

***Devioc
Neighbourhood Plan
Community Survey***

Consultation Report

October 2015



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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Deviock Parish Council is currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Deviock Parish, including the villages of Donderry, Seaton and Hessenford. The Deviock Neighbourhood Plan will, once prepared, have legal status and will be used to influence future planning decisions for the parish in the period to 2030.
- 1.1.2 In June 2015, the Parish Council undertook a Community Survey for the Neighbourhood Plan. The purpose of the Community Survey was to gain residents' views on a range of issues in Deviock and to gain an understanding of the key elements of importance to address through the Neighbourhood Plan.

1.2 Community Survey questionnaire

- 1.2.1 A questionnaire was devised as the primary method to gain responses for the Community Survey. The questionnaire comprised 21 questions and was divided into the following five sections:
- Services and Facilities
 - Community and Environment
 - Housing
 - Employment and Economy
 - The Future
- 1.2.2 A questionnaire was chosen as the method for formally responding to the consultation as it meant responses were uniform and gave all respondents an equal opportunity to voice their opinions. An online version of the questionnaire was also devised via SurveyMonkey for those with access to the internet. A postal address and a number of drop off points were set up to enable easy return of hard copies of the questionnaire.
- 1.2.3 The Community Survey was distributed to all households in the parish. Residents were invited to complete the survey online or via paper copies of the questionnaire. The survey was accompanied by three Neighbourhood Plan consultation events in the parish, as follows:
- Saturday 20th June at Donderry Village Hall
 - Tuesday 23rd June at Hessenford Church Hall
 - Wednesday 24th June at Smugglers Inn
- 1.2.4 A copy of the Community Survey can be viewed in Appendix 1 of this report.

1.3 Purpose of this report

- 1.3.1 This Consultation Report presents the analysis and findings of the responses to the Community Survey undertaken in June 2015. The results of the Community Survey will contribute to the direction and content of the Neighbourhood Plan and will support the findings of the Evidence Base Report prepared for the Neighbourhood Plan in early 2015.

1.4 Structure of this report

1.4.1 This report has been presented as follows:

- Chapter 2 summarises the number of consultation responses received, who responded to the consultation, and whether they live, work, shop or use facilities in the parish.
- Chapter 3 summarises the consultation responses and comments received on the Community Survey. This has been presented by the five sections of the questionnaire (see Section 1.2.1 above).
- Chapter 4 subsequently identifies the next steps for the development of the Deviock Neighbourhood Plan.

2 Who responded to the Community Survey?

2.1 Number of responses

2.1.1 There were a total of 337 responses to the Community Survey. These responses were collected through the methods discussed in Section 1.2.1.

2.1.2 64% of the responses were submitted via a paper copy (215 responses), with the remaining 36% of the responses made via an online submission (122 responses).

2.2 Age ranges of respondents

2.2.1 As part of the Community Survey, the ages of respondents were asked. This is to ensure that opinions from a wide range of age groups can be taken forward for the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan.

2.2.2 Figure 2.1 presents the ages of respondents. This highlights that by far the largest proportion of respondents were of the 41-65 age range (40% of respondents) and 65+ age range (41% of respondents). 11% were from the 24-40 age ranges, and only in the region of 9% of respondents were from those under the age of 25.

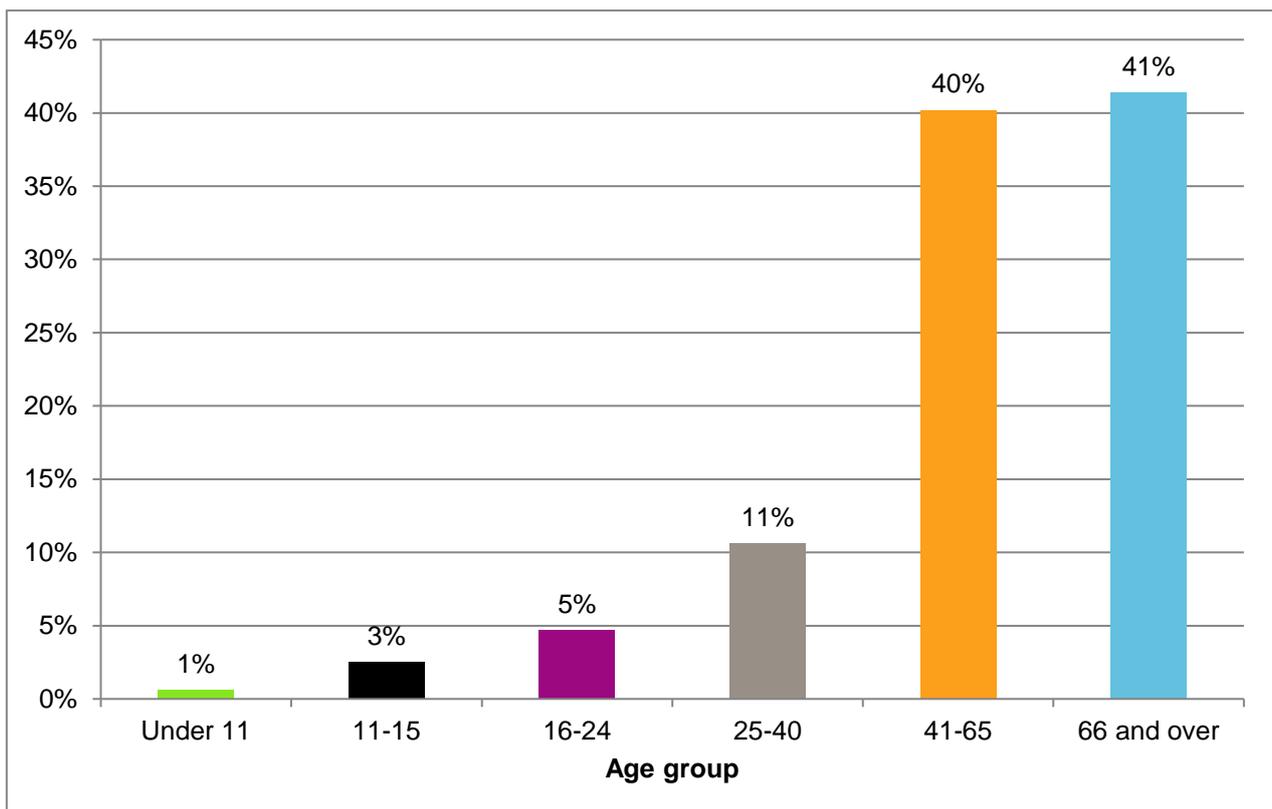


Figure 2.1 Age range of respondents

2.3 How long have respondents lived in the parish?

2.3.1 The Community Survey asked respondents how long they have lived in Deviocck Parish (Figure 2.2). Comprising 35% of respondents, the largest proportion of respondents has lived in the parish longer than 20 years. The next largest group (23%) were those who have lived in the parish for 11 to 20 years.

2.3.2 24% of respondents have lived in the parish for under 6 years, with those residing in parish for 6 to 10 years making up a marginally smaller proportion (18%) than those who have been living the parish for between 1 to 5 years (21%).

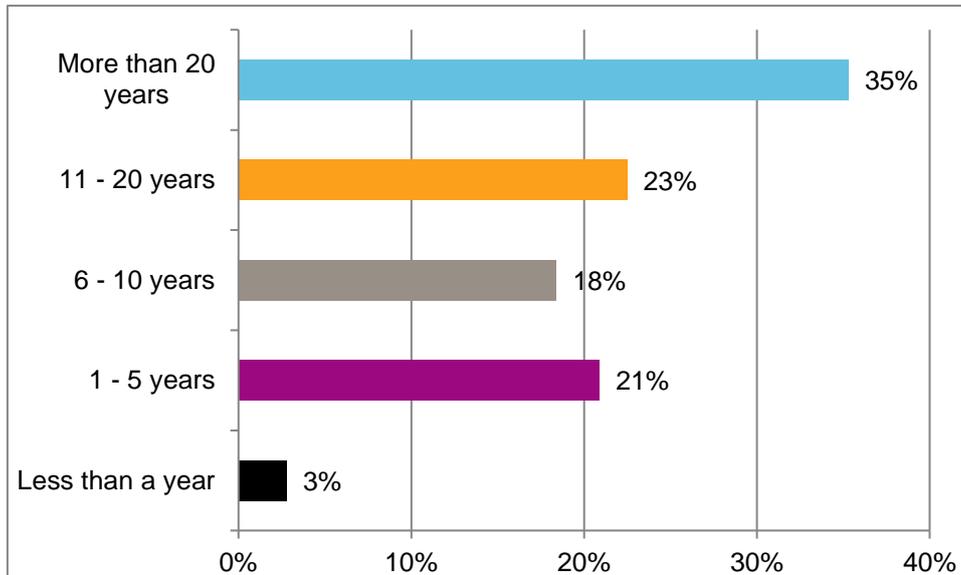


Figure 2.2 Length of time lived in parish

2.4 Do respondents live, work, shop, use community facilities or use health care services in the parish?

2.4.1 96% of respondents live within the parish, with the remaining 4% comprising second home owners who state that they typically visited the parish twice a month.

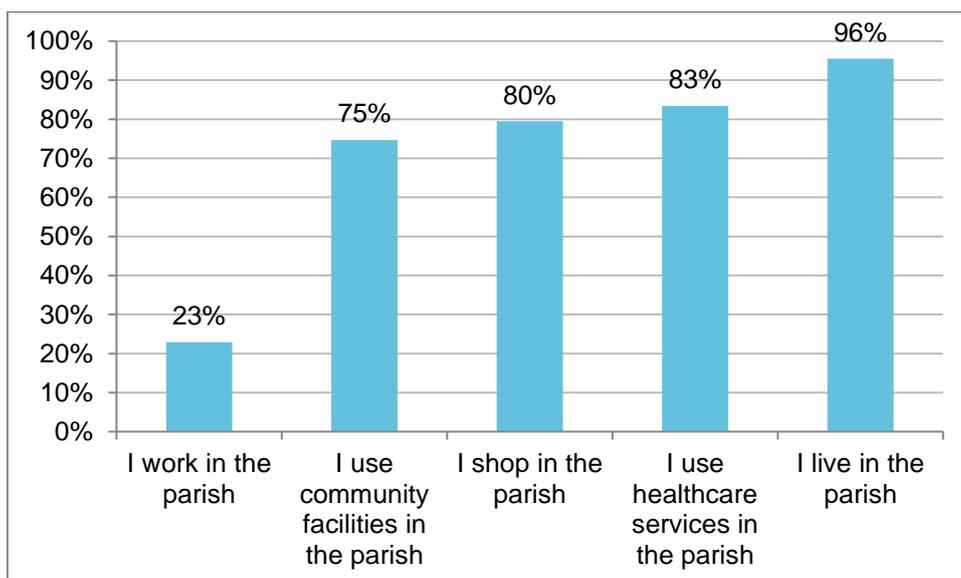


Figure 2.3 How respondents use the parish

2.4.2 A total of 23% of respondents stated that they work within the parish. This relatively low percentage is likely a reflection of the limited number of employment opportunities in the parish, as well as the high proportion of respondents over the ages of 65. A high proportion of respondents use health care (83%), and shopping facilities (80%) within the parish. A lower, but still significant proportion (75%) of respondents state that they use community facilities within the parish.

3 Consultation results

3.1.1 The following sections summarise the responses to the Community Survey. These have been presented by the five categories included in the questionnaire. In addition to presenting the key findings from the survey questions, the following sections summarise the key comments received.

3.2 Services and Facilities

Consultation findings

3.2.1 Healthcare in the parish is the most commonly used local service, as shown in Figure 3.1. Many comments have highlighted the value which residents place on access to the local healthcare, which is seen to be of a high standard.

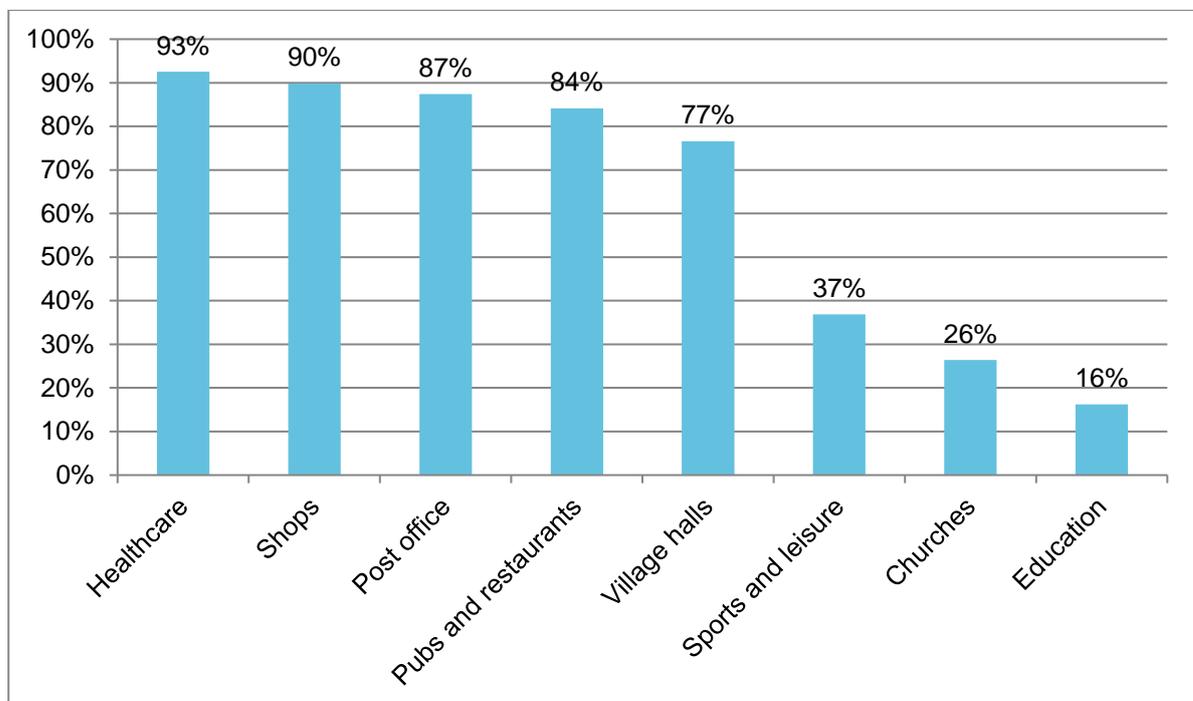


Figure 3.1 Local facilities & services used

3.2.2 Local shops, the post office, as well as pubs and restaurants were cited as being used regularly by a large number of respondents. A significant number of comments reflected that respondents often felt a need for the post office to be open more regularly. Approximately 9% of respondents of this survey are of school age, which is reflected in the low number of respondents (16%) in education within the parish.

3.2.3 Sports and leisure facilities are only used by 37% of respondents, and 19 respondents expressed concern that the local area lacks sufficient sport and leisure facilities, such as rugby or football pitches, especially for school age children. However, 42 comments highlighted natural assets such as the local beaches, and sea, as well as Seaton Country Park as important assets that bring great benefit to the local community and area – and as such should be maintained and enhanced.

3.3 Travel and access to facilities

Consultation findings

3.3.1 The Community Survey asked how respondents predominantly travel in the parish. The majority (67.6%) of respondents' stated the predominant mode of transportation is by car. The next most commonly used transportation method is on foot (24.8%). 4.2% of respondents predominantly travel by bus and 3% by bicycle.

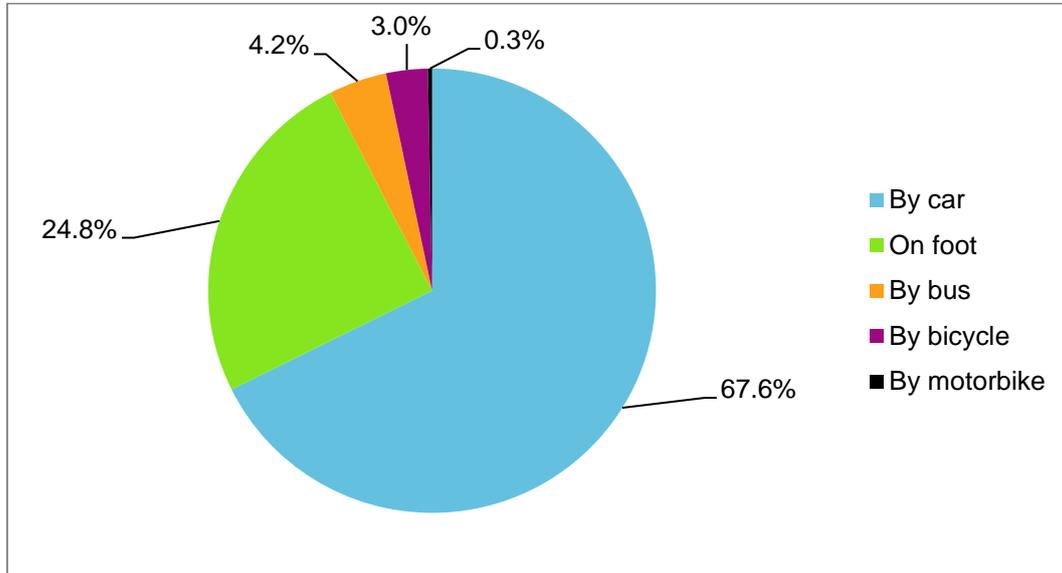


Figure 3.2 Method of travel used by respondents

3.3.2 Across all age groups, car travel is consistently the dominant form of transport. Those aged 25-40 are shown to have the largest percentage (30%) of respondents who travel by foot. In contrast the under 25 age group have the lowest percentage of respondents who travel by foot (20%). The largest percentage of bus usage is found in the 15 and younger age group (10%), which is followed closely by those who are 66 and over (8%). Bicycle usage is highest amongst those under 15 (10%), with the 16-24, 41-65 and over 65 age groups both showing the lowest usage.

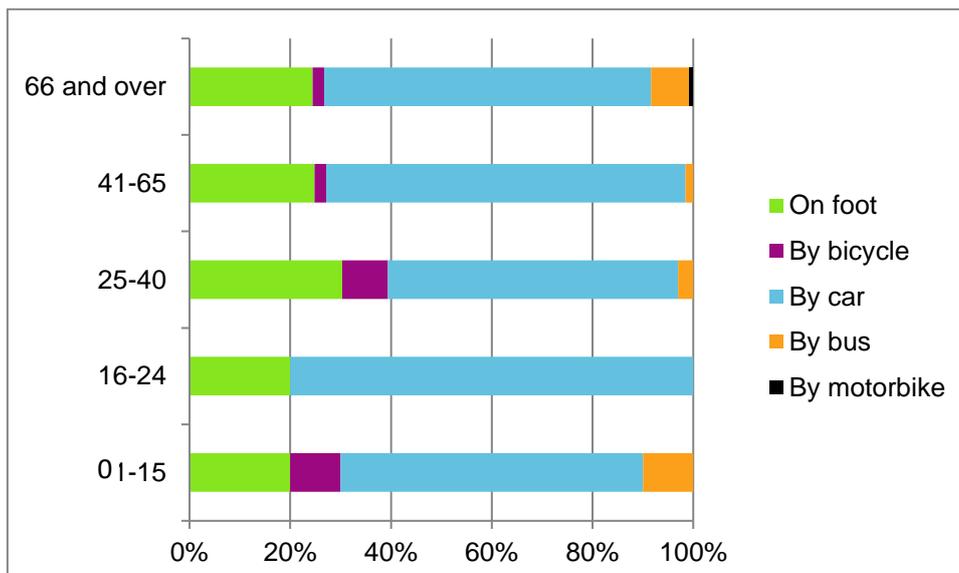


Figure 3.2 Method of transport across respondent age groups

3.3.3 Question 4 of the Community Survey asked respondents whether they travelled outside of the parish to use facilities/services. 93% of the respondents stated that they do travel outside the parish for this reason.

3.3.4 Of the 93% of respondents who travel outside the parish for services, the three most travelled to destinations were Liskeard (28%), Plymouth (21%) and Saltash (12%). 72% of respondents stated that they travel outside the parish for food and clothes shopping – this included visits to supermarkets for weekly food shops. 15% of respondents stated that they travel out of the parish for sports and leisure facilities, and 10% stated that they travel out of the parish for trips to the dentist.

Summary of key messages from comments received on survey questions

3.3.5 Although 93% of respondents travelled outside the parish for services, 17% of the replies by respondents noted that they would not expect, or want services such as large supermarkets within the parish in the context of the rural parish environment. This is illustrated by a typical answer below.

Q4b: If your answer is yes, which facilities do you feel are missing or inadequate?

“The facilities [in the parish] are not enough for all my needs – however this is to be expected from living in a village, and I did not choose to live in a town”

3.4 Community and Environment

Consultation findings

3.4.1 Question 6 of the Community Survey asked respondents how important they considered public transport, healthcare services, shops, community facilities, housing, and job opportunities to their enjoyment of living in the parish. The results are shown in Figure 3.3

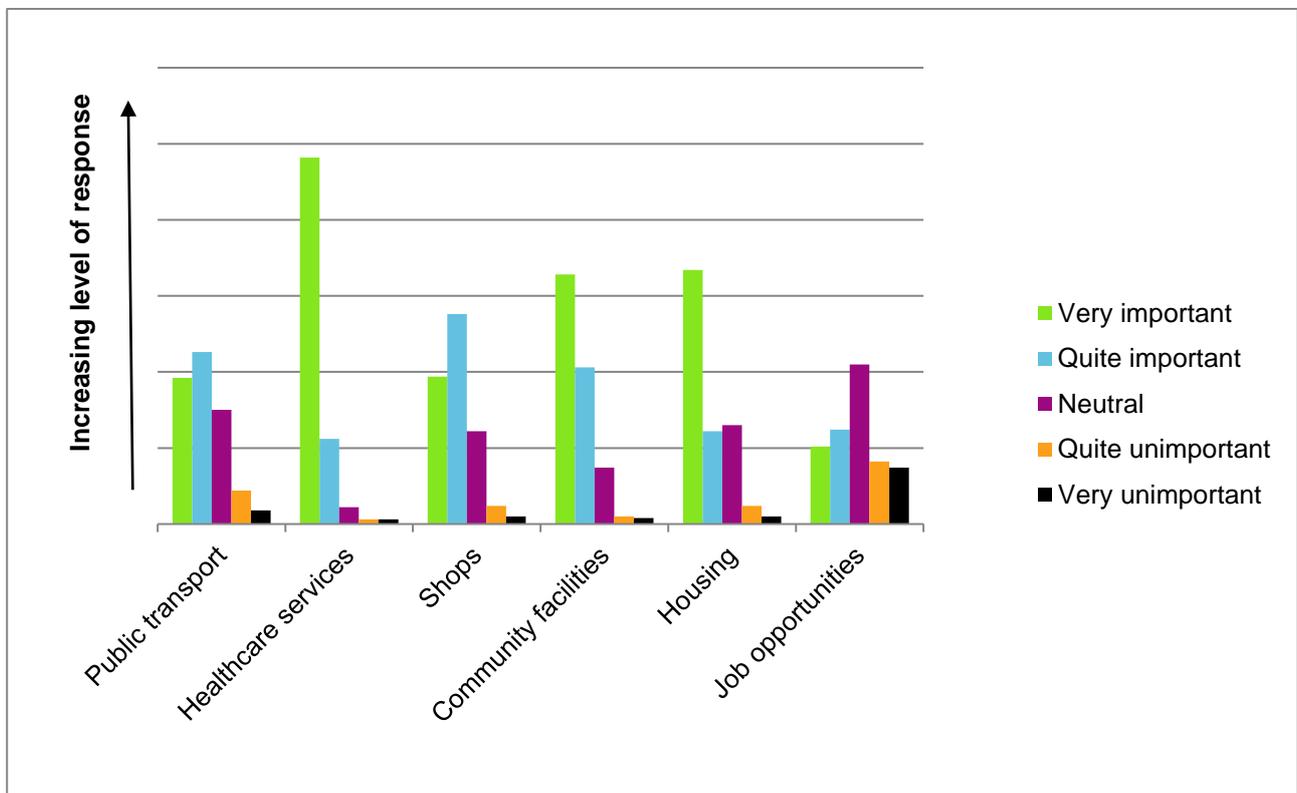


Figure 3.3 Importance of different factors for respondents' enjoyment of the parish.

3.4.2 As well as being the most widely used local service, healthcare was also considered to be a primary factor. Second most important to this was housing, which was closely followed by community facilities. The factor which was considered as least important was job opportunities.

3.4.3 Figure 3.4 shows that a higher percentage of the 0-15 and 16-24 age groups consider local job opportunities as a 'very important' factor, compared with older age groups. With an increase in age, there is a steady decline in the percentage of respondents that hold job opportunities as important. In this context those in the 41 to 65 and over 65 age groups have a much larger percentage of respondents who view job opportunities as 'very unimportant' compared to younger age groups.

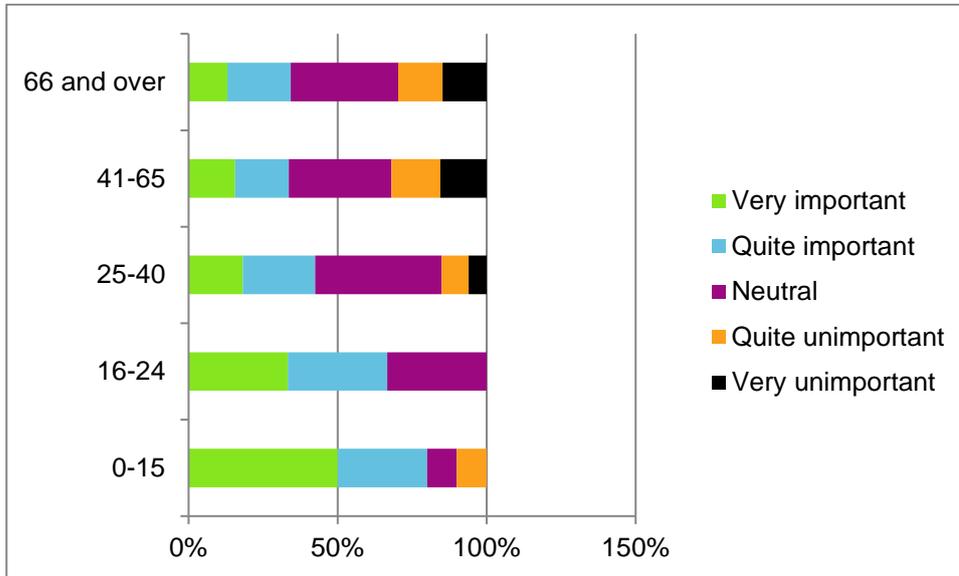


Figure 3.4 The importance of job opportunities across age groups

3.4.4 Respondents were also asked how they rate the quality of the environment of the parish. The largest percentage of respondents (62.1%) felt that the quality of the environment overall was 'good', while the next largest percentage (29.8%) felt that the quality of the environment was 'excellent'. Only 0.9% of respondents felt that the quality of the environment was 'poor or 'very poor'.

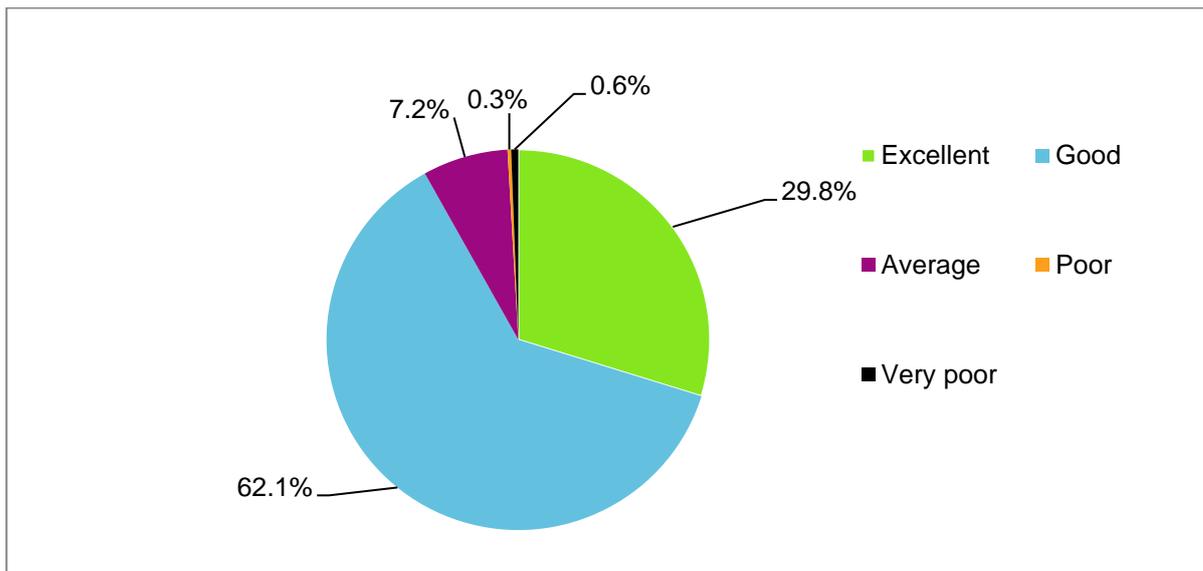


Figure 3.5 How respondents rate the quality of the environment

3.4.5 Viewed across the age groups, those aged 0-15 had the highest opinion of environmental quality in the parish, while those within the 15-24 ages group consisted of the largest percentage of respondents who considered the environment as 'poor' (8%). 33% and 31% respectively of respondents in the 41-65 and the over 65 age groups consider the quality of the environment in the parish as 'excellent', with only 1% of both age groups considering the quality of the environment to be 'very poor'.

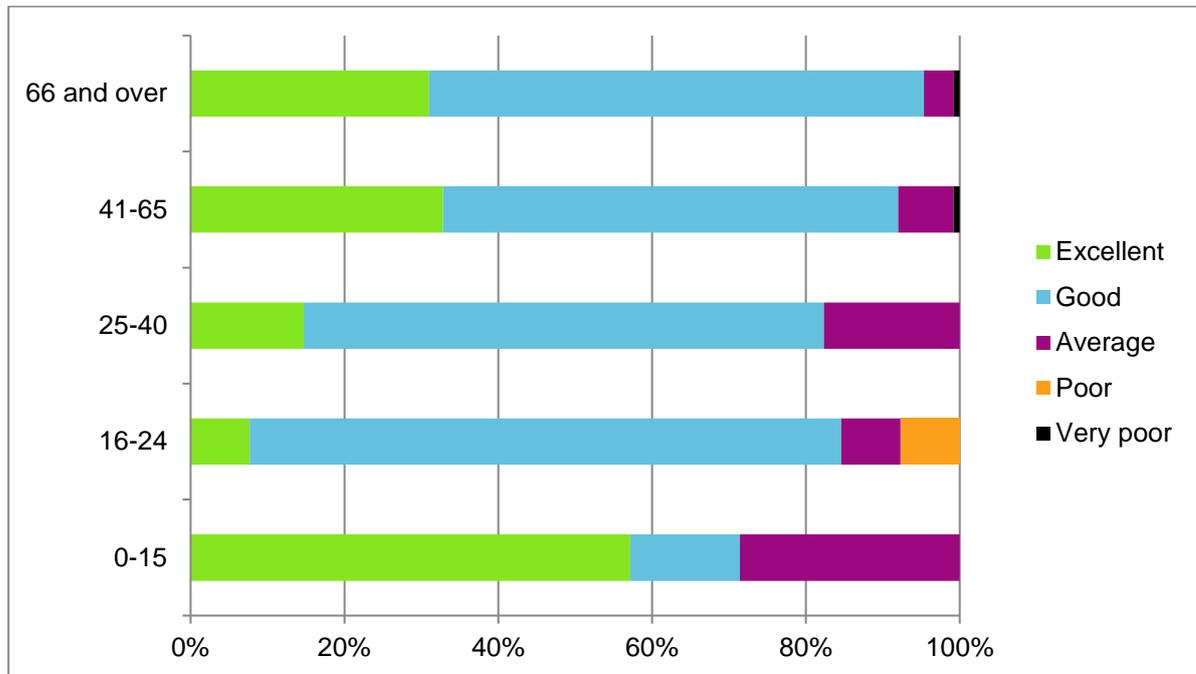


Figure 3.6 How respondents rate the quality of the environment across age groups

Summary of key messages from comments received on survey questions

3.4.6 Respondents were asked to highlight anything which they viewed as particularly good about the environment of the parish. 45% of comments highlighted that the distinctive nature of the parish’s setting, with easy access to the beach and seashore were particularly strong assets. In addition, access to Seaton Country Park, footpaths, and the prevalence of greenspaces in the parish were also identified as key assets.

3.4.7 28% of those commenting highlighted that the community spirit of the area was a very strong asset. A variety of examples were provided. Notably the many volunteer and community groups providing activities and social engagement in the parish were highlighted, which were seen to be particularly important for older age groups. 10% of respondents also felt that local facilities such as village halls and the local school added to the area.

Q8: is there anything you think is good about the environment in the parish

“There is a good cohesive community environment with lots of active /clubs/provision for most age groups. We have beautiful scenery and outdoor space such as the beach and Seaton park”

3.4.8 Respondents were then asked if there was anything bad about the environment of the parish. 53% of comments received related to issues regarding traffic and parking. In this context many respondents felt that traffic congestion around the parish was a considerable problem, linked to

issues with parking. Many respondents also felt that parking was too expensive and that it should be free for residents in villages.

- 3.4.9 22% of the comments received related to issues with public transport. Respondents stated that the current double decker bus is too large a vehicle for the number of users and the narrow country roads. In this respect it was felt that the parish would be better served by a smaller fleet and more frequent bus service. However, the community-run bus is seen as an important asset.
- 3.4.10 17% of comments were related to issues with litter and dog fouling in the parish area– particular regard was given to Seaton beach, where it was felt that the level of litter and dog fouling was a significant problem. 16% of comments related to inappropriate development of housing and renewable energy projects such as wind turbines and large installations of solar panels. In this context respondents felt that inappropriate housing development put the character of the parish at risk, and that large scale renewable energy projects were at risk of damaging the landscape.

3.5 Housing

Consultation findings

- 3.5.1 The most common type of housing respondents currently live in are 3 to 4 bedroom houses. Larger 5 + bedroom houses and bungalows are the next most common housing types. The vast majority of respondents currently own their properties.

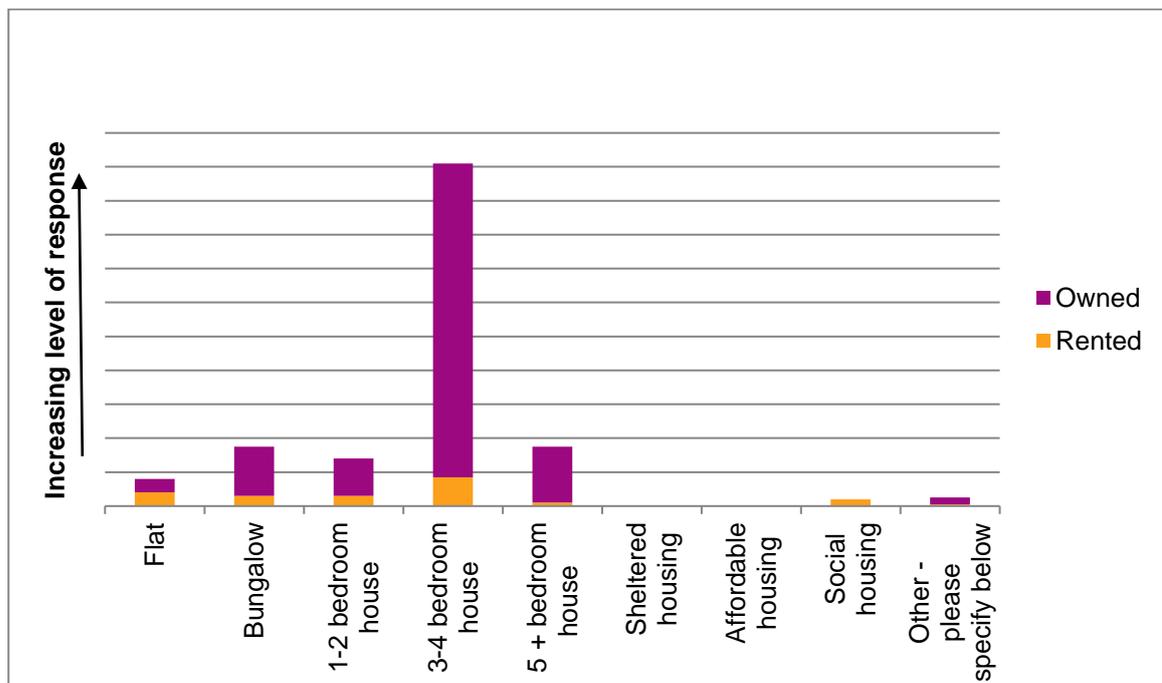


Figure 3.7 Current housing

- 3.5.2 Respondents were asked if their current home could be adapted to their future needs up to 2030. 54% thought that they could – while 26% did not. 20% of respondents did not know – this in part reflects the uncertainty in estimating an individual’s future housing requirements

Q12: Could your current home be adapted to meet your future needs?		
Yes	No	Don't Know
54%	26%	20%

3.5.3 Respondents were also asked to estimate what their future housing requirements might be (Figure 3.8). This indicated that a larger proportion of respondents viewed that they were likely to live in smaller houses, bungalows and sheltered housing as they downsize. This is likely a reflection of the ageing population. There is also an increase in requirements for affordable housing- as highlighted by a number of respondents who stated that current house prices make buying difficult proposition for them.

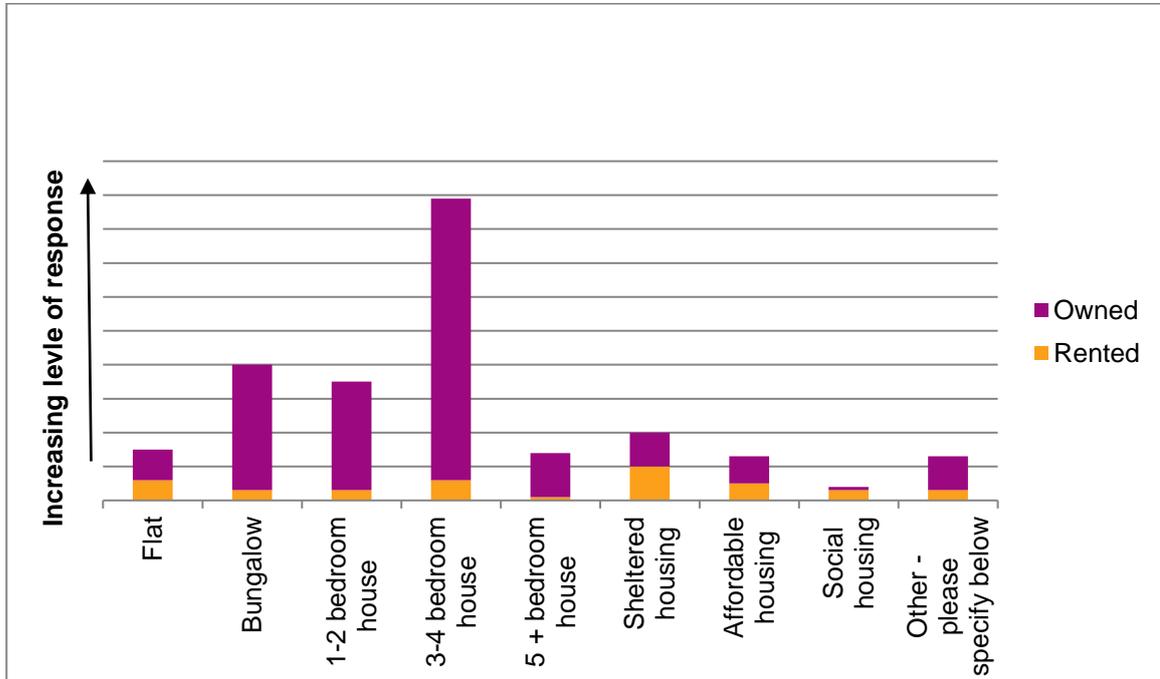


Figure 3.8 Estimated future housing requirements

Summary of key messages from comments received on survey questions

3.5.4 As the population ages there is likely to be an increase in need for smaller homes and sheltered accommodation. Housing was seen to be a contentious issue. While many respondents felt a need for more affordable homes in the parish, other comments expressed concern that more housing would lead to an increase in pressure on already strained transport infrastructure.

3.6 Employment and Economy

Consultation findings

3.6.1 Respondents were asked if the neighbourhood plan should encourage specific employment types within the parish. The majority (63%) were in favour of this.

Q13: Do you think we should encourage specific types of employment in the parish?		
Yes	No	Don't Know
63%	16%	21%

3.6.2 When this is compared between age groups, it can be seen that there is a 'yes' consensus across all groups. A higher percentage of respondents from younger age groups (0-15 and 16-24) highlighted they did not know.

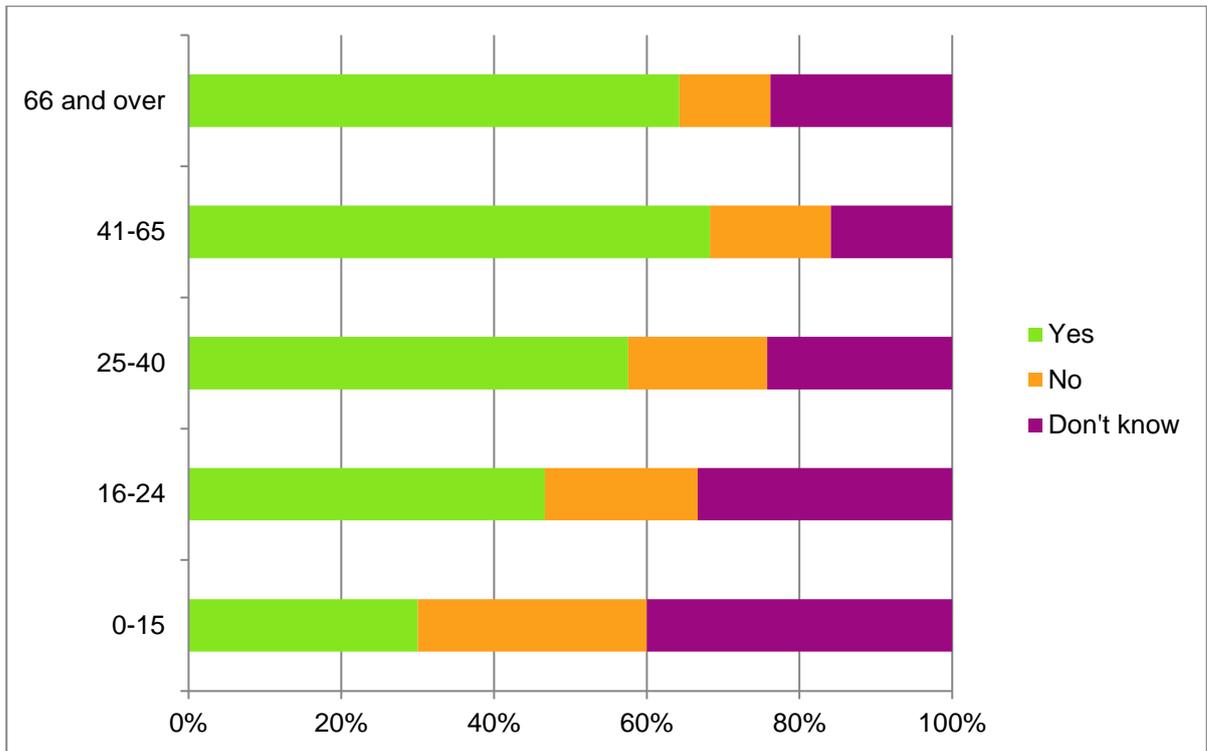


Figure 3.9 Should specific employment types be encouraged? (By age groups)

3.6.3 Those respondents who thought that specific types of employment should be encouraged in the parish were subsequently asked which employment sector would be most suitable. The results are shown in Figure 3.10.

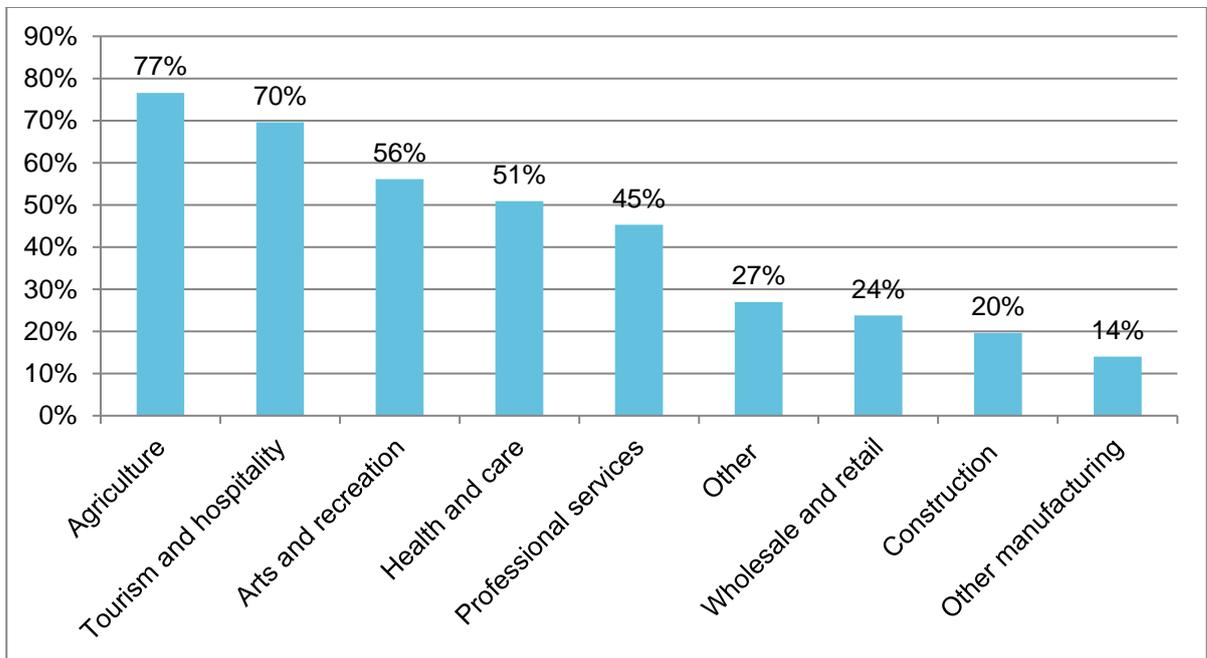


Figure 3.10 Types of employment provision thought to be most suitable for the parish

Summary of key messages from comments received on survey questions

3.6.4 A number of key themes arose from comments relating to these survey questions. Respondents felt that working or running a business from home was a major area which could be further facilitated in the parish. However, current internet connection speed and availability, as well as mobile phone reception are perceived to be poor. As such, this is seen to be a significant barrier in this regard. Comments also highlighted that the tourism and visitor economy should be supported, whilst having regard to the sensitive character of the area. There is also significant support for expanding small-scale agriculture employment opportunities.

Q8: What types of employment do you think would be most suitable?

“Whatever comes to Deviock, it is likely to be small scale. Businesses are going to be professional services employing 1 or 2 people, who have chosen to live in the area. They are going to need good communication links in the form of mobile signal and broadband”

3.7 The Future

Consultation findings

3.7.1 Respondents were asked to consider what the three main priorities of the Deviock Neighbourhood Plan should be. Responses highlighted that there was clearly a strong consensus on priorities relating to environmental protection. In this context the three most commonly cited priorities were: the protection of greenspaces and biodiversity; flood risk and coastal erosion mitigation/prevention measures; and protecting landscape and historic environment assets. The results are outlined below in Figure 3.11.

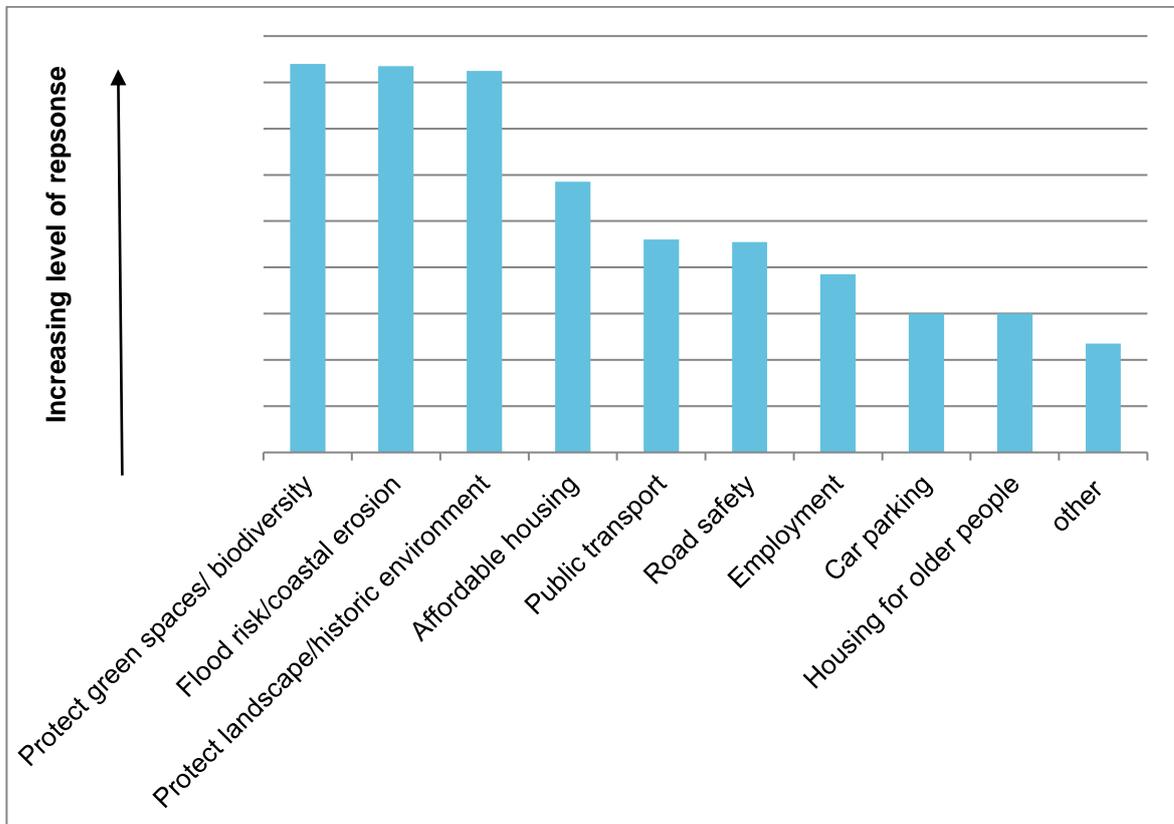


Figure 3.11 Preferences for Neighbourhood Plan priorities

Summary of key messages from comments received on survey questions

- 3.7.2 Respondents were asked what they thought the three best things about the current environment of the parish were. The most common theme arising from comments was the community spirit in the parish, with 66% of respondents suggesting that this was currently the best thing about the parish. 56% of comments highlighted the rural landscape and quality of the environment. Healthcare also scored strongly, with 18% of responses highlighting this as a key asset. This reflects the consultation responses discussed in Section 3.1.
- 3.7.3 Respondents were also asked what their three main concerns were for the parish over the next 15 years. The most dominant theme which arose from this question was a concern with overdevelopment and the wrong type of development, with 45% of respondents' comments relating to this theme. The concern was primarily associated with housebuilding, which was seen to be insensitive to the character of the area, and also did not meet the needs of local people – for example, the prevalence of large homes which are unaffordable for local people.
- 3.7.4 The theme of traffic and parking issues (as discussed in Section 3.3.8) was also frequently highlighted, and was raised in approximately 30% of respondents' comments. The key issue highlighted was a concern that the current traffic congestion and parking problems present in the parish will become more prevalent in the future.

4 Next steps

- 4.1.1 This Consultation Report has summarised the results of the Community Survey undertaken for the Deviock Neighbourhood Plan in summer 2015.
- 4.1.2 The results of the Community Survey will contribute to the direction and content of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. In this context consultation responses will inform and influence the forthcoming stages of plan development, alongside the evidence base studies prepared for the Neighbourhood Plan, further community consultation events and the Strategic Environmental Assessment accompanying the plan-making process.
- 4.1.3 It is currently anticipated that consultation on the 'Pre-Submission' version of the Deviock Neighbourhood Plan will be undertaken in early 2016.

Appendix I: Copy of the Community Survey

(Community Survey PDF to be include when report finalised)

ABOUT AECOM

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