Ludham Parish Council



Summary of the Ludham Village Survey

November 2021



Introduction

The Parish Council act on your behalf; we care for and maintain the facilities that are essential to our community and are valued by our residents. We support new development only when it preserves and enhances the benefits we, as a Village currently enjoy.

In November 2021 Ludham Parish council published their first village survey, we were looking to find out what local facilities residents use and value, views on village life and any suggestions that could benefit the local community. This information will help councillors when making decisions.

We want to offer a huge thank you to all those parishioners that took the time to feedback to us, we really do appreciate it.

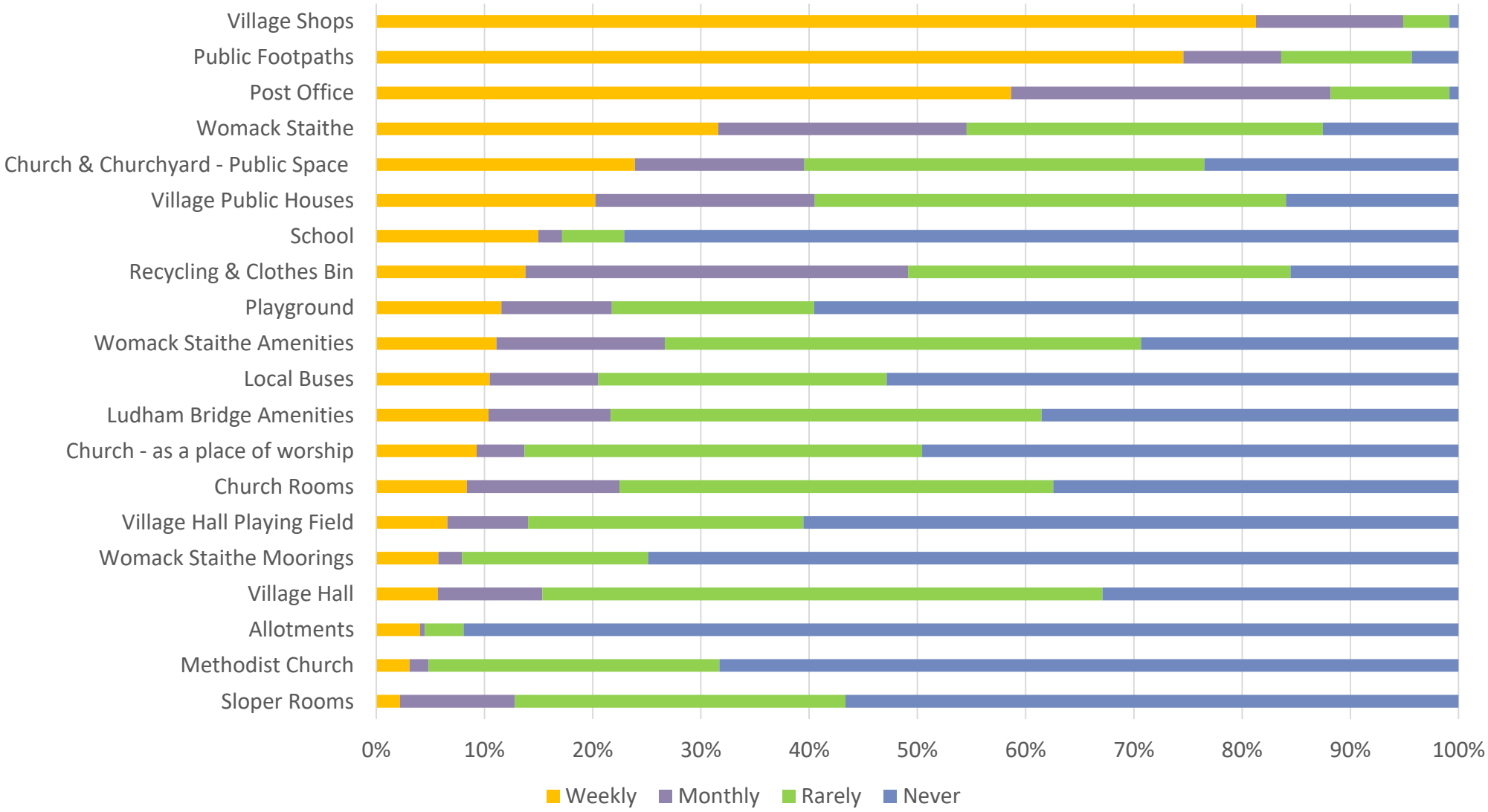


Data

- There were 238 responses from an approximate population of 1300 individuals from 730 households
- A response rate of 18% of the population (average survey response rates range from 5%-30%)
- Of these 180 were completed online and 58 using the paper copies distributed in the Parish newsletter
- Those who completed the survey online were able to tell us demographic information
- 37% respondents were male, 63% female
- 50% were aged over 60, 24% aged 50-59, 11% aged 40-49, 9% aged 30-39, 5% aged 21-29 and 1% aged 17 or under
- 41% were employed, 14% self employed, 43% retired, 2% - other

- This document is a summary of the survey responses and as such not all comments have been included but will be taken into account

Q1 – Which of the following village facilities do you use and how often?



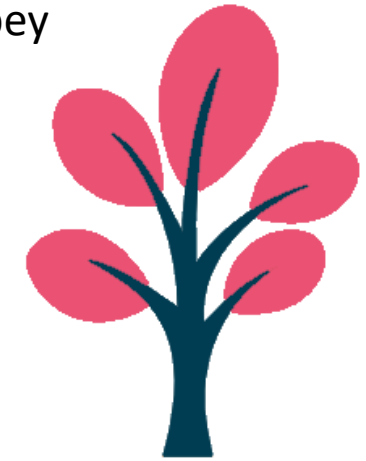
Over 90% of respondents used the village shops either weekly and monthly.

We're a village of parishioners that like to walk and use the public footpaths frequently, head to Womack Staithe & use the Church & Churchyard as public spaces.

Q1 – Are there any other facilities you think should be included?

Facilities already available respondents suggested:

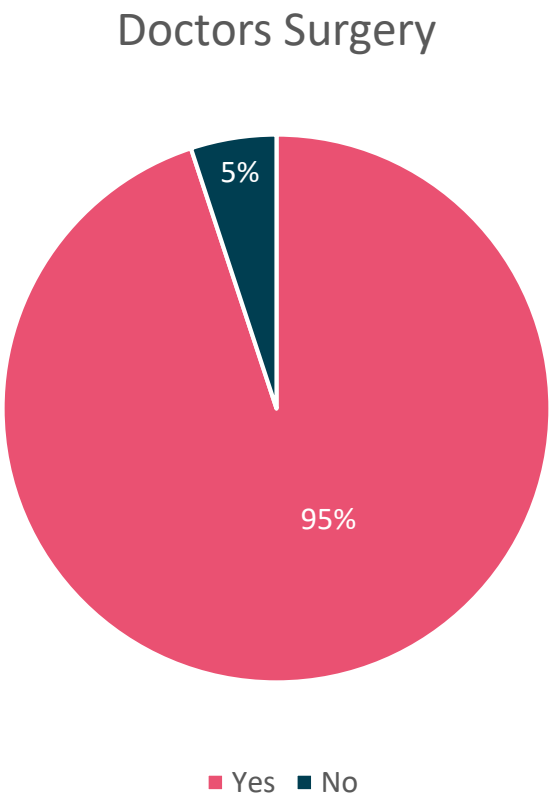
- Bowls
- Dentist
- How Hill gardens
- Hairdressers
- Car scheme
- Garage
- Millennium Wood
- Swimming pool
- St Benets Abbey

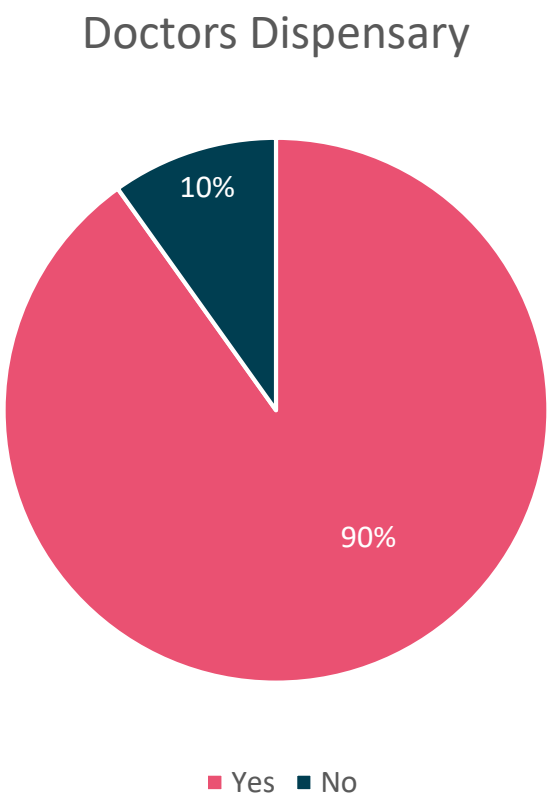


Additional facilities wanted by parishioners :

- Would be nice to have facilities for teenagers ...a shelter or skate park or box track
- Dog bin at Womack Staithe please
- Help to retain community bus service
- Grit boxes
- It would be great to utilise the Staithe more. E.g. a marquee there with a small coffee shop during season or similar
- More facilities on Womack Staithe green like a bandstand or built barbecues
- Electric hook ups for boats, we should be encouraged to use less diesel
- Put mooring fees for hire boats to market rate for the area to fund improvements
- Mobile library
- More parking for visitors
- A tea shop
- We need facilities for young people
- Better bus service

Q2 – Do you use the….

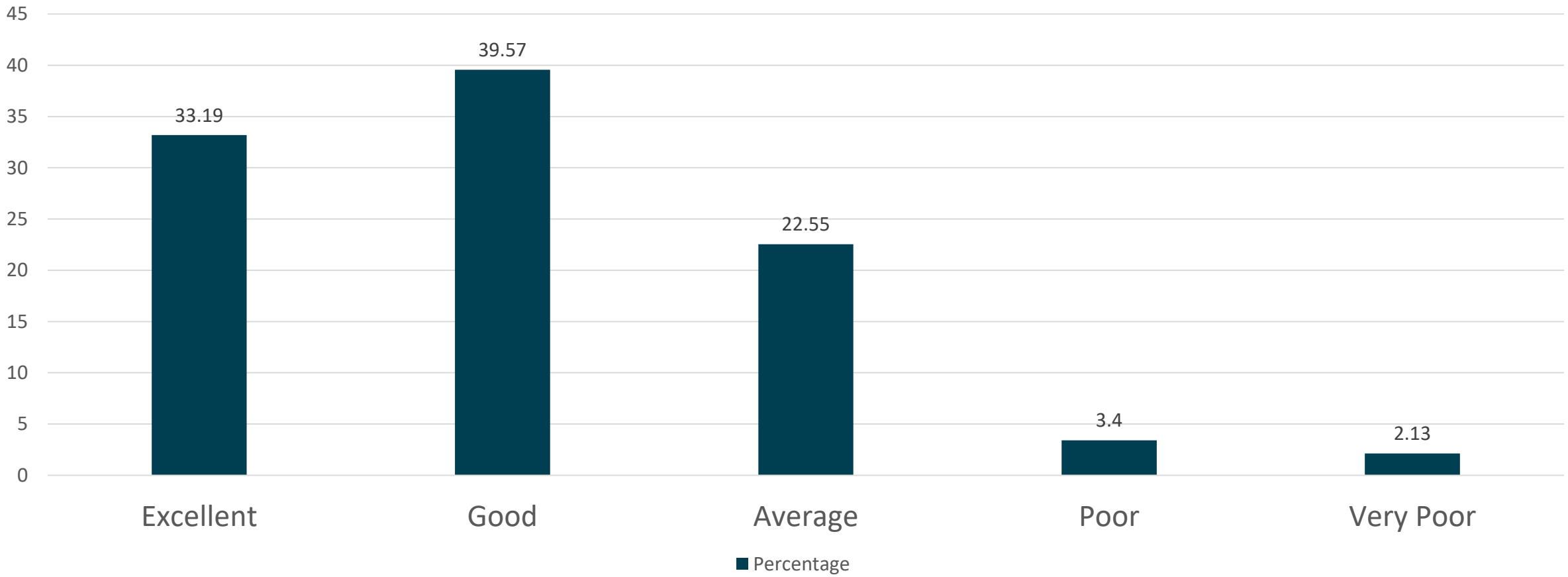




Huge amounts of us use the Doctors surgery & dispensary. An important facility for us in the village of Ludham.



Q3 – How do you rate the sense of community in the parish?



Over 70% of respondents rate the sense of community excellent or good. 22% average & 5% poor or very poor.

Q3 – Suggestions as to how the sense of community could be improved

Lot of comments that they would like to see more social events

Hobby shed established

MUGA type area either at village hall playing field or sectioned off as part of playground

Toddler group

Some disparity between those deemed newcomers and locals

Cafe to replace Alfresco

Occasional informal surgeries held by Parish Council so that anyone could come along to discuss an issue

BBQ on a Saturday, to raise money for different monthly causes. New people in the village find it hard to get to know people

Somewhere for people to post suggestions for improvements for our community which the Parish Council could look at

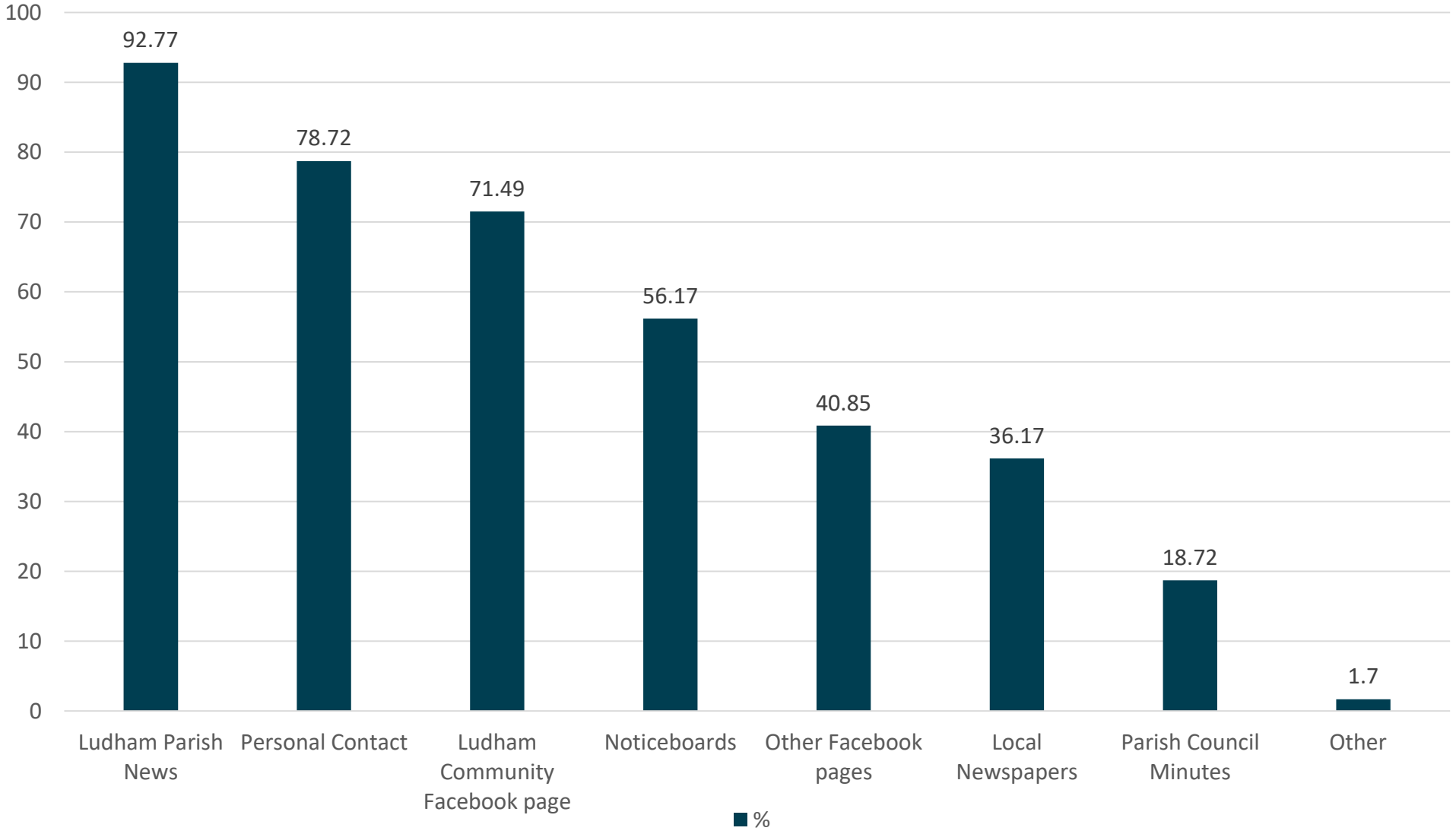
More engagement with local younger residents







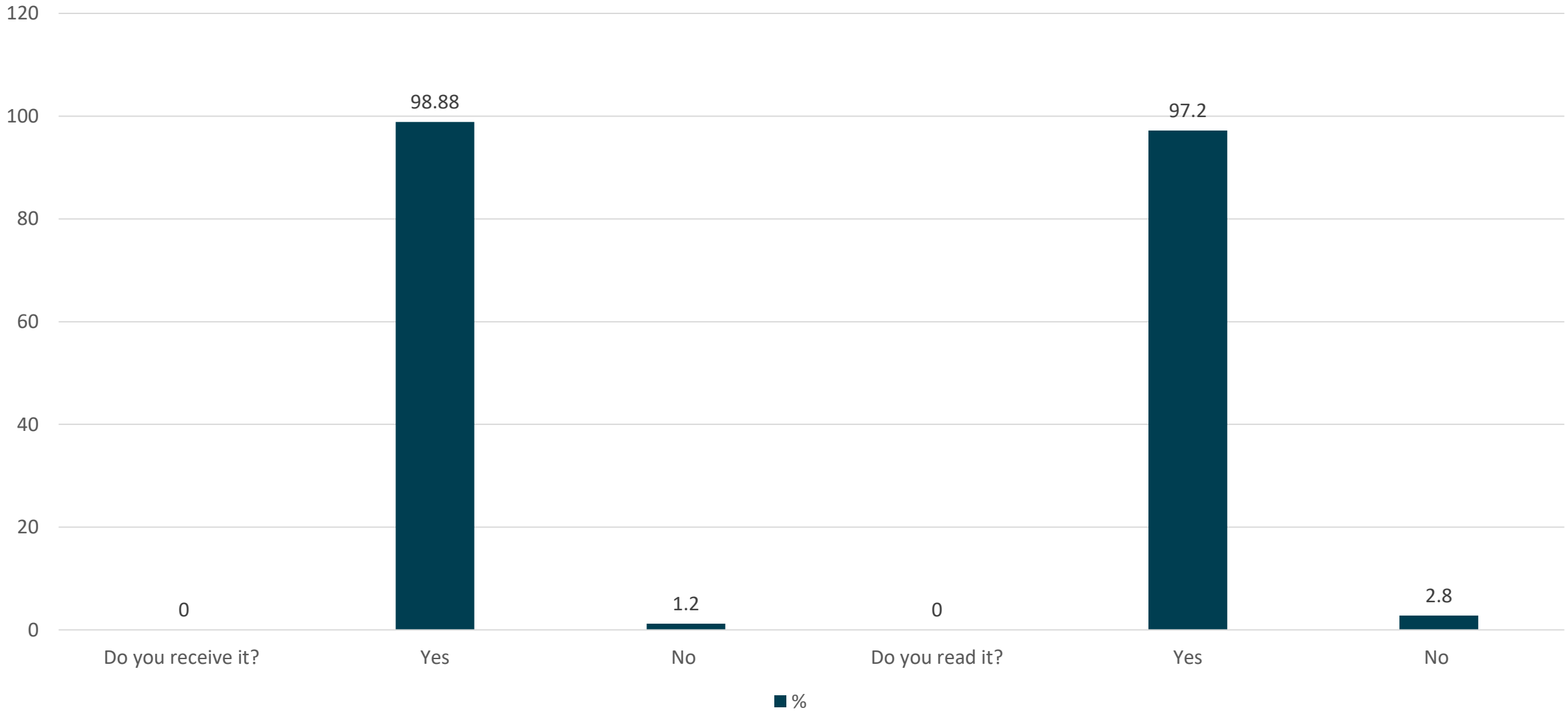
Q4 - Which sources of information about Ludham do you currently see?



Over 90% of respondents get their information from the parish newsletter, 78% from talking to one another and over 70% from the Ludham community facebook page.

The NR29 guide was mentioned as another source of information as well as local groups.

Q5 – Parish Newsletter



Q5 – Suggestions for improvements to the parish newsletter

Newsletter needs a page for village groups to advertise on as it used to

Wildlife Report, Quiz, Recipe, Gardening Tips, Children's puzzle

Local businesses info is useful, enjoy the newsletter from the school

Hard work so more volunteers should assist and volunteer ideas Include details of funerals and weddings in the village

I find it really useful along with the more general Nr29

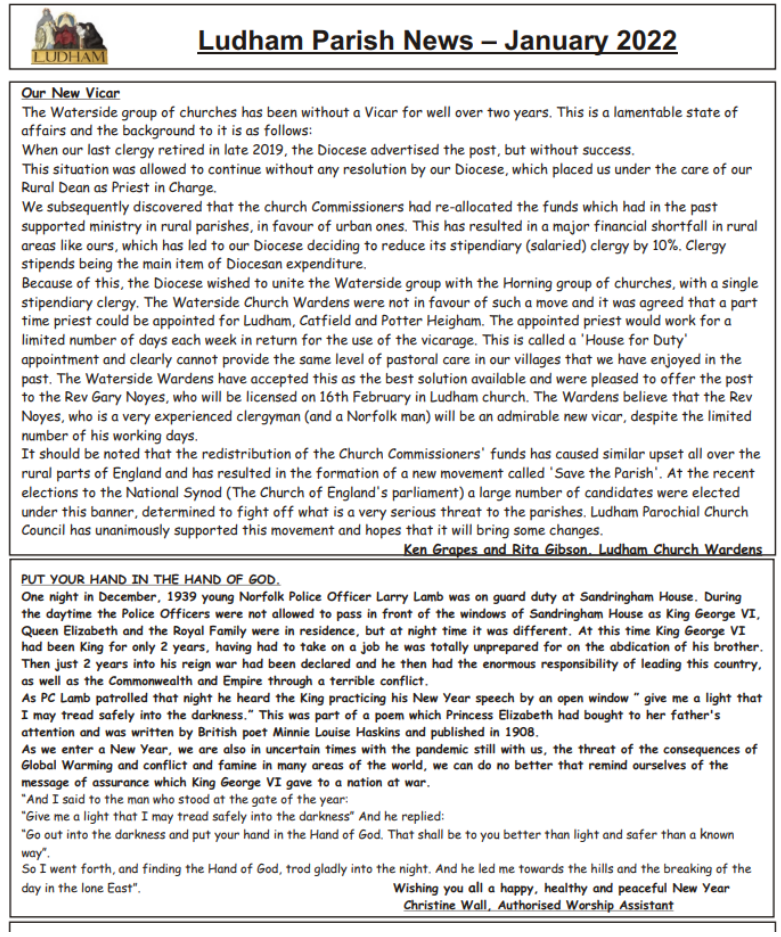
Is it available online or as an email?

Keep local club events on one page

Good content, lovely to receive

Target younger people

Crime stats would be good



Ludham Parish News – January 2022

Our New Vicar

The Waterside group of churches has been without a Vicar for well over two years. This is a lamentable state of affairs and the background to it is as follows:
When our last clergy retired in late 2019, the Diocese advertised the post, but without success.
This situation was allowed to continue without any resolution by our Diocese, which placed us under the care of our Rural Dean as Priest in Charge.
We subsequently discovered that the church Commissioners had re-allocated the funds which had in the past supported ministry in rural parishes, in favour of urban ones. This has resulted in a major financial shortfall in rural areas like ours, which has led to our Diocese deciding to reduce its stipendiary (salaried) clergy by 10%. Clergy stipends being the main item of Diocesan expenditure.
Because of this, the Diocese wished to unite the Waterside group with the Horning group of churches, with a single stipendiary clergy. The Waterside Church Wardens were not in favour of such a move and it was agreed that a part time priest could be appointed for Ludham, Catfield and Potter Heigham. The appointed priest would work for a limited number of days each week in return for the use of the vicarage. This is called a 'House for Duty' appointment and clearly cannot provide the same level of pastoral care in our villages that we have enjoyed in the past. The Waterside Wardens have accepted this as the best solution available and were pleased to offer the post to the Rev Gary Noyes, who will be licensed on 16th February in Ludham church. The Wardens believe that the Rev Noyes, who is a very experienced clergyman (and a Norfolk man) will be an admirable new vicar, despite the limited number of his working days.
It should be noted that the redistribution of the Church Commissioners' funds has caused similar upset all over the rural parts of England and has resulted in the formation of a new movement called 'Save the Parish'. At the recent elections to the National Synod (The Church of England's parliament) a large number of candidates were elected under this banner, determined to fight off what is a very serious threat to the parishes. Ludham Parochial Church Council has unanimously supported this movement and hopes that it will bring some changes.

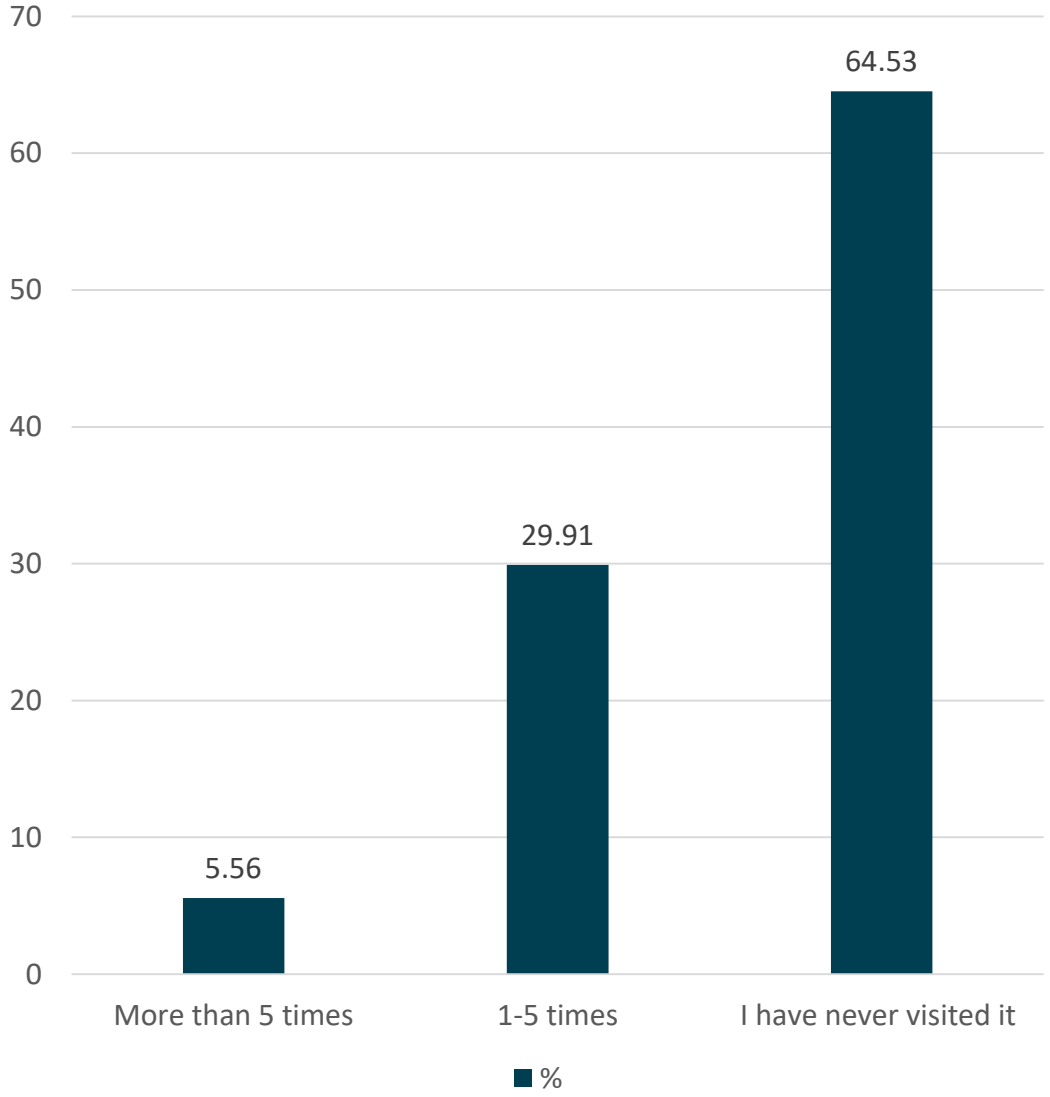
Ken Grapes and Rita Gibson, Ludham Church Wardens

PUT YOUR HAND IN THE HAND OF GOD.

One night in December, 1939 young Norfolk Police Officer Larry Lamb was on guard duty at Sandringham House. During the daytime the Police Officers were not allowed to pass in front of the windows of Sandringham House as King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and the Royal Family were in residence, but at night time it was different. At this time King George VI had been King for only 2 years, having had to take on a job he was totally unprepared for on the abdication of his brother. Then just 2 years into his reign war had been declared and he then had the enormous responsibility of leading this country, as well as the Commonwealth and Empire through a terrible conflict.
As PC Lamb patrolled that night he heard the King practicing his New Year speech by an open window " give me a light that I may tread safely into the darkness." This was part of a poem which Princess Elizabeth had bought to her father's attention and was written by British poet Minnie Louise Haskins and published in 1908.
As we enter a New Year, we are also in uncertain times with the pandemic still with us, the threat of the consequences of Global Warming and conflict and famine in many areas of the world, we can do no better that remind ourselves of the message of assurance which King George VI gave to a nation at war.
"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the darkness" And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of the day in the lone East".

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year
Christine Wall, Authorised Worship Assistant

Q6 – How often have you visited the parish council website in the last year?



How can the website be more useful?

I'd like to see updates about the staithe, moorings and their management. Regular updates on the mooring waiting lists

I didn't know the website existed. Is there any mention of it in the parish newsletter ? Maybe a link to it on the Facebook page after the parish meetings

Promote the website with posters around Ludham and on social media.

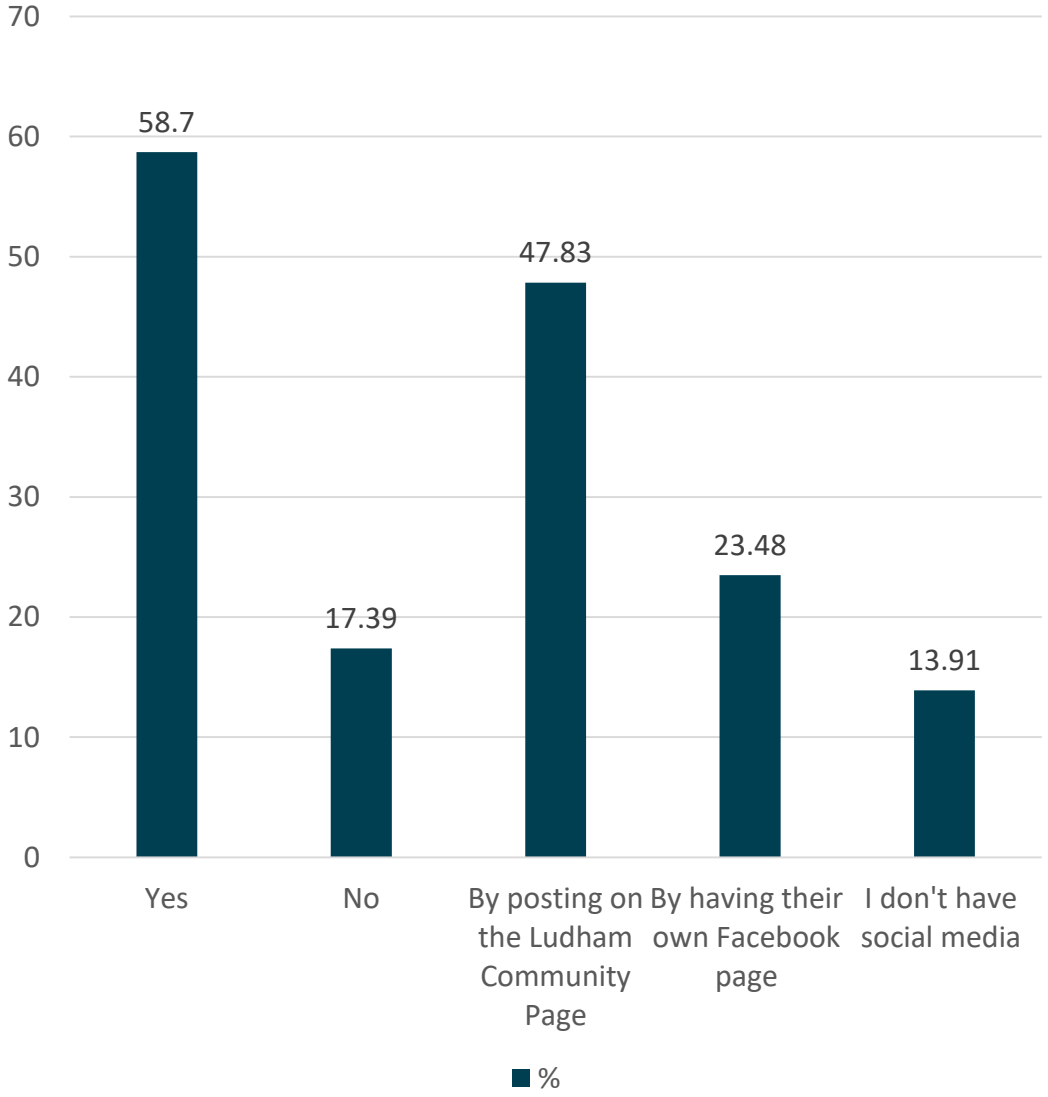
Relevant and up to date information

Publicise it more

Better contact details for parish issues



Q7 – Would you like to see Ludham Parish Council utilise social media / Facebook more?



Any other suggestions?

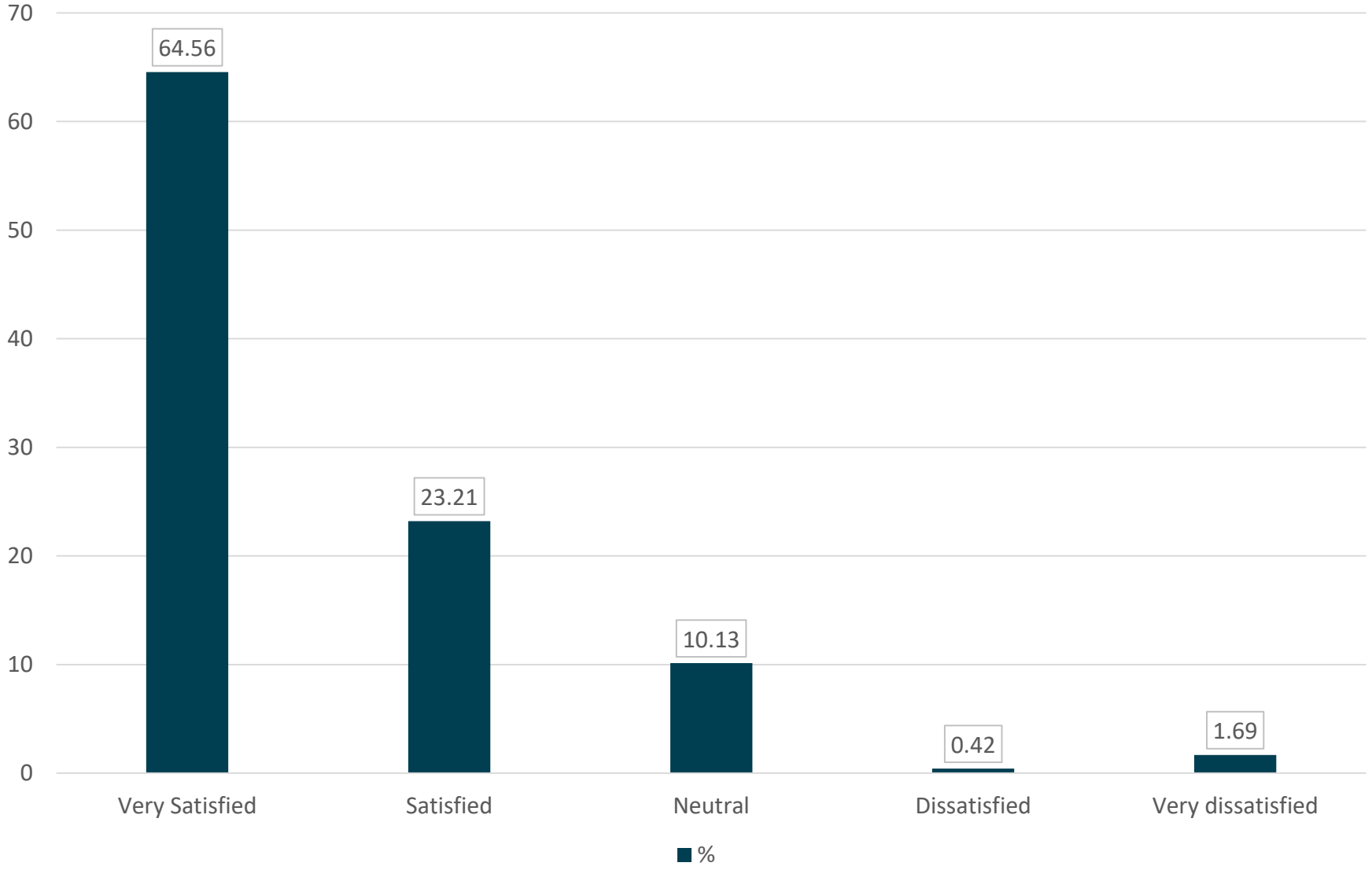
But not as the expense of other means of information distribution - e.g. the newsletter

An email newsletter with the meeting minutes that villagers could subscribe to

Could questions directed to the Parish Council be put in writing on the Ludham Community Face book page in a designated section? A lot more people would become informed and engaged in the workings of the Council

Keep any posts timely and relevant to our community. Positive news, stories of any success, how to get allotments or parish mooring, protecting our footpaths, help resources for groups (families, carers etc)

Q8 - Overall, how satisfied are you with living in Ludham at this present time?



Great to see so many parishioners very satisfied with living in Ludham over 60% of those that responded to the survey. Over 20% satisfied and just over 10% feeling neutral on the subject. Around 2% of respondents unfortunately felt dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.



Q9 – Any other comments

Is it possible to have news of events taking place in neighbouring villages e.g. Catfield and Potter Heigham, especially as we are not online.

We need more events to bring people together, i.e. village fete

Several comments on hedge cutting, pathways & verges upkeep

Several comments on issues with speeding through the village

We need more going on for the youngsters

Stop all firework displays in church yard

Disabled access issues around the village

Residents in Johnson Street don't feel a part of Ludham

Covid had impact on answers

Issues with parking around the village

More dog poo bins



Summary

- There were some key themes running through the survey responses:

- The Parish Newsletter is much loved
- Parishioners had great ideas around communication
- Speeding was a concern
- As was the upkeep of the village
- And also parking
- Parishioners would like to see more social events
- There were many suggestions in regards to Womack Staithe
- Parishioners wanted to see more focus on facilities & housing for the younger residents

- All feedback will be considered but it is acknowledged that some suggestions for improvements may not be within the Parish Councils influence.

What’s next?

