

Orcop Neighbourhood Development Plan

Questionnaire Survey 2020

Results report

DJN Planning Limited

April 2020

For Orcop Parish Council

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1. Introduction

Orcop Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The Parish was designated as a Neighbourhood Area in July 2013. To help inform the NDP, in January 2020 a questionnaire survey was undertaken which sought views on life in the Parish; housing; traffic, transport and access; jobs and the economy; community facilities, and protecting the environment.

This report sets out the results of the survey. The report:

- provides a summary of the main findings (section 2);
- outlines the survey methodology, describes the overall response to the survey, and how the results have been presented in this report (section 3); and
- sets out on a question-by-question basis the response to the questionnaire, dealing with the following topics:
 - living in Orcop Parish – question 1
 - housing – questions 2 to 7
 - traffic, transport and access – questions 8 and 9
 - jobs and the economy – questions 10 to 12
 - community facilities – questions 13 and 14
 - protecting our environment – questions 15 to 18
 - addressing your concerns – question 19
 - information about you – questions 20 to 22.

A copy of the questionnaire is available separately.

This report has been independently prepared for the Parish Council by Dr. D.J. Nicholson.

April 2020

2. Summary of results

The survey was undertaken in January 2020 and achieved a response rate of 38%.

Living in Orcop Parish

- The three most valued aspects of life in Orcop Parish were the quiet rural area, own home and views of the countryside. Relatively low priority was given to local employment, well maintained roads or public transport.

Housing

Location of new housing

- There were mixed responses as to suitable locations for new housing. Orcop Hill was supported by some but opposed by others, the balance of opinion being in favour of the latter with many referring to problems of foul and surface water drainage as well as the limited capacity of the rural lanes and risks of over-development.
- There were also comments for and against further development at Orcop and environs.
- Some advocated a wider spread of development by directing modest growth to existing hamlets such as Saddlebow, Garway Hill, Bagwyllydiart and Little Hill, although some of these locations were opposed by others.
- General concerns raised were the need to avoid building in the open countryside or areas of poor drainage, and not to compromise highway safety or the amenity of others.

Type of new housing

- The most popular type of new housing were dwellings created by converting redundant farm buildings and the like, followed by privately-owned homes and by self-build and live/work housing. There was also support for supported/sheltered accommodation. Rented homes, either from a private landlord or a Housing Association, were the least favoured.
- In terms of the size of new homes, most respondents wanted to see smaller family homes (2-3 bedrooms), followed by affordable/starter homes (1-2 bedrooms). Larger family homes (4 bedrooms and above) were not favoured.
- New homes should respect the location and the built form/scale of neighbouring properties, and employ the local vernacular including traditional materials. There was little support for modern styles. Opinion on bungalows was divided, with some support but also a notable level of opposition.
- On local housing need the priority was seen as homes that younger people and families could afford. Comments also raised the lack of infrastructure and local employment, which militated against more housing; and stressed that any new properties should be designed to be in keeping with the locality, for instance by avoiding overly urban designs and layouts such as cul-de-sacs.

Traffic, transport and access

- Top priorities for transport improvements were for road repairs and the maintenance of hedges, ditches and verges. Safety improvements and reductions in traffic speeds were also seen as important.
- These aspects also featured in comments, with other issues being the need for better public transport and the impacts of HGV, delivery and farm vehicles and equipment on roads and verges.

Jobs and the economy

- Favoured types of economic development were farming, forestry, livery and stabling, food and drink production, tourism and leisure and small businesses. Light industry and intensive farming were not favoured.
- There was significant support for the NDP to foster home working and the suitable re-use and conversion of redundant rural buildings; extending existing business premises was also welcomed.
- Comments pointed to the practical difficulties posed by the local infrastructure, notably the rural lanes, broadband speed and reliability, and mobile phone coverage. Others advocated making use of local skills and resources to support a diverse rural economy and retain young people.

Community facilities

- Orcop Parish Hall was the most important community facility, followed by broadband, the Fountain Inn and mobile phone coverage. Footpaths and bus services were also valued.
- The following desirable additional services and facilities were raised in comments: further community transport provision, village green, and opportunities to meet up and socialise. There were several suggestions for how Parish-level community organisations could deliver benefits for residents.

Protecting our environment

- Wildlife habitats and species, green spaces, landscape, hedgerows and woodland were all priorities for protection.
- A range of views and vistas were valued, including from Little Hill, Orcop Hill, Coles Tump, Saddlebow Hill and Garway Hill.
- Problems of foul and surface water drainage were reported as being the main constraints on development, mainly affecting Orcop Hill and sites therein as well as elsewhere in the Parish. The other principal constraints were flood risk and poor broadband speed/reliability and mobile phone coverage.

- The generation of renewable energy for domestic use was generally supported. Commercial-scale energy generation, be this via solar, biomass or anaerobic digesters, was less favoured.
- Comments raised issues around sustainability, habitat preservation and creation, and the environmental challenges for new housing posed by drainage constraints, lack of demand, limited facilities and the necessarily high reliance on use of the private car.

Have we addressed your concerns?

- Several respondents raised the climate emergency as a priority issue and suggested ways in which this could be tackled at Parish-level.
- Other comments addressed housing, traffic, the local economy, and drainage.

Information about you

- The 66 and over age group were over-represented in the survey, being 21% of the population at the time of the 2011 Census but accounting for 34% of responding households.
- The 12-18 group were under-represented, being 10% of the population in 2011 but accounting for 3% of responding households.
- Other age groups were proportionately represented in survey responses.
- Responses were received to the survey from across the Parish.
- Over one-third of respondents had lived in the Parish for 21 years or more.

3. Survey method, response and presentation of results

Method and response

The questionnaire was developed by the Steering Group to provide evidence for the preparation of the NDP. Account was taken of issues raised to date and regard was also had to earlier work on the Parish Plan. On this basis, key themes for the survey were identified as: living in Orcop Parish; housing; traffic, transport and access; jobs and the economy; community facilities, and the environment.

The questionnaire asked 18 questions on these topics. Responses were sought against a range of multiple choices and as free-write comments. A further question gave an opportunity to add comment on any other matters thought to be relevant to the NDP. The survey concluded with three questions seeking information about respondents, including on age and place/length of residence.

Questionnaires were delivered by post to households within the Neighbourhood Area in January 2020. The questionnaire included a map of the Neighbourhood Area and was accompanied by a covering letter, a set of frequently asked questions, and a freepost return envelope. The Parish Clerk co-ordinated the process and acted as a point of contact to answer any queries from residents and supply additional copies of the questionnaire if required.

Overall, 66 completed questionnaires were returned, a response rate of 38%.¹

Presentation of the results

For the multiple-choice elements of each question, tables and bar charts show the number of responses against the given options. Table percentages are based on the total number of completed questionnaires (66). This aids comparison of results overall and between questions by utilising a consistent base. Each table confirms the percentage base. Percentages are rounded to whole numbers.

Free-write comments have been summarised in terms of the key topics raised. Pie charts are used to illustrate the number of comments per topic. Individual comments may refer to several topics. A full set of all the comments made is also available (see separate Comment Listings report).

¹ Based on the number of households in the Neighbourhood Area at the time of the Census 2011 (173).

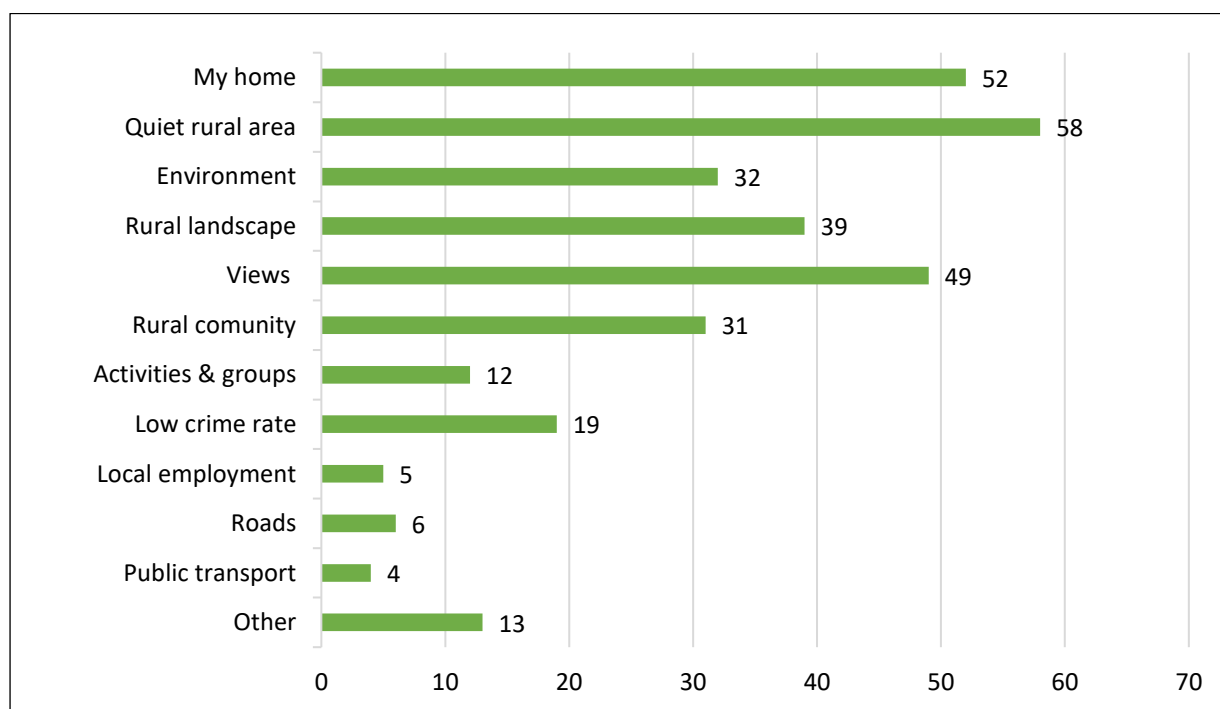
Living in Orcop Parish

The questionnaire canvassed views on aspects of life in the Parish, based on earlier work on the Parish Plan and discussion in the Steering Group.

Question 1: From the list below what are the top 5 things you value most about living in the Parish? (please tick up to 5 boxes only)

	No.	%		No.	%
My home	52	79%	Village activities and community groups	12	18%
Living in a quiet rural area	58	88%	Low crime rate	19	29%
Environment	32	48%	Local employment	5	8%
Conserving a rural landscape	39	59%	Well maintained roads	6	9%
Views of the countryside	49	74%	Public transport	4	6%
Feeling part of a rural community	31	47%	Other, please specify	13	20%

Percentage base = 66



Question 1, continued/

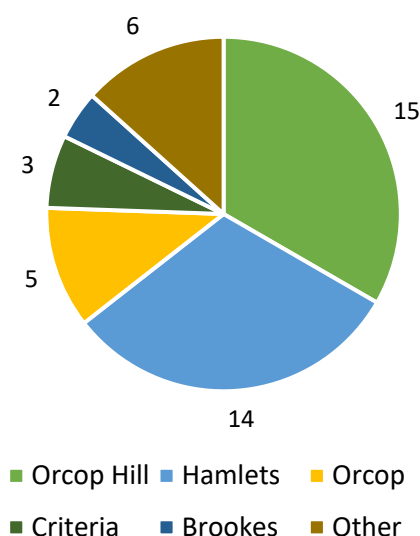
- The three most valued aspects of life in Orcop were the quiet rural area, own home and views of the countryside. All were important to around three-quarters or more respondents, particularly the quiet rural area (88%).
- These were followed by the rural landscape, the environment and feeling part of the local community – important to around half or more of respondents.
- Although feeling part of a rural community was rated by 47%, the chance to actively participate in village activities and community groups was valued by just 18%.
- Relatively little weight was given to local employment, well maintained roads or public transport.
- There were 13 responses to the “other” option identifying additional aspects of importance as:
 - Relatively good transport links to rail and motorway
 - The Fountain Inn
 - Open countryside
 - Air and water quality
 - Dark skies
 - Great place to walk dogs
 - Accessibility to Hereford Steiner Academy at Much Dewchurch.
- Other comments were made on the present poor state of the roads, public transport and drainage.
- A further comment pointed out that *“Orcop Parish has a lack of infrastructure and is based on a farming community. This relaxed, low key environment away from towns/city is highly valued and should be protected from over development and that is inappropriate and furthermore not needed by local people. The NDP should protect farming land and not erode it; protect the countryside for future generations; protect Copywell, Ynys Brook and onward to the River Wye SAC [Special Area of Conservation].”*

Housing

The questionnaire explained that Herefordshire Council’s planning guidelines directs most new dwellings to Orcop Hill and Orcop, to protect the countryside. In this context, questions were asked about suitable and unsuitable locations for new homes and about the desired size, type and style of new housing.

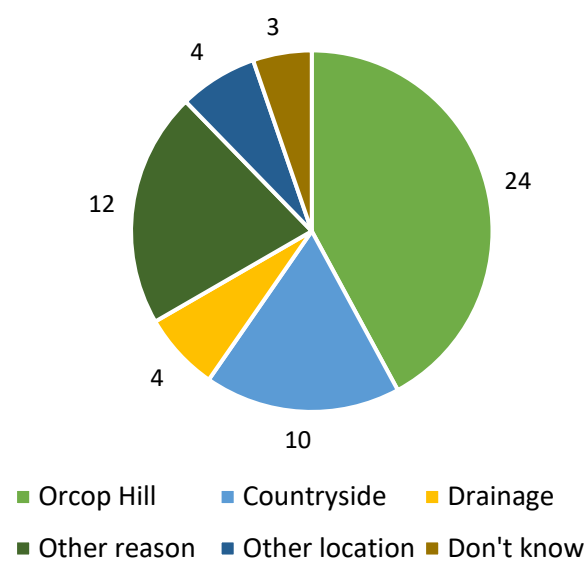
Question 2: Are there any specific locations you think are suitable for new homes in the Parish? If so, where and why?

- This question was answered by 44 respondents (66%).
- There were 15 comments supporting **Orcop Hill** as a location for new housing with several sites being suggested. Some respondents pointed to the benefits of developing here in overall terms including aiding the viability of services: *“there is an established community and adding new houses there would be good and would mean less isolation”*. There was a general expectation that development would be small-scale and of an infill nature, coupled with recognition of drainage and access limitations and the risk of over-development.
- A wider spread of development was advocated in 14 comments, by directing new dwellings to existing **hamlets** such as Saddlebow, Garway Hill, Bagwyllydiart and Little Hill, as well as or instead of to Orcop Hill and Orcop. This approach was seen as being in line in with traditional patterns of settlement: *“there are many areas within the parish outside the defined areas where the odd additional house could be built”*.
- There were five comments supporting development at **Orcop**, particularly around the church *“so as to provide more of a village size to the current small cluster of buildings”*, the village hall and between the two. One comment advocated looking at the area between Orcop and Bagwyllydiart, *“to bring the village out to where the village hall is and ‘unite’ the hamlet a little more to the village”*.
- Suggestions on general **criteria** (3 comments) were adequate road width/passing places, access, flood resistant, and having good drainage and sustainable sewerage systems.
- There were two comments suggesting storage area at **Brookes garage** (Saddlebow).
- Six **other** comments could not give any specific location.



Question 3: Are there any specific locations you think houses should not be built in the Parish? If so, where and why?

- This question was answered by 51 respondents (77%), making it the most-frequently answered free-write question.
- There were 24 comments opposing any more development at **Orcop Hill**. Many pointed to problems of foul and surface water drainage; the limited capacity of the rural lanes; and issues of over-development. Two comments referred to land at Newcastle Farm and others pointed to the road to the village from the A466 or between Orcop Hill and Quarry Farm as locations

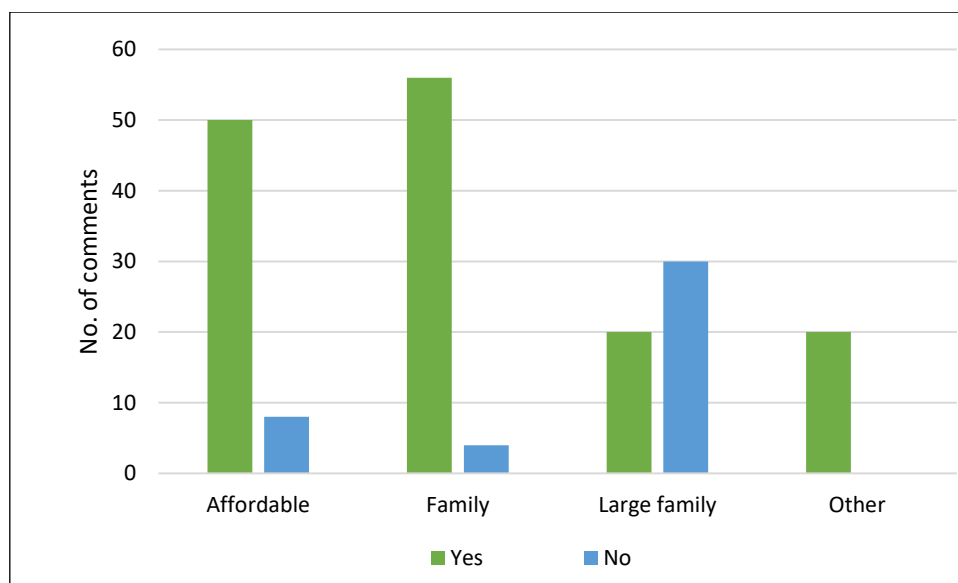


- where houses should not be built. One typical response was that *“there should be no further building in Orcop Hill as the sewage situation is totally unacceptable. The lanes are overloaded. Surface water and springs also make this area utterly unsuitable for additional housing”*.
- Many pointed to the need to avoid building isolated dwellings in the **open countryside** where this could impact on the landscape and associated views (10 comments).
- **Drainage issues** for both foul and surface water were cited in 4 comments: development should be avoided in *“areas demonstrating poor drainage which could affect large areas of the parish”*.
- There were a further 12 comments citing **other reasons** for not building new dwellings:
 - Where the amenity of neighbours would be adversely impacted (3 comments)
 - Where highway safety would be compromised due to width of lanes or access (4)
 - To avoid ribbon development (1)
 - New homes or large development not needed or appropriate (3): *“Orcop is one of the last unspoilt areas in Herefordshire and should be kept this way”*.
- **Other specific locations** mentioned where houses should not be built (4 comments) were Saddlebow Hill, for highway reasons; Garway Hill; near the church; and along the Garron Brook to avoid land at risk of flooding.

Question 4: What size of new homes would you prefer to be built? (please tick one box per row)

	Yes		No	
Affordable homes/ Starter homes (1-2 beds)	50	76%	8	12%
Family homes (2-3 beds)	56	85%	4	6%
Larger family homes (4+ beds)	20	30%	30	45%
Other	20		30%	

Percentage base = 66

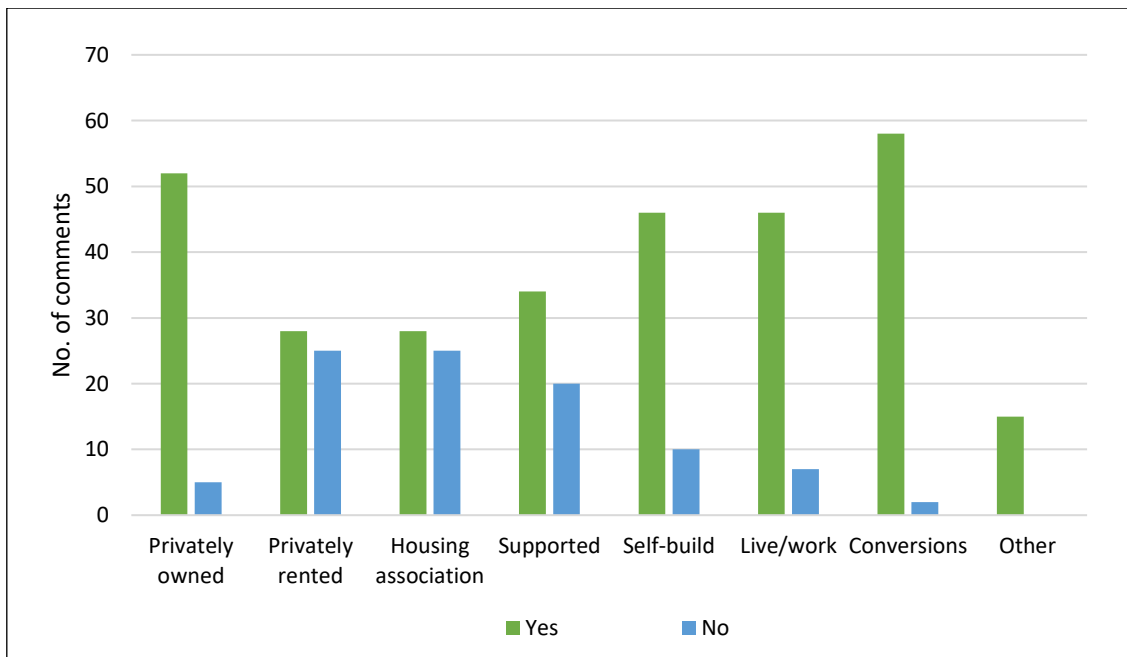


- Family homes of 2-3 bedrooms were the most preferred, followed by smaller affordable/starter dwellings of 1-2 bedrooms.
- There was relatively little support for larger dwellings of 4 bedrooms or more, these being opposed by 45%.
- There were 20 responses to the “other” option, referring to:
 - Bungalows
 - Need for a mix of size and tenure to help ensure a diverse and varied community
 - To suit local need rather than speculative development
 - *“Opportunities for young people from the village to be able to afford to stay”*
 - Environmentally sustainable dwellings (low energy use, well-built and insulated, and healthy drainage).

Question 5: What type of new housing should be built? (please tick one box per row)

	Yes		No	
Privately owned houses	52	79%	5	8%
Privately rented houses	28	42%	25	38%
Rented/shared ownership houses (Housing Association)	28	42%	25	38%
Supported/sheltered homes for the elderly or disabled	34	52%	20	30%
Self-build	46	70%	10	15%
Houses with workshop/annex (live/work)	46	70%	7	11%
Conversion of existing property (redundant farm buildings, barns)	58	88%	2	3%
Other	15		23%	

Percentage base = 66



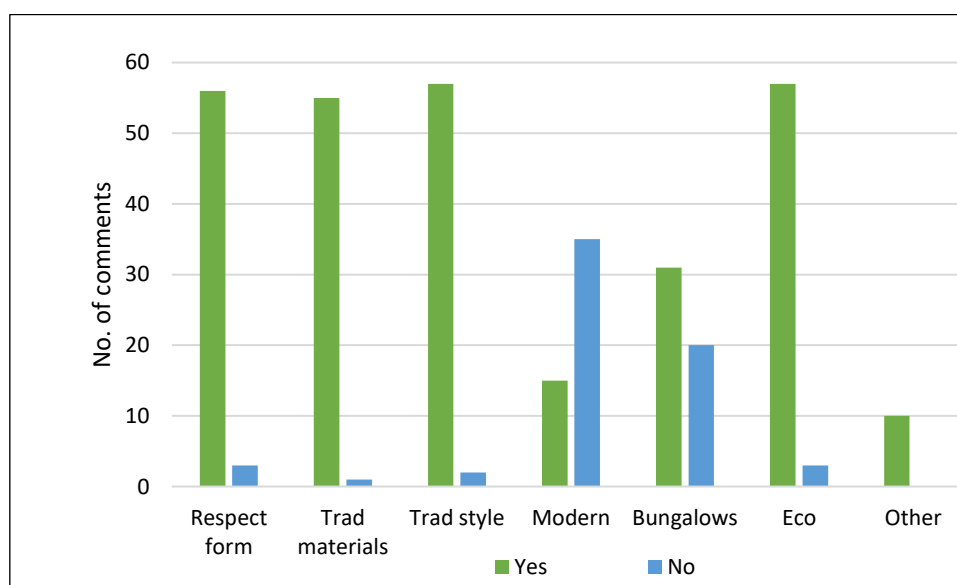
Question 5, continued/

- Conversion of existing property was the most favoured type of new housing, being preferred by 88% of respondents. This was followed by privately-owned homes (79%). These types of new housing also recorded notably low levels of opposition at 3% and 8% respectively.
- Self-build and live/work, both types of housing associated with bespoke or individual designs, were equally preferred by 70%.
- Supported/sheltered accommodation was favoured by 52% of respondents, with 30% against.
- Opinion on rented homes, whether from private landlords or Housing Associations, was more equally split – in both cases, 42% were for and 38% against.
- There were 15 responses to the “other” option, referring to:
 - Lack of services to sustain some of the dwelling types such as sheltered housing
 - Homes to meet local needs and requirements, including social housing and for a Parish care home
 - Properties built/managed by community land trust or another community-led scheme.
 - Bunk house/barn to provide sleeping accommodation for walkers and tourists
 - No flats (this was not an option which was specifically canvassed in question 5)
 - Environmentally sustainable/high performance dwellings e.g. passive house.

Question 6: What style of new housing should be built? (please tick one box per row)

	Yes		No	
Building designs that respect the built form, location, and scale of existing properties	56	85%	3	5%
Use of traditional local building materials	55	83%	1	2%
Traditional local building style (cottages, barns converted)	57	86%	2	3%
Modern styles	15	23%	35	53%
Bungalows	31	47%	20	30%
Eco friendly/high level of energy efficiency	57	86%	3	5%
Other	10		15%	

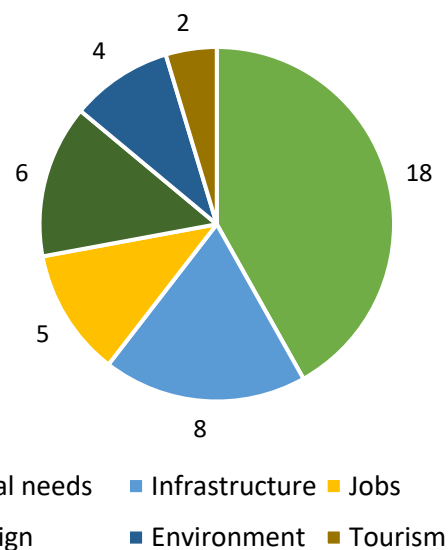
Percentage base = 66



- There was significant support for building styles that respect their context, use traditional materials and forms, and are environmentally sustainable – all options scoring above 80%.
- Conversely, there was little support for modern styles, with a majority (53%) being opposed.
- Bungalows attracted some support (47%) but also a notable level of opposition (30%).
- There were 10 responses to the “other” option, adding some more detail to the tick-box responses in terms of sought-after styles which were in keeping with the Parish: “*emphasis towards eco-friendly/carbon neutral based on timber, stone or modern materials that blend and add to the natural landscape*”.

Question 7: Do you have any other comments on building developments and housing need?

- This question was answered by 31 respondents (47%).
- There were 18 comments referring to **local housing needs**. The majority view was that the priority was for housing that younger people and families in the community could afford, with an emphasis on local connections: *“as in the past, families who live in the parish – or have done so for say 10 years – should be enabled to have houses in the parish for their children and elderly relatives”*. However,



- others (six comments) thought that there was no local housing need, or that there was a requirement to better understanding local housing needs at the outset.
- Eight comments pointed to the **lack of services or infrastructure limitations** as militating against new housing. This included: drainage and sewerage; highway capacity; gas/electricity; broadband; poor water quality; lack of access to shops/surgery. One respondent noted that *“in an area with no mains sewerage or gas, it is important to consider environmentally sound alternatives”* such as air source heat pumps.
- There were six calls for new properties to be **designed to be in keeping** with the locality. This encompassed a respect for the street scene and the rural character and style of existing dwellings, and an avoidance of overly urban designs and layouts, including estates and cul de sacs. However, one comment pointed out that *“modern style does not necessarily harm. It could bring a new thinking with a respect for its position”*.
- The lack of **local employment** was raised in five comments, being seen as reducing any requirement for housing generally and low-cost housing in particular. Indeed *“most new housing would be likely to attract commuting workers probably working outside Herefordshire”*.
- Calls to protect various aspects of the **environment** were made in four comments, including public rights of way, tranquillity, hedgerows and open spaces.
- There were two comments on dwellings linked to **leisure and tourism**. One encouraged such lived-in provision; another discouraged second homes and holiday cottages because of their inflationary effect on house prices.

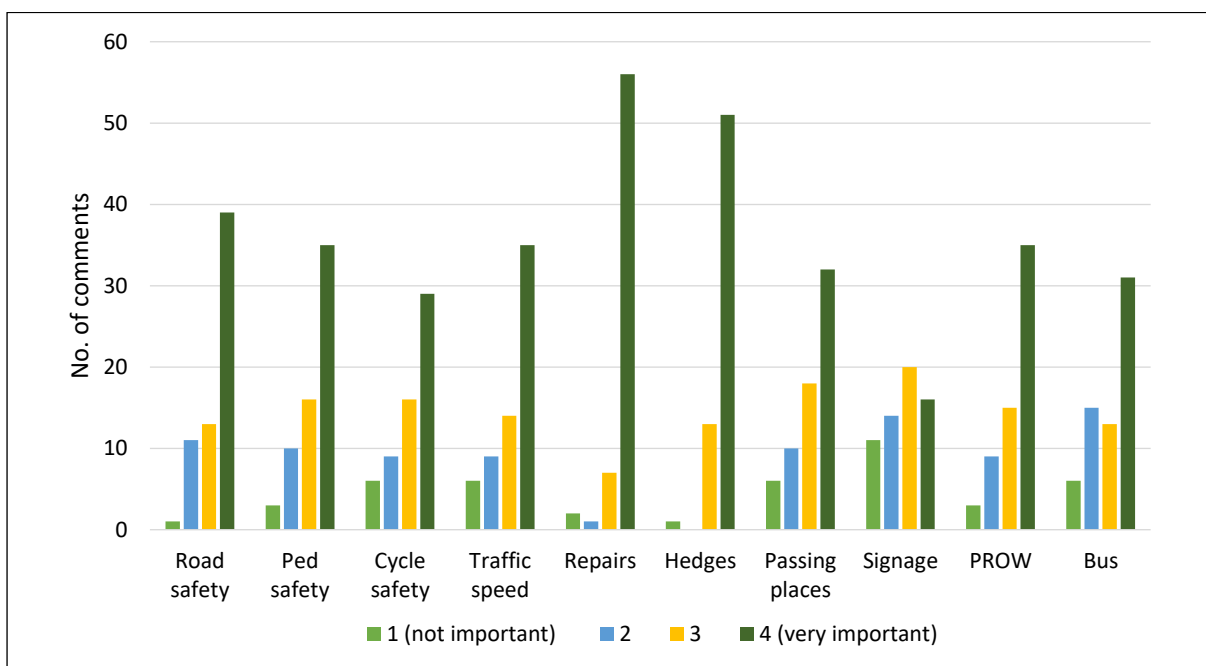
Traffic, transport and access

The questionnaire explained that whilst the Plan dealt mainly with land use and development, it could also be used inform and influence other aspects of the local environment such as transport and roads.

Question 8: How important to you are improvements to the following? (please tick one box per row, where 1 is not important and 4 is very important)

	1	2	3	4				
Road safety	1	2%	11	17%	13	20%	39	59%
Pedestrian safety	3	5%	10	15%	16	24%	35	53%
Cyclist safety	6	9%	9	14%	16	24%	29	44%
Reduction in traffic speed	6	9%	9	14%	14	21%	35	53%
Road repairs and maintenance	2	3%	1	2%	7	11%	56	85%
Maintenance of hedges, ditches, verges	1	2%	0	-	13	20%	51	77%
Lane passing places	6	9%	10	15%	18	27%	32	48%
Signage on roads and paths	11	17%	14	21%	20	30%	16	24%
Maintenance of footpaths and bridleways	3	5%	9	14%	15	23%	35	53%
Bus service	6	9%	15	23%	13	20%	31	47%

Percentage base = 66

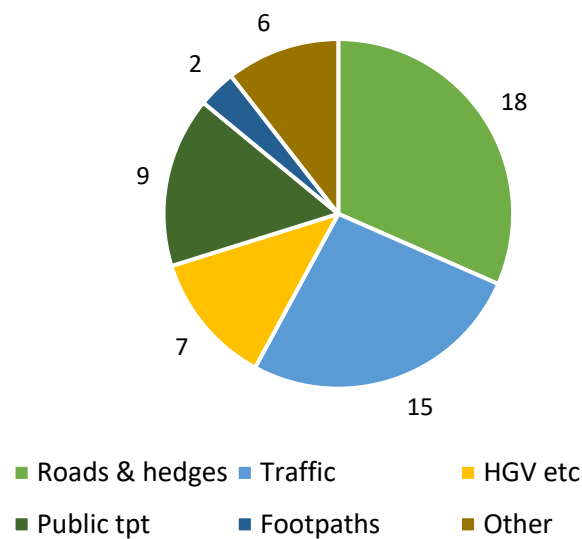


Question 8, continued/

- Responses to question 8 demonstrated the importance of highway maintenance to respondents, over and above all other aspects of local transport on which opinion was canvassed. Improvements to road repairs, followed by works to maintain hedges, ditches and highway verges were very important to 85% and 77% respectively, with very few considering these to be of no importance. Only one respondent thought that improvements to road repairs and maintenance were of no or low importance.
- Better maintenance of public rights of way (PROW) was very important to 53%.
- Safety improvements were sought in the case of roads (very important to 59%) and for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians (53%), and to a lesser extent cyclists (44%).
- Reflecting this concern for safety, reductions in traffic speed were a priority for 53%.
- Lowest priority was given to improved signage on roads and footpaths, this being very important to just under a quarter of respondents and of no or low importance to over one-third.

Question 9: do you have any other comments on traffic, transport and access?

- This question was answered by 39 respondents (59%).
- There were 18 comments on aspects of **road maintenance, including hedges** as well as ditches, drains and verges. There was a general agreement on the need for improvement, a typical comment being *“our roads are in a terrible condition and the ad-hoc repairs are just not up to standard”*.



- One respondent highlighted the need for environmentally-sensitive hedge laying, rather than flailing, and for roadside verges to be managed with biodiversity in mind.
- The **speed and amount of traffic** was raised in 15 comments. The main issue was traffic seen as going too fast for the road conditions, posing a danger to others. One commentator said *“slow the traffic down; people drive far too quickly on our lanes with little consideration to other road users whether they be walkers, bikers, runners or vehicle drivers”*. There were several calls for 30 mph speed restrictions, including at Orcop Hill around the bus stop, green and pub.
- The need for better **public transport** was raised in nine comments. This included suggestions for smaller buses, more frequent services and improved reliability, together with support for community transport schemes. One respondent sought *“free transport for the elderly and disabled to medical appointments and facilities”*; another pointed to the challenge that the present limited service levels posed for youngsters wanting to attend college in Hereford.
- There were seven comments on the impacts caused by **HGVs, delivery vehicles and farm equipment** to road surfaces and verges.
- There were two comments on **footpaths**, as to the need to improve both signage and condition.
- In six **other comments**, reference was made to driving abilities of residents, the need to improve or replace road signs, horses, and to a lack of passing places, off-street parking, and charging points for electric vehicles.

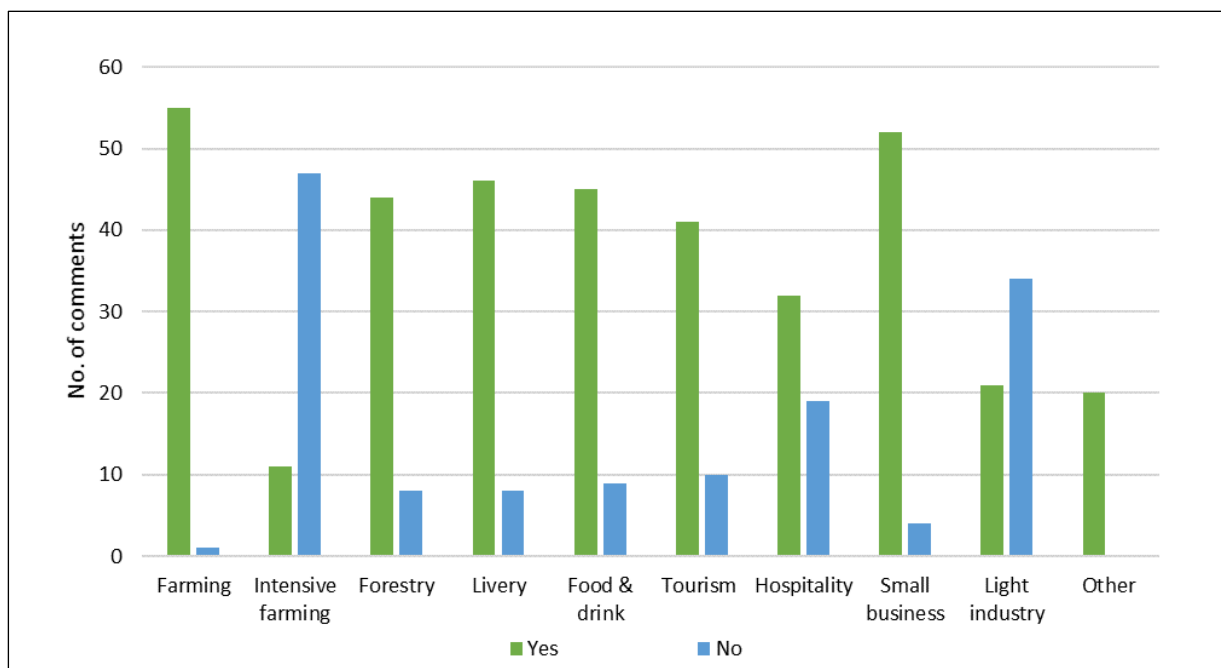
Jobs and the economy

The questionnaire asked for views about policies in the NDP to guide and promote new economic development in and around the Parish.

Question 10: What types of employment should be encouraged in the Parish? (please tick one box per row)

	Yes		No	
Arable and livestock farming	55	83%	1	2%
Intensive farming e.g. polytunnels, livestock units	11	17%	47	71%
Forestry and related activities	44	67%	8	12%
Livery and stabling	46	70%	8	12%
Producing food and drink	45	68%	9	14%
Tourism, leisure, arts and crafts	41	62%	10	15%
Hospitality and catering	32	48%	19	29%
Small business	52	79%	4	6%
Light industry	21	32%	34	52%
Other	20		30%	

Percentage base = 66



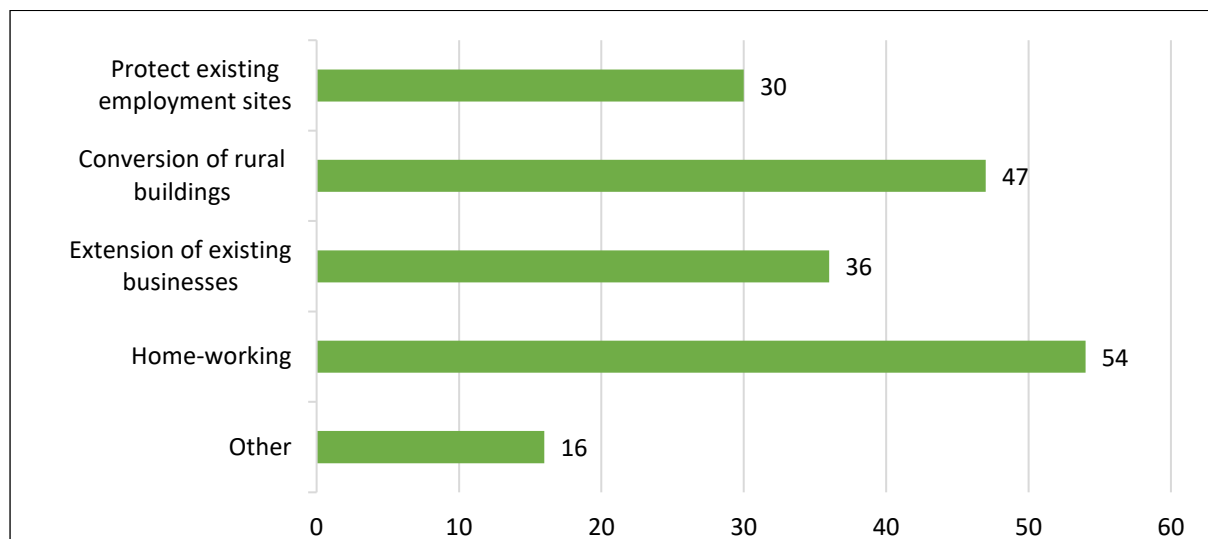
Question 10, continued/

- Responses to question 10 demonstrated majority support for a range of types of economic activity as being suitable and compatible with the rural surroundings. Farming, forestry, livery and stabling, food and drink production, tourism and leisure and small businesses were all supported by over half of respondents. The most popular was arable and livestock farming (83%) closely followed by small businesses (79%) and then forestry (67%).
- Hospitality and catering was supported by 48% with 29% opposed.
- Light industry and intensive farming were not favoured, with both recording more respondents against than in support. In the case of light industry, one-third thought this should be encouraged whilst over a half were opposed. For intensive farming, the proportion of respondents who were opposed rose to 71%.
- There were 20 responses to the “other” option, referring to:
 - Need to encourage all sorts of rural employment
 - Lack of suitable infrastructure to enable larger businesses to operate
 - Self-employment should be supported
 - Need to achieve high ecological, animal welfare and environmental standards
 - Establish nature reserve at Garway Hill to encourage wildlife and attract tourism
 - Health and wellbeing services and facilities
 - Encourage cottage industries e.g. carpentry, local crafts
 - Small holdings for food growing
 - Avoid industrial scale arable and livestock farming (including larger modern farm buildings) and forestry
 - Encourage young people back into working on the land with more natural agricultural methods that incorporate wider cultural activities
 - Promote diversity of trees and hedgerows, avoiding monoculture
 - Recognise move to carbon free economy, potential impacts on Parish and promote employment focussed on skills.

Question 11: How should the Plan support employment and the local economy? (please mark with a tick all that apply)

	No.	%
Protect existing employment sites from changes of use	30	45%
Support appropriate conversion of rural buildings for employment purposes	47	71%
Support the appropriate extension of existing businesses	36	55%
Encourage home-working	54	82%
Other	16	24%

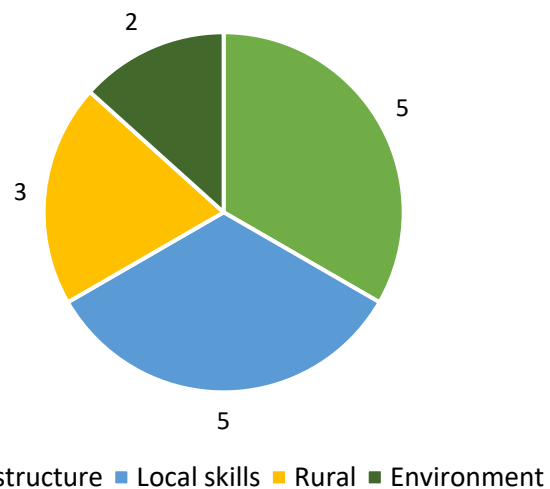
Percentage base = 66



- There was significant support for the NDP to support home-working and the suitable re-use and conversion of redundant rural buildings to provide local employment.
- Extending existing business premises was supported by 55%, followed by protecting existing employment sites (45%).
- There were 16 responses to the “other” option, including referring to:
 - Need to ensure necessary infrastructure including broadband and transport
 - Better transport into neighbouring towns to enable journeys to work
 - New employment uses should have no noise or visual impact
 - Need clarity as to what “appropriate” means
 - Area not suitable for large businesses due to road network
 - *“In an environment where economic moves at a faster pace than plan and policy making it is important that the NDP has the flexibility to allow for a change of use.”*

Question 12: Do you have any other comments on jobs and the local economy?

- This question was answered by 13 respondents (20%).
- There were five comments on **infrastructure**. Several emphasised the need for small businesses, home-working and self-employment to have access to reliable and fast fibre broadband, as well as to a mobile phone signal. The single-track nature of the rural lanes was also seen as a constraint.
- Others pointed to the opportunities available to make better use of **local skills** to support a diverse rural economy and retain young people: *“the area has already attracted people with very significant skills and talents ... making good use of the knowledge, skills and experience of existing residents might well help the local economy”*.
- Three comments noted the strengths and weaknesses posed by Orcop’s relatively remote and **rural location**. For some, the parish was “too remote”; for another respondent, *“rural areas like Orcop will be attractive to individuals and firms moving out of the cities ...it will be essential to attract businesses and their owners whose market is high value goods and services [to] provide revenue for the local economy”*.
- On the environment (two comments), one respondent sought to *“encourage development of walks, ecological enterprises which encourage rural tourism which will in turn support local pubs/shops/cafes and accommodation while at the same time encouraging interest and care for the natural environment”*. The other comment on this topic objected to the adverse impacts of the haulage of silage and maize to feed anaerobic digesters, including road safety and damage to verges.



Community facilities

The questionnaire explained that the NDP could include policies to protect community services, services and amenities.

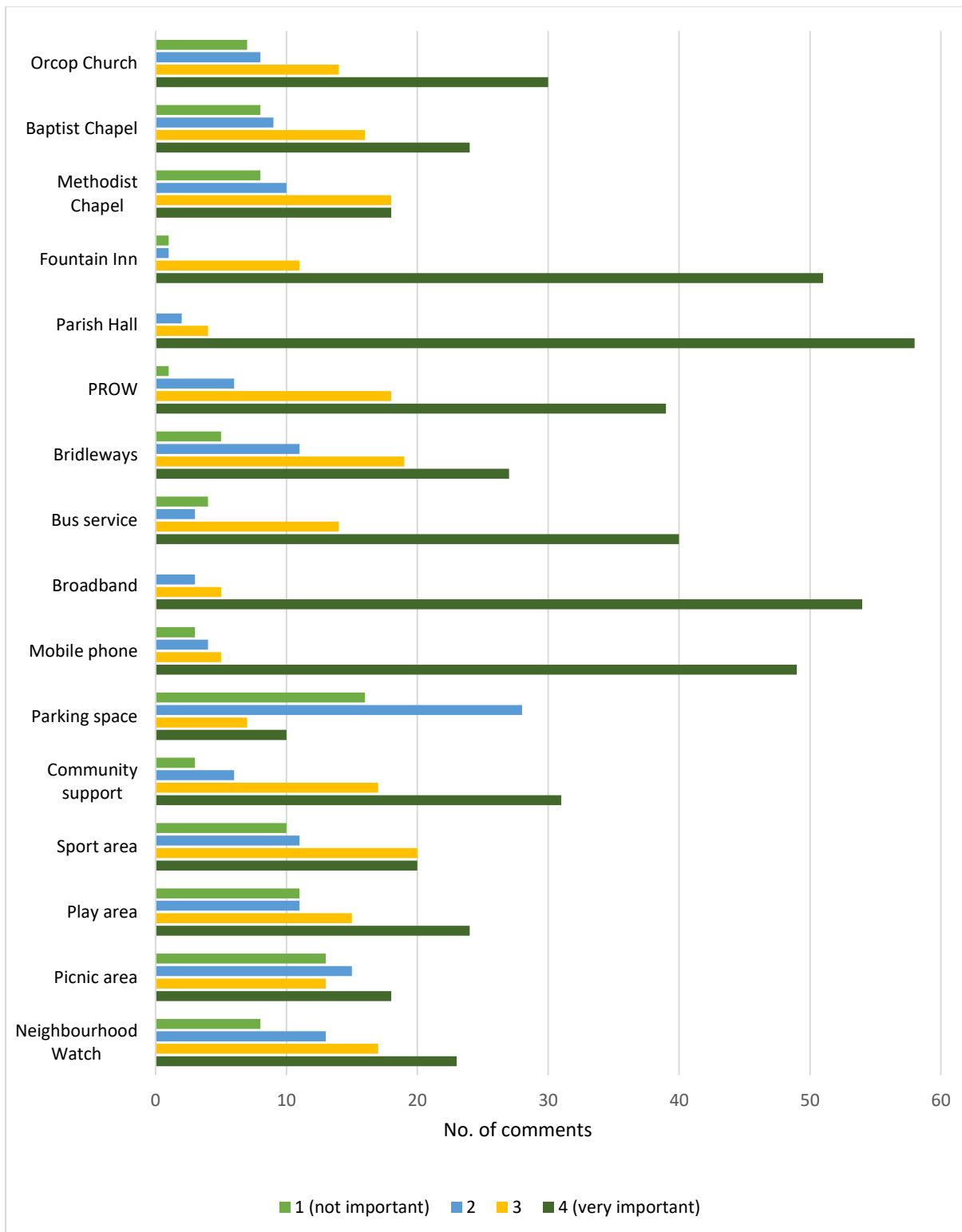
Question 13: How important do you think the following facilities are [or would be*] in meeting the current and future needs of the local community? (please tick one box per row, where 1 is not important and 4 is very important)

	1	2	3	4				
St John the Baptist Church, Orcop	7	11%	8	12%	14	21%	30	45%
Baptist Chapel, Orcop Hill	8	12%	9	14%	16	24%	24	36%
Methodist Chapel, Garway Hill	8	12%	10	15%	18	27%	18	27%
The Fountain Inn	1	2%	1	2%	11	17%	51	77%
Orcop Parish Hall	0	-	2	3%	4	6%	58	88%
Footpaths/public rights of way	1	2%	6	9%	18	27%	39	59%
Bridleways	5	8%	11	17%	19	29%	27	41%
Local bus service	4	6%	3	5%	14	21%	40	61%
Broadband	0	-	3	5%	5	8%	54	82%
Mobile phone coverage	3	5%	4	6%	5	8%	49	74%
Public parking space	16	24%	28	42%	7	11%	10	15%
Community support schemes	3	5%	6	9%	17	26%	31	47%
* Sport and recreation area	10	15%	11	17%	20	30%	20	30%
* Children's play area	11	17%	11	17%	15	23%	24	36%
* Picnic areas; benches	13	20%	15	23%	13	20%	18	27%
* Neighbourhood Watch scheme	8	12%	13	20%	17	26%	23	35%

Percentage base = 66

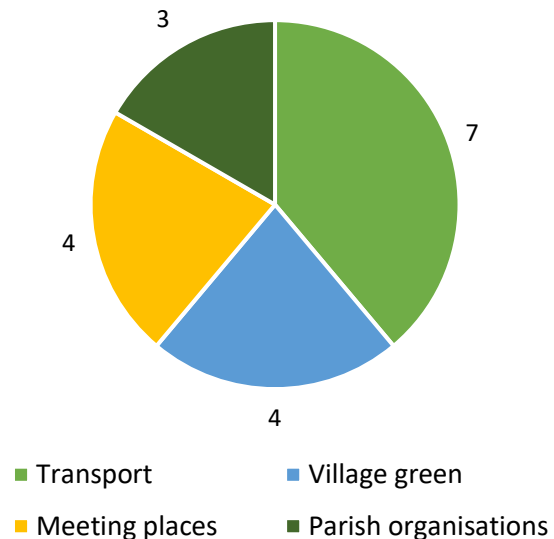
- Orcop Parish Hall was seen as the most important of all the facilities on which opinion was canvassed, being very important to 88%. No respondent thought it not important.
- Broadband, the Fountain Inn and mobile phone coverage were very important to between 82% and 74%.
- Footpaths and the local bus service were also very important over half of respondents.
- Public parking spaces were the least important of existing facilities – not important to 24%.
- None of the proposed facilities were seen as particular priorities. A children's play area scored the highest, being very important to 36%, closely followed by a Neighbourhood Watch scheme (35%). A picnic area was of least importance, being sought by just over one-quarter.

Question 13, continued/



Question 14: Are there any other community facilities, services and amenities you would like to see provided if possible?

- This question was answered by 15 respondents (23%).
- **Transport** issues and suggestions attracted most attention (7 comments). Several mentioned the desirability of additional community transport provision, with most respondents seeing a need for some kind of “creative transport solution to reduce the dependence on individual cars”. The importance of community transport to the elderly was recognised.



- There were four comments supporting the idea of enhanced **village green space**, providing an open-air meeting place for families, picnics and a recreational/play facility for children: “*Orcop Hill Copywell – the village green, used as a recreation or community gathering area. This is the heart of the village and an important facility for the local community events and a play area for young children*”.
- There were also four comments variously supporting other opportunities to **meet up** and socialise, including a café, village shop, and a wider range of services at the Parish Hall – “*or move it to an attractive location within walking distance of Orcop Hill*”.
- Different forms of **Parish-level and community organisations** were mooted in three comments. These embraced a housing association, to provide sheltered accommodation for the elderly; an economic/business organisation, “*to provide a focus for the development of local “bottom-up” services and to take over and add to declining top-down services, funded from lotteries, trusts and local bequests*”; and a voluntary organisation to run a local market place.

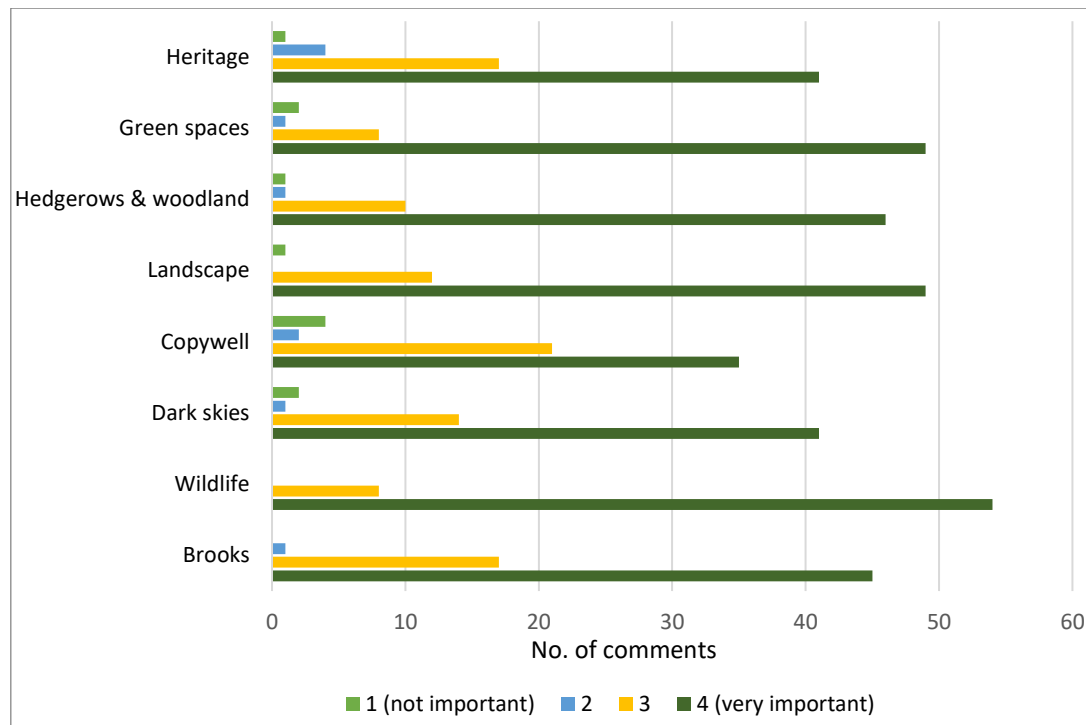
Protecting our environment

The questionnaire asked for views as to how best to protect the distinctive local environment in the NDP.

Question 15: How important is the protection of our local heritage and the natural environment? (please tick one box per row, where 1 is not important and 4 is very important)

	1	2	3	4
Historic buildings and archaeological sites	1	2%	4	6%
Green spaces	2	3%	1	2%
Ancient hedgerows and woodland	1	2%	1	2%
Rural landscape	1	2%	0	-
Copywell (village green)	4	6%	2	3%
Dark skies	2	3%	1	2%
Wildlife habitats and species, biodiversity	0	-	0	-
Ynys/Garren Brook & other watercourses	0	-	1	2%

Percentage base = 66



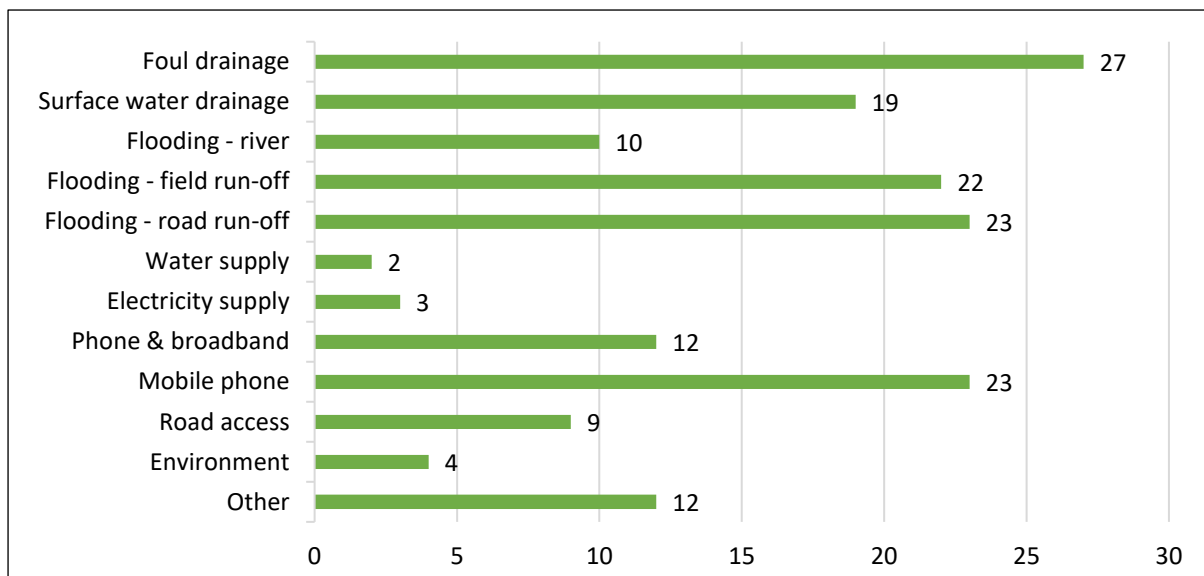
- All aspects of the local environment on which opinion was canvassed were very important to a majority, with most priority being given to wildlife habitats and species (very important to 82%) followed by green spaces and landscape (both 74%) and then by ancient hedgerows and woodland (70%).
- Protection of the Ynys/Garren Brook and other watercourses was very important to just over two-thirds (68%).
- Lowest priority was given to dark skies and to the village green at Copywell, although these were very important to 62% and 53% respectively.
- Question 15 also asked respondents to identify public views and vistas. There were 20 responses (30%), referring to views and vistas from:
 - Orcop Hill and along road to Bagwyllydiart
 - Newcastle Farm field/Wilkes Row Lane across Orcop basin towards Garway Hill
 - Coles Tump
 - Saddlebow Hill and Saddlebow Common
 - Little Hill to Coles Tump
 - East from public footpath over field from Little Hill to the Monmouth Road
 - Green Lane across Orcop basin
 - Garway Hill, including of Orcop basin
 - Garway Common.

Question 16: Are you aware of locations where development may be constrained by any of the following? (please tick all that apply)

	No.	%	Locations (specify locations as accurately as you can)
Foul drainage	27	41%	Orcop Hill, including Copywell, land off Etna, Wilkes Row, The Trees and Newcastle Farm field (24); Garway Hill (1).
Surface water drainage	19	29%	Orcop Hill, including Copywell, land off Etna, Wilkes Row, The Trees and Newcastle Farm field (16); Garway Hill upper road (2).
River/stream over-flow causing flooding	10	15%	Orcop Hill, including Copywell, land off Etna, and Newcastle Farm field (5); Garron Brook (2); Garway Hill (1).
Field run-off causing flooding/pollution	22	33%	Orcop Hill, including Copywell, land off Etna, The Trees and Newcastle Farm field (10); Garway Hill (3); Green Lane (2); other (5).
Road run-off causing flooding	23	35%	Orcop Hill, including Copywell, land off Etna, Wilkes Row, The Trees and Newcastle Farm field (11); Garway Hill (2); other (7).
Water supply	2	3%	Orcop Hill (1).
Electricity supply	3	5%	Orcop Hill, including land off Etna (2).
Telephone/broadband connection	12	18%	Garway Hill (2); Parish-wide (4); other (2).
Mobile phone connection	23	35%	Parish-wide (9); Orcop Hill (6); Garway Hill (3); Bagwylydiart (1).
Road access	9	14%	Orcop Hill off Wilkes Row and off Etna (2); Lyston Lane (3); Saddlebow (1); Parish-wide (1).
Environmental concerns	4	6%	All of Orcop (1); Copywell/Garron Brook (3).
Other	12	18%	

Percentage base = 66. Not all respondents gave locations as to where their selected constraints applied.

Question 16, continued/

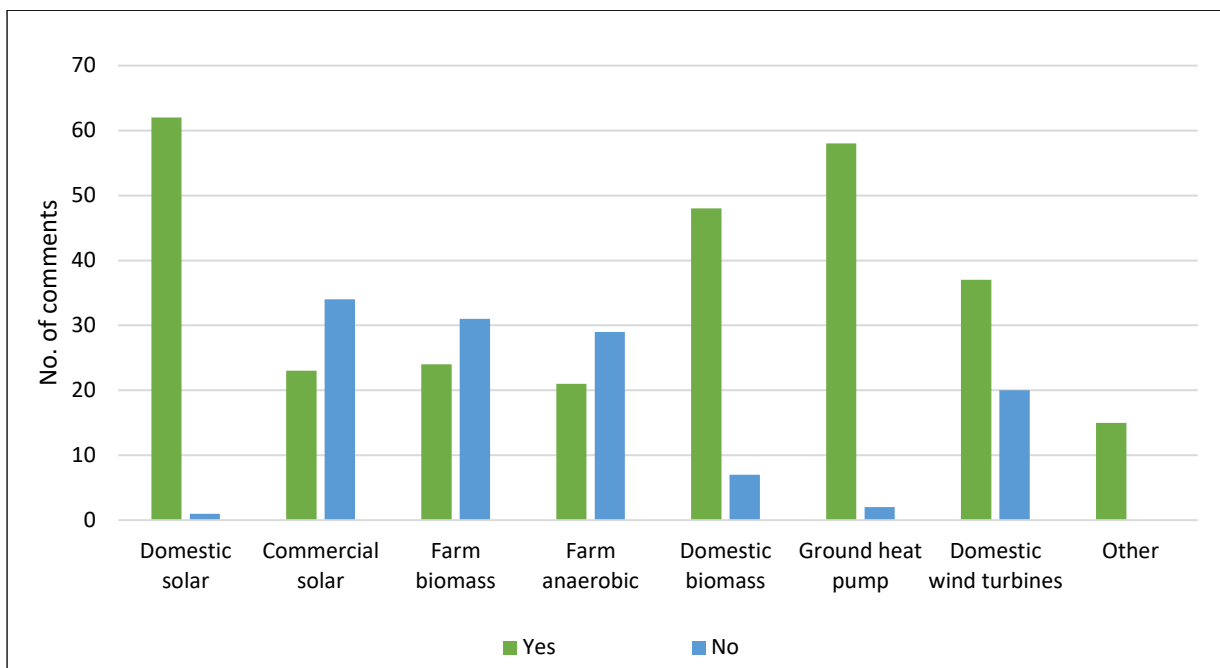


- The main constraint to development highlighted by responses to this question was the provision of foul drainage, an issue mainly seen to be affecting Orcop Hill and specific sites therein. Surface water drainage problems were also reported at Orcop Hill.
- This was followed by flooding, mainly due to run-off from fields and roads and affecting both Orcop Hill and locations elsewhere in the Parish. As reported the flood risk from watercourses was less of an issue.
- The principal other constraints were those of a lack of telephone and broadband connections, and the limited availability of a mobile phone signal. The latter was reported by over one-third of respondents and appears to be a Parish-wide issue.
- There were 12 responses to the “other” option, including reference to:
 - Need for public sewerage at Orcop Hill and associated foul drainage and odour issues (four comments)
 - Orcop Hill should not be developed further to avoid suburbanisation and safeguard land for future food production
 - Need to ensure River Way Special Area of Conservation is protected through appropriate assessment of development
 - Problem with land stability affecting road at Garway near Black Pitts/top road.

Question 17: Which of the following ways of producing renewable energy would you support in Orcop Parish? (please tick only one box per row)

	Yes		No	
Solar power (domestic)	62	94%	1	2%
Solar power (commercial)	23	35%	34	52%
Farm biomass units (commercial)	24	36%	31	47%
Farm anaerobic digesters (commercial)	21	32%	29	44%
Biomass units (domestic)	48	73%	7	11%
Ground source heat pumps (domestic)	58	88%	2	3%
Wind turbines (domestic)	37	56%	20	30%
Other	15		23%	

Percentage base = 66

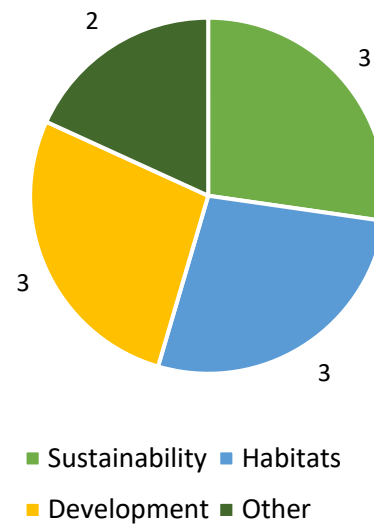


- Responses to question 17 generally supported the domestic-scale generation of renewable energy, be this through solar (the most popular option with 94% in favour), ground source heat pumps (88%), biomass (73%) or wind turbines (56%).
- The commercial generation of renewable energy was less favoured. For all the options canvassed, there were higher levels of opposition than support.
- There were 15 responses to the “other” option, referring to:

- Using agricultural or horticultural waste for energy seems sensible, the use of farmland to produce crops to burn for energy is more debatable
- Concerns over use of roads by more and larger vehicles e.g. HGVs delivering fuel to commercial anaerobic digesters and biomass
- Air source heat pumps
- Hydro power
- Waste to energy plant
- Support for wind turbines that could benefit local community with subsidised energy provision.

Question 18: Do you have any other comments on protecting our local environment and heritage?

- This question was answered by 11 respondents (17%).
- Issues around **sustainability** were raised in three comments. One respondent advocated a *“radical rethink of Herefordshire approach to sustainability, environmental policy, ecology, conservation and protection, road building and intensive farms of land use”*. Another pointed to the need for supervision of farming practices and the use of herbicides and insecticides therein to protect wildlife.
- **Habitat preservation and creation** through tree planting and woodland protection was raised in three comments. One respondent saw tree and wetland planting as a way *“to support the water ways and to clean grey water and so reduce the foul smell and improve the health of the water and soil”*.
- Three respondents raised the issue of new **housing development** which was seen as unsustainable due to drainage limitations, lack of local demand, limited facilities and services, and high reliance on use of the private car.
- Two other comments suggested a general presumption against all kinds of cars and advised that any major changes would be detrimental to rural views presently enjoyed by residents.



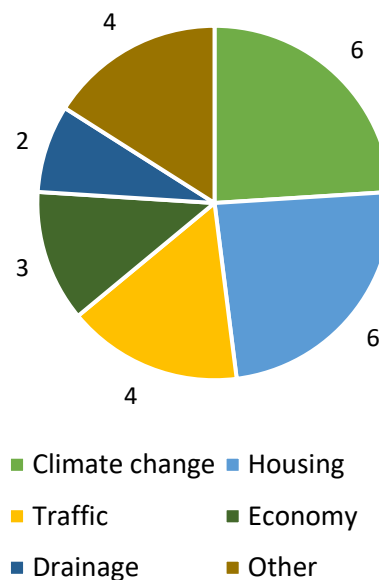
Have we addressed your concerns?

Question 19: We have tried to include the main issues in this Questionnaire. However, if there is anything you feel we have missed and you wish to highlight please tell us below. Remember, our Neighbourhood Development Plan will be in place until 2031 and we want to make sure everything is covered.

- This question was answered by 19 respondents (29%).

- **Climate change** was raised in six comments: *“the climate crisis and emergency impacts must be given the highest priority when considering any neighbourhood developments”*. Possible ways in which the NDP could address expected impacts included:

- High energy-efficiency or zero carbon development
- Woodland planting and regeneration
- Avoiding high-carbon emitting schemes
- Replacing cars with public transport
- Promoting walking and cycling
- Converting green lanes into bridleways
- Working towards economic and social self-sufficiency.



- **Housing development** in the Parish was also referred to in six comments. The general sentiment was against further development, perhaps apart from infill: *“we live here because it is peaceful, beautiful and rural. Please do not ruin it”*. There were concerns that Core Strategy targets were being misapplied by scheme promoters; that *“the local planning authority are not considering the unsustainability [and] environmental impact”* of new dwellings, or taking any notice of local concerns and knowledge. However, one respondent thought that *“lack of housing has been an issue for over 50 years ... more land needs to be allocated for housing”*.
- **On traffic** (four comments), respondents were concerned that development would lead to more traffic from both private cars and service vehicles on the single-track and badly maintained roads. The siting of two anaerobic digesters in Orcop had increased the numbers of large farm vehicles using the lanes.
- Comments on the **economy** asked how the Parish could be sustainable in a context of reduced economic growth, minimal services and limited job opportunities (three comments).
- On **drainage**, two comments re-iterated concerns over poor drainage conditions leading to foul water pollution and surface water flooding.
- **Other comments** referred to the distinction between Orcop Hill as being both a ridgeline and the settlement; mobile phone and internet connectivity; and the visual impact of the poultry unit at Orcop.

Information about you

Question 20: How many occupants live in your household by age group? (Please answer this question only once per household by inserting the total number of residents within each age band)

Questionnaire responses ¹			Census 2011, usual residents ²	
0-4 years	4	3%	15	4%
5-11 years	10	7%	32	8%
12-18 years	4	3%	42	10%
19-25 years	5	3%	13	3%
26-65 years	72	50%	226	54%
65+ years	49	34%	89	21%

1. Percentage base = 144 (total number of household occupants identified in responses to Q20)

2. Percentage base = 417 (usual residents in Orcop Parish at Census 2011)

- The 66 and over age group were over-represented in replies to the survey, being 21% of the population in 2011 but accounting for 34% of responding households.
- The 12-18 group were under-represented, being 10% of the population in 2011 but accounting for 3% of responding households.
- Other age groups were proportionately represented in survey responses.

Question 21: Where within Orcop Parish do you live?

	No.	%		No.	%
Orcop (near the Church)	1	2%	Garway Hill	13	20%
Orcop Hill	27	41%	Saddlebow/Bagwyllydiart	9	14%
Little Hill	5	7.6%	Elsewhere in Orcop	8	12%

Percentage base = 66

Question 22: How many years have you lived in Orcop Parish?

