

Findings Report

What's on your mind?

Talk to us or complete online



2021

Penistone Area Council

Penistone East, Penistone West

Introduction

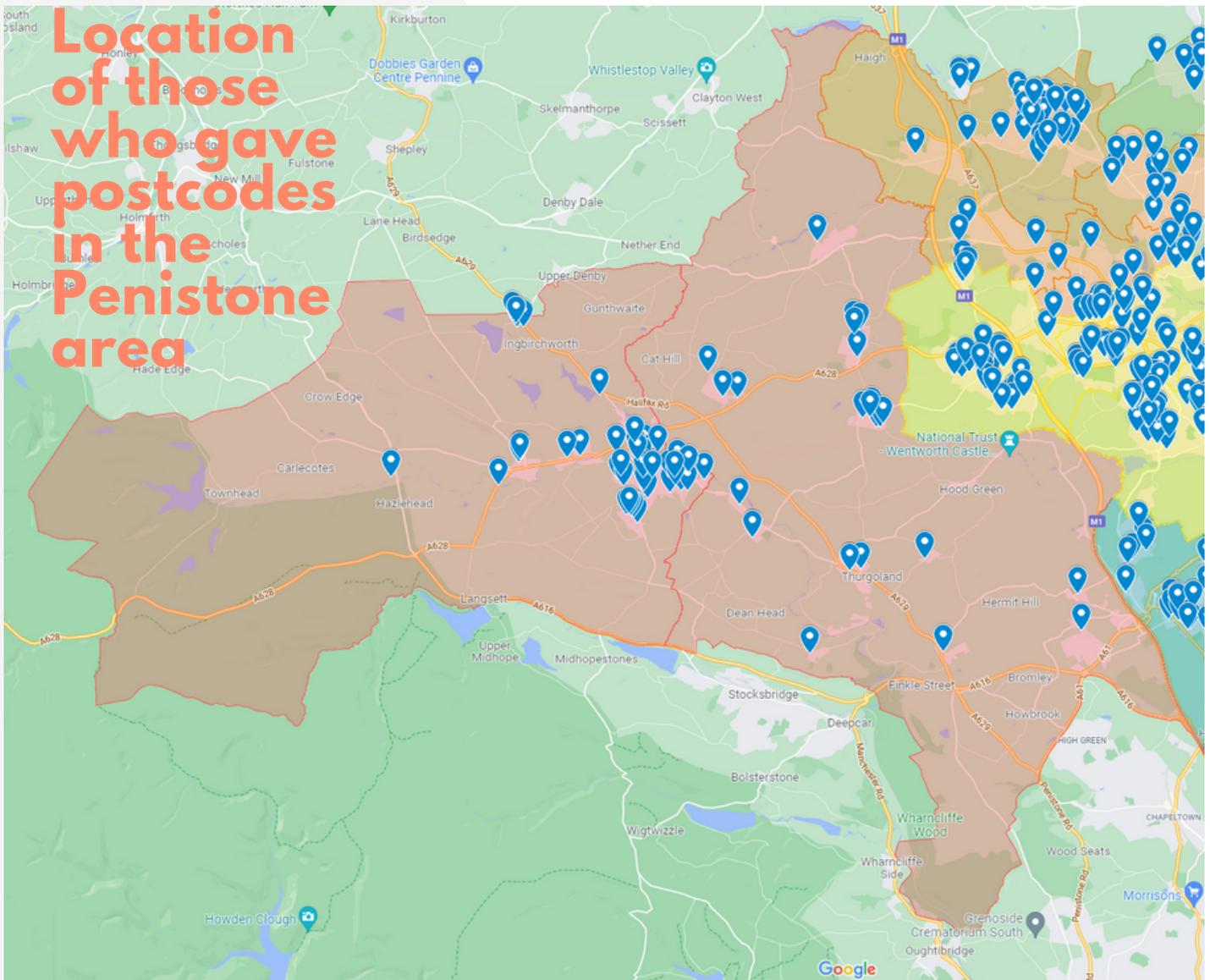
83

People took part many giving very detailed answers

Over the summer the Penistone 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.

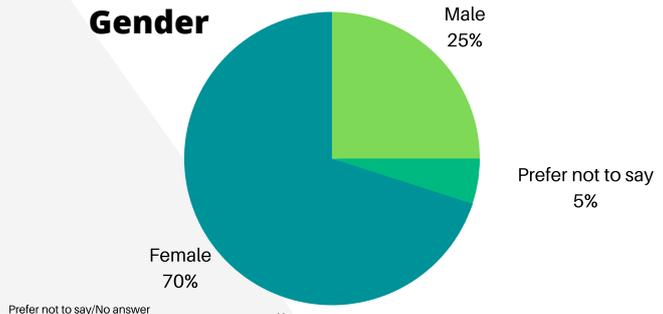
The conversations and online survey were part of a wider exercise that took place across Barnsley by Stronger Communities staff.

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 Penistone Area Council and Ward Alliances.

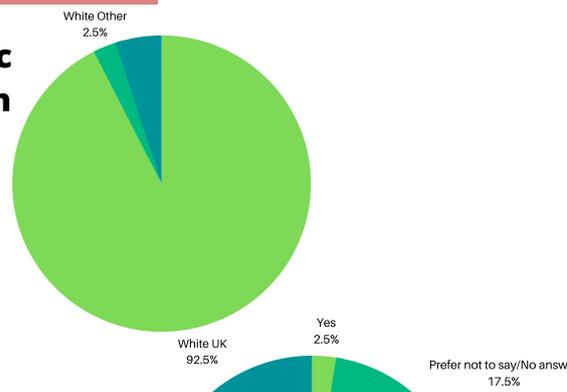


Demographics

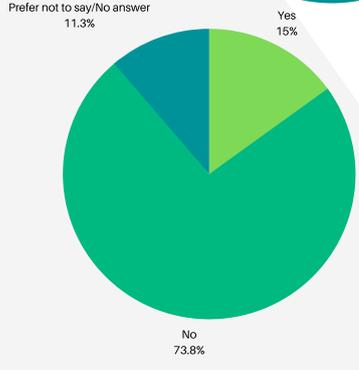
Gender



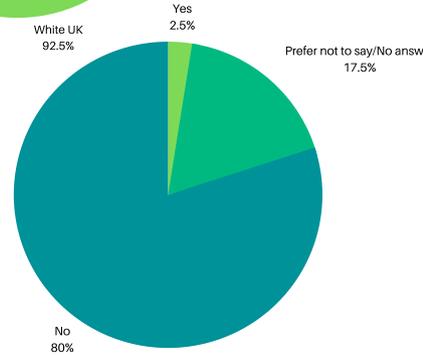
Ethnic Origin



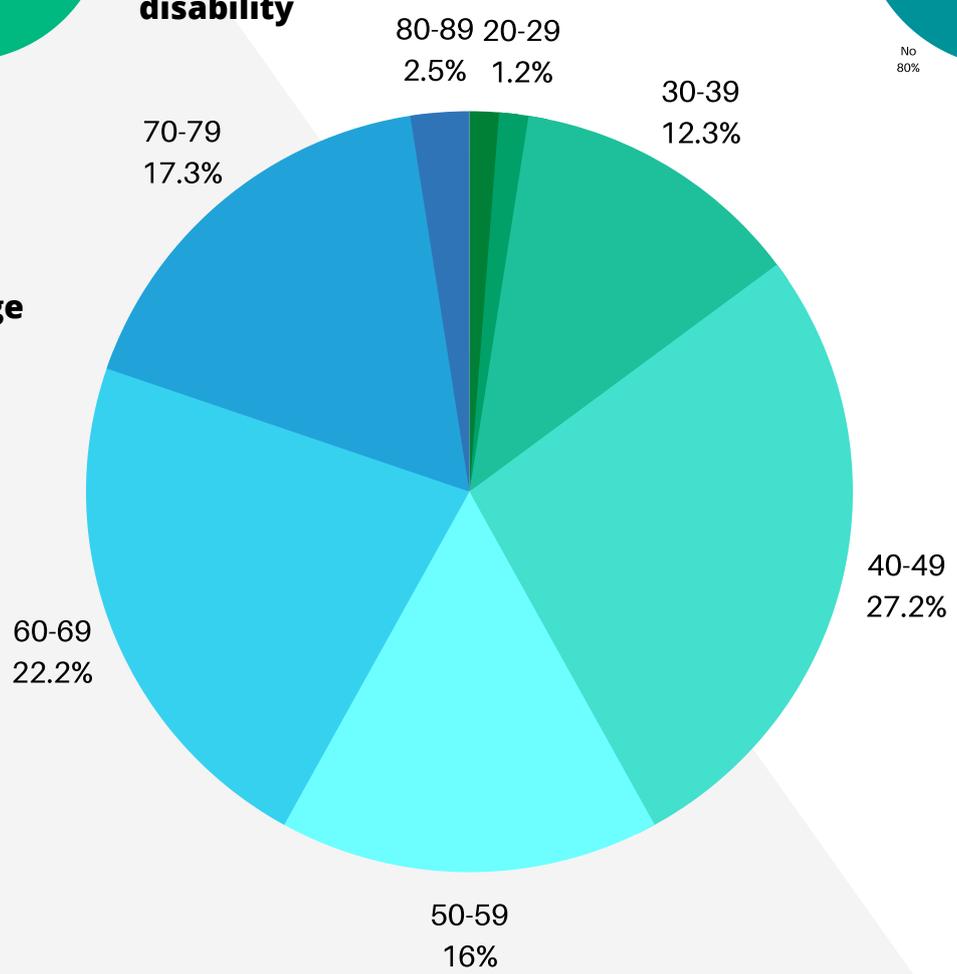
Do you consider yourself to have a disability



Are you a member of the LGBTQ+ community



Age



A good range of ages took part with the majority (70%) being aged between 20-69. Also, the spread of ages was good with no one age group dominating allowing a representative collection of views.

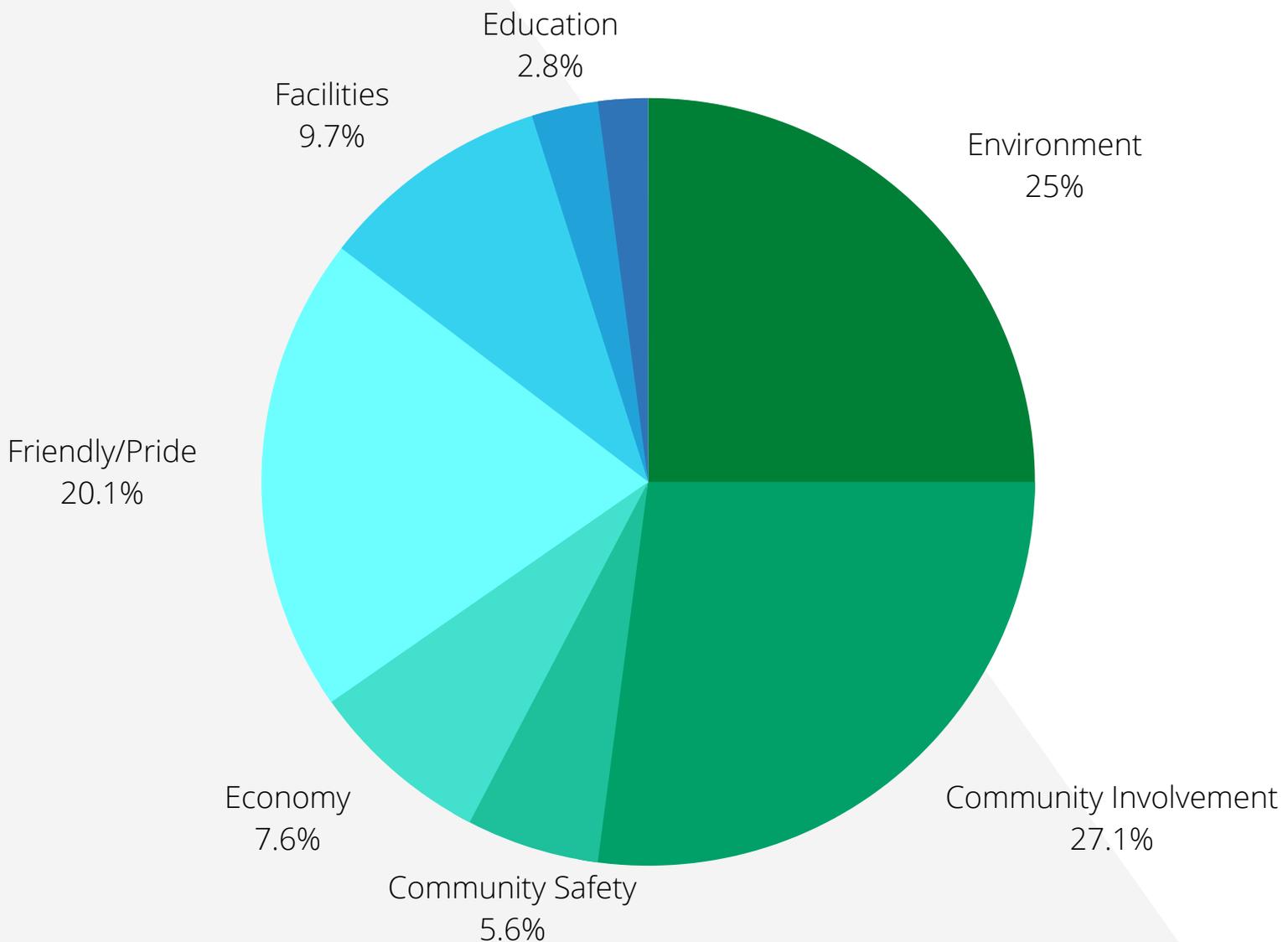
However, the majority of those taking part were female (70%) and minority groups were underrepresented. Possible because the focus was collecting as many views as possible rather than targeting specific groups.

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. The responses show that people value the amount of support for each other in both formal organised groups and informal neighbours helping neighbours.

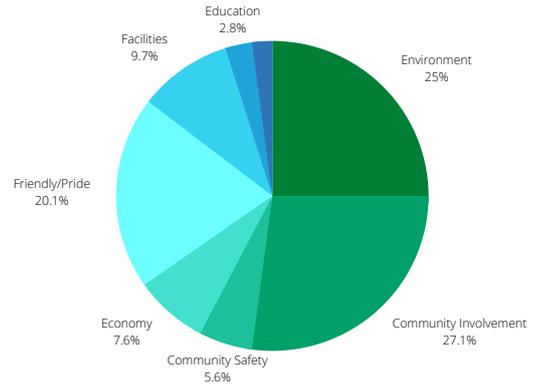
People also value the green spaces, parks and nearby countryside as well as the facilities. Which in this case referred to the community centres, activities available and sporting opportunities nearby.



Question One

Examples

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



Community Involvement 27.1%

" Everyone is very friendly, it has a huge community feel about it where everyone gets together "

"The projects that are available to the community"

"There are lots of groups in the area including the Penistone Allotment Society "

"people are committed to the community and want it to be a good area to live for everyone"

"I love the way the community comes together in times of need"

"Community Spirit - there is a great network here"

Environment 25%

"Green open spaces"

"The accessible greenbelt land that's on our doorstep"

"I love the rural location"

"The countryside - we have some great views"

"I love its ruralness and the TPT. It has easy access to the countryside"

Friendly/Pride 20.1%

"Its a lovely place and a friendly community"

"friendly community"

" Good sense of belonging"

"the pride local residents have"

"The people are great. Everyone likes to chip in whenever they can"

"People seem to take pride in where they live"

Facilities 9.7%

"Very friendly community Paramount is great "

"Good amenities"

It's a fully functioning town with everything you might need ie. cinema, railway station, market, doctors surgery etc"

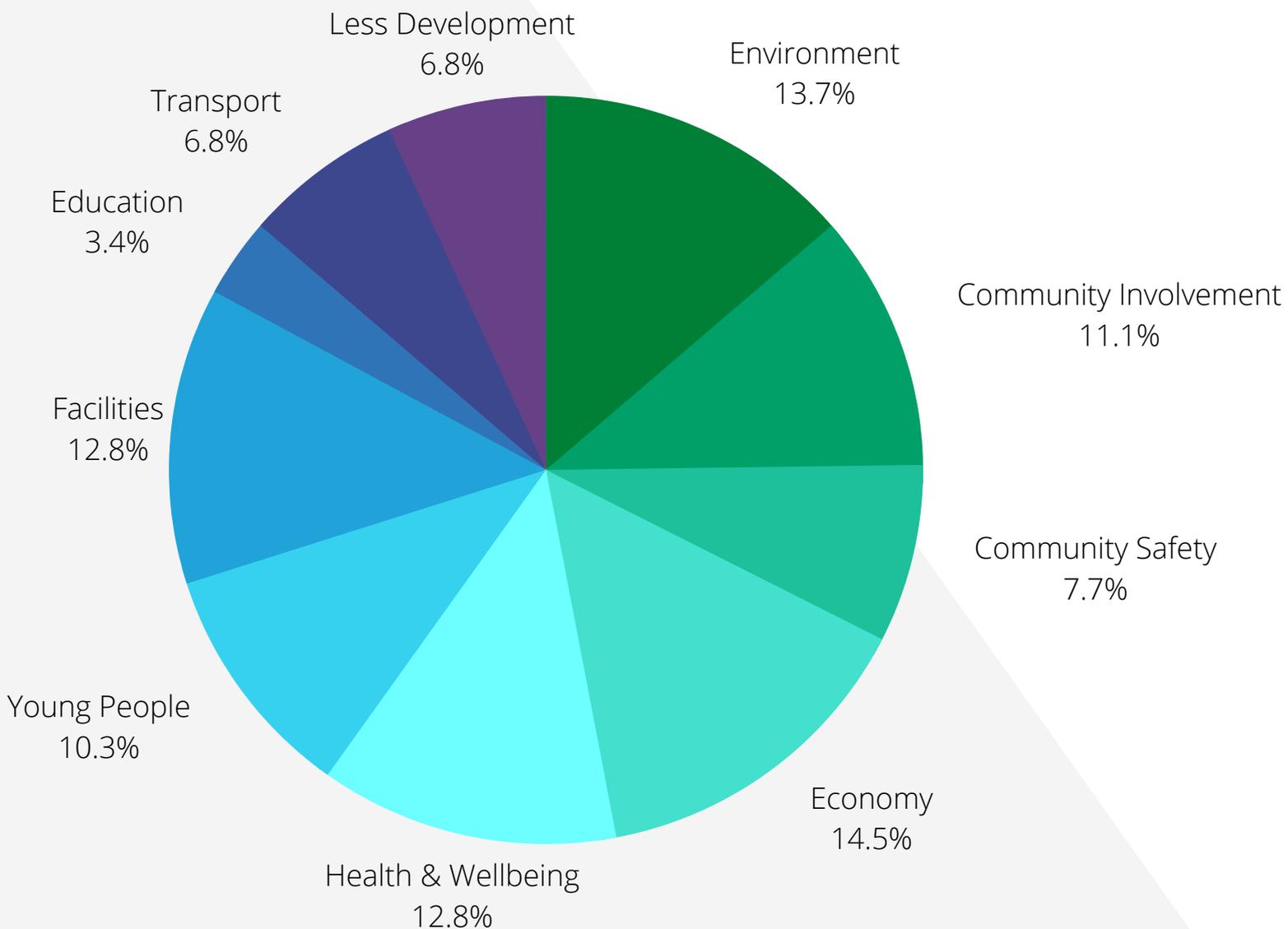
"It has easy access to the countryside, good facilities and good schools"

Question Two

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

There wasn't one stand out answer for this question responses were fairly evenly split among the categories. However, people are concerned about the economy. Answers tended to focus on retail and the need to protect and improve. This is likely as people recognise this as a tough period and if businesses are lost they will be difficult to replace.

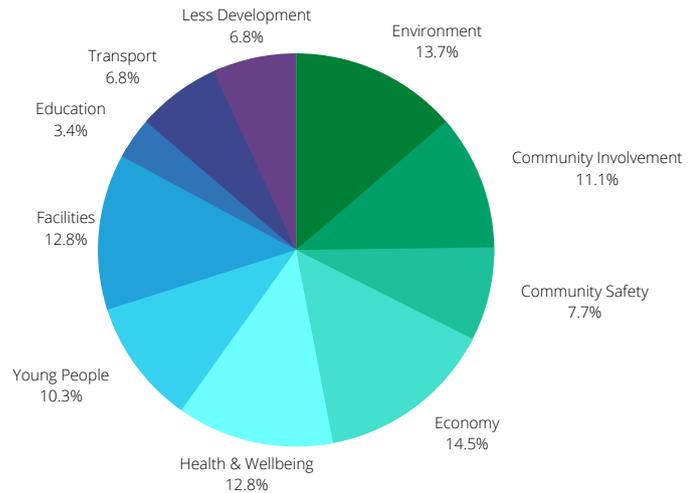
Environmental comments focused on litter and keeping things tidy. While people also mentioned that more community facilities are needed. There was also a concern about access to primary care. It is likely this is linked to planned development and the impact people think this will have on services



Question Two

Examples

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



Economy 14.5%

"better high street - to make the experience of socialising more"

"We should be trying to encourage more local shops to open and get more people to shop locally"

"More restaurants and bars"

"A wider variety of businesses on the High Street which will encourage people to shop local"

"If we want to encourage people to come here we could do with better signage especially from the railway station"

Environment 13.7%

"Dog waste is one of the biggest problems. It's an absolute joke"

"Litter picking and educating people more on waste management"

"Protection of green spaces Reductions in traffic volume Increased provision for alternative transport"

"More areas with flowers and/or blossom trees, especially on the entrance to the village"

"Better street cleaning and improved pavements to help elderly"

Facilities 12.8%

"More allotment provision"

"we are saddened at the loss of facilities within our community. We have no community hub - hopefully the Fountain Inn will help rectify this"

"More outdoor play equipment for pre-school children like the one at Oxspring."

"Community centre in Oxspring."

" We could do with improved public toilets"

Health & Wellbeing 12.8%

"More doctors, schools and dentists"

"Better primary care services - very difficult to get an appointment at the doctors, long waits"

"Day services for people with learning disabilities"

"New resources - doctors, dental and schools - more people in the area have overwhelmed what is there"

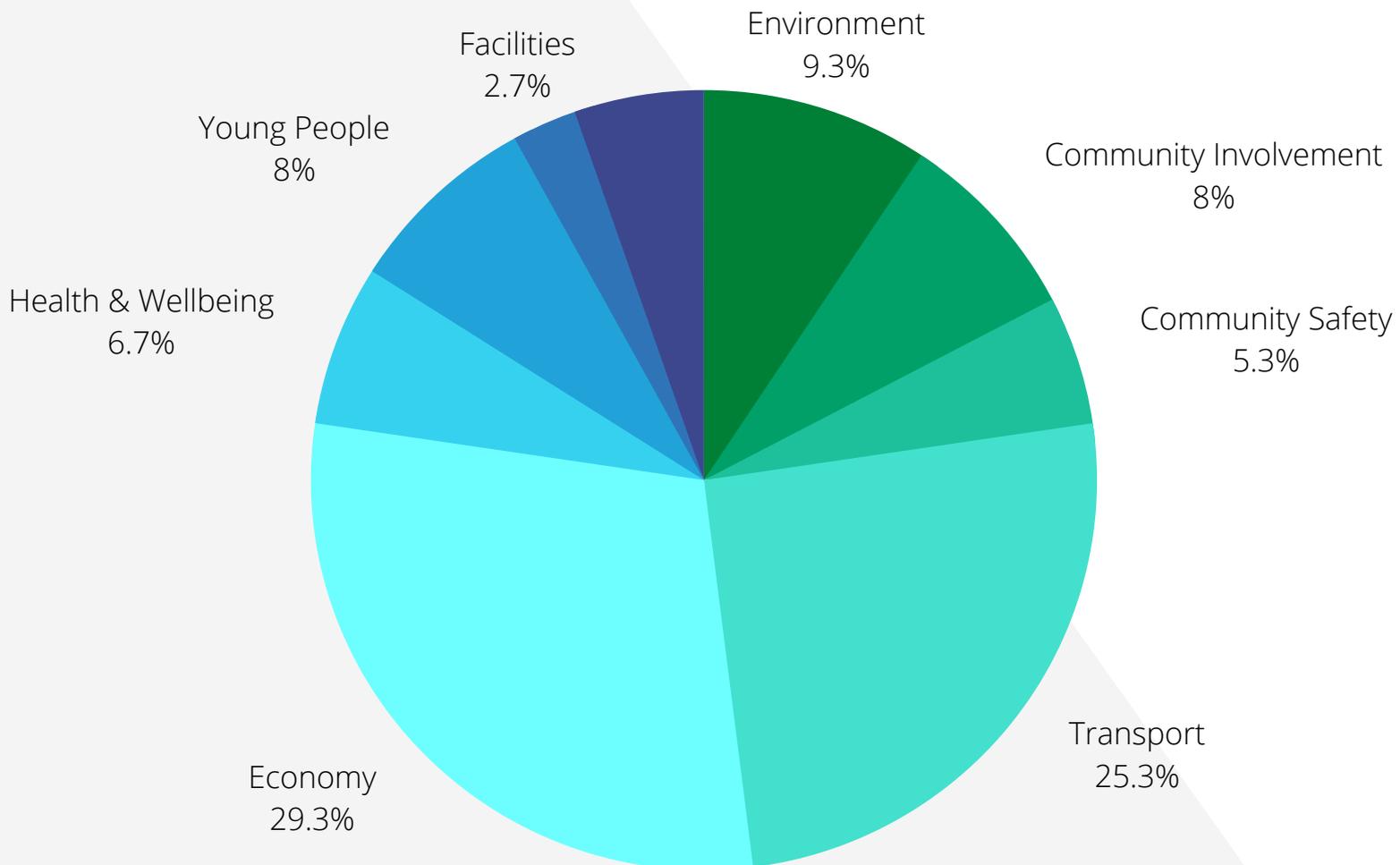
Question Three

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 shifted from a broad range of issues to a focus on transport and the economy.

Broadly they expanded on the answers given in question two wanting the retailers and food and drink establishments to survive and grow. The key reasons were if the current businesses go it could create a domino effect, they might not be replaced and the local community would then need to travel for shopping and leisure.

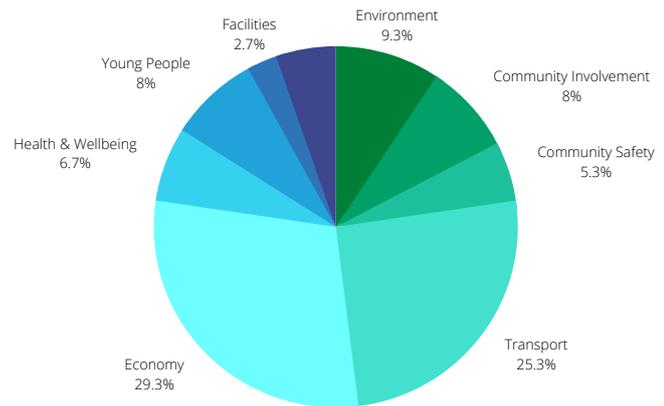
People were also keen that transport links are at least maintained or upgraded and that road safety levels improve. These are seen as vital to keeping the community vibrant.



Question Three

Examples

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



Economy 29.3%

"For poorer sections of the community could be offered more targeted help"

"Another supermarket"

"Need to keep the high street vibrant"

"The town is getting better now - the high street got run down but it's good to see more local shops, would be good to get more. Still feels like we don't get the money we should be getting out here. "

"Keeping the local pub running"

Transport 25.3%

"Improvement in traffic management - not necessarily speed bumps"

"Something needs to be done about speeding on the main road through the village."

"there's a lot of traffic which makes cycling difficult "

"Better more often bus service to and from Silkstone to Penistone"

"Less traffic and alternative route via bridge end"

"Better transport links"

Environment 9.3%

"I would like to see the trees looked after, there are a lot overgrowing on to the roads"

"Better litter picking"

"Protection of greenbelt and nature and a change in direction from BMBC to protect our precious green spaces"

"the green areas not be vulnerable to fly tipping"

"Regular maintenance of bankings/sidings to maintain tidiness. If these areas are to be left then they need to be actively managed to form wildflower areas "

Young People 8%

"Probably something for young people"

"We once had a youth club for young ones in our village but they shut it up for some reason"

"More activities for children and families"

"Needs more facilities for the younger ones - from babies to 17years"

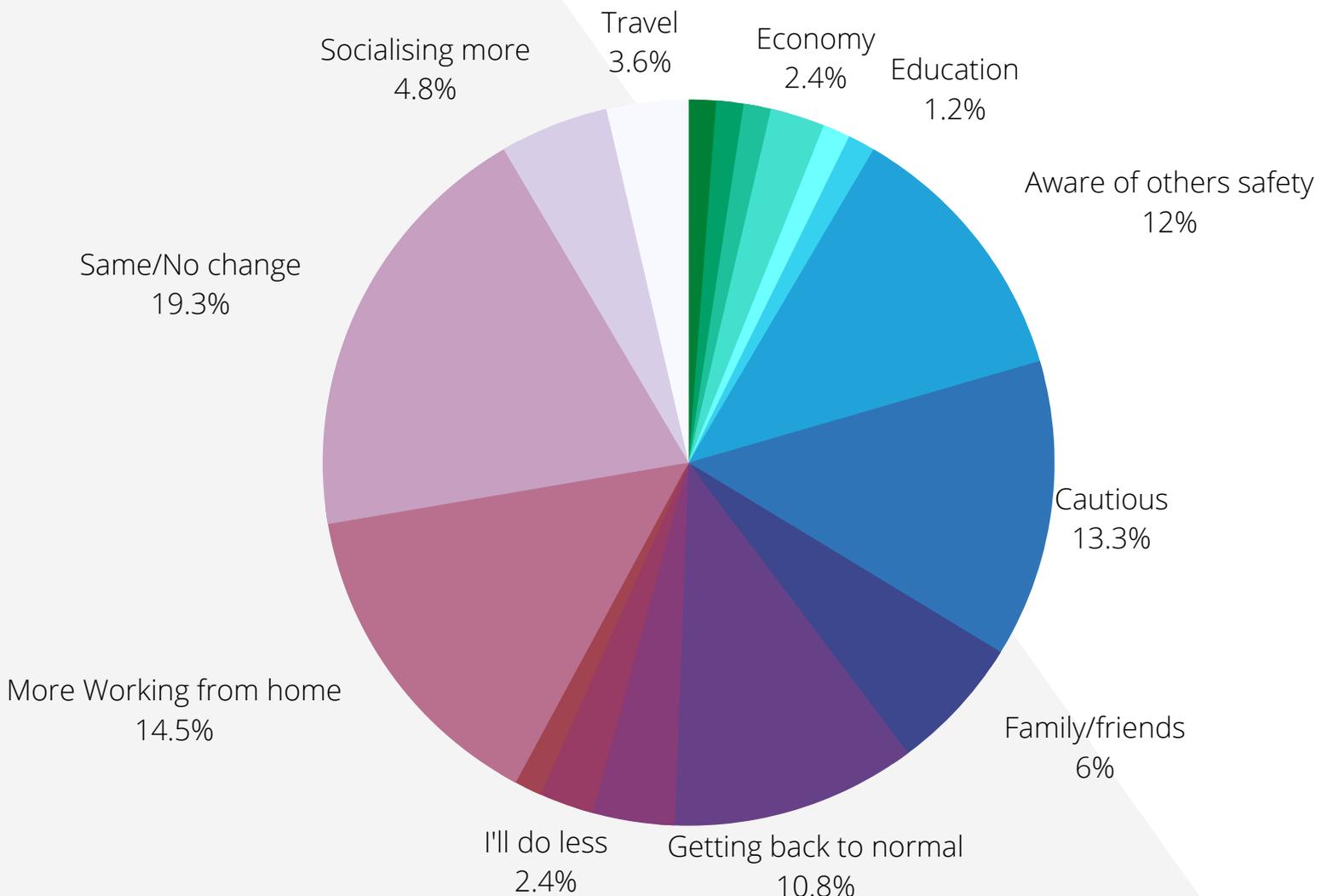
"More activities for younger old people"

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. Other restrictions (e.g. 2 metre rule) were still advised causing some confusion.



Question Four

Examples

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

"I'll be working at home more less commuting"

"Lower income"

"I will wear masks in supermarkets"

"spending more time together as a family"

"My life will be no different as a result of COVID"

"hopefully business will pick up again"

"life back to normal and safe"

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

"Worked throughout - life continues as normal for me"

"We will value our friends and family more"

"able to go on holidays and looking forward to it"

"adapting to future customers shopping habits"

"I hope people continue to support their neighbours and others"

"I don't want to get on the bus as I feel anxious about other people"

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

"struggling at times with anxiety"

"It has helped me to re-focus my life"

"just the same as it is now"

"A lot more careful and aware of crowds"

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

"appreciation about how lonely it can be not being able to leave the house"

"I've had to sell my business"

"never take anything for granted"

Conclusions

The response to Community Listening was very positive with a wide 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 Penistone Area Team, Area Council and Ward Alliance. It also gave the team the opportunity 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 the economy and transport. This is likely because although they like living in the area they recognise that it could be exposed and possibly cut off if the economy and transport links do not remain strong.

People would also like to see the commitment to the environment continue, The green spaces and countryside are major reasons why people choose to live in the area. They feel passionate about protecting it and keeping it tidy.

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 of people across the Penistone area.



Community Listening