

Public Knowledge
connecting you with your community

The Sedgefield Plan

Shaping the future of our area

Neighbourhood Planning Survey

February 2014



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1. Executive Summary

Background

- Public Knowledge were commissioned by the Sedgefield Plan Steering Group to conduct a survey with Sedgefield residents aimed at understanding the community's priorities with regard to expansion of the area.
- Fieldwork ran from 15th-31st January 2014 and responses were collected via self-completion hard copy and online surveys. 665 surveys were completed in total, approximately 11.6% of the adult population and 24% of households.
- Data collected was weighted to be representative of the adult population of Sedgefield.

Key Findings

- Participants feel the most important physical characteristics of Sedgefield are the green spaces around the community and also the village centre and conservation area. They also like its rural atmosphere.
- Over half of respondents feel Sedgefield currently has the right amount of houses. Slightly less think there are currently too many houses in the area, whilst only a small proportion of the sample think Sedgefield requires additional housing.
- Perceptions of current housing stock by type are mixed, although it is clear that respondents feel there is a lack of low cost affordable starter homes, bungalows and eco-friendly/energy efficient housing.
- Awareness of the proposed housing development for Sedgefield, as outlined in the County Durham Local Plan, was high across the sample.
- The majority of participants would like to see between 0-50 houses built in the Sedgefield area and preferred housing types include bungalows and small starter homes.
- Respondents feel the buildings must be energy efficient, and also that the style of the homes and their security is important.
- The primary social and environmental concerns amongst respondents are locally based. Dog fouling is the most pressing social issue for respondents within the Sedgefield community.
- Facilities that are the most important to the sample are those that are key to the local character and infrastructure of Sedgefield. Local amenities such as the surgery and the high street shops proved to be of greatest importance.

- Respondents feel that transport and health are the local provisions most likely to face pressure as a result of community expansion. The impending growth of Sedgefield casts doubt on the village's ability to accommodate the amount of traffic and cars.
- As the sample is weighted towards older respondents, many were not able to provide feedback on childcare provisions and educational facilities within Sedgefield. However many provisions are currently rated poorly by survey participants.

2. Background and Objectives

The character of an area is important to residents and the perceived appeal of an environment relies on many factors. Over recent years the Government's 'Localism' agenda has given people and communities the opportunity to have a direct say in the development of their local area. To implement this, local authorities and community are tasked with producing 'Local Plans' which will identify land for development, encourage positive community growth and alleviate the demand for housing and business development until 2030. Durham County Council's Draft Local Plan, which is due to become a statutory document in autumn of 2014, has allocated 450-470 new homes within Sedgefield.

Communities within local authorities have been encouraged to produce their own Neighbourhood Plans. These must broadly comply with the allocation numbers within wider Local Plans, but can influence the type and nature of developments. Once complete, each Neighbourhood Plan will become a statutory document with legal force that must be taken into account by the principal authority when considering planning applications up until 2030.

Sedgefield Town Council determined that a Neighbourhood Plan should be developed for Sedgefield on behalf of the community. Creation of the Plan, now known as The Sedgefield Plan, was awarded to an independent Steering Group consisting of a variety of individuals from the community. The Steering Group is comprised of individuals with different backgrounds, interests, skills and points of view to reflect the diversity within Sedgefield. The Sedgefield Plan will focus on five key areas:

- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Economy
- Community Development
- Environment

In November 2013, Sedgefield Steering Group commissioned independent market research agency, Public Knowledge, to undertake a research project examining the opinions of the inhabitants of Sedgefield to assist in the creation of the Sedgefield Plan. The Steering Group appointed Public Knowledge as an independent objective research company to conduct the study with those who live and work within Sedgefield.

The research was aimed at:

- Understanding the character and needs of Sedgefield as a community.
- Understanding the perceived impact that a new housing development would have on the community, its infrastructure and facilities.
- Understanding the concerns of the community in relation to the expansion of Sedgefield.
- Understanding where additional investment will be required in the future.

This report outlines the key findings of the research.

3. Methodology

A mixed methodological approach employing both a self-completion and online survey was utilised in order to collect a robust data sample. This approach offered flexibility to participants in terms of completion and also a cost effective solution to data collection.

A questionnaire, approximately 8-10 minutes in length, was designed by the Steering Group in collaboration with Public Knowledge. A copy of this questionnaire can be seen in Appendix 8.1.

Hard copy questionnaires were printed and distributed by the Steering Group directly to 2,400 households in Sedgefield and its designated area. Completed questionnaires were returned to central collection points throughout the town. An online link to the questionnaire was hosted on the Sedgefield Plan website (www.sedgefieldplan.co.uk) and responses were automatically logged on Public Knowledge's internal servers.

The survey was promoted by the Steering Group in the Northern Echo, through posters in the community and online via social media including Twitter.

The hard copy and online surveys were launched together on the 15th January 2014 with the data collection period closing on the 31st January 2014.

In total, 665 surveys were completed. 31% of the sample responded to the survey online (n=203) and 69% completed a hard copy questionnaire (n=462). 665 responses equates to 11.6% of Sedgefield's population (based on 2011 Census figures of Sedgefield's 16+ population). Confidence in data increases as sample size increases. Overall confidence in the data set as a whole is very reliable, with a margin of error of +/-3.75% based on a 95% confidence level.

4. Data Processing and Analysis

The self-completion questionnaires were input at our head offices in Hexham and 20% of the data input by each individual was checked for accuracy. These responses were merged with those from the online survey and data for the open questions was input into researcher developed code frames.

Throughout the report the research findings have been illustrated using easy to read colour charts, which provide an immediately accessible graphical overview of the answers given by respondents. The charts are clearly labelled and the corresponding question from the questionnaire included at the bottom of each chart for ease of reference, in addition to the 'base' or sample size for each question. Please note the base sizes for some questions vary from the full sample size. This is due to the use of a self-completion methodology which led to missing data/responses for some questions.

Within this report any mention of 'significance' refers to statistical significance. Statistical significance is used to refer to a result that is unlikely to have occurred by chance and in this case is tested using Pearson's chi-square. Significance can be calculated to different percentages, with higher percentages representing more noteworthy responses.

Respondent data was assessed for statistical significance according to the following variables:

- Gender – male, female
- Age – 16-25, 26-35, 36-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+
- Grouped age – 16-35, 36-54, 55-74, 75+
- Relationship to Sedgefield – Live in Sedgefield, Work in Sedgefield, Commute to Sedgefield, Commute from Sedgefield
- Children under 16 in household – yes, no
- Awareness of proposed development – yes, no, can't remember

The data is presented graphically in all cases and any notable variations by the variables listed above have been discussed in the text. Please note, where 0% is charted this represents a number of respondents less than 1% of the sample.

5. Key Findings

5.1. Demographics

Table 1 shows a breakdown of the key demographics of the survey sample.

Table 1: Primary Demographics

Demographics characteristics		No. of responses	%
Gender	Male	299	45%
	Female	358	54%
	Non-response	4	1%
Age	16-25 years	10	2%
	26-35 years	63	10%
	36-44 years	78	12%
	45-54 years	79	12%
	55-64 years	122	18%
	65-74 years	225	34%
	75+ years	83	13%
	Non-response	1	0%

As shown within Table 1, a slightly higher proportion of females responded to the survey than males and overall the mean age of the sample is high at 58.6 years, reflecting the higher proportion of responses received from those aged 55 years and above (65%).

Table 2 shows the key demographics of the sample as compared to the 2011 Census data for Sedgefield. As can be seen, the survey data is heavily skewed towards an older population (65% aged 55 years and above compared to 45% in the Census figures).

Table 2: Census and Sample Comparison

Demographic		Census %	Number of Interviews Achieved	Respondent %
Gender	Male	49%	299	45%
	Female	51%	358	54%
	Non-respondent	-	4	1%
Age	16-25 years	10%	10	2%
	26-35 years	11%	63	10%
	36-44 years	16%	78	12%
	45-54 years	18%	79	12%
	55-64 years	19%	122	18%
	65-74 years	15%	225	34%
	75+ years	11%	83	13%
	Non-respondent	-	1	0%
Total		100%	661	100%

To ensure the data is representative of the Sedgefield population, survey data was weighted in line with Census figures (the weighting specification is outlined in Table 3).

Table 3: Weighting Specification

Demographic		Census %
Gender	Male	49%
	Female	51%
Age	16-35 years	21%
	36-54 years	34%
	55-74 years	34%
	75+ years	11%

Table 4 shows the secondary demographics of the sample including employment and disability status.

Table 4: Secondary Demographics

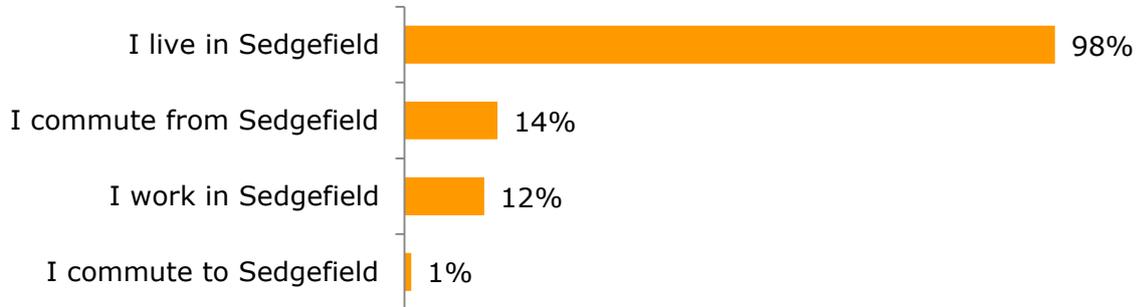
Demographics characteristics		%
Disability	Yes	18%
	No	82%
Employment status	Employed full-time	41%
	Retired	37%
	Employed part-time	13%
	Full-time homemaker	4%
	Disabled or too ill to work	1%
	Unemployed - looking for work	1%
	Student	1%
	Unemployed - not looking for work	0%
	Full-time carer	0%
	Prefer not to say	1%
Non-response	1%	

In line with the age of the sample just under one fifth of respondents said that they themselves, or someone within their family, has a disability (18%).

More than half of the sample are in full-time (41%) or part-time (13%) employment. Almost two-fifths are retired, which directly reflects the fact that Sedgefield has an older population in general (37%). Only 1% stated that they were unemployed, reflecting the low levels of unemployment within the Sedgefield area in general compared to the current national rate of 7.2%.

As Figure 1 indicates, the majority of the sample live within Sedgefield (98%) itself and therefore responses within the survey are principally those of residents. 10% of the sample commutes from Sedgefield and 10% work within Sedgefield itself.

Figure 1: Relationship to Sedgefield

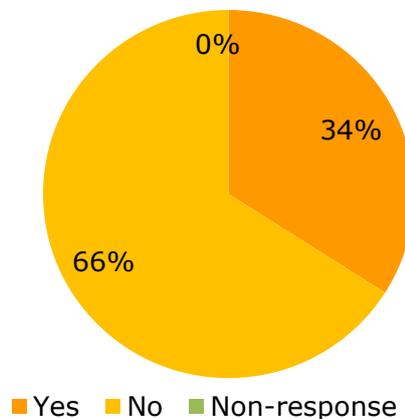


S4. Which of the following best describes your situation?

Base: All respondents - 661

Analysis of household composition (Figure 2) shows that only 22% of respondents have children under the age of 16 currently living within their household.

Figure 2: Children under 16 in household



S6. Do you have any children under 16 in your household?

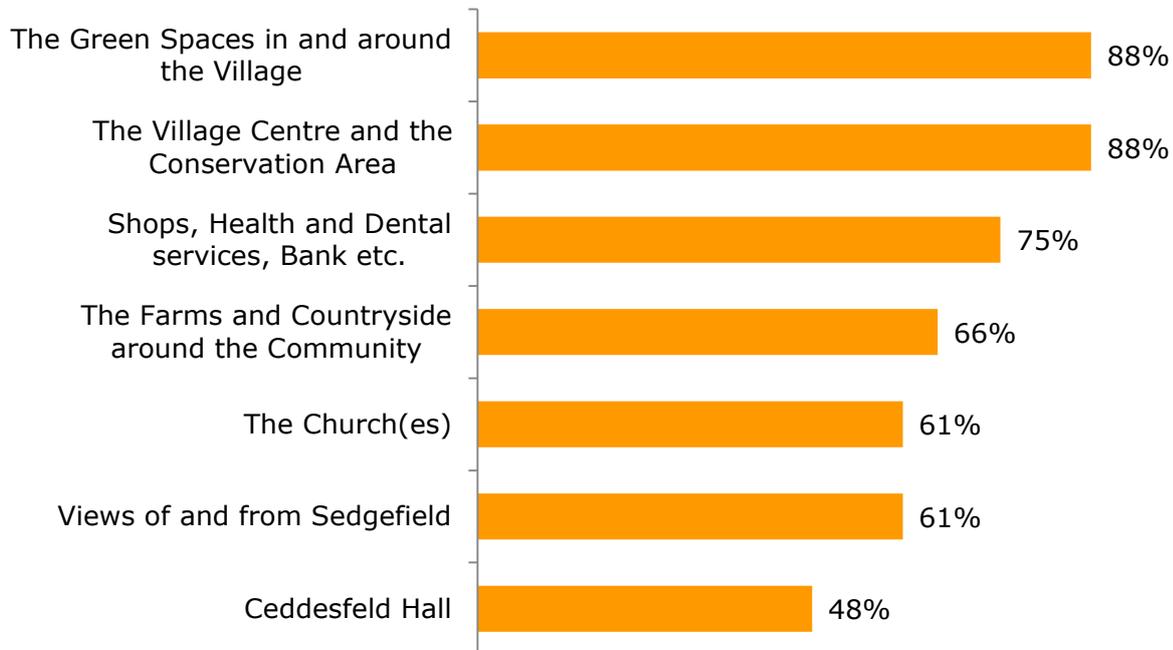
Base: All respondents - 665

Family composition data reinforces the image of Sedgefield as an area with an ageing population and those aged 16-44 years were significantly more likely to have children under the age of 16 in their household.

5.2. Character of Sedgefield

To establish the character of Sedgefield and the priorities of residents, survey participants were firstly asked to select what they feel the most important characteristics of Sedgefield are from a list of options. Responses are shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Characteristics of Sedgefield



Q1. What do you think are the most important characteristics of Sedgefield?

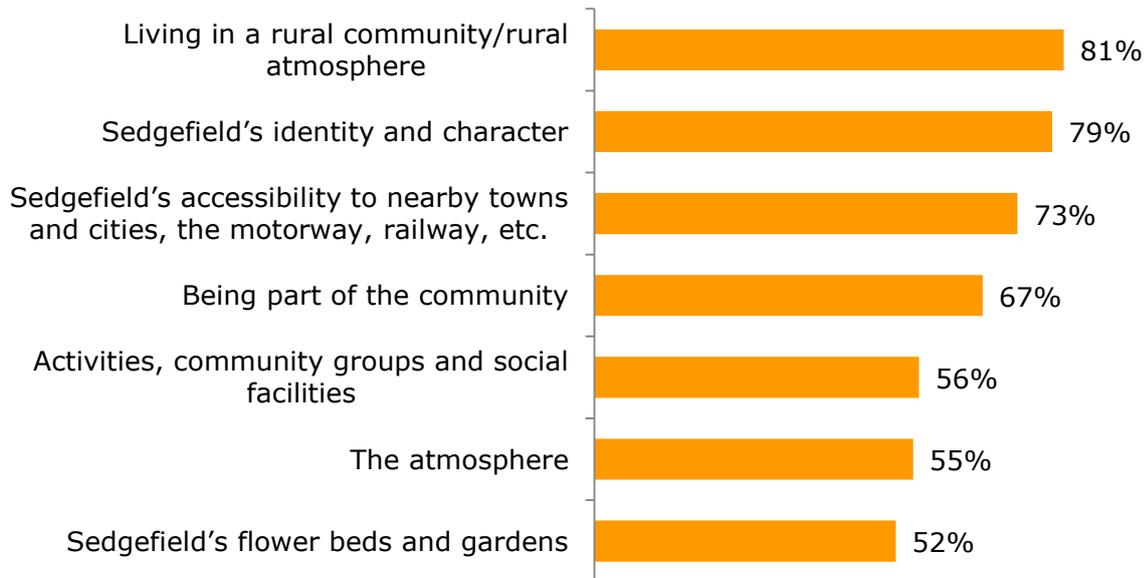
Base: All respondents - 658

It is clear that the physical characteristics of Sedgefield, including its rural location, are particularly important to the local population, with the green spaces around Sedgefield (88%) and the village centre and conservation area (88%) each mentioned as important by 88% of the sample respectively. Less important to the character of Sedgefield, in the opinion of survey participants, are the churches (61%), views of and from Sedgefield (61%) and Ceddesfeld Hall (48%).

Whilst older participants (55-74 years) were significantly more likely to think all of the listed characteristics are important to the character of Sedgefield (with the exception of Ceddesfeld Hall and the farms and countryside), younger respondents (16-25 years) were only significantly more likely to name the village centre and conservation area as important to the character of Sedgefield.

Respondents were then asked specifically what they like most about living in Sedgefield (Figure 4). The data in Figure 4 again emphasises the importance of Sedgefield as a rural community to residents, with 'living in a rural community/rural atmosphere' the primary thing survey participants like about living in the area (81%). Participants also like Sedgefield's identity and character (79%) and its accessibility to nearby towns, cities and infrastructure systems (73%).

Figure 4: Living in Sedgefield



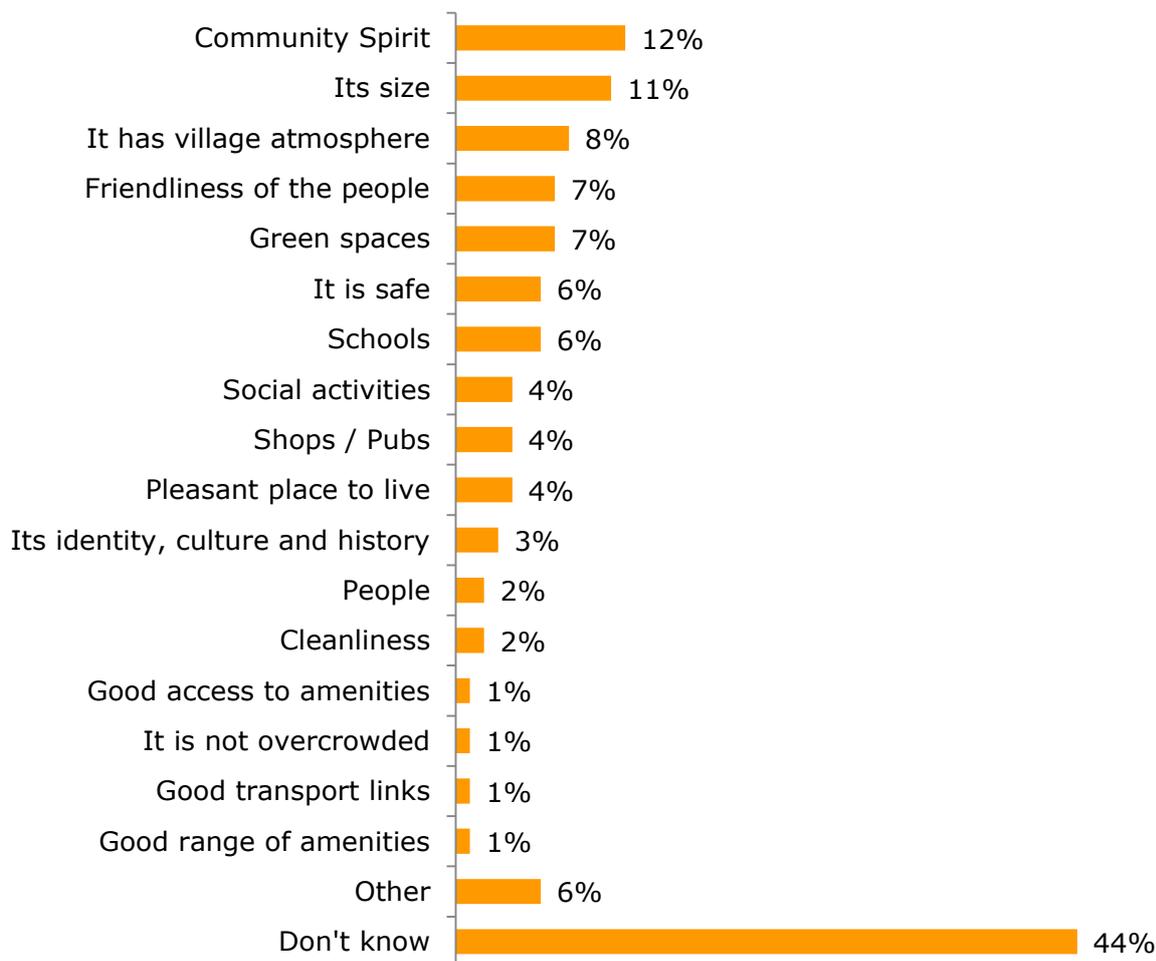
Q2. What do you most like about living in Sedgefield?

Base: All respondents - 658

Despite clear overall preferences with regard to Sedgefield's rural location, identity, character and accessibility, some demographic difference are notable. Females were significantly more likely to like being part of the community in Sedgefield (73%) and those aged 55-64 years were significantly more likely to like the town's accessibility (82%).

Respondents were then asked in an open question if there was anything else they like about living in Sedgefield. In the majority, respondents repeated response options from previous questions. From responses to this question it is clear that the sense of community and atmosphere within Sedgefield is the thing that participants like most about living in the area, with 12% referencing the community spirit, 11% the size of Sedgefield, 8% the village atmosphere and 7% the friendliness of the people.

Figure 5: Other responses



Q3. Is there anything else you like about living in Sedgfield?

Base: All respondents - 665

The impression of a small interwoven community was widespread in responses:

"Friendliness and helpfulness of others in the village. A great community spirit."

"For a small town, it has a village-like atmosphere. There is also an excellent community spirit and many people participate in clubs and societies, especially those supported by the Sedgfield Community Association in Ceddesfeld Hall. Crime rates and anti-social behaviour are relatively low, perhaps partly because of the excellent community spirit."

Other aspects that respondents like about Sedgfield include the safe environment (6%) which in the eyes of many is directly connected to the community atmosphere:

"The community atmosphere makes it feel like a nice safe place to live."

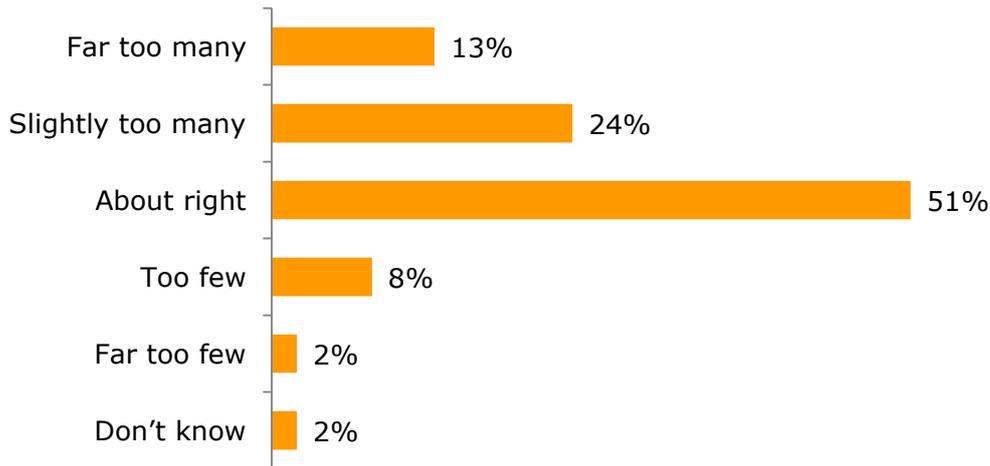
The results suggest that Sedgfield currently has a well-defined character and identity; strongly informed by the layout of the village and the surrounding landscape. These

features create the rural atmosphere, which is judged to be crucial to the character of the area.

5.3. Housing Stock

Within the next section of the survey participants were asked about Sedgefield's current and future housing stock. Firstly participants were asked how they feel about the number of homes in Sedgefield. Responses are shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Current Housing Stock - Size



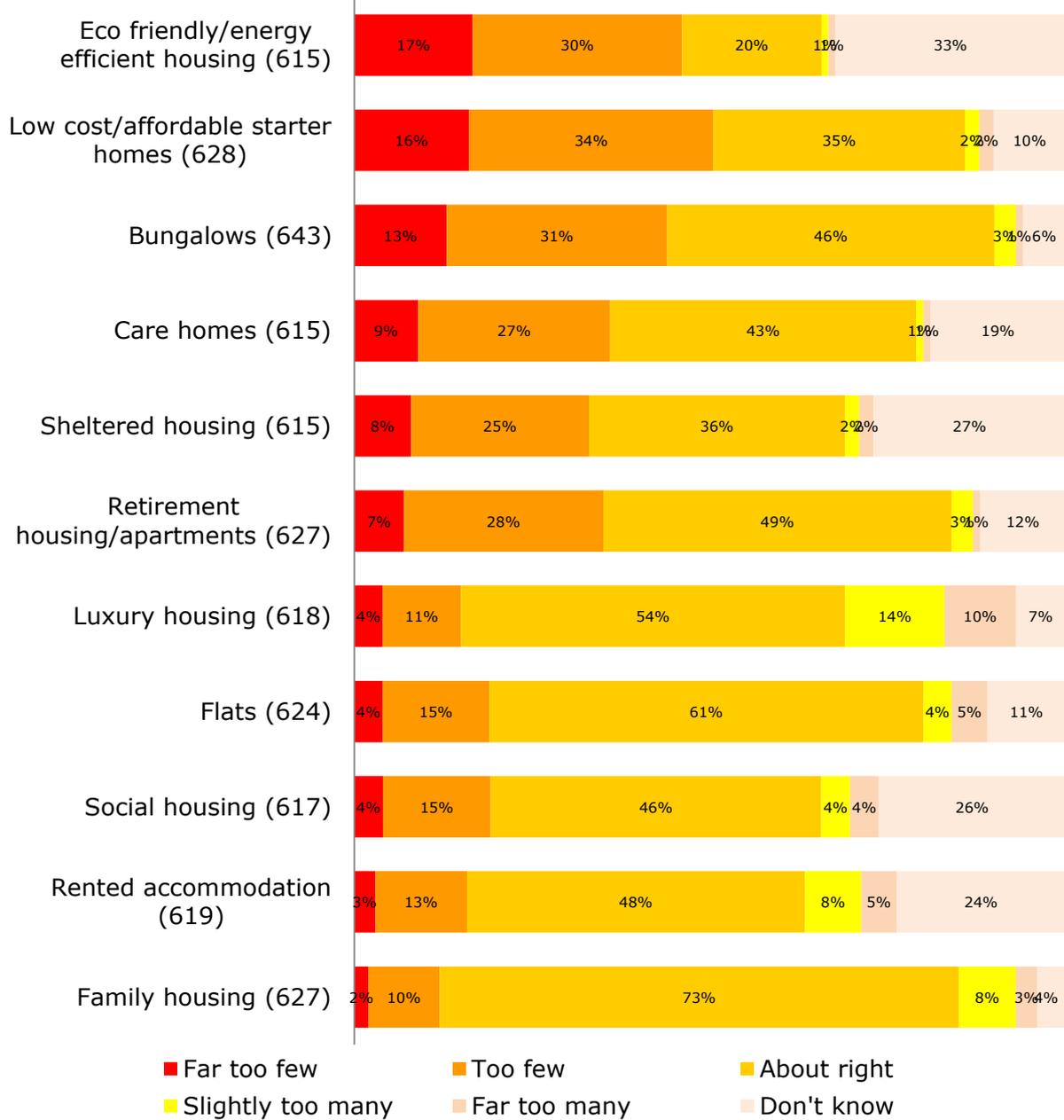
Q4. How do you feel about the number of homes in Sedgefield?

Base: All respondents - 654

Over half of the sample are satisfied with the current number of houses in Sedgefield (53%), with only 10% saying there are too few and over a third (37%) saying there are too many. Some demographic differences in response were evident although somewhat surprisingly these were gender rather than age based. Females were significantly more likely to think Sedgefield has far too many properties (16%), whereas males were significantly more likely to think the town has too few (11%).

Participants were then asked how they feel about the current housing stock of Sedgefield with regard to composition (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Current Housing Composition



Q5. How would you rate the current composition of housing in Sedgefield?

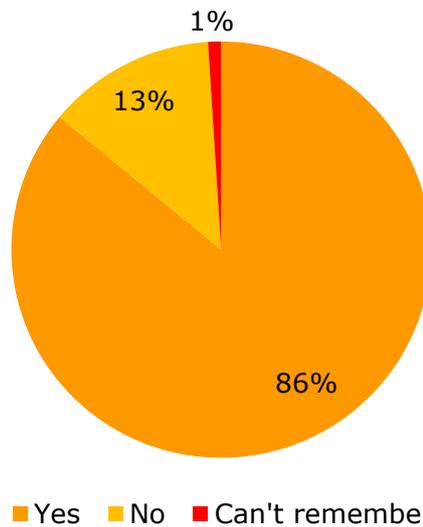
Bases are shown by each option

Housing types which participants feel are lacking in Sedgefield include eco friendly/energy efficient housing (47%), low cost affordable starter homes (52%), bungalows (44%) and care homes (36%). Respondents were most likely to think there are sufficient family homes

(73%), flats (61%) and luxury homes (54%). Opinions on Sedgefield’s current housing stock are clearly related to the current demographic composition of the area and those without children under 16 in the household were significantly more likely to think there are ‘too few’ or ‘far too few’ residential options for older people, including retirement housing (40%) and care homes (40%).

Participants were also asked specifically about the proposed housing development for Sedgefield which is part of the County Durham Local Plan. Respondents were firstly told: *“Durham County Council has proposed development of 450 new houses on a site within Sedgefield to the south of Eden Drive as part of the County Durham Local Plan”*. Respondents were then asked if they were aware of the proposed development prior to participating in the survey (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Awareness of the Proposed Housing Development



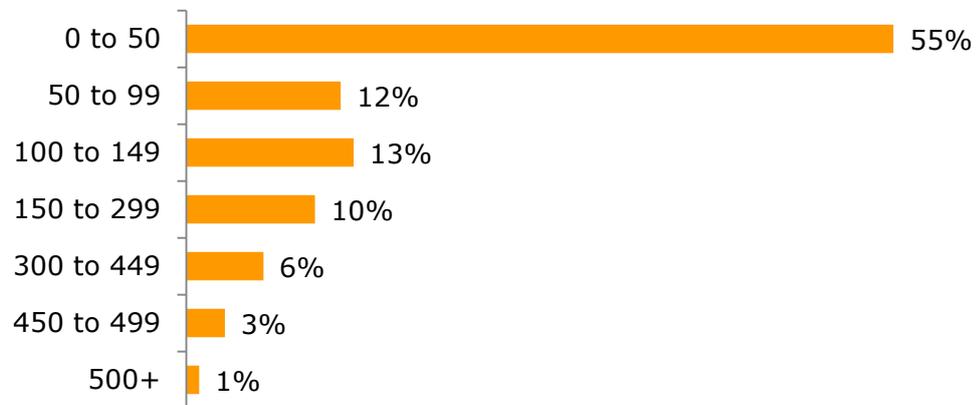
Q6. Were you aware of the proposed housing development before reading about it in this survey?

Base: All respondents - 662

The majority of respondents were aware of the proposed housing development prior to the survey (86%), with only a tenth (13%) unaware. Not only was awareness high but there was also no demographics bias with all demographics groups equally aware of the proposed housing development.

Respondents were next asked a range of detailed questions in relation to housing development in Sedgefield; firstly how many new houses they would like to see developed. Responses are shown in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Preferred housing development - size



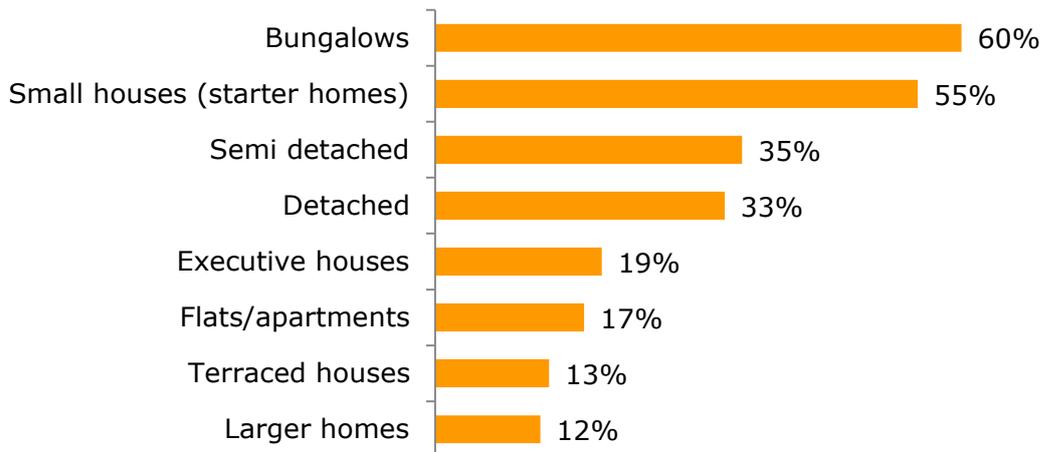
Q7. How many houses would you like to see built?

Base: All respondents - 646

It is clear from the responses shown in Figure 9 that a large proportion of the survey sample would like to see limited development of new housing in the Sedgefield area. Over half of the sample (55%) said they would like to see between 0 and 50 houses built. In line with their appreciation of Sedgefield’s small rural community atmosphere, females were significantly more likely to wish to see limited development of between 0 and 50 houses. In contrast males were significantly more likely to want to see between 300 and 449 houses built.

Survey participants were also asked about the type of accommodation they would like to see built (Figure 10). Bungalows were the most popular suggested build type, with three-fifths of the sample selecting this option (60%). This was closely followed by small houses/starter homes (55%). The least popular forms of housing selected were terraced houses (13%) and larger homes (12%). Preferred build types largely reflected those which participants feel are under-represented in Sedgefield’s current housing stock.

Figure 10: Preferred housing development - type



Q8. Please select which types of accommodation you would like to see built in Sedgefield?

Base: All respondents - 605

Unsurprisingly, older respondents were significantly more likely to select bungalows as the type of housing they would like to see built (75% of 55-74 year olds and 78% of those aged 75 years and above). In contrast younger participants (those aged 16-35 years) were significantly more likely to select larger homes (20%).

It is worth noting that the base size for this question (Q8) is 9% lower than the full sample. This is potentially a result of a proportion of respondents who do not wish to see the development of any housing in the area. Indeed, when asked why they had selected their particular housing type at Q8, 11% of respondents stated that Sedgefield does not require new housing. Some verbatim comments with regard to this issue are shown below:

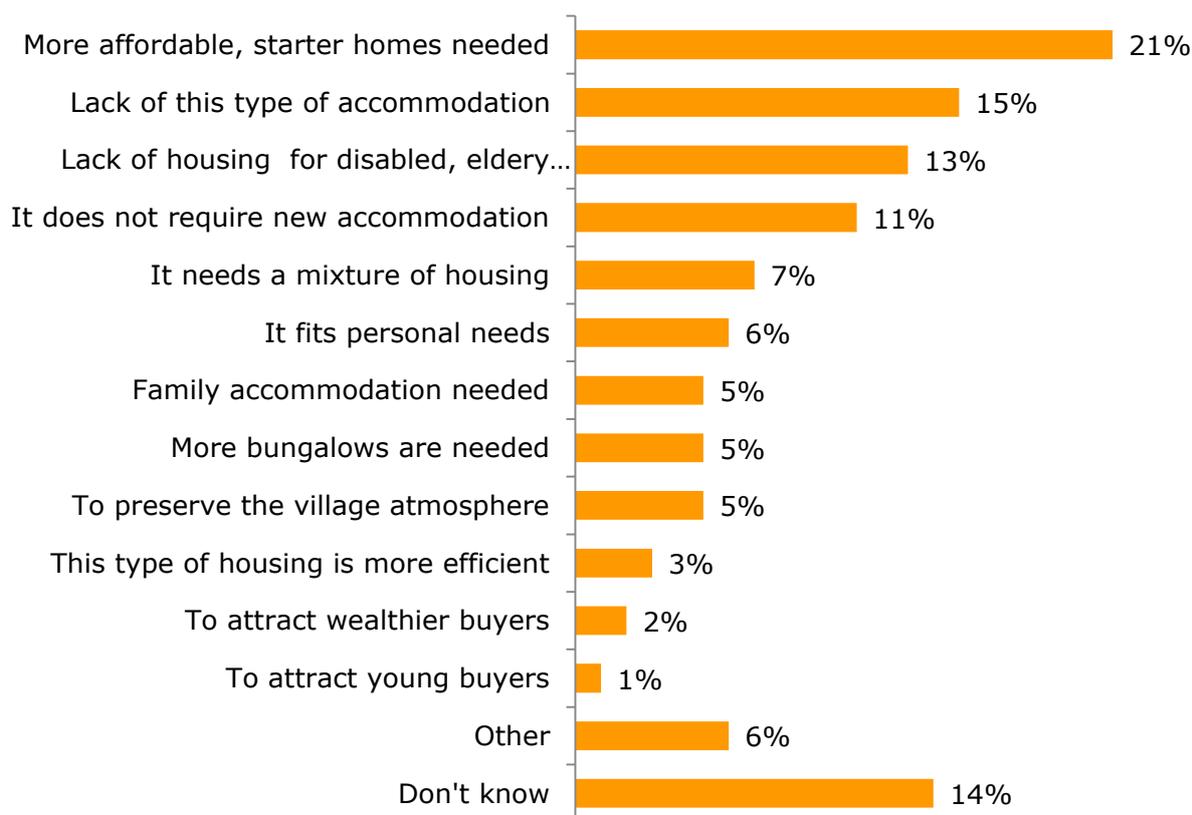
"There is no need for further houses to be built as the current infrastructure could not support it."

"I don't want to see any built but there is no option for that."

Rationale behind individuals' preferred housing type was mixed and directly related the type of housing they had selected. Over a fifth of the sample (21%) cited that more affordable starter homes are needed in the area. This was a concern shared by young people, local to the area, who wish to buy property in Sedgefield.

"Having lived in Sedgefield almost 30 years it would actually be nice to be able to live where I was brought up but currently flats/starter housing is almost non-existent. Any starter homes/flats are bought up by property developers and rented back to the community instead of being sold directly to the people who live here."

Figure 11: Rationale behind Choice



Q9. Why have you selected this particular type of accommodation?

Base: All respondents - 665

The perceived lack of housing provision for elderly and disabled people was also a prevalent theme amongst responses (13%). Respondents feel that elderly people should be able to downsize but still have options to live in the Sedgefield area.

"Elderly but independent residents need to downsize and preferably live in bungalows."

It is clear from responses that participants feel Sedgefield faces the potential problem of an ageing empty nest population who cannot move from their family homes. Additionally young people born in the area are priced out of the local property market due to lack of affordable housing. Residents are aware of this problem:

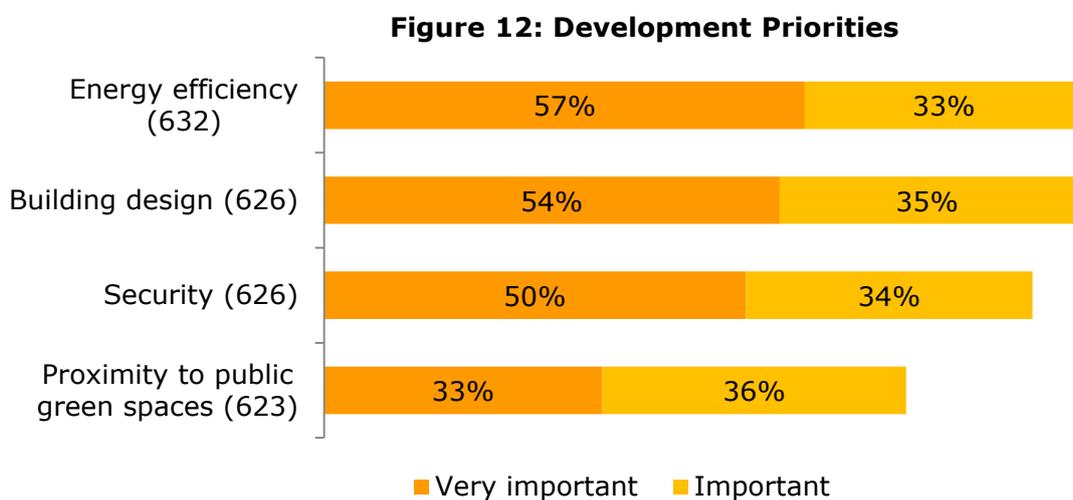
"I don't think there are enough starter homes for young people to get on the property ladder. If there were more bungalows then some people may move out of their larger houses."

"There is a shortage of nice detached bungalows and also starter homes for our young people. Currently anything affordable is bought up by private landlords who seem to be very popular with certain estate agents and given priority and inside info."

Although many respondents are against large scale expansion of housing, it is clear that housing is needed to meet the needs of the town in the future and participants are aware of this. Although the expansion of Sedgefield may not be desirable for some residents, others view this expansion from a practical point of view and would like to see the development of a mix of property types to enable Sedgefield to grow in a positive and sustainable way.

"We need a mix of housing to maintain the village feel, we need more bungalows for retired people, we need more executive housing to attract wealthy families to the village, we need more starter homes to keep young people in the village."

Finally participants were asked to rate the importance of a number of factors relating to new home builds. Responses are shown in Figure 12.



Q10. How important do you think each of the following are to the development of new homes?

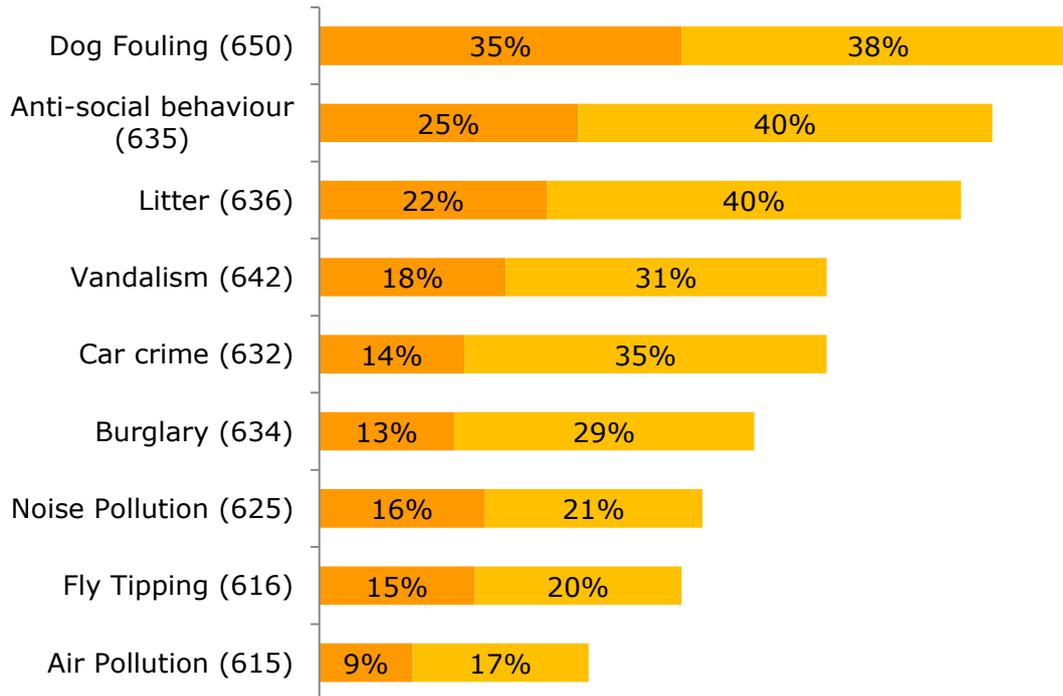
Bases are shown by each option

Participants feel the most important considerations should be energy efficiency (90% rated as 'very important' or 'important') and build design (89% rated as 'very important' or 'important'). Despite being rated third in importance overall, security was significantly more likely to be rated as very important by female respondents (56%). Proximity to public green spaces was rated as least important of the four options, although 69% of the sample does feel this is important or very important to the development of new homes.

5.4. Environment, Community and Infrastructure

Within the next section of the questionnaire participants were asked a range of questions relating to the environment, community and infrastructure of Sedgefield. Firstly participants were asked to what extent they agree or disagree that each of a list of issues currently cause concern in Sedgefield. Figure 13 charts 'strongly agree' and 'agree' responses given by survey participants.

Figure 13: Environmental and social concerns



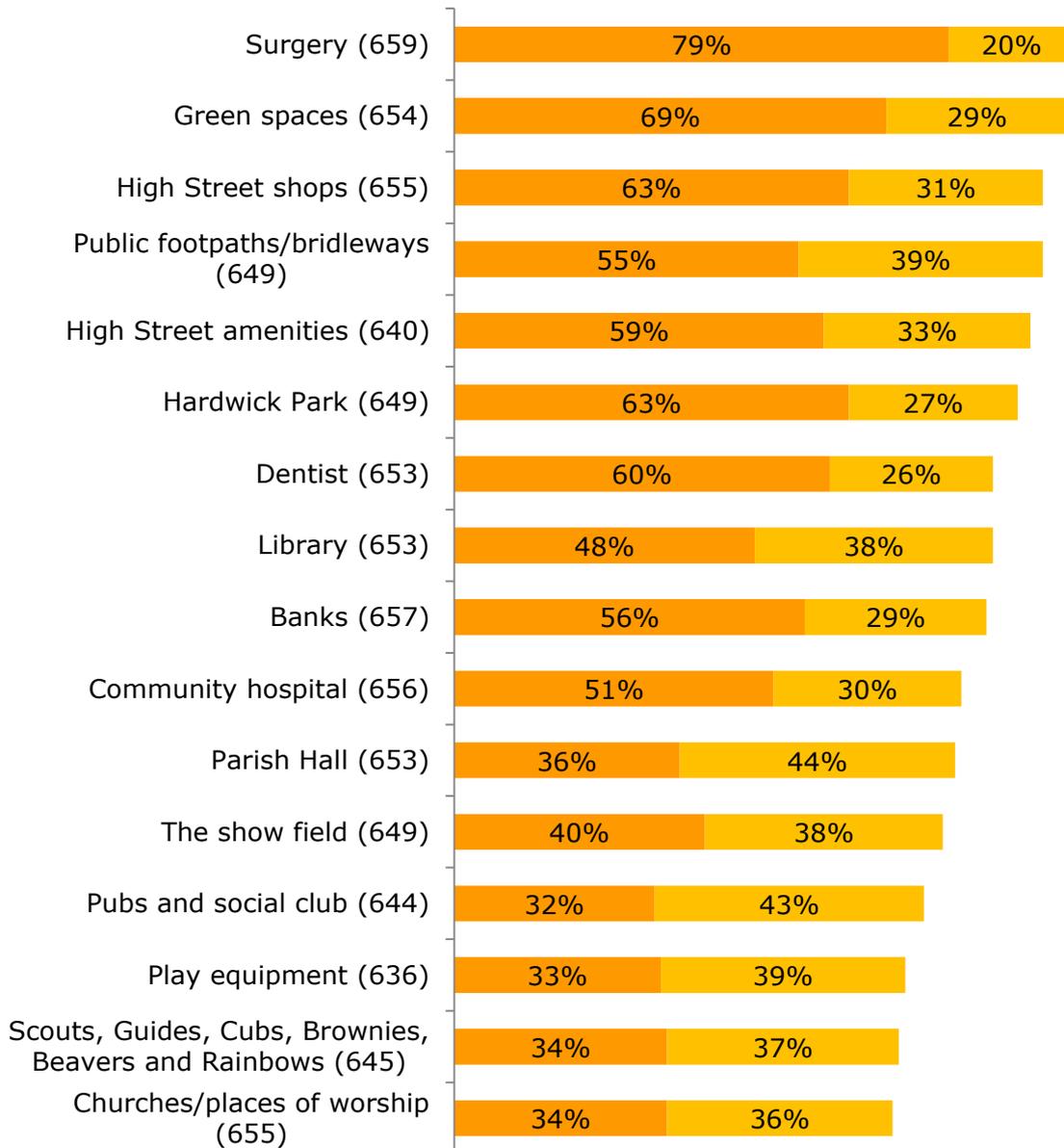
Q11. To what extent would you agree or disagree that each of the following currently cause you concern in Sedgefield?

Bases are shown by each option

Environmental and social concerns of respondents are primarily locally based issues and dog fouling (73%), anti-social behaviour (65%) and litter (62%) were the top concerns expressed. In particular these were concerns of older respondents aged 55 years and above. The major social and environmental concerns for participants are at a personal if not local level, showing that the interests of the sample are largely close to home.

Respondents were then asked to rate how important a range of facilities within Sedgefield are to themselves and their family. Figures 14a and 14b chart the ratings given by participants (please note only the 'very important' and 'important' responses have been charted).

Figure 14a: Facilities



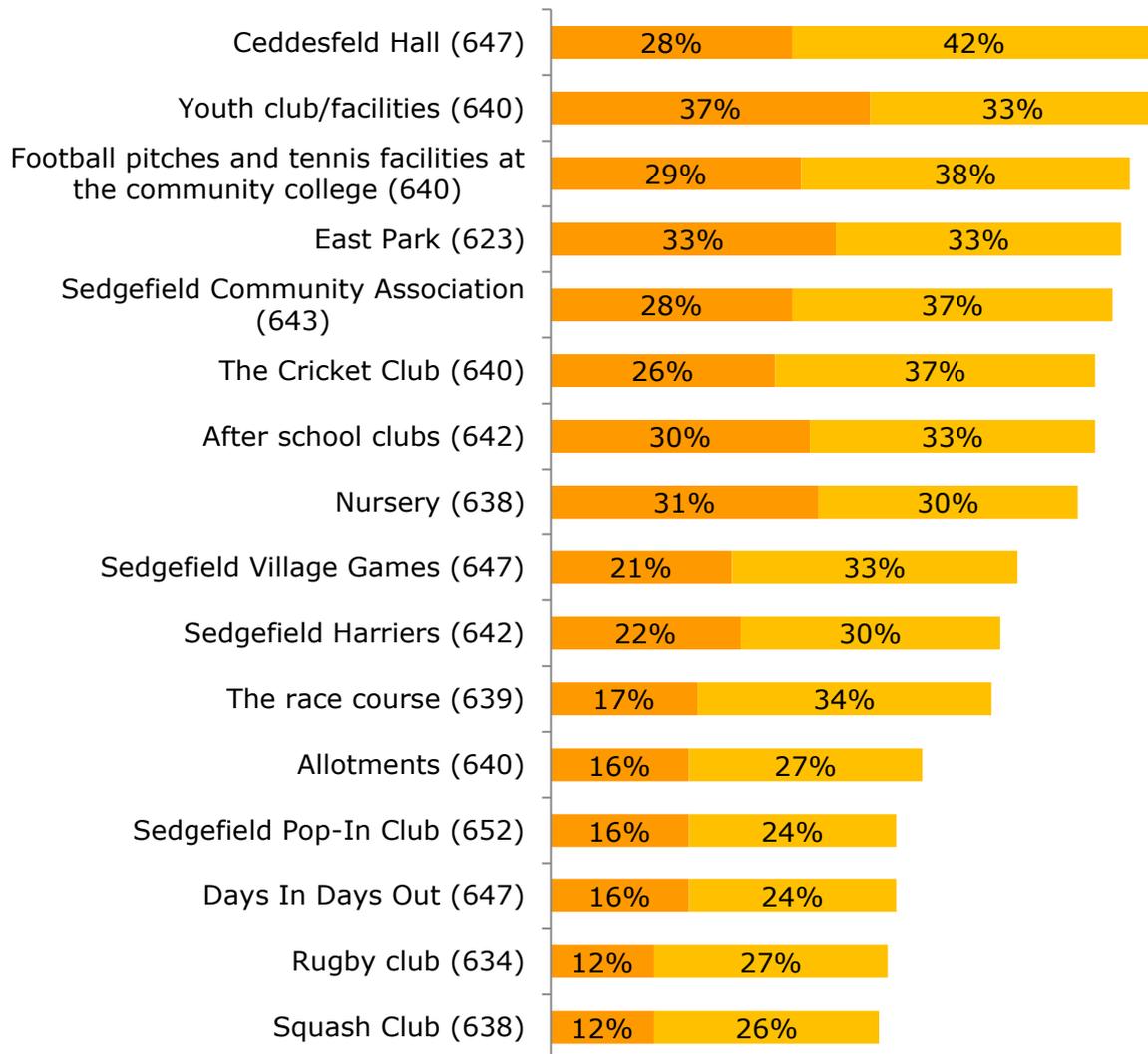
Q12. How important to you and your family are the following activities and facilities in Sedgefield?

Bases are shown by each option

The most important facility, as rated by survey participants, is the surgery with 99% rating it as 'important' or 'very important' to themselves and their family. The second most important facility was deemed to be the green spaces (98% rated as 'important' or 'very important'). The facilities that are considered to be the most important are those that

benefit the community through a service or those that contribute to the overall atmosphere of Sedgefield.

Figure 14b: Facilities



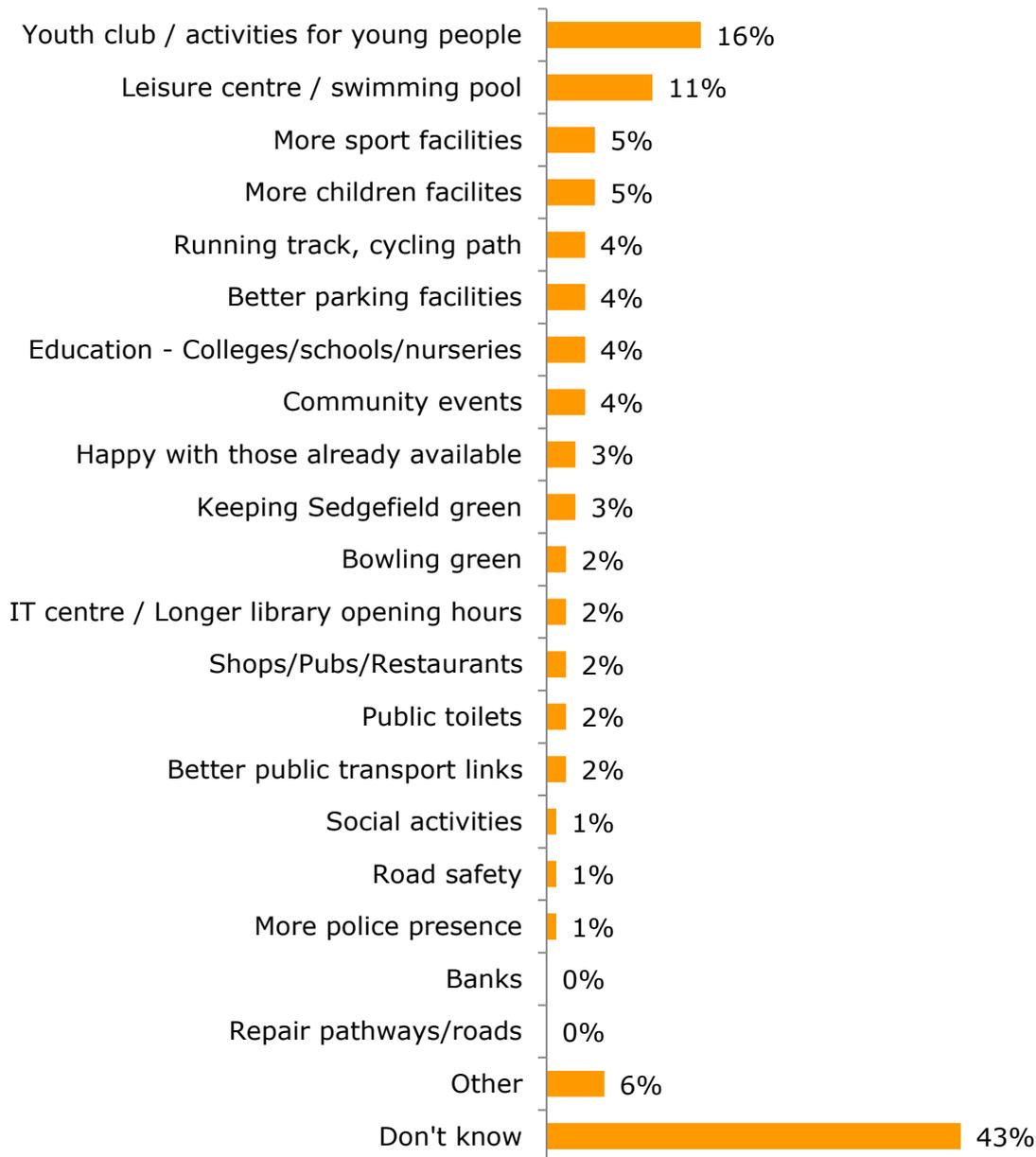
Q12. How important to you and your family are the following activities and facilities in Sedgefield?

Bases are shown by each option

Facilities that were generally judged to be less important were sporting facilities and those aimed primarily at children and young people, these included Sedgefield Pop-In Club, Days In Days Out, the rugby club and the squash club. In general the importance of facilities is linked to use of and need for them. Those with children under 16 in their household were significantly more likely to rate sports and young people’s facilities as very important and important.

Figure 14c displays responses given when respondents were asked if there was any additional facilities they would like to see developed.

Figure 14c: Future Investment of facilities



Q12a. Which other facilities/services would you like to see the community invest in?

Base: All respondents - 665

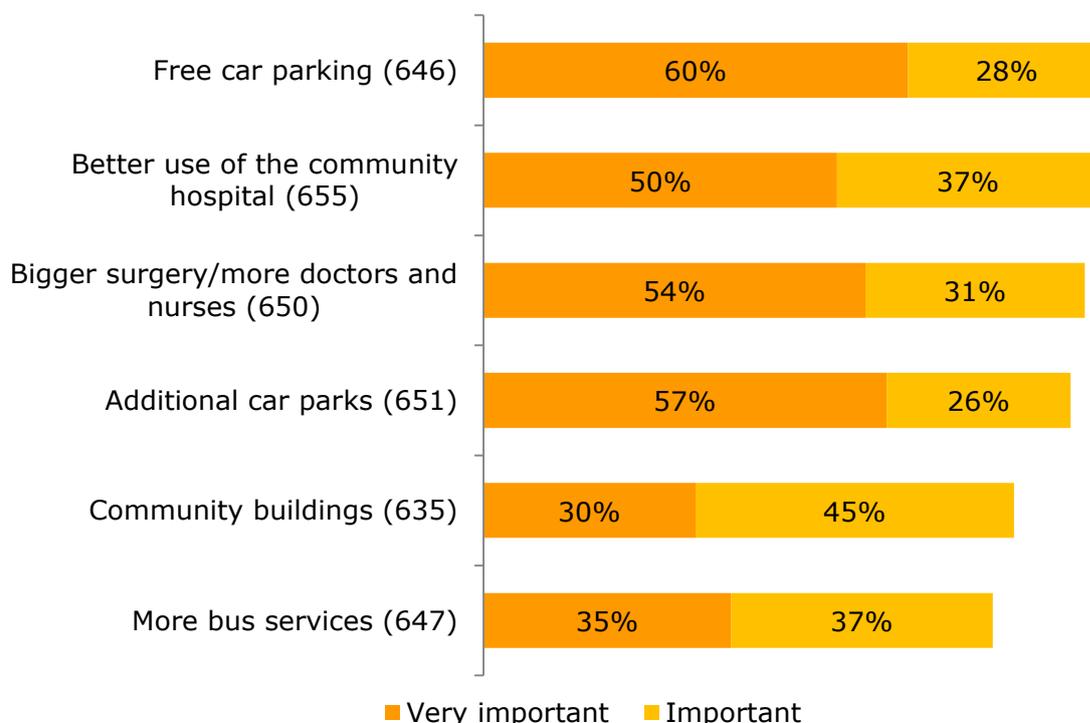
Respondents named a range of other facilities they would like to see the community invest in, however in the majority these centred around facilities for young people (including young clubs, children’s facilities and education) and sports facilities (including a leisure centre, a running track and a bowling green). Better parking facilities were also named spontaneously by survey participants as a facility worth investment.

"More facilities for the young of the community, the teenagers have nowhere to go we need to invest in things for the youth."

"A Youth Club is an absolute priority if we are to provide facilities for our young people - to encourage social inclusion and to discourage vandalism and anti-social behaviour. As the town expands, it would be good to have a Leisure Centre/ Gym of some kind and an indoor heated swimming pool would be wonderful."

Participants were then asked to rate how important each of a list of facilities would be to the community as Sedgefield grows ('very important' and 'important' responses given by participants are shown in Figure 15).

Figure 15: Importance of facilities



Q13. How important do you think each of the following facilities/amenities will be as Sedgefield grows?

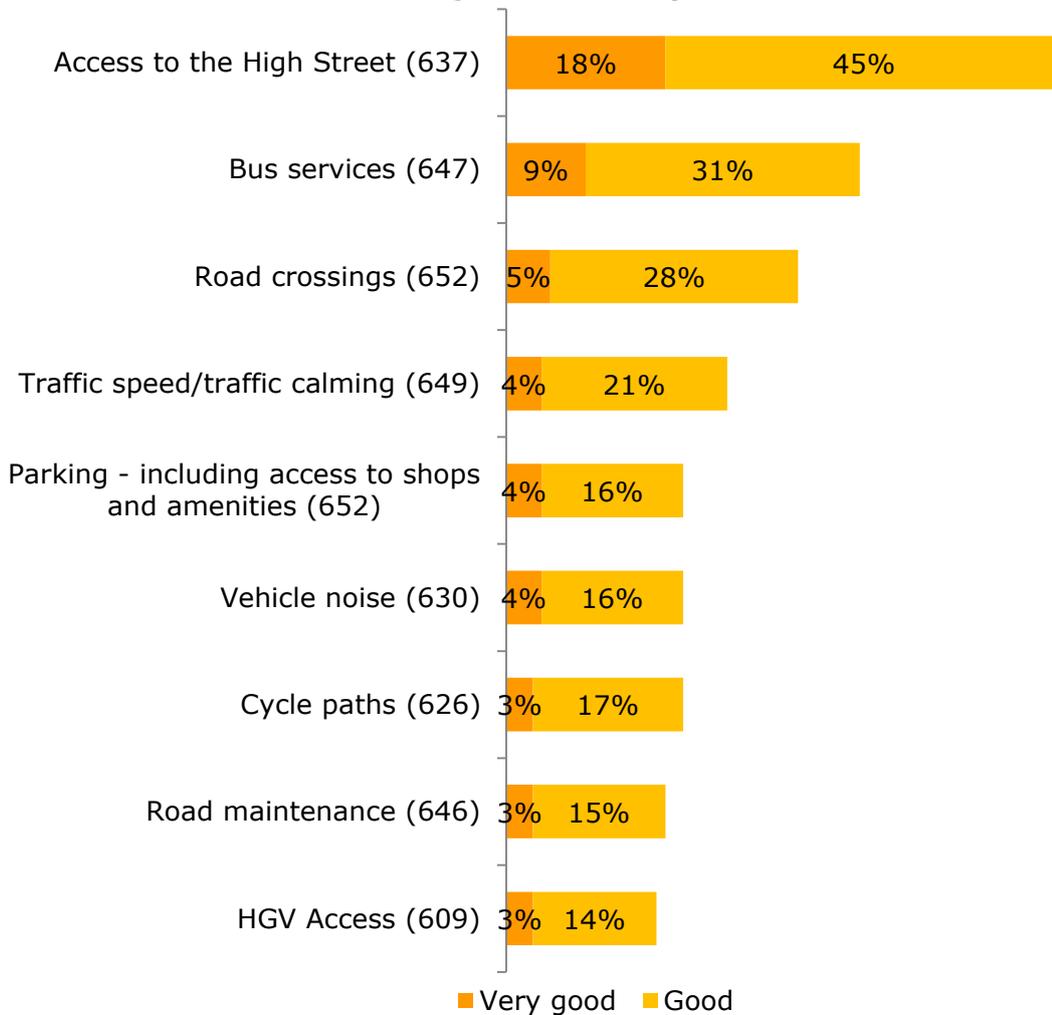
Bases are shown by each option

Facilities viewed to be the most important and requiring the greatest investments are logistical and infrastructure provisions. Parking concerns were prevalent, particularly amongst older people and females, with 88% rating free car parking as 'very important' or 'important' as Sedgefield grows and 83% rating additional car parks as important.

Health facilities were also deemed to be important by participants, again particularly amongst females. As Sedgefield grows, greater healthcare facilities will be required at both surgery and hospital level.

Satisfaction with current transport facilities is varied across the sample as Figure 16 indicates. Accessibility to the High Street currently holds the highest satisfaction amongst respondents and 63% of respondents currently rate access to the High Street as 'very good' or 'good'.

Figure 16: Transport facilities



Q14. How would you rate the *current* transport facilities in Sedgefield?

Bases are shown by each option

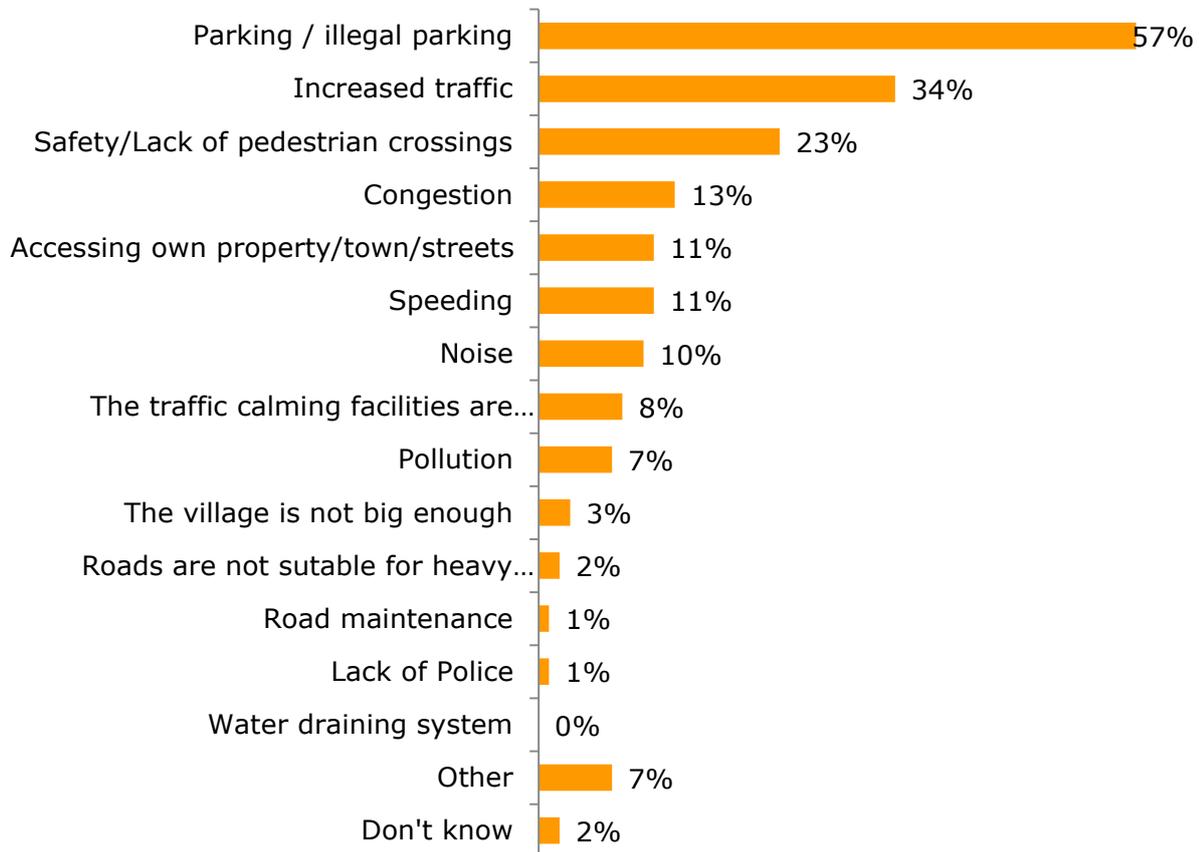
Currently the poorest transport facilities include parking provisions (specifically with regard to accessing shops and amenities), vehicle noise, cycle paths, road maintenance and HGV access. As the weakest current facilities, these are likely to come under increasing pressure as Sedgefield grows and require additional investment.

As the opinion of current transport facilities is mixed it is perhaps unsurprising that 83% of respondents are concerned about the potential impact that the proposed expansion of

Sedgefield will have on traffic and the transport infrastructure. Concerns were most prevalent amongst older respondents; particularly those aged 55-74 years of age (87%).

Participant specific concerns with regard to transport are charted in Figure 17.

Figure 17: Transport facilities



Q15a. What are your concerns?

Base: All respondents with concerns for traffic- 558

In line with responses across other transport related questions, concerns largely focused around the pressure that expansion would place on parking facilities (57%). Other transport related worries focused on the possible increase in traffic (34%), congestion (13%) and the safety of pedestrians (23%). Respondents with children under 16 in their household were significantly more likely to be concerned by the lack of pedestrian crossings within Sedgefield and other road safety issues that may develop from an increase of traffic (31%). Some verbatim comments are shown on the following page.

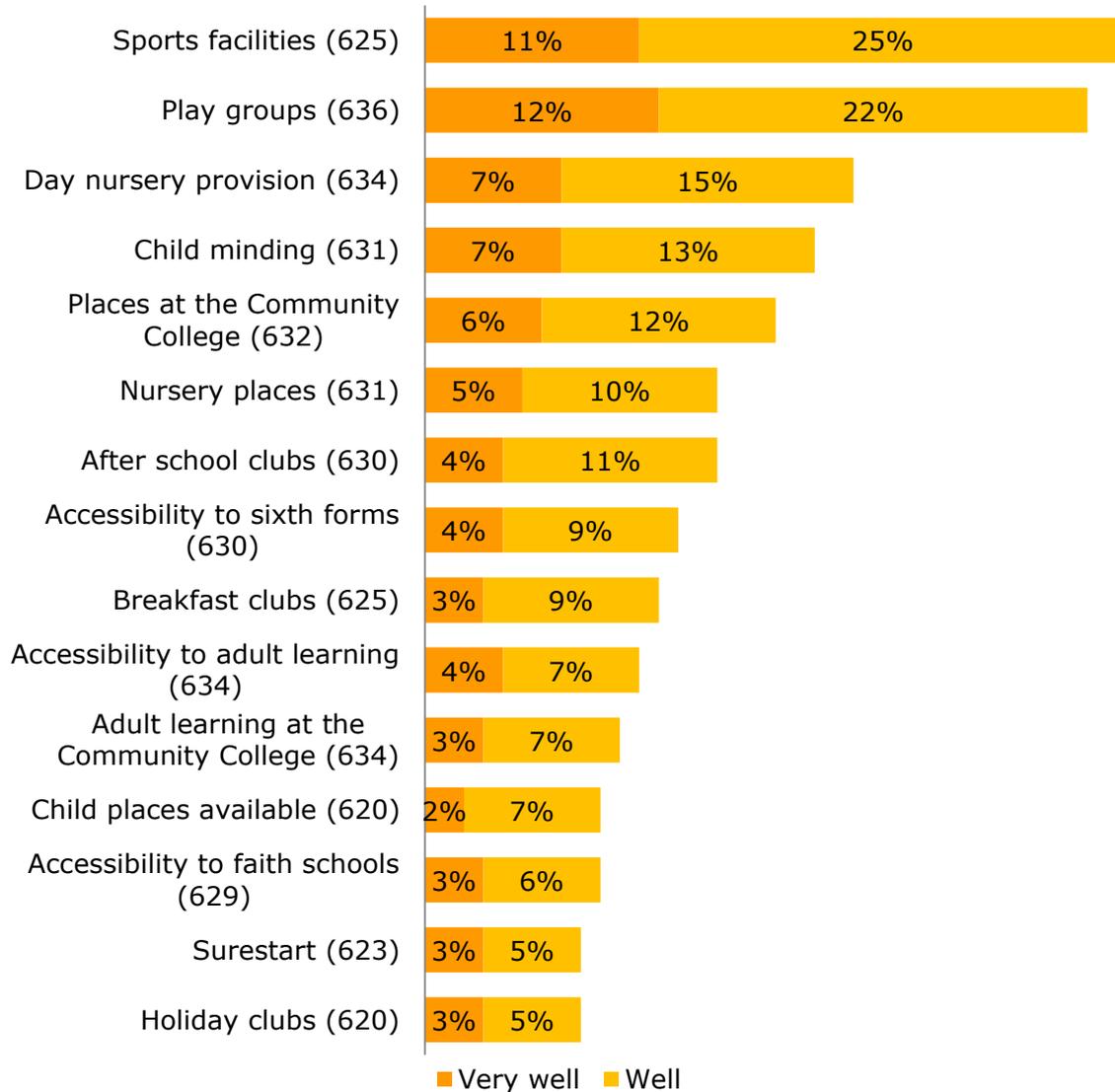
"There is very little parking in the village which given 400 extra homes where will there's park? Where will the school places magically appear from? Where will the extra dental and doctor appointments fit in when we are at bursting point now?"

"Extra vehicles in the village. Currently at school run time this is already a problem, especially as only one lollipop lady crosses children safely over Durham Road. My children attend Rectory Row school, and I feel I couldn't let them walk to school (my older child) alone due to the number of already unsupervised busy roads they need to cross. Parking in the village is already difficult during the daytime. Having being brought up in Sedgefield I can remember a time when hardly any cars would be parked on the main roads (only outside the Hope Inn and doctors surgery) now the village seems littered with cars making crossing roads difficult for all age groups. With extra cars also comes extra noise and pollution another concern."

5.5. Education and Learning Facilities

Finally in the survey participants were asked about education and learning facilities and how well they think Sedgefield is currently serviced. Responses are shown in Figure 18, however it should be noted that due to the age and life stage of a large proportion of the sample, many respondents felt that they were unable to give a relevant opinion on how well Sedgefield is serviced by educational facilities.

Figure 18: Education and Children's facilities



Q16. How well do you think Sedgefield is served with the following education and learning facilities?

Base sizes are shown at each option

Participants feel Sedgefield is currently well-served by sports facilities (36% 'very well' or 'well'), play groups (34% 'very well' and 'well') and day nursery provision (22% 'very well' and 'well').

Sedgefield is felt to be least well served with regard to adult learning at the Community College (10% 'very well' and 'well'), child places available (9% 'very well' and 'well'), accessibility to faith schools (9% 'very well' and 'well'), Surestart (8% 'very well' and 'well') and holiday clubs (8% 'very well' and 'well').

Many participants clearly feel there is a need for starter homes for young families within the Sedgefield area, however if these are developed they are likely to put greater pressure upon the existing education facilities, many of which are already rated fairly poorly by residents.

6. Conclusions

It is clear that residents enjoy the current size and atmosphere of Sedgefield. The green spaces, the atmosphere and the community spirit are widely cited as reasons why residents like living in the area. It is also evident that many do not wish Sedgefield to change, however many survey participants are seemingly aware that the area requires new housing and diverse investment in both existing and new facilities to sustain the area.

Participants are concerned that expansion of housing, at the level proposed, will impact negatively on the area, placing additional strain on transport and health facilities and altering the existing atmosphere. The atmosphere of Sedgefield is considered to be key to its identity. This suggests that all developments within the area must aim to maintain the existing atmosphere and sense of community.

Sedgefield's current population, with regard to demographic profile, are considered to be unsustainable on many levels. Sedgefield appears to have an ageing population who have few available options to down scale to smaller properties whilst staying in the area. It is also perceived that young people from the area who wish to stay are unable to due to rising property prices and the lack of suitable housing in the local area. To enable the housing market to develop and allow Sedgefield to grow as a community, respondents suggest building both bungalows/accommodation suitable for older people and small starter homes to allow more people to gain footing on the property ladder.

Social concerns are primarily those that immediately effect respondents, at either a domestic or local level. The predominant concern of respondents is the impact that the proposed development would have on practical infrastructure. Parking was a widespread concern with the increased car traffic and demand for parking spaces likely to place greater pressure on provisions already perceived to be struggling. Likewise, existing educational facilities are also felt to be lacking in some areas and any growth in the local population is likely to put existing facilities under increasing pressure.

7. Appendices: Questionnaire

Many thanks for agreeing to take part in this survey.

We're interested in your views on the development of Sedgefield community in future years.

This survey will take no more than 8 minutes of your time and we would really appreciate your views.

Please mark your selected responses with tick in the box where appropriate.

To take part in this survey you must be 16 or over and live or work in the Sedgefield area.

All information received is strictly confidential, and will be dealt with in accordance with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct. Completed questionnaires will be processed by an independent market research company, Public Knowledge.

S1. Please enter your postcode

S2. Which of the following age bands applies to you?

- 16-25 years
- 26-35 years
- 36-44 years
- 45-54 years
- 55-64 years
- 65-74 years
- 75+ years

S3. Please select your gender

- Male
- Female

S4. Which of the following best describes your situation?

Please select all that apply

- I live in Sedgefield
- I work in Sedgefield
- I commute to Sedgefield
- I commute from Sedgefield

S5. Which of the following best describes your employment status?

- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Unemployed – looking for work
- Unemployed – not looking for work
- Full-time carer
- Full-time homemaker
- Retired
- Student
- Disabled or too ill to work
- Prefer not to say

S6. Do you have any children under 16 in your household?

- Yes – **GO TO S6a**
- No – **GO TO S7**

S6a. Can you please tell me the ages of any children in your household?

Please indicate how many children you have in each age group

	None	1	2	3	4	5 or more
3 years and under	<input type="checkbox"/>					
4-7 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>					
8-11 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>					
12-15 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>					

The Equality Act 2010 considers a person to be disabled if they have “a mental or physical impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.”

This therefore includes psychological wellbeing, sensory (visual or hearing impairments) as well as other long-term health problems such as diabetes, MS, cancer, etc.

S7. Do you consider yourself, or any member of your family, to have a disability?

- Yes
- No

Q1. What do you think are the most important characteristics of Sedgfield?

Please select all that apply

- The village centre and the conservation area
- The green spaces in and around the village
- Ceddesfeld hall
- The farms and countryside around the community
- The Church (s)
- Shops, Health and dental services, Bank etc.
- Views of and from Sedgfield

Q2. What do you most like about living in Sedgfield?

Please select all that apply

- Being part of the community
- Sedgfield’s identity and character
- Activities, community groups and social facilities
- The atmosphere
- Living in a rural community/rural atmosphere
- Sedgfield’s accessibility to nearby towns and cities, the motorway, railway, etc.
- Sedgfield’s flower beds and gardens

Q3. Is there anything else you like about living in Sedgfield?

Q4. How do you feel about the number of homes in Sedgefield?

- Far too few
- Too few
- About right
- Slightly too many
- Far too many
- Don't know

Q5. Using a scale of 1-5 where 1 is far too few and 5 is far too many how would you rate the current composition of housing in Sedgefield?

	Far too few 1	Too few 2	About right 3	Slightly too many 4	Far too many 5	Don't know N/A
Flats	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Bungalows	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Low cost/affordable starter homes	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Family housing	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Luxury housing	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Rented accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Sheltered housing	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Retirement housing/apartments	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Care homes	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Eco friendly/energy efficient housing	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Social housing	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Durham County Council has proposed development of 450 new houses on a site within Sedgefield to the south of Eden Drive as part of the County Durham Local Plan.

Q6. Were you aware of this proposed housing development before reading about it in this survey?

- Yes
- No
- Can't remember

Q7. How many houses would you like to see built?

- 0 to 50
- 50 to 99
- 100 to 149
- 150 to 299
- 300 to 449
- 450 to 499
- 500+

Q8. Please select which types of accommodation you would like to see built in Sedgefield...
Please select all that apply

Bungalows	<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive houses *	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flats/apartments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Semi detached	<input type="checkbox"/>
Detached	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small houses (starter homes)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terraced houses	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Executive houses are larger homes

Q9. Why have you selected this particular type of accommodation?

Q10. Using a scale of 1-5 where 1 is very important and 5 is not important at all, how important do you think each of the following are to the development of new homes?

	Very important 1	Important 2	Neither important or unimportant 3	Not important 4	Not important at all 5	Don't know N/A
Security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proximity to public green spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11. Using a scale of 1-5 where 1 is strongly agree and 5 is strongly disagree, to what extent would you agree or disagree that each of the following *currently* cause you concern in Sedgefield?

	Strongly agree 1	Agree 2	Neither agree or disagree 3	Disagree 4	Strongly disagree 5	Don't know N/A
Burglary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car crime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anti-social behaviour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Litter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fly Tipping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dog Fouling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise Pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air Pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q12. Using a scale of 1-5 where 1 is very important and 5 is not important at all, how important to you and your family are the following activities and facilities in Sedgefield?

	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Not important	Not important at all	Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
The Cricket Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceddesfeld Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parish Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allotments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football pitches and tennis facilities at the community college	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rugby club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sedgefield Harriers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers and Rainbows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After school clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nursery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardwick Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The show field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The race course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public footpaths/bridleways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dentist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Banks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Street shops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Street amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pubs and social club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Churches/places of worship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth club/facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
East Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Squash Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sedgefield Community Association	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sedgefield Village Games	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Days In Days Out	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sedgefield Pop-In Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q12a. Which other facilities/services would you like to see the community invest in?

Q13. Using a scale of 1-5 where 1 is very important and 5 is not important at all, how important do you think each of the following facilities/amenities will be as Sedgefield grows?

	Very important 1	Important 2	Neither important or unimportant 3	Not important 4	Not important at all 5	Don't know N/A
Additional car parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Free car parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bigger surgery/more doctors and nurses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better use of the community hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More bus services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q14. Using a scale of 1-5 where 1 is very good and 5 is very poor, how would you rate the *current* transport facilities in Sedgefield?

	Very good 1	Good 2	Average 3	Poor 4	Very poor 5
Access to the High Street	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Bus services	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Parking - including access to shops and amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Traffic speed/traffic calming	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Road crossings	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Road maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Cycle paths	<input type="checkbox"/>				
HGV Access	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Vehicle noise	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Q15. Do you have any concerns about traffic issues that may develop from any future expansion of Sedgefield?

- Yes – **GO TO Q15a**
- No – **GO TO Q16**

PLEASE ANSWER IF YOU SELECTED 'YES' AT Q15
Q15a. What are your concerns?

Q16. Using a scale of 1-5 where 1 is very well and 5 is not very well, how well do you think Sedgefield is served with the following education and learning facilities?

	Very well 1	Well 2	Adequately 3	Not well 4	Not very well 5	Don't know N/A
Play groups	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Day nursery provision	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Child minding	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Nursery places	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Surestart	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Child places available	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Breakfast clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>					
After school clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Holiday clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Places at the Community College	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Accessibility to faith schools	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Accessibility to sixth forms	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Sports facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Accessibility to adult learning	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Adult learning at the Community College	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Many thanks for completing this questionnaire.

Please deposit this copy of the survey at one of the following locations;

- Town council offices;**
- Number 4;**
- Ceddesfeld Hall;**
- Doctor's surgery**

All information received is strictly confidential, and will be dealt with in accordance with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct. Completed questionnaires will be processed by an independent market research company, Public Knowledge