



# **Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan Residents' Survey Results**

**2016**

**FINAL REPORT**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- There is a representative sample by gender and geographical area; although by age group it was more likely that older residents completed the survey. However, this is typical and is in line with other Neighbourhood Plan Surveys. Young people will be quizzed later in the year.
- The overall response was outstanding in terms of numbers and gave a low statistical margin of error to the results. The number of responses was higher than typical surveys run by local authorities, who base their decisions on smaller numbers than that achieved in this consultation.
- There is certainly no apathy in terms of the response and in particular whilst making comments.
- People have lived in the area a long time, with a larger number of retired people and those employed working outside the area.
- The number of residents living in detached houses is high.
- People live in the area because of the schools, the quality of the property in the area, the transport links and the natural environment.
- Residents want more say on if, and where, there is any future development on Green Belt land, they like the open countryside.
- Residents like the easy access to the surrounding Green Belt and countryside, the village atmosphere and the clear separation from Solihull and other surrounding villages.
- Residents strongly feel that the Forum area should be kept apart from the bigger urban area of Shirley and Solihull.
- Respondents are happy to live in KDBH and wish to see future development in line with the current housing design and streetscape, plus adequate parking on their premises.
- Almost all felt that if a substantial number of homes were needed to be developed in the areas, they should be built in already developed or brownfield land.
- Car parking is difficult at Dorridge Station.
- For the infrastructure in the area, investment must go into the roads and pavements
- Satisfaction high with the school offer in the area, health and welfare, plus the range of retail outlets.
- Need for more indoor facilities for sport and recreational purposes.
- The Plan should define policies that promote and encourage working from home.
- The Neighbourhood Plan should see the allocation of land for the creation of a business centre providing low-cost, flexible workspaces, meeting rooms and managed services for local start-ups, small enterprises, freelancers and home workers.

- In the next 15-20 years, there will be a need for more places of employment in KDBH.
- Huge majority want the Plan to define policies that protect existing employment sites (shops, offices etc.) from a change of use.
- Developments containing storage and warehouse facilities are to be discouraged.
- Concerning the natural landscape the highest priority must be the promotion of existing mature or important trees and hedgerows, groups of trees or woodland.
- In terms of the built environment there are key priorities in equal measure required. Defining and preserving the boundaries of the village, the building design to be in keeping with the scale, location and appearance of existing buildings, and ensuring business and residential development is in harmony with the rural character of the neighbourhood.
- Large numbers want the present green space and recreational areas to be maintained and improved, with enhanced protection of the landscape
- Residents want a full Green Spaces Plan to manage the future needs of existing green spaces and promote more green spaces in new developments.

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## **APPENDICES (Two separate documents)**

### APPENDIX A

- Q11. What was it about KDBH that made you choose to live here? Other.
- Q15. What is your post code?
- Q21. Which **three** factors do you think are most important in the design and layout of new housing developments in our Area? Any other considerations.
- Q25. If development has to take place in Green Belt can you think of any land around KDBH which may be appropriate, ie. is less 'valuable' or less attractive as open space? Where?
- Q29. Please make any further comments about public transport that you think are important in the box below.
- Q30. If you never or rarely cycle, would more cycle routes persuade you to use this form of transport? To and from other destinations (please specify below).
- Q32. What are your general concerns about parking (your own and other's parking) in your neighbourhood? If other, please specify.
- Q33. Are there places in KDBH where you think parking or traffic volumes cause inconvenience, danger or environmental damage? Are there any roads or functions that are danger spots? If yes, where and when?

- Q34. Which car parks do you use regularly, ie. At least once per week? If other, please specify where and when.
- Q35. We want to identify any areas that have issues with traffic congestion. Have you had any problems with congestions in the following specific locations? Please write in the box below any other locations not listed above.
- Q36. Solihull Council has a policy to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport, including such things as walking, cycling, public transport and electronic cars. Is this something you would like to see applied in KDBH? What changes would you like to see happen in KDBH over the next 10 years?
- Q37. What improvements would you like to see made to roads, road functions, parking provision and/or choices of transport in KDBH? What is your immediate priority?

#### APPENDIX B

- Q42. Which (if any) of the facilities above do you think need to be improved over the short term (over next 5 years), and what do you think should be done?
- Q43. Which facilities above do you consider would most need to be enhanced (and how) to meeting existing demand or future needs arising from any additional housing, in the long-term (5-20 years)?
- Q44. Which youth facilities do you use?
- Q45. Are there ways in which these facilities could be improved?
- Q46. Are there any additional facilities that you think should be provided for the youth of KDBH?

## 1.0 Introduction

The preamble to the questionnaire informed residents that the survey results will dictate the direction and priorities in creating a Neighbourhood Plan that meet the needs of the community. It was vitally important for everyone to take opportunity to make their views count and the size of the survey means that we will not be able to repeat it.

The survey would influence what residents wanted for their villages and how they would like to see them develop over the next 15-20 years.

Once approved, the Plan will have legal force in determining what development is acceptable in the Area, and for what reasons. Developers and local authority planners would have to take notice of it. Without a Neighbourhood Plan, there will be little control over any development that takes place and less community funds would be available from those developments.

## 2.0 Methodology

The survey ran from 23rd May to 10th June 2016. All households in the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Forum area (KDBH) were delivered a leaflet outlining details of the Neighbourhood Plan and details of how they could complete the survey online via the Neighbourhood Plan website or request a paper copy to complete that way. All properties in the Forum area were delivered an explanatory leaflet.

A helpline was set up if residents had any problems in completing the form, between 10am and 1pm weekdays.

The survey was open to all residents aged 16 or over. Separate surveys for younger people and for businesses and their employees will be sent out later in the year.

It was stressed that all the information provided would be processed and analysed by an independent third party, who aggregated the responses to create the results reports. This way all responses were guaranteed to be anonymous and not identified to an individual.

2844 questionnaires were returned either via online means (2581) or via a paper version (263). The paper questionnaires were available to those residents without access to a computer or unwilling to complete online.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council undertook the survey on behalf of Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Forum because they were acting independently of the process.

The report follows the order of the questionnaire. Charts and tables are used throughout the report to assist the interpretation of the results. In some cases, anomalies appear due to "rounding". The term "base" in the tables and charts refer to the number of responses to a particular question.

With the appendix so large for the number of pages, this is in the form of two separate documents.

## 3.0 Summary of Results

### 3.1 About You

- Just over half of those surveyed (53%) lived in Knowle with 37% from Dorridge and 10% from Bentley Heath.
- More than half of respondents (56%) had been there more than twenty years, with a further 20% having lived in KDBH between 11 and 20 years.
- 5% of those completing the survey were aged between 16 and 34. A quarter of respondents were in the 65 to 74 year old age group and 18% over 75.
- 28% of residents lived in households where children under 16 lived.
- 54% of the sample were female.
- 42% of the population completing the questionnaire were retired and 35% were employed but working outside the KDBH area.
- Those employed outside the KDBH area, exactly a quarter travels to Birmingham, 21% to Solihull/Shirley and 19% to the wider West Midlands area.
- Seven out of ten respondents (69%) live in a detached house, with 21% in a semi-detached house and 14% in a bungalow.
- 53% of properties included in the survey had four bedrooms. Just 1% of properties were one-bedroomed homes. The average number of bedrooms per property was 3.83.
- The main reasons for respondents living in the KDBH area centred around the schools (60%), the quality of the property in the area (50%), the transport links (46%) and the natural environment (44%).
- Asked what the top three things they value most about living in KDBH, two-thirds responded with the closeness to the Green Belt open countryside, 47% liked the village feel and 46% valued the good transport links.
- Residents were quizzed on what things they would like to see improved in KDBH to make it an even better place to live. Two-thirds (68%) felt they wanted more say on if, and where, there is any future development on Green Belt land. Almost six out of ten (59%) wished to see the availability and restrictions on car parking improved.
- Residents were asked to pick the three main things that they felt set KDBH apart and give the area its unique character and distinctiveness. 63% felt it was the easy access to the surrounding Green Belt and countryside, 58% the village atmosphere and exactly half the clear separation from Solihull and other surrounding villages.

### 3.2 Housing

- Residents were asked how important it is for them that KDBH remains “separate” from Shirley, Solihull or surrounding villages and does not become part of that bigger urban area as a result of more house building. 88% of those completing the questionnaire felt it was very important, with 3% saying it was not important at all.

- 43% responded strongly agreed or agreed with the need for more houses in KDBH, with 51% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.
- For those looking to move 124 respondents said property was too expensive, 88 said there was nothing available of the right size and 48 people said there was nothing suitable in the area.
- Two-thirds were happy as they are in KDBH. 14% would like to move to a smaller property and 9% a larger property within the area concerned. One in ten residents felt they were likely to move outside the area in the next five years.
- Residents were asked what type of property they felt was most suitable for KDBH, if and when new housing developments occur. There was a broad range of responses with 42% both saying that three and four bedroom houses were very suitable, with 43% going for a mix of house types in various combinations. One bedroom houses (58%) and flats/apartments (54%) were seen as not suitable.
- Three factors stood out as the most important in the design and layout of new housing developments in the area. The top one was keeping development in line with the current housing design and streetscape (65%). This was followed by adequate parking on premises (64%) and reflecting the current generally lower than average housing density (58%).
- 78% of respondents felt that the most relevant properties/ownerships to the community were sheltered housing, followed by starter homes on 75%. The type felt not appropriate was social housing for rent at 62%.
- An overwhelming majority (98%) felt that if a substantial number of homes were needed to be developed in the areas, they should be built in already developed or brownfield land.
- 62% strongly agreed or agreed that the use of infill/windfall building in gardens or knockdowns within the existing built up area was preferable and 58% were in agreement on developments on Green Belt sites of less than 25 properties.
- 32% agreed or strongly agreed that housing density should be increased by building up.
- 76% felt the accommodation size should be reduced to minimise the impact on Green Belt land.
- If development has to take place on Green Belt, residents were asked to think of any land around KDBH which may be appropriate, (is less 'valuable' or less attractive as open space). One in five residents (21%) answered yes.

### **3.3 Transport**

- 48% of those commuting to and from school or work do so by a car or van. 12% walk and 11% go by train. When asked how they commute to and from stations, 44% walk and 34% use a car/van.
- When traveling on business, 45% use a car/van and 22% go by train.
- When doing their grocery shopping 82% use a car and 39% to walk. 90% use a car or van to visit family or friends and 74% use the same means to take part in leisure activities. 52% walk to health centres such as doctors and dentists.

- Asked what would encourage residents to use local bus service more often, 54% said they would if buses were more convenient than self-drive, 43% would if there were improved times and a third wished for a better reliability of the service (35%).
- In relation to local rail services, 55% wanted better parking at the station, 43% wanted direct links to Birmingham International and both 37% for more affordable fares and rail services being more convenient than self-drive.
- Just over half of residents who never or rarely cycle said that if there were more cycle routes it would persuade them to use this form of transport within the villages. To go to and from Solihull, 40% said yes.
- 96% of those surveyed felt they have adequate parking on their property for their vehicles.
- Residents were asked for their general concerns about parking (their own and other's parking) in their neighbourhood. 36% stated school parking as a general concern, 34% parking by commuters and 33% the overall availability of parking in the area. The cost of parking at 6% of concern does not appear to be a problem.
- Asked which car parks they used regularly, i.e. at least once a week, 96% park at Dorridge Sainsbury's between one and two hours. 89% parked at The Park, Dorridge for the one to two hour time period.
- The heaviest use of three to four hour parking came at the Dorridge Station overflow (20%) and at the same location, not surprisingly had the highest proportion of all day parkers at 32%.
- Exactly three-quarters of car park users found it difficult to find a space at Dorridge Station, by far the highest figure. 44% regularly found it difficult for a space at Dorridge Centre adjacent to Tesco's. Just over a third (35%) felt likewise at the Bentley Heath Co-op and 28% at Knowle Village Hall plus 29% at Dorridge Station overflow.
- Residents were asked to identify any areas they had issues with traffic congestion. There were a lot of problems for respondents 16% and 15% respectively at Station Road, Dorridge and Station Road, Knowle. Three in ten felt there were some problems in Knowle High Street and 27% in Station Road, Knowle.
- Of the areas listed Gate Lane (73%), 65% at Dorridge railway station and 64% at Lady Byron Lane claimed there were no traffic problems.

### **3.4 Infrastructure**

- 82% of residents rated the gas supply where they live as good, 79% felt the same way of electricity and 75% water supply.
- In terms of the highest 'poor ratings', 28% said the roads, 25% the pavements and 22% the mobile phones network.
- 55% of respondents agreed with the statement "Members of the community often state that infrastructure has not kept pace with development, and residents are becoming increasingly aware of, and frustrated by, the fact that infrastructure planning has been (and remains) insufficient".

- Asked where they felt money should be spent on infrastructure in the area, over eight out of ten (83%) stated roads should be invested in and almost seven out of ten (70%) said pavements. A third (31%) wanted better broadband.

### **3.5 Learning, Leisure and Community Facilities**

- Satisfaction with the primary education on offer was highest at 95%, closely followed by secondary education at 92% preschool/childcare at 89%. 86% were satisfied both with health and welfare and with the range of retail outlets such as shops, supermarkets, services and restaurants.
- Dissatisfaction was highest for indoor facilities for sport, leisure, exercise and recreation (62%) and for the facilities for the under 18s age group (56%).

### **3.6 Employment**

- 77% of those surveyed felt the Plan should define policies that promote and encourage working from home.
- 71% of respondents would be in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan allocating land for the creation of a business centre providing low-cost, flexible workspaces, meeting rooms and managed services for local start-ups, small enterprises, freelancers and home workers.
- Two-thirds of the sample agreed that over the next 15-20 years, there will be a need for more places of employment in KDBH.
- Over nine out of ten (92%) felt the Neighbourhood Plan should seek to define policies that protect existing employment sites (shops, offices etc.) from a change of use, for example to maintain local shopping facilities and services.
- Residents were asked what was important to them when considering allocating land for business use. 47% said shops and retail were most important to them, followed by starter units (38%) and offices (36%).
- If there were any new employment developments, 52% felt that office and professional services would most suit KDBH. A third would like to see a business centre with office facilities and private meeting rooms to rent. 89% were against developments that contained storage and warehouse facilities.

### **3.7 The National Landscape, the Built Environment and Design**

- At 82% the highest priority was the promotion of existing mature or important trees and hedgerows, groups of trees or woodland. Just over seven out of ten felt the minimisation of noise and other forms of pollution caused by development and transport infrastructure, and the promotion of the preservation and restoration of key local habitats and wildlife biodiversity were the next highest priorities.
- In terms of the built environment, various priorities were listed that help protect the quality of the existing built environments. Three priorities stood out with around seven out of ten respondents considering them the most important. Defining and preserving the boundaries of the village, the building design to be in keeping with the scale, location and appearance of existing buildings, plus ensuring that business and residential development is in harmony with the rural character of the neighbourhood.
- Residents were asked to consider the three most important things the Neighbourhood Plan should aim to protect and enhance the quality of any new

buildings by promotion. 84% wished to see design that respects the scale of the existing villages and 78% the green space and gardens. Four out of ten quizzed went for traditional styles and scale of shop fronts as an important thing to preserve.

- Over nine out of ten (91%) wished the present green space and recreational areas needed to be maintained and improved, two-thirds (68%) wished for the enhanced protection of the landscape and 55% preferred the enhanced protection of historic and natural features.

### **3.8 Green Spaces**

- Eight out of ten residents (79%) felt there should be a full Green Spaces Plan to manage the future needs of existing green spaces and promote more green spaces in new developments. 58% were in favour of more green spaces linked to green corridors and 56% felt that there should be better day-to-day care of existing open green spaces.
- Asked what respondents would most like to see provided in and around green open spaces, 46% would like to see walking routes, 42% wanted more rigorous policing of littering, dog-fouling and fly tipping laws and 39% wished for more cycle friendly paths.

## 4.0 Results

### 4.1 About You

Information was gathered on the respondent to provide necessary evidence that the Plan Group had obtained a good representation of views from all sectors of the community. A very small number of the community did not complete either all or part of this section.

Just over half of those surveyed (53%) lived in Knowle with 37% from Dorridge and 10% from Bentley Heath.

Table 1:

Do you live in?	%
Bentley Heath	10
Dorridge	37
Knowle	53
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2791)</b>

Asked how long they had lived in the area, more than half of respondents (56%) had been there more than twenty years, with a further 20% having lived in KDBH between 11 and 20 years.

Table 2:

How long have you lived in KDBH?	%
Less than 1 year	3
1 – 5 years	11
6-10 years	10
11 -20 years	20
More than 20 years	56
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2789)</b>

5% of those completing the survey were aged between 16 and 34. A quarter of respondents were in the 65 to 74 year old age group and 18% over 75.

Table 3:

Age	%
16 to 18	1
19 to 24	1
25 to 34	4
35 to 44	16
45 to 54	20
55 to 64	24
65 to 74	24
Over 75	11
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2792)</b>

28% of residents lived in households where children under 16 lived.

Table 4:

Do you have any children under 16?	%
Yes	28
No	72
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2776)</b>

54% of the sample were female.

Table 5:

Are you....?	%
Female	54
Male	46
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2777)</b>

2% or 42 residents were registered disabled.

Table 6:

Are you registered disabled?	%
Yes	2
No	98
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2781)</b>

42% of the population completing the questionnaire were retired and 35% were employed but working outside the KDBH area. 6% worked in the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Table 7:

Are you currently?	%
Employed locally (within KDB)	6
Employed outside KDBH	35
Working full time	22
Working part time	17
Working from home	5
Self-employed	9
Out of work	1
Raising a family	10
Full time carer for a family member	1
Retired	42
Student	2
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2713)</b>

Those employed outside the KDBH area, exactly a quarter travel to Birmingham, 21% to Solihull and 19% to the wider West Midlands area.

Table 8:

<b>If you are employed outside KDBH only, where do you travel to work?</b>	<b>%</b>
Birmingham	25
Solihull/Shirley	21
Blythe Valley Business Park	1
NEC/Birmingham Airport/Birmingham Business park M42 J6	6
Wider West Midlands	19
London	4
Jaguar LandRover Solihull	1
Other	24
<b>Base: (If employed outside KDBH area)</b>	<b>(1117)</b>

Seven out of ten respondents (69%) live in a detached house, with 21% in a semi-detached house and 14% in a bungalow.

Table 9:

<b>What type of property do you currently occupy?</b>	<b>%</b>
Bed sitting room	0
Flat/apartment	3
Terraced house	3
Semi-detached house	21
Detached house	69
Bungalow	14
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2715)</b>

53% of properties included in the survey had four bedrooms. Just 1% of properties were one-bedroomed homes. The average number of bedrooms per property was 3.83.

Table 10:

<b>How many bedrooms does your property have?</b>	<b>%</b>
1	1
2	6
3	22
4	53
5	15
6	2
7 or more	1
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2683)</b>

The main reasons for respondents living in the KDBH area centred around the schools (60%), the quality of the property in the area (50%), the transport links (46%) and the natural environment (44%).

199 responses were received as “others” and these are listed in the appendix.

Table 11:

<b>What was it about KDBH that made you choose to live here?</b>	<b>%</b>
Schools	60
Quality of property	50
Transport links	46
Natural environment	44
Local amenities	42
Sense of community	35
Low crime area	34
Employment	27
Family	26
Friends	14
Retirement	4
Other	8
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2627)</b>

Asked what the top three things they value most about living in KDBH, two-thirds responded with the closeness to the Green Belt open countryside, 47% liked the village feel and 46% valued the good transport links.

Table 12:

<b>The top three things that were most valued about living in KDBH.</b>	<b>%</b>
Close to Green Belt open countryside	67
Village feel	47
Good transport links	46
Good schools	33
Parks and open spaces	30
Low density housing	26
Amenities and facilities	16
Community spirit	14
Green streetscape	13
Wide range of shops	6
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2617)</b>

Residents were quizzed on what things they would like to see improved in KDBH to make it an even better place to live. Two-thirds (68%) felt they wanted more say on if, and where, there is any future development on Green Belt land. Almost six out of ten (59%) wished to see the availability and restrictions on car parking improved.

A third wished to see an improvement on the community facilities and meeting places in the area.

Table 13:

<b>The top three things they would like to see improved in KDBH to make it an even better place to live.</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Have more say on if, and where, there is any future development on Green Belt land</b>	68
<b>Car parking – availability and restrictions</b>	59
<b>Community facilities and meeting places</b>	32
<b>More cycle lanes</b>	30
<b>Return of Dorridge Post Office</b>	28
<b>Road infrastructure</b>	24
<b>Public transport</b>	23
<b>More affordable homes</b>	21
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2613)</b>

Residents were asked to pick the three main things that they felt set KDBH apart and give the area its unique character and distinctiveness.

63% felt it was the easy access to the surrounding Green Belt and countryside, 58% the village atmosphere and exactly half the clear separation from Solihull and other surrounding villages.

Table 14:

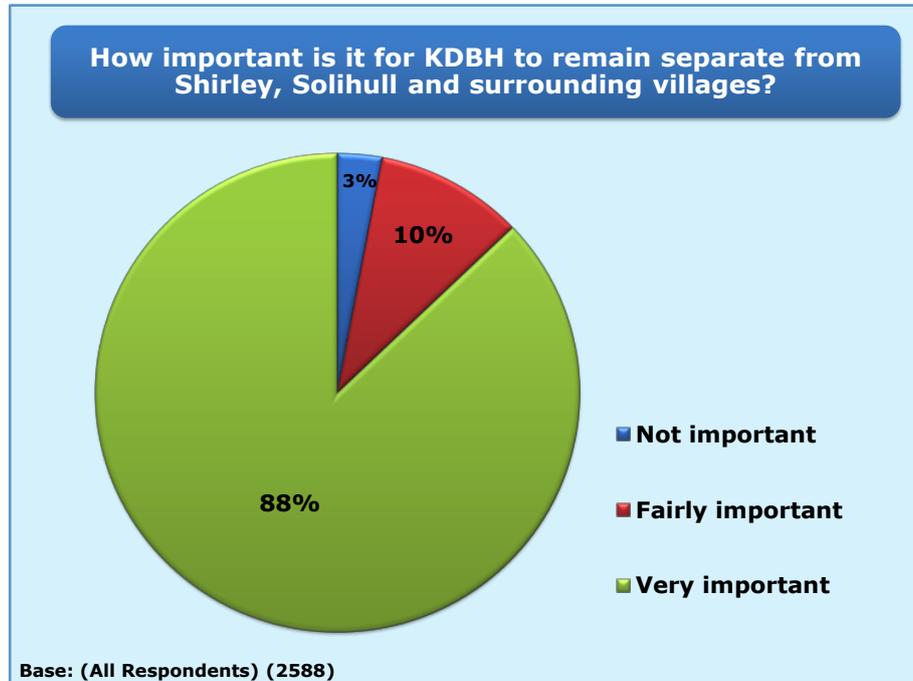
<b>These are the 3 main things that sets KDBH apart and give our area its unique character and distinctiveness</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Easy access to surrounding Green Belt and countryside</b>	63
<b>Village atmosphere</b>	58
<b>Clear separation from Solihull and other surrounding villages</b>	50
<b>People taking a pride in where they live</b>	41
<b>Parks and open spaces</b>	26
<b>Local independent shops</b>	23
<b>Historic buildings</b>	21
<b>Compact size</b>	15
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2614)</b>

## 4.2 Housing

Residents were asked how important it is for them that KDBH remains “separate” from Shirley, Solihull or surrounding villages and does not become part of that bigger urban area as a result of more house building.

88% of those completing the questionnaire felt it was very important, with 3% saying it was not important at all.

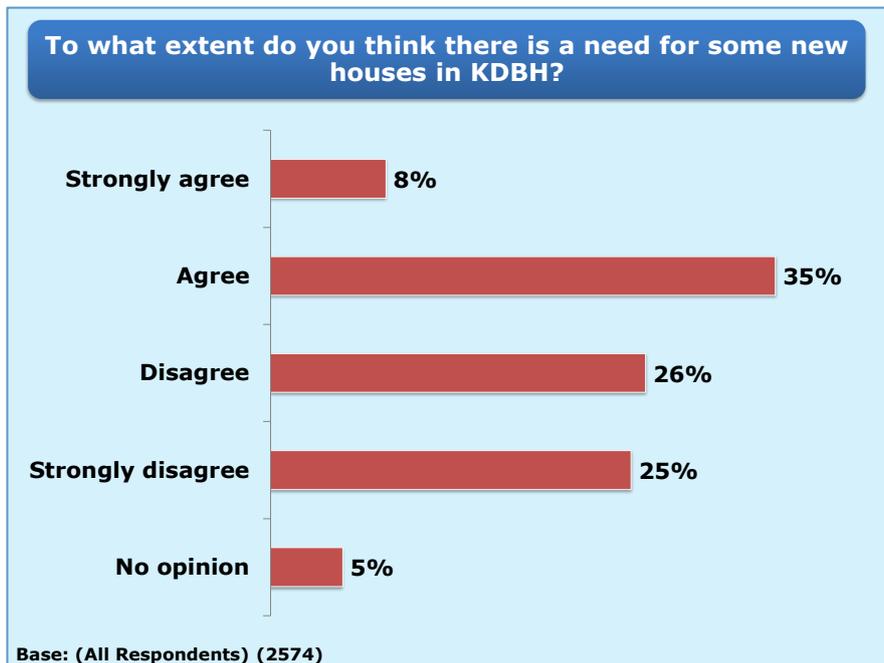
Chart 1:



Respondents were told that through a Neighbourhood Plan they can influence what development takes place, but cannot stop it altogether. It was inevitable that some new housing would be built in the area in the future. Having a Plan in place, however, would help to ensure that new housing is suitable for, and meets the needs of, the area. It would also help identify the facilities and services that needed to be in place to meet the demands any new housing would make upon the community. Those responding were then asked with this in mind to what extent they thought there is a need for some new houses in KDBH.

43% responded strongly agreed or agreed, with 51% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

Chart 2:



Residents were asked if they had recently tried to move within KDBH without success and if so, what prevented you from moving.

For 89% of the sample it was not applicable or they were not looking to move. For those looking to move 124 respondents said property was too expensive, 88 said there was nothing available of the right size and 48 people said there was nothing suitable in the area.

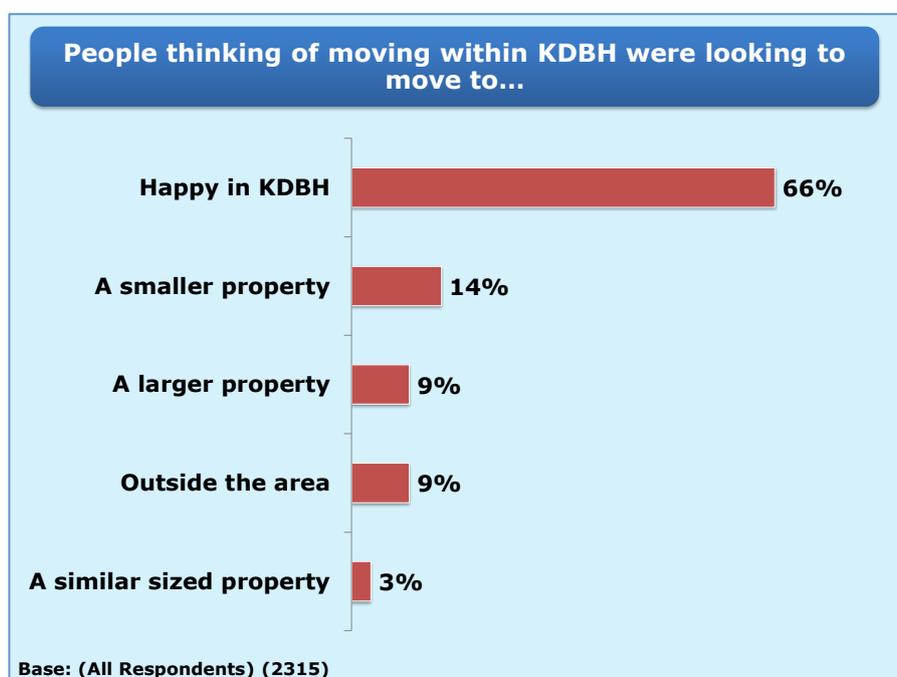
Chart 3:



Respondents were then asked if they were thinking about moving in the next 5 years, and, if so, where they like to move to.

Two-thirds were happy as they are in KDBH. 14% would like to move to a smaller property and 9% a larger property within the area concerned. One in ten residents felt they were likely to move outside the area in the next five years.

Chart 4:



Residents were asked what type of property they felt was most suitable for KDBH, if and when new housing developments occur. Those answering no opinion or don't know were excluded from the results.

There was a broad range of responses with 42% both saying that three and four bedroom houses were very suitable, with 43% going for a mix of house types in various combinations.

One bedroom houses (58%) and flats/apartments (54%) were seen as not suitable.

Table 16:

What type of property do you think would be most suitable for KDBH, if and when new housing developments occur?	Very Suitable %	Quite Suitable %	Not Suitable %
Flats/apartments	10	37	54
Bungalow	34	47	19
1 bedroom houses	10	31	58
2 bedroom houses	24	51	25
3 bedroom houses	42	50	8
4 bedroom houses	42	43	14
5 or more bedroom houses	25	35	39
Mix of house types in various combinations	43	40	18
Base: (All Respondents, except those answering no opinion/don't know)	(2230)		

Three factors stood out as the most important in the design and layout of new housing developments in the area. The top one was keeping development in line with the current housing design and streetscape (65%). This was followed by adequate parking on premises (64%) and reflecting the current generally lower than average housing density (58%).

Any other considerations were asked for, with the 97 comments made included in the appendix.

Table 17:

Which three factors do you think are most important in the design and layout of new housing developments in the area?	%
In keeping with current housing design and streetscapes	65
Adequate parking on premises	64
Reflect current housing density	58
Communal greens, play areas and open spaces	32
Energy efficiency	20
Adequate storage areas	16
Landscaping	16
Garden length – more than 20 metres	9
Garden length – 10 to 20 metres	8
Modern innovative structures	5
Garden length – less than 10 metres	1
Any other considerations	4
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2561)</b>

78% of respondents felt that the most relevant properties/ownerships to the community were sheltered housing, followed by starter homes on 75%. The type felt not appropriate was social housing for rent at 62%. Those answering no opinion or don't know were excluded from the results.

Table 18:

The following are the types of properties/ownerships that were felt most relevant for the community.	Very appropriate %	Quite appropriate %	Not appropriate %
Housing for local people	27	43	30
Housing for shared ownership	9	42	49
Housing specifically reserved for key workers	21	49	30
Nursing homes	10	55	35
Private housing for rent	9	47	45
Retirement homes	17	59	25
Sheltered housing	20	58	22
Social housing for rent	9	29	62
Starter homes	31	44	24
<b>Base: (All Respondents, except those answering no opinion/don't know)</b>	<b>(2390)</b>		

An overwhelming majority (98%) felt that if a substantial number of homes were needed to be developed in the areas, they should be built in already developed or brownfield land.

62% strongly agreed or agreed that the use of infill/windfall building in gardens or knockdowns within the existing built up area was preferable and 58% were in agreement on developments on Green Belt sites of less than 25 properties.

Table 19:

<b>If a substantial number of homes are needed to be developed in KDBH where should they be built?</b>	<b>Strongly Agree %</b>	<b>Agree %</b>	<b>Disagree %</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree %</b>
<b>Use infill/windfall building in gardens or knockdowns within existing built up area</b>	22	40	20	18
<b>Make best use of any already developed on brownfield land</b>	62	36	1	1
<b>Be in developments on Green Belt sites of less than 25 properties</b>	17	41	16	26
<b>Be in developments on Green Belt sites of 25 to 100 properties</b>	4	20	24	51
<b>Be in developments on Green Belt sites of 101 to 500 properties</b>	1	3	19	77
<b>Be in developments on Green Belt sites of over 500 properties</b>	1	1	13	85
<b>Base: (All Respondents, except those answering no opinion/don't know)</b>	(2481)			

Residents were asked a question surrounding if development has to take place on Green Belt land.

32% agreed or strongly agreed that housing density should be increased by building up.

Over three-quarters (76%) felt the accommodation size should be reduced to minimise the impact on Green Belt land.

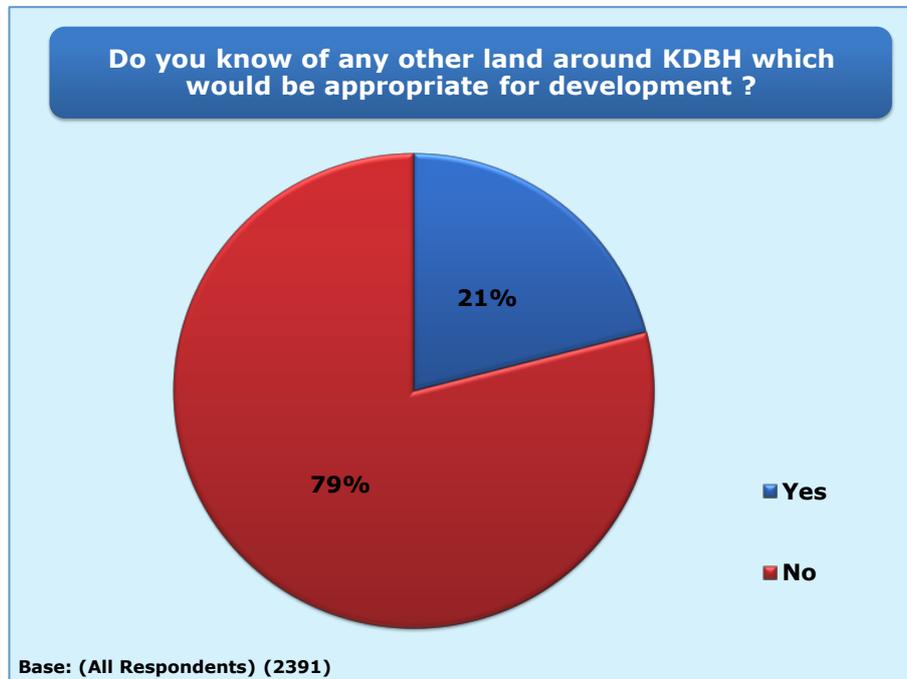
Table 20:

<b>If development has to take place on Green Belt land do you think.....</b>	<b>Strongly Agree %</b>	<b>Agree %</b>	<b>Disagree %</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree %</b>
<b>Housing density should be increased by building up</b>	7	25	33	35
<b>Accommodation size should be reduced to minimise the impact on Green Belt land</b>	34	42	17	7
<b>Base: (All Respondents, except those answering no opinion/don't know)</b>	(2451)			

If development has to take place on Green Belt, residents were asked to think of any land around KDBH which may be appropriate, (is less 'valuable' or less attractive as open space).

One in five residents (21%) answered yes and their comments on where are listed in the appendix (523 comments).

Chart 5:



### 4.3 Transport

48% of those commuting to and from school or work do so by a car or van. 12% walk and 11% go by train. When asked how they commute to and from stations, 44% walk and 34% use a car/van.

When traveling on business, 45% use a car/van and a quarter (22%) go by train.

When doing their grocery shopping 82% use a car and 39% to walk. 90% use a car or van to visit family or friends and 74% use the same means to take part in leisure activities. 52% walk to health centres such as doctors and dentists.

Table 21:

Which method of travel do you normally use when you.....  Figures are %	Car/van	Bus	Park and Ride	Train	Bicycle	Walk	Taxi	Scooter/Wheelchair	Other	Not Applicable
Commute to/from school/work	48	2	0	11	3	12	1	0	0	38
Commute to/from stations	34	7	1	2	3	44	3	0	0	22
Travel on business	45	1	0	22	1	2	2	0	1	44
Take children to/from school	20	1	0	0	1	23	0	0	0	63
Do grocery shopping	82	4	0	1	4	39	0	0	1	1
Do other shopping	76	14	0	14	3	30	0	0	1	1
Visit family and friends	90	3	0	9	4	27	1	0	0	1
Take part in leisure activities	74	6	1	13	13	39	2	0	1	4
Make health visits	66	4	0	1	4	52	1	0	0	0
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	(2463)									

Asked what would encourage residents to use local bus service more often, 54% said they would if buses were more convenient than self-drive, 43% would if there were improved times and a third wished for a better reliability of the service (35%).

Table 22:

What would encourage you to use local bus services more often?	%
If buses became more convenient than self-drive	54
Improved times	43
Better reliability of bus service	35
More convenient transport connections	26
More affordable fares	24
More appropriate destinations	20
Faster journey times	18
Better located bus stops	15
Better links to hubs of employment	9
Easier access for getting on/off bus	4
Reduced bus overcrowding	4
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	(2163)

Respondents were then asked the same question of local rail services. 55% wanted better parking at the station, 43% wanted direct links to Birmingham International and both 37% for more affordable fares and rail services being more convenient than self-drive.

Table 23:

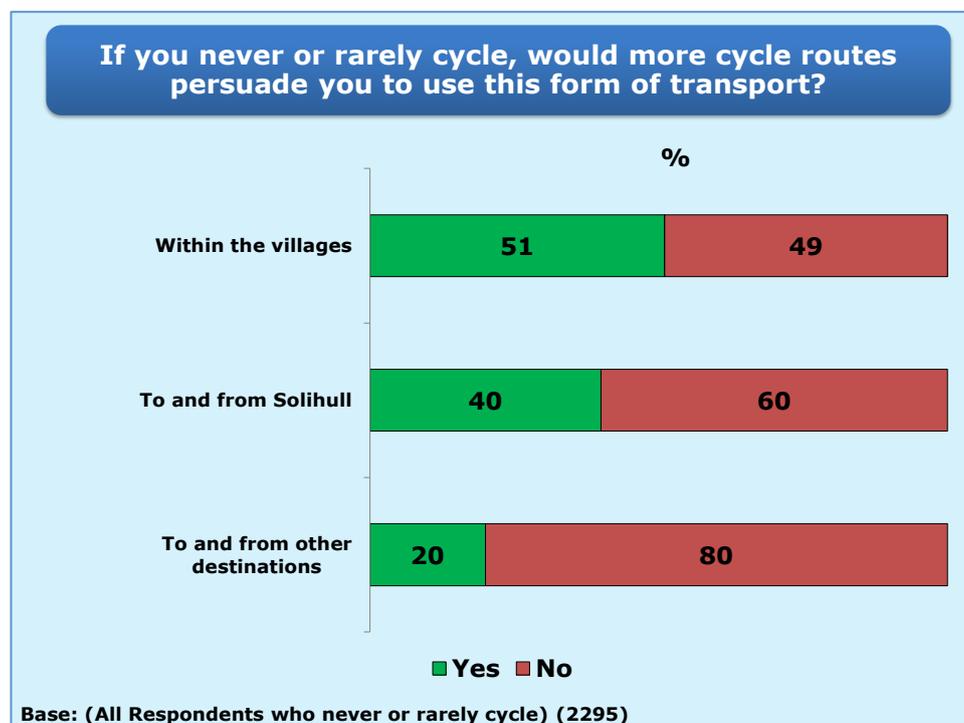
What would encourage you to use local rail services more often?	%
Better parking at the station	55
Direct links to Birmingham International	43
If trains became more convenient than self-drive	37
More affordable fares	37
Improved times	19
More convenient transport connections	17
Reduced train overcrowding	16
Better reliability of train service	15
Faster journey times	12
More appropriate destinations	10
Easier access for getting on/off train	5
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2177)</b>

Residents were asked to make any further comments about public transport that they think were important. 672 comments were made and these are included in the appendix.

Just over half of residents who never or rarely cycle said that if there were more cycle routes it would persuade them to use this form of transport within the villages. To go to and from Solihull, 40% said yes.

Those 20% suggesting other destinations are listed in the appendix (272 in total).

Chart 6:



96% of those surveyed felt they have adequate parking on their property for their vehicles.

Chart 7:



Residents were asked for their general concerns about parking (their own and other's parking) in their neighbourhood.

36% stated school parking as a general concern, 34% parking by commuters and 33% the overall availability of parking in the area. The cost of parking at 6% of concern does not appear to be a problem.

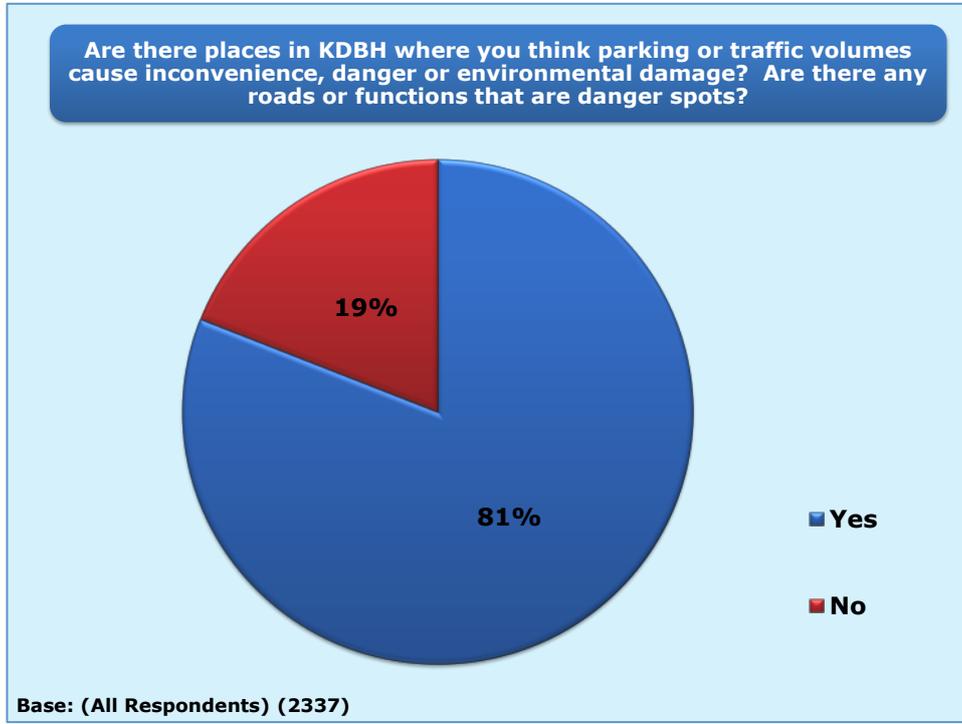
24 'other' concerns were mentioned and these are listed in the appendix.

Chart 8:



Respondents were asked whether there were places in KDBH where they think parking or traffic volumes cause inconvenience, danger or environmental damage. Eight of ten residents answered in the positive. From these they were asked of any roads or junctions that are danger spots. 1899 mentions were made of roads or junctions that were felt to be danger spots and these are included in the appendix.

Chart 9:



Asked which car parks they used regularly, i.e. at least once a week, 96% park at Dorridge Sainsbury's between one and two hours. 89% parked at The Park, Dorridge for the one to two hour time period.

The heaviest use of three to four hour parking came at the Dorridge Station overflow (20%) and at the same location, not surprisingly had the highest proportion of all day parkers at 32%.

Exactly three-quarters of car park users found it difficult to find a space at Dorridge Station, by far the highest figure. 44% regularly found it difficult for a space at Dorridge Centre adjacent to Tesco's. Just over a third (35%) felt likewise at the Bentley Heath Co-op and 28% at Knowle Village Hall plus 29% at Dorridge Station overflow.

168 are listed in the appendix outlining other car parks used regularly.

Table 24:

Which car parks do you use regularly?	1-2 hours %	3-4 hours %	All day %	Difficult to find space %
Dorridge Station	8	5	12	75
Dorridge Station overflow	19	20	32	29
Dorridge Sainsbury's	96	3	0	1
Dorridge - Centre adjacent to Tesco's	55	1	0	44
Dorridge Village Hall	74	10	3	13
Dorridge - The Park	89	5	0	5
Knowle - Behind Greswolde	79	5	0	15
Knowle Tesco's	77	3	0	20
Knowle - Rear of Nat West Bank	75	3	0	22
Knowle Village Hall	68	3	0	28
Bentley Heath Village Hall	75	8	1	16
Bentley Heath Co-op	65	0	0	35
Other	70	6	1	23
<b>Base: (Car park users)</b>	<b>(1737)</b>			

Residents were asked to identify any areas they had issues with traffic congestion (long queues of traffic that take more than five minutes to get through). Specific locations were listed as to whether they had received any problems with congestion.

There were a lot of problems for respondents 16% and 15% respectively at Station Road, Dorridge and Station Road, Knowle. Three in ten felt there were some problems in Knowle High Street and 27% in Station Road, Knowle.

Of the areas listed Gate Lane (73%), 65% at Dorridge railway station and 64% at Lady Byron Lane claimed there were no traffic problems.

Other locations not listed in the table below are included in the appendix (354 mentions).

Table 25:

Have you had any problems with congestion in the following specific locations?	A lot %	Some %	A little %	None %
Warwick Road (between Knowle and M42)	8	21	23	48
Knowle High Street	13	30	27	30
Station Road, Knowle	15	27	22	36
Station Road, Dorridge	16	22	19	42
Dorridge railway station	7	13	16	65
Widney Manor Road	11	20	20	50
Mill Lane/Hanbury Road/Poplar Road	14	16	15	56
Gate Lane	3	9	15	73
Lady Byron Lane	6	13	17	64
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(1581)</b>			

Solihull Council has a policy to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport, including such things as walking, cycling, public transport and electric cars. Residents were asked if this was something they would like to see applied in KDBH and what changes they would like to see happen in KDBH over the next 10 years. 1576 comments were made and these are included in the appendix.

Residents were asked what improvements they would like to see made to roads, road junctions, parking provision and/ or choices of transport in KDBH and what their immediate priority would be. 1795 comments were made and these are included in the appendix.

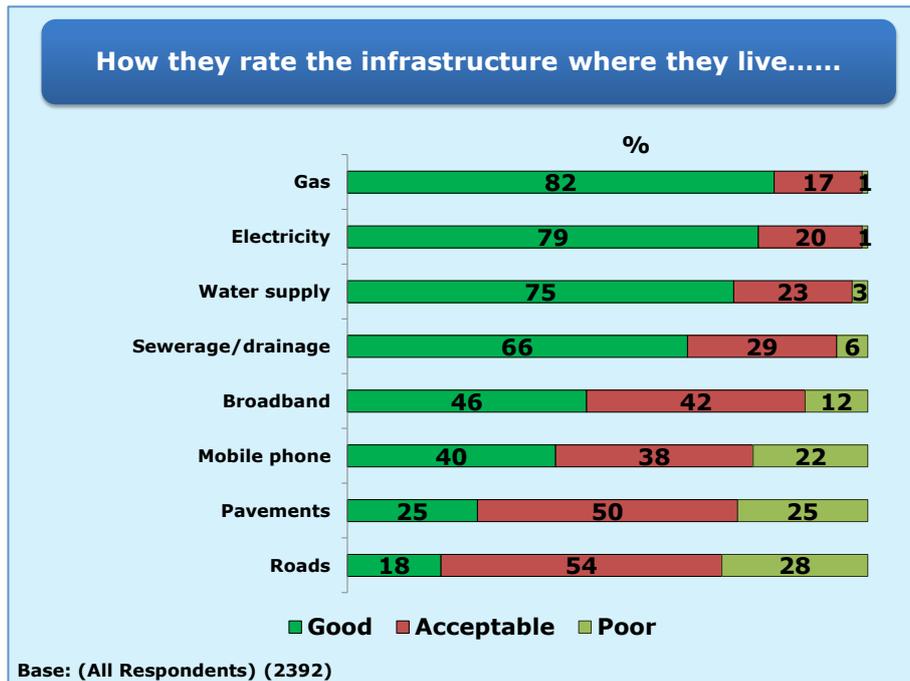
## 4.4 Infrastructure

Residents were told that infrastructure meant the basic physical structures and facilities needed for society to operate effectively on a day to day basis e.g. buildings, roads, power supplies, communications etc.

82% of residents rated the gas supply where they live as good, 79% felt the same way of electricity and 75% water supply.

In terms of the highest 'poor ratings', 28% said the roads, 25% the pavements and 22% the mobile phones network.

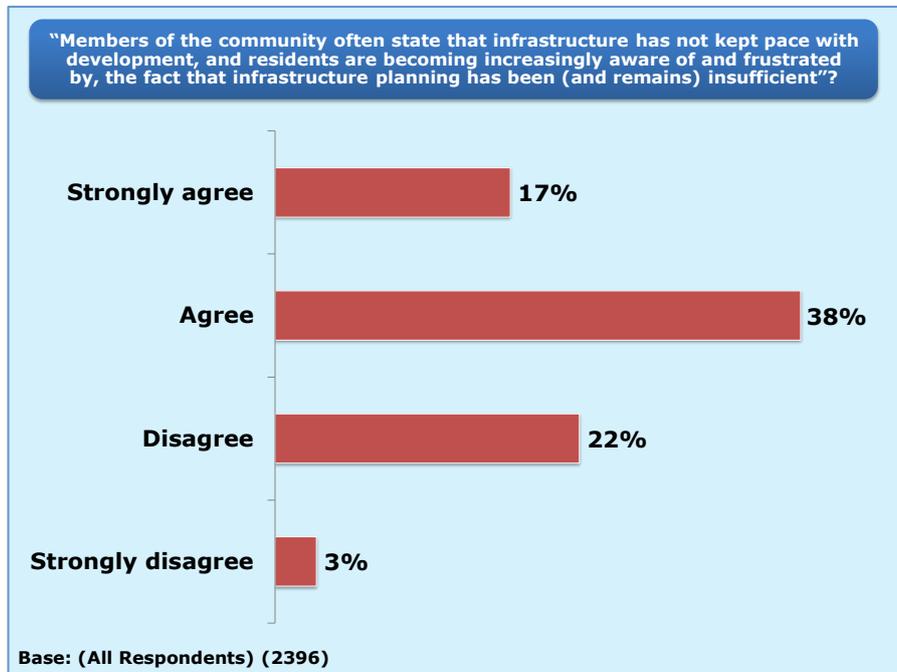
Chart 10:



Residents were given the following statement to agree or disagree with. *"Members of the community often state that "infrastructure has not kept pace with development, and residents are becoming increasingly aware of, and frustrated by, the fact that infrastructure planning has been (and remains) insufficient".*

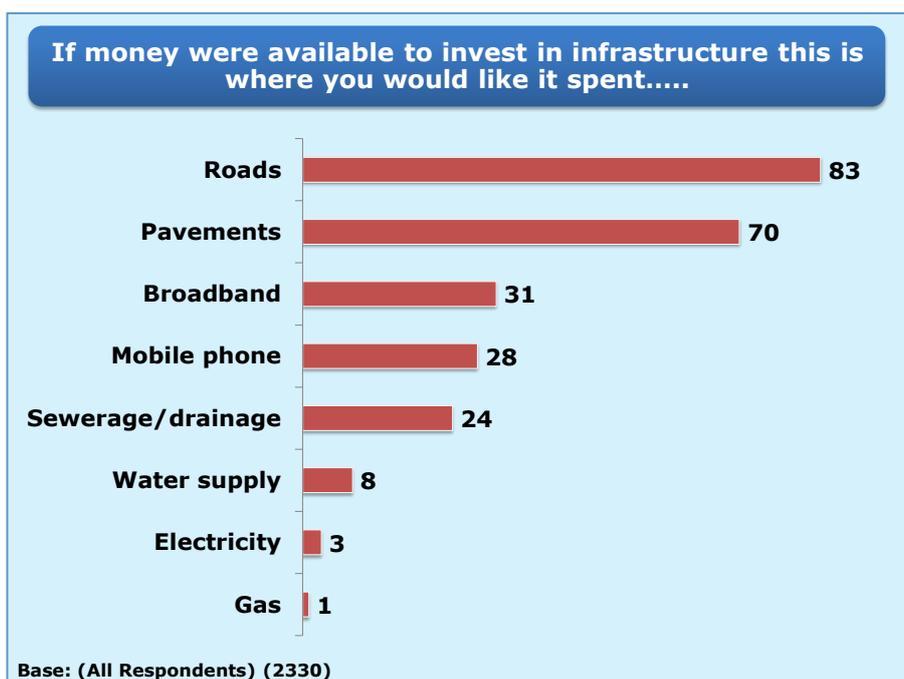
There was more than a 2:1 majority of agree against disagree. 17% of respondents strongly agreed with the statement and 38% agreed, 25% either disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Chart 11:



Asked where they felt money should be spent on infrastructure in the area, over eight out of ten (83%) stated roads should be invested in and almost seven out of ten (70%) said pavements. A third (31%) wanted better broadband.

Chart 12:



## 4.5 Learning, Leisure and Community Facilities

Residents were given a list facilities in the KDBH area and ask to rate them in terms of availability and suitability.

Satisfaction with the primary education on offer was highest at 95%, closely followed by secondary education at 92% preschool/childcare at 89%. 86% were satisfied both with health and welfare and with the range of retail outlets such as shops, supermarkets, services and restaurants.

Dissatisfaction was highest for indoor facilities for sport, leisure, exercise and recreation (62%) and for the facilities for the under 18s age group (56%).

Table 26:

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the availability and suitability of facilities in KDBH for the services listed below?	Very Satisfied %	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Very Dissatisfied %
For the elderly (65 or over)	11	70	15	4
For the young (under 18)	5	39	44	12
Health and welfare	33	53	11	2
Indoor facilities for sport, leisure, exercise and recreation	6	32	47	15
Lifelong learning	9	48	34	9
Outdoor facilities for sport, leisure, exercise and recreation	11	59	24	6
Preschool and childcare	29	59	10	2
Primary education	46	49	4	0
Secondary education (ages 11 – 19)	40	52	6	2
The arts and culture, including library provision	7	64	23	6
The range of retail outlets such as shops, supermarkets, services and restaurants	22	64	12	2
Base: (All Respondents, excluding don't know and no opinion)	(2388)			

## Facilities to be improved in the Short-Term (Up to 5 years)

Residents were asked an open question as to what facilities listed in the previous question needed to be improved over the short term (over next 5 years). They were limited to three facilities and the comments are included (3089 in total) in the appendix by first, second and third entries.

An analysis of the first choice comments showed that medical facilities, leisure facilities and activities/facilities for the young were the top requirements over the next five years.

Table 27:

Which (if any) of the facilities above do you think need to be improved over the short term (over next five years) – 1 <sup>ST</sup> CHOICE	Number of Responses
Medical – hospital, doctor/dentist	363
Leisure – gym, parks, sports facilities etc	328
Activities/facilities for young (11-18 years olds)	189
Education – primary, Academies, teaching	171
Retail – shops, supermarkets, businesses	121
Adult education – night school, lifelong education	52
Library	43
Art & Culture	27
Childcare – preschool, nursery	21
Elderly – care, facilities, access	22
Parking	19
Community facilities – village hall	20
Public Highway – roads, pavements, traffic	19
Post Office	16
Restaurants	15
Greengrocer	4
Public Transport	3
Communication – residents	3
Public Conveniences	3
Banking	2
Police – station, surgery	2
Other	21

An analysis of the second choice comments showed that leisure facilities and medical facilities were the top requirements over the next five years, the order switching compared with the first choice.

Table 28:

<b>Which (if any) of the facilities above do you think need to be improved over the short term (over next five years) – 2<sup>ND</sup> CHOICE</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Leisure – gym, parks, sports facilities etc	215
Medical – hospital, doctor/dentist	122
Activities/facilities for young (11-18 years olds)	95
Retail – shops, supermarkets, businesses	95
Education – primary, Academies, teaching	94
Adult education – night school, lifelong education	49
Elderly – care, facilities, access	35
Art & Culture	33
Library	29
Restaurants	24
Community facilities – village hall	19
Public Highway – roads, pavements, traffic	19
Childcare – preschool, nursery	18
Post Office	13
Parking	12
Cycle route	9
Public Transport	4
Public Conveniences	4
Green Space	4
Banking	3
Housing	3
Refuse Collection – Bins, recycling	3
Greengrocer	2
Other	27

An analysis of the third choice comments showed that leisure facilities and activities/facilities for the young were the top requirements over the next five years. Retail facilities came in third place on this occasion.

Table 29:

<b>Which (if any) of the facilities above do you think need to be improved over the short term (over next five years) – 3<sup>RD</sup> CHOICE</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Leisure – gym, parks, sports facilities etc	113
Activities/facilities for young (11-18 years olds)	83
Retail – shops, supermarkets, businesses	69
Medical – hospital, doctor/dentist	57
Education – primary, Academies, teaching	46
Library	40
Art & Culture	36
Elderly – care, facilities, access	33
Adult education – night school, lifelong education	30
Community facilities – village hall	24
Restaurants	16
Childcare – preschool, nursery	14
Parking	12
Public Highway – roads, pavements, traffic	12
Post Office	7
Cycle route	5
Green Space	3
Housing	3
Church	3
Litter	3
Public Transport	2
Police – station, surgery	2
Fete	2
Other	25

## Facilities to be improved in the Short-Term (Up to 5 years) cont.

A second part to this question asked what should be done over the short-term (over next 5 years).

For their first choice, specific activities and facilities need to be developed for young people in the short-term, alongside more indoor sports facilities and more doctors to be available/have more appointments.

Table 30:

What do you think should be done over next five years? – 1 <sup>ST</sup> CHOICE	Number of Responses
Activities/facilities for Young people - Need things to do for under 18's	173
Indoor Sports Facilities - eg Badminton, basketball, squash, bowls	159
Doctors - Availability eg more doctors/appointments	151
Health & Welfare - General	113
Retail Shops - Better range, small/independent, more variety	89
Outdoor Sports Facilities - gym/playground/park	73
Adult Education - Day time classes, night school, lifelong learning	58
Education - General	50
Library - opening hours, better stocked, retain, staffed better, micro-library	50
Indoor Sports Facilities - Swimming Pool	46
Sports Facilities - General	46
Village Hall - Improve/revamp	32
Secondary Education - General	31
Youth Club - Need a youth club	30
Primary School - increase spaces	29
Hospital - General	27
Doctors - General	26
Arts & Culture - provision of facilities	25
Childminders/Preschool - Insufficient, need more spaces, affordable	20
Arden School - overcrowded	18
Elderly - facilities for	18
Arden School - Decline in education	17
Charity Shops - too many	17
Leisure - General	15
Parking - need more spaces	14
Restaurants - More individual/variety	14
Arden School - Need new school	12
Dentist - More dentists, NHS	12
Indoor Sports Facilities - Gym	12
Doctors - New Surgery	11
New Leisure Centre	10
Post Office at Dorridge	10
Care of Elderly	9
Hospital - Local A & E	9
Footpaths	8
Roads - Upkeep, through traffic	8
Doctors - Increase opening times inc. weekends	7
Outdoor Sports Facilities - Pitches	7
Supermarket in Knowle	7
Post Office - Replace, need local	6
Tennis Club	6
Estate Agents - too many	5

Greengrocers	5
Parking – Multi Storey at Station	5
Activities/facilities for Young People - Guides/Scouts/Brownies	4
Arden School - Review catchment	4
Hairdressers – too many	4
Hospital - Local Maternity Unit	4
Public Transport	4
Bank - Need a bank	3
Cycle Routes	3
Doctors – Improve facilities	3
Public Toilets	3
Skateboard Park	3
Hospital - Better use of Solihull Hospital Services	2
Police Station/Surgery – needed	2
Supermarket	2
Other	55

For their second choice, more indoor sports facilities, more activities/facilities for young people and a better variety of shops with more independents should be encouraged.

Table 31:

<b>What do you think should be done over next five years? – 2<sup>ND</sup> CHOICE</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Indoor Sports Facilities - eg Badminton, basketball, squash, bowls	83
Activities/facilities for young people - Need things to do for under 18's	65
Shops - More independent ones, better variety	59
Library - Extend opening hours, better stocked, retain, staffed better	56
Adult Education - Day time classes, night school, lifelong learning	48
Indoor Sports Facilities - Gym	43
Schools/Education – General	43
Doctors – Availability eg more doctors/appointments	41
Arts & Culture – provision of facilities	35
Outdoor Sports Facilities - More/improve	34
Sports/Leisure – General	27
Elderly – facilities for	24
Indoor Sports Facilities - Swimming Pool	23
Arden School - overcrowded	21
Restaurants - More individual/variety	20
Childminders/Preschool - Insufficient, need more spaces, affordable	18
Health/Medical – General	16
Youth Club - Need a youth club	14
Parking – shops, doctors	13
Activities/facilities for Young People - Outdoors	12
Hospital - Better service and appointments	12
Primary School - Overcrowded, needs new school, needs enlarging	12
Hospital - Better use of Solihull Hospital Services	12
Shops – General	12
Parks - Update, more facilities, improve, gym equipment	11
Post Office - Replace, need local	11
Village Hall - Improve/revamp	11
Hospital - Local A & E	10
Charity Shops – too many	9
Cycle Routes	9

Dentist - More dentists, NHS	9
Outdoor Sports Facilities - Tennis Courts/Club	8
Outdoor Sports Facilities - Pitches	7
Exercise facilities for elderly	6
Arden School - Open sports facilities to public	5
Pavements – improve	5
Hospital – General	5
Arden School – Decline in education	4
Arden School - Review catchment	4
Live Music Events	4
Roads	4
Supermarket	4
Doctor – General	4
Primary Education – General	4
Bank – need	3
Doctors – Improve facilities	3
Parking – Multi Storey at Station	3
Public Toilets – reinstate	3
Footpaths	3
Activities/facilities for Young People - At Arden School	2
Activities/facilities for Young People - Guides/Scouts/Brownies	2
Doctors – Availability for appointment in Dorridge	2
Greengrocers	2
Hospital - Local Maternity Unit	2
Outdoor Sports Facilities – Skateboard Park	2
Post Office at Dorridge	2
Skate Park	2
Community Learning	2
Less Estate Agents/Hairdressers/Beauty Shops	2
Open Space	2
Other	64

For their third choice, residents went for a better variety of shops, a better stocked and extended opening hour's library, and have more indoor sports facilities to be made available.

Table 32:

<b>What do you think should be done over next five years? – 3<sup>RD</sup> CHOICE</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Shops - More independent ones, better variety	44
Library - Extend opening hours, better stocked	43
Indoor Sports Facilities - eg Badminton, basketball, squash, bowls	40
Adult Education - Day time classes, night school, lifelong learning	30
Arts & Culture	29
Activities/facilities for Young People - Outdoors	28
Elderly – facilities for	26
Childminders/Preschool - Insufficient, need more spaces, affordable	24
Healthcare/Medical – General	20
Outdoor Sports Facilities - More/improve	19
Doctors – Availability eg more doctors/appointments	17
Restaurants - More individual/variety	16
Sports/Leisure – General	16
School – General	13

Indoor Sports Facilities - Swimming Pool	12
Village Hall - Improve/revamp	11
Youth Club - Need a youth club	11
Charity Shops - too many	9
Exercise facilities for elderly	9
Parking	9
Secondary School - General	9
Dentist - More dentists, NHS	7
Pavements/footpaths	6
Arden School - overcrowded	5
Cycle Routes	5
Shops - fill empty shops	5
Arden School - Decline in education	4
Hospital - Better use of Solihull Hospital Services	4
Indoor Sports Facilities - Gym	4
Parking - Station - more, free	4
Post Office at Dorridge	4
Primary School - Overcrowded, needs new school, needs enlarging	4
Arden School - Open sports facilities to public	3
Community Events	3
Live Music events	3
Activities/facilities for Young People - At Arden School	2
Annual fete	2
Cinema	2
Cycle Track	2
Doctors - Increase opening times inc. weekends	2
Greengrocers	2
Hospital - Local Maternity Unit	2
Outdoor Sports Facilities - Skateboard Park	2
Post Office - maintain Bentley Heath	2
Skate Park	2
Bank - need	2
Buses	2
Primary School	2
Tennis	2
Other	63

## Facilities to be improved in the Long-Term (5 to 20 years)

Those completing the survey were asked to consider which facilities would most need to be enhanced to meet existing demand or future needs arising from any additional housing, in the long-term (5 to 20 years). They were limited to three facilities and the comments are included (3116 in total) in the appendix by first, second and third entries.

An analysis of the first choice comments showed that by far medical facilities and educational facilities were the top requirements in the long-term, defined as 5 to 20 years.

Table 33:

Which facilities above do you consider would most need to be enhanced to meet existing demand or future needs arising from any additional housing, in the long-term (5 to 20 years) – 1 <sup>ST</sup> CHOICE	Number of Responses
Medical – hospital, doctor/dentist	495
Education – primary, Academies, teaching	414
Leisure – gym, parks, sports facilities etc	96
Parking	54
Public Highway – roads, pavements, traffic	47
Activities for young (11-18 years olds)	41
Retail – shops, supermarkets, businesses	40
Childcare – preschool, nursery	22
Elderly – care, facilities, access	20
Community facilities – village hall	17
Housing	15
Art & Culture	11
Library	8
Adult education – night school, lifelong education	7
Green Space	6
Public Transport	5
Cycle route	4
Post Office	3
Drainage and Sewers	3
Other	18

An analysis of the second choice comments showed that educational facilities, medical facilities and leisure facilities were the top requirements over the long-term of 5 to 20 years.

*Table 34:*

<b>Which facilities above do you consider would most need to be enhanced to meet existing demand or future needs arising from any additional housing, in the long-term (5 to 20 years) - 2<sup>ND</sup> CHOICE</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Education – primary, Academies, teaching	330
Medical – hospital, doctor/dentist	227
Leisure – gym, parks, sports facilities etc	102
Parking	56
Activities for teenagers (11-18 years olds)	39
Public Highway – roads, pavements, traffic	37
Retail – shops, supermarkets, businesses	34
Elderly – care, facilities, access	30
Art & Culture	21
Childcare – preschool, nursery	19
Adult education – night school, lifelong education	19
Library	15
Green Space	15
Community facilities – village hall	13
Public Transport	12
Police – station, surgery	6
Housing	5
Post Office	5
Infrastructure	5
Cycle route	3
Banking	3
Restaurants	2
Other	9

An analysis of the third choice comments showed that leisure facilities and those for educational purposes were the top requirements in the long-term of 5 to 20 years. Medical facilities came in third place.

Table 35:

<b>Which facilities above do you consider would most need to be enhanced to meet existing demand or future needs arising from any additional housing, in the long-term (5 to 20 years) – 3<sup>RD</sup> CHOICE</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Leisure – gym, parks, sports facilities etc	114
Education – primary, Academies, teaching	101
Medical – hospital, doctor/dentist	83
Activities for teenagers (11-18 years olds)	58
Retail – shops, supermarkets, businesses	54
Parking	44
Elderly – care, facilities, access	41
Public Highway – roads, pavements, traffic	37
Community facilities – village hall	32
Childcare – preschool, nursery	30
Art & Culture	27
Public Transport	20
Library	13
Infrastructure	8
Police – station, surgery	7
Housing	4
Green Space	3
Cycle route	3
Restaurants	3
Other	13

## Facilities to be improved in the Long-Term (5 to 20 years) cont.

A second part to this question asked how the facilities should be enhanced to meet existing demand or future needs arising from any additional housing over the long-term (over 5 to 20 years).

For their first choice, health and welfare issues came to the top, with educational issues in second and have increased spaces at primary schools in third.

Table 36:

How do you think it should be done over the next 5 to 25 years? – 1 <sup>ST</sup> CHOICE	Number of Responses
Health/Welfare – General	192
School/Education – General	129
Primary School – increase spaces	114
Doctor – General	87
School Places (non-specific)	82
Doctors – Availability eg more doctors/appointments	67
Arden School - overcrowded	64
Health & Welfare/Medical – to meet demand	56
Parking – need more spaces	52
Indoor Sports Facilities - eg Badminton, basketball, squash, bowls	39
Childminders/Preschool - Insufficient, need more spaces, affordable	35
Activities/facilities for Young people – provide things to do for under 18's	30
Doctors – consider new surgery	28
Dentist - More dentists, NHS	24
Improve road infrastructure	21
Elderly – provide more facilities	19
Roads	19
Retail Shops - Better range, small/independent, more variety	17
Arden School - Need new school	17
Secondary Education – General	17
Village Hall/community centre - improve, invest	16
Sports/Leisure - General	16
Shopping – General	16
Outdoor Sports Facilities - Improve facilities	13
Library - Extend opening hours, better stocked, retain, staffed better	11
Primary School – consider new schools	11
Hospital - Too small, need to expand	11
Arts & Culture – provision of facilities	10
Doctors – improve facilities	10
Housing for the Elderly	10
Doctors – expand current services	8
Hospital - Better use of Solihull Hospital Services	7
Parks – more equipment	7
Parking – increase parking at Station	7
Adult Education - Day time classes, night school, lifelong learning	6
Hospital - Local A & E	6
Indoor Sports Facilities - Gym	6
Cycle Routes/Track	5
Swimming Pool - Need a swimming pool	5
Youth Club – consider	5
Affordable homes	4
Doctors – Increase opening hours ie. Weekend. Evenings	4

New leisure centre	4
No more housing	4
Outdoor Sports Facilities – gym/playground	4
Park	4
Arden School – Decline in education	3
Doctors – waiting times unacceptable	3
Outdoor Sports Facilities – Pitches	3
Post Office -	3
Public Transport	3
Renovate St John’s Shopping Centre	3
Footpaths	2
Primary Care	2
Restaurants - More individual/variety	2
Sewerage	2
Transport	2
Other	86

For their second choice, general educational issues were top, health and welfare issues were in second and a specific need to improve facilities at doctor’s surgeries was in third.

Table 37:

How do you think it should be done over the next 5 to 25 years? – 2 <sup>ND</sup> CHOICE	Number of Responses
Education/School – General	158
Health/Welfare/Medical – General	72
Doctors – Improve facilities	53
Primary Education/Schools	50
Doctors – Availability eg more doctors/appointments	37
Indoor Facilities – Better	37
Parking Facilities – not specific	35
Activities/facilities for Young People – General	34
Arden School – General	32
Road – Infrastructure, better system	29
Retail Shops – Better range, more variety	27
Elderly – facilities for care of	23
Arts & Culture	22
Adult Education - Day time classes, night school, lifelong learning	21
Childminders/Preschool - Insufficient, need more spaces, affordable	18
Primary School – Overcrowded	17
Bus Service/Transport Links	16
Library – Improve Facilities	16
Bus/Transport Links – Better	16
Sports/Leisure – General	13
Outdoor Sports Facilities – Improve	12
Outdoor Facilities – Better	11
Parks – update, more facilities, improve	11
Dentist - More dentists, NHS	10
Indoor Sports Facilities – Swimming Pool	10
Arden School – overcrowded	9
Doctors – New surgery	9
Hospital – too small, expand, reduce waiting times	9
Parking – Station	9
Doctors – larger surgery	7

Parking – Shops, Doctors	7
Policing Station/Surgery, CCTV	7
Primary School – improve standard	6
Village Hall/Community Centre - Improve/revamp	6
Arden School – new/alternative school	4
Hospital – Better service and appointments	4
Activities/facilities for Young People – Guides/Scouts/Brownies	3
Activities/facilities for Young People – Indoors	3
Arden School – open sports facilities to public	3
Post Office – Dorridge	3
Green Space	3
Bank	2
Aftercare following hospital discharge	2
Cycle Paths/Routes	2
Park & Ride	2
Post Office	2
Restaurants - More individual/variety	2
Drainage – adequate	2
Others	44

For their third choice, outdoor activities/facilities needed to be developed for younger people, more independent and varied shops came in second and more indoor sports facilities in third place.

Table 38:

<b>How do you think it should be done over the next 5 to 25 years? – 3<sup>RD</sup> CHOICE</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Activities/facilities for Young People - Outdoors	54
Shops - More independent ones, better variety	41
Indoor Sports Facilities	39
Outdoor Sports Facilities – Improve	31
Health & Welfare	29
Childminders/Preschool - Insufficient, need more spaces, affordable	28
Education	24
Elderly – improve activities and facilities	23
Doctors – Availability eg more doctors/appointments	20
Primary School Education	20
Arts & Culture	21
Secondary School Education	19
Adult Education - Day time classes, night school, lifelong learning	18
Library – Improve Facilities	16
Sports Facilities – General	17
Village Hall - Improve/revamp	16
Green Space/Park	17
Parking – General	15
Roads and Footpaths	14
Leisure (General)	14
Dentist - More dentists, NHS	12
Road Infrastructure	12
Youth Club	10
Elderly	12
Arden School - spaces	8
Parking – Station	8

Doctors - Improve facilities	7
Recreational Activities	7
Doctors - New Surgery	5
Hospital - Better use of Solihull Hospital Services	5
Indoor Facilities	5
Transport Links	5
Cycle Paths/Routes	4
Home Care for Elderly	4
Hospital - Improve Facilities	4
Restaurants - More individual/variety	4
Swimming Pool	4
Housing (General)	3
Knowle Shopping Precinct	3
Policing	3
Public Transport	3
Buses - additional	2
Centre for the Elderly	2
Parking - Bentley Heath	2
Parking - Knowle	2
Schooling - improve	2
Street Lighting	2
Water and Sewerage	2
Others	35
Schools/Education - General	30

## Youth Facilities

Youth facilities were included in the survey and for those it was relevant to were asked which youth facilities they used. The full list of responses made is included in the appendix.

Analysing by facility, there were 82 mentions for scouts/explorers, 39 for racket sports and 36 for church clubs.

Table 39:

Which youth facilities do you use? 5 RESPONSES OR MORE	Number
Scouts/Explorers	82
Tennis/Badminton/Squash	39
Church Clubs	36
Cricket	30
Guides	27
Beavers	25
Cubs	22
Brownies	22
Parks/Playgrounds	21
After School Clubs	20
Rugby	19
Rainbows	17
Dance	15
Football	14
Baby Groups	12
Music/Drama	10
Library	8
Playschool/Pre-School	8
Taekwondo/Martial Arts	7
Village Hall	6
Gymnastics	5
Swimming	5
Other	27

For the youth facilities used, respondents were asked how they could be improved. The full list of responses made is included in the appendix.

44 mentions were for the need to have new buildings or refurbishments, 34 mentioned specifically the need to improve facilities for the scouts or have more scout groups, and 29 wanted more clubs and activities in general.

Table 40:

<b>Are there ways in which these facilities could be improved? 3 RESPONSES OR MORE</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>New buildings/Refurbishment/Dedicated space</b>	44
<b>Improvement to Scout facilities/more Scout groups</b>	34
<b>More clubs and activities</b>	29
<b>Better advertising/Communications/Publicity</b>	17
<b>Better access</b>	16
<b>No improvement needed</b>	15
<b>Funding/Subsidy</b>	11
<b>Better Park/Playground equipment</b>	10
<b>More pitches/courts</b>	10
<b>More indoor/outdoor sport areas</b>	10
<b>Parking</b>	10
<b>Overall / General improvement</b>	7
<b>Volunteers/Parent help</b>	7
<b>Other</b>	40

Asked what additional facilities they felt should be provided for the youth of KDBH, 65 respondents felt a Youth Club was required, 53 mentioned a leisure centre/gym and 35 wanted additional clubs and activities to be organised. The full list is included in the Appendix.

Table 41:

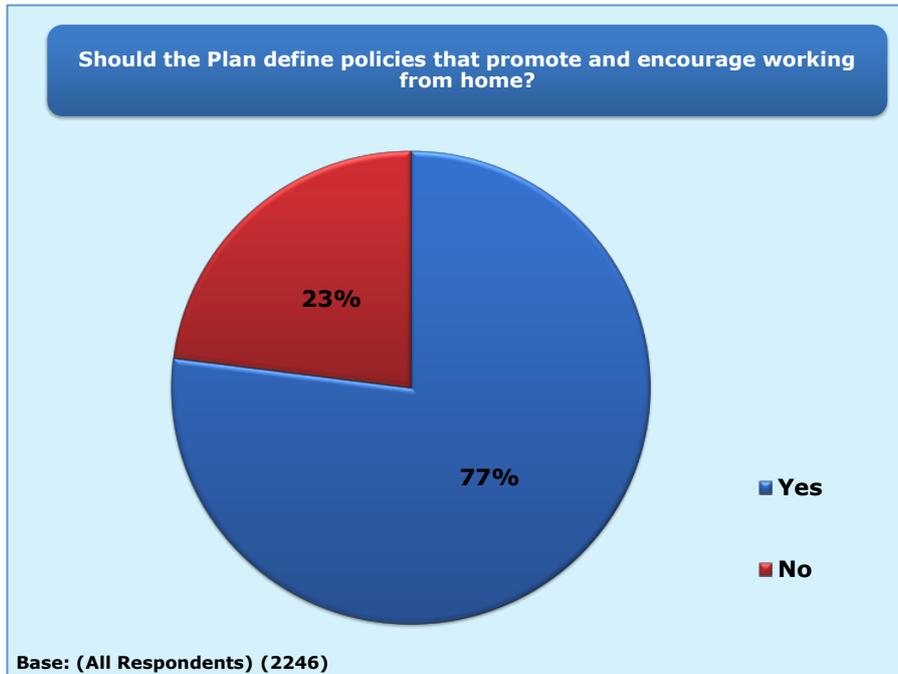
<b>Are there any other additional facilities that you think should be provided for the youth of KDBH? 3 RESPONSES OR MORE</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Youth Club</b>	65
<b>Leisure Centre/Gym</b>	53
<b>Additional Clubs/Activities</b>	35
<b>Swimming Pool</b>	26
<b>Improvement of existing facilities</b>	24
<b>Community 'Hangout'/Shelter</b>	22
<b>Cycle Park/Trails/Club</b>	16
<b>Skate Park</b>	15
<b>Indoor/Outdoor Pitches/Courts</b>	12
<b>Café/Internet Cafe</b>	10
<b>Better Play Areas</b>	9
<b>Drop-in/Advice Centre</b>	5
<b>Cinema</b>	3
<b>Other</b>	41

## 4.6 Employment

Knowle, Dorrige and Bentley Heath, as a whole, have a large number of home-based businesses. Research has shown that some businesses that could grow larger and employ people do not do so because of the significant costs associated with moving to a first commercial premises.

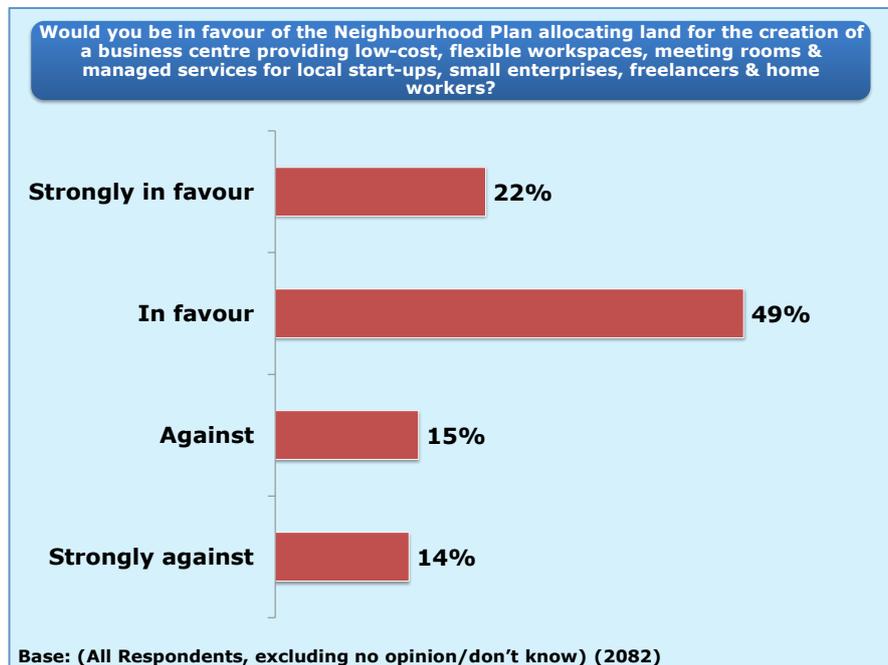
77% of those surveyed felt the Plan should define policies that promote and encourage working from home.

Chart 13:



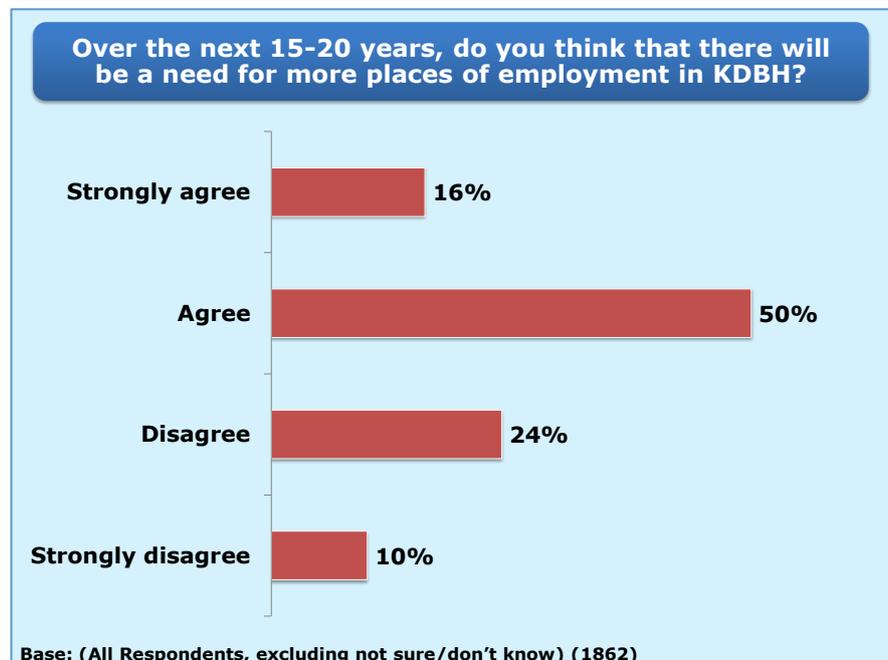
71% of respondents would be in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan allocating land for the creation of a business centre providing low-cost, flexible workspaces, meeting rooms and managed services for local start-ups, small enterprises, freelancers and home workers.

Chart 14:



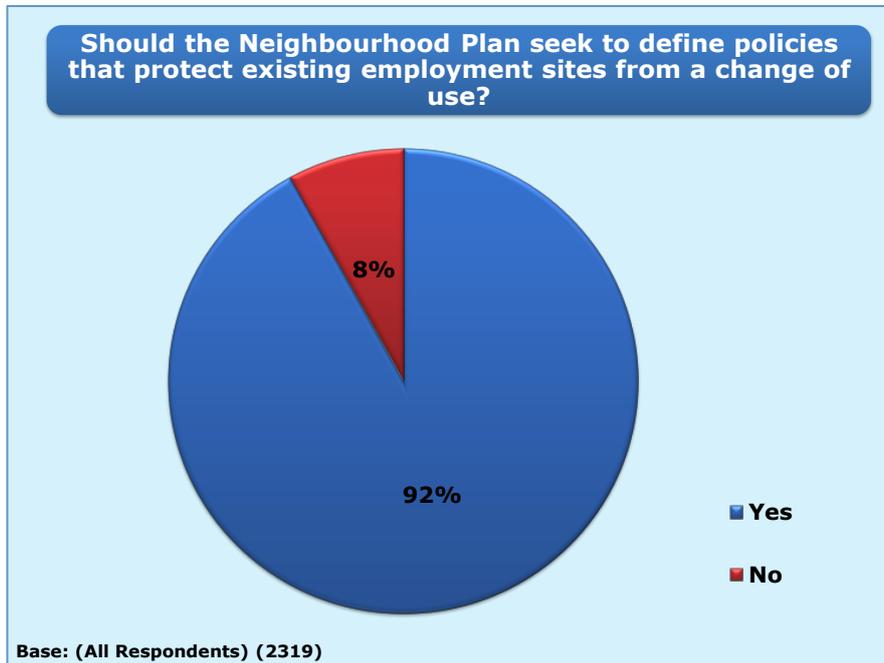
Two-thirds of the sample agreed that over the next 15-20 years, there will be a need for more places of employment in KDBH.

Chart 15:



Over nine out of ten (92%) felt the Neighbourhood Plan should seek to define policies that protect existing employment sites (shops, offices etc.) from a change of use, for example to maintain local shopping facilities and services.

Chart 16:



Residents were asked what was important to them when considering allocating land for business use.

47% said shops and retail were most important to them, followed by starter units (38%) and offices (36%).

Chart 17:



If there were any new employment developments, 52% felt that office and professional services would most suit KDBH. A third would like to see a business centre with office facilities and private meeting rooms to rent.

89% were against developments that contained storage and warehouse facilities.

Table 42:

<b>If there were any new employment developments, what type do you think would most suit KDBH?</b>	<b>Yes %</b>	<b>Possibly %</b>	<b>No %</b>
<b>Offices/professional services</b>	52	37	11
<b>Small research/light industrial units</b>	18	31	50
<b>Storage/warehouse facilities</b>	2	10	89
<b>A business centre with office facilities and private meeting rooms to rent</b>	33	45	22
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	(2226)		

## 4.7 The Natural Landscape, the Built Environment and Design

Residents were asked to list the top three priorities the Neighbourhood Plan should have in protecting the natural environments.

At 82% the highest priority was the promotion of existing mature or important trees and hedgerows, groups of trees or woodland. Just over seven out of ten felt the minimisation of noise and other forms of pollution caused by development and transport infrastructure, and the promotion of the preservation and restoration of key local habitats and wildlife biodiversity were the next highest priorities.

Table 43:

What priorities should the Neighbourhood Plan have in protecting the natural environment?	%
Promote the protection of existing mature or important trees and hedgerows, groups of trees or woodland	82
Minimise the level of noise and other forms of pollution caused by development and transport infrastructure	73
Promote the preservation and restoration of key local habitats and wildlife biodiversity	72
Manage the visual impact, scale and location of alternative energy installations	41
Minimise light pollution by supporting a 'dark skies' policy	23
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2343)</b>

In terms of the built environment, various priorities were listed that help protect the quality of the existing built environments. Three priorities stood out with around seven out of ten respondents considering them the most important. Defining and preserving the boundaries of the village, the building design to be in keeping with the scale, location and appearance of existing buildings, plus ensuring that business and residential development is in harmony with the rural character of the neighbourhood.

The lowest priorities centred on flood prevention measures and the use of traditional local building materials.

Table 44:

What priorities should the Neighbourhood Plan have in protecting the quality of the existing built environment?	%
Define and preserve the boundaries of our villages	70
Building design to be in keeping with the scale, location and appearance of existing buildings	70
Ensure that business and residential development is in harmony with the rural character of the neighbourhood and sits well in the landscape	69
Promote a high level of energy conservations/environment	27
Use signage, advertising and street furniture that are in keeping with the character of our neighbourhood	23
Identify any currently unlisted buildings that we should seek to protect by a local listing	16
Use traditional local building materials	12
Improve flood prevention measures, both within the design of buildings and elsewhere	9
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2345)</b>

Residents were asked to consider the three most important things the Neighbourhood Plan should aim to protect and enhance the quality of any new buildings by promotion.

Two stood out in terms of results. 84% wished to see design that respects the scale of the existing villages and 78% the green space and gardens. Four out of ten quizzed went for traditional styles and scale of shop fronts as an important thing to preserve.

The use of traditional local building materials was again a low priority.

Table 45:

Should the Neighbourhood Plan aim to protect and enhance the quality of any new buildings by promoting the following:	%
Design that respects the scale of the existing villages	84
Green space and gardens	78
Traditional styles and scale of shop fronts	41
High levels of energy conservation in new buildings	30
Minimum standards of living space in dwellings	25
Signage, advertising and street furniture that respects the locality	22
Use of traditional local building materials	15
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2333)</b>

Given six options, residents were asked to list three that were considered most important in terms of the natural environment.

Over nine out of ten (91%) wished the present green space and recreational areas needed to be maintained and improved, two-thirds (68%) wished for the enhanced protection of the landscape and 55% preferred the enhanced protection of historic and natural features.

Improved flood prevention measures were the lowest priorities.

Table 46:

Should the Neighbourhood Plan aim to promote the following:	%
Maintain and improve present green space and recreational areas	91
Enhance protection of the landscape	68
Enhance protection of historic and natural features	55
Better pedestrian and cycle access	40
Positive management of the varied local wildlife	31
Improve flood prevention measures	8
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2345)</b>

## 4.8 Green Spaces

Green spaces are any open spaces of land that are accessible to the public. This can include: playing fields and sports pitches, wildlife areas, parks, community gardens, greens, playgrounds and cemeteries. The National Planning Policy Framework gives local communities the opportunity to protect very important green areas by designating them as 'Local green spaces'. This prevents them from being built on in all but exceptional circumstances.

Seven elements were given with residents asked to list the three most important to them.

Eight out of ten residents (79%) felt there should be a full Green Spaces Plan to manage the future needs of existing green spaces and promote more green spaces in new developments. 58% were in favour of more green spaces linked to green corridors and 56% felt that there should be better day-to-day care of existing open green spaces.

Table 47:

Please tick which three only of the following are most important to you:	%
A full Green Spaces Plan to manage future needs of existing green spaces and promote more green spaces in new developments	79
More open green spaces linked to green corridors	58
Better day-to-day care of existing open green spaces	56
More work to protect local wildlife habitats	43
More help to volunteers to manage open green spaces	27
Separate spaces for wildlife and pets	12
More allotments	11
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2321)</b>

Asked what respondents would most like to see provided in and around green open spaces, 46% would like to see walking routes, 42% wanted more rigorous policing of littering, dog-fouling and fly tipping laws and 39% wished for more cycle friendly paths.

Table 48:

Which three of the following only would you most like to see provided in and around green open spaces?	%
Walking routes	46
More rigorous policing of littering, dog-fouling and fly tipping laws	42
Cycle friendly paths	39
Wildlife areas, hedgerows, wild flower meadows, bird and bat boxes	35
More trees	24
Equipment for teenagers	21
Benches	21
Play equipment for 5-12 year olds	19
More litter and dog waste bins	14
Play equipment for under fives	13
Fitness equipment for adults	12
Communal orchards and edible plants	12
<b>Base: (All Respondents)</b>	<b>(2345)</b>

# Appendices

**(Available in two separate documents to this report)**

## **Appendix A contains the written responses to the following questions**

- Q11. What was it about KDBH that made you choose to live here? Other.
- Q15. What is your post code?
- Q21. Which **three** factors do you think are most important in the design and layout of new housing developments in our Area? Any other considerations.
- Q25. If development has to take place in Green Belt can you think of any land around KDBH which may be appropriate, ie. is less 'valuable' or less attractive as open space? Where?
- Q29. Please make any further comments about public transport that you think are important in the box below.
- Q30. If you never or rarely cycle, would more cycle routes persuade you to use this form of transport? To and from other destinations (please specify below).
- Q32. What are your general concerns about parking (your own and other's parking) in your neighbourhood? If other, please specify.
- Q33. Are there places in KDBH where you think parking or traffic volumes cause inconvenience, danger or environmental damage? Are there any roads or functions that are danger spots? If yes, where and when?
- Q34. Which car parks do you use regularly, ie. At least once per week? If other, please specify where and when.
- Q35. We want to identify any areas that have issues with traffic congestion. Have you had any problems with congestions in the following specific locations? Please write in the box below any other locations not listed above.
- Q36. Solihull Council has a policy to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport, including such things as walking, cycling, public transport and electronic cars. Is this something you would like to see applied in KDBH? What changes would you like to see happen in KDBH over the next 10 years?
- Q37. What improvements would you like to see made to roads, road functions, parking provision and/or choices of transport in KDBH? What is your immediate priority?

## **Appendix B contains the written responses to the following questions**

- Q42. Which (if any) of the facilities above do you think need to be improved over the short term (over next 5 years), and what do you think should be done?
- Q43. Which facilities above do you consider would most need to be enhanced (and how) to meeting existing demand or future needs arising from any additional housing, in the long-term (5-20 years)?
- Q44. Which youth facilities do you use?
- Q45. Are there ways in which these facilities could be improved?
- Q46. Are there any additional facilities that you think should be provided for the youth of KDBH?