

Shirenewton Community Council Survey 2019

Overview

The Community Area is largely rural with village development and population concentrated to the villages of Shirenewton and Mynydbach. The surrounding countryside is agricultural land interspersed with woodland, and largely unspoilt.

Most buildings within the area are constructed or finished in natural local stone and white rendered walls. Shirenewton village is notable for its natural stone walls and there are few pavements or street lighting. Slate roofs predominate along with a minority of dark or terracotta tiles.

Our residents like it that way and wish to preserve these characteristics. Shirenewton Mynyddback Earlswood and Newchurch West were set in a Special Landscape area and this designation should therefore be continued.

Households are dependent on private vehicles which hardly surprises given the very limited public transport available. A public transport link to Severn Tunnel Junction station would be welcome. There is support for a village shop/cafe with post office facilities.

More use could be made of the recreation ground and there would be some support for various clubs and social activities.

The survey has brought to light a number of suggestions to improve amenities and facilities in our area, some of which are within the ambit of the Community Council, but all are subject to funding being available.

Summary

Every household had a questionnaire and a month to respond. 25% of households replied. All householders who replied were owner occupiers.

Half of the residents are of working age, 1/3rd retirement age, 1/6th are children. 1/3rd of the houses were 3 or fewer bedrooms, 2/3rds were 4 or more.

Apart from family homes at affordable prices and to a lesser extent the conversion of derelict buildings in to homes and some infilling, most residents did not want any large or small scale development, nor sheltered housing, flats /apartments or mobile homes.

Open fields, woodlands, hedges, mature trees and stone walls were the most popular characteristics of our area; small plot sizes, white rendering and street lighting the least. Speeding was the main traffic issue, along with through traffic in Shirenewton.

The Recreation Hall, pubs and the school were our most liked amenities; of the amenities we don't have, a shop (28%) cafe (5%) and a post office (4%) were the more popular requests.

Also requested were upgrades to public transport and broadband services, and to the facilities at the recreation ground.

Analysis

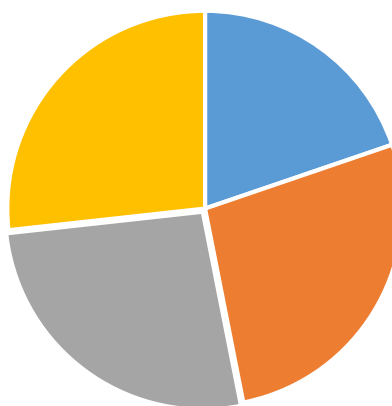
- 1) There were 123 survey questionnaires returned which was 25.2% of the total number of questionnaires sent to the Community households. The breakdown of questionnaires returned by Community was:-

Shirenewton	37.50%
Newchurch West	37.50%
Mynyddbach	28.40%
Earlswood	12.85%

- 2) Length of time in the Community Area.

Of the questionnaires returned 20% of households had been in the Community for less than 4 years, the remaining 80% being fairly balanced over the length of time they had been in the Community.

- Up to 4 years (20%)
- 4 to 15 years (27%)
- 16 to 25 years (26%)
- Over 25 years (27%)



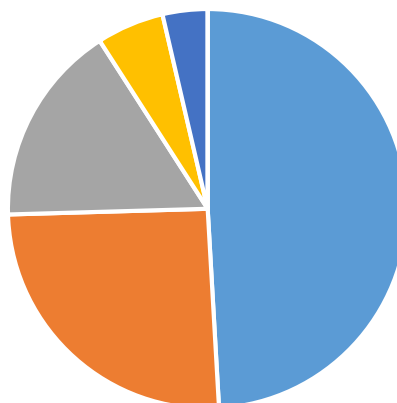
- 3) Type of property.

All the respondents of the questionnaires returned stated that their homes were owner occupied.

- 4) Number of bedrooms.

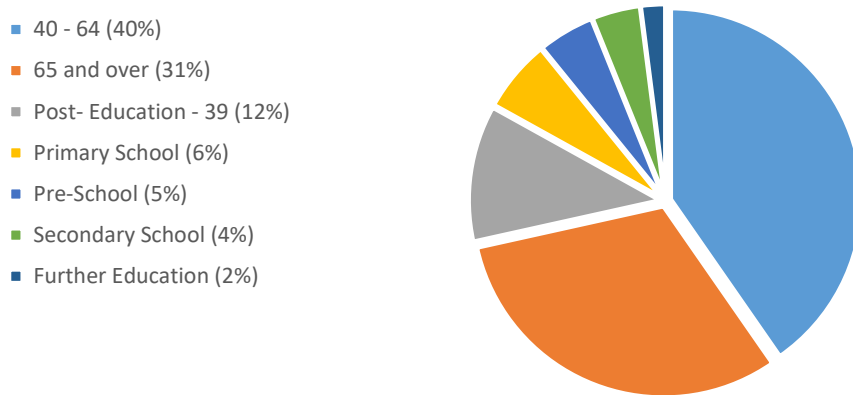
Nearly half the houses in the questionnaires returned had 4 bedrooms, 25% had 3 bedrooms and 16% had 5 bedrooms. The number of executive homes (4+ bedrooms) being 69% of the total number of returned questionnaires whereas 31% were family homes (2/3 bedrooms).

- 4 Bedrooms (49%)
- 3 Bedrooms (25%)
- 5 Bedrooms (16%)
- 2 Bedrooms (6%)
- 6+ Bedrooms (4%)
- 1 Bedroom (0%)



5) Resident's age.

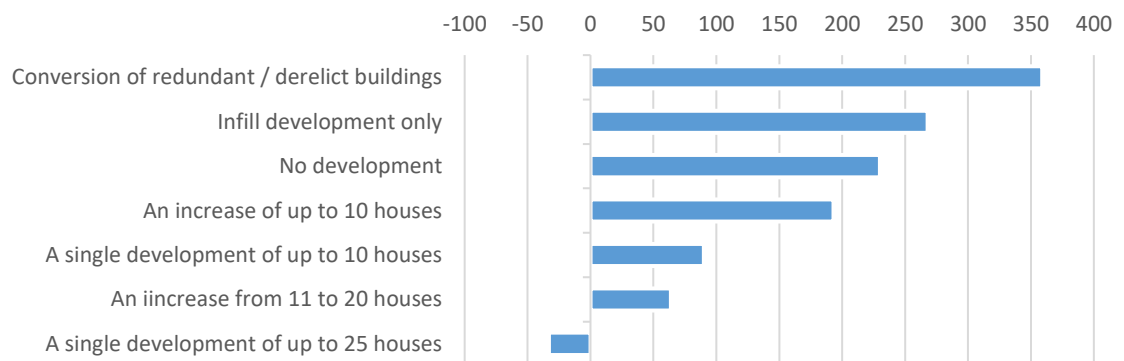
40% of the residents in the Community are aged between 40 and 64 and 71% of the residents are aged 40 and over. 17% of residents are in school or further education.



6) Village development.

This was a multi option question and points were awarded (5 to 1) depending on the preferred option order. If an option was marked unacceptable a point was deducted from that option total.

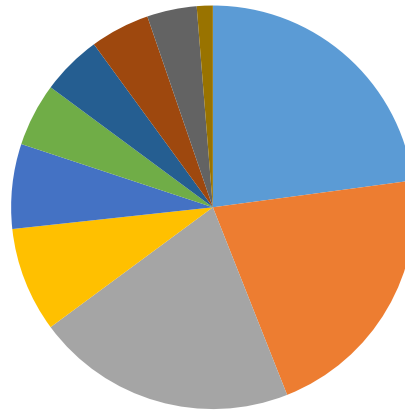
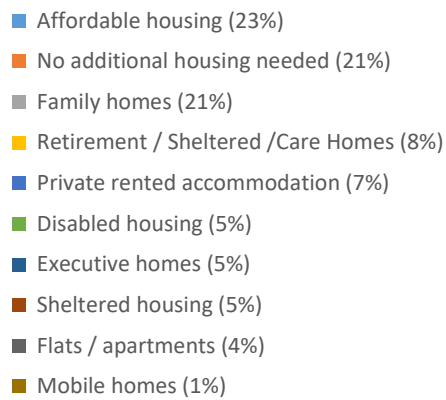
The preferred development is the conversion of redundant / derelict buildings followed by Infill development, No development was considered preferable to any other form of development with a single development of up to 25 houses being generally unacceptable.



7) Housing expansion.

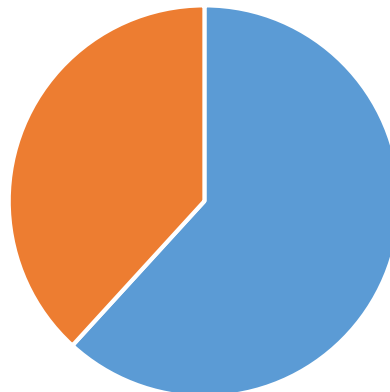
This was a multi option question and points were awarded (10 to 1) depending on the preferred option order.

The highest scores were for Affordable housing, No additional housing required and Family homes. Only Sheltered housing, Flats /Apartments and Mobile Homes scored less than Executive homes.



8) Conservation Area Outskirts.

Of the questionnaires returned, 62% indicated that they wanted no development on the outskirts of the Conservation Area.

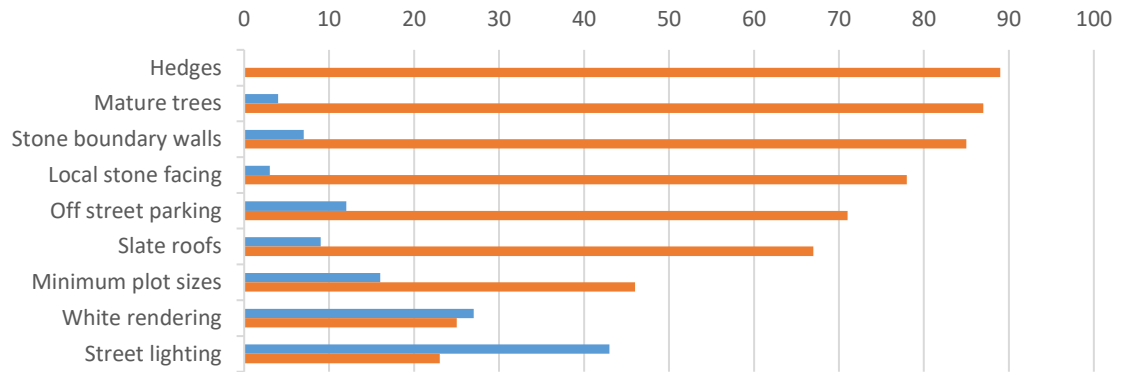


9) Design statement.

This was a multi option question and a point was awarded for each Yes response and No response for each feature.

The highest favoured features in the Community were Hedges, Mature trees and Stone boundary walls with the least liked features being Minimum plot sizes, White rendering and Street lighting.

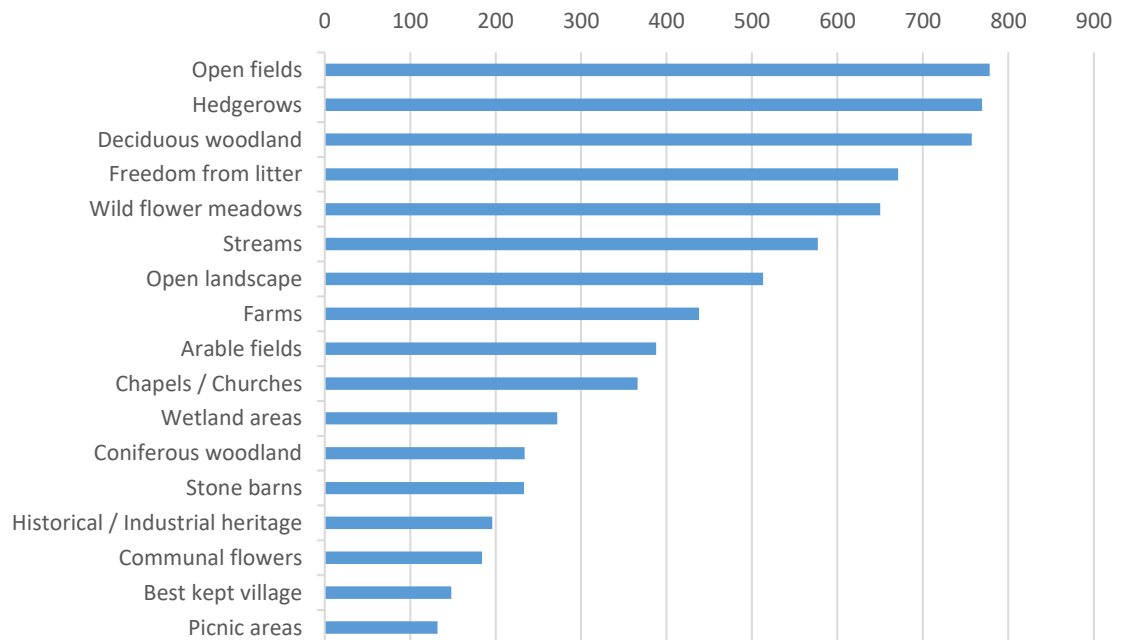
The points for Yes are in Orange, points for No are in Blue



10) Visual and environmental features.

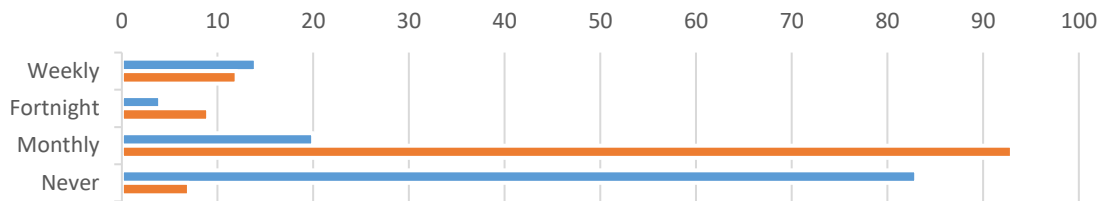
This was a multi option question and points were awarded (10 to 1) depending on the preferred option order.

The highest scoring features liked were Open fields, Hedgerows and Deciduous woodland.



11) Recycling points and Council waste facilities.

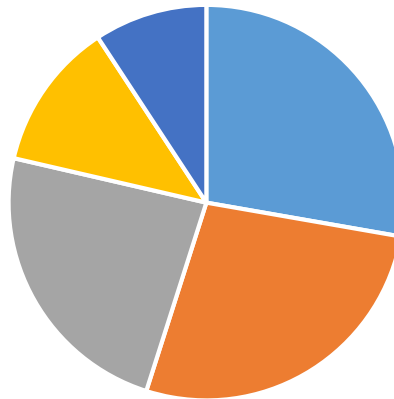
Points were awarded for each response. Blue shows the use of a local recycling point and Orange shows the use of a Council waste facility.



12) Transport.

Only 27% of residents work from home, the other 73% commuting to their place of work.

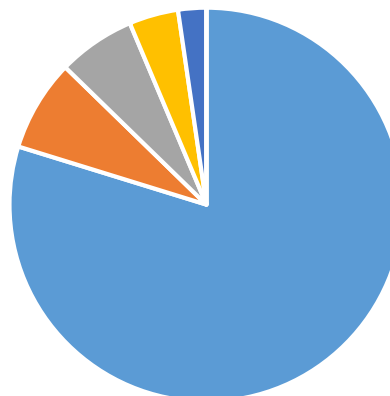
- 11 - 25 miles (28%)
- Work at home (27%)
- Up to 10 miles (24%)
- Over 35 miles (12%)
- 26 - 35 miles (9%)



13) Mode of Transport.

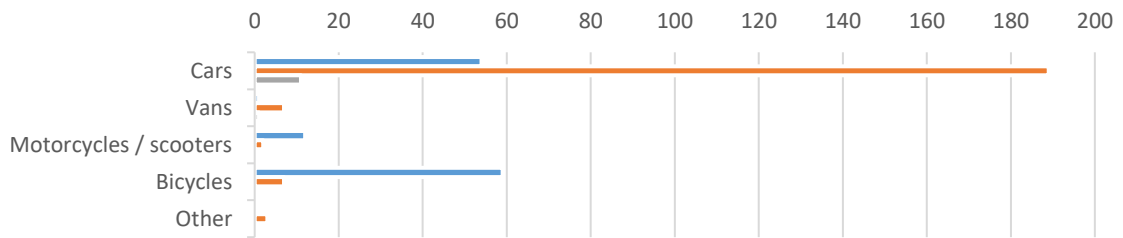
Given the rural location of the Shirenewton Community area and the infrequent public transport service at present the majority of journeys are by car. The Welsh Government target of car use being the last option, is unsustainable in the Shirenewton Community area.

- Private Car (80%)
- Walk (8%)
- Public transport (6%)
- Company owned vehicle (4%)
- Motorcycle (2%)
- Car sharing scheme (0%)
- Taxi (0%)



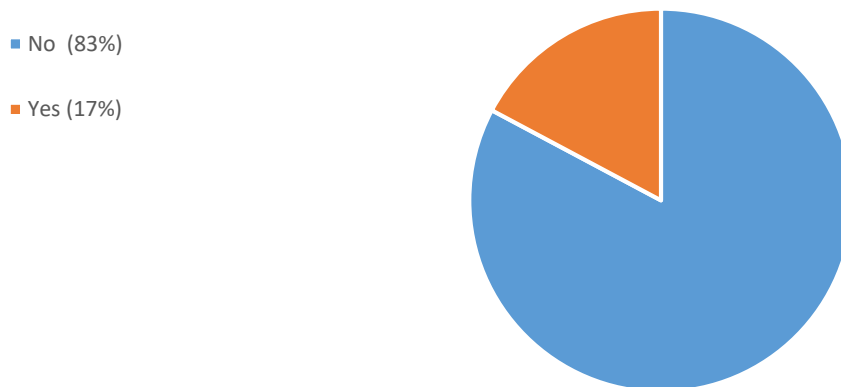
14) Road vehicles and where they are parked.

The majority of road vehicles in the Shirenewton Community area are parked in a garage or off road. Blue shows the number kept in a garage, Orange shows the number parked off road and grey show the number parked on road.



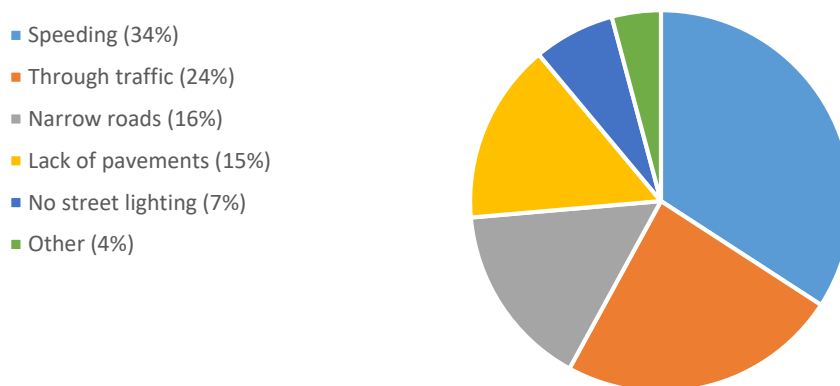
15) Parking problem.

The questionnaire asked the residents if they thought there was a parking problem in their area.



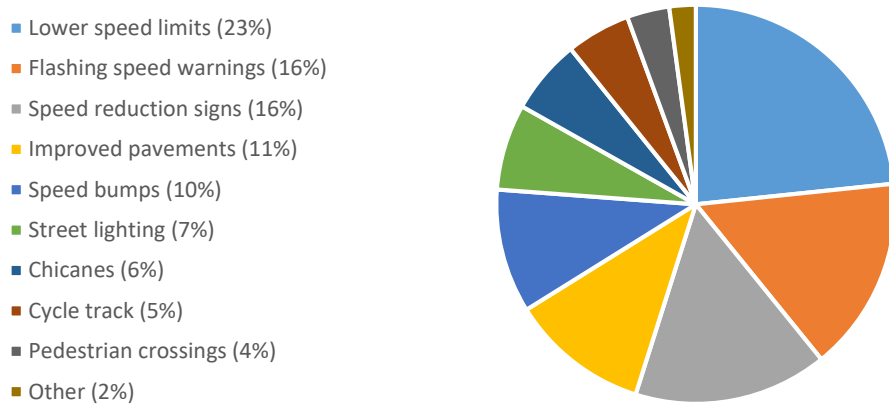
16) Traffic issues.

The main issue regarding traffic across the whole of the Shirenewton Community Area was speeding. In Shirenewton the amount of through traffic was of a higher concern than in Mynyddbach, Earlswood or Newchurch West.



17) Road Safety.

With the lack of pavements in the Shirenewton Community Area, the lowering of speed limits, flashing speed warnings and speed reduction signs were the most popular options to try and improve road safety.



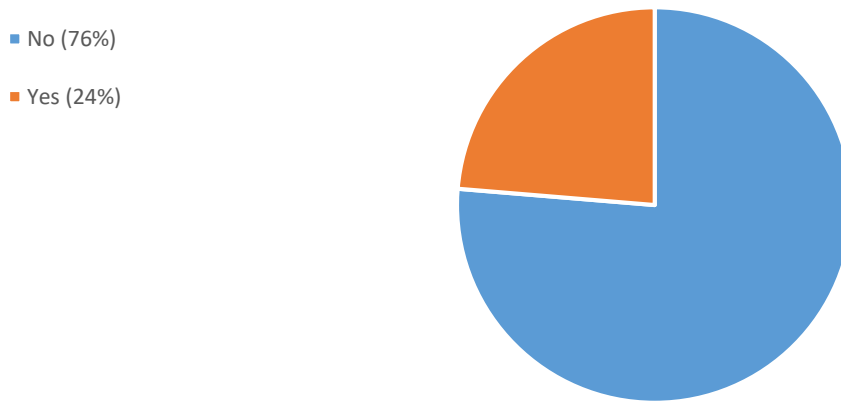
18) Footpath network.

Of the questionnaires returned 53% of responses indicated that no improvement was needed to the footpath network.



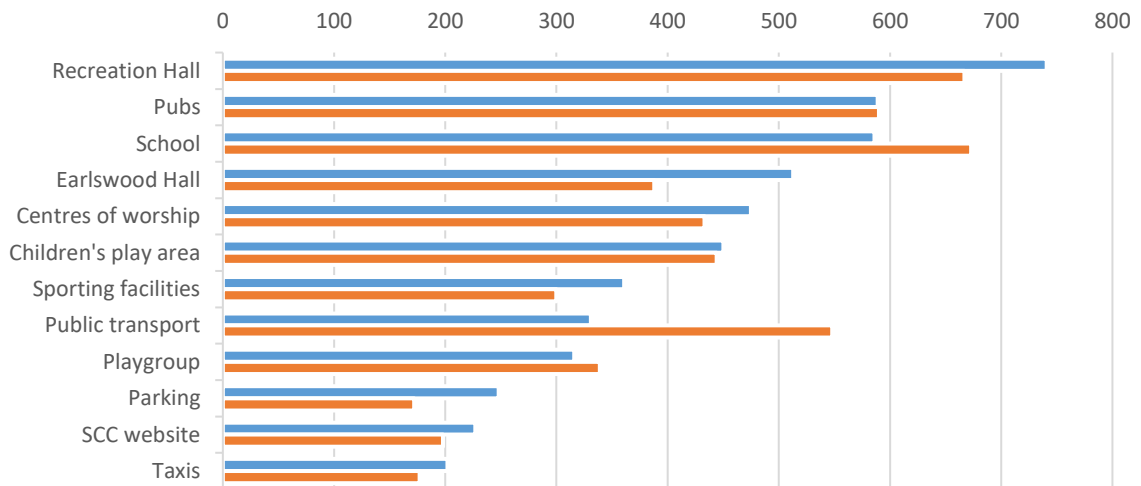
19) Voluntary footpath warden.

Of the questionnaires returned 24% of the respondents were willing to volunteer as a footpath warden.



20) Village amenities.

This was a multi option question and points were awarded (10 to 1) depending on the preferred option order. The highest scoring options for Satisfaction and Importance were the Recreation Hall, Pubs and the School. Parking, the SCC website and Taxis all scored low. The Community Council website has now been redesigned with additional Community information and will continue to be further developed as needed by the Community Council. Blue show the scores for Satisfaction, Orange shows the scores for Importance.

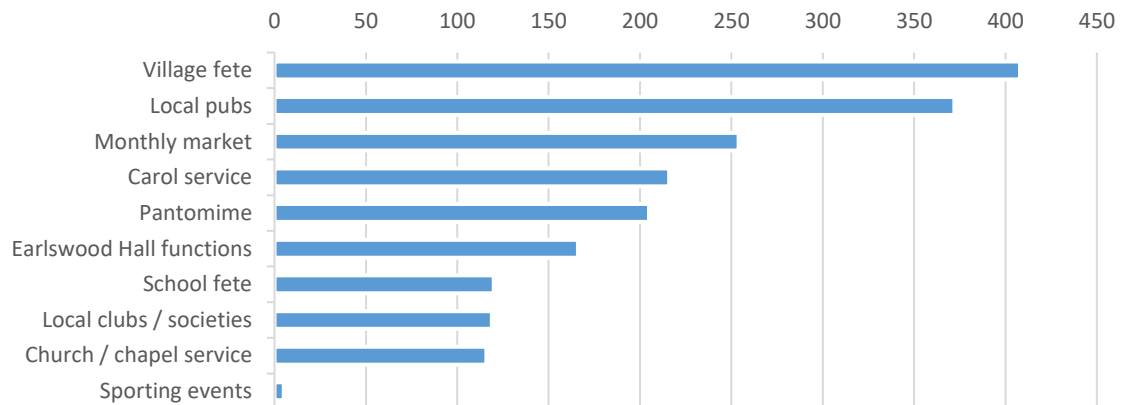


21) Additional facilities.

This was a free entry question for respondents to add any further facilities they would like to see in the Community. The responses from this question will be considered for entry in the Community Council's five year plan.

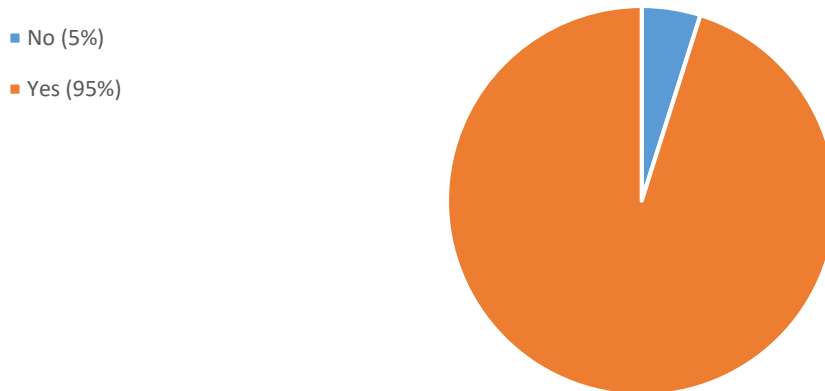
22) How often are amenities used.

This was a multi option question, 4 points were awarded for “Regularly”, 3 points for “Sometimes”, 2 points for “Rarely” and a point deducted for “Never”. The 3 most popular amenities were Village fete, Local pubs and Monthly market.



23) Community notice board.

Of the questionnaires returned 95% of the respondents knew where their local Community notice board was located.

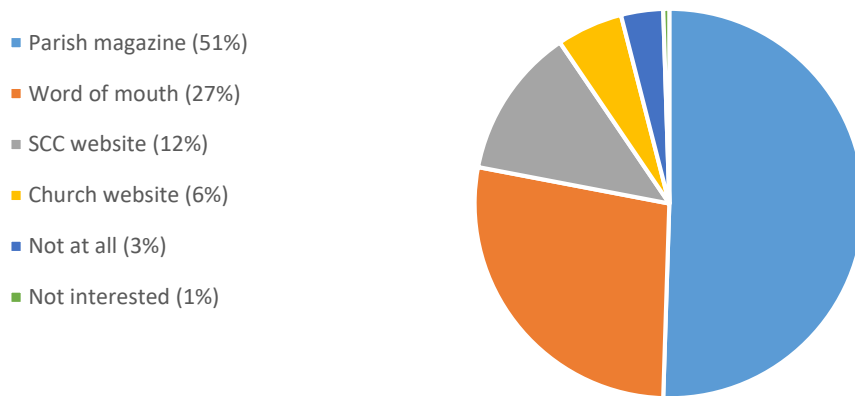


24) Church website.

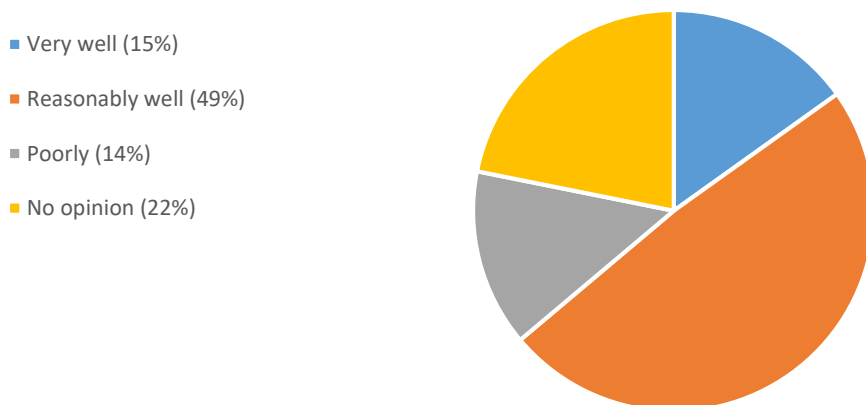
Of the questionnaires returned 78% of the respondents were aware of the Church website.



25) How do people find out about the activities of the Shirenewton Community Council.



26) How well does the Shirenewton Community Council represent the interests and concerns of the local Community.



27) Employment opportunities. This was a free entry question for respondents to add any opportunities they thought may be advantageous to the Community. The responses from this question will be considered for inclusion in any new local development plan.

28) Any further comments. This was a free entry question for respondents to add any further facilities they would like to see in the Community. The responses from this question will be considered for entry in the Community Council's five year plan.