

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON 15 AUGUST 2023 AT 4.00pm

Present: Councillors C Govier (Chair), A Govier, M Lithgow, J Lloyd, M McGuffie and J Thorne.

One member of the press and one member of the public were in attendance.

182. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND APPROVE THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors M Barr and K Wheatley

183. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2023.

184. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Thorne declared a personal interest in item 9 as he is a personal friend of the person making the proposal.

Councillor J Lloyd declared a financial interest in agenda item 10 as she and her husband are in receipt of pensions from Somerset Council.

Councillor A Govier declared a financial interest in item 10 as his wife receives a pension from Somerset Council.

185. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public spoke in relation to agenda item 9 having written to the Mayor and Town Clerk suggesting how a legacy could be created following the granting of The Freedom of the Town to The Rifles Regiment.

At this stage, it was **RESOLVED** to bring item 9 forward for discussion.

186. THE RIFLES REGIMENT FREEDOM LEGACY

The Committee welcomed the suggestions for developing a legacy following the Granting of the Freedom of the Town to The Rifles Regiment. The consensus was that this should develop over time and that it was for individual organisations such as schools and the local Cadet Force to develop those links and not for the Council to manage. It was agreed that the Council would fly the Regimental Flag that it had been gifted by the Regiment on Salamanca Day and on the anniversary of the granting of The Freedom. It was also agreed that the Town Clerk should write to The Rifles Museum offering it the opportunity of using the Pop-Up Shop and also to the Musical Director of the regimental band inviting them to perform in the town in the future.

187. LONGFORTH ROAD TOILET BLOCK UPDATE

Copies of the updated project plan and had been circulated prior to the meeting and hard copies were tabled at the meeting.

The Town Clerk reported that the projected completion date had now been brought back to December 2024 but that this was still subject to change.

He also reported that whilst it had been hoped that initial surveys could be done whilst the front of the building was made secure through propping and scaffolding; it was now apparent that this was not sufficient and the advice of the structural engineer and Project Manager was that it needed to be taken down.

It was not possible at this stage to put a cost on this which should dictate the procurement process followed. This needed to be balanced with the need to carry out the work quickly to secure the site to enable other work to commence and also to remove a significant health and safety risk.

On that basis it was **RESOLVED** that, given the safety aspects and time constraints, a list of approved contractors provided by Ravenslade (Arque Ltd, Mercury Construction and Lancer Scott) be used for quotations rather than closed tendering procurement as per Financial Regulation 18c, if the estimated amount is likely to be over £25,000. It was also asked that a local contractor be approached to bid for the work.

also It was further **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £754.75 from Halpin Robbins for the Bat and Nesting Bird - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

188. TOWN COUNCIL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that it should mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Town Council in April 2024, that expenditure should be kept to a minimum and that the Town Centre Committee should have oversight of the arrangements.

189. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS' (NALC) CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

After some discussion it was proposed and duly seconded, to recommend to Full Council that the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge should be adopted. There were two votes in favour and four against. The motion was not carried

190. DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the draft Dignity at Work Policy be adopted.

191. COUNCILLOR - OFFICER PROTOCOL

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the draft Councillor - Officer Protocol be adopted.

192. SOMERSET COUNCIL PENSION FUND – CONSULTATION ON FUNDING STRATEGY STATEMENT

The Committee had no comments to make on the Somerset Council Funding Strategy Statement.

193. TORRES VEDRAS TWINNING VISIT 26th – 30th OCTOBER 2023

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the reasonable costs of travel for one Council representative to attend the twinning visit for the 26 – 30th October 2023

should be met by the Council. It was noted that the Mayor should represent the Council. If the Mayor was unavailable, then the Deputy Mayor should attend and if they are unavailable then a volunteer should be sought from other Council members.

It was further **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that this principal should be applied to any invitation for Civic visits from twinning towns.

194. TOWN HALL CLOCKS

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that it takes on responsibility for the costs of running and maintaining the clocks on the old Town Hall from Somerset Council. The annual costs are estimated at £250pa for an annual service and £200pa for electricity costs.

195. TO CONSIDER RESOLVING TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** that members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960. The reason being that item 14 on the agenda refers to matters which are commercially sensitive and confidential.

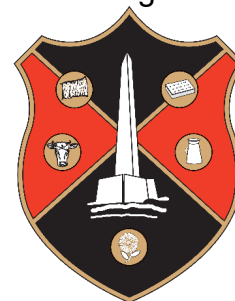
196. TOWN COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION

After some discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that:

- (i) It should enter into discussions with Somerset Council with a view to considering purchasing 28-30 Fore Street.
- (ii) Officers should commission a building survey of the building to inform the Councils position on a purchase price and setting a budget for the management and maintenance of the building and that Croft Surveyors are commissioned to undertake the work.
- (iii) An Expression of Interest should be submitted to the Community Ownership Fund to enable an assessment of whether an application would be considered favourably.
- (iv) That the Policy and Resources Committee should oversee the project and develop proposals for consideration by Full Council in relation to a purchase price and refurbishment costs and how they should be covered to include an assessment of alternative accommodation options in the Town Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.45pm.

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Councillor Catherine Govier
Chairman



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

We commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value serving personnel both regular and reservists, veterans and military families contribute to our community, our businesses and our country.

Signed on behalf of Wellington Town Council

Signed
Mayor

Date.....

The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between The People of the United Kingdom His Majesty's Government

- and -

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown
And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces.

In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles of the Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We, Wellington Town Council, will endeavour in our dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- No member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen.
- In some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 Wellington Town Council is proud of its historical connections with the Armed Forces and recognises the value that serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our organisation and local communities. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- Promoting the Armed Forces: promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation to our staff, suppliers and wider public.
- Veterans: supporting and advocating support for the employment of veterans, recognising military skills and qualifications in our recruitment and selection process.
- Service Spouses & Partners: supporting and advocating support for the employment of Service spouses and partners; providing flexibility in granting leave before, during and after a partner's deployment.
- Reserves: supporting our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve Forces; including accommodating their training and deployment wherever possible.
- Cadet Organisations: offering support to local Cadet Units either in our local community or in local schools wherever possible.
- National Events: supporting Armed Forces Day, Remembrance activities and other similar events wherever possible.

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 4 OCTOBER 2023

WELLINGTON FLOODING 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to summarise the events of the 17 September 2023 to inform discussion about how the Town Council should respond and prepare for future severe weather events.

2. Background

- 2.1 On the 17 September 2023 the town experienced severe rainstorms throughout the day which resulted in a number of flooding incidents across the town ranging from roads being impassable to properties being flooded and residents having to move out.

- 2.2 We have been advised by local meteorologist Simon Ratsey, who has been collecting rainfall data in the town since 1962, that over the weekend of the 16/17 September 102mm of rain (almost 4 inches) fell over a period of less than 36 hours. About 20mm (3/4 inch) fell in the morning of Saturday 16th, followed by a lull, but with another 30+mm (just over an inch) falling during the evening and night. The rain that fell on Sunday 17th added another 50+mm (almost 2 inches), of which some 40mm (1.5 inches) fell in the space of about 2 hours during the afternoon. The last time that amount of rain fell over a weekend was in 1969 and in the last 60 years there have only been eight occasions when rainfall has exceeded 70mm.

- 2.3 On Monday 18 September the Town Council asked via social media for people to report flooding incidents so that they could be mapped. The resulting map is attached as an appendix to this report and has been shared with Somerset Council Flooding Team and the Environment Agency. You can also access the map via this link
<https://shared.xmap.cloud/?map=f640f985-a0e3-48a1-90ef-300c9959fe6b>

- 2.4 From a social housing perspective we know that some tenants had to be rehoused from Bovet Street and Oaken Ground although at the time of writing numbers haven't been confirmed. A number of houses were flooded in the town including Ditchford Cottages at Hilly Head.

- 2.5 I have been advised by the Somerset Flooding Team that Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states that

‘On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate—

(a) which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and

(b) whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

*Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must—
(a) publish the results of its investigation, and
(b) notify any relevant risk management authorities.*

In Somerset the threshold for instigating a review is that ten residential properties have experienced internal flooding.

- 2.6 The review process itself will involve a public consultation exercise led by Somerset Council and the Town Council will be asked to help arrange the event and be asked to contribute to discussions.
- 2.7 Coincidentally Somerset Council working in partnership with the Somerset Rivers Authority has recently commissioned a Wellington Waterways Feasibility Study (WWFS) with a view to develop ‘an imaginative and ambitious plan that sets out exactly how the waterways function today and principally, how the waterways in Wellington can contribute to the Somerset Levels and Moors Flood Action Plan’ objectives. The review will ‘look for opportunities to reduce flood risk whilst maximising the potential of the catchment, also seeking recommendations for practical actions to be taken to improve infrastructure, implement Nature Based Solutions and provide any other enhancements to the area.’ The Town Clerk has been invited to join the Steering Group for the review.
- 2.8 I have also raised concerns with Somerset Council regarding the lack of support offered to the Town Council in managing this situation and the lack of information shared with us about what agencies were operating in the town doing what during the period immediately after the flooding.

3. Considerations

- 3.1 The Policy and Resources Committee will be considering a draft Emergency Plan for the town at its October meeting which will include what actions can be taken if a similar event occurs.
- 3.2 On the assumption that there will be a S19 review as set out in para 2.5 above the Council needs to consider what issues it would like to feed into the process. The following are questions I have already asked the Flooding Team the following questions – I am sure councillors will think of others:
- Drainage – what are the arrangements for ensuring that drains are cleared/cleaned both at surface level but also in the drains to ensure water can flow in to and through them.
 - What is the best way of managing water flow through The Basins area – who is responsible for this including opening and closing sluices (the sluices remaining closed is being cited as a reason for flooding of cottages at Hilly Head, Rockwell Green)?
 - Planning – what are the requirements placed on developers to mitigate against flooding? Are they sufficiently robust and who ensures they are put in place to an appropriate standard?
 - Who is responsible for ensuring that flood mitigation arrangements (e.g. attenuation ponds) on new developments are maintained appropriately given

that land management on new estates sits with management companies formed by the developers? We have had many contacts from homeowners on new developments raising concerns about management companies not being responsive to issues being raised with them.

3.3 It is suggested that the Policy and Resources Committee coordinates the Councils response to any enquiry undertaken by Somerset Council.

Dave Farrow
Town Clerk
September 2023

Appendix 1 – Map of Flood Reports

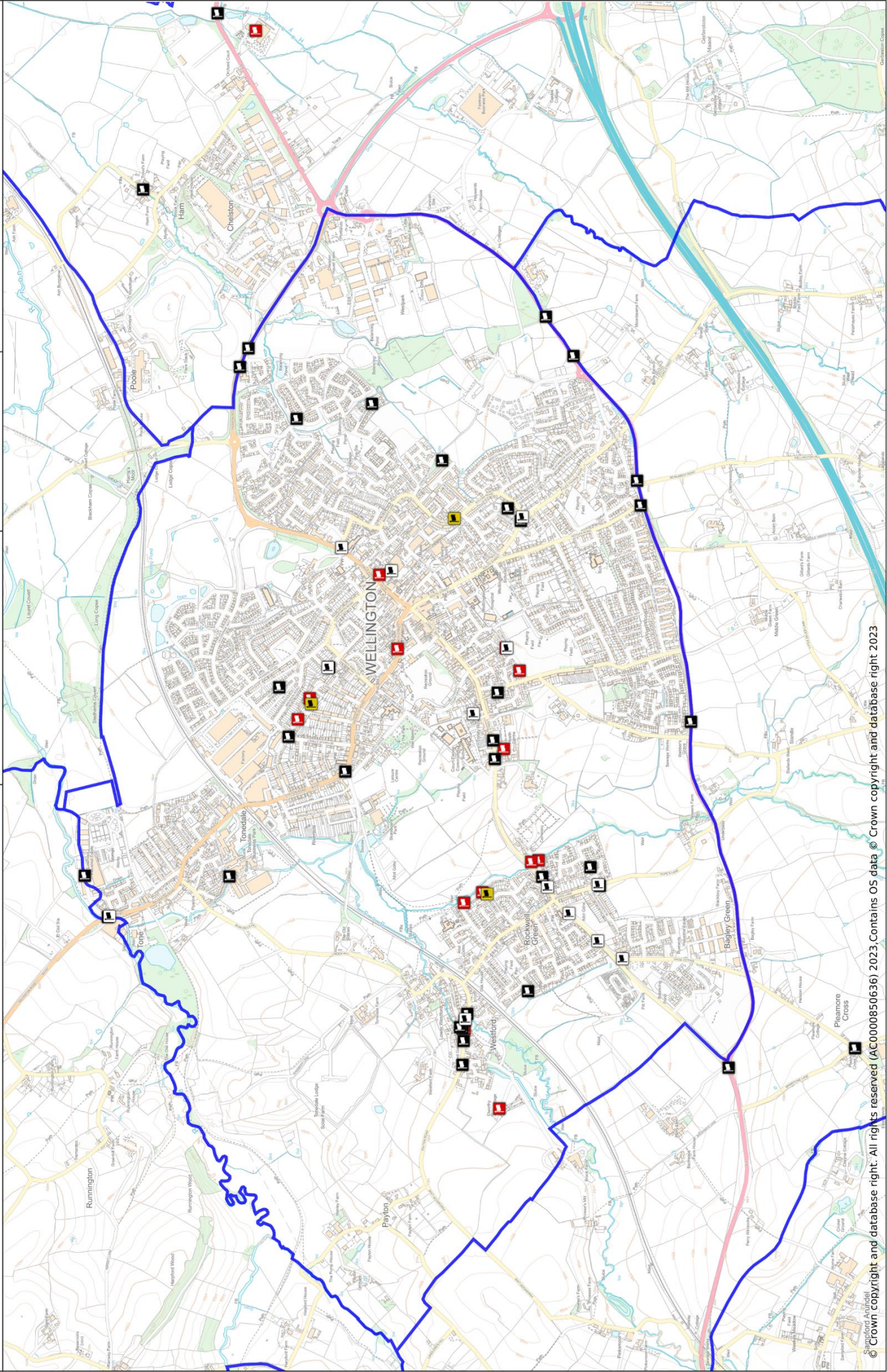
Key:

Red Flag – Interior Property Damage

Yellow Flag – Exterior Property Damage

White Flag – Drainage Issue

Black Flag – Water on Road





WELLINGTON TOWN COMMUNITY PLAN 2023

Introduction

We are in a period of significant change for our community. Our town is growing rapidly with more housing and other developments and more to come, many of the challenges brought about by the pandemic are still with us, we are experiencing a cost-of-living crisis which is impacting on everyone and we are about to see the biggest restructuring of local government in Somerset for 50 years. As a result of all of this the role of the Town Council is changing and it is even more important that it has a good understanding of its community, how it can support it and how it can make Wellington a fantastic place to live and work.

This survey builds on the Place Plan consultation undertaken by Somerset West and Taunton Council recently and looks in more detail at what our community is, what's important to people and what support they might need. This will enable the Town Council to plan its development in the context of a changing environment.

The topics chosen were,

Demographics

Access to Services

Cost of Living Crisis

Health and Wellbeing

Community Facilities and Services

Climate Emergency

Community Review

Your future plan

Delivered by



smart
communities
part of the CCS group

On behalf of



Funded by



Methodology

Wellington Town Council took the opportunity to be part of the Somerset Community Review Project, funded by Somerset Council, delivered by Smart Communities (part of CCS group) on behalf of Somerset Association of Local Councils.

Key topics were identified and a survey created to seek residents views. The survey was live between 13th March 2023 and 23rd June 2023. It was available online through a link and QR code to Survey Monkey. The survey was promoted at events, through groups, organisations, schools, businesses as well as through social media including paid for posts. Additional door-to-door leafletting was undertaken in the Cades Farm development to encourage residents' response to the new community building. In addition, Smart Communities staff members spent a day in Wellington speaking with groups, individuals and business owners to encourage them to complete the survey.

That said, Smart Communities feel that there was a much lower response rate than would have been expected. It is clear that residents of Wellington are hard to engage with and that the direct personal approach is the best method. This is shown by the increase in responses the day Smart Communities staff members were speaking with people in Wellington and also the higher number of responses from Cades Farm following the leaflet drop. There was a lack of engagement not only from individuals but also from groups and Town Councillors in terms of using their local networks and contacts and promoting the consultation more widely. Events and activities took place during the consultation period but these yielded little response; there was a passive rather than a proactive presence and opportunities were missed to approach residents to complete the survey.

The following findings do, however, give a very high level indication of issues and concerns and further exploratory consultation and work could be done to explore views in more detail on specific topics.

Findings



Demographics

An introduction to who has completed the survey, including some basic background questions about age, household size and how long they have lived in the area. Please note that Census 2021 data is now available at <https://census.gov.uk/census-2021-results>

There were 332 respondents to the survey. Respondents had the choice of which questions they answered – no questions were mandatory. Each question shows how many respondents answered or skipped that question.

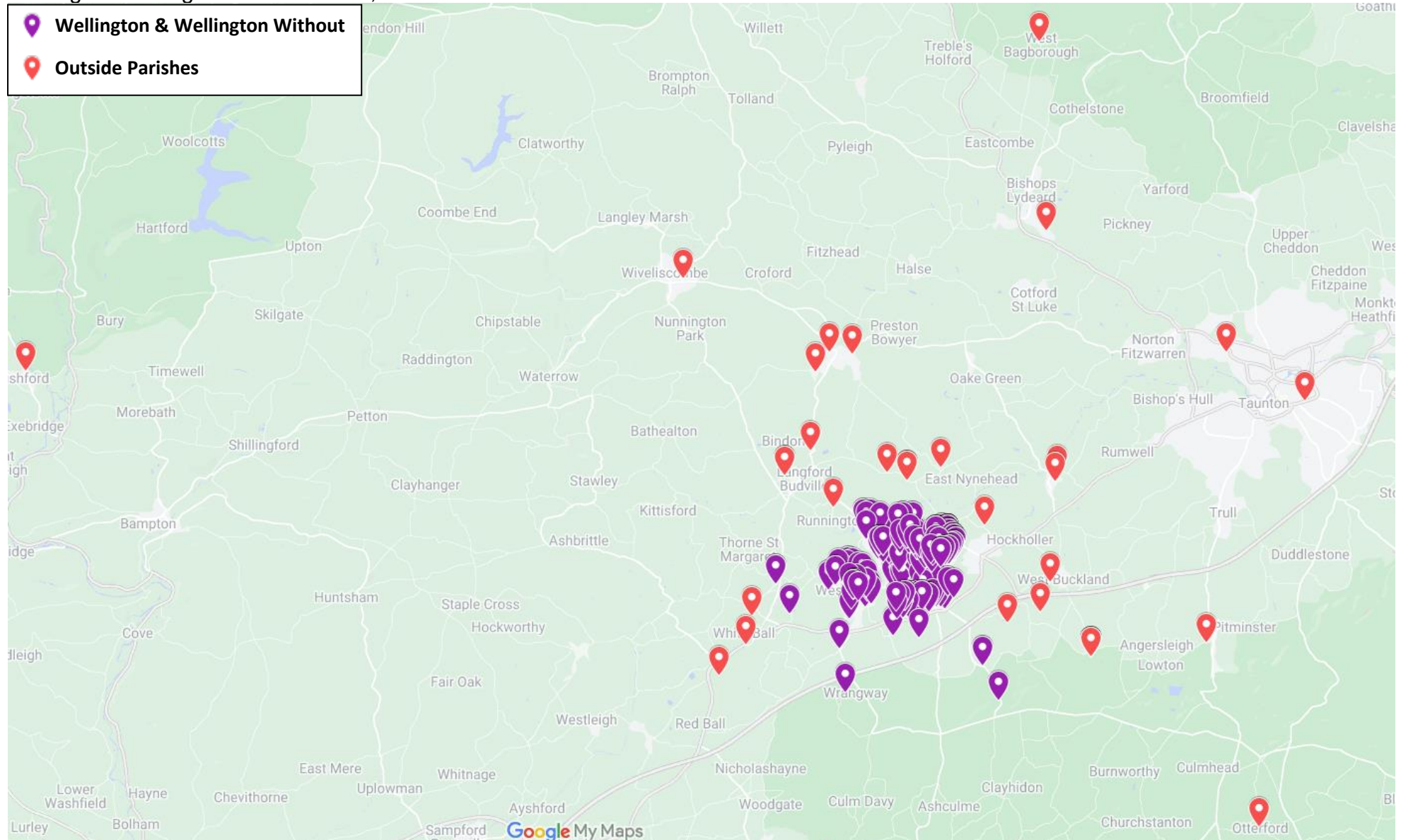
Q1: What is your postcode?

Answered: 331

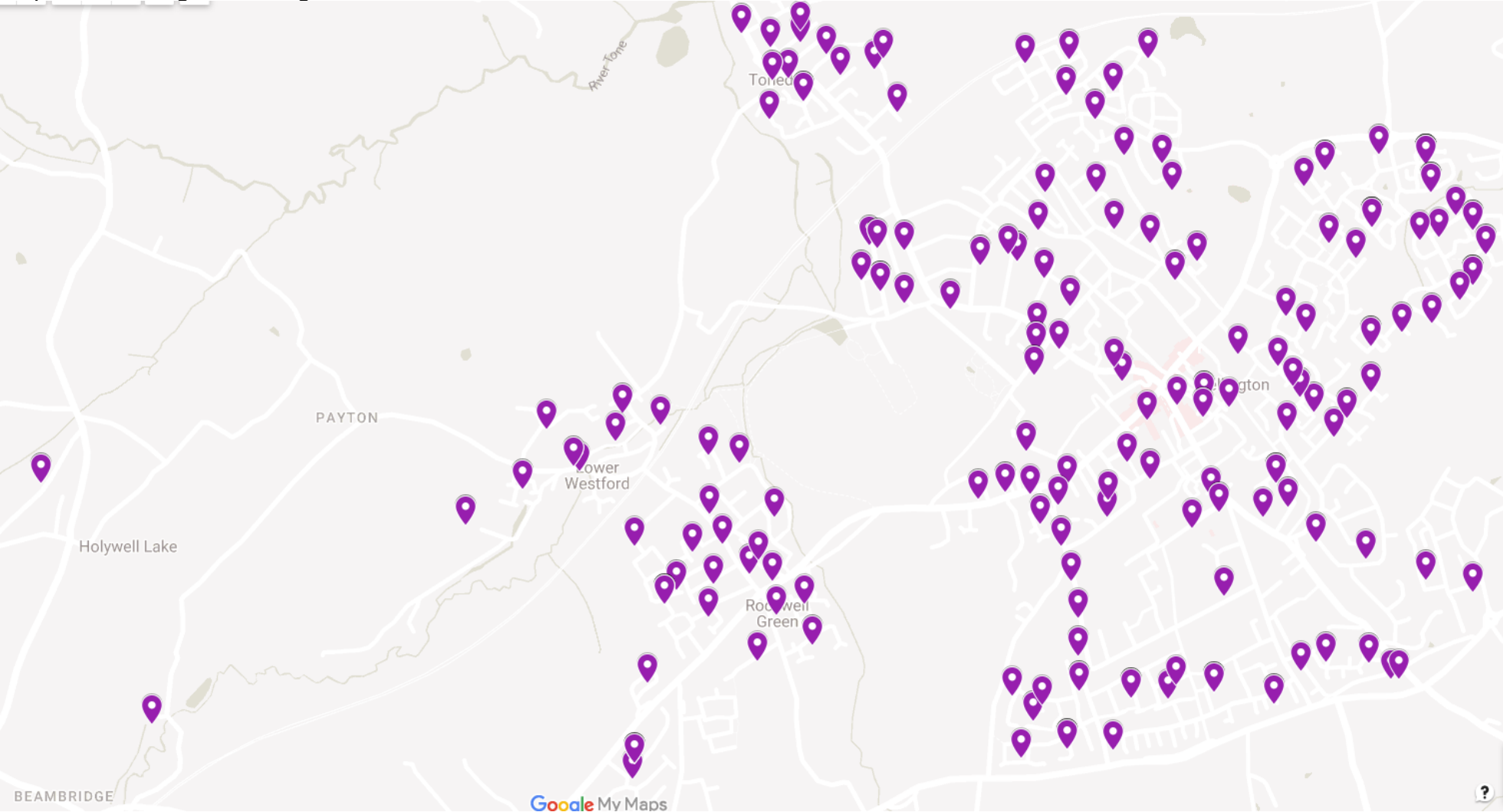
Skipped: 1

Map 1a – All respondents supplying valid a postcode (326).

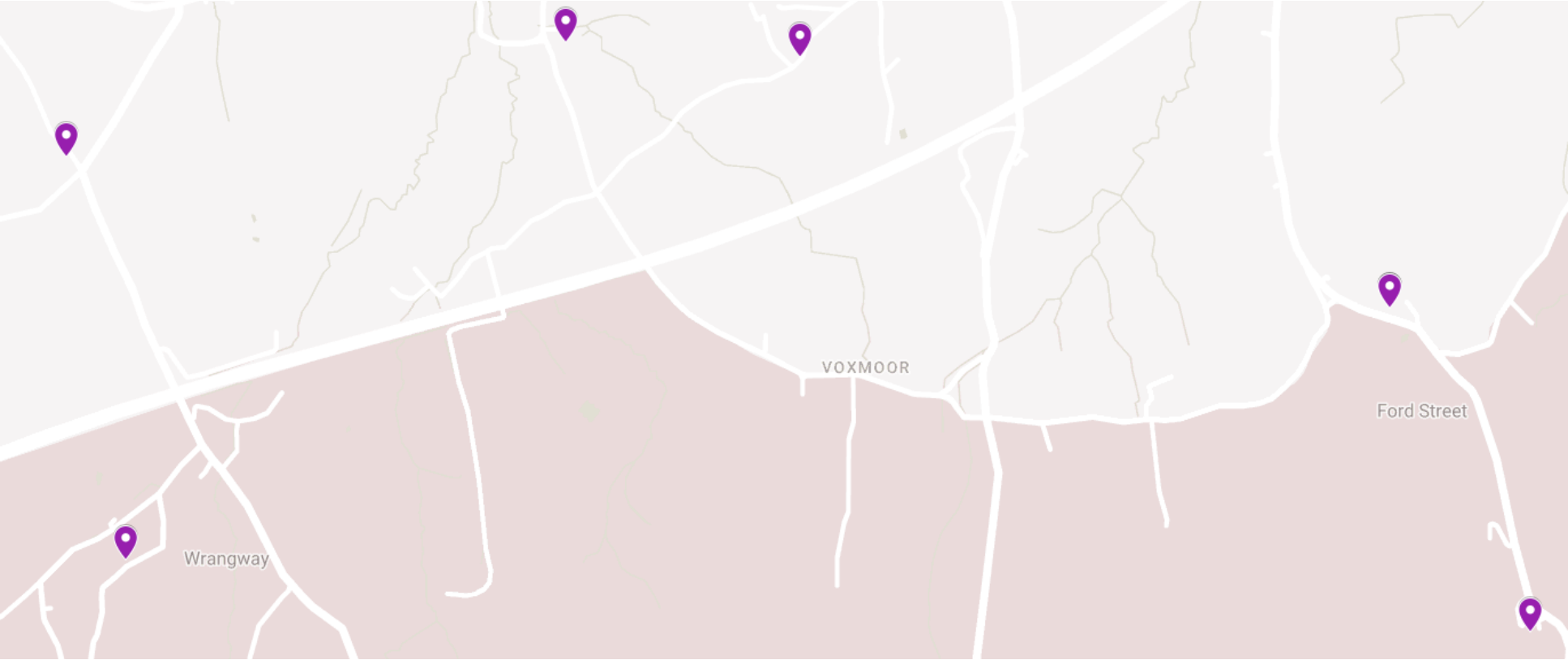
Wellington/Wellington Without x 293, External x 33



Map 1b – Wellington/Wellington Without x 293



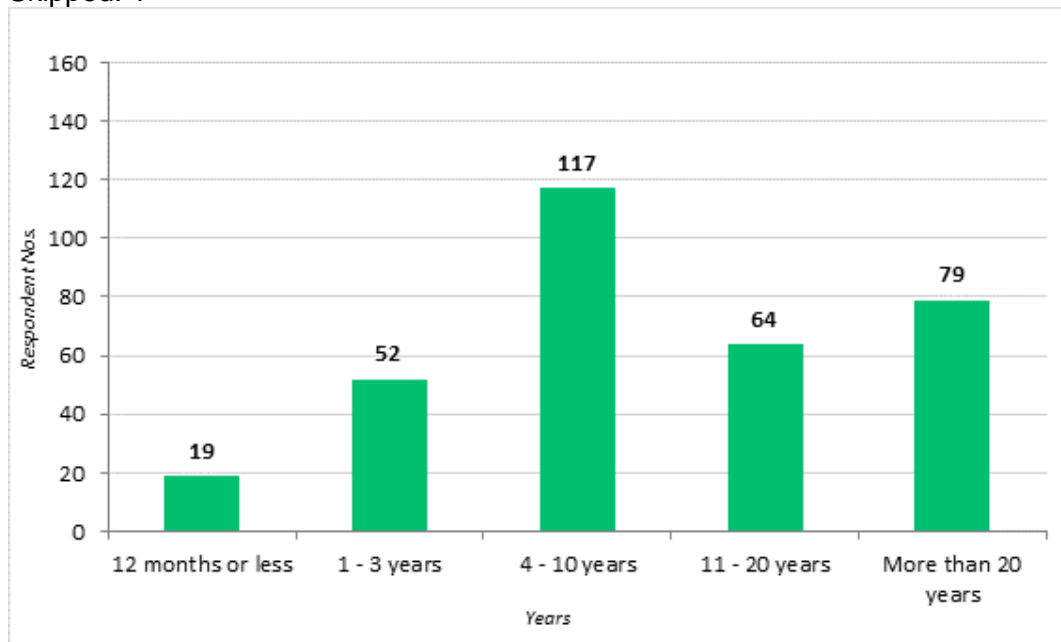
Map 1b – Wellington/Wellington Without x 293 (continued) outlying respondents



Q2: How long have you lived there?

Answered: 331

Skipped: 1

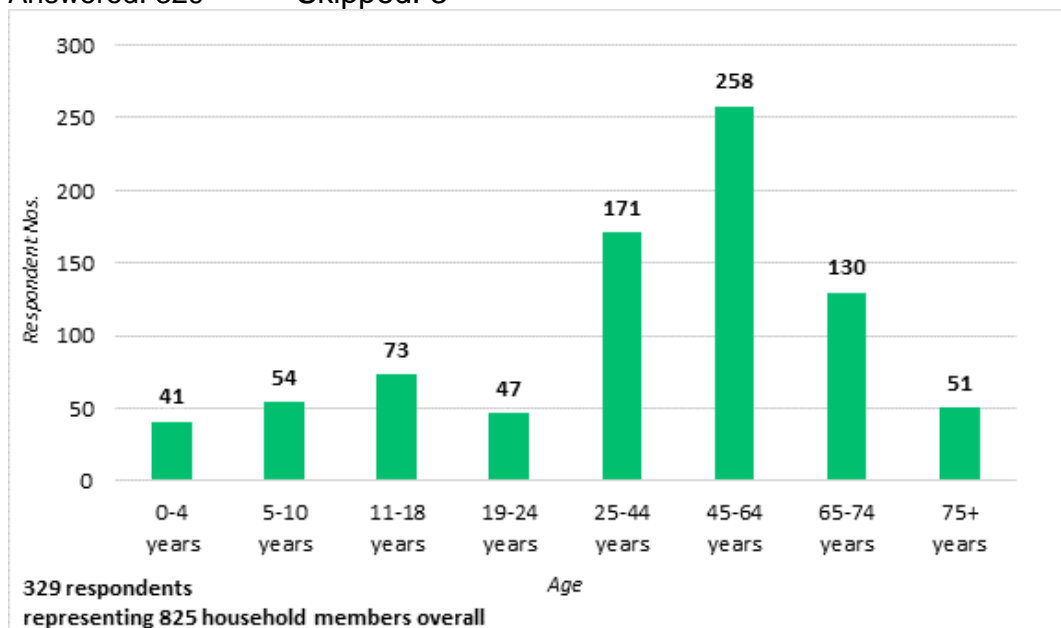


Of the 331 responses to this question, there is a good mix of length of time people have lived in their current location with the most (117) respondents living there for 4-10 years.

Q3: How many people in each age group live in your household? (please place a number in the relevant boxes)

Answered: 329

Skipped: 3

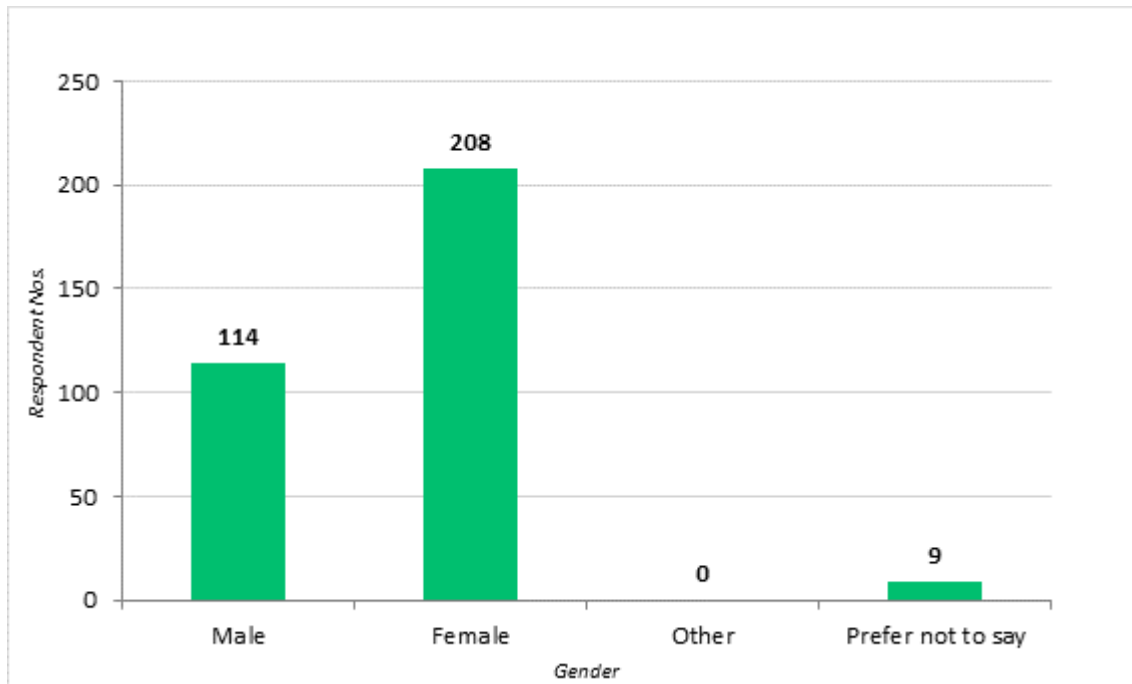


While there were 329 respondents to this question this represents 825 members of households covering a broad range of age groups with the 45-64 age bracket having the most people (258).

Q4: What is your gender?

Answered: 331

Skipped: 1



331 people responded to this question with 208 being female, 114 male and 9 preferring not to say.

Access to Services

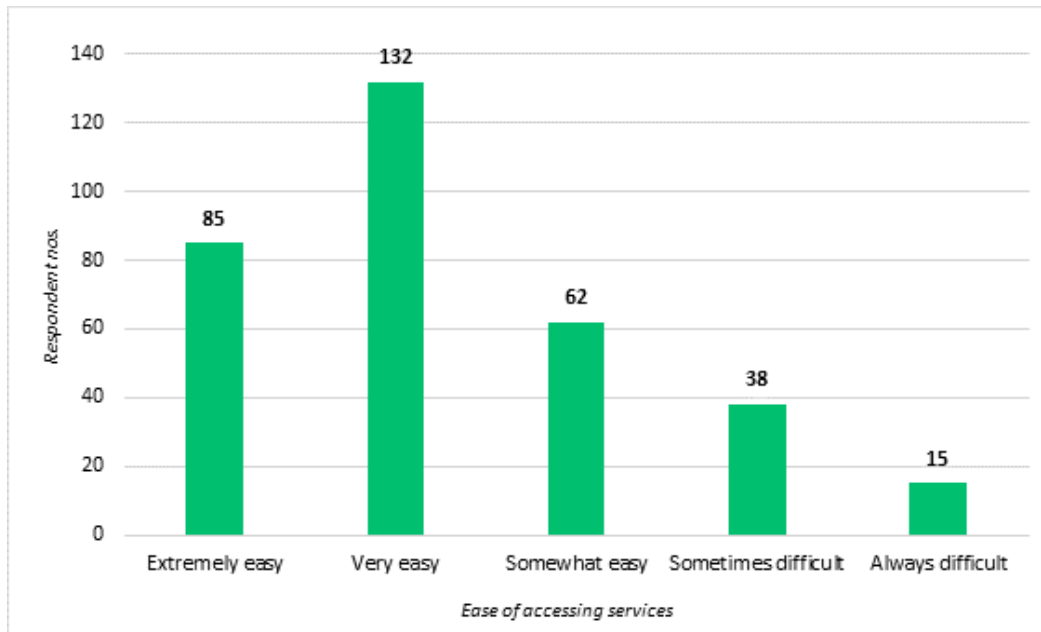


In this section we want to understand more about what might cause people difficulties in doing things or accessing services and support around the town.

Q5: How easy do you find it to get into town to access shops/services or any support you might need e.g. doctors, dentist?

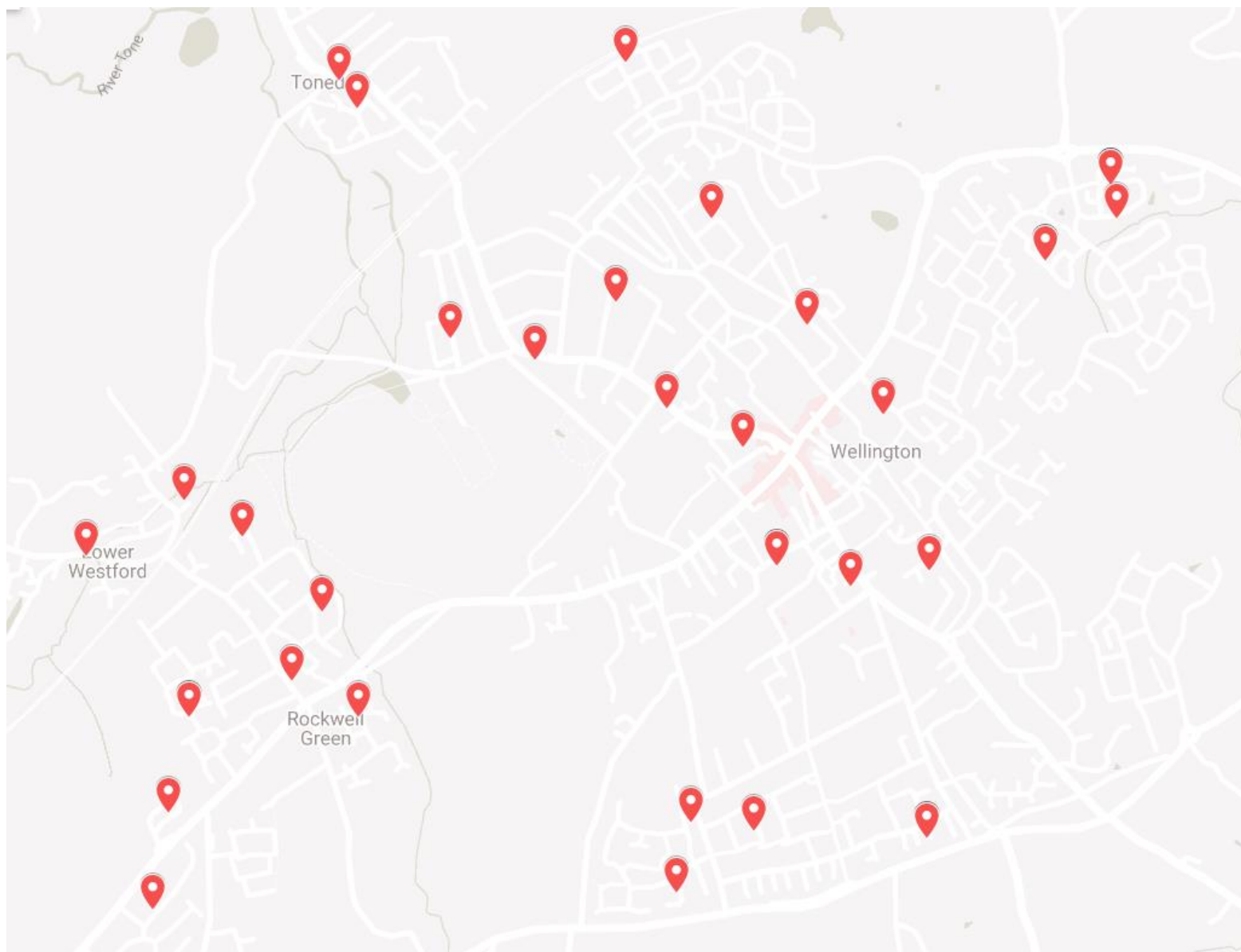
Answered: 332

Skipped: 0



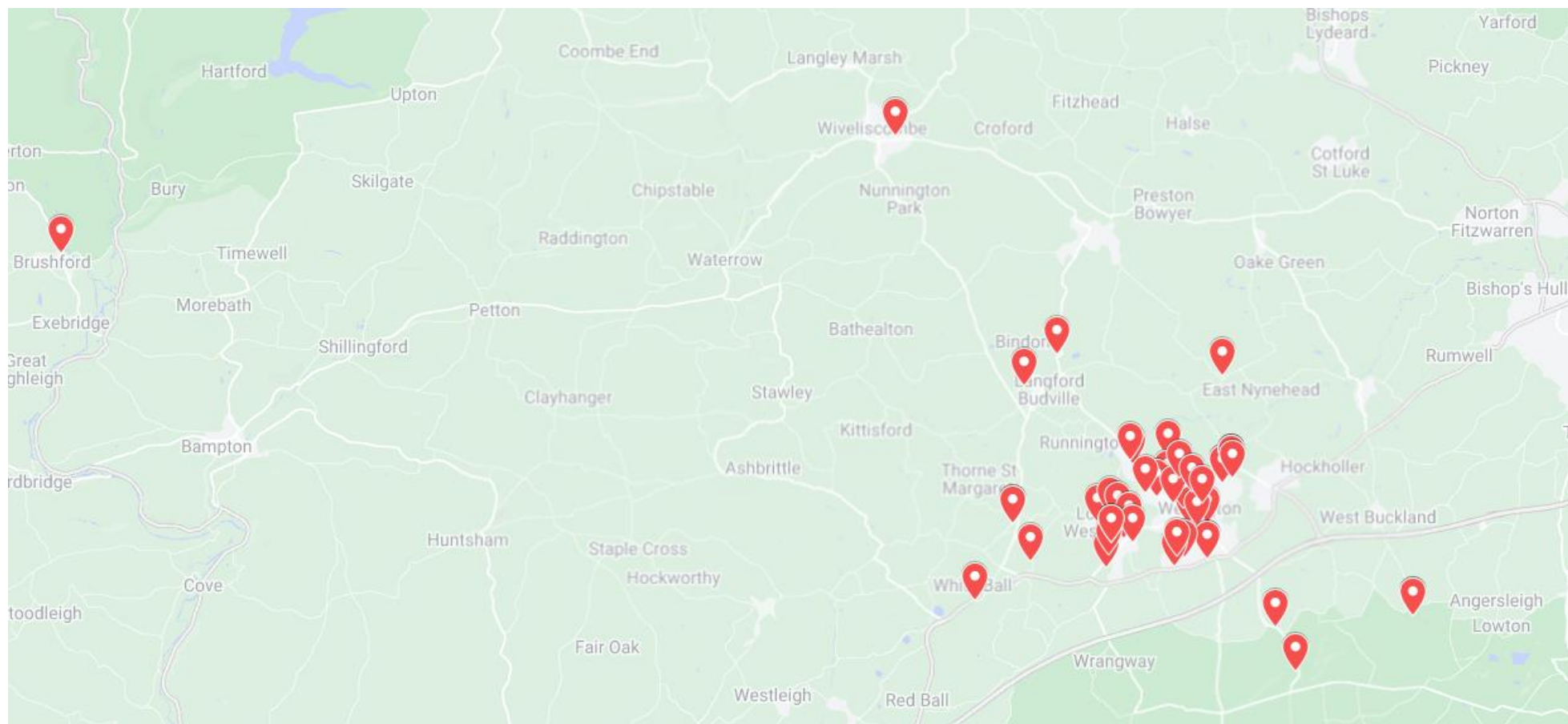
Of the 332 responses, 279 find it extremely easy, very easy or somewhat easy to access shops/services or any support needed. However, 38 find it sometimes difficult and 15 always difficult.

Map 2a – Respondent postcodes who find accessing shops and services Always or Sometimes difficult
Wellington



Map 2b – Respondent postcodes who find accessing shops and services ‘Always difficult’ or ‘Sometimes difficult’

Outlying areas

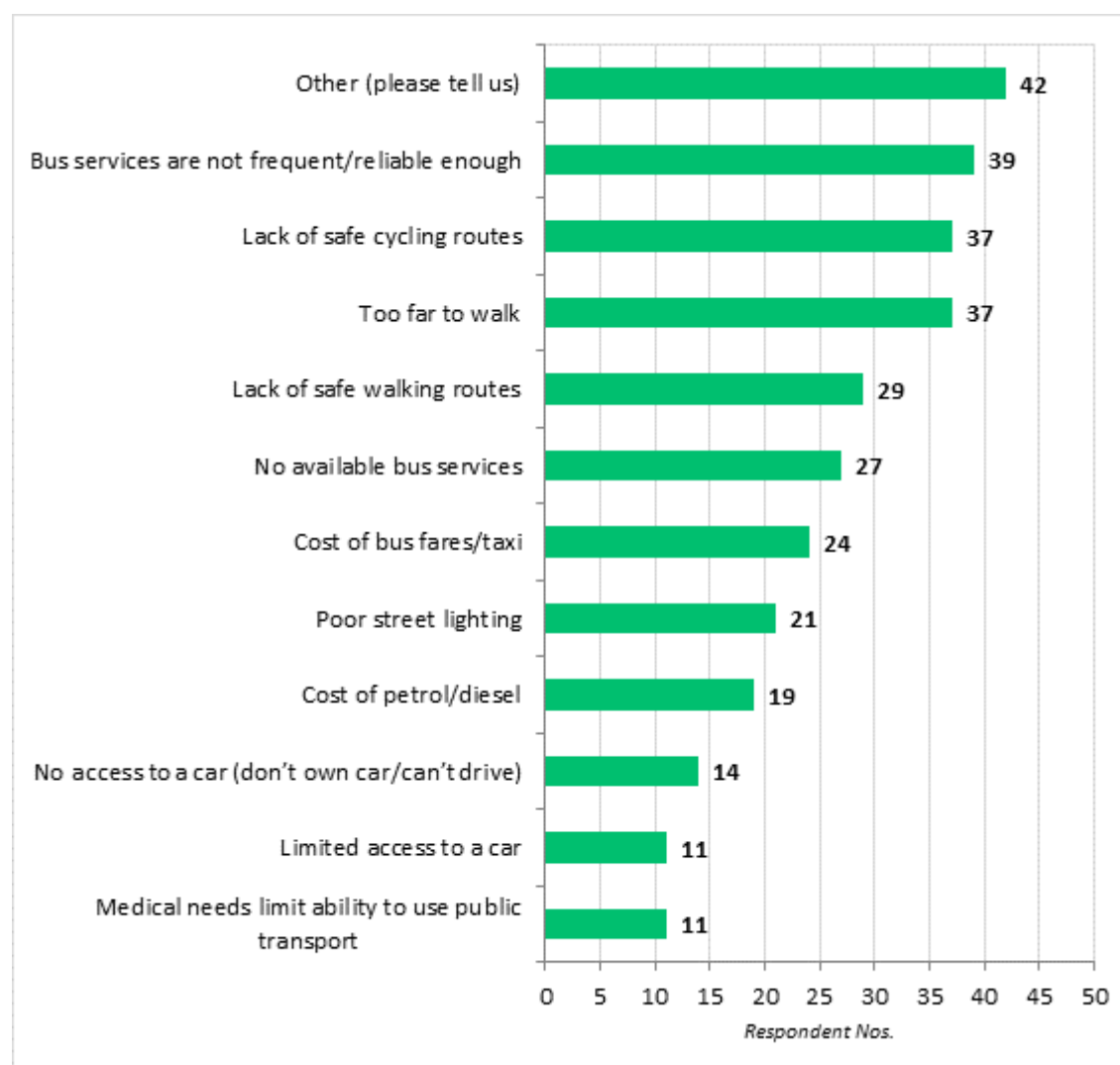


The maps above show where those who find it sometimes difficult or always difficult to access shops and services live, in order to ascertain if there are any geographical patterns/ barriers to access. It appears that those who live in Wellington or Rockwell Green are evenly distributed with no obvious pattern. There are a number who live in the outlying villages and communities who appear to use Wellington for their shopping and services and who find it sometimes or always difficult to access them.

Q6: If you cannot easily reach your destination/amenities, what stops you from being able to get there? (please tick any that apply)

Answered: 141

Skipped: 191



141 respondents answered this question of what stops them from being able to easily reach destinations/ amenities. 39 respondents stated that the buses are not frequent/reliable enough, 37 respondents feel there are a lack of safe cycle routes and 37 state it is too far to walk. There were a further 42 'other' comments which included:

Traffic

- Town centre is very busy ("*avoid or go elsewhere*")
- Drivers are impatient / poor driving when lane sharing with cyclists/pedestrians.
- Chelston roundabout traffic.

Lack of services/amenities

- Lack of / difficulty getting to see a doctor.
- No NHS dentist was highlighted by many.
- No/ fewer amenities with lots of empty shops.
- No bank.
- No post office.
- Opening times when working full time elsewhere.

Parking

- Expensive.
- Lack of / limited free parking.
- Need more parking spaces/car parks.

Safety Concerns

- Crossing safety – Cades to Lidl, no pedestrian button (Longforth).
- Poor pavements.
- Walking to medical centres is not an option.
- Dark Lane is poorly maintained, making using it difficult at times.
- Potholes on roads makes it unsafe to cycle.
- Not feeling safe in some areas.

Public transport

- Too far to walk back with shopping – not on a bus route.
- Can't use bus due to mobility issues.
- Difficult to access trains – train station needed.
- Difficult to access airport.

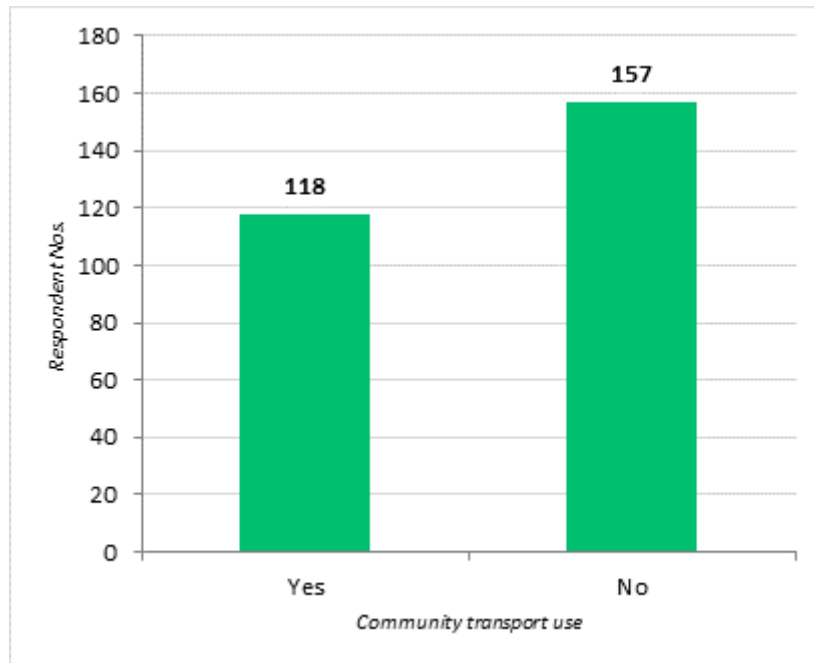
Other issues

- *"Filthy Streets*
- *Flooded roads*
- *Live on Blackdowns*
- *Walking is sometimes an issue*
- *I do have a car, but the time is coming that I will not be able to drive safely.*
- *I have moved into the centre of town on purpose to be within walking distance of the shops and other facilities"*

Q7: If it was available in Wellington, would you use Community transport (for those who not have their own transport or find it difficult to access public transport)?

Answered: 275

Skipped: 57



There were 275 responses to the question of whether people would use Community transport if it was available in Wellington. While 157 said no, 118 said yes.



Cost of living crisis

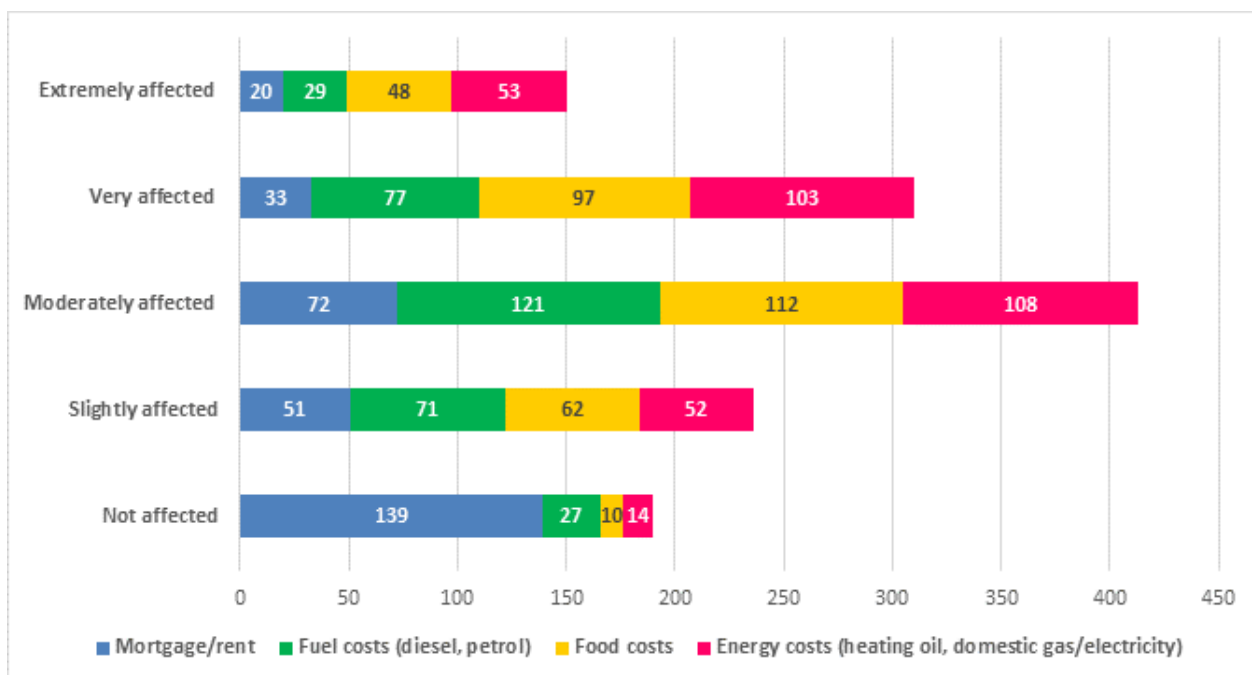
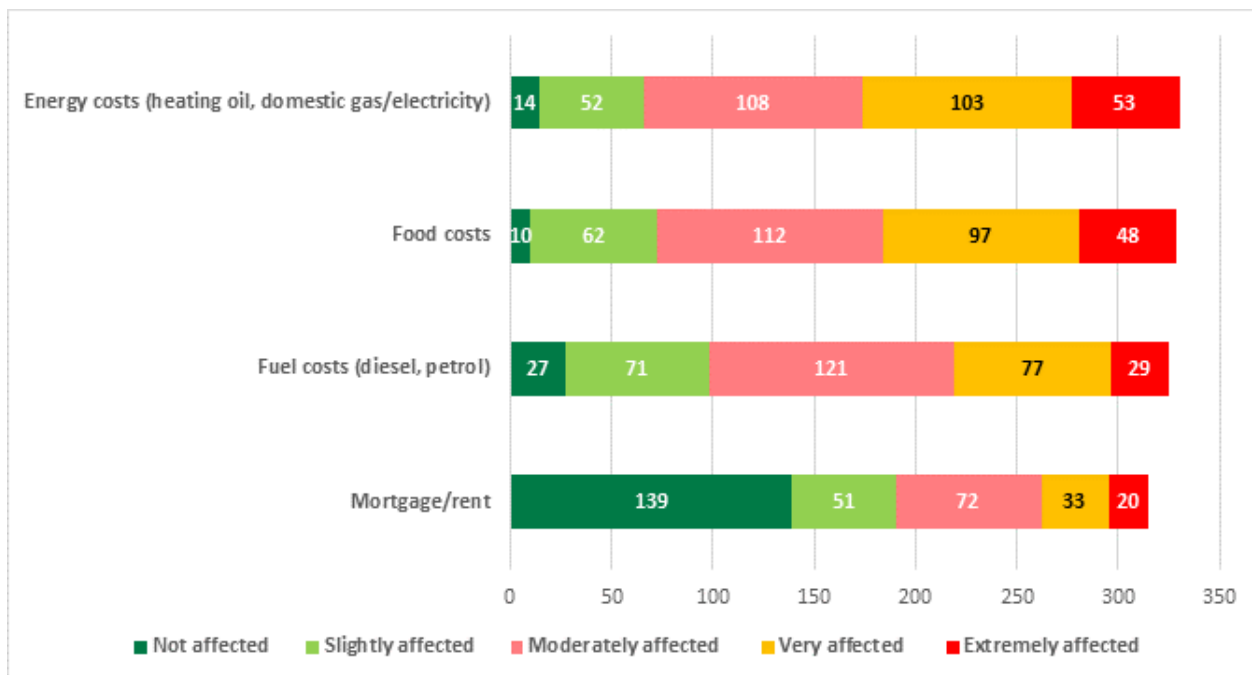
We are aware that the price of food and fuel and other goods and services are increasing. As a town there are things that we might be able to do to support our community. To enable us to do that successfully we need to have a clear understanding of the issues and how they are impacting our community.

Q8: How is the cost-of-living crisis affecting your household? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 330

Skipped: 2

The responses to this question are shown in two different ways in the charts below.



The question of how the cost-of-living crisis is affecting respondents' households was answered by 330 respondents. The two graphs above show the same data in response to this question presented in different ways. What can be seen from the graphs is that those either 'very affected' or 'extremely affected' are greater than those 'slightly' or 'not affected'. Of particular note, are the numbers extremely and very affected by energy costs (total 156 respondents) and food costs (total 145 respondents).

The costs least affecting respondents at the time of data collection are rent/mortgage. It should be noted that since collecting of responses bank interest rates have risen further which may lead to these costs becoming more of an issue.

In addition to the responses above there were an additional 24 comments which included:

- *Cost/ increase of council tax*
- *Cost of childcare*
- *Unsustainable rise in costs / everything has seen price increase / using savings for everyday stuff*
- *Increasing social isolation/ less leisure activities*
- *We now budget – we didn't need to worry before*
- *Mortgage rate increases is a massive issue*
- *Fixed price energy until end of June then I will be affected.*

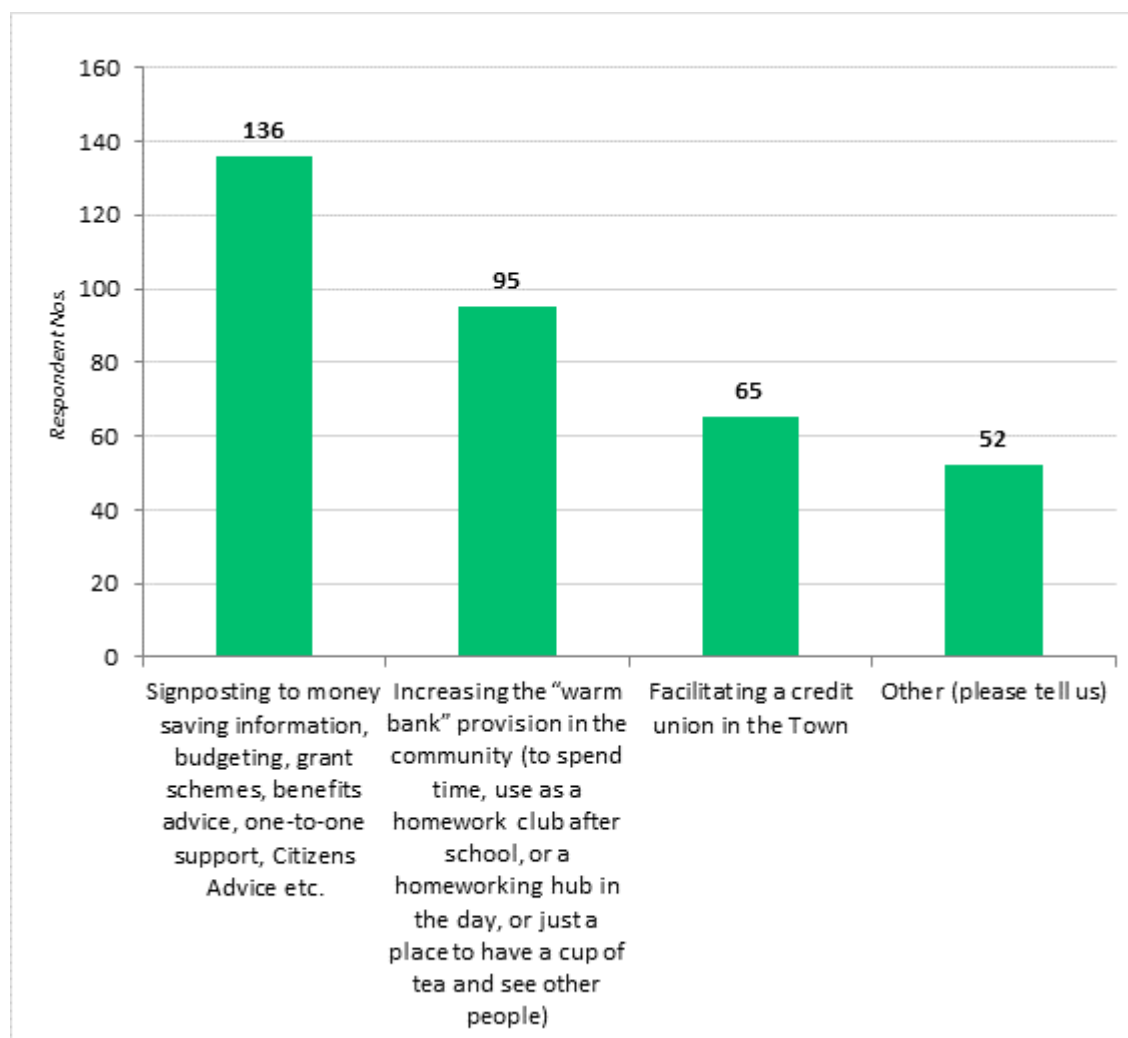
Other comments:

- *Politically managed / week government*

Q9: How can the Town Council help? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 231

Skipped: 101



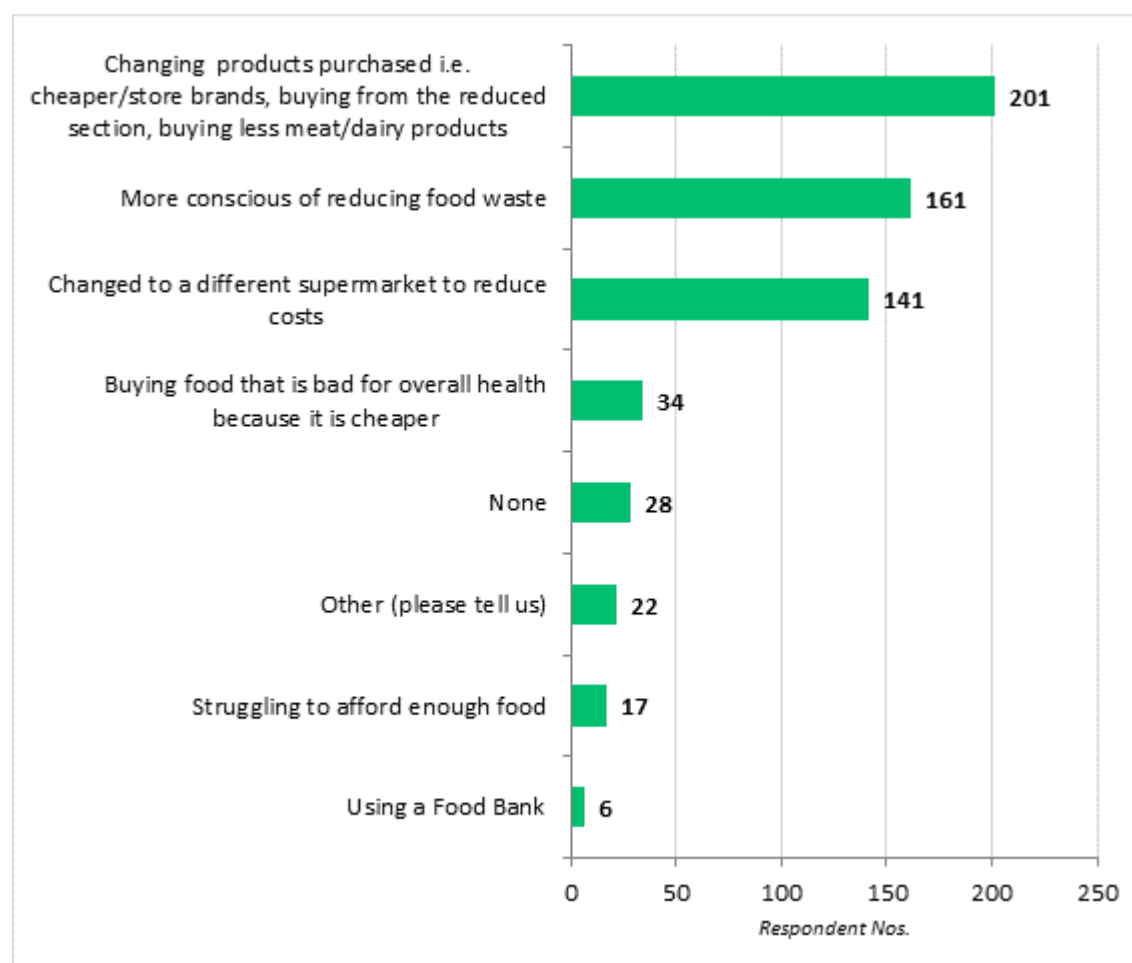
There were 231 respondents to this question about what the Town Council can do to help. 131 respondents would like signposting to money saving information, budgeting, grant schemes, benefits advice, on-to-one support, Citizens Advice etc. 95 respondents could like an increase in the "warm bank" provision and 65 respondents would like the Town Council to help with facilitating a credit union in town. There were 52 'other' comments which included:

- Advice, information and community initiatives linked to the options within the chart.
- Traffic and transport: affordable public transport, freedom to drive where they want without restrictions, free car parking.
- Improved services: NHS dentist, Post Office.
- Petition Central Government.

Q10: If you have been affected by increased food prices in the last twelve months, how have you had to change the way you shop? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 315

Skipped: 17



315 people responded to this question with 201 stating that they have changed the products they purchase, 161 were more conscious of reducing food waste and 141 changed to a different supermarket to reduce costs.

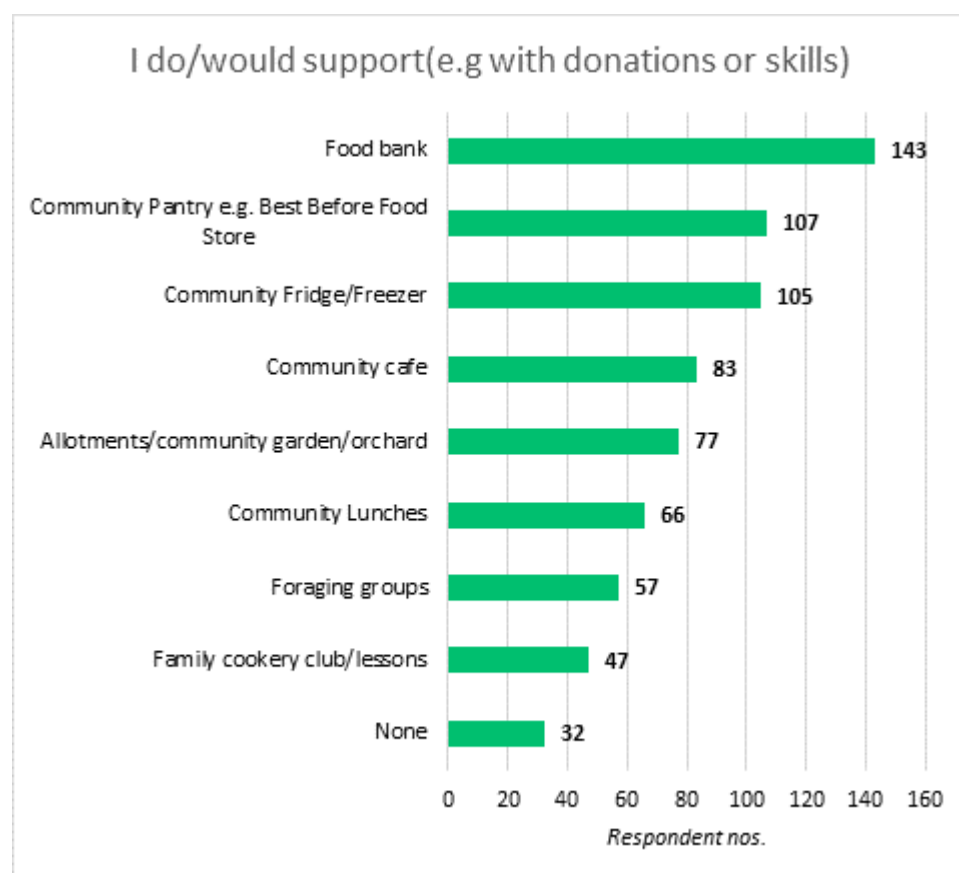
There were 22 'other' comments which include:

- A few comments stating that they have always been frugal, but the basics are getting more expensive
- Growing more
- Buying less and no 'treats' e.g. cafes etc.

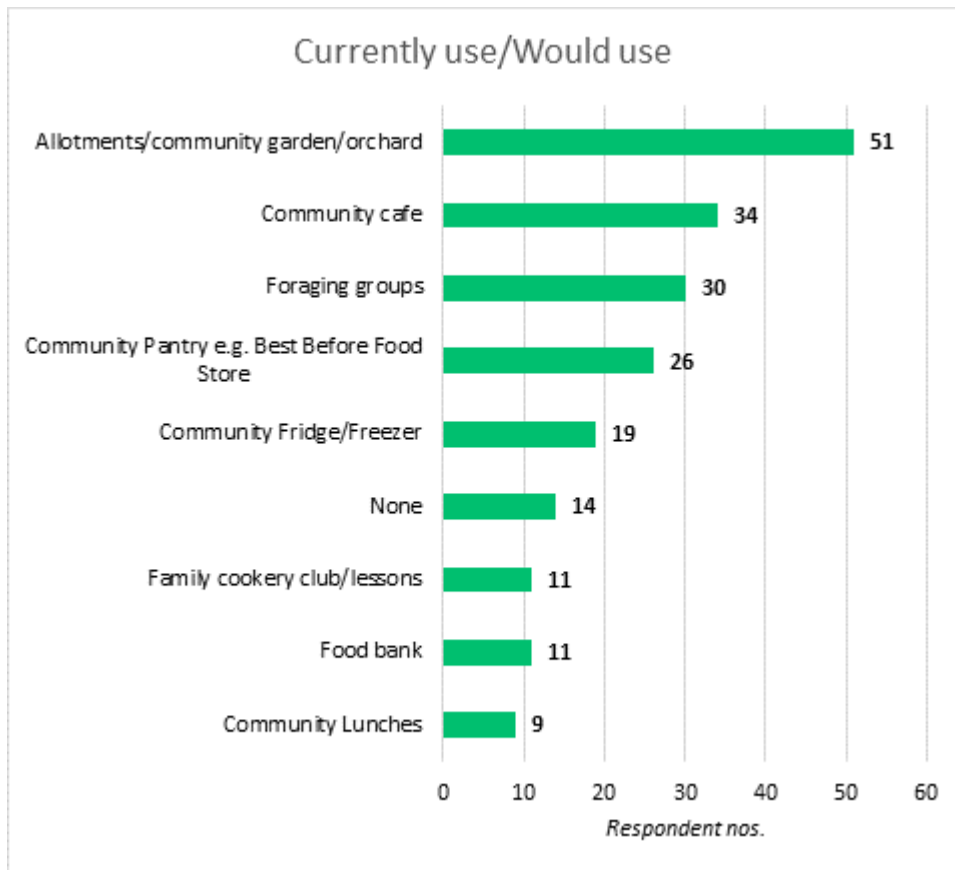
Q11: Which of the following community food projects are you interested in supporting or using, or are already using? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 269

Skipped: 63



There were 269 respondents to this question. There is good support for community food projects with 143 either support or would support the food bank, 107 support or would support the Community Pantry and 105 support or would support the Community Fridge/Freezer.



In terms of community food projects people currently use or would use, 51 respondents highlighted Allotments/community garden/orchard, 34 a community café and 30 foraging groups.

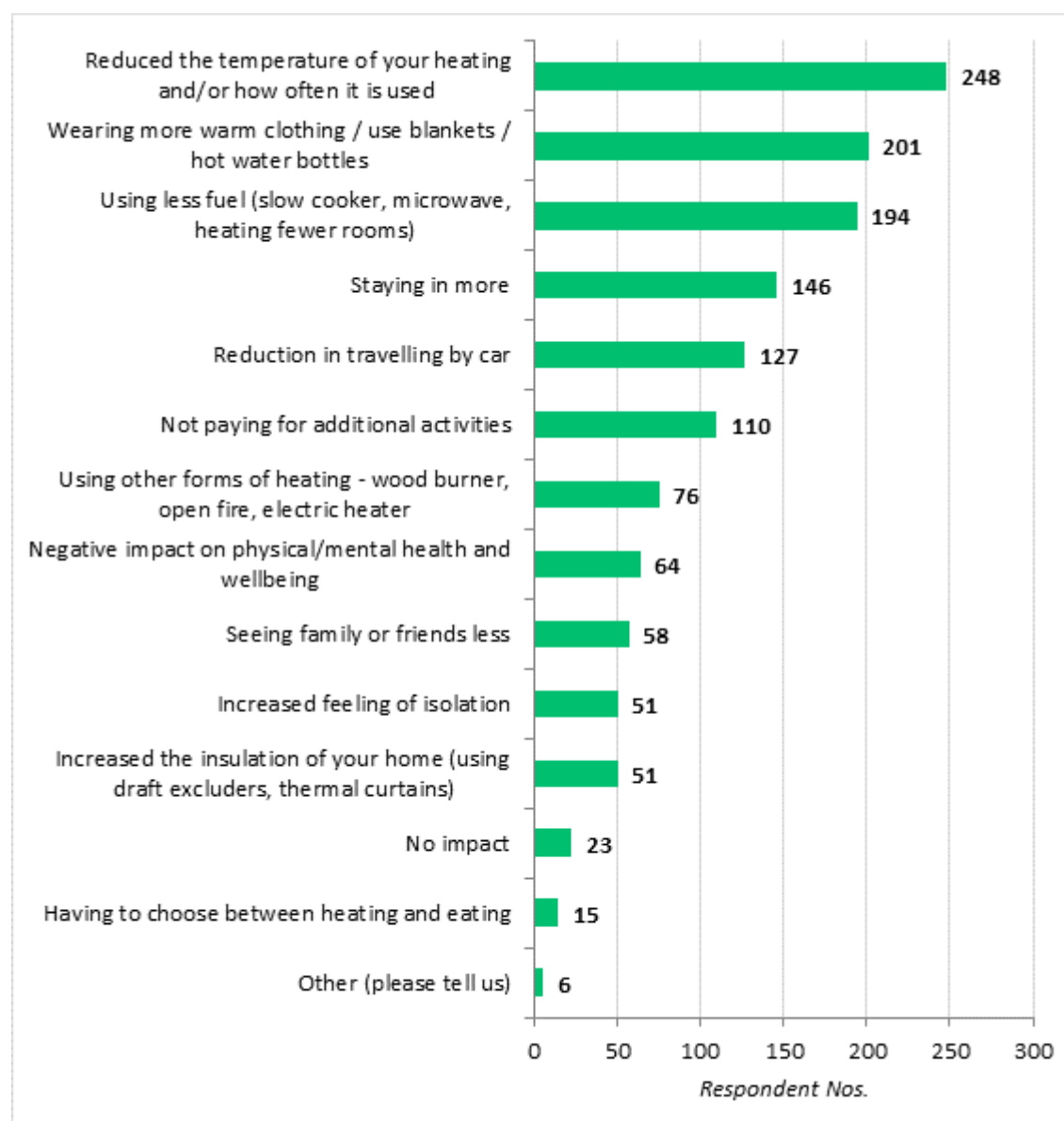
There were a range of comments:

- *All great for community moving forward especially with uncertainty in the future*
- *Community farm*
- *Finding ways to provide help/support with time and/or donations is very hard. Better signposting would help.*
- *I both contribute to and also use community orchards (couldn't tick both)*
- *I don't currently access support because there are others in more need. Definitely can't afford to donate to food banks*
- *I have been interested in this for a while.*
- *I occasionally have a community lunch and give a donation.*
- *Most food banks refuse homemade cakes or jam. Relaxation of rules for gifting food would enable me to gift more*
- *Not for me*
- *Skill share events could help people to give and to learn new things that could benefit health & Wellbeing*
- *unable to use as cannot get to them*

Q12: What impact has the cost of living crisis had on your household e.g. utility bills, activities? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 324

Skipped: 8



It is clear that there has been an impact of the cost of living on most of the 324 respondents' households with only 23 stating that there had been no impact. 248 respondents said that they had reduced the temperature of their heating and /or how often they use is, 201 are wearing more warm clothing/ using blankets / hot water bottles. 194 are using less fuel (slow cooker, microwave, heating fewer rooms). The other noticeable impact is that on respondents' wellbeing with 146 respondents say they are staying in more, 127 reducing travelling by car and 110 are not paying for additional activities. 64 highlighted that the cost of living is having an impact of physical/ mental health and wellbeing and 51 have an increased feeling of isolation.

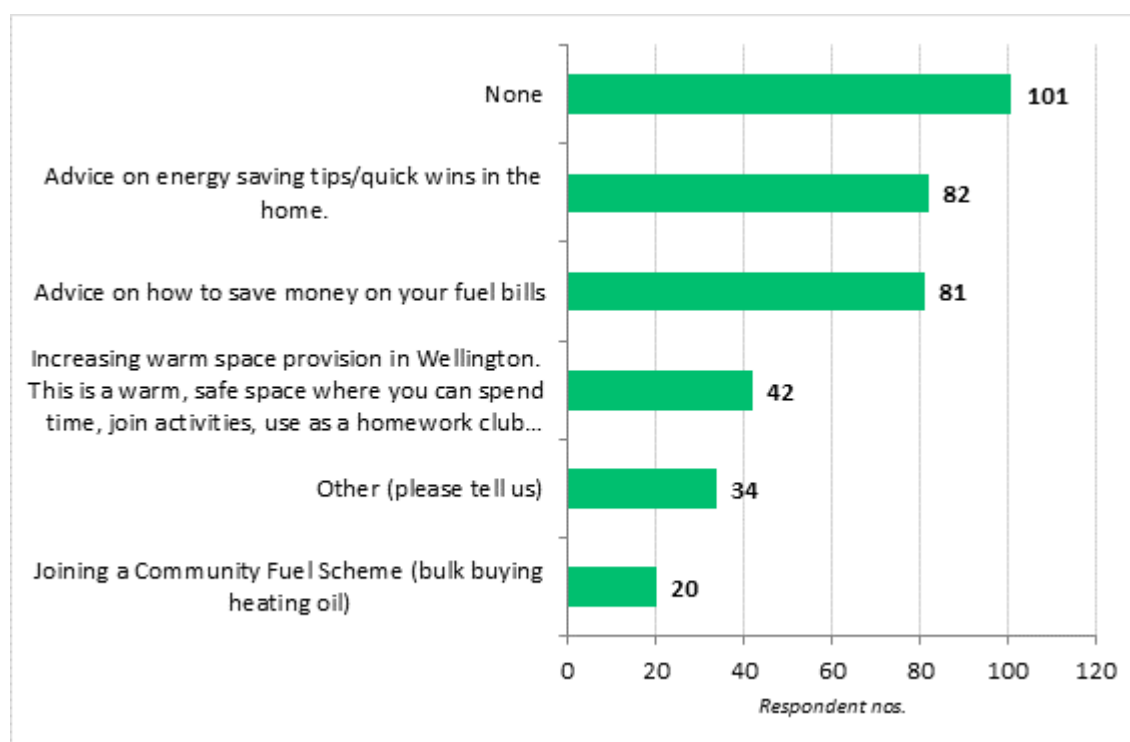
There were the following comments to this question:

- *Generally thinking more carefully about fuel usage, e.g. batch cooking - not necessarily a bad thing*
- *I only use heating when I need to. I have done this for some time. Many of the things on this list were brought on by lockdown policies, not just the cost of living increase.*
- *It's the summer*
- *most of the above have become more challenging, it makes me want to leave housing and live off grid. Start working to live not work to pay everything out in Taxes on everything, often many times over , made up fines et al*
- *Not because I have too but a life choice*
- *Reducing ability to save money; less money left at the end of the month*

Q13: What support with energy costs would be most helpful for you? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 269

Skipped: 63



In terms of what support with energy costs would be most helpful, of the 269 respondents, 101 said None. However, 82 said advice on energy saving tips/quick wins in the home and 81 identifying advice on how to save money on fuel bills as being helpful. 42 respondents would also like to see an increased provision of warm spaces in Wellington.

There were 32 comments to this question including:

- Comments relating to the need to reduce energy costs and energy companies profits as well as reducing standing charges and government intervention required.
- Comments about the need for free and impartial energy advice on solar panels, heat pumps and also insulation for older properties.
- Warm hub / spaces but need to be certain they are independent and well run (insurance etc.)
- *"I believe the flat could do with more insulation, but the landlord says it is adequate."*
- "Stopping the insane Net Zero"



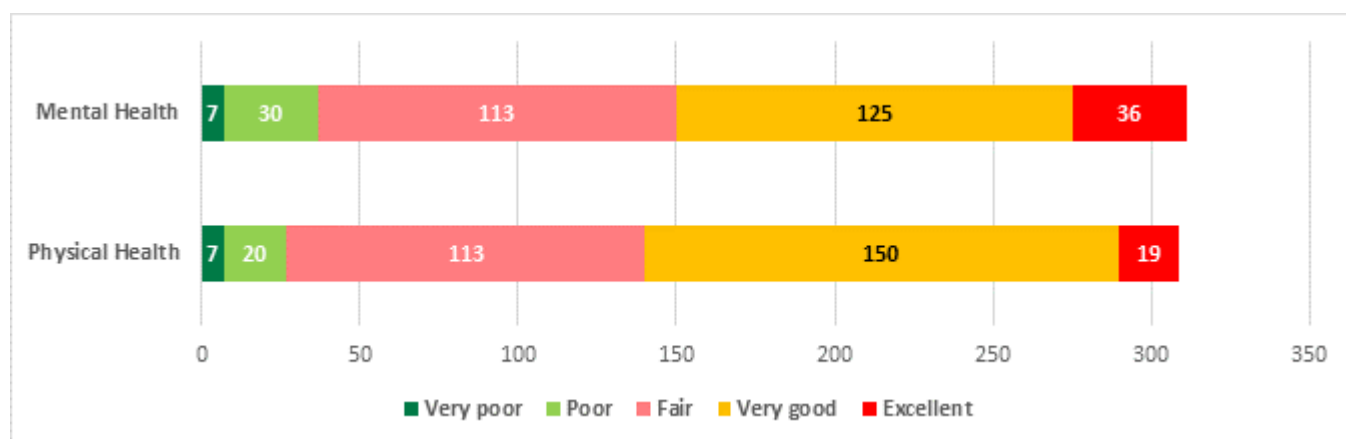
Health and Wellbeing

Health & Wellbeing is one of the priority topics for consultation in this Community Review process. Many of the other topics covered in this survey will affect our health in some way too (Traffic & transport; Climate Emergency; Cost of Living Crisis; Covid recovery).

Q14: How do you rate your general health and wellbeing?

Answered: 312

Skipped: 20

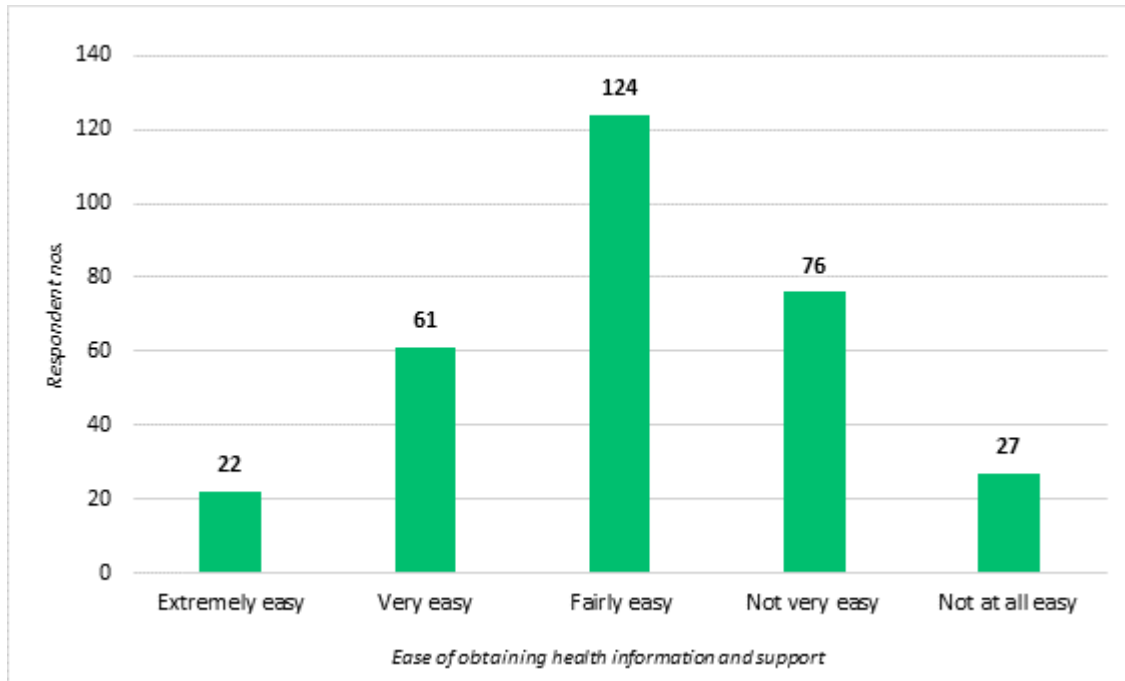


312 respondents rated their physical and mental health. Whilst the majority of respondents felt that their mental and physical health was fair, very good or excellent, there were 20 respondents stating that their physical health was poor and 7 very poor. There were 30 respondents stating that their mental health was poor and 7 very poor.

Q15: How easy is it for you to obtain the relevant health information and support that you need?

Answered: 310

Skipped: 22

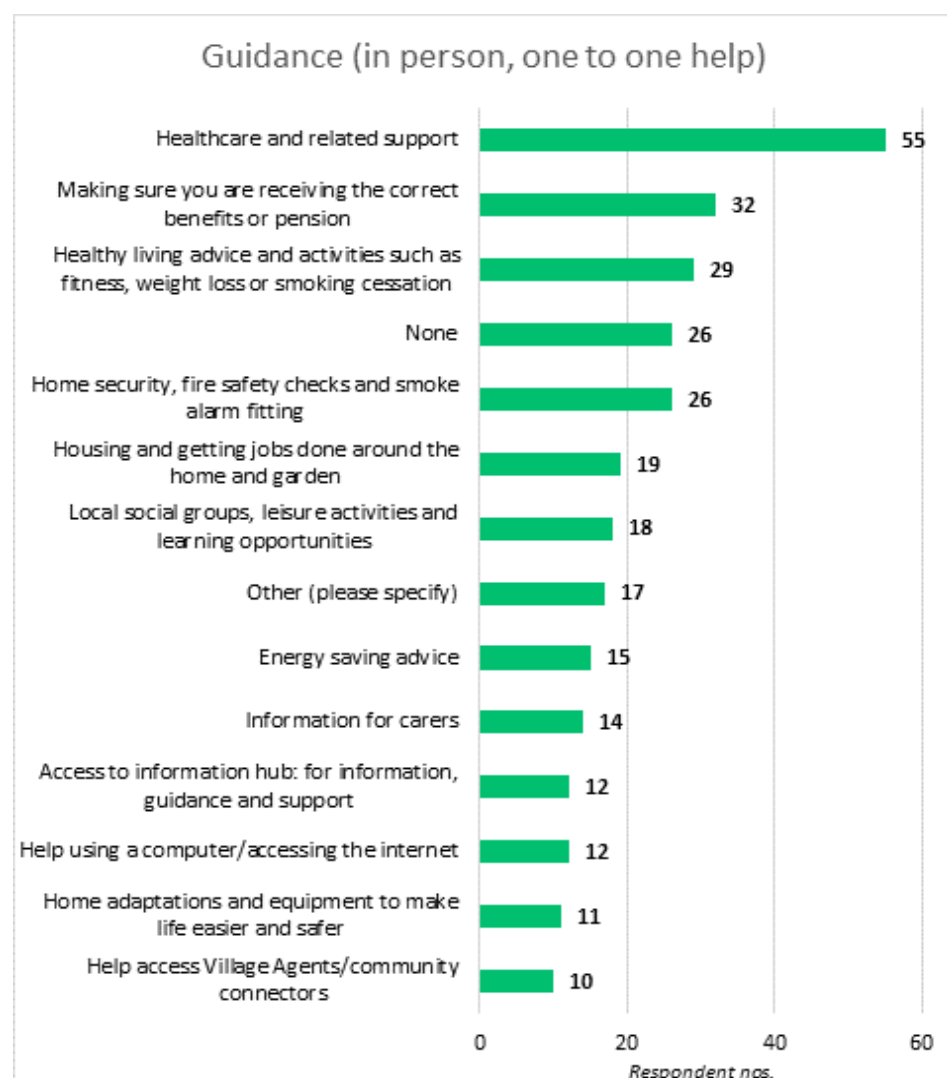
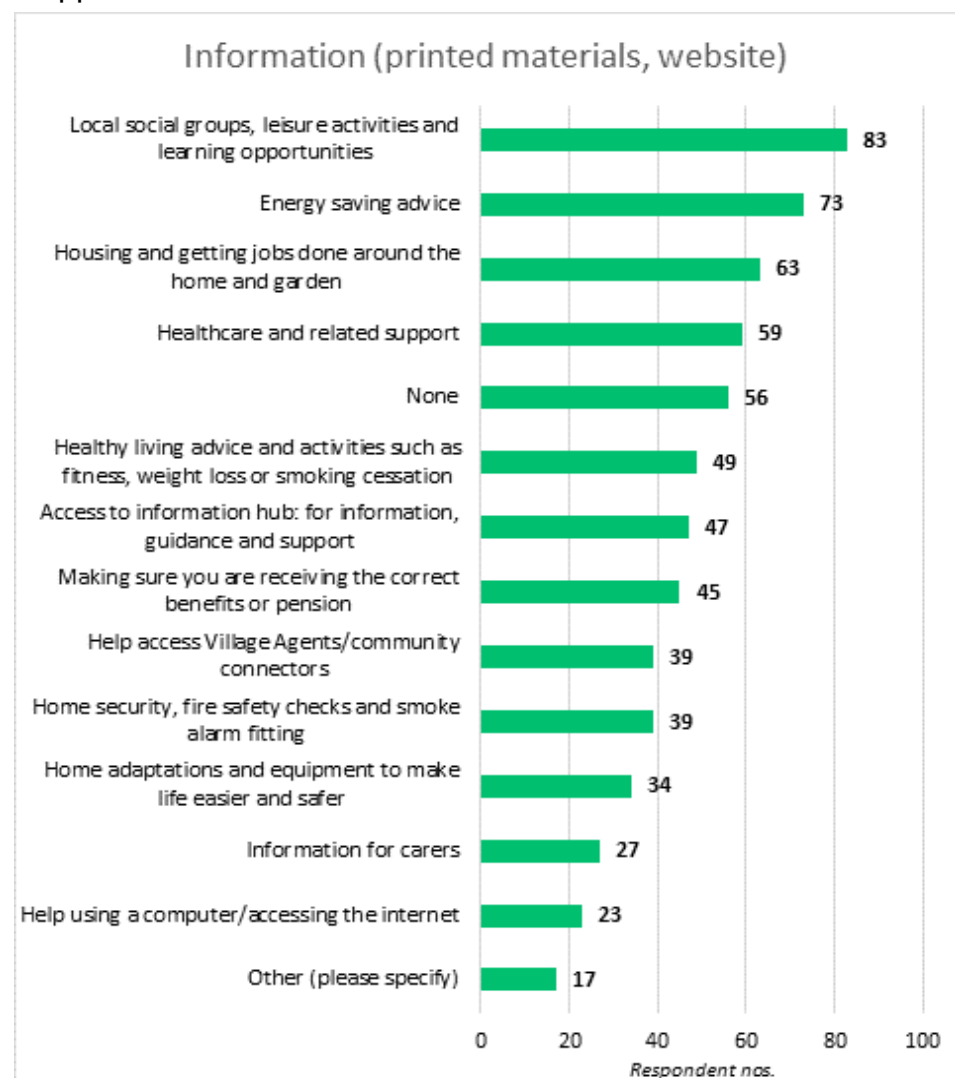


Of the 310 respondents, a greater number found it not very easy (76) or not at all easy (27) to obtain relevant health information and support than those that found it very easy (61) or extremely easy (22).

Q16: What help do you need to access any of the following services? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 232

Skipped: 100



232 people responded to the question of help needed to access services. 83 respondents would like information about local social groups, leisure activities and learning opportunities and 73 respondents would like information about energy saving advice. 15 respondents would also like guidance on energy saving advice. Guidance is required by 55 respondents for health and related support. Across all the topics, printed and website information was requested by more respondents than in person, one to one guidance but there is clearly a need for both.

There were 17 'other' comments which included:

- Doctors – requirement for more GP's and shorter waiting time for an appointment
- NHS dentist
- Access to a choice of healthcare including access /information printed material not online



Community facilities and services

We have a number of community facilities in Wellington, by that we mean buildings, equipment for recreation and places to assemble for meetings, events and social gatherings. We want to understand whether the facilities are suitable for the community. We also want to understand if / where improvements are needed or new facilities are needed.

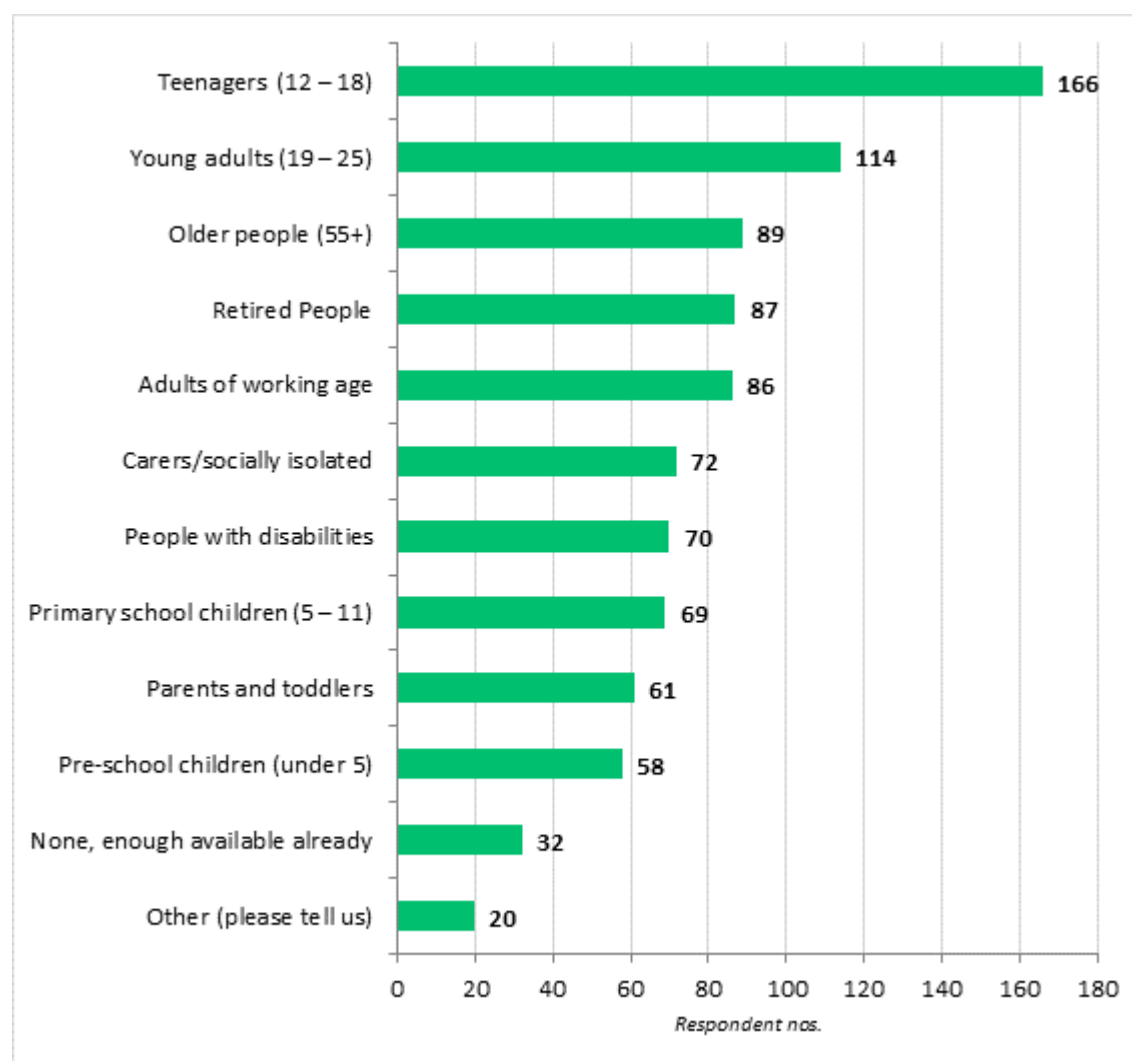
We plan to undertake a separate piece of work/consultation around youth provision in the town.

Leisure, recreation and sport

Q17: Do you think there should be more /new leisure and recreation provision in the Town for specific ages or groups? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 281

Skipped: 51



There were 281 respondents to the question of whether there should be more/new leisure and recreation provision in the town for specific ages or groups. Respondents highlighted a need across all the ages and groups with only 32 respondents stating that there is enough already. There was the greatest need identified for teenagers aged 12-18 (166 responses), followed by young adults aged 19-25 (114).

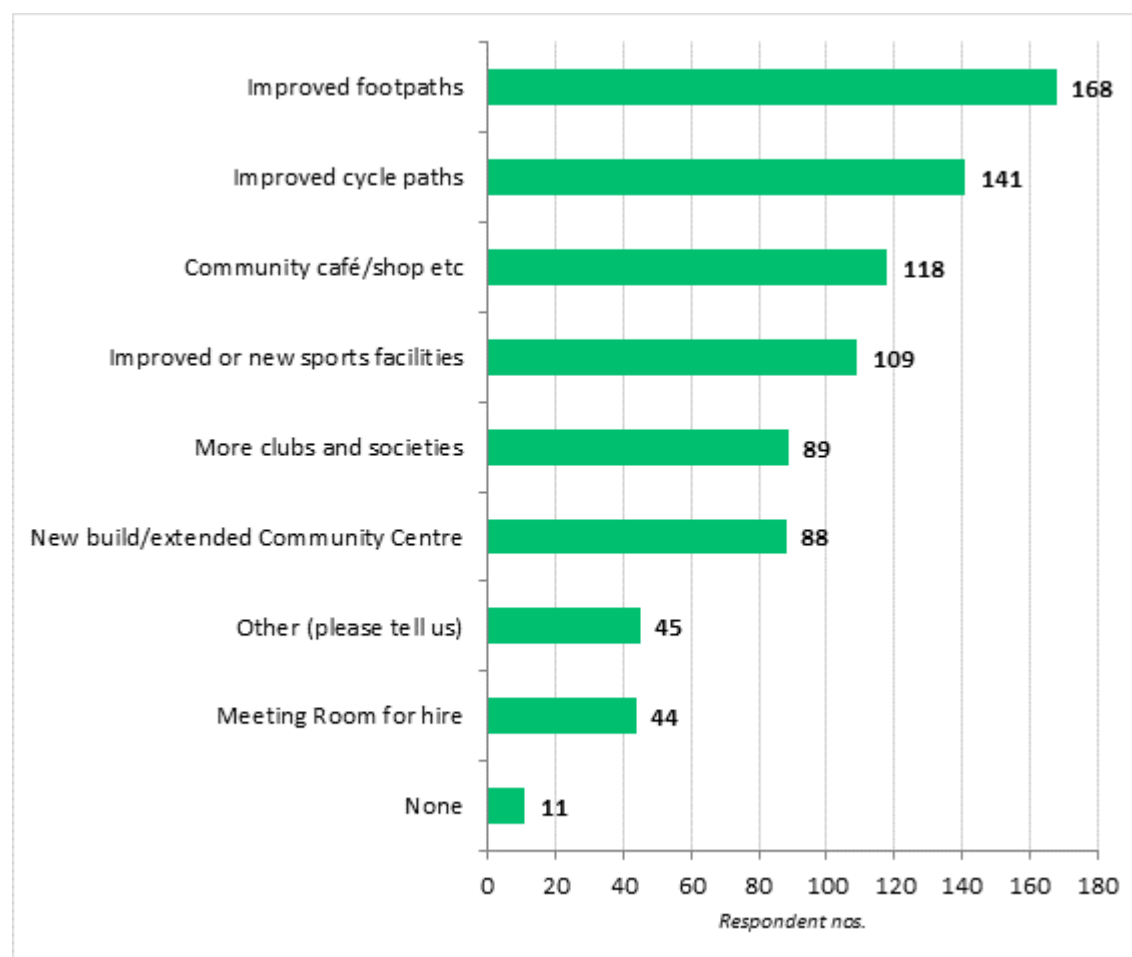
There were a range of comments which identified a number of groups:

- *Adults of working should be working*
- *All*
- *All groups*
- *Because I drive I am able to access activities outside Wellington but I think I could find local opportunities, maybe not of such good quality*
- *Children with disabilities*
- *Gardening group for mental health difficulties. Life skills groups to learn basic skills (cooking, paying bills, basic DIY, etc.) with general advertising on how to run a home, support oneself independently.*
- *Good activities will counteract loneliness, health and mental problems.*
- *I can only speak for myself, so I have more than enough to do to occupy my time and interests. I have often found that the best clubs/organisations for each demographic arise naturally out of need. They can sometimes need help from local councils with things like keeping rents low, support to navigate red-tape etc.*
- *I don't use any of the above so have no opinion*
- *I feel there are enough but perhaps they could be better publicised.*
- *I think teenagers are the crucial age in need of this*
- *More availability for community owned buildings, that are the community's responsibility.*
- *Non-white. There are a lot of Africans now living in the community*
- *Not really sure, I organise my own activities*
- *Specifically men's groups, men are increasingly isolated and have not outlet to just speak with other men*
- *Teenage facilities should be vital part of the towns provision.*
- *The town desperately needs more football pitches for use by youth teams (both boys and girls) from the ages of 8 upwards, different size pitches for different age groups as current facilities at the Recreation Ground and Dobree Park are completely inadequate for the number of teams run by Wellington AFC. More full size pitches are also needed for senior sides as the two pitches at the Playing Field are over used and the pitch at the Recreation ground is in an awful and sometimes dangerous condition.*
- *there seems to be a lot of clubs and leisure activities*
- *We could always do more across all age groups - but compared to where I lived before there are excellent facilities and the council should be commended for looking to retain the local vibe that exists within the town*
- *Yes for all ages really*

Q18: What other facilities should be considered for future investment by the Town Council? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 290

Skipped: 42



Of the 290 respondents, over half (168) would like to see future investments in improved footpaths with 141 wanting improved cycle paths.

There were 45 'other' comments including:

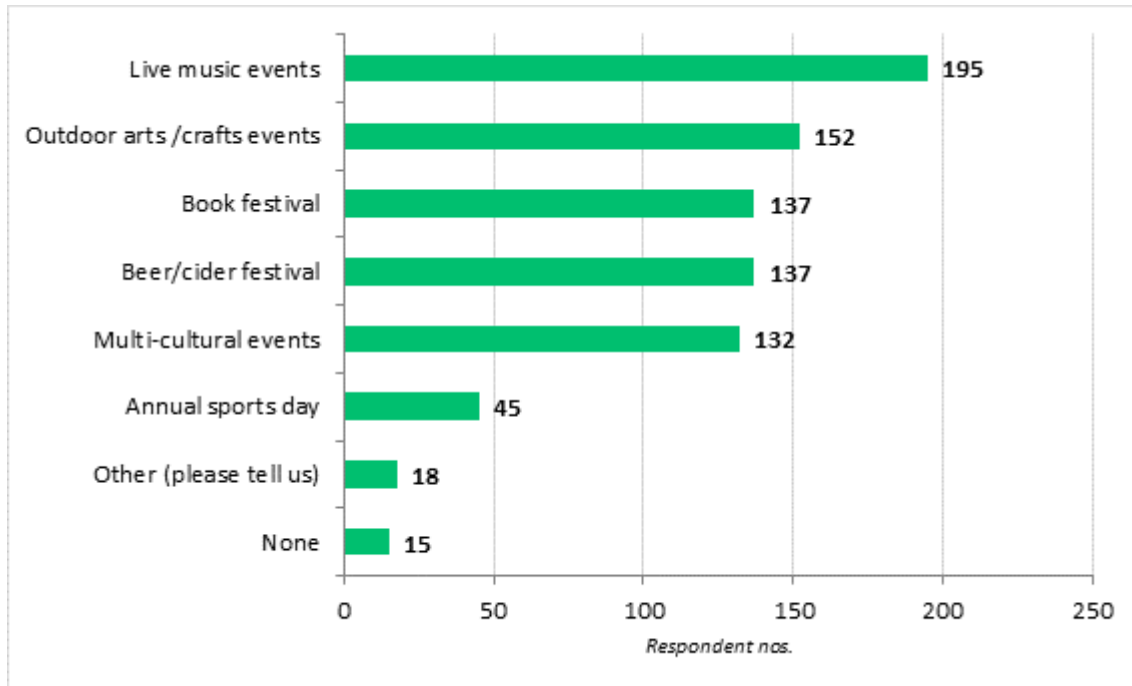
- Services: doctors, NHS dentist, Post office, banks, police, secondary school
- Maintenance: fix potholes, improved roads, clear drains, improve pavements, safer crossings, light on the Basins path
- Community Centre
- Youth centre/ club

Community buildings and events

Q19: What cultural community events would you like to see take place in the town? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 278

Skipped: 54



There were 278 respondents answering the question of what cultural events they would like to see in the town. Only 15 of these respondents said none. The most popular events are live music events (195) and outdoor arts/crafts events (152). A book festival and beer/cider festival both had 137 responses closely followed by multi-cultural events (132).

There were 18 other comments with a range of views including:

- *Festival slightly further out from town with transport from inside town. Events that have better parking facilities, it is impossible to park close to Wellington park when events are on.*
- *Antiques fair, Film club,*
- *Carnival*
- *Food festival involving local cafes and restaurants*
- *Garden competition.*
- *Kings Arms move excellent*
- *Large group art projects. Activities in the empty shops - creative making activities not just selling things.*
- *Music in the Park : Annual Street Fayre : Annual Food Festival :*

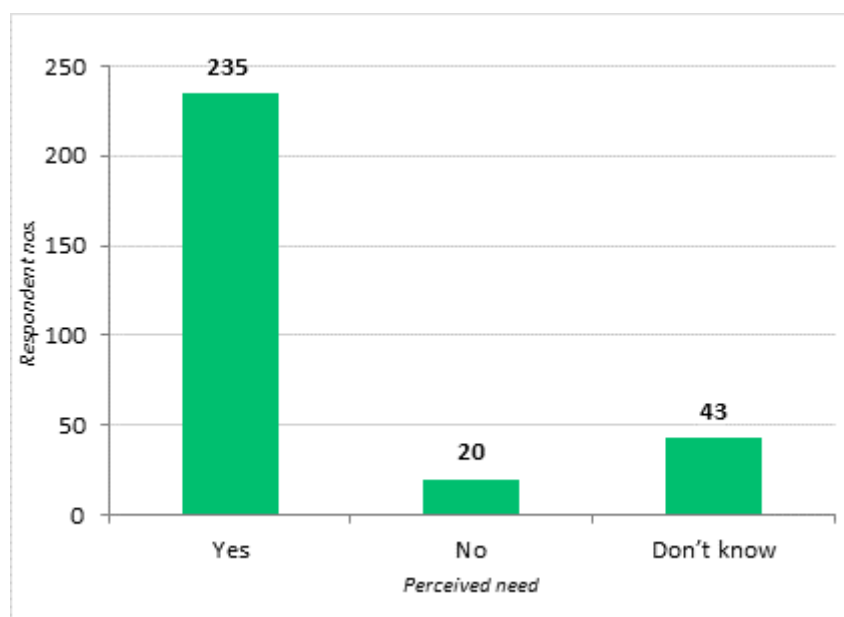
- No “diversity” nonsense or multicultural nonsense.
- Street Market
- There are lots going on but the more we can encourage the more it attracts further people to use the facilities from which everyone benefits
- To bring visitors and economy to this town
- We already do this very well with the markets/street fairs and the music in the park in the summer. The pop-up shop is also a good resource. Keep these going, please.
- We already have food fair, spring fair in the High Street and Music in the park that are only attended by a very small portion of the population of Wellington. Waste of council money providing more.
- Wildlife events

Community Hub/Centre

Q20: Do you agree that there is a need for a hub/ community centre to provide a space in Wellington Town Centre to provide a flexible building for use by the whole community?

Answered: 298

Skipped: 34

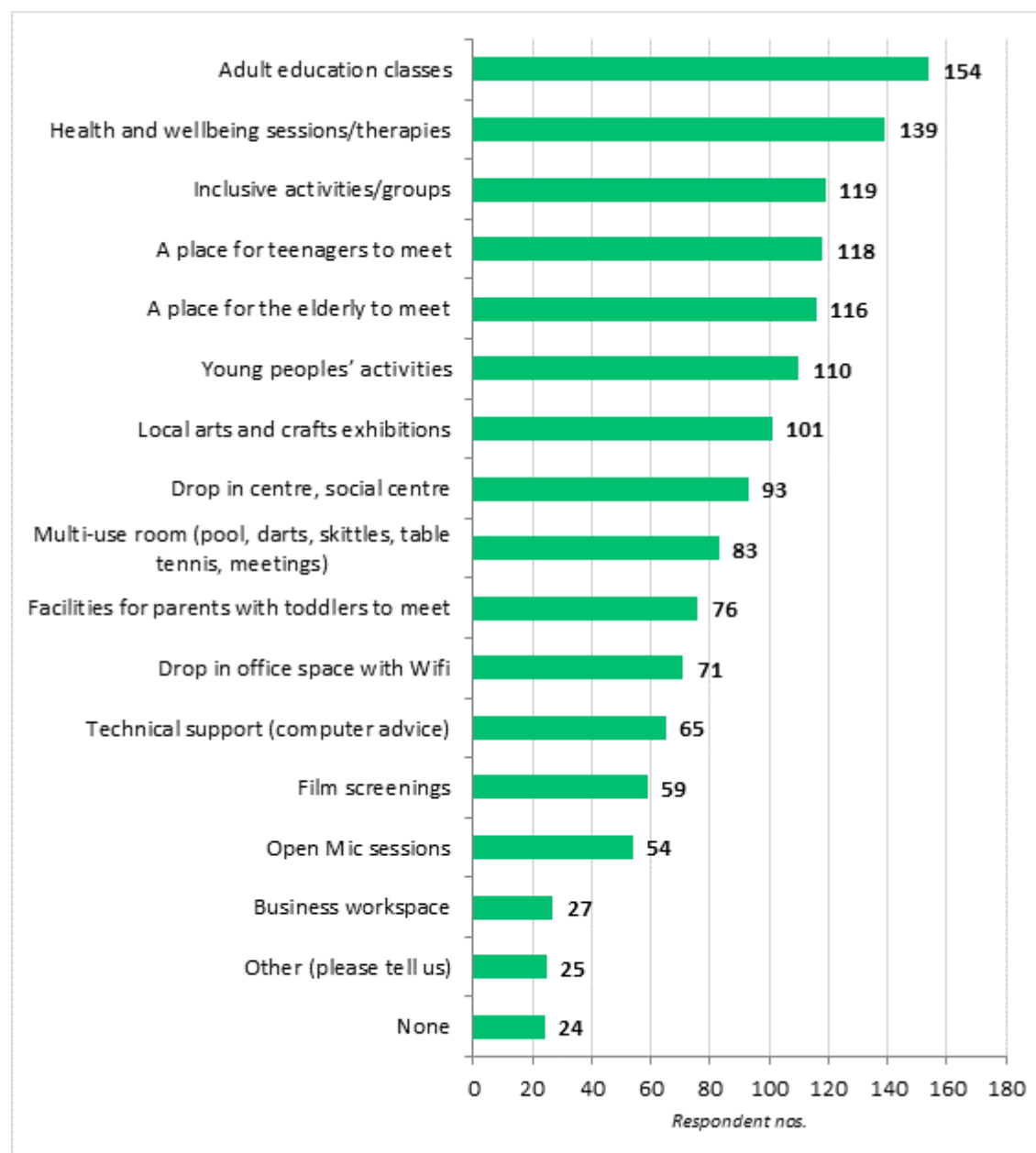


Of the 298 responses, 235 agree that there is a need for a hub/community centre to provide a flexible building for use by the whole community. A further 43 ‘don’t know’ and only 20 said ‘no’.

Q21: Which of the following activities would you be most likely to use the Kings Arms Space for? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 290

Skipped: 42



In terms of which activities the 290 respondents would be most likely to use in the Kings Arms space, Adult education courses had the most responses (154). This was closely followed by Health and wellbeing sessions/therapies (139). A place for activities and groups of different ages to meet were identified on the next 4 most popular activities: Inclusive activities/ groups (119), a place for teenagers to meet (118), a place for the elderly to meet (116) young people's activities (110). Only 24 responses said that they would use 'none'.

There were 25 'other' comments:

- *A families hub in the mornings activities for children and toddler in the day and a hang out for teens in the evenings or maybe an Internet study area and families hub*
- *A post office / banking hub*
- *Community café (CIC or charity run)*
- *Computer/mobile training*
- *Craft group*
- *Finance advice, NHS mental health advice days, life skills/how to live independently groups for younger and older adults.*
- *Health Visiting service infant feeding support group and postnatal group accessible for all (not privately run or fee paying)*
- *I like these ideas but to create a real community space it has to be available to all and all the suggestions above won't work in one space. Rather than 'open mic' night, what about acoustic 'jam sessions'.*
- *It will depend on which groups request its use. But it seems a good use of a space. Let's see what arises naturally.*
- *Let's provide Wellington Community Counselling with ground floor accessible therapy rooms*
- *Need somewhere for all age groups to meet & get to know each others issues instead of age silos*
- *Occasional room hire. Business promotion*
- *Police drop in*
- *Repair shop*
- *There are already places suitable for this use - they are just not used.*
- *Town information, citizens advice*

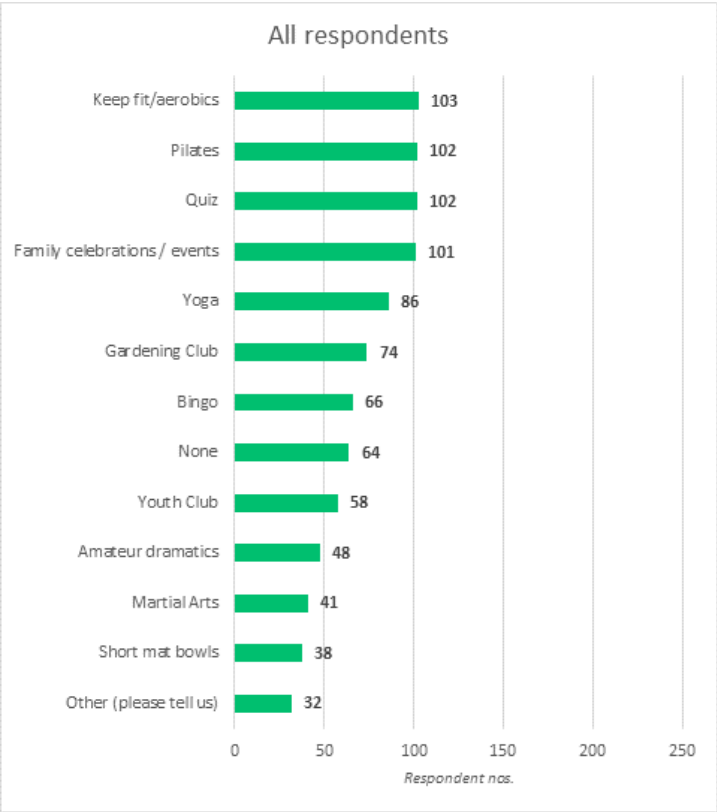
There were also comments relating to film screenings, pool, darts and skittle stating that these would undermine existing local businesses and facilities and this should be avoided.

Cade’s Community Building

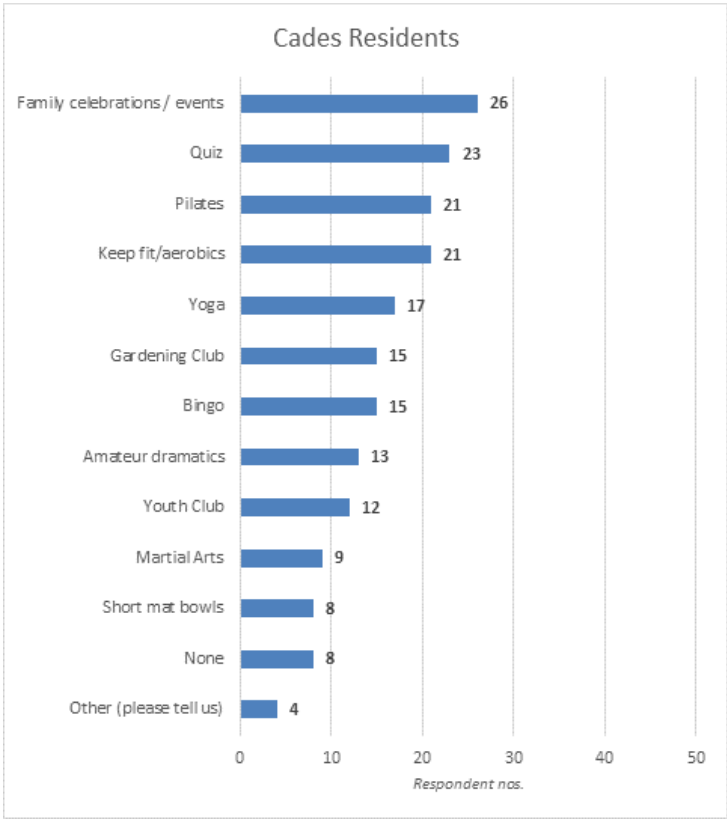
Fifty-two Cade’s residents responded to the survey representing 16% of all respondents. Their responses to Q22-Q24 are shown separately from other survey respondents.

Q22: What activities would you or someone in your household be interested in attending at the new Community Hall at Cade’s Farm estate? (tick any that apply)

ALL respondents Answered: 271 Skipped: 61



Cades Residents Answered: 48 Skipped: 4



Of the 271 total respondents there were four activities identified by respondents as being most interested in attending in the new Community Hall on the Cades Farm development. These were Keep fit/aerobics, Pilates, Quiz and Family celebrations/events. These were echoed in the responses from the Cades residents.

There were 4 'other' comments from Cades Farm residents:

- *Arts crafted or farmers market fair*
- *Perfectly good village hall in Nynhead. Current estate facilities are not maintained - grass not been cut in weeks*
- *Waste of time and money, live on Cades and it's been a flash in the pan for years. Lots of publicity but nothing happening. Better to have a pop up shop*
- *Zero*

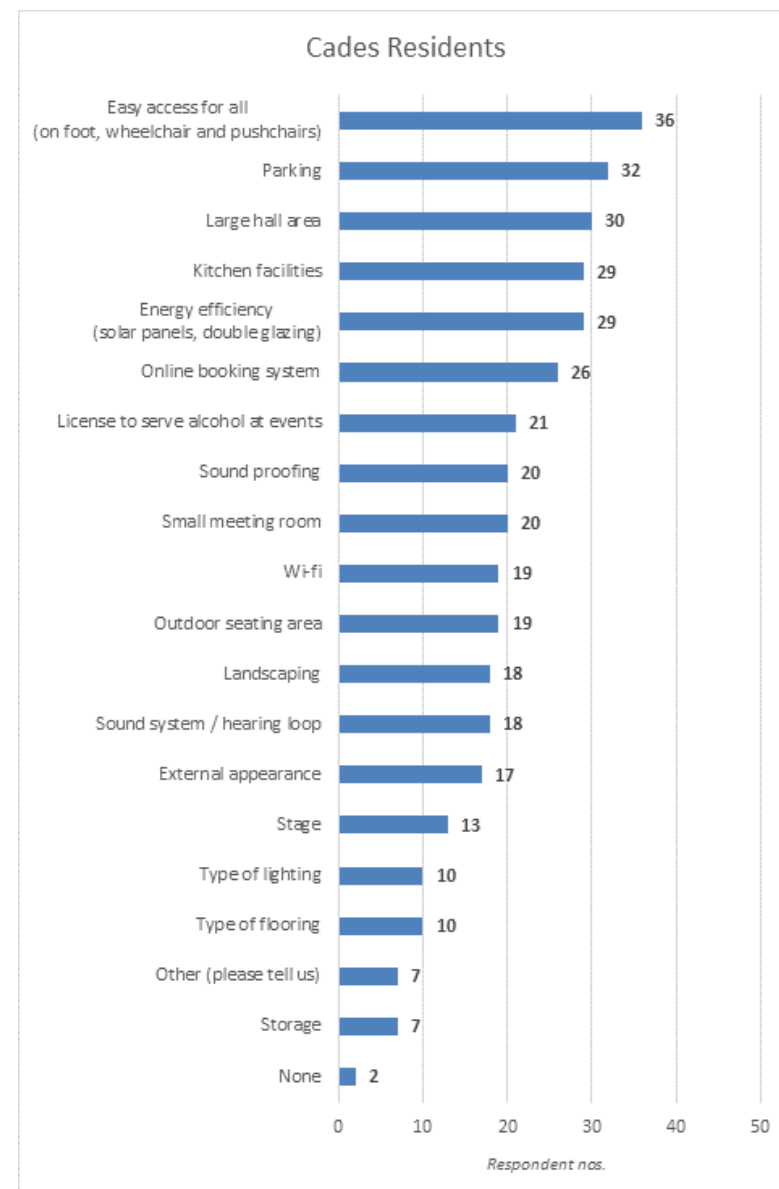
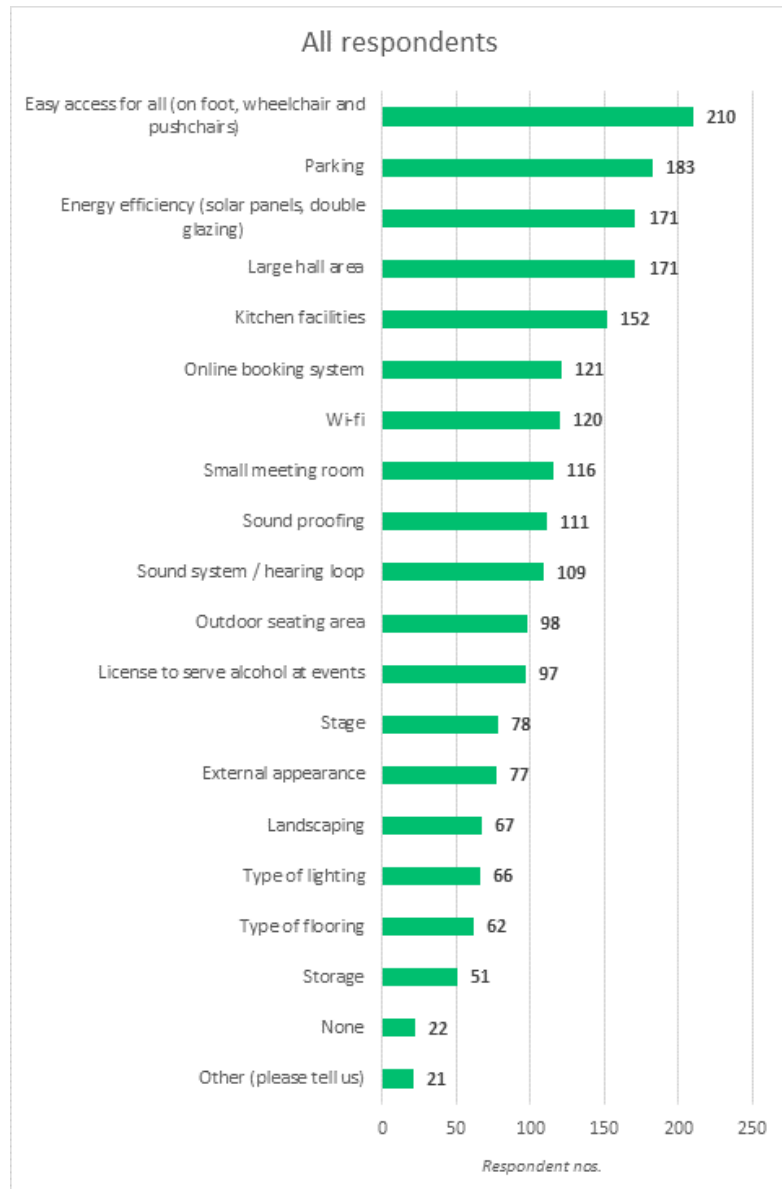
There were 28 further 'other' responses from 'all respondents' including:

- *Comments about the distance away from respondents who have other halls closer so these respondents did not feel they would use it or be able to get to it. In addition, comments about the location and that central Wellington would be better or to make better use of existing halls.*
- *Some comments said they would use 'all of the above' activities*
- *Interest in baby/ toddler/parenting/ infant feeding groups*
- *A number of suggestions of specific activities including arts, crafts, dance, talks, music etc.*

Q23: What things do you think are important to plan for in the future of your community buildings? (tick any that apply)

ALL respondents Answered: 276 Skipped: 56

Cades Residents Answered: 50 Skipped: 2



Of the 276 total respondents there were five aspects which respondents felt are important to plan for in the future of community buildings. These were 'easy access for all', 'parking', 'energy efficiency', 'large hall area' and 'kitchen facilities'. Once again, these were echoed in the responses from the Cades residents.

There were seven 'other' comments from Cades residents which were:

- *Air conditioning if used for physical activities*
- *Consider increased footfall for current residents and parking which could become difficult. Litter bins required.*
- *Consideration not to disturb any nearby residents*
- *Don't know*
- *None of the above! Plenty of community halls locally and this would just be expensive to run and prices would probably be more to hire than what is already available.*
- *Security*
- *Zero*

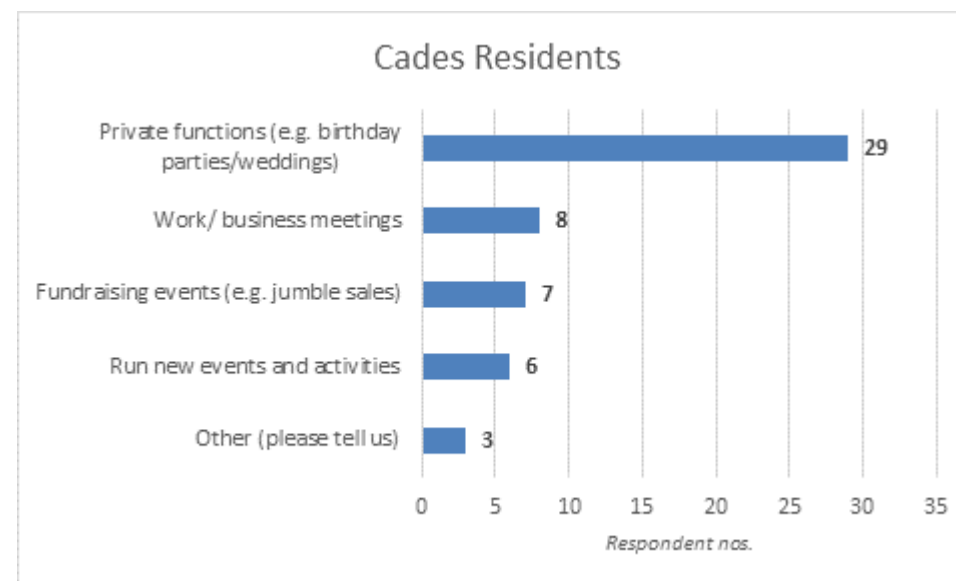
There were 14 further 'other' responses from 'all respondents' including:

- *I don't live on Cades so wouldn't use it*
- *Get developer to pay*
- *A projector*
- *Alcohol license*
- *All these features are pre-requisites*
- *Community sessions to create/design inside and outside spaces*
- *Flexible staging to maximise space/usage*
- *Oake Village Hall is a great example*
- *Parking, parking and more parking! Really good up to date website full of information, activities on regularly not just one a week/month, a busy hub for the community, possible cafe/small community shop/home grown-farm shop-home made- community craft shop, space for car boot sales once a month*
- *Wellington needs a familys hub and information centre*

Q24: Would you be likely to hire the hall for any of the following? (tick any that apply)

ALL respondents Answered: 160 Skipped: 172

Cades Residents Answered: 33 Skipped: 19



There were a total of 160 responses this question with 33 of them Cades residents. Looking at both 'all respondents' and 'Cades Residents', both are most likely to hire the hall for private functions (122 responses and 29 responses respectively). For the Cades residents the other 3 options were all very similar in numbers of people who would use them with work and business meetings being the most popular of those three choices with 8 responses. By contrast for the 'All respondents', the most popular choice of the three remaining option was Fundraising events with 55 responses.

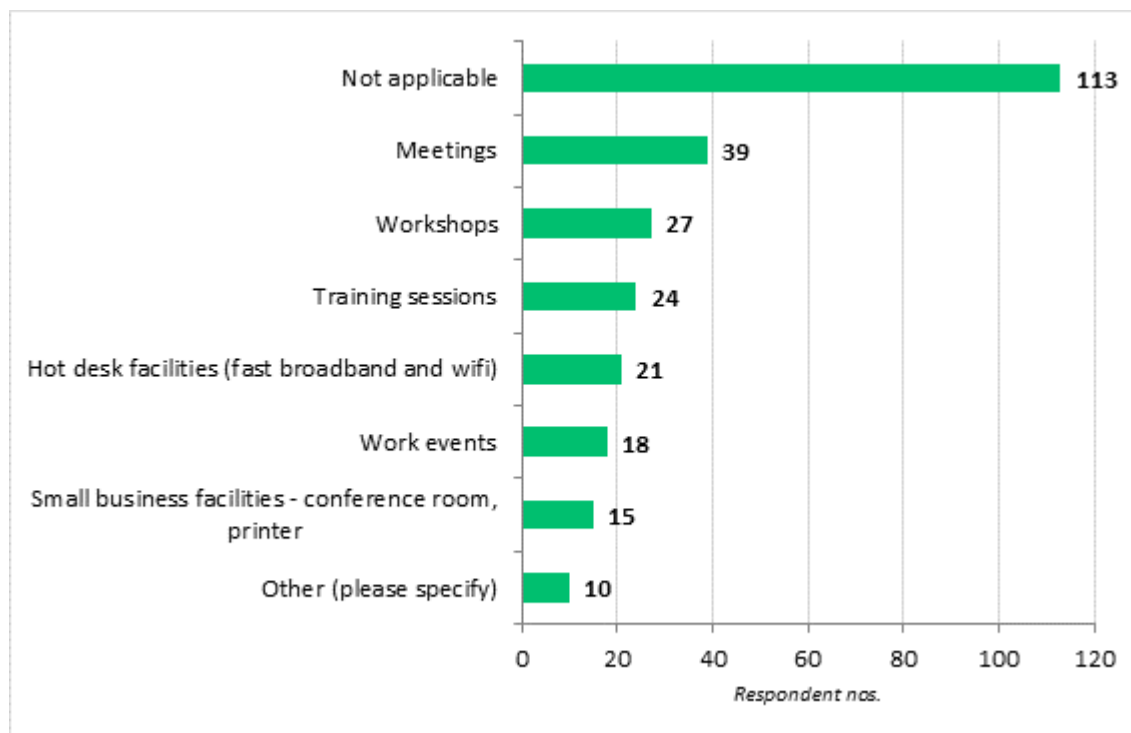
In terms of 'other responses' overall the comments included:

- *No/none*
- *Drama*
- *Art exhibitions/craft stalls*
- *Health sessions run the community public health service*
- *Home educated children to meet*
- *Buildings already available and not used*
- *Use our local village hall*

Q25: If you run a local business, work from home or work for an organisation or group, would you be interested in hiring the new hall for any of the following? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 185

Skipped: 147



There were 185 responses to this question with 113 stating 'not applicable'. Of the remaining 72 respondents who run a local business, work from home or work for an organisation or group, 39 would be interested in hiring the new hall for meetings, 27 for workshops and 24 for training sessions. 21 were also interested in hot desk facilities (fast broadband and Wi-Fi).

Of the 10 'other' comments suggestions included:

- *Art exhibitions*
- *Concerts for music students/ rehearsals for music, choir and drama*
- *NHS and open mental health information support days*
- *These facilities are already available at my place of work in Wellington*

Answered: 85
Skipped: 247



Climate emergency / Environmental issues

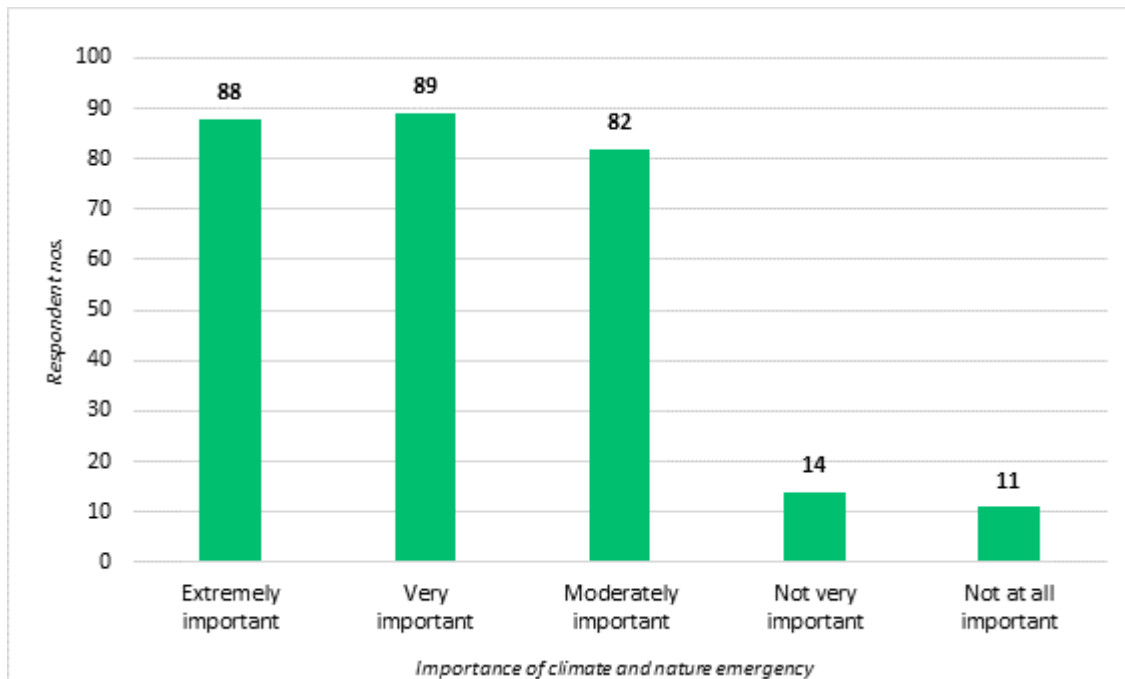


The Climate and Nature emergency is high on many people's list of concerns for the future. To address this, it is going to require positive changes to all our lifestyles. The information gathered from residents, businesses and other key groups in the town will highlight what we can all do as a community to help achieve the goal of being carbon-neutral by 2030.

Q27: How important is the climate and nature emergency to you?

Answered: 284

Skipped: 48

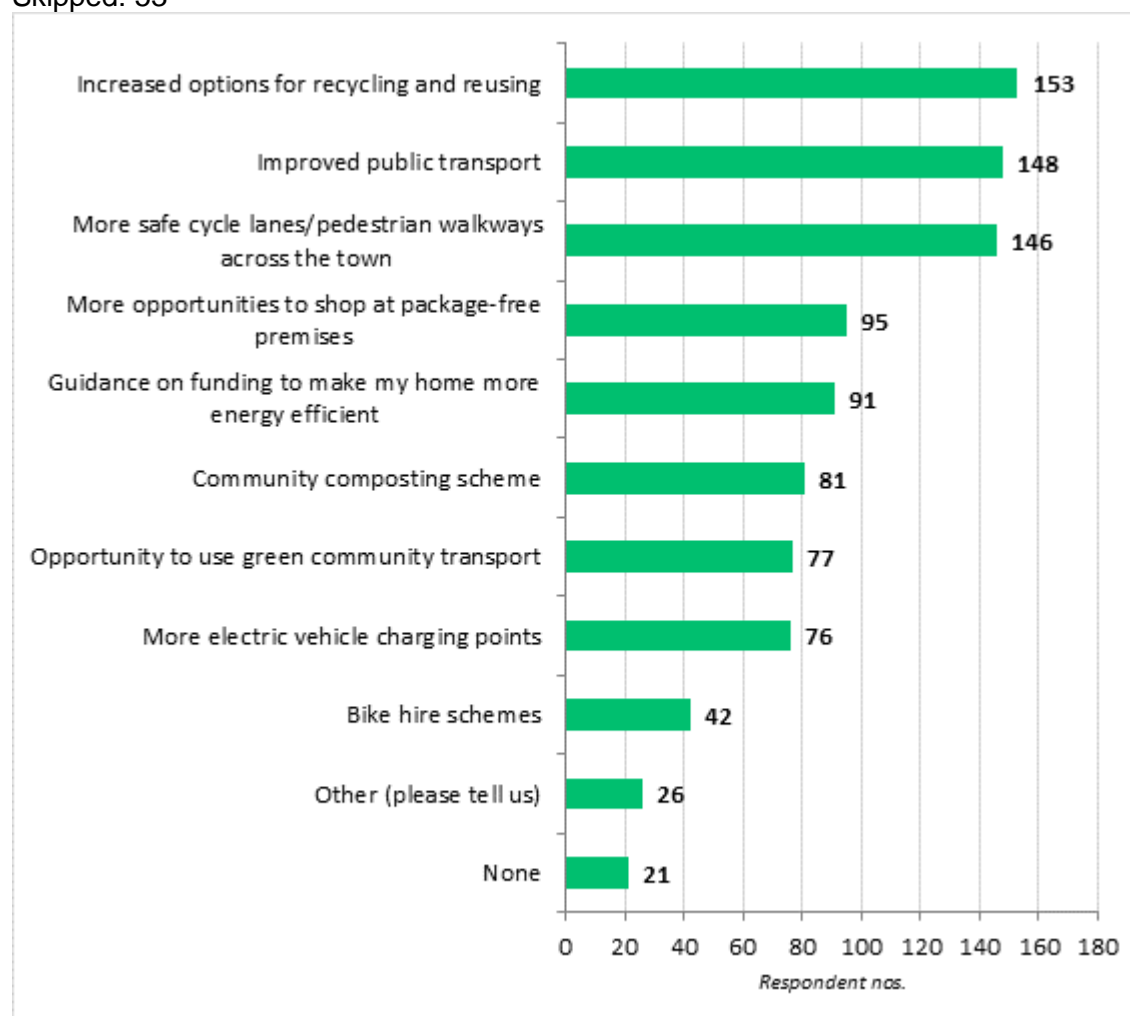


It is evident that the climate and nature emergency is important to respondents with 259 of the 284 responses stating that it is moderately important (82), very important (89) or extremely important (88).

Q28: What do you think would help reduce your own carbon footprint? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 279

Skipped: 53



Of the 279 respondents, 153 feel that increased options for recycling and reusing would help them reduce their carbon footprint. Other suggestions included improved public transport (148) and more safe cycle lanes/pedestrian walkways across town (146).

There were 26 'other' comments which included:

Transport:

- *A way for homes slightly further from town to access the facilities in a greener way, green bus service for outlying villages that runs during after work times too.*
- *Bus companies to use more environmentally friendly vehicles*
- *Electric charging for terraced housing with on street parking*
- *Electric Scooter hire scheme*
- *More places to lock bikes in town*
- *Reduce costs of public transport to encourage use*
- *Slowing traffic down in the Pyles Thorne Area with speed bumps.*

- *Support the bus service to become more sustainable eg electric (possibly use the money for the proposed train halt to cover this as the buses serve more of Wellingtons population)*
- *Train station*

Funding/Advice:

- *Genuine funding available to improve home insulation, energy efficiency*
- *Grants for solar panels*
- *Advice on solar panels and heat pumps.*

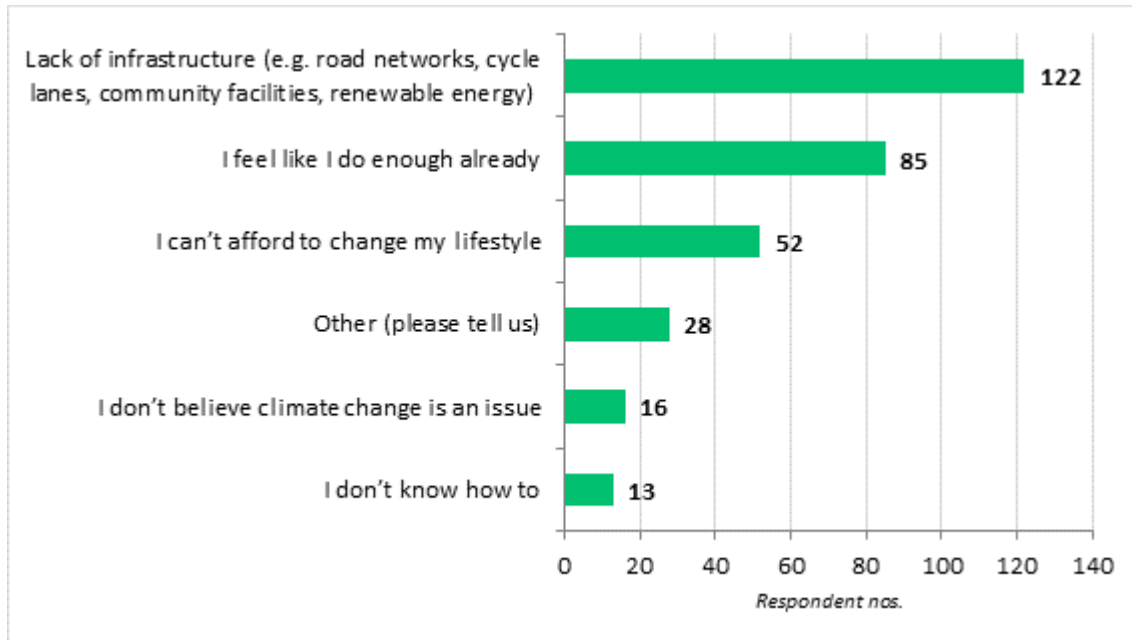
Local initiatives:

- *A post office in town not miles away. A bank of sorts*
- *Local energy production*
- *Longer opening hours at recycling centre (Poole tip)*
- *Maintain good communication*
- *Plant more trees and stop building around Wellington*

Q29: What, if anything, is currently stopping you from being more environmentally friendly? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 254

Skipped: 78



In terms of what is stopping respondents from being more environmentally friendly, of the 254 who answered this question, 122 say lack of infrastructure. 85 feel they already do enough.

There were 28 'other' comments including:

Cost:

- *Cost of electric or similar vehicles and lack of infrastructure*
- *Expense of making energy efficient changes to home*
- *Cost of solar and ground source heat pumps are hideously expensive.*

Roadside recycling:

- *Kerb collection for other types of plastic - crisp, bread wrappers etc*
- *The poor household recycling system that is in use locally this take a lot of space and recycling can't be put out when it is windy.*
- *want more doorstep collections of materials*
- *Not enough recycling, crisp, breads fruit bags etc*

Local Issues:

- *I am more worried about pollution than climate change. Wellington should do more to reduce plastic waste.*
- *I pick litter regularly. But would like to see a regular group helped by the council ie bags pickers etc not just the spring clean*
- *I'd like more local organic, cheap veg shops and less packaging*
- *Poor opening hours of recycling centre*
- *Shops are still selling lots of goods in single use plastic and foam*
- *The roads need to be improved to reduce congestion around Wellington up to the roundabout. It's a big issue in rush hour*
- *Walking and cycling made difficult by poor driver behaviour (passing too close/fast, not giving way, parking on pavements and across footpaths)*

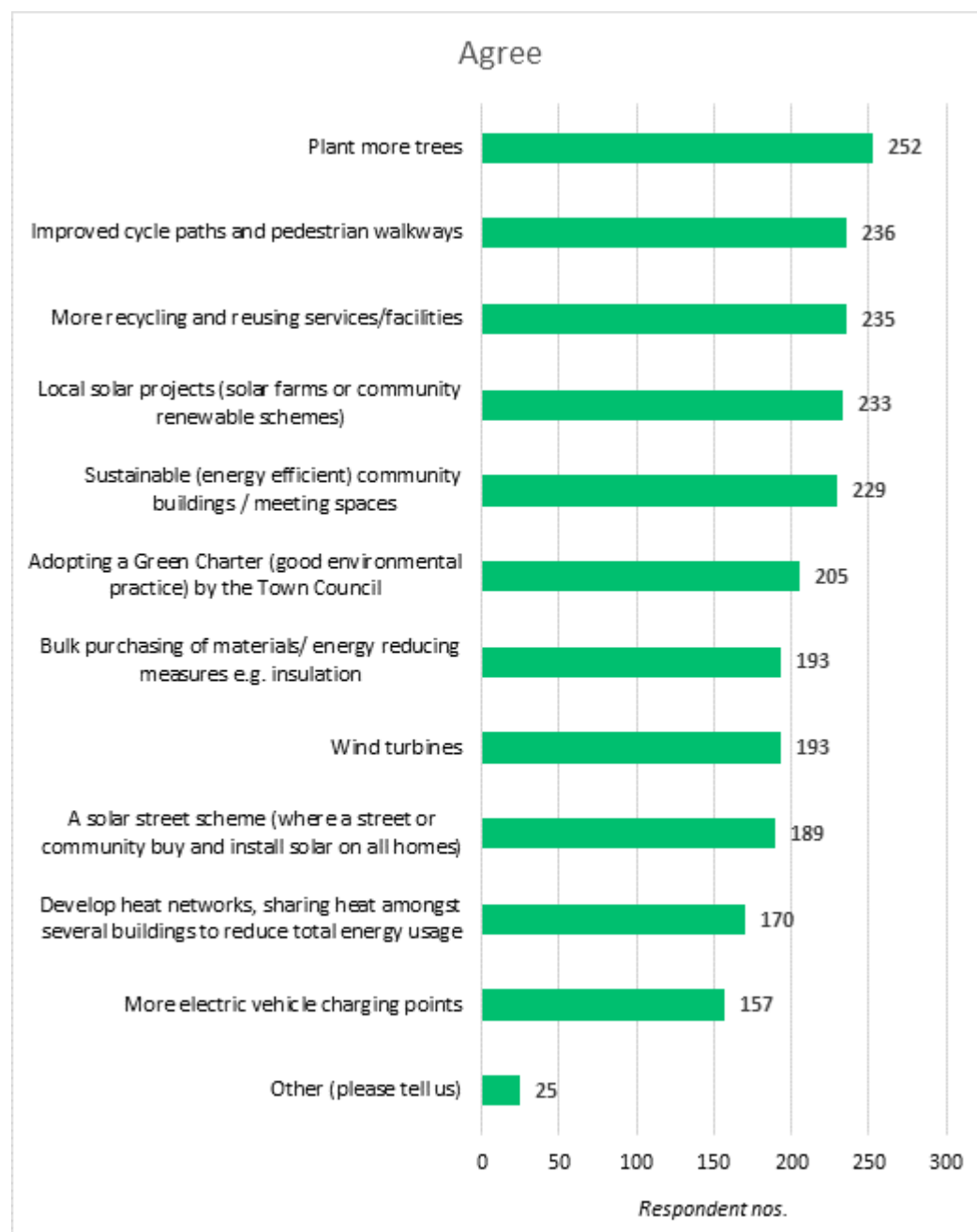
Other issues:

- *Time*
- *Being in rented property limits what can be done - the all night street lighting is harmful to the wild life*
- *Working through the priorities on my home to get it up to scratch - Its hard to believe I've bought a Victorian property that still has no roof insulation*

Q30: Some of the future climate change actions are likely to involve the town changing. Do you agree or disagree with the following ideas?

Answered: 285

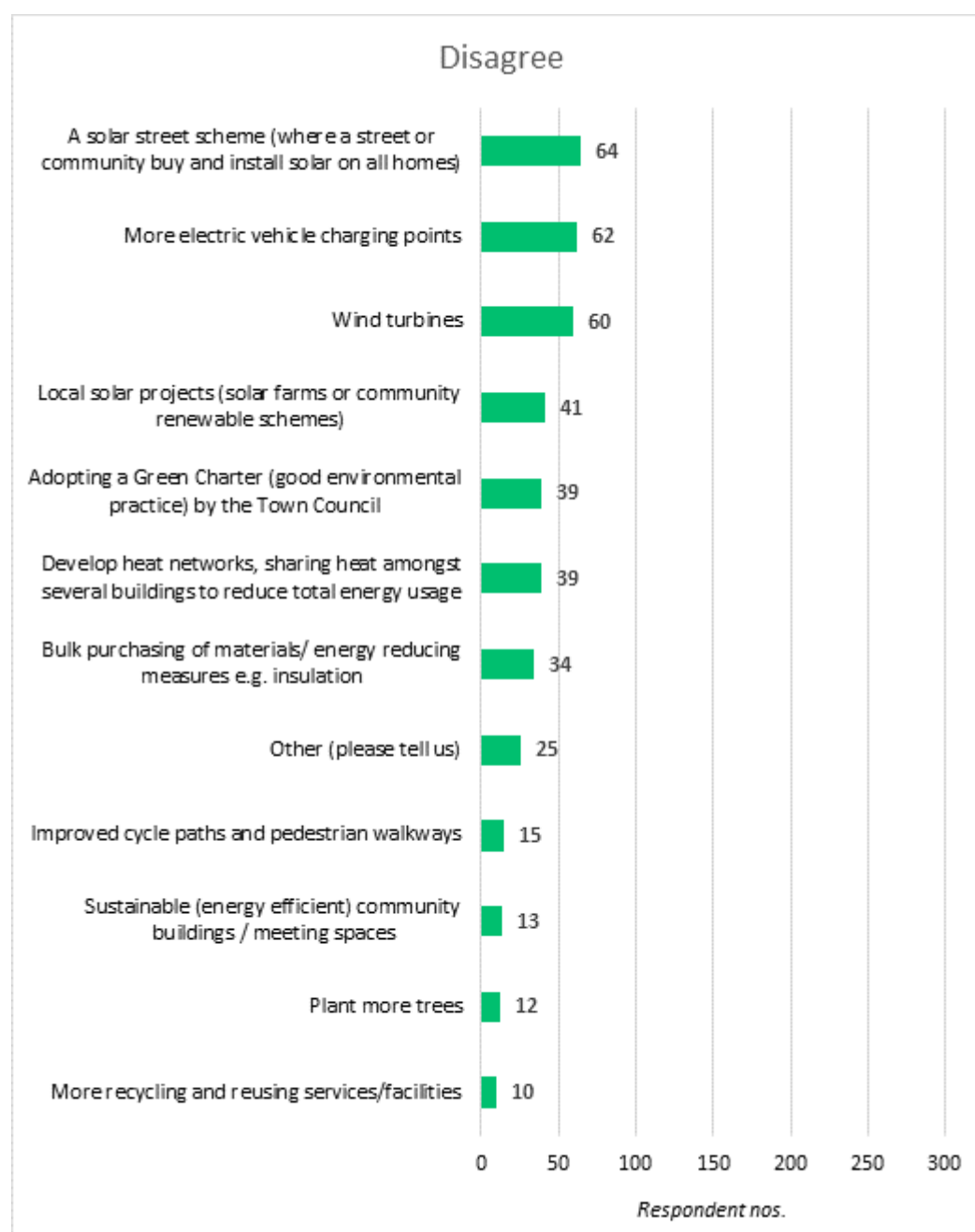
Skipped: 47



285 respondents answered the question as to which ideas they agree or disagree with in relation to potential changes relating to climate changes action. All 11 ideas had positive responses with over 50% of respondents agreeing. The most popular ideas were planting more trees (252), improved cycle paths & pedestrian walkways (236), more recycling services/facilities (233) and sustainable (energy efficient) community buildings/meeting spaces. There was also strong support from 205

respondents for adopting a Green Charter (good environmental practice) by the Town Council.

The positive responses in this question especially relating to improved cycle paths and walkways mirrors the responses to Q18 relating to what future investment respondents would like to see.



There were far fewer respondents who disagreed with ideas, but the ideas least liked by 64 respondents was a solar street scheme, by 62 more electric charging points and by 60 wind turbines.

There were 25 'other' comments relating to both agree and disagree which include:

New build:

- *All new build should have some form of power generation*
- *No more building in Wellington*

Water Power:

- *Harness the power of the Tone*

Trees:

- *Plant more trees and look after those already planted*

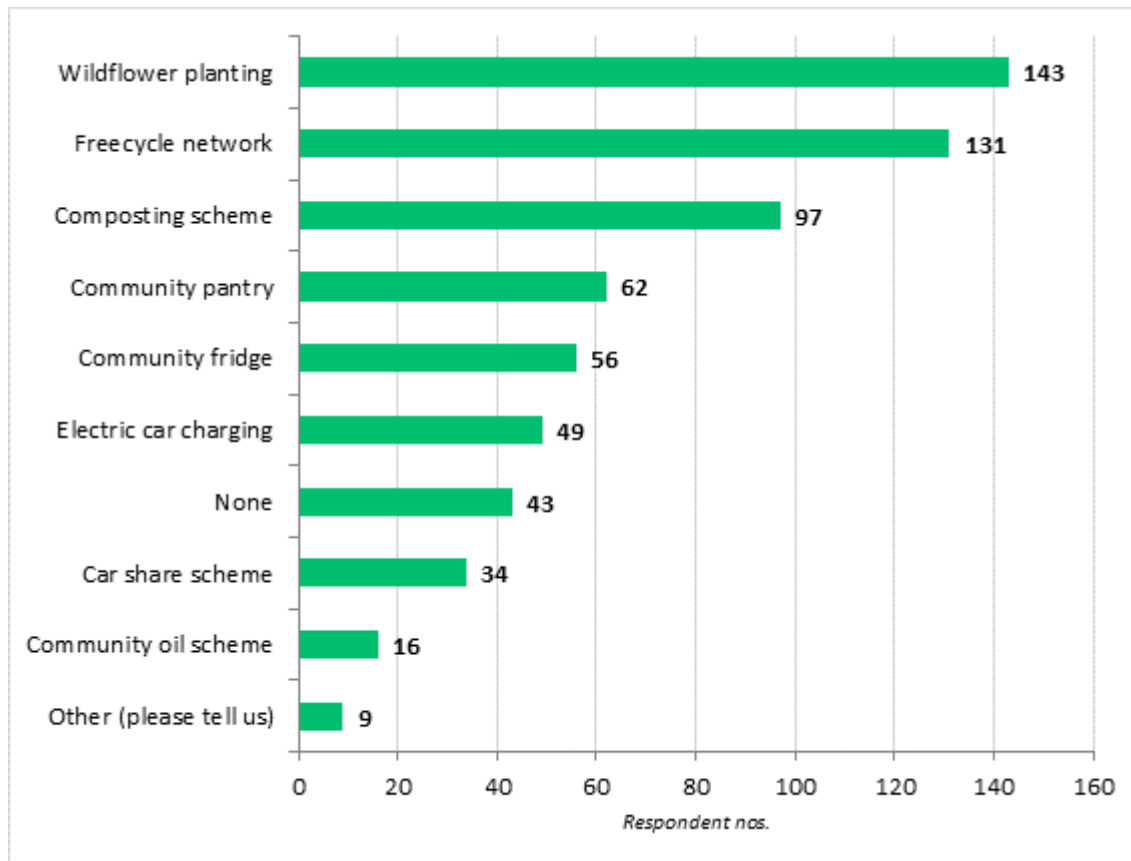
Local issues:

- *Pavement needs urgent work to improve*
- *More reliable buses*
- *Fix potholes and kerbsides*
- *Advice on what scheme are available e.g.solar schemes*

Q31: What services or facilities would you use if these were available in the town? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 266

Skipped: 66



There were 266 respondents highlighting what services or facilities they would use if they were available in the town. Wildflower planting was most popular with 143 responses, followed by Freecycle network (131). 43 respondents said 'none'.

There were nine 'other' comments including:

- *Community farm*
- *Currently have a hybrid car but next will be electric*
- *Disabled access to basins and surrounding area*
- *I like the idea of wildflower planting to encourage insects and pollinators. A freecycle network sounds useful.*
- *I understand that freecycle operates locally*
- *I'd like to think there is some opportunity to share items amongst communities so that we don't need as many - a community shed type of thing*
- *Plant your own tree scheme, plant your own bee friendly flower scheme, opportunity for people to sell small amounts of home grown/home made food within the community to encourage better environment for wildlife in urban gardens*
- *Post Office*

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Wellington Town Council will enter any paper copies using standard proprietary online survey software. Once entered all paper copies will be destroyed. All group members signed a non-disclosure agreement to protect your personal data. Digital copies are retained for 12 months and deleted after this period. Any personal data that is captured is anonymised with the report and held securely for the purposes of analysis.

No data will be published which can identify an individual without their consent. If you would like to find out more about how we use your data or want to see a copy of information about you that we hold, please contact info@somersetccc.org.uk or call 01823 331222. Protecting your Personal Data is important and we fully comply and adhere to the Principles of Data Protection set out in our Data Protection / Privacy Policy visit: ccslovesomerset.org/smart-communities-ltd-policies/.