

Arne Parish Survey 2014 Report

This report is based on 326 responses to a survey conducted during September 15 to October 11 2014. The survey had been developed for each of seven topics by a working group responsible to the Neighbourhood Plan steering committee, informed by the experience of previous Parish Plan surveys done in 2002 and 2010 for the Agenda 21 process from the 1990 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro. Survey forms were delivered to each household, requesting one response per household but also encouraging further individual responses through provision of additional survey forms and an on-line version, with each response qualifying for a raffle ticket. Each household was provided with one envelope in which to return paper surveys at collection points, and a count of envelopes was adjusted by a minimum count (at a subsequent meeting) of number of households that responded only on-line. On that basis, the 326 responses represented at least 298 households and hence more than 50% of 592 households in the parish. This report starts with a summary of its main findings, and then a question-by-question consideration of the results.

Thanks are due to the members of the Neighbourhood Plan steering committee, including: Ashley Pellegrini (Neighbourhood Plan chair), Caroline Macleod (Parish Council Chair), B Kenward (District Council), Richard Bessant (Parish Council), Don Hunter (Parish Council), Ray Scragg (Parish Council), Avris Wakefield-Sutton (Parish Council), Vivienne Ward (Parish Council), Michael Frenchman, Ian Jenkins, Robert Kenward and Anne Pugsley. A number of people also kindly contributed logistic support, including Amanda Crocker as Clerk, Steve Calver and Samir Bhatti from Bournemouth University, together with the steering group members for delivering survey forms. Finally, many thanks to all the respondents and the family members who helped them, and to the Lookout Stores, Kings Arms, Stoborough First School and Halfway Inn who hosted collection boxes.

SUMMARY

Households: Among the half of Arne Parish households that responded to the survey, about a third were from Ridge and a third from Stoborough. Comparison with surveys in 2002 and 2010 showed an aging profile, with long residency (80% for 6 or more years) and 64% now retired after settling in Arne Parish during their working lives. Housing, with an average 2.3 residents, included 23% bungalows and 4% mobile homes, with 88% owner-occupancy.

Education and work: Of 61 children in respondent households, 46 were in Stoborough Primary or Purbeck secondary schools. Respondents had worked 36% in the public sector, with more in manufacturing (11%), retail (9%) and finance (7%) than in farming, tourism or construction (each 5%). The internet was used at home by 91% of respondents, of whom 50% held degrees. Among those in employment, 28% worked in Arne (22% at home), 17% in Wareham, 17% elsewhere in Purbeck and 13% in Poole. The proportion working beyond Purbeck is falling, but most (67%) still travel to work by car, with a decline in walking and using train or bus. Increases in employment from retailing (especially a Post Office), cultivation, light industry (e.g. software) and nature conservation were favoured, but lack of work-approved sites was seen as a constraint.

Housing needs: Remarkably, the proportion of households likely to be looking for housing within 5 years had risen from 5% to 28% since the last survey. However, among 25 households currently searching, the dominant reason was to set up home rather than change accommodation, mostly (75%) for work in Purbeck, as a house or flat (90%) with 1-2 bedrooms (86%) and owner

occupancy (79%). Income categories of house-seekers had two peaks, at either less than £10,000 singly (<£20,000 for couples) or at £20-30,000 singly (£40-50,000 for couples).

Housing acceptability: The proportion of residents favouring small-scale development, defined by 92% at 10-40 houses, has increased from 31% in 2002 to 71%, with less than 5% favouring larger development. Some 60% favour 1-2 bedroom units (only 8% favour 4 or more bedrooms), for young people (40%), or the elderly (22%), notably as annexes for both age groups (23%) and particularly as affordable housing (56%), though 16% wanted no more housing. There was very strong opinion that development should “aim to retain rural culture (e.g. village farms)” (91% of respondents) and not harm recreational green space (91%), “include a variety of house and garden sizes” (89%), minimise energy and infrastructure needs (88%), “be within walking distance of communal facilities” (87%) and be contiguous with existing settlement (80%).

Traffic: Among 9 measures for traffic measures in 5 parts of the parish the most strongly supported (79%) was for a 20 mph speed restriction outside the school at access times (and not for traffic calming). More parking at the school was also proposed. There was also around two thirds support for a Footpath/Cycleway between Ridge and Stoborough (68%) and improvements for safety at the Arne Road/ New Road Junction (66%). Slightly fewer people supported having a path for cyclist and pedestrians alongside Nutcrack Lane (58%).or making it one way (57%).

Public services: Satisfaction with ambulance, fire and coastguard emergency services remains above 95%, closely followed by Arne PC and health providers (93-94%); police approval ratings continue to improve at 75-82%, but hospital transport slipped from 88 to 80% since 2010. More people were concerned about burglary (21%), other theft (25%), and mugging (5%) than in 2010, and littering remained of high concern (49%). Police presence and liaison, and more youth activities, were solutions favoured by 31-37% of respondents, with street lights least popular (10%). ‘Greater use of Wareham Hospital for basic diagnostics such as ECGs and blood tests’ attracted 89% support and 74% for ‘expanded good neighbours scheme for the elderly’. 30% of respondents reported problems with surface water and only 5% did not support a flood strategy plan. Of 86 suggestions to reduce littering, improved disposal (31) and detection (27) dominated.

Shops and leisure: The Lookout Stores vie for popularity with supermarkets and other shops in Wareham; almost all use more distant supermarkets and 32% shop online. Satisfaction rates for social facility were below 30% for the under 25s yet above 70% for older parish residents. The Hayricks was popular, with a public slipway at Ridge and play areas in Ridge and Stoborough Green favoured by some 30% of respondents in each case. 16% considered art and culture poor in the Parish, but the only notable hindrance to use of village halls was lack of information on dates and facilities, among 14-21% for Stoborough (12-14% for Furzebrook). There was strong support for a larger community hub at the Stoborough Village Hall site, with post office and food provision facilities popular, followed by a larger hall (with stage), meeting rooms and car park.

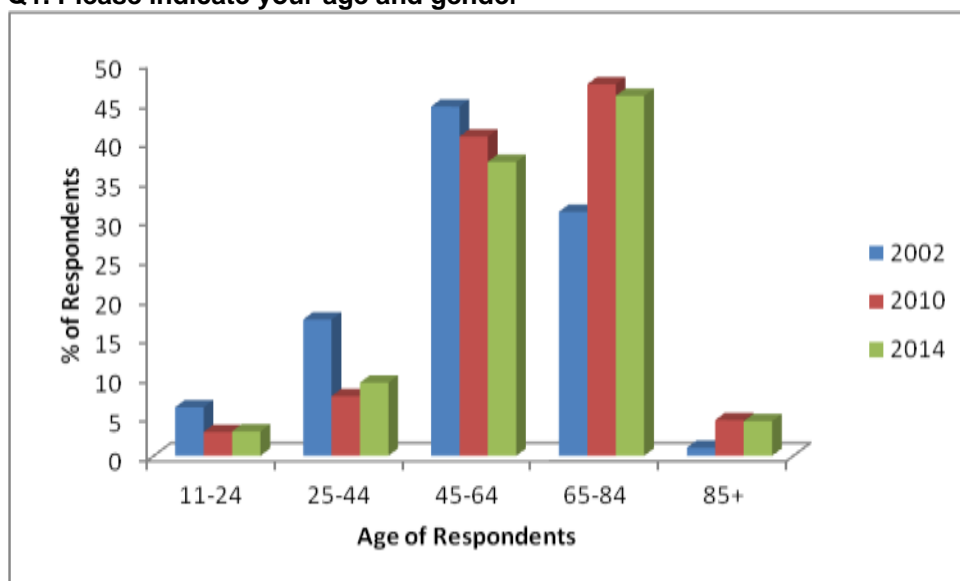
Countryside: There was considerable sympathy for issues affecting farmers, especially flooding. Residents also supported more heathland recreation (47% yes, 38% no), but agreed that other natural features also need conserving (76% yes) and, especially, that residents’ views should be considered by national conservation bodies (80% yes). Restoration of wild flowers and animals was supported by 72-83% of respondents, and fence removal with cattle grids on heathland by 63%. There were 67% who felt welcome on heathland; 33 said ‘no’, citing pressure regarding access (12, dogs (7), parking charges (4) and from unfriendly notices (4).

Table of Contents

A. About you and your household	4
B. Establishing local housing needs	10
C. Traffic	15
D. Emergency, health and police services.....	16
E. Business and shopping	18
F. Environmental services	20
G. Leisure and Communal Facilities.....	21
H. Countryside and wildlife	23
I. Concluding comments	25

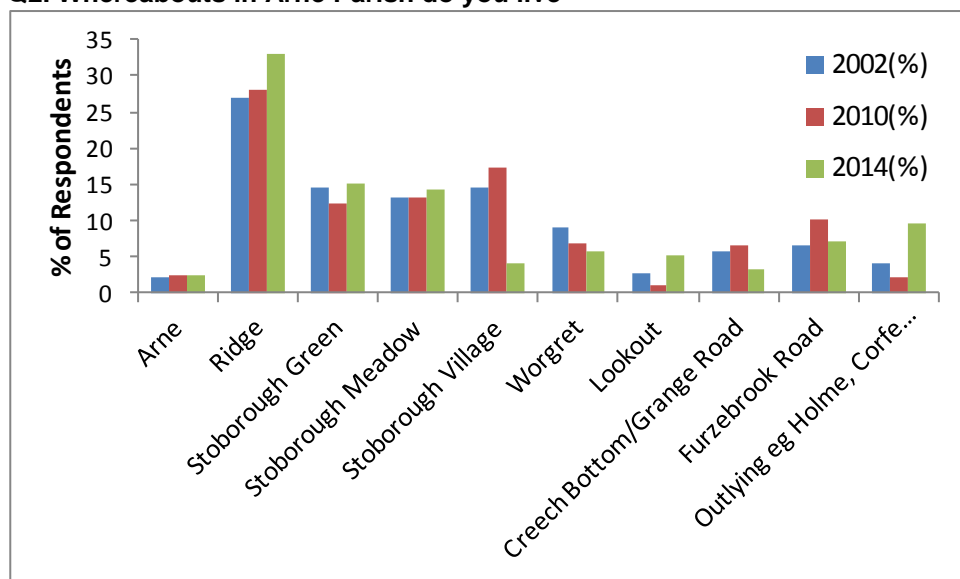
A. About you and your household

Q1. Please indicate your age and gender



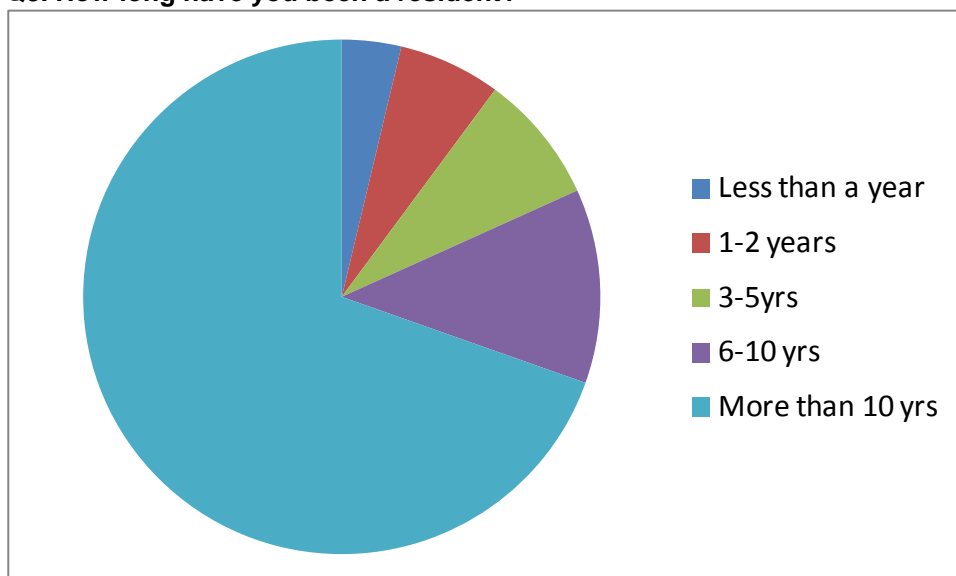
Respondent ages (and gender) were similar to the 2010 survey more over 65 than in 2002.

Q2. Whereabouts in Arne Parish do you live



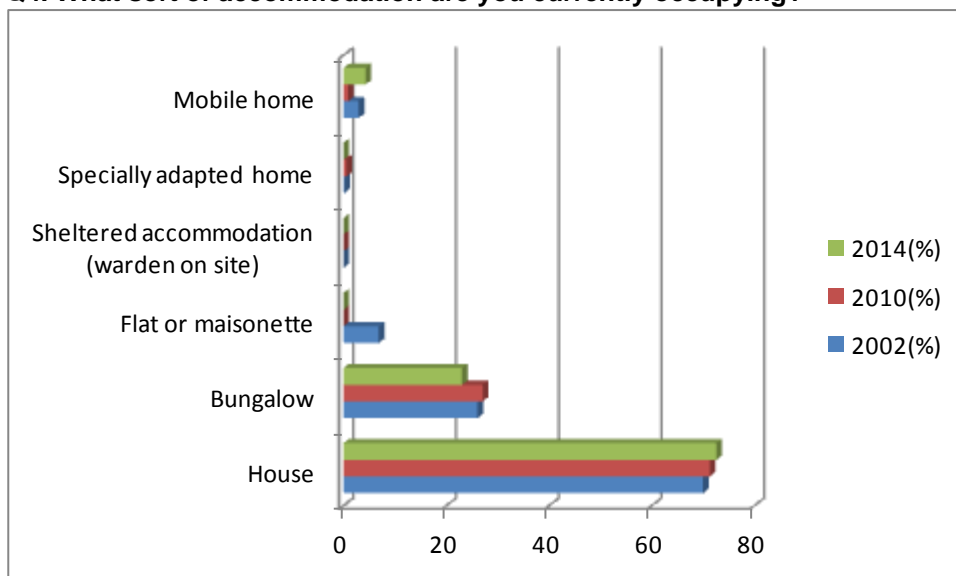
Response was generally as in previous surveys, except with better response from Ridge. An error of omitting the “Stoborough Village” category (under which any blank entries were included) may have enhanced numbers elsewhere in Stoborough and in the final (“Outlying”) category.

Q3. How long have you been a resident?



There were fewer in the 6-10-year category than in 2010, and slightly more in the long-term and short term categories, showing durable long-term residence but some pre-establishment turnover.

Q4. What sort of accommodation are you currently occupying?



With minimal change in housing stock in the Parish, any change here indicates change in response. Other aspects indicate a poorer response this time from the less wealthy residents.

Q5. What type of tenure?

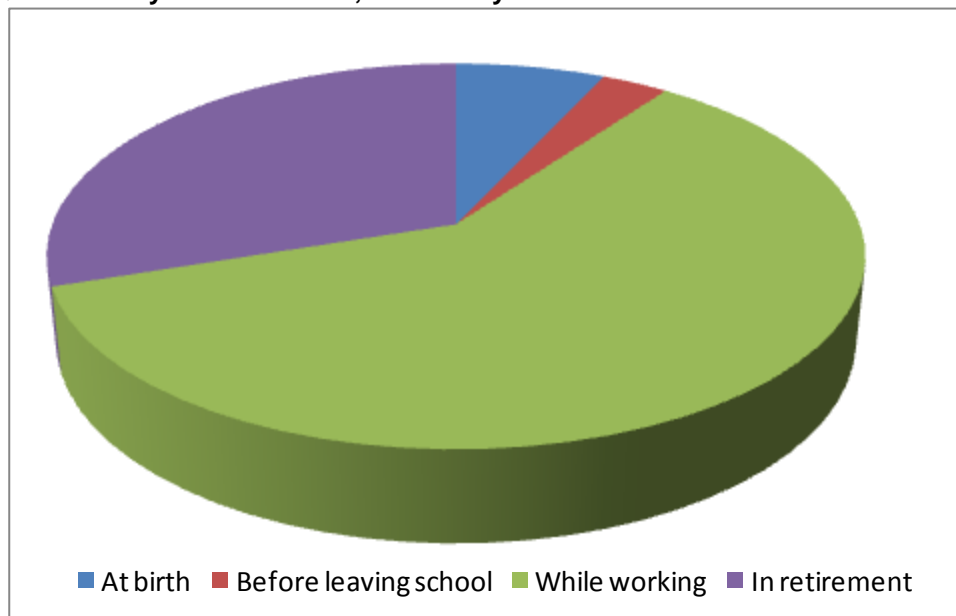
	2002(%)	2010(%)	2014(%)
Private rented	4.4	4.6	5.0
Housing association rented	3.8	2.5	3.4
Owner occupied or mortgaged paid by you or close family member	87.9	87.7	87.5
Shared ownership	1	4.3	3.1
Other	2.9	0.9	0.9

There is negligible change here: the very great majority of housing is owner-occupied.

Q6. Is this your main home?

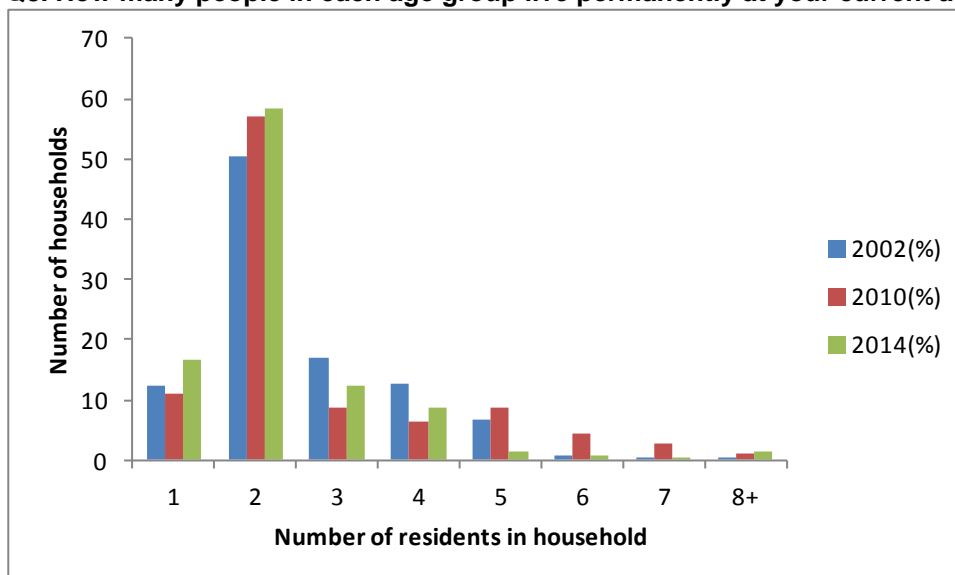
312 said yes and 6 said no; in 2010, 317 said yes and 6 no. All this may show is that 6 second home owners feel part of the community enough to respond to the survey.

Q7. If this is your main home, when did you become resident here?



Answers are based on residence in Arne Parish because answers to “in Purbeck” were treated partially as exclusive. Most people moved to Arne while working, but half as many to retire.

Q8. How many people in each age group live permanently at your current address?



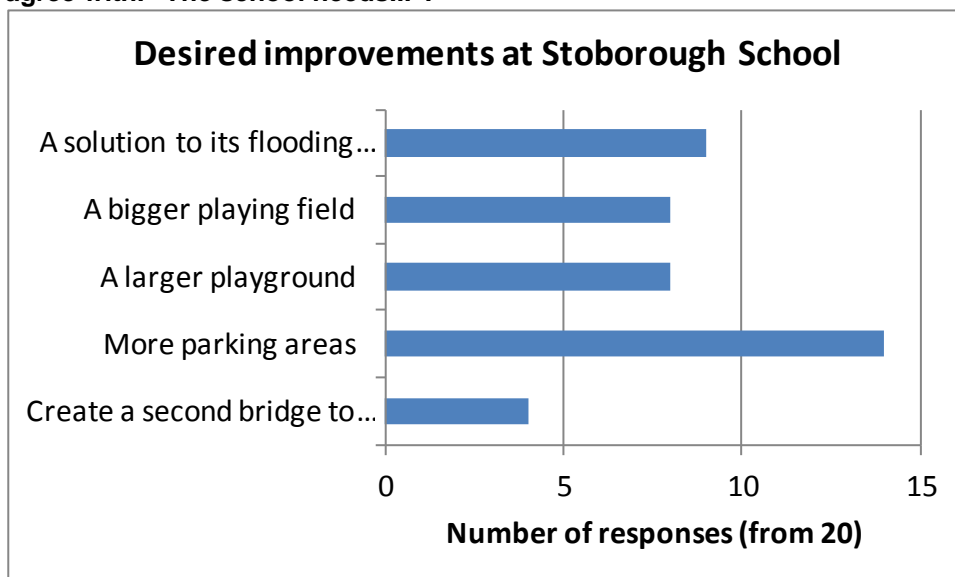
The response records fewer families of 5-7, and more single occupancies, since 2002. As a result, average household size has declined from 2.8 in 2010 (and 2.5 in 2002) to 2.3.

Q9. If there are people in your household at school, which do they attend?

Purbeck (secondary) school	26
Poole/Parkstone Grammar school.	4
Lytchett Minster school	3
Stoborough nursery and primary school	20
Wareham primary	3
Corfe primary	2
Beaucroft special school, Wimborne.	1
Swanage school.	1
Talbot Heath	1

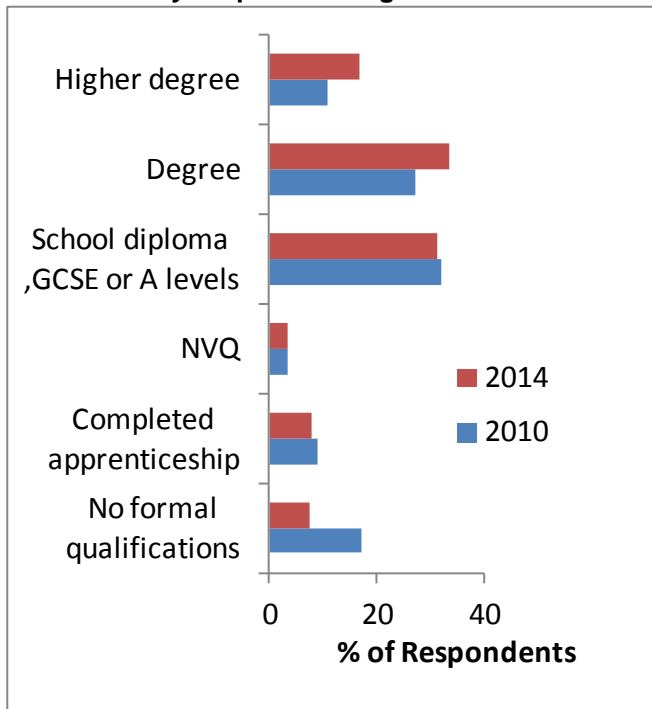
Attendance at local schools dominated, with reasons for attending other schools including both special circumstances (2) and dissatisfaction with Stoborough (4) or Purbeck (1) schools.

Q10. If your child attends Stoborough School, please tick any of the comments below that you agree with. "The school needs...":



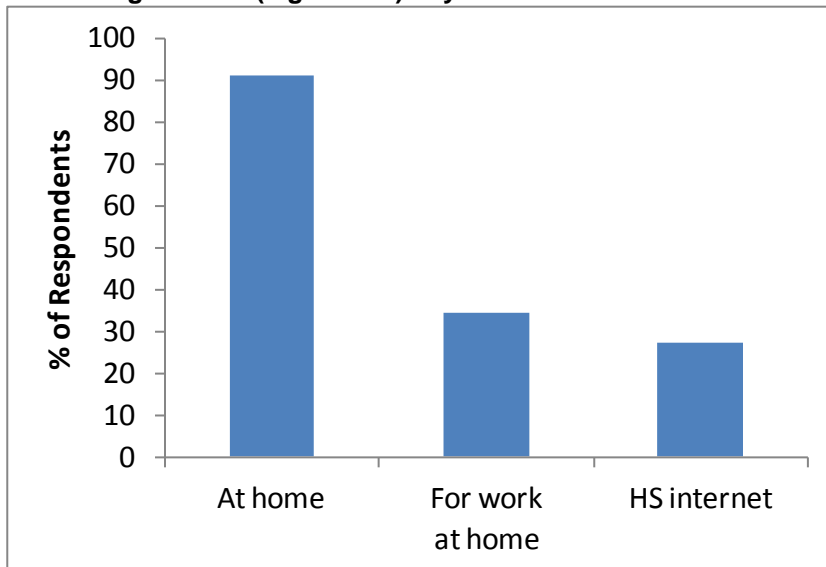
Other comments emphasised the problem with parking, appreciation of the swimming pool, and a call for more outdoor learning, community engagement and use of green energy.

Q11. What is your personal highest educational or vocational achievement?



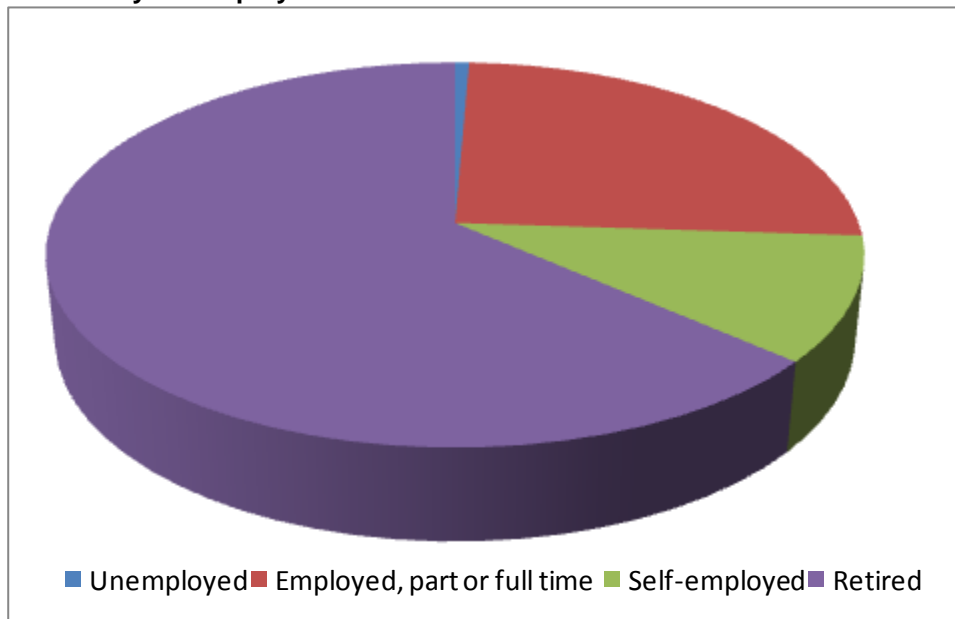
Fewer respondents have no formal education and more have degrees than in 2010. This may reflect change of residency or of inclination to respond.

Q12. Using internet (e.g. e-mail) in your household

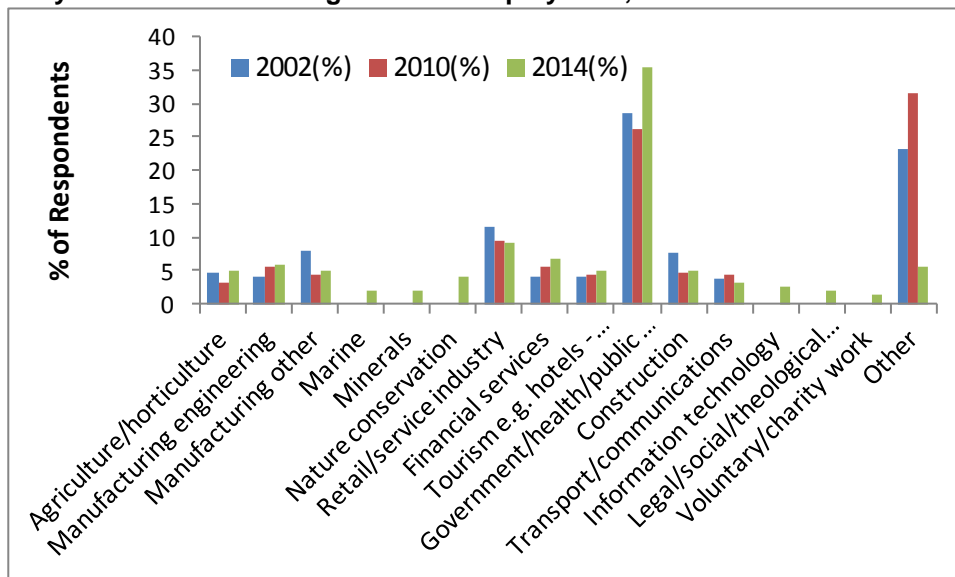


More than 90% of respondent households access the internet from home and 35% to work from home.

Q13. What is your employment status?

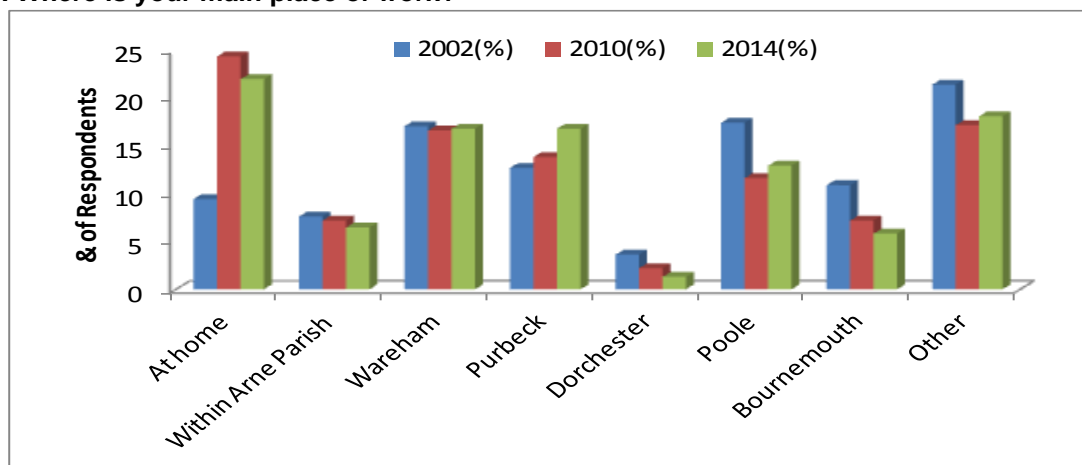


Q14. If you are or were in waged or self employment, what is or was the business

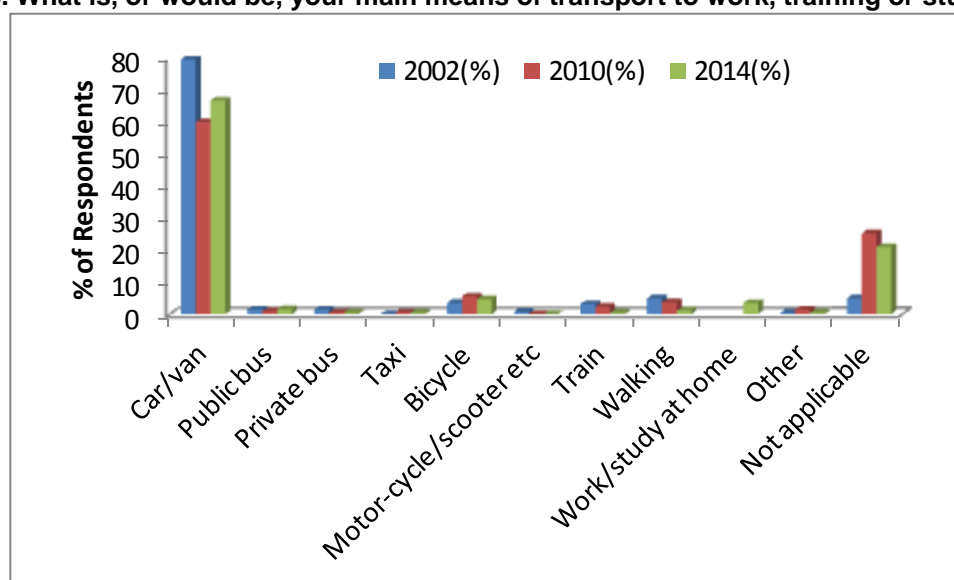


Providing the ability to list in category “other” produced many employments which could be fitted into existing categories, which reduced “other” to 13 people: 3 in management consultancy, 2 in waste management, 2 in marketing, 2 in publishing, 2 in translation, 1 heating engineer and 1 artist. IT replaced food-processing, which had no respondents now or previously.

Q15. Where is your main place of work?



Q16. What is, or would be, your main means of transport to work, training or study?



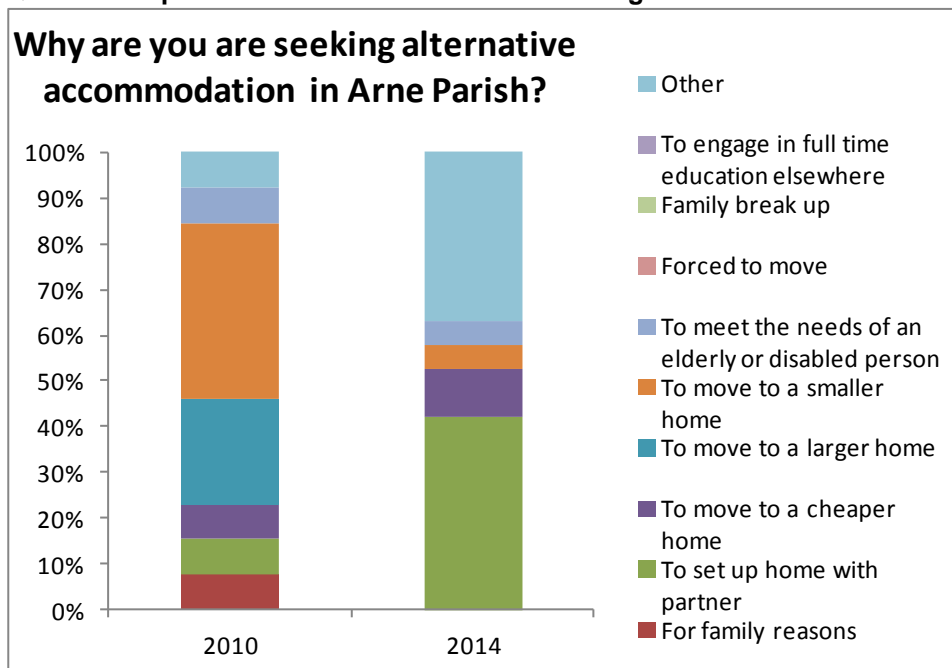
With more people working in Purbeck, and fewer in Dorchester, Poole and Bournemouth, there is less use of train and bus. However, there is also a decline in use of bicycle and walking, perhaps because employment in Arne Parish seems to have declined.

B. Establishing local housing needs

Q17. Is anyone in your household currently in need of alternative accommodation in Arne Parish?

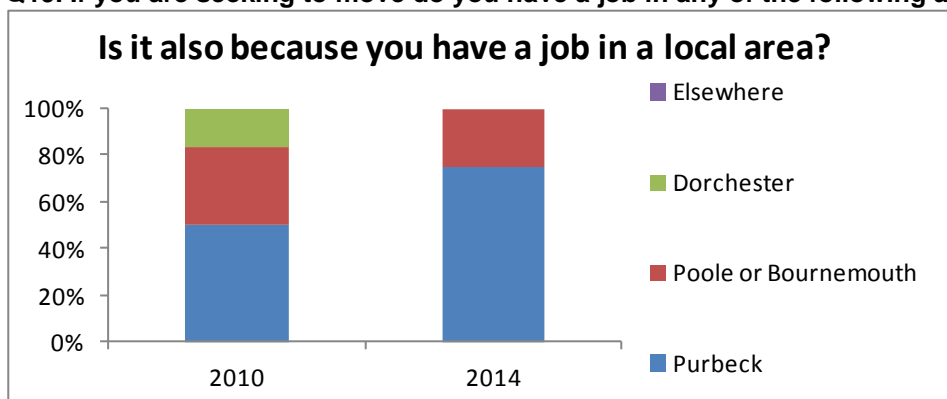
There were 25 “yes” responses, compared with 37 in 2010.

Q18. If 'Yes' please indicate the reason for seeking alternative accommodation



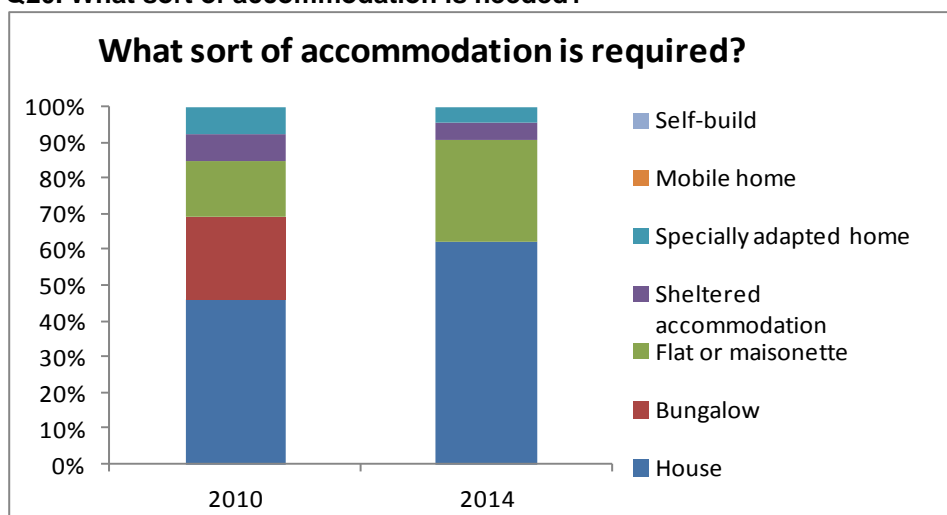
Since 2010, when people were most concerned with improvement moves, the dominant single issue has become setting up home with a partner.

Q19. If you are seeking to move do you have a job in any of the following areas...?

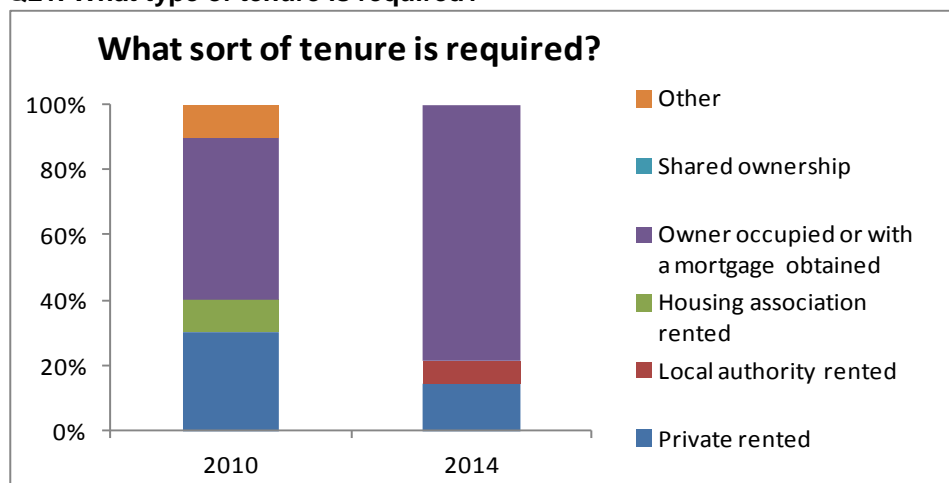


The dominant employment move is now for a job in Purbeck

Q20. What sort of accommodation is needed?

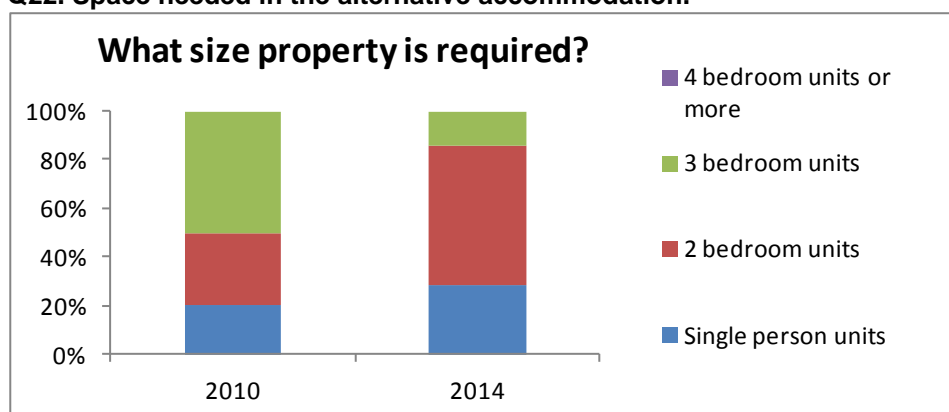


Q21. What type of tenure is required?



A need for owner-occupied houses and flats now dominates.

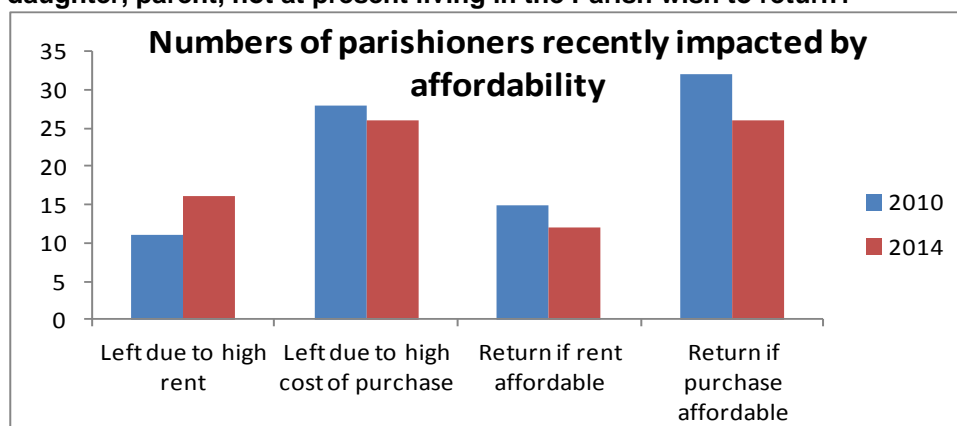
Q22. Space needed in the alternative accommodation.



The preferred size is two bedrooms or single occupancy.

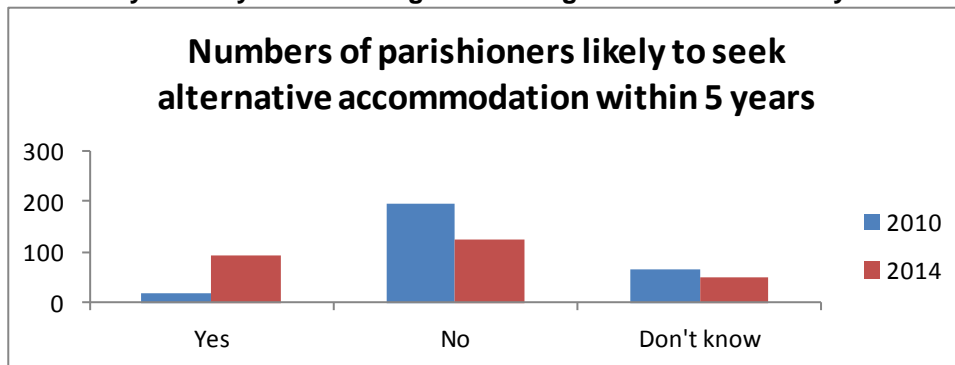
Q23. If any members of your family have moved out of the Parish, was it because they could not afford to buy or rent accommodation?

Q.24. If suitable accommodation were available would any member of your close family e.g. son, daughter, parent, not at present living in the Parish wish to return?



There is a slight decline in need to leave and wish to return since 2010, except for leaving due to high rents.

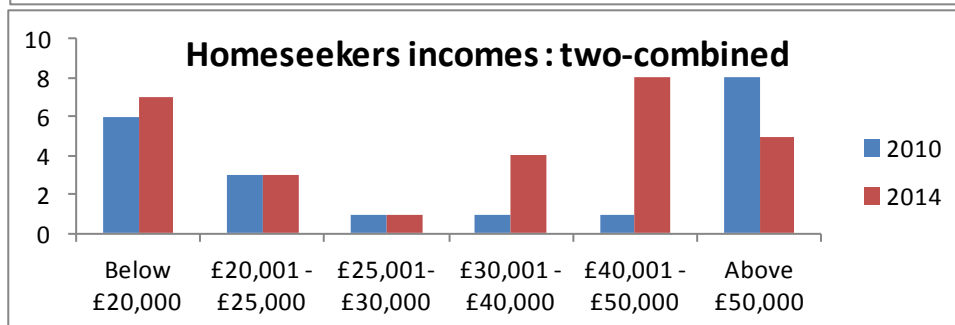
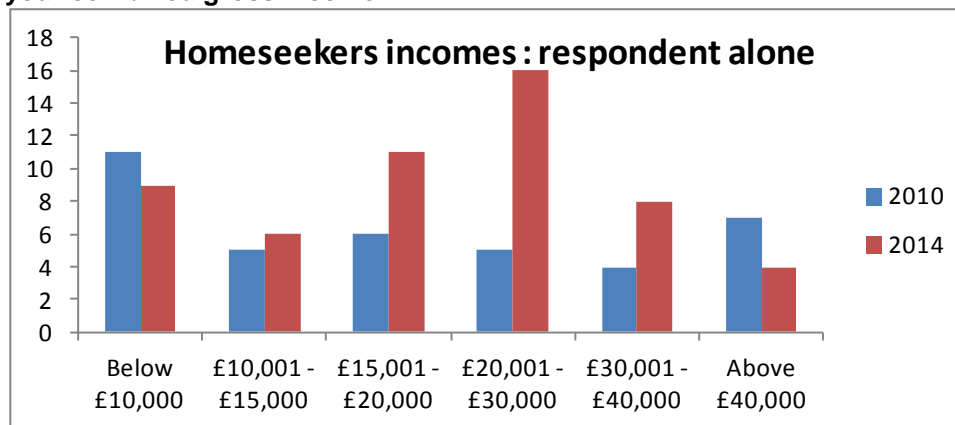
Q.25. Are you likely to be looking for housing within the next five years?



The number has increased very appreciably since 2010.

Q.26. If you are seeking alternative housing what is your own gross income

Q.27. If you are seeking alternative accommodation with another person(s), approximately what is your combined gross income?

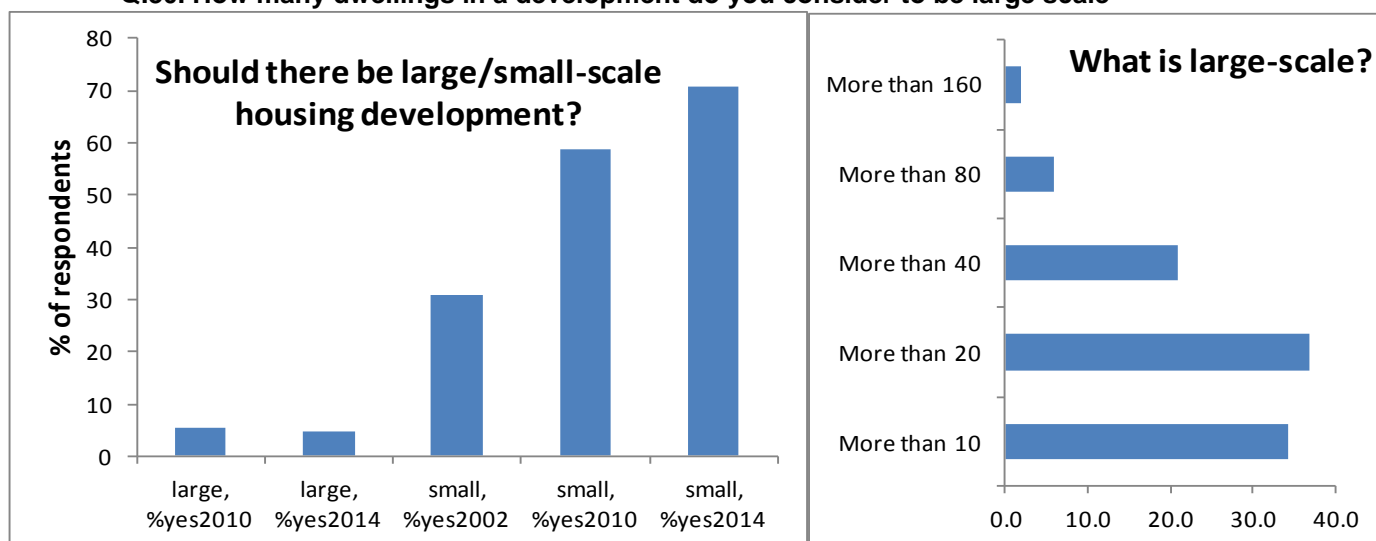


The ability of single respondents and couples to pay has increased, except in the highest income categories. The ability of couples to pay remains especially strongly bimodal, with few singletons or partners with £10,000-£15,000 seeking to move.

Q.28. Should there be future small scale housing development in Arne Parish?

Q.29. Should there be some large scale housing development in Arne Parish?

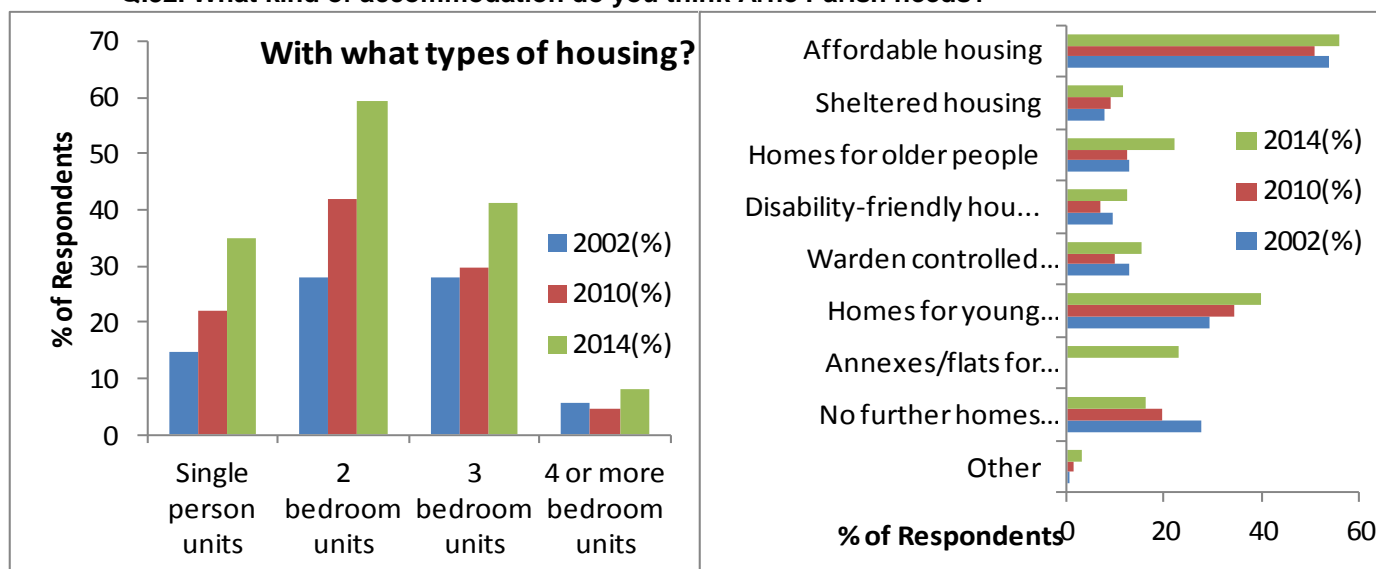
Q.30. How many dwellings in a development do you consider to be large scale



The already large opinion against large scale development (accepted by more than 90% as involving more than 40 houses), has increased. There is very strong increase, to more than 70% of respondents in favour of small development, whereas less than 5% now favour large-scale.

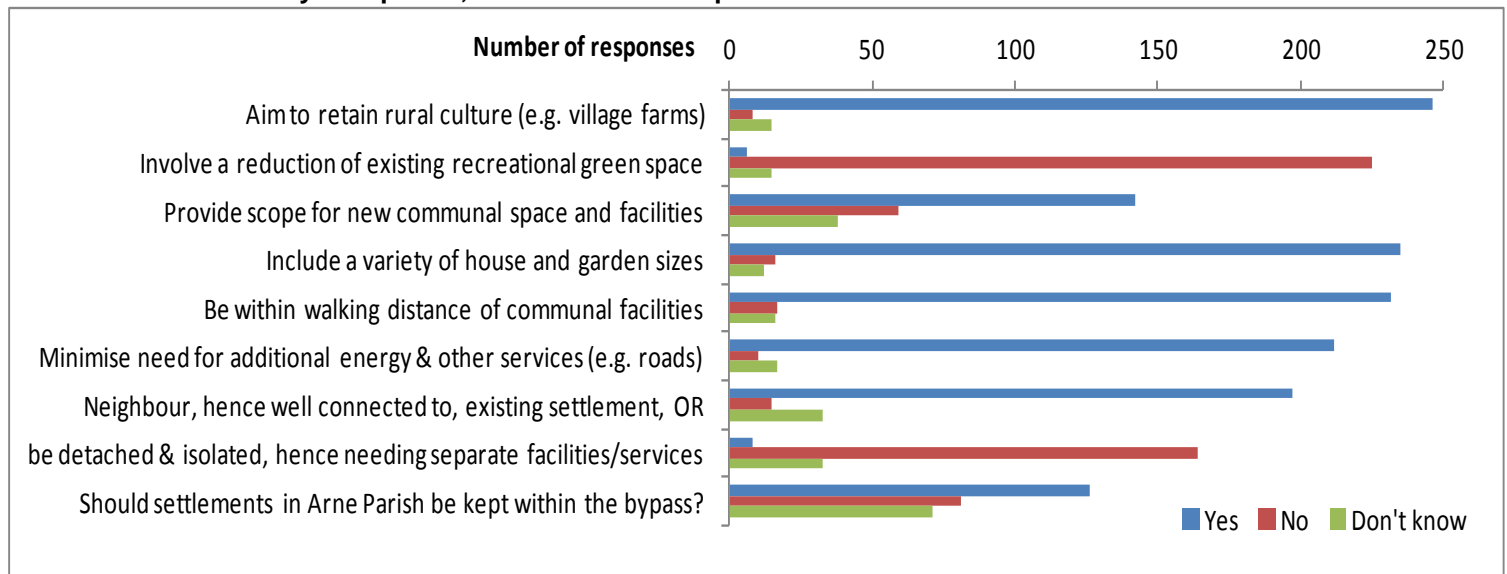
Q.31. If you approved any development, do you think Arne Parish needs any of the following?

Q.32. What kind of accommodation do you think Arne Parish needs?



Coinciding with needs of those wishing to move (Q.22), general opinion favours small houses and flats. Homes for young people, and especially affordable housing, were wanted. Annexes/flats for young and old, given as a category for the first time in 2014, achieved notable support, with specific suggestions for “a mix of family accommodation with good sized rooms and some with granny annex (x2)”, “affordable family homes (x2)”, “which cannot be bought as holiday homes” and “with off road parking”. One suggested “bungalows - maximum of 5 developments with gardens for downsizing older adults”. Economic considerations included comments that “we strongly need to avoid the gentrification of Arne and gerification (i.e. only old people have the capital to live here)” and that “the costing policy for affordable housing is that the subsidy is based on the other houses in the development; the owners struggle to afford this which is unfair”.

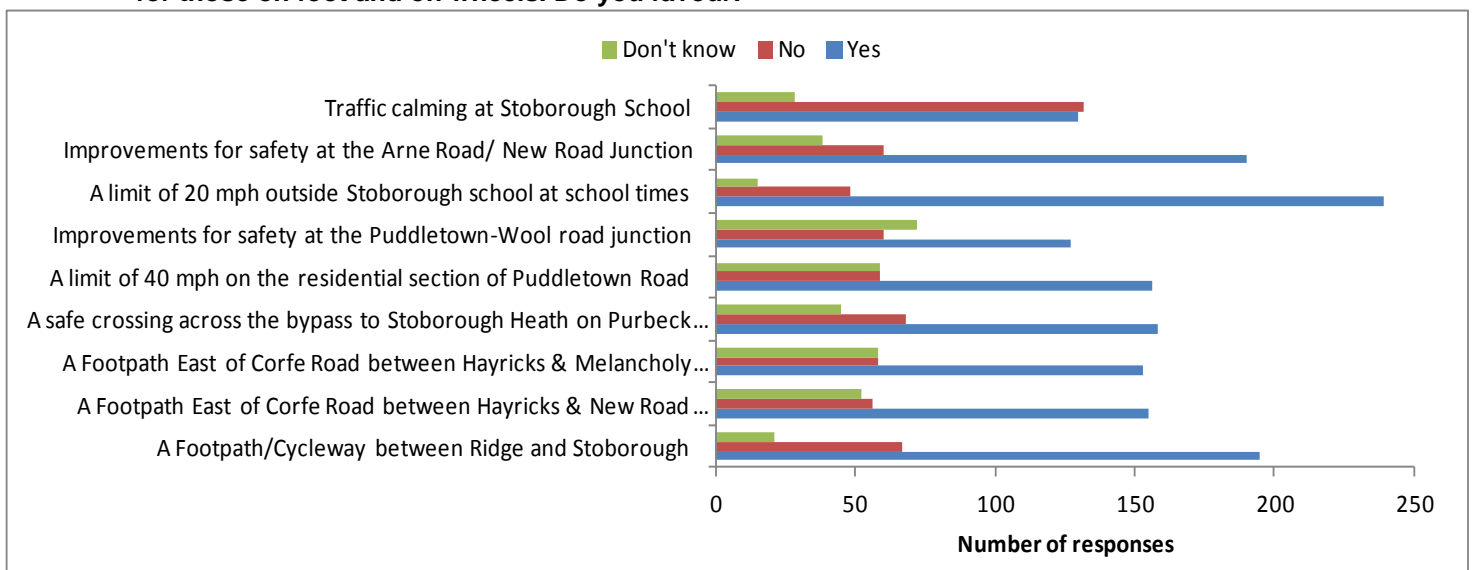
Q.33-35. In your opinion, should new development:



There was very strong feeling that new settlement should be connected to existing settlement and its facilities and not isolated, as would occur for development beyond the bypass. It should contain a variety of house and garden sizes and, as the strongest of all the responses, not harm local rural culture (e.g. farms) or existing recreational green space. A majority preferred keeping new settlement within the bypass, and it is hard to see how the other requirements could be met by small-scale development otherwise.

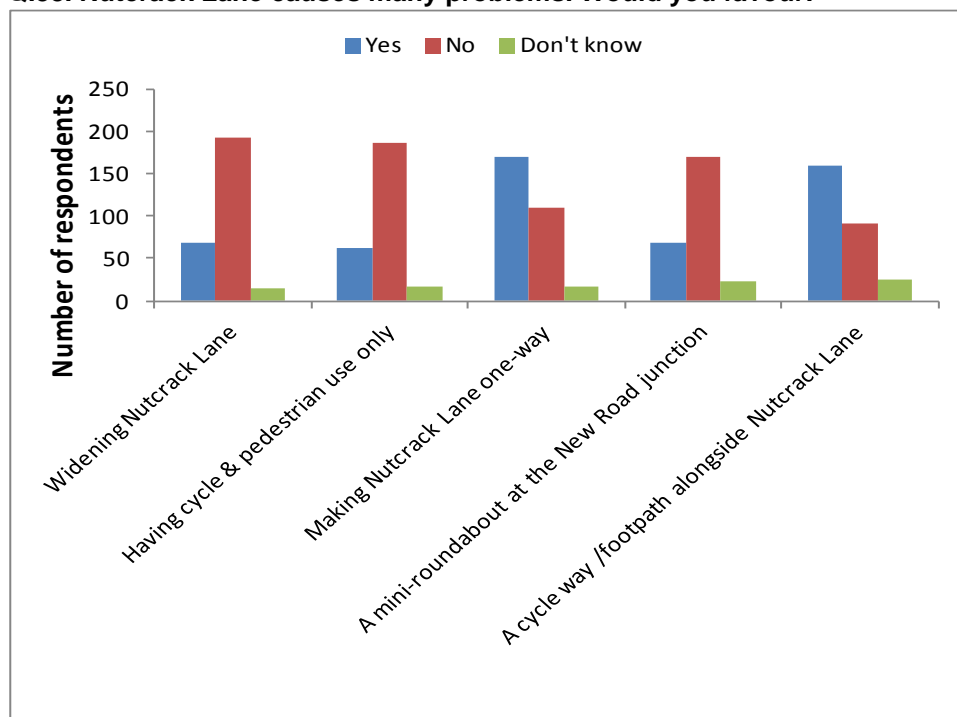
C. Traffic

Q.36-37. It is clear from previous consultations that the roads in Arne Parish need to be improved for those on foot and on wheels. Do you favour:



There is doubt about traffic calming at Stoborough School, but especially strong support for a speed limit of 20 mph at school times. Support is also very strong for safety improvements at Arne Road's junction with New Road and a Footpath/Cycleway between Stoborough and Ridge.

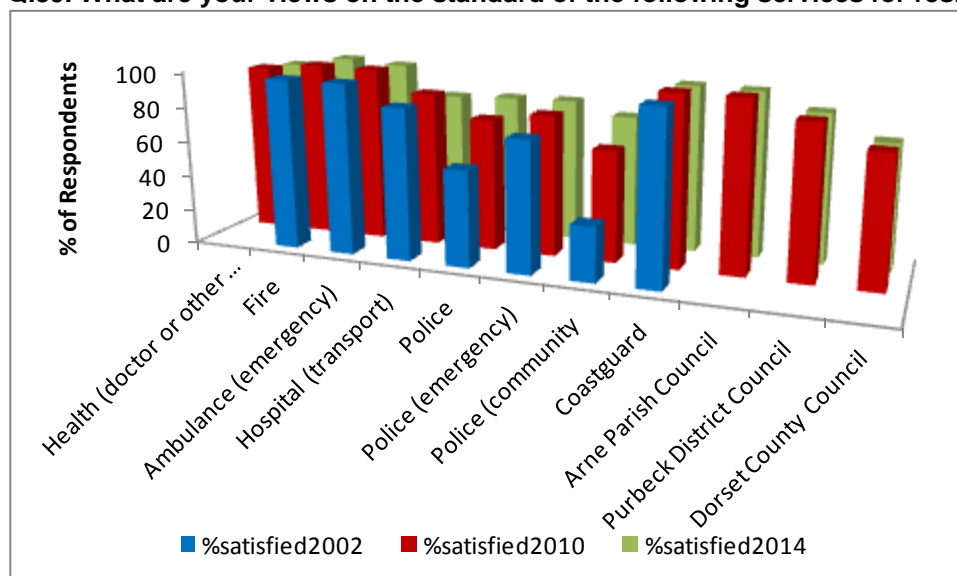
Q.38. Nutcrack Lane causes many problems. Would you favour:



There is support for making Nutcrack Lane one-way or having a footpath/cycleway in parallel.

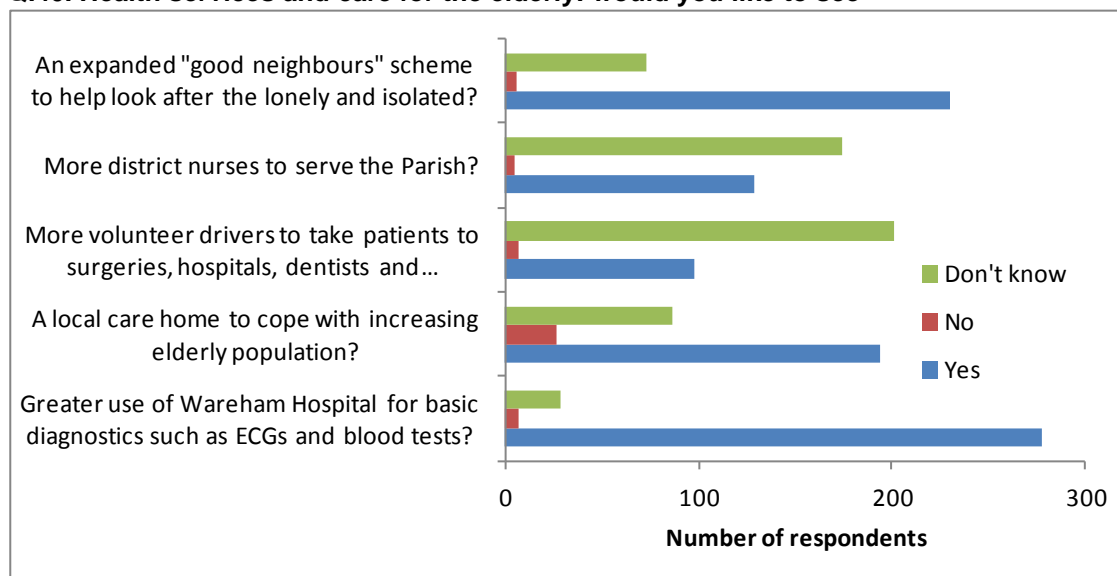
D. Emergency, health and police services

Q.39. What are your views on the standard of the following services for residents of Arne Parish?



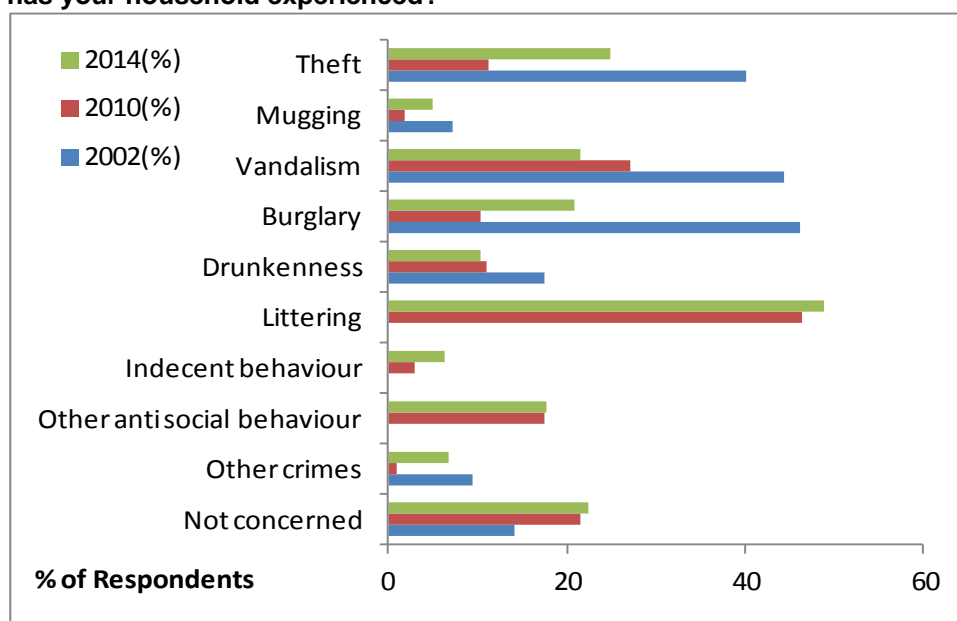
Support for community policing continues to grow, but is declining for hospital transport.

Q.40. Health services and care for the elderly: would you like to see



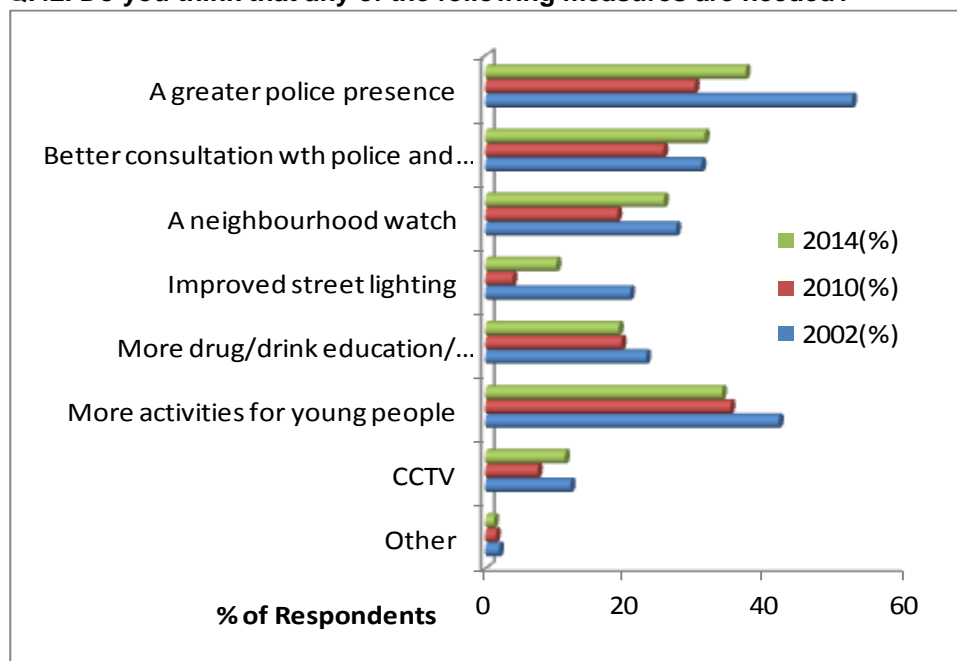
There is appreciable doubt about more district nurses and volunteer health drivers, but strong support for greater diagnostics capabilities at Wareham Hospital.

Q.41. Which of the following crimes and anti-social behaviour... a) concern you in Arne Parish? b) has your household experienced?



Concerns about theft, burglary, mugging and indecent behaviour have increased since the last survey, and littering remains the major issue, whereas vandalism and drunkenness continue to attract diminishing attention. No less than 52 of the 326 responding households have experienced theft, 31 have been burgled, 56 report littering, 19 vandalism, 7 muggings and 6 other crimes, with 52 other cases of anti-social behaviour (including drunkenness and indecent behaviour).

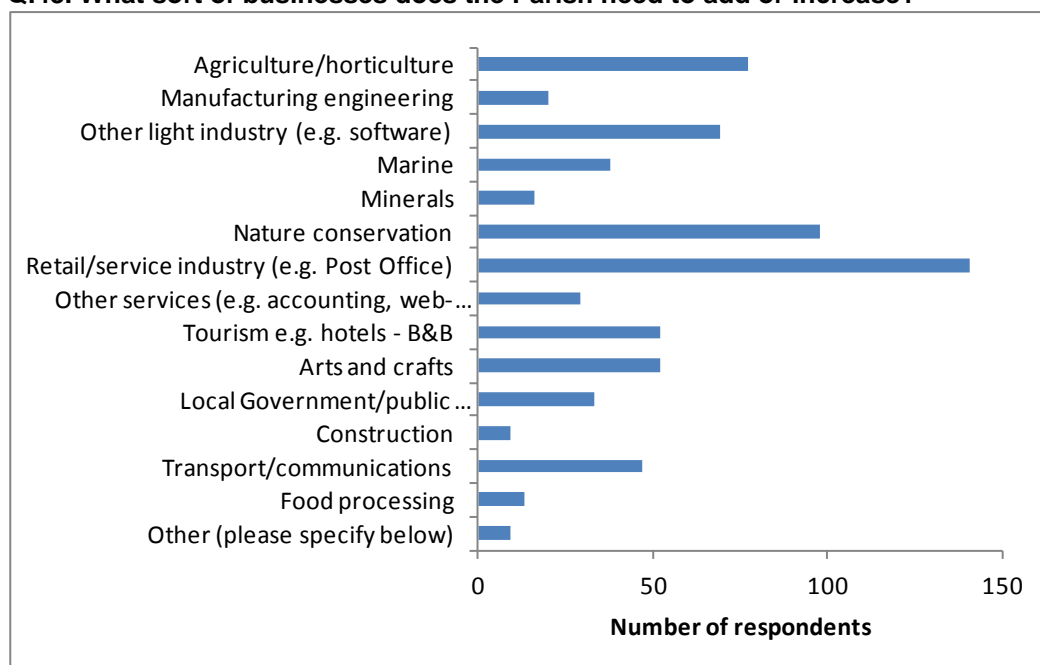
Q.42. Do you think that any of the following measures are needed?



Increased crime has resulted in support for improved crime detection measures since 2010. However, the failure to specify recent experience in Q41 (e.g. since the last survey) may have led respondents to recall older experiences and therefore express increased concern.

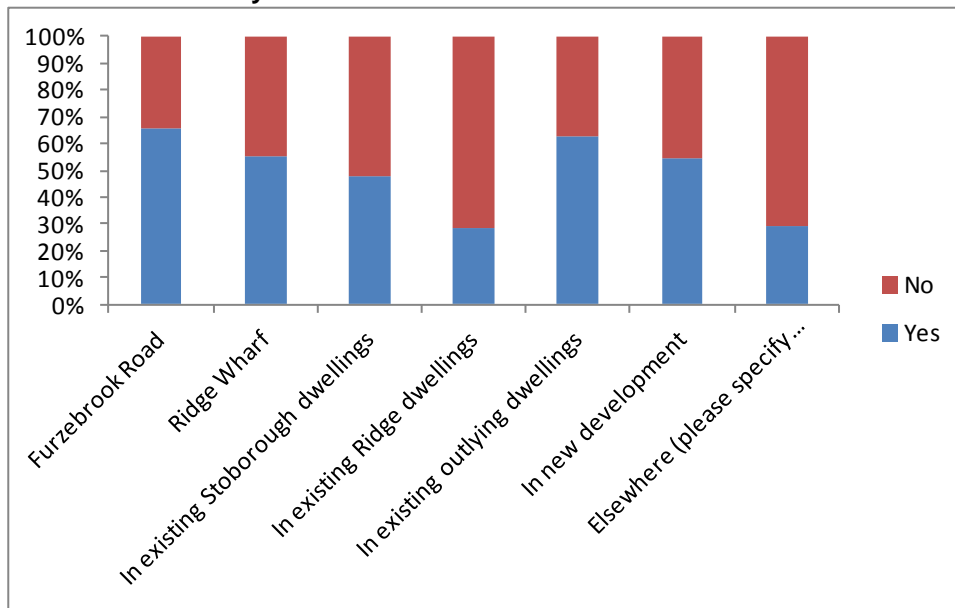
E. Business and shopping

Q.43. What sort of businesses does the Parish need to add or increase?



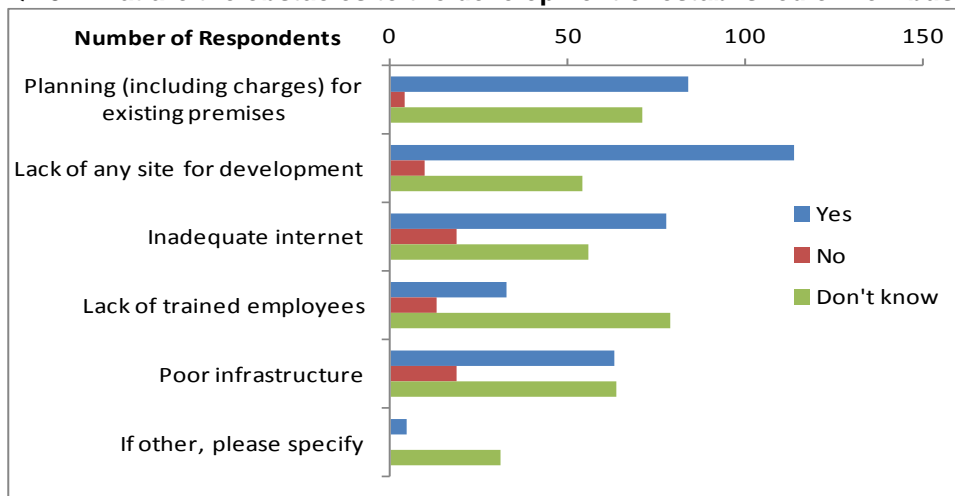
Retail, nature conservation, cultivation and light industries were most popular, with construction least so. Other suggestions included enhanced retail and food (x4), including a pub for Ridge and a greengrocer, combined land management and nature conservation, and non-noisy businesses.

Q.44. Where would you like to see new businesses sited?



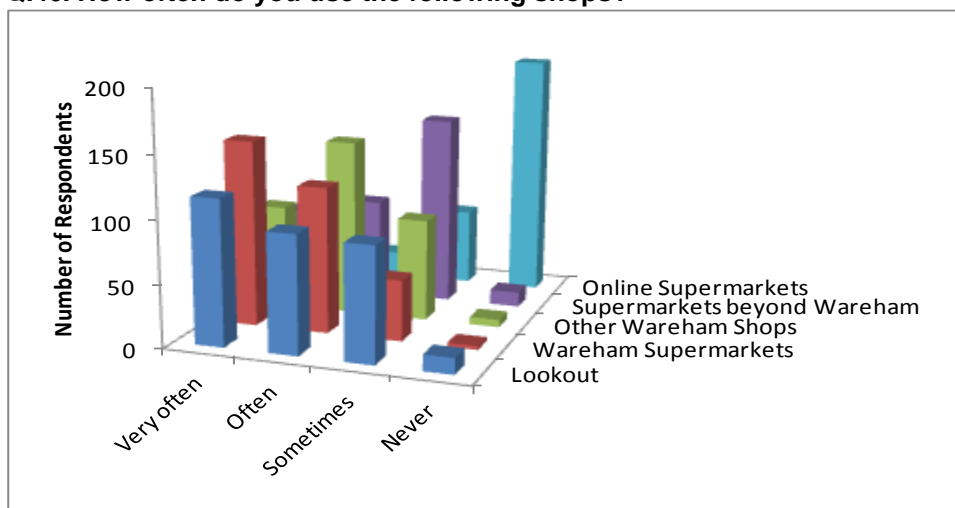
Preferred locations were in Furzebrook Road and outlying dwellings, and not in Ridge.

Q.45. What are the obstacles to the development of established or new businesses in the Parish?



The strongest and least tentative concern was lack of sites. The few obstacles perceived beyond those suggested included lack of workers able to live cheaply locally.

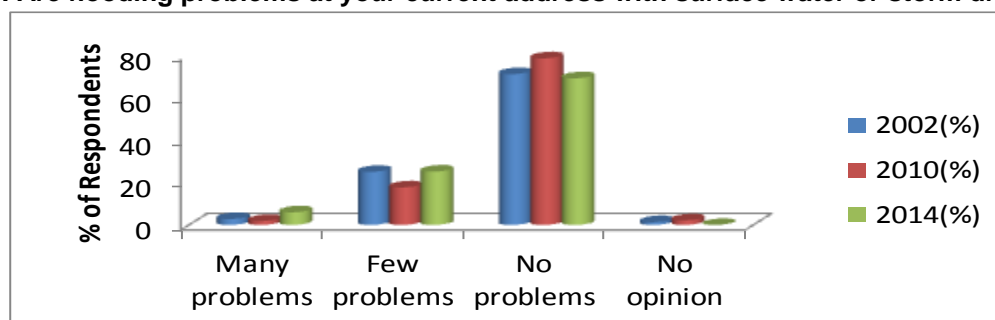
Q.46. How often do you use the following shops?



Compared to 2010, fewer people never use the Lookout, which clearly vies increasingly with supermarkets in Wareham. A few people often use supermarkets beyond Wareham, and on line.

F. Environmental services

Q.47. Are flooding problems at your current address with surface water or storm drainage?



There is a small recent increase in problems; nobody now lacks opinions on this.

Q.48. Do you feel that Arne Parish should have a long term strategic plan for flooding?

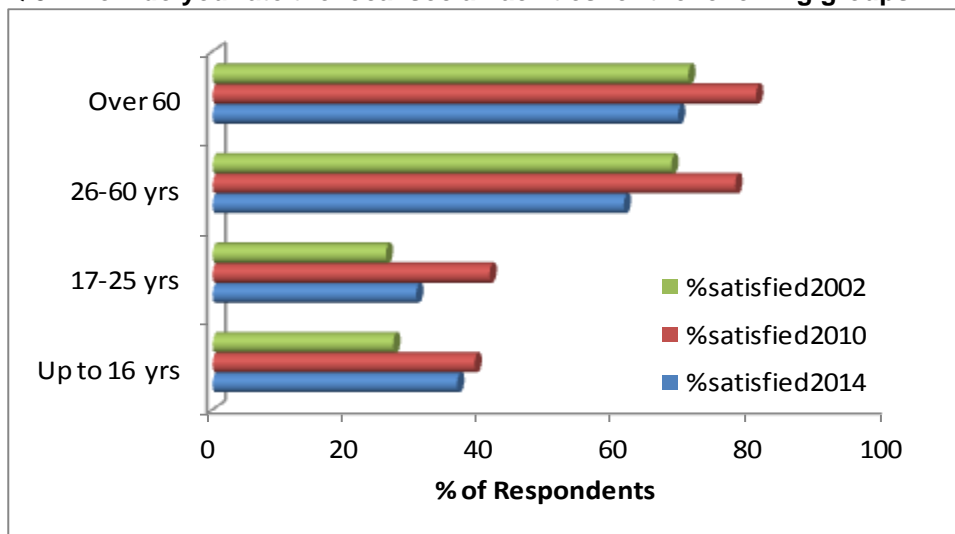
Q.49. Is the number and location of litter bins in Arne Parish good, reasonable or poor

Q.50. Would you support practical steps to reduce littering/fly tipping in the Parish?

69% of the 326 respondents favoured a flooding plan; only 5% said 'no'. Eight percent found litter bin placement to be good and 35% 'reasonable', but 32% considered it to be poor. Only 10 people did not support steps to reduce littering, with 289 in favour. The 86 practical suggestions for measures to reduce littering divided into various education and reward measures (11), better community vigilance and policing (12), use of overt and covert CCTV (15), more and heavier fines (17) and improved disposal opportunities (31), including new sites for bins and several mentions of more scope for vans from small businesses to use the council disposal facilities.

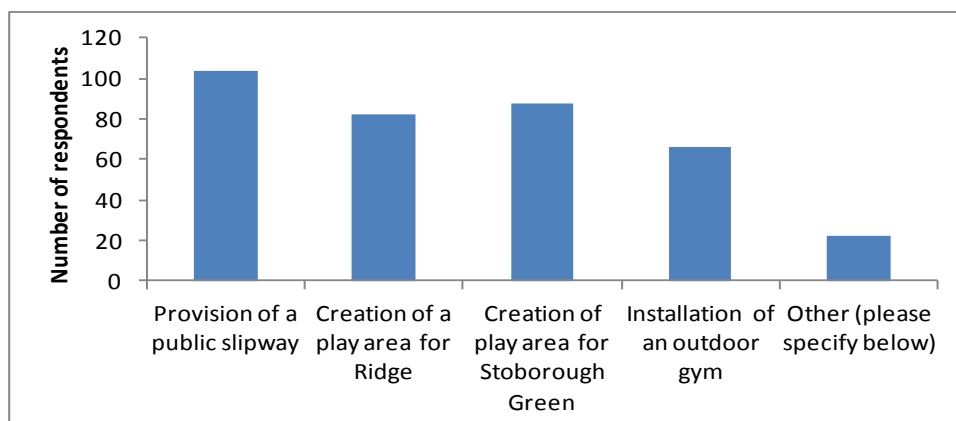
G. Leisure and Communal Facilities

Q.51. How do you rate the local social facilities for the following groups?



There has been no really consistent change since 2002. Ratings of “poor” and “very poor” still predominate over “good” and “reasonable” for young people.

Q.53. How could recreation facilities in the parish be improved?



Provision of a public slipway was most popular. Of 35 other valid comments, eight mentioned a new hall, two suggesting it be at Ridge, seven made suggestions for the Hayricks, four proposed a skate-park and five mentioned improved walking or facilities or a park.

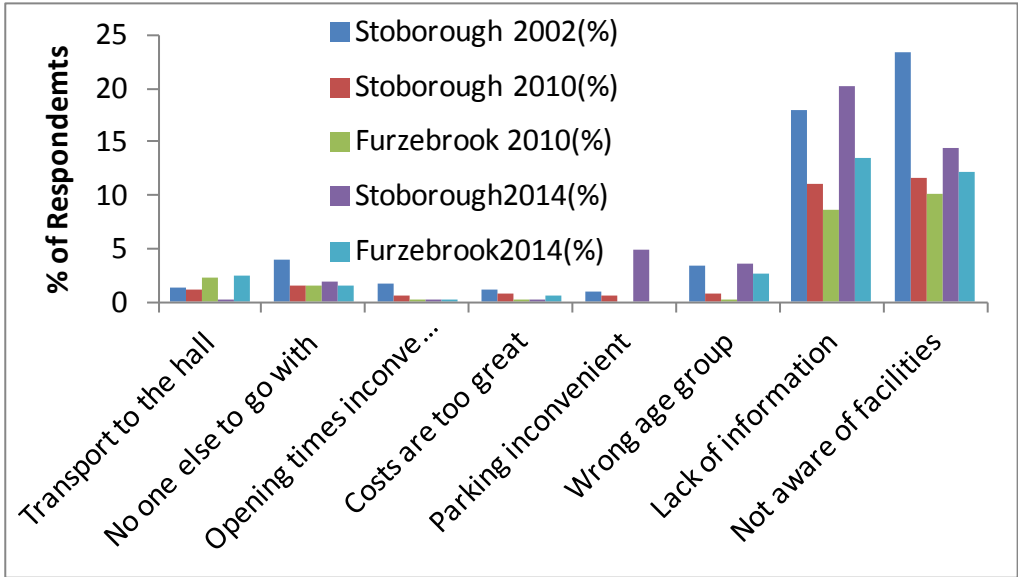
Q.53. In terms of contributing to the recreational needs of the parish, how would you rate the Hayricks open space?

Among 188 opinions of the Hayricks, 30 were “excellent”, 122 “good”, 32 “poor” and 4 “very poor”. Among 39 comments on improvements, 16 sought better equipment, 6 were on fouling by dogs and foxes and one suggested that low use meant it would be better used for housing.

Q.54. How do you rate the provision of artistic and cultural activities within the parish?

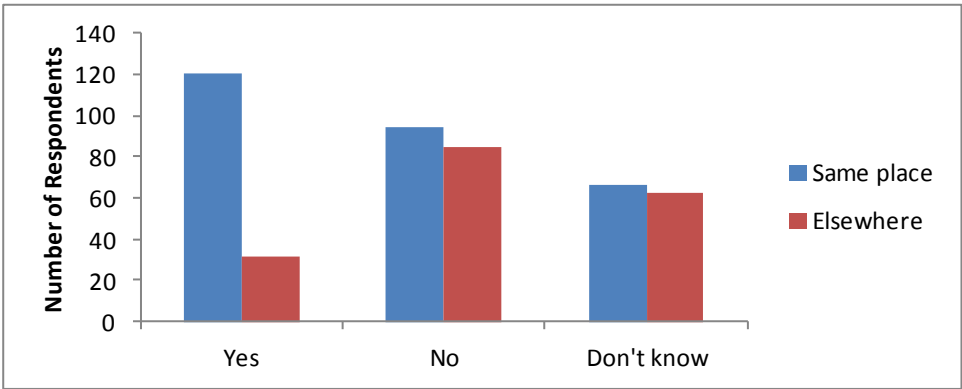
Of 157 opinions, 9 were “excellent”, 100 “good”, 43 “poor” and 5 “very poor”. Among 14 comments for improvements, 7 suggested activities for the Village Hall.

Q.55. Do you or others in your household experience any of the following difficulties using Stoborough and Furzebrook village halls?



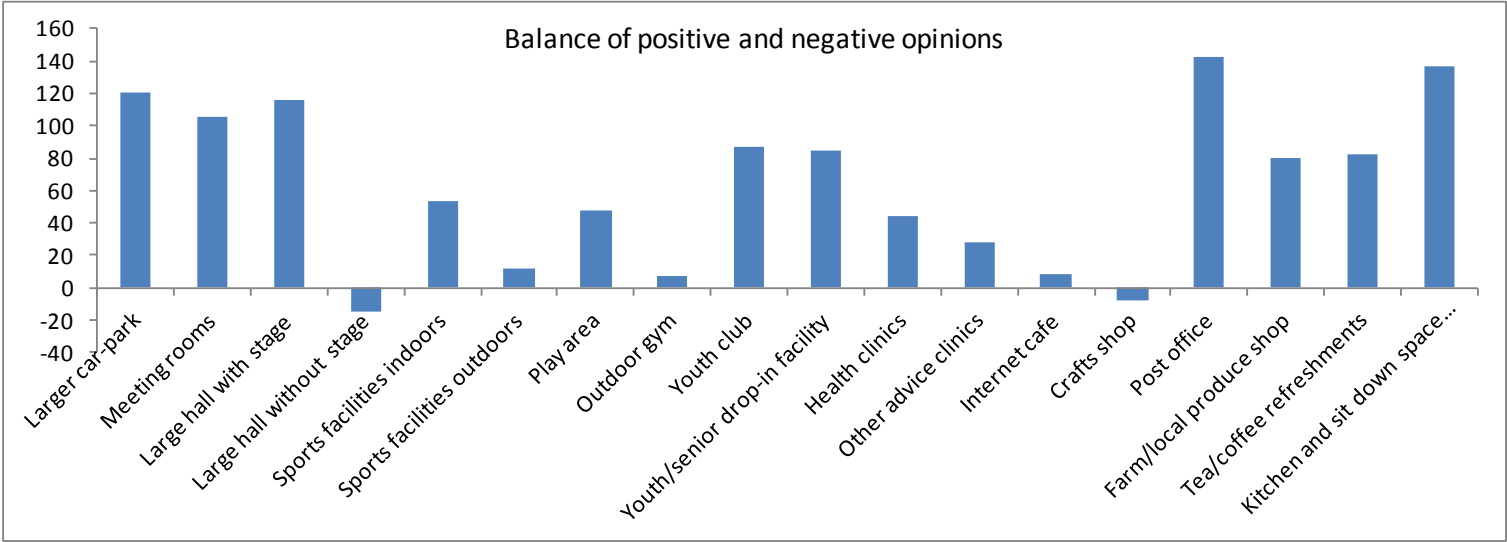
The main problems remain lack of information on the facilities, especially for Stoborough, as in previous years. No other issues raise comparable concern.

Q.56. Although we already have a village hall in Stoborough, would you like to see a larger community hub in a central location within the parish?



There is support for a larger community hub in the same place as the existing Stoborough Village Hall, but not for one elsewhere.

Q.57. If you answered "yes", what would you like to see?



A post-office topped the positive balance of scores, concurring with the most favoured employment in Q.43. More parking, meeting rooms, a stage, food related and youth activities were also popular, with surprisingly little for outdoor sports facilities (perhaps because the favoured present site has little space for these).

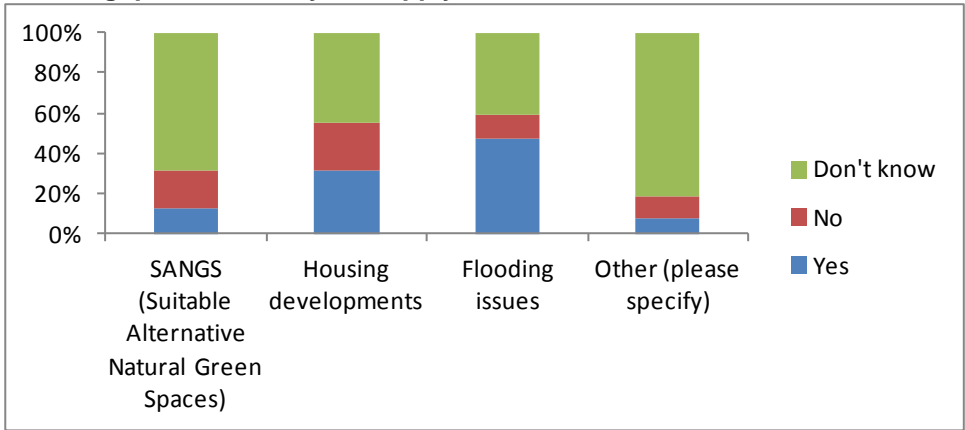
H. Countryside and wildlife

Q.58. Please rate the importance of local wildlife and nature for the following 1-5 categories.

Q.59. Please rate the extent to which you suffer costs in time and money in the following categories, from wildlife in your area 1= Considerable cost ; 5 = No cost at all

The scores for benefits and costs of wildlife were used to derive a “nature positivity” index. The score for Arne Parish is 0.48; it was 0.48 in 2010 too. These scores are high compared with most of Europe, in which a positive attitude to nature correlates strongly with the national prevalence of formal assessment for environmental impact (EIA) & strategy (SEA, such as a Core Structure Plan): countries where local communities value nature use statutory assessments to conserve it.

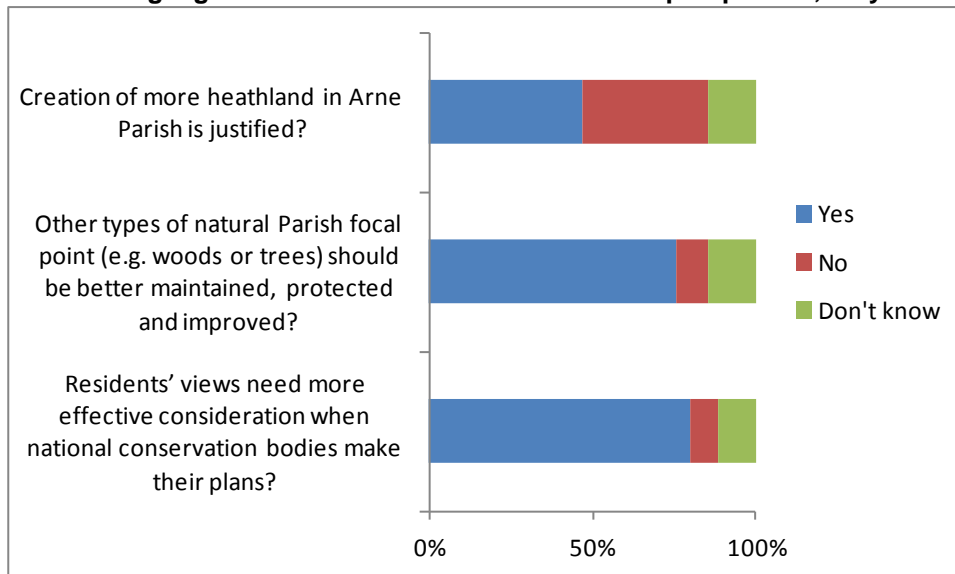
Q.60. If you consider that the local farming community is being adversely affected by the following, please tick any that apply.



Among those with knowledge enough to pass an opinion, there was considerable sympathy for issues affecting farmers, especially flooding. The few other issues mentioned included drainage

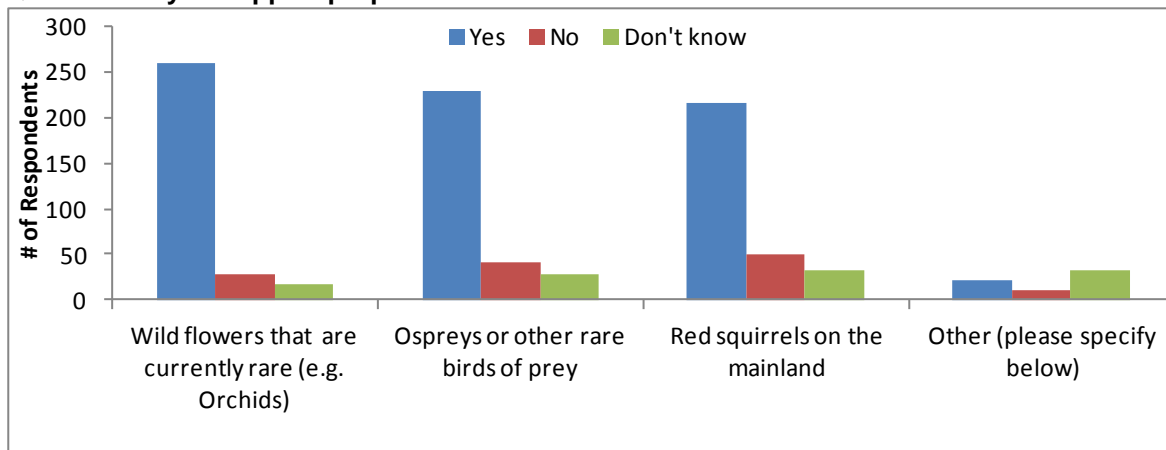
and flooding (x3), deer and badgers (x2), increased traffic (x2), planning and non-government organisations (x2) and wind turbines.

Q.61. Taking a global as well as a national and local perspective, do you feel that...?:



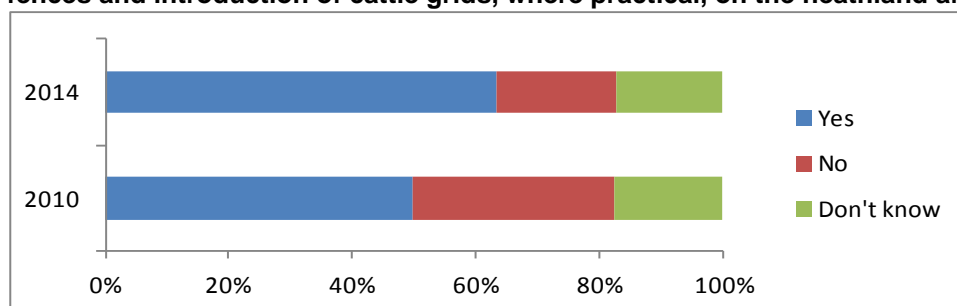
A small majority support ongoing heathland recreation, with many opposed and strong feeling that other natural features also need conserving and, especially, that residents' views should be considered by national conservation bodies.

Q.62. Would you support proposals for local establishment of more...?:



There is strong support for restoration ecology, especially for wild plants. Of 19 “other” suggestions for restoration, 7 included trees, hedges and landscape, 3 mentioned otters (which are already present), 2 mentioned road-side plants, 2 reptiles and amphibia (mostly present), 2 beaver and 1 pine marten.

Q.63. In order to improve access, benefit wildlife and calm traffic, would you favour removal of fences and introduction of cattle grids, where practical, on the heathland around Arne?



Of 306 responses, 194 (63%) were “yes”, compared with 153/308 (50%) supporting fence removal and cattle-grid installation in 2010. Opposition was down from 33% to 19%.

Q.64. Do you feel welcomed and encouraged when visiting the protected/restricted habitats within the Parish.

Of 305 responses, 205 (67%) were “yes”, compared with 37 (12%) “no”. Of 33 comments, there was concern by 12 about access restrictions, including poor maintenance of paths, 7 about dogs, 4 about notices, 4 about parking charges and 1 about livestock on heathland.

I. Concluding comments

Q.65. Please provide any other comments about your life in Arne Parish.

There were comments from 101 of the 326 survey respondents. These fell into broad categories of either approval for the life lived here (28), or comments on improvements needed for traffic safety (39), the environment including flooding (11), social sustainability (10), survey design (3), dog fouling (3), broadband (2) and disapproval of authoritarian conservation (2). The Village Hall, hospital transport, food security and approval of the survey attracted one comment each. There were more expressions of concern, especially on social and environmental sustainability, than in 2010, when 35 of 77 comments were on problems, mostly from traffic (15) and deer (10).