

Community Governance Review Consultation Responses (Phase 2) January 2024

Battisford and Combs

We are committed to the principles of fairness and respect at Babergh and Mid
Suffolk District Councils

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1. Summary

1.1. The Community Governance Review phase 2 consultation commenced on 10th November 2023 and initially was to run for 6 weeks until 22nd December 2023. An extension was granted by the Community Governance Working Group to extend the consultation period until 10th January, providing additional consultation due to delays experienced by the printing service. All households within the areas of the community governance review received a letter, survey, and map to participate in the consultation.

A Total of **140** responses were received during this period, **none** of which were received from the extended period. A summary of the responses precedes a detailed breakdown.

1.2. Which of the above options is your preferred option?

Agree with the Draft Recommendations	124	88.57%
Disagree with the Draft Recommendations	8	5.71%
Some Other Option	2	1.43%
Blank	4	2.86%
Unsure	2	1.43%
Total		140 100.00%

1.3. For Recommendation 1 Why you chose option 1 – Agree (To move Bowl Meadow development into Battisford)

Of those that Agree

Sense/logic	70	58.33%
Proximity	49	40.83%
Identity	11	9.17%
No Affect	6	5.00%
Agreement with Draft Recommendations	5	4.17%
Infrastructure	1	0.83%
Battisford Management	1	0.83%
Funding	1	0.83%

1.4. For Recommendation 1 Why you chose option 2 – Disagree (For Bowl Meadow development to remain in Combs)

Of those that Disagree

Boundary Status Quo	4	50.00%
Big Enough/ Encroachment	2	25.00%

1.5. For Recommendation 1 Why you chose option 3 - Some Other Option

For those that chose Some Other option

Land South-West Included	1	50.00%
Funding	1	50.00%
Agreement with Draft Recommendations	1	50.00%

1.6. For Recommendation 1 Why you chose option 4 – Unsure/ I Don't Know

Of those that are Unsure

Not Enough Info	1	50.0%
Query about Council Foreknowledge	1	50.0%

1.7. For Recommendation 2 Why you chose option 1 – Agree (For Bildeston Road to remain in Combs)

Of those that Agree

Historical/ Status Quo	23	35.38%
Identity	12	18.46%
Sense/logic	12	18.46%
Proximity	6	9.23%
Agreement to Draft Recommendations	2	3.08%
Encroachment	3	4.62%
Doesn't affect me	1	1.54%
Finance	1	1.54%
Parishes in Agreement	1	1.54%

1.8. For Recommendation 2 Why you chose option 2 – Disagree (For Bildeston Road to be considered in either Little Finborough or Battisford)

Of those that Disagree

Sense/logic	3	42.86%
Identity	2	28.57%
Proximity	1	14.29%
Finance	1	14.29%
Development	1	14.29%
Maintenance	1	14.29%

1.9. For Recommendation 2 Why you chose option 4 – Unsure/ I Don't Know

Of those that are Unsure

Not Enough Info	2	50.0%
Query about Council Foreknowledge	1	25.0%
Residents of Bowl Meadow to Decide	1	25.0%

1.10. Please State which of the following best describes you?

I live in the Battisford or Combs	98.57%
I work in Battisford or Combs	0.00%
I own a Business in Battisford or Combs	0.71%
I am a representative of a community organisation in Battisford or Combs	0.71%
Other	0.00%

1.11. Contact details

A total of **136** respondents have provided their contact details to be kept informed on the Community Governance Review.

1.12. Disability

A total of **11** respondents indicated that they have a disability representing **7.86%** of those who submitted a response.

1.13. Correspondence

Post	139	99.29%
Email	1	0.71%

1.14. Demographics

16 - 19	0	40 - 49	9	70 - 79	47
20 - 29	0	50 - 59	12	80+	12
30 - 39	3	60 - 69	49	Prefer Not to Say	8

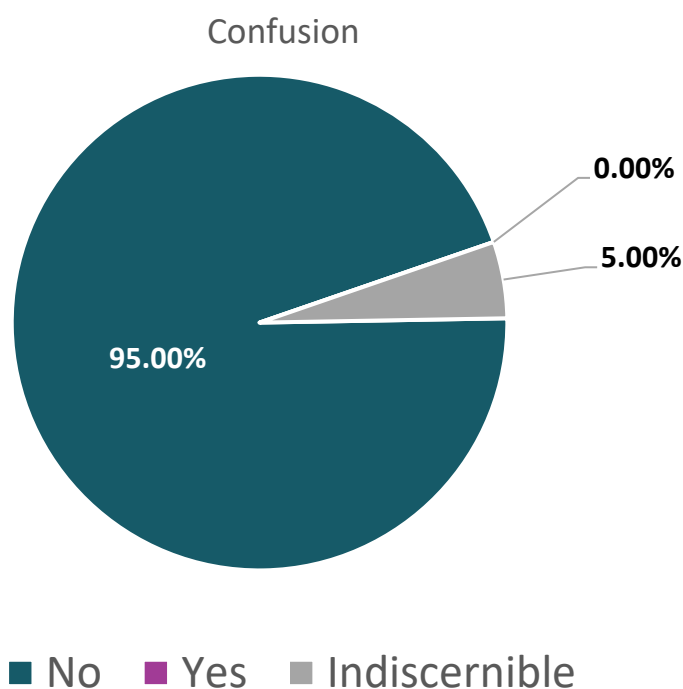
1.15. Clarity of Materials

Respondents self-reporting difficulties within their comments were captured.

	Questionnaire Complexity	Doesn't understand	Lack of Information	Map Unclear
TOTAL	1	0	5	5
PERCENT	0.71%	0.00%	3.57%	3.57%

1.16. Confusion

All respondents' answers matched their explanations provided, representing **95.00%** of those who submitted a response. **5.00%** of respondents' answers could not be matched as they did not submit their responses with explanatory comments. Overall, a confirmed **95.00%** of respondents understood the consultation exercise.

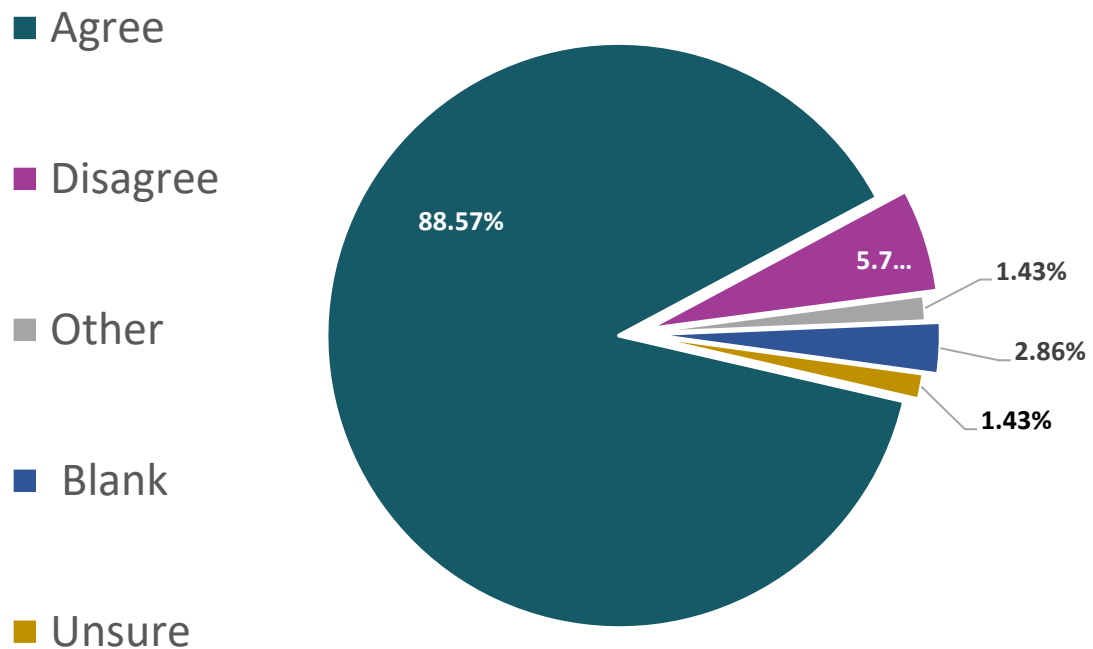


2. Responses

2.1. Recommendation View on Recommendation 1 – To move the Bowl Meadow development into the Battsiford boundary.

The majority of responses with **88.57%** prefer option 1 to move Bowl Meadow development into the Battsiford boundary. **5.71%** of responses indicated a preference for option 2 for no change to the existing arrangement.

Community Governance Review for Battsiford and Combs - Second Phase
Consultation 2023-34
Move Bowl Meadow Development into Battsiford



2.2. Explanations – Option 1 To move the Bowl Meadow development into the Battsiford boundary.

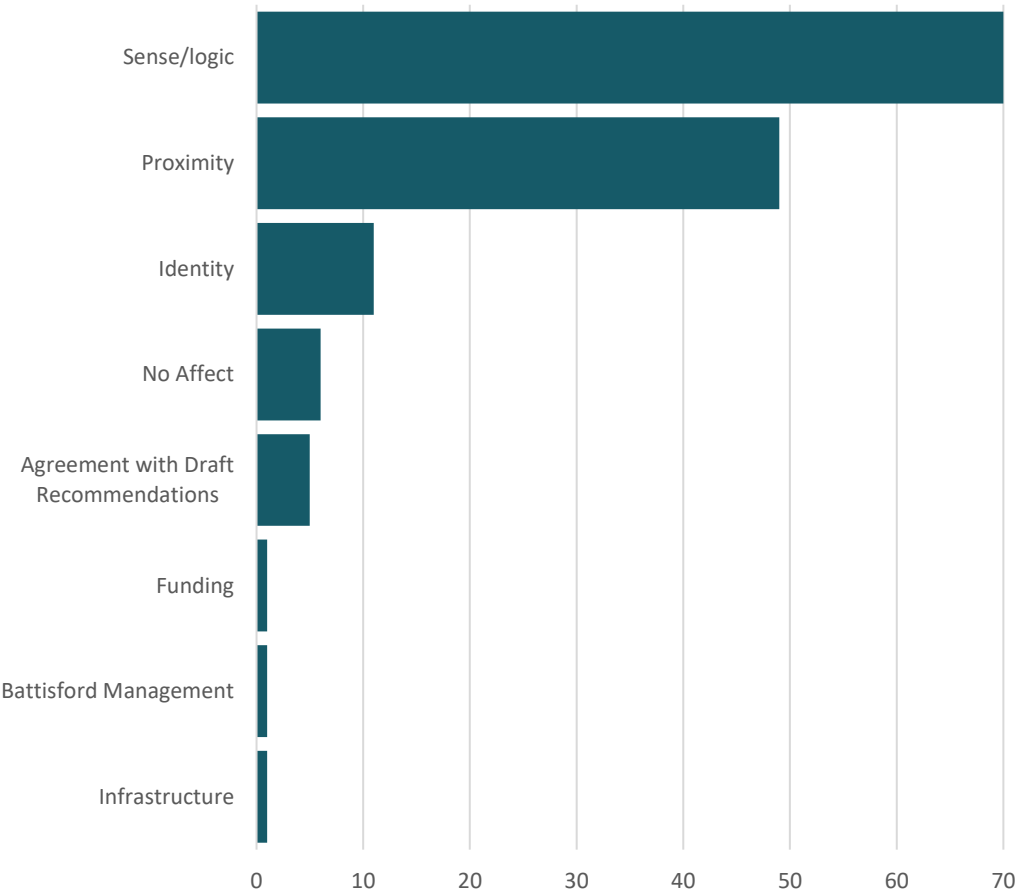
Out of the 120 respondents that ticked option 1 – no change. A total of 117 comments were received. A summary of those comments by theme can be found below and the entirety of the comments by option can be found in the subsequent sections.

A note on themes: Themes are commonly reoccurring words that have been grouped on the similarity of meaning to provide meaningful quantitative statistics from the qualitative data received.

The top 3 reasons why respondents stated option 1 was chosen:

- 1. It makes sense/ is a logical decision
- 2. Proximity
- 3. Identity of the area

Battsiford and Combs Consultation Commonality of Themes - Recommendation 1 Agree

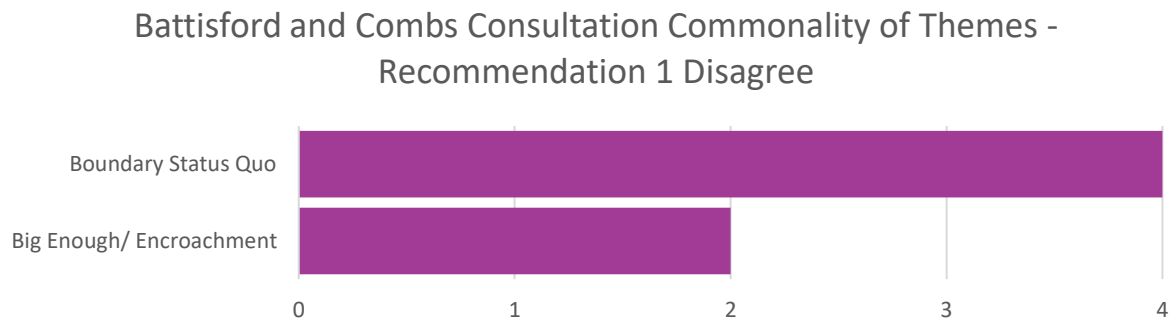


2.3. Explanations – Option 2 For no change to the current arrangements

Out of the **8** respondents that ticked option 2 – to move the areas into Stowmarket. A total of **7** comments were received. A summary of those comments by theme can be found below.

The top reasons why respondents stated option 2 was chosen:

1. Preference to boundary status quo
2. Concern the Battisford is big enough/ encroachment

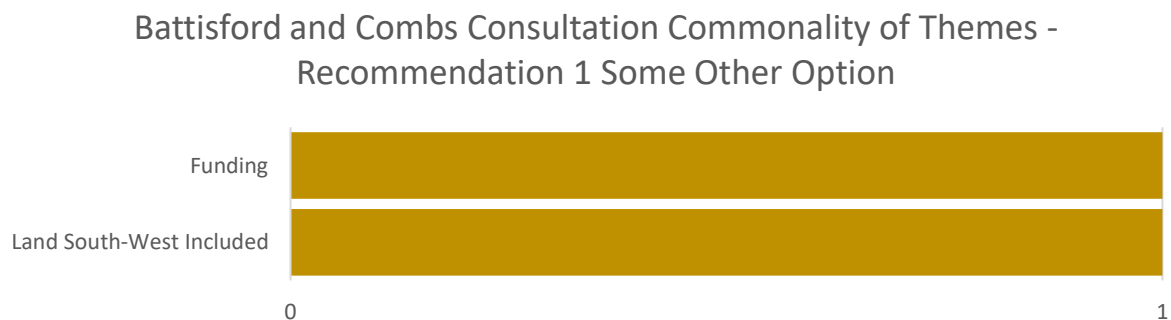


2.4. Explanations – Option 3 Some Other Option

Out of the **2** respondents that ticked option 3 – Some Other Option. All **2** provided explanatory comments. A summary of those comments by theme can be found below.

The top reasons why respondents stated option 3 was chosen:

1. Funding
2. Include the land South-West of Bowl Meadow



2.5. Explanations – Option 4 Unsure/ Don't Know

Out of the 2 respondents that ticked option 4 – Unsure/ Don't Know. Both provided explanatory comments. A summary of those comments by theme can be found below.

The reasons why respondents stated option 4 was chosen:

1. Not enough information – Town/Parish narrative on the political elements (e.g. Council Tax)
2. Query about Council foreknowledge

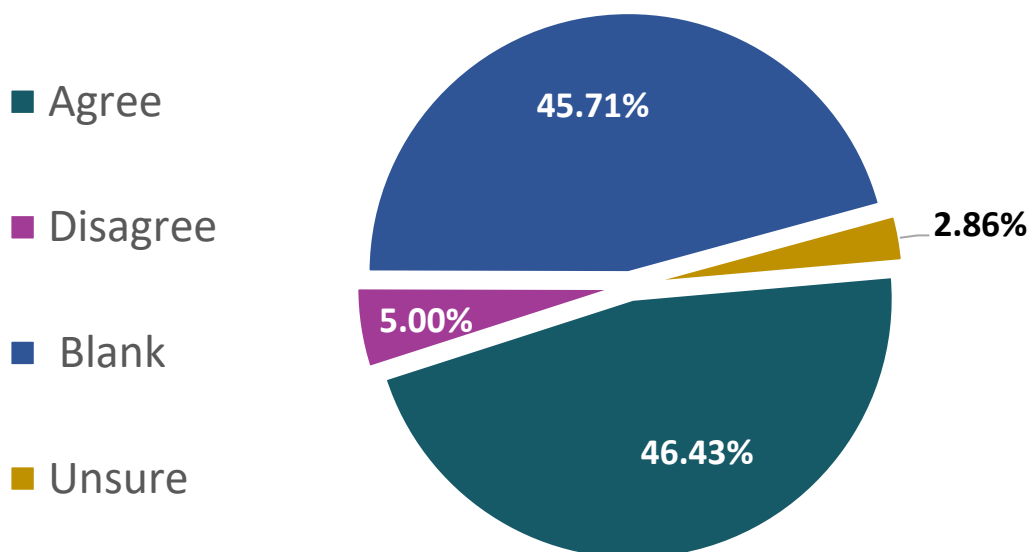
Battisford and Combs Recommendation 1- Option 4
Unsure/ Don't Know



2.6. Recommendation View on Recommendation 2 – To Keep Bildeston Road within the Combs Boundary

The majority of responses with 46.43% prefer option 1 to keep Bildeston Road within the Combs boundary. 5.00% of responses indicated a preference for option 2 to disagree with Bildeston Road remaining in Combs. Additionally, 45.71% of respondents did not indicate a preference.

Community Governance Review for Battisford and Combs - To
Keep Bildeston Road in Combs



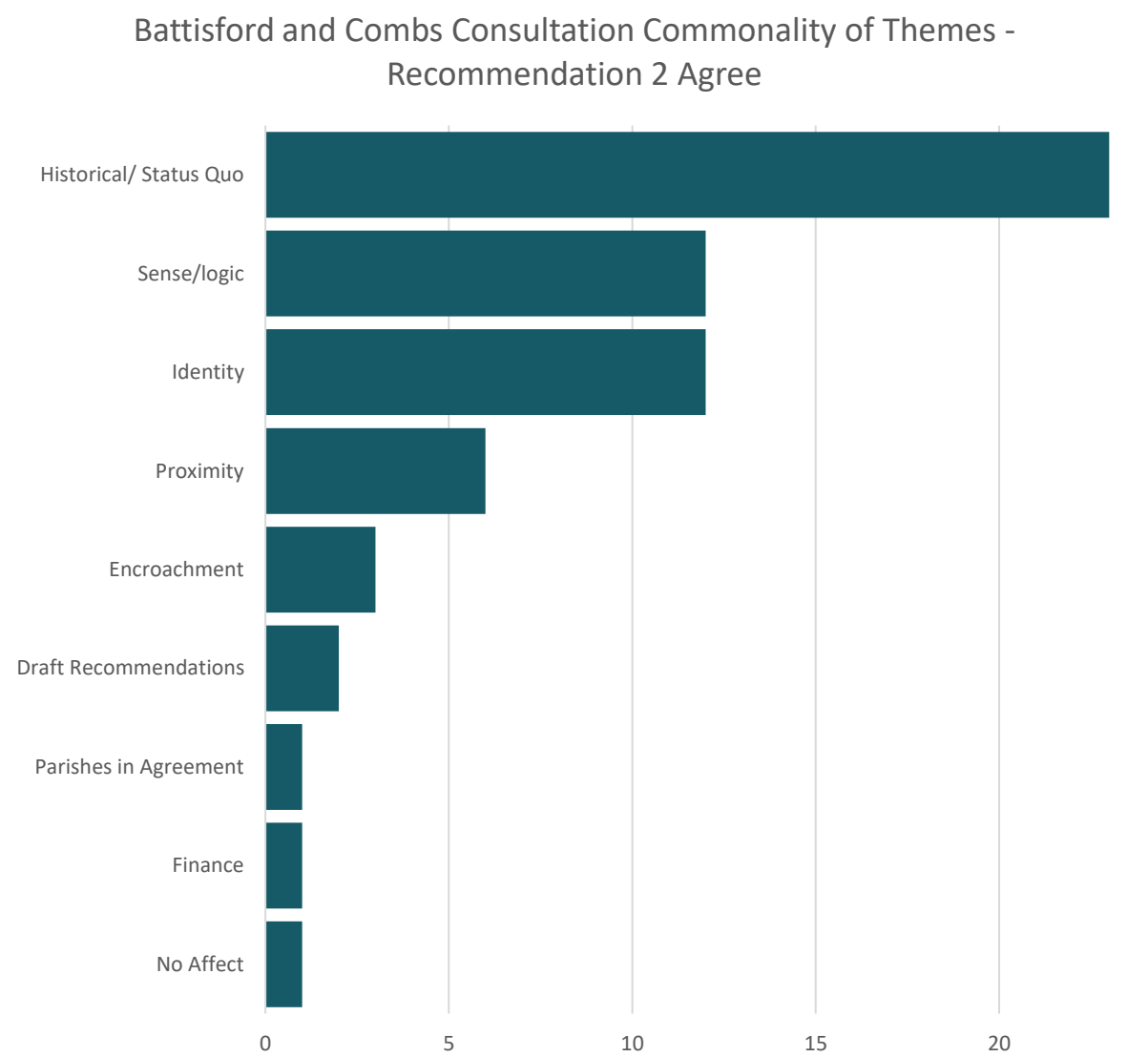
2.7. Explanations – Option 1 For Bildeston Road to remain a part of Combs

Out of the 65 respondents that ticked option 1 – no change. A total of 52 comments were received. A summary of those comments by theme can be found below and the entirety of the comments by option can be found in the subsequent sections.

A note on themes: Themes are commonly reoccurring words that have been grouped on the similarity of meaning to provide meaningful quantitative statistics from the qualitative data received.

The top 3 reasons why respondents stated option 1 was chosen:

- 1. Historical connection/ preference for the status quo
- 2. The recommendation makes sense/ is a logical decision
- 3. The Identity of the area and residents reflect their current arrangement

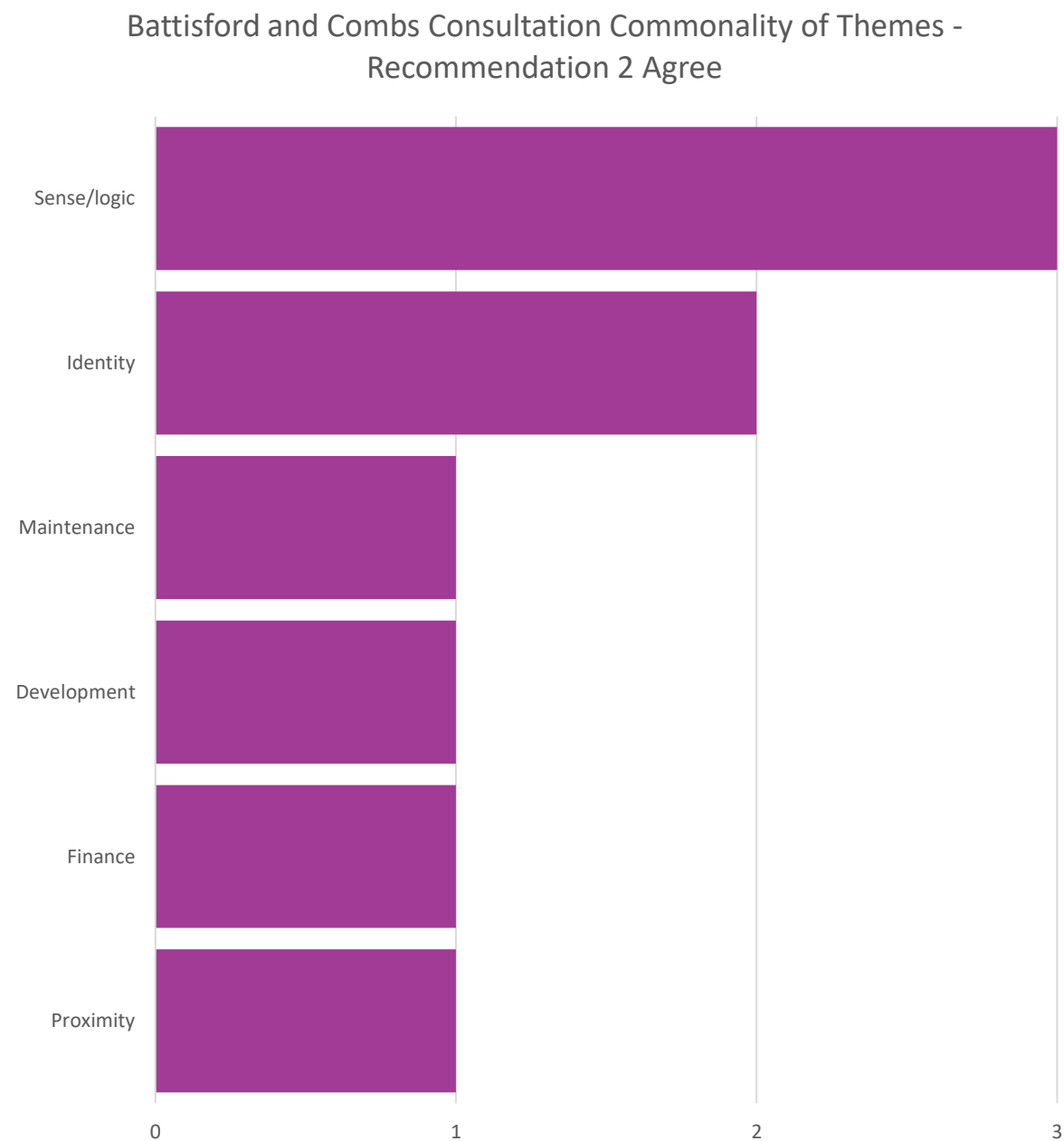


2.8. Explanations – Option 2 For no change to the current arrangements

Out of the 7 respondents that ticked option 2 – to move the areas into Stowmarket. A total of 6 comments were received. A summary of those comments by theme can be found below.

The top reasons why respondents stated option 2 was chosen:

- 1. The recommendation makes sense/ is a logical decision
- 2. Identity/community of the area is more closely aligned with Battsiford



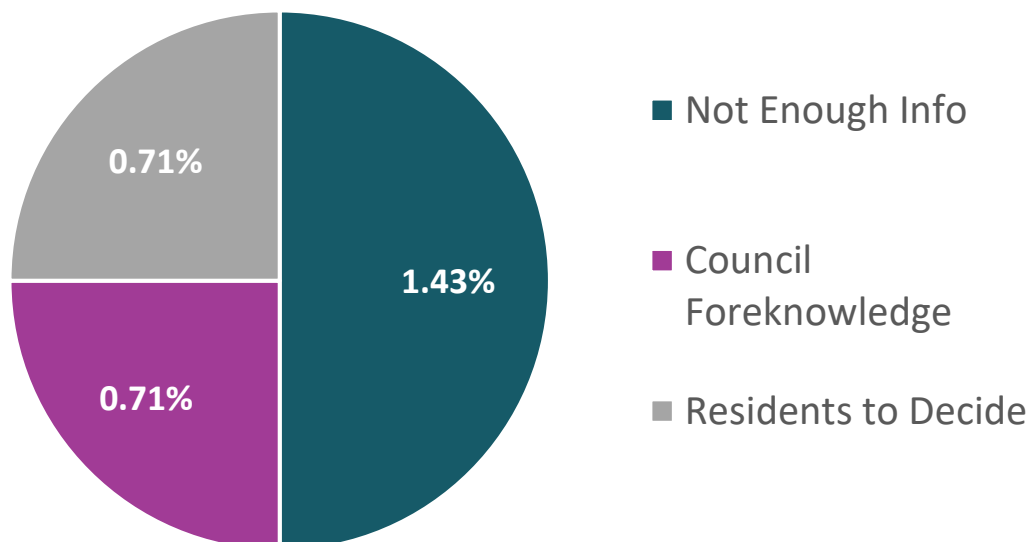
2.9. Explanations – Option 4 Unsure/ Don't Know

Out of the 4 respondents that ticked option 4 – Unsure/ Don't Know all respondents provided explanatory comments. A summary of those comments by theme can be found below.

The top 3 reasons why respondents stated option 4 was chosen:

1. Not enough information provided on the implications
2. Residents Should decide
3. Query about Council foreknowledge

Battisford and Combs Recommendation 2 - Option 4
Unsure/ Don't Know



3. Recommendation 1 Consultation Comments Lists

3.1. Agree Comments

Comments	Additional Comments
It makes sense to move that boundary	
It just makes sense	
I agree with the reasons given by the working group (of which 2 were outlined	
No objections	
Because it is so close to the Village	
To include Bowl Meadow	
It doesn't affect us as a family or community at all	
No detriment to us	
Bowl Meadow development is within the built-up area of Battisford	
Because the Bowl Meadow development is clearly within the built environment of Battisford and hence should be covered by Battisford Parish Council	On reflection, I think it is important that the views of the Bildeston Road residents are considered
Given the location of the dwellings adjacent to Battisford + The separation from other Combs properties, this appears to make sense	
Any development in the area defined would be linked directly to homes adjacent & opposite. It would form part of Battisford community. Keeping continuity.	In all my time in Suffolk I have found Battisford to be strong in community spirit. Since being here I've been invited to take part in local activities. This is why I strongly believe that a area of housing directly on the boundary and disconnected from housing of the other parish would not be beneficial to the residents living in the development, they would want to have a say in the area they directly live in.
The fact that the Bowls Meadow development is on the outskirts of Battisford and adjacent to it, it makes sense to change the boundary to include it.	
The Bowl Meadow development is adjacent to Battisford. The proposed change is more rational.	
Logical	
It makes logical sense, the properties clearly identify with the village of Battisford, rather than Combs.	Other than thank you for seeking the opinion of the local residents on this matter!
Easier to approach Battisford PC Members & also makes common sense as Bowl Meadow is nearer & attached to the village boundary. Also my postal address is Battisford NOT Combs.	
Simply makes sense	
Bowl Meadow development is the outskirts of Battisford main community & makes sense they are combined	
Because it makes sense	It has been a long time coming
It seems logical because the development is within the Battisford conurbation	
	Combs Parish is coming under increasing pressure from all sides as Stowmarket keeps taking areas away in North East Combs Ford area & Now Battisford are wanting to take further areas on the South East boundary. We would not want to see the historic boundaries degraded any further
The new houses join our existing boundary	

Boundary to be amended as indicated	
As per reason 1 given in opening letter. The position of the Bowl Meadows development makes it a sensible reason for it to be within the parish of Battisford	
Makes no difference to me	
Bowl Meadow is directly attached to the village, also access through to parking for the pub which is in Battisford. Common sense solution	
Logistically it makes sense!	
Logistically it makes sense!	
	<p>It would seem sensible that the new dwellings, now in Combs, abutting a large area of existing dwellings in Battisford would be included in Battisford. This would make it easier for delivery drivers & those without satnavs.</p> <p>But surely, it's the ones affected by a change in the boundaries that should decide - I'm not affected.</p> <p>The format of this questionnaire is too cumbersome and can be summed up in just this box!</p>
Seems a sensible move	
Common sense applies here	
Bowl Meadow development is adjacent to Battisford and remote from Combs	
Looks like it makes sense given the dwellings nearby	
Seems obvious that it is integral to Battisford	
It immediately joins other housing in Battisford but is some distance from development in Combs	
For a small plot of land, it really doesn't make a huge difference to either parish	This seems like a pointless exercise, to justify someone's job. It is expensive with all the administration it must create & at the end of the day, why is it such a big deal??
Because it's a continuation of the existing houses which are already in Battisford Parish Council	
Seems correct. I'm sure the residents identify as being in Battisford	
If the residents of the Bowl Meadow development are happy to change Parish, location does suggest they are attached to Battisford cluster of houses	If residents of a location are unwilling to change Parish after they have purchased a property, then please don't enforce.
Makes logical sense	
Happy to support general views of council, as in opening letter	
Seems sensible to do so, cannot see why you would not	
Seems logical	
Seems the logical thing to do	
Logical sense	
Bowl Meadow is much closer to Battisford that it makes sense to include it within the boundaries	
Logistically it makes sense, but it would have been better to explain the implications of the move and not just the land boundary	<p>More Information should have been given about the implications of a boundary change so that an informed choice could be made.</p> <p>The map!!! - totally incomprehensible! It just so happens that I knew Bildeston Road but even with a magnifying glass I cannot read it on such a poor copy.</p>
It is a logical re-arrangement	
It makes sense	

I agree it seems logical for Bowl Meadow to be included in Battisford, next to and opposite other Battisford houses.	
It seems logical. As no houses beyond Bowl Meadow for quite a distance	
No objection	
The residents of Bowl Meadow think of themselves as living in Battisford - most did not know they were in Combs! Combs Parish Council received the CIL money but Battisford will support the residents there - village hall, pub, PC support, etc, community events, play area. They are welcome.	
The community/ residents of the new development naturally relate to Battisford by virtue of their position	
The boundary amendment is logical and supports the interests of all residents. The Punch Bowl Inn has a designated parking area within Bowl Meadow. Placing this area within the same village as the pub makes good sense.	
No reason to oppose	
Well the pub is in Battisford and the Meadow was part of the pub therefore I believe it should be part of Battisford	
	More streetlights for safety
The development is continuous with Battisford Parish. Therefore, more interest & logical links for residents of Bowl Meadow development with activities of Battisford	
This seems an entirely logical change	
Using roads and property locations as reference the proposed boundaries is a more logical distribution	
Surely it is w Battisford/ adjoining	
Makes perfect sense	
Would appear to be better to include due to proximity	
To be included in Battisford village community as so near the rest of the housing	The maintenance of Punch Bowl its overflow car park at Bowl Meadow. No lighting on reflective lights and path is so overgrown. Entrance should have been where footpath is.
Because it is next to and opposite houses already classed as Battisford. Sensible option	
Because the people living there have much more attachment to Battisford and I think most people would think it already was part of Battisford	
Makes good sense , houses are adjacent to Battisford dwellings	
Happy with the proposal as it makes sense for the Bowl Meadow development to be moved to the Parish of Battisford	
The people living in Bowl Meadow actively participate in Battisford activities, and have to drive through little Finborough as there are only footpaths connecting it directly to Combs	
It does not affect me	
It makes sense	
The houses in Bowl Meadow use the infrastructure within Battisford not Combs	
Makes sense its actually feet away from the Battisford sign	
It makes sense because it naturally falls into the / becomes part of village 'envelops'	
It makes logical sense, as is called Bowl Meadow, which is on Bowl Road, Battisford	
Seems logical	
Looks a sensible amendment	

Because the position of these houses makes them "feel" part of Battisford; and the name "Bowl Meadow" relates them to the Punch Bowl, which is in Battisford.	
Seems to be a sensible thing to do	
Makes sense	
I believe this makes logical sense	
I live in Bowl Meadow & very much see our house as part of the Battisford community	
It seems logical owing to the proximity of Bowl Meadow to the main body of the village of Battisford	Though I have no objection to Bowl Meadow being included within Battisford's boundaries, I do feel the opinions of the residents of Bowl Meadow should take precedence in this matter
It appears that the entire village of Battisford Tye is included	
Makes sense geographically	
No comments	
Because the development already is connected to Battisford village	
Makes sense for those living in that area to identify with Battisford Parish	
	Sensible proposal and good review process. Thank you
It makes sense	
Proximity of the development makes sense to be included within Battisford PC	The wording of this form is confusing. If it wasn't for the covering letter it wouldn't make sense.
It's the sensible option	
From the map it looks as though the properties in the development will be an integral part of Battisford Village	
Makes sense!	
The location of building has an obvious attachment to Battisford	
The location of building has an obvious attachment to Battisford	
The properties naturally sit in Battisford not Combs, so a logical change	
It makes sense	
It doesn't really affect me, where I live.	
Location makes it logical to include in Battisford Parish	
It makes sense to me that those houses be part of the village of Battisford as they are in essence sitting in that community.	
The development is clearly a small extension of Battisford itself and should be included as part of it	
A geographically obvious move	
Makes sense	
Makes logical sense	
Likely that residents consider themselves linked to Battisford	
Makes sense & postal address is Battisford	Proposal 2 makes sense
Sensible	
Makes sense to add to existing housing because it is joined to Battisford boundary	
It makes logical sense to include the Bowl Meadow development in Battisford Parish	
It makes logical sense	
The option is the most logical in relation to the sites in question	

3.2. Disagree Comments

Comments	Additional Comments
The boundary should be fixed preventing uncontrollable development. No other options should be available. Bowl Corner not in keeping with Battisford	As on left page, lived in Stow for nearly 30 years. Onehouse is always will be part of Stowmarket no question about it.
The village is big enough	The village is a lovely community, to enlarge it would be detrimental
Leave the parish boundaries alone	Leave Combs alone
Leave the parish boundaries alone	Leave Combs alone
Don't want the size or importance of Combs to be diminished	Don't know/ have enough information to offer further general comments. More info would be welcome
	This questionnaire is impossible to understand

3.3. Other Comments

Comments	Additional Comments
Yes, I agree as long as Combs Parish Council gives Battisford the money for the development - Yes it should be part of Battisford as we have paid fortunes for drainage and utilities on the road outside Bowl Meadow it is only fair that Battisford gets some money back	It appears that Combs just want to pass on any problems created by ITS decision to allow development and all the ongoing problems with it. i.e. flooding and drainage
Option 1 + move the land SW of Bowl Road and housing adjacent to Little Finborough should be moved in Battisford and or Little Finborough to save further anomalies	Long overdue! The Parish Council requested this change years ago.

3.4. Unsure Comments

Comments	Additional Comments
You gave the go-ahead to let houses being built so you must have known the boundary	as per previous answer
You don't say how the original proposal was generated - or why? You haven't outlined any benefits or disadvantages for either of the options!	

4. Recommendation 2 Consultation Comments Lists

4.1. Agree Comments

Comments	Additional Comments
Existing community connect with Combs	
As far as I know it has always been in Combs. So, it should stay the same	
No reason to change. Happy for Boundary to remain same.	
Bildeston Road has always been part of Combs and should remain so	

The Bildeston Road dwellings have long been part of Combs and should remain so.	On reflection, I think it is important that the views of the Bildeston Road residents are considered
No apparent reason to change	
Common sense!	
Logical	
Bildeston Road & Park Road make up Combs	
Neither Battisford or Combs Parishes raise objections, so I go with their judgement.	
Longstanding + historic boundary over hundreds of years. Battisford has already taken a number of properties + changed boundaries over the years + would not want to see any further erosion of the boundary.	Combs Parish is coming under increasing pressure from all sides as Stowmarket keeps taking areas away in North East Combs Ford area & Now Battisford are wanting to take further areas on the South East boundary. We would not want to see the historic boundaries degraded any further
Agree that Bildeston Road remains in Combs	
Common sense & residents identify as Combs	
Again, it seems sensible. The 90 degree bend at the Finborough Church is a natural place to differentiate between Combs and Battisford	
1) Council tax will increase with Battisford Parish Council 2) We purchased our home in the Parish of Combs and this is important to us to remain in Combs regarding house value regarding location	If residents of a location are unwilling to change Parish after they have purchased a property, then please don't enforce.
We live on Bildeston Road & feel firmly this resides in Combs	
Makes sense	
It is part of Combs and should remain so	The village is a lovely community, to enlarge it would be detrimental
Leave the status quo	
I presume Bildeston Road runs from Little Finborough to Combs, but the very poor map enclosed does not show what part of Bildeston Road you are referring to. I therefore chose option 3 as it's the only option that makes sense.	More Information should have been given about the implications of a boundary change so that an informed choice could be made. The map!!! - totally incomprehensible! It just so happens that I knew Bildeston Road but even with a magnifying glass I cannot read it on such a poor copy.
There is no reason to change the existing plan	
It seems logical	
No reason to oppose	
We are all happy the way things are. Stop p***ing around with the boundaries it's obvious what's going on	Leave Combs alone
We are all happy the way things are. Stop p***ing around with the boundaries it's obvious what's going on	Leave Combs alone
	More streetlights for safety
As identified, there is long established connection with these dwellings & Combs Parish. No need to change it.	
I have no strong opinion on this, and am happy to go along with the working groups findings	
It is beyond Battisford Border	It appears that Combs just want to pass on any problems created by ITS decision to allow development and all the ongoing problems with it. i.e. flooding and drainage
Long standing Combs residents	
Don't want the size or importance of Combs to be diminished. Don't want to be swallowed up by another area This road is very sparsely populated and gives an open clear divide between the two villages	Don't know/ have enough information to offer further general comments. More info would be welcome
	This questionnaire is impossible to understand

Closer to Combs - common sense	
If these houses have always identified as part of Combs Parish Council, there seems no reason to change this	
Would seem to be an unnecessary change	
As stated, the existing dwellings have a long standing with Combs Parish Council	
As the rest of Bildeston Road is an established part of Combs	
If Bowl Road runs to Litte Finborough corner the Bildeston Road is after the corner, it is outside Battisford	
Makes logical sense	
No reason to change	Sensible proposal and good review process. Thank you
Why change	
Long standing association, no reason to change	The wording of this form is confusing. If it wasn't for the covering letter it wouldn't make sense.
No obvious or practical reasons to change	
I accept the dwellings along Bildeston Road identify with Combs	
It is outside the "enclosure" of the village so there seems no advantage in change for change's sake	
Makes sense	
Locations + residents identify with Combs	
	Proposal 2 makes sense
Sensible	
This also makes sense	

4.2. Disagree Comments

Comments	Additional Comments
It seems more logical to have Bildeston Road as part of Battisford Parish as it is very close to Battisford and much further from Combs and would be more aligned to issues affecting Battisford	
I would prefer this section of Road to be included due to the nature of properties along it being part of Battisford community.	In all my time in Suffolk I have found Battisford to be strong in community spirit. Since being here I've been invited to take part in local activities. This is why I strongly believe that a area of housing directly on the boundary and disconnected from housing of the other parish would not be beneficial to the residents living in the development, they would want to have a say in the area they directly live in.
Bowl Road seems to be more part of Battisford than Combs. Extend boundary to include all of Bowl Road	
Again, seems sensible that the road is adopted by Battisford. It would dispel arguments in the future as to who is responsible for the road, to split it does not work.	
it makes sense	
Further development along Bildeston Road would provide Combs with CIL money but Little Finborough/Battisford would be physically nearer.	Long overdue! The Parish Council requested this change years ago.

4.3. Unsure Comments

Comments	Additional Comments
as per previous answer (<i>You gave the go-ahead to let houses being built so you must have known the boundary</i>)	
I am not sure how a change would affect either Battisford or Combs	
It is not clear from the map where Bildeston Road is - starts/finishes. I think I know where it is, but not confident enough to comment. Also, what are the implications for remaining or not?	
Should be up to residents of Bildeston Road to decide!	

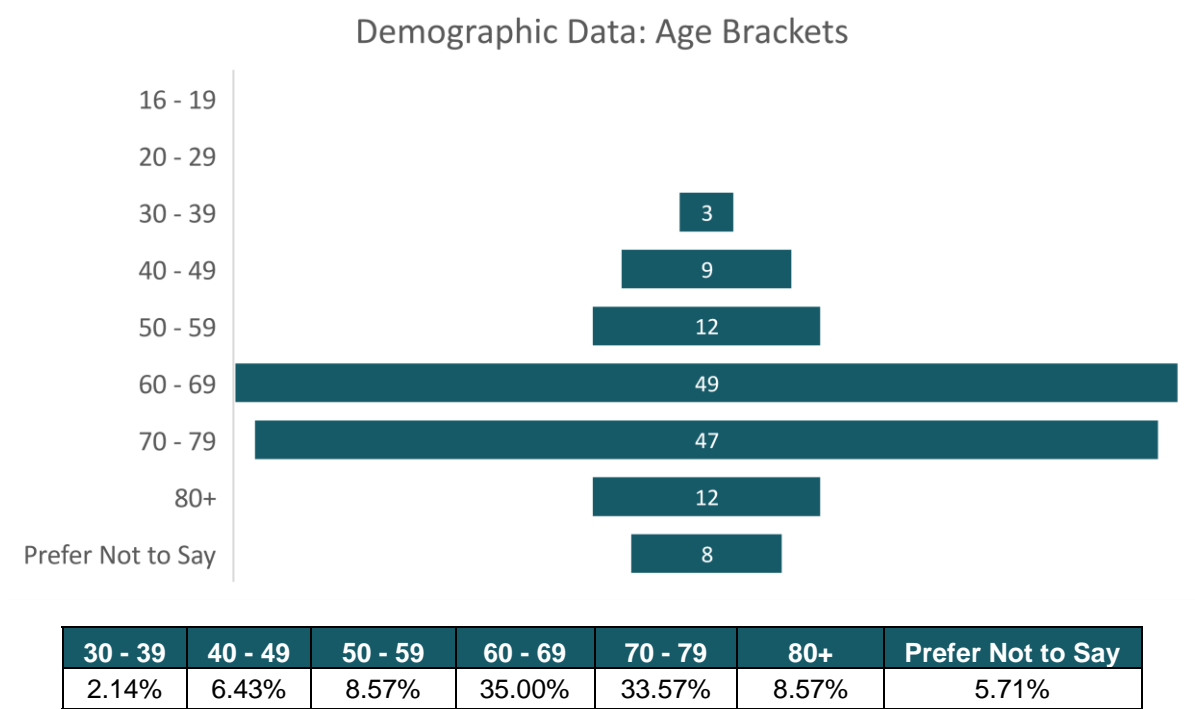
5. Representations from Community Organisations and Other Respondents

- West Suffolk
- Battisford Snooker Club
- Webb & Son Combs Ltd
- Punch Bowl Inn CIC Ltd
- Punch Bowl Inn
- Village Hall
- Battisford Village Hall Management Committee

6. Equalities Monitoring

Age Group

The majority of responses received were from the 60-69 age bracket followed strongly by the 70-79 age bracket. These two age brackets make up 68.57% of the total responses received. No consultations were received by 16-19 or 20-29 age brackets and 5.71% of the respondents preferred not to disclose which age bracket they belonged to.



Disability

The majority of respondents do not have a disability with 77.14%. 7.86% of respondents did disclose having a disability, whilst 15.00% preferred not to disclose whether they had a disability or not.

