

Kilmington Neighbourhood Plan

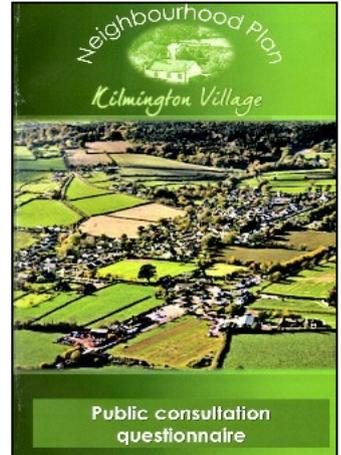
Results of the Public Consultation Questionnaire

Late last year a questionnaire was distributed to every house in the parish. Villagers were asked for their opinions on a very wide range of matters from new housing to what facilities are needed. The first half of the questionnaire was specifically related to the preparation of a Kilmington Neighbourhood Plan and the second half was to inform the Parish Council on matters under their control or responsibility. The questionnaire was quite long, so we are grateful to all those who persevered and completed it.

In this article we only summarise peoples' views on the questions relating to the Kilmington Neighbourhood Plan. It includes background information on the community, what type of transport we use and where we work, what type of housing is currently in place, what future needs might be, whether additional housing is desired, and if so where it might be.

Just to remind you, a Neighbourhood Plan is a document outlining planning policies to decide whether to approve planning applications or not; including where further housing or development is preferred and what form it should take. Following consultation with village residents to gather opinions, preferences and priorities, the Kilmington plan will be written by our local community who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority. Once approved, the Neighbourhood Plan is an important document with legal weight.

The questionnaire is one part of the consultation which will be backed up by an Open Village Meeting on Saturday 9th June. When we are satisfied we have enough information on the views of village residents, we shall draft the "Kilmington Neighbourhood Plan" and present it to you. This plan is then submitted to East Devon District Council to be independently examined and check that it meets legal requirements. The plan is then put to the village in the form of a referendum, to decide whether to adopt the plan or not. If agreed EDDC must adopt the plan.



Come to village meeting below and give us your views



This meeting is part of the formal Neighbourhood Plan consultation process and our aims for this meeting are:

To give feedback and discuss what Kilmington residents said in the Public Consultation Questionnaire

To clarify when there is new development in the village where do residents want it to be.

Refreshments will be available

Kilmington Neighbourhood plan public meetings

Saturday 9th June
2pm and 5pm

In the Village hall

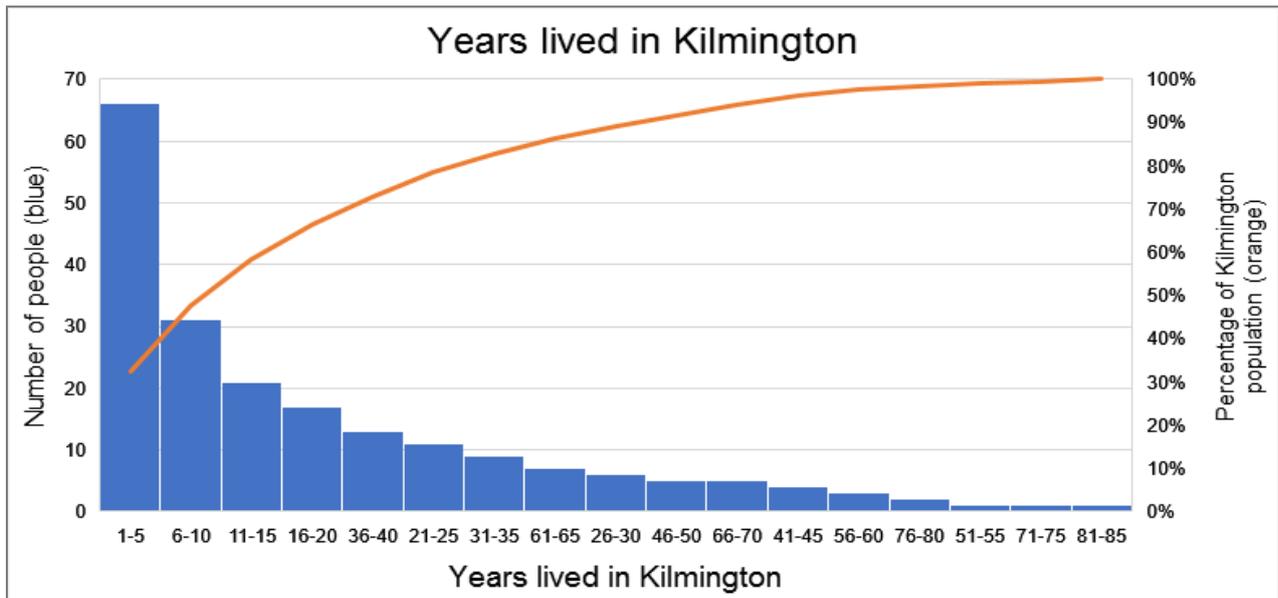
Please come and give us your opinion on future development of Kilmington

Results of the Public Consultation Questionnaire

We had a good response to the questionnaire with 215 returned, well over 60%, which is very good compared to other communities that have gone through this process. It is possible that people with particularly busy family or work commitments did not complete the questionnaire which might introduce a bias to the results. Not everyone felt able to comment on every question in the survey. Therefore, it is important to bear in mind that the results here are based on those who did comment and might not represent the views of everyone. We tried to give everyone the opportunity to have their say but we can only report on what people have told us in their answers.

Section 1 – who are we?

Years lived in Kilmington



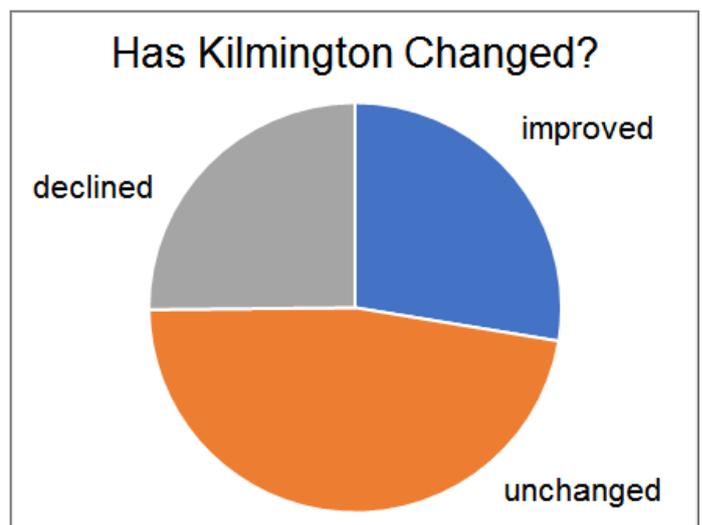
As expected for a village community, some people had lived here all their lives, many have been here for several generations. Sixteen homes had people who have lived here more than 60 years. It is interesting to note however, that 50% of the village have lived here 10 years or less.

What do you like about living in Kilmington?

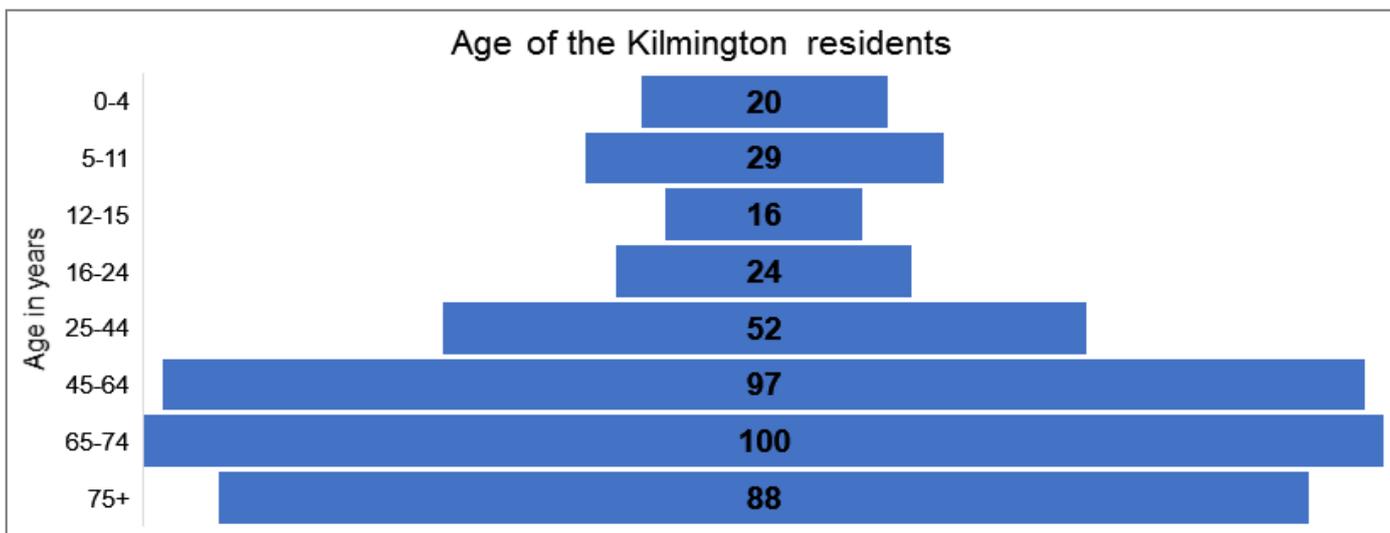
When asked “what do you like most about living in Kilmington?” the replies were very similar. The majority liked Kilmington’s friendly community spirit.

Has Kilmington Changed?

The majority of those replying thought Kilmington was unchanged or had improved since they lived here. Interestingly, how long people had lived here did not affect whether they thought it had got better or worse. The increased traffic on the A35 and the closure of Hurford’s Stores were the most concerning changes in the village.



Age of Kilmington Residents



Of the households that answered the questionnaire, a substantial proportion (44%) are of retirement age.

Transport

How we move around is important for future planning as it indicates if special provision is required, such as improved road access, bus or parking facilities or whether new developments would impact current infrastructure.

Cars are by far the dominant means of transport in the village with 95% (188 of 196 households) using a car either daily or several times a week (Q19).

Vans were the next most used type of vehicle with 21 households using them daily followed by 8 households using tractors daily (reassuring for a rural community).

For public transport, trains were used at least monthly by 50% of respondents (59 of 112) and buses were used at least a few times a week by 50% of those that commented (43 of 87). At least 8 households use a daily arranged bus for school (Q20)

Parking

Of the 315 vehicles owned by respondents, a surprising 93% were parked on private land (private drives, etc) rather than on the road (Q17). Residential parking needs to be distinguished from temporary visitor parking outside houses, pubs or near the school.

The majority responding think parking is variable in quality around the village and needs improvement (Q18).

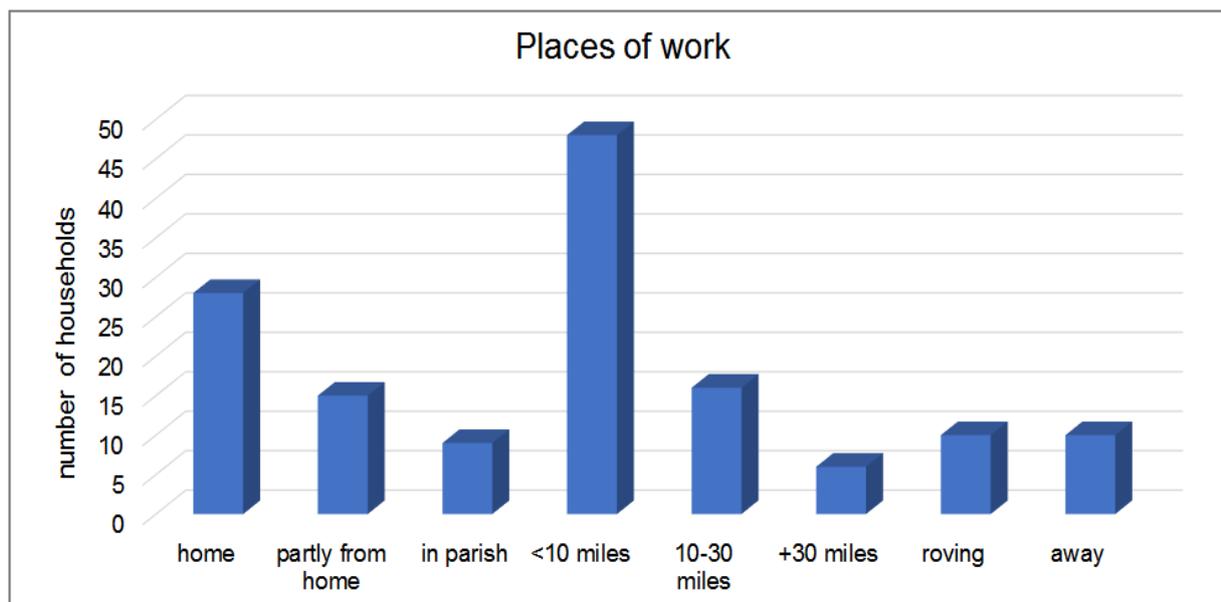
There are permanent 'hotspots', such as The Hill and Silver Street where the houses pre-date cars! And temporary problems in Whitford Road, usually associated with the school drop-off.

However, the majority do not want parking restrictions (155 no : 38 yes) (Q19). If any parking restrictions are placed in the village, most people thought they should be at the junction of The Hill and Shute Road, and Whitford road from the A35 to The Street.

Work and businesses

Ninety households have at least one person working, the rest (102 households) do not have someone at work. As we learned earlier, a significant proportion of the respondents were over retirement age, not that that does not mean that some of them don't still work!

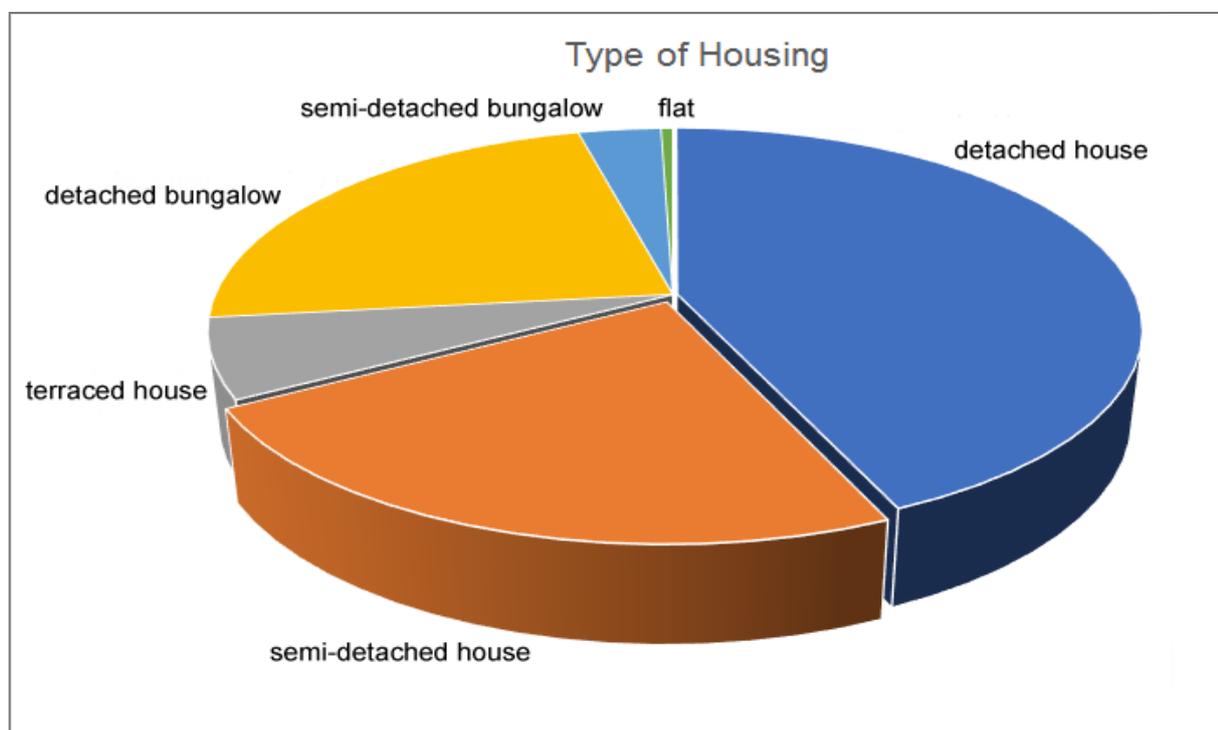
Places of work



Of working households, most work within 10 miles of Kilmington, a significant number work from home (Q28). Some 30 households run a business of one form or another from their premises (Q30).

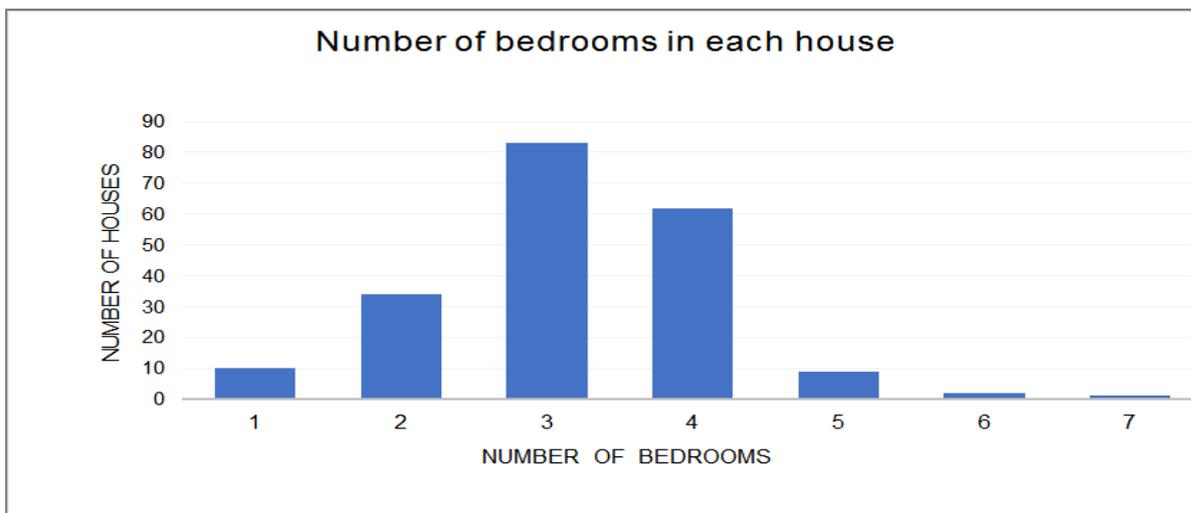
Section 2 Current Housing and needs

Current Housing



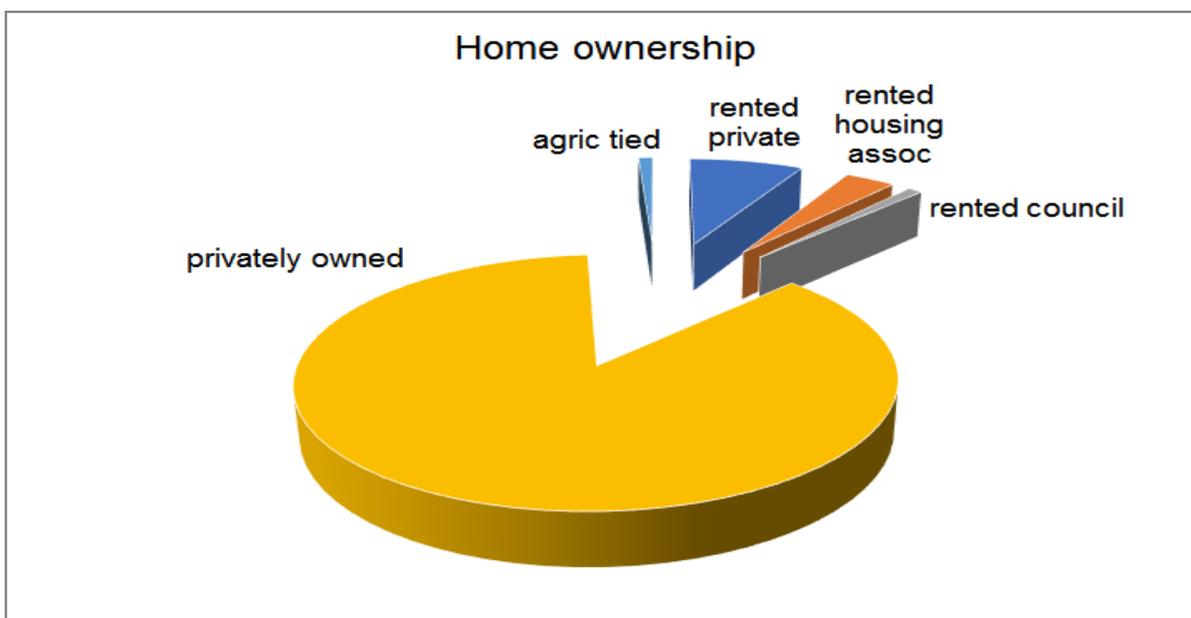
The majority of homes in the parish are detached, either bungalows or houses. There are relatively few semi-detached or terraced houses.

Number of Bedrooms



Overall, three and four-bedroom houses are the most common.

Ownership



The majority of homes are privately owned.

Housing needs

Ten percent of those households who commented on this question (18 of 180) had members of their household move away because there was a lack of suitable accommodation in the village (Q7).

About one in six households (25 out of 169) said they will require alternative accommodation in the Parish for someone in the next five years (Q8)

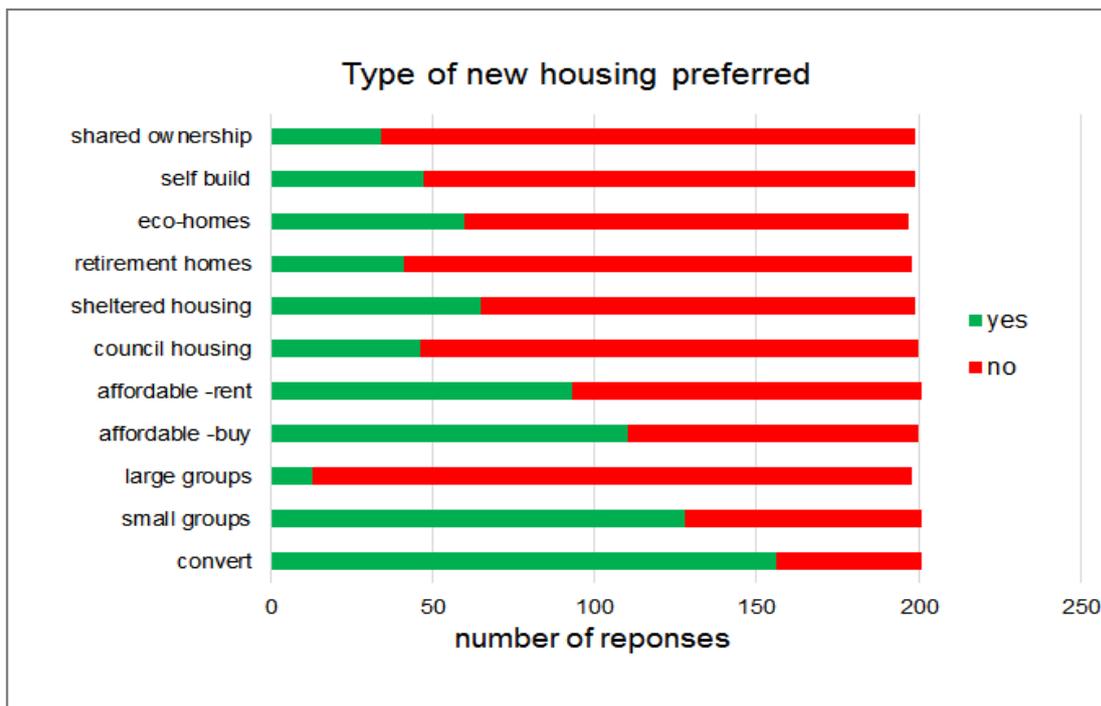
Section 3 New housing

Should we have new housing?



When asked whether people wanted new housing, the majority wanted no new housing (164 said no: 30 yes).

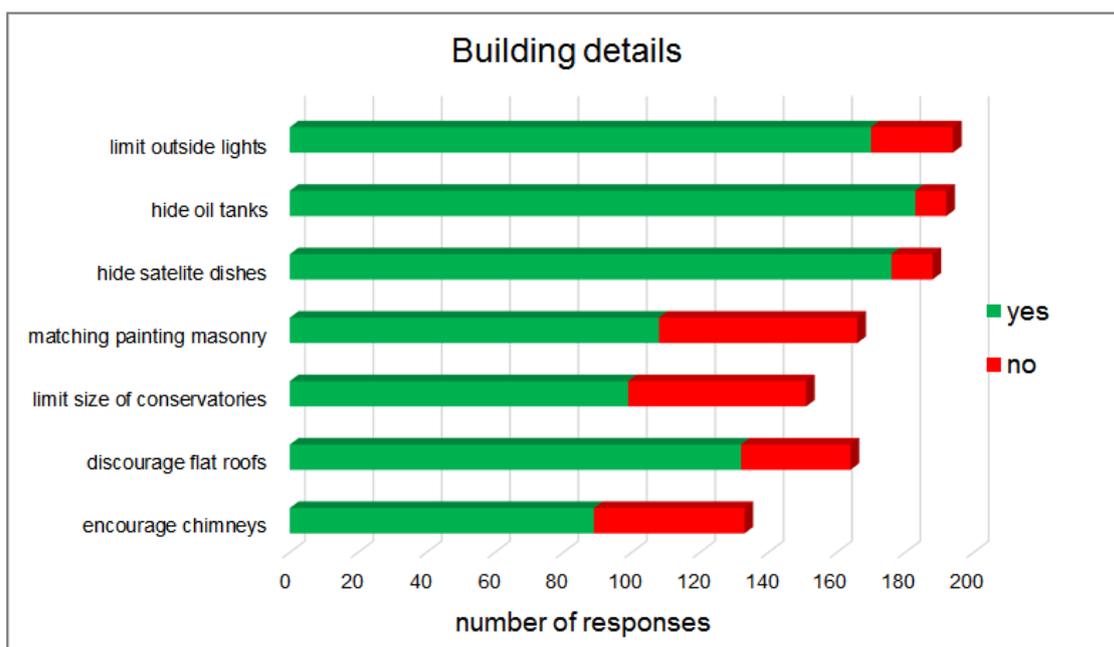
Type of new housing



However, when asked if there was to be new housing, what type of new housing they would like to see, the vast majority preferred small groups of houses (less than 5 houses) or conversions of existing buildings. Very few wanted large groups of houses (Yes13 : No185). For affordable housing, opinion was almost equally split between supporting such housing or not, either if it was to buy or rent. For all other categories of new housing, the majority was not in favour.

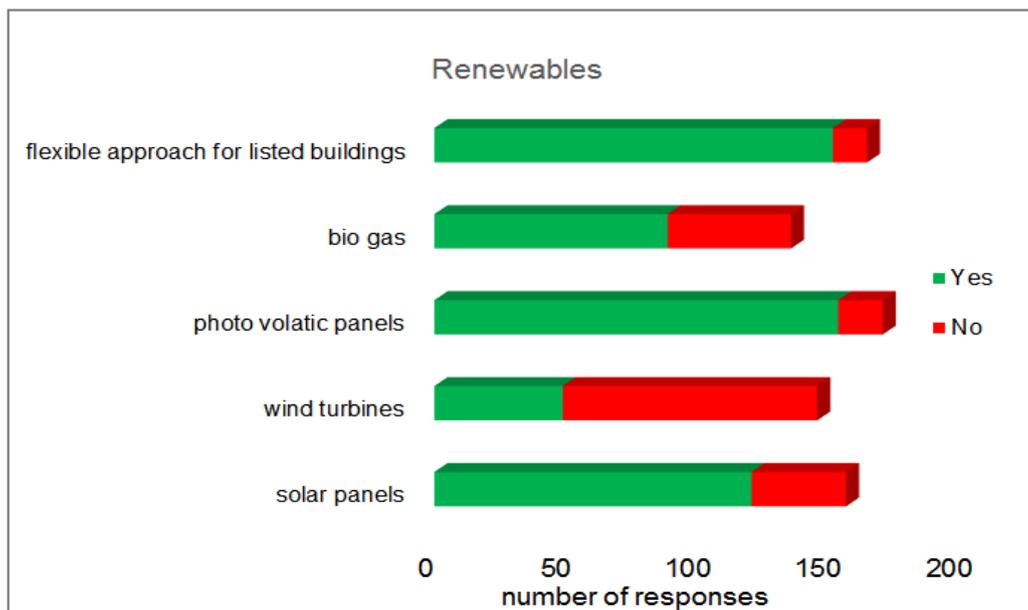
What should new buildings look like?

Harmonisation of new buildings (Q10) - the majority of respondents (114 replies) thought new buildings should harmonise visually with the surrounding buildings. A very few (4) thought new builds should be distinctive and a large number (82 of 114) felt each should be judged on its own merit.



As for the details of how buildings and the spaces around them look, the great majority of people want to see constraints, such as hiding oil tanks and controlling external lighting, etc. Opinion was more divided over encouraging chimneys or limiting conservatory size (Q11).

Renewable energy



People were overwhelmingly in favour of a more flexible approach to energy conservation in listed buildings, for example the use of double glazing in wooden frames. There was less support for the use, and presumably generation, of bio-gas (47:89).

In general, respondents were significantly in favour of increasing the use of solar thermal (hot water) and photo voltaic (electricity) panels. Domestic wind power was a different matter however, where twice as many were against than for it.

Where should any new housing be located?

In general, answers to some of the most important planning questions Q14, Q15, Q16 were somewhat confused. The maps were too small to show the detail needed, they did not cover all the relevant parts of the village and, for some people, the questions were ambiguous.

Because the location of possible new housing is such an important issue, you will be able to see large scale maps and to discuss and comment on the Built Up Area boundaries at a Public Consultation Meeting on Saturday 9th June. We hope you will join us to have your say on the criteria we should use to decide where new development is preferred.

Twelve areas where there have been previous discussions or proposals for housing development were indicated on a map (areas marked KL01-KL12 in Q16). Five of these areas had significantly more support than opposition. However, the number of people responding was small, with a maximum of 39 responses for any one proposal (30 for, 9 against). Suggestions for other potential sites were asked for and again the response was relatively small with a maximum of 22 people suggesting any one site. Consequently, it is difficult to draw any firm conclusion on the views of the majority of those in the parish. Given the importance of where further building would be acceptable, it will be the focus of the Village Open Meeting on 9th June.

Built Up Area

East Devon District Council have proposed that the “built up area” of the village is reduced ensuring that future applications for development (housing and other activities) will need a special case to be made outside this area. Many people found this question and the map confusing because of the jargon, so it will be discussed in the Village Open Meeting on the 9th June.

Conservation area

There was a majority who think the conservation area should not be extended (101:63), though the ‘minority’ is not small (Q9).

Section 4 Village Access and Facilities

Green spaces

There was some variation in how people answered the question on which green spaces around the village are valued in particular. The overall view is that all green spaces are valued, with the woods and playing field being particularly highly rated, followed by Jubilee Green and The Common.

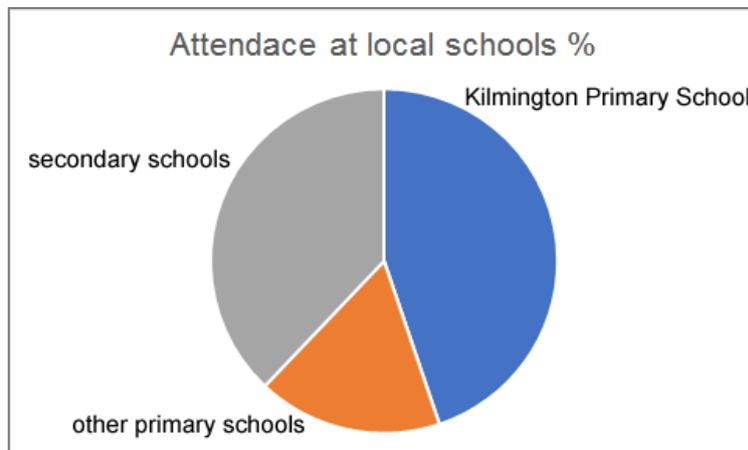
Viewpoints

People felt that all viewpoints in the village should be conserved as they contribute to the beauty and character of the village.

Allotments

The current provision of allotments is adequate.

Schools



The majority of children attending school are primary school age, and perhaps it is not surprising most go to Kilmingtion Primary School. A significant number (22 in our survey) travel away from the village to attend various secondary schools – some by car, others by arranged school transport.

Many respondents felt Kilmingtion Primary school would benefit particularly from the addition of a large playing field behind existing site.

Shops



The two shops in the village, Miller's Farm Shop and the Londis shop in the petrol station are well used by villagers, with over 50% (140) of households using either shop at least once per week. It is of note that Miller's is on the north side of the A35. This question had the most replies!