

Answered 113 Skipped 12

Answer Choices	Responses
Email	86
Regular Newsletter	58
Facebook	36
Parish Website	20
WhatsApp	18
Parish noticeboard bulletin	8
Other (please specify)	3
Quarterly public meeting	2

Of the 113 people that answered this question the preferred method for keeping in touch is 'Email' (86), a 'Regular newsletter' (58) or 'Facebook' (36).

The 3 Other comments offered some suggestions:

- *'Quarterly meeting with the bar open'*
- *'Parish Council website/notice board kept up to date'*
- *'A bi-annual hybrid meeting'*

**Q.13 Would you like to receive Your View or the Parish Plan on your computer or in a printed copy?**

Answered 116 Skipped 9

Answer Choices	Computer	Hard copy
Your View	68	47
Parish Plan	78	34

Of the 116 people who answered this question the majority favoured receiving 'Your View' (68) and the 'Parish Plan' (78) electronically. However, a significant number would prefer hard copy documentation, with 'Your View' (47) and 'Parish Plan' (34). This confirms that both 'Your View' and the forthcoming Parish Plan should be made available in both formats for the foreseeable future.



**Community Facilities and Services**

**Q.14 Please let us know which facilities you use regularly.**

Answered 117 Skipped 8

Answer Choices	Responses
Bridleways and Footpaths	95
Nunney Catch Garage & Shop	77
Palette & Pasture	51
The White Hart	50
Village Hall Events	39
Village Hall Children's Playground	29
Marston Park	27
Marston Music Events in the Church	19
None	0

Of the 117 respondents the majority regularly use 'Bridleways and Footpaths' (95) and over half use the 'Nunney Catch shop' (77). 'Palette and Pasture' (51) and the 'White Hart' (50) are also well used. Approximately a third of respondents use the Village Hall regularly.



**Q.15 If land could be found for a new recreation area for ball games, outdoor activities, seated area, community garden or multi-generational outdoor gym, how likely are you to use it?**

Answered 117    Skipped 8

Answer Choices	Responses
Very likely	31
Fairly likely	29
Not likely	57

Just over half of the 117 respondents indicated they would be likely to use a new recreation area if this was available 'Very likely' (31) and 'Fairly likely' (29), and just under half said they are not likely to use such a facility. This should be viewed in the context of those who responded to this survey, with over a third being over 65 years old and less than a third being under 45 years old.



**Q.16 Please let us know what services, facilities, and events you would use if they were provided in the Village Hall in the future.**

Answered 112 Skipped 13

Answer choices	I would use if available
Film & Cinema Club	56
Wellness / Yoga / Pilates	55
Keep Fit	46
Adult education	38
Dance or other Hobby Clubs	37
School Holiday Activities	29
Knitting, Sewing or Craft Groups	21
After School Club	21
Table Tennis Club	20
Youth Clubs	17
Warm Place / Meeting Room	11
Children's Nursery or Crèche	11
Parent Toddler Groups	9
Cyber Cafe	9
Other (please tell us)	9
None	2

Of the 112 respondents the top 3 services and events favoured are 'Films & Cinema Club' (56) and 'Wellness' activities - e.g. yoga (55) and 'keep fit' (46).

In the Other comments, several people stated that fitness classes already take place in the Village Hall.

Other comments support evening activities;

'Only be able to attend outside of working hours.'

'Might use keep fit / Pilates/ yoga but they would need to be in the evening. These sorts of activities seem to often be scheduled during the working day.'

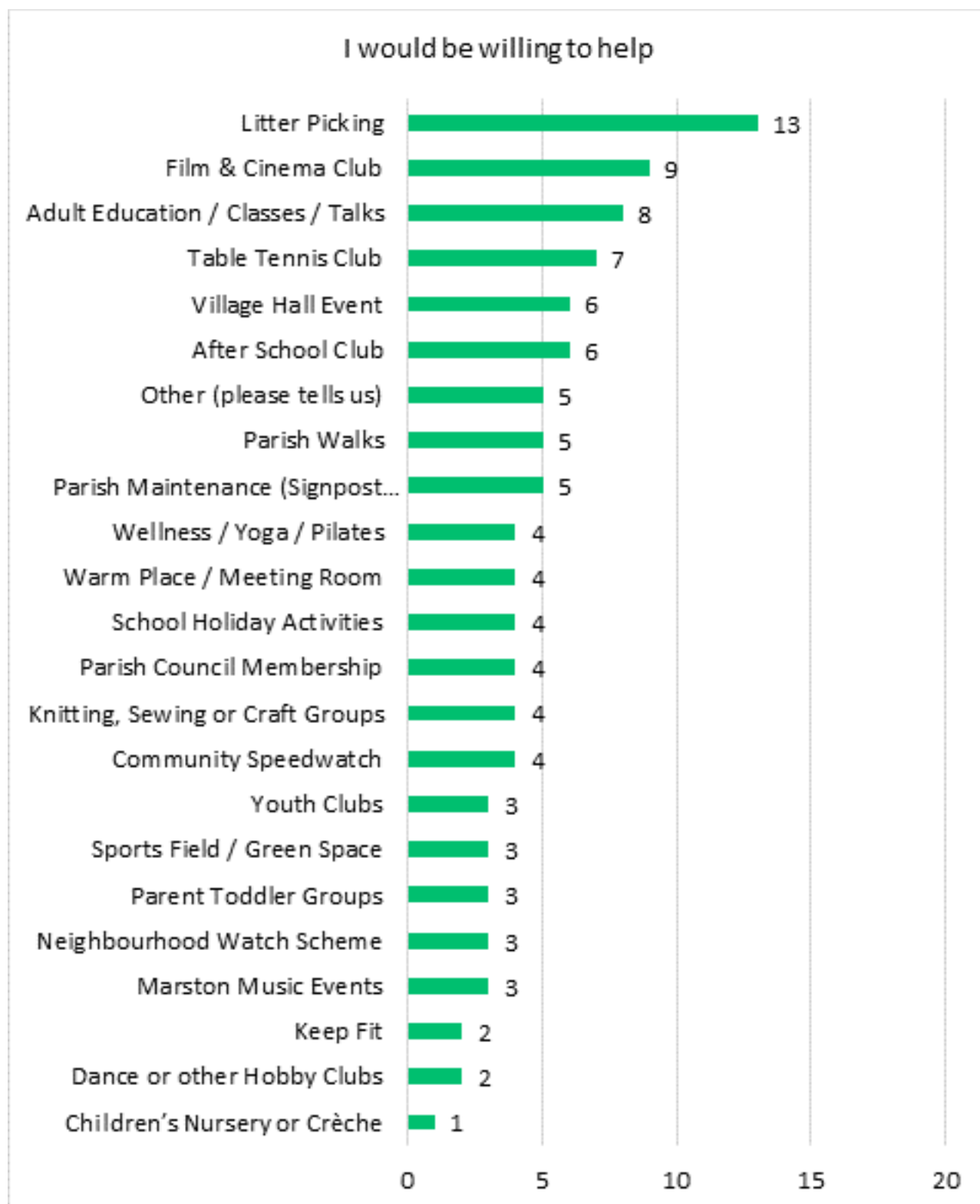
2 further comments offered these suggestions;

- 'Annual produce or cookery competitions'
- 'Food Events'

Fewer respondents would use children's activities but that view presumably reflects the demographic make-up of the Parish illustrated earlier.

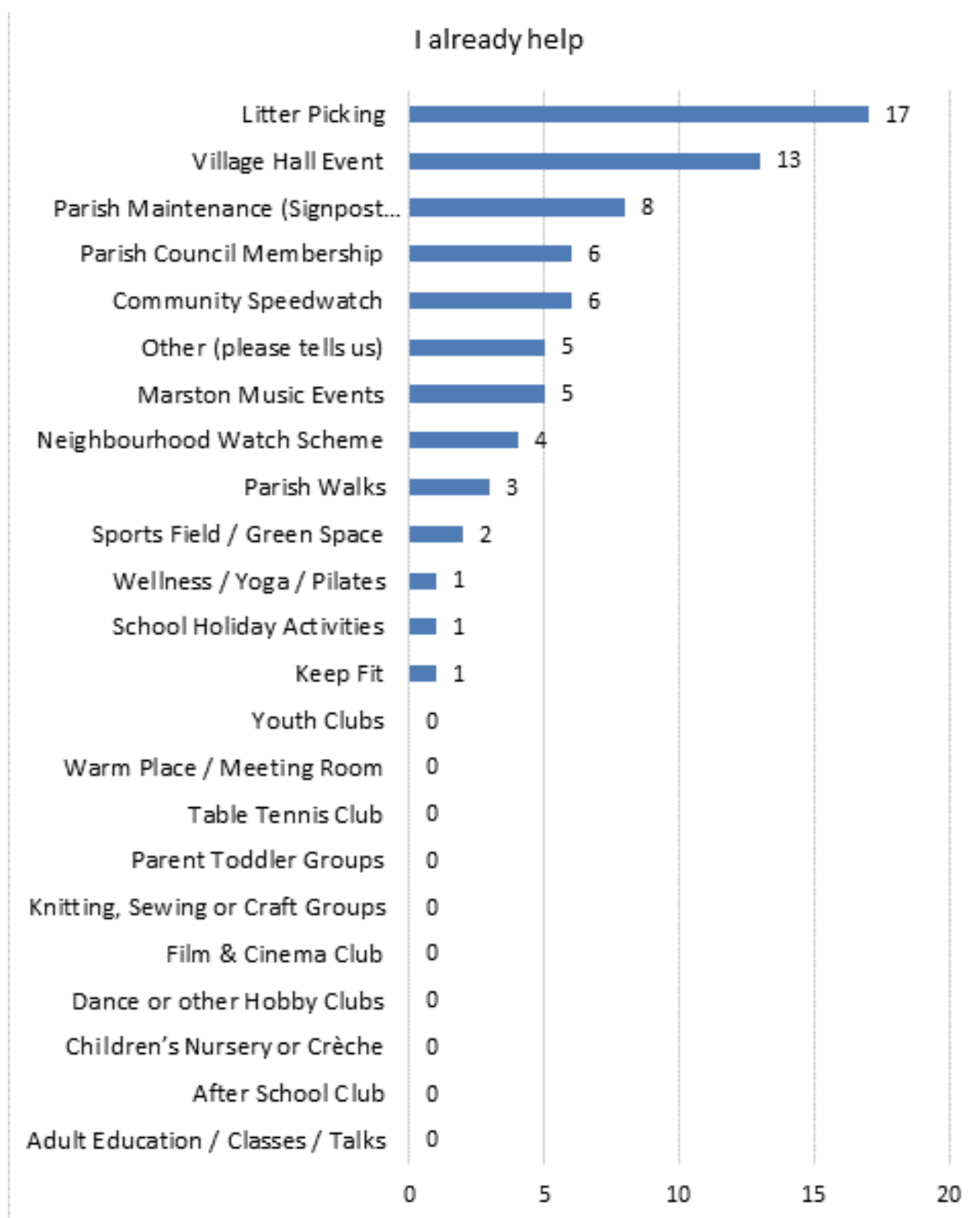
**Q.17 If you would be willing to help run activities and events, could you please indicate which ones from the list below.**

Answered 54 Skipped 71



A number of people are willing to help with all activities suggested in this question, which is very heartening and we would like to explore this further. Of the 54 respondents several offered to support activities currently not offered in the Village Hall e.g., a 'Film club' (9) and 'Educational activities' (8). We received half a dozen responses for 'Table Tennis Club', and 'After-school Club'.

Others were also willing to join the existing volunteers on 'Litter picks' (13), 'Speedwatch' (6), 'Village Hall events' (6) and 'Parish maintenance' (5). Other comments offered help with 'Community lunches', 'Fundraising e.g. Christmas party' and 'Tai Chi'.



Of the 54 people who answered this question the three top activities, that the respondents report to help run are 'Litter Picking' (17), 'Village Hall Events' (13) and 'Parish Maintenance' (8).

The 'Other' comments suggested help with 'Parish Council Membership' (6), 'Community Speedwatch' (6), 'Marston music' (5), 'Neighbourhood Watch' (4), 'Parish walks' (3), 'Green space' (2), 'Yoga', 'Pilates', 'Keep fit' 1 each, and 'After school activities' (1).

**Q.18 The Village Phone Box is deteriorating and subject to misuse. What should be done with it?**

Answered 103 Skipped 22

Answer Choices	Responses
Leave it as a Library	60
Remove it	19
Other (please specify)	24

The majority, 60, of the 103 respondents favoured leaving the telephone box as a library.

In the 'Other' comments, more than one person suggested using it as a plant exchange, a history resource or to house the defibrillator. There was a range of other ideas including a place to distribute or exchange excess garden produce, a Wi-Fi hotspot, an art gallery with themed exhibitions, local artists' work, but reproductions, not originals.

Further thoughts were:

- 'Community information hub'
- 'Grow plants and flowers in it to support bees and insects'
- 'Honesty box for the sale/swap of produce, fruit, veg or seedlings'
- 'Make it a history resource'
- 'Turn it into a Wi-Fi hotspot.'





## Traffic, Travel and Transport

### **Q.19 Do you own the following modes of transport? (Tick all that apply)**

Answered 108 Skipped 17

Answer Choices	Responses
A car	102
A van	18
A motorbike	11
An electric vehicle	4

The majority of the 108 respondents own a 'Car' (102), a 'Van' (18) or a 'Motorbike' (11).

### **Q.20 Would you use a public electric vehicle charging point one if installed in the Village?**

Answered 111 Skipped 14

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	13
No	98

An electric charging point would not be used by most of the 111 respondents. Only 13 said they would use a publicly available one.

### **Q.21 Would you consider using a Car (or Electric Car) Share Scheme**

Answered 110 Skipped 15

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	24
No	86

The majority of 110 respondents would not consider using a car share scheme. Only 24 people would consider using such a scheme.

### **Q.22 If a community transport scheme to and from Frome or Sainsbury's or Asda or local villages were introduced, would you (realistically) use it?**

Answered 111 Skipped 14

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	26
No	85

The majority of the 111 respondents would not use a transport scheme into Frome but 26 respondents said that, realistically, they would if a scheme were available.

**Q.23 Do you use a bicycle?**

Answered 113 Skipped 12

Answer Choices	Yes	No
For recreation	62	51
To commute	4	83

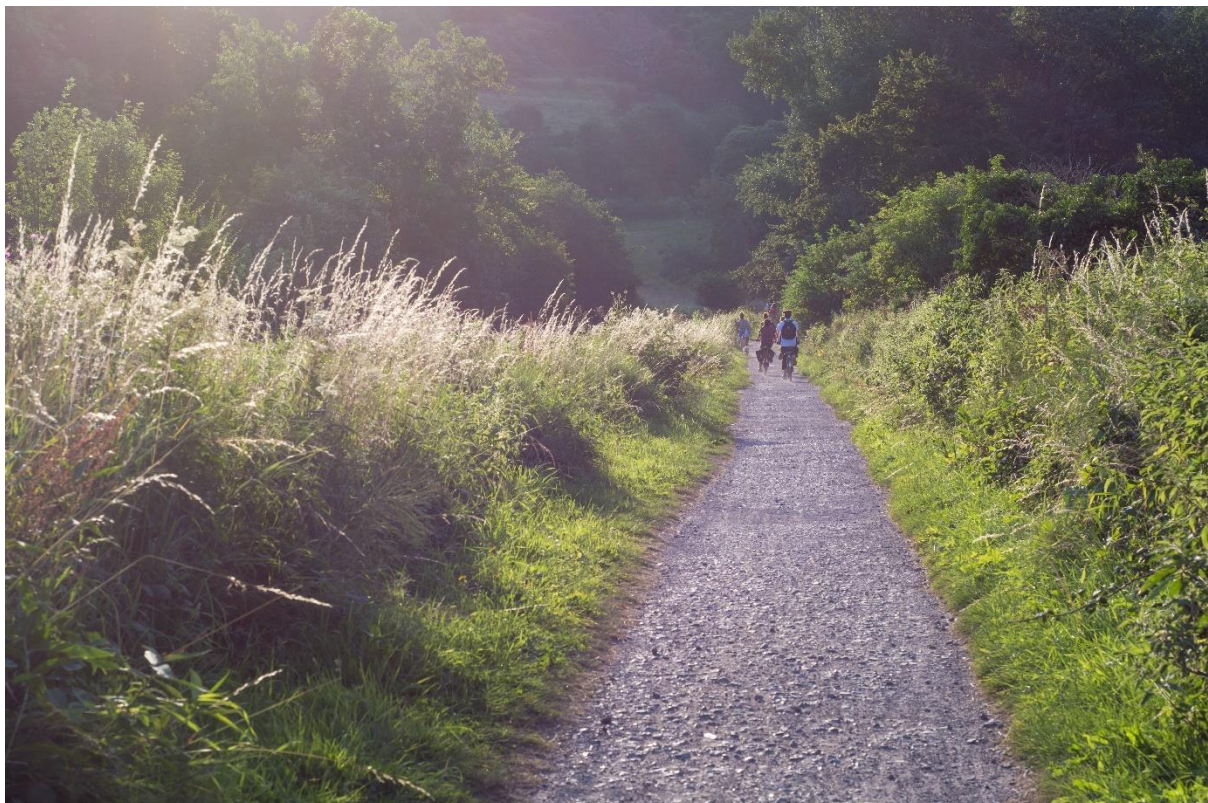
Half the 113 respondents use a bike for recreation (62) and 4 people use one to commute.

**Q.24 If an e-bike hire scheme were to be introduced in the Parish, would you use it?**

Answered 110 Skipped 15

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	25
No	85

Of the 110 who answered 25 indicated that they would use an electric bike scheme. Would this be viable if 25 people would use it?



**Q.25 If you have any concerns about local traffic, please tick the top three issues in Trudoxhill which currently effect you.**

Answered 109 Skipped 16

Answer Choices	Responses
Speed of traffic	77
HGV / Farm traffic	29
Safety	26
Volume of traffic	25
Safe walking / cycling routes to Nunney school / Frome College	25
Parking	24
Access to bus routes	22
Parked cars	22
Verge damage	18
Other (please specify)	10
Traffic noise	8
No concerns	7
Accidents	2
Air quality	1

Of the 109 respondents to the question asking people to highlight what aspects of local traffic concerns them, 'Speed of traffic' through the village was cited by 77 people, this is clearly a priority. 'HGVs and farm traffic' was mentioned by 29, 'Safety' by 26 and 'Volume of traffic' and 'Safe walking and cycling' by 25 people.

Of the 10 Other comments the following were mentioned:

- *'I would like to see an all-weather safe footpath from Trudoxhill to Nunney.'*
- *'Large vehicles drive too fast on Gare Hill road'*
- *'Millard's Hill junction to Witham'*
- *'The speed limit is 60mph and the bend of the road obstructs view when turning right (from Trudoxhill to Witham). I've come close to having 2 accidents here in the last 6 months. Suggest the speed limit is reduced'*

## Q.26 What do you think are best ways to reduce traffic problems in Trudoxhill?

Answered 91 Skipped 34

Answer Choices	Responses
Traffic calming scheme	45
Improved footpaths	28
Increased public transport	23
Improved / more cycle paths	23
Other (please specify)	22
Community bus transport	19
Car share scheme	15
Volunteer car scheme	10
Electric car charging point	1

Of the 91 respondents to the question about how to reduce traffic problems, over half favoured a 'Traffic calming scheme' (45), 'Improved footpaths' (28), 'Cycle paths' (23) and 'Public transport' (23) were also rated.

Of the 22 'Other' responses we received reinforced the findings above. The main issues cited included:

- *'20 mph speed limit' or 'Speed camera' received 7 responses'*
- *'Discouraging through traffic'*
- *'We need more volunteers to commit to Community Speed Watch'*
- *'Flowers everywhere, cars will then slow down to marvel at the display'*
- *'Make council owned grass verges 'selectively' into surfaced car parking spaces'*
- *'More signage and road markings'*
- *'One way traffic through the village and a pavement'*
- *'A school children sign near the pub pick up would be extremely useful'*
- *'Try and deter or ban HGVs or adopt a weight limit'*



## Q.27 Do you have any other suggestions to improve transportation or reduce traffic impact?

Answered 45 Skipped 80

45 people responded with suggestions to alleviate some of their concerns about traffic travelling through or parking in the village. Not all the comments have been reproduced here because many are duplications. Also, the comments largely replicate the answers given to Question 26 above. The top themes suggested by more than 1 person were:

- *'A 20 mile per hour speed limit through Trudoxhill Village'*
- *'More signage'*
- *'A weight limit on vehicles travelling through Trudoxhill'*
- *'Increased or amended Community Speed Watch'*

Of the 45 'Other' comments there were some clear themes that could be identified.

### Speeding Traffic

- *'Traffic calming, speed watch at a different time each day & 20mph limit through village may reduce people using the village as a cut through to A303 & other villages. 20 is plenty signs on any surface visible to drivers as people often ignore speed signs'*
- *'The village is somewhat divided by the main road that runs through it. It's way too busy with speeding traffic. We usually have between 80 to 100 cars per hour on a watch. With no pavements and blind bends it is very dangerous for both pedestrians and horse riders. What can be done? Not entirely sure. Speed cameras, more CSW sessions and more signage is about all we can do'*
- *'Speed bumps'*
- *'Speed cameras. 20 mph limit in the village'*
- *'Speed restrictions for heavy vehicles through the narrow village lanes'*
- *'Reduced speed limit to 20mph is probably the best solution at the moment; this, along with more intentional on-road parking would actually slow down traffic by creating more obstacles to manoeuvre around and might make the village less attractive as a short-cut for commuters'*
- *'Introduce 30mph signs in small single track lanes'*
- *'Average speed check/cameras'*
- *'Enforcement of speed and care for contract farming vehicles and drivers'*

### Heavy Goods Vehicles

- *'7.5t weight limit'*
- *'Put a weight limit on the road'*
- *'Reduce heavy duty vehicles cutting through village en route to elsewhere'*
- *'Sign on main road, saying 'not suitable for HGV vehicles'- except for access'*
- *'The number and size of HGV's on Gare Hill seems to be increasing. Could there be a weight limit on this road?'*
- *'Weight limit to prevent quarry trucks taking a shortcut through the village'*

### Other Measures

- *'Bus Service'*
- *'Community safe transport for young people to get into Frome'*
- *'Community Uber, ride share scheme'*
- *'More footpaths alongside the roads, possibly in fields'*
- *'We have better signage on Gare Hill. Thank you. Still many vehicles go too fast and mis- judge the hill and the camber/bumps in the flatter part of the road'*
- *'My family would use their cars less if there was better footpaths and cycle lanes'*
- *'If not a pavement then a walking area painted on the side of the roads. Traffic calming system'*
- *'From Pyle Farm to the A361 introduce continuous white lines where visibility is poor and broken white lines elsewhere'*
- *'Make West End Lane into a by-pass and pedestrianise the village centre'*
- *'No further business or housing development to be allowed in the village'*
- *'Encourage more cyclists in the area so it isn't used as a cut through by cars'*
- *'I feel that we get a lot of through traffic from the A303 since sat navy's have been around'*

### We Should Accept that our Village is used by Traffic

- *'I don't really think there is a traffic problem'*
- *'We live in rural Somerset and our Village still houses a number of active farms. We do not live in a museum. The Village is also used to access neighbouring villages such as Witham Friary which are also farming villages. Farms generate agricultural traffic and HGV's collecting milk and delivering feed stuffs etc. have to come through the Village. The nature of our roads are that they are a consequence of deliveries historically made on horse and cart They weren't designed for people parking on the side of the road and the size of modern vehicles'*

### **Q.28 Would you be prepared to join the speed-watch team or help to manage an Automated Speed Detector Device?**

Answered 83

Skipped 42

Answer Choices	Speedwatch	Automated Speed Detector
Yes	9	21
No	44	19

Of the 83 respondents 21 were willing to join the team to manage an automated speed detector and 9 to join the Community Speed Watch team.



## Climate Emergency / Environmental Issues

**Q.29 Have you undertaken any improvements on your land or in your garden to increase biodiversity to wildlife conservation? (Tick all applicable)**

Answered 100 Skipped 25

Answer Choices	Yes	No
Building insect habitats or bird boxes	74	43
Planting Trees	64	37
Rewilding Land or Area of Garden	54	32
Planting Hedgerows	43	31
Diversifying the habitat	37	28
Prioritising native species	35	20
Pond Building	27	20
Creating nature corridors	18	19
Other (please specify)	16	16
Other- please state below	9	10

Of the 100 respondents every option showed more people having undertaken improvements to increase bio-diversity than those who hadn't, apart from the option for 'creating nature corridors'. 74 people had 'built insect habitats or bird boxes' and 64 had 'planted trees' and 54 had undertaken 'rewilding and hedge row planting'.

The Other measures suggested included 'hedgehog boxes', 'bat and owl boxes', 'no mow May', 'bee friendly verges' and 'no cutting of hedges during nesting season'.



### Q.30 Would you like to see any of the following in Trudoxhill to improve biodiversity and wildlife conservation?

Answered 88 Skipped 37

Answer Choices	Yes	No
Planting trees	62	9
Planting hedgerows	50	15
A Trudoxhill conservation group	45	14
Seed swap events	44	18
Garden event days	39	23
Pond building	36	19
Tree surveys – Tree Warden	35	20
Other (please specify)	5	5
Other- please state below	1	12

Of the 88 people who answered this question ‘Planting trees’ received 62 ‘yes’s’ and 9 ‘no’s’, ‘hedgerows received 50 ‘yes’s’ and 15 ‘no’s’ and developing ‘A Trudoxhill conservation group’ received 45 ‘Yes’s’ and 14 ‘No’s’. All suggestions received favourable ratings.

Other individual suggestions included ‘Removal of streetlights’, ‘Wildlife counts’, ‘Verge protection’, and ‘Open gardens’.



## Development and Business Activity

### Q.31 Your Views about Development

Answered 105 Skipped 20

Answer Choices	Support	Not support
House Extensions or Improvements	101	1
Infilling throughout the Village	42	51
No New Housing	32	54
New Builds Outside the Village Boundary	30	63
Extending the Village ‘Development Envelope’	27	60
Large Scale Housing	4	96

Of 105 respondents 101 supported home extensions with 1 person who would not support ‘Home extensions or Improvements’. 42 respondents supported infilling with 51 not supporting. 32 respondents wanted ‘No new housing’ although 54 people would not support this statement. 4 respondents favoured ‘Large scale housing’ which was opposed by 96. The majority did not favour new builds outside of the village boundary or extending the “village envelope”.

**Q.32 Are there any sufficient commercial, hospitality, or office uses which could save travelling to work, or bring people into the area and provide employment opportunities?**

Answered 93 Skipped 32

Answer Choices	Support	Don't support
Studio Space (e.g. Art, Crafts, Music etc.)	80	6
Workshops (e.g. Carpentry, Metal Forge etc.)	79	8
Stables (i.e. non-agricultural in the countryside)	75	11
Hotel / Hospitality or similar	51	28
Light Industrial Units for Small Item Manufacture or Distribution	50	28
Offices	49	27
Other- please state below	7	7
Other (please tell us)	7	7

Of the 93 respondents, 80 would generally be in support of additional 'Studio space' being built in Trudoxhill but 6 people would not support the introduction of new or additional 'Studio space'. 'Workshops' were supported by 79 and not supported by 8 people. 'Stables' were supported by 75 and not supported by 11 people. This was followed by developments in the 'Hotel/ hospitality' industry with 50 in support and 28 people not supporting them. Similar numbers reflected any proposed development of 'Office' light industrial space.

The Other comments noted that '*Bunn's Lane is already designated for industrial use*' and that '*Frome and Marston Park are close by*', '*A shop*' was also suggested.



**Q.33 Would you support appropriately sized wind turbines within the Parish?**

Answered 105 Skipped 20

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	80
No	25

Of the 105 respondents, the majority 80 people would support appropriately sized wind turbines in the Parish.

**Q.34 If you run a business in Trudoxhill, where do you operate from?**

Answered 51 Skipped 74

Answer Choices	From home	In commercial premises
Business	30	2
Not applicable	9	3
Other (please specify)	6	6
Smallholding	5	0
Hotel / Bed & Breakfast	3	0
Social enterprise/charity	2	0
Air B&B or Similar	1	0
Caravan / Camping	0	0

Of the 51 responses 30 people state they operate a business 'from home', 2 'In commercial premises. 5 people report having a home based 'smallholding, 4 people run a 'Hotel/ Bed & Breakfast' or 'Airbnb', and 2 run a social enterprise/charity.

**Q.35 How many people work in your business?**

Answered 44 Skipped 81

Answer Choices	Responses
Sole trader	23
2-5 employees	17
6-9 employees	2
10-49 employees	2
50-249 employees	0
250+ employees	0

Of the 44 respondents over half were 'Sole traders' (23), 17 people stated they employed '2-5 employees', two people employed '6-9 employees' and two businesses employed over 10 staff.

**Q.36 If you are a business owner likely to need premises or additional space**

Answered 11 Skipped 114

Of the 11 respondents, 1 respondent indicated the need to extend their studio space in the near future, another a larger workshop, and a third would be seeking additional storage space.

## A Final Catch-All

**Q.37 Have we missed anything? Is there anything else you think we should know about or try to incorporate into a Parish Plan for the next 8 to 10 years? This Survey is for your benefit but unless we know your concerns and suggestions we might not be able to do anything about them. Do remember though, we are only a small Parish with very limited resources so all suggestions should be realistic. Please add your Any Other Comments below.**

### Community Engagement

- *'Any village hall community events eg plant swap/sale'*
- *'Help run craft knitting and weaving'*
- *'Help with talks, adult education etc.'*
- *'I think it would be worth asking the community what skills they have that they may be able to offer to help with community projects. I, for example, work in the geospatial & property surveying industry and could offer skills on environmental planning for tree & hedge planting'*

### Business

- *'Decent internet! For business and consumer use. We have to get cabled internet, it's 2023!!'*
- *'The village needs faster and more reliable broadband'*

### Environment

- *'Ditches should be cleaned when hedging to stop erosion of tarmac and reduce flooding'*
- *'Help with home improvements to make homes more energy efficient'*
- *'Prepare for the effects of climate change - extreme weather events, etc.'*
- *'Encourage/educate re alternative energy/heating/insulation.'*
- *'To have aforementioned soft plastic recycling point'*
- *'We fully support the installation of wind turbines within the village. As a country we must move towards sustainable sources of electricity and wind turbines are far more efficient than solar and take up less land'*
- *'We must not lose sight that one of the reasons why we enjoy living within this area is the landscape and that is a consequence of the village's agricultural history. Farming like many other things in life has developed and become more mechanised. If we want a sustainable source of food as opposed to importing food into the country we have to accept that farming has changed'*

### Housing

- *'Support additional affordable housing or house extensions if these are sympathetic to the environment'*
- *'I am very keen that any new builds should be in keeping with the area and not an eye sore. Also that any housing should be designed with gardens/green spaces for the children to play close to their home'*
- *'We should welcome new residents to the village as they bring new ideas to the village but we should also look at the housing stock within the village. Are local people who work in the locality (those less well paid) catered for or is the*

*housing stock available only affordable for those on higher wages. This should be considered within proposals for new build'*

### Children and Young People

- *'I think there's a real lack of amenities for older children/ young adults in Trudoxhill when comparing with nearby villages. such as a bmx track/skate park, table tennis etc. it's important that these activities are within cycle/walking distance'*
- *'I was on the village hall committee and the parish council years ago and feel the youngsters need to do there share now'*
- *'I would like to see more provisions for recreational activities for all including my teenage grandchildren. The village is strongly in need of green space'*
- *'We should welcome businesses which offer employment opportunities, including those which offer apprenticeships to young people'*

### Other

- *'It's a beautiful village and looks to have a very proactive and engaged community'*
- *'Finally, I've not lived in the village very long but I think that everyone who gives they're time to make it what it is does a wonderful job - keep up the good work!'*
- *'Would the village consider the adoption of a refugee family?'*
- *'Secure the future of the Village Hall, our only community building'*
- *'Try to keep the pub going'*
- *'Villages must evolve and not stagnant. We should be a living and breathing village which evolves but not to the detriment of those who already live here'*
- *'We need a decent, faster and more reliable cabled internet for business and home consumer use'*
- *'Ditches should be cleaned when hedging to stop erosion of tarmac and reduce flooding'*
- *'Support should be given to additional affordable housing or house extensions if these are sympathetic to the environment'*

**Thank you** for taking the trouble to complete this survey. It's much appreciated. We're fortunate to have an engaged and hard working Parish Council.



## Conclusion and Action Points

### Demographics

The survey indicates that a large proportion of residents who are in employment are spending more working days in their home environments and commuting away from the village to a remote workplace less often. The Parish Plan should consider the importance of continuing to press for the installation of a fast, reliable broadband service in Trudoxhill to ensure that broadband is not a reason for home workers to leave the village in order to operate their businesses.

The change in the working pattern could demonstrate that, as more people remain in the village on a day-to-day basis, more local services, for example, the lack of a shop has been mentioned many times, could be considered by local entrepreneurs.

### Parish Environment

Our quiet, rural environment is much appreciated by residents and, where possible, should be protected and enhanced. This is a matter to be addressed in the Parish Plan which will become a tool to inform the Parish Council in planning application decisions. But unfortunately, our environment is not perfect, and a number of concerns were raised some of which could be considered by the Parish Council or addressed in the Parish Plan or even monitored and managed by volunteers.

Not surprisingly fly-tipping was raised although, possibly surprisingly, it was at the head of the list in the eyes of respondents. The Parish Plan should consider what powers it has, or strategies it could develop, to alleviate this problem in any way.

Speeding vehicles was cited by many as a prime cause of concern. This is despite the activities of an active Community Speed Watch ('CSW') team. With 50 local people expressing concern about speeding vehicles, it is hoped that more of them would be willing to help expand the CSW team and increase the regularity of their watches to identify speeding vehicles and report them to the police.

### Communication

The answer choices gave a range of options for keeping people abreast of village events and news. Since the Survey was completed a new Trudoxhill website has been produced. The address is: [Trudoxhill.org.uk](http://Trudoxhill.org.uk)

For the time being it is clear that both hard-copy and electronic formats of 'Your View' and the forthcoming Parish Plan should be made available.

## Community Facilities and Services

It is clear that residents enjoy walking or riding the bridleways and footpaths of our rural environment including the opportunity to walk the footpaths in Postlebury Wood which appears to be a much loved and used resource. The Parish Council may need to consider addressing with Somerset Rights of Way department and the Mendip Ramblers with the strength of a Parish Plan behind it, with the possibility of increasing the range of footpaths which currently exists by re-opening formerly used but currently inaccessible footpaths.

Many residents have indicated that they would be likely to use a recreation area in Trudoxhill village if a suitable site could be provided. Trudoxhill is one of very few villages without a recreation area or playing field particularly for youngsters and teenagers but also for everybody to use in one way or another. The Parish Council should consider, in the preparation of the Parish Plan, whether the numbers provide a sufficient mandate to either undertake further investigation or consultation or to seek the provision of a suitable site.

The village Hall has the potential to offer a wide range of services and events and the survey indicated that not only would a wide range of activities be supported but a very considerable number of people (54) are prepared to help run or organise such activities. For example, the prime suggestion arising from the Survey is that a regular cinema event could be organised, but the village Hall already possesses cinema equipment, and it would need little work or money to initiate. The results of the Survey will be passed to the village Hall committee for their attention and action as they think fit.

Additionally, the willingness of people who already support or help with Parish or village Hall activities was noted and is very encouraging. It suggests that further successful events could be arranged.

A number of people have called for a village Shop. Although not something which could be managed by the Parish Council, the numbers of those who have said they would use a shop or store or provider of some description might encourage an entrepreneur or community team to give more consideration to the idea of a shop, store or community exchange and for precisely which products. In the preparation of the Parish Plan the Parish Council will consider how they might support any proposal which may come forward.

The Telephone Box issue raised a number of interesting suggestions. The Parish Council should give consideration to the use of the Telephone Box bearing in mind the answer choices and comments made.

## **Traffic, Travel and Transportation**

Obviously, the use of cars features highly in this Survey and highlights the need for the Parish Council, insofar as it is able, to consider the likely requirement for electric charging points or whether it can facilitate or encourage the development of car share, community transport or e-bike hire schemes. The results could be reviewed every few years depending on the perceived need for action.

The speed of traffic through Trudoxhill village, in the lanes and especially on Gare Hill road is seen as a Key Issue to be addressed in the Parish Plan. It could be addressed by recruiting more volunteers for CSW but it must be said that the introduction of traffic calming measures (including Speed Indicator Devices, speed bumps, chicanes or one-way systems, 20 mph limits and more signage) has long been the subject of many discussions between the Parish Council and Somerset Highways and the police over many years with some limited success. However, to date most schemes have failed to materialise either for lack of budget which the Parish Council would have to bear for equipment, or reluctance on the part of the police or Somerset Council to adopt any particular scheme for either practical or legal reasons.

The answer choices and many suggestions for traffic calming will be considered in the development of the Parish Plan to determine how best to continue pursuing options for traffic calming, speed indicator devices (which could be shared with other parishes) weight restrictions, community bus service, and footpaths options which are feasible and might have a realistic chance of coming to fruition.

## **Climate Emergency and Environment**

A number of suggestions such as the establishment of a Conservation Group have been made which will be considered in the preparation of the Parish Plan to identify action which could be successful. This could provide us with the basis to deliver some of the activities that have been highlighted in this report such as planting trees and hedgerows and arranging seed swap events.

## **Development and Business**

The results of the survey when incorporated into a Parish Plan will provide a strong foundation to direct the Parish Council in dealing with planning applications.

## The Way Forward

This Community Review is not solely for the Parish Council. It allows everyone who lives in the village and the wider Parish area to see what residents care about and would like to see prioritised. The aim is to use the findings of the survey to create an Action Plan for the Parish Council, this will be a living document that will be regularly updated enabling us to monitor progress and ensure we are developing resources within the Parish in line with the findings from the Community Review.

As a Parish Council there is a limit to what we can influence, but based on the responses of those who returned the survey, we can concentrate our efforts on the things that you think matter.

To better understand the priorities of the survey and for you to understand how we are responding to your suggestions and to get to know those who are willing to help with village or Village Hall projects we are planning a public meeting in the Village Hall in the autumn.

This Community Review puts us in a stronger position to work with the new Somerset Council, the new LCN's (*Local Community Networks*) and other authorities, such as the Police and Highways, when we seek funding for community projects or improved services as it provides us with your views.

This work would not have been completed without your help. Thank you for completing the survey as the results below will shape the vision of our community for the future.



### Privacy Statement

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# Community *Review* Review

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