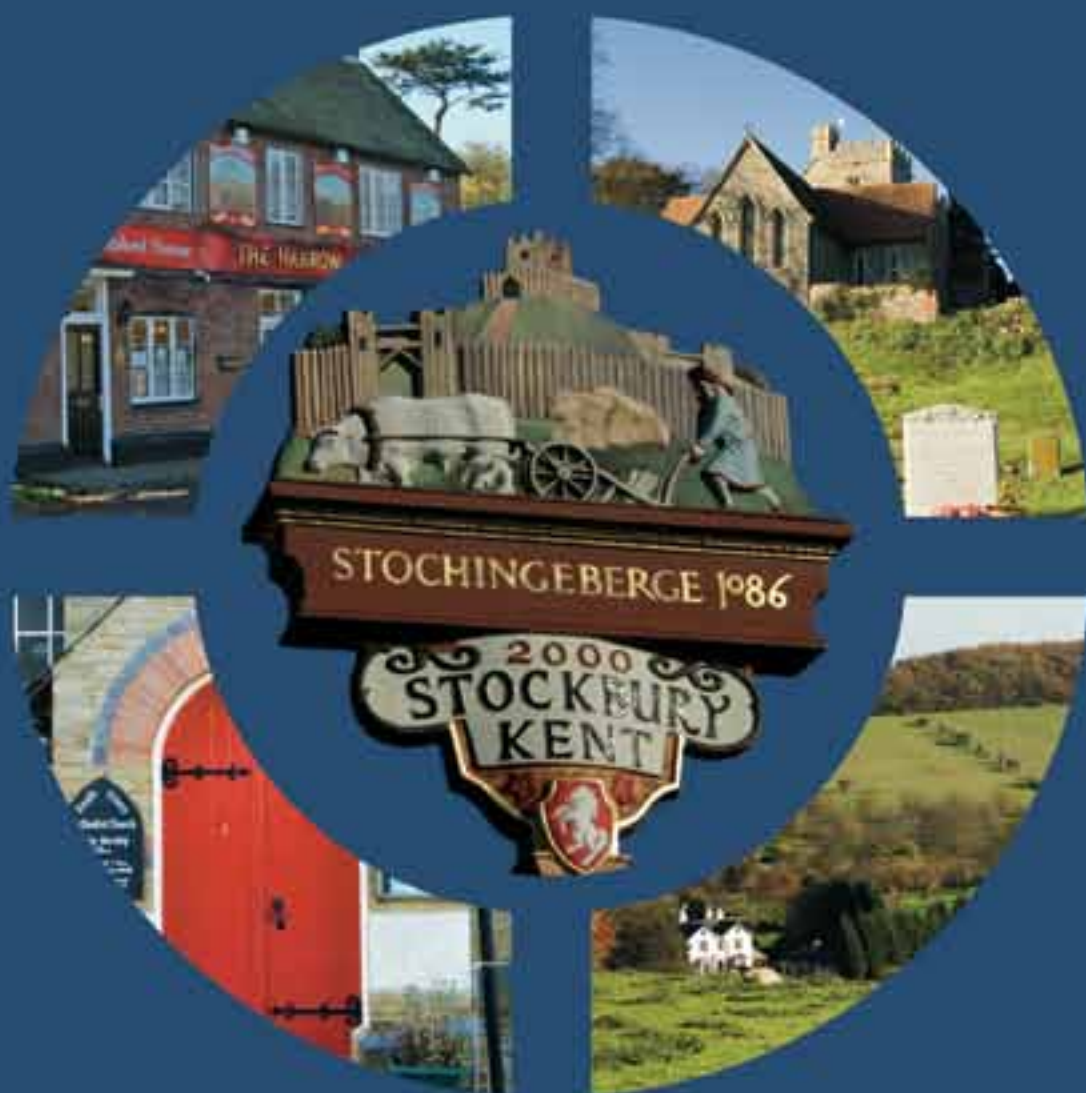


# STOCKBURY

## Parish Plan 2006





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## Acknowledgements

Particular thanks should go to the following people and groups who have helped to make this plan possible

Parish Plan Steering Committee:- *Chris Porter, Pauline Adams, PJ Driver, Glen Martin, Ann Rich*

*Action for Communities in Rural Kent*. This local support group has been instrumental in providing both financial and technical support.

*Maidstone Borough Council, Kent County Council, DEFRA*, all provided financial support through grants.





At a Parish Council meeting in August 2004, it was agreed that a Parish Plan would be developed with the following aims:

## **Objective**

To provide a vision of what the community wants to achieve and a realistic action plan to achieve it.

The plan should be based on comprehensive consultation with the whole community and should provide a framework and activity plan for the next 5-10 years.

The following benefits were identified:

## **Benefits**

Preparing and implementing a Parish Plan offers a number of benefits, including:

- Establishing priorities for the Parish Council and for the community, for an agreed period.
- Enhancing the possibility of achieving support for implementing plans that may need consents, funding or other third party support.
- Fostering a closer relationship between the community and the Parish Council.
- Prioritising and planning future Parish Council activities and budgets.

## **What was the process to develop a Parish Plan?**

A Parish Plan Steering committee was formed in September 2004, consisting of Chris Porter, Pauline Adams, PJ Driver Glen Martin and Ann Rich. This group met frequently and put together a plan which resulted in the following steps

- A consultation day was held in the village hall in November 2004 with the objective of reviewing the key areas for consideration. 100 parishioners attended throughout the day and a separate session was held in the afternoon for the young people of the village.
- A questionnaire was developed and agreed by the Parish Council.
- Questionnaires were sent out to all households in the parish in May 2005 and achieved a 60% response rate.
- The questionnaires were analysed, and a further consultation meeting was held in November 2005 when 60 parishioners attended to review the results and comment on recommendations.
- Having reviewed the output from the consultation evening, the Parish Council met in January 2006 and agreed a list of 14 recommendations, as follows.

# Recommended Activities

Activity	Priority	Next Steps
1. Parish Plan	High	Publish results to all parishioners
2. Housing Survey	High	Talk to Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) for advice on how to proceed. Complete housing survey
3. Transport	High	Analyse where those with problems live
	High	Ask Cllr Parvin (MBC) for details on workings of post bus. Aim is to assure its future and assess better service
	Med	Talk to interested parties on starting car sharing pool
4. Flowers	Low	Ask Stockbury Gardeners to carry out survey of current bulb locations + recommendations on what and where to plant more
5. Footpaths	Med	Write to MBC for map of location of footpaths, signs and styles. Replace signs as necessary
6. Cherry orchards	Med	Talk to Lynsted PC re their activity on preservation
		Talk to Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK) for possibilities of help
		Talk to John Mackelden on possibilities for preservation/regeneration of Church Lane Orchard
7. Activities for young	High	Put question in Stockbury Observer to establish level of interest and recruit parents to help. Promote activity.
8. Playing fields	Med	Put question in Stockbury Observer to understand what people want
9. Communications	High	Find out how to set up parish web site Use Stockbury Observer as main communication vehicle
10. Education	Med	Courses for computers and first aid arranged Follow up on yoga to be arranged
11. Recycling	Med	Ask Cllr Parvin how best to implement
12. Speeding traffic	High	Find out what could be done to reduce traffic speed in the village
13. Litter	High	Write to MBC to ask for Honeycrook + Church Hills to be cleaned regularly

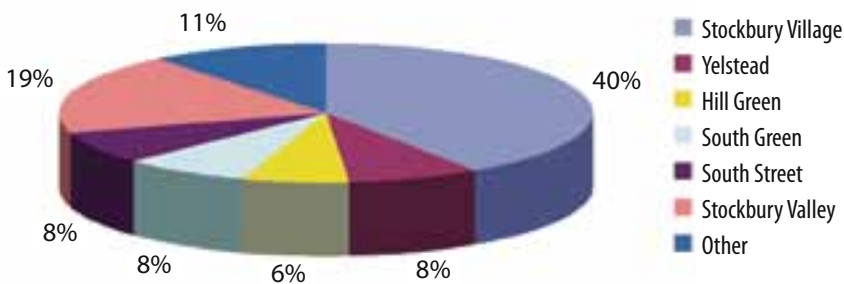


# The Questionnaire

## Introduction

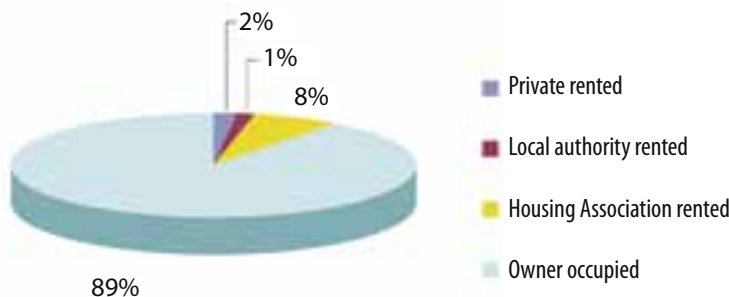
A questionnaire was distributed to every household in the parish in May 2005. Of the 260 questionnaires distributed, 158 were returned, which was a 61% success rate. In comparison to other parishes, this was a high level of return, which was undoubtedly helped by the fact that the questionnaires were distributed and collected by a group of parishioners.

## Where people live



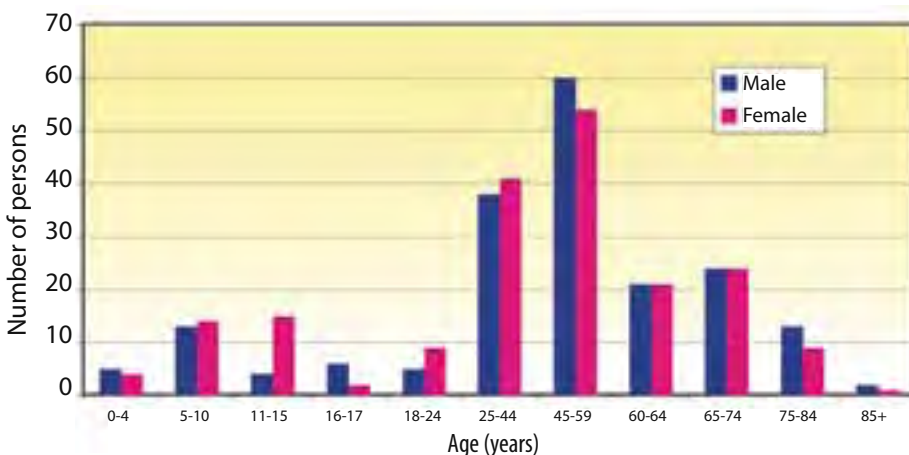
As expected, most respondents lived in Stockbury village, but there was a good level of response from every other area in the parish

## Housing by type



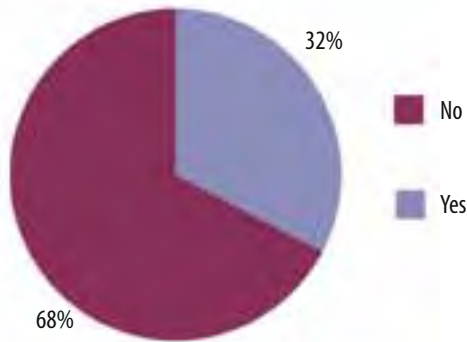
Most of the respondents were owner/occupiers of their homes

## Population by gender and age



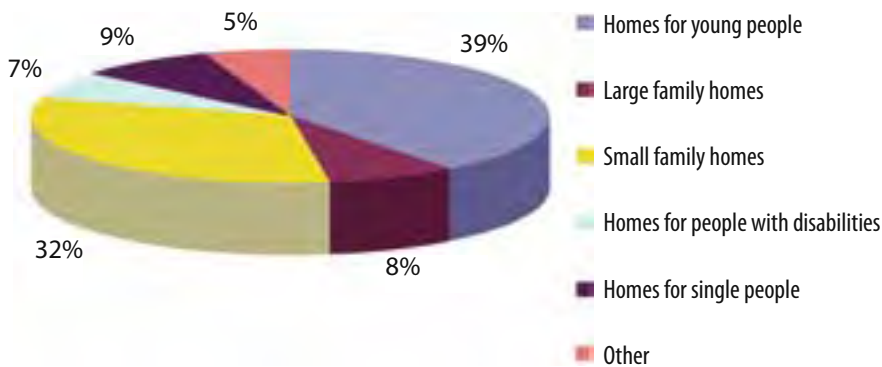
The largest group of respondents was in the 45-59 year old age group (32% of total), with the next largest group in the 25-44 year old group (22% of total). 21% of the total were over 60 and 7% were under 18. As anticipated, the young were probably under represented and the older group slightly over represented versus the overall parish population

## Do you think Stockbury needs more houses?



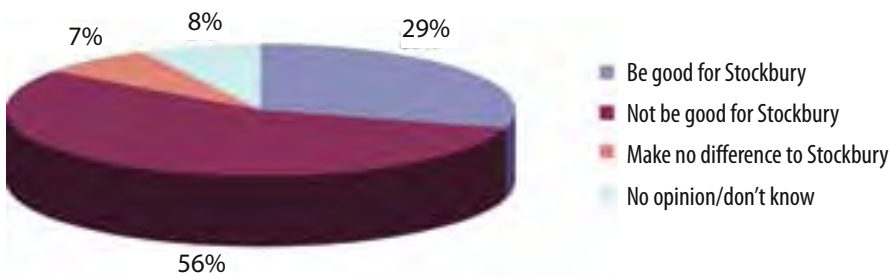
Whilst two thirds of you believe that there is no need for more housing, 108 people felt that there was a need

## What Kind of additional housing does Stockbury need?



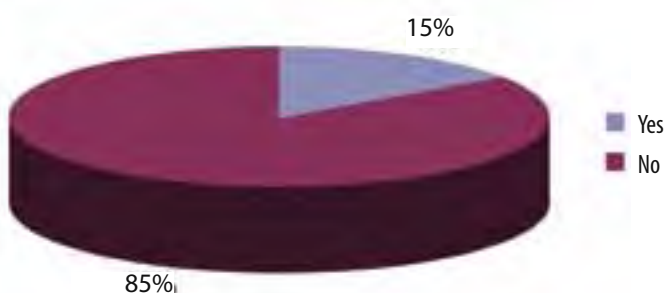
Of the 108 people who thought that there was a need for more housing, the majority felt that homes for young people and small family homes were most needed

## Do you think that more housing in Stockbury would...?



As one would expect, the answers to this question closely follows views on whether more housing would be good or bad for the parish, with 56% stating that more housing would be bad for Stockbury. However, 36% of you (120 people) thought that more housing would either be good or would make no difference

## Do you or members of your family need accommodation in Stockbury?



A total of 49 people stated a need for alternative accommodation in Stockbury, which highlights a real requirement in the parish

## Do you have transport difficulties for the following activities?



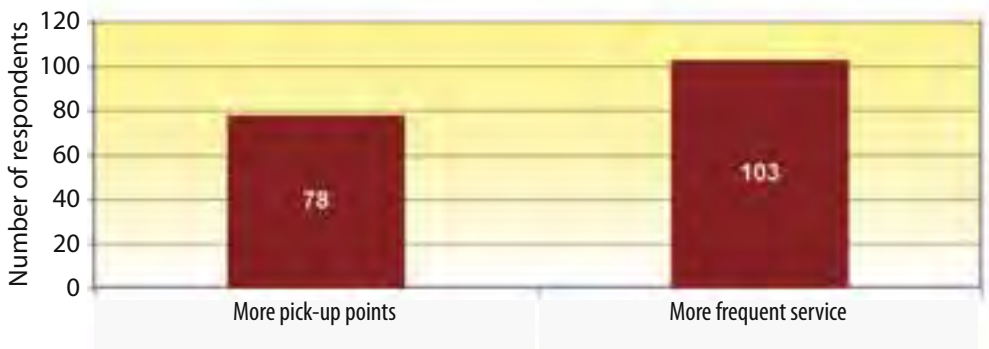
67 people have transport difficulties, which are fairly evenly spread across the activities shown

## Do you use the post bus, or other public transport, and if so for what purpose?



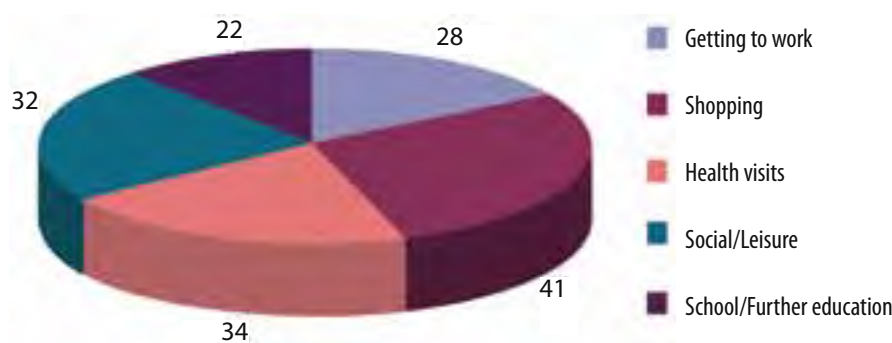
The most popular use of the post bus is for shopping (52 people), with relatively few parishioners using it on a regular basis. However, it is believed that those who use the post bus have a high dependency on it, possibly due to a lack of alternative transport, and that it is, therefore, an important service for the parish

## Would you use the post bus more if there were...?



There is a strong indication that the post bus would be used more if the service was improved

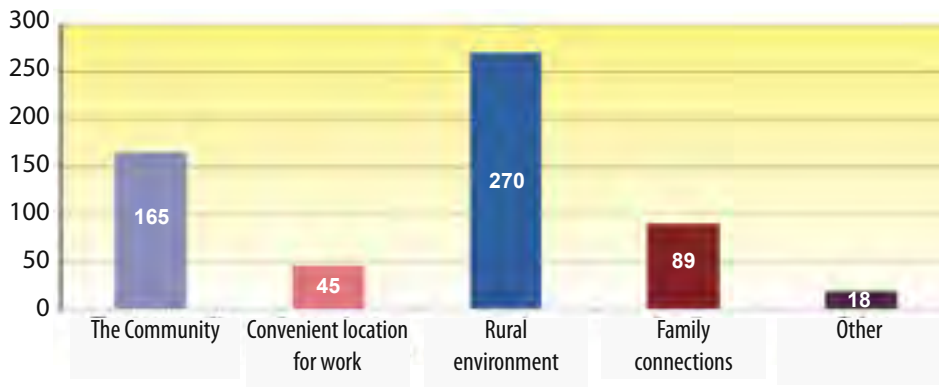
## If you own a car, would you car share for the following purposes? (number of responses)



84 people stated that they would be prepared to participate in a car sharing scheme for a variety of uses as shown

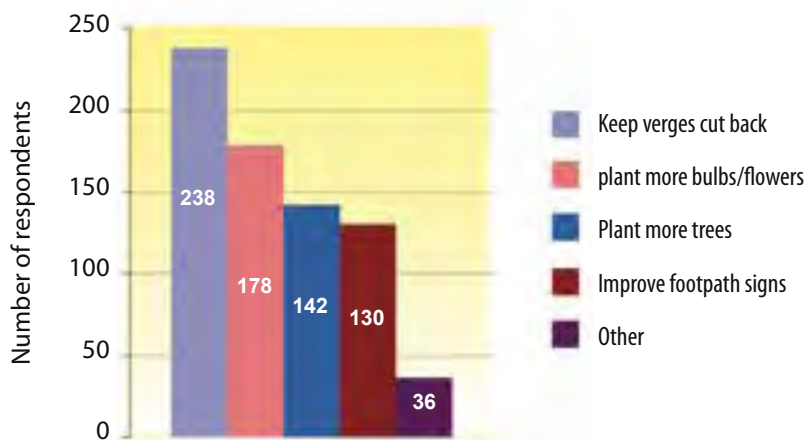


## What is most important to you about living in Stockbury?



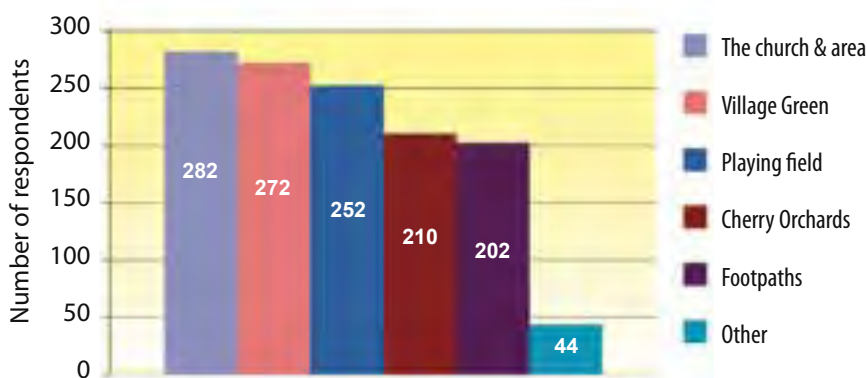
329 people responded to this question, with over 80% of you stating that "rural environment" was the most important thing about Stockbury, followed by "the community" at 50%. These factors are clearly important to a lot of parishioners and should be carefully considered when reviewing any potential developments in the parish

## Do you think that we should do any of the following in Stockbury?



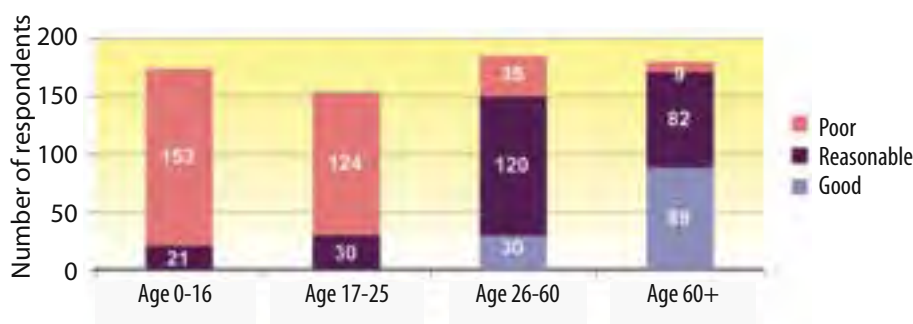
Attention to verges, footpath signage, planting of more trees and bulbs are all considered important and will be considered in any future plans

## Which areas of Stockbury do you think are important to preserve?



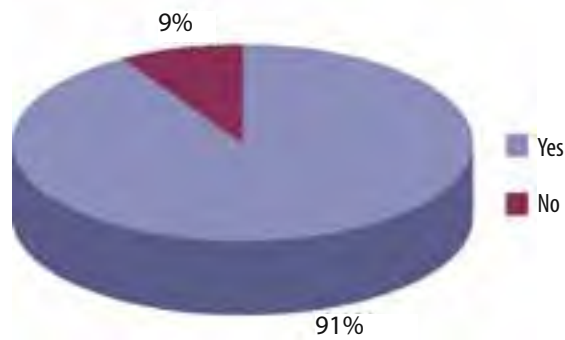
Not surprisingly, all the areas mentioned are considered important and should be preserved or improved as part of any parish plan

## What are your views on social facilities in Stockbury for the following age groups?



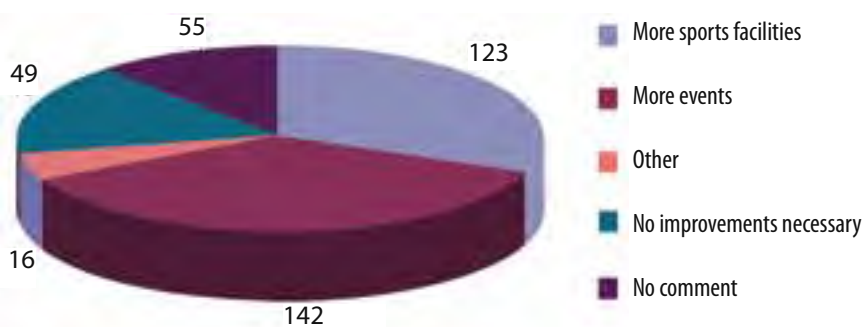
Whilst 68% of those who responded believed that social facilities for those over 60 were either "reasonable" or "good", only 8% of you thought that facilities for children under 16 were "reasonable". No one thought that they were "good" for this age group. This is clearly an area for inclusion in the parish plan

## Do you think that there is a need to provide organised activity for young people?



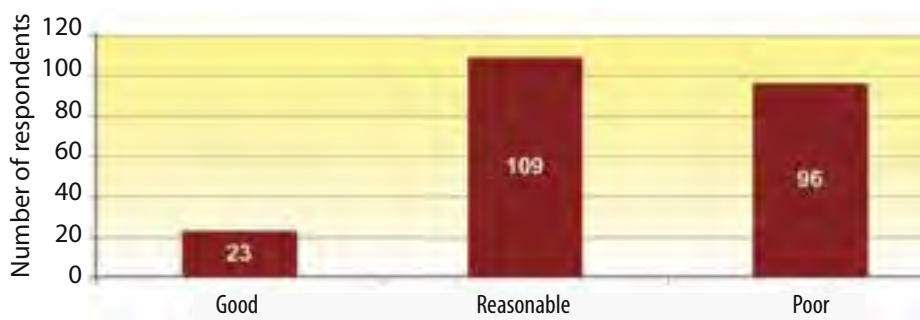
There is a close correlation with the previous question, with 248 people stating that there is a need to provide organised activities for young people.

## How could facilities on the playing field be improved? (number of responses)



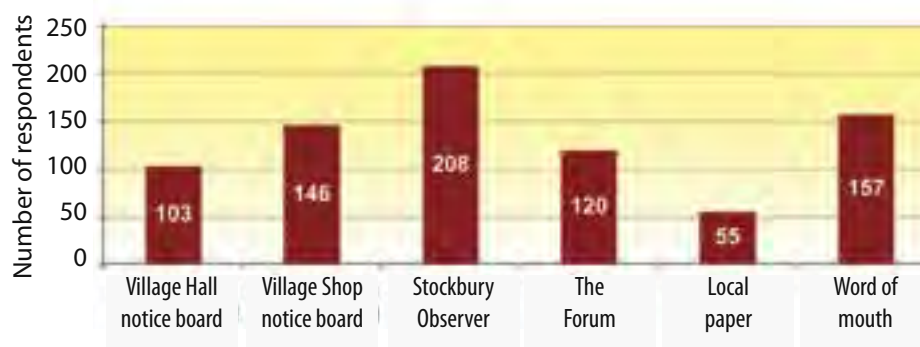
As can be seen from the response, a significant number of you thought more sports facilities and more events on the playing field would be good

## Do you think that the facilities provided in the children's playground are...? (number of responses)



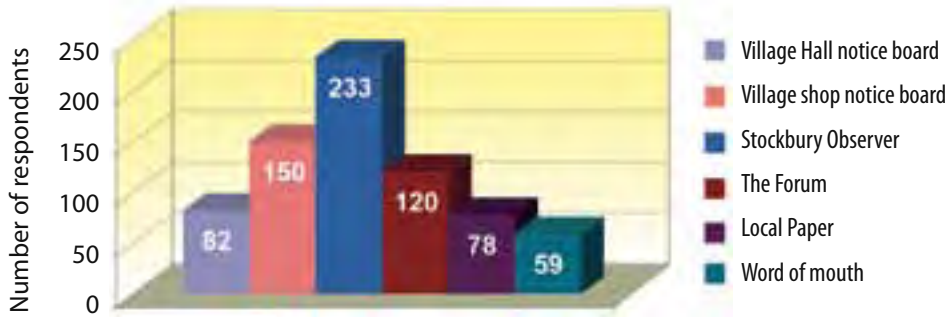
It is not surprising that there are some concerns over the facilities provided in the children's play area. These clearly need to be improved

## Where do you usually get information about activities taking place in Stockbury? (number of responses)



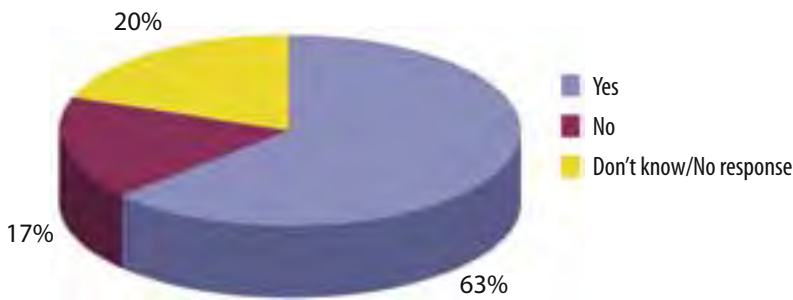
Although at the time of the questionnaire, the Stockbury Observer had only been running for a few months, the response here highlights its importance as a communication vehicle to villagers.

## How would you like to receive information? (number of responses)



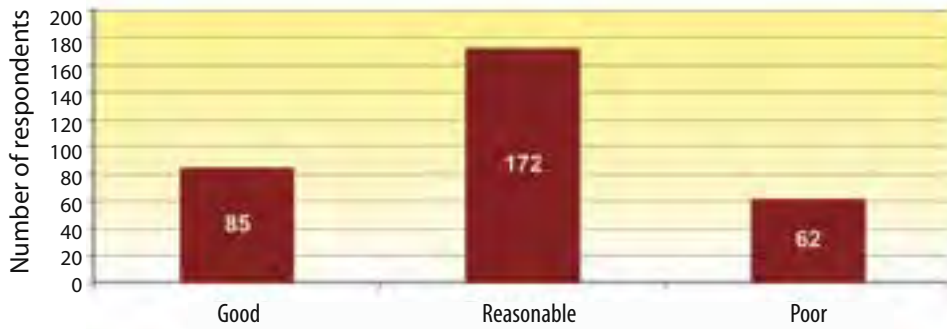
Responses here closely reflect those from question 23. It seems clear that we should aim to preserve all current forms of communication

## Would you like more information about the activities of the Parish Council?



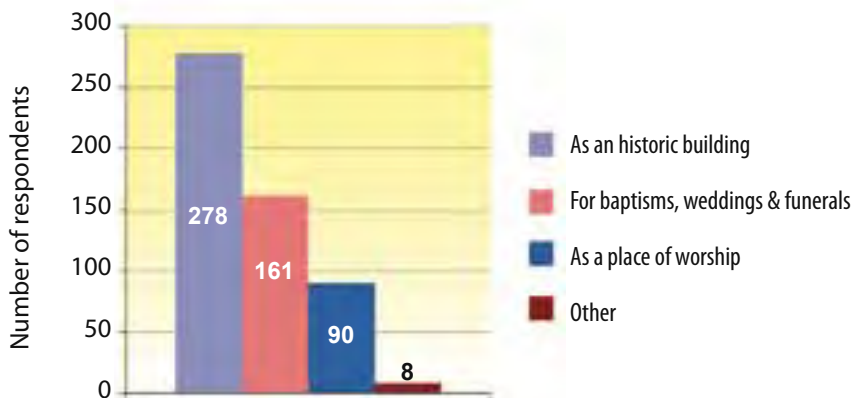
There is clearly a need to circulate more information about the activities of the Parish Council

## Do you think that the amount of information available about what is going on in Stockbury is...? (number of responses)



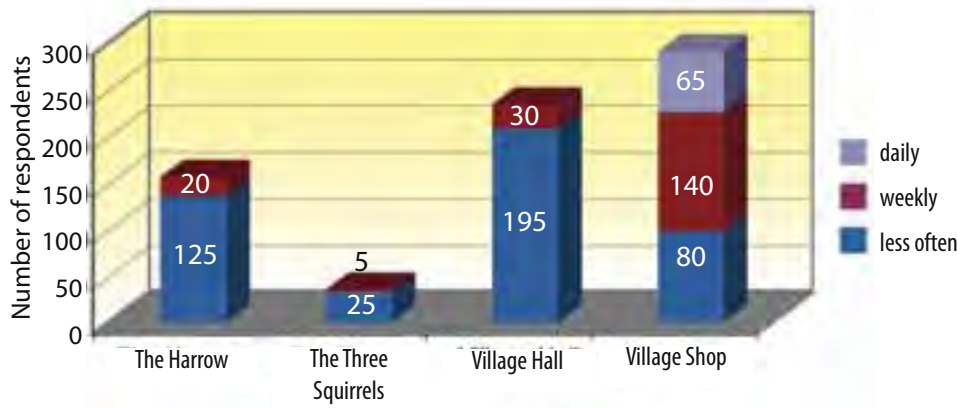
The overall response to the amount of information available is good.

## Is the Church at Stockbury important to you? (number of responses)



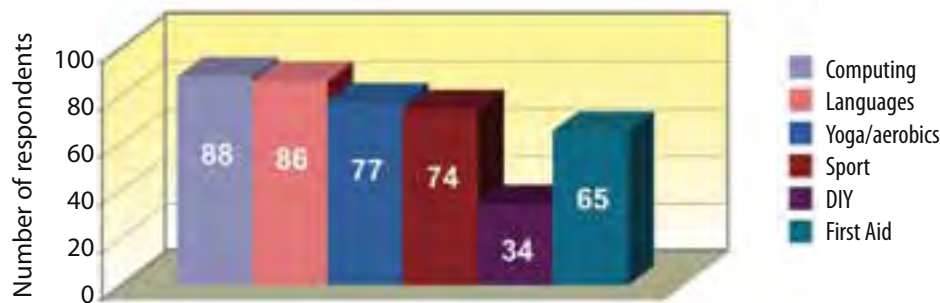
It seems clear that we should aim to preserve our church not only as an historic building, but also as a place of worship and for baptisms, weddings and funerals

## How often do you use the following shops and services? (number of responses)



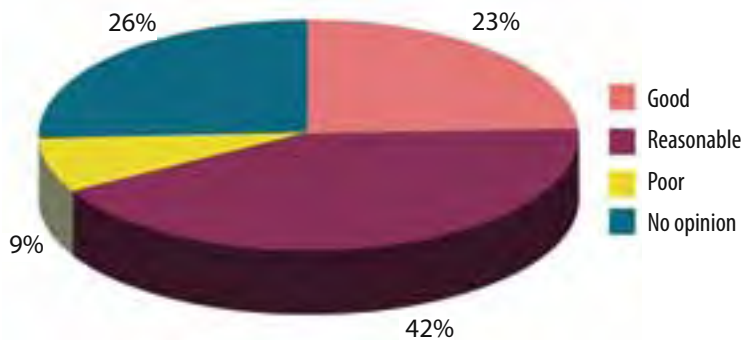
As one would expect, the village shop is widely and regularly used

## If classes for the following were provided, would you attend? (number of responses)



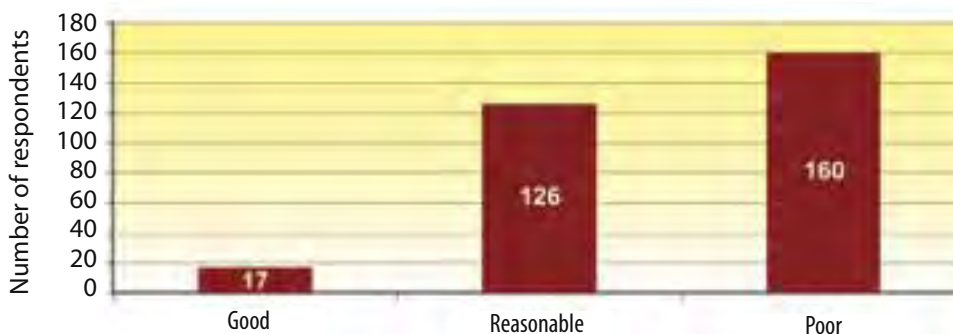
There is quite a high level of interest in a number of activities and attempts should be made to start some of these

## What is your opinion of the village hall?



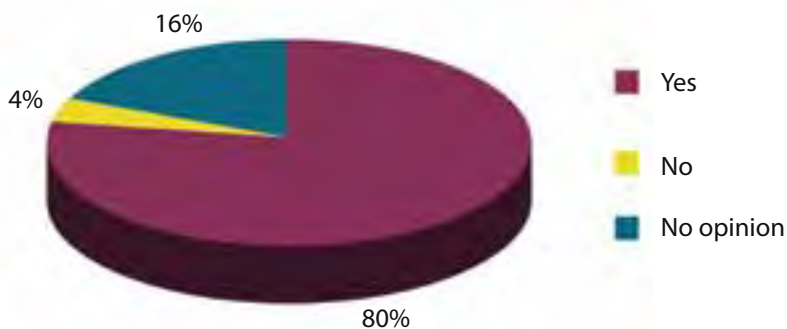
65% of you think that the village hall is either "good" or "reasonable", which is a good score. Recent improvements to the kitchen area have certainly helped

## Do you regard police coverage in Stockbury to be...? (number of responses)



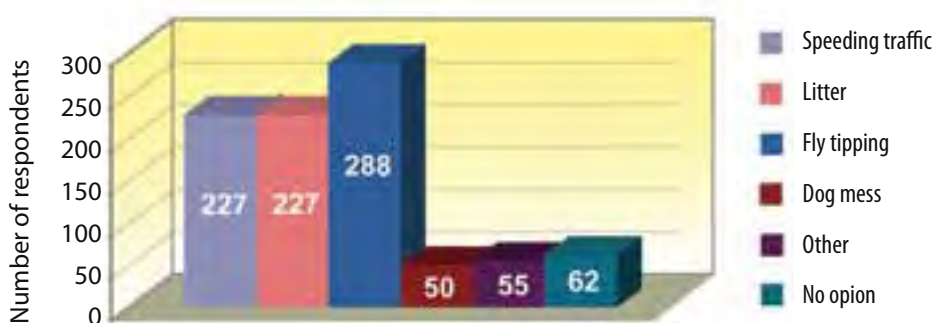
Opinion here is quite evenly divided. Now that we have lost our local constable, we await developments of further policing services to support small communities such as Stockbury.

## Would you be prepared to separate your rubbish for recycling?



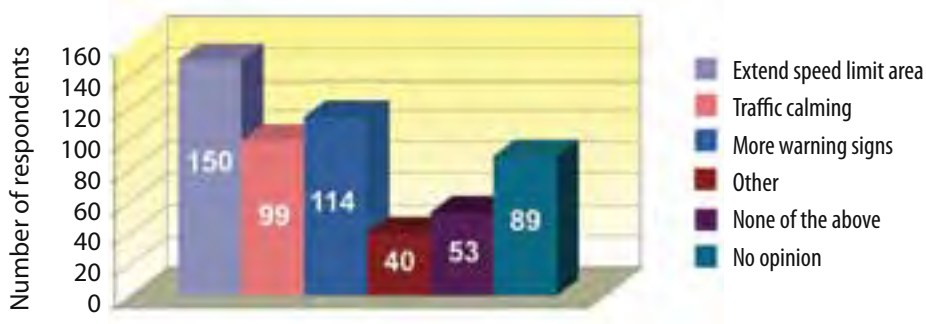
An overwhelming response in support of recycling. Now that the new incineration unit in Allington is operational, we can expect a greater move towards more recycling in Maidstone

## Are the following a problem in Stockbury? (number of responses)



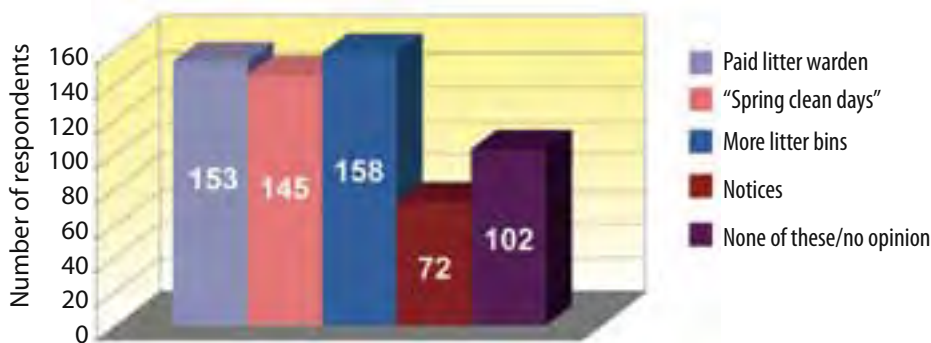
Fly Tipping, speeding traffic and litter are all issues that will need addressing as part of the parish plan

## Do you think that the following speed control measures are necessary in Stockbury? (number of responses)



294 of you responded to this question, with the strongest support for an extension of the current 30mph speed limit area.

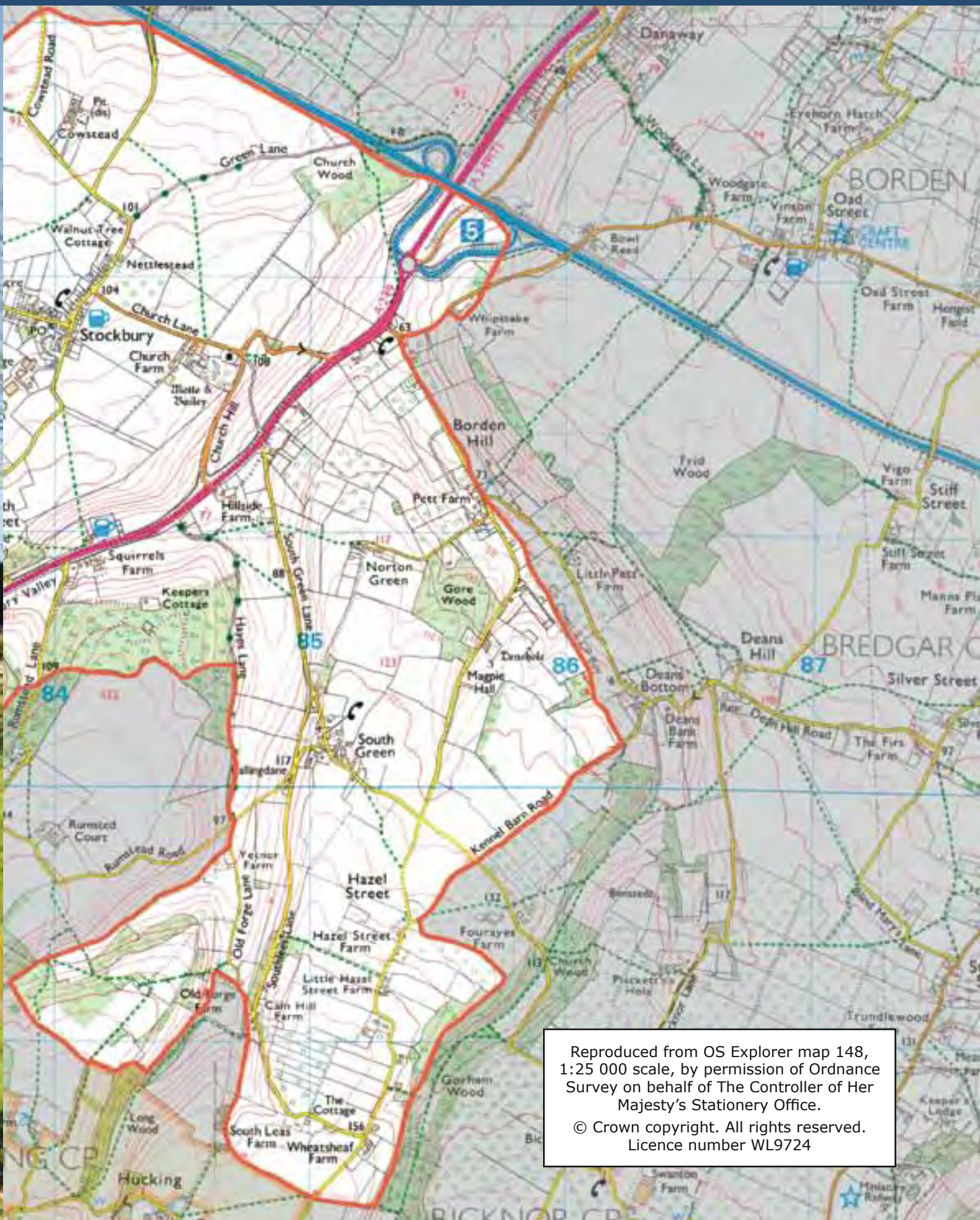
## How do you think that Stockbury should be kept clean and tidy? (number of responses)



There is strong support for measures to keep Stockbury clean and tidy, which need to be addressed as part of the parish plan

# Parish Map





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# STOCKBURY

