

Kersey People and Place Plan

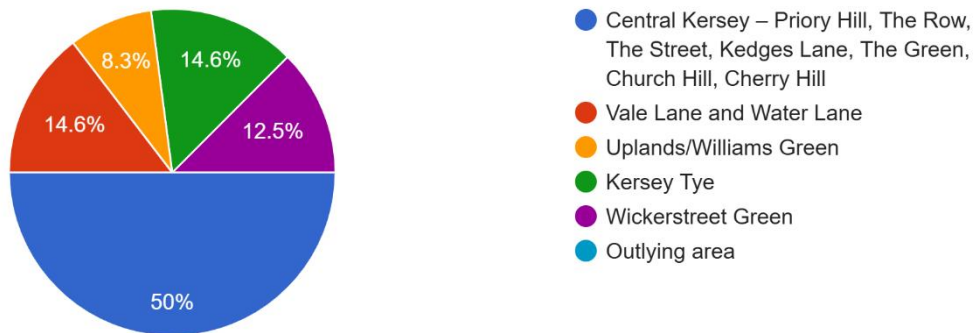
March 2025 Kersey Residents Parish Survey Responses

49 households responded out of 171 residential properties in Kersey including weekend homes and part time holiday lets. 25 responded on paper, 24 online. A return rate of 29%.
(Anything above 30% is considered excellent, so Kersey residents did well.)

Household statistics of respondents

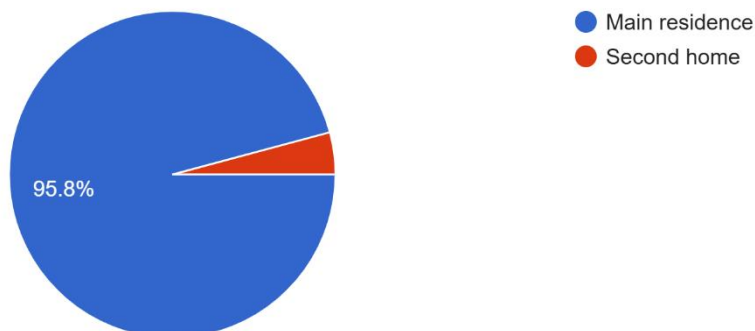
Which area of Kersey do you live in?

48 responses

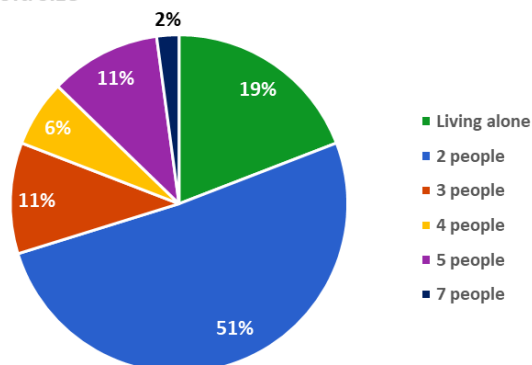


What is your relationship with Kersey?

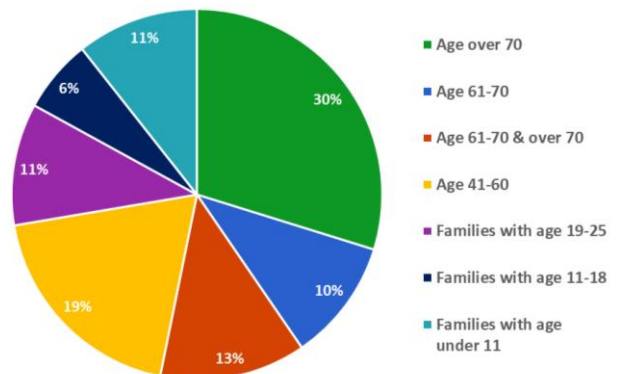
48 responses



Household size



Household age profiles

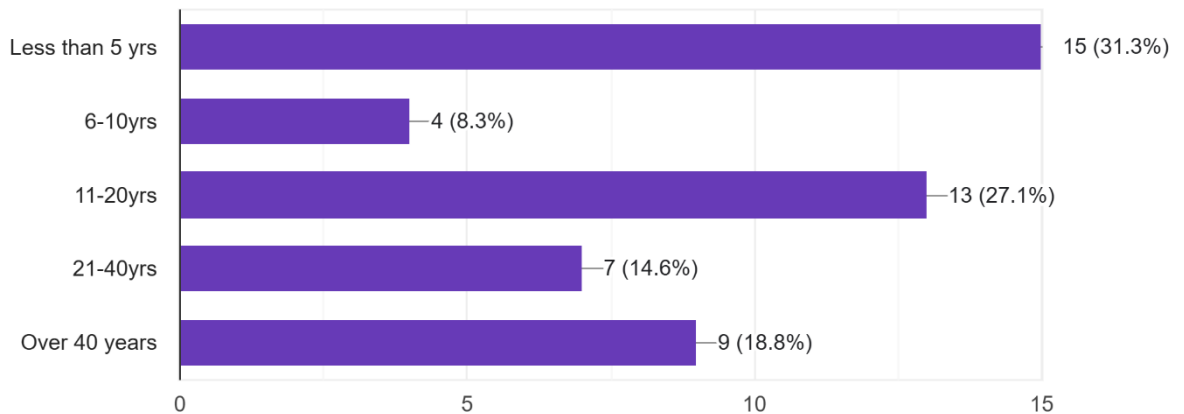


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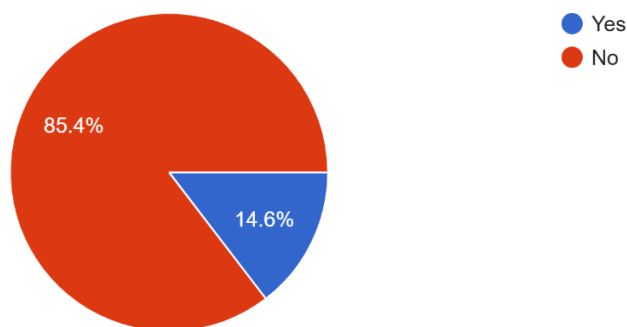
How long have you lived in Kersey?

48 responses



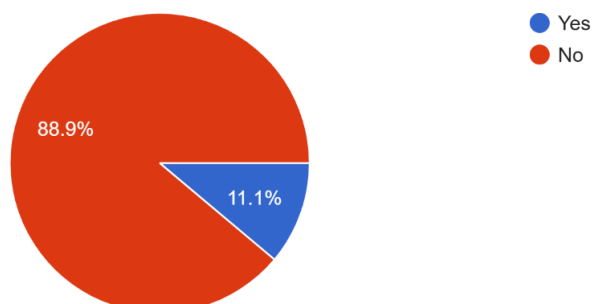
Do you anticipate any members of your household needing a new home in Kersey in the next 5 years?

48 responses



Do you know anyone not currently living in Kersey, who has links to Kersey, who would like or needs to have a home in Kersey?

45 responses



If yes, what type of home:

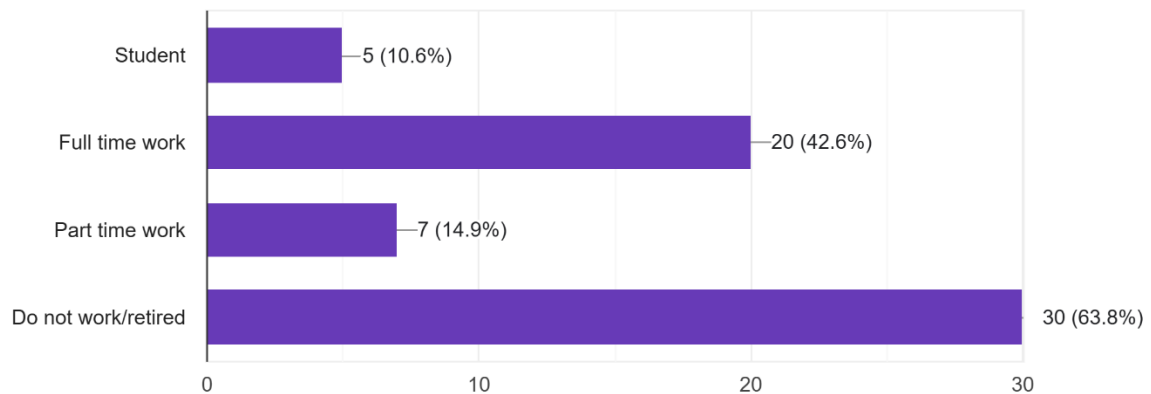
5 responses: 4 bed house, permanent home, family home, 2 or 3 bed house, family home

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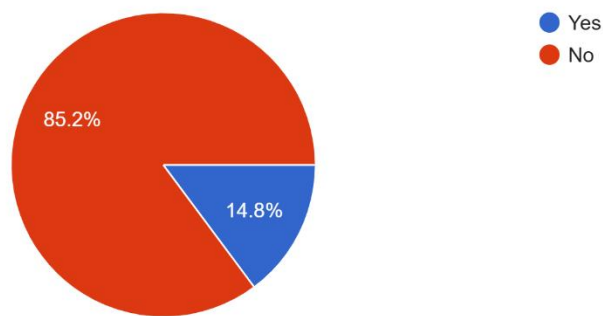
Your occupation? (please tick boxes that apply to each household member)

47 responses



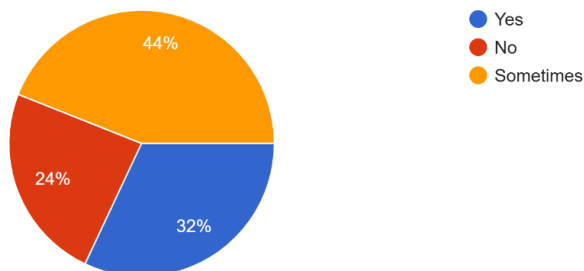
If you are working, are you employed in a Kersey based business?

27 responses



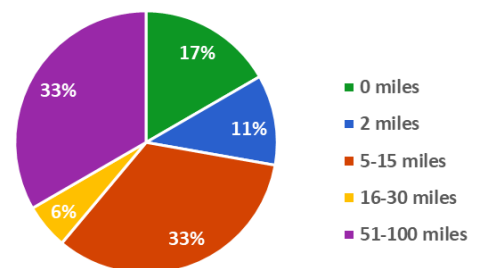
If you are working, do you work from home?

25 responses



Distance travelled to work

20 responses

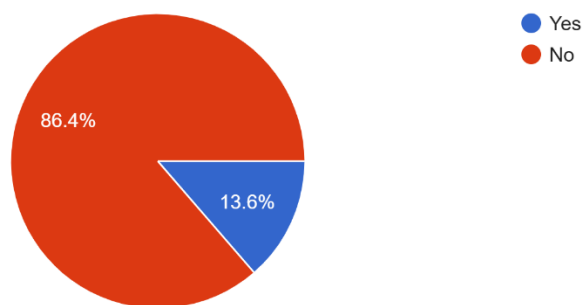


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Do you run a business in Kersey?

44 responses

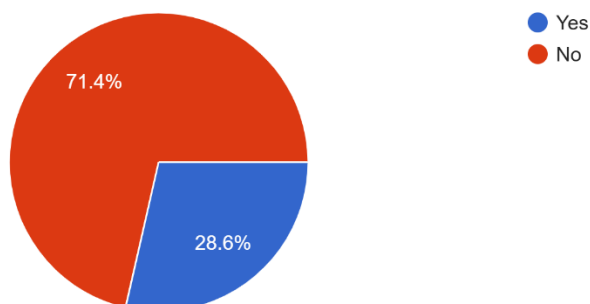


If yes, what type of business:

Handyman/builder maintenance, psychotherapy/HR, Agriculture x 3, Investment consulting, Business in Hadleigh x 1

If yes, do you employ local people in your business?

14 responses



If yes, how many?

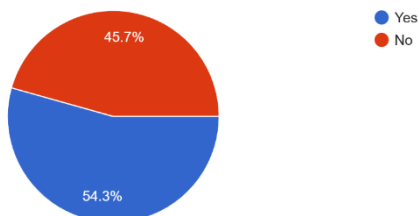
2x 2 people, 1x4 people, 1x 18 people

Is there any support Kersey could provide to your business?

No x 3. Look after footpaths x 2. Housing for lower paid. Better mobile signal & broadband.

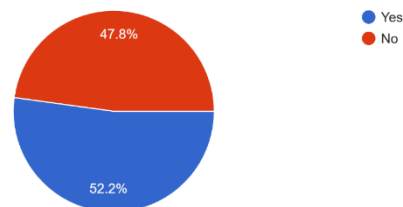
Are you happy with the mobile phone reception inside your home in Kersey?

46 responses



Are you happy with the mobile phone reception in Kersey in outdoor areas?

46 responses



Mobile internet speeds:

21 responses

Central Kersey: no reception x 3, sometimes bad x 1, 15-20mbps x 2, 21-29mbps x 2, 30-50mbps x 3, 500mbps x 1

Vale Lane: 22mbps x 1, OK x 1,

Uplands: 60mbps x 1

Wickerstreet Green: use wifi calling in house as no reception in or out x2

Kersey Tye: none indoor and poor out x 1, 13mbps x 1, 33mbps x 1, 46mbps x 1

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What do you like best about living in Kersey

48 responses

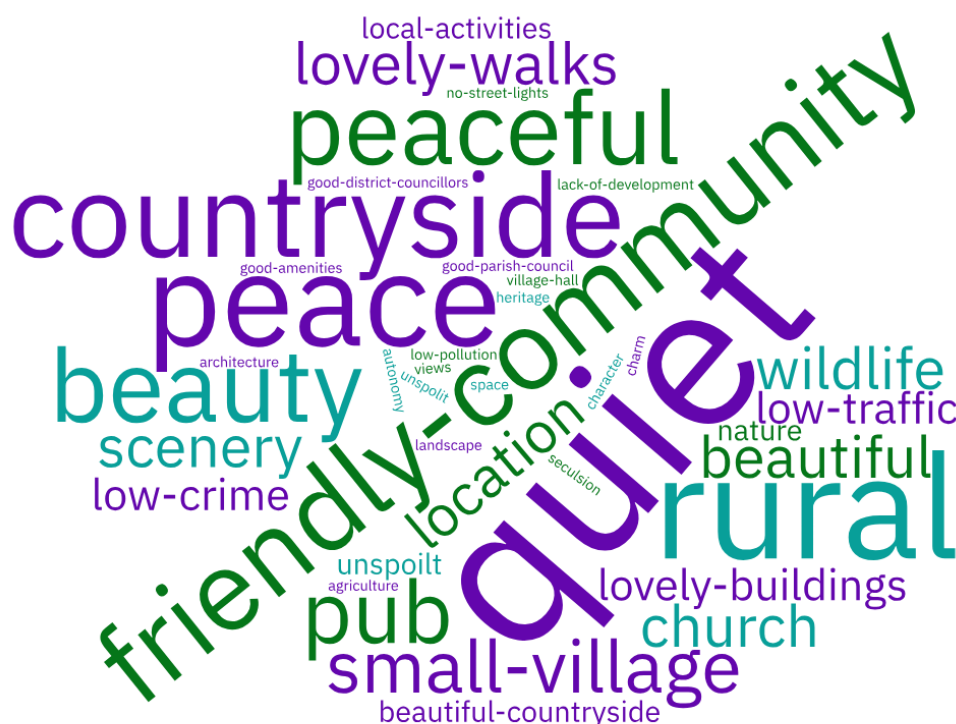
Residents treasure the tranquil rural lifestyle, natural beauty, and friendly community. There's a desire to preserve the peace, heritage, and environmental integrity of the parish, along with its low-crime, unpolluted, and undeveloped character.

Top themes, ranked by how often mentioned

1. Peace and quiet
2. Friendly community
3. Countryside and rural character
4. Natural beauty
5. Wildlife and nature
6. Low levels of disturbance
7. Local features and heritage
8. Local governance and amenities

Key Highlights

- Peace and quiet is overwhelmingly the most appreciated aspect — including lack of traffic, street lights, and noise.
- The natural environment is central - people deeply value the rural character, scenery, wildlife, and footpaths.
- A strong sense of community stands out — residents describe neighbours as kind, helpful, and supportive.
- Many express appreciation for the heritage buildings, historic feel, and unspoilt charm of the village.
- Amenities like the pub, church, and village hall add to the social and cultural value of the area.



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Scores for how households rate the amenities and facilities for Kersey

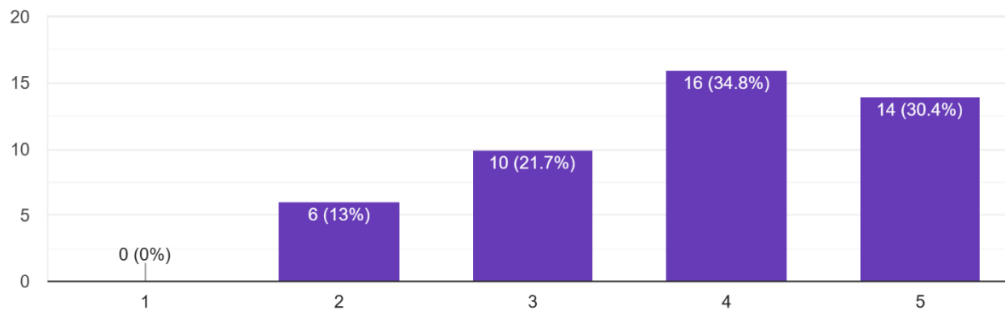
A text summary of the below bar chart data follows this section.

As a household, please rate how you value each of the below for Kersey:

Using the scale 1=not at all, 2=a little, 3=moderately, 4=a lot, 5=a create deal

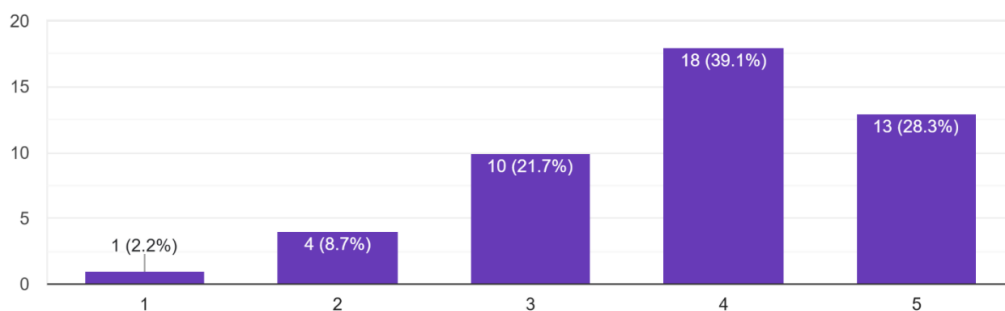
Community events

46 responses



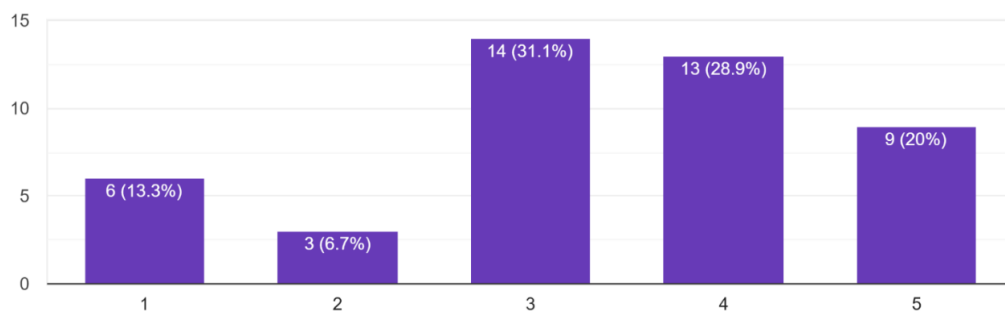
Kersey Village Hall

46 responses



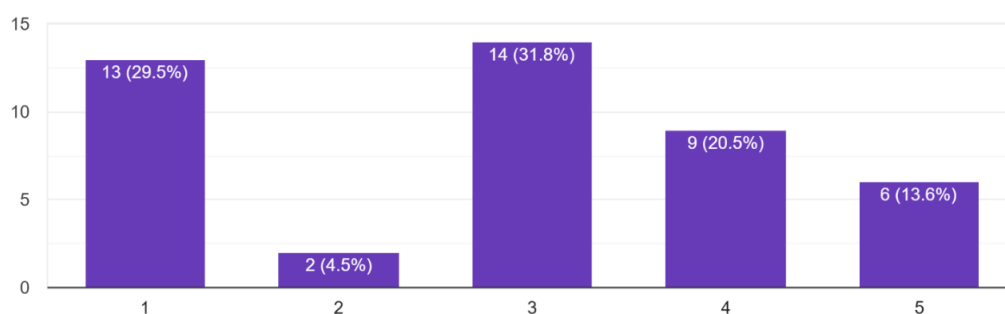
Kersey playground and recreational facilities

45 responses



Nightingale Trust allotments in Kersey

44 responses

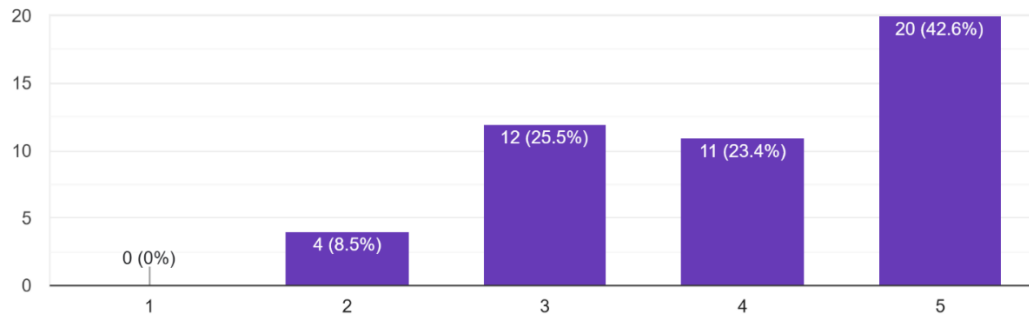


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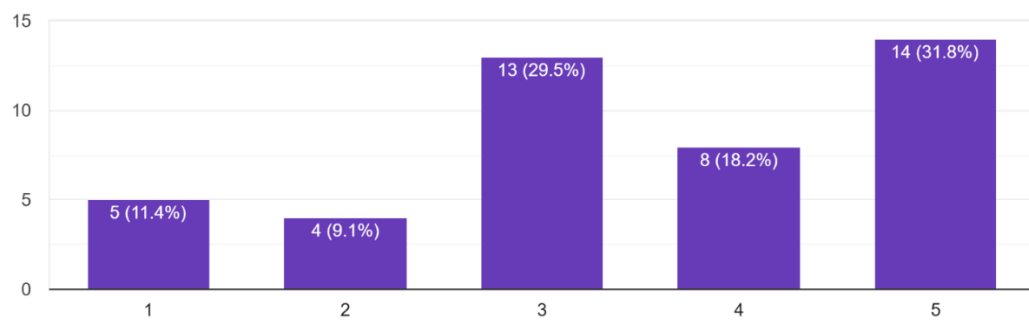
St Mary's Church

47 responses



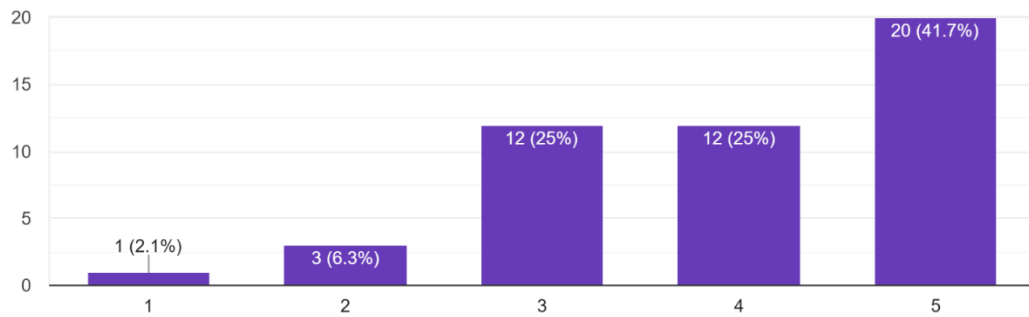
Kersey Primary School

44 responses



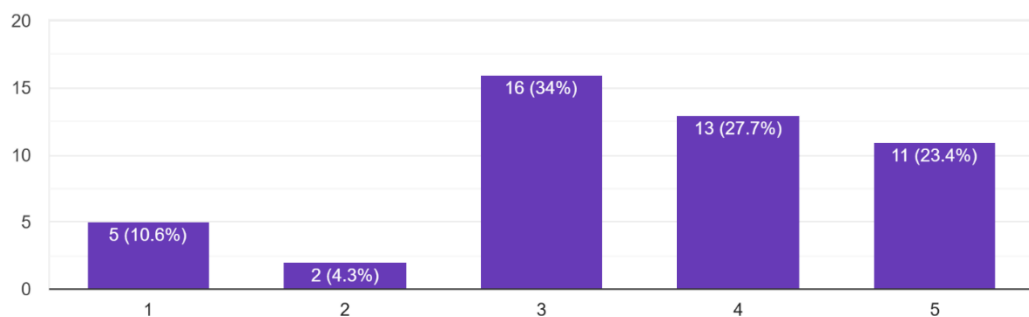
The Bell Inn

48 responses



Kersey Mill and businesses based there

47 responses

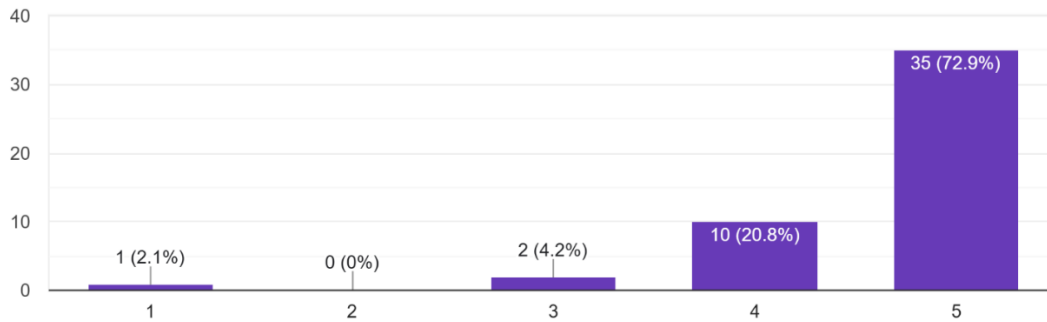


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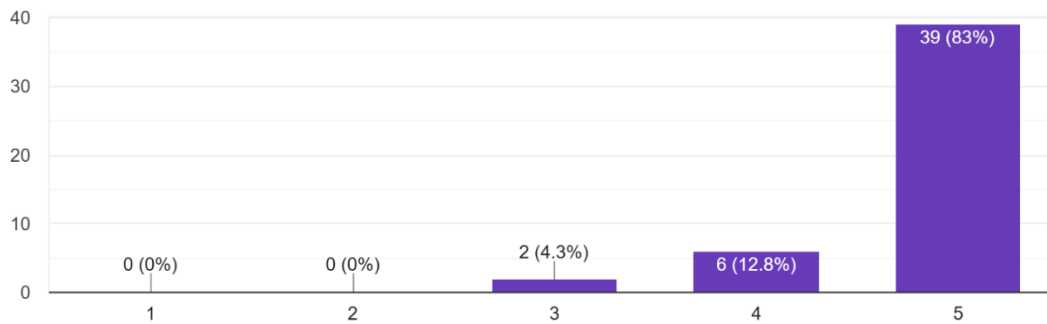
Local footpaths

48 responses



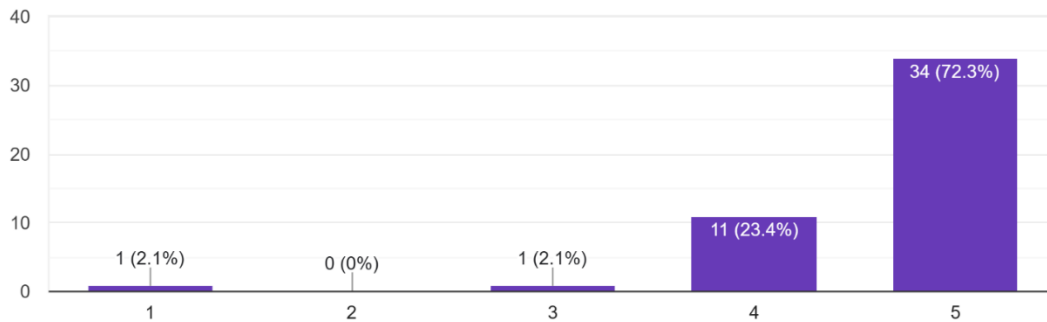
Visual character of the parish

47 responses



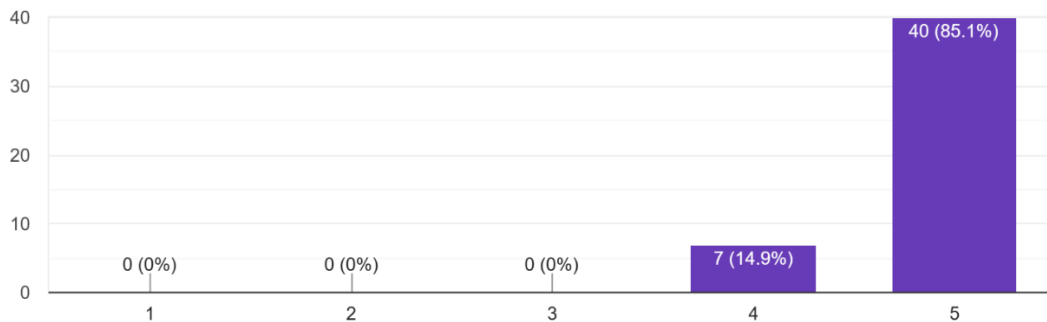
The Splash

47 responses



Rural atmosphere

47 responses

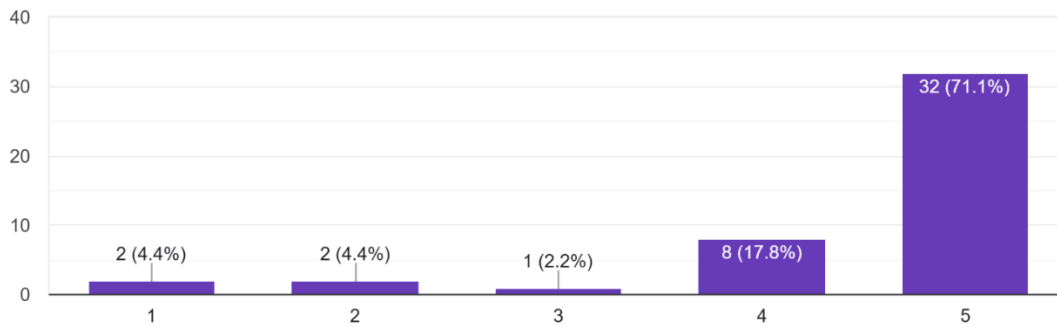


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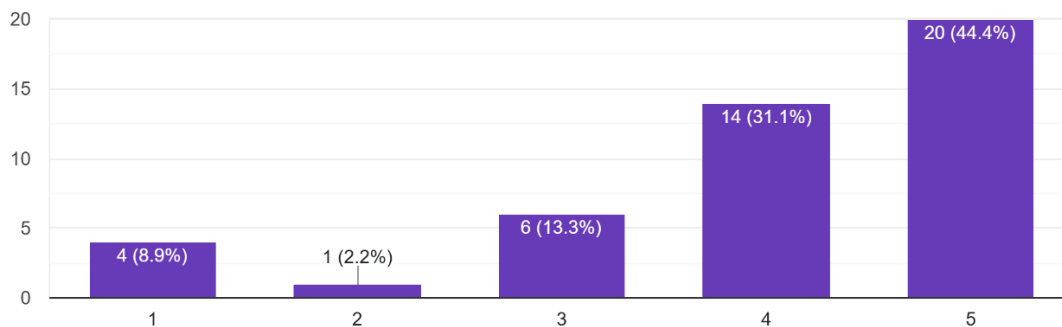
Access to Hadleigh and local services

45 responses



Access to Ipswich/Colchester/ Sudbury/Bury St Edmunds

45 responses



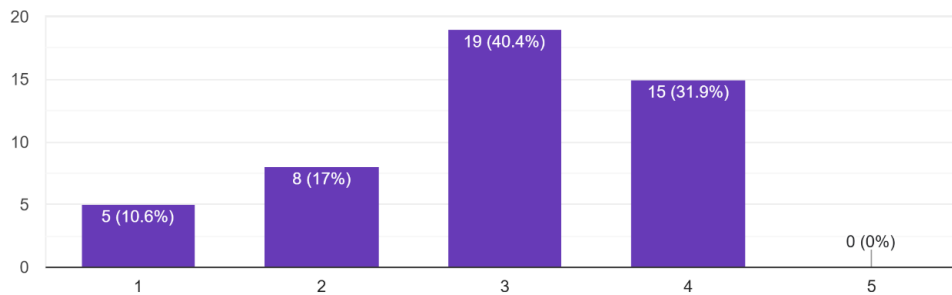
Anything else: Rail from Ipswich, Colchester and Manningtree one response 4 out of 5
Access to Bildeston Health Centre one response 4 out of 5

Which of the existing amenities/facilities do you or any of your household use/attend?

Using the scale 1=never, 2=rarely, 3=sometimes, 4=often, 5=not aware of

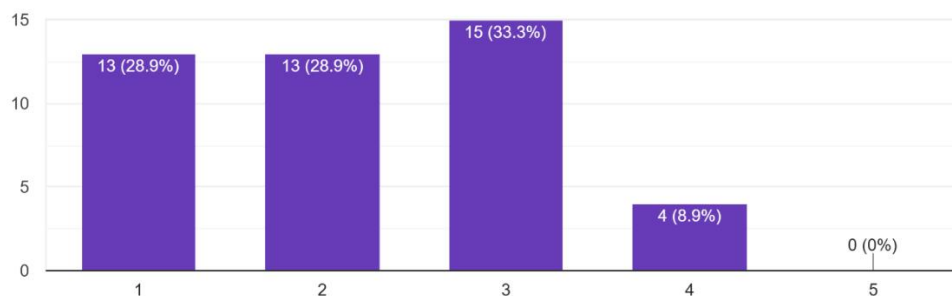
Kersey Village Hall

47 responses



Kersey playground and recreational facilities

45 responses

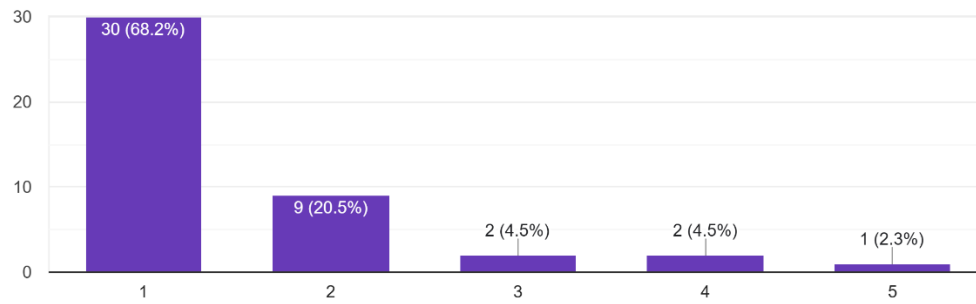


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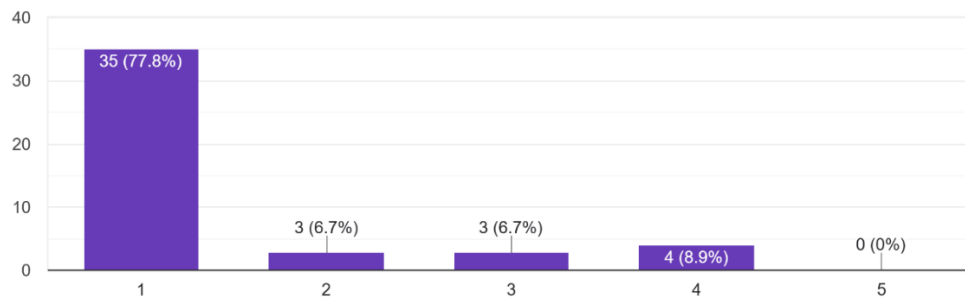
Nightingale Trust allotments in Kersey

44 responses



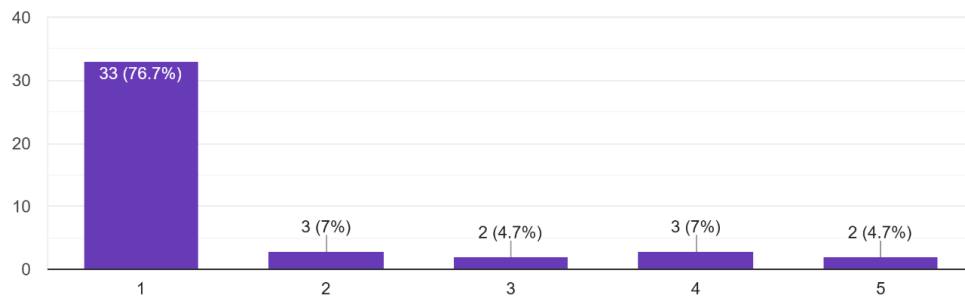
Bell Ringers

45 responses



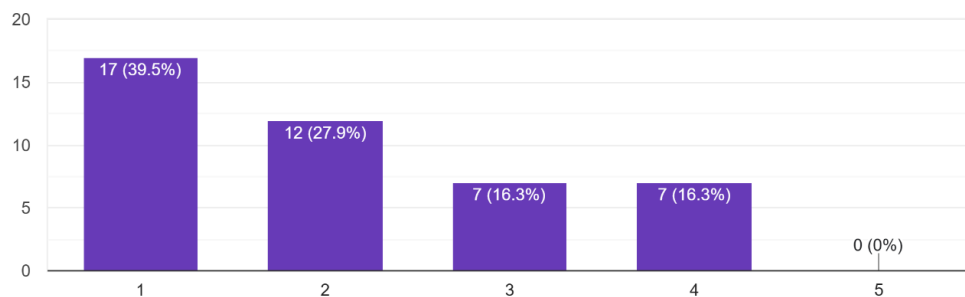
Forget-Me-Nots

43 responses



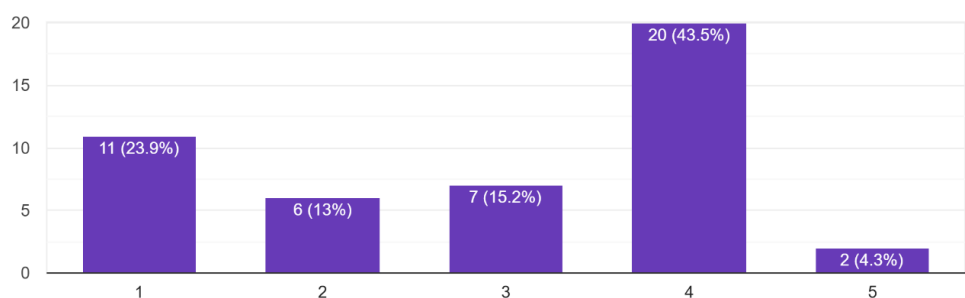
Friends of St Mary's Church

43 responses



Kersey Projects events

46 responses

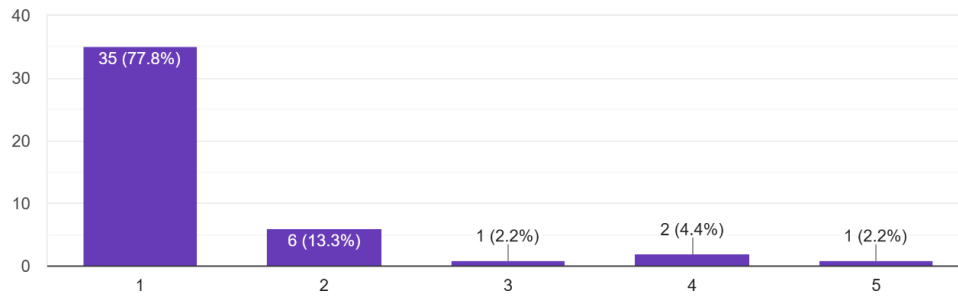


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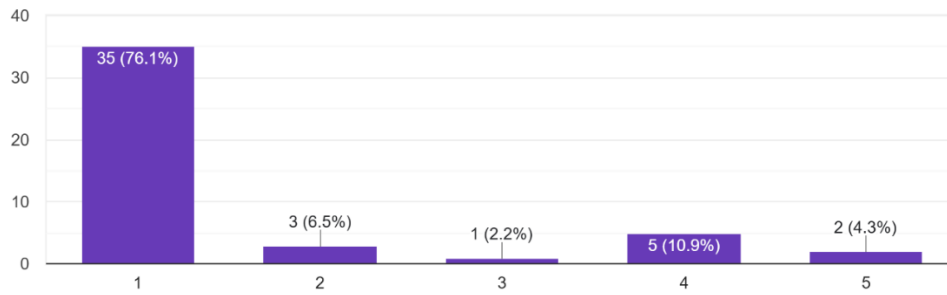
Table Tennis Club

45 responses



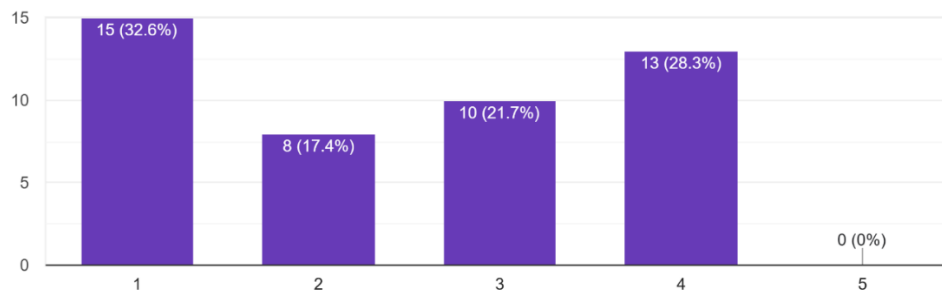
Tuesday Club

46 responses



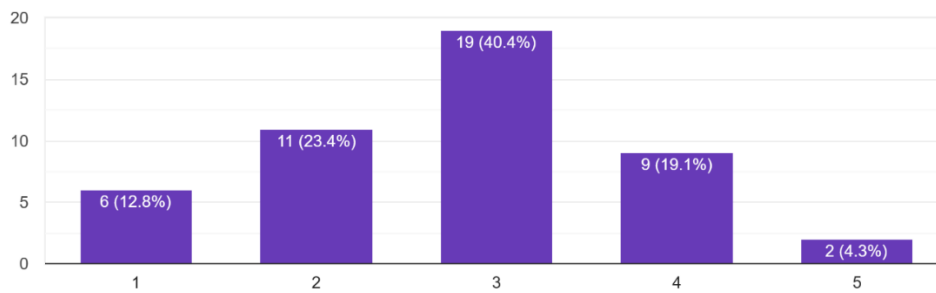
Village Produce Association

46 responses



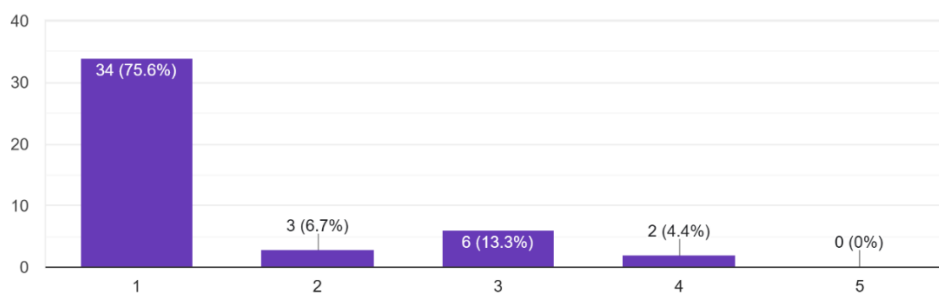
St Mary's Church

47 responses



Kersey Primary School

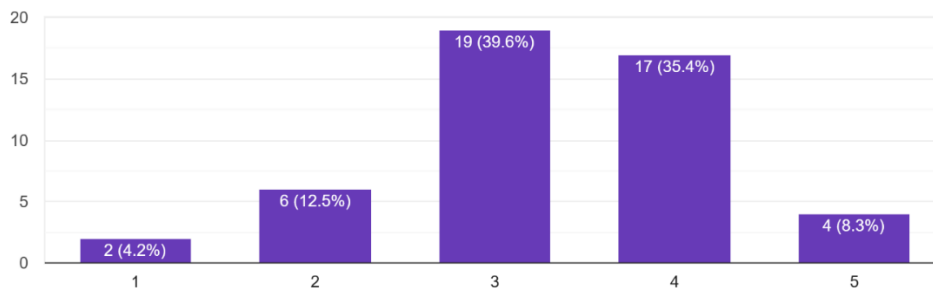
45 responses



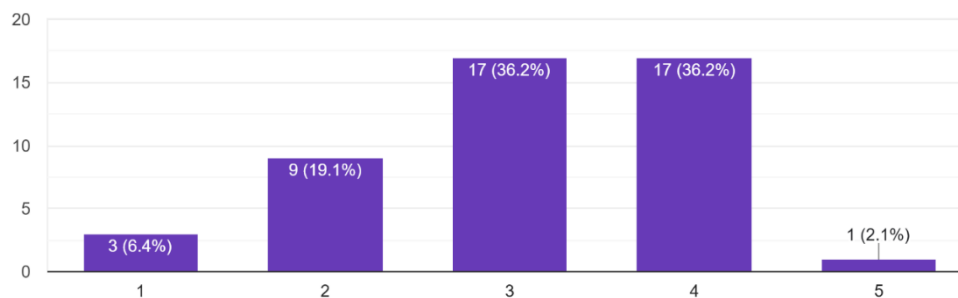
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The Bell Inn
48 responses



Facilities/businesses at Kersey Mill
47 responses



Summary of how much households value, use or attend Kersey facilities/amenities

Community life and events

Two-thirds of respondents (65%) said they highly value local community events, though actual attendance varies. While Kersey Projects enjoy regular support from 43% of respondents, only 11% attend the Forget-Me-Not social group, and over three-quarters had never been. Similarly, the Kersey Table Tennis Club seems to be off the radar for most, with just 4% attending regularly and 77% never taking part.

The Tuesday Club is another group which is poorly attended with only 10% of respondents attending often, 76% reported never going. Interestingly, 4% weren't even aware it existed.

The Village Produce Association enjoys broad awareness and popularity. Everyone knew about it, and half attend regularly. The Friends of St Mary's events are also relatively well attended, with over a third participating either sometimes or often. The Bell ringers, on the other hand, appear to be an acquired taste, 77% of respondents had never been involved.

Parish facilities and services

The Village Hall remains a central hub, with 67% valuing it highly and over 30% using it frequently. Everyone knew about it, and only 10% never make use of it.

St Mary's Church holds strong emotional and cultural value, with 42% valuing it a great deal. Nearly 60% attend services or events there at least occasionally.

While not everyone has a direct connection to Kersey Primary School, it remains a valued institution. 80% expressed moderate to strong appreciation, even though 75% never attend school events.

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Outdoor and recreational spaces

Kersey's green spaces are appreciated, the playground and recreation area is moderately to highly valued by 80% of respondents. That said, usage is mixed, only a third use it occasionally, while 28% never do.

The Nightingale Trust allotments are less popular. 29% don't value them, and more than two-thirds (68%) have never used them. Still, 65% expressed at least moderate appreciation for their existence.

Local businesses

The Bell pub is both well known and much valued. 91% of respondents valued it at least moderately, and 75% visit at least occasionally. Surprisingly 8% said they weren't aware of it.

Kersey Mill and the businesses based there were valued by 85% valuing it moderately or more, and nearly three-quarters making use of its facilities.

The landscape and access to other towns

Perhaps most treasured of all are Kersey's footpaths, visual charm, rural atmosphere, and The Splash, with over 70% of respondents placing the highest possible value on each. These defining features of the parish reflect the deep connection residents feel with their environment.

When it comes to getting beyond the village, access to Hadleigh and other local services is considered very important by 71%. Access to nearby towns like Ipswich, Colchester, Sudbury, and Bury St Edmunds is seen as less critical but still significant, with 44% placing a high value on it.

This survey data clearly shows that Kersey residents hold many of their parish amenities in high regard.

Are there any additional services/facilities you would like to see in Kersey?

- Community/village shop x 8
- Better transport/Local bus service x 7
- Better mobile phone signal x 2
- Social events to welcome people to the village x 1
- More playground equipment/better climbing frame x 1
- Tennis court x 1
- Outdoor padel court x 1
- Pickleball court x 1
- More off-street parking x1
- Provide walking tour audio guide app for visitors – needs historian to bring stories together.
- Later post collection x 1
- Post box at Kersey Tye x 1
- Tea shop x 1
- Better footpath signage in centre of Kersey x 1

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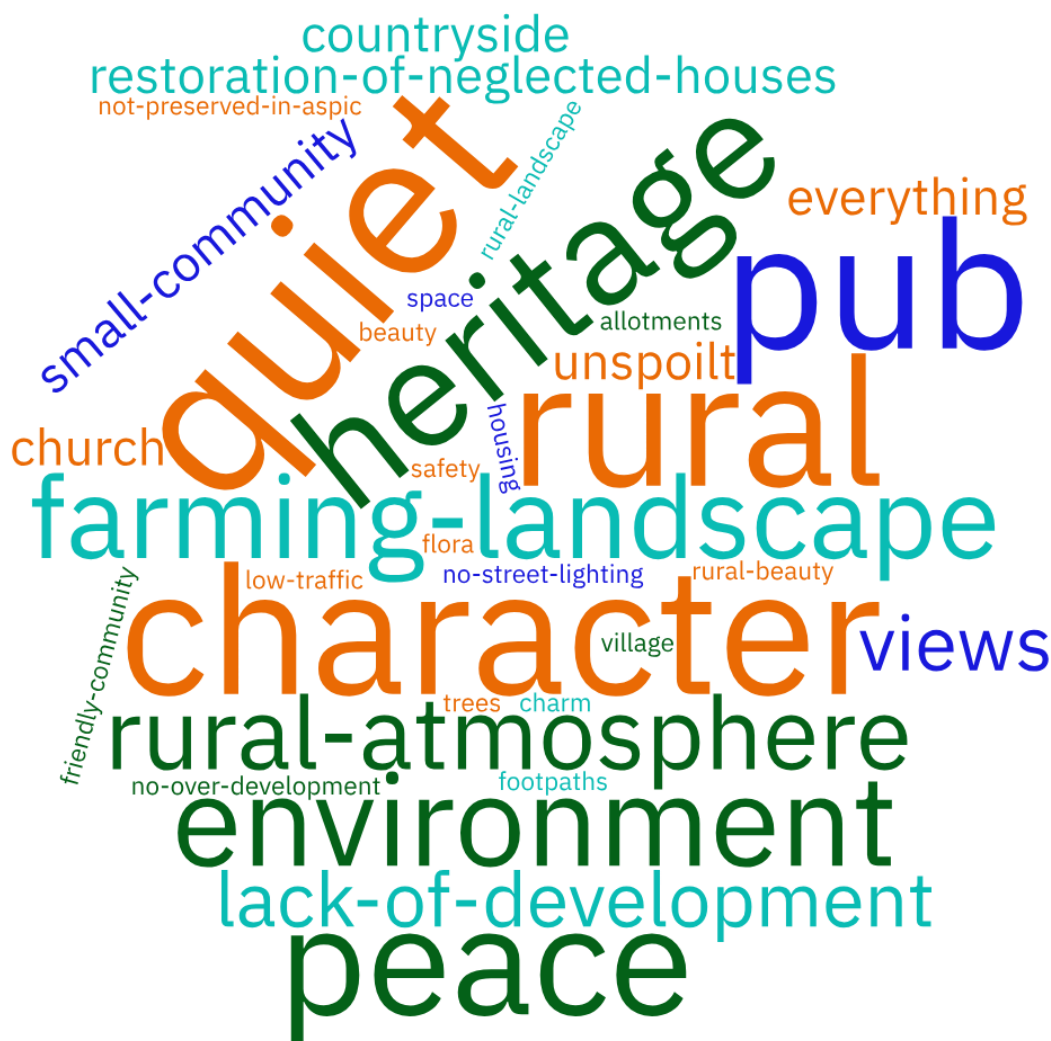
What would you most like to protect, living in Kersey?

46 responses

Residents overwhelmingly prioritise conservation over change, placing strong value on Kersey's historic charm, rural beauty, and peaceful lifestyle. There is clear concern that overdevelopment could erode the parish's distinct character. At the same time, many support the idea of respecting heritage while embracing gentle, thoughtful progress. Community landmarks, tranquillity, and the surrounding agricultural landscape are seen as central to Kersey's identity and long-term appeal.

Key Highlights

- A strong desire to preserve the rural atmosphere, farming landscape, and traditional layout of the parish.
- Respecting heritage while embracing gentle progress.
- Neglected and derelict houses are a concern.
- Peace, quiet, and a low level of development are crucial—residents express concerns over too much new housing.
- The pub, church, and allotments are seen as essential social and lifestyle features.
- There is value placed on visual aesthetics—including farm landscape views and heritage streetscapes.



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Please tell us what is 'most important' to you about Kersey?

44 responses

Residents deeply value Kersey's rural character, historic charm, and small, close-knit community. The peace, quiet, and lack of traffic are consistently appreciated, alongside the parish's unspoilt countryside, traditional layout, and heritage buildings.

The Bell pub, church, and local footpaths are seen as vital hubs of social and cultural life, helping foster community spirit and connection.

There is a strong preference for preserving the environment and resisting development that might compromise Kersey's unique atmosphere, visual character, and low crime rate. Residents express a desire for continuity, tranquillity, and respectful care of the village's built and natural heritage.



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What would make living in Kersey better for you?

36 responses

Overall, the responses reflect a desire to enhance day-to-day convenience and social life. Seek improvements in roads and infrastructure, and emphasise the importance of maintaining Kersey's peaceful, rural identity by limiting development and addressing environmental nuisances. There's also a push for a more vibrant and inclusive social life.

Infrastructure and services

- High demand for a local shop and post office, emphasizing convenience and local access.
- Better public transport links, especially to Hadleigh and surrounding areas.
- Safer infrastructure: off-road footpath/cycle path to Hadleigh.
- Better road maintenance and fewer potholes are a recurring theme.
- Parking is a concern — suggestions for less street parking and more off-street options.
- Improved mobile phone signal.

Community and social life

- Friendlier more welcoming pub, focused more on local needs - eg pub grub vs. fine dining.
- Calls for more social events and opportunities to join local groups.
- Desire for greater age diversity and more younger families in the parish.

Preservation concerns

- Resistance to over development from new housing in back gardens.
- Mention of controlling holiday lets and speeding near the pub.
- Environmental concerns include less fly-tipping and better bird scarer practices.



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How do you think we can better support the environment and biodiversity in and around Kersey?

25 responses

Residents strongly value conservation, sustainability, and maintaining rural character. There's a desire to enhance natural habitats, curb overdevelopment, and ensure the parish remains clean, green, and tranquil. All while supporting local farmers and exploring sustainable energy and transport solutions.

Environmental stewardship

- Strong focus on protecting wildlife. Suggestions include creating untended, wildlife areas, bird boxes, bee hives, wildflower planting, and wildlife-friendly gardens. Introducing street trees.
- Concerns about hedge maintenance, clearing ditches, and wider field margins to support biodiversity and prevent flooding.

Development and housing

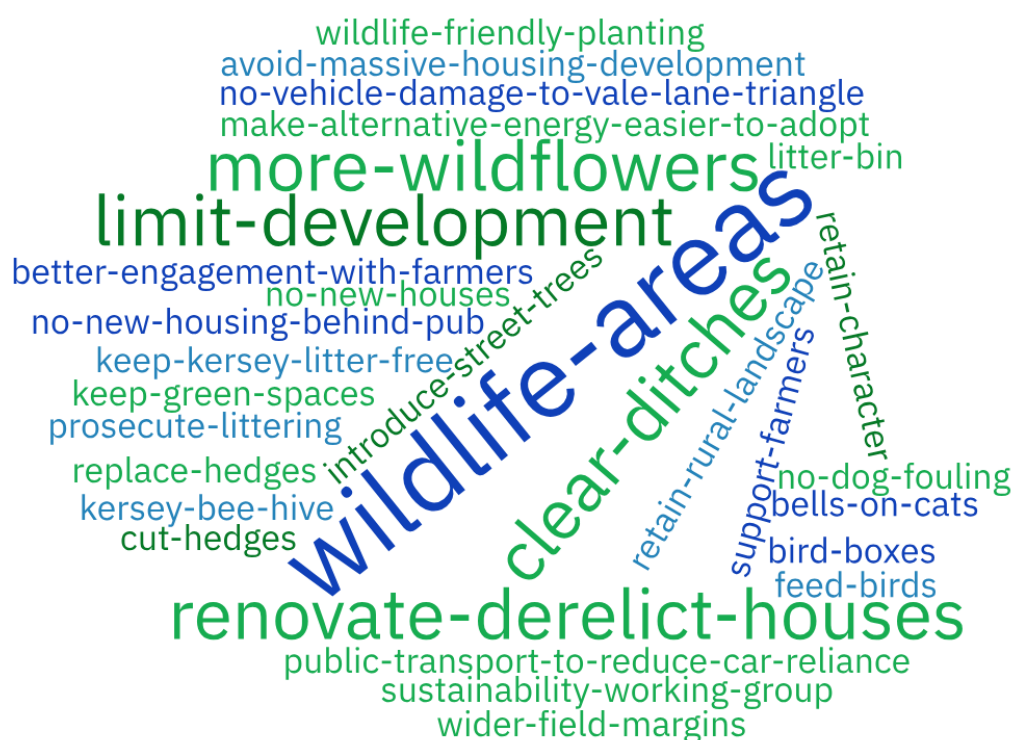
- Limit housing development to protect green space and maintain historical character in centre of Kersey.
- Preference to renovate existing derelict properties instead of building new ones.

Cleanliness and maintenance

- Prevent damage to green spaces, such as grass around the Oak tree at Vale Lane.
- Reduce littering and dog fouling, possibly with more bins and stricter enforcement.

Sustainable living

- Promote adoption of renewable energy such as easier access to solar or other systems.
- Reduced car reliance through public transport.
- Some concern about the impact of cats on birds and pet-related responsibilities.
- Create a sustainability group within the Parish or Parish Council.



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How could you be better supported to reduce your carbon footprint?

28 responses

Residents broadly support sustainability but feel planning restrictions, transport limitations, and lack of support for retrofitting historic buildings are key barriers.

The parish needs practical help, planning flexibility, and better infrastructure to move toward greener living thereby reducing the carbon footprint of residents.

Transport and mobility

- Improve public transport: frequent, reliable, and accessible bus services are needed to reduce car dependence.
- Promote walking and cycling: suggestions include creating a path along Stone Street to enable safer pedestrian and cycle access to Hadleigh.
- Reduce car reliance with community-led electric vehicle (EV) charging networks.

Renewable energy and heating

- Simplify planning rules to allow green technology installations, such as solar panels, heat pumps, battery storage, especially in listed and historic buildings.
- Encourage electrification: shift from oil/wood heating to solar and ground/air source heat pumps.
- Subsidies/grants to support residents to adopt solar panels, EVs, and energy-efficient systems.

Home energy efficiency

- Grants and tools such as heat surveys to detect where homes are losing heat.
- Insulation support, especially for older homes (eg Tudor houses) that are difficult to insulate.
- Flexibility on regulations. Allow discreet or sympathetic use of double glazing and solar tech in conservation areas.

Waste and environment

- Introduce food waste bins and promote council food scrap collection.
- Encourage nature-friendly gardens and provide local tree grants.

Community attitudes

- Several residents feel they are already doing their best or are self-sufficient with solar and sustainable practices.
- Some expressed frustration with constraints around heritage protections that limit green upgrades.
- One or two responses expressed scepticism or felt the question was unnecessary ("ridiculous question").

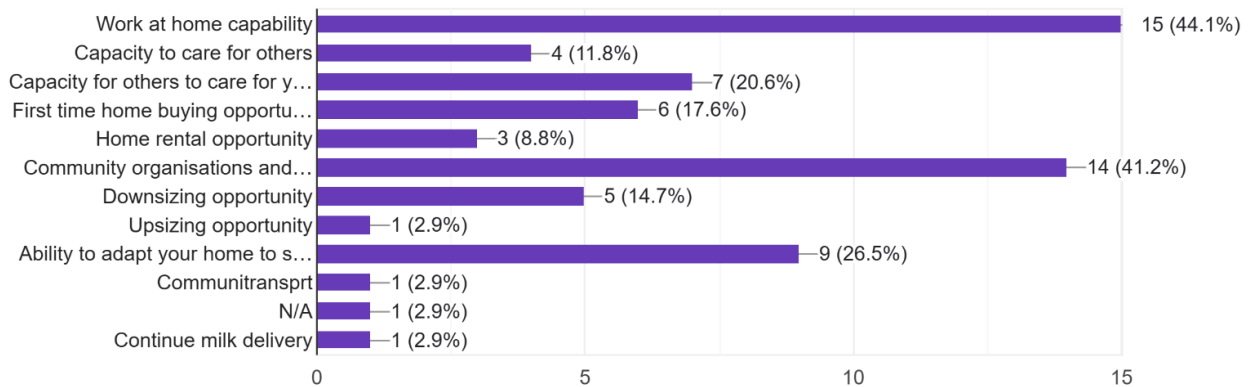
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Future housing needs

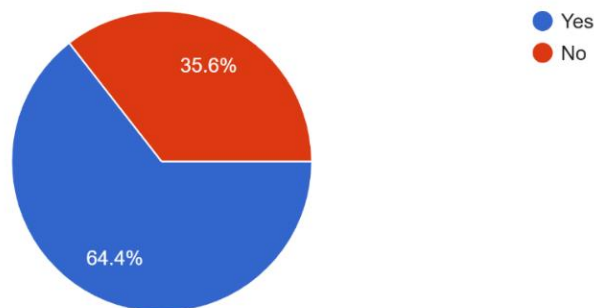
What are your needs to help you and your family to continue living in Kersey?

34 responses



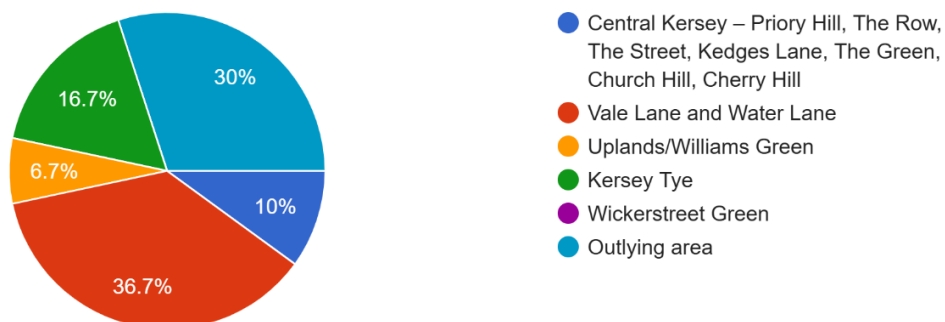
Would you approve of some new homes being built in Kersey for people with a local connection, if it was carefully planned as to site, materials, eco-friendliness etc

45 responses



If there were to be new homes in Kersey, where do you think they should be built?

30 responses



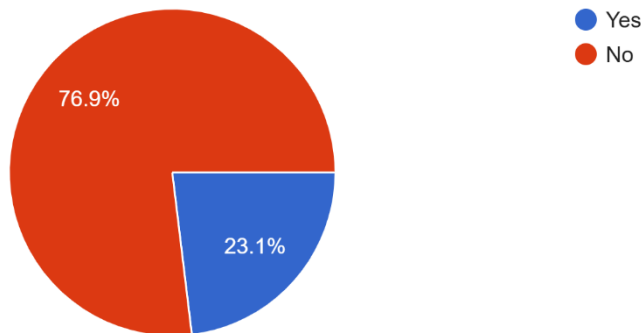
Note: A survey software problem limited responses to one choice for this question, so respondents could only select one area, not multiple.

Kersey People and Place Plan

March 2025 Kersey Residents Parish Survey Responses

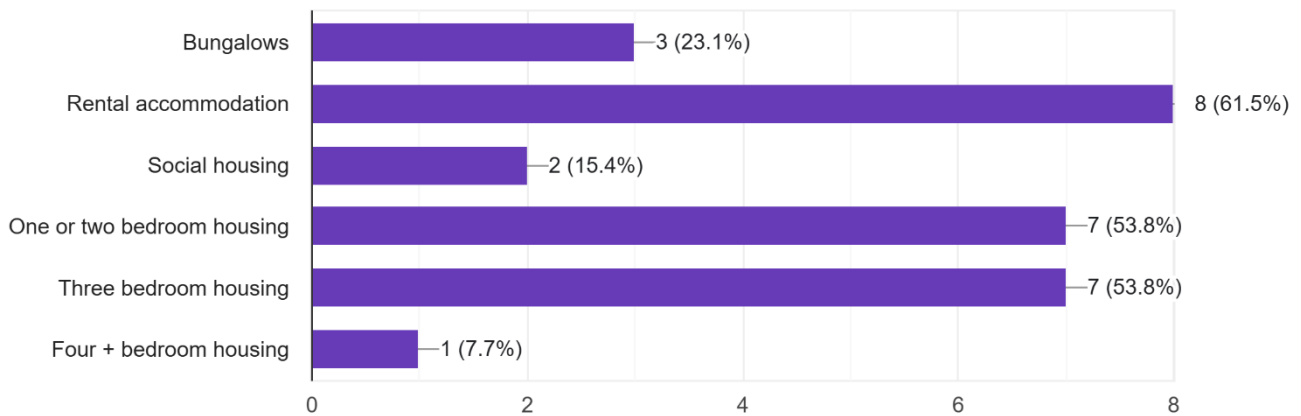
From your own experience, do you know of any type of housing which is needed in Kersey?

39 responses



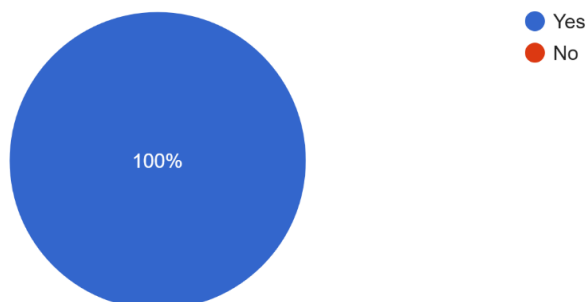
If yes, please tell us what type?

13 responses



Are you aware that if you live in the Kersey Conservation Area (Central Kersey) or a Listed Building you may require planning permission to make changes to your property?

42 responses



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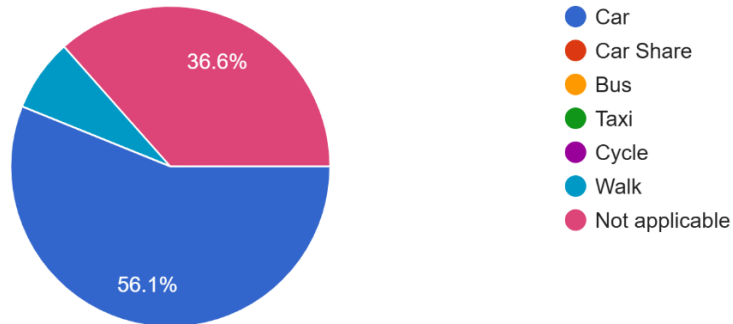
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Transport and traffic

A text summary of the below data follows this section.

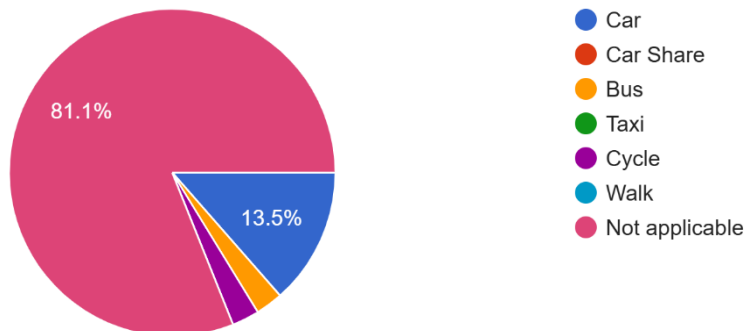
Transport What modes of transport do you use to travel to work?

41 responses



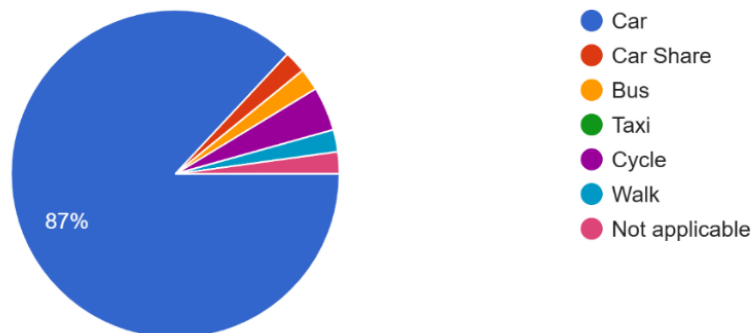
What modes of transport do you use to get your children to school/further education?

37 responses



What modes of transport do you use weekly?

46 responses



Note: Survey software problem limited respondents to a single choice.

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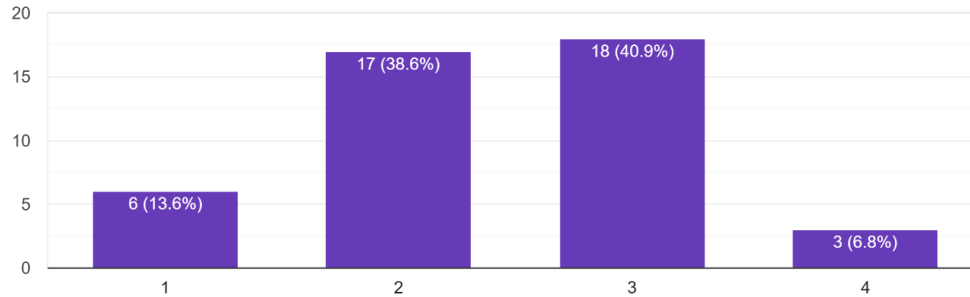
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How do you feel about local transport and traffic issues?

Using the scale 1=very concerned, 2=concerned, 3=satisfied, 4=very satisfied

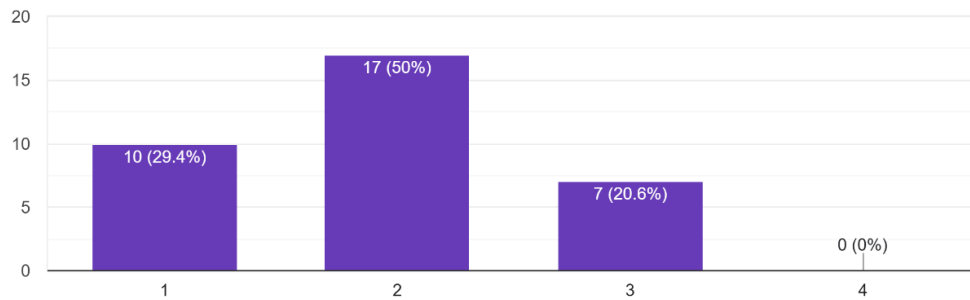
Speed of vehicles passing through the Parish

44 responses



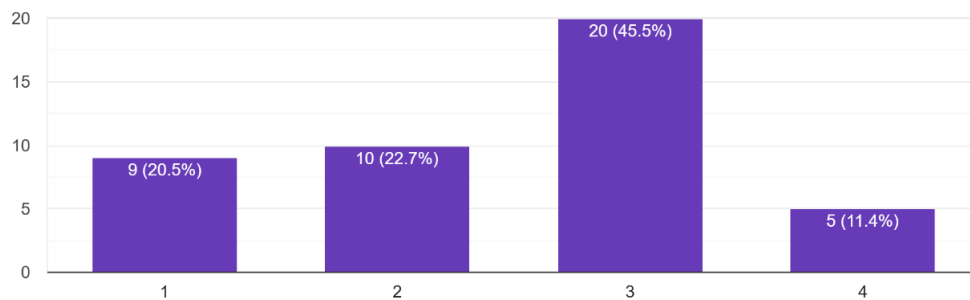
Public bus services

34 responses



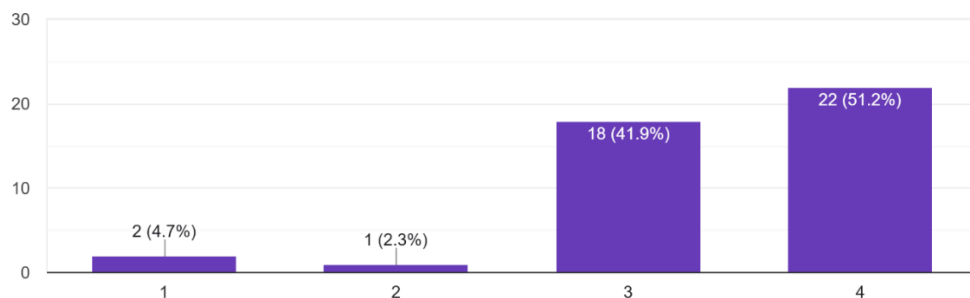
Parking

44 responses



Public footpaths

43 responses

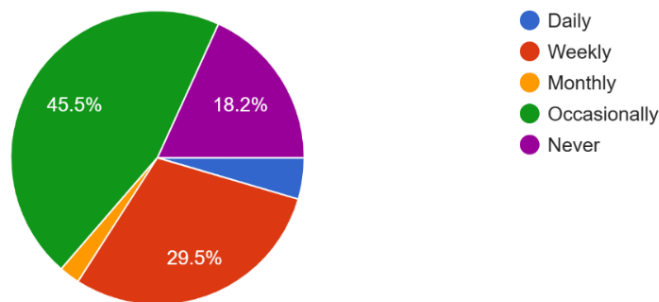


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If there was a public bus service to and from Hadleigh, would you use it?

44 responses



Where else would you like a regular public bus service to and from?

15 responses

Sudbury x 8

Ipswich x 4

Colchester x 3

Hospital x 1

Kersey Tye to Hadleigh x 1

Central Kersey, through Uplands and The Tye x 1

Hadleigh x 1

Bildeston x 1

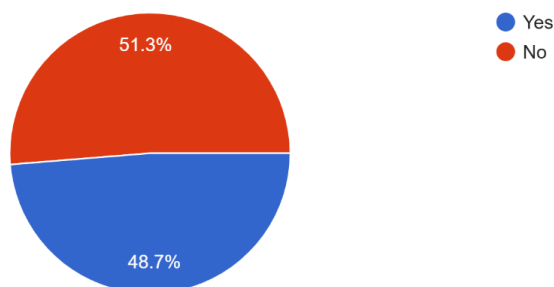
Stowmarket x 1

Bury St Edmunds x 1

Access to community facilities ie pub x 1

Would you like more options to encourage active travel, such as safe cycle routes?

39 responses



If yes, where to?

Hadleigh x 9

Ipswich x 2

Sudbury x 1

Lavenham x 1

Sudbury and Stowmarket rail stations x 1

Summary of transport and traffic data

Key transport habits of respondents

- Travel to work - over 56% of respondents drive a car, 36% marked work travel as not applicable.
- Transporting children to school - 81% said this question was not applicable, among those who do, most use a car.
- Weekly transport use - 87% use a car as their primary weekly mode of transport. The remaining 13% is split fairly evenly among cycling, walking, bus and car sharing.

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Resident transport and traffic concerns and satisfaction

Over 40% of residents were satisfied with the speed of vehicles passing through Kersey. While only 13% expressed being very concerned.

Public bus services are a significant concern, with nearly 30% very concerned and 50% concerned. Nearly 30% of respondents would use a public bus to Hadleigh weekly and 45% occasionally. 18% would never use a public bus to Hadleigh. The most popular other place respondents would like a public bus service connection with was Sudbury, followed by Ipswich and Colchester.

Overall, views were positive regarding parking. Most respondents were satisfied or very satisfied, though 20% were very concerned.

Public footpaths were extremely well regarded, with over 93% of residents being satisfied or very satisfied.

Regarding safer active travel, nearly 49% of respondents would like more active travel options such as safe cycle routes, with Hadleigh being the most popular location to access.

Other transport and traffic concerns and comments:

14 responses + 8 responses

Potholes x 7

Limited buses/Only public transport option is pre-booked community bus to Hadleigh x 3

Speeding x 2

Walking and cycling to and from Hadleigh is hazardous x 2

Visitor parking x 2

Would be great to have verge to walk down to the main road to access Kersey Mill x1

Roads such as Mill Lane lay-bys are improvised. Widening would cost a fortune. Walkable paths appreciated x 1

Bell customers to park in carpark and not in the street x 1

Local people driving too fast through the village x 1

Sugar beet lorries are very large and destructive to road surface and grass verges are a mess x 1

Farmers clearing their mess off the roads and keeping ditches cleared x 1

Speed of some farm vehicles x 1

Total dependence on private car x1

Better visibility on Semer Hill x 1

Would like services integrated and meet a local hub – Hadleigh bus station from currently unserved areas x 1

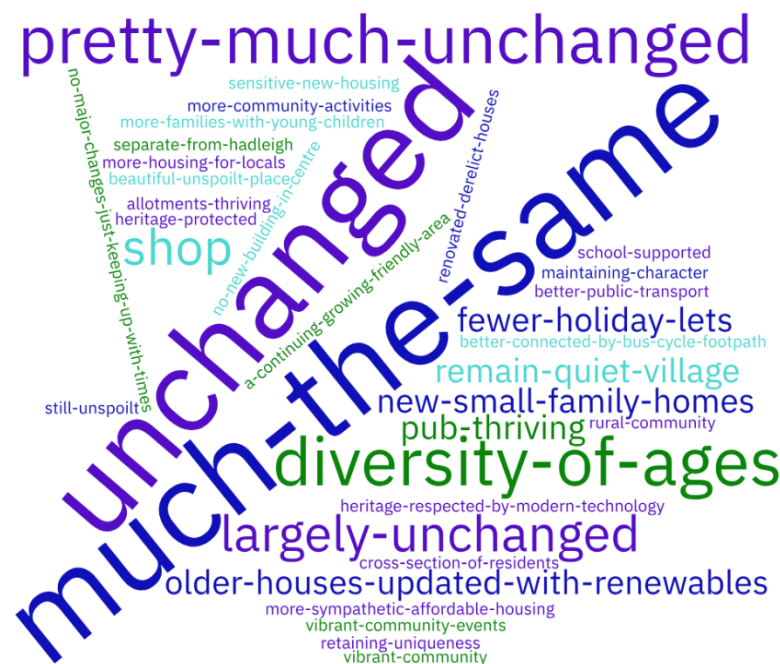
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How would you like to see Kersey as a place to live in 15 years' time?

43 responses

The respondents have an overwhelming wish for Kersey to remain largely unchanged. They strongly value Kersey's character, beauty, and peacefulness. However, there is a desire for Kersey to grow a little with more small family homes for local people. There is a feeling that Kersey needs to evolve gently with careful, community-minded changes that support modern needs without sacrificing the parish's heritage.



Development and housing

Sensitive, small-scale development is acceptable to some, especially

- Affordable homes for local people and young families
- Homes that are sympathetically built to fit the character of the parish
- Use of derelict cottages and holiday lets for full-time families, to restore vibrancy

Community and demographics

- Desire for a balanced age demographic – a vibrant mix of young and old
- More community participation and local involvement encouraged

Amenities and infrastructure

- Keep the pub open and make it more inclusive (not just fine dining)
- Add a small community shop to reduce car trips
- Improve public transport, and offer better walking/cycling connections to Hadleigh and surrounding areas

Heritage and identity

Strong emphasis on

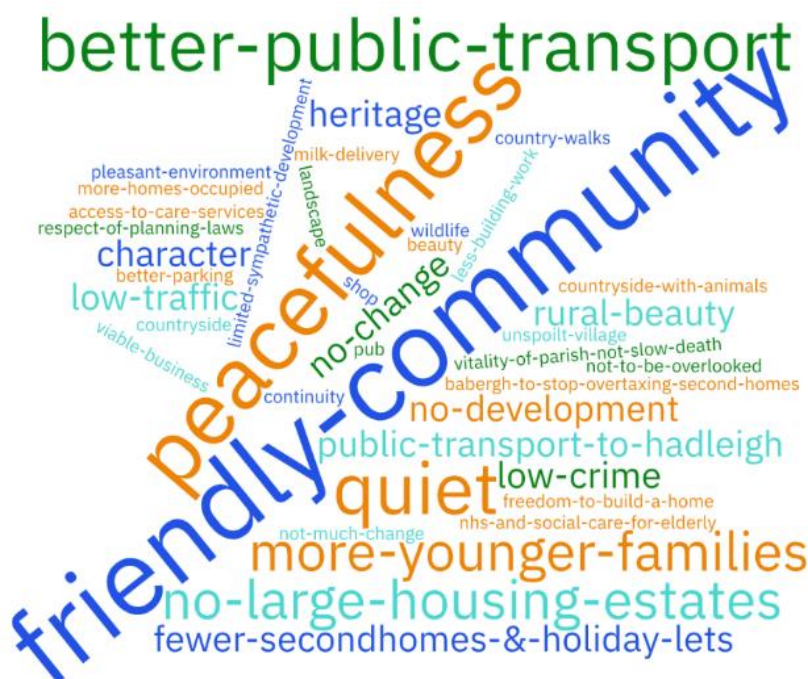
- Retaining the parish's historic and rural identity, particularly protecting the medieval central area of Kersey.
- Avoiding merging with Hadleigh

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What will be most important to you living in Kersey over the next 15 years?

40 responses

Residents wish to maintain what makes Kersey special. Its friendly community, beauty, peace, and history. They would support gentle evolution to remain liveable and inclusive for future generations. There is a desire for limited sympathetic development whilst avoiding overdevelopment to preserve the heart of parish life. Public transport needs to be improved. There is a real desire for an increase in younger families living in Kersey and more involvement in social activities to ensure the vitality of the parish.



Preserving the character of Kersey

Strong desire to retain Kersey's rural, beautiful, unspoilt charm and heritage, some emphasized:

- No large-scale housing developments
- No overdevelopment or traffic increase
- Protection of green space, countryside and wildlife
- Maintaining a peaceful, tranquil and safe environment

Community and demographics

Residents value:

- A strong, friendly community with active involvement
- A mix of ages, especially encouraging younger families
- Reducing second homes/holiday lets, which are seen as harming community cohesion
- Freedom to build modest homes for locals

Essential amenities

- Better public transport access is crucial, especially for those unable to drive, and for future generations
- Desired improvements include bus services to Hadleigh and shops
- Small local shop and milk delivery also mentioned as helpful
- Continued access to NHS and care services for older residents

Kersey People and Place Plan

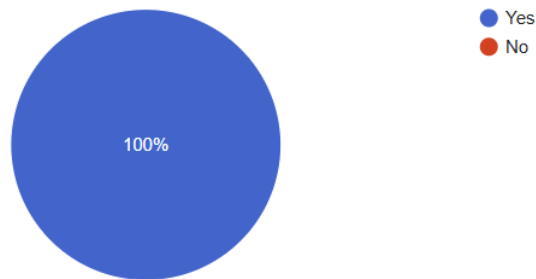
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Community organisations and volunteering

There are many Kersey community organisations run by volunteers. More help is always appreciated. There are also working groups helping to maintain the recreational facilities, footpaths and keeping Kersey tidy.

Do you feel Kersey has the right recreational facilities available?

43 responses



If not please make suggestions for improvements:

7 responses

Padel court x 2

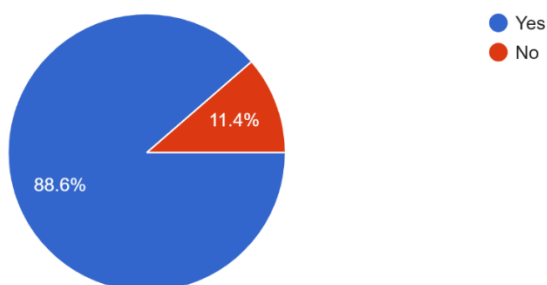
Maybe board games/cribbage/chess evening if enough interest x 1

A fishing lake x 1

Tennis court x 1

Do you think Kersey has a good mix of social activities run by the various community organisations?

44 responses



If not, please make suggestions:

8 responses

Need something to welcome new residents x 1

Exercise to music class – not everyone is suited to yoga x 1

We have 23 village organisations and should continue to publicise them and their activities and not just rely on the excellent newsletter x 1

I don't know what is running x 1

Good mix but irregular x1

Those offered are more slanted toward an older generation x 1

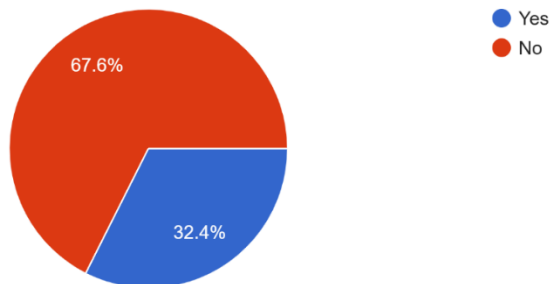
It is difficult to comment as the events I have tried to join have sold out before getting tickets x 1

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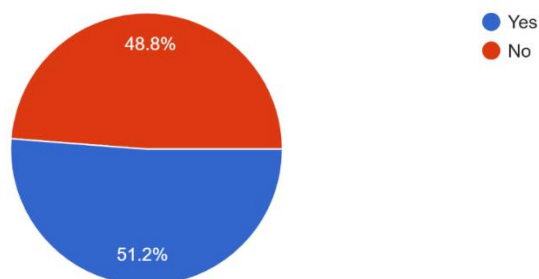
Are you interested in becoming a volunteer to support any Kersey community organisations?

37 responses



An informal good neighbour scheme is being set up to support residents in a time of need. Would you be interested in becoming a volunteer?

41 responses



The Parish Clerk has a note of ten people, who are not already involved, who responded with their contact details showing interest in supporting community organisations and the Kersey Good Neighbours.

Other comments made by households to the survey:

Housing concerns and suggestions

- Too many empty or derelict houses: Strong desire to see these renovated and occupied before any new development is approved.
- Support for small-scale housing development, dispersed across the parish in Vale Lane/Water Lane, Uplands/Williams Green, Kersey Tye and Wickerstreet Green, not in the historic centre.
- Emphasis on modern but characterful housing in keeping with Kersey's architectural style.
- Concern over too many holiday lets and extensions leading to more holiday homes instead of family housing.
- Need for affordable housing for younger families and lower-paid workers, not just retirees.
- Opposition to large housing developments.
- Rural rental housing quality is described as poor and needing improvement.

Community and engagement

- Strong appreciation for existing community events and volunteer work.
- The Kersey newsletter is highly valued, especially farming notes.
- Acknowledgement that Kersey has an ageing population.

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- Calls to encourage younger families to live in the parish and get involved in community events.
- Some residents (eg with newborns or full-time jobs) note limited time to volunteer now, but express willingness to help in future.
- Concern over low public engagement with Parish Council meetings. Planning applicants should be required to attend.

Connectivity, mobile and broadband services

- Ongoing poor mobile and broadband connectivity flagged as a serious issue, especially in light of upcoming national telecoms changes.

Infrastructure and maintenance

- Footpath maintenance and other volunteer-led services are appreciated.
- Vale Lane triangle is mentioned as in need of improvement. Cobbled corners suggested.
- Cherry Hill needs regular maintenance for safety.
- The derelict Cherry Hill Cottage is unsafe and an eyesore that should be restored for housing.
- More waste and dog poo bins requested.
- Suggestion to build a car park for school users

Other notable points

- Strong support for preserving Kersey's character, beauty and heritage.
- Need for more family homes to sustain the community long-term.
- Clear desire for small scale, balanced, sensitive change that is respectful of Kersey's unique identity, heritage, character and community feel.