

# **Carlton Parish Plan 2021**



## **Final Report**



**June 2022**

**Mandie Bristlin, Robin Arnold, Enid Morgan, Chris Peat, Carol Piggon,  
Clare Roscoe, Ken Salisbury, Ian Sarson, Mick Vann, and Robin Williams**

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### Public meeting

**A public meeting to discuss this plan will be held in the Saint Andrew's Community Hub at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

## Summary

- The most appreciated qualities of Carlton, and those which respondents are most anxious to preserve, are the community spirit, tranquillity, countryside setting, small size and friendliness
- The number of houses in Carlton and the population have increased
- Further development in the village is a significant cause of concern
- There is general frustration with the planning system
- Most necessary journeys – to work, school, shops and leisure sites – are made by car
- Parking and speeding traffic are major causes of concern
- The Gate Hangs Well is an important social venue
- Most parishioners visit Market Bosworth regularly
- The most popular recreational activities are walking, cycling, keeping fit, visiting pubs, eating out, socialising and gardening
- A range of needs could be met by the provision of a playing field and playground
- Young people can feel isolated, with few of their friends in Carlton and few places to meet or play
- Saint Andrews Church building is the focal point of the village, but is more important as a historic building than a place for regular worship
- A wide range of uses has been suggested for the new Community Hub
- Most residents – young and old – enjoy and appreciate the cycle of community events and feel included
- The most popular social event is the annual village fete
- The small number of young people and their age distribution make it difficult to cater for their needs
- Carlton News plays a vital role in keeping the community informed
- Almost all parishioners use the internet, though speed and connectivity can be sub-standard

## **Recommendations**

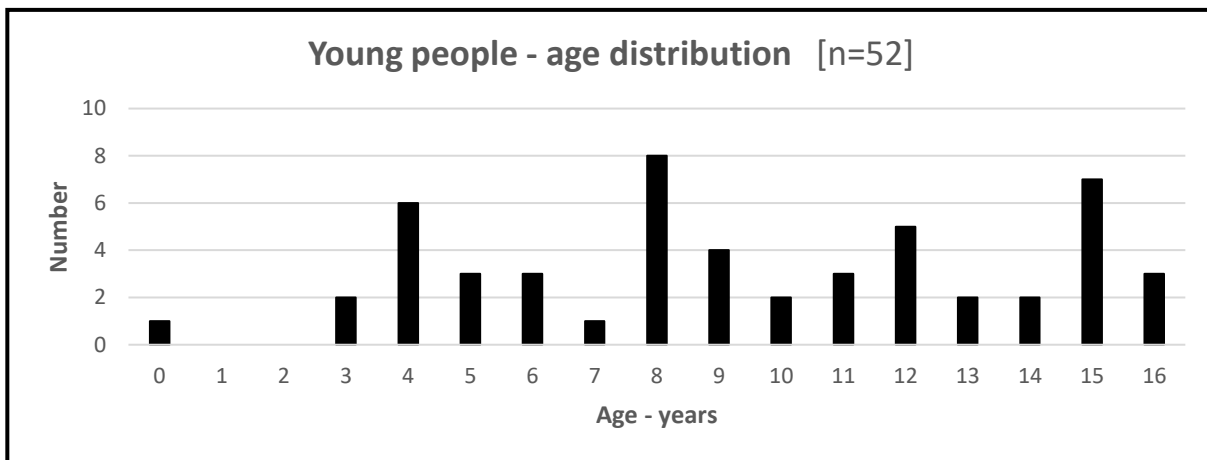
- Foster and maintain the community spirit, tranquillity, countryside setting, small size and friendliness of Carlton
- Continue to monitor all planning applications and seek to ensure that new development respects the built form and character of the locality
- Investigate traffic calming measures for the village
- Seek to introduce a 20 mph speed limit in the village
- Continue to monitor traffic speeds, and seek enforcement of speed limits
- Investigate the provision of a safe path and/or cycleway to Market Bosworth
- Encourage improved car parking around The Gate Hangs Well
- Investigate and publicise transport options for those unable to drive
- Monitor the need for a public charging point for electric vehicles
- Seek to acquire land for a playing field, public open space and/or nature reserve
- Monitor and maintain the condition of public rights of way
- Support the extension of stile-free walking routes
- Investigate the provision of outdoor gym equipment
- Campaign to reduce dog fouling
- Explore the provision of allotments
- Encourage and support volunteers to inaugurate and maintain social activities
- Create appropriate meeting places for young people
- Continue to support Carlton News
- Seek improvements to mobile phone reception, broadband connectivity and data handling capacity

# 1. Young People's Questionnaire: results

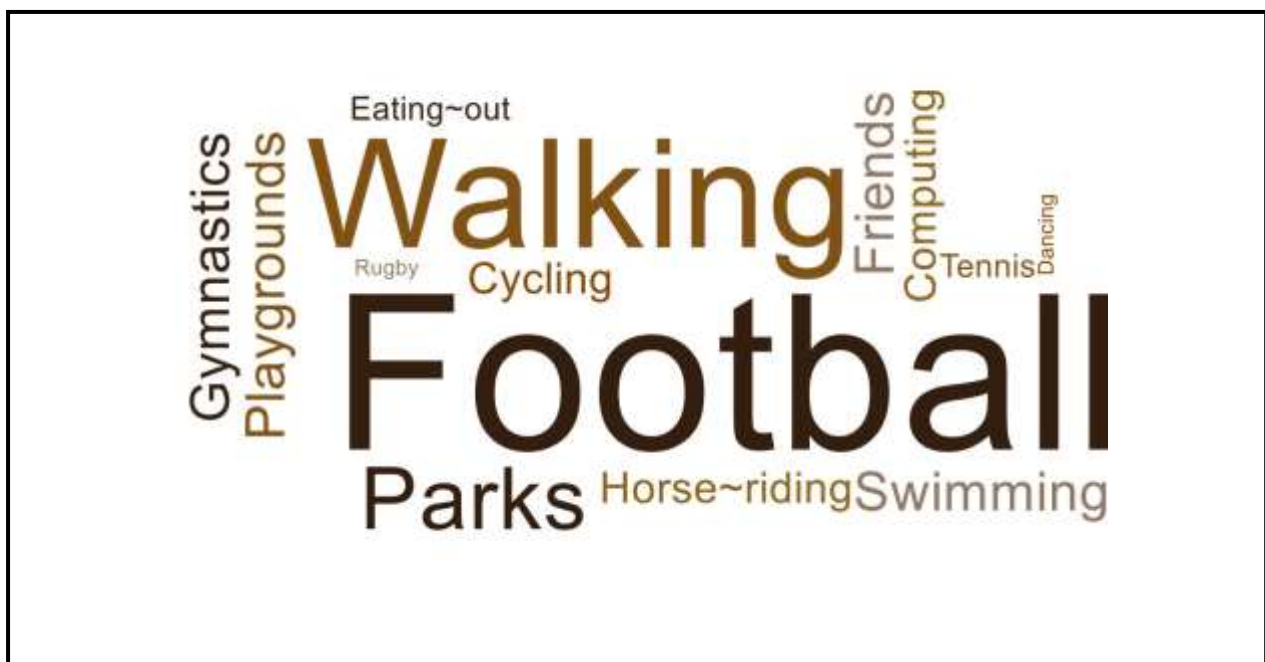
69 questionnaires were delivered, one to each young person (aged under 16) in the parish in October 2021. 54 had been collected by the middle of December 2021, a response rate of 78%. 2 returned questionnaires were blank, and respondents did not answer every question.

## 1.1 Respondents and their interests

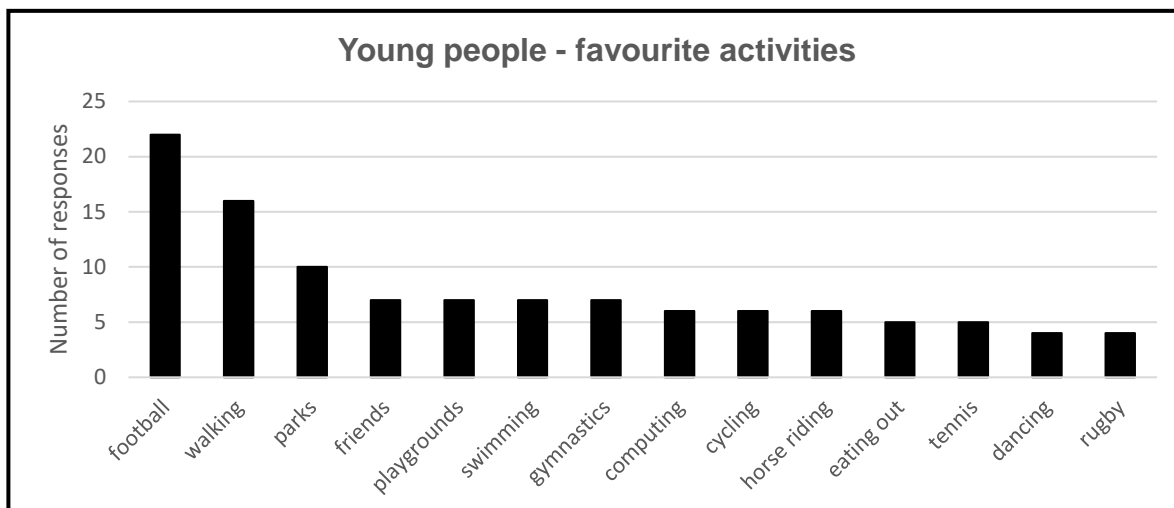
Completed questionnaires were received from 26 boys and 26 girls. The mean age of all respondents was 9.4 years, and on average they had lived in Carlton for 5 years.



In response to the open question 'What activities do you enjoy most of all?' 170 responses were made. Of these 63 (37%) related to an activity which took place in Carlton, and 138 (81%) to an activity which took place outside Carlton. These numbers do not add up because some activities such as walking took place both in Carlton and



outside it. When sorted, the list of 170 responses comprised 55 different named activities, some of which could be combined under one generic activity. For example, computer gaming, coding, and online gaming were combined under computing, and acrobatics, monkey bars, and gym were combined under gymnastics.



The most popular activity was football, followed by walking and visits to parks. The chart above plots the number of mentions for each activity mentioned four times or more. Those mentioned less than four times are tabulated below:

Airsoft	Athletics	Basketball
Beavers	Brownies	Car boot sale
Cinema	Clay pigeon shooting	Cooking
Cricket	Explorers	Farming
Fete	Fishing	Golf
Guides	Hockey	Kickboxing
Motorbike	Mountain biking	Netball
Painting	Piano	Reading
Rollerskating	Running	School
Scooter	Scouts	Seeing Carlton
Shopping	Singing	Skateboarding
Skiing	Snowboarding	Soft play
Table tennis	Town - going to	Trampolining
Wildlife - seeing animals		

The range of activities was very wide, and computing, cooking, piano, reading, and painting were the only activities which usually take place indoors at home.

Market Bosworth Country Park was the most popular place to use swings, slides and play equipment (33), closely followed by home (32) and then school (23), the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (17), Heath Road play area (14) and the Water Park (10). The play equipment in the Jubilee Orchard is only suitable for toddlers, and the number





of records (17) is almost the same as the number of respondents under 8 years of age. The Water Park is now closed to the public.

Respondents usually met up with their friends at home (46) or in the countryside (13), and more rarely in the street (4), at the Jubilee Orchard (3) or on Carlton Green (1).

The most commonly selected things which would make it easier or more fun for young people to meet up with their friends in Carlton were a playing field (34), a playground (30) and access to a wood or field (24). Other things, in order, were quieter roads (19), a youth club (17), a bigger green (12), a room or shelter (11) and a bigger garden (10). Additional suggestions

were a scout group, football pitch, tennis court, skateboard park and 'a wood to climb trees build dens and have campfires and sleep in'.

In response to an open question on what use they would like to make of the new Community Hub, 33 respondents put forward 22 different suggestions. The general proposals were for a youth club (6), clubs for children (5), parties (5), a meeting place for friends (1) and sport (1).

More specific suggestions were art & craft clubs, including messy play (5), games nights (5), film nights (4), dancing and discos (4), music and singing (2), a reading group (2), Rainbows and Brownies (2), table tennis (2), video games (1), computer training and games (1), roller skating (1), a sewing club (1), coffee and cake (1), a resting place for passers-by (1), and a free ice cream parlour (1).

4 respondents stated that they would not use the Hub. One wrote 'I'd rather be inside at home. I'd rather have an outdoor area.'

49 respondents indicated that they felt safe in Carlton. Only 1 did not feel safe, and did not give a reason.

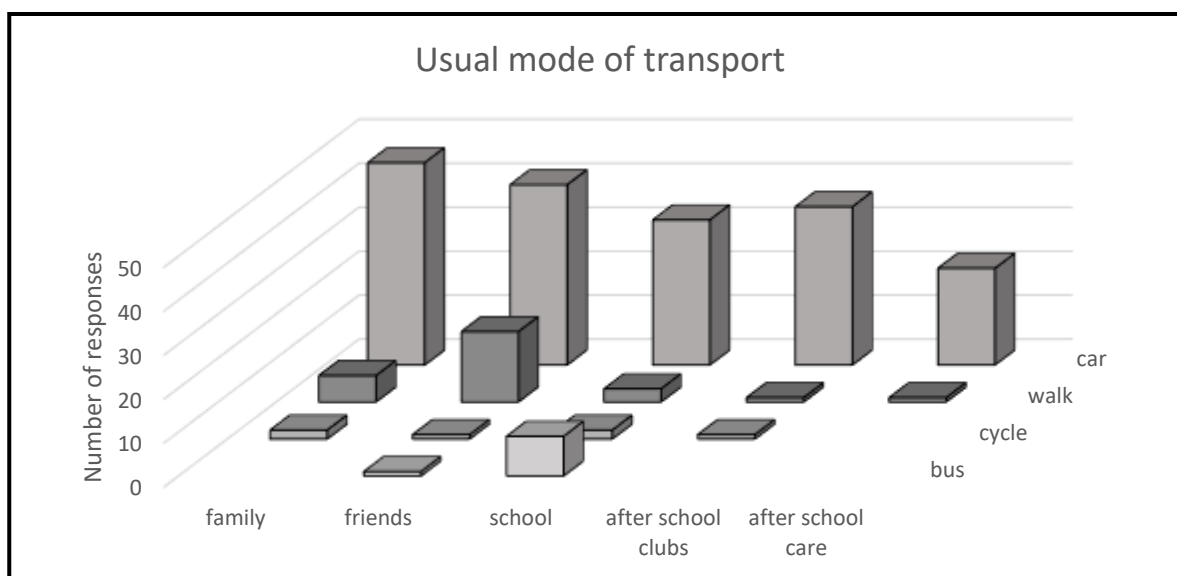
## 1.2 Transport

For pre-school children, 4 walked to visit their friends and 2 walked to visit their family. The car was the only means of transport used to attend nursery, baby or toddler group, or pre-school education.

For young people of school age the dominant form of transport was the car, with walking clearly secondary. Buses were a significant form of transport to school, but much less important than the car. The data are tabulated overleaf.



Usual mode of transport to visit –	family	friends	school	after school clubs	after school care
bus		1	9		
cycle	2	1	2	1	
walk	6	16	3	1	1
car	46	41	33	36	22



39 respondents regularly walked or cycled around Carlton, while 10 did not. The reasons given for not walking or cycling were traffic/busy roads/fast cars (5), the weather (1), lack of time (1), not yet had chance to explore (1), and, with disarming honesty, laziness (1).

Respondents considered that walking or cycling would be made more enjoyable by reducing traffic speeds (26), providing an off-road cycle lane (25), marking out a cycle lane at the side of the road (23), reducing the amount of traffic (20), and having wider roads (9).

The youngest respondents to go out without an adult with them were 12 years old; the oldest who did not go out on their own were 15 years old. Those who did go out on their own visited Market Bosworth (14), Leicester (6), Fosse Park (4), Hinckley (3) and Birmingham (1).

4 respondents reported that they found it difficult to get transport out of Carlton, while 38 had no problem. The problems were irregular or infrequent bus services (4) and no available transport other than parents (1). Only 2 respondents regularly used the Arriva bus service, while 8 did so sometimes. The majority (41) never used this bus service. Young people said that the bus service could be improved by providing more frequent services (6), and additional stops in the village (2).

### 1.3 Access to information

The majority of respondents (26) found out what was going on in Carlton from their parents and friends, 16 cited newsletters of various kinds including Carlton News, 6 facebook, 3 notices, and 1 snapchat. One respondent replied 'I don't', while another reported that they rarely saw Carlton News.

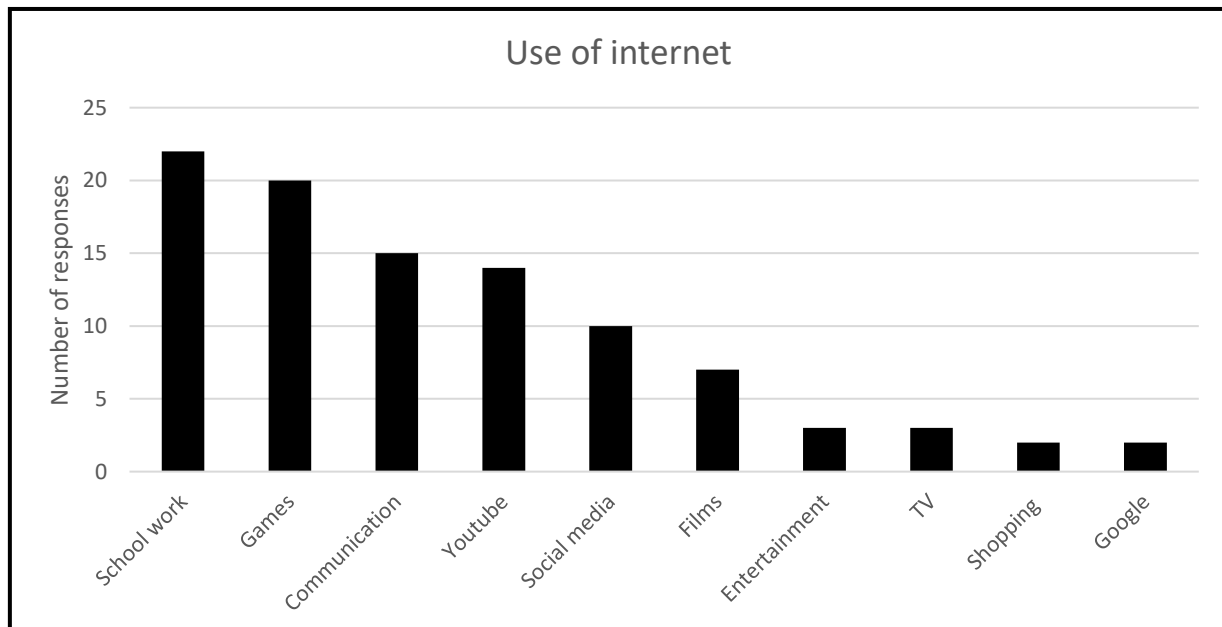


Young people were well connected to the internet, using smartphones (39), tablets (33) and computers (30). 37 thought their connections worked well enough, whereas 13 did not, citing slow speeds (8), or poor signal strength (3) and intermittent connections (2).

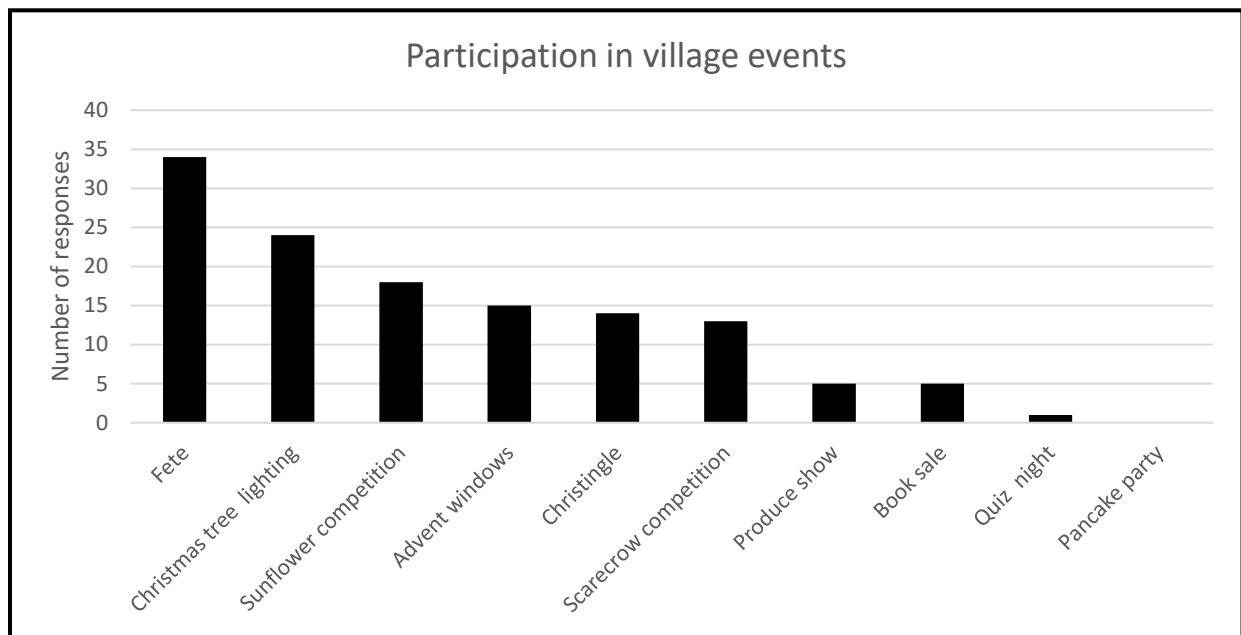
An open question on what the internet was used for produced a list of activities, ranging from the very general such as 'entertainment' to the very specific such as 'dancing vegetables'. The responses were

grouped into broad categories: for example contacting friends and family, phone, insta, snapchat, talking to friends and texting were grouped under communication.

The resulting table is subjective – it could be argued that watching Youtube, films and TV are very similar activities, and that all are forms of entertainment. Specific activities only mentioned once were Babyshark, C beebies, computer, Dancing vegetables, Fifa, football results, memes, music, pictures, Roblox, stories, and watching wildlife.



41 young people indicated that they took part in village events while 11 did not participate. The most popular events were the annual church fete and the lighting of the Christmas tree.



## 1.4 General

### 1.4a What young people liked most about Carlton

44 responses were made to this open question, most listing several things. These could be summarised as friendliness and nice people (10), peace and quiet (8), countryside location, including animals and wildlife (7), the pub (7) and the small size of the village (6). Other things were the Jubilee Orchard and play equipment (3), activities and community spirit (2), walks (2), nice houses (2), homeliness (1), near to Market Bosworth (1), and the litter pick (1).

### 1.4b What young people liked least about Carlton

37 responses were made to this open question, though five of these were 'nothing'. The commonest issue raised was the lack of a field where older respondents could meet friends and play (13), followed by fast cars (9) and traffic generally (4), and the absence of a shop (5). Other dislikes were 'builders that swear' (2), dog fouling (1), horse manure (2), and church services which were not attractive (1). Carlton was sometimes found to be boring (1) with not much to do (3), isolated (2) and too quiet (1).

#### **1.4c What young people thought we should keep for the future**

39 responses were made to this open question. The most important things which young people thought we should keep for the future were the pub (10), the countryside (9), the park, assumed to mean the Jubilee Orchard (5), the small size of the village (4), footpaths (4), existing houses (4), activities (4) and community spirit (4). Other things identified were peace and quiet (3), exclusiveness (2), trees (2), the village green (2), the nice people (2) and the church (1).

#### **1.4d What young people thought we should try to change**

37 responses were made to this open question. The single thing which young people wanted was more space and better facilities for play (20), followed by a shop (6), speed limits (4) and more tree planting (2). Other suggestions, made once, were careful driving signs, 'amount of people', encourage growth and more freedom, better child facilities, better broadband speed, delivery of child friendly posters, off-road cycle routes, ice cream van visits, no new houses, parking on the roads, a better path to Bosworth, more litter picks, a children's music club, no demolition of older houses and provide guidance on activities.



## **2. Adult Questionnaire: results**

300 adult questionnaires were delivered in October 2022, one to every adult resident in the parish. 247 completed questionnaires were collected, a response rate of 82.3%.

Unless otherwise stated, the percentage figures reported below are calculated on the total number of questionnaires returned (247) corrected to the nearest whole number. 9 respondents returned blank forms, and all questions were not answered, so the figures quoted below will always total less than 96% for any question.

### **2.1 Respondents**

There were similar numbers of male (122) and female (116) respondents. 20 respondents (8%) were between 16 and 30 years old, with 63 (26%) between 31 and 50, 90 (36%) between 51 and 70, and 61 (25%) over 70 years old.

Just under half (49%) of respondents were in employment, with 31% working full-time and 18% part-time. 38% of respondents described themselves as retired, while 2% were students or in training.

31% of respondents reported that they expected to be working from home for at least one day a week in future, while 26% did not. 6 respondents were students or in training, and 4 indicated that they would like to continue to live in Carlton when they completed their training, while 2 would not.

### **2.2 Health and Community Care**

47 respondents (19%) reported receiving regular personal help of some kind, and in 33 cases (13%) this was provided by the family, with additional help being provided by neighbours in 8 cases. 2 respondents received help from private nursing services, with additional help from their neighbours. 1 respondent received help from local authority carers, with additional help from their family. 1 respondent received help only from neighbours, and 1 reported receiving help from an unspecified source. Respondents did not receive help from Meals on Wheels or Age Concern.

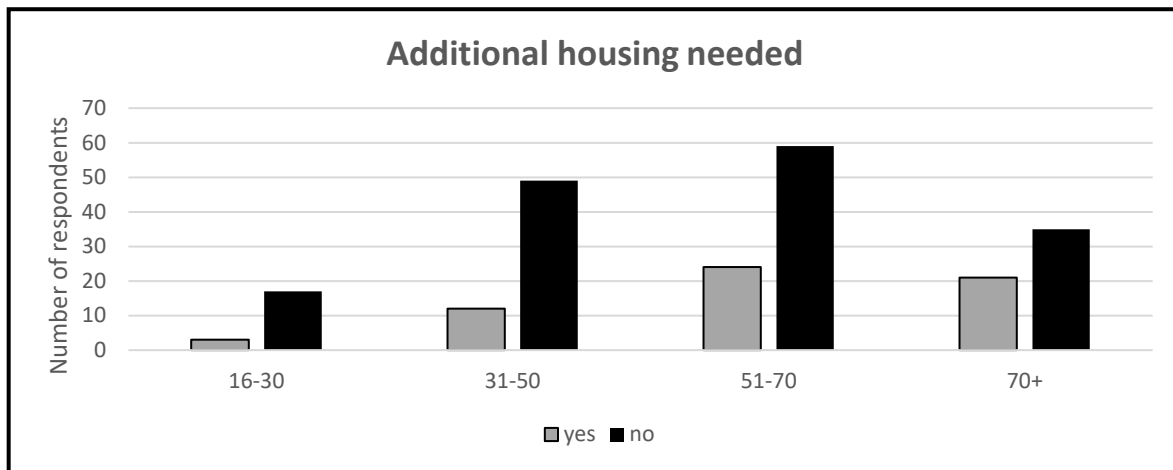
Personal help can take many forms, and of the 33 respondents who received help from their families, 7 were 16-30 years old, 3 were aged 31-50, 4 were aged 51-70, and 19 over 70.

In 2011, 9 respondents reported receiving help, of whom 3 were aged 51-70 and 6 more than 70 years old. In spite of the wider age range of respondents in 2021, it is clear that there has been a significant increase in the number of older residents receiving personal help of some kind. In the case of those more than 70 years old, the number receiving help has trebled from 6 in 2011 to 19 in 2021.

## 2.3 Housing and services

88% of respondents reported that they would support a small local shop, even though the questionnaire did not specify what kind of shop or what it would offer for sale. Some respondents qualified their answers with comments such as 'only if it sold local produce' or 'only if it offered good value'.

68% of respondents thought there was no need for additional housing in Carlton, while 26% thought that there was. In all age groups a clear majority of respondents thought that no additional housing was needed.

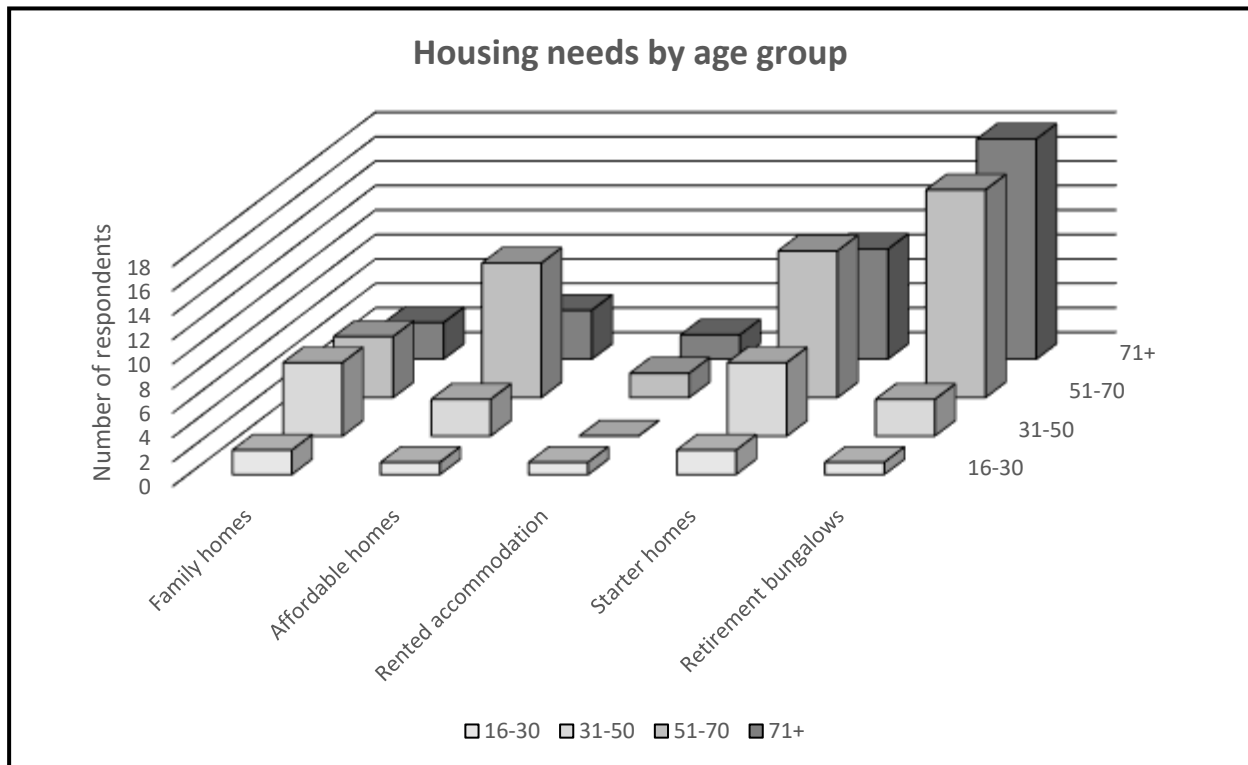


Of the 64 respondents who thought there was a need for additional housing, 16% thought there was a need for retirement bungalows, 13% a need for starter homes, 9% a need for affordable homes, 7% a need for family homes and 2% a need for rented accommodation.

When broken down by age group, respondents more than 50 years old thought there was most need for retirement bungalows, starter homes and affordable homes. Respondents less than 50 years old thought there was most need for family homes and starter homes, but in general this age group thought there was little need for additional housing.

22% of respondents expected to be looking for alternative accommodation within the next five years. 47 responses were made to an open question about what sort of accommodation they would be looking for: 13 respondents said a bungalow while 6 said a smaller dwelling or that they wished to downsize. 4 respondents were looking for a bigger house, while 4 were looking for a detached house or one with land. 2 respondents were looking for a starter home, 3 for an affordable home, while 2 expected to be moving to university accommodation.





Other responses included a coastal property, a dwelling in Market Bosworth within walking distance of a shop, an apartment closer to work, a house share, and 'a tent if it was next to nice neighbours'.

Of the 55 respondents who were looking for alternative accommodation, 34 said that they would prefer to stay in Carlton. 4% of respondents reported that a member of their family had had to leave the parish in the last five years through a lack of suitable housing.



## 2.4 Travel and transport

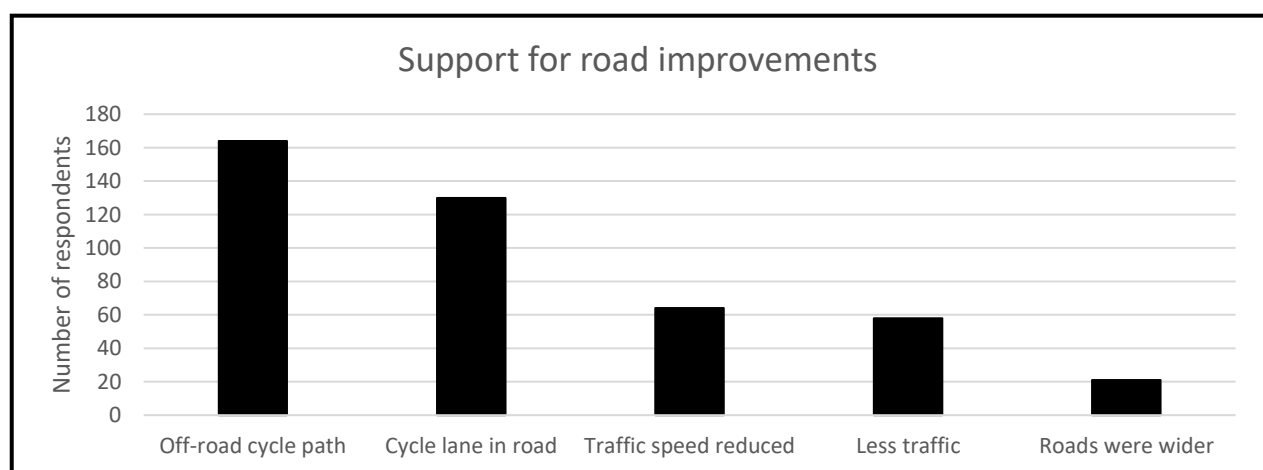
74% of respondents never used the Arriva bus service; 22% used the bus sometimes, but only 2% used it often. 43 respondents made comments on how the bus service might be made better. The commonest answers (27) were along the lines of a more frequent service, later buses, and services on Sundays. 4 respondents requested more convenient stops or a service through the village, while 5 requested better connections to surrounding villages, Ashby, Coalville and Hinckley. 3 respondents said that the current service met their needs.

Other suggestions were a service that would get to Leicester in less than an hour, electric buses, digital timetables and a new bus shelter.

84% of respondents regularly walked in Carlton, 82% regularly walked in the local countryside, and 65% regularly walked to Market Bosworth.

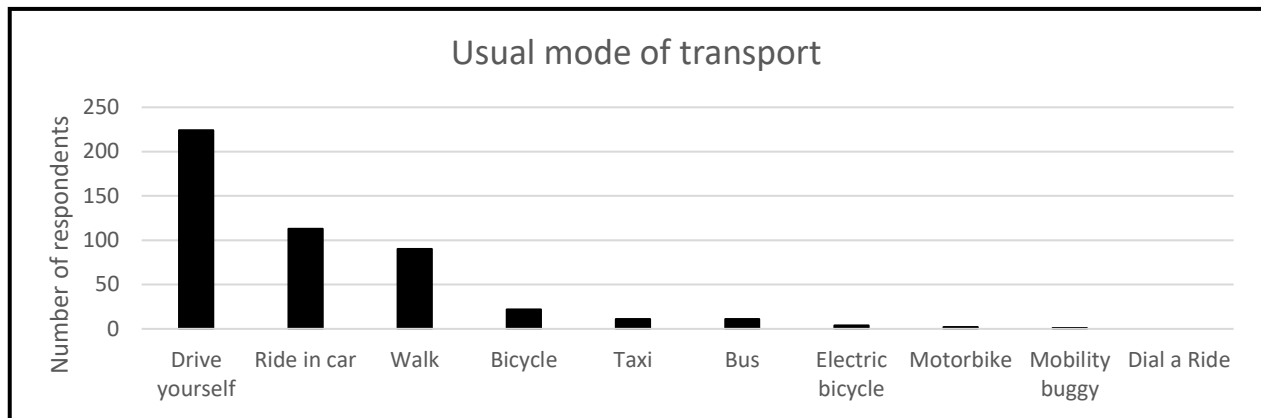
30% of respondents regularly cycled around Carlton, 26% regularly cycled to Market Bosworth, and 18% regularly cycled in Leicestershire.

Respondents were asked which improvements would encourage them to walk or cycle to Market Bosworth, or do so more often. There was most support for an off-road cycle path (66%), or a designated cycle lane at the side of the road (53%). Other suggested improvements were to mow the verges more frequently and to install traffic calming measures on Barton/Bosworth roads. Respondents commented that any path should be suitable for a pram; and that any widening of the road would increase speeding. One respondent stipulated that any path should be for pedestrians only and not cyclists.



When respondents travelled out of Carlton, most of them usually drove themselves in a car (91%), or were passengers in a car driven by someone else (46%), while 36%

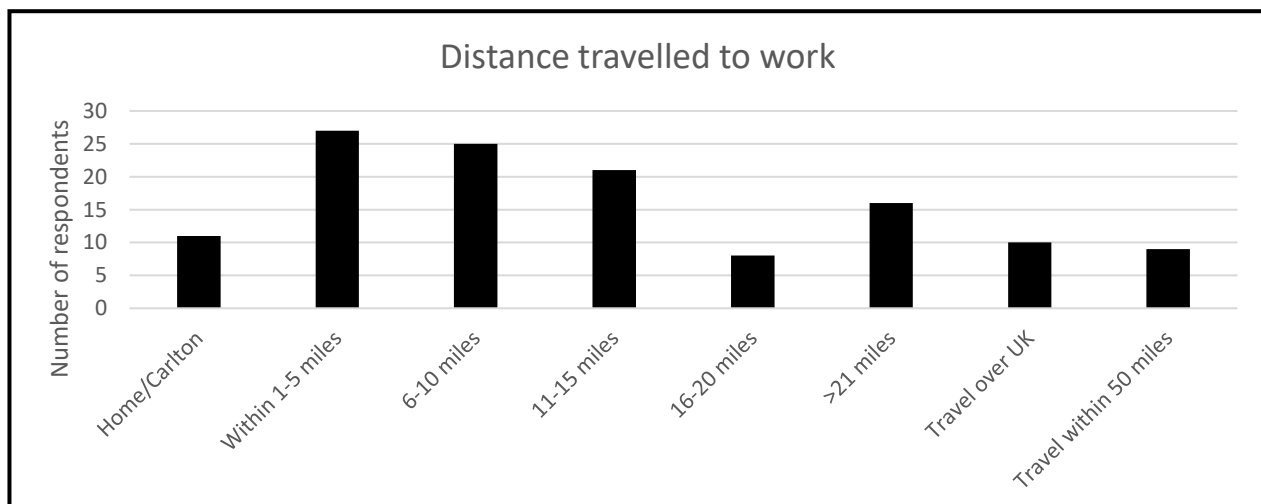
walked. 9% rode a mechanical bicycle, while 5% travelled by bus and 5% by taxi. The full range of responses is charted below.



228 respondents owned their own car: 184 of these vehicles ran on petrol or diesel, 31 were electric or hybrid, and 1 ran on LPG (12 unknown). 173 cars were usually kept on a private drive, and 37 in a garage, while 19 were parked in the street.

25% of respondents (61 individuals) indicated that they would use a public charging point if one was provided in Carlton; 55% (136 individuals) would not.

Most respondents listed one or two fixed places of work, and these were classified as in Carlton, and between 1 and 5 miles, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20 and more than 21 miles away. 10 respondents travelled all over the UK for their work, while 9 travelled less widely.



Many respondents listed several places where they travelled to for shopping. Hinckley was listed most often, followed by Leicester and Market Bosworth. 27% of respondents used the Leicester Park and Ride scheme. In the chart overleaf, Fosse Park is listed separately from Leicester, while Ventura Park is included with Tamworth.

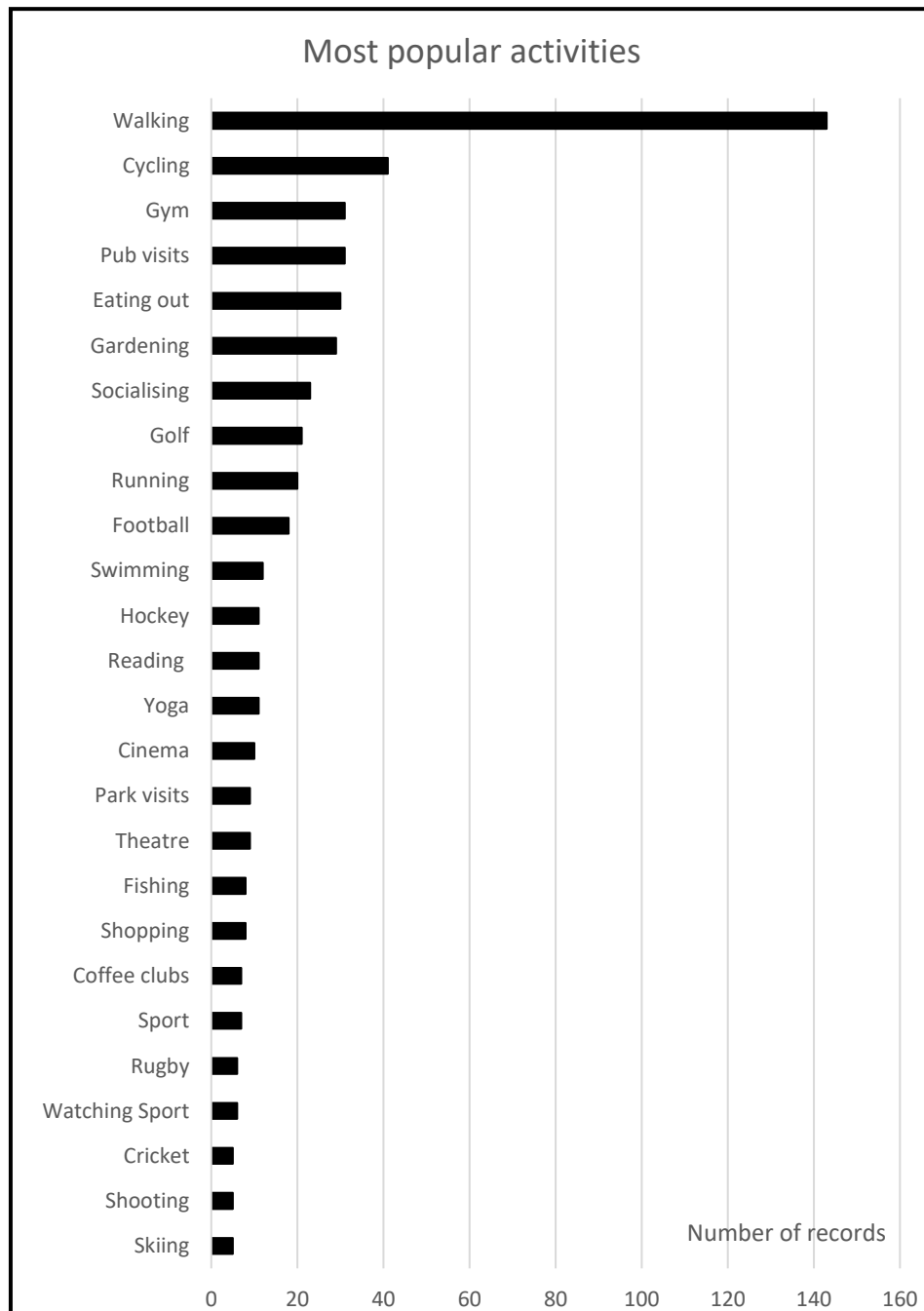


## 2.5 Recreation and leisure

Respondents were asked to list their five favourite recreational activities: 598 responses were made, listing 93 activities which were grouped into 81 categories. These categories are somewhat subjective, though the terms used are those used by the respondents. For example, dog walking, walking, and hiking were counted in the single category of walking. Although slightly different, book club and reading were counted together under reading. Similarly, gym, fitness, fitness classes and online fitness were combined under gym. A range of activities involving meeting family and friends were counted together under the general heading of socialising, though there is clearly overlap between this and the categories of dining out and pub visiting.



Some respondents simply listed sport as an activity, while many listed specific sports. This means that a wide range of sports, including athletics, badminton, martial arts, netball, snowboarding, squash, tennis and table tennis were not listed often enough to be included in the summary chart. All activities recorded more than five times are represented in the word cloud on the previous page, and plotted on the chart below.



The majority of the reported activities would involve travel out of Carlton.

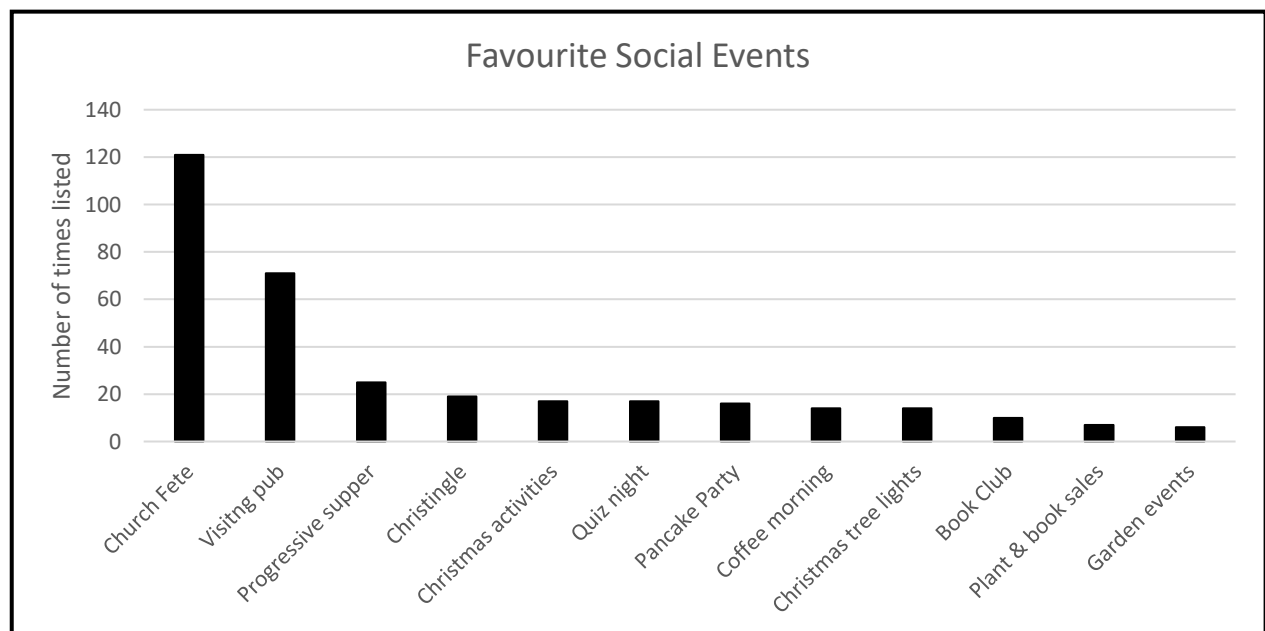
40 respondents indicated that they would be interested in renting an allotment in Carlton.



30% of respondents indicated that they would use outdoor gym equipment if it was installed in Carlton.

The favourite social event in Carlton is undoubtedly the annual village fete, followed by visiting the pub, the progressive supper and Christmas events. Others were more specific, listing live music (6), events and festivals (7) and Christmas Day at the pub (4). The general term Christmas activities may refer to the Christingle and Christmas tree lighting; other specific events counted include the Christmas craft fair in the church (3), and Christmas at the Rectory (1).

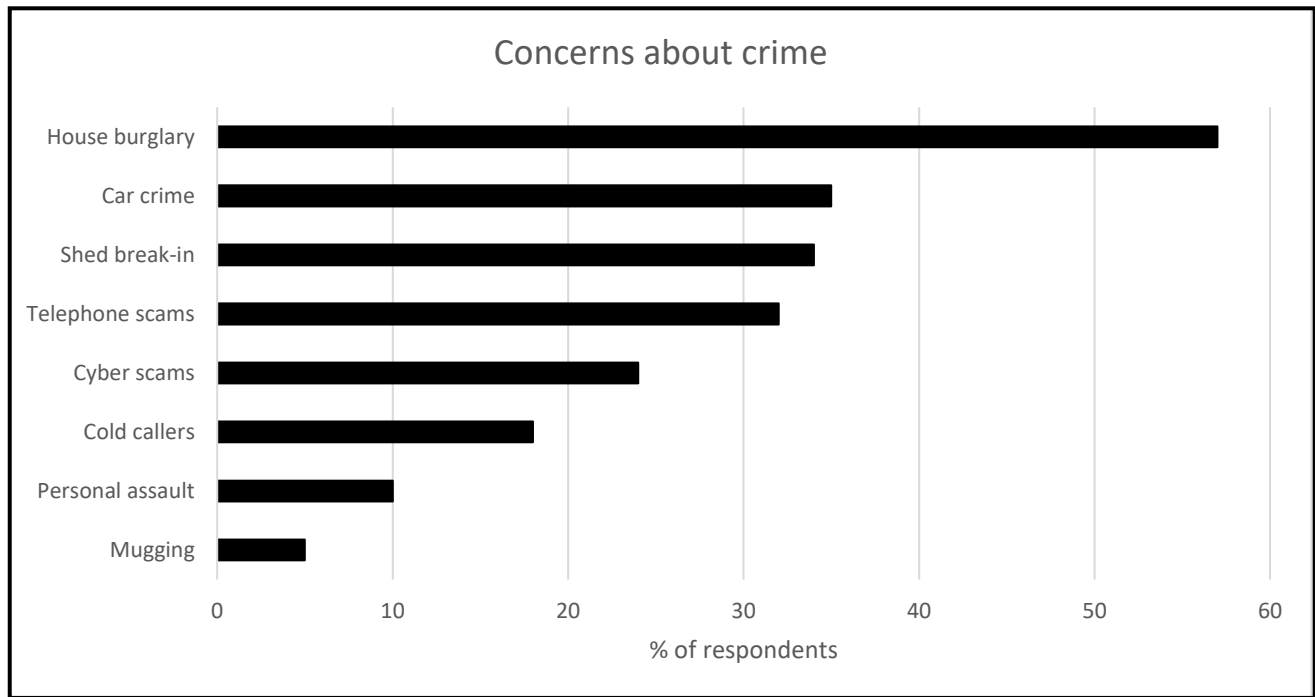
All social events mentioned five or more times are shown in the chart below.





## 2.6 Crime and safety

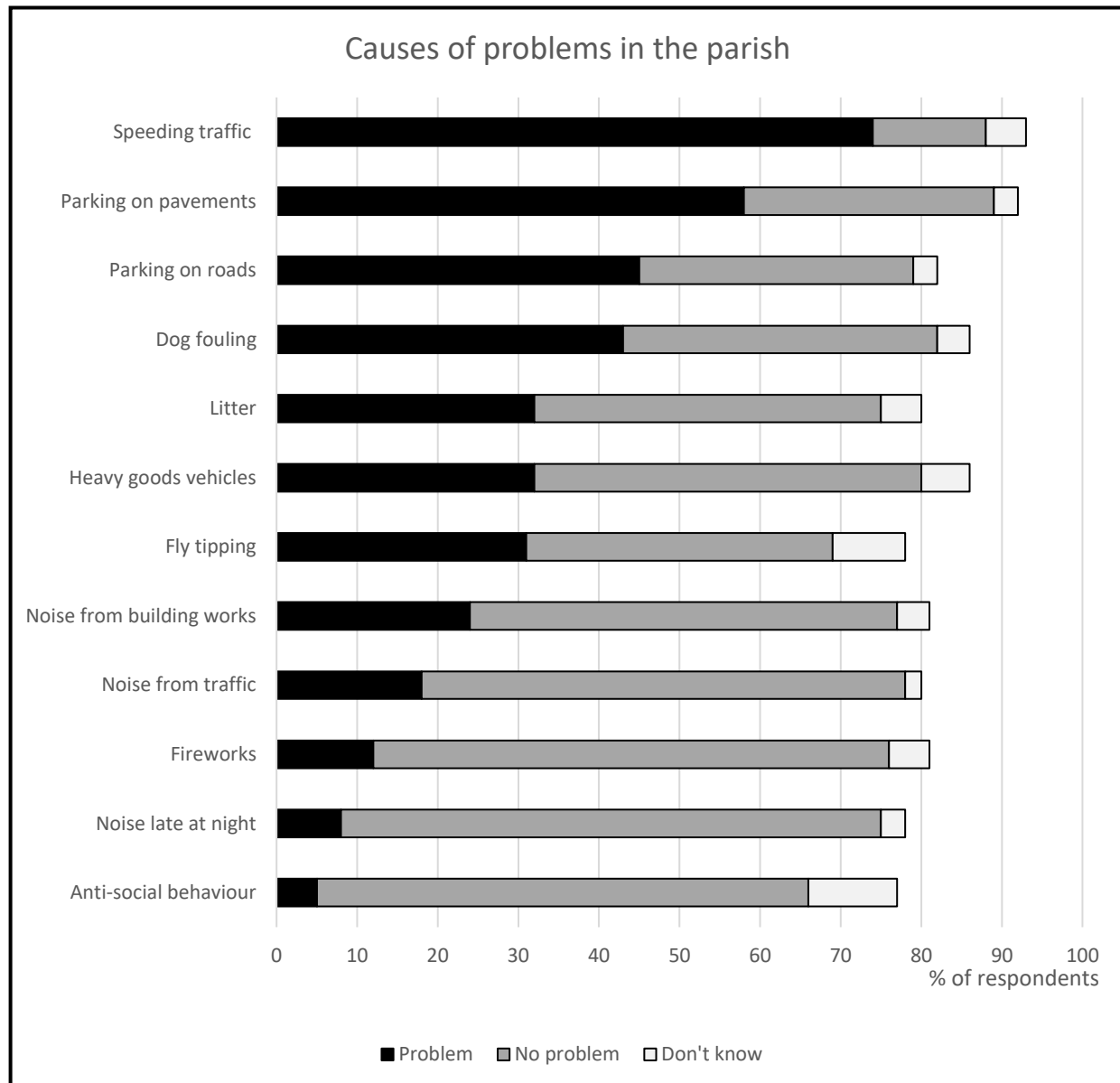
57% of respondents said that they were worried about house burglary, followed by car crime (35%), shed break-ins (34%) and telephone scams (32%).



6% of respondents reported that they had been bothered, or felt threatened by doorstep salesmen, while 70% had received a suspicious telephone call, email or text message. Six respondents (2%) reported that they had lost money through an on-line or telephone scam.



Speeding traffic and parking on pavements were thought to cause problems by more than 50% of respondents. Parking on roads and dog fouling were thought to cause problems by more than 40% of respondents. In these four cases a majority of respondents thought the activity gave rise to a problem. In all other cases, the majority of respondents thought that the activity did not cause a problem.



Respondents also identified parking around The Gate Hangs Well (4), parking by contractors and delivery drivers (4), horse manure on pavements (3), cyclists and horse riders riding two abreast (1), lack of street lighting at night (1), light pollution at night (1), chain saw noise (1), and barking dogs (1) as causing problems.

62% of respondents would support the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in the village, while 51% would support the installation of traffic calming measures.

76% of respondents felt able to take part in community activities in Carlton, while 12% did not. Those who did not feel able to take part cited age or infirmity (5), no interest (5), not feeling welcome (5), having no free time (3) and not being aware of events (3) as the reason.

When asked what could be done to help them feel more included in the community, 17 respondents said nothing, or that they felt welcomed, while 3 made comments to the effect that they had felt excluded for some time and it was now too late to make them feel included. 11 respondents thought that having more, or a wider range of events would help them feel more included, and of these 6 suggested more events suitable for younger people. 8 respondents thought that events should be better advertised.

Other suggestions were to improve the pub and give locals a discount, to undertake community tree plantings, to increase church attendance, to use money raised at social events for village improvements and not just the church, to provide a sports field, to provide voluntary transport for the infirm, and for the community to be more accepting of new people, new ideas, and properties being redeveloped.

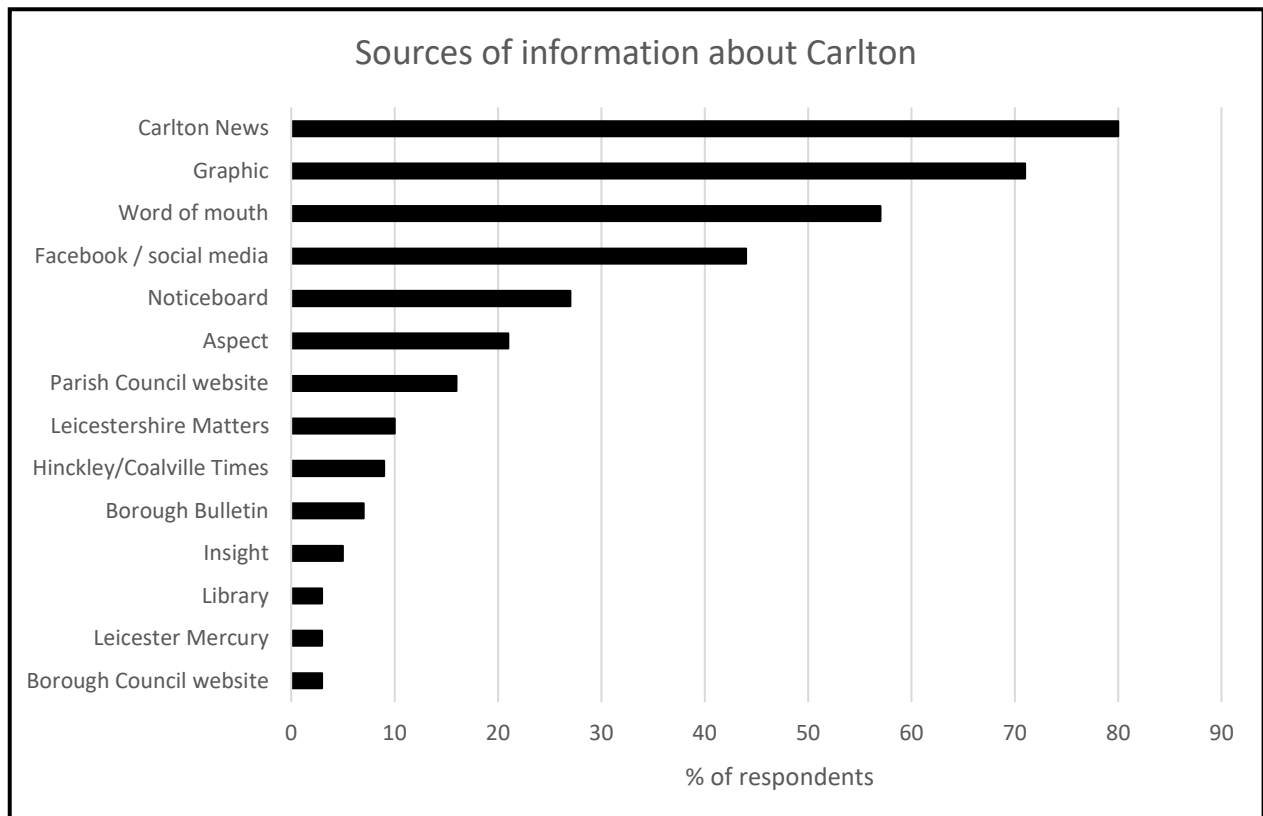
## **2.7 Access to information**

92% of respondents used the internet, but only 75% found the existing provision to be adequate for their needs. The main reasons for dissatisfaction were slow speeds (24) and poor or intermittent connections (14). One respondent thought there was not enough choice of providers, another thought that better mobile access was needed. 3 respondents said that they were too old or did not understand the internet.

80% of all respondents used Carlton News to access news and information about Carlton.

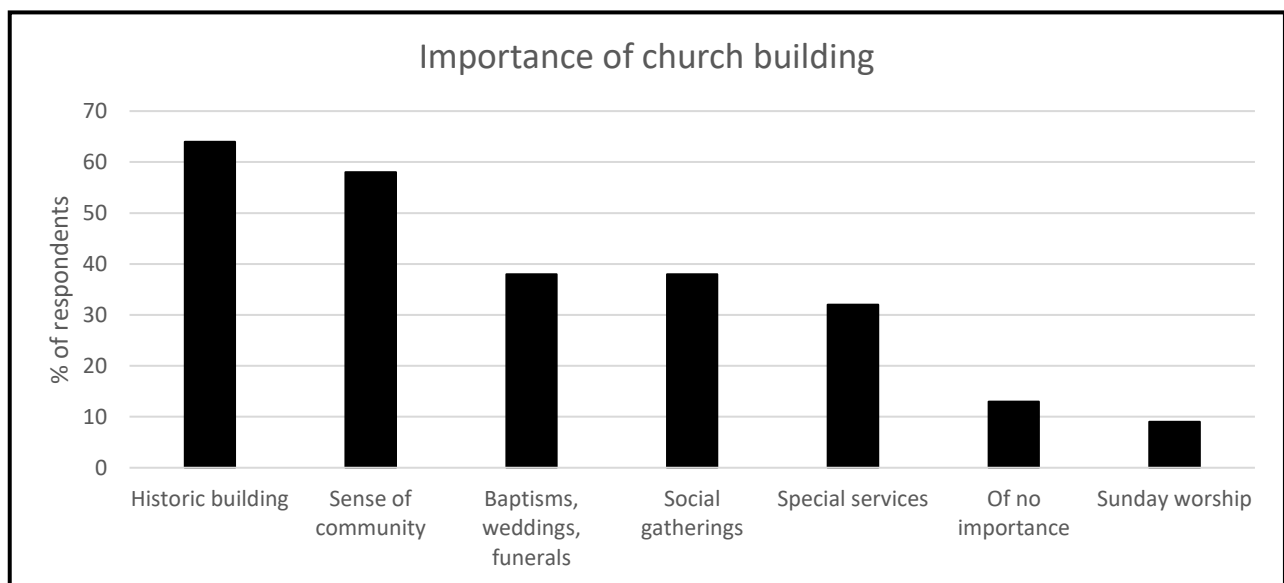
Other sources of information listed by individuals were Facebook, Messenger, the Neighbourhood Watch circular, the book club, the phone, pub Facebook page, Leicestershire rural texts, gossip and council minutes.

Only 20 respondents used Market Bosworth Community Library, and only 5 used the Carlton mobile library.

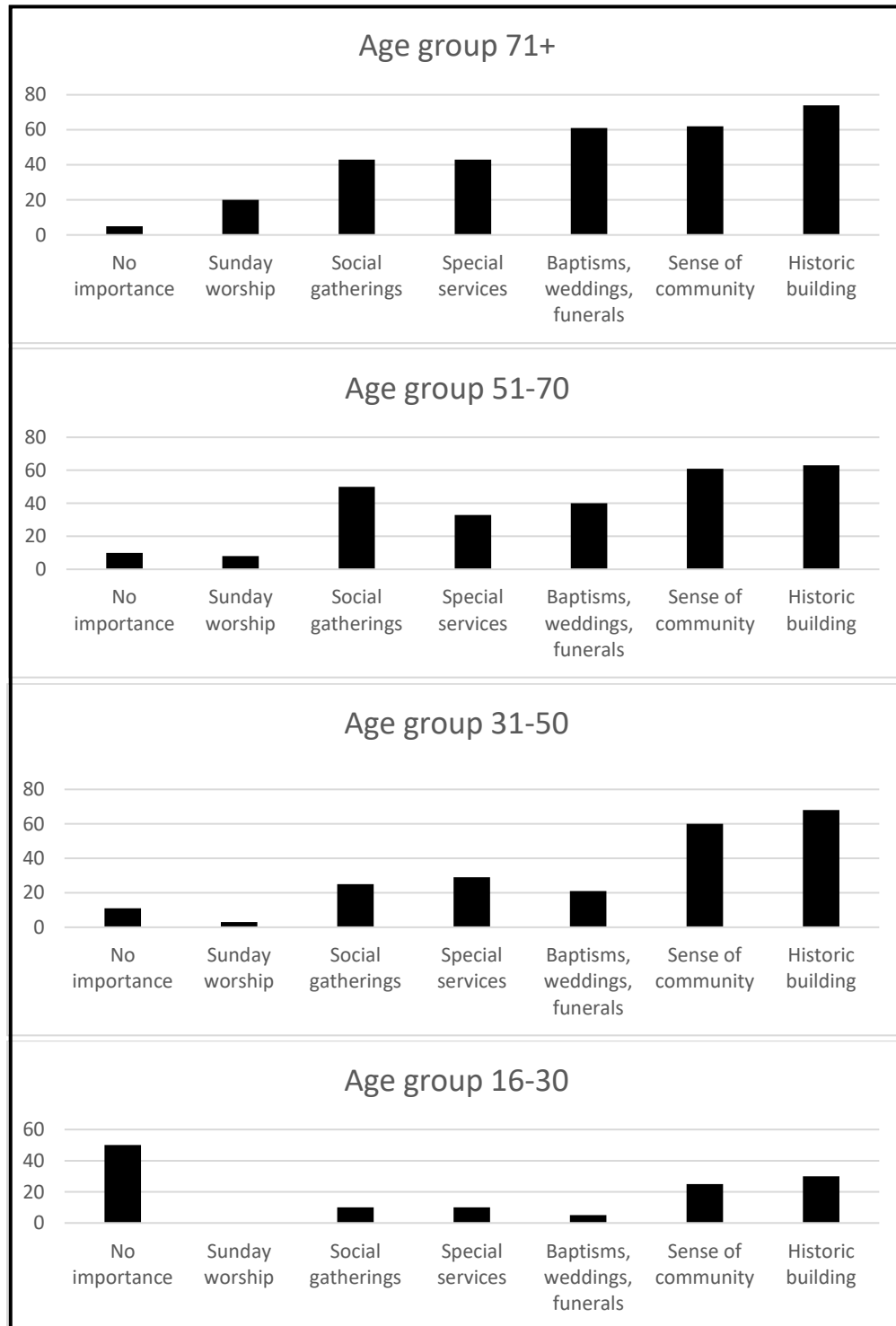


## 2.8 Community assets

Saint Andrew's Church was considered most important as an historic building (64%) and for a sense of community (58%).



The responses from each age group were very different, and are charted below. The vertical axis in the charts is the percentage of respondents in each age group. In general, the church was much more important to respondents over 50 years old, and for secular rather than religious activities. No respondent under the age of 30 considered the church important for Sunday worship.





A Community Hub was being created in the church building when the parish plan questionnaires were issued, and respondents were asked what activities they would like to see taking place when the hub was brought into use. 293 suggestions were submitted, 51 of which were general along the lines of club and society meetings, instructional courses and community activities. 18 respondents suggested that the hub should provide activities for children and young people, but did not specify what these activities might be.

The 224 specific suggestions could be categorised as social gatherings, entertainment, workshops, talks, events and exercise and fitness. These are tabulated below.

#### **Social gatherings**

Coffee & cake (26)	Parent & baby group (14)	Youth club (12)
Quizzes (4)	Wine & cheese events (1)	

#### **Entertainment**

Card games (9)	General games (4)	Film nights (4)
Beetle drive (2)	Bingo (2)	Karaoke (2)
Board games (2)		

#### **Workshops**

Book club (8)	Art group (7)	Craft general (5)
Cookery (4)	Flower arranging (3)	Wine tasting (3)
U3A activities (2)	Financial planning (2)	Photography (2)
Music lessons (2)	Knitting (2)	Road safety awareness (2)
Chess club (2)	Brownies (2)	Mindful art projects (1)
Crochet (1)	Sewing (1)	Environment discussions (1)
Human library (1)	Dementia care (1)	Poetry happenings (1)
Guides (1)	Choir practice (1)	Foraging course (1)
Scouts (1)	Beavers (1)	Woodworking (1)
Wreath workshop (1)	Local farming (1)	Alcoholics Anonymous (1)

#### **Talks**

General talks (15)	Local history (2)	Gardening (1)
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## Events

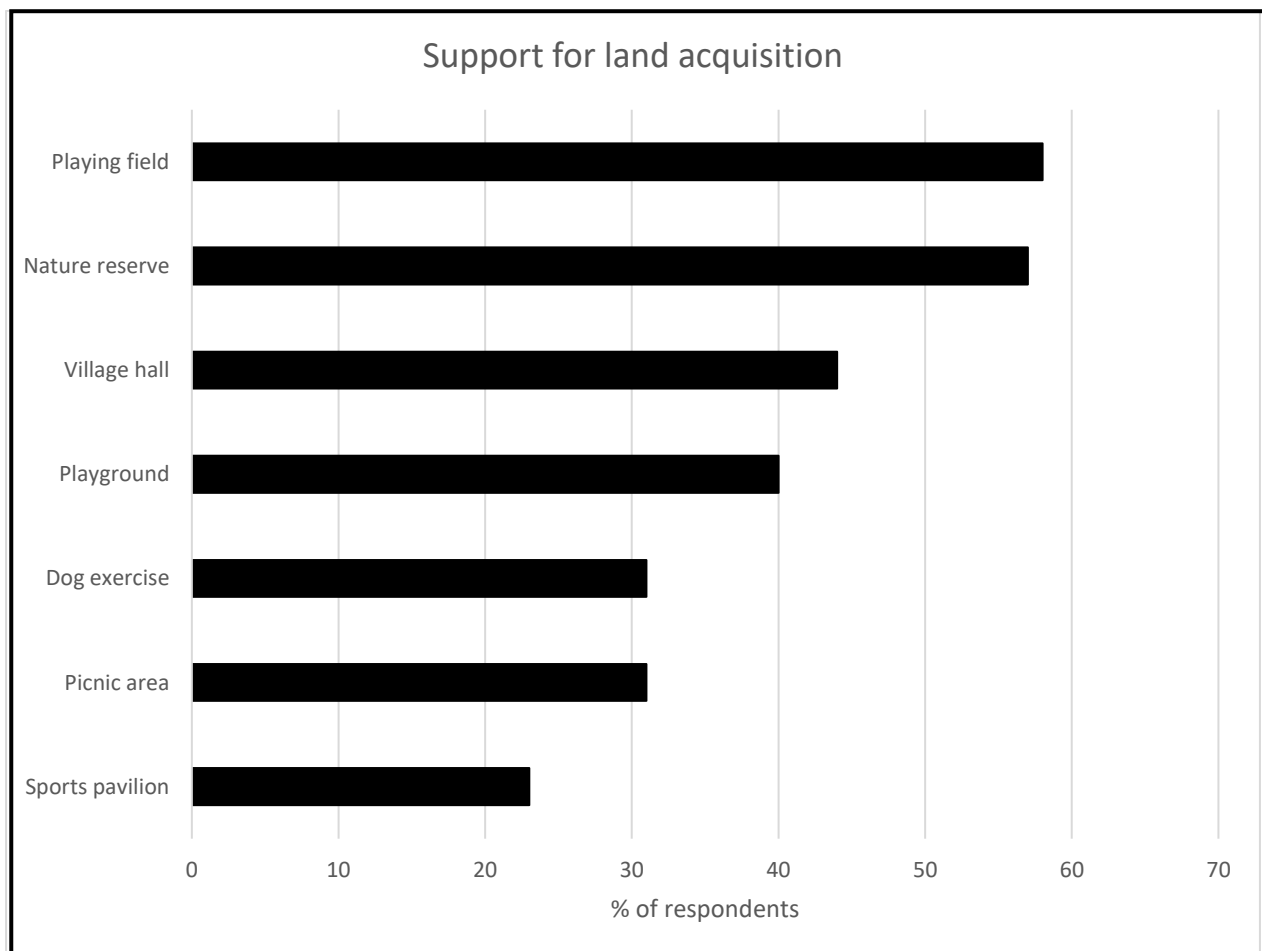
Concerts (8)	Parties (4)	Drama (3)
Exhibitions (2)	Nativity (1)	Auctions (1)
Table top sales (1)	Local plan forum (1)	Craft fair (1)
TV for sports events (1)	Parish Council meetings (1)	Pantomime (1)
Celebration of different faiths eg Eid (1)		

## Exercise and fitness

Exercise classes (9)	Yoga (4)	Fitness classes (3)
Pilates (3)	Sports (3)	Dance classes (3)
Bowls (3)	Keep fit (2)	Youth Hostels Association (2)
Table tennis (2),	Skittles (1)	Wellbeing group (1)
Movement class (1)	Health awareness (1)	Weightwatchers (1)
Workout space (1)	Walking club (1)	

## 2.9 Land acquisition

A majority of respondents would support the acquisition of land for a playing field (58%) or a nature reserve (57%). In practice, a suitable parcel of land could accommodate several of the possible uses listed.





Different age groups favoured different kinds of facilities, with those over 50 having a relatively low level of interest in a sports pavilion, picnic area or dog walking area, but a relatively high level of interest in land for a village hall.

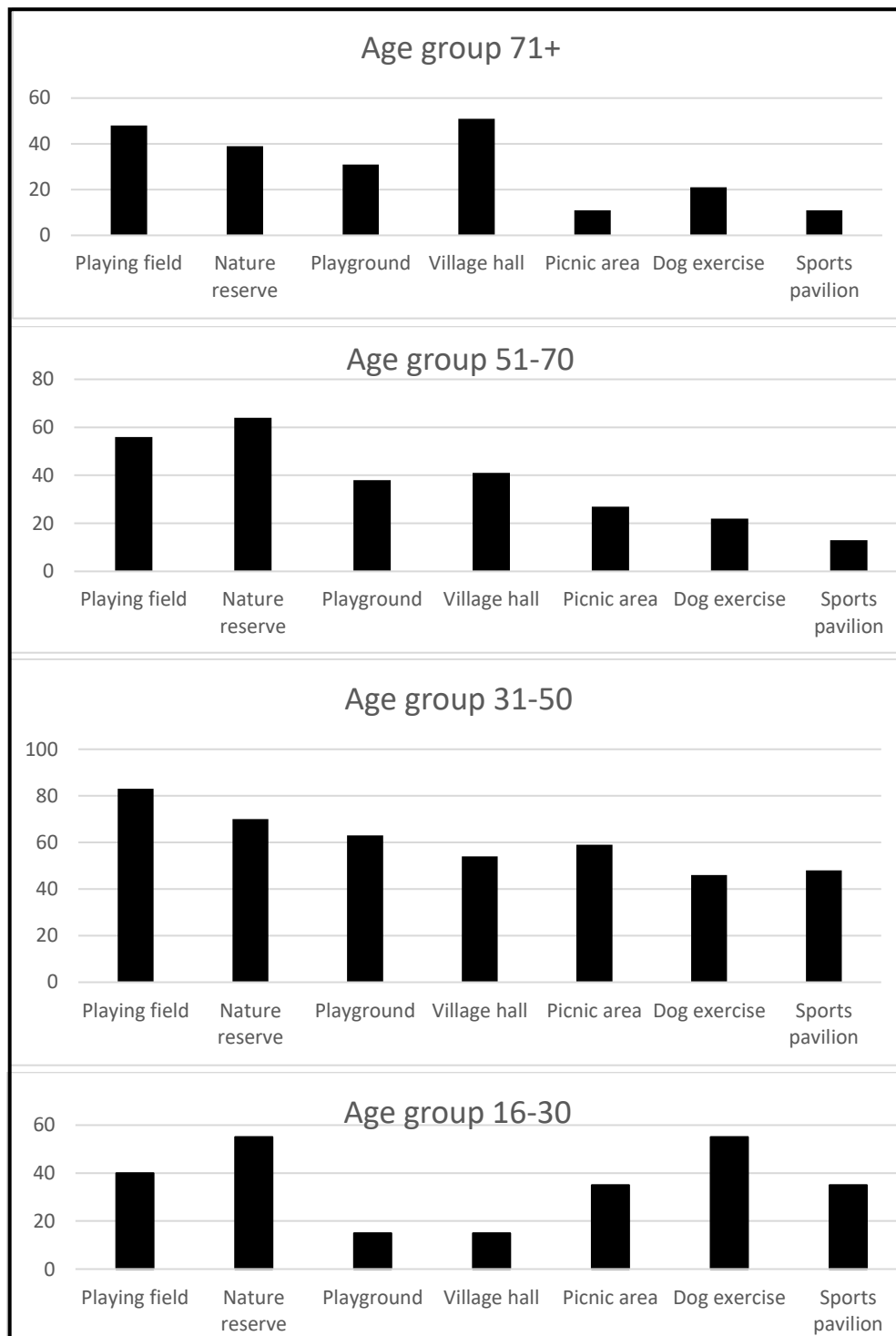
There was a high level of support for a nature reserve in all age groups.

There was a very high level of support for a playing field and playground in the 31-50 age group.

In the 16-30 age group there was more support for a nature reserve and dog exercise area than for a playing field or playground.

In the charts overleaf, the vertical axis is the percentage of respondents in each age group.





## 2.10 General

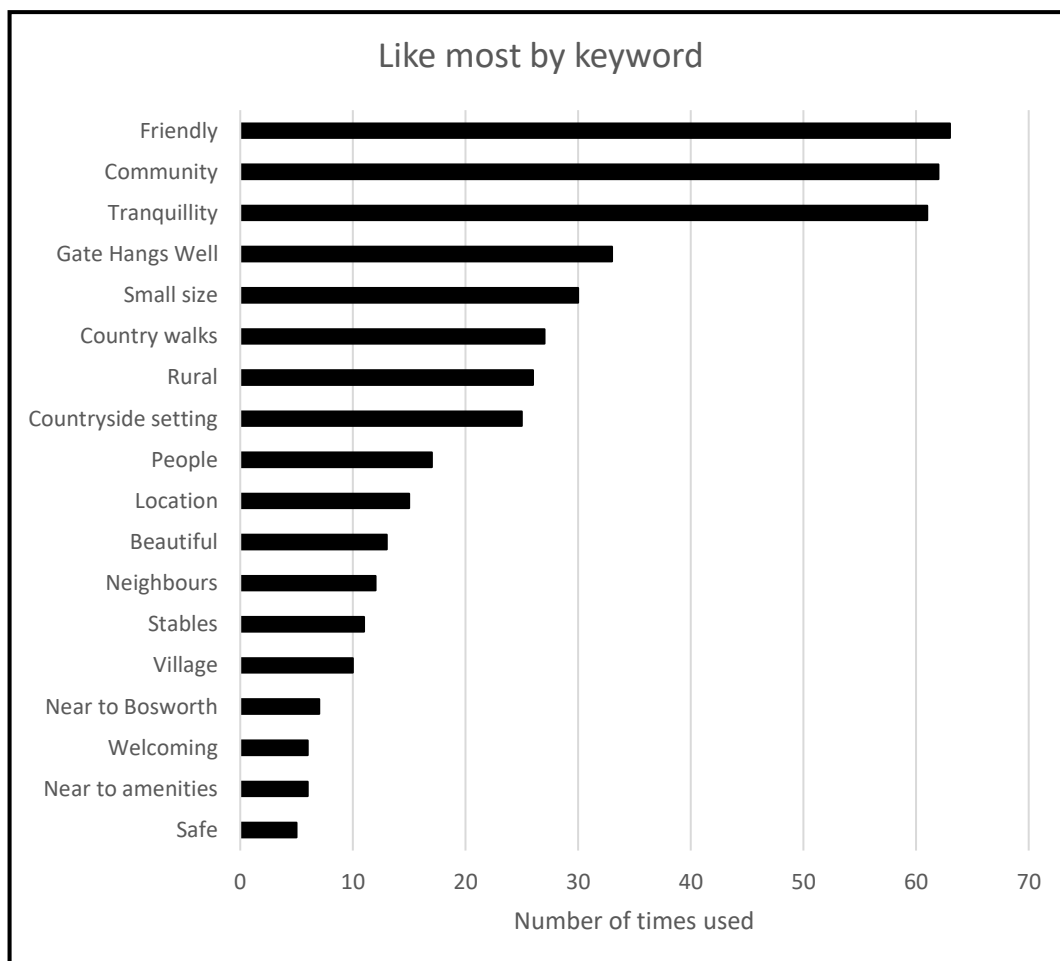
The four open questions about Carlton elicited a wide range of responses, ranging from a single word to several sentences. All of the comments were transcribed, and then a key word or phrase was selected from those used and applied to every relevant comment. The method used is described in the Appendix: Methodology (p.45).

## 2.10a What respondents liked most about Carlton

The question *What do you like most about Carlton?* elicited 212 responses, which were coded using 465 selected key words, of which 48 key words were different. 21 key words were only used once, 6 were used twice, 2 were used three times and one was used four times.

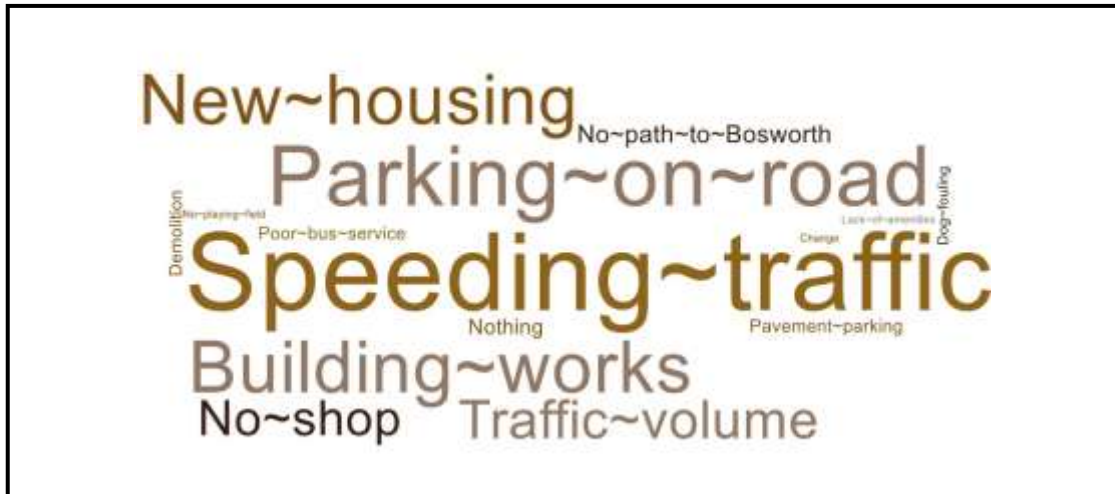


Those key words and phrases which were used more than 5 times are shown in the word cloud above and listed in the chart below.

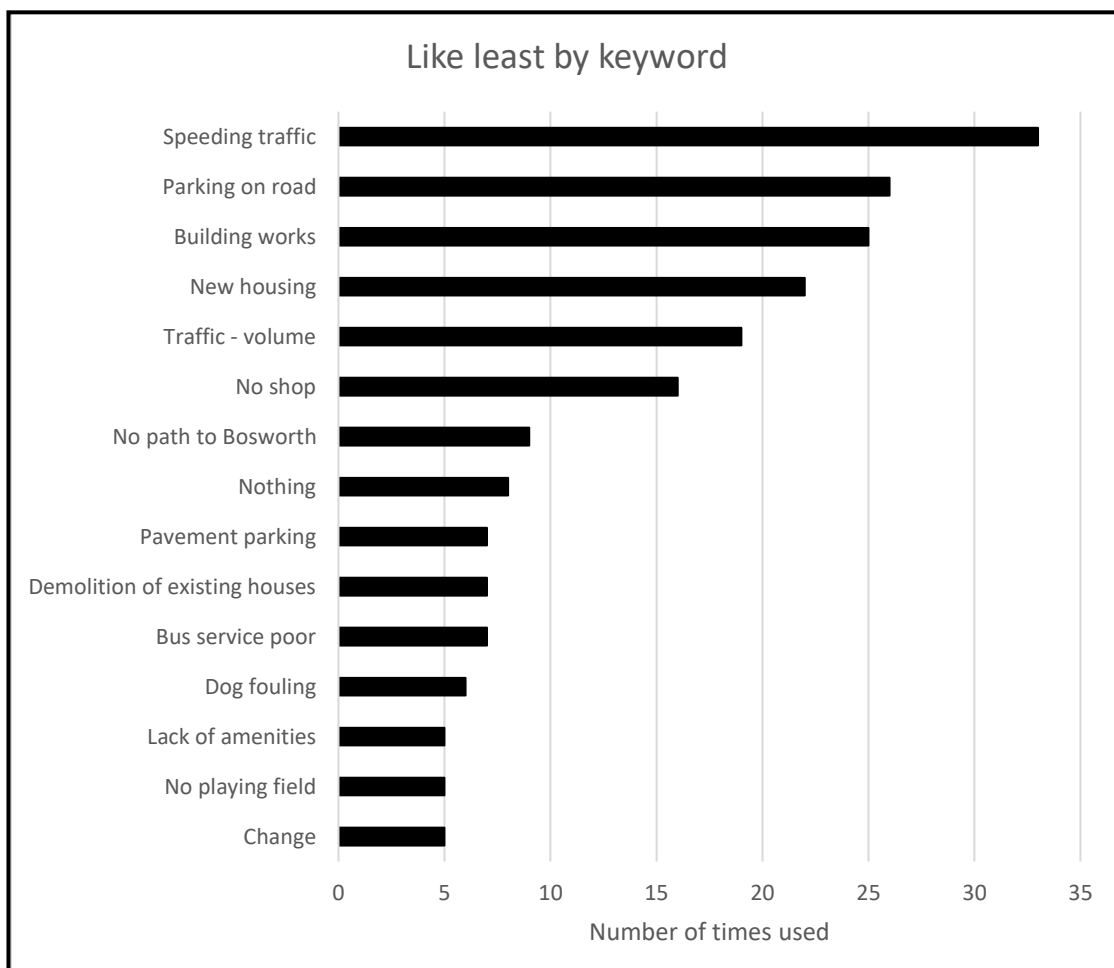


## 2.10b What respondents liked least about Carlton

The question *What do you like least about Carlton?* elicited 194 responses, which were coded using 253 selected key words, of which 51 key words were different. 27 key words were only used once, 4 were used twice, and 4 were used three times.



Those key words and phrases which were used more than 3 times are shown in the word cloud above and listed in the chart below.

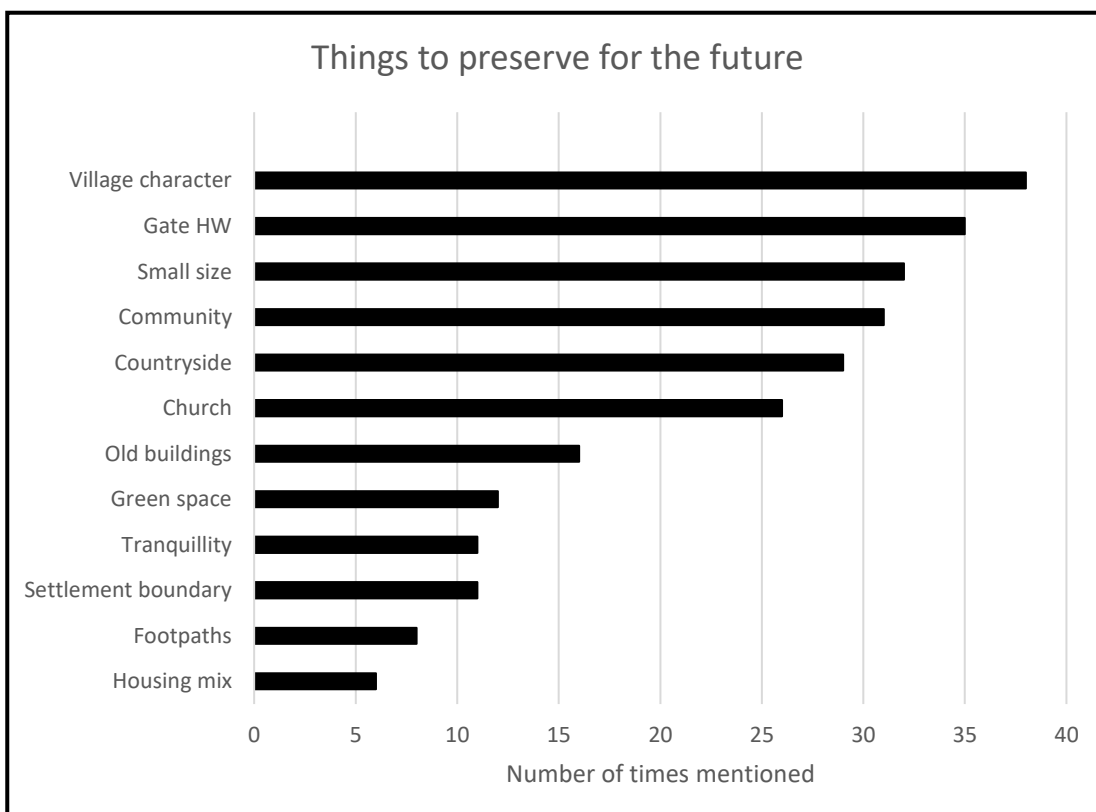


## 2.10c What respondents would like to preserve for the future

The question *What should we try to preserve in Carlton for the future?* elicited 192 responses, which were coded using 293 selected key words, of which 35 key words were different. 16 key words were only used once, 4 were used twice, one was used three times and one was used 4 times.



Those key words and phrases which were used more than 5 times are shown in the word cloud above and listed in the chart below.



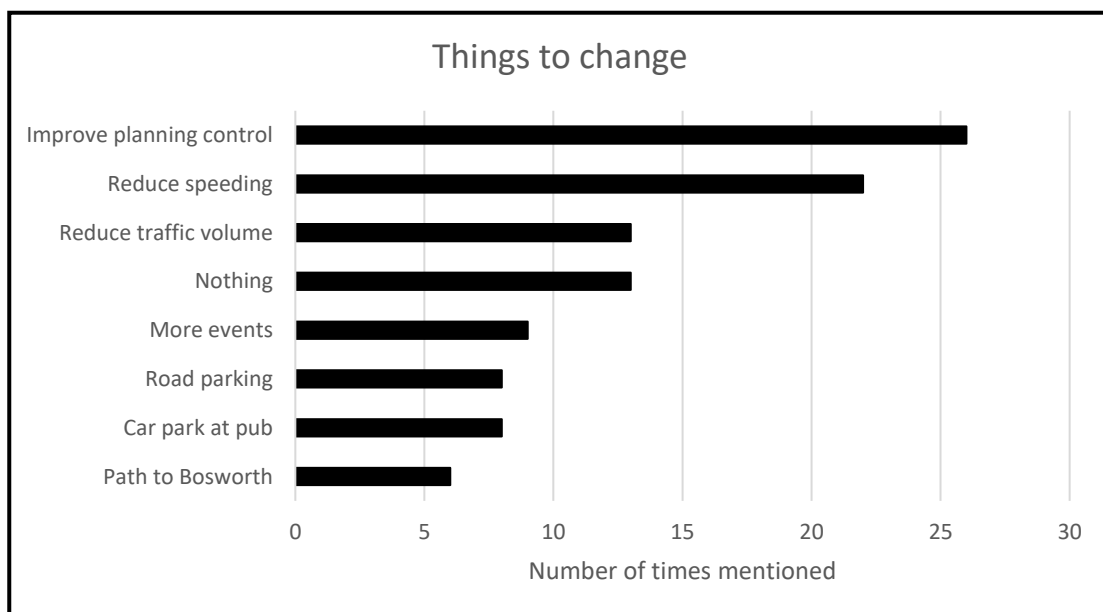


## 2.10d What respondents would like to change

The question *What should we try to change?* elicited 149 responses, which were coded using 183 selected key words, of which 55 key words were different. 28 key words were only used once, 9 were used twice, and 7 were used three times.



Those key words and phrases which were used more than 3 times are shown in the word cloud above and listed in the chart below.



### 3 Overview and interpretation of results

#### 3.1 Previous objectives

The overriding objectives of the 2011 Parish Plan *“to foster and maintain the community spirit, peace and quiet, countryside setting, small size, and friendliness of Carlton”* have largely been achieved.

The 2011 Parish Plan also proposed short term and longer term objectives, many of which have been realised over the past ten years.

The Affordable Housing Project was completed in 2013, followed by the Diamond Jubilee Orchard and Toddlers Play Area in 2015. The Carlton Gardening Group was created to manage the Jubilee Orchard, and since then has taken on a wide range of projects.

The Saint Andrew’s Community Hub was completed in 2021, creating a toilet, kitchen and flexible meeting and activity space, in an extension to the church.

Traffic speeds have been monitored, local rights of way have been made much more accessible, the Friday coffee morning has become established, and superfast broadband has been installed.

The Neighbourhood Watch email system has now been augmented by several independent networks on Facebook and Whatsapp.

The objectives of acquiring land for a playing field and allotments, and the creation of a safe off-road path and/or cycleway to Market Bosworth have not yet been realised.

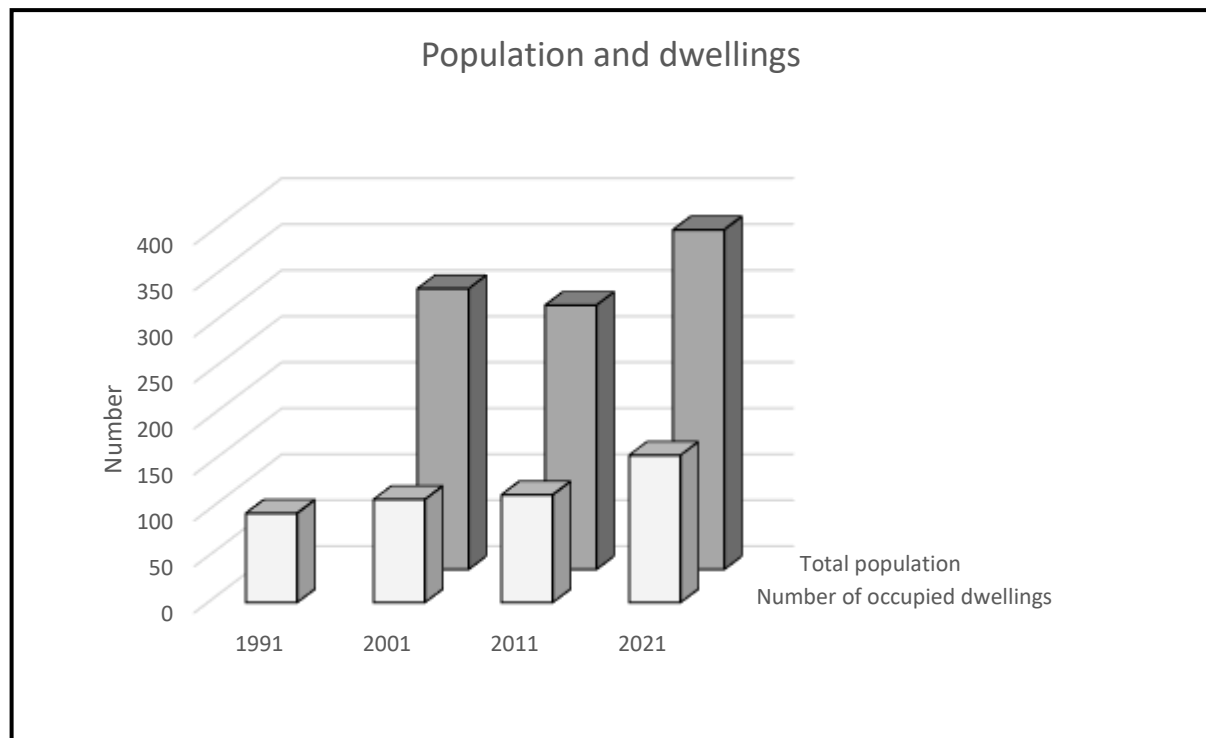
Updated recommendations can be found on page 5 of this report.



### 3.2 Respondents

The number of occupied dwellings in Carlton has increased from 97 in 1991 to 160 in 2021, and the total population (of adults and young people) has increased from 305 in 2001 to 369 in 2021.

	1991	2001	2011	2021
Number of occupied dwellings	97	112	117	160
Total population		305	287	369



122 adult respondents were male, and 116 female, representing 79% of the total parish electorate of 300.

Just under half (49%) of respondents were in employment, with 31% working full-time. 38% described themselves as retired, while 2% were students or in training.

### 3.3 Positive aspects

The things that respondents like most about Carlton have remained constant since 1991 – the friendly community, tranquillity, small village atmosphere and rural setting.

In the latest survey, for the first time, friendliness and sense of community ranked higher than tranquillity, and with high scores. This may be partly due to the Covid-19 pandemic

and lockdowns from March 2020, during which many parishioners received help and support from their friends and neighbours.

Also for the first time, the Gate Hangs Well public house ranked very highly among things that respondents liked. The pub is a popular meeting place for all age groups, being mentioned by significant numbers of young people as something they liked, and as something to keep for the future.

The last two questions in the adult questionnaire 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 as in 2001 and 2011 - namely that we should try to preserve the church, the pub, our small village and community spirit, and our local countryside and its peace and quiet. Respondents did not want change, except to enhance these valued attributes by limiting the speed and volume of traffic, controlling parking and new development, and improving facilities by providing a playing field and/or a nature reserve and a wider range of social events.

### **3.4 Negative aspects**

The things that respondents like least about Carlton have also remained the same since 2001: the volume and speed of traffic, parking on roads and pavements, building work and new housing, and the absence of a shop.

#### **3.4a Traffic – volume and speed**

The volume of traffic through Carlton has increased over the years, and is likely to increase still further as more houses are built in the village and the surrounding area. 92% of adult respondents own a car, and travel widely for work, shopping and leisure. The same will be true of nearby settlements, and increasing congestion in Market Bosworth is likely to lead to commuters seeking alternative routes.

The survey results evidence a general concern about speed. A clear majority of adult respondents (74%) identified speeding traffic as a problem, while 14% thought this was not a problem. In addition there were 33 mentions of *speeding traffic* as a thing which people liked least, and 22 mentions of *reduce traffic speed* as a thing which people would like to change. Fast cars and traffic generally were mentioned by 13 young people as a thing they liked least about Carlton.

A clear majority of respondents (62%) said that they would support the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in the village.

Opinion on the introduction of traffic calming measures was more finely balanced, with 125 respondents supporting the proposal and 116 opposed.

### **3.4b Traffic – parking**

Individual vehicles parked in the road are an effective traffic calming measure. However, long rows of parked vehicles, and parking in inappropriate places create dangerous situations forcing vehicles to meet head-on.

Parking on the road was considered to be a problem by 45% of respondents, against 34% who thought it was not. This is a significant increase from 2011 when 33% of respondents thought that parking on the road was a problem, against 48% who thought it was not.

*Parking on the road* was mentioned 26 times as a thing which people liked least, and 8 times as a thing which people would like to change. Ten respondents specifically identified parking problems associated with The Gate Hangs Well.

Parking on pavements was considered to be a problem by 58% of respondents, against 31% who thought it was not. This also marks an increase from 2011, when 43% of respondents said that parking on pavements was a problem, against 48% who thought it was not.

*Pavement parking* was mentioned 7 times in the list of things which respondents liked least.

### **3.4c Building work and new housing**

There appears to have been a marked shift in the attitude of respondents to the provision of additional housing in Carlton. In 2011 only 27% of respondents thought that no additional housing was needed, but in 2021 this had increased to 68%. This may be because the question was posed in a different way in 2021.

Noise from building works was considered to be problem by 24% of respondents, against 53% who thought it was not.

The questionnaire did not pose specific questions about planning matters because these are not under local control. However, many comments about new development were made in response to the four open questions on what respondents liked most, liked least, would like to change and would like to preserve for the future.

The things liked least were much the same in 2011 and 2021, though different words were used - *building works* and *new housing*, *demolition of existing houses*, and *housing* in the context of new houses being out of character.

The things liked most in 2021 included *small size, rural .., and countryside setting*, compared with the small size of the *village*, and the *countryside* in 2011.

In 2021 the things people wanted to preserve for the future were *village character, small size, countryside, old buildings and settlement boundary*. In 2011 these things were the *size of the village, countryside, control of development, character and village*.

In 2021 the things people wanted to change were *improved planning control and nothing*, compared with *nothing* and *controlling development* in 2011.

The comments from respondents can be summarised as a strong desire for Carlton to remain a small village, and for its character to be retained by preventing the demolition of old buildings and ensuring that new buildings respect their neighbours by virtue of their size, design and use of materials.

### **3.5 Social matters**

37 respondents reported receiving regular personal help of some kind, and in 33 cases this was provided by their family, augmented by neighbours in 8 cases. 4 respondents received paid nursing or personal care.

76% of adult respondents felt able to take part in community activities.

The most popular social event in Carlton is the annual village fete, listed by 121 adult respondents. Visiting the pub is the next most popular, listed by 71 respondents, followed by the progressive supper (25).

The fete is also the most popular village event listed by young people (34), followed by lighting the Christmas tree (24) and the sunflower growing competition (18).

### **3.6 Crime and safety**

57% of respondents said that they were worried about house burglary, and approximately a third of respondents were worried about car crime, shed break-ins and scams.

70% of respondents reported that they had received suspicious communications, while 6 respondents reported that they had lost money through scams.

### 3.7 Travel and transport

84 respondents (34%) travelled less than 15 miles for work, while 43 (17%) travelled further or more widely. 31% of respondents expected to be working from home for at least one day a week in future. 75% of cars ran on petrol or diesel, while 13% were electric or hybrid vehicles.

Only 6 respondents used the 153 bus service to Market Bosworth and Leicester often, with 53 using it sometimes. Suggestions on how this bus service might be improved are now irrelevant as it was withdrawn in April 2022.

The first Park and Ride schemes in Leicester opened after 2010, and are now used by 27% of respondents.

When they travel out of Carlton, most adult respondents either drive themselves in a car (91%), or are passengers in a car (46%), while 36% walk and 9% cycle. Most young people also travelled by car to visit family and friends, and to attend school and after school activities. 33 young people travelled to school by car, 9 by bus, 3 walked and 2 cycled.

Young people and adults both reported that walking or cycling to Market Bosworth would be a more attractive option if traffic speeds were reduced, or a cycle lane created.

75 adult respondents (30%) regularly cycle around Carlton, while 63 cycle to Market Bosworth and 44 cycle around Leicestershire. 39 young people regularly cycle or walk around Carlton.

84% of adult respondents regularly walk around Carlton, 82% walk in the surrounding countryside and 65% walk to Market Bosworth.

There is strong support for the creation of a safer route to Market Bosworth for walkers and cyclists.





### **3.8 Shopping and services**

There was strong support for a local shop in the 2021 survey, while the absence of a shop was one of the things that people liked least in 2001, 2011 and 2021.

Carlton Post Office closed in 1974 and the associated shop closed a few years later. Orton's Service Station, which sold sweets, closed in 2009. The Gate Hangs Well is currently experimenting with different sales lines, including local produce.

The most popular shopping places listed in 2021 were Hinckley (108), followed by Leicester, Market Bosworth and Ashby (45, 44 and 37, respectively). These numbers are very similar to those recorded in 2011.

### **3.9 Information**

The majority of adult respondents (92%) use the internet, though 16% complained of slow speeds or connection problems. 80% of adult respondents used Carlton News to access news and information about the village. The other main sources of information were The Graphic, word of mouth, and social media.

Only 20 respondents regularly used Market Bosworth Community Library, down from 34 in 2011. The Carlton mobile library was only used by 5 respondents, again down from 7 in 2011.

All young people older than 5 used the internet, with school work as the most common purpose, followed by gaming and communication with other people. Most young people found out what was going on in Carlton from their parents and friends.

The Parish Council website was used by 39 adult respondents, up from 14 in 2011.

### **3.10 Recreation and leisure**

All respondents – young and old – enjoy a wide range of recreational activities, and often do so in family units. Young people listed 55 and adults 81 different activities, most of which took place outside Carlton. In all age groups, there are often only a small number of respondents with a shared interest in one specific activity, meaning that most respondents find it necessary to travel to meet with other enthusiasts or access facilities.

In all three Parish Plans (2001, 2011 and 2021), young people have expressed a range of needs and aspirations which could be met through the provision of a playing field and equipped play space with a shelter. The basic requirement is for a safe place for young people to meet and play with friends, with room for football, other ball games and similar activities. In 2011 a group of young people regularly played football on Carlton Green. In 2021 only 1 young person reported meeting with friends on the Green.

The most popular activities listed by young people were football (22), followed by walking (16) and visits to parks (10). Walking was not mentioned in 2001 and was only mentioned twice in 2011: this increase may be an enforced consequence of the Covid-19 lockdowns.

Walking has always been a popular adult activity, but was listed 143 times in 2021: three times more than any other activity. Cycling, the next most popular activity was listed 41 times. Gardening appeared less popular in 2021, being listed 29 times, compared to 88 in 2011.

Gym and fitness activities were more important in 2021, and 30% of adult respondents indicated that they would use outdoor gym equipment if it was installed in Carlton.

40 respondents said that they would be interested in renting an allotment in Carlton; an increase on the 31 in 2011.

### **3.11 Church and Community Hub**

Saint Andrew's Church is considered most important as an historic building (64%) and a focal point for the community (58%), very similar figures to the 2011 survey (66% and 57% respectively). A range of events such as craft fairs and table top sales have been held in the church since 2011, and a new category, of social gatherings, was added to the 2021 questionnaire. Social gatherings were considered important by 38% of respondents and of the same importance as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

In general, the church was much more important to respondents over 50 years old, and for secular rather than religious activities. No respondent under the age of 30, and very few under the age of 50, considered the church important for Sunday worship.

Earlier surveys had evidenced strong support for making better use of the church building (70% in 2001; 79% in 2011), and these aspirations were realised in 2021 with the construction of an extension to house a toilet and kitchen, and the removal of some of the Victorian pews to create a flexible space. This project was preceded by a long period of fundraising and general repair works to the church building. The Community Hub has a Wi-Fi connection and better heating, so for the first time the village has a public space suitable for club and society meetings.

Young people and adults both put forward a wide range of potential activities and uses for the Community Hub. 15 adults volunteered to help organise and run activities for young people, 14 to help with activities for older people, 11 to run community coffee mornings, and 13 to run a parish club or society.

### **3.12 Land acquisition**

A majority of all adult respondents (58%) would support the acquisition of land for a playing field, with almost as many (57%) supporting a nature reserve. In practice a suitable site could serve multiple purposes.

Different age groups favoured different uses. The most popular uses for respondents 16-30 years old were a nature reserve and dog walking area, both selected by 55% of the respondents in this age group. 83% of respondents aged 31-50 selected a playing field, 64% aged 51-70 selected a nature reserve, and 51% of those over 71 years old selected a village hall. None of the uses listed above was selected by more than 50% of respondents in every age group.

The results from earlier surveys are not directly comparable. In 1991 22% of respondents said they would like a playground or playing field, and this figure had increased to 58% in 2001. In 2011 48% of respondents supported a playing field and 50% a children's play area.

Young people expressed a clear desire for a playing field through their responses to three questions – firstly a playing field (34), playground (30) or access to a wood or field (24) would make it easier or more fun to meet up with their friends; secondly the thing that they liked least about Carlton was the lack of a field (13); and thirdly the thing young people thought should change was to create more space and better facilities for play (20).

## **4. Acknowledgments**

We thank Carlton Parish Council for inaugurating this survey and for financial support, and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council for printing the questionnaires and this report.

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.

Mandie Bristlin (Chairman)

Robin Arnold, Enid Morgan, Chris Peat, Carol Piggon, Clare Roscoe, Ken Salisbury,  
Ian Sarson, Mick Vann, and Robin Williams

## **5. Appendix**

### **5.1 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 Parish Council decided that this exercise should be repeated at ten-year intervals, and a more detailed Parish Appraisal was carried out in 2001, followed by a Parish Plan in 2011. The latter reports are available from the Carlton Parish Council website.

The current Parish Plan Project was inaugurated by Carlton Parish Council on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021, through the Constitution of the Carlton Parish Plan Group (CPPG), and the advertisement of the project in Carlton News and on the PC website. Because of Covid-19 regulations, much of the early work of the CPPG was carried out by email. The CPPG met 9 times during 2021 and 2022; the minutes of all meetings were published on a dedicated page of the Carlton PC website and copied to Parish Councillors; and progress reports were published in Carlton News.

Questionnaires were delivered in September 2021, and collected between October and December. The responses were entered into a spreadsheet and analysed during February and March 2022. This report is scheduled for publication in May 2022, to be followed in June by a public meeting to discuss the results.

Thanks to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, who kindly printed the questionnaires and this report free of charge, the total cost of this exercise to the Parish Council is expected to be about £60.

### **5.2 Methodology**

The Parish Plan survey sought the views of every individual resident in the Parish of Carlton at the end of September 2021. 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, and was used in the 2011 survey. 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.

Questions were compiled by the Parish Plan Group, based on the 2011 questionnaires and a consideration of Egan's Wheel. Parish organisations, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, the Rural Community Council, Leicestershire Constabulary, and the

Rural Housing Enabler were invited to suggest questions and in some cases advised on the wording to be used.

Consideration was given to carrying out the survey online, but the available packages were either expensive, could not offer the features required, or required computer expertise which the group did not have. The use of printed questionnaires combined with personal delivery and collection ensured a high response rate.

Every adult 16 years old or more received a 10-page printed questionnaire containing 50 questions in 9 sections, and every young person received a 7-page questionnaire containing 32 questions in four sections. Both questionnaires were printed in Comic Sans 14pt type. Everyone also received a plain self-seal envelope to ensure that all replies were anonymous. Each member of the CPPG delivered and collected questionnaires from an area of 13-20 dwellings near to their own home.

The adult questionnaire was long, and may have been too long. 238 adult respondents answered the first few questions, but only 212 answered the final four open questions. Members of the Group found it difficult to persuade some residents to complete the questionnaires, and in some the responses become increasingly terse. The overall adult response rate of 82% in 2021 is high, and comparable with the response rates of 88% in 2011 and 85% in 2001.

300 adult questionnaires were issued, and 247 collected: a response rate of 82%. 69 young people's questionnaires were issued and 54 returned, a response rate of 78%. Unless otherwise stated, all percentages cited in this report have been calculated on the total number of questionnaires returned (247 and 54, respectively) and corrected to the nearest whole number. 9 returned questionnaires were blank. Where more appropriate, the analysis may be based on the number of respondents or the number of mentions of a keyword.

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 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 and charted 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 - copy key words and phrases from column 1 into adjacent columns;
- 3 - sort keyword columns to eliminate blanks, and amalgamate the word lists;
- 4 - sort the amalgamated word list, check for consistency, and manually count responses.

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, good neighbours, friendly people, peace and quiet, and views of the countryside from my house*”. This response, after selection and sorting as described above, would be tabulated as: Church; Gate Hangs Well; Neighbours; Friendly; Tranquillity; Countryside setting.

Word Clouds were created using Pro Word Cloud.

The original completed questionnaires will be stored for one year, and can be made available for further analysis. Copies of the master spreadsheets have been uploaded to the Carlton Parish Council website ([www.carltonpc.co.uk](http://www.carltonpc.co.uk)). The data in all of 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 organisations involved. Copies will also be deposited in Market Bosworth Library, Hinckley Library, and the Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. Spare copies will be given to other organisations on request while stocks last.