An investigation into attitudes to development of rural villages

By Eliška Doran

After recent law changes, the government has allowed village councils to have a say in what to build and when. Many villages have formed a development committee. My Research Question is “What are people’s attitudes to housing development in rural villages?”

Methods
To make sure that my information and poster was correct, I took ethical rules into account. Ethics are important, as you cannot provide false and altered information to the public.

To gather my information, I gave out questionnaires and conducted an interview with a village development committee member.

This chart shows people’s responses to the question “What could be improved about the village?” It shows that people think that there should be more natural areas. Not many people feel that the village hall needs to be worked on a lot but many feel that the village needs some shops.

“Common improvements for villages”

“We don’t need any more houses now as there isn’t any more room inside the village boundary.”
-taken from a questionnaire

“I agree that some development may be needed”
-taken from a questionnaire

The interview
I also did an interview with a volunteer from a local development committee. He said: “We must make the best of the small amount of control we do have.” We spoke about how he got the job (he volunteered) and what his priorities were. The interviewee said that their main priorities were making sure the houses were economically friendly, and that they were sustainable.

My conclusion
From my research I have carried out, I have found that people who live in a rural village do not generally feel positive about housing development and major roads. However, people are happy with small improvements like shops being built locally. In my opinion, I understand that local people are not happy about the need for extra housing, however people need somewhere to live. To take my research further, I would add more questions about how much housing people would be happy with. This would include questions like “How many houses would you be happy to be built in the village in the next 15 years?”