



**Summary Report  
on the  
2015 Neighbourhood Plan Survey  
for the  
Warfield Parish Council**

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## Warfield NP Survey 2015

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## **1. Introduction and Objectives:**

The Warfield Neighbourhood Plan is being written by residents of the community and the Parish Council to help influence how Warfield evolves over the next 15 years. Once adopted, the Warfield Neighbourhood Plan will be used in determining planning applications, as it will form part of Bracknell Forest Council's statutory planning documents in addition to, not a replacement for, the Core Strategy, Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) and the Warfield Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

To shape the proposals that will be contained in the plan, the NP group designed a survey questionnaire to gather opinions from households in the Parish, with the objective of providing a robust basis as input to help:

1. Prioritise the needs of the community
2. Build the Neighbourhood Plan
3. Serve as a 'lobbying tool' to resolve issues
4. Gather evidence for Council Planning

The survey was conducted during March 2015. By the survey close date 564 responses had been received: 190 online and 374 on paper. 93% of respondents identify their postcode as RG42 (of the remainder, half are in RG12 and half did not give a postcode). The survey respondent base is broadly representative of the village overall according to available census data, except:

- Younger people are under-represented, older people are somewhat over-represented
- People in rented property are under-represented

Where opinions vary by age or tenure, this needs to be kept in mind when interpreting the findings.

This report summarises the main survey findings, which in tabular form have been analysed in full, cross-profiled by online/paper, postcode (RG42/other), homeowner/rental, gender, age group, ethnicity, employment status, presence of children, and time lived in the village. The tabulations analyse every question in the questionnaire, on an anonymous basis, showing aggregated numbers giving each answer and percentages based on all answering each question. The analysis is done in accordance with the MRS code of conduct on respondent anonymity, and under the rules of the Data Protection Act.

## **2. Executive Summary:**

The survey provides a good representation of the views of the people in Warfield. Assuming one response per household the survey has 14% response rate, which provides overall 95% confidence limits of c.  $\pm 4\%$  points.

### **1. Housing**

Nearly all (90%) respondents say they have experienced no problems finding suitable accommodation in the Warfield area, although some 11% say they anticipate it becoming a problem in the next few years. Among those who have encountered a problem, this has mostly been due to a lack of homes to rent at an affordable price. Possible new housing development in Warfield raises several concerns, most notably in respect of increased traffic and the impact on the local environment, and also about impact on the culture/character of the village, and on increased parking needs (a recurring theme). Nearly a quarter mention other concerns, particularly about pressure on services such as doctors and shops.

Asked what sort of new housing should be built in Warfield, many commented 'None'. More than two thirds favoured small family homes, whilst half thought larger family homes and small starter homes. The strong majority (87%) preferred these to be homes for sale on the open market, whilst nearly half agreed that affordable homes for sale should also be provided. Just over a quarter feel that affordable rented homes should be available.

The most appropriate types of sites are thought to be the conversion of redundant or empty or derelict buildings, or 'Brownfield' – almost all respondents agreed with those options. There is a high level of resistance to building on 'Greenfield' land, even if there is no 'Brownfield' available. Residents feel that development would best be done in small sites of 10 homes or less, next to existing housing.

Parking (off-street) and visual 'fit' (with the rest of the area) are the two most important aspects of design, nearly all agree. There is also very strong support for houses that are energy efficient and with low environmental impact – two thirds feel this is very important.

## **2. Business**

15% of respondents overall say they currently own their own business, mostly working from home. Thinking about how business owners would like to develop their businesses, the two most important things they would like provided are improved transport links and a better mobile service.

There is some desire for starting new businesses locally. One in ten respondents say they or someone in their household would like to start their own business in the next few years. Most would want to rent suitable premises. The main aids to local business development are perceived as communications: faster broadband services and improved mobile phone service, although improved transport links, and possibly communal facilities (offices, shared resources) are also seen as valuable. .

Residents feel that a wide range of new businesses should be encouraged in Warfield over the next 15 years, but most especially: pubs, cafes and restaurants. There is also good support for retail – shops, agriculture/ food production, home working, and service trades. A few mention the need for a post office.

## **3. Environment**

Thinking about the surroundings and public spaces in Warfield, most of the suggestions made in the survey get good support, but most especially more public open space, landscaping of public areas, recreating wildlife meadows, planting more trees generally and also planting orchards.

There is a wide range of things to protect and enhance the long term environment of Warfield, but the most important are seen as greenbelt protection, access to open spaces, and keeping noise pollution to a minimum, followed by protection of wildlife habitats, more/improved/connected footpaths, and managed dog waste bins.

In terms of renewable energy, residents most favour eco-build homes, and having more solar panels on existing buildings. Ground or air-source heat pumps for existing and new homes is the third most favoured option. There would be considerable resistance against small individual wind turbines and solar panel farms.

#### 4. Wellbeing and Leisure

**Playgrounds.** The question about playgrounds is not applicable to most respondents, and a further one-in-five do not answer the question. Playground provision does not appear to be a significant issue in Warfield, although some improvements could be made – a few comment that it is inadequate (size, equipment, lighting), but very few feel distance or access is a problem.

**Healthcare.** Access to healthcare resources is not a great problem for most people in Warfield, although many comment that it could become a problem as many new houses are built and that a new surgery and NHS dentist should be provided.

**Facilities.** More than two thirds of respondents made a spontaneous suggestion in respect of health, community or recreational facilities they think should be provided in Warfield within the next 15 years. The main very strong theme is a need for sports, leisure, health and fitness activities/ facilities, a gym, indoor and outdoor (more, possibly all-weather) facilities, tennis (more), and a swimming pool. More than half of those making a suggestion mention sports/fitness. A quarter suggest a community centre or hub, with facilities for the community and clubs for older people or teenagers, and a venue for groups such as scouts and beavers. The next two most popular themes were extended healthcare facilities such as more doctor's surgeries and an NHS dentist, and a café or coffee shop/restaurant

Similarly, four-in-ten respondents made a spontaneous suggestion in respect of facilities Warfield should provide for **local teenagers**, also covering a very wide range of answers. Some of the main themes are similar to those coming through from the previous question, particularly in respect of sports activities including skate park, BMX, basketball, more pitches, indoor gym. Many suggest a community centre for providing a venue and options, then youth clubs - organised, often unspecified, and simply a place to go and hang out/meeting place (s)

**Safety/wellbeing.** In free-format answers, the main concerns again relate to speeding traffic (in many locations but especially Harvest Ride, County Lane, around schools, and Warfield Street) and issues relating to poor parking - at all times but especially

drop-off and pick-up times at the schools (particularly Whitegrove). Comments are made about residents who park in the road rather than using their garages or driveways. Several people also express specific concerns about Tesco lorries parking in County Lane, causing an obstruction. There are also high levels of concern about children arriving at / leaving school, traffic noise, lorries passing through, and the lack or narrowness of pavements.

**Improving safety.** Speeding and parking (near schools – people parking on pavements and near junctions) stand out as the two themes people are most concerned about, followed by cycle paths and then better maintained footpaths.

## **5. Infrastructure**

Car or van is overwhelmingly the form of transport used by residents of Warfield: 97% say they or someone in their household use a car or van daily (84%) or frequently (13%). However, many also walk: 76% say they or someone in their household walks daily (44%) or frequently (32%). 17% use public transport daily (5%) or frequently (12%), whilst 24% cycle at least frequently.

The small majority (58% overall) of residents feel there are sufficient public car parking spaces in Warfield at present, although 29% disagree and many also comment that this will get considerably worse with new housing developments. Those who disagree often comment on parking problems near schools or at Westmoreland when there are events/matches, and that the Tesco car park is not large enough.

Most (81%) do not feel that they have transport difficulties getting around Warfield or to neighbouring areas. Those who do have problems tend to comment on the poor bus service, being infrequent and with inconvenient bust stops, or traffic levels generally..

This report should be read in conjunction with the full verbatim answers given to the open-ended questions – provided separately.

### **3. Methodology and Respondent Profile:**

A questionnaire was designed by the Neighbourhood Planning Group and approved by the Parish Council. It was delivered to every household in the village, with further promotion (including an online option) in the quarterly 'Wren' newsletter dropped through all doors, as well as on the PC and Neighbourhood Plan Twitter, Facebook and websites. Everyone had an opportunity to participate.

Against a census population of 4,063 households and an adult population of 7,557, the survey generated answers from 564 respondents, providing overall 95% confidence limits of c.  $\pm 4\%$  points, so the survey sample overall is considered to be reasonably representative of the population and thus provides a robust measure of the opinions of the village residents.

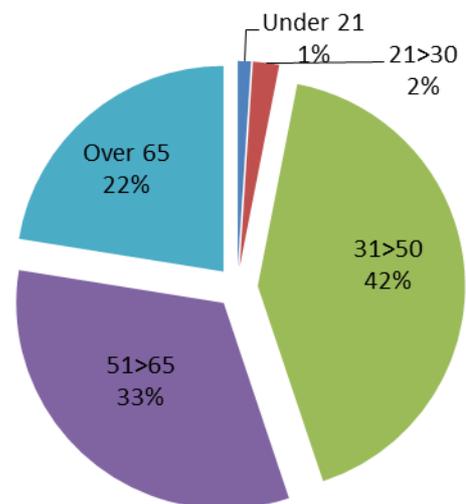
The demographics of those responding were broadly consistent with the village population overall, although slightly skewed towards older residents (direct comparisons with the census cannot be made since different age ranges under 65 were used). 22% of survey respondents were aged over 65 compared with 15% in the census.

As is fairly typical in community surveys, women are slightly more likely to respond than are men – in this case 56% of those answering the question are female, 44% are male.

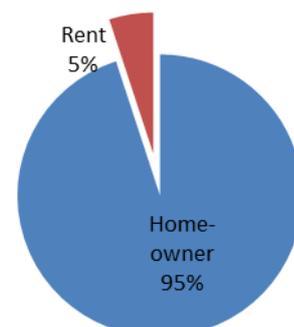
People in rented property are under-represented in the survey: 5% of respondents compared with the census figure of 17% rent their homes as against being a homeowner.

5% of respondents are of non-white ethnicity - close to 8% from census data.

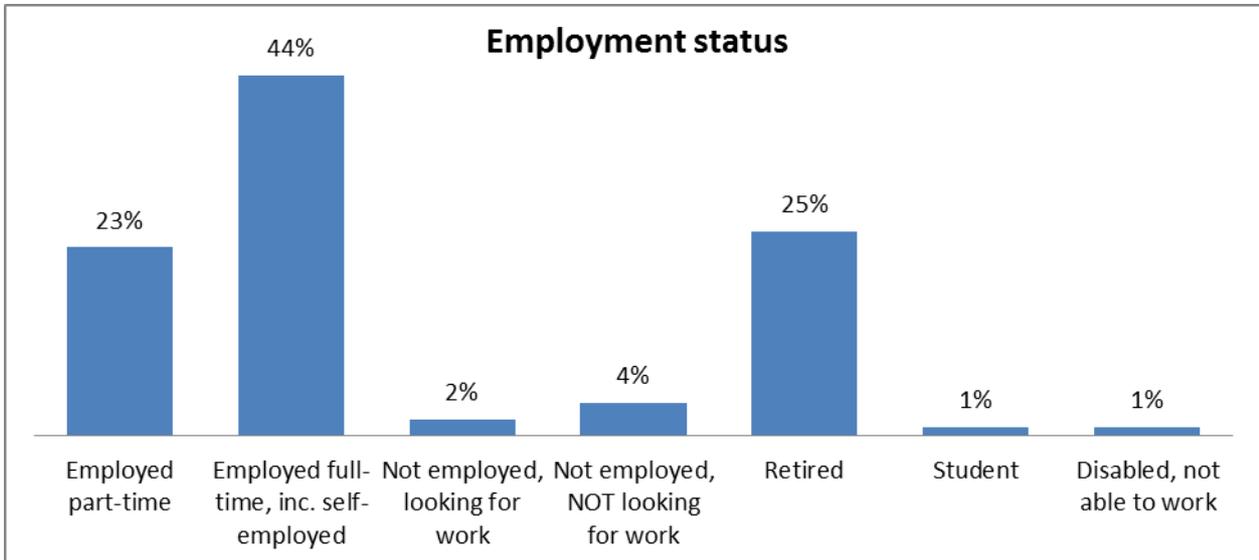
**Respondents age group**



**Tenure**



Two thirds of respondents describe themselves as working – mostly full-time including self-employed, whilst a quarter are retired. The low figures for ‘looking for work’, ‘student’, and ‘handicapped’ may not be an accurate reflection of the village residents overall since these groups may not have completed the survey.

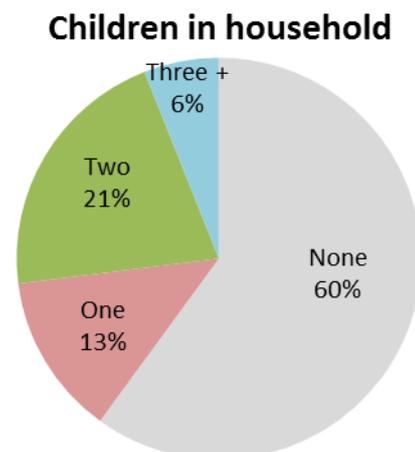


Among those who are employed, more than four-in-five travel to work by car or van, whilst nearly one-in-ten work mainly from home. 6% walk, and 5% travel by train.

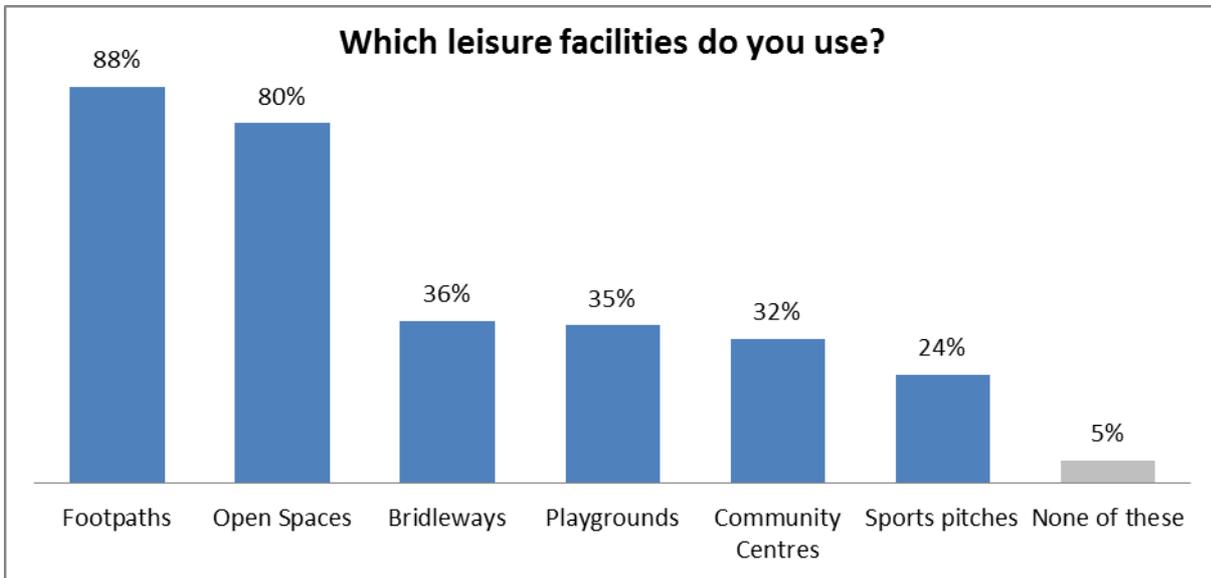
Car or van	82%	Bicycle	4%
Work mainly from home	9%	Motorcycle	1%
On foot	6%	Bus	1%
Train	5%	Passenger in car or van	*

\* lower than 1%

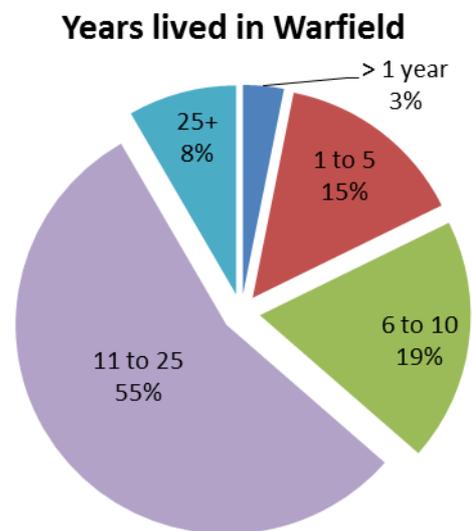
Of those answering the question (4% did not), nearly two thirds of respondents overall said there are no children in the household, although this may be an under-estimate (due to the sample age skew) for the village since more than two thirds of those aged under 50 say there are children.



Footpaths and open spaces are heavily used (and valued) by residents, particularly those aged under 65. A third also use bridleways, playgrounds, and community centres (highest among the 31-50 age group, lowest among those aged 51-65).



Nearly a third of respondents have lived in Warfield for 10 years or less – nearly half of those aged under 50, and 40% of those employed full-time



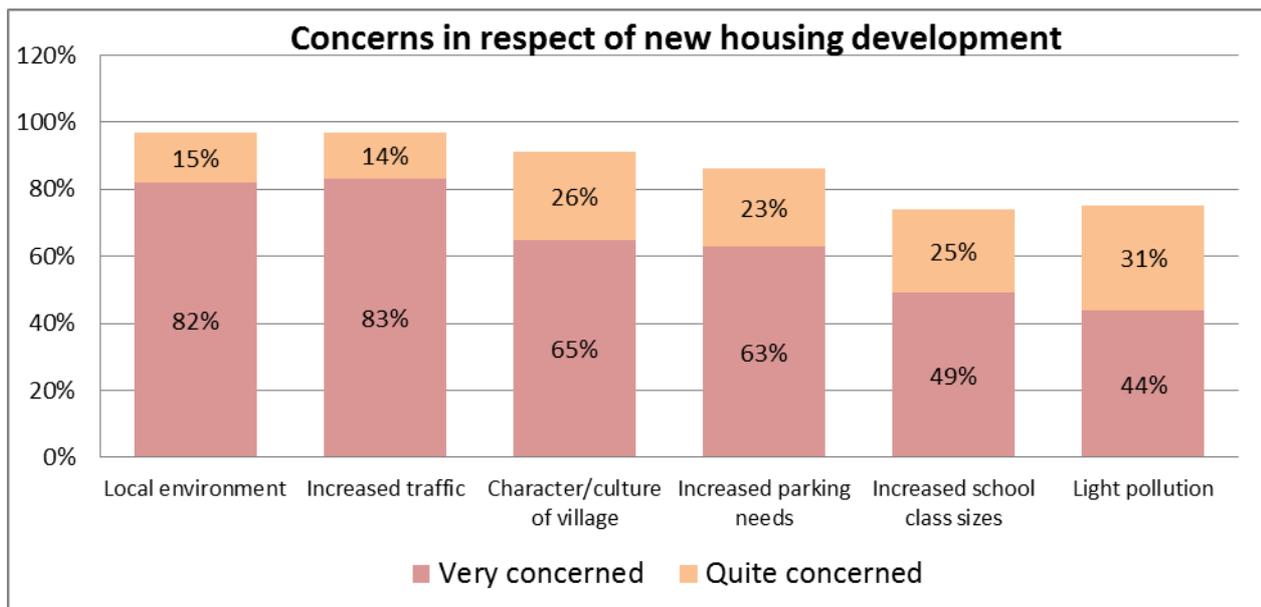
93% of respondents identify their postcode as RG42. Of the remainder, half are in RG12 and half did not give a postcode.

## 5. Main findings:

### 5.1 Housing

Nearly 90% of respondents say they have experienced no problems finding suitable accommodation in the Warfield area, although some 11% say they anticipate it becoming a problem in the next few years. Among those who have encountered a problem, this has mostly been due to a lack of homes to rent at an affordable price.

Possible new housing development in Warfield raises several concerns, most notably in respect of increased traffic and the impact on the local environment, but also about the impact on the character and culture of the village and on parking requirements, which is a recurring theme. Younger respondents in particular are concerned about possible increased school class sizes.

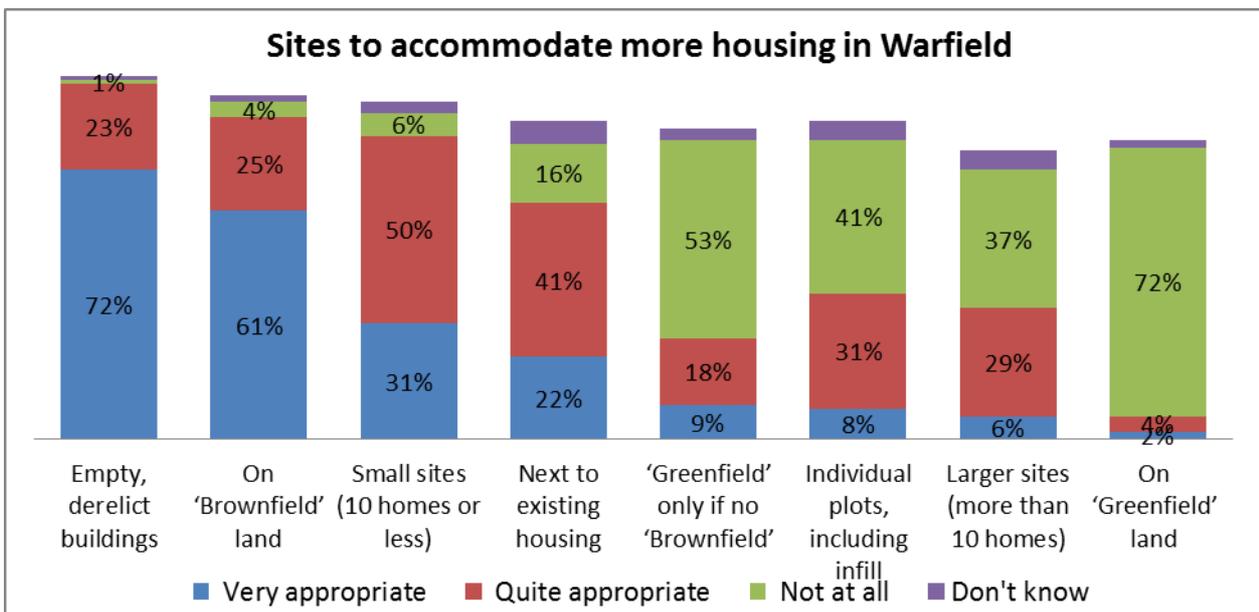


Nearly a quarter mention other concerns, particularly about pressure on services such as doctors and shops.

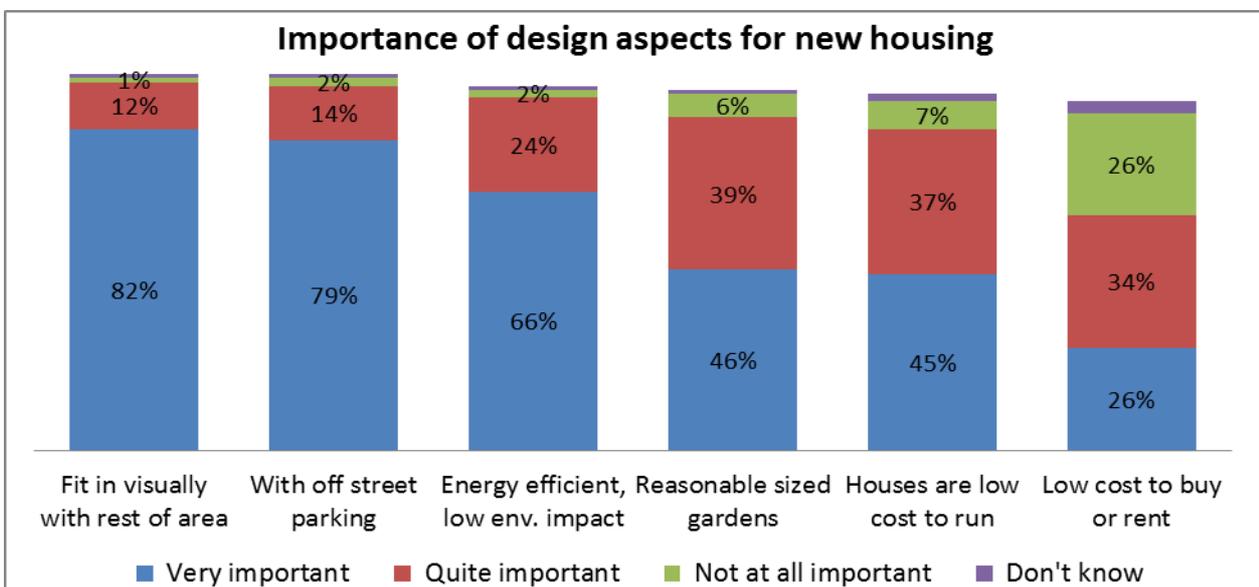
Asked what sort of new housing should be built in Warfield, more than two thirds said they favoured small family homes (2-3 bedrooms), whilst half thought larger family homes and small starter homes, although many commented 'None'. 44% mentioned a need for homes for people with specific housing needs, and 31% mention bungalows.

The strong majority (87%) preferred these to be homes for sale on the open market, whilst nearly half agreed that affordable homes for sale should also be provided. Just over a quarter feel that affordable rented homes (i.e. managed through a housing association) should be available.

The most appropriate types of sites are thought to be the conversion of redundant or empty or derelict buildings, or 'Brownfield' – almost all respondents agreed with those options. There is a high level of resistance to building on 'Greenfield' land, even if there is no 'Brownfield' available. Residents feel that development would best be done in small sites of 10 homes or less, next to existing housing.

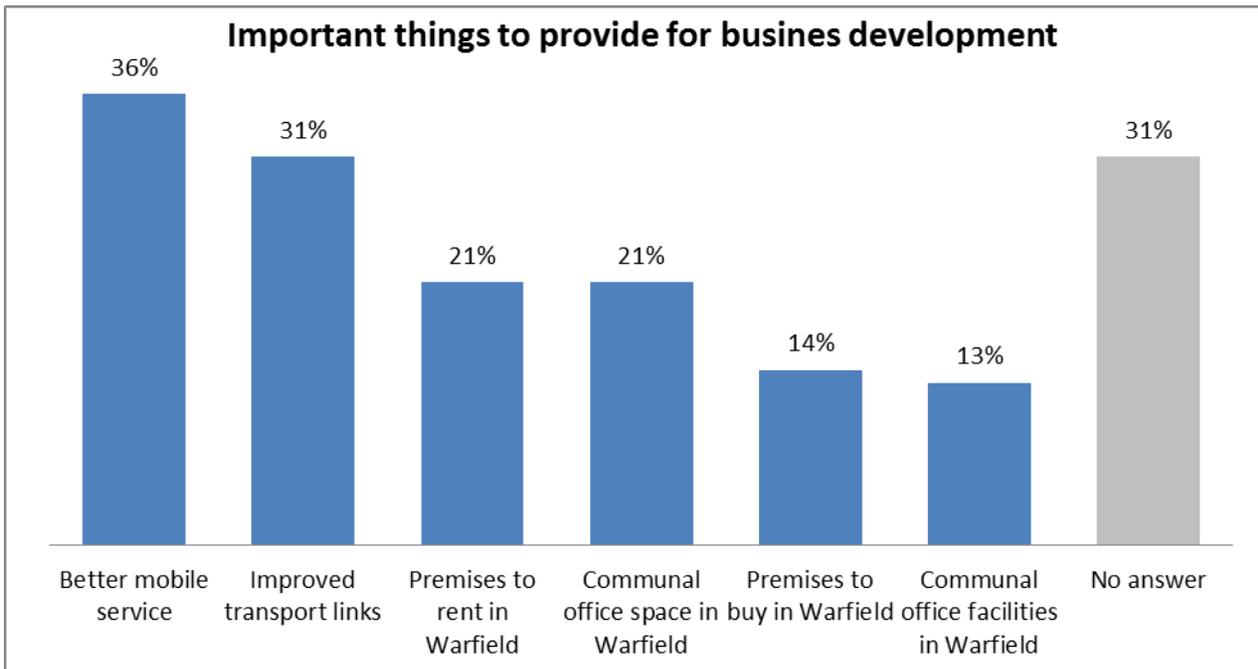


Parking (off-street) and visual 'fit' (with the rest of the area) are the two most important aspects of design, nearly all agree. There is also very strong support for energy efficient/ low environmental impact houses – two thirds feel this is very important.



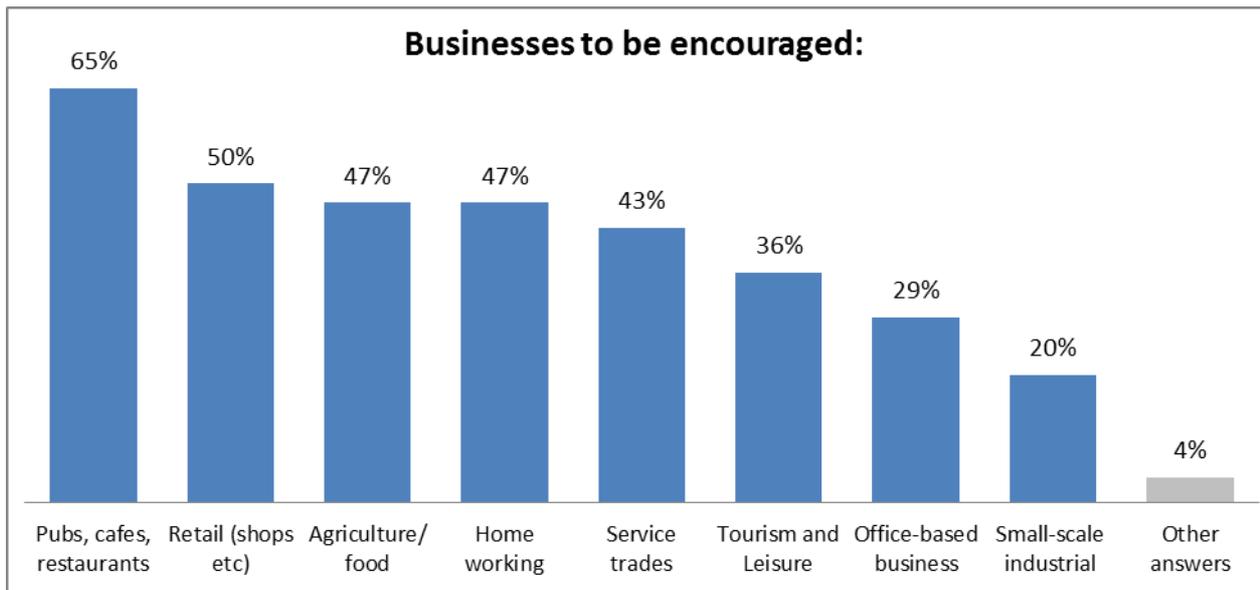
## 5.2 Business

The level of response under the business section is relatively low. 15% of respondents overall say they currently own their own business, mostly (81% of those owning a business) working from home, although a third have premises outside of Warfield – nearly one in ten have premises (other than home) in Warfield. Thinking about how business owners would like to develop their businesses, the two most important things they would like provided are improved transport links and a better mobile service.



There is some desire for starting new businesses locally. One in ten respondents say they or someone in their household would like to start their own business in the next few years. Most would want to rent small premises rather than buy, mostly office or studio space although there is also some lesser demand for workshop or warehouse space or land. The main aids to local business development are perceived as communications: faster broadband services (64% of those interested in new business development mention this), and improved mobile phone service (mentioned by 43%). However, improved transport links, suitable places to rent locally (more so than to buy), and possibly communal facilities, are each also seen as being important.

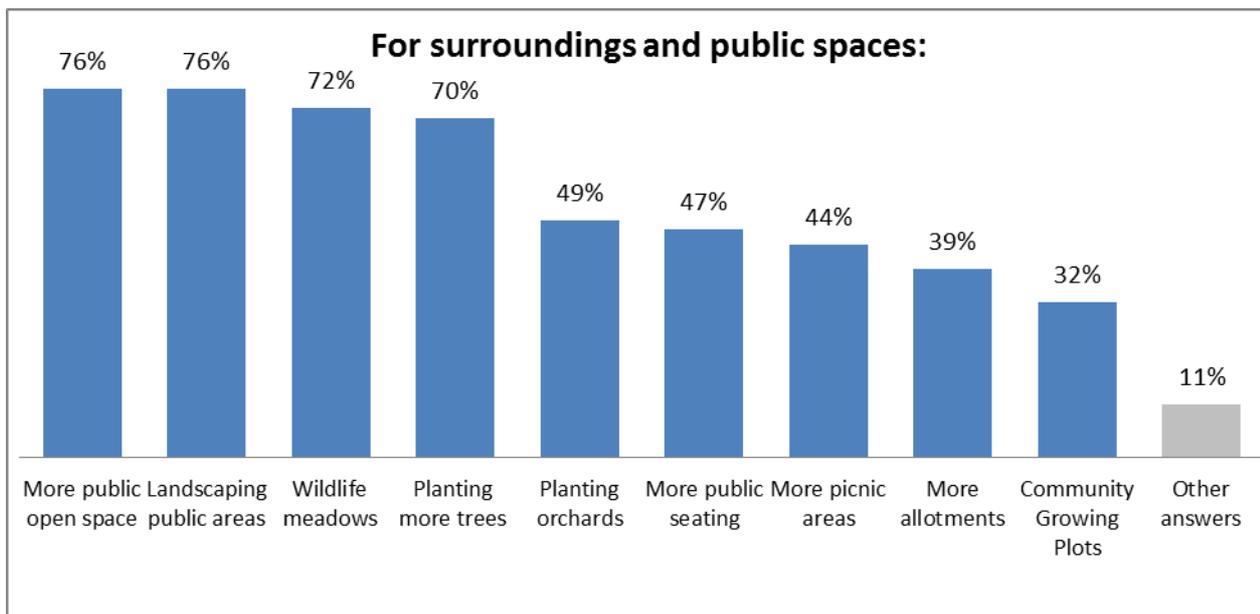
All respondents were asked what types of new businesses should be encouraged within the parish over the next 15 years. Generally residents feel that a wide range of new businesses should be encouraged, but most especially: pubs, cafes and restaurants (mentioned by two thirds of residents, higher among those aged under 65), retail – shops, agriculture/ food production (favoured by older respondents), and home working, followed by service trades, tourism and leisure, and office-based businesses. A few mention the need for a post office.



### 5.3 Environment

Thinking about the surroundings and public spaces in Warfield, most of the suggestions made in the survey get good support, but most especially:

- more public open space (76% overall say they would like to see this),
- landscaping of public areas (e.g. bulbs, hedges, trees) (76%)
- recreating wildlife meadows (72%)
- planting more trees generally (70%) – a further 49% mention planting orchards
- 



Other comments included more sports facilities and playgrounds, and better maintenance of existing trees. Older respondents tend to favour landscaping primarily, but also open spaces, wildlife meadows, more trees, and more public seating.

There is a wide range of things to protect and enhance the long term environment of Warfield, but the most important are seen as greenbelt protection and access to open spaces, followed by keeping noise pollution to a minimum. Other very important issues are the protection of wildlife habitats, more/better/connected footpaths, managed dog waste bins, flooding protection, and more/improved/connected cycle paths.

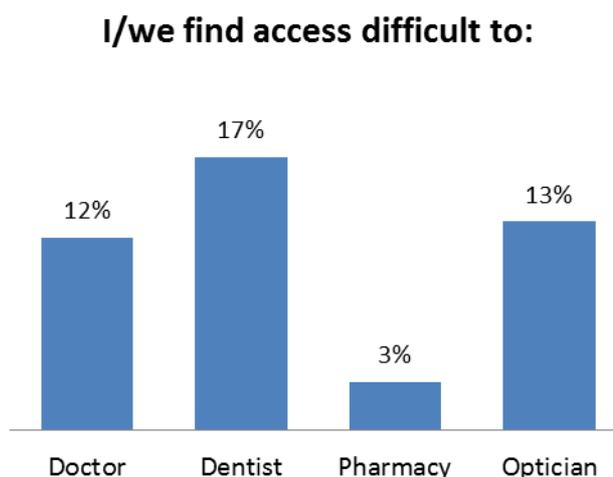
<b>To protect Warfield's long term environment:</b>	<b>% 'Very' important</b>	<b>% 'Quite' important</b>
Protection of greenbelt	85%	9%
Access to green spaces	83%	11%
Keeping noise pollution to a minimum	80%	16%
Protection of existing wildlife habitats	71%	20%
More/improved/connected footpaths	61%	30%
Managed dog waste bins	62%	26%
Flooding protection	54%	26%
More/improved/connected cycle ways	49%	36%
Keeping light pollution to a minimum	46%	38%
Improved/ better facilities for recycling waste	42%	38%
Sustainable water management	42%	40%
Promoting renewable energy	42%	37%
Producing local food by developing allotments	26%	38%
More/ improved/ connected bridleways	26%	35%
Community composting scheme	23%	44%

In terms of renewable energy, residents most favour eco-build homes, and having more solar panels on existing buildings. Ground or air-source heat pumps for existing and new homes is the third most favoured option. There would be considerable resistance against small individual wind turbines and solar panel farms.

## 5.4 Wellbeing and Leisure

**5.4.1 Playgrounds.** The question about playgrounds is not applicable to most respondents, and a further one-in-five do not answer the question. Playground provision does not appear to be an issue in Warfield, although some improvements could be made – a few comment that it is inadequate (size, equipment, lighting), but very few feel distance or access is a problem.

**5.4.2 Healthcare.** Access to healthcare resources is not a great problem for most people in Warfield, although many comment that it could become a problem as many new houses are built and that a new surgery and NHS dentist should be provided. These views do not vary greatly by age group. One in ten said they find access to a doctor difficult at the moment, rising to 17% having difficulty accessing dentist. Broadly there are very few problems getting to a pharmacy.



**5.4.3 Facilities.** More than two thirds of respondents made a spontaneous suggestion in respect of health, community or recreational facilities they think should be provided in Warfield within the next 15 years. These are free-answer responses, covering a very wide range of subjects. Answers are based on people's awareness of existing facilities.

*Q. Are there any particular health, community or recreational facilities that you think should be provided in Warfield within the next 15 years? In order:*

1. The main very strong theme is a need for sports, leisure, health and fitness activities/facilities, a gym, indoor and (better, all-weather) outdoor sports, tennis (more), and a swimming pool – mentioned by over half of those making any suggestions.
2. A community centre or hub, with facilities for the community and clubs for older people or teenagers, and a venue for groups such as scouts and beavers – this theme is mentioned by about a quarter of those making any suggestions.
3. Extended doctor's surgeries – and an NHS dentist
4. A café or coffee shop/restaurant

Similarly, four-in-ten respondents made a spontaneous suggestion in respect of facilities Warfield should provide for **local teenagers**, also covering a very wide range of answers. Some of the main themes are similar to those coming through from the previous question, particularly in respect of sports activities.

*Q. What facilities would you like Warfield to provide for local teenagers? In order:*

1. Sports facilities, including skate park, BMX, basketball, more pitches, indoor gym
2. A community centre to provide a range of activities
2. Youth clubs - organised, often unspecified
3. A place to go and hang out/meeting place (s)

**5.4.4 Safety/wellbeing.** In free-format answers, the main concerns again relate to speeding traffic (in many locations but especially Harvest Ride, County Lane, around schools, and Warfield Street) and issues relating to poor parking - at all times but especially drop-off and pick-up times at the schools (particularly Whitegrove). Comments are made about residents who park in the road rather than using their garages or driveways. Several people also express specific concerns about Tesco lorries parking in County Lane, causing an obstruction. There are also high levels of concern about children arriving at / leaving school, traffic noise, lorries passing through, and the lack or narrowness of pavements.

*Q: Do you have safety or wellbeing concerns about any of the following?*

Issue:	% mention	Details
Speed of traffic	51%	Everywhere. Harvest Ride. County Lane. Forest Road. Warfield Street. Around schools Westmoreland Drive
Road visibility due to poor parking	34%	All schools. Whitegrove. Warfield
School children arriving/leaving	27%	All schools. Whitegrove. Warfield
Traffic noise	23%	Harvest Ride
Lorries/large vans passing through	22%	Tesco – County Lane. Warfield Street
Pavements – narrow or lack of	21%	Cars parked on pavements. Newell Green. Forest Road. Hedges need cutting back.
Visibility at road junctions	18%	Overgrown hedges/bushes. Car parking
Road access to Warfield	16%	Harvest Ride, Forest Road. Peak times
Obstruction of pavements	16%	Cars parked on pavements, cut hedges
Other obstructions and congestion	16%	County Lane Tesco lorries. Cars on paths.
Lack of safe places to cross road	15%	Harvest Ride. Near schools
Location of bus stops	8%	General lack of stops

**5.4.5 Improving safety.** This is a free-format question against prompted themes. Sometimes people wrote a description and/or location, often they simply ticked the theme. Speeding and parking (near schools – people parking on pavements and near junctions) stand out as the two themes people are most concerned about, followed by cycle paths and then better maintained footpaths.

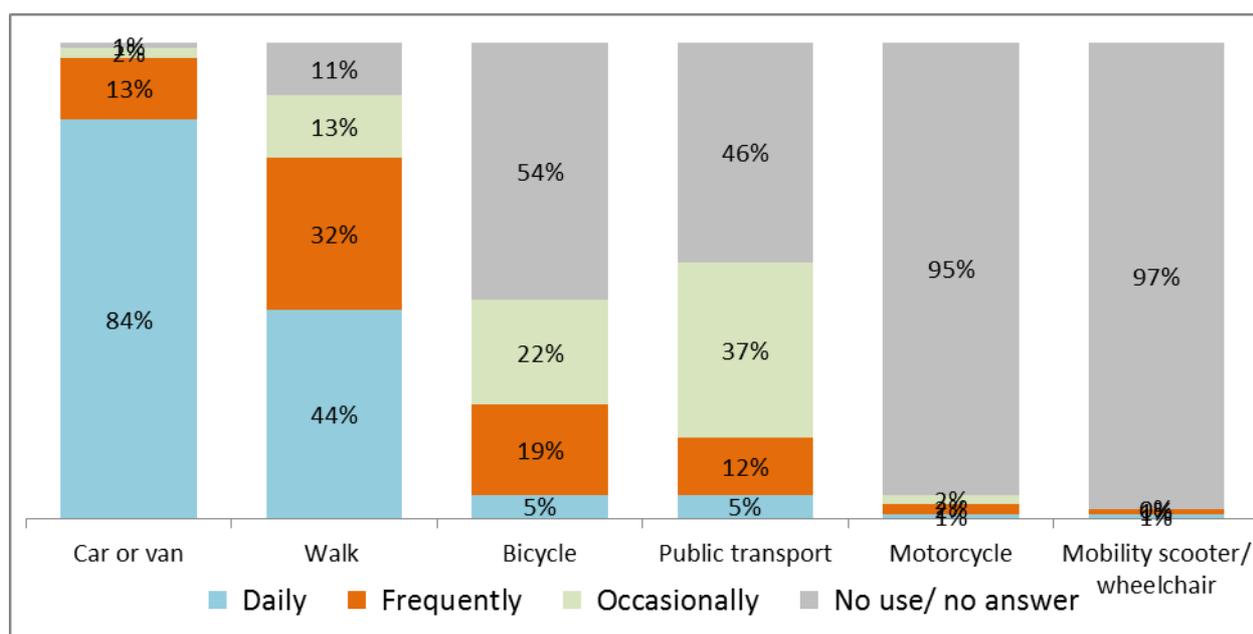
*Q: Is there anything you think should be done to improve resident's safety?*

Issue:	% mention	Details
Measures to slow traffic	32%	Everywhere. County Lane. Harvest Ride. Forest Road. Warfield Street
Improved parking near a school	30%	All schools. Whitegrove. Warfield
Cycle paths	23%	Everywhere. Joined up. Further afield.
Better/more footpaths/pavements	19%	Maintain better. Cut hedges back. Parking on
Controlled road crossings	13%	Harvest Ride. Whitegrove. By schools
Better access to playing field/ground	8%	Inadequate parking at Westmoreland Drive
Targeted street lighting	7%	No single place
Improve location of playing field	7%	Priory Field. Parking at Westmoreland Drive
Other answers	8%	Speed controls, policing

## 5.5 Infrastructure

Car or van is overwhelmingly the form of transport used by residents of Warfield: 97% say they or someone in their household use a car or van daily (84%) or frequently (13%). However, many also walk: 76% say they or someone in their household walks daily (44%) or frequently (32%). 17% use public transport daily (5%) or frequently (12%), whilst 24% cycle at least frequently. Use of public transport is highest among those aged up to 30 – after that it declines steadily.

**Q: What form(s) of transport do you/members of your family typically use?**

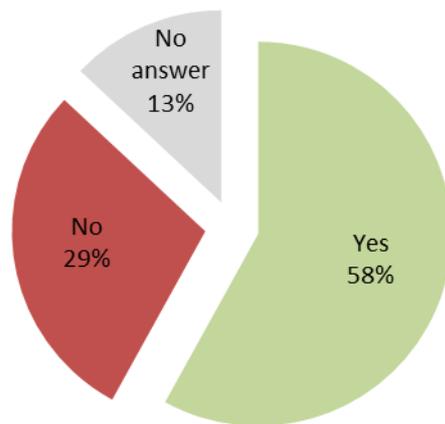


Looking at the number of car parking spaces available to households, garages and driveways are under-used. From the survey responses, on average each household has 0.7 parking spaces in the form of a garage, whilst the average used is 0.3 spaces. On average each household has 1.9 parking spaces in the form of a driveway, whilst the average used is 1.4 spaces. The figures for 'Allocated space on road' are too low to be reliable, and the figures for 'Public space on road' are unreliable since it is not practical to answer how many are available – nearly everyone leaves it blank.

Location	No. available:	No used:
Garage	0.7	0.3
Driveway	1.9	1.4
Allocated space on road	0.1	0.1
Public space on road	0.2	0.1

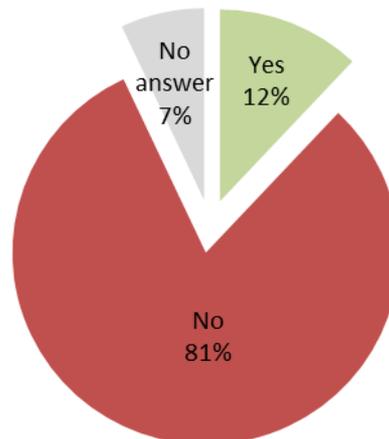
The small majority (58% overall) of residents feel there are sufficient public car parking spaces in Warfield at present, although 29% disagree and many also comment that this will get considerably worse with new housing developments. Those who disagree often comment on parking problems near schools or at Westmoreland when there are events/matches, and that the Tesco car park is not large enough. Others commented on people not using their garages or driveways, were not sure if the question referred to car parks or general open parking.

### Enough car parking spaces

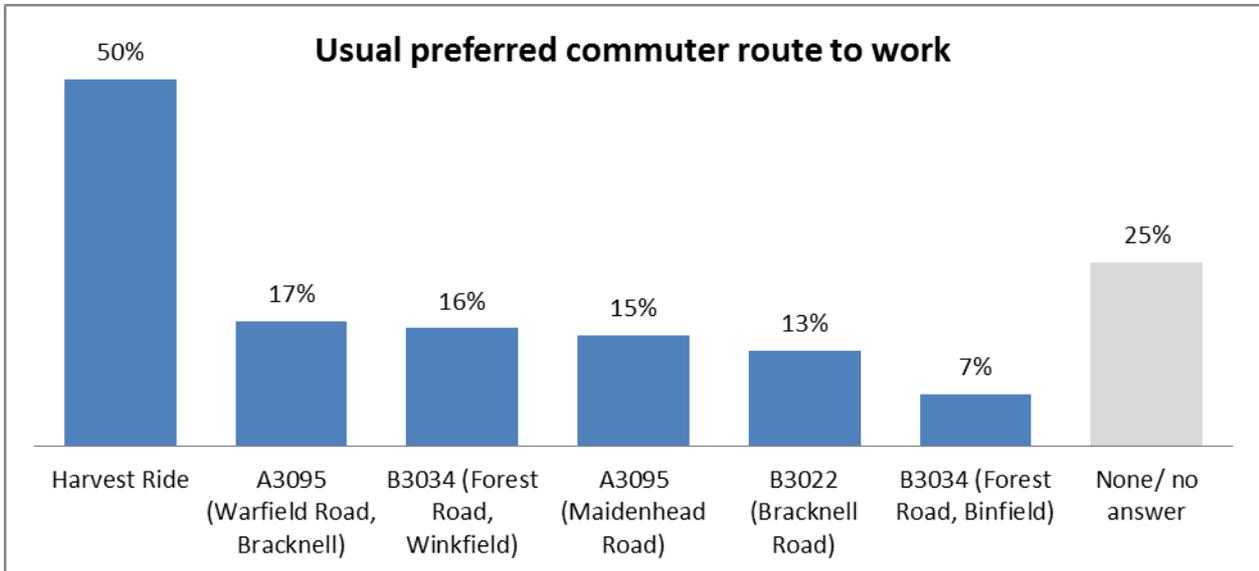


Most (81%) residents do not feel that they have transport difficulties getting around Warfield or to neighbouring areas. Those who do have problems tend to comment on the poor bus service, being infrequent and with inconvenient bust stops, traffic levels generally, or that it would be difficult getting around without a car..

### Transport difficulties?



When commuting from home to their regular place of work, residents mostly use Harvest Ride – half of all residents, and two thirds of those answering the question, use this road. The least used route is the B3034 (forest Road, Binfield), with the other routes used fairly evenly.



This report should be read in conjunction with the full verbatim answers given to the open-ended questions – provided separately.