

Wedmore Parish Older People's Housing Needs Survey Results



Prepared by
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Wedmore Parish - Older People's Housing Needs Survey Results

Introduction

This questionnaire was conducted to ascertain the opinion of Wedmore residents regarding the possible need for new retirement housing within the parish. The questionnaire was designed jointly by Blue Cedar Homes, Sedgemoor District Council, Wedmore Parish Council and The Community Council for Somerset on behalf of the Parish of Wedmore.

The Community Council was additionally contracted to print and post the questionnaires and, upon their return, to input and analyse the data collected from the questionnaires.

1369 questionnaires were posted to residents of Wedmore Parish (one to each household) along with a freepost envelope in which to return the questionnaire to the Community Council. As an incentive to complete and return the questionnaires, Parish residents were advised that all questionnaires returned, with respondents details attached, would be entered into a prize draw for a £100 gift voucher for Sanders Garden World.

Of the 1369 questionnaires posted, 324 were returned representing a 24% response rate which, we understand from the Somerset Intelligence Network (SINe), is typical for this type of survey. It should be noted that this survey was geared specifically to older people, and as you will see from the analysis below, all of the respondents were over the age of 40 and 78% were over the age of 60. 2001 Census data for Wedmore parish indicates that 19.2% of Wedmore's population are over the age of 65 and an additional 31.3% fall between the ages of 45 and 64.

Each of the returned surveys was input manually into SurveyMonkey, www.surveymonkey.com, an online survey software and questionnaire tool. The following analysis looks at the data collected, but does not attempt to draw any conclusions.

Question 1

Are you completing this questionnaire for		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yourself?	41.4%	132
Yourself and your spouse / partner?	53.9%	172
On behalf of a relative?	4.7%	15
Specify relationship		19
	answered question	319
	skipped question	5

Respondents were asked to specify for whom they were completing the questionnaire and, if on behalf of a relative, to specify the relationship.

Of the 319 respondents who answered this question, 53.9% said they were completing this questionnaire on behalf of themselves and a spouse / partner. A further 41.4% said they were completing the questionnaire on their own behalf.

Of the remaining respondents, who said they were completing it on behalf of a relative, 8 were completing them on behalf of 2 parents, 6 were completing them on behalf of one parent and one on behalf of their sister. Four additional people were responding for themselves in addition to another family member or members. 5 respondents chose to skip this question.

The verbatim responses and editorial notes by the inputter, sorted by the independent analyst, follow.

Specify relationship

1. Mother
2. Mother
3. Mother
4. Mother-in-law
5. Father
6. Parent
7. Mother and Father
8. Parents
9. Parents
10. Parents
11. Parents
12. Parents
13. Parents
14. In-laws
15. Sister
16. Plus my nearly teenage granddaughter - in care because of my health but visits every other weekend and part of all school holidays
17. Ed: Respondent circled 'yourself and your spouse / partner' and on behalf of a relative and circled 'Parents'
18. Ed: Respondent circled 'yourself and spouse' and on behalf of a relative but did not specify relationship
19. Ed: Respondent circled 'yourself' and 'yourself and your spouse / partner'

Question 2

Please circle the age group of the older person(s).		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
40 - 49	2.2%	7
50 - 59	19.6%	63
60 - 69	31.7%	102
Over 70	38.8%	125
Two age groups	7.8%	25
Please specify age groups		27
<i>answered question</i>		322
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Respondents were asked to circle the age group of the older person(s) involved and, if the ages covered two different age groups, to specify those groups.

Of the 322 respondents who chose to answer this question, 38.8% belong to the 'Over 70 age group. The next largest group of respondents (31.7%) belong to the 60 to 69 age group. A further 19.6% belong to the 50 to 59 age group.

27 respondents (7.8%) specified two age groups. Out of this group of 27, 14 selected 60-69 and over 70, 8 selected 50-59 and 60-69, 1 selected 40-49 and 50-59, and the remaining four specified other age combinations. 2 respondents chose to skip this question.

The verbatim responses follow.

Please specify age groups

1. 40-49 and 50-59
2. 50-59 and 60-69
3. 50-59 and 60-69
4. 50-59 and 60-69
5. 50-59 and 60-69
6. 50-59 and 60-69
7. 50-59 and 60-69
8. 50-59 and 60-69
9. 50-59 and 60-69
10. 50-59 and over 70
11. 50-59 and over 70
12. 60-69 and over 70
13. 60-69 and over 70
14. 60-69 and over 70
15. 60-69 and over 70
16. 60-69 and over 70
17. 60-69 and over 70
18. 60-69 and over 70
19. 60-69 and over 70
20. 60-69 and over 70
21. 60-69 and over 70
22. 60-69 and over 70
23. 60-69 and over 70
24. Over 70 group and 40 -49 group
25. 75 yrs & 62 yrs
26. 90s and 80s
27. See Q1 almost 13

Question 3

Do you think that the parish of Wedmore needs any purpose-built retirement dwellings?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	82.4%	266
No	7.1%	23
I don't know	10.5%	34
Additional comments		3
<i>answered question</i>		323
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Of the 323 respondents who chose to answer this question, 266 (82.4%) think Wedmore needs purpose-built retirement dwellings. An additional 23 (7.1%) don't think purpose-built retirement dwellings are needed. The remaining 34 (10.5%) said they didn't know. One respondent chose to skip this question.

Additional comments were invited and their verbatim responses follow, along with one editorial note.

Additional comments

1. Warden Controlled
2. Absolutely not!
3. Ed: Respondent circled 'yes' and 'I don't know'

Question 4

If yes, which of the following would you like to be taken into consideration as part of the planning process? (please circle all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Close proximity to shops / amenities	38.2%	108
Architecturally in keeping with the surroundings	25.1%	71
Set back from a main road	8.1%	23
Good access to public transport	26.1%	74
All of the above	56.2%	159
None of the above	2.8%	8
Other (please specify)		24
<i>answered question</i>		283
<i>skipped question</i>		41

Respondents were given the option of selecting one or more from the above list of factors, 'all of the above' or 'none of the above.'

Of the 283 respondents who chose to answer this question, the highest percentage (56.2%) would like all of the above-listed factors to be taken into consideration as part of the planning process. Of those who opted to select one or more specific factors, the highest percentage (38.2%) chose 'Close proximity to shops / amenities.' The next highest percentage (26.1%) chose 'Good access to public transport' closely followed by 25.1% selecting 'Architecturally in keeping with the surroundings.' 8.1% of respondents would like 'Set back from a main road' to be taken into consideration. The remaining 8 respondents (2.8%) selected 'None of the above.' 41 respondents chose to skip this question.

Respondents were also given the option of specifying other factors which they would like to be taken into consideration. The 24 responses received have been grouped under headings identified by the independent analyst.

Other, please specify

Design / Outlay

1. Good design for disability including the external environment and route to village shops and amenities
2. Internal design that is appropriate for people of limited mobility - wheelchair access - parking place for electric trolleys.

3. Dwellings built to be "green" ie high levels of insulation, geo-thermal heating, etc.
4. Small garden that is manageable. Varied designs.
5. A good mix of different sizes with some common facilities + some outside space. Always good to be not too far from surgery or pharmacy.
6. Mixed development with semi-detached and detached houses and bungalows.
7. Mix of tenures & of flats/houses
8. Integrated with other family housing

Mobility

9. Not up steep hill, downstairs loo. Ed: Respondent also said that good access to public transport is not possible in Wedmore!
10. respondent also wrote lift beside public transport
11. Ed: Public transport underlined
12. Enforceable Off Road Parking
13. Level crossing in the village of Wedmore
14. But not as many shops nor much public transport not sure how important.
15. We would comprise on A if this gave a better choice of sites i.e higher ground to the west of the village rather than levels on the Cheddar Road (low lying - wet).

Cost

16. Reasonably priced
17. Affordable
18. Low running costs, fast broadband

Miscellaneous

19. Warden Controlled
20. Consideration needs to be given to the next stage of support e.g accommodation with Warden Support.
21. URGENT!
22. Soon, please!
23. Can space be found?
24. None - Wedmore doesn't need it

Question 5

Would you be interested in moving to a purpose-built retirement dwelling in Wedmore at some point in the future?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	56.3%	180
No	18.4%	59
I don't know	25.3%	81
<i>answered question</i>		320
<i>skipped question</i>		4

Of the 320 respondents who chose to answer this question, 180 (56.3%) said they would be interested in a purpose-built retirement dwelling in Wedmore at some point in the future. An additional 18.4% said they would not be interested and the remaining 25.3% said they didn't know. 4 respondents chose to skip this question.

Question 6

How many people in total (in your household) might be interested in moving to this retirement housing?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
One	34.1%	89
Two	65.9%	172
Other (please specify)		15
<i>answered question</i>		261
<i>skipped question</i>		63

Of the 261 respondents who chose to answer this question, the majority (65.9%) would be interested in retirement housing for two people. An additional 34.1% would be interested in housing for one person. 15 respondents wrote comments under the 'Other, please specify' section. Their verbatim responses and editorial comment (prefaced by Ed:) have been sorted by the independent analyst) follow.

Other, please specify

1. one or two
2. Ed: Respondent circled 'one' and 'two'
3. 2 over 60's plus handicapped son
4. as Q1 my Granddaughter
5. Two + two elderly parents a possibility
6. two + possible with a disabled son who may visit
7. Three
8. Relative currently living in Wedmore
9. Don't know
10. None but I am keen on the idea for others who might be interested.
11. None because I am already in the village
12. none
13. None
14. None
15. Ed: respondent wrote beside this question and question 5 – 'hope not'

Question 7

Which of the following type of dwelling might you be interested in: (please circle any that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Private retirement dwelling - to buy	80.9%	220
Affordable retirement dwelling - to rent	41.2%	112
Other (please specify)		12
<i>answered question</i>		272
<i>skipped question</i>		52

Respondents were given the option of choosing one or both of the above options.

Of the 272 respondents who chose to answer this question 80.9% would be interested in a private retirement dwelling to buy. In addition, 41.2% would be interested in an affordable retirement dwelling to rent. Twelve respondents wrote comments under the

'other, please specify' section. Their verbatim responses, sorted by the independent analyst, follow.

Other, please specify

1. Part buy/Part Own
2. Combination of rent & buy to keep initial costs down to resident.
3. Private quality retirement dwelling to buy/rent
4. Possibly Warden phone line
5. only if Warden Controlled
6. Say, with a warden assisted complex
7. Social Housing
8. If we needed something.
9. would prefer a bungalow
10. Not sure
11. unsure
12. None

At this point in the questionnaire, respondents were advised that, if they had circled 'No' or 'Don't know' to Question 5, they did not need to proceed with the rest of the questionnaire but should add their contact details on the final page if they wanted to enter the prize draw. Therefore, only those respondents who responded with 'Yes' to Question 5 have been included in the remainder of the analysis.

Question 8

If you might be interested in moving to a purpose-built retirement dwelling in the parish of Wedmore, how soon do you think you might need this accommodation?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Within the next 2 years	15.3%	27
Within the next 5 years	20.3%	36
In 5+ years	64.4%	114
<i>answered question</i>		177
<i>skipped question</i>		3

Of the 180 respondents included in this section of the analysis, 64.4% said they might need a purpose-built retirement dwelling in 5+ years. An additional 20.3% said they might need such a dwelling within the next 5 years, and the remainder said that they might have a need within the next 2 years. 3 respondents chose to skip this question.

Question 9

What type of property would you prefer?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Flat	11.0%	19
Bungalow	60.5%	104
House (purpose-designed)	28.5%	49
Other (please specify)		31
<i>answered question</i>		172
<i>skipped question</i>		8

Of the 172 respondents who chose to answer this question, 60.5% said they would prefer a bungalow over a flat or purpose-designed house. An additional 28.5% said they would prefer a purpose-designed house and a further 11% would prefer a flat. 8 respondents chose to skip the question.

Respondents were given the option of specifying an alternative type of property. As indicated below, only a few verbatim comments were noted. The space was used primarily for the inputter (prefaced with Ed:) to indicate where people had circled more than one option. As this question did not provide the option to 'circle all that apply' the additionally circled options had to be accounted for somewhere. Therefore, please note that for each of the responses below, one option was entered into the system. In summary:

- *11 would like either a bungalow or a house (house entered above)*
- *11 would like either a flat or a bungalow (bungalow entered above)*
- *5 would like any of the three stated options (house entered above)*
- *1 would prefer a small house or a flat (house entered above)*
- *Renovated period cottage (house entered above)*

The verbatim responses and editorial notations follow, as sorted by the independent analyst.

Other, please specify

1. Flat or bungalow
2. any of the above
3. Consider a bungalow with small outside patio or garden.
4. single storey with private courtyard
5. Renovated period cottage
6. Ed: Respondent circled Bungalow as well as house. Some Small garden/ pets allowed
7. Ed: Respondent circled Bungalow and house
8. Ed: Respondent circled Bungalow and house
9. Ed: Respondent circled Bungalow and house
10. Ed: Respondent circled Bungalow and house
11. Ed: Respondent circled Bungalow and house
12. Ed: Respondent circled Bungalow and house
13. Ed: Respondent circled Bungalow and house
14. Ed: Respondent circled Bungalow and house
15. Ed: Respondent circled Bungalow and house
16. Ed: Respondent circled Bungalow and house
17. Ed: Respondent circled Flat and bungalow
18. Ed: Respondent circled Flat and bungalow
19. Ed: Respondent circled Flat and bungalow
20. Ed: Respondent circled Flat and bungalow
21. Ed: Respondent circled Flat and bungalow
22. Ed: Respondent circled Flat and bungalow
23. Ed: Respondent circled Flat and bungalow
24. Ed: Respondent circled Flat and bungalow
25. Ed: Respondent circled Flat and bungalow
26. Ed: Respondent circled Flat and bungalow
27. Ed: Respondent would prefer either a flat or s house (purpose designed)
28. Ed: Respondent circled flat, bungalow and house (purpose-designed)
29. Ed: Respondent circled flat, bungalow and house (purpose-designed)
30. Ed: Respondent circled flat, bungalow and house (purpose-designed)

31.Ed: Respondent circled flat, bungalow and house (purpose-designed)

Question 10

What size property do you think you would require?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 bed	5.6%	10
2 bed	71.7%	129
3 bed	20.6%	37
4 bed	2.2%	4
Additional comments		15
<i>answered question</i>		180
<i>skipped question</i>		0

All 180 respondents answered this question. 71.7% thought they would require a two-bedroom property. 20.6% thought they would require a three-bedroom property, 5.6% thought they would require a one-bedroom property and the remaining 2.2% thought they would require a four-bedroom property.

As with Question 9, 15 respondents circled more than one option. In each case the inputter (prefaced with Ed:) entered the higher number of bedrooms as reflected in the numbers above.

Additional comments

1. Ed: Respondent circled both one and two bed
2. Ed: Respondent answered both 1 bed and 2 bed
3. Ed: Respondent answered both 1 bed and 2 bed
4. Ed: Respondent circled 1 and 2 bed
5. Ed: Respondent circled 1 and 2 bed
6. Ed: Respondent circled 1 and 2 bed
7. Ed: Respondent circled 1 and 2 bed
8. Ed: Respondent circled 2 and 3 bed
9. Ed: Respondent circled 2 and 3 bed
10. Ed: Respondent circled 2 and 3 bed
11. Ed: Respondent circled 2 and 3 bed
12. Ed: Respondent circled 2 and 3 bed
13. Ed: Respondent circled 2 and 3 bed
14. Ed: Respondent circled 3 and 4 bed
15. Ed: Respondent circled 3 and 4 bed

Question 11

If you were to move to a purpose-built retirement dwelling in Wedmore parish, what would be the maximum you would be prepared to spend?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than £200,000	17.3%	31
£200,000 to £350,000	52.5%	94
More than £350,000	12.3%	22
Not applicable, rental only	17.9%	32
Additional comments		8
answered question		179
skipped question		1

Of the 179 respondents who answered this question, 52.5% said they would be prepared to spend a maximum of £200,000 to £350,000. 17.3% of respondents said they would be prepared to spend less than £200,000 followed by 12.3% who would be prepared to spend more than £350,000. The remaining 17.5% said that it was not applicable to them, as they were prepared to rent only.

As with the two previous questions and, although the question clearly asked the respondents to indicate the maximum they would be prepared to spend, nonetheless, 8 respondents circled two different options. In each case, the inputter (prefaced with Ed:) ticked the higher price point which is reflected in the numbers above.

One respondent chose to skip this question.

Additional Comments

1. Ed: Respondent circled Less than £200,000 and £200,000 to £350,000
2. Ed: Respondent circled Less than £200,000 and £200,000 to £350,000
3. Ed: Respondent circled Less than £200,000 and £200,000 to £350,000
4. Ed: Respondent circled Less than £200,000 and More than £350,000
5. Ed: Respondent commented that less than £200,000 was preferable but that £200,000 to £350,000 was a realistic cost.
6. Ed: Respondent circled the More than £350,000 option but that it would probably be £200,000 to £350,000
7. Ed: Respondent circled £200,000 to £350,000 and More than £350,000 but that it depended on price of property at the time
8. Ed: Respondent circled the not applicable, rental only option and £200,000 to £350,000 (entered as Less than £200,000)

Question 12

How long have you lived in Wedmore parish?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 5 years	10.5%	18
5 - 15 years	29.2%	50
16 - 30 years	27.5%	47
30 years or more	32.7%	56
Additional comments		2
answered question		171
skipped question		9

Of the 171 respondents who answered this question, 32.7% of respondents said that they had lived in Wedmore parish for 30 years or more. An additional 29.2% said that they had lived in Wedmore parish from 5 to 15 years. Slightly fewer (27.5%) said that they had lived in Wedmore parish from 16 to 30 years and the remaining 10.5% less than 5 years.

Respondents were invited to make additional comments, but none were made. Below are two inputter comments (prefaced with Ed:) where respondents had circled two different options. In both cases, 30 years or more is what was entered into the system and reflected in the numbers above.

Nine respondents chose to skip this question.

Additional comments

1. Ed: Respondent circled both 30 years or more and 5-15 years
2. Ed: Respondent circled both 30 years or more and 5-15 years

Question 13

If you area answering on behalf of an elderly relative or couple, are they currently living in Wedmore parish?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	46.5%	20
No (if no, please answer Q14 below)	53.5%	23
answered question		43
skipped question		137

Of the 43 respondents who answered this question, 53.5% said that the person for whom they responding did not currently live in Wedmore parish.

137 respondents skipped this question.

Question 14

If the elderly relative you are answering on behalf of is not currently living within the parish of Wedmore, please state what connection they have with the parish (Circle all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Family connection	76.9%	10
Previous resident within the parish	7.7%	1
Living in neighbouring parish	7.7%	1
Work / have worked in the parish	7.7%	1
None	7.7%	1
Other (please specify)		2
<i>answered question</i>		13
<i>skipped question</i>		167

Of the 23 respondents who might have responded to this question (see 'No' responses to Question 13) only 13 chose to respond. Respondents were invited to circle all options which applied and 10 out of the 13 (76.9%) circled 'Family Connection.' Each of the other 4 options (including 'None') received one response. Respondents were invited to specify other connections. Their verbatim responses are as follows.

Other, please specify

1. Parish - Cheddar
2. Answering all questions myself

Question 15

Please use the space below if you wish to provide any additional comments...	
Answer Options	Response Count
	53
<i>answered question</i>	53
<i>skipped question</i>	271

All respondents, regardless of how they answered Question 5, were invited to provide additional comments. These responses have been grouped under headings identified by the independent analyst.

In Support

1. If such property were available elderly people would not have to leave the village - as is often the case at present.
2. There are a lot of bungalows in the village already to buy. What is probably lacking is purposed designed rental accommodation, but I have no idea what demand there is for this type of property - hopefully your survey will show this.
3. A much needed facility for the ageing village population but please note that not all of us would wish to buy at this late stage of our lives.
4. I feel this is a good answer for nice accommodation for many elderly people who are currently living in homes much too large and difficult to maintain but do not want to move from the area where they have established friendships and local

- interests. Perhaps a good idea would be to think of maybe a range of retirement 'villages' accommodation with a range of added facilities to cater for different needs in order to meet changing requirements and meeting a need to maintain some independence.
5. We are aware of at least three people who have moved to Wells, because of the lack of suitable accommodation in the Wedmore Parish. We would not wish this to happen to us.
 6. I have answered some of the questions possibly because I think it would be a very good thing to have more accommodation for elderly people in the village - especially flats or sheltered housing or a good nursing home.
 7. 1). Elderly long time Wedmore Parish residents should be provided for within the parish because to move away from known places & people at an old age is detrimental.
2). Buying ones own retirement home seems OK until you come to try it - the market is very small! This causes problems when, say, sale proceeds are needed to fund Residential Care.
 8. We have seen some really lovely private retirement dwellings in Wells. They look really nice and are blending in well.
 9. Excellent idea to build such homes. Yes please!
 10. Depending on my future needs i.e. needing help to care for some things due to illness. A village similar to St Monica's Trust in Bristol, 'The Beeches', Westbury Fields, Westbury-on-Trim. The trust now have 3 villages, 'The Beeches', Bedminster Clifton and at Sandford. I would certainly be interested in a similar project.
 11. My husband was born and lived in the parish of Christ Church, Theale, since 1945. He would find it very difficult to have to move out of this area in fact such a move would probably cause his mental health issues, which, at present, are manageable, to be exacerbated.
 12. I was born, brought up and lived in the parish all my life and would definitely be looking to retire here also, although not for a good 10+ years yet.
 13. I believe it is important to provide viable alternatives for living accommodation for the elderly and whilst I'm not personally interested - who knows what the future might bring!
 14. A very good idea to presuppose the necessity. Any flats should have a lift
 15. Everybody in Wedmore knows we need this, but parish councillors keep turning it down! Maybe this time they'll listen!
 16. We keep being asked about whether we want this, and we keep saying "yes, please!". When will you stop doing surveys, and start building the houses we need?
 17. I have lived in Wedmore for 23 years & I would very much like to continue to do so, preferably in a bungalow, as I am at present & have done for over fifty years. My answers to Question 11, is dependant on being able to sell property I am now occupying. I do think Wedmore needs affordable retirement purpose-built dwellings both houses and bungalows.
 18. In Wedmore there are large houses with big gardens occupied by only one person who has lost a partner, or by an elderly couple. These dwellings would be ideal family houses. There is nowhere to downsize in the village and people have to move away - away from friends & clubs & organisations to which they belong. As these friends are elderly themselves they cannot drive to assist each other. It would be really good to have suitable accommodation locally.
 19. Having started to fill in this form I realised it is not really relevant to myself as I already live in a bungalow in the centre of Wedmore. However I do think there could be a need for some suitable old peoples accommodation as it would tend to

centralise people with needs for some form of support; thus making the support teams more economical and efficient in the long run by reducing travelling time.

Suggestions

20. Suggest that efficient small roomed. Parking or garage for 1 vehicle property, with accent on low maintenance and council tax banding.
21. If I were to be lucky enough, as I am 95% of my waking hours in a wheelchair I would need wider doors & lowered kitchen units, plus a "wet room".
22. A small private garden and garage would be essential.
23. Small garden to grow a few vegetables.
24. Ideally I would like a small garden - this would be important to me.
25. The properties should be low maintenance and energy efficient; simple, easy to live in and warm. Outdoor space would be ideal and enough room to grow some veg, or nearby allotments.
26. The dwelling should not be too small. The dwelling should have a small but private garden which should be level ground & easily maintained. There should be an age limit - say over 50s or 60s & no children. Attention to insulation etc. High specification of building materials and internal fixtures and fittings. Consideration given to possible resident being disabled ie doors wide enough to take a wheelchair - much easier to design and build from scratch than to remodel at a later date - also design of bathroom with same thoughts in mind ie big enough to get a wheelchair into and turn round in.
27. Proximity to shops (easy walking distance) is most important. Parking for residents and visitors is also important.
28. I would only want retirement housing to be built, if it was use for local people i.e. Wedmore, Blackford and Theale

Personal circumstances

29. The exact type and size of property would depend on design and my physical fitness at the time - at present good.
30. Answers dependent upon personal fitness and availability of home deliveries and care services.
31. I have lived in Wedmore Parish for 10 years and for 40 years before that in the neighbouring parish of Chapel Allerton. I realise that I am more likely to be allocated a one-bedroom property but my eldest daughter stays with me once or twice a week to help with housework and shopping and it would be easier to have two bedrooms
32. My wife and I are nearly 80 years old, and we feel that we would like a bungalow, as we find the stairs hard going. I have a piece of land next to where we live that did have a cottage on it (now gone) but people have lived on the site in a "mobile home" since 1940. I am trying to find out if I can have a bungalow built on this site for ourselves? If you can help in any way we would be very thankful.

Young people should be considered

33. Wedmore has already an in balance between young & old. We should be addressing how to keep/attract younger people to the village. Purpose built accommodation for the elderly will attract even more old people to live here. Please focus on the priority to help younger people live here. Thank you.
34. Although it would be great to have retirement dwellings and I'm sure they are needed, it is, perhaps, far more important to provide affordable housing for the young. We need to keep young blood in country areas and most cannot afford high housing costs.
35. We need more houses under £250,000 for young people to buy.

36. We think there are enough housing for older people in Wedmore they all retire and move to Wedmore, not allowing the younger people of the village and villages around Wedmore a chance to buy a house.
37. I think affordable housing for the younger generation is a far more pressing issue at this point in time & in the current economic climate.
38. More affordable houses should be built for local children to live in not houses that only better off people can afford.
39. Having lived in this area all my life, at my present address for 50 years. I think that affordable housing for young people to be able to stay in the area is much more important.

Other considerations

40. I think that it worth mentioning, not only affordable housing for the young and elderly, there is also the bracket of divorced couples who still wish to live in area, be it family or schools. Obviously, when a divorce is made equity split, so less money to buy a house, but desperately wishes to live in what they consider their home.
41. Building homes of £350,000+ will not be for the retired of Wedmore it will be for incomers with money, and will not FREE UP homes in Wedmore that are family homes with ? occupant in the evening of their years. It would not be worth the effort of moving. A ? of bungalows with warden supervision for people who can live by their selves with the assurance that someone will knock at the door one a day or enter with a pass key. At the moment I have good neighbours who look in if I have not been seen.
42. As with all "retirement" dwellings that I am aware of
 - (a) If a person needs CARE they cannot stay in retirement housing. Conversely, if they do not need this care there is no special need for them to go into 'retirement' housing anyway.
 - (b) The questionnaire needs to be more informative on just what "retirement" housing means.
43. While it is convenient for services, and probably a quieter environment to have all older peoples' housing on one site, it could also lead to isolation or a 'community apart'. Is it worth considering 'tacking' one or two properties on to other developments or 'in filling'?

No Need

44. There is quite a lot of specific retirement properties in Cheddar and lots of the elderly Wedmore residents use Cheddar to shop - perhaps some would prefer to move there if they had to move from their current home.
45. Wedmore needs retirement housing like Turkeys need Christmas! It is a vibrant and wealthy community and littering the place with cheap council sponsored housing would detract from its status. If the elderly need to live in retirement housing, put them in Bristol or Weston. I also think that this survey contains questions designed to elicit positive responses, rather than a balanced set of responses.

Miscellaneous

46. No interest in Wedmore (para 5)
Possible interest in converting farm building in Parish of Wedmore
47. I would rather live closer to our 'church' in Wells - because of transport - though I have two children who would provide accommodation. Thank you.
48. I am only just 60 and still working at moment circumstances would not be appropriate for retirement housing but circumstances might change??

49. Question 11 could be B depending upon property value prior to move.
50. With apologies for the long delay - if you have any further questionnaires we will be more prompt
51. I am on the housing list for a pensioner's house or flat. However I am hoping in June 2010 to move into a 1 bedroom apartment in No1 Elmsett Hall, Glanville Road, Wedmore. Will you please remove my name from your housing list?
Thank you.
52. Respondent only sent back 1st page of survey.
53. Will you be publishing the responses to this survey in full?
Other surveys seem to be repeated in terms of broad conclusions rather than more precise details.

Question 16

Please provide your contact details		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Name:	100.0%	166
Address 1:	97.0%	161
Address 2:	74.7%	124
Town:	96.4%	160
Post Code	97.0%	161
Email Address:	42.8%	71
Phone Number:	84.9%	141
	<i>answered question</i>	166
	<i>skipped question</i>	158

See separate excel spreadsheet for contact details.