

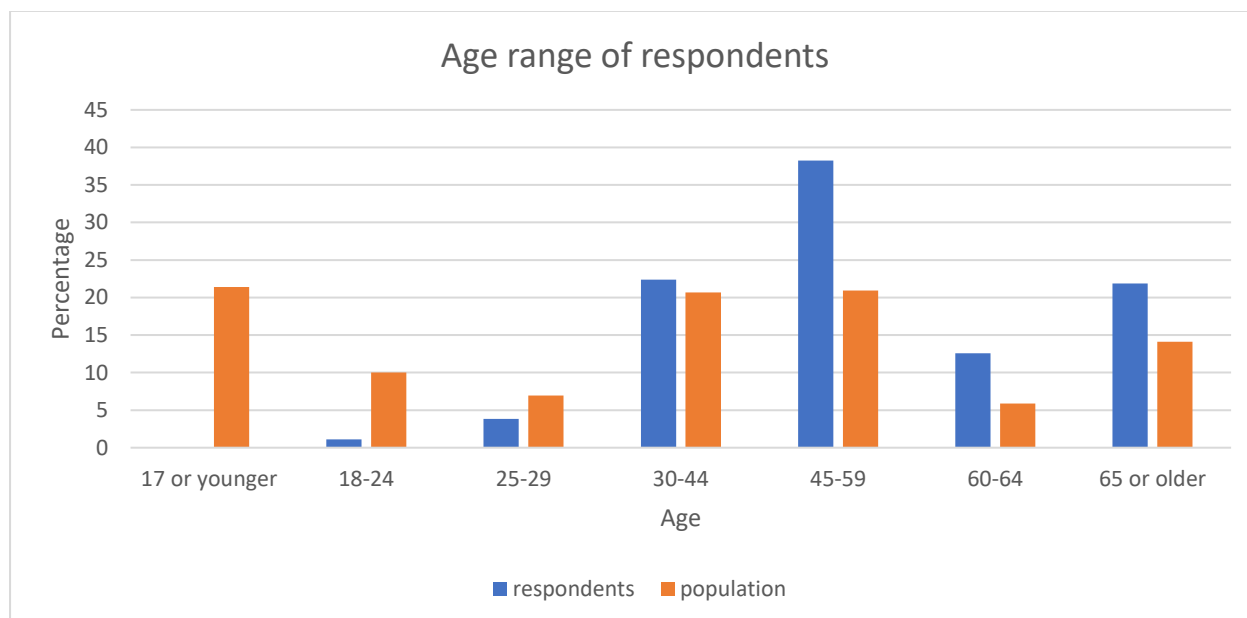


## Background

Shepton Mallet began their Neighbourhood Plan in 2014 with Mendip District Council designating the neighbourhood plan area as the whole of the Shepton Mallet Parish area on the 10<sup>th</sup> February of that year. The plan period will run from 2016 to 2029.

### Demographic

Key Facts (Census data 2011)	Shepton Mallet
Area:	924 ha
Total population:	10,369
Population Density:	11.2 persons per hectare
Households:	4,572



A total of 186 people completed the survey, representing 1.79% of the population.

It can be seen that the age range of respondents does not fully reflect the age range in the community. This is very usual with a survey of this type and provides useful information to allow the steering group to identify age groups which need targeting in the future.

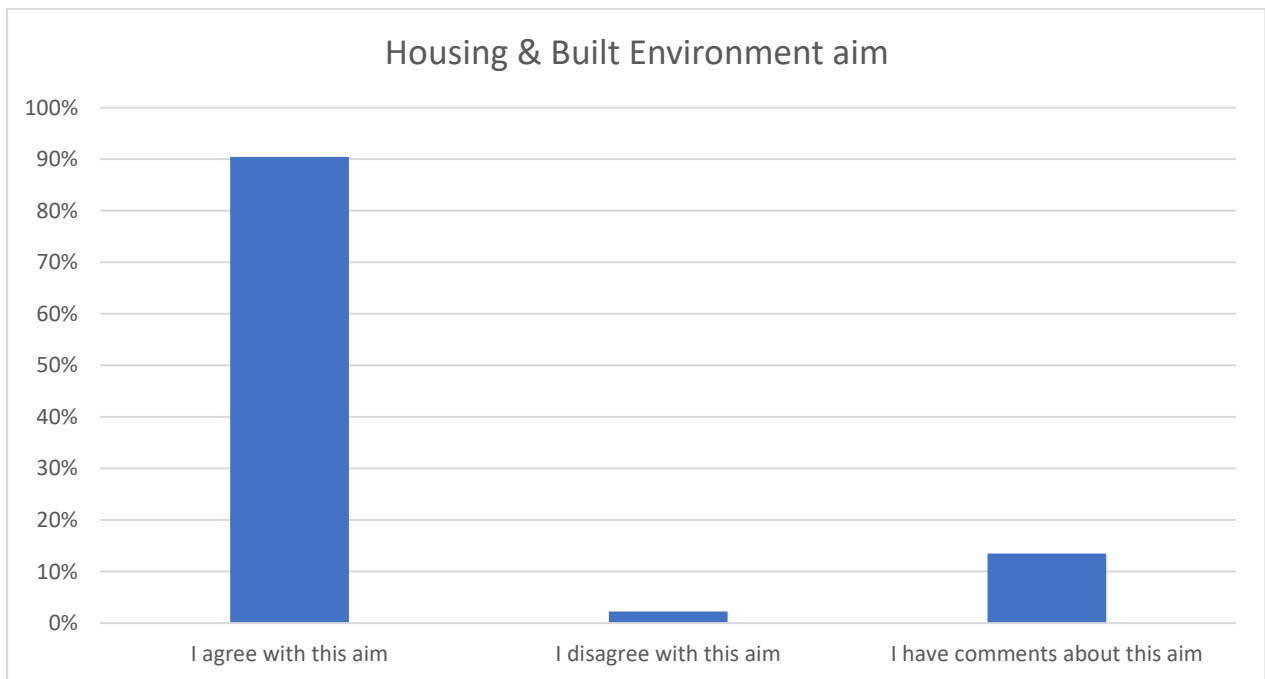
## Method

The steering group have been working since 2014 on creating a vision and objectives that reflect the requirements of Shepton Mallet community. This has involved drop-in events, stalls at local events and pop-up stands etc. From this work, a questionnaire was designed, centred around the aims objectives identified. The questionnaire was divided into sections according to subject, to reflect the topics addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan to date. Respondents were asked to agree, disagree or comment on the Aims for Shepton Mallet and then asked to strongly agree/agree/disagree or strongly disagree with the objectives.

## Results

### Aim 1-Housing and the Built Environment:

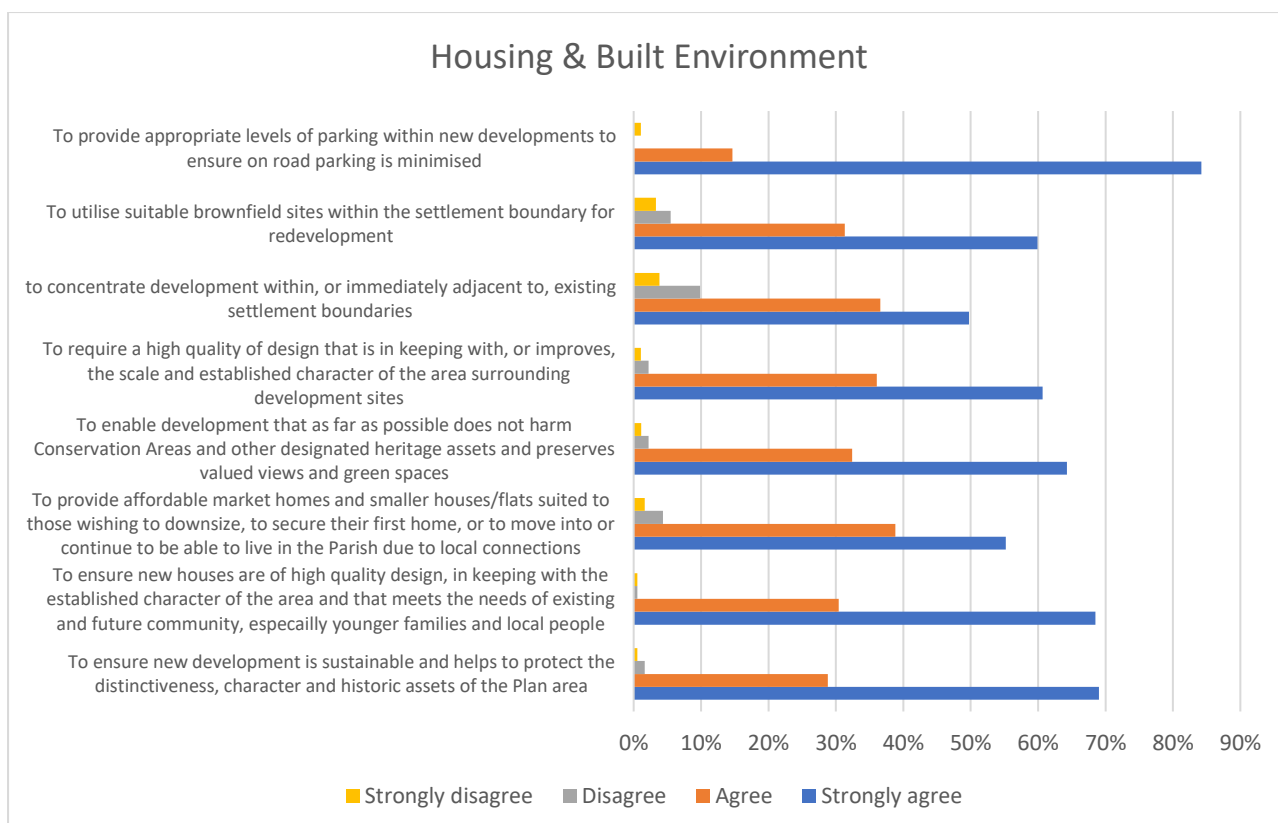
“To support the future growth, whilst retaining the distinctive historic character of the town, together with maintaining the rural setting and views”



No.	Comment
1	but in what way? Leading question
2	it depends on exactly what future growth will be
3	if Shepton Mallet becomes too big it will turn into somewhere like Trowbridge. Totally over crowded. Totally lost it's character
4	I agree where possible the distinctive history is kept however, if this gets in the way of our high street growing then a greater public influence is required on certain projects
5	green areas have already been lost, too much development of housing and not enough for the town
6	please also prioritise sustainability and zero carbon development wherever possible
7	new builds are not in character with the town
8	just look at Tadley. History will repeat itself. Most of the land is not being maintained. They didn't bother with any parks or the school. It's a complete joke and people in high places should be ashamed of themselves. Also, the buildings are downright ugly with red running all over the render
9	if development is to happen then there needs to be careful consideration of what is needed for the supporting infrastructure to match the need of individuals who move into the developed areas
10	The Prices Community Foundation produced a housing styles document for Shepton Mallet following extensive public consultation for the showground development. This document can be cut and pasted into the NP in large parts, in housing styles in Shepton, design styles (walls etc.) in Shepton etc. in terms of their recommendations for housing styles for the development on the showground, I disagree with many of them and I feel that these cannot be part of the NP but the

	actual survey of what there is presently can be as this work has already been done and will save the NP committee much work
11	We cannot go on building hundreds and hundreds of new houses on the countryside surrounding Shepton. Don't we need farmland anymore?
12	This town needs managed growth, that isn't stifled by those that believe the past is 'more' important than the future.
13	Any plans to expand the housing of the town should consider the already overstretched services to include public transport, medical, police, health and wellbeing
14	Prioritise the use of brownfield sites, derelict sites and re-use empty properties first
15	Some historic parts are run down eg some of High Street, landlords should be pressured using available legal means or incentivising to improve properties
16	I want to see progress, train station, buses, modern houses, retailers but keeping some old buildings
17	I feel the historic character should take priority over any new build growth. We pride ourselves on being in the countryside, so I don't want to see our green areas taken over
18	Historic character is ok to a point, but the modern era needs to include sufficient allowances for parking etc to remove the constant problem of pavement parking. Garages unfit for purpose. All new development should include resident permitted parking only.
19	Yes, but only if you can ascertain jobs in the area and improve it increase the services proportional to the increase in population
20	The rural setting is being eroded with large unnecessary development
21	difficult to keep the character and rural settings when hundreds of houses are set to be built.
22	I feel current developers should be forced to finish development sites before new ones are built, eg Tadley Phase 7 and other phases in development
23	Agree, providing amenities and facilities are developed alongside new housing

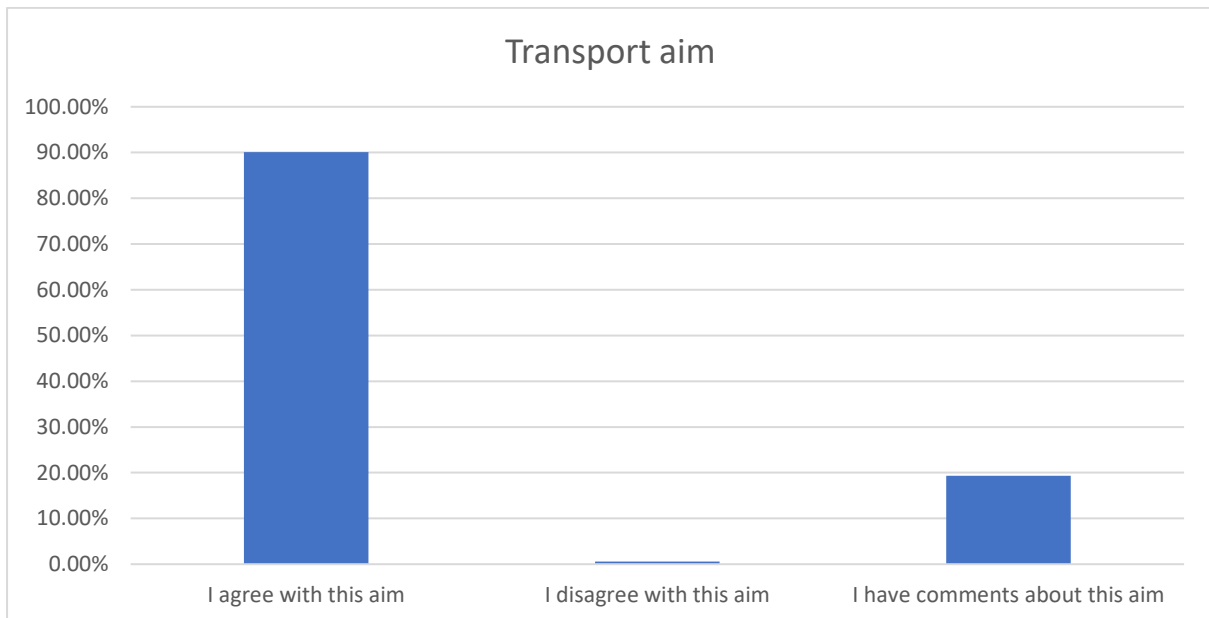
## Objectives 1-Housing and built Environment Objectives



For local residents, providing enough parking in new developments proved of great importance with 84% of respondents strongly agreeing with the objective. This was followed by 68% of residents strongly agreeing that housing of high-quality design that provides for younger families and local people is of great importance.

## Aim 2-Transport

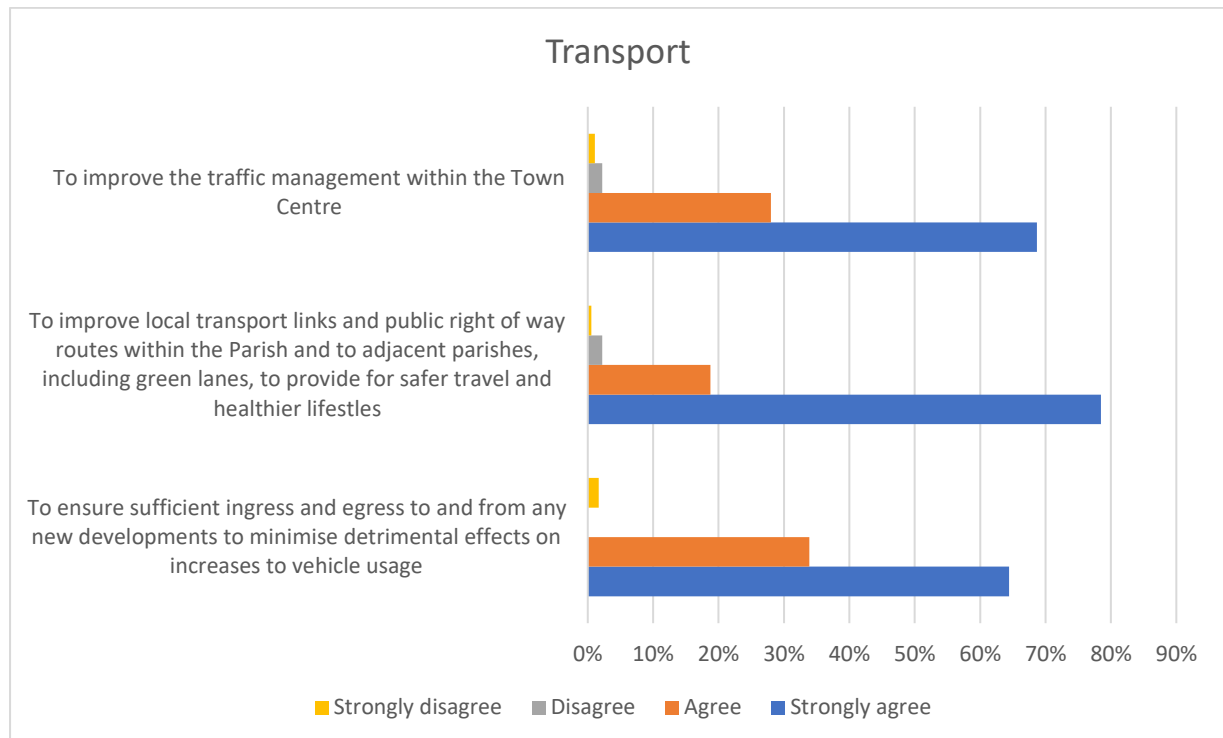
To ensure that future growth mitigates for the increased traffic and vehicle usage by making provision for this within development design



No.	Comment
1	No development without road instructions first.
2	perhaps you could do something about the traffic in Kingsland Road, (Ridgeway). It has got worse this last year, cars parked on corners leading by the road.
3	If we had better public transport (or if driverless cars are developed) we shouldn't need to allow for increased traffic etc.
4	Better buses to Bristol and more frequent.
5	We must encourage more sustainable travel options safe and easy to use. Cycle/walk ways. Health in all policies.
6	But not for an aim to block food innovative ideas.
7	Concerns for amount of increased traffic on the roads that flood.
8	Public transport info needs to be rebuilt. Cycles lanes. paths are needed and walk ways on country roads.
9	more buses
10	Better bus links needed for larger cities
11	Improve public transport
12	need to look at increased traffic and how to sort this
13	Cycle paths are needed.
14	improve bus links cycle paths
15	always too much traffic, so a sensible approach is necessary. You only need to look at Tesco roundabout, traffic horrendous

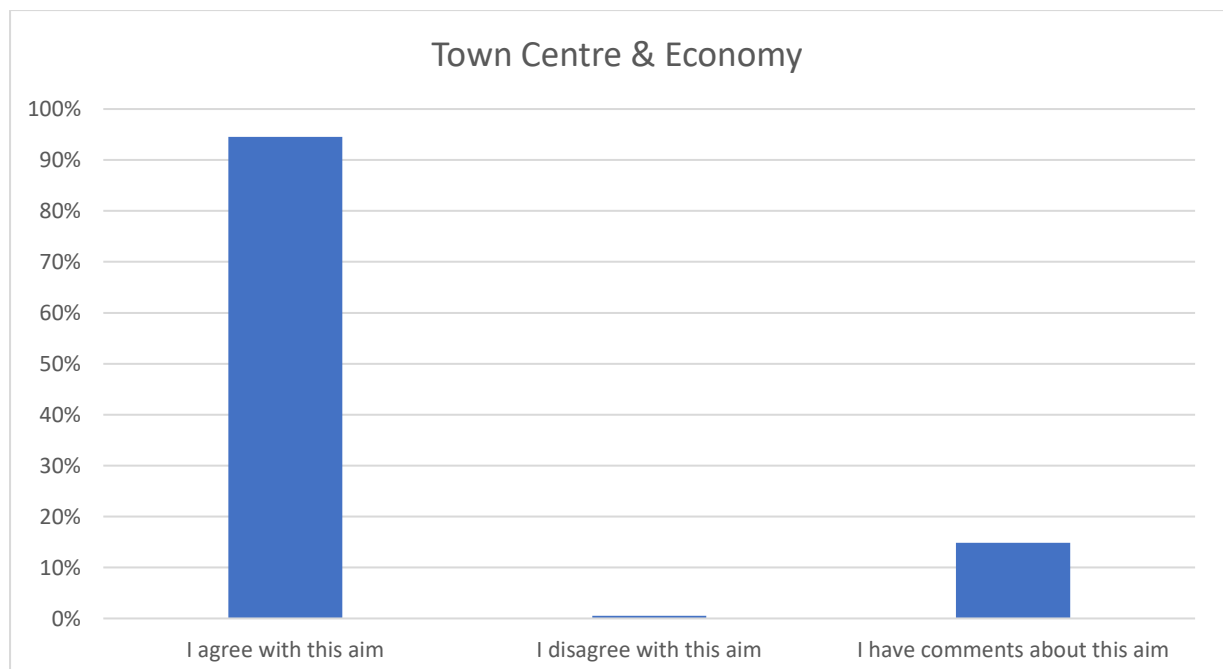
16	heavy goods traffic needs to be diverted around the town unless making delivery. All residences should have minimum 1.5-part space and space for refuse storage. Access roads must be wide enough to allow emergency service access.
17	reduce traffic speed in residential areas, ensure more parking provisions
18	Shepton Mallet is already a major crossroad in the southwest, making it larger will only increase the issues we already have.
19	I agree but this has to be done in parallel with improving public transport to and from the town to enable residents to travel to and from work without always having to resort to their cars.
20	Current roads within Shepton hit max capacity during rush hour causing crashes and queues this needs to be kept in mind. Public transport is currently lacking in Shepton how will this be considered
21	This aim makes no sense
22	Maximise opportunity for safe walking, cycling and public transport routes
23	The roads are already struggling with the amount of traffic. There are constant delays already, yet you plan on adding more people
24	It is important to design traffic flow that does not encourage vehicles to be static with engines on to reduce the initial pollution levels within the urban area.
25	add:- provide new and enhance existing dedicated cycle lanes and routes and to support the further development of the strawberry line and the link to Wells. give priority and a presumption of "they will be provided" for new pedestrian crossing near new housing developments at the developer's expense
26	Whilst a noble aim, this is a joke. Traffic congestion is dreadful and getting worse. Tadley Acres . . . Need I say more?
27	It is crucial to the health and wellbeing of the citizens that the levels of traffic flow and parking are given the highest priority. Currently every estate in Shepton is plagued by traffic passing through at speed and insufficient parking has led to potentials dangerous and life-threatening situations
28	However, the location of Shepton Mallet means two vehicles per family.
29	Road development is essential, and developers should pay the cost and planning permission is based on responsibility for is
30	more parking and wider roads
31	Press for increased bus services, not just Monday-Friday but also at the weekends for shoppers and elderly. I want to see a better commuting service for those working outside of Shepton Mallet. I would also like more work to be done improving and implementing safe cycle routes and work to be done adding Shepton to the strawberry line route!!
32	would prefer better public transport
33	No, we should be planning for a better public transport system and amenities with overall aim to REDUCE traffic and unnecessary travel
34	cannot widen the existing roads to cope with that amount of increased traffic. bus services are poor. train services are non-existent so heavy traffic will happen
35	Tadley Phase 7 was finished over a year ago and it has not got sufficient parking so therefore cars park on pavements, on blind bends (some blocking whole pavement areas) which causes it to become dangerous to drive round the estate

## Objectives 2-Transport



Transport is a very important issue to residents, with 45% of respondents taking the opportunity to comment on it in question 9. The transport aim also raised the most comments relating directly to that. 78% of respondents strongly agreed that transport links and public rights of way should be improved.

## Aim 3-Town Centre and Economy

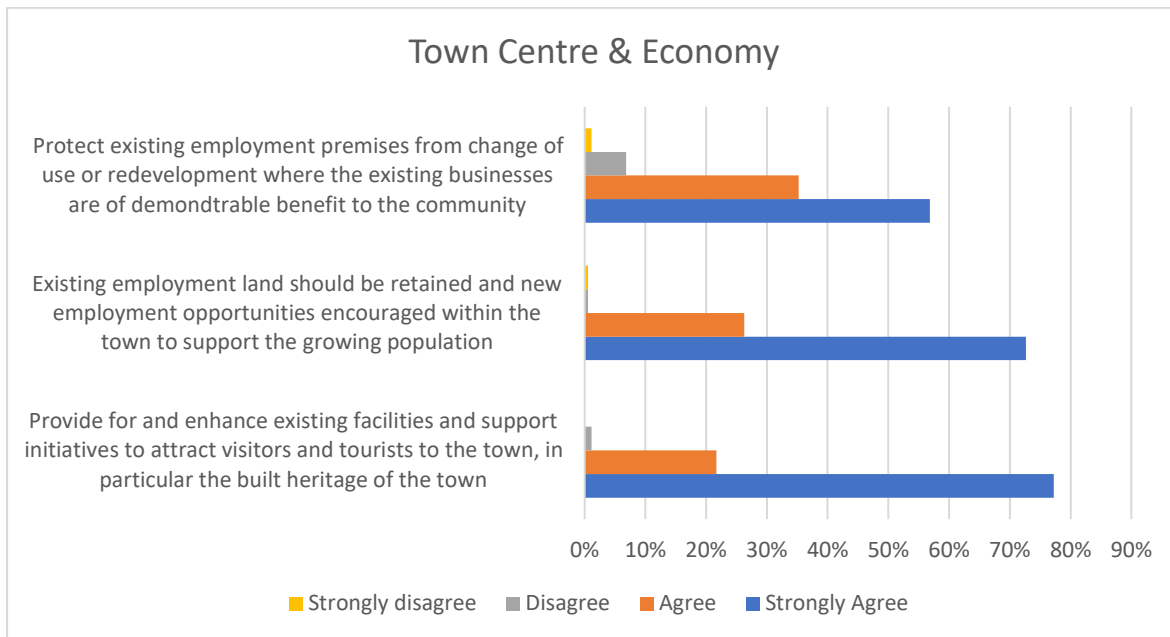


No.	Comments
1	free parking ALL THE TIME
2	substantial rates for start-up businesses

3	Concern re employment in settlements as work units in Tadley were a bit of a failure. Those that could develop in to beauty shops seem to have been OK but other limited due to parking visitor parking. Better if shops/units built in and plus schools and communication areas. keep green spaces.
4	Help needed for the local businesses to encourage new business and employment.
5	I am not sure what this quite means specifically
6	keep supporting local initiatives to rejuvenate the town
7	help support small businesses
8	help with business rates, free parking, more pop up shops sort out the empty shops bottom of town. this amulet needs to be used support people who want to develop the area
9	bring back Collett park day. Local businesses
10	develop old shop opposite police station. Knock down telephone exchange from social housing
11	keep start up rates low. Reduce/ rebate rates cost for positive upkeep (presentation) of business facias
12	as long as consideration is given to existing business etc and not to the detriment of
13	reduce council tax for shop keepers and keep life in the town
14	We need to attract new businesses to the town centre and find ways of driving Kilver Court visitors to the centre.
15	I agree with this; however, the reality is that many people will still work outside the town and need better public transport. Increased employment within the town and settlements also needs to take account of parking requirements and its impact on residents. Of course, better public transport into the town could offset this.
16	More long-term jobs are needed factories only offer zero hour contracts which is not good enough for families trying to pay mortgages etc on these new houses
17	you need to put more in as the area is an embarrassment
18	In order to encourage new and exciting business to the town, rates and rents need to be reasonable to allow business to establish itself. Business rated taxes should be devolved down to be best used by the locality.
19	have a presumption of keeping town centre trading premises and NOT converting them to residential units and thus loosing retail floorspace
20	So . . .reduce business rates and make parking free.
21	Encourage those that wish to invest in & start-up businesses in our town
22	keep free parking in the town centre
23	Active encouragement of start-ups, entrepreneurs and artists in the area would benign huge benefit
24	but not more charity or coffee shops
25	More advertising for the Sunday market, Friday market and showcasing what the high street has to offer. Frome have managed it, and are now a go to place, I think Shepton Mallet can be up there and even surpass their success!!
26	how do you propose to do this?
27	keep the library where it is as once its gone footfall will reduce



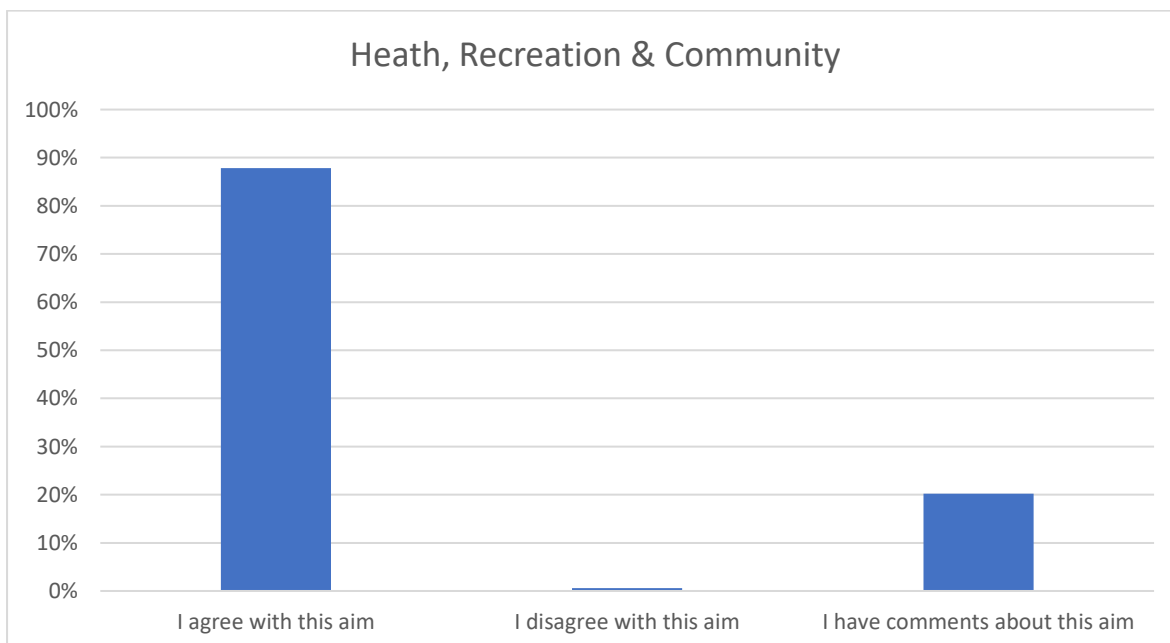
### Objective 3-Town Centre and Economy



Many residents feel strongly that there is opportunity to improve the experience for businesses within Shepton Mallet. 99% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that existing business and employment should be retained and enhanced, and action should be taken to encourage more business and visitors into the town.

### Aim 4-Health, Recreation and Community

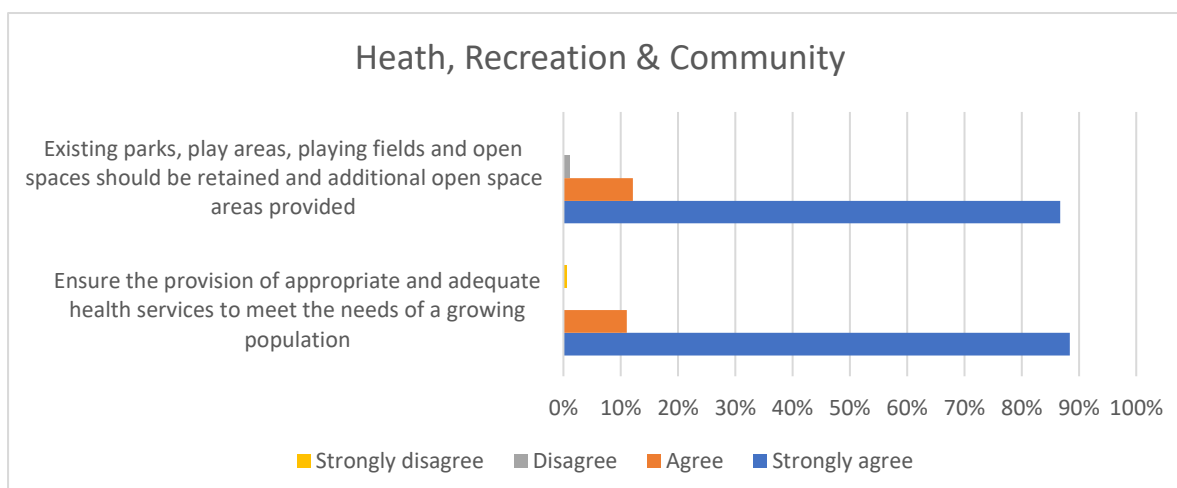
Ensure a satisfactory and diverse range of local facilities appropriate for an expanding town



No.	Comment
1	Need a new leisure centre and indoor pool, where any age can use.
2	More for children with disabilities especially health/social opportunities. There is a serious lack in the Mendip area due to research i have done or local offer is our area. More focus on Taunton etc.

3	Including improvement if the park facilities, an outdoor gym and applying again to have an indoor swimming pool or updating what we have to make it all year around.
4	More holiday clubs for school children.
5	There must be sufficient health & welfare provision for the growth in population. OUR GP surgeries are at capacity and our hospital is under threat. The promised health campus, despite enormous effort input to the project, is almost certainly not going to happen, so what provisions for the additional houses will there be?
6	? Is there a statement here? Health and wellbeing? Not just about health care- broader definition.
7	Sufficient access to healthy lifestyle options eg swimming pools, leisure centre, [ark run, Collett park day etc.
8	Keep the library where it is in the centre of town. - important for rejuvenation and health.
9	Something for younger people- specifically young adults, arts centre, the Amlet suit.
10	Ensure hospital facilities are retained, especially out of hours and walk in services. Vital for all ages. Increase in provision for antenatal/post-natal care and midwifery to avoid having to travel to large hospitals.
11	library to be retained in town
12	volunteers should be encouraged and supported in these difficult h and s/ pc times
13	There are not sufficient health or recreation now let alone when 500 new homes are given the go ahead
14	There needs to be a multi-faceted approach to the design, encouragement and structure of health and recreation with a strong community theme.
15	ensure TC budgets each year in separate funds to provide for replacement of play equipment in each location to avoid huge capital expenditure being required in a single budget year. TC to purchase and thus secure and protect greenspaces on margins of the town or "visual views" of importance to the town (in conservation areas). Also designate green corridors, for example the former railway routes that will not form part of the strawberry line
16	The addition of a town hall that provides the citizens with a focus and facilities to promote the health and wellbeing of its citizens. Instead of using old shops etc that provide a temporary enhancement to the run-down town centre.
17	promotion of active mind and body
18	I would like health and recreation to be promoted in Shepton Mallet, look at the benefits of parkrun, boot camps and health get together. I want to see Shepton at the forefront of talking mental health and anxiety, also child health and mental health.

## Objective 4-Health, Recreation and Community





## Appendix 1 Questionnaire figures

### Housing & Built Environment aim:

To support the future growth, whilst retaining the distinctive historic character of the town, together with maintaining the rural setting and views.

Answer	No of respondents
I agree with this aim	161
I disagree with this aim	4
I have comment about this aim	24

### Housing & Built Environment Objectives:

Objective	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Weighted Average
To ensure new development is sustainable and helps to protect the distinctiveness, character and historic assets of the Plan area	127	53	3	1	3.66
To ensure new houses are of high-quality design, in keeping with the established character of the area and that meets the needs of existing and future community, especially younger families and local people	126	56	1	1	3.67
To provide affordable market homes and smaller houses/flats suited to those wishing to downsize, to secure their first home, or to move into or continue to be able to live in the Parish due to local connections	101	71	8	3	3.48
To enable development that as far as possible does not harm Conservation Areas and other designated heritage assets and preserves valued views and green spaces	117	59	4	2	3.6
To require a high quality of design that is in keeping with, or improves, the scale and established character of the area surrounding development sites	111	66	4	2	3.56
to concentrate development within, or immediately adjacent to, existing settlement boundaries	91	67	18	7	3.32
To utilise suitable brownfield sites within the settlement boundary for redevelopment	109	57	10	6	3.48

To provide appropriate levels of parking within new developments to ensure on road parking is minimised	155	27	0	2	3.82
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### Transport aim:

To ensure that future growth mitigates for the increased traffic and vehicle usage by making provision for this within development design

Answer	No of respondents
I agree with this aim	163
I disagree with this aim	1
I have comment about this aim	35

### Transport Objectives:

Objective	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Weighted Average
To ensure sufficient ingress and egress to and from any new developments to minimise detrimental effects on increases to vehicle usage	114	60	0	3	3.61
To improve local transport links and public right of way routes within the Parish and to adjacent parishes, including green lanes, to provide for safer travel and healthier lifestyles	143	34	4	1	3.75
To improve the traffic management within the Town Centre	125	51	4	2	3.64

### Town Centre and Economy aim:

To support the local economy through its existing businesses and to encourage expansion of local employment within settlements

Answer	No of respondents
I agree with this aim	172
I disagree with this aim	1
I have comment about this aim	27

### Town Centre and Economy Objectives:

Objective	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Weighted Average
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Provide for and enhance existing facilities and support initiatives to attract visitors and tourists to the town, in particular the built heritage of the town	139	39	2	0	3.76
Existing employment land should be retained, and new employment opportunities encouraged within the town to support the growing population	130	47	1	1	3.71
Protect existing employment premises from change of use or redevelopment where the existing businesses are of demonstrable benefit to the community	100	62	12	2	3.48

**Health, Recreation and Community aim:**

Ensure a satisfactory and diverse range of local facilities appropriate for an expanding town

Answer	No of respondents
I agree with this aim	152
I disagree with this aim	1
I have comment about this aim	35

**Health, Recreation and Community objectives:**

Objective	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Weighted Average
Ensure the provision of appropriate and adequate health services to meet the needs of a growing population	160	20	0	1	3.87
Existing parks, play areas, playing fields and open spaces should be retained and additional open space areas provided	157	22	2	0	3.86