Community Deliberative Process E-panel results

Introduction

This summary report presents an overview of the outcomes of the community deliberative process e-panel on climate change. The results of the deliberative peer process workshops carried out across four weeks in March/April 2022 have informed the focuses of the resident e-panel. The aim of the e-panel was to engage more widely the community and stakeholders to find further insights into the motivations and barriers faced when making daily decisions which impact our carbon footprint.

Survey Methodology

The resident e-panel was carried out by Wokingham Borough Council following the outputs of the Community Deliberative peer group sessions. The e-panel was live from the 26th August 2022 through to the 30th September 2022.

The resident e-panel was conducted via the Wokingham Borough Engage platform in the form of a survey. The survey was aimed at residents living in the Wokingham area but also included responses from participants who are planning to move to, or commute to Wokingham for work. Participants were self-selecting and a total of 140 survey responses was collected.

The survey was split into four core areas: Energy & Homes, Transport, Waste and Behaviour Change and consisted of a mix of multiple-choice, open-ended and closed-ended questions. This allowed for a mix of qualitative and quantitative data to be collated.

Survey participants

Of those participants who completed the survey, they rated their knowledge in the following areas. The outcomes of the survey should therefore be read with this in mind.

	I know a lot	I know a bit	I don't know much	Response total
Climate Change, its causes and consequences (globally and locally)	57.86% 81	42.14% 59	0% 0	140
Renewable energy and home energy efficiency	54.68% 76	43.17% 60	2.16% 3	139
Active & Sustainable travel	45.00% 63	50.71% 71	4.29% 6	140
Waste & recycling	55.71% 78	42.14% 59	2.14% 3	140

Demographic information was provided by 86% of participants. Of that 86% who provided information:

Gender:

- 51% identified as male
- 44% identified as Female
- 1% identified as Transgender
- 4% preferred not to say/other

<u>Age:</u>

- 1% were aged 21-29
- 13% were aged 30-39
- 18% were aged 40-49
- 22% were aged 50-59
- 45% were 60 or older

<u>Ethnicity</u>

- 83% identified as white: British
- 4% identified as white: other
- 2% identified as Mixed race
- 1% identified as Asian/British Asian: Chinese
- 1% identified as Asian/British Asian: Indian
- 1% identified as Black/British Black: Caribbean
- The rest preferred not to say or other

<u>Religion</u>

- 51% identified with no religion
- 34% identified with Christianity
- 2% identified with Judaism
- 1% identified with Hinduism
- The rest preferred not to say or other

<u>Sexual Orientation</u>

- 78% identified as Heterosexual/Straight
- 3% identified as Bisexual
- 1% identified as Lesbian
- The rest preferred not to say or other

<u>Disability</u>

- 70% responded no to disability or long-term illness
- 20% responded yes to disability or long-term illness
- 10% preferred not to say

Survey results

This section covers the final outputs of the process. The outcomes are grouped together under the following discussion headings:

- Energy & Homes
- Transport
- Waste & Recycling
- Behaviour Change

1. Energy & Homes

Main findings: cost is a major barrier preventing residents from installing retrofit measures in their home.

For this section of the survey, 55% of participants said that they know a lot about energy and homes, whilst 43% claimed they know a bit. This suggests that in general, participants felt fairly confident in areas concerning home energy and sustainability.

Most participants had good general knowledge of what energy saving measures there are for the home. For example, when asked the open-ended question of which energy saving measures they would expect for a new-build, the most popular answers were: ground-source heat pumps, good insulation, solar panels and EV charging points amongst many others *(see appendix D).*

In addition, based on the survey data, the majority of participants own their own home, with only 8% responding to the barriers faced in implementing energy saving measures to a rented home. The most popular answers were: it is not seen as a priority for the landlord and cost *(see appendix D).* This suggests that the major barrier faced for those in rented accommodation is resistance from landlord, suggesting incentive is needed for landlords to install energy saving measures in their properties.

When questioned on incorporating renewable energy into their homes, the majority of participants cited cost as a major barrier. However, 84% stated that a national grant scheme for installing energy efficiency improvement measures or solar panels would encourage them to consider increasing their homes energy efficiency, followed by a group buying solar scheme (38%).

Most participants have some energy saving measures in their home, the most popular being energy efficient windows (90%), insulation (87%) and a smart meter (64%). However, the uptake of some measures remain low with only 19% having solar panels, 15% an electric vehicle charging point, 2% an air-source heat pump and 1% a ground-source heat pump.

Another barrier participants cited as a reason for not installing energy efficient measures in the home was trust in suppliers/industry. 43% claimed this is a big barrier while 47% said this would require more thought.

2. Transport

Main findings: Safety, cost, accessibility and frequency are major barriers preventing residents choosing to walk, cycle or use public transport.

For this section of the survey, 45% felt that they know a lot about sustainable travel, whilst 51% felt they know a bit. This suggests that participants felt fairly informed on issues surrounding sustainable transport.

Walking and Cycling

When asked about which factors would encourage them to walk or cycle more, the most popular answers were:

1. Accessible/safe footpaths
2. Safer and more attractive cycle lanes
3. More cycle lanes

Following this, the factors which would discourage them to walk or cycle more were ranked as followed:

1. Safety i.e. lack of street lighting
2. Accessibility to footpaths and/or cycle lanes
3. Inconvenience

These results suggest that safety and accessibility are the biggest factors in discouraging residents from walking and cycling.

Public Transport

In addition, participants were asked what would encourage them to take the bus more often. The most popular answers were:

1. Increased frequency
2. More bus routes
3. Reduced fares

Following this, participants were asked what discourages them from taking the bus:

1. Frequency of buses in area
2. Buses do not go where they need
3. Fare prices

These results suggest that frequency, routes and fare prices are the biggest factors in discouraging residents from taking the bus.

Electric Vehicles

Participants were asked, when they next replace their car, which of the following will it be. The most popular answers were:

1. Fully electric plug-in
2. Petrol
3. Other *(see appendix D)*

Other responses included the unaffordability of a hybrid or electric vehicle or that they already own an electric or hybrid vehicle. These responses suggest that cost is a major barrier to individuals picking petrol/diesel vehicles instead of electric or hybrid.

This is further reinforced when participants were asked what would influence their decision to own an electric vehicle:

1. Cost of vehicle
2. Driving range
3. Lack of charging infrastructure

Whilst cost is a major barrier, these responses suggest that the practicalities of owning an electric vehicle are also a significant factor.

Pedestrianisation

Lastly, participants were asked if they would support a pedestrianised high street in the borough. 49% were in favour of full-time pedestrianisation, 26% did not support pedestrianisation whilst, 18% supported part-time pedestrianisation.

3. Waste & Recycling

Main findings: clearer information and mixed recycling would encourage residents to recycle more.

For this section of the survey, 56% of respondents felt that they know a lot about waste and recycling, whilst 42% felt that they know a bit. This suggests that in general, participants felt fairly informed on issues surrounding waste and recycling.

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Participants were asked, what would encourage them to recycle more. In this multiple-choice question, 51% said that more information about where to recycle items that cannot be recycled from home would encourage them. This was closely followed by 50% asking for clearer information about what can be recycled. 42% asked for mixed recycling collections, followed by 41% asking for an increased number of recycling bins.

Participants were then asked if they would take part in the following community waste reduction schemes:

1. 61% responded community skips
2. 60% responded repair cafes
3. 46% responded community litter picks

This suggests that a high number of participants would like to play an active part in community schemes to help tackle the fight against climate change.

Following this, participants were asked if they would be interested in an educational workshop to learn new skills to repair items. 46% responded yes, 30% responded not sure whilst 24% said no. Again, this suggests that respondents are willing to take an active part in making a difference.

4. Behaviour Change

Main findings: Costs are a major barrier preventing residents from choosing a more sustainable lifestyle.

In this final section, participants were asked a number of questions around making sustainable changes.

Participants were asked if they would support penalties for activities which are counter-productive to tackling climate change i.e. increased parking charges and increased ULEZ (Ultra Low Emissions Zones). 60% of participants responded that they would not support penalties, whilst 27% responded that they would. This suggests that the majority of participants believe increasing penalties is not a suitable solution.

Lastly, participants were asked what type of incentives would encourage them to reduce their carbon footprint. Many respondents commented that they did not need incentive but instead need practical solutions and the removal of barriers to becoming more sustainable. Other respondents added that costs need to be reduced so that sustainable living can be more accessible. Following this, other answers included government grants and zero interest loans for home energy improvements.

Appendix A – e-panel survey responses

Introduction

Question 1: How informed are you about the following issues:

	I know a lot	I know a bit	I don't know much	Response total
Climate Change, its causes and consequences (globally and locally)	57.86% 81	42.14% 59	0% 0	140
Renewable energy and home energy efficiency	54.68% 76	43.17% 60	2.16% 3	139
Active & Sustainable travel	45.00% 63	50.71% 71	4.29% 6	140
Waste & recycling	55.71% 78	42.14% 59	2.14% 3	140
Your carbon footprint and how to reduce it	45.00% 63	48.57% 68	6.43% 9	140

Question 2: To what degree do you think the council should prioritise the following:
Total 140 responses

	Top priority	Somewhat important	Not a priority
Improve local renewable energy generation, including in new developments	65.71% 92	25.00% 35	9.29% 13
Make the most of solar farms by also using the land for livestock and making sure solar panels are recycled at the end of their life	47.86% 67	41.43% 58	10.71% 15
Include battery storage onsite for solar farms to store any excess energy generated	48.57% 68	41.43% 58	10.00% 14
Ensure residential properties are retrofitted with carbon saving measures such as solar panels and insulation, to reduce their carbon footprint	75.00% 105	17.14% 24	7.86% 11
Ensure clear communications with reliable advice on reducing energy use to businesses, the voluntary sector and residents to enable everyone to make changes	42.14% 59	47.86% 67	10.00% 14
Ensure safe, accessible walking and cycling routes are available across the borough to encourage active travel, and decrease driving	45.00% 63	32.86% 46	22.14% 31
Ensure clean, regular, and affordable public transport in the borough that suits the needs of residents	61.43% 86	31.43% 44	7.14% 10
Ensure that there are enough charging points for electric vehicles, both on-street and in car parks, and that these are in the right places	40.00% 56	45.71% 64	14.29% 20

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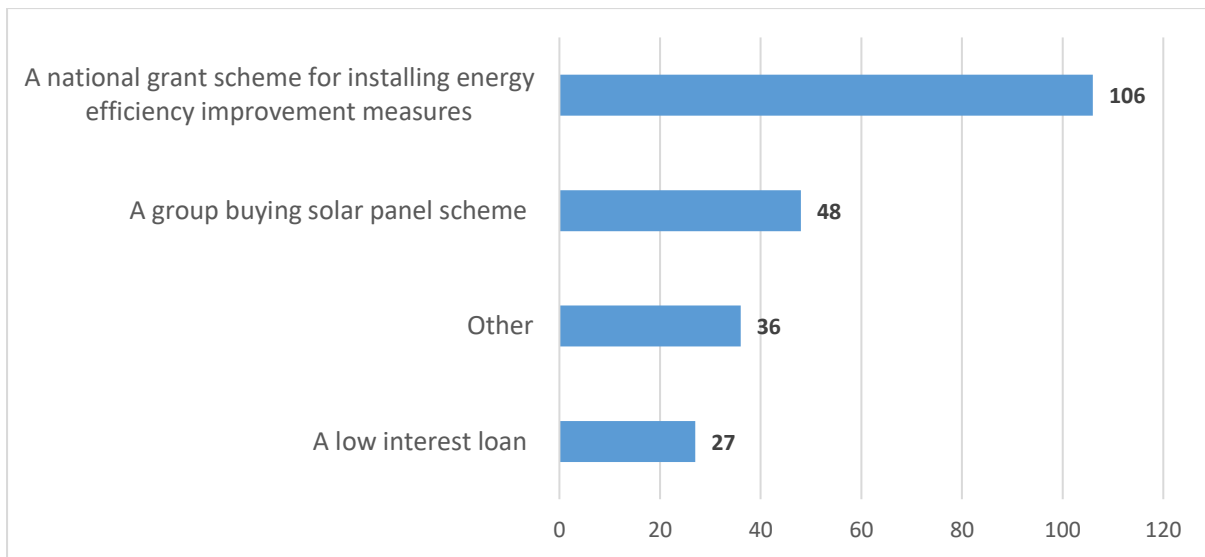|			
Help people that need to use cars do so more sustainably, such as through electric vehicle hire schemes, car sharing schemes and car clubs	22.86% 32	41.43% 58	35.71% 50
Educate residents of all ages on the importance of wasting less and recycling more	47.86% 67	40.00% 56	12.14% 17
Introduce incentives to increase recycling	33.57% 47	45.71% 64	20.71% 29
Increase what can be recycled from home	63.57% 89	30.71% 43	5.71% 8
Invest in a communications campaign to provide more information on what happens to food waste	14.29% 20	42.14% 59	43.57% 61
Facilitate community support to share, reuse and repair items so they are not thrown away	36.43% 51	46.43% 65	17.14% 24
Provide more information on where to recycle items which can't be recycled at home, such as plastic bags which can be recycled at many large supermarkets	33.57% 47	48.57% 68	17.86% 25
Provide more information and frequent updates on what the council is doing to tackle the climate emergency	24.29% 34	45.71% 64	30.00% 42
Work with young people through schools and community groups to raise awareness of climate emergency and gain inspiration and ideas	42.14% 59	41.43% 58	16.43% 23
Provide incentives for residents to reduce their carbon footprint and penalties for not making sustainable changes	30.71% 43	34.29% 48	35.00% 49

Energy & Homes

Question 3: Hypothetically, if you were to buy a new-build home, what sustainable energy measures would you expect there to be? *Examples include: solar panels; air-source heat pump; ground-source heat pump; electric vehicle charging point, and/or other energy saving measures*
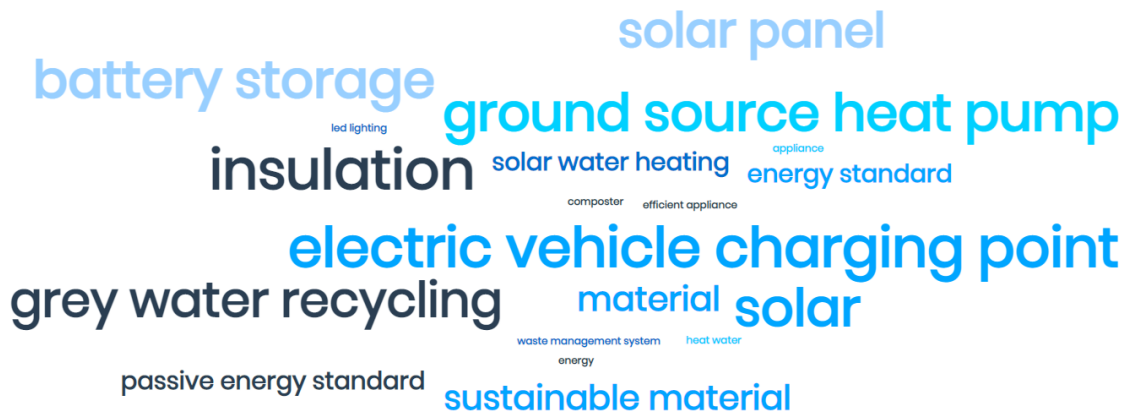
Question 4: If you rent your property, please let us know what barriers you face in implementing energy efficiency measures in your home.
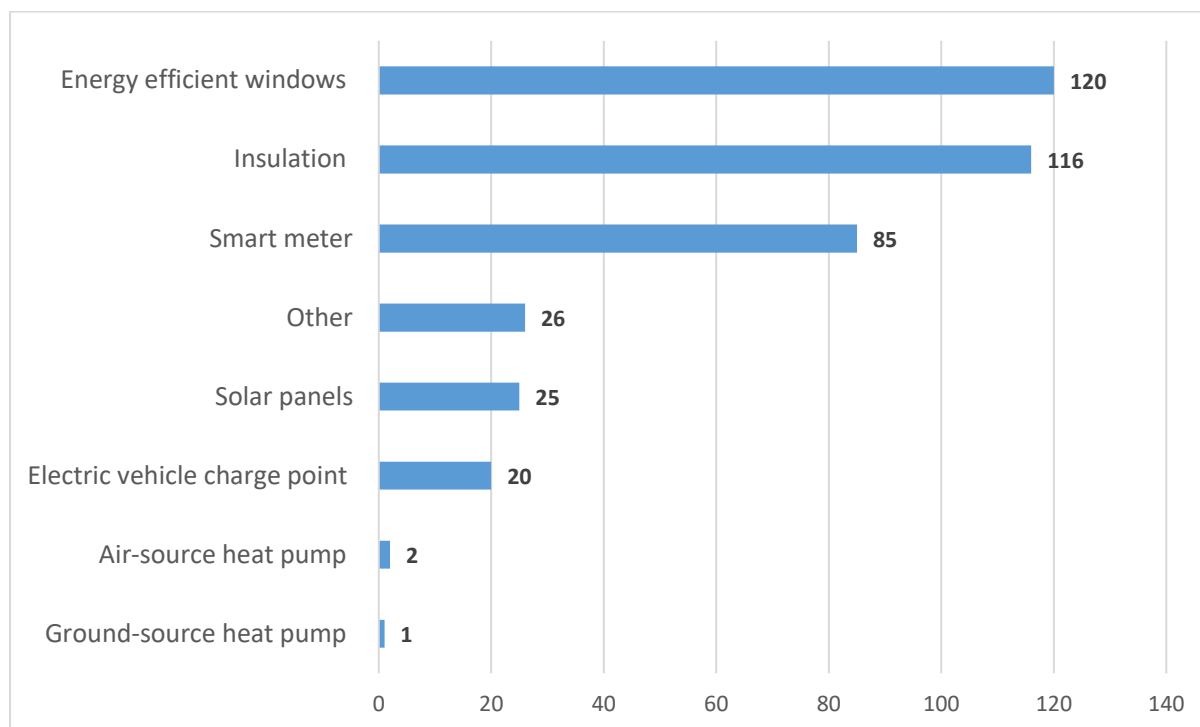
Top answers: Not a priority for Landlord and cost

Question 5: Would any of the following encourage you to increase the energy efficiency of your home or incorporate renewable energy generation into your home?

Total: 126

Question 6: Does your home have any of the following energy saving measures?

Energy efficient windows 120
Insulation 116
Smart meter 85
Other 26
Solar panels 25
Electric vehicle charge point 20
Air-source heat pump 2
Ground-source heat pump 1

Total: 133

Question 7: Thinking about installing carbon saving measures in your home, how much would the following impact your decision?

	This is a big barrier	I'd need to give this more thought	This isn't an issue	Response total
Cost of installation and/or upkeep	62.50% 85	28.68% 39	8.82% 12	136
Trust in suppliers/industry	43.38% 59	47.06% 64	9.56% 13	136
Confidence in information available	31.62% 43	40.44% 55	27.94% 38	136
Other home repairs/maintenance required	16.30% 22	51.11% 69	32.59% 44	135
Disruption of installation	13.97% 19	39.71% 54	46.32% 63	136
Appearance	11.03% 15	33.09% 45	55.88% 76	136

Transport

Question 8: To what extent would the following factors encourage you to walk or cycle more?

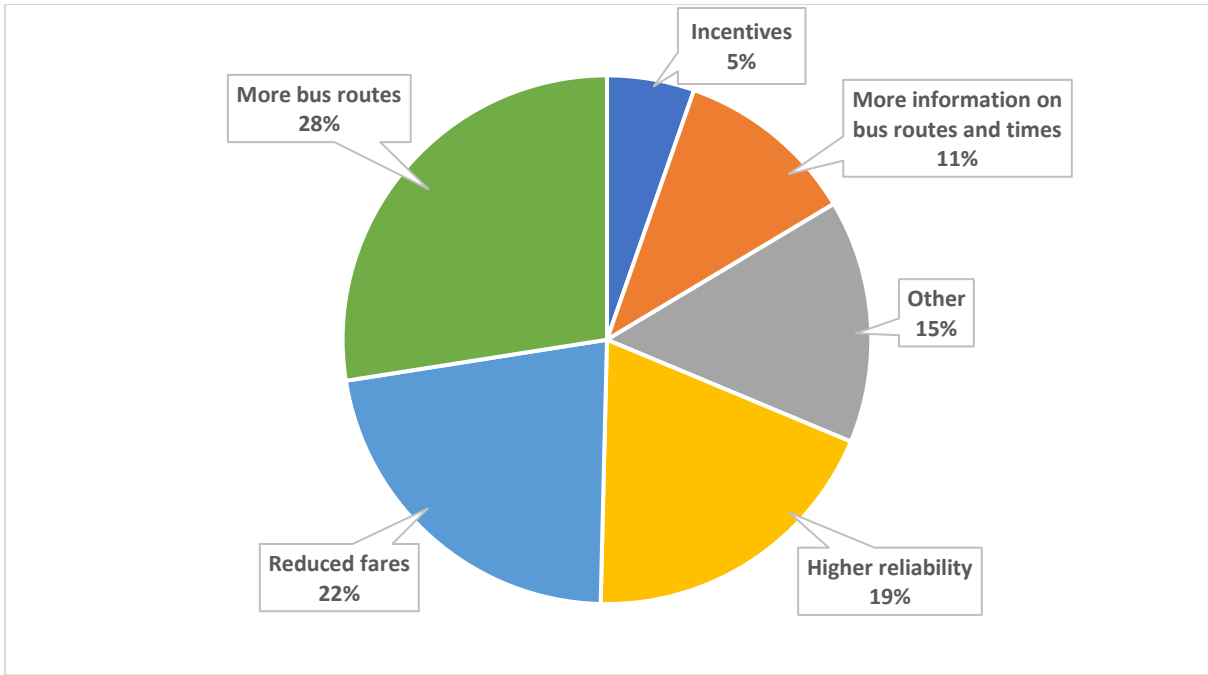*1 being the most significant factor and 5 being the least.*

	Total Score	Overall rank
Accessible/safe footpaths	489	1
Safer and more attractive cycle lanes	475	2
More cycle lanes	425	3
Incentives	295	4
Bike hire scheme	206	5

Question 9: To what extend would the following factors discourage you from walking or cycling more?

1 being the most significant factor and 5 being the least.

	Total Score	Overall rank
Safety i.e. lack of street lighting, other road users	720	1
Accessibility to footpaths and/or cycle lanes	631	2
Inconvenience	510	3
Weather reasons	492	4
Lack of equipment	443	5
Lack of bike storage	372	6
Health reasons	360	7

Question 10: What would encourage you to take the bus (including park & ride) more often?

70

Incentives 5%
More information on bus routes and times 11%
Other 15%
More bus routes 28%
Reduced fares 22%
Higher reliability 19%

Question 11: What discourages you from taking the bus (including park & ride)?

Safety regarding Covid-19
Reliability 11%
Other 13%
Fare prices 14%
Frequency of buses in area
Buses don't go where I need 26%
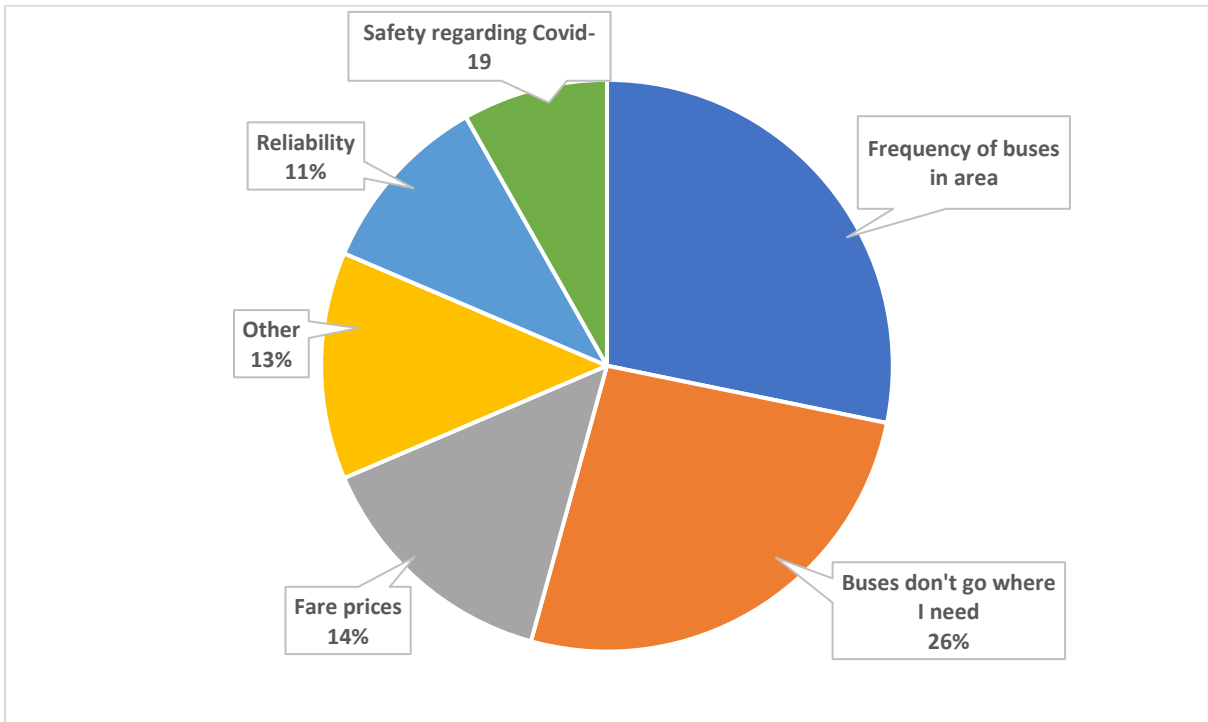
Question 12: When you next replace your car, which of the following is it most likely to be?

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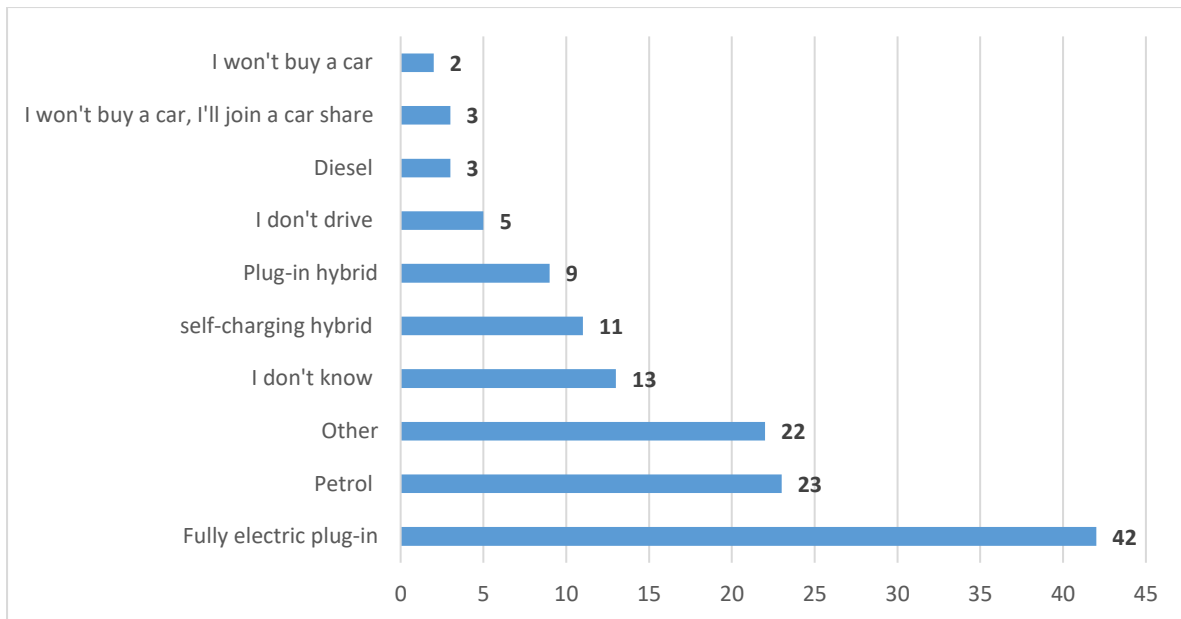
Other answers: Many participants commented on how unaffordable electric and hybrid cars are, they already have an electric or hybrid car or will use a motorcycle/bike/taxi or bus.

Question 13: Please rank what would most influence your decision to own an electric vehicle?

1 being most important, 6 being least

	Total Score	Overall rank
Cost of vehicle	664	1
Driving range	489	2
Lack of charging infrastructure on journeys	461	3
Lack of charging infrastructure at home	354	4
Having access to accessible charging i.e. weight of cable, free of kerbs	354	5
Lack of charging infrastructure at destination i.e. supermarkets	282	6

Question 14: Would you support a pedestrianised high street in the borough? The peer groups have suggested pedestrianising high streets in the borough. What do you think of this idea?
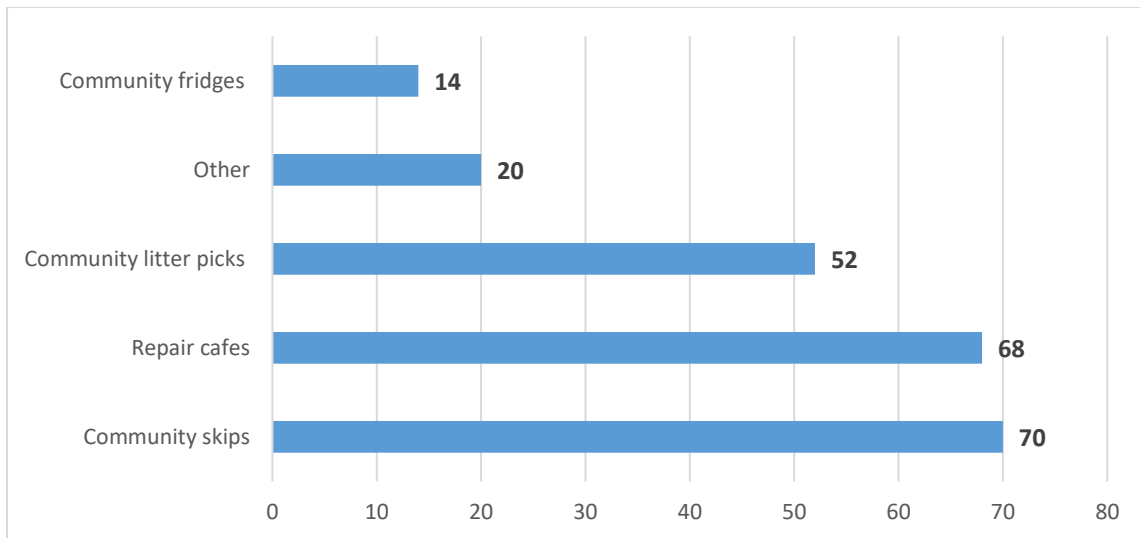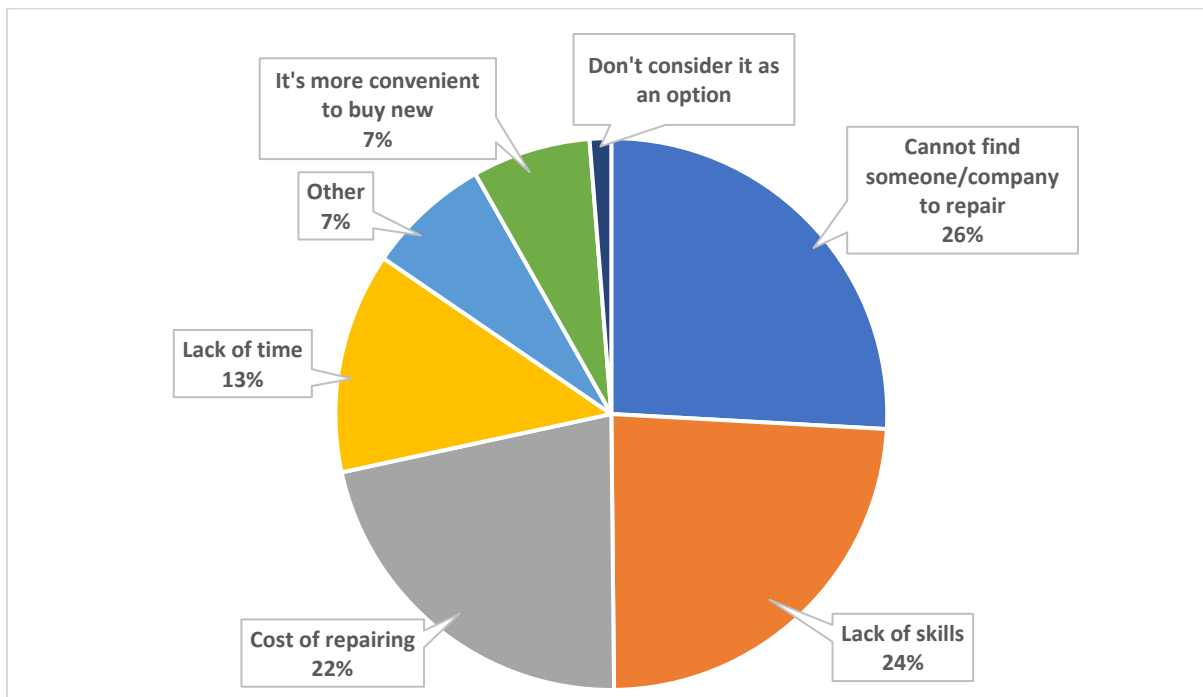
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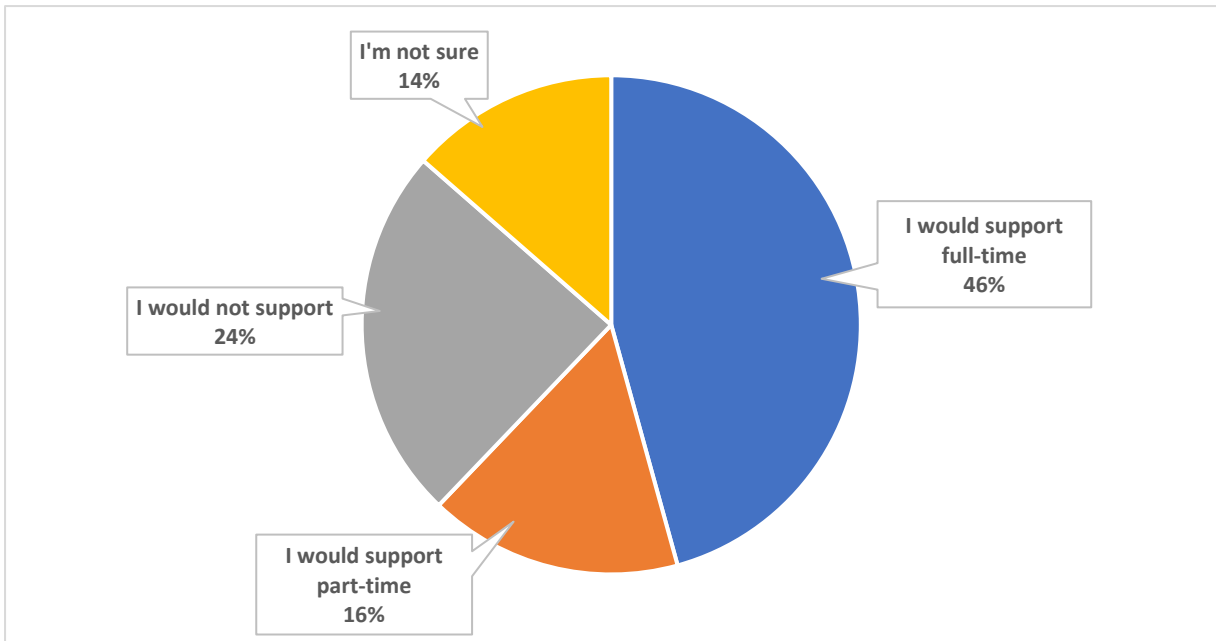
Waste & Recycling

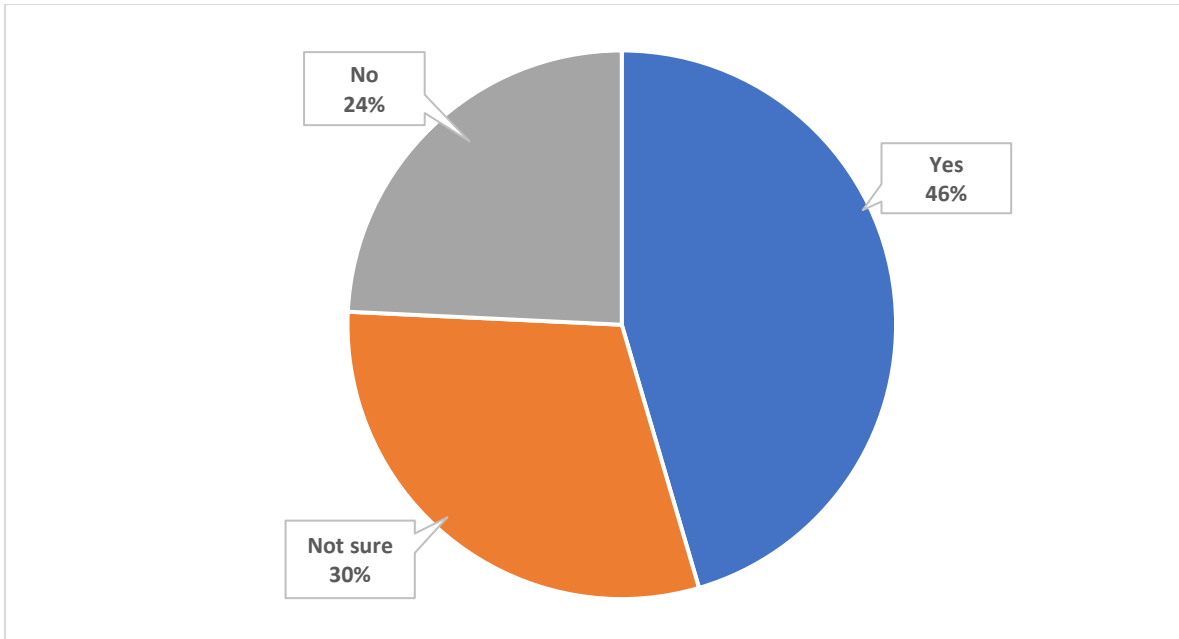Question 15: What would encourage you to recycle more?
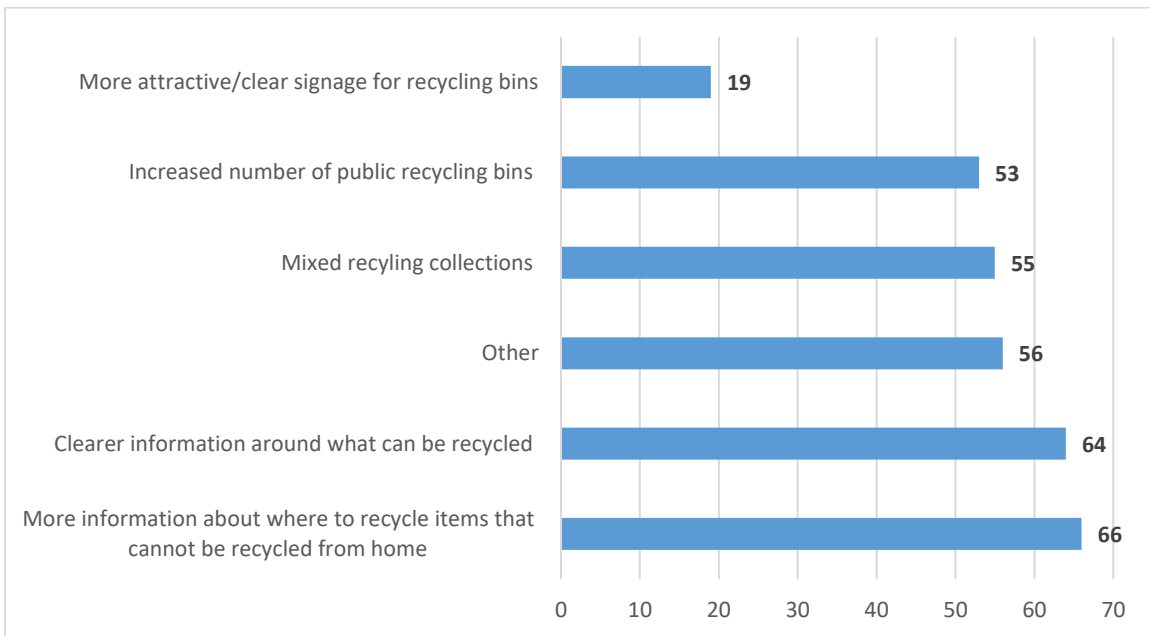
Question 16: Would you take part in any of these community waste reduction schemes?

Question 17: What would stop you from repairing items instead of buying new ones?

Question 18: Would you be interested in an educational workshop or course to learn new skills to repair items?
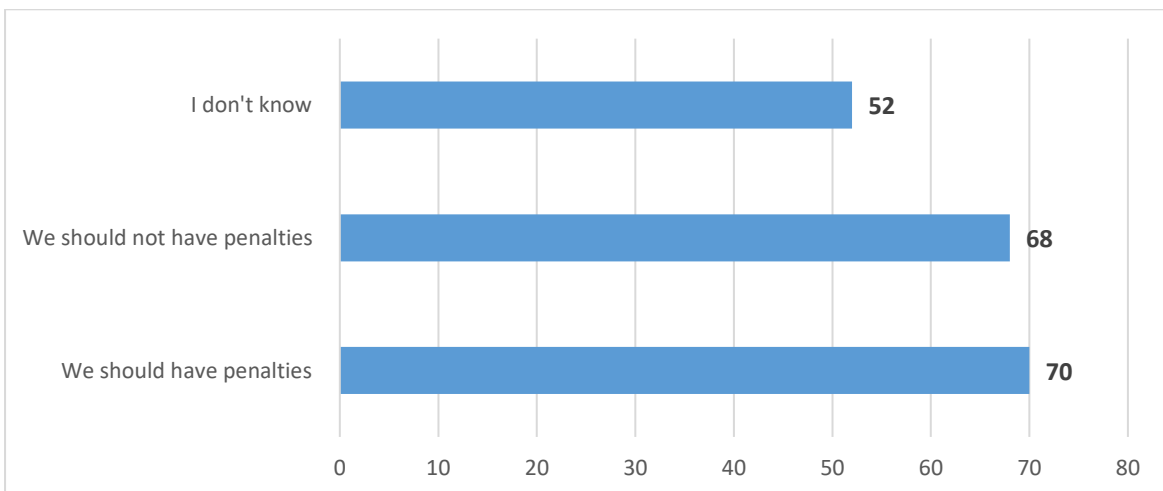
Behaviour Change

Question 19: What type of incentives would encourage you to reduce your carbon footprint?

Answers included: removal of barriers, practical solutions, reduced costs to make sustainable living more accessible, government grants and/or zero interest loans for home energy improvements.

Question 20: The peer groups have suggested penalties for activities, such as fines; increased parking charges; lowered kerbside waste collection (not including recycling); and/or increased ultra-low emissions zones, that were counter-productive to tackling the climate emergency. Which of these statements do you agree with?

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