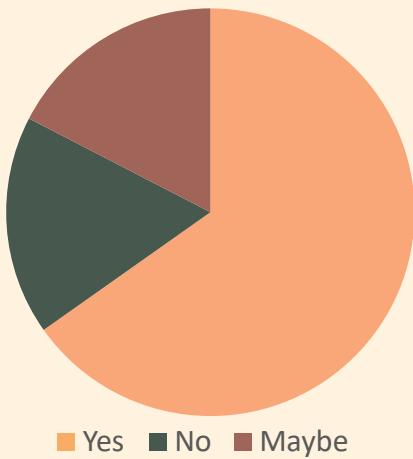# Stratfield Mortimer
Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results February 2023

An exhibition took place in February 2023 outlining potential plans for the future of Stratfield Mortimer. A survey was then sent out to understand community needs and ideas. 101 responses were recorded and the information is summarised below.

41% of responses did not believe that the existing Vision Statement was appropriate for the New Neighbourhood Plan, but 65% think that the update Vision Statement is sufficient.

■ Yes ■ No ■ Maybe

Natural Environment

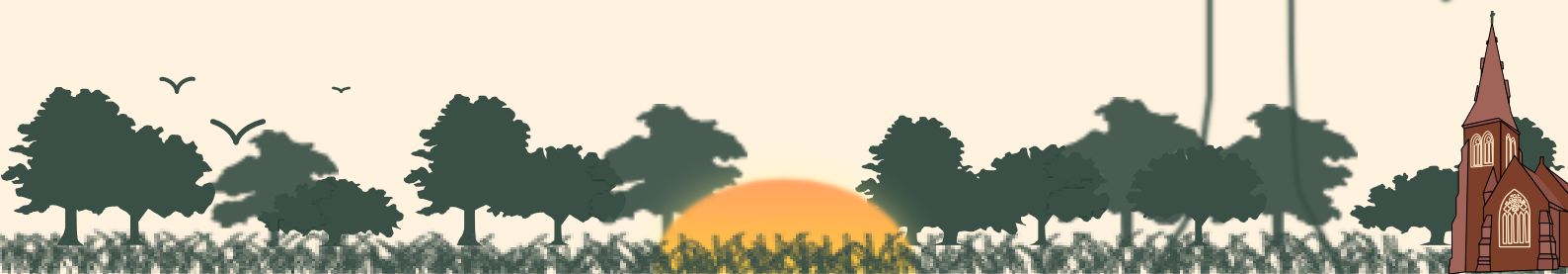**90%** Of people think that the natural environment areas need to be publicised more.

65% Of people think there are more areas that need to be protected.

91% Of people think the NP should include policies to encourage wildlife corridors between areas.

73% Of people think there should be more Local Green Spaces than what is identified in the existing NP.

In order to protect these areas people need to understand where the ancient woodlands and priority habitats are and why they are important.

Environment and greenspace are very important to the people of the Parish. Some areas that were noted for potential LGS status include Windmill Common, Brewery Common, the land opposite Alfred Palmer memorial field, and Monkey Puzzle Field. People also noted that footpaths and the woodlands where people walk should be protected.

Landscape & Streetscapes

95% Of people think we should prepare a Design Code for the Parish.

69% Of people think we should place the existing design policies (from the NP) into a wider Design Code.

67% Of people believe that new homes do not have sufficient garden sizes and the houses can be 'crammed together'.
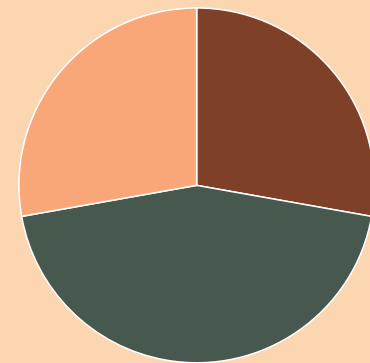
93% Of people think there should be a minimum size for gardens on new builds or development of an existing plot.

93% Of people think there are trees that should be protected (such as ancient trees) and that more trees and native vegetation should be incorporated into new development.

A variety of responses highlighted that dwellings should be set on larger plots with high amounts of vegetation. More green space should be designated as the village expands, though expansion should be restricted to certain areas.

82% of respondents believe there are locally significant heritage assets that should be identified such as the older, original properties.

Important Views:

- From the footpaths surrounding Saint Mary's Church

- Of the original Village buildings

- Views from the footpaths in and out of the Village

■ Hedges ■ Walls ■ Variety

Survey respondents believe that natural boundaries such as hedges and walls suit the Parish.

■ Yes ■ No ■ Maybe
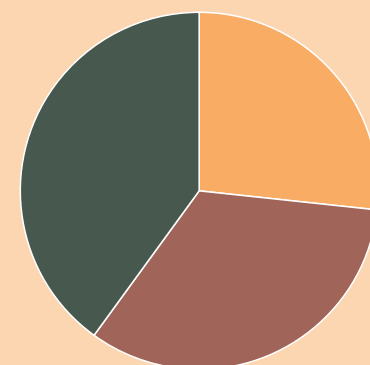
44% of residents do not believe that new developments provide sufficient parking for residents.

■ Yes ■ No ■ Maybe

33% of respondents do not believe new developments provide sufficient open public space, while 40% answered 'maybe'.

Highways & Transport

96% of respondents believe that policies should be sought to support **road safety impacts** arising from new development. Issues identified include high levels of **congestion around the school** during drop off and pick up times, traffic on **Western End Road and Station Road**, and **cars parking on busy roads** which creates road blocks and pinch points.

91% of respondents believe there are areas where existing **pedestrian and cycle access** should be **improved** to encourage people not to use their vehicle. The areas most noted include the routes to the **School** and the **Station**. Improvements could include widening **pavements**, better **paths and crossings**, dedicated **cycling** routes, and maintaining **hedges**.
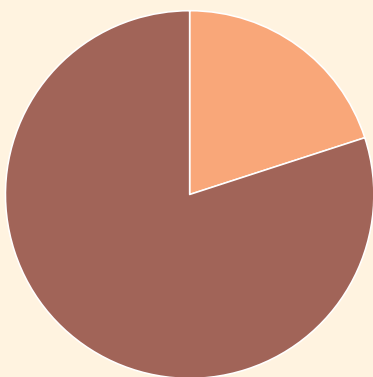
78% of respondents think **traffic calming measures** are required.

Where:
School, West End Road, Victoria Road, Station Bridge, around shops

What Type:
Speed Limits 20mph, off road parking, (many people specified no speed humps)

90% of respondents think there are **quiet, narrow lanes** that should be **protected** from being widened or urbanised.

Where:
Dury Lane, Turks Lane, Nightingale Lane, Kiln Lane, rural lanes outside the village

■ Yes ■ No

100% of respondents believe we should support a new **off-road car parking area** for the junior school.
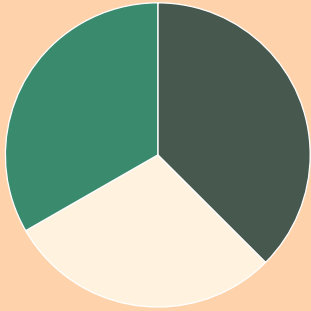
Potential ideas of **where**:

- Church car park (when not in use)

- Field opposite the school

- Must be within a safe walking distance

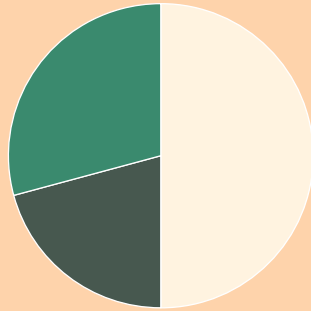**80%** of respondents do not believe there should be more **street lighting** in the Village.

Homes & Housing

Sites identified for potential housing include the land adjacent to Stanmore Gardens, small developments near existing houses, and brownfield sites.
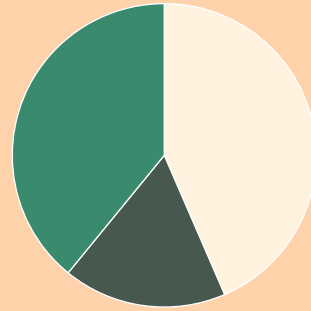
Yes ■ No ■ Maybe

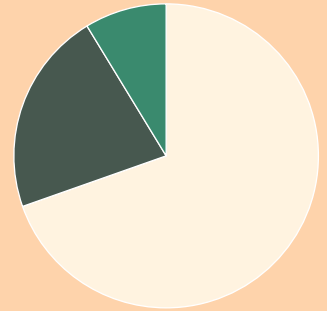29% of respondents believe there is a need for Open Market Housing.

Yes ■ No ■ Maybe

50% of respondents believe there is a need for Affordable Housing for Rent.

Yes ■ No ■ Maybe

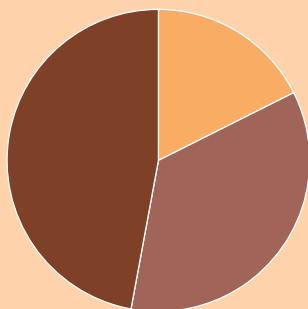44% of respondents believe there is a need for Affordable Housing for Shared Ownership.

Yes ■ No ■ Maybe

70% of respondents believe there is a need for Affordable Housing for Sale at Discount.
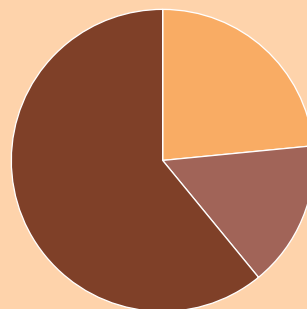
Employment

62% of respondents want to encourage development that enables new rural industries. People would like to see opportunities for small businesses/ industrial units, more employment opportunities for locals, farm shops, art studios, or a butcher. Suggestions on location are for areas around the station and outside the centre of the village.

Yes ■ No ■ Maybe

A majority of respondents answered 'No' or 'Maybe' to encouraging tourist accommodation and visitor uses in the Village.

Yes ■ No ■ Maybe

60% of respondents are unsure if there are sufficient opportunities for local businesses to expand, 23% said there were.
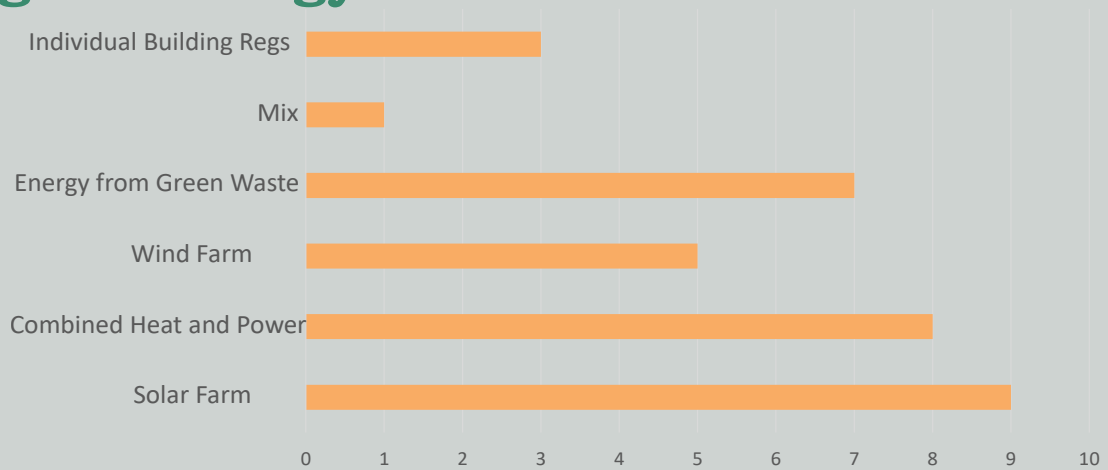
Community Services & Facilities

70% of respondents said they would like to see changes in the village centre. Some changes include controlling parking in the village centre, more food options, electric vehicle charging facilities, more services such as banks, and a more cohesive centre that encourages walking.

The existing community services need to be retained and enhanced because the community values being able to use these services. Additional services that would be supported include Sunday bus service, a youth club (Garth Hall Scout Hall), play equipment for younger children, and more walking paths that are maintained.
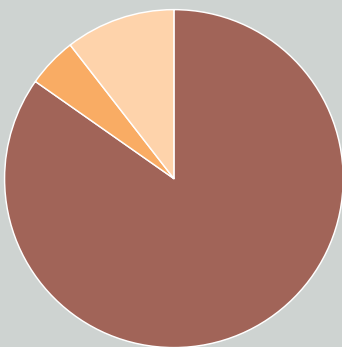
Climate Change & Energy

65% of respondents would like to see a community energy generation scheme.

Horizontal bar chart with categories:
- Individual Building Regs: 3
- Mix: 1
- Energy from Green Waste: 7
- Wind Farm: 5
- Combined Heat and Power: 8
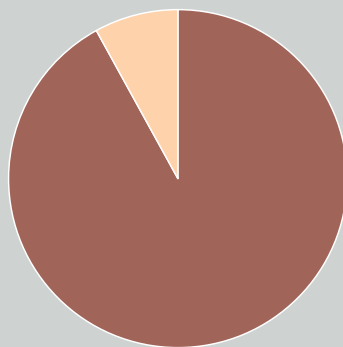- Solar Farm: 9

(x-axis 0 to 10)

Areas identified include:

The Common, the land between St. Mary's Church and the train station, Great Park farm, fields away from houses, solar panels throughout the town
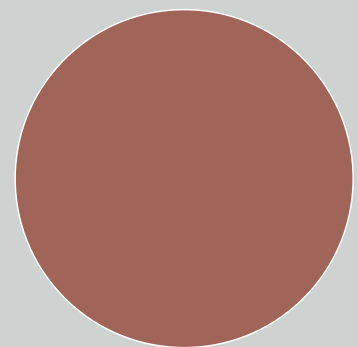

■ Yes ■ No ■ Maybe

89% say we should look at promoting small scale business energy generation.

■ Yes ■ Maybe

92% say promoting household renewable energy would be beneficial.

■ Yes

100% say we should add community aspirations relating to improving energy efficiency of public buildings, such as bulk solar panels, water recycling and EV charging.