

# Meeth Neighbourhood Development Plan Community Survey Report

November 2017

**Martin Parkes and Mike Felstead**

Telephone: 01392 248919

Email: [mparkes@devoncommunities.org.uk](mailto:mparkes@devoncommunities.org.uk), [mike@devoncommunities.org.uk](mailto:mike@devoncommunities.org.uk)

[www.devoncommunities.org.uk](http://www.devoncommunities.org.uk)

Catalyst, Devon Communities Together,  
First Floor, 3&4 Cranmere Court, Lustleigh Close  
Matford Business Park, Exeter. EX2 8PW



Devon Communities Together is the operating name for Community Council of Devon, a registered charity (no. 1074047), company registered in England and Wales (no.3694095) registered office as above. VAT registered (no. 942 0496 27).

**THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT  
FORMAT UPON REQUEST.**

**PLEASE PHONE 01392 248919 TO REQUEST A  
COPY.**

# Contents

Introduction .....	4
Survey Responses and Analysis .....	5
THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT .....	5
ENERGY AND LOW CARBON ALTERNATIVES .....	7
POPULATION AND HOUSING .....	9
RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES .....	12
ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT .....	13
BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT .....	20
SOCIETY, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES .....	21
TECHNOLOGY .....	25
TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY .....	26
PERSONAL SITUATION .....	29

## Introduction

- 1.1 Meeth Parish Council is developing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The creation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan requires that everybody within the parish has opportunity to engage with the process.
- 1.2 To support Meeth Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group with this process, they engaged the services of Catalyst.

## Catalyst and Devon Communities Together

- 1.3 Catalyst is the in-house consultancy service provided by Devon Communities Together<sup>1</sup>. Catalyst and Devon Communities Together have provided support to over 50 Town and Parish Councils, and neighbourhood plan steering groups working on Neighbourhood Development Plans across Devon.

## Methodology

- 1.4 The Meeth Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group worked with Catalyst to develop a survey to gather evidence around the key areas of their emerging Plan. Previous community engagement had identified key areas of importance to local residents and the survey was an opportunity to gather more specific information about these topics.
- 1.5 The survey was designed to allow everybody within a household to respond. Printed surveys were delivered to every household within the parish..
- 1.6 In total 25 people completed the survey.

---

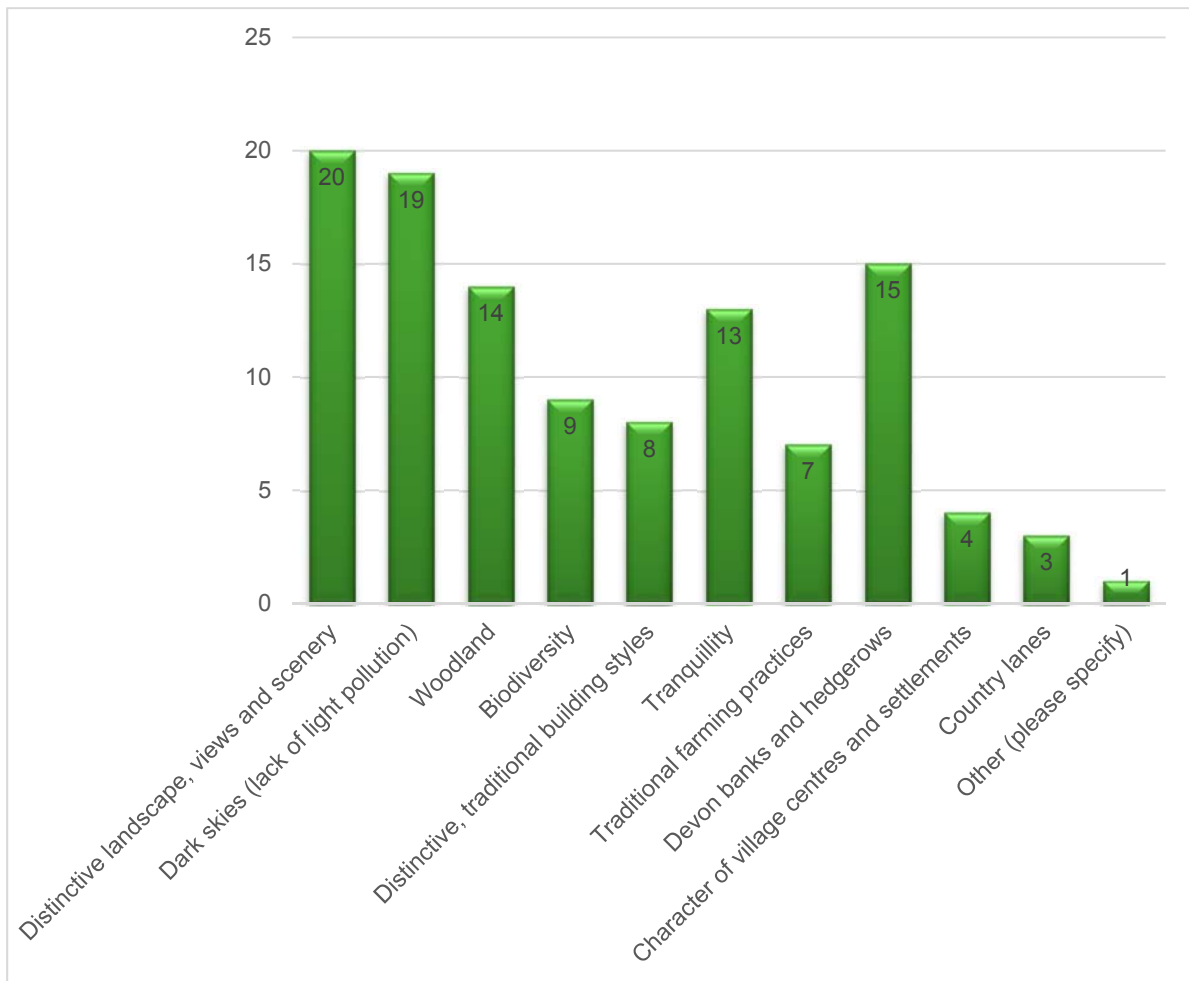
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/>

# Survey Responses and Analysis

## THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

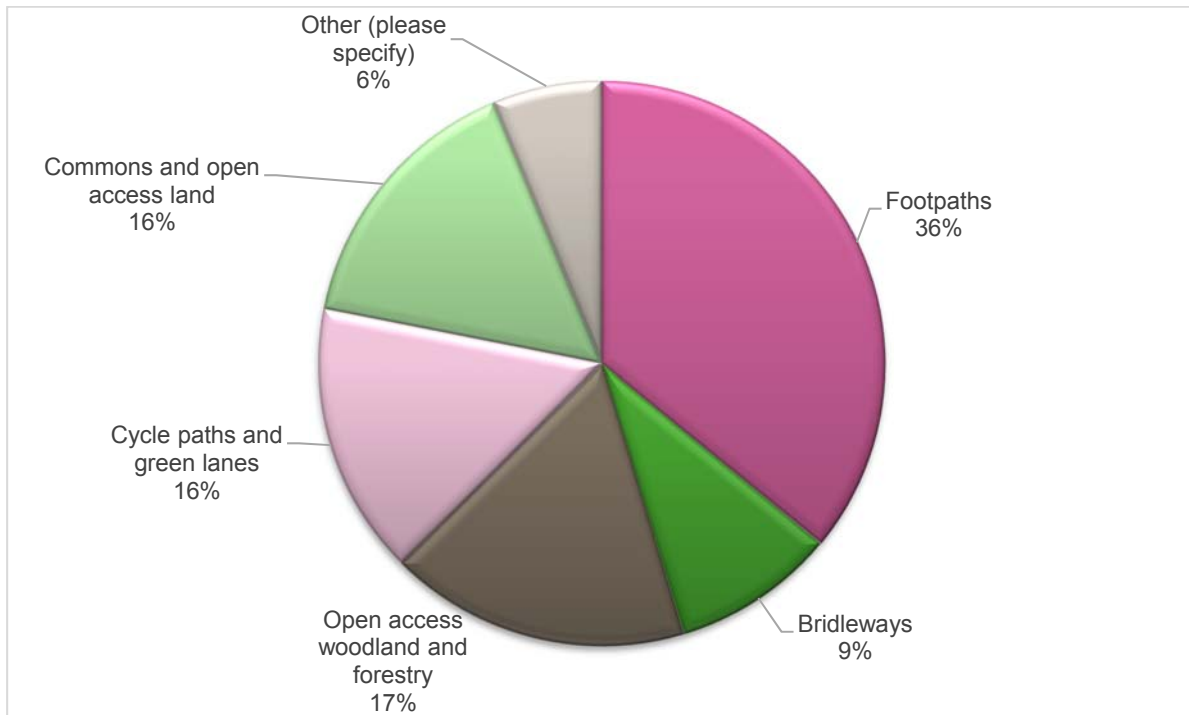
**In your view, which of these qualities make the Meeth a special place?**

There were 25 responses to this question.



**Which of the following, if any, do you consider are important to enable you to access and enjoy the local countryside?**

There were 25 responses to this question.



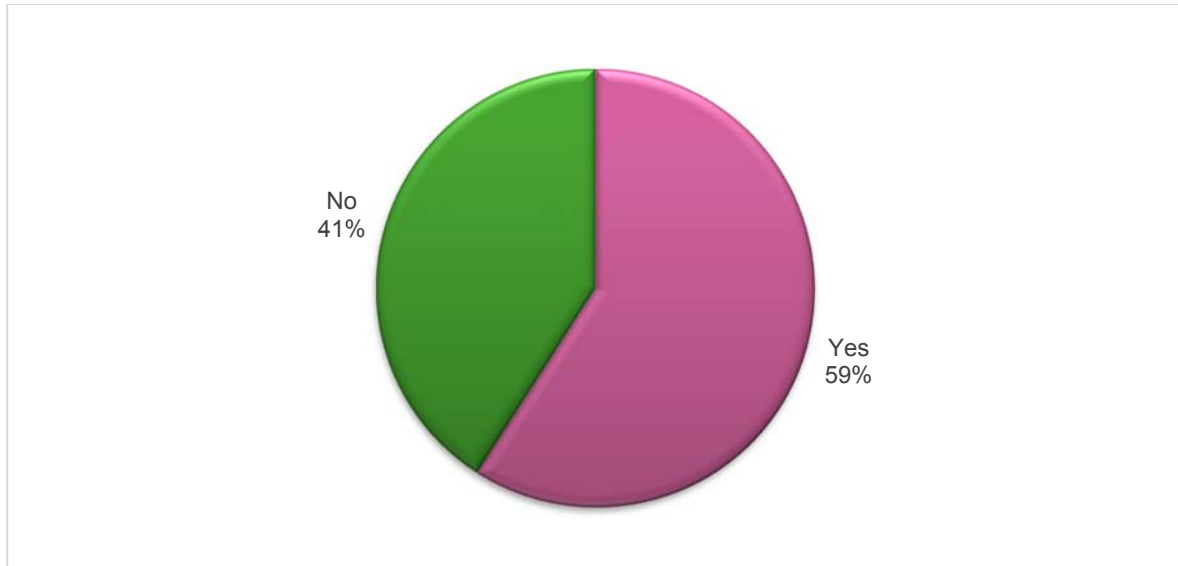
There were FOUR text responses in the OTHER category

- Future Tarka trail link and existing Tarka trail and Meeth nature reserve
- A new cycle/footpath should always be routed be via village to assist local economy
- Devon WT nature reserve
- Safe pedestrian access to any local sites and amenities

## ENERGY AND LOW CARBON ALTERNATIVES

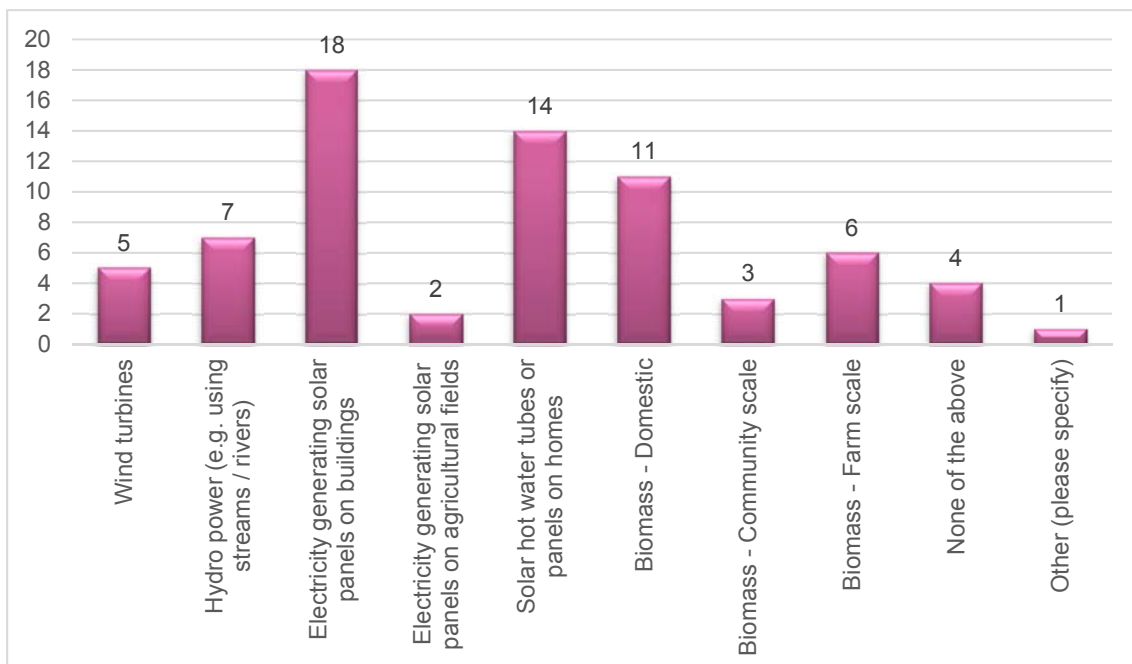
**Are you interested in developing a community energy scheme? i.e. harnessing electricity from e.g. solar, hydro or wind for community use.**

There were 22 responses to this question.



**Which (if any) of the following technologies are you supportive of being installed sensitively in your parish?**

There were 24 responses to this question.



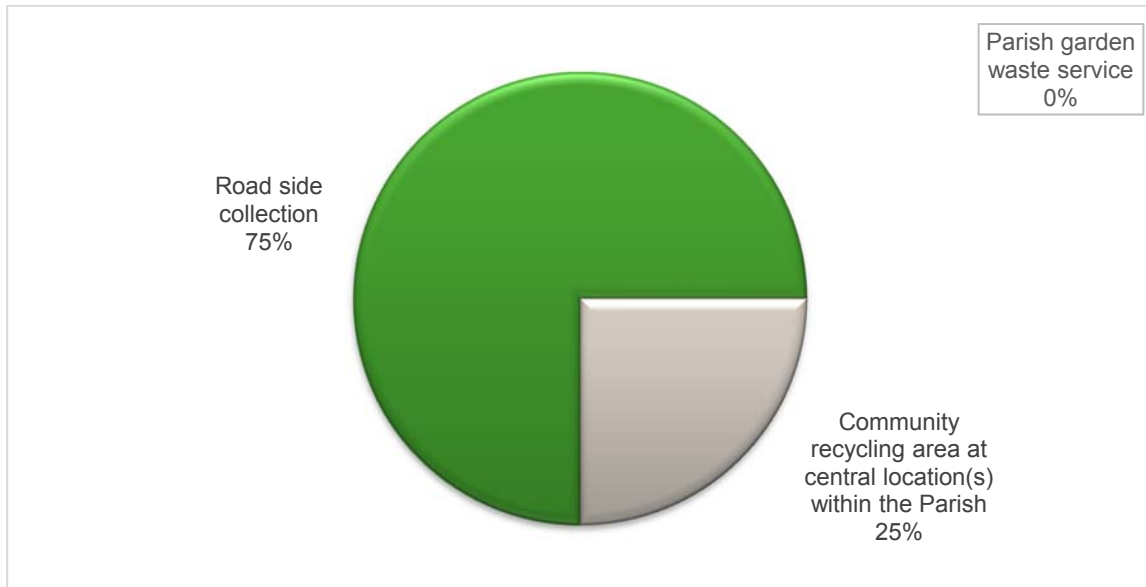
One resident commented, "No wind farms and no more field solar panels, they look awful".

**Recycling - Would you like to see recycling / composting of household / garden waste?**

There were 24 responses to this question.

ALL respondents said that they WOULD like to see some sort of recycling scheme.

The follow up question asked what sort of scheme would be preferred



A majority would prefer some sort of roadside collection from outside their properties.



## POPULATION AND HOUSING

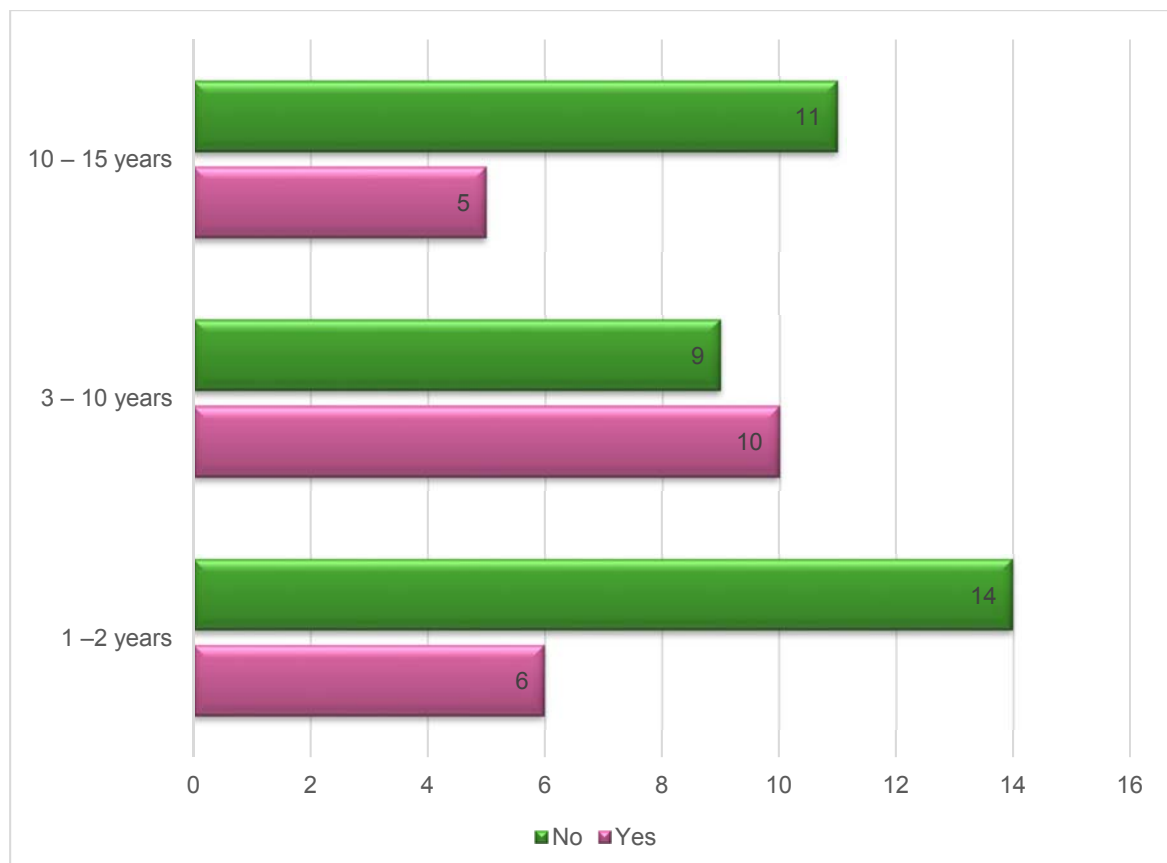
**Many people are living longer. Some people think that local young people are struggling to find, or afford, local homes. Others think our rural environment should be protected against development. Do you think there are housing demands within the parish and if so what are your ideas?**

There were 7 text-based responses to this question. The main points are listed here:

1. Meeth is an unsustainable location for development. Expensive and affordable properties take forever to sell here. The busy main road renders Meeth undesirable. Build homes near towns with employment and amenities
2. Affordable housing for young people that live here. Our son has had to move to Hatherleigh, but is desperate to move back to Meeth
3. If there is an identified need, then Community owned development should satisfy the requirement as it arises, in designated area within village boundary only.
4. Should be protected against development
5. Assisted living within village community

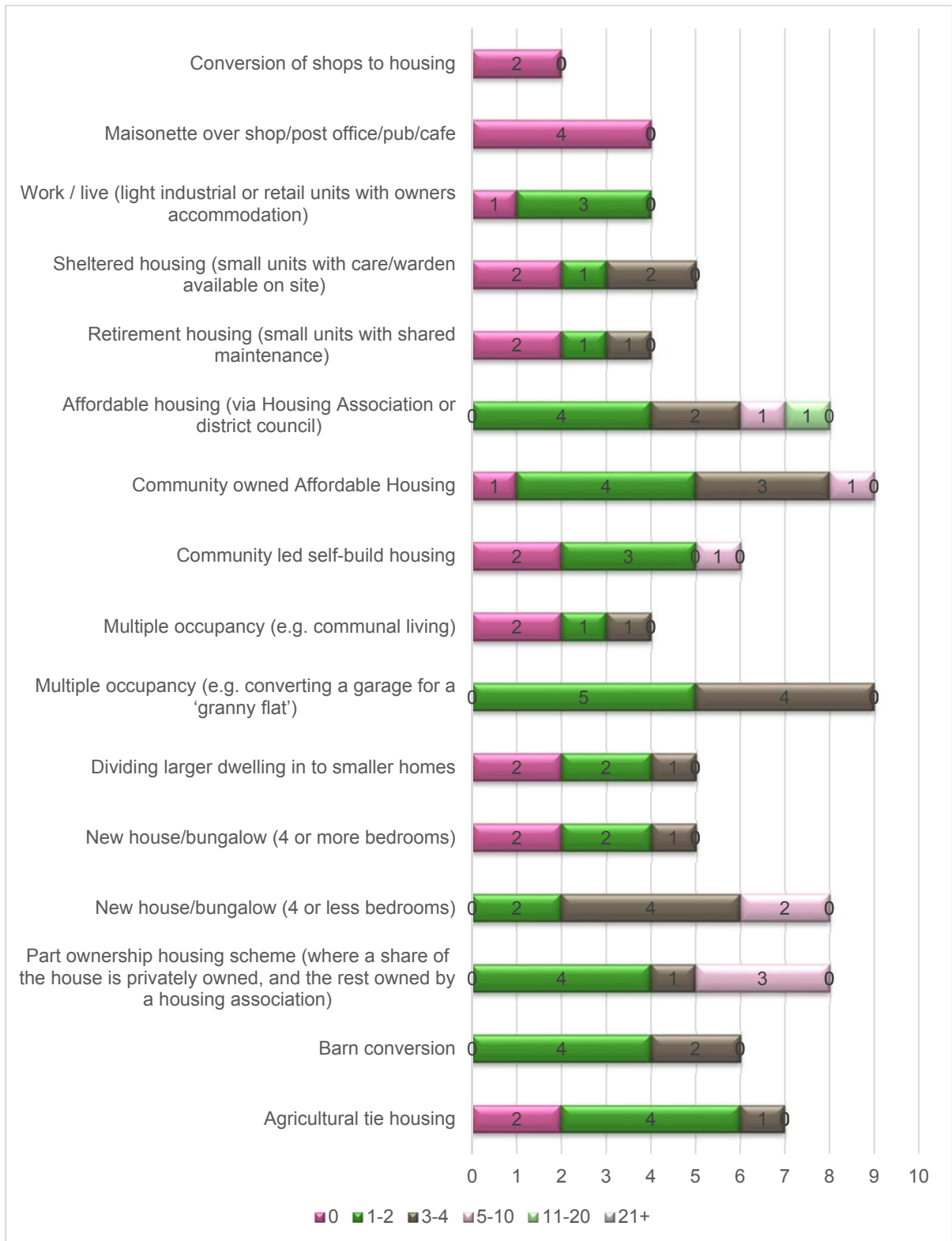
**Do you feel there is the need for new development within the Parish in the next 'X' years?**

There were 24 responses to this question.



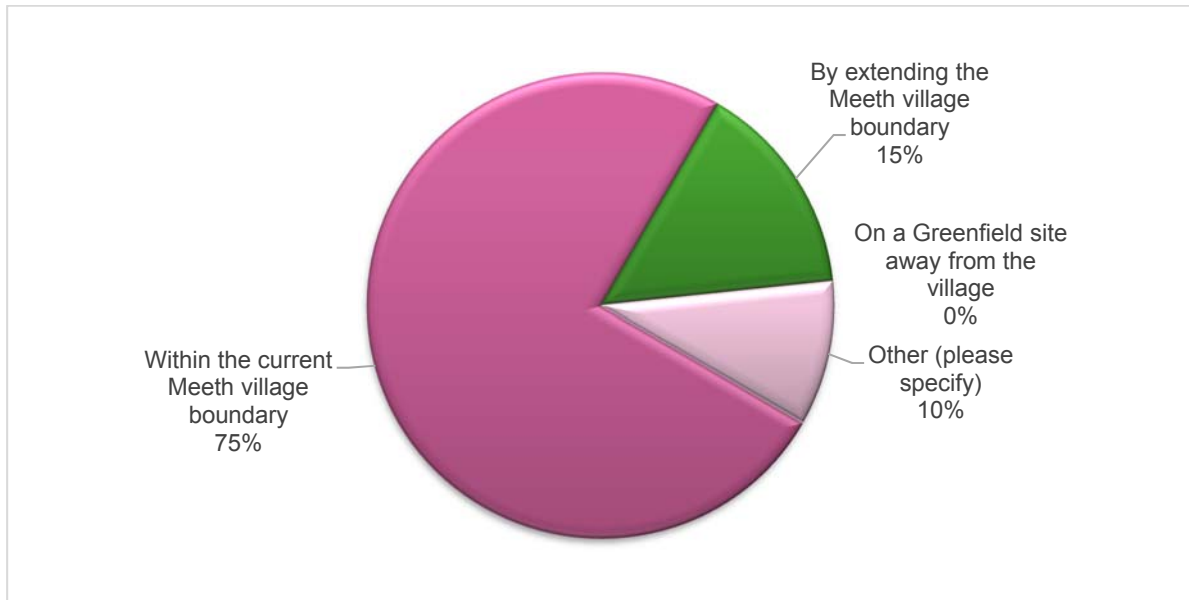
A follow up question asked respondents to indicate what type of development they felt would best serve that need. And to give an indication of how many units of each type they felt might need to be built, with quantities in bands of 0, 1-2, 3-4, 5-10, 11-20, and 21+ housing units.

There were 15 responses to this question.



A further follow-up question asked about the preferred location for the construction of any new dwellings.

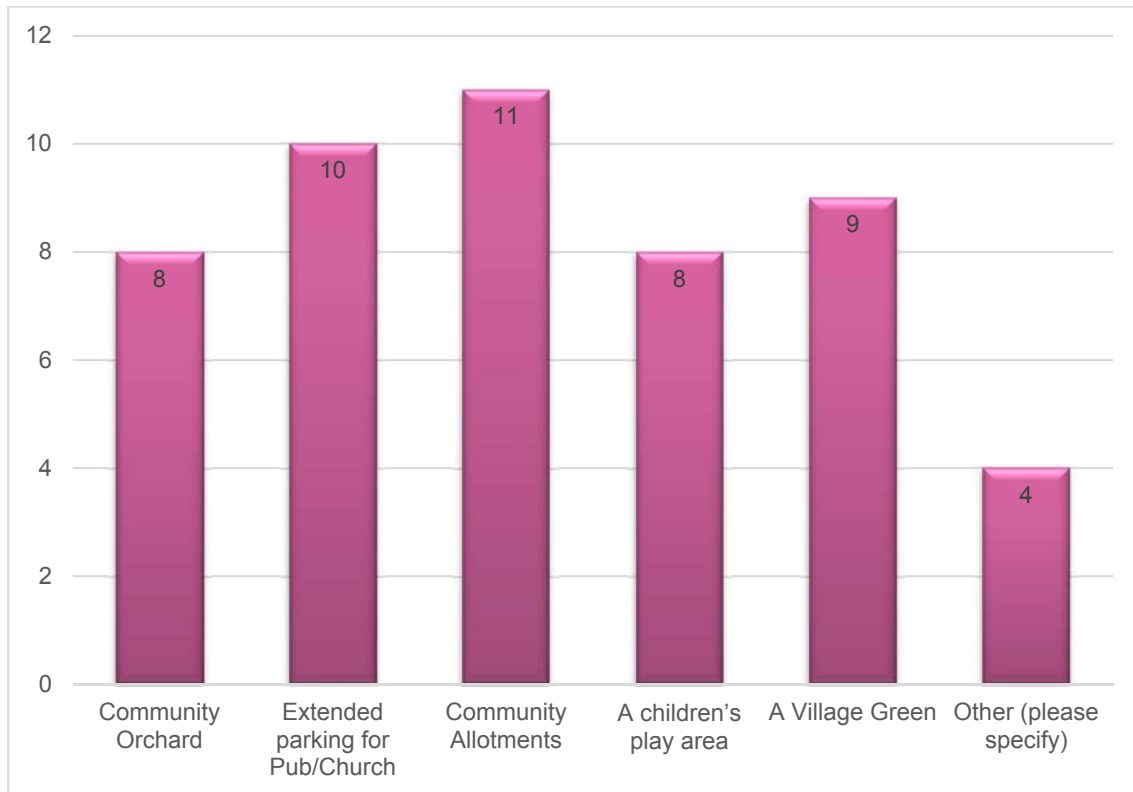
20 people responded to this question.



## RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES

### Which of the following options would you support?

There were 21 responses to this question.



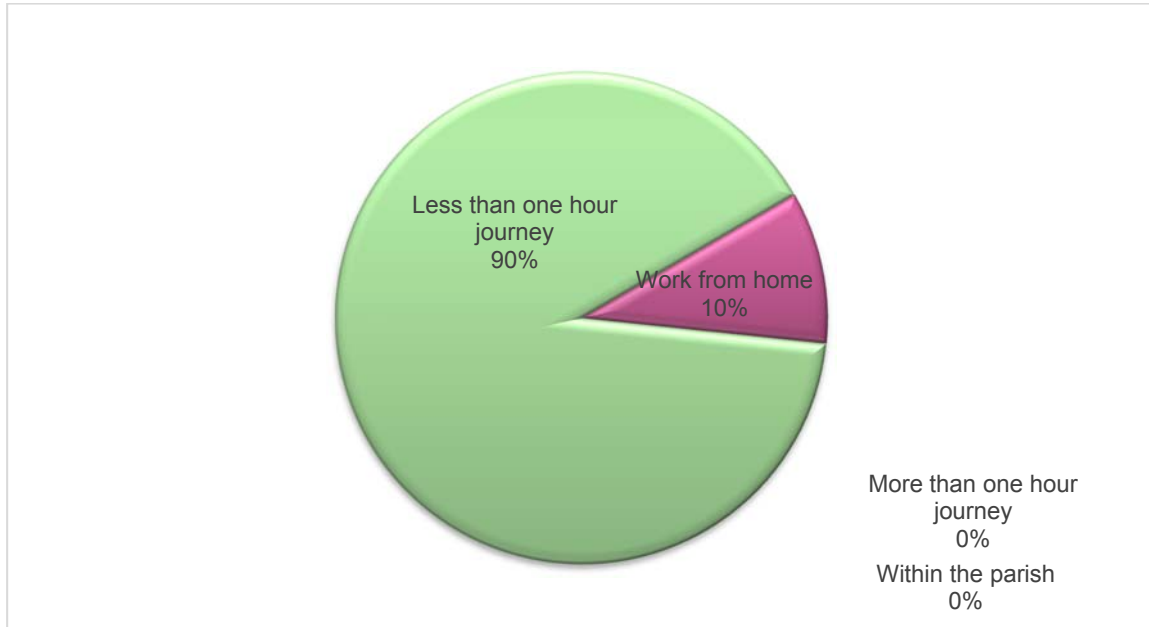
With FOUR responses in the OTHER category (one repeated)

1. Keep council tax bills low - the above costs money
2. But we would need safe access
3. A wild flower meadow with bees

## ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

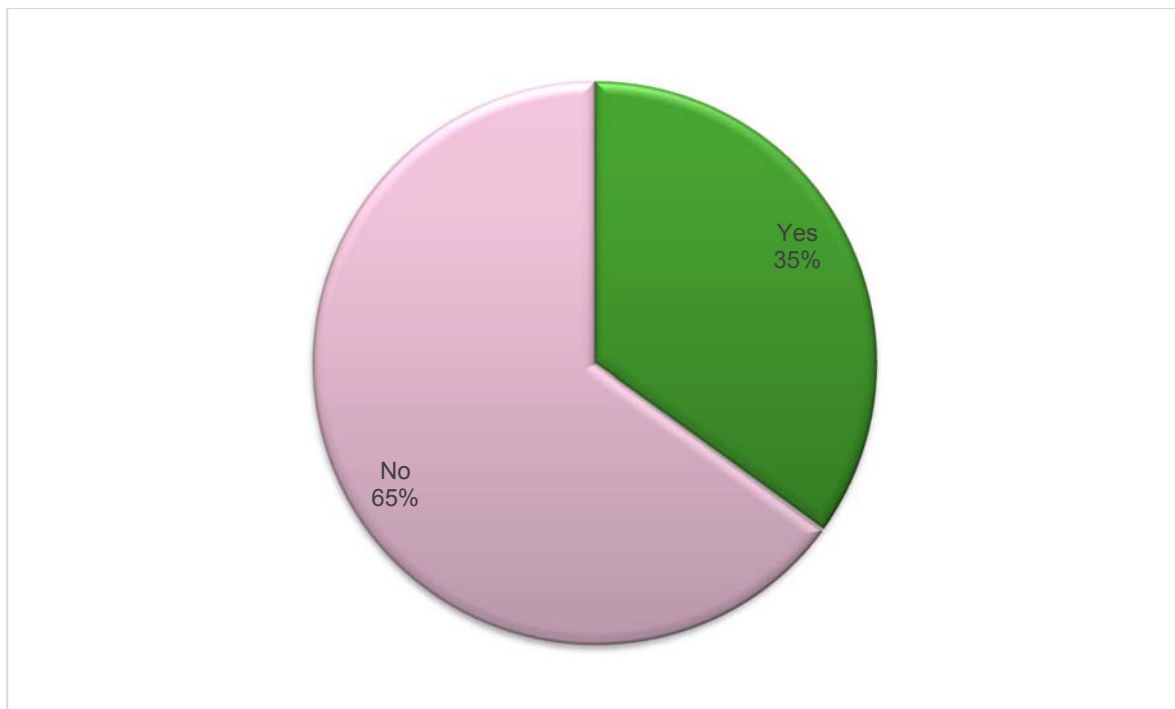
**If you are currently in employment, how far do you travel to your place of work?**

There were 10 responses to this question.



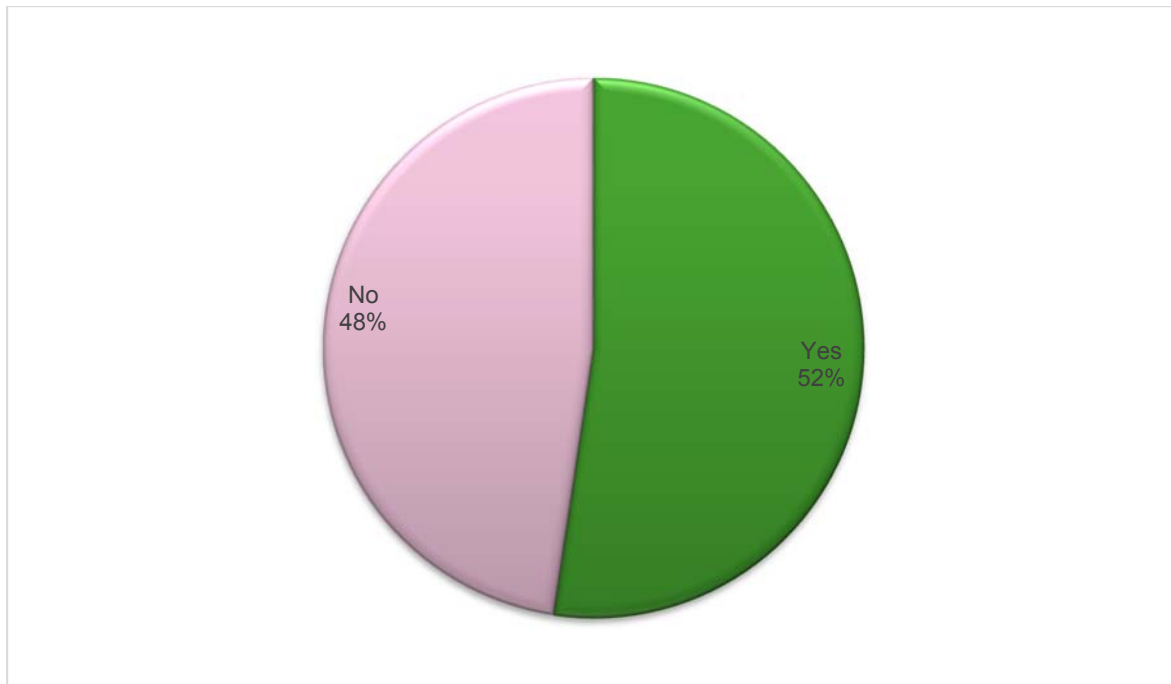
**Have you considered starting a business from home?**

There were 20 responses to this question.



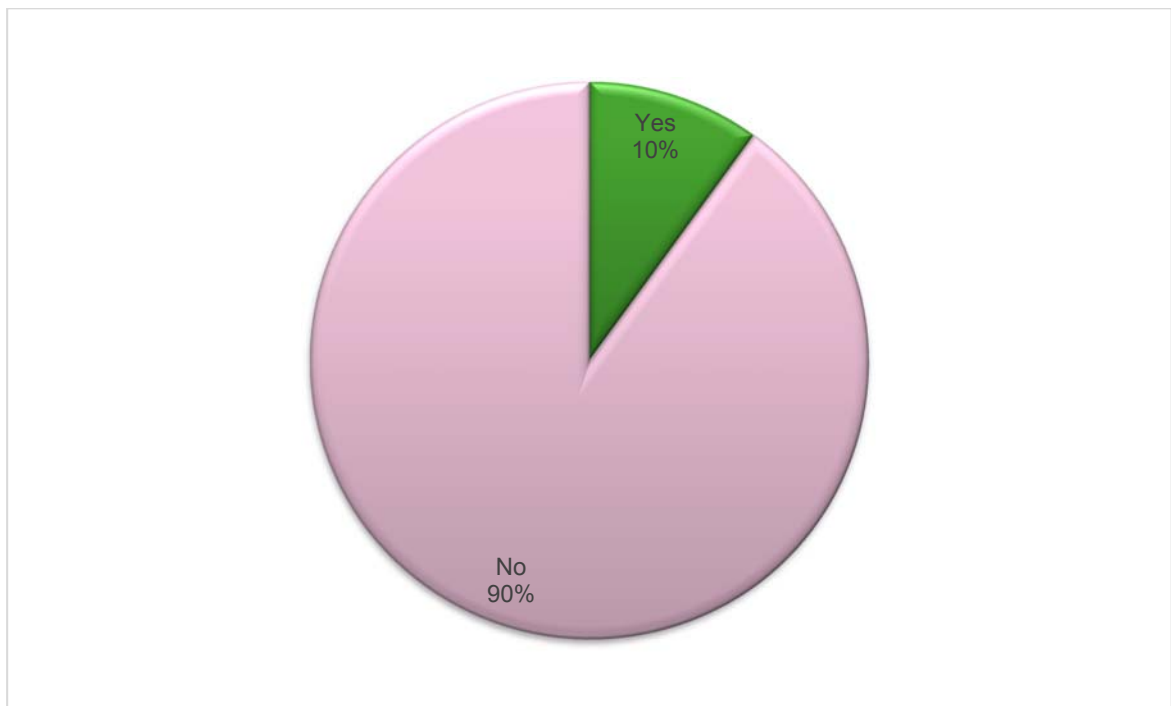
**Have you considered working from home?**

There were 21 responses to this question.



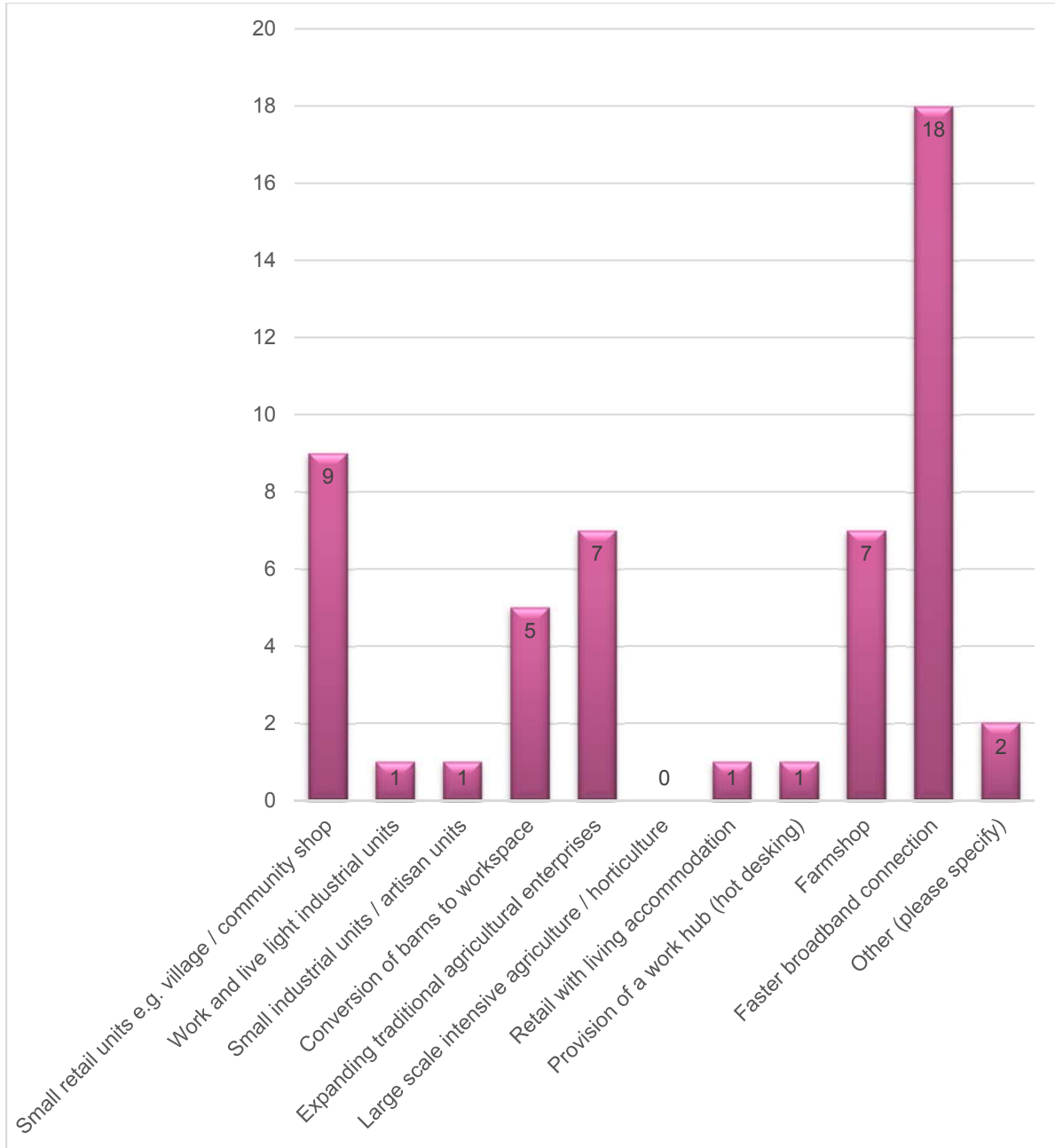
**Would you be interested in using a local 'hot desk' facility (i.e. fully equipped local office space available for rent on a weekly, daily or hourly rate)?**

There were 20 responses to this question.



**Would you welcome any of the following to support local employment opportunities?**

There were 22 responses to this question.

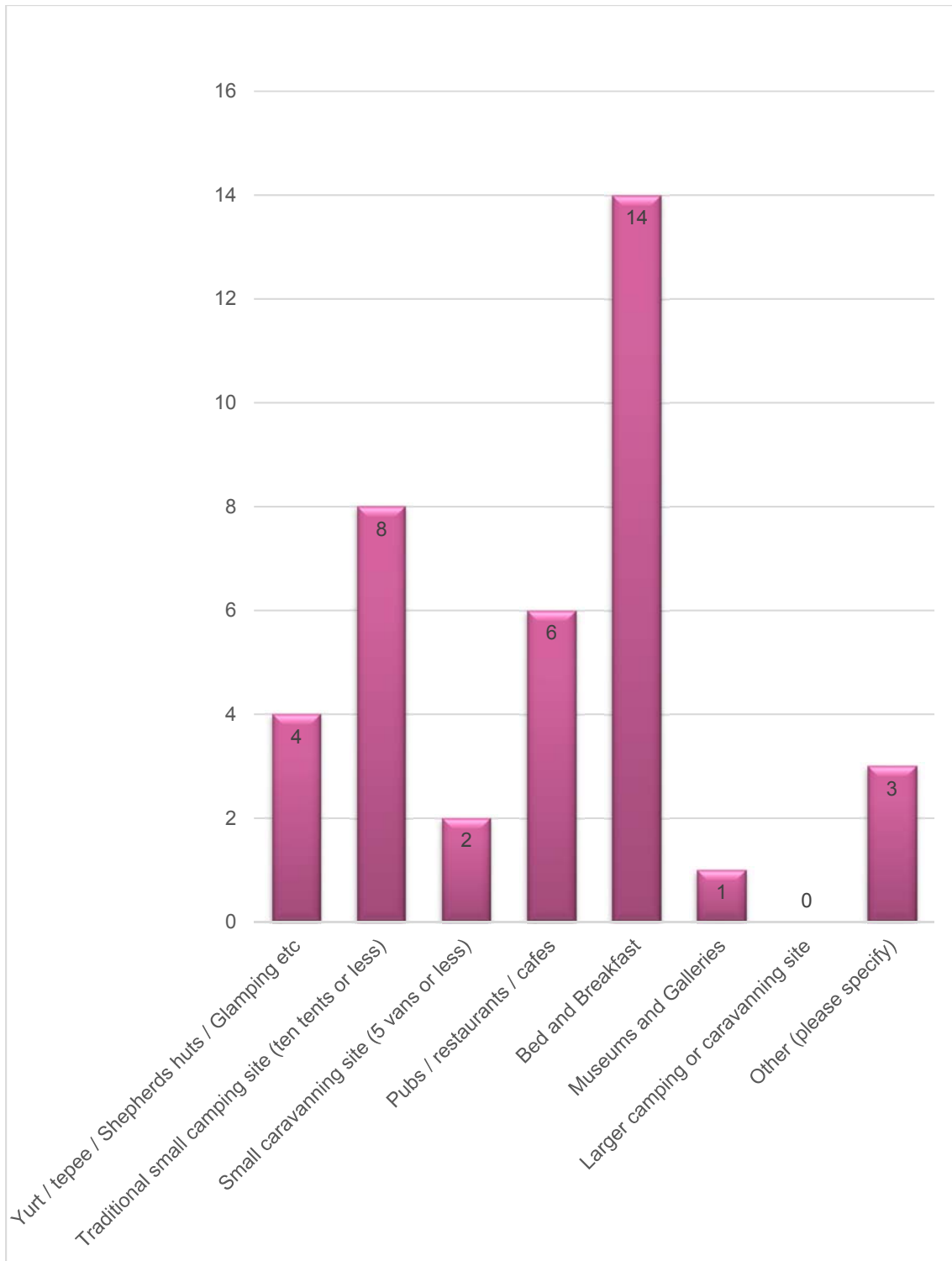


There were TWO text-based suggestions given in the OTHER section.

1. Organic farming practices including organic farm shop
2. A community owned 'hub in the pub' would be an ideal solution

**What, if any, forms of tourism related building or land use would you welcome?**

There were 21 responses to this question.



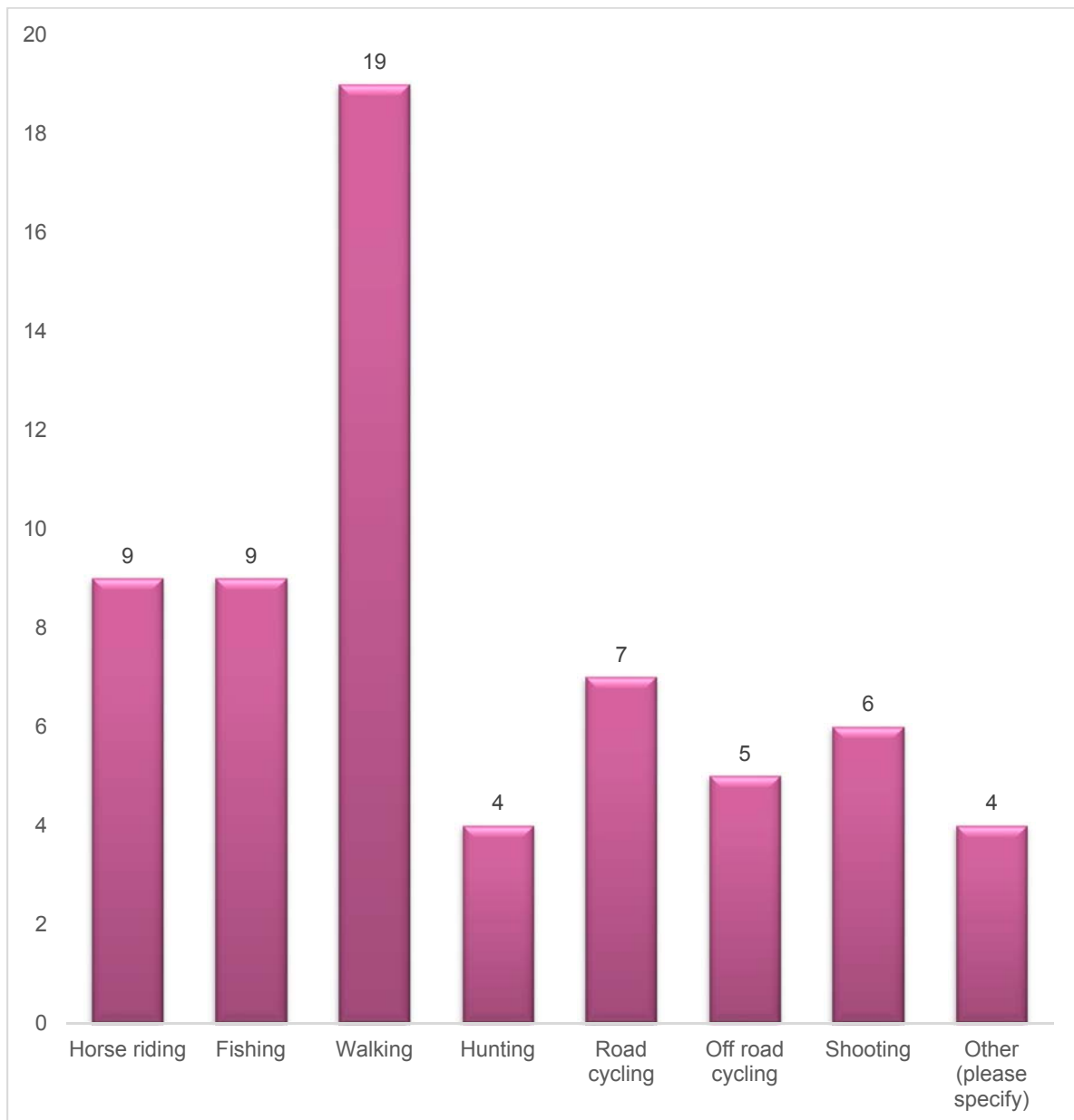
There were two 'None of the above' responses in the OTHER category, as well as the following comment:

- The existing pub and nature reserve is enough for the area



**What, if any, forms of tourism related building or land use would you welcome?**

There were 21 responses to this question.



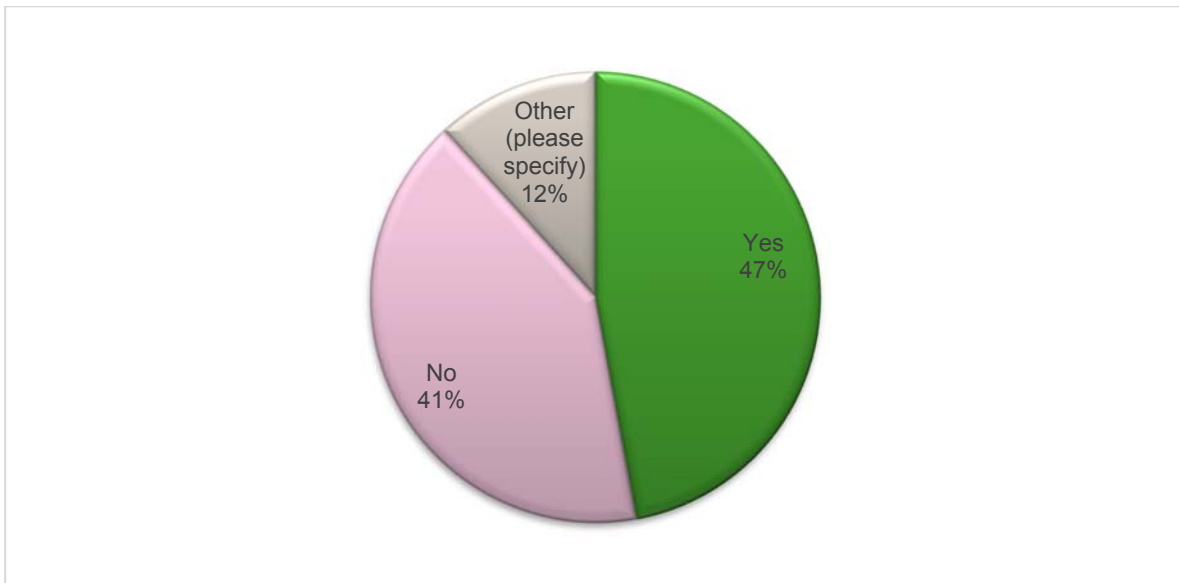
There were TWO comments in the OTHER section

- We already have all of these. The newly proposed Tarka trail link needs to go through
- Traditional farm skills, e.g. hedge laying. Beekeeping. Wild swimming. Wildlife watching.

**Do you feel there are important assets in our parish we should preserve (e.g. Pub, Village Hall, Meeth Halt, Parish Pump)?**

Twenty-three respondents unanimously said YES to the preservation of the above assets.

**A follow-up question asked ‘As a means of achieving this would you support a community interest company to preserve these?’**



There were TWO comments in the OTHER section

- Solar panel community initiative to generate income
- I would need to know what this would involve i.e. cost in time and money

**If yes, what would you like to see preserved?**

There were 23 responses to this question.

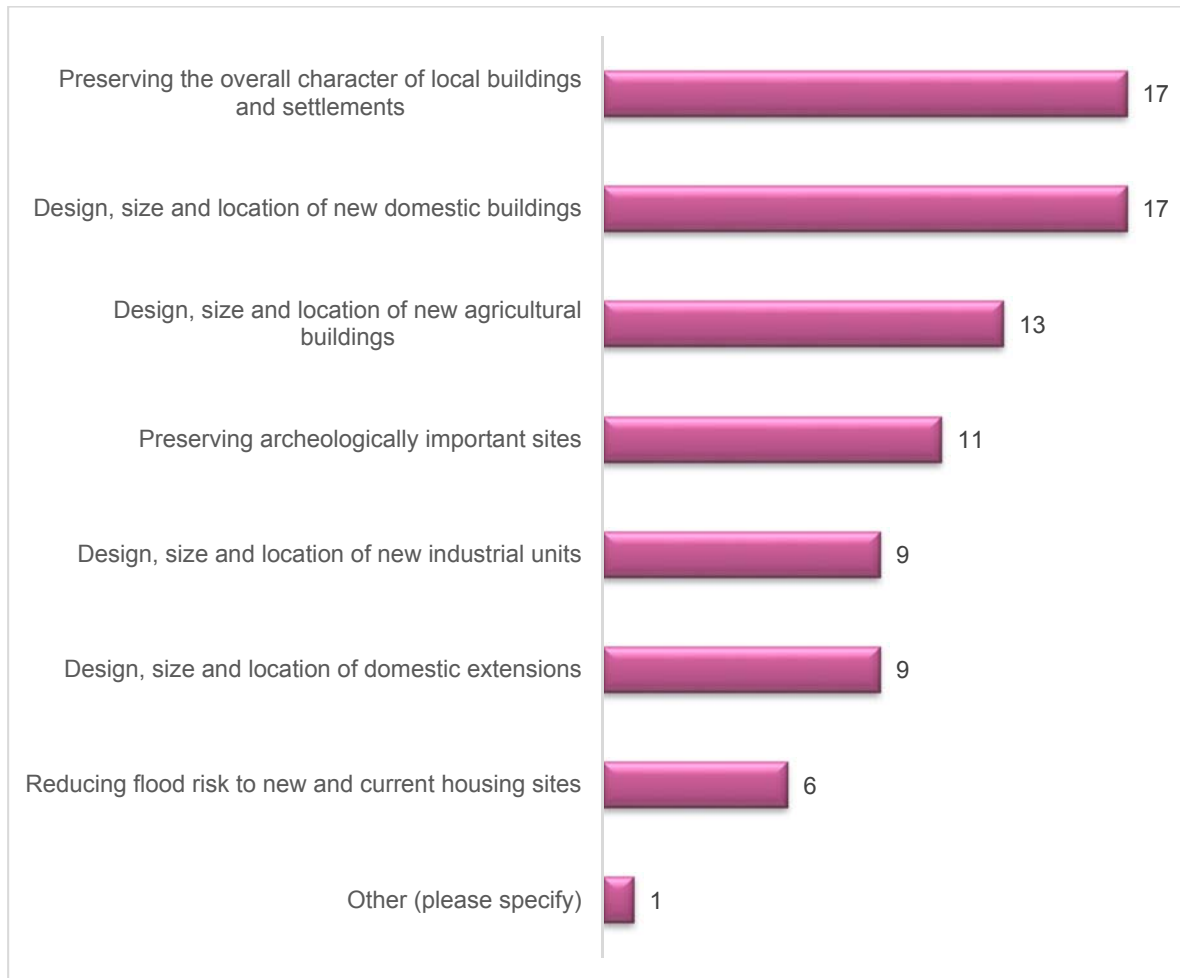
all the above
village hall, bus stop, notice board and bring the post office back
Pump house, Meeth halt, village hall
pub, parish pump
Meeth halt, village hall, need a shop not a pub
All of them, especially the public house
Pub, village hall, parish pump
Village hall, parish pump, pub, Meeth halt
all
Meeth halt, pub, village hall
all of the above
Meeth halt railway history + access for Tarka trail + DWT nature reserve
all the above
all the above

pub, village hall, Meeth hall
village hall, pub
Village Hall
Village hall
village hall
all of the above and village stocks
Pub, church, merge village hall with pub.
Pub, church, merge village hall with pub.
Pub, village hall, parish pump

## BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

### What priorities do you think our Parish Neighbourhood Plan should focus on?

There were 21 responses to this question.



There was ONE comment in the OTHER section

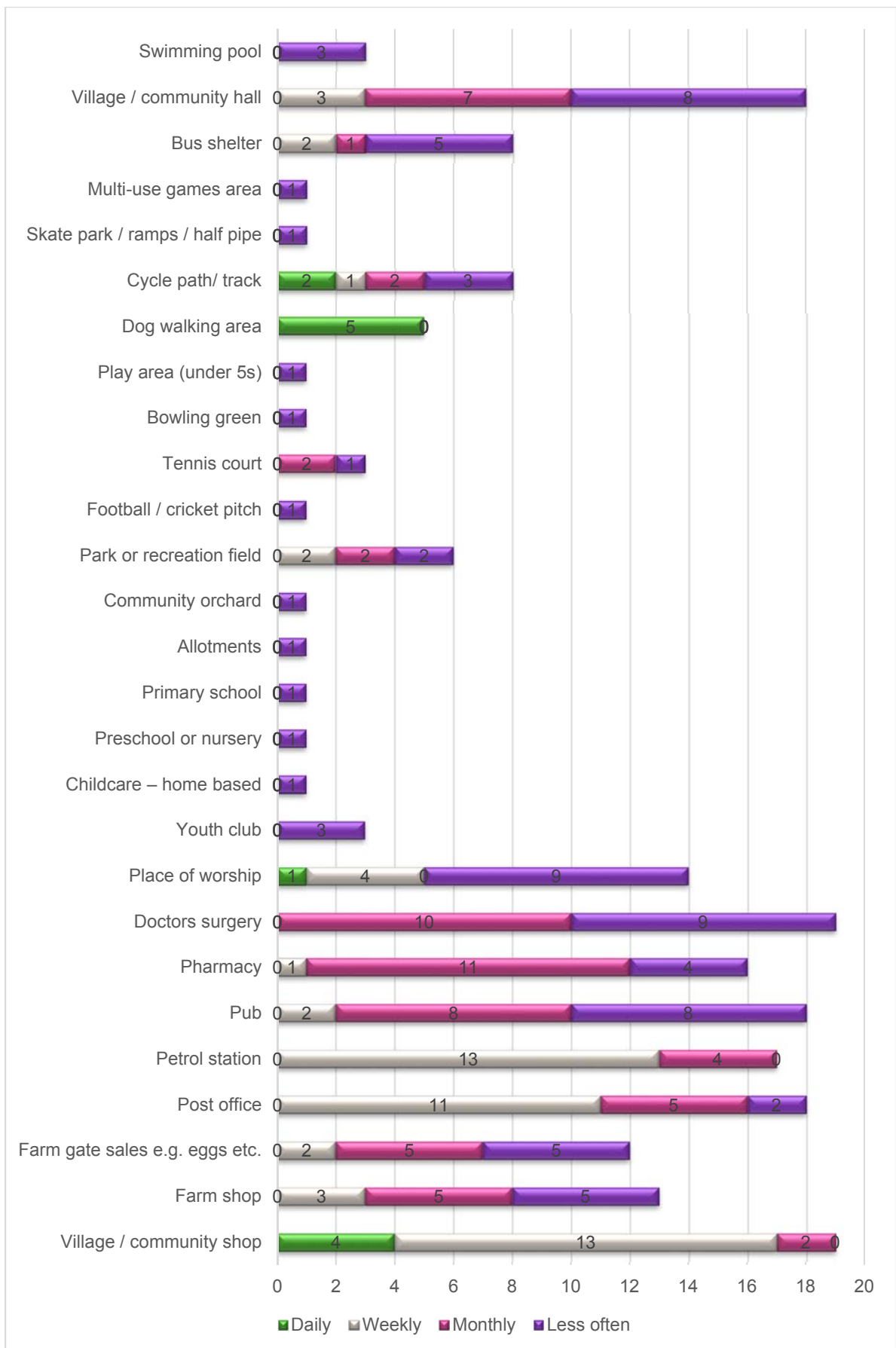
- Conversion of redundant farm buildings instead of building new dwellings

## SOCIETY, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

There are times when we need to travel further afield to access other services or facilities outside our parish. The next two questions address what these other local amenities might be, and how far we travel to use them. The third question considers if these amenities are not available within our parish, would you like them to be.

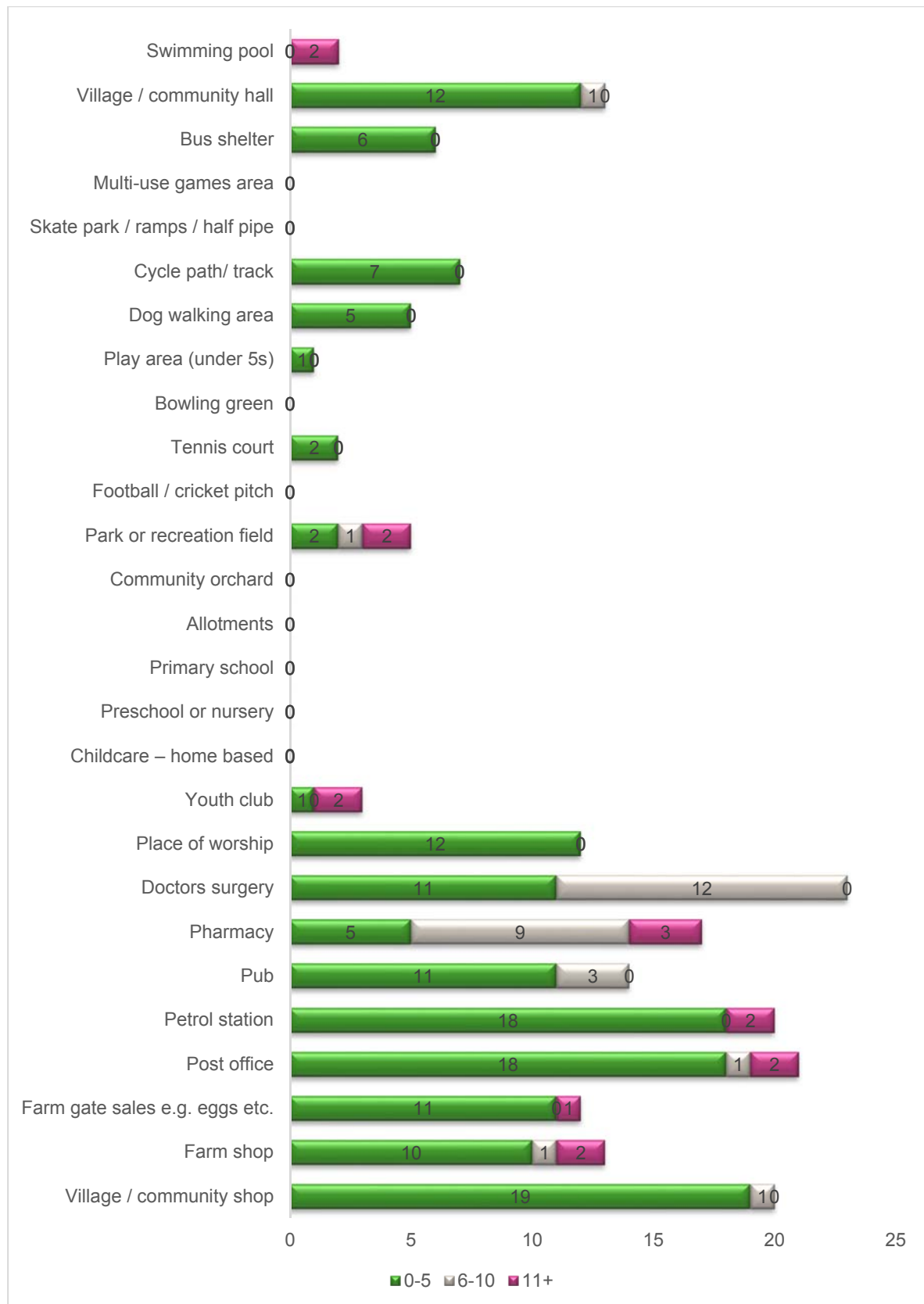
**How often do you use any of the listed amenities? If you never use the amenity listed please leave the row blank.**

There were 23 responses to this question.



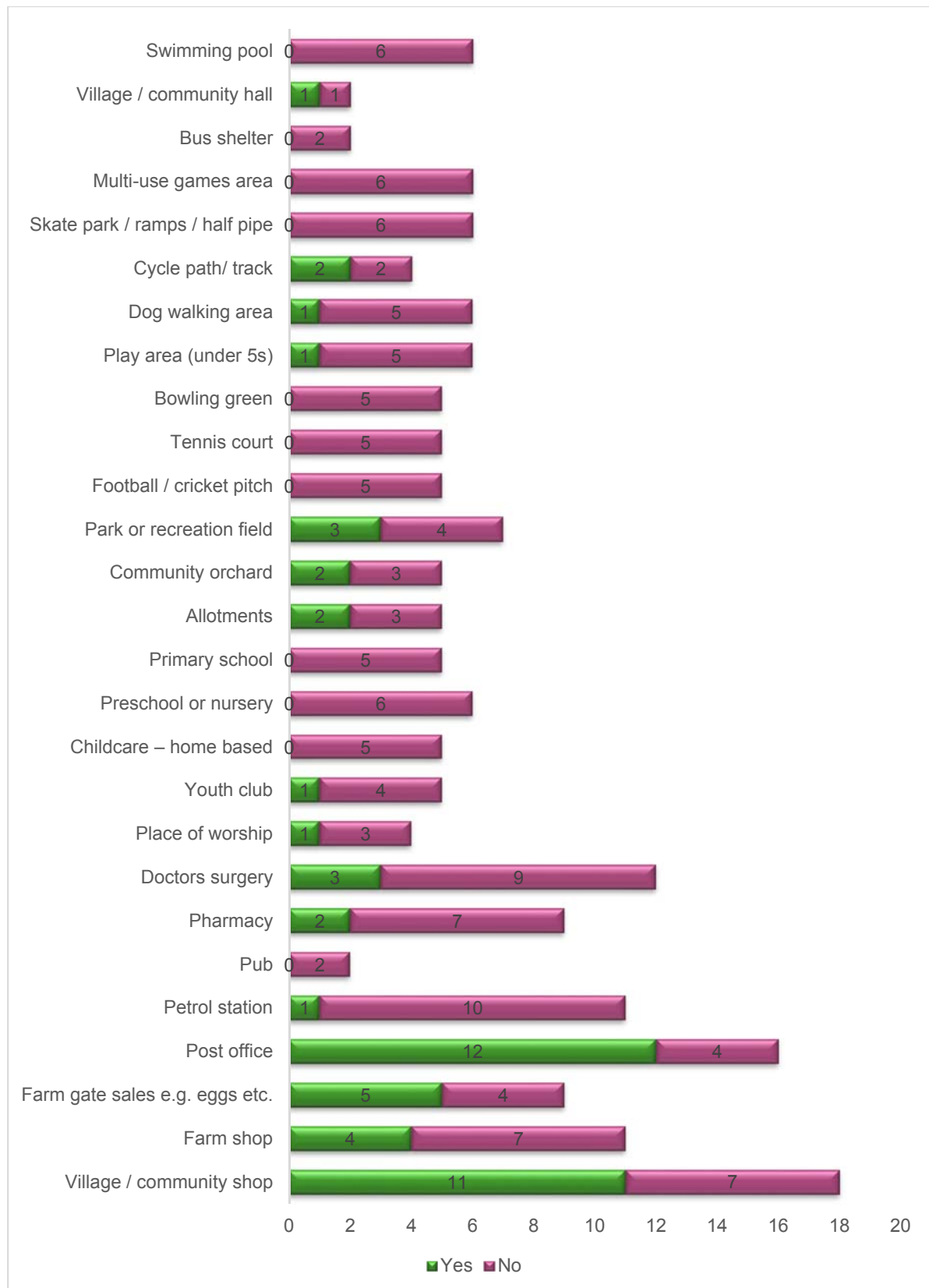
## How far do you travel to access these amenities? (Approximately in miles.)

There were 24 responses to this question.



**If this amenity is not available in our parish, do you think there is a need for it?**

There were 18 responses to this question.

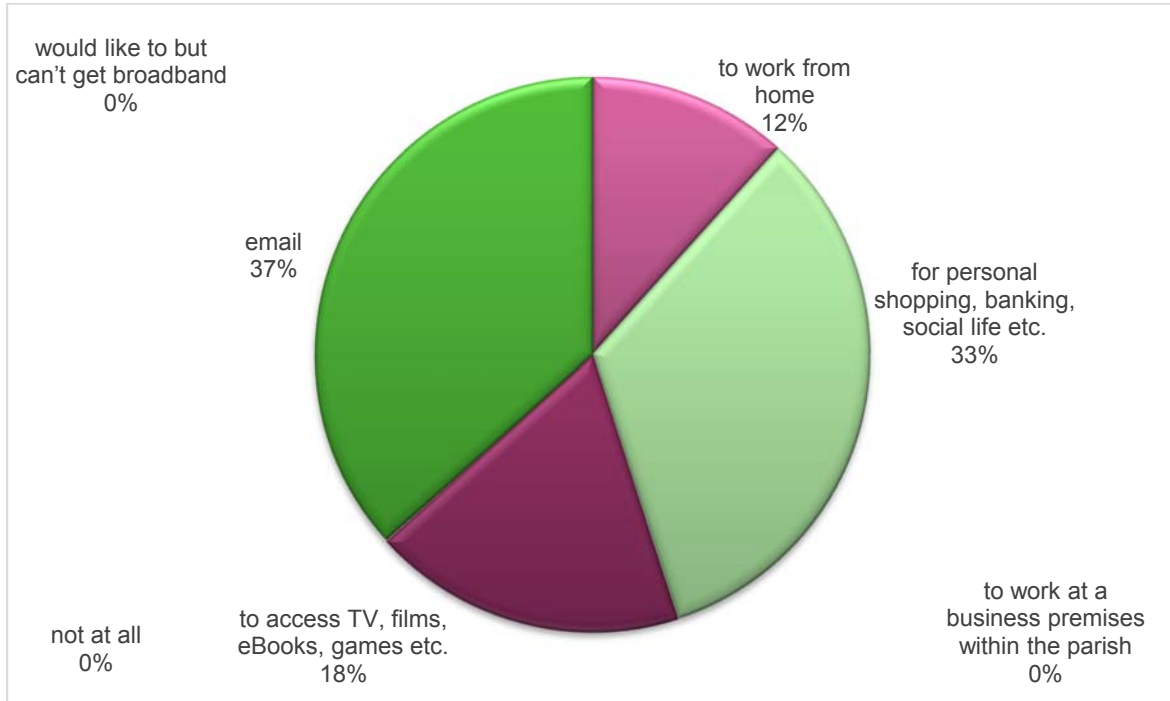




## TECHNOLOGY

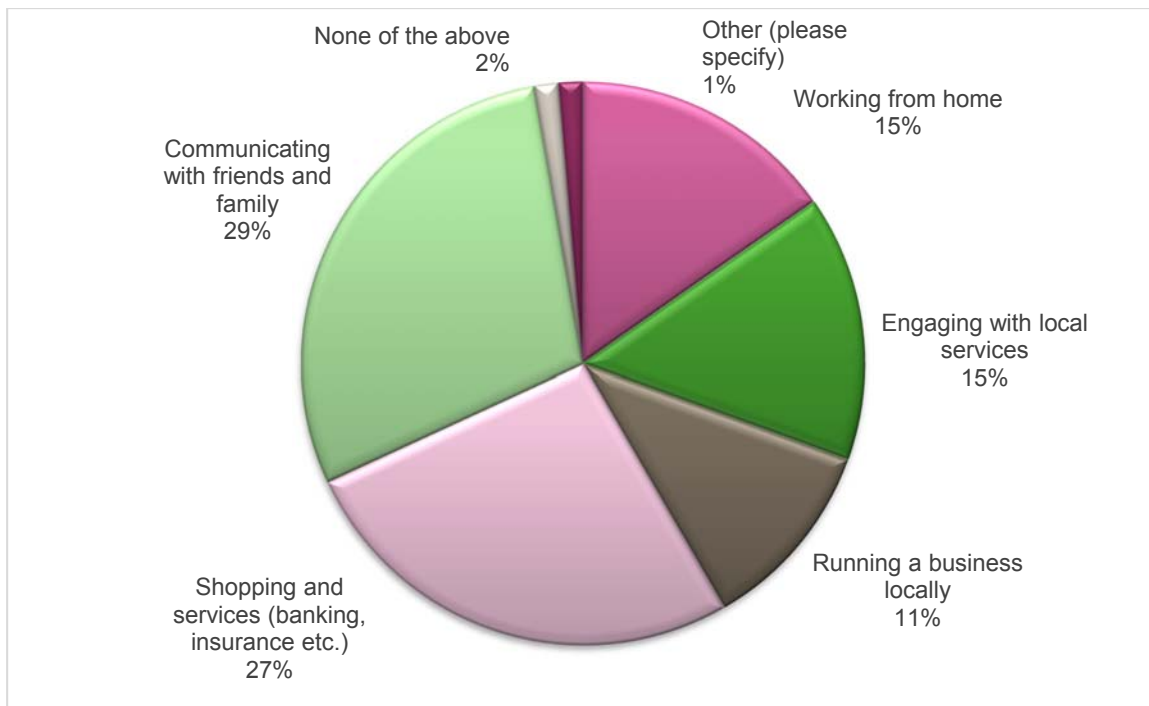
### Do you use broadband for internet access?

There were 24 responses to this question.



### Do you think the internet adds new possibilities to rural living for you in terms of?

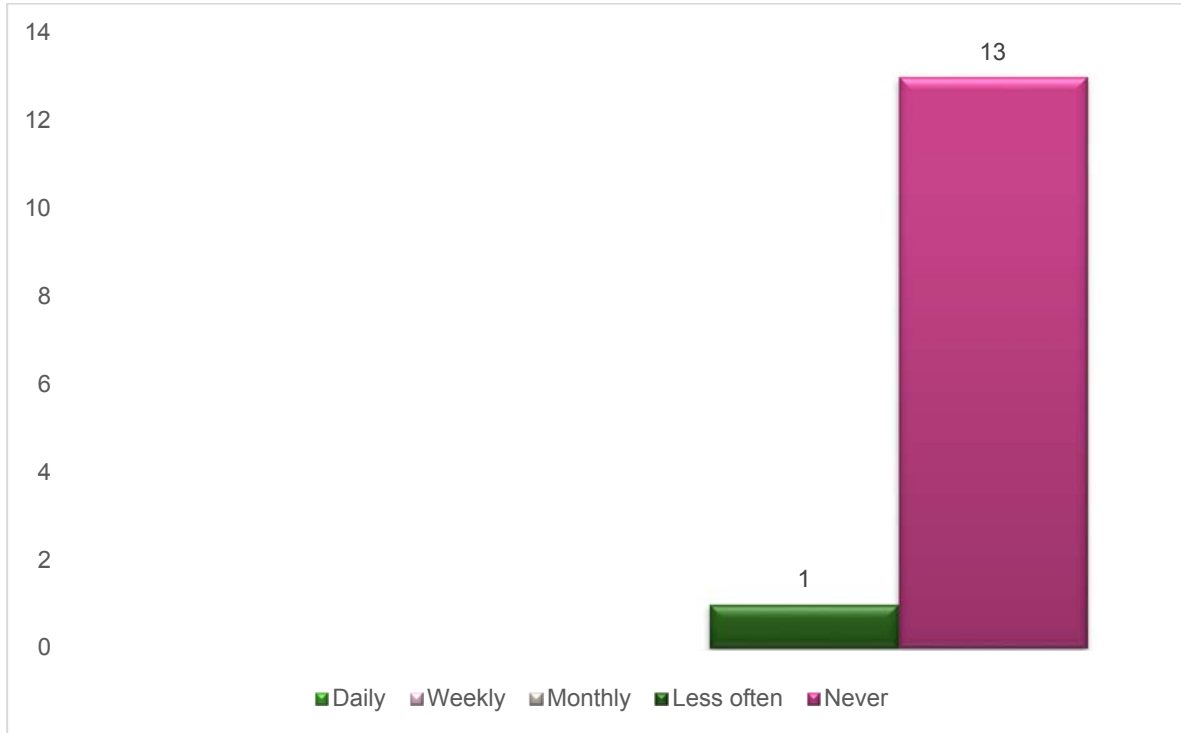
There were 24 responses to this question.



## TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

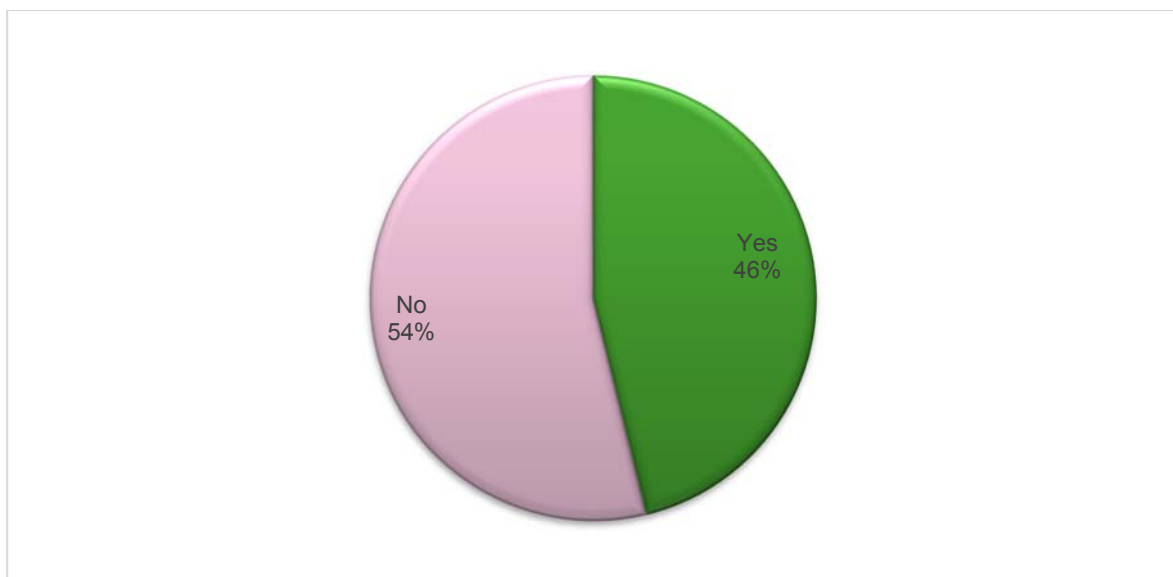
### Do you cycle or walk to work?

There were 14 responses to this question.



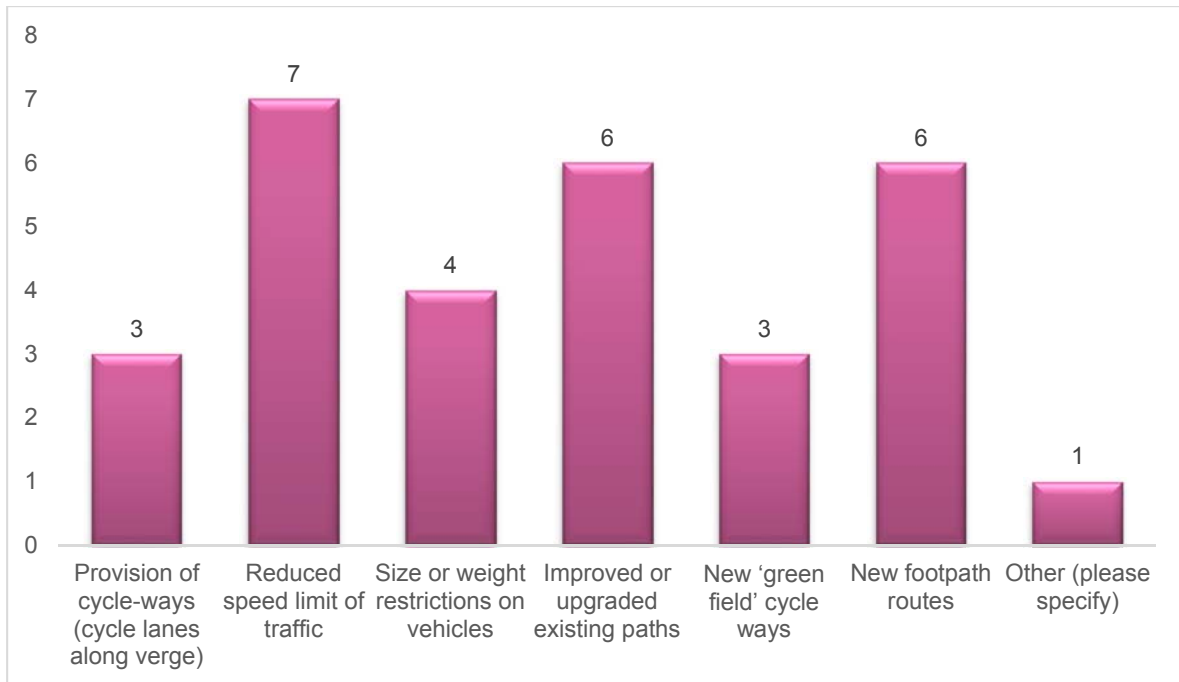
### If less often or never would you like to cycle or walk to work?

There were 13 responses to this question.



**... and if yes, would you like to see?**

There were 8 responses to this question.

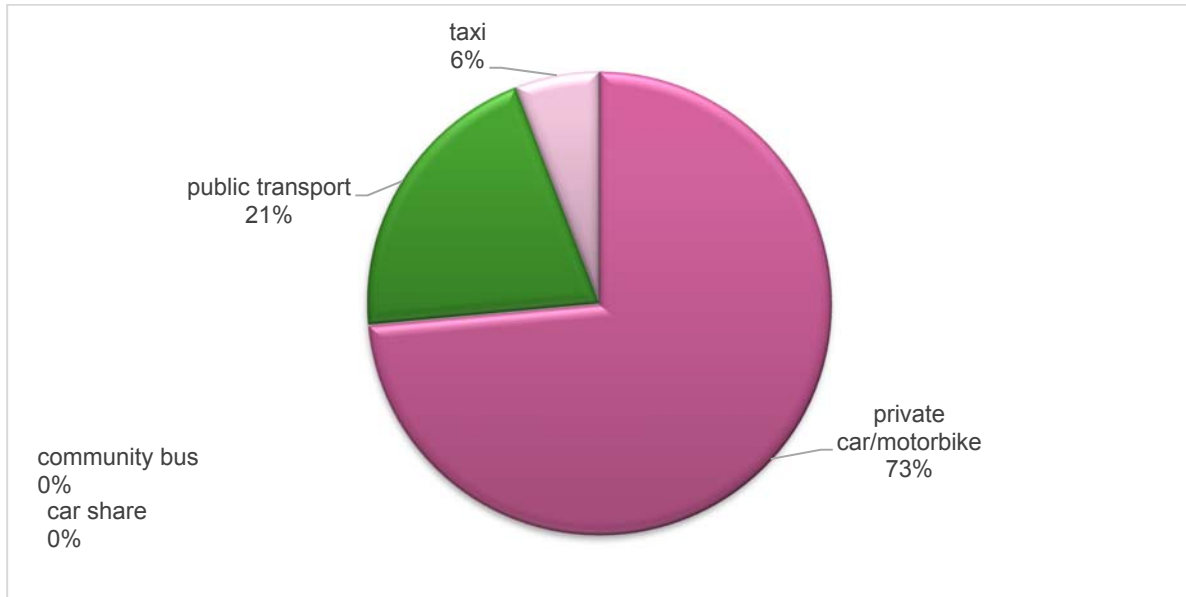


There was ONE comment in the OTHER section

- The newly proposed Tarka Trail link needs to be supported and completed as soon as possible.

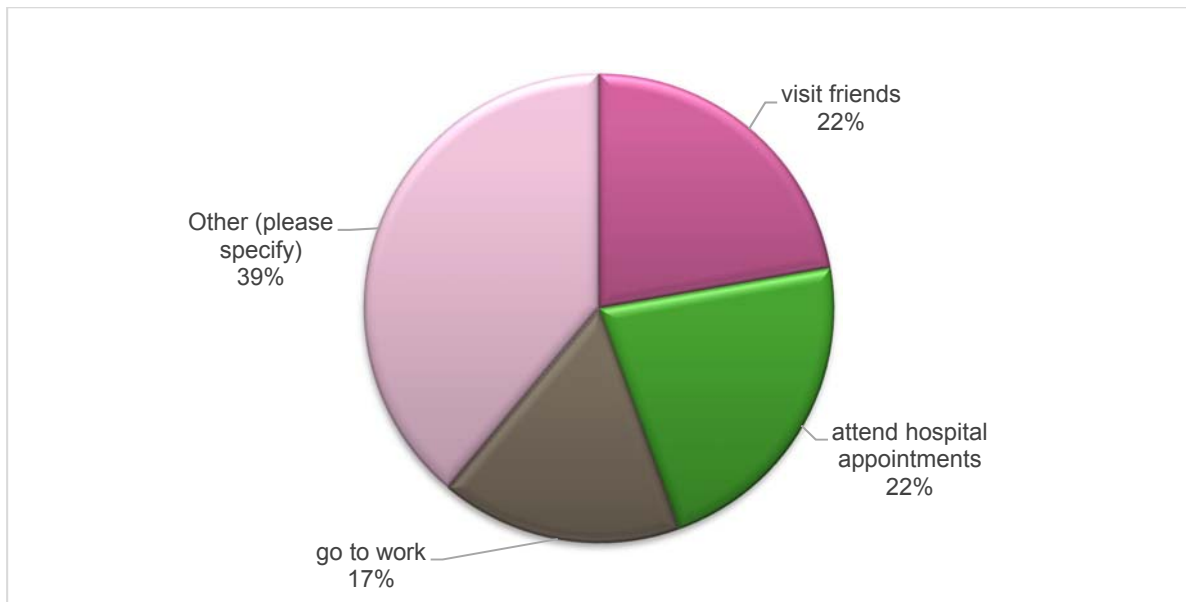
**When travelling further afield to access other services or facilities outside our parish, which of the following methods of transport do you use?**

There were 25 responses to this question.



**Has a lack of public transport prevented you from travelling outside the parish to?**

There were 9 responses to this question.



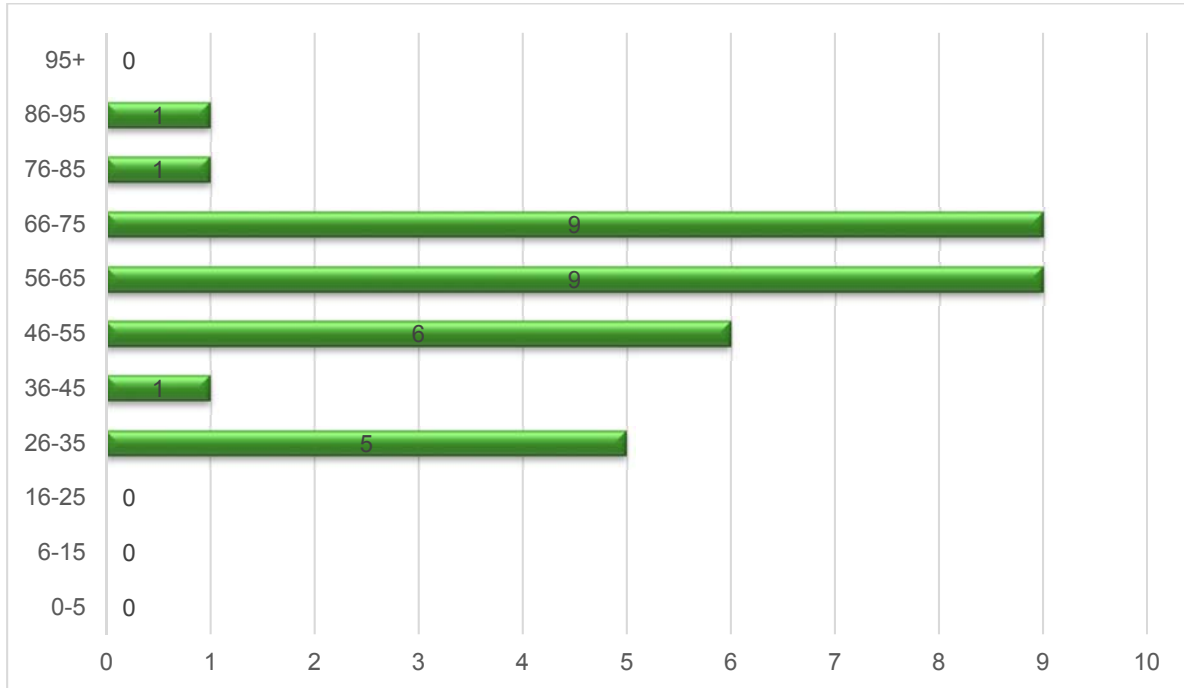
There were a number of comments in the OTHER section. Ignoring the simple 'No' response, there were THREE other text-based comments.

- We have our own transport to do all of this!
- Drs appointments, pharmacy dentist
- Lack of Sunday and evening services

## PERSONAL SITUATION

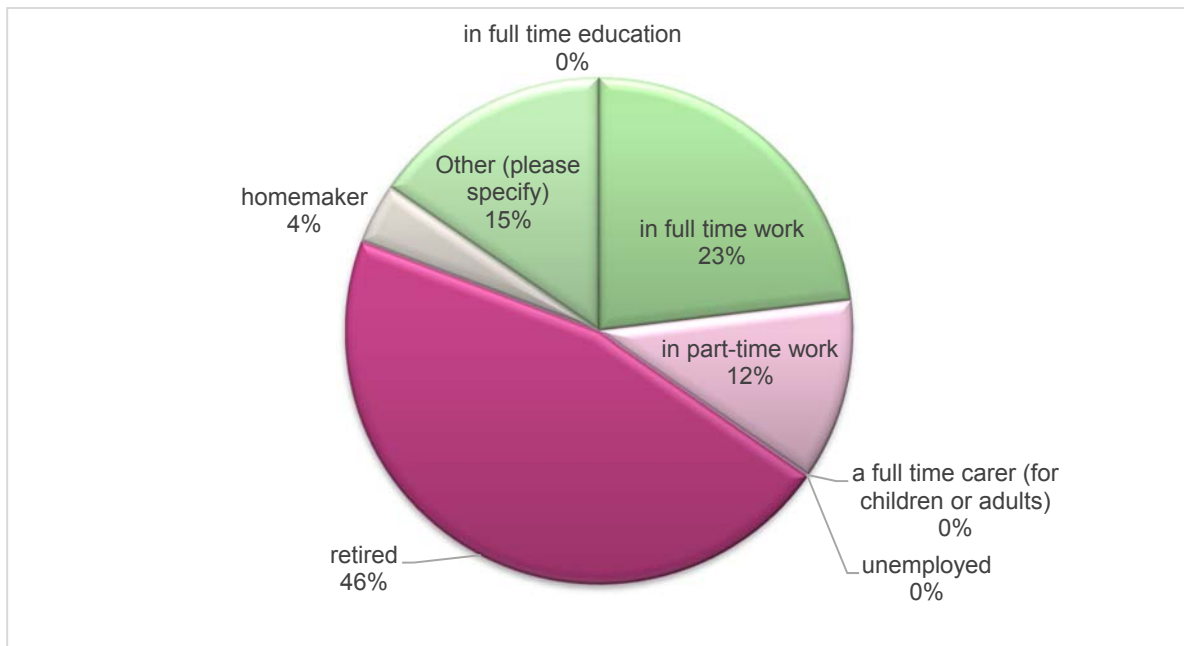
**Which age group are you and other members of your household in?**

There were 24 responses to this question.



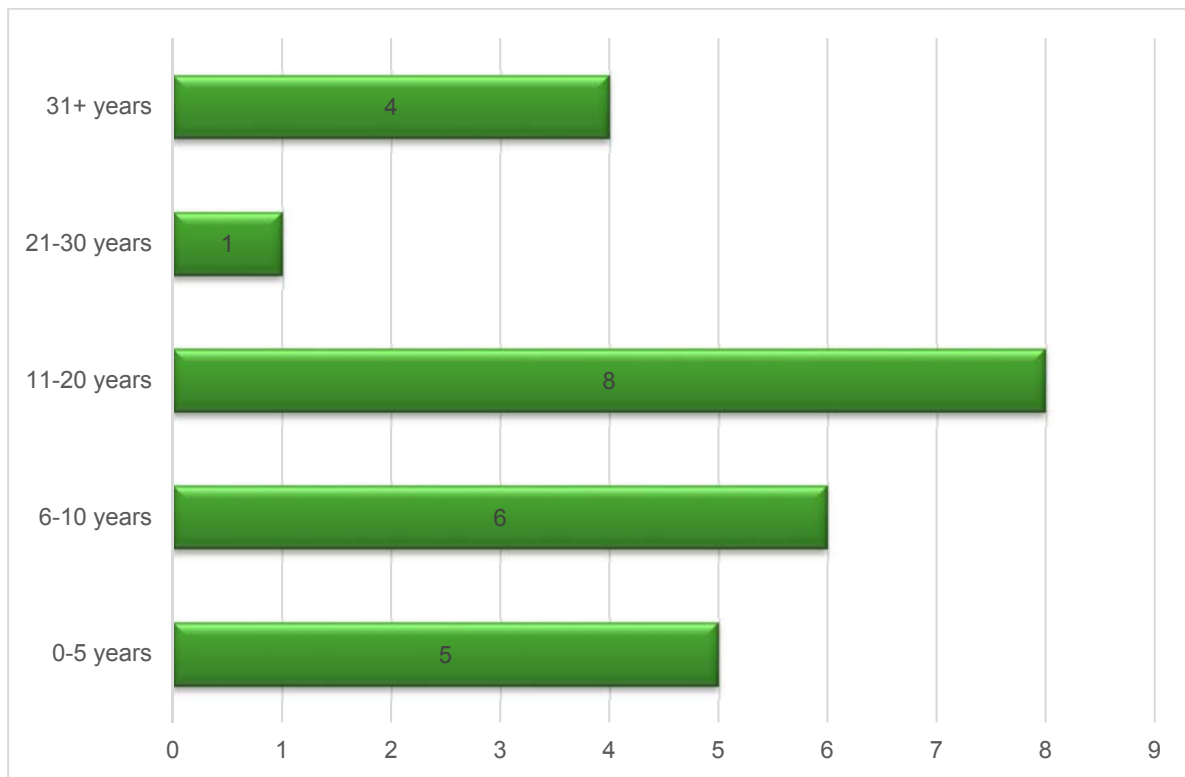
**Are you...**

There were 21 responses to this question.



### How long have you lived in the parish?

There were 24 responses to this question.



END OF SURVEY