

# **Astley**

# **Community Led Plan**

**Survey Analysis Report**

**November 2013**

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# Astley Community Led Plan Questionnaire Analysis

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# Astley Community Led Plan Questionnaire Analysis

## Overview

The data input and data analysis was carried out independently by Gill Porter, Community & Rural Development Co-ordinator, Rural Services Team at Shropshire Rural Community Council.

Survey forms were distributed to approximately 200 households within the parish and the 107 responses equate to a 53.5% response rate. Individuals were encouraged to each complete a questionnaire. Responses were submitted either via online completion, or via pre-paid envelopes, or through collection of copies by volunteers.

Unless otherwise stated, all percentages are given as a percentage of the number of respondents to that question. Any comments made within the questionnaire have been reviewed, and anything that identifies an individual, either as having made the comment, or where comment is directed at a specific person or address, have been removed. For the purposes of this report the comments have been summarised, but a full copy of all comments made is available on request.

Figure 1 shows the breakdown by percentage of where respondents live within the parish.

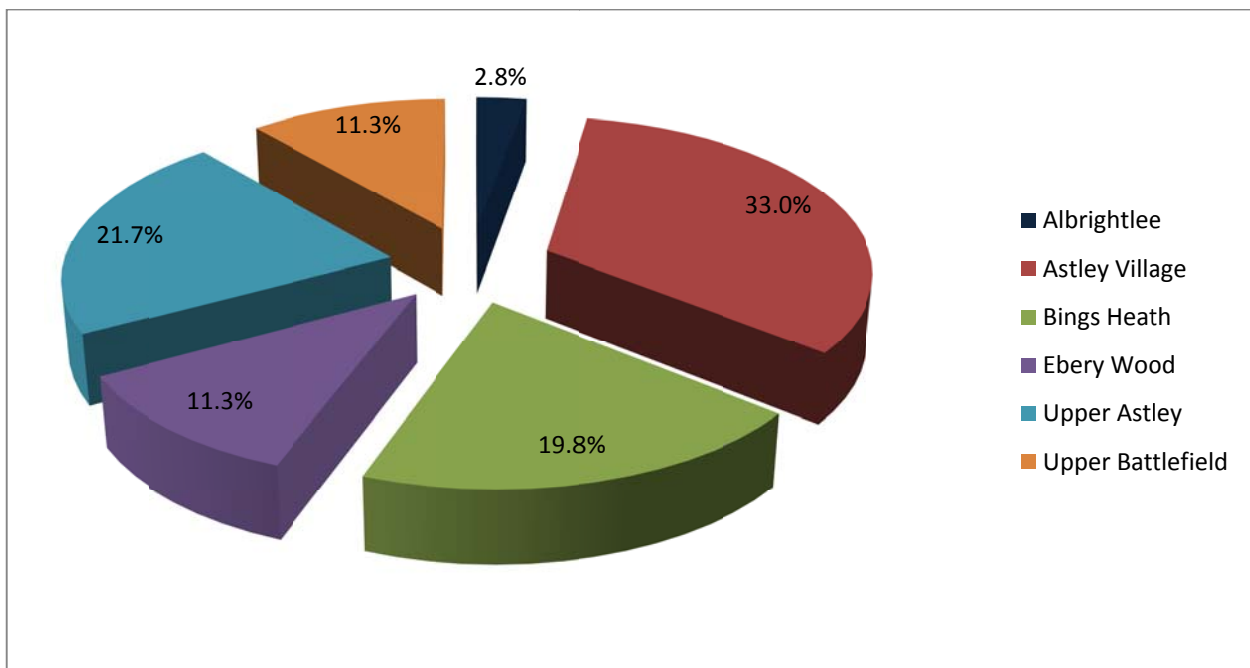


Figure 1:

27.4% of respondents have lived in the parish for over 30 years, with a further 21.7% having lived in the parish for between 21 and 30 years. Just 17.9% of respondents have lived in the parish for less than 5 years.

Respondents were also asked why they had chosen to move to the parish. 53.4% of respondents stated it was for a better quality of life, with 27.3% stating it was to be nearer to where they worked. An additional 23 comments were also made, that highlighted additional reasons for people moving to the area which included:

- Finding the right property: offering the right size, style and location
- The balance between countryside, and distance to Shrewsbury and other services.
- For family reasons, either to be nearer to family, or because they had moved to a family owned home.

## Local Connections

### Parish Council

Figure 2 shows whether respondents felt that the Parish Council represented their views and interests. Whilst a Don't Know box wasn't an option on the questionnaire 11 respondents added this as their response, hence including it in the answers.

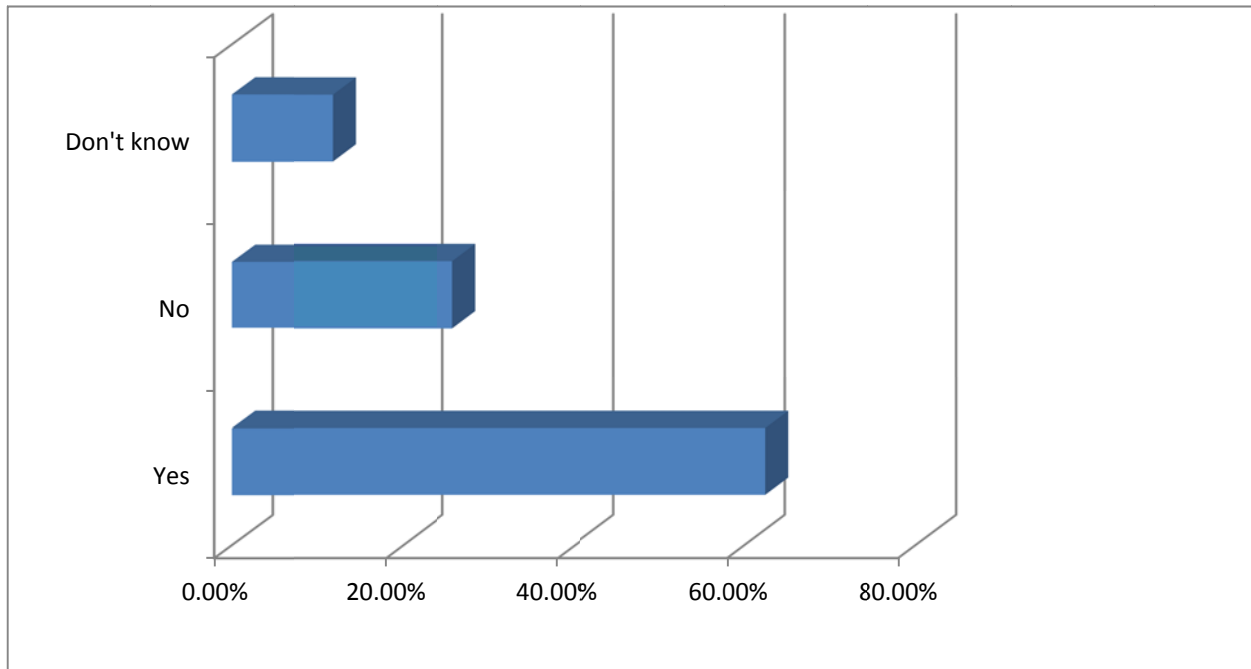


Figure 2:

52.3% of respondents stated they did know when Parish Council meetings are held. However 47.7% of respondents did not know when the Parish Council met. The percentages were very similar for those who knew there were 15 minutes prior to each Parish Council meeting to receive representations, questions, requests or suggestions from members of the public (51.9%: Yes, 48.1%: No).

### Communications

The most regularly used way of finding out about local events and parish information is through the Church Benefact magazine with 52.3% of respondents stating they regularly used this method, with a further 33.7% stating they used the village notice boards.

66.2% of respondents stated they never used local websites to find out about local events and other parish information, with 55.1% stating they never used local media and 54.1% stating they never use Hadnall Village News.

48.4% of respondents stated they occasionally find out too late about events.

Respondents were then asked what they would use a local newsletter for, if one were produced. 83.2% of respondents said they would use it for updates from parish groups and organisations, and 53.7% would use it to advertise local events/groups/activities.

68% stated they would not use it to advertise their goods/services.

### Internet Access

85.8% of respondents have an internet connection at home. The table below shows the breakdown by settlement of whether internet speeds are currently fast enough for their purposes.

Settlement	% response Yes internet is fast enough	% response No internet is not fast enough
Albrightlee	100.0%	0%
Astley Village	45.5%	54.5%
Bings Heath	57.1%	42.9%
Ebery Wood	36.4%	63.6%
Upper Astley	63.2%	36.8%
Upper Battlefield	50.0%	50.0%

92.5% use the internet for pleasure, 83.9% for communication, 51.6% for education and 41.9% for business use.

Only 18.3% of respondents felt their internet connection was excellent, with a further 35.5% stating it was good. 34.4% felt their internet connection was satisfactory with 11.8% stating it was poor. When viewed by settlement 30% of respondents from Bings Heath and 15.2% of respondents from Astley stated their internet connection was poor.

### Traffic, Transport and Roads

#### Road Safety

Figure 3 shows the responses to the question about where respondents are concerned about the speed of traffic:

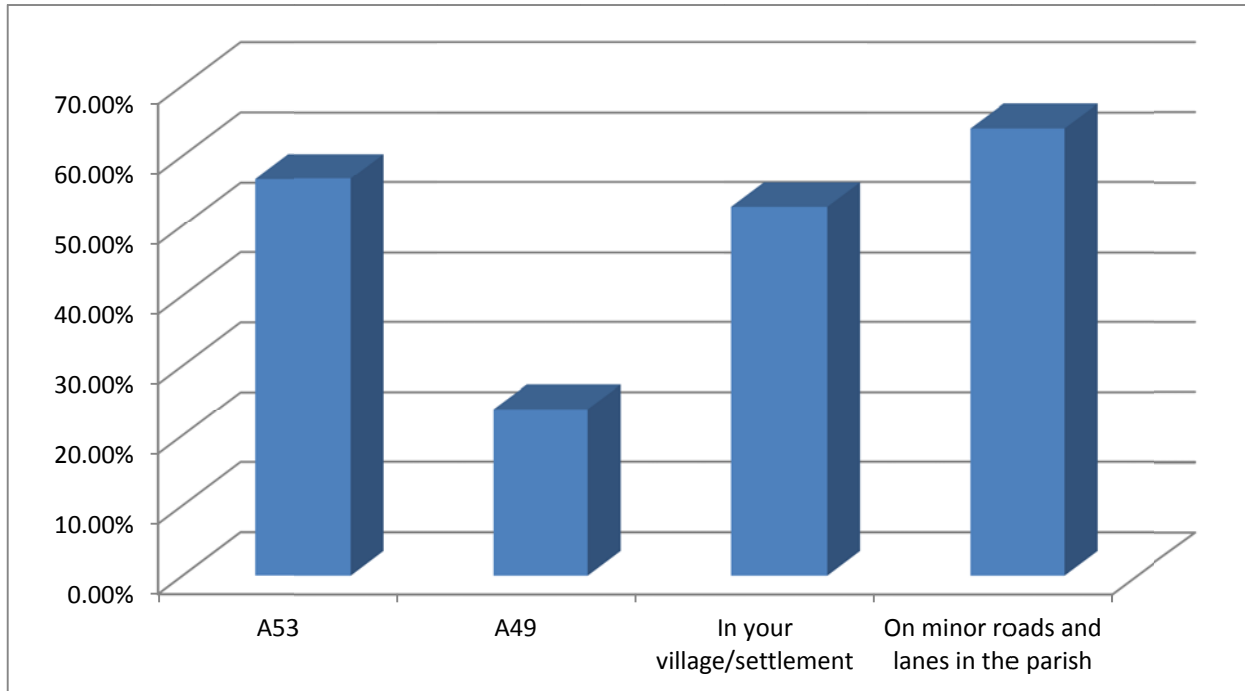


Figure 3:

The table below shows the percentages by settlement of where respondents were concerned about the speed of traffic. It should be noted that respondents were able to tick as many responses as they felt applied.

Settlement	Speed on A53	Speed on A49	Speed in your village/hamlet	Speed on minor roads and lanes
Albrightlee	100.0%	0%	0%	33.3%
Astley Village	39.4%	24.2%	66.7%	75.8%
Bings Heath	80.0%	5.0%	55.0%	65.0%
Ebery Wood	70.0%	20.0%	40.0%	80.0%
Upper Astley	71.4%	14.3%	57.1%	66.7%
Upper Battlefield	11.1%	100.0%	22.2%	0%

Respondents were then asked if road safety was an issue at any of the sites listed. The results are shown at Figure 4.

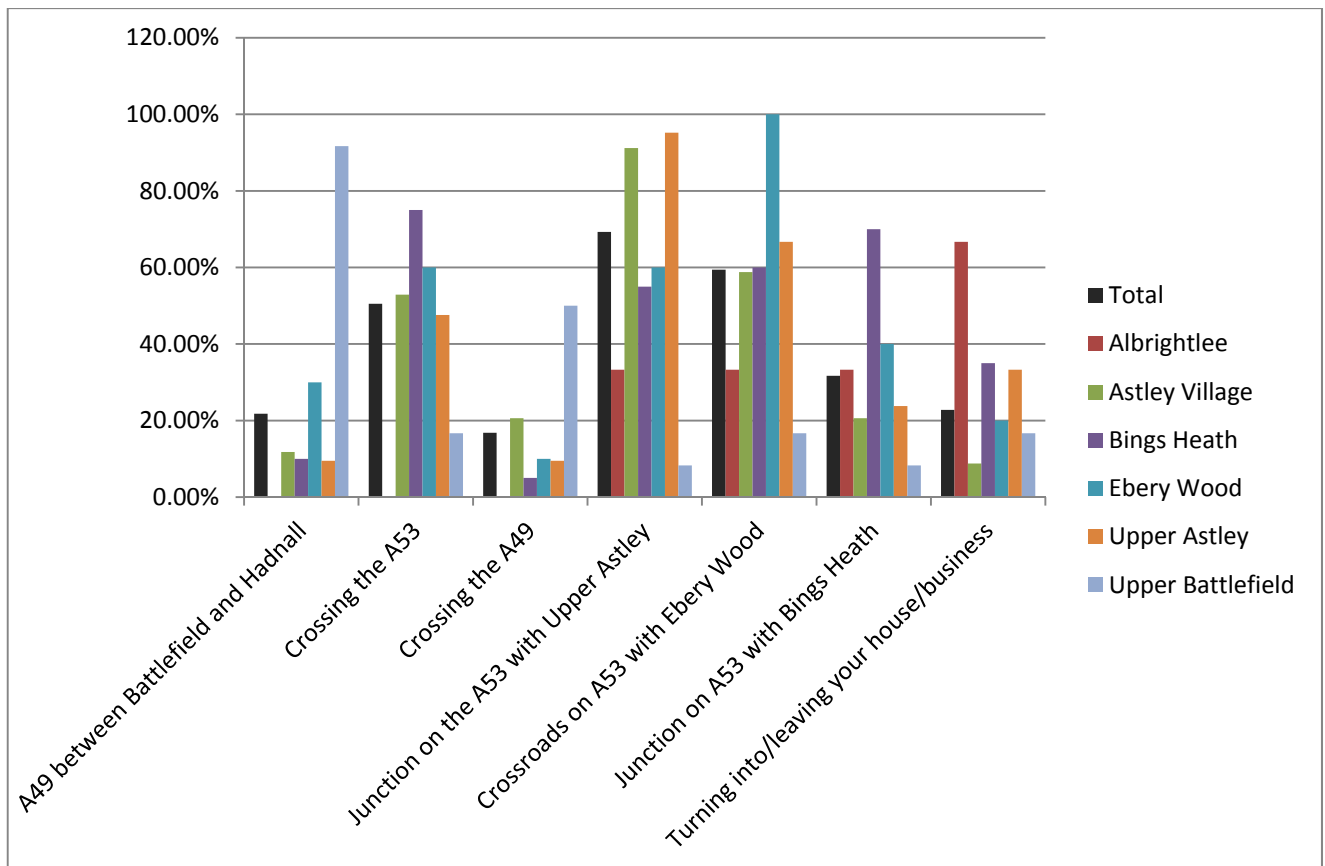


Figure 4:

An additional 17 comments were made about road safety issues. These included:

- Hedges are overgrown. They need cutting back to improve visibility at junctions
- Traffic travels too fast on all roads.
- Particular problems crossing the road, especially the A53, during the dark nights. Visibility is an issue.

Traffic calming measures were also questioned. The results of this question for all respondents are shown in the table below. These results also broadly reflect the views when analysed by settlement.

An additional 37 comments and suggestions were also received. These included:

- Introduction of solid double white lines to main roads
- Use of speed bumps at key places or rumble strips
- Lower speed limits on roads across the parish

- Prevent the village being used as a shortcut
- Greater police presence to enforce speed limits/Speed cameras
- Greater use of 'slow' and 'Road narrow' signs or renewal of existing signs
- Better defined/larger passing places on narrow roads
- One way system
- Cutting back verges and hedges to improve visibility

Traffic Calming Measure	Very Important	Important	Not important
Lower speed limit on the A53	45.1%	25.6%	29.3%
Lower speed limit on the A49	18.8%	18.8%	62.5%
More enforcement of speed	49.4%	30.4%	20.3%
Electronic speed indicator signs	43.8%	37.1%	19.1%

23.6% of respondents have experienced problems with drivers using Sat Navs in the parish and 26.2% have experienced problems with Heavy Goods vehicles in the parish. 34 respondents added additional comments to explain the types of problems they had:

- Sat Navs
  - Postcode issues mean delivery drivers are regularly at the wrong address
  - Foreign drivers getting lost
  - Sat Navs often send large vehicles through the village, rather than round it
- Heavy Goods Vehicles
  - Farm vehicles damaging verges, especially when turning in narrow lanes
  - Too many oversized vehicles blocking roads
  - Lorry's using Astley as a short cut between the A49 and A53.
  - Lorry's driving too fast for narrow roads
  - General driving issues, e.g. too close, using mobile phones etc.

Figure 5 shows respondents views on a range of issues regarding roads within the parish.

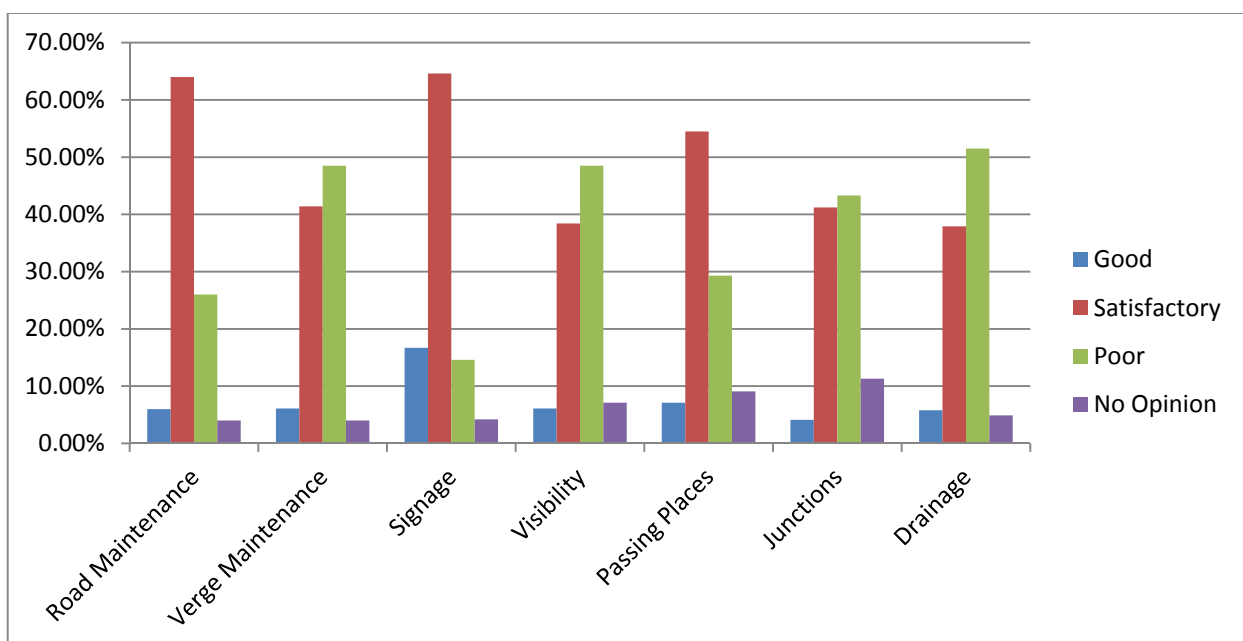


Figure 5:

These responses are also broadly reflected by each settlement when analysed individually.

## Transport

94.3% of respondents stated their main means of transport was by car. Just 1.9% stated their main means of transport was to walk, and 1.9% use the bus or get a lift from family and friends.

This was also echoed when the analysis by settlement was looked at.

The majority of respondents do not use the bus services. Only 19% of respondents use the No.64 route, with just 4.4% using the No.51 and 2.2% using the No.510 routes.

Those who do use the bus services use them for a variety of purposes:

Shopping	57.1%
Social/Leisure	46.4%
Work	25.0%
Doctor/Dentist/Hospital	25.0%
School/College	17.9%
Visiting family/friends	10.7%

For those respondents who don't use the bus service, the main reason given (57.4%) was that they never use the bus, with 25.9% stating the bus service does not match work or college schedules. 16.7% of respondents stated that the roads are unsuitable for walking to the bus.

34 additional comments were received about the bus service. These included:

- Bus times are too restrictive
- Too far to the nearest bus stop
- Restrictive destinations
- Too infrequent
- Needs to be a later service
- Does not suit personal needs including being able to take wheelchairs

Whilst 70.2% of respondents knew about the Shrewsbury Dial-a-Ride service only 3 respondents actually state that they use it, and they rate the service as good or excellent.

Respondents believe that cycling should be encouraged in the parish through designated cycle routes (65.1%); improved road surfaces/maintenance (37.3%) and through cycle parking at community venues (20.5%). Only 4.8% of respondents felt that cycling should not be encouraged.

8% (7) respondents felt that lack of transport limited their children's ability to participate in activities outside of school hours, however 78.4% of respondents stated they did not have children of school age.

## Community Infrastructure and Activities

Respondents felt the village hall (87.9%) and Church (82.8%) were important assets within the community. 66.3% also felt the Dog in the Lane pub was an important asset, with 36.3% seeing the Bothy Restaurant as important.

Figure 6 shows how often each of the facilities is used:



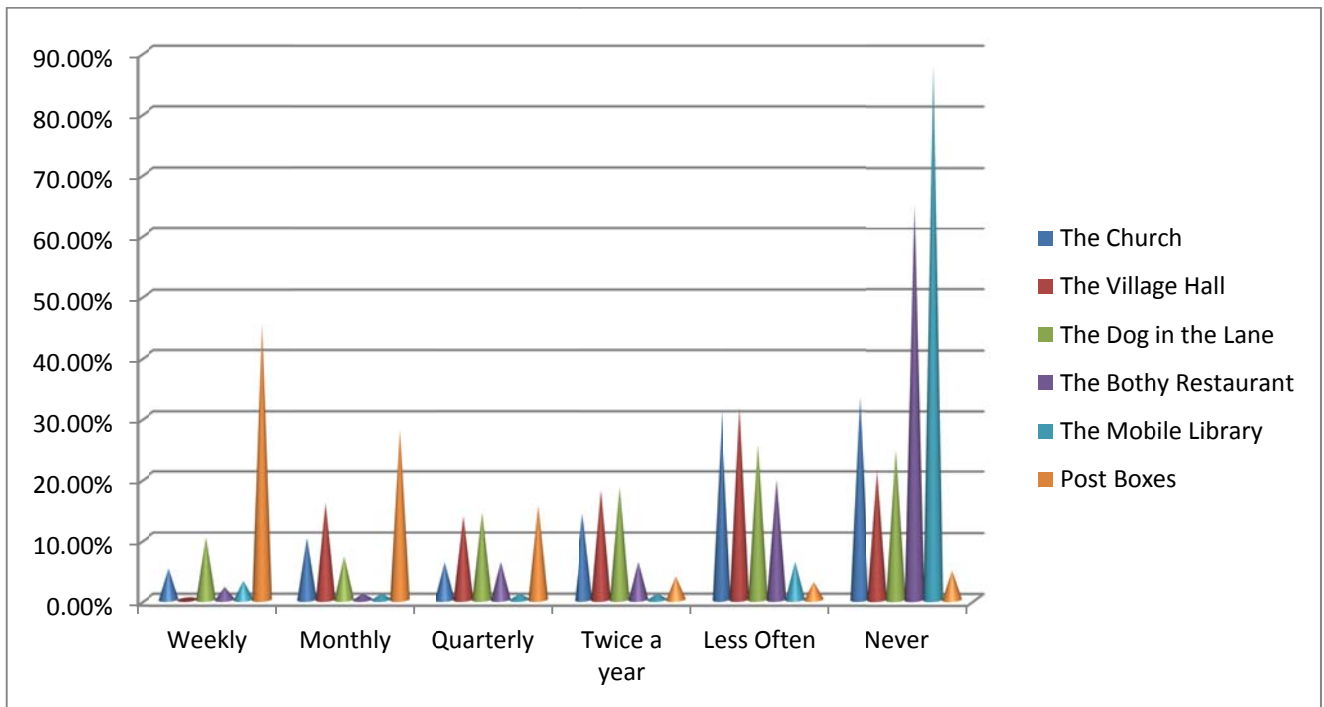


Figure 6:

It is interesting to note that whilst the majority consider the Church and Village Hall to be important assets, the regular usage is comparatively low.

The range of activities within the parish was also questioned. Only 3% felt the range was excellent, with 40% thinking there were sufficient activities. However 39% of respondents didn't know, which may indicate the need for more work on this, and perhaps for better communication about what is available.

24 respondents provided additional information on the type of activities they would like to see in the parish. These included:

- Arts and crafts workshops
- Keep Fit
- Coffee mornings
- Supper evenings with guest speaker e.g. on gardening, DIY, flower arranging etc
- Village fete/dog show/annual fete/summer fayre
- Charity events
- Activities for senior citizens
- History group
- Education classes
- Children's Christmas party
- Children's activities
- Bridge Club
- Annual village walk
- Youth Club
- Open space for children to play games

18 respondents also stated that they would be willing to get involved in organising and running activities. The details of these individuals will be passed to the steering group.

41.9% of respondents felt there was no need for any further facilities, whilst 33.7% felt there was a need for a play area, and 27.9% for a village green. When analysed by settlement these percentages were broadly similar, with the play area and village green being the most popular of those facilities offered.

## Crime, Safety and Health

### Crime Prevention

Only 11 respondents (10.8%) stated they had been affected by anti-social behaviour. When asked for additional detail the responses included:

- Litter from fast food restaurants being thrown/dropped from cars
- Abuse of rights of way
- Cars speeding down the lanes
- Animals left during the day
- Neighbour disputes

52.5% of respondents did feel that they would like a greater police presence within the parish though it is not clear whether this is through a fear of crime, or simply a desire for more visibility. 91.6% of respondents felt an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme was important. 38.5% of respondents stated they did not know how to contact the local Police or Community Support Officer.

35% of respondents already receive the email bulletins from Shropshire Community Messaging, with a further 38% expressing an interest in finding out more.

### Emergency Services

Respondents were asked when they had last called out the emergency services and which service they had called. The responses are shown at figure 7.

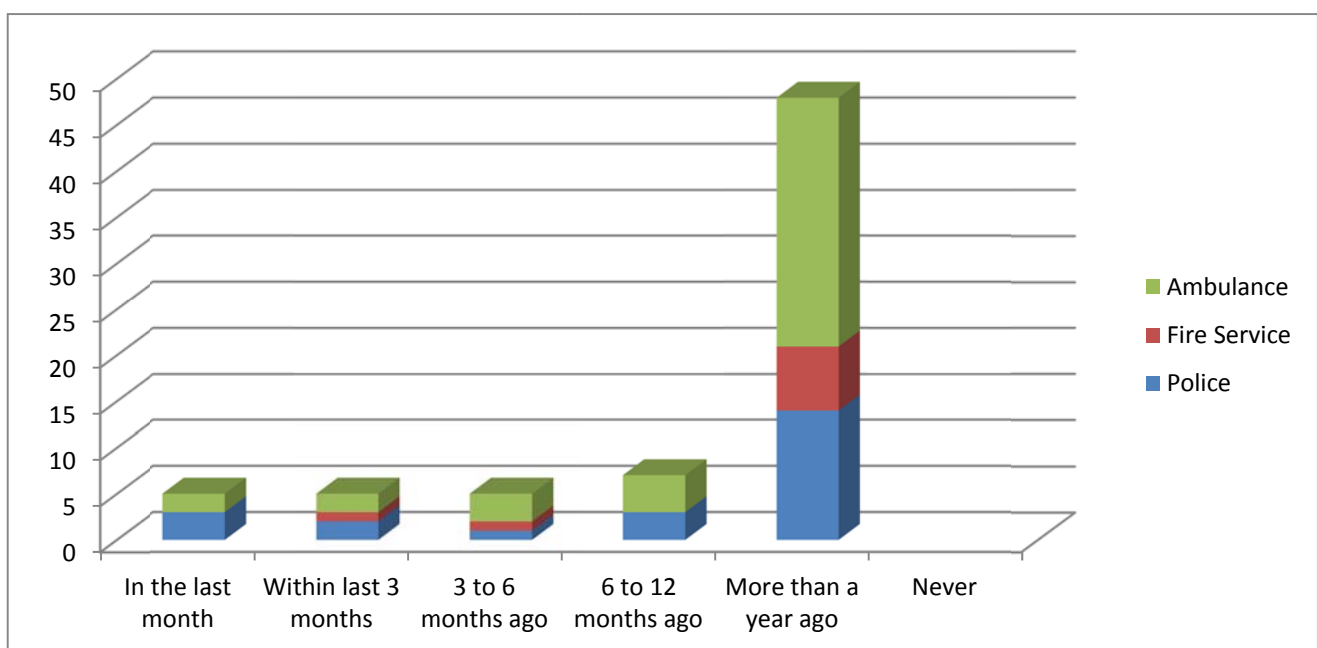


Figure 7:

39% of respondents have never called out the emergency services. Whilst the figure showing the calls to the emergency services more than a year ago is high, no upper limit was given for how far back respondents went.

Respondents were also asked to rate the response time. 3.2% of respondents stated the response time was poor, with 15.9% stating it was satisfactory. The majority of respondents rated it as good (36.5%) or excellent (44.4%).

The table below shows which GP surgery respondents are registered with, and how they rate the service they receive. The results are shown at Figure 8.

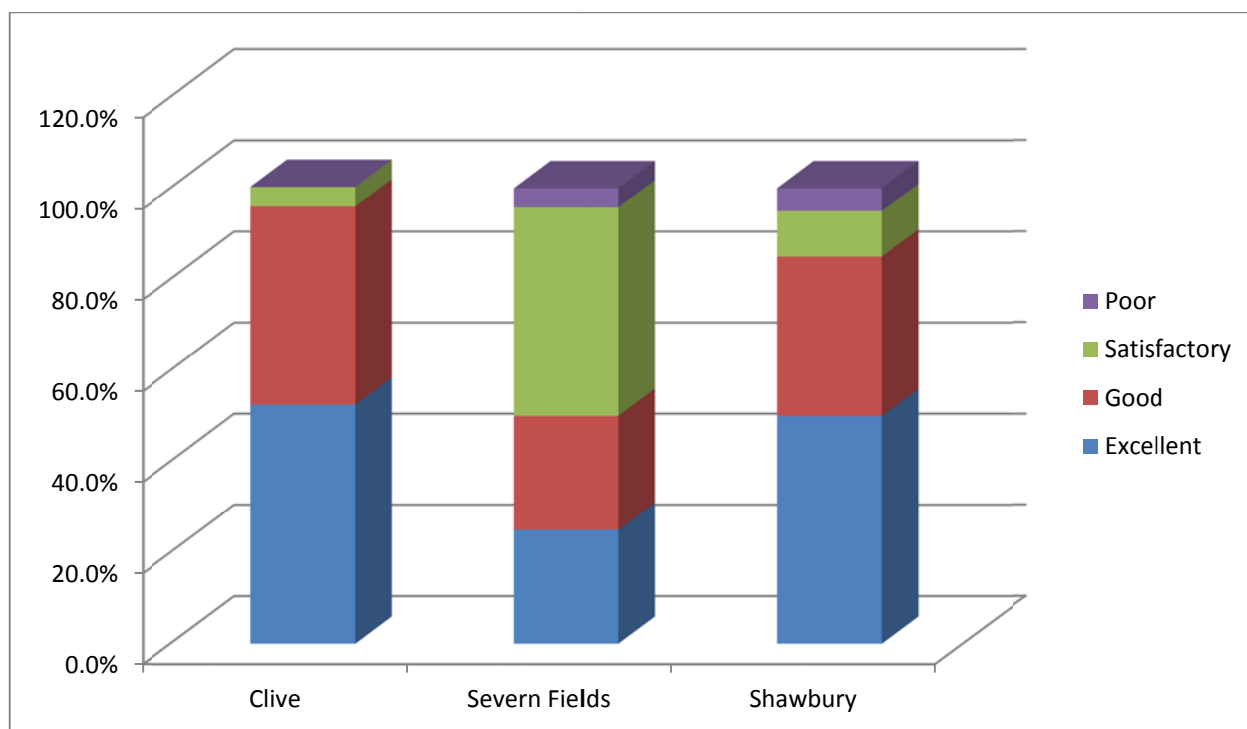


Figure 8:

18 respondents also identified other GP practices that they attend, these include:

- Riverside Medical Practice, Roushill
- Claremont Bank Surgery
- Radbrook Green
- Marden Medical Practice
- Parkfield, Wolverhampton

## Planning and Development

### Housing Needs

92.4% of respondents felt that their present accommodation was adequate for their family's needs.

Of those who felt their present accommodation wasn't adequate there was a mix of reasons given including:

- Need to make improvements or repairs
- Too costly to heat
- Property is too small
- A different type of property is needed e.g. a bungalow.

Only 1 respondent stated that a member of their household had left the Parish in the previous 5 years through lack of affordable housing to rent or buy, with just 2 respondents stating that there were adults in their property that needed their own home in the parish that they were currently unable to obtain.

The results however are mixed, as when asked what size of property might be needed there were 7 responses ranging from 1 bedroom to 4 bedrooms.

Ideally the types of ownership they are seeking are:

- Owner occupied – 2
- Private rented – 1
- Rented from Housing Association – 1
- Shared equity – 1

**Future Development**

Respondents were asked what future development, if any, they would support within the parish. The results are shown at Figure 9:

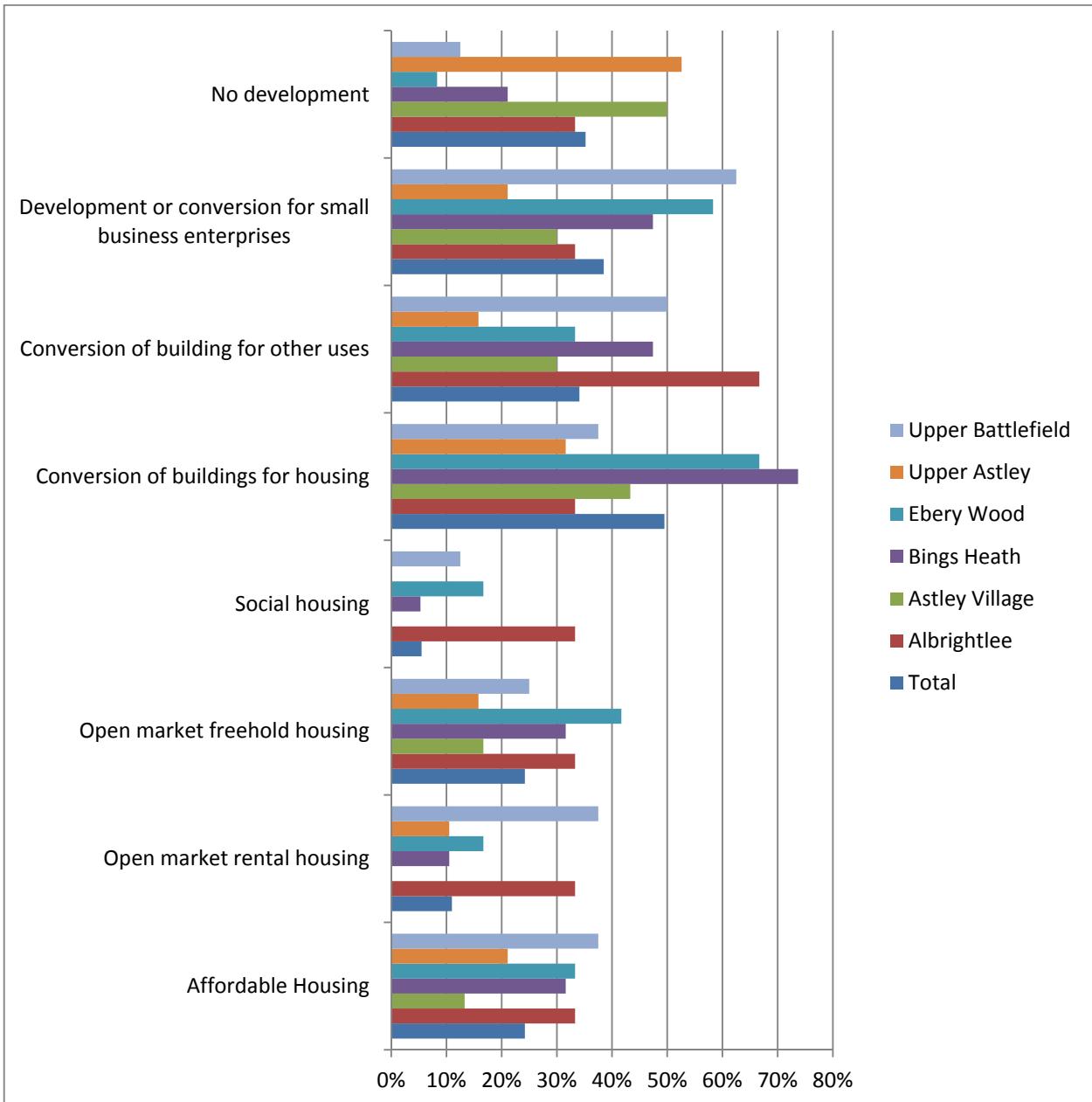


Figure 9:

Appendix A shows the breakdown of how many of each property should be developed in each village/hamlet over the next 10 years.

Respondents were then asked to consider if development were to take place, where should it be. The results by settlement are shown at Figure 10.

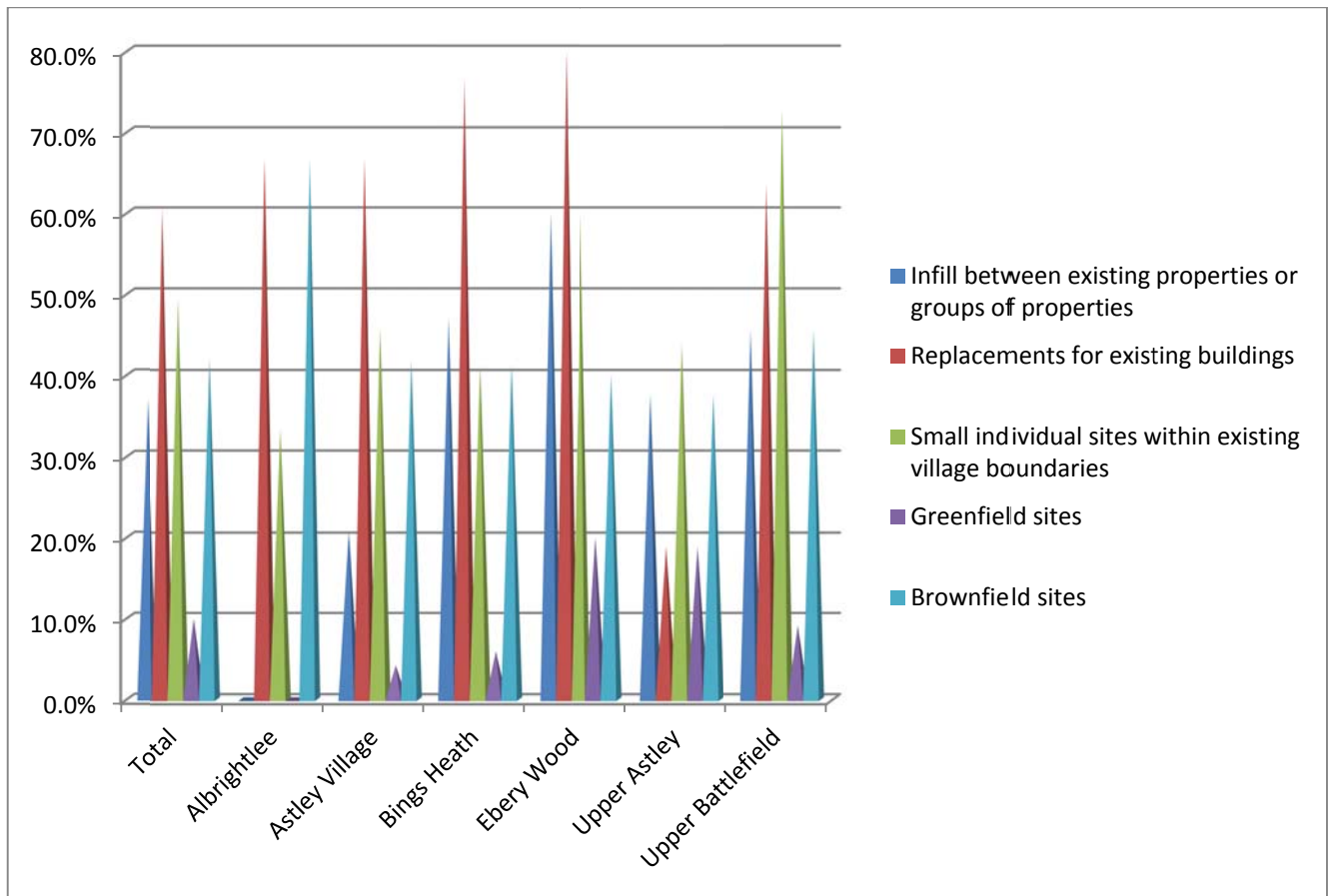


Figure 10:

Respondents were also asked to specify if there were any sites that should be protected from development. In total 36 comments were received which identified the following sites:

- All green field sites and conservation area
- No development otherwise the parish will be joined to Hadnall and Battlefield with no green areas
- Astley Village
- Areas around the church
- Shawbury Woods
- Bings Heath
- Local woodland
- The whole parish
- Any site the community chooses, they should be listened to and respected
- Orchard

The questionnaire went on to ask respondents what should be promoted to protect the built environment. The results are shown in the table below.

	Total	Albrightlee	Astley Village	Bings Heath	Ebery Wood	Upper Astley	Upper Battlefield
Design that respects the scale of the existing landscape	74.4%	100.0%	77.4%	76.9%	90.0%	43.8%	100.0%
Minimum standards for living space	26.8%	50.0%	25.8%	46.2%	20.0%	12.5%	33.3%
Use of materials that are in keeping with surrounding buildings	65.9%	50.0%	61.3%	53.8%	100.0%	56.3%	88.9%
High levels of energy conservation in new buildings	53.7%	100.0%	48.4%	61.5%	50.0%	43.8%	77.8%
Green space and gardens within the settlements	70.7%	0.0%	71.0%	84.6%	80.0%	56.3%	88.9%
Signage that respects the locality	51.2%	0.0%	48.4%	69.2%	50.0%	43.8%	66.7%
Gaps between villages and views maintained to provide a sense of space and identity	73.2%	50.0%	77.4%	76.9%	70.0%	68.8%	66.7%

Finally respondents were asked what type of small business enterprise they would want to see develop or further developed in the parish. The results are shown at figure 11.

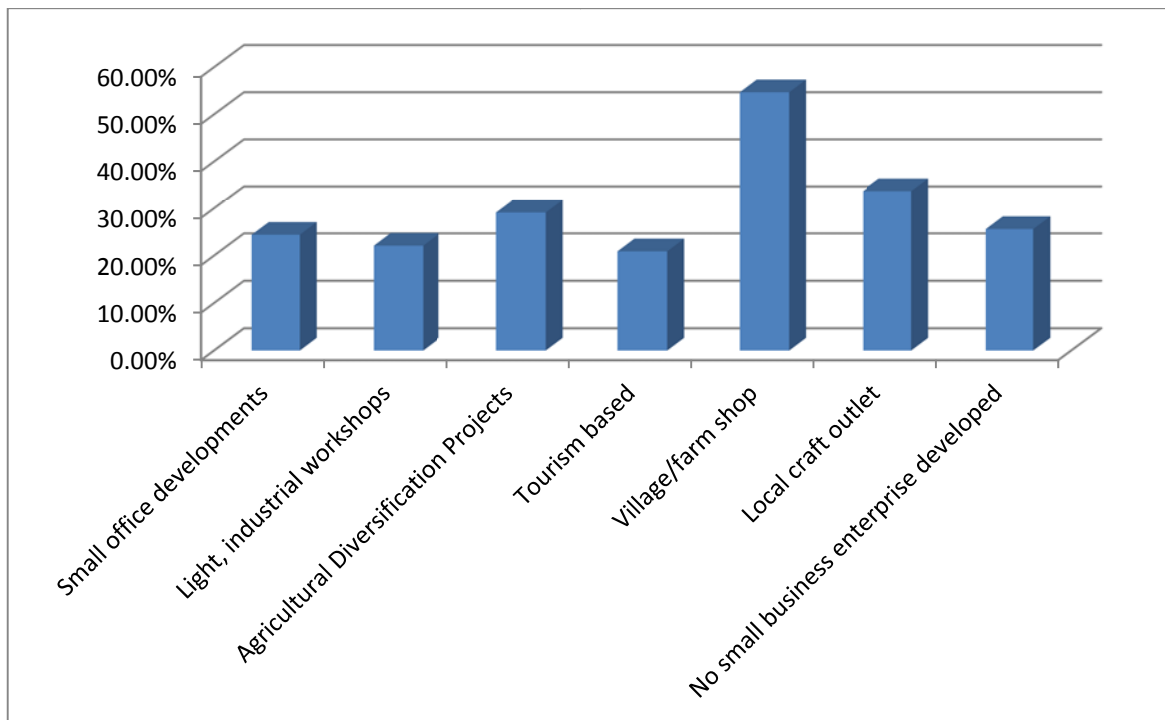


Figure 11

An additional 8 comments were also made. Of these comments one suggested manufacturing/engineering; 3 had no further ideas for small business enterprise; and 2 suggested that proposals depend on the type of enterprise and anything is possible with care.

## Environment

Respondents were asked why they like living in the parish. 79.0% of respondents stated it was for the quiet and peaceful area, with 76.2% stating it was the unspoilt open countryside and 71.4% the natural landscape. 62.9% also identified that the parish is a friendly place to live.

5 additional comments were also made identifying the lack of development and the access to Shrewsbury and the wider Midlands road network as key factors.

The three main problems identified were litter (36.8%), agricultural spraying/ spreading (31.6%) and dog fouling (17.9%). 30.5% of respondents had no problems. These results were mirrored when analysed by settlement.

An additional 14 comments were made that identified other key issues for respondents. These included:

- Abuse of rights of way
- Mess created by agricultural vehicles
- Noise from helicopters and motorbikes
- Vehicles driving too fast
- Litter – but including mention of specific restaurants
- Use of chicken muck – the smell has been particularly bad this year.

Respondents were also asked to identify where they believed the worse problems are:

- Agricultural spraying
- Fast food wrappers:
  - Junction of Astley Lane and A53
  - A49
  - A53
  - Poynton Road
  - Astley to Hadnall Road
- Dog fouling
  - Grange Farm Drive
  - Hatch Lane
  - Upper Astley
- Fly Tipping
  - Bings Heath area
- Traffic
  - Ebrey Wood Road
- Noise
  - From RAF Shawbury
  - Shawbury Heath motorbike track
- Non specific issues
  - A53
  - A49
  - Astley Lane
  - Hatch Lane
  - Ebrey Road
  - Upper Battlefield
  - Bings Heath area

51.5% of all respondents indicated that they would be willing to take part in a local litter clearance initiative. 62.5% of respondents felt that dog owners should be responsible for clearing up their own dog's mess, with 30.8% agreeing that dog litter bins should be provided.

22 additional comments were received on where the dog litter bins should be placed. These included:

- In areas where people walk their dogs
- Centre of Astley village

- By Church/noticeboards
- Hatch Lane
- Ebrey Lane
- Upper Astley by post box
- Astley by phone box
- Upper Astley to Hadnall lane
- Entrances to footpaths and bridleways

Respondents were asked to consider how important four statements are to them. The results of those issues considered very important are shown at figure 12.

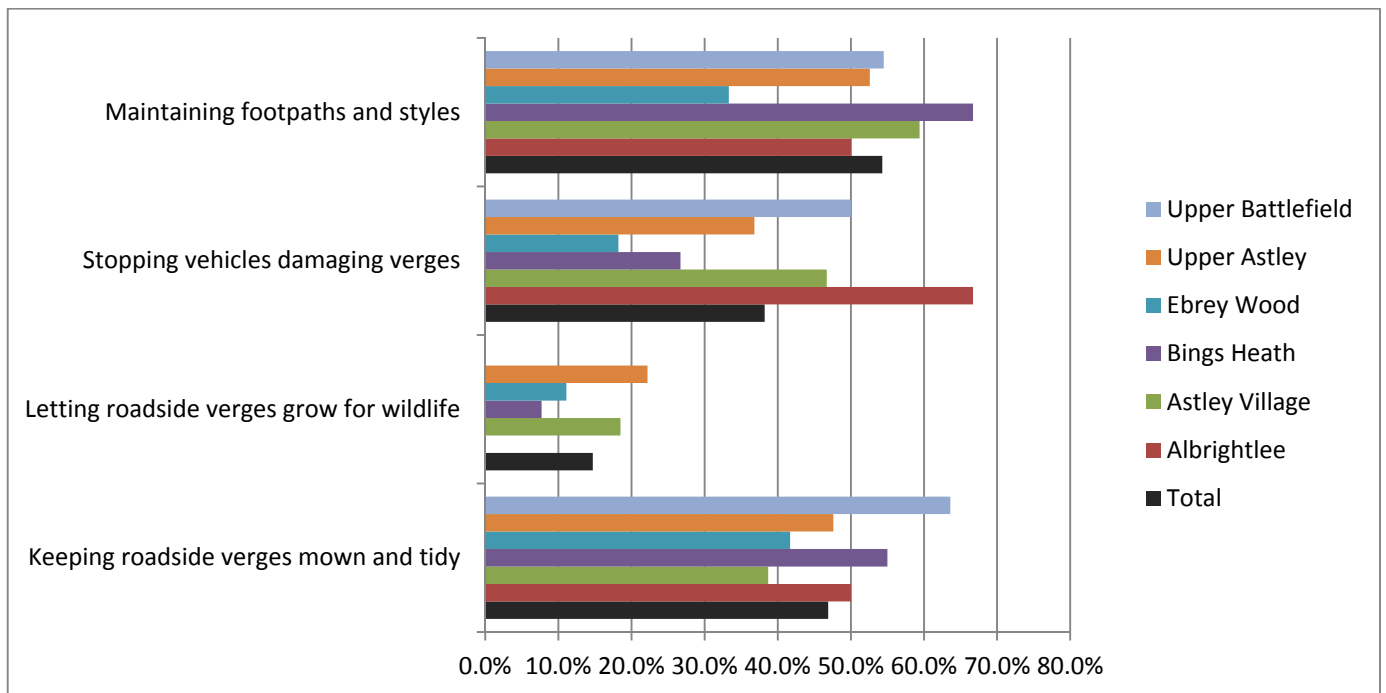


Figure 12:

The questionnaire then moved on to ask about how respondents had been affected by flooding. 37.5% of all respondents had been affected by flooding broken down by settlement as:

- Albrightlee 0%
- Astley Village 44.1%
- Bings Heath 61.9%
- Ebrey Wood 27.3%
- Upper Astley 17.4%
- Upper Battlefield 33.3%

Of those who had been affected 85% had been affected through their use of local roads, 37.5% had access to their property disrupted, 35.0% had been affected by damage to their garden/land and just 7.5% had suffered damage to their house.

Additional comments made identified problems with flooding on all roads into the village, causing problems for many.

The reasons given for flooding were:

- 81.1% drains/ditches unable to cope/not maintained
- 51.4% Field run off



- 43.2% Brook overflow
- 21.6% Road run off

The above reasons were broadly supported by each of the settlements and hamlets. Additional information was provided by 6 respondents who identified issues like ground water levels having an impact.

The final question in this section was about structures that the respondents would support, or not support within the community.

67.6% of respondents would be against mobile phone masts, with 65.3% against wind turbines.

58.3% would support Solar/solar PV panels in the community.

### **Footpaths and Bridleways**

The questionnaire asked if respondents were aware that the Shropshire Way passes through the parish. 87.4% were aware of this.

48.3% of respondents use local footpaths and/or bridleways on a regular basis, with a further 36.8% using them occasionally. Only 14.9% of respondents never use these paths.

The main reason quoted for using local footpaths was to walk for pleasure (81.3%) or for Dog Walking (38.5%). Cycling, running/jogging and getting elsewhere in the parish were also quoted as reasons for using the local footpaths and bridleways.

66.7% of respondents felt that there is adequate signposting of public rights of way in the parish but 62.9% felt that there should be more information on footpaths/bridleways and cycle paths in the community.

73.1% felt that no additional footpaths and bridleways were required. However of the 26.9% who responded that there should be more paths, with 18 additional comments being made on where these should be. Suggestions included:

- From Astley village to Hadnall to avoid busy roads
- Astley to Battlefield
- Upper Astley to Hadnall
- Upper Astley to Battlefield
- Link Bings Heath to Upper Astley and the pub
- A variety of loops to walk, linking with Shropshire Way or other local facilities
- Along main roads e.g. to cycle to Shrewsbury

77.6% of respondents would like to see roadside verges improved for use as footpaths in the Parish to create a safe pedestrian/cycle link between settlements, with 66.3% of respondents stating they would use local footpaths and bridleways if they were improved.

An additional 21 comments were made that gave suggestions on how the footpath and bridleway network could be improved in the parish. These included:

- Education with regards to the countryside
- Regular mowing and spraying of weeds on verges
- All farmers to leave areas free of plants for people to walk through on one path, rather than damaging plants
- Keep styles, signposts free from plants
- Have dog friendly styles

- More signage to say where the footpaths are
- Wheelchair access to paths would be useful
- Better monitoring, reporting and maintenance

70% of respondents do not know how to report problems they encounter with footpaths and bridleways.

26 respondents identified that they would be interested in joining a community group to maintain local footpaths and bridleways.

Finally respondents were asked if they had any additional comments to make about ideas or issues for the parish, not addressed by the questionnaire:

There were only a few comments made most of which relate to issues already covered within the questionnaire. A list of responses is available on request.

**Number of each type of property per village/hamlet**

<b>Total</b>	None	Upto 3	4 to 7	8 to 10	11 to 14	15 or more
Affordable Housing	63.5%	16.2%	13.5%	2.7%	1.4%	2.7%
Open market rental properties	82.4%	8.8%	4.4%	1.5%	2.9%	0.0%
Open market freehold housing	55.1%	15.9%	18.8%	1.4%	1.4%	7.2%
Social housing	90.6%	1.6%	3.1%	3.1%	1.6%	0.0%
Conversion for alternate use	34.7%	33.3%	20.8%	5.6%	0.0%	5.6%
For small business enterprise	47.8%	30.4%	11.6%	5.8%	2.9%	1.4%

<b>Albrightlee</b>	None	Upto 3	4 to 7	8 to 10	11 to 14	15 or more
Affordable Housing	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Open market rental properties	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Open market freehold housing	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Social housing	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Conversion for alternate use	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
For small business enterprise	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

<b>Astley Village</b>	None	Upto 3	4 to 7	8 to 10	11 to 14	15 or more
Affordable Housing	60.0%	20.0%	12.0%	4.0%	4.0%	0.0%
Open market rental properties	90.9%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%
Open market freehold housing	54.5%	22.7%	18.2%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%
Social housing	95.2%	0.0%	4.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Conversion for alternate use	37.5%	41.7%	20.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
For small business enterprise	50.0%	40.9%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

<b>Bings Heath</b>	None	Upto 3	4 to 7	8 to 10	11 to 14	15 or more
Affordable Housing	60.0%	20.0%	13.3%	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%
Open market rental properties	73.3%	13.3%	6.7%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Open market freehold housing	50.0%	25.0%	18.8%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%
Social housing	76.9%	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Conversion for alternate use	13.3%	40.0%	33.3%	6.7%	0.0%	6.7%
For small business enterprise	28.6%	42.9%	14.3%	7.1%	7.1%	0.0%

<b>Ebery Wood</b>	None	Upto 3	4 to 7	8 to 10	11 to 14	15 or more
Affordable Housing	62.5%	12.5%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%
Open market rental properties	75.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Open market freehold housing	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%
Social housing	77.8%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	11.1%	0.0%
Conversion for alternate use	12.5%	25.0%	1250.0%	12.5%	0.0%	37.5%
For small business enterprise	44.4%	11.1%	22.2%	11.1%	0.0%	11.1%

<b>Upper Astley</b>	None	Upto 3	4 to 7	8 to 10	11 to 14	15 or more
Affordable Housing	76.5%	11.8%	11.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Open market rental properties	93.3%	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Open market freehold housing	81.3%	0.0%	18.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Social housing	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Conversion for alternate use	62.5%	31.3%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
For small business enterprise	68.8%	25.0%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

<b>Upper Battlefield</b>	None	Upto 3	4 to 7	8 to 10	11 to 14	15 or more
Affordable Housing	42.9%	14.3%	28.6%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Open market rental properties	57.1%	14.3%	14.3%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%
Open market freehold housing	33.3%	0.0%	16.7%	16.7%	0.0%	33.3%
Social housing	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Conversion for alternate use	28.6%	14.3%	28.6%	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%
For small business enterprise	28.6%	14.3%	14.3%	28.6%	14.3%	0.0%