

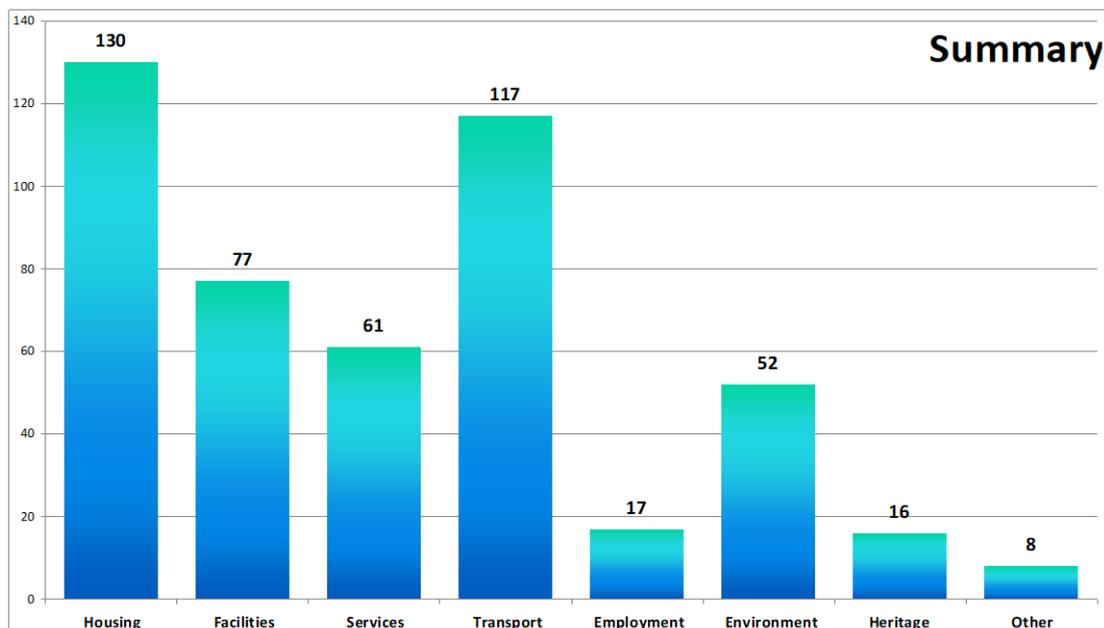
Review of Postcard Survey

Summary

1,400 postcards were distributed with the Congresbury Chronicle to the residential addresses in the village. In addition postcards were taken to each of the shops and businesses within the village and a stall was also set up within the precinct to solicit views from Saturday morning shoppers who may not have already completed a postcard.



189 postcards were returned by the deadline of January 31st and the responses collated on an excel spreadsheet. It was decided not to ask closed questions at this stage, but to try and obtain as comprehensive range of views as possible. Nevertheless five strong themes emerged; housing, transport & highways, facilities and and services (particularly health services), environment & heritage, and employment. The following bar chart shows the number of times various issues were raised in the survey; the total exceeds 189 since many respondents raised more than one issue.

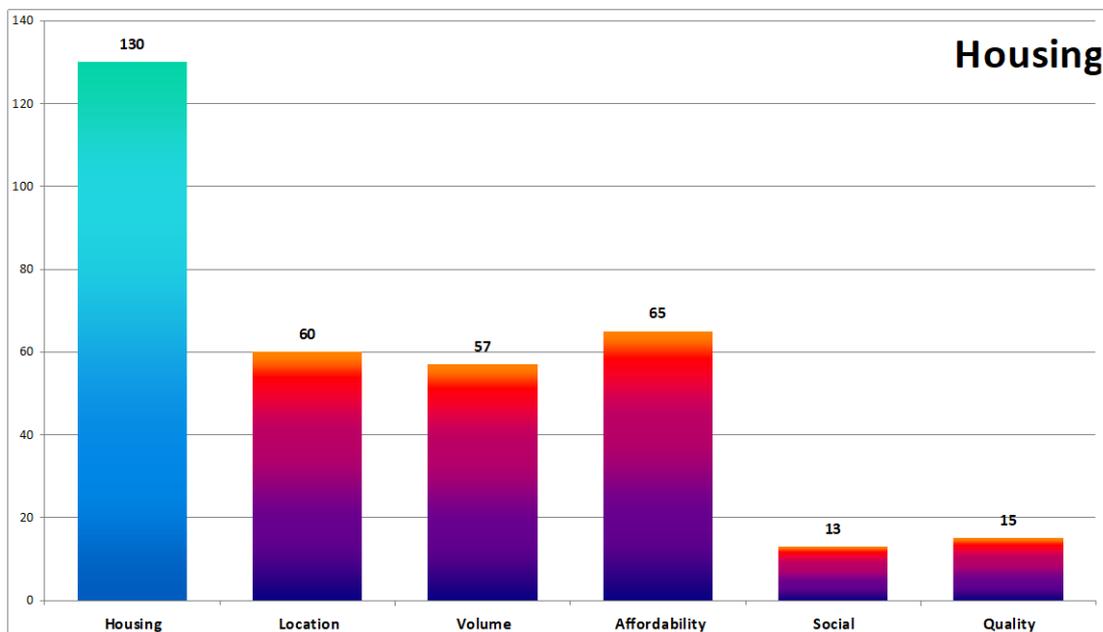


Housing

Given the recent spate of planning applications, it not surprising that 65% of the postcards returned listed housing as a topic of concern. There were differing views as to what if any development was desirable. Nobody believed that the large-scale development currently taking place in Yatton was appropriate and was not in keeping with the village character of Congresbury, which everyone wished to see preserved. A common theme from all residents was that they valued living in the village and wanted it to retain its separate identity and healthy village character. However, there was a range of views on how to achieve this.

Whilst some people felt that the services, facilities and infrastructure within the village could not support further development, by far the largest view expressed was that there was a need for affordable housing in the village so that young people could get on the housing ladder without having to move out of the village and older could downsize if they wished.

The chart below gives a breakdown of the housing issues raised. As with the previous chart some respondents raised multiple issues with respect to housing.



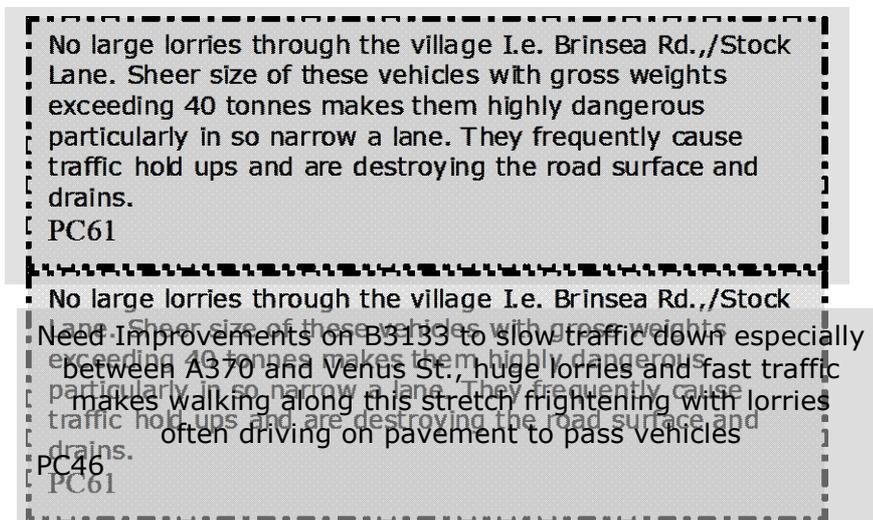
Transport & Highways

This was also a major issue with strong concerns being expressed by many residents over the volume of traffic passing through the village, in particular the number of HGVs using the B3133 as a shortcut. Some people suggested that a bypass would be the solution to the problems but others cautioned that this would lead to infill and generate more traffic.

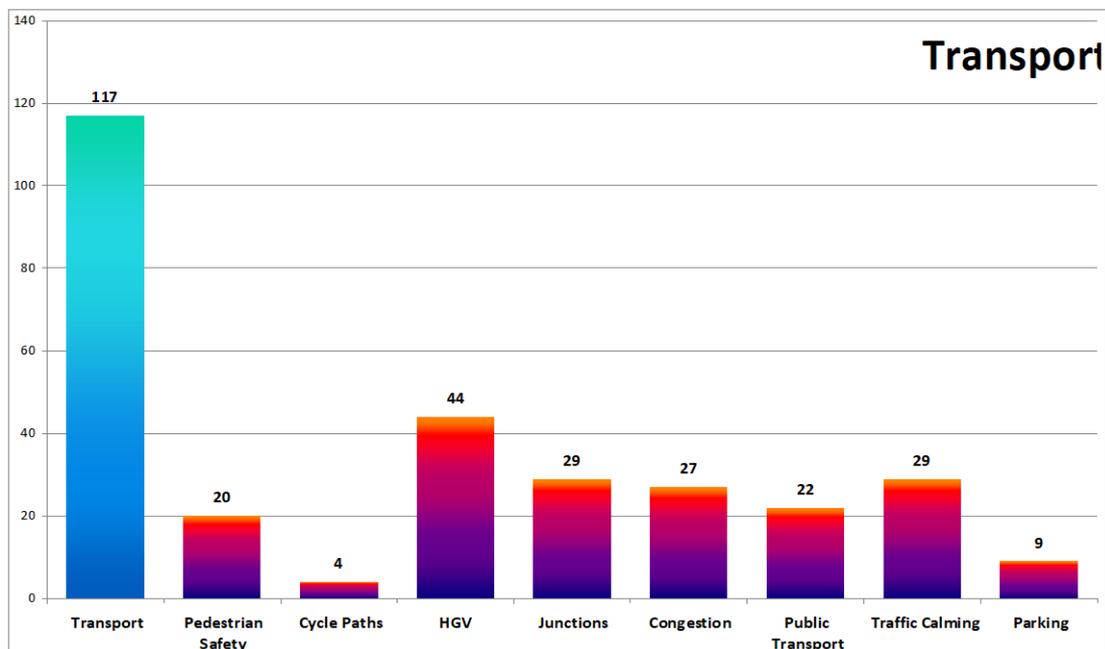
Other major concerns were safety particularly the Smallway junction, but also all the intersections with the A370 North of the river where all right turns can be hazardous; a situation which several felt was exacerbated by the presence of the bus lane.

People were also concerned about pedestrian safety particularly along Brinsea Rd. and the High St, but on a positive note felt that the Strawberry line and local footpaths around the village were a valuable asset, which should be protected and improved with better signage and better cycle/pedestrian access so that villagers could cycle to Yatton railway station and possibly Churchill school.

Typical responses are highlighted below:



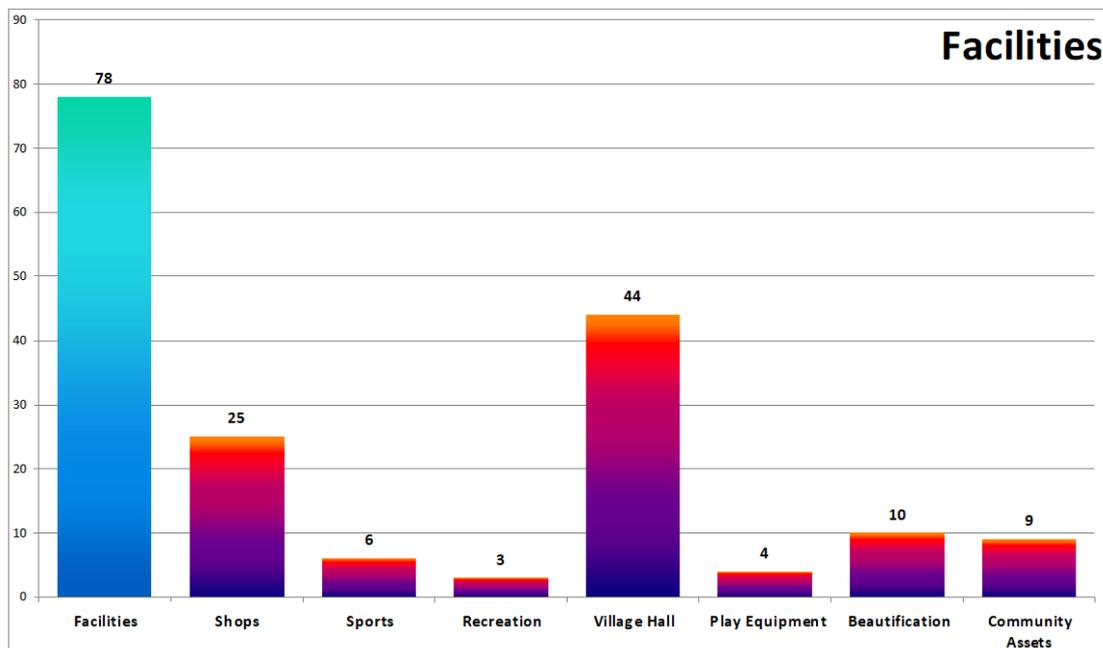
The following chart gives a breakdown of the transport and highways issues raised:



Facilities

The New Village hall drew the most comments within the category with the majority being in favour though some people expressed concern regarding potential parking problems. A few respondents were against the New Hall and felt that it would affect the viability of the existing memorial hall, which they wished to see maintained and retained.

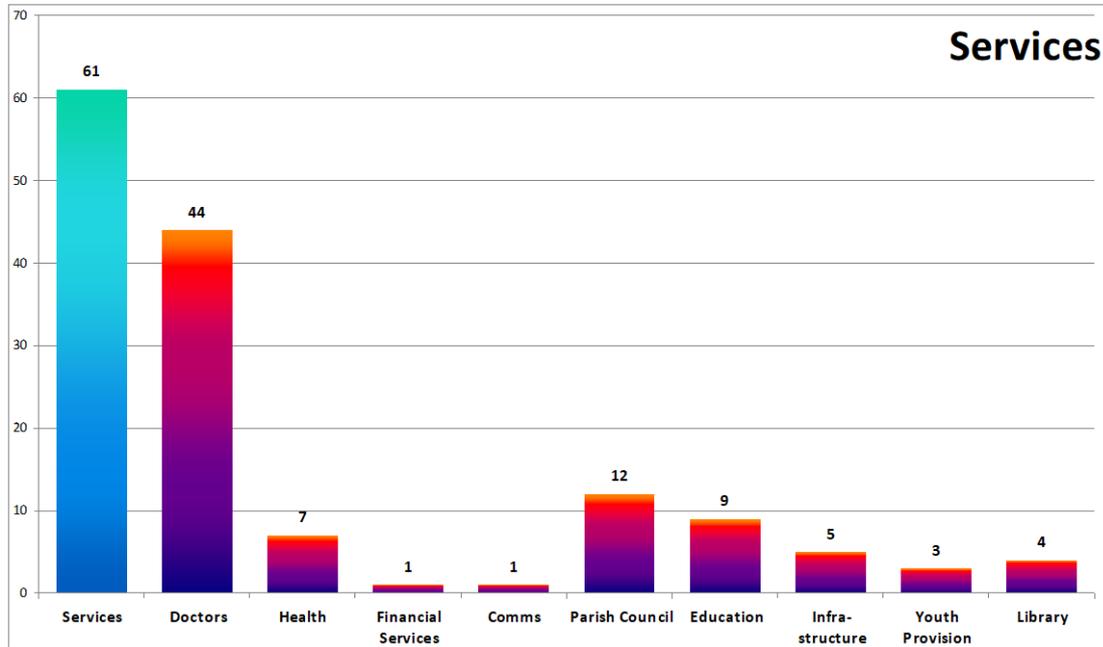
All respondents valued the individuality and quality of the local shops within village, with many people traveling from neighbouring settlements to shop in the village. Some suggested that a regular farmers market may increase the vitality of the shopping area, but recognized that this would need careful consideration to ensure that it did not take business from the local shops.



Services

The major topic of debate within this section was health services, with lack of availability of doctors' appointments being a major issue for many respondents. There was a spread of views with regards to the health facilities themselves, with some people wishing to see a health centre located near the centre of the village, whilst others canvassed more extensive facilities to be shared with Yatton and located between the two villages.

Respondents were generally satisfied with the quality of the primary school within the village, but felt that the pre-school facilities could be improved.

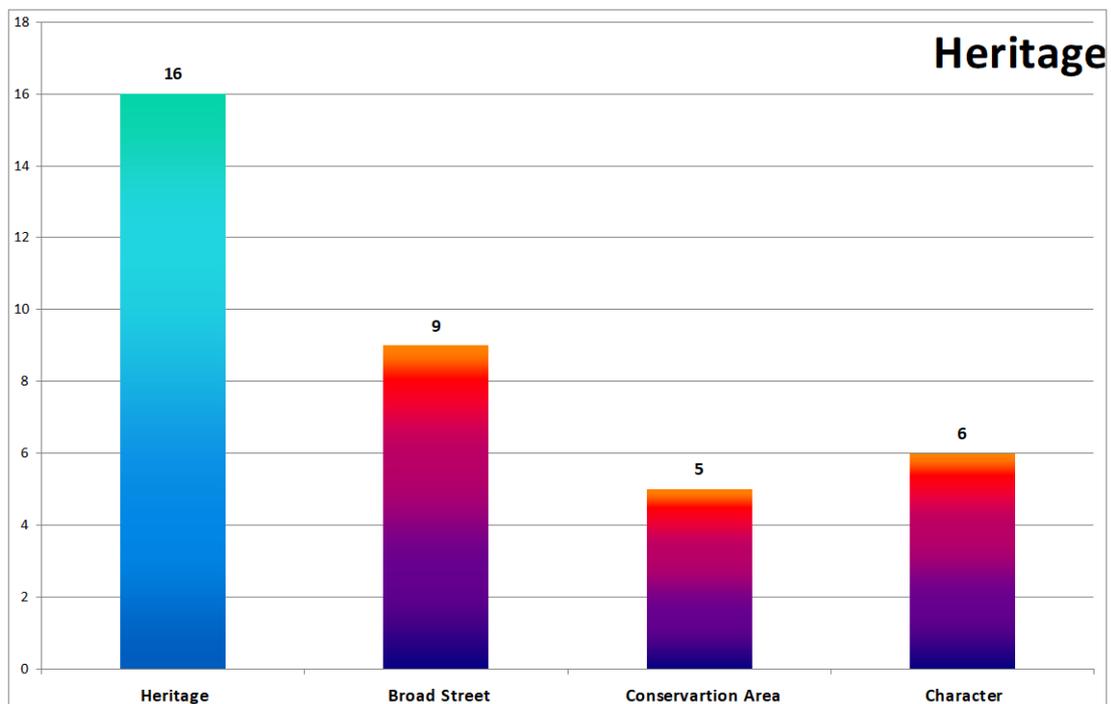
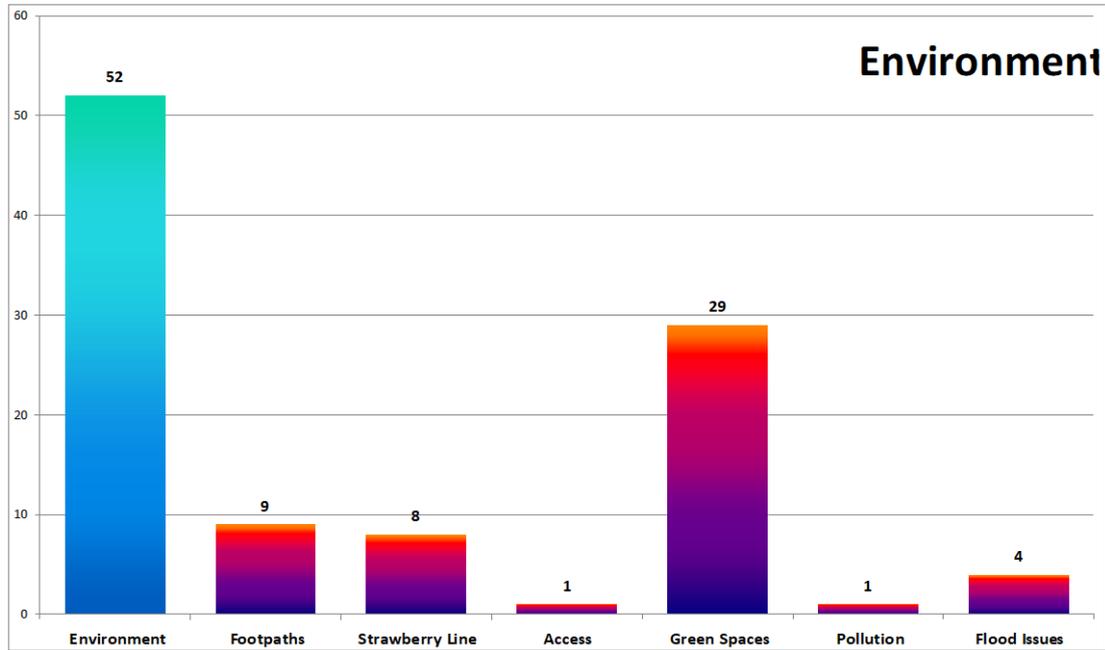


Environment & Heritage

Congresbury is fortunate in having green space and several listed buildings, which are valued by all respondents and should be preserved.

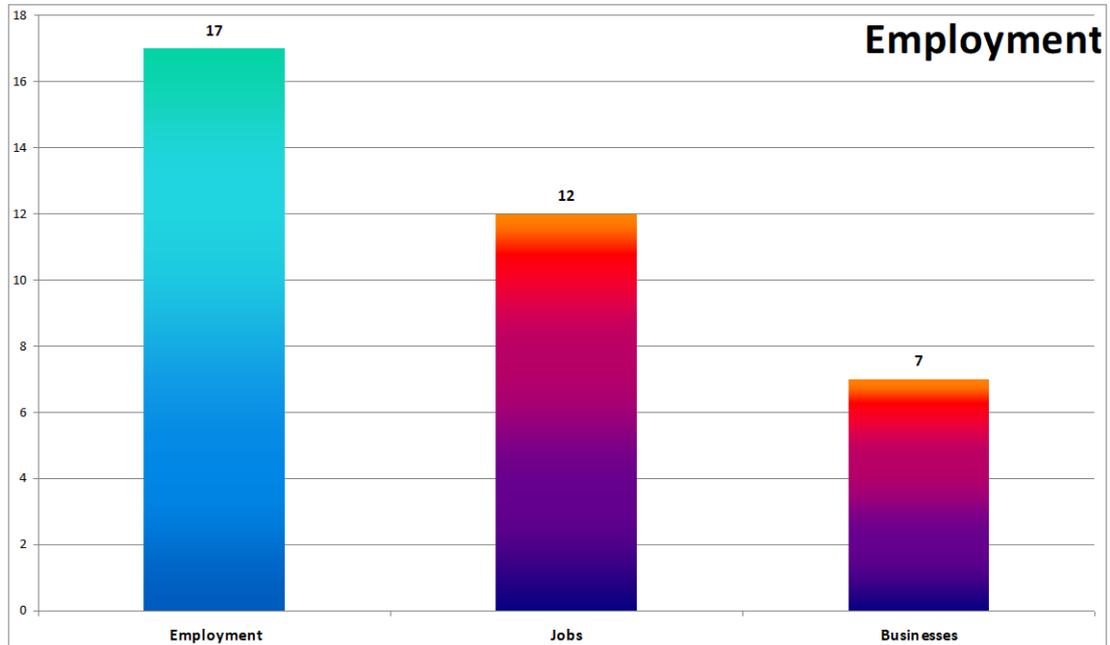
Green spaces, which people wish to see protected include the Millenium Green and Cadbury Hill and also the allotments, sports fields and the Strawberry line. Several people specifically valued the Strawberry line as a recreational green space for the village and wished to see its use extended and enhanced.

People also believed that the listed buildings helped to define the character of the village, particularly the village cross, which needs to be protected from damage by vehicles.



Employment

Many residents commute out of the village to work in Weston or Bristol, adding to the peak time congestion at junctions of the A370 and B3133. The respondents in this section expressed the wish for more local employment opportunities to reduce commuter miles and increase the economic vitality of the village.



Sustainability

The need for sustainability was raised in many of the replies received, usually in connection with other issues such as sustainable housing, sustainable energy etc. Sustainability is not treated as a standalone issue within the neighbourhood plan, but as a key thread running through plan, which is considered alongside each of the major issues and used to inform the proposed policies. A base requirement for any Neighbourhood Plan to receive approval is that it must be demonstrably sustainable.