

# Walberswick Parish Plan Stage 1



CONTENTS	Page
The changing face of Walberswick	1
The Parish of Walberswick	2
Introduction to the Survey	4
Method statement	5
Analysis of questionnaires:	
Household	7
Individual	11
Youth	21
Business	23
Conclusions and Next Steps	27
Appendix - Collection of all views expressed where opinions were invited.	29

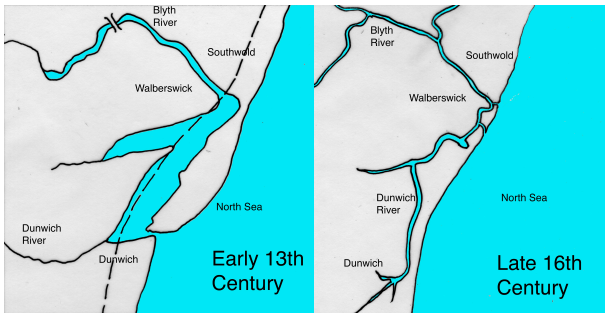
## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND THANKS

The Walberswick Common Lands Charity, Suffolk County Council, ITV and SuffolkACRE.  
The Sea Defence Group, Blyth Estuary Group and the Walberswick Local History Group.  
The Walberswick Parish Council, The Anchor, The Parish Lantern and in particular to our many  
Volunteers and to the Villagers of the Parish of Walberswick.

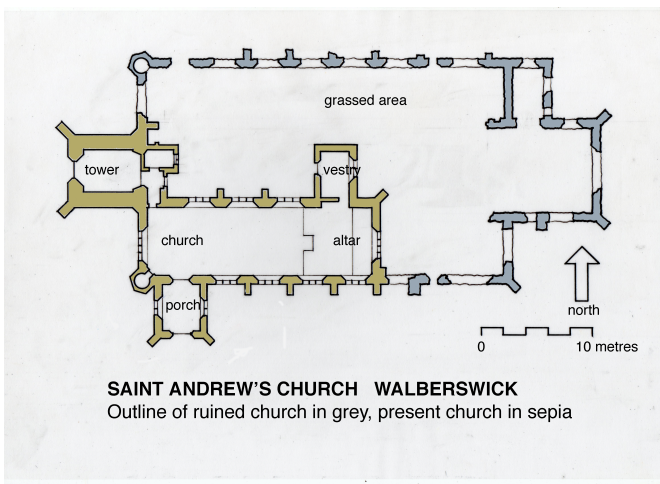
# THE CHANGING FACE OF WALBERSWICK

Over the years Walberswick has undergone many changes. Below we show just a few.

For instance, look how the sea has worked on our coastline for many centuries; and indeed, as we all know, it continues to threaten. In the great flood of 1953 several buildings were washed away.



Up to the first World War, the village was a trading port with a thriving fishing industry. Now we rely on tourists to support the shops and the pubs, as well as to provide the Village with a modest income from the car park.



In the 15th century Walberswick built a 'cathedral' then in the 17th reduced it to a 'chapel'.

We once had a railway and even built ships.



A big change, still affecting us, started when artists began visiting Walberswick towards the end of the 19th century. This in turn developed into today's tourism. Whereas before that time we had a settled community, now it is much more transient. 41% of the houses are second homes.

Changes will go on. The question central to this Survey Report and the subsequent Action Plan is how are we to face up to them and still keep what we love best?

## THE PARISH OF WALBERSWICK

There is indeed much to love about Walberswick.

The Village lies in a beautiful spot on the Suffolk coast where the River Blyth meets the North Sea. Inland it is surrounded by over a thousand acres of heathland and marshes which are a protected Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is off the beaten track, and although there are many footpaths leading to the Village the only access for vehicles is along a single road leading from the A12. One of the footpaths takes you to the town of Southwold, just north of the Blyth, either via a footbridge or, during the summer, by ferry. The ferryman, in fact a woman, is the fifth generation of the same family. This is a small example of the long history of the Village, which stretches back to Saxon times. Indeed the name Walberswick, derives from Wald- a wood, and wyc- a shelter (in fact a map of 1783 shows the spelling as Walderswick).

The approach to the Village is dominated by the elegant tower of St Andrews; built in 1426 when the Village was prosperous from fishing and trading. The present small church itself is huddled within the ruins of the larger 15<sup>th</sup> century church, which was demolished in 1685 when Walberswick fell on hard times. This impoverishment was caused by a succession of events: Henry VIII took away benefits and land; there were several major fires; a serious flood; and seizure of common lands. Formerly there was a church at the bottom of Stocks Lane near the old quay. This quay housed a shipyard where a 30 gun frigate was built for Cromwell. The mouth of the Blyth was originally at Dunwich and at that time the town claimed tolls from Walberswick boats. This changed in 1590 when the men of Southwold and Walberswick dug a channel from the Blyth directly to the North Sea, at the site of the present harbour.

The main street is lined by houses of differing styles and ages (one, Mercer's Hall, was even brought from Lavenham on haywains and reconstructed here). It is actually called The Street and leads down to the Green and the Harbour or alternatively to the car parks and thence to the dunes and the sea. The picture quiz in the Individual Questionnaire illustrated all these features and we show below the result of our question, 'Which of these images conjures up Walberswick best for you?'

The pictures come from a watercolour known as the Scroll. It is 37 metres long and shows all the buildings along the Street. It was painted in 1931 by John Domen Turner and can be seen by appointment in the Village Hall. We illustrate it by kind permission of the Parish Council.

The figures show that the Harbour is the winner, not surprisingly as it has a stunningly unique character.

Result of 'quiz' in order of preference:	1st	D	The Harbour	28%
	2nd	E	The Green	25%
	3rd	A	The Church	20%
	4th	C	The Dunes	18%
	5th	B	The Street	9%





Artists attracted to Walberswick have included Peter De Wint in 1810, Philip Wilson Steer from 1880 onwards and Charles Rennie Mackintosh at the time of the World War I. We still have a small colony of artists living here.

Walberswick beach attracts hordes of families in the summer. The rivers are also popular with children for crabbing, particularly in August when the British Open Crabbing Championships are held.

All this is part of our heritage. We live with our two pubs, self-service store, shops and cafes (mainly serving tourists), but without a doctor, a post office, school or even a regular bus service. Within the Village we have a Parish Council meeting once a month on Monday evenings, the Walberswick Common Lands Charity which supports local needs (and has a main income from its Car Park arm), St Andrews Parochial Council, the Sea Defence Group and the Blyth Estuary Group, as well as a thriving Village Hall and its associated Clubs. All these intermesh and form a vital part in the success of the Community.



## **INTRODUCTION TO THE SURVEY**

Parish Plans were first announced in the 2000 Rural White Paper and are intended to set a framework for Communities to plan their own futures. They are both a record of what a Village believes itself to be and an agenda of what changes it would make so as to improve itself.

A Parish Plan comprises two parts. This is the first part, which is a Survey Report. The second part is an Action Plan based on the Survey Report and prepared by the Parish in consultation with the Village as a whole and any other interested parties such as local landowners and businesses operating within the Parish.

Similar Surveys have been carried out in numerous other Suffolk villages and across the country. This particular Survey provides a data-base about Walberswick. As well as being an accurate account of the Village today, it records the opinions of the community on a wide variety of issues. Not everybody answered all their questionnaires and not everyone answered every question. Some 2nd Home-owners answered Main-home questions, and vice versa. They led to a small but obvious confusion in the analysis. However, the SuffolkACRE software allowed the linking of questions, which enabled us to sift out and straighten the results. We point out these adjustments where this has occurred in the report.

The results of the Survey will help the Village as a whole, to understand our community better, taking account of the aspirations, issues and concerns expressed by the respondents. It is part of a democratic process.

The ultimate objective of the Plan is to assist the Parish Council, and other Authorities, who have a say in planning the future of the Village. For example, when applying for a grant or when objecting to an unsuitable Planning Application, the ability to point out a need identified in the Survey could influence the validity of a decision. The Survey also will help us to understand our strengths and appreciate our shortcomings as a community.

Above all, the Plan is intended to stimulate a well-informed and open-ended debate about how to create a better future for Walberswick.

### **The Steering Committee**

Bill Ungless - Chair, John Nichols - Vicechair, Kay Ungless - Hon. Secretary,  
Ben Cardwell - Hon Treasurer, Peter Byrne - IT Specialist, Alvin Hunt - Parish Councillor,  
Chrissie Reeves, Frank Duffy, Maddy Dabbs - initial stages, Andy Kett - initial stages.

## METHOD STATEMENT

Following a Public meeting of the Village in February 2009, residents in the Village were invited to show interest in forming a Steering Committee in order to prepare a Parish Plan Survey Report. Whilst two Parish Councillors have served on the Committee this Survey is not a Parish Council initiative. The Parish Council has however supported the Steering Committee throughout.

The Survey used a methodology devised and made available to Walberswick by SuffolkACRE, a county organisation one of whose aims is to help villages prepare Plans. The format advised by SuffolkACRE allowed responses to questionnaires to be uploaded into software which helped us to analyse the responses. In order to inform themselves about the concerns of the Village, the Committee arranged drop-in sessions, then held many formal meetings and group meetings to agree the sort of questions to be asked. While the SuffolkACRE format has been generally followed, the Committee has added specific questions relating to Walberswick's own issues, for example the vulnerability of the Village to the sea.

This report has been compiled over the past two years. We are grateful to everybody who has helped in the process of completing the Survey: The Villagers for patiently completing the questionnaires; our Volunteers for delivering and collecting these, and it is due to the hard work of the Volunteers that we have had such a full response; those who helped with the invaluable but tedious task of uploading all the responses into the software. We list our acknowledgements elsewhere but mention should be made in particular to the Walberswick Common Lands Charity which bore the brunt of the costs of the exercise, to Councillor Rae Leighton who expedited considerable financial help from Suffolk County Council and from ITV who helped with a Start-up Award.

As those who have taken part will already have appreciated, the survey format consists of questionnaires for: 1 Households, 2 Individuals, 3 Young People, 4 Businesses.

We have followed this sequence in reporting the findings of the questions. We have tried to be as objective as possible in this process although at the end of the Report under the heading Conclusions certain recommendations have been made for possible future actions. All the many comments made have been included in the Appendix. For the software analysis see [www.onesuffolk.co.uk/walberswickpc/parishplan](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/walberswickpc/parishplan)

Some matters are givens - for example, nothing can change the fact that Walberswick's beauty, history and favourable location makes the Village attractive to a host of visitors especially during the holiday seasons. Other issues, although very long term and intractable, may, in the future, become important to the Village, for example, collective action on making our Village more green and sustainable. The data also reveals some local frictions caused by noisy neighbours, for example. Such complaints have been noted in the report but are surely best addressed by those involved on a personal, one to one basis. Not all the hundreds of issues addressed in the Report can be solved at once and to everybody's satisfaction. What the Walberswick Stage I Survey Report does provide, is a data base that makes possible a much higher level of informed debate about the future of the Village.

The Steering Committee expects that such discussions will stimulate practical proposals, plans and actions that will make the Village an even better place in which to live in both the short and the longer term.



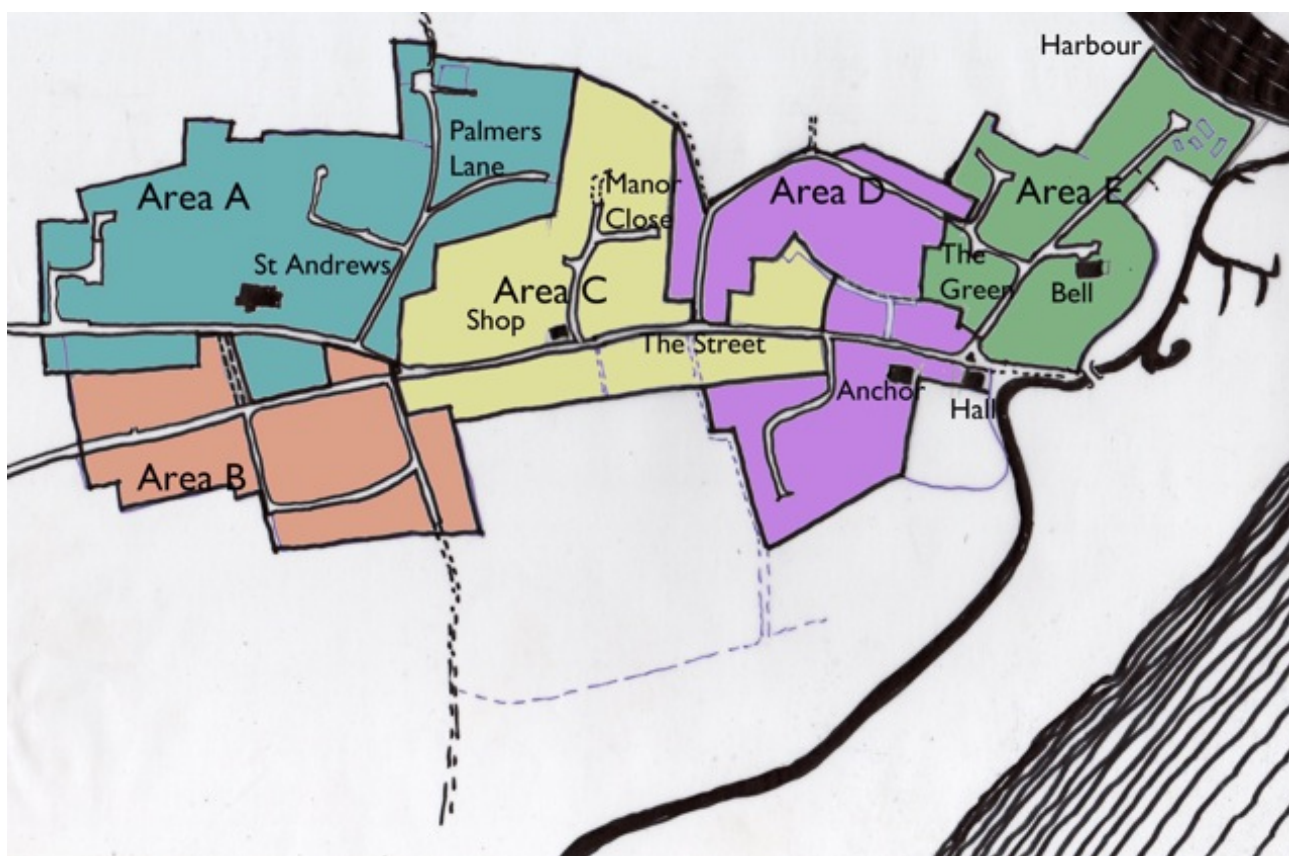
## HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE

### GENERAL

There are 341 dwellings in Walberswick. Although there are 353 'post-code' addresses, 6 of these codes are businesses (e.g. shops) and 6 do not exist as actual buildings (e.g. being either associated outbuildings or now demolished). Also at the time of the survey 12 dwellings were either empty or up for sale. This left 329 habitable dwellings available for delivery of the questionnaires.

In fact 287 responses to the household survey were received. This means that 87% of households responded - very encouraging for a survey of this kind. The response from first home-owners (96%) was particularly high, only seven failing to return their questionnaires.

Because the response was less than 100%, it is only possible to base our analysis on a figure which is less than the total number of households in the village. Nevertheless, because it was as high as 87% the results give a good idea of the position. 483 individual and 94 youth questionnaires were also returned (577 total). Information from these make possible the calculations set out below.



In answering the Questionnaire, householders were asked to indicate their postal area. Above is a map describing the five areas into which the post codes were grouped. For some responses this information is of particular interest. Although the six dwellings situated in the harbour are not within the Parish of Walberswick, they were asked to participate in our survey.

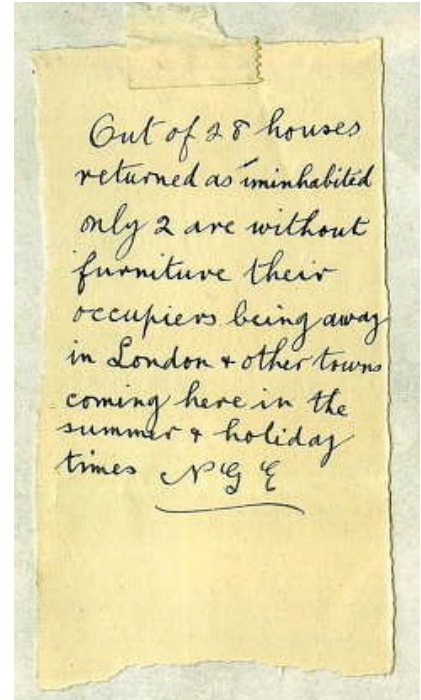
## LOCATIONS

Q1 284 responses. *Where do you live?* 33.1% in Area A, 21.1% in Area E, 18% in Area C, 15.1% in Area D, and 12.7% in Area B.

## FIRST AND SECOND HOMES

Q2 286 responses. *Is your house your main residence?* 185 (64.7%) of the respondents have their main residence in Walberswick. For 101 (35.3%) it is their second home. Since there were fewer responses from the latter group (73%) it follows that the actual percentage of second homes is higher than this. Unofficial figures culled from information given by our volunteers, puts it at roughly 43%. However, because of minor discrepancies in answers, we consider that a 2% tolerance should be allowed and that it would be safe to put the figure at 41%. This tallies with an informal survey recently carried out for the Parish Council.

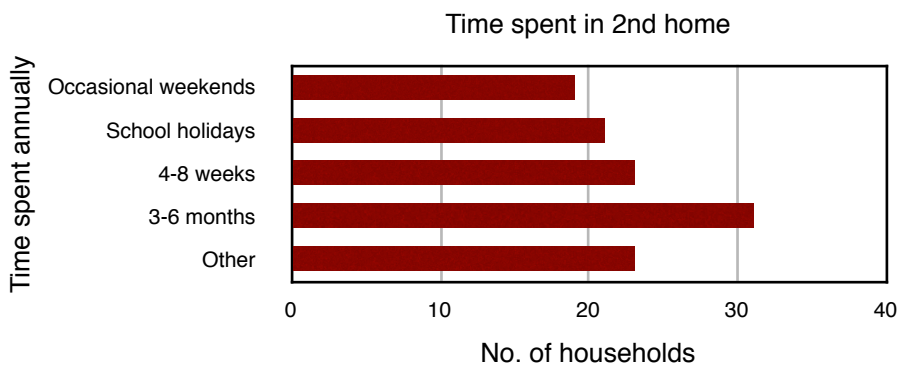
It is intriguing that the census of 1911 shows that there were 95 inhabited dwellings in Walberswick, 28 uninhabited and 28 buildings not used as dwellings. (123 dwellings in all). Interestingly enough, although there were fewer than half the number of dwellings than now, the number of inhabitants was roughly the same (372). Clearly there was an element of overcrowding. Even in 1911, a good percentage of dwellings were second homes. The enumerator of the census stuck on a note to this effect (see right), there being no official place on the form.



## SECOND HOMES

Q3 145 responses. *For 2nd home owners only. How often do you use your house?* (Linking this question with Q2, it can be seen that 45 householders of Main Homes, also responded to this question. These responses have therefore been deducted for this chart).

100 responses. For occupancy shown as 'Other' see the Appendix.

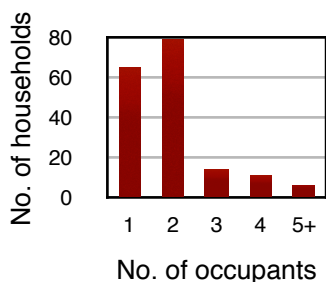


Q4 140 responses. *For 2nd home owners only. Is your house let when you are not in residence?* (Linking this question with Q2, it can be seen that 42 householders of Main Homes responded to this question.)

98 responses. 58.2% said never, 22.4% occasionally, 16.3% most of the time, and 3.1% always.

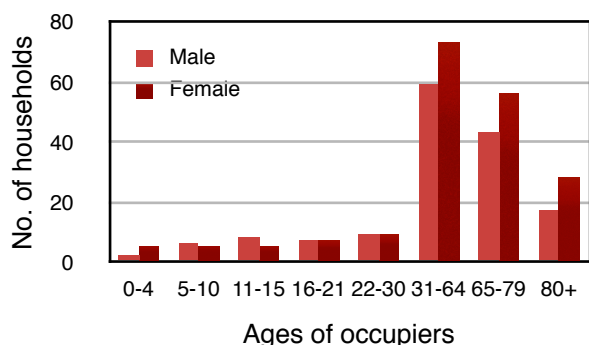


## COMPOSITION AND AGE OF MAIN HOUSEHOLDERS



Q5 202 responses. For Main Home owners. Who normally lives in your household? (Linking this question with Q2 it can be seen that 27 2nd home owners responded to this question.)

175 responses. This total of 339 occupants is slightly less than the true figure because of the 7 households that did not return questionnaires. The diagram clearly shows the majority of dwellings are occupied by 1 or 2 people.

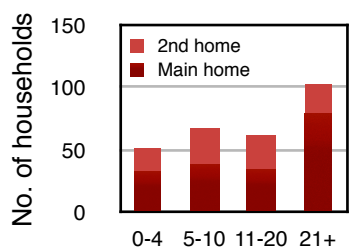


Q6 & Q7. 177 and 147 responses respectively. For Main Home owners. (These questions have been linked with Q2 as above). Age and Gender. Comprised in these households are 31 children (15 female and 16 male), 164 of working age (89 female and 75 male) and 144 who are over 65 (84 female and 60 male), 45 of whom are over 80. The diagram clearly shows 42.5% of residents are over 65.

## HOUSING TENURE AND YEARS OF RESIDENCY

Q8 173 responses. For Main Residents only. (Linked to Q2 as above). Type of housing? 144 (83.2%) are owner-occupied, 21 (12.1%) are rented Council or Housing Association, 7 (4%) are rented privately, and 1 (0.6%) is tied.

Q9 283 responses. How many bedrooms? 2 (0.7%) have 1 bedroom, 51 (18%) 2 bedrooms, 124 (43.8%) 3 bedrooms, and 106 (37.5%) respondents live in houses with four or more bedrooms.



Q10 283 responses. How many years have you lived in or owned this property? 82% have lived in or owned their property for five or more years and 36% for more than 21 years.

## INCIDENCE OF FLOODING

Q11 281 responses. 2 households in the green area (E) suffer from frequent flooding from drainage or sewage backup arising from surface water or pump failure. 23 households occasionally experience these problems: 3 are located in the blue area (A), 1 in brown (B). 5 are in yellow (C) and 14 in green (E).

## RISK OF SEA FLOODING

Q12 280 responses. 47 householders consider their property to be at risk from flooding from the sea within the next twenty years. 31 are located in the green area (A), 6 in purple (D), 5 in blue (A), 4 in yellow (C) and 1 unspecified.

## THEFT

Q13 277 responses. Only 2 households have been burgled in the past five years.

Q14 6 responses. 3 reported burglaries to the police including a theft of garden furniture.

## VEHICLE OWNERSHIP

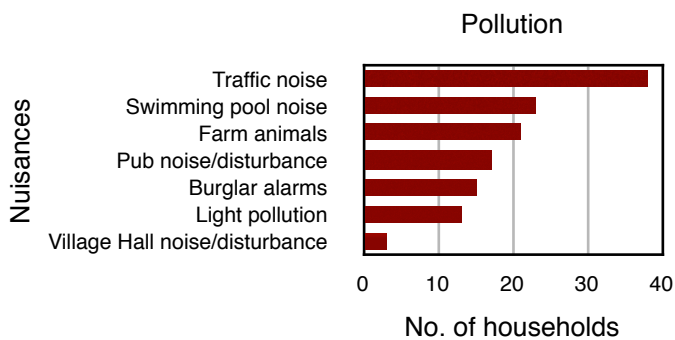
Q15 268 responses. 255 households own at least one car, 21 a van, 19 a mobility scooter, 15 a motor cycle/scooter, and 1 a lorry.

Q16 266 responses. *Where do you park?* 251 vehicles are kept on the householder's own property, 32 on the road, 23 on public land, and 18 in a car park.

## TELECOMS

Q17 279 responses. 238 have landline telephones, 255 have mobile phones, 18 have dial-up and 167 have broadband connections.

Q18 160 responses. *Reception?* 43 have a problem with their land line, 105 with their mobile phone, 8 with internet dial-up and 84 with broadband.



## POLLUTION

Q19 199 responses. *Does your household suffer from any of these forms of pollution?*

This question gave people the opportunity to comment on specific forms of pollution and to raise matters of their own concern. 130 responses were received about the nuisances in this chart. In addition, 23 comments were received on these matters (see Appendix) of

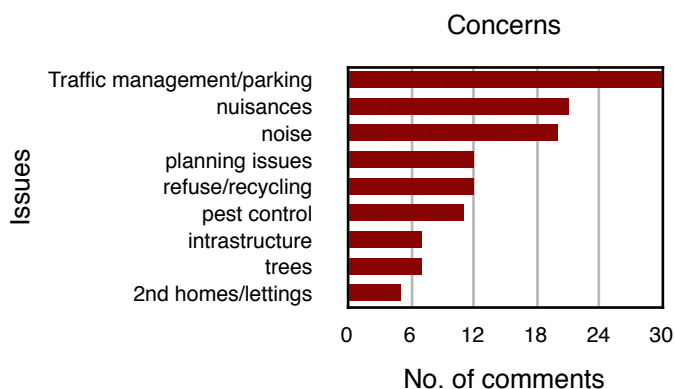
which the greatest number 6, referred to problems with farm animals. Comments on other matters not identified in the chart have been included in the figures for Q21.

## PARISH BUYING GROUP

Q20 277 responses. 62.45% expressed interest in participating in a Buying Group

## COMMENTS

Q21 80 responses. *Other issues which affect your household.*



In addition to those concerns shown in the chart, there were 5 comments about flood defences, 4 broadband reception, 2 more concerning pig farming, 2 pub issues, and finally, 4 respondents remarked on the pleasures of living in Walberswick.



## INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

483 completed Individual Questionnaires were returned.

Unless otherwise indicated, the two colours used in this report, represent:

- Permanent residents
- 2nd home owners

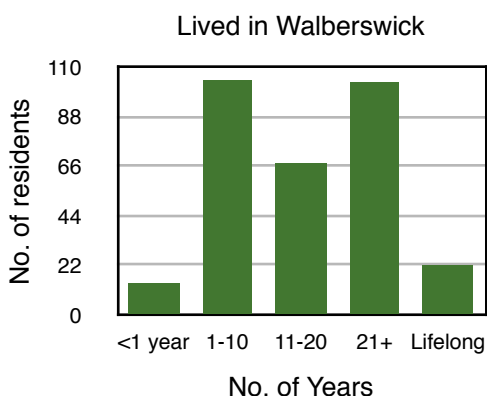
### GENERAL

Q1 481 responses. What is your gender? 269 (55.9%) respondents were female and 212 (44.1%) were male. Their genders are spread fairly equally across the age range.

Q2 481 responses. What age group do you belong to? The age of adult respondents is heavily weighted towards the middle-aged to elderly. (Under-16s not included, see the Household section for full age range diagram for permanent residents)

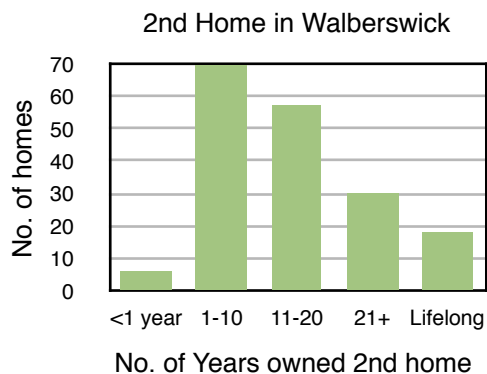


Q3 310 responses. How long have you lived in Walberswick (permanent residents only)? (Those who moved away and came back, combined their years living in Walberswick)



Q4 300 responses. Only 19% of first home-owners previously had a second home in Walberswick.

Q5 181 responses. How long have you had a second home in Walberswick (Again, those who moved away and came back combined their years of having a 2nd home in Walberswick).



## WORKING IN WALBERSWICK

Q6,7,8 467 responses. Of these 83 people said that they work in Walberswick:. Only 10 people mentioned any problems (eg slow Broadband, see Appendix).

Of those working in Walberswick 18 were employees,  
58 were self-employed  
10 were employers

13 listed problems of working in Walberswick. 4 concerned poor internet reception, 1 the lack of a post office, 2 had parking problems and 1 a poorly maintained road, 1 said few people are around in summer, and 4 had no problems.

## AFFORDABLE AND SHELTERED HOUSING

There has been much interest and talk in the Village about the provision of (a) affordable housing and (b) sheltered housing for the elderly. While it is well understood that the overriding problem is the availability of suitable sites, the results of the survey are very clear.

Q9 463 responses. 368 (79.5%) supported the idea of providing more affordable housing in Walberswick.

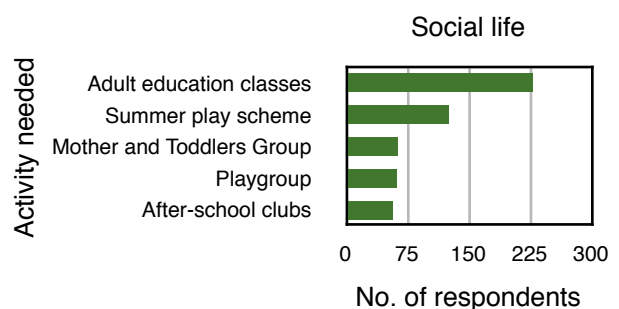
Q10 475 responses 33 (7%) said that they would be likely to need affordable housing here within the next five years.

Q11 471 responses. 402 (85.4%) supported the idea of providing more sheltered housing for the elderly in Walberswick.

Q12 473 responses 32 (6.8%) said they would be likely to need sheltered housing within the next 5 years.

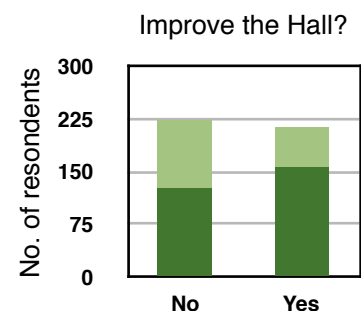
## SOCIAL

Q13 295 responses. *Do you feel the need for any of the items listed?*



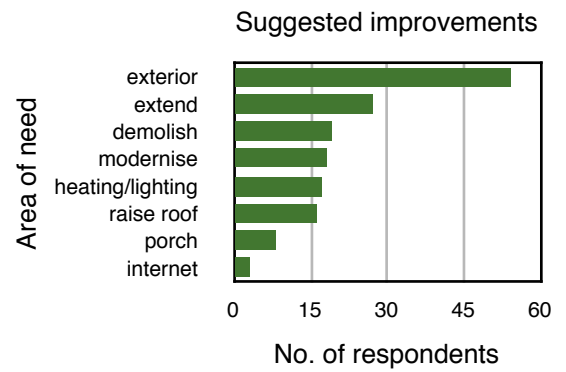
## VILLAGE HALL

Q14 433 responses. *Is there a need to improve the Hall.* 51.5% felt no improvement was needed whilst 48.5% felt some improvement was needed.



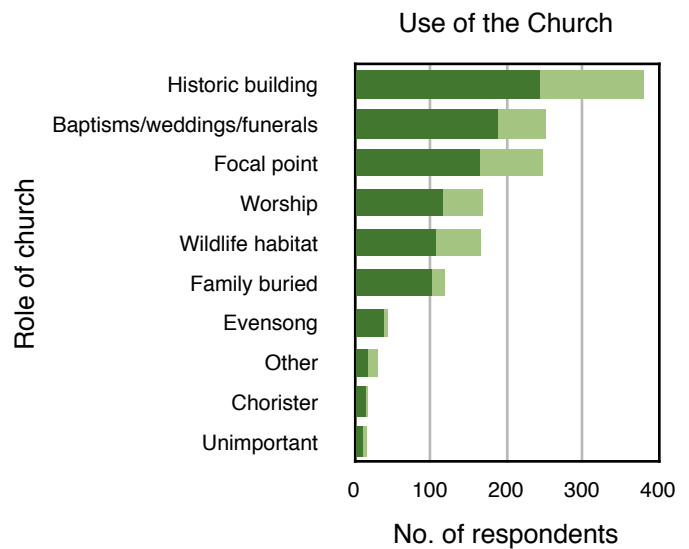
Q14 *contd.*

162 people cited possible areas of improvement to the Village Hall. 33.3% were in favour of restyling the exterior, 16.7% extending, 11.7% demolishing and rebuilding, 11.1% generally modernising, 10.5% improving heating/lighting, 9.9% raising the roof height to facilitate sports such as badminton, 4.9% enclosing the entrance porch and 1.9% having an internet facility. It should be noted that since the survey was carried out, the heating and lighting have been replaced which has pre-empted some of the comments (See Appendix).



ST ANDREWS

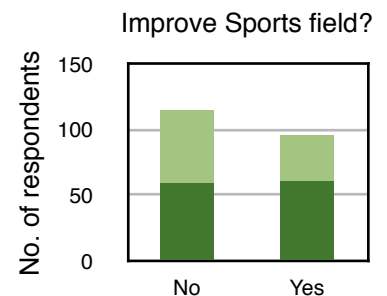
Q15 477 responses. As well as being the religious centre of Walberswick, the diagram shows the importance it plays in the social life of the Village. 79.5% said that it was important to them as an historic building, 52.4% for baptisms, weddings and funerals, 51.8% agreed that it is a focal point for the community, 35.2% for Sunday or weekly worship, 34.6% cited the importance of the churchyard as a wildlife habitat, 24.7% said that it is important to them as they have family buried there, 9% attend evensong, and 3.6% are choristers. 3.1% said that it had no importance for them. 2 respondents felt that the church could be used for concerts (see Appendix).



PLAY AREAS

Q16 *The Green*. 215 responses. 71.16% felt no improvements necessary. For the list of suggestions re improvements see Appendix.

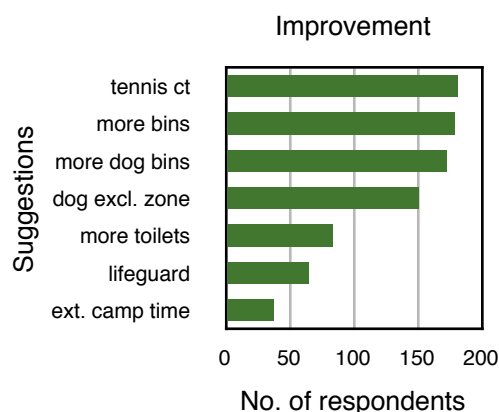
Q17 *The Sports Field*. 211 responses. 45% felt that improvements could be made. For the list of suggestions see Appendix. There were reports that children come home smeared with dog excrement with the request that the Sports Field and its Play Area should be a no-go zone for dogs, particularly as it is surrounded by a Common which is ideal for dog walking.





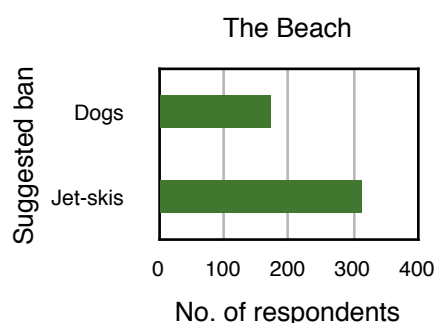
## IMPROVING THE ENJOYMENT OF WALBERSWICK

Q18 416 responses. In addition to the diagram, 419 further suggestions came forward (see Appendix) including 10 for lowering the speed limit to 20mph, 6 for better maintenance of footpaths, the Green and Common, 4 each for a traffic warden, fewer signs, and accessible recycling facilities, 3 each for a public swimming pool and removing the camp/caravan site and 2 for an early morning breakfast cafe. Although only 2 people asked for improved access to the beach for wheel chair and mobility vehicles, this is obviously of great importance to this minority group.



## THE BEACH

Q19 370 responses. Between the Harbour and the Cliff Field Car Park, 84.3% want to ban jet-skis and 46% want to ban dogs. 44 people made other suggestions (see the Appendix), 13 wanting kite and windsurfers banned, with 8 a kite-free zone and 8 a reduction in barbecues and beach parties. 4 people confirmed their wish to ban dogs, 3 wished to ban noisy motor/speed boats, and 4 expressed their view that there should be no exclusion zone.



## IMPROVING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Q20 397 responses. 224 wanted to promote renewable energy for the home, 256 to put overhead cables underground and there were 91 other suggestions (see Appendix).

## MARSHES AND HEATHLAND

Q21 462 responses. 91.1% are satisfied with the management of the marshes and heath-land around the Village and 8.9% felt that there were overall management issues.

The largest number of complaints (see Appendix) concerned maintenance, 12 people expressed concern about sea and river defences and 3 were unhappy about the number of notices that have been erected by various bodies and 2 felt that dogs should be banned completely from the heaths and marshes.

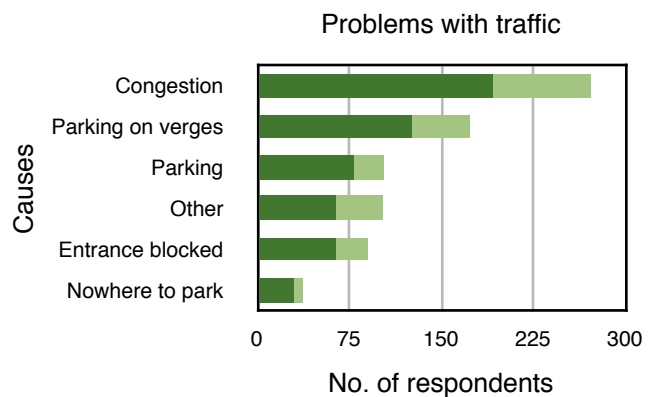
## FOOTPATHS IN AND AROUND THE VILLAGE

Q22 462 responses. 87.5% are satisfied with their overall condition and 12.5% are not. Of the 58 people who were dissatisfied, the majority 47 again cited 'lack of maintenance' as their main complaint. The next highest cause for concern was accessibility for pushchairs, prams and bikes 17, although cycling is generally prohibited on footpaths. Planned closures of footpaths 4, and the overabundance of signs were an issue for 4 people, unwanted cyclists 3, and dogs for another 3. One respondent felt that our footpaths were being threatened by encroaching development. (see Appendix)

## TRAFFIC

Q23 377 responses. *What problems do you experience during the summer months?*

The “other” issues in the diagram included such things as yellow lines and poor visibility from side roads, etc.



## PARKING

Q24 466 responses. *Is there a need for more residents only parking?*  
32% said yes, 30.7% no and 37.3% had no opinion.

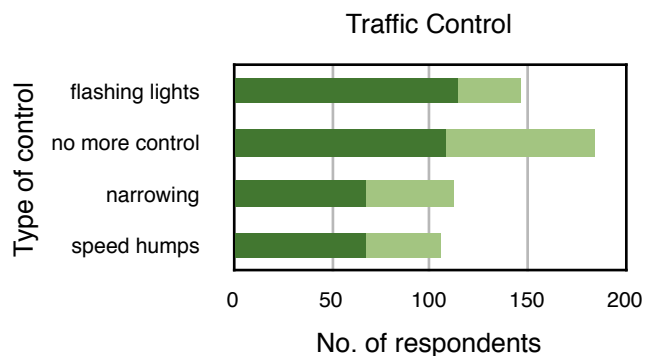
Q25 474 responses. *Has Walberswick sufficient public car parking?*  
83.8% said yes 12.4% no, and 3.8% had no opinion.

Q26 474 responses. *Would you support a summer only car park at the entrance to the Village?*  
57.5% said yes, 33.3% no and 9.2% had no opinion.

Q27 476 responses, *Is the landscaping of the existing car parks satisfactory?*  
74.8% said yes, 9.9% no and 15.3% had no opinion.

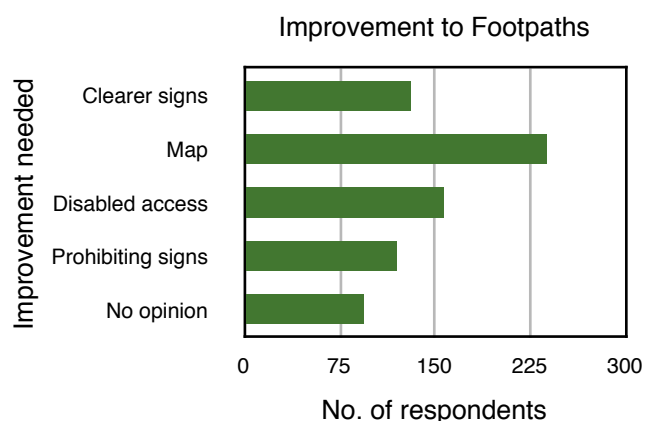
## TRAFFIC CONTROL

Q28 435 responses. This section also drew many comments (see Appendix). Some questioned the statement that Walberswick is not eligible for 20mph restriction (ie. not having schools or street lighting.) See also Q23.



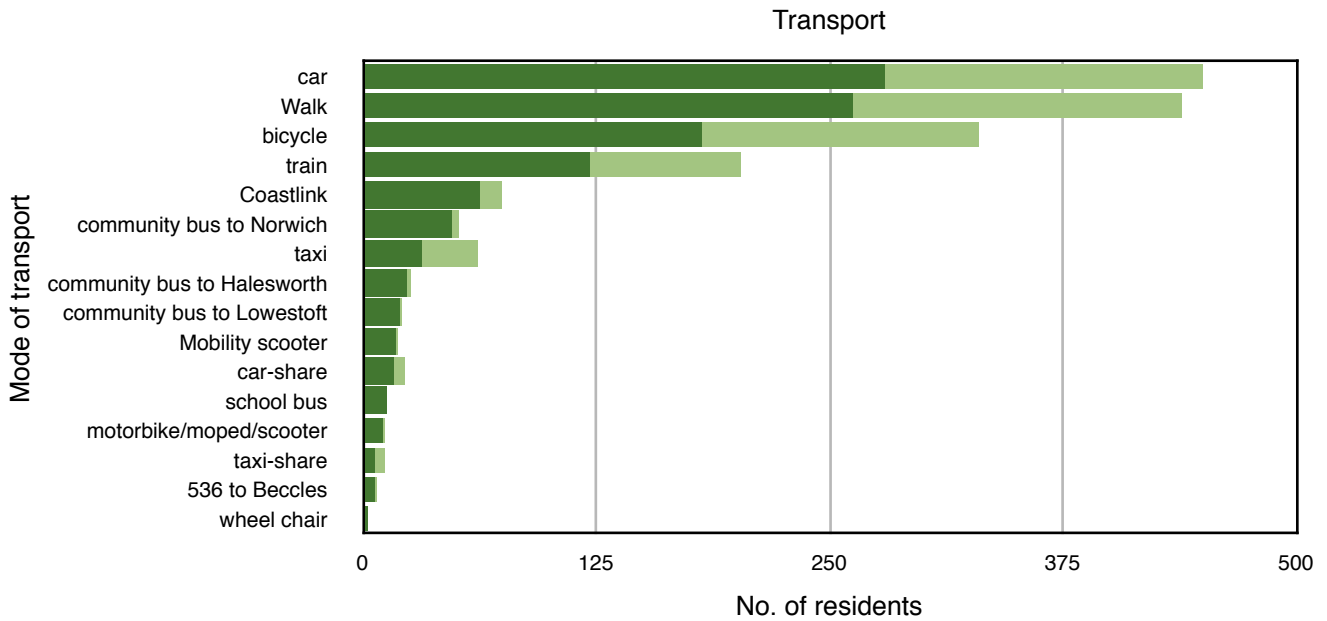
## FOOTPATHS

Q29 445 responses. *What they would like to see with regard to footpaths.* 87% are satisfied with their overall condition. Of those who were dissatisfied, the vast majority (47) again cited ‘lack of maintenance’ as their main complaint.



PERSONAL TRANSPORT

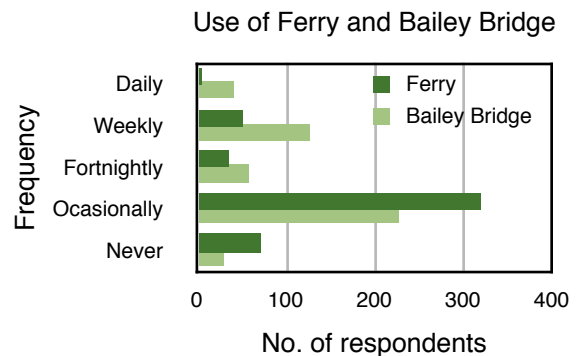
Q30 476 responses. What means of transport do you use?



Q31 158 responses. How can public transport be improved. This question attracted many suggestions for improvement. These are all included in the Appendix. The majority sought a reliable and more frequent train service.

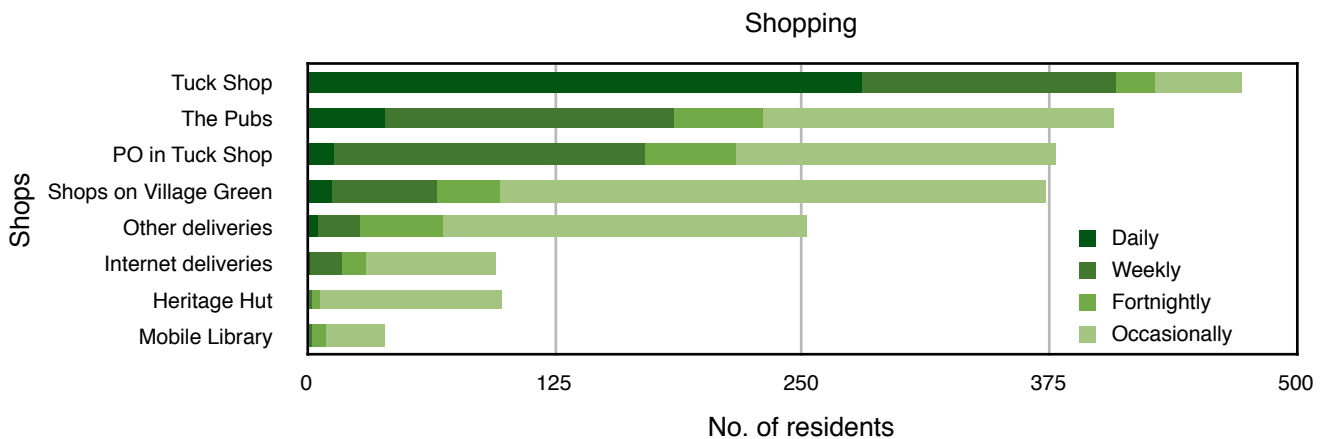
Q32 474 responses. How often do you use the Ferry?

Q33 476 responses to How often do you use the Bailey Bridge?



SHOPS AND SERVICES

Q34 479 responses.. How often do you use the following

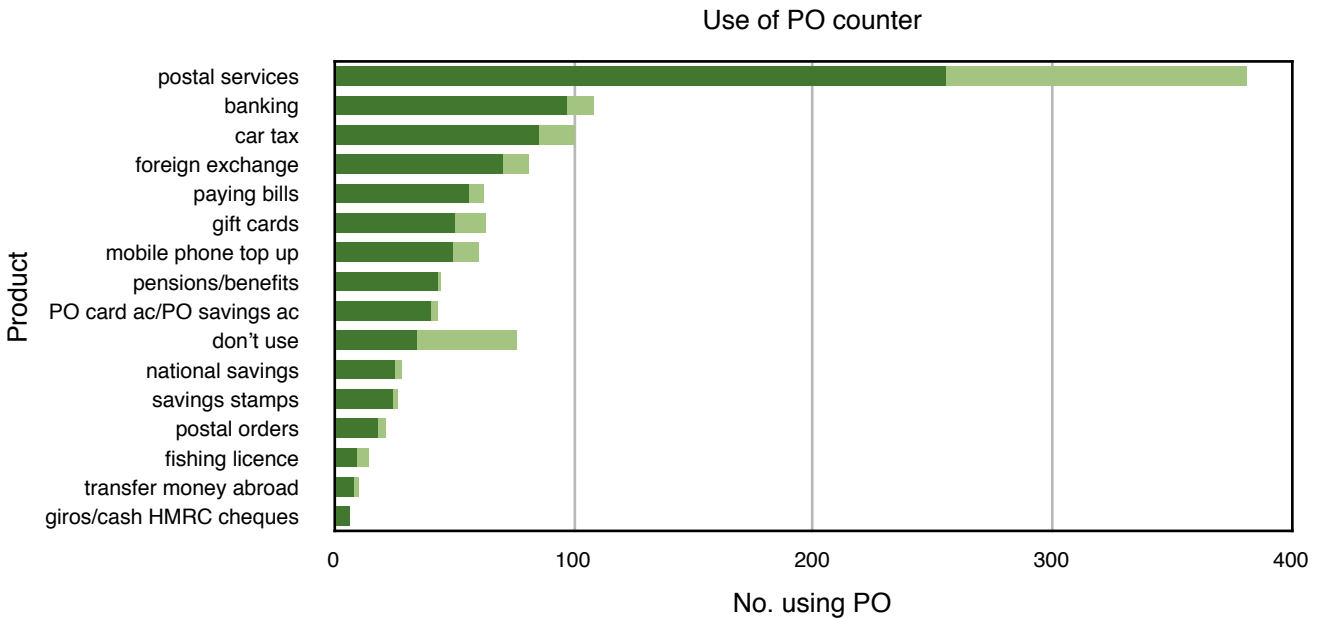




## POST OFFICE

Q35 467 responses. Do you use the Post Office in the Tuck Shop for any of the following?

The Post Office counter no longer exists. However, at the time of the survey there was still a part-time service.



## INFORMATION

Q36 471 responses. Where do you get information about the Parish Council?

90.9% said the Village News, 48.6% the notice boards, 6.6% the website and 37.2% word of mouth.

Q37 446 responses. Where do you get information about the Walberswick Common Lands Charity

86.8% said the Village News, 28.5% the notice boards, 4.5% the website and 30.7% word of mouth.

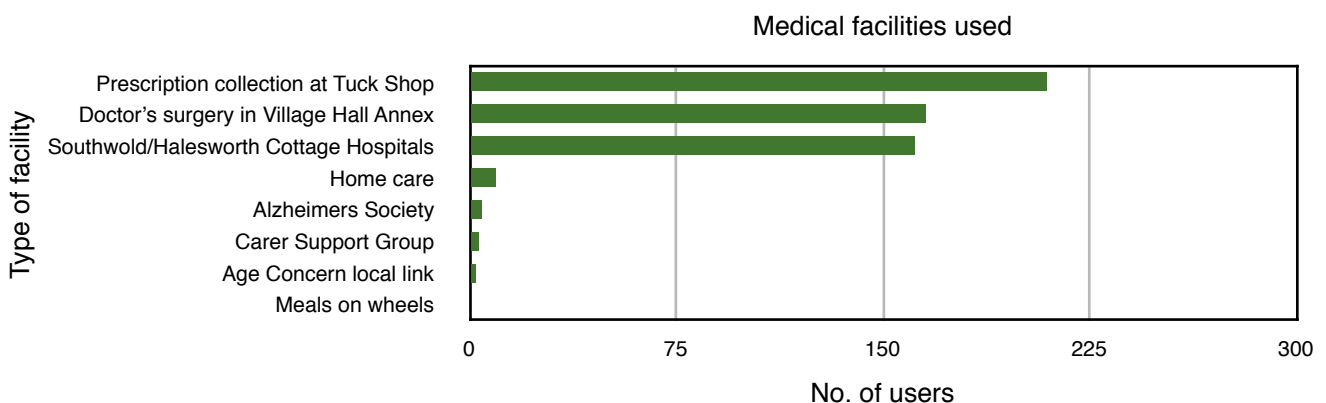
## PARISH COUNCIL

Q38 177 responses (who have attended a meeting).

71.9% felt that the issues discussed at meetings reflected local concerns and 28.1% did not.

## FACILITIES

Q39 275 responses. Do you use any of the following facilities?



*Q39 contd.*

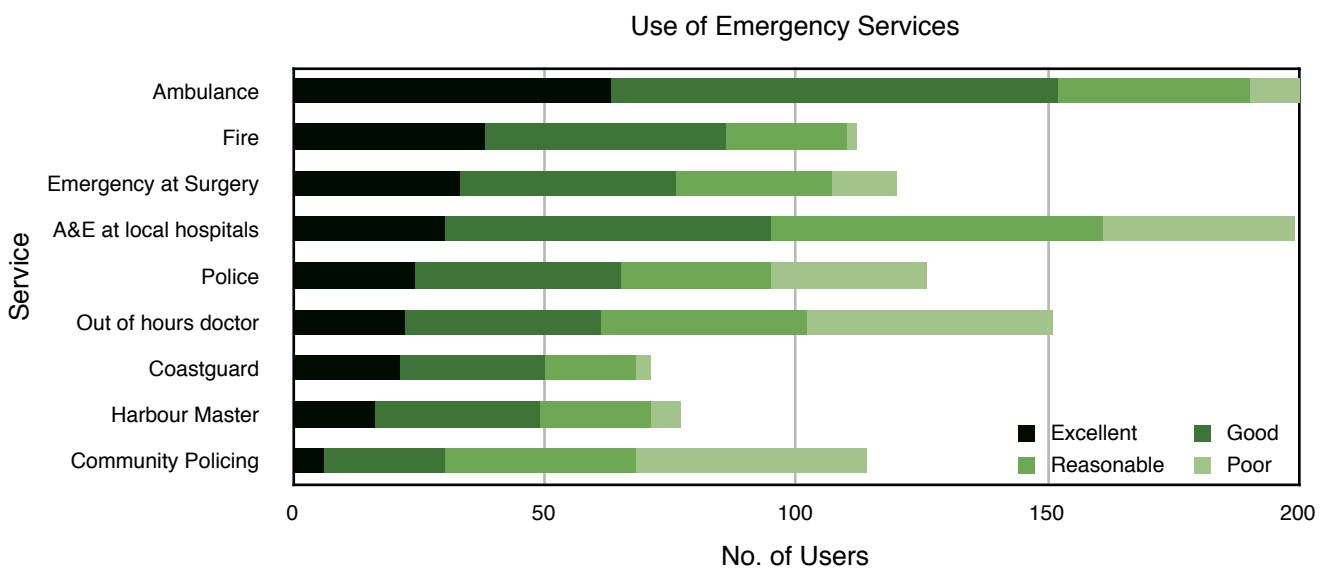
26 additional comments were made, 13 of which indicated that they didn't use any of the local health facilities. Of the remainder 2 said that they didn't know what services were available. 2 said that they made use of the Voluntary Help Centre in Southwold.

Q40 268 responders. *Are there any other Medical Services needed in Walberswick?* 74 (27.6%) felt that a Nursing Care Home is needed and 231 (86.2%) said that a First Responder Group is needed.

At the time of the survey, 4 Walberswick residents together with residents from Blythburgh and Wenhaston were already in training to be Community First Responders and have subsequently formed the Blyth Valley CFR Group which was activated on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

18 additional comments were received citing needs such as a chiropody service, that the Wednesday surgery in the Village Hall Annex is cancelled too often or that the Doctor could additionally do home visits whilst in the Village, and that more dental treatment facilities and home care services for the elderly are needed.

Q41 451 responses. *Please rate your views on the standard of Emergency Services in Walberswick.* The diagram shows the views of those who have actually used the services.



## KEY DECISIONS FACING THE VILLAGE (Q42-49)

Following the drop-in sessions to find out what the concerns of the Villagers are, key issues were picked out and highlighted in the Individual questionnaires. The first of these was protection from the sea.

### SEA DEFENCES

*The draft national Shoreline Management Plan has proposed these aims for the management of the local coastline over the next century:*

<i>Southwold harbour and river mouth</i>	<i>Hold the line</i>
<i>Walberswick Dunes</i>	<i>Managed Realignment</i>
<i>Walberswick Village</i>	<i>Hold the line</i>
<i>Walberswick to Dunwich Marshes including the shingle bank</i>	<i>Managed Realignment</i>

*The plan depends on*

- the proposed repair of the harbour's north dock wall by Waveney District Council*
- the reconstruction of the southern 'training' arm*
- the provision of local finance for other works which will be required.*

*Q42 453 responses. Do you support the aims of the Shoreline management Plan?*

75.3% said yes, 12.3% no, and 12.3% had no opinion.

*Q43 460 responses. Would you support local funding of sea defences?*

73.9% said yes, 12.9% no, and 13.2% had no opinion. For comments, see Appendix.

### BLYTH ESTUARY

*The Blyth Estuary Group has planning permission to raise 8km of river wall to protect the marshes and harbour from a 1 in 10 year surge. This will include an access track for construction and maintenance.*

*Q44 466 responses. Do you support this proposal?*

89.5% said yes, 2% no, and 8.5% had no opinion.

*Q45 467 responses. Does the Sea Defence Group keep you sufficiently informed?*

50.8% said yes, 29.4% no, and 19.8% had no opinion.

*Q46 468 responses. Does the Blyth Estuary Group keep you sufficiently informed?*

40.4% said yes, 34.4% no, and 25.2% had no opinion.

The answers to Q42 and 43 do not properly express the worries of the Village since only half the respondents think that the Sea Defence Group keep them sufficiently informed. Comments such as 'What does Managed realignment really mean?' and 'Not enough available information about any of the proposals ...' (see Appendix), bear this out.

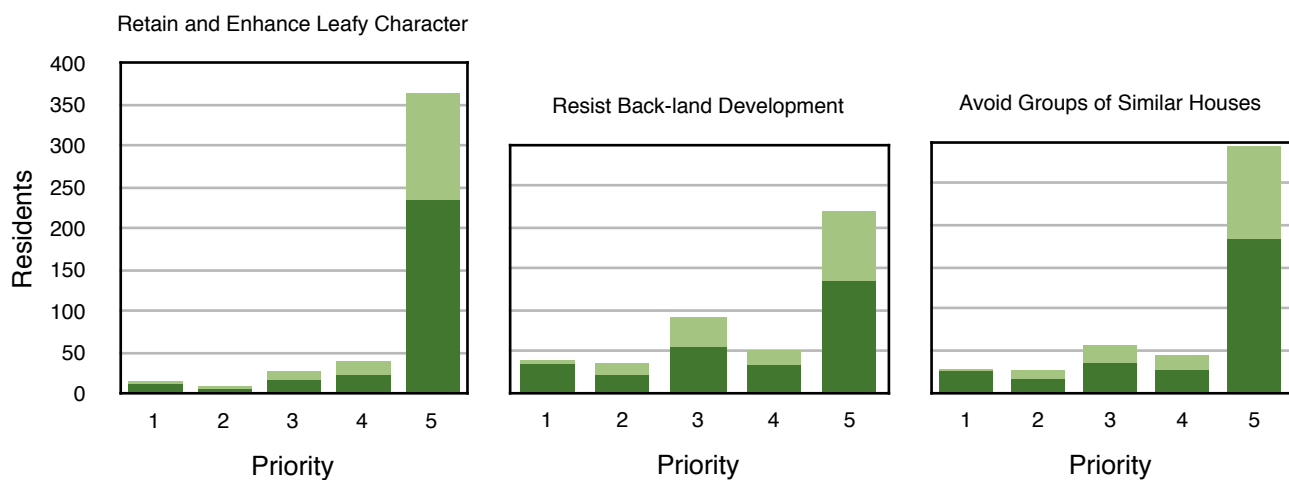
## LOCAL PLAN

*The original Local Plan for Walberswick by Suffolk Coastal District Council indicated a boundary consisting of all the existing houses and gardens of the Village. No developments were to be permitted outside this boundary. Suffolk Coastal District Council are reconsidering this.*

Q47 467 responses. Do you support the original Local Plan? 75.4% said yes, 13.5% no, and 11.1% had no opinion

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Q48 458 responders. This was a three part question. 'On a scale of 1-5 when considering Planning Applications, what priority should Suffolk District Council place on the following?'



Since 5 is the highest priority the Village has made it clear where the emphasis needs to be placed by the Planners.

## CONSERVATION AREA

*The existing Conservation Area of Walberswick comprises those buildings east of Ivy Cottages and Elm Gables which face The Street, Ferry Road (down to Marsh End), The Lea, Millfield Road, The Green, the Area around the Bell and Hidden Lane, and the houses on the South side of Leveretts Lane. This Conservation Area is being reconsidered by SCDC.*

Q49 467 responses. Do you consider that it should be enlarged to include the whole of the Village? 63.6% said yes, 24.6% no, and 11.8% had no opinion.

## HOW MIGHT WALBERSWICK DEVELOP?

Finally, the very last part of this important section of the questionnaire which covered key issues, invited further comments on how Walberswick might develop as a community.

Q50 184 responses. Are there any other key issues you would like to raise?

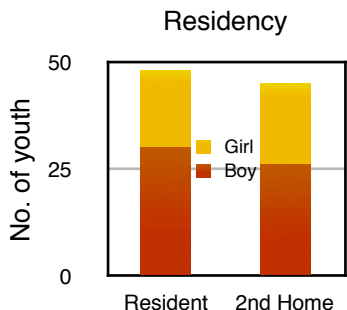
This produced 246 comments. Since it is difficult to summarise them, all these comments are listed in the Appendix in order that everybody has an opportunity to be aware of others' views. By far the biggest issue was 'Planning' with 84 separate comments (38 of which concerned affordable or sheltered housing), followed by 'Traffic' with 38, 'Community' with 36 and 'Environment' with 23. There were 56 comments on various other concerns.



# YOUTH QUESTIONNAIRE

94 completed Youth Questionnaires were returned

## GENDER



Q1 93 responses. 37 are girls and 56 are boys. The diagram illustrates the spread between Main Residents and 2nd Homes.

## AGE

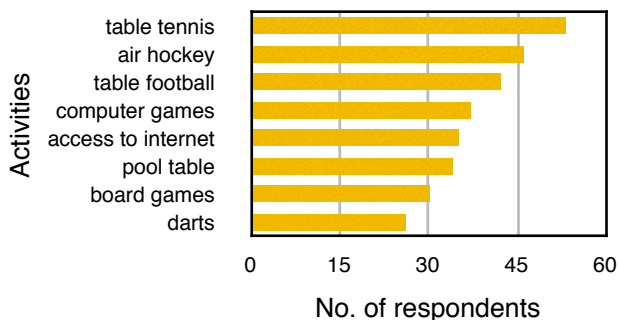
Q2 94 responses. The largest group is aged 15 (16%) and the rest are spread evenly over the ages (One 16 year old and one 18 year old also returned Youth questionnaires).

## FRIENDS

Q3 93 responses. 53.7% know at least 6 other children in the village, 26.9% many more than 6 and 19.4% nearly everyone.

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Q4 91 responses. Interested in a Youth Club? 60.4% said yes.

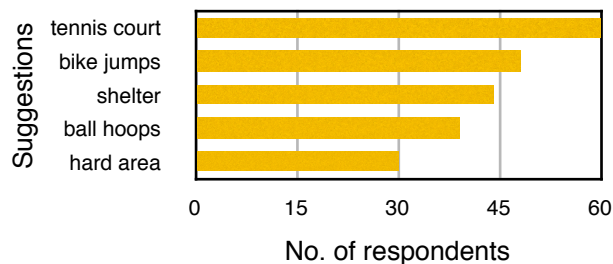


Q5 89 responses. Interested in a Summer Play Scheme? 44 said Yes and 45 said No.

Q6 63 responses. Preferred activities for Youth Club and Summer Play Scheme?

There were 30 comments. Amongst which 14 wanted outdoor ball games principally nominating football but also rugby, cricket and tennis. Art and Music were mentioned by 2

respondents in each case. See Appendix.



Q7 86 responses. Use of games areas. 73.3% use the sports field, 62.8% the sports field play equipment, and 83.7% the Green play equipment.

Q8 86 responses. Suggested extra activities to sports field.

22 of the respondents also asked for various other activities the most requests being for outdoor ball games as indicated above.

## SCHOOLS

Q9 33 responses. Permanent residents only. (The Household questionnaire indicates only 31 children under 16 living in the Village - it may be that this number of responses includes the 16 and 18 year old or two 2nd homers). What playgroup or school do you go to? 70% go to local schools, 15% to other schools in Suffolk and 15% to out of County schools.

## TRAVEL TO SCHOOL

Q10 32 responses. 22 said they use "Mum and Dad's taxi", 16 use the school bus, 4 cycle to school, 3 travel in a friend's car, 1 goes by taxi, 1 by public transport, and 1 walks.

## SOCIAL

Q11 83 responses. 52 had their own mobile phone, 66 had access to a family computer with internet access and 54 had their own email address. 27 had their own computer with internet access and 8 without. 8 have use of a family computer with no internet access.

## SAFETY

Q12 94 responses. Do you feel safe in Walberswick? 91 respondents said yes.

Q13 Of the 3 who said no, 1 raised the issue of the risk to walkers and cyclists from motor vehicles in our narrow village streets without pavement, another didn't like bats whilst it seems for 1 young person a few people here aren't very nice.

## JOINING IN

Q14 69 responses. Over the last 2 or 3 years, 44 have taken part in Crabbing Sunday, 29 a sponsored event, 21 the annual beach clean, and 20 helped man a stall at the Walberswick Fete. 10 have taken part in the Walberswick pantomime, 7 in a local sports team and 2 in St Andrews Church Summer Club. 6 volunteered for a Village project and 6 attended a Parish Council Meeting. Of the 45 involved in non-Village activities, these varied from School Councils, Youth Fora and Charity events.

## WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT WALBERSWICK

Q15 86 responses. Many enthusiastic answers were received perhaps best encapsulated in this comment: "I like the freedom, feeling safe, able to do my own thing, very friendly, sports field, crabbing, swimming, the beach, everything". (See Appendix)

## WHAT IS NOT SO GOOD

Q16 72 responses. Of the comments, typically: Not enough to do; people drive too fast in the Village; what they want isn't here; too many visitors; or they do not know anybody and there is no transport. A few said that Walberswick is too remote, complained about the "mozzies" and that the sports field could be better. A further 7 respondents contrarily used this question to tell us that they love the Village. (See Appendix)

## HOW CAN THINGS BE BETTER FOR THE YOUNG

Q17 73 responses. 32% of the comments cited the need for more outdoor activities and that they felt the playing field and the Village Green play area needed improvement. 62% wanted indoor activities including a Youth Club, indoor sport activities and a sheltered place where they can hang out. The remaining 6% of comments focused on the need for a lower speed limit. (See Appendix)

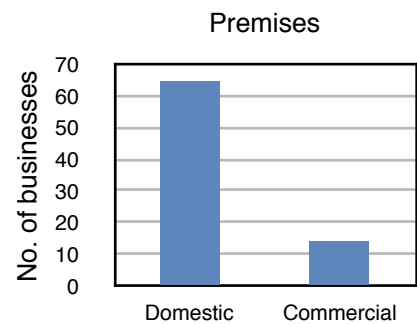
## BUSINESS QUESTIONNAIRE

There is a large number of businesses operating from within the Village. The largest single category is tourism, 35%. This includes house letting and bed and breakfast. There are also several smaller businesses that help support these, namely property maintenance property letting/management and gardening/outdoor maintenance . The arts are well represented; art & design and film/music/drama. Other businesses include retail shops, pubs/restaurants/catering, and building/construction. There was only a single response to our questionnaires from agricultural businesses which means the figures reflect businesses within the Village rather than from farming outside it.

### LOCATION

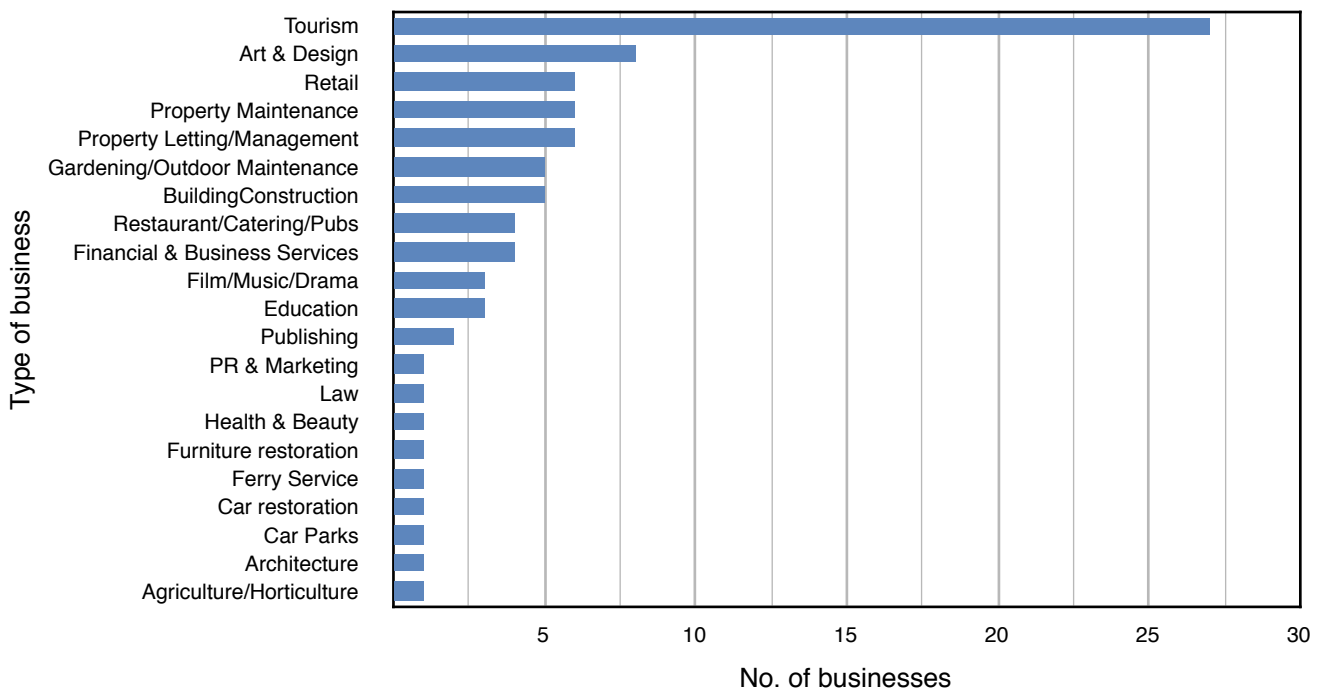
Q1 78 responses. The vast majority of businesses in the survey, 83.3%, are run from domestic premises. These range from public relations and marketing to architecture.

The commercial locations range from public houses and restaurants to car restoration.



### BUSINESS CATEGORY

Q2 78 responses

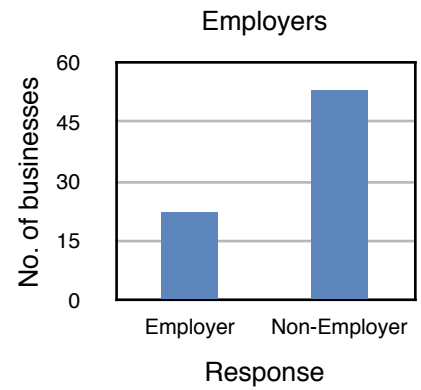


## EMPLOYMENT

Q3 75 responses. Most businesses in Walberswick are non-employers. These are mainly families or individuals working from home. These range from horticulture to arts and crafts.

29.3% of businesses are employers.

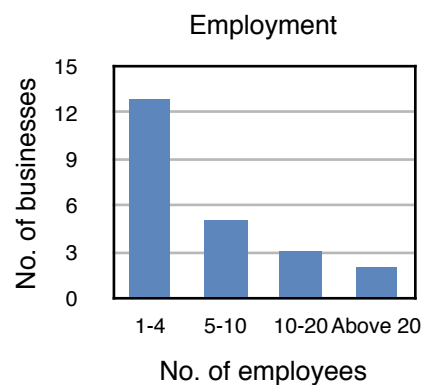
These range from car parks to shops and public houses. Some of these jobs are seasonal, depending mainly on tourism.



Q4 22 responses. 136 people are employed by our Village businesses.

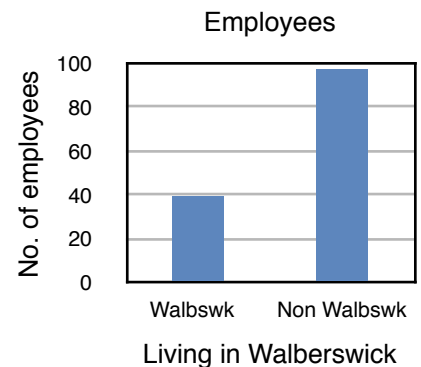
There are two businesses in the Village that employ more than twenty people. Three employ between 10 and 20, and five between 5 and 10.

The largest category, 45.5%, are those that employ between one and four people.



Q5 21 responses. Only 38 of the people employed within the Village actually live in Walberswick. (This figure includes some "self-employed" see Individual Questionnaire)

The majority, 71.9%, are residents of other towns or Villages



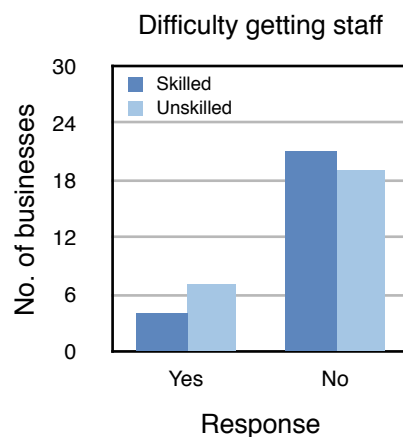
Q6 26 responses Twelve Village businesses expected to create jobs some time in the future.

This compares with fourteen that do not expect to expand. Most of those who did not expect to create future jobs do not currently employ anybody.



Q7 24 responses 16.7% of businesses reported a difficulty in recruiting skilled staff.

Q8 26 responses 26.9% have a difficulty recruiting unskilled staff

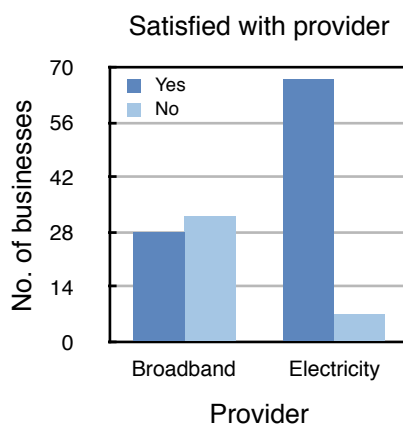


### SERVICE PROVIDERS

Q9 60 responses. Broadband speed is a cause of much concern with only 46.7% of businesses satisfied with the service.

Q10 74 responses. Most businesses (90.5%) are satisfied with the integrity of their electricity supply. However, there are instances where the service has been less than satisfactory.

There is little likelihood of ever getting a gas supply to the Village mainly due to location and high capital costs.



### AREAS WHERE BUSINESSES THOUGHT THAT SERVICES AND AMENITIES COULD BE IMPROVED

38 responses. (See Appendix).

*Broadband.* This was the largest single subject of complaint. While the current service is adequate for domestic use, it is too slow for modern businesses.

*Car Parking.* It was felt by some that there should be more short stay car parking while others felt that a residents parking scheme should be introduced.

*Mobile phone reception.* There are reception blank spots in parts of the Village.

*Bin collections.* Holiday let bin collection arrangements.

*Affordable homes.* More should be provided for key workers.

*Second home ownership.* Are we reaching the sustainable limit?

*Lack of Mains Gas.* Is the Village held hostage by the oil suppliers because there is no alternative fuel?

*Heritage Hut.* More use could be made of this amenity.

*Undergrounding of cables.* This would improve the appearance of the Village.

## CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

### GENERAL

The data about Walberswick and the views of the Villagers, which are recorded in this Survey Report, give a clear indication of the direction any Action Plan should take.

### OUTSTANDING FACTS

Two remarkable facts stand out from the Survey. Firstly, 41% of the households are second homes. However, the views of full-time residents and of those living in second homes appear very similar (this is borne out by the figures and diagrams included in the report). Secondly, 42.5% of our permanent population are over 65 years old compared with the National average which is less than 20%. Clearly, these two facts, when compared with the rest of the Country, have a strong bearing on the character of the Village.

### KEY ISSUES

Following the drop-in sessions, several key issues were identified in the Questionnaires, with the following responses:

### FLOODING

Support is strong for the Sea Defence Group and the Blyth Estuary Group in their work on seeking ways to protect Walberswick from the sea. It is no doubt a mark of the Villagers' concern that, overwhelmingly, they do want to be kept better informed on these two matters.

### PLANNING

The Survey sets out the opinions of the majority of the Village on planning concerns which can be summarised as:

Keep any development within the present boundary of the Village

Emphasis should be on

(a)retaining and enhancing its leafy character

(b)resisting back-land development

(c)avoiding groups of similar houses

Extend the Conservation Area to include the whole of the Village.

246 comments were also offered on ways how Walberswick might be developed. These are varied and wide-ranging, nevertheless the Groups concerned with the Action Plan will need to note these.

### TRAFFIC

The nuisance and the risk from traffic are clearly issues the Village wants to combat. At holiday times speeding and illegal parking on The Street are widely regarded as major nuisances. Is encouraging changes in behaviour a better solution rather than highly visible, physical traffic calming solutions such as flashing signs or speed bumps?

### HOUSING

Concern about housing for local people, sheltered housing, and more small dwellings.

### YOUTH

A large number ask for a youth club and summer play scheme, with more equipment on the sports field, etc. However, since the survey was completed, a resident has offered to run a youth club or

group but despite being widely advertised, not one young person has responded. Notwithstanding this, with the preponderance of older people in the Village, is it not in our interest to make things more attractive to the young?

## BUSINESS

Walberswick already has a substantial number of home-workers and at present access to and from mobile phones as well as Broadband coverage are reported to be patchy and unreliable throughout the village. Developments in communications and information technology could benefit the village and help change its age structure and social mix. Excellent communications coverage for all parts of the village is an essential condition for securing the village's economic viability and future prosperity.

## OTHER ISSUES

Could the Village be a better and more attractive place in which to live, were it to attract a more mixed community in terms of permanence of residence, age, income and skills?

A large majority of main households comprise one or two people, while 80% have 3 or more bedrooms. Can and should this imbalance be addressed?

Can the Village car parks be improved, and could the provision of a car park at the entrance to the Village, supported by a Park and Ride system, be made to work (without itself being an eyesore)?

Are there opportunities to extend, develop and rationalise the footpath and bridleway network in order to improve public access?

The nuisance from pig farming frequently reported by households in the West of the Village.

Walberswick's relative isolation makes a higher degree of self sufficiency and environmental sustainability important.

Interest in bulk buying schemes.

Future of the Village Hall.

Concern for the future of the Shop.

Control of dogs in the Village.

## ACTION PLAN

This Report will be presented at a Public Meeting which has been arranged for 10.30 am on Saturday 14 May 2011 in the Village Hall where everybody will have a chance to discuss it. At the meeting it is intended to set up groups which, collectively, will decide what actions need to be taken by Walberswick on the basis of the findings of the Survey. These decisions will be included in an Action Plan which, together with the Survey Report, will comprise the Walberswick Parish Plan.

In this way, by the end of the process, the resulting Plan will have gained true legitimacy and will clearly articulate the views of the Parish of Walberswick.