

# South Kilworth



## Community Questionnaire Analysis

October 2016

# OVERVIEW

**The Parish of South Kilworth has commenced the preparation of their Neighbourhood Plan.**

An important part of this inclusive process is, of course, obtaining the views and aspirations of the community. Key to this has been the development and dissemination of a community questionnaire.

The questionnaire contained 21 questions and is based on important themes established following initial consultation work by the South Kilworth Parish Council. These themes are: Our Village, Housing, Wind Farms, Development, Village Facilities, Education, Transport, Business and general comments.

The survey took place between September and October 2016. It was available to complete electronically and as a paper copy. The level of response from the community was good, there being 77 returns. This represents a return from 15% of the total population of 513 and over 20% of the adult population, (376 over the age of 18).

Given that some households choose to respond collectively rather than as individuals; it is also pertinent to consider the number of responses in relation to the number of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The number of responses represents 40% of the 193 households.

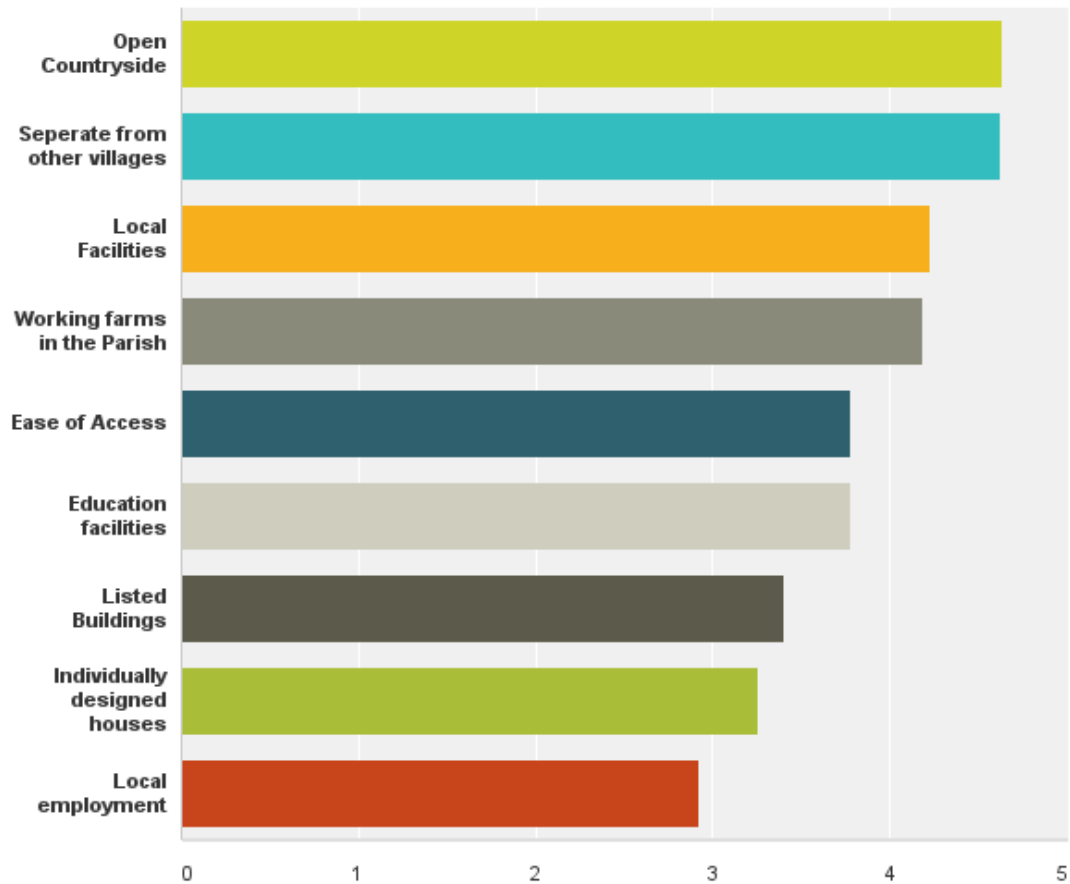
This demonstrates the level of commitment to the Neighbourhood Plan by the small community and, in turn, adds strength to the validity of the collected views expressed.



# Our Village

## Q1 What do you like best about South Kilworth?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 0



This and subsequent questions were rated on a 5 point scale with 5 being the most favoured (this was a four point scale for question 2 ranging from 'a lot more' to 'too many already'). Each bar represents a mean average of all responses received for that particular issue or option.

Each of the characteristics and amenities identified in the question are important to respondents, indicating a close correlation with responses from earlier consultation.

The proximity of open countryside to the village of South Kilworth, with the countryside reaching into the village, is the aspect that respondents like the most about where they live. This is closely followed in order of importance by the fact that the village is separated from other settlements by fields and countryside.

Respondents also showed that local facilities such as the pub, village hall, sports field and church are greatly valued as is the ease of access to major road networks, railways and airports. Education facilities too are considered important.

Of slightly less importance are the 11 listed buildings within the Parish and the individually designed houses. Of least importance to respondents is locally available employment which is, in part, explained by many of those responding being retired.

Thirty-two additional, wide ranging comments appear in the appendix.



A key issue for those responding to this questionnaire is the future need for and provision of housing in the Parish.

Responses to the question 'What sort of housing do you think the village needs?' demonstrate a reluctance to see significant development of the existing village. However, there is an understanding of the need to provide some additional housing and there was a thoughtful yet diverse range of answers.

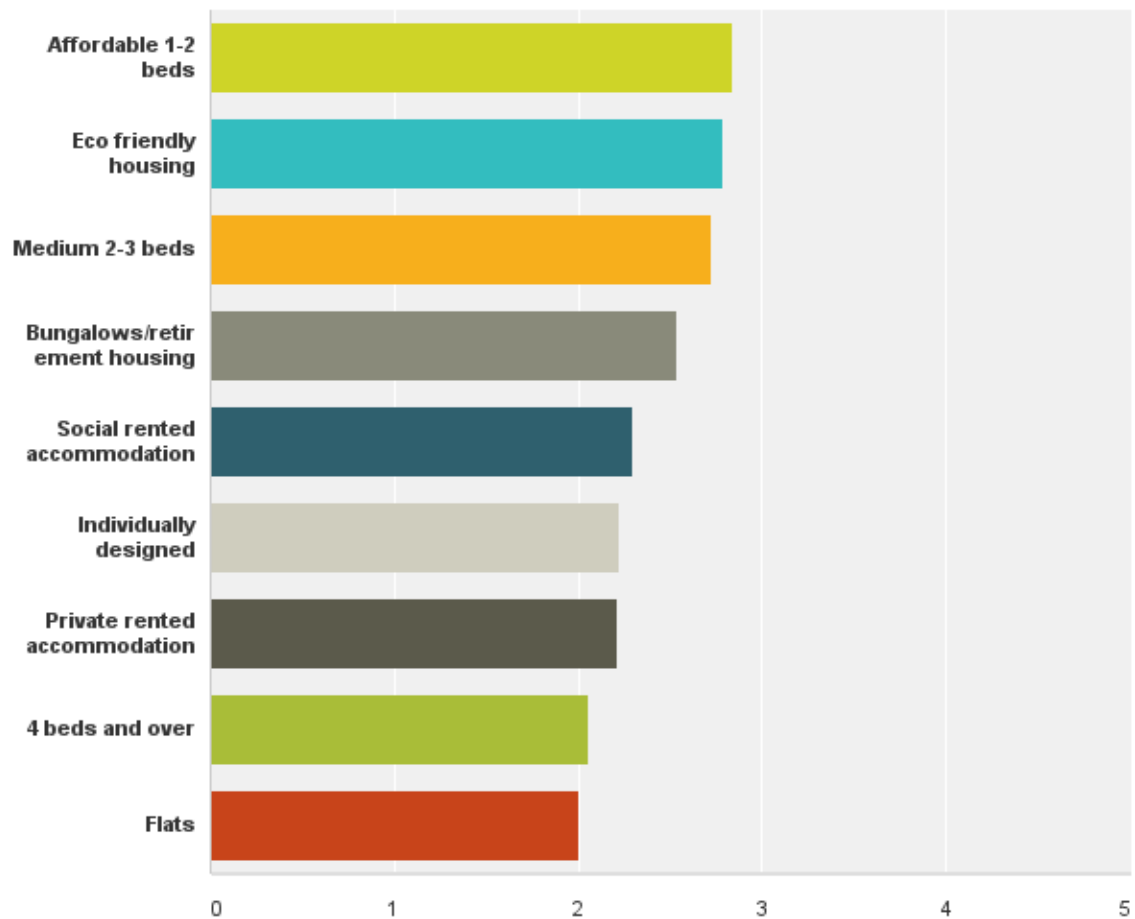
Respondents acknowledged that there is a real issue for people, especially the young, in getting onto the property ladder. Consequently, the sort of housing most people feel the village needs is affordable 1 and 2 bed homes. The perceived need for 2 to 3 bedroom housing very probably comes from the same thought process.

Concern for environmental issues is reflected in the importance given to the need for eco-friendly housing.

Bungalows and retirement housing was also a popular option, showing a desire for older people to be able to remain in the Parish as their circumstances and physical needs change.

## Q2 What sort of housing do you think the village needs?

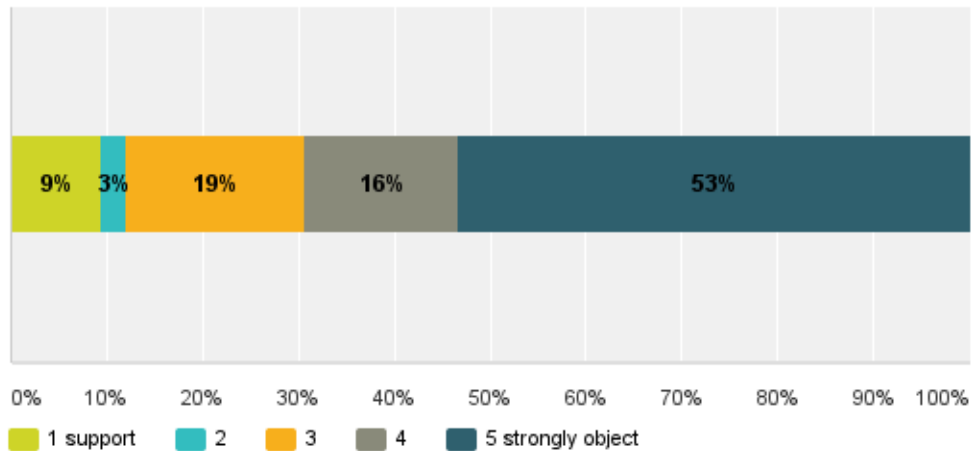
Answered: 75 Skipped: 2



# Windfarms

## Q3 If there was any further wind farm development in the area would you:

Answered: 75 Skipped: 2



In recent years, there has been considerable development of windfarms in the area around South Kilworth.

In the housing question, respondents indicated a commitment to environmental issues. However, they feel sufficient windfarms have been built in the area.

69% of those people responding object to any further windfarm development, (53% strongly objecting), whereas only 12% would support it.

# Development

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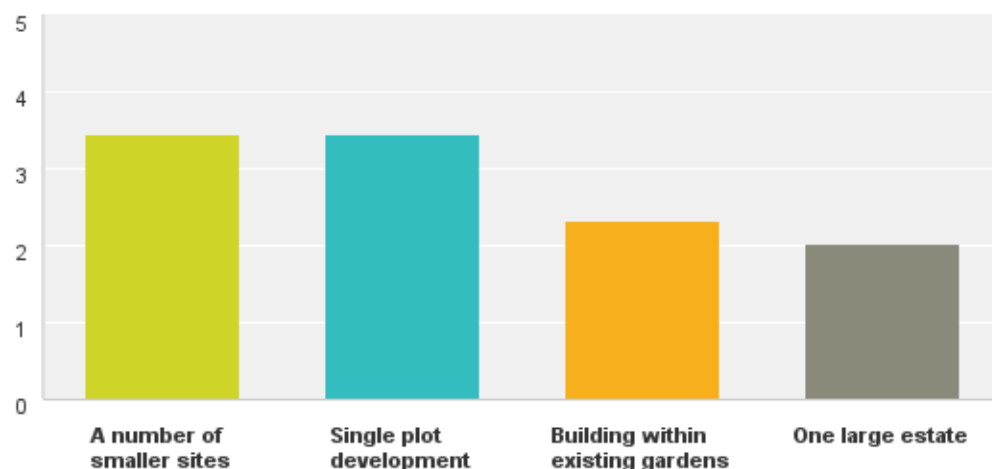
Parishioners were informed of the need for the South Kilworth Neighbourhood Plan to accommodate at least as many new homes as the Harborough District Council Local Plan. This suggests that there should be between 32 and 46 new homes built in the Parish up to 2031.

Of the four options offered to parishioners, those responding showed support for new homes being built on a number of smaller sites or a larger number of single plot developments. Building within existing gardens was not supported (57% opposed).

One large estate was the least favoured option (73% opposed).

## Q4 If additional housing were to be built, what would you prefer?

Answered: 74 Skipped: 3





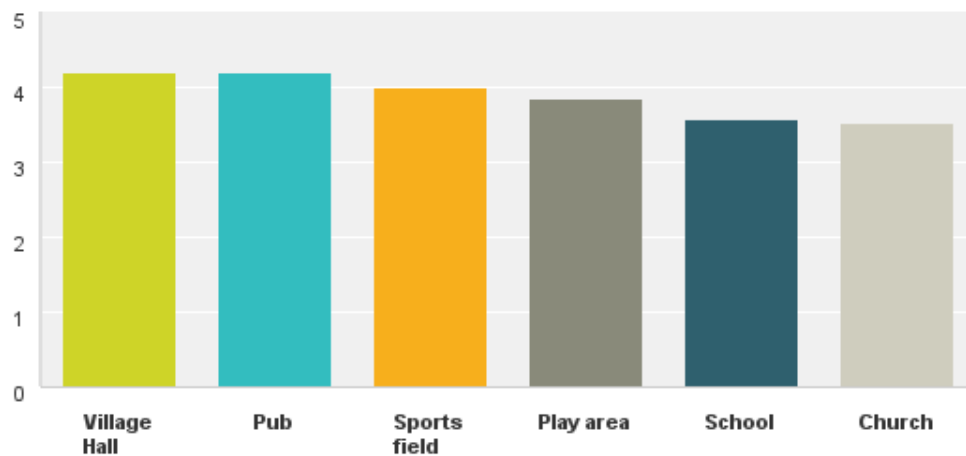
# Village Facilities

Parishioners were asked to indicate the importance to them of key village facilities. A majority of those responding value each of them.

The Village Hall and the pub are perceived to be central to village life and are considered the most important.

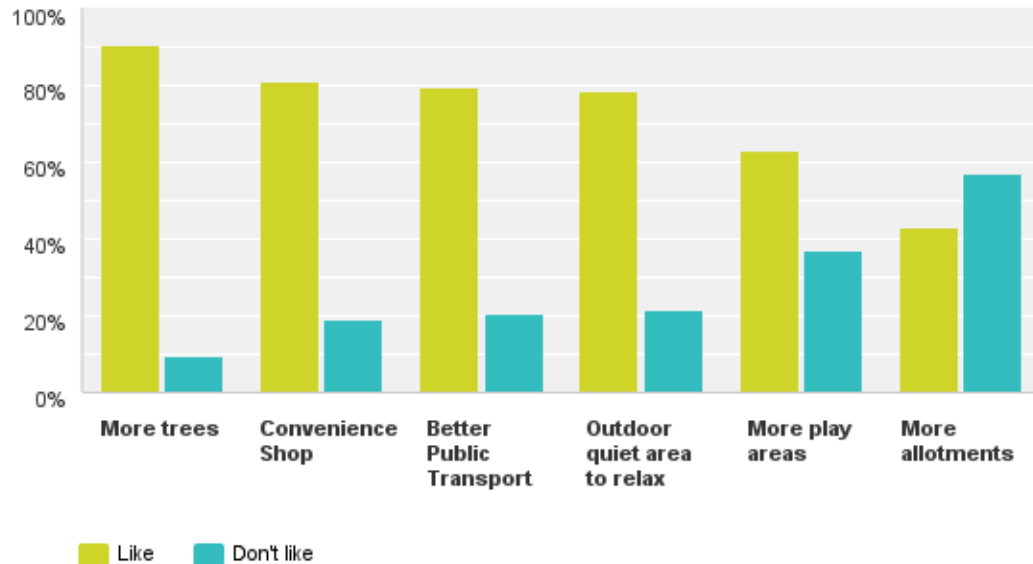
## Q5 How important to you, individually or as a family, are the following village facilities?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 1



## Q6 Are there other facilities you would like to see in the village?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 2



Parishioners were given the opportunity to respond to six suggestions, drawn from previous community consultation, about other facilities they would like to see in the village. Five of these received overall support with the desire for more trees being the most widely supported (90%).

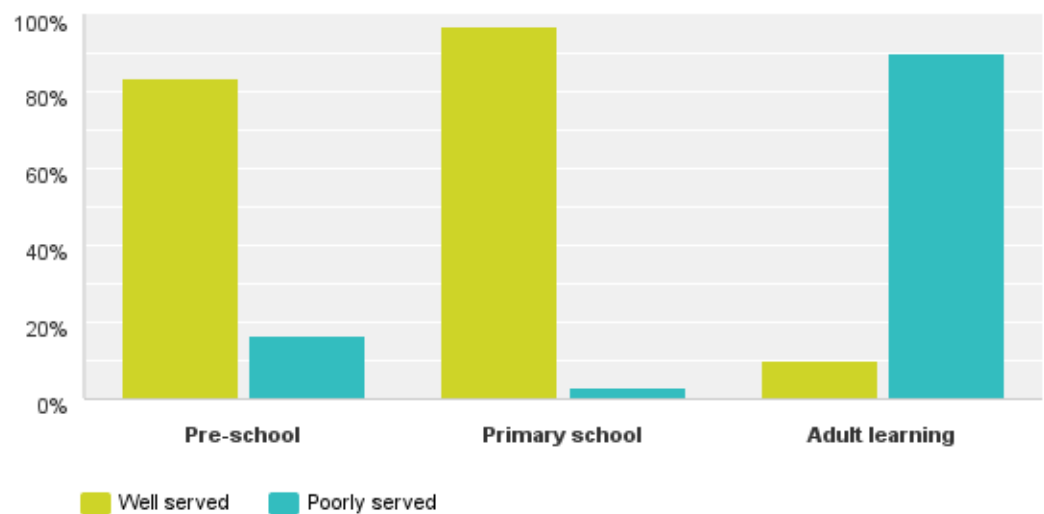
A convenience shop, better public transport and an outdoor quiet area to relax all received over 75% support.

More play areas were supported by 63% of respondents with allotments being supported by just 43%.

Twenty additional wide ranging comments appear in the appendix.

## Q7 How well do you think the village is served with educational facilities?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 7



83% of those responding felt that the village is well served with pre-school educational facilities and 97% felt that the primary school serves the community's needs very well. The importance of the primary school is reflected too in comments about the village within this questionnaire and in earlier community consultation.

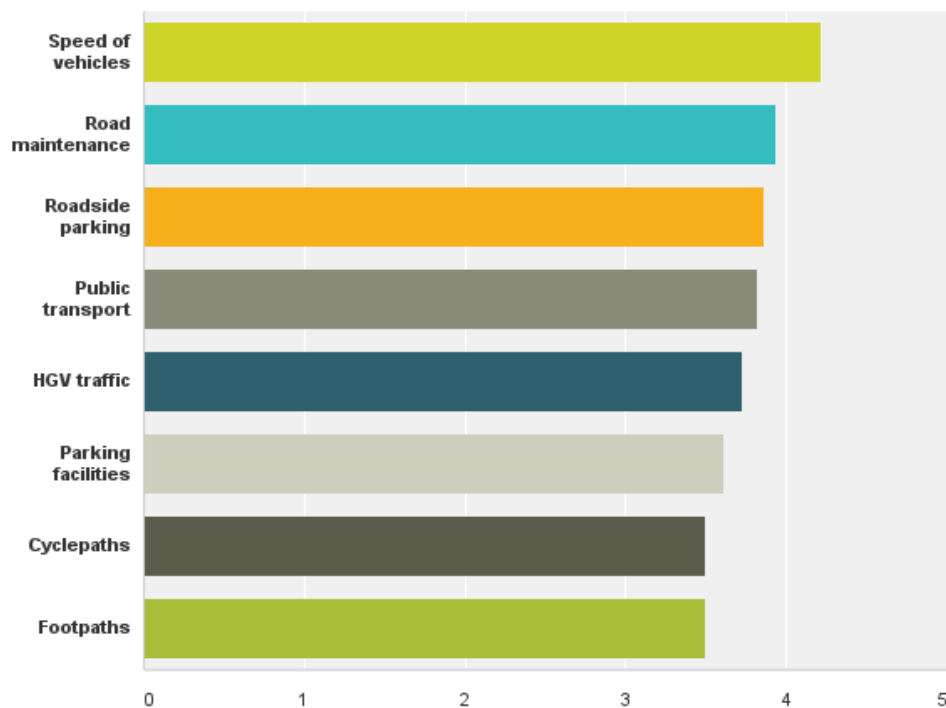
However, 89% of respondents felt that adult education is poorly served within the village. This could be a subject for further consideration, to explore what the needs are and how they could be met.

The average number of vehicles owned by responding households is 2 and almost all are parked within the property's boundary. The total of vehicles owned is 185 and parked within the property boundary is 175.

Parishioners were then given a list of eight issues, which had been identified through earlier consultation, and were asked whether changes are needed.

## Q10 Are changes needed to the following?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 2



Those responding felt that, on balance, each of the issues required change. Speed of vehicles is of greatest concern followed by road maintenance and roadside and pavement parking.

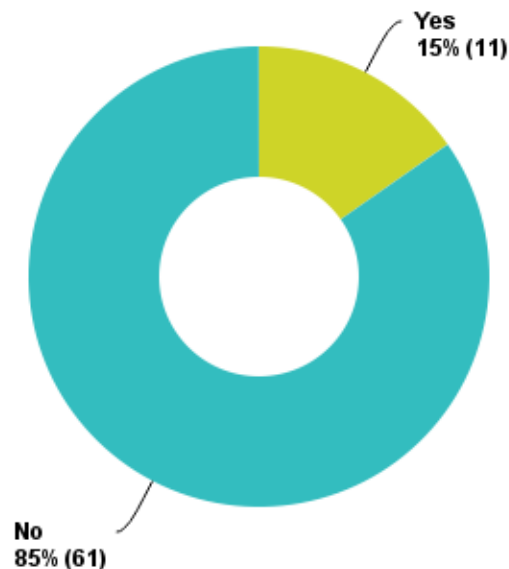
It is clear from this response that the relationship between the community and the vehicles that they use or that pass through is a relatively difficult one. This is evidently an important issue to

address both within and outside of the Neighbourhood Plan, especially as the likely increase in population could add to the issues experienced by the community.

## Business

### Q11 Do you operate a business from the village?

Answered: 72 Skipped: 5



Just 11 (15% of those responding) operate a business from the village. These include, a butcher a chocolatier, an organic vineyard and wine maker, a riding school, an accountancy, IT consultancy, a builder and an eBay business.

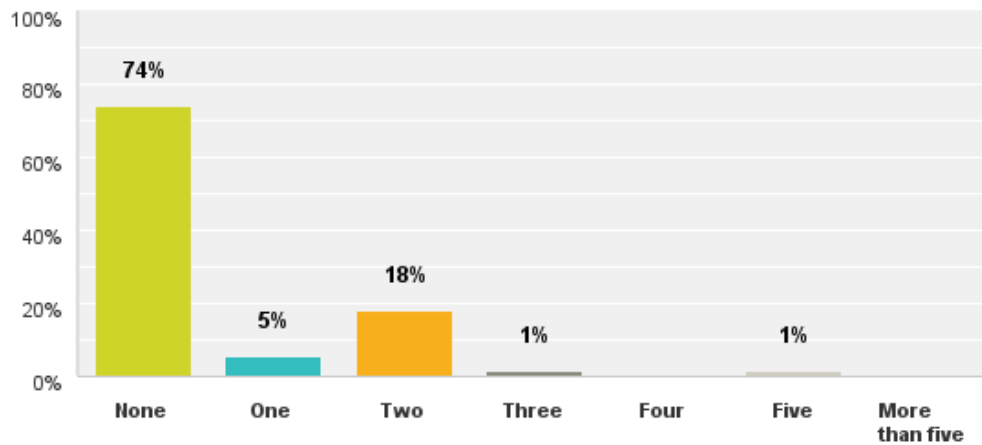
Additionally, responses showed that there are people in the village who are employed but work from home.

The question asking whether the village could provide any support for businesses encouraged suggestion of better internet connection and the possibility of a central hub for businesses. Full responses to this question appear in the appendix.

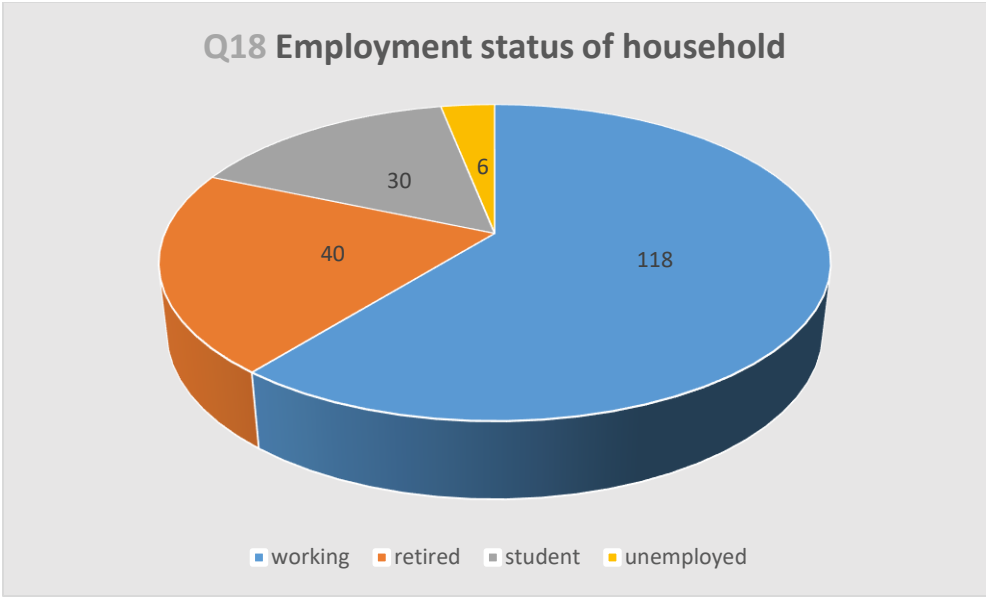
# Demographics

## Q17 How many school children are currently living in your household?

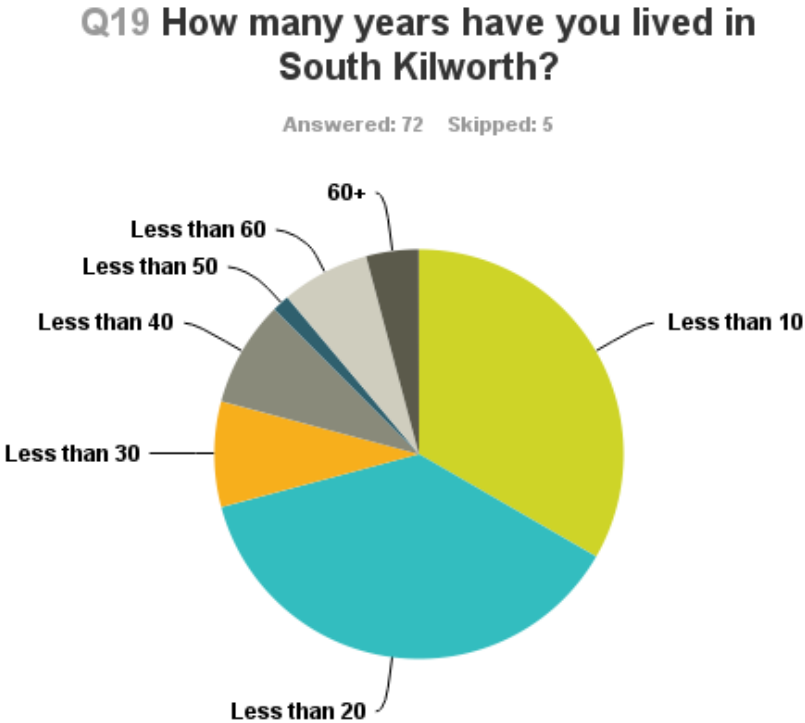
Answered: 73 Skipped: 4



Responses to demographic questions revealed interesting information. 74% of those responding had no children living in their household. This perhaps suggests a need to secure a more representative view from families and young people. However, the positive responses to questions about the school and affordable housing suggests that those with no children at home are still paying careful attention to the needs of families.



Respondents indicated that there are 118 people in their collective households who are working, 40 are retired, 30 are students and 6 unemployed.



## ANY OTHER COMMENTS?

29 people responded positively to the questionnaire's invitation to offer help with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. These people are not named in this analysis but it is assumed that they will be contacted separately.

There were 25 additional comments showing a great deal of thought about the future of the village and a deep desire to retain its character in the context of progress and expansion.

Issues around traffic and parking featured as did a range of thoughtful solutions to the provision of affordable new housing. The full list of comment appears in the appendix.



**In summary, a strong response to the Neighbourhood Plan Community Questionnaire has demonstrated a set of clear concerns and preferences amongst the respondents. This offers a good steer to the Parish Council as it progresses with the development of the South Kilworth Neighbourhood Plan.**

**These results will be considered as part of the evidence gathered to develop the Plan policies.**



## Appendix

### South Kilworth Questionnaire: Summary of Individual Comments

*As well as the formal answers to questions, there were almost 100 additional individual comments. These have been categorised into topics below.*

#### Page 3: Comments regarding Our Village. Total: 32

- Location
- Retaining a small village atmosphere
- The beautiful view of fields
- Ambience of village life
- Small discreet village surrounded by fine open countryside
- Maintaining the village as a separate entity is really important. Farmland & open space around the village is critical.
- With reference to large homes, Welford Road has changed character with very large and not very attractive houses replacing the originals
- You can't see the roads for cars. Lazy motorists a problem. Village car park necessary.
- Village Community Spirit Stability of turnover i.e. people stay a long time here.
- Small size of village/stability of character of village are very important. Local facilities are important but we have to be realistic about what a small population can support. Pub could be much improved - poor compared with others in reach of the village. Biggest threat is out of scale development both in the village and surrounding area (e.g. Lutterworth East, Rugby Radio Station)
- A village shop would make it nearly perfect
- A shop selling at least the basics, bread, milk would be useful
- Our village would benefit from the park being upgraded and a local shop would be fab.
- I am grateful for the information, observations and accounts of personal experience contained in the monthly South Kilworth newsletter. I would welcome, in this or in some other form of communication, greater understanding of farming activities throughout the year. What exactly is happening in the fields that surround us? In particular, how are the demands of intensive agriculture and food production is reconciled with ecological conservation, the sustaining of wildlife and the publicly respected, scientific aim of increased biodiversity?
- I disagree strongly that we need any more housing. Valuable farmland should not be used for housing. Expansion of the housing will change the character of village to town and an even larger portion of the occupants would work outside South Kilworth
- The people are the best thing. The school and the church are lovely, and are what drew us here. The play area and pub could be better and nicer
- We believe the village pub could form the hub of the village and potentially facilitate most of our village activities i.e. football team, darts team, pool team, skittles team,

coffee mornings and potential small village shop. Not to mention a restaurant facility and B&B

- Love the village feel. Plenty of green space surrounding us
- A village is a rural settlement and should remain as such. Whilst we need more housing, Greenfield development should be avoided (just read planning guidance PPS 25). Developers favour it as it is cheaper to develop but regeneration of our cities is important first.
- Difficult to prioritise these as many are reasons why we choose to live in a village.
- Public footpath network Stanford Reservoir
- We are a small village which is the way it needs to stay. When you know most of the people in the village it means that security within the village is stronger and more effective.
- Community "feel" to the village, neighbours friendly and supportive
- Village life is quiet and away from the bustle of towns and cities. If I wanted noise and facilities I would have purchased property elsewhere.
- It works
- Local facilities - pub, no interest whatsoever. Sports field is great for everyone but not for football, as a resident of Leys Crescent the traffic/parking is far too much at the week-end for younger kids out playing and the mess left behind, litter and mud from boots, inconsiderate parents who think it's a race track in Leys Crescent entering and leaving, not for me or kids
- Sewers need upgrading before more houses are built. Also, the drains need sorting as flooding down Welford Road is frequent whenever it rains. Certain large tractors travelling down Welford Road need to slow down or there will be a serious accident.
- Better local transport
- A great village should ideally have: a pub, village hall, playing fields and a shop. The fact that SK has 3 out of 4 is pretty good.
- The community of friendly people
- Pity the pub is poor or we would use it regularly
- Education provision important however my children are all adults now. Village pub can be pivotal to a community

#### Page 9: Comments about other facilities we would like in the Village. Total: 20

- Speed restrictions on Walcote Road from at least one mile from the village.
- Footpath from Village Hall through The Leys wants maintaining as dangerous for all who use it.
- Healthcare - Access to doctors/Facilities to reflect needs of larger village population and changing demographics in South Kilworth for existing and new inhabitants.
- Multi Sports All Weather Pitch.
- Tennis court - Badminton. Village Hall Park to include dog walking.

- I would like to see better maintenance of public footpaths. Some shown on O.S. maps have been rendered impassable.
- A public area designated for dog walking to prevent fouling of fields e.g. around the edge of the large playing field.
- removal of ugly electric pylons on village green.
- More for teenagers. Pavement up Walcote Road to the end of the village akin to the other roads.
- Tennis courts / basketball court.
- Allotments are good for the village but at present we have more than there is demand.
- Pub not exciting outdoor adult equipment in the park No need for more allotments as there are overgrown empty plots already We are in shadow because trees too tall,
- Hot food outlet Improve the play area we already have Garden centre/café,
- More allotments dependent on number of new homes to be built,
- More needs to be made of the play area rather than more of them.
- Regarding play area, better facilities would be good but we do not need additional play areas.
- Pub would be important if better. Better and well maintained footpath links with surrounding countryside.
- I would like to see a good family pub in the village.
- Refurbished pub - like The White Lion @ N. Kilworth or Joiners Arms at Bruntingthorpe.

Note: Some words in a few of the above comments have been amended but the meaning and sentiment remain the same

## Page 12: What type of business do you run? Total: 11

- Butchers
- Manufacture and sale of chocolates
- No but we both work from home.
- Self-employment
- Riding School
- Organic vineyard and wine making and vegetable growing
- Accountancy
- IT Consultancy
- Consultancy and eBay business
- Builder

Page 12: Any support the village could provide you and your village? Total: 9

- Improved broadband speed outside the village up to 1-2 miles.
- Better internet connection.
- Village hub for photocopier etc. might be useful though we are mainly digital these days
- No (4)
- 

Page 15: Would you like to Add anything else? Total: 25

- I would be happy to see development outside of the current village boundaries to accommodate the additional housing required.
- My support for Windfarms would be very dependent upon location, size etc.
- I would like to see "green space" as part of any small housing development e.g. village green/community garden etc. parking outside school is only needed for children from outside the village so if village numbers go up, we will need less as families can walk to school.
- Increase in size of 30mph limit or even a further 20mph limit.
- The proposed 25 houses is too big in our view. Please, please don't encourage over-development or large estates. We have lived here for thirty years but while we know housing is needed, inappropriate development in village and local, plus associated traffic, will be the thing that makes us leave.
- 25% increase will impact the school that is reaching capacity. Investment in this is needed to support further growth. This extends beyond the school gates as there is a major issue with road safety around the school area at collection and drop off times.
- Urge the District Council to designate land between SK & Stanford as an area of particularly beautiful landscape and likewise to protect the Avon Valley.
- Parking on street is fine except when lots of traffic and HGVs travel (and sometimes speed) through the village.
- Parking is a major problem, especially outside the school in peak periods. Additionally, traffic has increased substantially since the A14/M1/M6 work and pedestrian movement on Walcote road is dangerous.
- Yes, there needs to be a broad approach to housing in the village and ideal if the Parish council leads on this; at the moment, there is a complete dysfunction between planning laws; what the village really needs and what Harborough will allow! We need to look at areas of the village that social/starter homes could be incorporated; then look at infill of better homes; we need to press Harborough to allow housing on brownfield (especially agricultural sites). Without of course destroying the character of the village.
- This is a fantastic opportunity to create a safe space for teenagers. Failing this they will all flock together at undesirable places.
- Important to retain existing village facilities

- When football is played over in the fields, parking on pavements is always an issue. And school parking! The area past the school (grass area on school side) needs to be made into parking.
- Fed up with the football on Saturdays, people always parking on the path, and it's hard to get out of the Crescent.
- Tarmac Leys Crescent's grassed car parks. Improve council houses inside and out, Leys Crescent dramatically. Improve the park. Stop football at weekends it's too much. Do a huge amount more for the kids/teens in the village.
- I work from home so for me internet connection/mobile
- I'd like to see traffic calming measures - preferably road narrowing. Why have weight limit on Walcote Rd but high amount of overweight traffic comes through? Butchers and school parking is problem - using our spaces. Alternative access road for heavy traffic to butchers? Volume has increased with growth.
- Ongoing close consultation. Continued robust Parish Council. Retaining the essence of South Kilworth.
- signal is very important.
- Was involved in earlier generation of plan as chairman of Bruntingthorpe Parish Council.
- Parking bad on Welford Rd. Too Much HGV traffic in village. The bus service needs increasing.
- If new houses are built, plenty of parking should be accommodated. Parking permits for residents should be considered.
- There is a number of narrow sections of road in the village which cause frequent near misses due to high speed of some drivers - especially larger vehicles. More consideration needs to be given to signage, marking and traffic calming before considering more houses.
- A great village to live and bring up your family in. My priorities for the village would be to ensure a sustainable pub (preferably with enhanced dining options and wine list), a shop that serves its population (deli, good wines and beers, cheese, etc.) and new housing that doesn't damage the character of the village.
- Too many healthy mature trees have been removed and some sort of protection needs to be provided to prevent this from continuing