

# Noak Bridge Neighbourhood Plan

## Initial Resident Consultation Report



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## INTRODUCTION

This document summarises and analyses information obtained by the Neighbourhood Plan Team during the initial consultation period. The purpose of this first phase of consultation was to gain an early understanding of what was important to local people. We wanted to understand what residents of Noak Bridge thought about their village and what their priorities were for the future. This included obtaining their views on existing development sites proposed as part of the Basildon Council Local Plan.

On 13 September 2019, information leaflets about the Neighbourhood Plan were delivered to all Noak Bridge households along with a questionnaire. The deadline for return of the questionnaire was 31 October 2019. A total of 259 completed questionnaires were received.

Three consultation events, advertised within the information leaflet and on the Neighbourhood Plan and Parish Council websites, were held during the initial consultation period. These were designed to give local people an alternative opportunity to find out more about the Neighbourhood Plan and to share their initial views and priorities. Approximately 90 people attended these events in total.

The views expressed in response to the initial consultation will be taken into consideration by the Team when formulating policy for the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This document will form part of the evidence base for the plan itself.

## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Generally, respondents were satisfied with **existing services and facilities** within the village.

The exception was the local **Health Centre**, which 34% of respondents felt did not meet their needs.



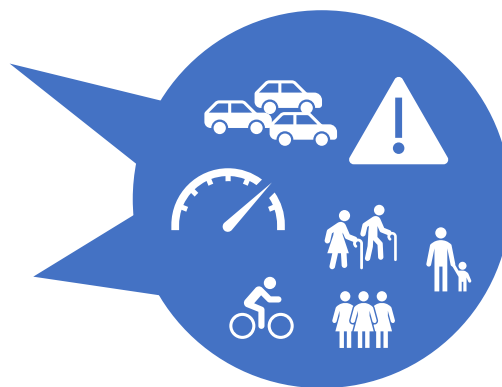
There were concerns that the existing infrastructure (schools, health facilities, roads and shops) would **not be able to cope** with the demands of any new housing development.



There were also concerns about **congestion**, with 64% of respondents feeling that the current traffic needed to be improved, and 97% of respondents feeling that minimising the **impact of traffic and congestion** associated with any new housing development was 'very important'.

**Parking** is a concern, including cars being parked too close to junctions and on pavements.

**Road safety** appears to be an issue in the village, with 66% of respondents believing road safety was a concern for pedestrians and 30% commenting upon speeding vehicles.



In general, residents appear to be satisfied with **public transport** in Noak Bridge, with only 22% believing it needed to be improved.

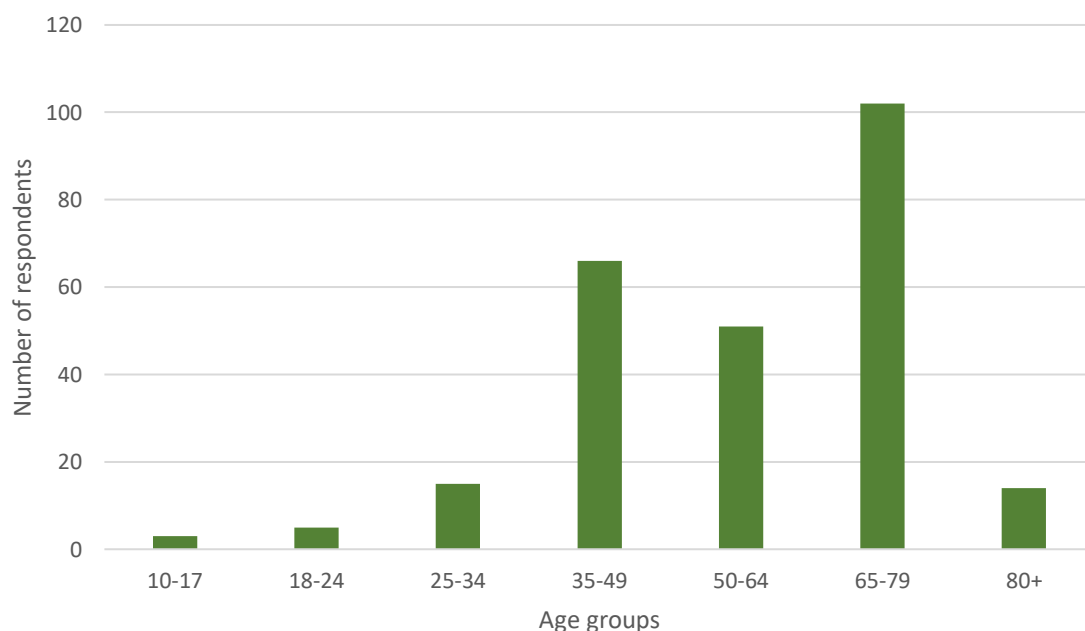


Noak Bridge's **unique character** is clearly valued by residents. When asked what they liked about living in Noak Bridge, 59% selected '**look and style of the village**' and 82% of respondents felt it was 'very important' to ensure any new housing development looks 'similar to the current style of the Parish'.

## RESPONDENT PROFILE

A total of 259 completed questionnaires were received, with 224 being submitted on paper and returned to designated collection boxes in the village, and 35 submitted online via a SurveyMonkey link included in the initial mailout. Residents were encouraged to submit individual questionnaires, but as a specific address was not requested, it is not possible to identify whether this represents responses from 259 households or from 259 individuals. With the 2011 census identifying Noak Bridge as having a population of 2,763, a return of 259 questionnaires equates to an approximate response rate of 9%. However, with approximately 1,260 dwellings in the village, one response per household would represent a response rate of 21%. The actual response rate is likely to be somewhere in between these two figures.

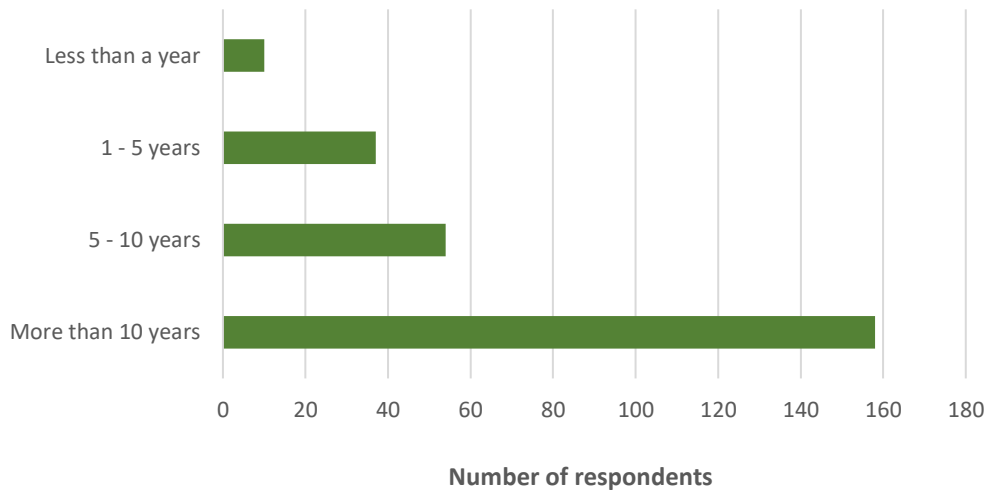
The age of respondents can be found in Figure 1, with children and young adults (10-24 years old) and older working age residents (35-64 years old) underrepresented in comparison to population figures. Older residents (aged 65-79) appear to have a high response rate, being overrepresented in terms of the local population.



**Figure 1:** Age of questionnaire respondents

Of those that entered their gender, 57% identified as female, 41% as male, and 2% as 'other' or 'prefer not to say'. In total, 12% of respondents considered themselves to have a disability, and 96% of respondents were White (English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British), with 2% from other White backgrounds and 2% from mixed ethnic or Asian backgrounds.

Figure 2 shows the length of time respondents have lived in Noak Bridge, with 61% having lived in the village for more than ten years, 21% for between five and ten years, 14% between one and five years and 4% for less than a year.



**Figure 2:** Length of time respondents have lived in Noak Bridge

In order to address issues of underrepresentation amongst 10-17, 18-24 and 35-64 aged groups, further engagement activities will seek to capture the views of these groups, preferably via targeted consultation events.

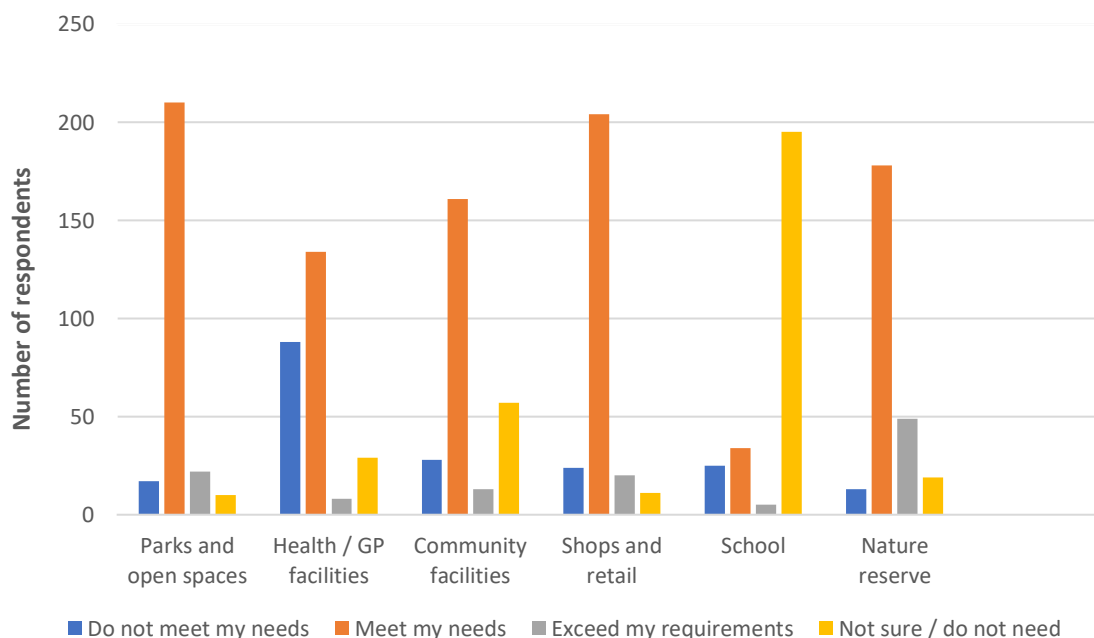
# QUESTIONNAIRE ANALYSIS

## Shops and local facilities

Local residents were asked for their views on the existing facilities in Noak Bridge. This comprised parks, open spaces, the nature reserve, primary school, health facilities and community facilities (such as the village hall), as well as local shops and other retail establishments. They were also asked for their views on the impact of any future housing development on these facilities and were given an opportunity to identify any additional facilities that Noak Bridge may benefit from. There was also a space for open comments to be recorded.

It is notable that in the open comments section, 48 people (representing almost 20% of respondents) specifically mentioned concerns about how existing facilities (particularly the primary school, GP surgery, roads and shops) would cope with additional housing within the village.

Figure 3 shows the responses from the questionnaire when residents were asked whether current shops and facilities in Noak Bridge met their needs.



**Figure 3:** Views about existing shops and facilities in Noak Bridge

### Parks and open spaces

The questionnaire identified a high level of satisfaction with the parks and open spaces in the village, with 90% of respondents feeling that the existing facilities met or exceeded their needs.

5 respondents specifically commented that they would like a better park or for green space to be increased, with 2 residents asking for more play equipment and for it to be cleaned more regularly. One respondent felt that the lighting within the park area should be improved, and 2 residents felt that an enclosed area specifically for dogs should be incorporated into the existing facilities.

Local people also seemed very happy with the local nature reserve, with 88% of respondents believing that it met or exceeded their requirements. One respondent believed the ponds in the nature reserve needed landscaping.

However, when asked what could be improved about Noak Bridge, parks and open spaces received the second highest rating, with 27% of respondents expressing the view that they could be improved.

### **Shops and retail**

The survey demonstrated that 86% of respondents felt the local shops and retail facilities in Noak Bridge met their needs or exceeded their requirements.

When asked what additional facilities they would like to see in Noak Bridge, 13 respondents stated that they would like the village to have a local coffee shop or café, 5 expressed an interest in there being some form of take-away outlet or restaurant and 4 respondents wanted to see more shops. 2 respondents wanted to see the Post Office moved back to its previous location, one respondent wanted to see a hairdresser within the village, and another felt that a petrol station was required.

### **Health facilities**

The local facility causing the most dissatisfaction amongst residents was the local health/GP facility, with only 55% of respondents feeling that the existing facilities met or exceeded their needs, and 34% believing that the current provision did not meet their requirements.

This was mirrored in other areas of the survey where respondents were asked for open comments, with 15 people specifically wanting more GP appointments to be available and 7 respondents stating that there were issues with the existing provision. When asked about any future development, the impact on health facilities was amongst one of the greatest concerns. Almost all of the 48 residents who felt that existing facilities would not be able to cope with additional housing specifically mentioned the impact on GP facilities.

When asked to consider any new development within the village, 86% of respondents felt that increasing access to local health/GP facilities was 'very important', with only 2% believing it was 'not important at all'. This was rated as the second highest priority behind minimising congestion on the local road network.

The need for a local dentist was also highlighted by 4 respondents, with some stating that this had been promised to original residents in the past.



## **Education and young people**

The questionnaire asked residents for their views on the existing school provision. 75% of respondents stated that they did not need or were unsure whether the primary school met their needs, which likely represents those who do not have children of primary school age. When these responses were removed, 40% of the remaining respondents felt that the primary school did not meet their needs. In some cases, they specifically mentioned that their child was unable to get a place at the school. This left 60% of remaining respondents commenting that the school met or exceeded their requirements.

Despite the above responses appearing to show that many of the respondents do not use the primary school, 55% of those surveyed felt that increased school places was 'very important' when considering any new development in the village. Many people were concerned that the primary school would be unable to cope with the uplift of school-age children in any substantial new housing development.

When asked in the survey what additional facilities there should be in Noak Bridge, one respondent felt that there should be more school places available and another felt that Noak Bridge should have its own secondary school. 2 respondents to the survey felt that a youth club should be available for the young people of Noak Bridge.

## **Community facilities**

The survey highlighted broad satisfaction with community facilities within the village, with 67% of respondents feeling that they met or exceeded their needs. There were some comments that the village hall did not seem to be easily available to all residents with 5 respondents asking for more activities to be held, such as yoga, Pilates, retirement clubs or evening keep-fit classes.

4 survey responses mentioned the need for more community events in the village and two respondents felt that the outside gym equipment should be fixed instead of being removed. The need for more sports facilities, a nursery, more dog-mess bins and for allotments were also mentioned by one respondent each.

## **Other facilities**

When asked what additional facilities they felt Noak Bridge could benefit from, 7 respondents felt that a greater Police presence was required, with 5 people highlighting concerns about antisocial behaviour within the village.

## Design and character

Residents were asked to prioritise what they liked about living in Noak Bridge, with the largest response (59%) selecting the 'look and style of the village'. In addition to this, when asked about the importance of certain considerations for any new development that happens in Noak Bridge, 82% of respondents felt it was 'very important' to ensure that any new houses look 'similar to the current style of the Parish'.

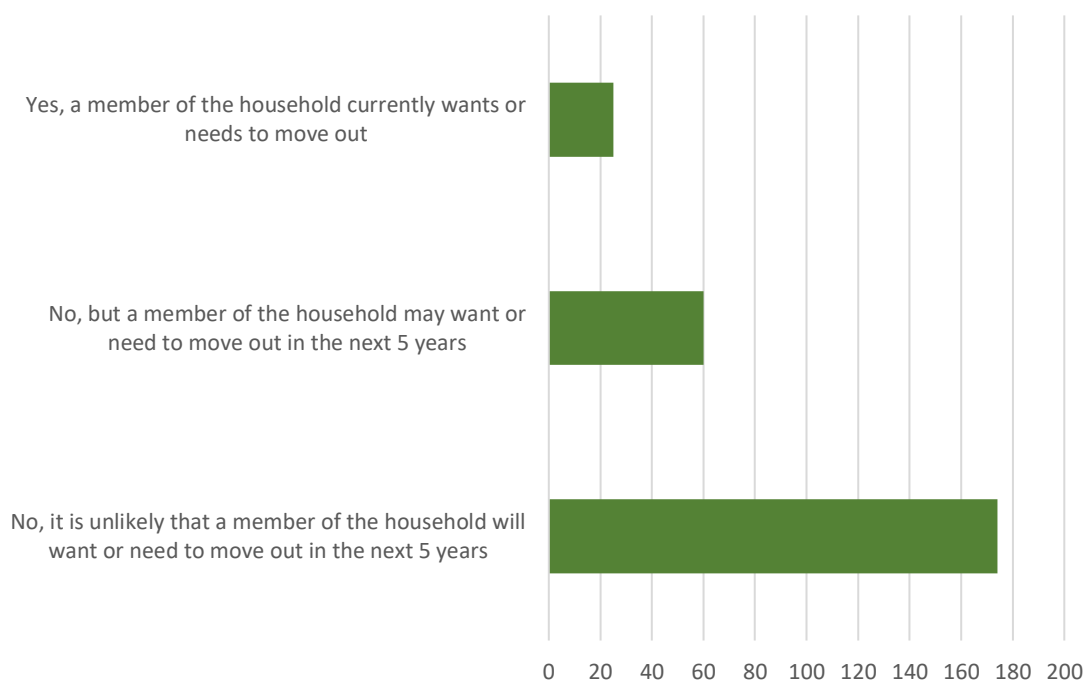
Within the open comments section of the questionnaire, 15 respondents specifically expressed the view that any new development should remain in keeping with the current buildings and original vision for Noak Bridge. 9 people raised concerns about the degradation of the Conservation Area. 2 people felt that there should be less planning restrictions on household extensions.

# Housing

## Housing type

The questionnaire specifically sought to identify current and short-term housing need within the village, based on the requirements of existing residents. Respondents were asked if a member of their household currently wanted or needed to move out of their current property, whether they may need or want to move out in the next five years, or whether it was unlikely that anybody would want or need to move out within the next five years.

Figure 4 shows that 67% of respondents suggested that nobody would want or need to move out within the next five years, leaving 33% of respondents (85 responses) with at least one household member who currently wants or needs to move out, or may want or need to move out in the next five years.

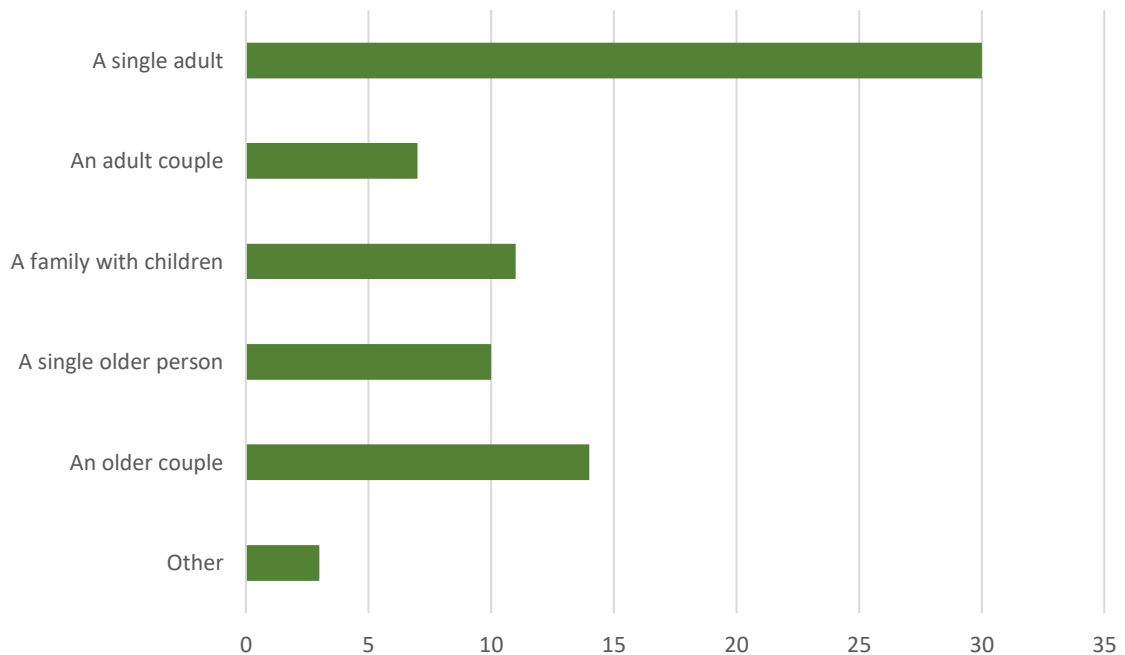


**Figure 4:** Current and short-term housing need in Noak Bridge

Respondents were also asked whether those individuals would want to remain within Noak Bridge, with 48 (56%) saying they would like to stay in the village, 10 (12%) saying they would not want to stay and 27 (32%) stating that they were unsure<sup>1</sup>. As the purpose of the questions was to identify housing need in Noak Bridge alone, the responses from those that stated that they did not want to remain were removed from the below analysis (leaving 75 of the 85 initial respondents).

<sup>1</sup> In most cases, those that were unsure had selected that it was a single adult wanting or needing to move out and it is assumed this is an adult child where the parent/guardian was unaware whether they would want to remain in the village.

Figure 5 shows what type of individual may want or need to move out, with the largest group being single adults (30 people, representing 40%). The next largest group was older couples, representing 19% of responses (14 couples), followed by a family with children (15%), a single older person (13%), an adult couple (9%) and others (4%).



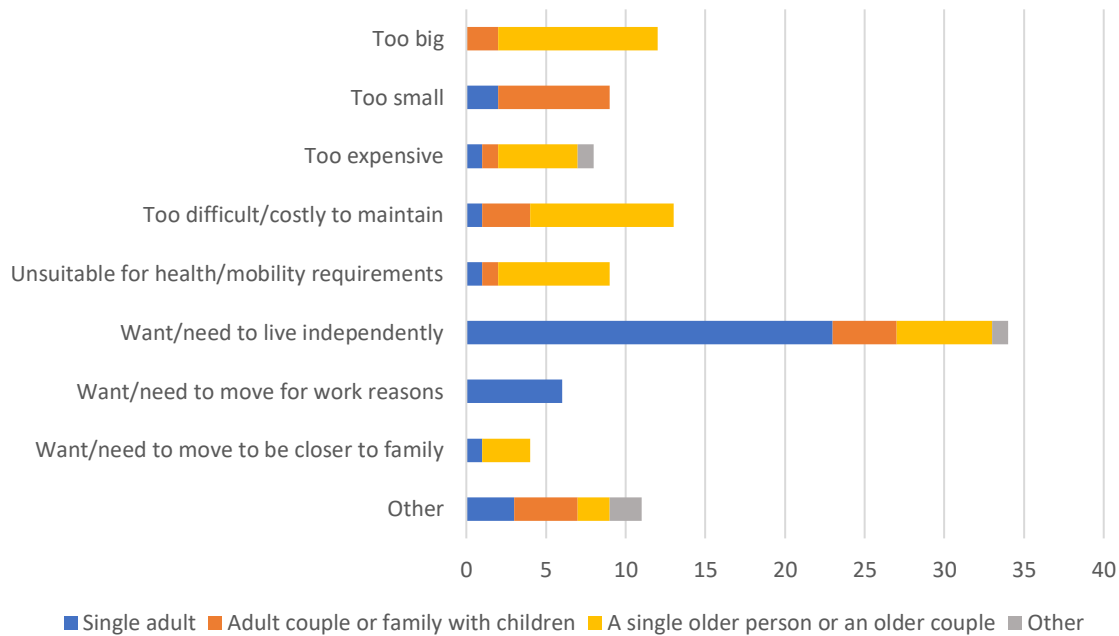
**Figure 5:** What type of household member will want or need to move out?

Further questions sought to identify the reasons why a move was necessary as well as the type of housing that would be preferred.

Figure 6 shows responses to the question asking respondents why a move was considered necessary. Respondents were asked to state all the options that were applicable to their situation. The most common answer was the desire or need to live independently (32% of cases or 34 respondents). Of those, most (68%) were single adults. The desire to live independently was the most common reason for single adults wanting or needing to move.

The greatest reason for wanting or needing to move out from adult couples or families with children was that their existing property was too small (32% of cases).

The most common reasons for single older people or older couples wanting or needing to move out was that their existing property was too large (24%) or too difficult or costly to maintain (22%). 7 single older people or older couples stated that their existing property was unsuitable for their health or mobility requirements (16%).

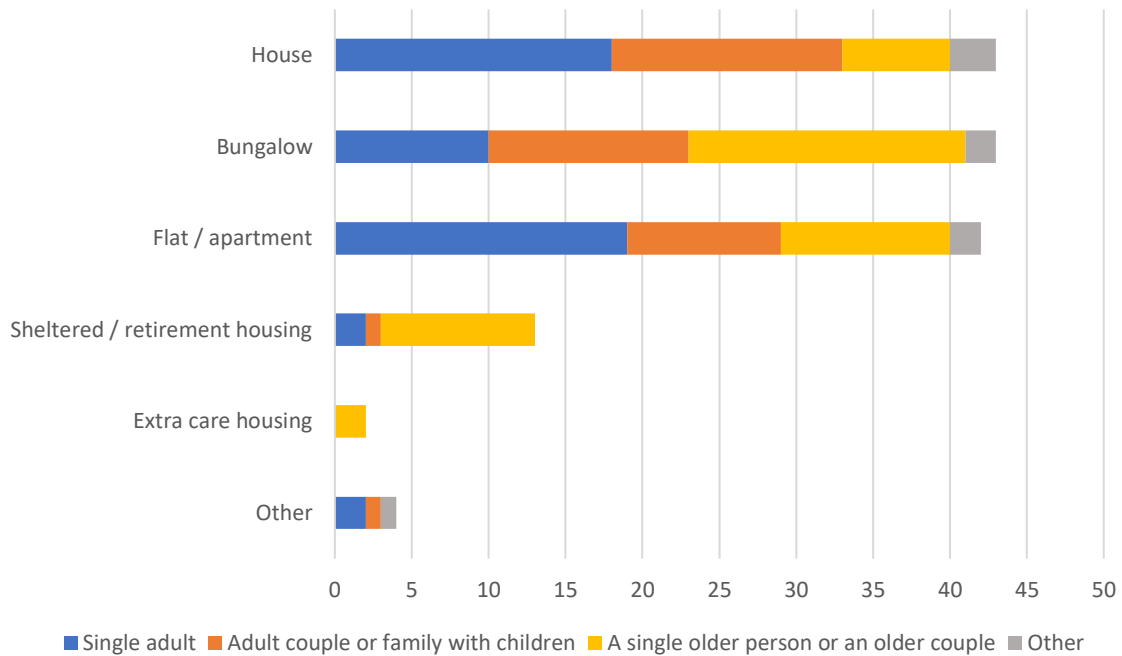


**Figure 6: Why is the current property unsuitable?**

The question that sought to identify what type of housing would be preferred prompted respondents to number their preferences from one to three (with one being the highest priority). A significant number of respondents ticked options, rather than numbering them, so it was not possible to identify priorities in this way. Instead, all ticks were counted and can be seen in Figure 7. This demonstrates the type of property that is most desired and can still be split into which type of individual it would suit.

The responses showed that the three most required types of housing were houses (29%), bungalows (29%) and flats/apartments (29%). A total of 15 respondents felt that sheltered/retirement housing or extra care housing was required, representing 10% of responses.

The most preferred options for single adults were flats or apartments (37%), houses (35%) and bungalows (20%). For adult couples, or families with children, the most preferred options were houses (38%), bungalows (33%) and flats or apartments (25%). For single older people or older couples, the most preferred options were bungalows (38%), flats/apartments (23%) and sheltered or retirement housing (21%).



**Figure 7:** What type of property would be most suitable?

Within the open comments section, 8 respondents felt that any new housing should be targeting towards the older generation or that the proposed development site should become a retirement village.

### Housing affordability

42% of respondents thought it was ‘very important’ that new houses ‘are affordable for first time buyers’. In comparison, 18% of respondents felt that this was ‘not important at all’.

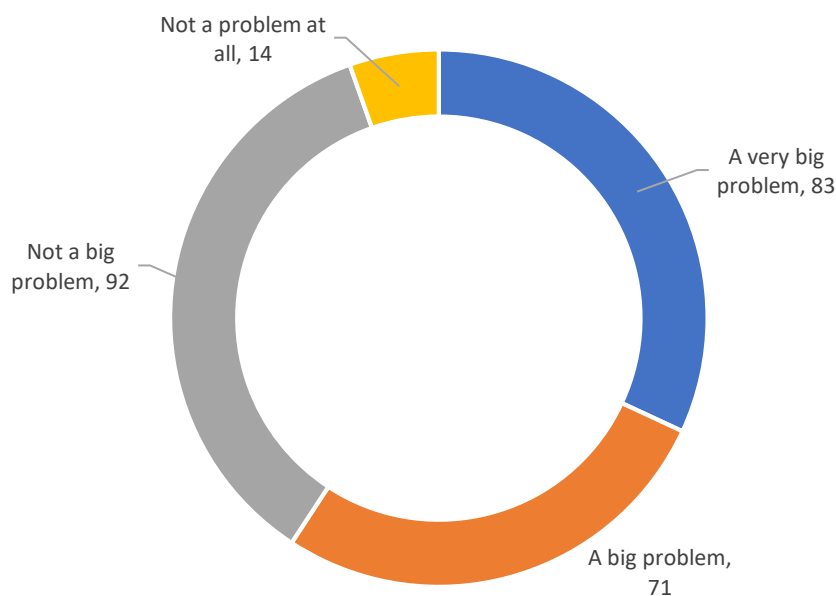
## Traffic, roads and road safety

The questionnaire prompted local residents to consider whether they felt traffic and congestion needed to be improved in Noak Bridge, and also how important they thought it was to consider the impact of any new development on current traffic within the village. Although there were no specific questions about parking, this issue was raised on a significant number of occasions within open sections of the questionnaire, which highlighted local concerns about the enforcement and availability of parking. Residents were asked if they felt road safety was an issue for pedestrians and cyclists and numerous residents raised concerns about the speed of vehicles passing through the village.

### Congestion

Traffic and congestion was by far the greatest issue raised by residents, with 64% of respondents feeling that it needed to be improved. In addition, when asked to consider any new housing development within Noak Bridge, concerns about traffic received the highest priority, with 97% of respondents believing that minimising the impact of additional vehicles was 'very important'.

The questionnaire asked residents whether they felt traffic congestion was a problem in Noak Bridge (see Figure 8), with 60% believing traffic congestion was a 'big problem' or 'very big problem'.



**Figure 8:** To what extent is traffic congestion a problem in Noak Bridge?

Following on from this question, local people were asked to consider any suggestions to improve congestion within Noak Bridge, with suggestions including reducing the number of heavy goods vehicles passing through the village, particularly on Wash Road (13 respondents), stopping cars from parking too close to roundabouts and

junctions (9 respondents) and widening the main roads (Wash Road and Bridge Street; 16 respondents). 16 respondents suggested that a way to improve traffic congestion would be not to build any more houses within the village.

8 respondents suggested increasing the number of entrances and exits into the Noak Bridge estate, with some suggesting replacement of the mini roundabouts with traffic lights to provide a better flow of traffic. 2 people felt that traffic lights on the A127 roundabout may reduce congestion, with one person suggesting stopping cars from coming down Noak Hill Road and diverting traffic around Noak Bridge. Some residents also suggested improving public transport links to minimise the use of private vehicles.

Within the open comments section at the end of the questionnaire, 49 people thought that an increase in cars and congestion would become an issue if additional housing was built in Noak Bridge. Of those, 30 people raised specific concerns about the impact of more vehicles along Wash Road.

13 respondents mentioned particularly bad congestion around the A127 roundabout and the mini roundabouts on Wash Road (particularly during rush hour and when events were being held at Barleylands).

## **Parking**

The resident survey did not ask any questions specifically about parking, but a significant number of respondents raised it as an issue within open sections of the questionnaire.

Several people felt there was insufficient parking in Noak Bridge to cope with the existing number of vehicles. Many of these responses also commented that many local people have driveways, but still park their vehicles on the road, compounding the parking problem. A total of 40 residents raised general parking concerns, with some suggesting the use of restrictions such as double yellow lines or resident parking permits to resolve the problem.

Another specific issue raised was cars being parked on pavements around the village, with 34 residents mentioning the issue. This was broadly to highlight issues with parking, but residents also highlighted concerns about the safety of pedestrians - particularly those with wheelchairs or buggies - having to move into the road to pass.

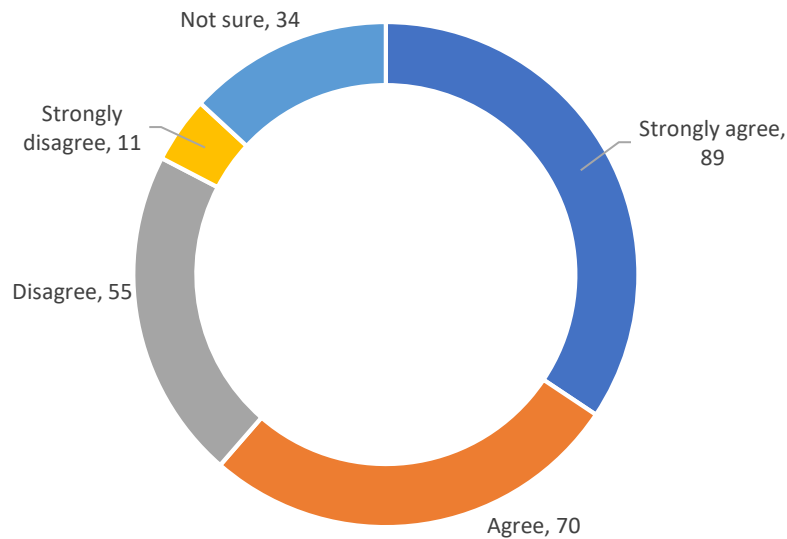
10 respondents complained about commercial/trade vehicles parking within the village, with one suggesting that an overnight transit van parking area could be provided. 4 residents also suggested car parks within the village, with one suggestion that the village green should be converted to a car park.

5 residents raised concerns about inconsiderate parking in and around the school in the mornings and mid-afternoon when children are being dropped off or collected from school.

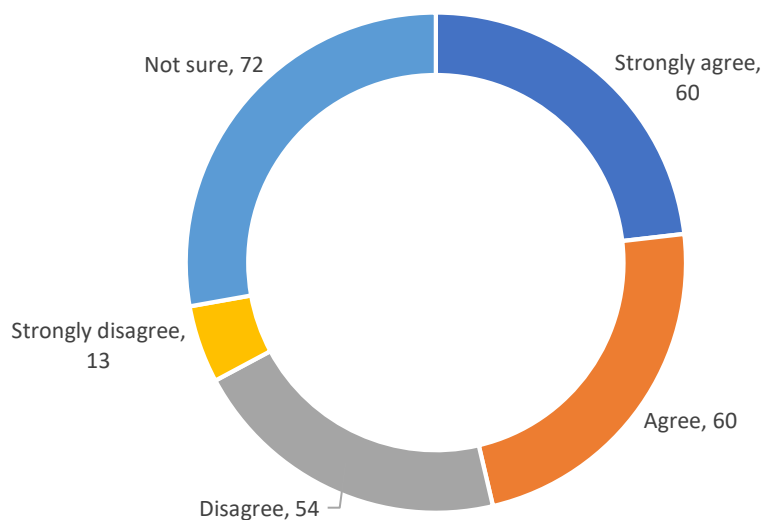


## Road safety and speeding

Figure 9 shows that 66% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that road safety was a concern for pedestrians in Noak Bridge, with only 25% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the statement. Figure 10 shows that 46% of respondents strongly agree or agree that road safety is a problem for cyclists, with 26% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing and 28% unsure (likely do not cycle).



**Figure 9:** Road safety and pedestrians



**Figure 10:** Road safety and cyclists

As a follow-up question, residents were asked what could be done to improve road safety in the village, with 33 respondents saying there were too few footpaths in some places and 11 people specifically mentioning the lack of footpaths to Barleylands. 12 people commented on the condition of the footpaths, claiming they were in a poor state of repair.

A total of 20 respondents felt that more crossings would make Noak Bridge a safer place for pedestrians, with 7 of those specifically mentioning the need for more crossings on Bridge Street (near Coppice Lane/medical centre) and five people specifically mentioning the need for more crossings on Wash Road (near the pub/playing fields).

By far the greatest road safety issue raised by respondents was speeding vehicles, with 77 people raising concerns with the speed of traffic. Some mentioned that speed limits needed to be enforced through initiatives such as speed cameras, speed bumps or other traffic calming measures. Some of these residents were in favour of reducing the speed limit to 20mph, with 13 people suggesting this.

When asked about road safety, 13 respondents raised concerns about heavy goods vehicles, with some suggestions that there should be weight restrictions on Wash Road. 9 people mentioned that cars were often parked too close to junctions or roundabouts, posing risks to safety. As mentioned above, 34 residents raised concerns about cars being parked on pavements, causing pedestrians to have to walk in the road at times.

Several people felt that the mini roundabouts around Wash Road and Eastfield Road and Bridge Street were dangerous, with 4 respondents saying that the markings were faded, and signage needed to be improved. The speed of vehicles approaching the roundabout was noted, along with the fact that many on Wash Road do not seem to be aware it is a roundabout.

One person felt that barriers should be placed around the village for pedestrians and another felt that the lighting in the village should be improved.

In terms of cycling safety, six respondents suggested cycle paths being added within the village.

## Public transport

General satisfaction with public transport in and around Noak Bridge appears to be fairly high. When asked what could be improved about living in the village, only 22% of respondents felt that the local public transport links could be improved. However, when asked to prioritise the things they liked about living in Noak Bridge, respondents placed the 'public transport links' sixth out of seven options ('other' being an eighth option), with 42 respondents (16%) prioritising it.

Within the open comments section of the questionnaire, 3 respondents felt that local rail travel or local train station car parking needed to be improved, with one person suggesting better public bus routes and one also commenting that there was no public transport available to Laindon Railway Station. Two people felt that Noak Bridge should have its own railway station.

## The environment

The questionnaire did not specifically ask for comments regarding environmental issues, but several respondents used the open sections of the questionnaire to raise their concerns. A total of 14 respondents were worried about the environmental impact of any new development, citing concerns about a loss of countryside, the environment in general, damage to wildlife or air pollution.

4 residents believed the new development should be eco-friendly, with one resident referring the Neighbourhood Plan team to the village of Poundbury as an example of a carbon neutral development.

In addition, when asked to prioritise what they liked the most about living in Noak Bridge, 49% of respondents liked 'living close to the countryside', representing the second highest priority from the survey.

## ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION EVENTS

Three consultation and information events were held to give local people an opportunity to find out more about the Neighbourhood Plan and to provide their initial views on Noak Bridge and on any future development. In order to give all residents the opportunity to attend at least one event, these sessions were held at different locations, on different days of the week and at different times.

At two of the events, local people were asked what they thought made Noak Bridge a good place to live, what their concerns were regarding new development in the village and what opportunities might be explored in the Neighbourhood Plan to meet some of these challenges.

Approximately 60 people were in attendance at these events, although very few of these attendees completed the exercises. A broad overview of the responses from these two events are outlined below.

<b>Q. What makes Noak Bridge a nice place to live?</b>	<b>No.</b>
Friendly residents / neighbours	4
Good location	2
Good local amenities	1
Countryside	1
Village environment / feel	1

<b>Q. What are your biggest concerns about any new development?</b>	<b>No.</b>
Traffic / roads / cars	7
Doctors	6
School	3
Hospital	2
Loss of village feel	1
Increase in people	1

<b>Q. What opportunities might there be for Noak Bridge residents?</b>	<b>No.</b>
None	6
More work for the police and emergency services	1

At a third event, residents were asked to identify the things they liked about living in Noak Bridge, things that could be improved and what could be done to improve them. Approximately 30 local people attended this event. An overview of the responses is outlined below:

<b>Things I like about living in Noak Bridge</b>	<b>No.</b>
Friendly environment / community / good neighbours / neighbourhood	14
The local pub	10
Parks / Greenspace / Farmland	9
Village/rural/quiet feel	8
Shops and local facilities	5
Parks and open space	4
Nature Reserve	3
Quiet	1
Road layout / network	1
House is big	1
Conservation Area	1

<b>Q. Things that could be improved</b>	<b>No.</b>
Parking	5
Doctors	5
New development proposals	5
Traffic / congestion	4
IT requirements / mobile / broadband	4
Pollution / air quality	1
Pot holes	1
Infrastructure	1
Drugs in the park	1
Bus link to station	1
Over population	1
Some social housing tenants	1
Street lights	1
Trees	1
Deep holes in grass	1
Speeding vehicles	1
Lack of investment	1
Fireworks when trying to sleep	1
Dog agility	1
Lack of children's facilities	1
No Police presence	1

<b>Q. What I would do to improve them</b>	<b>No.</b>
More local facilities – add a coffee shop	4
Nothing	4
More Police presence / community policing	3
Doctors (inc. appointments)	2
Pavements	2
No more houses	2
Organised events for teens	1
Stopping people smoking and taking drugs in the park	1
Reliability of ICC buses	1
Buses to Wickford	1
Train station between Billericay and Wickford	1
Traffic needs sorting	1
Better access to shopping area (i.e. Asda etc)	1
Keep as a village feel	1
More investment	1
More community services	1
Roads / infrastructure	1

# APPENDIX A

## QUESTIONNAIRE METHODOLOGY, RATIONALE AND FULL RESPONSES

### Methodology

Questionnaires were delivered by hand to all residential properties within the Noak Bridge neighbourhood area, along with a leaflet containing background information on the Neighbourhood Plan. Respondents were given the option to return the completed paper questionnaire to one of several boxes at various locations in the village, including the GP surgery and village shop. The questionnaire also contained a link to an online version of the survey on the SurveyMonkey platform. A deadline of 31 October 2019 was given for return of the questionnaires.

A total of 259 completed questionnaires and one spoilt/defaced questionnaire were received. The paper questionnaire was completed by 224 (86%) of respondents, with 35 (14%) of respondents completing the online questionnaire.

All paper questionnaires were collected by the Neighbourhood Plan Team and the data contained within them was transferred to the SurveyMonkey platform in order to enable more accurate analysis. Paper copies of the questionnaire will be kept until adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan. Questionnaires do not contain any information which could be used to identify an individual.

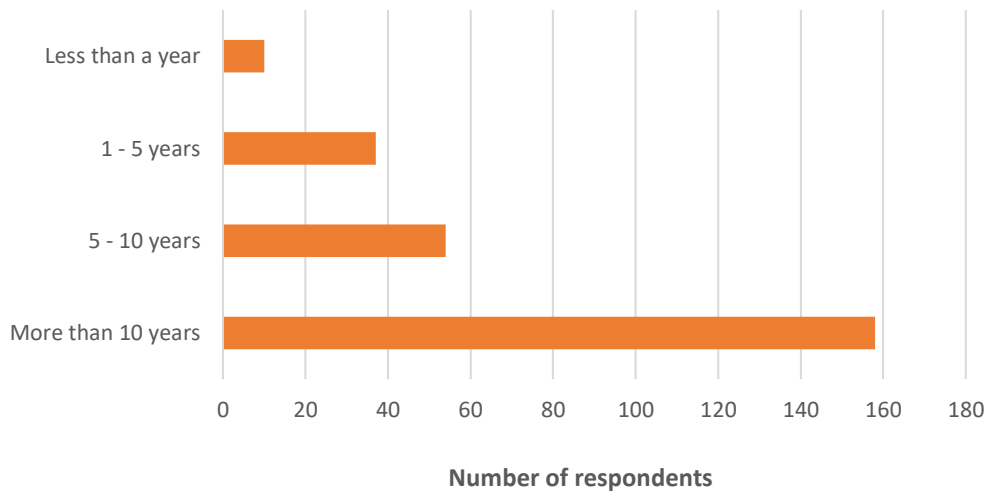
Where respondents' answers were unclear or the instructions were not followed, certain assumptions/clarifications were made for the purposes of analysis. These assumptions were applied consistently and where they were used, they are explained below. Racist or otherwise offensive responses to questions were ignored for the purposes of analysis.



## Questionnaire rationale and responses

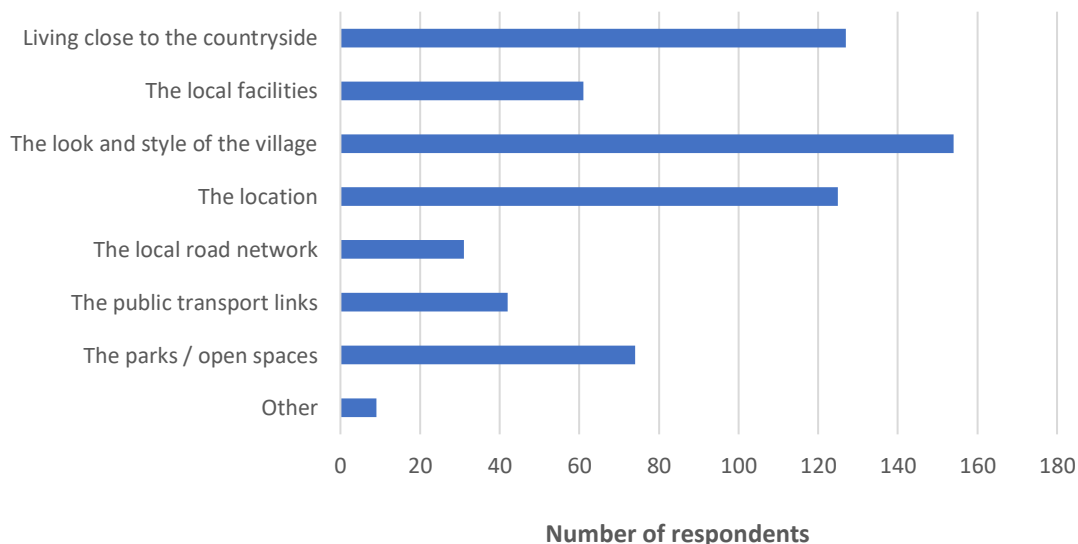
### Question 1: How long have you lived in Noak Bridge?

This was designed as an easy 'warm-up' question. It was also intended to help the Team understand how well respondents know the local area, and whether there is any correlation between length of residency and the answers provided.



### Question 2: What do you like about living in Noak Bridge?

The purpose of this question was to help the Team understand what local people value about the area. The questionnaire stated that 'up to three' options should be selected, with the intention that residents should prioritise the three things they liked the most. However, 30 of the paper responses recorded more than three items. In order to maintain the integrity of the question, these 30 questionnaires were discounted for this question. All other questions from these respondents are fully included in this report.

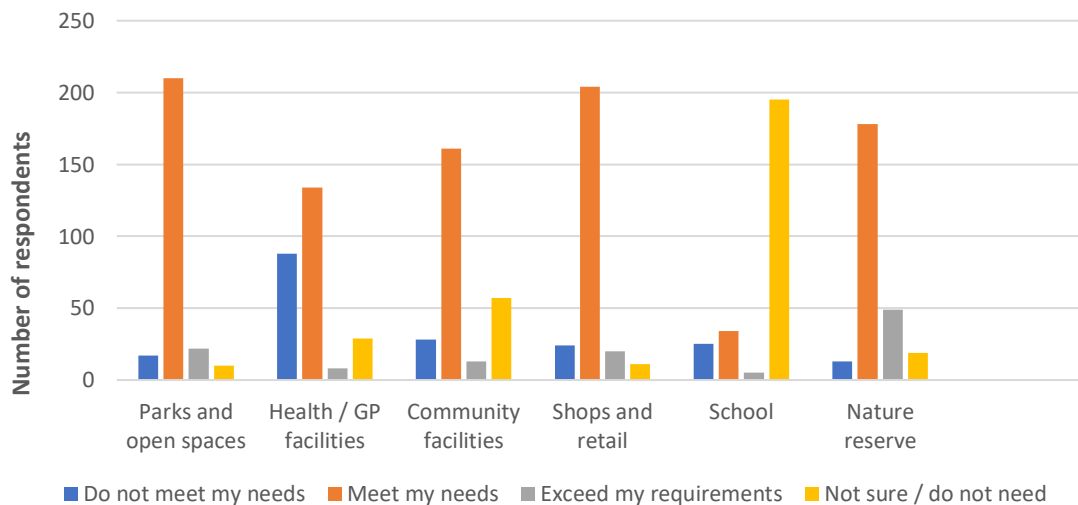


Where residents ticked 'other', they were asked to specify in a text box. The following responses were recorded:

- Village community / friendly people (7 people)
- Wildlife (3 people)
- Beautiful fields nearby (1 person)
- Small number of houses (1 person)
- Noak Bridge pub (1 person)
- Conservation Area (1 person)

### Question 3: What do you think about the existing shops and facilities in Noak Bridge?

This question aimed to identify the current levels of satisfaction with existing facilities within the village, helping the Neighbourhood Plan team to identify issues or gaps with current facilities. Respondents were asked to rate 6 different types of facilities.



### Question 4: What (if any) additional facilities would you like to see in the village?

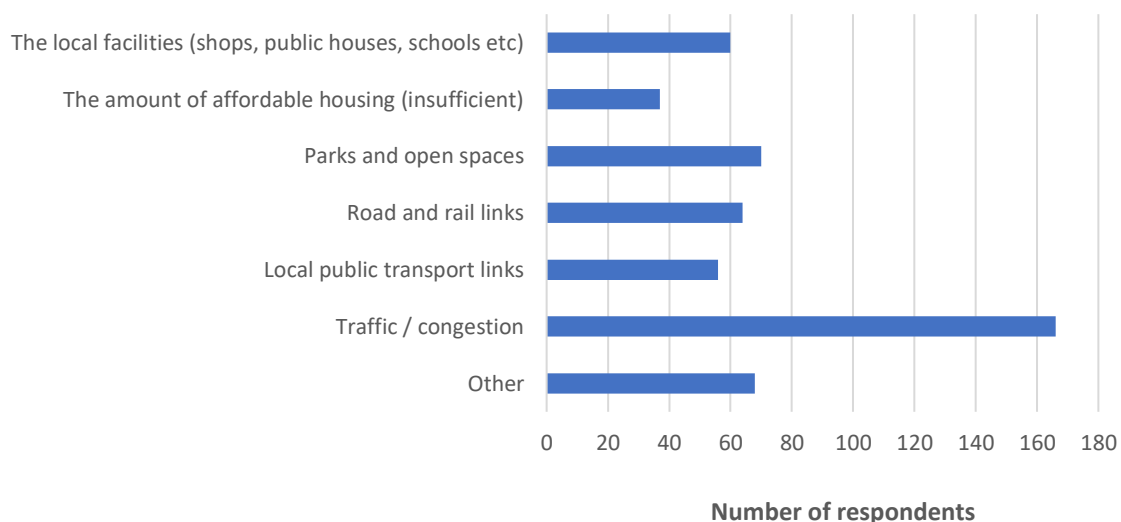
This was a free text box. The following responses were recorded:

- More GPs available (15 people)
- Coffee shop or café (13 people)
- More Police (7 people)
- Take-away / restaurant (5 people)
- Library (or mobile library) (5 people)
- Better park / more green spaces (5 people)
- More activities in Village Hall e.g. yoga, pilates, retirement clubs, evening keep fit classes (5 people)
- Dentist (4 people)
- Community events (4 people)

- More parking in driveways or car parks (4 people)
- More shops (4 people)
- Post Office moved back to previous location (2 people)
- Railway Station (2 people)
- More play equipment / clean equipment better (2 people)
- Enclosed area for dogs (2 people)
- Youth Club (2 people)
- Fix outside gym equipment instead of removing it (2 people)
- More sports facilities (1 person)
- More dog mess bins (1 person)
- Petrol station (1 person)
- Nature reserve ponds need landscaping
- More school places (1 person)
- Secondary school (1 person)
- Hairdressers (1 person)
- Allotments (1 person)
- Nursery (1 person)
- Parks better lit (1 person)

**Question 5: What do you think could be improved about living in Noak Bridge?**

This question asked residents if there was anything in the village that they think could be improved. Respondents were asked to tick all that apply.



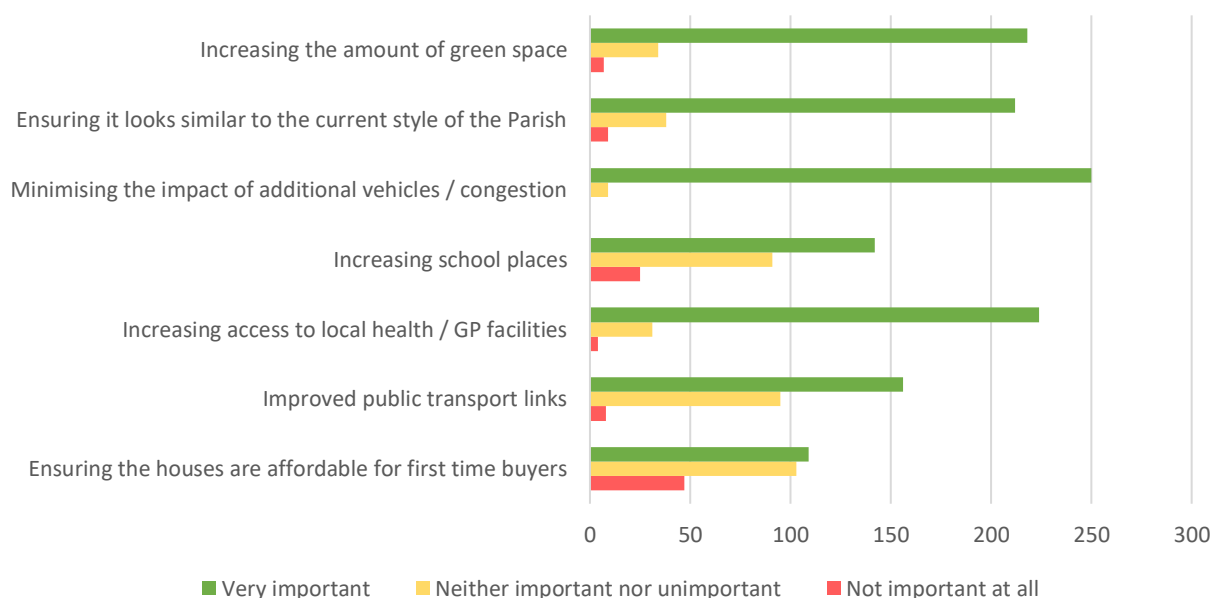
Where residents ticked ‘other’, they were asked to specify in a text box. The following responses were recorded:

- General parking (16 people)
- Speed of traffic (11 people)
- General local amenity issues (pond, grass verges, hedges, dog mess, litter, landscaping) (10 people)
- Parking on pavements (4 people)

- Health / GPs (4 people)
- Better road and pavement maintenance (4 people)
- More footpaths (3 people)
- Crime/ASB/Police (3 people)
- Wash Road traffic (3 people)
- Conservation Area (2 people)
- Underpass lighting (1 person)
- HGVs (1 person)
- Overpopulated (1 person)
- More green and open spaces (1 person)
- School places (1 person)
- Prevention of household extensions (1 person)
- More crossings (1 person)
- More local facilities e.g. shops (1 person)

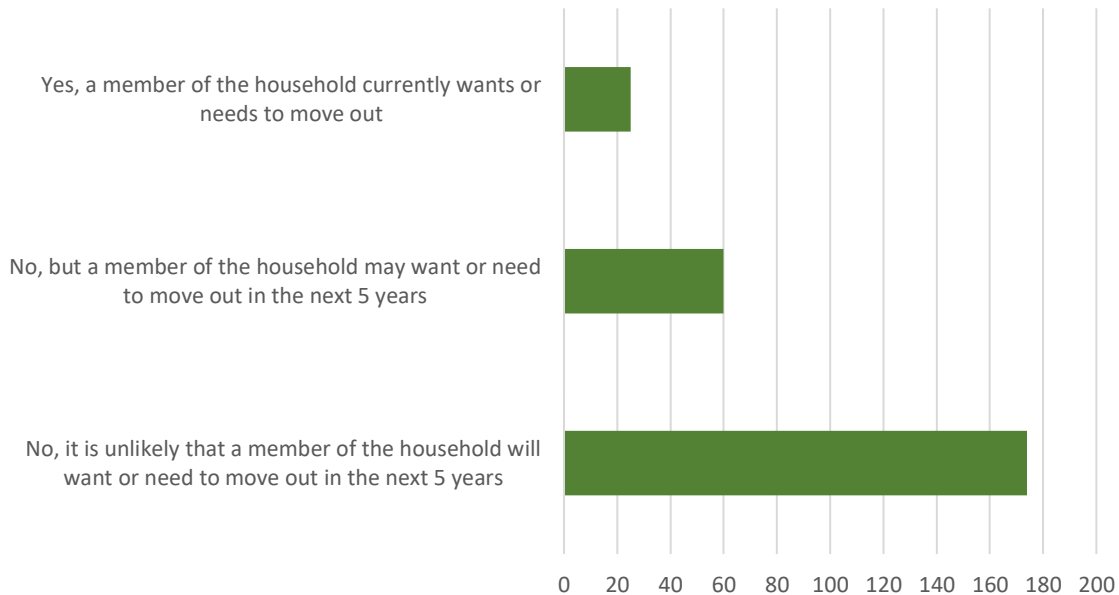
**Question 6: Thinking about the new development, how important are the following to you?**

Basildon Council’s draft Local Plan, which is currently awaiting examination, proposes to allocate a site on the edge of Noak Bridge for significant residential development (400 houses). It was therefore considered important to give residents the opportunity to express their main concerns with the proposals for that site. The question asked residents if they thought the below priorities were ‘very important’, ‘neither important nor unimportant’, or ‘not important at all’.



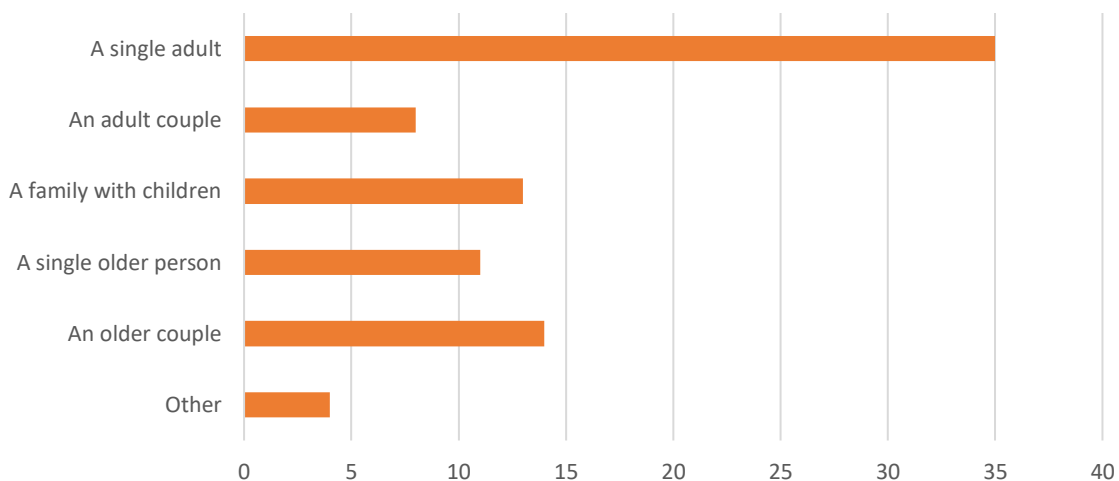
### Question 7a: Does any member of your household want or need to move out of the property?

This question was designed to establish whether there was any need for specific types of housing in the village amongst existing residents, with a view to a potential policy on nomination rights for local people. Respondents were asked if a member of their household wanted or needed to move out of the property now, or within the next five years. If a respondent did not think a member of their household would want or need to move out within the next five years, they were prompted to continue to question 8.



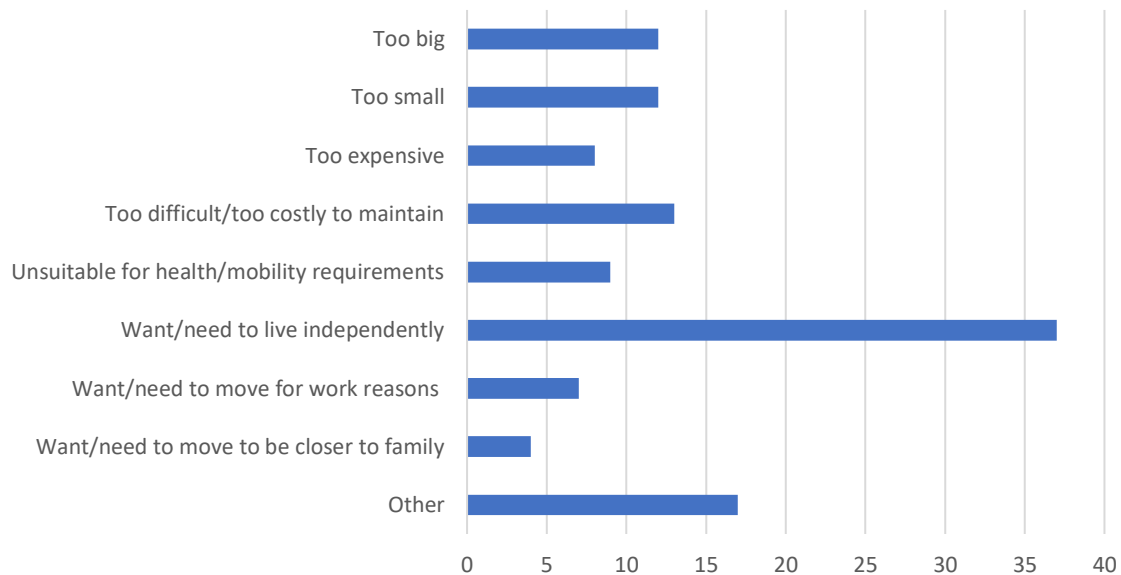
### Question 7b: What type of household member(s) will want or need to move out?

Respondents who chose one of the first two answers to question 7a were asked what type of household member or members may want or need to move out of the property.



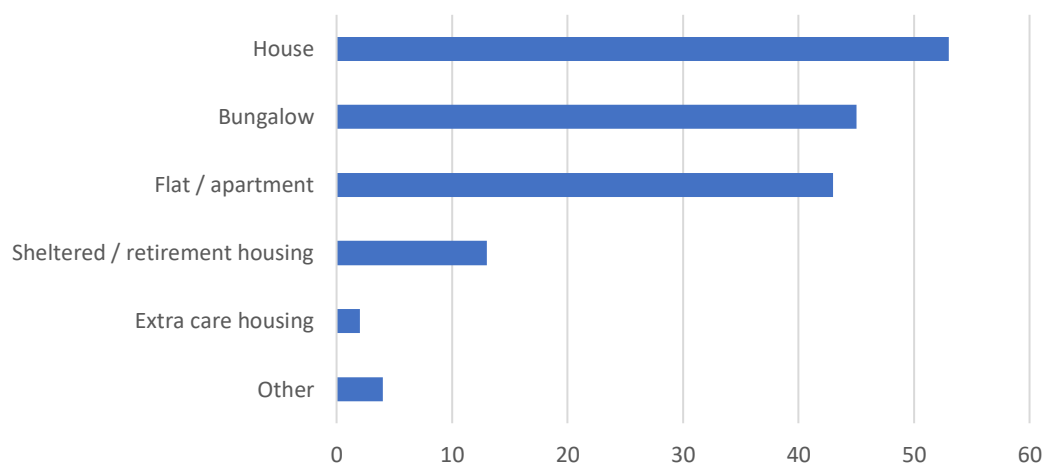
### Question 7c: Why is the current property unsuitable for the household member(s) moving?

Respondents who chose one of the first two answers to question 7a were then asked to provide reasons (as many as was appropriate) why the current property was not suitable. This was designed to help the Team identify priorities for future development.



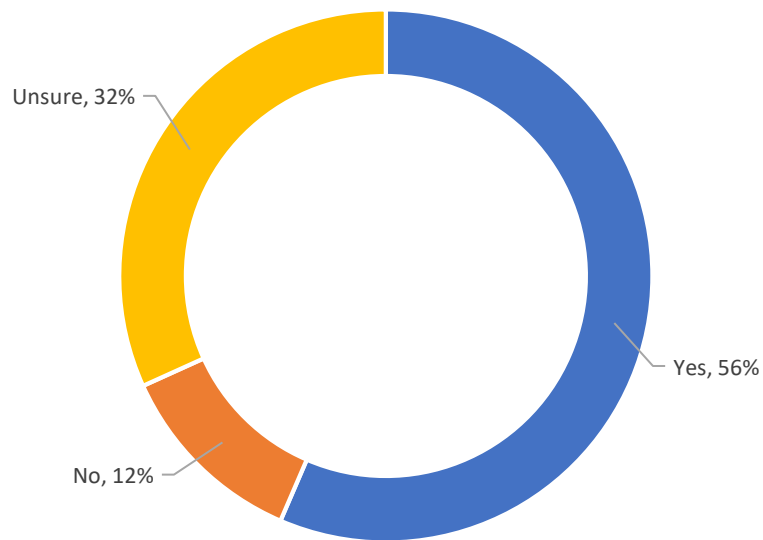
### Question 7d: What type of property would be most suitable for the household member(s) planning or needing to move?

Respondents who chose one of the first two answers to question 7a were also asked to identify which property types they thought would be most suitable for their needs. The question asked respondents to rank their preferences from 1 to 3 (with 1 being the most preferred option). However, a large number of respondents ticked rather than numbered these boxes and so it was not possible to identify priorities in this way. To ensure these responses were not lost, all ticked or numbered boxes were added together to provide a range of priorities.



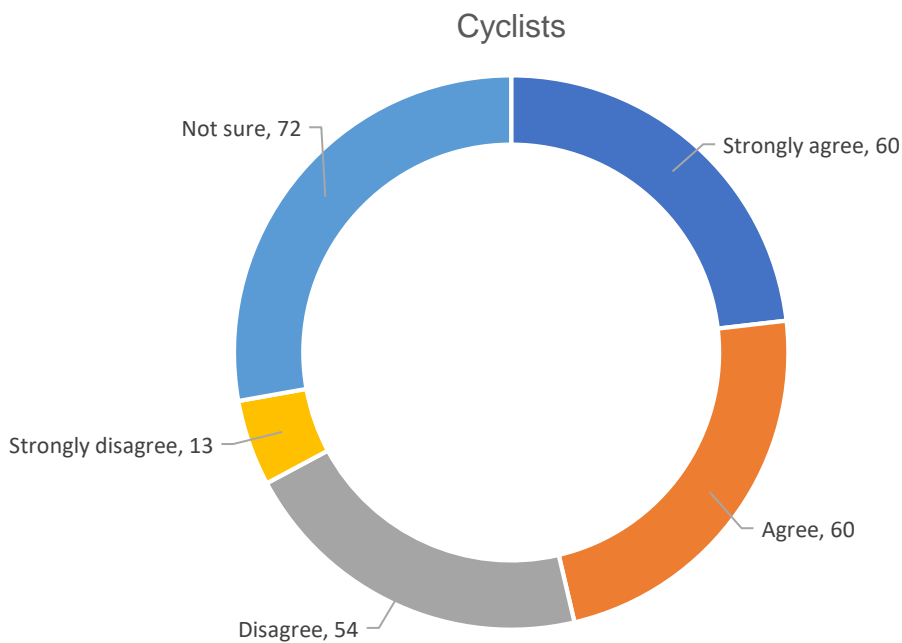
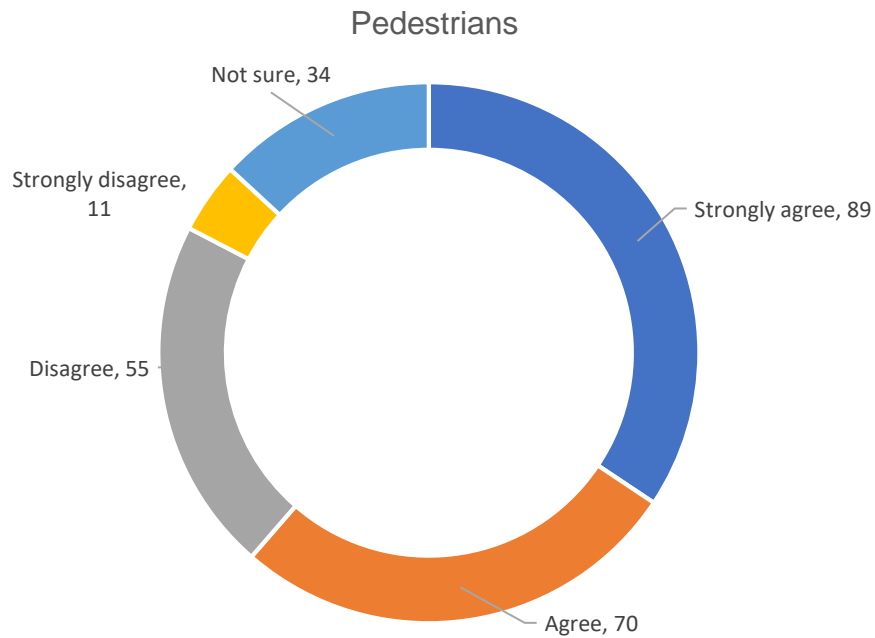
**Question 7e: Would the household member(s) moving out wish to stay within the local area (within or close to Noak Bridge) if a property is available that meets their needs?**

Respondents who chose one of the first two answers to question 7a were asked whether those that wanted or needed to move out of their current property wanted to stay within the village or whether they wanted to move elsewhere. This question was intended to provide an estimate of housing need within the village itself. Consequently, where respondents stated that they would not want to stay in Noak Bridge, their responses were disregarded for the purposes of analysis.



### Question 8: Do you think road safety for pedestrians and cyclists is a problem in Noak Bridge?

Residents were asked about road safety for both pedestrians and cyclists, with this question asking whether they strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, strongly disagreed or weren't sure if road safety was a problem for pedestrians and cyclists. The question also included a free text box prompting residents to suggest what could be done to improve road safety within Noak Bridge.



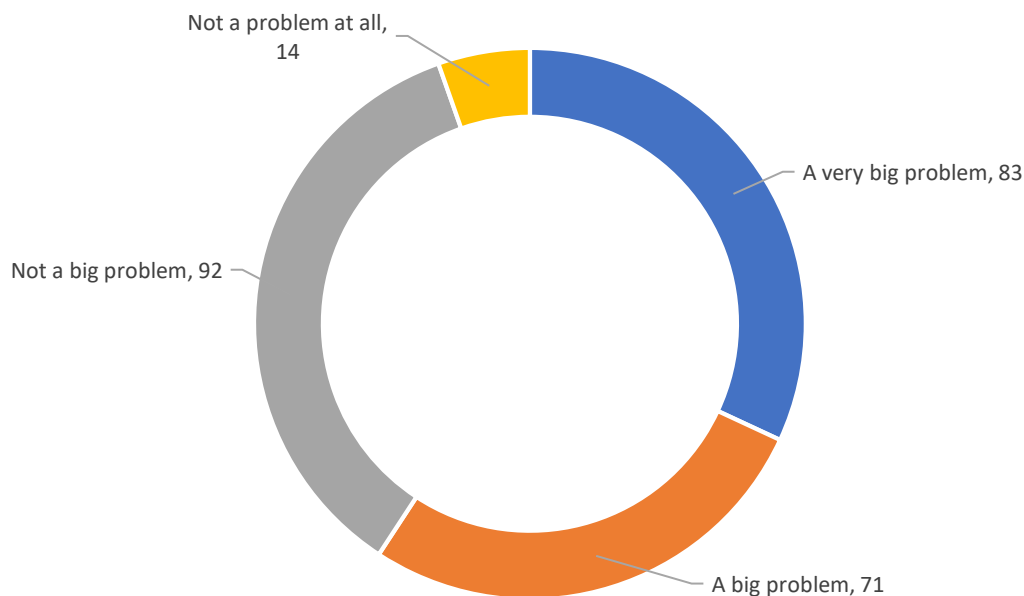


Suggestions to improve safety for pedestrians and/or cyclists included:

- Reducing the speed limit (20mph)
- Speed calming measures (cameras, speed bumps etc)
- More footpaths on areas where they do not exist (e.g. to Barleylands and parts of Wash Rd)
- Stopping cars parking on pavements (causing pedestrians to walk in the road)
- More crossings (particularly on Wash Road and Bridge Street)
- Cycle paths
- Widen the main roads

**Question 9: To what extent do you think traffic congestion is a problem in Noak Bridge?**

Residents were asked if they considered traffic congestion to be a problem in Noak Bridge and whether they considered it to be a very big problem, a big problem, not a big problem or not a problem at all. This question was included to allow the Team to consider whether further work may be required on potential mitigation, particularly in relation to any new development.



## Open comments

A space for respondents to make their own comments was included at the end of the questionnaire. This was designed to enable residents to voice their opinions about a range of issues outside of the specific questions asked.

These comments raised the following issues:

- Speed of vehicles (77 people)
- Concerns that facilities would not be able to cope with more houses (school, GP, roads and shops) (48 people)
- Parking in general (40 people)
- Cars parked on pavements (34 people)
- Do not build – no more houses (27 people)
- Footpaths / pavements (lack of or poor condition) (22 people)
- Concerns about too many cars and congestion problems (19 people)
- People wanting any new development to remain in keeping with current buildings and the original vision for Noak Bridge (15 people)
- Loss of countryside / wildlife / space / environment / air quality / pollution (14 people)
- General local amenity issues (pond, grass verges, hedges, dog mess, litter, landscaping etc.) (14 people)
- Concerns about the detriment of any new development to the Conservation Area (9 people)
- New housing should be for older generation / retirement village (8 people)
- Issues with GP facility, including appointments (7 people)
- Antisocial behaviour (5 people)
- New development should be eco-friendly (4 people)
- Rail travel / station parking (3 people)
- Affordable housing (to buy) (2 people)
- Underpass lighting (2 people)
- Want less planning-style restrictions on extensions (2 people)
- Noise / pollution from A127 (2 people)
- Better public bus routes (1 person)
- No public transport to Laindon Station (1 person)
- Practical upheaval of works/construction (1 person)

## APPENDIX B COPY OF PAPER QUESTIONNAIRE



### Residential Questionnaire

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#### **Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire**

As we start the process of shaping the future of Noak Bridge, your views are vital in helping to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan addresses those things that residents consider most important.

Basildon Borough Council are in the process of adopting their Local Plan, which proposes a new housing development in Noak Bridge. We think it is important that local people have a say over certain aspects of the development and have the opportunity to think about the long-term future of where they live.

This survey is the beginning of a long process to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Noak Bridge. We want to understand what local people think about Noak Bridge now and what their aspirations are for the future. We will also carry out a series of consultation events in the coming months.

#### **Who should complete this questionnaire?**

We're really keen that everyone living within Noak Bridge gets their opportunity to have their say, so ideally, we want every household member aged 11 years and over to complete the questionnaire. We have enclosed two questionnaires in each leaflet, and more are available at the drop-off locations (see below). You can also complete the survey online by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NoakBridge>. We are planning to hold a specific session to speak to primary-aged children and are really keen for teenagers to get involved in this process too, so please encourage them to complete a questionnaire.

#### **What should I do with the questionnaire when I have filled it in?**

When you have completed the questionnaire, you can drop it off at one of several drop-off locations located around Noak Bridge. These can be found at the Village Hall, Noak Bridge Pub, Pharmacy, Londis Store and the Noak Bridge Medical Centre. If you are unable to access these facilities due to mobility restrictions, please call 01268 288 766 for us to make alternative arrangements for you.

#### **Data Protection**

We take the protection of your personal information very seriously and take all necessary precautions to ensure data is securely processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It is important to note that the information provided by you within this questionnaire, although containing specific questions about you, is not traceable to respondents/residents on an individual or household level.

**SECTION A – NOAK BRIDGE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE**

**1. How long have you lived in Noak Bridge?**

- Less than a year       1 - 5 years       5 - 10 years       More than 10 years

**2. What do you like about living in Noak Bridge? [tick up to three]**

- Living close to the countryside
- The local facilities (shops, public houses, schools, etc)
- The look and style of the village
- The location
- The local road network
- The public transport links
- The parks / open spaces
- Other (please specify)

**3. What do you think about the existing shops and facilities in Noak Bridge?**

	Do not meet my needs	Meet my needs	Exceed my requirements	Not sure / Do not need
Parks and open spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health / GP facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shops and retail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature reserve	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**4. What (if any) additional facilities would you like to see in the village?**

**5. What things do you think could be improved about living in Noak Bridge?**

*[tick all that apply]*

- The local facilities (shops, public houses, schools, libraries etc)
- The amount of affordable housing (there isn't enough)
- The parks / open spaces
- The road and rail links
- The local public transport links
- Traffic / congestion
- Other (please specify)

**6. Thinking about the new development (see leaflet), how important are the following to you?**

	Not important at all	Neither important nor unimportant	Very important
Increasing the amount of green space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensuring new development looks similar to the current style of the Parish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minimising the impact of additional vehicles / congestion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing school places	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing access to local health / GP facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved public transport links	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensuring the new houses are affordable for first time buyers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SECTION B – FUTURE HOUSING NEED**

**7. Does any member of your household want or need to move out of the property?**

- Yes, a member of the household currently wants or needs to move out
- No, but a member of the household may want or need to move out in the next 5 years
- No, it is unlikely that any member of the household may want or need to move out in the next 5 years *[go straight to question 8]*

If you ticked either of the top two boxes (someone currently wants/needs to move out or will want/need to move out in the next five years); What type of household member(s) will want or need to move out?

- A single adult
- An adult couple
- A family with children
- A single older person
- An older couple
- Other (please specify)

Why is the current property unsuitable for the household member(s) moving?  
*[tick all that apply]*

- Too big
- Too small
- Too expensive
- Too difficult / costly to maintain
- Unsuitable for health / mobility requirements
- Want / need to live independently
- Want / need to move for work reasons
- Want / need to move to be closer to family
- Other (please specify)

What type of property would be most suitable for the household member(s) planning or needing to move?

*[select **up to three** options and number in order of preference e.g. **1** - most preferred option; **2** - second most preferred option; **3** - third most preferred option]*

House

Bungalow

Flat / apartment

Sheltered / retirement housing

Extra care housing

Other (please specify)

Would the household member(s) moving out wish to stay within the local area (within or close to Noak Bridge) if a property is available that meets their needs?

Yes

No

Unsure

**SECTION C – ROADS AND TRAFFIC**

**8. Do you think road safety for pedestrians and cyclists is a problem in Noak Bridge?**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
Pedestrians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cyclists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What should be done to help improve road safety?

**9. To what extent do you think traffic congestion is a problem in Noak Bridge?**

- A very big problem     A big problem     Not a big problem     Not a problem at all

What should be done to help improve traffic congestion?





## **SECTION E – ABOUT YOU**

### **Why are we asking you all of these personal questions?**

It's really important to us that we get the views of a good cross-section of the local area. We have some data on local people and so by filling in this section it helps us to work out if we are getting the views of everyone and whether we need to specifically target a certain group.

This information also helps us to work out if different people have different priorities – for example, older people may prioritise health facilities and public transport over the road network, whereas younger people may prioritise local facilities and open spaces.

What is your postcode?

Note: You cannot be personally identified by your postcode alone

What age group are you in?

- 10 - 17                       18 - 24                       25 - 34                       35 - 49  
 50 - 64                       65 - 79                       80 +

What is your gender?

- Female                       Male                       Other                       Prefer not to say

Would you consider yourself to have a disability?

- Yes                       No

What is your ethnicity?

- White (English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British)  
 White (Irish / Gypsy or Irish Traveller / Other White)  
 Mixed Multiple Ethnic Groups (White and Black Caribbean / White and Black African / White and Asian / Other Mixed)  
 Asian / Asian British (Indian / Pakistani / Bangladeshi / Chinese / Other Asian)  
 Black / African / Caribbean / Black British (African / Caribbean / Other Black)  
 Other Ethnic Group (Arab / Any Other Ethnic Group)

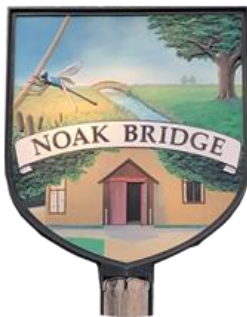
Do you consider yourself to belong to a particular religion?

- Yes                       No

If yes, please specify:

What is your sexual orientation?

- Heterosexual / straight                       Gay woman                       Gay man                       Bisexual  
 Other                       Prefer not to say



**Noak Bridge Parish Council**

81 Lower Street

Noak Bridge

Basildon

Essex

SS15 4BD

[www.noakbridgenp.org](http://www.noakbridgenp.org)

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If you require this report in different formats, please contact us on 01268 288 766.

We consider requests on an individual basis.