

Consultation Statement Appendices 1 to 11

Contents

Appendix 1 – First Questionnaire November 2019	2
Appendix 2 – Analysis of First Survey November 2019	5
Appendix 3 – How we collected comments for Public Forum 2020	11
Appendix 4 – Comments from Public Forum – January 2020.....	16
Appendix 5 – Village College Survey questions January 2021	18
Appendix 6 – Village College Survey Results.....	20
Appendix 7 – Business Survey May 2021.....	22
Appendix 8 – Analysis of business survey Summer 2021	26
Appendix 9 – Green Spaces Survey – June 2021 paper copy	31
Appendix 10 – Analysis of Green Spaces Survey	41
Appendix 11 – Comments from respondents on Open Spaces Survey	46

Appendix 1 – First Questionnaire November 2019

Planning for the future of our town – have your say

The Soham (includes Barway) Neighbourhood Plan is your opportunity to have a real say in how our community develops. For example, do we need more housing, retail and employment? If so what type and where? More or better community facilities? If so what type? More open space and what for? What are the key transport issues for the town?

We would value your opinion so please complete and return this questionnaire to the Pavilion, by date. Additional copies of this questionnaire are available at the Town Council Office in the Pavilion. Alternatively you can complete the form online at www.soham-tc.gov.uk and send to info@soham-tc.gov.uk.

Following this questionnaire we will be holding an Open Forum at the Pavilion on 18 January 2020 at 7.30pm. At this event you will be able to talk further about the Neighbourhood Plan and ask questions and make comments.

Q1. What sort of housing do you consider needed in the Parish?

Starter homes Yes No

Retirement homes Yes No

Family Yes No

Rental Yes No

Other – please specify

In the Local Plan, areas for housing have already been agreed. These include the Eastern Gateway, east of Fordham Road, Blackberry Lane and Brook Street.

Q2. More housing will be needed. Where do you think would be most suitable?

Within the town boundaries? Yes No

In the north of the town? Yes No

In the south of the town? Yes No

Somewhere else? Please specify.....

Q3. Do you think the local area needs more employment opportunities?

Yes No

If so what kind?

Q4. What do you consider are the main transport issues within the local area?

HCVs (lorries) Provision of safe cycle routes

Speeding traffic Parking

Traffic congestion Frequency of local bus service

Q5. Which community facilities do you use within the local area and how often?

Facility	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never
Bus service					
Dial-a-ride					
Shops					
Post Office					
Chemist shop					
Hairdressers/barbers					
Restaurants/takeaways					
Pubs					
Other licenced venues					
Church/chapels					
Doctors' surgery					
Schools					
Nurseries/childcare					
Allotments					
Facilities for teenagers					
Rooms for hire					
Library					
Playgrounds					
Recreation ground					
Playing fields eg football					
Cycle routes					
Library					
Commons					
Sports Hall					
Local footpaths					

Q6. Which of these facilities do you usually travel to other areas to use?

.....

.....

Q7. What additional or improved facilities would you like to see in the Parish?

.....

.....

Q8. Which three community facilities or services do you think most need improvement or are most urgently required and why?

.....

.....

Q9. If you are employed where do you work?

- At home
- Newmarket
- Bury St E
- Ely
- Cambridge
- London

Other, please specify.....

Optional - Name.....Address.....

Thank you for you input. If you have any questions or further comments please email or come to the Open Forum.

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Appendix 2 – Analysis of First Survey November 2019

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Stage 1 Analysis

Residents were asked the following questions:

- **Y = Yes**
- **N = No**
- **There were 208 responses in total**

The majority of residents who answered would like more family homes and no more homes for retired people. There were mixed views about the location of more housing, a very few thought they should be within the town centre.

91% of those who responded thought the town would benefit from increased employment opportunities.

The question asking for the most important issues regarding transport gave a very mixed picture. By a small margin, parking was the biggest issue, with frequency of buses and speeding traffic a close second.

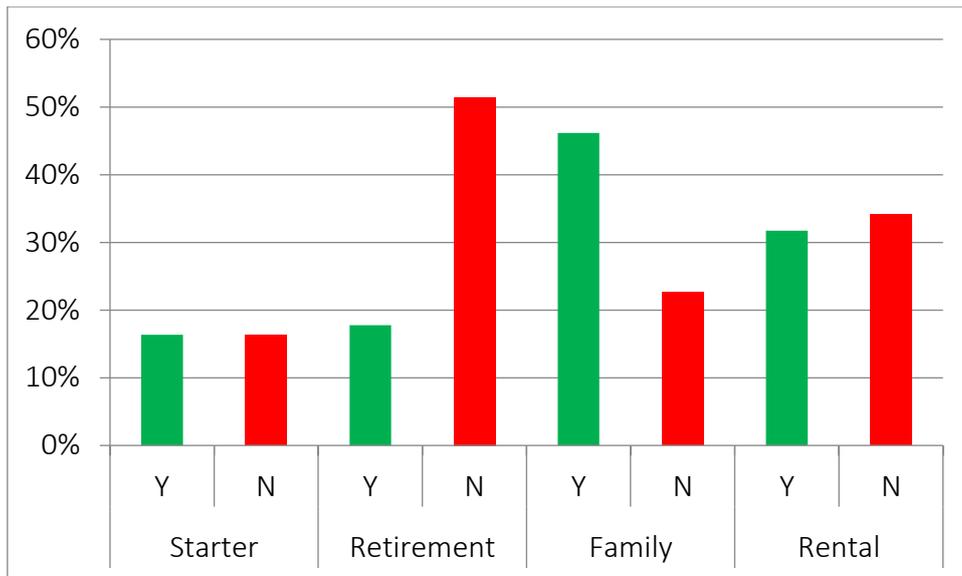
The question about where you work produced similar scores for at home, Cambridge, Bury St Edmunds and other places. Fewer people work in London or Newmarket.

The question about which facilities the respondent and their family use in the town, clearly showed that dial-a-ride, allotments, teenage facilities, nurseries and childcare facilities were the least used.

The most frequently used (daily and weekly) facilities are the local shops, local footpaths, the post office and the commons.

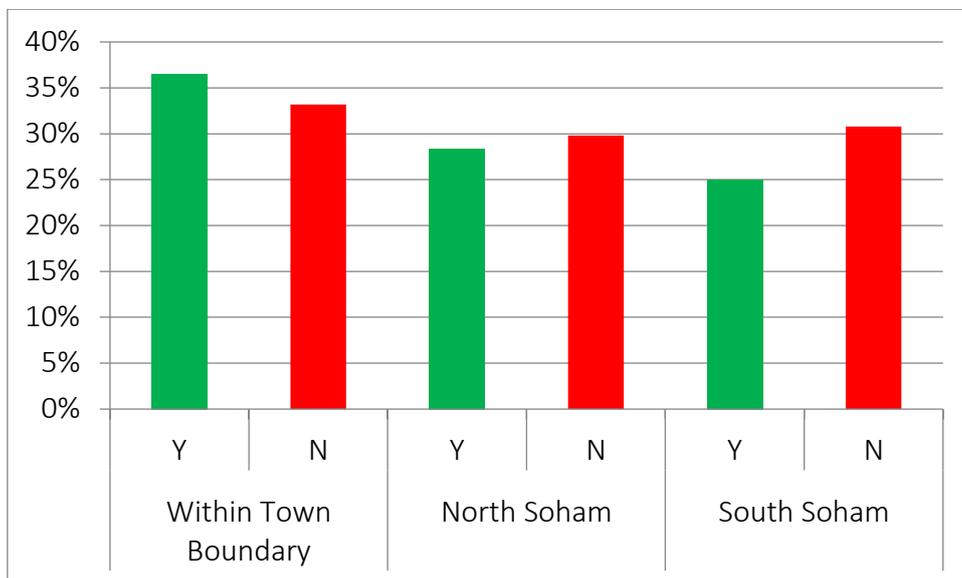
The most popular facilities used monthly or occasionally were the doctors' surgery, the chemist, restaurants and takeaways, recreation ground, library and hairdressers.

1. What sort of housing do you consider is needed in the town?



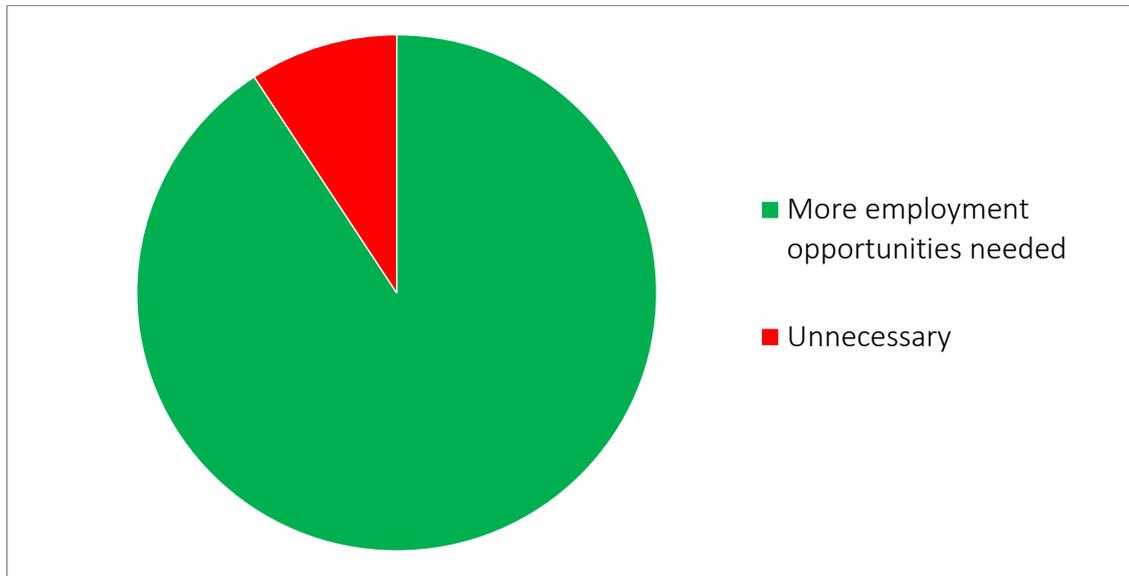
- The majority of residents who answered would like more family homes.
- The majority of residents would not like more retirement homes.

2. More housing might be needed? Where do you think would be most suitable?



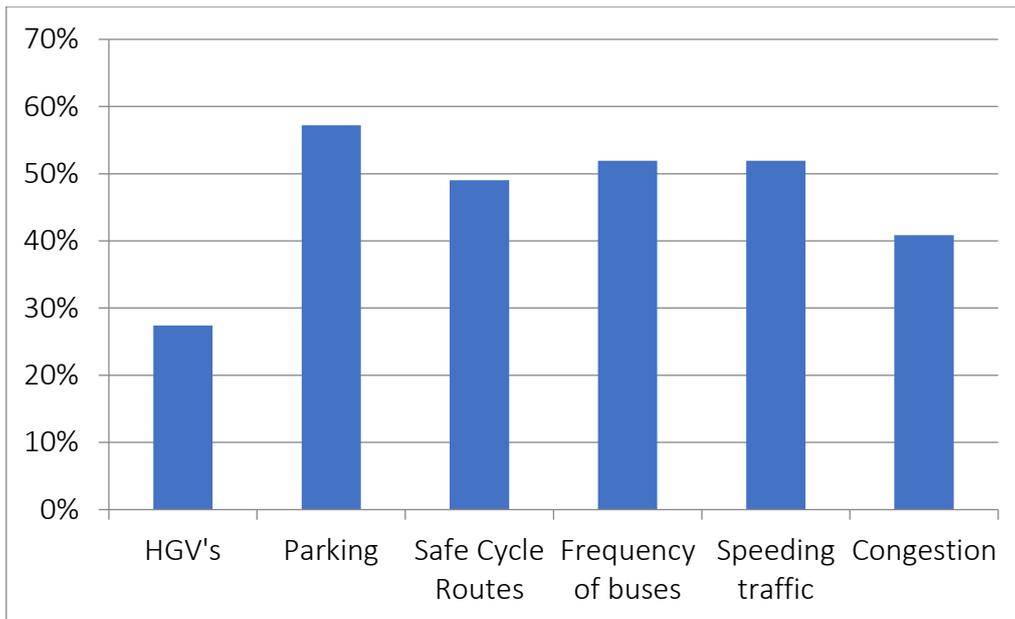
- Residents held mixed views about where new developments should be built.

3. Do you think the local area needs more employment opportunities?



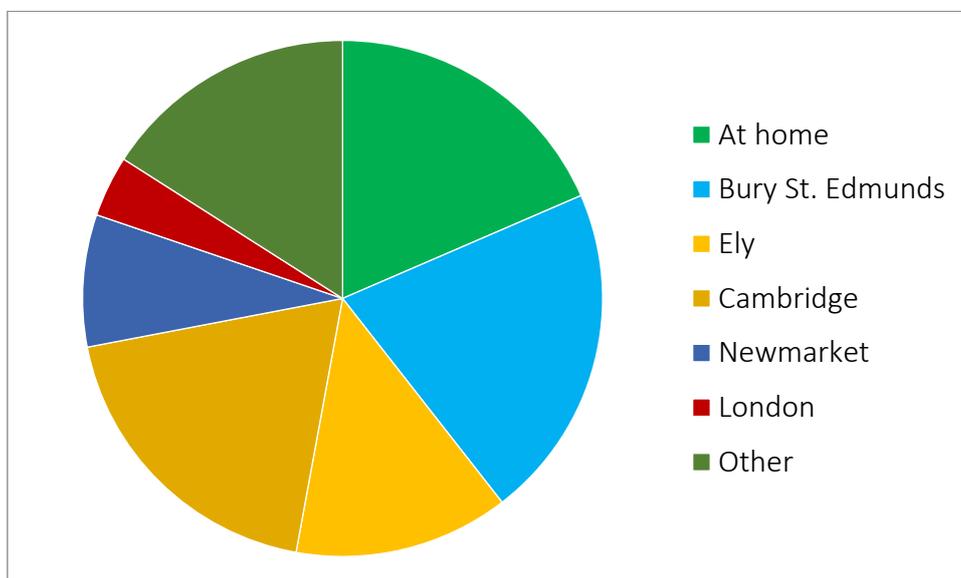
- A high proportion of residents agreed that the town would benefit from more employment opportunities.

4. What do you consider are the main transport issues within the local area?



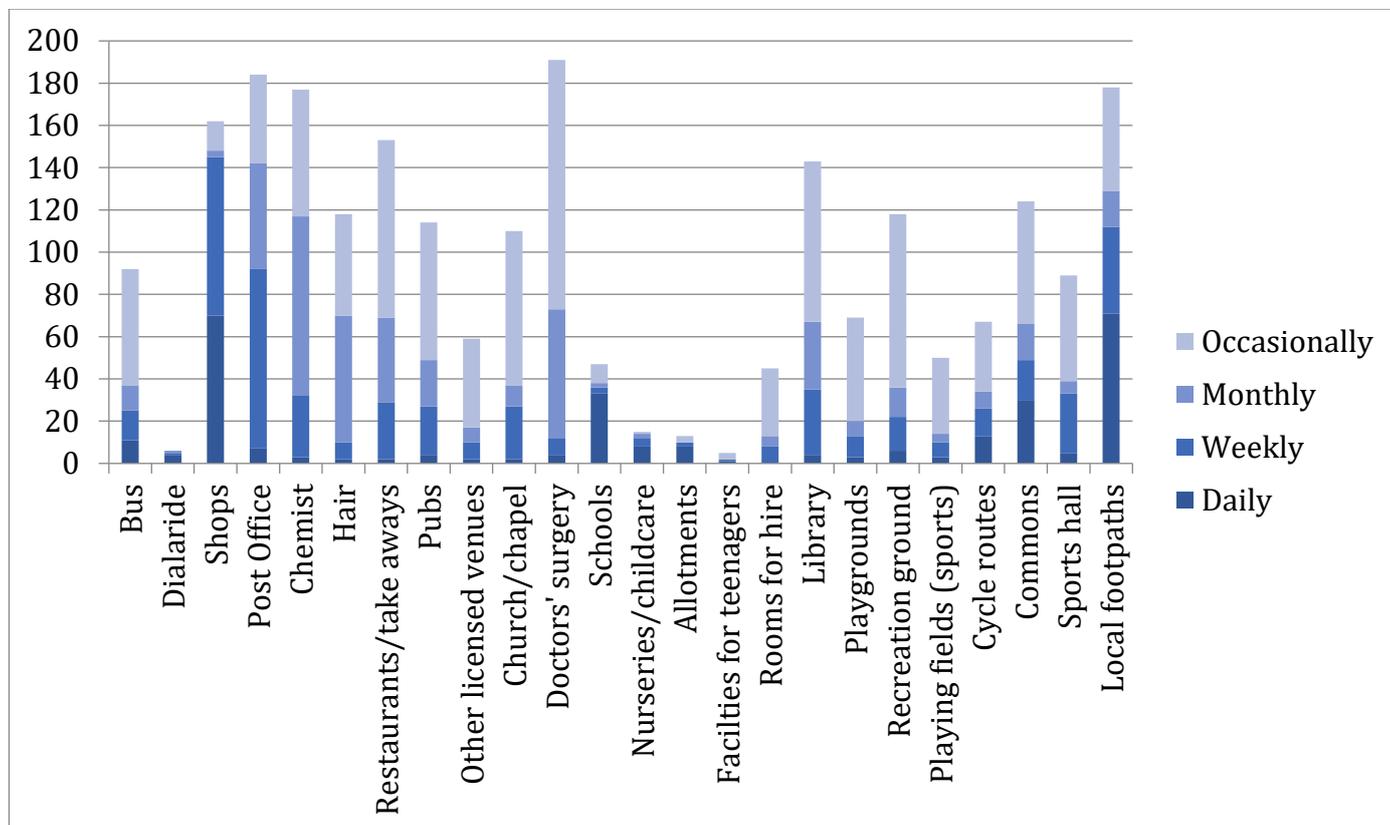
- The majority of residents thought that parking was the greatest transport issue.
- However most residents also listed safe cycle routes, frequency of buses and speeding traffic equally highly.

5. If you are employed, where do you work?



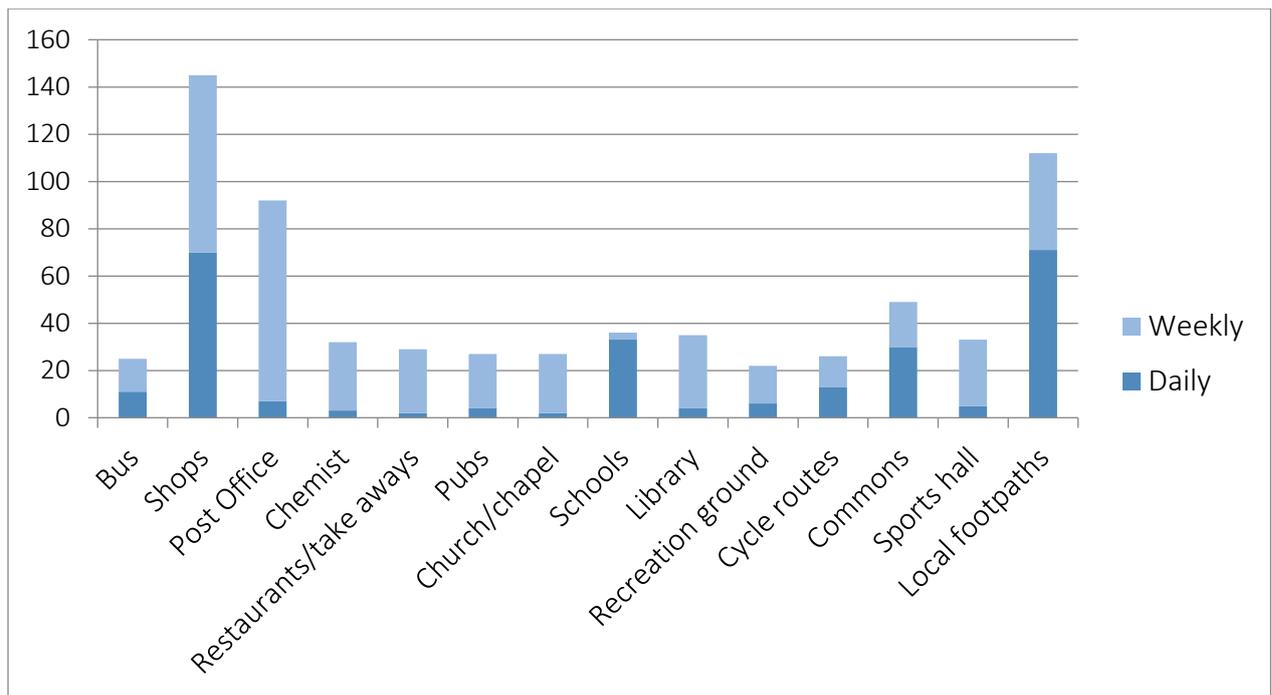
6. Which facilities does your household use within the local area and how often?

The deeper the colour, the more frequently the facility is used.



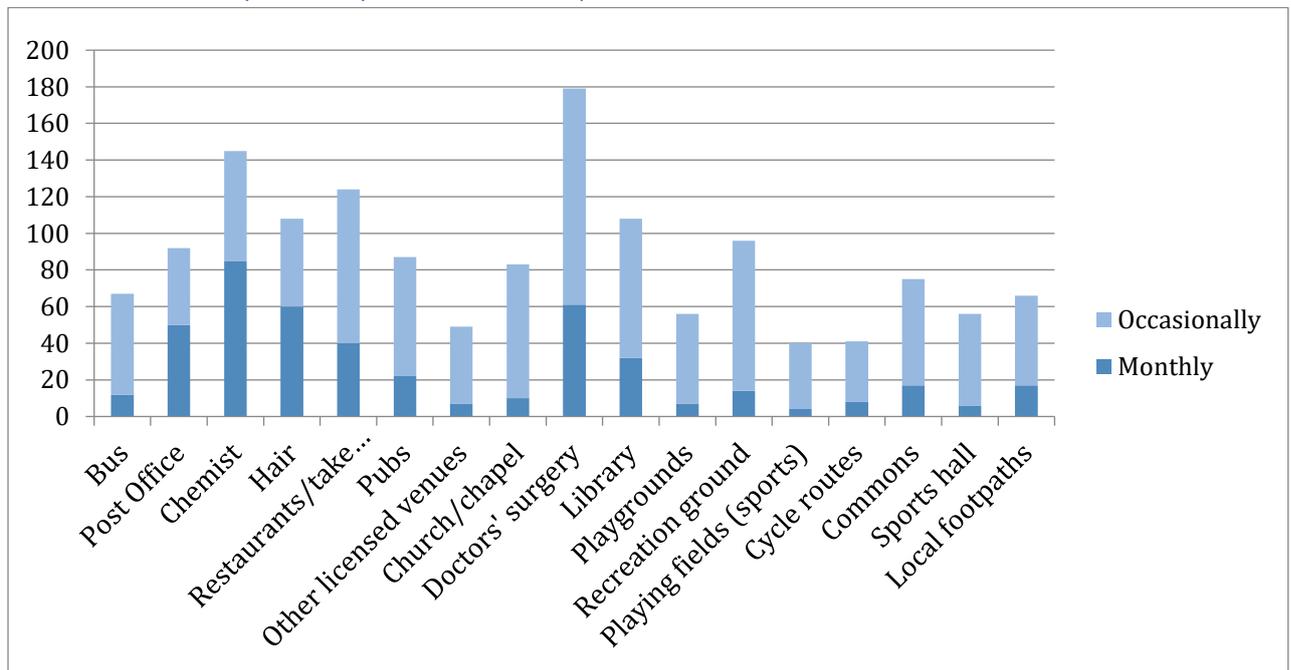
Breakdown of facility usage

Most frequently (daily/weekly) used by those who responded:



- Shops and local footpaths are the most frequently used facilities of those who responded.

Most occasionally used by those who responded:



- The doctors' surgery and chemist are the most occasionally used facilities of those who responded.
- However, many other facilities are used monthly or occasionally.

Appendix 3 – How we collected comments for Public Forum 2020

①



HERITAGE / BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Identify possible building areas for additional houses to those proposed in Local Plan 2015
- Identify and protect all those buildings which have historical, or architectural merit as well as those which have local interest or prominence
- Ensure sufficient affordable housing
- Build houses of suitable size and style to include housing for disabled and the elderly including room sizes and storages
- Provide sufficient off-road parking on housing estates,
- Prevent the development of houses outside the natural boundary of the town envelope

②



LOCAL FACILITIES

- Encourage provision of additional facilities and amenities where possible
- Ensure there is no loss of local facilities which include: schools, playgroups, nurseries, doctors' surgery, dentists' surgery, shops including Post Office, local public houses, the Commons, Recreation Ground, sports facilities, play areas and places suitable to hold cultural events, meetings of clubs etc.
- Provision of dog walking areas

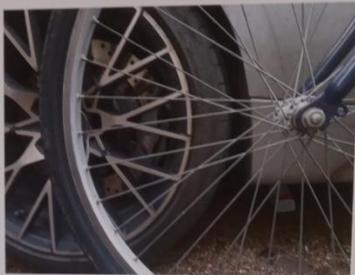
3



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES

- Protect the Commons, SSSIs and wildlife sites
- Protect and provide allotments where needed
- Protect the Lode and other waterways
- Protect the closed church yard and cemetery
- Preserve of rural feel of the town and outlying areas
- Protect the Recreation Ground environment and other play spaces
- Recognise the importance of our countryside setting
- Encourage greener streets and protect trees and hedges
- Encourage wildlife wherever possible

4



CONNECTIVITY

- Protect existing footpaths, byways and green lanes
- Ensure new built areas have sufficient pedestrian and disabled access and that there are sufficient links from new estates to the town
- Safe cycle routes around and to and from the town
- Sufficient parking and vehicular access to all public areas
- Improve public transport provision both within the town and wider for disabled and able-bodied people
- Improve parking in the town and on new estates
- Ensure that a better system of traffic management is used

5



BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

- Prevent empty shops in the main street from being turned into residential properties
- Protect the retail character of the High Street
- Encourage new businesses in the town by providing start up units, small business units and larger units to increase employment locally
- Aim to retain existing industrial units to provide local employment

6



FUTURE PROOFING

- Encourage energy saving in new buildings by the use of solar panels, wind turbines and heat pumps
- Ensure that new buildings are provided with effective insulation and efficient water including grey water
- Encourage the use of sustainable building materials where possible
- Build quality sustainable housing that adheres to the character of the town
- Encourage the recycling of materials within the town

Comments from Public Forum Jan 2020

Housing and built environment

Amount and sizes of homes according to the housing needs assessment

Affordable housing

Building heights and mix within developments.

Space standards for room sizes, living spaces and storage

Public spaces in developments

Parking issues, garages, parking spaces and gardens

Local facilities

Facilities includes all services eg churches, youth clubs, schools, nursery schools, preschool care, shops, dentists, doctors, podiatrists, electrical shops, clothes shops, furniture shops, cemeteries, garages to service cars, restaurants, takeaways, pubs, bakers, butchers, hairdressers, groceries, flower shops, libraries, sports hall, sports fields, play areas for kids, gardening shops, rooms for hire etc etc. Opportunities for leisure activities

Identify all local facilities as they are at present including sports facilities, children's playgrounds, cemetery

Identify costs and what facilities are lacking or in short supply (banks, teenage facilities)

Take photos for illustration where relevant

Try and identify which facilities most need to be upgraded or provided eg. Facilities for teenagers

Look at Local Plan 2015 pages 90,91,92 and try to identify which facilities we are in need of and which we did have but are now lacking.

Connectivity/Transport

Getting around – protect existing footpaths, byways and green lanes, ensuring new built areas have sufficient pedestrian and disabled access, cycle access etc. Safe cycle routes around and to and from the town, Sufficient parking and vehicular access to all public areas, improve public transport provision both within the town and wider for disabled and able bodied people, improve parking in the town and on new estates

Heritage and conservation

Identify the conservation area and understand how best to protect and improve it

Identify other buildings and areas which need to be looked after and preserved

Take photos of these places

Include historic landscapes – commons and rural views of Soham and Barway both looking out and looking inwards

Style of building in Soham and Barway

Consider where increasing tourism could help

Plant trees

Business and employment

Ensure that there is no loss of employment sites by loss of retail units or by allowing designated employment sites to have houses built on them.

Get local business to work with Village College

Encourage expansion of local businesses so more employment.

Set up a new business hub to help and support new entrepreneurs

From questionnaire approx. 67% work out of town – need to address this

Identify what sort of businesses would do best here and also what sort we really need.

Future proofing

Need to look at traffic both in and around the town and Barway and how future loads will affect the ability of people travelling from Soham and Barway can join the stream of traffic.

Make sure that there is sufficient provision for water, sewerage and electricity to serve the town properly.

What about flood risk protection

Do people want gardens or just public open spaces? More allotments? More playing fields?

More employment and more community facilities in the town are essential to encourage more community spirit in the community.

Must make sure that as much energy is saved by generation of electricity by whatever means – solar, wind and use of heat pumps, grey water, insulation and conservation. All homes **and** employment buildings should be made to provide whatever they can to manufacture their own electricity. Do not allow more solar panels on farm land using up precious open country.

Need to look closely at parking – how to provide the amount needed and where.

Need to ensure for the sake of business that we have up-to-date telecommunications for phones and computers.

Provide suitable places where residents can enjoy the countryside by providing walks, cycleways and places suitable for dog walking – think about how we could open up the Lode through the town and Barway for leisure purposes – CIL contributions?

Appendix 5 – Village College Survey questions January 2021

Soham Village College – Student Questions

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan Working Party

Q. Do you live in Soham or the surrounding area?

1. Soham
2. Surrounding area

Employment – what sort in the town, apprenticeships, training, where, links with schools, starter units, home working.

Q. What are you planning to do when you leave Soham Village College?

1. Apprenticeship at local company
2. Cambridge/Bury St. Edmunds college to study A-levels (e.g. Hills Road/Long Road)
3. Vocational qualification (e.g. Carpentry/Hair & Beauty) at Cambridge/Bury St. Edmunds college
4. Other
5. Don't know

Q. Where are you planning to work after your post-16 course/training?

1. Soham
2. Cambridge
3. East Anglia
4. Leave the area
5. Don't know

Transport and links - how will we get around the town, to and from other places, pedestrians, cycling, parking, disabled access, reducing pollution

Q. Which forms of transport do you usually use when travelling in the local area? (select the 3 you most commonly use)

1. Walk
2. Bicycle
3. Car
4. Bus
5. Train

Facilities – doctors, dentists, shops, cafes, restaurants, pubs, facilities for teenagers, sports facilities, nurseries, children’s play areas

Q. Which sports facilities for teenagers do you think would be most used if built in Soham?
(select up to 3)

1. Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)
2. Outdoor gym equipment
3. Skate ramp/bike track
4. 3G/4G Astro-turf pitch
5. Other

Q. Which non-sporting facilities for teenagers do you think would be most used if provided in Soham? (select up to 3)

1. Youth Club
2. Outdoor stage
3. Internet café
4. Volunteering opportunities
5. Other

Green spaces and environment – protection, enhancement, education to protect, increase areas, improve linkages for instance green lanes and bridleways, improve the Lode.

Q. How interested are you in protecting the environment? (select one)

1. Protecting the environment is very important and think about it a lot
2. Protecting the environment is important but I don’t think about it very much
3. Protecting the environment is quite important but I rarely think about it
4. I don’t think about the environment

Q. How do you think we can help protect the environment in Soham and the local area?
(select up to 3)

1. Increase the number of bike paths
2. Enhance green spaces and outdoor activities
3. Improve public transport
4. Develop events that help educate young people about the environment
5. Organise an environmental activities group
6. Other

Appendix 6 – Village College Survey Results

Analysis of results of Village College Survey

221 students responded to the survey.

Summary

The results showed that just about half the students live in Soham. 59.7% of students are hoping to go to Bury ST Edmunds or Cambridge to study A levels, 10.9% want to do vocational qualifications or an apprenticeship at a local firm. 23% don't know what they want to do when they leave the college.

23.3% plan to work either in Cambridge or in the wider area of East Anglia. 15% want to leave the area and sadly only 1.8% plan to work in Soham. 52% do not know where they want to be.

Students were asked about the most popular form of transport. Not surprisingly, car came out as the favourite at 89% but walking came second at 79%. Bike and bus were more or less equal at around 35% and train only 14%. This may rise when the new Soham station has been open for longer.

The students were asked to list the 3 sports facilities they would most like to have in the town. The most popular was a Multi-Use Games area with 49% and an outdoor gym area 48%, skateboard/bike ramp 45% and 4G Astro-turf pitch 43%. Various other suggestions included swimming pool, horse riding, outdoor trampolines and rock climbing wall.

Other facilities suggested were internet café 69%, teenage café 48%, volunteering opportunities 30% and an outdoor stage 29%. Other suggestions included a cinema and a Primark shop.

49% believe in protecting the environment but don't think about it much, 30% want to protect the environment and think about it a lot.

Sadly 5% don't think about the environment at all.

1. To help protect the environment, respondents asked to mark three best ideas. 68% suggested enhancing green spaces and extra outdoor activities 50.2% said to improve public transport, 47.1% wanted more and better bike paths, 33.5% want more events to educate young people about the environment, 25.3% want an environmental activities group. Interestingly it was suggested that that we need more bins and signs to encourage people to put rubbish in, and that more takeaways use more sustainable trays and forks.

Details

1. Almost equal numbers in each of the school houses
2. 49.3% live in Soham, 50.7% live in the surrounding area
3. 57.9% are intending to go on to either Bury St Edmunds or Cambridge to study A levels,

5.9% want to do vocational qualifications, 5% want an apprenticeship at a local firm, 23.1% don't know what they want to do. Others have listed all sorts of future routes including - footballer, performing arts, horse riding, zoology, doctor.

4. 18.6% plan to work in Cambridge after post 16, 12.7% plan to work in East Anglia, 14.9% plan to leave the area, and only 1.8% plan to work in Soham. 52% have not decided yet.
5. Students were asked to list the 3 most used forms of transport. Cars came out on top with 89.6%, walking 79.8%, Bike and bus were almost equal with 35.7% and 35.3%, with train on 14.5%. This may well be substantially greater once the new train station in Soham is opened. (The station opened in December 2022)
6. Respondents asked to list the 3 Sports facilities which they would most like to see in Soham. The most popular were MUGA (Multi-use games area) on 49.3%, outdoor gym equipment gained 48.4%, skateboard park/bike ramp came in at 45.7% and 3G/4G Astro-turf pitch 43.9%. Other items mentioned were a swimming pool, horse riding area, outdoor trampolines/ rock climbing wall and various other items.
7. Asked for 3 must wanted. 69.7% would use an internet café, 46.2% would like a teenage café, 30.8% listed volunteering opportunities (no detail as to what sort) and 29.9% wanted an outdoor stage. Other items included cinema, wooden huts to sit in, nicer social areas and a Primark shop.
8. 49.3% believe in protecting the environment but don't think about it much, 30.3% want to protect the environment and think about it a lot, 14.9% approve protecting environment but rarely think about it, 5.4% don't think about the environment at all.
9. To help protect the environment, respondents asked to mark three best ideas. 68.3% suggested enhancing green spaces and outdoor activities, 50.2% said to improve public transport, 47.1% wanted more and better bike paths, 33.5% want more events to educate young people about the environment, 25.3% want an environmental activities group. Some have suggested that we need more bins and signs to encourage people to put rubbish in, suggestion that more takeaways use more sustainable trays and forks.

Appendix 7 – Business Survey May 2021

Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan

Survey for Businesses

This survey is intended to find out what the business community needs in the parish of Soham in order to recover from the Covid pandemic and more forward and flourish in the future.

The Neighbourhood Plan cannot change rents, rates but it can flag up other matters which may be able to be addressed in the future.

We would be very grateful for a little of your time to complete this survey and also if you know of any other businesses in Soham and Barway, please pass it on to them as we want to hear from as many businesses as possible. Thank you.

Start the Survey

1. Is your business situated:
 - a) in High St or Churchgate St
 - b) in Barway
 - c) on the outskirts of town
 - d) in the surrounding countryside
 - e) on a business park/industrial estate

2. Approximately how many employees do you have?
 - (1) 1-5
 - (2) 6-10
 - (3) 11-20
 - (4) 21-50
 - (5) 51-100
 - (6) More than 100

3. Which of these types of business does yours fit into?
 - a) Retail
 - b) Professional services
 - c) Food outlet
 - d) Leisure and tourism
 - e) Manufacturing
 - f) Warehousing
 - g) Transport
 - h) Office
 - i) Construction
 - j) Scientific
 - k) Agricultural/horticultural
 - l) Other

4. Approximately what percentage of your employees live:

- a) In Soham or Barway _____%
- b) Newmarket _____%
- c) Ely _____%
- d) Cambridge _____%
- e) Bury St Edmunds _____%
- f) Elsewhere _____%

5. Approximately what percentage of your employees travel to work:

- a) On foot _____%
- b) By bicycle _____%
- c) By private car _____%
- d) By bus _____%
- e) By works vehicle _____%
- f) By train _____%
- g) Other means _____%

6. What sort of business premises do you think are most needed in the parish?

Please rate them as 'most needed' 1 to 'least needed' 5

- a) Small start up office premises _____
- b) Small sized multipurpose space _____
- c) Medium sized office premises _____
- d) Medium multipurpose space _____
- e) Large office space _____
- f) Large manufacturing/warehousing space _____
- g) Small retail _____
- h) Large retail _____

7. Do you think businesses in Soham could do more to encourage young people to work in Soham?

- a) No
- b) Yes – what needs to be done?

8. What do you think is the single most important thing which can be done to encourage

more people to live and work in Soham and Barway?

9. What do you like about running a business in Soham?

10. What do you feel is holding you back or you do NOT like about doing business in Soham?

11. What can be done to improve the relationship between business and the community?

12. If you have any other comments you would like to make please type them here.

13. If you would be prepared to allow us to contact you to expand on any of your comments , please provide your contact details.

Thank you completing this survey. Please send it to by date

Appendix 8 – Analysis of business survey Summer 2021

Analysis of results business survey

19 responses

1. Where is your business located?

47% of respondents run a business in the town centre, 37% are based on a business or industrial park, 5% in the surrounding countryside, 11% say they are based somewhere else and no businesses from Barway responded.

2. Which of these best describes your business?

4 businesses said they were in retail, 3 are involved in leisure and 3 in manufacturing, 2 are in professional, financial or legal business and 1 in transport. 7 listed their business as 'other' which does not include agriculture, administration or warehousing.

3. Approximately how many employees do you have?

9 businesses have 1 to 5 employees, 4 have 6 to 10 employees, 3 businesses have 11 to 20 workers, 2 have 21 to 50, no businesses who replied had 51 to 100 employees and one business has over 100 employees.

4. How would you best describe your workforce in general terms?

8 businesses use professional trained staff and 8 have skilled(trade qualified) staff. 5 businesses have semi skilled (NVQ or similar) staff, 2 employ unskilled labour (no qualifications) and one business has apprentices.

5. Approximately what percentage of your employees work these work patterns?

None of the businesses run a day/night shift system. The majority of businesses 52.6% have full time employees (7.5hours or more a day), 5.3% of the respondents employ all part time staff%. 10.5% have staff with variable shift patterns. In fact 37.2% of the businesses employ part time staff who work less than 7.5 hours a day. Clearly part time work provides an important section of the jobs in Soham

6. What percentage of your workforce travel to work using these methods?

47.4% of businesses have 100% of employees who travel to work using a private vehicle. 36.9% also have between 10 and 50% of employees who travel by private car.

Only 5.3% have anyone who travels by train (the new train station had only just opened when this survey was done) 15.8% of businesses have staff who travel to work by bus. Up to 15.8% of businesses whose employees sometimes travel by works vehicle, obviously only when these are available. 15.8% have staff who work from home either all the time or for shorter periods.

7. What are the main reasons for having your business in Soham parish?

9 businesses say that access to customers/suppliers and markets are important to their business in Soham. 8 businesses have local connections or are native to the area, and 8 appreciate the availability of suitable business premises. 3 firms say that access to national road network is important and single businesses noted individually

that suitable local housing, local transport system and availability of suitably trained staff were important.

8. Do you plan to move or expand your business in the next 5 years?

58% of businesses said they have no intention of moving in the next 5 years. 21% said they may consider moving and 21% are considering moving in next 5 years.

9. Please give reasons for your previous answer

Answers vary between 'business is doing well' and 'may need to find bigger premises'. Some are happy to stay local and some are looking for more trained staff.

10. If you are planning to move, is it important to stay in the parish?

41% said no, 35% said yes and the rest were unsure and voted maybe.

11. Please give reasons for your previous answer

Many of these businesses have local connections or local customers. Some are happy to be here because they have good road links.

12. What sort of business premises do you think are most needed in the parish?

Because of the small number of respondents it is hard to see clearly what sort of premises are most needed. However, it is clear that several businesses see the need for more large retail and office space. There does not seem to be much appetite for small premises either for offices, retail or warehousing.

13. Thinking about the local internet and infrastructure - please tick all the options which are important to businesses in Soham parish.

The local internet and local road infrastructure are clearly of great significance for local businesses (17 and 16 votes each). The new Soham railway station (10 votes) and availability of suitable business premises (8 votes) were significant but interestingly only 5 businesses mentioned the skill level of prospective employees.

14. What do you think is the single most important thing which can be done to encourage more people to live and work in Soham?

Several businesses mention that we need better infrastructure and in particular better public transport and road network. Improving local facilities and tidying up the town would also bring more tourism etc

15. What is the single most important thing which can be done to encourage more young people to work in Soham parish?

Respondents think we need more businesses which provide more varied jobs including apprenticeships, in particular retail because they give young people the chance of a part time job as a try out. Get education to provide the type of training for young people needed eg. Not just computers but manual stuff too.

16. What do you think would be most effective in reducing the use of private vehicles for commuting to work?

Many respondents mention the need for better more efficient, cheap local buses which provide links not just to Ely and Newmarket but also the surrounding villages like Isleham and Wicken. Also improve and add to cycleways and provide better lighting. Provide better link to train station and network of electric vehicles.

17. Have you any other comments?

Stop converting retail business premises to homes – need more diversifying. Retail can flourish in Soham but the rents and business rates need reviewing. More affordable housing needed in the area not just Soham.

Question 7 on the survey was seeking to find out why business like being located in Soham

What are the main reasons for having your business in Soham parish?

You can choose as many as you wish.

	Readily available suitable business space	6
	Easy access to road network	3
	Native to the parish or surrounding area	8
	Suitably qualified local staff	1
	Local public transport	1
	Availability of local housing	1
	Proximity to key markets/customers/suppliers	9
	Other	1

From this it is clear that many businesses value their location in Soham because it provides what they need.

When asked if they had to move, would they want to stay in Soham, 35% said yes and 24% said maybe. There were various comments about why they wanted to stay or leave. One said the lease was too expensive and another that there was a lack of skilled workers. Some say that they have the premises they need and their customers are here.

Businesses were asked what would sort of premises are most needed in the parish. Larger retail and manufacturing/warehouse premises seem to be most needed with small start-up premises also popular.

Businesses were asked which of the alternatives are most important to local business. The results make clear that transport networks and the internet are the most important.

	The local internet	17
	The local road infrastructure	16
	The skill level of prospective employees	5
	New Soham railway station	10
	Suitable business premises available	8
	Other	0

When asked what would encourage more people to live and work in Soham, there was a large number of comments about transport links again - buses, trains and the need for them to run on time. Other things mentioned were the need for good quality housing and local places to relax.

Respondents were asked what would make more young people stay and work in Soham. The replies were very varied but include an emphasis on larger businesses with more flexible employment opportunities, apprenticeships for young people, more training suitable for the jobs available locally.

When asked about the single most important thing which would improve the reduction in the use of cars, it was very clear that local transport needs an overhaul. There needs to be more, better, faster, cheaper transport and good links between the different types enabling people to travel more easily between local places. One respondent pointed out that better internet connections would make it easier for people to work from home if they wished to.

General comments provided a chance to mention the cost of housing in the area. There is very little affordable housing that young people can afford either to buy or rent. It was also pointed out that the retail offer in the High Street will probably reduce even further because the rents asked are much too high and the rates for businesses need revision too.



Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan

Our Green Spaces.

Soham and Barway are blessed with many green lanes, commons and other open spaces and walks by the Lode as well as footpaths and cycleways. We want to understand how you feel about these both now and for the future.

Green Spaces and how they are used



1

Over the last 12 months approximately how often have you walked or cycled on any of the green lanes, lode side walks, open green spaces, footpaths or cycleways in the parish of Soham? *

* required answer

- Daily
- 2-3 times a week
- Once a week
- Once a month
- Less often
- Never use any of them

2

Which three of these were most important to you during the lockdowns?

- Green lanes
- Open spaces
- Footpaths
- Cycle ways
- Lodeside walks

3

Thinking about other types of green spaces - playing fields, children's playgrounds, allotments, recreation ground and gardens next to your home.

On average, over the last 12 months, how often do you make use of these areas?

	Every day	2or 3 times a week	Once a week	Once a month	Less than once a month
School playing fields	<input type="radio"/>				
Public playing fields	<input type="radio"/>				
Children's playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>				
Recreation ground	<input type="radio"/>				
Garden (private or communal)	<input type="radio"/>				
Allotments	<input type="radio"/>				

4

Which of these areas was most important to you during the lockdowns?

Please mark 1 for most important , to 5 least important or not important at all

Recreation ground

Garden next to home

Allotments

Playing fields

Children's playgrounds

5

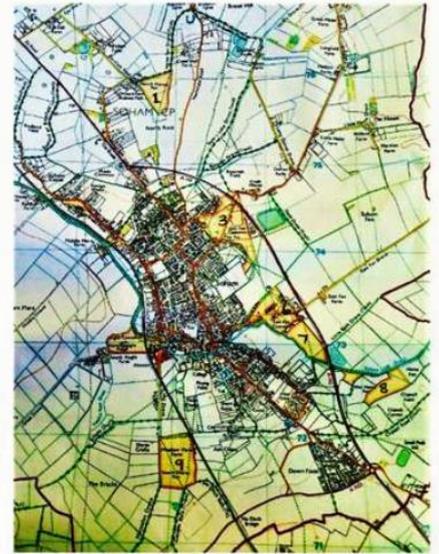
What do you think could be done to improve these areas most?

- Easier access
- Better surfaces for paths
- More dog/litter bins
- More direction signs and maps
- Information boards about what wildlife can be seen
-

SECTION 2

Soham's Historic Commons and SSSIs

1. North Horse Fen
2. Broadpiece
3. Qua Fen Common
4. Front Angle Common
5. Back Angle Common
6. Front East Fen Common
7. Back East Fen Common
8. Wet Horse Fen (SSSI)
9. South Horse Fen



The Shade Common has no public open space at present



Which of these areas have you heard of or visited? *

- *Required answer*

- North Horse Fen
- Broadpiece
- Qua Fen Common
- Front Angle Common
- Back Angle Common
- Frint East Fen Common
- Back East Fen Common
- Wet Horse Fen (SSSI)

7

Which of these areas have you actually visited in the last 12 months

- North Horse Fen
- Broadpiece
- Qua Fen Common
- Front Angle Common
- Back Angle Common
- Front East Fen Common
- Back East Fen Common
- Wet Horse Fen SSSI
- South Horse Fen
- None of these

8

How often during the last 12 months have you visited any of these areas? Please give an answer for each area.

	Daily	2-3 times a week	Weekly	Monthly	once in 6 months	Never/don't know where it is
North Horse Fen	<input type="radio"/>					
Broadpiece	<input type="radio"/>					
Qua Fen Common	<input type="radio"/>					
Front Angle Common	<input type="radio"/>					
Back Angle Common	<input type="radio"/>					
Front East Fen Common	<input type="radio"/>					
Back East Fen Common	<input type="radio"/>					
Wet Horse Fen SSSI	<input type="radio"/>					
South Horse Fen	<input type="radio"/>					

9

Why do you like visiting these commons areas?
Choose any three answers

- To exercise (walking or cycling)
- To walk the dog
- To entertain the children
- To enjoy the wildlife
- To study/photograph wildlife
- To relive stress and unwind
- Other

10

Many of these green spaces are gradually losing much of their natural wildlife and plants. How do you feel about this?

*

- Not bothered
- Seems a pity
- Need to try to stop the losses
- Need to act fast to reverse the losses

11

What do you think is the most important thing to do to improve our green spaces?

Enter your answer

12

Are there any other places around the parish which you think should be protected from development? Please try to explain briefly where and give reasons why you think they need protection.

Enter your answer

13

Would you be interested in helping to improve our green spaces if needed?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

14

Please provide your contact details i.e. phone no and email if available

Enter your answer

Thank you for your time to complete this form. It will help to determine the future for Soham and Barway.

Appendix 10 – Analysis of Green Spaces Survey

Analysis of Green Spaces survey

119 people responded

- 1. Over the last 12 months approximately how often have you walked or cycled on any of the green lanes, lodeside walks, open green spaces, footpaths or cycleways in the parish of Soham?**
12 people said they never use any of these green spaces. 41 people use these spaces daily and 27 say they use them 2-3 times a week. 51 use them between once a week and once a month.
- 2. Which three of these were most important to you during the lockdowns?**
82 people put open spaces as being most important to them, 78 said footpaths were important, 36 people listed cycleways as important, green lanes had 34 votes and Lodeside walks got 32 votes.
- 3. Thinking about other types of green spaces - playing fields, children's playgrounds, allotments, recreation ground and gardens next to your home. On average, over the last 12 months, how often do you make use of these areas?**
64.3% said they were using gardens (private or communal) every day or 3-4 times a week. 21.6% people used the school playing fields every day or 2-3 times a week and public playing fields had much the same support 23.1%. 18.2% VOTED FOR THE Recreation Ground and 6.7% used children's playgrounds every day or 2-3 times a week. Allotments were used by 7.2% only.
- 4. Which of these areas was most important to you during the lockdowns?**
59.5% chose a garden next to home as the most important to them. 6.9% chose playing fields. The Recreation Ground came next with 31.9% choosing this as most important while children's play areas and allotments scored only 0.9% as first choice but the play areas scored better for 2nd choice 6.9%.
- 5. What do you think could be done to improve these areas most?**
The highest scorer was to provide more dog litter bins 27 people wanted this and 25 wanted better surfaces on paths. 19 people want more information about wildlife (and historical info too). 13 want easier access and 3 mentioned places where you could meet up with friends.
- 6. Which of these areas have you heard of or visited?**
Qua Fen Common is the most popular with 84 people saying they have visited or know about it. Interestingly Front and back Angle Commons and back East Fen Common have a similar number of votes (49, 47 and 44 respectively). Front East Fen Common and North Horse Fen have identical scores (39 each) while South horse Fen and Broadpiece have smaller scores (33 and 34 respectively). The SSSI Wet Horse Fen, has the lowest score at 27 (perhaps a blessing for the wildlife). 29 people said they have never visited or heard of any of the areas listed.
- 7. Which of these areas have you actually visited in the last 12 months.**
Qua Fen Common remains the highest scorer with 69 people saying they have visited in the last 12 months. The other results mirror those from the previous question with all results lower than before except for those 37 that say they have never visited any of the areas.
- 8. How often during the last 12 months have you visited any of these areas?**
19.1% say they have visited Qua Fen Common daily or 2-3 times a week. Broadpiece, Front and Back Angle Common are all similar at about 10% daily or 2-3 times a week.
The remainder have visitors daily or 2-3 times a week around 7-10% but the least visited is Wet Horse Fen (SSSI) at only 5%.
- 9. Why do you like visiting these commons areas?**
The most popular reason is for exercise (walking or cycling) and scored 72. The next two most popular were dog walking (51) and to enjoy the wildlife (51). 46 people visit to relieve stress and unwind. 14 like to take photos of the wildlife and 8 to entertain the children. 16 people listed 'other' but few gave reasons – one mentioned not feeling safe there because it is a long way away.
- 10. Many of these green spaces are gradually losing much of their natural wildlife and plants. How do you feel about this?**
4% people said they were not bothered, and 15% sad it was a pity. 45% said we need to stop the losses and 36% want to act fast to prevent any further losses.

11. What do you think is the most important thing to do to improve our green spaces?

The free form answers were very varied but many mentioned preventing any development, reducing how much litter is left and trying to improve the biodiversity by introducing more plant species so they look more attractive.

12. Are there any other places around the parish which you think should be protected from development?

Please try to explain briefly where and give reasons why you think they need protection.

Many different areas and reasons in the 66 responses. But it is clear that people see Soham has had enough development and they are concerned about further losses of green spaces. People also want to see connections between the green spaces so that wildlife can move about safely. Should not be altering the balance between development and green (natural) space for either the wildlife or the people living there.

13. Would you be interested in helping to improve our green spaces if needed?

16% said no, 23% said yes they would help and 60% said maybe they would help.(it probably depends on what and when they were asked to do something!)

Commentary on the Green Space Responses

Initially we needed to find out how much the local community knew about the open spaces and walks etc around the town and how much they used them. This survey particularly applied to their use during lockdown because it had been very apparent that the local population had made very good use of these areas for recreation.

47 respondents said they used them daily and 21 used them weekly. It seems from this question that there is a split in the community in that two thirds use these spaces regularly and the rest either not at all or very irregularly. The next question asked how important these places were during lockdown.

Green lanes	34
Open spaces	82
Footpaths	78
Cycle ways	36
Lodeside walks	32



Green lanes and open spaces are clearly very popular.

The next question asked about the use of 'managed' green spaces i.e. recreation ground, school playing fields, public playing fields, allotments, children's play areas, private or communal gardens.

Interestingly the most used area was private or communal gardens next to the home which were used daily or twice weekly by 63% of respondents. Playing fields were also used quite a lot but children's play areas were not (probably because of fear of infection) and nor were allotments.

Private and communal gardens also showed their importance as 59% chose them as their most important with a further 26% rated it as it as second choice. The next most important was the recreation ground at first choice 32% of respondents.

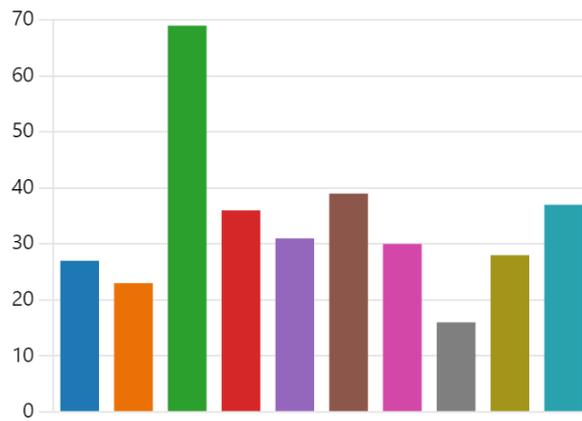
A question about what would improve these areas proved interesting. The most popular suggestion was to have better surfaces on paths and the second was to have more dog bins provided. Also provision of information boards about what could be seen was supported by 19 people.

The survey provided a map showing all the commons and horse fens in the area. Respondents were asked which of these they had heard of or visited.

Qua Fen Common was by far the best known with 84 people mentioning it. The next most well known is front Angle common. 29 respondents said they had never heard of or visited any of these places.

The next question asked how many of these places they had visited in the last 12 months. Once again Qua Fen Common is the best well known and most visited. Interestingly the Wet Horse Fen SSSI is less well known and less visited than any other areas. Perhaps that is a benefit to the local wildlife!

North Horse Fen	27
Broadpiece	23
Qua Fen Common	69
Front Angle Common	36
Back Angle Common	31
Front East Fen Common	39
Back East Fen Common	30
Wet Horse Fen SSSI	16
South Horse Fen	28
None of these	37



When asked why respondents visited these areas it is clear that exercise was by far the most important reason because 72 replies listed this. Walking the dog and enjoying the wildlife came in second with 51 votes. Relieving stress and unwinding came close with 46 votes.

The survey explained that many of these green spaces are deteriorating and asked how the respondent feels about this.

Figure below clearly illustrates how local people feel about this. 91% of respondents are aware of this and anxious about the need to do something.

Not bothered	5
Seems a pity	18
Need to try to stop the losses	53
Need to act fast to reverse the l...	43



Question 11 asks for suggestions as to how best to improve our green spaces there were a lot of valid comments. These fell into various categories

- Stop building on commons and open spaces and restrict the amount of building adjacent to these areas
- Educate the community about the value of these areas for people, wildlife and climate change perhaps by running guided walks, going into schools and with information boards
- Plant more trees and other wild plants beneficial to insects and other animals
- Discourage people from leaving litter – more litter bins and dog bins
- Consider designating areas specifically to protect wildlife.
- Better conservation management and encouraging nearby farmers to be involved.

Question 12 ask for respondents to note other areas that need protection. It is clear, reading through the comments, many people really value the green spaces in the town and are very disturbed at the amount of housing which is reducing the green spaces and farmland precious to the town. It is particularly interesting that the Lodeside walks and other waterways and ponds are mentioned as needing particular protection and that people should be encouraged to stop dropping litter everywhere.

When asked if they would be prepared to help with improving these spaces, only 18% said no, 60% said maybe, 26% said yes.

This survey has demonstrated very clearly that local people really value the open spaces, countryside walks and wildlife that surrounds them in Soham and are keen to ensure that no further green spaces are lost to them or to local wildlife.

Appendix 11 – Comments from respondents on Open Spaces Survey

Question 11 What do you think is the most important thing to do to improve our green spaces?	Question 12 Are there any other places around the parish which you think should be protected from development? Please try to explain briefly where and give reasons why you think they need protection.
Make sure everyone is aware of their value and to adhere to laws of how to use them and protect them and the species there on. You could always stop the building on or near them all!	The Moat Closes, The Shade, Medieval Strip field and land at the back of Brook Street looking over East Fen and the Lode.
Better management	The commons
Conservation, making people aware of them and why they're important habitats. Educating people as to what lives in the habitats.	
Maintain accessibility.	Generally need to avoid endless spreading out into the countryside.
	The lode banks, also needs a dog litter bin at each end.
No building at all. Maps and signage around town.	Saxon field near Scampers. This should be a heritage site for schoolchildren to learn about traditional farming and not built upon. One of a few Saxon fields left. We should be promoting it not destroying it.
stop building houses on them	People need to feel like a community still so building everywhere takes this away, we all need green space to escape too
Stop building close by to the green spaces.	The area behind Greenhills in Soham which is currently a flower meadow. This is a beautiful area and the impact of new housing would be terrible.
Whilst areas such as the horse fens are fairly remote, other areas such as qua and east fen commons are under threat of becoming isolated oasis's due to proposed eastern gateway. The connecting staple field acts as a wildlife corridor and once this has been built on the impact on our historic commons and the wildlife therein will be catastrophic. Large scale development along mereside and access by bridge from the new station to the far river bank will also cause a negative impact to the river bank and wildlife. We have very few beautiful areas in Soham and they should be respected and protected from further development.	In fill is happening at an alarming rate, but our rural spaces and green envelopes need to be protected, as well as our fens and commons.
To have local input from interested residents/ Volunteer group Planned walks/nature sessions Information readily available	Areas around and in between green spaces and commons that prevent the living things going between each space and protect the habitat
Stop excessive building near them.	The fields adjacent and North of Cherrytree Lane and adjacent to The Butts. These are used regularly and enjoyed by families and walkers and are a haven for wildlife given the amount of development of other nearby green spaces (e.g. the new estate adjacent to the Cherry Tree pub, proposed estate south of Cherrytree Lane, etc..).
Keep them well maintained. Plant more wild flowers.	

Question 11 What do you think is the most important thing to do to improve our green spaces?	Question 12 Are there any other places around the parish which you think should be protected from development? Please try to explain briefly where and give reasons why you think they need protection.
have paths / signs	
Reduce the amount of people being aware of these areas and/or giving harsher consequences to those who mistreat them	
Try to save the wildlife and plants	No
Make them more appealing with things like flowers and plants.	
Make sure people can't ruin them EG by leaving litter	Not Sure
Feed the plants	No
Wildlife	No
Habitats for animals, wildlife only zones	
it helps the environment and creates a much better place	
To not litter.	Unsure
Provide more areas to wildlife to access food shelter water etc.	
More open meadows with wild flowers and farming practices that are sympathetic to wildlife (like less insecticides)	Areas to the south side of Soham lode and land between Soham and Wicken as they are good for wildlife and give people access to the countryside
have easier access to those with disabilities, more signs and maps, and preserve the nature and wildlife	
Protect from development. Continue to manage in a manner sympathetic manner for nature.	Land around Soham lode. Land between Soham and Wicken.
Plant things like a lot of trees because it helps to get some carbon out of the world	The trees
Make them more accessible	
To have more as I live in Ely and there aren't many	
plant more plants	parkers piece lots of people go there and have picnics so they sometimes leave rubbish
make sure biodiversity is maintained (maybe have more long grass and plenty of flowers for bees) and to make sure people know where it is and respect it (more bins for litter and similar stuff). to assist with biodiversity you could even ask a school to do a project of building a bug hotel of some sort, so then the community would be involved :)	general green areas especially with trees
encourage natural biodiversity through creation and maintenance of mini habitats	
stop building houses on them and put litter bins and dog waste bins on them	Everywhere that there are animals, this is because then they will have nowhere to live
Safer places for our wildlife.	I don't really know.

Question 11 What do you think is the most important thing to do to improve our green spaces?	Question 12 Are there any other places around the parish which you think should be protected from development? Please try to explain briefly where and give reasons why you think they need protection.
Stop cutting or taking away their habitat.	I think the trees need protecting, people keep cutting them down and insects might be living in there, we will lose oxygen and have more carbon dioxide in the air. We should plant more trees.
penalties for littering, less housing around.	il think Soham has plenty of houses and that development should slow or stop completely. not only do most of the residents work outside the town (thus commuting to places like Cambridge and Bury st Edmunds), which increases pollution in both Soham and the surrounding area, the constant development has reduced green space in Soham which is vital to the wildlife. Overall, ilthink the entirety of the parish should be protected from development.
To plant more things and make barriers so people don't walk on them	Soham lode
Add more bins to the area so that there is less littering. Also plant more flowers and other greenery so that there are more habitats for insects.	
Taking better care of plants and wildlife	.
keep them clean	
Stop littering.	
Reintroducing a variety of species of plants and other wildlife.	
plant more trees	buildings are being built and it is where crops are.
To plant trees and stuff	Qua Fen Common needs protection because people are trying to build houses on the field and they shouldn't because so many people enjoy Qua Fen Common and so many ecosystems and wildlife reside there.
more of it	
More plants for the animals and bees.	
make sure there are enough trees and space so animals can Rome and have enough territory as the more we build it cuts into their space forcing them to leave. could also hire litter patrols like they do in Fordam not just for the recreation ground	make sure areas like the reservoir are kept watch so the illegal swimmers are kept out.
add more green areas with nature everywhere	I don't know of any
To make it a better place for wildlife and make more signs about these places, because then more people might visit these places.	I think most places need protecting, because most of these places are near roads, so I think that there should be signs about these places.
So we have space to learn and to produce oxygen and keep wildlife still around.	Any river ways or wildlife areas or anywhere animals or insects live
40 years ago lived & played on common as a child, i remember so much wildlife , i don't see this now we've lost so much	is poor planning when buildings are overlooking gardens can't enjoy sitting outside without neighbours overlooking no privacy, wildlife no longer comes to

Question 11 What do you think is the most important thing to do to improve our green spaces?	Question 12 Are there any other places around the parish which you think should be protected from development? Please try to explain briefly where and give reasons why you think they need protection.
	garden, building in town needs protection need space apart
Make footpaths more accessible for walkers and cyclists - like Wicken Fen Drove from Horse Fen	Footpaths between Qua Fen Common and East Fen Common and Cherry Tree Lane and riverside walk between new station and the Coates. More off main roads for exercising
Understand the pressures on the land and act to improve biodiversity	Bishop Laney field as it is close to existing commons.
Don't litter	I'm not sure because I don't live in Soham but I think just general areas that are beautiful should be protected.
Respect their historic importance to Soham. Ensure that their wildlife does not degenerate, due to excessive/inappropriate use.	All the green spaces currently embedded in housing estates. Ensure they are not infilled with opportunistically built dwellings/facilities. Ensure lode bank paths are properly maintained.
So the wild life is not dieing	No
The green spaces are basically our source because it is something we need but we don't appreciate it as much. We burn trees know that soon we will run out but we don't care, we need them to breathe. All green spaces have a purpose.	Forests. They are being burnt down or taking part in a forest fire this causes climate change but also trees are not unlimited so we have to take care of the trees we already have.
Plant more flowers to attract more wildlife like butterflies and dragonflies.	So that we have more places to explore that we might not have been before.
Don't destroy filds or wildlife homes	The commons and fields
Plant more plants, which encourages more animals.	I think most marshy and green areas should be protected, as many animals live there, and children and pets enjoy playing there.
pick your litter up	
Encouraging wildlife areas but also encouraging people to go to and behave well in recreational areas.	I don't really know but areas of natural wildlife should be protected, in my opinion.
more accessible, more space to walk around, buns for litter and dog poo	not sure
Plant more plants for wildlife to breed	...
Keep them accessible maintained and looked after according to specific areas needs	I'm all for development but also need green areas too.
Allow untamed growth except for on paths	
Put more safe thing's around for the wildlife	Duck pond because people Chuck rubbish in it
Cut grass , put more bins	Tress and open grass areas because people like to have chill and walk their dogs
stop people building on greens and fields that could be turned into a nature reserve or somewhere to get out your energy.	Places like stetchworth walks.
STOP BUILDING ON THEM !!!	
Planting more trees and wild flowers which will encourage wildlife	

<p>Question 11 What do you think is the most important thing to do to improve our green spaces?</p>	<p>Question 12 Are there any other places around the parish which you think should be protected from development? Please try to explain briefly where and give reasons why you think they need protection.</p>
<p>keep more wildlife</p>	<p>Near the cherry tree</p>
<p>You do not mention horse access / bridleways or byways. These are very important as Soham gets built up with more houses blocking adequate access for horses. Please do more for horse riders there are an awful lot in Soham and Barcham and we get forgotten</p>	<p>All open spaces should be protected</p>
<p>Keep the footpaths clear and ensure signage is up. Plus, ensure that paths that ARE footpaths are not blocked.</p>	<p>The land facing the Dobede Way development should remain as an open space.</p>
<p>Conservation, upkeep, avoid misuse.</p>	
<p>Stop cutting grass unnecessarily</p>	<p>Rivers</p>
<p>Good management and community involvement)</p>	
<p>Keep the rights of way that are regularly used clear i.e. the pathways that are there</p>	<p>Just look round the town, particularly the outskirts. A great deal of the 'green' land is being built on. We are losing land for crops and for animals to graze on, plus wildlife habitat. We need houses but this many??</p>
<p>Schools need to teach respect and care for the local environment, just look in the River Lode near SVC. I could write an essay on what needs doing, but I feel there is little point given how much green site and farmland has gone under concrete and it depresses me beyond belief. This is not what the farmers in my family served in WWI and II for. Until our councillors and politicians get serious about saving what little we have in our over-populated island all we can do is challenge those who litter, who scream and shout near nesting places, stop persecuting hedgehogs, trampling on wild flowers and breaking branches off the few trees there are left after developers have destroyed everything. I pick up litter, contact the Environment Agency about the Lode, had letters and photos published until I was almost bullied out of my home. My garden today is full of many kinds of bees because I have many bushes of lavender and other bee friendly plants including clover on my grass. We can all do our bit, sadly most don't really care with new houses, tiny gardens usually put under slate shards or pebbles. I will happily do what I can at age 82 with its limitations. Sorry to rant, but it breaks my heart to even live in Soham it is an urban conurbation now. Time for the Planning dept and committee and metrocentric MP to be held to account. UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL.</p>	<p>Not another square metre of farm or green site land anywhere in EAST CAMBS. Soham is targeted. I belonged to the CPRE, they were all from South Cambs at the one meeting I attended and it was stated to me by one of its older committee members that it didn't matter if East Cambs went under concrete, South Cambs was more important. I resigned my membership that day to its head office which did nothing. And there we have it, no genuine concern by those who claim to care about rural England. And it is only England going under concrete.</p>
<p>Protect them and encourage a diverse range a wildlife</p>	<p>The fields between East Fen and Qua Fen common</p>

<p>Question 11 What do you think is the most important thing to do to improve our green spaces?</p>	<p>Question 12 Are there any other places around the parish which you think should be protected from development? Please try to explain briefly where and give reasons why you think they need protection.</p>
<p>Stop the building it is destroying everything.</p>	<p>All green spaces.</p>
<p>Keep footpaths clear and the Lodes clear too.</p>	<p>We have more than enough development in the pipeline. Do not need any more.</p>
<p>Stopping abuse by scrambling bikes - a problem beside the Lode south of Broad Piece. Enforcing dog muck pickup - again many of the Lode paths are minefields. The bags of dog poo hanging in the hedges are quite unpleasant.</p>	<p>The whole of Soham needs protection. In recent years we have had most of our open spaces being built on by greedy property developers. Enough is enough. Apart from infill development the rest of Soham needs protection.</p>
<p>Protect them from the impacts of development and to act to conserve and improve them through appropriate maintenance. Their use by the public should be encouraged, but information should be made available to that their appropriate use and particular sensitivities are understood.</p>	<p>Areas beyond and on the fringes of the development envelope.</p>
<p>Reintroduce plants, stop developing e.g Angle Common was ruined after being dug up during the building of Dobede Way.</p>	<p>All the green spaces, not enough to leave green corridors between developments, such as between East and Qua Fen.</p>
<p>To protect them from development and the impact of such for future generations. To plant trees, wildflowers, restore and thicken hedgerows, encourage wildlife and enhance commons and ponds. Waymarking footpaths and the importance of keeping to them. Signs with a map of each area with a brief history and pictures of wildlife/wildflowers to be found at each site. Encourage local residents to form environmental groups where they live, who know the area to form working parties of volunteers to dig out ponds etc. People need to respect open spaces and commons. We are a rural community we must not allow our commons to become glorified parks.</p>	<p>Any area bordering a common or green space. Why? These are our green lungs, our environment and its habitat are in crisis, we need to protect them for future generations.</p>
<p>To keep cars off them and someone to look after them regularly</p>	<p>All the land where houses are being built. Lets get back to the old days when children can play in the fields, walk by the river and see the wild flowers. Also make these walks safe and put up directions to the fields where wildflowers still grow next to the bypass and near Green Hills. Let us all be happy again! Hoping of course the vandals don't pick them all. In particular please help Barway to keep it as it used to be - a lovely peaceful hamlet where children grew up without fighting.</p>

