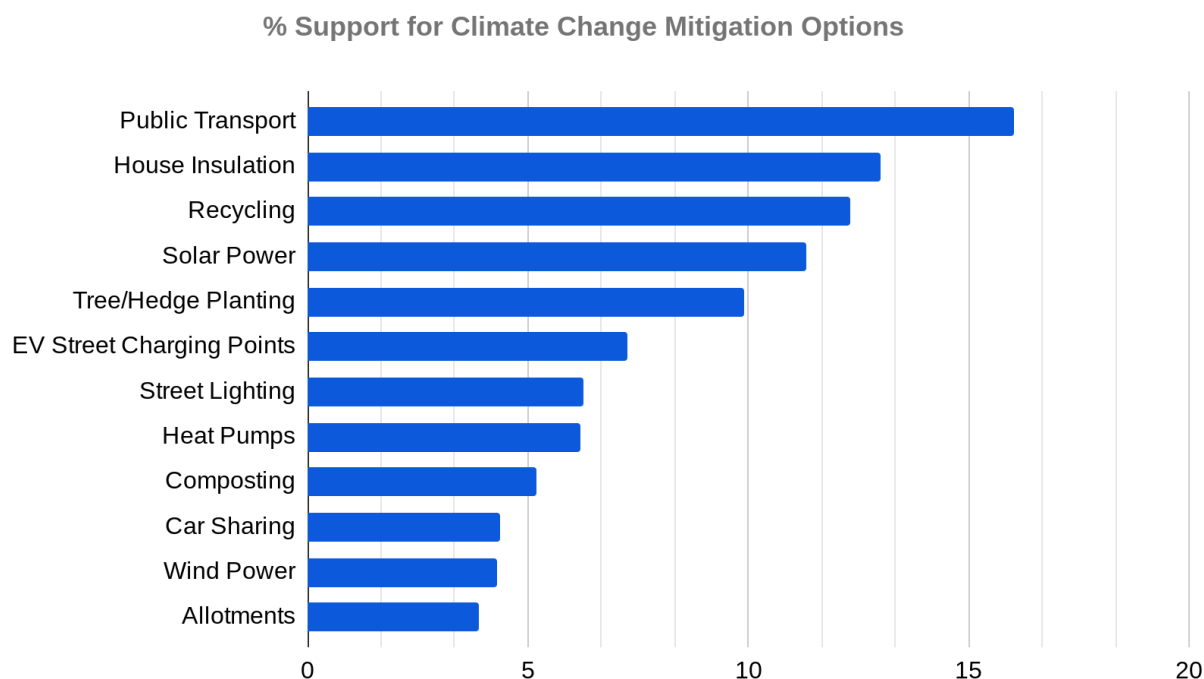


What Kind of Bus Service Does Shepton Beauchamp Want ?

Shepton Beauchamp is a rural village in South Somerset with 728 inhabitants and 320 dwellings recorded in the 2011 Census, and a much-reduced bus service.

Better public transport was the most important climate change mitigation option identified by parishioners in a survey by Shepton Beauchamp Parish Council in June 2021 with house insulation, recycling, solar power, and tree/hedge planting, as close runners up.



This report summarises the findings of a follow-up bus service questionnaire survey conducted by Shepton Beauchamp Parish Council in January 2022.

Paper questionnaires were delivered to every household in the Parish at the end of December 2021, with copies of the January 2022 issue of The Web Magazine. The questionnaire was also announced on Facebook and available online via a Quick Response code and Google Forms. The survey closed on 29 January 2022.

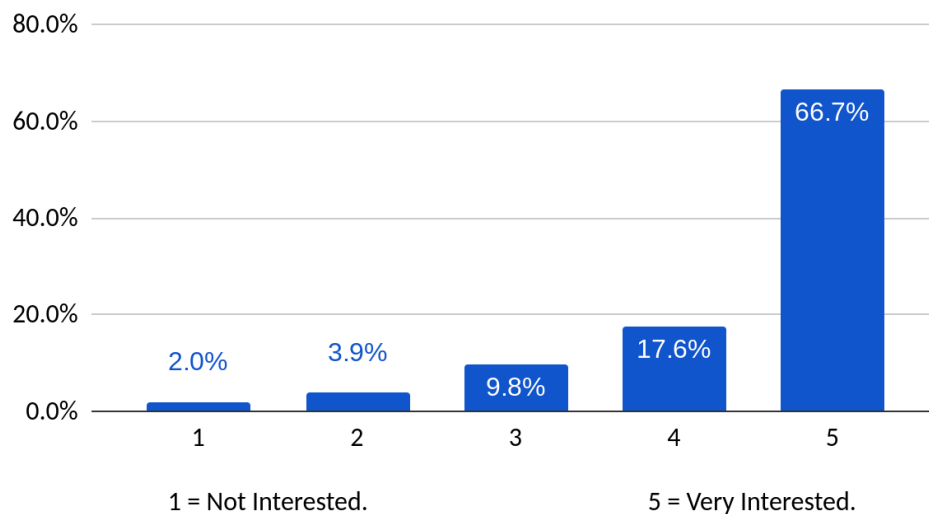
A total of 51 returns were received: 32 (63%) online and 19 (37%) paper forms, an overall response rate of 16%, or about 1 in six households.

These figures compare with 75 responses to the earlier Carbon Footprint Questionnaire, with an overall response rate of 21%, or 1 in 5 households.

Both sets of returns are relatively good response rates for voluntary questionnaires.

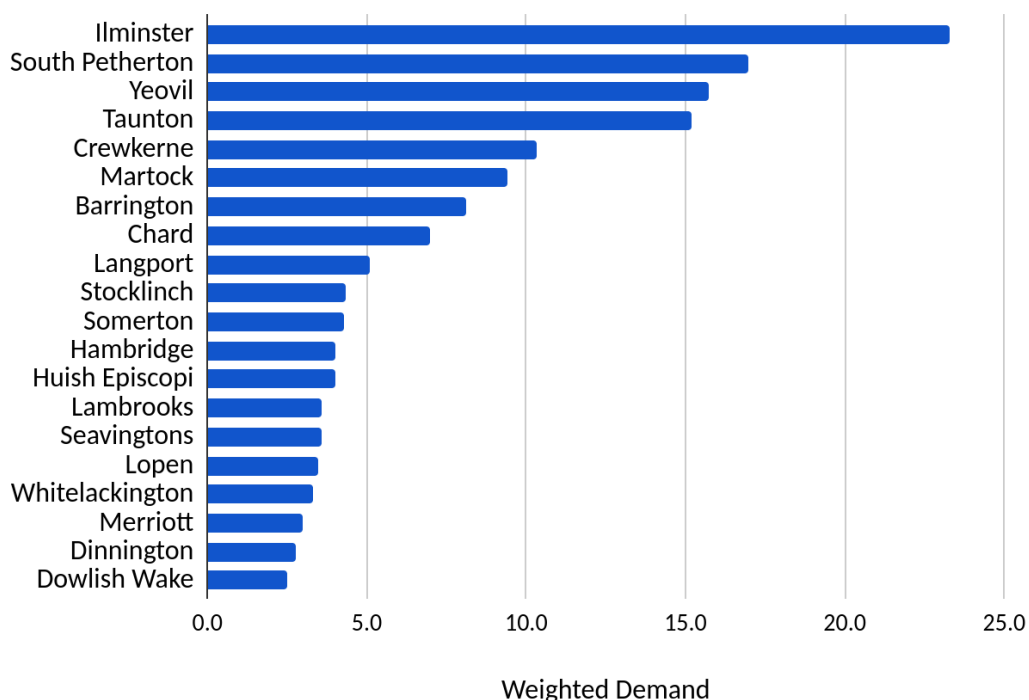
1. How interested are you in having a better bus service?

The great majority of respondents (84%) wanted a better bus service.



2. Where would you like to bus to, and how often?

For ease of analysis and reporting, individual responses were weighted according to the desired frequency of travel and summed to produce the following ranking of destinations.



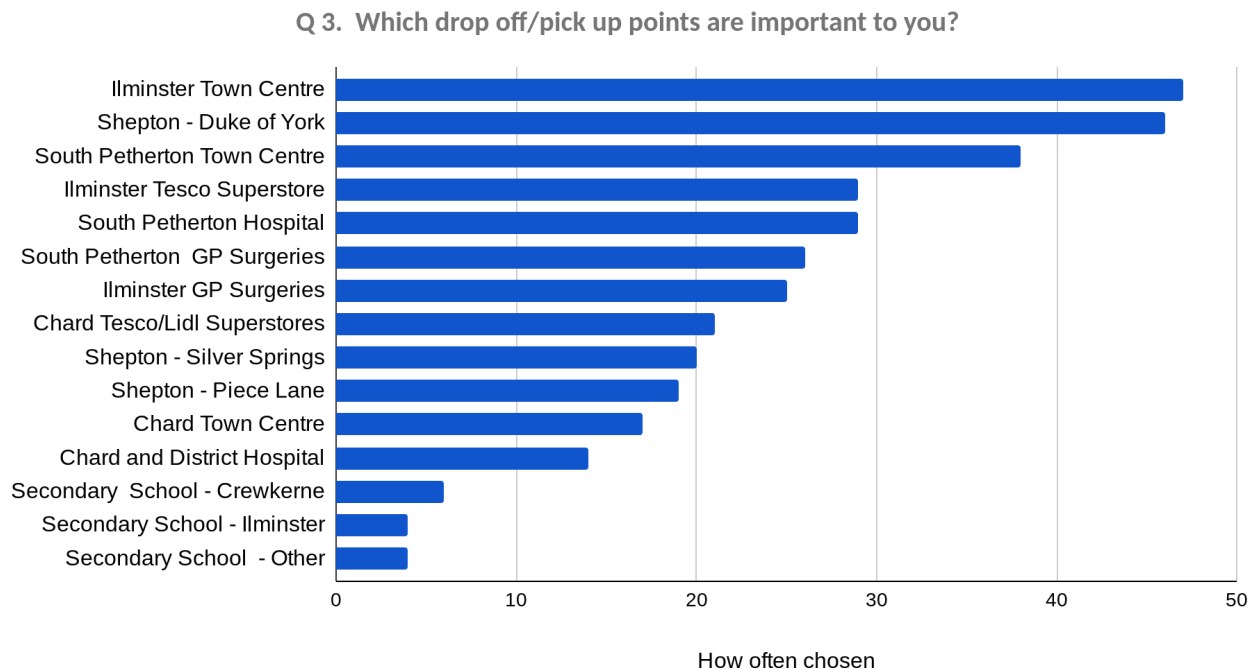
Iminster, South Petherton, Yeovil, and Taunton are clearly the most popular destinations, followed by Crewkerne, Martock, Barrington, Chard, Langport, and other mostly rural locations.

Other destinations of interest identified by respondents included: Castle Carey; Charmouth; Crewkerne Station; Hinton St George; Lyme Regis; Street; and Yeovil College.

3. Which drop-off/pick-up points are important to you?

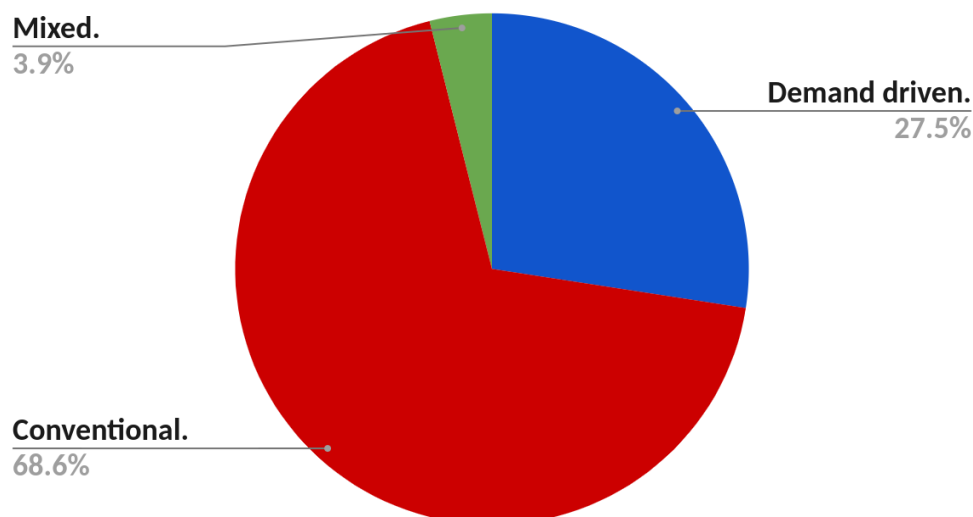
The most popular destination stopping points were: Ilminster Town Centre, South Petherton Town Centre, Ilminster Tesco Superstore, South Petherton Community Hospital, South Petherton GP Surgeries, Ilminster GP Surgeries, and Chard Tesco/Lidl Superstores.

The most popular bus stopping point in Shepton Beauchamp was the Duke of York, followed by Silver Springs and Piece Lane.



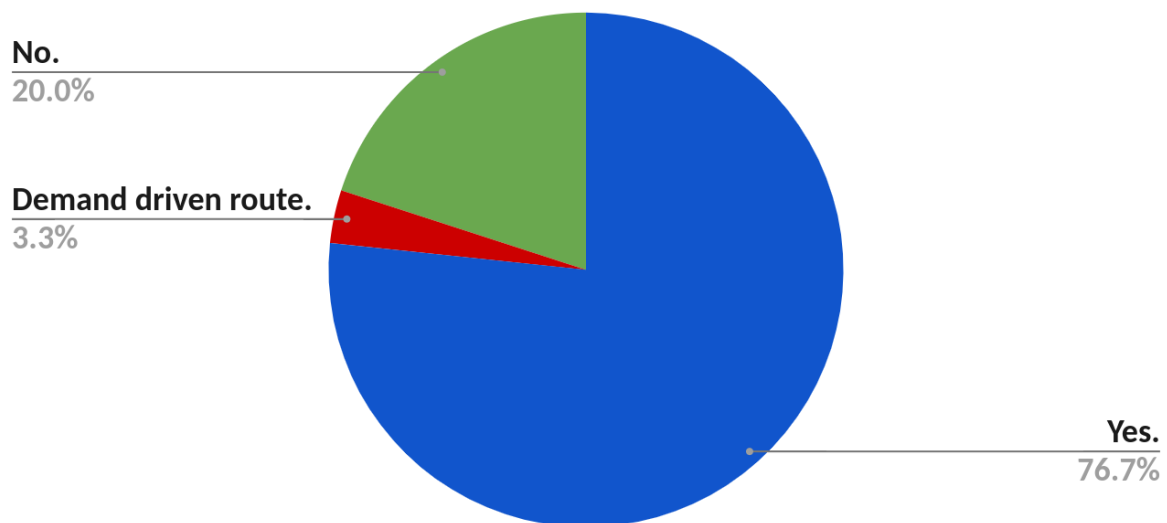
4. What kind of bus service would you prefer?

Just over two-thirds (69%) of respondents preferred a conventional, fixed-route bus service, but the remaining 31% recognised the benefits of a more flexible, demand-driven service.



5. Would you use a bus service linking: Shepton Beauchamp, Lambrooks, South Petherton, Seavingtons, Ilminster, and Barrington?

The great majority of respondents (77%) indicated that they would use such a service.



6. Do you agree that rural mini-bus services should be accessible to disabled passengers?

All respondents agreed that bus services should be accessible to disabled passengers.

7. Do you agree that rural mini-bus services should switch from diesel /petrol to electric/battery power?

The great majority of respondents (73%) were in favour of introducing electric/battery-powered bus services.

