

Welshampton & Lyneal Parish Plan 2014

Survey Analysis Report

Prepared on behalf of Welshampton & Lyneal Parish Council

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Welshampton & Lyneal Parish Questionnaire

Overview

The data input and data analysis was carried out independently by Renee Wallace and members of the Rural Services Team at Shropshire RCC.

The questionnaire was designed to assist the review and refresh of the Welshampton, Lyneal and Colemere Parish Plan which was published in 2008. It was designed to be completed by anyone, of all ages, to have their say and express their views and opinions. A total of 375 questionnaires were originally sent out, one to every property in the parish. All members of a household were allowed to complete their own questionnaire and further questionnaires were available via the parish clerk.

A total of 83 responses were received giving a response rate of just over 22% on the questionnaires that were distributed. It was possible to complete the questionnaire online, 13 replies were received in this way. The other 70 responses were received using the printed form and pre-paid envelopes.

It should be noted that the people who responded did not necessarily answer all of the questions. In fact the highest number of responses for any one question was 81, the lowest 62. Unless otherwise stated, where percentages are shown, this relates to the percentage of responses to that particular question, not a percentage of the total questionnaire responses received. This is to allow for the occasions where questions were left unanswered.

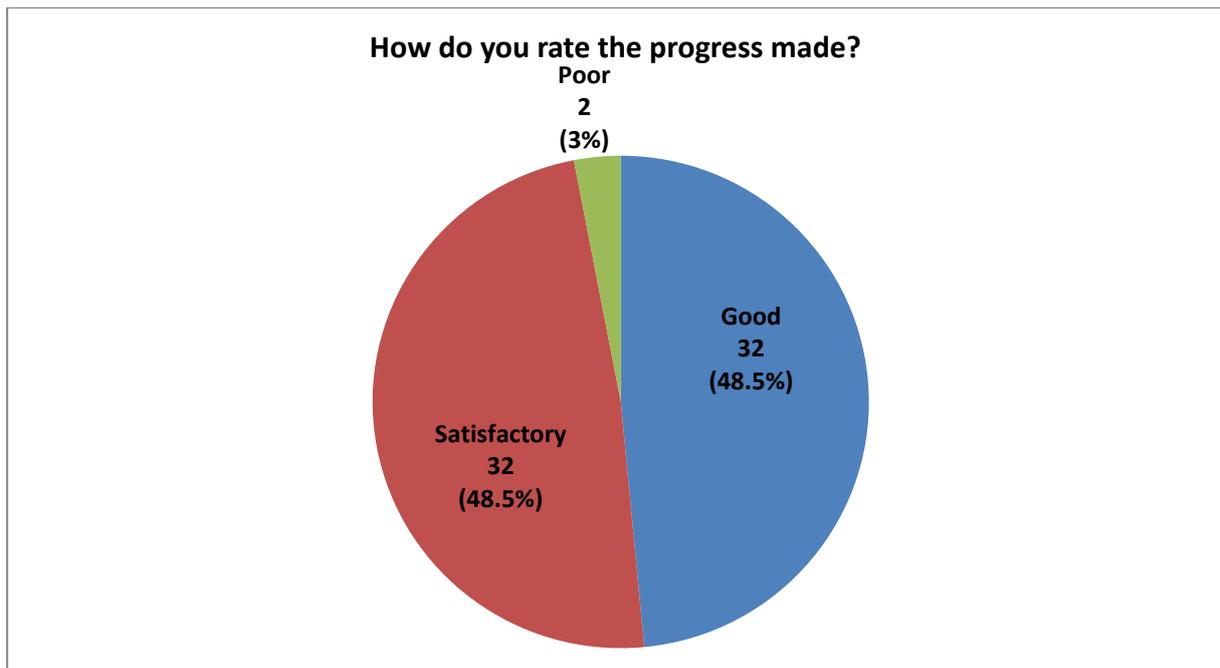
The final question on the questionnaire was an 'open comment' field. Any comments made here have been reviewed and anything that identifies an individual, either as having made the comment, or where comment is directed at a specific person, has been removed. Where appropriate, comments have been summarised and reported in the section they relate to. General additional comments are reported at the end of the report.

Review of progress to date

The questionnaire set out the objectives and achievements from the 2008 plan and respondents were asked to rate overall progress against these as good, satisfactory or poor.

Sixty-six people responded to this question. Almost all respondents were at least satisfied with the progress made towards the objectives set out in the 2008 plan. Just under half of respondents felt progress had been satisfactory and just under half felt progress had been good.

The graph below shows the rating responses of those who answered the question.



Respondents were asked to elaborate on their rating by an open comment field but this was not widely used. One respondent who ticked 'satisfactory' left this comment:

"Apathy on the part of parishioners seems to have stymied some very worthy ideas."

Three respondents left general comments as per below:

"You are doing a first class job, keep up the good work."

"I would like to commend the council on the excellent work that they do for our parish."

"Consulting and updating on key issues likely to affect the parish has been excellent - DO KEEP IT UP!"

"W&L.P.C. do a great job, keep us all well informed and are easily accessible as well as being very productive. Many thanks!!"

Key objectives/planned actions for the 2014-2019 Parish Plan

Plan

The questionnaire set out a series of key objectives for the 2014-19 Parish Plan, based on some objectives carried forward from the 2008 plan and feedback from residents. Respondents were asked to state if they agreed or disagreed to have these objectives included in the 2014 Parish Plan.

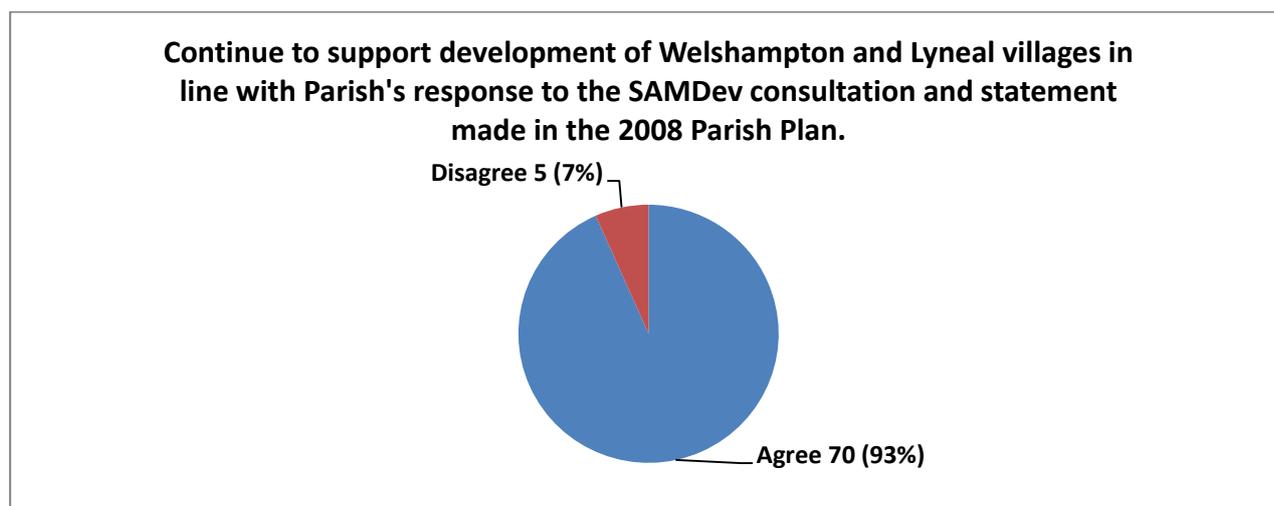
1. Housing and Commercial development

Objective: To maintain the character of the Parish.

Action 1: Continue to support development of Welshampton and Lyneal villages in line with Parish's response to the SAMDev consultation and statement made in the 2008 Parish Plan

Seventy-five people responded to this question. Of these respondents, seventy agreed with the action, which represents 93.3% of the total responses to this question. Five respondents disagreed with the action, which represents 6.7% of the total responses to this question.

The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



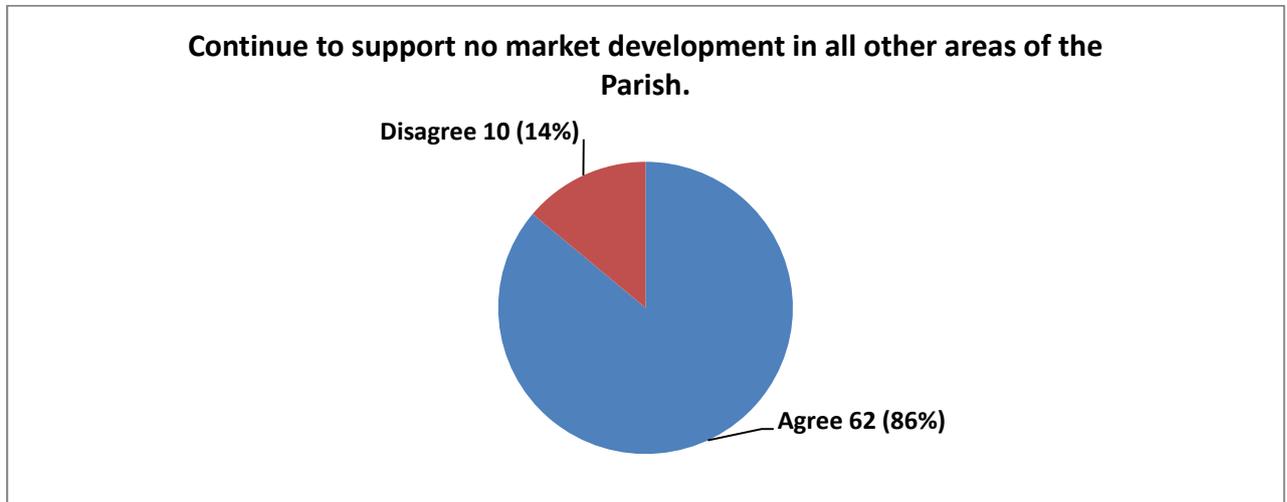
Four comments were made relating to housing and development, one highlighting the need for mixed tenure housing encouraging young families and local people to stay in the village as they feel there is a lack of housing to accommodate growing families. This respondent also mentioned the need for a safe play area. However, another comment stated that instead of the 4-5 bedroom properties which have been built, that priority should be put on first time (younger) buyer.

Another respondent highlighted the importance of ensuring the playing fields by the school are retained as playing fields or open space and housing development is in character with the village theme (referring to the ones by the pub as being too 'urban').

One person expressed concerns over local planning.

Action 2: Continue to support no market development in all other areas of the Parish.

Seventy two people responded to this question. Eighty six percent of the respondents agreed that this action should be included in the 2014 plan (62 people) and ten disagreed (14%). The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.

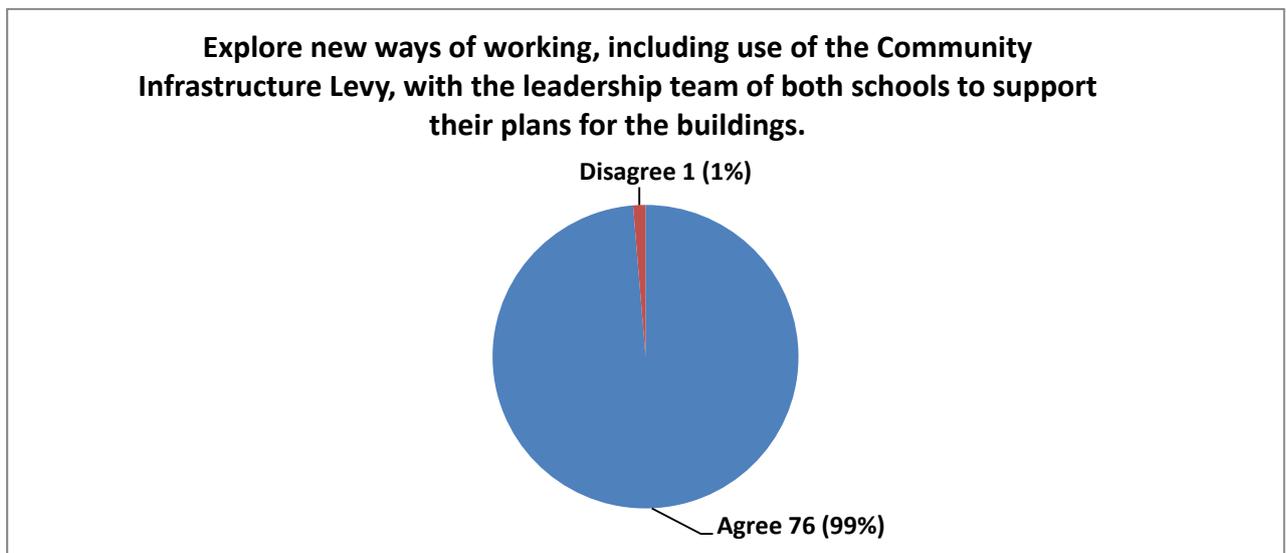


2. Education facilities

Objective: To ensure the Pre-School and Primary School continue to provide local provision for the Parish.

Action 1: Explore new ways of working, including use of the Community Infrastructure Levy, with the leadership team of both schools to support their plans for the buildings.

Seventy-seven people responded to this question and all except one person agreed that this action should be included in the 2014 plan. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



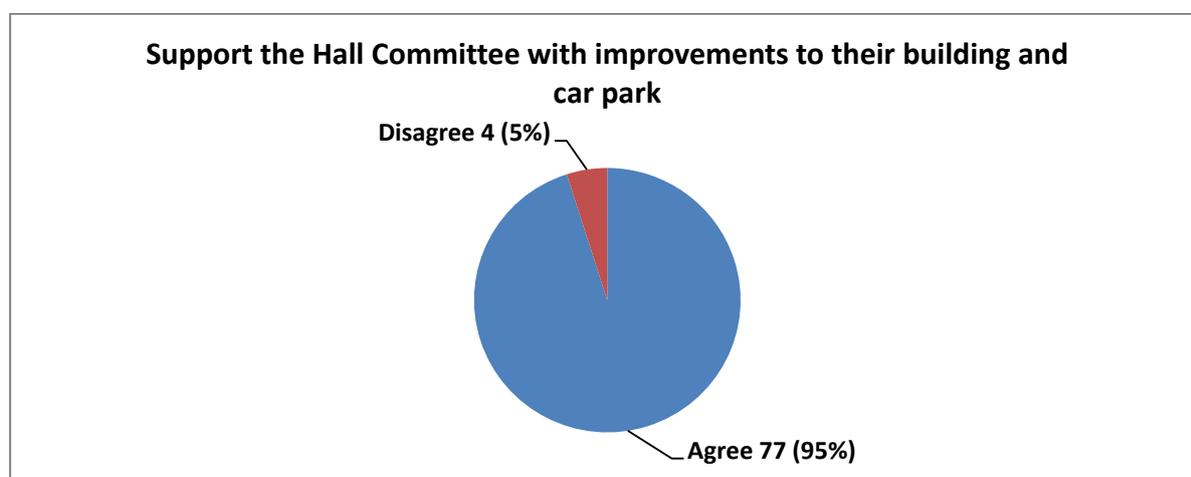
3. Parish Hall

Objective: To ensure the Parish Hall is developed and maintained for the benefit of all parishioners

Four actions on this topic were included in the questionnaire.

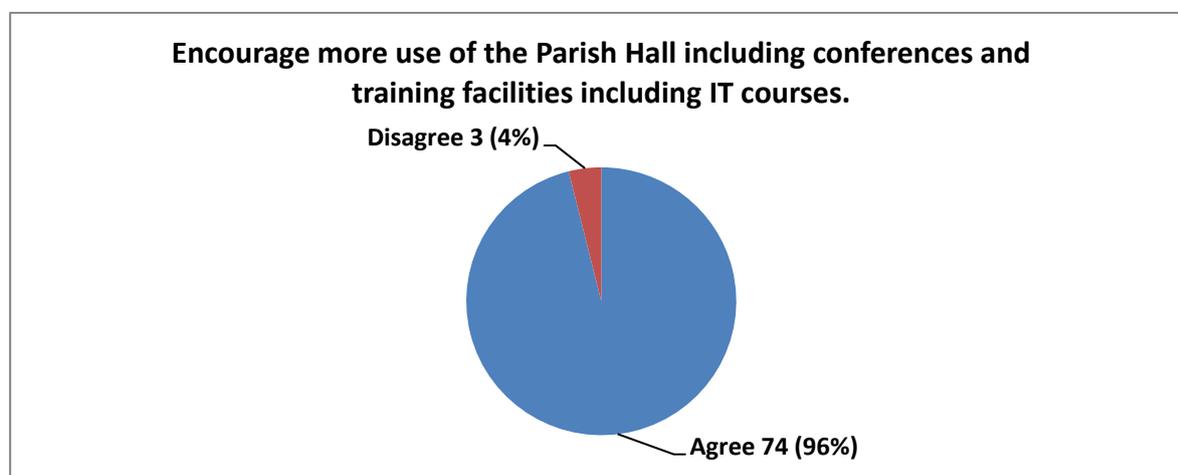
Action 1: Support the Hall Committee with improvements to their building and car park e.g. move bar, enlarge and improve kitchen facilities, provide better storage facilities and re-surface car park.

Eighty-one people responded to this question. The majority (77 people making up 95% of the respondents) agreed that the action should be included in the 2014 plan. Just four people (5%) ticked disagree. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



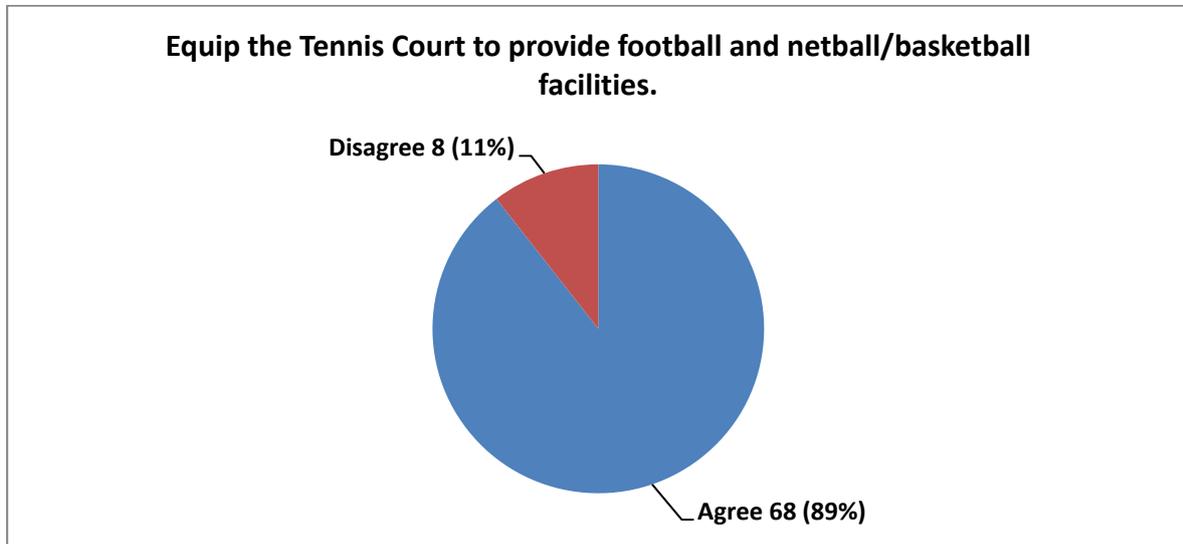
Action 2: Encourage more use of the Parish Hall including conferences and training facilities including IT courses.

Seventy-seven people responded to this question. The majority (74 people making up 96% of the respondents) agreed that the action should be included in the 2014 plan. Just three people (4%) ticked disagree. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



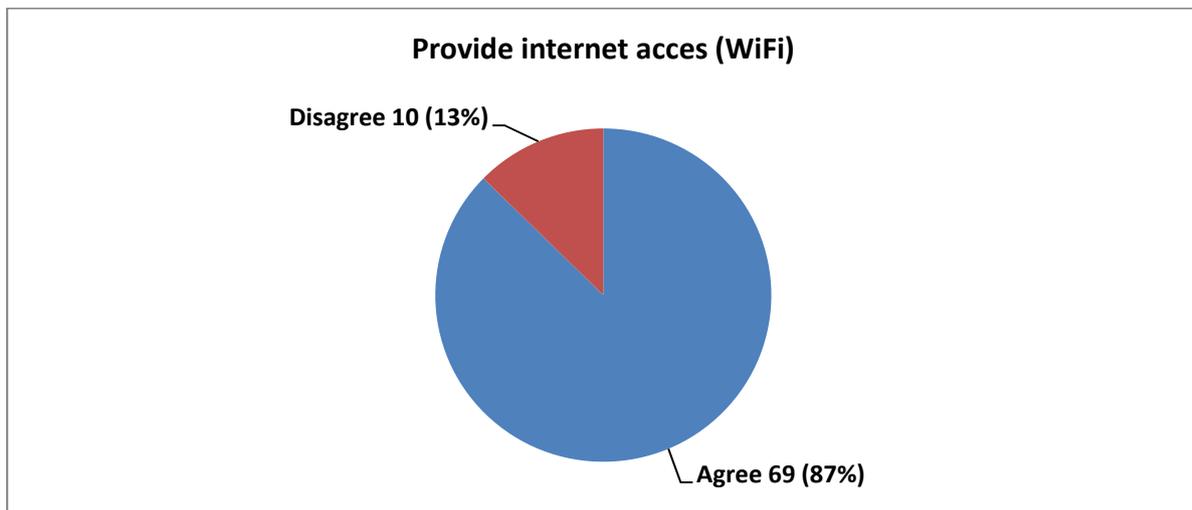
Action 3: Equip the Tennis Court to provide football and netball/basketball facilities.

Again, the majority of the seventy-six people who responded agreed that this action should be included in the 2014 plan (68 people, 89%). Just eight people (11%) ticked 'disagree'. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



Action 4: Provide internet acces (WiFi)

Seventy-nine people answered the question with the majority ticking 'agree' (69 people, 87 %) and ten people ticking 'disagree', representing 13% of the responses. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



Only two short comments were made regarding the Parish Hall, one mentioned that the heating of the building may need improvement and the other that the building is not suitable as a conference venue.

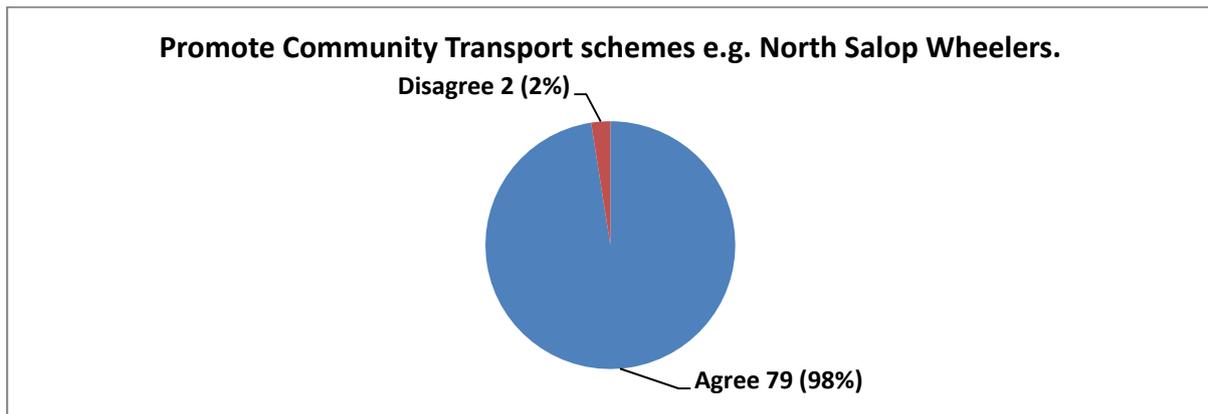
4. Community Transport

Objective: To ensure parishioners who have no access to public transport are not isolated.

Two suggested actions were included in the questionnaire on this topic.

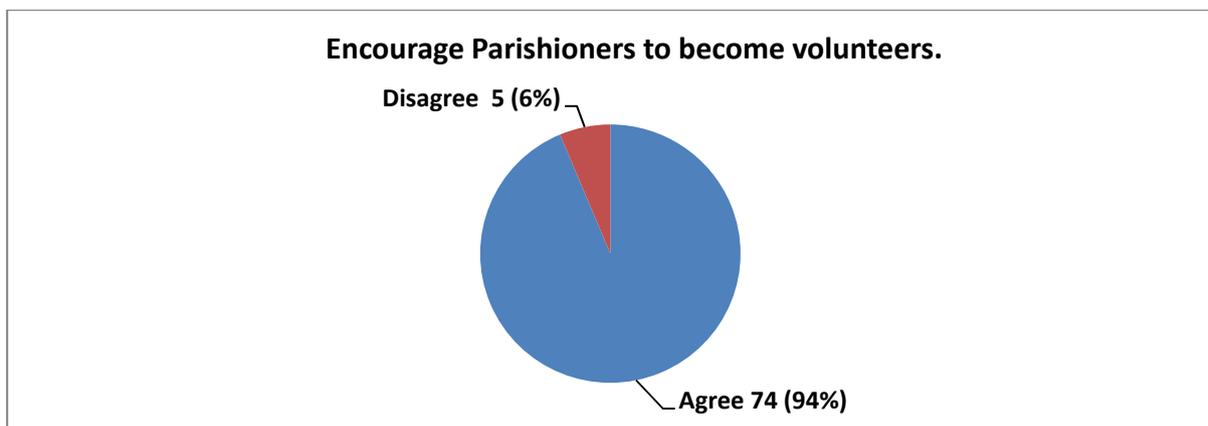
Action 1: Promote Community Transport schemes e.g. North Salop Wheelers.

Eighty-one people answered this question and the vast majority (79 of them, 98%) ticked 'agree'. Just two people (2%) ticked 'disagree'. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



Action 2: Encourage Parishioners to become volunteers.

Seventy-nine people answered the question with the vast majority ticking 'agree' (74 people, 94 %) and five people ticking 'disagree', representing 6% of the responses. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



Only one further comment was made relating to transport:

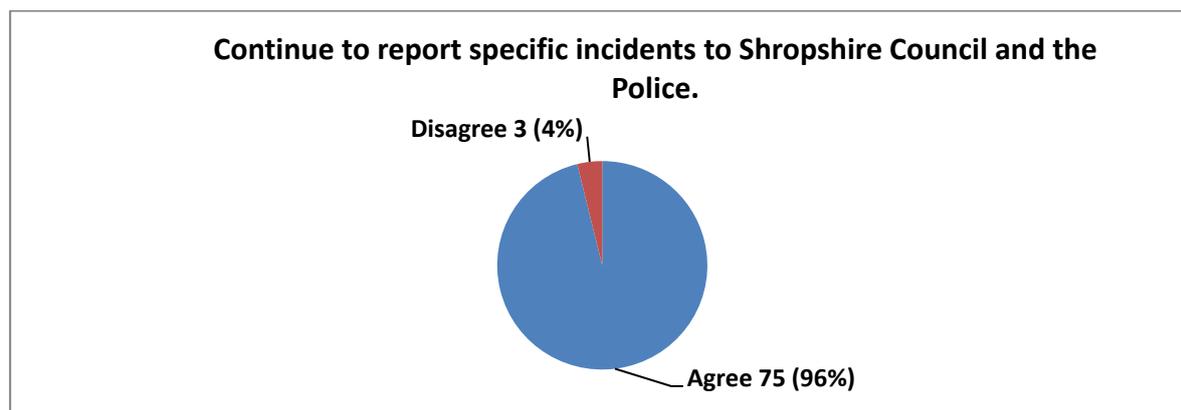
"We only have one bus every two weeks. Please can we have one every week."

5. Speeding Traffic

Objective: To ensure that Shropshire Council conducts regular reviews of traffic volume and speed on the major roads through the Parish. Two actions were included in the questionnaire.

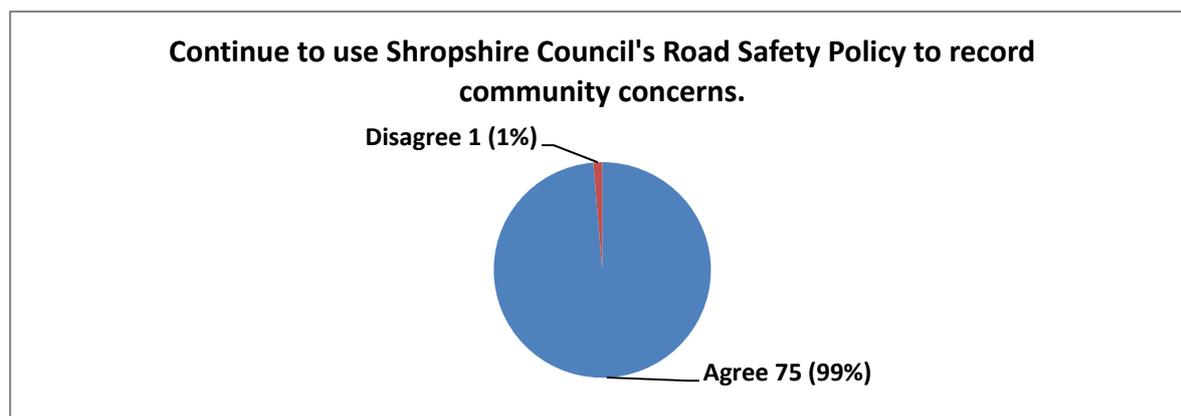
Action 1: Continue to report specific incidents to Shropshire Council and the Police.

Seventy-eight people responded to this question. Ninety six percent of the respondents agreed that this action should be included in the 2014 plan (75 people). Three people disagreed, representing 4%. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



Action 2: Continue to use Shropshire Council's Road Safety Policy to record community concerns.

Seventy-six people answered the question with all but one person ticking 'agree'. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



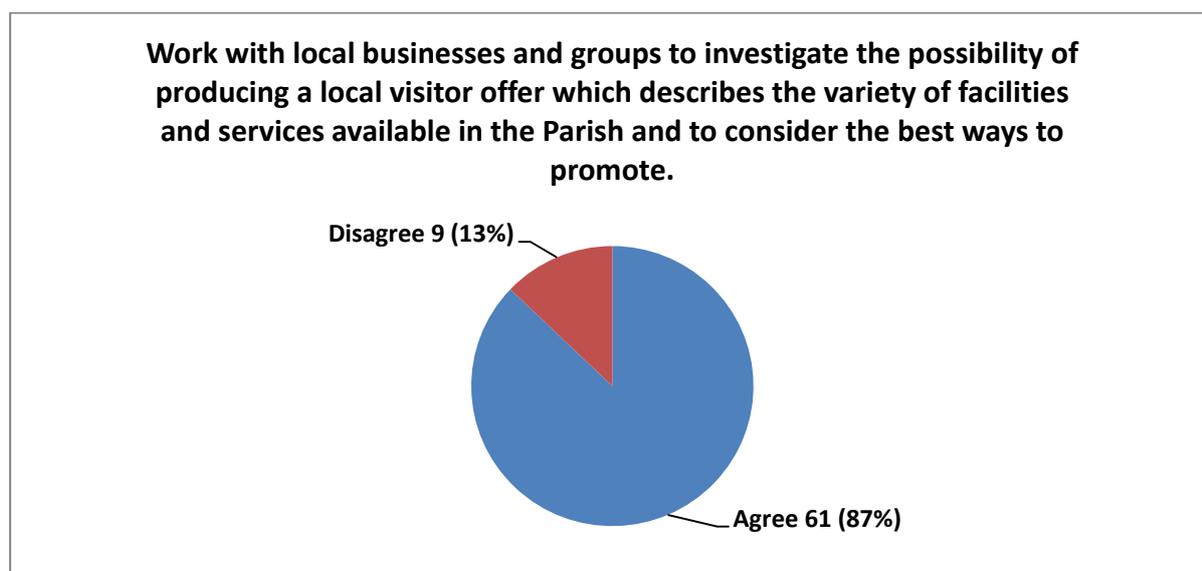
Ten people made comments related to excessive speed of traffic, mainly concerning the B5063 and calling for improvements and control of speed on this road (people specifically mentioned Balmer as far as the canal bridge). Other roads and lanes such as the A495 were also mentioned. Several comments highlighted concerns about the size of traffic using this road and the resulting damage of road surface and verges. One comment stated that *“as long as cars are overtaking between the Breaden Heath Crossroads and the village they will always be speeding in the village.”*

6. Tourism

Objective: To improve information and promotion of local facilities, services and activities. Four proposed actions were included in the questionnaire.

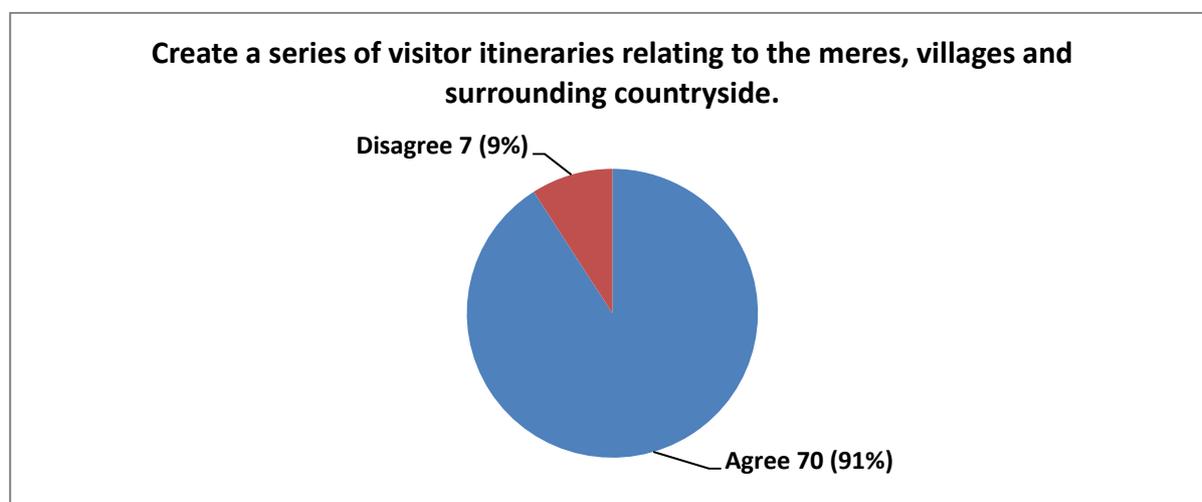
Action 1: Work with local businesses and groups to investigate the possibility of producing a local visitor offer which describes the variety of facilities and services available in the Parish and to consider the best ways to promote

Seventy-people responded to this question with the majority agreeing (61 people, 87%). Nine people ticked 'disagree' (13%). The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



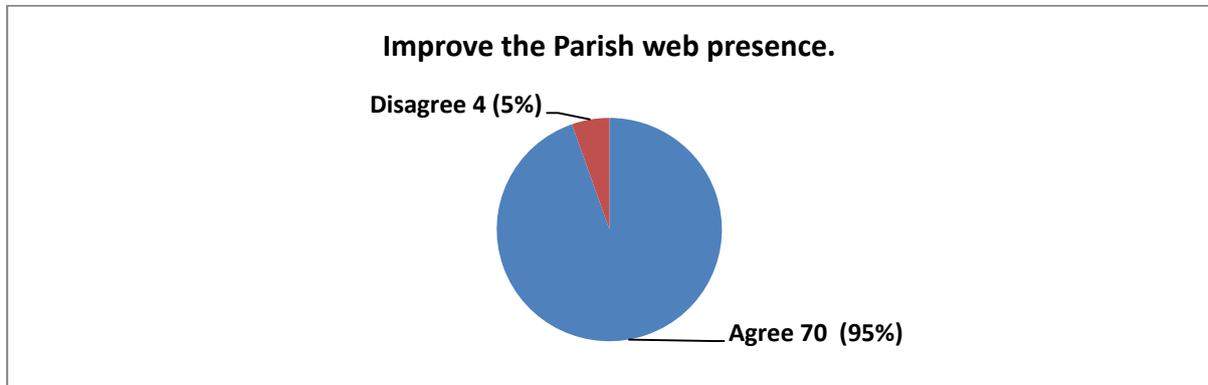
Action 2: Create a series of visitor itineraries relating to the meres, villages and surrounding countryside.

Seventy-seven people responded to this question. Ninety one percent of the respondents agreed that this action should be included in the 2014 plan (70 people) and seven disagreed (9%). The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



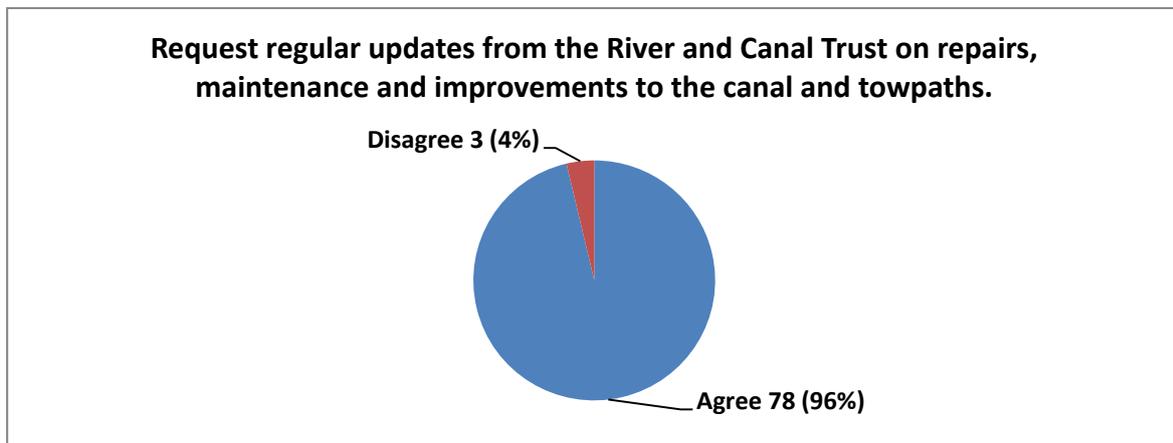
Action3: Improve the Parish web presence.

Seventy-four people responded to this question with the vast majority agreeing (70 people, 95%). Four people ticked 'disagree', representing 5%. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



Action 4: Request regular updates from the River and Canal Trust on repairs, maintenance and improvements to the canal and towpaths.

Eighty-one people responded to this question. Seventy-eight respondents agreed that this action should be included in the 2014 plan (96%). Three people disagreed, representing 4%. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



Two people commented on the Tourism objective and these are reported below in their entirety (spelling errors corrected).

“Greater consideration should be given to maintaining the balance between making Colemere accessible and promoting it as a tourist spot and the need to preserve the special and qualities it was as a place of quiet reflection and site of scientific interest. Recent work installing an access path is a perfect example of poor planning and little consideration for the location - it's a complete mess.”

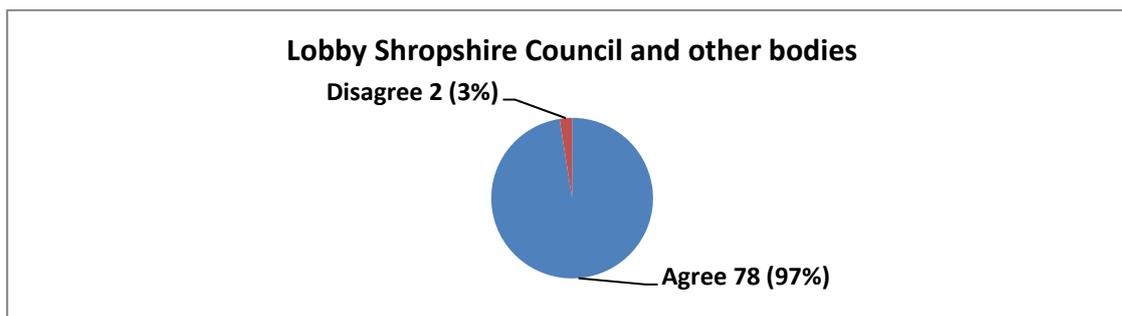
“The parish council is too small an organisation to make an impact. If, and it is a big if, they are to be involved they should work with others - perhaps coordinated through the local joint committee. There is no point in burdening the canal and river trust for information without making a contribution. Information is available through the CRT website and the Shropshire Union canal society.”

7. Broadband speed and mobile phone reception

Objective: To ensure infrastructure is of a level to enable Parishioners to fully access these services.

Action 1: Lobby Shropshire Council and other bodies to ensure all avenues to improve services are investigated and actioned.

Eighty-one people responded to this question with the vast majority agreeing (78 people, 97%). Just two people ticked 'disagree' (3%). The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



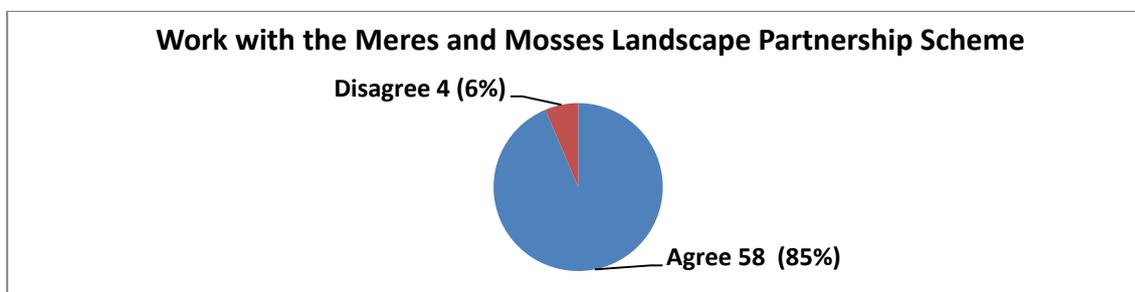
One person made a comment relating to this topic, highlighting the inadequacy of broadband service and that a campaign and fundraising for this issue should be started.

8. Local landscape

Objective: To understand and celebrate the local landscape and have a say in its future management.

Action 1: Work with the Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme to run a series of projects to document the heritage of the area and future management plans.

Sixty-two people responded to this question. Of those, 85% agreed (58 people) that the action should be included in the plan and four people (6%) disagreed. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



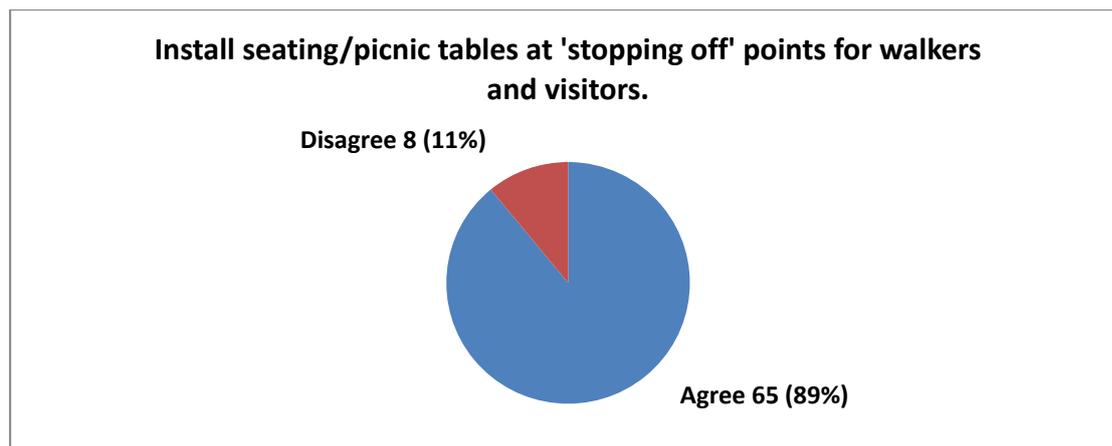
Three comments were made relating to this topic, one calling for a control of fly-tipping and the other one stating that *"the first thing any visitor sees is the eye-sore of a tip coming from Shrewsbury."* Another comment asked for a strategic tree planting plan.

9. Community Facilities

Objective: To provide additional and permanent facilities in Welshampton, Lyneal and Colemere.

Action 1: Install seating/picnic tables at 'stopping off' points for walkers and visitors.

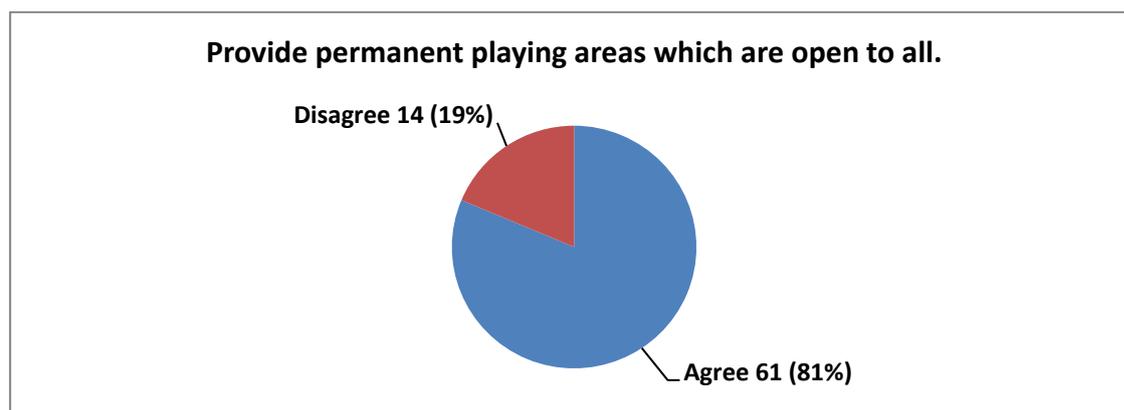
Seventy-three people responded to this question. Sixty-five respondents (89%) agreed and eight respondents disagreed (11%). The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



One person expressed an opinion against picnic tables.

Action 2: Provide permanent playing areas which are open to all.

This question was answered by seventy-five people and attracted the joint highest level of disagreement (14 people, 19% of those who responded to this question). Sixty-one people (81%) agreed that the action should be put in the 2014 plan. The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



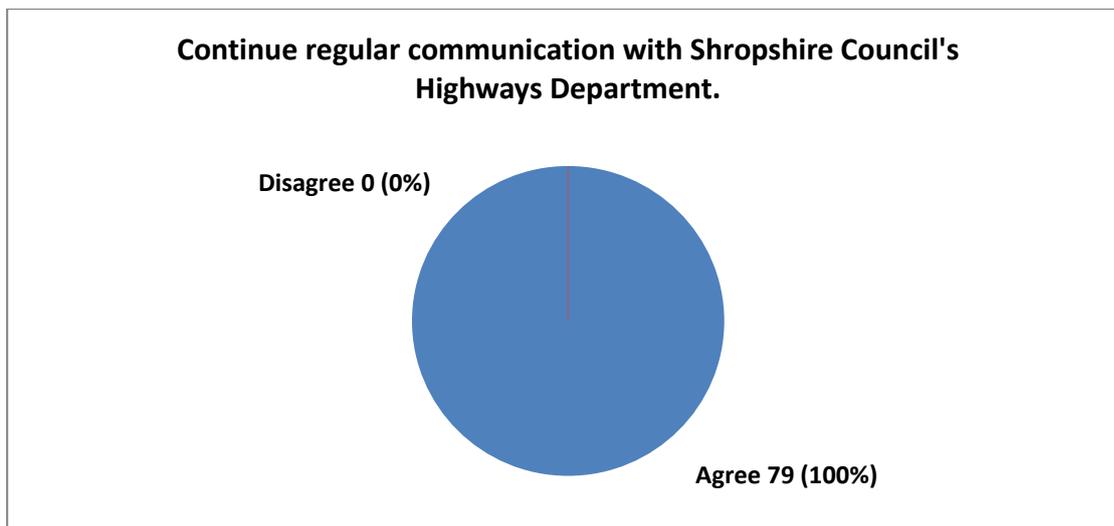
Several people made additional comments around this topic, two calling for better youth facilities (clubs and playing facilities). Two responses mentioned investigating the costs of main sewage and one wanted waste bins on (regular services) at stop off points. One person expressed concern over previous investment in playing areas and their perceived under-usage.

10.Roads and lanes

Objective: To improve condition of roads and lanes to make them safer for all users including pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

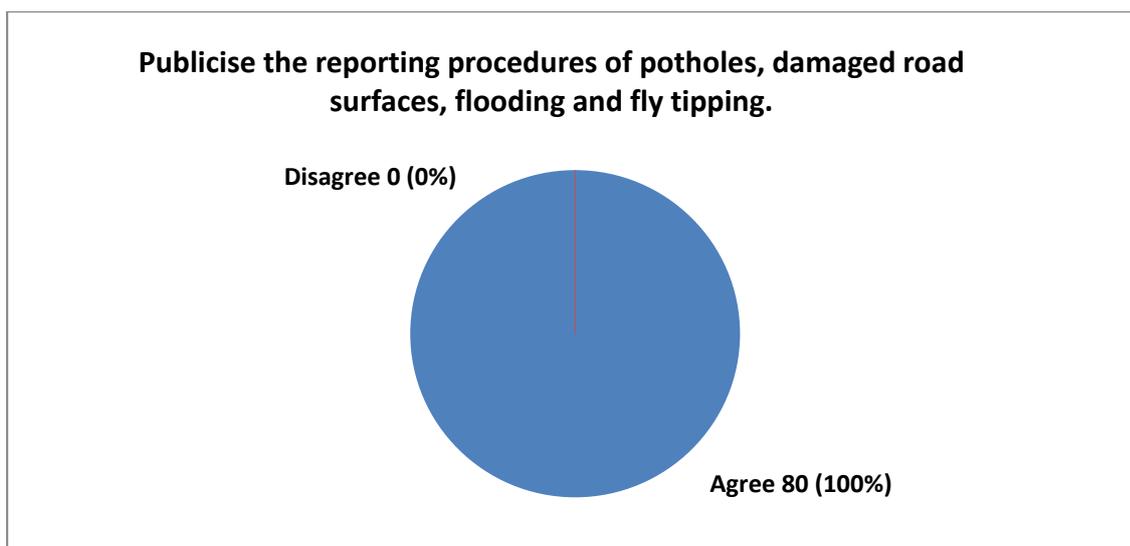
Action 1: Continue regular communication with Shropshire Council's Highways Department.

All seventy-nine people who responded agreed this action should be included in the 2014 plan.



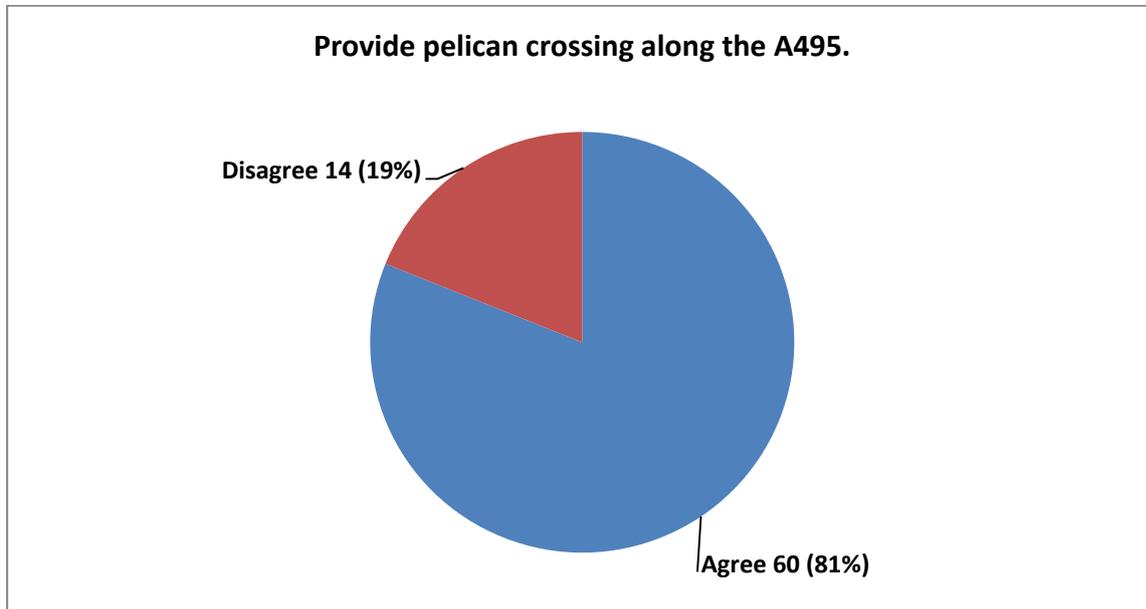
Action 2: Publicise the reporting procedures of potholes, damaged road surfaces, flooding and fly tipping.

Eighty people responded to this question and 100 percent agreed the action should go in the 2014 plan.



Action 3: Provide pelican crossing along the A495.

Seventy four people responded to this question and it attracted the joint highest number of respondents opting for 'disagree' (14 people, 19% of the responses). Sixty people (81% of the respondents) agreed.



The topic of roads and lanes triggered the greatest number of additional comments. Two criticised pot hole and road repair, one suggested lobbying the Council. Two respondents proposed that Shropshire Council should also be asked to create, adopt and maintain more passing places on the narrow lanes. Four people called for improvement and maintenance of ditches, hedges, verges, kerbs and gulleys and four people stated farm traffic should be reminded of their obligation to clean the road after completion of their journey.

Two people mentioned maintenance of the canal towpath and one suggested stopping people parking by the Sun on the A495. Another called for better parking facilities in the village.

Opinions were mixed over the Pelican Crossing, one stated unnecessary, one stating it would be in the wrong place as there is no continuous pavement and one suggested a pelican crossing by the school/church.

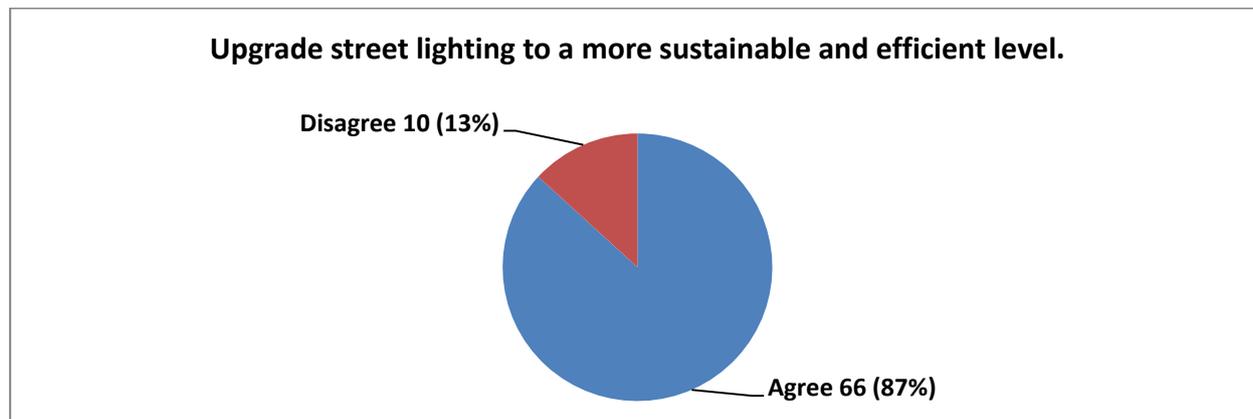
One respondent would like to see the improvement of footpaths (including circular walks) and one mentioned the village would be tidier if residents were encouraged to take in empty recycling boxes after collection.

11. Street Furniture

Objective: To improve services and signage in the Parish

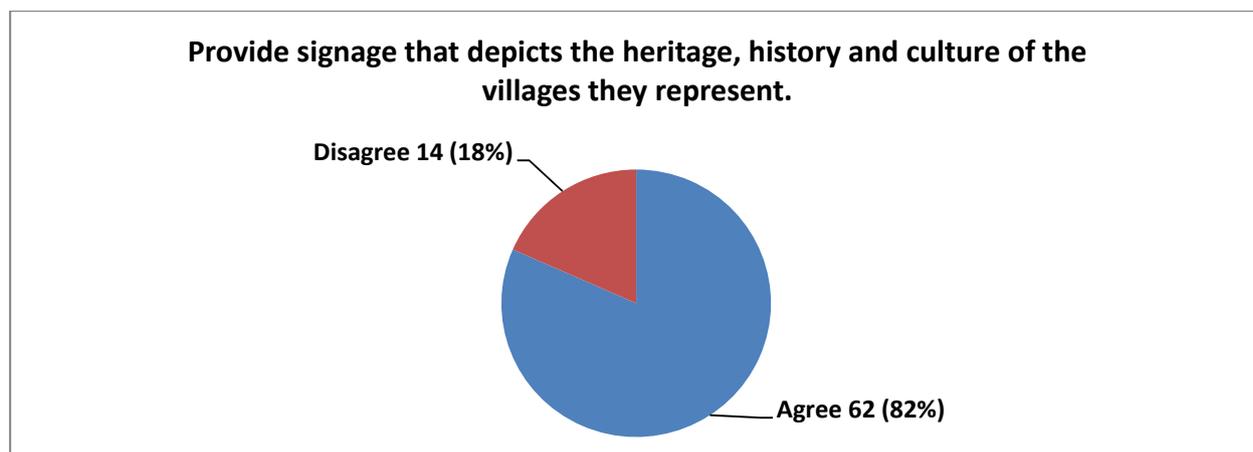
Action 1: Upgrade street lighting to a more suitable and efficient level.

Seventy-six people responded to this question. Sixty-six agreed (87%) and ten disagreed (13%). The graph below shows the responses of those who answered the question.



Action 2: provide signage that depicts the heritage, history and culture of the villages they represent.

Seventy-six people responded to this question and this action attracted the joint highest level of disagreement (14 people, 18% of the responses). Sixty-two people (82% of the respondents) agreed.



Four comments related to this topic. One suggested the need for more attractive signage along the straight roads in the area, another asked for reduced signage. One comment suggested a parish notice board by the phone box at Hampton Bank, as this might enable the residents in this area to feel part of the village.

Finally, one respondent suggested reducing the hours that street lights illuminate the villages to save energy.

12. Other comments

The questionnaire invited respondents to share any other comments that they have. As many of these comments related to the key objectives, we have been able to present them alongside the relevant topics and actions above.

A small number of miscellaneous comments were received which may be of interest to the Parish Council:

“To encourage residents and businesses to change from fossil fuels to sustainable and renewable energy sources and to support applications by stakeholders in doing so.”

“Include hamlets as well as villages in the plan: Breaden Heath, Newton, Northwood (are there others?)”

“To ensure that the church is supported and maintained.”

“Emergency planning group formed in case adverse weather conditions become problematic to the community as winters become wetter and summers drier.”

Conclusion

Of all of the actions suggested for inclusion in the 2014 plan, none of these received significant disagreement from respondents. No more than fourteen people disagreed with any of the suggested actions. The actions with the highest level of disagreement related to a playing area, signage and the pelican crossing.

As with many issues affecting a whole community, some will agree, some will disagree. Hopefully the data in this report identifies those areas over which there is a slight difference of opinion and require further areas of probing with additional consultation, whilst also highlighting areas that have general community support/agreement.