

Local Plan Survey Winter 2020/21

Analysis of answers to open question 34

“Anything else that we have missed or that you want to say at the end of the survey?”

How many extra comments were made?

- 439 people made extra comments at the end of the survey
- Many of these comments covered more than one issue.
- To assist with analysis, these comments were broken down into 619 single issue comments
- These were then sorted into comments applicable to each topic paper.
- They were then further divided into subjects within that topic in order to identify trends as to which issues respondents commented on most.

Format of analysis

- This document will show graphs of which subjects were most commented on within the topic paper categories, and provide two representative quotes per topic.
- A graph will also be provided showing which topics attracted the most comments.

Topics alphabetically

- Climate Change
- Health and Wellbeing
- Heritage and Built Conservation
- Housing
- Landscape
- Minerals and Waste
- Recreation and Tourism
- Shops and Community Facilities
- Spatial Strategy
- Supporting Economic Development
- Trails (there were so many comment on the Trails that this has been analysed separately rather than as part of Transport)
- Transport
- Utilities

Additional Topics

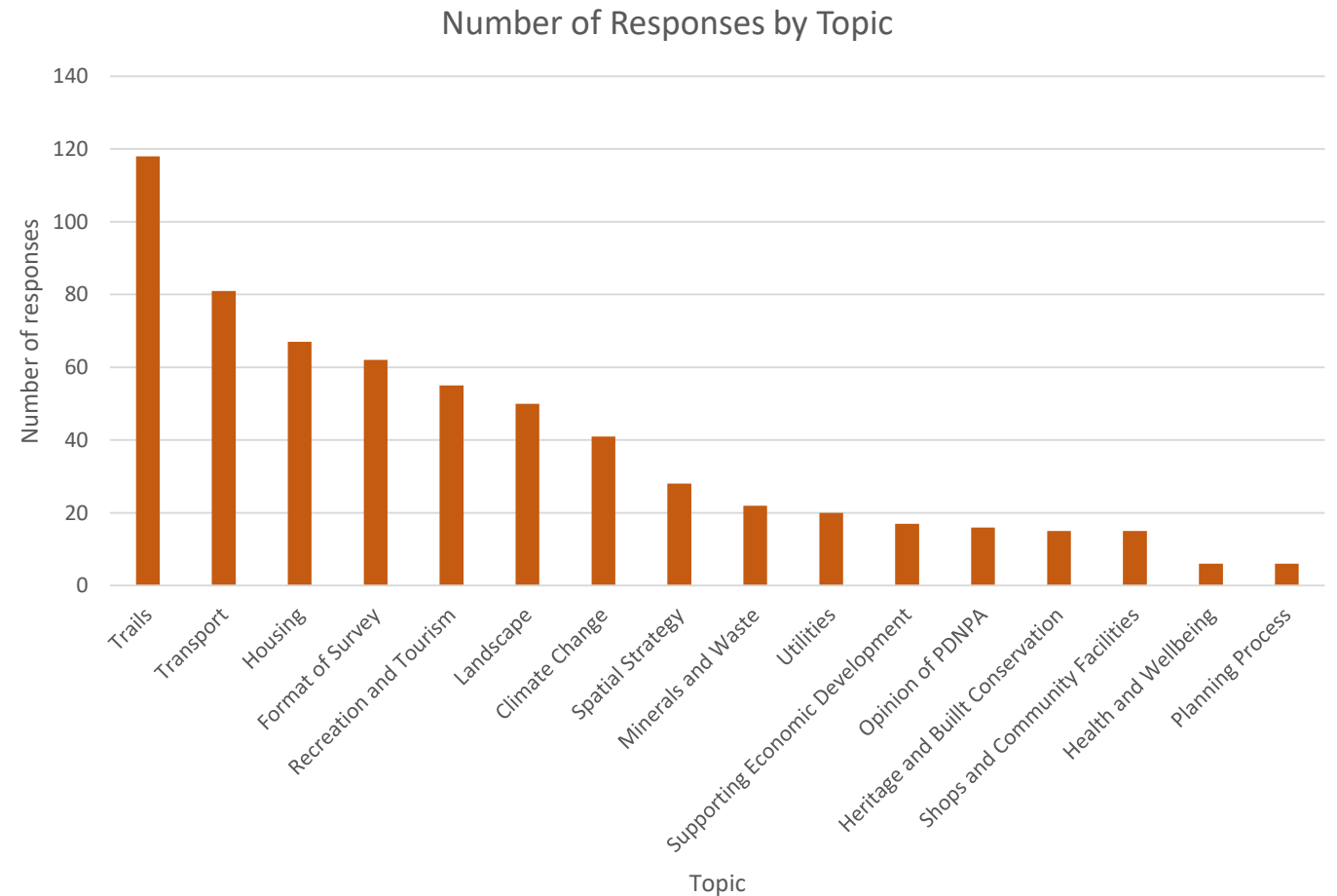
- Not all of the comments fitted into the topic paper categories. These comments have been split into 3 additional categories:
- Planning Process
- Opinion of PDNPA
- Opinion of Survey

Overall Comments by Topic

The topics that were most popular were the Trails, Transport, and Housing.

The following slides present the topics in order of popularity.

The additional comments which were outside the remit of the survey are presented at the end.



Trails

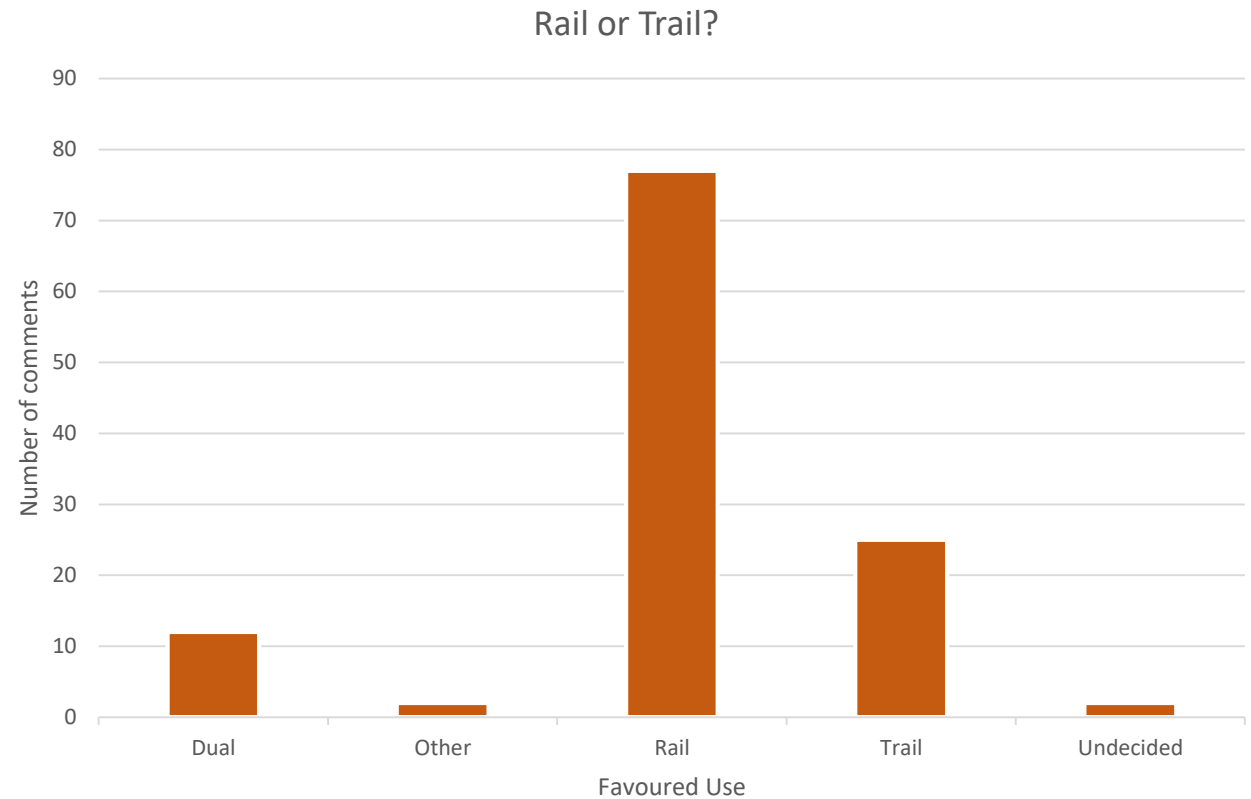
77 respondents favoured the trails being used for rail.

25 respondents favoured the trails being kept as trails

12 respondents suggested dual use

“The important need to re-open the mainline railway through the Peak District must be recognised and supported. This would provide an acceptable travel mode through the Park from the East Midlands and North West that can only currently be made by car or bus travel using a direct route. It was available, was short-sightedly closed but must be re-opened asap.”

“I do not want the Monsal Trail to be turned into a railway line. The cost of reinstatement, the negative impact on the local wildlife, the disruption it would cause etc., would not be worth the minimal benefits it could bring.”



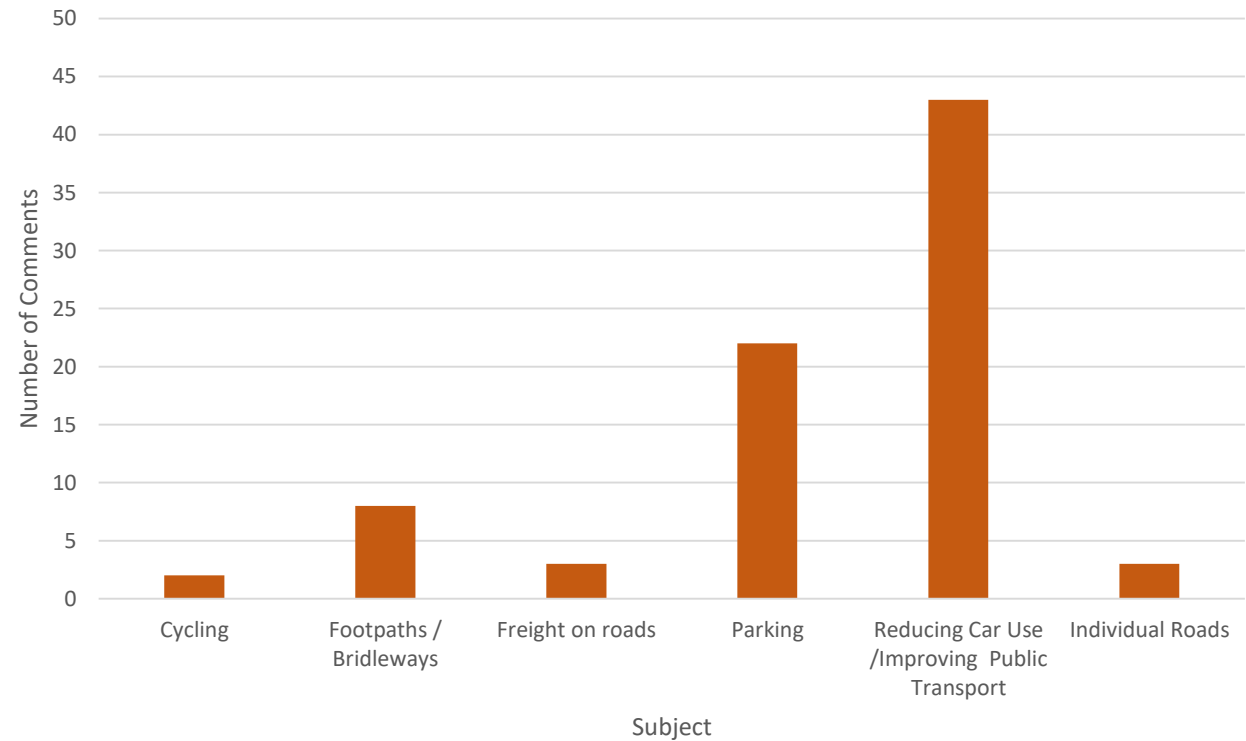
Transport

The issues that were of most concern to respondents were reducing car use/ improving public transport and parking.

“More frequent and more joined up public transport to serve a wider area of the Peak from surrounding towns and cities would help to reduce congestion and inappropriate parking. Public transport should be the main way people access the park (with obvious exceptions for those with access needs.)”

“Just to add my thoughts on off road parking in the national park. I agree that car usage has increased and on a sunny Sunday cars are littered everywhere. I would rather see an area of off road parking in places where there is always a build up of cars parked on the road. These could be made of grasscrete, so it looks natural, pay and display to create funds, everyone’s a winner and the hedgerows don’t get trashed by parked cars!”

Transport Comments by subject



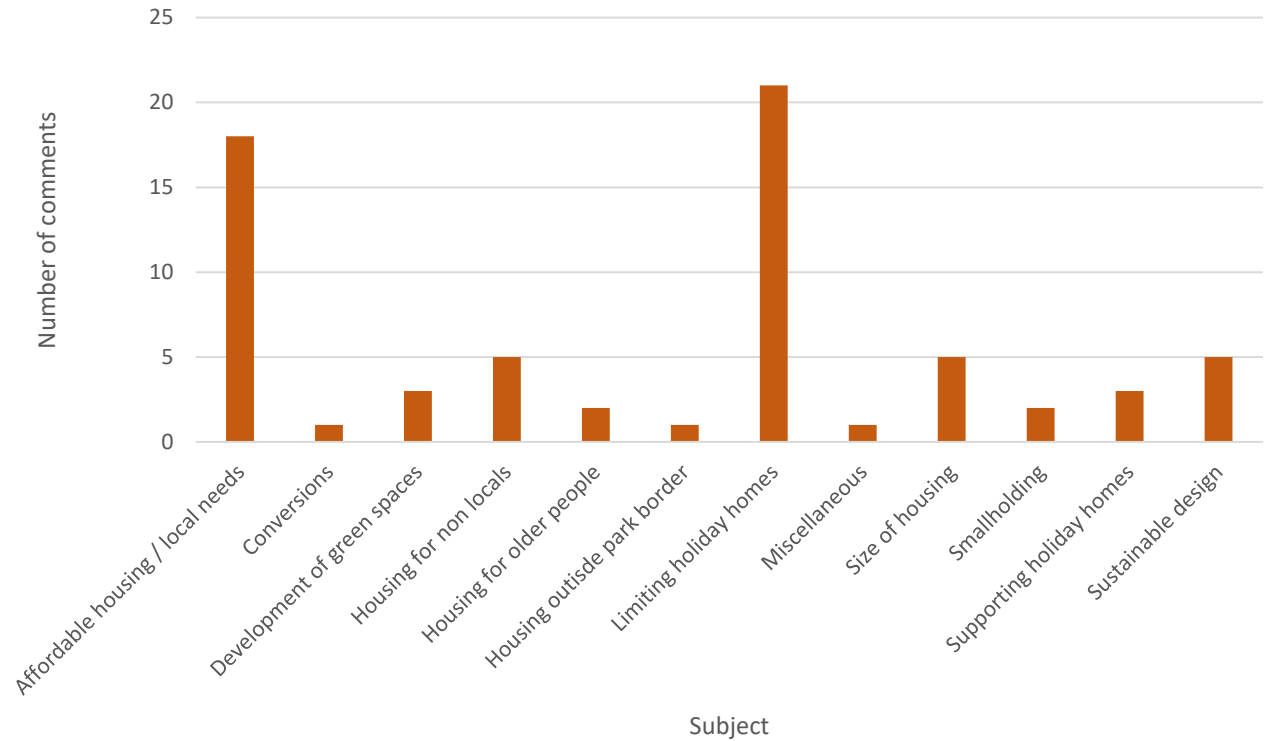
Housing

The issues that were of most concern to respondents were limiting holiday / second homes, and affordable / local needs housing.

“There are way too many holiday homes for both personal use and as a business. They don't contribute to village life at all. I think second homes should be taxed at a higher rate than ordinary residential homes. Any built housing should have caps on how much it can be sold on for, to keep it affordable into the future.”

“We need housing for young adults whose families have lived here for generations I personally can trace my family back to 1600 but wouldn't be able to get on the property ladder.”

Housing - Comments by subject



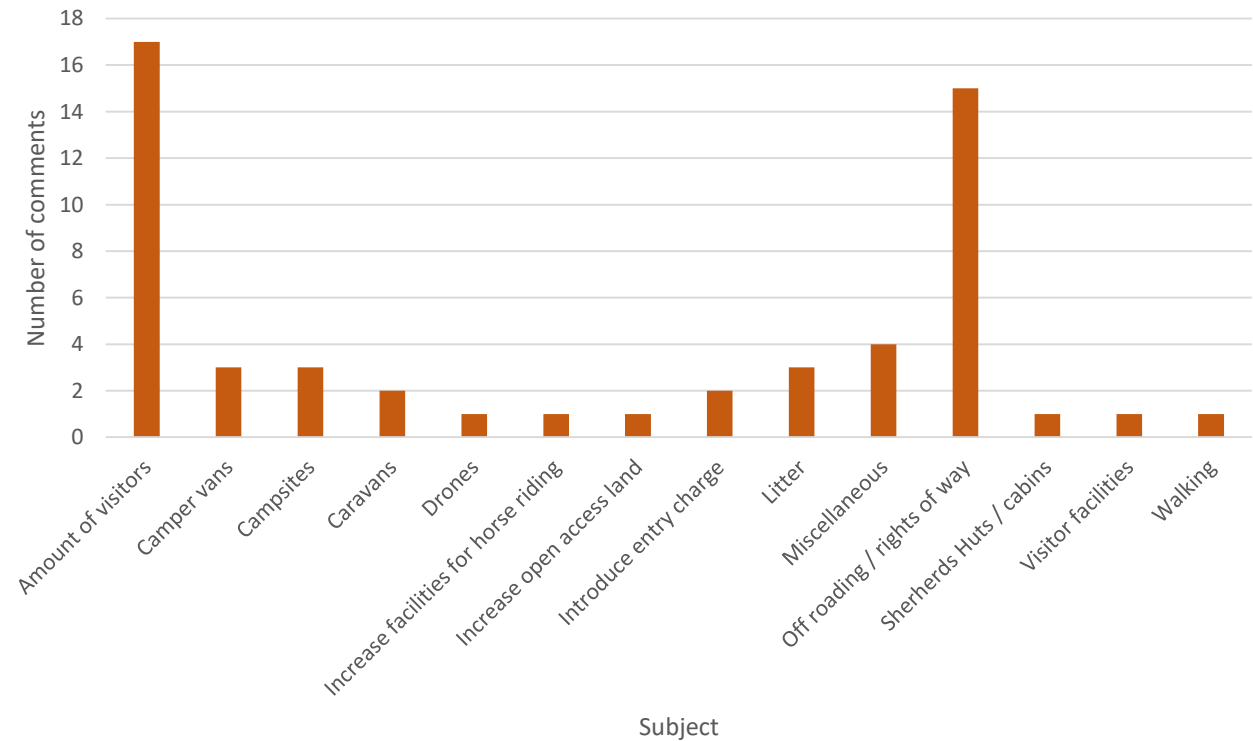
Recreation and Tourism

The issues that were of most concern to respondents were the amount of visitors to the National Park, and off-roading / rights of way.

“Stop encouraging increased visits to the Park. It’s a fragile eco structure and once destroyed cannot be replaced. Stop the littering, wild fires, walls knocked down and damage to SSSI’s from increased tourism.”

“Provision should be made in suitable areas for motor cycles and 4x4s to practice off-road driving, e.g. 'pay and play' sites. This would relieve the pressure on unsealed roads and byways, and would reduce illegal off-road driving.”

Recreation and Tourism- Comments by topic

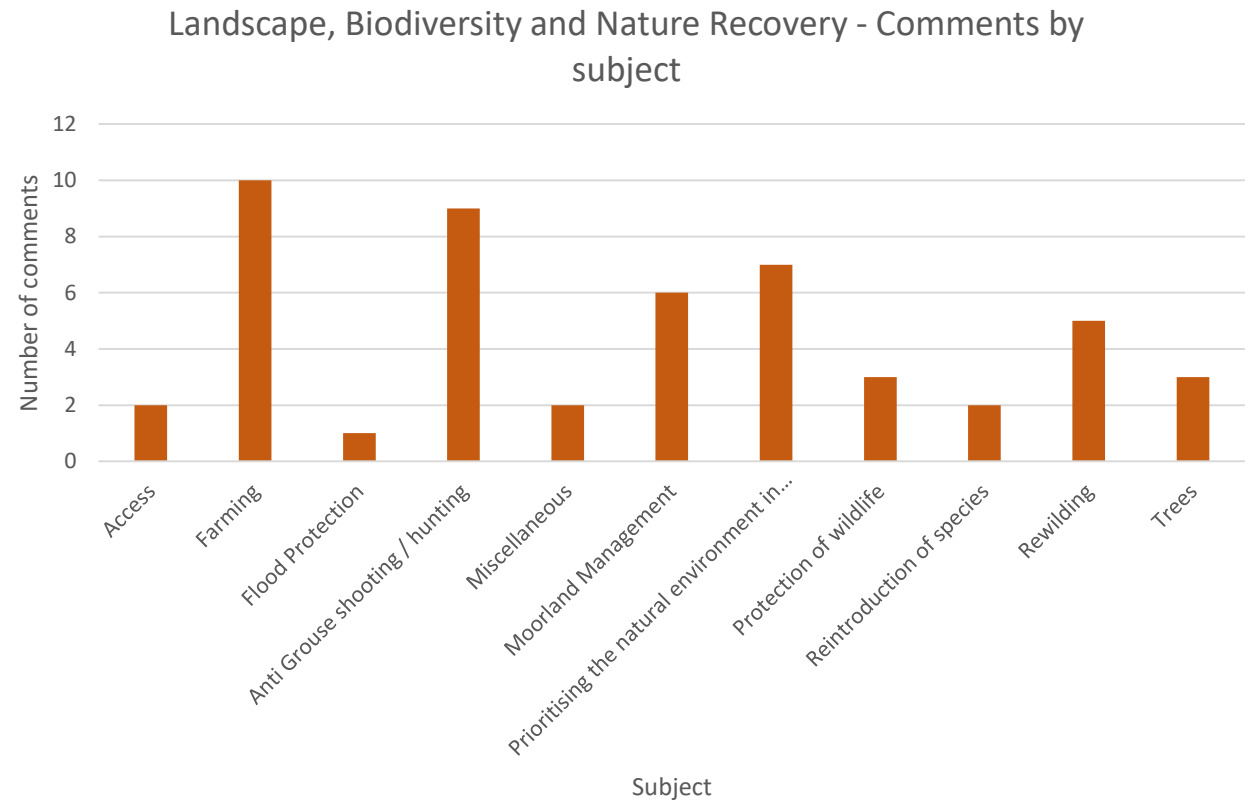


Landscape, Biodiversity and Nature Recovery

The issues that were of most concern to respondents were farming, and grouse shooting / hunting.

“Detailed consultations with the farming community, regarding balance of agriculture and the natural environment should be a primary focus”.

“I am concerned about the use of moorland for grouse shooting etc. and the impact this has on flooding, more so than a lot of the planning regulations “



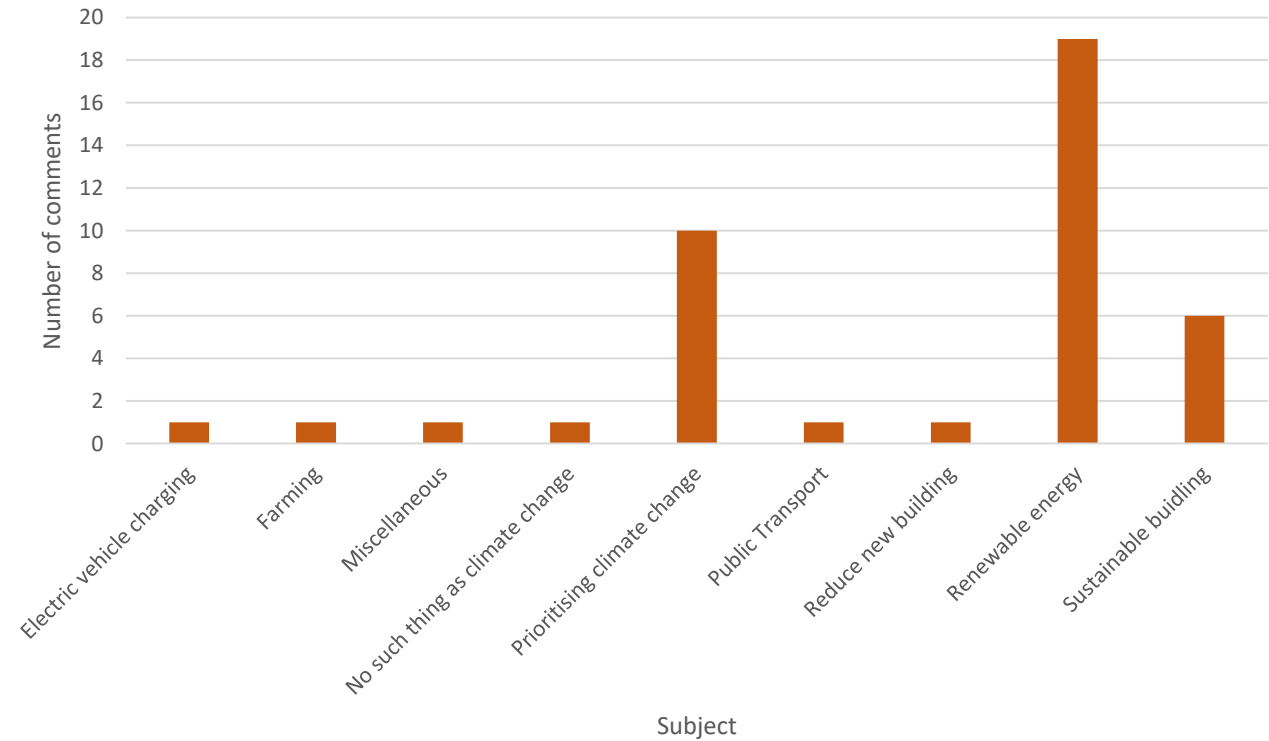
Climate Change

The issues of most concern to respondents were renewable energy, and prioritising climate change.

“Small scale wind should be a permitted development, or at the very least, there should be a presumption for it. Anything less indicates that the Peak Park is not concerned with allowing its residents to contribute as best they can to the daunting challenge of carbon free energy.”

“Increasing biodiversity and mitigating climate crisis appear to be at the core of the recommendations and I agree that these should a priority for the Park.”

Climate Change- Comments by Subject



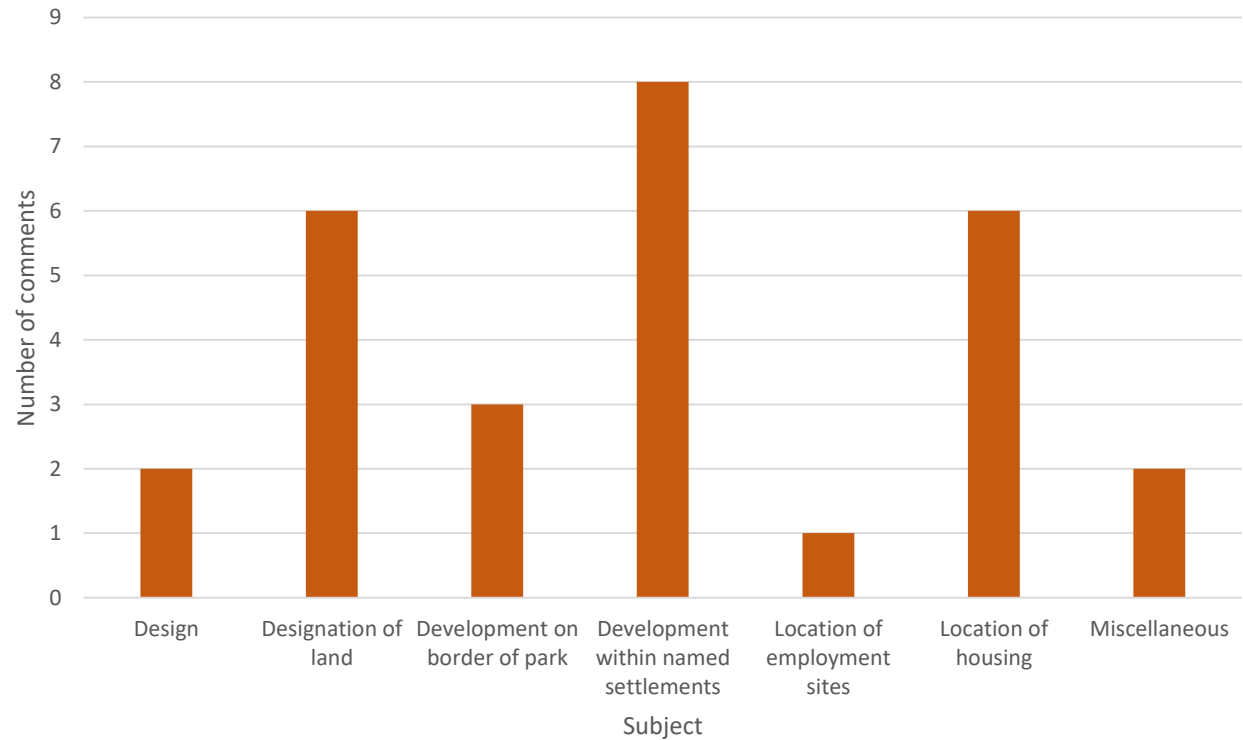
Spatial Strategy

The issues which were of most concern to respondents were development within named settlements, location of housing, and potential designation of land.

“Rather than continually adding extra new housing on the outskirts of the 63 villages/towns, (or in addition to this) consideration to be given to an entirely new village/small town. Environmentally friendly in design, for all ages but with significance placed on an ageing population, jobs for young families etc. “

“I do wonder whether permitted development needs to be reviewed in the Park, it seems there is evidence of haphazard development all over the park. I suppose more control means more funding and enforcement, the latter seems to be much reduced in any case these days. Cannot the Park be treated as a huge conservation area?”

Spatial Strategy Comments By Subject



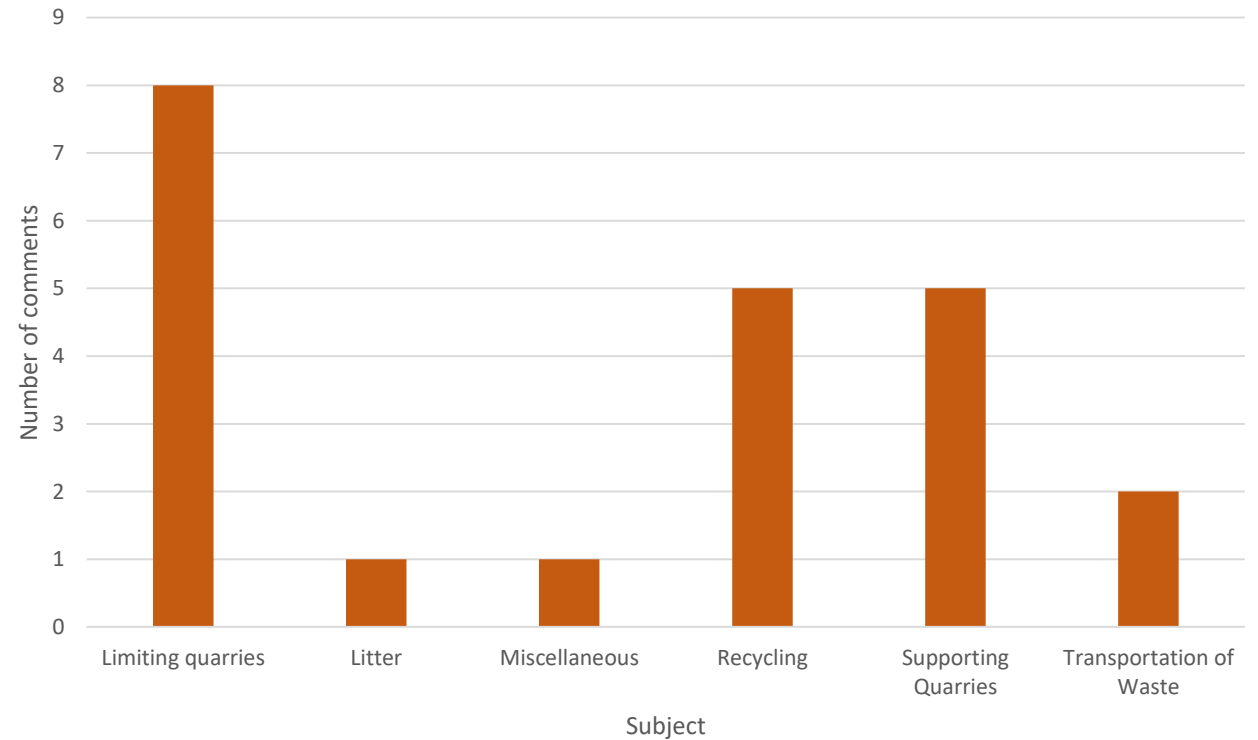
Minerals and Waste

The issues of most concern to respondents were quarries, and recycling.

“The quarries have to be allowed to continue to provide much needed employment locally and materials for the good of the country.”

“The park requires a park wide approach to recycling, particularly litter bins that accept all waste.”

Minerals and Waste - Comments by Subject



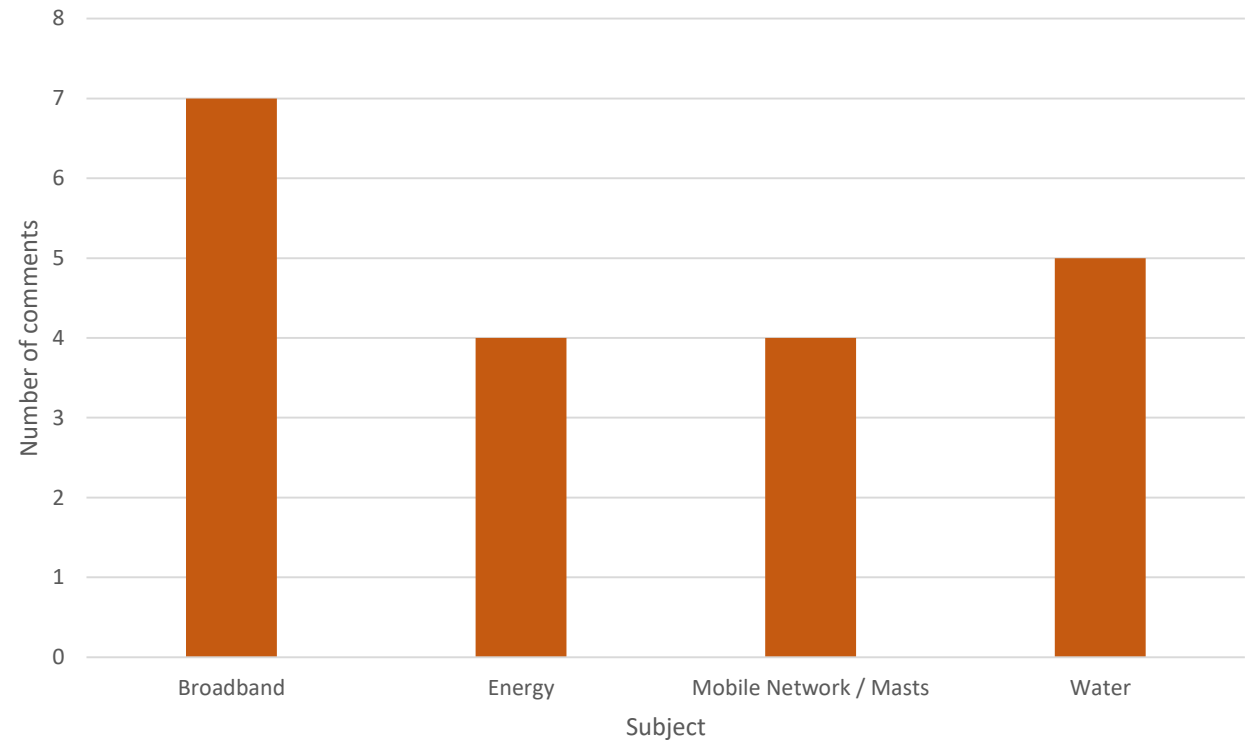
Utilities

The issues of most concern to respondents were broadband and water.

“Utilities Inc. broadband need to go underground - fibre much more reliable than over the airwave masts. More people are working from home, because they always planned to or because their employer accepts it is now possible to do so, and have seen the park from a different perspective.”

“Despite efforts to reduce water consumption it is inevitable that with population increase the country is going to need at least one more new large reservoir. Eyes will almost certainly return to the possibility of constructing the Derwent High Dam - a concept rejected in the 1980s in favour of Carsington pumped storage reservoir.”

Utilities Comments by Subject

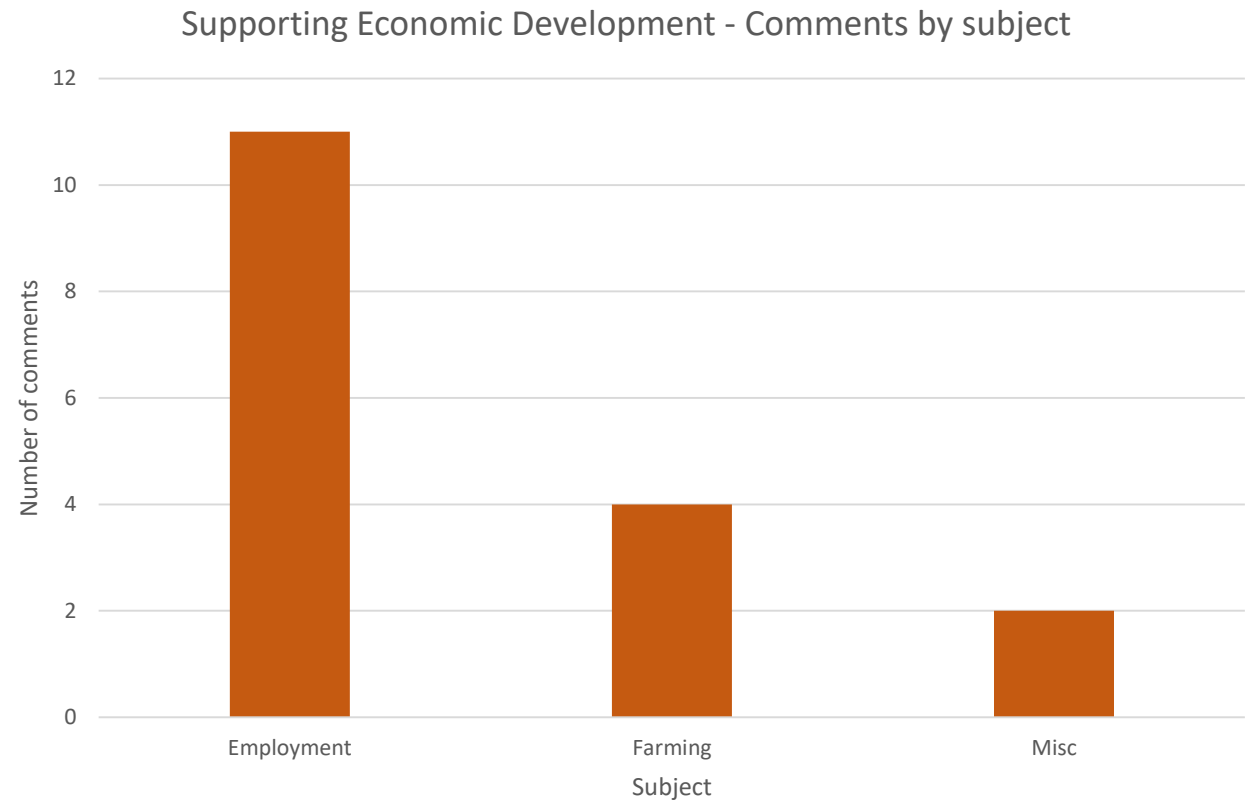


Supporting Economic Development

The issues of most concern to respondents were employment, and farming.

“We should encourage sustainable business development to offer employment for young people (not just tourism jobs) to encourage them to live and work within the National Park.”

“The Peak District seems to give a lot of focus on encouraging tourism in the area and bowing to neo-environmental pressures without consideration for those who have lived, farmed and managed the land here for generations and understand how it works. I would like to see more support given to farmers in the Peak District.”

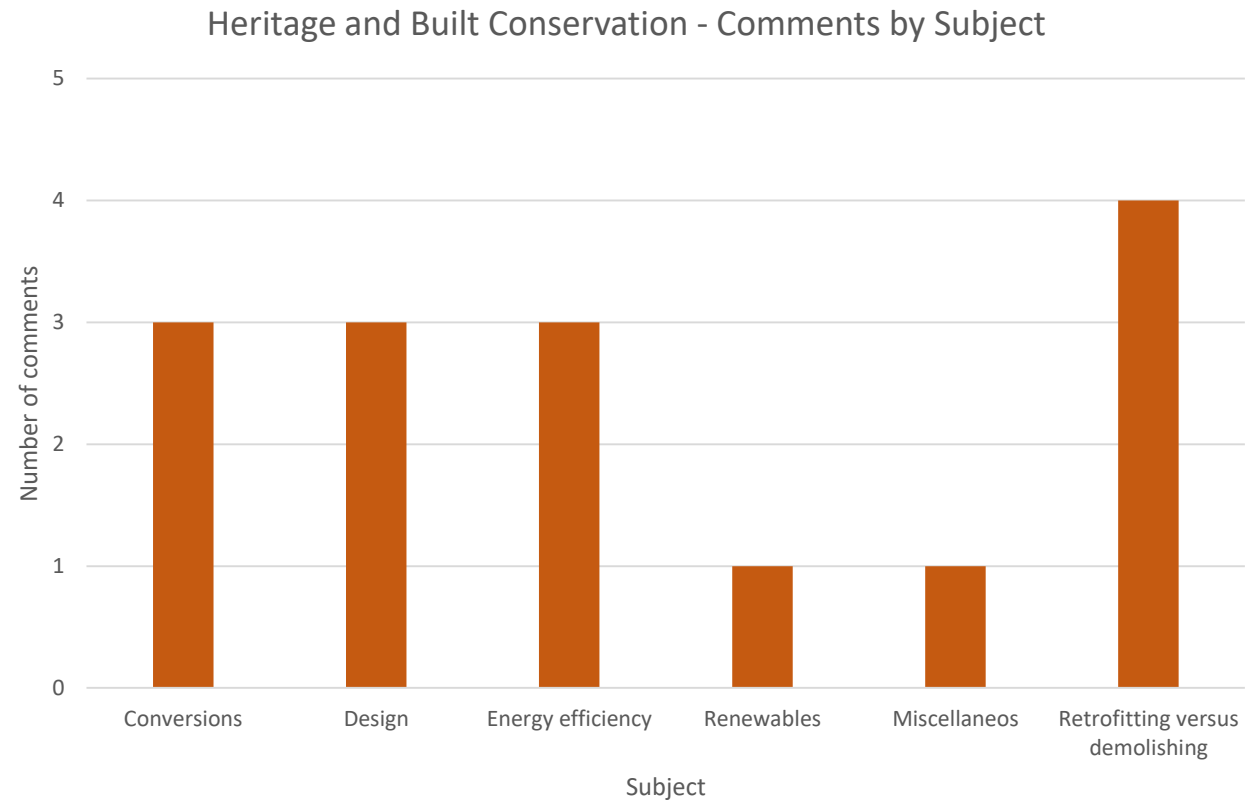


Heritage and Built Conservation

The issues of most concern to respondents were retrofitting versus demolishing (this was a question in the survey), and then equally: energy efficiency, design, and conversions.

“I would like to see a strong emphasis on improving green environmentally sustainable housing, new and upgrading old, & enabling older houses to be modernised for current living standards.”

“It would be helpful if the PDNP supported sustainable energy use even in listed buildings.”



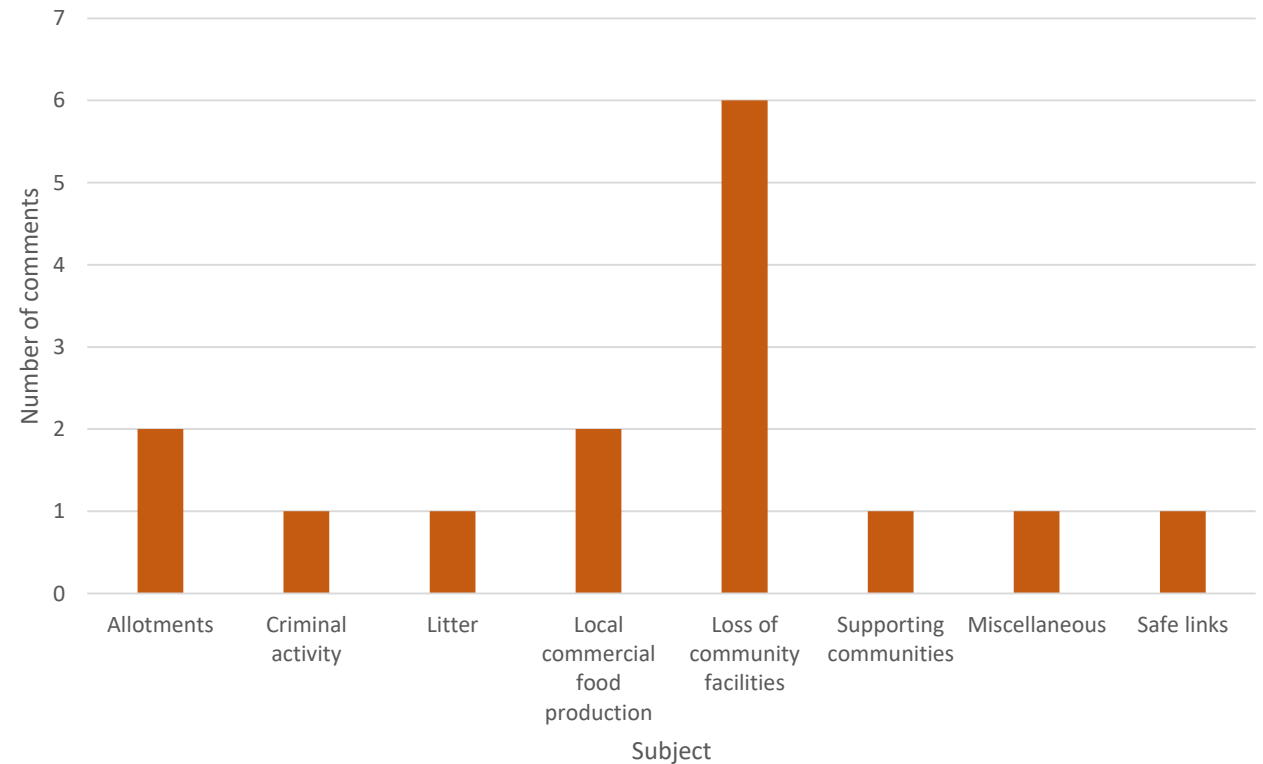
Shops and Community Facilities

The issue of most concern to respondents was loss of community facilities.

“Support local pubs. They are a special part of the Peak District economy.”

“Very sad that villages have lost retail facilities like Post Offices, shops.”

Shops and Community Facilities - Comments by Subject



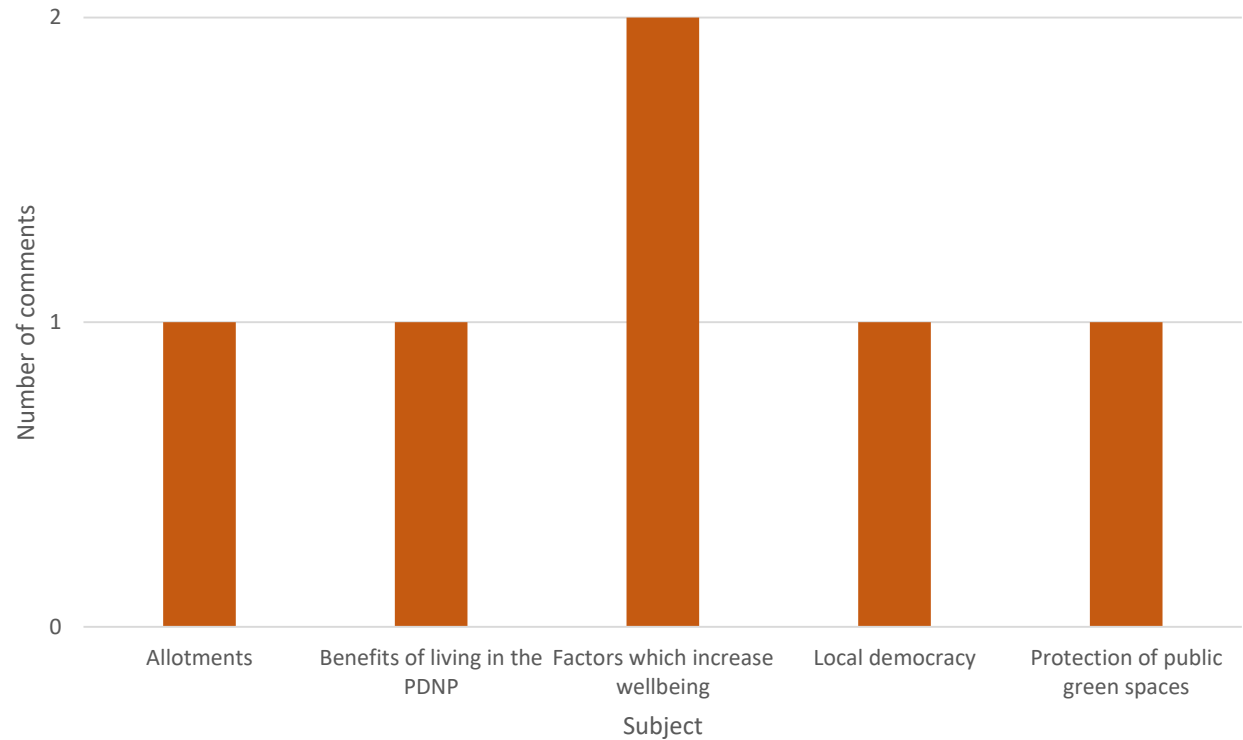
Health and Wellbeing

Respondents made comments relating to allotments, the benefits of living in the PDNP, factors which increase well being, local democracy, and the protection of public green spaces.

“Local food networks, superfast rural broadband and community energy initiatives need strong positive policy promotion. A further key enabler of health and wellbeing is active travel and the infrastructure to encourage it.”

“Protection of green spaces, playing areas, woodland and moorland is vital for human and animal wellbeing.”

Health and Wellbeing - Comments by Subject



Additional Topics

- The comments which did not relate to any of the topics under consideration in our topic papers fell into three broad themes and so were divided accordingly.
- These themes were: the format of the survey, respondent's opinion of the PDNPA and comments relating to the planning process.

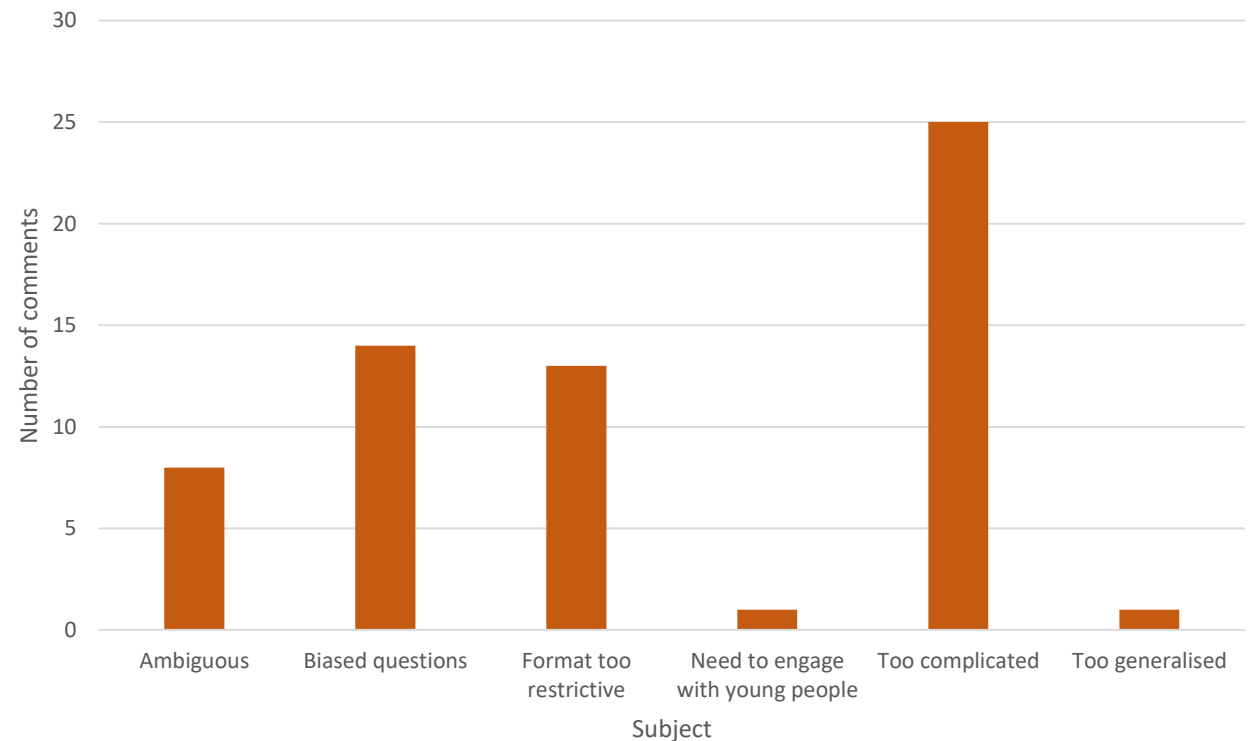
Format of the Survey

This received the fourth largest amount of comments overall. Respondents commented that it was too complicated, and that they felt the questions were biased or too ambiguous.

“I am also not a fan of the style of this questionnaire. Questions seem purposefully confusing, as if there is a specific agenda or preferred answer for each issue. The language is not accessible and the answer format is limited. I believe that the results received from this questionnaire will not be as accurate, fair or representative as they could be.”

“That's such a poor survey. Very poorly worded and has a real bias to it. As in 'we' re brilliant, we're clearly doing the right thing, of course you agree don't you? ' Just a bunch of leading, closed questions. “

Format of survey - comments by subject



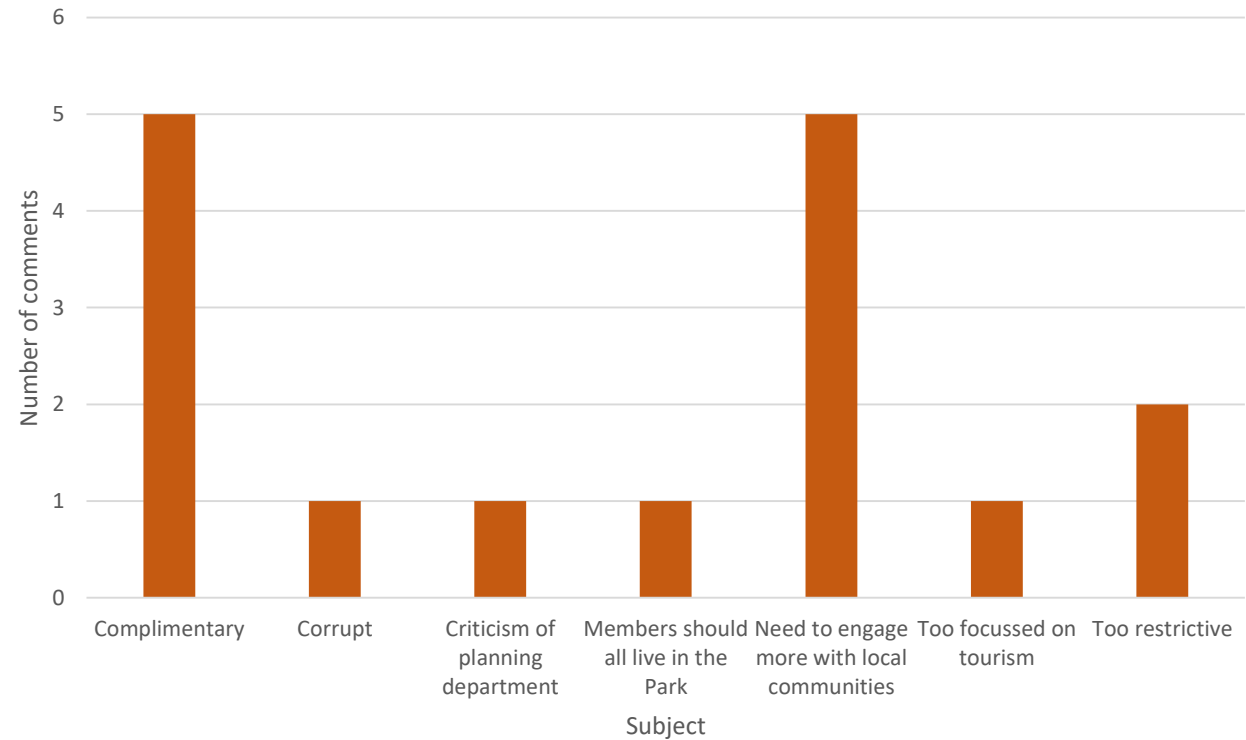
Opinion of the PDNPA

Some respondents were positive about the PDNPA, however of the negative comments, the most popular view was that the PDNPA needs to engage more with local communities.

“Its time the Peak park left the offices and came to a few villages at the weekend to see what really happens, but come to the hotspots, Eyam, hathersage, curbar, the dams”

“Good luck it is going to be a very challenging decade and we need united, strong visionary leadership from all our NP authorities.”

Opinion of PDNPA - Comments by subject



Planning Process

Several comments were made about the planning process. Some of these related to matters that are set nationally rather than being in the control of the PDNPA.

“Development needs to be limited. Planning needs to be transparent and consistent: some applications get 'rubber stamped' when others are refused, some amended when should be refused, some refused when minor amendments are required.”

“We have to amend the Planning system. It is too onerous, cumbersome and lethargic. We need to be still thorough but speedier in order to assist local business.”

