

SEEND PARISH APPRAISAL – MAIN FINDINGS

Introduction

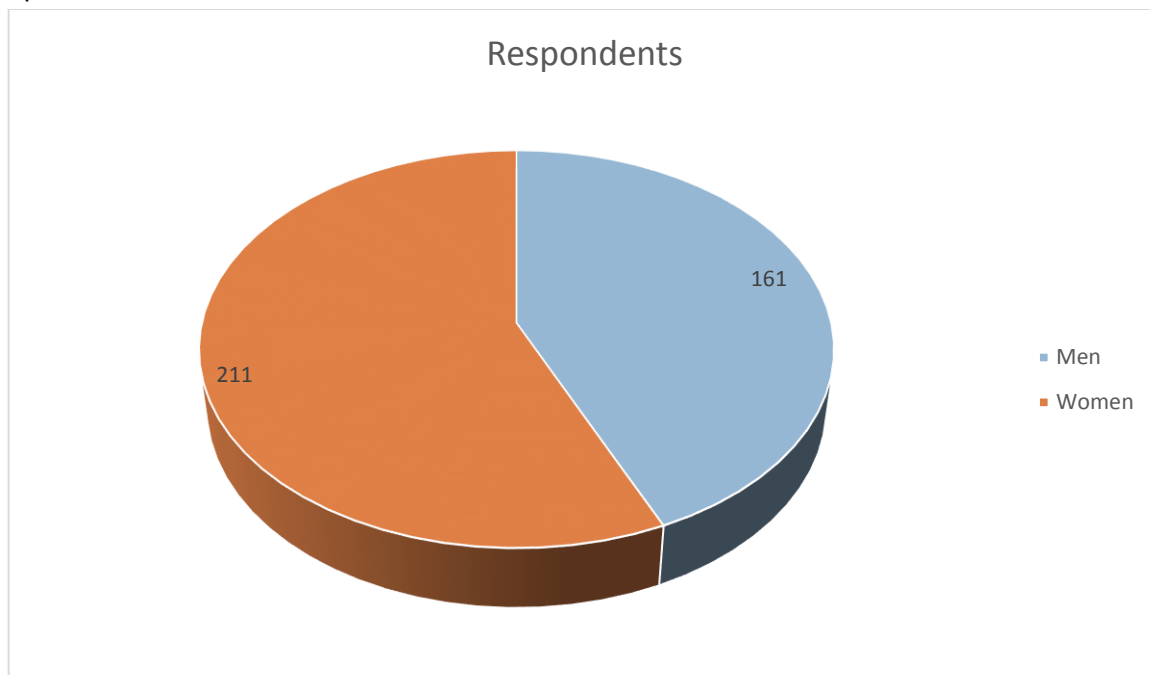
At the time of the preparation of the Appraisal Document there were eight hundred and eight-seven registered voters on the Parish Electoral Role. The electoral role document is undated, so inevitably there will have been some changes to the names on the Roll resulting from movement in and out of the village and some people were sadly, deceased. There were also a number of people who were either unable or unwilling to complete the appraisal. It has not been possible to quantify the numbers in each of these groups. The appropriate number of documents were prepared and given to the distributors.

The Parish Council's main purposes in consulting with the Seend Parish were to be pro-active in exploring aspects of village life that were pertinent to the work of the Council and to gather data to help inform the writing of a Parish Plan (now renamed as a Neighbourhood Plan!) that can in its turn inform the wider Community Plan. The Parish Plan will draw on information gathered through the Appraisal but will also involve other consultative forums.

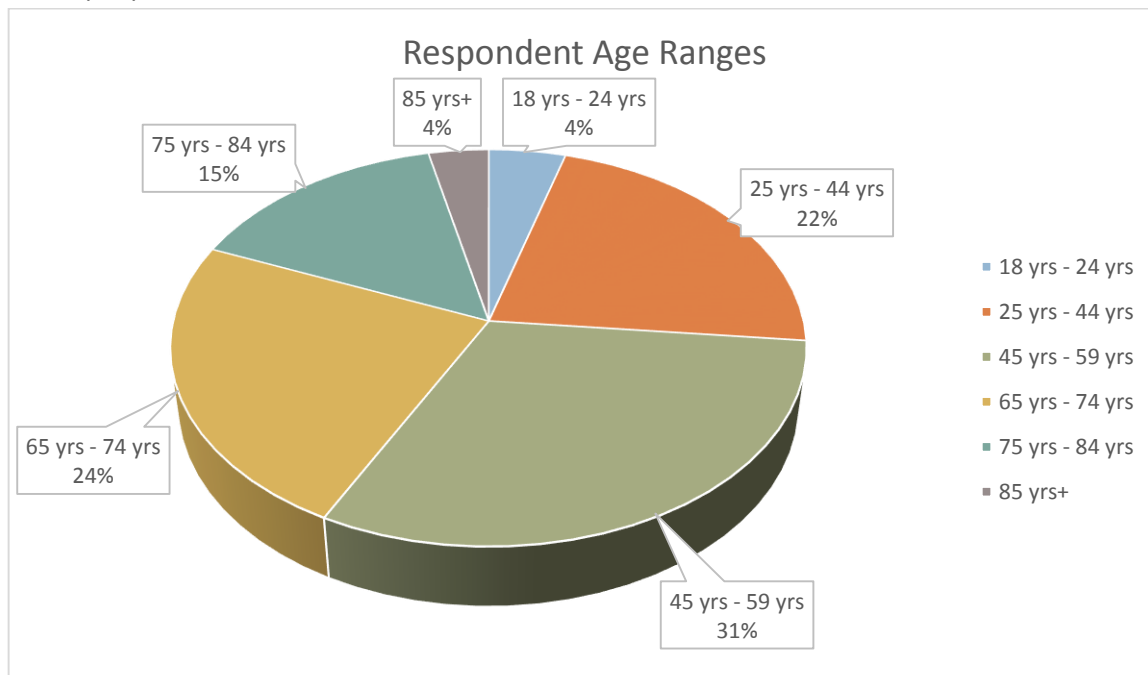
Please note some questions were not answered and therefore the total number of responses in each question will not add-up to the number of documents returned. It has not been possible, because of space to list each question, so a shortened version is provided in **Bold type**. **A copy can also be found on the Parish Council website.**

A Summary of the Findings:

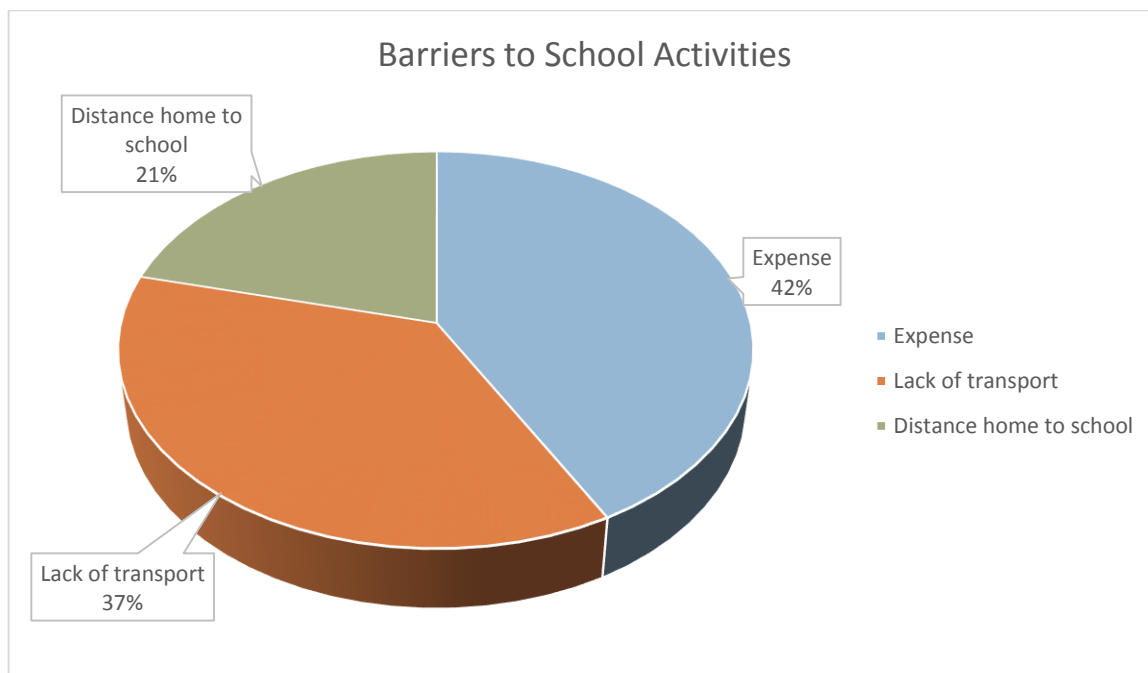
1. Three hundred and seventy-two appraisal documents were returned and this represents a forty-two per cent return. One hundred and sixty-one men and two hundred and eleven women replied.



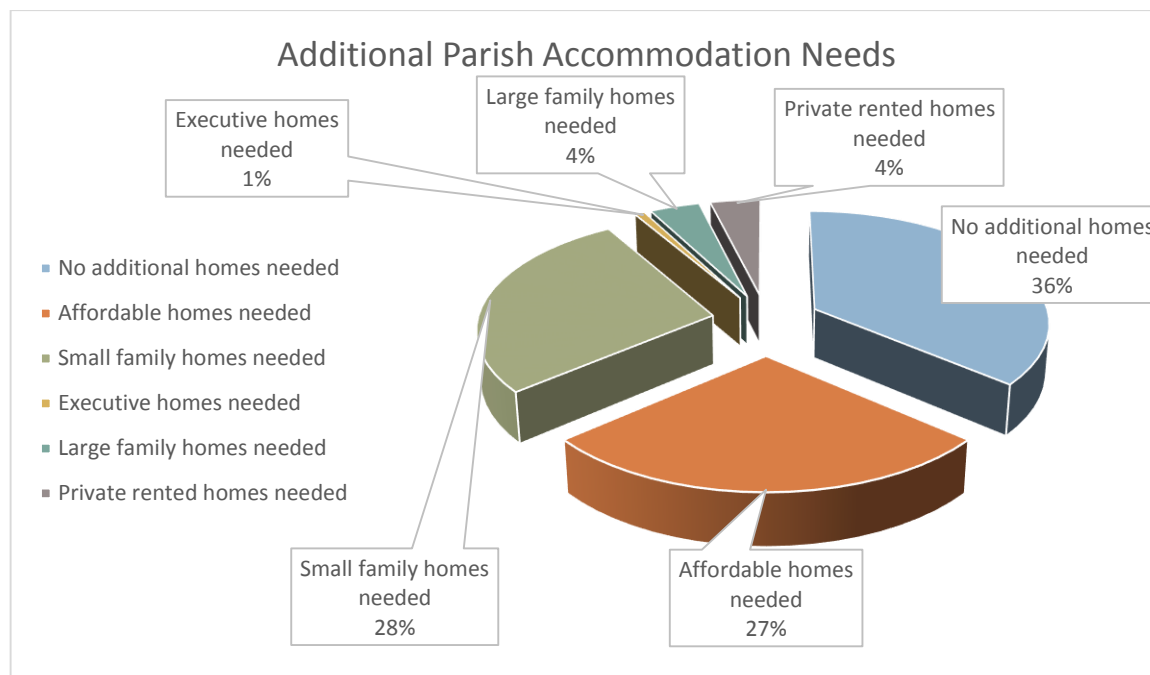
2. **The breakdown of the age groups was as follows:** 18-24 fourteen people; 25-44 seventy people; 45-59 ninety-eight people; 65-74 seventy five people; 75-84 forty-eight people and 85+ eleven people.



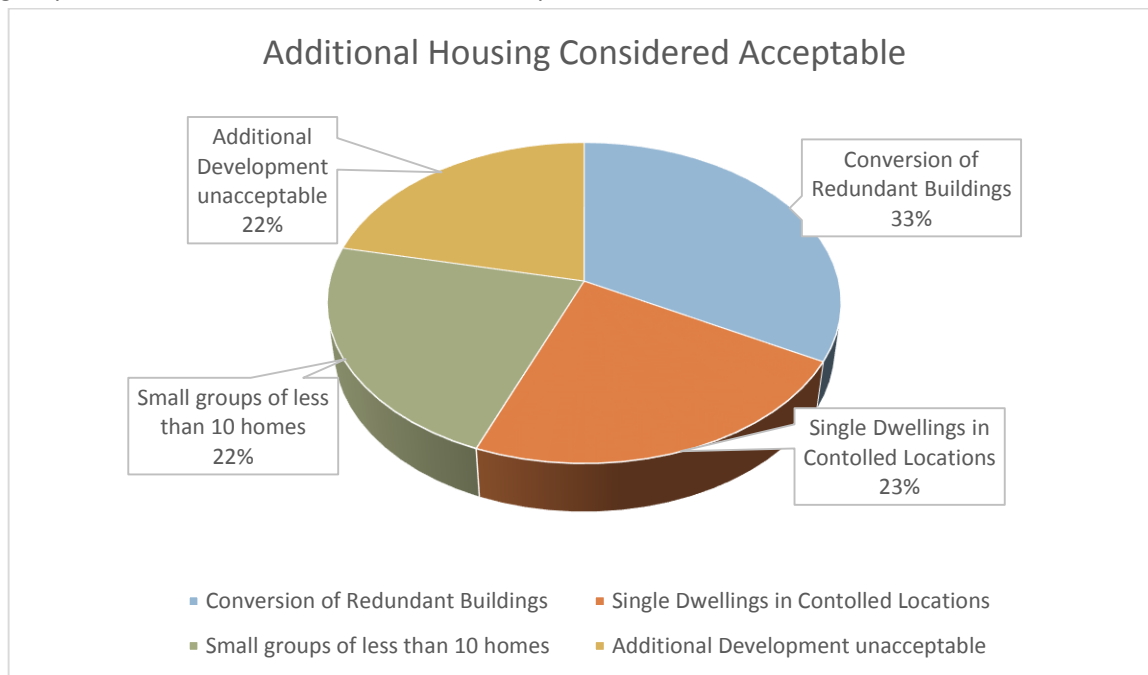
3. Nineteen people reported **problems with children being unable to participate in school activities**. Of these eight cited expense, seven lack of transport home and four the distance between home and school.



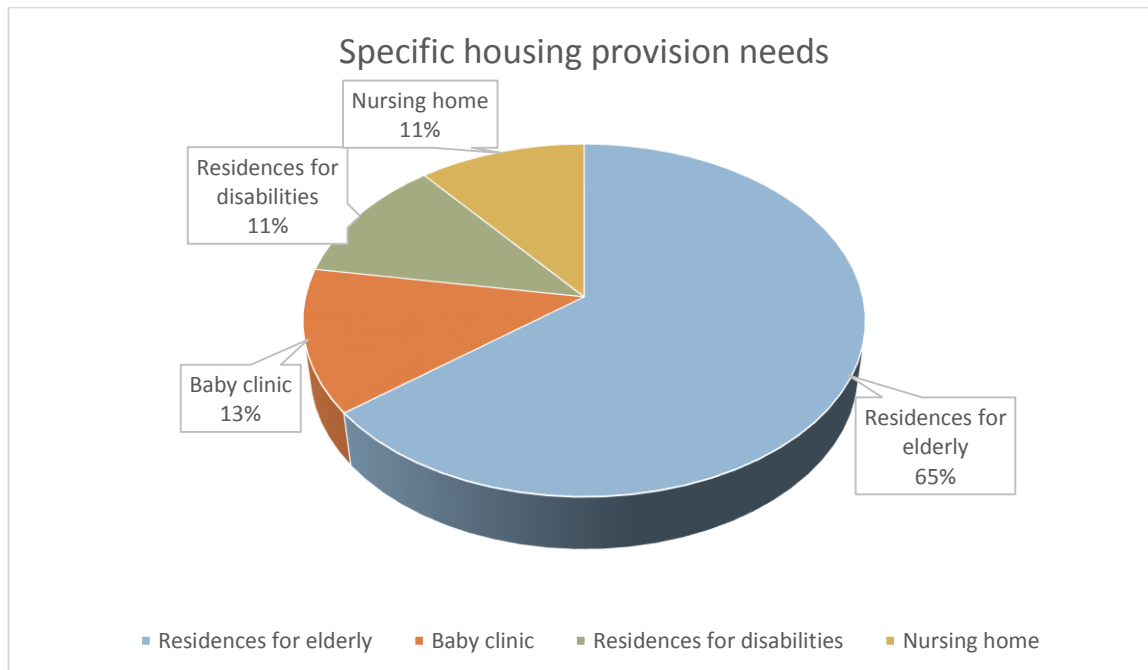
4. **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:** One hundred and eighty-eight people said they were in a Scheme; forty said that they were not and one hundred and four didn't know if they were or not.
5. Of those who answered 'No or don't know', to the last question, seventy three people said they would like to join a Scheme and sixty people said they would not.
6. **Is any individual in need of alternative accommodation:** Five people said they were in need and three hundred and one said they were not in need of alternative accommodation.
7. **What additional accommodation is needed in the Parish?** The highest response (140) stated that no more homes are needed; the second highest response (107) said affordable homes were needed and the third highest (107) said small family homes. At the other end of the scale, only three people said executive homes were needed and fifteen each said large family homes and private rented accommodation were needed.



8. **In response to what type of housing development would be acceptable in Seend:** 150 said conversion of redundant buildings; 105 said single dwellings in controlled locations; 102 said small groups of less than ten and 98 said no development.



9. **Is there a need for specific housing provision?** 118 people said there was a need for residential provision for the elderly with a baby clinic scoring 24 and residential provision for disabilities and a nursing home scoring 21 and 20 respectively.



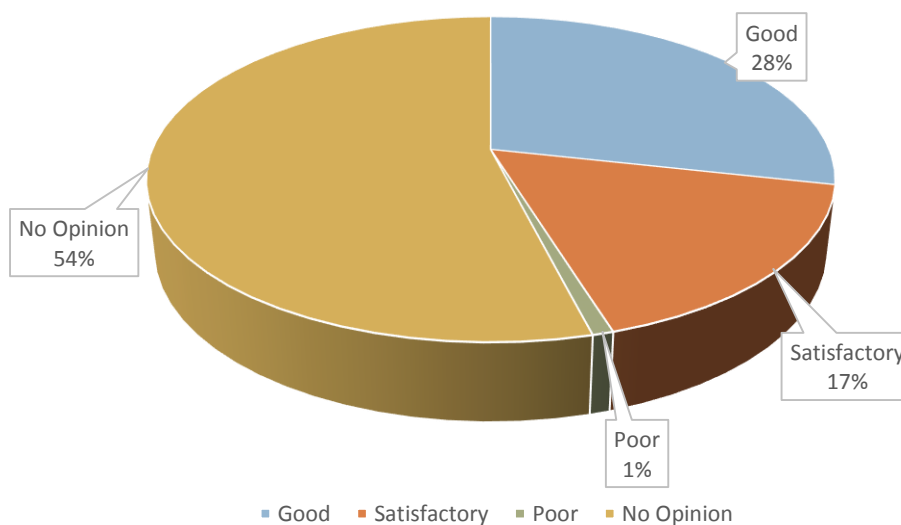
10. **Facilities required for people with disabilities:** there were a number of different responses, including better access to the Post Office/shop and to the Church. Widening of the pavements; disabled parking bays in Rusty Lane, better transport links, and creating a safer route from the end of School Road to the High Street, especially between Wesley Cottage and Rusty Lane.

11. **Off-road parking:** the Church and the Village Shop received a significant number of mentions as did the main road through Seend Cleeve and the High Street in particular around the entrance to the Lye, where there seems to be a significant problem.

12. **How do you rate the Seend Shuttle bus service for the following?**

	Route	Timetable	Reliability	Cost	Access	Rounded Averages
Good	78	60	79	80	42	68
Satisfactory	45	49	31	31	43	40
Poor	1	4	1	0	5	2
No opinion	132	125	129	130	131	129

Rounded Average Service Ratings for Seend Shuttle



13. **Would you be prepared to take part in a scheme for sharing private vehicles?**

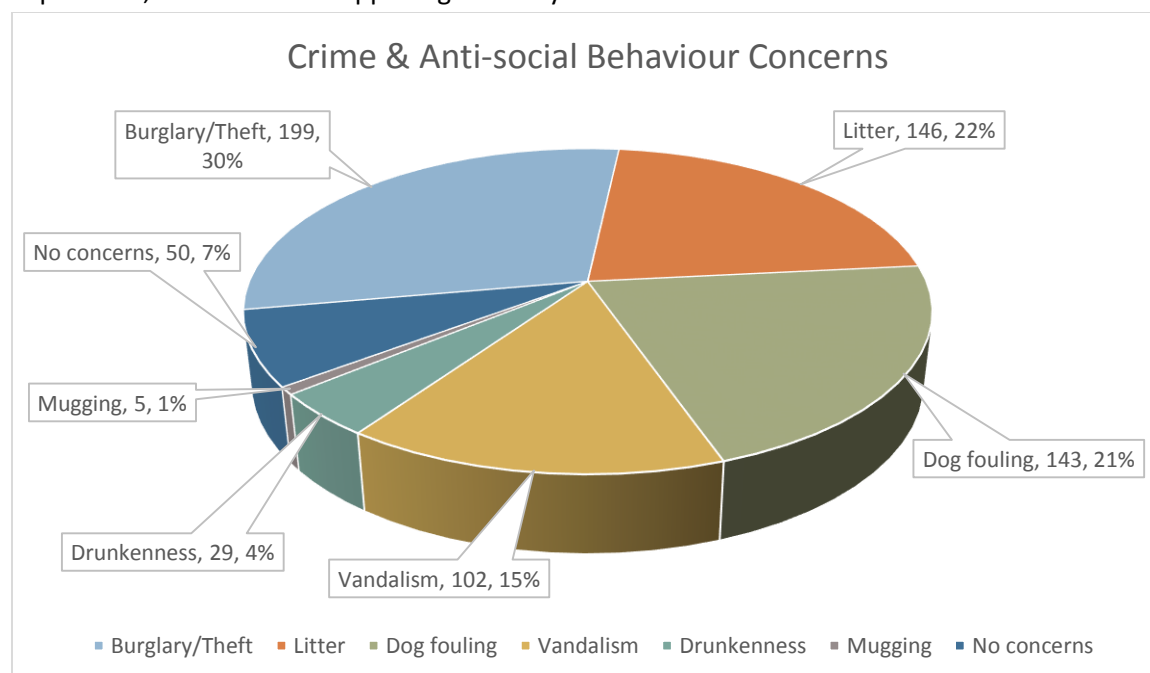
	Shopping	Work	School	Social/leisure
Often	9	3	11	7
Occasionally	76	22	34	64
Never	145	149	141	130

14. **Would you use a voluntary car service as a passenger?** If weekly and monthly – there were only three responses for each one. Occasionally- 125 responses and never-189 responses

15. Fourteen people said they had difficulty in getting to a hospital; 9 to a doctor's surgery; eight to a dentist and three to a chemist.

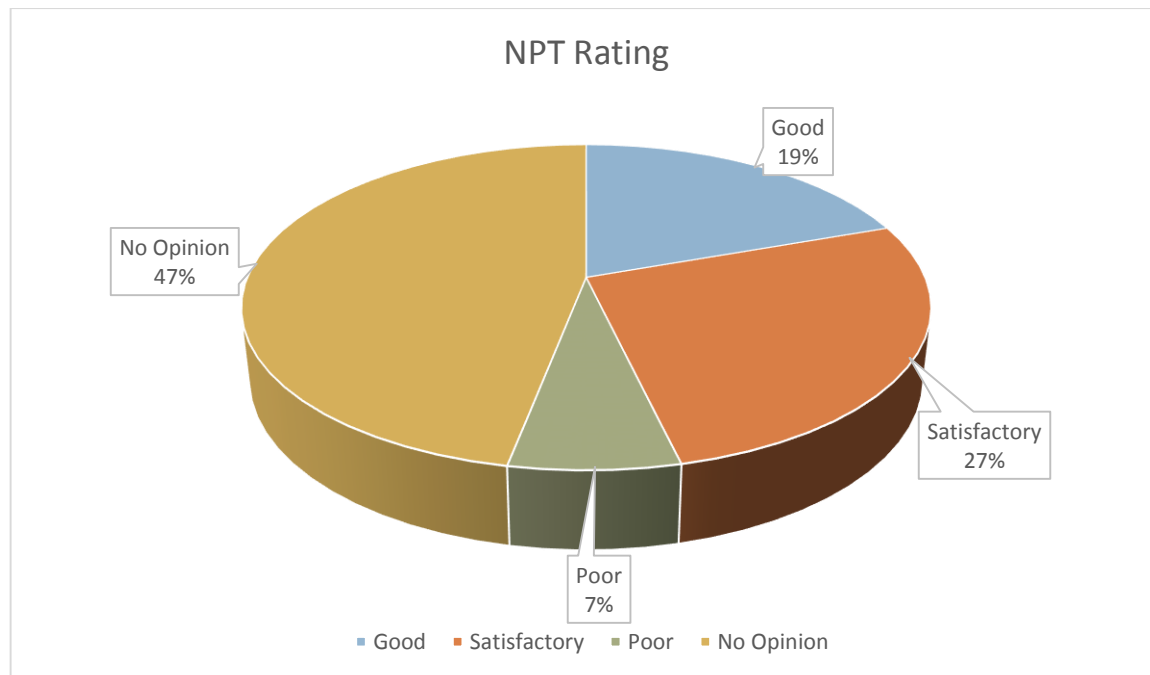
16. **Are you aware of the Link Scheme?** 163 were aware and 92 were not.

17. **What community crimes/anti-social behaviour are you concerned about?** Burglary/theft 199; litter 146; dog fouling 143;vandalism 102; not concerned 50; drunkenness 29; mugging 5.
NB the question was unfortunately ambiguous. It is not clear if the answers were based on experience, or fear of this happening. Possibly a little of both!



18. **Neighbourhood Police Team:** Generally a positive response although many said 'we are in a low crime area'. Many who have met them say they provide a good service whereas others say they have not seen them and know nothing about their work. It would appear that they do not have a high-profile in Seend Cleeve area.

19. **Rating of the service provided by Neighbourhood Police Team:** Good 61; Satisfactory 83; Poor 21 and 146 no opinion.



20. **The issues of greatest concern in Seend:** These were many and varied but traffic speed and volume, in the High Street, Seend Cleeve, the Stocks and Pelch Lane were mentioned most, as was the problem with the volume of HGVs. Emergency sirens were stated as being a nuisance through the village. Keeping the shop and church open, is seen as very important The Village shop is criticised for its untidy appearance by some people. Unauthorised living at several sites around the village, in contravention of planning requirements. Dog fouling, litter and vandalism around the Lye Field and play area were also mentioned by a significant number of people.

21. **Views on recycling and waste collection:** Good 81; satisfactory 174; poor 64 and no opinion 17

22. **Other recycling needed:** cardboard and plastic received many mentions as did food-waste and fabric and clothes.

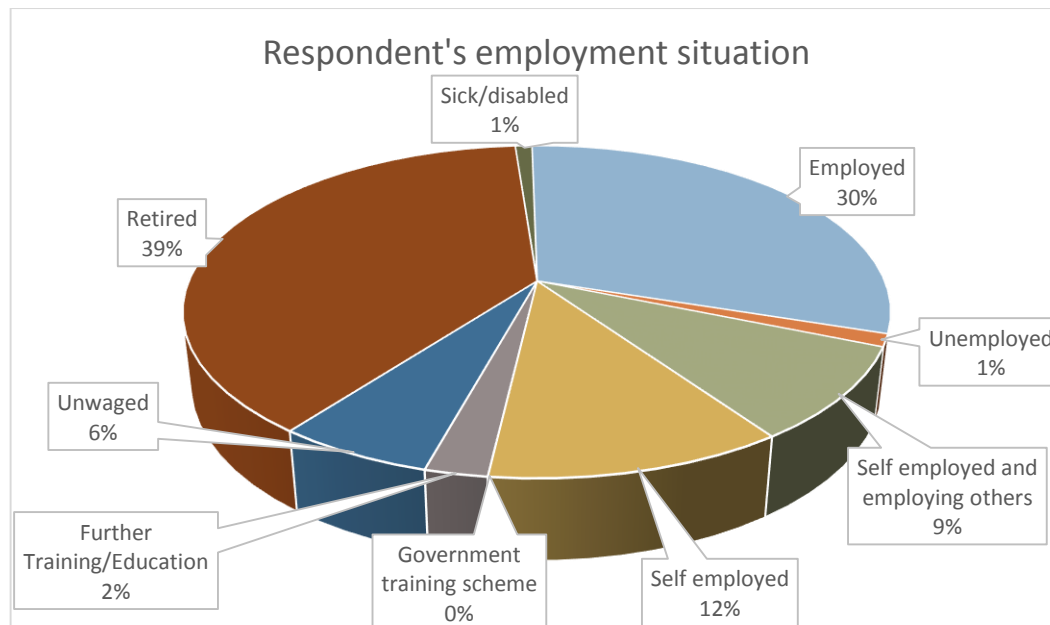
23. **Postal service**

	Location of post boxes	Delivery times	No of collections	Speed of service
Good	175	128	94	113
Satisfactory	125	153	174	147
Poor	3	21	21	18
No opinion	1	2	5	6

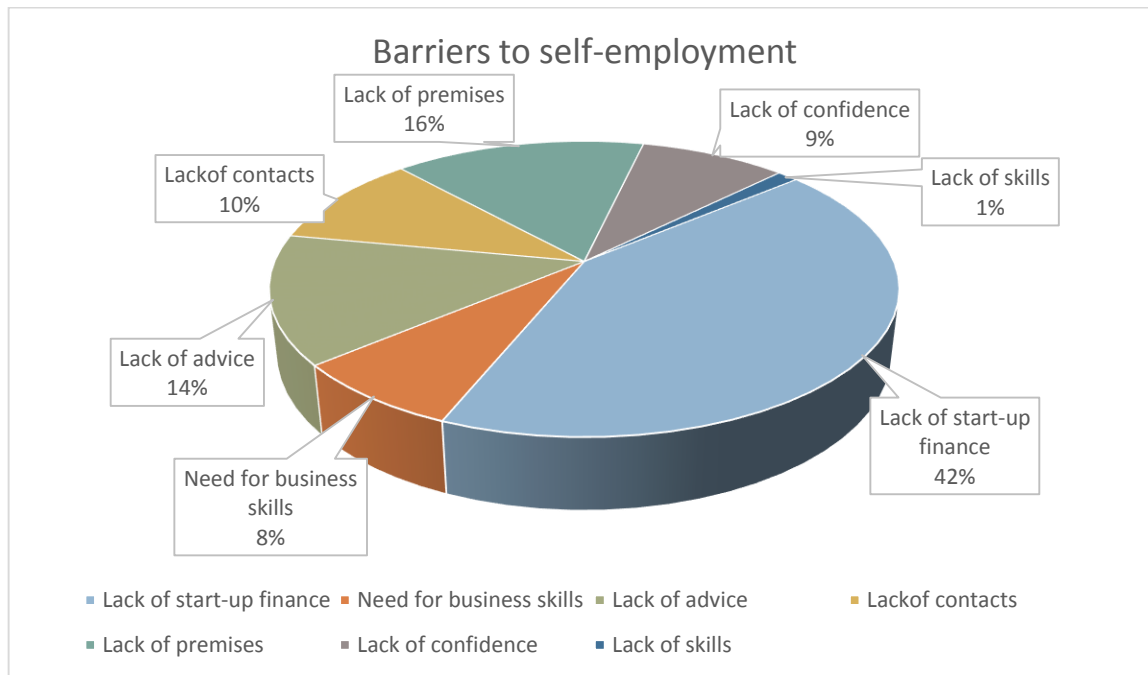
24. **Further development in Seend:**

	Tourism	Small Business	Small workshops	Employment	Bed & Breakfast
Strongly agree	21	35	26	36	30
Agree	126	136	78	156	169
Disagree	75	55	85	40	27
Strongly disagree	20	29	56	19	10

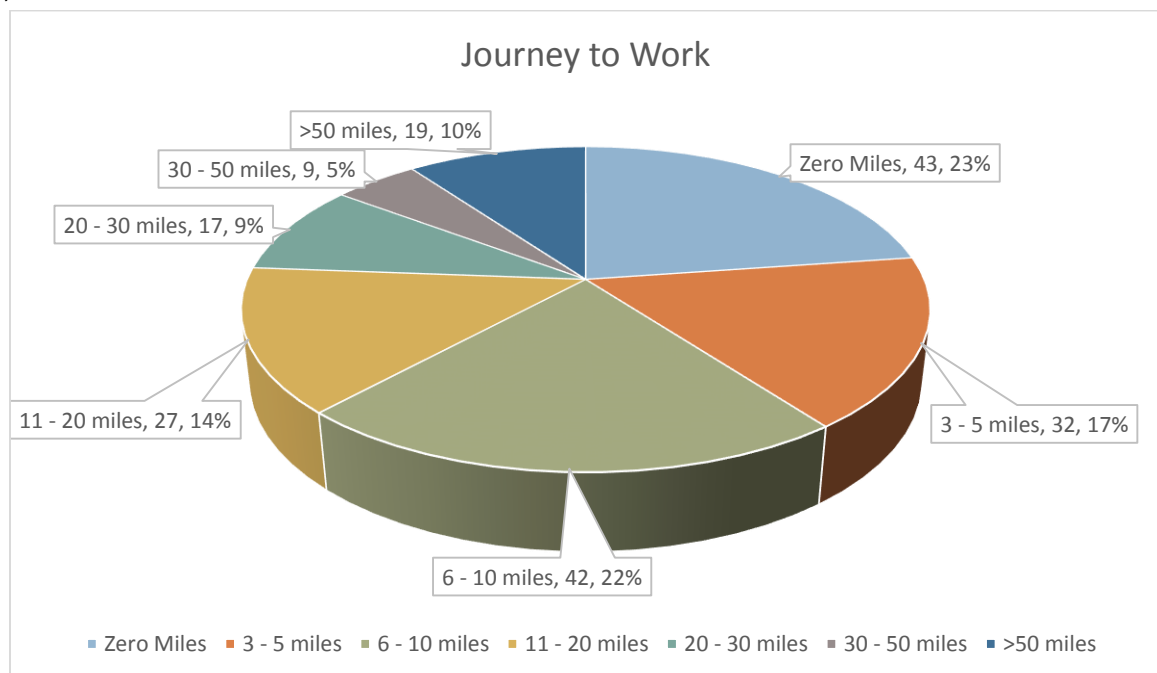
25. **Description of current situation:** Employment 100;unemployed 4; self-employed and employing others 30; self-employed 38; government training scheme 0; FTE 8; unwaged 20; retired 127; sick/disabled 3.



26. **What barriers are there to self-employment:** Lack of start-up finance 33; need for business skills 6; lack of advice 11; lack of contacts 8; lack of premises 12; lack of confidence 7; lack of skills 1.



27. **Travelling to work:** Work in Seend 43; 3-5 miles 32; 6-10 miles 42; 11-20 miles 27; 20-30 17; 30-50 9; more than 50 miles 19.



28. **How might the Parish Council be more effective?:** There were 52 responses ranging through the need to consult more and tell people what we do; encourage more young people to stand; not clear on the PCs role, sorting out Spiderweb Paddock (seen as getting away with it). Need to be more pro-active than we are. PC is seen as reactive.

29. **Rating the Parish Council:** Very effective 8; effective 112; partially effective 108; not at all effective 10; no opinion 82

30. **Spotlight magazine:** Very informative 188; informative 138; not very informative 4; not at all informative 0.

31. **Improvements to Spotlight:** Better quality presentation, colour, stapling and layout, larger print. Too many adverts - make it available as email and on-line.

32. **Are you an active member of the Church?** 49 said they were; Methodist Chapel 2; House Church 1; other 15; None 247.

33. **Do local religious groups provide for spiritual needs?;** Yes 115; no 8; no opinion 203.

34. **Improvements to roads, footpaths and lanes?**

Footpaths and tracks clear	193 (51.8%)
Remove litter	183 (49.2%)
Roadside verges mown and tidy	171 (45.9%)
Improve access gates and stiles	134 (36%)
Plant more trees	110 (29.5%)
Signposting	102 (27.4)
Remove unnecessary signs	97 (26%)
Vehicle damage verges	87 (23.3%)
Roadside verges wildlife	54 (14.51)

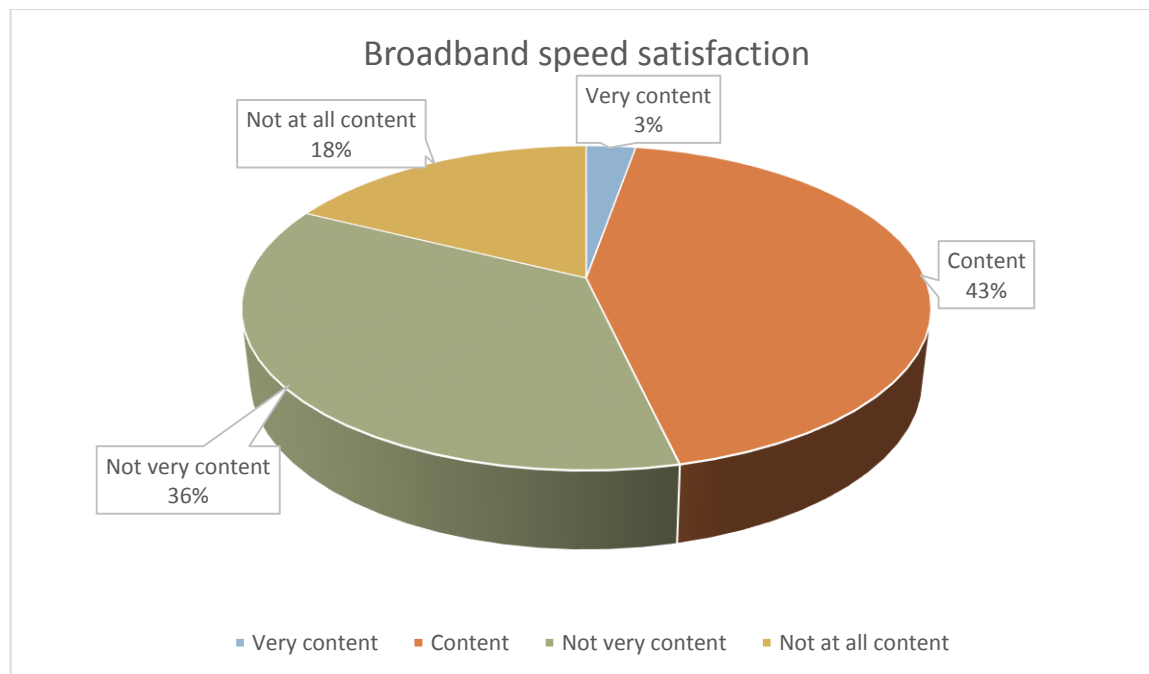
35. **Footpaths and bridleways improvements:** Seend Cleeve area mentioned as being in need of attention; also dog mess throughout village. Much better signing (e.g. as in Bowerhill area). Clearance from overhanging trees for runners and cyclists.

36. **Road improvements:** 30 MPH speed limit throughout village – consistency; weight restrictions; attend to railway bridge; need to sort out surface water problems in Spout lane; need warning flashing sign at the road narrows by Wesley Cottage.

37. **Prepared to help in:** Protecting wild life habitats 75; maintaining footpaths 55; clearing up schemes 75; best kept village 52

38. **Local Guide required?:** Yes 223 No 70

39. **Broadband Speed?:** Very Content 8; Content 126; not very content 104; not at all content 51
Total responses = 289



40. **All major broadband providers were mentioned as providing coverage with no single one being the most popular**

41. **Quality of Mobile phone signal?:** Very Content 35; Content 158 Not very content 85; Not at all content 39

42. **Mobile phone network provider?:** All major phone providers mentioned

43. **How frequently do you access the village website?:** Occasionally 127 (39.8%); Frequently 11 (3.4%); Not at all 181 (56.7%). Total responses = 319

44. **Improvements needed to the Village website?:** Professional look needed; needs to be updated frequently; needs link to Facebook; more pictures and possibly a link to houses for sale; jobs vacant; more information for visitors and newcomers.

45. **Where do you obtain information about village activities?:** Spotlight 341; Notice boards 205; website 23; post office 117; free paper 84; Wiltshire Times etc. 66; library 7; word-of-mouth 224; local radio 11.

Spotlight	341
Word-of-mouth	224
Notice boards	205
Post Office	117
Free newspaper	84
Wiltshire Times etc.	66
Local radio	11
Library	7

46. **Jubilee Celebrations should include:** important to involve all organisations including school and church, afternoon event, late barbecue/beer tent/entertainment for adults in evening; service of thanksgiving in church, bonfire/fireworks/planting of jubilee oak in suitable location/children tea party old people lunch/skittles comp.; village picnic on lye field with lots of cakes and brass band; tea on Lye Field everyone supply food sit at tables Fireworks donations light beacon, barbecue and entertainment at the Community Centre.

47. **What do you like least about living in the Parish?:** traffic noise and speed; divisions in the Village and cliques; new people have no community spirit; lack of jobs for students; chronic fear of change and absence of desire to move with the times in village; the Cleeve becomes difficult in snow; bridge by 'Barge' becomes icy; Cleeve gets ignored by gritters; a lot of activities seem to be aimed at more elderly residents with nothing for young people; difficulty getting to Melksham/need direct bus routes; townies who have taken over village; some degree of self-satisfaction and nimbyism; air pollution from bonfires; lack of good public transport to local towns.

48. **What do you like about living in the Parish?** School and pre-school, park and playing field, active social life, village shop; convenient to travel to various towns. optional village activities, own post office - brilliant, pleasant walks, good community spirit; friendly neighbourhood, quiet village, plenty of clubs to join in if you want to participate; peace and quiet (when no fireworks), access to dog walking routes, beautiful countryside, good neighbours; the approachability of the villages and the setting. not being overlooked; friendly people, feel safe, many dog lovers, access to countryside just by stepping out of the house, school, canal new build houses are good; it's very pretty, very quiet, low crime rate, good transport link, good village.