

# **Carlton Parish Plan 2011**



## **Final Report**



**July 2012**

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## Public meeting

**A public meeting to discuss this plan will be held at The Gate Hangs Well at 6.30 pm on Thursday 16th August 2012**

Cover pictures

Top *Saint Andrews Church*

Bottom *The Gate Hangs Well*

## Summary

- The number of houses in Carlton is increasing
- The population of Carlton is increasing
- The average age of the population of Carlton is increasing
- There are not enough starter and retirement homes in Carlton
- Most necessary journeys – to work, school, shops and leisure sites – are made by car
- Parking and traffic cause problems in Carlton
- Parishioners travel widely for their work, but fewer work in Leicester than 10 years ago
- Most parishioners visit Market Bosworth regularly
- Residents do their shopping in a wide range of local towns
- The most popular recreational activities are visiting pubs and restaurants, visiting theatres or cinemas, walking and gardening
- Young people can feel isolated, with few friends in Carlton and few places to meet or play
- The small number of young people and their age distribution make it difficult to cater for their needs
- The Gate Hangs Well is an important social venue
- Saint Andrews Church building is the focal point of the village
- The church building is more important as a historic building than as a place for regular worship
- Carlton News plays a vital role in the community
- Most Carltonians – young and old – enjoy and appreciate the cycle of community events and feel included
- A range of needs could be met by the provision of a playing field, playground and village hall
- The most appreciated qualities of Carlton, and those which respondents are most anxious to preserve, are the peace and quiet, small size, countryside setting, friendliness and community spirit



*Diamond Jubilee Tree planting 2012*



*D Tredinnick MP opens restored telephone kiosk and Community Defibrillator 2010*

*Flash flood under the railway bridge  
June 2012*



# Recommendations

## Overriding objectives

- To foster and maintain the community spirit, peace and quiet, countryside setting, small size, and friendliness of Carlton

## Short term objectives

- Implement the affordable housing project
- Support local businesses
- Support the pub and church
- Arrange regular coffee mornings
- Set up a community e-mail information exchange
- Set up a walking and/or cycling group
- Improve local footpaths
- Consider young people when planning social events
- Encourage the creation of part-time jobs for young people
- Monitor traffic speeds
- Campaign for more effective enforcement of speed limits

## Medium to long term objectives

- Acquire land for a playing field, public open space and village hall
- Encourage the provision of starter homes and retirement homes
- Support local services in Market Bosworth
- Create a safe path and/or cycleway to Market Bosworth
- Make improvements to the church building
- Set up an allotment association on a suitable site
- Create appropriate meeting places for young people



*Mobile Youth Club*



*New footway in Main Street*



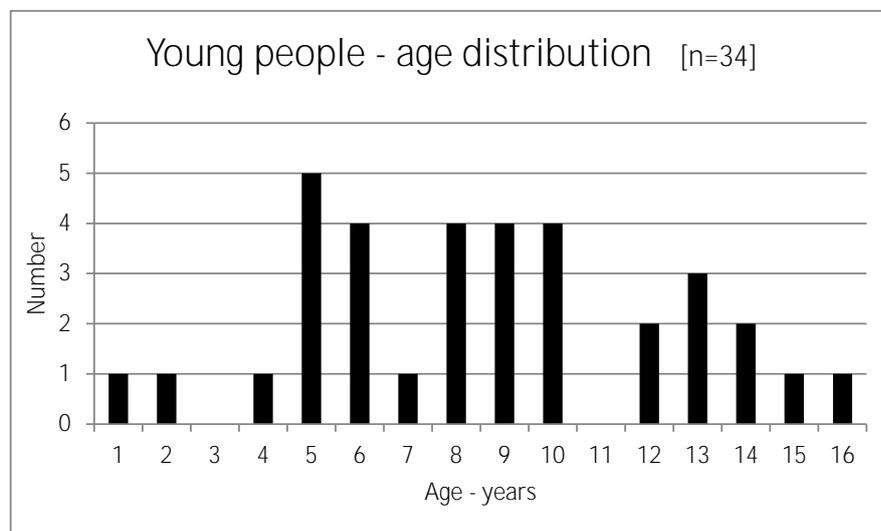
*Kissing gates replacing stiles  
on footpath S50*

# Young People Questionnaire: results

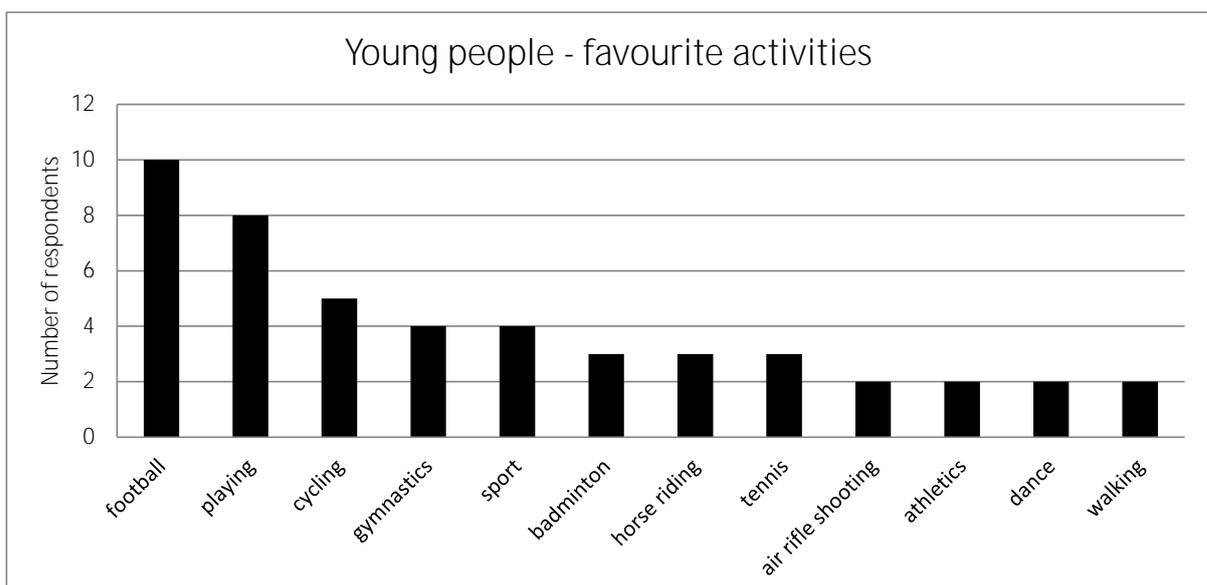
42 questionnaires were delivered to all young people (aged under 16) in the parish in October 2011. 36 were returned by the end of November 2011, a response rate of 86%. In view of the small number of replies, percentages have not been used in the following section. Respondents did not answer every question—for example only 34 gave their age.

## 1. Respondents and their interests

Completed questionnaires were received from 22 boys and 14 girls. The mean age of all respondents was 8.7 years, and on average they had lived in Carlton for 5.3 years.



In response to an open question about their favourite activities, some respondents listed several specific activities, while others gave a generic answer such as sport. The chart below plots the number of mentions for all activities cited more than once.

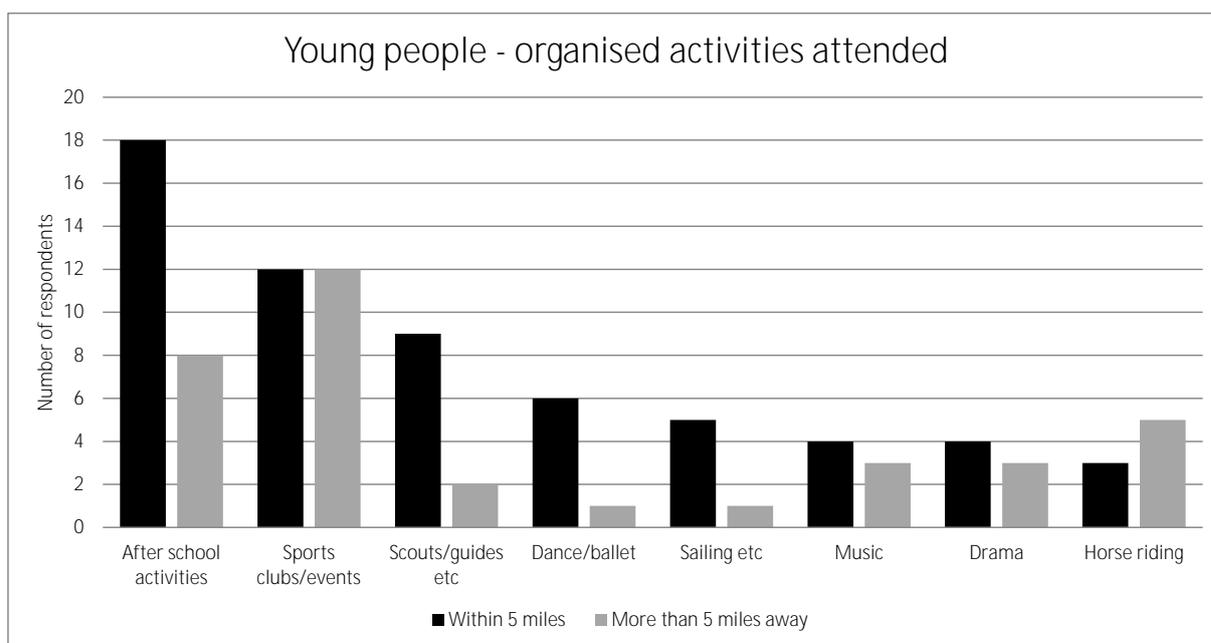


The following activities were mentioned only once – acrobatics, army cadets, art, ballet, beavers, biking, boogie buds, cricket, drama, driving, expressive arts, hockey, Lego, most things, netball, reading, rugby, running, singing, skating, squash, swimming and work.

Swings, slides and play equipment were used at Bosworth Park (22) and at home (22), followed in popularity by school (20), Bosworth Water Park (16) and Heath Road, Market Bosworth (6).

Most young people usually played with their friends at someone’s home (33), with 6 playing in the street, 6 playing on Carlton Green, 4 in the churchyard, and 3 in the countryside.

The only organised activities attended in Carlton were the Youth Club (3) and horse riding classes (1). Half of respondents (18) attended after school clubs and societies within 5 miles of Carlton, and 8 attended them further away. Exactly a third of young people (12) attended sporting fixtures within 5 miles, and the same number attended them further away. Five respondents travelled more than five miles for horse riding, compared with two who travelled 5 miles or less.



The most commonly selected things which would make it easier for young people to visit and play with friends in Carlton were a playground (27), a playing field (26), access to a wood or field (15), and ‘somewhere I feel safe’ (15). Other things, in order, were quieter roads (14), a youth club (12), access to a room or shelter (11), a bigger green (10), a picnic area (9), and a bigger garden (4).

25 young people sometimes attended village events, while 7 did so often. Four never did so because they were ‘for old people or boring things’.

31 young people thought there should be a village hall or community room in the village for everyone to use, while 3 did not. In total, 77 suggestions were made about potential uses for a hall. These could be categorised as regular activities (30), one-off events (19), meeting others (15), parties (11) and services (2).

The suggested activities ranged from a youth club (5), brownies (2), beavers (2) and classes, through coffee mornings, to cards, scrabble, monopoly, a pool table and table tennis. The list of one-off events ranged from sales and fairs, through quizzes and competitions, to discos and a talent show. The responses classified as meetings were not specific, but expressed a general desire for a place to meet up and hang out with friends. Five suggestions for parties were not specific, but others specified Halloween (3), birthday (2) and Christmas (1). The two services suggested were a tuck shop, and a collection point for donations of goods for charities.

## 2. Transport

There were only 8 responses from children under five years old. One reported travelling by walking, cycling and bus, but otherwise all travelled by car.

Young people of school age travelled mostly by car. One walked, three cycled, and three travelled to school by bus. Otherwise all travelled to school by car.

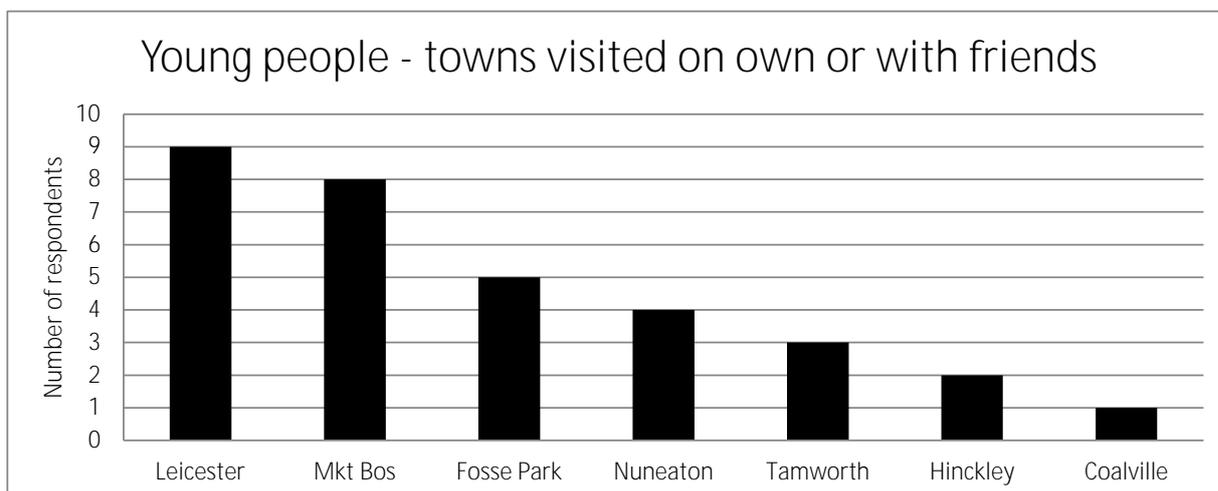
Four young people travelled to after school clubs by bus, while three used the bus to travel to after school care and two used the bus to travel to visit friends. Otherwise, all journeys to after school clubs, after school care and to visit family or friends were made by car.

22 young people never walked or played in the countryside without an adult with them. 10 did so sometimes, and 2 did so often. 20 cycled around Carlton, but 13 did not.

Those who did cycle around Carlton said that cycling would be made easier for them by the provision of off-road cycleways (20), reducing the speed of traffic (17), marking a cycle lane at the side of the road (15), reducing the amount of traffic (9) and having wider roads (6).

12 respondents regularly walked or cycled to Market Bosworth; 23 did not. Those who did not said they were stopped from doing so by the absence of a path (9), fast or dangerous traffic (5), not allowed by parents (3), or did not have time (1).

12 respondents went to town on their own or with friends. 20 did not, and gave as a reason that they were too young. The most popular destinations were Leicester (9), Market Bosworth (8) and Fosse Park (5).



31 respondents said that they had access to a car or a lift when they needed transport. 19 young people said that they did not find it difficult to get transport out of Carlton, but 9 said they did find it difficult. Of the latter, all gave the reason as the poor bus service.

19 respondents said that they never used buses; 12 did so sometimes and 2 did so often. It was suggested that the bus service could be improved by better timetabling (7), cheaper fares (3) and the location of bus stops (2).

### **3. General**

#### **3a. What young people liked most about Carlton**

26 responses were made, listing 34 topics, but the numbers for each topic were small. Five respondents said they liked village events, citing the fete, quiz and Christmas lights. The community, the countryside, friends and quiet were each cited by three respondents. Two cited the bus and one driving, with the explanation that these enabled them to go elsewhere.

#### **3b. What young people liked least about Carlton**

27 responses were made, listing 29 topics. The commonest dislike was that Carlton was boring (7), closely followed by the lack of friends (6). Three respondents cited transport problems, and a further three mentioned the lack of facilities. Two complained of poor mobile phone reception, and two disliked new building.

#### **3c. What young people thought we should keep for the future**

22 responses were made, listing 28 topics. The church and churchyard were cited by eight respondents, and the green or green spaces by five. Three respondents thought that more should be done for young people, and the same number wanted to keep the pub. Other responses mentioned village events (2), the friendly atmosphere (2) and nice people (2).

#### **3d. What young people thought we should try to change**

24 responses were made, listing 27 topics. Ten respondents requested a playing field or playground, and two asked for more activities for young children. Five requested a village hall, three wanted to see less dangerous traffic, and two would like a path to Market Bosworth.

# **Adult Questionnaire: results**

245 Adult questionnaires were delivered in October 2011, and 215 returned by the end of November 2011, a response rate of 88%.

Unless otherwise stated, the percentage figures quoted below are calculated on the total number of questionnaires returned (215), and corrected to the nearest whole number. Correction means that the percentages cited may add up to 101% if every respondent answered a question. Some questions were not answered by all respondents, and in these cases the percentages cited will total less than 100%. Where the response was 5% or less, the number of respondents is given.

## **1. Respondents**

There were almost the same number of female (51%) as male (49%) respondents. 9% of respondents were between 16 and 30 years old, with 25% between 31 and 50, 47% between 51 and 70, and 18% over 70 years old.

Just over half of respondents (51%) had a paid job, with 34% working full-time and 16% part-time. 41% of respondents described themselves as retired, while 7% were students or in training.

## **2. Health and community care**

Nine respondents reported receiving regular personal help, and this was provided by a mixture of friends and neighbours (8), local authority carers (2), or Age Concern (2). Two respondents received help from friends or family and a care organisation. Respondents did not use the Meals on Wheels service or private nursing services.

Three respondents were aged 51-70, while six were more than 70 years old. These results show that some level of personal care and support is required by 3% of those aged 51-70, and 15% of those more than 70 years old.

## **3. Childcare and pre-school education**

15 respondents used the family for childcare, 11 used after school care, 3 a nursery, 3 a child minder, 2 a nanny or au pair and 1 a baby or toddler group.

13% of respondents thought that information on childcare services was readily available; only 2% (5) thought it was not.

Information on the number of young people and their ages can be found on page 7.

## 4. Housing

19% of respondents expected to be looking for alternative accommodation in the next five years; 69% did not. 6% of respondents reported that in the last five years, a member of their family had been obliged to leave Carlton because of a lack of suitable housing.

When asked about housing needs in Carlton, 39% of respondents thought there was a need for affordable homes, 28% a need for starter homes, 24% a need for retirement bungalows, 20% a need for family homes and 9% a need for rented accommodation. Against this, 27% of respondents thought that no additional housing was needed.

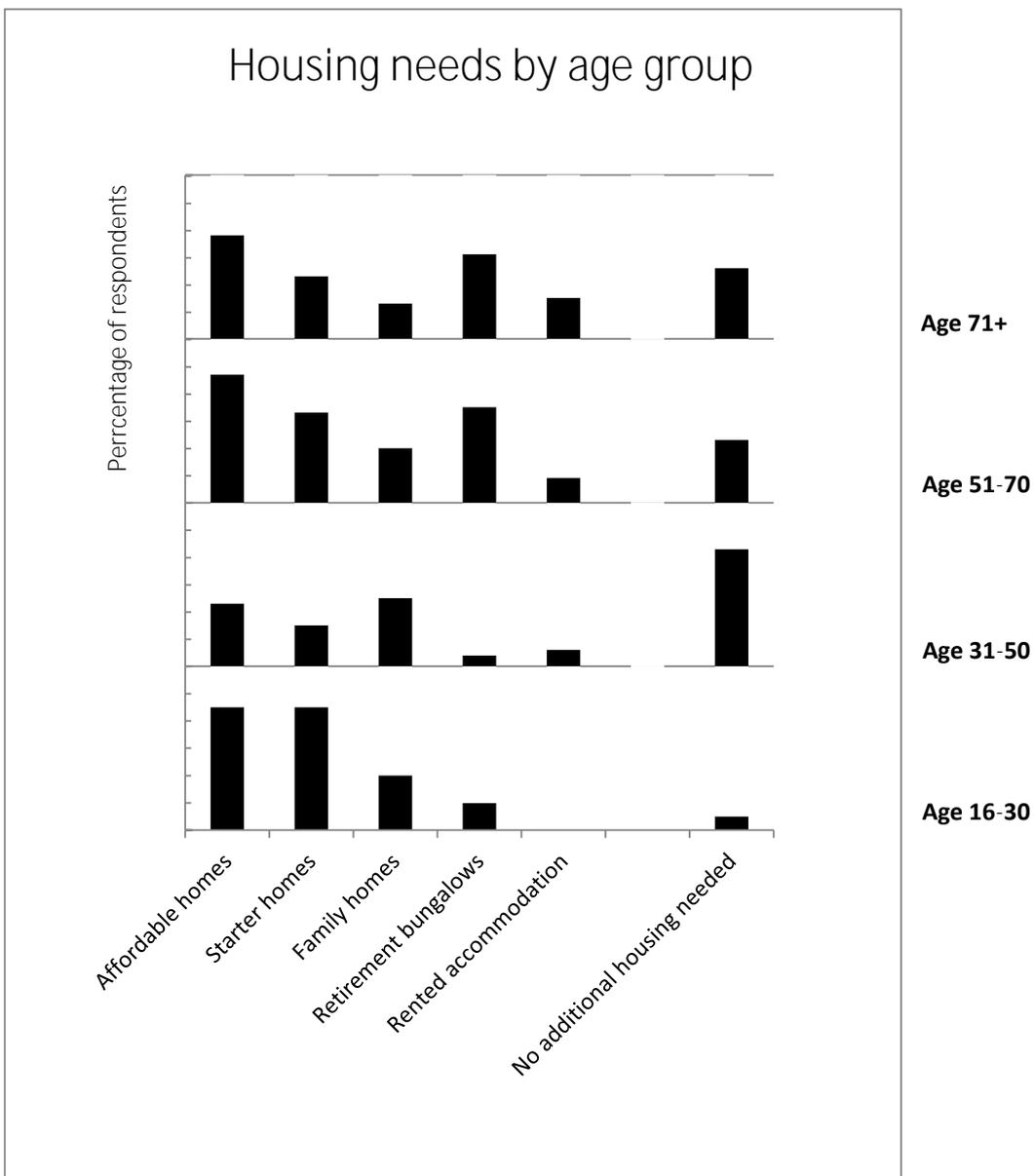
The table below shows these results broken down by age group. The numbers tabulated and plotted are percentages calculated for the number of responses from each age group, which means that the results are directly comparable in terms of opinion.

<b>Housing needs by age group</b>				
<b>Age bands</b>	<b>16-30</b>	<b>31-50</b>	<b>51-70</b>	<b>71+</b>
Total n=214	n=20	n=53	n=102	n=39
Family homes	20	25	20	13
Affordable homes	45	23	47	38
Rented accommodation	10	6	9	15
Starter homes	45	15	33	23
Retirement bungalows	10	4	35	31
No additional housing needed	5	43	23	26

The chart on the next page shows that in general 16-30 year olds consider that Carlton needs starter homes and affordable homes, 31-50 year olds consider that new homes are not needed, while those over 51 consider that retirement bungalows are needed. There is support for affordable housing across all age groups, while there is little support for rented accommodation.

The intention was for this survey to provide the Rural Housing Enabler with information on general housing needs, and the 41 respondents who expected to be looking for alternative accommodation were asked to complete an additional housing needs sheet. In the event, only 5 respondents completed the additional form, and these were all interested in affordable housing.

A majority of respondents – 60% - were in favour of a small affordable housing scheme in Carlton for local people, with 36% against the idea.



## 5. Travel and transport

The question “How many motor vehicles do you keep in Carlton?” is known to have been misinterpreted by many respondents, who entered the total number of cars kept by their household and not by them personally. According to the replies received, 49% of respondents keep one vehicle in Carlton, with 34% keeping two, 8% (18) keeping three, 4% (9) keeping four and 1% (2) keeping more than four.

8% of respondents relied on family or friends for transport (86% did not). Only 25% of respondents regularly travelled by walking, with smaller numbers regularly travelling by cycling (15%), bus (14%) lifts (5%). Taxis were used by 6 respondents, while the Dial a Ride scheme and electric mobility buggies were each used by 2 respondents.

Residents of Carlton have to travel elsewhere to do their shopping. Hinckley (75) and Market Bosworth (52) are the most popular shopping destinations. 35 respondents shopped at Leicester, while 14 shopped at Fosse Park – most Carltonians distinguish these as two different shopping locations, but some respondents may have considered Fosse Park to be part of Leicester. If taken together, Leicester and Fosse Park are the most popular shopping destination after Market Bosworth.



Most reported places of work were in Leicestershire, with 14 respondents working locally and in nearby named villages, 13 respondents working in Carlton, 10 in Market Bosworth, 9 in other Leicestershire villages, 8 in Leicester and 1 in Leicestershire, 4 in Coalville and 3 in Hinckley.

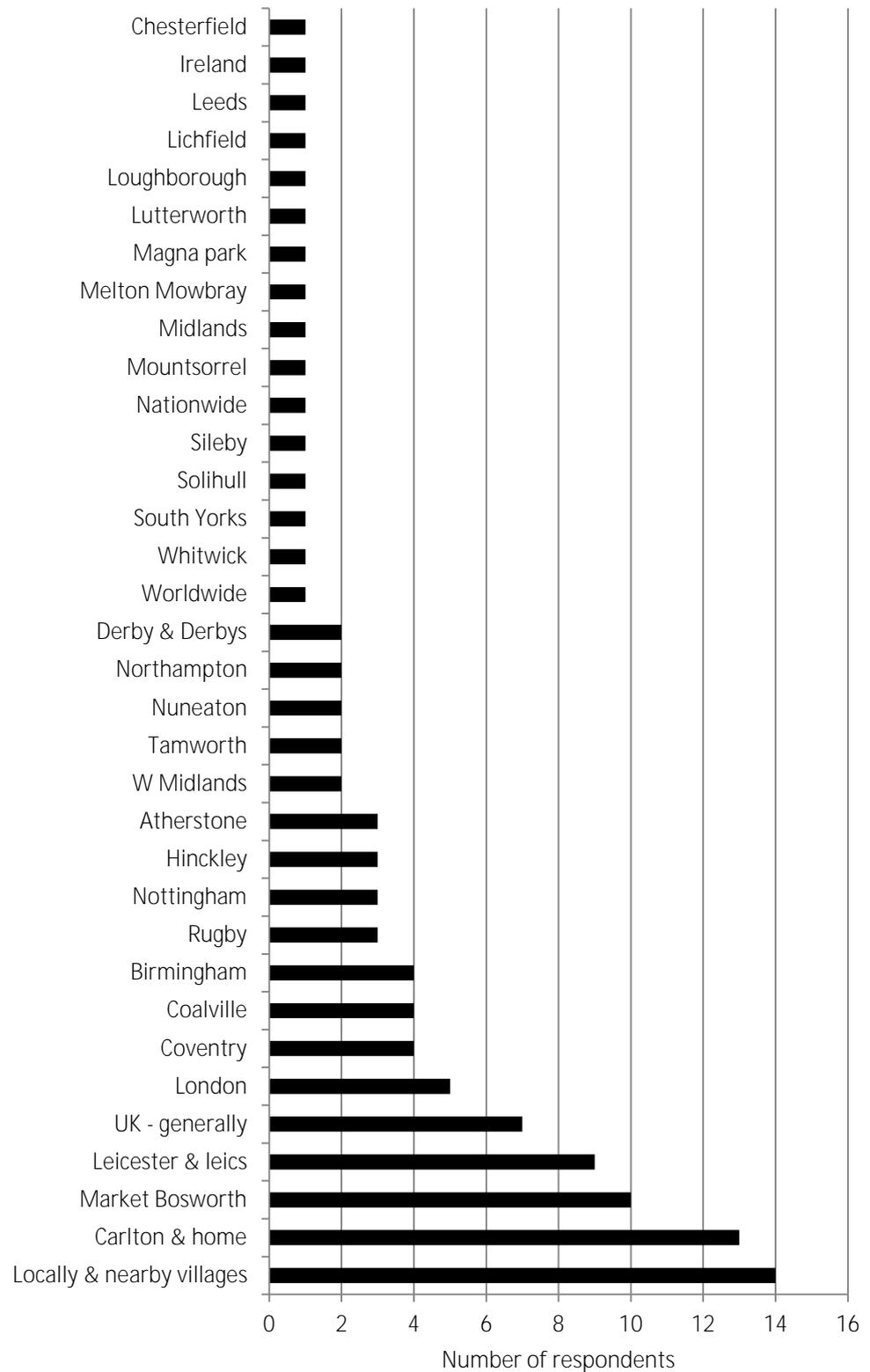
All of the work places reported are included in the chart opposite.

On the subject of local travel, 86% of respondents regularly travelled to Market Bosworth - 70% usually did so by car, 21% by cycle, 20% on foot, 7% got a lift in a car, and 6% used the bus.

63% of respondents said they would walk or cycle more often if there was an off-road path or cycle way, 42% if there was a marked path or cycle lane at the side of the road, 15% if the speed of traffic was reduced, 12% if there was less traffic, and 5% if the roads were wider.

12 respondents made additional comments that safety was of concern for young people, that a surfaced path would make it easier to walk with a pram or pushchair, and that the public footpath across the fields might be surfaced. The weather was also a consideration for three respondents, two of whom said that they regularly walked in the summer. Two respondents said they would only walk more often if they had more time.

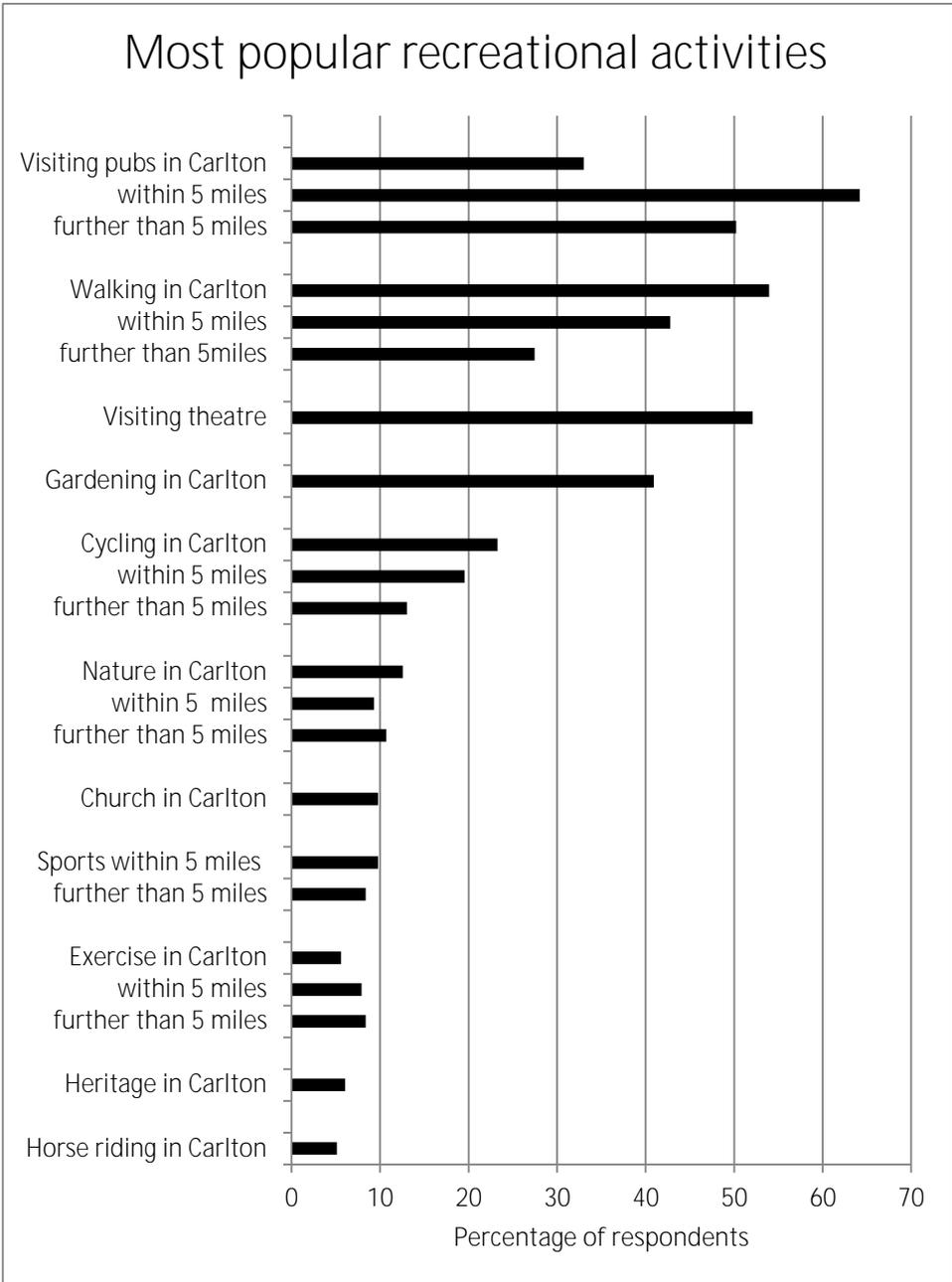
## Places of work



## 6. Recreation and leisure

The most popular recreational activities were visiting pubs or restaurants (64%), walking (54%), visiting the theatre or cinema (52%), gardening (41%), cycling (23%) and nature or wildlife watching (13%). Respondents were asked to say whether these activities took place in Carlton, within five miles, or further away. The results were self-evident, with most gardening taking place in Carlton and most theatre and cinema visits more than five miles away, while walking, cycling and wildlife activities were concentrated in Carlton, but took place over a wide area.

The chart below shows those activities with any score of 5% (11 people) or more. There was interest in meetings in Carlton, with 37% of respondents indicating they would be interested in attending social events, 26% supporting a local walking or cycling group, 21% supporting coffee mornings, and 13% expressing interest in a parish club or society. 14% of respondents said they would be interested in renting an allotment in Carlton.



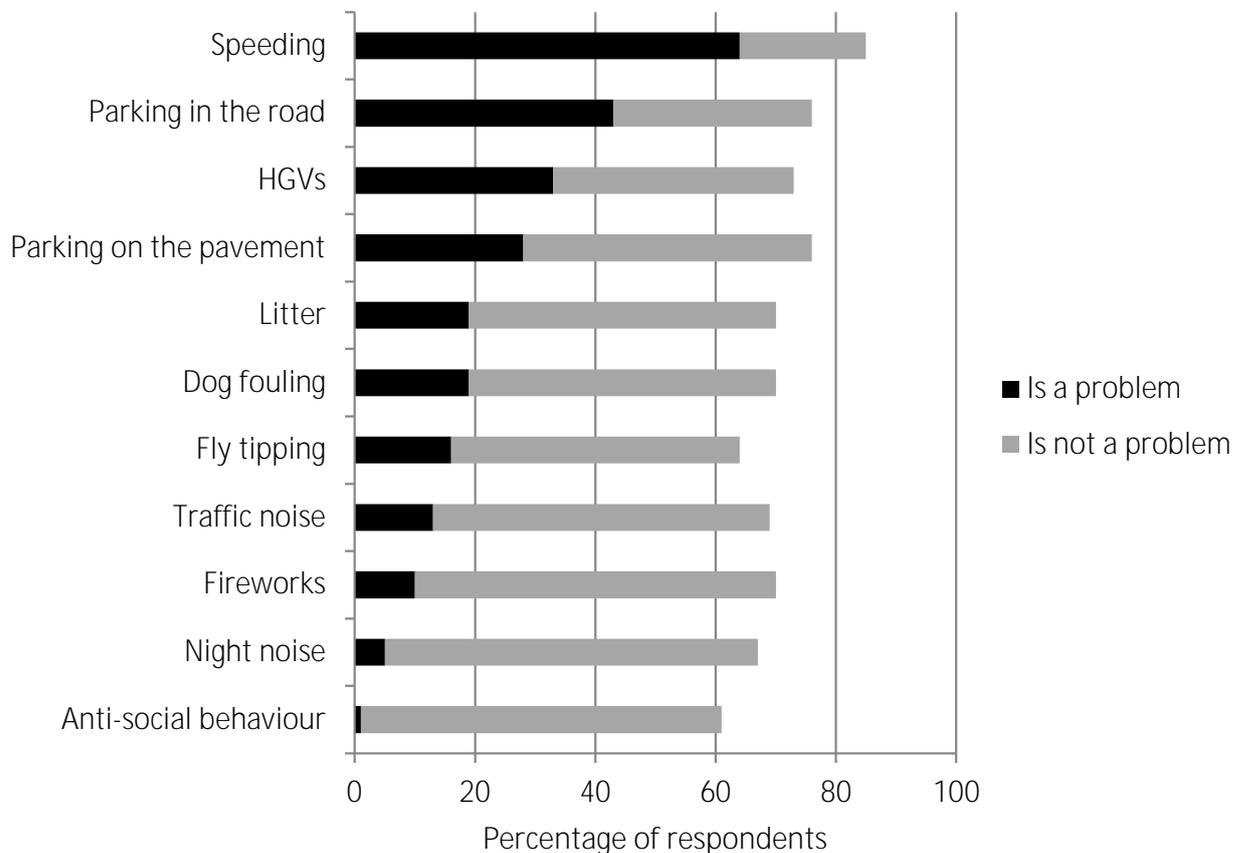
36% of respondents owned a dog, and most of them (33%) exercised their dog locally. Only about half of dog owners (18% of respondents) said that they would value a local exercise field.

## 7. Crime and safety

Speeding traffic was identified as the most important cause of problems in the parish, with 64% of respondents saying that it was a problem, against 21% who thought it was not a problem. Speeding traffic was the only problem identified as such by a clear majority of respondents – 64% against 21%.

The next most important causes of problems in the parish were considered to be parking on the road (43%), heavy goods vehicles (33%) and parking on pavements (28%). However, in each of these cases, more respondents said that these were not a problem – 33%, 40%, and 48% respectively. Parking around the road junctions near The Gate and along the narrow section of Main St near the church were identified as specific problem areas.

### Causes of problems in the Parish

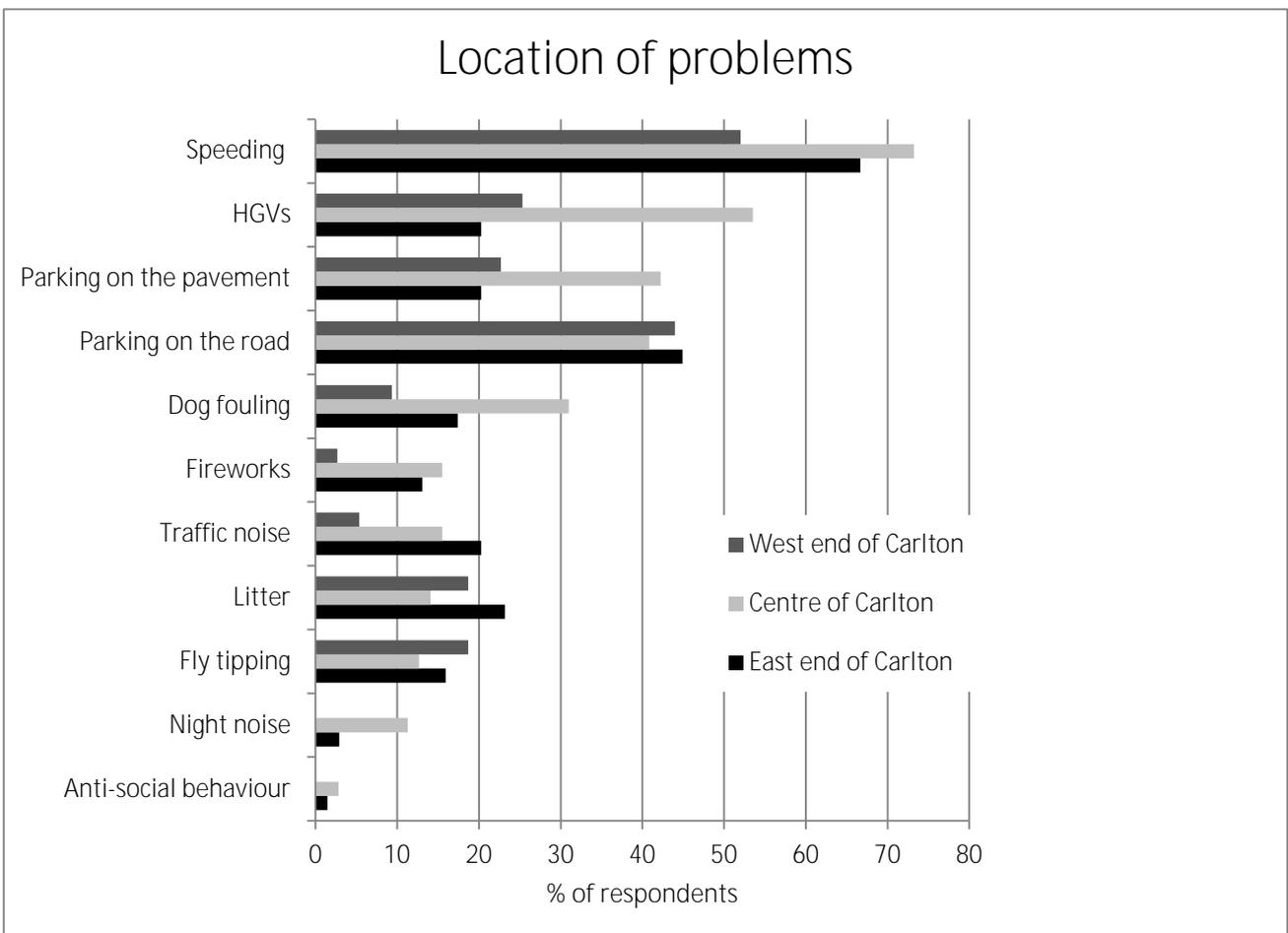


Overall, 19% of respondents thought that dog fouling was a problem, whereas 51% thought it was not. The results were broadly similar for dog owners (13% - 44%) and those who said they did not own a dog (21% - 50%).

The disparities were even more striking for litter (19% cited it as a problem, against 51% who said it was not); fly tipping (16% as against 48%); noise from traffic (13% as against 56%); and fireworks (10% as against 60%).

Late night noise was cited as a problem by 10 respondents (5%) and anti-social behaviour by 3 (1%), though these were not thought to cause problems by 62% and 60% of respondents, respectively.

There were differences in the responses to these questions between the east end, centre and west end of the village. Speeding traffic, HGVs, pavement parking, night noise, fireworks and dog fouling were more frequently cited as causing problems in the centre of the village, while traffic noise and litter were more commonly cited at the east end.



## 8. Community activities

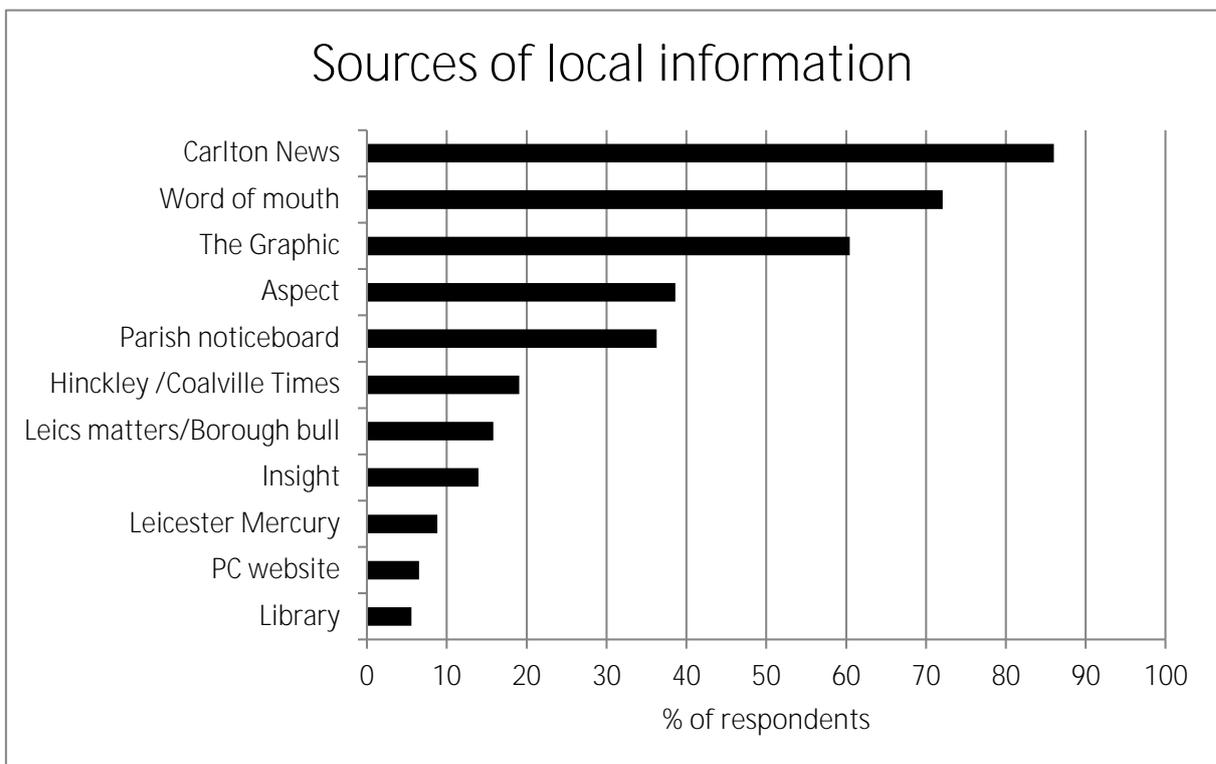
Fifteen respondents felt unable to take part in community activities because of their age, while six felt excluded because of disability, two because of their income and one because of their religion.

Other reasons cited for not taking part included lack of time, sometimes specifying work and childcare commitments, and the feeling that the activities were “cliquey”. Forty respondents answered an open question on what could be done to help them feel more included in the community. Fifteen said that they felt included and were happy with the current position. Eight suggested specific kinds of events which might be held, or social groups which might be targeted, while five suggested that more activities might be held in The Gate. Five respondents thought that a social centre of some kind was needed, three suggested more regular newsletters or better advertising, and one suggested a website for the exchange and recycling of unwanted items.

## 9. Access to information

Carlton News was the most frequently cited source of information about Carlton for parishioners (86%), followed by word of mouth (72%) and The Graphic (60%).

Aspect was used by 39%, and the parish noticeboard by 36%. Other publications, in order of popularity, were the Hinckley or Coalville Times (19%), Leicestershire Matters and the Borough Bulletin (16%), Insight (14%) and the Leicester Mercury (9%).

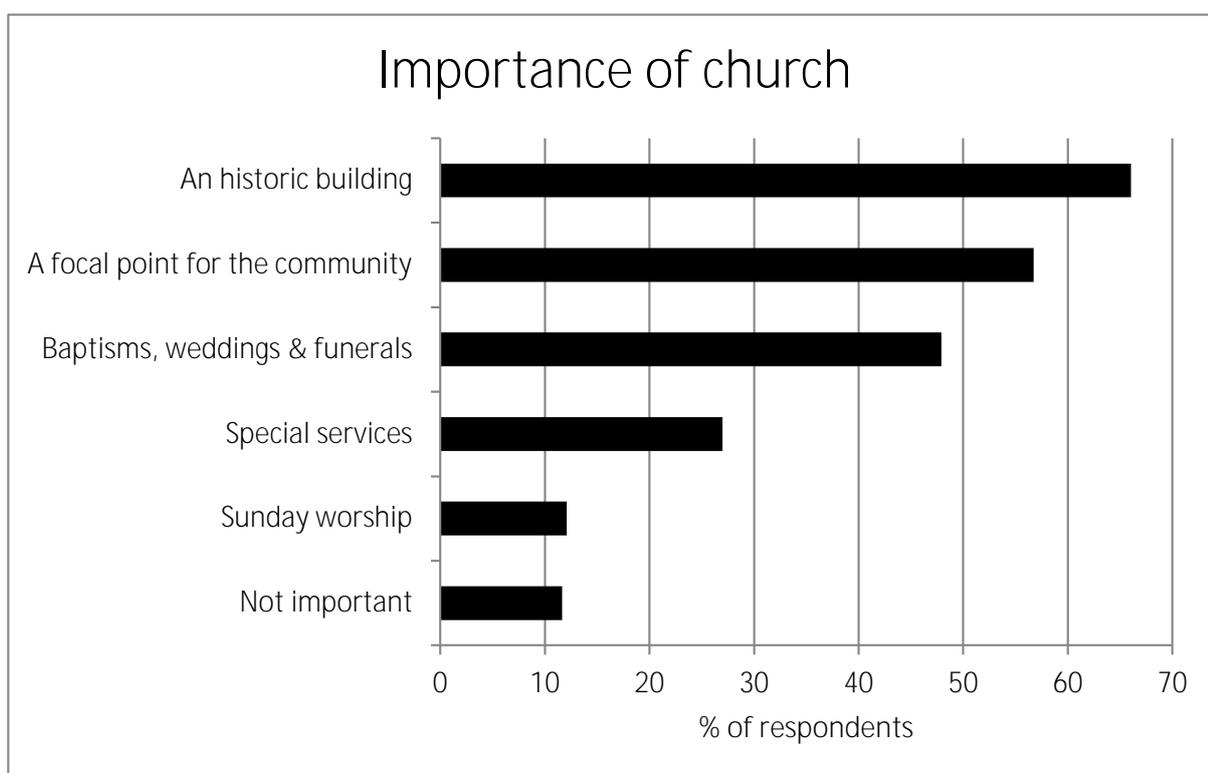


The Parish Council website was only accessed for local information by 14 parishioners (7%), though 45% of respondents said they would welcome a Carlton e-mail information exchange.

Market Bosworth Library was regularly used by 34 of respondents (16%), though only 12 used it as a source of information about Carlton. The mobile library was regularly used by 7 respondents.

## 10. Community assets

Saint Andrews Church was considered most important as an historic building (66%), a focal point for the community (57%), and for baptisms, weddings and funerals (48%).



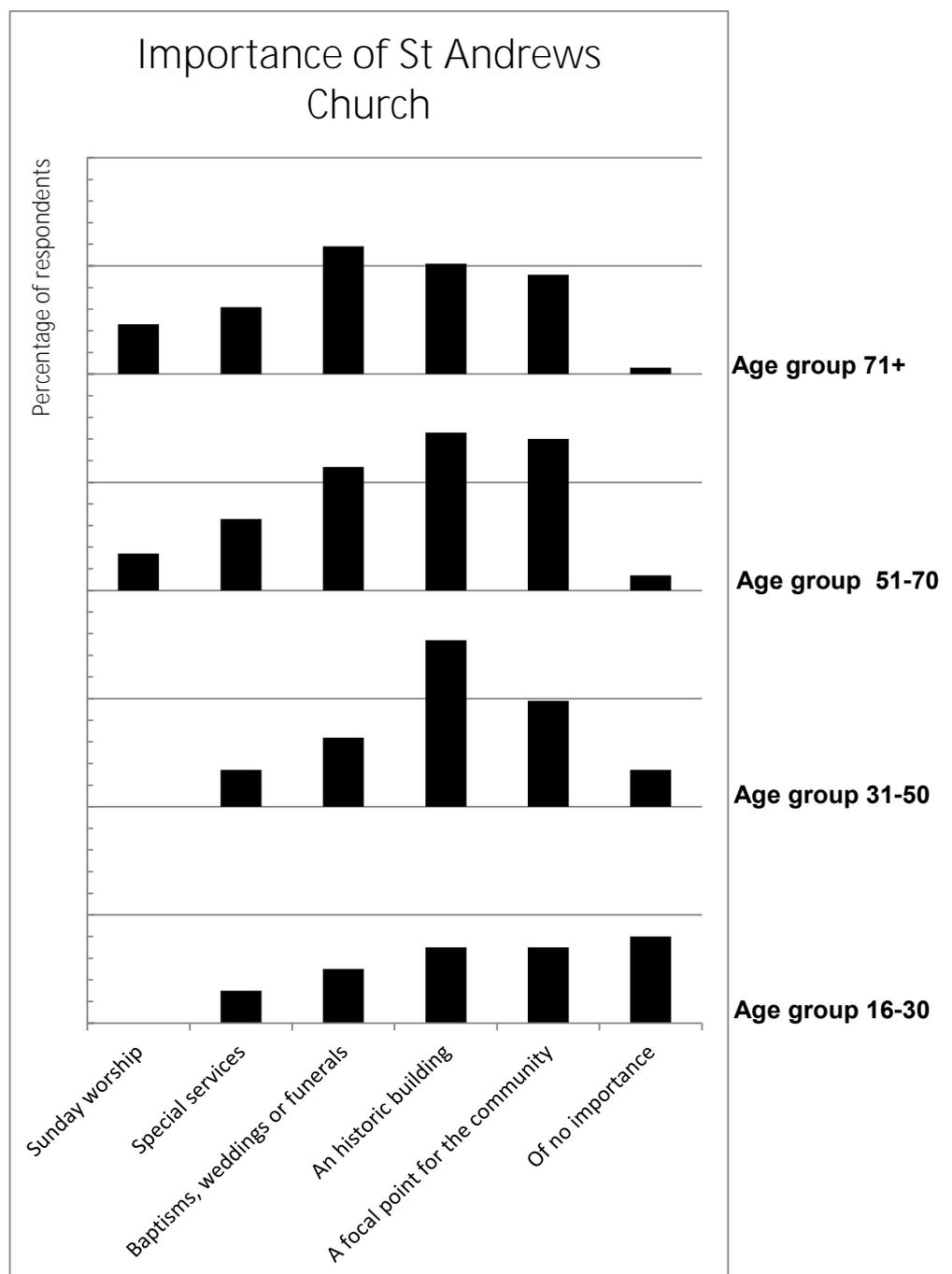
The responses from each age group were very different, and are tabulated and charted opposite. In general, the church was more important to older respondents, and for the three purposes cited above. No respondent under the age of 50 considered the church to be important to them for Sunday worship.

79% of respondents thought that St Andrews church building could be used as a community facility as well as the parish church, against 11% who did not agree with this suggestion. 74% of respondents would support sympathetic alterations or extensions to the church building to create additional space or rooms, with 14% opposed to this proposal.

## Importance of church by age group

Age group	16-30	31-50	51-70	71 +
Sunday worship	0	0	17	23
Special services	15	17	33	31
Baptisms, weddings or funerals	25	32	57	59
An historic building	35	77	73	51
A focal point for the community	35	49	70	46
Of no importance	40	17	7	3

Figures above are % of respondents



66% of respondents were in favour of installing toilets and 61% in favour of kitchen facilities. However, 19% of respondents were opposed to toilets and 22% opposed to kitchen facilities.

The acquisition of land for use by the community for a village hall would be supported by 56% of respondents, while a children’s play area would be supported by 50% and a playing field by 48%. Other potential uses of public land, such as a nature reserve (33%), informal recreation (30%), picnic area (25%) and sports pavilion (21%) attracted less support.

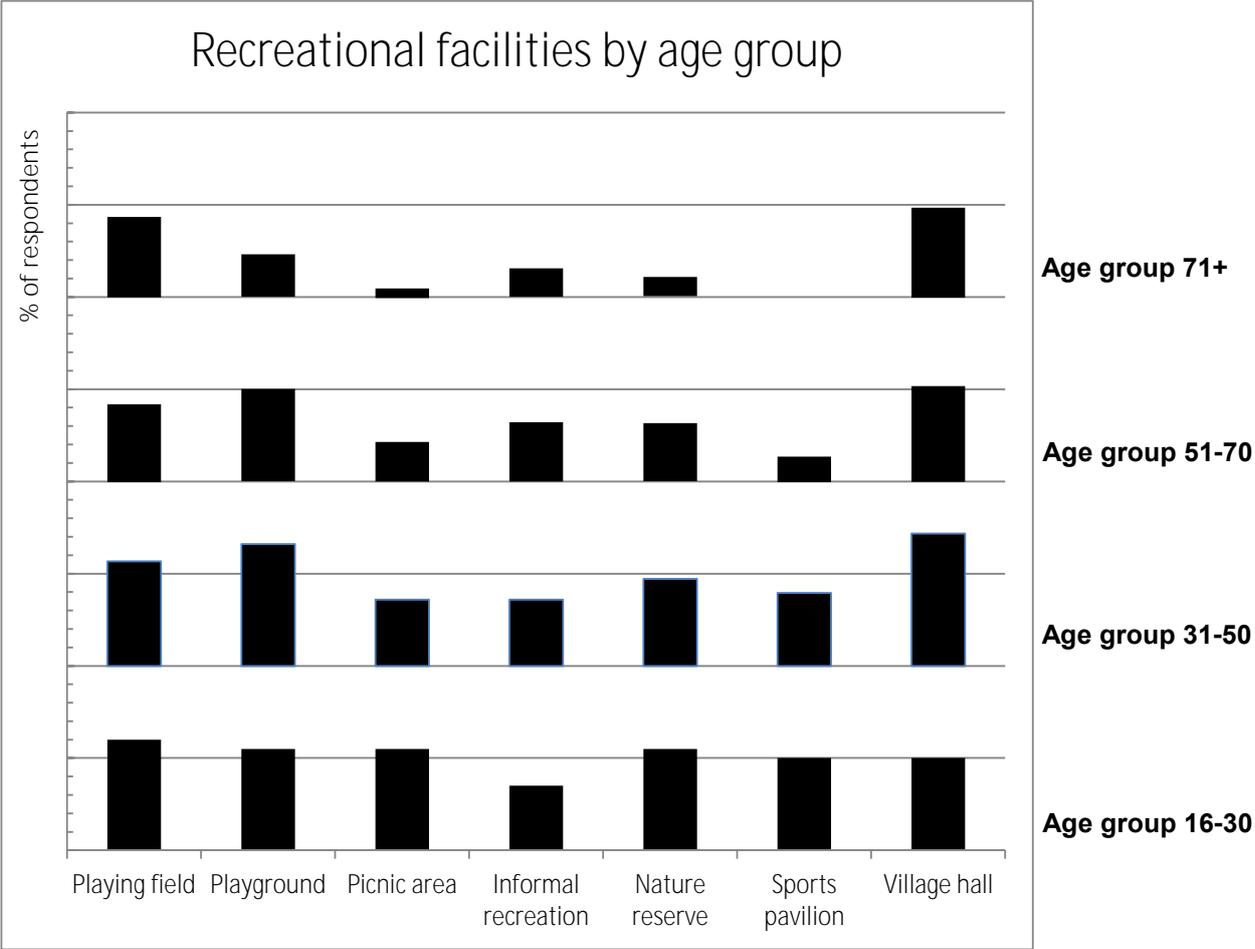
Different age groups favoured different kinds of facilities. Younger parishioners were more in favour of sites for sports and active recreation.

### Support for recreational facilities by age group

Age bands	16-30	31-50	51-70	71+
Playing field	60	57	42	44
Children’s playground	55	66	50	23
Picnic area	55	36	22	5
Informal recreation	35	36	32	15
Nature reserve	55	47	31	10
Sports pavilion	50	40	14	0
Village hall	50	72	52	49
Figures tabulated are % of respondents				
Total n=214	n=20	n=53	n=102	n=39



Carlton Bridge strengthening 2003



*Churchyard chestnut tree*

## 11. General

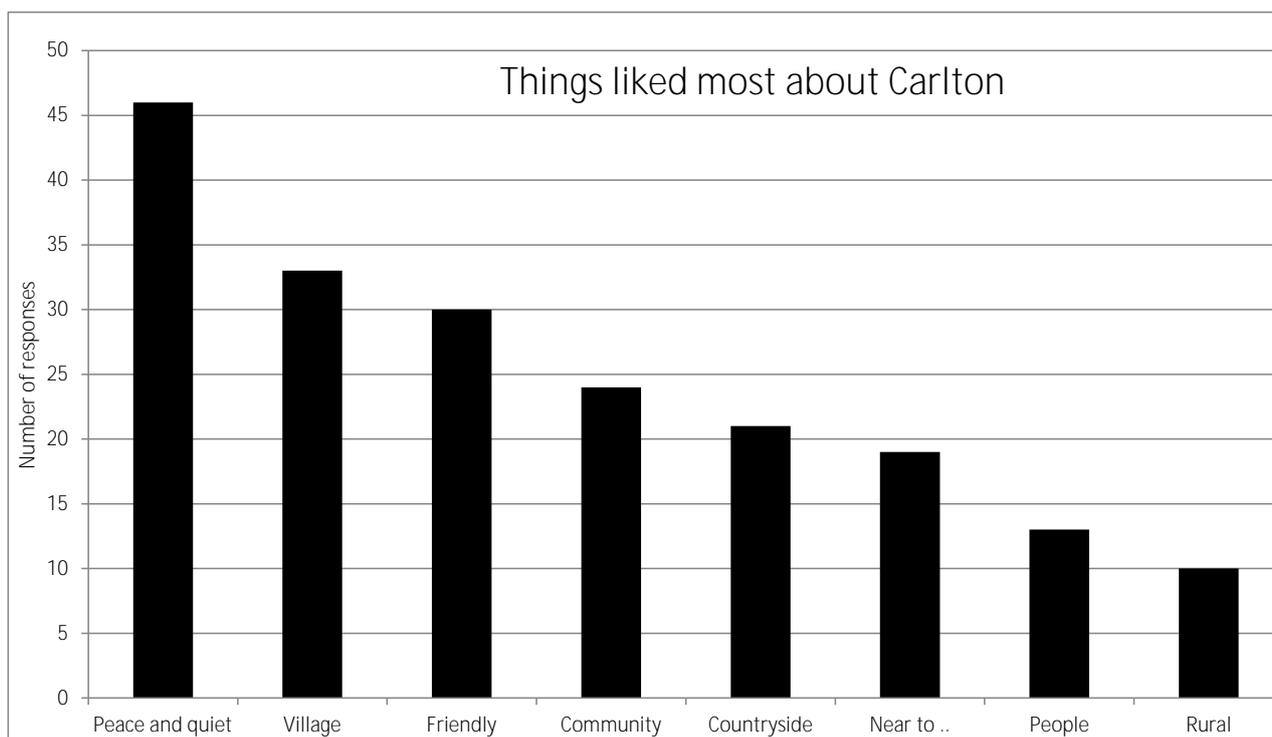
The four open questions – what do you like most about Carlton; what do you like least; what should we try to preserve for the future; and what should we try to change – attracted a wide spectrum of opinion, and responses ranging from a word or two to a paragraph.

This report attempts to summarise these responses as objectively as possible, and with the minimum of editing. The way in which this has been achieved is described in the Methodology section (p.36). This discussion is based on those subjects mentioned in five or more individual responses. A complete list of all responses is included in the data file archived by the Parish Council.

### 11a. What respondents liked most about Carlton

There were 173 responses to this question (80% of respondents), comprising 248 mentions of specific things in 41 categories. The most commonly used words and phrases were *peace and quiet*, or similar words such as *serenity* or *tranquillity* (46). The word *village* was used by 33 respondents in various contexts, usually in the sense of a small, defined place or community. The word *friendly* was used 30 times, often combined with people, neighbours or community. In addition, the word *community* was used 24 times, most often in the combination *community spirit* (12).

*Countryside* was mentioned 21 times, usually denoting the setting of Carlton in open countryside, open views, or the good access to the countryside from the village. The phrase *near to* was used 19 times, most often in the context of near to Market Bosworth (10). The word *people* was used 13 times, usually in the context of welcoming or friendly. The word *rural* was used 10 times in the sense of the rural setting or location of the village.



## 11b. What respondents liked least about Carlton

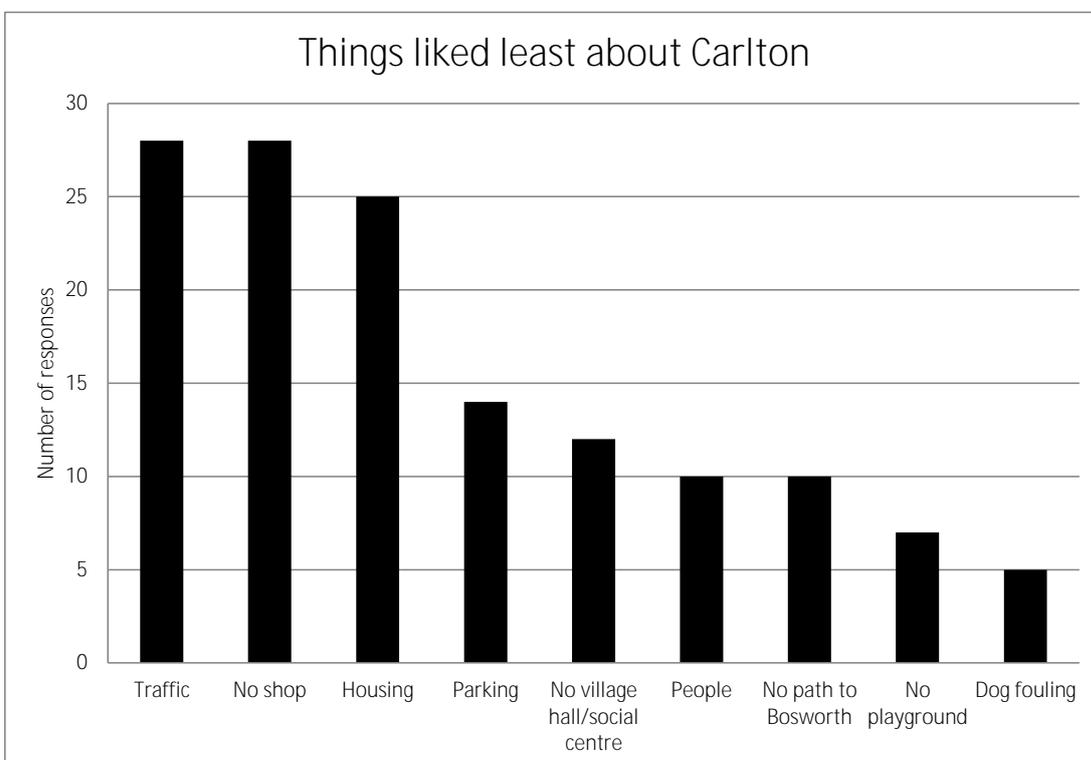
There were 150 responses to this question (70% of respondents), comprising 195 mentions of specific things in 37 categories.

The responses to this question were interesting, in that in many cases it was the absence of a facility which was disliked, rather than an activity which was taking place and was disliked or perceived as causing a problem.

*Traffic* (28), and particularly *speeding traffic* (21) was the dislike most frequently mentioned. The word *housing* was used 25 times, usually in the context of the new buildings being out of character or in some way not appropriate for Carlton.

The word *parking* was mentioned 14 times, with *parking on the road* mentioned by 7 respondents, and five additional respondents each identifying a specific and different problem site. *People* and their attitudes to village life were mentioned 10 times, while *dog fouling* was mentioned five times.

Considering facilities which were absent from the village, *no shop* was listed by 28 respondents as the thing they liked least. Other phrases which appeared more than five times were *no village hall / social centre* (12), *no path to Market Bosworth* (10), and *no playground* (7).



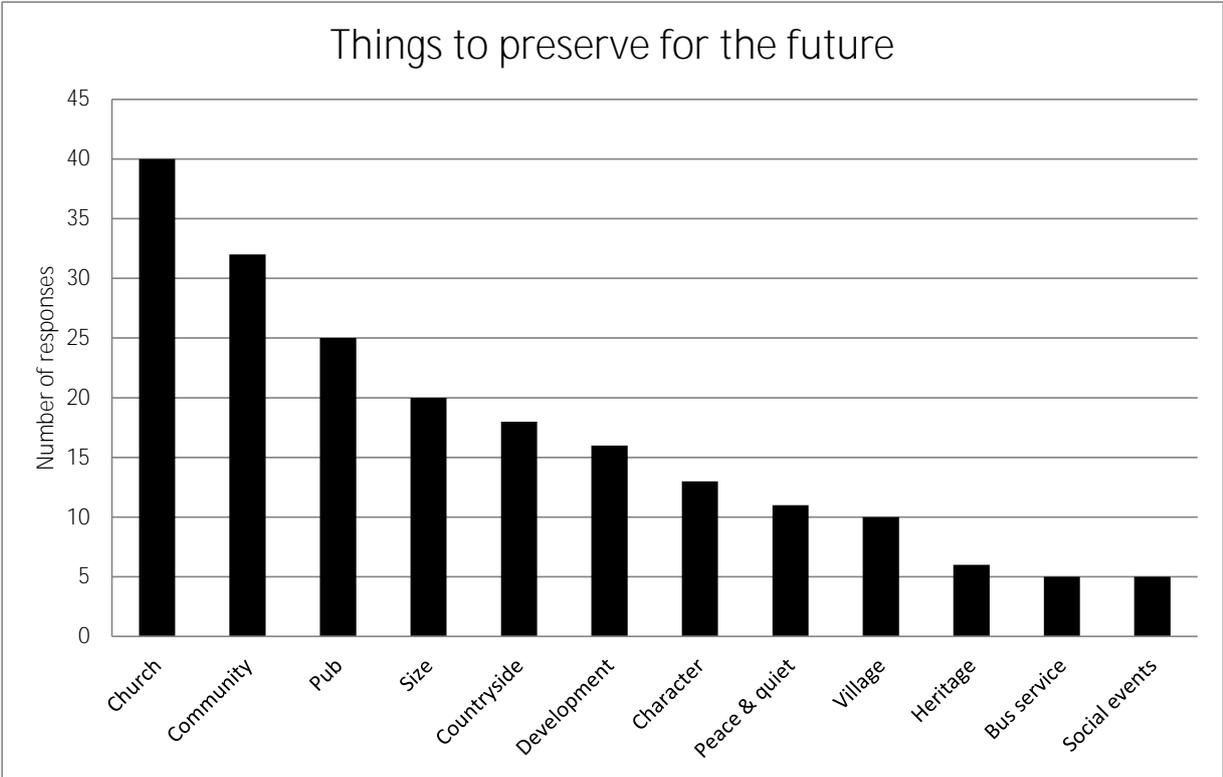
# 11c. What respondents would like to preserve for the future

There were 148 responses to this question (69% of respondents), comprising 235 mentions of specific things in 29 categories.

The *church* (40) was mentioned most frequently, followed by *community* (32), which includes 12 mentions of *community spirit*, and *the pub* (25).

The *size of the village* (20) was not only specifically mentioned, but an important element in comments about controlling new development, listed under the general heading of *development* (16), and about preserving the *village* (10) feel and *character* (13). The *countryside* was mentioned 18 times without qualification, while *peace and quiet* was listed 11 times.

Comments about the preservation of important buildings were listed under *heritage* (6).



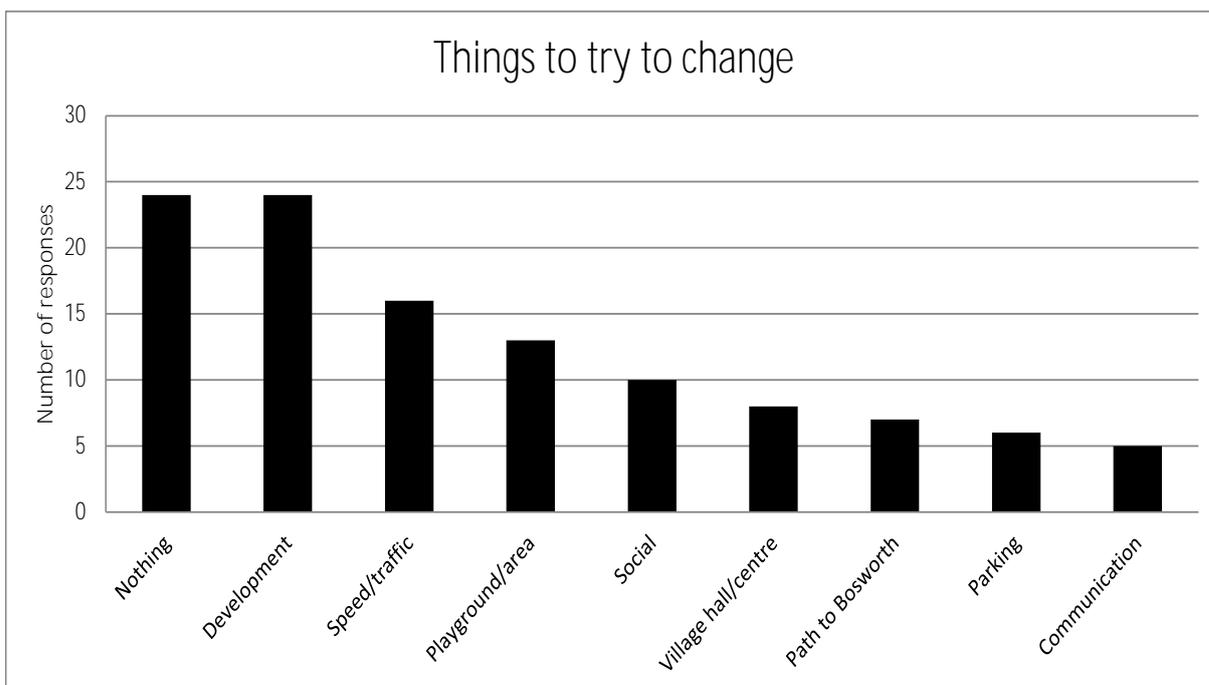
## 11d. What respondents would like to change

There were 119 responses to this question (55% of respondents), comprising 138 mentions of specific things in 22 categories.

The most numerous responses were to try to change *nothing* (24). Under the label of *development* (24), 15 comments were along the lines of restricting development to prevent change, though 9 were in favour of starter homes or development generally to avoid stagnation.

16 respondents requested *speed or traffic* control by various means, while 13 supported the provision of better facilities for young people, listed under *playground / play area*. *Social events* were mentioned by 10 respondents, with specific suggestions including tea dances, Derby and Joan, and bingo. The provision of a *village hall* or community facility of some kind was suggested by 8.

Seven respondents supported the construction of a *path to Market Bosworth*, while six requested better control of *parking* and five asked for action to improve *communications*, mentioning poor mobile phone reception and slow broadband.





*Unveiling the Golden Jubilee Post 2002*



*Carlton Church Fete on Carlton Green 2011*

## Interpretation of results, and comparison with previous Parish surveys

The things that people liked most about Carlton have remained constant since 1991 – the peace and quiet, small village atmosphere, friendly, caring community and rural setting. The method of analysis was different for each survey, but these factors consistently ranked highest. The proportion of respondents who mentioned positive social aspects of life in Carlton increased from 25% in 1991 to 33% in 2001, which was thought to be significant at that time. However, this fell back to 28% in 2011, and is now thought to be within the range of variation to be expected in responses to an open question.

The things that people liked least about Carlton in both 2001 and 2011 were traffic problems, particularly speeding traffic and parking, followed by the absence of a shop of some kind, and unsympathetic new housing development. In 1991, unsympathetic new development, and smells and flies were much more significant than traffic problems.

Flies and smells were only mentioned once in responses to the 2011 survey, and here in the context of concern that new development might overload the sewage works. The decrease in flies and smells as a problem is undoubtedly due to the closure of the large pig farm between Carlton and Barton, the closure of other local farms, and the decline of dairy farming. The latter two processes appear likely to continue.

Many Carltonians dislike change, and new housing developments do not simply represent change, but a loss of garden land and an increase in housing density. The building work itself creates noise, disturbance, mud, dust and dirt, and brings heavy traffic into the village with skips and vehicles obstructing the road and pavements around the site. After occupation, the new dwellings often generate increased traffic and noise, and increased on-street parking.

Given these impacts, it is not surprising that there are objections to any new development. There were significant differences between respondents from different parts of the village on the need for new housing. In particular, 36% of respondents from the east part of the parish (25/69) thought that no additional housing was needed, compared with 27% from the centre (19/71) and 17% from the west part of the parish (13/75). This may be a reaction against the two major redevelopment projects in progress at the east end of the village where progress has been very slow because of the economic crisis.

The number of Carlton residents has increased by 20% over the twenty years covered by the three parish surveys.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of dwellings</b>	<b>Number of electors</b>
1991	97	215
2001	112	248
2011	117	257

Most local villages show similar levels of growth, and this is likely to continue into the foreseeable future as new houses are built on infill plots and in larger gardens. The definition of the settlement boundary and the high value of building land means that the density of development in the village will increase. This will inevitably bring changes in the kind of houses available in Carlton, and the interests and needs of the people who come to live in them.

New development, traffic, parking and speeding are inextricably linked. Most households in Carlton have at least one car, and residents travel widely to go shopping or to work. The range of places cited for both activities was much wider in 2011 than in 2001 – only 9 respondents (4%) reported working in Leicester or Leicestershire in 2011, compared with 43 in 2001 (20%). (These figures exclude those who worked in Carlton or nearby named villages). For shopping, the popularity of Nuneaton has increased (ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in 2011 compared with 6<sup>th</sup> in 2001), while that of Coalville has decreased (ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in 2001 compared with 11<sup>th</sup> in 2011).

Covert speed surveys near the church have shown that most drivers respect the 30 mph limit. Most traffic through Carlton is local, the majority of drivers caught speeding by the Police are local, and the behaviour of local drivers will be influenced by their perception of risk. Since 1991, no-one has been killed or seriously injured on a road in Carlton.

Respondents were divided between those who thought that problems were not caused by parking on the road (48%), parking on pavements (48%), and heavy goods vehicles (41%) and those who thought they were – 43%, 33% and 28% respectively. There was a similar split in 2001, when 50% of respondents said that the roads around Carlton were dangerous while 47% said they were not.

The surveys did not ask why these activities were thought to be a problem, and this would be worth more detailed investigation in future. For example, vehicles parked on the road may obstruct access drives and gateways, limit visibility, restrict parking for visitors, force drivers and other road users onto the wrong side of the road, cause drivers to brake, introduce noise from braking and acceleration, impinge on the pavement, force wide vehicles onto verges and footways, or simply be considered lazy.

It may be a good thing that local people think that the roads in and around Carlton are dangerous, and that they are aware of the likely trouble spots such as the Main Street/Barton Road junction, and the narrow road near the church. This knowledge should encourage them to be extra vigilant at these places.

The age structure of the Carlton population has changed since 2001. The figures for three age classes common to the 2001 and 2011 surveys are directly comparable, and show that there are fewer residents under 50 years of age, and more over 50.

**Age group - % of respondents**

	<b>16-30</b>	<b>31-50</b>	<b>51+</b>	
<b>2001</b>	14	34	51	n=210
<b>2011</b>	9	25	66	n=215

People are living longer and there are more older people in the population as a whole, and this may be reflected here. However, on the basis of national census data, there are fewer young adults in Carlton than would be expected. The high cost of housing in Carlton is without doubt a major factor, and the three surveys show increasing support for the provision of starter homes and affordable housing. The wording of the questions was different, but in 1991 16% said they would find a development of low-cost starter homes acceptable. By 2001, 55% of respondents were in favour of some new housing in the parish for local people (41% against), with strongest support for small family homes, affordable starter homes, and affordable retirement homes.

In 2011, 27% of respondents thought that no additional housing was needed in Carlton, while 39% thought there was a need for affordable homes, 28% a need for starter homes and 24% a need for retirement bungalows. Following housing needs surveys in 2002 and 2006, work on plans for an affordable housing scheme in Carlton began in 2007, but the project has been delayed by funding cuts and changes in government policy. The scheme is intended to provide eleven two-bedroomed homes for local people, four of which will be bungalows.

Saint Andrews Church remains as important to respondents in 2011, and for the same reasons, as it was in 2001. However, there is now more support for using the church building as a community facility, with 79% in favour and 11% against, compared with 70% in favour and 21% against in 2001. Similarly, 74% of respondents in 2011 would agree to sympathetic alterations or extensions to the church building to create a suitable space with 14% against, compared with 64% in favour and 11% against in 2001.

The questions relating to land for recreation in 2011 are not directly comparable with those from 2001. However, both surveys evidenced support for the acquisition of land for community uses. In 2001, 58% of respondents said that they would like Carlton to have its own playing field or open space. Additional responses revealed that an open space would be used for sports and games, village events, an equipped play area and general recreational purposes. Respondents expected the project to be funded from Council Tax, grants from other bodies, and fundraising.

In 2011 the acquisition of land for use by the community for a village hall was supported by 56% of adult respondents, followed by a children's playground (50%), a playing field (48%), a nature reserve (33%) and informal recreation (30%). The different level of support in 2011 may be attributed in part to differences in the wording of the questions in the two surveys, but possibly also to the increasing age of the Carlton population. Analysis of the responses to this question by age showed that younger adult respondents were more likely to support the provision of sites for sports and active recreation.

In both 2001 and 2011, young people expressed a range of needs and aspirations which could be met through the provision of a playing field and equipped play space. The basic requirement is for a safe place for young people to meet and play with friends, with room for ball games and similar activities. The number of young people who use Carlton Green remains small – 8 in 2001 and 6 in 2011 – but is significant in view of the small number of 12-16 year olds in the parish (19 in 2001; 10 in 2011).

All respondents – young and old – enjoy a wide range of activities. Young people listed 41 different activities in 2001 and 35 in 2011. Adults listed 71 in 2001, but in 2011 the question specified groups of activities, leading to a list of 25. In all age groups, there are usually only a small number of respondents with a shared interest in one specific activity, meaning that it is necessary to travel to meet with other enthusiasts.

Adults travel widely to pursue individual recreational activities, and for family recreation with young people. Children begin to develop new interests at school, often leading to attendance at classes, events or competitions wider afield. The support and transport needs are usually met by parents, often acting co-operatively; sometimes by the school or club. Transport may become particularly difficult during the teenage years, as young people who are not old enough to drive strive to become more independent and develop their interests, but find that public transport is limited and expensive.

Most teenagers seem to go through a phase of being bored, but it must be admitted that there are good grounds for boredom in a small rural village like Carlton where there are few young people of the same age, very limited public open spaces and recreational facilities, and no easy way of going somewhere else. It is encouraging that so many young people attend and enjoy village events – in 2011 70% did so sometimes, and 20% did so often (in 2001 the figures were 70% and 23% respectively).

Previous surveys had indicated problems with pavements in the village, public footpaths and recycling. Village pavements have been extended and extensively repaired since 2001, and were considered to be in good condition so were not mentioned in the 2011 survey.

Similarly, an ongoing partnership between the Carlton Footpath Group, County Council, Parish Council and landowners has resulted in the replacement of stiles by kissing gates on the major footpaths through Carlton, the creation of a new footpath link, and physical improvements to other paths. The paths that have been improved are now very well-trodden, and further works are planned, subject to funding.

In 2001 the only recycling facilities in the parish were collection bins for paper and glass at The Gate. These have now been augmented by bins for cardboard, shoes and clothes and there are now fortnightly kerbside collections of garden waste, plastics, cans, glass, clothing, paper and cardboard.

In 2011, many respondents did not like the fact that Carlton did not have a shop. In 1991 75% of respondents said they would have found a village shop an acceptable form of development. In 2001, 47% of respondents thought there should be more paid jobs in the parish, with services such as a shop, garage and pub ranked most highly. In practice, shops in larger villages than Carlton are closing down, and it is very unlikely that a general store would be financially viable.

In the same vein, many village pubs are closing, The Gate Hangs Well has recently changed hands, and it is to be hoped that the drive and enthusiasm of the new owners and licensee attract new customers and rejuvenate the business. The closure of Orton's Service Station in 2009 meant not only the loss of a valued local service centre and small shop, but the loss of full time and part-time jobs. Many young people from the village had their first experience of dealing with the public and handling money when working part-time at the garage.

In 2001, Carlton was visited daily (except Sundays) by a milkman, weekly by a baker, a grocer and a fishmonger, and fortnightly by the mobile library. The milkman still delivers from Monday to Saturday, and can supply a wide range of goods, but has fewer customers in Carlton than in 2001. The mobile library still visits the village fortnightly, but is only used by 7 respondents. The mobile shops were advertised in Carlton News, but most of them have now ceased trading. Carlton is now visited at irregular intervals by different vans supplying frozen foods, prepared meals, and gourmet foods of various kinds, which can be ordered on-line. Food and groceries can now be ordered on-line and delivered by supermarket chains, and a local vegetable box delivery service has been started up.

In 2011, 14% of respondents (31) indicated that they would be interested in renting an allotment. The idea of creating five or six allotments on part of the proposed affordable housing site had been considered, but these plots would have been small, rather squashed in, and not ideally sited. In view of the strong demand for allotments, this idea has been dropped, the land adjacent to the affordable housing site will be used for a Jubilee Orchard, and a larger and more suitable site will be sought for allotments.

Responses to several different questions in the 2011 survey suggested that there was a need for regular open meetings, some kind of event for older residents, and a place where new residents could meet their new neighbours. Thanks to a kind invitation from the landlord of The Gate Hangs Well, a series of regular coffee mornings has been arranged and will become a regular event if well supported.

The last two questions in the 2001 and 2011 surveys were *What should we try to preserve in Carlton for the future?* and *What should we try to change?*

The answers were pretty much the same in both surveys – we should try to preserve the church, the pub, our small village and community, and our local countryside and its peace and quiet. Respondents did not want change, except to enhance these valued attributes by controlling new development, limiting the speed and volume of traffic, and improving facilities by providing a playground, village meeting place, and a wider range of social events.



*Opening new public footpath S90*



*Main Street Carlton*



*Volunteers clearing brush from churchyard*

# Appendix 1.

## Background and methodology

### 1. Background

A *Referendum on Parish Planning Policy* was carried out by Carlton Parish Council in 1991, and was one of the first parish appraisals in Leicestershire. The results were reported in the minutes of Carlton Parish Council, and summarised in Carlton News. The PC decided that this exercise should be repeated at ten-year intervals, and a more detailed Parish Appraisal was carried out by a team of volunteers in 2001. The *Carlton Parish Appraisal 2001 Final Report* was published in May 2002, and discussed at a public meeting held in The Gate Hangs Well on 8th July 2002.

As a result of recommendations in the 2001 Parish Appraisal, a *Detailed Survey of Housing Needs* was carried out in 2002 and followed up by a *Detailed Survey of Housing Needs in the Parishes of Carlton and Shackerstone* in 2006. Both surveys were carried out by the Leicestershire Rural Housing Enabler in post at that time.

In line with the policy of carrying out ten-year reviews, an outline of the project requirements, request for volunteers, and advertisement of a public meeting were published in the Spring 2011 issue of Carlton News. The public meeting, chaired by Jane Reed of the Rural Community Council, was held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and the Carlton Parish Plan Group (CPPG) was formed with eight volunteers.

The Carlton Parish Plan Group met six times during 2011. The minutes of all meetings were published on a dedicated page of the Carlton Parish Council website, and regular progress reports were published in Carlton News. Questionnaires were delivered in September 2011, and collected during October and November. The responses were entered into a spreadsheet and analysed during February and March 2012. This report is scheduled for publication in July 2012, to be followed in August by a public meeting to discuss the results.

### 2. Methodology

The appraisal sought the views of every individual resident in the Parish of Carlton at the end of September 2011. The appraisal addressed local issues where there was potential for local people to influence policies or make changes.

Two questionnaires were prepared – one for young people under 16 years old, and one for adults aged 16 years and older. The age of 16 years was chosen because it is the age at which young people can drive a motor cycle, leave school and begin work. It would have been much easier to have selected 18 years as the cut-off age, because then the adult questionnaire could have been issued to everyone on the electoral roll.

Comments on working drafts of the questionnaires were solicited from Carlton Parish Council, Saint Andrews Parochial Church Council, Leicestershire County Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire Rural Community Council, and Leicestershire Constabulary. These drafts were also tested on the families of group members.

Careful consideration was given to carrying out the survey online, but the available packages were either very expensive, or could not offer the features required. The use of printed questionnaires combined with personal delivery and collection, ensured a high response rate.

Every adult 16 years old or more received an 11-page printed questionnaire containing 80 questions, and every young person received a 7-page questionnaire containing 52 questions. Both questionnaires were printed in Comic Sans 14pt type. Everyone also received a plain brown self-seal envelope to ensure that all replies were anonymous. Each member of the CPPG delivered and collected questionnaires from an area of about 30 dwellings.

245 adult questionnaires were issued, and 215 collected: a response rate of 88%. 42 young people's questionnaires were issued and 36 returned, a response rate of 86%. Unless otherwise stated, all percentages cited in this report have been calculated on the total number of questionnaires completed (215 and 36, respectively) and corrected to the nearest whole number. Numbers of respondents have been cited for the Young Person's questionnaire, and in the Adult questionnaire where the percentage was less than 5%, because the numbers were small.

All responses were coded into copies of a formatted Excel spreadsheet by members of the Parish Plan Group. A tick was coded as 1, a blank as 0 or blank. Responses to open questions were transcribed exactly as written. The individual spreadsheets were checked for internal consistency, and then copied into two master spreadsheets, one for the Adult questionnaire and one for the Young People's questionnaire.

Working copies of the master spreadsheets were used for analysis to avoid any corruption of the data. The method was very simple, and used the basic sort and copy functions to create data subsets, which could then be further sorted. Responses were counted using basic functions and simple formulae.

It was difficult to analyse the responses to the open questions because most respondents referred to several very different topics, and often used different qualifiers. Listings of the complete responses, even when sorted by major topic, were interesting, but could not be analysed objectively.

After some trial and error, the most objective approach, which captured as much information as possible with the minimum of editing and interpretation, was as follows:

- 1 - copy all responses verbatim into column1 of a spreadsheet;
- 2 - cut and paste key words and phrases from column 1 into adjacent columns;
- 3 – sort all columns top to bottom, to eliminate blanks;
- 4 – cut and paste all keywords and comments into column 1;
- 5 – sort column 1; check for consistency, edit and re-sort;
- 6 – manually count responses by topic; tabulate, and plot charts.

To illustrate this process, the question *What do you like most about Carlton?* might have been answered by the *phrase “The church and village pub, my friendly neighbours, peace and quiet, and the views of the countryside from my house”*. This response, after selection and sorting as described above, would be tabulated as:

- Church
- Countryside – views of countryside from my house
- Friendly neighbours
- Peace & quiet
- Pub – village pub

The original completed questionnaires will be stored for at least two years, and can be made available for further analysis. The spreadsheets are stored by Carlton Parish Council, and may be made available for further research. The data in these records is anonymous and cannot be traced back to any individual.

One copy of this report will be delivered to every household in the Parish of Carlton, and sent to each of the statutory consultees listed above. Copies will also be deposited in Market Bosworth Library, Hinckley Library, and the Leicestershire Records Office. Spare copies will be given to other organisations on request while stocks last.

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Finally, we thank the residents of Carlton for their understanding, support and willingness to complete the questionnaires. The responses are all completely anonymous, but we hope that the results prove to be interesting, informative, and helpful in identifying issues of importance and concern.

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