



Wantage Neighbourhood Plan

We have a strong past...



Help us to shape our future..

Wantage Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results

1580 people completed our survey and the results are shown on the following pages.

We are very pleased with the response rate and the fulsome nature of the responses provided. We believe that these results will give us a strong steer in the definition of the planning policies for the Town for the next 20 years and look forward to share the next stage in the process with you over the next few weeks.

Thank you very much for you input.

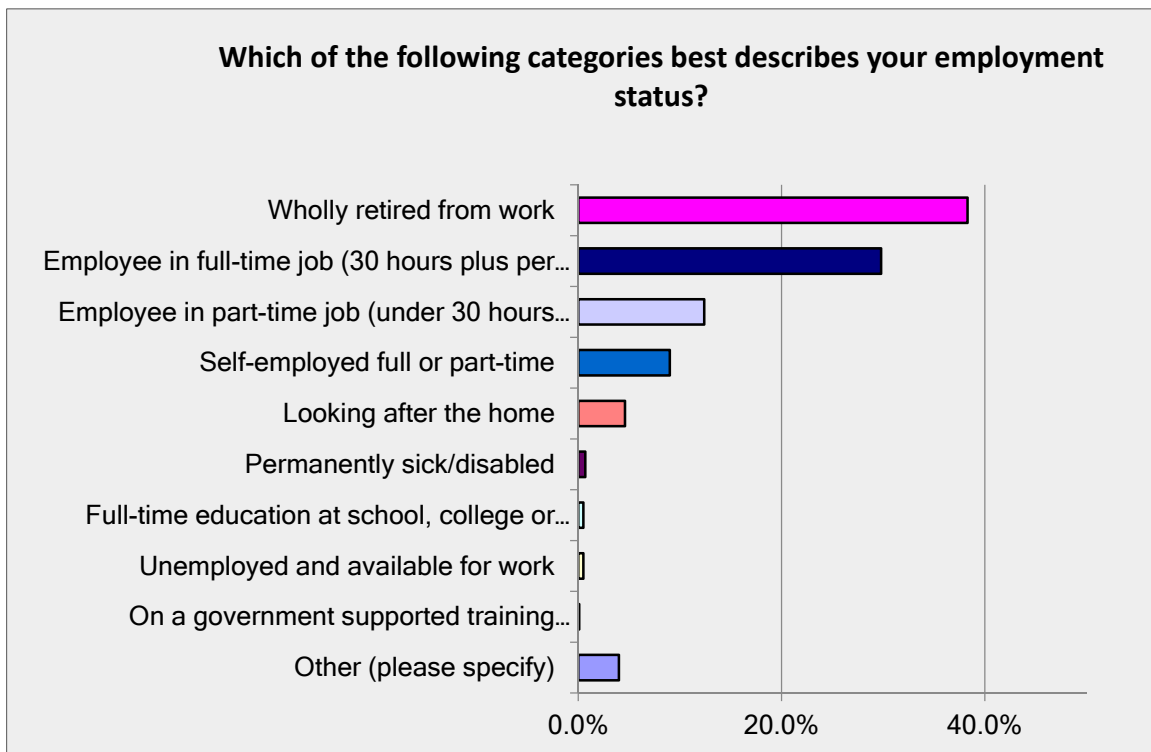
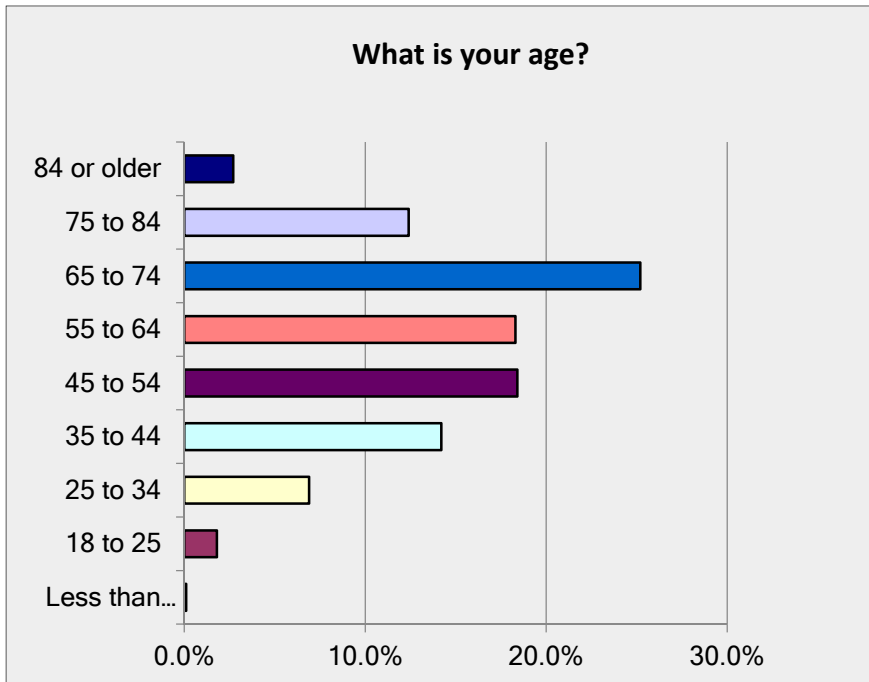
The graphs and notes on the following pages show the results of the survey in detail.

If you have anything to add or wish to get involved in defining the details of the Neighbourhood Plan, please get in touch with us either via the Town Council or directly to me using the details below,

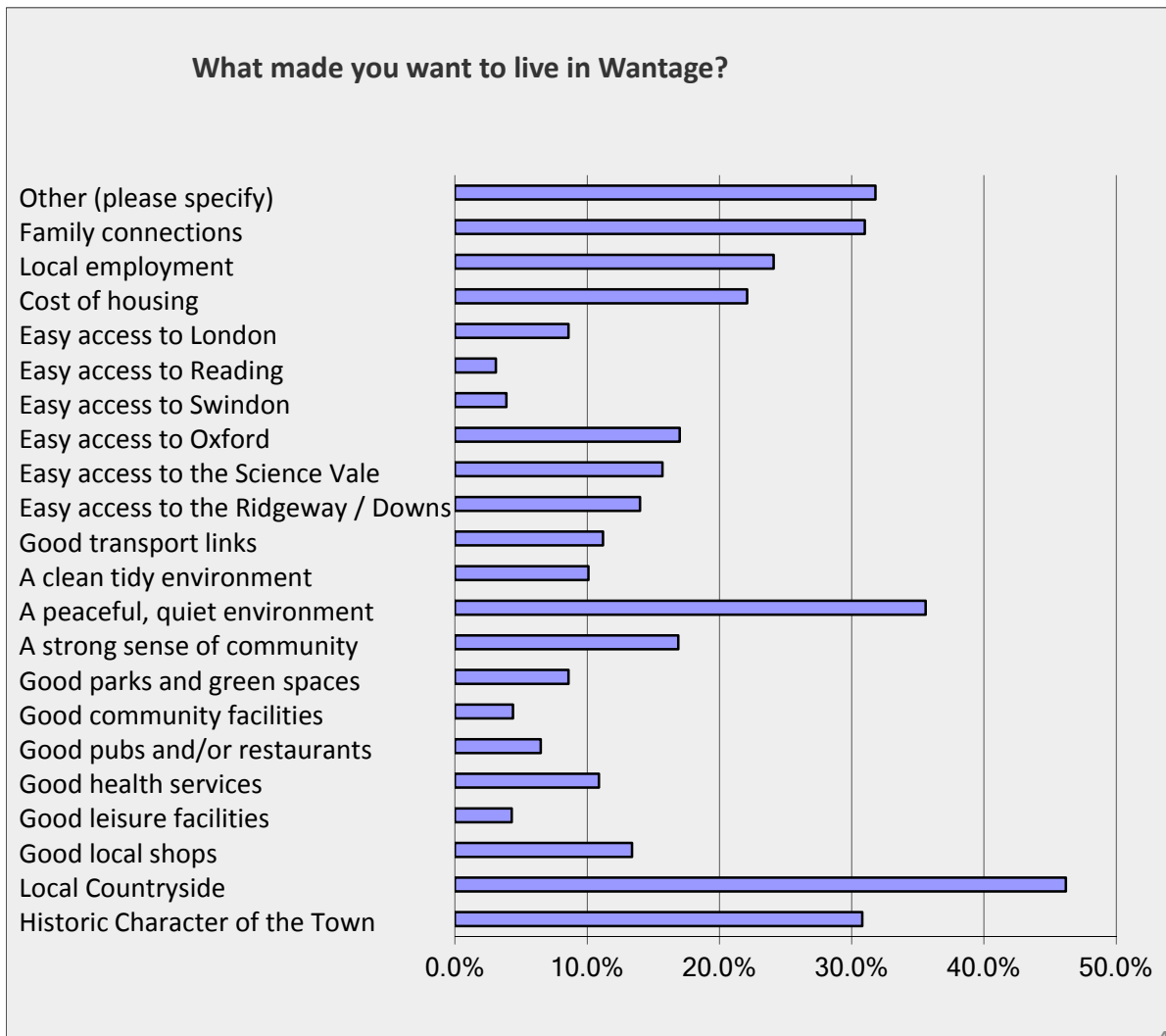
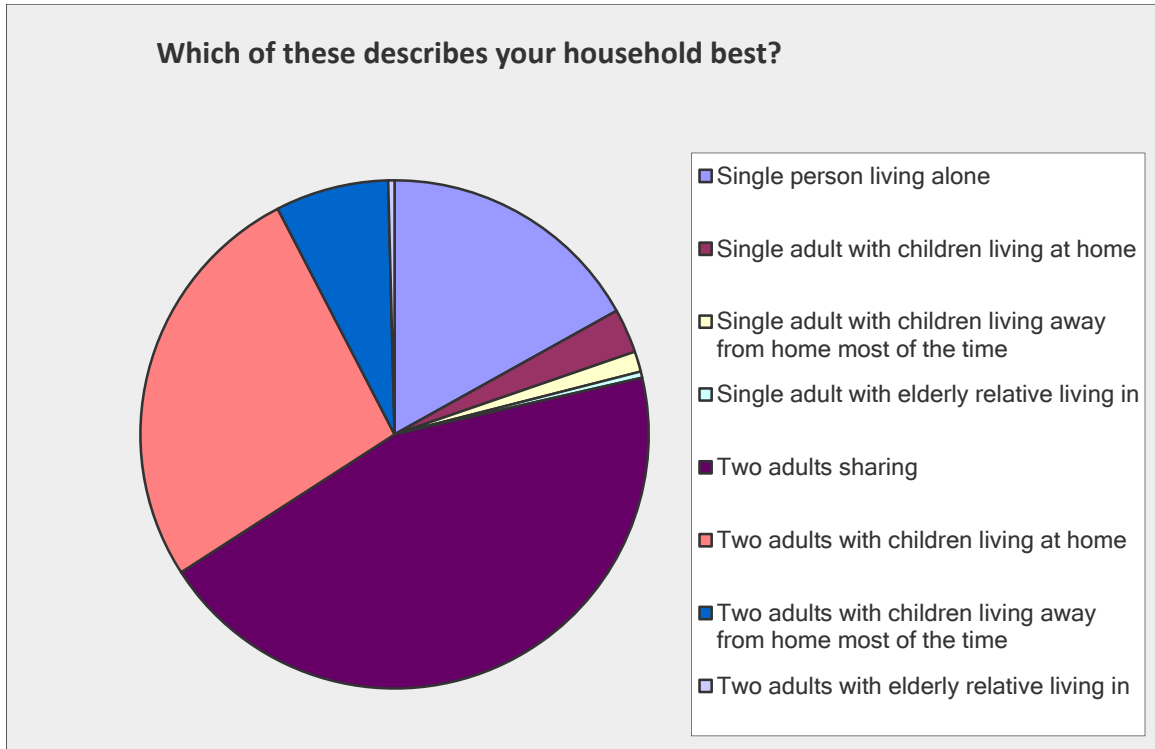
Julie Mabberley
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Council Offices
Portway
Wantage OX12 9BX

by email julie@wantageplan.org or by phone on 07879 731 517

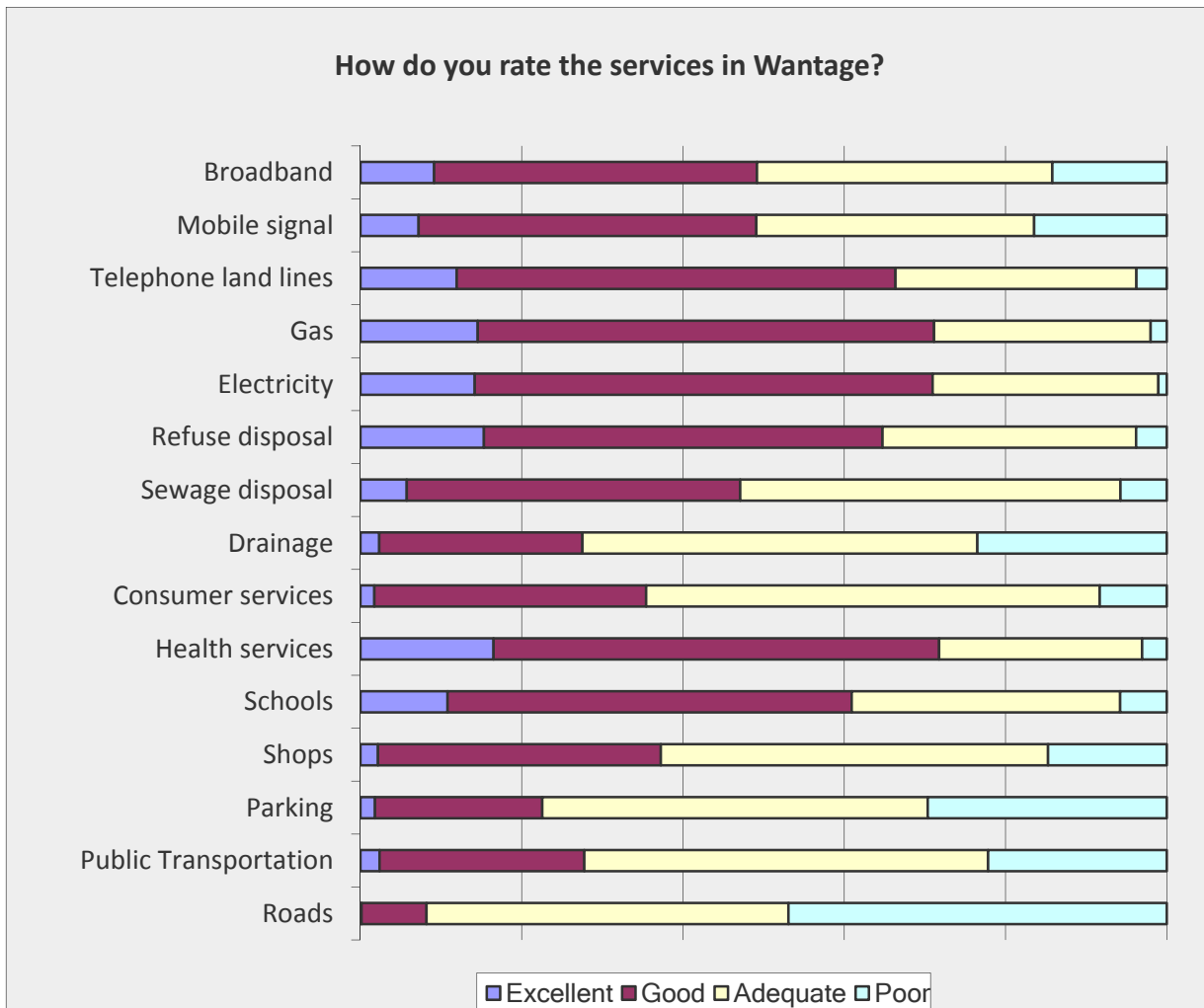
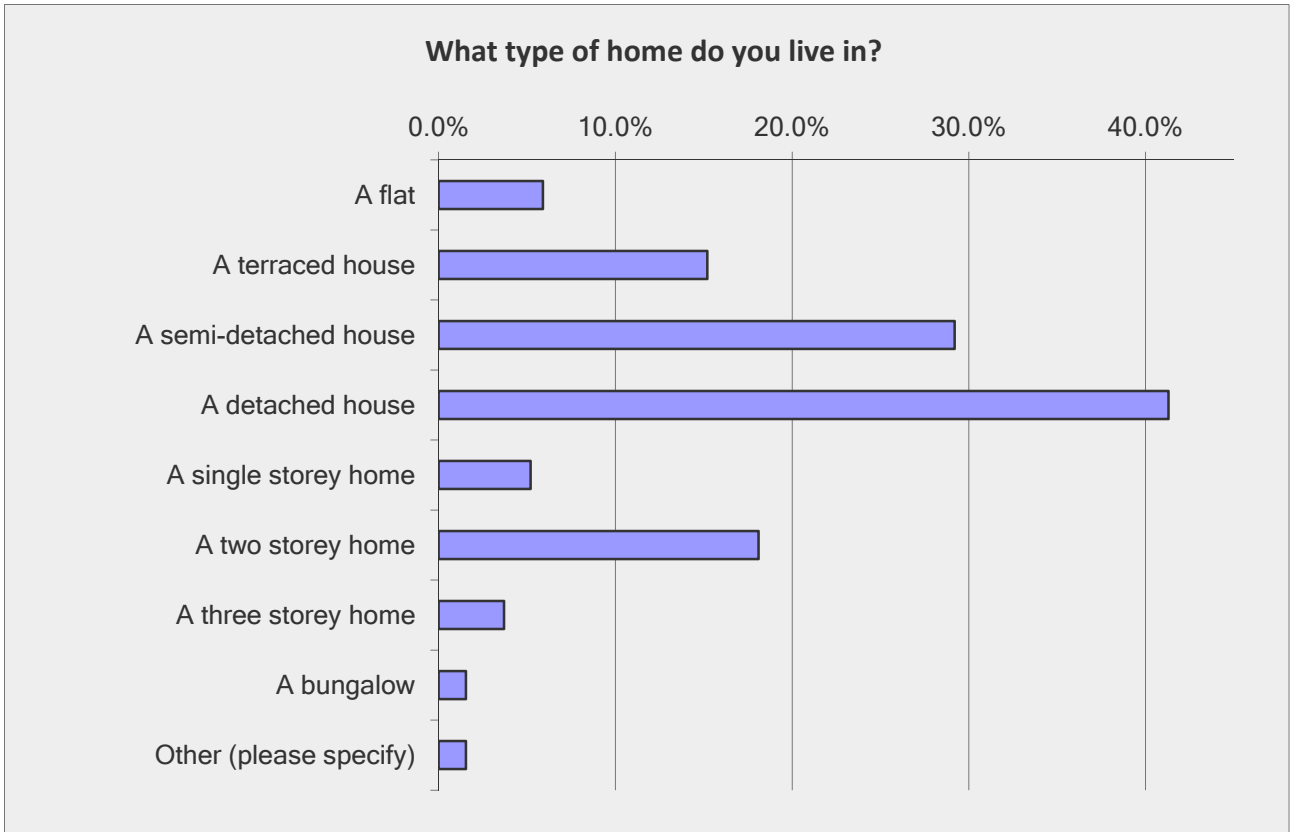
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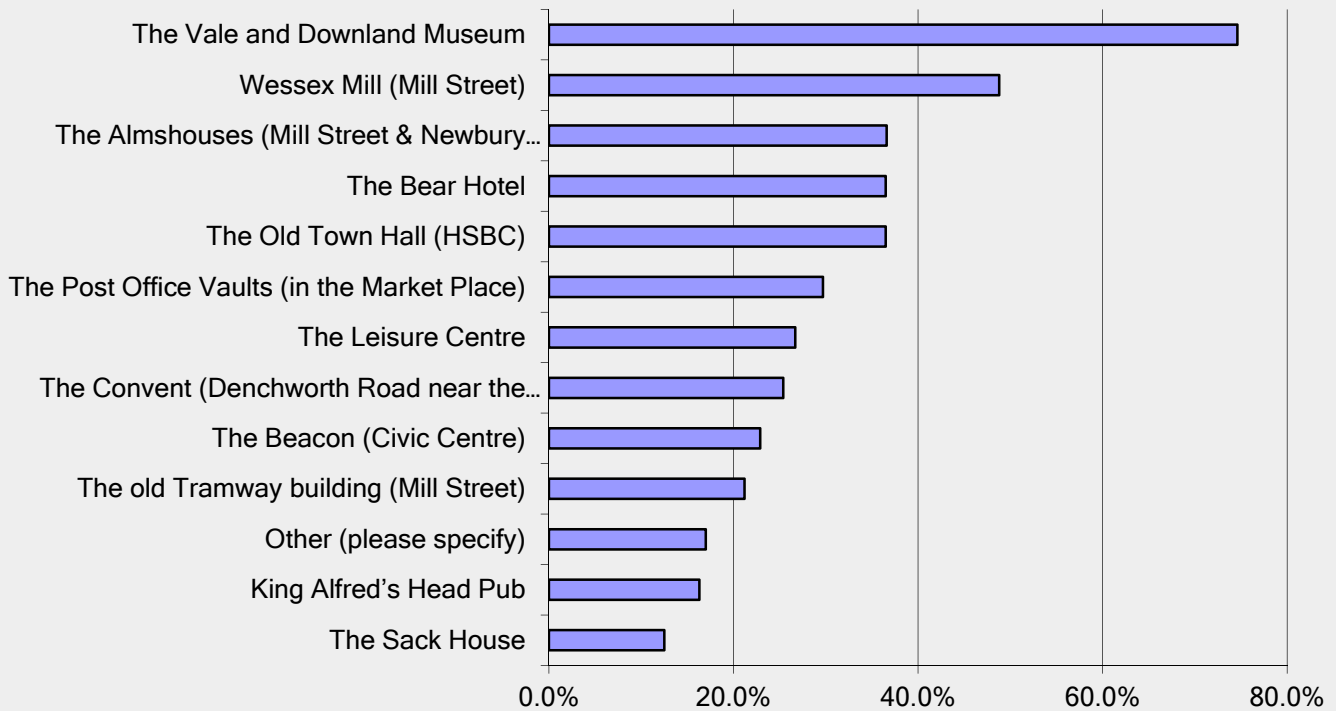
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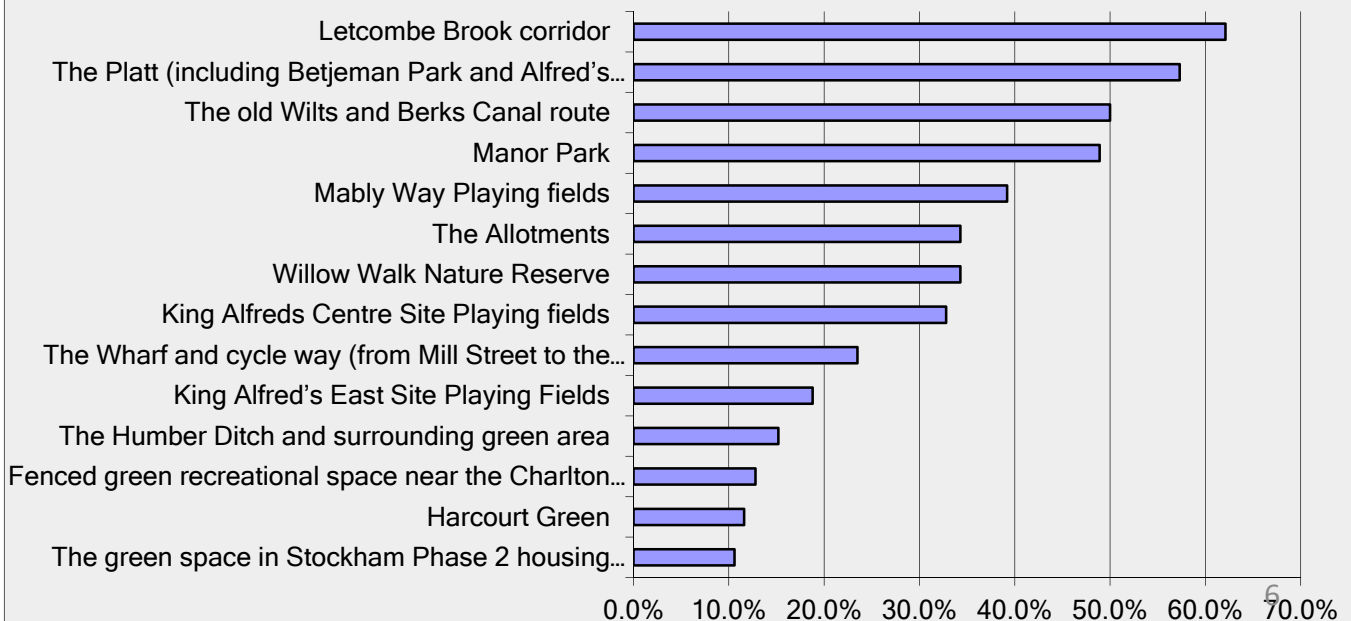
Under the Localism Act, the town can safeguard assets – land and buildings – that are important to the local community and have traditionally been used by the community. They can be submitted to the district council as “Assets of Community Value” and, if an asset comes up for sale, a special window is opened to give the community the chance to buy that asset before it goes to open market.

Are there any assets in Wantage that you would like safeguarded in this way?

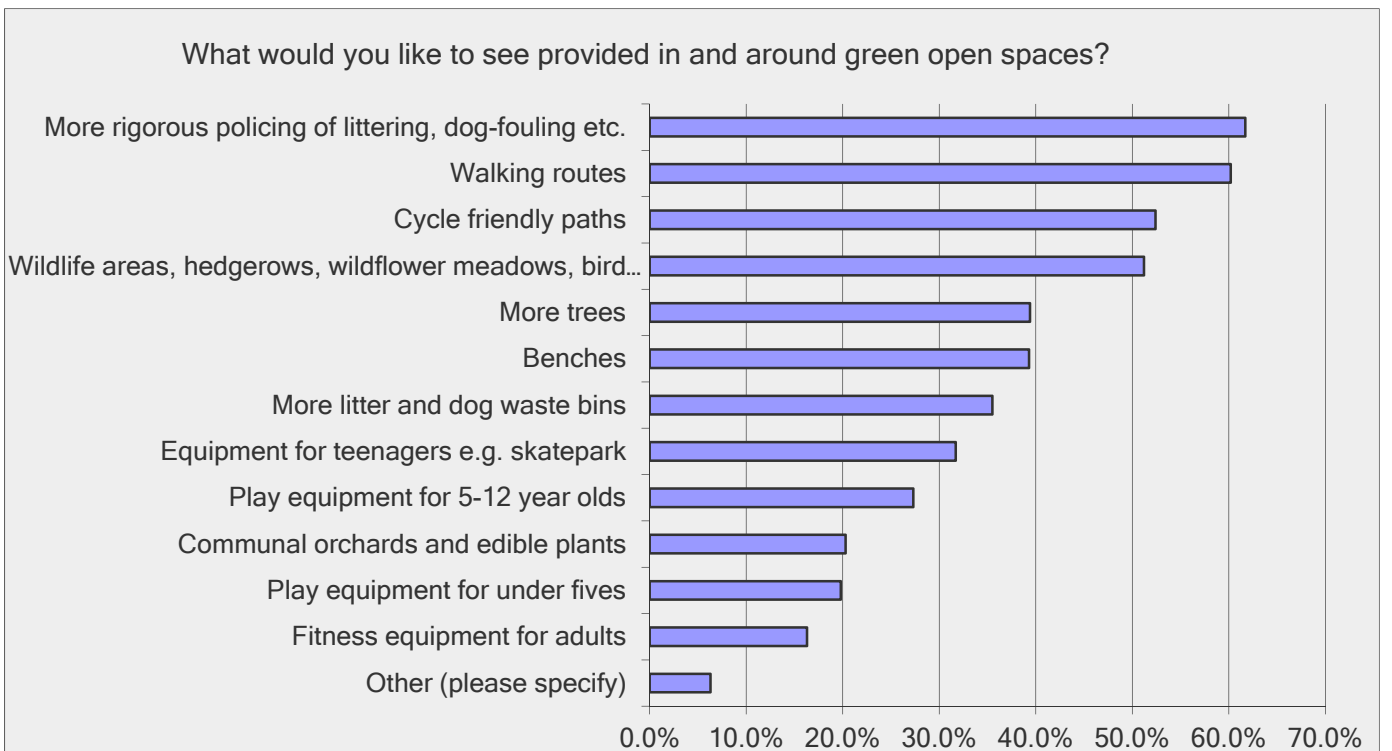
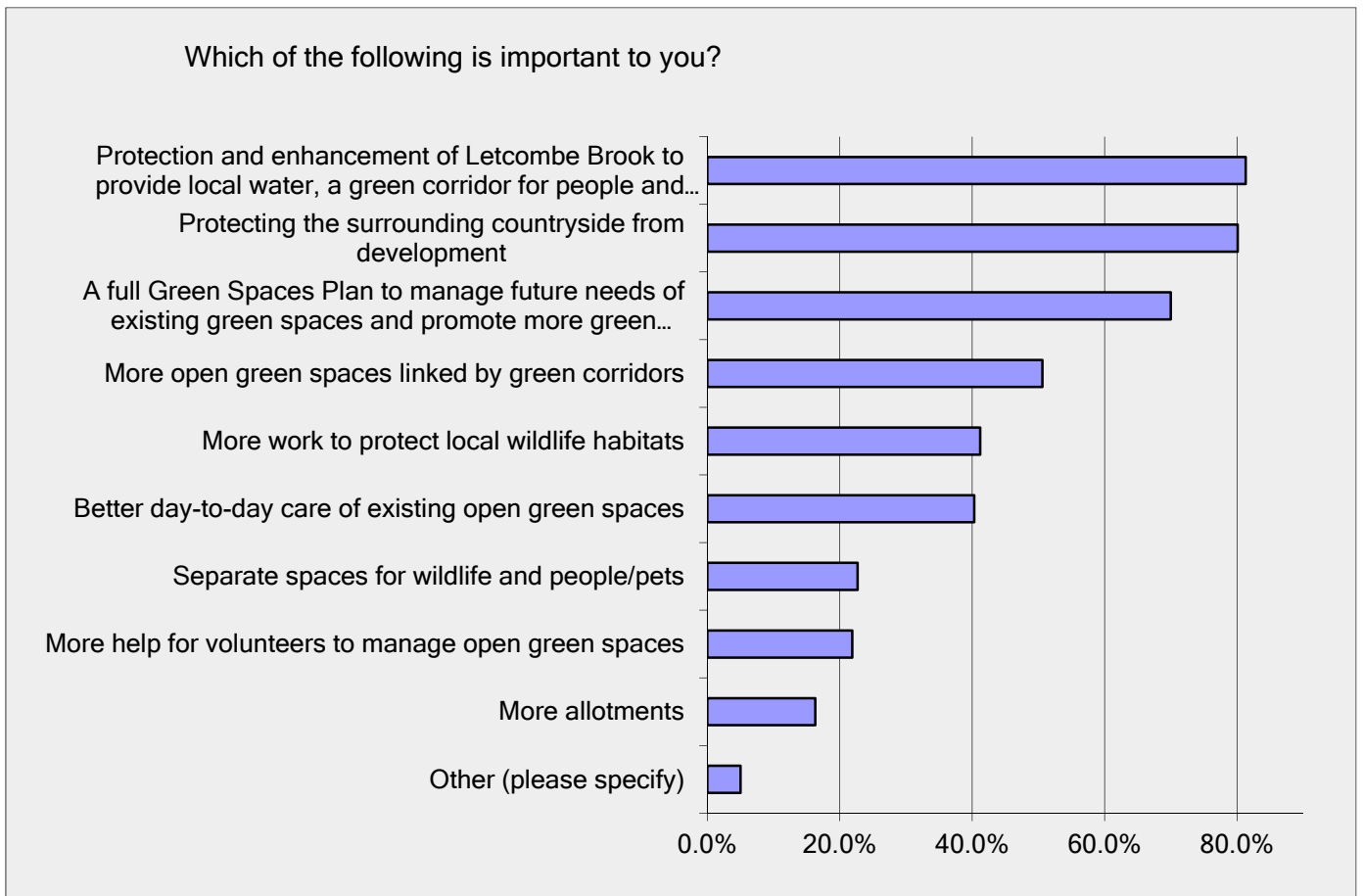


The National Planning Policy Framework gives local communities the opportunity to protect very important green areas by designating them as “Local Green Spaces”. This prevents them being built on in all but exceptional circumstances.

Which of the following green spaces in Wantage would you especially like to see safeguarded in this way?

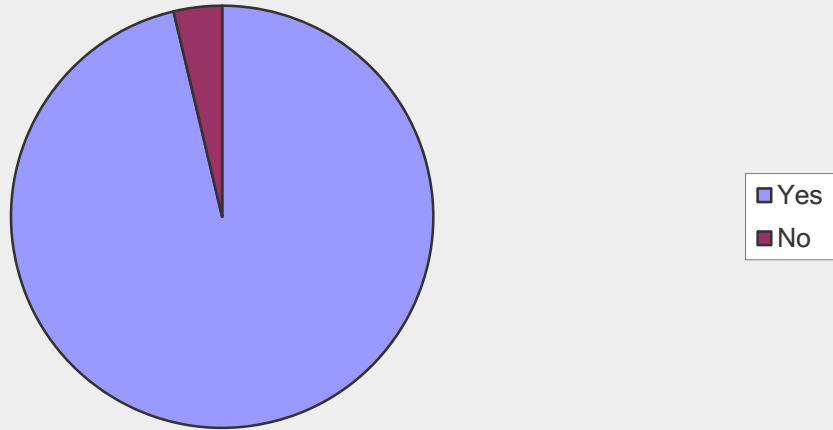


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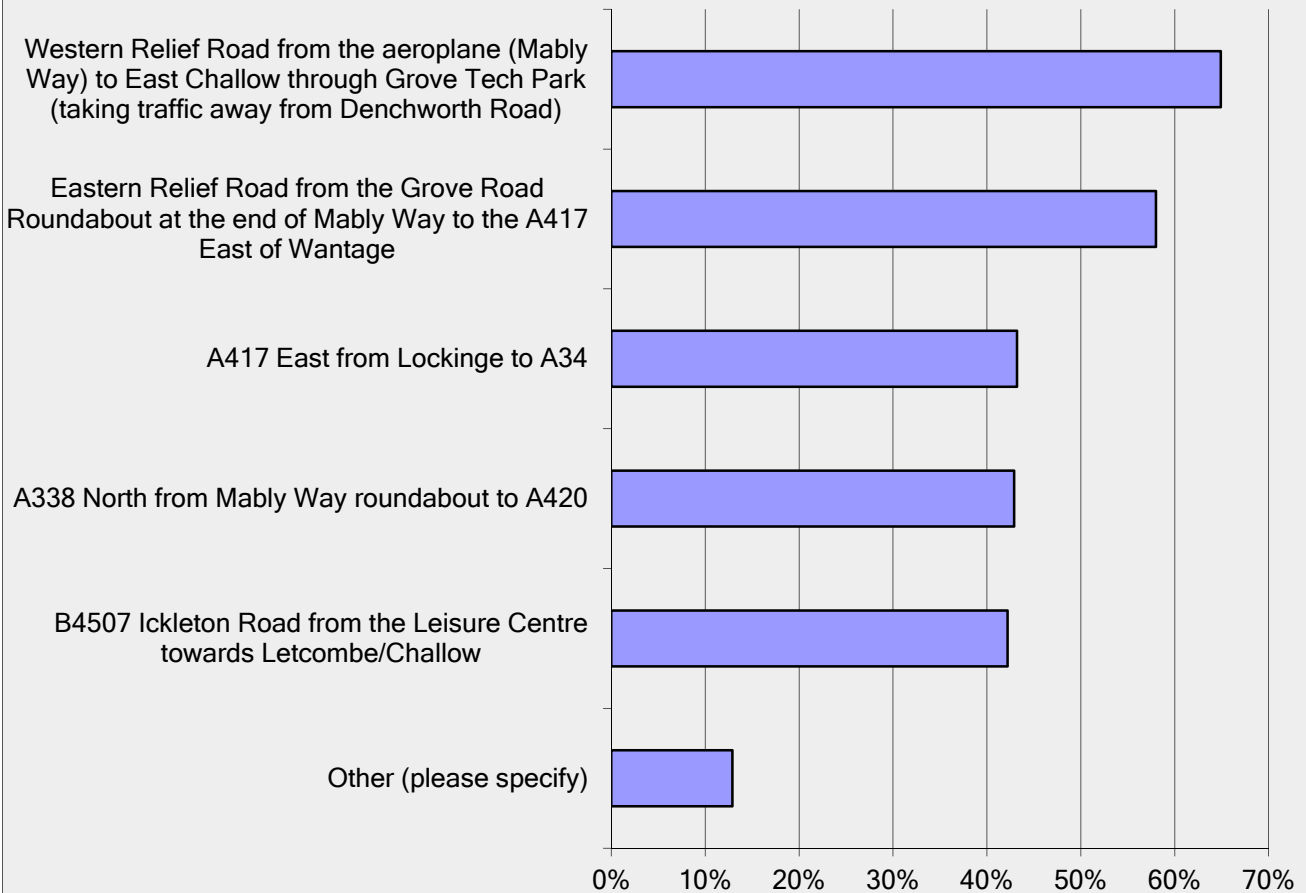
Wantage Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results

Do you agree that Wantage, Grove and other nearby villages should have protected Strategic Green Gaps between them to help to preserve their different characters and distinctiveness?

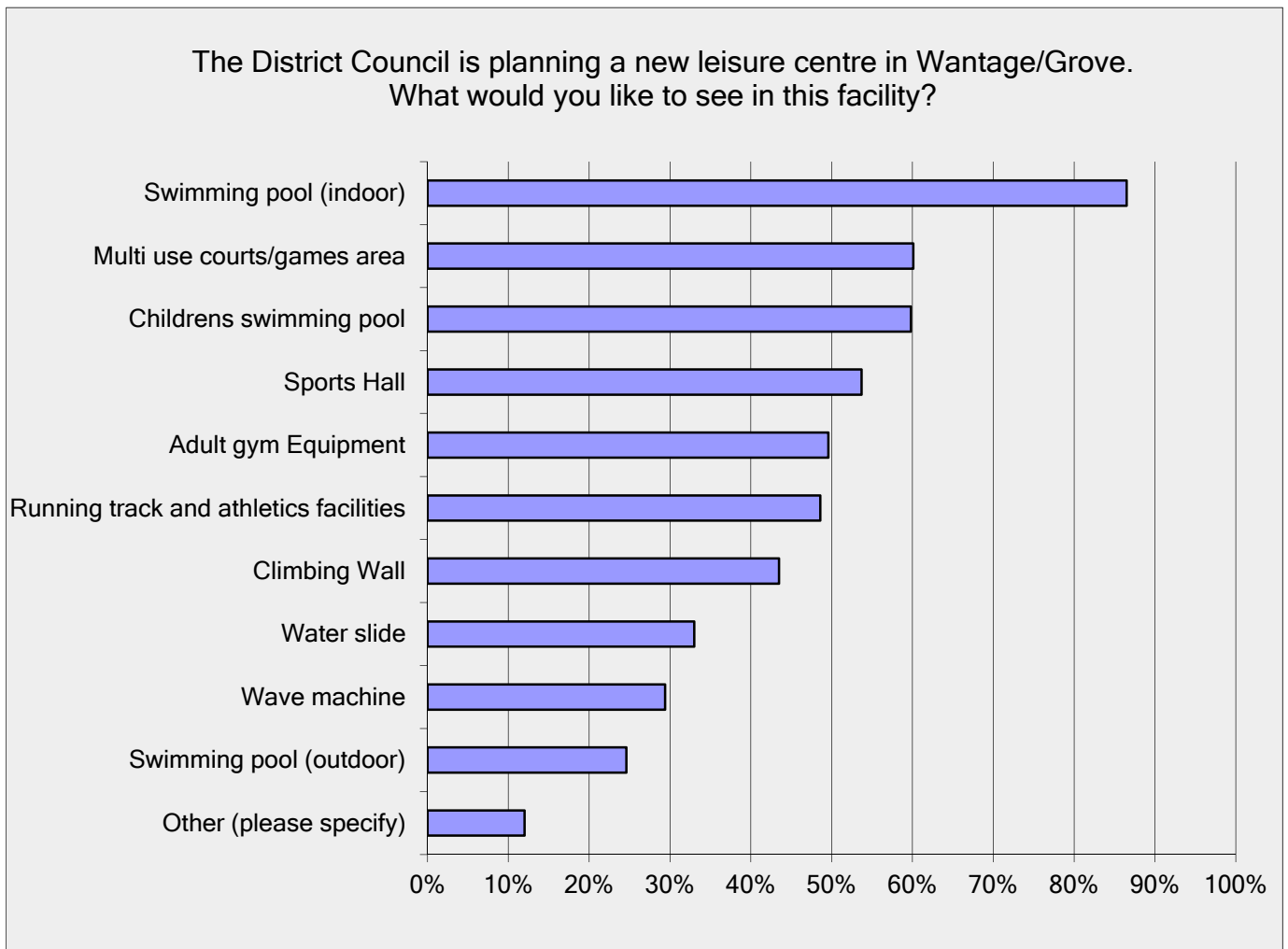
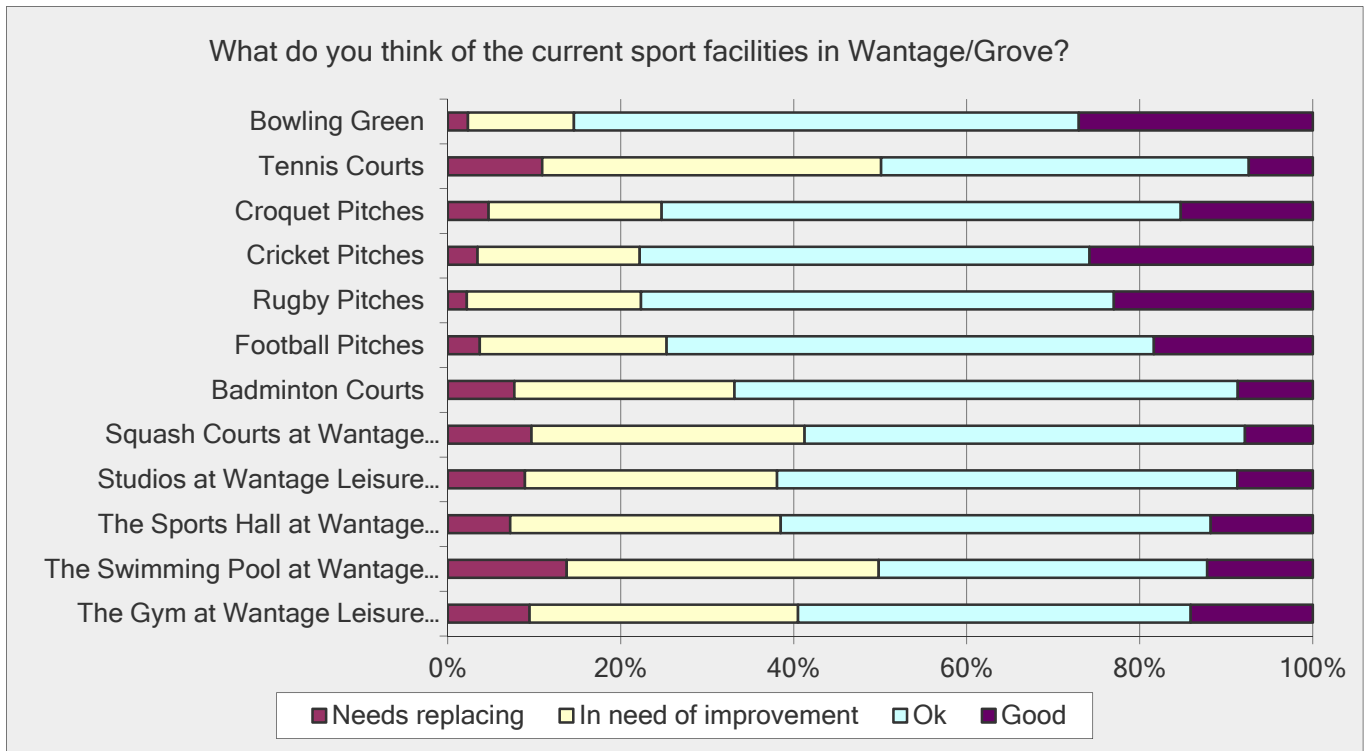


Road Network

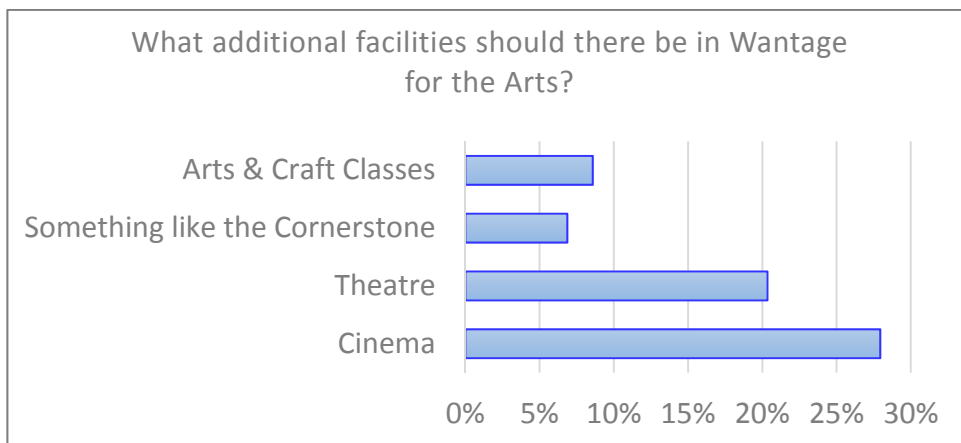
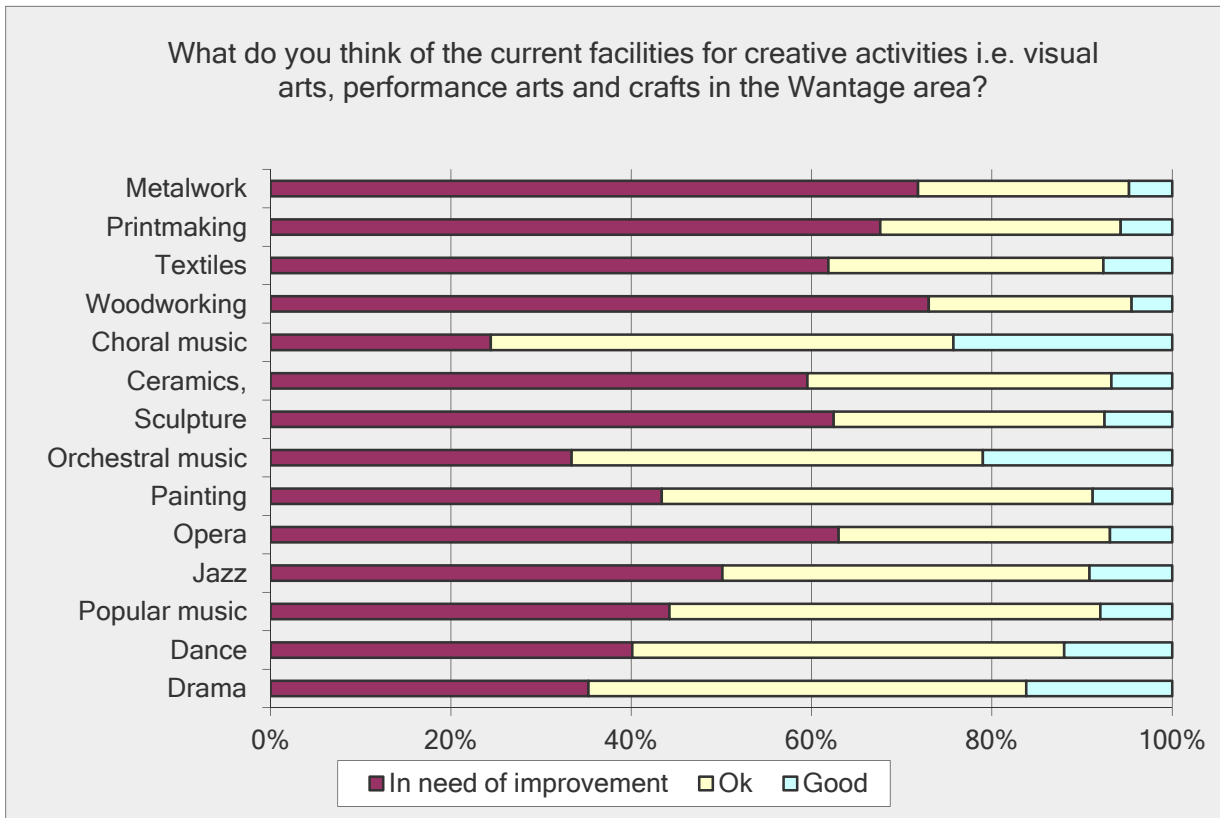
Which roads through Wantage most need developing?



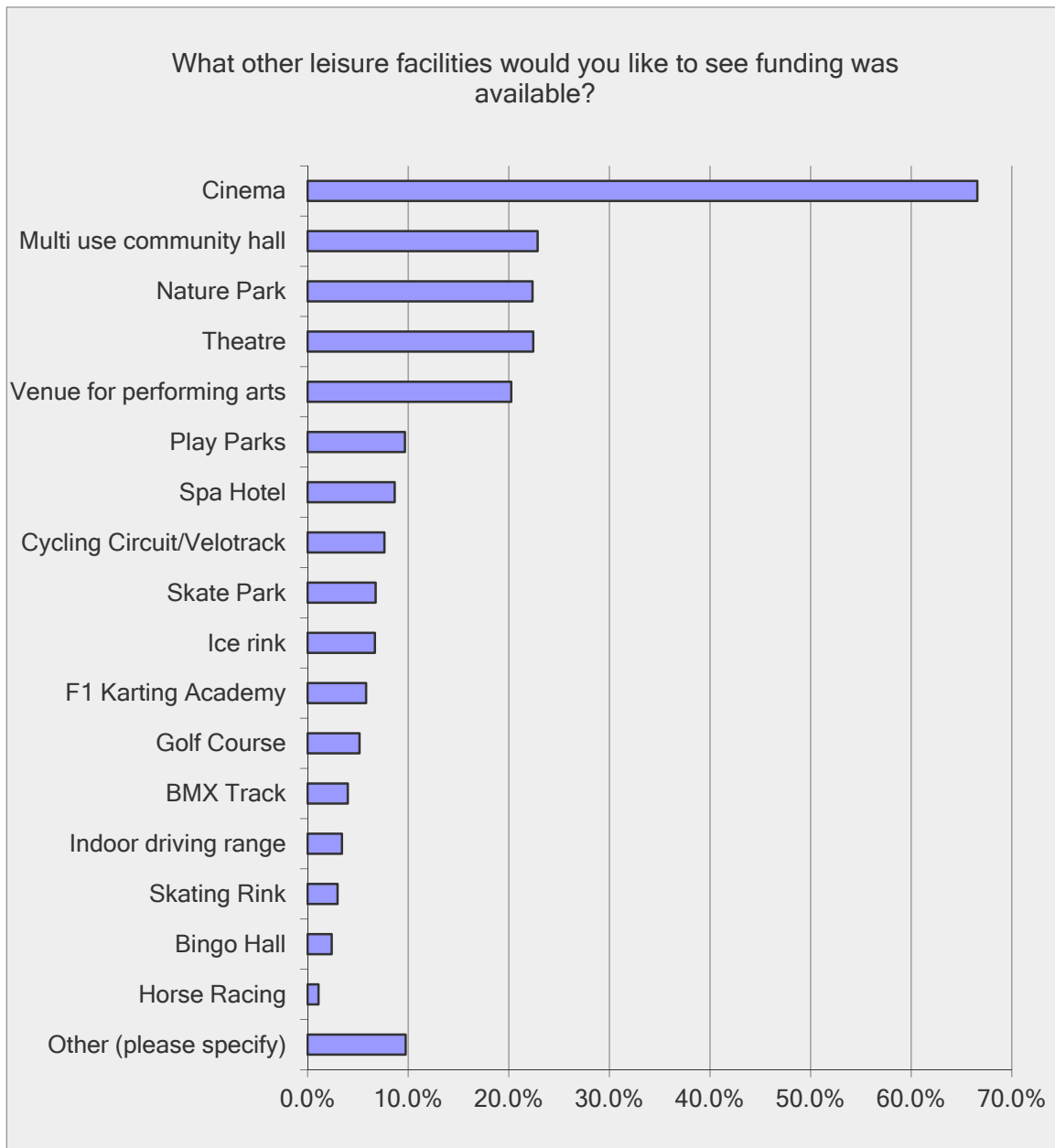
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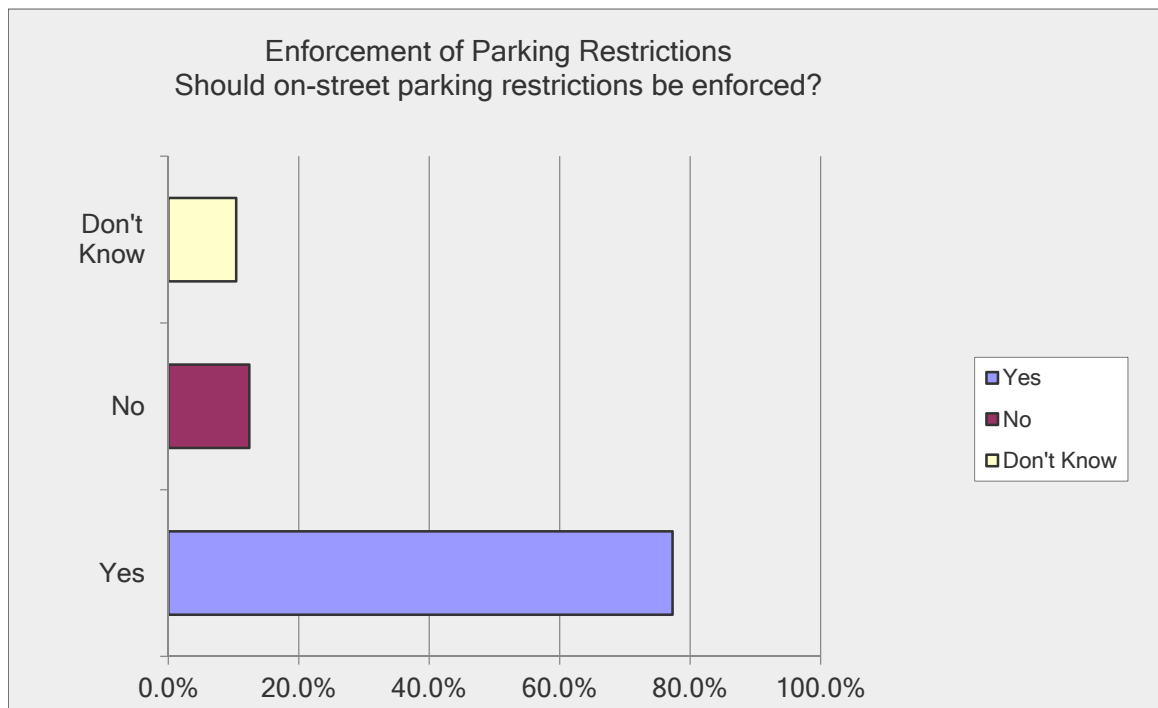
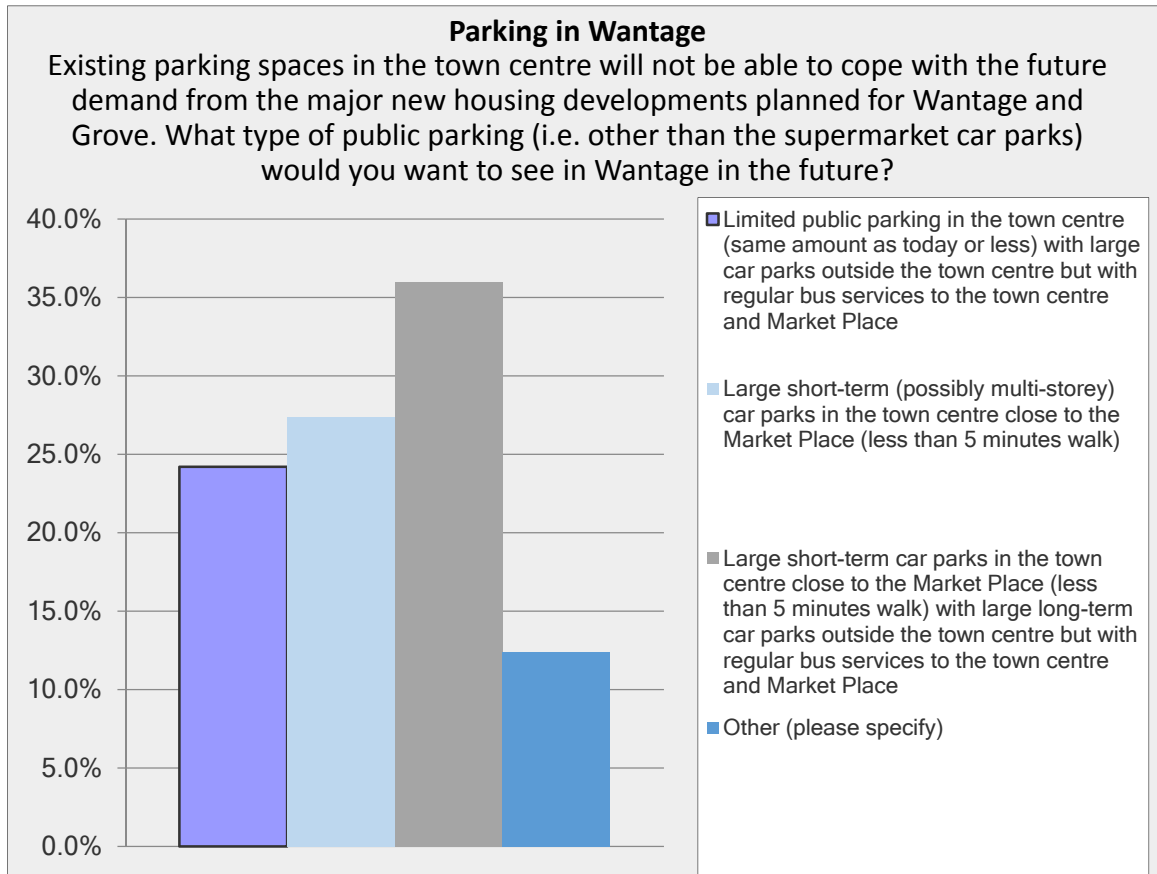


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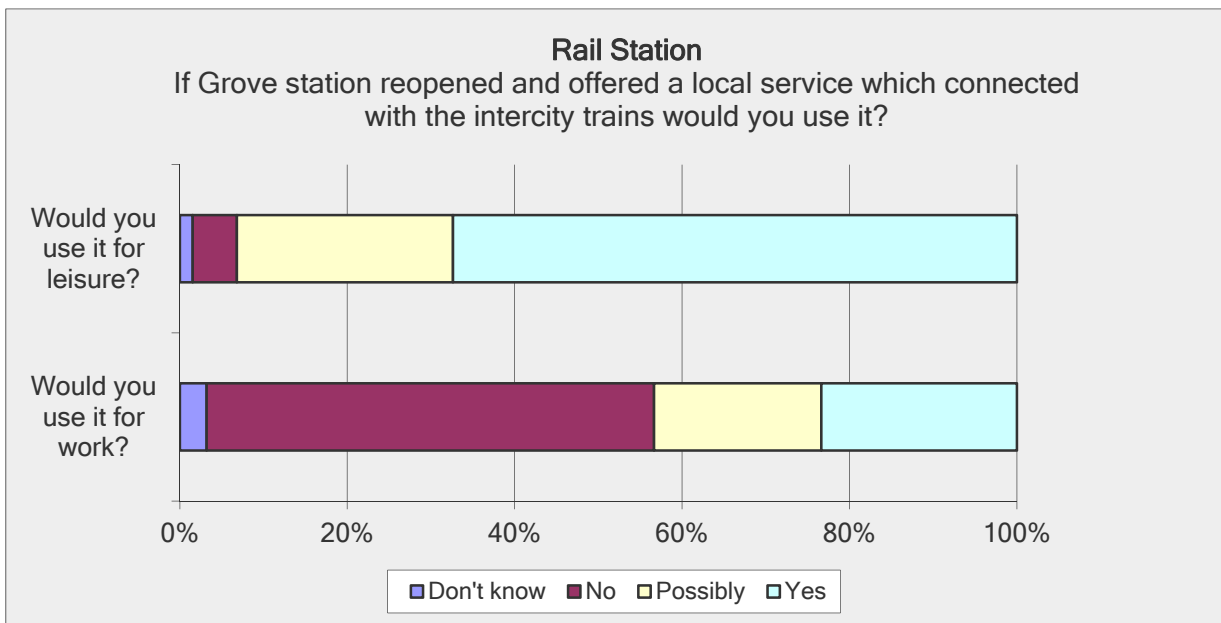
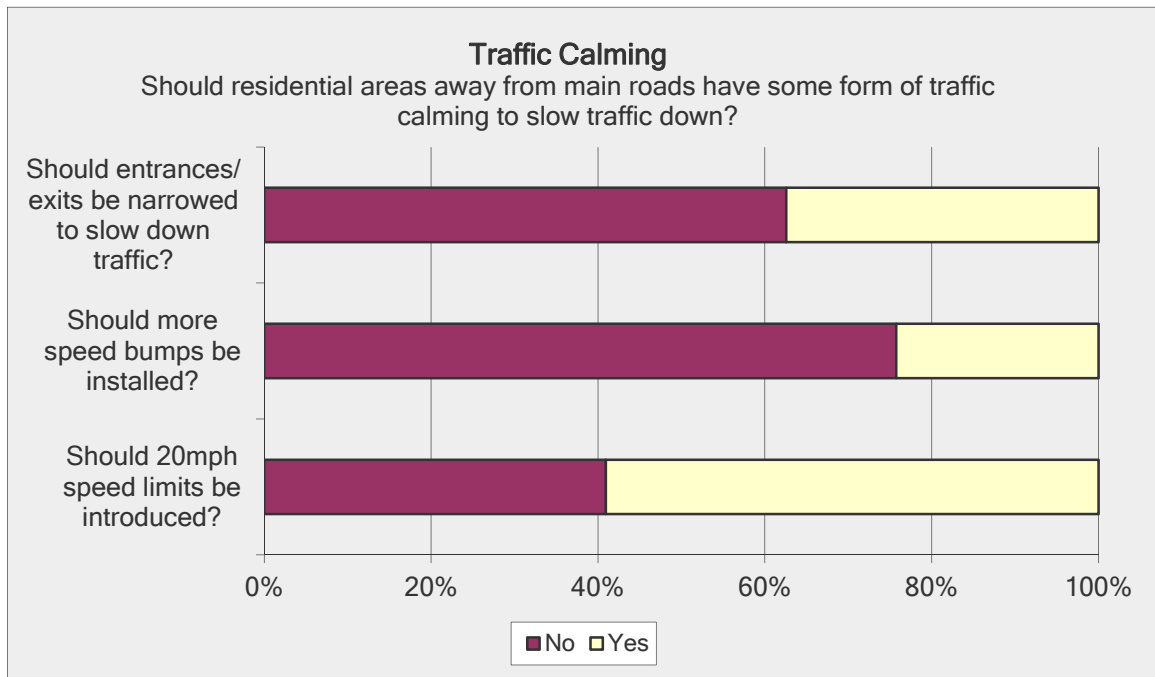
Other popular suggestions included indoor bowls and a ten-pin bowling alley.

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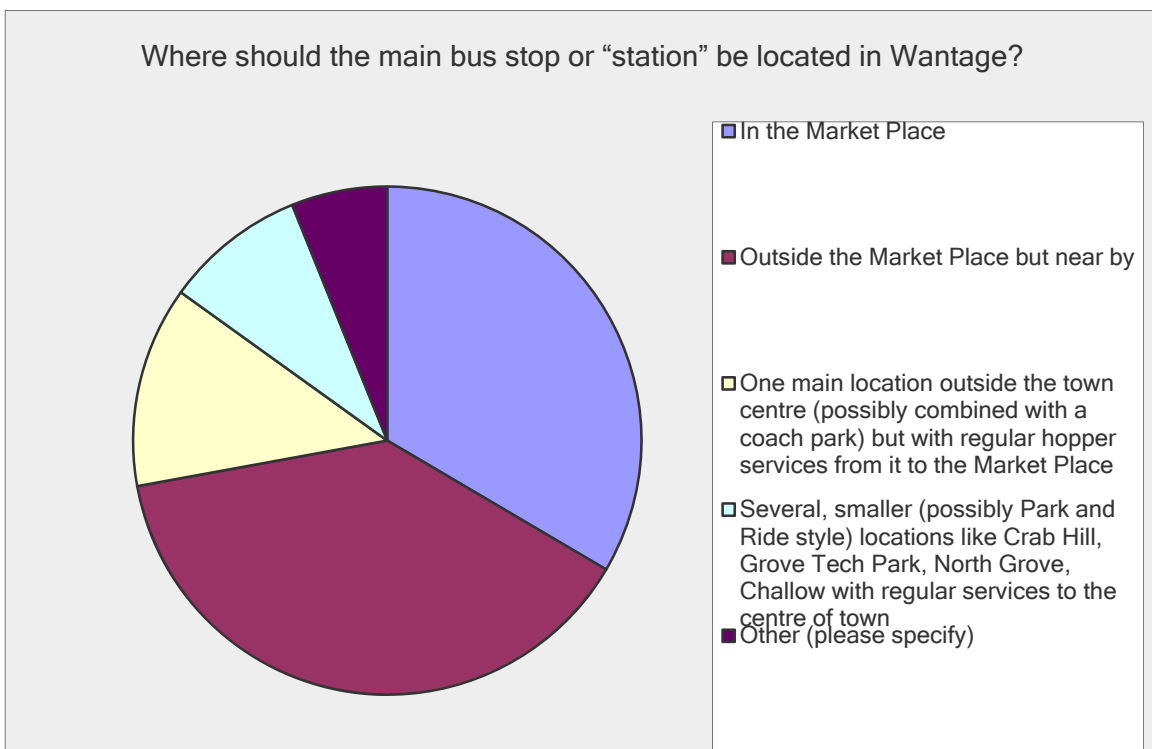
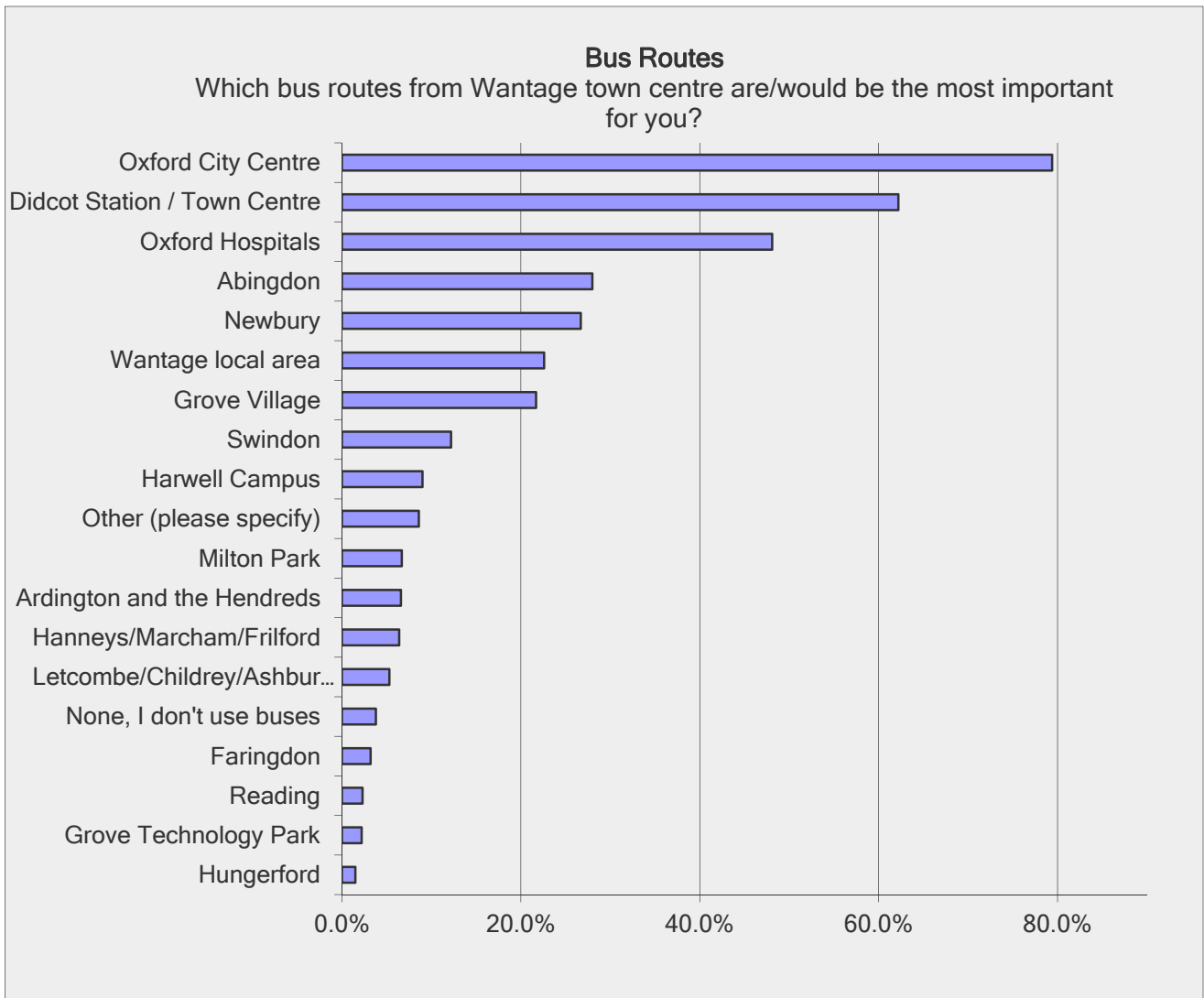


19% of those who gave details wanted no parking on Mill Street and a similar number wanted restrictions on Wallingford Street and Newbury Street. There were also many comments about the parking around schools.

Wantage Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results

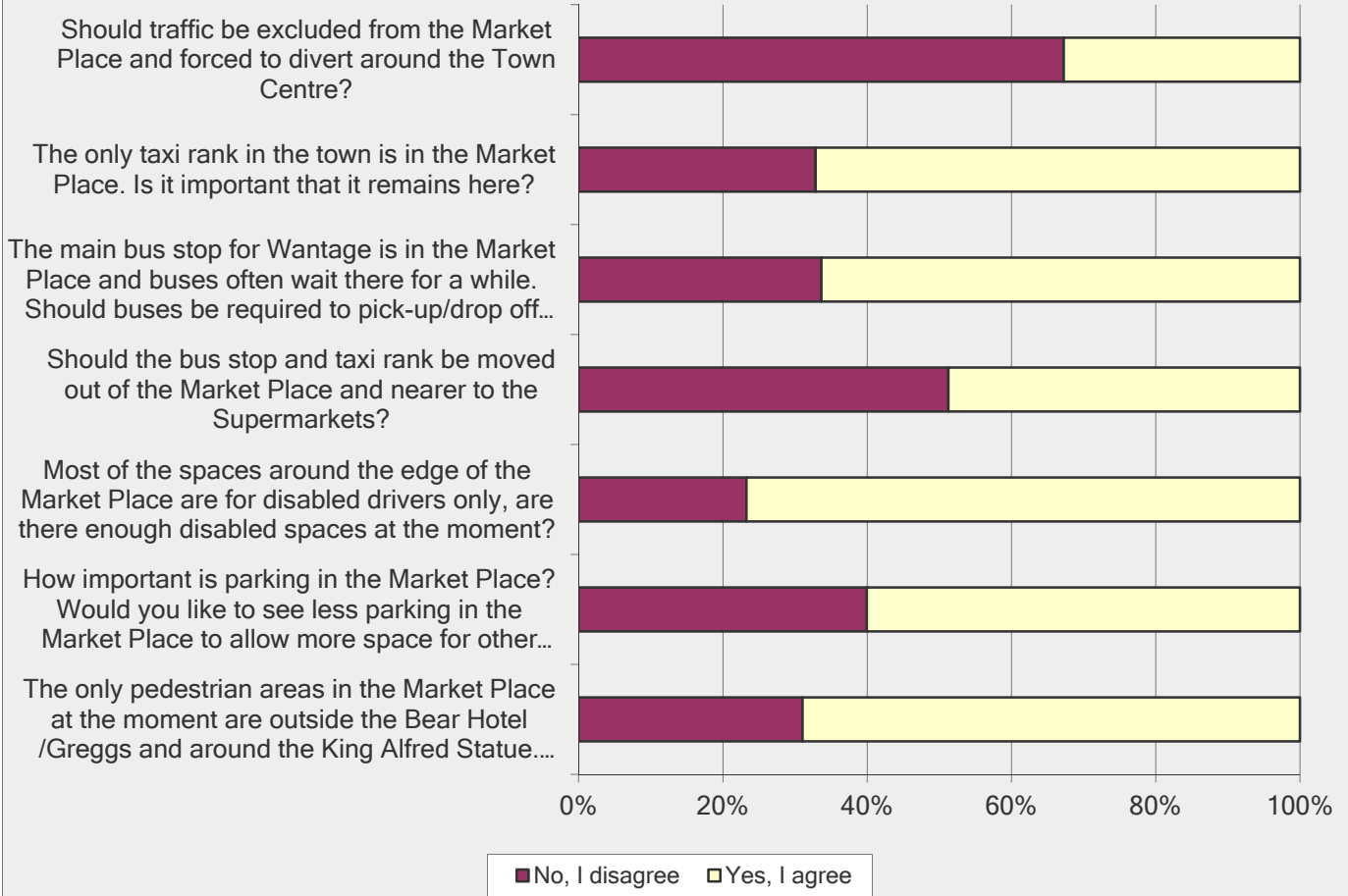


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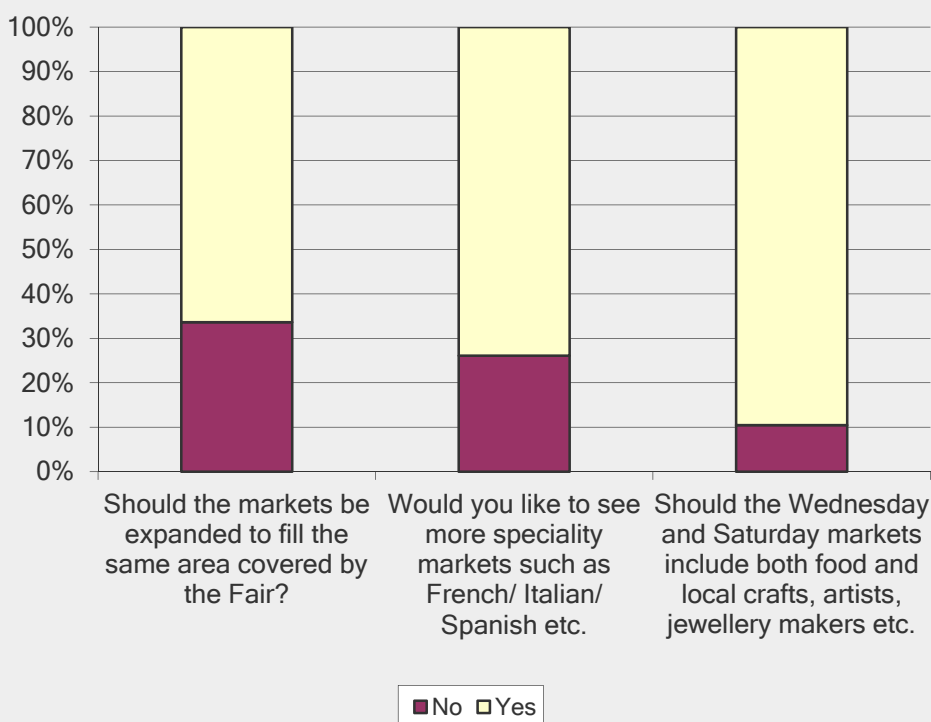


Wantage Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results

The Market Place is the heart of Wantage. How would you like to see it developed in the future?



The current markets on Wednesday and Saturday are mainly food and the Monthly Farmers Market is limited to farm produce.

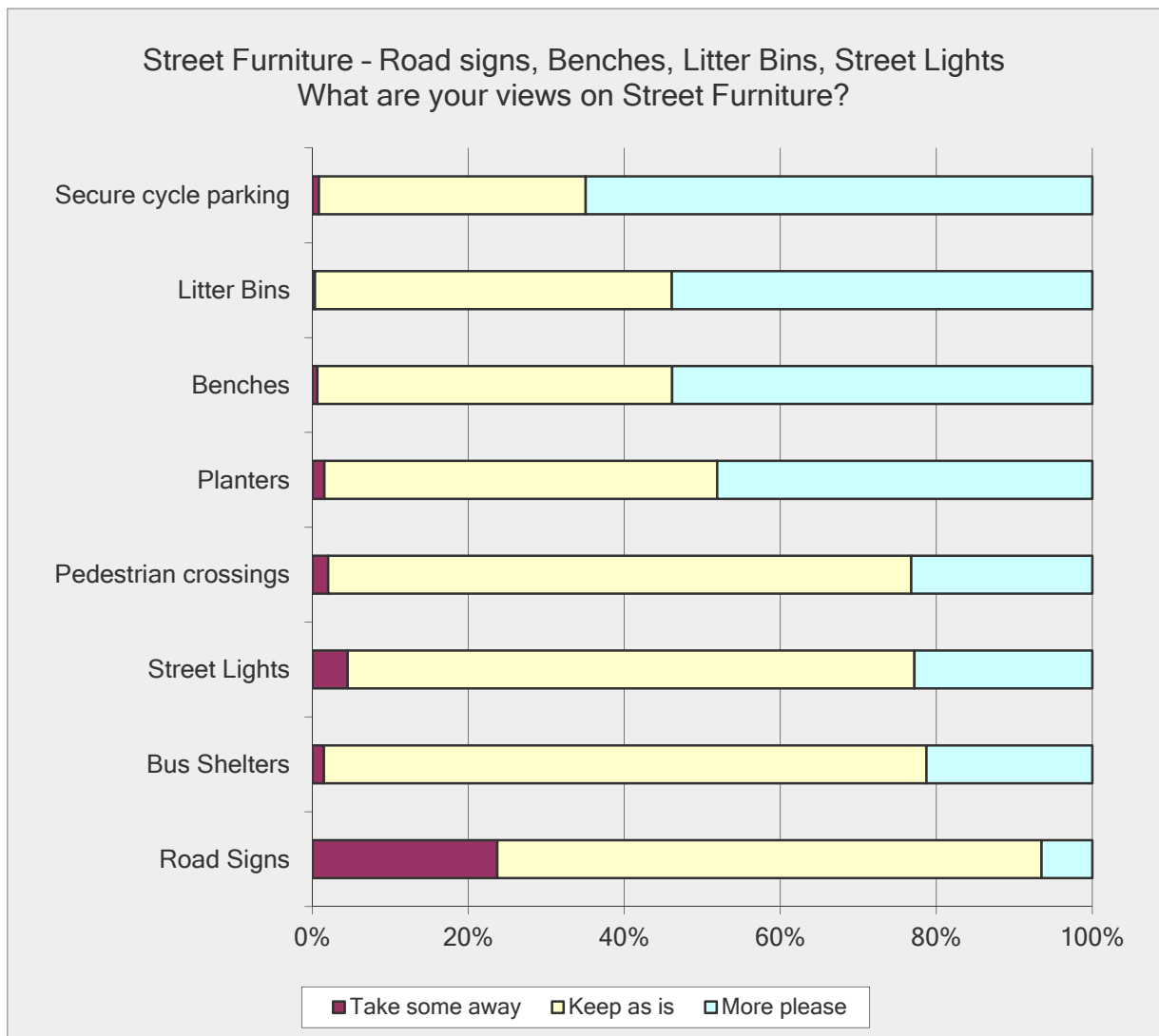


Wantage Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results

What single improvement would encourage you to use central Wantage more?

Over 900 people expressed an opinion with 67% wanting more variety of better shops, particularly shoe and clothes shops, although speciality food shops, DIY, sport and book shops all got a mention.

15% specifically want less traffic and more pedestrian space in the Market Place and 12% want less charity shops.



Wantage Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results

Footpaths

Almost 60% of respondents use footpaths for work or leisure and the most popular routes are:

- To/from Grove
- In and around the centre of Wantage
- Along Letcombe Brook
- The Platt, Betjeman Park and Poets Walk
- To/from Charlton
- To/from Ardington,
- To/from Letcombe Regis
- Along Mably Way
- Along the Canal

All of the footpaths seem to be in need of improvement, with specific comments relating to lighting, weeds and overgrown trees.

New footpaths are suggested for:

- Ickleton Road
- From the cemetery to Manor Road and Lark Hill
- To the Health Centre from the town centre
- Along the A338 from Grove Bridge to North Grove
- Along Mill street to the Camel Roundabout

Cycleways

25% of respondents use cycles for work or leisure and the most popular routes are:

- To/from Grove
- Through Lockinge, Ardington and on to Harwell

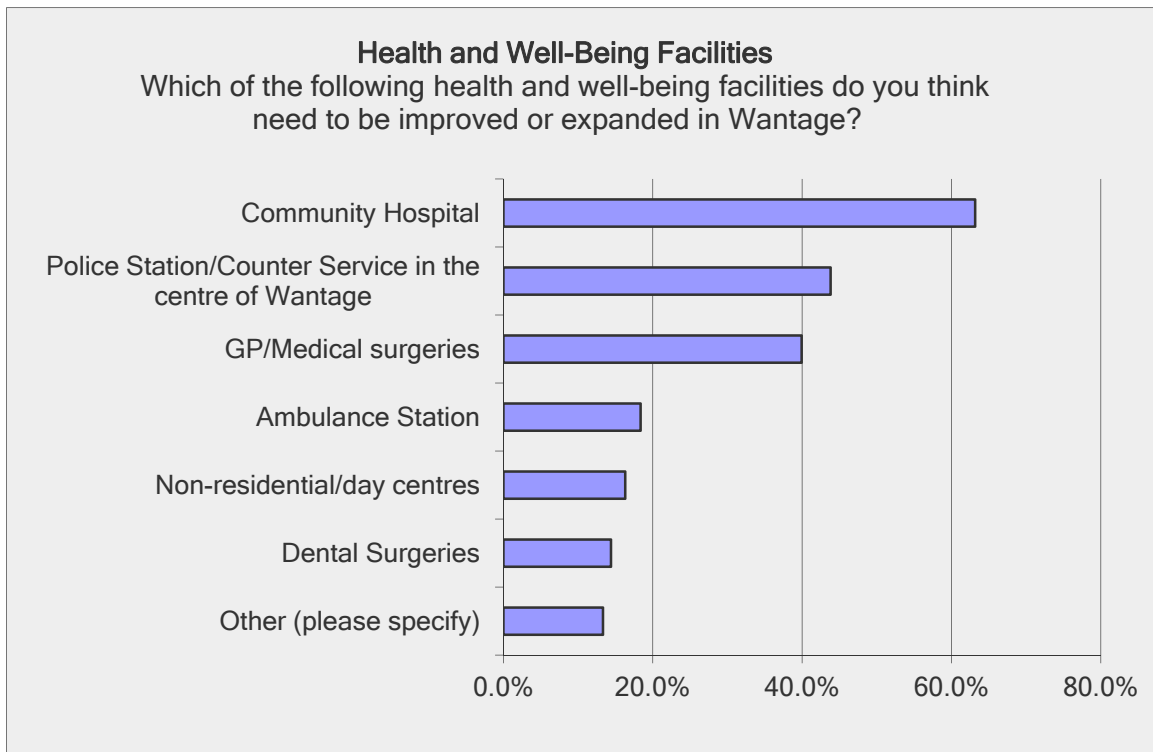
Although almost a half of all cyclists stick to the roads or don't know that we have any cycle routes.

All existing cycleways seem to be in need of improvement and there were specific comments about the lack of connectivity

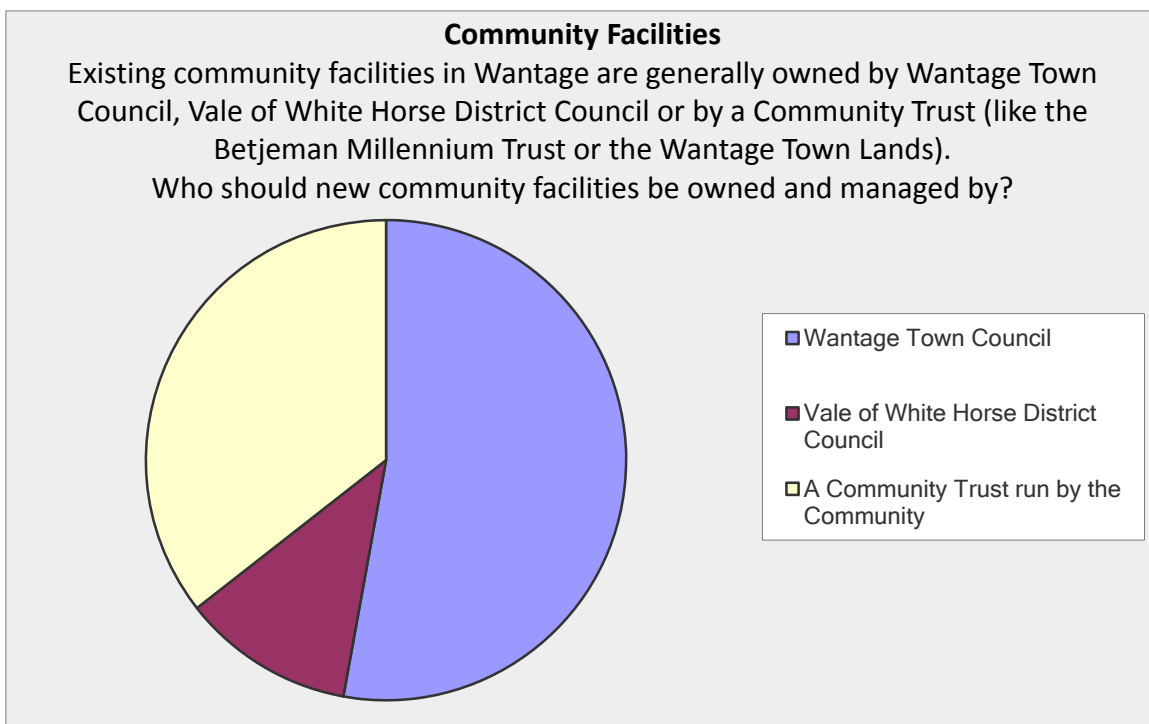
When asked about the need for new cycleways, the major comment was "Anywhere and everywhere so people can cycle safely". Specific areas mentioned include along the A417 and A338 and safe routes to schools.

900 people want a combined cycle path, walkway and green space running from the Health Centre to the Leisure Centre avoiding as many roads as possible.

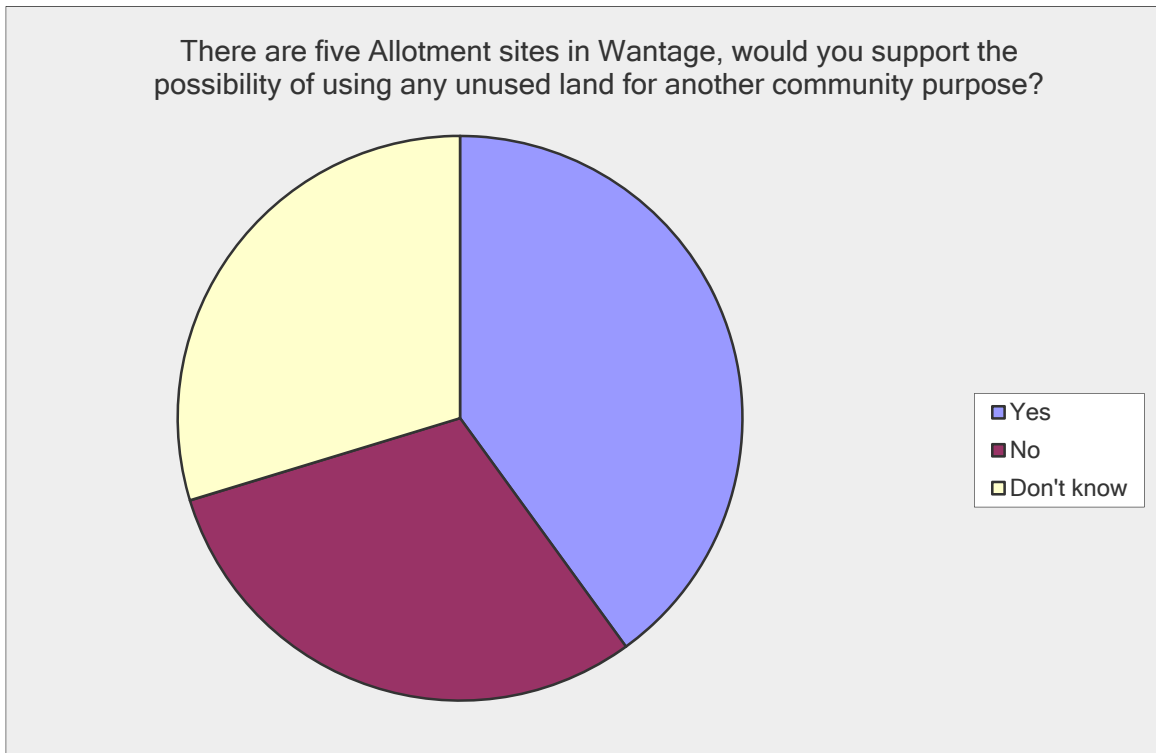
Wantage Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results



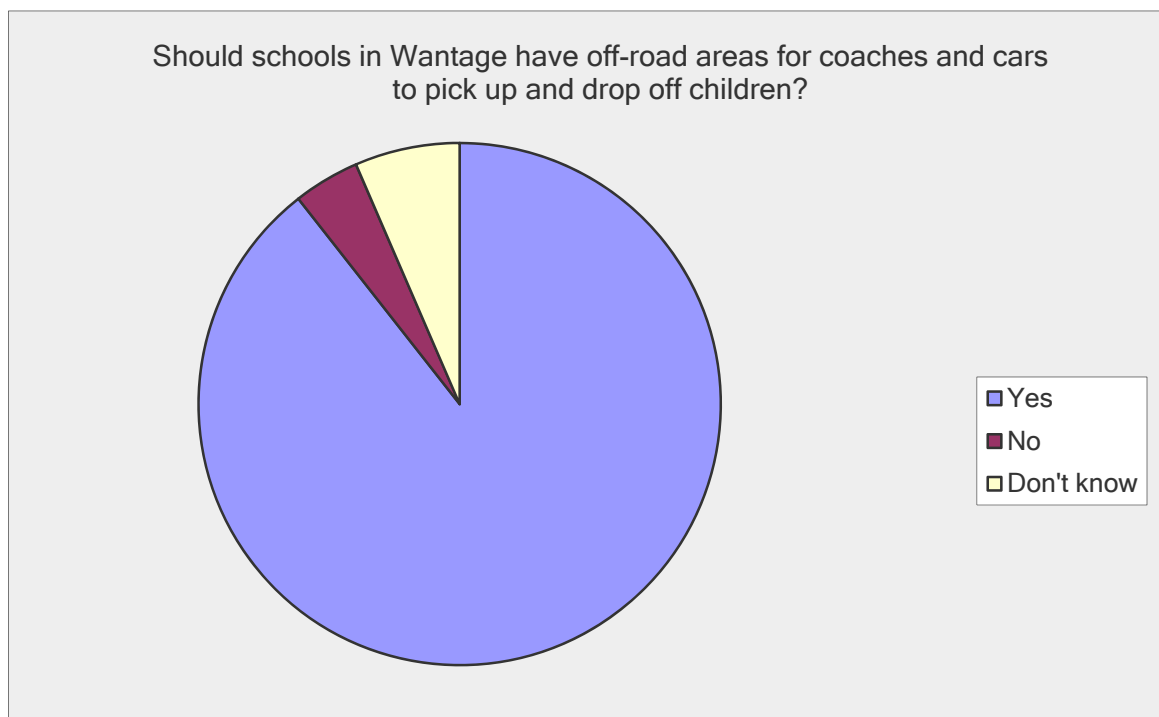
Comments included a number of people stressing the need for an A&E or minor injuries unit (or even an x-ray facility) and maintaining the Fire Station in town as well as that all services will need to expand to cope with the increase in development.



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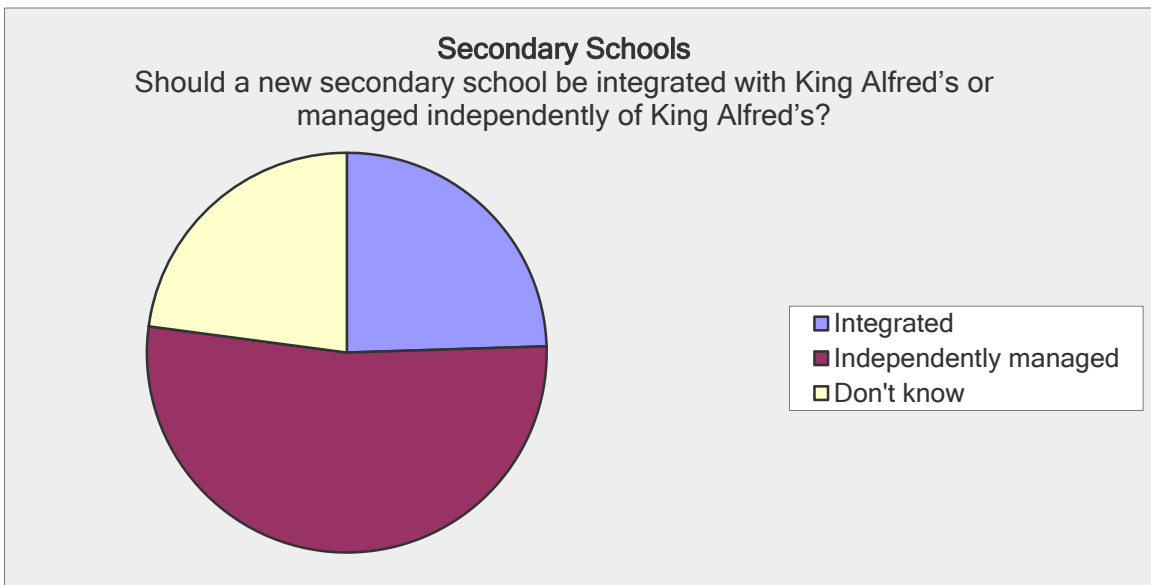
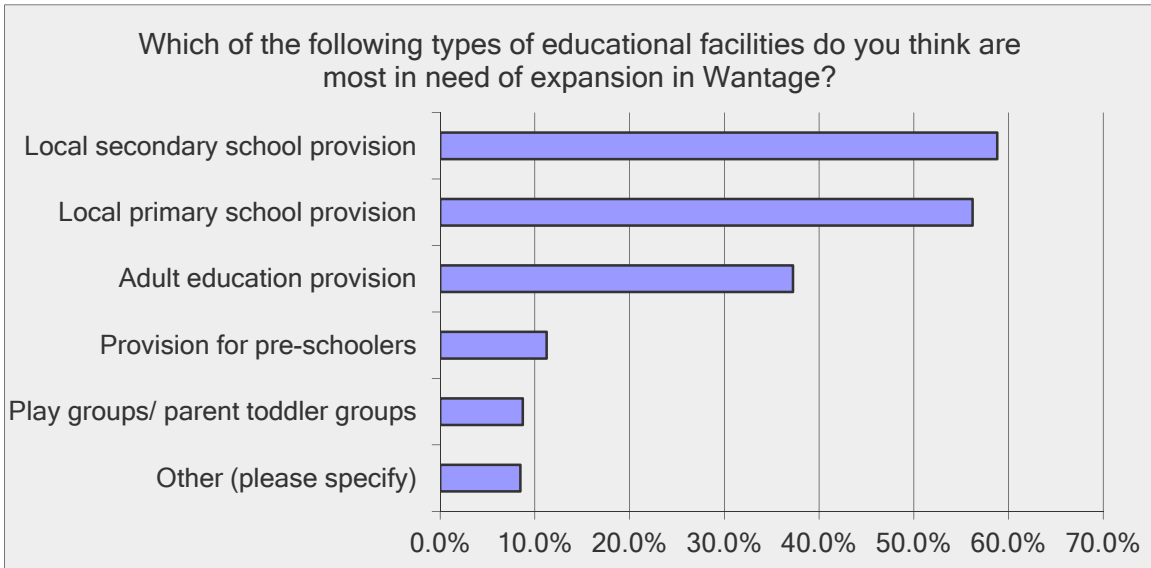


Suggested uses included a play area for children, a community orchard, a day centre for older people or additional car-parking. Although many people pointed out that new homes would require more allotments.

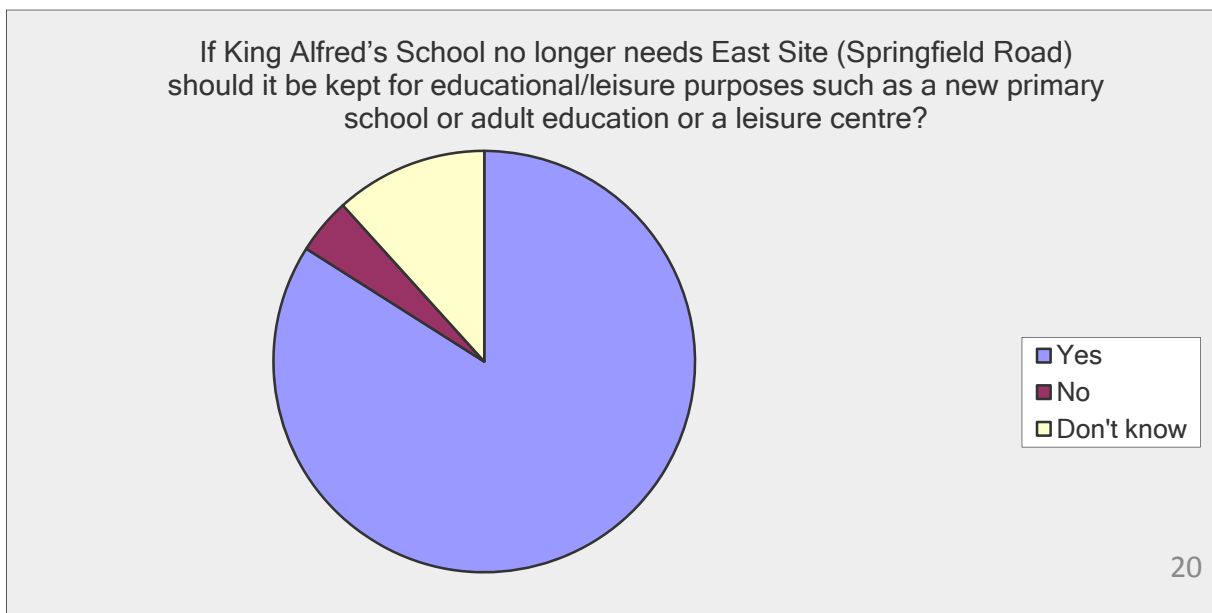


Many people pointed out that this could only be done on new sites without giving up playing fields but also stressed that people should be encouraged to walk to school.

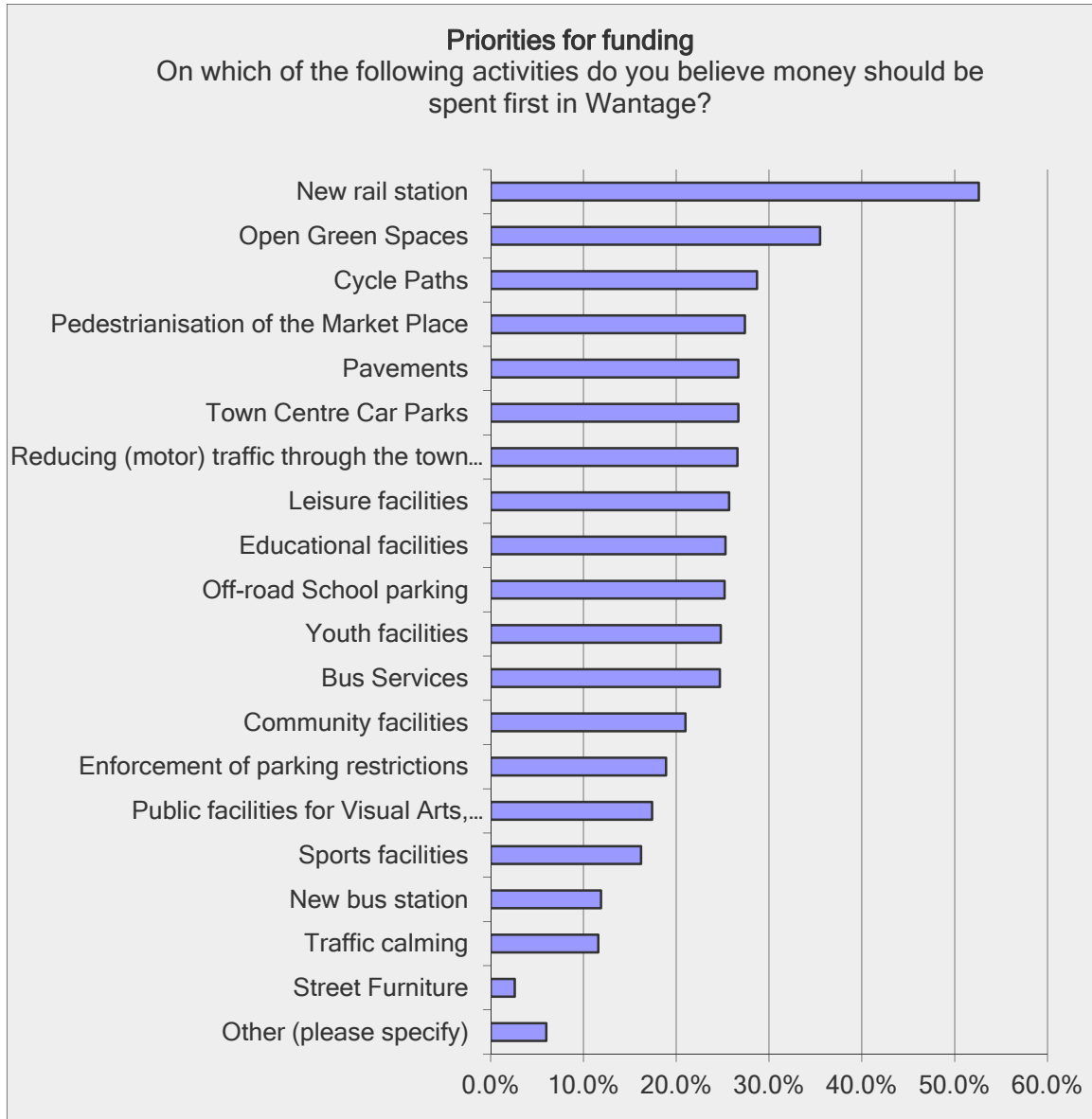
Wantage Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results



Many people were uncomfortable about the dominance of the Academy in the area and would prefer a choice.

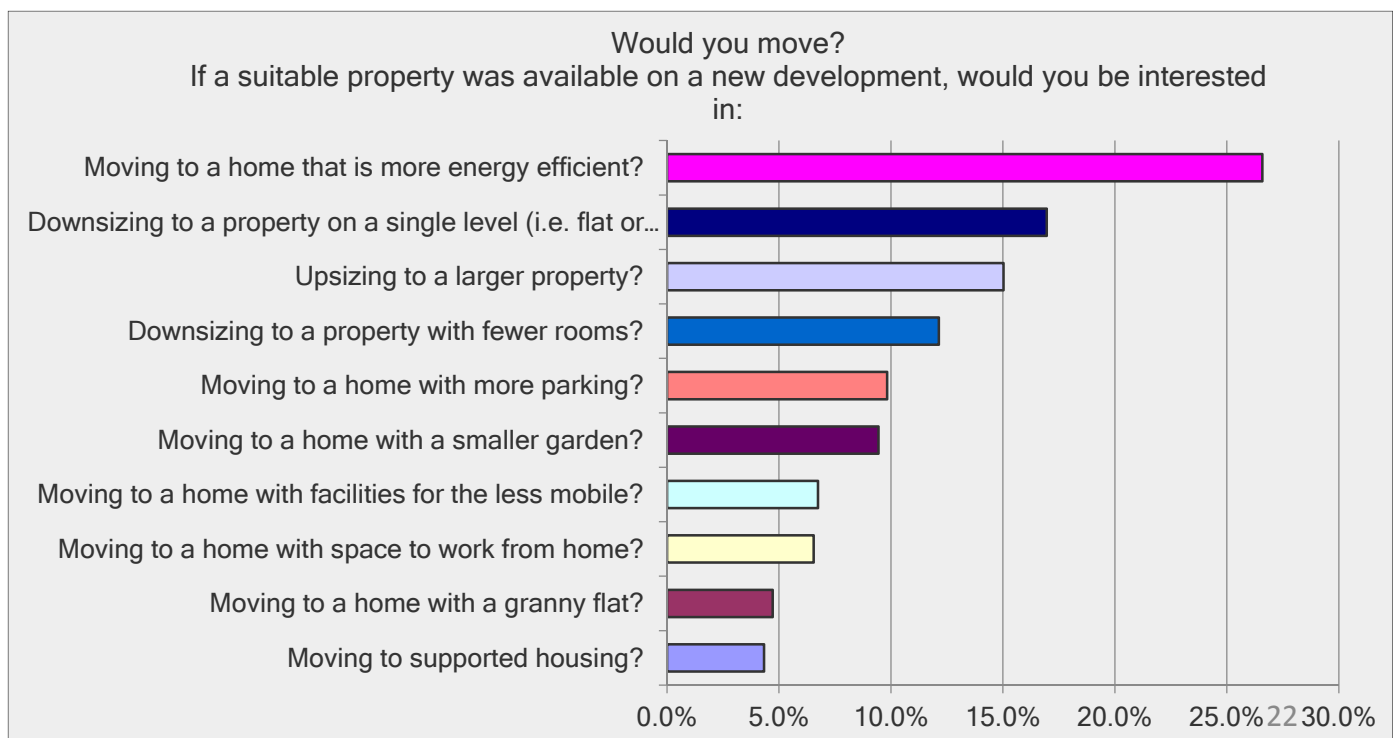
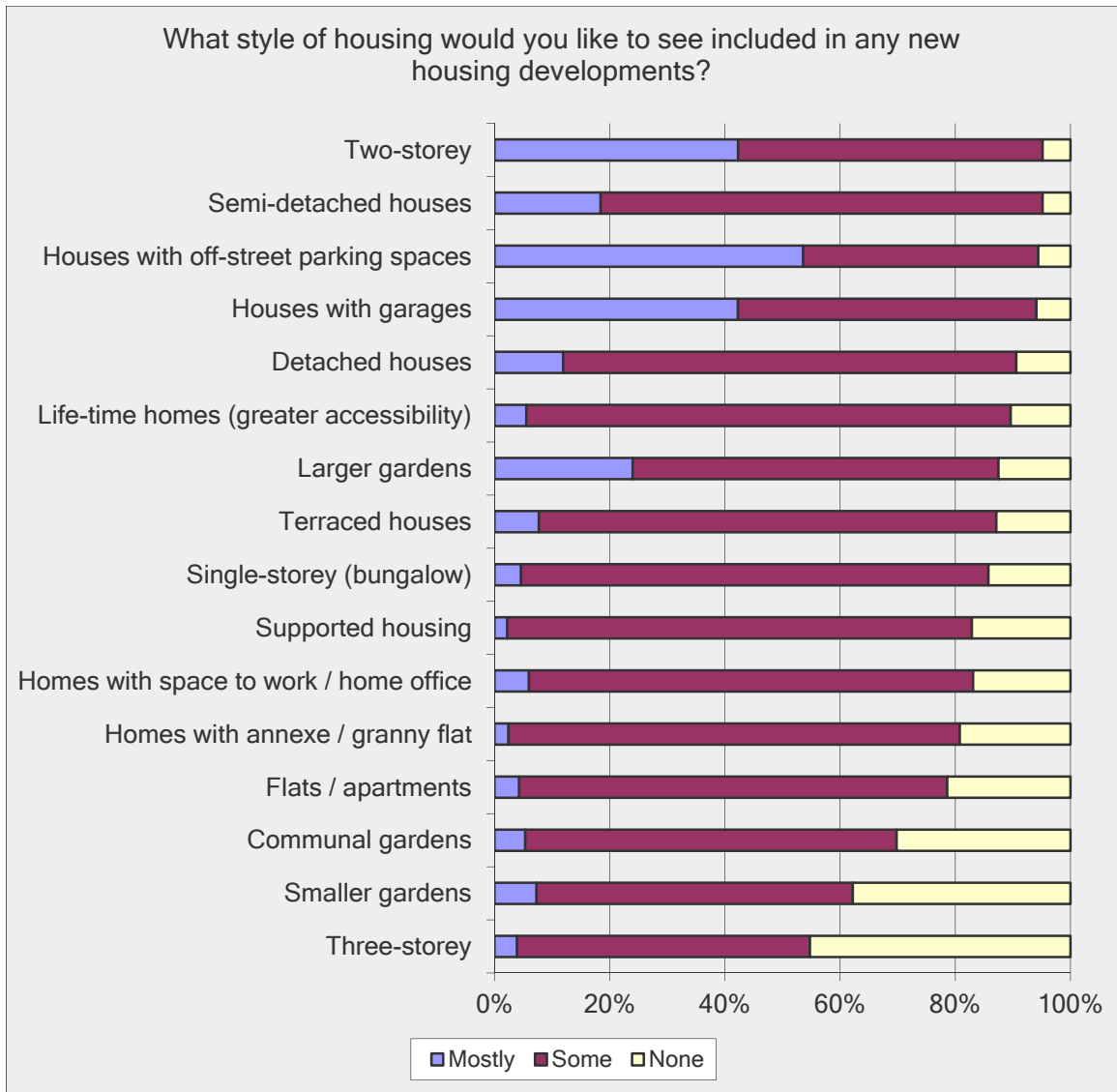


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Most other suggestions were road improvements (particularly repairing surfaces).

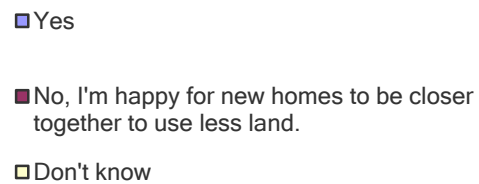
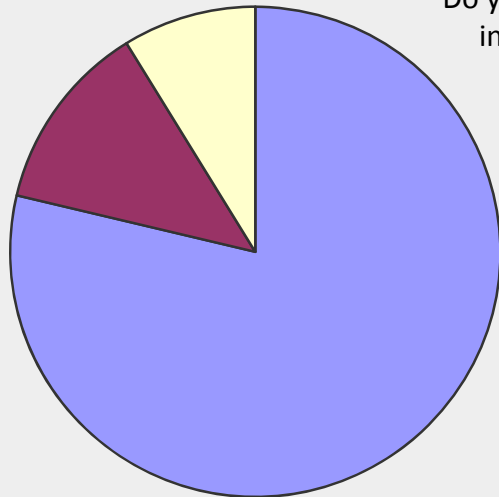
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Given that the new Local Plan for the Vale includes a policy that “sets a minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare (100m x 100m) unless specific local circumstances indicate a lower density is appropriate” and that most of Wantage and Charlton (Stockham Park, Charlton Heights, Elizabeth Drive, Naldertown etc.) are approximately 25 homes per hectare.

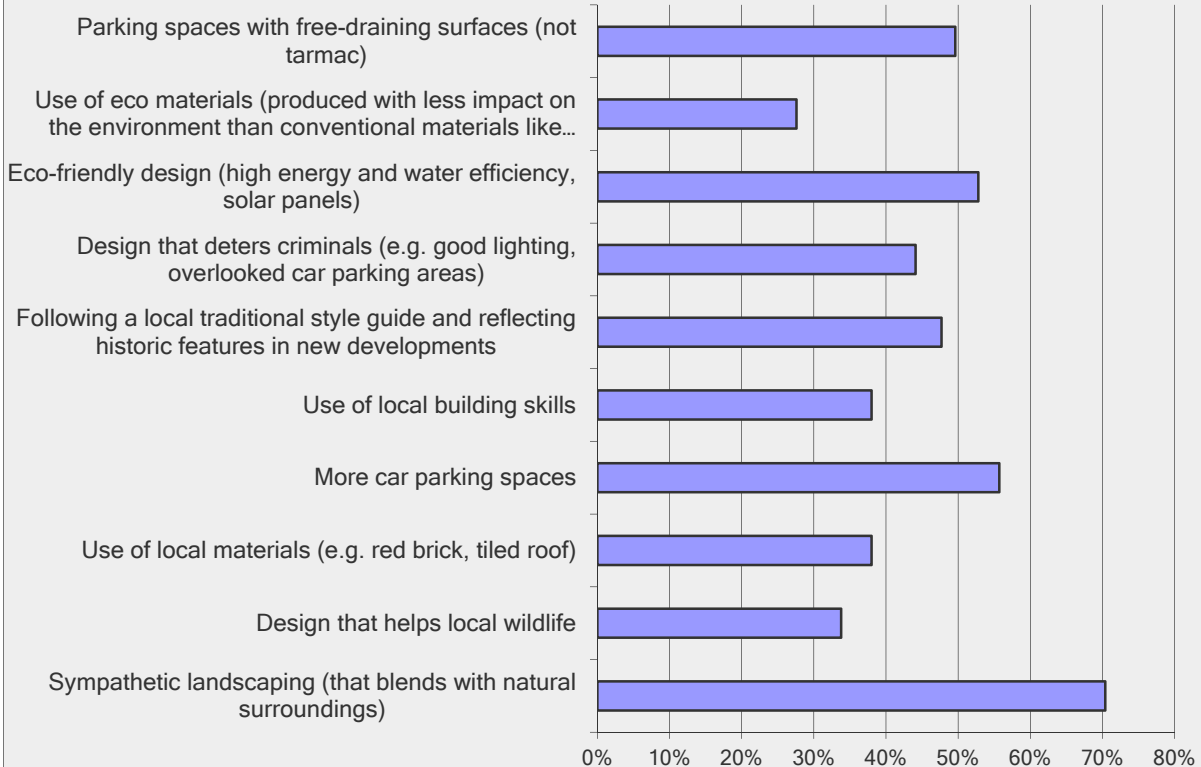
Do you agree that there is a strong argument for invoking a lower minimum density for new developments on the fringes of Wantage/Charlton?



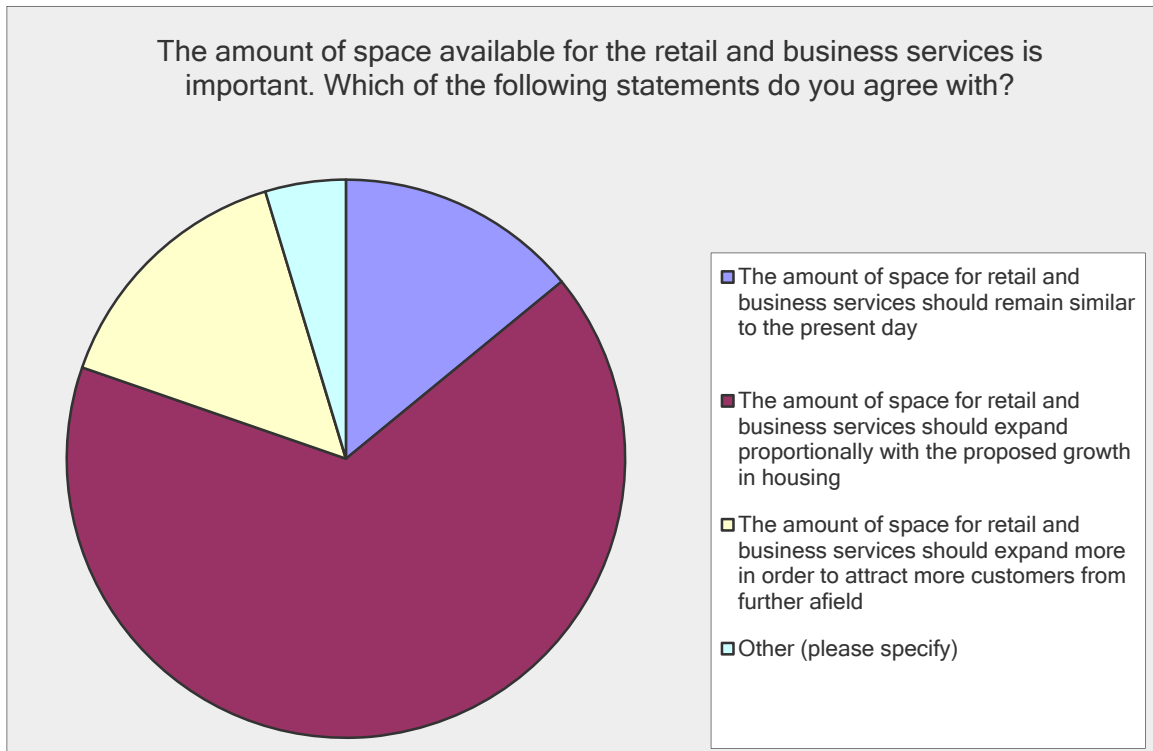
Most comments wanted more space for parking and green space between properties.

Design features

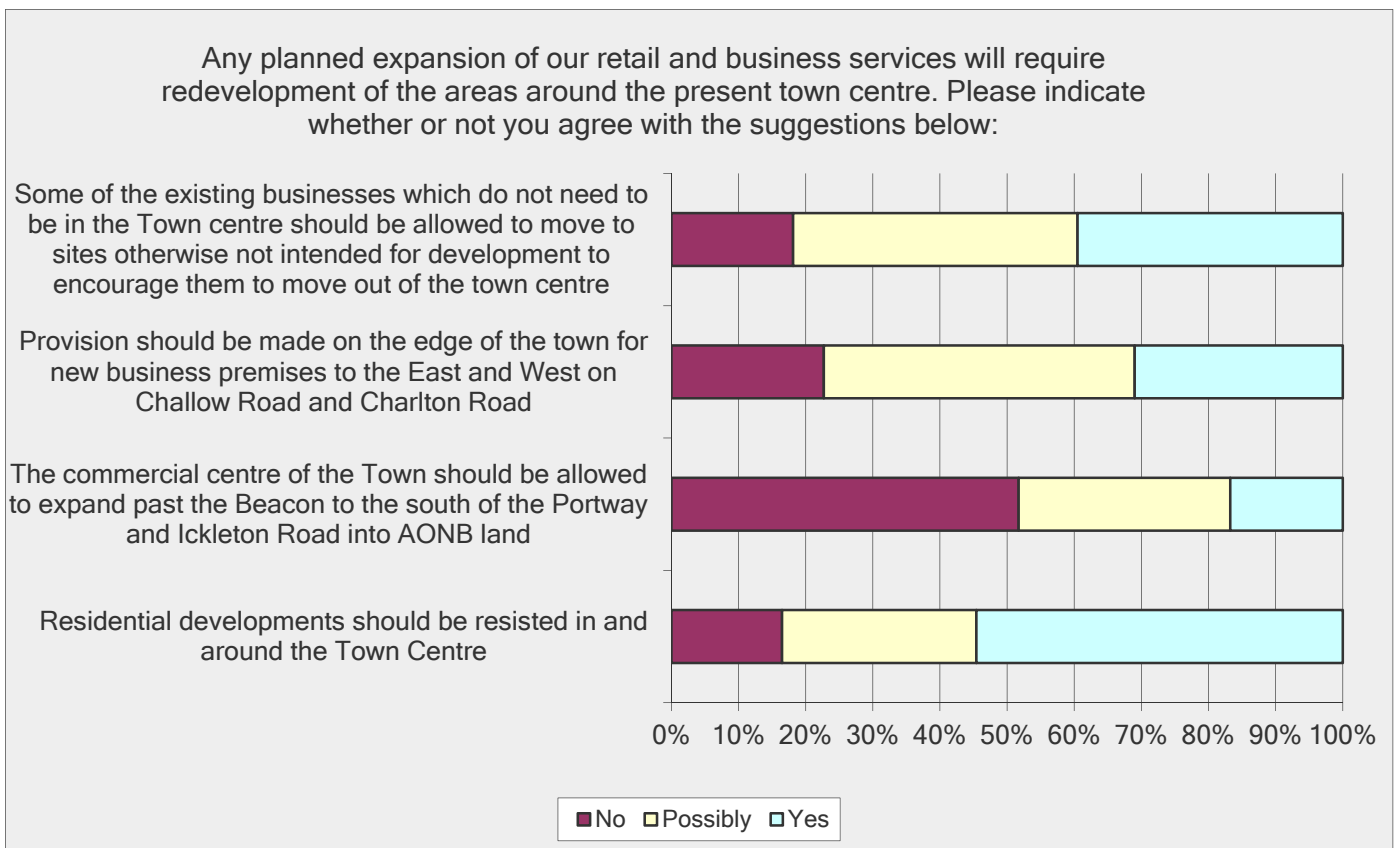
Which of the following design features should be standard in new developments in Wantage?



Wantage Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results

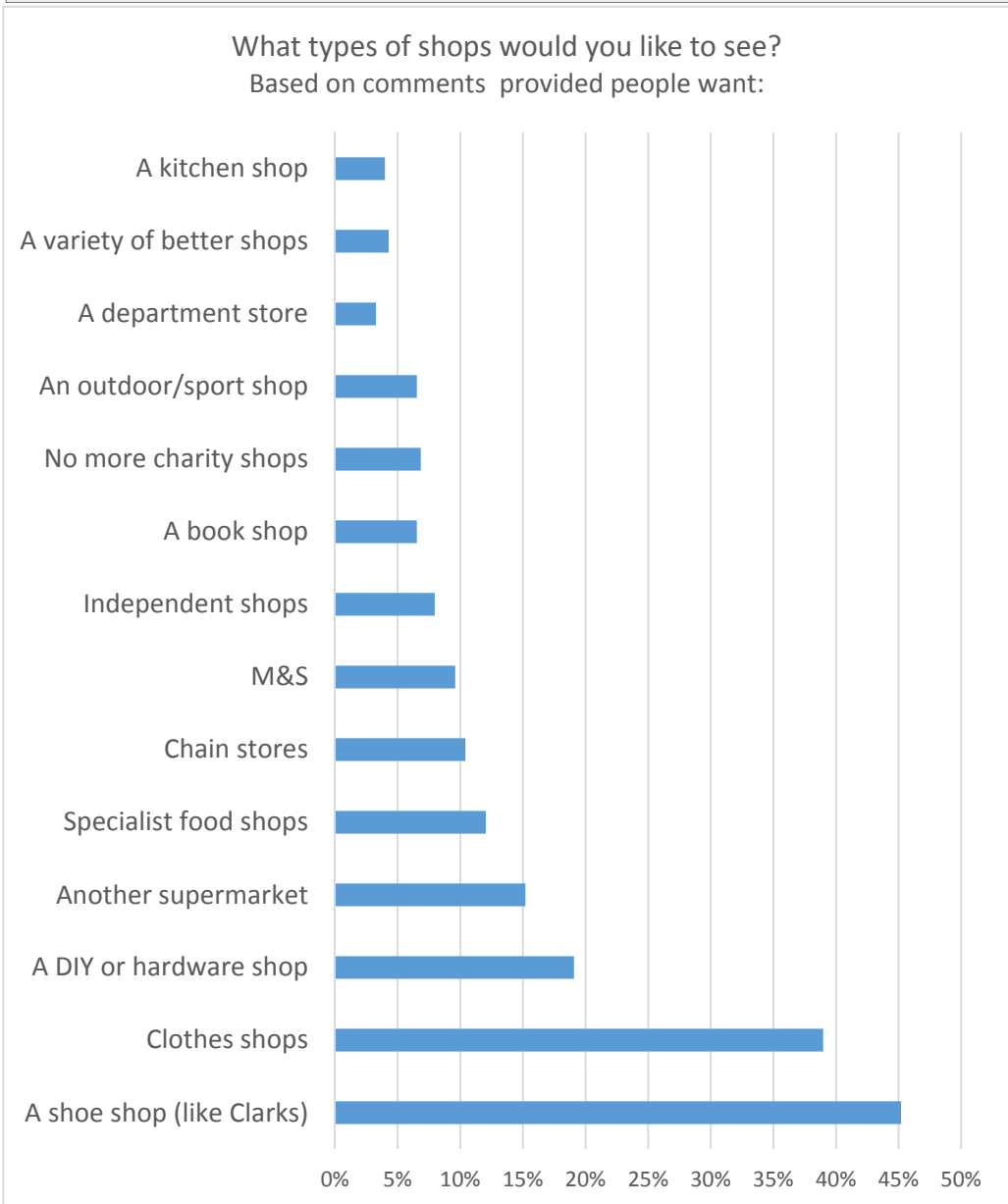
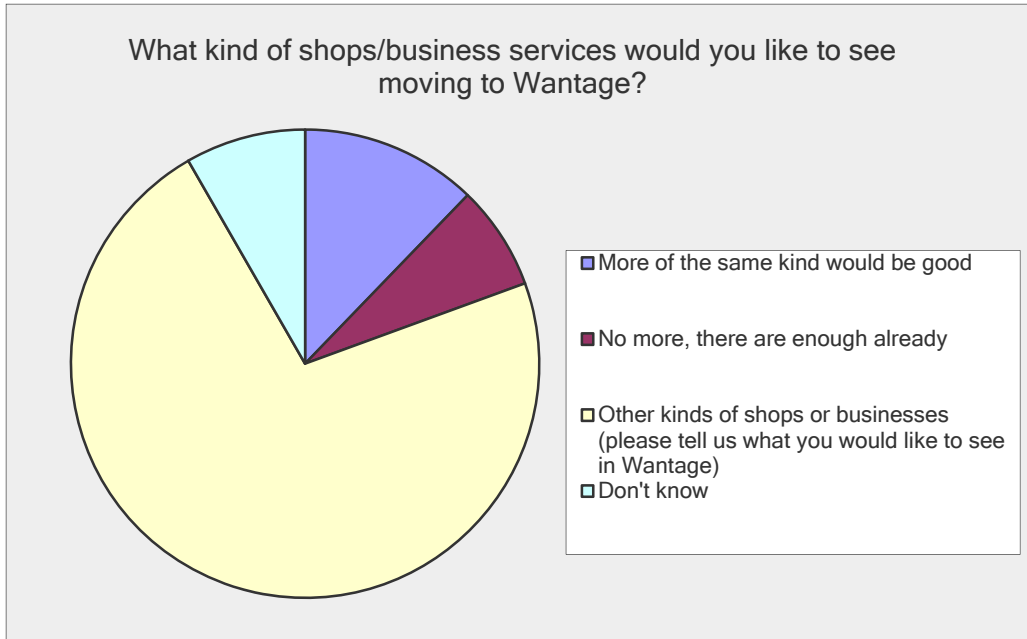


Many comments wanted existing space to be used wisely.

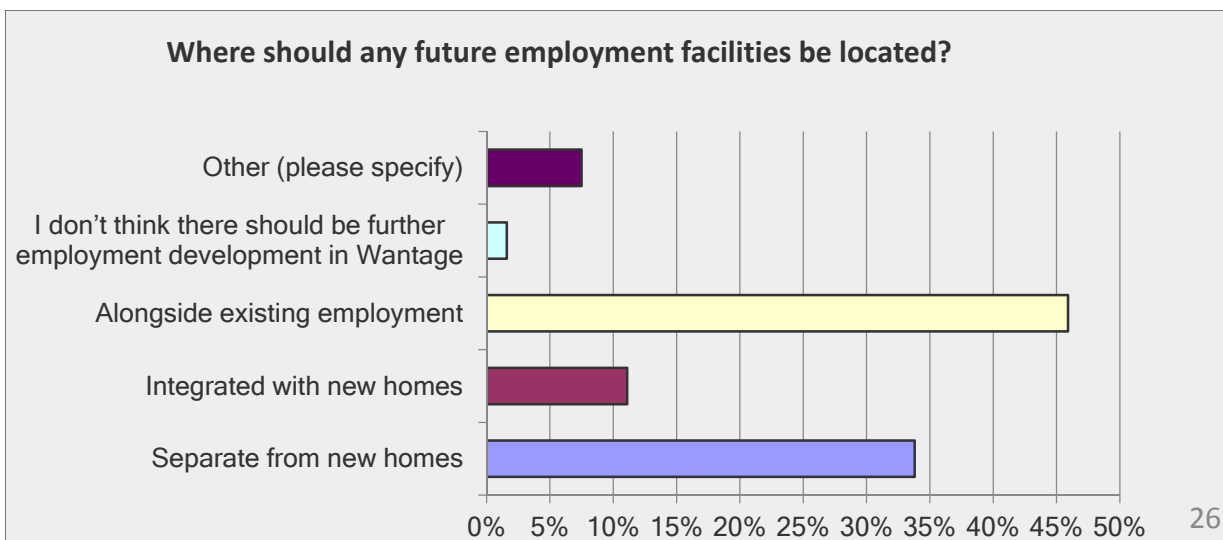
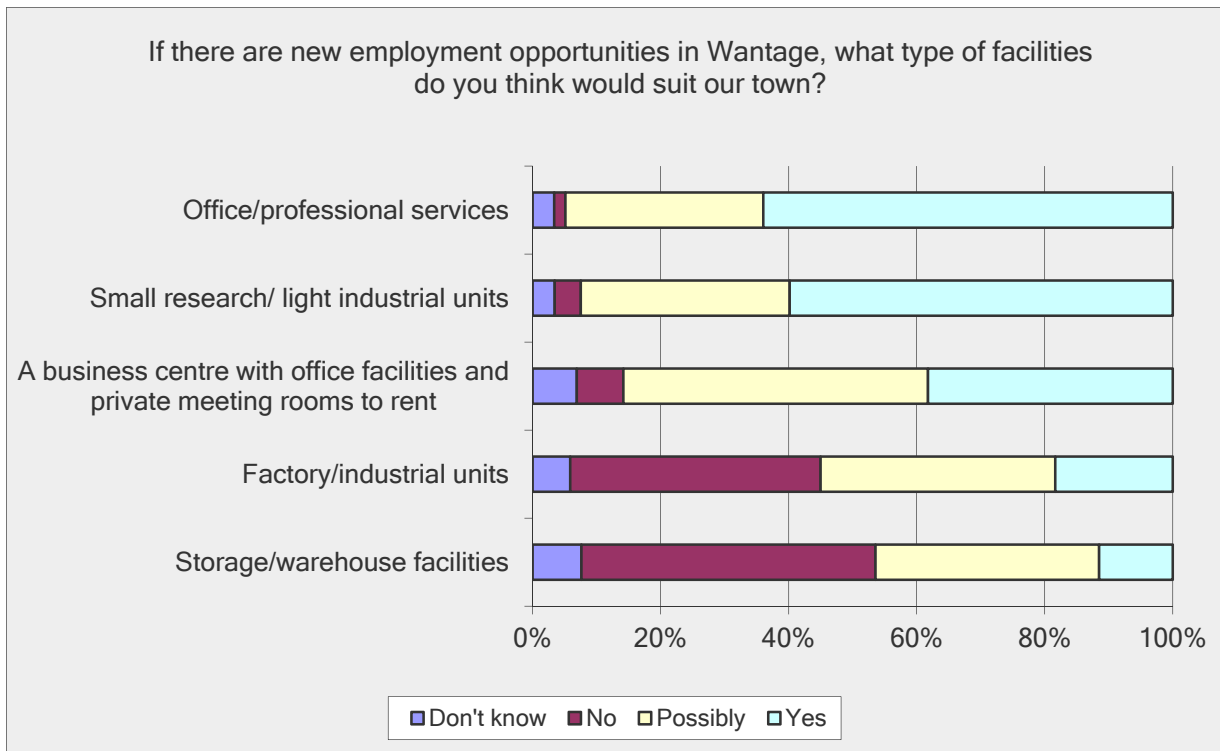
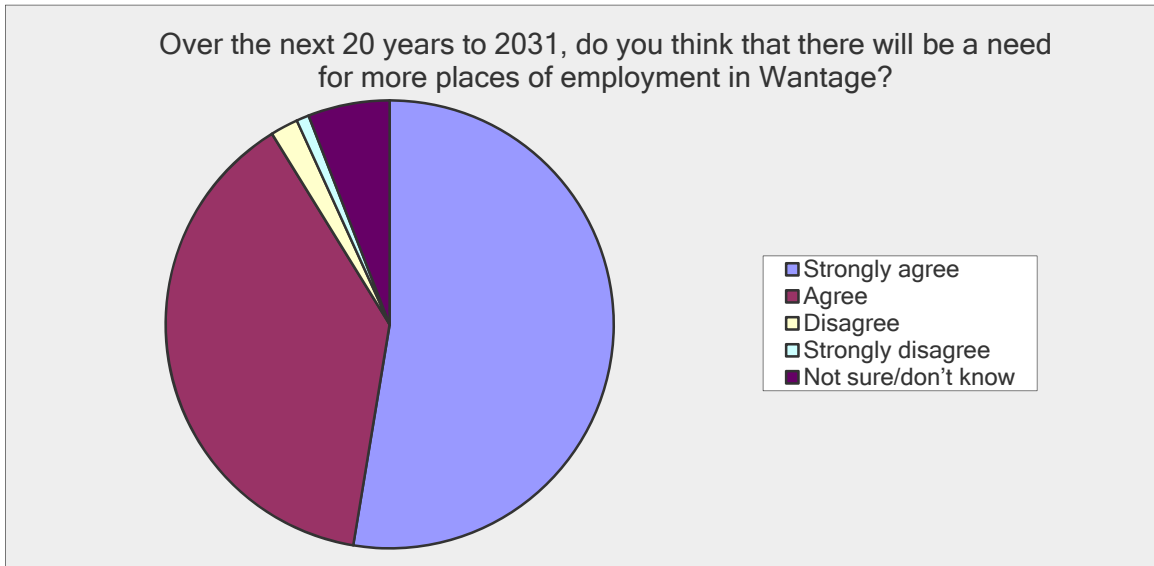


Many comments wanted Grove technology Park to be expanded and commercial developments linked to the Western Relief Road.

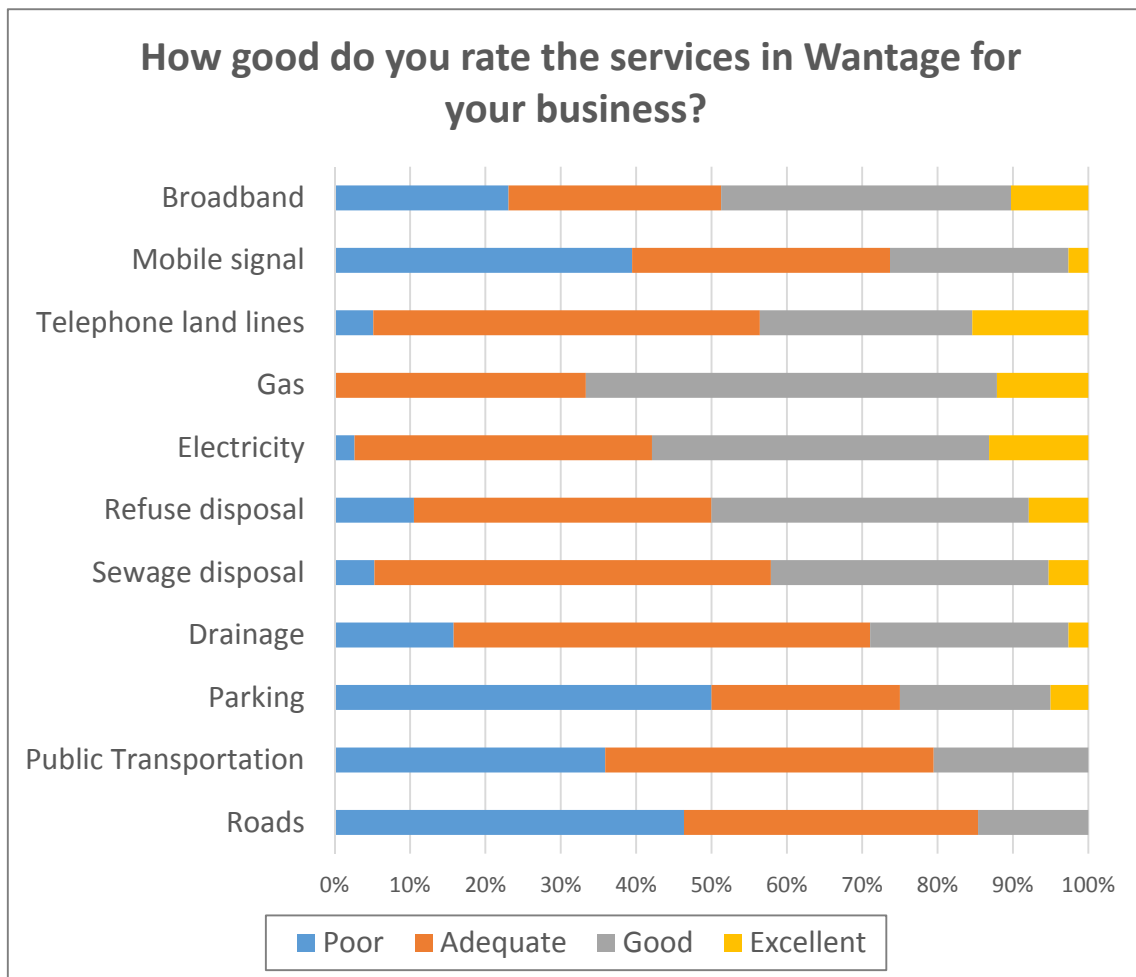
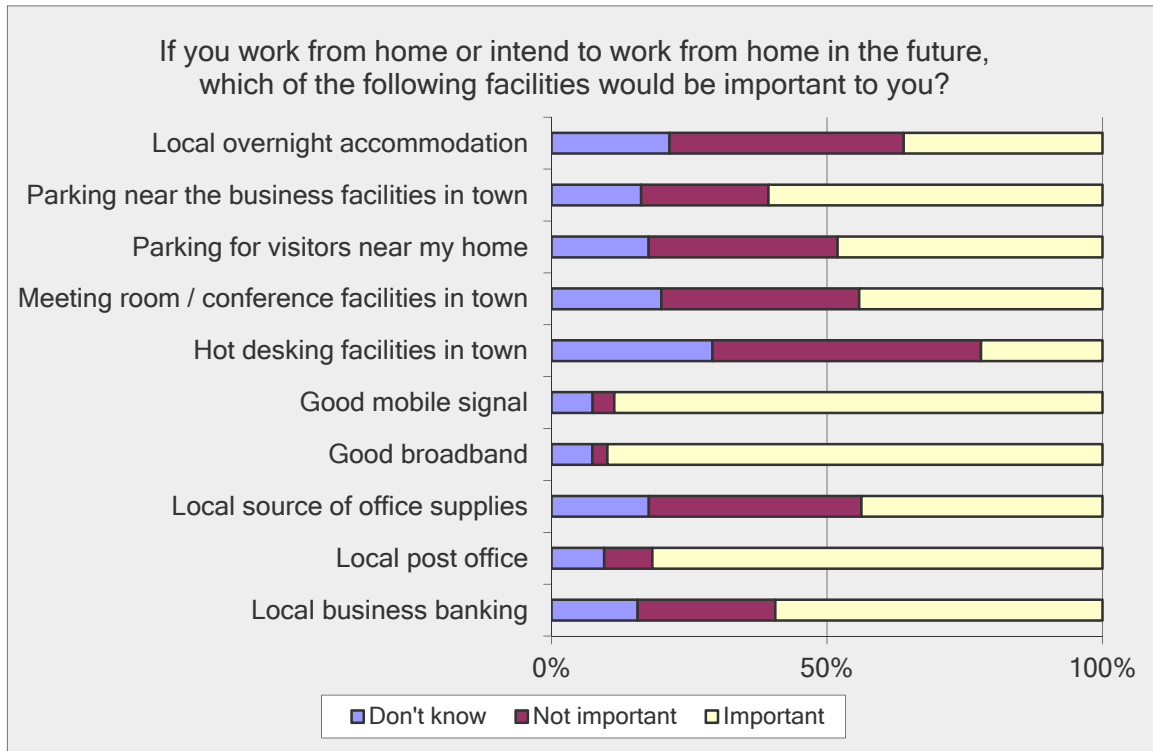
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What are the best things about Wantage?

- The sense of community and friendliness of the town and the people
- The local facilities, shops, market, library etc.
- Its rural nature with surrounding countryside
- Its history (including King Alfred), heritage and character
- The accessibility and proximity to Oxford, London, Newbury and Swindon
- The small market town feel

What are the problems in Wantage?

- The traffic congestion and poor roads
- The lack of good infrastructure
- The scale of development with sufficient thought for facilities required
- The poor variety of shops and excess of charity shops
- The poor bus service (with the exception of the Oxford service)
- The state of the pavements and streets with litter, dog mess and overhanging trees

How would you like to see Wantage develop over the next 20 years?

- Maintaining the good things and resolving the problems
- Sensitively, environmentally, sustainably
- With roads and other infrastructure keeping pace with housing
- At a measured rate housing to be matched by places of employment.
- More cycle tracks and footpaths. Roads improved and properties maintained and proper provision for the aged.

Whilst we accept the need for further housing and employment opportunities, it is important to retain the unique nature of Wantage and the surrounding area.

If you have anything to add or wish to get involved in defining the details of the Neighbourhood Plan, please get in touch with us either via the Town Council or directly to me using the details below,

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