



Great Missenden & Prestwood Revitalisation Group
incorporating Ballinger, South Heath & Heath End

Community Vision Update

www.gmprg.org.uk

How the Community Vision Update was developed

In pursuit of discovering its key objectives, GMPRG launched a Community Vision update public consultation in early 2018. This was the first such exercise since the Market Town Health Check-CV4HP16 consultation in 2008.

GMPRG asked local residents about their likes and dislikes, their needs over the coming years and the priorities to help fulfil those needs. Also, what environmental, community or social matters they thought need improvement.

The Purpose:

To see what still needs to be done from the last Action Plan, to discover new community ideas and promote them to local statutory bodies, and to initiate projects that will stimulate a renewed sense of community.

Community Vision: The Outcome

229 survey replies were received.

From the vast number of suggestions, a number of overriding desires emerged, including:

- A strong will to retain the village feel and the various settlements as villages
- A sense of community ownership
- Need for good public spaces, retention of green spaces and care for the environment
- Some smartening up of the villages, with more vibrant high streets
- A good demographic mix, expressed both in terms of ages and access to housing
- Good amenities
- Safer roads, less traffic, improved public transport
- A generally safer and peaceful environment.

Community Vision: The Outcome (2)

It is striking how similar the main themes are to the findings of the CV4HP16 consultation in 2009:

Most frequently occurring CV4HP16 survey responses		
Likes	Dislikes	Other comments
Rural environment	Parking-related issues	Need for improved public transport
Availability of all essential amenities	Traffic-related issues	Need for better range of niche shops
Good rail & road transport links	Demise of useful shops	Young people need facilities & events

The Way Forward

After filtering and analysis, GMPRG will prioritise six themes:

- Improvement to public spaces and appearance of the villages
- Public transport – bus service, community transport etc.
- Road safety - parking, pavements, speed limits, etc.
- Facilities for children and young people
- Provision for cycling
- Communications – social media, broadband, The Source for HP16 newspaper, business hub

The Way Forward (2)

Steering Groups have been set up to focus on 3 of the priority areas:

- **‘Local and Community Transport’** led by John Cadman, Prestwood Village Association’s Chair.
- **‘Cycling and Secure Bike Parking’** led by Parish Councillor Mike Johnstone.
- **‘Public space improvements’** – GMPRG is working on several projects.

GMPRG is looking for volunteers for this next phase of the Community Vision, to participate in projects that will enhance the lives of residents. These require a mixture of skills and experience, but above all enthusiasm!

To get involved in any of these projects contact GMPRG via

<http://www.gmprg.org.uk/contact-us/>

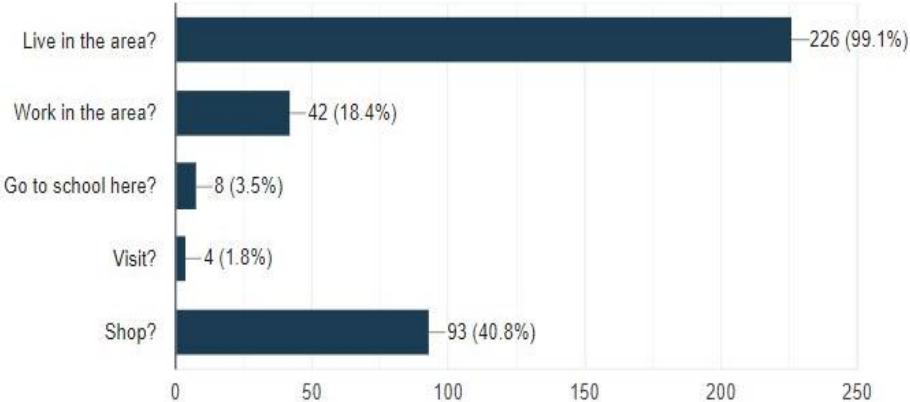
Community Vision Update

Analysis

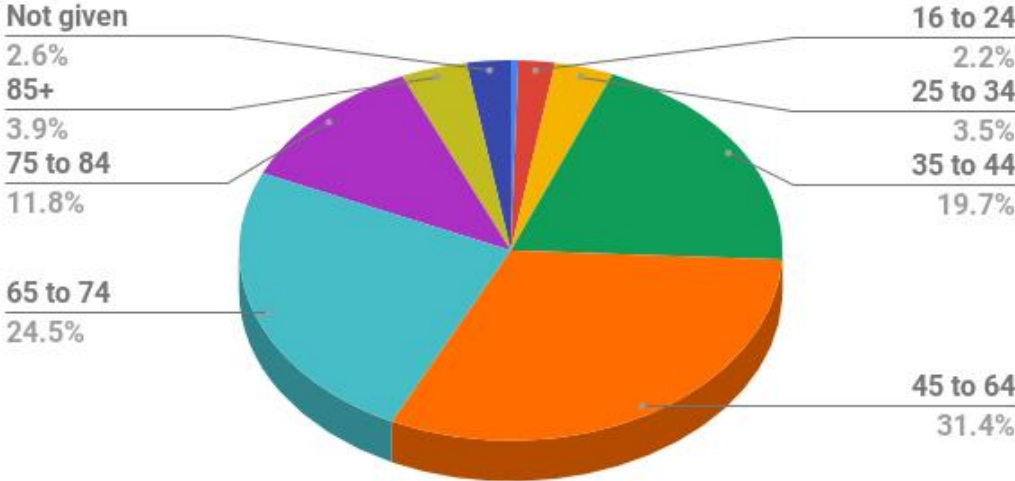
Demographics

1. Do You...

228 responses



Ages of Respondents

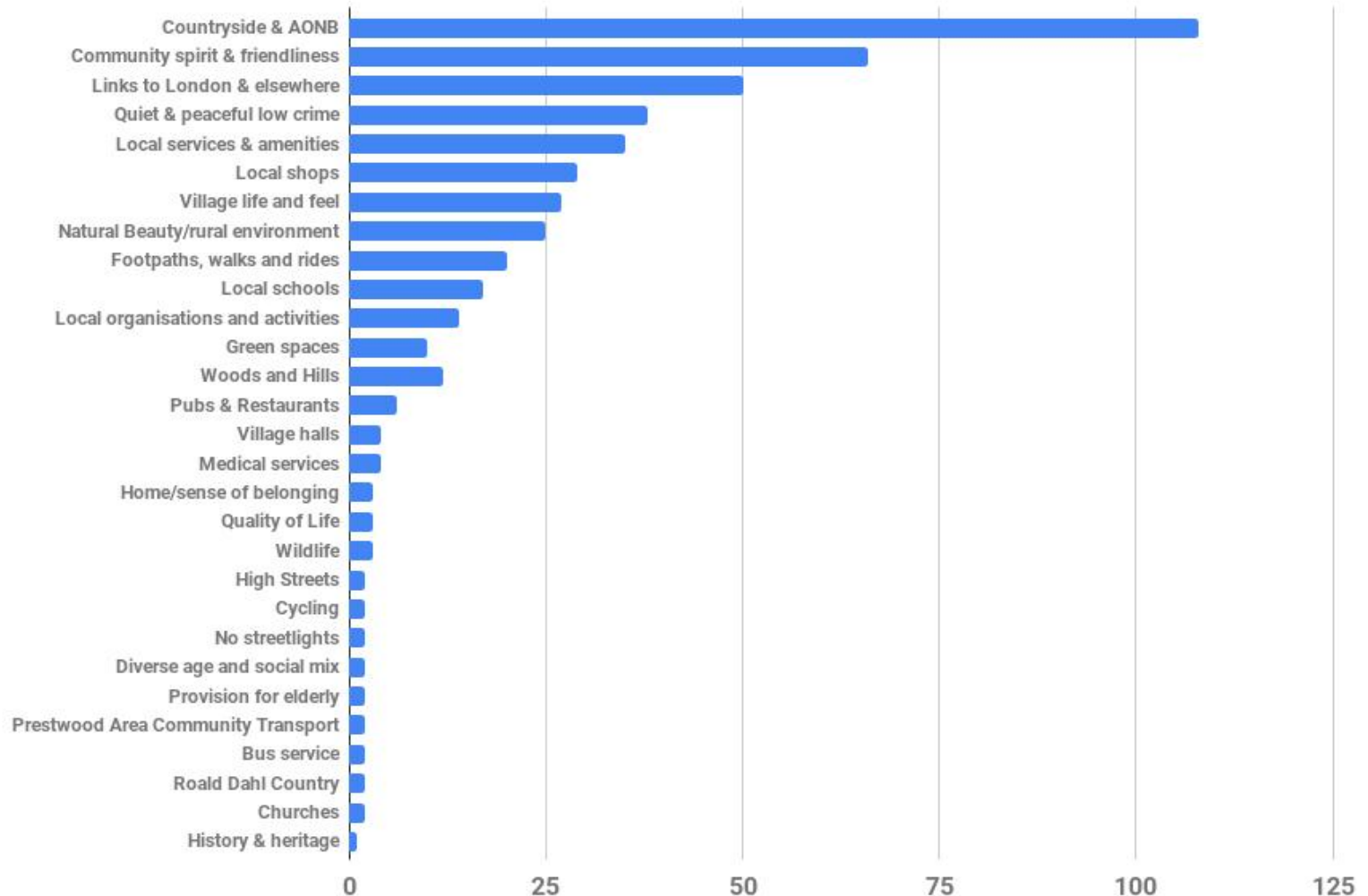


Q2: What do you like about the area?



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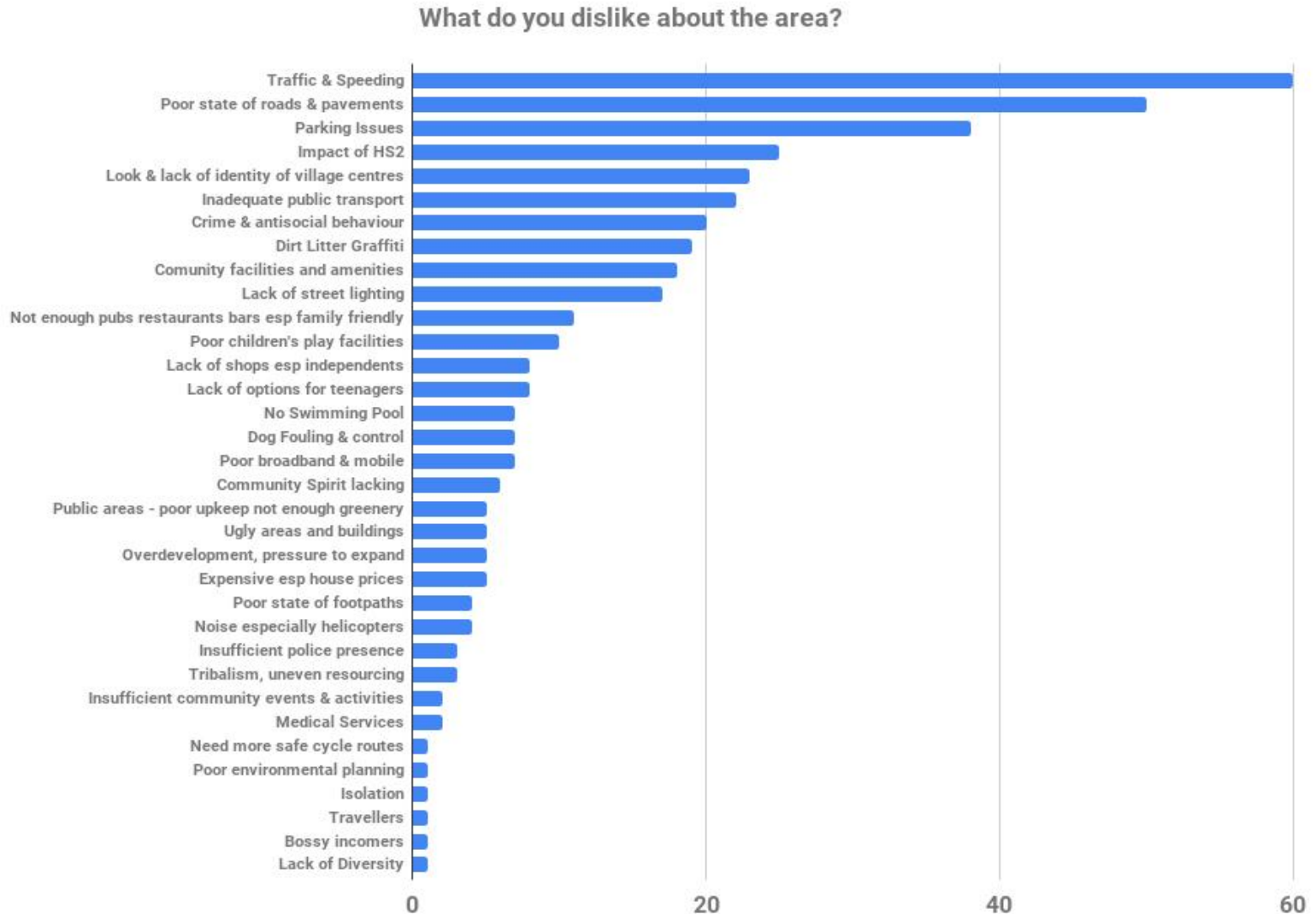


Q2: What do you like about the area?

- Responses dominated by appreciation of the area's natural rural beauty .
- Sense of Community, friendly people, and village feel score very highly.
- Rail link to London and good access to other towns and areas are a prized asset.
- Local services, amenities and shops are appreciated by many; though others marked them for improvement under other questions, both show how important they are.
- A quiet and peaceful environment.
- Local schools.

Countryside & AONB	108
Community spirit & friendliness	66
Links to London & elsewhere	50
Quiet & peaceful low crime	38
Local services & amenities	35
Local shops	29
Village life and feel	27
Natural Beauty/rural environment	25
Footpaths, walks and rides	20
Local schools	17
Local organisations and activities	14
Green spaces	10
Woods and Hills	12
Pubs & Restaurants	6
Village halls	4
Medical services	4
Home/sense of belonging	3
Quality of Life	3
Wildlife	3
High Streets	2
Cycling	2
No streetlights	2
Diverse age and social mix	2
Provision for elderly	2
Prestwood Area Community Transport	2
Bus service	2
Roald Dahl Country	2
Churches	2
History & heritage	1

Q3: What do you dislike about the area?



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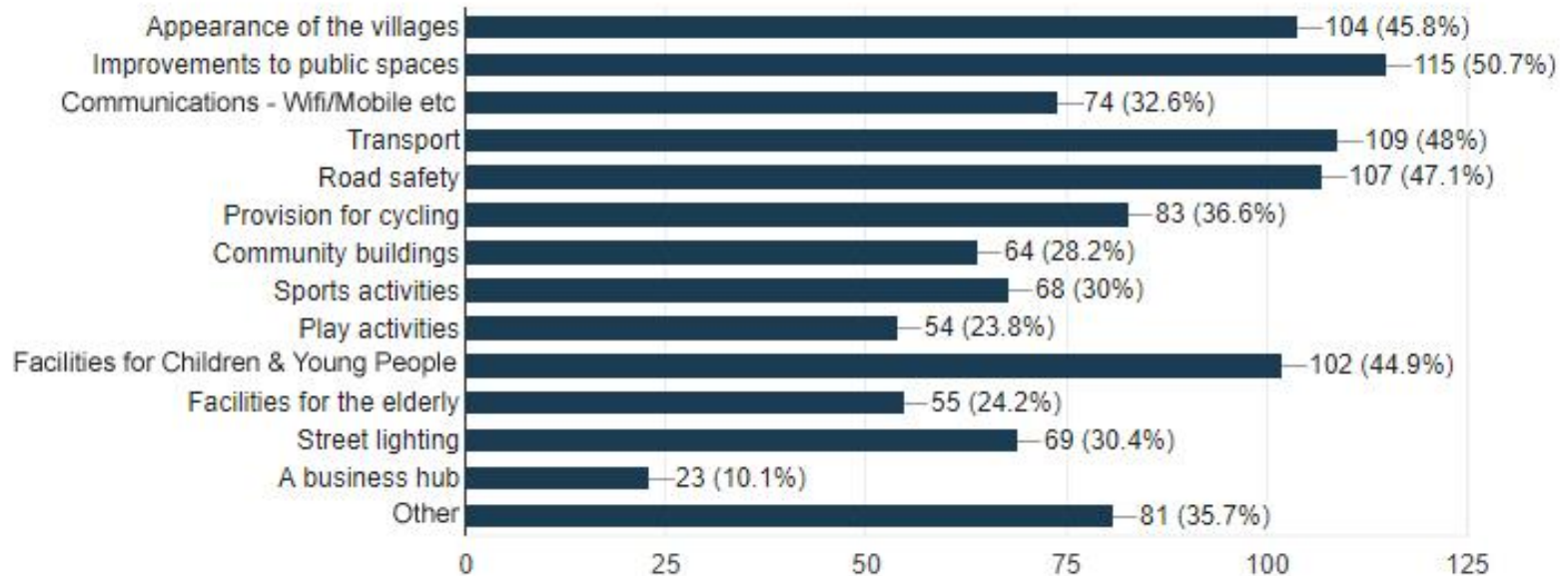
- Too much traffic, poor state of roads and pavements and parking issues a very common frustration.
- Villages could benefit from improvements to give greater identity and focus, perhaps with enhanced facilities.
- Inadequate public transport.
- Antisocial behaviour, littering, insufficient options for young people.
- More children's and family friendly facilities.
- Lack of street lighting.

Traffic & Speeding	60
Poor state of roads & pavements	50
Parking Issues	38
Impact of HS2	25
Look & lack of identity of village centres	23
Inadequate public transport	22
Crime & antisocial behaviour	20
Dirt Litter Graffiti	19
Comunity facilities and amenities	18
Lack of street lighting	17
Not enough pubs restaurants bars esp family friendly	11
Poor children's play facilities	10
Lack of shops esp independents	8
Lack of options for teenagers	8
No Swimming Pool	7
Dog Fouling & control	7
Poor broadband & mobile	7
Community Spirit lacking	6
Public areas - poor upkeep not enough greenery	5
Ugly areas and buildings	5
Overdevelopment, pressure to expand	5
Expensive esp house prices	5
Poor state of footpaths	4
Noise especially helicopters	4
Insufficient police presence	3
Tribalism, uneven resourcing	3
Insufficient community events & activities	2
Medical Services	2
Need more safe cycle routes	1
Poor environmental planning	1
Isolation	1
Travellers	1
Bossy incomers	1
Lack of Diversity	1

Q4: What aspects would you like to see improved?

4. What aspects would you like to see improved?

227 responses



Q5: What would you like the area to look and feel like in 10 or 20 years time?

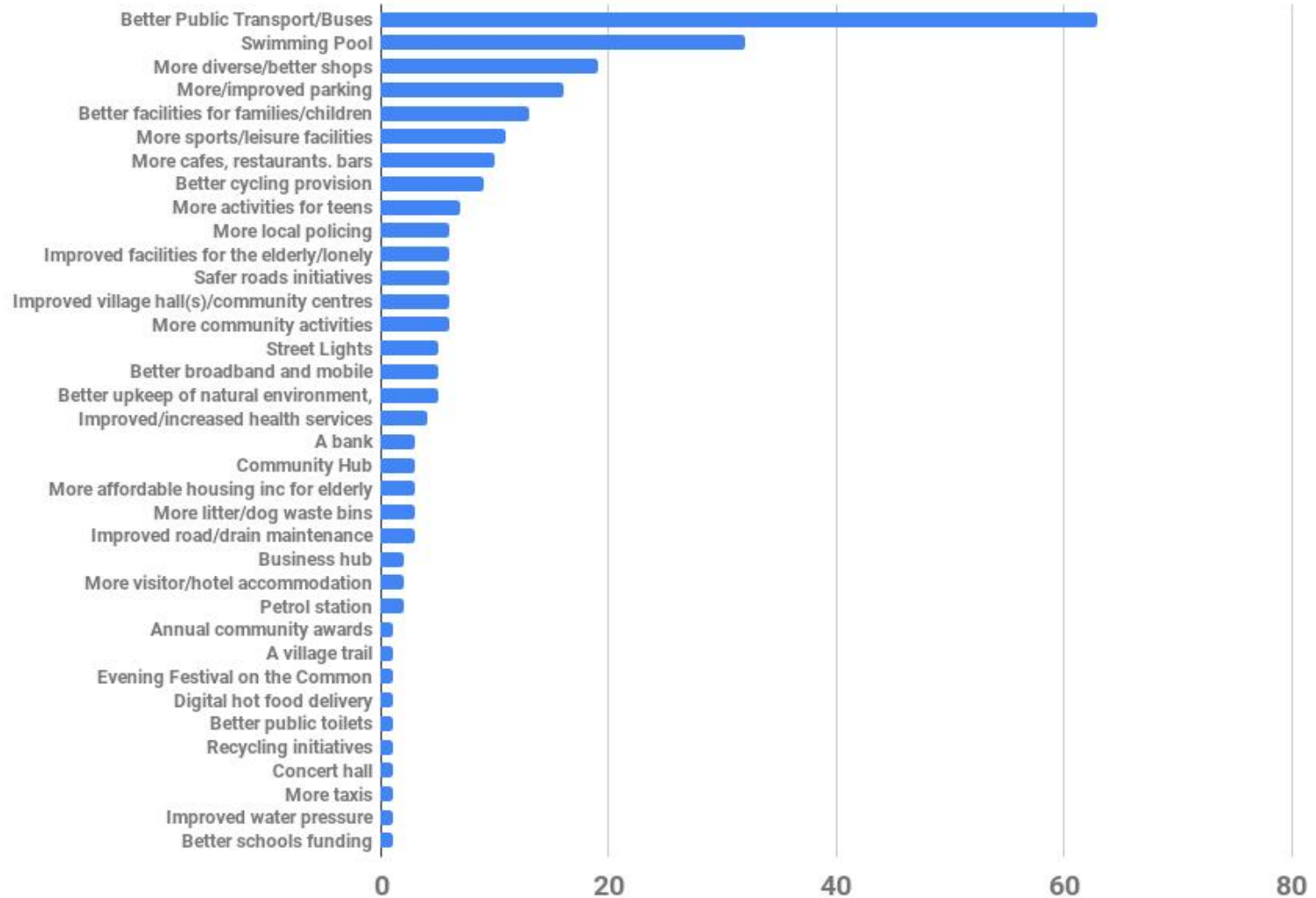
Independent shops, discourage chains
Better housing, including quality low-cost housing
Improved Parking, planning for Driverless Cars
Demographically mixed communities
Better Public Transport Links
Safer at night, more lighting
Welcoming place for all ages especially families
Preserve green spaces, respect AONB, avoid overdevelopment
Not too large/same size
Better road management, less Traffic
Disourage take up of empty shops
Strong sustainability ethos
Thriving Community Spirit
More employment opportunities
More hang out areas/amenities for teenagers
Attractive green public spaces
Retaining Rural Village Character
Safe areas for children
Strengthen heritage, original charm
Amenities & facilities for all generations
Clean, well cared for. Community ownership
No more houses
Thriving high streets: good shops, cafes, pubs etc
More Bike Lanes, Cycle paths
Safe, peaceful environment
More modern appearance, more attractive, welcoming
Inclusive village events, activities
More defined Village Centres
More pedestrian routes, pedestrian-led village centres
Better outside facilities and areas
Better technology links, Business friendly

Q6: What additional services would you like?



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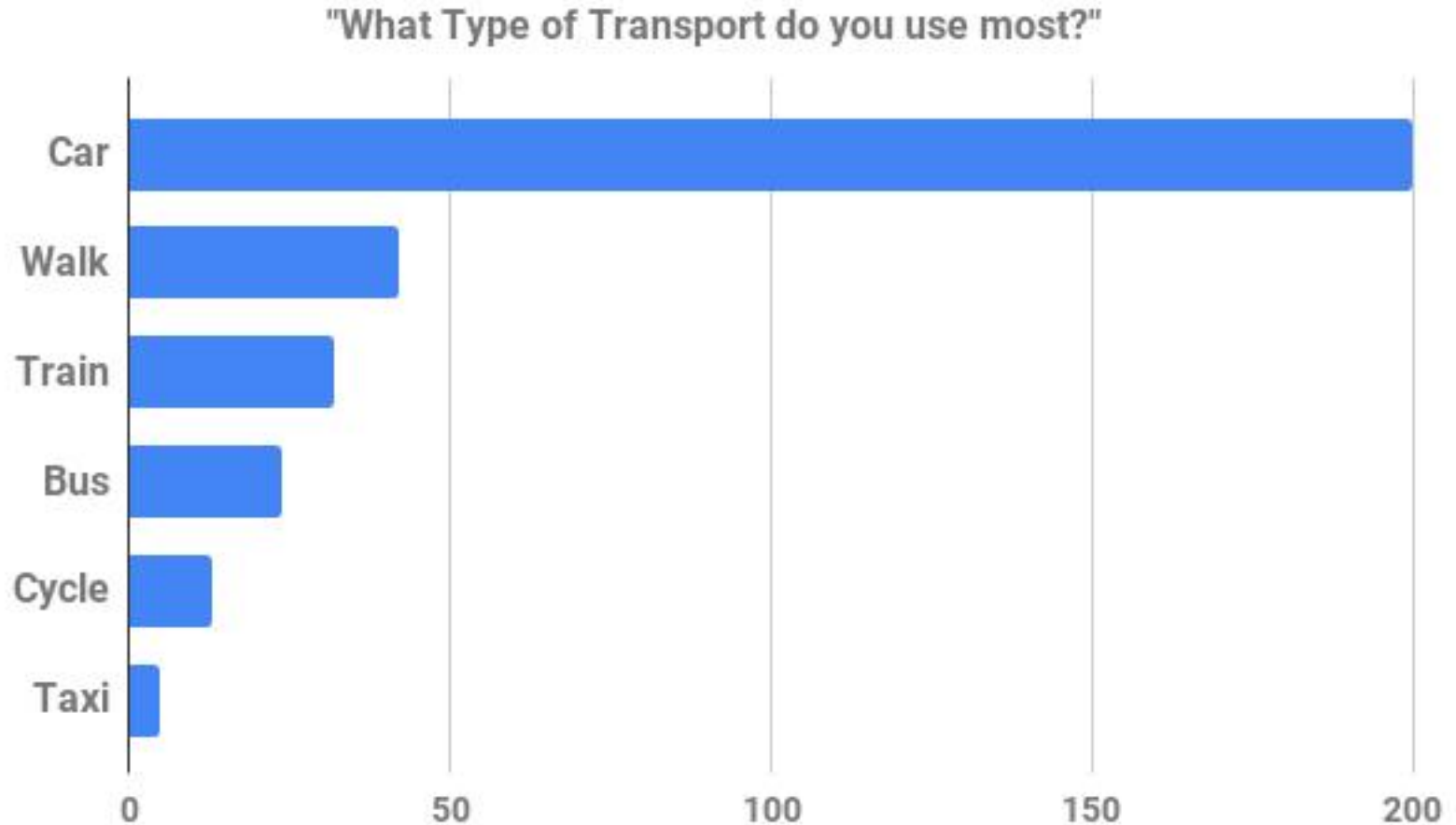


Q6: What additional services would you like?

- Major finding is desire for improved public transport, especially bus services. More than a quarter of respondents identified the need.
- More leisure/sports facilities, led by a swimming pool. Need for activities/facilities for young/families/teens.
- Greater diversity in retail and businesses – shops, foodstores, bank, deli, nailbar etc.
- Community hubs/village halls and range of community services and activities.
- Hopes for safer roads, more cycling provision, improved parking.
- Desire for more pubs/cafes partly reflects poor provision in smaller villages.

Better Public Transport/Buses	63
Swimming Pool	32
More diverse/better shops	19
More/improved parking	16
Better facilities for families/children	13
More sports/leisure facilities	11
More cafes, restaurants. bars	10
Better cycling provision	9
More activities for teens	7
More local policing	6
Improved facilities for the elderly/lonely	6
Safer roads initiatives	6
Improved village hall(s)/community centres	6
More community activities	6
Street Lights	5
Better broadband and mobile	5
Better upkeep of natural environment, footpaths	5
Improved/increased health services	4
A bank	3
Community Hub	3
More affordable housing inc for elderly	3
More litter/dog waste bins	3
Improved road/drain maintenance	3
Business hub	2
More visitor/hotel accommodation	2
Petrol station	2
Annual community awards	1
A village trail	1
Evening Festival on the Common	1
Digital hot food delivery	1
Better public toilets	1
Recycling initiatives	1
Concert hall	1
More taxis	1
Improved water pressure	1
Better schools funding	1

Q7: What type of transport do you use most?



Q7: What type of transport do you use most?

Comments on bus services

"I would like more buses."

"Increasingly will use the buses"

"The car reluctantly"

"Would be good to have a bus from Prestwood to Chesham."

"Car, unfortunately as public transport is pathetic and getting worse."

"Seldom bus because they don't link to trains, despite both owned by Arriva!!"

"Car transport, there is no rational alternative."

"Would love to use buses more"

"The bus service is rubbish and does not tie in with the railway timetable."

"20 mins walk to the nearest bus stop!"

"Car as no buses"

"1 mile walk to the nearest bus stop for the very expensive bus ticket prices."

"Own car - public transport almost non-existent."

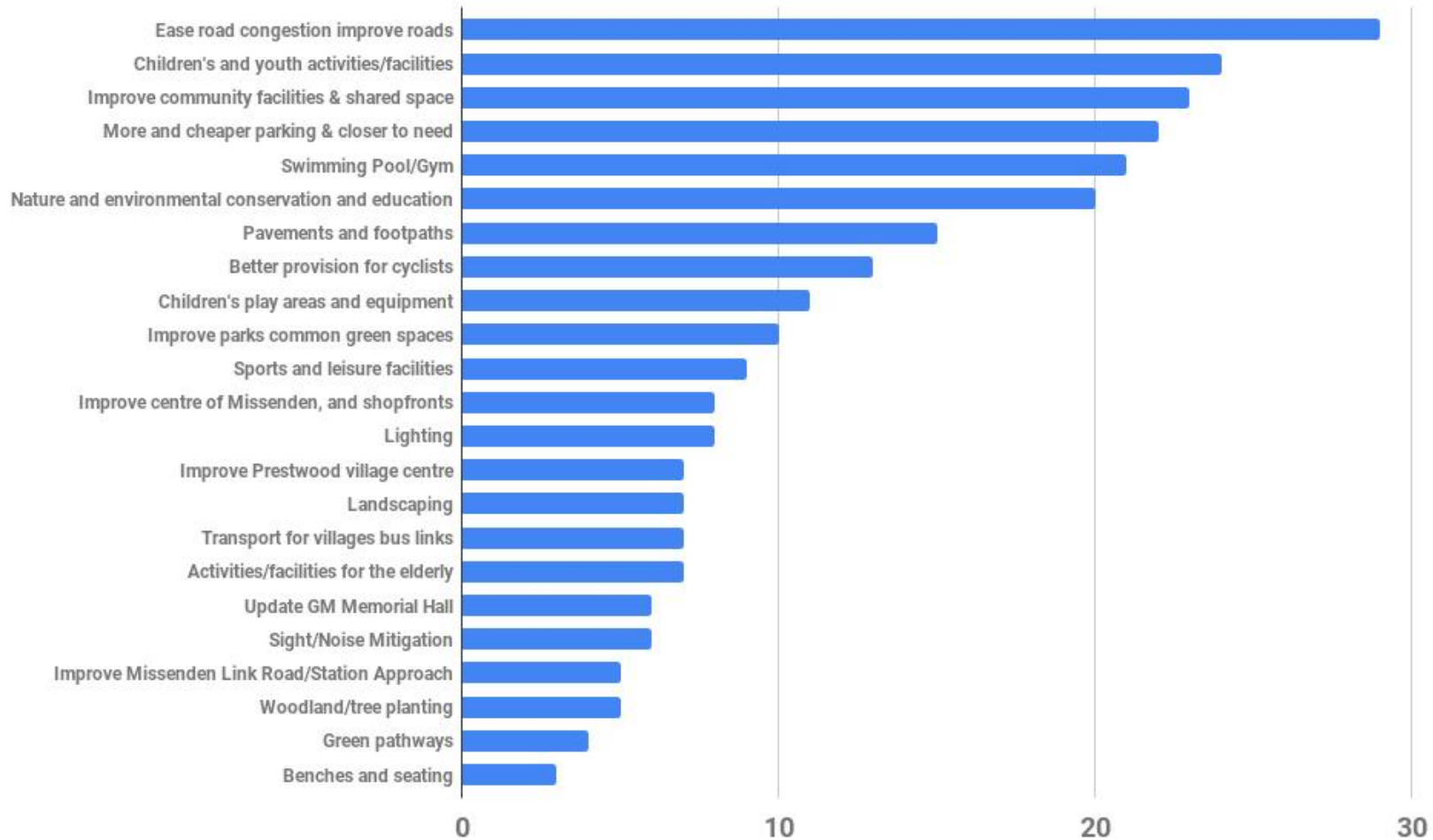
"Currently car but buses will become increasingly important & used."

Q8: What type of projects would you like to see community funding associated with HS2 spent on?



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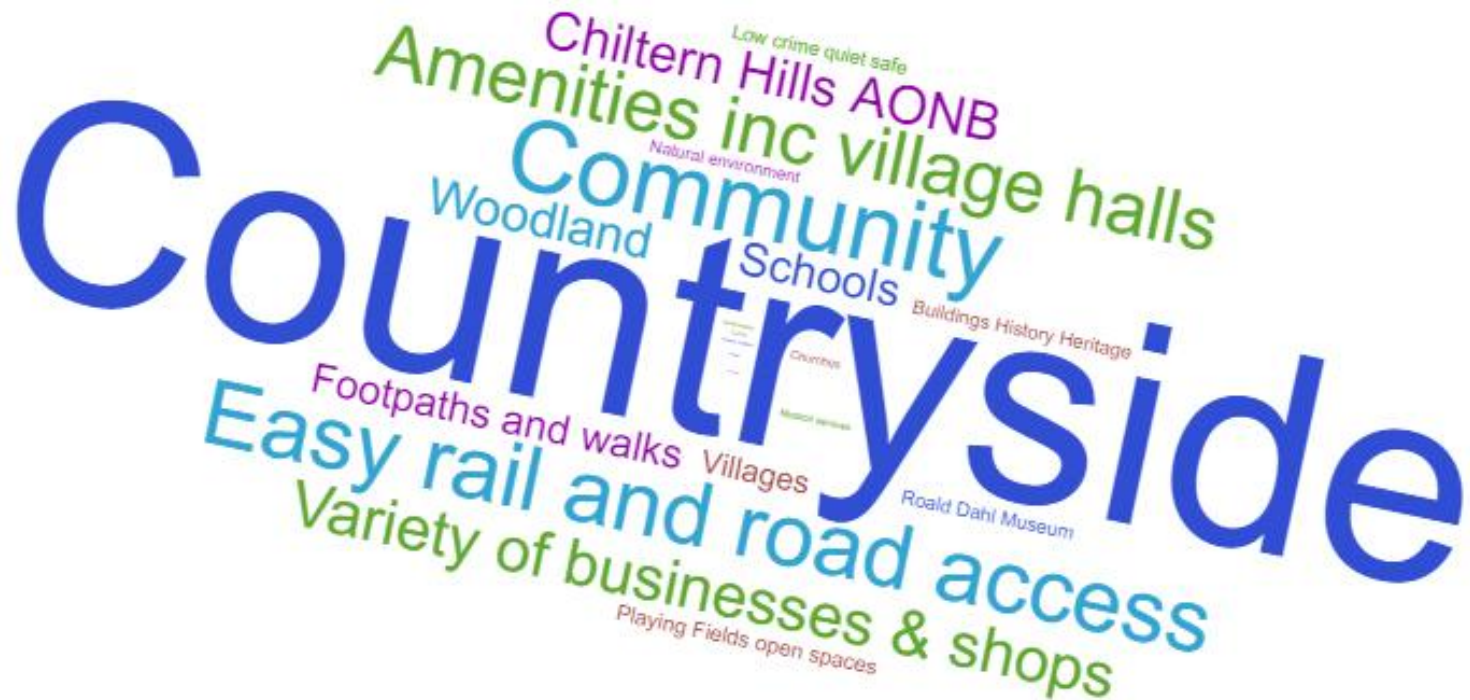


Q8: What type of projects would you like to see community funding associated with HS2 spent on?

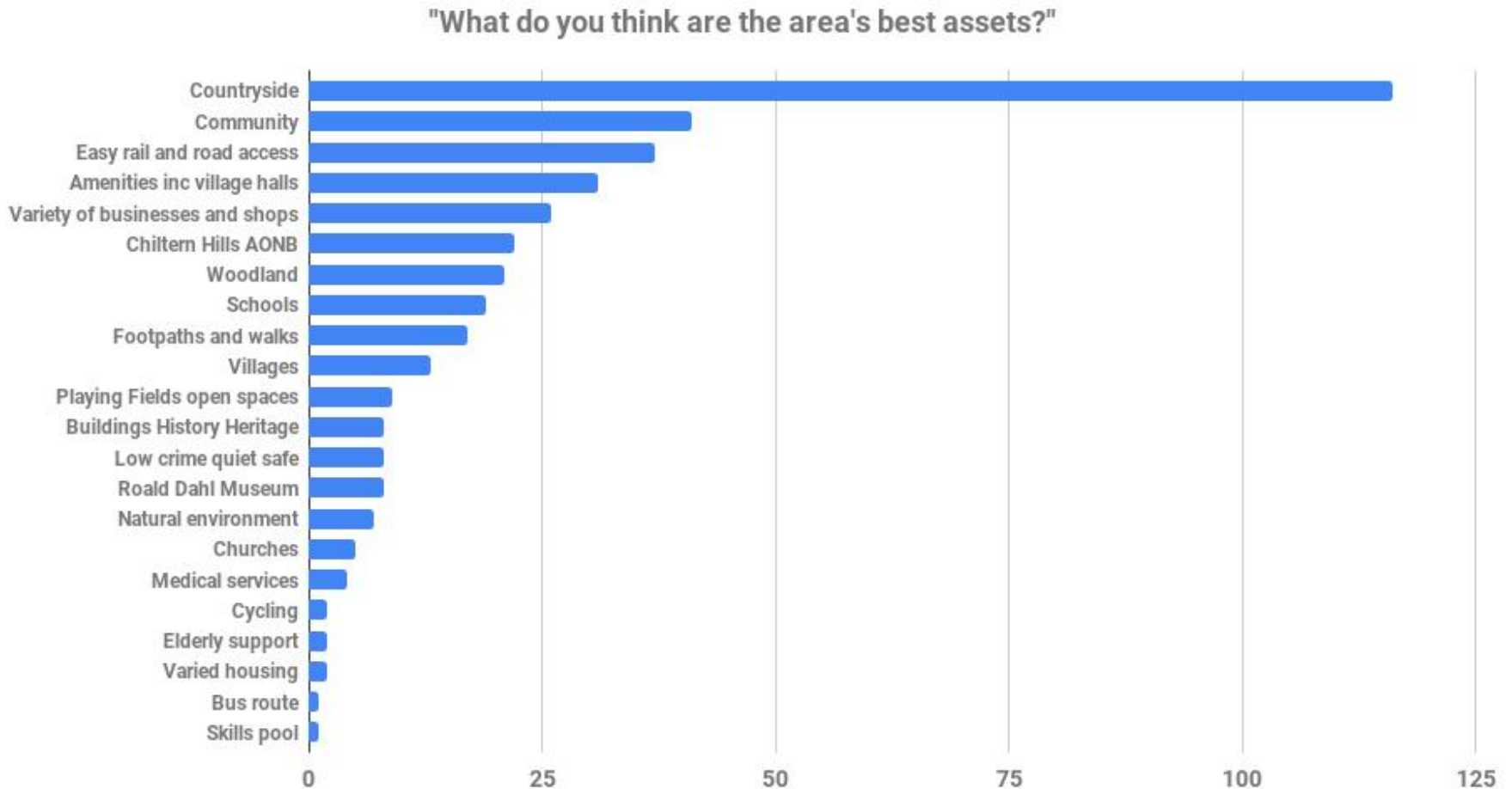
- Unsurprisingly, a very long and diverse list with numerous specific projects and ideas all around the area. We show only items from 3 upwards.
- Emphasis on infrastructure gives sense that HS2 ‘blood money’ is an opportunity to create some permanent good in the community.
- Improved traffic management, new or improved community and leisure facilities, better cycling provision all popular choices.
- Local businesses and shops with an emphasis on independents.

Ease road congestion improve roads	29
Children's and youth activities/facilities	24
Improve community facilities & shared space	23
More and cheaper parking & closer to need	22
Swimming Pool/Gym	21
Nature and environmental conservation and education	20
Pavements and footpaths	15
Better provision for cyclists	13
Children's play areas and equipment	11
Improve parks common green spaces	10
Sports and leisure facilities	9
Improve centre of Missenden, and shopfronts	8
Lighting	8
Improve Prestwood village centre	7
Landscaping	7
Transport for villages bus links	7
Activities/facilities for the elderly	7
Update GM Memorial Hall	6
Sight/Noise Mitigation	6
Improve Missenden Link Road/Station Approach	5
Woodland/tree planting	5
Green pathways	4
Benches and seating	3

Q9: What do you think are the area's best assets?



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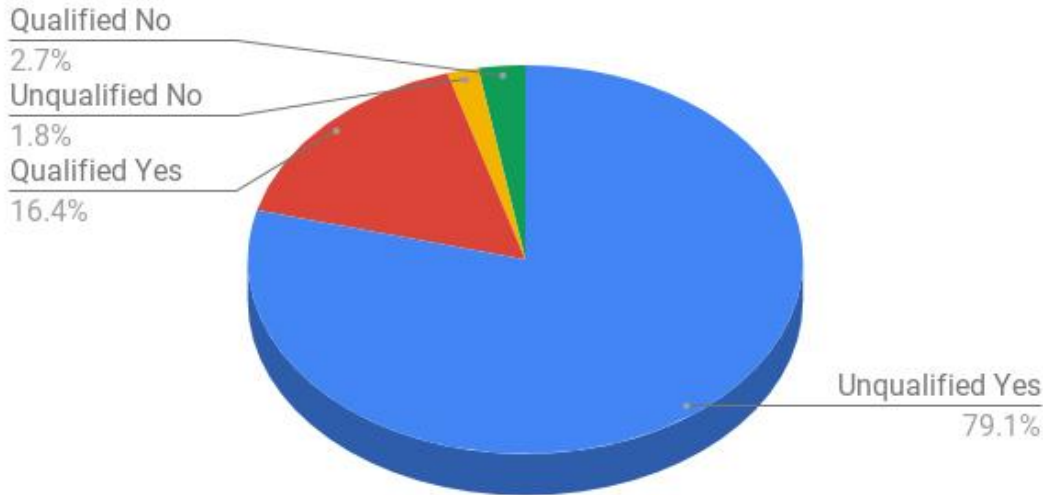
Q9: What do you think are the area's best assets?

- More than 50% of respondents cited Countryside; additionally, respondents mentioned Chilterns AONB, Woodlands, Walks and Footpaths, natural Environment.
- Sense of Community, Amenities, Village environments next most prominent theme.
- Good rail and road links to London and other locations such as Oxford.
- Local businesses and shops with an emphasis on independents.
- Appreciation for local schools.

Countryside	116
Community	41
Easy rail and road access	37
Amenities inc village halls	31
Variety of businesses and shops	26
Chiltern Hills AONB	22
Woodland	21
Schools	19
Footpaths and walks	17
Villages	13
Playing Fields open spaces	9
Buildings History Heritage	8
Low crime quiet safe	8
Roald Dahl Museum	8
Natural environment	7
Churches	5
Medical services	4
Cycling	2
Elderly support	2
Varied housing	2
Bus route	1
Skills pool	1

Q10. Do you think this is a good place to live/work/visit?

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Reasons for Reservations:

"It's OK/could be better"	12
Work Opportunities	7
Not so good as it was	4
Enough for visitors?	4
HS2	3
Traffic/Parking/Air pollution	3
"Could be more fun!"/boring for teenagers	2
Crime/gang problems	1
Poor public transport	1
Expensive	1
Respondent's specific location	1
Poor community feel	1
Danger of overdevelopment	1
Poor village design	1
Access to GP services	1

Community Vision Update

The Process

The public consultation was promoted via:

The Source for HP16 - A four-page supplement on the public consultation was included on the centre pages 9-12

March/April 2018 The Source for HP16

<http://www.gmprg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/The-Source-Issue-53-web-1.pdf>

The top priorities were summarised in the [July 2018 edition of HP16 The Source](#), Page 2, which also featured Tora McEwan's winning photograph in the competition to demonstrate likes, dislikes and ideas.

Consultation and questionnaire also promoted in:

- Great Missenden & Prestwood Library
- JNP Estate Agents, Prestwood
- Prestwood Village Association Website & Facebook Group
- Great Missenden Village Association Website
- Your Prestwood & Great Missenden Facebook Group
- Great Missenden & Prestwood Revitalisation Group website

Local groups contacted included:

- Prestwood Junior School
- Prestwood Infant School
- PTA Chairs for both above
- Misbourne School –
Head's secretary & Cathy Hillier
- Great Missenden School – Ceryl
Taylor & Roz Thompson
- Prestwood WIs x 2
- Bucks Free Press– Mary Wiles
- Prestwood Sports & Leisure Assn
- Great Missenden Parish Council
- Prestwood Mums & Toddlers
Facebook
- Scouts/Beavers/Cubs Great
Missenden & Prestwood
- Guides/Brownies/Rainbows
Prestwood
- Prestwood Youth & Community
Action Group
- Prestwood Tennis Club
- Great Missenden Tennis club
- Colts Football Club
- Prestwood not Great Missenden
Facebook
- Great Missenden & Prestwood
Parents Facebook

Workshops-

Held in Great Missenden Memorial Hall, Prestwood Village Hall and Ballinger Village Hall during 2018

Consultation Discussion Group sessions –

Held on 24 November 2018 in Holy Trinity Church Hall Prestwood and 21 February 2019 in Great Missenden's Oldham Hall with over 50 people attending, participating in some great lively discussion, with 37, so far, interested in helping move forward the identified top priorities.

Acknowledgements

To the GMPRG team and all who assisted at the consultation events.

To Robert Gibson and Barbara Rowett for compiling this Report.

Most of all, to all the lovely residents of Great Missenden, Prestwood and the hill top villages within Great Missenden Parish who took the time to participate and respond to the Community Update.

Further Information

More detailed COMMENTS made by respondents can be seen on the GMPRG website

LINKS to CV4HP16 report documents on GMPRG website

http://www.gmprg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CV4HP16_mkt_town_health_check.pdf

http://www.gmprg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CV4HP16_appendices.pdf

<http://www.gmprg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CV4HP16ReportAppendixB-MTHCworksheets2007.pdf>