

4. Community Organisations, Leisure Activities, Services & Support

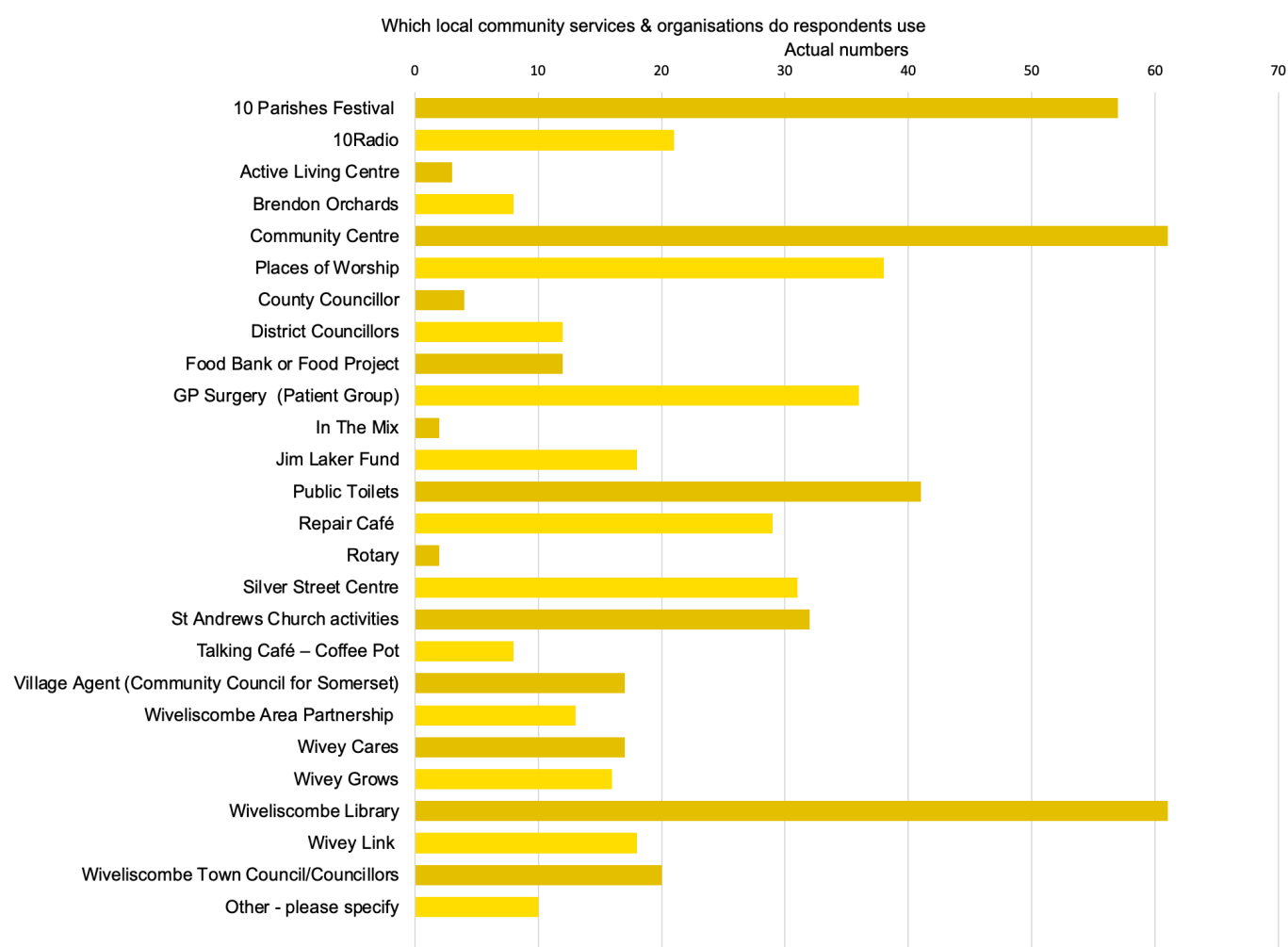
4.1 - Supporting local community services & organisations

People and a sense of community makes a place as much buildings and infrastructure. Wiveliscombe has a very strong sense of community with many residents and visitors being actively involved in Community events such as the 10 Parishes Festival - a biennial festival of open artists studios and other events along with an annual Street Fair, as well as ongoing activities such as Wiveliscombe Library, 10Radio or sport/fitness groups - including the community Swimming Pool. Wiveliscombe also hosts many charitable, not for profit or other support groups - for example Wivey Link - providing community transport, church groups, Village Agent (from the Community Council for Somerset), Wivey Cares or The Jim Laker Fund.

Many of the above formed due to a recognised need within the community and they are well supported. It's useful to understand how many people are using existing Community Organisations, Leisure Activities, Services & Support. Its also important to find out what might be missing and how Wiveliscombe Town Council might be able to support existing and potential community resources.

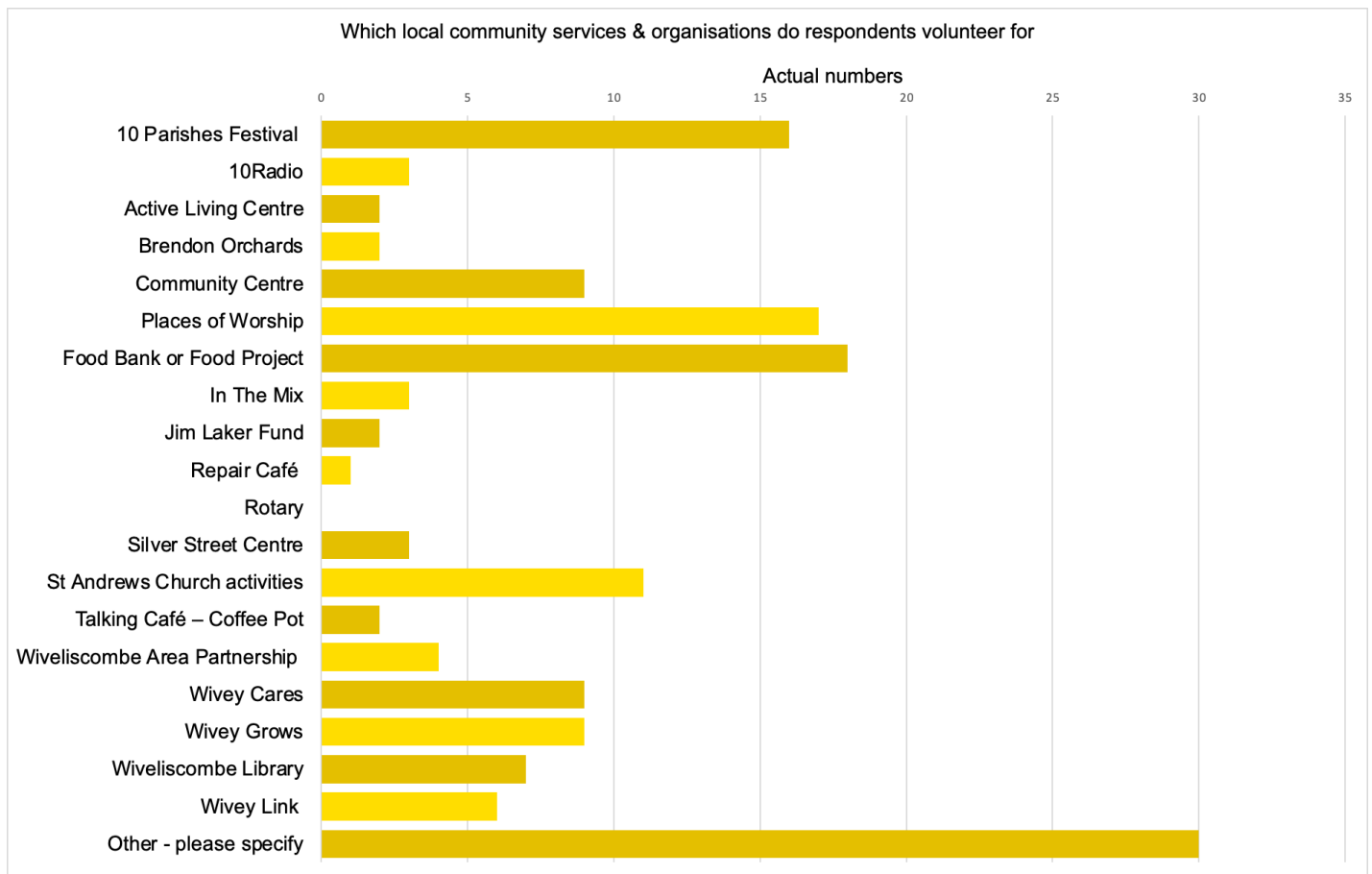
Existing local community services & organisations

We started by asking respondents which local community services & organisations they use (This was offered as a list of options to tick. It should be noted that some omissions were made on the paper copy so the figures might be slightly lower than would be expected - these are indicated in grey columns)



10 Parishes Festival - 57 mentions, Community Centre and Wiveliscombe Library - each 61, are the most used followed closes by the Public Toilets - 41, GP Surgery (Patient Group) - 36 and Places of Worship - 38 and associated church hall activities - 32. Of the who answered other nearly all referred to leisure activities that come up later in the questionnaire (apologies for confusion). One mentioned using Wiveliscombe Consolidated Charities.

Respondents were then asked which local community services & organisations they volunteer with:

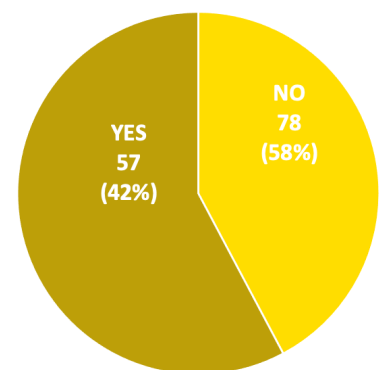


Wivey residents are a busy community minded bunch. Noticeably 10 Parishes Festival - 16 volunteers, Places of Worship - 17 and St Andrews Church activities - 11 have high levels of volunteers as well as users. But when it comes to the Community Centre - 9 and repair cafe - 1 the numbers of volunteers to users gap widens. By contrast the Food Bank or Food Project has more volunteers - 18 - than users - 12.

Of those who stated they volunteered for other services or organisations: 5 mentioned Youth groups, 3 Consolidated charities, 3 Sports & Swimming Pool, 2 Community First Responders, 2 Music groups, 2 Guerilla Gardening - 2, and one each War Memorial Recreation Ground Management Committee, Speedwatch, Wiveliscombe primary PTFA, Wiveliscombe Historical Society, Wiveliscombe Arts Group, Langley Cross Bookswap, Age Concern: Active Befriending, Community Centre Horticultural Society.

Asked if any of the listed organisation people don't know about?

Are there any of the above you don't know about?



Action 4.1 - Supporting local community services & organisations

4.1.1 WTC to investigate the possibility of of paying to contract an administrator to maintain and update lists of groups, activities and leisure services

4.1.2 WTC to support local groups and organisations by keeping a database of potential volunteers/buddies and lift scheme by being a first point of contact

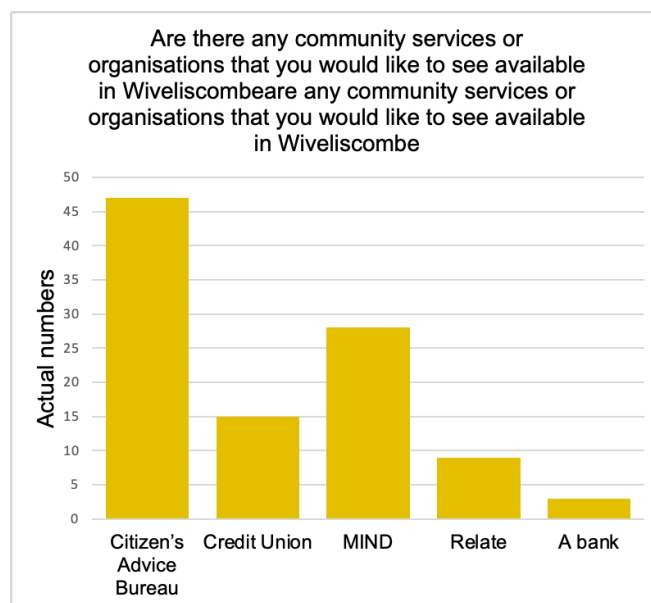
4.1.3 WTC to continue financial support for Wiveliscombe Community Library and to look into additional community use of the premises

4.2 Advice Services

9 respondents stated they use regular advice sessions held in Wiveliscombe including: Active living centre, PCSO, Village Agent, law firm, Wivey Grows, District Councillor advice session and Town Councillors surgery. 4 people said they don't know what advice sessions exist.

79 households responded to the question ‘Are there any community services or organisations that you would like to see available in Wiveliscombe – for example Citizen’s Advice Bureau, Credit Union, MIND, Relate? Other than those listed on the table to the right respondents mentioned:

- Local Council Desk services
- Age UK
- Counselling
- Carers support group
- Community Workshop
- Cash machine outside



Action 4.2 - Advice Services

4.2.1 WTC to investigate re-instating CAB outreach sessions in Wiveliscombe

4.2.2 WTC to communicate with MIND (and other mental health services) to deliver outreach sessions in Wiveliscombe

4.2.3 WTC to communicate with the Local Credit Unions to deliver outreach sessions in Wiveliscombe

4.2.4 WTC to communicate with Relate to deliver outreach sessions in Wiveliscombe

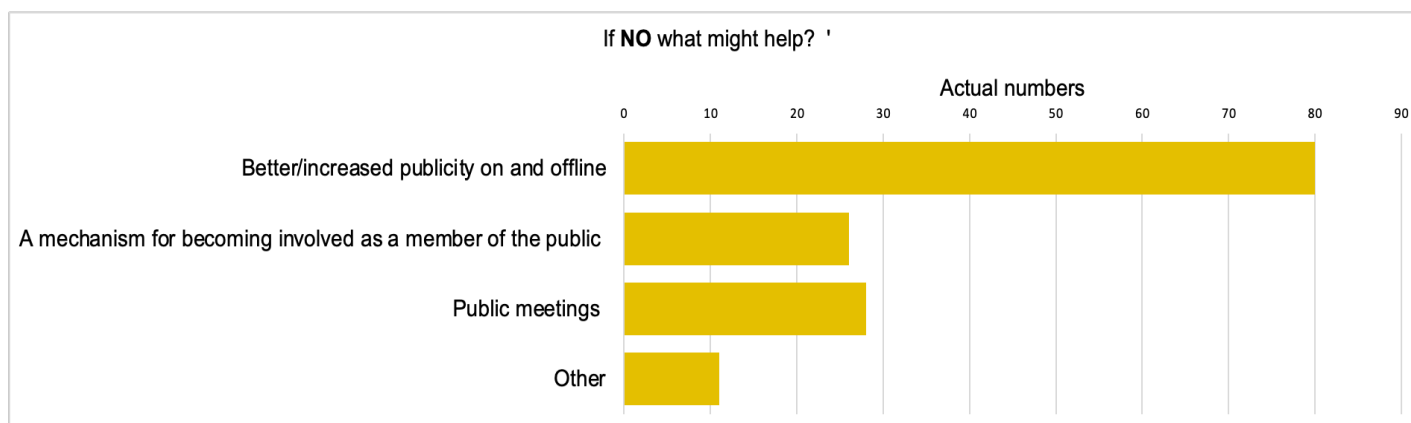
4.3 Community Engagement

Asked if they feel fully informed or consulted on about initiatives brought to Wiveliscombe by the councils or statutory authorities e.g. The Square Placemaking project, The Town Centre Recovery Fund, Street Art etc. 54% of the 167 respondents said NO.

Although only 91 answered NO 95 answered the question 'If **NO** what might help?'

(Note this was a list of 3 possible answers with room to add their own).

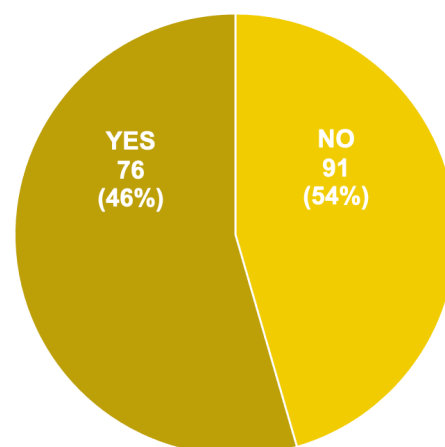
The favoured suggestion, with 55% of respondents selecting, was 'Better/increased publicity on and offline.'



Other comments include:

- The return of the notice board in the Square is welcomed - x 3
- On line also useful
- Bring back The Messenger
- Meetings not all held at kids bedtimes.
- More cafes. There is great scope for more casual social interaction
- Cut size of Town Council to 9 or 11 councillors at present too large
- More consultation on residential and commercial planning proposals

Do you feel fully informed or consulted on about initiatives brought to Wiveliscombe by the councils or statutory authorities? E.g. The Square Placement project, The Town Centre Recovery Fund, Street Art etc



Action 4.3 - Community Engagement

4.3.1 Councillors to investigate creating more community engagement opportunities - for example working with other groups and organisations to ensure full public engagement

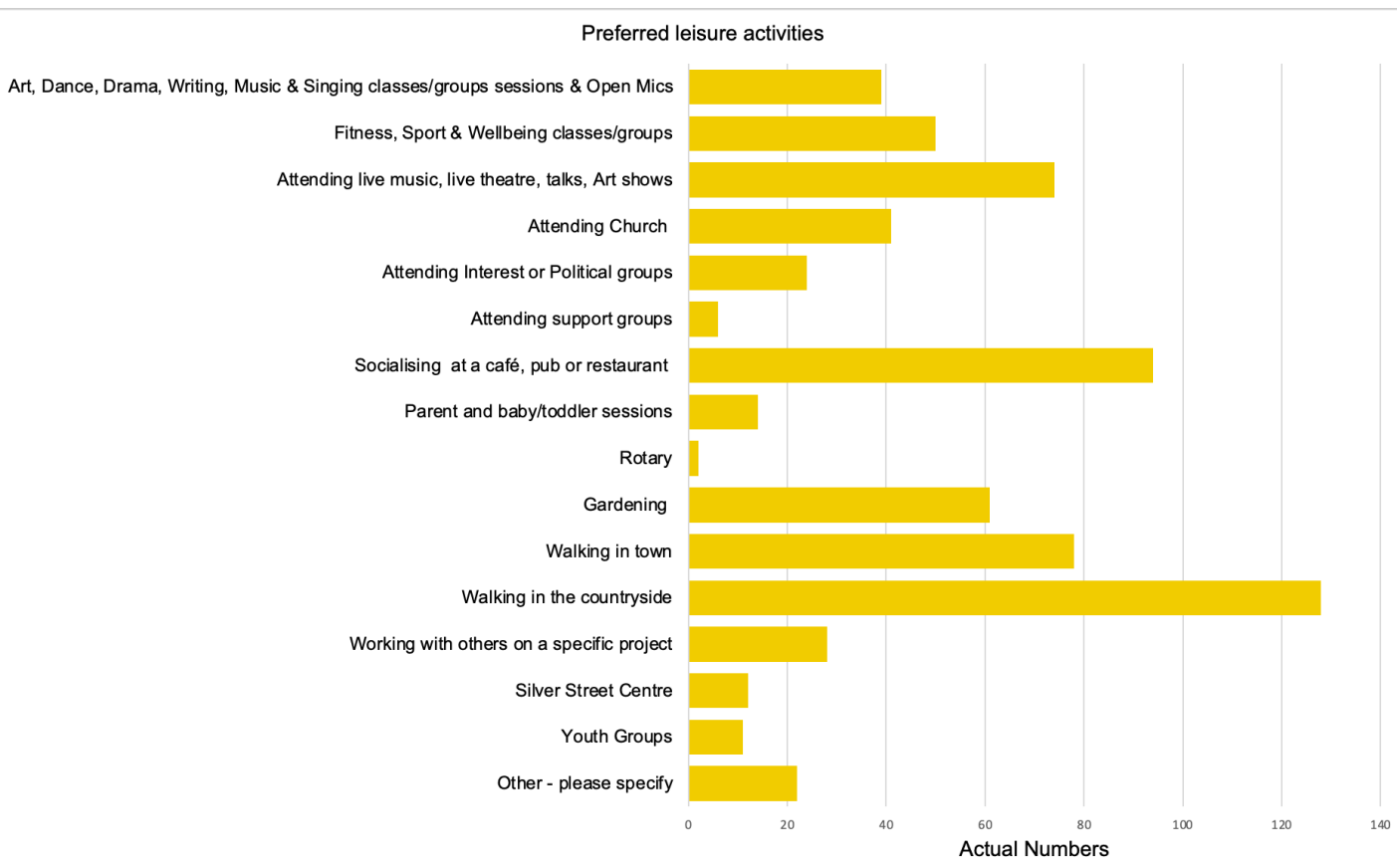
4.3.2 Publicise Town Councillor surgeries

4.3.3 List of Councillors on noticeboard in the Square

4.4 Leisure Groups and Classes

These can involve attending local classes to walking alone in the countryside. We asked which of these respondents enjoy participating in. 164 people responded.

Of those who selected other the majority specified a particular sport or music activity - tennis, running, swimming. Others mentioned bell ringing, cinema club and craft activities.



Respondents were then asked which of the above activities they would like to participate but are unable to and to tell us why that is. Reasons included:

- Cost
- Classes not on when not working
- Cautious due to Covid
- Difficult to attend at night
- Lack of access to disabled people walking in the countryside
- Not everything available in Wiveliscombe
- Lack of transport
- Lack of information

Respondents also told us what classes they'd like to see available locally - unless a figure is given then suggestions were made just once:

General Groups - Youth x 5, U3A x 2, Adult Leisure and Learning activities / classes, More coherent knowledge/skills education/sharing programme, Community workshop, Tool, skills, creative hub to share knowledge and resources and provide workshop/hangout space, More parent & baby groups, Meeting for elderly/disabled in Community Hall, More Age UK classes, More sport and art groups for kids.

Fitness - Pilates x 3, T'ai Chi, Over 60's keep fit, Over 50's keep fit, Dance Group x 2, Ballroom and Latin dancing, Badminton club, Mountain bike group, Winter running, Indoor climbing, A proper grass bowling green, Baby yoga, Air rifle shooting area or a catapult shooting club, Disability physical activity group, walking group, martial arts, outdoor aerobics, yoga & pilates

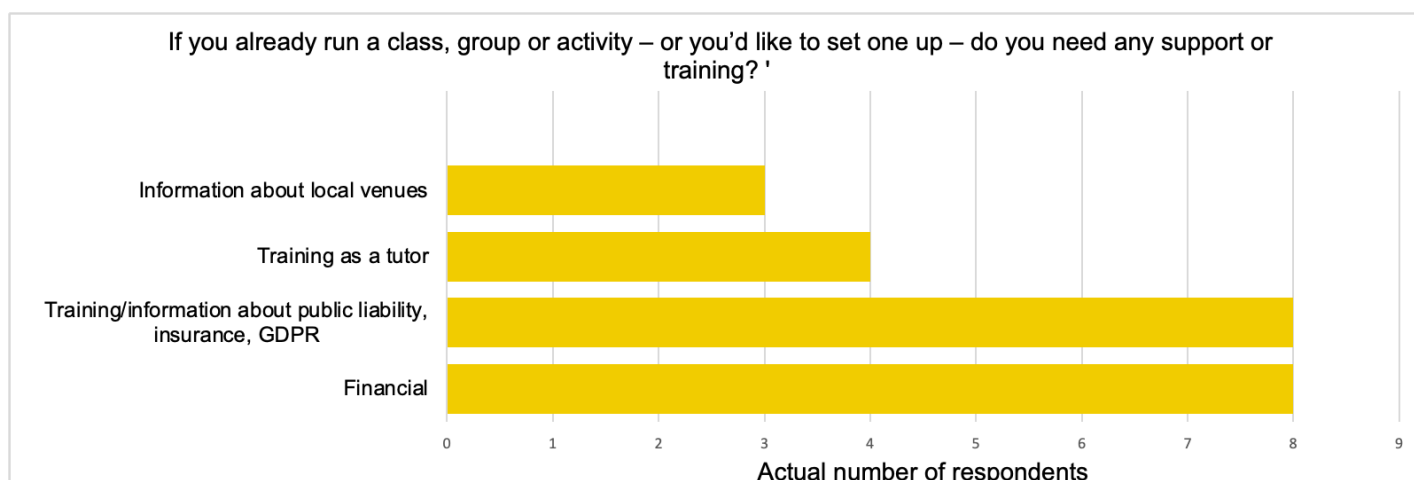
Creative - Art classes x 3, Drama Group x 2, Writers group (jan setting up!), Recorder, Life Drawing, Long Bow Making, Open air cinema in rec, Upholstery, Proper community kitchen, Outdoor Concerts

Support groups - Mental health groups, Support Group for carers, Buddhist centre/mindfulness retreat centre

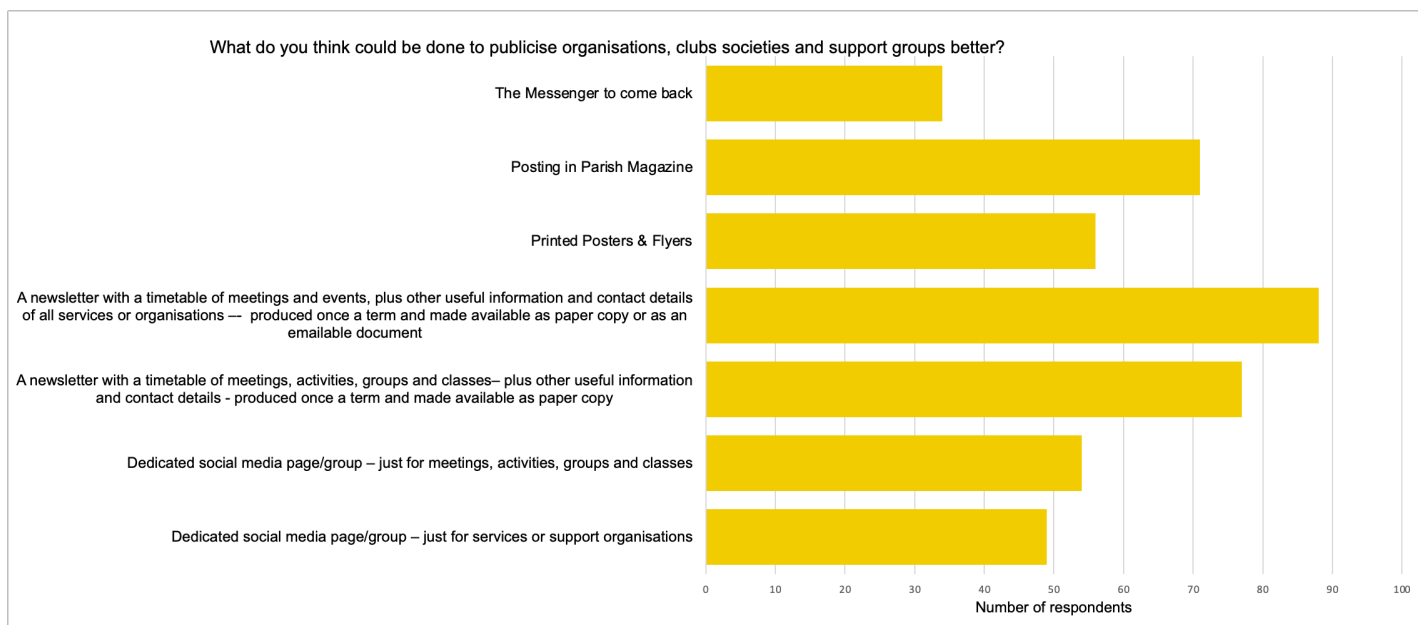
Nature - Wildlife education and possibly rescue particularly of hedgehogs and other small mammals, Some form of wildlife/nature reserve, Allotment

Other - Bored games group, Chess Club, Car boot sales

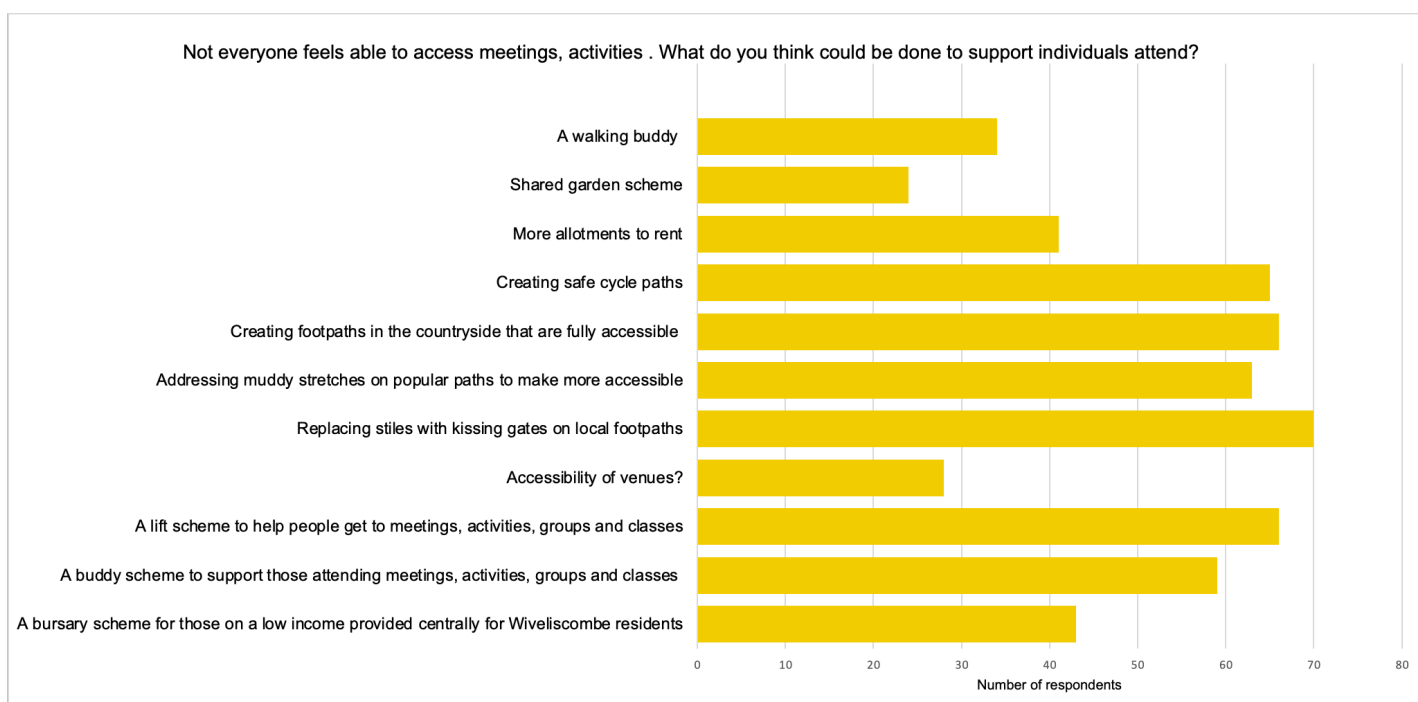
25 respondents said they would be willing to help set up a new class, group or activity. 24 suggested what support they might need



In the sections above a large number of organisations, clubs societies and support groups have been listed. Not everyone knows about them and some feel unable to access. We asked what could be done to publicise better? Note 'The Messenger to come back' was unfortunately omitted from the list on the online consultation. Other comments mainly suggested that not everyone uses social media



Not everyone feels able to access meetings, activities so we sought ideas to support individuals attend? *Note - for ease of answering questions a list of options was given and respondents were asked to tick all that applied;*



Action 4.4 - Leisure groups and classes

4.4.1 WTC to investigate further possibilities of replacing more stiles with gates

4.4.2 WTC to encourage residents to use the SCC reporting tool for footpath related issues

4.4.3 WTC Note the desire for a fully accessible path

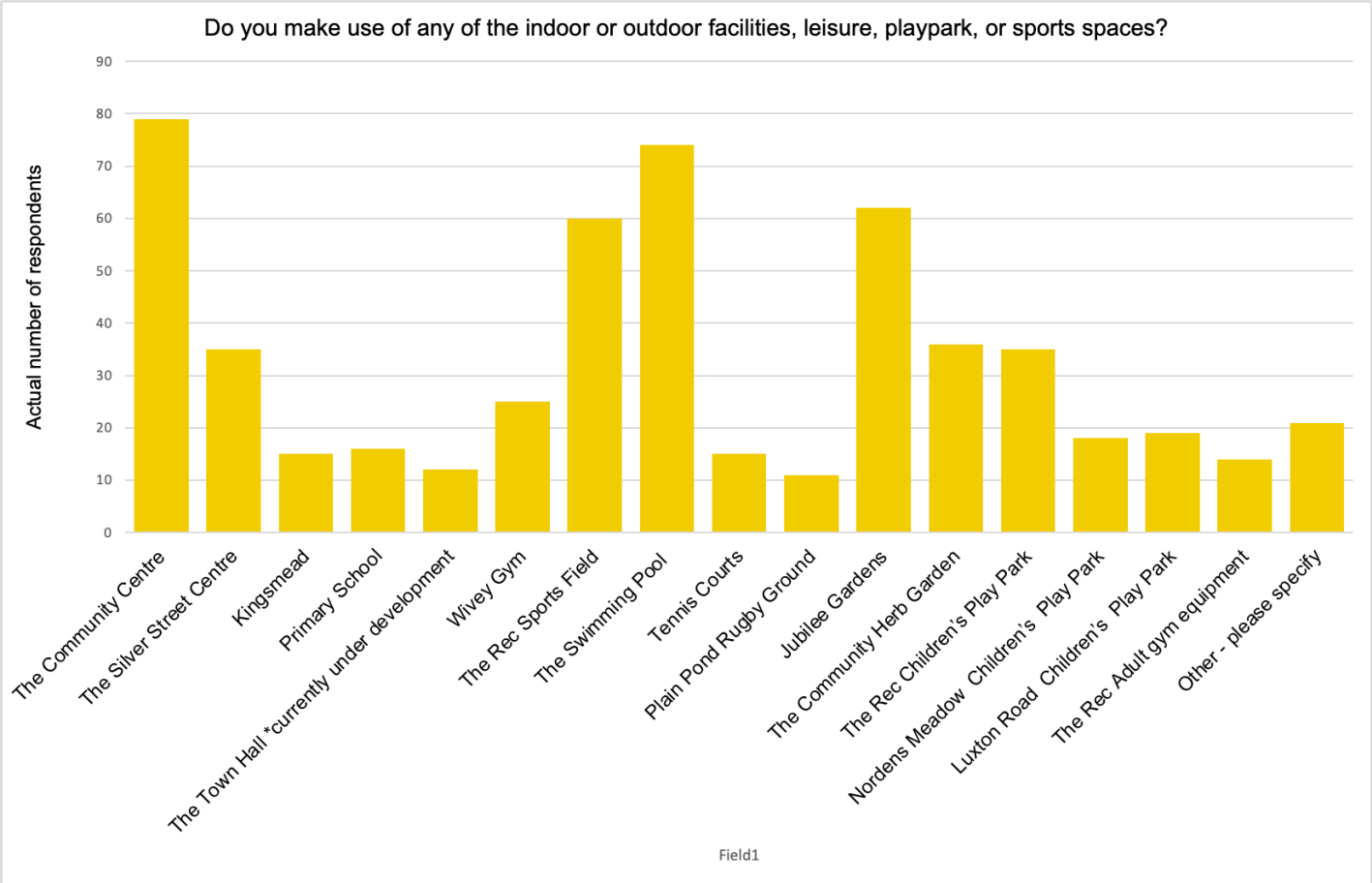
4.4.4 WTC to work with Wivey Walkers to investigate a walking buddy scheme **See 4.1.2 re database of volunteers and buddies*

4.4.5 WTC created 6 additional allotments at Plain Pond in 2021/22 and will continue to look for land to create additional allotments **Note additional allotments are planned for in the Lovells Home Development on Burgess Lane*

4.4.6 WTC note the need for bursary schemes

4.5 Leisure Facilities

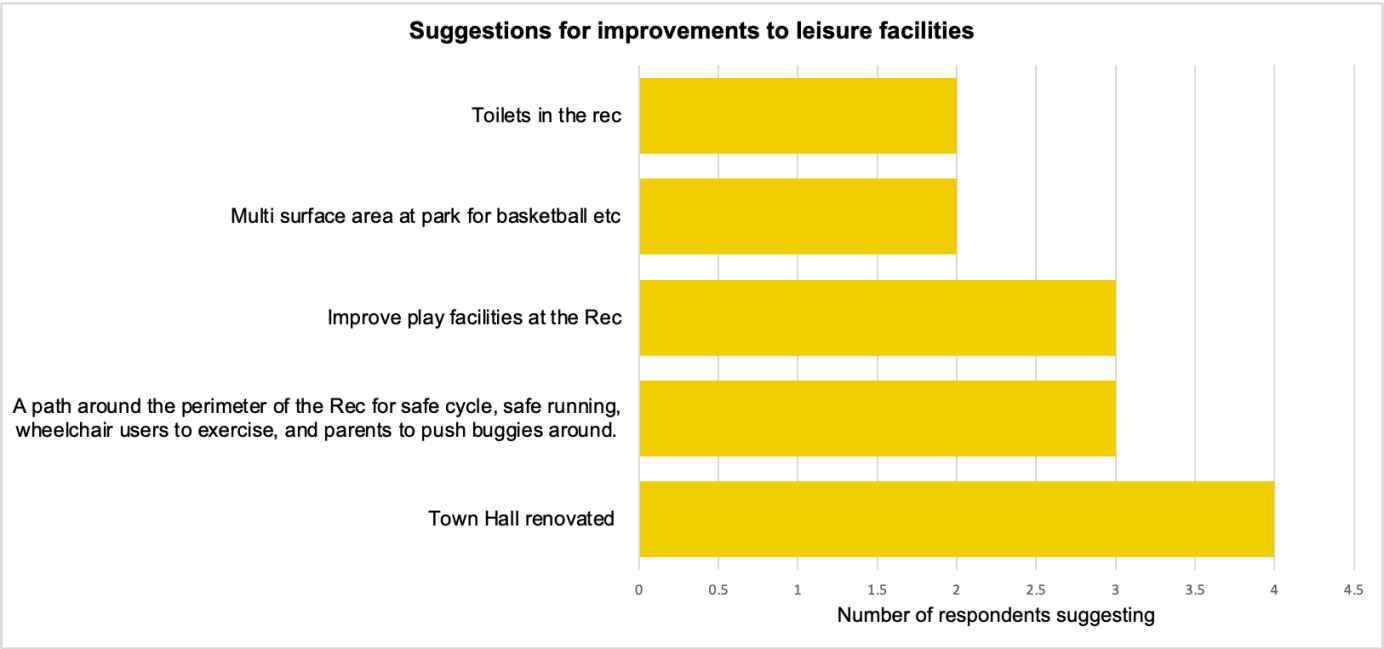
148 respondents told us about the leisure facilities they use locally



The Community Centre (79) and Swimming Pool (74) are the most popular facilities, followed by Jubilee Gardens (62) and the Rec Sports Field (60)

Other places included local footpaths for walking (including dog walking) or running, The Hub Centre which is CCS approved and a hire able space for families community members and young peoples groups, Wivey Grows site, and the seats in church yard.

Suggestions were made for improvements to leisure facilities



Other suggestions included: Improvement for the cricket club facilities; Purchase land near the rec for a bowling green; More car parking at the Recreation Ground and the Community Centre; Better accessibility in the winter. ie. Drainage at Luxton way park resolved; Extend either Kingsmead sports hall or Wivey Gym to include indoor climbing; Rec - more tables and benches for picnics, barbecues; Town Hall - could make a great cafe which Wivey needs; More activities targeted at girls; More facilities for teenagers; Better adult gym equipment; For the town buy the fields behind the Rec to provide a permanent recreation area and additional sports facilities for the town and Kingsmead School; Outdoor musical instruments in Rec; Would like to see the skate park completed in the recreation ground; Cheaper membership to the pool.

40 people said they'd be willing to volunteer to fundraise or help physically with improvements.

Action 4.5 - Leisure Facilities

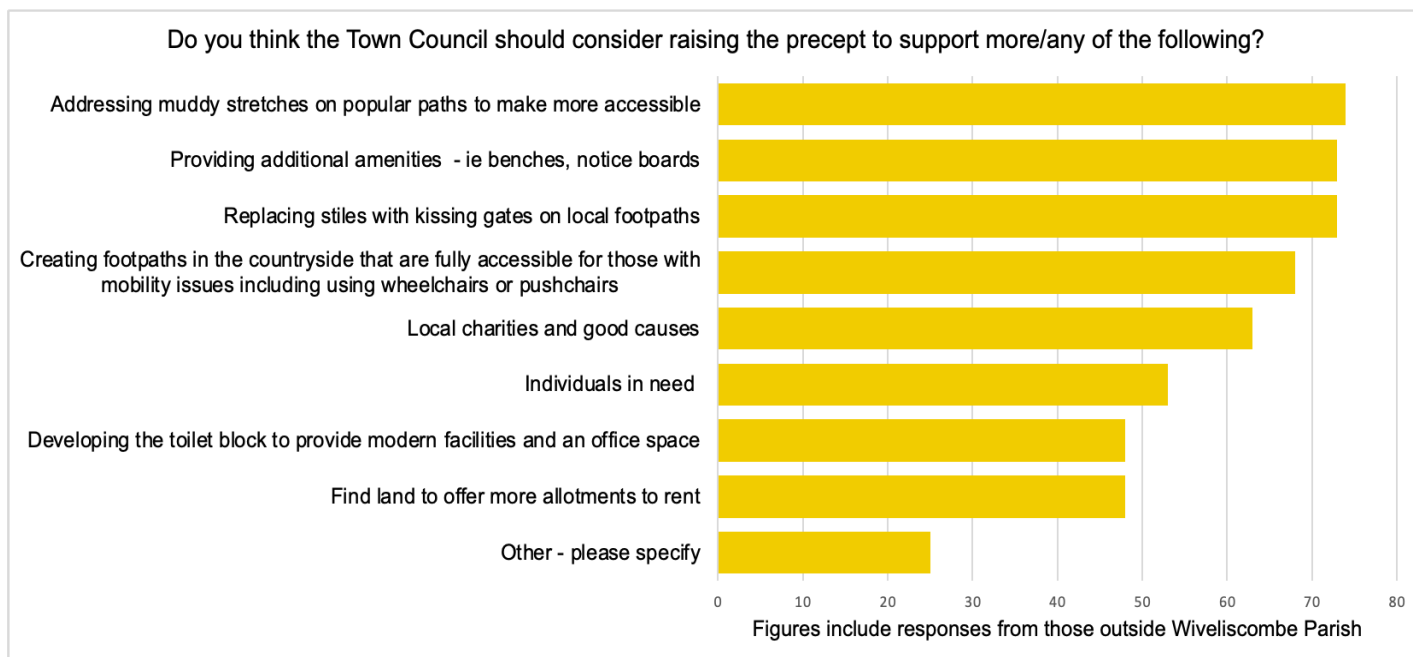
4.5.1 WTC to investigate funding from third parties on behalf of local leisure facilities

4.5.2 WTC to work with the Recreation Ground Committee to discuss survey results that relate to additional uses and facilities at the rec. *Note relates to above and Young People's survey responses.

*See Action 4.1.1 for directory of groups, activities and leisure services

4.6 - Wiveliscombe Town Council Expenditure

In April 2023 the District Councils will go and we will have a Unitary Authority. As such Wiveliscombe Town Council will be the second tier of local government locally. The Town Council has limited powers but can raise money via a precept on your Council Tax. We asked if respondents think the Town Council should consider raising the precept to support more/any of the following list. *(We are aware that respondents from outside Wiveliscombe Parish also answered this question but their answers did not sway the overall findings.)*



7 respondents do not wish to see any increase in the precept - comments included:

"NO - make the library self-sufficient and then use the large amount of money saved for the above"
"No - Some people who are already struggling with the cost of living. This could be disastrous. It's a dilemma"

Other suggestions included:

- *Provide functional spaces at the toilet not just office!*
- *Council has power to provide transport so should deliver the EV car share scheme*
- *Promote good health with a free fitness coach on a regular basis to coach across the spectrum of age, ability and activity. To lead runs, walks, outdoor sessions, sea swimming coaching etc, provide links to sailing clubs, kayak club etc to encourage healthy eating and living*
- *A community Office space somewhere with printing facilities would be a great help*
- *Developing a shared community office, library and community toilet space to support all three services, ideally below the Town Hall*
- *Toilet block could be better configured but not a high priority. Remark parking spaces in carparks*
- *Be responsive to local need, and have a suitably qualified clerk to enable this to happen*
- *Litter / dog bins*
- *Create a community wood*
- *Better play equipment*
- *I don't think the Town Council should be supporting local charities per se but should be supporting activities that provide improved services to the local community. If this means funding charities to deliver the services then good to do that*
- *Seriously consider bigger environmental projects such as the bio-digester mentioned. Solar panels, or even a wind-turbine*

Action 4.6 - Wiveliscombe Town Council Expenditure

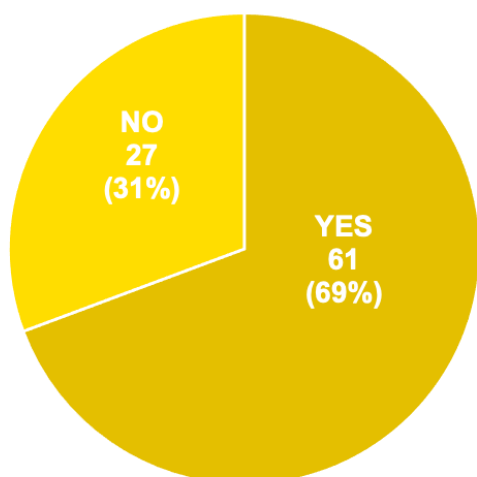
Please note the actions under 4.4 above

4.7 - Leisure facilities and provision for Young People

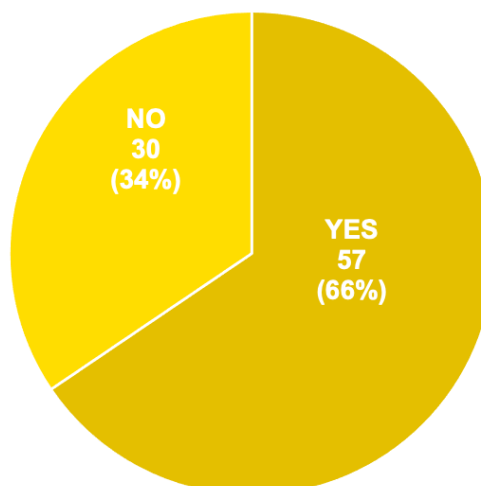
The following responses relate to Community Organisations, Leisure Activities, Services & Support specifically aimed at children and young people. We asked respondents to share their thoughts even if they don't have young people in their household.

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A SEPARATE SECTION (10) IN WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

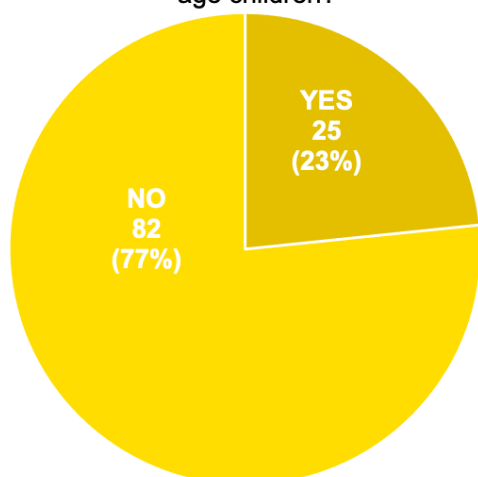
Do you think there is adequate leisure activity provision for pre-school children?



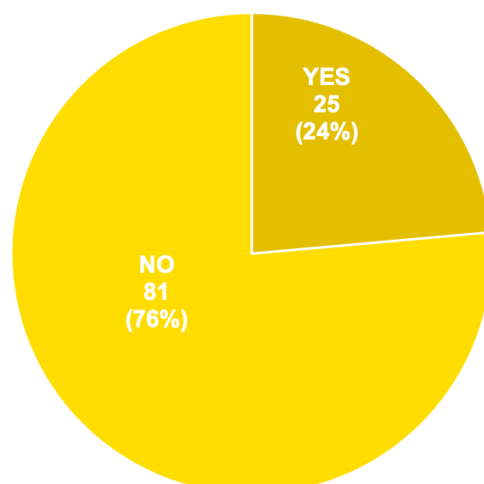
Do you think there is adequate leisure activity provision for primary school age children?



Do you think there is adequate leisure activity provision for secondary school age children?

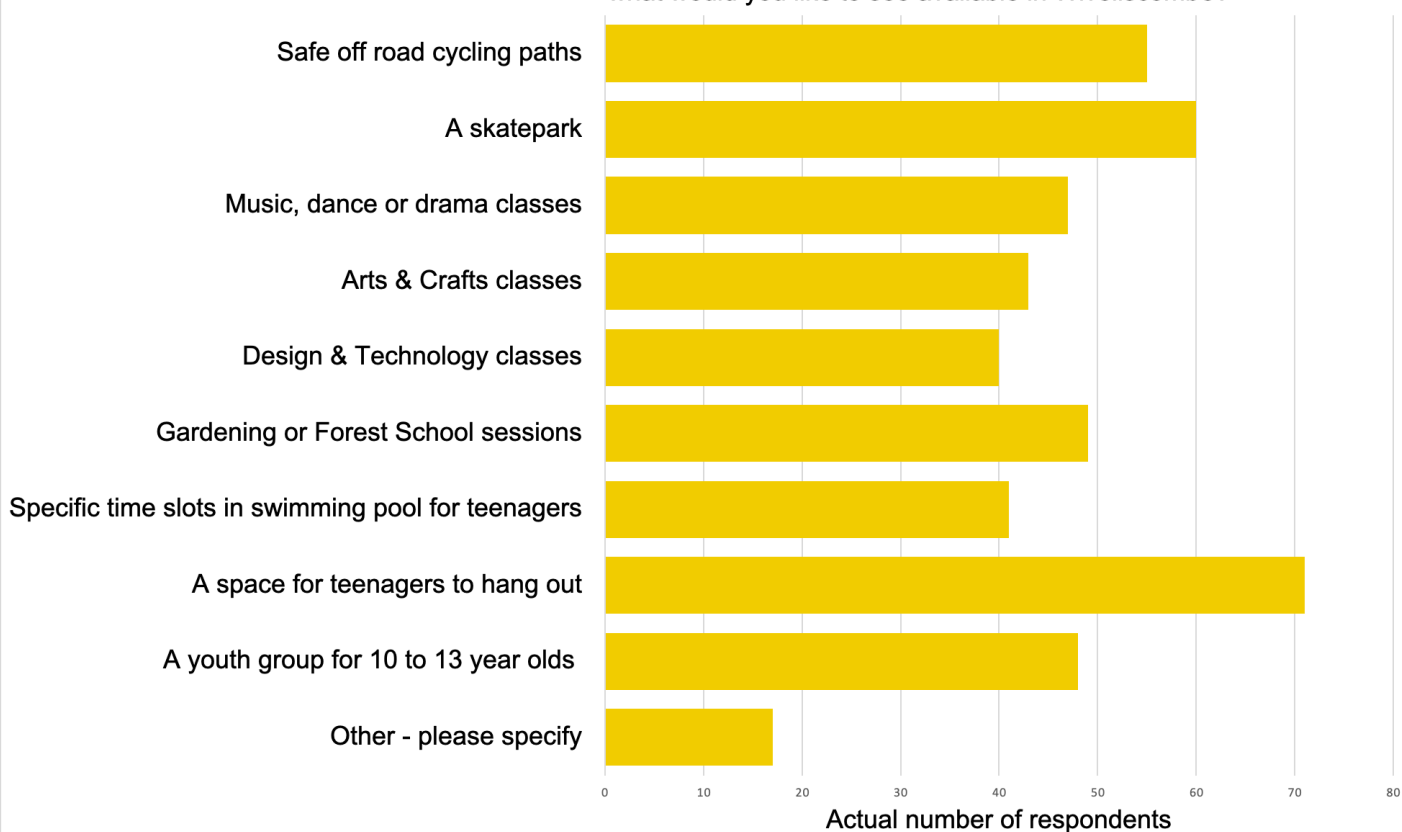


Do you think there is adequate leisure activity provision for over 16's? '



103 respondents then answered a list of questions about what they would like to see available for young people in Wiveliscombe

If you've answered NO to any of the previous questions about current provision what would you like to see available in Wiveliscombe?



Of the top 3 preferences the Skatepark has now been built in the rec and is well used. Clearly a space for teenagers to hang out is important along with a safe off road cycling path.

Other suggestions included:

Build a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) - x 4

(this is an area with an all weather surface usually surrounded by high nets - this option was added to the young peoples questionnaire and received overwhelming support)

Professionally run general, not structured educationally, youth club - x 2

Perhaps a dedicated person for community activities for young people

Our young people are our future

Action 4.7 - Leisure facilities and provision for Young People

Views here noted. See Young Peoples section 10 for Action

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A SEPARATE SECTION (10) IN WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

Other general suggestions relating to Community Organisations, Leisure Activities, Services & Support included:

"There needs to be a coordinated approach between organisations and an equitable approach to bringing organisations together to ensure full participation. Sometimes all that's needed is funding sometimes is what's needed is an independent coordinators/community development worker who will provide links between institutions and organisations to see where partnerships can be created."

"A direct link to wellington to access the sports centre, shops and clubs would be a huge benefit."

"More of anything that brings people together despite barriers such as financial or physical and mental health issues"

"Subsidised membership at Wivey Gym and the swimming pool"

"Wivey is well provided for with its community organisations. But they shouldn't be taken for granted - they need support (financial, strategic, labour etc) from Councils and individuals"

A full list of the comments made can be found in Appendix 4 Community Organisations, Leisure Activities, Services & Support