

PONSANOOOTH PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Ponsanooth Community Profile

Population Overall

Ponsanooth parish is home to approximately 1,500 residents, with about 741 dwellings recorded as of January 2025. There has been a notable demographic shift since 2001, with an increased proportion of older residents, particularly aged between 50 and 74, while younger adults aged 20–39 are underrepresented compared to national averages. This pattern suggests younger adults might be moving elsewhere for work or education and the average house prices are not affordable for younger generation

Age Structure

Ponsanooth's demographic profile is significantly skewed towards older age groups, especially those aged 50–74. The proportion of residents aged 65 and above is higher than the national average, likely making the village attractive to retirees. Conversely, residents aged 20–39 are notably fewer than the English average, suggesting potential challenges in retaining or attracting younger adults. The proportion of children and teens (aged 0–14) closely mirrors national averages. This age distribution is typical for rural areas.

Health [Disability]

Health conditions among Ponsanooth residents closely align with national averages, though subtle differences are observed. Slightly fewer residents report "very good" health (47.8% compared to 48.5% nationally) or "good" health (31.4% compared to 33.7% nationally). Conversely, a higher proportion report "fair" health (15.6% vs. 12.7% nationally). Levels of reported "bad" or "very bad" health exactly match national averages (4% and 1.2%, respectively). Additionally, a notable 21.1% of residents are classified as disabled under the Equality Act, higher than the national average of 17.3%, highlighting specific health-related needs likely linked to an aging population and also to adults with learning difficulties living with parents.

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Of residents aged 16 and older, 53.2% are married or in civil partnerships, significantly exceeding both national and regional averages. Those never married or in civil partnerships comprise 26.1%, below regional (32.2%) and national averages (37.9%).

Ethnicity [Race]

Ponsanooth has a significantly less diverse population compared to broader England, with an overwhelming majority (98.4%) identifying as White. Ethnic minorities, including Asian (0.3%), Mixed (0.5%), and other groups (0.9%), are notably underrepresented, raising potential equality and inclusion considerations.

Religion and Belief

The population is nearly evenly divided between those without a religion (46.9%) and Christians (46.0%), aligning closely with Cornwall but differing slightly from national patterns. Other religions have minimal representation.

Sex

The gender distribution is balanced, with females slightly outnumbering males (50.7%), consistent with regional and national averages.

Socio-Economic

Economic activity data reveals fewer residents aged 16 and over in employment (52.8%) compared to national averages (57.4%), yet notably lower unemployment rates (1.6% vs. 3.5% nationally). Economic inactivity is higher (45.6%) than national averages (39.1%), reflecting the village's older, likely retired, demographic. Residents generally hold higher qualifications than national averages, indicating robust economic resilience and potential for community engagement.

Housing and Tenure

Housing patterns indicate a significant majority of households (56.4%) own their homes outright, substantially above the English average (32.5%), highlighting financial stability among older, possibly retired residents (a reflection of Cosawes Park Homes 55+). Only 26.4% of households have mortgages or shared ownership, lower than the national figure (29.8%). Social renting (4.4%) and private renting or rent-free living (12.8%) are considerably less common, indicating fewer affordable housing options for younger or economically less-secure residents. This underscores the necessity for the Neighbourhood Development Plan to encourage more affordable housing suitable for young families and economically vulnerable populations.

Household Size and Utilisation

Households in Ponsanooth are predominantly small, with 71.3% comprising one or two people. However, only 41% of available homes have one or two bedrooms, indicating substantial under-occupation where smaller households occupy larger homes. This typically reflects older demographics, where residents remain in larger homes post-retirement, suggesting a need for smaller, more manageable housing to encourage downsizing and better use of housing stock.

Rural Isolation

Commuting patterns emphasize reliance on private vehicles, with 56.2% commuting by car or van, significantly above the national average (44.5%). Walking and public transport usage is minimal, emphasizing rural isolation and potential access issues for residents without private transportation. However, home working is slightly higher than national averages (32.1%), indicative of adaptation to rural conditions.

Source of data - ONS