

## Rawdon Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Report

### Introduction & Methodology

As part of Rawdon Parish Council's planning for the future, the council decided to undertake a consultation with local residents to ascertain their views on how best to incorporate this into the Neighbourhood Plan that is being produced.

In August 2014 2500 questionnaires, with 27 questions and topics ranging from the design new developments should have, educational needs, infrastructure, the environment, leisure and employment, were delivered to all households in Rawdon. The wide range of topics included in the questionnaire was used to get a comprehensive understanding of the issues and residents views of Rawdon as a Parish going forward.

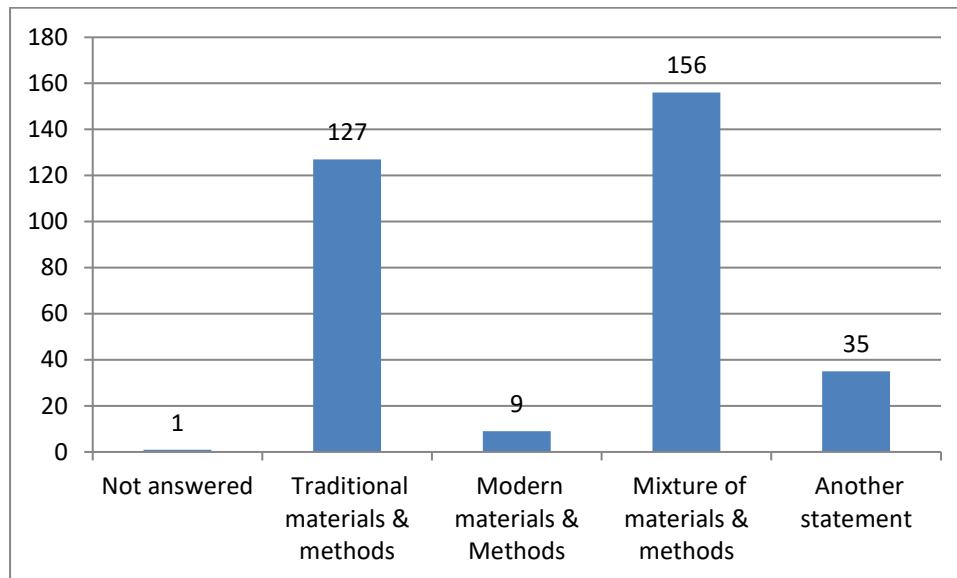
Of the 2500 questionnaires that were issues 310 were returned to the council with 308 contained valid data, this is a response rate of 12.4%. A previous questionnaire on site allocations was delivered to all households in Rawdon in July 2013 and attracted a higher rate of return. Low response rates are to be expected with questionnaire data due to the expected diminishing rates of return during a consultation period.

To enable the analysis of the questionnaires, the returned questionnaires were uniquely numbered and collated. The responses from each questionnaire was then input into Excel and analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The quantitative analysis looked purely at the data where respondents were to select what they felt was important in response to selection of responses. The responses were totalled to see what issues were most important to the respondents. Where respondents marked multiple options then all of these were recorded with equal weighting. In questions where there was space for other statements and where respondents were invited to give more detailed responses, qualitative analysis was used. Qualitative analysis looks for themes within responses given by the respondents, for example if multiple respondents indicated that they were concerned about developments being eco-friendly then this was recorded as an additional issue.

## Results

### Design

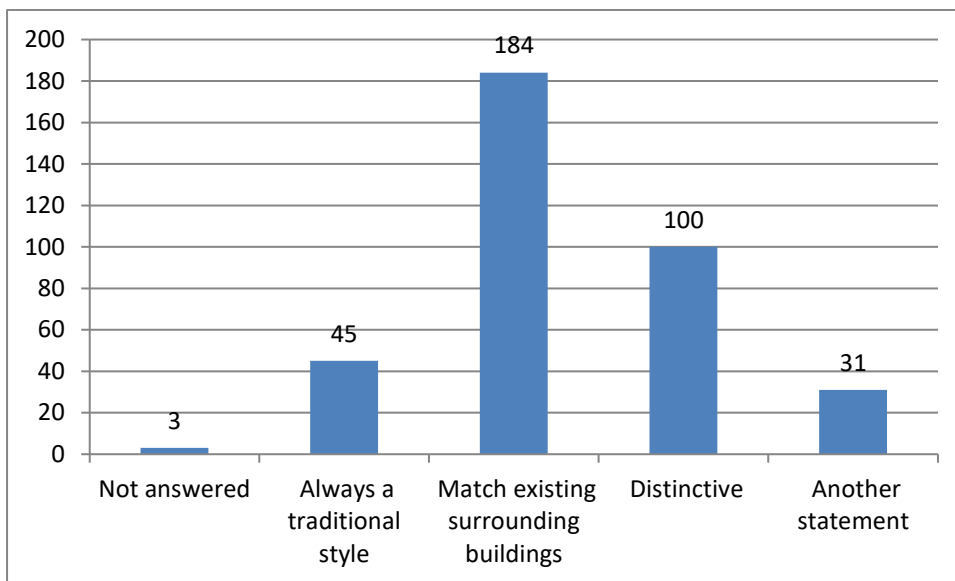
Question 1 – What is your view on materials to be used in new buildings?



Of the 308 respondents only 1 individual did not answer. The most frequent response was that they wanted a mixture of materials and methods should be used (156), closely followed by traditional materials and methods (127), modern materials and methods only received 9 respondents saying this was a good idea. This is not surprising when you look at the additional comments that respondents have made. They were also concerned that any new buildings must be in keeping with their surroundings and sympathetic to the historical buildings in the area, for example some individuals stated that in conservation areas stone should be used rather than modern materials. 35 respondents gave additional statements other than the 3 options given – this includes individuals who selected an option but also wished to say something else and individuals who only gave additional statements.

3 individuals said that they thought there should be no further building or as little as possible.

### Question 2 – What is your view on the design of new buildings?



In response to this question 3 individuals did not answer the question. The most common response was that new buildings should match the existing surrounding buildings (184), followed by they should be distinctive and not feel like “estates”, then always a traditional style (45). 31 respondents gave additional statements. Many of the additional statements were concerned with design - the respondents were concerned that the new buildings needed to be in keeping with the surrounding area, that they were built to a high quality, built to last and that they were energy efficient/eco-friendly. Another concern that the respondents had was that the new buildings have sufficient parking for residents. Many of the respondents who gave additional statements also wished to see brownfield sites being used or renovation of existing buildings, as well as smaller developments.

3 individuals stated there should be no further building; this is the same as with question 1.

### Question 3 – What other things should the plan cover in terms of design?

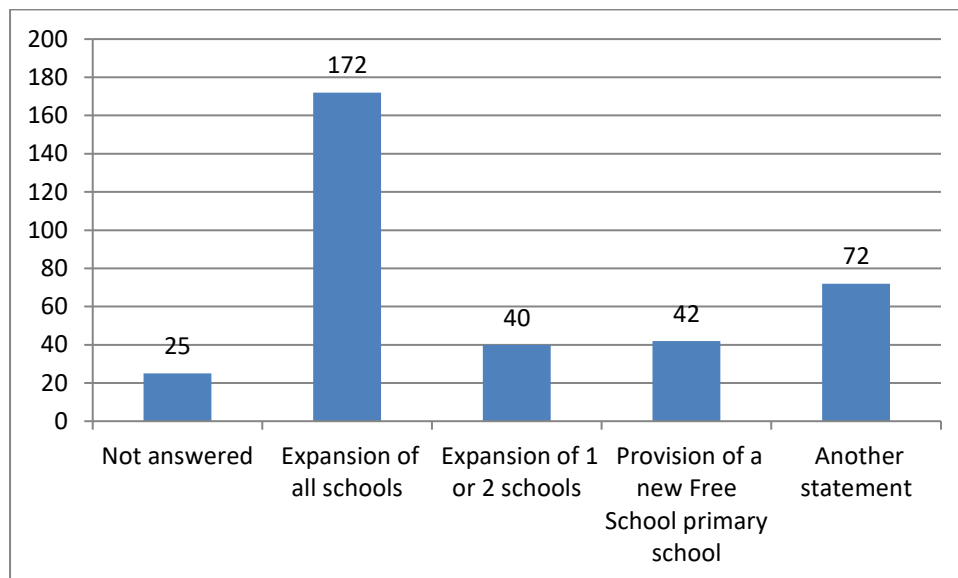


In this question 13 people did not answer the question. The largest concern for the respondents was that crime and anti-social behaviour should be designed out (225), followed by street furniture and street scene (203), with shop frontages and signage closely following (193).

30 respondents gave additional statements. The greatest concern in the additional statements was that there needed to be plenty of green spaces within developments – this included consideration for wildlife and eco-friendly designs, as well as there being playgrounds/parks. Another concern for respondents was that designs needed to have sufficient parking, especially off street parking available for residents.

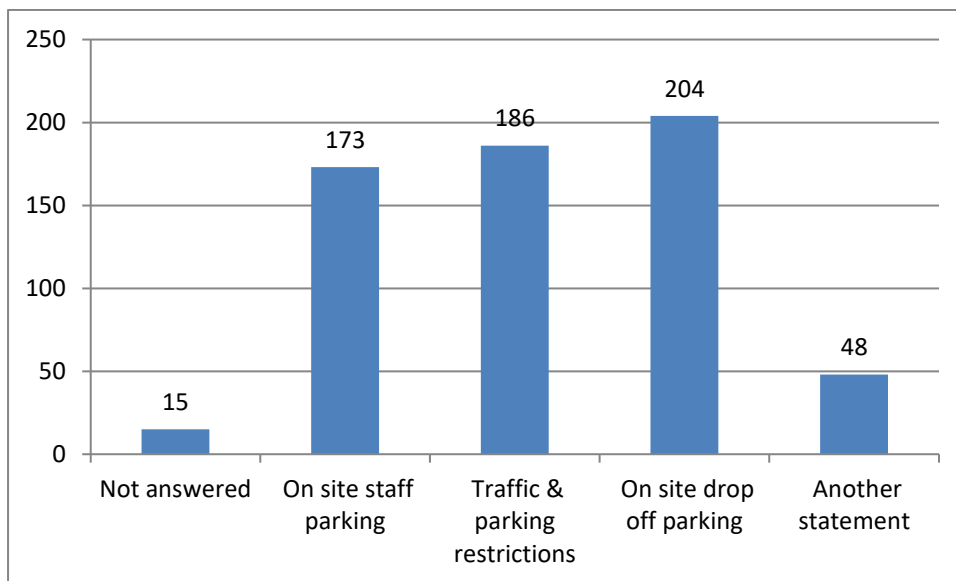
## Education

Question 4 – How would you prefer to see the number of places at our schools increase?



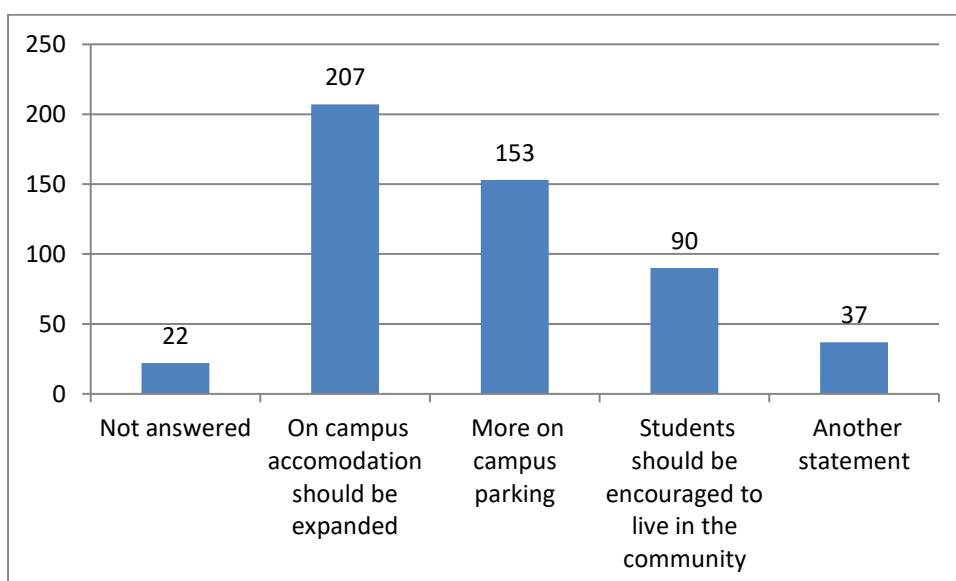
In response to this question 25 respondents did not answer the question. Respondents preferred expansion of all schools most (172), followed by a provision of a new “Free school” primary school (42) and then closely followed by the expansion of 1 or 2 schools. 72 respondents gave additional statements. These generally were relating to which schools they felt should be expanded. The most common schools suggested for expansion was Littlemoor, Benton Park and St Peter’s C of E. Some respondents suggested to keep the current quality of education in Rawdon new schools should be built and class sizes should be kept small. 10 respondents stated that they did not feel there needed to be any expansion of schools, some also suggesting that it would not be needed if there was no further development.

Question 5 – What must happen before school expansion can take place?



In response to this question 15 respondents did not answer the question. Respondents felt that on site drop of parking was most important (204), followed by traffic and parking restrictions (186) and then closely followed by on site staff parking (173). 48 of the respondents gave additional statements. The most common theme here was that alternative modes of transport should be considered. These included children walking to school, improved public transport/buses for drop off and pick up; and cycling to school. Traffic congestion was also a concern, with Town Street being highlighted as a potential problem area, as it already has congestion so any further expansion of schools could lead to further congestion. Along with traffic congestion issues there were concerns regarding parking and the enforcement of parking restrictions. Some respondents were concerned that current parking restrictions are not always enforced.

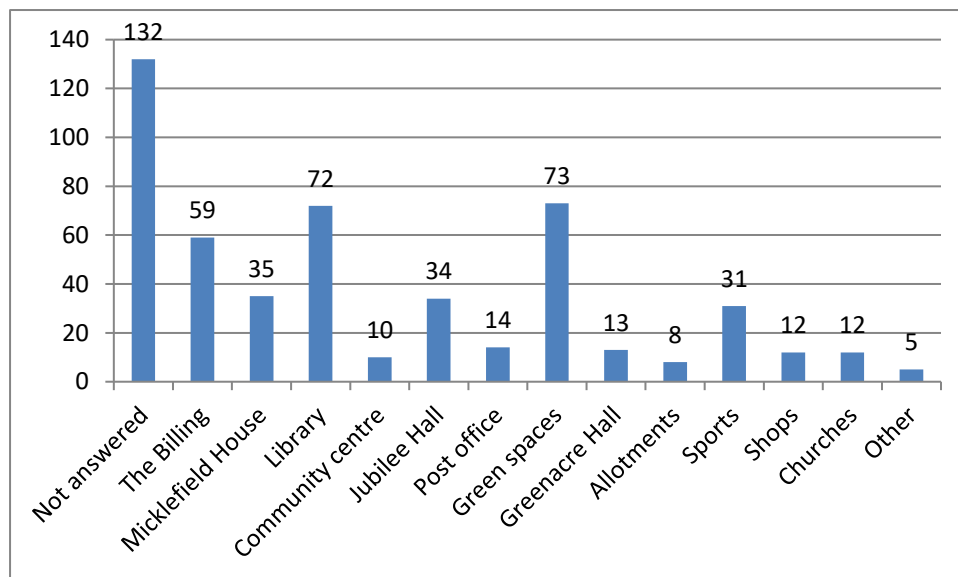
Question 6 – Horsforth’s Trinity University wants to grow- what would be the best solution?



In response to this question 22 respondents did not answer the question. The suggestion most favoured by respondents was that there should be more on campus accommodation (207), followed by more on campus parking (153), students being encouraged to live in the community was less popular with on 90 respondents agreeing with this. 37 respondents gave additional statements. The most common additional statements were that they did not feel that Trinity University needed to expand, that they should use the buildings that they currently have but don't utilise and that students should be encouraged to use public transport. One respondent stated that they did not wish to have students living in the community as they tend to bring with them problems with crime and anti-social behaviour. Another set of respondents suggested that along with the on campus accommodation that there should be fewer private landlords for students as they take up homes better suited to families and that the private landlords are expensive.

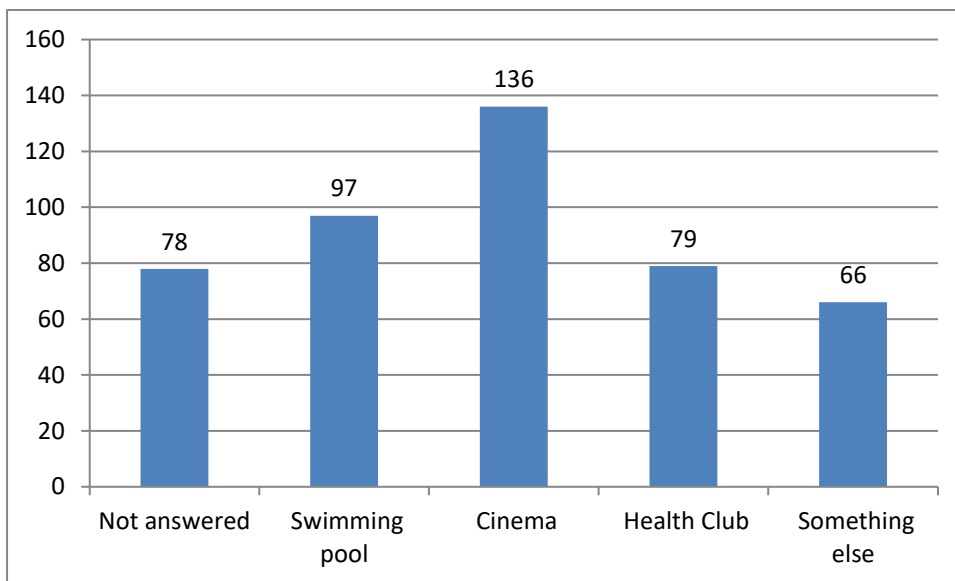
### Leisure

Question 7 – Rawdon has a number of Community facilities inside its boundaries, how do you view them? Are there any facilities that we should identify as a community asset to help prevent losing them?



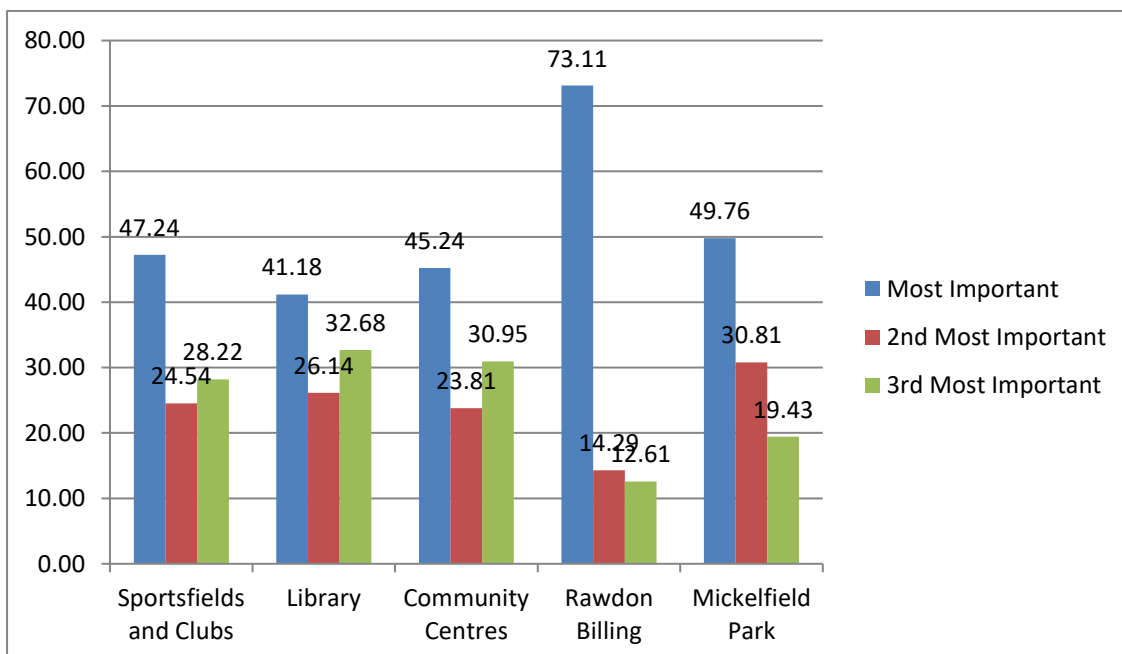
In response to this question 132 respondents did not answer the question. The most commonly used facilities in Rawdon were Green spaces (73) and the library (72). The Billing was the next most commonly used facility (59). The respondents have used a wide variety of facilities within Rawdon, however the 132 respondents who have not answered the question, may suggest a lack of awareness of the facilities available.

Question 8 – What type of facilities do you regularly used outside Rawdon?



In response to this question 78 respondents did not answer the question. The most common facility used outside of Rawdon was the cinema (136), followed by the swimming pool (97), and closely followed by health clubs (79). 66 Respondent gave addition options, many of these were related to fitness/sports, including running clubs, golf clubs, climbing facilities and bowls. Respondents also use the theatre, art galleries and libraries. Many respondents also enjoy using allotments and the countryside.

Question 9 – Which of Rawdon’s leisure facilities are most important? (Rank 1-3)



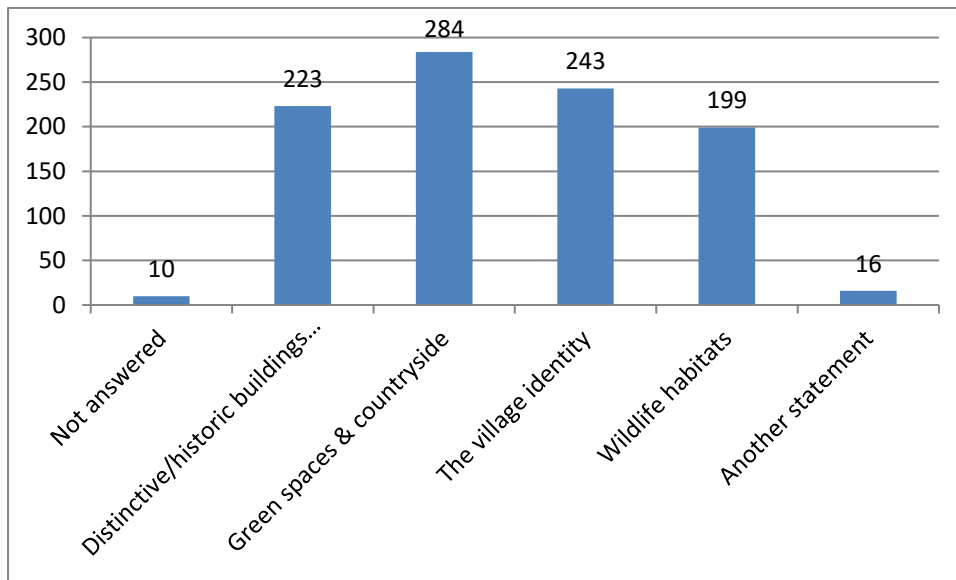
In response to this question 16 respondents did not answer the question. Rawdon Billing was the most common of Rawdon’s leisure facilities to be classified as the most important, followed by

Micklefield Park. Sports fields and clubs, the library and community centres are seen as similarly important, with the most stable percentages across all 3 levels of importance.

Other areas of importance to respondents included Cragg Woods, the allotments, golf course and areas of green spaces available for walking.

### Conservation

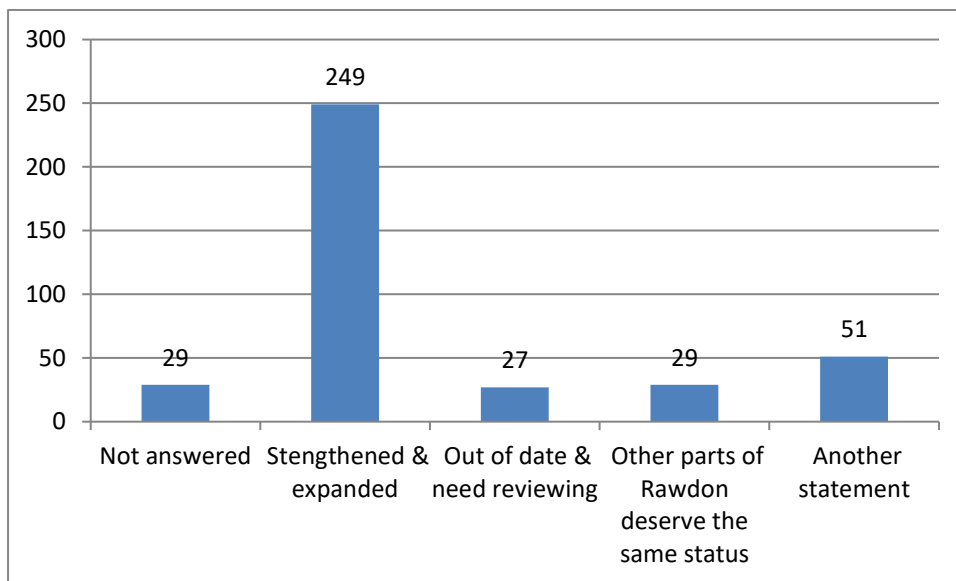
Question 10 – What should we retain and conserve about Rawdon?



In response to this question 10 respondents did not answer the question. Areas of green spaces and countryside were the areas that respondents were most likely to want to conserve (284), followed by the village identity, distinctive/historic buildings (223), and lastly followed by wildlife habitats. All of these have similar values and as such are all important to the residents of Rawdon. 16 respondents gave additional statements. The most common additional statement was that they felt the Billing was an area that should be conserved.

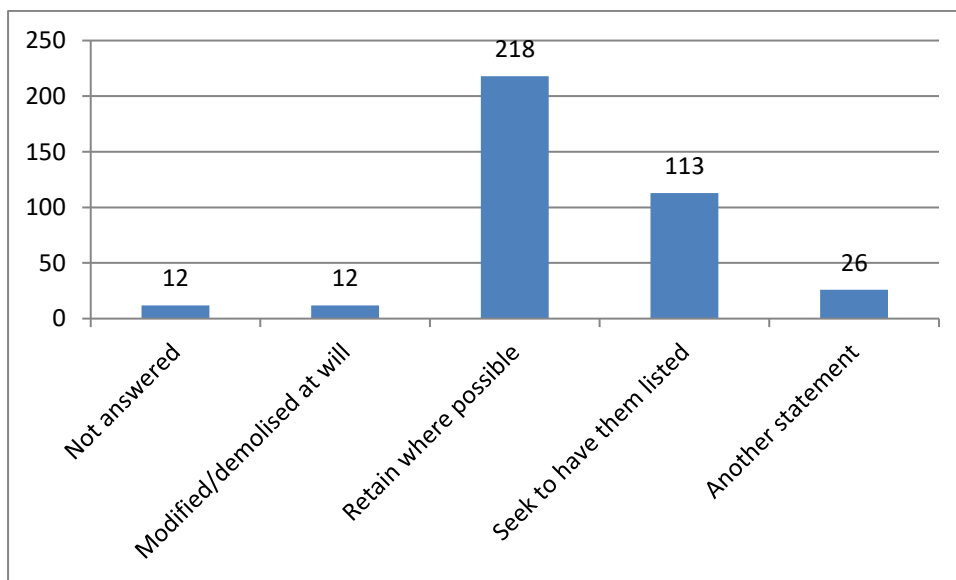


Question 11 – How should we deal with Rawdon’s conservation areas?



In response to this question 29 respondents did not answer the question. Most of the respondents felt that the conservation areas should be strengthened and expanded (249), with much lower values follows other parts of Rawdon deserve the same status (29) and that conservation areas are out of date and need reviewing (27). 51 respondents gave additional statements, of these responses there were 8 who didn’t actually know where the conservation areas are in Rawdon. The Billing and Town Street were areas that respondents also suggested should be protected as conservation areas.

Question 12 – How should we deal with heritage buildings that are not already protected?

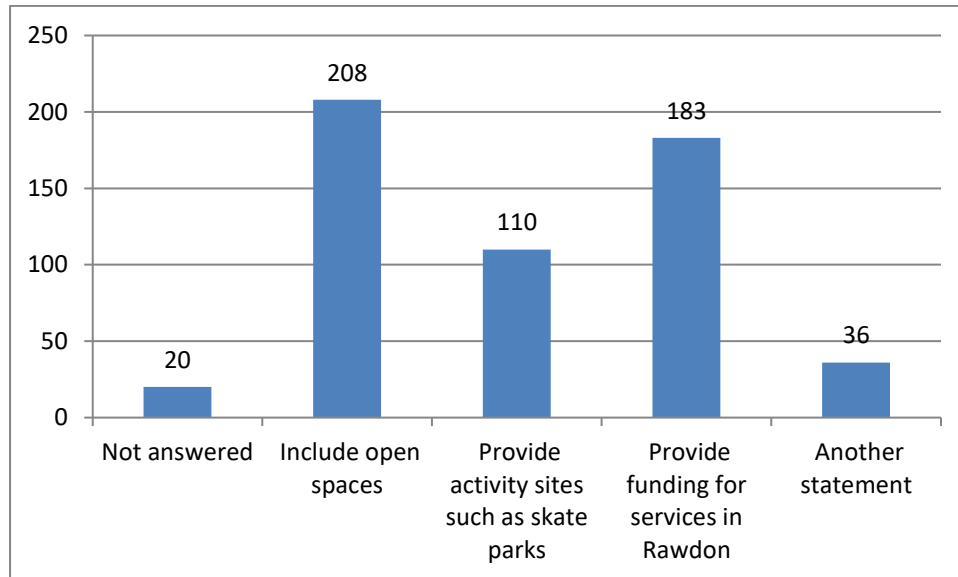


In response to this question 12 respondents did not answer the question. The most popular suggestion for what to do with heritage building was to retain them (218), followed by seeking to have them listed (113) with modifying and demolishing these buildings as the least popular with only 12 respondents agreeing with this suggestion. 26 respondents gave additional statements, with the

most popular additional statement being that these buildings should have a modern use and that any modern renovation should be sympathetic to the building and its surroundings.

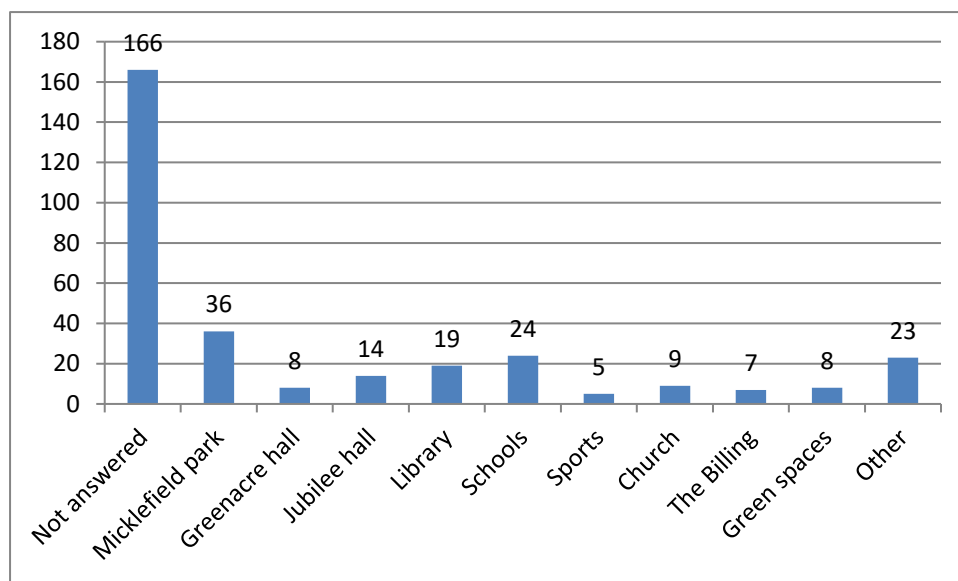
### Youth and the retired

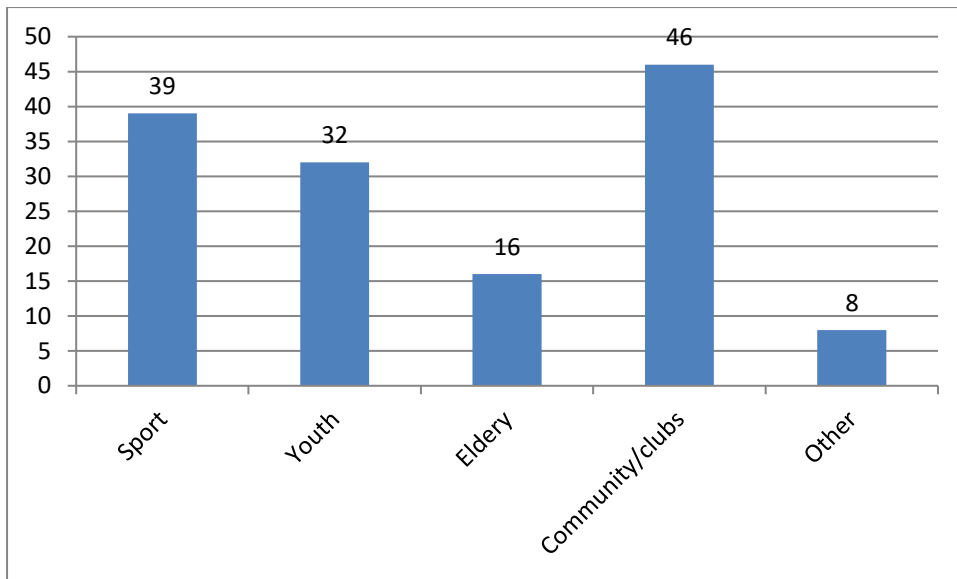
Question 13 – How could developers help deliver facilities for the youth of the community?



In response to this question 20 respondents did not answer the question. The most popular way developers could help deliver facilities for the youth in the community was to include open spaces (208), followed by providing funding for services in Rawdon (183) and then by providing activity sites (110). 36 respondents gave additional statements which included sports facilities being provided and educational classes should be available at the library and Trinity University during the holidays.

Question 14 – Can you suggest where facilities for youth and retired people could be provided? Where could additional youth or retired people’s facilities be located? What facilities do you have in mind?

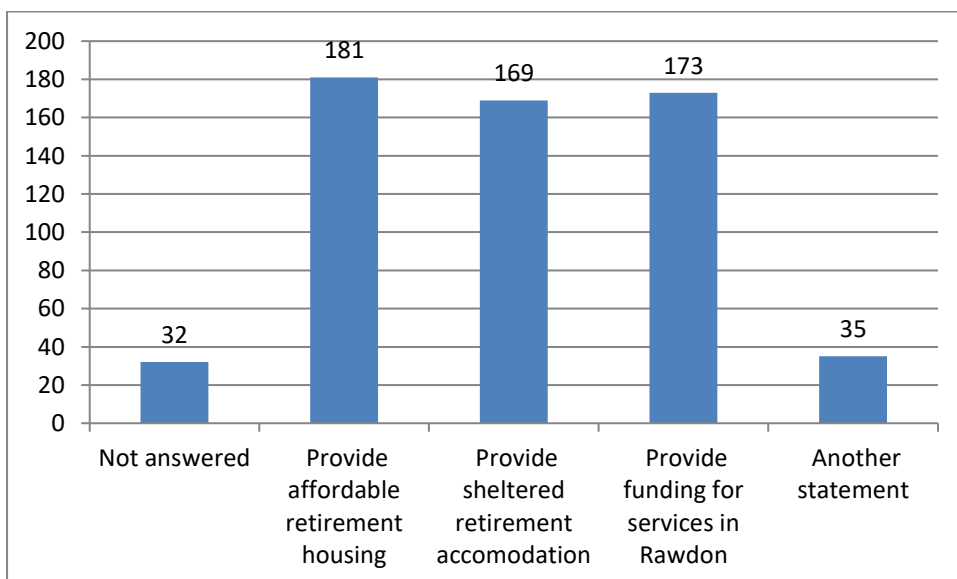




In response to the question 166 respondents did not answer the question. Micklefield park was the most common place for where the respondents wished their services to be located (36), followed by schools(24), other (23) and the library (19). "Other" locations where the respondents felt their services should be included areas such as "a central location" and unoccupied buildings including council buildings.

The most common facilities that the respondents were looking for were community activities/clubs (46) these included clubs such as sewing clubs, community gardens and community centre; Sports facilities (39) including football, archery and bowls; Youth facilities (32) this generally meant youth clubs and afterschool clubs; and lastly followed by Elderly facilities (16) these were day groups as well as computer classes.

Question 15 – How could developers help deliver facilities for the retired people of the community?

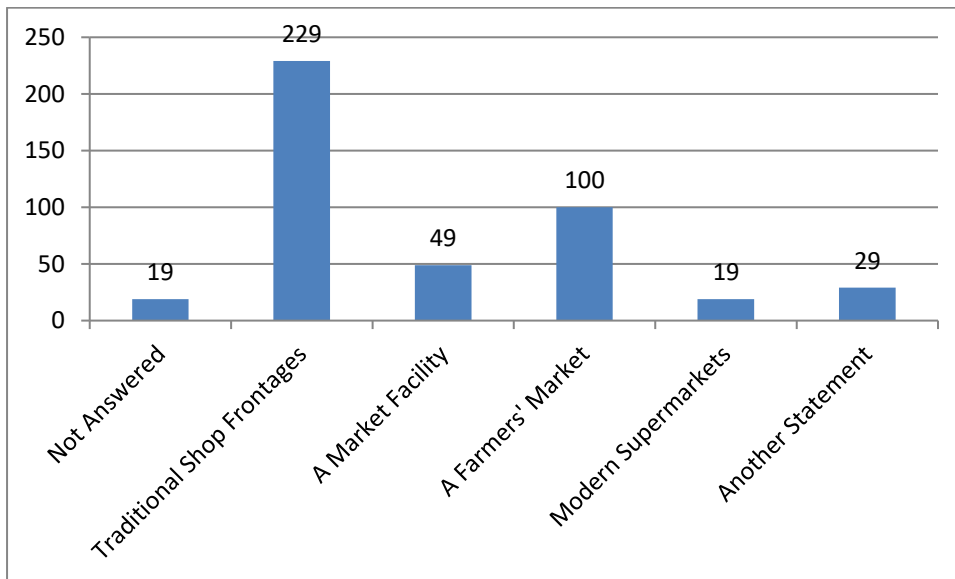


In response to this question 32 respondents did not answer the question. The most popular way for developers to deliver facilities for retired people in the community was to provide affordable

retirement homes (181), followed by providing funding for services in Rawdon (173) and closely followed by providing sheltered retirement accommodation (169). 35 respondents gave additional statements, one of the most common responses was that homes in Rawdon are too large for elderly people as they grow older so more 1 and 2 bed homes need to be provided to allow them to downsize and free up homes for families. There was also a question whether public transport could be improved to allow for greater independence in old age.

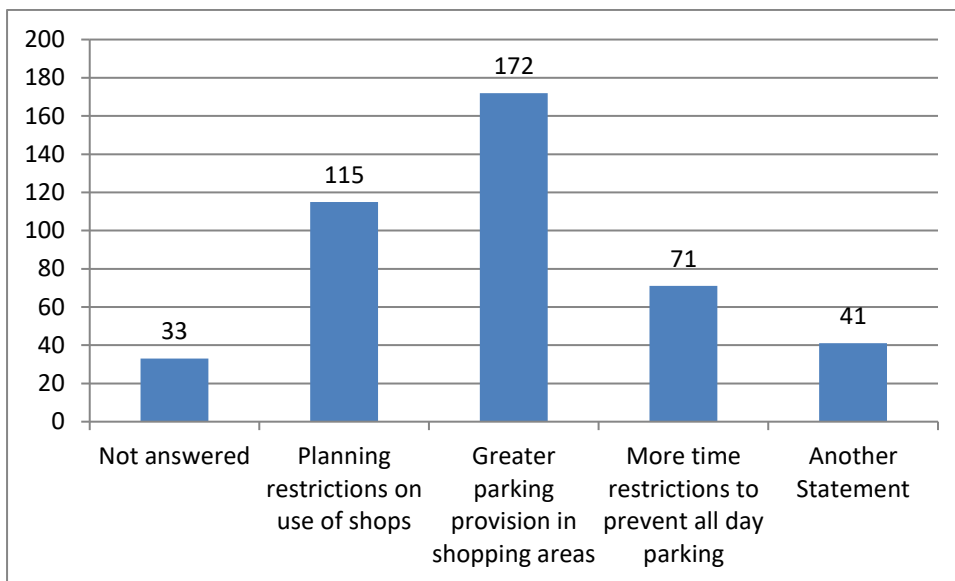
## Retail

Question 16 – What type of shopping scene do you most favour?



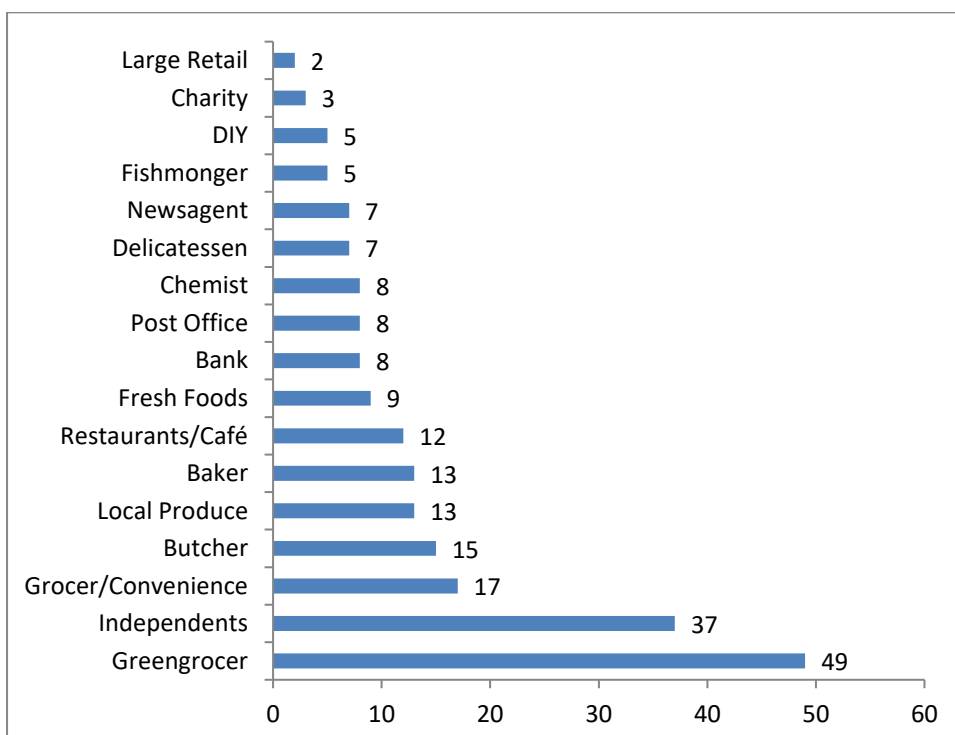
In response to this question 19 respondents did not answer the question. The most popular shopping scenes were traditional shop frontages (229) and having a farmers' market (100). These were followed by a market facility (49) and modern supermarkets (19). 29 respondents made additional statements which included that more independent shops were preferable to supermarkets.

Question 17 – How can we best help preserve independent shops?



In response to this question 33 respondents did not answer the question. The respondents felt that by having a greater parking provision would best preserve independent shops (172), followed by planning restrictions on the use of shops (115), and then followed by more time parking restrictions to prevent all day parking (71). 41 respondents gave additional statements, these mainly concerned parking. Some respondents felt there should be free parking to help preserve independent shops, whereas others felt that there should be greater enforcement of parking restrictions already in place. Respondents were also concerned with the number of chain shops that are detracting from the independent shops.

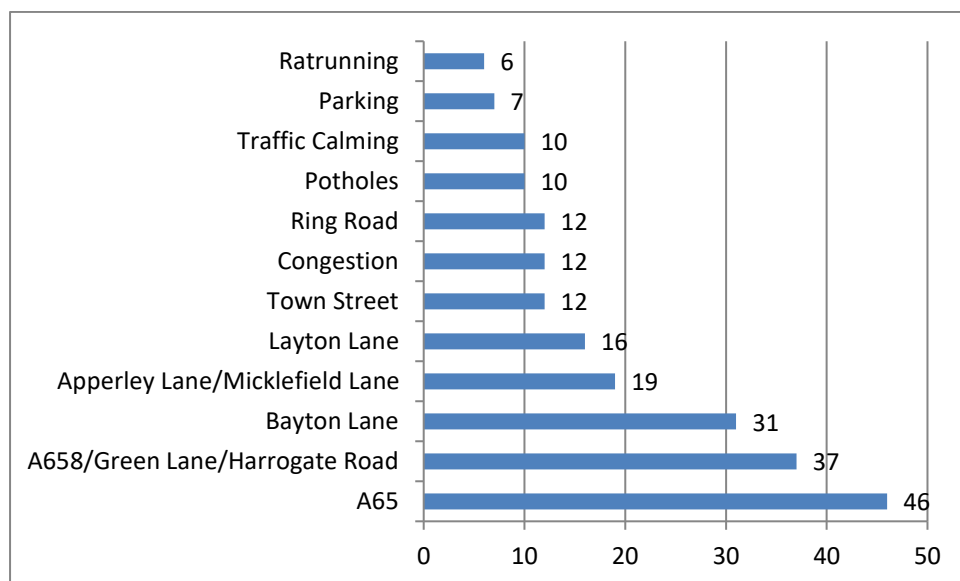
Question 18 – Is there any type of shop we should encourage more of?



The range of shops that respondents felt should be encouraged was varied; however greengrocers were the most popular followed by independent shops. Respondents were keen to have a variety of food shops including butchers, bakers and fishmongers. However they also felt it was important to encourage service shops such as the post office and chemists. Respondents were much less keen to encourage large retailers with only 2 respondents suggesting encouraging them. This may be due to the residents of Rawdon wanting to maintain the village identity.

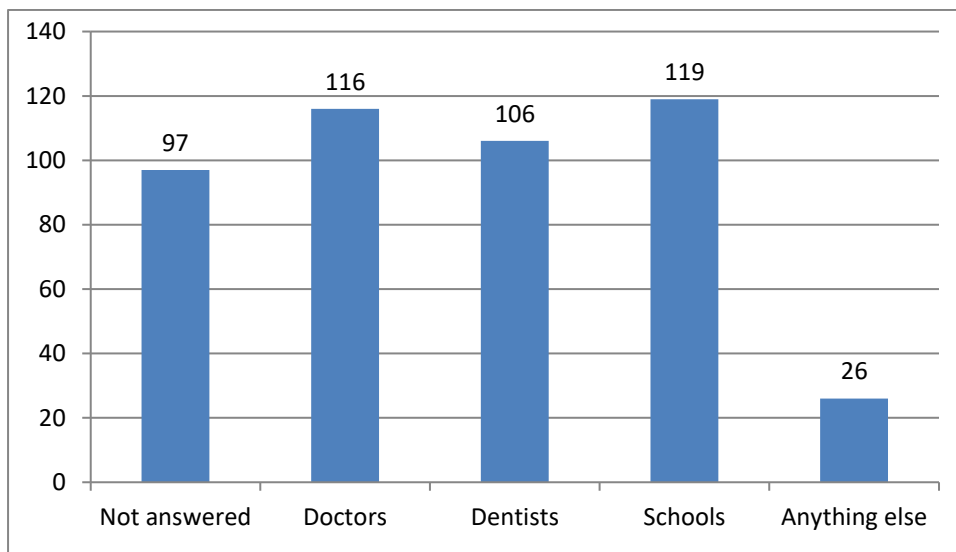
## Infrastructure

Question 19 – Horsforth roundabout is to be improved, but where else should roads be improved and how? Please identify any road infrastructure issues of which you are aware. How could this be improved?



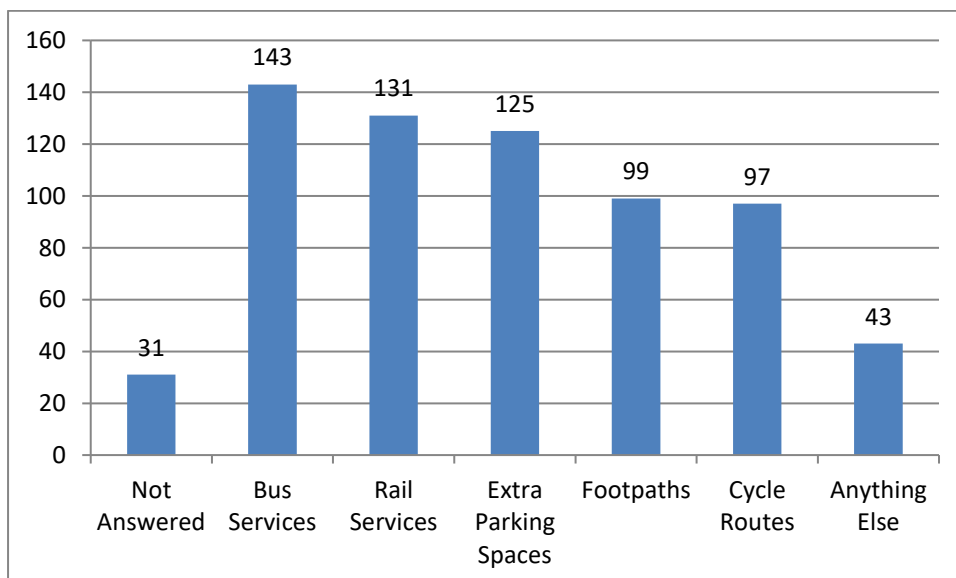
An area of great concern relating to infrastructure was the A65, with 46 respondents highlighting this as an issue. Harrogate Road and Bayton Lane were also areas with high concern. These 3 areas were linked to other issues including potholes, congestion and traffic calming. The A65 was particularly linked to congestion and Layton Lane was linked to potholes and ratunning. Many of the respondents were concerned with the added congestion that would come with additional development in Rawdon.

Question 20 – What services do you feel need larger provision?



In response to this question 97 respondents did not answer the question. All of the services were fairly similar in respondents feeling they needed greater provision. Schools were most commonly stated as needing a larger provision (119), followed by doctors (116) and the followed by dentists (106). 26 respondents gave additional statements; the most common concern in the additional statements was the provision for NHS dentists in Rawdon. Other provisions mentioned in the additional statements included community internet services and schools for 3-5 year olds.

Question 21 – What improvements to transport provision would benefit you?

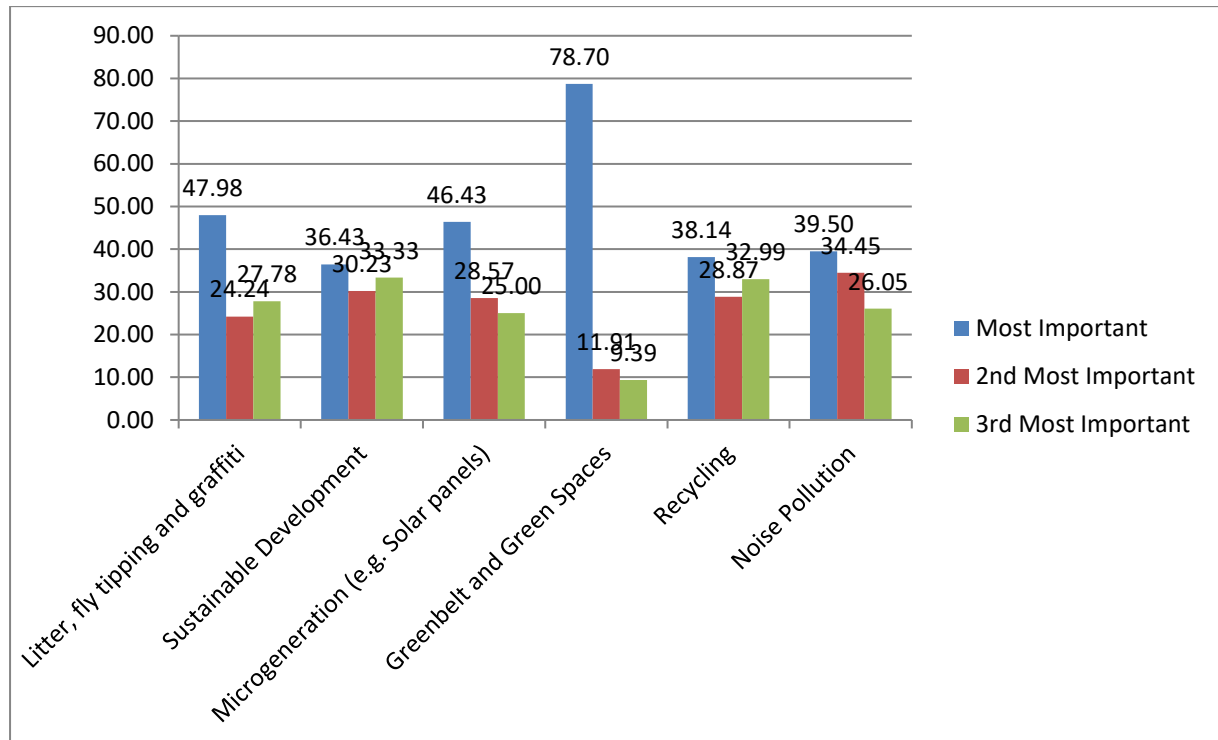


In response to this question 31 respondents did not answer the question. The most common improvements requested were improvements to bus services (143) and rail services (131). These were then closely followed by extra parking spaces (125), footpaths (99) and cycle routes (97). 43 respondents gave additional statements. The most common additional statements related to buses.

These ranged from complaints about timetabling to requests for a park and ride service as well as reducing the cost of using the buses. Other comments from respondents were that some of the footpaths in Rawdon had issues including motorists parking on pavements to repairs needing to be done.

## Environment

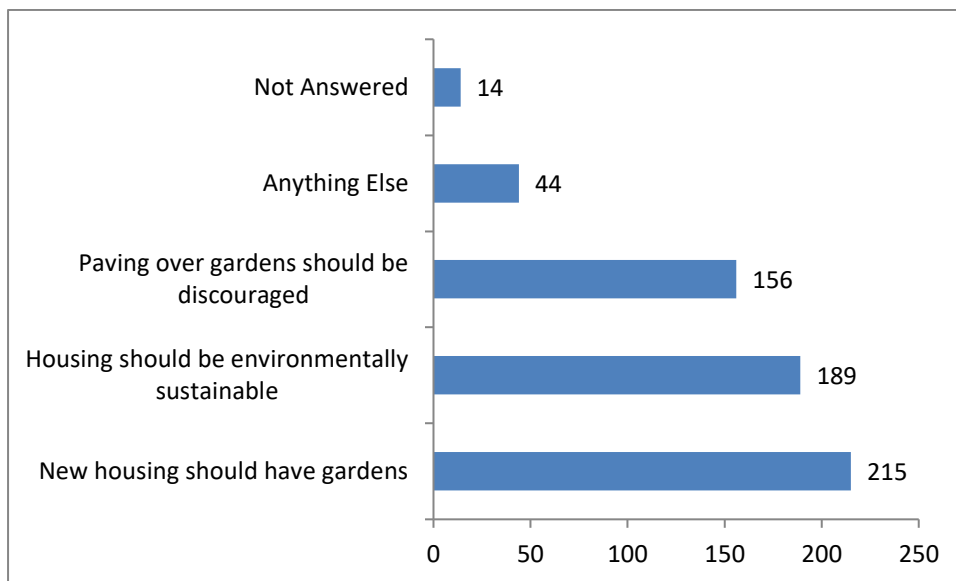
Question 22 – Which environmental issues are most important to you? (Rank 1-3)



The Greenbelt and green spaces were seen as the most important environmental issues to respondents, followed by litter, fly tipping and graffiti; and microgeneration. Respondents have shown a great interest in environmental issues, some additional statements from respondents included issues with dog poo bins with Rawdon – many respondents do not feel that there is an adequate provision of bins especially around key access points at the Billing. Respondents were also concerned with the traffic congestion within Rawdon. A final concern that a number of respondents had was the smell that comes from the abattoir.

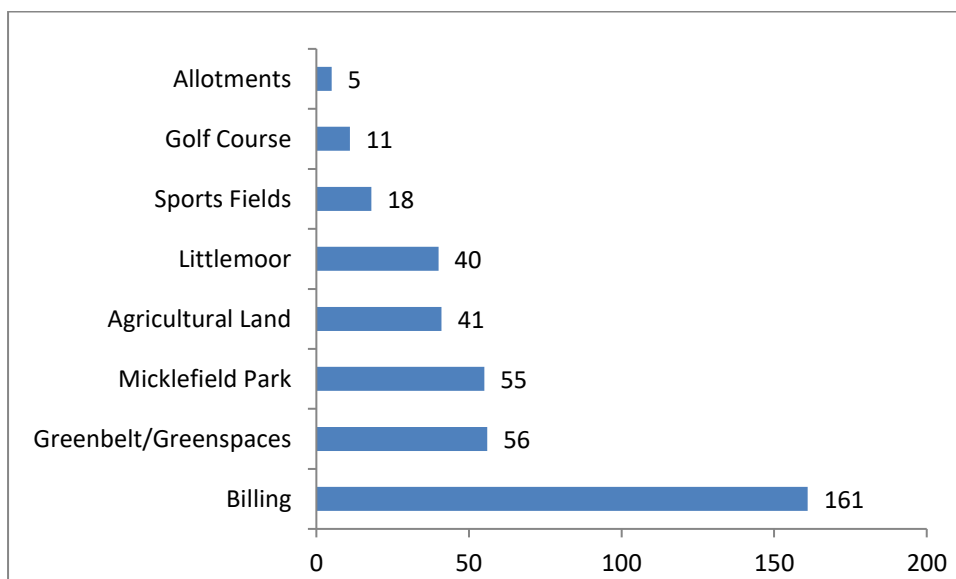


Question 23 – what environmental restrictions should apply to housing, old and new?



In response to this question 14 respondents did not answer the question. The most common concern for respondents was that new housing should have gardens (215), followed by housing being environmentally sustainable (189) and then followed by discouraging the paving over of gardens (156). 44 respondents gave additional concerns, the most common being the provision for parking, in particular off street parking. A second concern was that there might not be enough greenery in new developments, respondents suggested that there should be communal green spaces/gardens.

Question 24 – A Neighbourhood Plan allows us to designate “Community Green Spaces” that are important to the area. These are then protected from development. Please identify any green spaces you think deserve “Community Green Space” status.

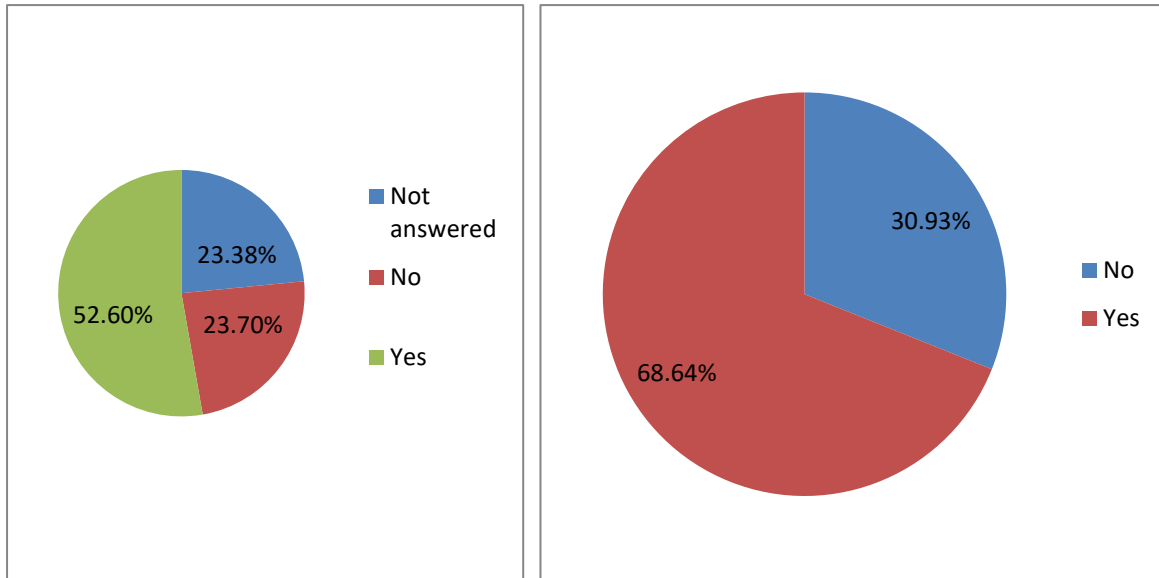


The Billing was by far the area to which the respondents felt deserved a “Community Green Space” status (161), this was followed by the Greenbelt (56), Micklefield Park (55). The focus on the Billing

suggests that this is an area of particular importance to the community where as other areas are more dependent on personal circumstance.

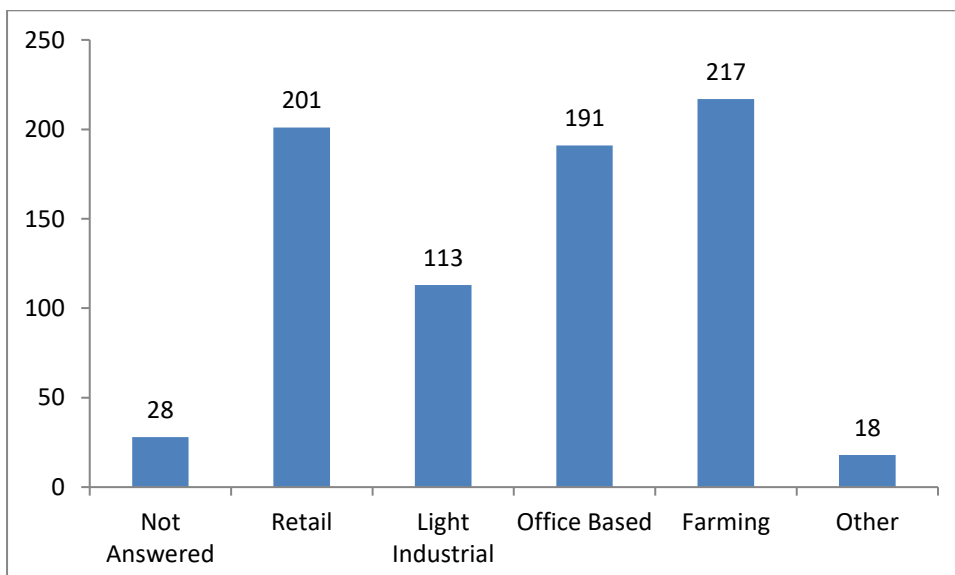
### Employment

Question 25 – Should the Neighbourhood Plan address issues relevant to job creation and local business?



The majority of the respondents felt that it is important for the Council through the Neighbourhood Plan to address issues relating to job creation and local business.

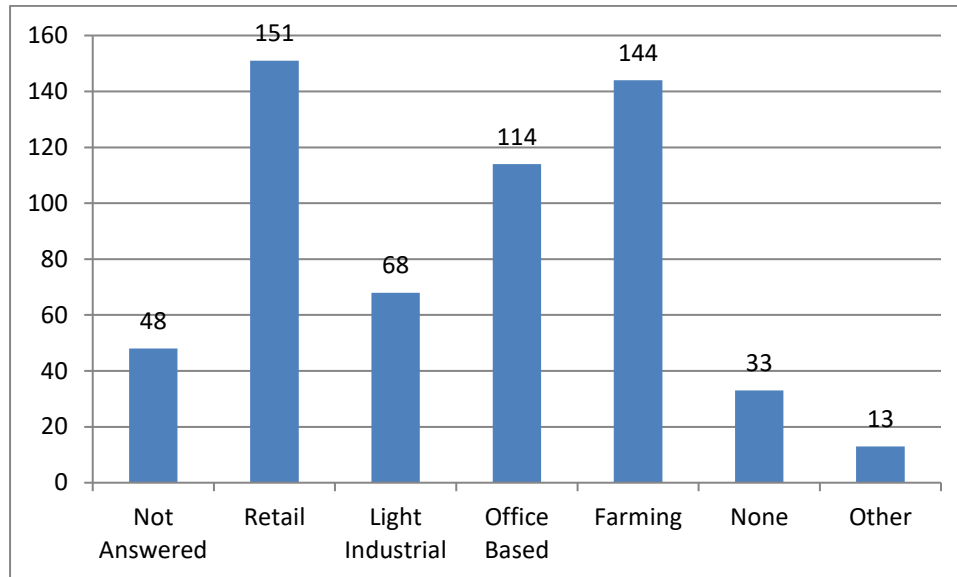
Question 26 – What type of businesses are suited to Rawdon?



In response to this question 28 respondents did not answer the question. The business type that respondents most felt was suited to Rawdon was farming (217), closely followed by retail (201), then office bases businesses (191) and lastly followed by light industry (113). Other businesses that were

suggested to suit Rawdon by respondents were small and independent businesses as well as service businesses such as cafes and restaurants.

Question 27 – Should the Neighbourhood Plan seek to encourage more of these?



In response to this question 48 respondents did not answer this question. The respondents felt that the Neighbourhood Plan should be encouraging retail businesses (151), followed by farming (144), then office based businesses (114), and finally light industry at 68 respondents. 33 respondents felt that the Neighbourhood Plan should not encourage any businesses. The 13 responses suggesting that the Neighbourhood Plan should encourage other businesses do not give examples of which businesses they feel should be encouraged.

## Conclusions

From analysis of the responses within the questionnaire data a number of conclusions can be drawn. The residents of Rawdon have a number of concerns relating to further development with the village. In terms of the design of any new developments the main concern is that the identity of the village is not lost. Many feel that without new buildings being kept in keeping with the existing buildings, for example stone being used instead of brick within conservation areas, the village may end up not having the same feel to it. Along with this the residents have concerns that new developments within the village will exacerbate problems with traffic congestion and parking. Residents have indicated that without infrastructure changes, such as improved public transport, the expansion of schools and additional provision for doctors and dentists that the quality of life may be impacted.

The residents of Rawdon are concerned with the environmental impact any development may have. They are particularly concerned that areas of natural beauty such as the Billing and the Greenbelt are not developed; these areas are not just areas of natural beauty but also facilities that people use

for leisure activities. Many of the residents lead active lives utilising many of the leisure facilities both within Rawdon itself and the surrounding areas.

Within Rawdon there are several conservation areas, however the data collected suggests that these are not clearly identifiable to all residents. Those who do know about the conservation areas are keen that these be maintained and strengthened where possible.

Many of the residents identified that they felt the Neighbourhood plan should encourage local independent businesses; the reasons for this included maintaining the village identity. If chain stores were allowed to take over Rawdon high street the concern of many residents is that it will have a negative impact on the village as a whole. Residents felt that the implementation of a farmers' market would benefit the local retail industry and be in keeping with the village.

Overall the main concern for residents when assessing further development within Rawdon is the maintenance of the village identity and the impact this will have on their quality of life.