

Oswestry Rural Parish Council



'not for self'

Parish Plan Community Survey Analysis Report

May 2014

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Shropshire Rural Community Council**



Oswestry Rural Parish Plan Survey Analysis

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Oswestry Rural Parish Plan Survey Analysis

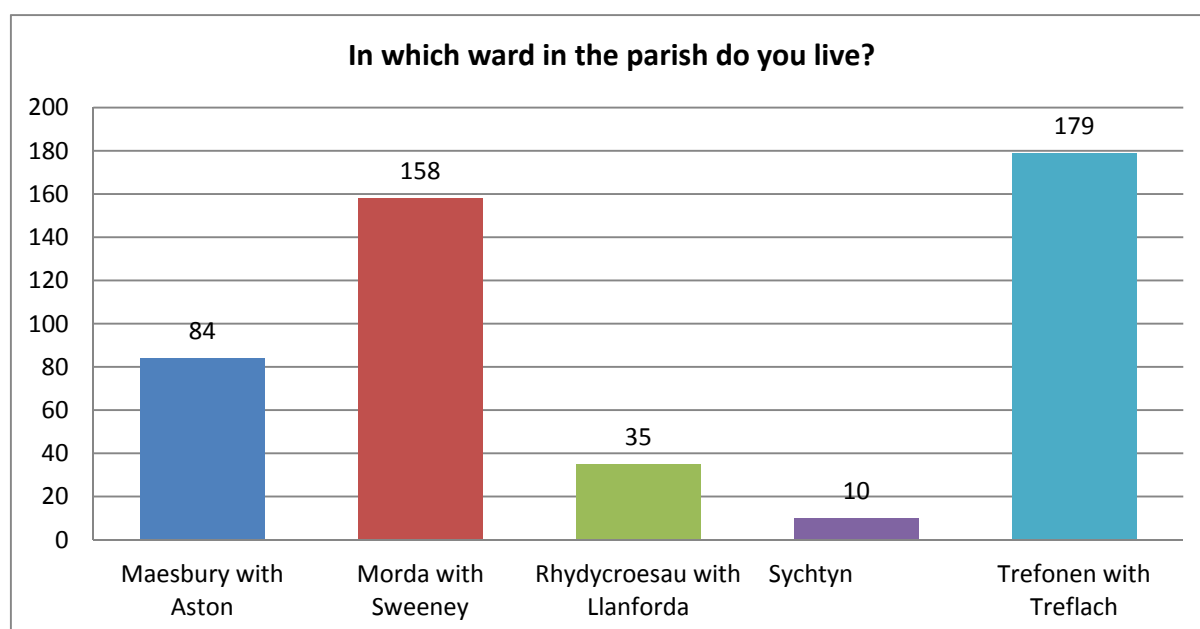
Overview

The data input and data analysis was carried out independently by Maxine Smith, Head of Rural Services, and members of the Rural Services Team at Shropshire Rural Community Council (RCC).

Survey forms were distributed to all households in the parish (1873 households) and 493 responses were received. This equates to a 26.3% response rate.

Unless otherwise stated, where percentages are shown, this relates to the percentage of responses to that particular question, not a percentage of the total survey responses. For example, of the 493 survey respondents, only 449 gave an answer to *question 4 'Do you look at the Oswestry Rural Parish website?'*, so the percentage shown relates to the 449, not the 493.

The parish comprises five wards. Several questions in the survey relate to respondents' views of their ward. The graph below shows the breakdown of respondents according to which ward they live in.



The survey response rates from each ward are as follows:

Ward	Number of surveys distributed	Number of surveys returned	Percentage response rate for the ward
Maesbury with Aston	306	84	27.5%
Morda with Sweeney	871	158	18.1%
Rhydygroesau with Llanforda	99	35	35.4%
Sychtyn	49	10	20.4%
Trefonen with Treflach	548	179	31.3%

Several questions in this survey invited written comments. All comments have been summarised for this report.

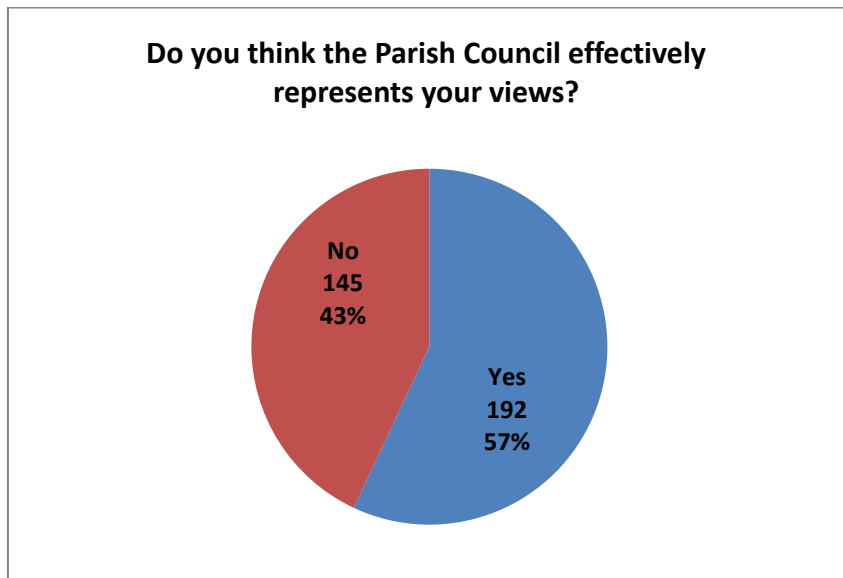
Any comments made within the survey have been reviewed, and anything that identifies an individual, either as having made the comment, or where the comment is directed at a specific person or household, has been removed.

Any comments of an offensive nature, for example containing profanities or racist remarks, have also not been included.

Local Democracy

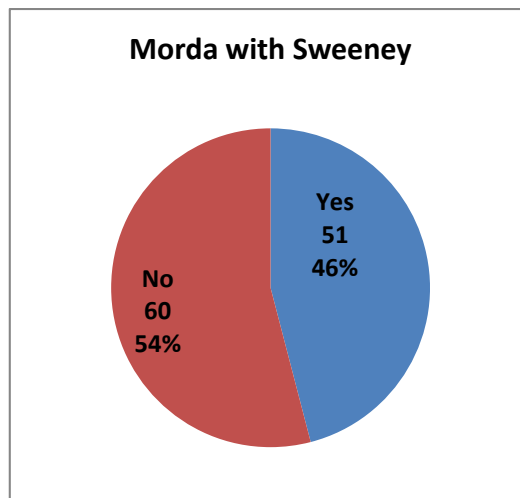
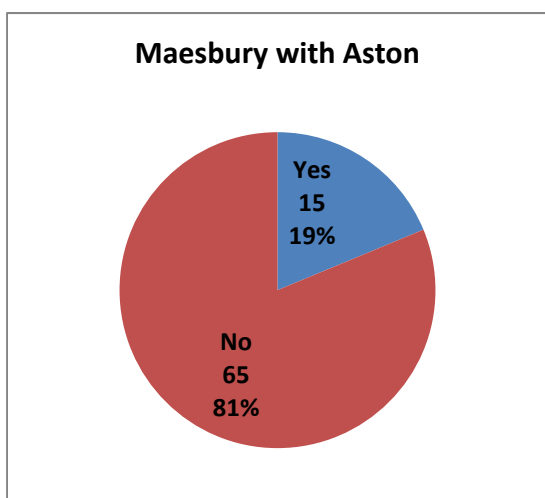
Q2. Do you think the Parish Council effectively represents your views?

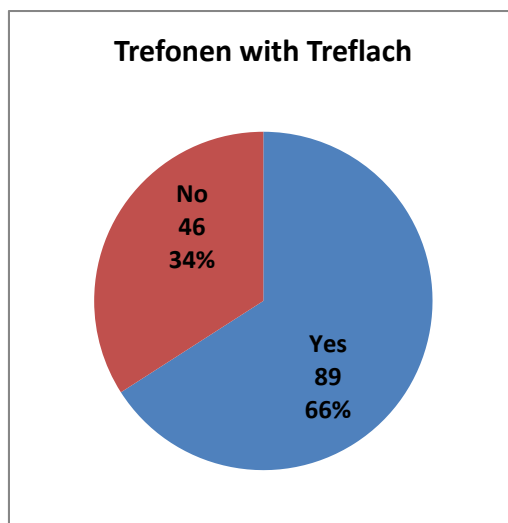
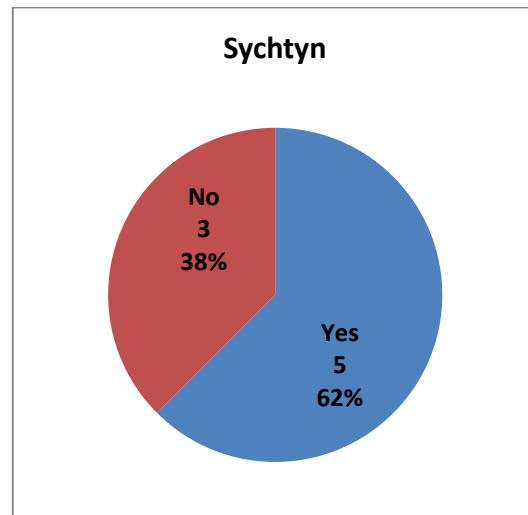
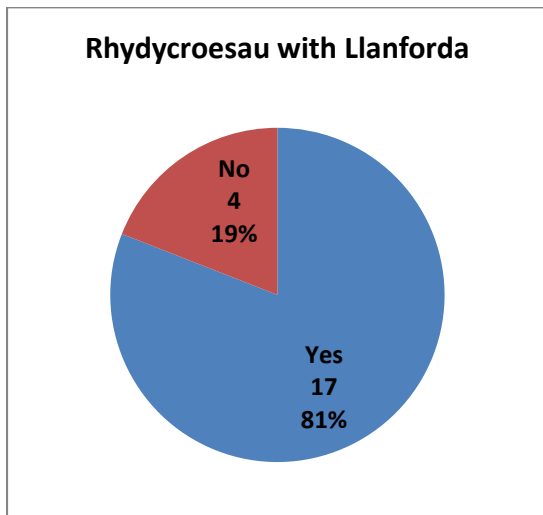
There were 337 responses to this question. Responses to this question indicate that over half of respondents feel the Parish Council effectively represents their views.



However, the degree to which respondents feel the Parish Council effectively represents their views varies significantly depending on the ward in which the respondent lives. Respondents living in Rhydcroesau with Llanforda have a high level of satisfaction, with 81% stating that the Parish Council effectively represents their views. Approximately two thirds of respondents in Trefonen with Treflach and Sychtyn respondents felt the Parish Council effectively represent their views (66% and 62% respectively).

Respondents from Morda with Sweeney were less satisfied, with just under half stating their Parish Council effectively represents their views. Respondents from Maesbury with Aston were least satisfied with how effectively the Parish Council represented their views, with four fifths of respondents answering 'no' to this question.





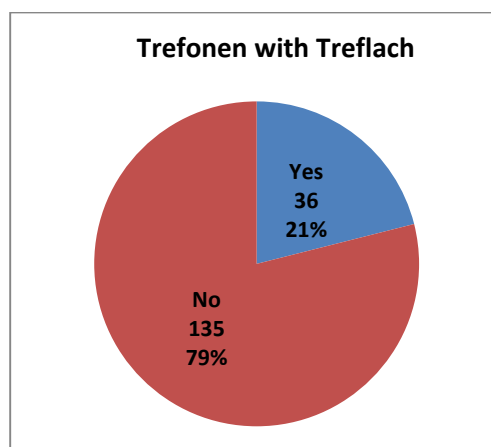
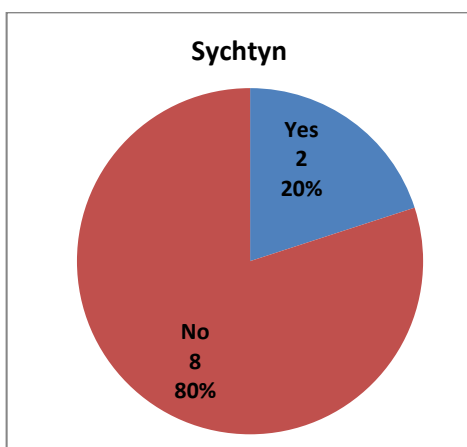
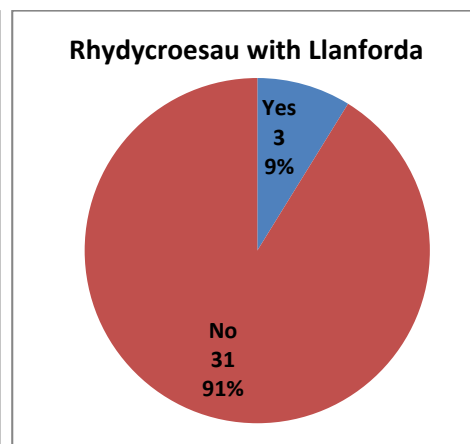
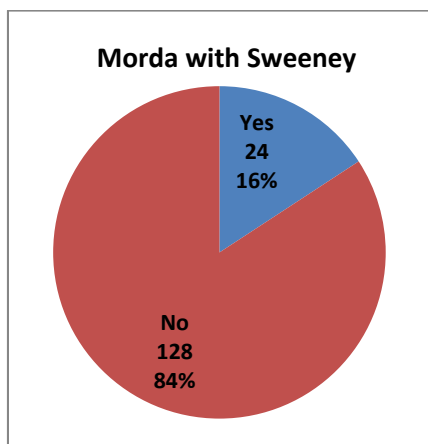
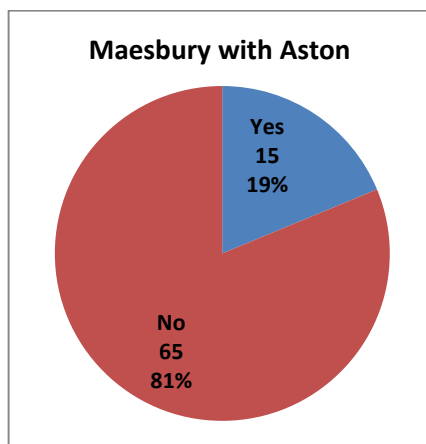
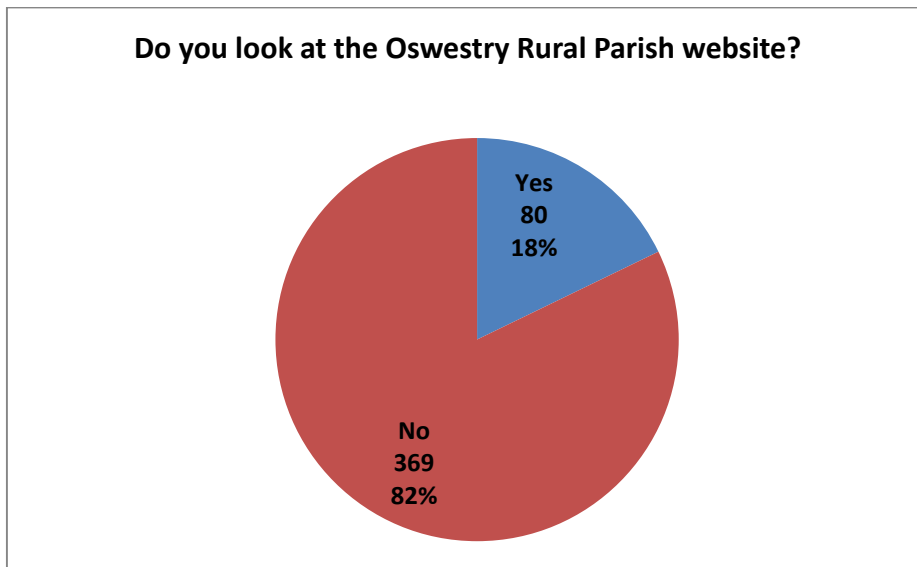
Q3. Please feel free to comment on your answer:

208 responses were received to this question. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
I/we have little or no contact with the Parish Council	42
I/we don't know whether the Parish Council effectively represents our views	39
Shropshire Council holds the power / disregards Parish Council and local views	20
Not given / not aware of opportunities to provide my views to Parish Council	17
Not clear what the Parish Council's views are / their views have not been shared	13
I/we are not interested / have never tried to contact the Parish Council	10
The Parish Council shares our views / acts in our best interests	8
The Parish Council is helpful / responsive	7
When you express your views you often get a negative response / ignored	6
Decisions are made without consultation	6
Information on the website/notice boards is out of date/delayed/insufficient	3
Parish Council have not supported us	3
Parish Council are not representative (including village, age group)	3
I am new to the parish	3
Parish Council meetings are poor / not conducive to resident involvement	2
Opportunities to meet with Parish Council are at wrong time of day / not often enough	2
Parish Council represent your views if you make them known to them	2
Sometimes	2

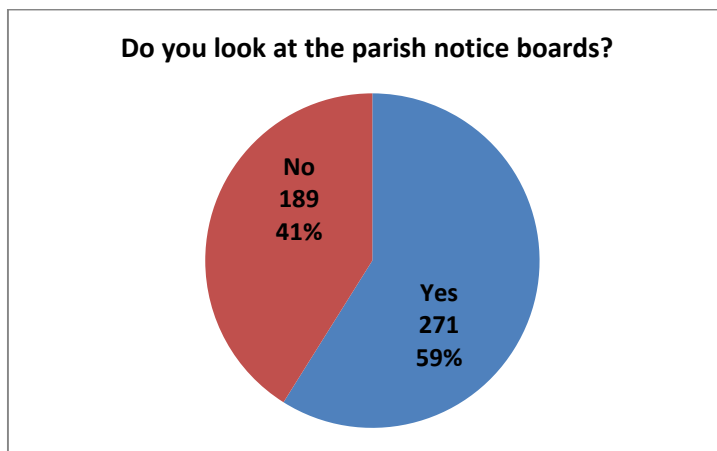
Q4. Do you look at the Oswestry Rural Parish website?

There were 449 responses to this question. Over four fifths of respondents stated that they did not look at the Oswestry Rural Parish website. This varied between wards, with residents of Trefonen with Treflach and Sychtyn more likely to look (21% and 20% respectively) and residents of Rhydycroesau with Llanforda least likely to look (9%).



Q5. Do you look at the parish notice boards?

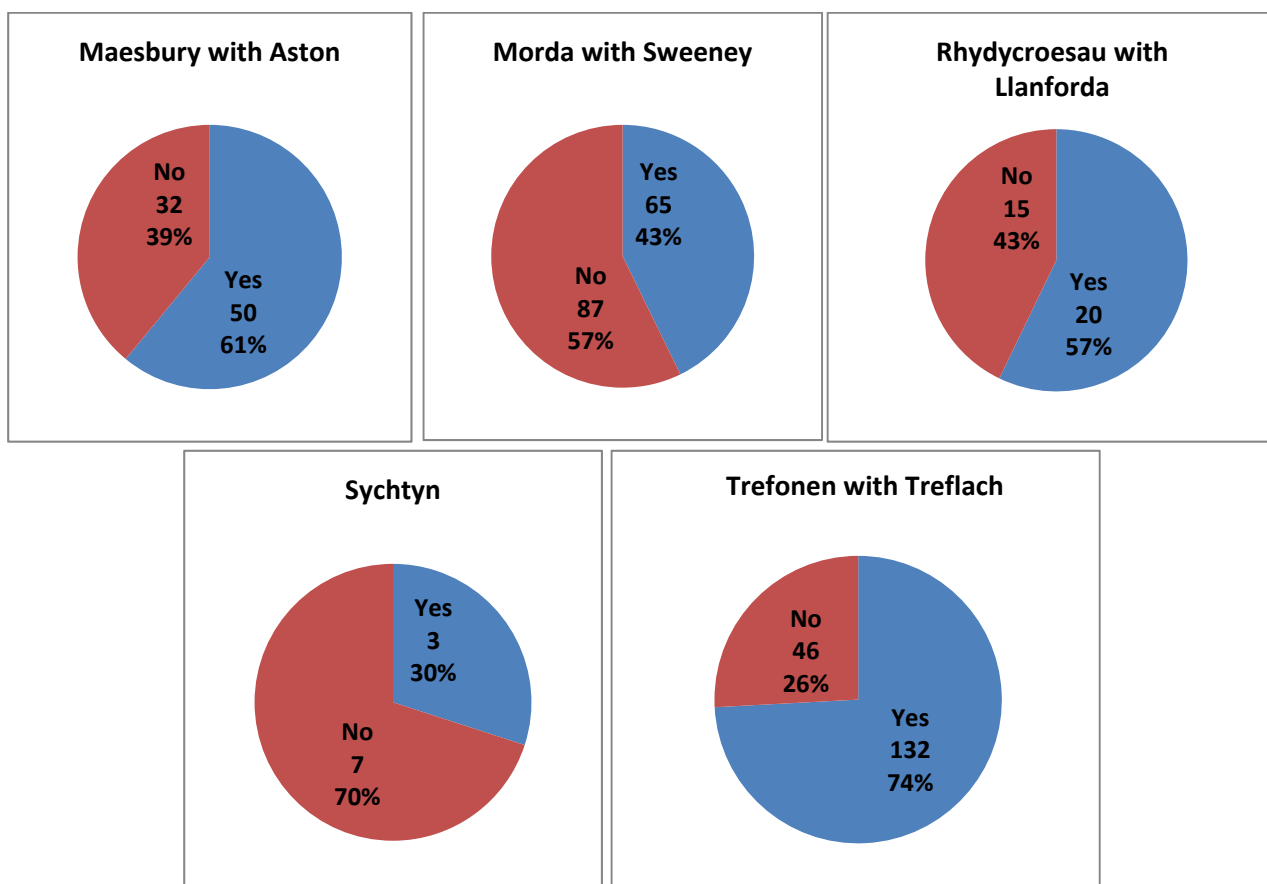
460 people responded to this question. Responses indicate that, on the whole, people look at the parish notice boards. Approximately three fifths of survey respondents said they look at the notice boards.



Use of the parish notice boards varied significantly throughout the parish. Responses from Trefonen with Treflach residents indicate a high level of usage with approximately three quarters of respondents stating that they look at the parish notice boards. Approximately three fifths of respondents in Maesbury with Aston and Rhydycroesau with Llanforda look at parish notice boards (61% and 57% respectively).

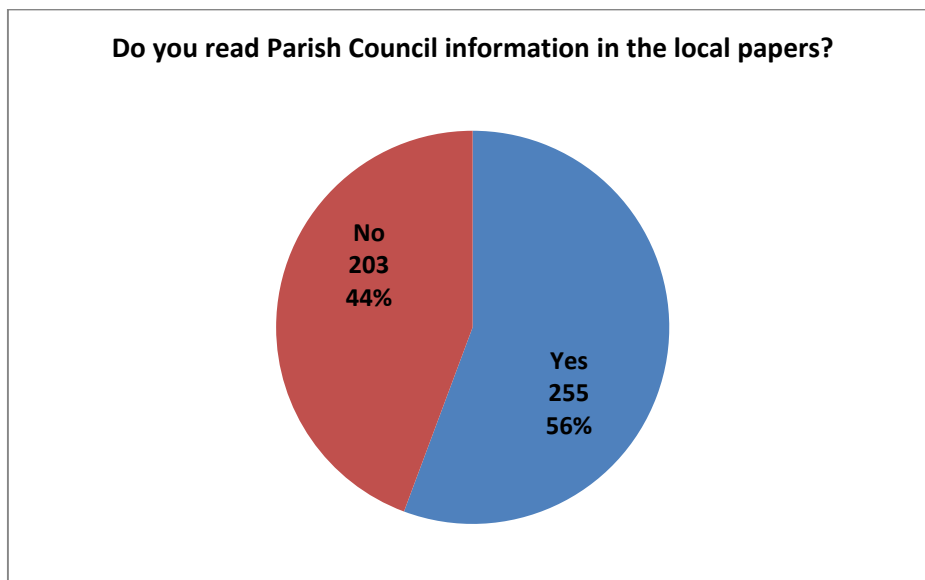
Use of parish notice boards is lower in Morda with Sweeney at just over two fifths.

Less than one third of respondents from Sychtyn look at the parish notice boards.

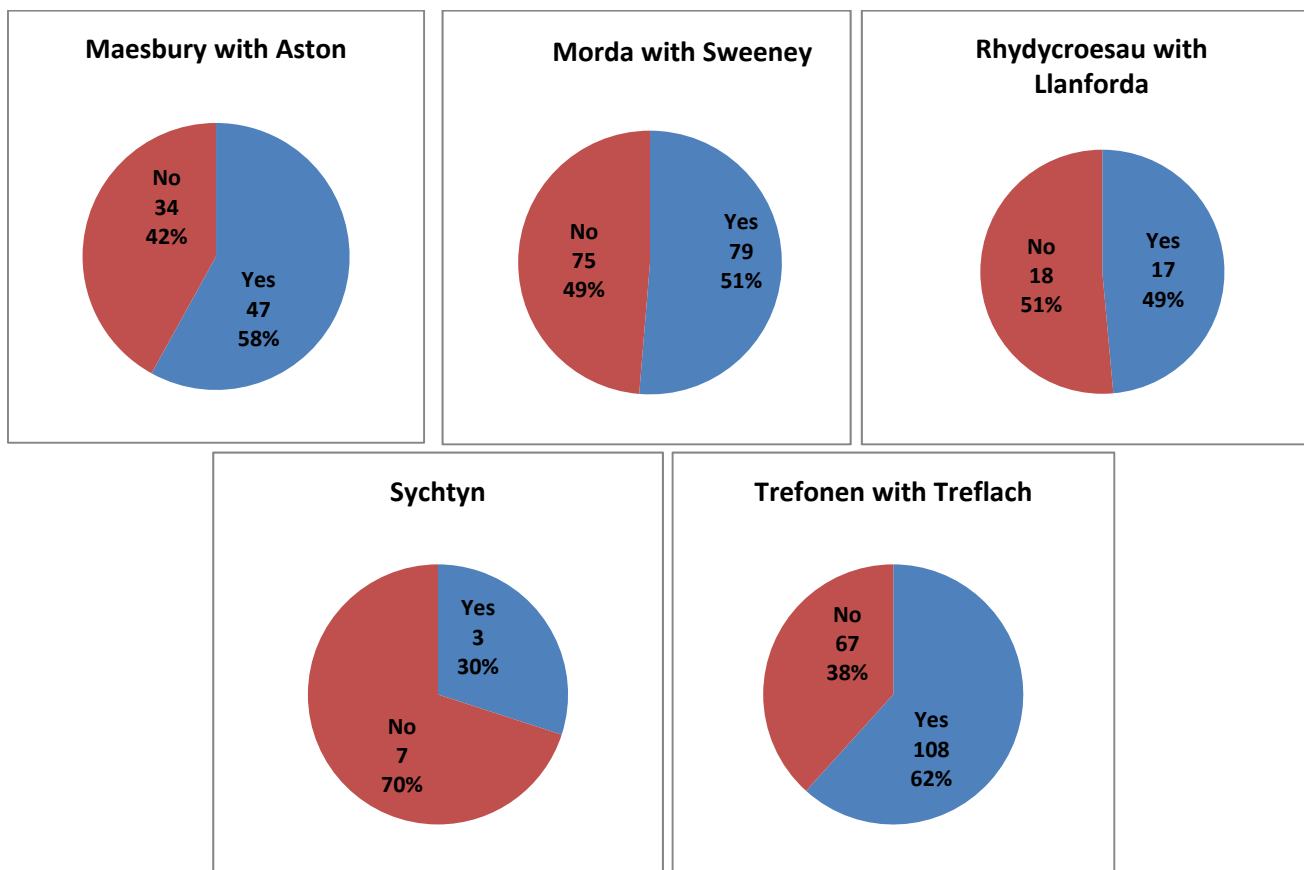


Q6. Do you read Parish Council information in the local papers?

458 people responded to this question. Responses indicate that over half of respondents read Parish Council information in the local paper. This figure is consistent with national figures on local newspaper readership. National research by Ipsos MORI on behalf of Ofcom indicates that half of people in the UK read a local newspaper at least once a week (Ofcom, News consumption in the UK, 2013)



There are differences between the wards in Oswestry Rural parish. With slightly more respondents from Trefonen with Treflach and Maesbury with Aston reading Parish Council information than the other wards.

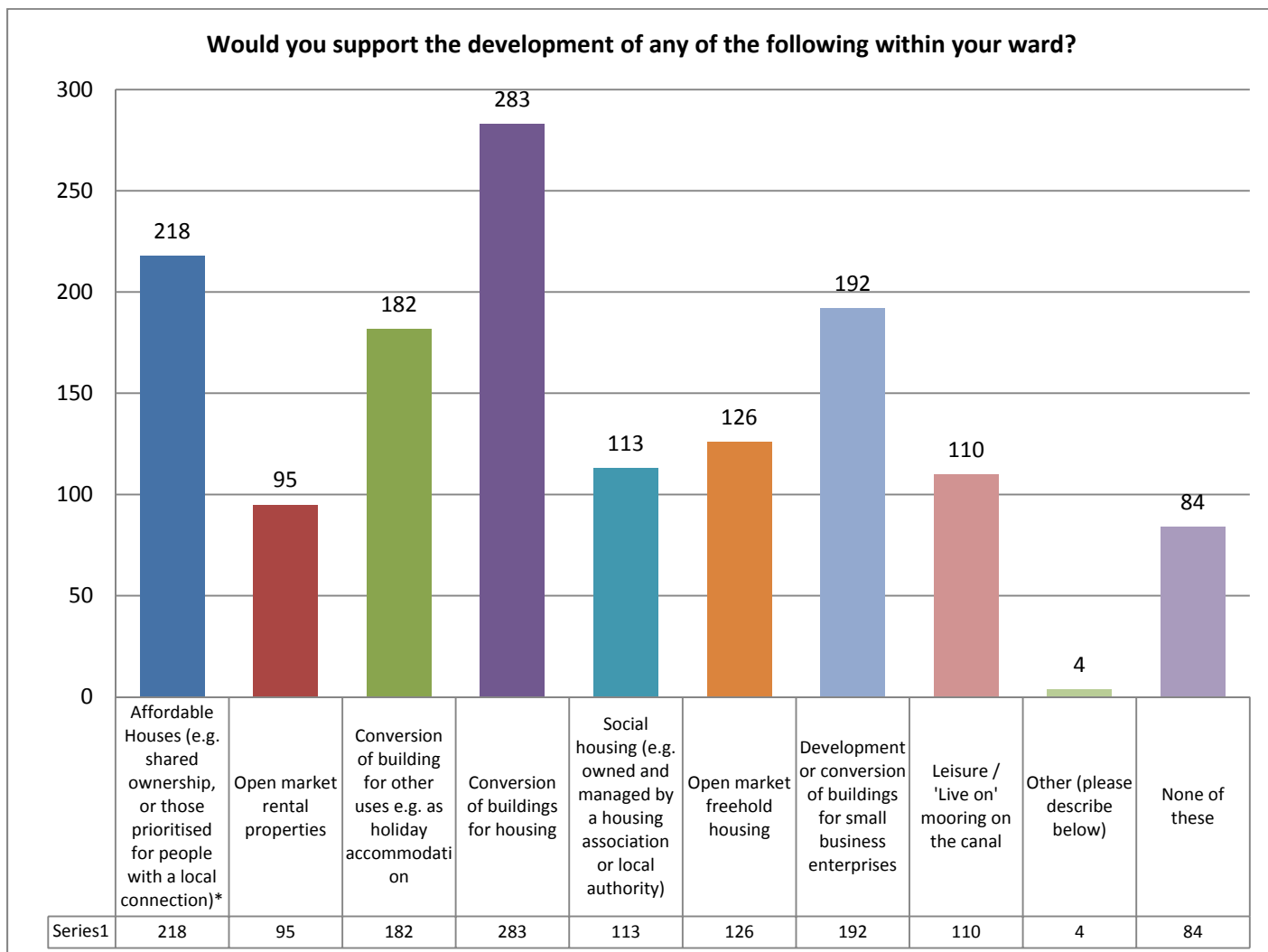


Housing

Q7. Would you support the development of any of the following within your ward?

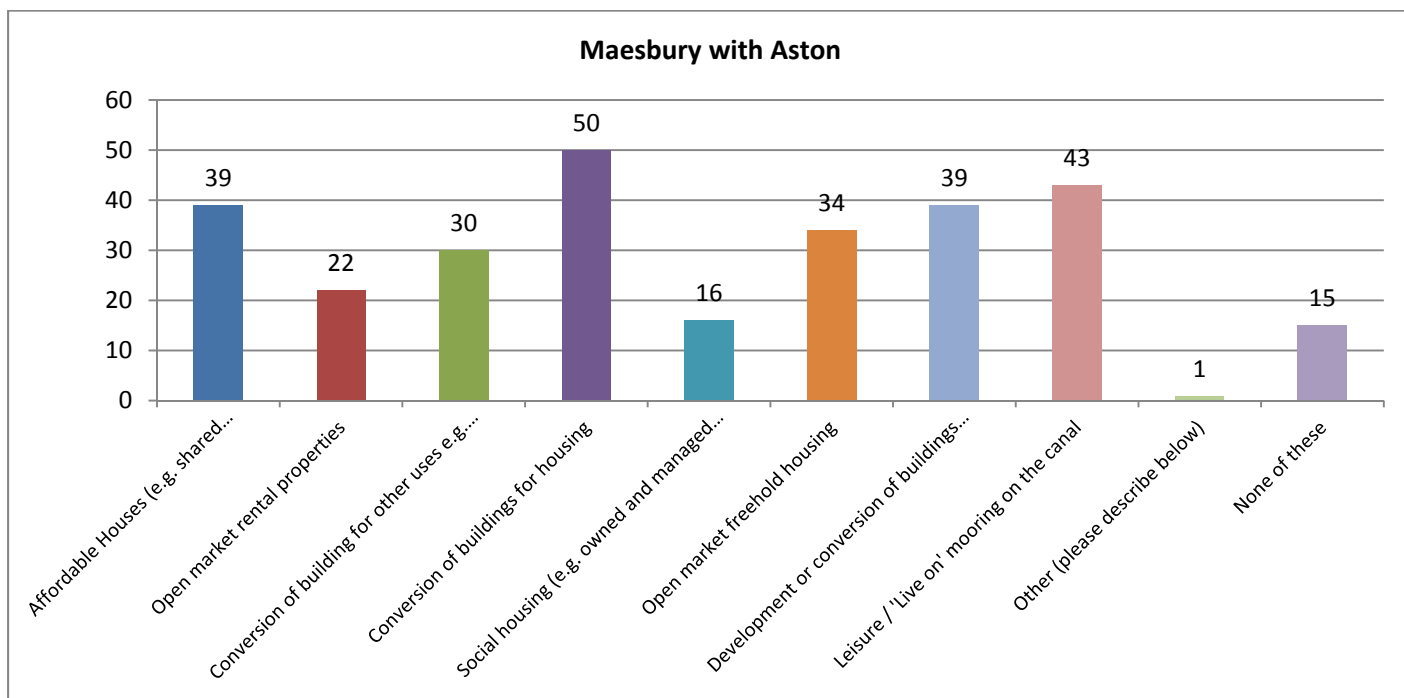
Responses from across the ward indicate greatest support for:

- conversion of buildings for housing (57% of survey respondents),
- affordable housing (44% of survey respondents),
- development or conversion of buildings for small business enterprises (39% of survey respondents) and
- conversion of buildings for other uses (37% of survey respondents)

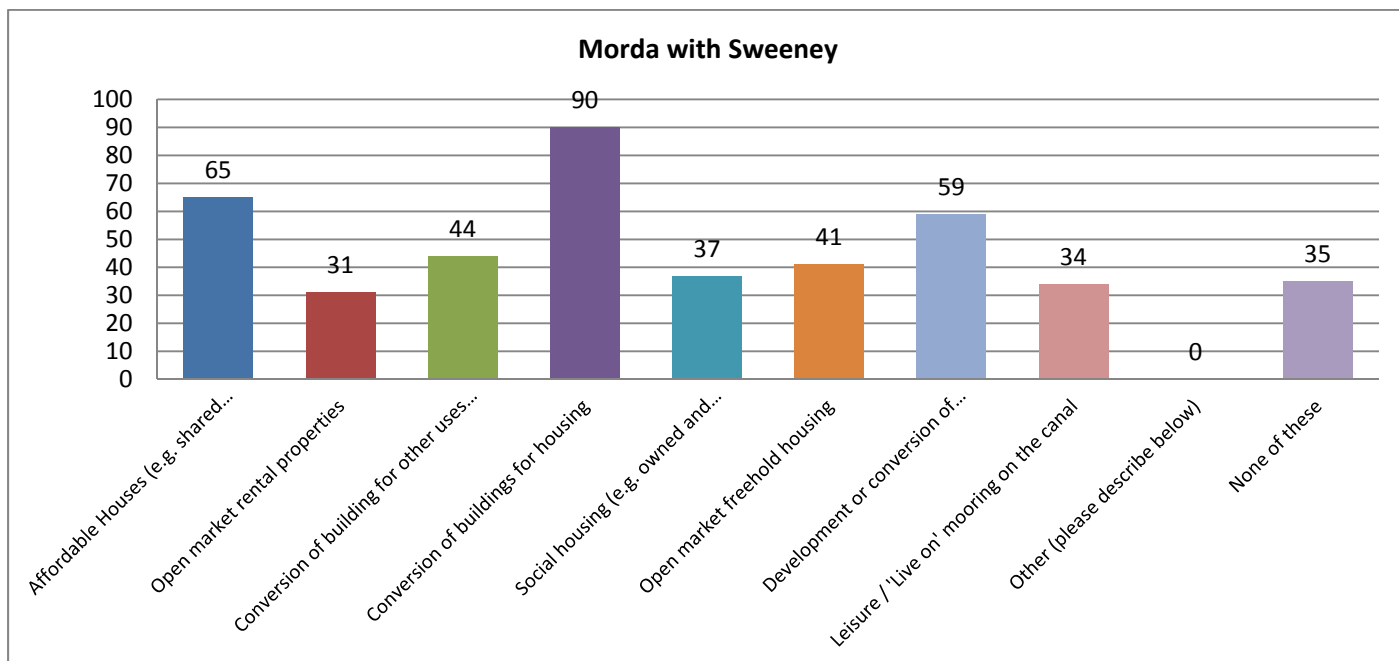


Views on these developments differed slightly between the wards.

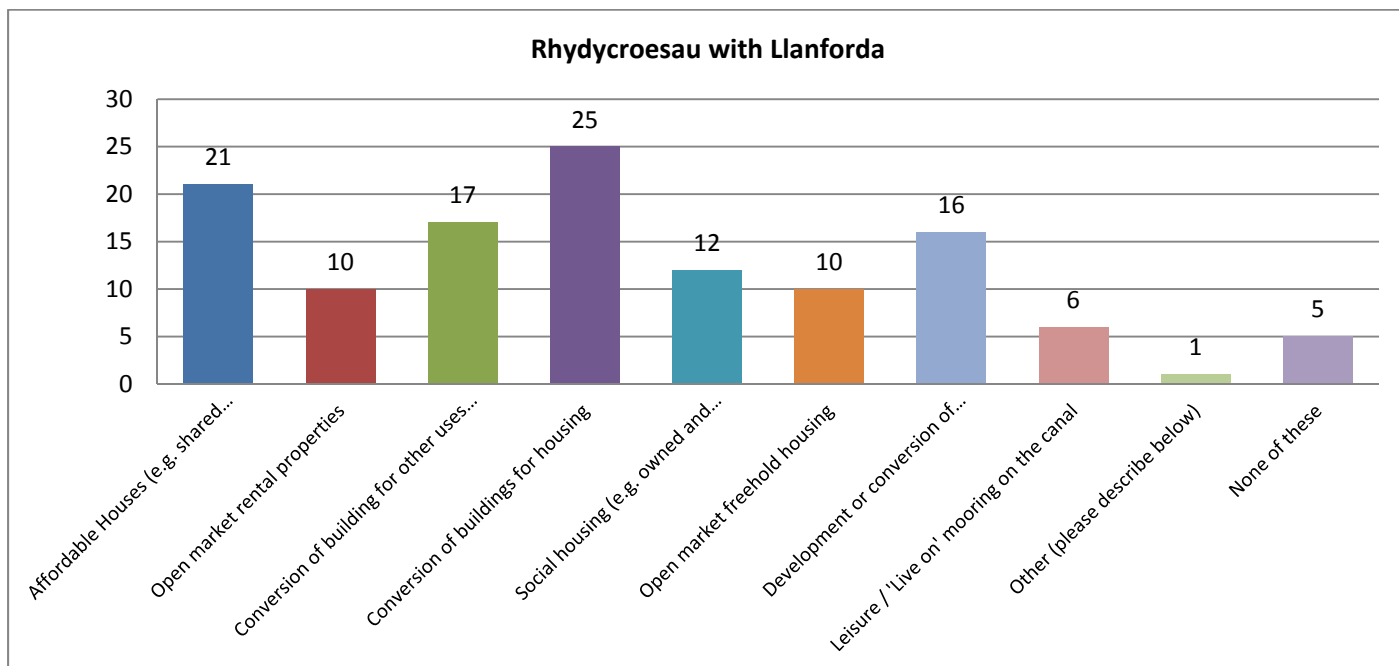
In Maesbury with Aston, responses were more evenly distributed. Conversion of buildings for housing remained the most popular response. However 'leisure/ 'live on' mooring on the canal was the next popular response, followed by affordable housing and development/conversion of buildings for small enterprise businesses. Open market freehold housing was popular compared to the total responses to this category from the whole parish.



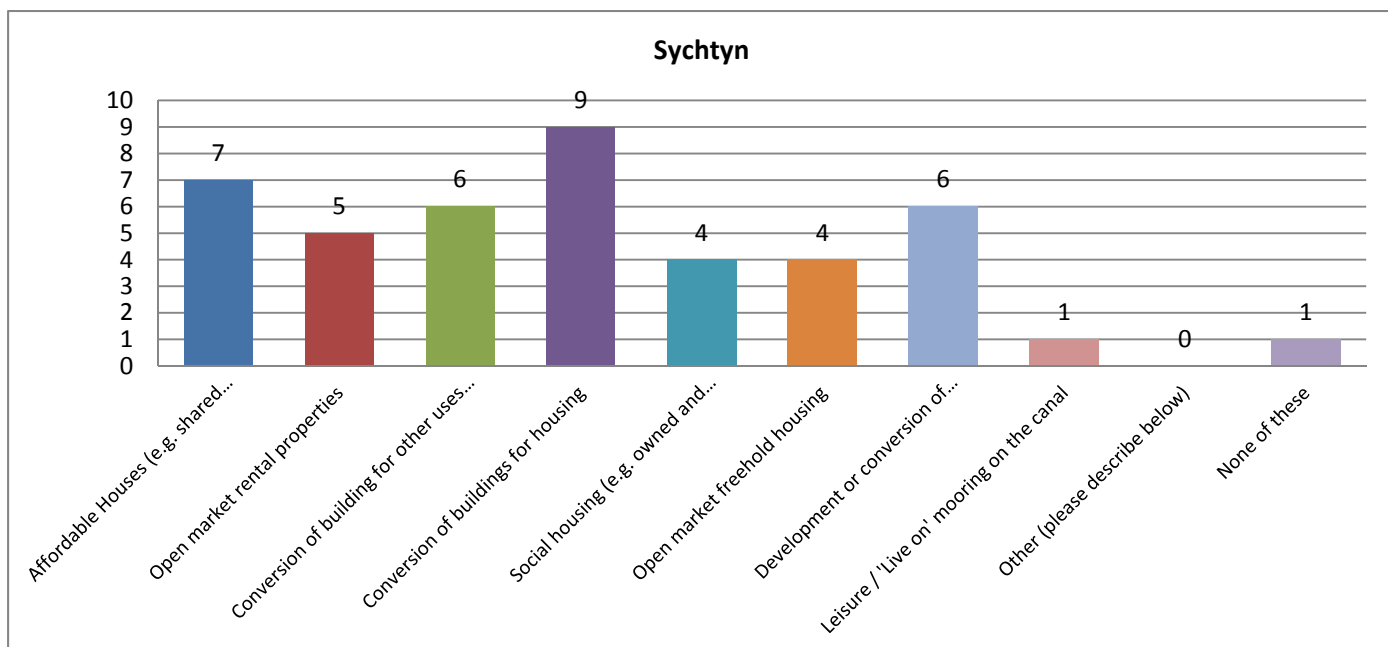
In Morda with Sweeney, conversion of buildings for housing remained the most popular response, followed by affordable housing and development/conversion of buildings for small enterprise businesses.



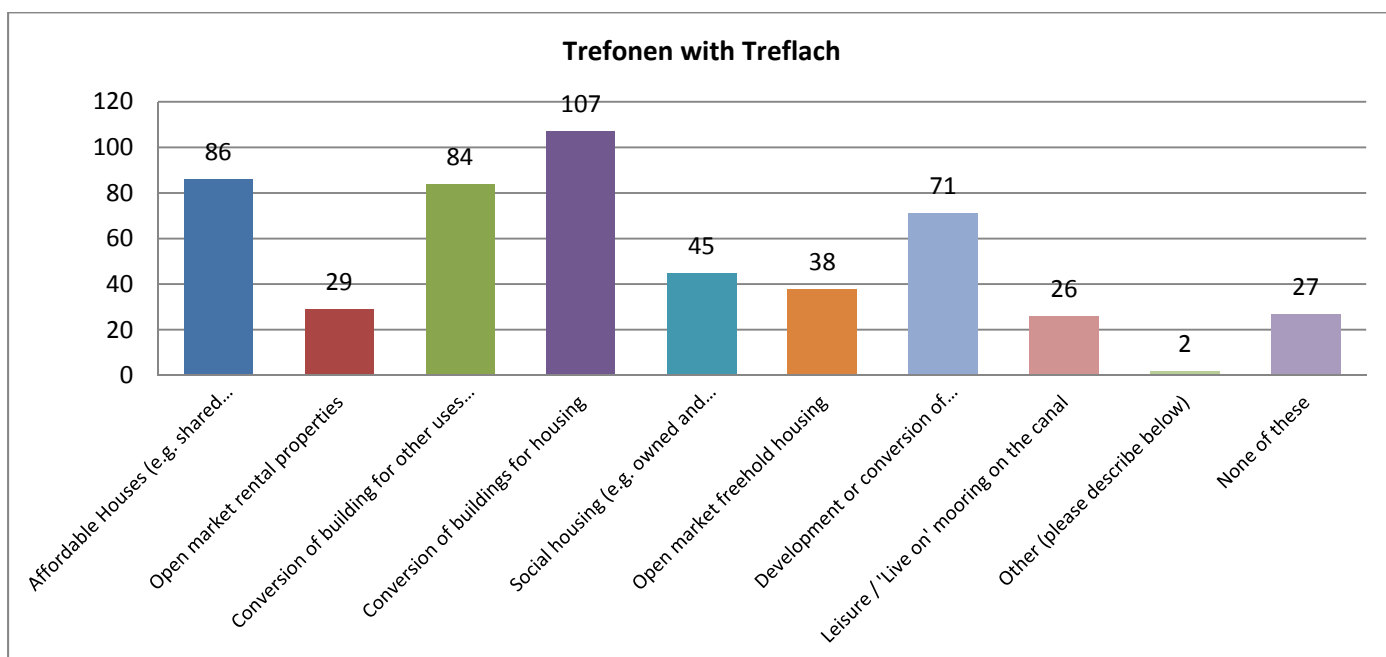
In Rhydygroesau with Llanforda, conversion of buildings for housing remained the most popular response, followed by affordable housing conversion of buildings for other uses and development/conversion of buildings for small enterprise businesses.



In Sychtyn, conversion of buildings for housing remained the most popular response, followed by affordable housing conversion of buildings for other uses and development/conversion of buildings for small enterprise businesses.



In Trefonen with Treflach conversion of buildings for housing remained the most popular response, followed by affordable housing conversion of buildings for other uses and development/conversion of buildings for small enterprise businesses.



Q8. Please feel free to comment on your answer:

193 responses were received for this question. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
There has been too much development already / we don't want to become an extension of Oswestry	46
Single dwellings / very small scale development is OK to meet need	27
The infrastructure cannot cope with more development	25
More affordable housing needed for local residents (older, young, disabled)	20
Development on brownfield sites / conversions / infill is acceptable	14
No more housing is needed	10
Facilities will be lost / threatened if we don't have some further development	6
No more social housing	5
No development on 'green' sites	5
Village design / character / history needs to be taken into account / protected	4
Development of canal	3
No industrial / business development	3
Further development is a danger to water table / flood risk	3
Cheaper housing needed for first time buyers	2
Shropshire Council views appear to take priority over local need	2
Any new housing should be built to high environmental standards	2

Q9. Are there any sites that you would like to see protected from development? E.g. canal corridor, open countryside, etc

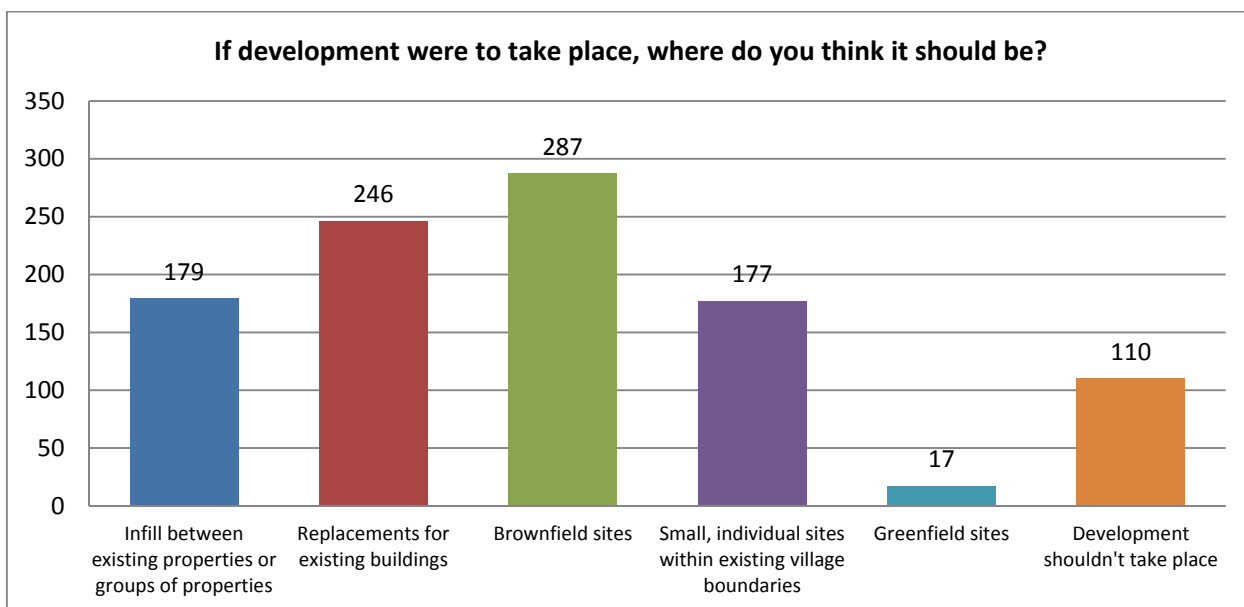
298 responses were received for this question. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
Open countryside / farm land / woodland	188
Canal / canal corridor	42
Sites of historical / archaeological interest (inc Offa's Dyke, Racecourse, Oswestry Hill Fort)	27
Green belt between Oswestry and rural settlements	19
Flood plains (eg Maesbury Marsh)	13
Footpaths and rights of way	3
No / none	3
Land outside of existing village perimeters	2

Q10. If development were to take place, where do you think it should be?

Respondents from across the parish mainly supported development of brownfield sites and replacement for existing buildings. Just under three fifths of survey respondents (58%) felt that if development were to take place it should be on brownfield sites, whilst half felt that any development should take the place of existing buildings.

There was very limited support for building on greenfield sites. 17 of the 493 survey respondents felt that if development were to take place it should be on greenfield sites. This represents 3.5%.

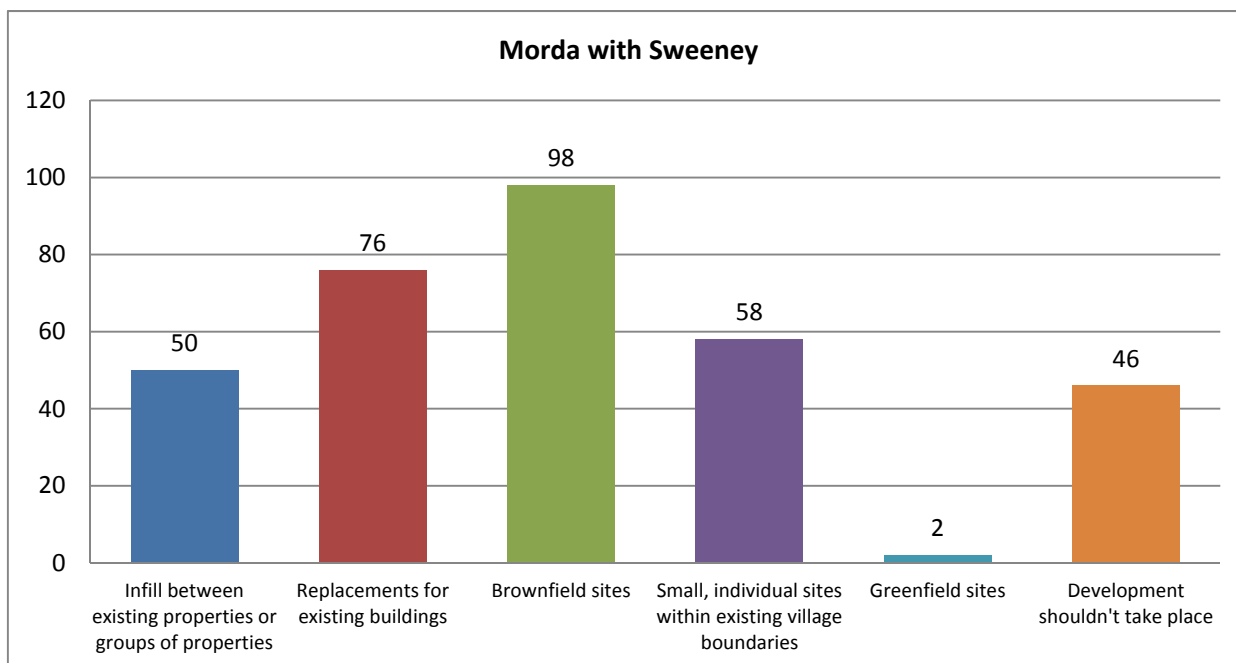


Views within the different wards followed a similar trend to the total responses.

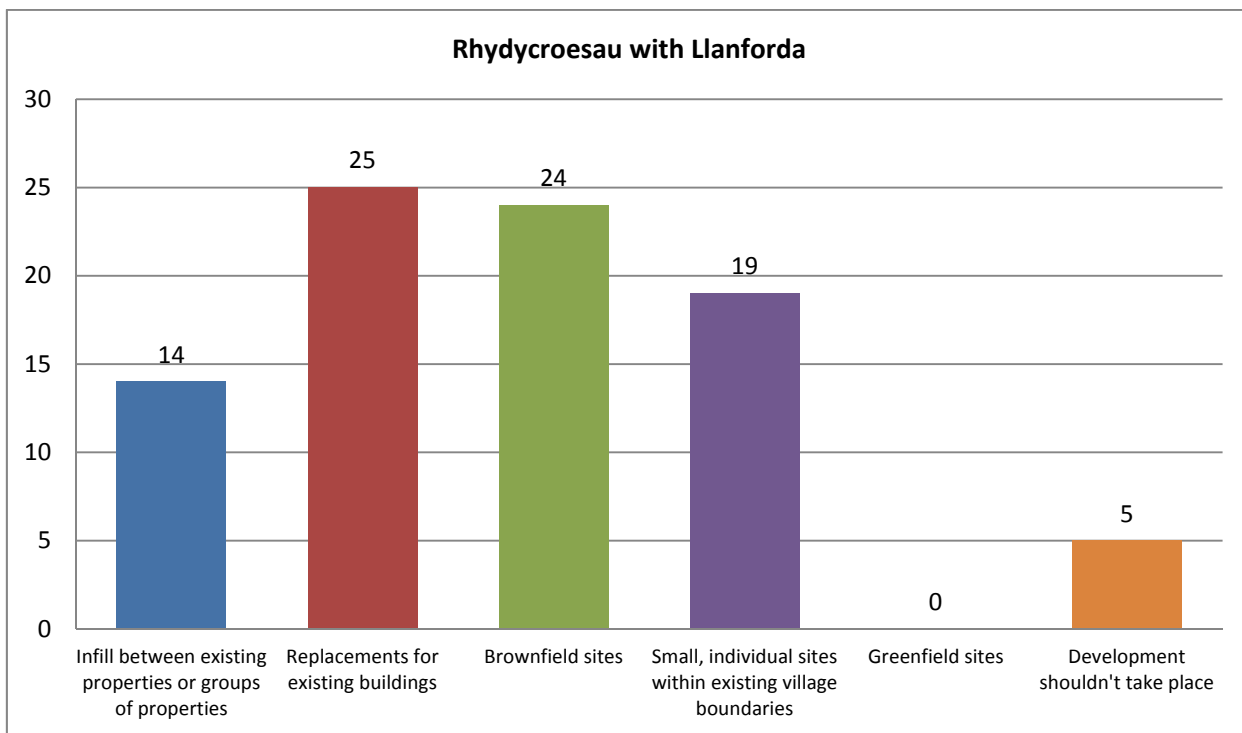
Maesbury with Aston responses were distributed slightly more evenly between categories. Among Maesbury with Aston, brownfield sites and replacement for existing buildings were most popular, but there also tended to be greater support for infill between properties and for small individual sites than across the parish as a whole.



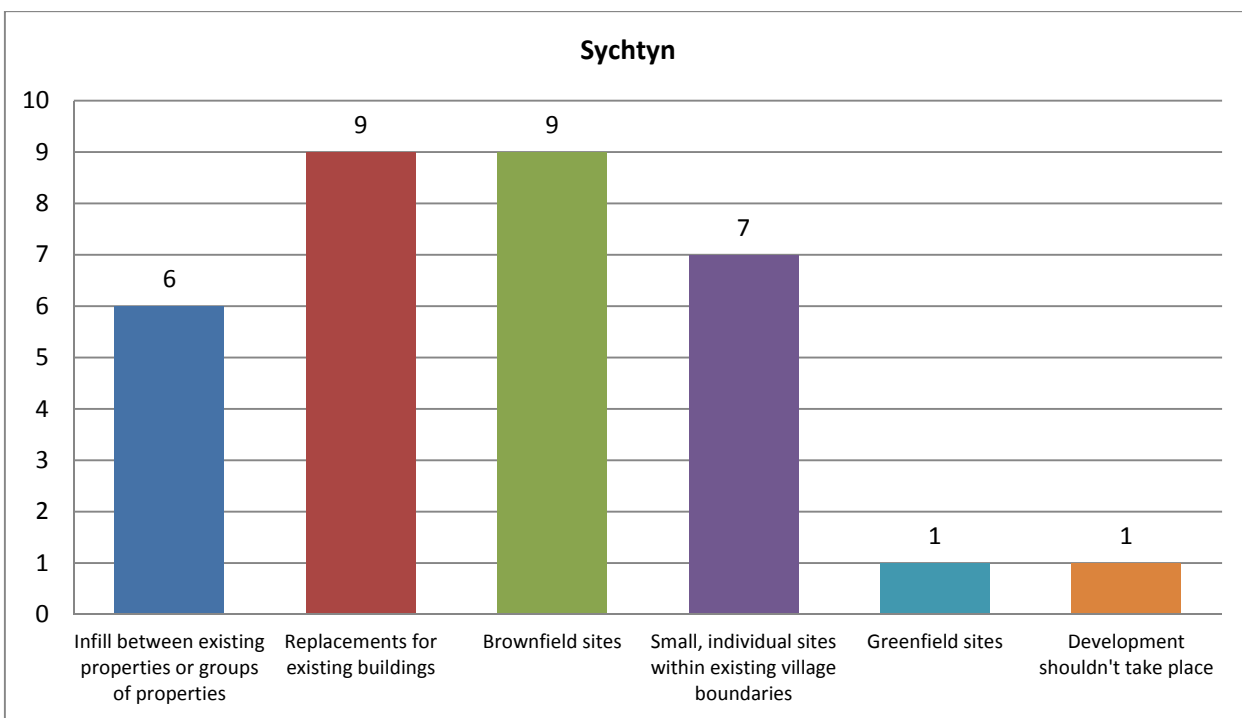
Responses from Morda with Sweeney mirrored those from the whole parish, with brownfield sites and replacement for existing buildings proving most popular.



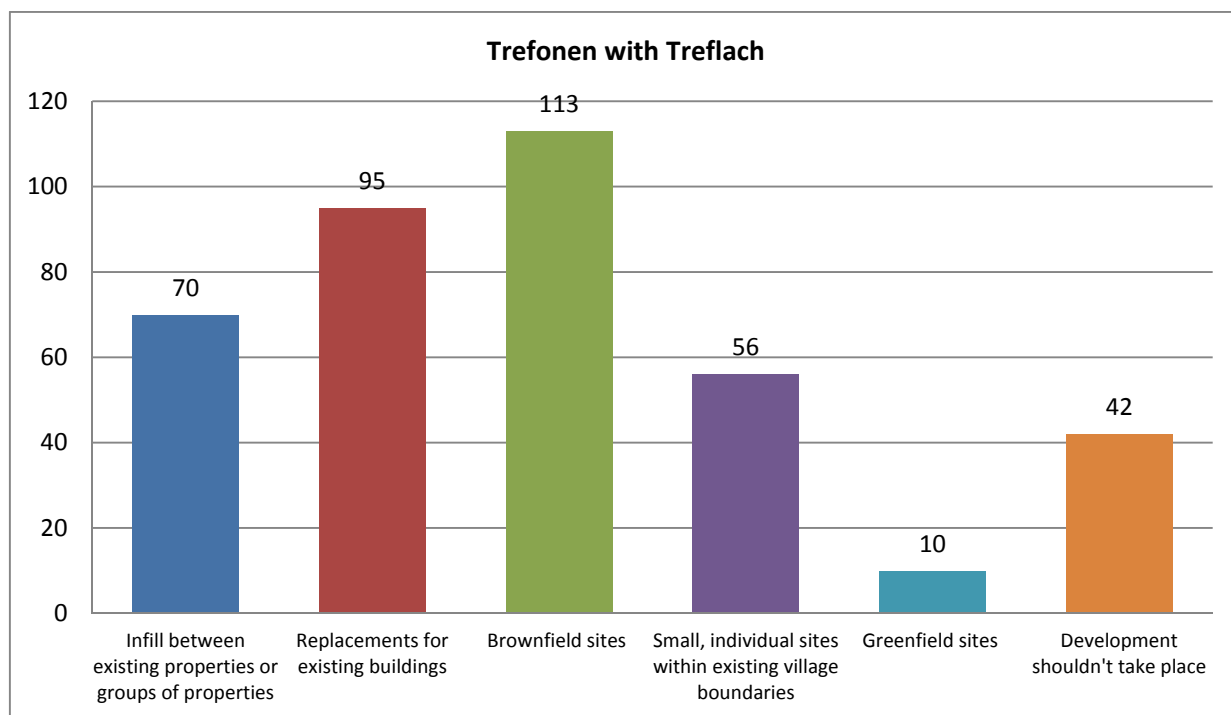
In Rhydygroesau with Llanforda replacement for existing buildings was most popular followed by brownfield sites and small individual sites within existing village boundaries.



In Sychtyn, most responses focused on replacement for existing buildings and brownfield sites.



In Trefonen with Treflach responses mirrored those from the whole parish, with brownfield sites and replacement for existing buildings proving most popular



Q11. Please feel free to comment on your answer:

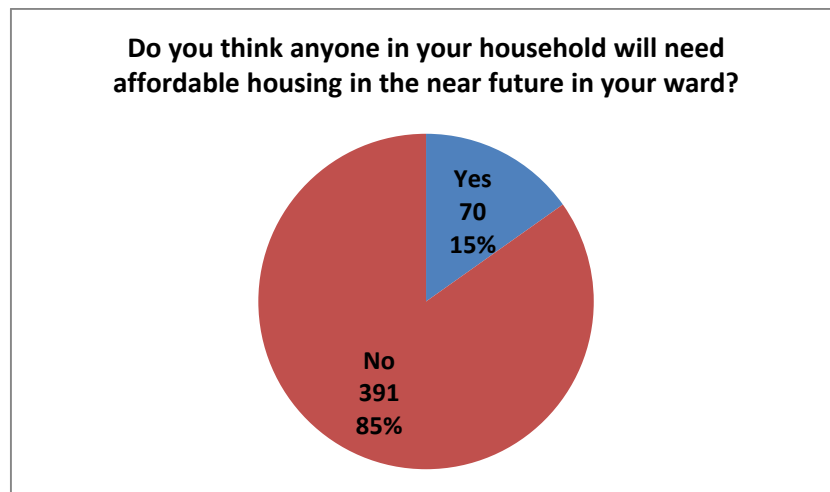
112 responses were received for this question. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
Not on greenfield land / protect the landscape	23
Use existing developed sites / convert derelict sites	14
Infill developments can be detrimental (spoils appearances, makes villages part of towns)	9
Build on brownfield sites	9
Development should be sympathetic to existing village look / feel	8
Already enough development	8
Permit only small scale development / individual sites / not 'estates'	8
Pressure on existing facilities / infrastructure	6
Infill only	5
Stop 'garden grabbing'	3
Is there a need? / there are unsold properties on the market in the parish	3
Judge each development on individual merit	2
Maesbury school?	2

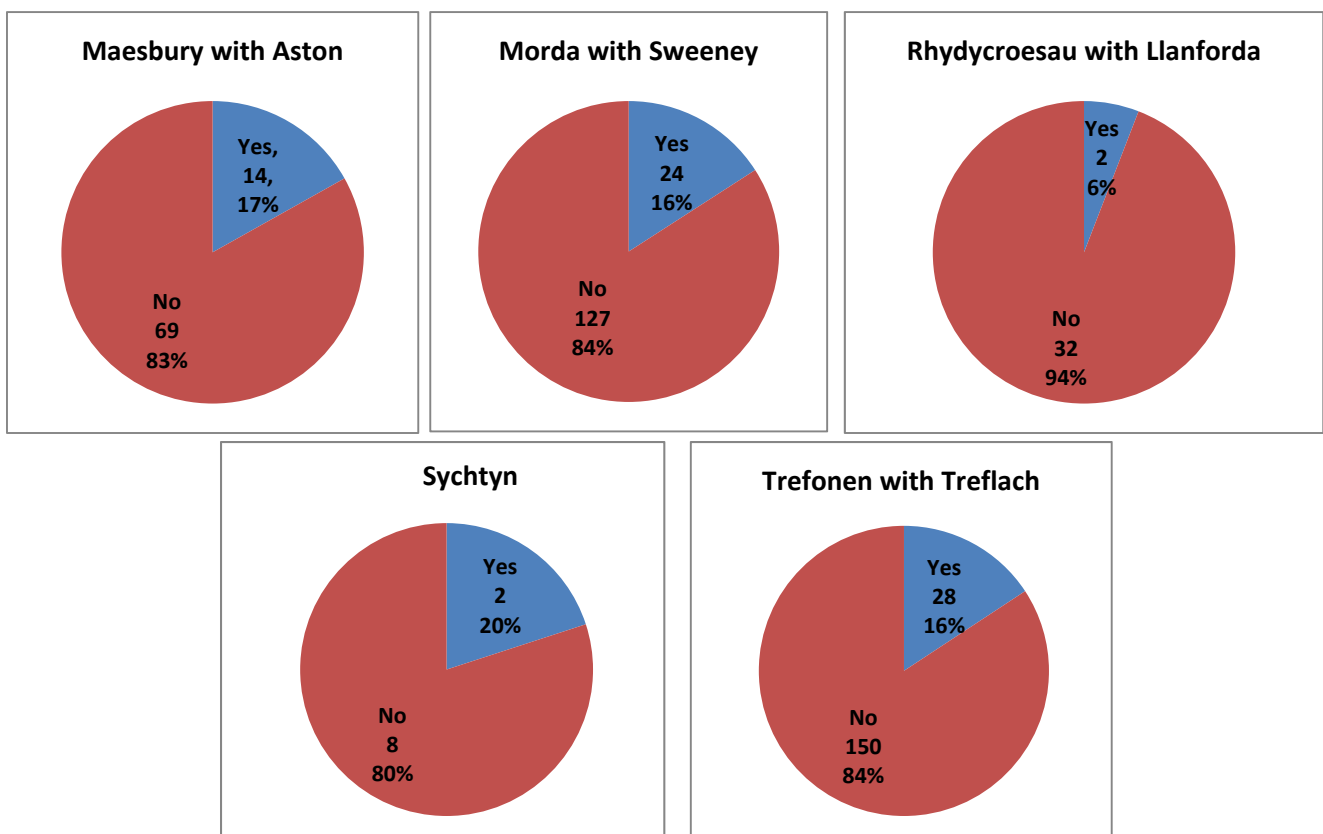
Q12. Do you think anyone in your household will need affordable housing in the near future in your ward?

Across the parish, most respondents (85%) did not feel anyone in the household would need affordable housing in the near future.

15% of respondents felt that someone in their household will need affordable housing in the near future. According to information from the 2011 Census, 10.7% of Oswestry Rural residents live in 'social housing', compared to 77% privately owned. Given these Census figures, the 15% of households across the ward which contain someone who may need affordable housing could indicate an unmet need.

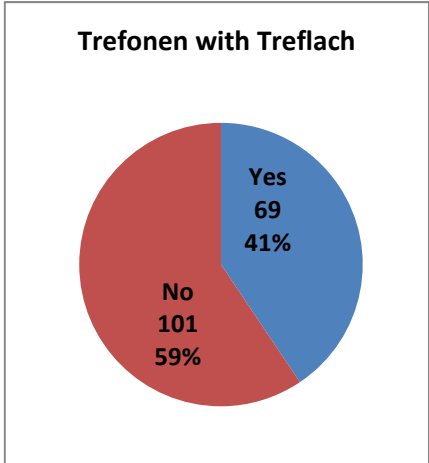
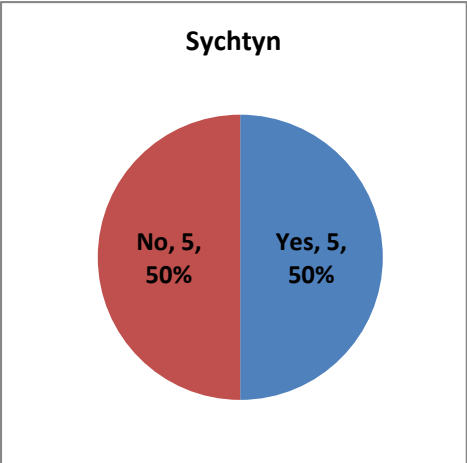
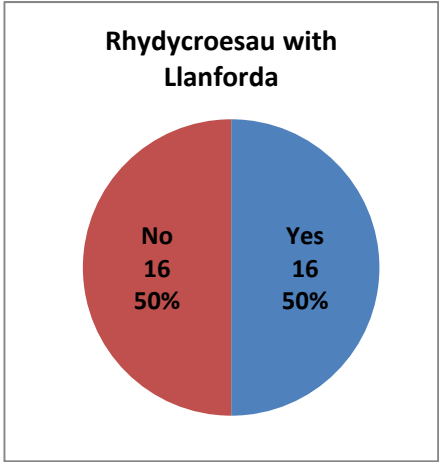
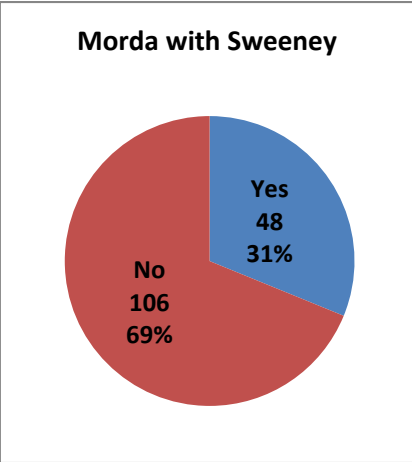
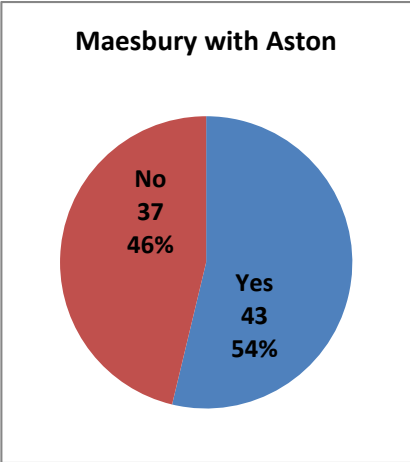
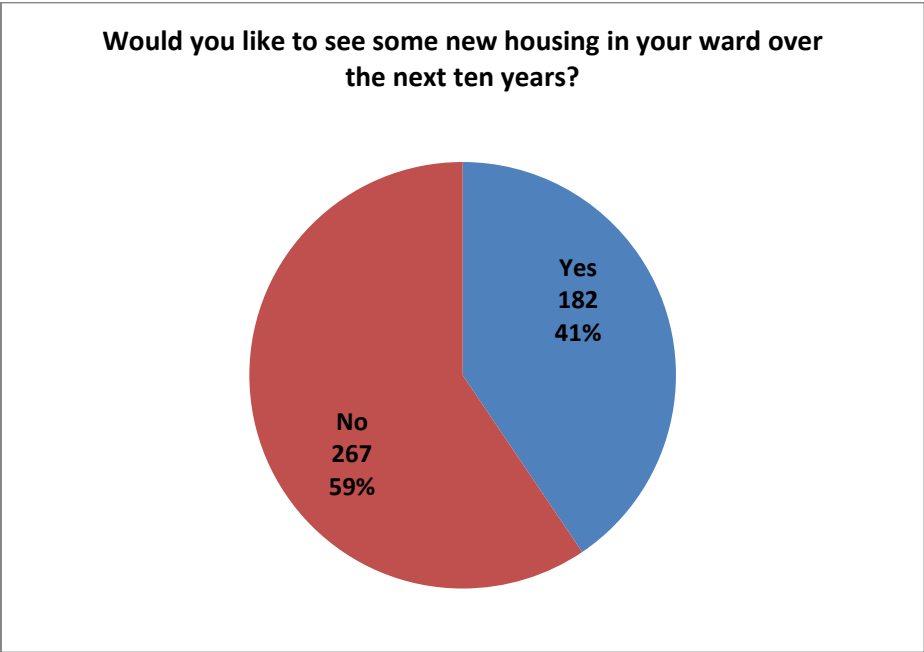


Throughout the wards, this figure varied slightly between 17% of respondent households in Maesbury with Aston needing affordable housing, down to 6% of Rhydygroesau with Llanforda respondents.



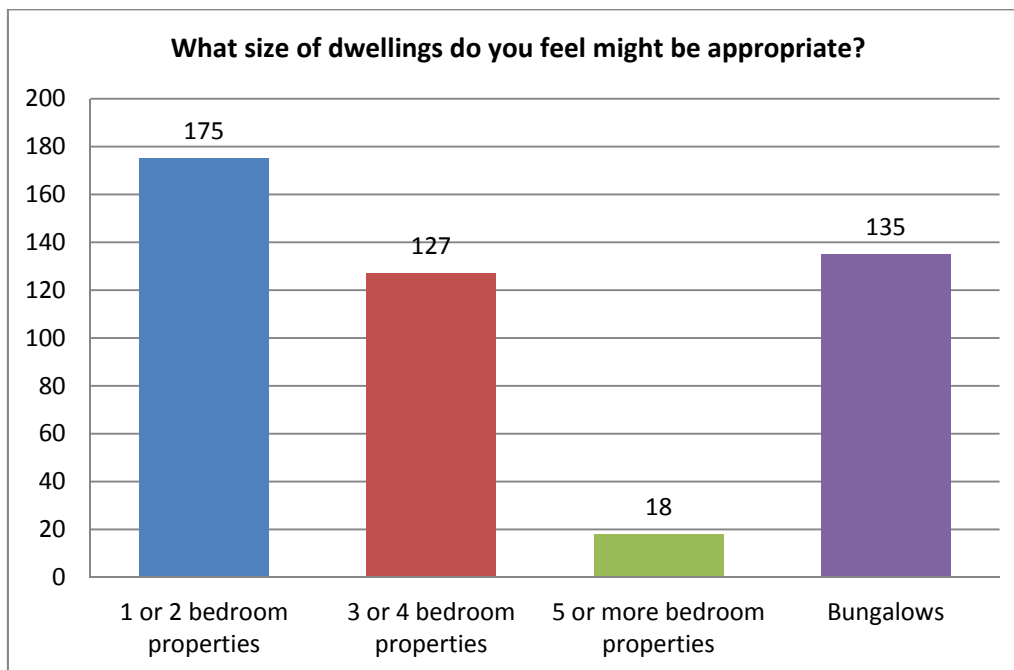
Q13. Would you like to see some new housing in your ward over the next ten years?

Across the parish, approximately three fifths of respondents did not wish to see new housing in their ward during the next ten years. This varies across the different wards. Respondents from Maesbury with Aston were most likely to support new housing (54%), with respondents from Morda with Sweeney least likely to support new housing (31%).



Q14. What size of dwellings do you feel might be appropriate?

Across the parish, respondents felt that one to two bedroom properties were the most appropriate size of dwellings (35% of survey respondents), followed by bungalows (27%) and 3 to 4 bedroom properties (26%). Larger properties were less popular, with 3.5% of survey respondents feeling that properties with 5 or more bedrooms are appropriate.



Across the different wards, respondents continued to feel that 1 to 2 bedroom properties were the most appropriate size of dwelling. There were some differences in the breakdown of responses.

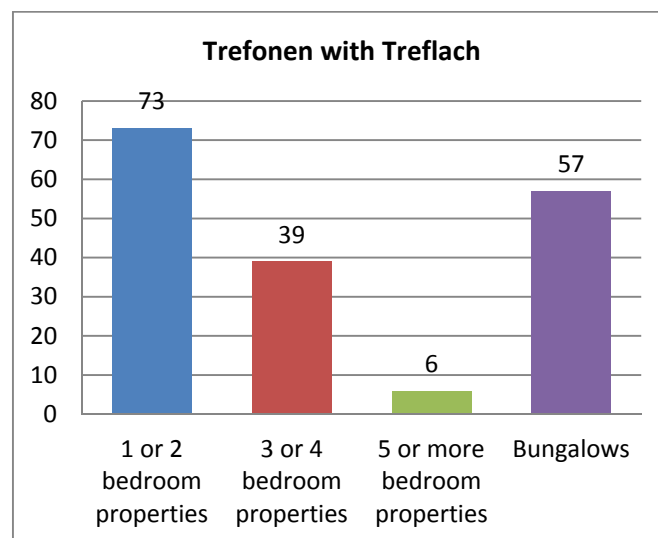
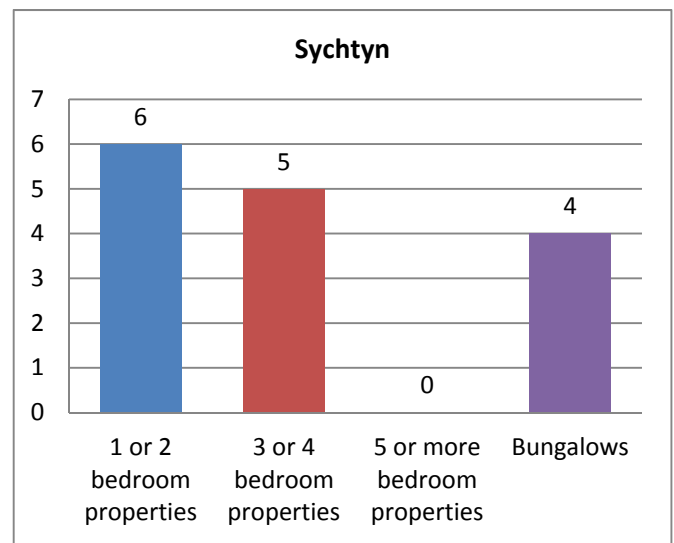
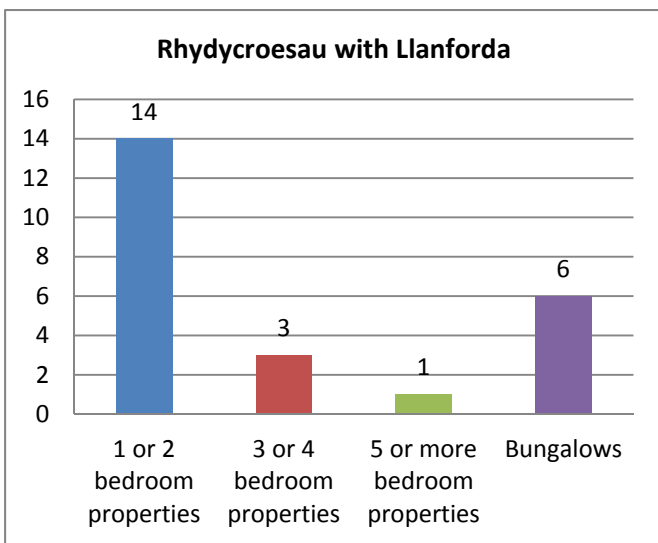
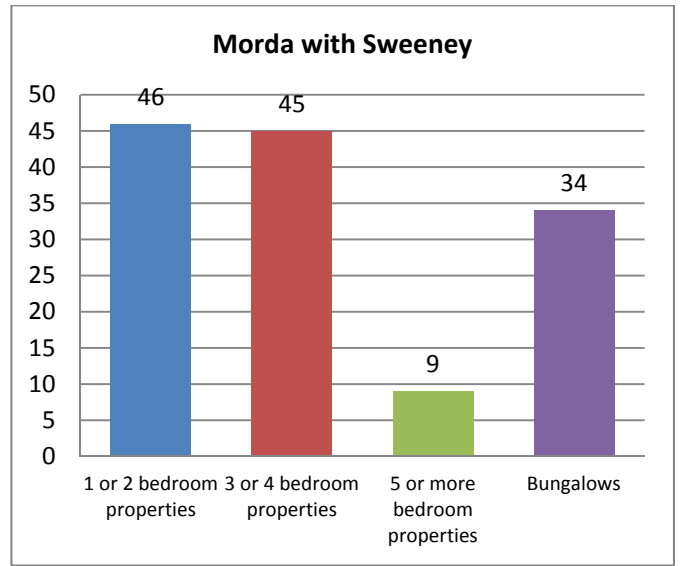
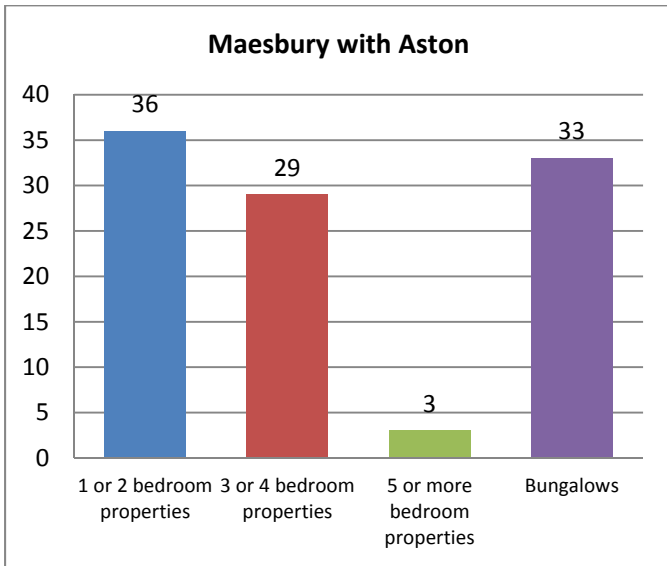
In Maesbury with Aston, responses mirrored those for the whole parish.

In Morda with Sweeney, the responses differed slightly, with 3 to 4 bedroom properties proving more popular than bungalows. Slightly more respondents supported larger properties than in other parts of the parish.

In Rhydygroesau with Llanforda, other than 1 to 2 bedroom properties, there was less support for other forms of dwelling. Bungalows were the next most popular choice.

In Sychtyn, the responses differed slightly, with 3 to 4 bedroom properties proving more popular than bungalows. Nobody supported the development of larger properties.

In Trefonen with Treflach, responses mirrored those for the whole parish.



Q15. Please give any additional comments you would like to make about housing:

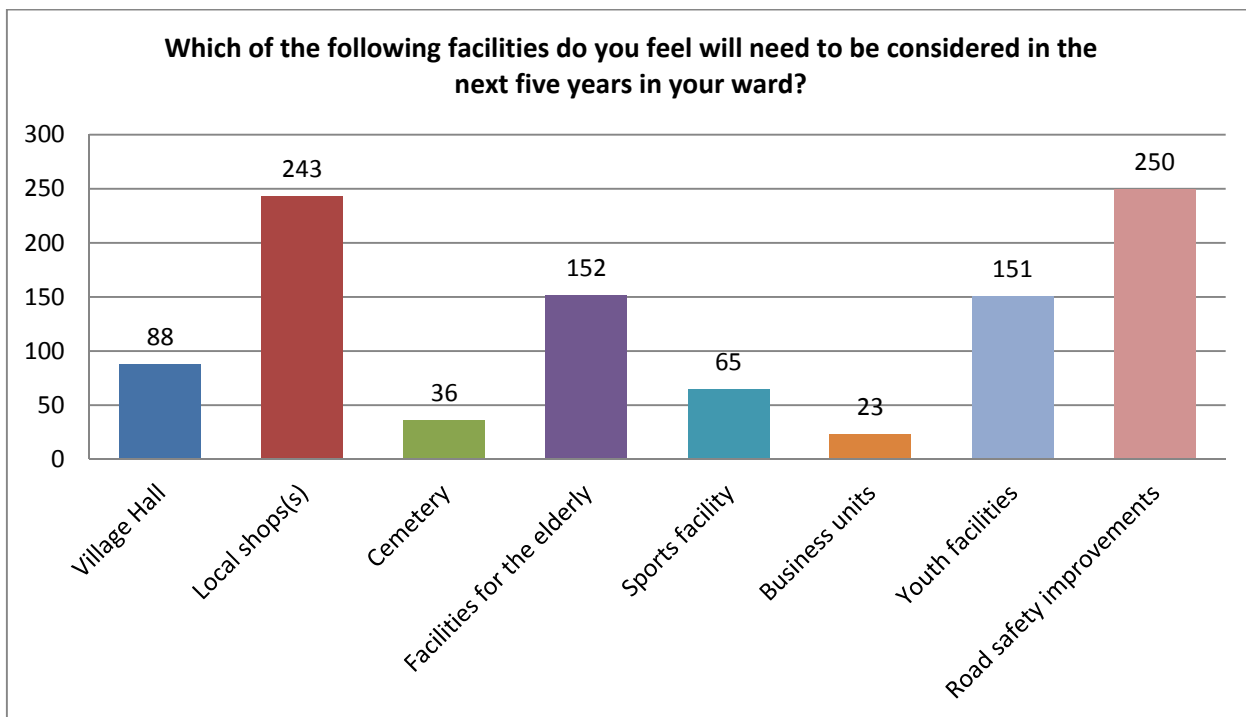
125 responses were received for this question. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
There is already enough housing / no more is needed	26
Lack of suitable accommodation for older people / those wishing to downsize	13
Limit future development / only small scale	12
Facilities and infrastructure insufficient to support new development (eg roads, sewage systems, school, parking facilities)	12
Keep a good mix / balance of building to support a range of people	9
Only support affordable housing (inc for families, vulnerable people)	8
Ensure all new developments are built in accordance with existing appearance / construction	7
Housing should be prioritised for local need	7
Enough large houses already / large houses not selling	6
Housing for young people and first time buyers needed	5
Protect natural habitats and landscape (hedges, open countryside)	4
Lack of local facilities and provision to encourage families/diverse community	3
Only replace existing buildings / derelict sites	3
Planning applications should appear in local press	2
Eco homes should be encouraged	2

Local Facilities

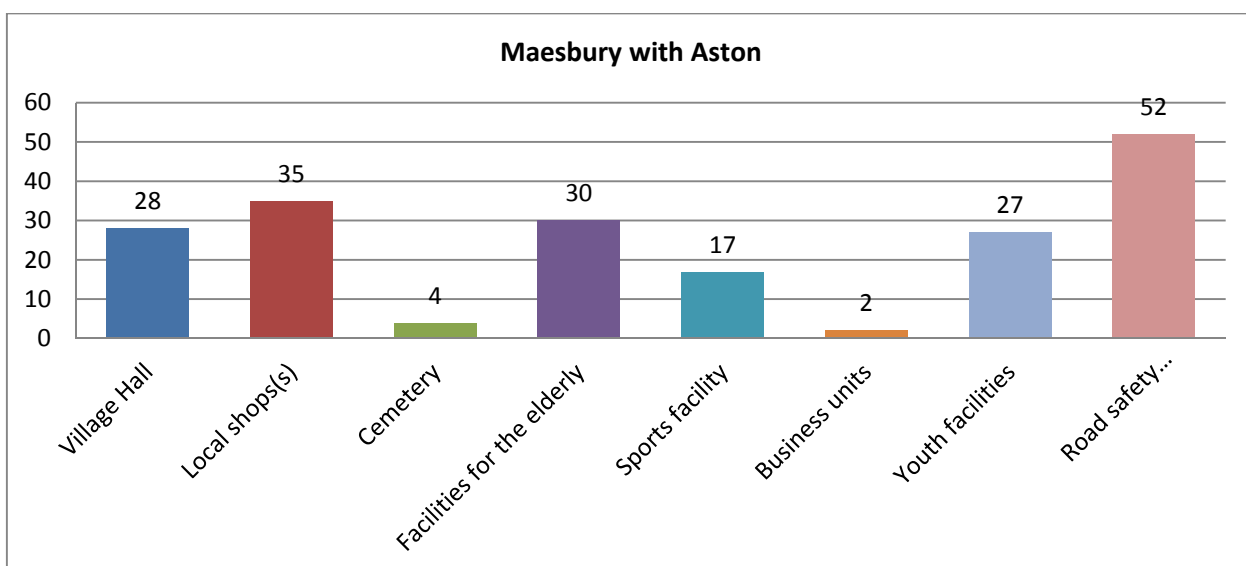
Q16. Which of the following facilities do you feel will need to be considered in the next five years in your ward?

Across the parish, the most pressing concerns were towards road safety improvements (51% of survey respondents), local shops (49%), facilities for the elderly (31%) and youth facilities (30.5%).

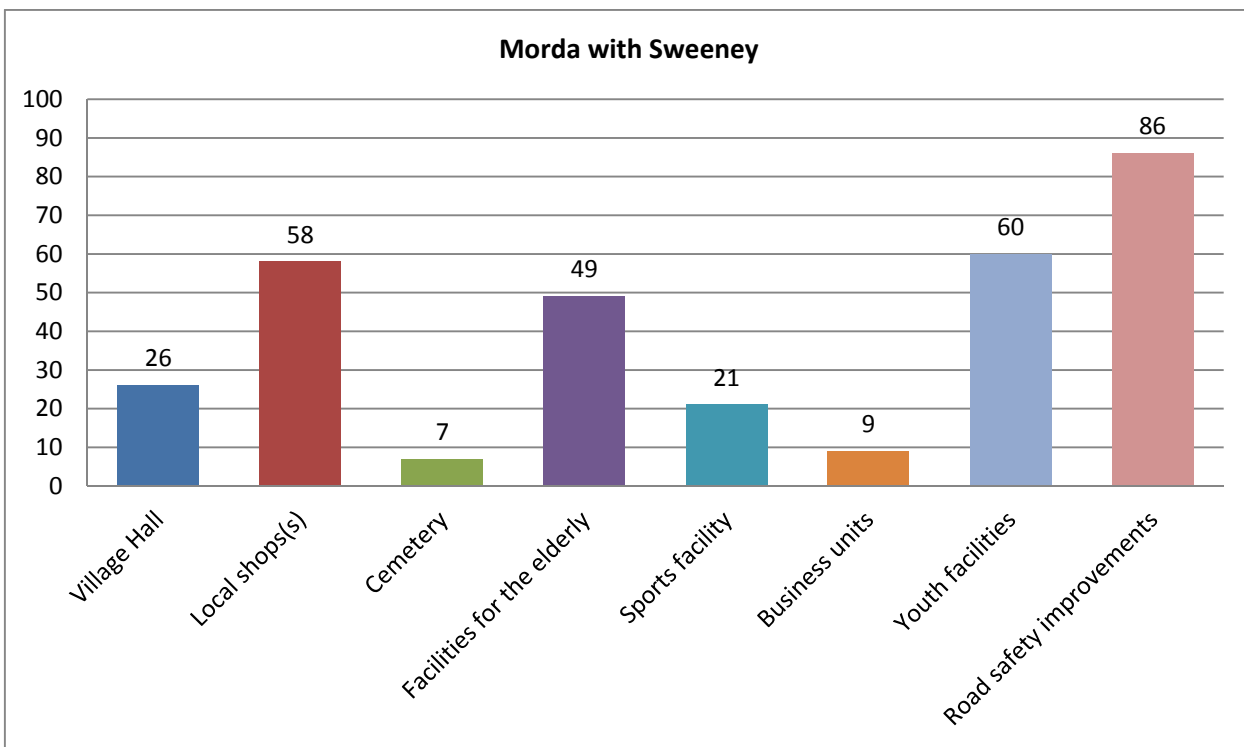


These four issues were reflected as concerns in the individual wards, though there were some differences too.

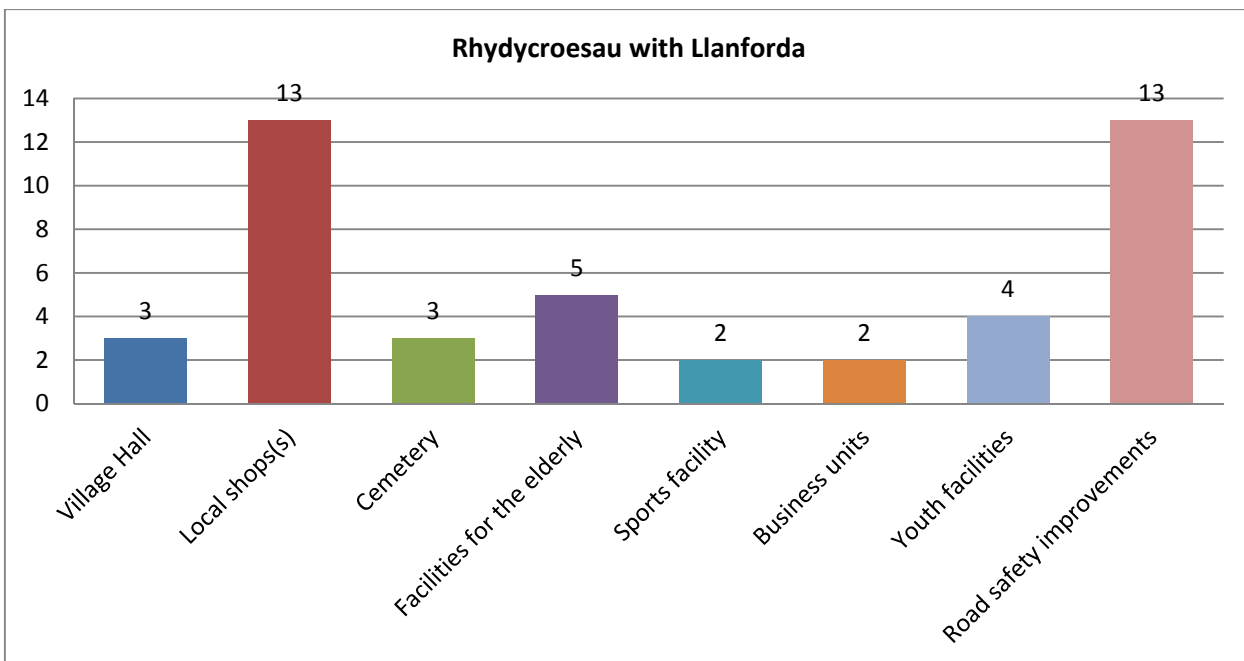
In Maesbury with Aston road safety improvements, local shops, facilities for the elderly and youth facilities were important for consideration in the next five years. However, the village hall was also identified as a concern.



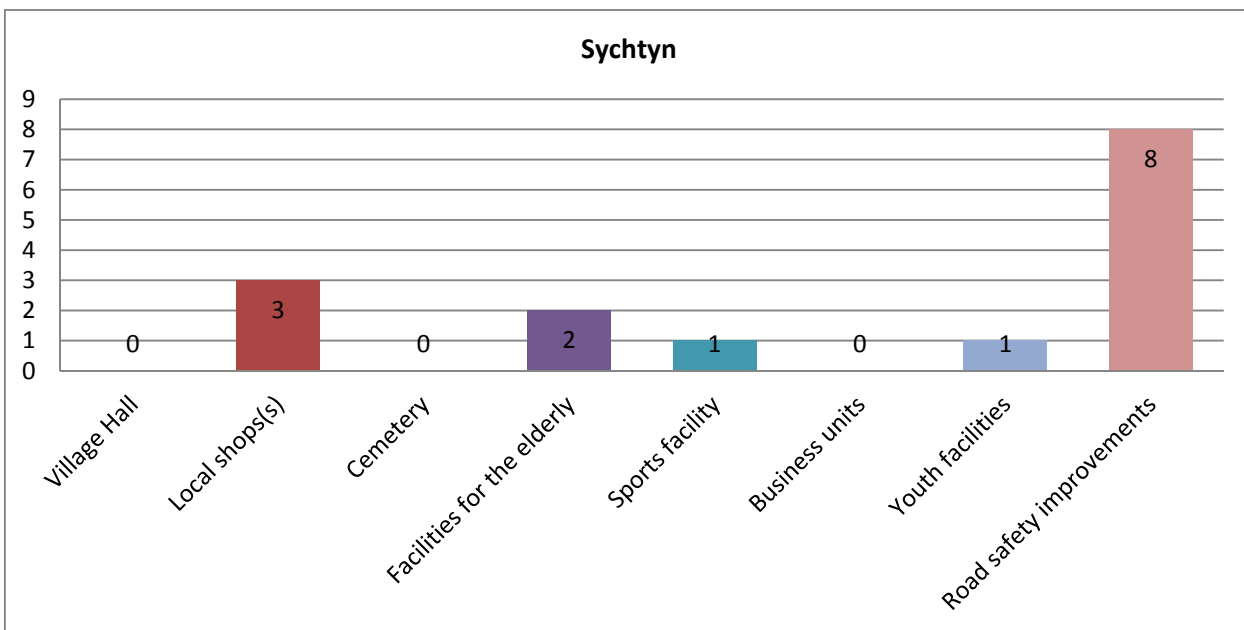
In Morda with Sweeney, the responses reflected those of the whole parish, although slightly greater concern was expressed towards youth facilities.



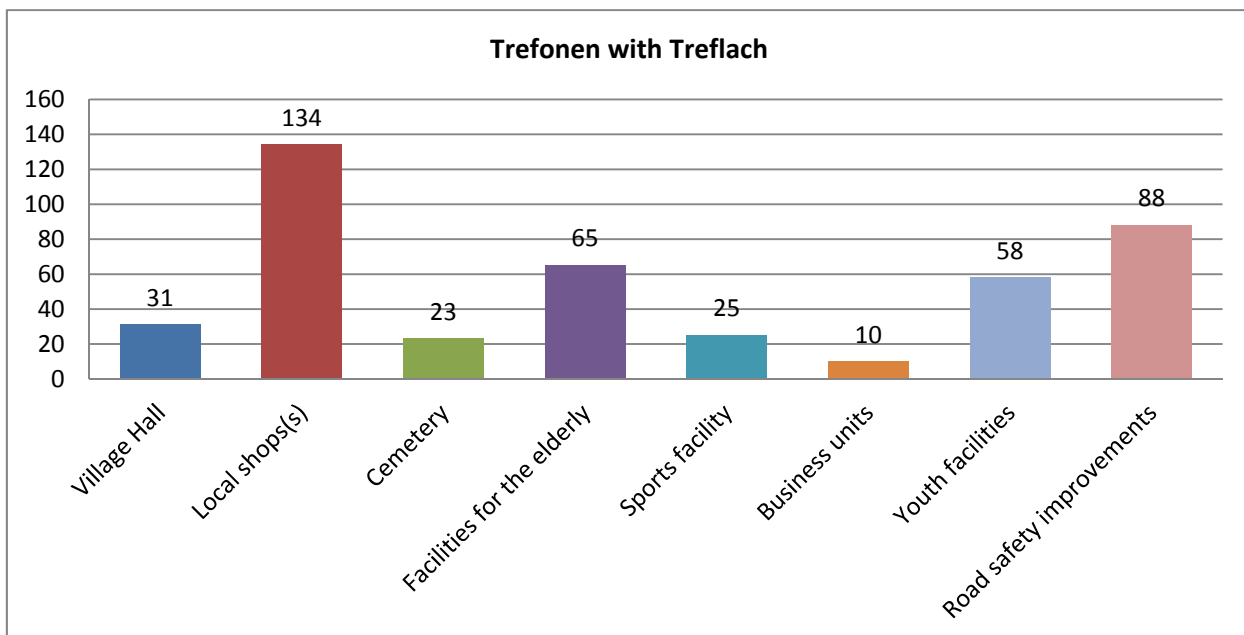
In Rhydycroesau with Llanforda, respondents expressed greater concern about local shops compared to the parish as a whole, along with road safety improvements.



In Sychtyn, road safety improvements was the main concern, with lower numbers for local shops, facilities for the elderly, youth facilities and sports facilities.



In Trefonen with Treflach, local shops were of greatest concern for respondents, followed by road safety improvements, facilities for the elderly and youth facilities.



Q17. Please give details if you have any other suggestions for facilities:

186 responses were received for this question. Several responses gave a number of suggestions. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
Village shop & post office (esp Trefonen)	43
Tackle speeding (traffic calming measures, policing, flashing signs)	35
Road safety improvements	14
Increased school capacity / improvements to school	13
Improved youth provision (eg youth club)	13
Public transport improvements / better public transport information	12
Existing facilities are adequate	9
Make use of former Maesbury School & field	9
Village hall improvements	8
Footpath and pavement improvements / extensions	7
Children's playground	7
Facilities, activities and support for older people	6
Doctor's surgery and clinics (eg chiropody)	5
Better road maintenance (fill pot holes, lumpy surfaces)	4
A sports centre (inc gym, squash, skate/bike park)	4
Café / pub serving food / chip shop	4
Better parking enforcement	3
Farm shop / local produce	3
Playing fields	3
Better broadband / mobile phone signal	3
Small businesses (hairdressers, chemist)	3
Bowling green	2

Q18. Is there anything that you would like to say regarding specific improvements in services & facilities in the ward?

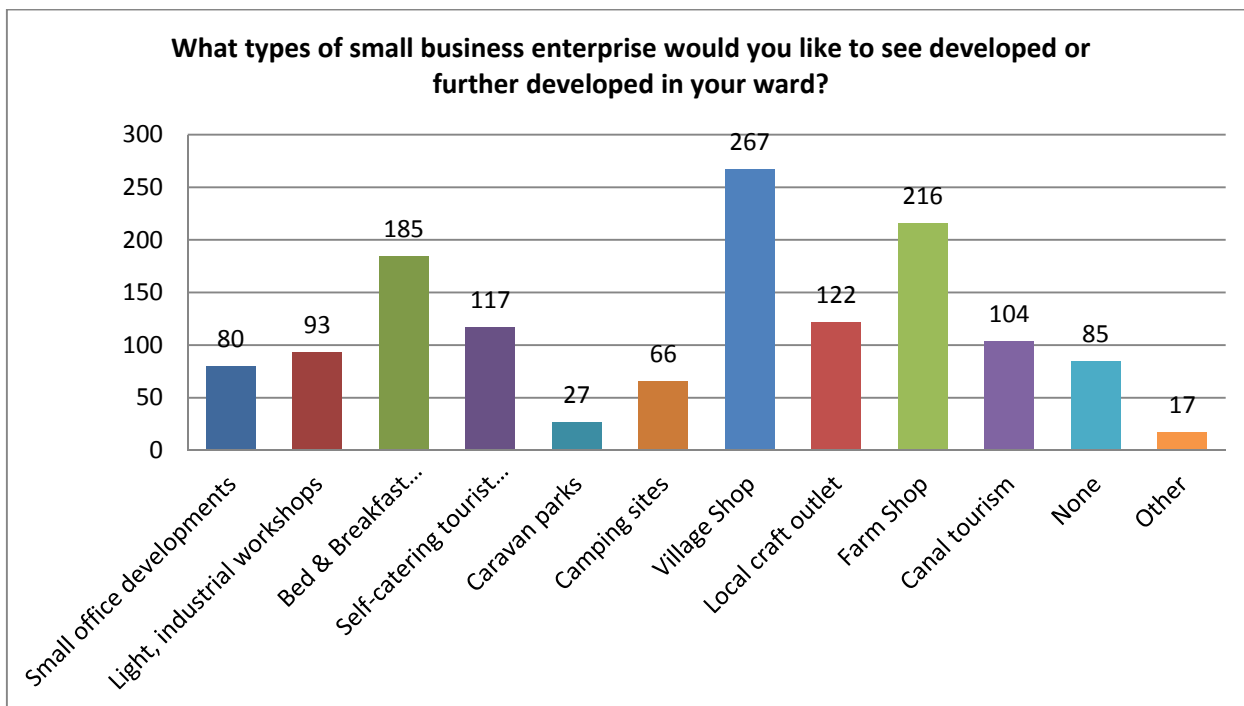
138 responses were received for this question. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
Better public transport and more frequent services	23
Better traffic calming / speed restrictions and enforcement	20
Road maintenance improvements & more frequent road surface cleaning	7
More / improved pavements	7
Better broadband & mobile phone coverage	7
Post office and postal collections	6
Improved sewage / drainage and ditch/drain clearance	6
Improved village shop / extended shop opening hours	5
More shops	4
Reopen the shop and post office	4
Tackle dog fouling (bins, signage & fines)	4
More frequent bin collection / collection of waste varied in summer and winter months	4
Village hall improve	4
Less traffic calming	3
A new school	3
Improve facilities in Oswestry (entertainment, shopping, youth)	3
Address parking problems / parking is getting worse / safety issues associated with bad parking	3
Facilities are adequate	3
More regular verge and hedge cutting	2
A surgery / medical centre needed	2
Youth activities needed	2
Facilities and activities for older people / infirm	2
Pylon proposal causing problems (devaluing homes)	2
More passing places needed on lanes	2

Local Business

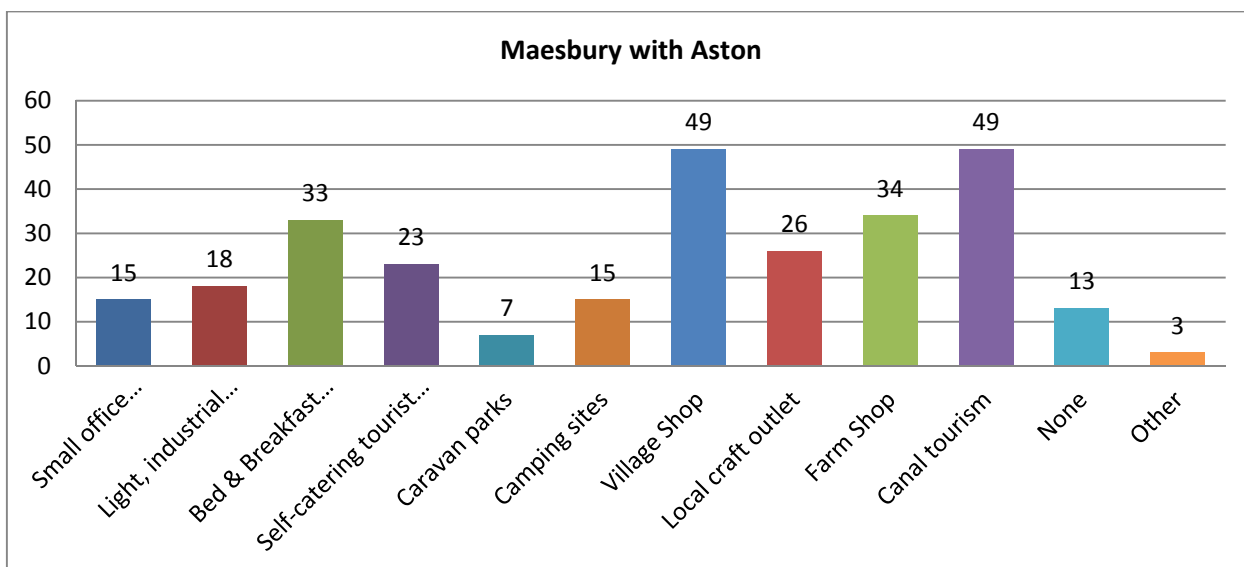
Q19. What type of small business enterprise would you like to see developed or further developed in your ward?

Across the parish there was greatest support for a village shop, with 54% of survey respondents stating that a village shop was the type of small business enterprise which they would like to see developed. This was followed by farm shop (44%) and bed & breakfast (37.5%).

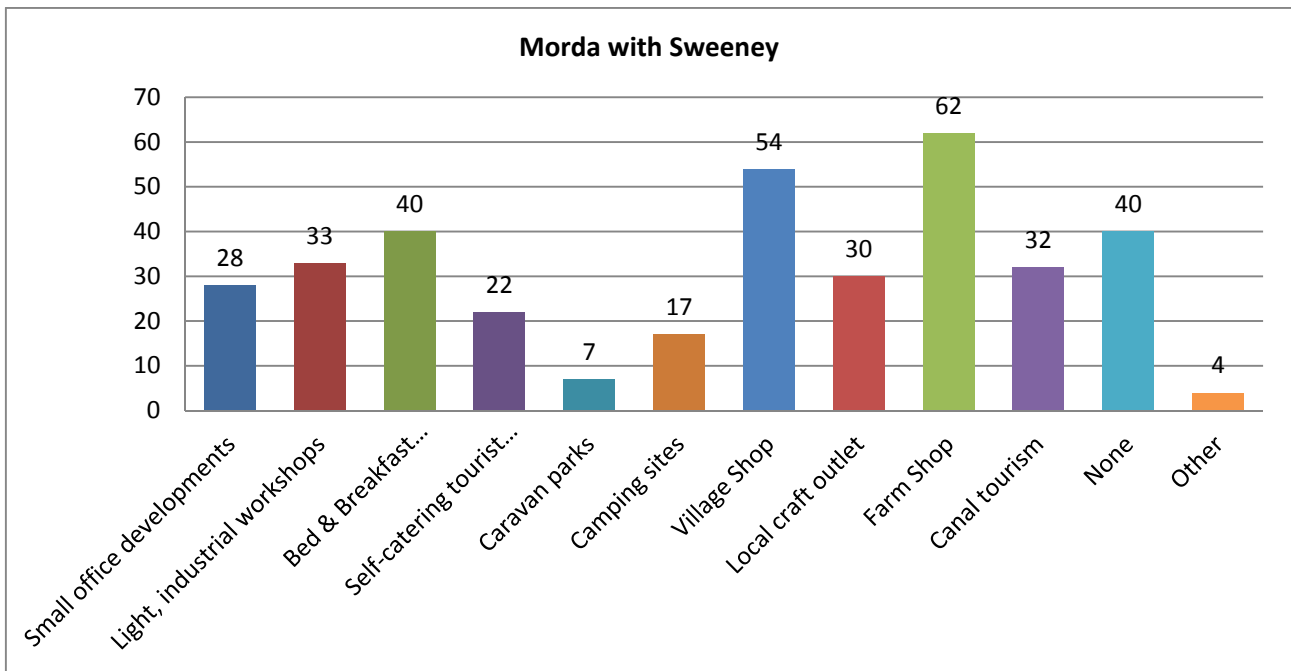


Responses to this question differed between the wards.

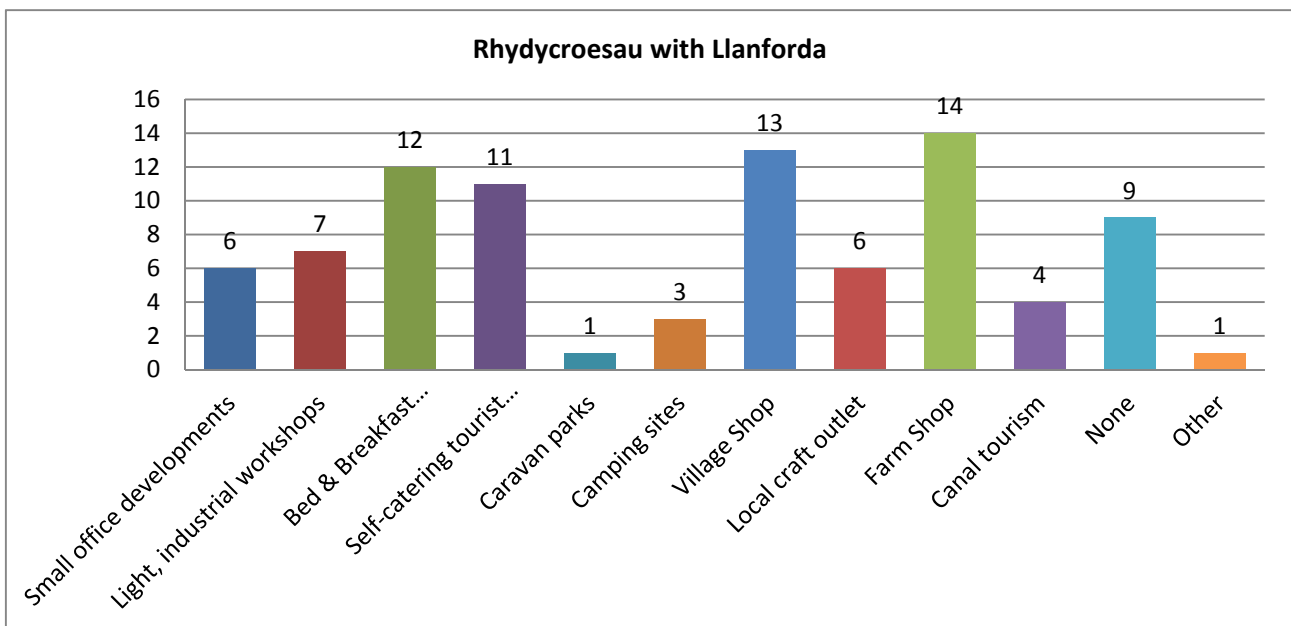
In Maesbury with Aston, canal tourism and village shop were the two enterprise developments that received greatest support, followed by farm shop and bed & breakfast.



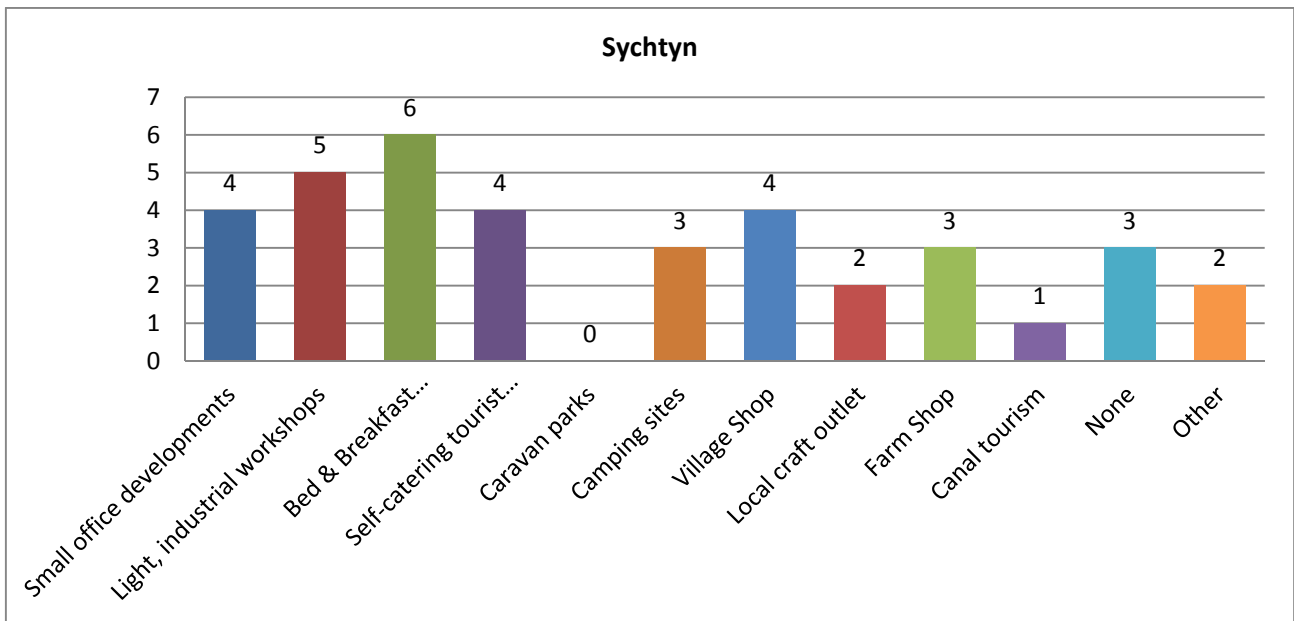
In Morda with Sweeney, farm shop received the greatest support, followed by village shop, bed & breakfast and 'none'.



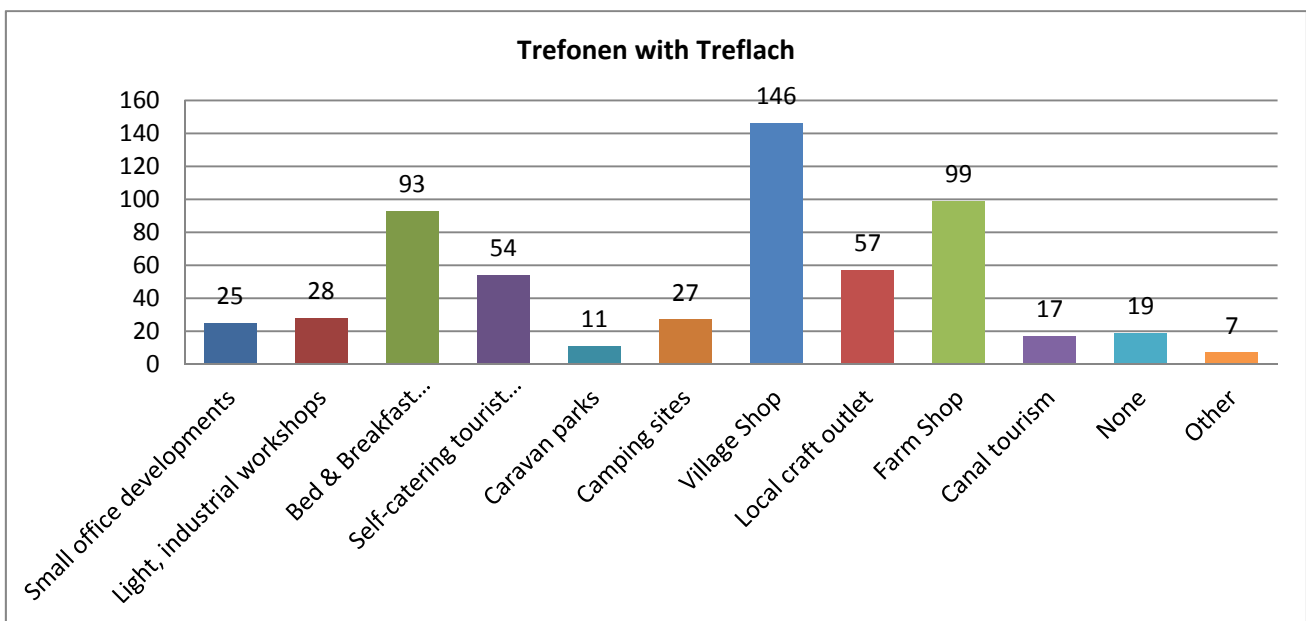
In Rhydycroesau with Llanforda, farm shop received the greatest support, followed closely by village shop, bed & breakfast and self-catering tourist accommodation.



In Sychtyn, bed & breakfast was most popular, followed by light industrial workshops, small office developments and village shop.



In Trefonen with Treflach, village shop received the greatest support, followed by farm shop and bed & breakfast.



Q20. If you chose other, please give details:

23 people responded to this question. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
Safeguard post office	5
Pubs, restaurants	3
Measures needed to encourage tourism (eg parking, shops, a café)	2
Support village shop / more village shops	2
Petrol station	1
Home office / workshops	1
Clinics operating from Village Hall in Trefonen (eg chiropodist)	1
Redevelop redundant buildings for offices / light industrial use	1
Focus on canal and railway	1
Improved telecommunications for business	1
Nothing that creates extra traffic	1
More community involvement	1

Q21. If you would like to add a general comment about local business, please do so:

87 people responded to this question. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
Post office / shop (and with better opening hours)	25
All amenities I need are available in Oswestry / focus business development in Oswestry	8
Traffic issues associated with industrial businesses	7
Small business should be encouraged	5
No need for business development	5
Lack of employment opportunities	3
Noise issues associated with business development	3
Praise for Morda corner shop	3
Poor internet coverage / speed	2
More support for local produce	2

Local Matters

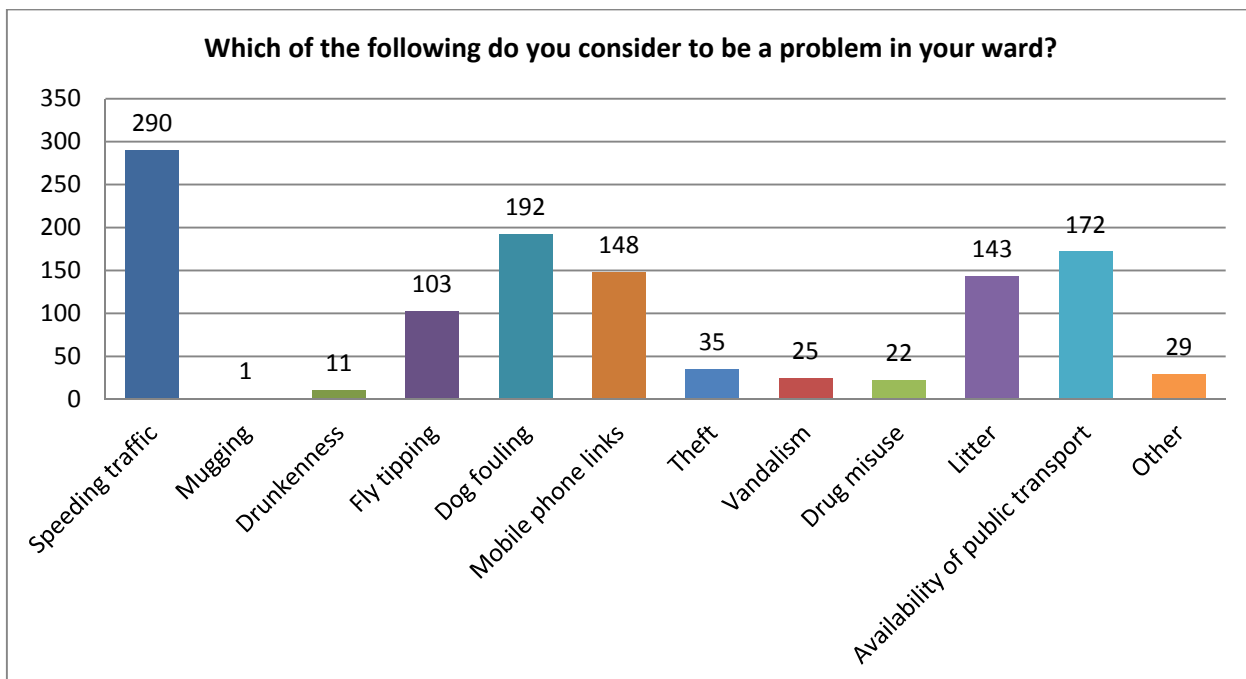
Q22. Please note here what you believe to be of significance in giving your ward its identity and what should be preserved or improved:

201 people responded to this question. A number of respondents made reference to several aspects of the ward. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
Open countryside, woodland, landscape and wildlife	53
Small local village feel	29
Independence / separation from Oswestry / protect parish from urban creep	22
Rurality	21
Preserve and improve key community facilities (village hall, church, sports)	19
Canal	16
Offa's Dyke	15
Farmland and agricultural nature of area	9
Local shops	9
Peace and tranquillity	8
Local schools	8
The community (close-knit, supportive, friendly)	8
Improve public footpaths / facilities for walkers	6
The village green areas (eg Chapel Green)	5
More planting of trees and flowerbeds	4
Village activities and events (eg hill walk and run)	3
Improve the broadband coverage and power supply	3
Research parish history and industrial heritage	3
The stone walls	3
Reduce traffic on quiet narrow lanes	2
Diverse population / community	2
Children's play areas	2
The variety of buildings	2
No more housing development	2
No more business development	2
Encourage more people to use local pubs	2

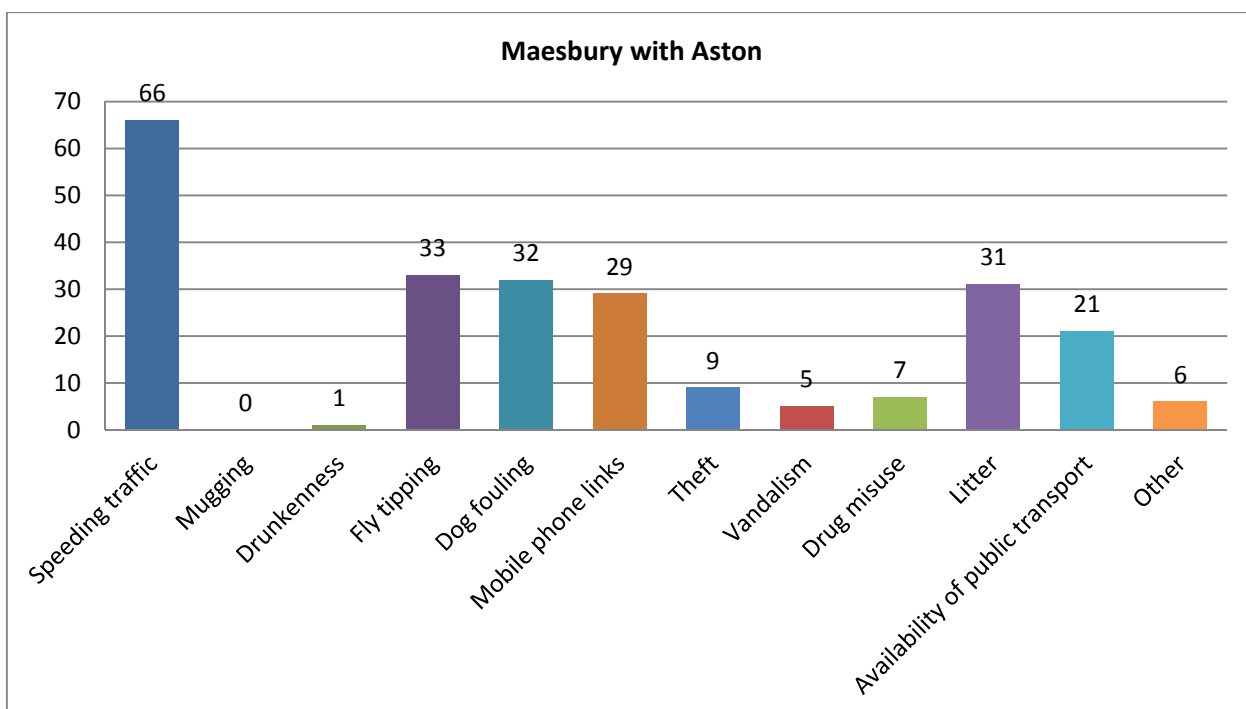
Q23. Which of the following do you consider to be a problem in your ward?

Across the parish, speeding traffic was the primary concern for respondents, with 59% of the survey respondents identifying speeding traffic as a problem in their ward. Also concerning were dog fouling, availability of public transport, mobile phone links and litter. Less concerning were areas of criminal activity such as mugging, theft, drunkenness, vandalism and drug misuse.

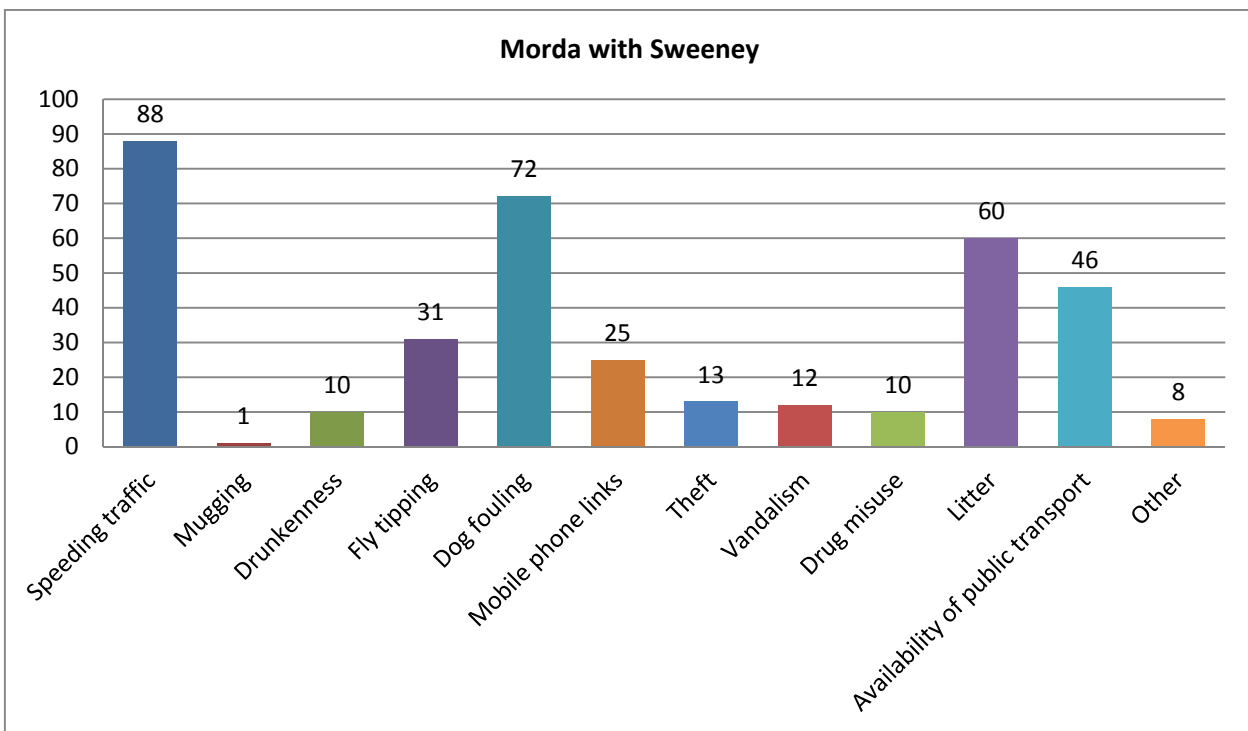


Speeding was a common concern for respondents from all wards.

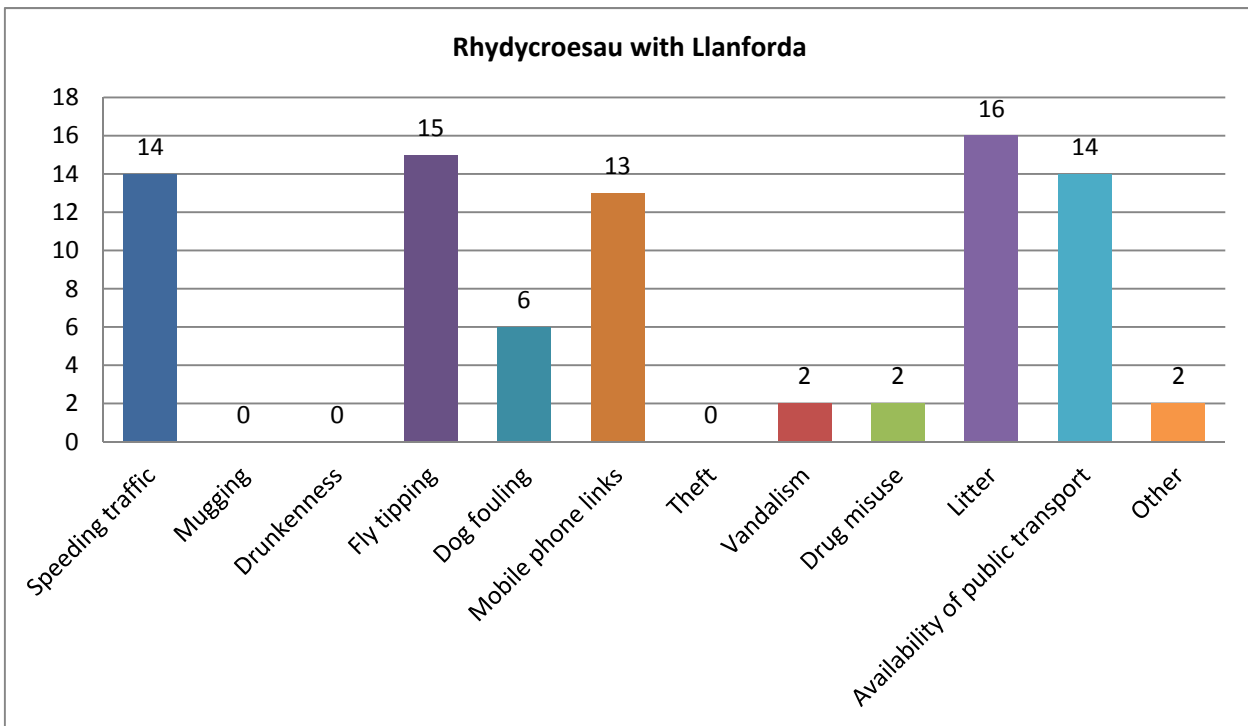
In Maesbury with Aston, in addition to speeding traffic, respondents were concerned about fly tipping, dog fouling, mobile phone links and litter. Grouped together, one might interpret there to be a localised problem with control of litter.



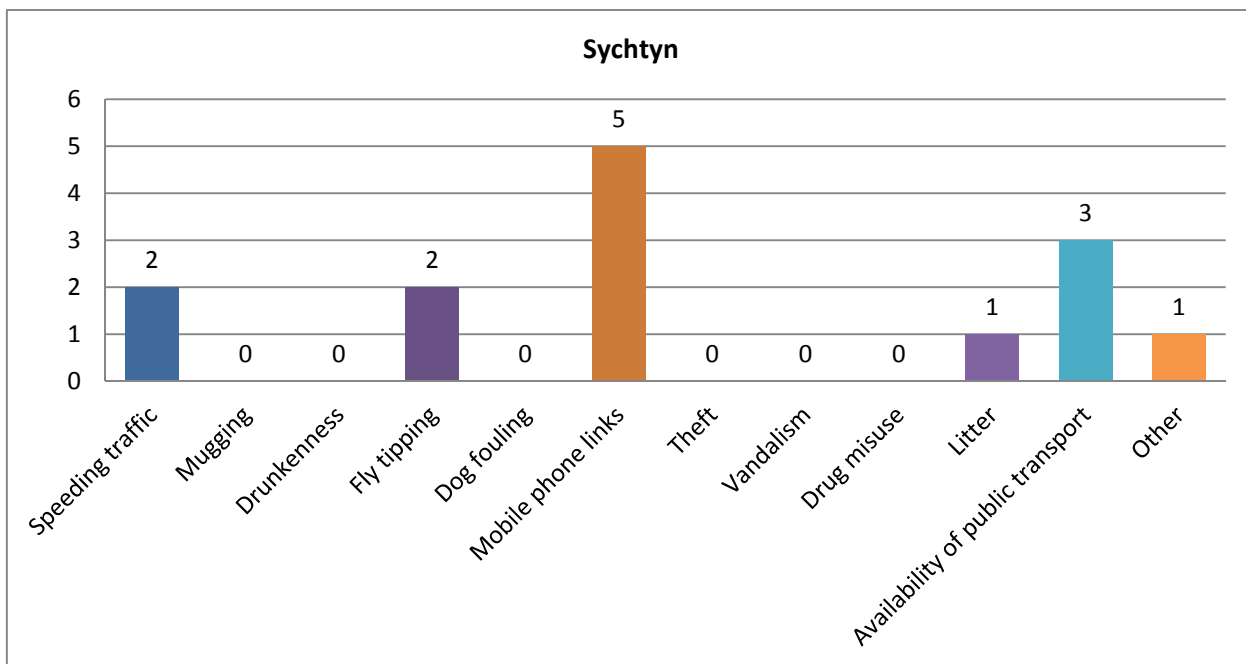
In Morda with Sweeney, in addition to speeding traffic, dog fouling was identified as a key concern. Litter and the availability of public transport were also identified as concerns.



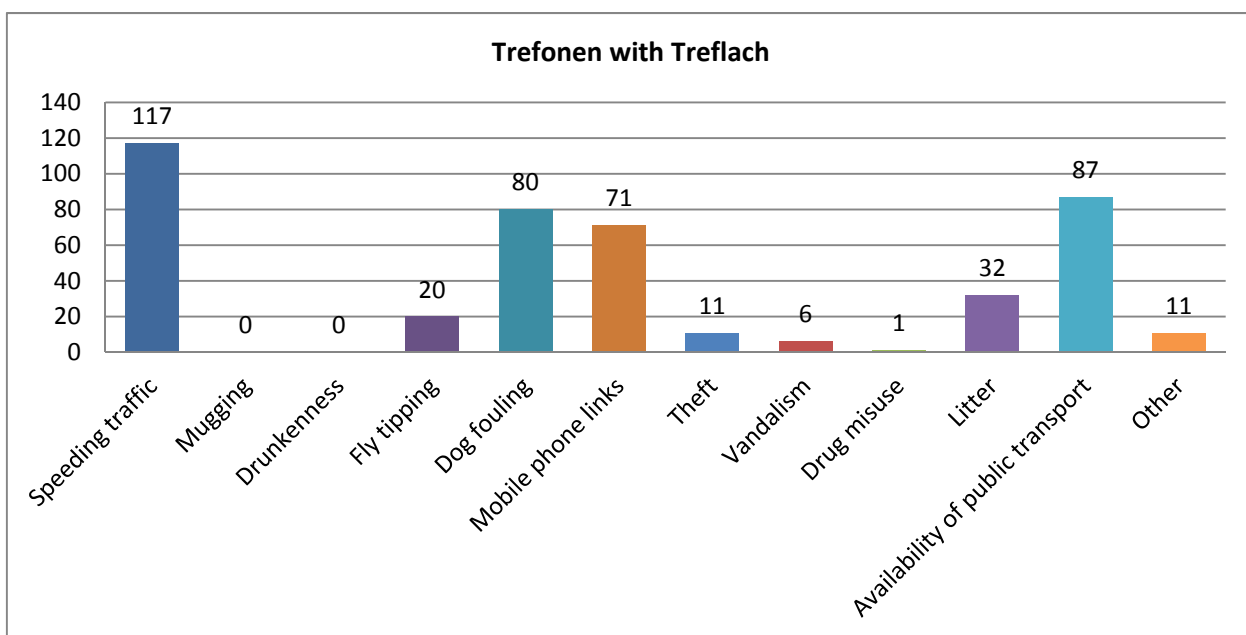
In Rhydycroesau with Llanforda, fly tipping and litter both comprised the greatest areas of concern. Again, this could indicate a localised problem with litter control. Speeding traffic, availability of public transport and mobile phone links were also key concerns.



In Sychtyn, mobile phone links were of greatest concern to respondents, followed by public transport links.



In Trefonen with Treflach, speeding traffic was the main concern, followed by availability of public transport, dog fouling and mobile phone links. A greater proportion of people in Trefonen with Treflach identified dog fouling as a particular concern, which may indicate that there is a localised issue within this ward.



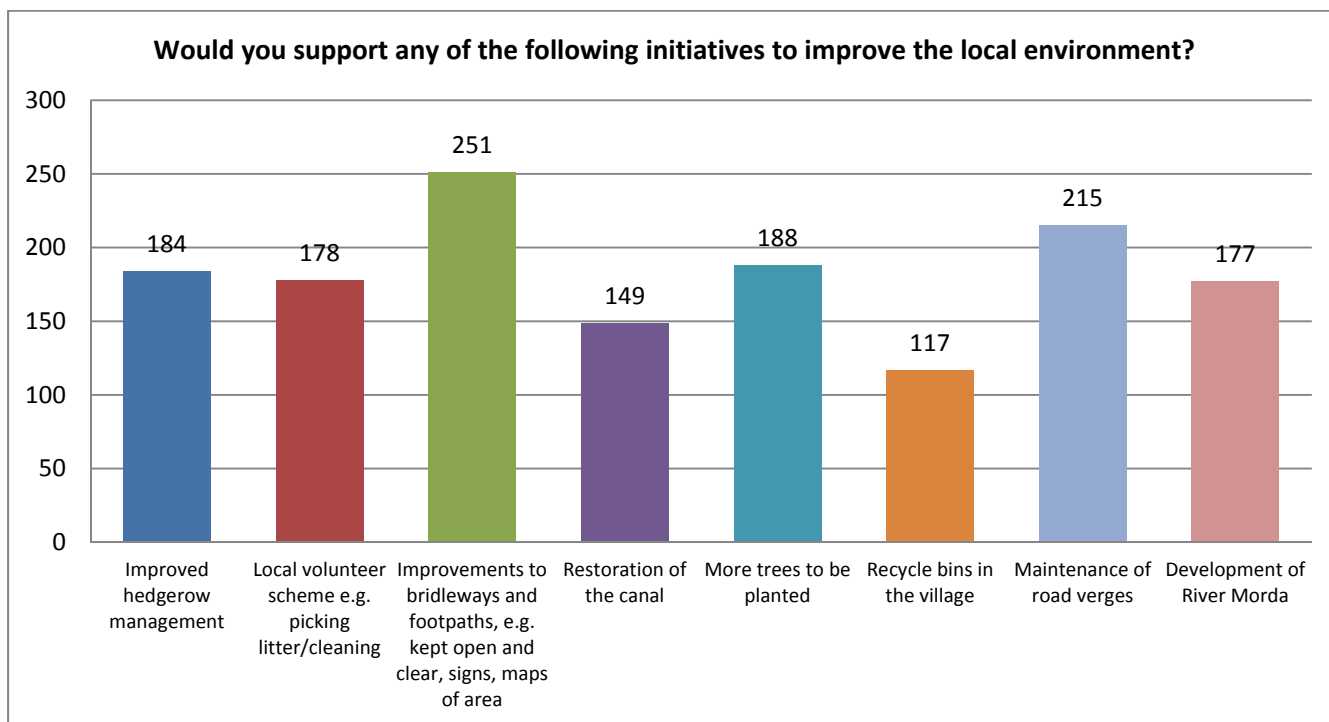
Q24. Please give details if you would like:

121 people responded to this question. A number of respondents made reference to several issues. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
No adherence to speed limits / inappropriate speed limits	33
Dog fouling (on footpaths and rights of way) / lack of dog bins	25
Buses not often enough / wrong times / don't fit with onward connections / poorly accessible vehicles / poor travel information	15
Slow broadband speed / inconsistent connection	12
Poor mobile phone coverage	9
Litter a problem in hedges and roadsides, particularly fast food cartons	7
Inconsiderate /dangerous parking compromising access to properties and endangering pedestrians	6
Village shop and post office facilities	4
Heavy goods vehicles using narrow lanes / causing damage to buildings	4
None of the above are a problem	4
Better youth provision needed	3
Traffic volume is a problem	3
Road maintenance needs improvement	3
Fly tipping is a problem (made worse by restrictions on tipping)	2
Problems with mud on road / drain clearance	2
Vehicles encroaching onto and damaging property	2

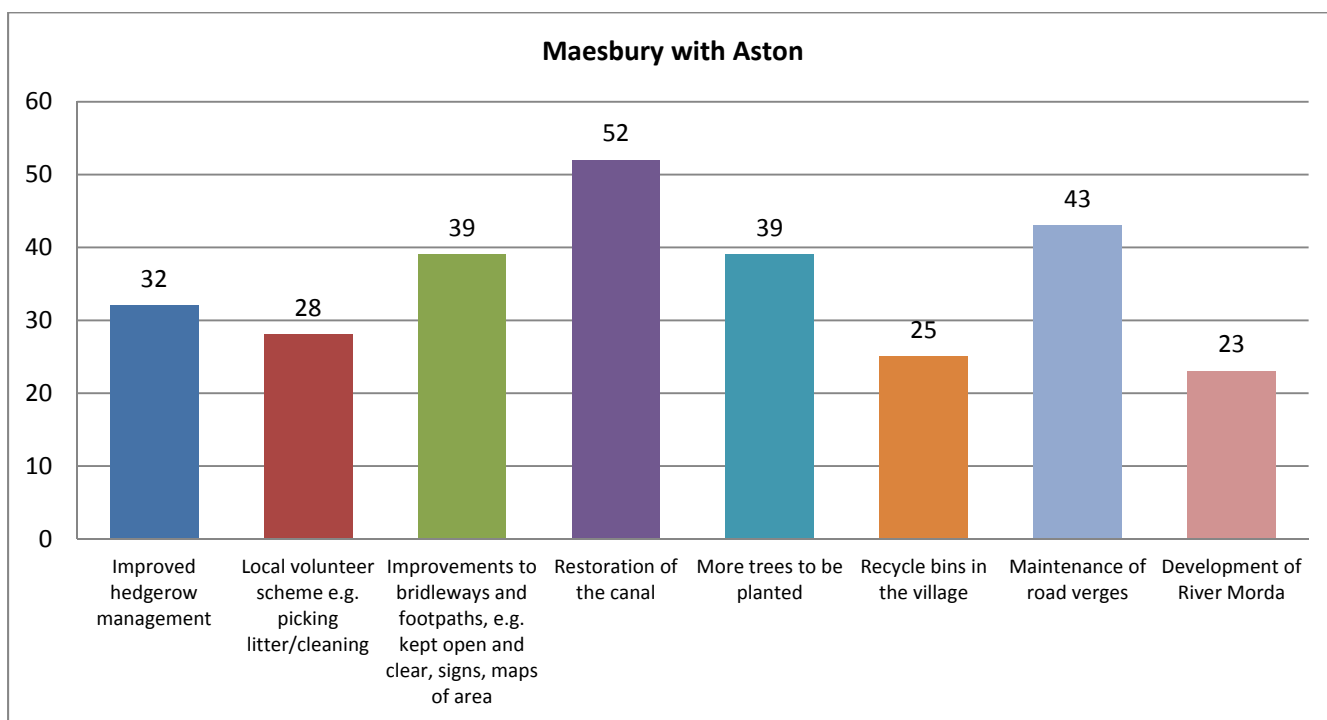
Q25. Would you support any of the following initiatives to improve the local environment?

Across the parish all of the proposed initiatives gained the support of a quarter of the survey respondents or more. There was strongest support for improvements to bridleways and footpaths (51%) and maintenance of road verges (44%).

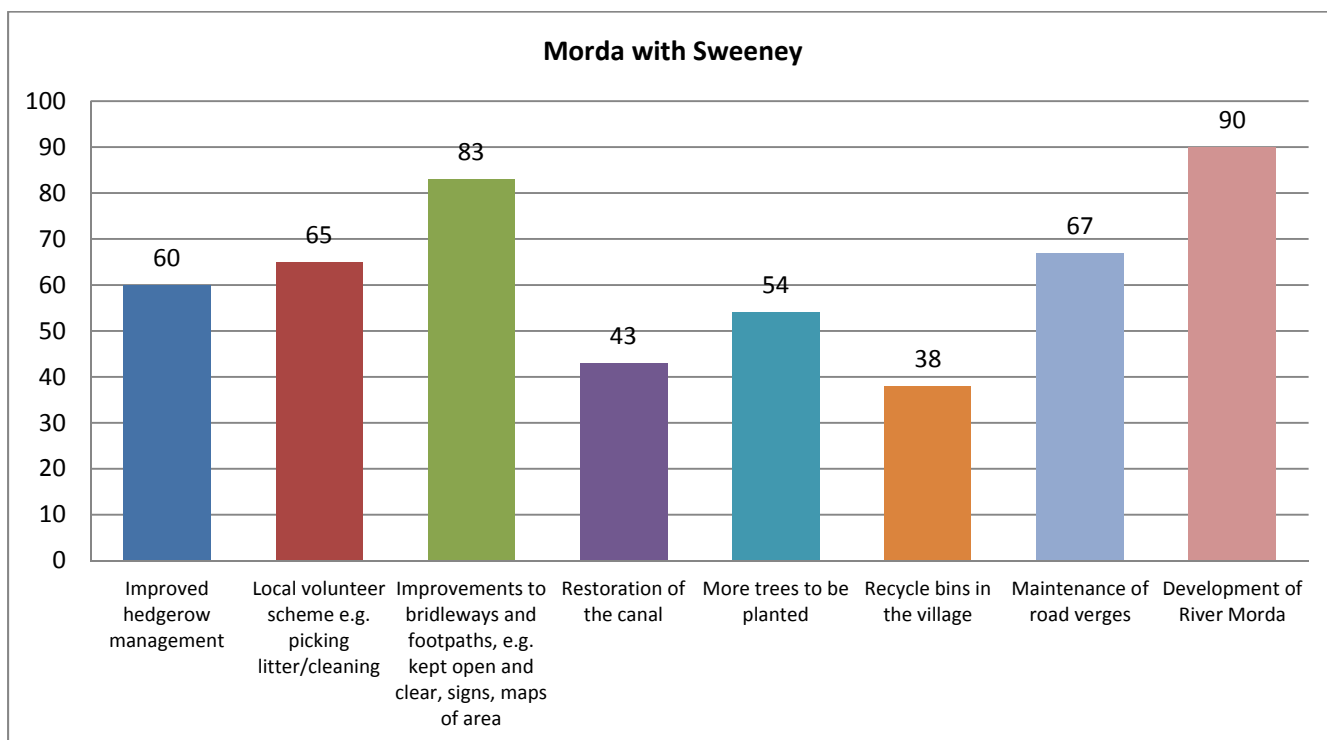


Responses differed between the wards, indicating how environmental improvement activity can be a localised issue.

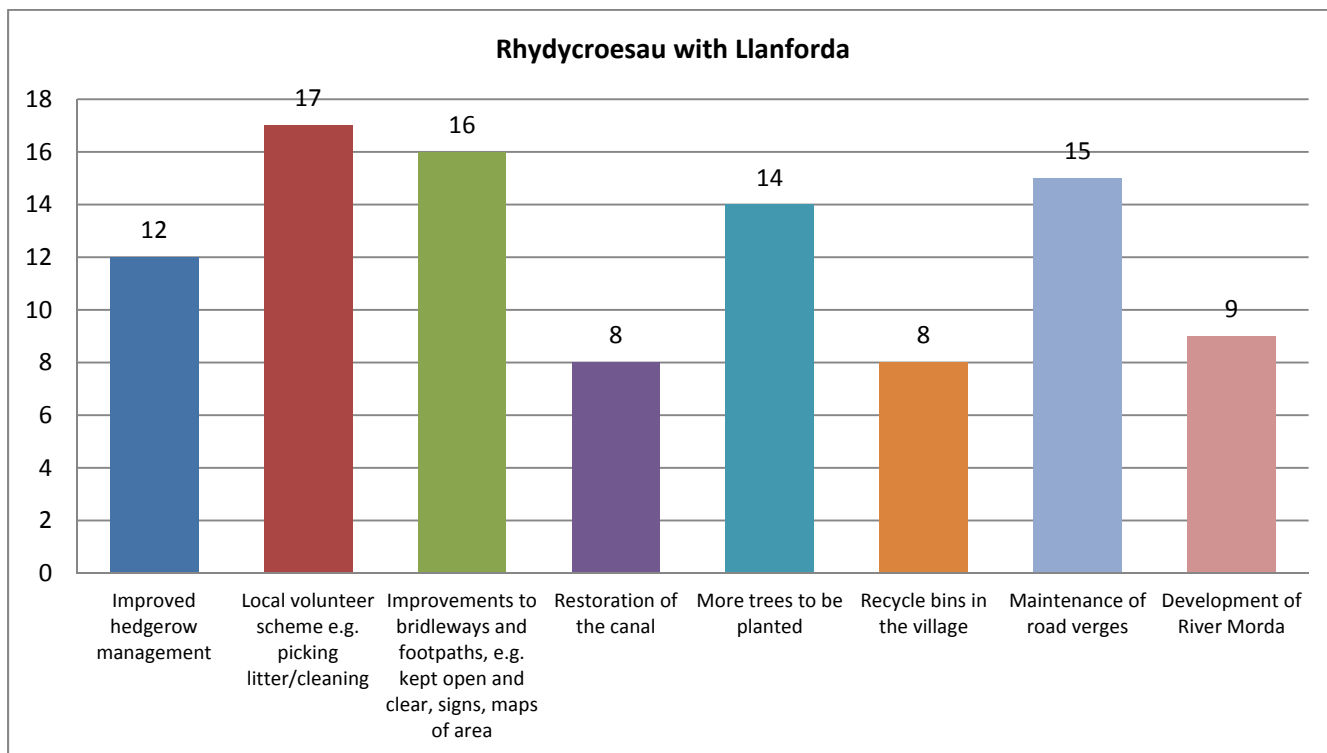
In Maesbury with Aston, the restoration of the canal received greatest support, followed by maintenance of road verges, improvements to brideways and paths and tree planting.



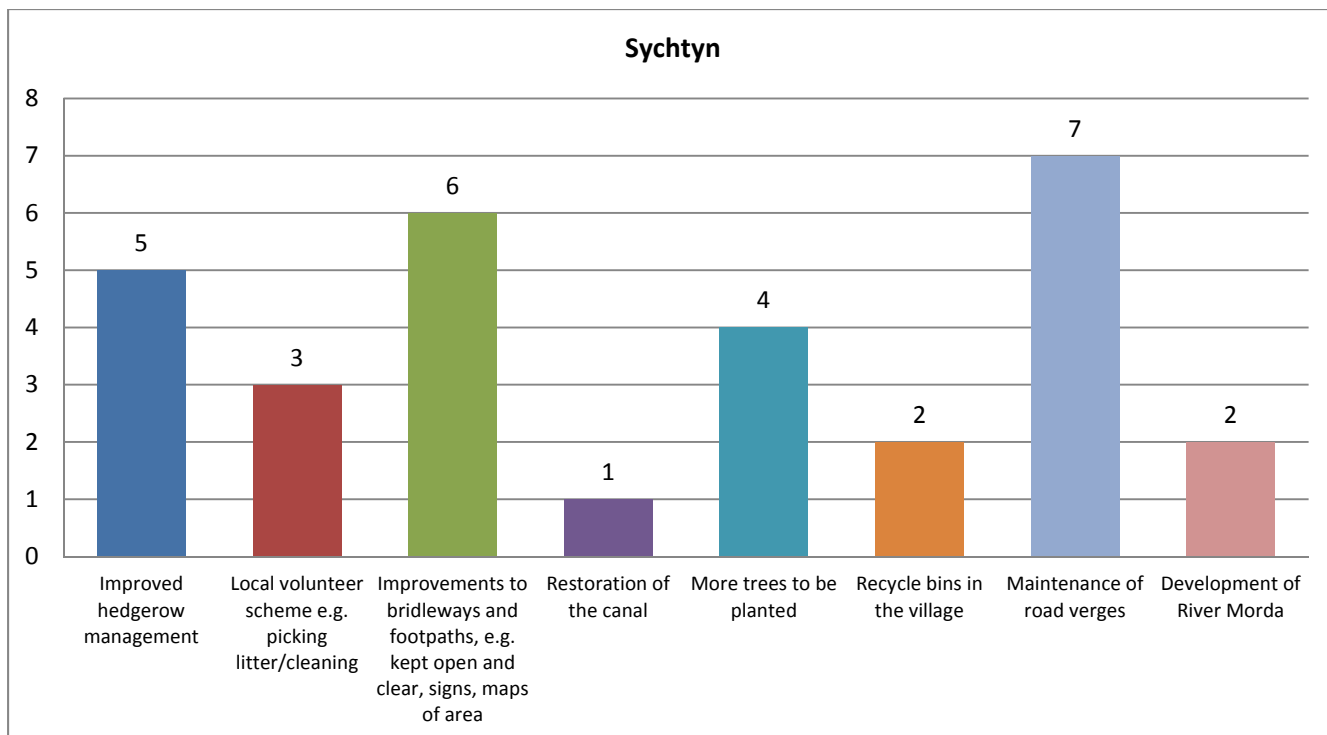
In Morda with Sweeney, development of the River Morda received greatest support, followed by brideways and footpaths.



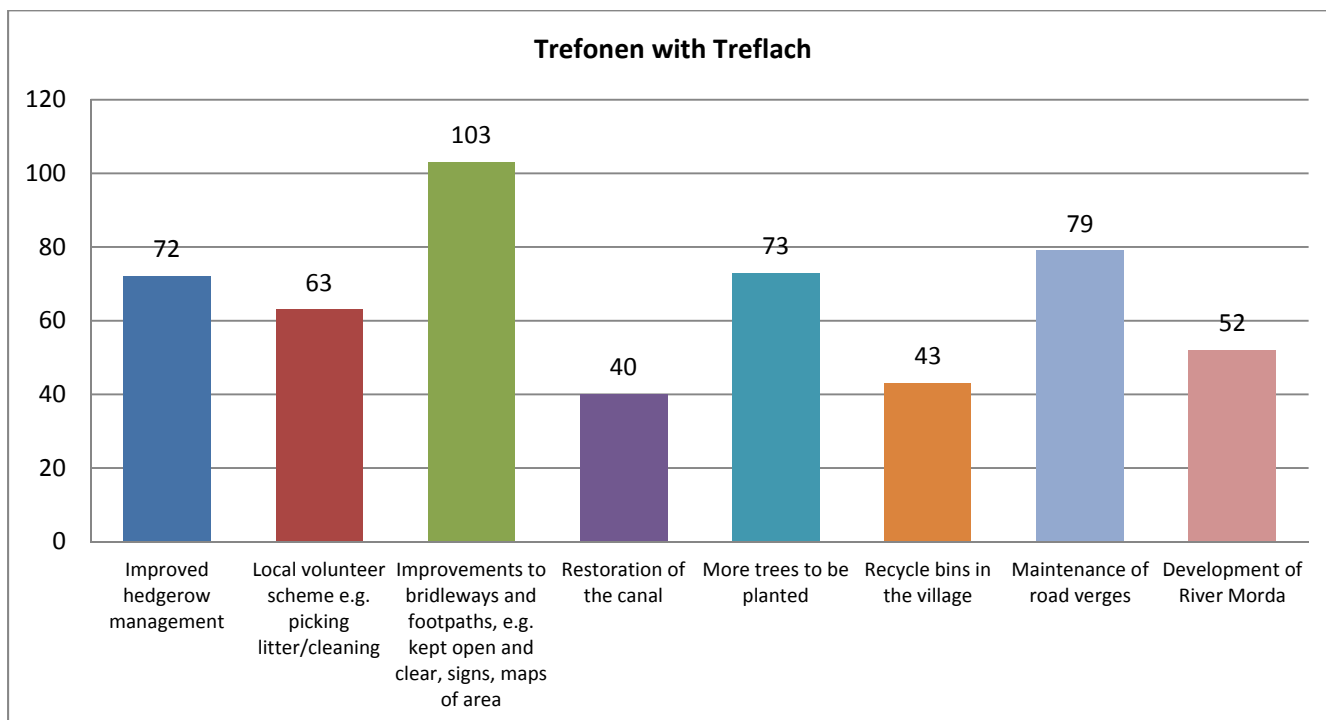
In Rhydycroesau with Llanforda, a local volunteer scheme received the most support followed by improvements to bridleways and footpaths, maintenance of road verges and more trees to be planted.



In Sychtyn, maintenance of road verges received greatest support followed by improvements to bridleways and footpaths, improved hedgerow management and more trees to be planted.



In Trefonen with Treflach, improvements to bridleways received greatest support followed by maintenance of road verges, tree planting and improved hedgerow management.



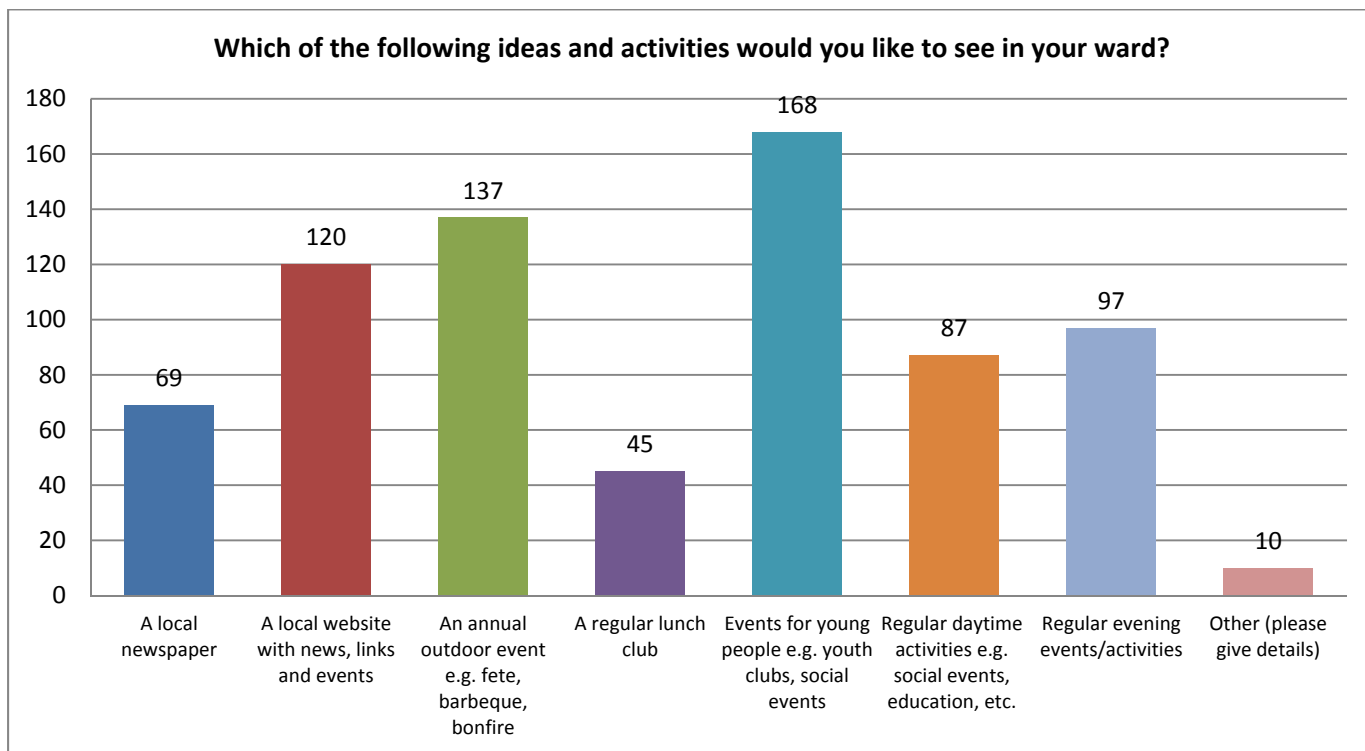
Q26. Please give details if you have any other suggestions for improvements to the local environment:

98 responses were received for this question. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

Response	Number of responses
Appropriate, well informed hedgerow management (tidy but wildlife friendly)	11
Verge and ditch maintenance to address blockages and flooding	7
More local walking routes for leisure/pleasure	7
Build / reinstate footpaths (for pedestrian safety)	7
More dog bins to control fouling	5
Better recycling facilities (doorstep and community)	5
Maintain open areas (including planting, mowing, tree maintenance)	5
Focus on heritage projects (eg Cambrian Railway)	5
All of above well managed (inc. praise for current volunteering activities)	5
Footpath clearance and maintenance / improved accessibility (stiles etc)	4
Speed restrictions and traffic calming measures	4
Stop building / development	3
More cycle routes / paths	3
Do not develop the River Morda	2
Road maintenance and cleaning mud from farm vehicles	2
Reduce light pollution	2
Protect natural environment (eg AONB status)	2

Q27. Which of the following ideas and activities would you like to see in your ward?

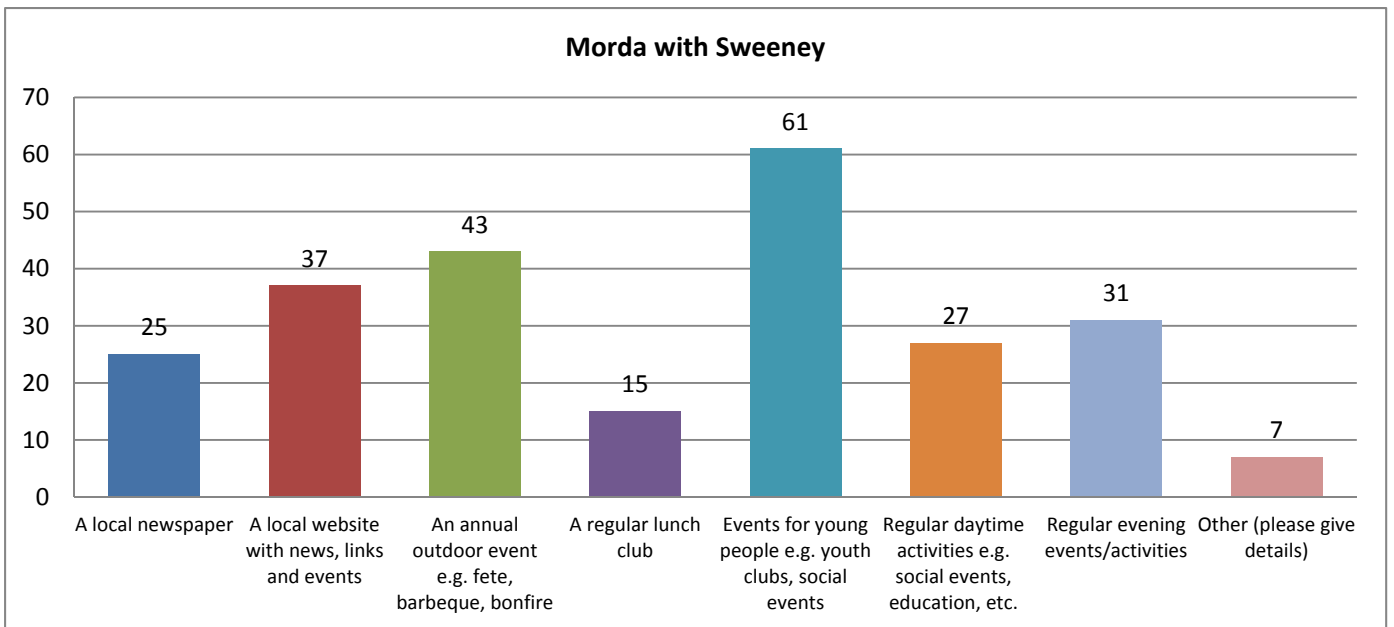
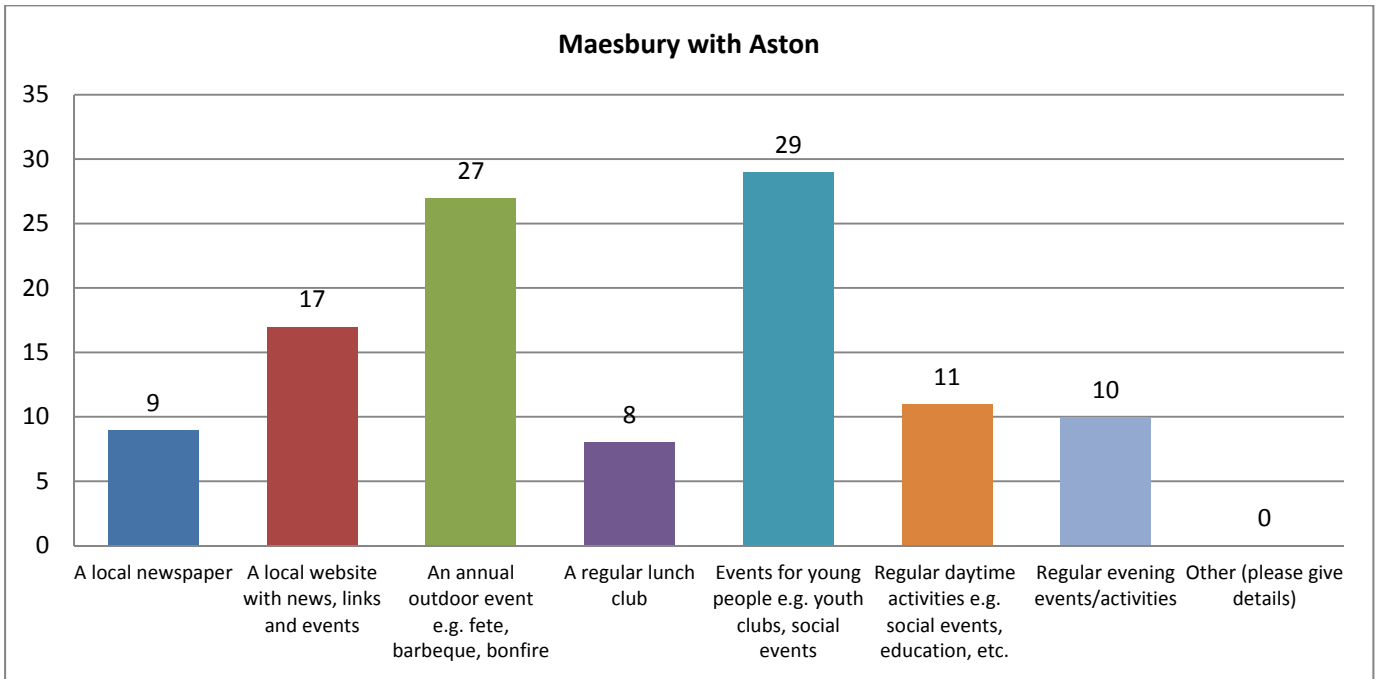
Across the parish, events for young people received the support of just over one third (34%) of survey respondents. Also popular were an annual outdoor event and a local website.

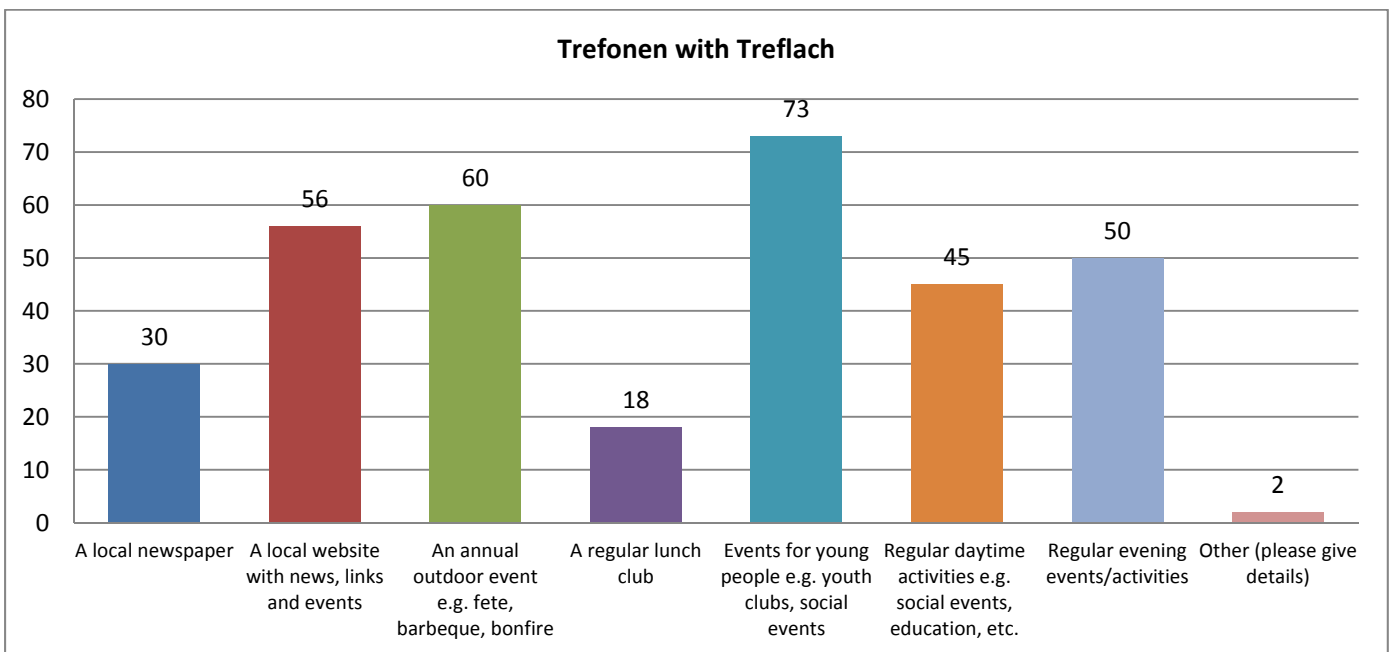
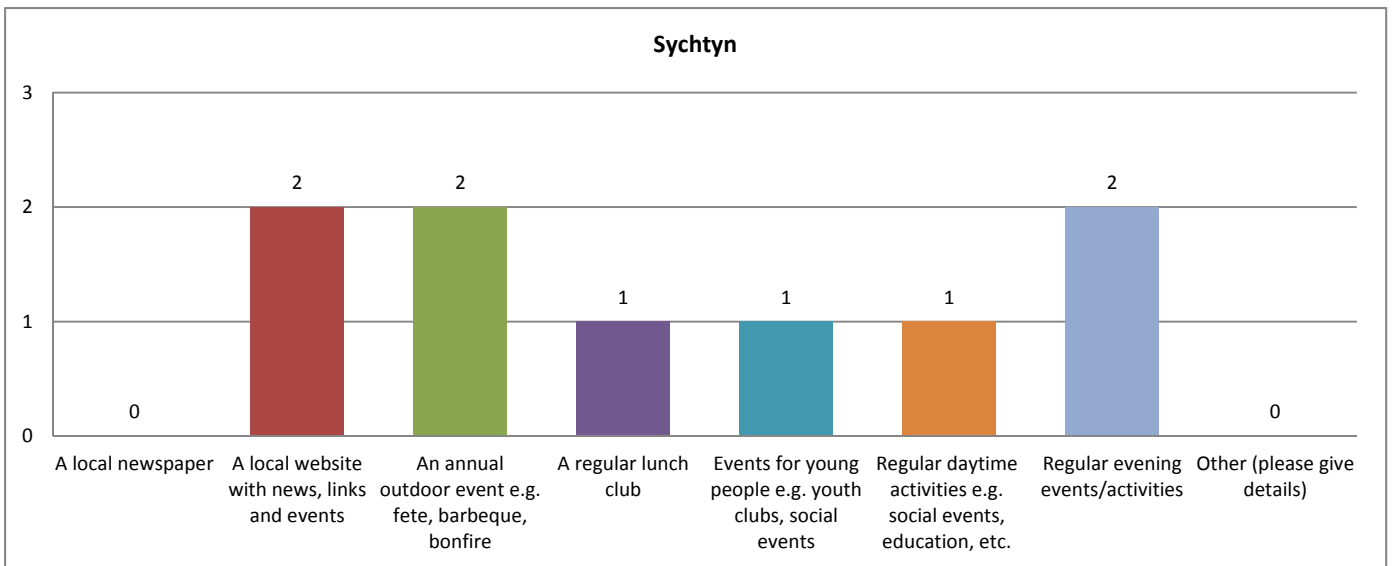
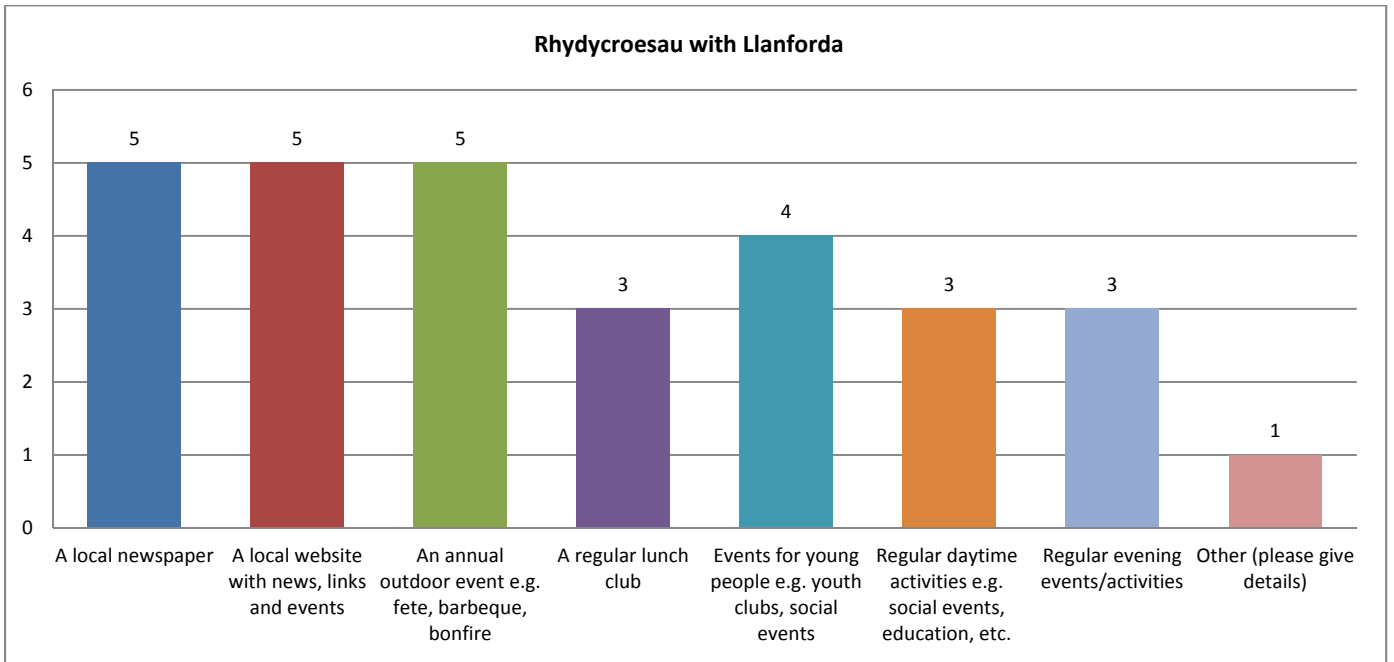


Within the wards there were slight variations. The three settlements with the larger response rates (Maesbury with Aston, Morda with Sweeney and Trefonen with Treflach) provided responses consistent with the responses for the parish as a whole.

In Rhydygroesau with Llanforda a local newspaper, local website and an annual outdoor event received an even amount of support.

In Sychtyn, a local website, an annual outdoor event and regular evening events/activities received the greatest support.





Q28. If there was one thing you could change in the ward, what would it be?

178 responses were received for this question. Responses indicate a wide range of opinions and aspirations about things that could be changed. The most popular comments have been analysed, grouped into a theme and summarised below:

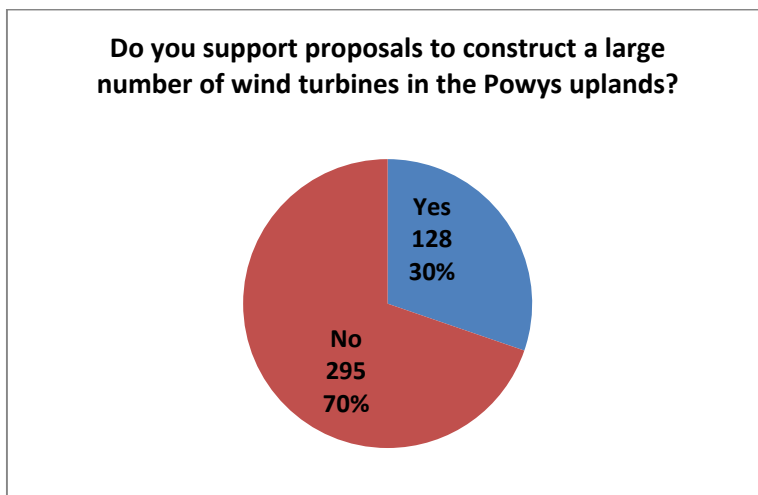
Response	Number of responses
Stop / limit further development (esp on greenfield sites)	24
Better speed restrictions / enforcement / calming measures	18
Happy with the ward the way it is	10
Reduce traffic through villages and narrow lanes	10
Reliable bus services (more frequent, better timings)	8
A village shop / greater range of produce at existing shop	6
Reopen the shop & post office	6
Reopen Maesbury school & play area	6
Road safety	6
Fast broadband & mobile phone coverage	5
Parish Council renewal / elections / more representative	5
Improve communication within village and with Parish Council	4
No pylons & power lines	4
Shropshire Council to take greater notice of local people (including the Parish Council)	3
Appearance and upkeep of villages	3
Dog fouling	3
Keep properties tidy (gardens, hedges)	3
More community spirit / village atmosphere	3
Restructure the parish and ward boundaries	3
Impact of diverting traffic off the A5 and through villages / narrow roads	3
More policing / greater visibility	2
Better road maintenance, verge & drain clearance	2
Keep school and pre-school safe from closure	2
More consultation / longer consultation periods / act on the findings	2
Youth / teenagers using the village pub	2
Better hospital facilities in Shropshire / do not reduce facilities further	2

A number of points were raised in this section regarding this survey exercise. These were:

- residents of the same address do not always share the same views and further copies would have been welcome. *However, in writing this report it is noted that in the introductory section of the survey residents are invited to contact the Parish Clerk for additional copies, which clearly provides a cost effective means for households to access multiple copies where required.*
- one respondent reported only having two weeks from delivery of survey to closing date
- two forms were sent to the same address (yellow and white), a perceived waste of money

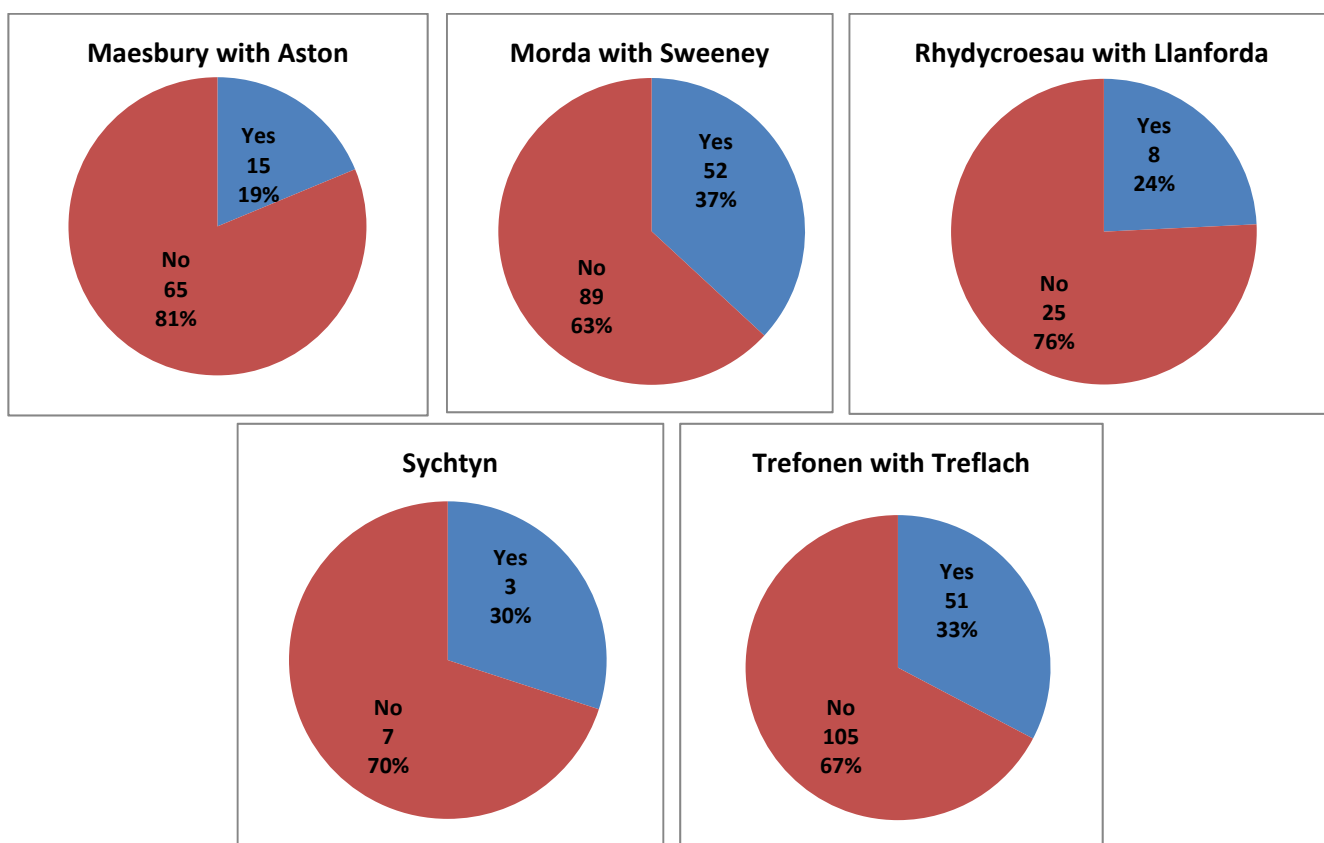
Q29. Do you support proposals to construct a large number of wind turbines in the Powys uplands?

423 people responded to this question. Of the responses, over two thirds did not support proposals to construct a large number of wind turbines in the Powys uplands.



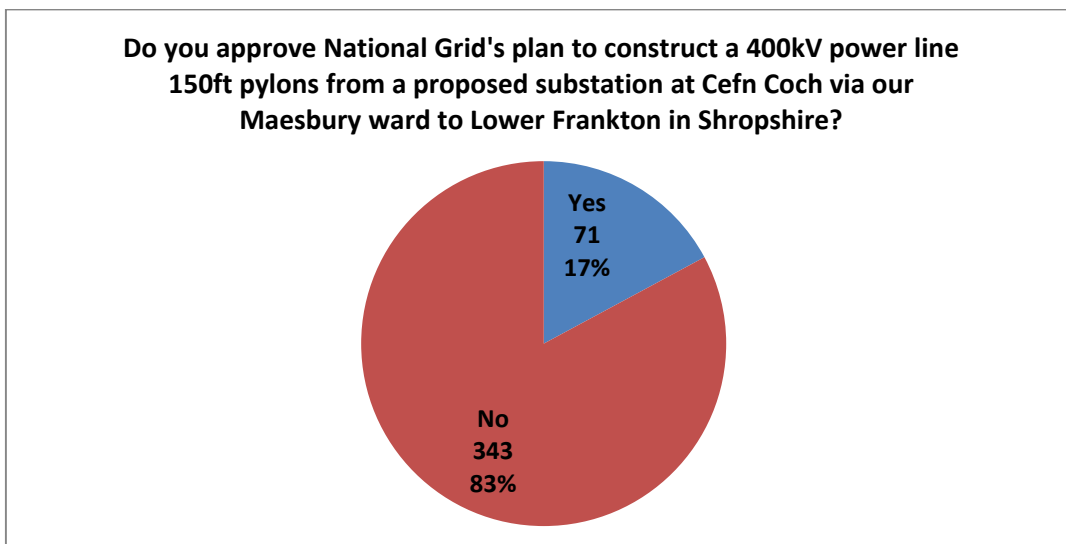
The responses varied slightly across the different wards in the parish, though none of the wards responded mainly in favour of proposals to construct a large number of wind turbines in the Powys uplands.

Greatest support was from Morda with Sweeney, where over a third of respondents supported the proposals. A third of Trefonen with Treflach respondents supported the proposals. In Rhydycroesau with Llanforda and Maesbury with Aston, fewer than a quarter of respondents supported the proposals.

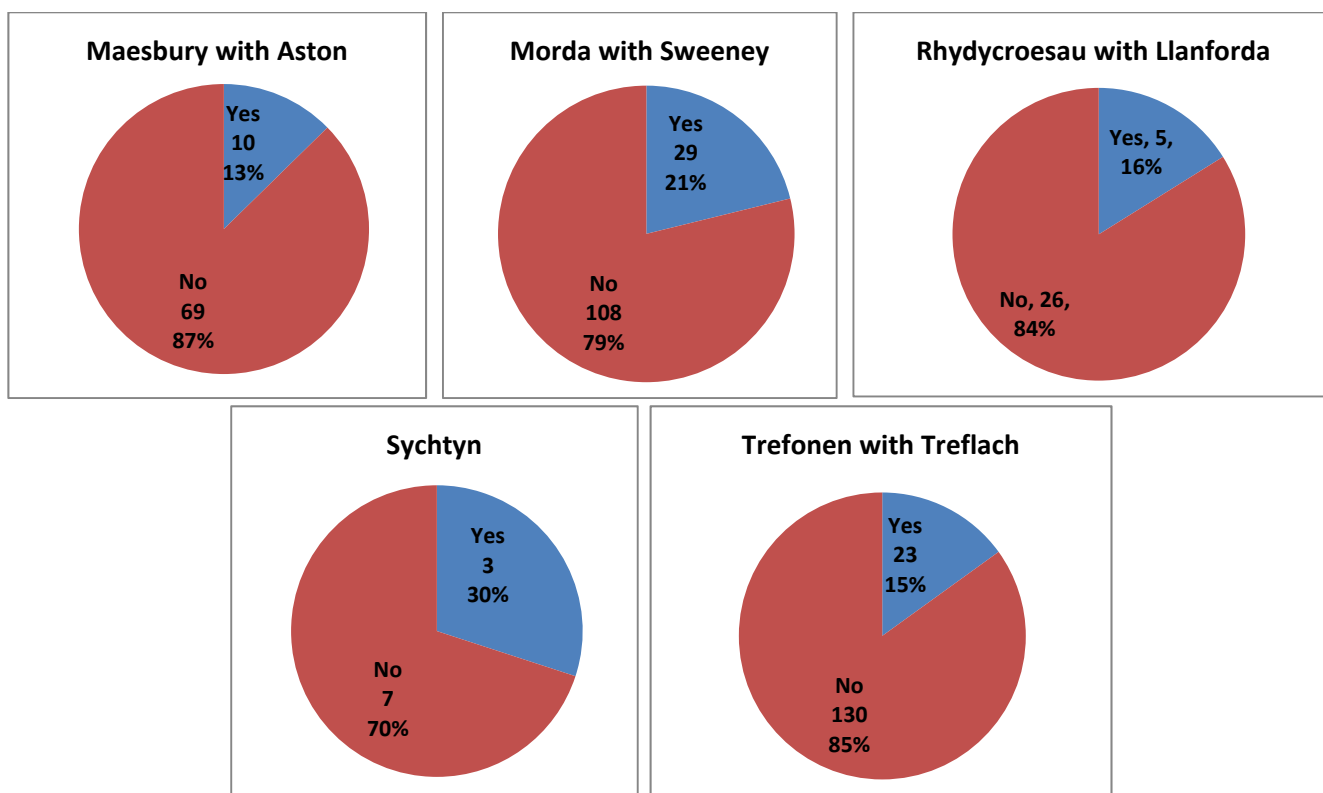


Q30. Do you approve of National Grid’s plan to construct a 400v power line on 150ft pylons from a proposed substation at Cefn Coch via our Maesbury ward to Lower Frankton in Shropshire?

Across the parish, most people did not support proposals to build a power line and pylons from Cefn Coch to Lower Frankton via the Maesbury ward. Less than one fifth of respondents were in support of this development.

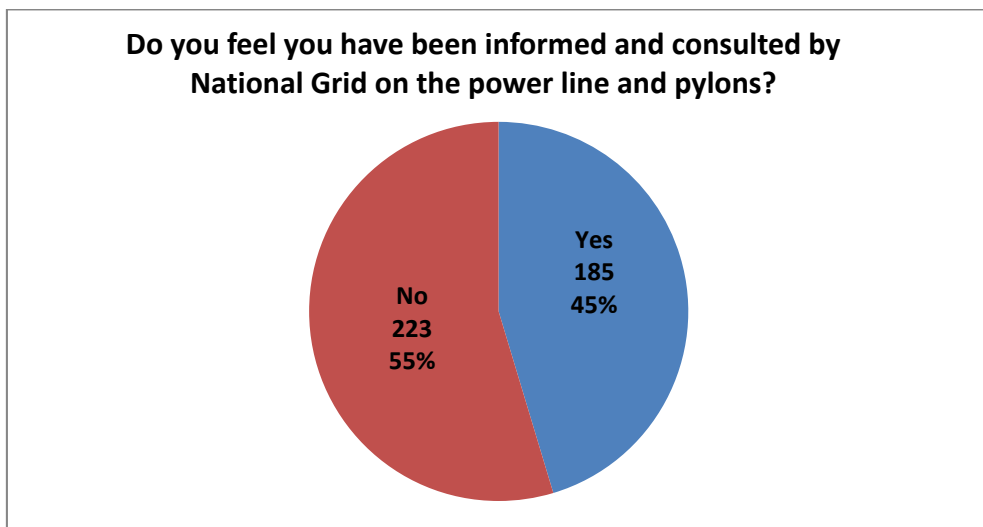


Within the individual wards, Maesbury with Aston respondents indicated the lowest level of support, with only 13% of respondents saying they supported the proposed power line and pylons. In Trefonen and Treflach and Rhydycroesau with Llanforda the level of support was 15% and 16% respectively. 21% of Morda with Sweeney respondents and 30% of Sychtyn respondents supported the development. These results indicate that, whilst the power line would run directly through Maesbury ward, residents of other parts of the parish share strong concerns about this development.



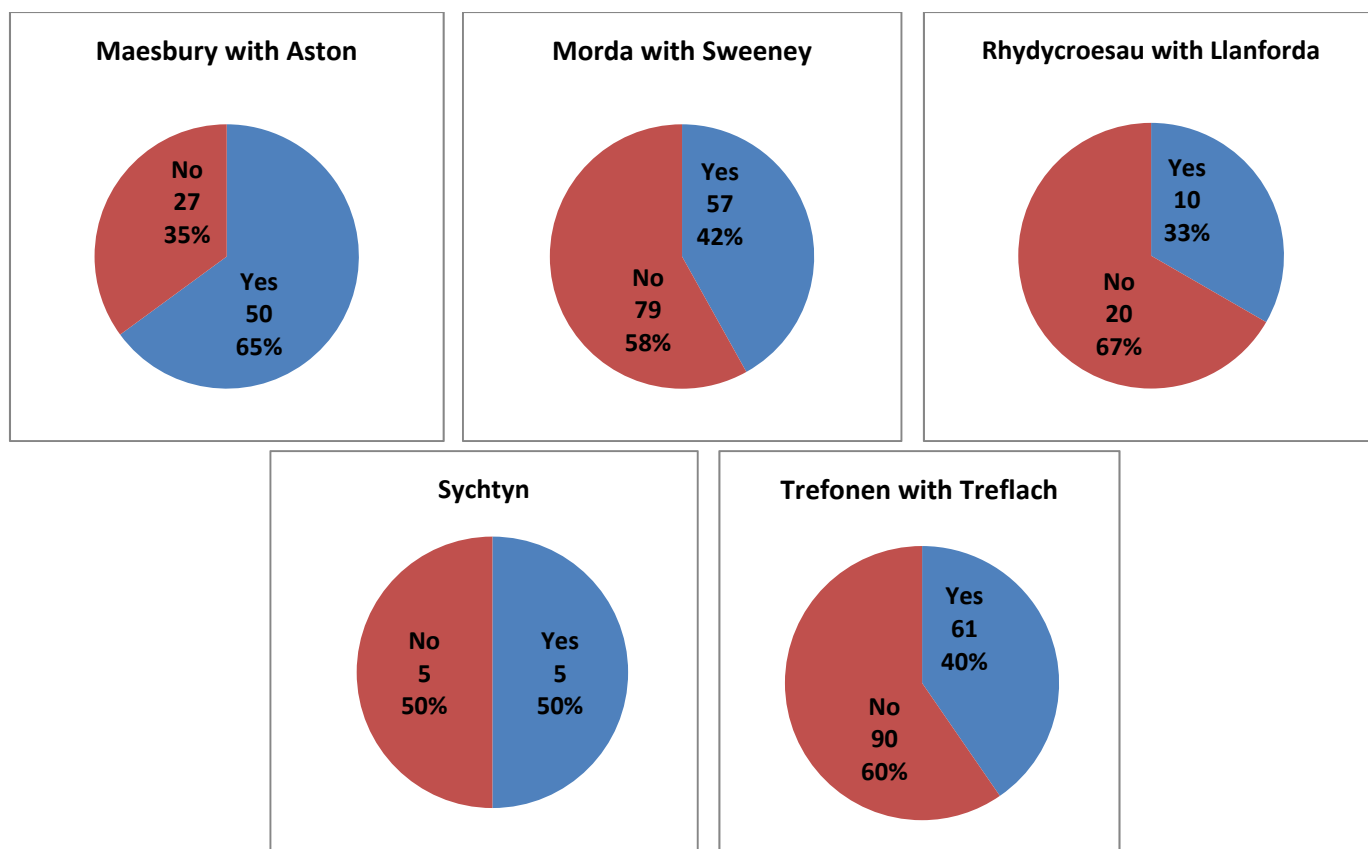
Q31. Do you feel you have been informed and consulted by National Grid on the power line and pylons?

408 people responded to this question. 55% of respondents across the parish felt that they had not been informed or consulted by National Grid on the power line and pylons.



The responses to this question differed significantly between the wards.

Maesbury with Aston respondents felt most informed and consulted, with over two thirds answering ‘yes’ to this question. Half of Sychtyn residents felt informed and consulted. In Morda with Sweeney and Trefonen with Treflach approximately two fifths of respondents felt informed and consulted (42% and 40% respectively). Less than one third of Rhydycroesau with Llanforda respondents felt least well informed and consulted.



Conclusion:

The data collected via the community survey provides an evidence base with which to inform future community consultation and engagement, and to identify actions that can be taken to preserve and improve the parish for the future.

Filtering the survey data by wards has proved to be a valuable exercise. On a number of occasions the filtering identified localised issues at ward level, which may not have been revealed had the data only been presented for the whole parish.

The issues raised by local people indicate there are some 'quick wins' that could be achieved, such as those around improved communication and parish information. Some issues raised may present opportunities for members of the community to come together to develop community projects or enterprises, such as new shop facilities or the use of the Maesbury School site. Other priorities will be more challenging to achieve by the people of this parish alone, such as those relying on input, decisions or resources from other organisations like Shropshire Council (for issues affecting traffic calming or housing development).

As with many issues affecting a whole community, some will agree, some will disagree. Hopefully the data in this report identifies those areas over which there is a divergence of opinion and require further areas of probing with additional consultation, whilst also highlighting areas that have general community support/agreement.