

MOTTISFONT PARISH PLAN 2017

Summary and plan

A survey of householders throughout the parish of Mottisfont was carried out in September 2016 with the aim of using the information gathered to revise the previous Parish Plan, which dates from 2009.

The main purpose of this plan is to record the opinions, concerns and aspirations of the residents. This information can then be used by community groups, the Parish Council and others to help guide decisions they make that might affect life in the parish. It will also inform residents about the views of their neighbours.

Of the 145 survey forms that were delivered, 78 were returned.

This Parish Plan has been compiled entirely through the efforts of individuals living in the parish. We used the following process:

1. An open meeting was advertised in the village newsletter, and was held at the Mill Arms in Dunbridge. The meeting collected ideas and identified a list of areas of potential concern to residents of the parish.
2. A drafting group of five people met to compile a draft survey form.
3. Another open meeting was held at the local pub to refine the survey form.
4. Copies of the survey form were delivered to all accessible homes in the parish.
5. 78 completed forms were returned and analysed, a little over half of those sent out.
6. A presentation and discussion of the preliminary analysis was held at the village hall.

In interpreting the results, it is important to recognise:

1. While over half of the distributed forms were returned, the group returning forms is self-selecting, and therefore should not be considered necessarily representative of the community as a whole;
2. Although residents were offered the option of one form per person, no household in fact asked for additional forms.
3. With only one form returned from each household that responded, the information given may not represent the views of all individuals in each responding household.

All statistics given in this report are derived from the responses to the survey forms.

The parish of Mottisfont, and who we are

The rural parish of Mottisfont encompasses two main concentrations of homes: the village of Mottisfont, and the hamlet of Dunbridge. In addition, a number of homes are to be found along the B3084, especially in Hatt Hill and Spearywell.

The parish has the benefits of the following facilities:

- Mottisfont Abbey, owned by the National Trust, which is also the landlord of a significant number of homes in the parish;
- Mottisfont and Dunbridge railway station, with regular trains to Salisbury, Romsey and beyond;

- The Mill Arms public house, close to the railway station in Dunbridge (currently closed; it is hoped that this is temporary);
- A 14th century church;
- A village hall, the former parish school building, located between Dunbridge and Mottisfont, owned by the National Trust but managed by a committee of volunteers;
- The Social Club in Mottisfont village centre, managed by a committee of volunteers;
- Kimbridge Farm shop;
- Annie's Kitchen & Tea Room at Kimbridge.

The average number of people per household is 2.3. 57% of respondents said they owned their home, and 43% said they rented. A large proportion of the rented homes are believed to be the property of the National Trust, but the survey did not request the identity of the landlord.

The age profile of residents responding indicated a clear bias towards the older age. 14% of residents are under 18, 75% are over 35, and 26% are 65 or over. This is believed to be consistent with the parish as a whole.

The number of years residents have lived in the parish shows a strong bias towards the shorter end of the scale, with 22% of respondents having lived in the parish less than five years. However, 16% have lived here for over 50 years, and our longest-staying resident has lived here for 86 years.

Likes and dislikes

We asked residents what they liked most about living in the parish. The most commonly identified factors were:

- Countryside, rural and beautiful surroundings
- People, friendly neighbours, community
- Peace and quiet
- Railway station, access to nearby towns
- Walks, access to the countryside
- Family roots

We also asked people what they liked least about living in the parish:

- Volume and speed of traffic, insufficient speed restrictions and enforcement
- Absence of local shop or post office
- Poor broadband or mobile coverage
- Insufficient pavements
- Parking and traffic from NT visitors
- Lack of regular bus service

Safety

The great majority of people said they felt safe in the parish, with the sense of community being identified as the biggest contributor to feelings of safety. The factor making the biggest contribution to people feeling unsafe was the volume and speed of traffic.

Local facilities

We asked people to rate how much they valued ten local facilities. All ten achieved a rating in the upper half of the scale. More detail is given in Table 1.

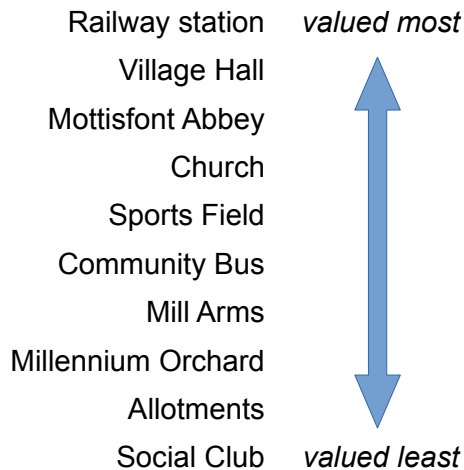


Table 1: How some local facilities are valued

We asked how better use could be made of any of these facilities, and the following suggestions were made:

- **Sports field** Organised events, team sports, clubs, play area. Improve the pavilion. Youth teams for cricket or football. Golf practice nets.
- **Mill Arms** Skittle alley could be used for evening, day time activities. More events for locals. Post Office. Community shop. Adult classes.
- **Village Hall** Aerobics or exercise classes, yoga or other similar. Adult classes. Community coffee morning linked to post office. Outdoor table tennis, basketball hoop, play area.
- **Church** Use more for concerts.
- **Social Club** Re-decorate to make it more inviting. Make it a community hub and meeting place for day and evening social groups, e.g. playgroup, knitting and natter groups, etc. Better use of its garden. Double as a village shop selling basic provisions.

We also asked how much certain new facilities would be valued, if they could be made available. These results are summarised in Table 2.

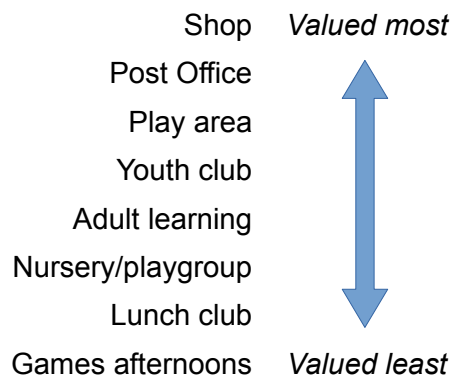


Table 2: How some new facilities would be valued

Traffic, transport and getting about

As noted above, traffic and related aspects such as speeding, insufficient speed restrictions and lack of enforcement form by far the biggest source of concern about living in the parish.

Speed limits There was much support for extension of speed limits, which gained an average importance score of 3.8 out of 5. Extension of the existing 30mph limits up Barley Hill to at least the last of the houses if not to Saunders Lane, and up Hatt Hill into Spearywell, were the most strongly supported. Some also suggested Lockerley Road, and even the whole parish.

Enforcement Traffic calming measures were given an average importance score of 3.3 out of 5. Suggested calming measures included pinch points, speed bumps and illuminated speed signs.

Car parking Although improved car parking was important for some, for others it was not an issue. However, the railway station and Barley Hill were both identified as locations where improvements would be desirable.

Railway station The railway station was highly valued, with a rating of 4.7 out of 5. As noted above, there were comments about improving parking for station users.

Pavements and footpaths The need for a footway from the railway station up Hatt Hill to protect pedestrians from traffic has been discussed over many years, but it still widely regarded as an important matter, achieving a rating of 4.1 out of 5.

The corner in the road by the Social Club in Mottisfont village was identified as a location where protection of pedestrians could be improved.

A small number of people questioned whether pavements are desirable in a rural village.

Footpaths were given an average rating of 3.9 out of 5, where 1 is unacceptable and 5 is excellent. Some remarked that more maintenance of footpaths is required.

Community Bus The Community Bus serves Broughton, Mottisfont and Dunbridge, and achieved a value rating of 3.8 out of 5. The data appears to show that it is highly valued by those who use it, and rather less so by those who do not.

Getting about Ease of getting about achieved a score of 4.6 out of 5. Several people remarked that this was because they had their own car; however, trains and the Community Bus were also mentioned as contributing to the ease of getting about.

Development

There was a significant majority who would look favourably on the development of new homes, provided a provision for local people was included. The average support rating was 3.5 out of 5, where 1 represents strong opposition and 5 represents strong support.

Ratings (on the same scale) for various types of development varied from quite strong support to strong opposition. These are summarised in Table 3.

	Play area(s)	<i>supported most</i>	
	Homes for elderly people		
	Family homes to purchase		
	Low cost homes for purchase		
	Affordable homes for rent		
	Wardened homes		
	Light industrial units		
	Offices		
	Executive homes		<i>opposed most</i>

Table 3: Rating of support or opposition to various types of development

The railway station yard, which is understood to be in private ownership, was by far the most strongly supported location for development.

Other areas were identified as candidates for protection from development, and these included farm land, allotments, National Trust land, woodlands, the Village Hall, the river, the entire parish, Mottisfont village, the sports field, the station yard.

Information and communications

Mobile phone and broadband services are seen as important, but with those who commented stating that they are poorly served.

Mobile phone The importance of good mobile phone coverage achieved an average score of 4.7 out of 5. However, the rating of the existing service achieved an average of only 2.1 out of 5.

Broadband The importance of a good broadband connection achieved an average score of 4.7 out of 5. However, the rating of the existing service achieved an average of only 2.6 out of 5.

The printed village newsletter (the Mottisfont and Dunbridge Acorn) was the most widely used source of information about local events. Word of mouth, local press, noticeboards, and the Internet were also used.

There was support for a parish web site, although it was noted that some residents do not use the Internet.

Activities and events

A high proportion of people attend or are otherwise involved in events in the village, with the Village Hall being the main focus.

Many people said they would be prepared to become more involved, but age, ill-health and lack of time due to other commitments were most commonly cited as the reasons for not being more involved.

Some people indicated that they would prefer to be asked to get involved rather than presenting themselves as a volunteer.

Changes in the parish

The three most frequently requested changes were to have a shop and/or Post Office, play areas for children, and improved broadband and phone services.

Other suggestions included (in no particular order):

- Better access to the river and riverside footpaths
- Make a footpath from the houses at the top of Barley Hill all the way to the station
- Plant trees along roads
- Provide more public seating
- More participation by locals in events
- More input from the National Trust
- Some street lights
- No street lights
- Additional car parking at the railway station
- A footpath up Hatt Hill
- More footpaths generally
- Bengers Lane footpath
- Cycleway and footpath from Lockerley to the railway station
- Extended 30 mph zone
- Access to woods
- "Quiet" notices for motorcyclists and bicycle riders
- Potholes repaired quicker
- Build affordable homes
- Additional litter picking
- Improve Social Club to make it more welcoming
- Compile a local (voluntary) phone list
- Less signage and other trappings of urbanisation
- Adult classes at the pub or Village Hall

MAIN ACTION ITEMS

Traffic

Speed limits Develop a plan for extending speed limits throughout the parish, including means of enforcement.

Car parking Develop plans for improving car parking at the railway station, and on Barley Hill.

Footway on Hatt Hill Develop plans for a way of separating pedestrians and traffic on Hatt Hill, for reasons of safety.

Mottisfont village pedestrians Improve safety for pedestrians at the corner of the road by the Social Club.

Communications

Parish web site Set up a parish web site, taking account of not excluding those who do not use the Internet, and consequences for the printed village newsletter.

Broadband and mobile services Research whether there are any steps that can be taken to improve broadband and mobile services.

Facilities

Shop/Post Office Examine the business case and options for running a shop and/or Post Office in the parish.

Following the presentation of the preliminary analysis of the survey information, the following action points were made:

- given the nature of our small community, we should aim to work together more, for the most effective use of our limited resources
- we should investigate ways of making more use of facilities in nearby communities that we lack in our own (e.g. Post Office in Lockerley)
- we should recognise that the whole community has responsibility for the execution, where possible, of action points in this plan, and that they should not be left solely to the Parish Council
- meetings should be periodically to ensure progress with these points and the plan in general.

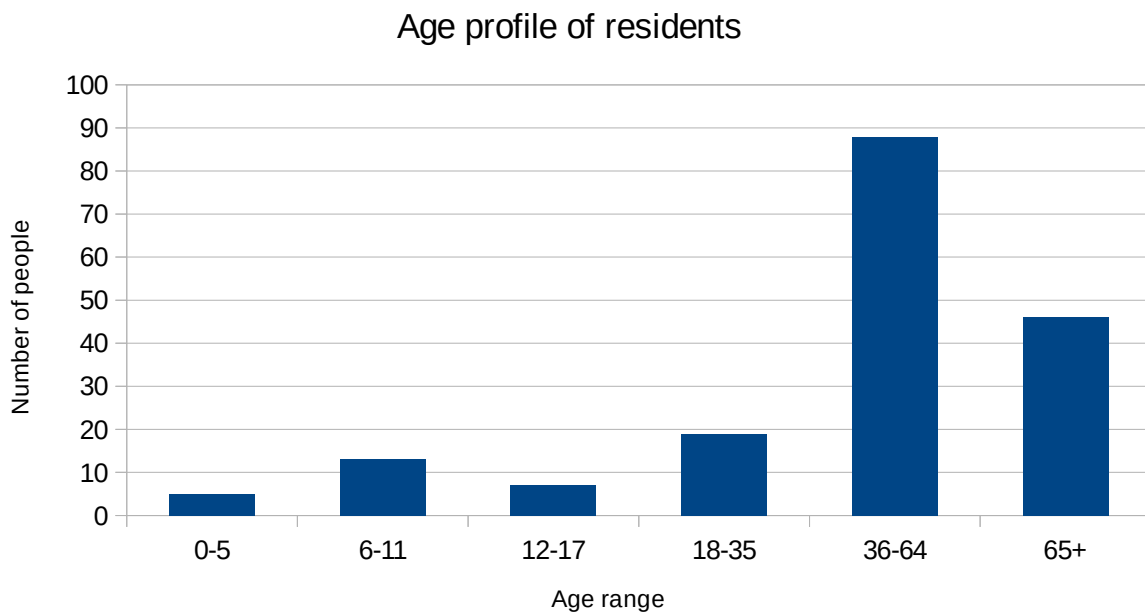
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Annex

This annex contains a more detailed analysis of the information returned during the survey of residents of the parish of Mottisfont made in September 2016 than is given in the summary report.

Q1. About the residents

Q1.3 asked about the number of people in six age ranges living in the house, including students and anyone who considers the house to be their main address.



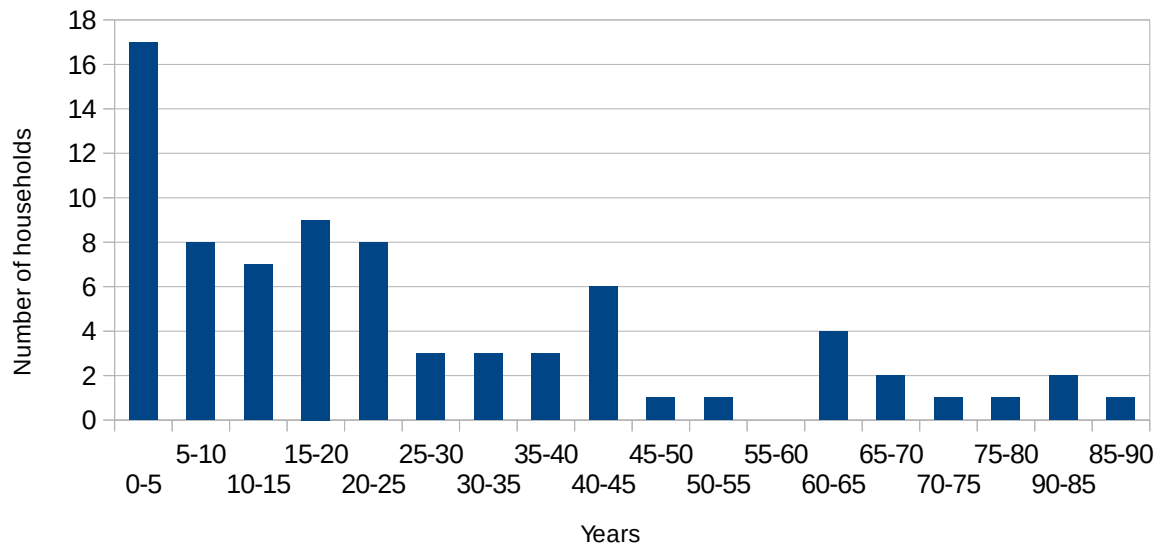
Even though the size of each age group varies, there is a clear bias towards the older end.

The average number of people per household was 2.3.

Q1.4 asked whether the home was rented or owned. 57% of respondents said they owned their home, and 43% said they rented. A large proportion of the rented homes are believed to be the property of the National Trust, but the survey did not request the identity of the landlord.

Q1.5 asked how long the respondent had lived in the parish.

Number of years lived in the parish



Although 22% of respondents had lived in the parish less than five years, 16% had lived here for over 50 years.

Q2. Living in Dunbridge and Mottisfont

Q2.1 asked what residents liked most about living in the parish. (It did not ask residents to pick from a list; they had completely free choice.) Responses included:

- Countryside, rural and beautiful surroundings: 65%
- People, friendly neighbours, community: 35%
- Peace and quiet: 31%
- Railway station, access to nearby towns: 20%
- Walks, access to the countryside: 11%
- Family roots: 11%
- Access to the National Trust: 8%
- Absence of development: 5%
- Night skies, absence of street lighting: 5%

Responses given by fewer than 5% of respondents have been omitted.

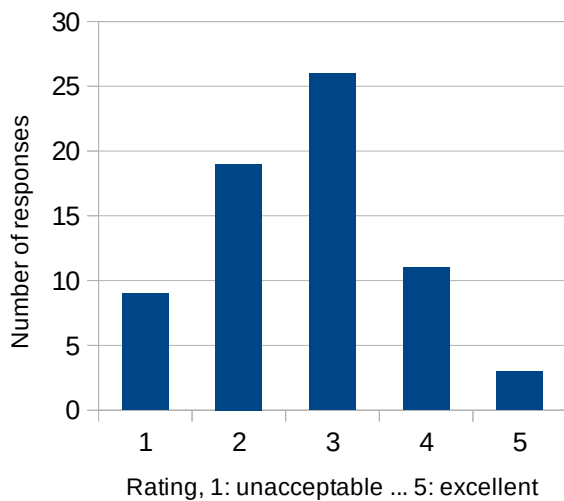
Q2.2 asked what residents liked least. Responses included:

- Volume and speed of traffic, insufficient speed restrictions and enforcement: 55%
- Absence of local shop or post office: 19%
- Poor broadband or mobile coverage: 13%
- Insufficient pavements: 13%

Parking and traffic from NT visitors: 9%
Lack of regular bus service: 9%

Q3.1 The survey asked people to rate their experience of and access to pavements, footpaths, places to sit, places to meet, and car parking:

Rating of pavements



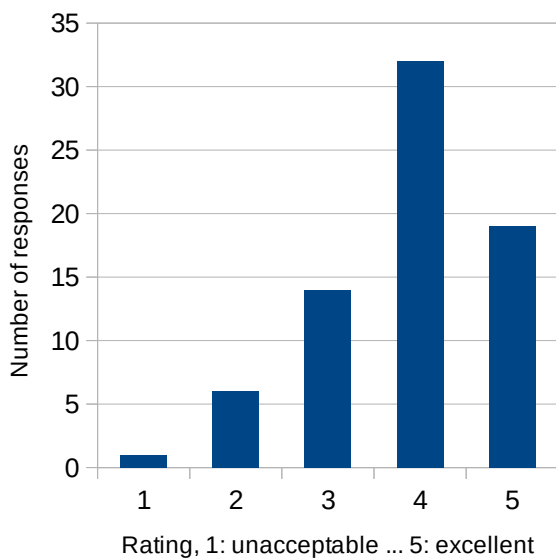
The average rating was 2.7.

8 people mentioned that they would like a path between the railway station and the top of Hatt Hill.

3 people questioned whether paths are desirable in a rural village.

2 people mentioned the dangerous corner for pedestrians next to the Social Club in Mottisfont village.

Rating of footpaths



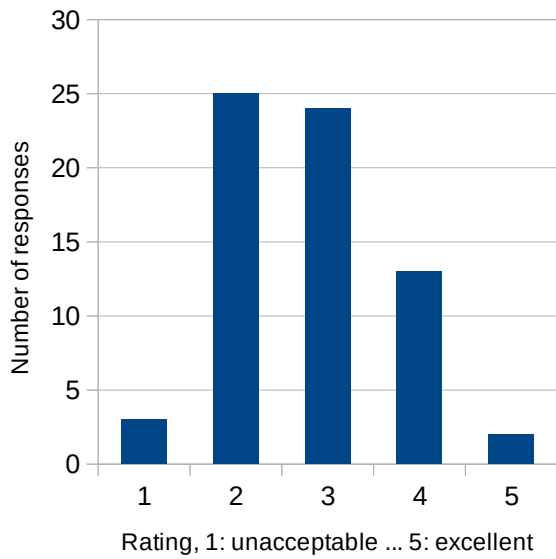
The average rating was 3.9.

7 people expressed their general satisfaction with footpaths.

7 people said they thought more maintenance of footpaths is required.

2 people expressed the desire for additional footpaths.

Rating of public seating

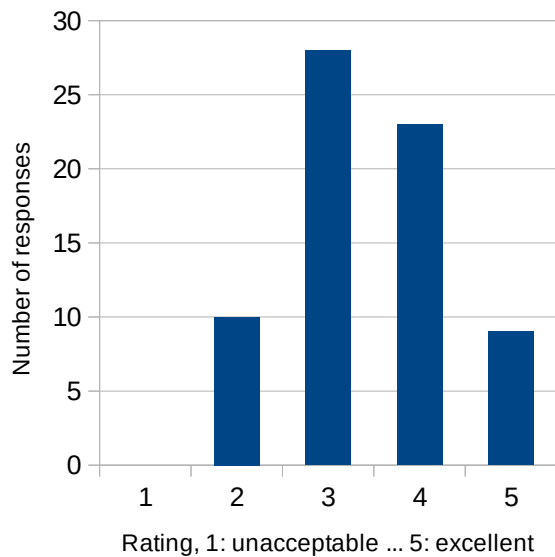


The average rating was 2.8.

10 people said they wanted to have more seating, although no suggestions were made for the locations.

4 people said that seating is not required, including one who said, "We are NOT in a town."

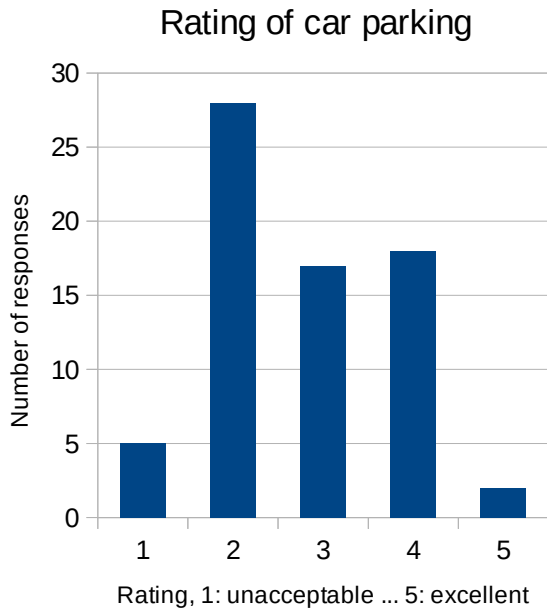
Rating of meeting places



The average rating was 3.4.

The Village Hall, the Mill Arms, the Social Club, the church and Mottisfont Abbey were mentioned.

One person noted the absence of a meeting place for under 18s.

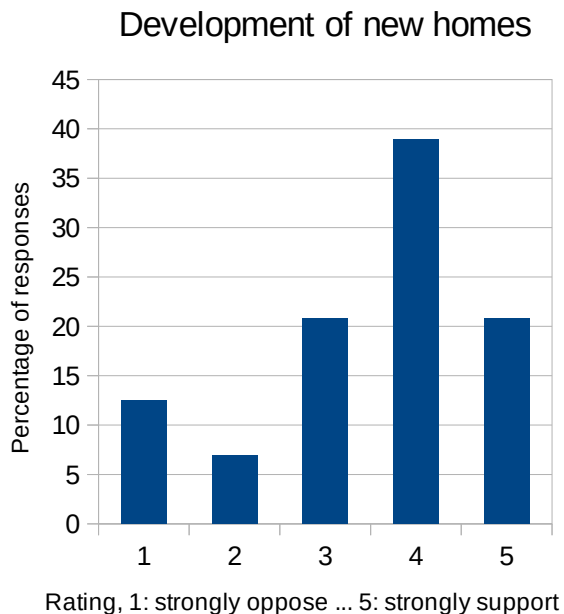


The average rating was 2.8.

The rating of car parking shows a significant bias towards the low end. Closer examination of the locations where a rating of 2 is given shows that 60% (17 out of 28) are from homes in Dunbridge along the B3084 between the railway station and Saunders Lane, including Mill Rise and Russell Drive.

7 people mentioned that additional car parking is required at the railway station.

Q3.2 The survey asked about support for the development of new homes in the parish, if it included provision for local people.



The average rating was 3.5.

There appears to be a significant majority who would look favourably on the development of new homes, although the extent of acceptable developments was not explored.

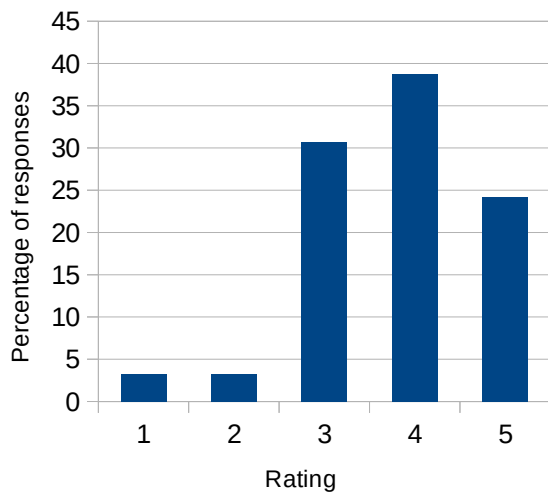
No facility for comment was included with this question.

Q3.3 The survey asked about preferences for some specific types of development that might occur in the parish.

Type of development	Average rating
Play area(s)	3.8
Homes for elderly people	3.5
Family homes to purchase	3.4
Low cost homes for purchase	3.4
Affordable homes for rent	3.3
Wardened homes	2.7
Light industrial units	1.9
Offices	1.8
Executive homes	1.7

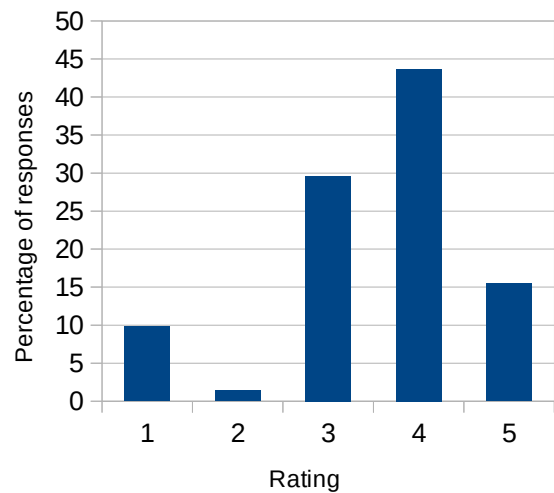
Play area

1: strongly oppose ... 5: strongly support



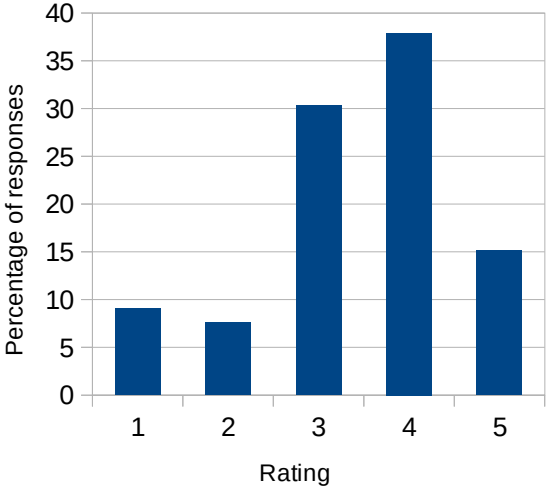
Homes for elderly people

1: strongly oppose ... 5: strongly support



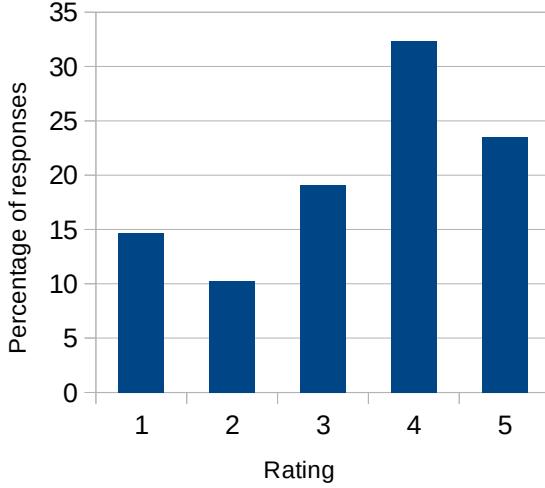
Family homes to purchase

1: strongly oppose ... 5: strongly support



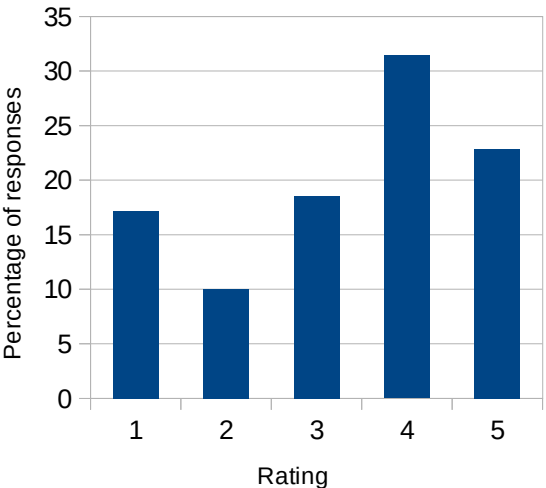
Low cost homes for purchase

1: strongly oppose ... 5: strongly support



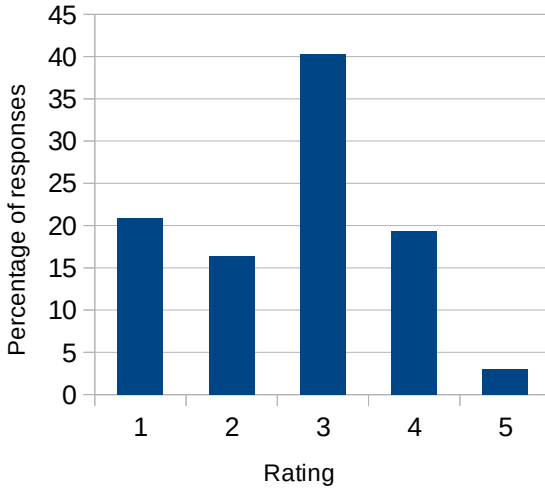
Affordable homes for rent

1: strongly oppose ... 5: strongly support



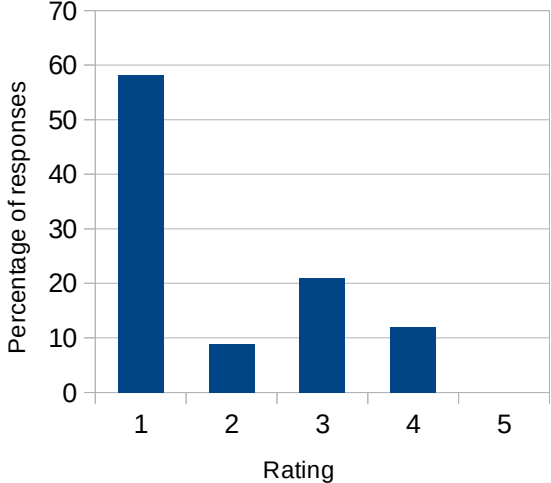
Wardened homes

1: strongly oppose ... 5: strongly support



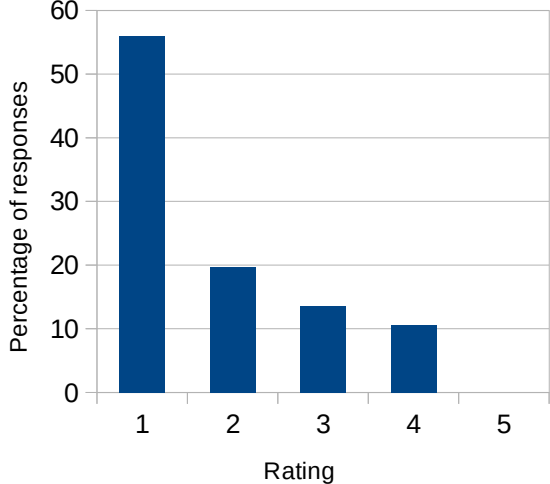
Light industrial units

1: strongly oppose ... 5: strongly support



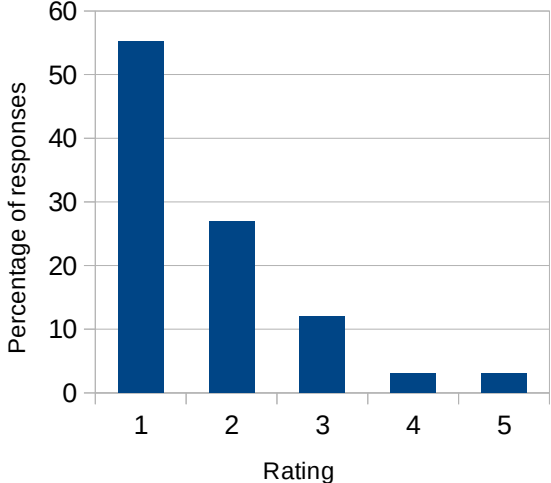
Offices

1: strongly oppose ... 5: strongly support



Executive homes

1: strongly oppose ... 5: strongly support



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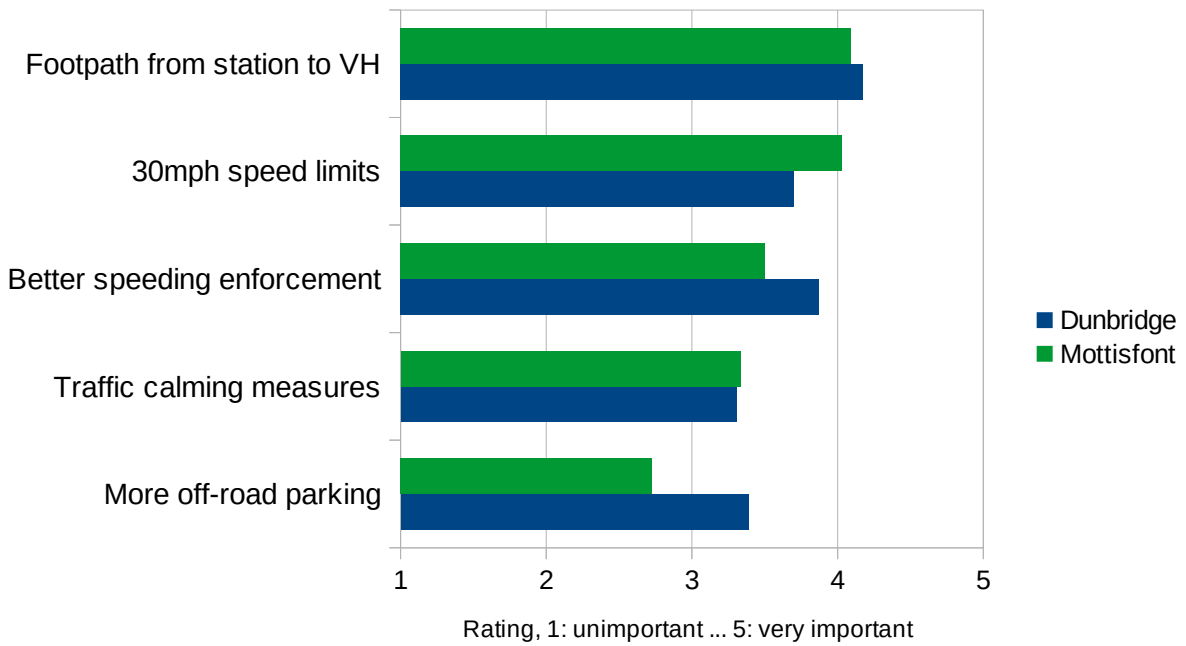
Q3.4 asked if there are existing areas that should be protected from development or change of use.

Area for protection	% responding
Farm land	19
Allotments	19
NT land	17
Woods	11
Village Hall	11
River	9
Everywhere	9
Mottisfont village	9
Sports field	7
Station yard	4

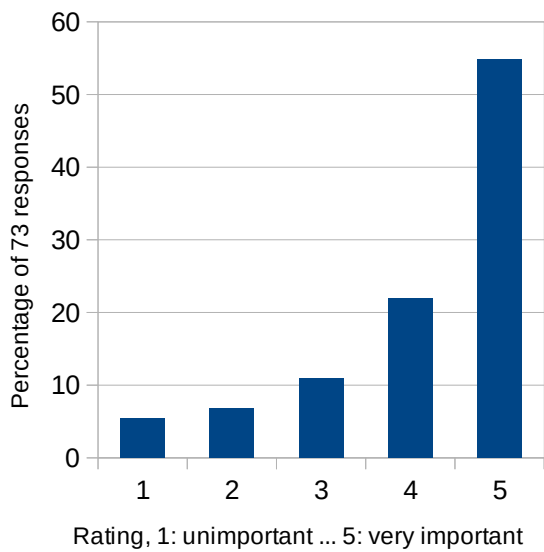
Q3.5 asked if there are areas where development is particularly desirable.

Area for development	% responding
Station yard	49
Existing built areas	4
Lockerley Road	4
Top of Barley Hill	4
Abbey Farm yard	4
Behind old post office	2
Behind Village Hall	2
Spearywell Road	2
Dunbridge	2

Q3.6 asked how important some specific measures and facilities would be.



Footpath between station and Village Hall



16 comments were made in favour of a footpath from the railway station to the top of Hatt Hill, including:

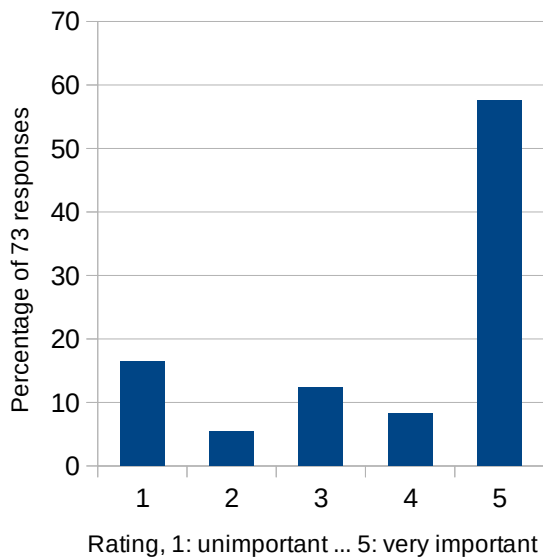
“Priority”

“Have been asking for this for 15 years! Hope to see one in our lifetime.”

“(This road is) very dangerous for the people that need to use it.”

4 people expressed concern about the practicality and cost of creating a footpath.

Extending 30mph speed limits

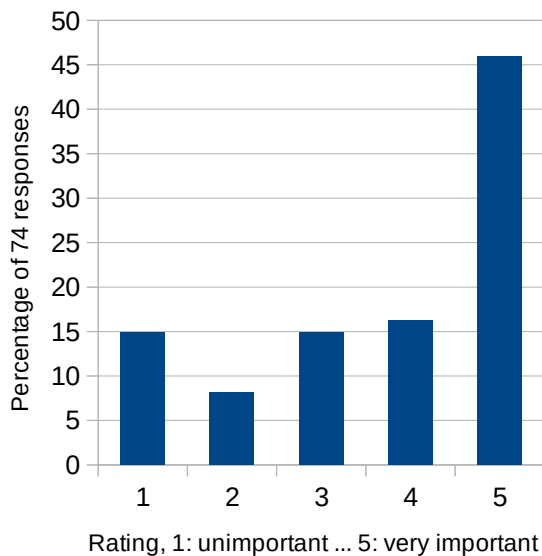


Areas suggested for extending 30mph zones tended to be local to the person responding.

The most frequently suggested areas were:

1. Barley Hill: extend at least to the last houses, if not to Saunders Lane (20 comments);
2. Hatt Hill into Spearywell (19 comments);
3. Lockerley Road (8 comments);
4. The whole parish (5 comments);
5. Bengers Lane (3 comments);
6. Mottisfont village (1 comment).

Enforcement of speed limits



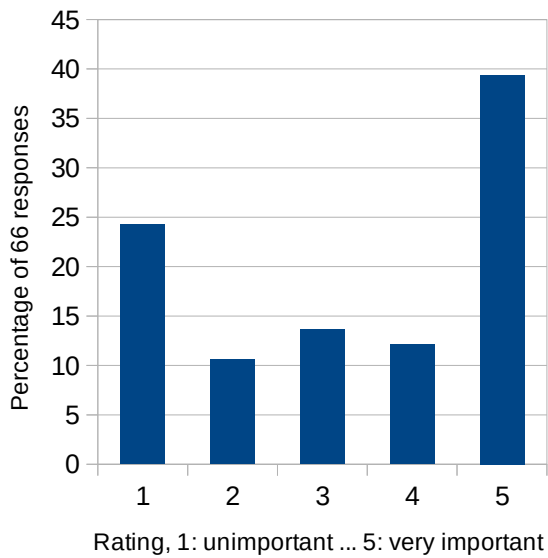
Enforcement was given a high score. However, relatively few people made comments.

3 people remarked that cameras and their warning signs could be used.

3 people remarked that enforcement is not necessary; more 30mph zones should be sufficient.

2 people remarked that the police should enforce the limits.

Traffic calming measures

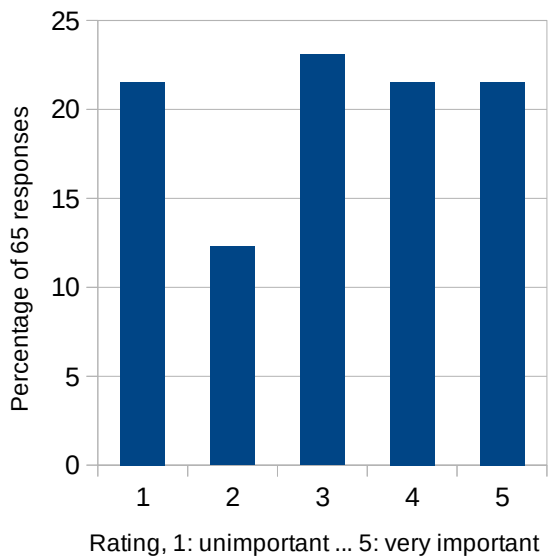


Locations suggested for calming measures tended to reflect the location of the person commenting. Barley Hill and Mottisfont village centre were by far the most common locations.

Calming measures suggested included pinch points, speed bumps and illuminated speed signs.

One person remarked that calming measures do not work. Another said that calming measures should avoid “urbanising a country lane”.

More off-road parking



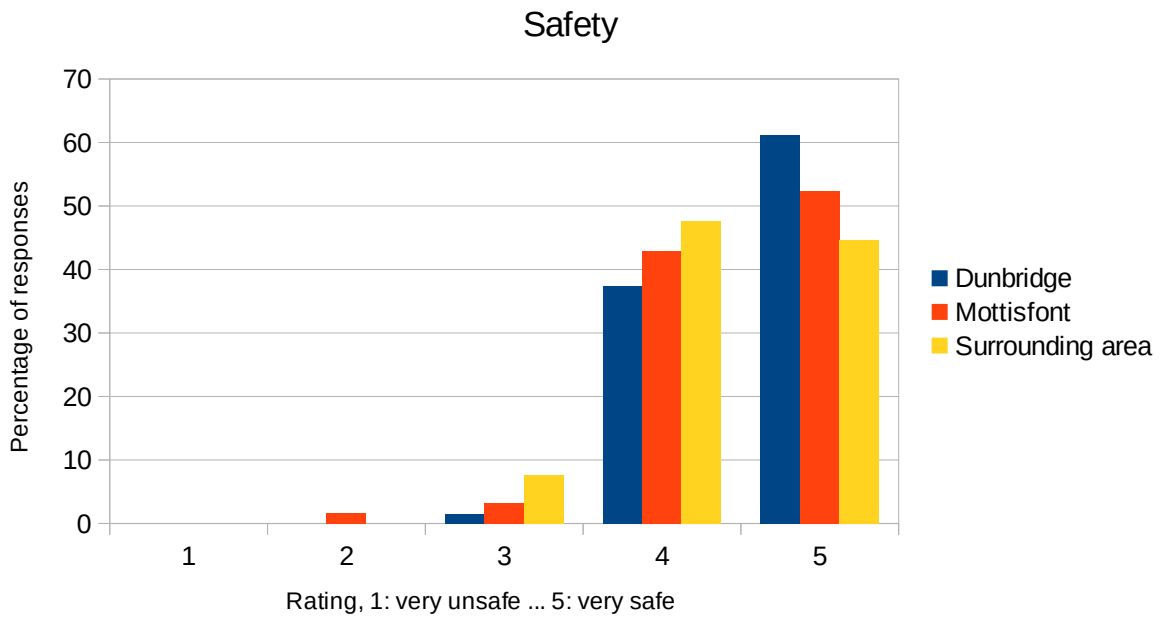
Responses on parking showed mixed views.

The highest number of comments (19) were in favour of additional parking at the railway station.

The next highest number (8) were in favour of additional parking on Barley Hill, with a couple in particular mentioning the old road, a grassy area seen on the right when going up the hill.

2 people commented that there is sufficient parking provision already, and 1 remarked that any additional parking in Mottisfont would be used by visitors to the Abbey.

Q3.7 asked how safe people felt in Dunbridge, Mottisfont, and the surrounding area



Q3.7 also asked what helps make people feel safe.

What makes people feel safe	Number of comments
Community	31
Low levels of crime	7
Low population	6
Pavements	4
Home security	4
Neighbourhood watch	3

Q3.7 also asked what makes people feel unsafe.

What makes people feel unsafe	Number of comments
Traffic	23
Absence of police, emergency services	6
Crime	6
Lack of lighting	2

Q3.7 asked what would make people feel safer.

What would make people feel safer	Number of comments
Lower traffic speed	12
Police visibility	10
More paths and pavements	4
Lighting	2
Neighbourhood Watch	2

Q3.8 asked what additions or changes people would most like to see in the parish.

The three most common responses were:

Response	Number of comments
Shop/PO	9
Play area	6
Broadband/phone	3

Other suggestions included:

- Better access to the river and riverside footpaths
- Make a footpath from the houses at the top of Barley Hill all the way to the station
- Plant trees along roads
- Provide more public seating
- More participation by locals in events
- More input from the National Trust
- Some street lights
- No street lights
- Additional car parking at the railway station
- A footpath up Hatt Hill
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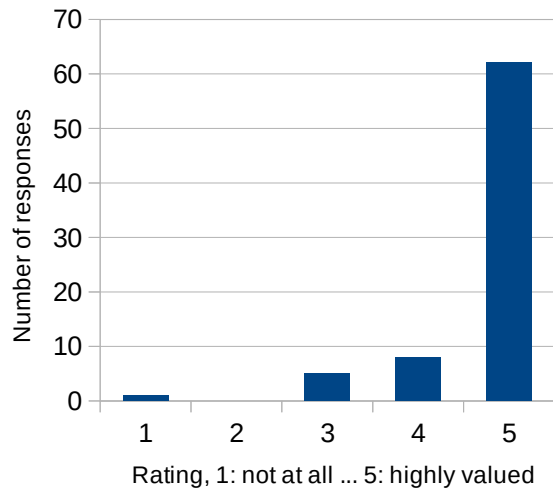
Q4. Local facilities

Q4.1 asked people how much they valued each of a list of local facilities

The following graphs are in order of average rating:

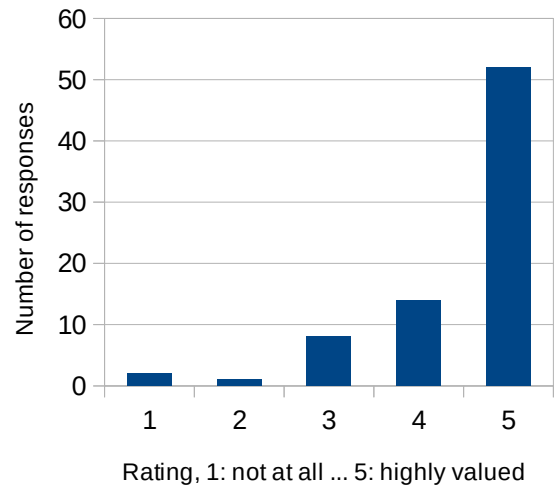
Railway station

Average rating: 4.7



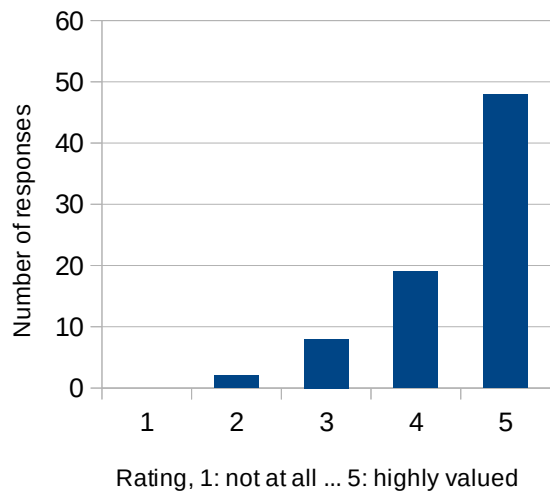
The Village Hall

Average rating: 4.5



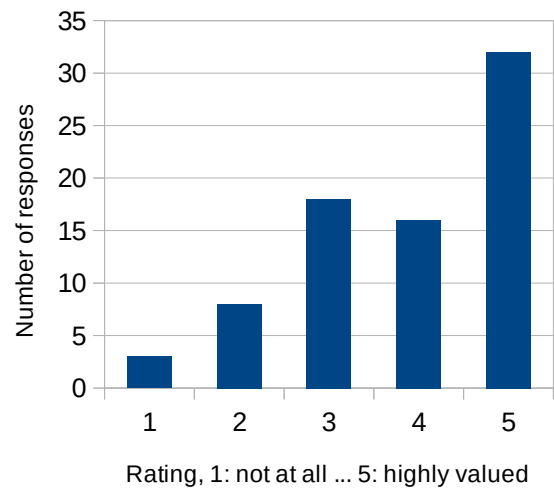
Mottisfont Abbey

Average rating: 4.5



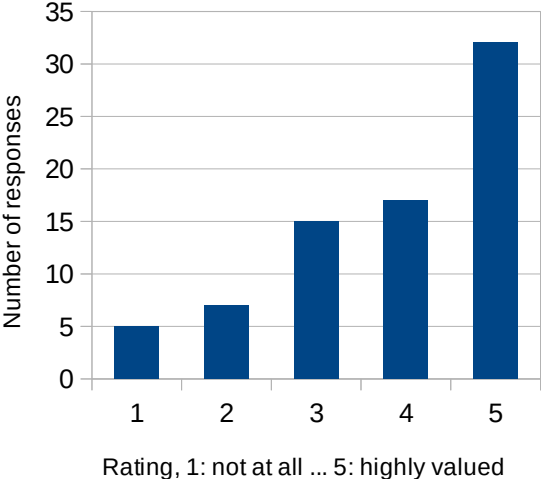
The Church

Average rating: 3.9



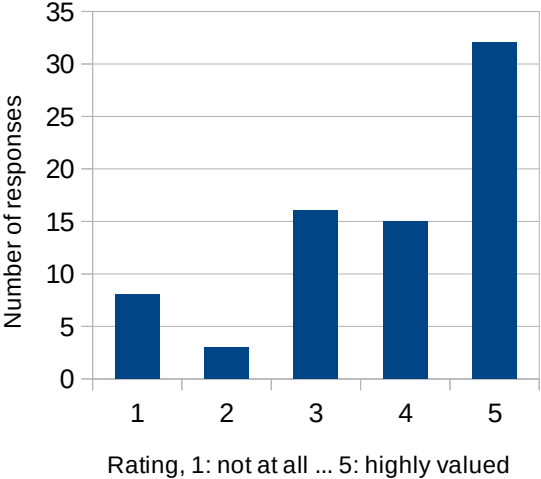
The Sports Field

Average rating: 3.8



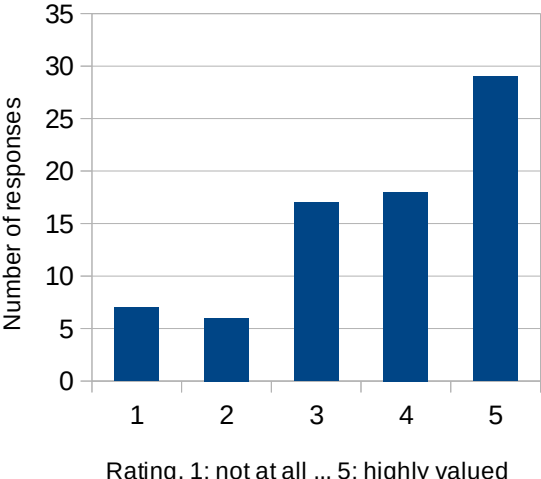
The Community Bus

Average rating: 3.8



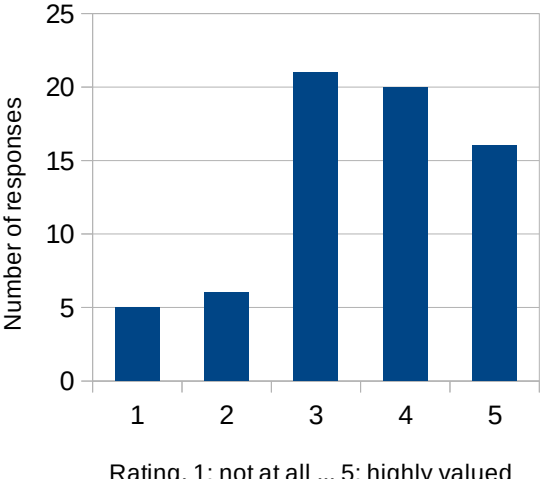
The Mill Arms

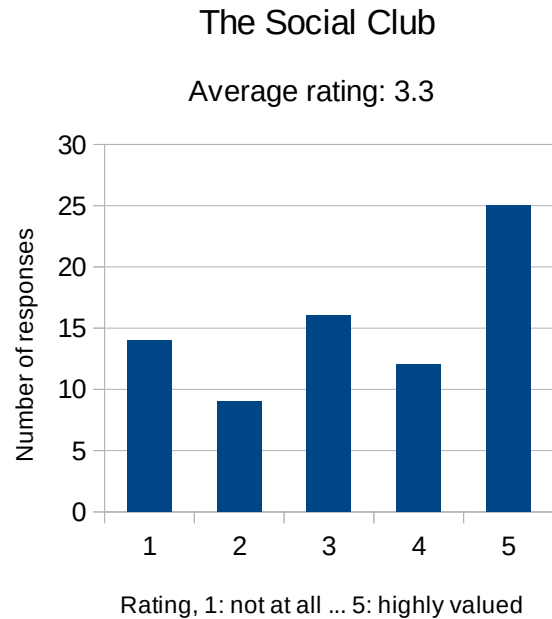
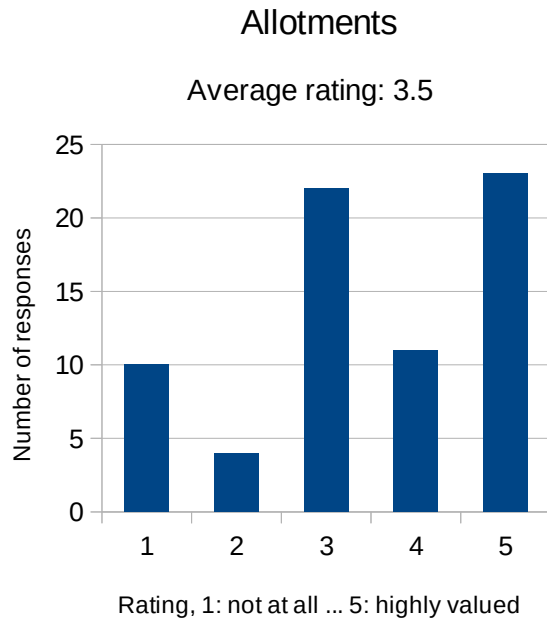
Average rating: 3.7



The Millennium Orchard

Average rating: 3.5





People were also asked how better use could be made of any of these facilities. The following suggestions were made:

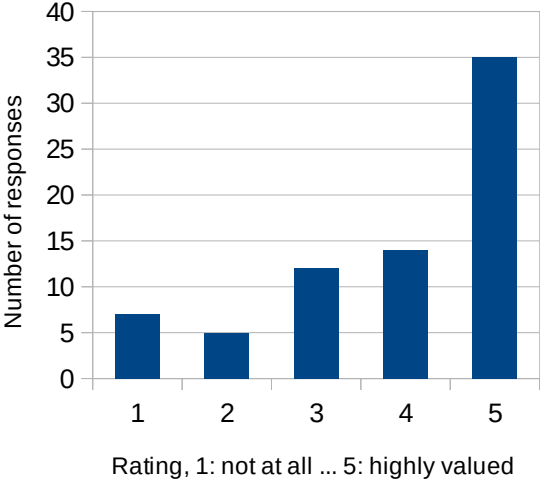
- Sports field: organised events, team sports, clubs, play area. Improve the pavilion. Youth teams for cricket or football. Golf practice nets.
- Mill Arms: skittle alley could be used for evening, day time activities. More events for locals. Post Office. Community shop. Adult classes.
- Village Hall: aerobics or exercise classes, yoga or other similar. Adult classes. Community coffee morning linked to post office. Outdoor table tennis, basketball hoop, play area.
- Church: use more for concerts.
- Social Club: re-decorate to make it more inviting. Make it a community hub and meeting place for day and evening social groups, e.g. playgroup, knitting and natter groups, etc. Better use of its garden. Double as a village shop selling basic provisions.

Q4.2 asked people how much they would value each of a list of new amenities, if they could be provided.

The following graphs are listed in order of average rating:

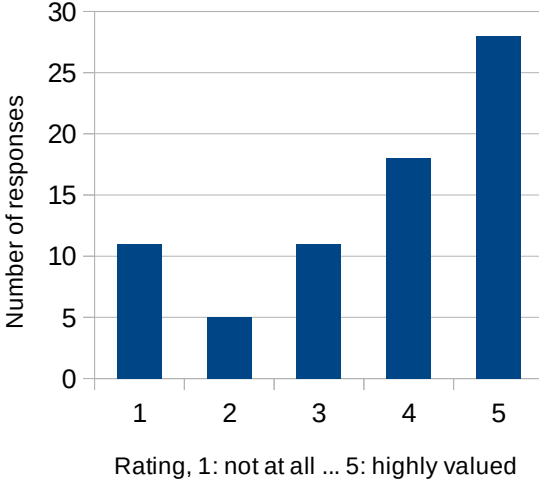
Shop

Average rating: 3.9



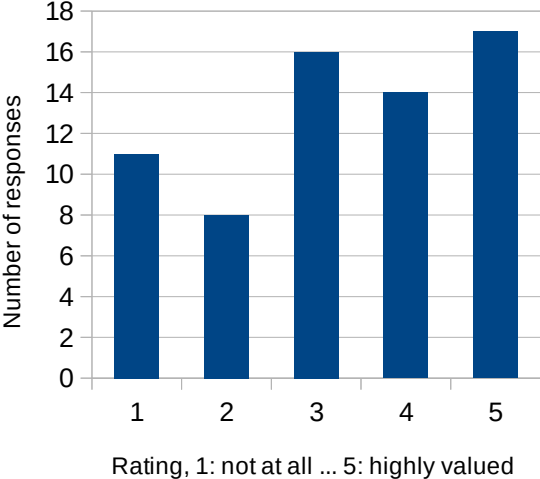
Post Office

Average rating: 3.6



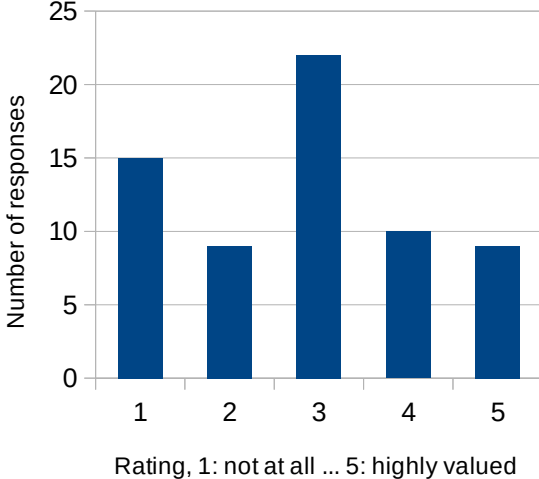
Play area

Average rating: 3.3



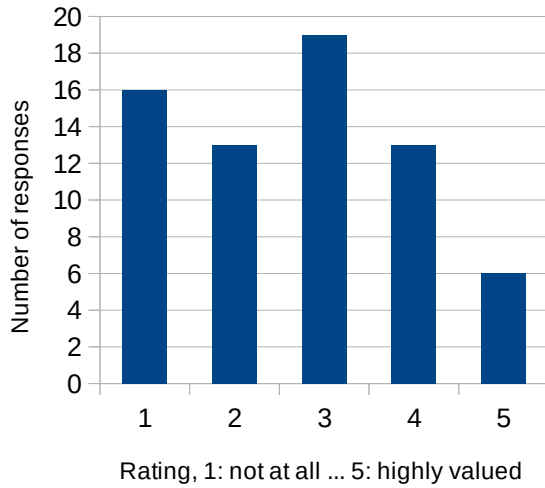
Youth Club

Average rating: 2.8



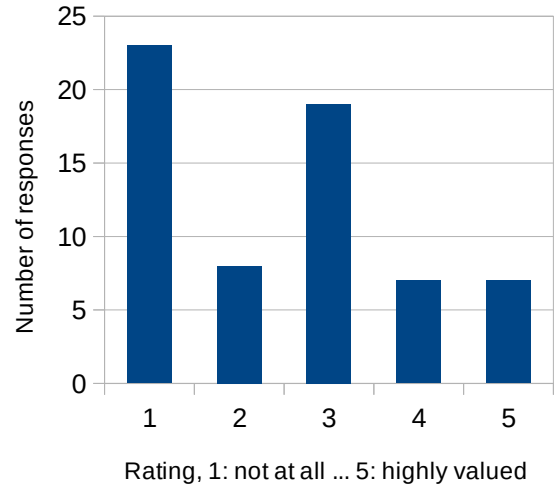
Adult learning

Average rating: 2.7



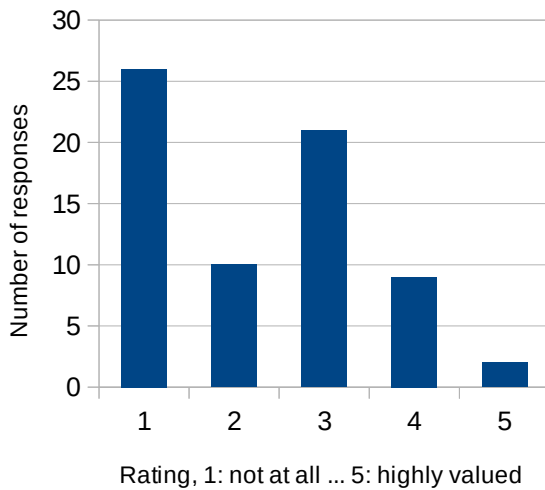
Nursery/playgroup

Average rating: 2.5



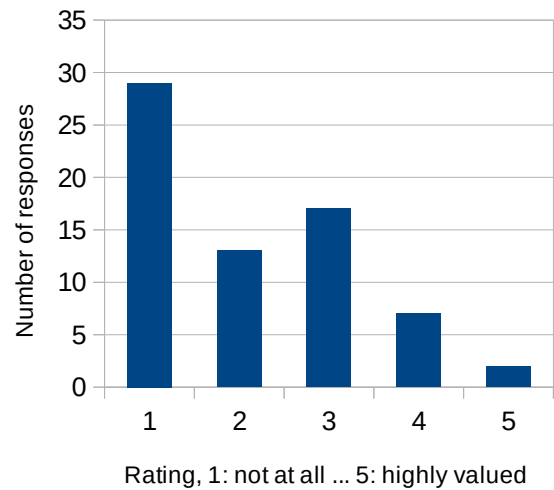
Lunch Club

Average rating: 2.3



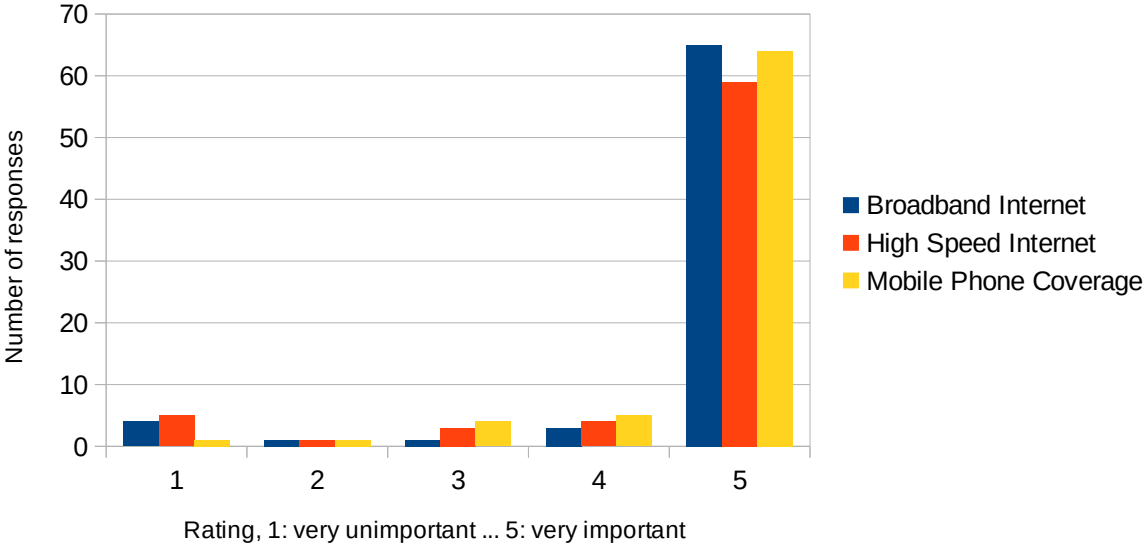
Games afternoons

Average rating: 2.1



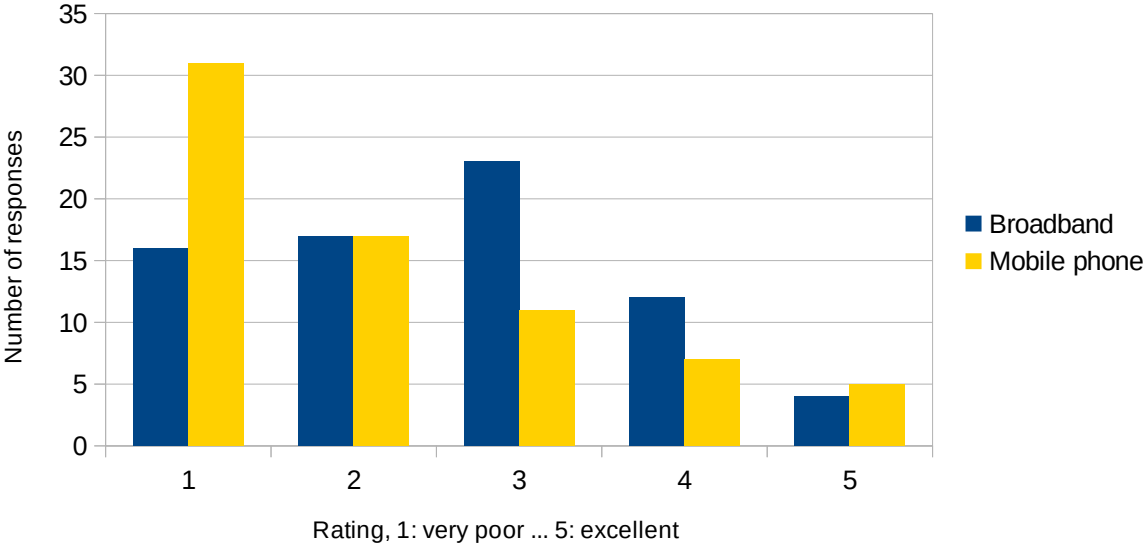
Q5.1 asked how important broadband internet access, high speed internet access and mobile phone access are.

Broadband, High Speed Internet, Mobile Phone Coverage



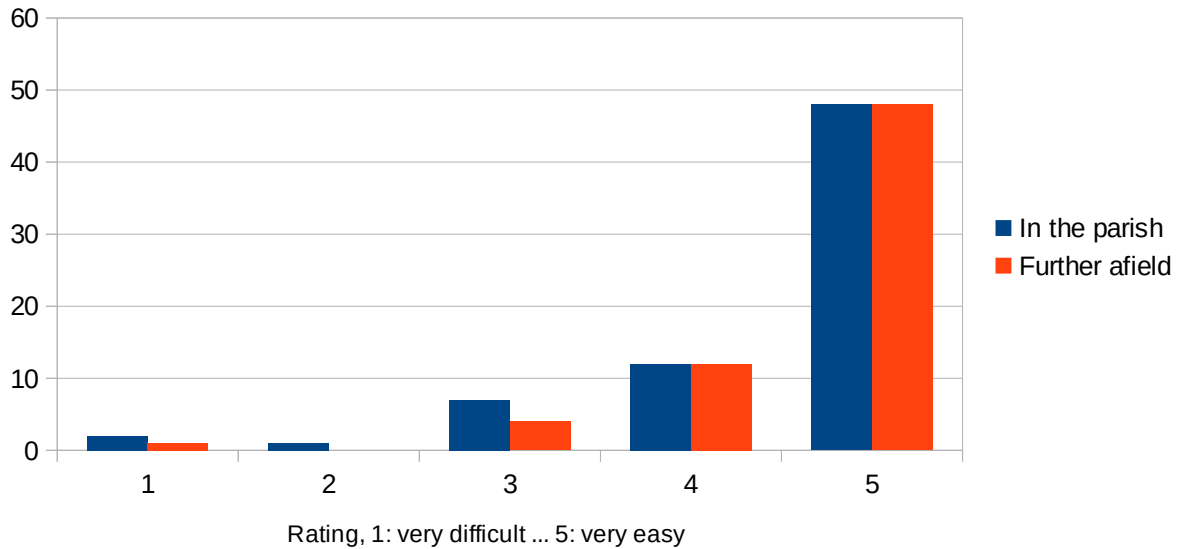
Q5.2 asked how people would rate their existing broadband service and mobile phone service (at home)

Existing broadband, mobile phone coverage



Q5.3 asked how easy it is for people to get about, both in the parish and when going further afield.

Getting about, in the parish and further afield



Use of cars, trains and the Community Bus were mentioned as contributing to the ease of getting about.

Q5.4 asked people to say which of six specified information sources they used to find out about what is happening in the local area, and to rate them.

Information source	Number of people using	Average rating
Acorn newsletter	74	4.6
Word of mouth	62	3.9
Romsey advertiser/local press	50	3.6
Noticeboards	42	3.3
Internet search	40	3.8
Websites of nearby villages	15	3.1

Rating: 1: poor ... 5: excellent

20 people supported the idea of a village web site, 5 supported the use of Facebook and 1 supported the use of Twitter. It was noted that not everyone uses the Internet.

Q6. Organisations and activities

Q6.1 asked whether people used or got involved in any of six specified organisations or activities.

Organisation or activity	Number of people participating or using
Activities and events	54
Village Hall	42
Volunteering	16
Community bus	12
Allotments	11
Parish Council	9

Q6.2 asked people whether they would like to be more involved in or contributing to community life, and why.

Response	Number of responses
Willing to become involved	25
Other commitments, lack of time	21
Unwilling to become involved	10
Too old, or health problems	9

Note: there is a degree of overlap between some of the above

The following specific activities were mentioned as being of interest: supporting older people (2), volunteering in a community shop (2), volunteering with a playgroup (1), providing yoga classes (1), providing transport (1).

Q6.3 asked whether the National Trust should be more involved in the parish.

Response	Number of responses
In favour of more involvement	21
No, or satisfied with current level of involvement	16

Many of the positive comments were general, but the following ideas were mentioned: planting trees in the parish, events for locals, limited number of passes for friends of parishioners, better control of traffic and support of extended 30mph limits, increased access to the river.