

Findings Report

What's on your mind?

Talk to us or complete online



2021

Dearne Area Council

Dearne North, Dearne South

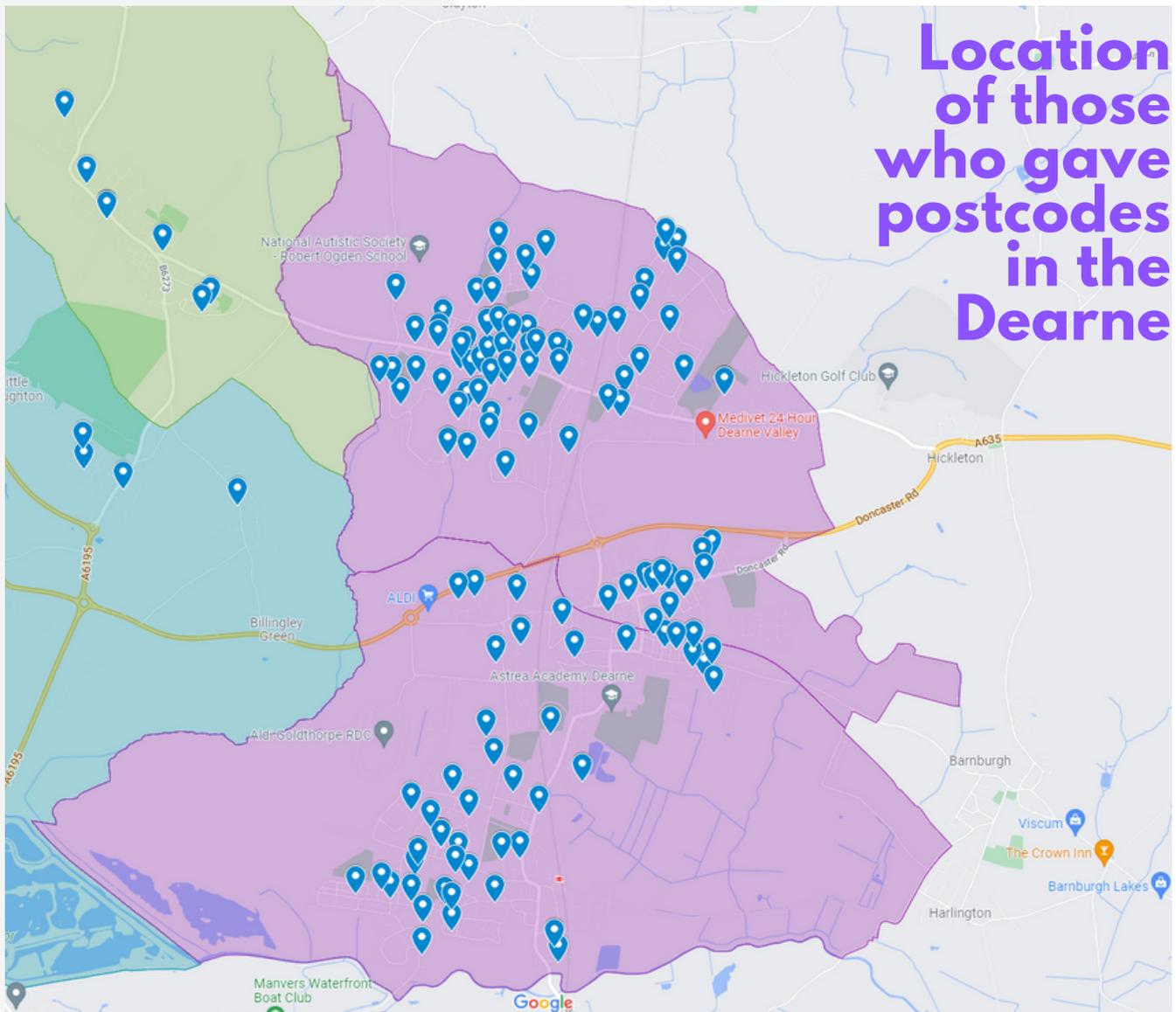
Introduction

234
People took part in the Dearne.
More than any other area

Over the summer the Dearne Area Team held Community Listening sessions. A series of events to get a conversation going about people's feelings and the challenges they face because of the pandemic.

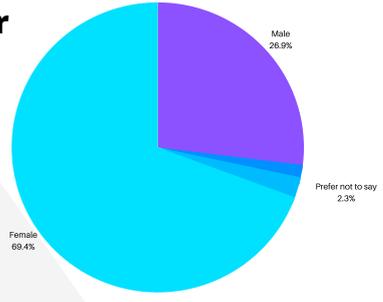
The conversations and online survey were part of a wider exercise that took place across Barnsley by Stronger Communities staff.

The responses were given in long-form free text meaning a level of interpretation, categorisation and analysis was needed. Where possible answers were matched to the same categories used by the Dearne Area Council and Ward Alliances.

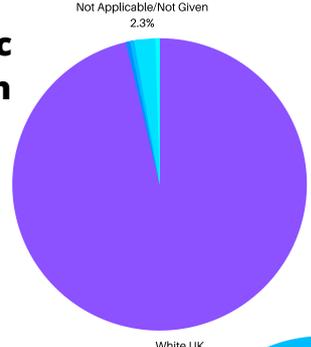


Demographics

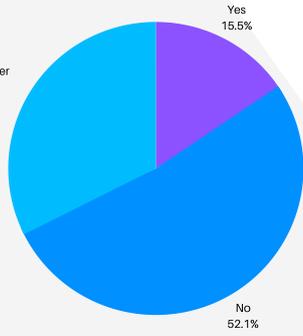
Gender



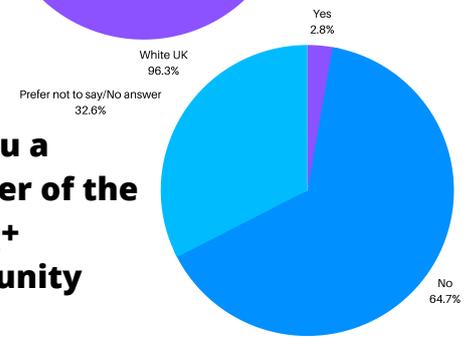
Ethnic Origin



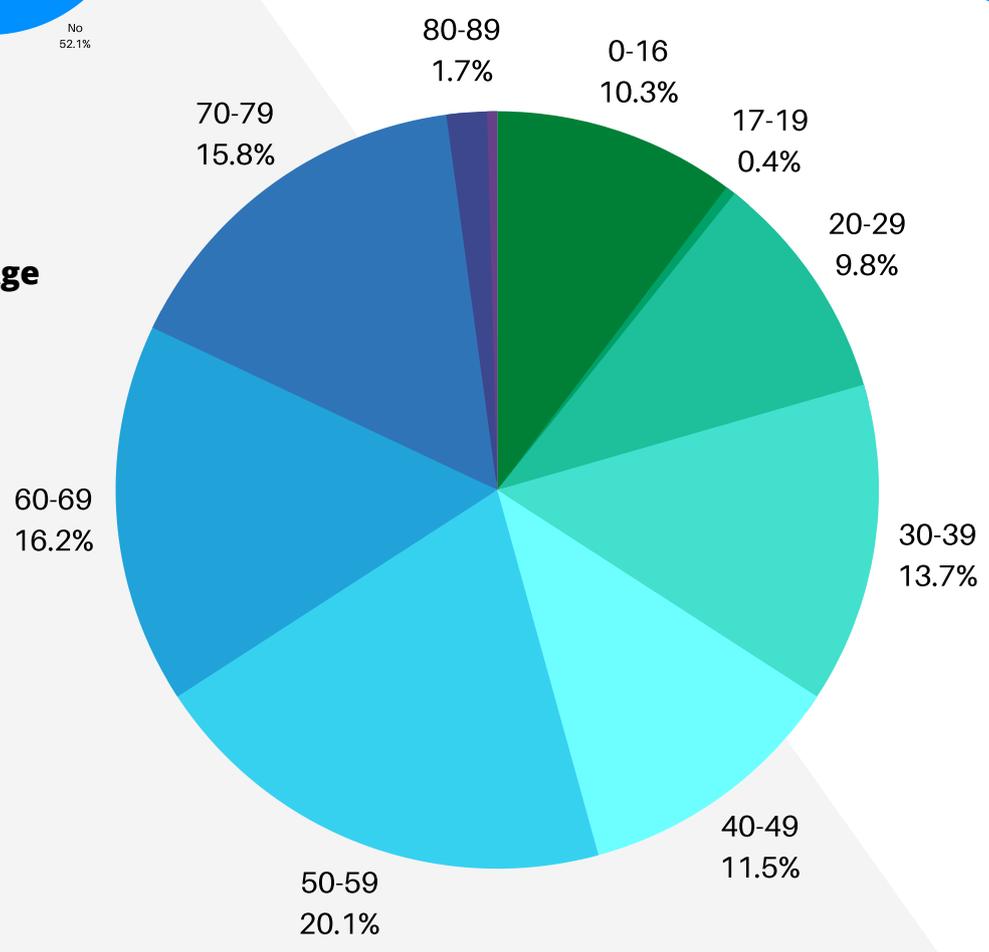
Do you consider yourself to have a disability



Are you a member of the LGBTQ+ community



Age



A good range of ages took part with the majority (60%) being aged between 20-69. Also, the spread of ages was good with no one age group dominating allowing a representative collection of views.

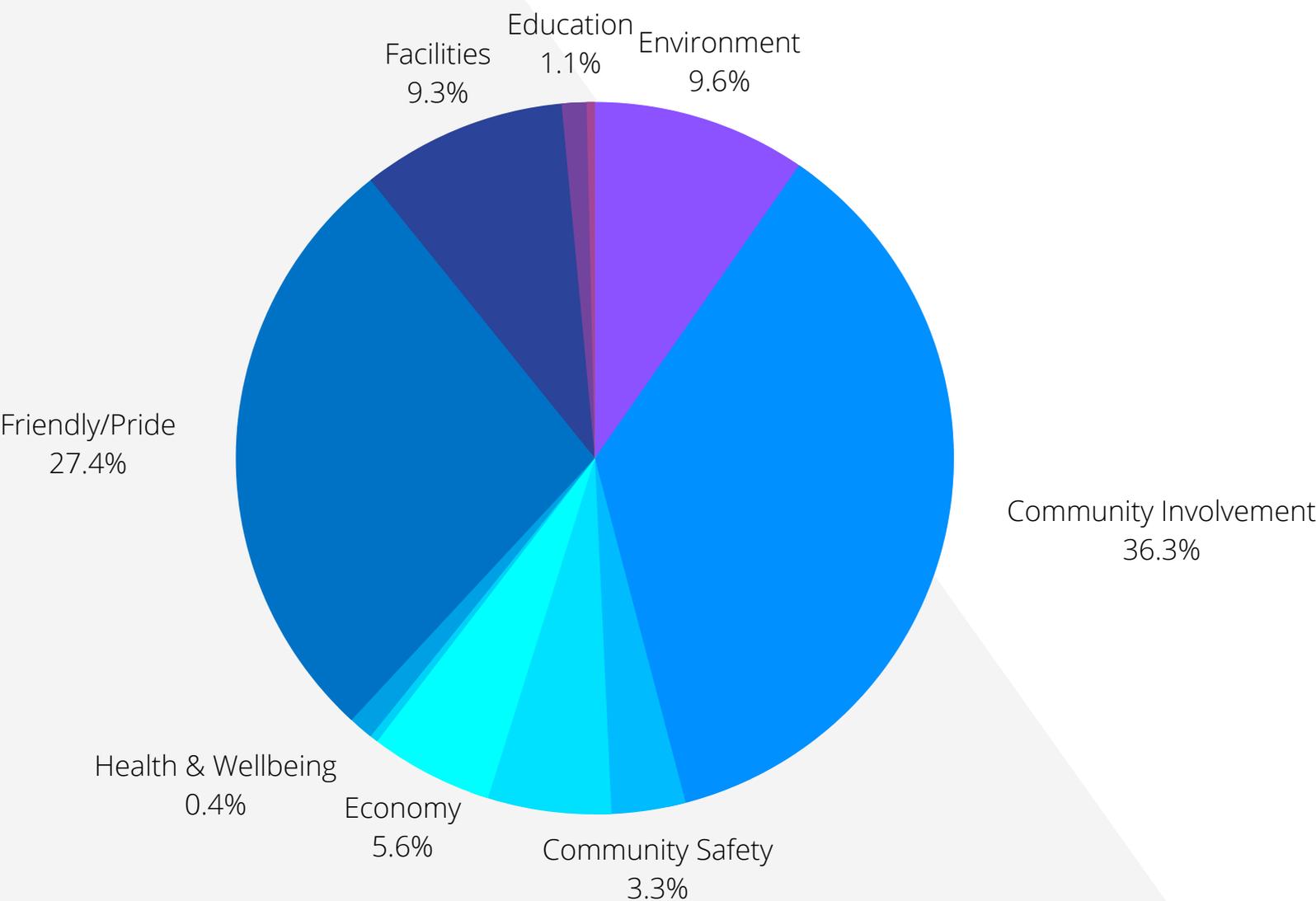
However, the majority of those taking part were female (69.4%) and minority groups were underrepresented. Possible because the focus was collecting as many views as possible rather than targeting specific groups.

Question One

What do you love about your community?

People's answers to this question mostly focused on other people. They enjoy the fact that the community is tight knit, friendly and people are willing to help each other. Community spirit was used often in people's responses showing there is a lot of support for each other.

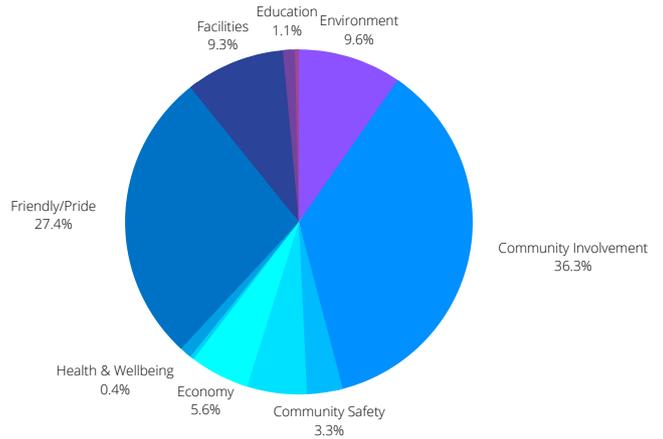
People also value the green spaces, parks and nearby countryside as well as the facilities. Which in this case referred to the community centres, activities available and sporting opportunities nearby.



Question One

Examples

Here is a look at the responses that made up each category.



Community Involvement 36.3%

"people pulling together in bad times"

"i love the effort people put in to making it a better place"

"people are decent and supportive when fundraising"

"community stick together"

"the amount of people who do truly care and take part"

"tight knit community feel amongst most people"

Friendly/Pride 27.4%

"how people all come together and the community spirt"

"friendly community"

" most people are very very friendly"

"the pride local residents have"

"people of Thurnscoe are very friendly. i can walk through with lots of people to talk to"

"people are always friendly as a rule always ready for a chat"

Environment 9.65%

"open spaces, biodiversity"

"the rezza"

"parks flowers and exploring"

"there's lots of parks and a lot of places to go out, wildlife and nature"

"green spaces anything outdoor I love"

Facilities 9.3%

"Hickleton bowling green, played from 7 years old"

"things that are being created for people to us"

"group meetings for OAP in the rainbow centre"

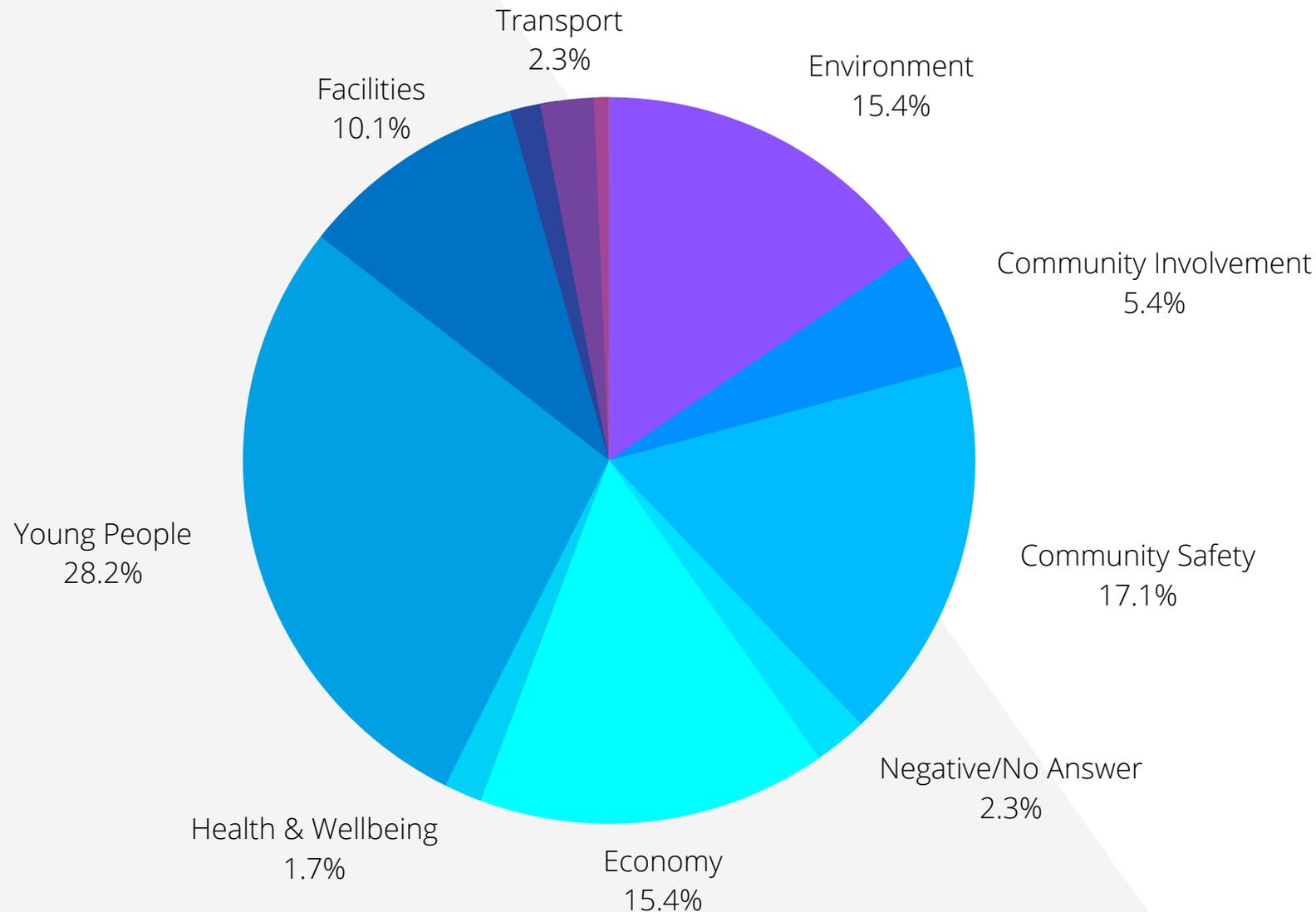
"plenty of interesting things for pensioners"

Question Two

What is needed now and in the future in your community?

There seems to be concern over opportunities for young people and some concern about how they spend their time. This is linked to the community safety responses which included crime, antisocial behaviour, policing comments. Often if young people were mentioned people would also link 'giving them something to do' with a reduction in violence, vandalism or antisocial behaviour.

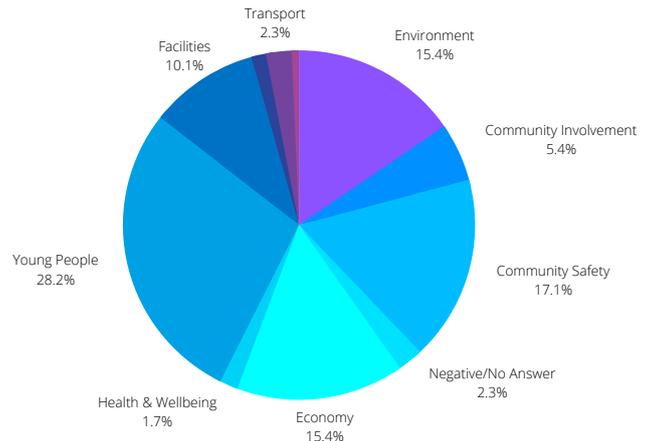
People also want the economy to improve this included shops, jobs, positive development comments. Environmental comments focused on litter and keeping things tidy.



Question Two

Examples

Here is a look at the responses that made up each category.



Young People 28.2%

"more things in place for children such as playing parks, skate parks"

"young people to be involved in everything that goes on. we need to use every opportunity to engage them"

"something for children to do"

"more money spending on projects for the kids to do"

"somewhere for the teenagers to call their own place"

"more activities for the younger generation to keep them occupied"

Community Safety 17.1%

"More Police to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Stop children damaging/trespassing on people's property"

"more police community support officers"

"more police to stop lads been pests"

"help with antisocial behaviour"

"visibility policing especially ASB groups of youths hanging around investment in our green spaces"

"more police presence"

"more police presence and cameras"

Environment 15.4%

"more communal green spaces, additional bins"

"clean up Thurnscoe its like one big dust bin"

"less rubbish, less pollution"

"smashed glass on mansion fields. cleaner streets. big problem with litter. young people need educating on litter."

"more green space and family space"

"more bins"

Economy 15.4%

"A local job Centre for people to seek employment face to face not online"

"new shops for new jobs"

"more local businesses supporting the other local businesses"

"Goldthorpe used to be a busy town with lots of shops and a market,

"a good supermarket"

would be nice to see to busy again"

"jobs and more pride"

Question Three

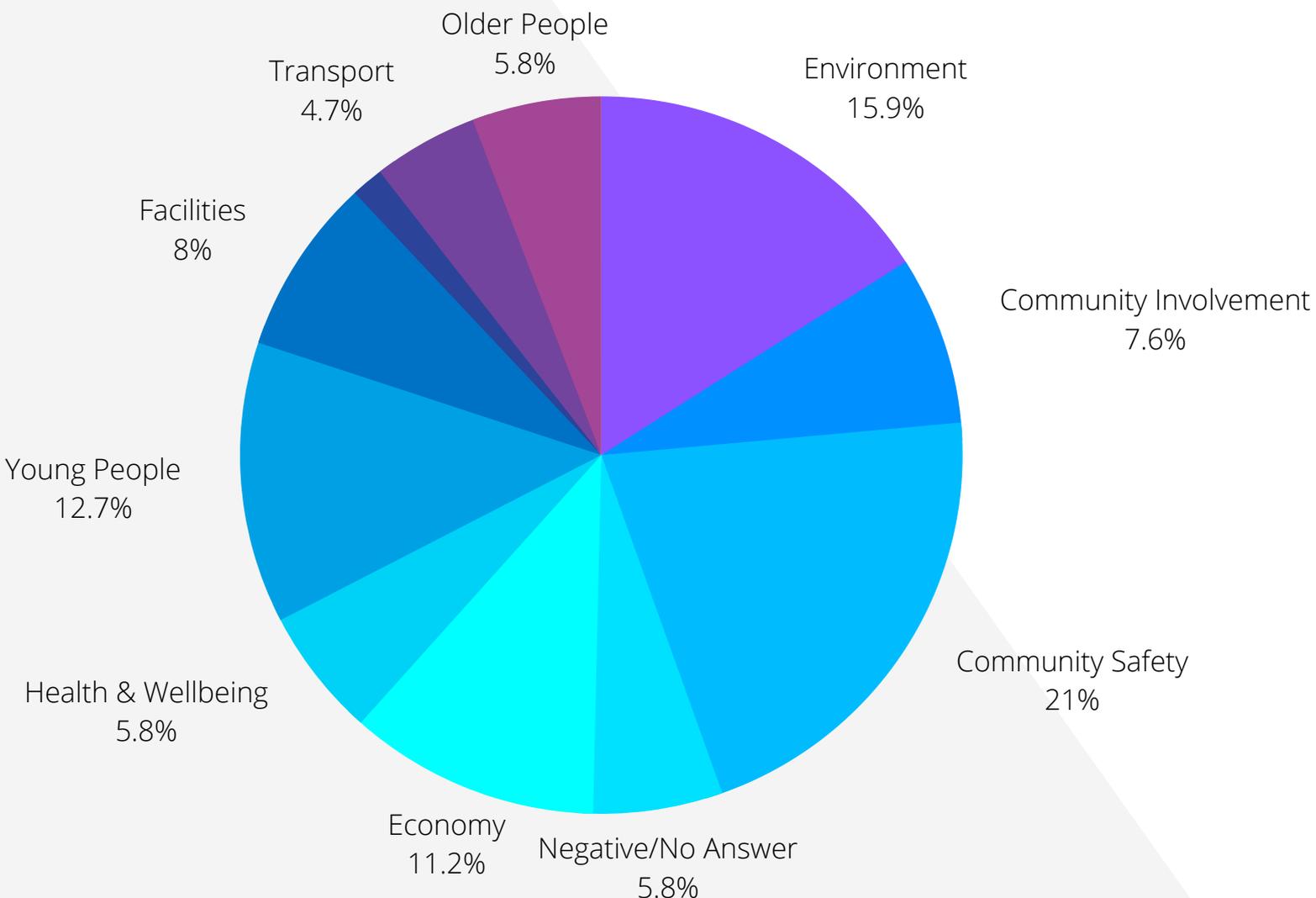
What would add to the quality of life in your community?

While this question seems similar to question two most people answered it differently. The focus of responses shifted from immediate problems to longer term with some suggestions about how to solve those issues.

Broadly they were on the same themes. With people still talking about safety issues, youth activities and intimidation of groups of youths.

There was also a keen interest in keeping the current green spaces clean and tidy while also continuing to invest in parks and facilities in and close to them.

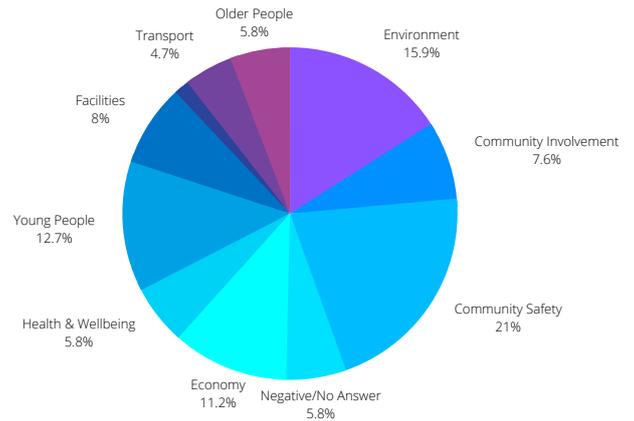
People were also keen that jobs and the highstreets were not forgotten about seeing them as vital to keeping the community vibrant.



Question Three

Examples

Here is a look at the responses that made up each category.



Community Safety 21%

"less crime and more police involvement or being around on patrol more"

"feeling that I could go to bed and not worry what is going to be robbed"

"police attending anti-social behaviour"

"police presence. frightened to go on the streets"

"drugs removed motorbikes and quads removed anti social gangs removed"

"less vandalism, more police"

"being able to go out in the village without been nervous and afraid of groups of young people"

Environment 15.9%

"if people picked up their litter and dog foul. more care for green and outdoor spaces"

"more green spaces"

"more areas to relax, sit and talk"

"cleaner streets, better roads, brighter shopping centre"

"cleaner areas and less boarded up houses"

"improved parks"

"more outdoor spaces that are safe and open to all"

Young People 12.7%

"more out of school activities for the youth"

"not having to travel to other areas for youth services/amenities"

"helping the children and giving them something to do"

"we need to keep the kids under control with more things for them to do."

"gangs of youths been dispersed, motorbikes and quads stopped"

"just get unsocial youths sorted"

Economy 11.2%

"see small businesses back up and running"

"more vibrant high street with cafes allowed to spread out onto the pavements create a continental cafe culture"

"more retailers"

"new businesses food places - food around the world"

"more housing that is cheap and affordable for young generation"

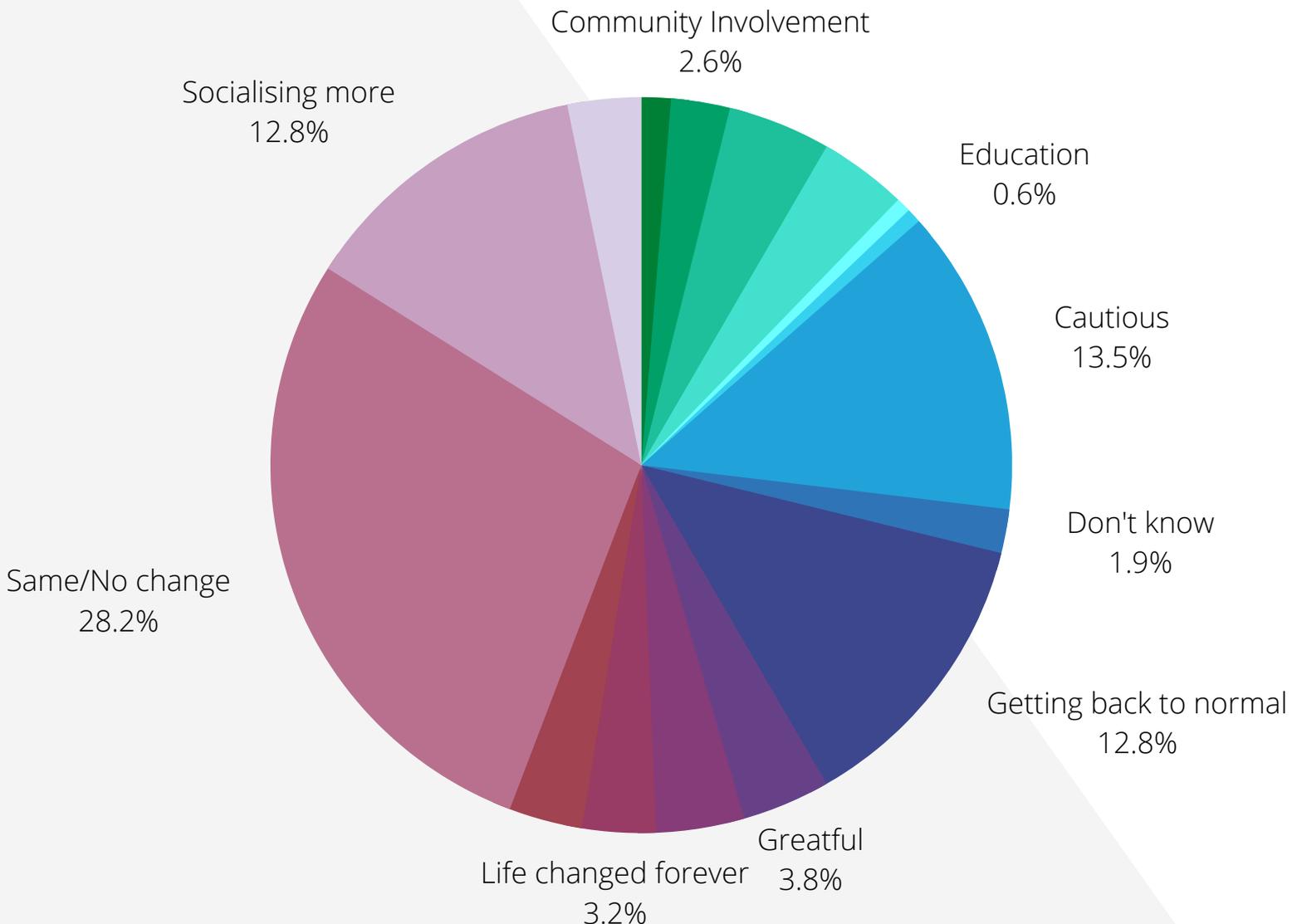
"job opportunities"

Question Four

Looking forward how will your life be different as a result of COVID-19?

With this question, most people gave answers that reflected their own personal circumstances rather than think about the community as a whole. As a result, the answers did not fit into the categories used in the other questions.

The answers reflected where people were in the summer after around 18 months of restrictions. The general themes were around continuing as they had done through the pandemic and returning to 'normal'. Although some were still going to be cautious. This is likely because around the time of the survey the wearing of mandatory face coverings was dropped and other restrictions (e.g. 2 metre rule) but still advised causing some confusion.



Question Four

Examples

Due to the nature of answers here is a sample of responses

"everything is different after spending 18 months in the house"

"nothing, learn to live with it"

"I will be ensuring to see and interact with more people"

"spending more time together as a family"

"i will be more careful"

"hopefully business will pick up again"

"life back to normal and safe"

"everyone should still be cautious but get back to normal"

"it won't be as I work in care, so worked all way through it"

"reluctant to get rid of masks but would like somewhere to go"

"just carry on the same"

"adapting to future customers shopping habits"

"embrace life more. get out and spend time with family and friends"

"Not that different now things are returning to some sort of normality"

"taking advantage of getting out and about more in the local area"

"struggling at times with anxiety"

"no difference"

"working from home on a permanent basis"

"just the same as it is now"

"appreciate the smaller things, open spaces and more time for family"

"to travel to different parts of the country and abroad "

"I now only work in the office 2 days a week and 3 days at home"

"I've had to sell my business"

"never take anything for granted"

Conclusions

The response to Community Listening was very positive with lots of individuals taking part and in some cases giving detailed answers which covered a range of issues. While the conversations and survey has limitations they gave us an opportunity to re-engage with the general public, introduce and promote the role of the Dearne Area Team, Area Council and Ward Alliance. It also gave the team to physically work together after staff changes and the limitations of the pandemic.

The answers reveal that the people, community and the sense of togetherness are the main things that individuals like about the area. While there is a broad range of things that people think are needed to improve the community people are concerned about crime, antisocial behaviour, policing. They feel the root cause of these issues is the lack of activities for the youth.

People would also like to see the commitment to the environment continue, investment in the economy including jobs and retail. While it was not one of the top responses mental health issues also featured in questions three and four staff felt it is likely that more targeted questions around this issue would reveal this to be a more significant concern.

While some of the issues raised go beyond the remit and scope of Area Team, Area Council and Ward Alliance they can form part of the focus of future work. The results will also help when influencing Barnsley Council colleagues and partner agencies about the concerns and feelings for people in the Dearne.



Community Listening