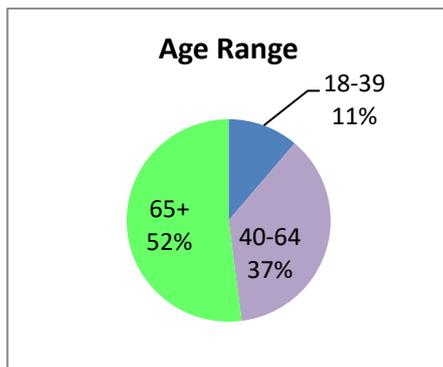


Section 1 - About Your Household

1.1 The gender and age of the household respondents

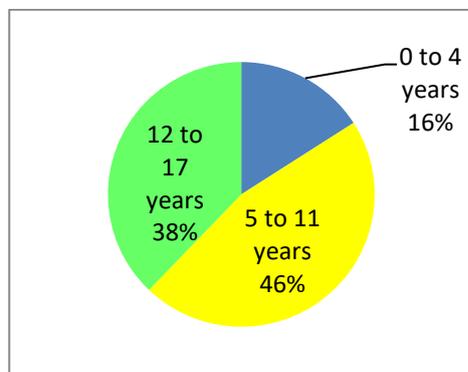
Of the 86.5% who specified their gender, **54.4% were females and 45.6% male**. These figures are broadly in line with the 2010 survey.



Almost everyone answered the question on age. Compared to 2010, the figures show a swing of about 8% from the middle age group towards the older. This may indicate that the older group were more inclined to respond, or it may indicate that the local population as a whole is getting older.

1.2 The age and gender of the young people in each household which responded.

65 households responded to this question.



Of the 119 children, 49.6% were male, 47.1% were female and 3.3% did not specify.

1.3 How long have you lived in Clare ?

Length of time in Clare	Response % 2016	Response % 2010
0-5 years	23.7%	23%
6-15 years	22.9%	22%
16-30 years	20.4%	26%
31 + years	32.2%	28%
Did not answer	<1%	>1%

1.4 Why did you come to live in Clare ?

1.5 Why have you stayed ?

	Came	Stayed
Village life and amenities	192	247
Countryside	145	181
Family in area	96	124
Employment	83	67
Proximity to large town	48	63
Always lived here	44	46
Schools	33	49
Other	28	19

This would suggest that village life, Clare's amenities and the countryside become increasingly more important and valued as people get to know the town.

NB. It is not possible to make comparison to 2010, as the figures were amalgamated in that survey.



A key achievement for the Town Council since the last survey has been the acquisition of Clare Castle Country Park for the people of Clare. Our thanks to all who made that possible!

1.6 What type of accommodation do you live in?

House (3 + beds)	262	74%
House (1-2 beds)	48	14%
Multi-resident (e.g. flat)	2	<1%
Bungalow	42	12%

Owner occupier	232	82%
Warden-assisted housing	4	1%
Social housing	13	5%
Rented accommodation	34	12%

Comparison to the figures for St Edmundsbury, Suffolk and the East of England (as given in the Suffolk Observatory Reports Census) suggest that Clare has a 10% higher figure for owner occupancy, that private rented accommodation is broadly in line, but that social rented housing is 33% lower.

1.7 Postcodes

A list of how many respondents within each post code is documented separately.



1.8 Are you thinking about leaving Clare in the next 5 years ?

31 or 8.5% of respondents answered "YES".
331 or 91.2% answered "NO".
1 or 0.3% did not answer.

1.9 If 'Yes' please tick your reasons:

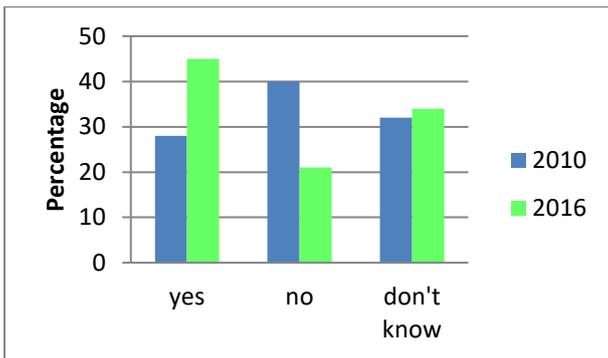
Reason	Number
For a smaller home	11
To be nearer family	9
Lack of housing I can afford	6
For a larger home	3
Dissatisfied with facilities	3
For employment	2
Not enough houses to rent	1
Housing with care unavailable	0
For improved schooling	0

Direct comparison to the 2010 survey is not easy as this survey allowed respondents to give more than one reason for leaving. However, the following are noteworthy :

- 13% from the 2010 survey cited *moving for improved schooling* as a reason for leaving compared to 0% in 2016.
- There appears to be significantly more people moving because of a lack of affordable housing.
- The ability to downsize is the most important reason for moving, suggesting that suitable houses within the town may not be readily available.

*(Note, many respondents enjoyed highlighting the occasional misspelling or typo in the survey booklet – but nobody was sharp-eyed enough to spot that there were **two** Questions 1.9)*

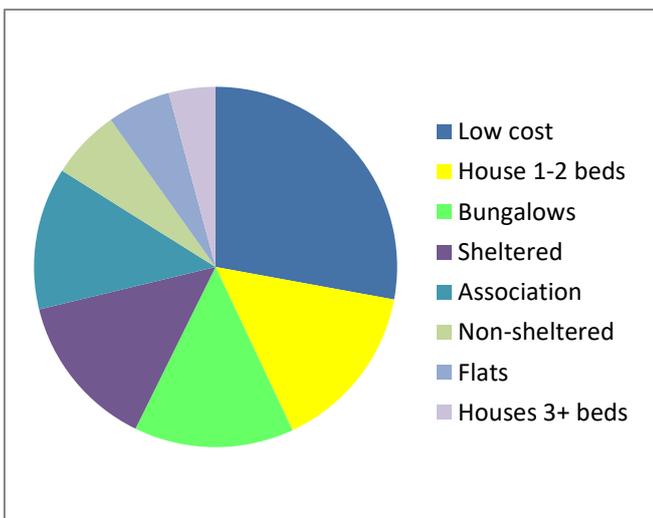
1.9 Do you think the planned number of additional houses will meet the needs of the town ?



“The planned number (and type) of houses will not meet the needs of the younger people and possibly not the needs of the elderly.”

“Affordable housing for the young means below £200K.”

1.10 If “No” what type of housing do you think is required as a priority ?



“The critical issue is whether the town can reasonably cope with many more houses without seriously undermining the attraction of our historic market town.”

In the last 6 years, the Town Council has:

- ✓ Sponsored the building of 11 Housing Association properties at Aragon Court.
- ✓ Successfully lobbied to increase the number of affordable units on the Stoke Road development to 18.
- ✓ Established a system of allocation that gives highest priority to people who have connections to Clare.

Worked closely with St Edmundsbury Planners and Clare Society to ensure that:

- ✓ The total number of houses for Clare in Vision 2031 was reduced from 190 to 120.
- ✓ The Stoke Road development was in keeping with the historic nature of Clare.
- ✓ S106 money (e.g. for libraries, schools etc.) is allocated for Clare needs.
- ✓ Introduced Article 4 to control changes to facades on non-listed buildings in the conservation area.

Currently, we are working closely with SEBC Planners, Clare Society and SCC so that:

- ✓ The developers complete outstanding issues on the Stoke Road development e.g. the central play area.
- ✓ The planned development for Cavendish Road is in keeping with Clare's architecture, that a cycle route is provided and that traffic calming measures are added to the A1092 from the estate to the town centre.
- ✓ S106 money allocated as part of new developments is used within Clare.

The ability of the Town Council and local people to influence development has reduced significantly since 2010, particularly during the last 2 years. This is due to changes in Planning Policy at National and Borough level which have established a presumption in favour of development. Future national housing development is likely to be based on regional need, but may include local need where there is sufficient evidence. St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) is due to start work on its next major development plan later this year.

There are options for increasing Clare's control over its future. These include:

Town Centre Master Planning or
Neighbourhood Planning or
Neighbourhood Development

Action Point 1A– Town Planning

- To carry out research into the three planning options listed above to identify which would be the best option for Clare.
- To formulate and implement a development plan as appropriate. This to be based on improving the sustainability of the town and growth that is inclusive and supportive of all sectors.

Action Point 1B – Housing Association

- To encourage support for Clare residents who want to use Home Link to apply for Housing Association placement.
- To lobby for the addition of more Housing Association and affordable homes in Clare.

Action Point 1C – New Developments

- To meet regularly with SEBC Planners to influence their new Rural Vision Plans and keep parishioners aware of what is happening so that they can add their voice.

"It seems to me that Clare has little or no say about housing as numbers are imposed by central/local government."

1.11 What three things do you most like about living in Clare ?

This was an open-ended question and therefore comparison to 2010 is not possible. However, the top reasons are broadly the same.

Things you like about living in Clare	% of responses
Good amenities/shops	49%
Good community/friendly	41.5%
Countryside/good walks	30.8%
Small town atmosphere	19.9%
Country park	11%
Quiet	10.7%
Period character/architecture	10.2%
Activities/social life/friends	6.9%
It's safe	5%
Good schools	3.9%
It's home/my house	3.2%
Pubs and cafes	3.2%

2% liked being close to family, being close to larger towns, our doctors, the churches and priory. 1% liked the low crime rate, the cleanliness, bus service and accessibility of the town.

There were many other aspects which were commented on by less than 1%. These have been recorded separately for future reference.



1.12 What are the three things you would most like to see improved in Clare ?

This question provoked a very large and varied list of responses. Those being noted by 3% of respondents or more are presented here following subdivision into 3 broad categories:-

Shops and Amenities (see Section 4 for actions)

Issue	% respondents
More/better shops	12.4%
Facilities for youth	5.3%
Restaurants/take-aways	3.9%

2% wanted fewer empty shops, 1% wanted better banking, more sport, more doctors' surgeries and maintenance/development of town assets.

Traffic and Transport (see Section 7 for actions)

Issue	% respondents
Parking	34.5%
Reduce/ban HGVs	15.1%
More buses	13.5%
Better management	9.9%
Speed /road safety	9.9%

2% wanted pedestrian crossings, road resurfacing, better pavements, free residents parking. 1% wanted a one-way system down Church Road and cycle paths across the town.

Local Services, Infrastructure and Community (See Sections 3 and 8 for actions)

Issue	% respondents
Dog fouling/control	6%
More policing/CCTV	5%
Community Events	4%
Less adverse social media	3%

2% wanted more improvements at the Country Park, and to street lighting. 1% wanted support for local business and jobs, improved broadband, flood defences, hedge trimming, signage and public toilets.