Lode *with* Longmeadow Parish Plan

April 2008

East Cambridgeshire District Council

What some parishioners think of Lode with Longmeadow

There is little scope within the existing envelope for more building

This village has already lost its identity

Conservation of greenbelt land is important both to those who live here and urban dwellers that visit it

I like Lode with Longmeadow just as it is

There are too many street lights. Very difficult to see the stars with all the light pollution

This is a beautiful area. We need to enhance, preserve and take care of it

Lode is a beautiful place, and it would be nice to keep it that way

We live in Lode because it is quiet, not well known. We would not wish to encourage more visitors, we do not want to put Lode 'on the map'

I would like to have a proper decent pub in the village

Any development should be compatible with a small, peaceful village

We are a quiet village and should stay that way. Fetes, picnics and BBQs are community orientated

Lode with Longmeadow does not need anything that might encourage any further increase in the number of visitors that it already gets

Cycle path from Quy to Lode passing Anglesey Abbey. PLEASE!

Although a small village, Lode could really do with a shop that sells local produce, household goods, jams, newspapers etc.

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The Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan Steering group received a grant from DEFRA through Cambridgeshire ACRE to create a Parish Plan.

The following organisations donated funds to finance the Photo Competition, Tea Dance and Ceilidh and printing of the Parish Plan.

ISAACSON ELECTRICAL SERVICES

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LODE & DISTRICT SOCIAL CLUB

45 Lode Road, Lode, Cambridge, CB25 9ET
Tel: 01223 811797

Halls of Cambridge
6 The Broadway
Mill Road
Cambridge
Tel: (01223) 426000
Fax: (01223) 416200
Professional Locksmith and Safe Engineers
Specialist in UPVC repairs, Commercial and Domestic

THE NATIONAL TRUST

THE PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP

Charlie Platten	Chairperson
Mike Langran	Secretary
Joy Edwards	Treasurer
Denise Cook	
Lis Miles	
Julie Sale	
Vic Stannett	
Peter Wells	
Richard Wood	

Lode *with* Longmeadow Parish Plan

Summary aims and action plan

Based on the responses of the community to interviews, meetings and the questionnaire, the aims of our Parish Plan are:

1. To increase and enhance the sense of community and identity of the village of Lode with Longmeadow.

2. To preserve what we see as of value, especially the quiet and rural location of the village.

3. To work with local residents in developing the village as a unique place to live and work (Just over half the respondents to the questionnaire chose to live in Lode with Longmeadow because of the peace and quiet and the rural location. Proximity to Cambridge; family and friends and the local schools are other significant factors).

> *"Lode is a beautiful place, and it would be nice to keep it that way*

Involving the village in the Plan

Identify 'Parish Volunteers', possibly from those working at home or retired, who will give time to the continuing development of the Parish Plan and to its recommended actions thus widening the knowledge and appeal of the Parish Council (over 70% of those responding to this question had never attended a parish council meeting and 36% do not know the parish councillors well enough to approach them).

Initially volunteers will be recruited in each of the Parish Plan action areas.

Possible actions (✓ means already agreed with a partner)

Volunteers as follows:

a e*group organiser ✓
b Website and archive group ✓
c Village events group ✓
d Business network ✓
e Lode Star magazine ✓
f Lode litter ✓
g National Trust
h Cycleways ✓
i Footpaths ✓

Potential partners

Lode Parish Council
Parish volunteers
Lode Star
Cambs Footpath Officer
Sustrans
National Trust

Timescale

Immediate

Resourcing

No additional resource

The Parish Council does a good job. I would like to see more residents stand for election

Funding the Plan

The Parish Council will identify individuals and organisations with expertise in finding funding for initiatives within the Parish Plan. Link with local people with relevant skills in fund raising.

Possible actions

a Parish Council fundraiser ✓
b Volunteer fundraisers
c Obtain funding for projects.

Potential partners

Alan Lamb on behalf of Lode Parish Council

Timescale

Immediate

Resourcing

No additional resource

"It is time to put a soul back into the village. At the moment Lode is a community of strangers, too many of which do not care about the village's future

Communications

Set up a village website and archive to link all the activities of the village and the parish volunteers (315 respondents use the Lode Star parish magazine as a source of information about village matters. 197 would actively use a village website for regular updates, and indications are that this would increase once the website is known).

The website will include:
Lode Star magazine (the Lode Star parish magazine is read and valued by a large number of people), events calendar, car share, sports coaching, Social Club services, village photos, village history, council reports, Parish Plan documents, village archive as well as Parish Council business matters.
This website will be closely linked with the County Council initiative for village archives.

Possible actions

a Set up website ✓
b Present Councillors through website ✓
c Support village archive ✓
d e*Publish Council minutes ✓
e e*Publish Lode Star Magazine ✓

Potential partners

Archive volunteers
Lode Parish Council
Parish clubs and organisations
Lode Star magazine

Time scale

Ongoing/Immediate

Resourcing

Funding required for web hosting

Lack of facilities means we are increasingly becoming a dormitory village

Housing development

Communicate to the village the Local Development Plan for housing development (60% of respondents would support some sort of small, affordable housing development in Lode, 53% of respondents do not want to see any loss of greenbelt or farm land to future development).

Possible actions

a Communicate preferences to East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) and lobby for inclusion in future Local Development Plan (LDP) ✓
b Discuss development opportunities with National Trust (through liaison group see below) ✓
c Enable owners of land and empty properties within development envelope to discuss opportunities ✓
d Support for development of low cost infill housing for local young people ✓
e Infill housing ✓
f Encourage use of currently empty properties ✓
g Restriction of development to a mix of housing meeting environmental sustainability standards ✓
h Avoidance of development outside village envelope ✓

Potential partners

ECDC
Lode Parish Council
Property owners

Time scale

Medium

Resourcing

To be agreed with Parish Council (PC)

"The first thing you see when you turn into our village centre is a rubbish bin

Community spirit

Put the heart back into the village by:

- encouraging the start up of a retail/services outlet specialising in supply of basic necessities, organic foods (farm shop), local hand made crafts, and services on a part time basis including hair/beauty, chiropody, laundry collection (many would favour some form of non-housing development. i.e. small retail businesses or various leisure/sport developments)
- setting up a support network for people working from home
- setting up an 'events group' for the village which would organise fetes, barbecues, and arts activities
- look at options for setting up a community pub as part of Lode Social Club or elsewhere
- maintain the feeling of safety and security in the village (318 of those responding to this question say they feel safe living in the village, although a number of respondents expressed concern about crime and anti-social behaviour, however 273 of respondents said they had not experienced any crime in the village in the past three years).

Possible actions

a Retail outlet possibilities to be discussed with local organic farmers, Red2Green, National Trust ✓

b Business network will help those working solo within the village

c Village events group will actively promote an annual calendar of events for villagers

d Community pub possibilities to be discussed with Lode Social Club, National Trust, owners of suitable properties in Lode ✓

e Open and free access for villagers to Anglesey Abbey and gardens on regular occasion (NT) ✓

f Build and develop Neighbourhood Watch groups, and liaise with local community police✓

Potential partners

Lode Parish Council
Lode Social Club
Parish clubs and societies
National Trust
Neighbourhood Watch
Local businesses
Volunteer groups for specific actions

Time scale

Medium (for PC)

Resourcing

Grants and fundraising for projects

It is quiet. I like to hear the birds singing. I like the baby robins, the field. Cycle paths.

The countryside

Improve countryside facilities (many of those responding to this question would like to see the creation of new footpaths, cycle paths and bridleways to create more access to the countryside. In addition, some favoured open access away from paths and there was strong support for various measures to encourage and protect wildlife in the area):

- footpaths and bridleways including between Lode and Longmeadow, and to Quy (More than one third of people responding to this question wished to see the cycle path extended from Lode to Quy in order to connect up with the cycle route into Cambridge. There is also support for the creation of a cycle path to Quy via the old railway line and for a connection to Waterbeach).
- tree planting and woodland
- nesting sites

all in association with local landowners and National Trust, to include development of nature and history guide boards and new parking arrangements outside the village, but with access to the countryside around the village.
Identify and publicise those footpaths that already exist.

Possible actions

a Join Parish Paths Partnership ✓
b Discuss with local landowners opportunities for creation of small woodland areas and wildlife sites, and permitted footpaths
c 'Adopt a path' by volunteers who will litter pick and report problems
d Investigate preferred cycle route to Waterbeach and negotiate with neighbouring parishes, investigate preferred cycle route to Quy along old rail track and negotiate with neighbouring Parish and Quy Estate ✓
e Negotiate with National Trust for out of village parking for walkers, also walking maps and history boards "
f Persuade Highways Authority to re-pave footpath between Lode and Longmeadow ✓

Potential partners

Lode Parish Council
National Trust
Sustrans
Cambs CC
ECDC
Local land owners

Time scale

Immediate and ongoing

Resourcing

Cambs County Council funding for improvements

"Lode will be seen as a centre for outdoor leisure (walking, cycling, horses etc)

The National Trust

Work with National Trust to position the village in relation to the extension of Wicken Fen (most people seemed aware of the National Trust proposals for the Wicken Fen development, and that it will have some impact on the village. However, 145 people felt they needed more information. The majority wished to have some form of dialogue and information-sharing with the National Trust about this):

- set up a regular meeting between village representatives and NT
- review car parking to ease situation in village
- arrange access to Lode with Longmeadow walks (with guide boards and fen interpretation boards) without visitors having to park in the village
- communicating NT plans and progress to the village as a whole via the website.

Possible actions

a Liaison group with National Trust ✓

b Regular presentations from NT to village via Lode Star magazine and website

c Liaison group will review ways of coping with additional visitors to the village by making use of NT car parks, alternative vehicle and on-foot entry ways, footpath signage ✓

Potential partners

National Trust
Volunteers plus PC representative
ECDC
Cambs CC
Highways

Timescale

Immediate and ongoing

Resourcing

For discussion with potential partners

There are many places for those who like walking, sailing, playing sport and there is a feeling that you can relax, be safe and that help is available for those who need it.

The Environment and sustainability

Reduction of noise and light pollution:
Work with experts at East Cambridgeshire and County to investigate how to reduce levels of light pollution from streetlights, security lights and floodlights. Introduce village guidelines on external domestic and business lighting, alarms and excessive noise.

Introduce a policy and action plan for being a 'carbon-neutral' village, adopted by Parish Council (There was strong support for a village initiative on renewable energy and carbon reduction. Also for increased recycling facilities - some people responding to this question would like to see an increase in the range of recycled material collected).

Possible actions

a Develop a village policy for environmental sustainability and reduction of pollution
b Use new sports pavilion as 'showcase' of carbon friendly building methods ✓
c Investigate other carbon neutral projects for the village
d Increase range of recycling opportunities including village composting scheme
e Introduce rainwater collection systems for allotments (pavilion and chapel roofs)

Potential partners

ECDC
Lode Parish council
Parish volunteers
Lode Chapel

Timescale

Longer term

Resourcing

For discussion with potential partners and grant providers

"Cycle route along the old railway is a great idea

Improve the village

Improve the environment around Lode with Longmeadow to meet local people's expectations of a quiet and rural location:

- place additional litter and dog mess bins and arrange for cleaning and emptying on a regular basis
- organise an annual litter pick around the village
- designate an area for young people to call their own on the recreation ground
- introduce village recycling and composting
- identify additional space for allotments and compost bins if the need arises, and provide a water supply to all allotments
- return village pumps to working order.

Possible actions

a Litter pick around the village with support from District Council
b Position new litter and dog mess bins appropriately in the village and on footpaths
c Position a 'teen-shelter' on the recreation ground near the new pavilion ✓
d Develop a picnic and barbecue centre near new pavilion
e Restore village pumps
f Improve village recycling and composting facilities
g Create allotments rainwater supply

Potential partners

ECDC
PC
Volunteers

Timescale

Short to mid-term

Resourcing

For discussion with potential partners. Voluntary labour and grants for facilities

This is a beautiful area. We need to enhance, preserve and take care of it

Traffic in and near the village

Address issues of increasing traffic (there is a feeling that parking presents a problem in the village and that there is a need for more off-road parking provision):

- there needs to be a response to concerns about traffic through the village and safety at the crossroads by means of appropriate traffic calming measures
- take sensible measures to make the crossroads safer, especially for children walking or cycling to school through liaison between the Parish Council and the appropriate County authorities - Highways Agency
- review possibility of a bus route direct to Cherry Hinton and the train station
- improve lighting at Longmeadow bus shelter so that bus drivers can see if passengers are waiting
- adopt a village car share policy, advertised via the new village website.
- encourage the use of volunteer drivers (with appropriate insurance checks etc) to assist those without cars to travel to health centre, hospital etc.
- work With National Trust to improve car parking arrangements and access to walks for visitors

Possible actions

a Make representations to Highways and continue to press for improvements in line with preferences expressed in the Plan ✓
b Place electric speed warnings on main road
c Negotiate with National Trust to maximise speed reduction effect of pedestrian crossing to new car park
d Assess need for direct bus route to hospital and station (via website questionnaire)
e Assess need for bus route Park&Ride to station
f Assess potential of car share scheme (via website questionnaire)
g Review cost of providing lighting to Longmeadow bus shelter
h Review access routes into village via routes other than Lode Road
i Discuss possibilities of car parking for visitors near old station with land owner

Potential partners

Cambs County Council
Local land and property owners
NT
Stagecoach

Timescale

Mid-term and ongoing

Resourcing

For discussion with potential partners

“Cars are driving too fast through the village

Lode Social Club

The Social Club should be seen as the focus of village entertainments and leisure activities. There would be support for a widening of the facilities and activities available at the club:

The Club has space for larger gatherings, and excellent facilities and experience for popular activities such as coffee mornings, whist and poker sessions, snooker and billiards, darts, and discos. We propose that the Lode Social Club committee work with potential partners to incorporate the 'community pub' idea into the club and to increase use and enjoyment of the Club by all Lode with Longmeadow residents.

Possible actions

a Parish Council to appoint a councillor to liaise with the Club ✓
b Build on existing village cinema club for 'art house' films evenings
c Improve garden space
d Review possibility of opening retail/services outlet
e Open an internet point for training and archive contributions
f Organise and run a village events committee to include e.g. annual pantomime, film club, book club, dances, etc.
g Review extension to a new community pub in association with National Trust or village property owner
h Review opening services on a part time basis such as chiropody, beauty services expand and advertise the range of short courses (e.g. dance, holiday languages) etc.

Potential partners

Lode Social Club
Volunteers
PC
ECDCl

Timescale

Immediate to mid-term

Resourcing

For discussion with potential partners. Social Club funding

Lode with Longmeadow does not need anything that might encourage any further increase in the number of visitors that it already gets

Sport/recreation/pavilion

Half of the people responding had no involvement in any of the activities and organisations which take place in the village, and many respondents would like to see more recreational facilities in the village for teenagers and young adults):

Develop new pavilion to support sports activities and coaching courses for all (cricket, football, tennis), but also as resource for community use, room rent and gallery space.

Create a cycle/bmx and skateboard track for young people

Possible actions

a Use new pavilion as example of sustainable build, with list of 'sponsors' who can be contacted by villagers for advice on their own buildings ✓
b Add barbecue area for village picnickers ✓
c Investigate use of rainwater run off for allotments ✓
d Assess and build bmx and skateboard track ✓
e Build basketball area ✓

Potential partners

Lode Parish Council
Funding partners

Timescale

Summer 2008

Resourcing

Funding from partners

Precept

(60% of those responding would be prepared to pay more (to varying degrees) to enable the parish council to do more and extend its services):

Raise the Parish Council precept by up to £10 per annum to pay for specific action points of the Parish Plan.

Possible actions

Raise precept to pay for Parish Plan projects, where external funding cannot be sourced

Potential partners

PC

Timescale

2009/10

Resourcing

Parish precept

"The bus service to Cambridge is excellent. Nobody in their right mind would use a car for commuting to Cambridge

Lode *with* Longmeadow Parish Plan

Appendices

Parish profile – 2001 Census
Questionnaire results
Analysis of comments

2001 Census Profile

Lode Parish

East Cambridgeshire

SUMMARY STATISTICS	
Resident population	892
Number of households	376
Approximate number of dwellings	387
Area (hectares)	1264
Population density (people per hectare)	0.7
Average household size (people)	2.36

RESIDENT POPULATION BY AGE		
Age	Number	% of Total
0-4	46	5.2%
5-9	49	5.5%
10-14	50	5.6%
15	13	1.5%
16-17	28	3.2%
18-19	14	1.6%
20-24	42	4.7%
25-44	239	26.9%
45-59	212	23.9%
60-64	55	6.2%
65-74	85	9.6%
75-84	41	4.6%
85+	14	1.6%
Total	**888**	**100%**

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS		Number	% of Total
PLACE OF RESIDENCE	Population living in households	892	100.0%
	Population living in communal establishments	0	0.0%
ETHNIC GROUP	White	873	98.1%
	Asian/Asian British	0	0.0%
	Black/Black British	0	0.0%
	Mixed	6	0.7%
	Other	11	1.2%
RELIGION	Christian	658	73.8%
	Other religion	9	1.0%
	No religion/religion not stated	225	25.2%
STUDENTS	Number of resident full time students and school children aged 16-17	27	
	Number of resident full time students and school children aged 18-74	7	
HEALTH	All persons with a limiting long term illness	138	15.5%
	All persons declaring not good general health	77	8.6%
CARERS	Total number of people providing unpaid care	99	11.1%

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS		Number	% of Total
HOUSEHOLD TYPE	**One person households**	**89**	**23.7%**
	Non-pensioner	48	12.8%
	Pensioner	41	10.9%
	One family and no others	**272**	**72.3%**
	Married/cohabiting couple households - no children	88	23.4%
	Married/cohabiting couple households - with dependent children	87	23.1%
	Married/cohabiting couple households - all children non-dependent	22	5.9%
	Lone parent households - with dependent children	12	3.2%
	Lone parent households - all children non-dependent	16	4.3%
	All pensioners	47	12.5%
	Other households	**15**	**4.0%**
	With dependent children	3	0.8%
	All student	0	0.0%
	All pensioner	0	0.0%
	Other	12	3.2%
	Total households	**376**	**100%**
HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS	Households with no-one in employment (% of all households)	108	28.7%
	Number of households with no adults in employment with dependent children (% of all households with dependent children)	3	2.9%
	Number of lone parent households with dependent children (% of all households with dependent children)	12	11.7%

Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group

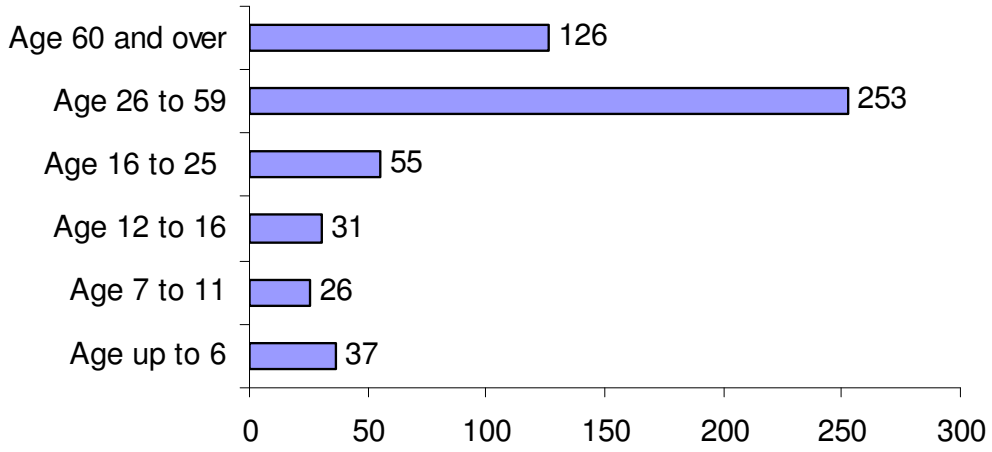
PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

count me in Census2001

Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

Question 1. Household

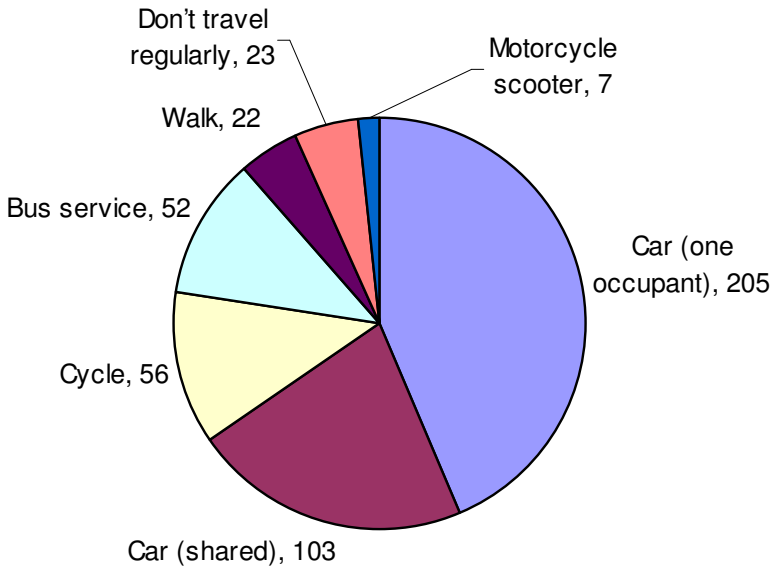
528 people completed a questionnaire (62% of population over 5 years old), age ranges as follows



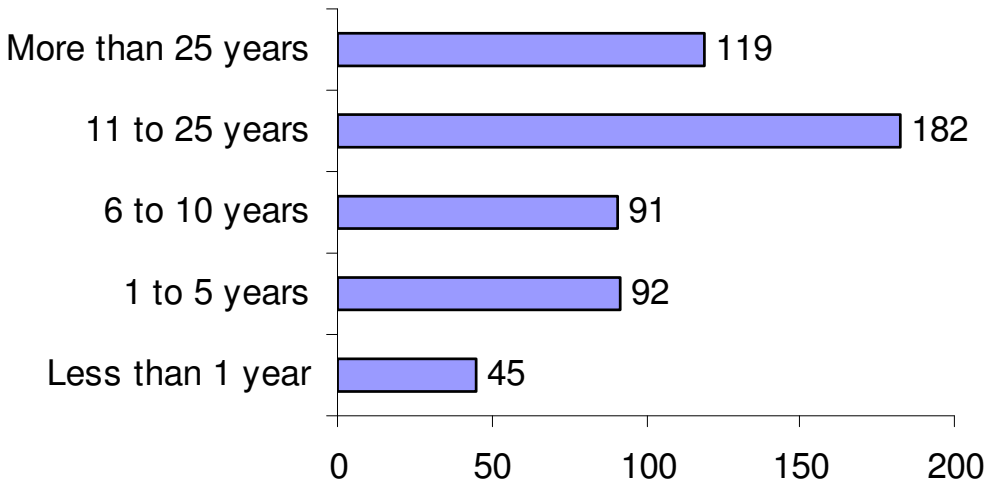
Of those working, 14% work at home

Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

The majority of people travel to work by car on their own

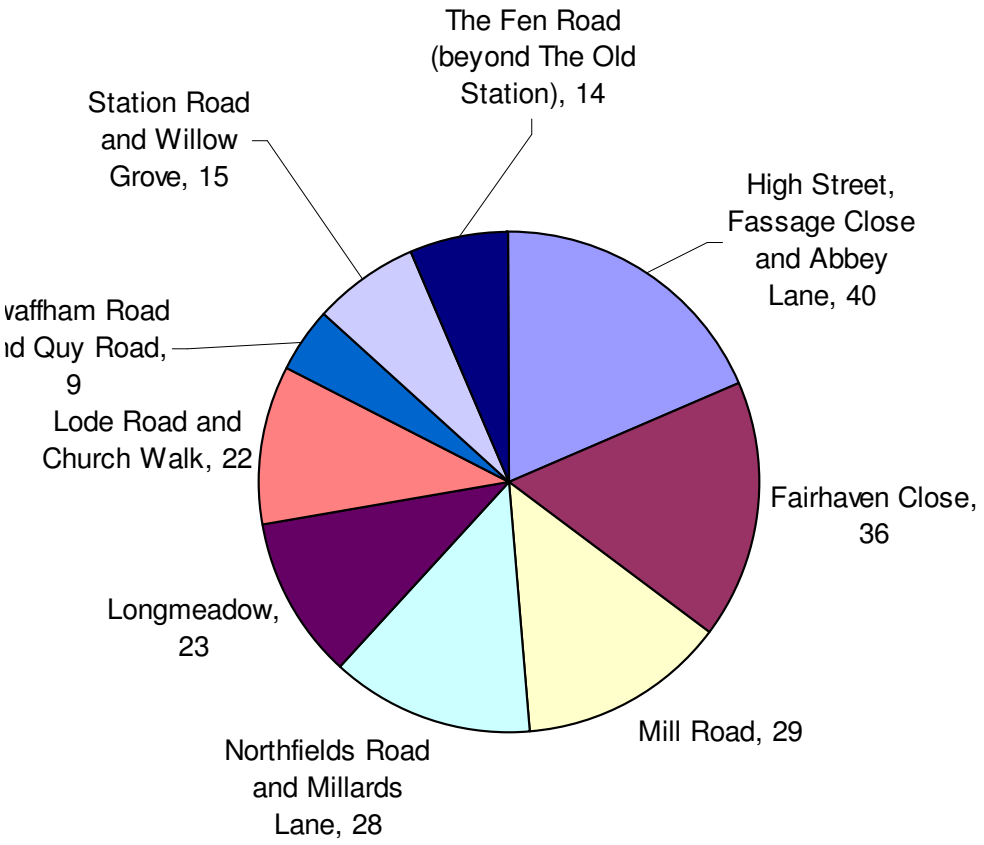


Most people have lived in the village between 11 and 25 years



Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

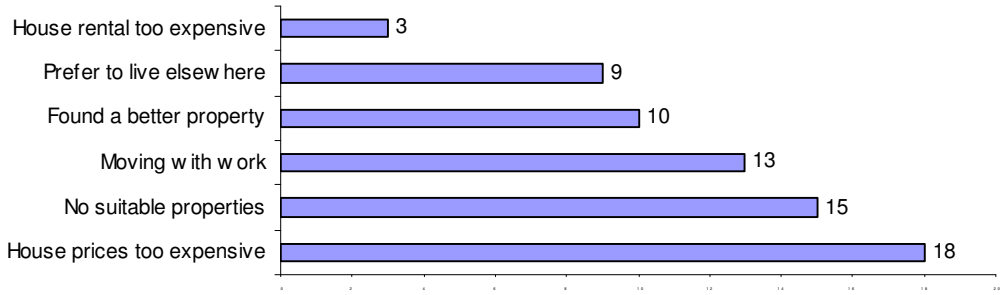
Questionnaire responses were distributed as follows:



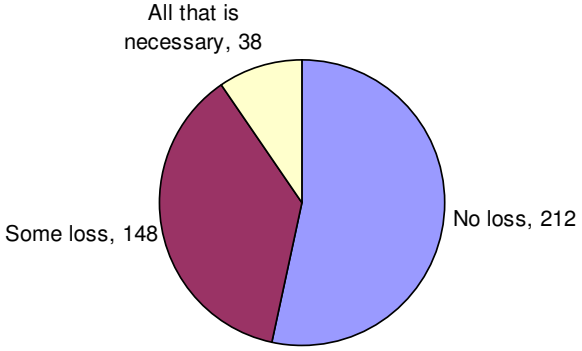
Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

Question 2. Housing and Business Development

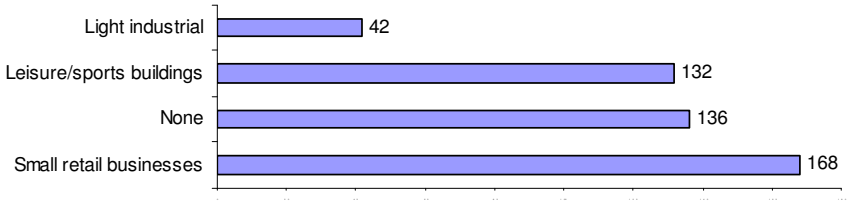
Those intending to leave the village soon mostly say they find house prices too expensive



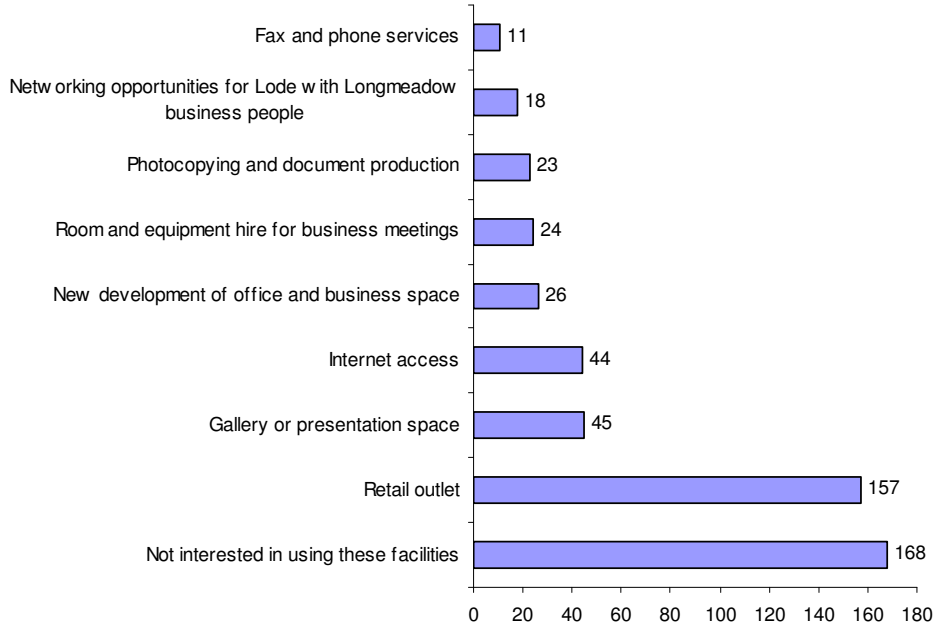
Most people would prefer no loss of green space to make way for housing



People would prefer no business development, or support for a retail outlet

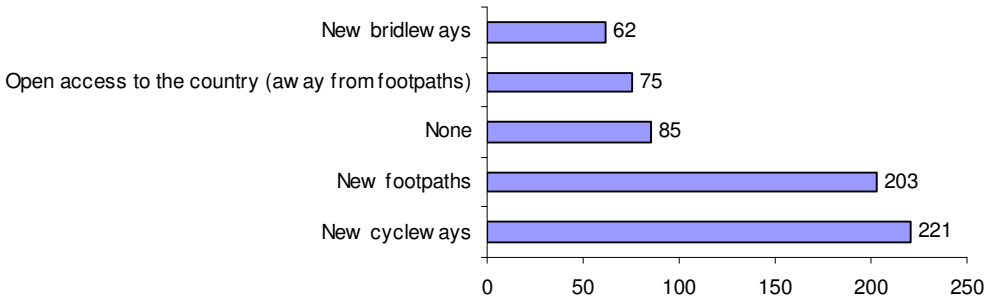


Again, there is support for a retail outlet, and some support for public internet access and gallery space

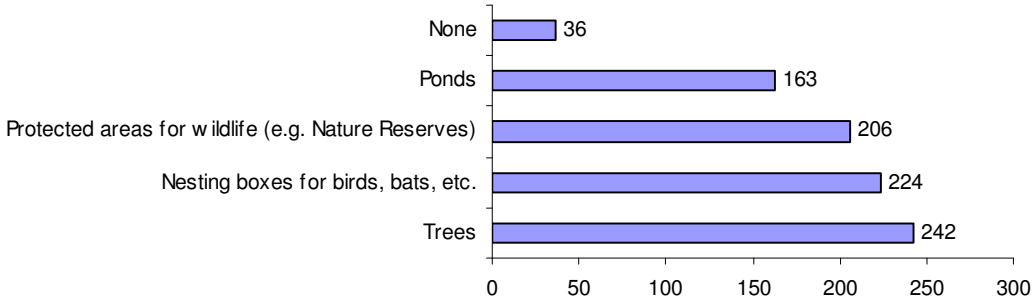


Question 3. The Environment

There is particularly strong support for the creation of new cycleways

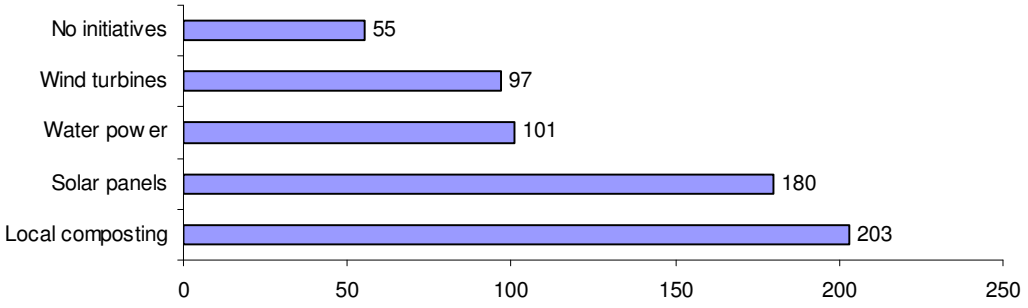


and for tree planting, along with other wildlife projects

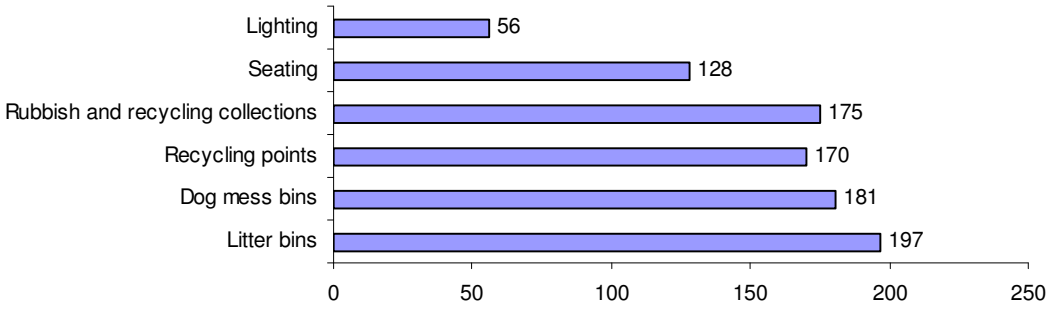


Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

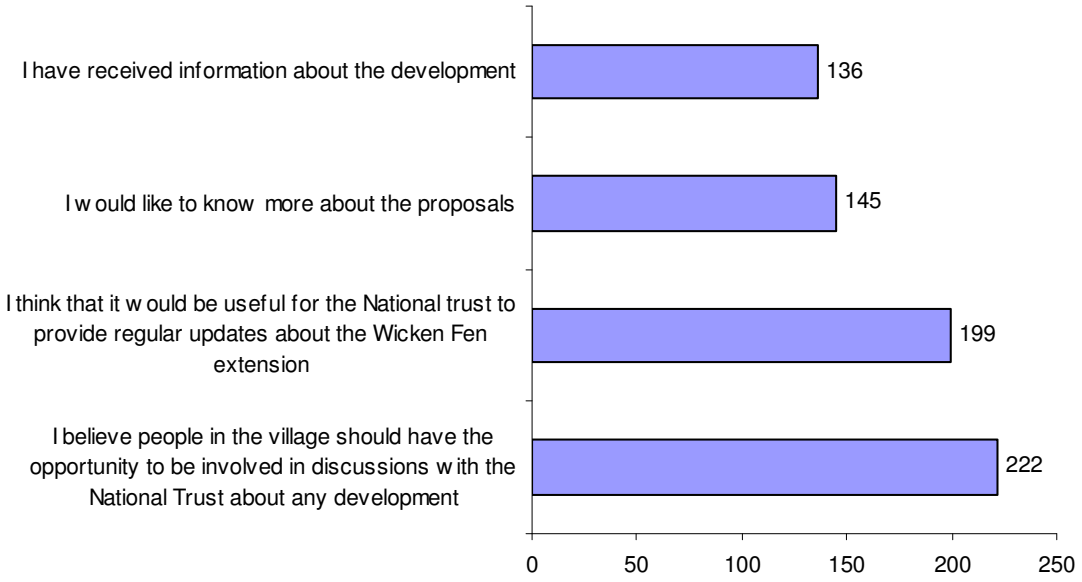
Composting and solar panels were favoured as methods of saving energy



and recycling and litter (including dog mess) were seen as problem issues

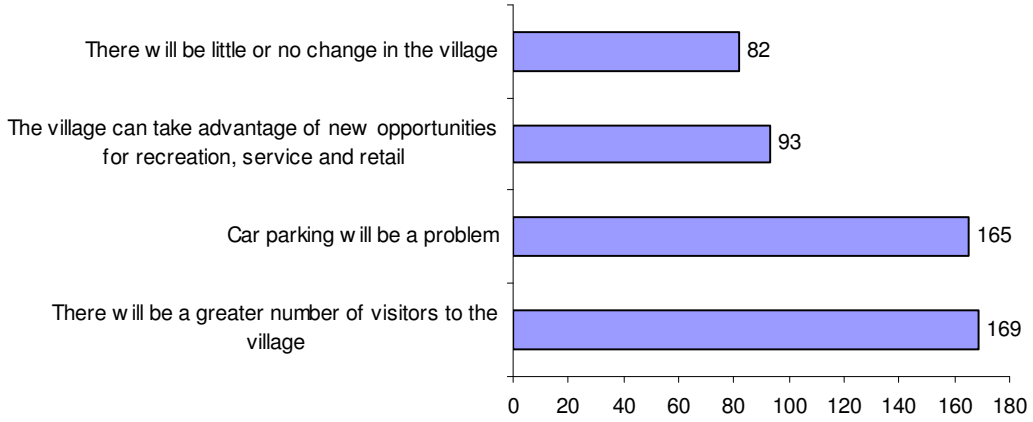


Many people felt that they didn't know enough about the National Trust vision for the fen and would like a more formal link with the Trust



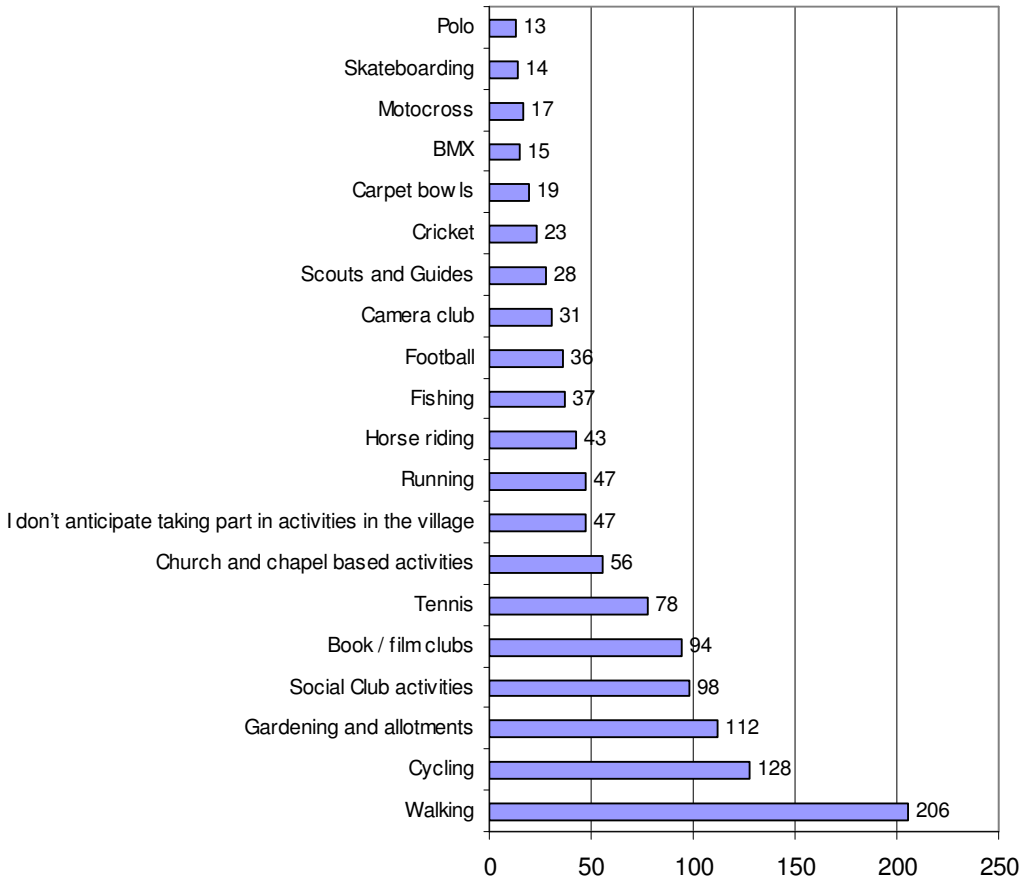
Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

Most people felt that there will be a rise in the number of visitors to the village over the next few years and that this will lead to parking problems



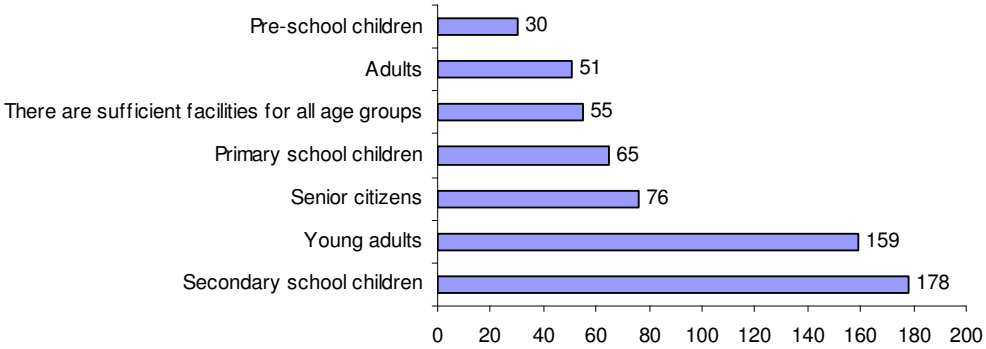
Question 4. Leisure and Recreation

Walking is by far the most popular pursuit

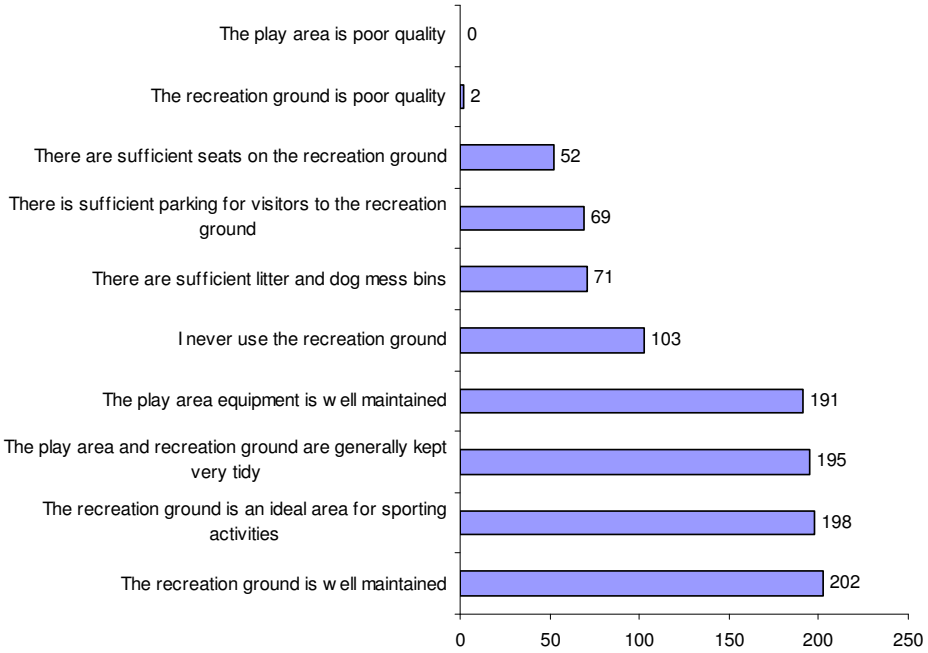


Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

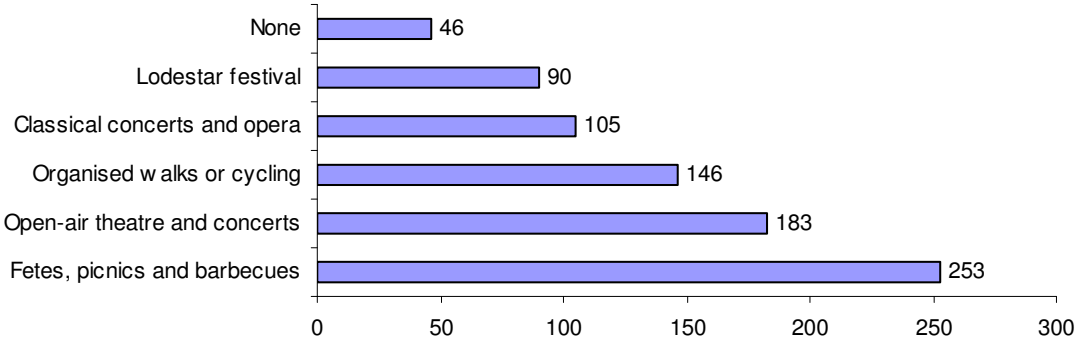
11 -18 year olds and young adults are judged to need better facilities



The recreation ground is popular, but needs more parking space and landscaping

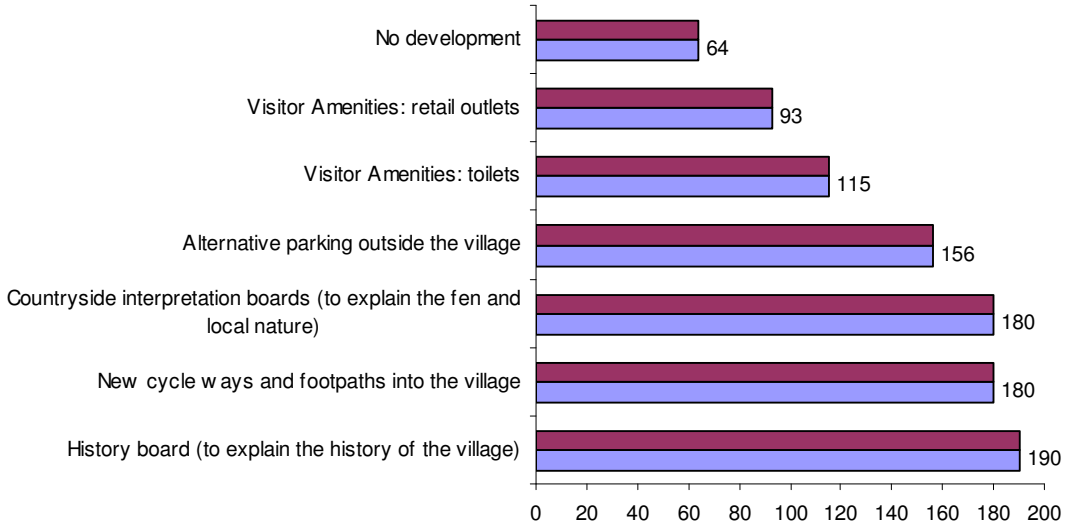


Local community events would be well supported



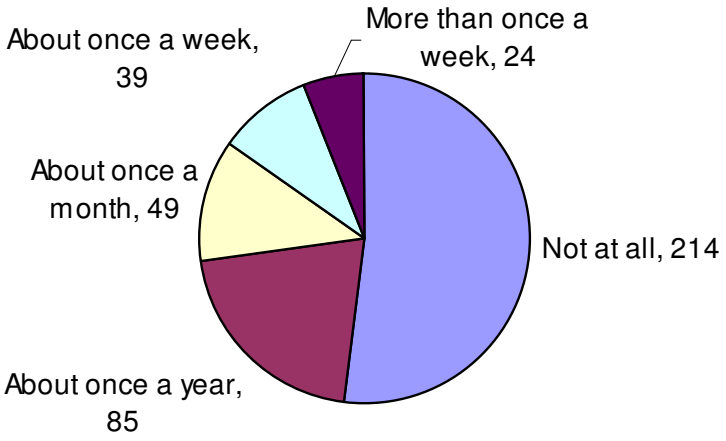
Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

Most people would like to see better facilities for village visitors, including alternative parking arrangements



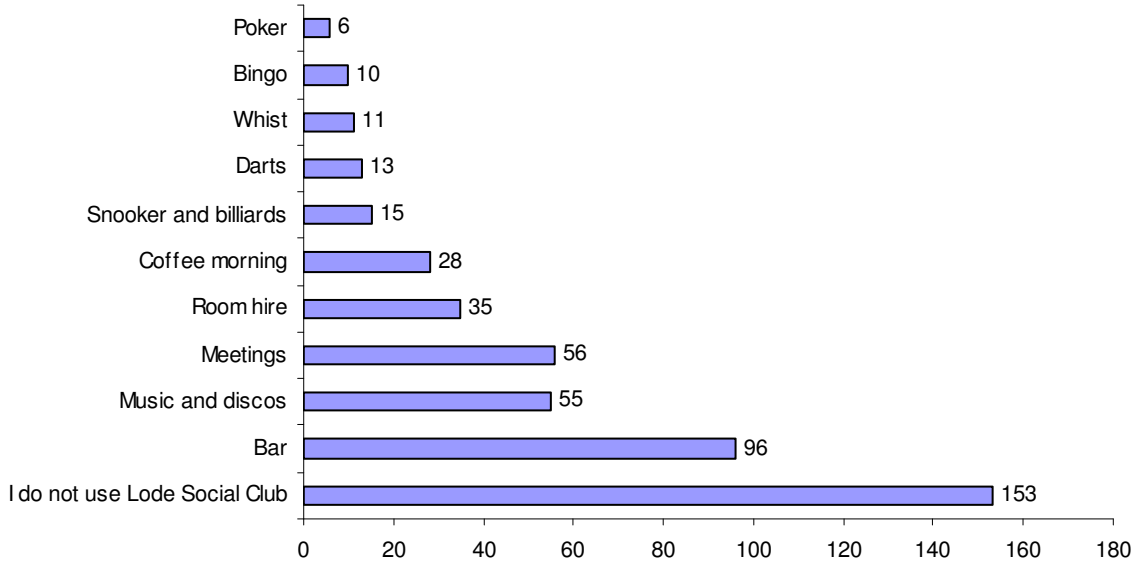
Question 5. Lode Social Club

A majority of respondents never use the Club

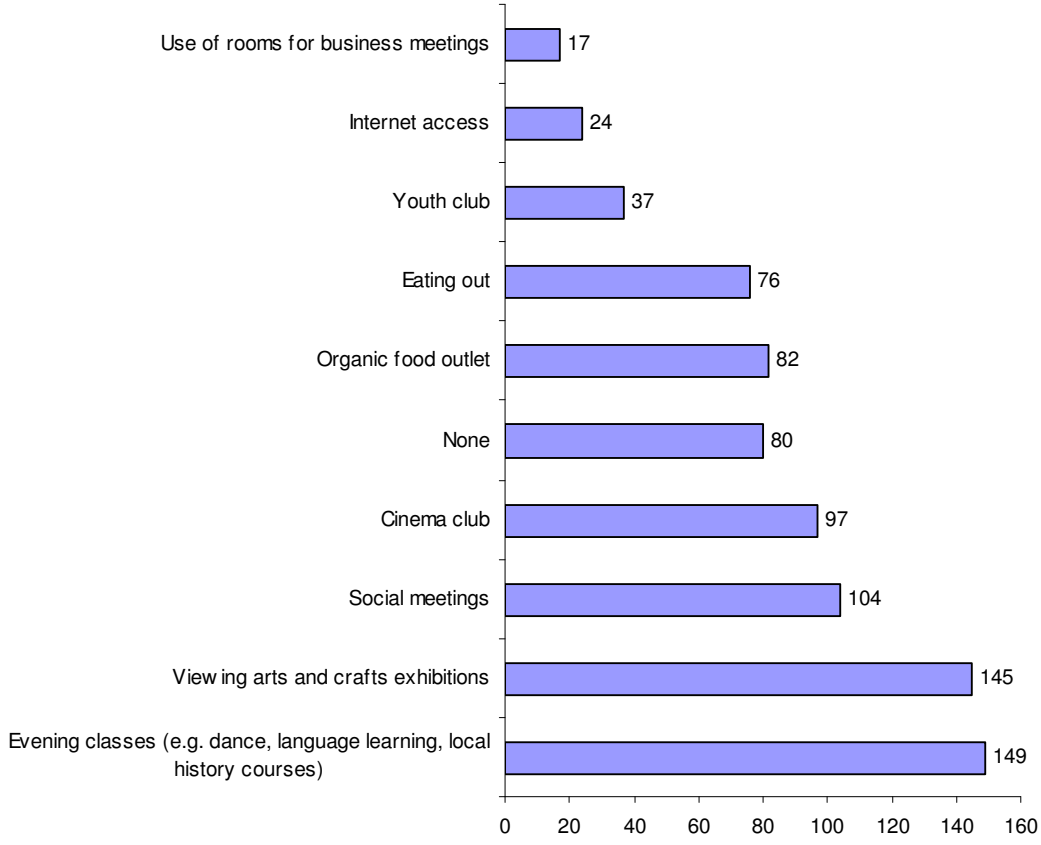


Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

Of those that do use the Club, most use it for the bar



There would be support for evening classes and arts and crafts exhibitions at the Club



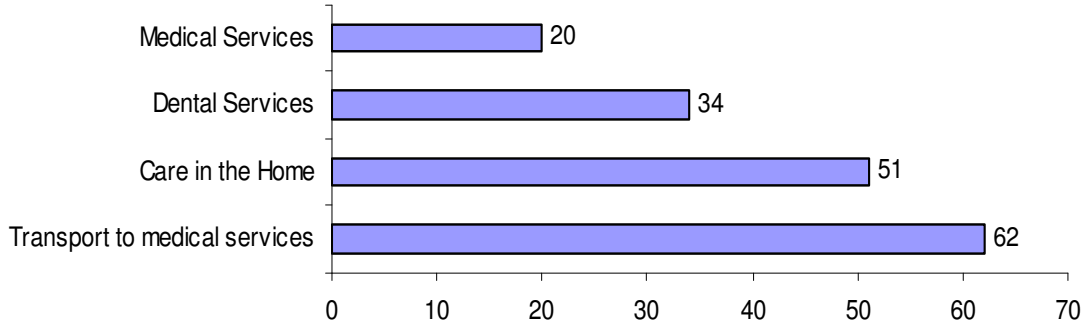
Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

People would like to see more garden space at the Club

Question 6. Village Services

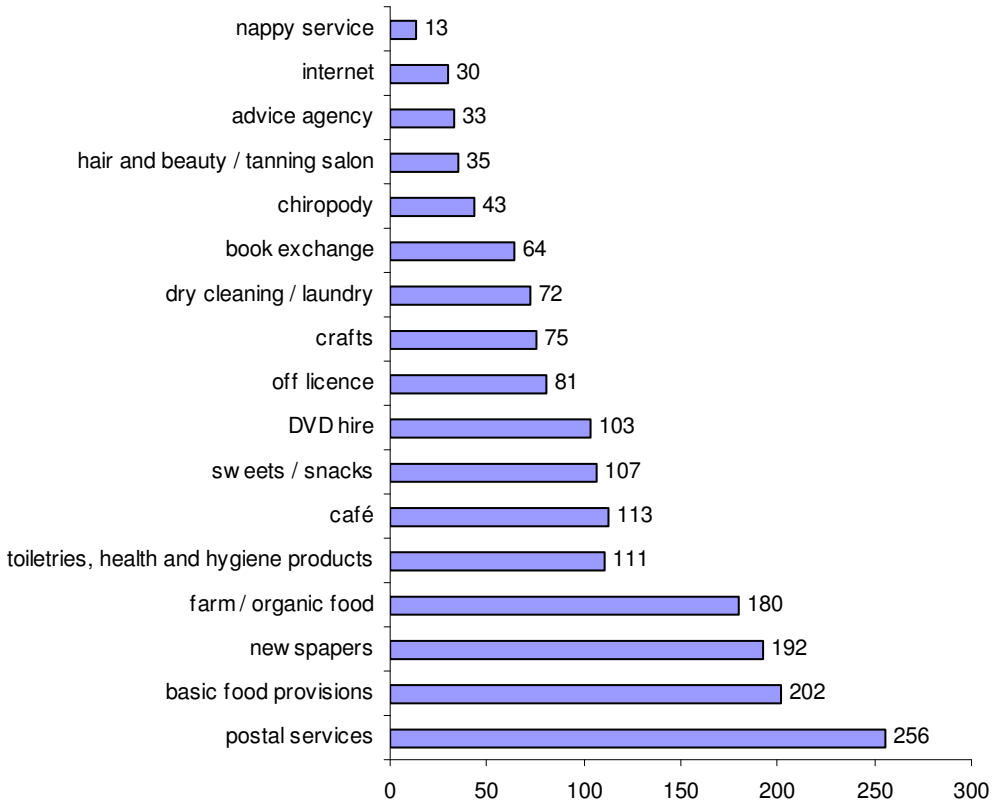
I read the Lode Star parish magazine regularly	360	35.57%
I value the Lode Star parish magazine	312	30.83%
I would take advantage of suitable day or evening educational classes if they were available in the village (please specify types of classes that interest you):	104	10.28%
I read the information on the parish notice boards regularly	94	9.29%
I would like to meet regularly with other residents of the village to discuss and keep up to date with local news and information	42	4.15%
I would use an independent advice centre if it were provided in the village	35	3.46%
I use the mobile library service	34	3.36%
I would use the mobile library and information service if it visited for longer periods more frequently	31	3.06%

There is some indication of a need for transport services to the doctor



Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

People would like basic retails services in the village



Would you like to see an increase in the range of recycled material collected?	290	42.84%
Do you suffer from “nuisance” (short duration) electric power failures?	187	27.62%
Would you appreciate the restoration of the village water pumps to full working order as a useful resource and to restore some character and charm to the parish?	158	23.34%
If you are not already connected to mains gas would you like to be?	27	3.99%
Do you make use of the public telephone box?	9	1.33%
Do you currently get any of your power from wind or solar generation devices installed at your residence?	6	0.89%

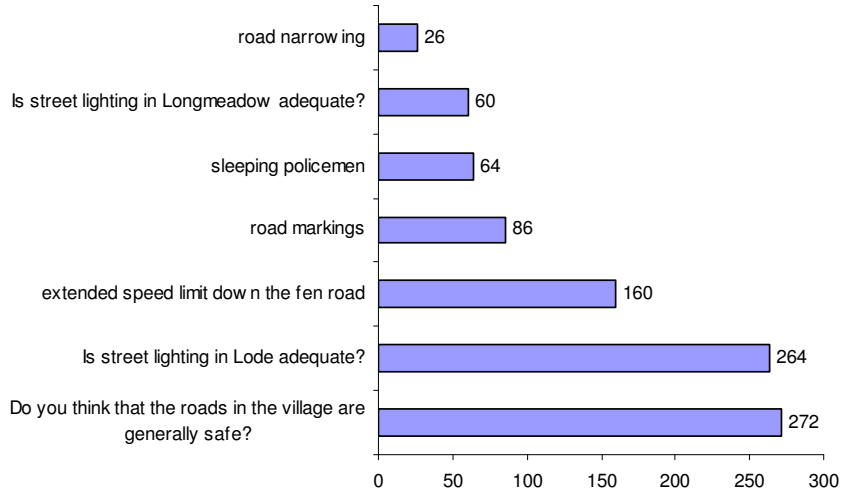
Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

The village is generally thought to be clean, but there are problems with car parking

The pavements are generally kept clean from litter and dog mess	244	34.03%
Pavement surfaces are acceptable (no potholes or uneven surfaces)	165	23.01%
Hedges are kept clear of pavements	155	21.62%
Access for pushchairs, electric mobility chairs and wheelchairs is acceptable (lack of obstruction, availability of dropped kerbs)	92	12.83%
Car parking on the pavements is acceptable	61	8.51%

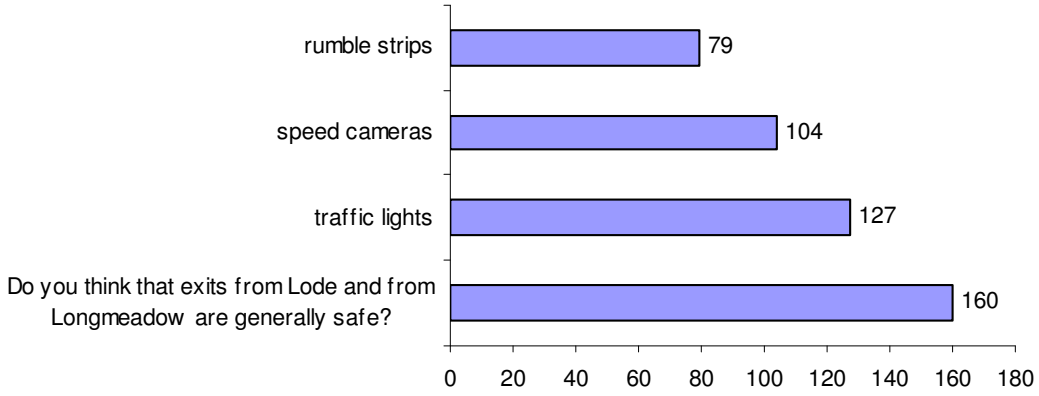
Question 7. Roads, Pavements and Traffic

The majority thought that the village roads are safe and that lighting is adequate



Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

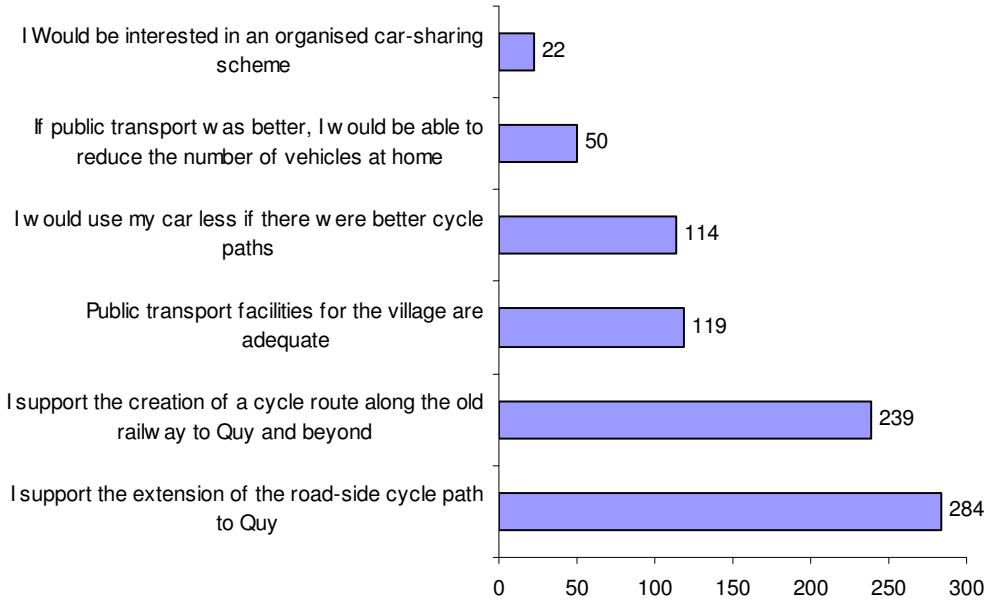
Fewer thought the main road safe and there was support for a variety of solutions



Parking in the village is a problem, and the solution might be to provide more spaces at the main venues for meetings

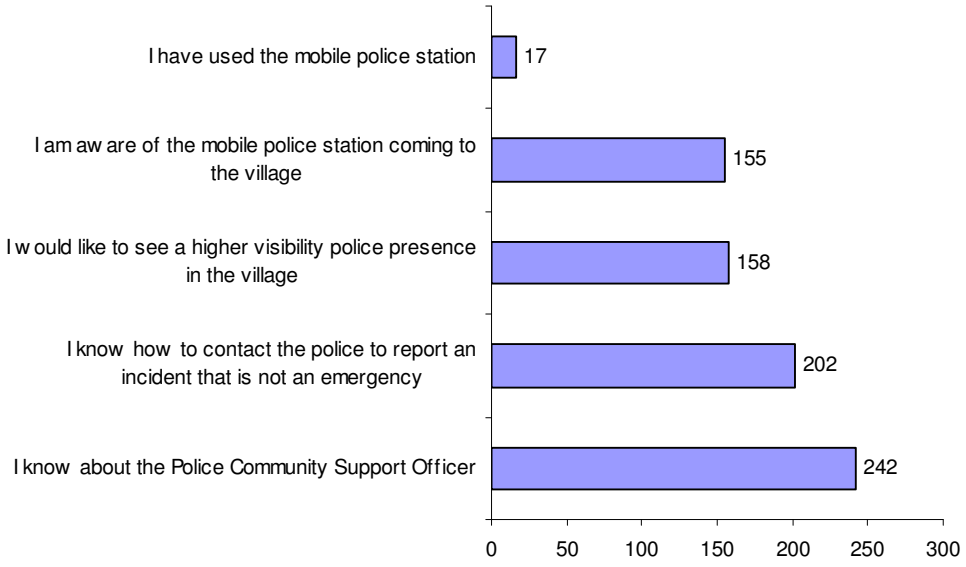
Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

A large number of villagers want a cycleway to Quy



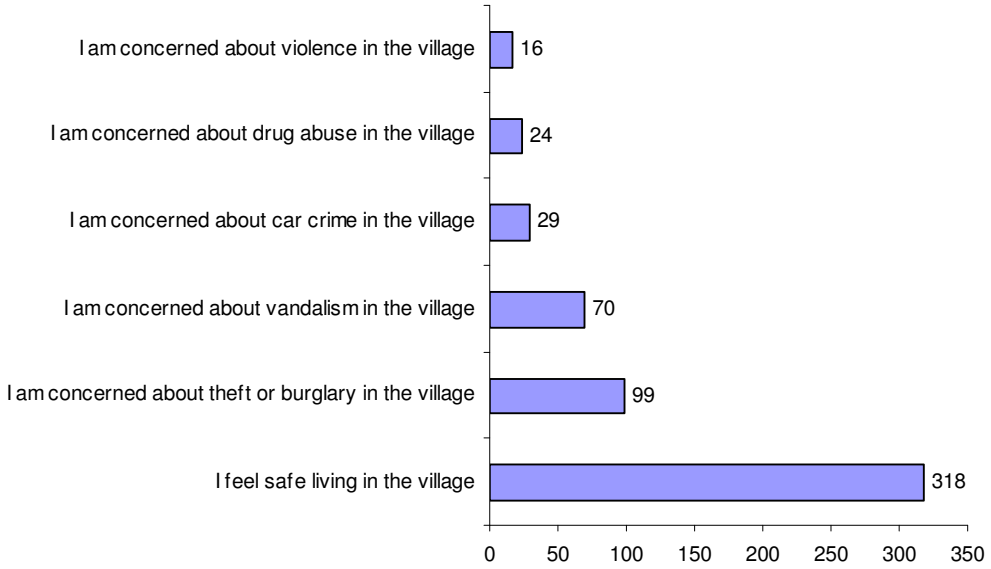
Question 8. Police and Crime

Most people say they know about the Police Community Support Officer

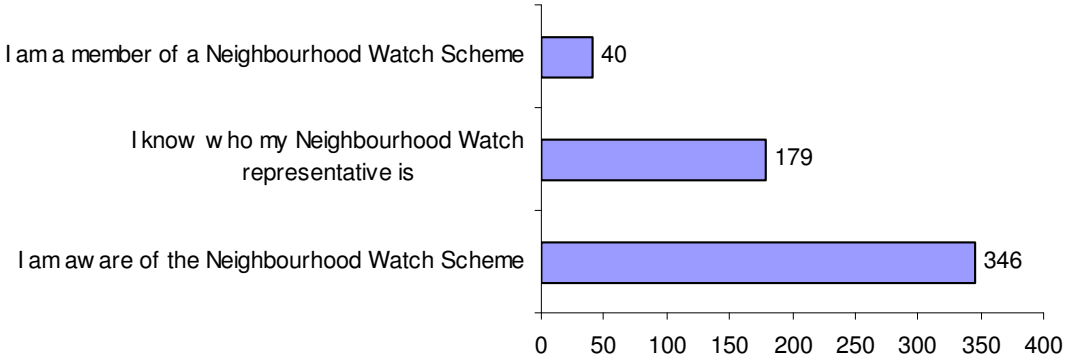


Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

and feel safe in the village

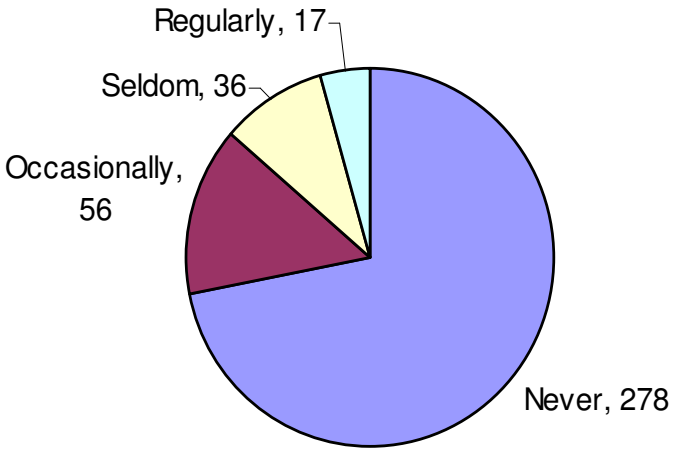


There also appears to be a good knowledge of Neighbourhood Watch

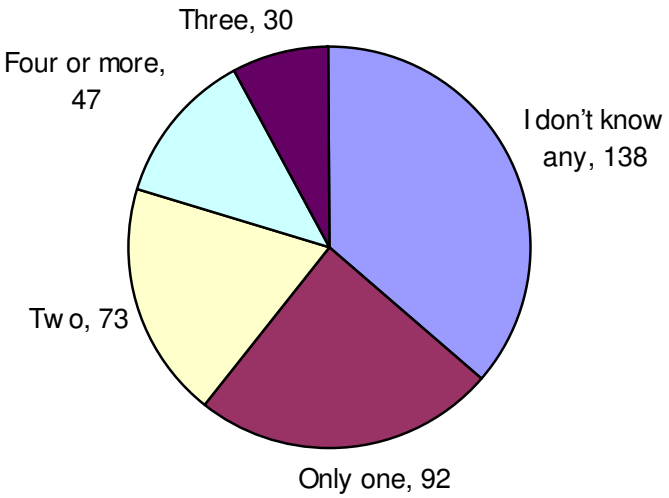


Question 9. Parish Council

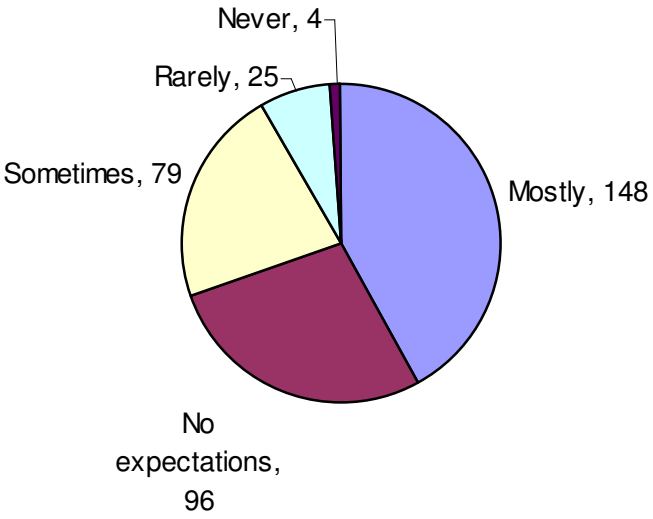
Few people attend a Parish Council meeting



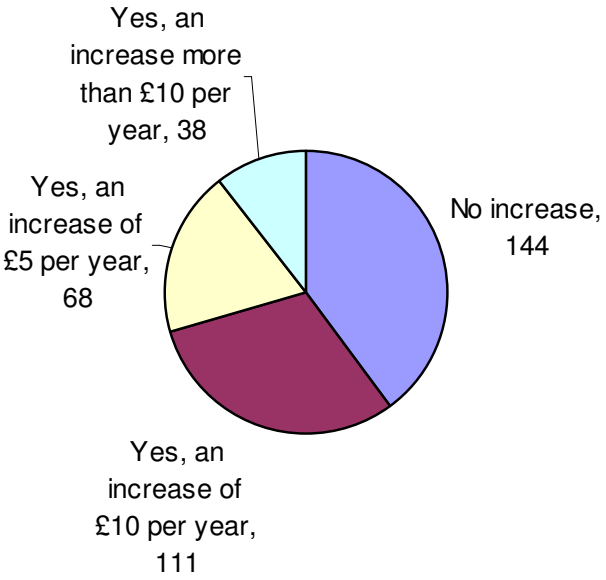
or know more than one or two Councillors



but say that it meets their expectations or that they have no expectations of the Parish Council



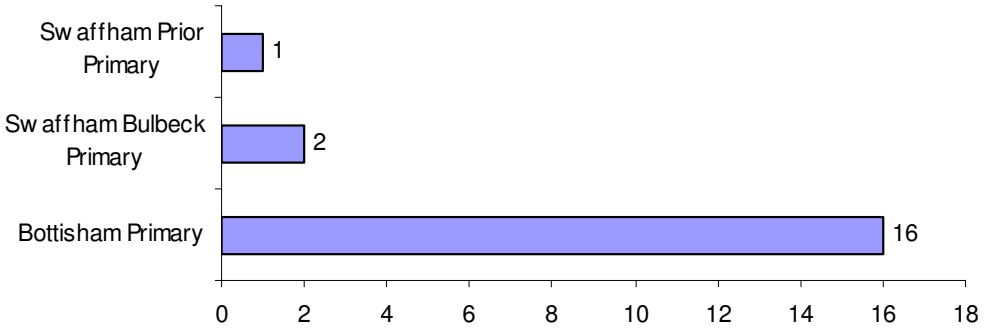
Although a number of people would not like to pay a bigger precept to Lode Parish Council, a large number would be happy to do so



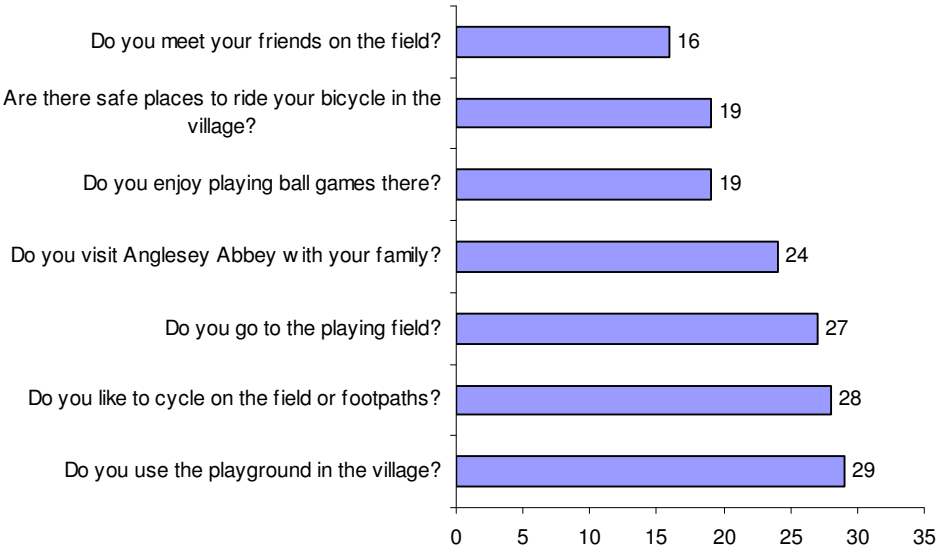
Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

Question 10. Children's views

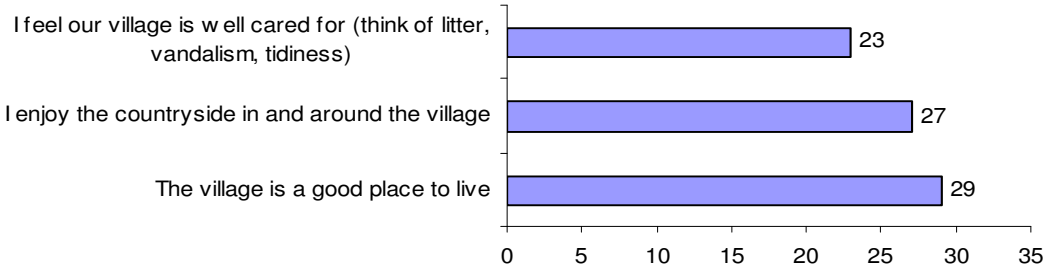
Most primary age school children attend Bottisham Primary School



Young children are involved in a range of village activities

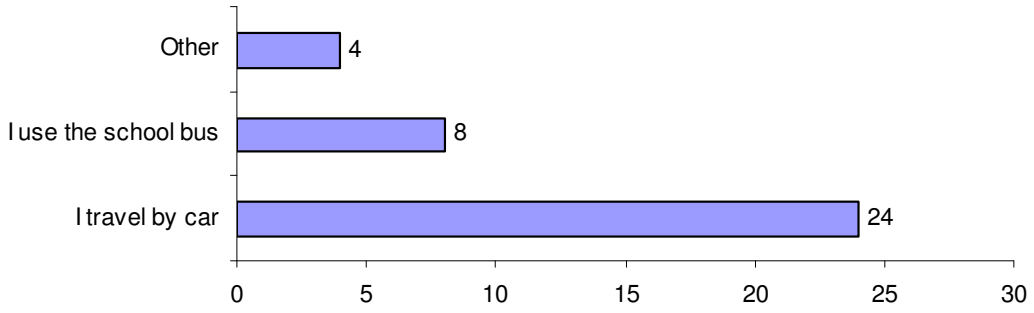


and think that the village is a good place to live



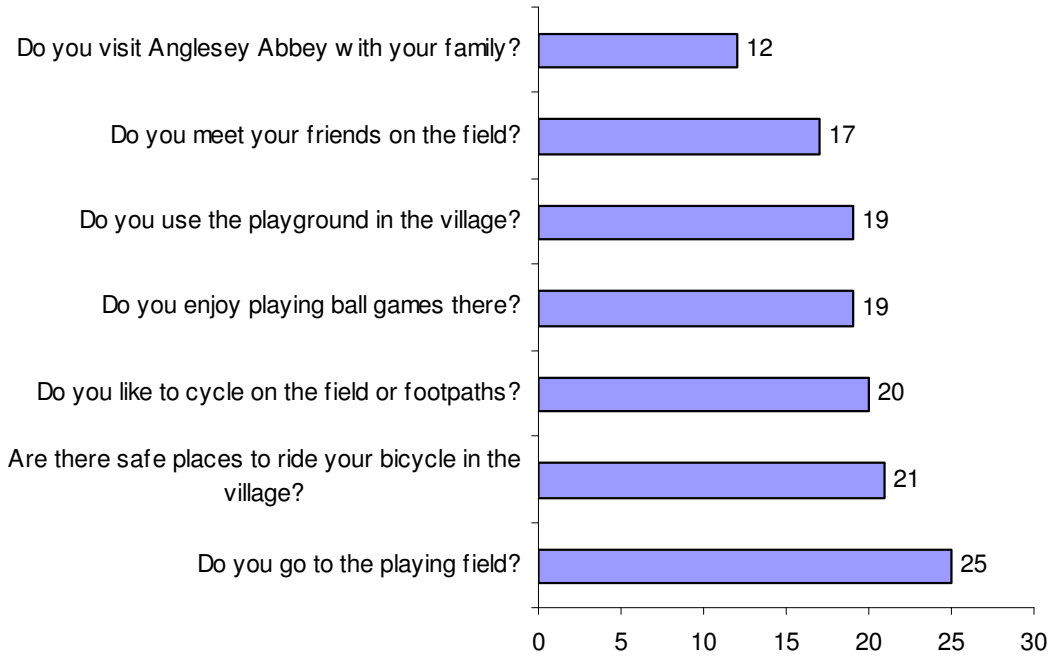
Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

Generally younger children travel to school by car



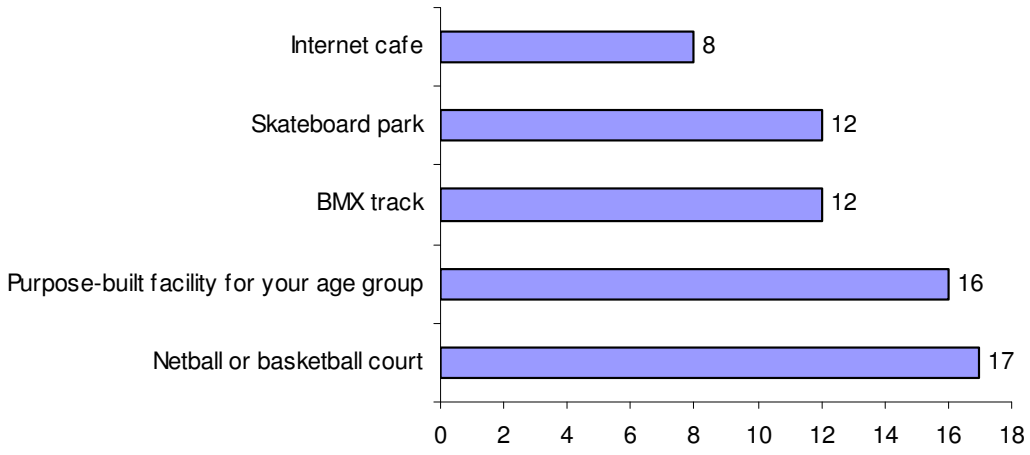
Question 11. Young People's views

All the young people respondents attend Bottisham Village College and are involved in a range of activities in the village

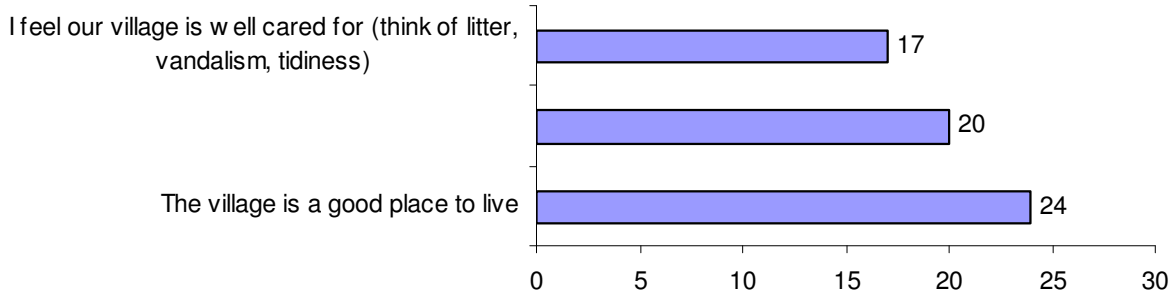


Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan questionnaire results

There would be some demand for a netball/basketball pitch



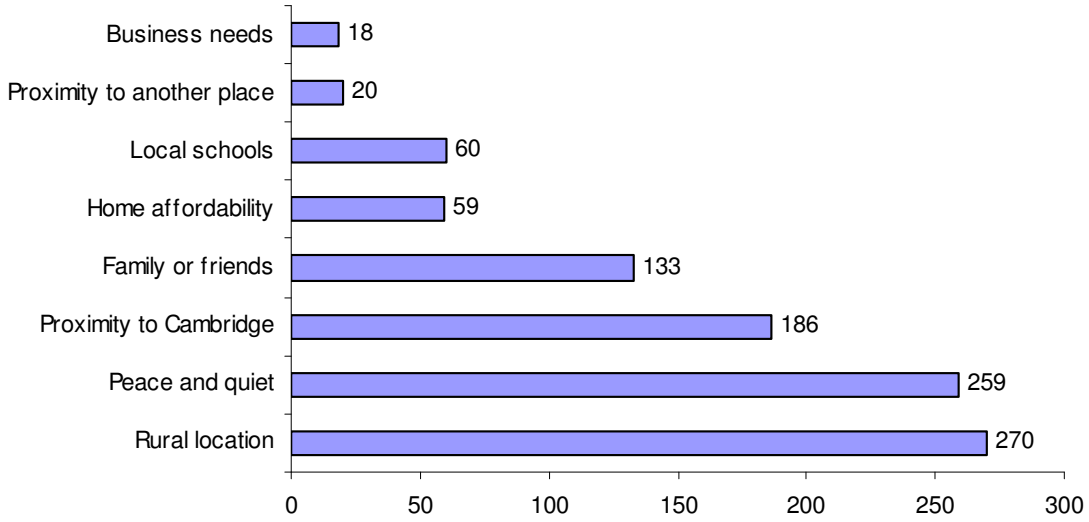
Young people say that the village is a good place to live



and that they feel safe. Most cycle to school and say that more cycle ways would be good.

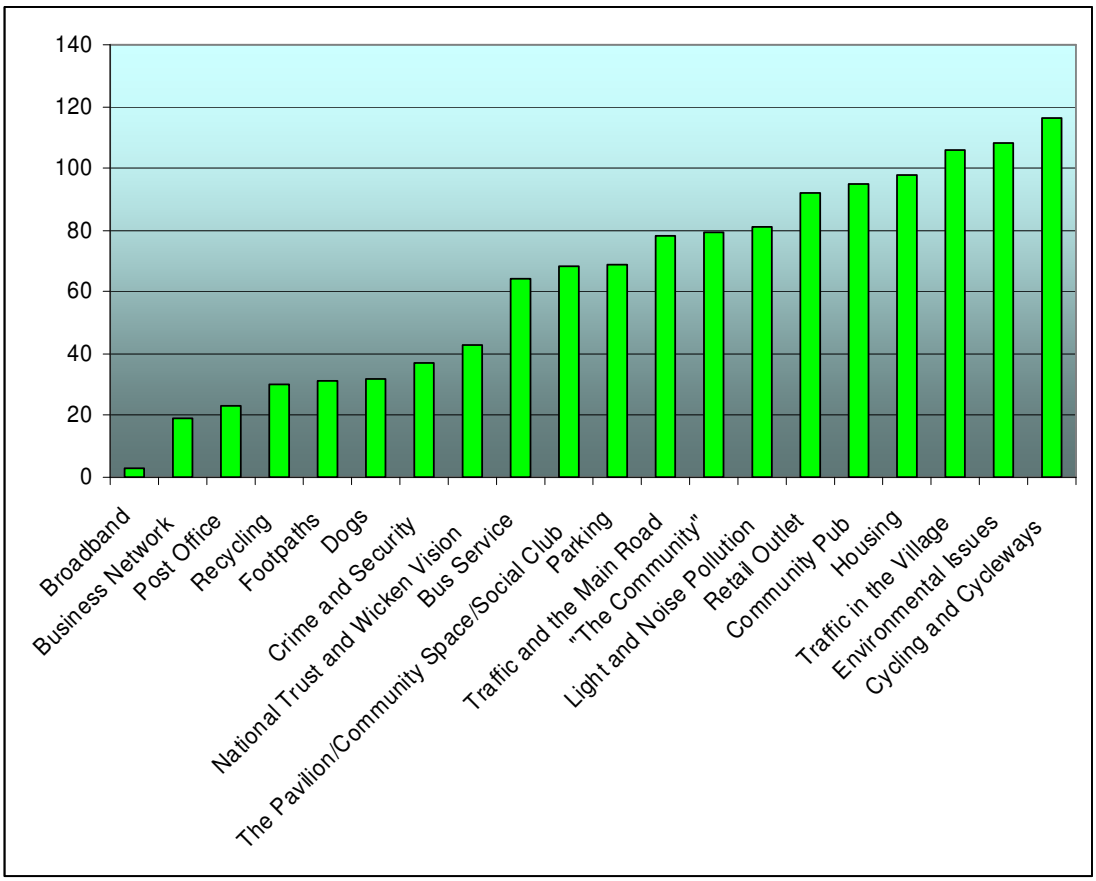
Question 12. The Future

The reasons for most people living in Lode with Longmeadow are its proximity to Cambridge, rural location and peace and quiet.

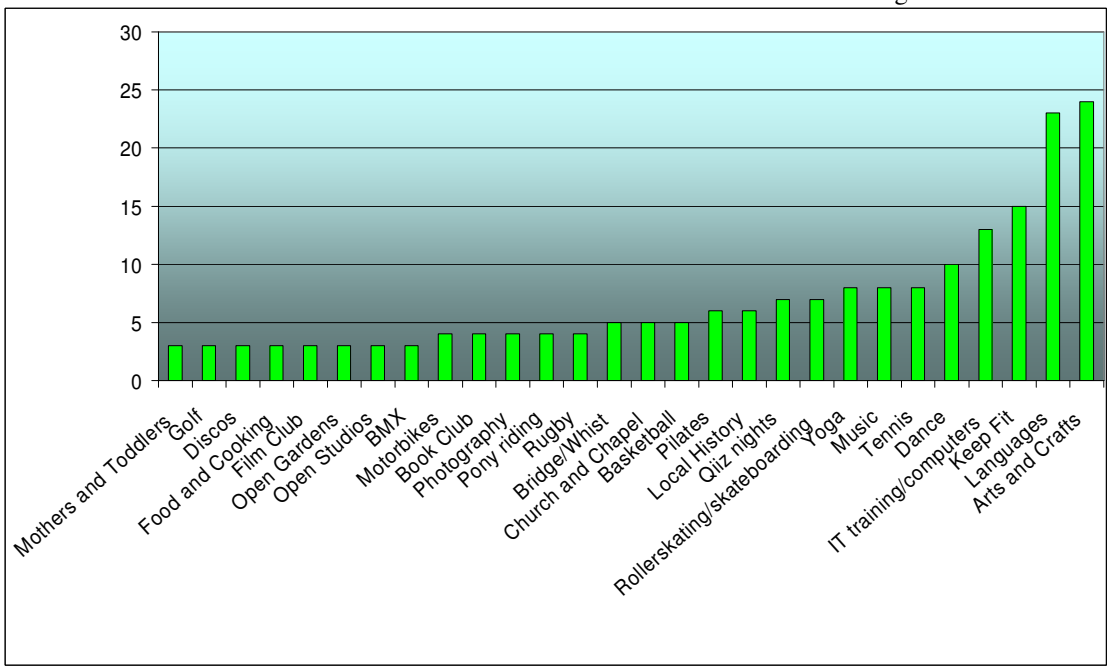


Lode with Longmeadow Parish Plan – Analysis of comments

The most frequent questionnaire comments are listed here in a range from the least mentioned (fewer than 10 comments) to most mentioned (nearly 120 comments). Other subjects were commented on in ones and twos and are not recorded, and I suggest that the list given below in the chart is used as the focus of the Plan.

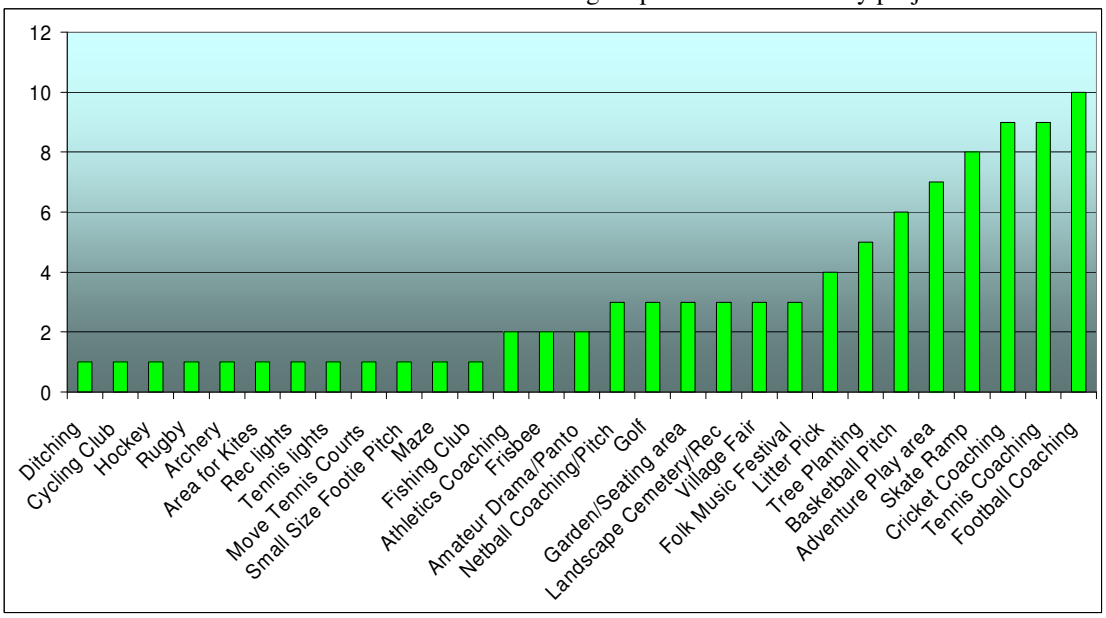


Comments received on recreation and leisure activities focused around the following:



In the main the above comments represent the current activities or wishes of the respondents for recreational and leisure opportunities within the village. Activities generating fewer than 3 responses have been ignored, although there are interesting ideas such as a scarecrow competition and an annual sports day.

The next chart shows the number of comments focusing on particular community projects:



These are suggestions of the needs of the Lode with Longmeadow community, and may be base for developing community run projects with volunteers