

CROWHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Survey Results
September 2016



CROWHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

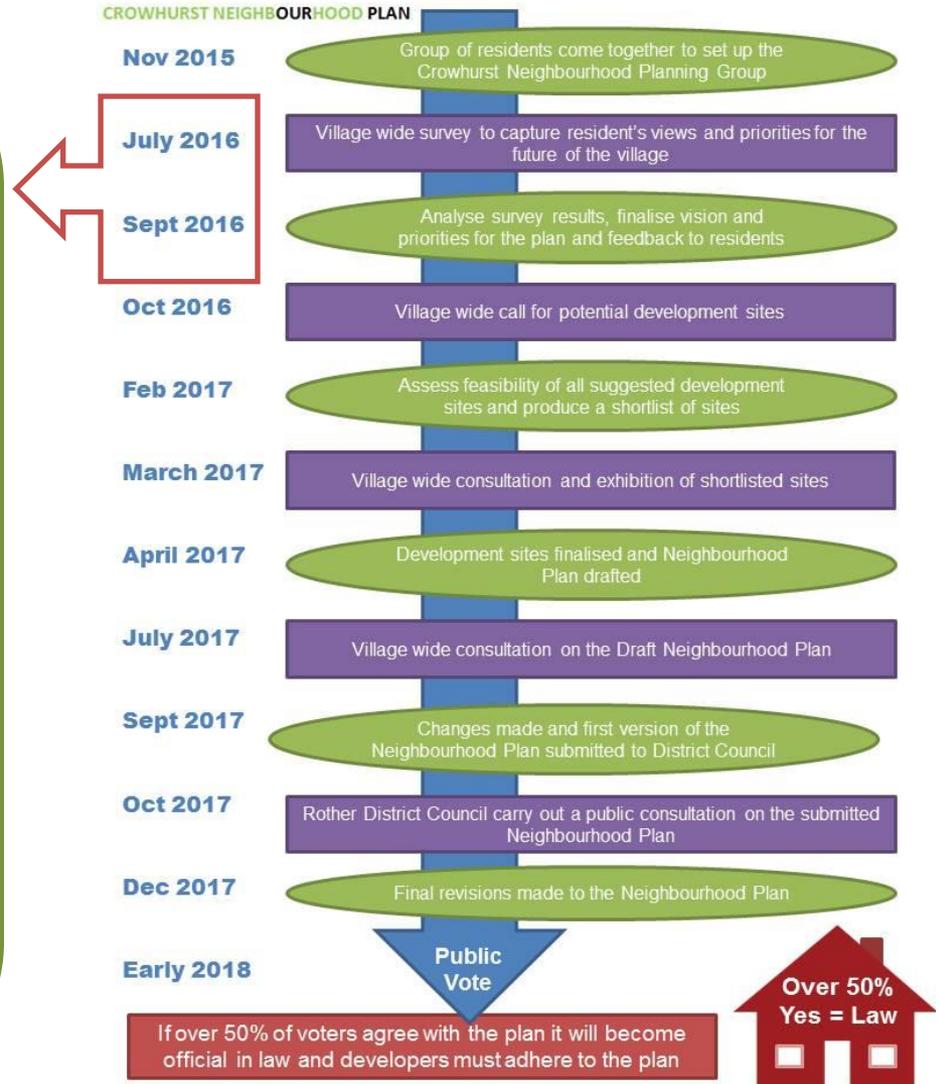
-Your Vision our Future -

Background and Purpose

Rother District Council have said that Crowhurst must have at least 20 new homes to meet future housing demand.

Residents of Crowhurst have formed a Neighbourhood Planning Group so that we can decide where these new homes should go and what type and style of home they should be. The plan also gives us an opportunity to set out what sorts of facilities we need and the ways we can help to protect the countryside and build community spirit.

One of the first tasks of the Neighbourhood Planning Group has been to carry out a village wide survey to capture residents' views of living in Crowhurst and ask them about their priorities for the future of the village.



CROWHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

-Your Vision our Future -

Methodology and Results

A group of volunteers from Crowhurst compiled the survey which includes 9 sections:

1. Views of Crowhurst
2. Getting About
3. Housing
4. Environment
5. Health and wellbeing
6. Education
7. Community life
8. Business
9. Our vision

Street Champions were appointed for each street in the village to deliver paper copies of the survey to every household. The survey was also available to complete on line via the Crowhurst Neighbourhood Plan website.

Completed paper surveys were either collected in person by the Street Champions or returned directly by respondents at the Village Fayre.

The survey opened on 23rd July 2016 and closed on the 5th Sept 2016. We received a total of 400 completed surveys (351 paper and 49 directly online). This is a high response rate of 55%*.

Not everyone answered every question and so the results are based on the number of responses to each question, shown in brackets on the charts after the question i.e. (395).

Where percentages do not add up to 100% this is due to rounding up/down to the nearest percentage.

Respondents comments have been themed and summarised for this report.

The profile of respondents to this survey is included at the end of the report and should be considered when interpreting the results.

Key Findings

Views of Crowhurst

- Nearly all respondents (96%) feel that Crowhurst is a good and safe place to live.
- Whilst almost everyone (98%) is satisfied with access to greenspaces and country side, less are satisfied with access to health care (63%), education (56%) and sports facilities (56%). Over a third (39%) are dissatisfied with access to public transport.
- The community, the countryside, peacefulness and rural character are some of the best things about living in the village.
- The lack of shop or post office followed by the speed that traffic drives through the village and the lack of public transport are some of the worst things.

Getting About

- The vast majority of respondents (91%) drive to get around and in and out of the village.
- Just over half (57%) of all respondents think the roads in the village are safe for drivers.
- The roads are felt to be unsafe for all other road users, this is especially the case for children walking and cyclists.
- 29% think that lower speed limits would most improve road safety and a similar number (28%) think that more pavements would improve safety the most.
- When thinking about the future of the village two thirds of respondents (66%) feel a regular and reliable train service is very important, followed by improved pavements and footpaths.

Key Findings

Housing

- Residents feel families are most in need of new housing (70%). The type of homes thought to be most needed are affordable starter homes (76%). As for the style of housing, semi-detached came out top (63%).
- The look of the new homes from the surrounding countryside is felt to be important, followed by the style of the homes being sympathetic /in keeping with the style of existing surrounding homes and that the homes are well integrated and linked to the village.
- In terms of infrastructure electricity and parking facilities are thought to be equally as important.
- There were 283 suggestions for where new homes could go in the village and from these 27 areas have been identified.

Environment

- 91% of respondents feel that having green spaces and woodland areas within the village that are not for development is very important
- Maintaining the views of the countryside, maintaining the rural and farming character of the village and protecting the village boundaries against urban spread from surrounding towns are all felt to be very important (85%).
- Reducing litter and fly tipping is felt to be the most important environmental improvement.

Key Findings

Health and wellbeing

- 93% feel neighbourliness and companionship is important for future health and wellbeing in the village.
- 76% think having access to a doctor in the village is important and 71% feel having access to exercise and fitness activities and facilities in the village is important.

Community Facilities and Activities

- The village hall (94%), recreation ground and pavilion (92%), pub (89%) and a village shop (84%) are felt to be the most important facilities for the future of the village.
- 93% think that village events, festivals and fayres are important for the future of the village, 82% think clubs, groups and activities for older people are important and 79% think activities for young people are important.

Education

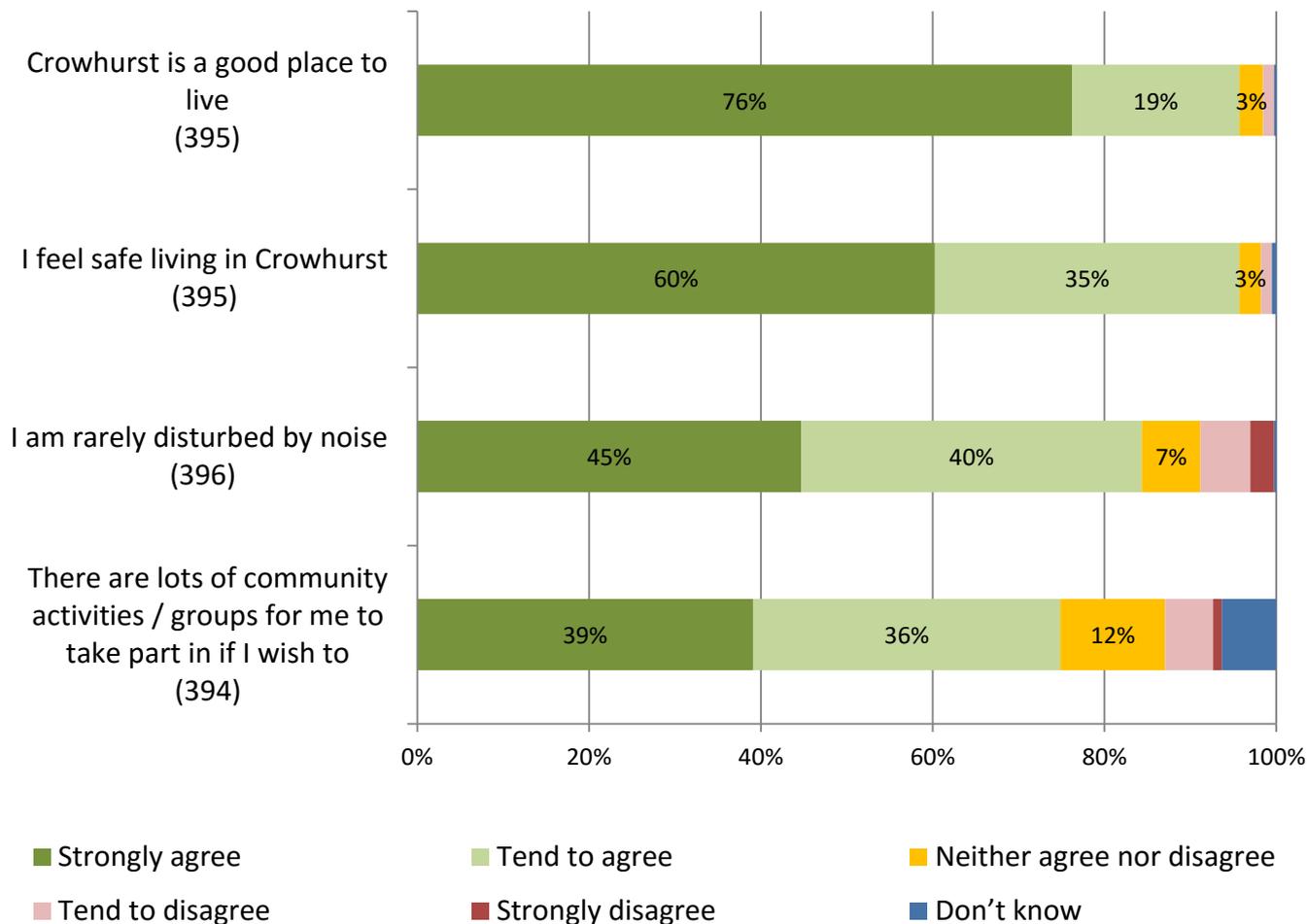
- For the future of education 60% feel the village primary school is very important.
- 40% think that groups, facilities and educational activities for young people are very important and the same amount feel pre-school groups, activities and facilities are very important.

The Neighbourhood Plan Vision

- 98% of all respondents said they agreed with the Neighbourhood Plan's Vision
- However many feel it will be difficult to balance the new homes and increased infrastructure while at the same time maintaining the village's rural character and protecting the countryside.

Positive feelings about the Village

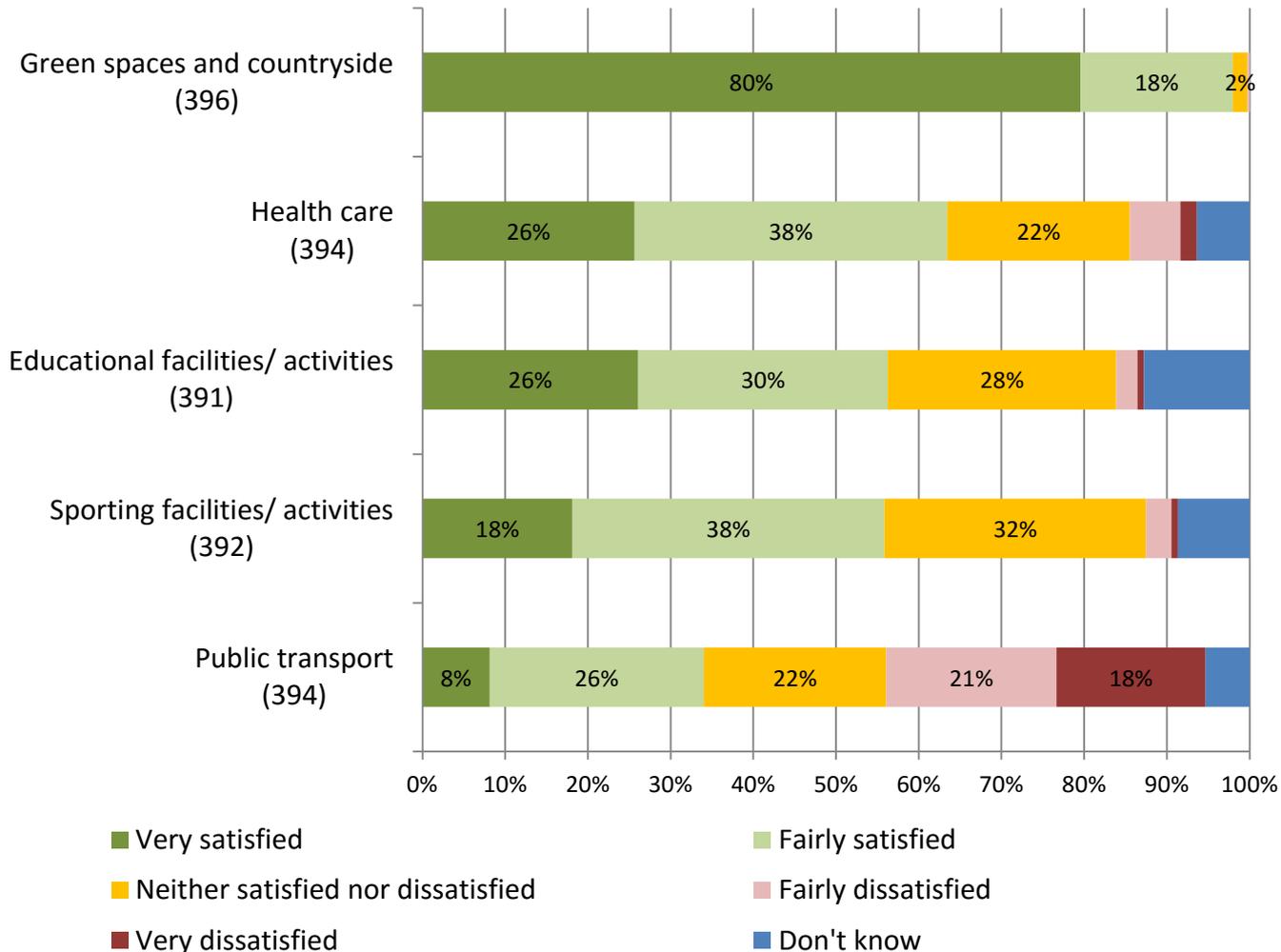
Q1. Thinking about the village as it is now please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



- Nearly all respondents (96%) feel that Crowhurst is a good place to live and feel safe living in Crowhurst.
- The vast majority agree (45% strongly agree and 40% tend to agree) that they are rarely disturbed by noise.
- Three quarters (75%) of respondents feel there are lots of community groups and activities for them to get involved in.

Dissatisfaction with public transport

Q2. Thinking about the village as it is now please tell us how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with access to the following?



- Whilst nearly all respondents (98%) are satisfied with access to greenspaces and countryside less are satisfied with access to services such as:
 - Health care (63% satisfied)
 - Education (56% satisfied)
 - Sports (56% satisfied)
- Just a third (34%) are satisfied with access to public transport while over a third (39%) are dissatisfied

Best Things

Q3. What do you feel is the best thing about living in Crowhurst? (371 responses)	Number of mentions
The community / the people/ neighbourliness	176
The countryside and green spaces	136
Tranquil / quiet / peacefulness	95
Rural location/ rural character	59
Good access to towns	49
Activities / facilities	26
Feeling safe	22
Beautiful	19
Railway station	14
Environment - Fresh air/ No light pollution/ clean	14
Access to the sea	8
Other	24

“Community spirit and nice to have young people with families”

“Green surroundings space, quiet, fresh air, trees”

“A marvellous rural environment with nearby towns easily accessible”

“Lovely and peaceful, very friendly. Just a great place for my family to live”

Worst Things

Q4. What do you feel is the worst thing about living in Crowhurst? (362 responses)	Number of mentions
Not having a shop/ post office	99
Speed of traffic	74
Lack public transport	66
Amount/ noise of traffic	38
No pavements or footpaths	35
Hedges/ verges not cut/ pot holes in road/ bad surface	27
Parking on the roads/ having no where to park	23
Fear of new developments/ new housing/ urbanisation	20
No mains drainage/ gas supply	15
Clicky people/ bad neighbours	13
Narrow lanes	13
Reliance on cars	11
Isolation / cut off/ too remote	9
Lack of housing	6
Lack of broadband / mobile reception	6
Link road	6
Lack of things to do / opportunities for young people	5
New people wanting change	4
No streetlights	4
Reduced/ delayed trains	4
Other	36

“No local shop / post office. People parking in Station road instead of using station car park blocking local home owners use ”

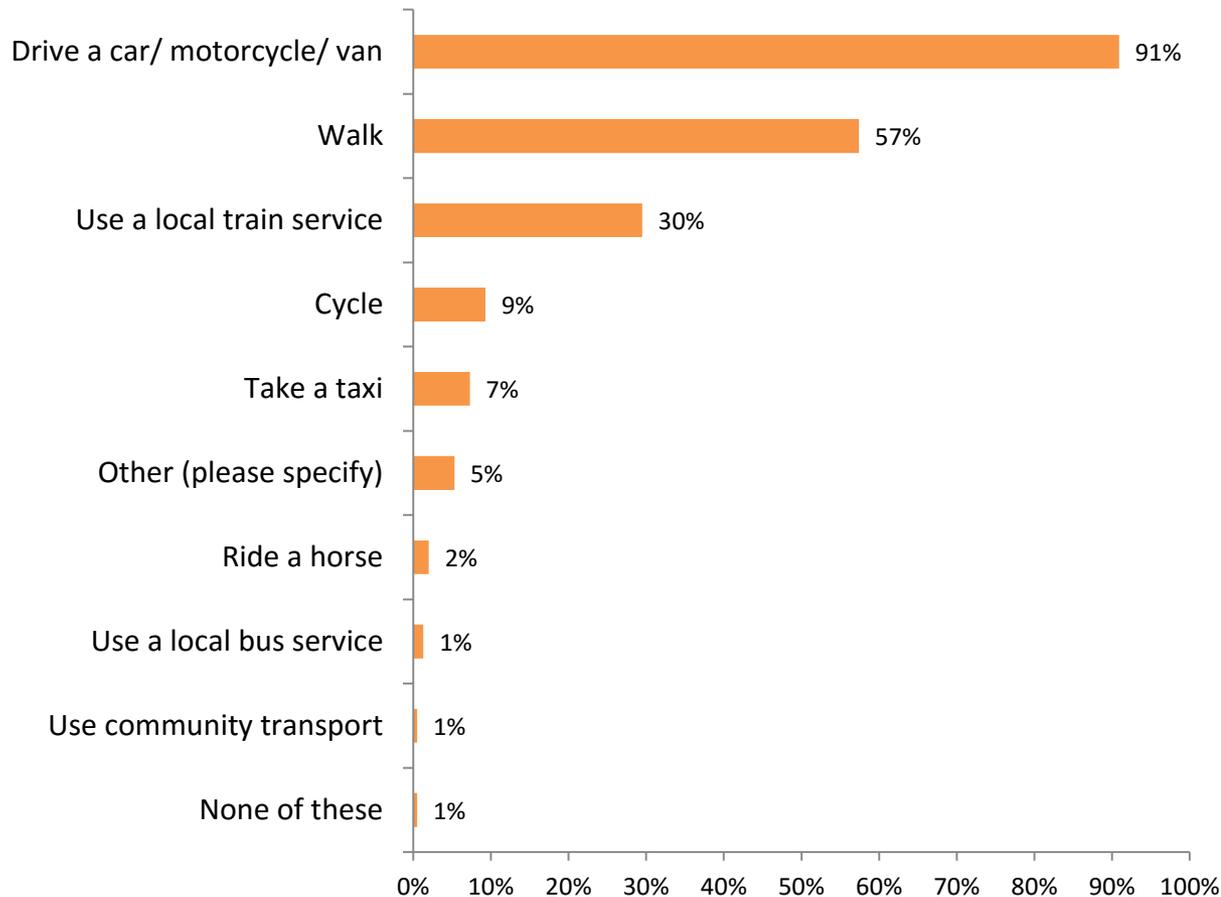
“I am quite new here. I can't really fault it - OK so if I have to - taxis and boy racers speeding in the middle of country roads”

“Up keep of roads and pavements, drain and hedge maintenance is very limited. Grass cutting is better but could be more regular”

Nearly all respondents drive around the village

Q5. Which of the following do you do regularly to get around/ in / out of the village? By regularly we mean at least once a week.

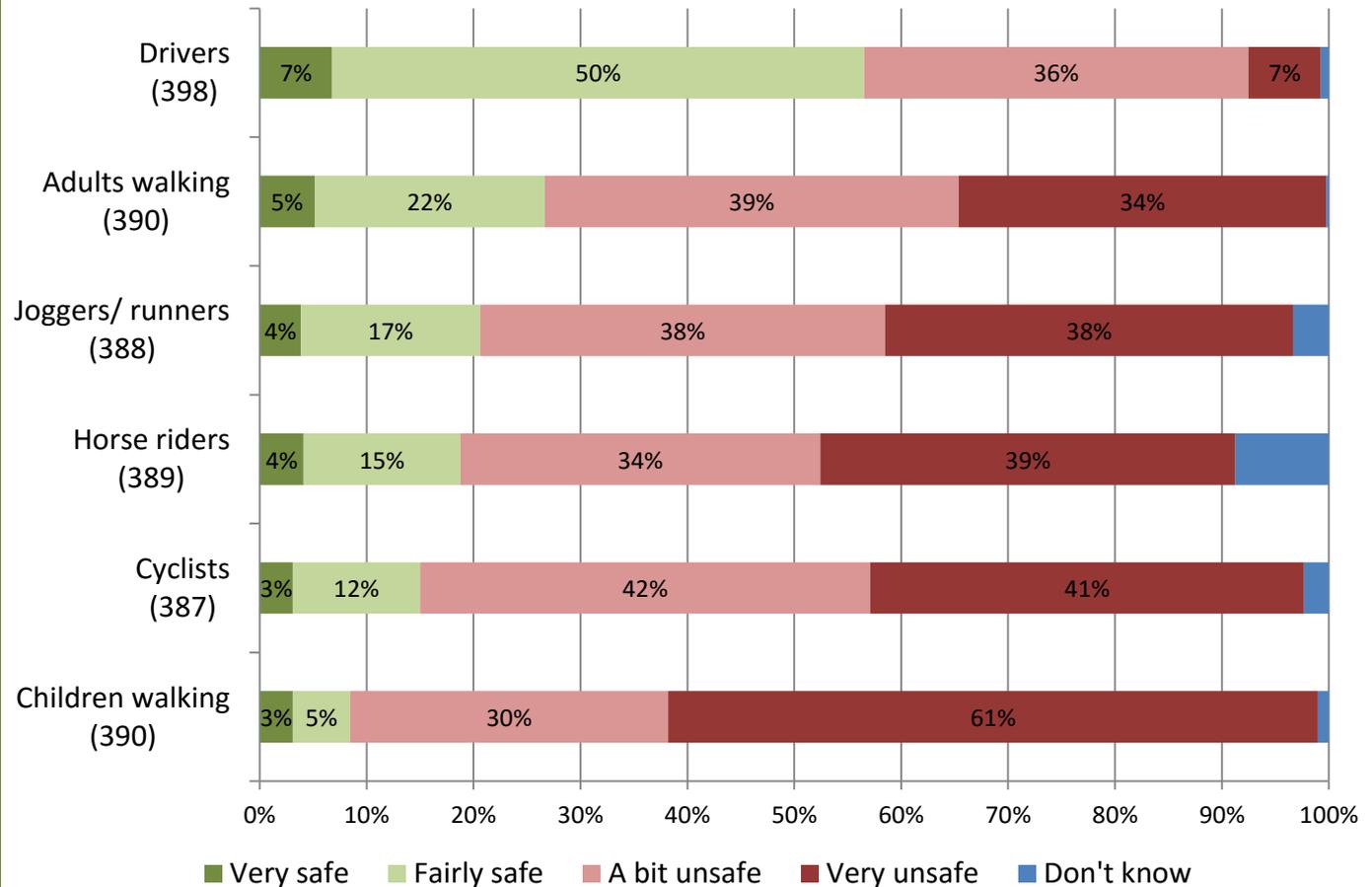
Please tick as many as apply (397)



- The vast majority of respondents (91%) drive to get around and in and out of the village, unsurprising given the lack of public transport. This high level of driving no doubt plays a part in causing the amount of traffic, lack of parking etc. to be noted as some of the worst things about the village.
- Over half (57%) of all respondents say they walk through the village regularly and just under one in three (30%) travel by train.
- Just 9% cycle to get around.

The roads in Crowhurst are felt to be unsafe

Q6. How safe do you think the roads in Crowhurst are for the following road users?

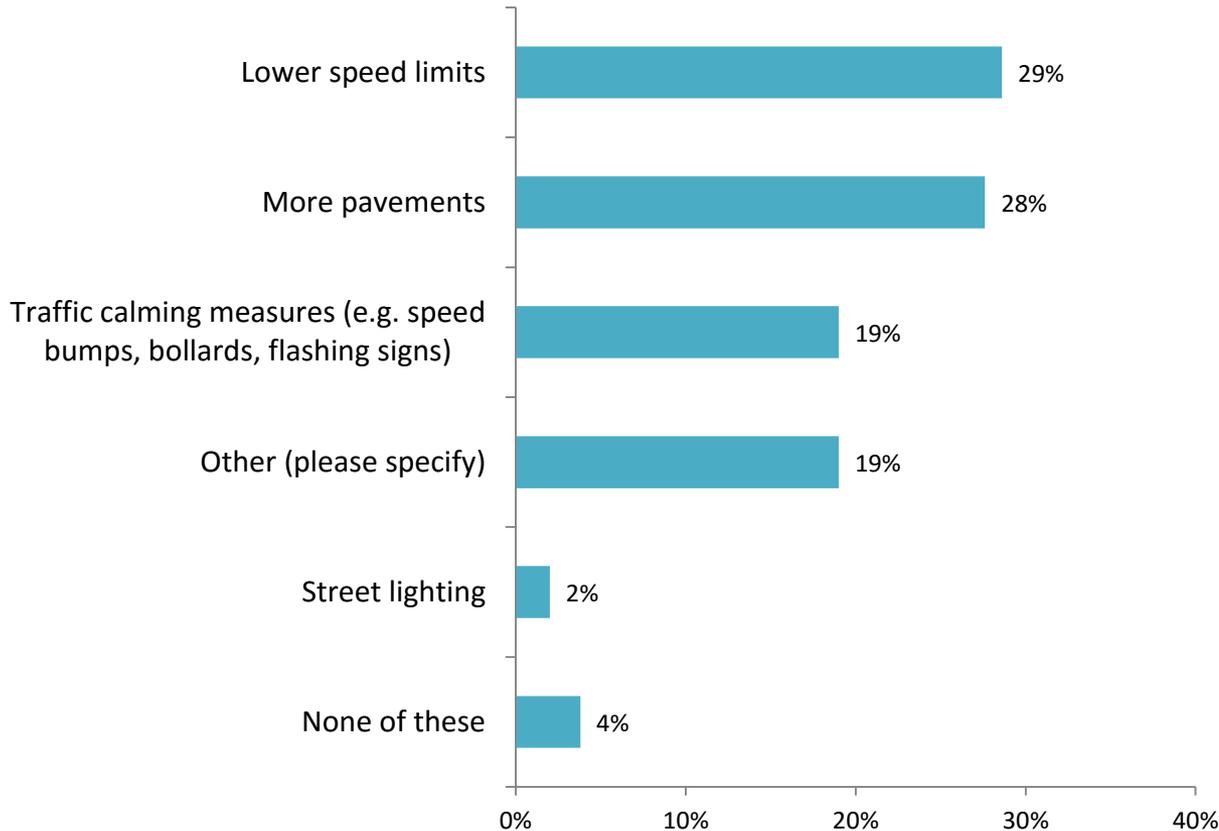


- Just over half (57%) of all respondents think the roads in the village are safe for drivers - 7% very safe, 50% fairly safe.

- For all other road users the roads are felt to be unsafe. This is especially the case for children walking (61% very unsafe, 30% a bit unsafe) and cyclists (41% very unsafe, 30% a bit unsafe) and could explain the low numbers of cyclists.

A combination of measures to improve road safety

Q7. Which of the following do you think would most improve road safety in the village? Please choose one option only* (395)

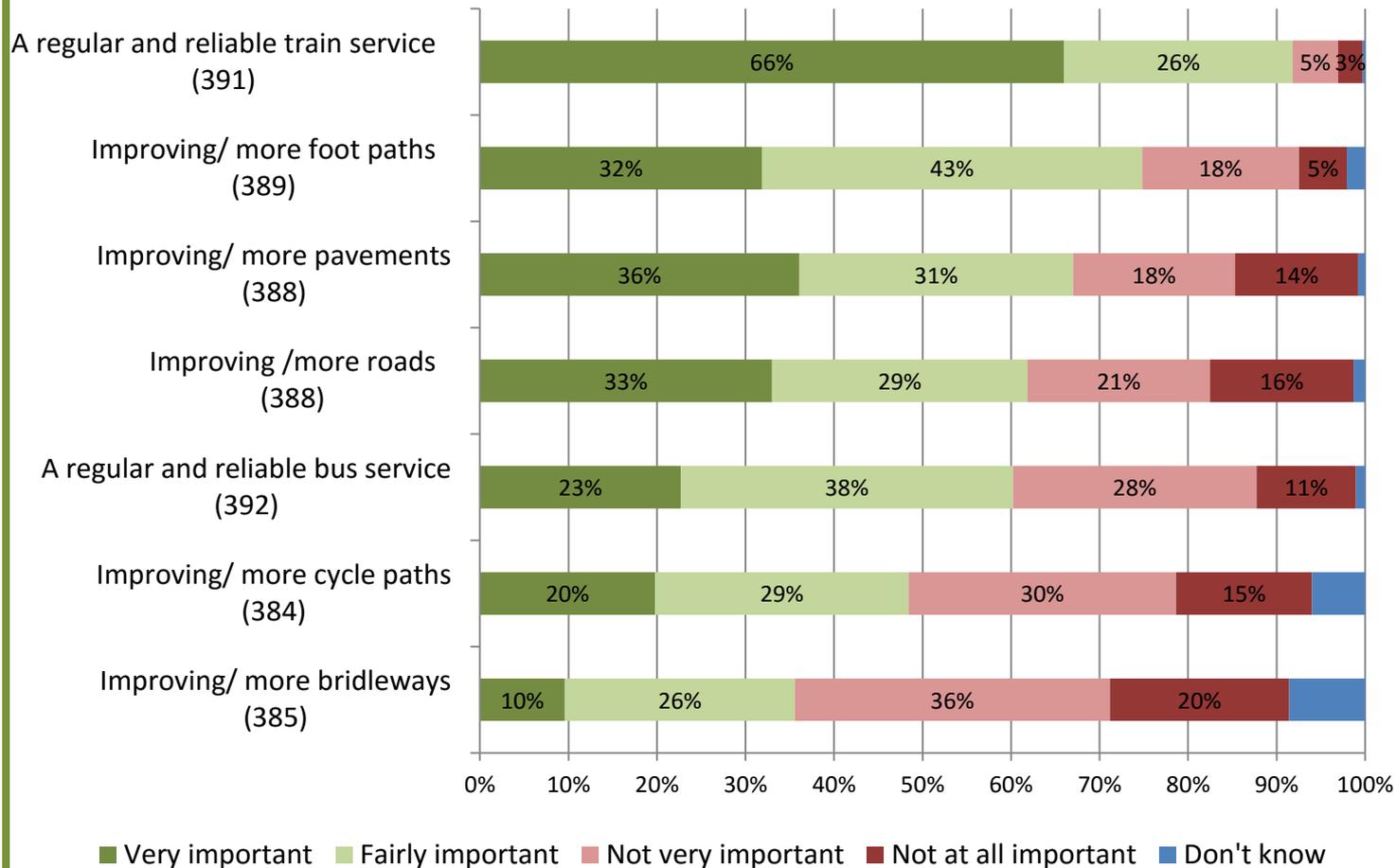


*Although this question asked people to choose one option only quite a few respondents ticked more than one, this was noted in the other comment box.

- Lower speed limits and more pavements are joint top priorities for improving road safety (29% and 28% respectively). Followed by traffic calming measures (19%)
- Just 2% felt street lighting would improve road safety.
- Other measures mentioned include
 - Cutting hedges and verges
 - Reducing parking
 - Speed cameras
 - More enforcement
 - Education
 - Reducing lorries

A regular and reliable train service for the future

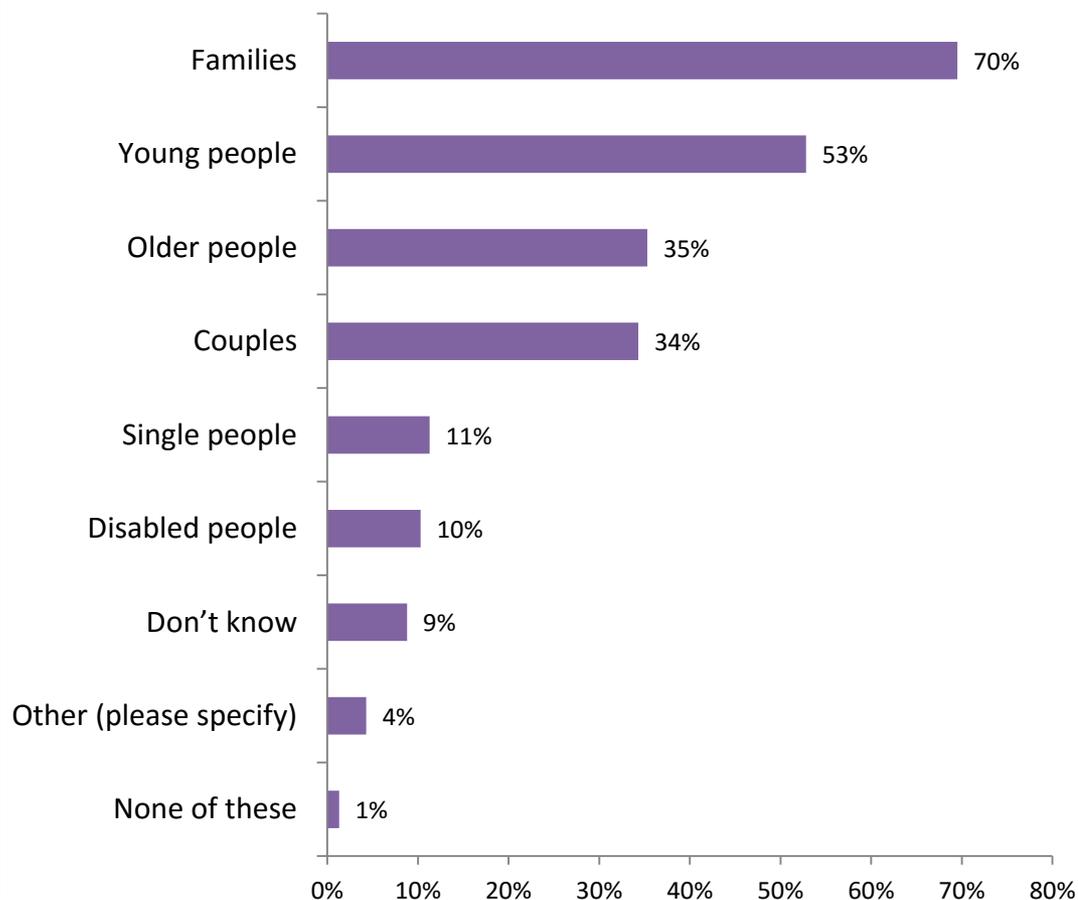
Q8. Thinking about the future of the village how important are the following to you?



- When thinking about the future of the village two thirds of respondents (66%) feel a regular and reliable train service is very important.
- Around a third feel improved/ more pavements, footpaths and roads are very important.

Families are felt to be most in need of housing

Q9. Which of the following groups of people do you think housing in Crowhurst is most needed for? Please tick a maximum of 3 options
(400)

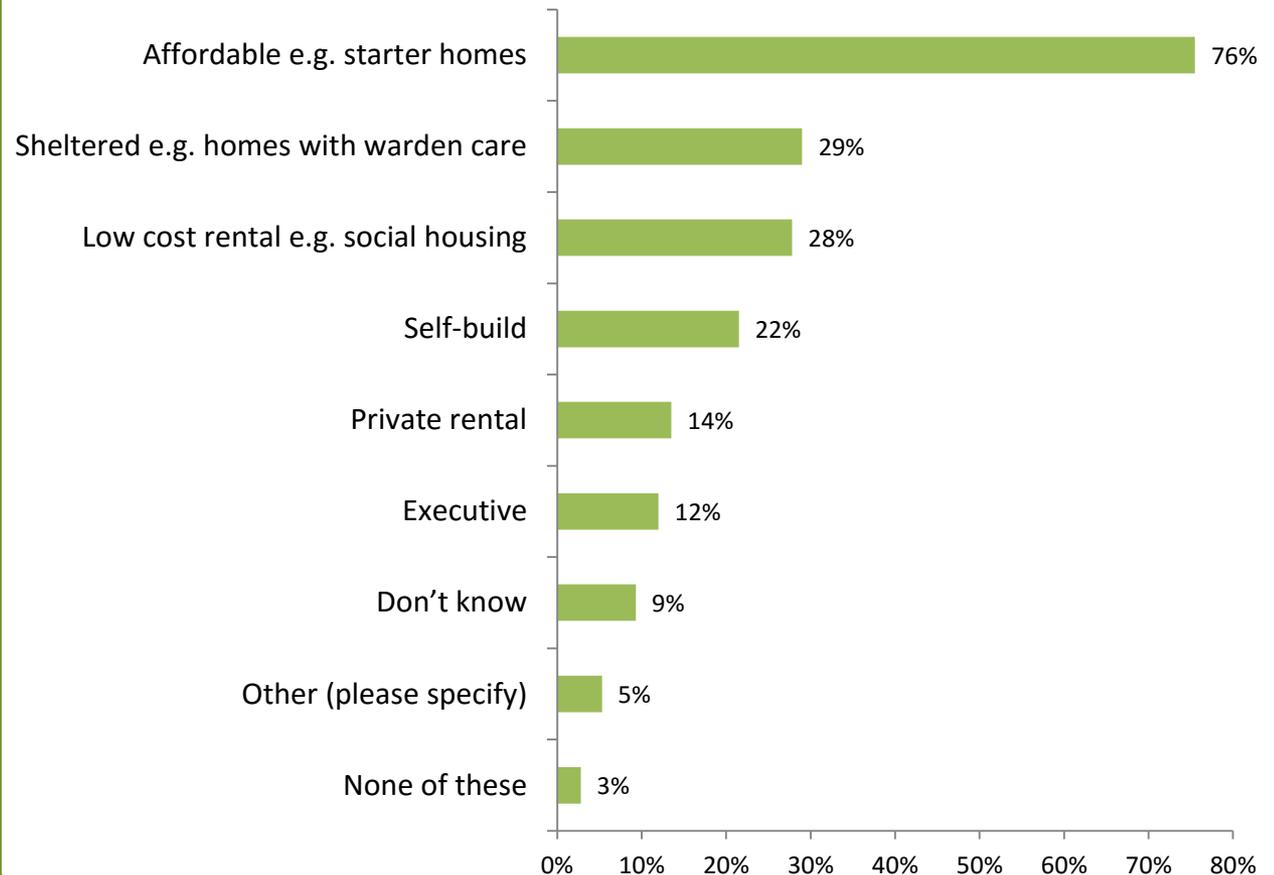


- Rother District Council have said that we need to find space for at least 20 new homes in the village, we have no choice in this but with a Neighbourhood Plan we can say where these should go and what type and style of home they should be.
- Our survey shows that residents feel families are most in need of new housing (70%). Followed by young people (53%)
- Some respondents mentioned that a mix of housing was needed.
- This of course is just residents' views and these will need to be considered along with a housing needs assessment.

Affordable homes are felt to be most needed

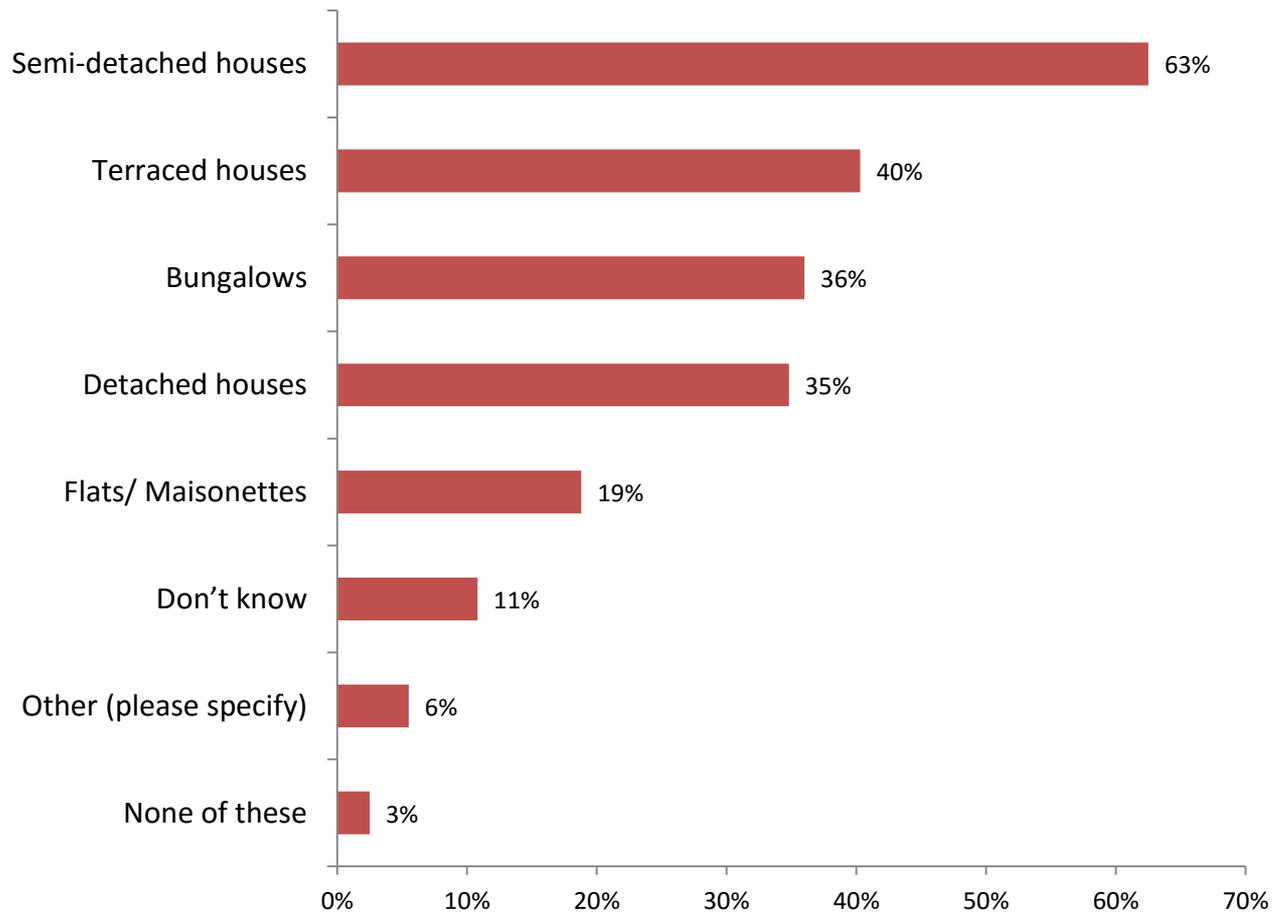
- Respondents feel that affordable homes are the most needed (76%).
- A similar number feel sheltered and low cost rental homes are needed (29% and 28% respectively)
- 22% think more self build homes are needed.
- As part of the other comments family sized and smaller sized homes were mentioned, possibly with communal areas/ facilities.

Q10. Which type of home do you think is most needed in Crowhurst? Please tick a maximum of 3 options (400)



Semi-detached is the most popular style of home

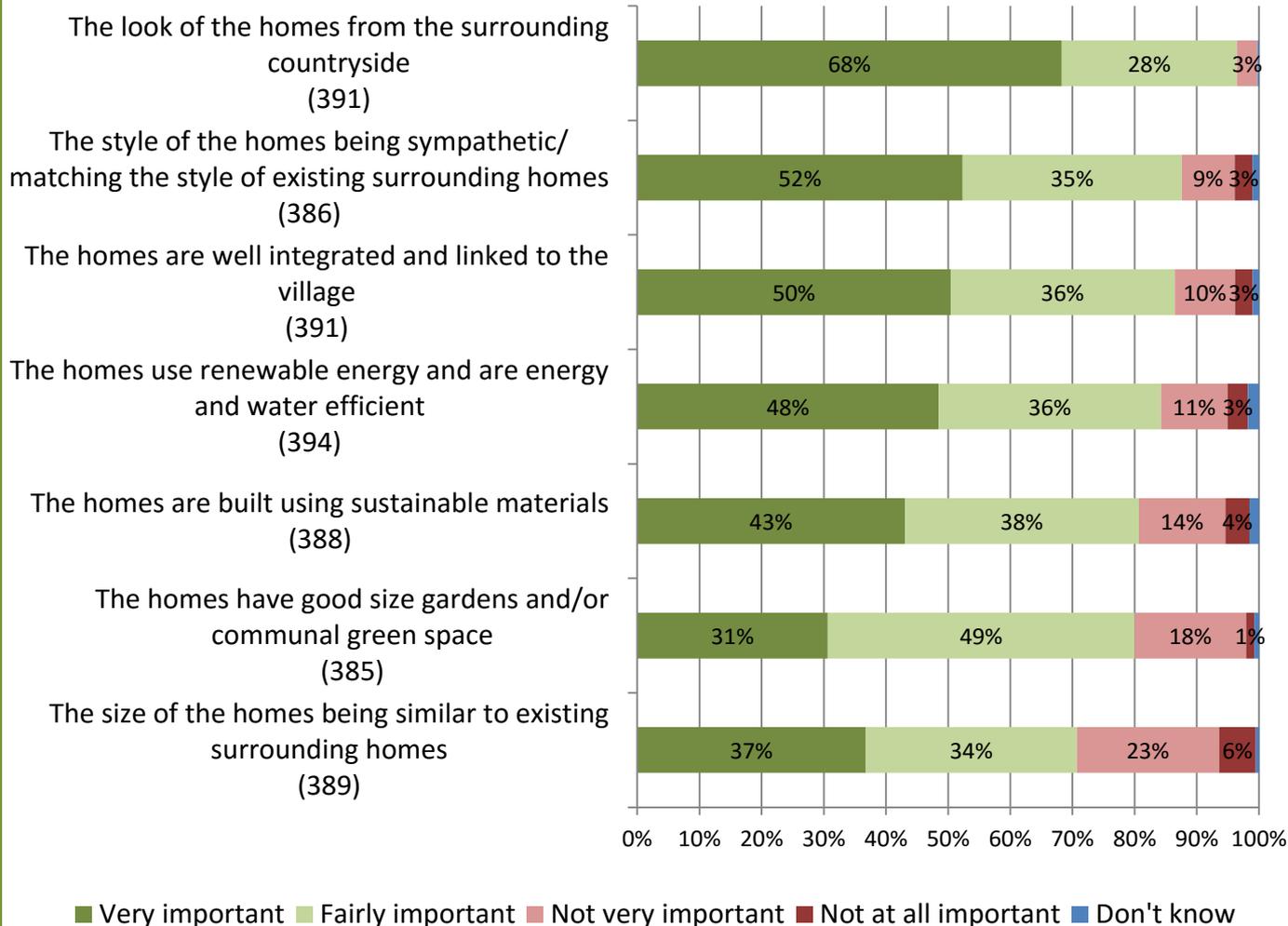
Q11. Which style of home do you think is most needed in Crowhurst? Please tick a maximum of 3 options (400)



- Semi - detached is the style of home that residents feel is most needed (63%) followed by terraced houses (40%), bungalows (36%) and detached houses (35%).
- In the other comments cottages and eco-homes were mentioned and some said that the homes should fit their purpose and fit their surroundings. This is something that we see is important to residents in the next question.

The look of the homes is more important than size

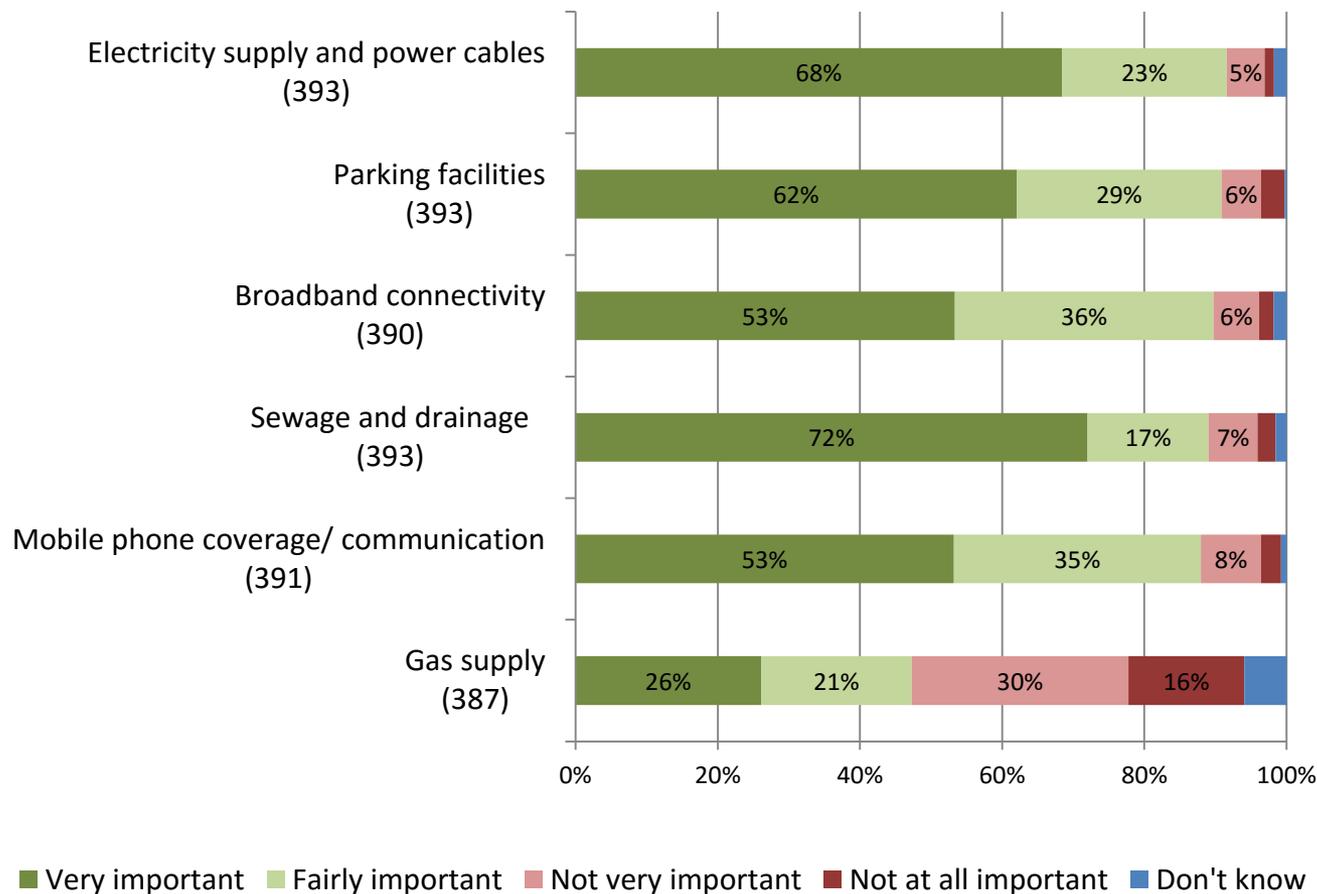
Q12. Thinking about the future of the village how important are the following to you?



- The look of the new homes from the surrounding countryside is felt to be important (96%).
- The style of the homes being sympathetic /in keeping with the style of existing surrounding homes (88%) and that homes are well integrated and linked to the village (86%) are important.
- Similar sizes are less important (70%).

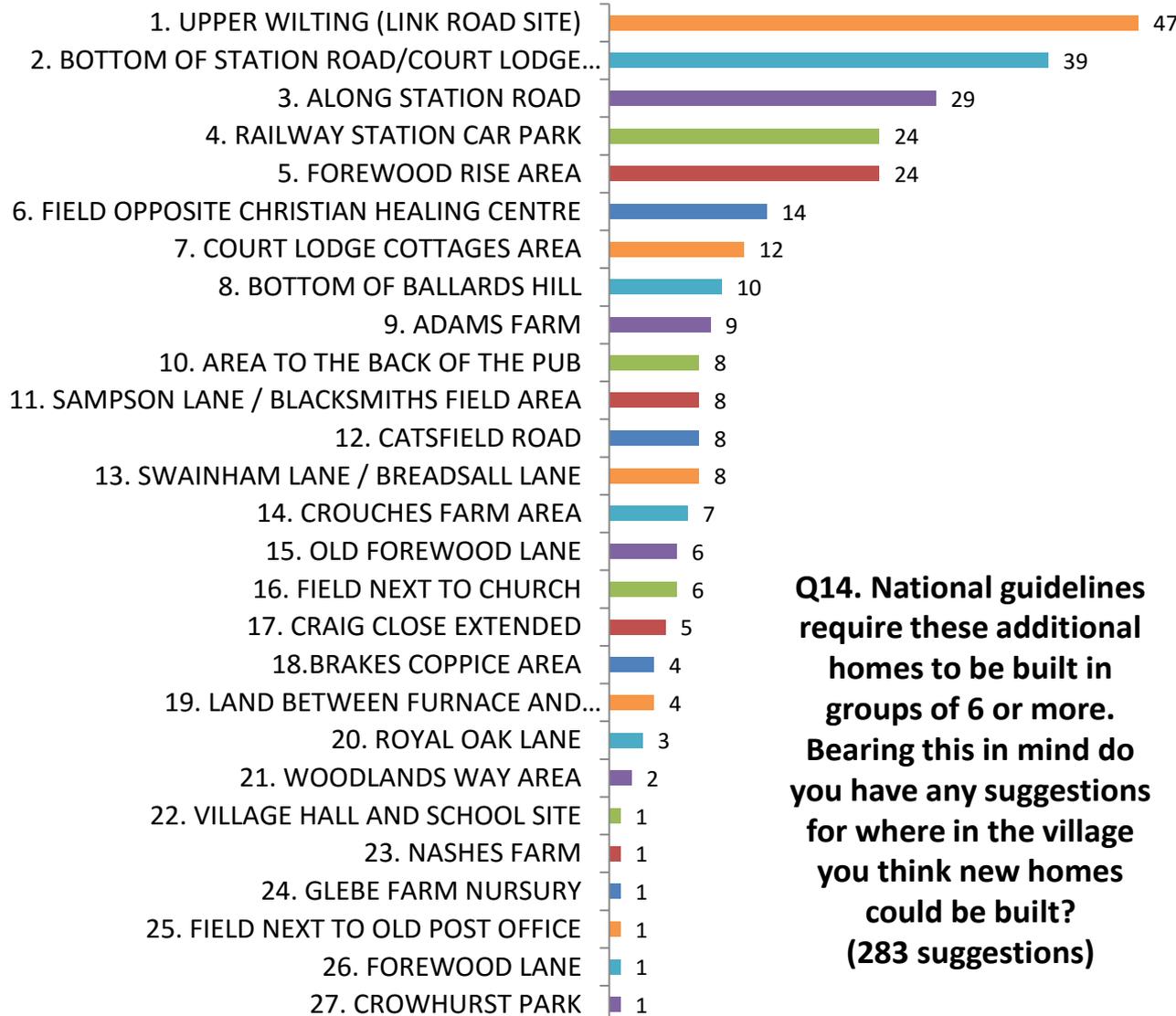
Parking facilities are as important as electricity

Q13. Thinking about the future of the village how important are the following to you?



- We have seen that Parking is an issue for residents and this is reflected in the finding here that parking is almost as important as electricity supply (91% and 92% respectively).
- Sewage and drainage is seen as the most crucial (72% very important), gas supply less so (26% very important).
- Broadband connectivity and mobile phone coverage are also felt to be important (90% and 88% respectively).

27 areas for potential new homes identified

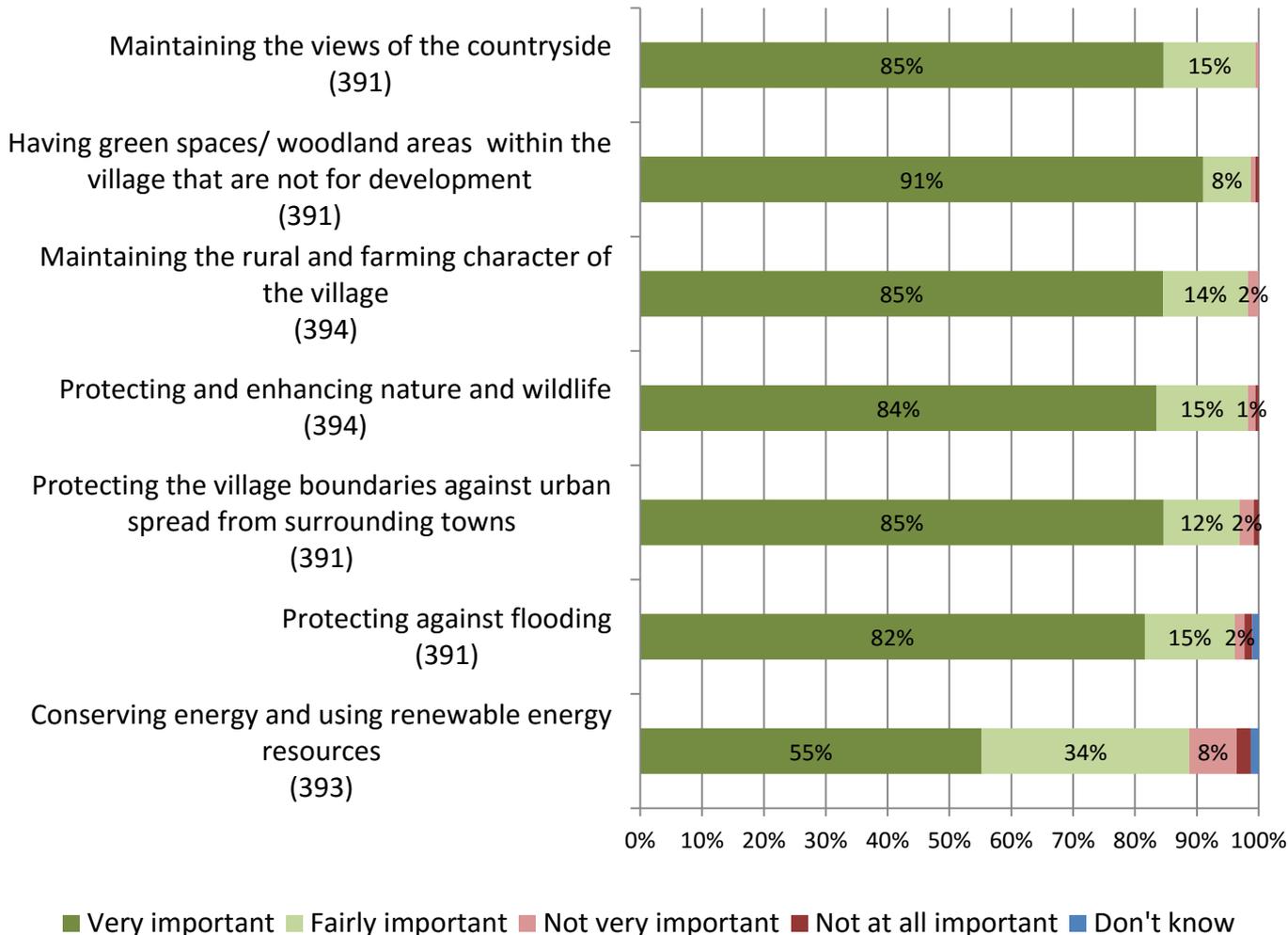


Q14. National guidelines require these additional homes to be built in groups of 6 or more. Bearing this in mind do you have any suggestions for where in the village you think new homes could be built? (283 suggestions)

- There were 283 suggestions for where new homes could go in the village and from these 27 areas have been identified.
- The most suggested areas were Upper Wilting (the link road site) and the bottom of Station Road / Court Lodge Farm Area.
- It is important to note that the areas are only residents' suggestions. The next task of the Neighbourhood Plan Group is to look at these in more detail to see if any of the areas are suitable, available and economically viable.

Areas not for development are very important

Q15. Thinking about the future of the village how important are the following to you?



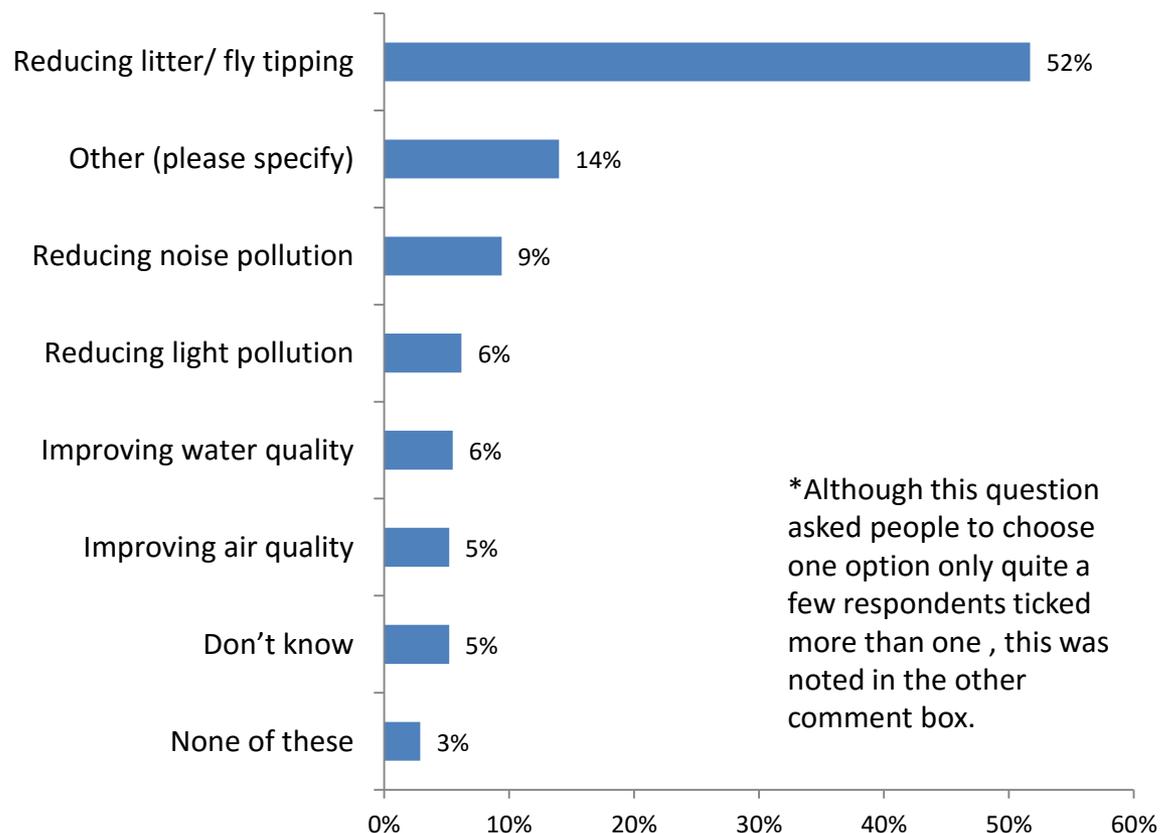
- 91% of respondents feel that having green spaces and woodland areas within the village that are not for development is very important.
- Also very important is maintaining the views of the countryside, the rural and farming character of the village and protecting the village boundaries against urban spread from surrounding towns (85% felt these were very important).

Reducing litter / fly tipping would be an improvement

- Reducing litter/ fly tipping is felt to be by far the most important environmental improvement for the village (52%).
- There is less concern about noise and light pollution and air and water quality.
- The other comments included
 - Protection from flooding
 - Drainage and sewage
 - Having less bonfires or limiting when these can be had
 - Reducing our carbon footprint / energy consumption
 - Clearing up dog mess
 - Maintaining hedges

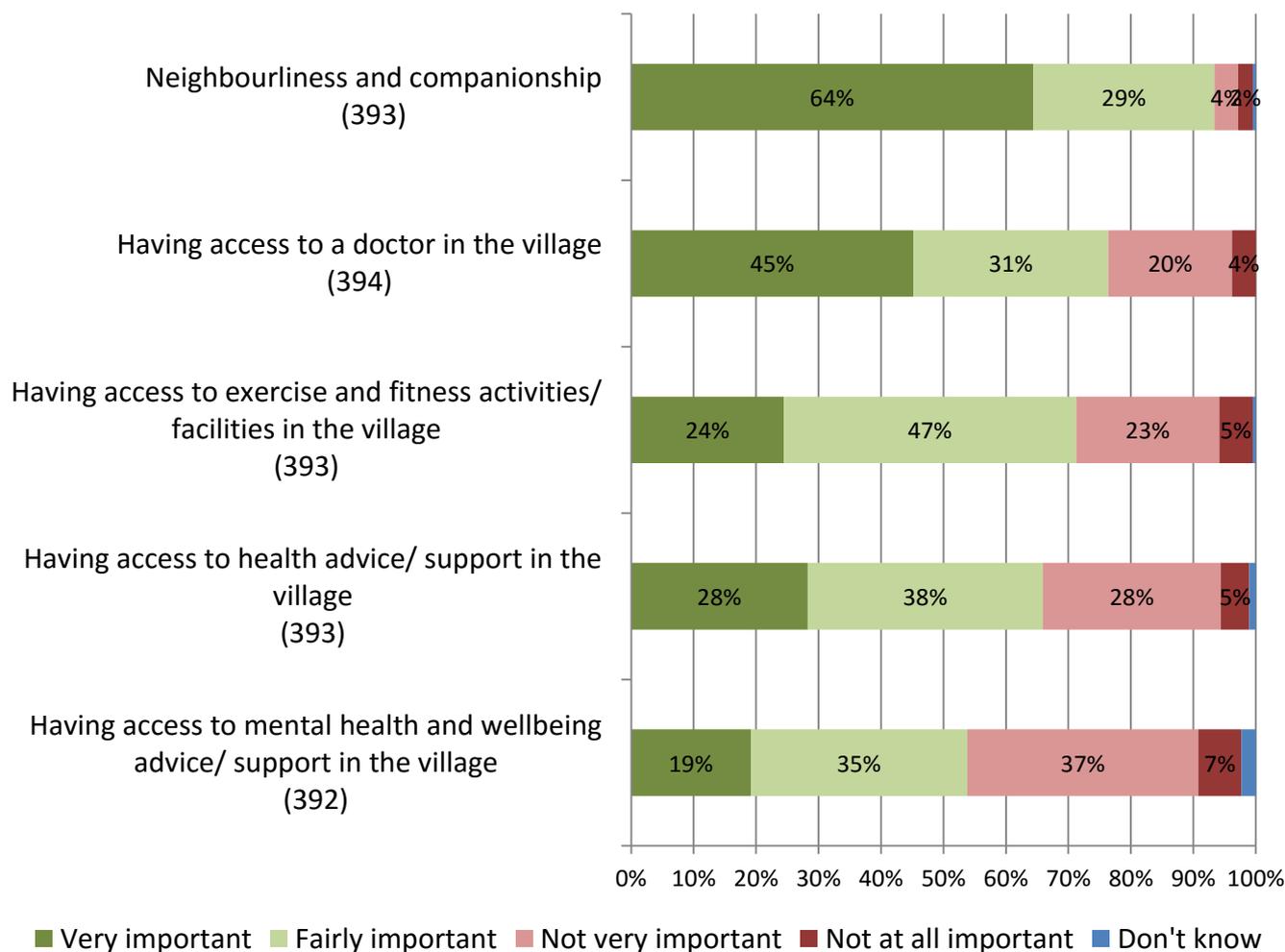
Q16. Which of the following environmental improvements do you think is most important?

Please choose one option only* (385)



Neighbourliness and companionship are important

Q18. Thinking about the future of your health and wellbeing in Crowhurst how important are the following to you?

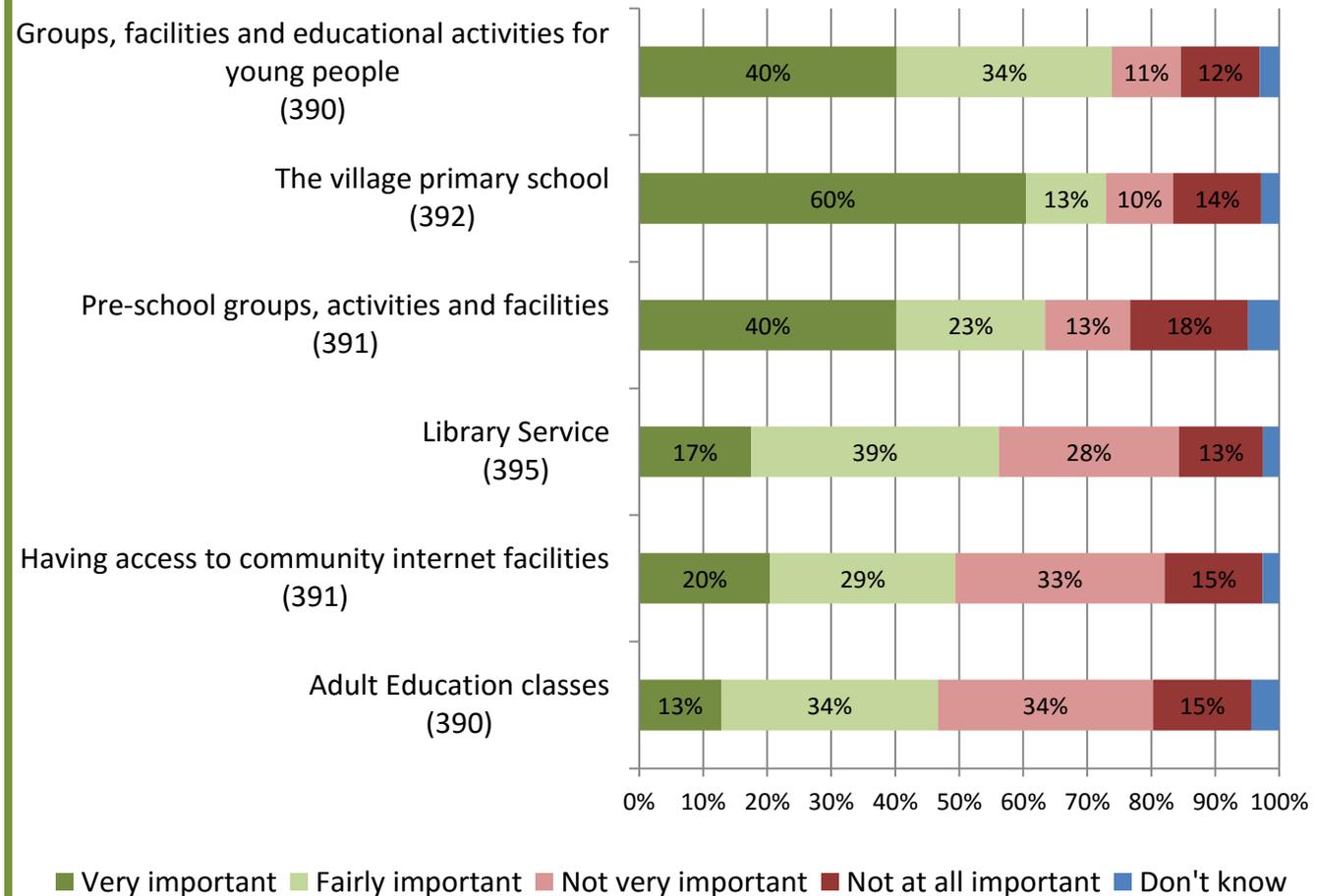


- 93% feel neighbourliness and companionship is important to the future of their health and wellbeing.
- 91% say they currently use their own vehicle to access health services (Q17), at the same time 76% think having access to a doctor in the village is important.
- 71% feel having access to exercise and fitness activities and facilities in the village is important.

Importance of services for children and young people

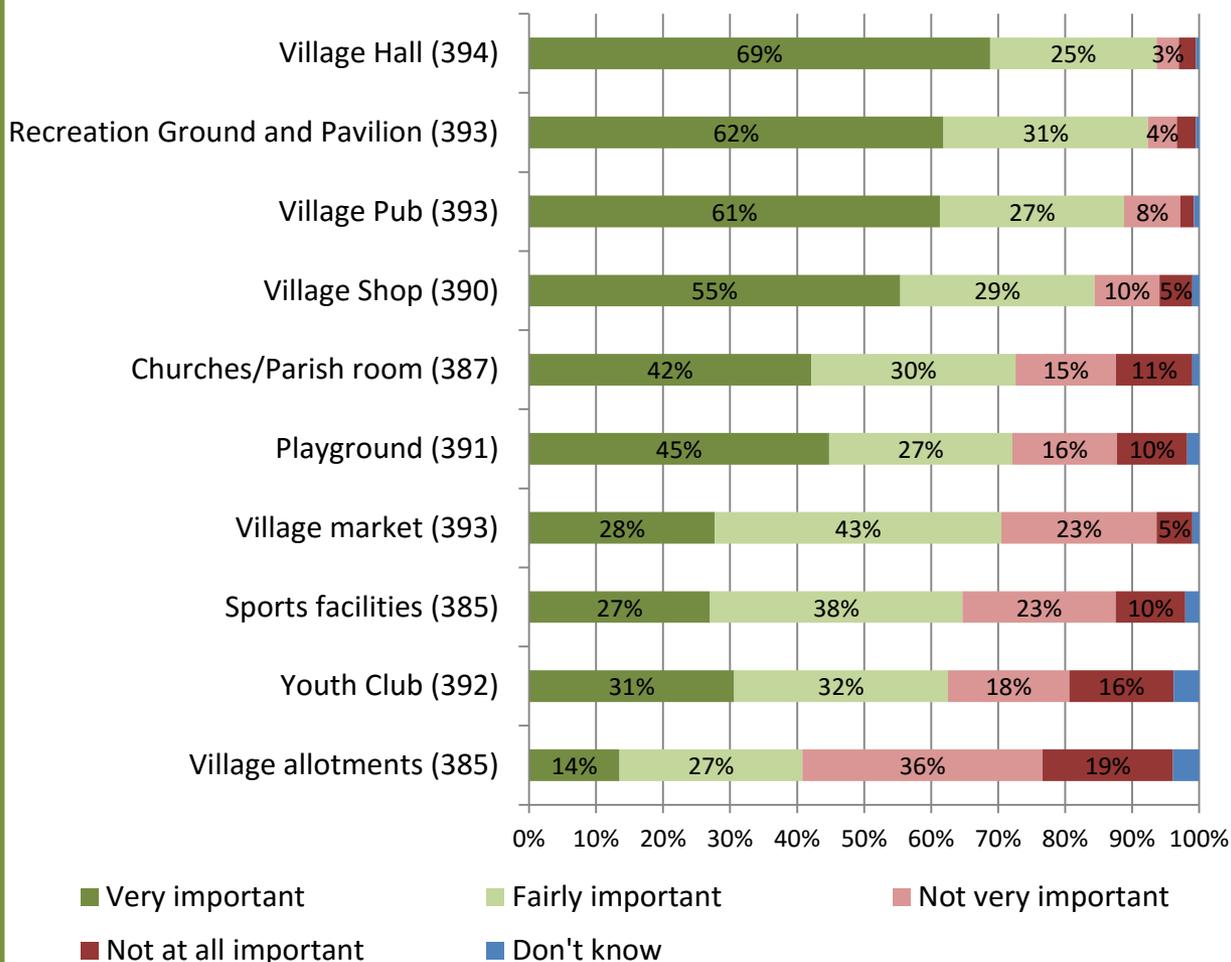
- For the future of education 60% feel the village primary school is very important.
- 40% think that groups, facilities and educational activities for young people are very important and the same amount feel pre-school groups, activities and facilities are very important.
- A library service, internet facilities and adult education classes are felt to be less important.

Q19. Thinking about the future of education and information in Crowhurst how important are the following to you?



A village shop is important and very much missed

Q20. Thinking about the future of community facilities in the village, how important are each of the following to you?

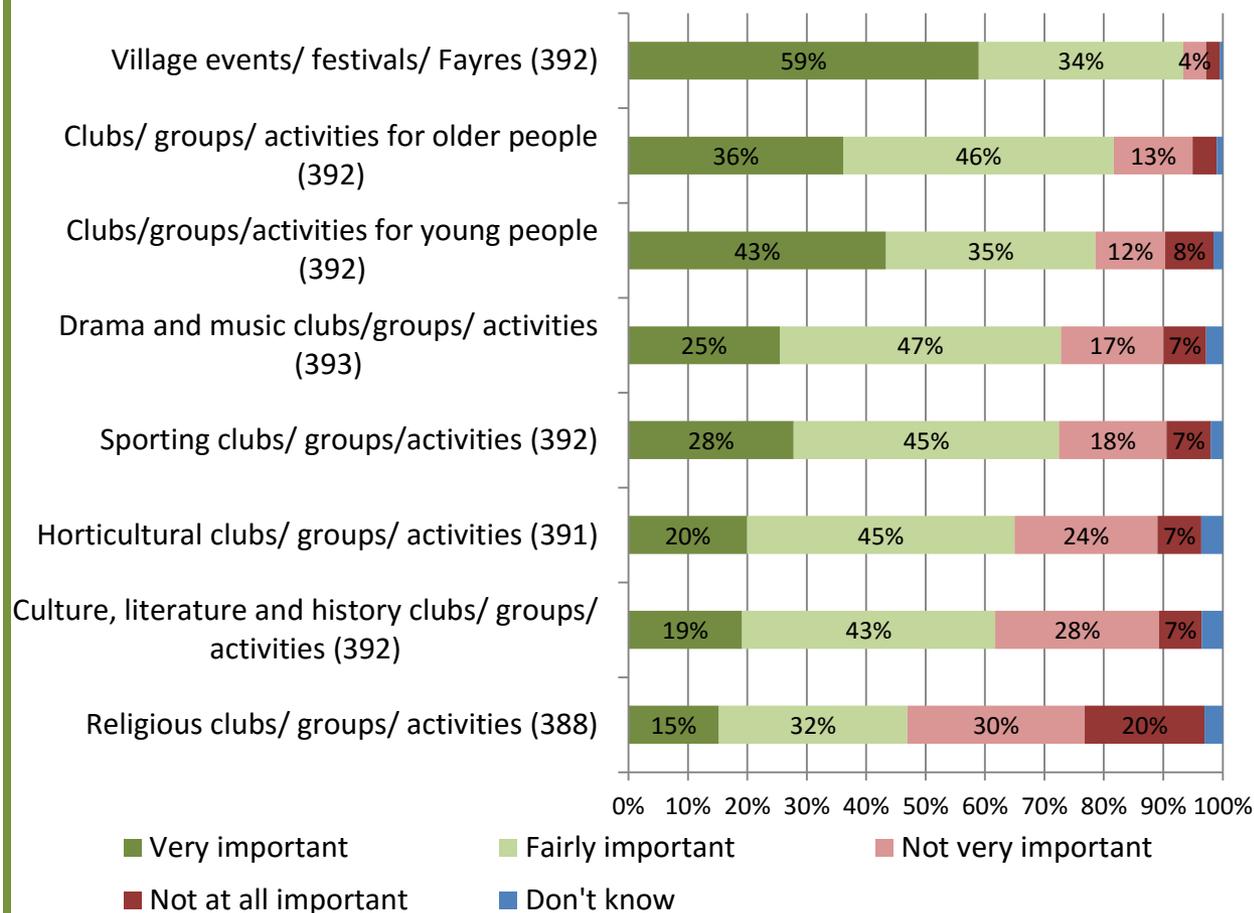


- The village hall (94%), recreation ground and pavilion (92%), pub (89%) and a village shop (84%) are felt to be the most important facilities for the future of the village.
- Other comments include
 - More mentions of a shop/ post office
 - Woodland
 - Fitness centre /gym
 - Swimming pool
 - Public toilets
 - Police presence
 - Community bike scheme
 - Tea rooms
 - Community shop possibly linked to pub
 - More in the playground
 - Skate park

Events and activities are important for the future

- 93% think that village events, festivals and fayres are important for the future of the village.
- 82% think clubs, groups and activities for older people are important and 79% think activities for young people are important.
- Other comments include
 - Coach trips
 - Volunteers
 - Activism groups
 - Walking group
 - Dance classes
 - Cricket team
 - Broadstock
 - Freecycle hub/ swap shop
 - Wildlife groups
 - Parent and baby groups

Q22. Thinking about the future of community activities in the village, how important are each of the following to you?



Clearer roads, a post office, broadband and advertising to support village business

Q 24. If you operate a business within the village please tell us about this :

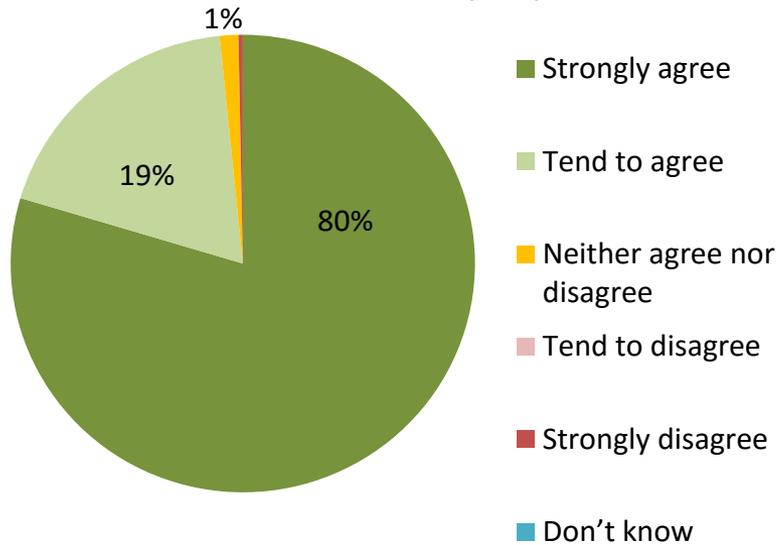
- Self-employed and work from home
- Employed and work from home
- Farm holiday cottages
- Stables
- Farming
- Children's swimming
- Electrical contractor
- Vintage car spare parts
- Medical education courses
- Healthcare business
- Sewing services
- Catering services
- Gardening services
- Plumbing & heating services
- Carpentry services
- Decorating services
- Property maintenance
- Sound contractor
- Pub
- Digital television service

Q25. If there is any support the village could provide to you and your business please tell us about this :

- Parked cars to not restrict the road
- No more traffic calming areas- making it difficult for larger vehicles
- Understanding that the village is a working environment and expect to meet large vehicles
- Better broadband/mobile coverage
- Local shop/ Post Office in the village
- Rental accommodation for clients in the village
- Regular markets advertised beyond the village
- Reliable utilities
- Networking with other Crowhurst businesses
- Word of mouth advertising, awareness raising.
- Parish Council tendering for work on an equal standing.

Overall agreement with the Vision

Q26. Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with this as the vision for Crowhurst? (394)



“As long as Crowhurst remains a village and does not become a small town then the 'vision' is on the right track”

- 98% of all respondents said they agreed with the Neighbourhood Plan's Vision to:

‘maintain the village’s rural character by protecting the countryside and environment around its boundaries, promoting community spirit and enhancing infrastructure, facilities and services for residents of all ages’.

- Respondents’ additional comments reiterated the need to protect the rural character of the village.
- Some show agreement that new housing is needed.
- Many comments illustrate residents concerns about the pressures that new homes and infrastructure could bring.
- There is also a lot of concern about urbanisation of the village, wider roads, street lights etc.
- Many mentions of potential conflict between maintaining rural character and new infrastructure.
- Comments also emphasised the need for friendship, neighbourliness, creating more of a village centre and community feel.

Finding a balance between new homes, more infrastructure and maintaining rural character

"I agree with the 'vision' as long as 'enhancing infrastructure' etc. does not destroy the character of the village "

"I don't want the enhancing of infrastructure, facilities, and services to go beyond what we have now or they will get out of control and suddenly we become a town."

"Protecting the boundaries I feel may cause the loss of open spaces inside those boundaries."

"I approve of your vision for the village. I think a village shop (perhaps partly run by volunteers) would be a great benefit to all the residents and provide somewhere for local arts and crafts to be sold."

"Crucial to ensure there is some new housing but that it is in the right place with sufficient amenities including parking and mains drainage."

"I think that the statement is what most villagers would want as their vision and it's great to see the villagers getting involved and having a voice."

"I think that developing community spirit and links/ friendships is the priority for me."

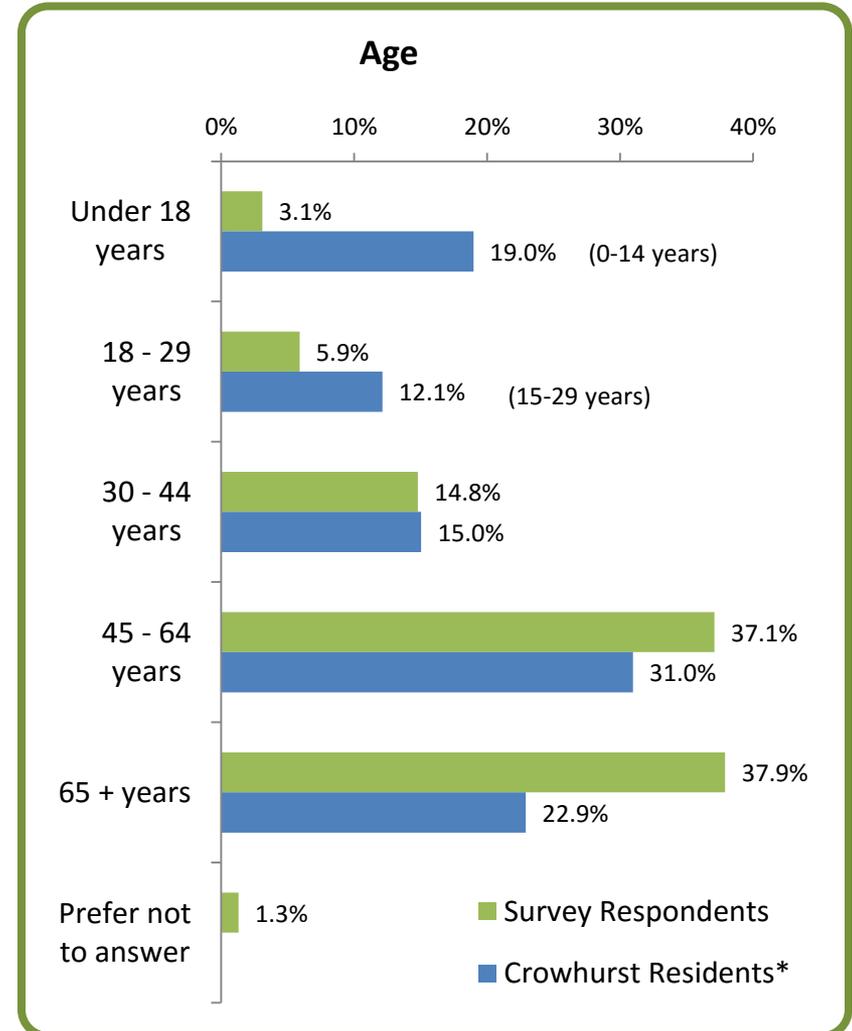
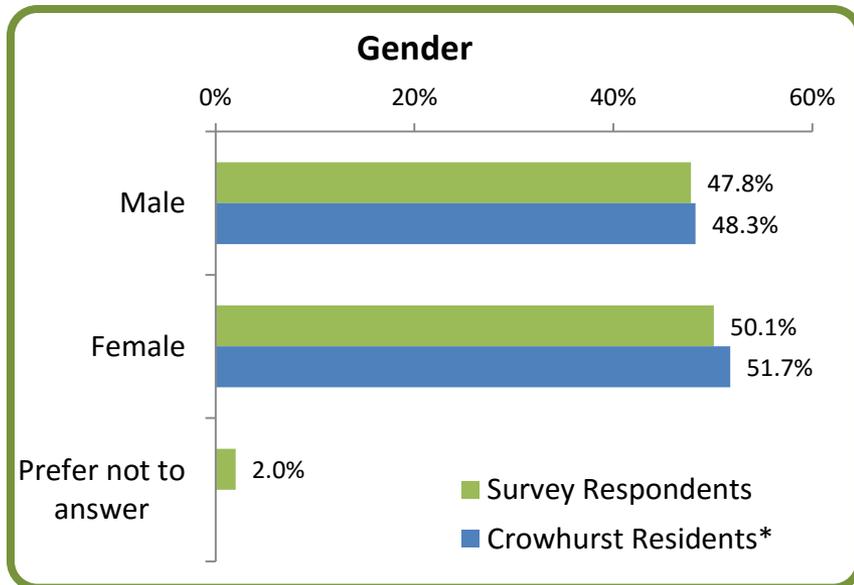
"We need more homes in the village so the young can stay here and families can down size."

"Protecting environment etc. are not the same as preventing change. New housing is required and growth is a good thing if handled correctly.."

Respondent Profile

Comparing the profile of survey respondents with the profile of Crowhurst residents shows that our survey responses are representative for males and females.

Our survey has responses from a range of age groups although those under 29 years are under represented and those aged 65+ years are over represented. Further work will be done by the Neighbourhood Planning group to capture the views of young people.

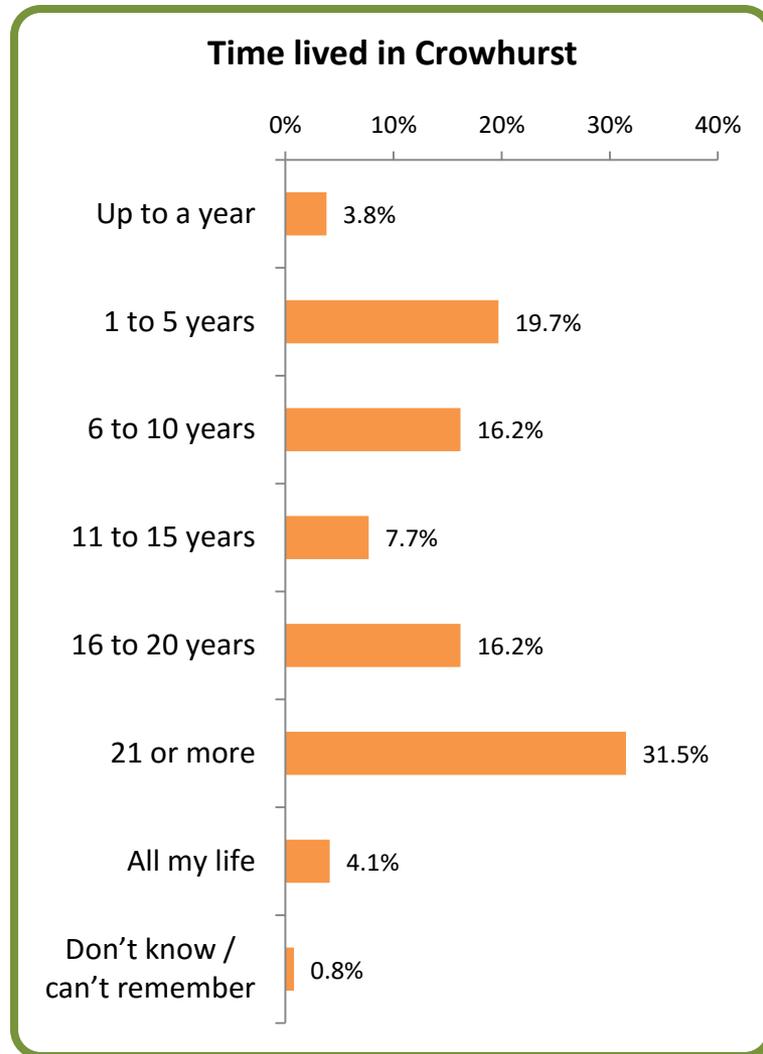
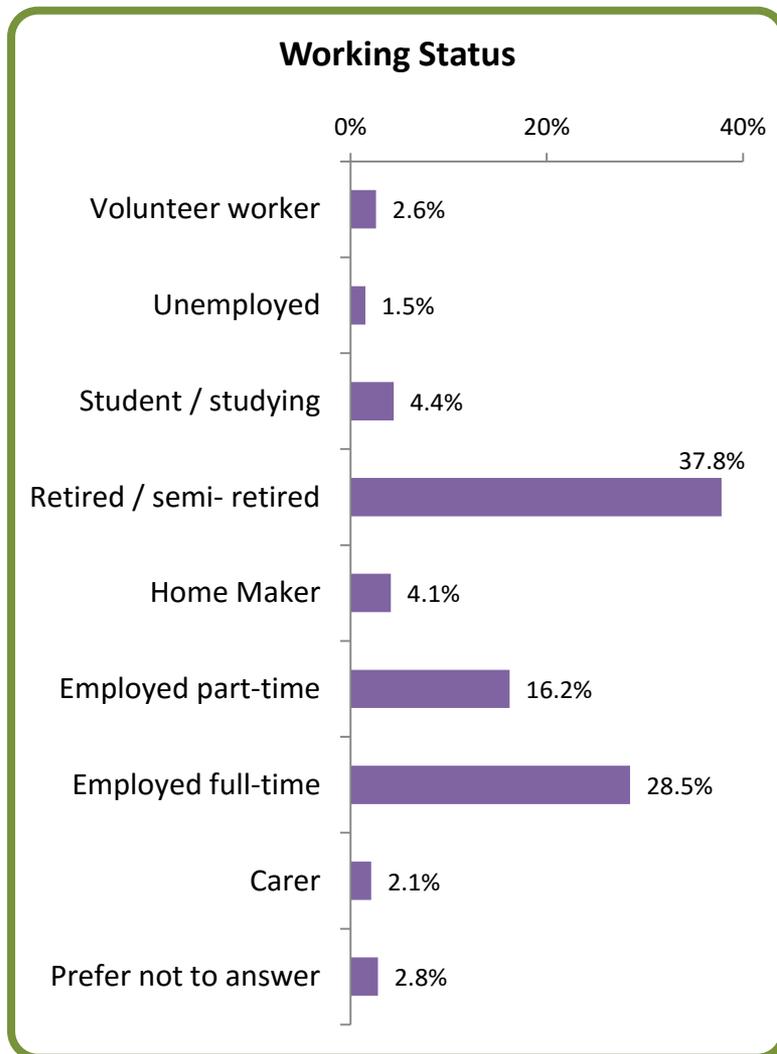


*based on 2011 census data www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk

Respondent Profile

45% of our respondents are employed full or part time.

Linked to the age profile of our survey respondents we see over a third (38%) are retired or semi-retired and nearly a third of respondents (32%) have lived in the village for 21 years or more.



**A big thank you to everyone who took part
in the survey**

For more information please contact:

Catherine Bright

cathbright@outlook.com



CROWHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

-Your Vision our Future -