

# Welcome



Thanks for sparing the time to visit our event today

The exhibition explains:

What Neighbourhood Plans are

How they're prepared

And seeks your input on key matters

As you go around the display you will see a number of questions, depicted in a green box like this.

You can either provide feedback on the screens or complete a separate paper form. If you have a mobile phone, scan this QR code and comment online.



## What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

It is a relatively new kind of planning document designed to allow local people to play an active part in planning their area.

When complete, the Plan will form part of the statutory development plan for the area, meaning the District Council and Government Planning Inspectors will have to take note of what it says when considering planning applications.



The Neighbourhood Plan sits alongside national and local planning policies when decisions are made on planning applications

# Neighbourhood Plans



- are prepared by Parish Councils but rely on support from residents
- rely on community involvement throughout their preparation and must be approved in a Parish Referendum before they can be used.
- contain planning policies for matters that require planning permission
- must be prepared in line with Government Regulations and must not conflict with the Local Plan or national planning policies.
- will need to be backed up by evidence that supports what they're seeking to achieve.
- are intended to allow local people to play an active part in planning their area. They can guide the development and conservation of the area.

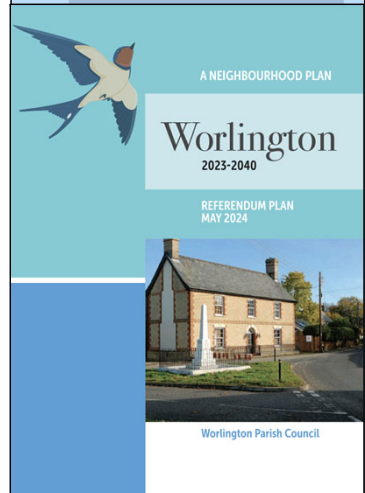
## Neighbourhood Plans can:

include proposals for:

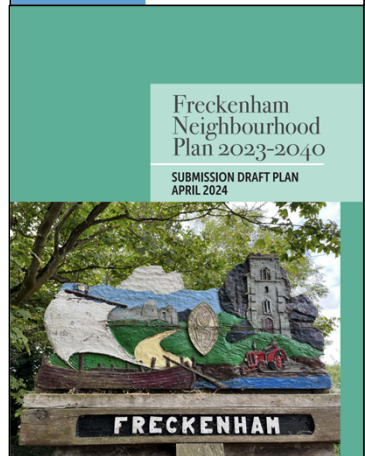
- ✓ improving areas;
- ✓ enhancing current and providing new facilities;
- ✓ developing sites;
- ✓ protecting sites and areas of environmental or historic quality; and
- ✓ protecting facilities of community importance (such as open space, village halls and shops)



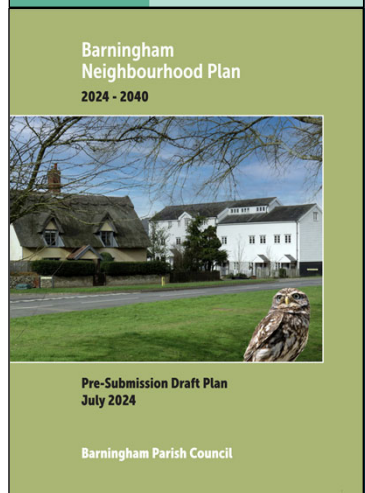
Hargrave Neighbourhood Plan Review  
2023-2040  
Submission Draft Plan  
March 2024  
Hargrave Parish Council



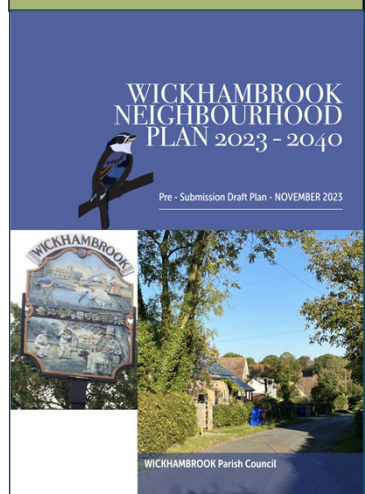
A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
**Worlington**  
2023-2040  
REFERENDUM PLAN  
MAY 2024  
Worlington Parish Council



Freckenham  
Neighbourhood  
Plan 2023-2040  
SUBMISSION DRAFT PLAN  
APRIL 2024  
FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Barningham  
Neighbourhood Plan  
2024 - 2040  
Pre-Submission Draft Plan  
July 2024  
Barningham Parish Council



WICKHAMBROOK  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PLAN 2023 - 2040  
Pre-Submission Draft Plan - NOVEMBER 2023  
WICKHAMBROOK Parish Council

# Neighbourhood Plans

## *Frequently Asked Questions*



### *How long will it take to produce a neighbourhood plan?*

Typically, most of our work can be completed in two years.

### *How much does it cost to do a neighbourhood plan?*

Preparing the Plan shouldn't cost a Parish Council anything. Government grants generally pay all the costs, and free support is available to produce studies such as Village Design Guidance.

### *What does a Plan look like?*

The Plan is a written document, typically of around 40-50 pages, covering a number of planning related topics. It would also include maps and illustrations.

### *Who prepares the Plan?*

A Working Group of volunteers formed by the Parish Council has the responsibility for preparing the Plan, but it will need to be approved by the Parish Council. Planning consultants can help do the technical work, paid for by the Government grants.

### *What can a neighbourhood plan cover?*

Although Plans have to focus on planning matters (things that need planning permission) they can include non-planning topics to address areas of concern or ambitions of the community.

### *Does it mean that Parish Councils will be able to make decisions on planning applications?*

No, only the District Council or, in specific circumstances, the County Council can take decisions on planning applications

# Neighbourhood Plans



## THE PROCESS



Parish Council role



District Council role

Local authority designates Neighbourhood Area (the Parish) ✓



Consult on Plan for minimum 6 weeks



Prepare Draft Plan



Information gathering and community engagement

**We're here**



Review comments, amend Plan



Submit the Plan to the District Council



Further consultation



District Council adopts Plan for use when they decide planning applications



Parish Referendum



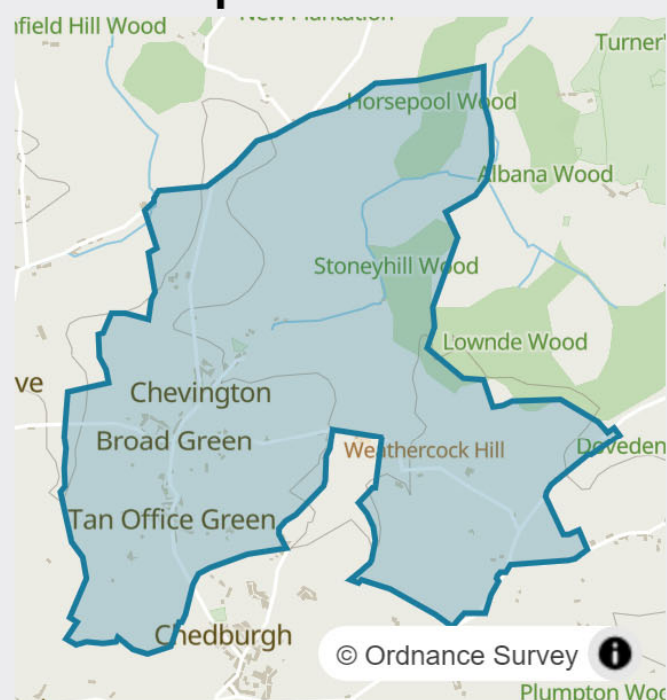
Independent Examination

The Referendum is conducted in the same way as an election. If more than 50% of those that vote are in favour of the Plan, then the District Council **MUST** adopt it

# Key Census Data



## Area map



## Population

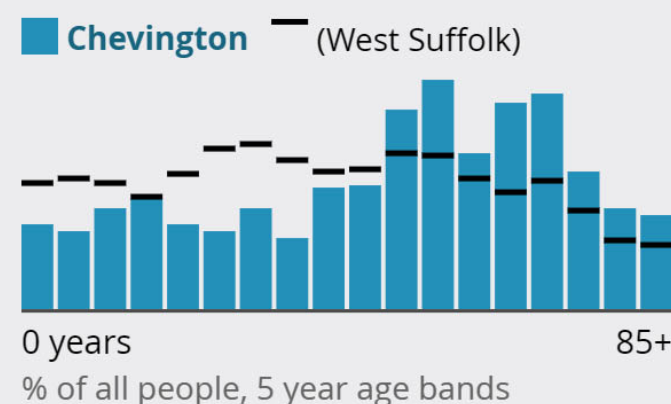
**590**

people

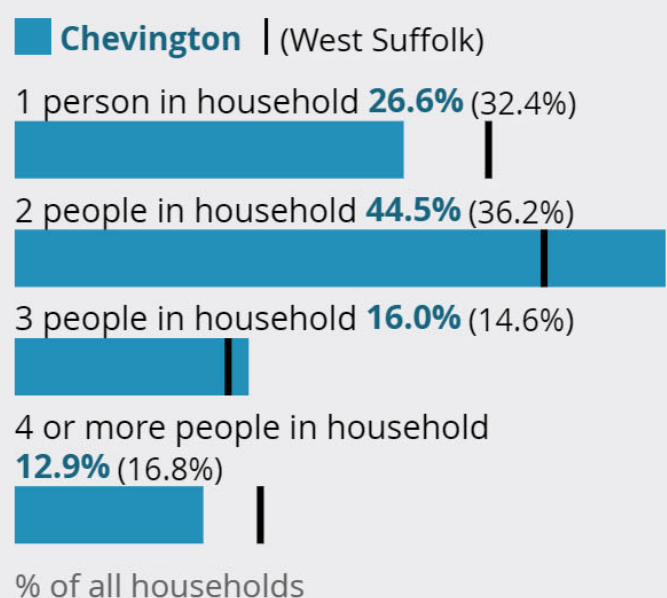
**179,900** people in West Suffolk

Rounded to the nearest 10 people

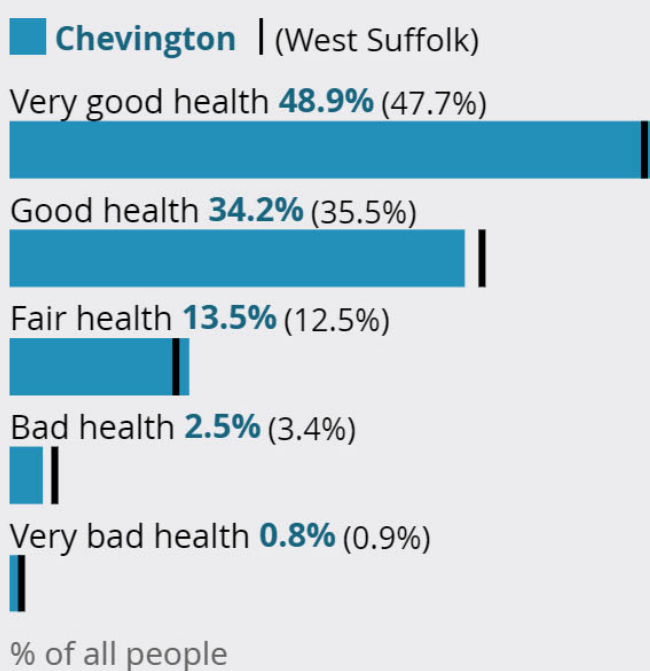
## Age profile



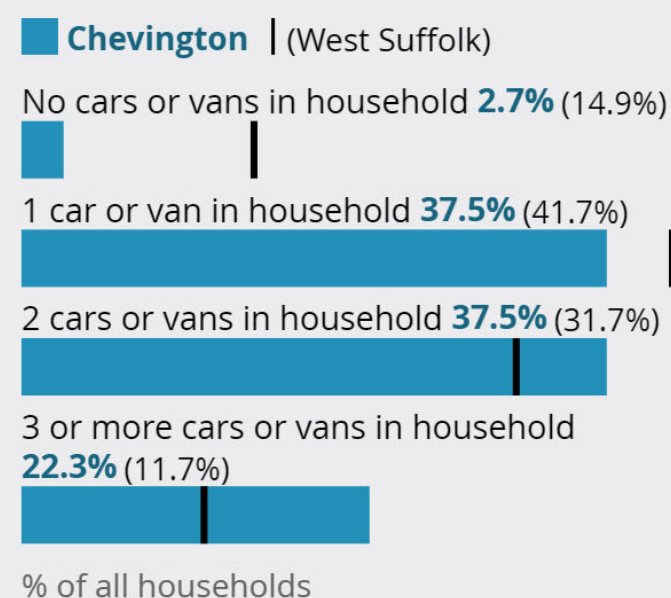
## Household size



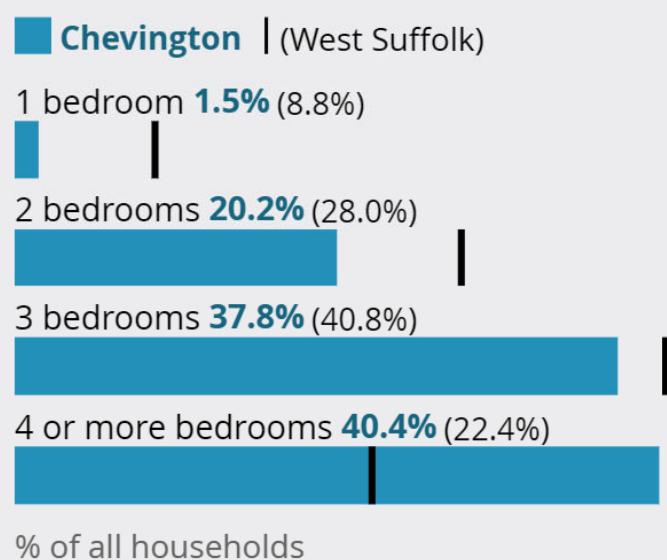
## General health



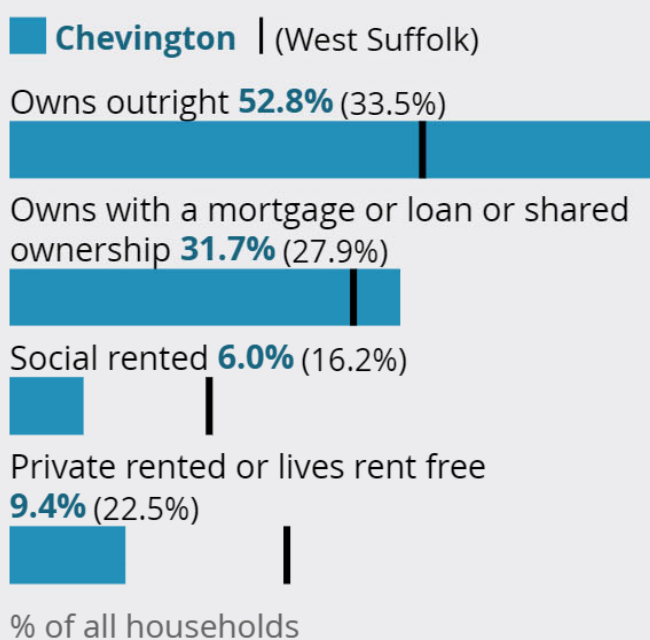
## Number of cars or vans



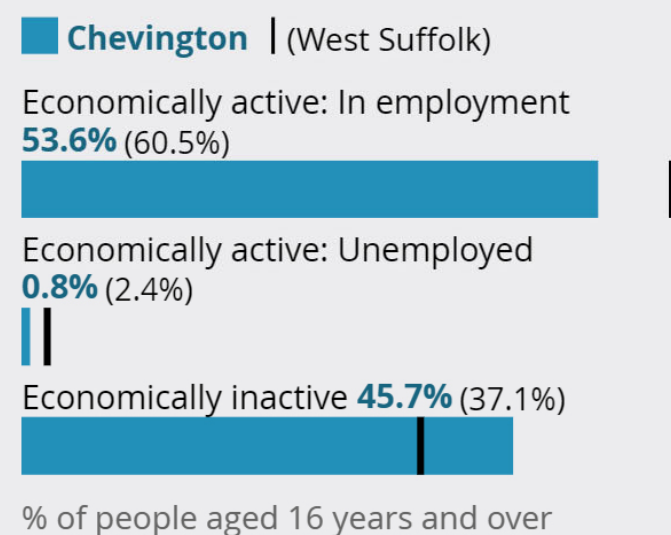
## Number of bedrooms



## Tenure of household



## Economic activity status

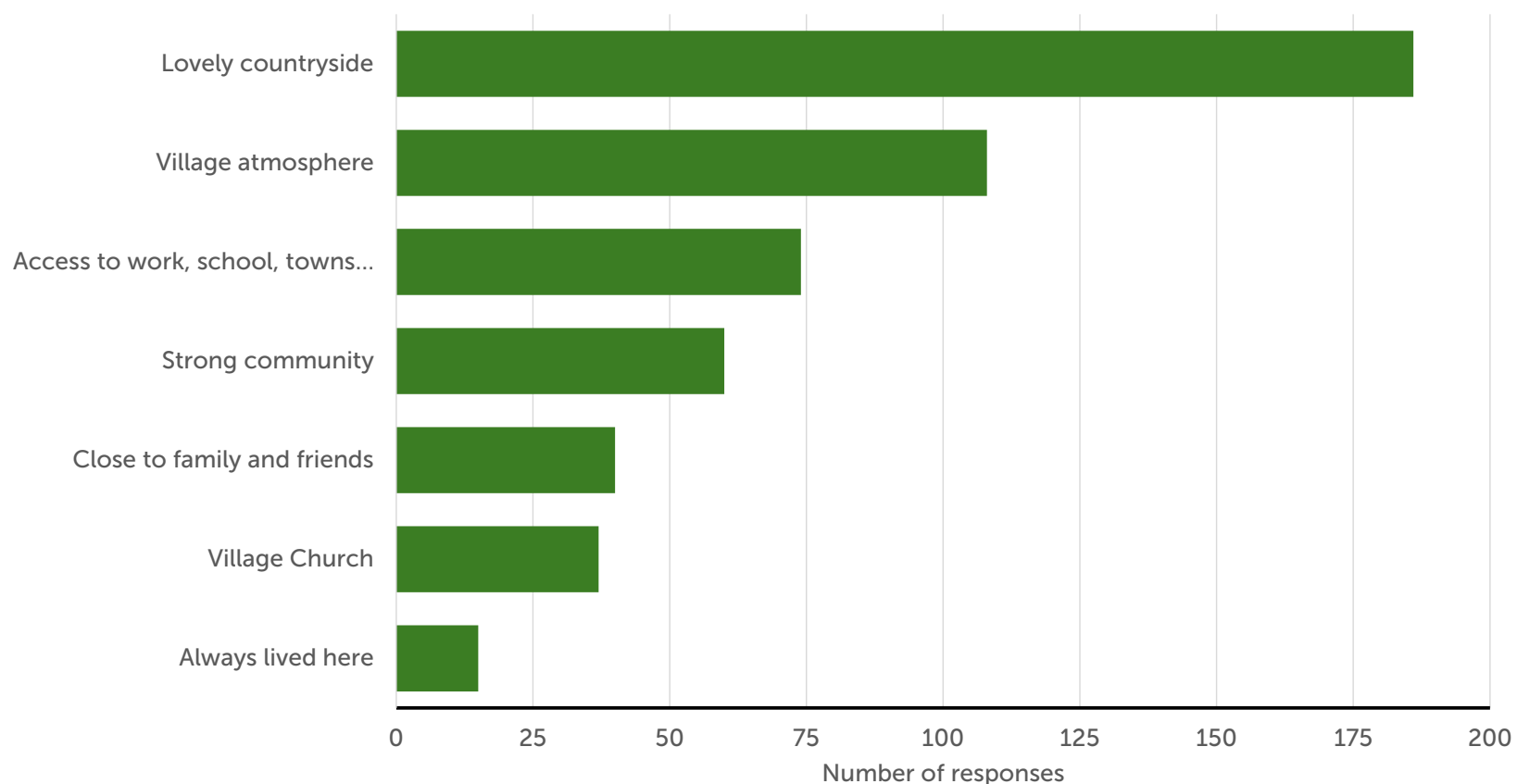


# 2023 Survey



- In Autumn 2023 the Parochial Church Council (PCC) carried out a survey to discover what issues were important to the village and how we could best use the resources of the PCC and the Parish Council to improve community life in the village.
- All households (280) received a questionnaire. Online versions were also available. 201 surveys were filled in and thanks to everyone who completed it.
- The survey was followed up with a lively public meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, attended by around 80 parishioners.
- The next few boards provide a reminder of the key results

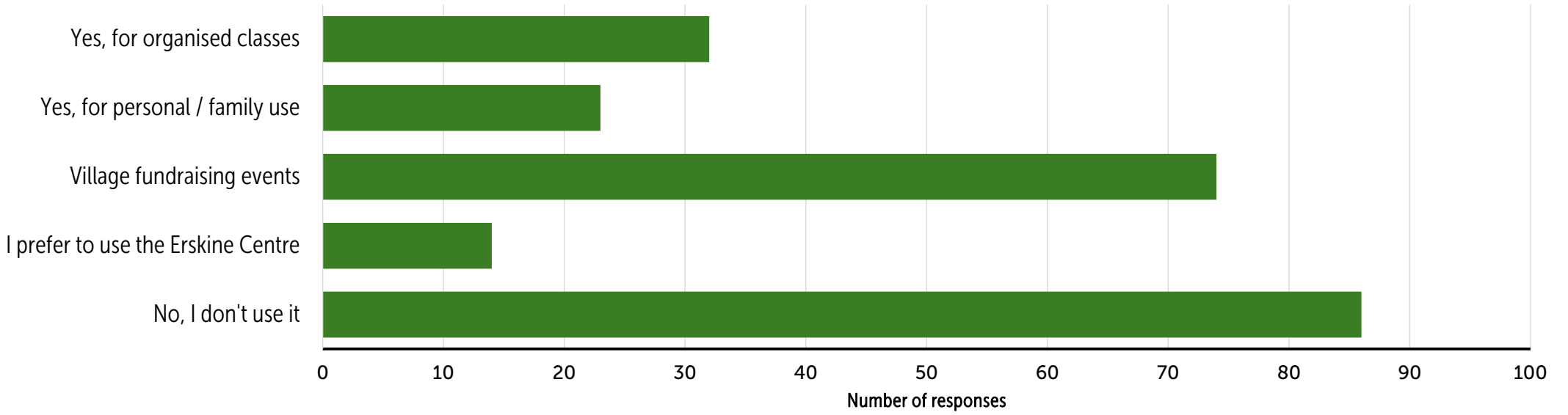
## What do you like most about living here?



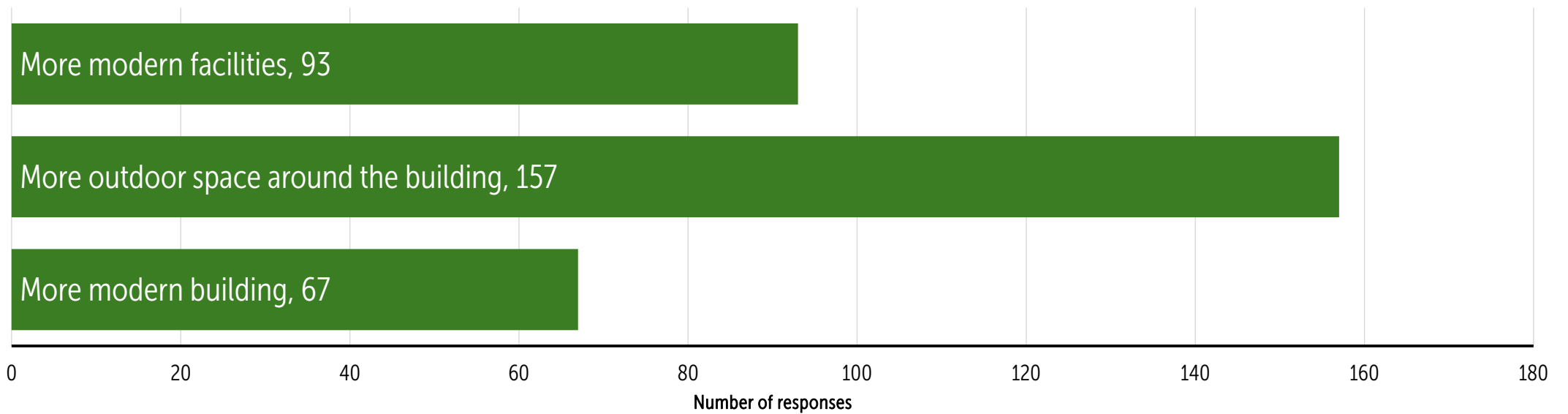
# Village Facilities



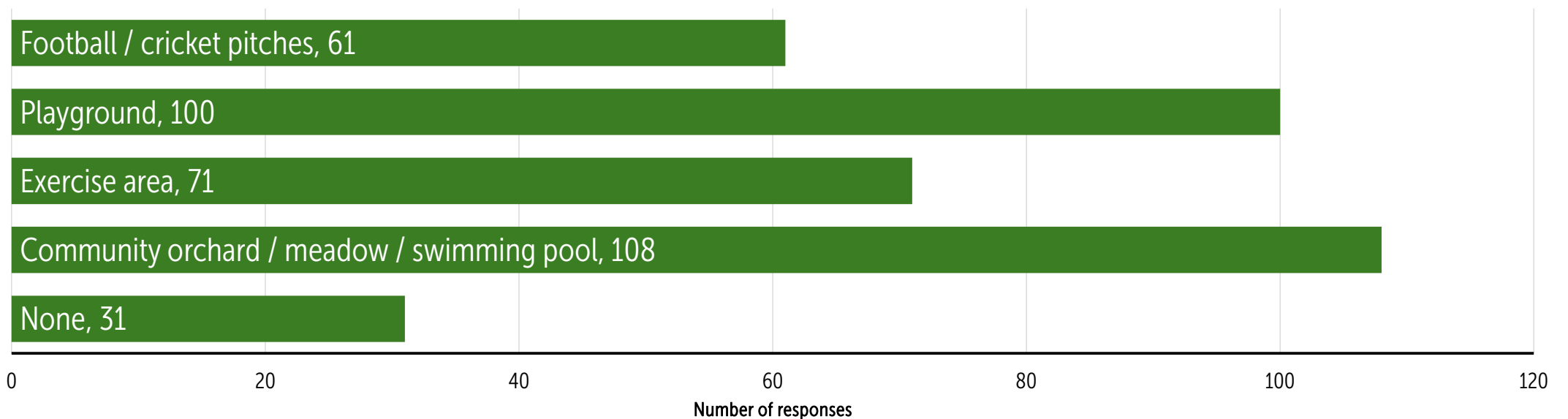
## Do you use the village hall?



## What would you like from your Village Hall?



## Would you like to see new outdoor spaces for the community? What sort of outdoor spaces would you use?



# Village Facilities



The village survey showed there was interest in a village hub (new village hall, recreation ground, shop, café etc).

## Would you use/take advantage of:

	Yes ●	No ●
Community Orchard / Meadow		
Swimming Pool		
Exercise Area		
Playground		
Football / Cricket Team Games Area		

If necessary, would you be prepared to accept a limited amount (10 or under) of new housing to provide profits to help pay for a village hub?

Yes ●	No ●

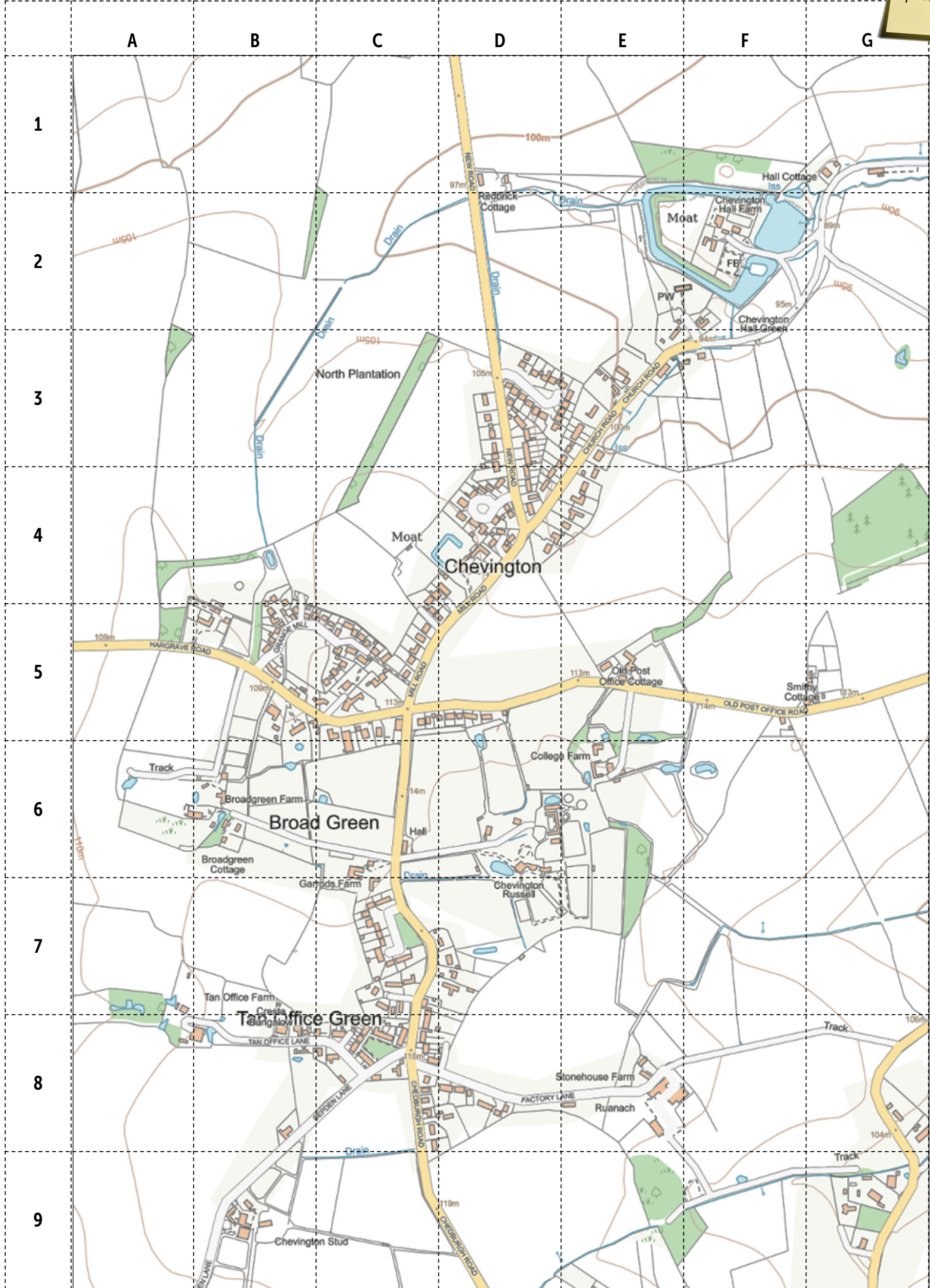


# Village Facilities



If you support the idea of a Village Hub, in which area of the village would you like it?

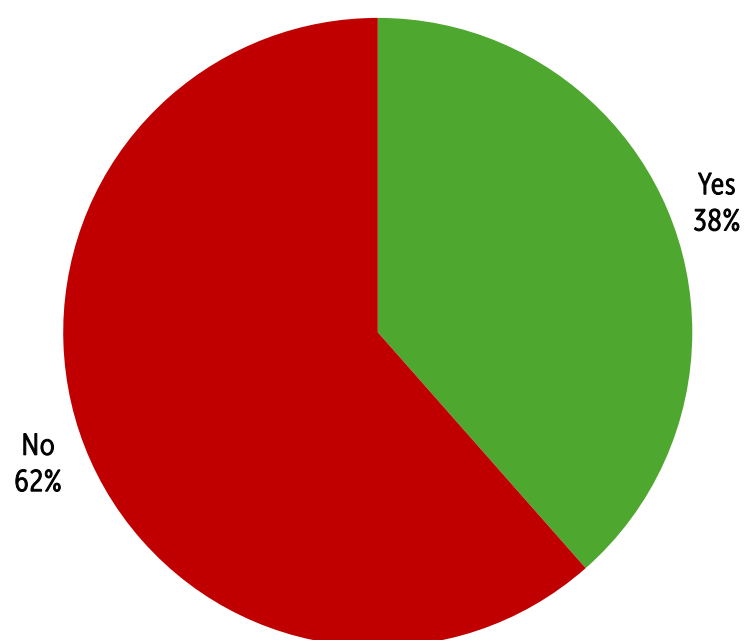
Use purple dot for preferred location





Our survey asked if there was support for more housing in the village

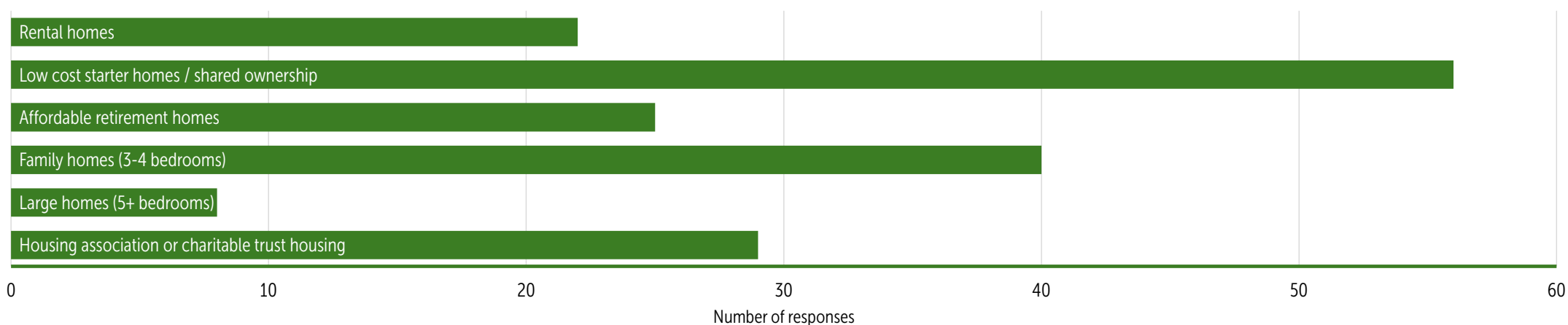
## Should there be more housing in the village?



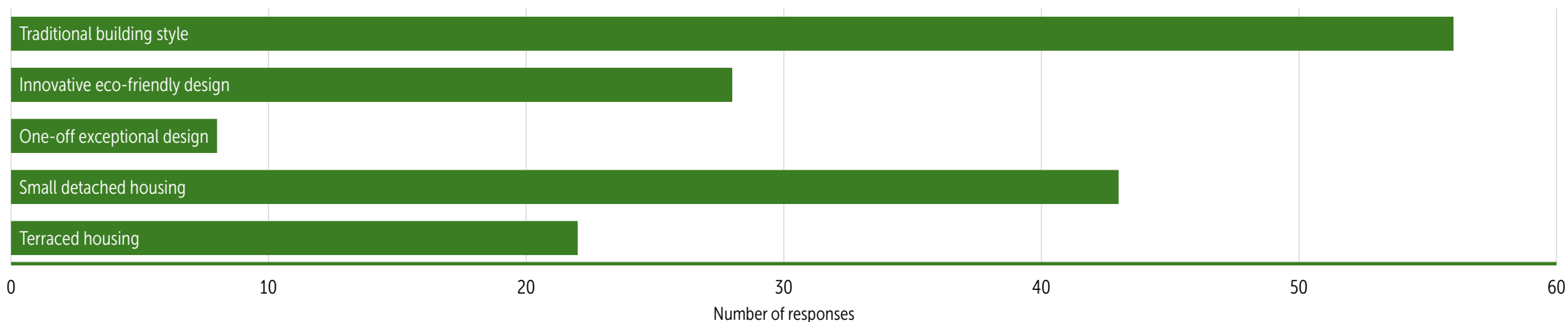
This minority that answered “yes” were asked about the nature of housing they would support.

The remaining charts on this page illustrate the results

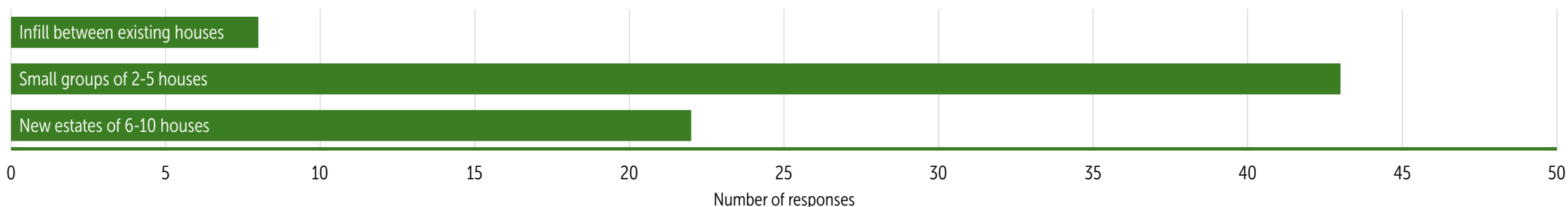
## What type of new housing should there be?



## What style of new housing would you like to see?



## What type of building density would you like to see?



# Natural Environment

The Neighbourhood Plan could identify important views in the parish, the key features of which should be preserved.

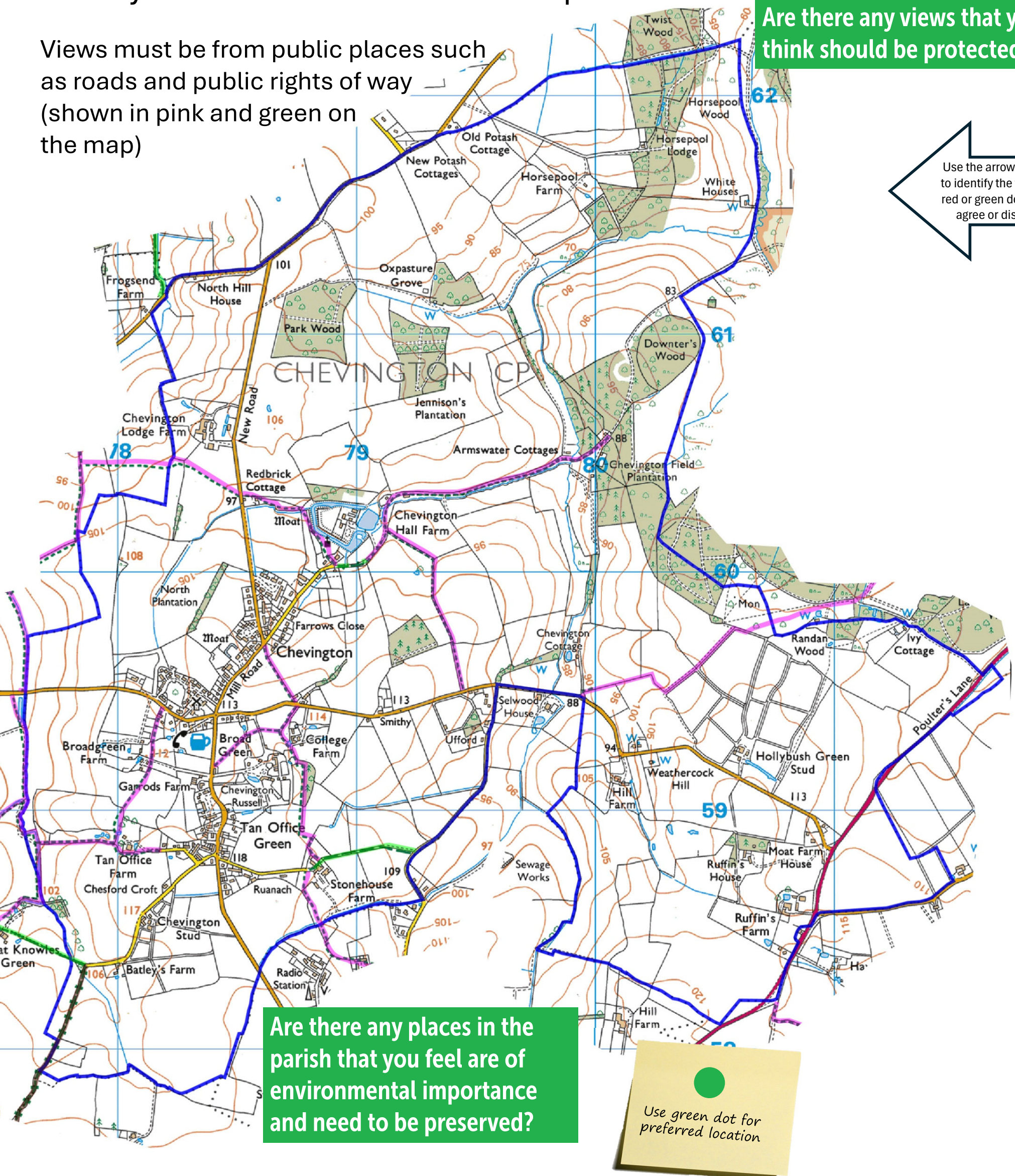
Views must be from public places such as roads and public rights of way (shown in pink and green on the map)

Are there any views that you think should be protected?

Use the arrow stickers to identify the view and red or green dots if you agree or disagree

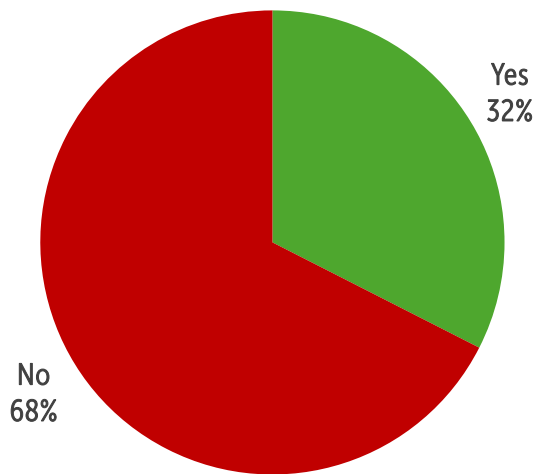
Are there any places in the parish that you feel are of environmental importance and need to be preserved?

Use green dot for preferred location



## Our survey asked how many residents worked from home.

### Do you work from home?



There is a sizeable proportion of the village that works from home (presumably since the pandemic).

The significance of this is:

1. The need for good internet and
2. the need for a community facilities to make the village more than just a collection of office and domestic spaces.

Small businesses based at home often need meeting places to meet clients. A Village Hub could provide this.

## If you run a business from home, would you use a meeting room at a new Village Hub if one was provided?

Yes ●

No ●

## Do you need better internet access?

Yes ●

No ●

## Are there other initiatives that could be established in the village that would help businesses?

● ●  
Use post-it notes to tell us and green dots if you agree with a comment that's already there or red dots if you disagree with it

# Community Initiatives

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), has developed a community carbon calculator in response to a demand from smaller settlements to have robust and accurate data on their carbon footprint, so that they can best direct their efforts to tackle the climate emergency.

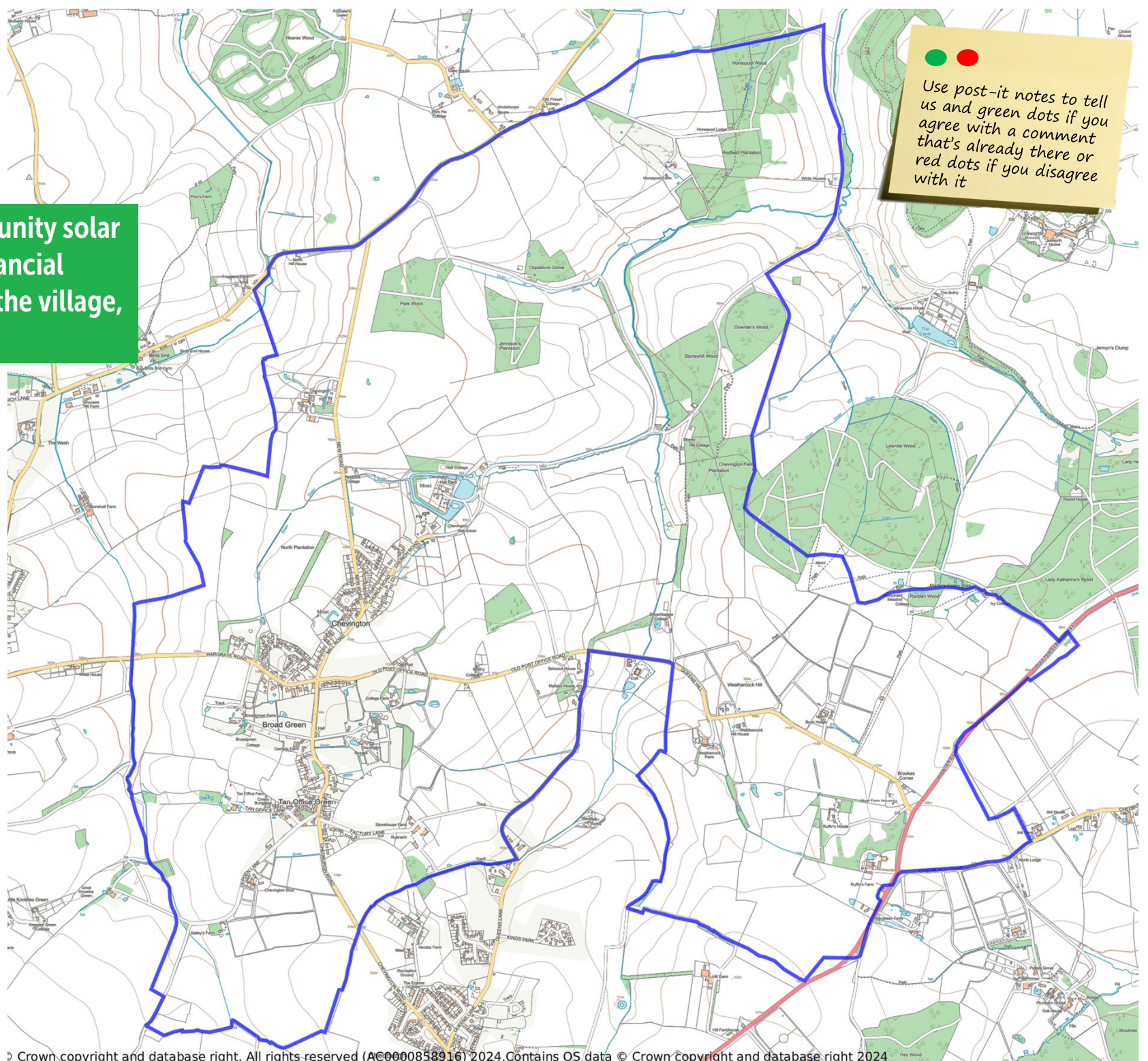
For Chevington, when compared to all of West Suffolk, it shows that our homes have the biggest impact, generating almost double the carbon dioxide equivalent emissions compared with West Suffolk.

Carbon Footprint



The survey showed keen interest in renewable energy schemes.

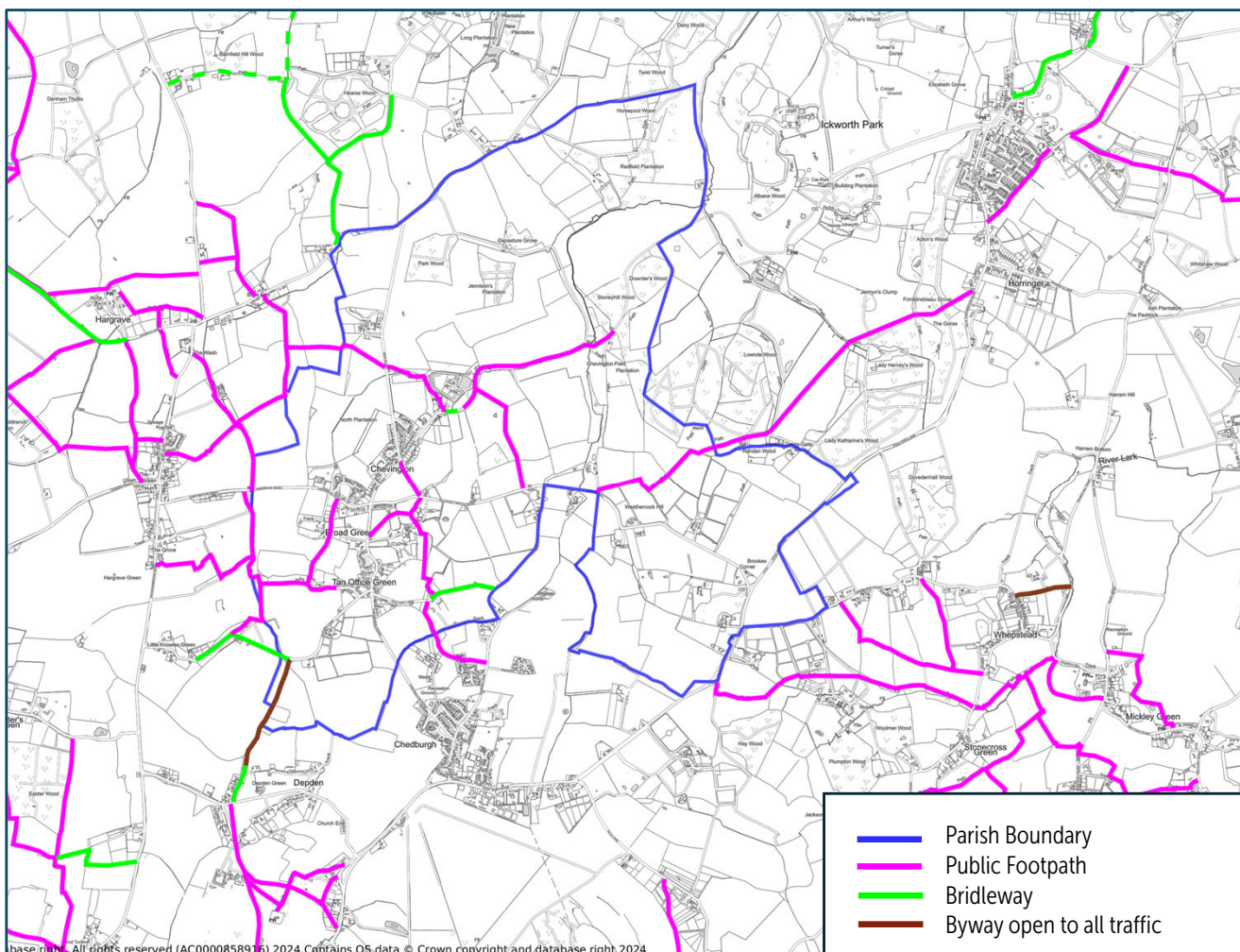
If we could build a Community solar farm that would bring financial benefits to the people of the village, where would you put it?



Neighbourhood plans have little power to introduce highway improvements as most schemes will not require planning permission.

Improvements are therefore reliant on Suffolk County Council, as the highways authority, for investment in projects or improvements required as part of the mitigation of the impact of development proposals.

Likewise, we know we have little control on when buses run, but the Parish Council is working on that.



### Public Rights of Way

The map illustrates the network of public rights of way in the parish and beyond.

Are any of the paths difficult to negotiate? Please use a post-it note to tell us

Use post-it notes to tell us and green dots if you agree with a comment that's already there or red dots if you disagree with it

### Gaps in the network

If you think there are gaps in the public rights of way network, where would you put the following:

Public Footpaths	Bridleways	Dedicated Cycle Routes

# Design Guidance



As part of the Government support programme, we have also secured the preparation of Design Guidance for the parish.

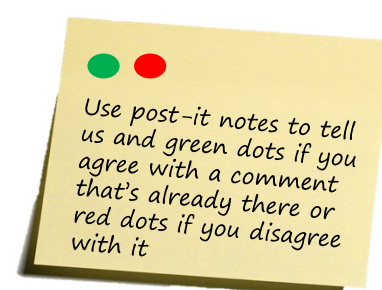
These have been prepared for other Plans including Wickhambrook and Hargrave

The Guidance will be used to support planning policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and used by West Suffolk Council when deciding planning applications.



**WHAT ARE THE TOP 3 THINGS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED IN THE CHEVINGTRON DESIGN GUIDE TO PROMOTE WELL DESIGNED HOMES?**

Use a post-it note for each of your answers





# Bus Update



## Finally, we want to update you on the situation regarding the bus service.

The Parish Council Clerk recently attended a meeting of the County Council's Bus Strategy Enhancement Group.

### This is the current Situation

**All decisions that have been made are final and there will be no back tracking.**

### Going Forward

All Parish Councils can bid for new funding to go towards future bus routes. To be successful in a bid the proposal writer needs lots of data, time and effort. The Parish Council are keen to get data to support the bus service.

There must be validity to the service in that it must be NEEDED and used and not just WANTED – in other words it should be demonstrated that people will use the service rather than it be nice to have in the village

### Some Facts about getting a new service

1. Anyone can start up running a bus service. Suffolk County Council run about a fifth of the bus routes within Suffolk.
2. Grant money does not cover all the costs of a new route
3. Grant money goes directly to the company running the route.
4. Previous successful bids for this grant money were able to show that around 350 - 850 passengers would use the route WEEKLY
5. When completing the application form the applicant needs to show costings. ie how much it would cost the bus company to run a route, if it adds a benefit to their business model, how much it would be run a volunteer scheme with purchasing a minibus/car, how much to administer volunteers, cost of insurance and running said vehicle against the money brought in. The applicant also has to show where they got the costs from.
6. There has to be a forecast for future numbers and for future growth of scheme
7. Ultimately the scheme has to be cost effective. The grant runs for two years
8. Applications get scored and graded.

The County Council is holding presentation days regarding the new bus route changes. Bury St Edmunds Library October 9th from 2 - 3.30pm with an on-line survey due to be launched soon.

To help us, we want to know how much you used the service before it ceased. The bus ran every day except Sunday.

### Using dots, please indicate how often you used the bus

Daily	Every weekday	Saturday only	1-2 days a week	3-4 days a week	Once a fortnight	1-2 times a month	Less often	Never

### What, if anything, would have made you use the bus more?

Use post-it notes to tell us and green dots if you agree with a comment that's already there or red dots if you disagree with it

# What next?



We have secured a Government grant to employ planning consultants that specialise in the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. They have prepared the Plans for Hargrave, Wickhambrook, Great Barton amongst the 30+ Plans and so are very qualified to guide us through the process.

Depending upon the feedback from today, we will decide what the Plan should cover and whether to pursue a new Village Hub, in whatever form that might take.

We will carry out further community engagement as we prepare the Plan and come up with ideas that we want to test.

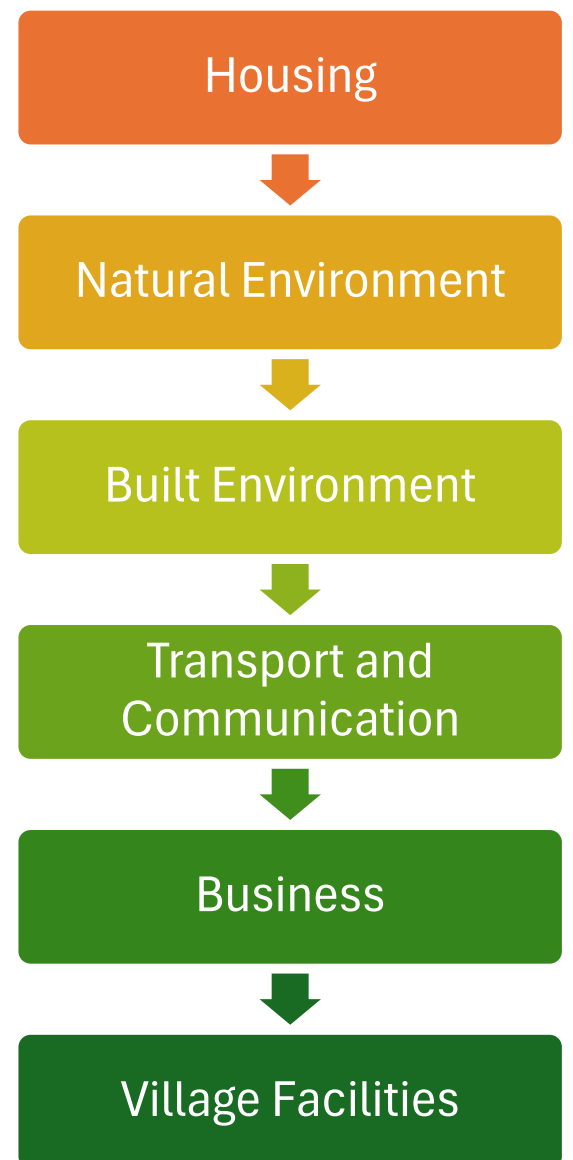
## Plan Themes

Based on what we know so far, we think the Plan will cover the themes illustrated. It will contain planning policies, used when deciding planning applications, and can include "community actions" which are non-planning matters that the Parish Council can pursue, such as is being done with the bus service.

When we've prepared the Draft Plan, you will have at least six weeks to comment on it. Those comments will be considered, and necessary amendments will be made before it is submitted to West Suffolk Council.

West Suffolk Council will carry out further consultation on the Draft Plan before it is assessed by a Neighbourhood Plan Examiner.

The Plan will then go to a Parish Referendum where those on the Elections Register will be able to vote whether they want West Suffolk Council to adopt the Plan and use it when deciding planning applications.



## Keep up to date

We have created a Neighbourhood Plan website [www.chevingtonvillage.uk/neighbourhood-plan](http://www.chevingtonvillage.uk/neighbourhood-plan)

**facebook** (Chevington Village Neighbourhood Plan)

and a Community WhatsApp Group - accessed by the QR Code

