

West Wickham Community Engagement Survey 2015

Introduction

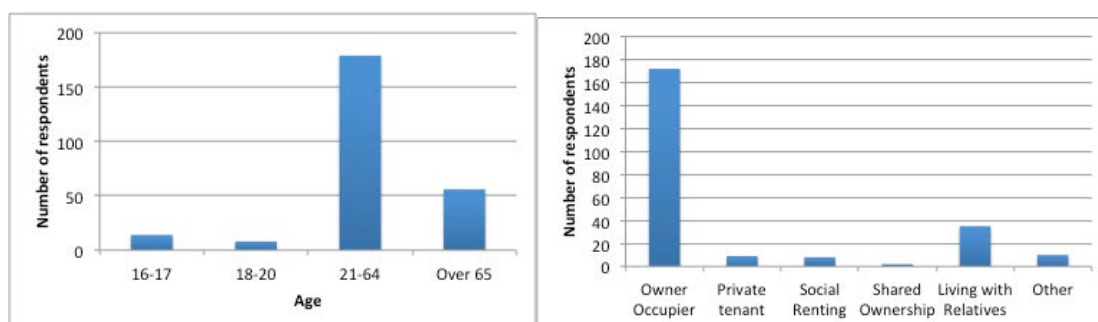
This report summarises the results of the survey of the parishioners of West Wickham Cambridgeshire carried out by West Wickham Parish Council in Spring 2015. The aims of the survey were:

- 1) Establish whether there was support for developing a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2) Assess the housing need in the village and the support for providing additional housing.
- 3) Gather feedback on which new amenities and improved services would benefit the community.

97% of respondents supported developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish.

The surveys were hand delivered and 253 completed forms were collected representing a response rate of approximately 57%.

The age and current residential status is summarised below:



Housing Need

Seven respondents indicated that while they were currently living with others they wished to have a home of their own in the Parish. The majority cited cost, a lack of suitably sized houses and a lack of rented properties as barriers to finding a suitable home.

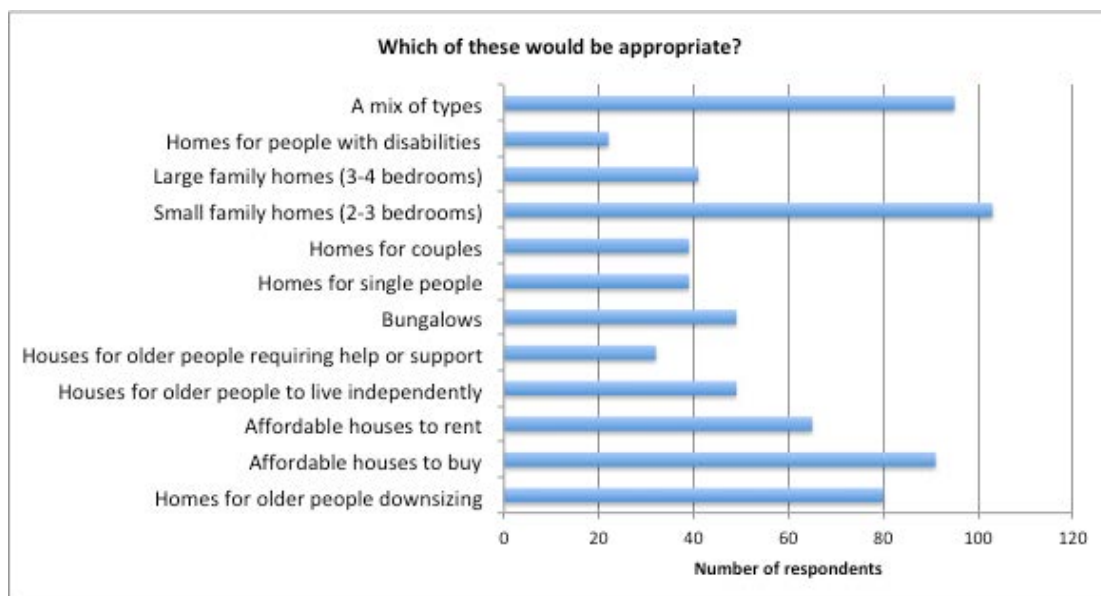
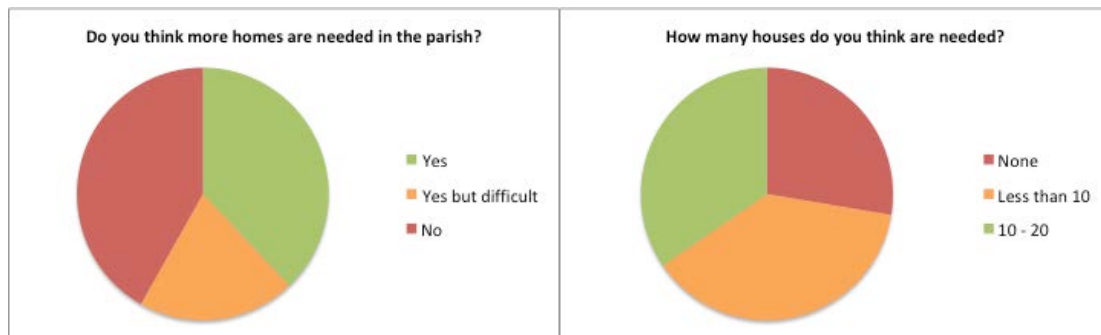
A further seven respondents indicated that they were currently living in the Parish but wished to move to a smaller dwelling. Over half indicated a lack of suitable houses available to purchase or rent were available.

Four respondents indicated they were currently on the local authority Housing List.

Support for Building More Houses

Residents were asked for their assessment of housing need, how many and what sort of new houses they would support being built in the Parish.

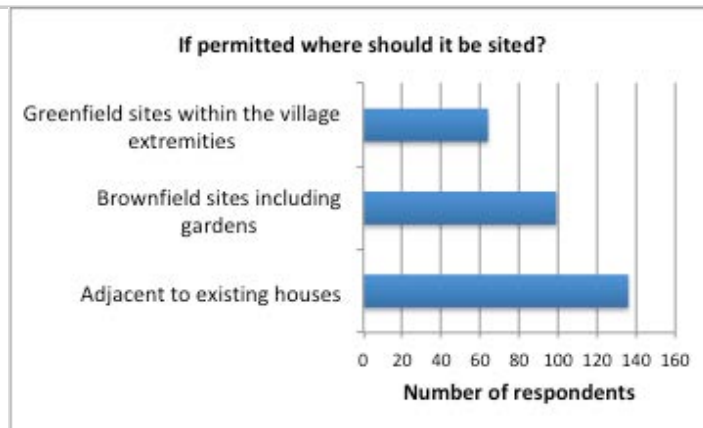
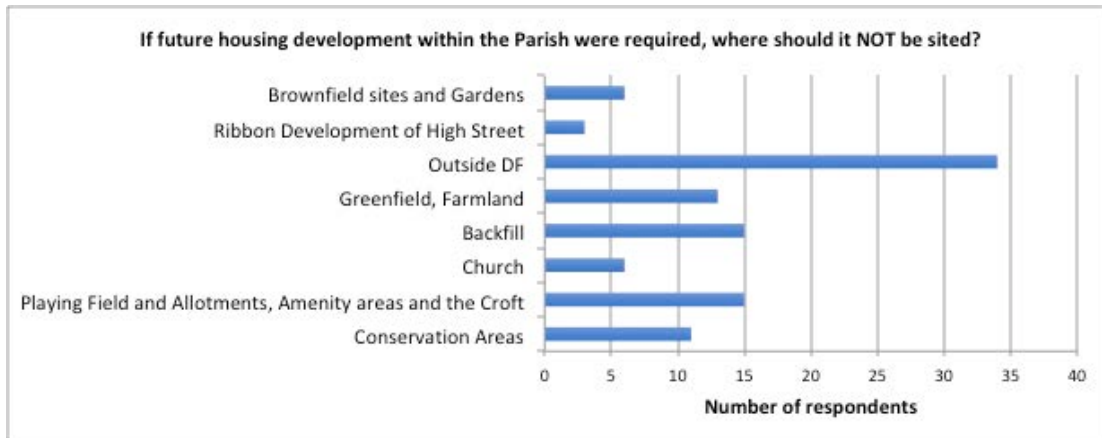
The majority view was that less than 10 houses should be built. The most popular view was that they should be a mix of types including affordable small family homes with 2-3 bedrooms and homes for older people.



Many comments emphasised that any new housing should be to provide housing for local people to enhance the sustainability of the community. There was particular support for providing accommodation for young families and the elderly wishing to stay in the Parish.

Regarding *where* future development should be sited the most popular view was that development should be constrained to inside the development framework with a majority preferring sites adjacent to existing development.

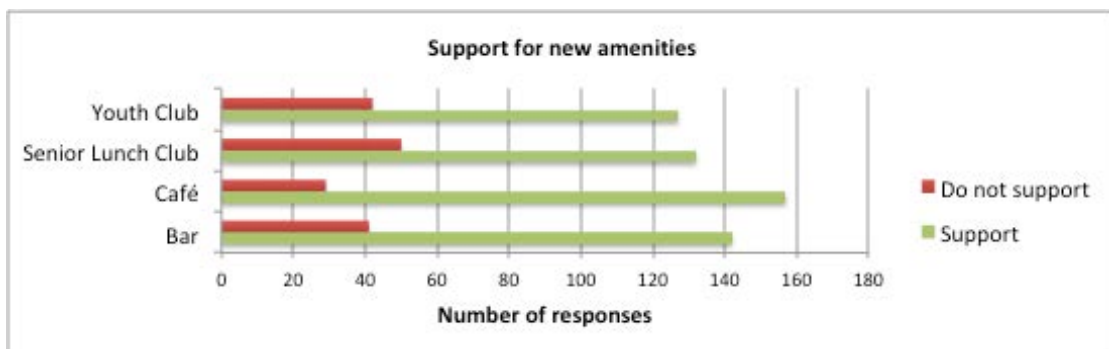
Since the survey was carried out in 2015 8 dwellings have been built in the Parish or are under construction. This includes 2 affordable houses and 2 bungalows for the elderly.



Businesses, Amenities & Broadband Access

12% of respondents run a business and a further 10% have considered doing so. Only 3% own or manage commercial land.

85% of responses supported the delivery of additional amenities in the Parish. The majority support for only small-scale development does not indicate widespread support for delivering amenities though development.



In 2015 when the survey was completed 91% of parishioners owned a computer, with 92% connected to the Internet. At the time of the survey the broadband connectivity was widely felt to be inadequate but has been substantially upgraded since. 95.9% of properties in the Parish can now access 'superfast' broadband services. 64% of responses supported having a mobile phone mast to improve mobile network coverage.