

Mudford Parish Community Survey

FULL REPORT

16th September 2026



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1. Executive Summary



1.1 Background & Methodology

Executive Summary

About the survey

- Commissioned by Mudford Parish Council to understand residents' priorities and views, to inform the Community Plan.
- A Community Assembly was facilitated in March 2026 to consult Mudford Parish residents and co-design survey content.
- Developed and delivered by CLOUT LTD, independent research specialists, and fieldwork undertaken June–July 2026.
- The project was funded by a grant from SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils), and a small grant from Viridor.
- Every household received two paper copies, with a QR code and a URL, giving the option to complete online or on paper.

Participation

- 127 completed surveys from 340 households — 80 on paper, 47 online. Very high-quality engagement observed.
- 69 questions across 18 topic areas, with open-ended feedback on all major topics.
- The Parish Council and survey team appreciate and thank the time taken by residents, and project helpers.

Who responded

- 58% female / 42% male | 51% aged 65+ | 42% 20+ years residence | 27% households with children under 18
- Women are over-represented by 8%, compared to ONS data for Mudford Parish
- Older residents (65+) are over-represented (51% vs 36% of parish population); working-age residents under-represented by approx.15%.
- Findings on topics disproportionately affecting younger households should be interpreted with this in mind.

1.2 Overall Picture

Executive Summary

- Mudford is a content, community-spirited place with a strong sense of identity and a clear set of priorities, consistent across demographics, with a few highlighted exceptions.

The survey provides an evidence-based foundation for the Community Plan.

- Where statutory agencies are failing, e.g. pollution, flooding, traffic, policing, the PC's role is advocacy, lobbying and supporting community resilience.
 - Where the community has direct agency e.g. environment, climate adaptation, village hall, playing field facilities, communications, there are clear opportunities for community-led delivery within the lifetime of the plan.
 - Equity and inclusion dimensions to carry through the plan: mobility and accessibility needs of older and disabled residents; under-representation of and consultation with younger residents; distinct needs of West Mudford and Hinton.
-

Quality of life

- 80% rate Mudford positively as a place to live. Peace, quiet, rural character and community spirit are most valued.
- 87% say residents look out for one another. Volunteers, particularly the flood group, are explicitly valued.
- 20% are not content: traffic on the A359, persistent flood risk, large-scale development and Somerset Council's indifference to Mudford's identity are likely contributing factors.

1.3 Key Findings (1)

Executive Summary

What matters most to parishioners

- Four topics stand out as the community's top concerns; pollution, housing development, traffic and flooding, all rated as very important (matters a lot to me) by more than 70% of residents.
- A further four topics form a second tier of priority: walking access (65%), policing & community safety (60%), environment & conservation (53%) and climate adaptation (44%).
- Public transport has a varied perception: 32% rate as important overall, however this rises to 44% for residents aged 65+, compared to 20% of people <65 yrs. This is the largest age differential in the survey, reflecting real differences in transport dependency across life stage (retirement age and working age).

Importance vs Performance

- Flooding & river management, and Traffic & road safety sit firmly in the Priority for Action quadrant; high importance to residents, low performance from agencies and statutory bodies.
- Whilst 91% of residents feel safe in the parish, 63% say local policing is not meeting the needs of the community. The parish's own informal safety networks (Neighbourhood Watch, Speed Watch, Farm Watch) are filling a statutory gap.
- Although lower in importance strong positive performance ratings for Cemetery (100%), Village Hall (92%) and Playing field (89%), indicate where the Parish Council is directly or indirectly delivering for the community.

1.4 Key Findings (2)

Executive Summary

Community agency — what can we actually do?

- Pollution, Housing and Policing are top priorities, but have limited direct PC agency, as other statutory bodies have control. However, advocacy and lobbying, and building community resilience are primary levers to pull.
- Traffic & road safety and Flooding both sit in the Medium-High agency band (and top priority). The community is already acting effectively through 3VFG, FOMAG and Speed Watch, and has real political leverage with lobbying.
- Environment & conservation, Climate adaptation, Village Hall, Playing field, and Communication, all sit in the high-agency zone i.e. areas where the PC can lead, deliver and demonstrate visible results within 1–3 years.

Additional priority findings

- Water pollution/Sewage is rated by 67% as a serious problem; Wessex Water discharge is the dominant concern.
- Regarding access, Hinton footbridge reinstatement is the clearest infrastructure ask. And pavement parking is a direct and serious access barrier for wheelchair and mobility scooter users, and parents with pushchairs.
- Whilst 96% say climate emergency planning is important, 51% are unaware the Village Hall is a designated emergency safe-haven. This is directly addressable, and should be actioned quickly (given observed increasing climate risks).

Aspirational volunteer-led community services

- Community shop had highest interest (70%). Former commercial shop may be re-opening, post office is a priority gap.
- Community transport has interest from 46%, rising to 54% among 65+; medical appointments are the critical unmet need.
- Children's activities seen as important for 83%; seasonal and nature-based events are the most viable model.
- Young people's spaces (rated 81% important), with social space and sports top of the list. Must be youth-led, not imposed.

2. Who took part



2. How many participated

146 residents started the survey

127 completed: 80 on paper : 47 online

As with most community consultations, older residents were more likely to respond. The **views of younger and working-age residents are proportionally under-represented (compared to ONS 2024 data)**, 15% less than population.

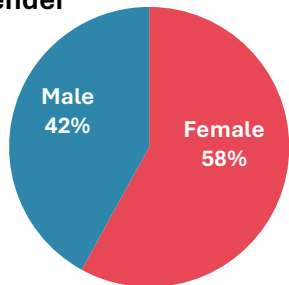
This should be borne in mind when interpreting findings relating to topics that disproportionately affect younger households.

Women are over-represented in the survey by 8%, men $\therefore$ under-represented by 8%.

2. About Our Respondents

Demographics of residents who completed the survey

Gender



*Census =
50% F / 50% M

Age



● <45 yrs ● 45-54 ● 55-64 ● 65-74 ● 75+

49% Working age
(16-64 yrs)

51% Retirement age
(65+ yrs)

Under represented
*Census = 64%

Over represented
*Census = 36%

Length of residence

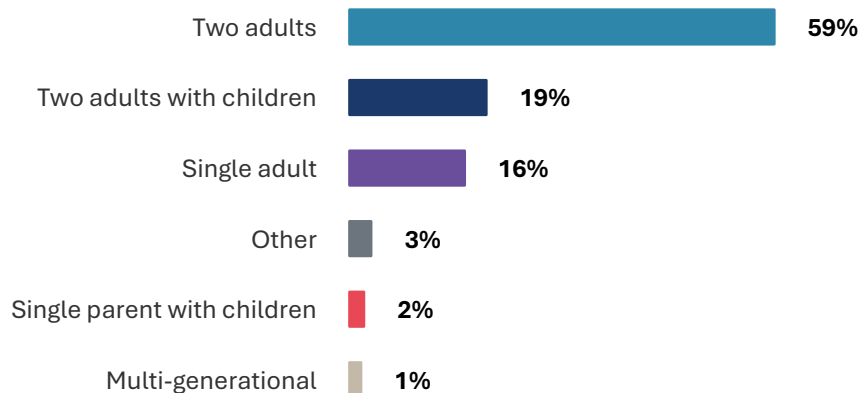


● <2 yrs ● 2-5 ● 6-10 ● 11-20 ● 21-30 ● 30+

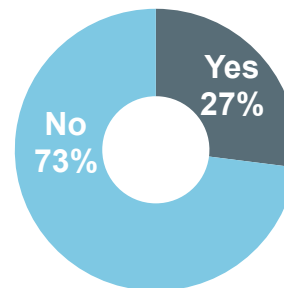
58% Up to 20 yrs

42% More than 20 yrs

Household composition



Children 18 or under in household?



* ONS 2024 Data for Mudford Parish,
mid-term Census data

3. Quality of life in our Parish



3A. Quality of Life in Mudford Parish – The Joys

Mudford as a place to live

Q68. Overall, how would you describe the parish?

80%

gave a positive rating



Great Mostly good OK / Average Not so good Terrible

Loved/Liked most: Peace, quiet and rural character

A beautiful, quiet, scenic, and peaceful place to live - therapeutic.

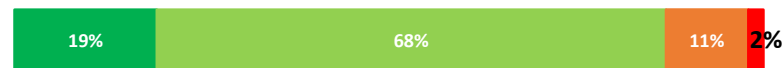
*It is a village and still has a community feel.
It still has a rural feel to it. These things are under threat.*

Sense of community

Q67. How well do we look out for one another?

87%

gave a positive rating



Very well Quite well Not so well Not at all

Loved/Liked most: Community spirit, friendly people

Mudford is a friendly community, where people try to look after one another, as best they can.

A big thank you to all the people who volunteer their help on behalf of the community.

3B. Quality of Life in Mudford Parish – The Challenges

Mudford as a place to live

Q68. Overall, how would you describe the parish?

20%

are not so content (but no-one says its terrible)

Sentiment: We face pressures that are genuinely wearing: danger and traffic noise on the A359, persistent flood risk, looming threat of large-scale development and losing village identity.

The A359 really doesn't help and sets the tone for the village.

Flood risk and aftermath sewage around.

The complete indifference of Yeovil, and Somerset Council for the identity of villages and unwillingness to hear the concerns of residents.

Sense of community

Q67. How well do we look out for one another?

13%

gave a negative rating

Sentiment: Some can experience Mudford as cliquey, with established groups resistant to new ideas or different ways of doing things, making it difficult for newer or younger residents to feel genuinely included.

I love living in the parish but it's a pity it's a two-tier village with those who have and those who don't.

Quite inward looking – not wanting change.

Those living at the fringes of the Parish seem to have all the downsides and none of the benefits of living in the Parish.

3C. Key take-outs – Quality of Life

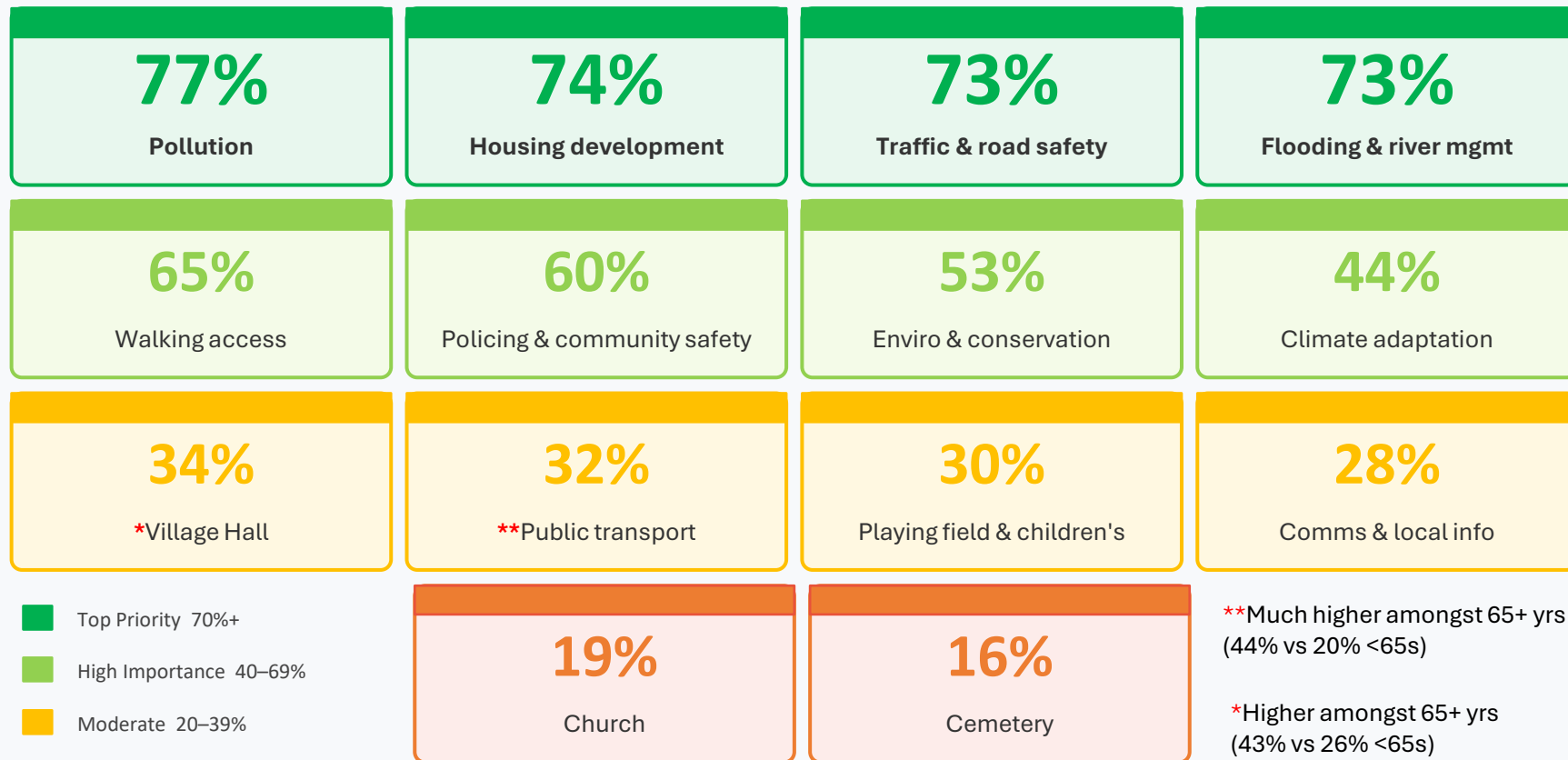
- 1.** Mudford is a well-loved place, 80% rate positively
- 2.** Community spirit is a genuine strength (87%) - residents look out for one another, volunteers are valued
- 3.** Tensions and worries are real - A359, persistent flood risk, looming large-scale development, and a sense that Somerset Council are indifferent to Mudford's identity

4. Community priorities, experiences and agency for change



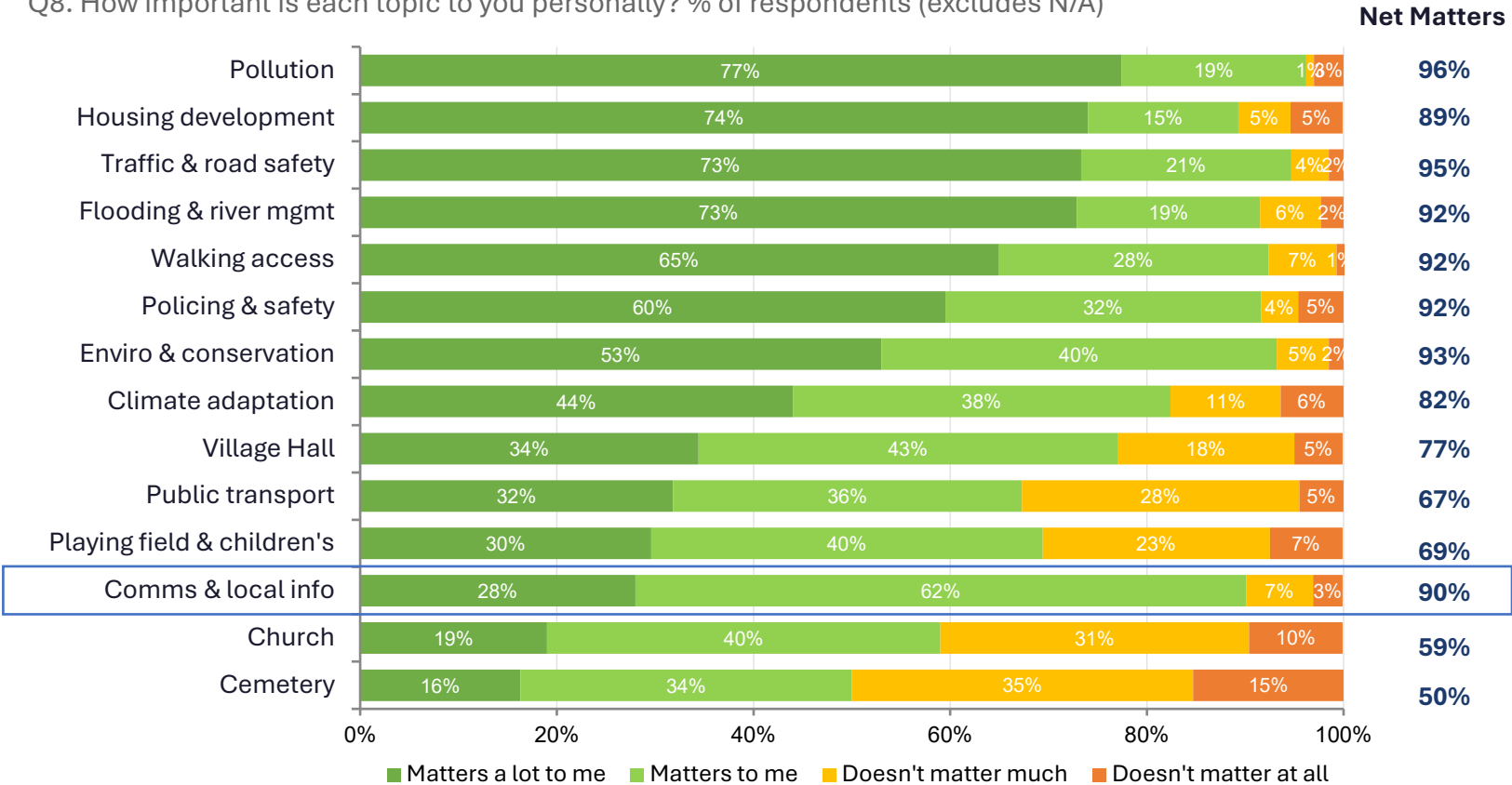
4A.What Matters Most to Mudford Residents

Q8. How important each topic is to you personally: % selecting "Matters a lot to me"



4Ai. What Matters to Mudford Residents – all responses

Q8. How important is each topic to you personally? % of respondents (excludes N/A)



90% say Comms & local info matters to them (but less likely to say it matters a lot)

4B. What else matters to you

Open Feedback Summary

Residents identified a rich range of concerns beyond the listed topics in the survey, from the loss of everyday local amenities to fears about Mudford's identity being swallowed by Yeovil, reflecting a community that cares deeply about both the practicalities of daily life and the character of the place they call home.

4B. What else matters – key themes (Q9)

1. Loss of village shop

Its value during the pandemic and for everyday access without travelling

Village shop and post office - there used to be one - very useful during the pandemic. A multi use and social facility gone.

2. Overdevelopment, loss of parish identity

Residents want Mudford to retain its distinct rural character , not ne absorbed into Yeovil

Over development of the area is biggest concern... keeping Mudford a rural village, not an extension/suburb of Yeovil.

3. Cohesion, communication and engagement

Wider community is disengaged; comms channels are inconsistent, collective actions need strengthening

Community engagement is generally poor. Community communication – needs a standard platform, but what? WhatsApp easiest.

4. Fly-tipping, litter and rubbish

There is a sense that public spaces are not being respected.

Fly tipping is being left around clothes recycling facility at the bottom of the village. Also, rubbish is being left lying around in communal areas.

5. Anti-social driving

Multiple residents flagged anti-social behaviour: speeding, intimidating driving, and pavement parking

Speeding on Main Street and West Mudford Road, silencers removed, intimidating behaviour from some drivers/riders. Tractors speeding. Cars on pavements.

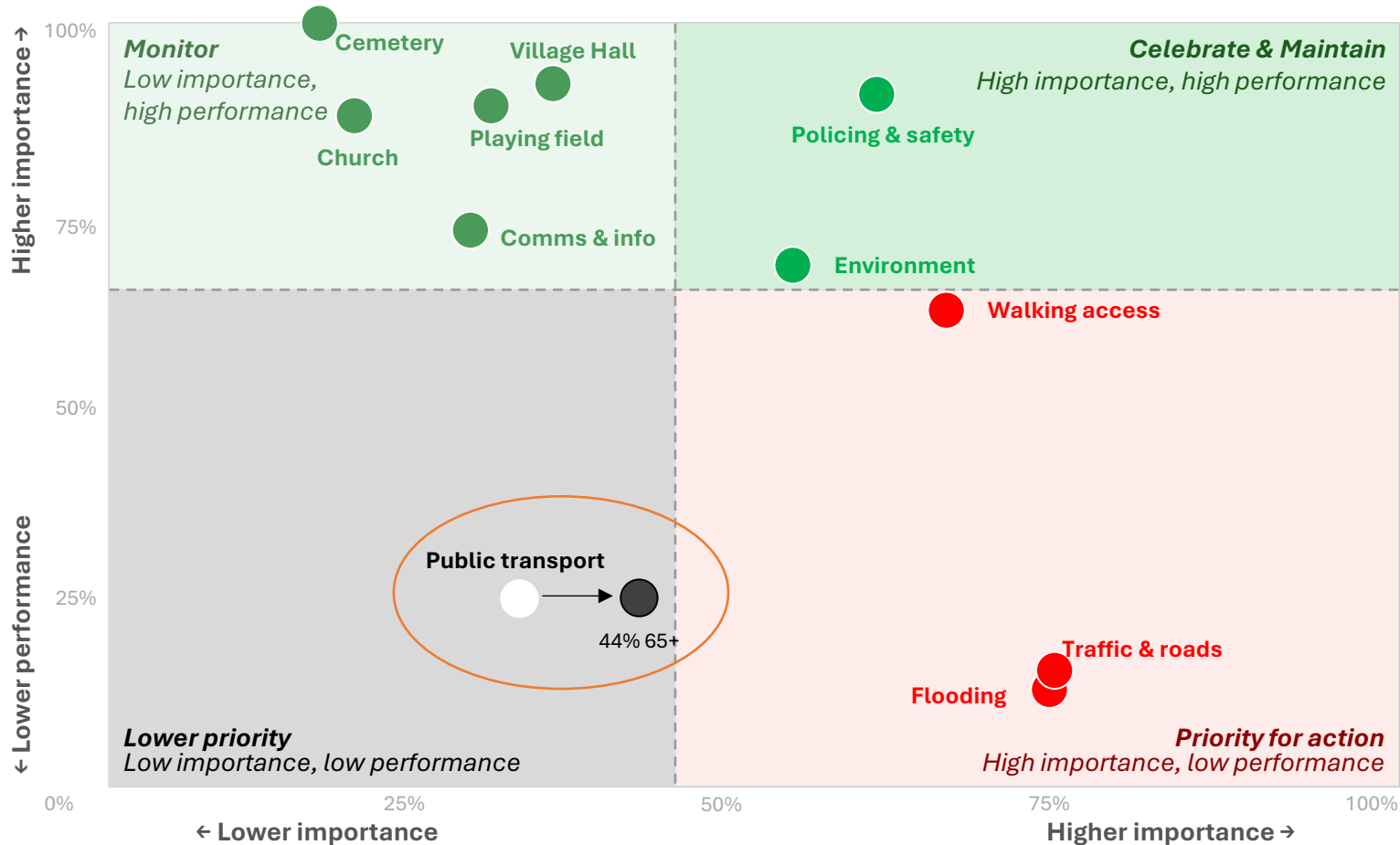
6. Dog walking sites

Some tension between dog owners who seek walking and off lead opportunities, whilst others find off-lead unsafe.

Places suitable for dog walking VERSUS Dogs let off leads at recreation ground and near by (dangerous situations potentially)

4C. Importance vs Performance Mapping

Importance: % "Matters a lot to me" (Q8) | Performance: % rate positively (top 2 box) | Mean dividing line: Importance 44%, Performance 65%



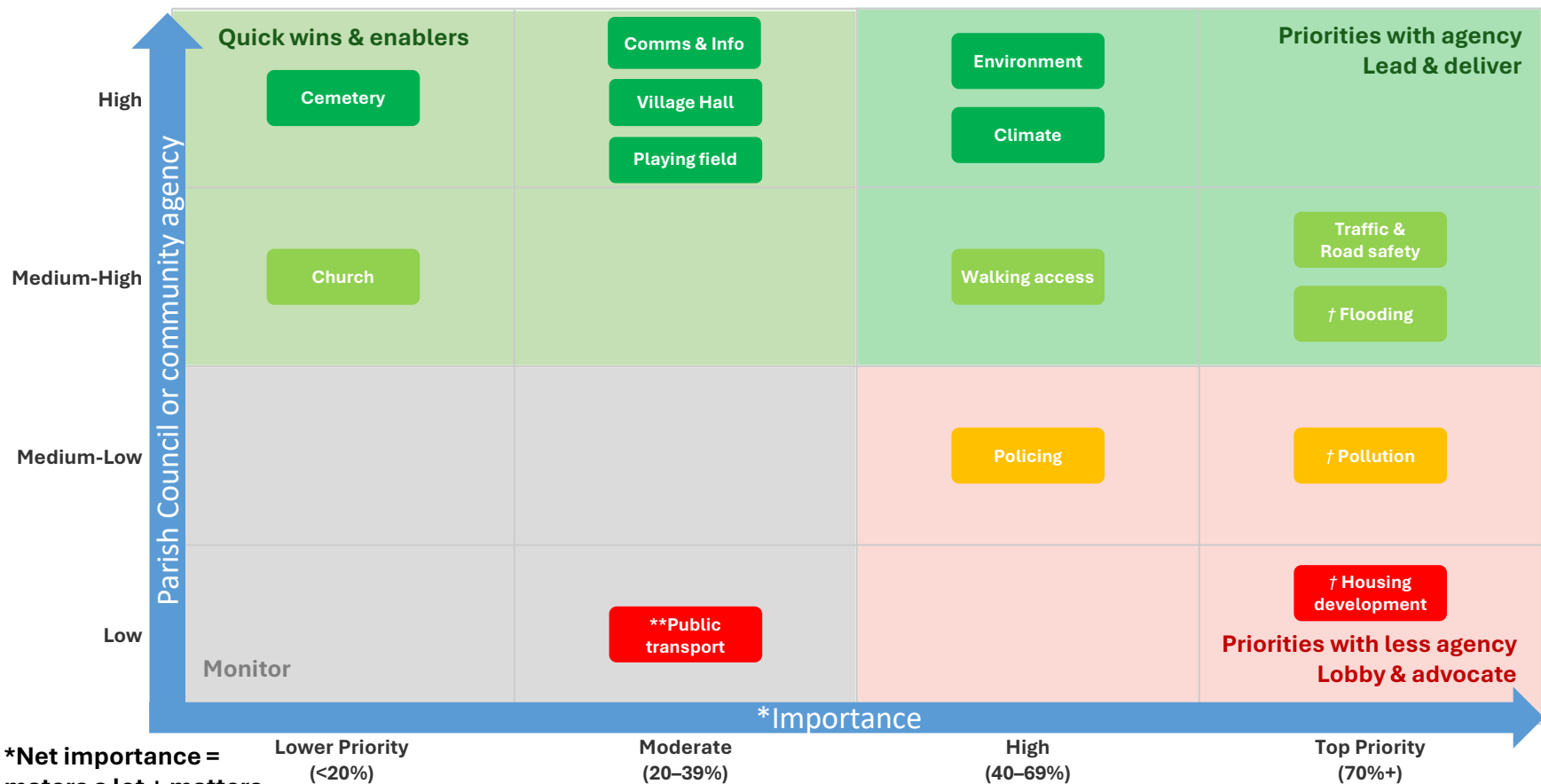
NOTE

Only topics with a performance rating are mapped,
Excludes:

- Pollution
- Housing
- Climate

4D. Priorities — Importance x Community Agency Assessment

Q8 *Net Importance | How much can the Parish Council and community realistically do about it? (based on quantitative and qualitative data)



*Net importance =
matters a lot + matters

† Flooding, Pollution and Housing Development are interconnected = actions on one affect the others.

** Public transport importance rises significantly for residents aged 65+ (44% vs 20% <65s).

4D. Priorities 1-4: Importance x Community Agency Detailed Framework

#	Topic	Importance (Q8)	Community Agency	Rationale & Source Data
1	Pollution	77% Top Priority	Medium-Low	Wessex Water sewage discharge is the dominant concern; statutory responsibility with no direct PC control, but water quality monitoring and continuous pressure are accessible. Fly-tipping offers some direct agency (CCTV, enforcement referrals). Overall the PC's role is primarily advocacy, lobbying and reporting, with Wessex Water and Environment Agency as the agents of change. <i>Source: Q8 importance Q38 pollution severity Open feedback Q39</i>
2	Housing Development	74% Top Priority	Low	Judicial review exhausted. Planning decisions rest with Somerset Council. PC role is now monitoring S106 obligations, advocating for infrastructure delivery before occupation, and watching the Primrose Lane access/flooding risk. Legitimate influence remains but direct agency is severely constrained. <i>Source: Q8 importance Q30 housing views Open feedback Q31</i>
3	Traffic & Road Safety	73% Top Priority	Medium-High	Speed camera reinstatement, HGV re-routing, 20mph zone, zebra crossing all require Somerset Council Highways, but PC can formally request, and residents can actively lobby. Community Speed Watch is a direct community action. Strong resident mandate (70% support visual calming) gives the PC real political leverage. <i>Source: Q8 importance Q43 feelings Q44 concerns Q45 improvements Open feedback Q46</i>
4	Flooding & River Management	73% Top Priority	Medium-High	The PC cannot dredge the river, but 3VFG and FOMAG are already demonstrating powerful community agency. Emergency planning, community resilience, lobbying the Environment Agency and Somerset Rivers Authority, and opposing unsuitable development are all within reach. Q28 shows 81% believe the community can do a lot or something. The failure of statutory agencies (87% negative on Q27) makes community agency both desirable and necessary. <i>Source: Q8 importance Q26 personal experience Q27 agency performance Q28 community agency Open feedback Q29</i>

4D. Priorities 5-8: Importance x Community Agency Detailed Framework

#	Topic	Importance (Q8)	Community Agency	Rationale & Source Data
5	Walking Access / Footpaths & Pavements	65% High importance	Medium-High	The PC has direct agency on some issues; footpath maintenance, working with landowners, supporting the Hinton footbridge reinstatement campaign. Pavement parking enforcement is a police/council matter but the PC can formally raise it, and regularly request + remind residents not to do so (explaining why). The DEI dimension (wheelchair users, mobility scooters, pushchairs) and genuine safety risks adds urgency and strengthens the case for lobbying. Source: Q8 importance Q51 usage Q52 maintenance Open feedback Q53
6	Policing & Community Safety	60% High importance	Medium-Low	Statutory policing is entirely beyond PC control. However, the community has real agency through Neighbourhood Watch, Speed Watch, formal engagement with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and raising specific concerns (Primrose Lane drug activity) through official channels. The 91% feeling safe shows the community's own safety net is working, but it is fragile. Source: Q8 importance Q35 personal safety Q36 policing performance Open feedback Q37
7	Environment / Nature & Conservation	53% High importance	High	This is one of the highest agency topics in the survey. Tree planting, rewilding, working with landowners, wild meadow in the playing field, all are directly actionable by the community. Q24 shows 73% support landowner partnerships, 71% tree planting. Strong volunteer appetite and multiple small projects deliverable within 1–3 years. Source: Q8 importance Q23 environment rating Q24 conservation projects Open feedback Q25
8	Climate Adaptation	44% High importance	High	Q17 shows community agency is very strong across all four dimensions — preparing for emergencies (96%), community resilience plans (91%), preventing nature loss (90%), taking climate action (75%). Average agency = 88%. The village hall emergency safe-haven awareness gap (51% unaware) is directly addressable by the PC. Source: Q8 importance Q16 importance of planning Q17 community agency Q18 safe-haven awareness Open feedback Q19

4D. Priorities 9-12: Importance x Community Agency Detailed Framework

#	Topic	Importance (Q8)	Community Agency	Rationale & Source Data
9	Village Hall & Amenities	34% Moderate importance	High	The PC with the Village Hall Committee have direct control over programming, communication and facilities. Q49 shows clear resident appetite for better information (52%), more variety (52%). Highly actionable within the 1–3 year timeframe. Note: importance is higher among 65+ residents (43% vs 26% <65s). <i>Source: Q8 importance Q47 usage Q48 performance Q49 improve Q50 Open feedback</i>
10	Public Transport	32% Moderate importance	Medium-Low	Bus services are a Somerset Council/operator responsibility. PC can lobby but cannot directly improve provision. Community-led transport offers a more realistic community-agency response, and a 46% interest in a scheme suggests appetite. Note: importance is much higher among 65+ residents (44% vs 20% <65s), making this a priority equity issue . <i>Source: Q8 importance Q7 travel patterns Q40 transport performance Q41 usage Q57/58 community transport interest Open feedback Q42/59</i>
11	Playing Field & Children's Amenities	30% Moderate importance	High	The PC manages the playing field directly . Q33 shows 89% positive rating, the asset is well managed. Future improvements (hard path, equipment upgrades, nature area) are all within direct PC/community control . Strong volunteer appetite in feedback. <i>Source: Q8 importance Q32 usage Q33 performance Open feedback Q34</i>
12	Comms & Local Information	28% Moderate importance	High	The PC has direct agency over its website, newsletter, notice boards and social media presence. The ARK Magazine partnership offers an immediate channel. Q20 shows 27% feel under-informed, a gap the PC can close and relatively quickly . <i>Source: Q8 importance Q20 informed rating Q21 information sources Open feedback Q22</i>

4D. Priorities 13-14: Importance x Community Agency Detailed Framework

#	Topic	Importance (Q8)	Community Agency	Rationale & Source Data
13	The Church	19% Lower Priority	Medium-High	Q14 shows 80% support the PC assisting with critical repairs — a clear mandate for a specific and bounded action. The new ARK group and rector's outreach suggest the church itself has growing community agency. PC role is financial support and facilitation rather than leadership. <i>Source: Q8 importance Q13 church performance Q14 PC assistance Open feedback Q15</i>
14	The Cemetery	16% Lower Priority	High	The PC manages the cemetery directly and Q11 shows 100% positive rating on current maintenance = a genuine success story. Future capacity planning (expansion, green burials, non-faith provision) is within PC control. Actions are medium-term but entirely feasible. <i>Source: Q8 importance Q11 maintenance rating Open feedback Q12</i>

4E. Key take-outs: Priorities, Experiences and Agency

1. What matters most is Pollution, Housing Development, Traffic & Road Safety and Flooding & river management – 70%+ say matters a lot to me. Walking access (65%) and Policing & community safety (60%), form the Top 6.
2. Housing, Pollution and Policing are all Top Priority **but** with limited direct PC agency. The PC's role is primarily advocacy, lobbying and supporting community resilience, not direct delivery.
3. Priorities perceived as having most agency are Traffic & Road Safety and Flooding. Speed Watch, 3VFG and FOMAG are already leading on action.

Priority #1 Pollution



Priority #1.

Pollution

Open Feedback Summary

The community faces pollution pressures from multiple directions – sewage, traffic, fly-tipping and noise – with Wessex Water and vehicle issues (road surface conditions, HGV traffic and increasing vehicle and tyre size) affecting noise and air quality, emerging as the two most urgent matters.

A clear appetite for greater accountability from the agencies responsible for tackling these issues.

#1. Pollution (sewage, fly-tipping, air quality, noise)

67%

sewage is a
serious problem

*Wessex Water discharge
pollution/sewage into the withy
bed from the pumping station.
Not fit for purpose in the current
climate situation.*

51%

farm run-off is
serious issue

*Farm on sock lane big
problem with the effluent
from their cows just washing
out onto street and then
clogging up storm ditches.*

86%

concerned
about fly-tipping

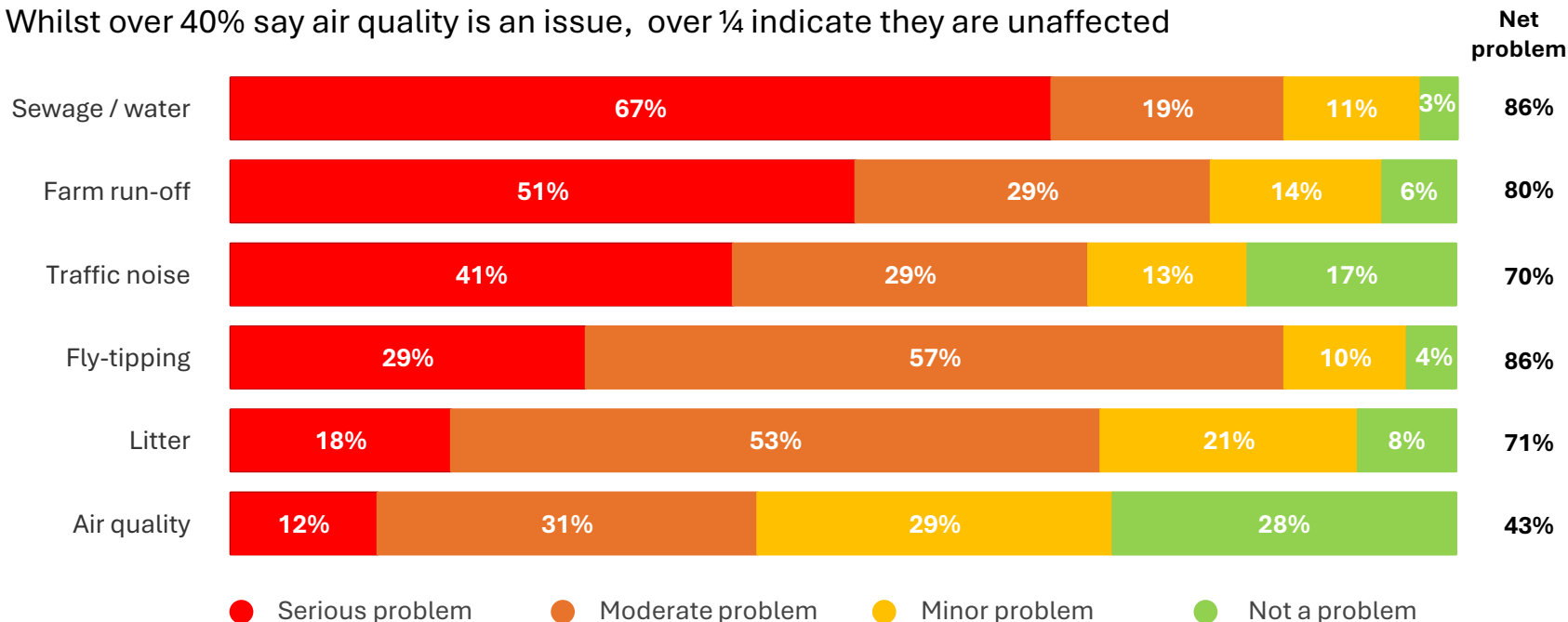
*Someone drives down
Primrose Lane throwing
wine bottles in the hedges.
There was a gentleman that
I spoke to who counted 70
bottles in one litter pick.*

#1. Pollution (sewage, fly-tipping, air quality, noise)

Q38. How much of a problem is each type of pollution?

Water / River pollution from sewage, and fly-tipping have **the broadest amount of concern**
86% are at least moderately worried about these sources of pollution

Whilst over 40% say air quality is an issue, over ¼ indicate they are unaffected



#1. Key take-outs: Pollution

1. Sewage/water pollution is the single most concerning issue; 67% say it is a **serious** problem
2. Fly-tipping (86% problem) and farm run-off (80% problem) are also widespread concerns
3. PC has limited direct agency, but **meaningful actions are available** for an empowered community: water quality monitoring, continuous pressure on Wessex Water and the Environment Agency, coordinated fly-tipping reporting (to Somerset Council)

Priority #2

Housing Development



Priority #2.

Housing Development

Open Feedback Summary

A community that is not anti-housing but is profoundly and justifiably concerned about the scale, location, planning assumptions and infrastructure implications of the proposed developments, with a strong undercurrent of anger at feeling unheard by Somerset Council and the planning system.

#2. Housing Development

76%

**object to large-scale
developments**

This is a village. It should remain a distinct village. It should not fall victim to the greed of landowners and developers aided by a reckless planning department.

63%

**previous levels
about right**

Just a few houses could be alright, but not housing development on and across fields. Some big gardens could have a house built there as some older houses in Mudford have very big gardens.

58%

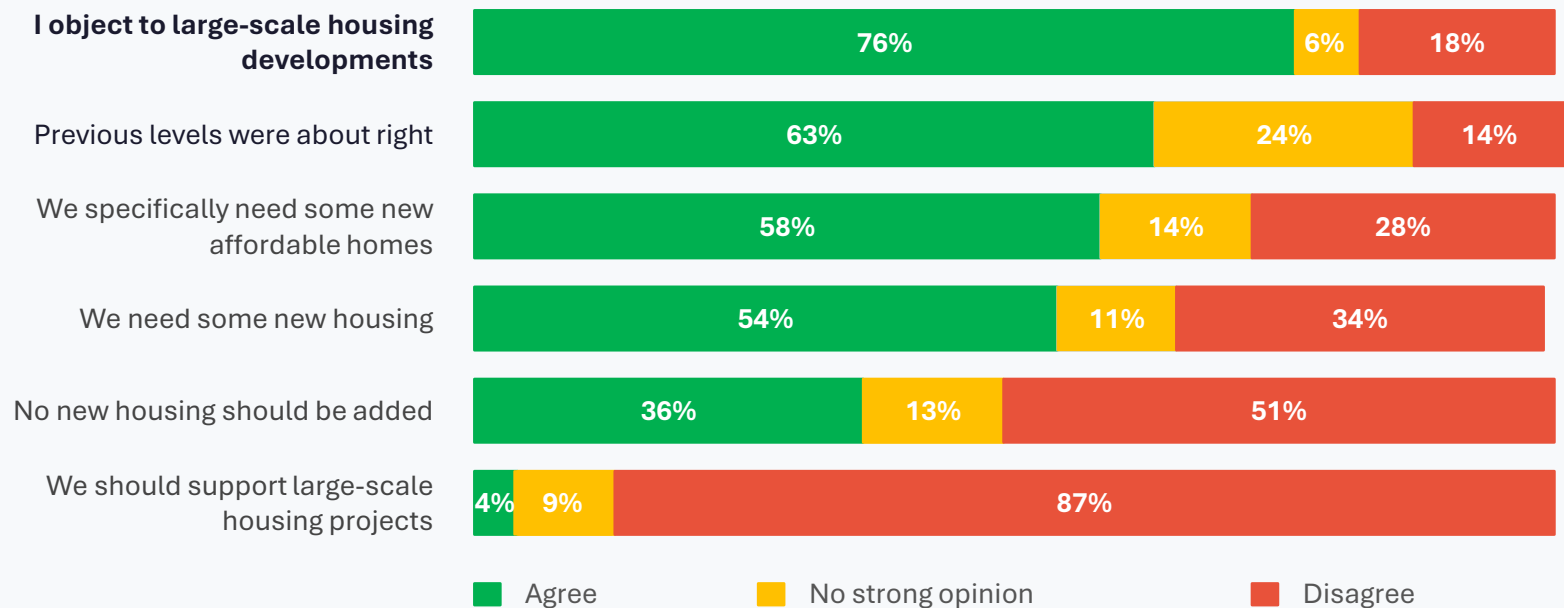
**affordable new
homes needed**

Affordable housing for the younger generation needed to sustain a thriving village community. Massive housing developments will eradicate the whole 'village ethos'.

#2. Housing Development

Q30. Your views on planning and housing development (% Agree / Disagree)

¾ residents **do not want a large housing development** in the Parish, less than 5% actively support such a scheme
Majority perceive that small scale development feels about right, ensuring there are **some new affordable homes**



#2. Key take-outs: Housing Development

1. $\frac{3}{4}$ residents object to large-scale housing developments
2. But the community is not anti-new housing, 54% welcome some new houses are needed, 58% support new affordable homes
3. Judicial review is exhausted. Planning decisions rest with Somerset Council. PC role can monitor S106 obligations, advocate for infrastructure delivery before occupation, and keep watch on flood risk and preparedness.

Priority #3

Traffic & Road Safety



Priority #3.

Traffic & Road Safety

Open Feedback Summary

Beyond the headline concerns of speed and volume, residents identified a web of interconnected hazards, from dangerous crossings and obstructed pavements, to farm vehicle speeds and missing footpaths, painting a picture of a parish where getting around safely on foot, in a wheelchair, or on horseback has become genuinely difficult.

Alongside, there is persistent frustration that residents are providing data and raising concerns that statutory bodies are simply not acting on.

#3. Traffic & Road Safety

44%

very are worried

I can't cycle to Yeovil as roads unsafe and no pavements — certainly cannot go towards Queen Camel. I wouldn't last the journey without being flattened.

76%

**concerned for
vehicle speed**

The only time I feel unsafe is when I am walking in the parish, as cars and lorries don't slow down.

70%

**support visual
traffic calming**
(77% for 65+ yrs)

We need to visually change how the through-road looks so it does not look like a race track. Use of average speed cameras placed at long hill and again at Hinton Cross. Average speed cameras are the only 90% answer.

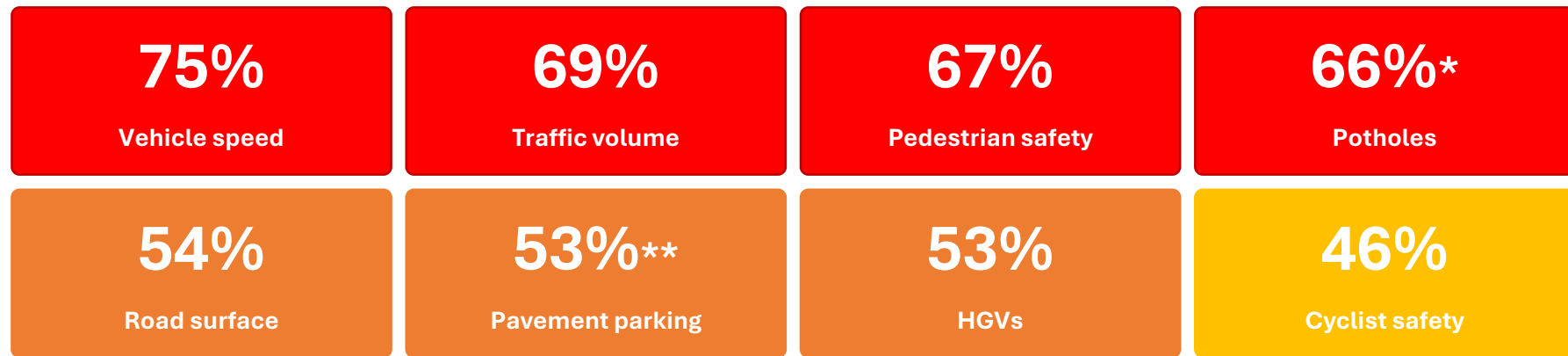
#3. Traffic & Road Safety

Q43. How do you feel about traffic and road safety

85% of residents have concerns about traffic and road safety, of which **44% are very worried**



Q44. Which of the following, if any, are concerns for you? (% of residents who ticked each)



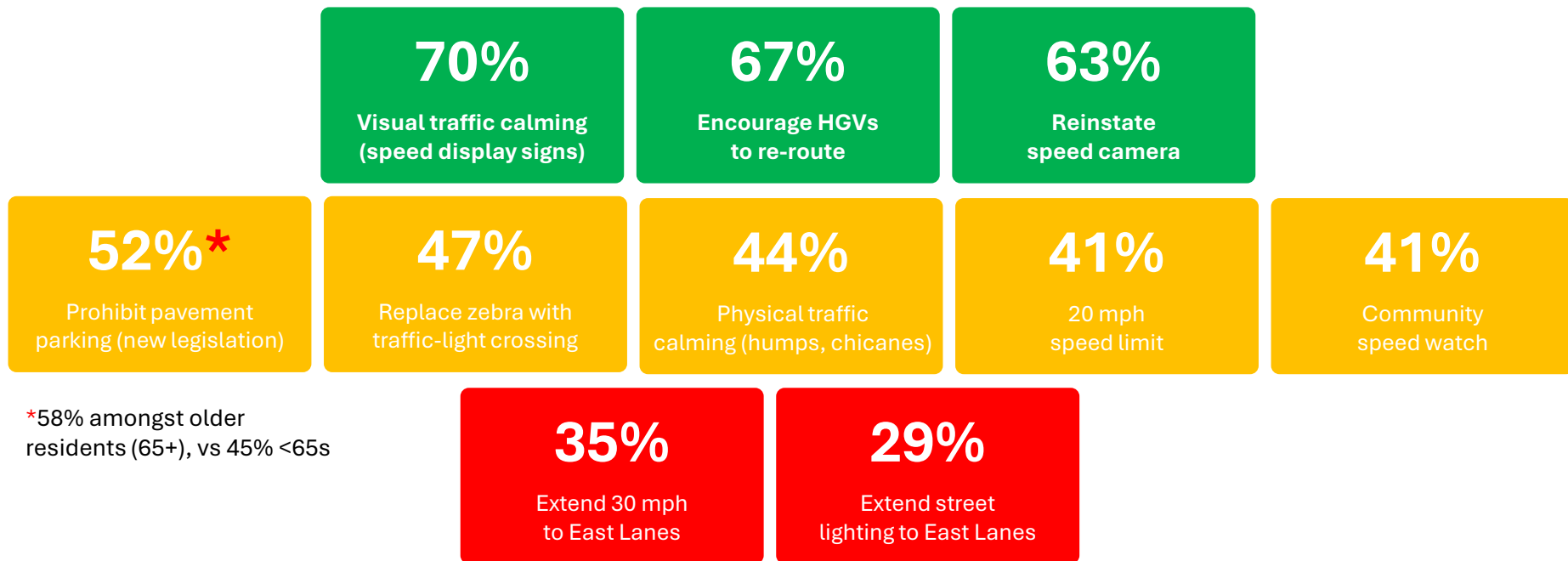
**59% 65yrs+ vs. to 47% <65s

*73% under 65 yrs vs. 59% 65+ yrs

#3. Traffic & Road Safety

Q45. Which road safety improvements do you support? (% of residents in support)

Visual traffic calming, re-routing HGVs re-routing and speed camera reinstatement are the **3 most popular** road safety improvements, **over 60% support** these approaches, whilst just over ½ want action on pavement parking



*58% amongst older residents (65+), vs 45% <65s

#3.Key take-outs: Traffic & Road Safety

1. 85% of residents have concerns or are very worried about traffic and road safety; with vehicle speed (75%), traffic volume (69%) and pedestrian safety (67%) the most cited specific concerns
2. Clear and actionable mandate for improvement: 70% support visual traffic calming (speed display signs), 67% want HGVs re-routed and 63% want the speed camera reinstated. Priority asks to Somerset Councils
3. Safety situation for walking is particularly acute: residents described being forced into the road by pavement parking, unkempt footpaths, and overgrown hedges. Wheelchair and pushchair users most affected

Priority #4 Flooding and River Management



Priority #4.

Flooding and River Management

Open Feedback Summary

A community united in frustration and determined in its response, with dredging, drain maintenance and opposition to inappropriate development forming the core of a clear local flood management agenda, underpinned by a desire for authorities to finally listen, support and act.

#4. Flooding and River Management

92%

**say flooding is
important**

Causes much disruption and much anxiety for emergency services operations being affected... There is a lot of talk when the practical aspects are not difficult to resolve. Talk and no action currently.

42%

**affected by
flooding**

If the road floods, I won't be able to leave my house if this access into Yeovil becomes blocked

15%

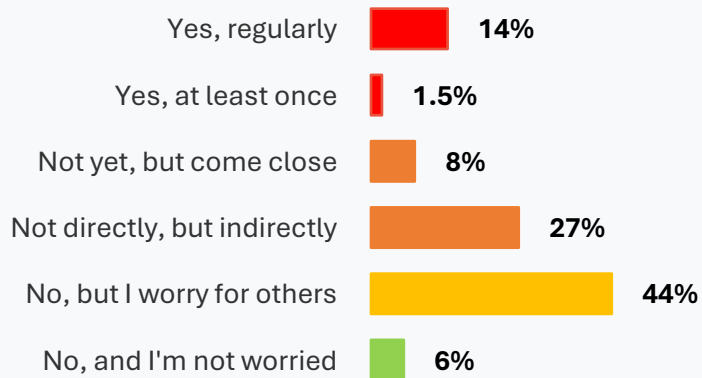
**directly
impacted**

Flooding of local roads, at times difficult if not impossible to get out from West Mudford.

#4. Flooding & River Management

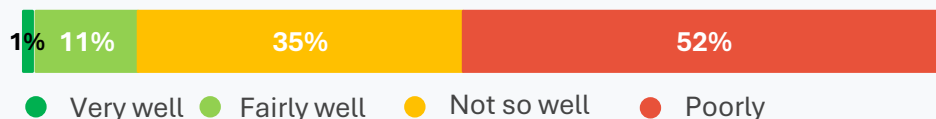
Q26 Personal experience | Q27 Agency performance | Q28 Community action

Q26. Have you or your property been directly affected by flooding?



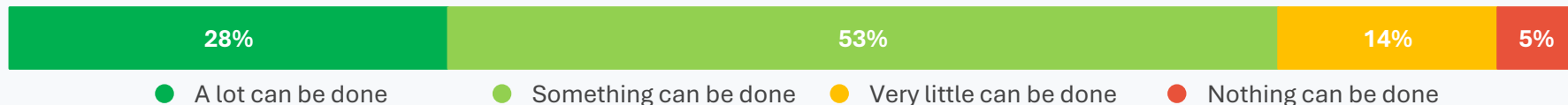
Q27. How well are agencies supporting the parish on flooding?

87% say **agencies** are not supporting the community enough on flooding



Q28. How much can the community do to improve flood resilience locally?

81% believe the **community** can do a lot or something to improve flood resilience



#4. Key take-outs: Flooding & River Management

1. 92% of residents are concerned about flooding, 42% have been directly or indirectly affected, statutory agencies are not supporting the community adequately (87%); sharpest agency failure in the survey
2. However, community optimism and agency are high; 81% believe the community can do a lot or something to improve flood resilience, driven by the explicitly recognised work of 3VFG and FOMAG
3. The priority asks are clear; river dredging, drain maintenance, opposition to any development that increases flood risk, plus sustained pressure on the Environment Agency and Somerset Rivers Authority to take their statutory responsibilities seriously.

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a village scene. In the foreground, a group of five diverse people are shown from the chest up, looking towards the right. They include a man with a beard and a flat cap, an older woman with white hair, a man in a plaid shirt, a woman with blue hair, and an older man with glasses. In the background, a river flows under a multi-arched stone bridge. A white bus is driving across the bridge. To the left of the bridge, there are several houses and a church with a tall steeple. The scene is surrounded by lush greenery, yellow wildflowers, and trees with white blossoms. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

#5

Walking Access, Footpaths & Pavements

Priority #5.

Walking Access, Footpaths & Pavements

Open Feedback Summary

A parish with real walking potential that is being held back by a combination of pavement obstruction, missing infrastructure, neglected rights of way and inadequate connections to neighbouring settlements (and pedestrian on A359 to Yeovil), **with the reinstatement of the Hinton footbridge** emerging as the single clearest and most urgent ask.

A clear need to increase accessibility for people with additional needs to enable independent and assisted mobility.

#5. Walking Access, Footpaths & Pavements

57%

**actively use
pavements and
footpaths**

Pavements from the top of Sock Lane to East Lane and the cemetery to make it safer on the main road for pedestrians walking from Mudford Sock.

30%

**less often
than weekly**

Bring back the bridge to complete the footpath from Hinton to Mudford. What is the point of being part of a parish if you can't safely walk to the village from your house?

38%

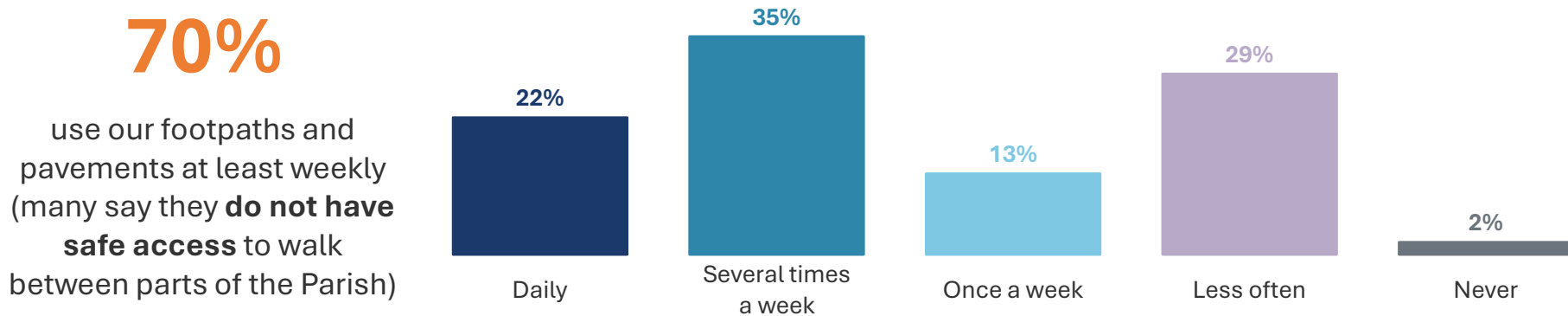
**improve
maintenance**

Clear all the plants growing over the footpath by the bus stop at Half Moon Pub. I have to walk in the road to get past and it's very dangerous with cars speeding past.

#5. Walking Access, Footpaths & Pavements

Q51 Frequency of use | Q52 How well are footpaths and pavements maintained?

Q51. How often do you use footpaths and pavements in the parish?



Q52. How well are footpaths and pavements currently maintained?

62% rate maintenance of footpaths and pavements positively, indicating **considerable scope to improve** (important given the frequent activity)
Women who use a little less often, are more satisfied than men 67% vs 57%



#5. Mobility Access, Equity and Inclusion (1)

1. Pavement Parking

A direct barrier to independent mobility, risking isolation in worst cases

Some residents are forced to choose between road danger or not going out at all, this particularly impacts on those with mobility aids and pushchairs.

“ Stop parking on the pavement. I am a wheelchair user and am forced into the traffic at times, either that or I don't go out. That is ridiculous. ”

“ Mobility scooters, people with walking aids and pushchairs cannot use pavements to access facilities; hairdressers, village hall, pub, etc. ”

2. Obstructions & Maintenance

Hedges, gravel, overgrowth

Existing pavements can become unusable by encroaching hedges, gravel from front garden parking and general overgrowth. This creates a slip-hazard, and disproportionately affects those with reduced mobility.

“ Gravel on pavements from people parking in front gardens – serious slipping hazard. ”

“ The width of the pavements has been diminished due to excessive weeds and overgrown hedge at bottom of village. The proximity of vehicle wing mirrors – especially commercial vehicles – is alarming at times. ”

#5. Mobility Access, Equity and Inclusion (2)

3. Playing Field

Hard surface path through and/or around the playing field

Currently the grass field is inaccessible in wet conditions. A clear and specific request for a firm, all-weather path to enable use by older residents and those with mobility difficulties.

“ Possibly a firm path around the outside for use in winter and for the older generation who feel unsteady on just the grass ”

“ All-weather path needed for Milton House to Village Hall. ”

4. Footpaths

Inaccessible due to stiles and barriers

Stiles and physical barriers to or on footpaths exclude residents with restricted or reduced mobility, effectively cutting off access to the countryside.

“ We have brilliant countryside but many footpaths are not accessible for the disabled and 'blocked' by stiles etc. My partner uses a mobility scooter (all terrain) or wheelchair, and disabled provision and lack of even pavements make life restrictive. ”

#5. Key take-outs: Walking Access, Footpaths & Pavements

- 1.** Footpaths and pavements are valued and heavily used, 70% use them at least weekly, but 38% say maintenance needs to improve. Several key routes described as dangerous No.1 = A359 Mudford to Hinton.
- 2.** Reinstatement of the Hinton footbridge (promised via SCC Y18/1) is the most urgent ask – residents risk harm and feel cut-off from the village.
- 3.** Pavement parking is an accessibility crisis. One wheelchair user said they are forced to choose between road danger and not going out at all. This needs a traffic/planning response (lobbying, legislation) and a community education exercise (asking residents to stop, explaining why).

The background is a colorful illustration of a peaceful village. A stone bridge with multiple arches spans a calm river. In the distance, a church with a tall steeple sits on a hill. A white bus is driving across the bridge. On the riverbank, three people are standing and talking. In the foreground, a group of five diverse people are shown from the chest up, looking towards the right. The scene is filled with green grass, yellow wildflowers, and trees with white blossoms.

#6

Policing & Community Safety

Priority #6.

Policing & Community Safety

Open Feedback Summary

A community that feels largely abandoned by statutory policing and is increasingly reliant on its own resources, with speeding, drug activity on Primrose Lane, and anti-social behaviour as the three most pressing concerns requiring urgent engagement with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The community has maintained its own safety net, but it's fragile and shouldn't be taken for granted.

#6. Policing & Community Safety

<10%

**feel unsafe (mostly
due to speeding)**

Conditions have worsened since speed camera removed on Main Street. The police don't take or do anything even after being informed of the speeding traffic.

29%

very safe

The Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch seem to be more effective.

31%

**policing is
poor**

Never seen a police officer on patrol in this area ever. Maybe going back to having a 'local Bobby' is the way to go

#6. Policing & Community Safety

Q35 Safeness | Q36 Local policing

Q35. How safe do you feel in the parish?

91%

feel very safe or fairly safe in the parish,
there are no differences by age or gender

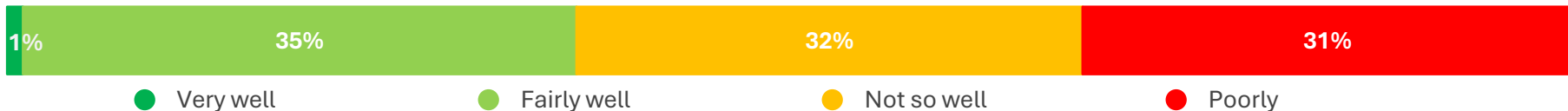
Speeding, anti-social behavior, esp.
involving vehicles, and drug dealing
are expressed concerns



Q36. How well does local policing currently meet the needs of the parish?

63%

say local policing is not meeting
the needs of the parish



The vast **majority of residents do feel safe**, even though people are unhappy with local policing levels. The community appears to provide its **own safety net**, with some community schemes mentioned (Speed Watch, Neighbourhood Watch, Farm Watch), but this shouldn't be taken for granted by the authorities, **nor used as a reason for not providing required community policing services**. Police or PSCO presence is wanted.

#6. Key take-outs: Policing & community safety

1. 91% of residents feel safe. This reflects genuine community strength and the work of informal safety networks (Speed Watch, Neighbourhood Watch, Farm Watch).
2. However, 63% say local policing does not meet needs of the parish; there is little to no police presence, despite observed and reported anti-social behaviour, traffic offences (speeding) and drug dealing.
3. Accessible Police or PSCO presence is a clear demand.



#7

Environmental Issues, Nature & Conservation

Priority #7.

Enviro Issues, Nature & Conservation

Open Feedback Summary

A parish rich in natural assets and brimming with practical conservation ideas, from small wildlife installations to landscape-scale rewilding, with the River Yeo emerging as the natural centrepiece of any future nature strategy.

Strong enthusiasm for wildflower areas in the playing field, churchyard, cemetery, grass verges and roadsides.

#7. Enviro Issues, Nature & Conservation

32%

**we should care
more about enviro**

*Cleaning up the River Yeo,
tackling Wessex Water
regarding pollution and
sewage dumping*

71%

**plant more
trees**

*Community apple orchard, to
plant and look after fruit trees,
could sell or donate the apples,
fresh pressed juice or cider to
raise money for the parish*

73%

**collaborate with
landowners**

*Encourage farmers to
leave a gap for rewilding
at the edge of their crops.*

#7. Environmental Issues / Nature & Conservation

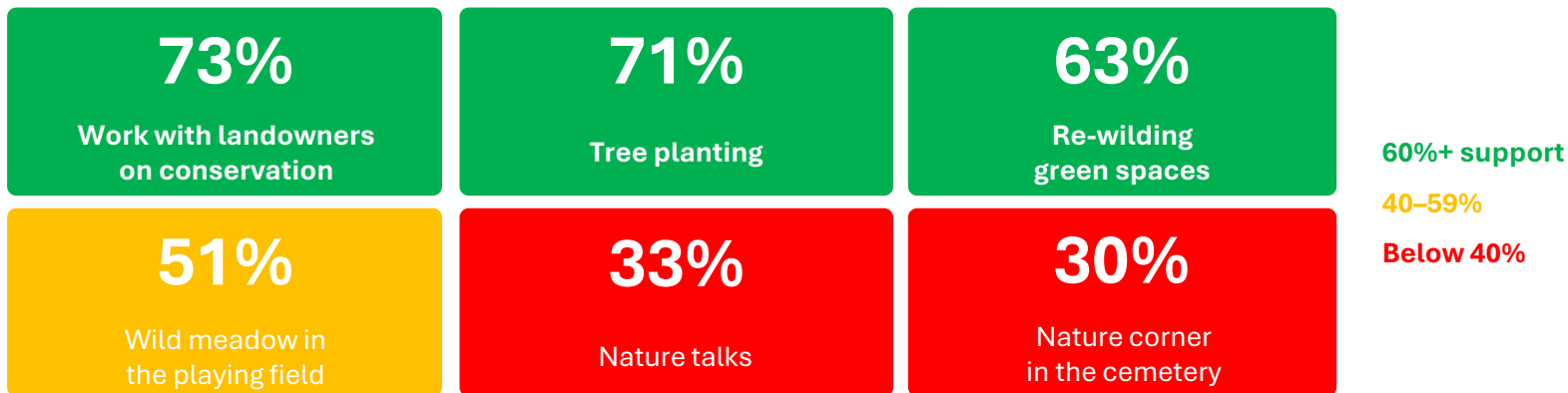
Q23 Care for natural environment | Q24 Conservation projects

Q23. How well is the natural environment of the parish currently looked after?

68% rate the natural environment as well looked after



Q24. Which nature and conservation projects would you like to see in the parish? (% in support)

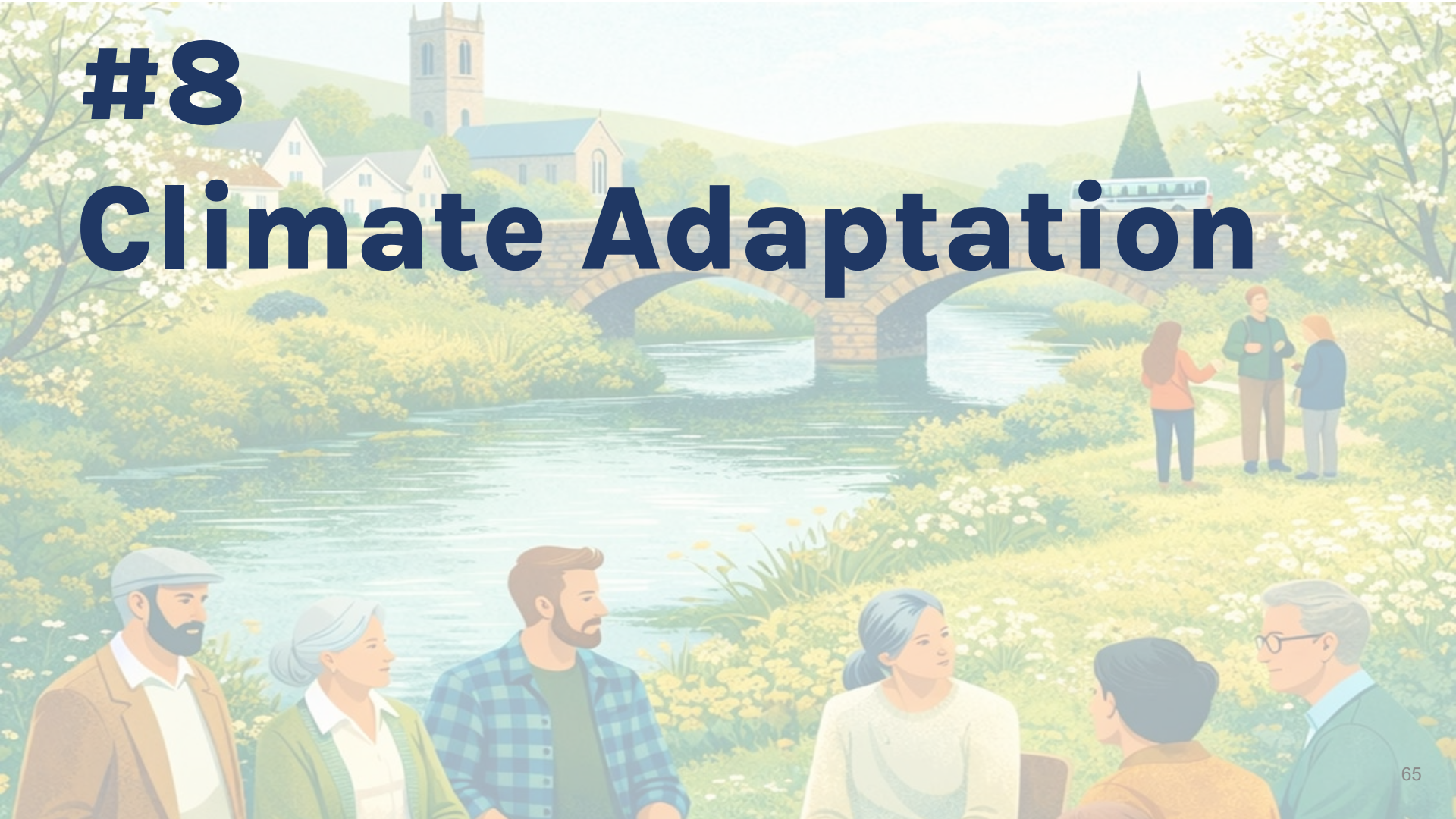


#7. Key take-outs: Enviro Issues, Nature & Conservation

- 1.** 68% rate the natural environment as well looked after, there is genuine pride in Mudford's natural assets. Opportunities for further improvement are described eloquently by residents.
- 2.** 73% support working with local landowners on conservation, 71% want tree planting, 63% support rewilding.
- 3.** The River Yeo emerges as the natural centrepiece of any future nature strategy; residents see water quality (Pollution), flood management and biodiversity as interconnected issues that require a joined-up response.

#8

Climate Adaptation



Priority #8.

Climate Adaptation

Open Feedback Summary

A community that feels it is practically engaged, environmentally aware, and already taking action, but one that needs better communication of plans and resources to ensure no resident is left uninformed or unsupported in an emergency.

Repeated suggestions for tree-planting, and related ideas i.e. reduced hedge cutting, more permeable surfaces, and slowing surface run-off. Residents see trees as a multifunctional solution connecting flooding, biodiversity and heat management.

#8. Climate Adaptation

>90%

we can plan for emergencies and develop resilience

The parish council and the flood group are already doing an amazing job on[developing community resilience plans and preparing for emergencies.

70%

Climate emergency plans are very important

We could prepare the village hall to act as a local resilience hub during extreme weather or emergency events. This might include having a basic emergency plan, a volunteer contact network to check on vulnerable parishioners, supplies such as water, blankets, first aid items and power banks.

51%

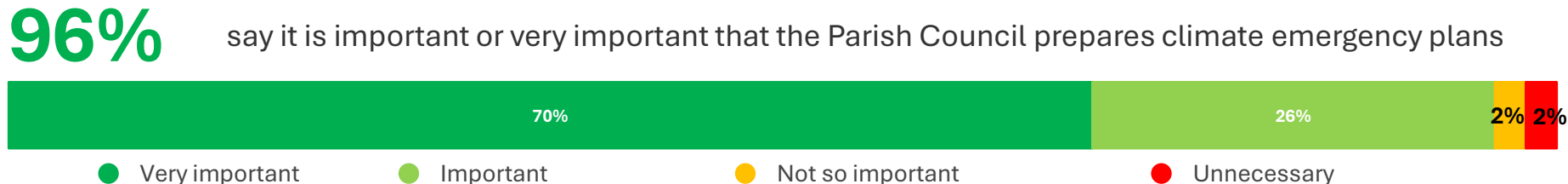
unaware village hall is safe-haven

Better promotion of the village hall to tell people it can be used in emergency situations. I had no idea that was a thing and I have lived here for nearly 40 years.

#8. Climate Adaptation & Emergency Preparedness

Q16 Climate emergency plans | Q17 Community agency | Q18 Safe-haven awareness

Q16. How important is it that the Parish Council prepares and communicates climate emergency plans?

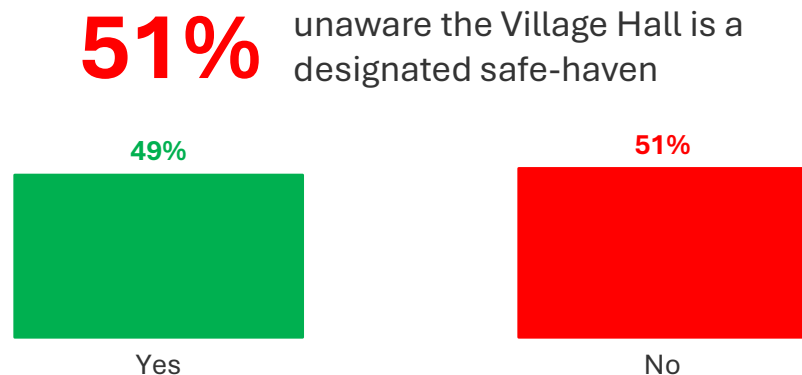


Q17. How much can the community do in each area?

% net positive (a lot + something can be done)



Q18. Are you aware the Village Hall is a designated safe-haven in emergencies?



#8. Key take-outs: Climate Adaptation & Emergency Prep

1. 96% recognise it is important that the PC prepares and communicates climate emergency plans, demonstrating community readiness to engage.
2. Community agency on climate is very high across all four dimensions - 90%+ are confident we can prepare for emergencies, build community resilience, prevent nature loss, 75% believe we can take climate action.
3. **A critical communications gap**; only 49% of residents are aware the Village Hall is a designated emergency safe-haven. This **is directly and immediately addressable** by the PC and should be a priority action.

#9 Village Hall



Priority #9.

Village Hall

Open Feedback Summary

A well-loved facility held back by timing of events, parking and a programme that has yet to reflect the full diversity of the parish. There is real potential to become a more vibrant community hub if more evening and weekend events, better communication, and a broader activity offer can be developed.

Some building and facility improvements raised; noise reduction (double glazing), better heating, more comfortable chairs. Inadequate car parking results in some people unable to attend events as planned.

#9. Village Hall

90%+

**serves
community well**

The village hall is something we should be proud of. The weekly coffee morning is always a welcome time to meet and chat, to hear local news.

52%

**want more info
and more variety**

Focuses on events for elderly and retired, nothing for baby, children, youth, evening groups. We tried to set up a toddler group but had no support. Marston Magna and Rimpton have evening groups like table tennis, badminton, pilates.

34%

**rarely or never
use the hall**

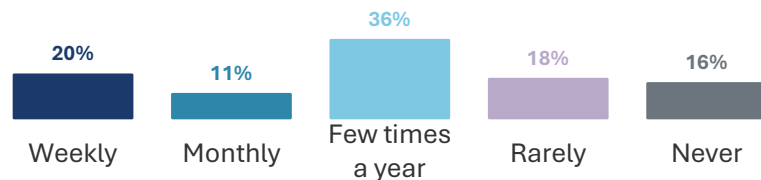
Need to offer more evening and weekend activities to attract a wider age range. School and work excludes participation in much of what is on. It caters well for retired folk.

#9. Village Hall & Amenities

Q47 Frequency of use | Q48 service to the parish? | Q49 encourage use

Q47. How often do you use the Village Hall?

31% use the Village Hall at least monthly



Q48. How well does the Village Hall serve the needs of the parish?

92% say the Village Hall serves the parish well (regardless of whether they use it or not)



Q49. What would encourage you to use the Village Hall more? (% ticked)

52%

Better informed
about what's on

52%

More variety
of activities

29%

Safer road
crossing

19%

More use of
Milton House

13%

Support to
get there

#9. Key take-outs: Village Hall

- 1.** 92% say the Hall and its volunteers serves the parish well, but 34% rarely or never use it, suggesting a gap between appreciation of the asset and active engagement.
- 2.** The two clearest improvement opportunities are better communication about what's on (52%) and more variety of activities (52%), both are directly within the Village Hall Committee's gift to address.
- 3.** Program of events is perceived to skew towards retired residents. Evening and weekend activities, toddler groups, youth provision and family-friendly events are the most requested additions, pointing to a real opportunity to broaden the hall's role as a community hub.

#10

Public Transport



Priority #10.

Public Transport (and travel)

Open Feedback Summary

Public transport is widely seen as inadequate, poorly communicated, and inaccessible from parts of the village. An emerging community-led minibus solution is the most realistic and popular alternative to a statutory service that shows little sign of improvement.

#10. Public Transport (and travel)

90%

**travel outside the
parish weekly for
shopping**

No village shop.

75%

**dissatisfied
with public
transport**

*You can easily catch a
bus into town regularly,
but why does this not
apply when returning?*

68%

**never use public
transport from
the parish**

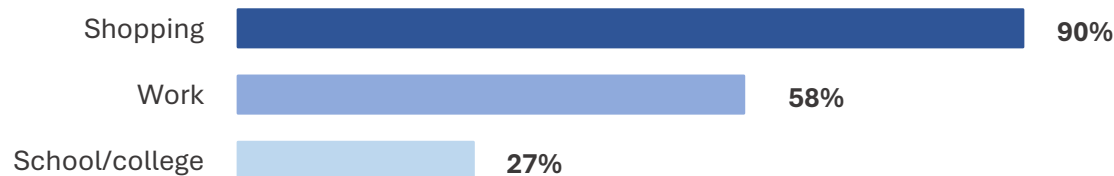
*There is nowhere safe to wait for
a bus at Hinton. Need to walk to
Mudford, but A359 too
dangerous. No footpath
available.*

#10. Public Transport & Travel

Q7 Travel outside the parish | Q40 Public transport service | Q41 Public transport usage

Q7. Do members of your household regularly travel outside the parish for the following?
(% travelling at least weekly)

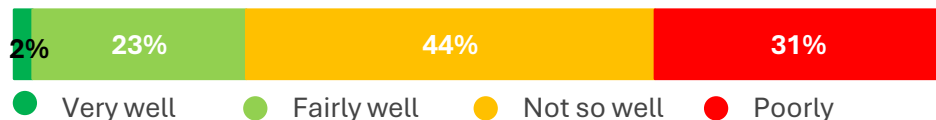
90% travel outside the parish for shopping at least weekly



Q40. How well does public transport currently serve the parish?

75% say public transport is **not meeting** the needs of the parish

65+ yrs rate more positively (42%) vs just 7% <65



Q41. How often do you use public transport from the parish?

68% never use public transport from home, indicating a **high car-dependency** for shopping trips



#10. Key take-outs: Public Transport & Travel

1. Public transport perceptions are determined somewhat by age; importance rises from 62% among under-65s to 72% among 65+ residents
2. 68% of residents never use public transport from the parish; 75% say the service does not meet the parish's needs (65+ residents are much more satisfied). Car dependency seems embedded, 90% who travel outside the parish weekly likely go by car.
3. A community-led transport scheme is most realistic near-term response to transport needs - 46% show interest (54% among 65+ vs 36% <65).



#11

Playing Fields & Children's Amenities

Priority #11.

Playing Fields & Children's Amenities

Open Feedback Summary

A well-loved community asset that residents want to see modernised, made more accessible and better programmed, with a particular gap identified for older children and organised activities, An appetite for greener, more nature-friendly spaces alongside traditional play facilities is clearly expressed.

#11. Playing Fields

89%

**it serves the
parish well**

*well looked after park and
community park area that is
always looked after and clean.
Love walking my dog over
there and my kids are safe
playing there.*

88%

**spend some
time here**

*Improve seating, shade and
shelter. Create a natural play area.
My children loved playing on the
fallen tree when they were small. It
was a shame it was taken away.*

50%

**walk for
exercise here**

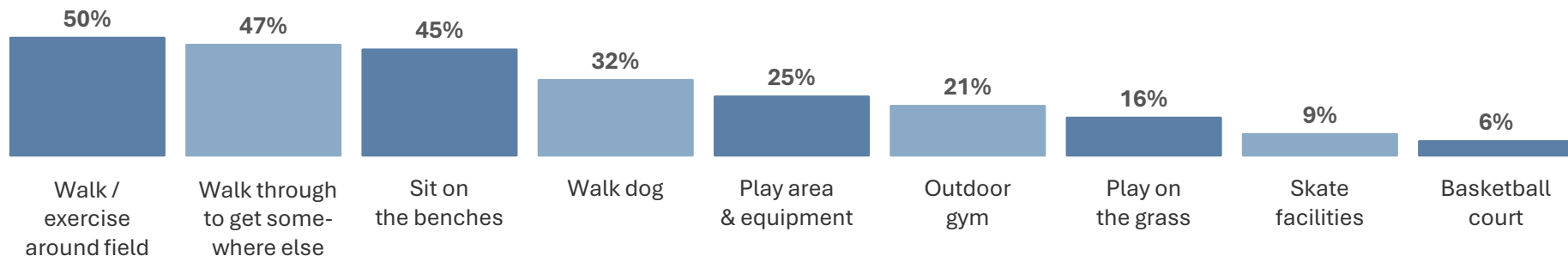
*Possibly a firm path around
the outside for use in winter
and for the older generation
who feel unsteady on just
the grass.*

#11. Playing Field & Children's Amenities

Q32 Playing field usage | Q33 Serves Parish needs

Q32. How do you use the playing field? (% ticked)

Serves as a fitness, leisure and social hub, providing varied opportunity to spend time outdoors, only 12% don't use
People <65 years more likely to spend time here than residents 65+, women a little more likely than men



Q33. How well does the playing field and children's amenities serve the needs of the parish?

89%

say the playing field & amenities serve the parish well

Scope for all-weather facilities

"Artificial football pitch. The grass can get very wet and muddy throughout the year. Mudford Rec has proven that this is a really popular concept"



#11. Children's Amenities

25%

**use play area
and equipment,
but...**

*outdated playground set up for
younger kids. Often drive kids to
Queen Camel park as they see it
as more fun.*

16%

**play on the
grass, but**

*perhaps an additional football
goalpost, say a half size
unmarked pitch - at least young
ones could have a 'proper game'
instead of one goalpost.*

9%

**use skate
facilities, but**

*paint and brighten
up the skate park.*

#11. Nature area

A recurring suggestion to introduce a wildflower meadow, natural play area or conservation corner within the playing field, balancing active recreation with nature and potentially creating an educational resource for children.

Skate in nature

Add a meadow around the edge of the skate park with a 'meandering grass walkway' through the meadow.

Relax and play in nature

Improve seating, shade and shelter. Create a natural play area. My children loved playing on the fallen tree when they were small. It was a shame it was taken away.

Learn in nature

A 'wild' patch would be good. It could also be used as an educational resource

#11. Key take-outs: Playing Field & Children's Amenities

- 1.** Playing field is Mudford's primary outdoor space, and a well-managed community asset; 89% rate it as serving the parish well, with a variety of uses (walking, exercise, dog walking, benches, play area, outdoor gym).
- 2.** Key improvement opportunities include: a hard-surface all-weather path (important for older residents and those with mobility needs), modernised play equipment, and a nature / wildflower area.
- 3.** Children's facilities are seen as outdated for older children. Some families drive to Queen Camel as more engaging. New goalposts, improved skate facilities, and natural play elements are the most requested additions.

The background is a colorful illustration of a peaceful village scene. A stone bridge with two arches spans a calm river. In the background, a church with a tall steeple and several houses are nestled on a hill. In the foreground, a group of six diverse people are gathered, some standing and some sitting, appearing to be in conversation. The scene is surrounded by lush greenery and blooming white flowers, suggesting a spring setting.

#12

Communication & Local Info

Priority #12.

Communication & Local Info

Open Feedback Summary

A community that wants to be better connected, but needs multiple parallel channels to reach everyone = digital and physical, with the ARK Magazine and a revived, well-maintained website, these have potential to be the most promising vehicles for improvement.

A dedicated Facebook page, WhatsApp group, and email updates are key suggestions. Residents want to be met where they are already active online, with several unaware that a parish website even exists. More notice boards in other parts of Parish also requested.

#12. Communication & Local Info

27%

**not well
informed**

*Leaflet dropped into each home.
Not everybody uses social media
or internet. Mobile phone
reception is poor.*

23%

**use Parish
Council website**

*Didn't know we had a website.
Use Facebook only as social
media so would like to use
that. WhatsApp group would
also be good.*

68%

**(over) rely on
word of mouth**

*Having one clear weekly parish
update on multiple communication
channels. Some people prefer
email, others WhatsApp, printed
newsletters, notice boards or
website updates*

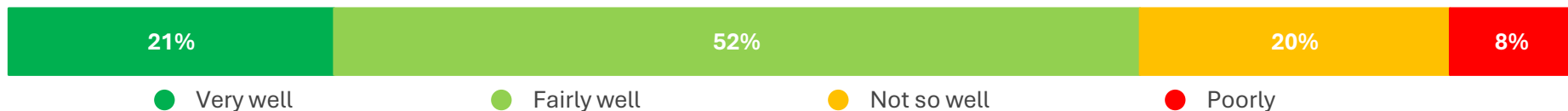
#12 Communication & Local Information

Q20 How well are you kept informed? | Q21 Sources of local information

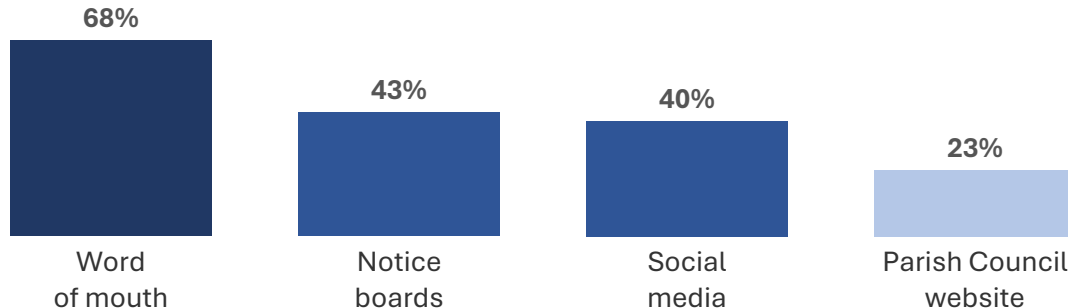
Q20. How well are you currently kept informed about what is happening in the parish?

73%

feel well informed, but 1 in 4 residents feel they are missing out on local information



Q21. Which of the following do you use to get local information?
(% ticked)



Other sources mentioned

ARK Magazine

Most frequently mentioned

Printed leaflets / letterbox drops

Important for non-digital residents

FOMAG / Flood Group emails

Key channel for flood-affected residents

Yeovil Free Press / Somerset Live

Regional news sources

#12. Key take-outs: Communication & Local Info

1. 73% feel well informed, but ¼ residents are missing out on local info.
2. Word of mouth remains the dominant channel (68%) - a reminder that digital-only communication will always leave residents behind. Notice boards (43%) and social media (40%) are the next most used channels. 23% don't use the Parish Council website, with several unaware it exists.
3. The ARK Magazine is the most frequently mentioned source in open feedback and represents a beneficial partnership opportunity. A dedicated Facebook page, WhatsApp group, email updates and more notice boards in outlying parts of the parish are the most consistently requested improvements.

#13 Church



Priority #13.

Church

Open Feedback Summary

The responses paint a nuanced picture; genuine affection for the people and the building, alongside a clear appetite for the church to play a broader, more inclusive community role.

Respondents suggest the church building should be used more broadly i.e. for music, arts, social gatherings and community events, regardless of religious affiliation. Residents see the building as an asset that benefits from activity, but is at risk.

#13. Church

52%

**no experience of
the church**

The church could be used as a space for activities other than worship. The more use it gets the better it is for the village and the building

88%

**those with experience
say church serves
community well**

New rector, Richard, is reaching out to not only Mudford, he is integrating the 5 parishes brilliantly. But it still requires community involvement; he cannot achieve what is needed on his own

43%

**repairs should
be supported as
much as possible**

I do not attend church. I believe in its value as a heritage asset. It is obvious that attendance is low. However, the church should be seen as a valuable heritage asset and should continue to be treasured in the village

#13. The Church

Q13 Church provision| Q14 Critical repairs assistance

Q13. How well does the church serve the needs of the parish community?

88%

say the church serves the parish community well

Note: 52% of respondents selected "No experience of this" and are excluded from this chart



Q14. Should the Parish Council assist with critical repairs to the church?

80%

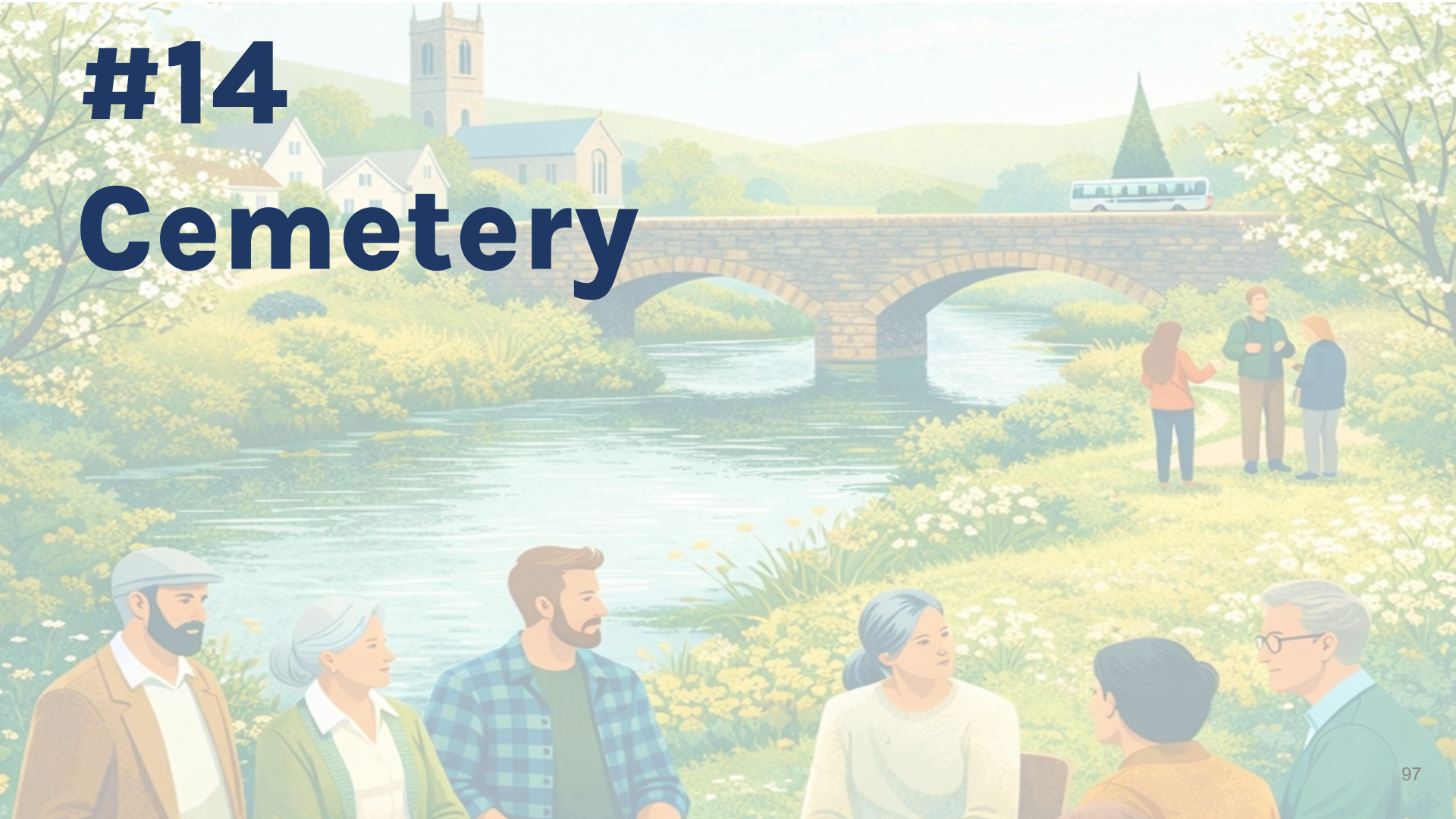
support the Parish Council providing some level of assistance with critical repairs



#13. Key take-outs: The Church

1. Among the 48% who have experience of the church, 88% say it serves the community well; a strong positive finding, though the majority of residents have limited engagement with the church as a religious institution.
2. Appetite for the church to serve a broader community role; music, arts, social gatherings and community events are specifically suggested. New rector's outreach across five parishes seen as positive signal.
3. 80% support the PC providing some level of assistance with critical repairs; a clear and specific mandate for a bounded, time-limited contribution that the PC can respond to with confidence.

#14 Cemetery



Priority #14.

Cemetery

Open Feedback Summary

Residents engaged thoughtfully and creatively with this topic, combining practical concerns about capacity and planning with a forward-looking appetite for greener, more inclusive burial options (natural / nature friendly burials), suggesting a community ready to think progressively about a traditionally sensitive subject.

Suggestions that the cemetery needs to expand, with several residents noting that adjacent land should be acquired soon, rather than waiting until capacity is reached.

#14. The Cemetery

Q11 Cemetery maintenance | Q12 Future development

Q11. How well is the cemetery currently maintained?

100%

rate the cemetery as well maintained

Note: 40% respondents selected "No experience of this" and are not included in this chart



Q12. Suggestions for future development

Physical expansion – adjacent land

Acquire adjacent land soon rather than wait until capacity is reached. Some connected this to the housing development.

Inclusive provision – non-Christian and non-faith burials

Several raised need for non-consecrated ground to serve people of all faiths and none, reflecting the diverse needs of community.

Planning, communication and advance funding

Clear capacity plan, proper communication to about constraints, and creative funding solutions such as advance plot purchases.

Green and natural burial options

Enthusiasm for low-impact, nature-friendly burial options i.e. wildflower areas, tree burials, no-mow zones and green burials.

Prioritising Mudford residents

Prioritise parishioners, particularly given pressure from surrounding areas, and the proposed development increasing local population.

Encouraging cremation to manage capacity

Providing more space for burial of ashes, could encourage more cremations and help manage future capacity more sustainably.

#14. Key take-outs: The Cemetery

- 1.** 100% of those with experience of the cemetery rate its maintenance positively, a genuine success story and a testament to the PC's direct management of this asset.
- 2.** Future capacity is the most consistent concern; residents specifically suggest acquiring adjacent land now, before pressure becomes acute, and several connect this to the housing development and the resulting population increase.
- 3.** Desire for greener, more inclusive burial options; open feedback suggests wildflower areas, tree burials, non-consecrated ground for non-faith residents, and green burial formats are all raised, suggesting the community is ready to think creatively about a traditionally sensitive subject.

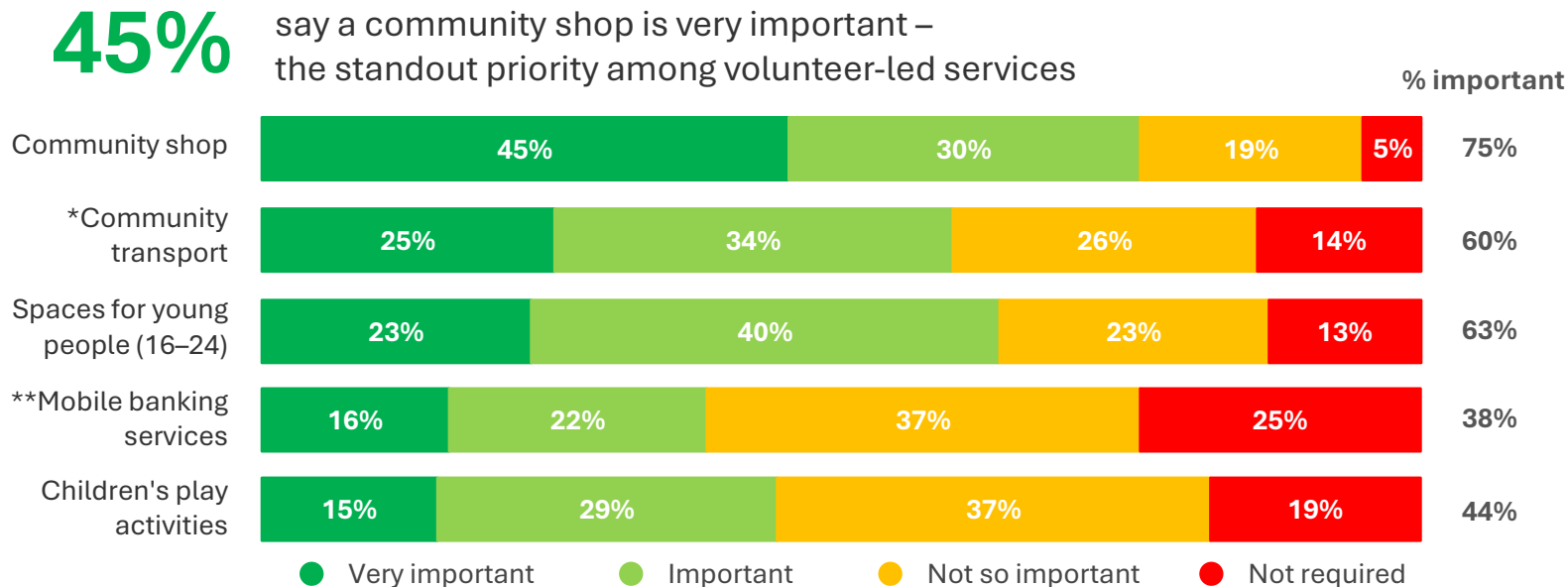
5. Aspirational Volunteer-Led Community Services



5. Volunteer-led Community Services Importance

Q10. Volunteer-led community services

Q10. How important are the following volunteer-led community services? (Sorted by "Very important" score)



*Community Transport: **65+ yrs = 33% very important** vs 18% for under 65s, **women = 68%** vs 48% men

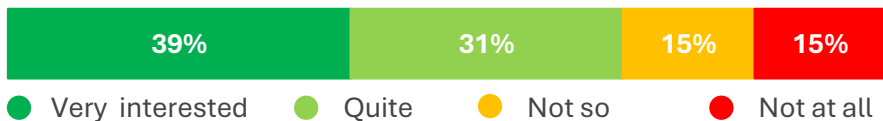
Mobile banking: **65+ yrs = 49% important vs 26% for under 65s

5A. Community Shop

Q54 Interest | Q55 Willingness to volunteer | Q56 Open feedback

Q54. How interested would you be in a community shop?

***70%** are very or quite interested in a community shop



***77% women** vs 61% men

Q55. Willing to volunteer to help run shop?



Note: Open feedback revealed the former village shop may be reopening commercially, respondents were aware of this when completing the survey

Key themes from open feedback (Q56)

Commercial shop reopening

The dominant finding: many respondents noted the former shop may reopen, making a community shop potentially redundant.

What residents want

Everyday essentials, fresh produce, newspapers, a post office facility and a social café element.

Post office as priority

Reinstating a post office was the single most consistent service request, regardless of shop format.

Viability concerns

Doubt about whether volunteers could sustain a community shop given competing commitments.

5B. Community-led Transport

Q57 Interest | Q58 Willingness to volunteer | Q59 Open feedback

Q57. How interested would you be in a community-led transport service?

***46%** are very or quite interested in a community transport service



● Very interested ● Quite ● Not so ● Not at all

***54% 65+ vs 36% <65** ***53% women vs 36% men**

Q58. Willing to volunteer for community transport?



● Yes ● Possibly, with more info ● No

Note: Open feedback highlighted practical barriers – insurance costs, legal requirements and use of personal vehicles – as key concerns for potential volunteers

Key themes from open feedback (Q59)

Strong support for older and non-driving residents

Recognised as genuinely valuable for those who cannot drive, particularly for medical appointments and shopping.

Medical appointments as priority destination

Hospital outpatients, GP surgeries and dentists cited as the most critical journeys without a car.

Practical and legal barriers

Insurance costs, use of own vehicles and volunteer capacity raised as significant obstacles to setting up a scheme.

Hidden unmet need

One respondent who ticked "No" noted they rely on friends for appointments, potentially suggesting real need is underreported.

5C. Organised Children's Play Activities

Q60 Importance to organise children's activities | Q61 Open feedback

Q60. How important is it to provide organised play activities for children in the parish?

83%

say it is important or very important to provide organised play activities for children



Key themes from open feedback (Q61)

Seasonal and holiday events as the most viable model

Residents favour Christmas, Easter and bank holiday events over regular weekly provision, given the small number of children in the parish and existing term-time commitments.

Social groups for parents and children

A gap identified for parent and toddler groups, after-school clubs and spaces for older children to socialise – the failed toddler group attempt noted as a missed opportunity.

Nature and outdoor activities

Strong enthusiasm for bat walks, den building, campfire cooking and tree planting – connecting children's provision to the broader environmental agenda.

Understand the need before committing resources

Several respondents asked how many children actually live in the parish and what they need before any provision is designed.

5D. Spaces & Activities for Young People (16–24)

Q62 Importance | Q63 Supported activities

Q62. How important is it to develop spaces and activities specifically for young people aged 16–24?

81%

say it is important or very important to develop spaces and activities for young people aged 16–24



Q63. Which types of spaces and activities would you most like to see? (% ticked)



Key themes from open feedback (Q64)

Village-based provision

A majority favour local provision over directing young people to Yeovil i.e. Yeovil seen as a complement, not a substitute.

Must be youth-led

Any provision must be shaped by young people themselves – not designed by adults and imposed.

Understand the need first

How many young people aged 16–24 live in the parish? Several respondents asked this before committing to provision.

Intergenerational exchange

A creative idea emerged — young people sharing digital skills with older residents in return for community involvement.

5. Key take-outs: Aspirational Community-led Services

A. Community Shop — 70% interested but the potential commercial reopening changes the picture. The post office function is the priority gap regardless of format.

B. Community-led Transport — 46% interested, rising to 54% among 65+ residents. Medical appointments are the critical unmet need. Practical barriers exist but are not insurmountable.

C. Children's Play Activities — 83% say important, but realistic scale is key. Seasonal/holiday events, social groups for parents and children, and nature-based activities are the most viable and enthusiastically supported model.

D. Spaces for Young People (16–24) — 81% say important. Social space and sports top the wish list. Provision must be youth-led i.e. not designed and imposed by adults.

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a village scene. In the background, a stone bridge with two large arches spans a river. A white bus is driving across the bridge. Behind the bridge, a church with a tall steeple and several houses are visible on a hill. The foreground shows a group of people: a man with a beard and a flat cap, a woman with grey hair, a man in a plaid shirt, a woman with blue hair, a woman with dark hair, and a man with glasses. They are all looking towards the right. The scene is surrounded by lush greenery, yellow flowers, and white blossoms on trees. The text "Thank you!" is written in a large, bold, dark blue font across the middle of the image.

Thank you!