

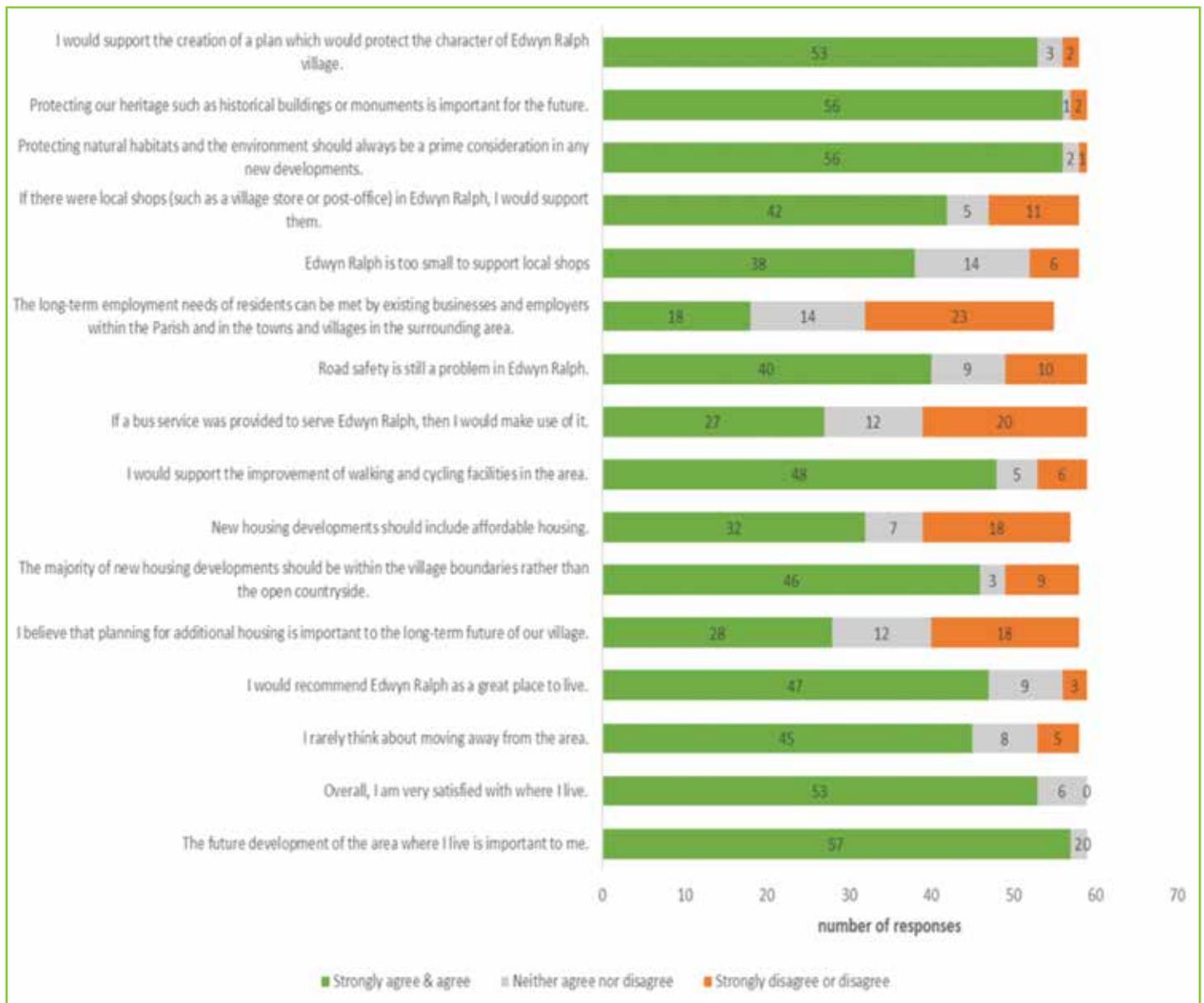
Edwyn Ralph Neighbourhood Plan

Community survey results and characterisation consultation

We are contacting you with important news on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan – the results from the **Community Survey** and the publication of our **Characterisation Study**.

First of all a big thank you to all of the residents that have taken part in the recent Neighbourhood Plan survey. We had a good response rate with 59 completed surveys, representing up to around half of the households in the Parish.

The results of the survey are summarised in the following Chart:

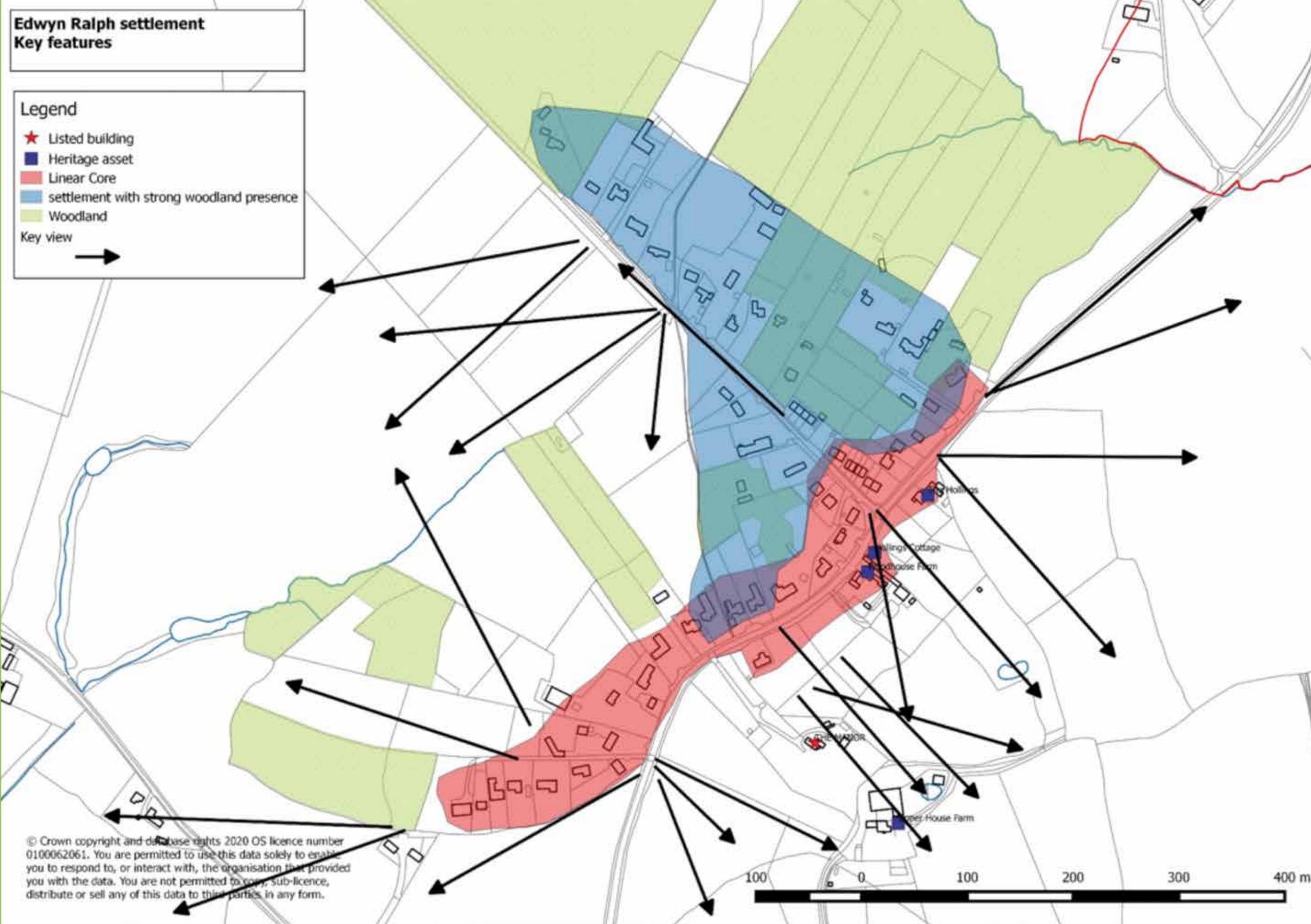


We will use this information to help develop a draft of a **Vision and Objectives** for the Neighbourhood Plan that we will share with you later this year for your views. More on this later!



The Characterisation Study

You told us that protecting the character of the village, heritage and historic features are vitally important for the future of the area. But what does that mean and how can it be reflected in our Plan? We have produced a Characterisation Study Report: - 'a document that describes the distinct appearance and feel of a settlement or an area'. The Report uses best practise and endorsed by Historic England and the Royal Town Planning Institute.



The full version of the Characterisation Study can be viewed on the Neighbourhood Plan website www.edwynralph.org/np. We would love you to tell us what you think about it and whether it captures the special qualities of the area that we all call home. If you do have any comments or questions, please let us know by the 15th December either by email np@edwynralph.org or in writing to **Edwyn Ralph NP Steering Group, c/o Wood House Farm, Edwyn Ralph, Bromyard, HR7 4LX**. If you would like a paper copy of the document then please contact us by email, or by speaking with **Carole on 07902 494 415**.

What does it tell us – main findings?

The Parish as a whole

The Parish of Edwyn Ralph is a deeply tranquil rural area which retains much of its traditional character.

There is a huge variety of views – from long distance expansive vistas from the elevated north-west, the more intimate and sheltered setting of the valleys on the edges of the Parish.

The area contains a rich legacy of historic buildings and has a strong sense of continuity over a long time period.

Edwyn Ralph village

Edwyn Ralph as a well-defined ‘linear’ settlement along the B4214. This location provides far reaching views from within the settlement across the surrounding countryside and far beyond. The immediate setting of the settlement very sensitive to new development. The extensive remnants of Edwyn Wood on the northern side of the B4214 have the effect of ‘merging’ parts of the settlement into it, giving Wood Lane in particular a semi-rural character.

What are the main recommendations?

- Support proposals which protect and enhance the traditional rural landscape and historic features of the area.
- Encourage the management and enhancement of the landscape by maintaining or restoring hedgerow boundaries and the expansion, restoration and creation of ancient and broadleaf woodland. Conserve and manage the rich architectural and historic legacy.
- To protect and enhance the character and setting of the settlement of Edwyn Ralph and supporting

appropriate new development which meets the housing, recreational and day-to-day service needs of the community. This would be most appropriately met through either the sub-division of existing plots or the use of vacant or underused plots on the northern side of the B4214. Large scale development on the western, southern and eastern edges of the settlement, or on the ‘outside’ of the remnants of Edwyn Wood in the northern part of the settlement would have a significant and potentially highly detrimental impact on its character and setting.

Next steps

The CV-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on the way we prepare the Neighbourhood Plan. So it’s now very unlikely that we will be able to hold our Community Forum and meet with you face-to-face until the Spring of next year. But we want to continue to progress with the Plan and to ensure that it fully reflects your aspirations for the future of our area.

We will be in touch with you again in December with a suggested Vision for the area for your comments. The Vision is an important stage in the process and describes what the area could be like by 2031., and will be supported by ‘objectives’ which are more specific and what needs to happen to make the Vision a reality.

In December we will also be asking you to put forward suggestions for the use of individual plots of land for inclusion in the Plan through a ‘call for sites’. This can include a wide range of uses such as new homes and community facilities, and also areas that should be protected from development.

This will allow us to have a more detailed consultation in early 2021. This will help us to understand your views on the sites submitted to us through the call for sites, and a range of subjects such as transport, communications, protecting the environment and community facilities.

And please remember, if we do not have a Neighbourhood Development Plan, then someone else will make the decisions about what happens in Edwyn Ralph. However, if we do have a Plan then, once adopted, it will have full legal force and Herefordshire Council must take it into account when deciding planning priorities and other decisions. Further details about Neighbourhood Planning can also be found on the Neighbourhood Plan website www.edwynralph.org/np, or you can email us onnnp@edwynralph.org.

