

Mepal

Have your say on the future of Mepal

- What do you want to change or improve?
- What do you want to protect?
- What facilities would you like to see?

East Cambridgeshire District Council is looking for your views on how your village/parish should change or improve in the future.

Please complete the questionnaire:

- online at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/core-strategy-review by Monday 18th July 2011.

To request a paper copy of the questionnaire, or for more information, please contact the Forward Planning team on 01353 665555.



East Cambridgeshire
District Council

A Vision for Mepal

Have your say on the future of Mepal

- **What do you want to change or improve?**
- **What do you want to protect?**
- **What facilities would you like to see?**

What do you think? We want your views on how Mepal should change in the future. What sort of place would you like Mepal to be? What are your priorities for the village and the wider Parish? Your views will help us to form a long-term vision for Mepal which sets out how it should develop over the next 20 years.

What will the Vision do? The Vision will be used to guide decisions on future development and planning applications. It will also help ensure that key infrastructure and facilities are provided and improved. The Vision will be included in the statutory development plan for East Cambridgeshire - known as the 'Core Strategy'.

How do I comment? Please let us have your views by answering the questions below. Comments should be made by 18th July 2011 and respondents are encouraged to fill in the questionnaire online at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/core-strategy-review

Paper copies of the questionnaire should be returned to the Forward Planning Team, East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4EE, or by email to ldf@eastcambs.gov.uk. There will be a further opportunity to make comments on the draft Vision, which we hope to publish in early 2012. If you have any questions please call the Forward Planning team on 01353 665555.

Any information that you will provide will be used for the purpose of the Core Strategy, and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

1. Please provide your details:

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Company:	<input type="text"/>
Email address:	<input type="text"/>
Address 1:	<input type="text"/>
Address 2:	<input type="text"/>
Town/City:	<input type="text"/>
County:	<input type="text"/>
Postcode:	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>

2. Please select whether you would like your details to be added to the Core Strategy consultation database, in order to be notified of key stages of production:

- Yes No

3. Please indicate the main reason for your interest in the development of Mepal:

- Local resident of Mepal Developer or local landowner
- Local business owner Potential investor
- Employee, working in Mepal Professional interest
- Other (please specify)

4. How would you like to see the village/parish change or improve in the future? Please list your top 3 priorities below:

Priority 1

Priority 2

Priority 3

Housing

5. Do you think there should be housing growth on the edge of Mepal?

Please choose one of the following options:

- No
- Yes - small scale housing growth (up to 10 houses) for a mix of private and affordable housing (e.g. like provided by Sanctuary Hereward)
- Yes - medium scale housing growth (up to 20 houses) for a mix of private and affordable housing
- Yes - large scale housing growth (more than 20 houses) for a mix of private and affordable housing
- Yes - small/medium scale housing growth for affordable housing only

Other (please provide details)

6. Housing development will continue to come forward on small sites within the village. However, schemes are currently limited to a maximum of 2 dwellings (taking account of the size of the village and local facilities).

Do you think this approach should continue?

- Yes
- Don't know
- No

If you selected no, what alternative approach would you like to see?

Employment

7. Would you like to see more opportunities for small businesses in the village/parish? (e.g. offices, industrial units, workshops).

- Yes
- Don't know
- No

Development envelope

8. The development envelope (see map at back) marks the built up area of the village where development is normally allowed to take place. The area outside the development envelope is protected as open countryside.

Which of the following approaches would you prefer?

- Keep the development envelope
- Replace the development envelope with a policy that assesses each application on its merits

Local infrastructure and facilities

9. Should the Parish Council have an opportunity to purchase land, as a resident of the village/parish, would you support the Parish Council in doing so?

- Yes
- Not a resident of Mepal village/parish
- No

10. The District Council can secure funds from developers to spend on improving local infrastructure and facilities. If new development comes forward in the village, what benefits would you like to see? Please select your top 3 priorities from the list:

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Improvements to play areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improvements to sports grounds/open space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improvements to pedestrian/cycle routes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improvements to the community/village hall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A new community/village hall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Traffic calming/Highway improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional seating around the village/parish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you selected other, please provide details

11. For the priorities that you have selected in Question 10 above, can you provide more detail on what these improvements should be, and where they should be located?

12. Please use this space to make any other comments:

Monitoring Information (Optional)

It would be useful if you could please provide the following information about yourself:

13. Sex

- Male Female

14. Status

- Employee Unemployed Student
 Self-employed Homeworker Retired

15. Age

- 0-16 years 40-49 75-84
 17-24 50-59 85+
 25-39 60-74

16. Ethnic origin

- White British Chinese Caribbean
 White Irish Indian Other black background
 Other white background Pakistani Other ethnic group
 Gypsy / Traveller Other Asian background
 Mixed ethnicity African

17. Disability

Under the Disability Discrimination Act a person has a disability if he/she 'has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities.' Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

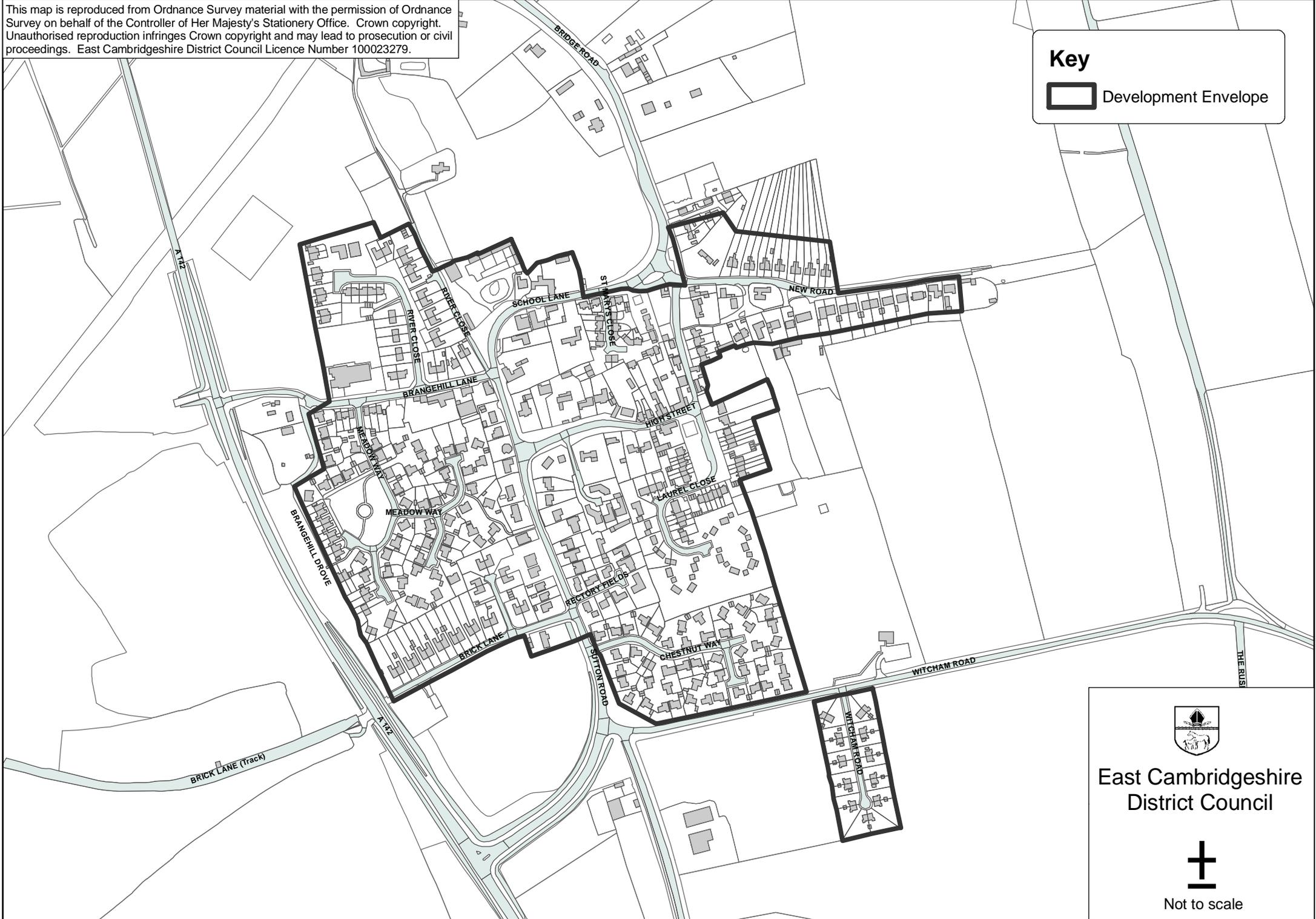
- Yes No

Thank you for your help.

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Key

 Development Envelope





East Cambridgeshire
District Council



Not to scale

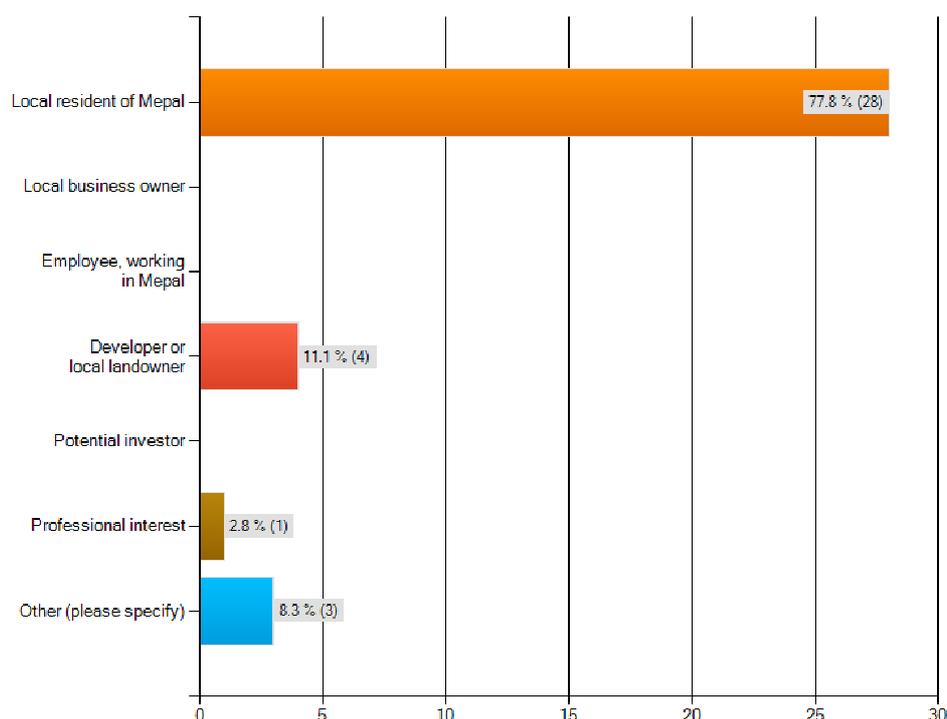
Mepal Village Vision Questionnaire Results

Key facts:

Consultation period:	27 th June – 18 th July 2011
Total responses:	36
Number of dwellings:	420
Response rate:	9%

Summary of Results

Q3. Please indicate your main interest in the development of Mepal



A total of 36 people responded to this question with 77.8% of respondents stating that their main interest in the development of Mepal was as a local resident. Four responses were received from developers and local landowners, two from Parish Councillors, one from an individual with a professional interest and one with a general interest in the development of the village.

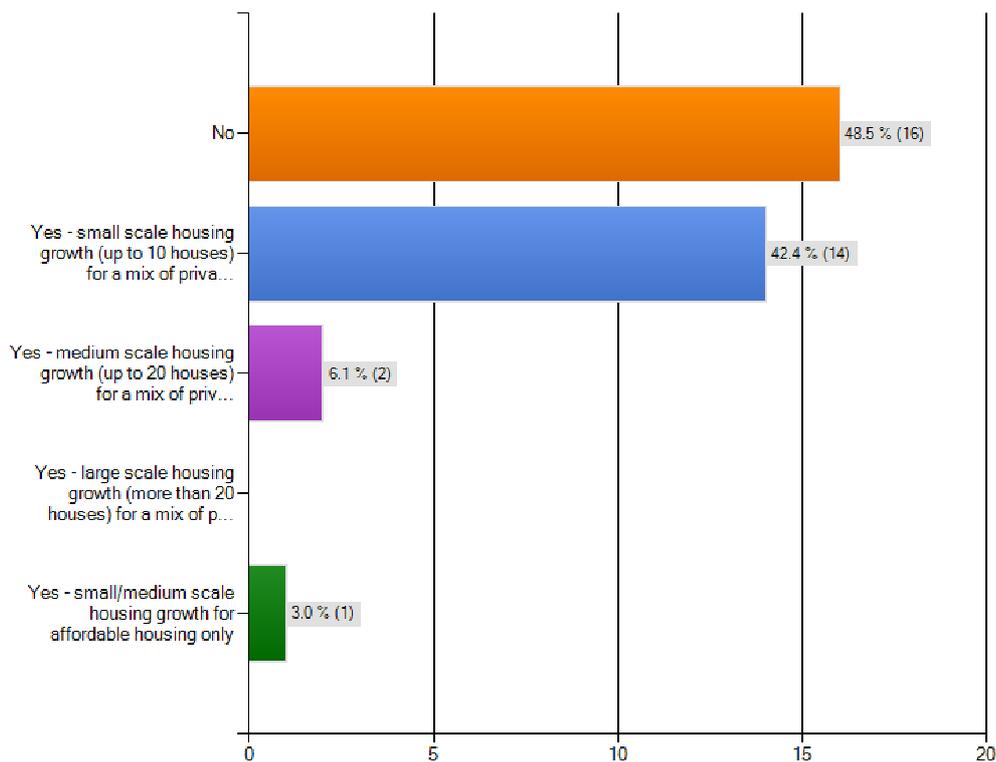
Q4. How would you like to see the village/parish change or improve in the future? Please list your top 3 priorities below:

A total of 34 people made the following suggestions on how the village/parish could improve in the future including:

- Improved bus services (3 people)
- More residential development (7 people)
- Pedestrian crossings/traffic calming/highway improvements (11 people)
- No change (7 people)
- Farm yard site to be developed with appropriate quality homes
- Provision of a doctors surgery (3 people)
- Maintain character and heritage of village (2 people)
- Improved shopping facilities (3 people)

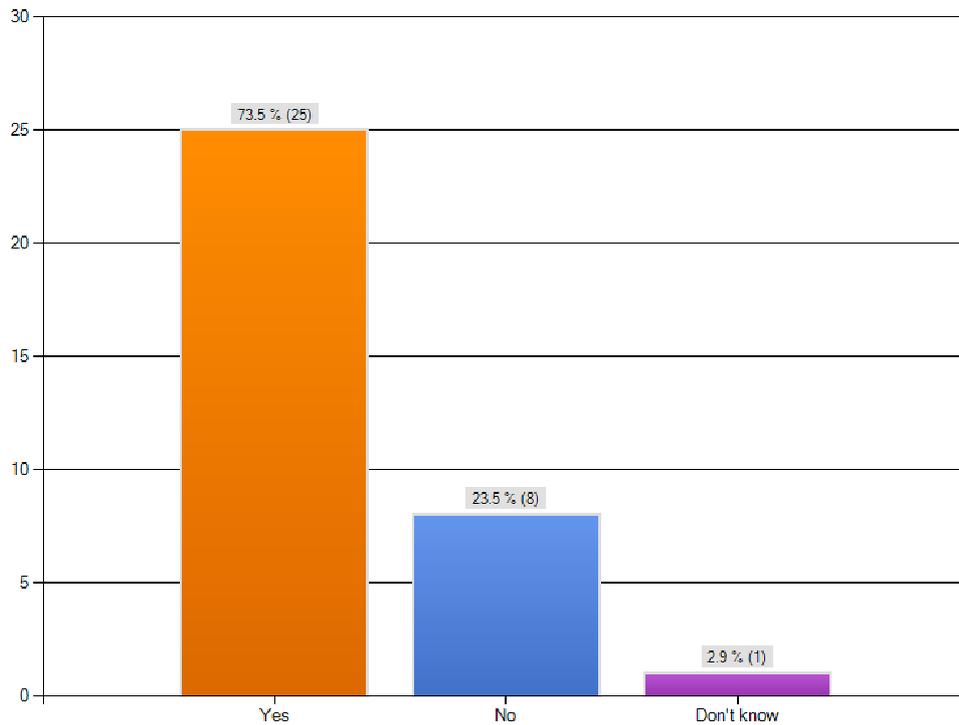
- New or refurbished village hall (8 people)
- More affordable housing
- Improved electricity supply
- More community activities (3 people)
- Improved cycle access to surrounding villages and towns (2 people)
- Stop fly tipping on Witcham Road
- Provide small-scale commercial development
- Improved facilities and amenities (6 people)
- More employment (2 people)
- Reuse redundant buildings
- Village pub
- Provide tree planting next to road
- More facilities for children/elderly (8 people)
- Better lighting on the footpath by the church
- More seating around the village
- Provision of wheelie bins (2 people)
- Paths and hedges to be better maintained (3 people)
- Prevent cars parking on the grass in Laurel Close
- Keep it clean/quick removal of graffiti (2 people)

**Q5. Do you think housing growth should be permitted on the edge of Mepal?
Please choose one of the following options:**



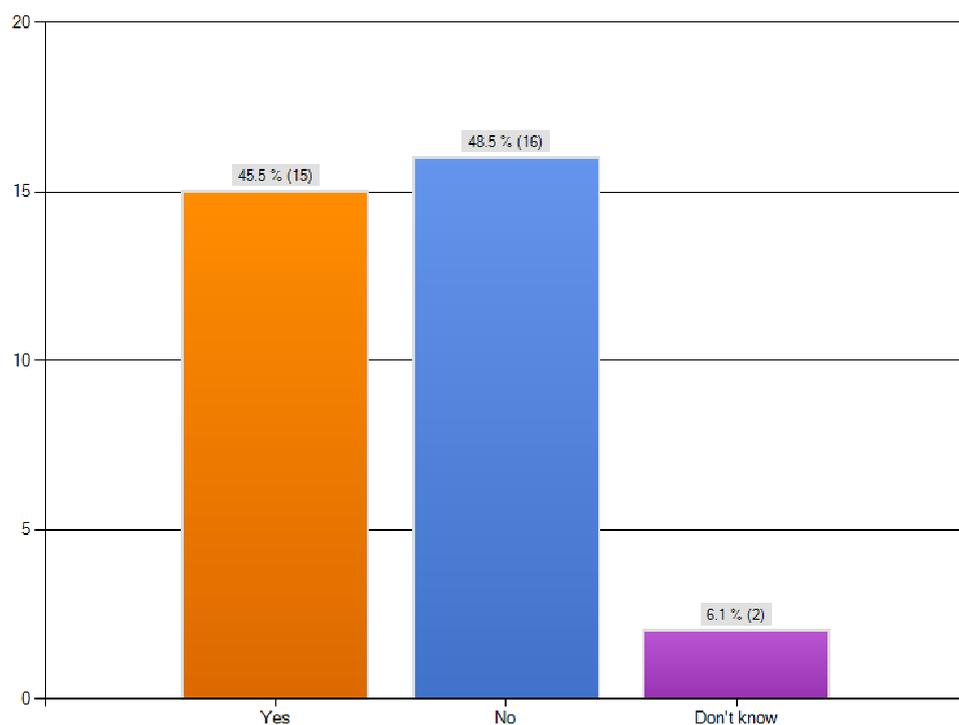
A total of 33 people responded to this question, with 3 people choosing not to answer. Responses were fairly evenly split, with a slight majority of respondents (51.5%) expressing support for housing growth on the edge of the village. Of these respondents, highest support was given to small scale housing growth (42.4%), followed by medium scale housing growth (6.1%) and small/medium scale growth for affordable housing only (3.0%). Approximately 48% of respondents thought that housing growth should not be allowed outside the development envelope on the edge of Mepal.

Q6. Housing development will continue to come forward on small sites within the village. However, schemes are currently limited to a maximum of 2 dwellings (taking account of the size of the village and local facilities). Do you think this approach should continue?



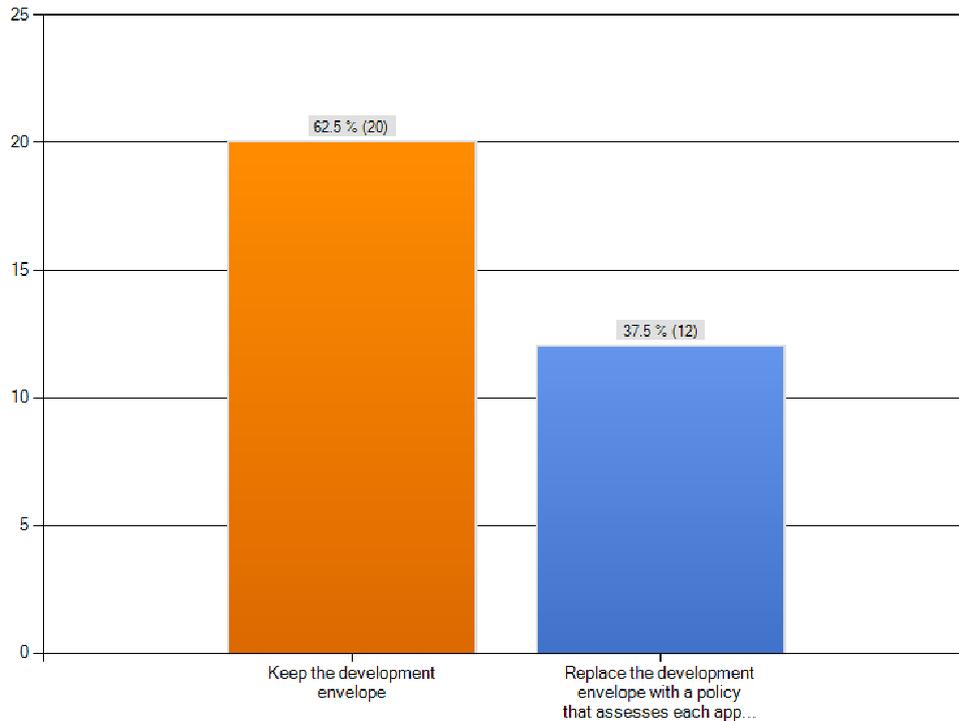
A total of 34 people responded to this question, with 2 people choosing not to answer. The majority of respondents (73.5%) supported retention of the current policy to restrict housing schemes within the development envelope to a maximum of 2 dwellings.

Q7. Would you like to see more opportunities for small businesses in the village/parish (e.g. offices, industrial units, workshops)?



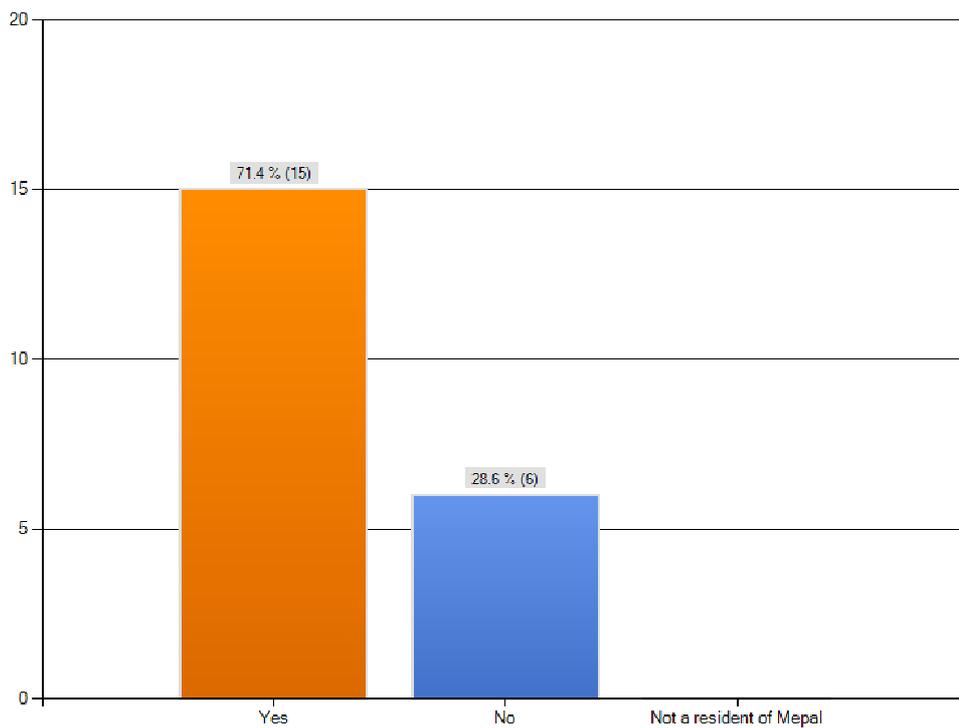
A total of 33 people responded to this question, with 3 people choosing not to answer. The responses were fairly evenly split, with a slight majority of respondents (48.5%) against seeing further opportunities for small businesses in the village/parish. Approximately 46% of respondents were in support of the proposal, whilst 6.1% of respondents did not know.

Q8. The development envelope marks the built up area of the village where development is normally allowed to take place. The area outside the development envelope is protected as open countryside. Which of the following approaches would you prefer?



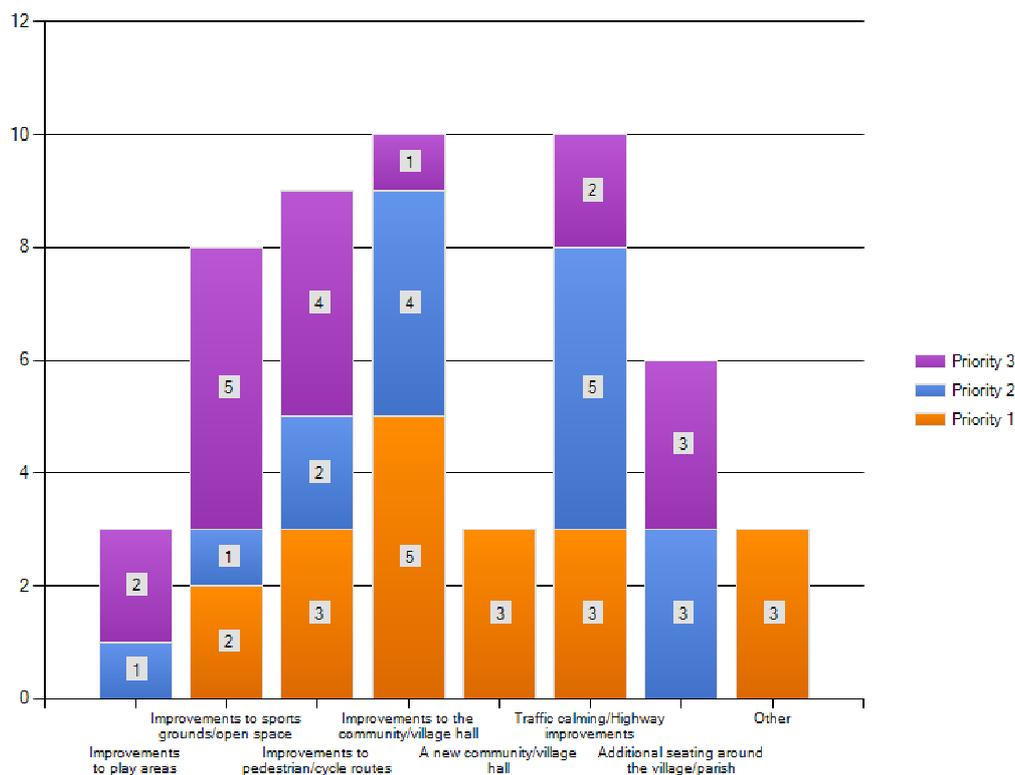
A total of 32 people responded to this question, with 4 people choosing not to answer. The majority of respondents (62.5%) stated their preferred approach would be to keep the development envelope, whilst 37.5% thought that the development envelope should be replaced with a policy that assesses each application on its merits.

Q9. Should the Parish Council have an opportunity to purchase land, as a resident of the village/parish, would you support the Parish Council in doing so?



A total of 21 Mepal residents responded to this question with the majority of respondents (71.4%) in support of the Parish Council purchasing land in the future. Please note that the figures discussed above have been amended to remove responses from people that were not Mepal residents.

Q10. The District Council can secure funds from developers to spend on improving local infrastructure and facilities. If new development comes forward in the village, what benefits would you like to see?



A total of 19 people provided a response to this question. Overall, the need for improvements to the village hall and traffic calming scored most highly (10 people each), followed by improvements to pedestrian/cycle routes (9 people) and improvements to sports ground/open space (8 people).

Other responses included an improved electricity supply, a doctor's surgery and a request to make better use of the river.

Q11. For the priorities you have selected in Question 10 above, can you provide more detail on what these improvements should be and where they should be located?

A total of 18 people responded to this question, which raised infrastructure issues or improvements at the following locations:

- Village hall kitchen – needs damp course checking
- Create a cycle path along the river
- Extend 30mph speed limit all the way to the pub
- Traffic calming on main Road and School Lane
- Need Doctors surgery in the village – use of derelict/empty buildings
- New or improvements/extension to the village hall – floor and kitchen
- Proper pedestrian/school crossing
- More paving needed around village
- Path and road maintenance
- Creation of walks and wildlife area
- Village hall to be relocated to the recreation field
- New signs for village hall
- Pedestrian/cycle routes to link village with Sutton and Witchford/Ely

- Cricket pitch, and formation of Mepal Cricket Club
- Road improvements to include tightening of bends at the bottom of the road outside the village hall and other end of School Land adjacent to the bus stop.
- Provision of a safe pedestrian/cycle crossing over the A142 to Sutton

Q12. Please use this space to make any other comments:

A total of 11 people provided a response to this question making the following comments:

- We like the size of the village – lets keep it, don't spoil it.
- No new developments large enough to warrant funds from developers should be allowed.
- The Parish Council have made a number of improvements over the last ten years, our main concern is that the village maintains its character and size, and remains a safe and relatively secure place to live.
- Favour the preservation of Manor barns.
- Improvements to sewage facilities before development.
- Cycle/foot bridge over the Old Bedford River to link up to the footpath etc on the other side.
- Manor farm site should be a barn conversion or location for the new village hall - we do not need more estates.
- Mepal is a lovely village. Play and sports facilities are sufficient but the village hall is very outdated – if too many houses the pre-school and school would struggle to cope.
- As there is only one road in and out, it is important to keep traffic levels low. Mepal is a quiet rural village and should remain so. A community or shop would be good.
- It is essential that if small businesses or offices are brought into the village that the bus service must be maintained and improved. Some provision for youth would be appreciated.
- Has the village ever had a youth club? Perhaps the village hall could be used for a youth club once a week? The sports hall would be fine during the summer but walking across the field may put youngsters off in the winter evenings.
- Affordable housing can create problems.