

WOOL PARISH neighbourhood plan

REGULATION 14 CONSULTATION REPORT – THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR WOOL, DECEMBER 2023

(28 December 2023)

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1. CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

1. Effective engagement with the local community is essential in developing a vision and objectives for the future development of neighbourhoods and to provide the detailed information to support non-strategic policies that can make a difference to localities.

Parish Plan Context

2. Previous community initiatives have included the development of a Parish Plan which was published in 2011. The Parish Plan was community-led and based on a comprehensive survey of all households. The Parish Plan identified proposed actions are summarised in Table 1 below alongside actions taken and whether similar matters have been highlighted in the neighbourhood plan engagement process.
3. The Wool Neighbourhood Plan has been supported by comprehensive engagement and consultation in a variety of forms. This is summarised below to show how engagement activities have supported the development of the neighbourhood plan.

Wool Annual Parish Meeting 23rd April 2018

4. The Annual Parish Meeting provided an opportunity for local people to hear a presentation from David Evans who related the experience of Wareham in preparing its neighbourhood plan. The presentation was attended by 43 people, with questions and answers provided on the scope and process of neighbourhood plans. The intention of Wool Parish to prepare a neighbourhood plan was explained by the chair of the NPSG at the meeting.

Wool Carnival 16th June 2018

5. At the outset of the development of the neighbourhood plan, a stall was organised and staffed by NPSG volunteers at the Wool Carnival. People were encouraged to provide their views on what facilities or other improvements they would like to see in Wool. From 30 people who participated, a wide range of views were given, as follows:
 - Shops and Leisure – gym/sports hall, cinema, fun complex for kids, Poundland, Nandos, Supermarket, Lidl, more local shops, greengrocer, Ikea, Tesco, New Look
 - Community – fire station, ambulance station, Swimming pool,
 - Outdoor – Dog walking areas, play areas
6. From this, a clear desire was expressed for a local leisure centre, a local supermarket, comparison shops, more restaurants and improved community services.
7. Visitors to the carnival were also asked for views on emerging Purbeck Local Plan proposals for new housing development in Wool. A wide range of matters were raised, generally raising concerns about the impacts arising from new housing, as follows:
 - Local shops would need to expand and more shops would need to be provided.

- Traffic generation would cause parking stress at the rail station and outside local shops. It would cause congestion in Wool increasing traffic problems associated with the level crossing.
- More housing would generate requirements for expanded local medical services.
- New housing needs to be affordable for local first-time buyers.

Table 1 - Actions from 2011 Parish Plan

Parish Plan Proposed Action (in summary)	Action taken since 2011	Identified in recent neighbourhood plan engagement?
Provide dog walking routes	In 2011, Wool Parish Council were considering banning dogs from the recreation field. This did not happen.	
Provide dog waste bins	Dog waste bins are being phased out as general waste bins can now be used.	Walkabout Survey
Ensure 100% of affordable housing is for local people	Continue to support, Wool Parish Council cannot enforce.	Resident Survey
Support more leisure and youth activities for healthy lifestyles	New and redeveloped play parks. New and redeveloped skate parks.	Walkabout Survey
Ask for the views of young people	Attempt to create a Youth Parish Council was stalled by lockdown. Youth groups were targeted in the development of the neighbourhood plan.	Wool Carnival
Support development of 21 Cologne Road as a community facility	Delivered.	
Improve community activities and awareness of them (notice boards, signs, adverts etc)	Wool Parish Council produces a monthly newsletter. Community groups are now available on social media. The usage of The D'Urberville for community activities has tripled since 2011.	Wool Carnival, Resident Survey
Improve cultural activities in the parish e.g. venue for Purbeck film festival	Purbeck Film Festival has been hosted annually at The D'Urberville since 2019.	Wool Carnival, Resident Survey
Support and enhance library provision	Wool Parish Council continues to support the library. The library is now open longer	

Parish Plan Proposed Action (in summary)	Action taken since 2011	Identified in recent neighbourhood plan engagement?
	and there are plans to extend the floorspace.	
Ensure good transport links to nearby towns for older people	Wool Parish Council are working with Dorset Council to improve bus services.	Resident Survey
Retain post offices in Wool and Bovington	Retained.	
Address need for banking facilities including a free ATM	Banking facilities are available at Post Offices and more people now use online banking.	Yes
Consider increased parking restrictions in East Wool and West Wool		Walkabout Survey
Provide more/better parking at facilities within the parish		Walkabout Survey
Consider a car share scheme		
Support the enhancement of Wool Rail Station and services	Wool Parish Council has continued to support.	Resident Survey
Provide better maps and signage from the rail station	Delivered by Friends of Wool Station.	Yes
Explore potential for cycle hire from Wool Rail Station	Cycle hire scheme introduced in 2022.	Walkabout Survey
Identify safe cycle routes including to Monkey World and the Tank Museum	A cycle route was built part of the way to Monkey World.	Resident Survey, NPSG Working Group
Increase provision of dropped kerbs by 50% (to improve accessibility)	Achieved.	
Keep hedges trimmed to preserve pavement space	Increased awareness and the need to report to Dorset Council.	Walkabout Survey, Resident Survey
Reduce traffic speeds by installing speed indicators	Two Speed Indicator Devices were installed.	
Review traffic speeds and signs on Lulworth Road, Dorchester Road outside Purbeck Gate, Cologne Road, Colliers Lane	Two Speed Indicator Devices were installed which cover Lulworth Road, Dorchester Road outside Purbeck Gate, King George V Road	Resident Survey

Parish Plan Proposed Action (in summary)	Action taken since 2011	Identified in recent neighbourhood plan engagement?
	and East Burton Road. Wool Parish Council continues to push for 20mph limits to be introduced.	
Support a Switch Off Campaign to save energy and reduce light pollution by turning off streetlights between 12:30am and 4:30am		Resident Survey
Improve link from East Burton to Wool via Giddy Green footpath	Work will be done in 2023.	Resident Survey, NPSG work on walking and cycling links
Install pavements on East Burton Road, Burton Road and Lulworth Road		Walkabout Survey, Resident Survey
Install a pedestrian crossing at Bovington First School		
All schools to create School Travel Plans to encourage walking to school		
Set up a Conservation Group for the protection and enhancement of the local environment and carry out an ecological survey.		
Create circular walks around the parish		Walkabout Survey
Create a website to promote the protection and enhancement of the local environment		
For public footpaths, change stiles to gates		
Provide new allotments in Bovington		
Investigate a play area at Higher Wood	Done.	
Review litter management and report to Purbeck DC	Wool Parish Council organises regular litter picks and employs a warden who can issue fines for littering.	Walkabout Survey, Resident Survey

Parish Plan Proposed Action (in summary)	Action taken since 2011	Identified in recent neighbourhood plan engagement?
Review condition of all footpaths and bridleways	Ongoing.	Walkabout Survey, Resident Survey
Organise a photo competition for the parish		
Identify if new trees need to be planted and talk to relevant bodies.	Ongoing. A fruit orchard was planted in 2023.	
If Bovington Middle School closes, protect the site's biodiversity and consider setting up a Friends Group.		
Investigate undertaking a Housing Needs Survey	Housing needs survey carried out in 2017.	Identified by NPSG following resident survey
Raise awareness about the financial support available for home adaptations for people with disabilities		
Improve advice on flood risk		Resident Survey
Hold an event to promote sustainability in the parish		
Identify and provide outreach medical services at 21 Cologne Road		Walkabout Survey
Revitalise the Homewatch scheme		
Improve awareness about how to report crimes to the police	Done by Wool Parish Council.	
Improve police presence in the parish eg through drop-in sessions		Walkabout Survey
Identify sites/facilities to host Adult Education provision in the parish and then work with bodies to provide them		Yes
Promote local business support services		
Rotate Wool Parish Council meeting around the parish	Done until lockdown. Needs to be restarted.	
Consider changing the name of the parish		

Parish Plan Proposed Action (in summary)	Action taken since 2011	Identified in recent neighbourhood plan engagement?
Resist pressure for new development other than for meeting local needs	Ongoing.	Resident Survey
Develop guidelines to ensure new development is sympathetic to local character	Developing neighbourhood plan.	Walkabout Survey, Resident Survey
Wool Parish Council to work with LPA on applications for infill and backland development with emphasis of protecting gardens especially for wildlife		

Survey of Residents, September–October 2019

8. A survey was distributed to all households in the BH20 6... Postcode in the week of 2nd September 2019 and was published on the neighbourhood plan website (www.woolparishnp.com). Publicity for the survey was provided on the website, social media, parish notice boards and posters. The survey ran for two months, until 31st October.
9. During the survey, 7 drop-in sessions were held at the following locations on days and at times designed to encouraged the widest possible participation:

Wednesday 11th September, 6–8pm	East Burton Village Hall
Tuesday 17th September, 10am–Noon	East Burton Village Hall
Friday 6th September, 10am–Noon	The D’Urberville Centre (Room 1)
Saturday 14th September, 10am–Noon	The D’Urberville Centre (Room 1)
Wednesday 25th September, 6–8pm	The D’Urberville Centre (Room 1)
Tuesday 24th September, 10am–Noon & 6–8pm	The Bovington Legion
Friday 20th September, 10am–Noon & 6–8pm	Cologne Road Community Room

10. 201 responses to the survey were received in a combination of online returns (65) and paper returns (136). 29 people attended the drop-in sessions. Covid-19 restrictions prevented physical distribution of a survey feedback flyer in March 2020, so the results of the survey were summarised and published online in April 2020. Once restrictions were reduced, the feedback flyer on the survey was physically delivered to all households in November 2020.
11. The Survey questionnaire asked people to indicate what they like and don’t like about Wool, Bovington and East Burton, and what they would and would not like to see in these villages. A large number of matters were identified across these four elements by the 201 respondents to the survey. Table 2 shows the headline results from the survey in the form of separate points raised, showing what comments focused on.

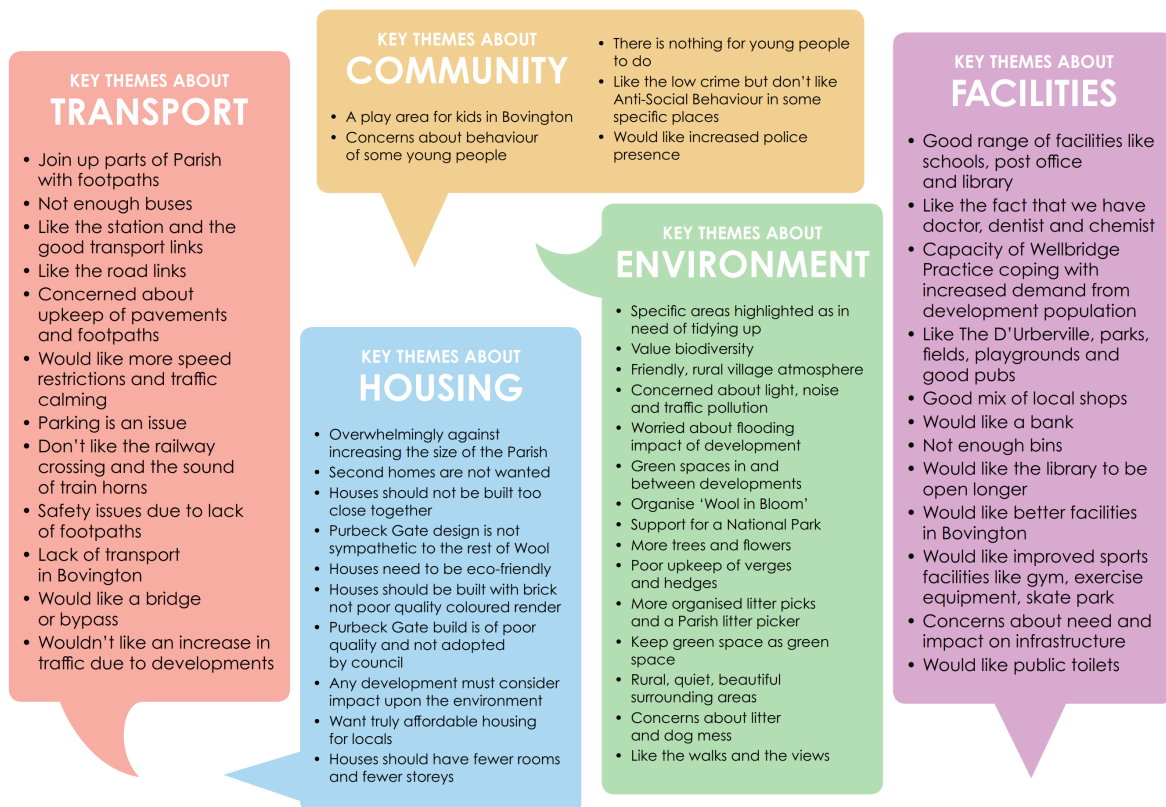
Table 2 – Headlines results of the Residents Survey, October 2019

	Transport	Facilities	Housing	Community	Environment	Employment	Unattributed	Not used	Total
Like	88	176	20	178	175	1	4	7	649
Don’t like	266	109	67	57	79	0	17	9	604
Would like	224	213	161	69	117	13	13	9	819
Wouldn’t like	79	78	245	31	73	5	28	5	544

12. In terms of **what people like** about their local area, people value the combination of good rail access to larger centres of population with a retained local village feel (good countryside, good community interactions etc) and feel this is a good balance. As a larger village, they like the level of services provided and the opportunities that exist for community activities.

13. According to the survey, **people don't like** traffic levels or speeds through the village and feel this is exacerbated by the operation of the level crossing. They feel bus services are severely lacking. Many feel that local medical services are overstretched, and that the area lacks a proper supermarket (the nearest being Wareham). Another theme raised relates to a perceived scruffiness and untidiness in Wool, related to footways, litter, overgrown hedges, weeds and the like. Some point to anti-social behaviour exhibited by youths and others point to the lack of things for them to do. The design of the Purbeck Gate development gets significant mention in the survey, with three storey development and the design approach or building quality there not widely supported.
14. The survey asked people what they **would like to see** in Wool, Bovington and East Burton. High on the list is the need for improvements around the level crossing at Wool Station, better bus services, improved local medical services, better connections between Bovington and Wool and action to tidy up Wool.
15. In terms of what people **wouldn't like to see**, this boils down to not wanting significant new amounts of housing at a level that would alter the character of the parish and exacerbate existing traffic and services pressures whilst eroding the quality of countryside, the village feel and community spirit.
16. An extract from the feedback flyer is provided below in Figure 1. This shows the NPSG interpretation of key themes from the survey.

Figure 1 – Key themes identified from 2019 neighbourhood plan Survey



Community Walkabouts, July 2021

17. Following the analysis of the results of the Survey, The Parish Council and neighbourhood plan Steering Group organised a series of seven community walkabouts in July 2021 on the dates and times around the locations listed below.

Saturday 24th July, 10:30am	Old Wool
Saturday 24th July, 2:30pm	Central Wool from the station to Bailey's Drove
Sunday 25th July, 10:30am	Bovington
Sunday 25th July, 2:30pm	Bovington Village - Cologne Road & surrounding areas
Saturday 31st July, 10:30am	Chalkpit Lane, Hillside, Lower Hillside & surrounding areas
Saturday 31st July, 2:30pm	East Burton
Sunday 1st August, 10:30am	Purbeck Gate

18. The walkabouts provided an opportunity for local residents to speak with steering group members about the local environment and identify things which they like and want more of, and problems which need to be tackled. This was a key opportunity to test whether issues raised in the walkabouts were valid and consistent with pre-Covid consultation issues. Matters raised by the 34 people attending the walkabouts mirrored those raised by the survey and provided insights on specific matters in those areas. Residents were asked to provide feedback from the walkabout across a number of themes and the feedback from these is summarised in Figure 2.

Figure 2 – Summary Issues Raised on Community Walkabouts

Moving Around	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly maintained footpaths and pavements, or no pavements • Need for more dropped kerbs • Overgrown hedges reducing footpath and pavement space • Lack of cycle racks • Benches required for resting on long stretches to Bovington
Traffic and Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Car Parking at key locations • Poorly designed parking • Poor parking practice creates safety problems eg at Bryatown triangle and outside take aways
Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no bus services that can be relied upon • Train service is good • Need Bus between Bovington and Wool
Natural Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is good access to surrounding countryside for walking and cycling • There is a lack of natural space easily accessible within Wool • Some open areas within Bovington are in need of a clean-up • East Burton Road has no pavement for long stretches
Play and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Recreation Ground in Wool is regarded as good quality • The playground in Bovington is in need of improvement. • Need some outdoor adult exercise equipment • Need for play area at Cologne Road
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more homes for first time buyers, new households in rent and local families • New housing needs to reflect the character of the area
Care and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public realm (verges, roadsides, bins, benches, pavements, boundaries with hedges and fences, some buildings) are seen as poorly maintained, overgrown, untidy, and in need of improvement.
Feeling Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People generally feel safe around the Parish at all times of the day • There is some concern about low-level anti-social behaviour and congregations of young people outside in the evenings
Work and Local Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are limited opportunities for high quality employment locally.
Identity and Belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some people have not developed a sense of belonging to the community and feel there is a lack of community to be part of, especially in areas with no facilities • Others feel they are part of a local village community
Climate Ready Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is concern that the risks of flooding will increase as a result of climate change and from new development on greenfield sites
Streets and Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents generally said that Wool is not an attractive village, being affected by development at different times in different styles, by poorly arranged car parking and by poor upkeep of the village.
Facilities and Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that some areas lack any facilities • Concern that new development will mean local services are insufficient
Social Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General view that social interaction could be improved and that there is a need for more facilities to encourage this.

School Pupils Survey, July 2021

19. As the Summer Term of 2021 progressed, the NPWG consulted pupils at local schools (Bovington Primary, Wool Primary and St Mary and St. Joseph's Catholica Primary) to understand the views of pupils on what they like and don't like about living in the parish and what they would like to see more of (or less of). The pupils were in the age range of 4-11 years. 88 responses were received to the survey giving a wide range of opinions from children about the parish. The results were split into those living in Bovington and those living in Wool and East Burton.
20. There were more responses from pupils living in Bovington and they mentioned different things they liked about living in the parish, focussing on their friends nearby, parks, the woods and river, wildlife and the attractions on that side of the parish including the Tank Museum and Monkey World. They also mentioned the skatepark in Wool and the availability of shops as something they liked about the Parish.
21. With a smaller number of responses, in relation to things they liked, pupils from Wool mentioned friends much less, but did mention the play park and field, and the skatepark. There were more mentions of facilities that exist in Wool and more evidence of awareness of traffic and neighbours. There was much less mention of outdoors-type attributes in a clear difference from children in Bovington.
22. In relation to things local children don't like about their area, the largest responses (by far) from children in Bovington were that they did not like rubbish in the woods and play park, swearing, bullies, teenagers and (the quality of) parks. In Wool, there was a much smaller response on 'don't likes', with those highlighted focused on traffic and roads.
23. In terms of things children would like to see, there was again a fulsome response from Bovington children. They would like to see better equipped parks, more wildlife, a swimming pool for everyone, more shops, fast food retailers, their own skate park, litter picking, a library and a long list of other amenities. In Wool, the children there also raised the want of better equipped parks and more wildlife, but again raised traffic-related matters including better roads, fewer speeding cars, more walking areas and pavements on all roads.
24. Taken together the results of the Children's School Survey reveals some clear differences in the perspective of school children in Bovington and in Wool. In particular, the clear perception of access to a good local environment comes through in Bovington in contrast to children pre-occupied with traffic and neighbour-type issues in Wool. A clear perception of issues with anti-social behaviour and bullying arises from the responses of children in Bovington about what they don't like. Again, traffic and transport come to the fore in Wool. In Bovington, more community facilities, shops and leisure facilities are wanted by school children. In Wool, its better roads and pavements again. Children throughout the parish want improvements to play facilities in local parks.

Consultation Event, March 2022

25. Following the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns, a follow-up consultation event was held on 14th March 2022. This was held to provide fresh impetus to the neighbourhood plan,

summarise the current planning situation, report back on issues previously raised by the local community and discuss how the neighbourhood plan should move forward.

26. Publicity for the event was provided via the Parish Council website and a community newsletter. The event was held at the D’Urberville Centre in Wool and was led by the Chair of the neighbourhood plan Steering Group with support from Andrea Pellegam Ltd, consultants on neighbourhood planning. A presentation was made on the process for making neighbourhood plans, the issues faced locally in the light of the emerging Dorset Plan and Purbeck Local Plan.
27. About 20 people attended the event and discussion with the community was facilitated in order to understand their views about priorities for the neighbourhood plan, within the wider context of potential housing site allocations in the area.

Strategic Plan Context and Concerns

28. Many residents in attendance were concerned about the amount of potential new housing sites that could be allocated in Wool and this led to a lengthy discussion about this, also about the role of the neighbourhood plan within the adopted strategic planning policy framework, and about the wider role of the Parish Council in separate work (outside the neighbourhood plan process) to represent community views in the local plan process.
29. It was agreed that the neighbourhood plan should be prepared in a way which strengthens support for delivery of infrastructure and protection of important assets identified in Dorset Council’s adopted and emerging plans as required to support proposed new development. The neighbourhood plan can provide policies with a clear set of requirements based on local plan policies that can be used in development management over the life of the plan.
30. Useful contributions were provided from elected councillors of Dorset Council to explain the current planning situation and potential strategies for local plan proposals under consideration. This included the potential consideration of larger new settlement possibilities in strategic locations within Dorset, as yet undecided and undetermined, with this reliant on agreement by Government to allow time for this approach to be developed in the context of housing site availability and delivery requirements.
31. There was some concern as to whether the neighbourhood plan will have any support or buy-in from local landowners who are promoting their land for development and if they do not support it, there will be no way to achieve community objectives.

Neighbourhood Plan Issues raised at the event by residents

The community raised matters which they would like the neighbourhood plan to address if possible.

32. **Sustainable building design** – New development should better meet the challenges of climate change and the climate emergency through more energy efficient design and better use of more sustainable building materials. Methods of powering and heating new developments should respond to the need for lower carbon energy solutions in individual buildings and serving developments as a whole. This was an issue which had not come through strongly in previous engagement but perhaps reflects a growing awareness of climate change and the need to achieve net-zero carbon by 2050.

33. **Traffic through Wool** – As with previous surveys and consultations, there was significant concern at the traffic impacts of new housing development through Wool. Whilst consideration of the capacity of road networks to accommodate traffic generated by new development is a strategic matter for Dorset Council, the community wants to focus on positive proposals to ameliorate impacts, in particular around the level crossing and at key crossing points and walking/cycling routes. It is also concerned to ensure the design of new development minimises potential traffic impacts through good design principles.
34. **Local Employment Opportunities** – The community felt there is a disconnect between the presence of the Dorset Innovation Park (DIP) at Winfrith and the lack of local people employed there. Its presence partly justifies new housing development and yet people attending felt there appear to be few local employment opportunities at the DIP. Creating opportunities for local employment so that Wool remains a sustainable settlement with local jobs, is a concern.

Consultation with infrastructure and service providers, February 2022

35. The NPSG sent out letters to 14 identified companies and organisations who operate infrastructure or provide services in the Parish. Seven organisations responded to the letter with a summary of the consideration of matters raised addressed in this plan. A supporting document to this Neighbourhood Plan provides details of the survey and responses.

Local Bus Survey, Spring 2022

36. Local Bus Survey - During Spring 2022, Wool Parish Council undertook a survey of local residents to gather information on the types of journeys made locally and the means by which they are travelled. The survey sought to understand the frequency and times journeys are undertaken and to gauge views on whether using a bus would be considered if available. The survey and analysis of the responses are set out in supporting documents to the neighbourhood plan.
37. The survey was published online and in paper form (distributed by volunteers to all houses in the parish) and was open from 1 March 2022 to 30 April 2022. 191 responses were received detailing over 8,000 journeys taken per month (if you assume every journey is a round trip), which equates to 65,000 miles. The survey findings are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3 – Wool Parish Bus Survey Findings

Wool Parish Bus Survey Findings

Theme	Evidence
There is a genuine need/desire for buses in the parish.	Only 36% of the people who responded said that they would not be prepared to pay more Council Tax for a bus service. The remaining 64% either said yes (38.5%) or left the question blank (25.5%). This is significant, if you ask someone whether they want something for free they will almost certainly say yes whereas if they indicate they are prepared to pay that demonstrates a genuine need/desire.

Theme	Evidence
A lot of journeys would be made by bus instead of car.	Of the 65,000 miles worth of journeys, people indicated that about 57,000 of those miles would be done via bus instead (or left the question blank). There is a significant environmental benefit to this, particularly if an electric bus service were to be introduced. A lot of seniors no longer feel confident, or safe, driving but they are currently forced to drive due to a lack of public transport.
Bovington and Cologne Road must be connected to Wool by a regular bus.	Over 3,000 journeys per month (over 18,000 miles) either start or end at Bovington and Cologne Road. The need for a bus to/from Bovington was highlighted in the neighbourhood plan surveys and the bus survey data backs this up, as does the Beryl Bike usage data.
Wool needs to be connected to Dorchester by a regular bus.	Dorchester was the most popular destination which isn't currently serviced by a direct bus from Wool. Over 800 trips per month equating to over 18,000 miles.