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## 1. Introduction

Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood. The National Planning Policy Framework describes neighbourhood planning as providing ‘a powerful set of tools’ which enables parish councils and local people to have some influence over future planning and development within the area covered by the plan.

A neighbourhood plan can be created by local people working with the parish council and the relevant bodies of the local council. In this document, the group of local people representing the population of Sprotbrough are known as ‘Sprotbrough Neighbourhood Champions’ (SNC); the parish council is the Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council; the local authority is Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC).

A neighbourhood plan must be guided by community consultation. Findings from a consultation make an important contribution towards the final policies and considerations to be submitted in the completed neighbourhood plan.

## 2. Community Consultation

The consultation took the form of a questionnaire delivered to every household and business within the plan area of Sprotbrough. The questionnaire was also available online. The completed questionnaires could be returned to a number of identified points within the local community or if required could be collected.

Respondents were given four weeks to complete and return the survey. There was a 22% return rate. This is considerably higher than the national average *and shows the desire of the local community to express their opinions and have subsequent influence over future planning and development.*

The questionnaire, designed by the SNC, was structured around a set of questions allowing for a variety of responses plus, at the end of each question, there was an opportunity to express individual views and opinions. The questionnaire was designed to be confidential with only street names and age groups being optional responses. A summary of the individual views and opinions is available in Appendix A. A copy of the questionnaire is available in Appendix B.

The information from the questionnaires was collated and analysed by the SNC. This information has been represented graphically and forms the basis of the following report.

### 3. The Respondents

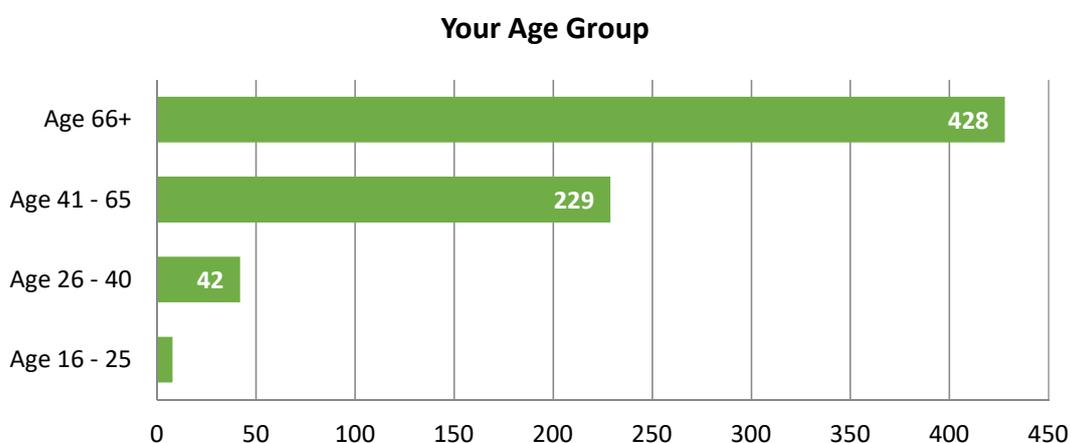
(Questions 1, 2 and 3 on the questionnaire)

Of the respondents:

- 58% were female and 42% male;
- 71% had lived in Sprotbrough for more than 10 years;
- 93% were 41 years of age or over;
- 61% were over 65 years of age.

To address the need for including the views and opinions of younger members of the community a separate questionnaire was compiled to be used by two of the local schools. A separate report has been produced using the children’s responses.

Figure 1.



### 4. About Our Community

(Questions 4 and 5)

#### Strengths and Positive Features

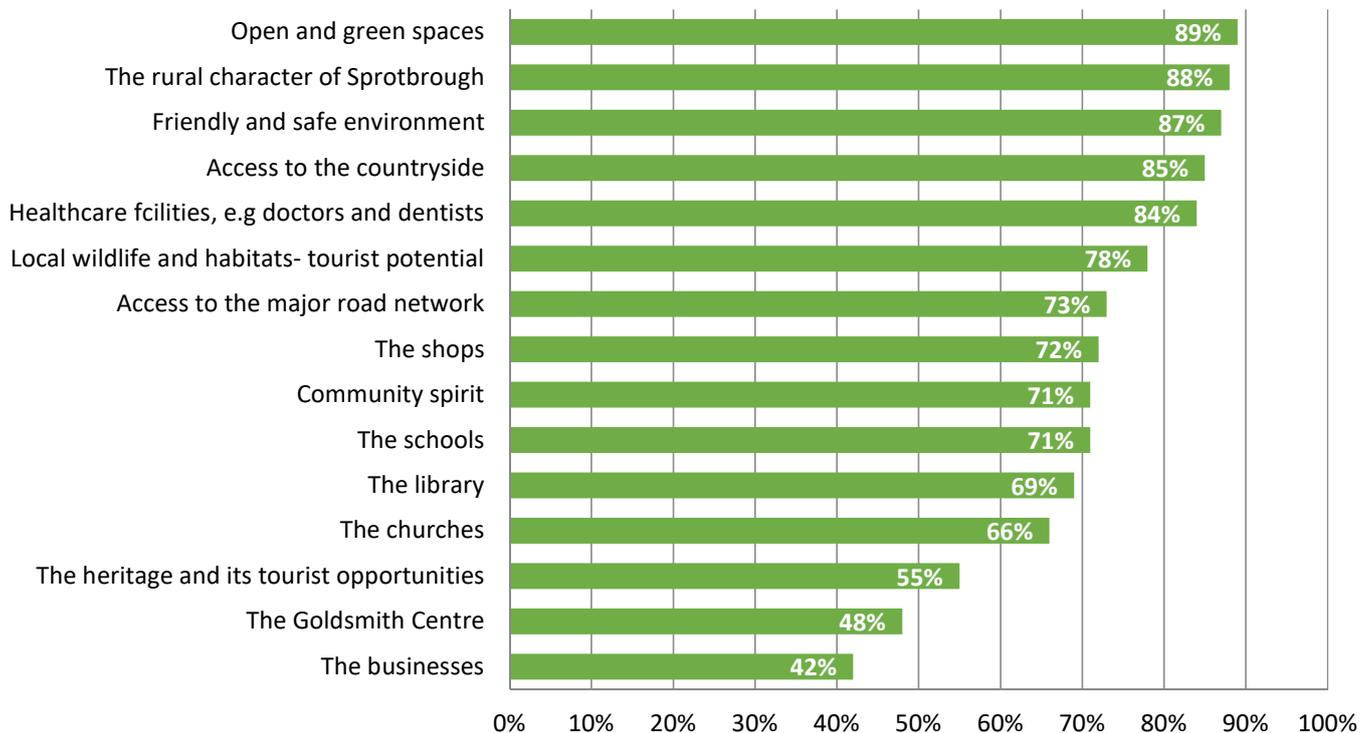
From a given list, people were asked to identify all the facilities they felt were a strength or a positive feature of the community.

Figure 2 shows the percent of responses to each facility. It indicates that people value the wide range of facilities available within Sprotbrough. It is of particular note that the four highest percentage of responses relate to the environment and rural nature of the parish:

- Open and green spaces 89%;
- The rural character of Sprotbrough 88%;
- Friendly and safe environment 87%;
- Access to the countryside 85%.

Figure 2.

**What do you think are the strenghts or positive features of our community - and what do you want to protect for the future?**



See also Appendix A (A summary of individual views and opinions)

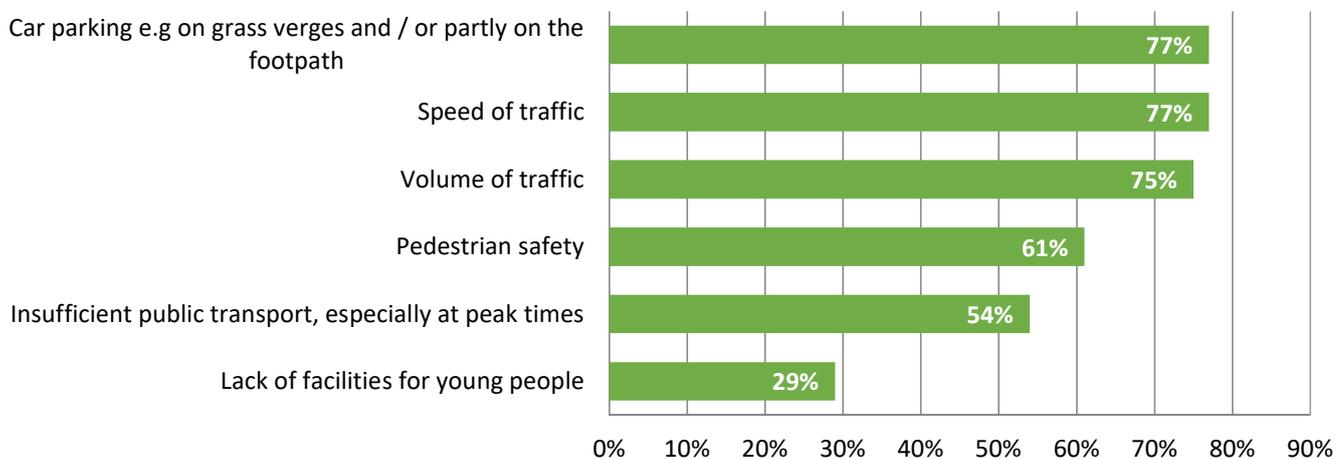
**Weakness and Negative Features**

From a given list, people were asked to identify all the facilities they felt were a weakness or a negative feature of the community.

Figure 3 shows the percent of responses. It indicates that issues relating to traffic volume, speed and parking have each been identified as a concern by 75% or more of respondents.

Figure 3.

**What do you feel are the weaknesses or negative features of our community?**



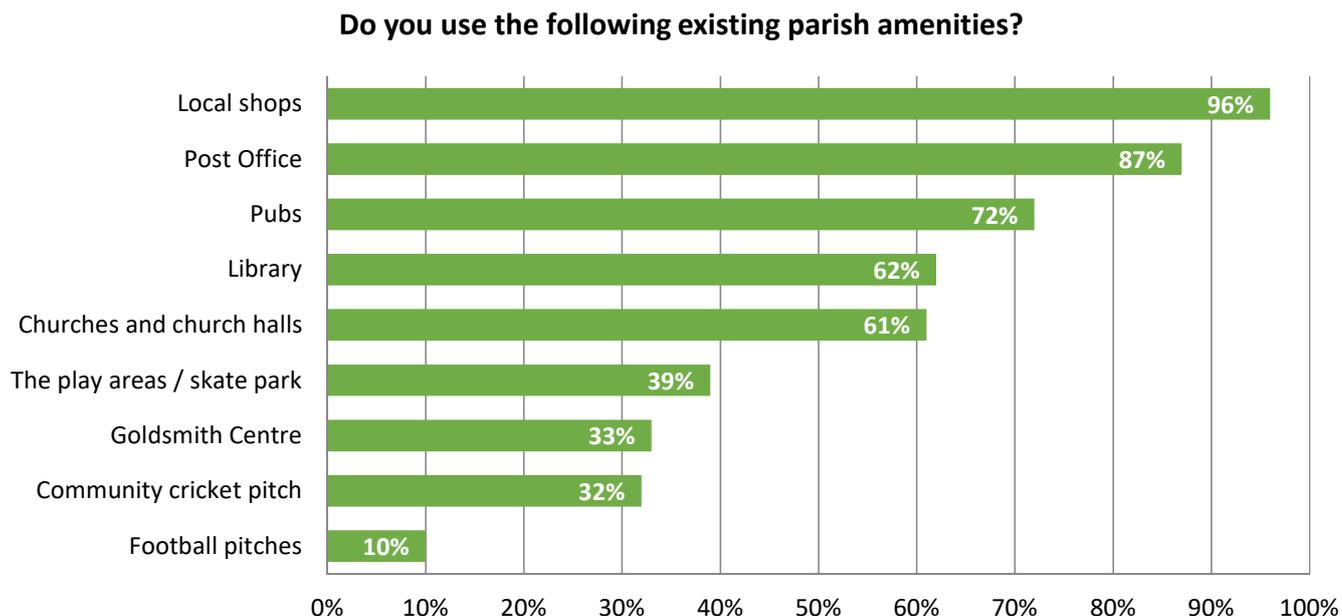
See also Appendix A (A summary of individual views and opinions)

## 5. Facilities

Use of facilities.  
(Question 6)

From a list of nine parish amenities respondents were asked to identify those they used. Figure 4 identifies the percentage of respondents using each of the amenities. The local shops, post office and pubs, all with a response of over 70% clearly offer vital services to the community.

Figure 4.



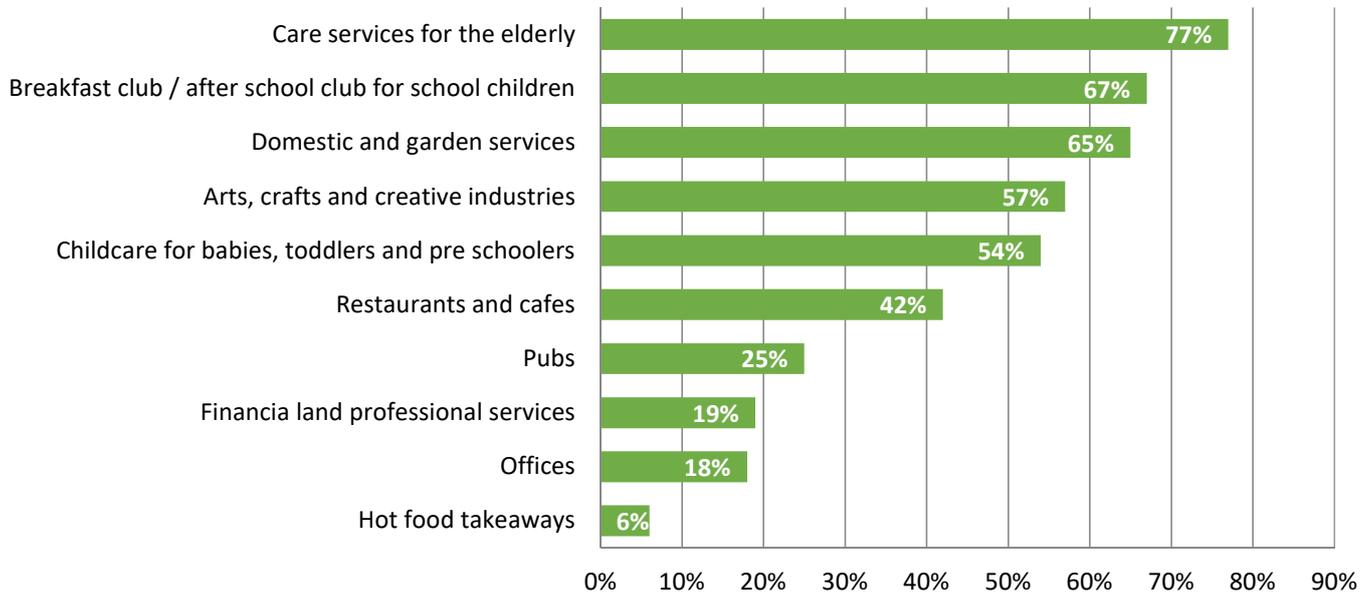
Future Facilities  
(Questions 17 and 19)

Respondents were asked to identify all the areas where they either supported the establishment or further development of services in Sprotbrough.

Figure 5 - The results show wide support for the development of care services for the elderly (over 77%) and a very minimal desire for future development of hot food takeaways (6%).

Figure 5.

**Do you believe the establishment or further development of the following services will be beneficial for our community in Sprotbrough?**



See also Appendix A (A summary of individual views and opinions)

A follow up question (Question 19) sought to establish the support for the provision of additional facilities.

Additional facilities:

- Bowling green - 62%;
- Tennis courts – 58%;
- More dog waste bins – 50%;
- More litter bins – 48%;
- Additional information points providing details about our heritage and wildlife – 36%;
- Additional benches – 34%.

See also Appendix A (A summary of individual views and opinions)

## 6. Homes

Types of dwellings

(Question 9)

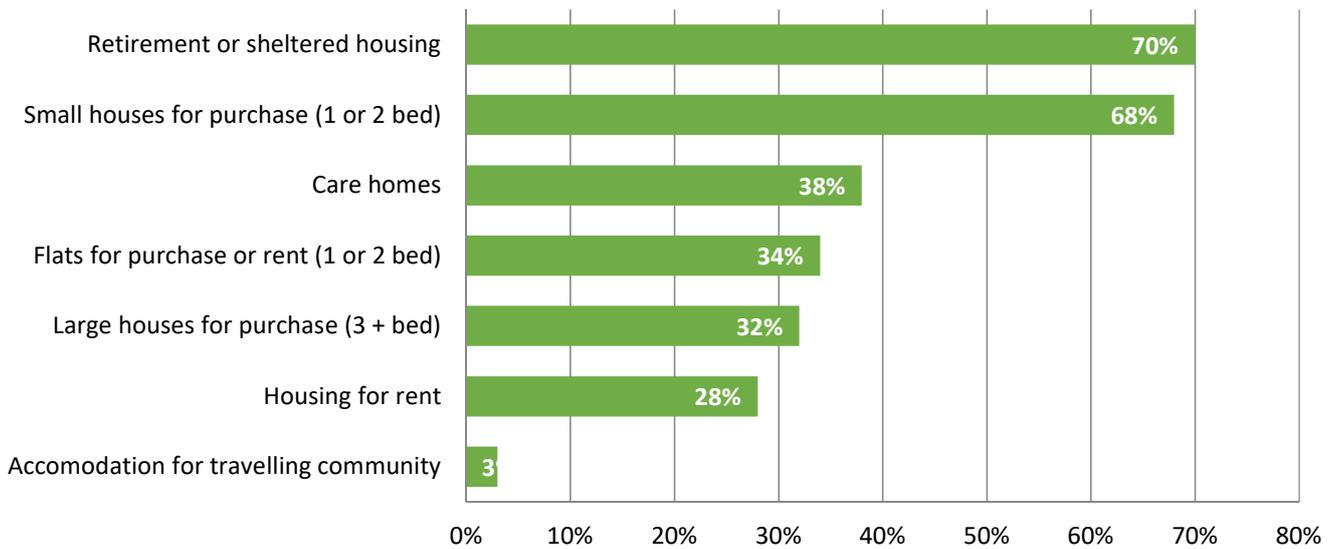
Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a selection of house types and tenures which may be built over the coming years.

Figure 6 records the ‘agree’ responses to this question.

- Support for retirement or sheltered housing – 70%;
- Support for 1-2 bedrooms houses for purchase – 68%;
- Support for houses with 3+ bedrooms for purchase – 32%;
- Support for rented housing – 28%.

Figure 6.

**Which type of dwellings do you think are needed in Sprotbrough over the next 15 years?**



**Scale of housing developments**  
(Question 10)

Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with statements relating to the size of any future housing development options.

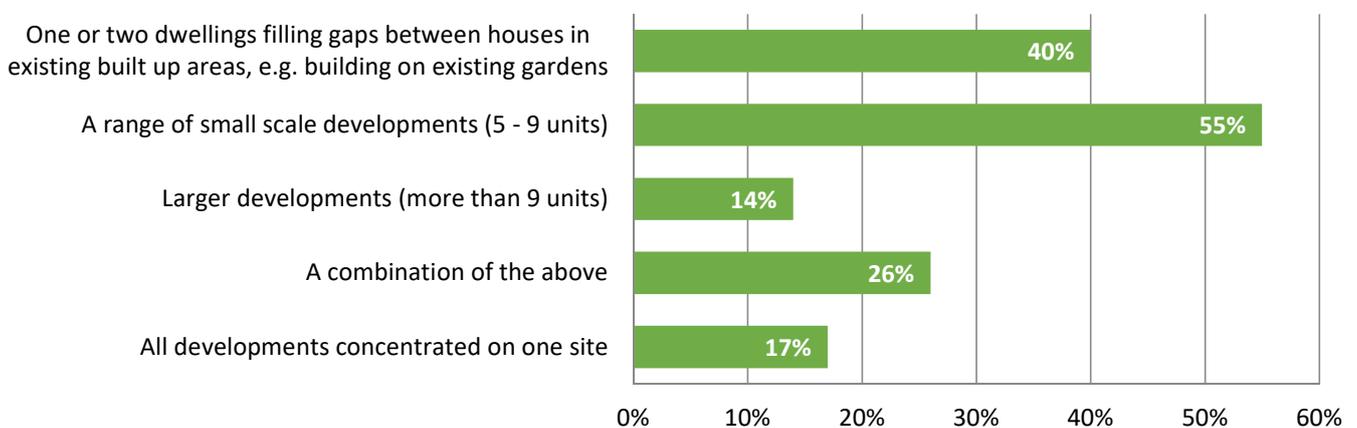
Figure 7 records the ‘agree’ responses to this question.

Data shows that there is greater support for small scale development:

- Support for small scale developments (5 – 9 houses) – 55%;
- Support for one or two dwellings, filling gaps between houses in existing built up areas eg building on existing gardens – 40%;
- To have future developments concentrated on one site received 17 %;
- Support for larger developments consisting of 9 houses or more received the least support - 14%.

Figure 7.

**What type of development is appropriate to accommodate new homes?**



## Design principles

(Question 11)

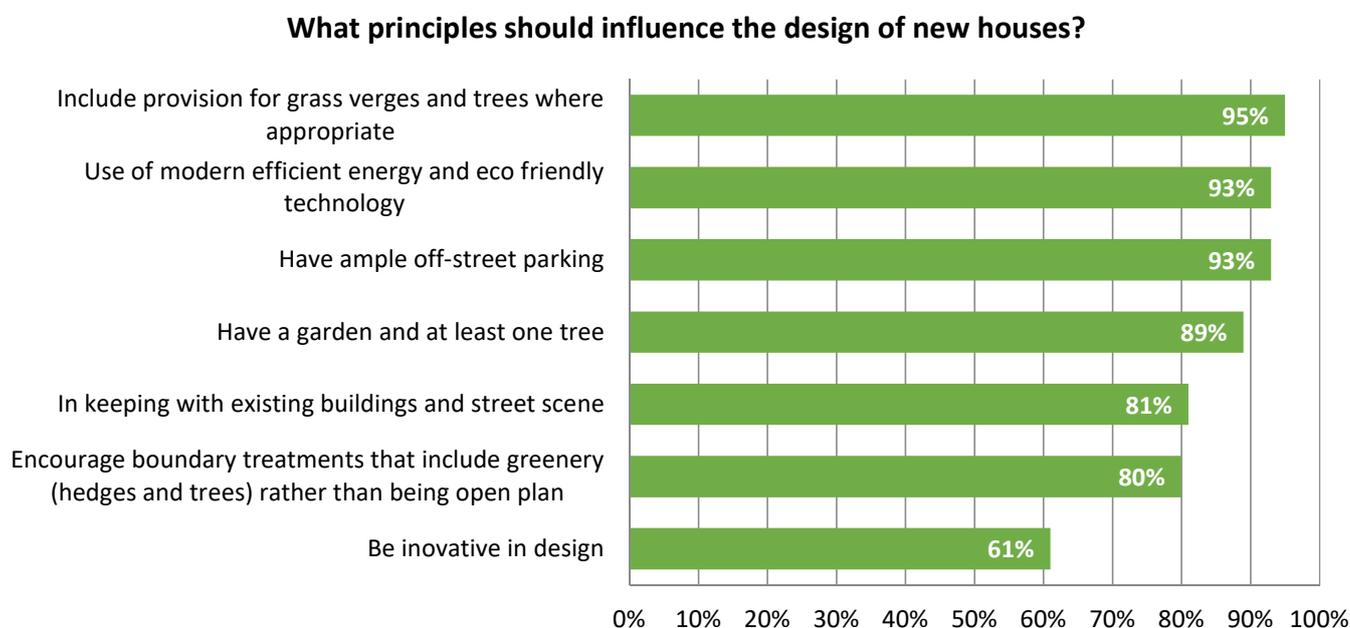
With the same choice of agree or disagree, respondents were asked to identify all the principles that they felt should influence the design of new houses.

Responses to Question 11 clearly show how important the design of new homes is to residents. Each design principle generated a very positive response as shown in Figure 8.

All the design features relating to environmental/green issues received support from at least 80% of respondents.

- Include provision for grass verges and trees in the design of new houses – 95%;
- Use of modern efficient energy and eco-friendly technology - 93%;
- Have a garden and at least one tree – 89%;
- Encourage boundaries that include greenery (hedges and trees) rather than being open plan – 80%.

Figure 8.



See also Appendix A (A summary of individual views and opinions)

## 7. Work

Questions 12 (figure 9) and 13 (figure 10) relate to resident’s mode of travel to work and the location of their work.

Figure 9.

**Do you travel to work from Sprotbrough and if so how?**

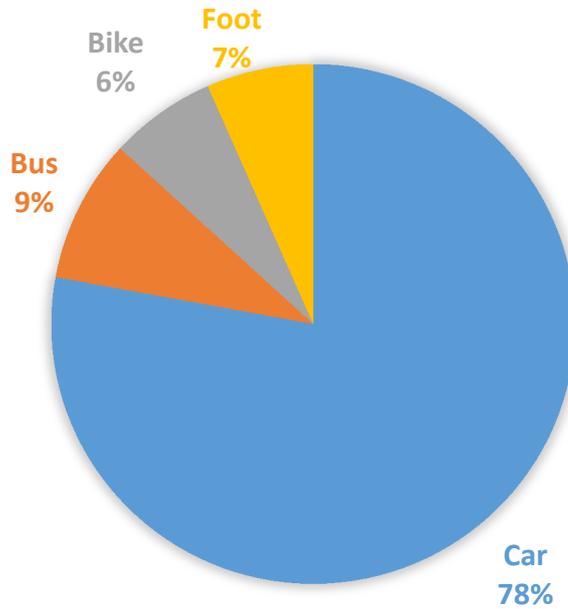
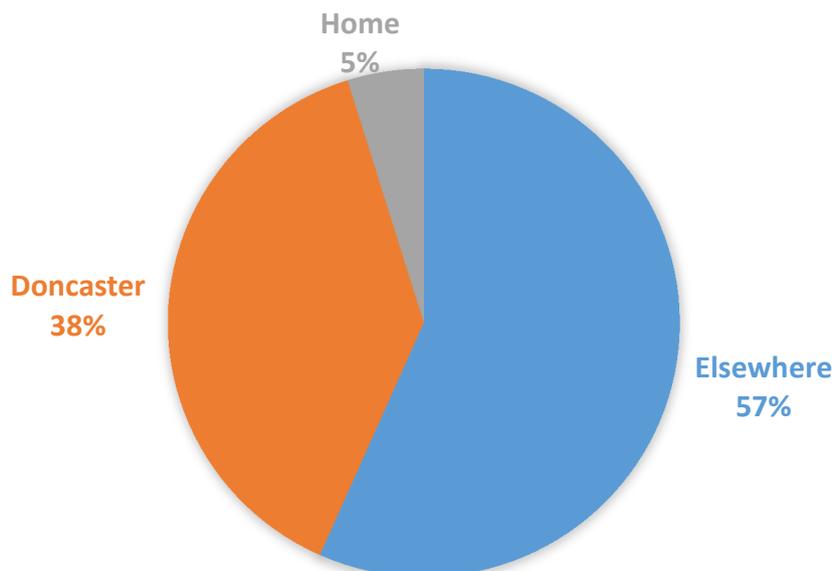


Figure 10.

**Where do you work?**



Questions 15 and 16 relate to businesses within Sprotbrough and their requirements for future growth. Respondents noted:

- Better or more frequent transport links – 81%;
- Faster broadband – 77%;
- The provision of flexible or shared office space – 57%;

See also Appendix A (A summary of individual views and opinions)

## 8. Parking

(Question 18)

There was considerable support for the continued and further extension of double yellow lines being used to prevent parking, however, this needs to be enforced. Likewise, bollards were favoured by many people as a means to prevent parking on the pavement and grass verges.

Responses to Question 11 (principles influencing the design of new houses) indicated that any future development should take into consideration ample off-street parking as over 90% of respondents highlighted this need.

See also Appendix A (A summary of individual views and opinions)

## 9. Traffic

Speed of traffic

(Questions 20, 21 and 24)

A major cause for concern (86% of respondents) was the speed of traffic travelling through Sprotbrough with strong support for measures to be introduced to reduce speeding.

When considering new development sites, 91% of respondents would support a street layout designed to slow down vehicles and give greater priority to pedestrians.

Figure 11 shows what respondents feel should be done to help reduce the speed of traffic.

Figure 11.

### What should be done to address the problem of speeding?

	Yes	No	% Yes
Use of speed indicator displays	373	80	82%
Reduce speed limits	298	144	67%
Speed cameras	288	152	65%
Speed bumps	218	203	52%

See also Appendix A (A summary of individual views and opinions)

Volume of traffic  
(Questions 22 and 23)

Respondents considered the volume of traffic through Sprotbrough to be a cause for concern (84%). Also, 81% believed that pedestrian safety is also an important issue.

See also Appendix A (A summary of individual views and opinions)

## Appendix A: Summary of individual views and opinions

The text below relates to those questions which included a 'something else' option for respondents to add any further thoughts, views or opinions relating to the question theme. There is repetition of some concerns under the different themes suggesting the strength of feeling around these issues.

### Environment and Heritage

The sympathetic development of the area and the preservation of its character was frequently recorded as being of paramount importance.

The preservation of play areas and parks was seen as fundamental to the character of the area. The Don Gorge and the village green were frequently identified as important green spaces. There was an overwhelming concern for the preservation of existing green spaces, green belt and recreational areas in order to maintain the semi-rural nature of the area.

Sprotbrough was identified as benefitting from being close to Doncaster town centre and having a good range of local shops and amenities.

Sprotbrough was viewed favourably as having a mix of recreational facilities. Some concern was expressed over the upkeep of these areas. There was a general desire for an increase in the number of public benches throughout the parish. The amount of litter in the parish was identified as a major cause for concern compounded by the infrequent emptying of both the bins and general maintenance of road sides and grass verges. Similarly, more bins were requested for the disposal of dog waste.

Flooding at the York Road end of Sprotbrough Road was identified as a concern.

The lack of repair to footpaths was frequently mentioned.

### Traffic, parking and transport

This was a major issue and commented on in most responses.

Many respondents reiterated the problems of and concerns about:

- the volume of traffic travelling through the parish;
- an increase in the volume of traffic brought about any large scale housing development would make existing problems worse.
- speeding traffic;
- inappropriate parking close to amenities;
- parking on pavements;
- parking restrictions on double yellow lines being ignored;
- lack of parking restriction enforcement;
- Spring Lane, Main Street, Park Drive, Tennyson Avenue and Anchorage Lane being used as 'rat runs';
- the lack of safe crossing points for pedestrians especially on Sprotbrough Road and Melton Road;
- the lack of identified car parks;
- the lack of enforcement of the weight restriction over the River Don;
- the size and weight of lorries using Spring Lane;
- traffic management and the range of possible solutions (for example traffic calming, one way systems and managed speed controls);
- Improved maintenance of roads.

Sprotbrough was perceived as needing a more frequent and reliable bus services into Doncaster town centre.

Suggestions were made about the need for more cycle friendly routes.

### **Future developments**

Respondents felt that amenities within Sprotbrough such as schools and health services were already heavily subscribed. Any further housing developments, bringing additional residents to the parish, would only serve to add pressure to already stretched services and therefore would need to take this into careful consideration.

Concerns were expressed about the potential increase in the volume of traffic and the impact this would have on road networks which already experience speeding, high volume of traffic, congestion and inappropriate parking.

In terms of the types of new developments, ideas suggested were:

- the inclusion of properties that would allow residents to downsize;
- developments that are sympathetic with surrounding properties;
- adequate off-street parking.