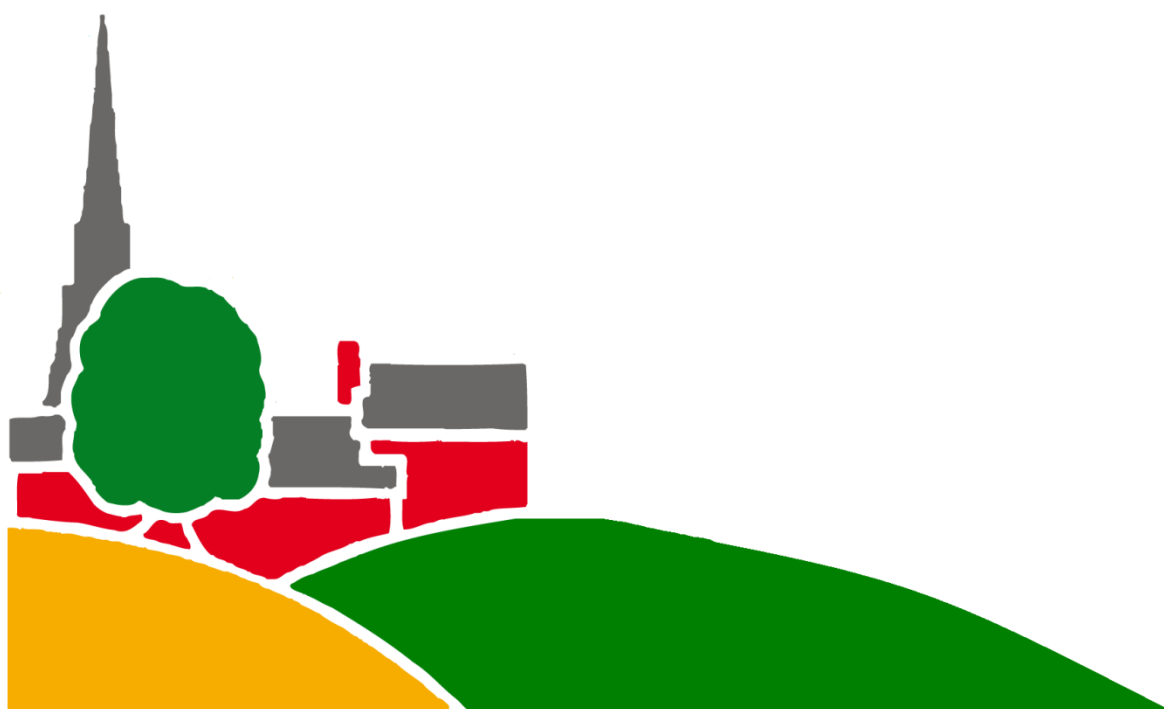


Results of the 'Parish Survey'

On behalf of

Wymeswold Parish Council.



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Introduction

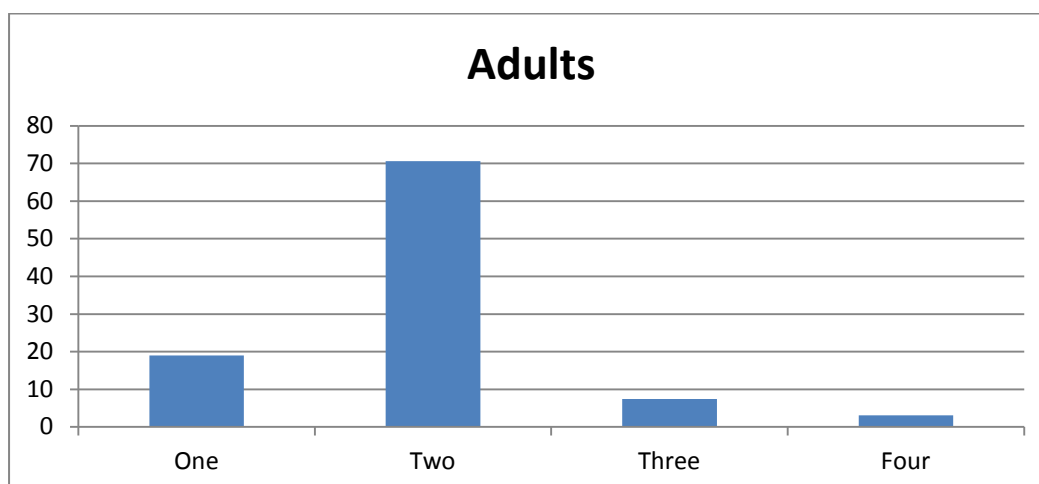
The RCC was commissioned by Wymeswold Parish Council to provide professional support with the production and analysis of a Parish Questionnaire in June 2014. The objective was to find out which services were most regularly used by residents and, if services weren't used, to find out why not.



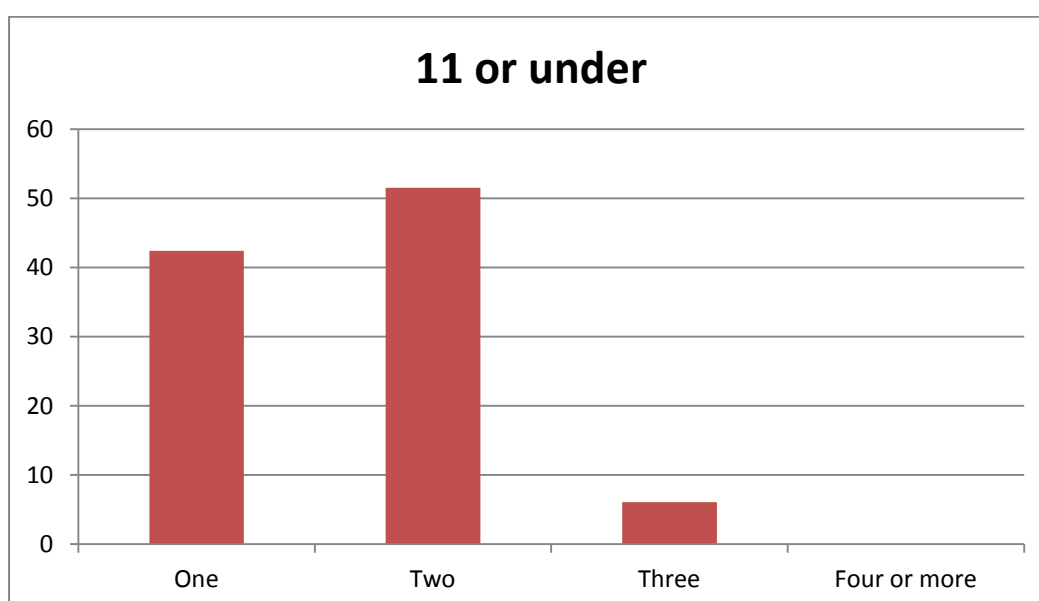
St Mary's Church, viewed from Church Street.

According to the 2011 census there were 535 households in the Parish of Wymeswold. A paper copy of the questionnaire was distributed to every household in the village and 'drop off' points were agreed at a number of locations around the village. Residents were also given the opportunity to complete the survey online. The deadline for responses was 4th July 2014. 166 responses were received, which represents 31% of households.

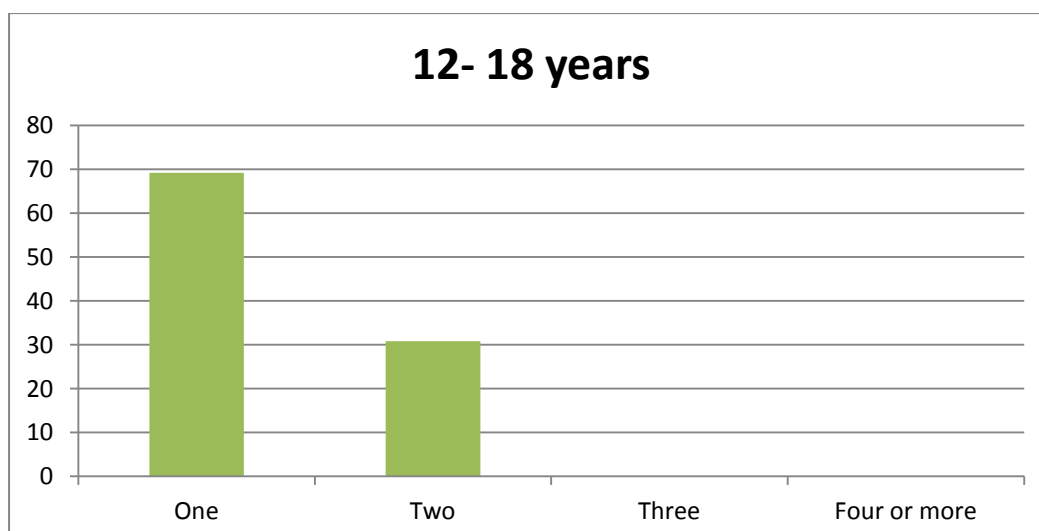
How many people live in your house?



How many children live with you are 11 years or under?



How many children live with you who are between 12 and 18 years?



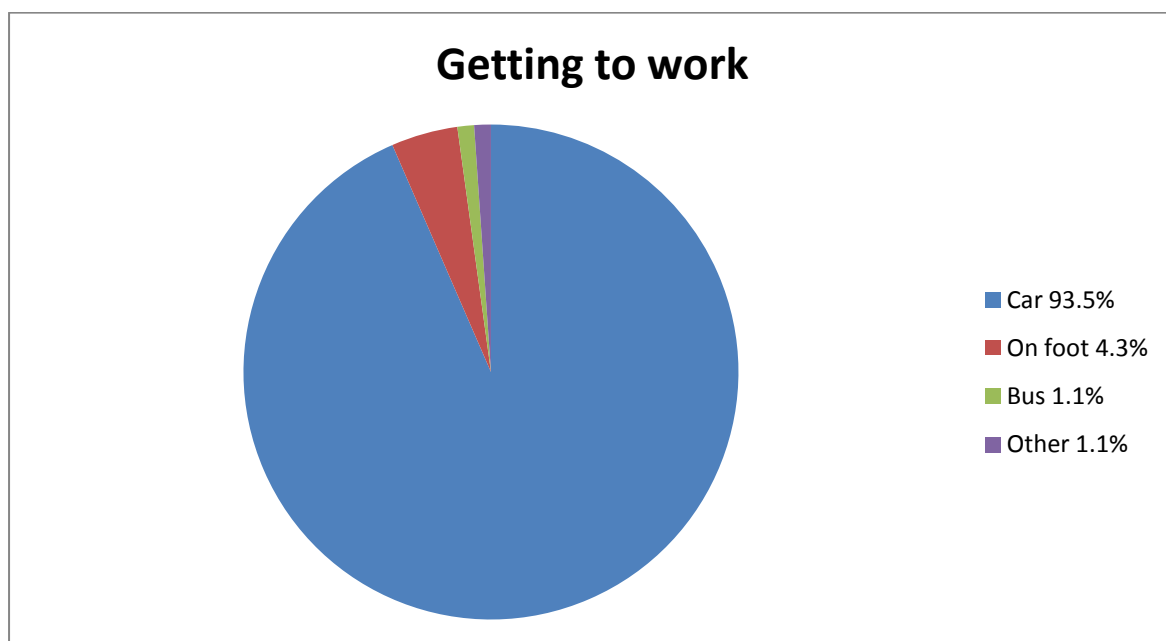
Where is your place of work?

Responses stated 22 in Loughborough, 22 in Nottingham, 14 in Wymeswold, 15 in Leicester and 46 'other'. The later included Dunstable, Redhill, 3 in Northampton, Coventry, London, Sheffield, Mansfield and West Midlands. These responses were a little misleading because out of the 21 responses for 'other', most stated they were retired. The remainder work within a 40 minute drive of the village.



Which method of transport do you use to get to work?

As clearly identified by the graph below, the vast majority use their car to get to their place of work. Out of the 166 responses to this question, 56 don't work. Out of the two that replied 'other' to this question, both use their car to get to the train station. One person uses the bus to get to work in Loughborough. The graph below is based upon those that work and excludes those that don't work.



If you have primary school age children, where do they attend school?

Out of the 27 respondents with children of Primary School age, all went to the village school and one child was due to start at the village school in the Autumn term 2014.

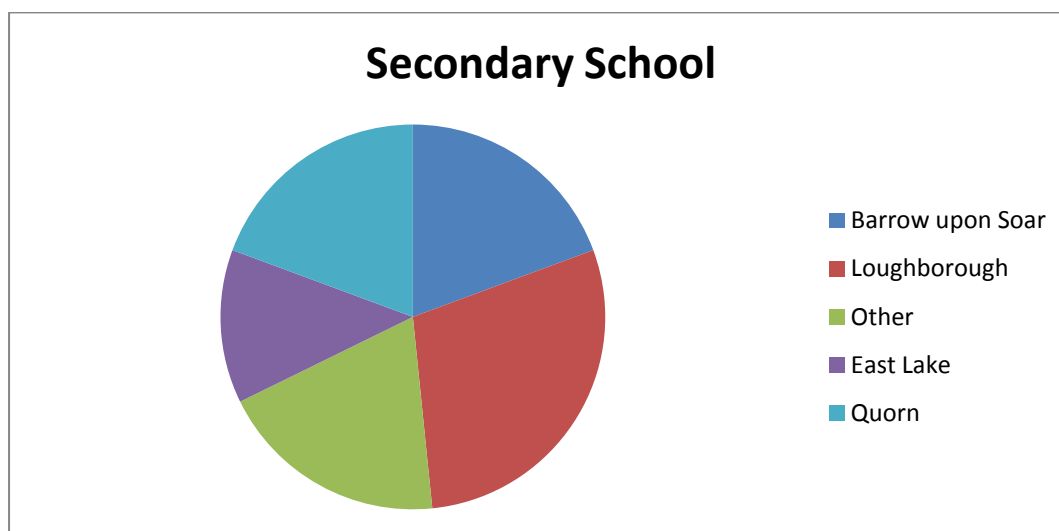


Children from Wymeswold C of E Primary School (2012)

Which method of transport do your children use to get to primary school?

7 parents drive their children to school, the remainder walk or cycle.

If you have secondary school age children, where do they attend school?



Out of those who stated 'other', locations included Leicester, Nottingham and Ratcliffe College.

Which method of transport do your children use to get to secondary school?

There was almost an even split between those taken to school by car and those using a 'school' bus. No children used a public bus service to get to school.

Which Doctors surgery do you use?

40.4% Barrow upon Soar 55.4% East Leake 1.8% Other

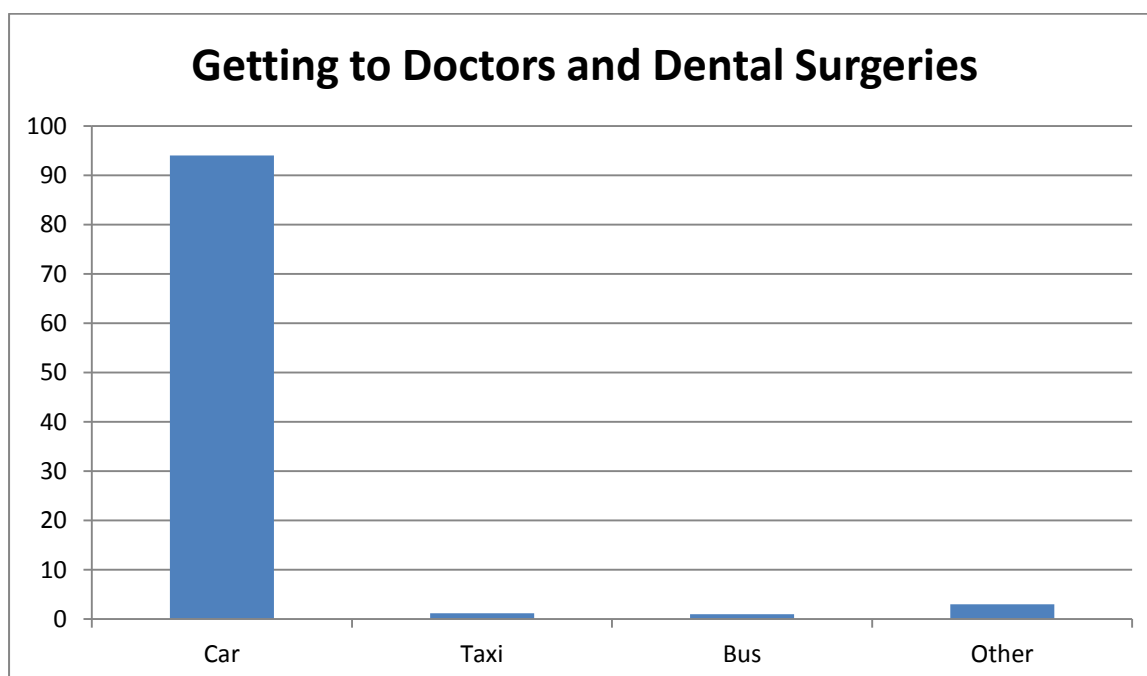
'Other' includes Loughborough, Syston, Nottingham, Mountsorrel, Sutton Bonington

Which Dentists surgery do you use?

4.2% Barrow upon Soar 51.8% Loughborough 22.3% Other
16.3% East Leake 3% Melton Mowbray

'Other' includes West Bridgford, Nottingham, Long Eaton, Leicester, Syston, Mountsorrel, Oakham, Sileby, Derby, Sileby, Shepshed, Radcliffe on Trent, Kegworth and one resident uses a mobile dentist.

Which method of transport do you use to get to the surgeries?



'Other' responses included two individuals who use their bicycle, one uses their motorbike, others ask for a lift, one uses the 'dial- a- ride' service and one resident receives home visits from their GP.

How frequently do you use the public bus?



Local bus service between Loughborough and Grantham

One resident who replied to the questionnaire uses the public bus service on a daily basis, those that use the service once or twice a week also do their main food shop in Loughborough, so this may be their reason for using the bus?

There was a common theme for responses of 'never'. There are no bus routes to East Leake, Barrow upon Soar, Nottingham and Leicester. Some find it easier to take the car to do the weekly food shop. Comments included:

'I would use a bus to get to work (Leicester) but there is no direct route'.

'Too infrequent, expensive and slow'.

'If going into Loughborough it would be for a 'big' shop so take car. No bus service to Barrow for 'smaller' shop so have to take car'.

'Usually in car - time constraints & regularity'.

'Cannot access work / doctors'.

'Not convenient timings'.

'Because so rare and doesn't go to North/ West Bridgford'.

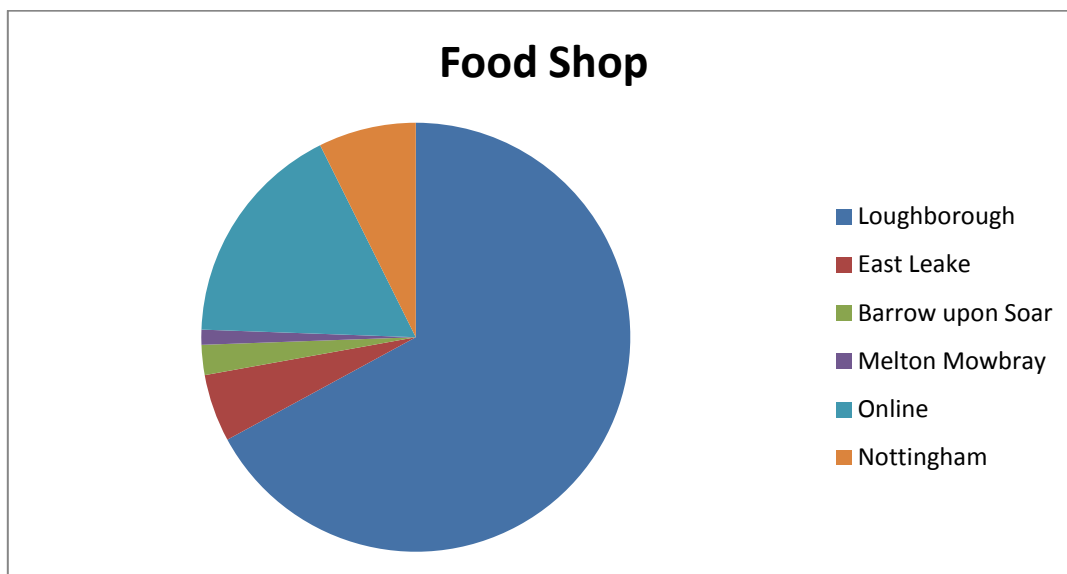
'No buses to East Leake or Bulwell. Shopping too heavy to carry'.

Other comments included:

'IF available I would like to use the bus to get into Loughborough at night to go out for a meal, cinema etc'

Where do you do your main food shop?

The majority still use Loughborough for their main food shop, but 'online' shopping has become the second most popular way to do the main food shop.



On a weekly basis how many SINGLE car journeys would you say were taken from your house?

25.3% take 5 single journeys, 19.9% take 10 single car journeys, 17.5% take 15 single journeys, 17.5% take 20 single journeys and 13.9% take more. Those that answered 'more' took single journeys of between 25 and 35 per week, one reply stated 50 plus.

The 'outreach' Post Office service is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 'The Three Crowns' on Far Street. How frequently do you use this service?

23.5% Once a week	1.2% More frequently	18.7% Never
24.7% Once a month	26.5% Less frequently	2.4% Weren't aware of the service



The Stockwell and Far Street junction

Please state the three things you most LIKE about living in Wymeswold?

1. There was an overwhelming response for community spirit and how friendly and welcoming the village is. 32% of replies said this was the thing they liked most about Wymeswold.

'Friendly village- everyone (or nearly everyone) will say hello'

'Sense of belonging to a distinct place'

'Fact we mostly know each other and look out for each other'

'Sense of community'.

'Friendly nature of most villagers'

'Community spirit- always things happening in the village'



The Village show attracts the full age spectrum.

2. There were 94 responses for village amenities, including the village shops, the church (& church community), school, pubs/ restaurants and the pharmacy. The two pubs and restaurant are the most valued amenities, followed by the village shop (Granvilles) then the pharmacy and school (14 individual mentions each), and the butchers were singled out by 7 people. 4 individuals mentioned the Post Office 'outreach service' and 5 referred to the bus service.

'Great school, pubs, restaurant and shops keep the village vibrant'

'Chemist has a wonderful service, extremely helpful'.

'Excellent pubs/ restaurants, no need to travel for an excellent meal'.

'Small independent shops'

'The Washdyke. A beautiful spot and my family enjoy looking at the fruit trees and comparing their progress'.

3. 44 'liked' the village events and clubs, this included community events such as the 'Duck Race' , 'Open Gardens' and 'Bonfire night' and the variety of clubs available, catering for the entire age spectrum.

'Lots of social clubs and groups of interest'.

'Social life (various clubs, pubs, organised events at the hall)'.

'Diverse and multiple clubs/ societies/ events'

'Social and communal activities for young and old'

'Lots of activities in the village, something for everyone'.

'Many clubs and opportunities to make contact with other people'.

4. 39 like Wymeswold's rural setting, with easy access to the countryside. An additional 11 specifically mentioned the footpaths.

'Rural setting, green open spaces, lots of footpaths'.

'Beautiful & rural'

5. 29 liked the location because the village is within close proximity to major road networks, conurbations and the airport.

'Easy to get to Nottingham, Leicester, Derby, Loughborough, M1 and Airport'

'Good access to major traffic routes and the airport- if you have your own transport!'

6. 22 mentioned how attractive and well kept the village is, with particular reference to the historic buildings.

'Very English- lovely village (not many left) -very attractive'.

'Nice well kept friendly village'

‘The characterful buildings’

‘Aesthetically is a good place to live, it’s an attractive village’

‘The church being illuminated at night. So welcoming when you come home in the dark’.

7. A further 20 liked the quiet/ peaceful or tranquil environment. 7 referred to the village feeling safe and a good place to bring up children. Someone else mentioned the low crime rate.

‘Peace and quiet’

8. 6 references to the size of settlement

It’s size- small enough for a sense of community; large enough for a variety of activities’.

‘For the size of the village there are great facilities and activities’.

‘Village size- no bigger thanks’.

9. Other ‘likes’ included being near to family (3 responses).



Community Speed Watch Volunteers on the A6006

Please state the three things you most DISLIKE about living in Wymeswold?

1. People's dislikes have been listed in descending order. The greatest 'dislike' referred to volume and speed of traffic using the A6006, the difficulty and danger of crossing the road, the number of lorries coming through the village and the noise generated by the traffic. In total 157 responses out of 357 identified traffic as their greatest 'dislike'.

'Volume of transport including excessive HGV usage'.

'The A6006! Having poor mobility, I dread having to cross this road, especially when taking granddaughter to school'.

'Traffic increase, especially on Far Street, East Road, Stockwell. Too many lorries and heavy traffic'.

'The traffic density on the A6006'.

'The huge amount of traffic (esp. HGV's) on the A6006 which should be diverted on to suitable roads'.

'Worry about children crossing the road'.

'Village is divided by Far Street'.

'No footpaths on parts of Far Street'.

'Congestion of heavy traffic on the main road & having to cross it twice to reach amenities'.

2. This was followed by criticism of the bus service or rather the limitation of routes. There were 46 individual comments about the bus service. In particular, the lack of direct bus routes to East Leake and Barrow upon Soar, the 'service centres' for Wymeswold. These two larger villages are where 95.8% of those who completed a survey are registered with Doctors practices. There also appears to be a demand for a direct bus service to Leicester and Nottingham, and there were complaints about the lack of a bus service at all on Sundays or after 6pm on weekday evenings.

'The bus service is not great for young people going out at night'.

'Infrequent bus service esp at night'.

'Public transport links'.

'Reliance on car to get anywhere'.

'Bus only comes once an hour into Loughborough and out'.

3. Third on the list of 'dislikes' was concern about development and how quickly the village is changing. There were 33 references.

'Fear of continued building development ruining the village'

'Constant threat of village expanding'.

'Over development of housing for easy profit rather than needs of the community'.

'Threat of further housing developments and the consequences thereof'.

'How quickly it's changing, there has been a lot of new housing in the last 10 years, particularly larger properties. We need homes that older people can 'down size' to, and possibly bungalows'.

'Worry that character and community will change through expansion'.

'Unsympathetic development to the village, no attempt to comply with Village Design Statement'.

'Edge of village housing developments'.

'Constant planning applications'.

'Over urbanisation of the village, loss of quiet country lanes'.

4. Next on the list of 'dislikes' was inconsiderate parking, with three specific references to the junction of Burton Road and Hoton Road, seven complaints about parking along Brook Street, one comment about London Lane and one about The Stockwell. There were 3 separate references to badly parked cars at 'drop off' / 'pick up' time for school.

'Cars parking on the bend of Hoton Road are dangerous'

'Cars blocking footpaths (pavements) regularly, particularly on London Lane'

'Car parking on Brook Street during school pick up/ drop off'.

'Parking should be limited to one side on Brook Street'.

'People parking all along Brook Street using The Windmill, blocking gateways and road'.

'Inconsiderate parking along Brook Street from patrons of The Windmill'.

'Parking on road/ bend coming into Wymeswold from Hoton by the Washdyke- an accident waiting to happen'.

5. The lack of a Doctor's surgery and the fact that there is no direct public transport link to get to the existing surgeries, was mentioned by 19 residents.
6. There were 18 comments about inconsiderate dog owners, although no specific areas were mentioned:

'Dirty pathways'

'People still not picking up dog mess'

7. Noise pollution is also a problem. There were 11 references to the noise from the airfield particularly at the weekends, being a nuisance. Noise generated by traffic on the A6006, and other nuisance noise such as barking dogs and house alarms.

'Increased noise levels i.e. house/ car alarms/ traffic/ barking dogs'.

8. A further 8 commented about the state of grass cutting and the grass verges in the village, including damage caused by construction vehicles accessing new builds on Brook Street, and 2 references to untidy grass verges on the brook side.
9. There were 8 references to poor broadband speed or mobile phone signal.

'Verges being destroyed by parked vehicles'

'Lack of care to public grassy areas'.

'Poor condition of grass verges- both parking and cutting'.

'Not happy with grass cutting of verges and larger areas'.

'Grass is cut and the grass cuttings are not removed, and left to rot leaving a very unattractive appearance'.

10. There were 4 'dislikes' for the chicken farm, including two complaints about the smell, another about the proximity of the site to the village and a fourth about early deliveries and collections before 06:00.
11. Other comments included two references to stray cats, the lack of footpaths to neighbouring villages, three references to the potential of fracking locally, and two references to a lack of community Christmas lights/ decorations. Someone said they would like to see a 'cash point' in the village. There were two references to lack of facilities/ amenities for teenagers, and another respondent was concerned about horses in fields with public access (footpaths).
12. Visual dislikes included one comment about the wind turbine and another disliked the concrete bridges on Brook Street.



Brook Street

Conclusion

On the whole, residents of Wymeswold seem very content. From the responses, Wymeswold is a very friendly and sociable place to live. There are plenty of opportunities to engage in the community, and to a degree the villagers are self contained because of the clubs, social events, shops and amenities.

The village also appeals because it is well kept and an attractive and quiet environment in which to live. The rural setting and countryside are important to most and the good connectivity to major routes.

However, residents are reliant on their own transport to get to their place of work, to do their weekly food shop and to access Doctors etc. Only one resident used the bus daily to get to work, whilst others said they would like a direct bus service to East Leake, Barrow upon Soar, Nottingham and Leicester.

The volume and speed of traffic using the A6006 is a major concern to residents and has been described as physically 'dividing the village'.

There is a resistance to change and development. 'Infill' and the potential of using 'green field' sites for development are a concern. And, as with a lot of settlements, there are apparently problems with people not clearing up after their pets and maintenance of verges, playing fields etc.

'One man's pleasure is another man's pain' as the adage goes, what someone perceives as a 'like' can be a 'dislike' for another. In responses, under 'likes' there was one reference to enjoying hearing the church bells being rung, however, someone clearly states 'the church bells' are their dislike! Under 'dislikes' some were concerned about the 'urbanisation' of the village, whilst others would like to see more shops, cafes and 'vehicle service facilities' or a fuel station.

N.B. All illustrations should add up to 100% of replies, if this is not the case it because respondents have ticked one or boxes to a single response question.