

SAXMUNDHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

1.1 Unless stated otherwise, the profile of the community has come from the 2011 Census. The data for Saxmundham is at parish level, which covers the whole of the Neighbourhood Plan area. It is compared with Suffolk Coastal district and Suffolk county.

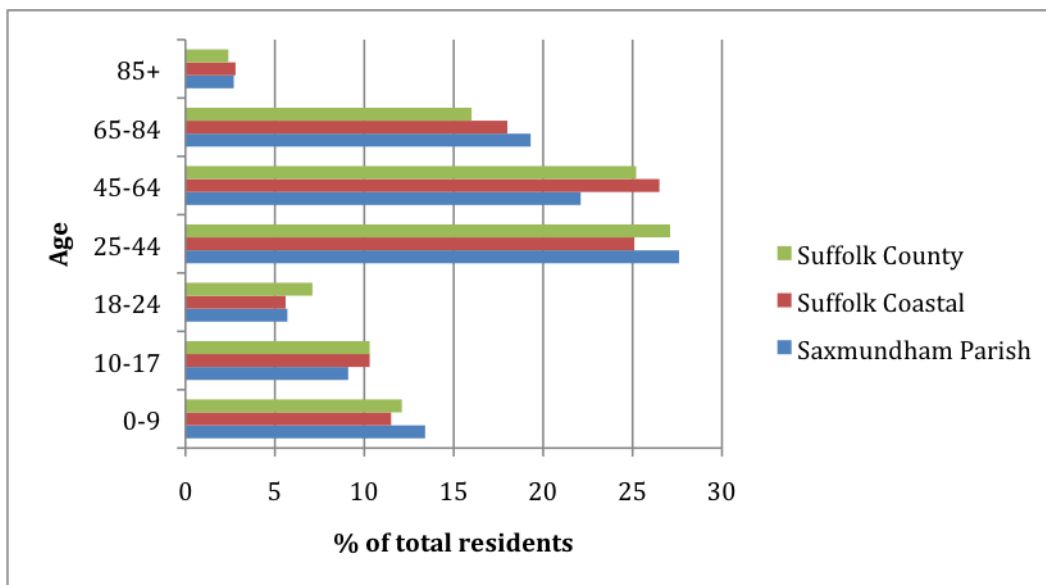
Population

1.2 In 2011, the population of Saxmundham parish was 3,644. The age distribution is generally in line with the district and county profiles, however there are slightly more elderly residents, relative to Suffolk as a whole. The average age of residents in the parish is 44 years, compared to 48 in Suffolk Coastal and 42 in Suffolk.

1.3 One notable difference is in the age group 65-84 years, which Saxmundham shows an above average proportion of its population. However, over the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan, this may be offset by the below average proportion of people approaching retirement age (45-64).

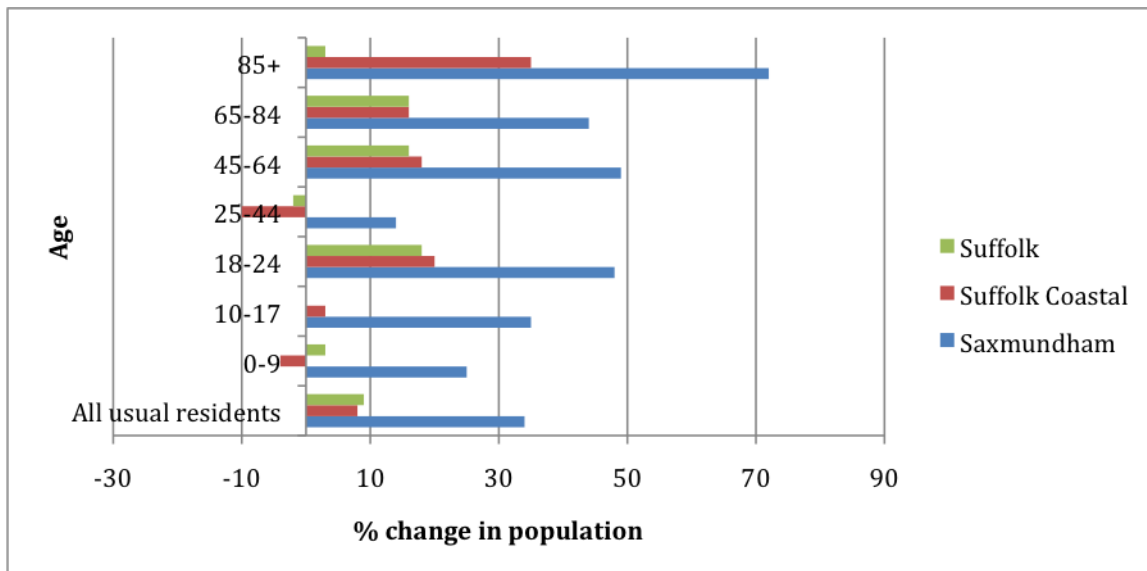
1.4 Young people and children have similar proportions of the total population in Saxmundham as in Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk. This is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Population profile, 2011



1.5 Figure 2 shows the change in population by age between 2001 and 2011. There are many similarities to Figure 1. However, there seems to be a lower percentage of the population that are aged 25-44 at just under 25% in all areas in 2001, compared to above 25% in 2011.

Figure 2: Percentage change in population, 2001-2011

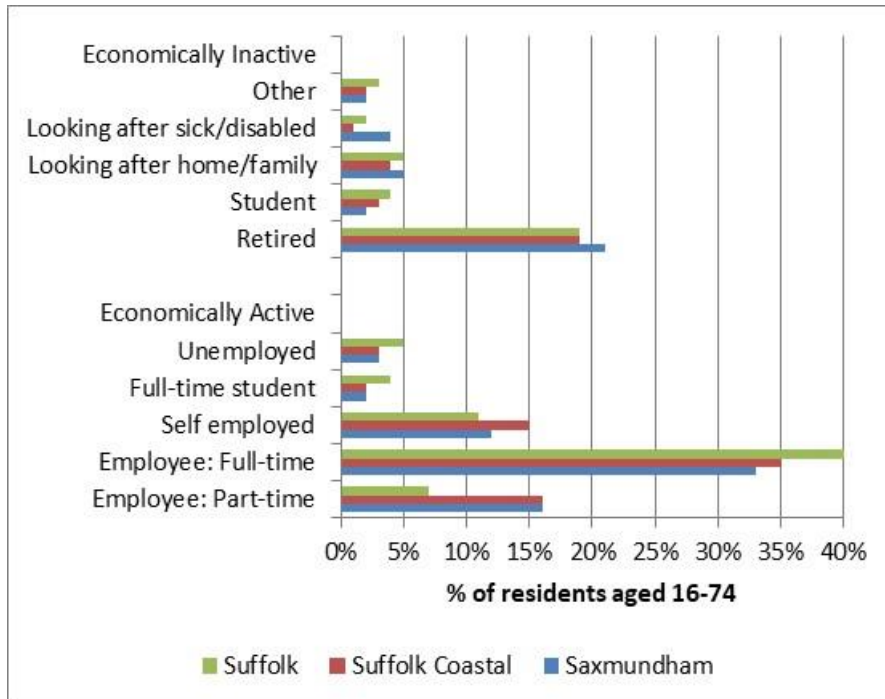


- 1.6 Between 2001 and 2011, the population of Saxmundham parish increased by 34%. This is much higher than the increase in population in Suffolk Coastal (26%) and Suffolk (25%). Every age group increased in population in Saxmundham over this period.
- 1.7 Those aged above 85 have seen the fastest percentage change in population, up 70% in 10 years. This highlights Saxmundham's ageing population. The equivalent increase of this age group in Suffolk Coastal district was 34% and Suffolk county, just 4%.
- 1.8 The 'family age group' (25-44) saw the slowest relative population growth in Saxmundham of 10% over the 10-year period. However, in the wider district and county areas, there has been a decrease in population in this group. Saxmundham has therefore been successful at retaining families in the parish, a fact reinforced by the equivalent strong growth of the proportion of children.

Work

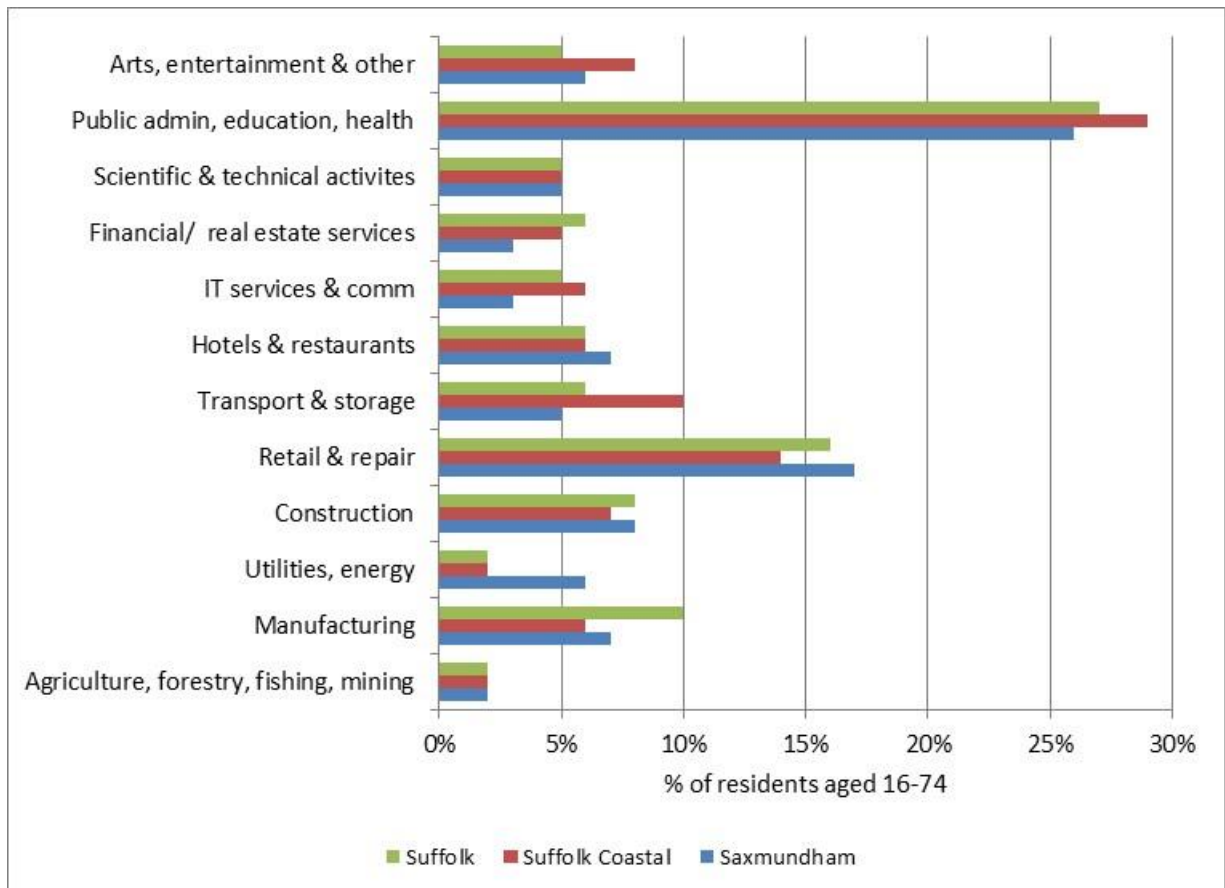
- 1.9 The population of working age (16 to 74) in Saxmundham parish shows a low proportion of economically active residents (66%) compared particularly with Suffolk Coastal (71%). This is mainly due to the high proportion of retirees but also due to the number looking after people who are long term sick or disabled. This is shown in Figure 3.
- 1.10 33% of the population is in full-time employment in Saxmundham which is well below the levels in the district (35%) and county (40%). Levels of part time work are quite high which partially offsets this but it does suggest that a large proportion of the population of working age is not in full-time employment.

Figure 3: Economic activity, 2011



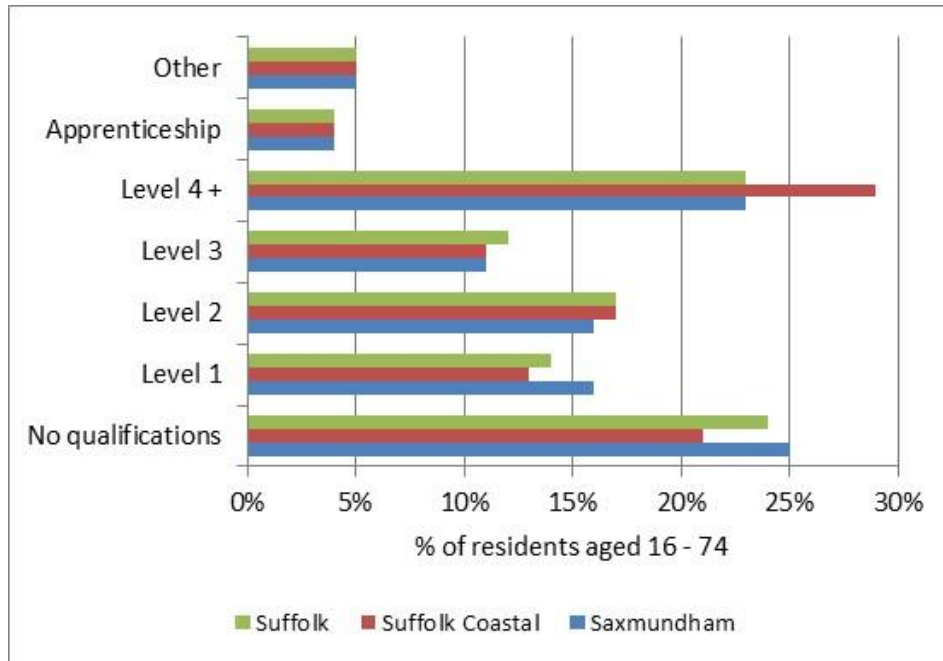
- 1.11 In terms of industry, the largest sector in Saxmundham is public administration, education and health, making up 26% of the jobs that people in the parish work in. This is broadly in line with both the district and the county. Retail and repair is the second largest sector at 17%, again similar levels to the district and county. This is shown in Figure 4.
- 1.12 At less than 5%, Saxmundham has low representation in the financial, real estate and IT services sector. This is a traditionally key modern growth sector in economies.
- 1.13 A large proportion of people work in the utilities and energy sector, which is explained by the proximity of Saxmundham to the Sizewell nuclear facility (see Figure 7).

Figure 4: Type of industry, 2011



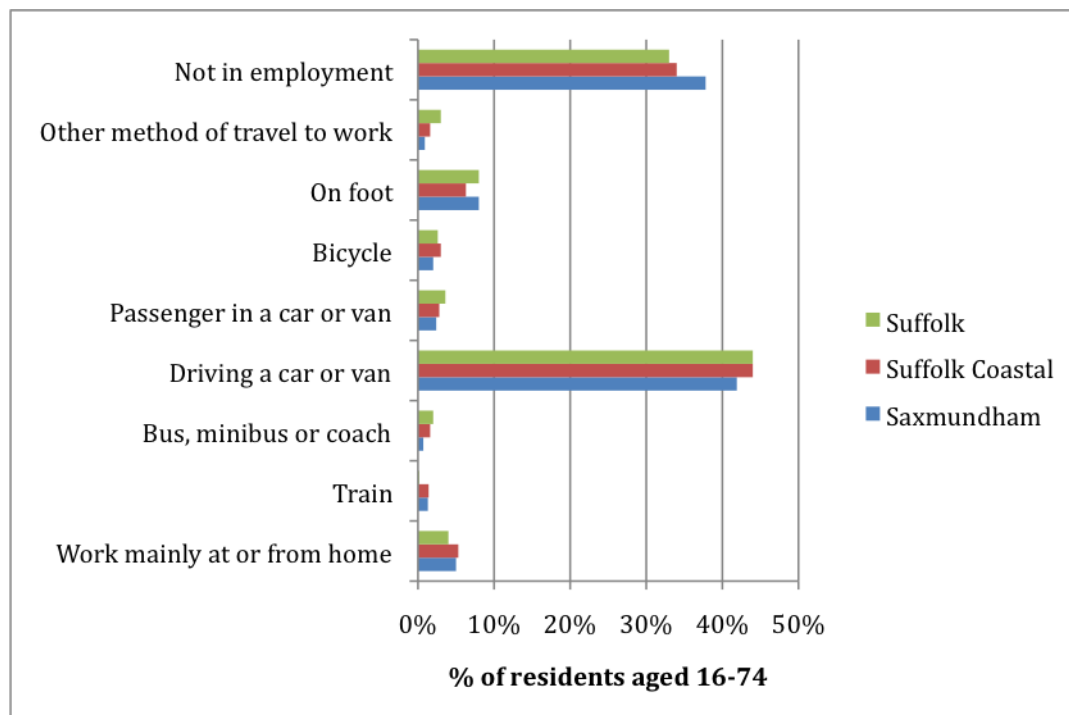
- 1.14 Figure 5 shows the highest level of qualifications gained by residents. Saxmundham has a high proportion of residents aged 16-74 with no qualifications, at 25%.
- 1.15 Compared to Suffolk Coastal, there are relatively lower residents with level 4 qualifications (degree level or above), although it is the second highest proportion of Saxmundham's qualifications profile. There are also a relatively higher percentage of those with their highest level of qualification being at level 1. This reflects Figure 4, with the lack of residents working in industries that commonly require degrees and higher qualifications.

Figure 5: Highest level of qualifications gained by residents aged over 16



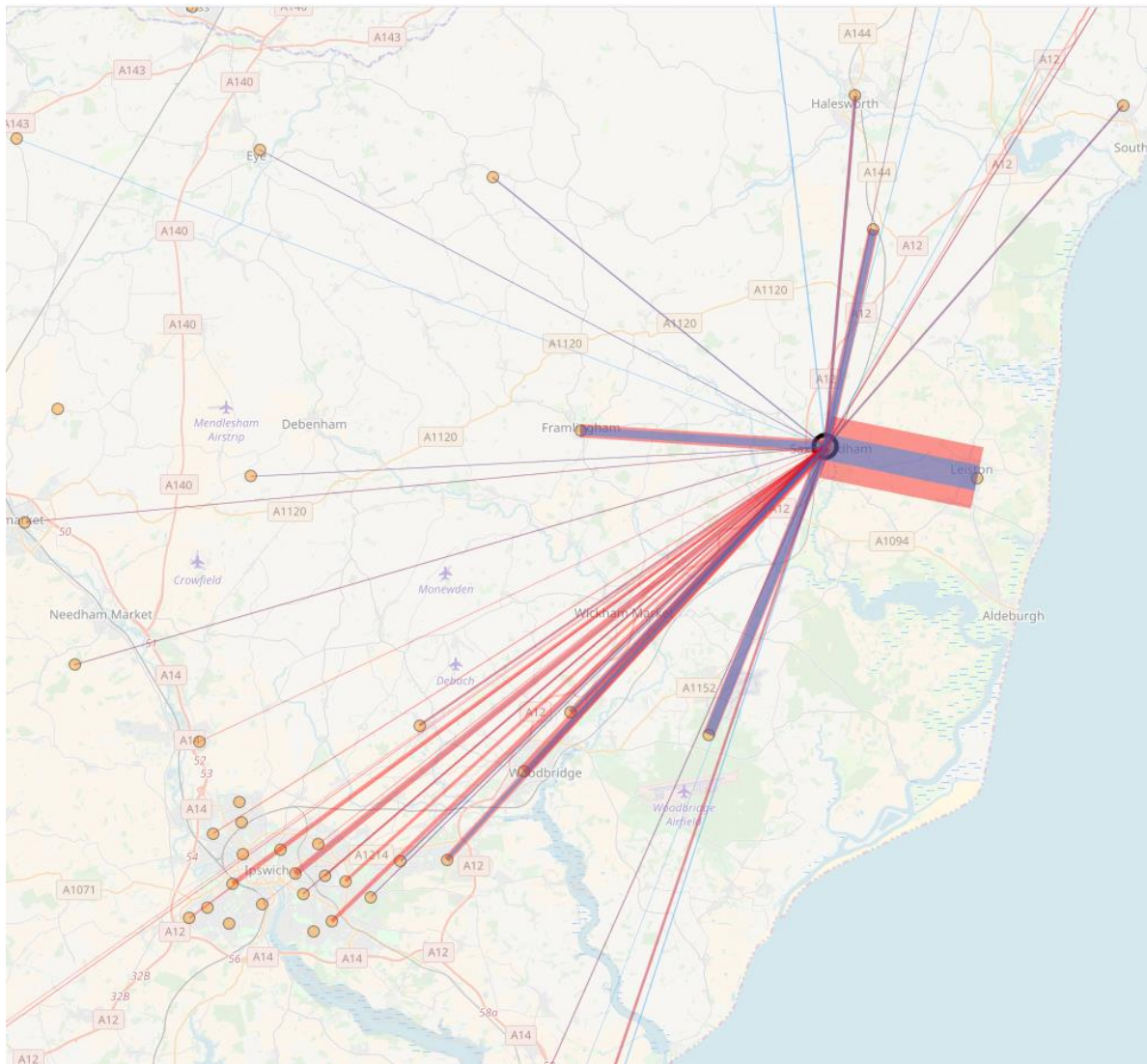
1.16 The majority of the population that are in employment (62%) in Saxmundham travel to work by car or van. This is shown in Figure 6. This is common in rural areas although the presence of the train line might have normally seen a higher proportion travel by this means. 84% of all households in Saxmundham have access to at least one car or van which is broadly in line with the district and county average.

Figure 6: Methods of transport to work



1.17 Figure 7 shows where people from Saxmundham travel for work (the red lines). By far the largest proportion go to Leiston, which is mainly the Sizewell nuclear facility. The blue lines show where people who work in Saxmundham come from. These are mainly from the local towns/communities of Framlingham, Leiston and Bentwaters. This fits the profile of the main job opportunities within Saxmundham being in lower value sectors such as public administration and retail.

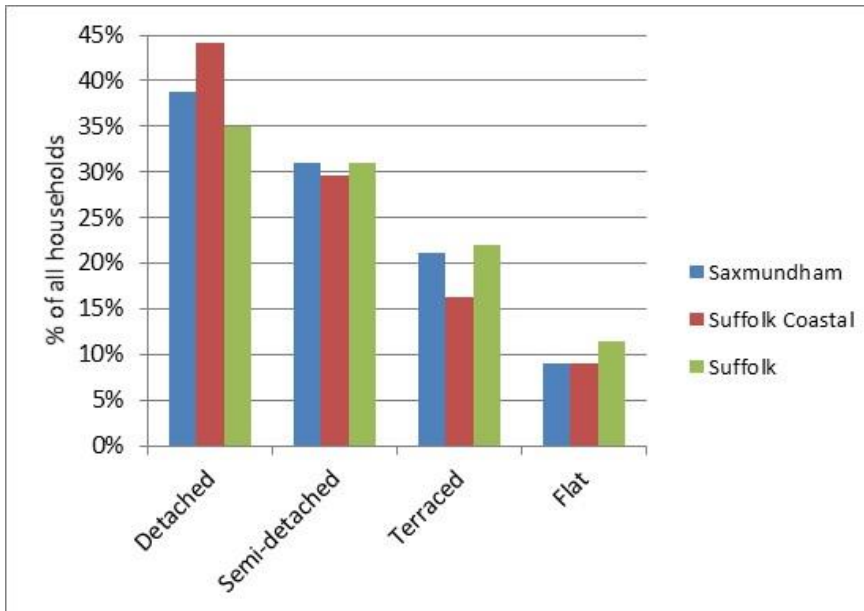
Figure 7: Destination of commuters to and from Saxmundham



Housing

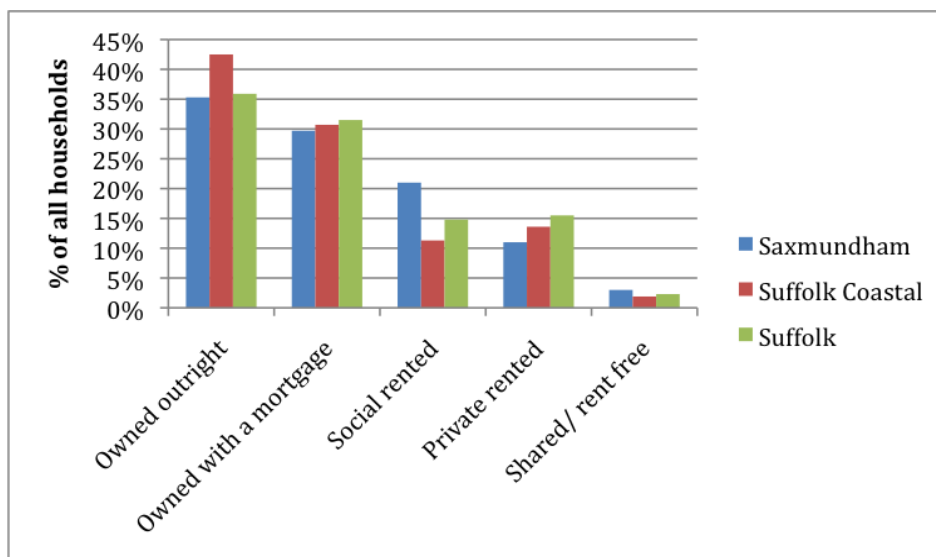
- 1.18 The housing stock in Saxmundham primarily comprises of detached properties (39%), followed by semi-detached properties (31%) and terraced properties (21%). There is a very low proportion of flats in the parish (9%). The percentage proportions of types of dwelling are relatively similar to the district and county levels. This is shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Type of dwelling



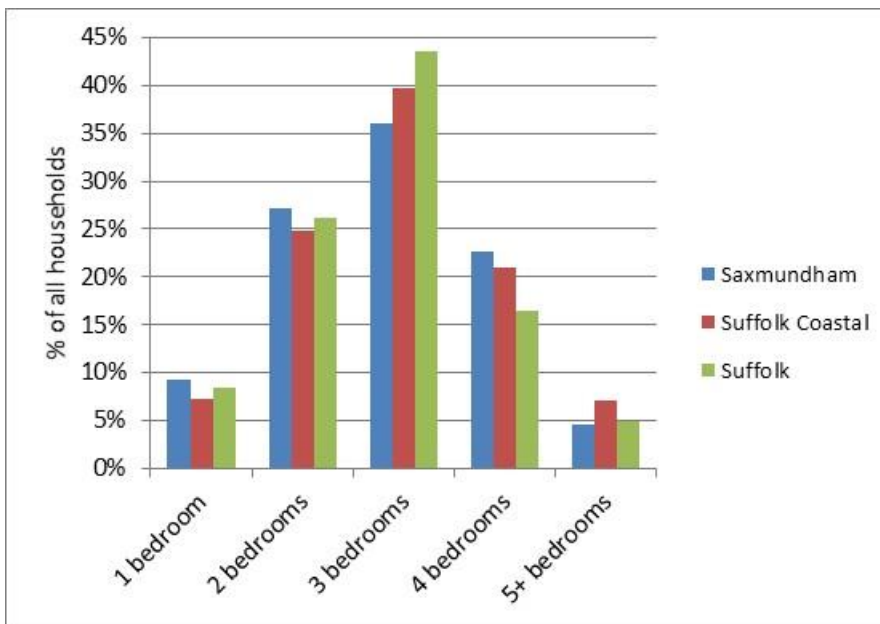
- 1.19 The majority of dwellings in Saxmundham parish are owned (65%), with 35% of these owned outright and 30% owned with a mortgage. This is similar to Suffolk county levels, but lower than Suffolk Coastal district levels. This is shown in Figure 9.
- 1.20 20% of residents live in social rented housing. This is almost double the level in Suffolk Coastal district. Lastly, 10% of dwellings are privately rented including those rented by a landlord or letting agency. This is below the district and county levels.

Figure 9: Ownership profile



- 1.21 The mix in housing types is reflected in the size of properties. There is a higher proportion of 1- and 2-bedroom properties in Saxmundham compared to the district and county level. This is shown in Figure 9.
- 1.22 3-bedroom dwellings are the most common in Saxmundham (36%), however this is well below the Suffolk Coastal district and Suffolk county averages. Along with 1- and 2-bed properties, Saxmundham has a high proportion of 4-bed properties. This suggests that its stock of housing consists mainly of both small and large housing but has proportionately less of the mid-sized housing most typically sought by families.

Figure 10: Number of bedrooms



- 1.23 Figure 11 shows the occupancy ratings of properties, i.e. whether they are under-occupied (have spare bedrooms) or over-occupied (are overcrowded). Saxmundham is generally in line with the trend of occupancy ratings in the district and county. However, it still has 42% of properties that have an occupancy rating of +2 or more (i.e. have at least two spare bedrooms based on the size of the household), suggesting that there is a need for more smaller housing. Only 1% of the population has an occupancy rating of more than -1, making clear that there is generally not a problem of overcrowding in Saxmundham.

Figure 11: Bedroom occupancy rating

