

Saddington



Community Questionnaire Analysis

March 2017

OVERVIEW

The Parish of Saddington has commenced the preparation of its Neighbourhood Plan.

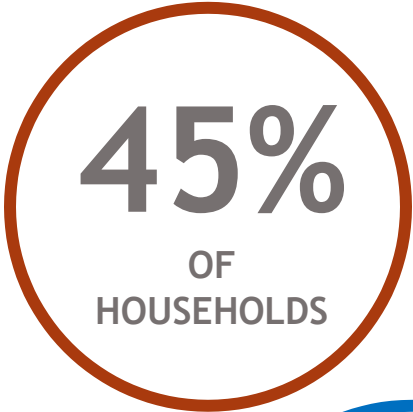
An important part of this inclusive process is, of course, obtaining the views and aspirations of the community. Key to this has been the development and dissemination of a community questionnaire.

The questionnaire contained 24 questions and was based on important themes established following initial consultation work by the Saddington Parish Neighbourhood Forum. These themes are: Our Village, Development, Housing, Education, Traffic & Transport, Business & Employment.

The survey took place between February and March 2017. It was available to complete electronically and on paper. The level of response from the community was good, there being 45 returns, this represents a return from over 17% of the adult population, (259 over the age of 18).

Given that some households choose to respond collectively rather than as individuals; it is also pertinent to consider the number of responses in relation to the number of households in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The number of responses represents up to 45% of the 100 households.

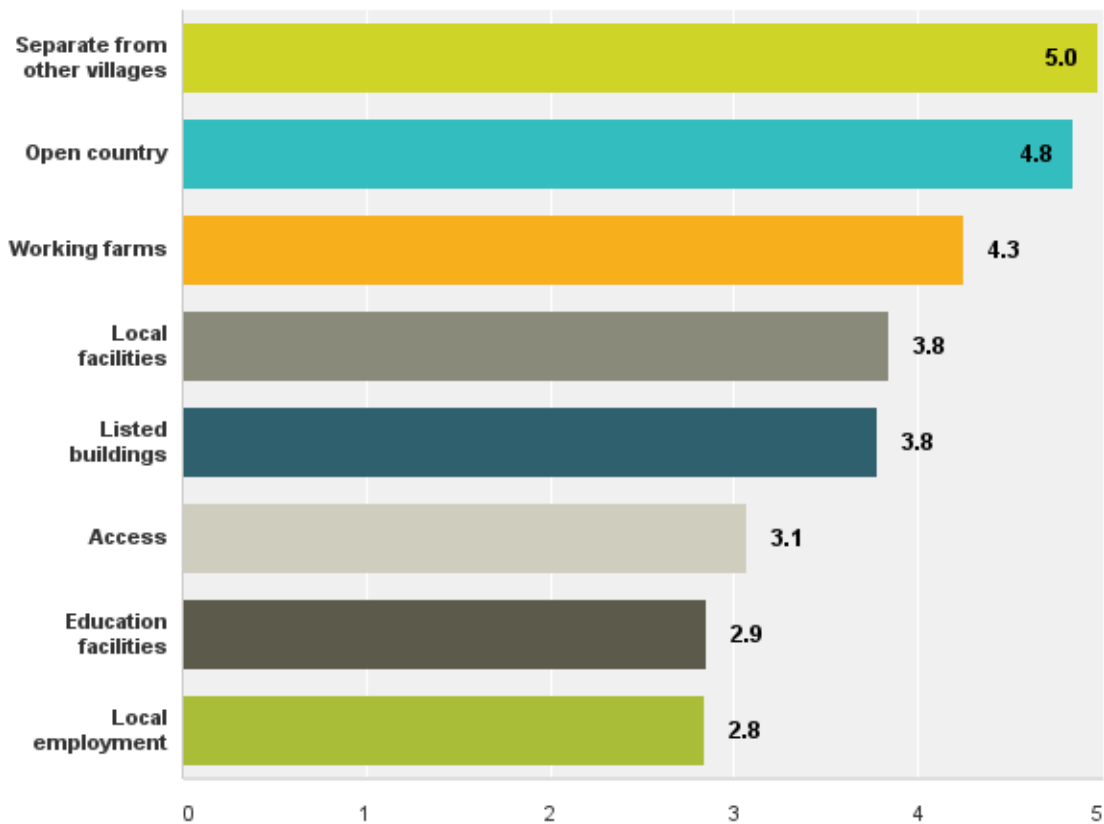
This demonstrates the level of commitment to the Neighbourhood Plan by a very small community which, in turn, adds strength to the validity of the collected views expressed.



Population data taken from 2011 Census

Q1 What do you like best about Saddington?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



This and subsequent questions were rated on a 5 point scale with 5 being the most favoured. Each bar represents an average of all responses received for that particular issue or option.

Each of the characteristics and amenities identified in the question are considered important to respondents, indicating a close correlation with responses from earlier consultation.

The fact that the village is separated from other settlements by fields and countryside is the thing that respondents like the most about where they live, all respondents felt this was important or

very important. This is closely followed, in order of importance, by the proximity of open countryside to the village of Saddington, with the countryside reaching the village.

Respondents also showed that local working farms in and around the village are important to them. Local facilities (such as the pub and the church etc.) are also greatly valued.

Of importance too are the listed buildings within the Parish.

Ease of access to major road and rail networks and airports is considered a little less important. Followed by educational facilities.

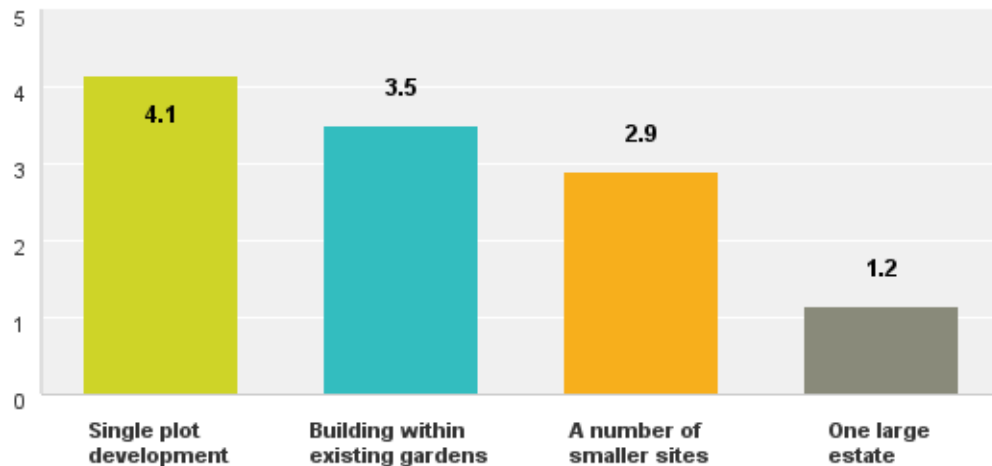
Of least importance to respondents is locally available employment which is, in part, explained by many of those responding being retired.

Ten additional comments appear in the appendix and focus on the importance of the rural location, the sense of community and the strong desire for this to remain unspoilt.

Developmen

Q2 IF additional housing were to be built, what would you prefer?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



Parishioners were informed of the need for Saddington to accommodate a small number of new homes up to 2031 – the duration of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Of the four options offered to parishioners, most support was for single plot developments, followed by building within existing gardens. Building on a number of smaller sites received less, but fairly strong support.

All new properties built on one large estate was the easily the least favoured option, with a strongly negative rating overall.

Housin



A key issue for those responding to this questionnaire is future housing need and provision in the Parish.

Responses generally to the question ‘What sort of housing do you think the village needs?’ demonstrate a reluctance to see significant development of the existing village. However, there is an understanding of the need to provide some additional housing.

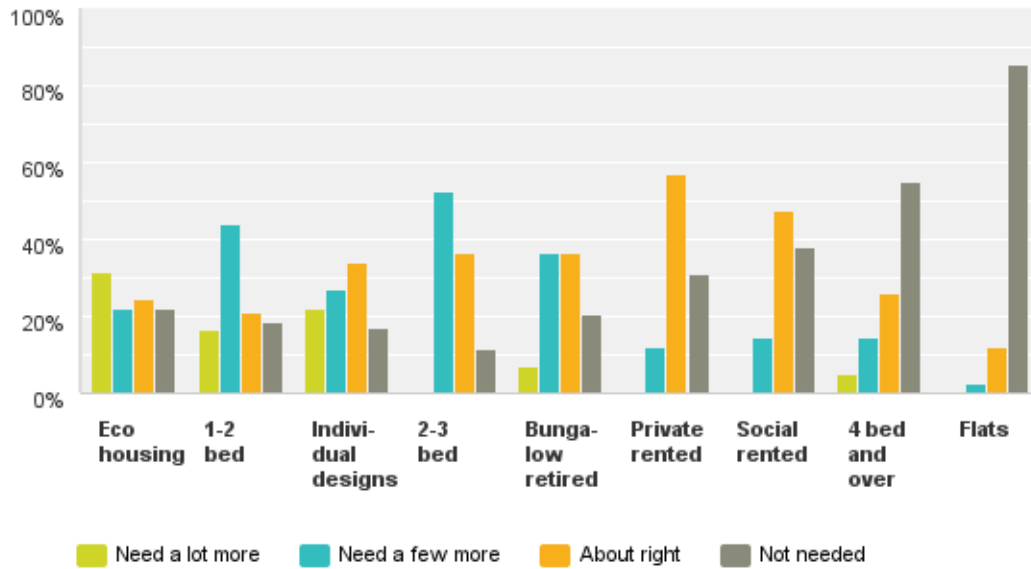
Respondents appear to acknowledge that there is an issue in getting onto the property ladder, especially for younger people. Consequently, the sort of housing most people feel the village needs is affordable 1, 2 and 3 bed homes.

Concern for environmental issues is reflected in the importance given to the need for eco-friendly housing.

Bungalows and retirement housing was also a popular option, showing a desire for older people to be able to remain in the Parish as their circumstances and physical needs change.

Q3 What sort of housing do you think the village needs?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



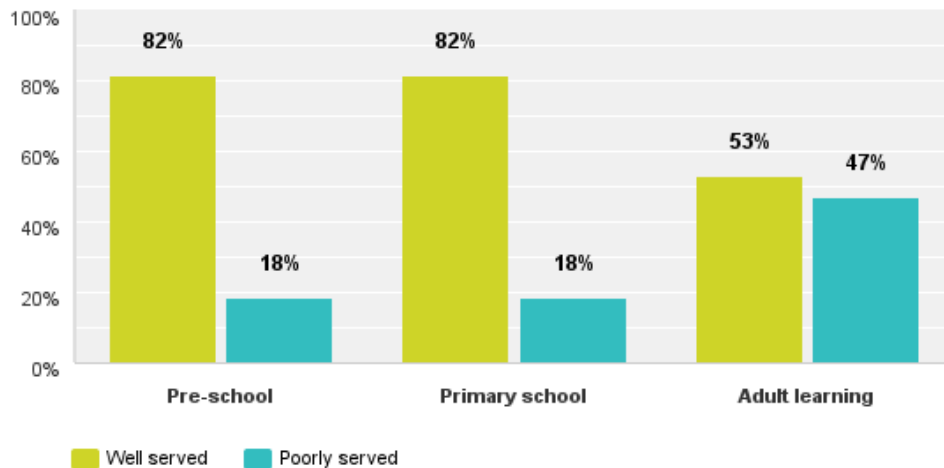
Individually designed houses received some support. However, private rented, social rented, larger houses and especially flats received a broadly negative response.

	Need a lot more	Need a few more	About right	Not needed
Eco housing	31.71% 13	21.95% 9	24.39% 10	21.95% 9
1-2 bed starter	16.28% 7	44.19% 19	20.93% 9	18.60% 8
Individually designed	21.95% 9	26.83% 11	34.15% 14	17.07% 7
2-3 bed	0.00% 0	52.27% 23	36.36% 16	11.36% 5
Bungalow/ retired	6.82% 3	36.36% 16	36.36% 16	20.45% 9
Private rented	0.00% 0	11.90% 5	57.14% 24	30.95% 13
Social rented	0.00% 0	14.29% 6	47.62% 20	38.10% 16
4 bed and over	4.76% 2	14.29% 6	26.19% 11	54.76% 23
Flats	0.00% 0	2.38% 1	11.90% 5	85.71% 36

Educatio

Q4 How well do you think the village is served with educational facilities (in the local area)?

Answered: 38 Skipped: 7



82% of those responding feel that the village is well served with nearby pre-school educational facilities and primary schools. The importance of the primary school is reflected too in other comments about the village within this questionnaire and in an earlier community consultation.

53% of respondents feel that adult education is well served (in the local area). A range of interesting comments, mostly about adult education, appear in the appendix.

Village and ice

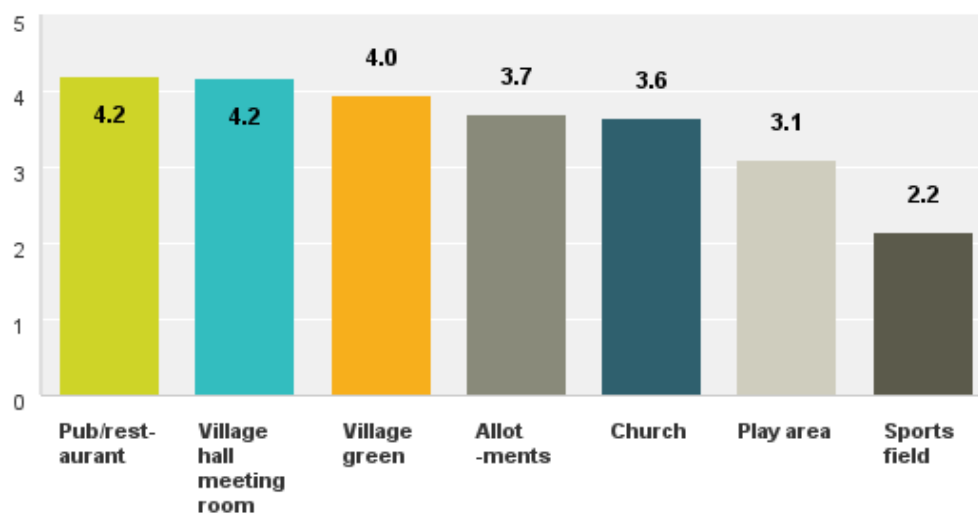
Parishioners were asked to indicate the importance to them of key village facilities (or of facilities they would like to have in the parish).

The pub/restaurant and village hall meeting room drew the most support, followed by the village green. Respondents also clearly value allotments and the church buildings.

A play area drew less support and. Finally, a sports field was the only facility with an overall negative response.

Q5 How important to you, individually or as a family, is (or would be) the availability of the following facilities in Saddington?

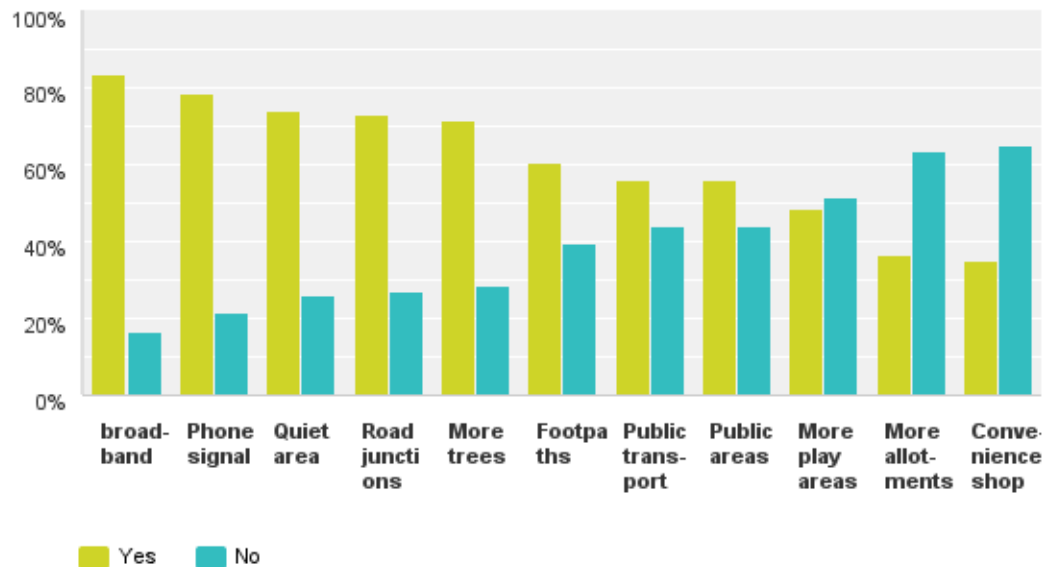
Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



Parishioners were given the opportunity to respond to eleven suggestions, drawn from the previous community consultation, about other facilities they would like to see in the village.

Q6 Are there other facilities you would like to see in the village?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



Eight of these received overall support, with the desire for better broadband (84%), and a better phone signal (79%) being the most important of these issues for respondents.

A quiet outdoor area for relaxation was supported by 74% of respondents. Improved road junctions in Saddington by 73% and more trees by 71%.

60% felt that there should be improved footpaths between Saddington and Fleckney. Better public transport was an issue for 56% and the desire for public meadow or parkland was also held by 56%.

The final three suggestions received overall negative responses, more play areas (49%), more allotments (37%) and a convenience shop (35%)

Twelve additional comments appear in the appendix including opinions about the pub, public footpaths and traffic.

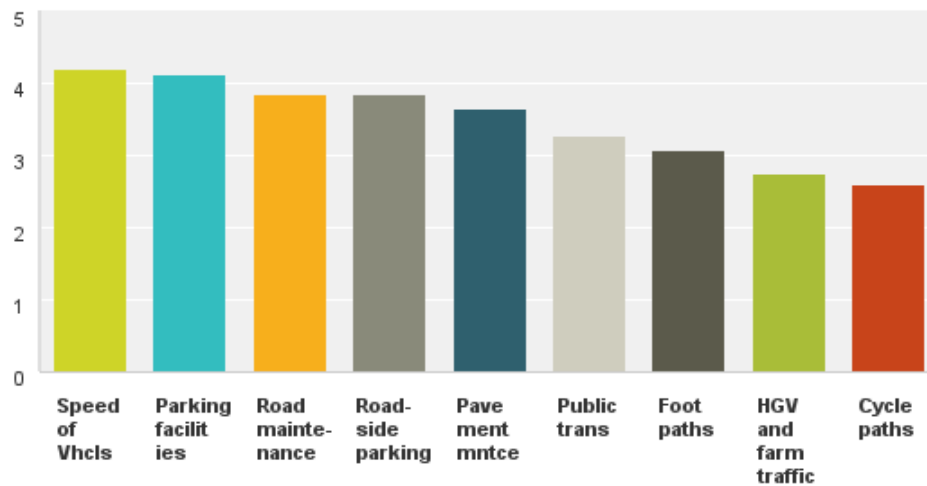
Traffic and transport

The average number of vehicles owned by responding households is 2 and almost all are parked within the property's boundary.

Parishioners were given a list of nine issues, which had been identified through earlier consultation. They were asked whether changes are needed.

Q9 Are changes needed to the following?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



	1. No change needed	2.	3.	4.	5. Change is needed
Speed of Vehicles	11.36% 5	2.27% 1	6.82% 3	13.64% 6	65.91% 29
Parking facilities	7.50% 3	0.00% 0	20.00% 8	17.50% 7	55.00% 22
Road maintenance	11.63% 5	6.98% 3	9.30% 4	27.91% 12	44.19% 19
Road- side parking	13.95% 6	4.65% 2	16.28% 7	13.95% 6	51.16% 22
Pavement mntnce	9.09% 4	6.82% 3	27.27% 12	22.73% 10	34.09% 15
Public transport	24.39% 10	2.44% 1	26.83% 11	14.63% 6	31.71% 13
Footpaths	15.91% 7	15.91% 7	31.82% 14	18.18% 8	18.18% 8
HGV and farm traffic	33.33% 14	14.29% 6	21.43% 9	4.76% 2	26.19% 11
Cycle paths	30.77% 12	23.08% 9	17.95% 7	12.82% 5	15.38% 6

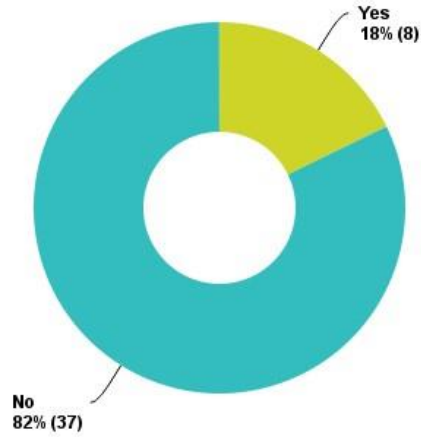
The majority of those responding feel that each of the issues required some change. The speed of vehicles and roadside and pavement parking and road maintenance are of the greatest concern.

It is clear from this response that the relationship between the community and the vehicles that they use or that pass through is an important issue to address both within and outside of the Neighbourhood Plan, especially as any increase in population could add to the concerns experienced by the community.

27 additional comments about traffic and transport appear in the appendix, concentrating on parking, speeding and potential danger and nuisance to residents brought about by these issues.

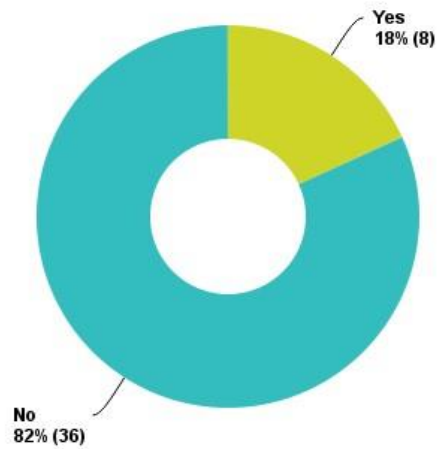
Q10 Are you employed by a local business?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



Q11 Do you operate a business from the village?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 1

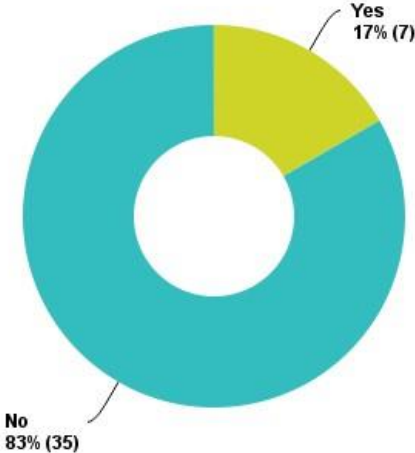


Eight people said that they operate a local business or work from home. Types of business include: contract cleaning business, property management, Alexander Technique tuition and medico-legal work, beauty, medical, professional and television.

Again, the need for a better broadband and mobile signal was highlighted. One request was made for support in developing a customer base.

Q15 Do you see a demand for more business units in the village?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 3



Only a minority of respondents see a demand for more business units in the area but those who do see a demand suggested small self-contained units for crafts or tech based businesses, possibly utilising converted farm buildings. One person suggested 'a nice tea room'.

Q16 Would you welcome new businesses to the village?

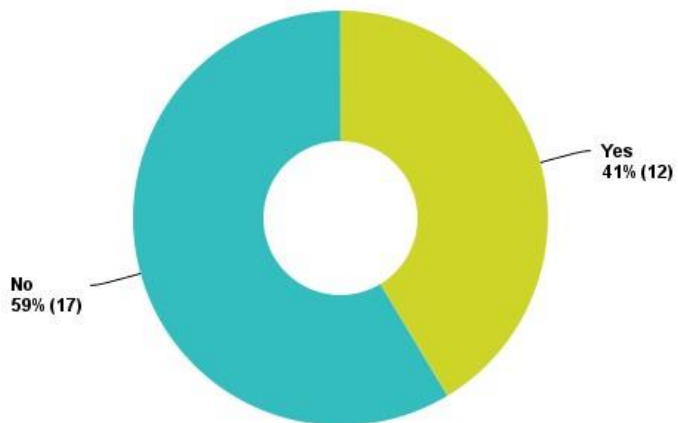
Answered: 41 Skipped: 4



A large minority of respondents said that they would welcome new businesses into the village. Their comments appear in the appendix.

Q17 Does the current broadband provision meet your business needs?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 16



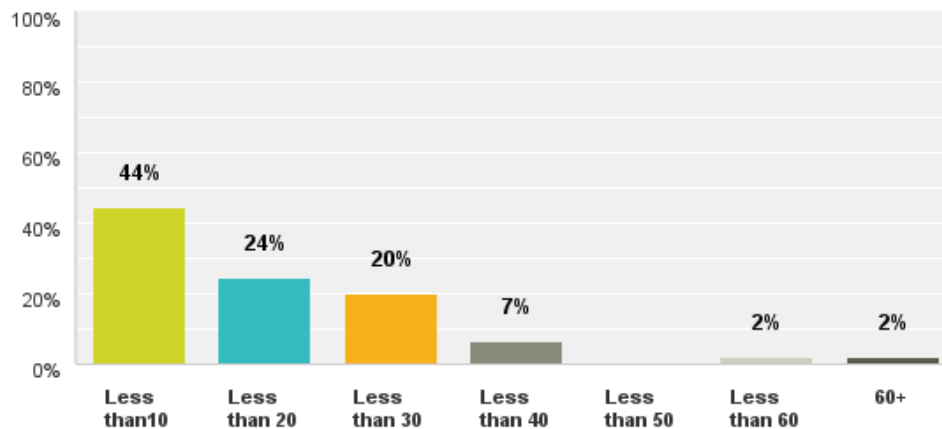
Demographic

Responses to demographic questions revealed interesting information. Two thirds of those responding had no children living in their household. This perhaps suggests a need to secure a more representative view from families and young people. However, the positive responses to questions about the school and affordable housing suggests that those with no children at home are paying careful attention to the needs of families too.

Respondents indicated that there are 51 people in their collective households who are working, 28 are retired, 11 are students and 1 unemployed.

Q23 How many years have you (individually or as a couple/family) lived in Saddington?

Answered: 45 Skipped: 0



In summary, a strong response to the Neighbourhood Plan Community Questionnaire has demonstrated a set of clear concerns and preferences amongst the respondents. This offers a good steer to the Neighbourhood Forum as it progresses with the development of the Saddington Neighbourhood Plan. These results will be taken into account as part of the evidence gathered to develop the Plan policies.



Appendix

Saddington Questionnaire: Summary of Individual Comments

As well as the formal answers to questions, there were 70 additional individual comments. These have been listed below.

Page 3: Comments regarding Our Village. Total: 10.

- ☒ Community feel and interaction.
- ☒ Despite its fair share of urban escapees, Saddington has a good social cross section, however, residents mostly mingle according to their social type.
 - Very important to keep the pub. If we had a village hall, it would be quite practical. The church wouldn't be used as much.
- ☒ Village community.
- ☒ Cannot see the need for a sports field.
- ☒ Riding and sailing facilities are important to us.
 - We don't want Fleckney involved in our parish.
- ☒ Small size of village: long may it stay. 1: beautiful views 2: community spirit
- ☒ Local facilities important, just a shame there has previously been quite a bit of resistance to improving facilities for the younger members of the village.
- ☒ I like that Saddington has a conservation area. I like its rural setting, and the nearby reservoir and canal.

Page 7: Comments regarding Education. Total: 10

- ☒ Adult education not required or viable.
- ☒ The village is not large enough, and does not want to be, to sustain its own facilities.
- ☒ This is something we have not looked into as we have just moved into the area.
- ☒ No children, no opinion.
- ☒ Adequate at a reasonable distance but not an authority on this subject.
- ☒ Well served in Fleckney and Kibworth!!!
- ☒ It would be good to have access to adult learning facilities.
 - It doesn't need educational facilities.
- ☒ More facilities for night classes would be great. There used to be a lot done at Kibworth High School back in the 1980/90 which I used to enjoy doing. Having not done any computer studies during my own school years these helped me gain some knowledge which helped me into employment. I would love to try and improve on these skills even more as with time passing by things have progressed and I now feel that I have been "left behind"!
- ☒ I don't know about adult learning facilities.

Page 9: Comments regarding any other facilities in the village. Total:12

- ❓ Got a convenience store at the pub.
- ❓ The bus service is adequate and provides links to elsewhere.
- ❓ Improvement of footpaths would be a good idea - they can be very muddy and slippery x2
- ❓ If a traffic free dry footpath to Fleckney could be created that might be a benefit, though not if it encourages building development.
- Improved pavements, better maintained public footpaths, more family focused facilities to encourage children's activities within the village.
- ❓ More locals/villagers supporting the pub/restaurant.
- ❓ 'Hooray for giffgaff- Vodafone sucks'.
- ❓ All road surfaces need repair very badly.
- Residents' car park, public car parking space.
- ❓ Traffic calming measures.
- ❓ I'd be interested to know if any of the area around Saddington could be designated as parkland. I'd like to see a village green incorporate planting to encourage wild birds, bees and insects. I'd like to see a community effort to build mud walls in a traditional style bordering the proposed new village green.
- ❓ A cafe/teashop would be very welcome, if parking could be managed.

Page 11: Comments about Traffic and Transport. Total 27

- ❓ Residents and visitor car park needed and no parking on footpaths x5
- ❓ A car park would be useful, however the parked cars along the roadside offer a natural traffic calming system and help to slow the speeding cars down. If there was a car park, the roads would be a racetrack.
- ❓ Improvements to roads will only cause faster traffic, parking on our roads keep traffic speed down. Traffic volume and speed is the problem that needs to be changed.
- ❓ At present, there is nowhere for visiting family to park without causing nuisance.
- Don't like people parking on the green at Weir Road/Main Street. Could part of future green be plastic road with grass fill? Large school buses shouldn't come through centre of village via Smeeton. Or schools should contract with bus companies that have smaller buses.
- ❓ The parking issues are mainly confined to the centre of the village (Weir Road, Main Street). a section of the pub car park could be allocated to the residents. There is too much HGV through traffic on roads that are not wide enough - witness the ploughed-up verges and front garden. Farm traffic is unavoidable, but travels too fast.
- ❓ The speed in which buses travel from Smeeton to Saddington is extremely dangerous.
- ❓ Traffic is getting worse and speeding at peak times. Screeching cars along Main Street especially when it's night time. Suggested 20MPH/speedbumps/road calming measures. Farm traffic and road surfaces, farm traffic is coming too close to our houses. The roads need better markings as they are too poor, some of the tiles on the wall are falling off and they are very slippery too.

- Bus speed through the village especially from school in Smeeton.
- HGV traffic is a problem, we have a wonderful view of buses trying to negotiate. Weir Road should have speed bumps all the way to the church.
- Speeding of farm traffic
- HGV's need to be restricted, farm traffic is necessary.
- Introduce 20mph in the village, restrict traffic on Reservoir Road to priority bikes, pedestrians, horses/access only.
- Farm traffic is less of a problem compared to the HGV traffic, there also needs to be a 20mph speed limit imposed with speed display lights, residents' public parking is needed.
- Maybe 20 mph limit. Road markings are in need of re-painting.
- Part of the village green should be given for Weir Road residents. Bollards should be placed to prevent people parking on the corner of the green on Main Street and Weir Road.
- Stop parking on the patch of green in the middle of the village. Speeding is a major issue especially vehicles that don't slow or stop on the narrow roads when oncoming traffic approaches, or in the middle of the village. Instead they mount the verges or footpaths. Some of the main culprits are tractors/lorries and these also do the most damage.
- Speed restrictions for traffic is needed sooner rather than later. As my health has deteriorated over the last two and half years and I have been unable to work/get out I have been able to observe the flow of traffic and I am very concerned at the speed the traffic enters the village (from the Fleckney direction). The road narrows and also there are cars parked on the side of the road due to lack of "off road" parking. Farm vehicles and buses are some of the worst culprits for this.
- Weir Rd / Main St junction right of way signage / white lines needs improving. I appreciate resident parking around that junction is an issue for some (not me) but a practical solution may not be possible in such a confined area. I'm ok with the concept of muddling through we cannot expect everything to be "ideal". I would like to see the reservoir/Gumley Road made a "no through road" for motor vehicles with parking areas at either end of the reservoir. If the stretch alongside the water's edge was for pedestrians/cyclists only this would deter some of the litter droppers etc. and negate the need for continual maintenance of this section which suffers from erosion/ large potholes due to drainage from the field - the road is currently VERY DANGEROUS particularly after heavy rain when the deep potholes at the edge of the road are filled with water - a driver /cyclist unfamiliar with the road could easily have a serious accident.
- Some public off road parking that can be used by both residents & visitors/walkers to reduce the amount of street parking. A means of reducing the volume of through traffic through the village. A large number of vehicles are simply too big for the narrow roads maybe some signage to highlight horses are ridden on these roads and a speed limit be reduced to 20 mph.
- Smeeton Road requires chicanes to slow traffic. A residents' carpark should be provided within, or just out of the village. It should be a pleasant area planted with trees between

the parking spaces. Vehicles repeatedly get damaged when parked on the roadside. Better designed shared road space is required. Some pavements are too narrow. A shuttle bus linking to other bus services might work.

- A residents' car park could be an option but only in conjunction with speeding restrictions that are enforced as clearer roads equal speeding opportunities.
- Some residents struggle to park by their homes this is made even more difficult when ramblers/walkers come into the village to go walking as they park in the only spaces available for some of the residents in the village. This also happens when the Pub holds events: people do not always go into the pub car park but park outside villagers' homes in the areas where there are limited places to park. This is difficult for residents who have health problems and physical disabilities. It is particularly difficult if you work late and come home in the dark only to find you cannot park anywhere near your home as the village is dark at night, this has been the case for me as a single woman. This was made worse when a resident reported seeing two men climbing into my garden from the pub late one night, this is a constant source of anxiety for me.

Page 14: Comments about welcoming businesses into the village. Total 11

- Working from home offices/farms/business units on farms.
- Small convenience store/small post office, bakers, butcher supermarket.
- Home based- any that would not introduce additional volumes of traffic etc.
- Service businesses.
- Small, without more vehicles.
- I would like to see ONLY SMALL business/shops in the village. Maybe something like craft shops/business or shops/business that make their produce from things sourced from the countryside or bought locally. Anything on the SMALL scale not requiring great big vehicles to bring or take away end product!
- Small.
- Craft and high tech based.
- Garden centre/shop.
- Small scale, small products, bespoke products, specialist products, artisan products, and services. Business that doesn't require large facilities and a lot of road transport.
- Home-based.