HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

West Lavington

Survey Report: April 2026

This report has been produced by, Wiltshire Council County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN

Wiltshire Council

CONTENTS PAGE

PART ONE

Introduction
What is a Housing Needs Survey?
Aim of the Survey
Housing Need Definition

Housing Definitions
Housing Definitions Glossary

Census Data
Census Data Overview and use of secondary data
Census Data for Parish - People
Census Data for Parish - Households

Survey Distribution and Methodology
Survey Distribution and Methodology
Response Rate
Report Structure

PART TWO

Profile of Respondents (Population Data)
Gender, Age, Employment, Disability

Profile of Respondents (Household Data)
Connection to Parish, current home

Housing Development
Attitudes towards new Housing Development

Retirement Housing Aspirations
Current Residents

PART THREE

Housing Affordability Assessment Flowchart
Housing Affordability Assessment Flowchart

Summary of Respondents wishing to move
Parish connection, reason(s) for needing to move

Summary of Household Preferences
Ground floor, Specialist Housing and Tenure preference

Summary of Property Purchasing Intentions
First Time buyers, property size required, financial means

PART FOUR

Market House Price Averages and Affordability Assumptions
Analysis of market house prices

Private Rent and Affordable Housing Price Averages
Analysis of private rent and Affordable Housing rents

Shared Ownership and Discount Market Unit Averages
Analysis of Shared Ownership & Discount Market prices

Affordability - West Lavington Respondents' Analysis
Analysis of affordability

Current Social Housing Stock
Analysis of current social housing stock

Recommendations
Recommendations for Market, Intermediate and Social Housing

Data References
Sources used and referenced

INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY?

Housing Needs Surveys assess the housing requirements of a parish including the size, tenure and adaptability of dwellings needed. They help local authorities, parish councils and communities to plan for future housing development by providing evidenced-based information on local housing needs, particularly for Affordable Housing.

Housing Needs Surveys can be used to inform Neighbourhood Plans and, where they identify a need for Affordable Housing, can be used to support planning applications for small 100% Affordable Housing schemes to meet local needs.

In addition to a Housing Needs Survey, secondary evidence (for example census data) can be useful in providing a broader picture and in comparing the parish with other areas.

AIM OF THE SURVEY

The aim of the survey is to investigate the Affordable Housing needs of households with a local connection to the parish of West Lavington. It considers the needs of:

- households who already live in the parish.
- households who, although they don't currently live in the parish, have a local connection (for example through work or close family connection) and would like to move into the parish.

The primary data produced by a Housing Needs Survey provides detailed robust evidence of need in order to assist in meeting a community's housing needs. In addition, secondary data has been incorporated into the Rural Housing Needs Report to offer context and background information about the parish and its wider community.

HOUSING NEED DEFINITION

'Housing need' can be defined as the need for an individual or household to obtain housing that is suitable for their circumstances.

- It implies that there are problems or limitations with the household's current housing arrangements and that the household is unable to afford or to access suitable accommodation
- Such problems may be concerned with housing costs, size, adaptability, location, layout, state of repair, or security of tenure
- Housing need can relate to both market and Affordable Housing.

PART ONE - HOUSING DEFINITIONS

The following terms were used in the Rural Housing Needs Survey to help respondents understand the questions and definitions used.

Adapted Housing: a property that has been modified to improve its accessibility and make it easier for someone to live independently. Changes can be minor or major, including lowered kitchen worktops, widened doorways, level access shower, a stair lift, and external ramping. An Occupational Therapy assessment decides what changes are needed and whether the current home can be adapted, or if a move is better

Affordability: whether a household or individual can afford housing costs without financial strain

Affordable Housing: for people who cannot afford the housing that meets their needs on the open market. Includes homes for sale or rent. Certain criteria must be met to qualify

Affordable Rented Housing: homes owned by housing associations or the council, rented at a maximum of 80% of local market rates. Usually offered through Wiltshire Council's Choice Based Lettings system to households on the Housing Register. Certain criteria must be met to qualify

Co-housing: co-housing communities are run by their residents and include a mix of private and communal space. Households have a self-contained home with the benefit of shared spaces like a communal lounge, workspace or large kitchen for group meals

Choice Based Lettings: a system used by social housing providers to allocate Affordable Housing. It enables households to express an interest for advertised properties, rather than being directly allocated a property

Community Led Housing: community led projects that engage local people to help deliver Affordable Housing in their area. Often delivered in partnership with a Registered Provider

Discount Market Units: a type of Affordable Housing that enables properties to be purchased at a discount from the open market value. The discount remains in place when the property is resold. Certain criteria must be met to qualify

Extra Care Housing: schemes for people aged 55 or over, to own or rent apartments with personal care and housing support available on-site, 24 hours a day. Private market extra care schemes are usually sold or let on the open market, whereas affordable Extra Care Housing is allocated through Wiltshire Council's Housing Register in consultation with Wiltshire Council's Adult Social Care Team

Housing Register: a list of households needing housing and who are eligible to bid for Affordable Rented Housing and Social Rented Housing in Wiltshire Council's administrative area

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PART ONE - HOUSING DEFINITIONS

Local Housing Allowance is determined by the Valuation Office Agency and calculates the maximum Housing Benefit or Universal Credit (housing element) that private renters can receive. The rates are based on location (Broad Rental Market Areas), age and bedroom entitlement. Wiltshire has four Broad Rental Market Areas - Wiltshire Council - (formerly Kennet), Wiltshire Council - (formerly North Wiltshire), Wiltshire Council - (formerly West Wiltshire), Wiltshire Council (formerly Salisbury).

Low-Cost Homes for First-Time Buyers: discounted homes for first-time buyers, often 30% below market value. The discount remains when resold. Certain criteria must be met to qualify

Open Market Housing: properties that are bought or sold on the open market with no restrictions or eligibility criteria as to who owns or occupies the property

Private Rented Housing: homes owned by private landlords or companies, let at market rates, usually for an initial fixed term of 6 or 12 months

Registered Provider (or Registered Provider of Social Housing): a housing organisation, such as a housing association or local authority landlord, that provides, manages and maintains Affordable Homes, and which is on the statutory register of social housing providers managed by the Regulator of Social Housing

Self-Build Housing: individuals or groups who organise the design and build of their own homes, or hire professionals to do it for them. This can involve finding land, obtaining planning permission and undertaking or overseeing the construction process

Shared Ownership Housing: households buy a share of a property from a Registered Provider (usually between 10 percent and 75 percent) and pay affordable rent on the rest. Further shares can be bought. Certain criteria must be met to qualify

Sheltered Housing: affordable social housing for people aged over 60, or those with physical or sensory needs. Tenants have their own property, with support services and additional communal areas. Most often let through Wiltshire Council's Housing Register or Choice Based Lettings scheme

Social Rented Housing: homes owned and managed by registered providers, housing associations or the council, let to households in need at about 50% below market rates (rates set nationally). Usually allocated through Wiltshire Council's Housing Register or Choice Based Lettings scheme. Certain criteria must be met to qualify

Supported and Specialist Housing: accommodation with support or care for people (such as those with a learning disability) to live as independently as possible. Homes are often shared but single households may be accommodated. Housing is provided by Registered Providers or the council, and allocated through Wiltshire Council's Housing Register, in consultation with Adult or Children's Social Care Teams

PART ONE - CENSUS DATA (2021) FOR WEST LAVINGTON - SECONDARY DATA

CENSUS DATA

Census data is information collected from a national count of all people and households, providing a detailed snapshot of a country's population and its characteristics. This data is used by governments and other organisations to plan and fund public services like housing, education, and healthcare, and to make informed policy decisions. The data includes demographics, employment, and housing information and is used to compare different regions and track population changes over time. [1]

1 https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/aboutcensus/aboutthecensus

OVERVIEW OF CENSUS DATA

CENSUS DATA - PEOPLE

The data in this section provides an overview of the population breakdown for West Lavington. The charts show gender profile, disability status, economic activity status and the age profile of all residents.

CENSUS DATA - HOUSEHOLD

The data in this section provides an overview of household information for West Lavington. The charts show household tenure, number of bedrooms in current homes, household size and whether the home is recorded as a second home.

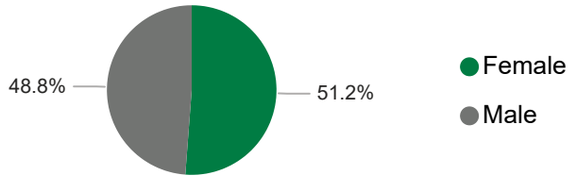
SECONDARY DATA

Census data serves as a reliable source of secondary information, providing a representative overview of the parish population.

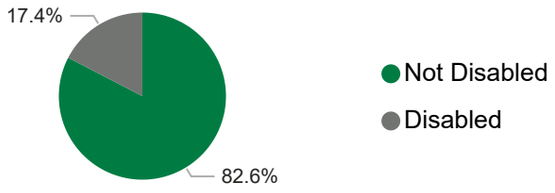
It offers an up-to-date picture of key demographic and housing characteristics across rural communities. Incorporating this data helps contextualise survey results.

PART ONE - CENSUS DATA FOR PARISH (POPULATION)

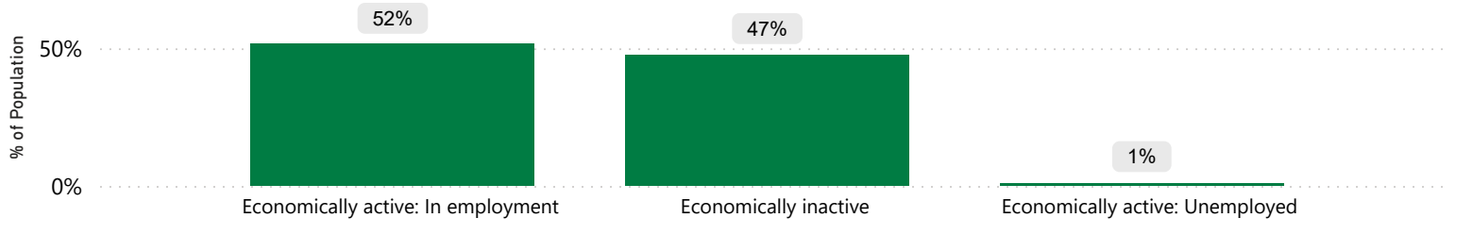
PARISH GENDER PROFILE (%)



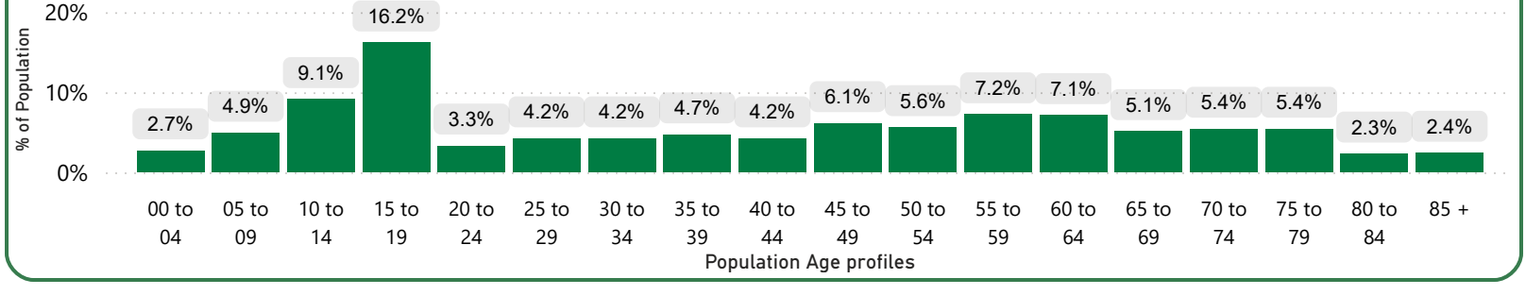
PARISH DISABILITY PROFILE (%)



PARISH ECONOMIC ACTIVITY STATUS (%)



PARISH AGE PROFILE (%)



WEST LAVINGTON TOTAL POPULTATION = 1380

Gender Profile

- West Lavington: **48.8% male, 51.2% female**
- Wiltshire: **49.3% male, 50.7% female**

The gender balance mirrors that of Wiltshire.

Disability

Disability status is very similar in Wiltshire and West Lavington.
(Wiltshire: 83.1% not disabled, 16.9% disabled) compared to West Lavington **(82.6% not disabled and 17.4% disabled).**

Employment and Economic Activity

- West Lavington: **52% employed, 47% retired, 1% unemployed**
- Wiltshire: **60.2% employed, 37.5% retired, 2.3% unemployed**

West Lavington has a lower employment rate than the Wiltshire average, and a higher proportion of retired residents. Unemployment is slightly lower in West Lavington.

Age Profile

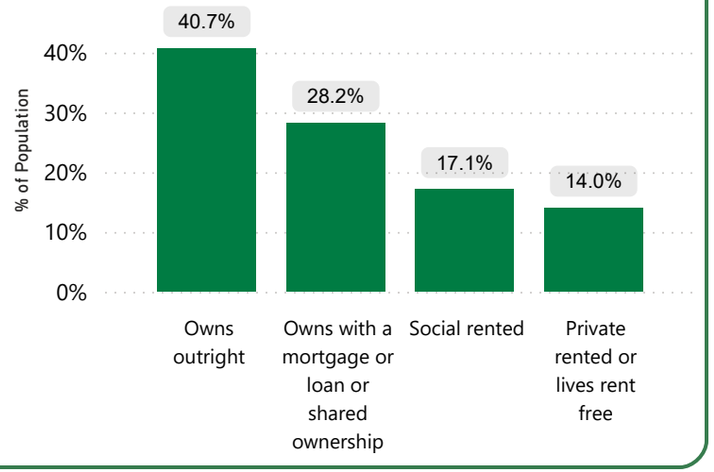
- West Lavington: **16.7% aged 0-14, 36.8% aged 15-44, 26% aged 45–64, 20.6% aged 65+**
- Wiltshire: **16.3% aged 0-14, 33.9% aged 15-44, 26.8% aged 45–64, 22.9% aged 65+**

West Lavington has a slightly younger working-age profile, particularly in the 15–44 age group, and a lower proportion of older residents aged 65+ than the Wiltshire average.

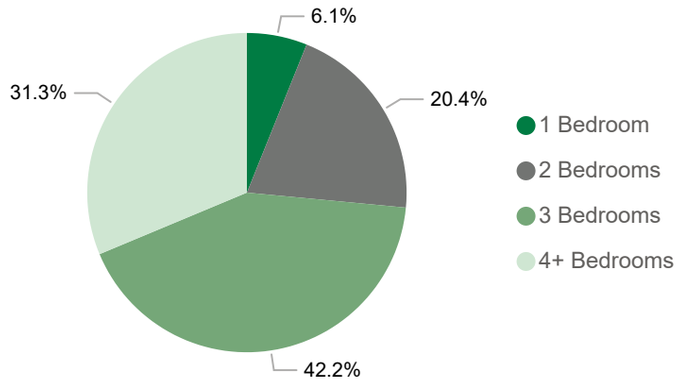
[2] https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/

PART ONE - CENSUS DATA FOR PARISH (HOUSEHOLD)

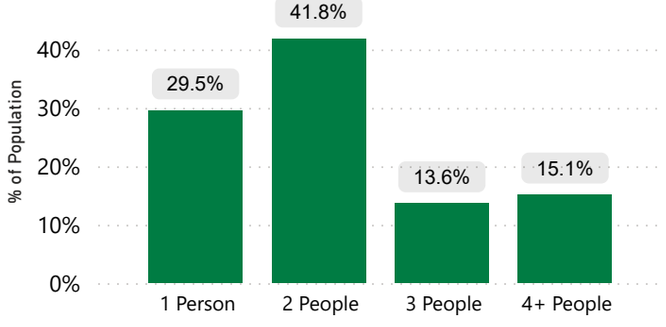
HOUSEHOLD TENURE (%)



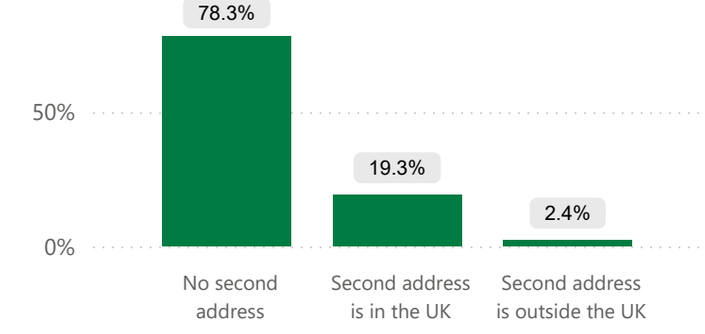
NUMBER OF BEDROOMS PER HOME (%)



HOUSEHOLD SIZE (%)



SECOND ADDRESS INDICATOR (%)



KEY FINDINGS:

Housing Tenure

- West Lavington: **68.9%** owner- occupied, **17.1%** social rented, **14%** private rented
- Wiltshire: **68%** owner-occupied**, 14.5%** social rented, **17.5%** private rented

Owner-occupation levels are almost identical in both areas. However, West Lavington has a higher proportion of social rented housing and a smaller private rented sector compared with the Wiltshire average.

Property and Household Size

- Larger homes- (3+ bedrooms): **73.5%**
- Smaller homes- (1–2 bedrooms): **26.5%**
- Household size - 70% consist of 1-2 people
  30% consist of 3 or more people

Despite a majority of larger (3+ bedroom) properties, over half of local households are small (1–2 person) households. This suggests a potential mismatch between dwelling size and household size.

Second Homes

78.3% of households living in West Lavington have no second address. **21.7%** of residents spend at least 30 days of the year living at a second address outside of the parish.

[2]https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/

PART ONE - SURVEY DISTRIBUTION AND METHODOLOGY

SURVEY DISTRBUTION AND METHODOLOGY

Wiltshire Council carried out a Housing Needs Survey, at the request of parish council, between 9 March and 30 March 2026.

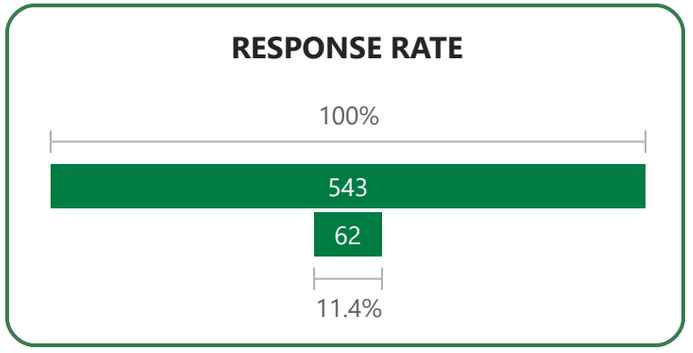
The parish council took responsibility for promoting the survey locally and delivered a postcard to each residential address and business in the parish. Each household which lived in the parish or wanted to move into the parish (and had a local connection through work or close family connection) were asked to complete a questionnaire.

Households were encouraged to complete the survey online. However, paper copies of the survey were provided on request together with stamped addressed envelopes to return the completed questionnaire directly to Wiltshire Council.

The survey responses were analysed by the Housing Enabling Team at Wiltshire Council, applying the data protection policy to ensure that all survey responses remain anonymous.

RESPONSE RATE

A total of 543 households live within the parish. 61 households completed the survey. This represents a 11% response rate which is considered to be a low response.



Of the response rates:

- **0%** of respondents are aged 16-17
- **15%** of respondents are age 18-44
- **38%** of respondents are age 45- 64
- **44%** of respondents are age 65+
- **3%** of respondents preferred to not say

REPORT STRUCTURE

This report considers the views only of the residents who completed the questionnaires and may therefore not be representative of the wider population of West Lavington.

This report is divided into two parts. The first section looks at existing households in the parish in order to provide a description of the current housing in West Lavington and housing preferences into old age. This section also describes the amount and types of new housing, if any, which would be supported by residents who responded to the survey.

The second section considers the housing needs of respondents. A financial assessment is used to consider the need for market housing, affordable home ownership and affordable rented accommodation. The need for older persons accommodation and adapted housing is also considered. The results of this assessment are provided in the recommendations of the report.

PART TWO - SURVEY FINDINGS
HOUSEHOLDS CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE PARISH

PART TWO OVERVIEW

Part Two of the Rural Housing Needs Report presents findings from all survey respondents, regardless of whether they identified a housing need. This section provides an overview of respondent demographics, community attitudes toward housing development and retirement aspirations.

The results offer a snapshot of the groups engaged and their perspectives, helping to inform future planning and policy consideration

Responses were received from 62 respondents.

SUMMARY OF PART TWO

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS
Age, gender, employment status and disability status

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS
Connection to the Parish, current property size and tenure

ATTITUDES TOWARDS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
Respondents attitudes towards development types and future housing development in the Parish

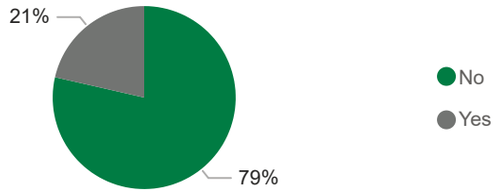
RETIREMENT HOUSING ASPIRATIONS
Retirement aspirations in the community

USE OF PRIMARY DATA

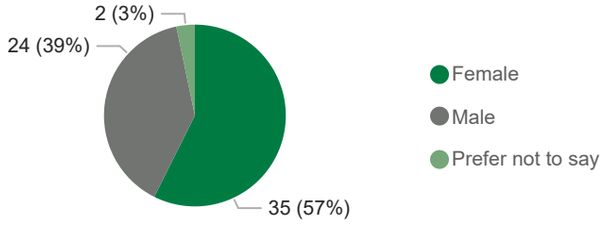
Primary data refers to information collected directly from the source - in this case, respondents of the Rural Housing Needs Survey. It is accurate, reliable, current, and tailored to the specific requirements of Wiltshire Council and the parish council.

PART TWO - PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

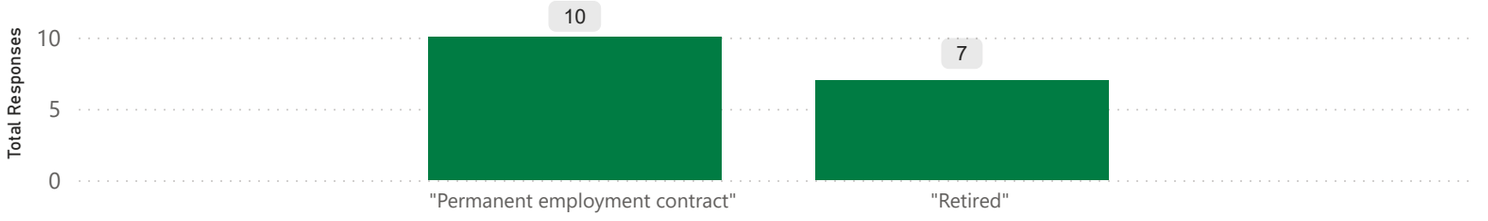
DISABILITY STATUS (RESPONSES)



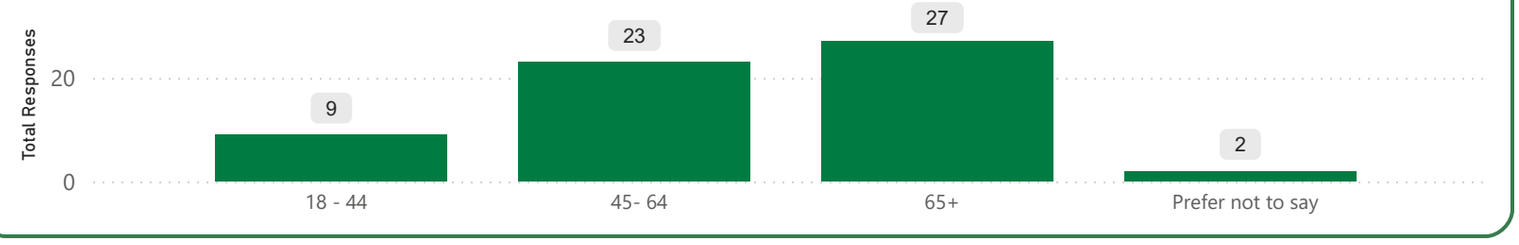
GENDER PROFILE (RESPONSES)



EMPLOYMENT STATUS(RESPONSES)



AGE PROFILE (RESPONSES)



TOTAL REPONSES = 61

KEY FINDINGS:

Profile of Respondents
This section looks at existing households in the parish based on survey responses. Respondents were asked their disability status, gender, age and employment.

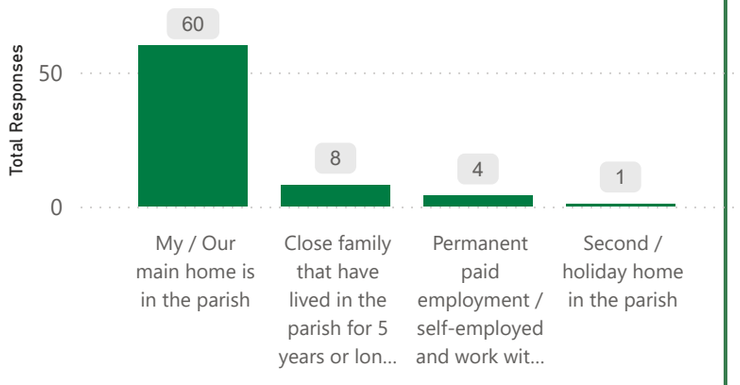
Disability and Gender
Of those that answered the disability question, **79%** of respondents do not have a disability.
There was a higher response rate by females, **57%**, with a **39%** response rate from females.
2 respondents **(3%)** preferred not to provide their gender.

Employment Profile
Among respondents who indicated their economic status, responses were varied, although the majority reported being employed with a permanent employment contract.

Age Profile
16-17 years: 0% (0 respondent)
18–44 years: 15% (9 respondent)
45–64 years: 38% (23 respondents)
65+ years: 44% (27 respondents)
Prefer not to say: 3% (2 respondent)

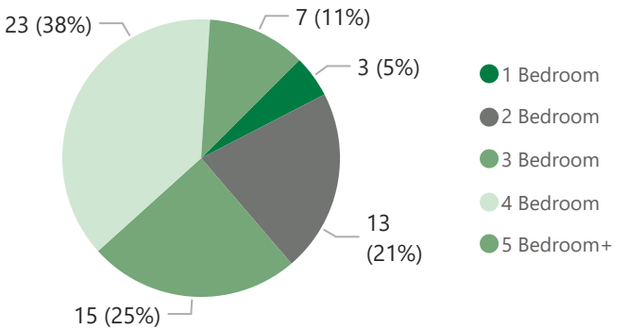
PART TWO - PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS (HOUSEHOLD DETAILS)

CONNECTION TO THE PARISH

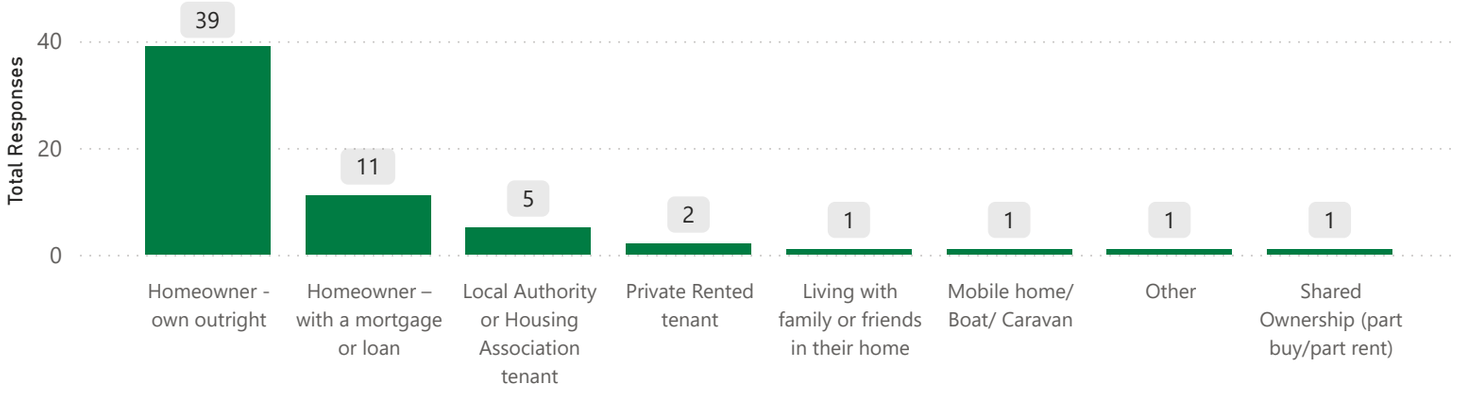


TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDROOMS

(PER HOUSEHOLD)



CURRENT TENURE TYPES



KEY FINDINGS:

Parish Connection

Survey respondents were asked their connection to the parish (multiple options could be selected)

98% Main home was in the parish
13% Have close family in the parish
7% Are employed in the parish
2% Have a second home / holiday home in the parish

Property Size

5% have 1 bedroom
21% have 2 bedrooms
25% of respondents have 3 bedrooms
38% have 4 bedrooms
11% have 5+ bedroom

This mirrors the 2021 Census data and suggests a prevalence of larger family homes amongst the respondents and in the Parish.

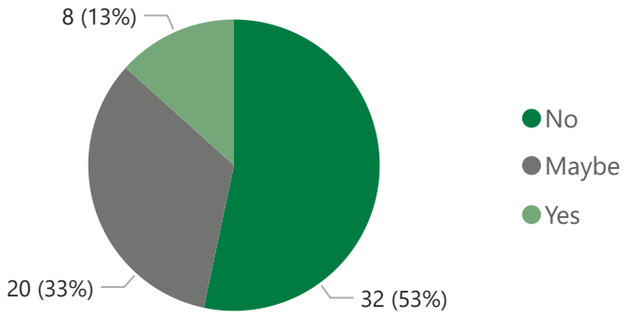
Tenure

81% of respondents (50) are owner-occupiers
8% of respondents (5) are a Local Authority or Housing Association Tenant
3% of respondents (2) live in private rented
2% of respondents (1) live with friends / family
2% of respondents (1) live in a mobile home
2% of respondents (1) answered 'Other'
2% of respondents live (1) in a Shared Ownership property

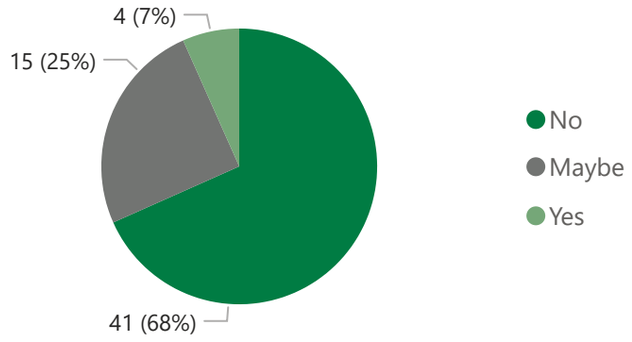
These results indicate a bias in the survey responses towards those living in owner-occupied homes and the rest of this section should be read with this in mind.

PART 2 - ATTITUDES TOWARDS NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

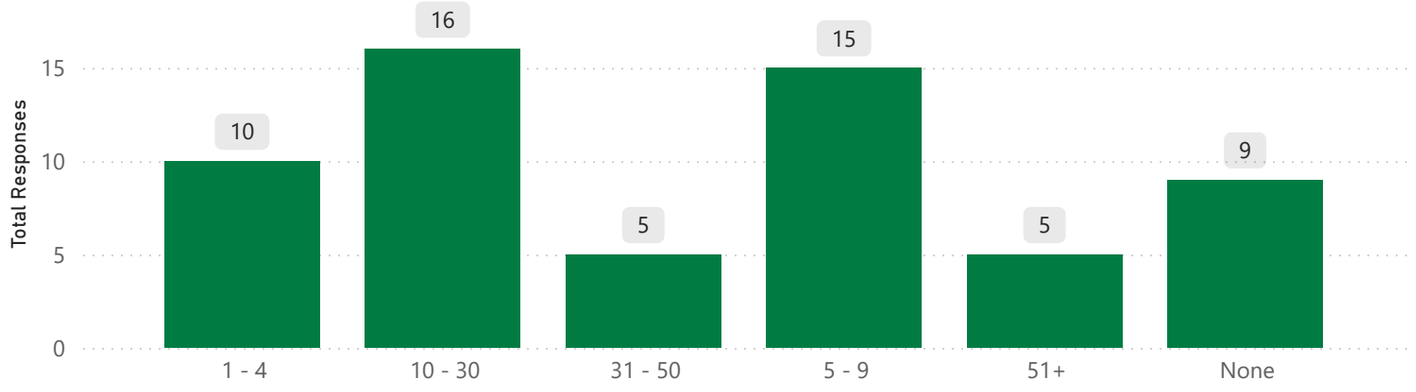
SUPPORT FOR CO HOUSING



WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DELIVERY OF COMMUNITY LED HOUSING



NUMBER OF NEW HOMES SUPPORTED



KEY FINDINGS:

Residents who live in the Parish (60 of the 61 respondents) were asked their opinions on the delivery of new housing in the parish. Multiple options were allowed.

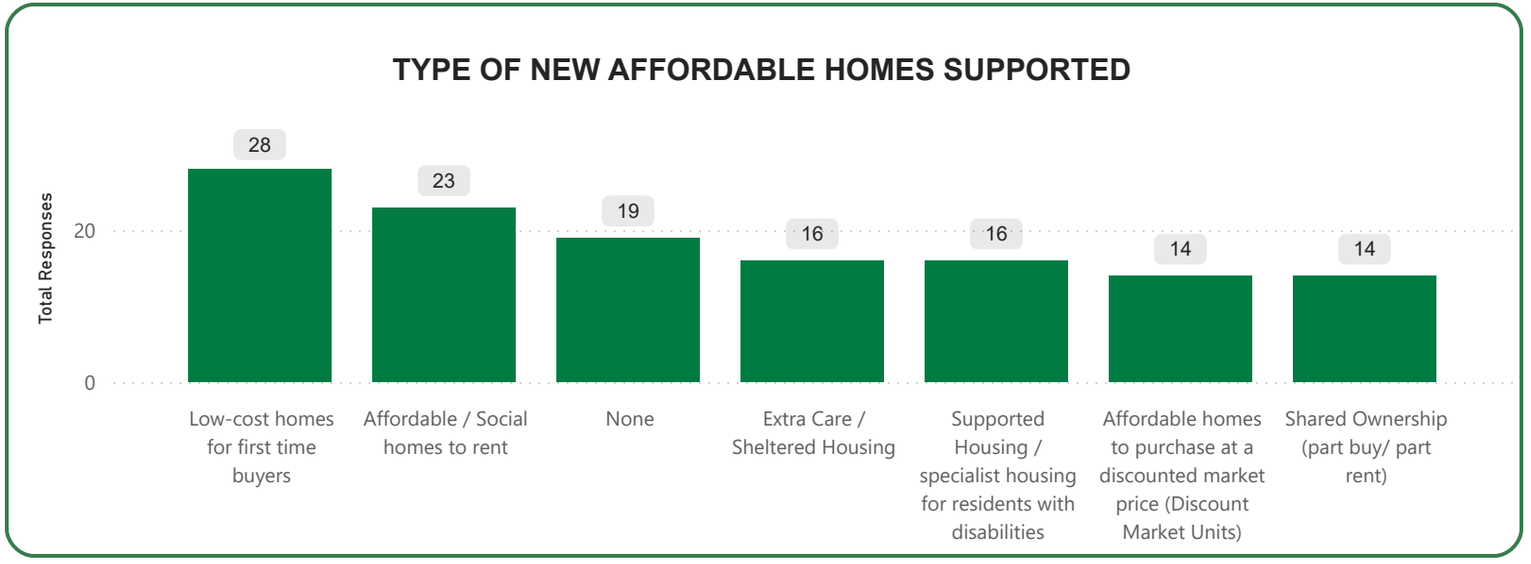
Co-Housing and Community Led Housing
13% of respondents supported the delivery of Co Housing in the parish, with an additional **33%** 'maybe' supporting it.

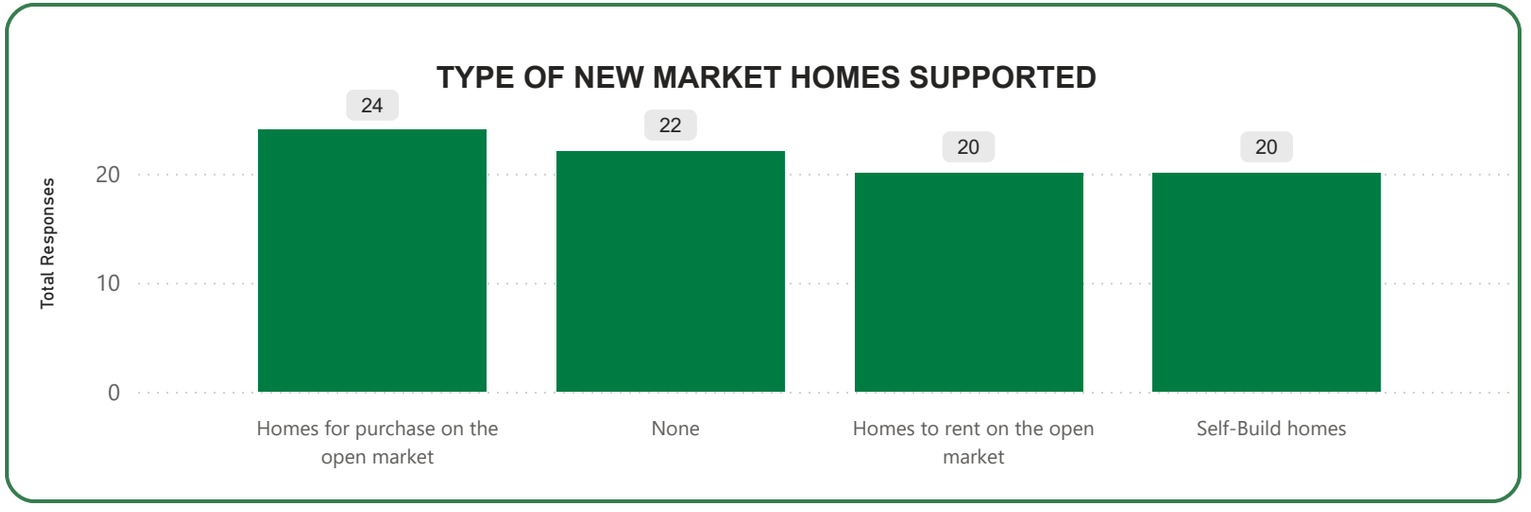
32% of respondents indicated that they were willing, or would consider, participating in the delivery of Community Led Housing.

Number of new homes supported
85% of respondents living in the parish support new housing development in West Lavington, with the most popular option for between 10-30 homes **(27%)**.

18% of respondents (9) were opposed to any new housing in West Lavington.

PART 2 - ATTITUDES TOWARDS NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT





KEY FINDINGS:

Affordable Homes
Of the new Affordable Homes supported, the majority of respondents living in the parish supported Low Cost Homes for first time buyers, closely followed by Affordable / Social homes to rent, Extra Care / Sheltered Housing and Supported Housing. However, support was evident across all tenures.

32% (**19** respondents) did not support any new affordable homes.

(Multiple options could be selected)

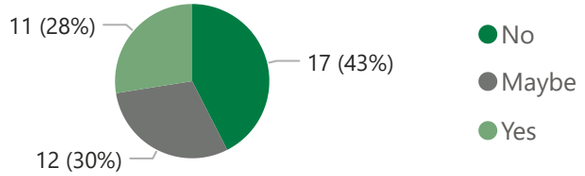
Open Market Homes
The majority of respondents supported new open market homes, particularly homes to purchase.

37% (22 respondents) did not support any new market homes.

(Multiple options could be selected)

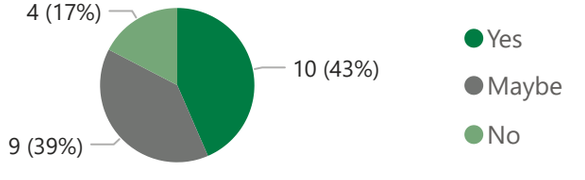
PART 2 - RETIREMENT HOUSING ASPIRATIONS

RESPONDENTS SEEKING TO MOVE



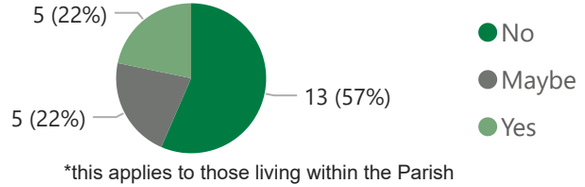
*this applies to those living within the Parish

RESPONDENTS SEEKING TO DOWNSIZE



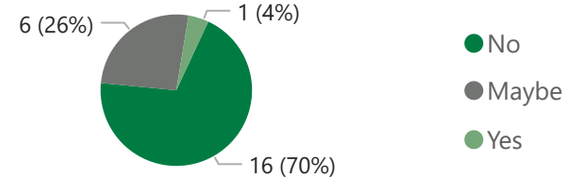
*this applies to those living within the Parish

RESPONDENTS INTERESTED IN SELF BUILD



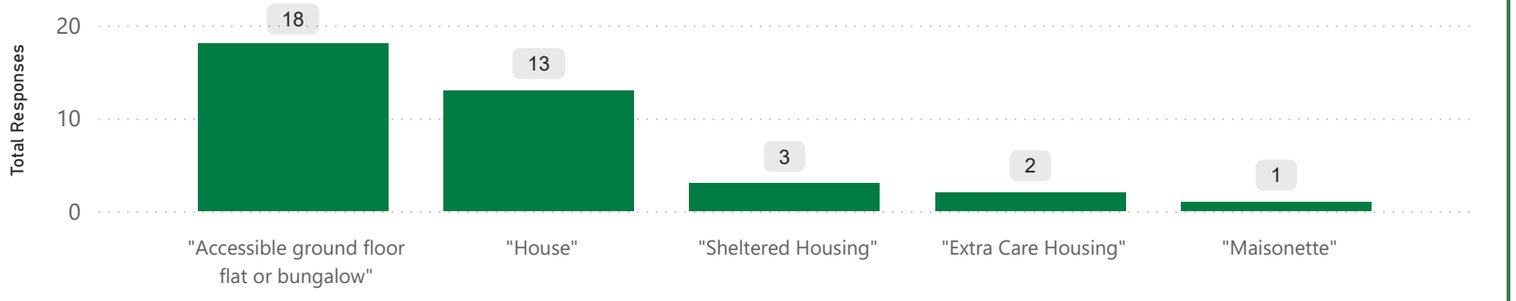
*this applies to those living within the Parish

RESPONDENTS INTERESTED IN CO HOUSING



*this applies to those living within the Parish

TYPE OF PROPERTIES SOUGHT BY RETIREES



KEY FINDINGS:

The following details the housing aspirations of those households in retirement.

Downsizing

67% of respondents (**40**) live in a household where at least one member is aged 60.

23 of the **40** respondents **(58%)** answered 'yes' or 'maybe' to wanting to move within the Parish. Of the **23** respondents, **43%** (10 respondents) answered 'yes' to wanting to downsize in the parish, with **39%** (9 respondents) responding 'Maybe' to downsizing.

Self Build and Co-Housing

Support for Self-Build homes as a retirement option was mixed. **57%** of respondents were not interested, while **22%** were interested. An additional **22%** said they may be interested.

4% of respondents aged 60+ were interested in Co-Housing and **26**% 'maybe' interested. **70%** were not interested in Co-Housing.

Type of properties sought by Retirees

There were strong preferences for accessible ground floor flats / bungalows (**18 / 23** responses) and houses (**13 / 23** responses). Other preferred options include sheltered housing and extra care housing and maisonettes.

(Multiple options could be selected)

PART THREE - SURVEY FINDINGS
HOUSING NEED

PART THREE OVERVIEW

Part Three of the Rural Housing Needs Report aims to identify the unmet housing needs of all survey respondents.

A total of 16 respondents identified a housing need and a requirement to move. However 2 of the 16 respondents provided insufficient information to enable reliable interpretation and housing recommendations. Therefore this section will focus on the housing needs of 14 respondents.

The reasons for needing to move, combined with affordability analysis, housing costs, rent and tenure preference, alongside anticipated re-let and sale rates (detailed in Part 4) inform recommendations for future housing provision within West Lavington.

SUMMARY OF PART THREE

FLOWCHART
The flowchart shows the assumptions made about housing need and affordability

SUMMARY OF REPONDENTS WISHING TO MOVE
Data showing the number of respondents wishing to move, parish connection reason and the respondents main reason for needing to move within the parish

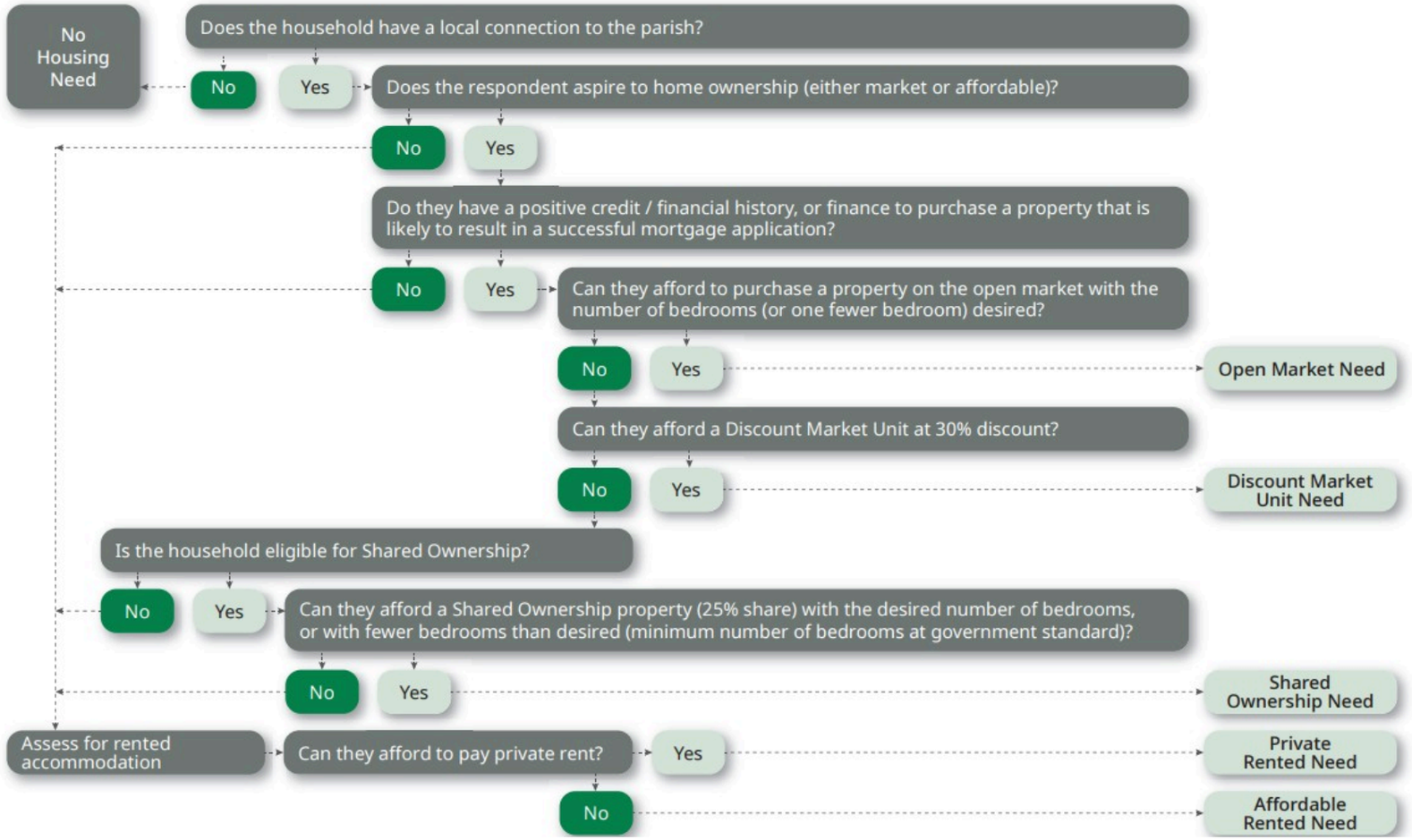
SUMMARY OF PROPERTY PURCHASE INTENTIONS
Data showing the number of previous home owners / first time buyers, size of property required, funding stream for purchasing a property, and ground floor requirements

SUMMARY OF DISABILITY AND ADAPTATIONS REQUIRED
Data showing disability and adaptation requirements

WHAT IS HOUSING NEED?

‘Housing need’ can be defined as the need for an individual or household to obtain housing that is suitable to their circumstances.

PART THREE - AFFORDABILITY ASSESMENT FLOWCHART



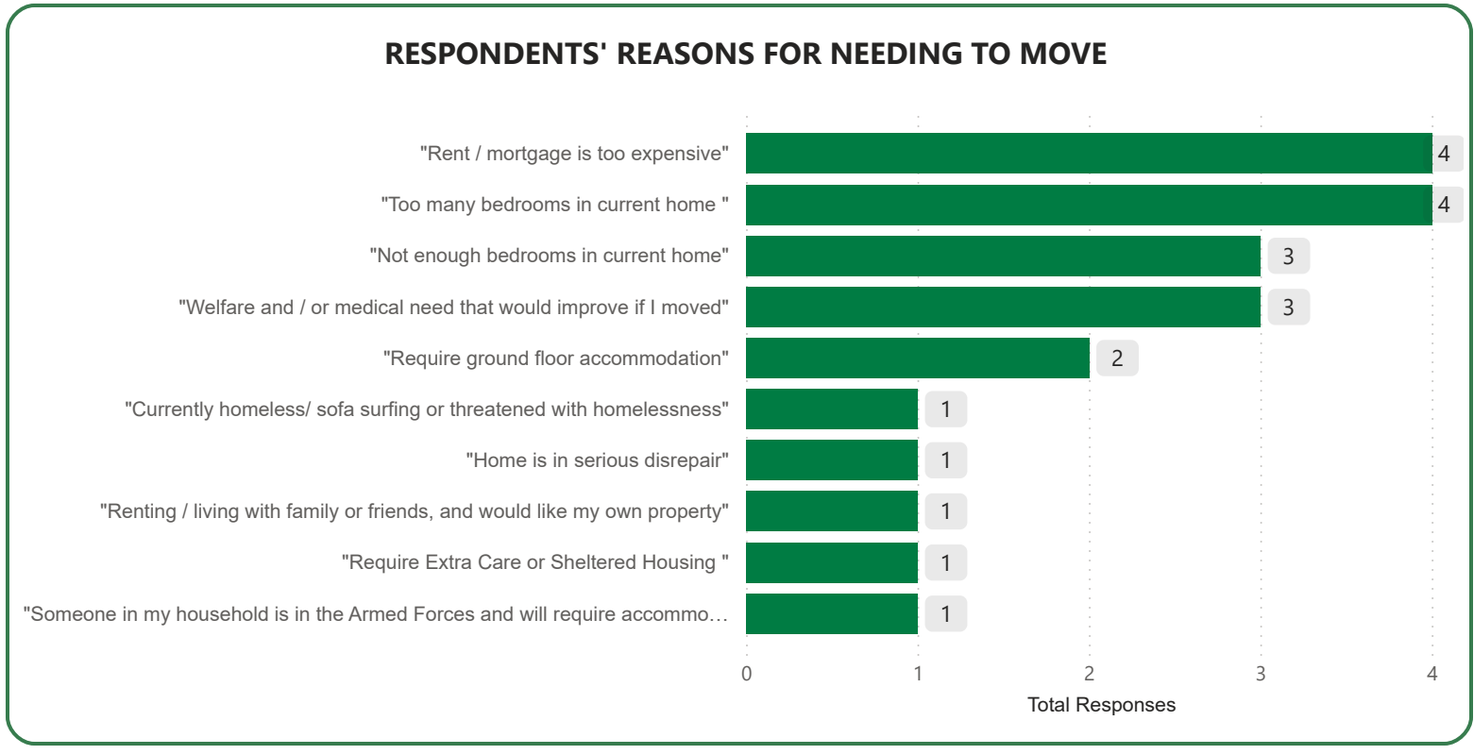
The flowchart illustrates how housing need is assessed and the assumptions used to determine suitable housing options based on affordability.

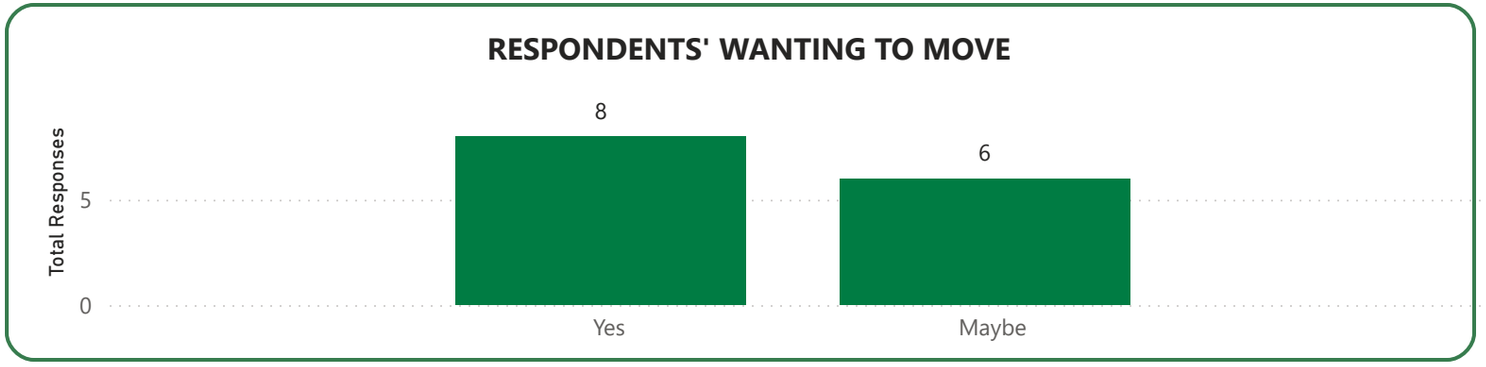
Some households can meet their needs by purchasing on the open market. If they cannot afford this, options such as discounted market or shared ownership may apply if eligibility criteria are met.

Where these are not viable, private rental may resolve the need.

If affordability remains an issue, the household may require affordable or social rented housing.

PART THREE - SUMMARY OF RESPONDENTS WISHING TO MOVE





KEY FINDINGS:

- **Total respondents stating a housing need:** 16
- **Insufficient information provided:** 2 respondents
- **Analysis Focus:** 14 respondents

16 respondents replied to this section of the survey, indicating a housing need and a requirement to move to a property in West Lavington. Whilst 16 respondents identified a housing need, 2 of the 16 respondents provided insufficient information to enable reliable interpretation and housing recommendations. Therefore this section (Part 3) will focus on the housing needs of **14** respondents.

Reason(s) for needing to move
The survey asked the reason(s) why respondents needed to move. The most common reasons for needing to move were:

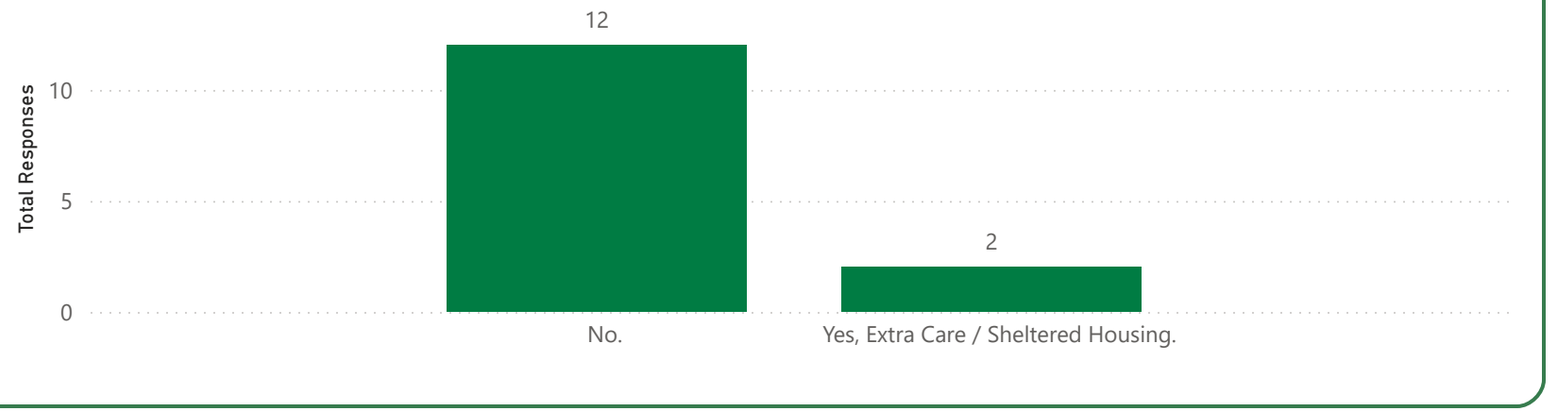
- Rent / Mortgage is too expensive
- Too many bedrooms in current home
- Not enough bedrooms in current home
- Welfare / Medical need to move
- Require ground floor accommodation

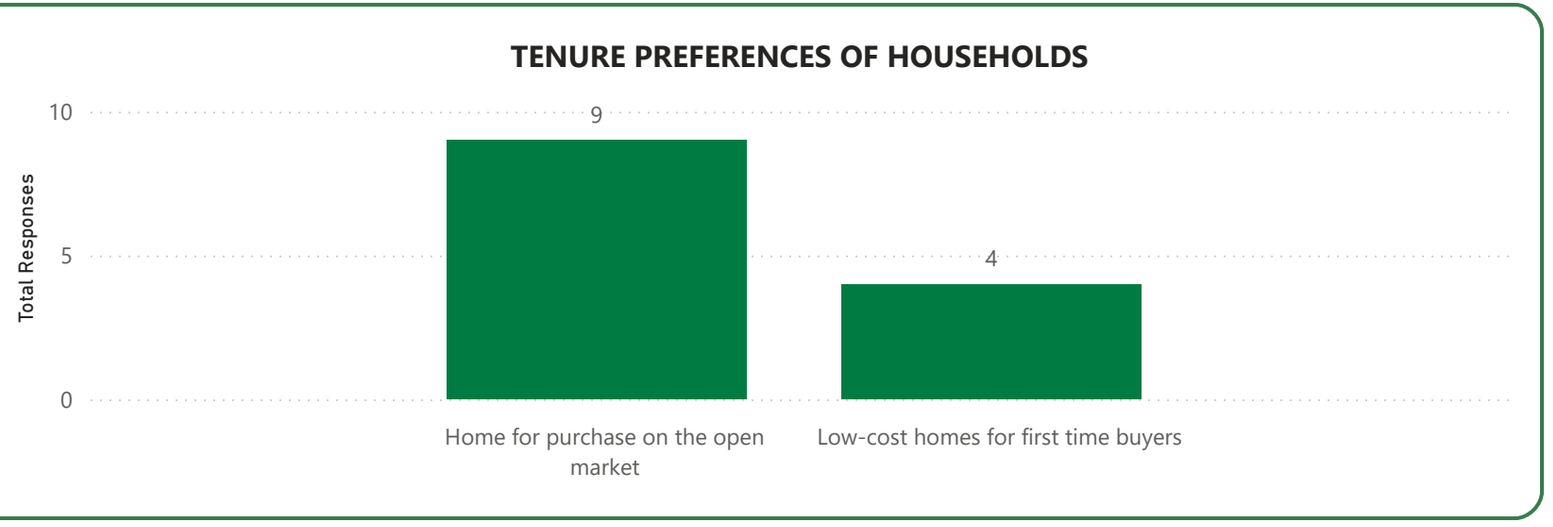
Other reasons included,

- Currently homeless / sofa surfing/ threatened with homelessness
- Home is in serious disrepair
- Renting with friends / family and would like own home
- Require Extra Care or Sheltered Accommodation
- Someone in my household is in the Armed Force and will require accommodation

(Multiple options could be selected)

PART THREE - SUMMARY OF HOUSING PREFERENCES





KEY FINDINGS:

Specialist Housing

86% of respondents (**12**) did not require specialist housing.
14% of respondents (**2**) required Extra Care/ Sheltered Housing

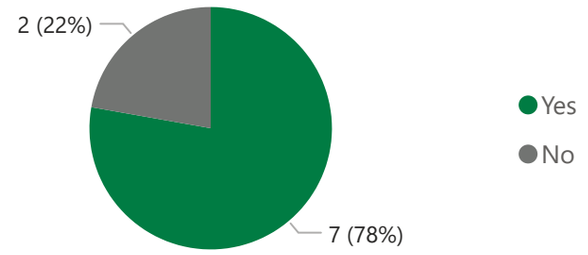
Tenure Preferences

The respondents were asked what type of open market tenure and Affordable Housing tenures they sought.

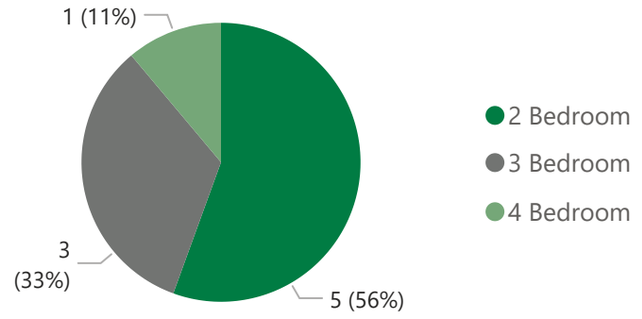
Homes for purchase on the open market was the most desired tenure, followed by Low-Cost homes for first time buyers.

PART THREE - SUMMARY OF PROPERTY PURCHASING INTENTIONS

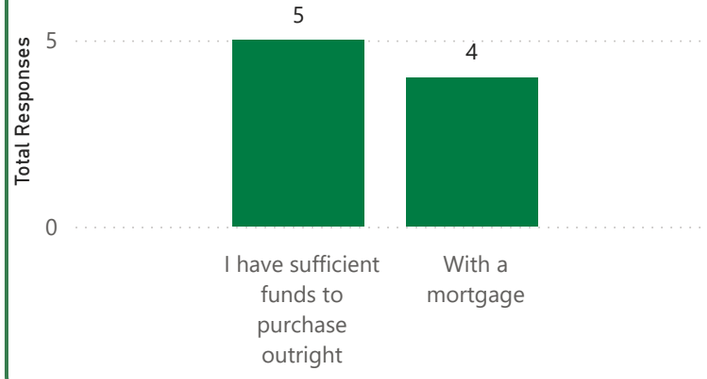
HOUSEHOLDS THAT CURRENTLY / HAVE PREVIOUSLY OWNED THEIR HOME



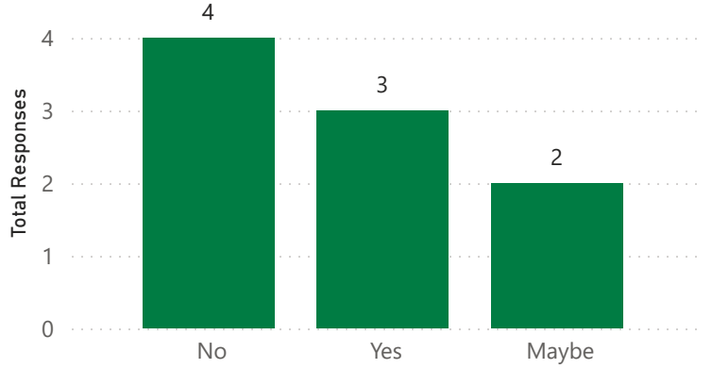
PROPERTY SIZE REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE



FINANCIAL MEANS TO PURCHASE



HOUSEHOLDS REQUIRING GROUND FLOOR TO PURCHASE



KEY FINDINGS:

The survey asked those with a housing need if they were seeking to purchase a property and how they would fund the purchase. **9** of the 14 respondents intend to purchase a property on the open market **(64%).**

Home Ownership
Respondents were asked about their home ownership status.
Current or Previous Home Owners (Not First-Time Buyers):7 respondents **(78%)** have owned a property or are current homeowners.
Never Owned a Property (Potential First-Time Buyers): 2 respondent (**22%)** have not owned a property before and are not currently homeowners.

Property Size for Purchase
56% of respondents (**5**) indicated they require a 2 bedroom property, **33%** (**3**) stated a 3 bedroom property, whilst **11%** (**1**) stated a 4 bedroom property.

Financial means to purchase a property
5 respondents **(56%)** have funds to purchase outright, **4** respondents (**44%**) intend to purchase with a mortgage or loan.

Ground Floor Accommodation to Purchase
33% of respondents (**3**) indicated a need for ground floor accommodation to purchase, whilst **22%** respondents (**2**) answered 'maybe'. **44%** of respondents (**4**) did not require ground floor accommodation.

PART FOUR - SURVEY FINDINGS
AFFORDABILITY AND HOUSING COSTS

OVERVIEW OF PART FOUR

Part Four presents findings on the affordability analysis of open market purchase, private rent housing costs, Shared Ownership and Discount Market Unit housing costs, as well as Affordable and Social Rent costs. The analysis considers financial capacity, housing costs, rent and tenure preferences, and requirements, alongside anticipated re-lets of existing social housing stock and sale rates.

- It would be unlikely that a household would be able to purchase a property on the open market in this parish without a large deposit, some equity in an existing property or a substantial income.
- First time buyers seeking open market housing would generally struggle to meet the criteria necessary for obtaining their own home.
- In some cases intermediate housing (shared ownership, discount market units or First Homes) would be a suitable option, whilst in other instances affordable rented accommodation would be appropriate.

These factors inform recommendations for future housing provision within West Lavington.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING COSTS

OPEN MARKET HOUSE PRICES - AVERAGES FOR WEST LAVINGTON AND WILTSHIRE
Data - Average Open Market house prices for West Lavington and Wiltshire by bed size

PRIVATE RENT AVERAGES FOR WEST LAVINGTON AND NATIONALLY, AND AFFORDABLE RENT AND SOCIAL RENT AVERAGES IN WILTSHIRE
Data - Average private rental figures for West Lavington and Nationally by bed size.
Data - Average Affordable Housing rental figures for Affordable Rent and Social Rent in Wiltshire by bed size

SHARED OWNERSHIP AND DISCOUNT MARKET UNITS - AVERAGES PARISH AND WILTSHIRE WIDE
Data - Average house prices for shared ownership and discount market units for West Lavington and Wiltshire

AFFORDABILITY - WEST LAVINGTON RESPONDENTS ANALYSIS
Data - How respondents housing costs are currently being paid, and affordability

CURRENT SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK
Analysis of current social housing stock

HOUSING NEED RECOMMENDATIONS PAGE
Recommendations for Market, Intermediate and Social Housing

PART FOUR -
MARKET HOUSE PRICE AVERAGES AND AFFORDABILITY ASSUMPTIONS

OPEN MARKET HOUSE PRICES AND AFFORDABILITY ASSUMPTIONS

Open Market House Prices and Affordability
In order to investigate affordability, further research has been carried out on house prices and market rent in the area. The tables show the average house prices for 1-4 bedroom properties in West Lavington, compared to the Wiltshire average[3]. The house price data is based on the SN10 postcode covering West Lavington and surrounding parishes, due to insufficient sales data within the last two years solely in West Lavington.

Assumptions Relating to Affordability of a Mortgage
The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ONS) indicates that the gross annual median income of full time employed persons in Wiltshire as of April 2025 was £37,861 (estimated).[4]

Typically, a household making a mortgage application can obtain a mortgage of 3.5 times their annual income. Households would generally expect to need a deposit of around 5% of the purchase price. Therefore, if an average 2 bed terraced property sold on the open market in West Lavington for £268,058 then a household may require £13,403 as a deposit and would require an annual household income of at least £72,759

[3] https://landregistry.data.gov.uk

[4] https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2025

OPEN MARKET HOUSE PRICES

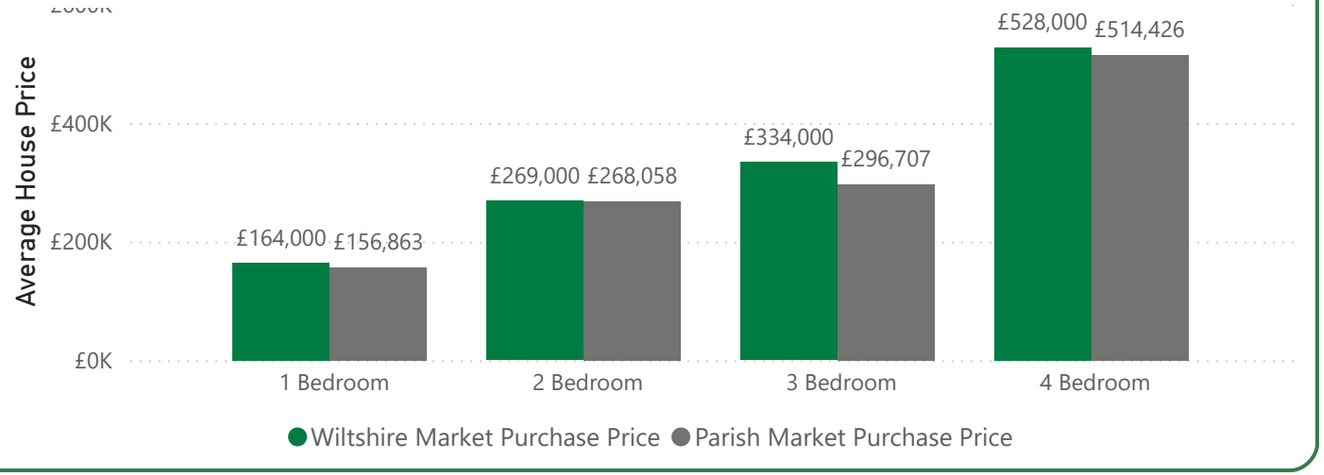
MARKET HOUSE PRICES - PARISH

House Size	Market Purchase Price
1 Bedroom	£156,863
2 Bedroom	£268,058
3 Bedroom	£296,707
4 Bedroom	£514,426

MARKET HOUSE PRICES WILTSHIRE WIDE

House Size	Market Purchase Price
1 Bedroom	£164,000
2 Bedroom	£269,000
3 Bedroom	£334,000
4 Bedroom	£528,000

MARKET HOUSE PRICES - WILTSHIRE AND PARISH AVERAGES



PART FOUR -
MARKET HOUSE PRICE AVERAGES AND AFFORDABILITY ASSUMPTIONS

PRIVATE RENT, SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE RENT

Private Rent and Affordability
Average private rents for 1-4 bedroom properties in Wiltshire and nationally (Sep 2025) were reviewed to assess affordability.[5]

Assumptions Relating to Affordability of Private Renting
The Office for National Statistics (ONS) considers that a private rent is affordable if the household would spend 30% (or less) of their gross income on rent (for new or existing tenancies). 30% is therefore the affordability threshold. Any household who would need to spend more than 30% of their income on rent is assumed to require Affordable Housing.[6]

Affordable and Social rent and Affordability
The tables show the average Social and Affordable rent costs in Wiltshire for the period 2024-2025.[7]
It is assumed that Social Rent is around 50% of the market rate and that Affordable Rent is around 80% of the market rate.

Assumptions Relating to Affordability of Affordable & Social Rent
It is assumed that all social rented housing (whether Social Rent or Affordable Rent) will be let at a rent which is capped at the Local Housing Allowance rate. This ensures that tenants who qualify for universal credit or housing benefit will have their housing costs fully covered.

[5] https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/privaterentandhousepricesuk/september2025

[6] https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/privaterentalaffordabilityengland/2024

[7] https://www.homes4wiltshire.co.uk

PRIVATE RENT AVERAGES

PRIVATE RENT COSTS - WILTSHIRE

House Size	Monthly Rent Cost
1 Bedroom	£713
2 Bedroom	£926
3 Bedroom	£1,160
4 Bedroom	£1,665

PRIVATE RENT COSTS - NATIONAL

House Size	Monthly Rent Cost
1 Bedroom	£840
2 Bedroom	£1,067
3 Bedroom	£1,283
4 Bedroom	£1,816

SOCIAL RENT AND AFFORDABLE RENT AVERAGES

SOCIAL RENT - WILTSHIRE

House Size	Social Rent Monthly
1 Bedroom	£502.93
2 Bedroom	£577.8
3 Bedroom	£656.72
4 Bedroom	£950.69

AFFORDABLE RENT - WILTSHIRE

House Size	Affordable Rent Monthly
1 Bedroom	£597.35
2 Bedroom	£765.44
3 Bedroom	£911.52
4 Bedroom	£1,094.47

PART FOUR - SHARED OWNERSHIP AND DISCOUNT MARKET UNIT AVERAGES AND AFFORDABILITY ASSUMPTIONS

SHARED OWNERSHIP AND DISCOUNT MARKET UNIT COSTS

Low Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) and Affordability
Average estimated costs for Shared Ownership and Discount Market Units (DMUs) for 1 - 4 bedroom properties in West Lavington and Wiltshire (Sep 2025) were reviewed to assess affordability. The house price data is based on the broader SN10 postcode area, which includes West Lavington and neighbouring parishes - because there were insufficient property sales within West Lavington alone over the past two years to produce reliable local figure.

Assumptions Relating to Affordability of LCHO
A household eligible for a home offered under the Shared Ownership scheme has the potential to buy a share in a property between 10% - 75% of the purchase price and then pay a low-cost rent on the remaining share. The average share sold in Wiltshire is 29%. A mortgage deposit of 5-10% of the value of the share will be required.

- Shared Ownership - Assuming a 2 bed home is purchased with a 29% share (£77,736) of the open market value, paying an affordable rent on the share retained by the Registered Provider, and with a 5% deposit, an annual household income of at least £28,687 is required (based on the figures presented in the table and an interest rate of 4.0%).
- Discount Market Units purchased at 30% discount (i.e.70% of open market price). Assuming a household obtains a mortgage based on 3.5 times their annual income and having a 5% deposit, a household would require an annual income of at least £50,931 for a 2 bed home in West Lavington (based on the figures presented in the table).

[3] https://landregistry.data.gov.uk

SHARED OWNERSHIP

BASED ON WILTSHIRE HOUSE PRICE

House Size	10% Share	29% Share
1 Bedroom	£16,400	£47,560
2 Bedroom	£26,900	£78,010
3 Bedroom	£33,400	£96,860
4 Bedroom	£52,800	£153,120

BASED ON PARISH PRICE

House Size	10% Share	29% Share
1 Bedroom	£15,686	£45,490
2 Bedroom	£26,805	£77,736
3 Bedroom	£29,670	£86,045
4 Bedroom	£51,442	£149,183

DISCOUNT MARKET UNITS (DMU)

BASED ON WILTSHIRE HOUSE PRICE

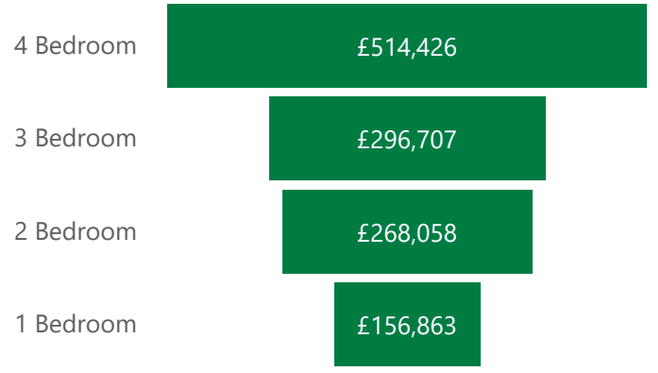
House Size	Market Price	DMU Price
1 Bedroom	£164,000	£114,800
2 Bedroom	£269,000	£188,300
3 Bedroom	£334,000	£233,800
4 Bedroom	£528,000	£369,600

BASED ON PARISH PRICE

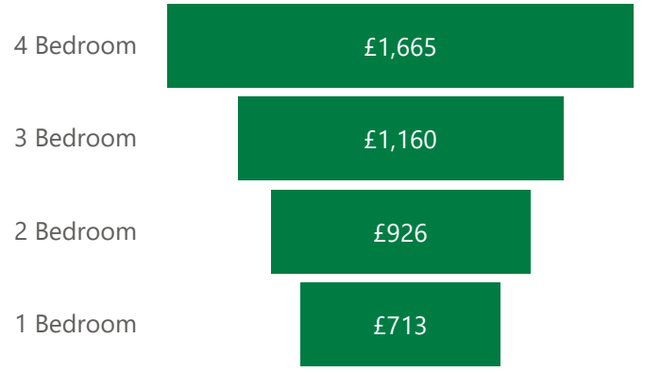
House Size	Market Price	DMU Price
1 Bedroom	£156,863	£109,804
2 Bedroom	£268,058	£187,640
3 Bedroom	£296,707	£207,694
4 Bedroom	£514,426	£360,098

PART FOUR - AFFORDABILITY WEST LAVINGTON RESPONDENTS ANALYSIS

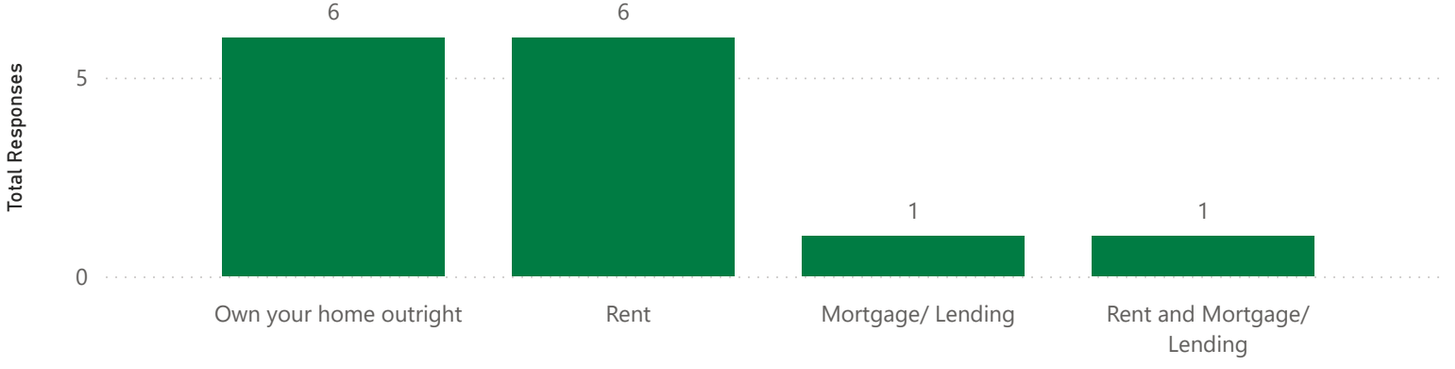
AVERAGE MARKET PURCHASE PRICES (£)



AVERAGE MARKET RENT PRICES (£)



RESPONDENTS HOUSING COSTS - CURRENT FINANCING METHODS



KEY FINDINGS:

To assess the need for Affordable Housing in West Lavington, it is necessary to consider respondents' equity, income and savings levels. Due to confidentiality requirements, only a brief summary of the financial assessment is presented below.

Key General Observations

Purchasing a property on the open market in the parish is unlikely to be achievable for most households without:

- a large deposit,
- existing equity, or
- a high income.

For some households, intermediate housing options such as Discount Market Units (DMU) or Shared Ownership may offer a suitable alternative.

Affordability Analysis

An assessment of respondents financial circumstances, alongside local property price levels, indicates that some households are financially able to meet their housing needs through purchasing a suitable property on the open market. However, for some households, open-market purchase is not affordable. For some respondents, Shared Ownership and DMU's provides an option.

The survey also identified a number of households who are unable to access any intermediate housing options or private rented accommodation, due to affordability constraints. For these households, Affordable or Social Rented housing is the only viable tenure capable of meeting their housing needs.

PART FOUR - CURRENT SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK

SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK IN WEST LAVINGTON

Assumptions relating to social housing stock

The 2021 Census recorded 82 social homes in the parish. These properties represent 17.1% of the total housing in West Lavington, which is higher than Wiltshire's Affordable Housing average of 14.5%. [2]

By comparison, the 2011 Census recorded 91 social homes in the parish.[10]
This indicates a net loss of 9 social homes between 2011 and 2021.

15 social home have been re-let in West Lavington over the last three years. [7]

Although social housing represents a higher proportion of the parish's stock compared to the Wiltshire average, the overall number of units has reduced, and the turnover of available homes is very low.

The low levels and turnover of social housing in the parish suggest that very few of the households considered to be in need of social rented housing could meet their needs through accessing the existing social housing of the parish.

Households already on the Councils Housing Register

Where the Housing Enabling Team identifies a household with a verified local connection to the parish on the Housing Register, but which has not completed a survey, that household's requirements will be incorporated into the recommendations. Due to the confidential nature of the survey, it is not possible to identify every household in this category.

Currently, there are two households registered with the Council's Housing Register (Homes4Wiltshire) where the household has selected West Lavington as their preferred parish and have a verified parish connection.

2 https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/
7 https://www.homes4wiltshire.co.uk
10 https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2011

Assumptions relating to bedroom entitlement

Whether or not a property is affordable is dependent on its size. If a household has indicated an intention to purchase a larger property than the analysis suggests they can afford, will be considered to be in need of a smaller property provided that a smaller property would meet their household's bedroom requirements.

Recommendations for numbers of bedrooms in subsidised rented properties are made in line with the 'family size' criteria implemented as part of the Housing Benefit changes by the 2012 Welfare Reform Act and Universal Credit Regulation 2013. [8, 9].

Recommendations for numbers of bedrooms in shared ownership / discounted market properties are based on the number of bedrooms wanted by respondents, applicants can purchase the size of home they are able to afford.

In making recommendations for the number of bedrooms, we have considered the age of children in two years time to predict the bedroom requirement at the likely time of development.

8 https:/www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/5/contents
9 https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/376/contents

RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The following recommendations indicate the minimum need over the next three years for new Affordable Housing development in the parish, based on the responses to the survey and the Council's Housing Register.

Please note that the recommendations represents the minimum need for the following reasons:

- The recommendations are a snapshot of need at the time that the survey was conducted and do not take account of future changes in need, for example arising from the changing housing needs of employees of local businesses.
- The recommendations are based only on the questionnaires that were completed together with any need identified on the Housing Register. The recommendations may not represent the parish's full housing need as responses were not received from every household.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES TO BE CONSIDERED

This survey's recommendations concentrate on those households who are unable to afford accommodation on the open market as well as those households that may be seeking alterative housing on the open market

This is a snapshot of need and may demonstrate a lower housing need as it only reflects those that have completed the survey and those that were on the housing register. At the time of any planning application, the following additional sources must also be considered.

- **Wiltshire Council Housing Register** – for confirmed demand
- **Local Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)** – for broader market trends and projections.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

MARKET HOUSING
Detailed recommendations of property type and size

INTERMEDIATE HOUSING
Detailed recommendations of property type and size

SOCIAL HOUSING
Detailed recommendations of property type and size

RECOMMENDATIONS - WEST LAVINGTON

Taking into account finances, cost of housing and rent, and tenure preferences - together with likely re-let and sale rates - it is estimated that the following properties are required.

MARKET HOUSING

Market homes required to purchase:

- 1 x 3 bed house
- 1 x 4 bed Bungalow

Market homes required to rent:

No recommendations

Market Specialised Housing required:

2 x 2 bed Sheltered / Extra Care Bungalow / Flat
1 x 3 bed Sheltered / Extra Care Bungalow / Flat

INTERMEDIATE HOUSING

Shared Ownership

1 x 2 bed, 4 person House

Discount Market Unit

- 1 x 1 bed, 2 person House / Flat
- 1 x 3 bed, 5 person House

First Homes

No recommendations

SOCIAL HOUSING

(Social / Affordable Rent restricted to Local Housing Allowance Rates)

General Needs Housing

- 1 x 1 bed, 2 person Flat
- 3 x 2 bed, 4 person House

Ground Floor / Adapted Housing - General Needs

1 x 1 bed, 2 person Flat / Bungalow
1 x 3 bed, 5 person Bungalow

Sheltered Housing for Older People

1 x 1 bed, 2 person sheltered Bungalow / Flat
1 x 2 bed ground floor Bungalow / Flat

REFERENCES PAGE

This section lists all sources referenced in this report.

These sources have been consulted to ensure accuracy in the findings and recommendations presented.

Readers may refer to these sources for further information or to verify the data and analysis presented in this report.

REFERENCED SOURCES

1 Census (2021), Census Data. Available at: **https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/aboutcensus/aboutthecensus** (Accessed: April 2026)

2 Census (2021), Census Data. Available at: **https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/build/** (Accessed: April 2026)

3 HM Land Registry (2025), UK House Price Index and Data. Available at: **https://landregistry.data.gov.uk** (Accessed April 2026)

4 Office for National Statistics (2025), Employee Earnings in the UK. Available at: **https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2025** (Accessed: April 2026)

5 Office for National Statistics (2025), Private Rent and House Prices, UK. Available at: **https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/privaterentandhousepricesuk/september2025** (Accessed: April 2026)

6 Office for National Statistics (2025), Private Rental Affordability - England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Available at: **https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/privaterentalaffordabilityengland/2024** (Accessed: March 2026)

7 Homes4Wiltshire (2025), Homes4Wiltshire. Available at: **https://www.homes4wiltshire.co.uk** (Accessed: April 2026)

8 Legislation.gov.uk (2025), Welfare Reform Act 2012. Available at **https:/www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/5/contents** (Accessed: November 2025)

9 Legislation.gov.uk (2025), The Universal Credit Regulations 2013. Available at: **https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/376/contents** (Accessed: November 2025)

10 Census (2011), Census Data. Available at: **https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/census_2011** (Accessed: April 2026)