

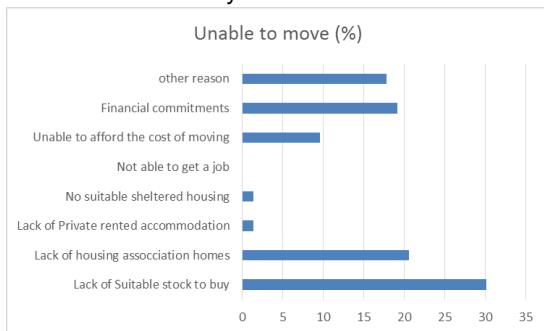
Our Alcester

Working together

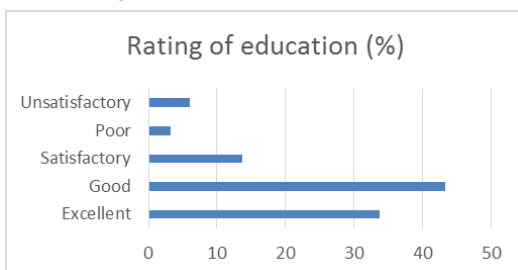
Alcester Town Plan 2015

Many thanks to those who completed the questionnaire delivered with the last newsletter, we received almost 500 replies and almost 300 entries into the £200 prize draw, the winning entry was selected using a random number generator (details of which are available from the clerk). All entries have been analysed in the strictest of confidence by ATC staff.

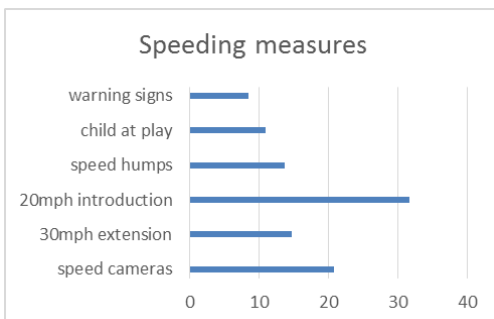
Of the residents who responded, the vast majority were happy in their home and not looking for alternative accommodation. Of those who answered if they were to move, over 80% responded to say they would like another property in Alcester. There were varied reasons for these residents being unable to move to the house they wanted, but the most common response was the lack of suitable stock to buy.



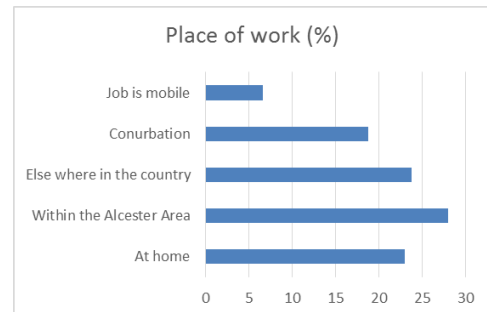
Residents were generally happy with the Education provision currently being offered in Alcester, although as seen in later questions many have concerns about the provision once there is further housing in the town.



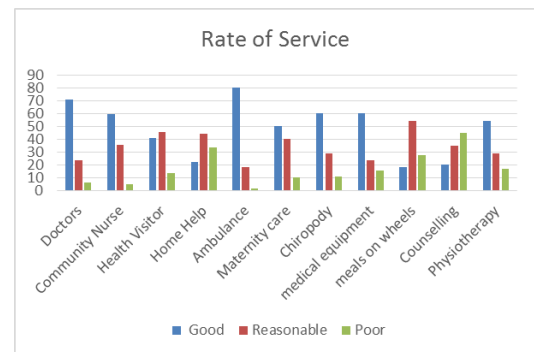
Nearly half of respondents thought there was a speeding problem in Alcester and would welcome measures to improve safety, in particular the 20mph zone, which is due to be introduced to the town soon.



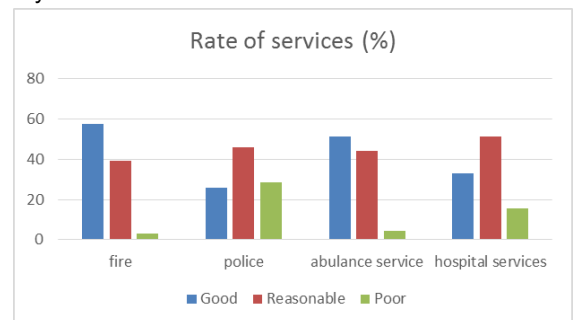
There was a good proportion of the respondents to the questionnaire who were retired, however of those who were working, the majority were within the Alcester area (almost 30%). At home and elsewhere in the country were the next most common answers. The vast majority of those in work used their car as their means of transport, however there were a number of people who commented that access to transport was a barrier preventing them from getting to possible employment.



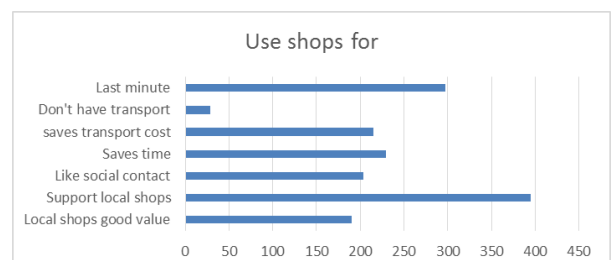
Of those who responded that had used various health services recently, most were satisfied with the service that they had received.



Just over a quarter of residents felt that there were still areas of Alcester where they felt unsafe, in particular during the hours of darkness. Vandalism and theft were the crimes most noted as being of concern to residents, although drug use in the town was also mentioned as an additional concern. The lack of police presence in the town was noted as a concern and was reflected in the way the services were rated.



The majority of residents responded to say they did use the local shops for various reasons, but most notably to support the local retailers.



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Alcester Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANDP)

Residents generally agreed with the identified issues, proposed aims and vision for the Neighbourhood Plan document, with a few additional items for consideration to be included such as traffic issues and traffic safety in the town, accessible facilities for all ages and abilities, and keeping the town the safe and rural town everyone admires.

Resident's responses to the questions about the Town Centre showed that many residents would like to see a good variety of shops back on the High Street as well as other services lost from the town.

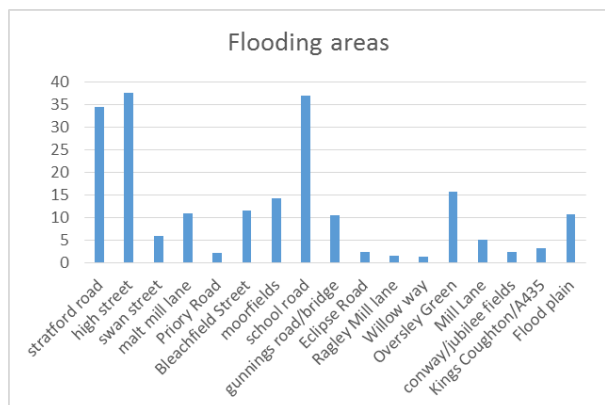
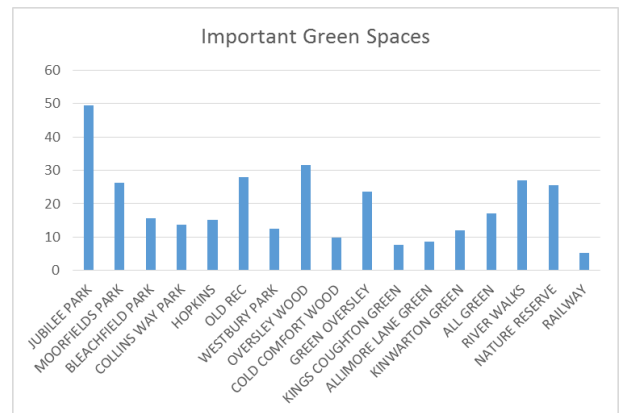


When asked about parking for the town centre, respondents were divided, with over half strongly agreed or agreed that it was satisfactory but over a quarter disagreeing or strongly disagreeing (the rest of neither opinion). Of those who commented about what could be done to improve the provision of car parking in the town centre, over half wanted more parking and or a temporary additional car park for events and festivals in the town, however there was no clear location of where this could be situated. A small percentage commented that there was enough spaces to remain as it is now. It was also mentioned to consider a park and ride facility for the town and surrounding areas and a coach park for visitors. Many commented to say that whatever parking there would be it should remain free of charge, with a small proportion who thought there should be a time limit on current parking, especially in the High Street, or pedestrianising of certain areas.

The issue of the housing allocation for Alcester is still a concern for some people in the town, therefore when asked if any new development should include affordable homes as well as family homes the responses were varied between those agreeing the town needed more affordable and family homes and those who did not wish to see any new development of any sort. However generally respondents agreed that the quality of design, the historic environment and the green belt and landscape setting of Alcester was important in relation to any new development.

When asked if there was sufficient employment opportunities, respondents generally disagreed with this. In addition to more retail and services within the town, additional business and employment which respondents commented on being needed in the town included engineering, manufacturing, IT services and professional/administrative opportunities. It was also noted that there should be more opportunities given to young people wanting to get into skilled employment and for those wishing to start up a new business.

When asked which were the most important green spaces and natural places in and around Alcester the majority of respondents felt strongly enough to comment showing a strong feeling about keeping the green/natural spaces for Alcester. The larger playing fields as well as the areas to walk were the most commonly mentioned areas.



For those who were living in Alcester during the times of flooding, this is still a concern. The majority of respondents commented on the areas which have flooded in the past, only a small percentage commented that the recent instalment of the 'big tank' flood defence meant that there had been no flooding recently and that they expected this to be the case. Surface water, in particular in Kings Coughton along the A435, was an apparent concern for a number of people in relation to flooding.

Community & Recreational Facilities were features that divided respondents. Just less than half agreed the facilities

were enough but a similar number disagreed (the rest of neither opinion). When asked what other facilities should be provided or which existing facilities should be improved, of the comments received the Greig hall and sports centre featured quite highly in the responses, 64% wanted to see the Greig Hall back in use for the Community and the Greig Sports facilities to continue being available for the community (in addition to those who wanted to see improvements to the sports and fitness facilities available in the town). Just over half commented that they wanted to see a public Swimming pool in the town for the community to use.

