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***Gedling Borough Council
Residents Survey 2005***

***Prepared For Gedling Borough Council
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Introduction

This report summarises the main findings from a survey of residents undertaken on behalf of Gedling Borough Council.

Method

Questionnaires were mailed to a random sample of 1,650 addresses drawn from the small users Postal Address File (PAF) on 11th October 2005. Questionnaires were addressed to 'The Residents at ...'

After one reminder a total of 812 completed questionnaires were received with a further 10 returned as undeliverable, and 14 incomplete. This represents 1% 'deadwood' and an effective response rate of 50%.

A copy of the questionnaire used is appended to this document. Some questions were repeated from the BVPI General survey carried out in both 2000 and 2003.

Weighting of Data

Data has been weighted to ensure that the results are fully representative of the population of the Borough.

All results discussed in this document are based on the weighted data.

Comparison with Previous Surveys

Where possible results have been compared with the results from the BVPI General Surveys carried out during 2000 and 2003.

It must be borne in mind that all survey data is subject to a statistical margin of error, so care must be taken when interpreting changes between the surveys. Where an observed difference between the surveys is within the margin of error then it can be said that the results are effectively the same – i.e. the difference is not statistically significant. As a guideline a difference of less than 5% will generally not be significant.

Where appropriate, comments are made on the statistical significance or otherwise of the data shown.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Duty to Keep Land Clear of Litter and Refuse

Overall 67% residents are satisfied with the Authority's performance in terms of keeping open public land clear of litter and refuse, with 15% being dissatisfied.

The latest survey shows a virtually identical response to that seen in 2003.

Household Waste Collection

Overall, 79% of residents are satisfied with the waste collection service (down from 89% in 2003).

Recycling sites

Overall, 74% of residents are satisfied with the recycling facilities provided by the Council,

Though the overall level of satisfaction has remained much the same, there has been a significant increase in the proportion very satisfied in 2005 (up from 23% to 31%.)

Recycling Collection Service

Overall 79% of residents are satisfied with the recycling collection service, up from 72% in 2003. Furthermore, the proportion very satisfied rose from 31% to 39%.

Cultural and Recreational Activities

Frequency of use

Overall, 56% of residents have used the Authority's sports and leisure facilities in the last twelve months, 81% of whom were satisfied (up from 75% in 2003).

In the last twelve months, 74% have visited parks or open spaces, 82% of whom were satisfied (up from 78% in 2003).

The Authority As A Whole

The Way the Authority Runs Things

Overall, 67% of residents said they are satisfied with the way the Authority runs things, with 11% showing some degree of dissatisfaction and 22% opting for the neutral neither satisfied nor dissatisfied position.

The pattern of response on the latest survey was virtually identical to that seen in 2003.

Have Things Got Better or Worse

Overall, 62% of residents feel that the way the Council runs things has not changed over this period. Amongst the remainder 26% believe the Council has got better and 12% say it is worse.

A large proportion feel that there have been improvements in waste services – 45% in the case of the collection of household waste; 36% see an improvement in local recycling facilities and 58% in the doorstep collection of recyclables.

Whilst 63% believe that the authority's performance in terms of keeping open land clear of litter and refuse has stayed the same, 24% feel it has got better and 13% say it has got worse.

For both sports and leisure facilities and parks, around three-quarters feel there has been no change, with the balance of opinion amongst the remainder being favourable.

Information Provision

Overall, 70% of residents with an opinion on the matter believe that the council keeps residents well informed about the services and benefits it provides – up from 64% in 2003.

Living In Gedling Borough

Around three-quarters of residents say they are satisfied with Gedling Borough as a place to live. Only 9% expressed any degree of dissatisfaction, with the remainder opting for the neutral neither satisfied nor dissatisfied position.

Whilst just over half say that Gedling is about the same as most other areas as a place to live, 41% rate it as being better than other areas.

When asked about living in Gedling over the last two years, 71% feel there has been no change, with the remainder equally divided as to whether it has got better or worse.

The Neighbourhood

Residents were given a list of 25 facilities and services and were asked to rate each on a scale of excellent to poor, and then say whether they feel each has got better, stayed the same or got worse over the last two years.

For ease of reporting, the 25 facilities and services have been broken down into five different groups.

Leisure Facilities

The most highly rated of the leisure facilities listed are access to nature, which 65% rate as either excellent or good, parks and open spaces with 62% giving ratings of excellent or good, and sports and leisure facilities (60%). Around a quarter also say that parks and open spaces have got better over the last two years, and 18% believe sports and leisure facilities have improved.

Activities for children, and facilities for young children are rated as excellent or good by around 40% of those with an opinion, with a further 42% rating each as fair. Whilst around three-quarters say these have stayed the same over the last two years, a small group feel there has been some improvement (17% and 14% respectively).

Activities for teenagers, on the other hand, is rated as poor by 59% of those with an opinion, with the majority of the remainder only giving a rating of fair (32%). Furthermore, 27% believe that this has got worse over the last two years.

Cultural facilities are similarly poorly rated (60%) with 16% saying this has worsened.

In the case of community activities, 35% give ratings of excellent or good, with a further 50% rating them as fair. The majority believe there has been no change in these facilities (81%).

The Street Scene

Overall, 45% of those with an opinion give a rating of excellent or good for clean streets, with the majority of the remainder rating them as fair (36%). Two-thirds feel this has not changed in the last two years, with the remainder equally divided as to whether things have got better or worse.

For road and pavement repairs, whilst the majority give positive ratings, 31% nevertheless rate performance as poor, with 27% feeling the situation has got worse over the last two years.

Only 16% rate the level of traffic congestion as excellent or good, with 39% rating it as poor, and almost half saying it has got worse.

Whilst the majority rate the level of pollution as excellent, good or fair (84%), around a quarter believe it has got worse over the last two years.

The majority are happy with landscaping and tree planting – 44% giving a rating of excellent or good and a further 45% as fair. Whilst three-quarters feel this has not changed in the last two years, 18% feel it has got better.

Planning and Building

Around a third of those with an opinion rate both building design and quality and conservation of the historic environment as either excellent or good, with the majority of the remainder giving a rating of fair. The majority also feel that these have not changed in the last two years (78% and 83% respectively).

A significant minority rate affordable decent housing as poor (28%), with 38% believing the situation has got worse over the last two years.

Education, Health and Wealth

Overall, 56% of those with an opinion rate education provision in the Borough as excellent or good, with a further 37% rating it as fair. Whilst the majority feel this has stayed the same over the last two years, a small group feel it has improved (15%).

Similarly, the majority rate health services as excellent or good (56%) or fair (35%). Whilst 69% feel this has not changed, the remainder are divided in their opinion as to whether this has got better or worse.

A significant minority rate wage levels and the local cost of living (28%) and job prospects (21%) as being poor, with almost a third feeling that wage levels have got worse over the last two years.

Other Services/Issues

Overall, 60% of those with an opinion rate shopping facilities as being excellent or good, and 70% feel these have not changed over the last two years.

The majority of those with an opinion also rate public transport as excellent or good (64%), and 28% feel it has improved over the last two years.

The majority of those with an opinion on race relations feel the situation is excellent or good (57%) or fair (36%), with most feeling it has not changed.

Overall, 40% of those with an opinion rate the level of crime as poor, and half feel it has got worse over the last two years.

The Neighbourhood Overall

When asked to rate their neighbourhood overall, 55% gave a rating of excellent or good, with the majority of the remainder rating it as fair (41%).

Three-quarters believe there has been no change over the last two years, with the remainder divided as to whether it has got better or worse.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The biggest perceived problem in the area is teenagers hanging around the streets, which 58% of all residents cite as a problem. This is closely followed by vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property and vehicles (mentioned by 52%) and speeding motorists (51%).

Badly parked cars are felt to be a problem by 46% of residents, and 41% cite dog fouling.

Around a third of residents see people being drunk or rowdy in public places, people using or dealing drugs and rubbish and litter lying around as problems in their area.

The remaining issues were cited by 20% or fewer.

When responses to this question are compared with that seen in 2003 the proportion of residents regarding these types of anti-social behaviour to be a problem generally either remained at a similar level or fell. However, the perception of many residents is that many of these have got worse over the last two years.

Opportunities to Influence Decisions

Only a quarter of residents with a view on the matter are satisfied with the opportunities available for residents to influence Council decisions which might affect them or their neighbourhood. Whilst 39% responded neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, more than a third are dissatisfied (35%).

Safety

Few residents have any problems with feeling safe in their local area during the day, though 35% say they feel unsafe after dark.

Young People

Attitudes towards young people are very mixed. Whilst 42% agree that young people in their area are well behaved and don't cause them any problems, 32% disagree.

Similarly, 32% agree that young people are very often victims of crime and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood, and 24% disagree.

However, when asked whether they agree or disagree with the proposition that a lot of the anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood is NOT caused by young people, the balance of opinion leans towards the negative – 18% agreeing that young people are not the problem and 46% disagreeing with this suggestion.

Residents are agreed, however, on what the Council and its partners should do about young people – 86% agreeing that they need to provide good facilities for young people, and 88% believing that they should provide suitable places for young people to meet and socialise.

Community Cohesion

Amongst those with an opinion on the issue, the majority of residents believe that their neighbourhood is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (70%) and where ethnic differences are respected (64%).

Very few would disagree with these propositions, with the majority of the remainder responding neither agree nor disagree.

Volunteering

Overall, 31% of residents have undertaken activities with a voluntary organisation in the last twelve months.

Overall, 40% of residents say they are currently involved with a community or voluntary organisation.

Future Priorities

The vast majority of those with an opinion believe that the authority should maintain the level of priority attached to improving community safety (99%), developing facilities for children and young people (96%) and improving the Borough's appearance (91%).

Residents were asked to say whether they agree or disagree with a range of projects which Gedling Borough Council may take forward in the future.

The majority of residents agree with all of the proposals put forward – ranging from 67% to 85%.

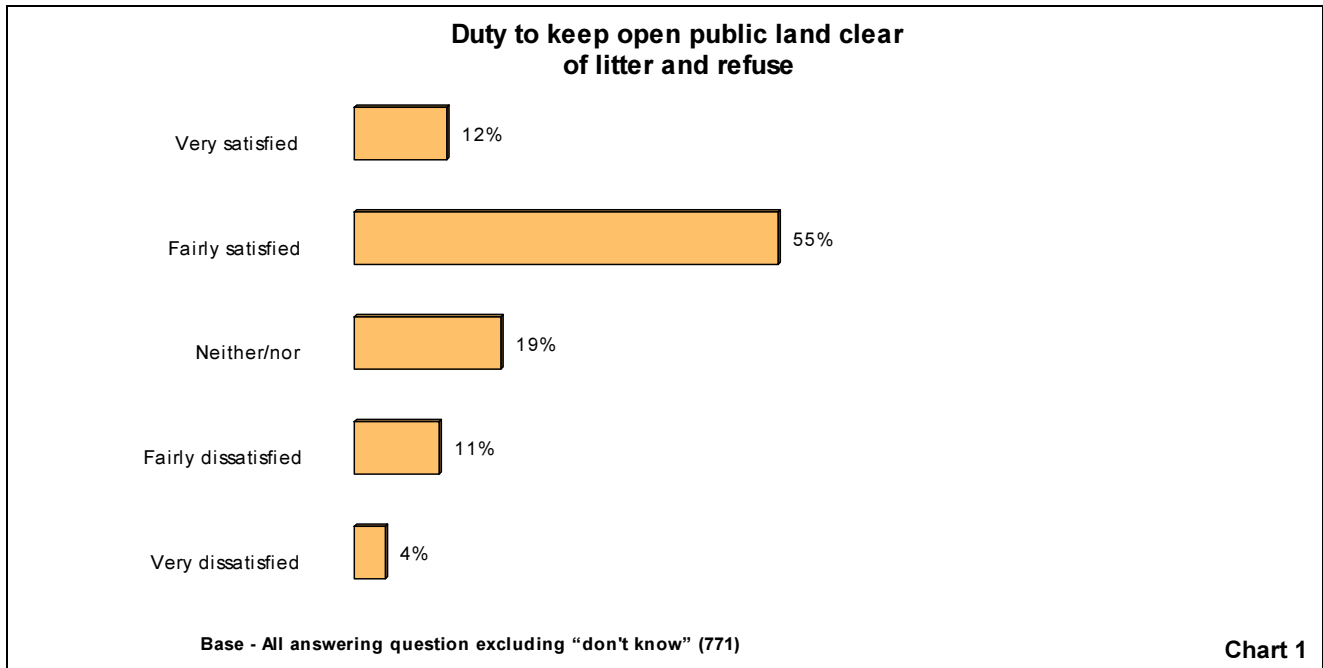
Few actively disagree with any of the proposals – the highest being 10% in the case of 'The Council should work with private companies to provide services if this means services can be delivered more efficiently'.

DETAILED RESULTS

WASTE AND LITTER SERVICES

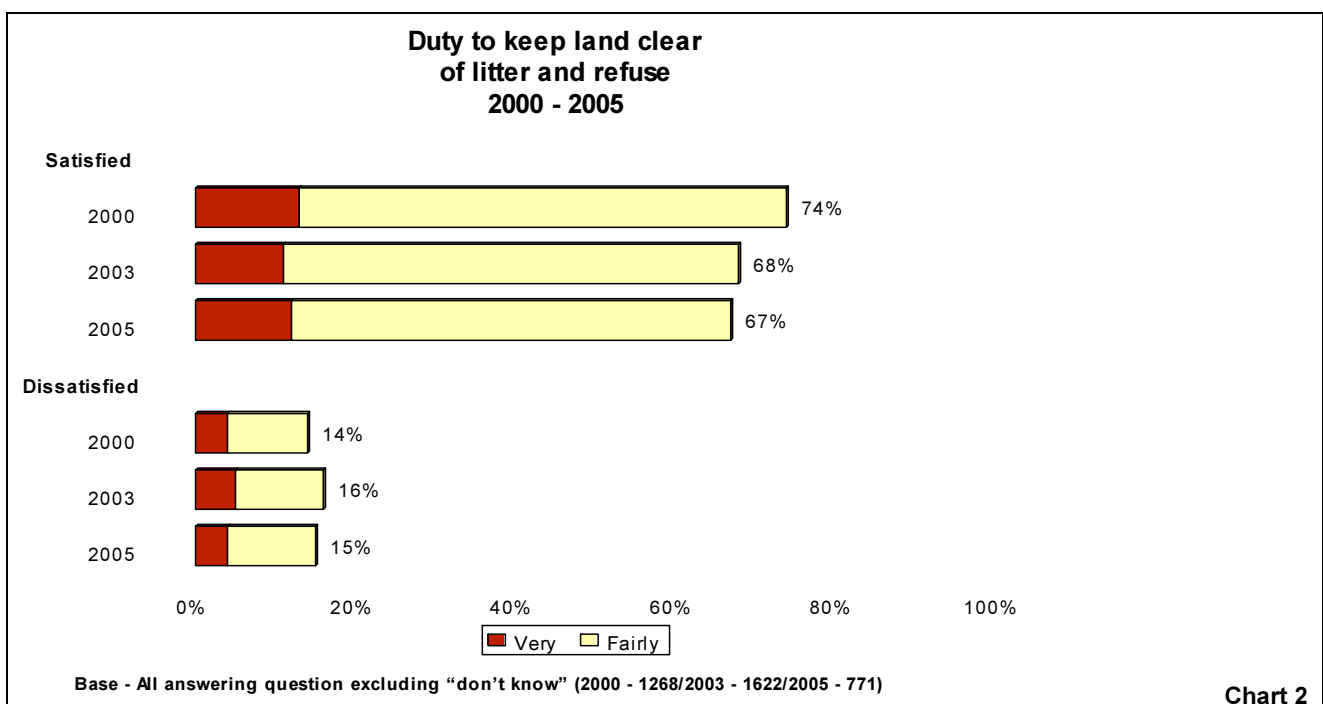
The Duty to Keep Land Clear of Litter and Refuse

Overall 67% residents are satisfied with the Authority's performance in terms of keeping open public land clear of litter and refuse, with 15% being dissatisfied and the remainder opting for the 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied' box on the questionnaire.



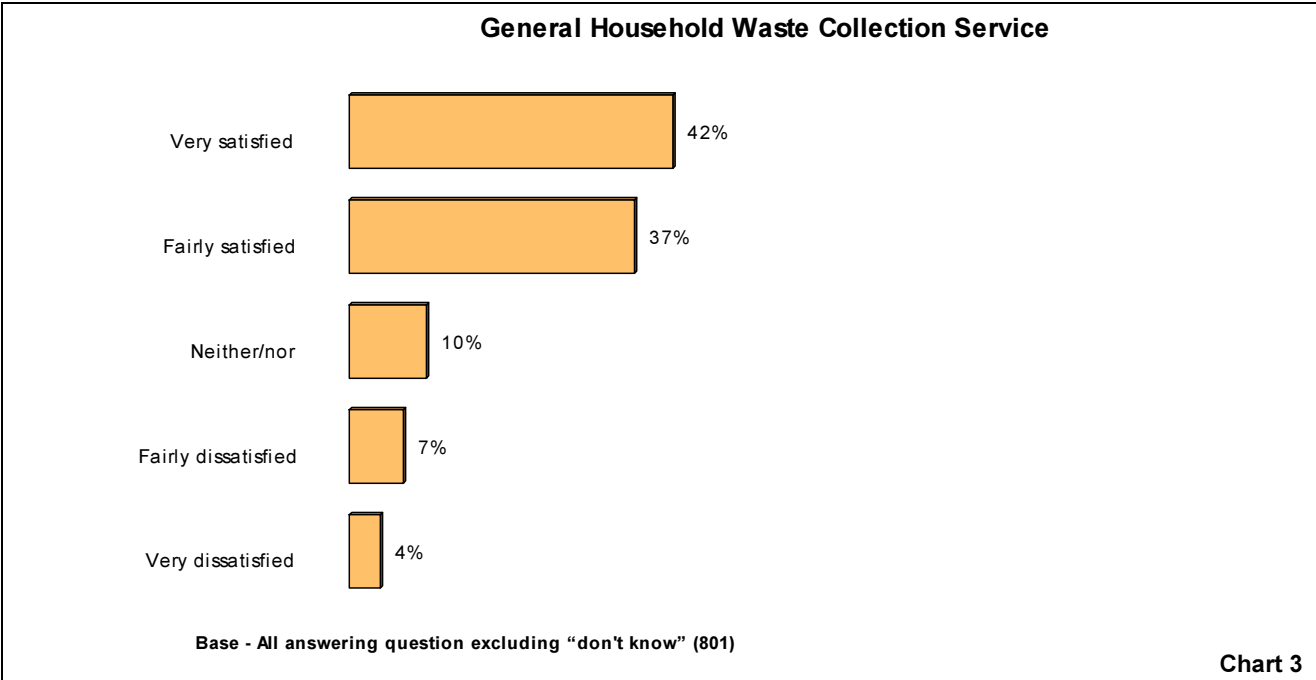
The chart below compares the results of this latest survey with those carried out in 2000 and 2003. The 2003 survey showed a fall in the level of satisfaction (down from 74% in 2000 to 68%), though much of this was accounted for by an increase in the proportion in the neutral neither satisfied nor dissatisfied category rather than a significant increase in the level of dissatisfaction.

The 2005 survey shows a virtually identical response to that seen in 2003.

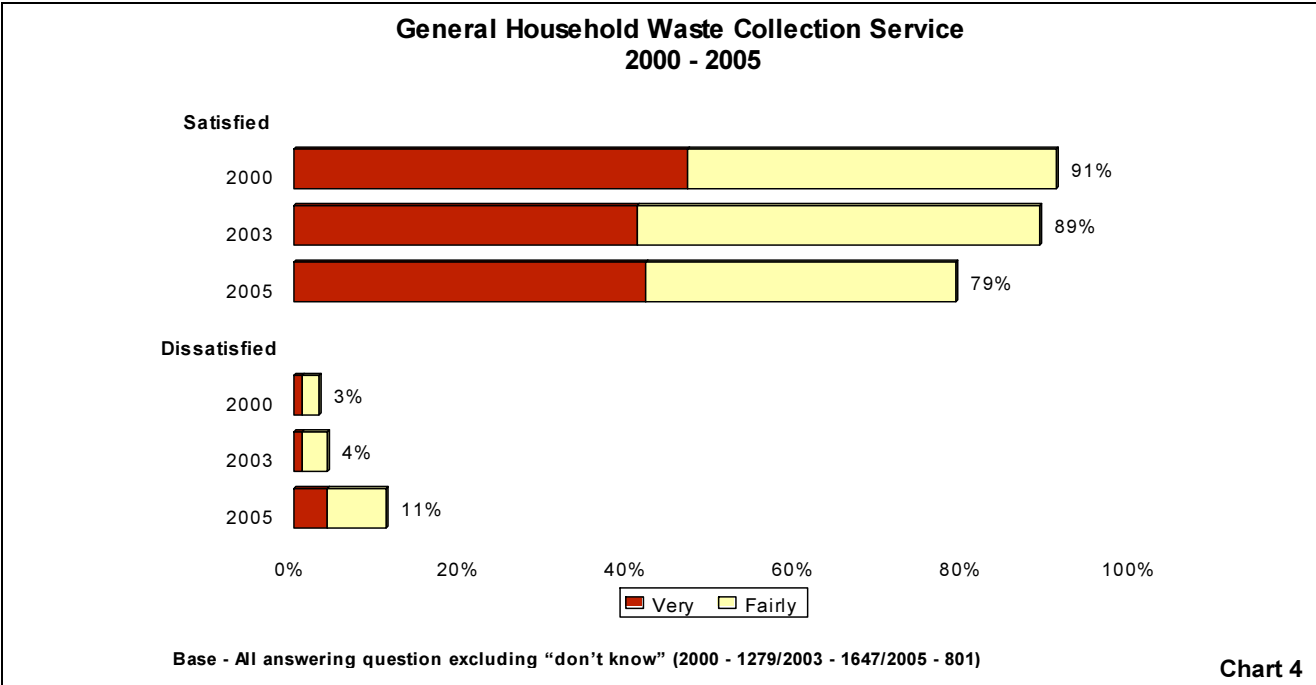


Household Waste Collection

Overall, 79% of residents are satisfied with the waste collection service, 42% being very satisfied.



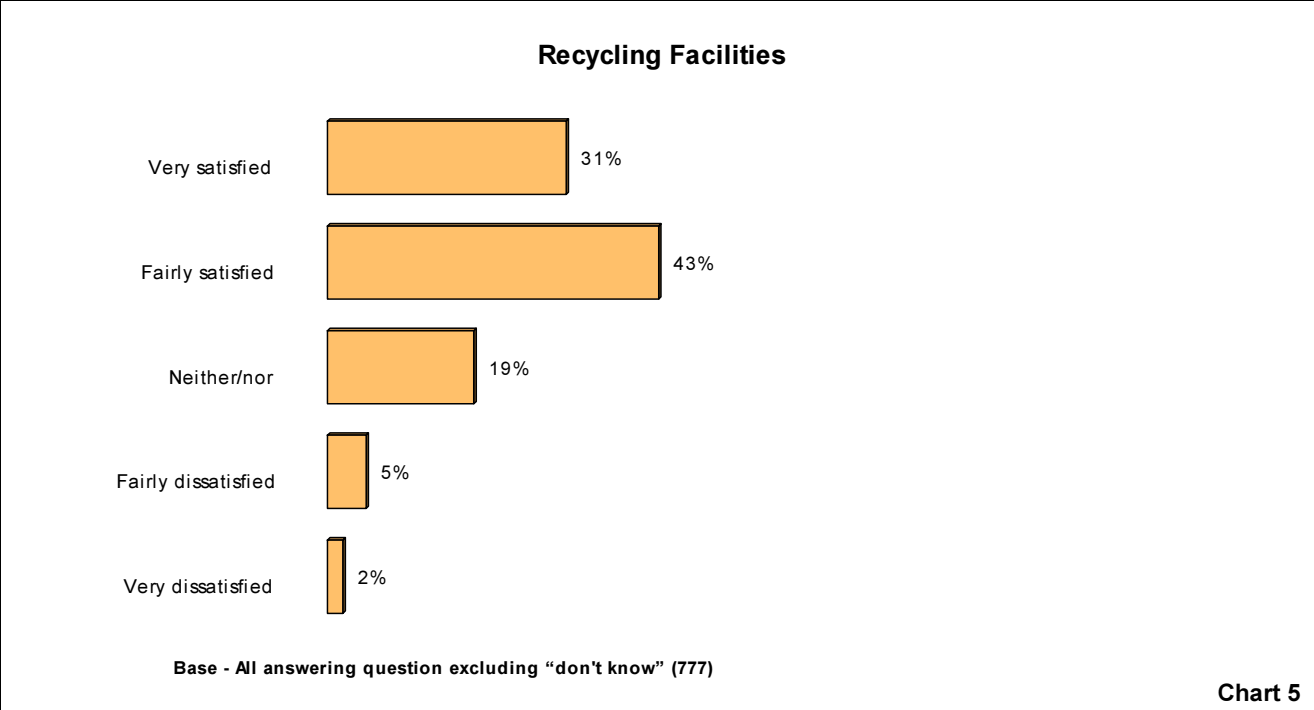
The overall level of satisfaction with the waste collection service has fallen significantly in 2005 from 89% in 2003 to 79%.



RECYCLING FACILITIES

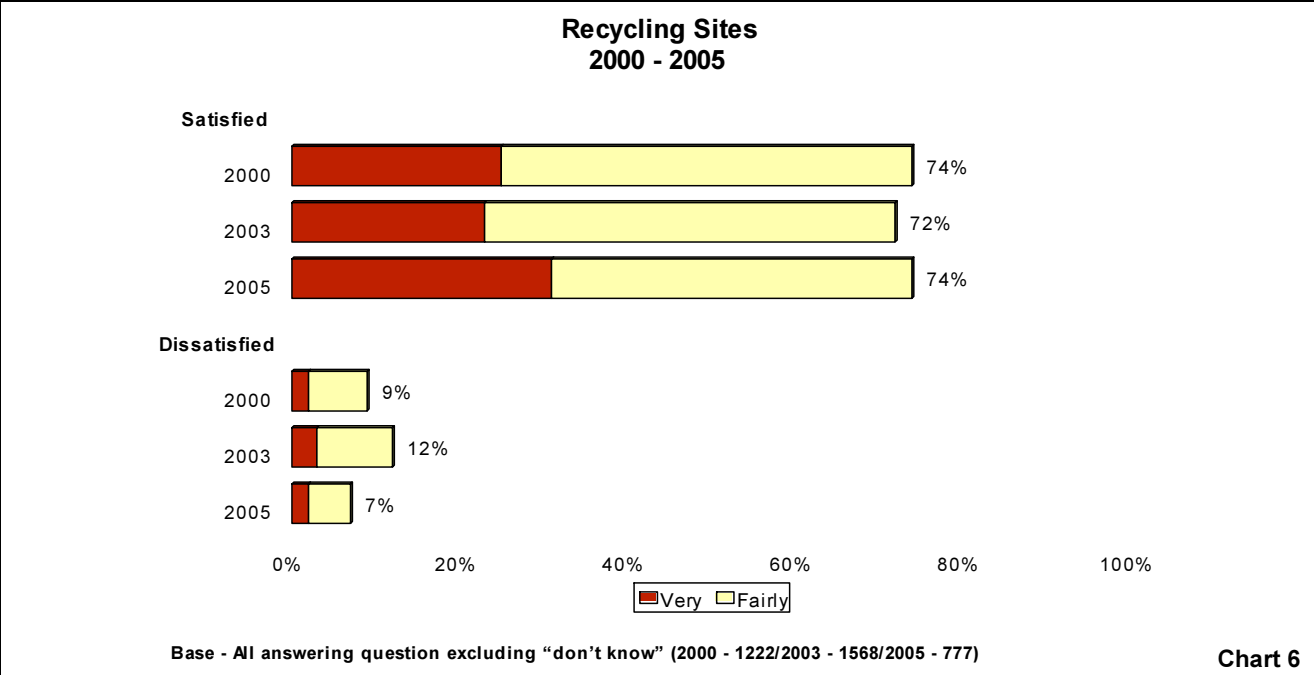
Recycling sites

Overall, 74% of residents are satisfied with the recycling facilities provided by the Council, 31% being very satisfied.



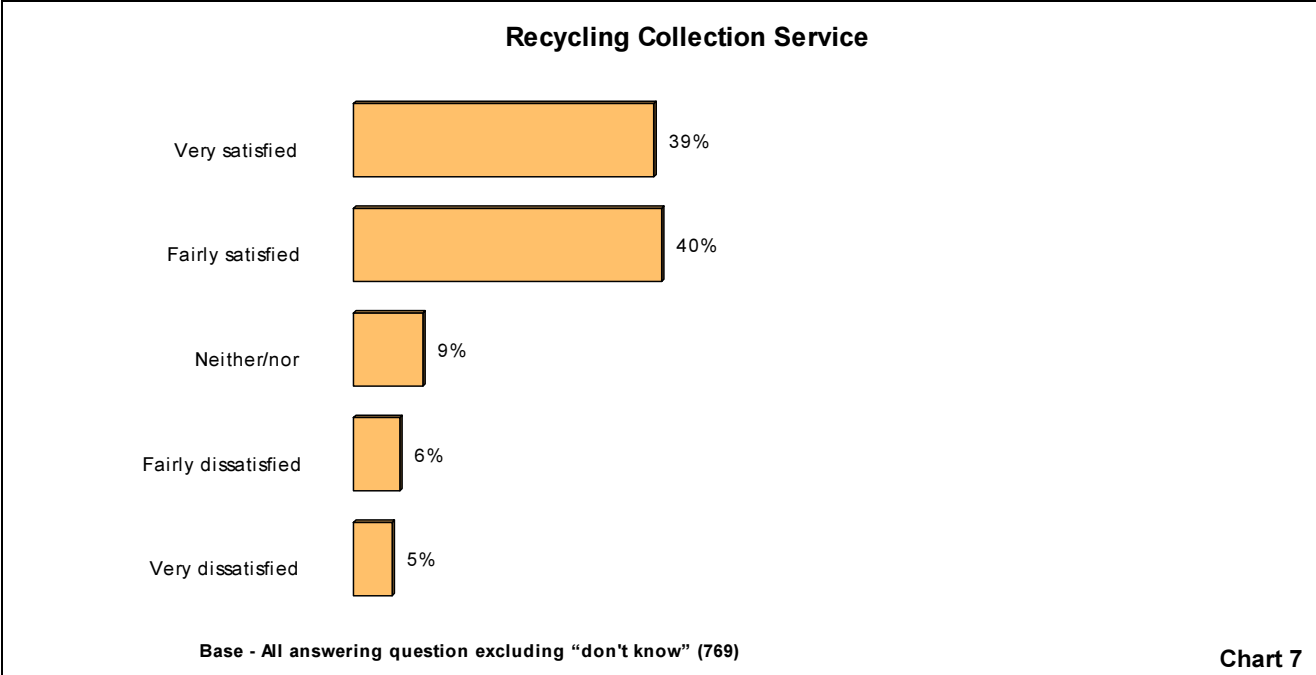
The overall level of satisfaction with recycling facilities has remained much the same over the three surveys, though there has been a significant increase in the proportion very satisfied in 2005 (up from 23% to 31%.)

The proportion dissatisfied also fell significantly on the latest survey – down from 12% to 7%.

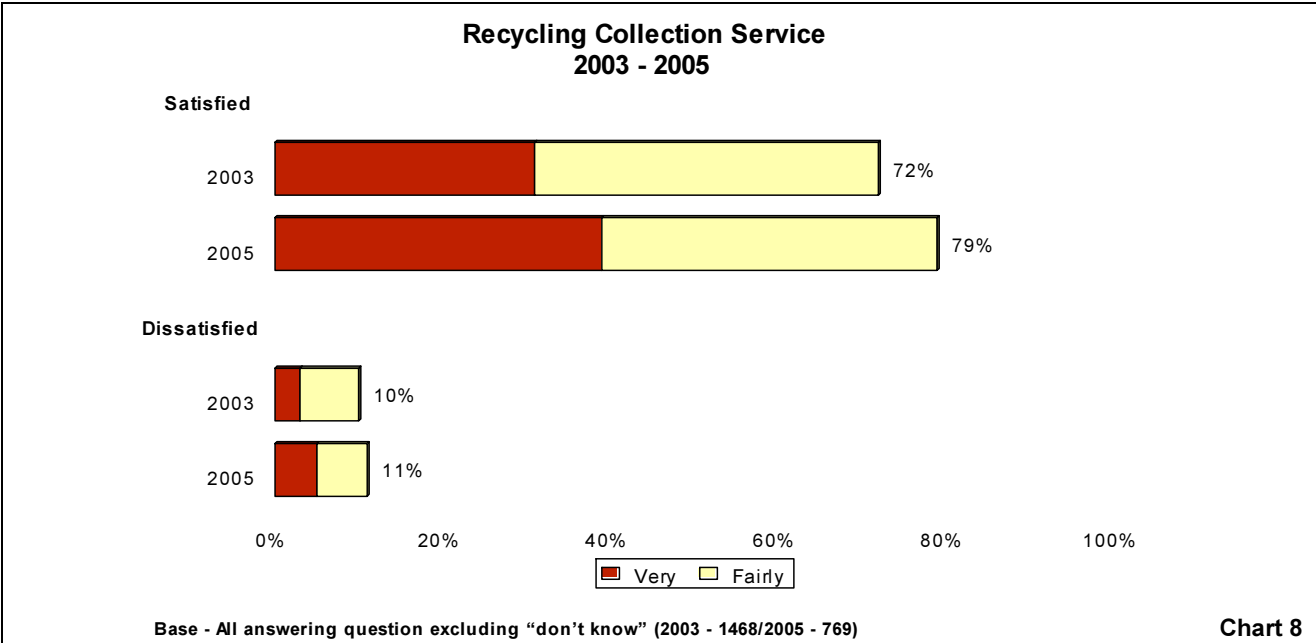


Recycling Collection Service

Overall 79% of residents are satisfied with the recycling collection service, 39% being very satisfied.



The latest survey shows a significant improvement in this service, with overall satisfaction up from 72% in 2003. Furthermore, the proportion very satisfied rose from 31% to 39%.

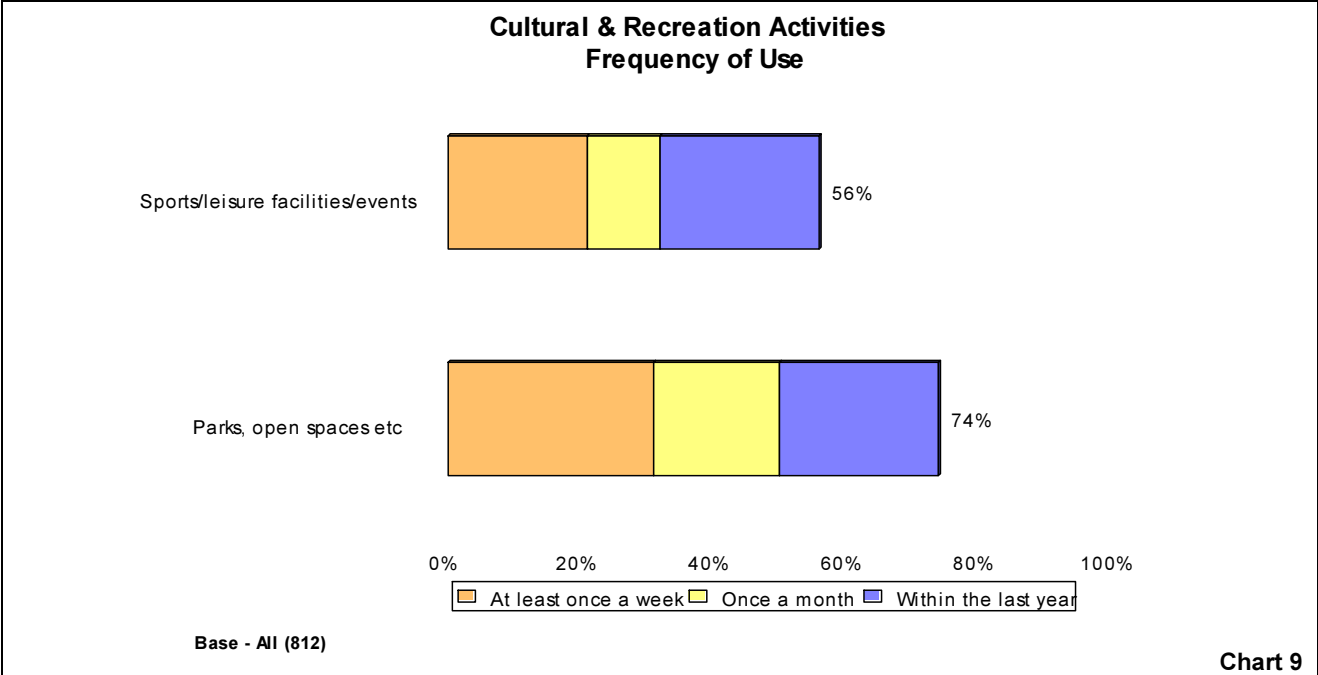


CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Frequency of use

Overall, 56% of residents have used the Authority’s sports and leisure facilities in the last twelve months – 21% using these facilities at least once a week and further 11% once a month.

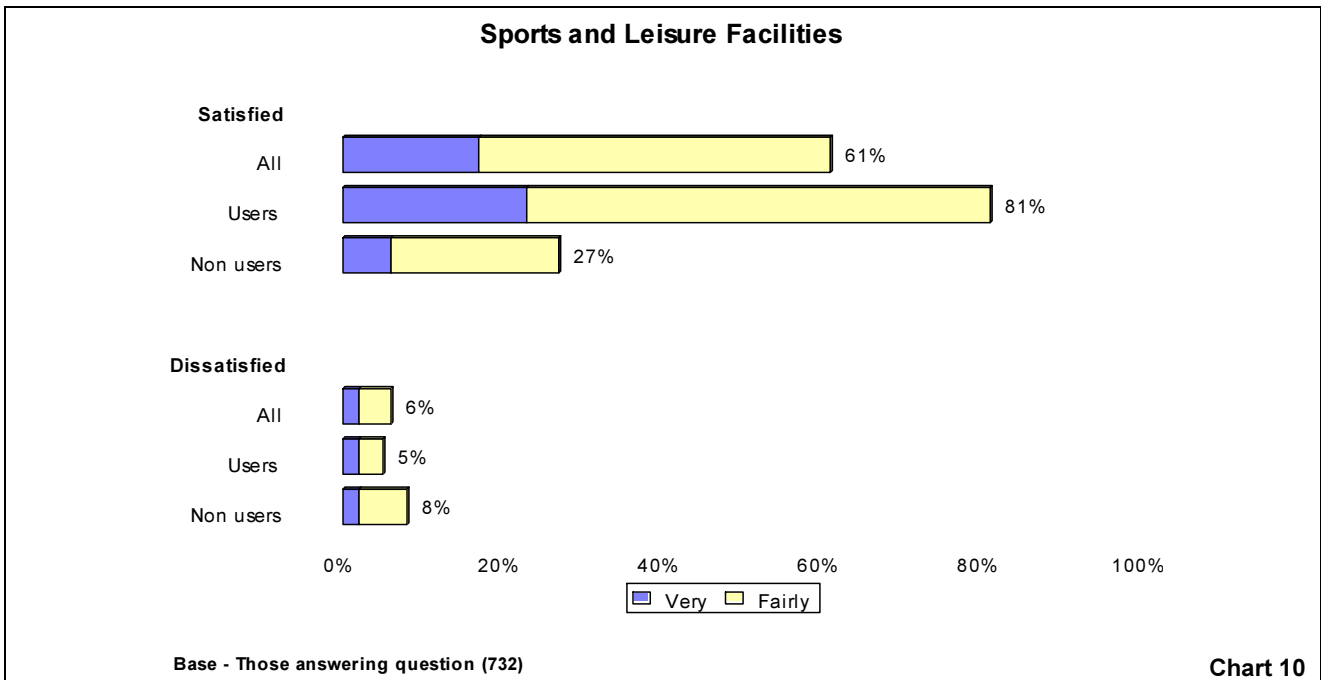
In the last twelve months, 74% have visited parks or open spaces - 31% weekly and 19% monthly.



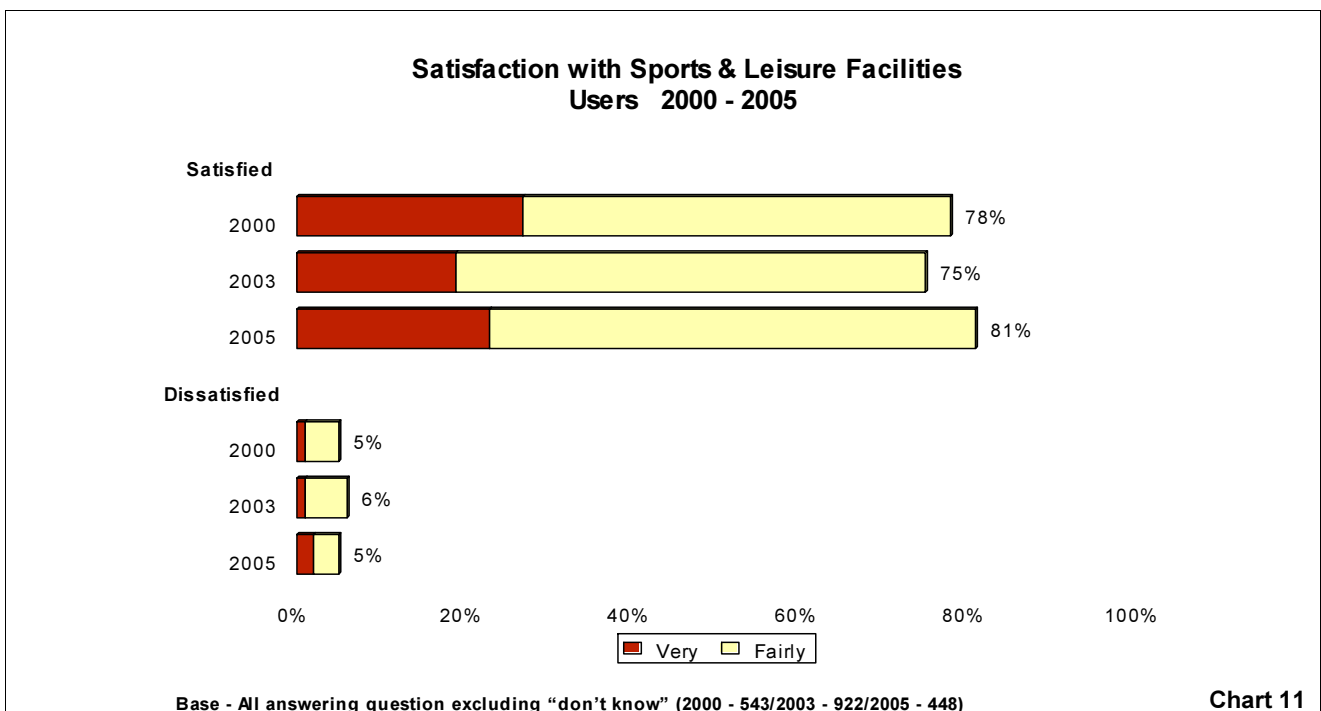
Sports and Leisure Facilities

The majority of those who have used the Authority's sports and leisure facilities in the last twelve months claim to be either very satisfied (23%) or fairly satisfied (58%).

A relatively small proportion expressed dissatisfaction with these facilities (6% overall), with a large proportion of non-users opting for the neutral category on the questionnaire (65%).



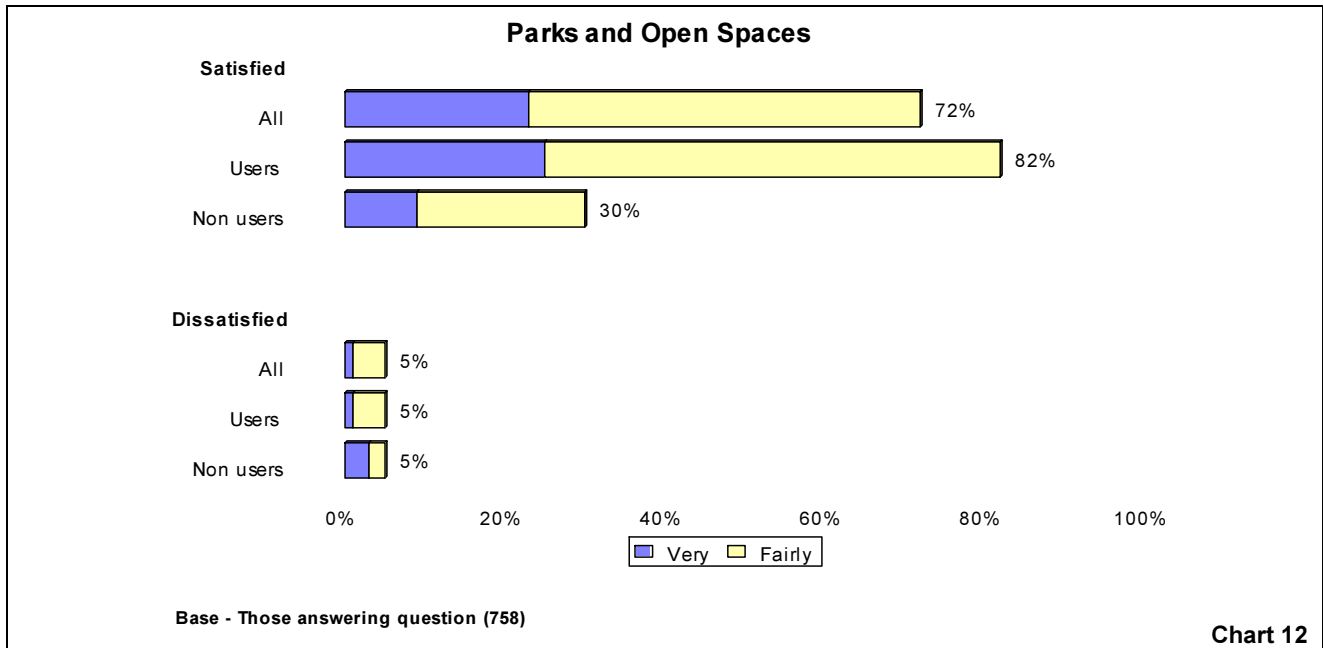
The chart below suggests that there has been some improvement in sports and leisure facilities with the current level of satisfaction being the highest seen across the three surveys (though the differences are not statistically significant).



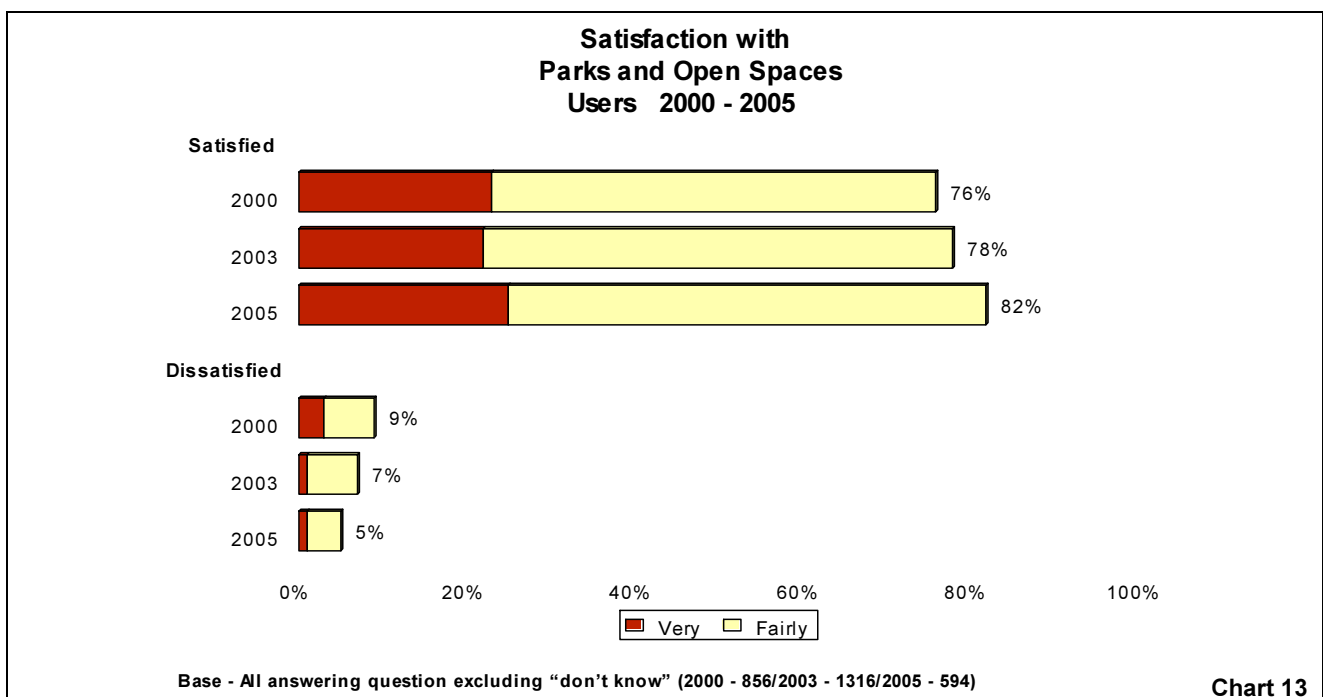
Parks and Open Spaces

Amongst those who have visited the Authority's parks and open spaces in the last twelve months, the vast majority are satisfied with the facilities provided (82%), with only 5% expressing any degree of dissatisfaction (the remainder being neutral).

Again there was a large proportion of non-users who had no opinion, 65% selecting the 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied' option, with the balance of opinion amongst the remainder being positive.



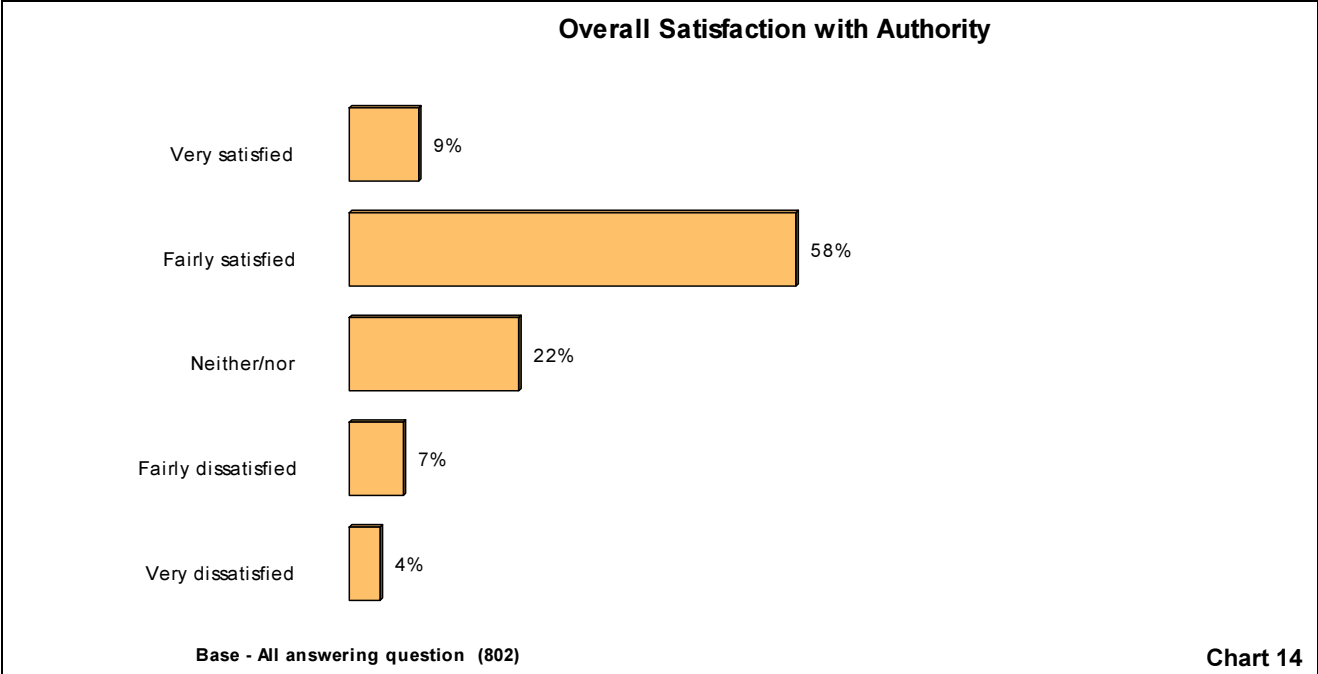
Although the differences shown are statistically significant there appears to have been a consistent improvement in user satisfaction with parks and open spaces since 2000.



THE AUTHORITY AS A WHOLE

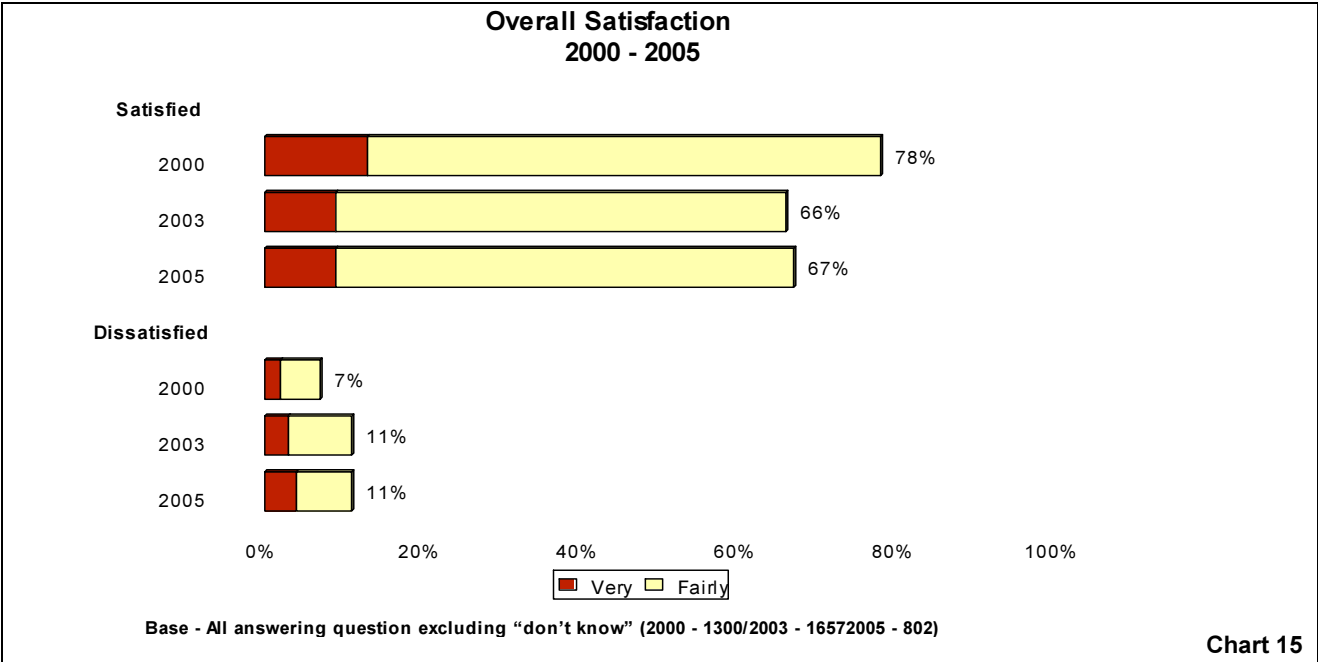
The Way the Authority Runs Things

Overall, 67% of residents said they are satisfied with the way the Authority runs things, with 11% showing some degree of dissatisfaction and 22% opting for the neutral neither satisfied nor dissatisfied position.



The proportion expressing satisfaction with the way the Authority runs things fell from 78% in 2000 to 66% in 2003. However, much of this was accounted for by an increase in the proportion opting for the neutral position – up from 15% to 23%.

The pattern of response on the latest survey was virtually identical to that seen in 2003.



Have Things Got Better or Worse

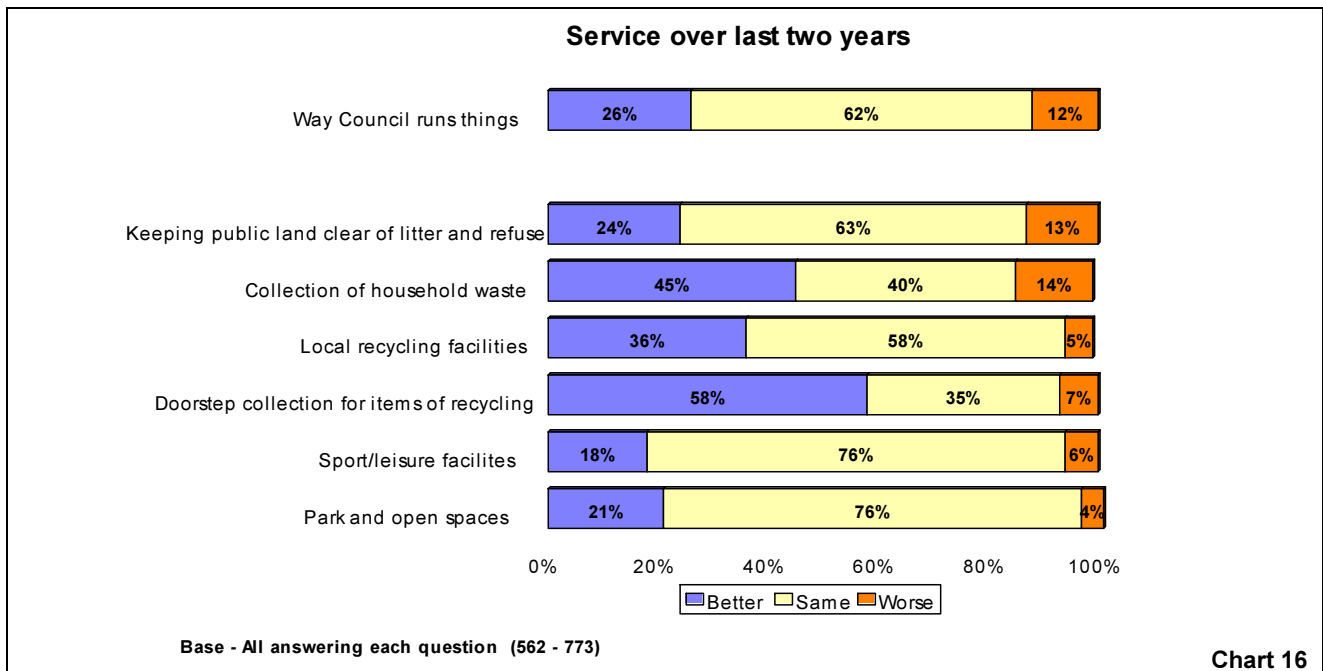
Residents were asked to say whether the services provided by the Council have got better or worse over the last two years.

Overall, 62% of residents feel that the way the Council runs things has not changed over this period. Amongst the remainder 26% believe the Council has got better and 12% say it is worse.

A large proportion feel that there have been improvements in waste services – 45% in the case of the collection of household waste; 36% see an improvement in local recycling facilities and 58% in the doorstep collection of recyclables.

Whilst 63% believe that the authority’s performance in terms of keeping open land clear of litter and refuse has stayed the same, 24% feel it has got better and 13% say it has got worse.

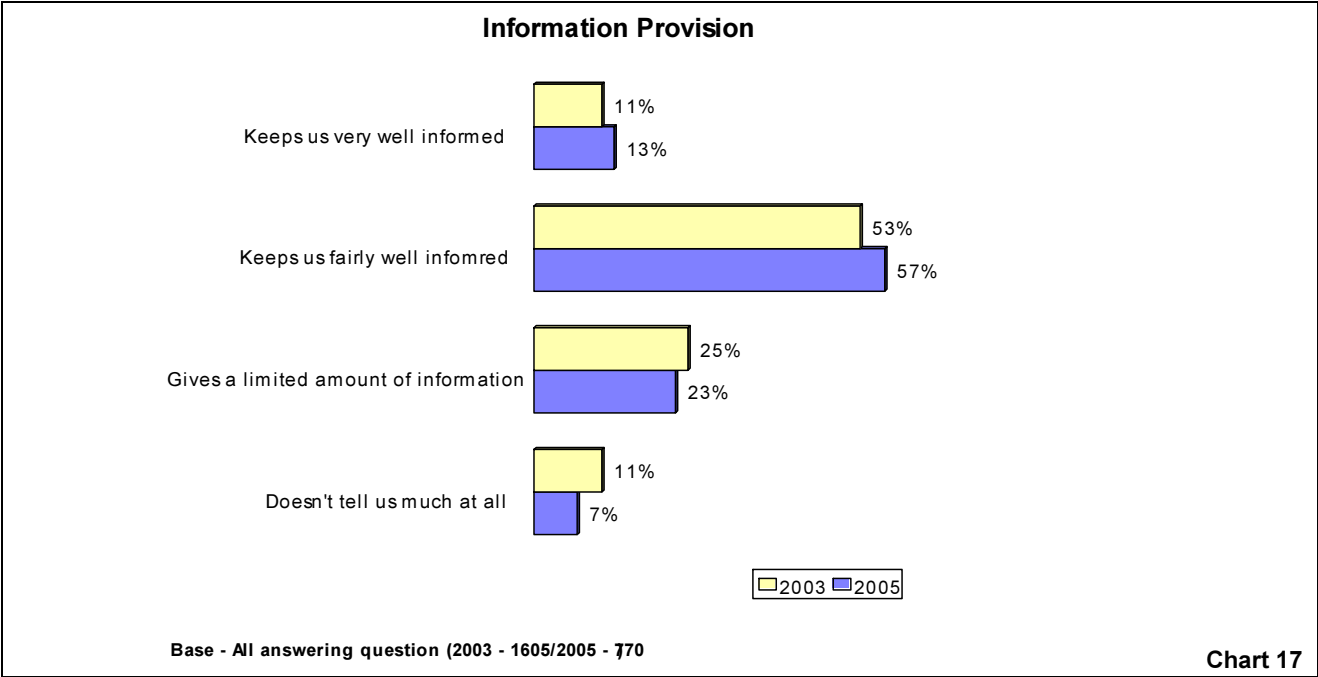
For both sports and leisure facilities and parks, around three-quarters feel there has been no change, with the balance of opinion amongst the remainder being favourable.



INFORMATION PROVISION

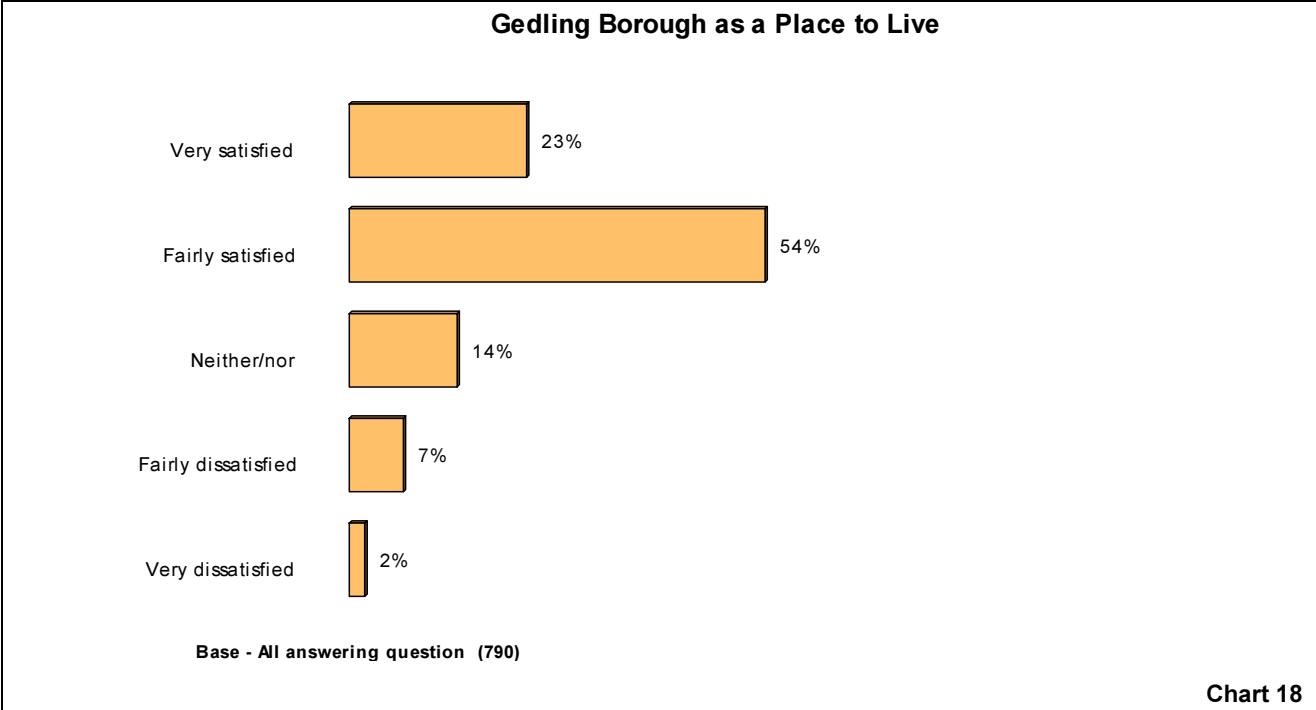
Overall, 70% of residents with an opinion on the matter believe that the council keeps residents well informed about the services and benefits it provides.

This is an improvement since 2003 when 64% were of this view.

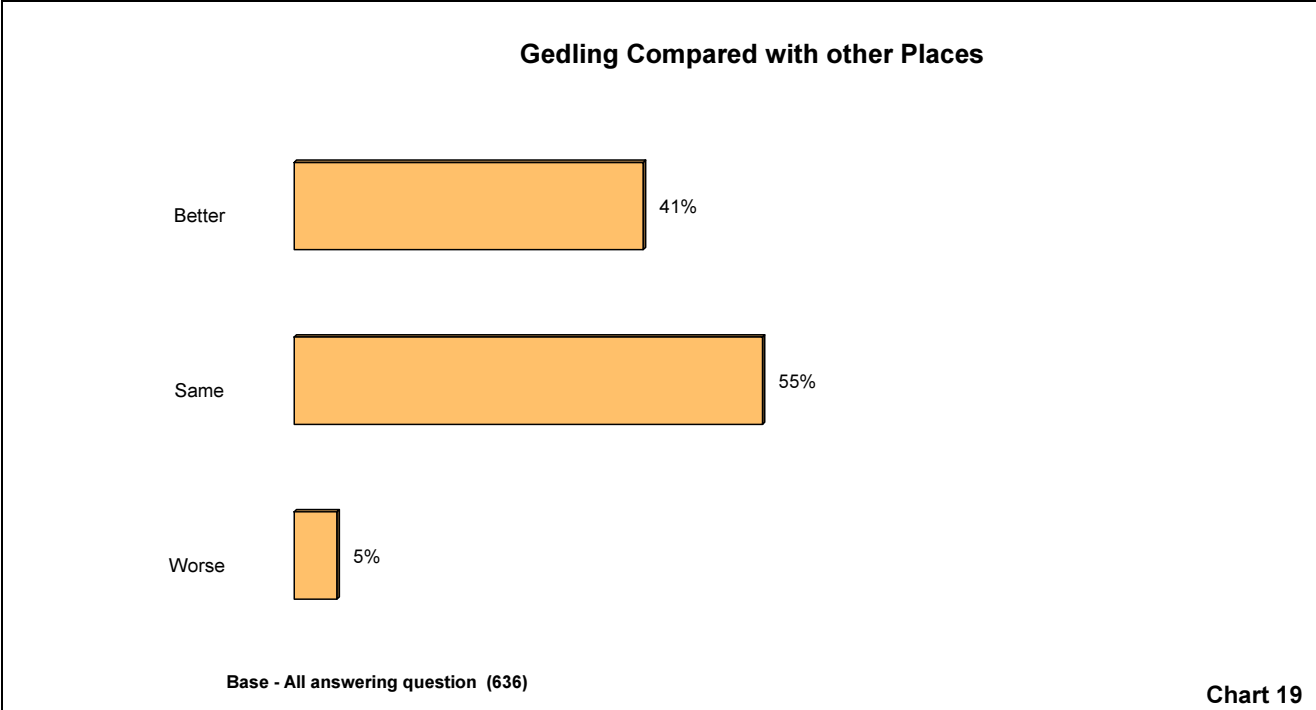


LIVING IN GEDLING BOROUGH

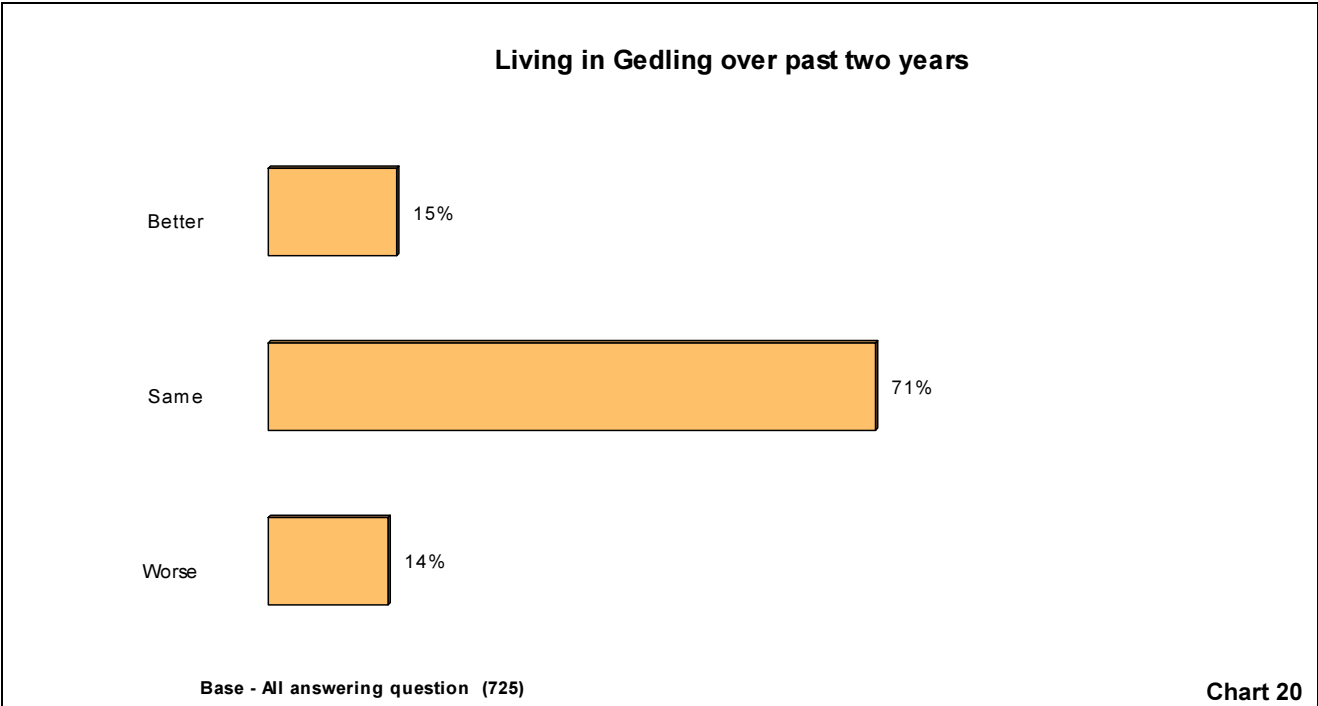
Around three-quarters of residents say they are satisfied with Gedling Borough as a place to live – 23% being very satisfied. Only 9% expressed any degree of dissatisfaction, with the remainder opting for the neutral neither satisfied nor dissatisfied position.



Whilst just over half say that Gedling is about the same as most other areas as a place to live, 41% rate it as being better than other areas.



When asked about living in Gedling over the last two years, 71% feel there has been no change, with the remainder equally divided as to whether it has got better or worse.



Residents were asked what they consider to be the three best things and three worse things about living in Gedling Borough.

The following tables show the full range of responses given, together with the proportion making each comment. Note that not all residents gave a response at these questions – 54% did so in the case of the best things, and 59% for the worst.

Best things about living in Gedling Borough	
	%
Provision of/well maintained parks	23
Local shops/amenities	22
Public transport	22
Recycling service	19
Clean areas/streets	19
Access to town centres/shopping areas/amenities	19
Access to countryside	15
Leisure centres/activities	13
Community spirit/people friendly/good neighbours	11
Refuse collection service	10
Low crime levels/vandalism/safe area	9
Education services/schools	7
Council communicates/listens to people	7
Quiet area/low noise levels	6
Rural/village atmosphere	6
Free car parking	5
Libraries	4
Good housing/affordable	4
Well maintained roads/pavements	3
Health services	2
Good street lighting	2
Maintenance of trees/hedges/verges	1
Good Christmas lights	1
Local MP	1
Quality of life	1
Facilities for youths	*
Base – Those answering the question (435)	
* = less than 0.5%	

Worst things about living in Gedling Borough	
	%
High crime levels/vandalism	21
Gangs of youths on streets	20
Litter/streets not cleaned	19
Lack of police presence	13
High Council Tax	12
Maintenance of roads/pavements	11
Traffic congestion	10
Poor public transport	10
Neighbours/anti social behaviour	10
Waste collection services	9
Dog fouling	8
Car parking	8
Too many houses being built/building on green belt	7
Recycling service	7
Lack of leisure facilities	7
Lack of local shops	6
Lack of facilities for youths/children	6
Road humps	4
Speeding traffic	4
Drug problems/drink problems	3
Street lights	3
Lack of information from Council	3
Air pollution	2
Lack of affordable housing	2
Lack of health services	2
High bus fares	2
Fly tipping	2
Grass/hedge/tree cutting	2
Run down/neglected areas	2
Too many takeaway shops	2
Poor condition of leisure centres/swimming pools	1
Transport links	1
Local tip not user friendly	1
Noise pollution	1
Lack of educational facilities	1
Public Toilets	1
Planning Department	1
Lack of facilities for elderly/disabled	1
Staff attitude at Arnold Leisure Centre	1
Lack of cycle tracks	1
Abandoned cars	1
Low employment	*
Lack of facilities	*
Retail Parks	*
Lack of pedestrianised shopping areas	*
Council offices too far away	*
Base – Those answering the question (477)	
* = less than 0.5%	

The Neighbourhood

Residents were given a list of 25 facilities and services and were asked to rate each on a scale of excellent to poor, and then say whether they feel each has got better, stayed the same or got worse over the last two years.

For ease of reporting, the 25 facilities and services have been broken down into five different groups.

Leisure Facilities

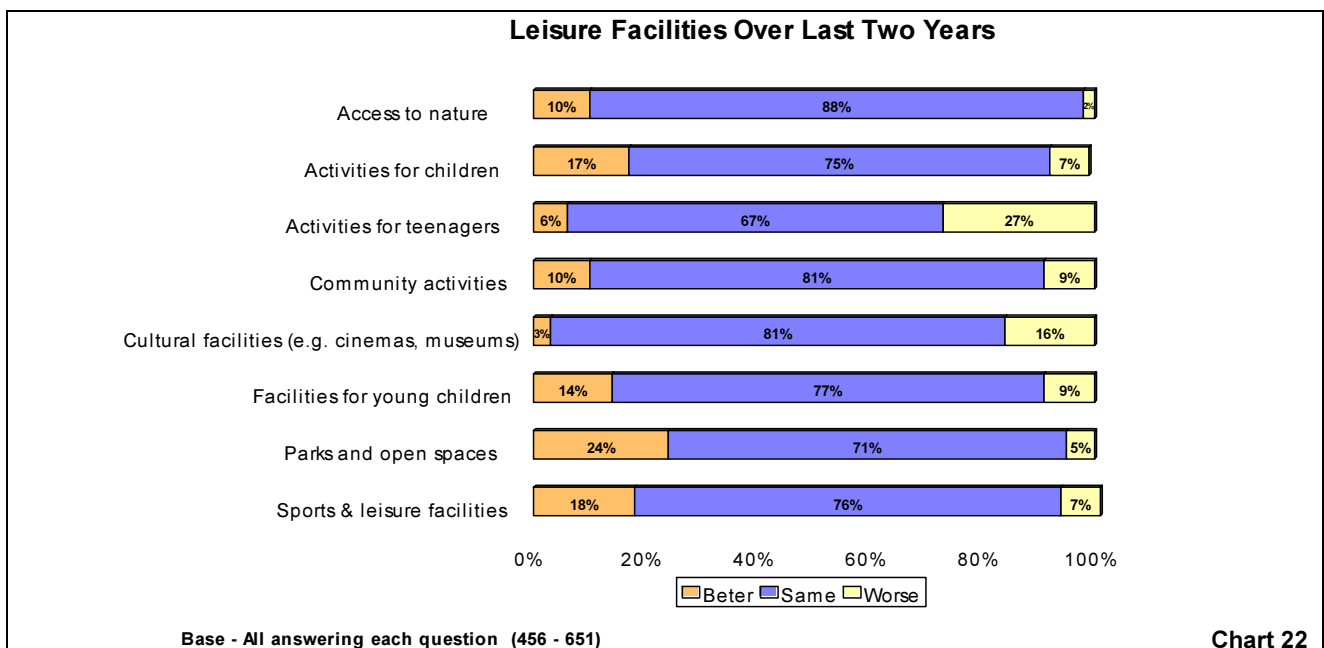
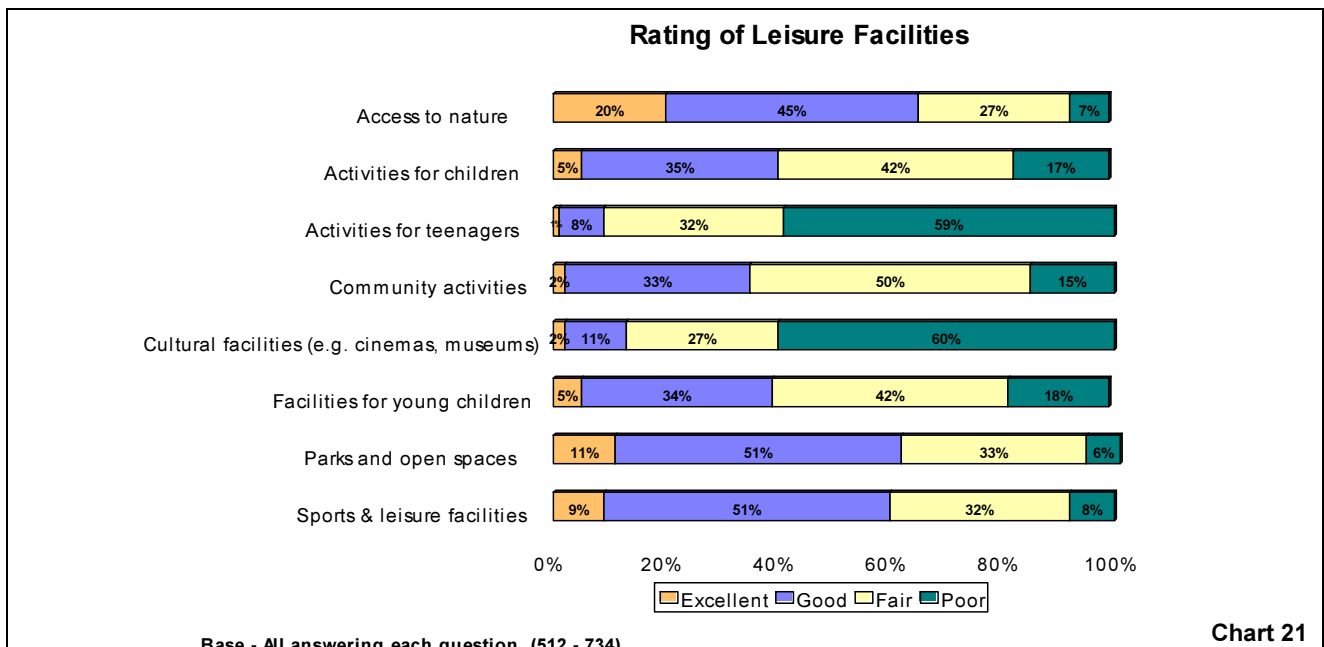
The most highly rated of the leisure facilities listed are access to nature, which 65% rate as either excellent or good, parks and open spaces with 62% giving ratings of excellent or good, and sports and leisure facilities (60%). Around a quarter also say that parks and open spaces have got better over the last two years, and 18% believe sports and leisure facilities have improved.

Activities for children, and facilities for young children are rated as excellent or good by around 40% of those with an opinion, with a further 42% rating each as fair. Whilst around three-quarters say these have stayed the same over the last two years, a small group feel there has been some improvement (17% and 14% respectively).

Activities for teenagers, on the other hand, is rated as poor by 59% of those with an opinion, with the majority of the remainder only giving a rating of fair (32%). Furthermore, 27% believe that this has got worse over the last two years.

Cultural facilities are similarly poorly rated (60%) with 16% saying this has worsened.

In the case of community activities, 35% give ratings of excellent or good, with a further 50% rating them as fair. The majority believe there has been no change in these facilities (81%).



The Street Scene

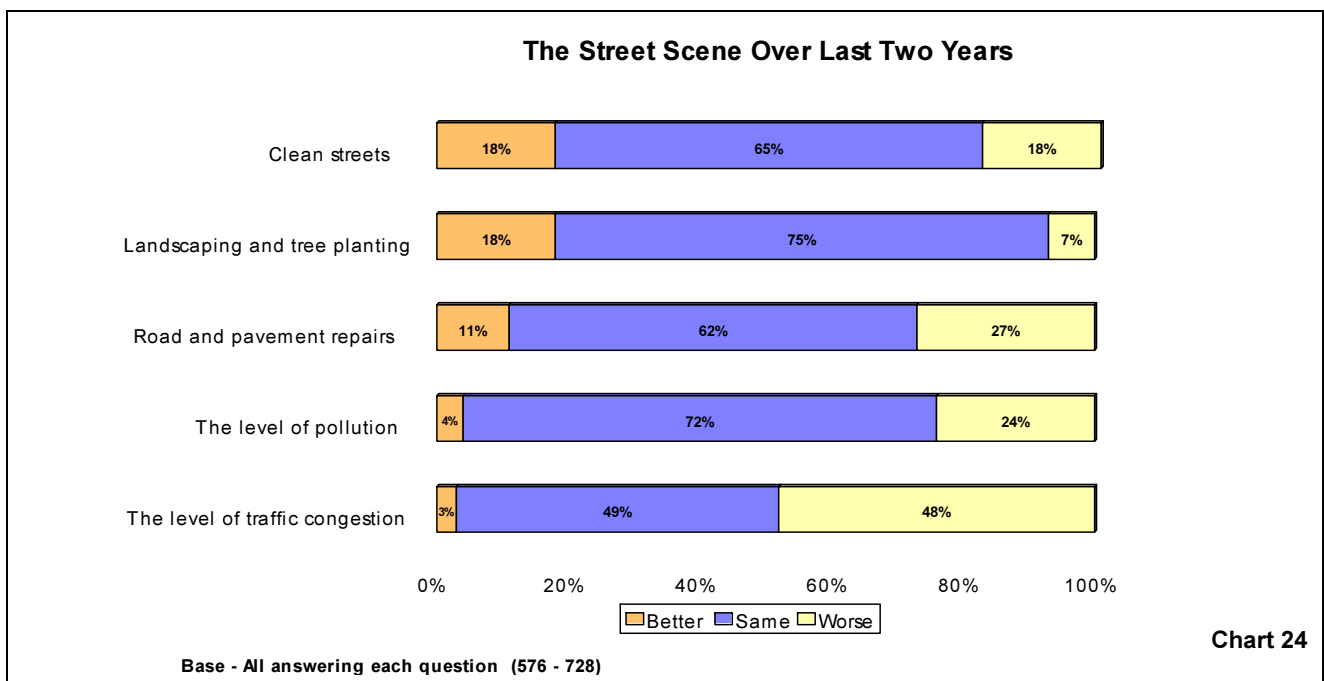
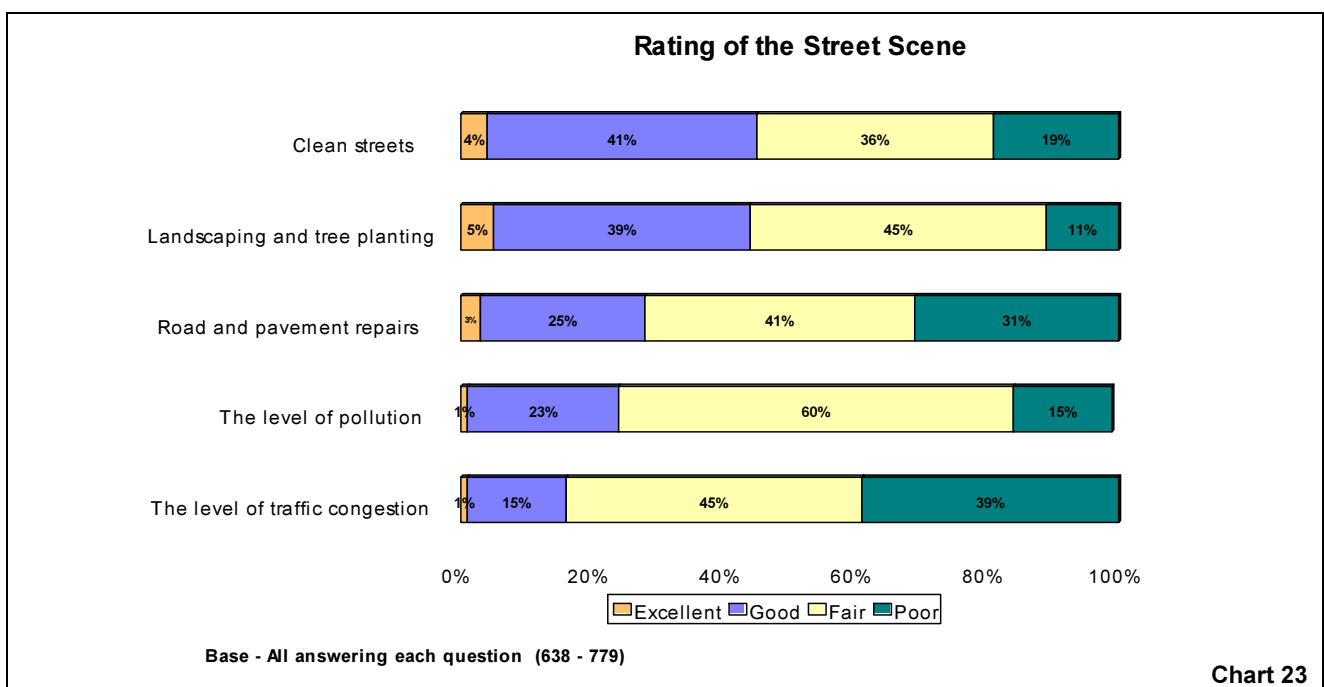
Overall, 45% of those with an opinion give a rating of excellent or good for clean streets, with the majority of the remainder rating them as fair (36%). Two-thirds feel this has not changed in the last two years, with the remainder equally divided as to whether things have got better or worse.

For road and pavement repairs, whilst the majority give positive ratings, 31% nevertheless rate performance as poor, with 27% feeling the situation has got worse over the last two years.

Only 16% rate the level of traffic congestion as excellent or good, with 39% rating it as poor, and almost half saying it has got worse.

Whilst the majority rate the level of pollution as excellent, good or fair (84%), around a quarter believe it has got worse over the last two years.

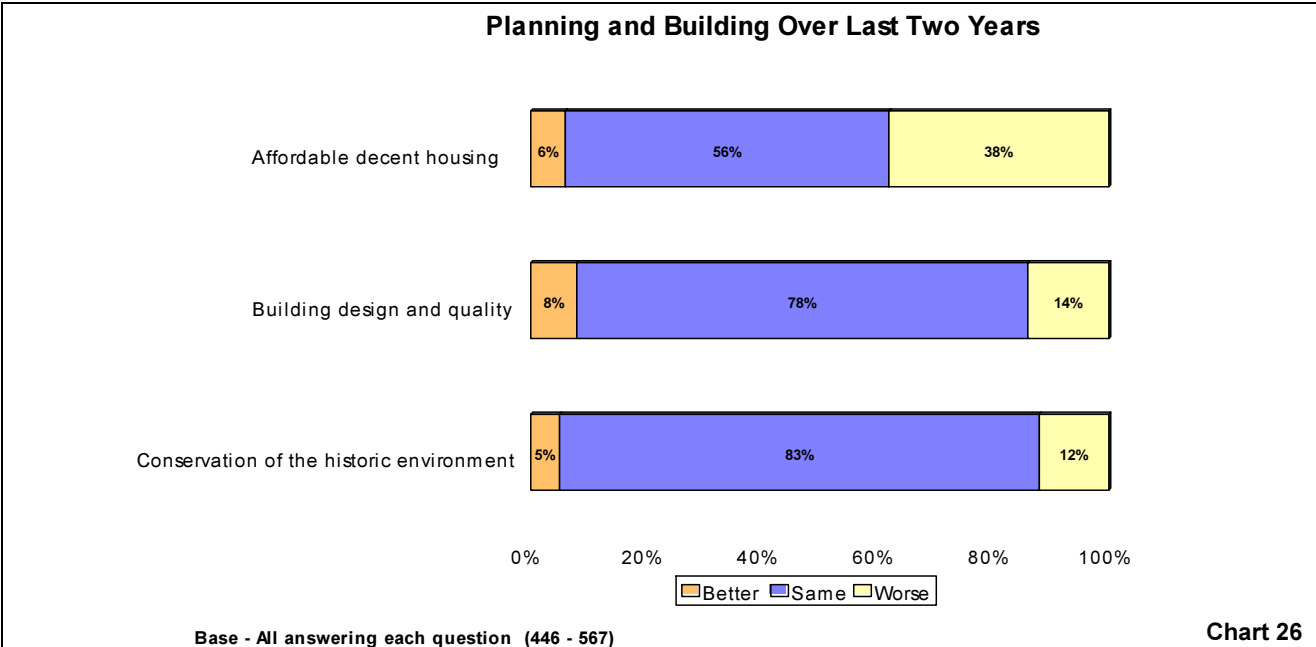
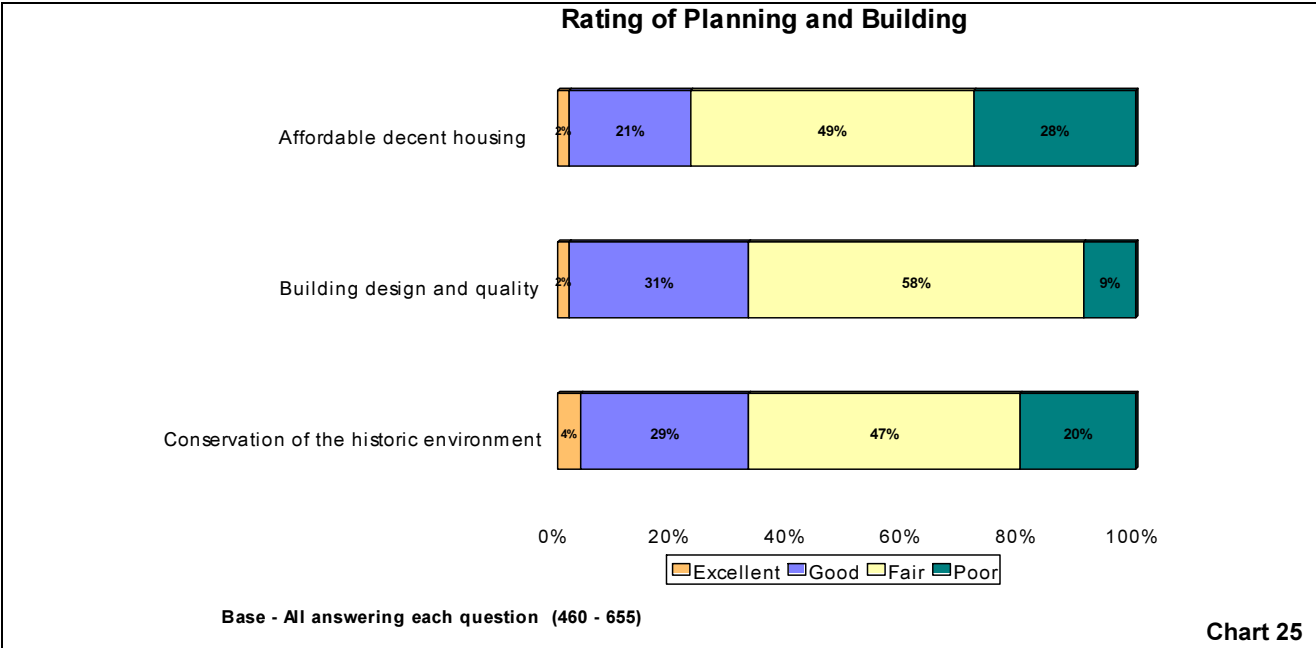
The majority are happy with landscaping and tree planting – 44% giving a rating of excellent or good and a further 45% as fair. Whilst three-quarters feel this has not changed in the last two years, 18% feel it has got better.



Planning and Building

Around a third of those with an opinion rate both building design and quality and conservation of the historic environment as either excellent or good, with the majority of the remainder giving a rating of fair. The majority also feel that these have not changed in the last two years (78% and 83% respectively).

A significant minority rate affordable decent housing as poor (28%), with 38% believing the situation has got worse over the last two years.

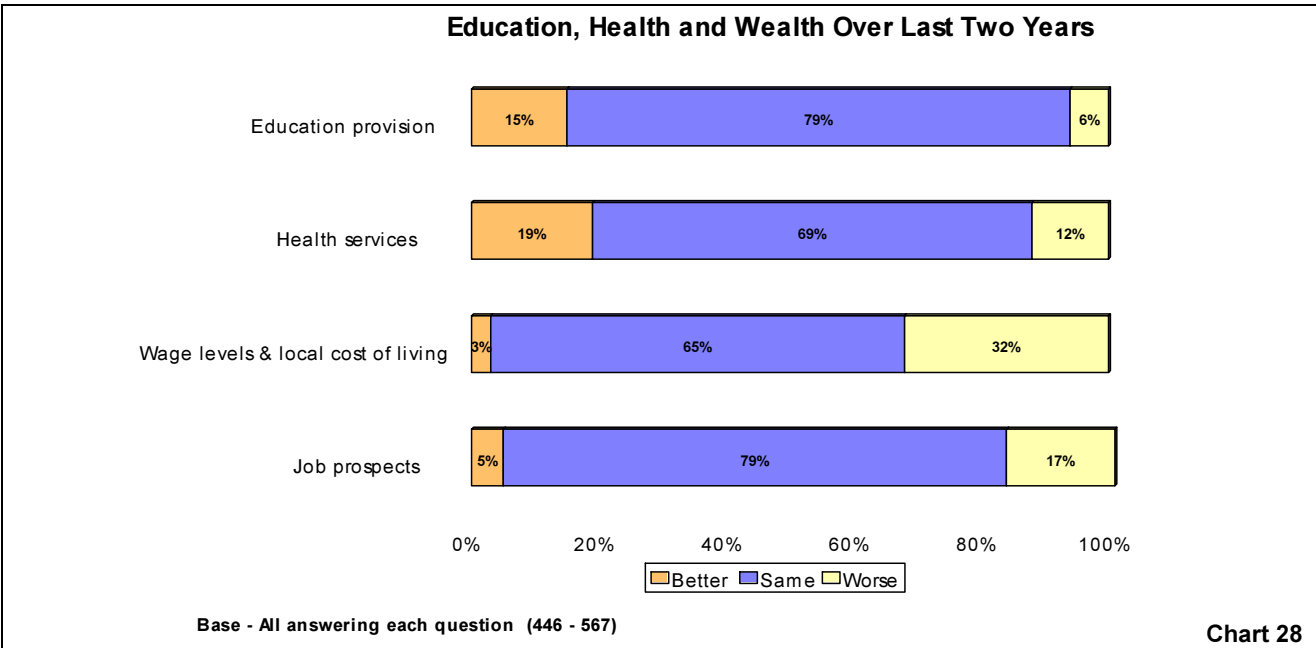
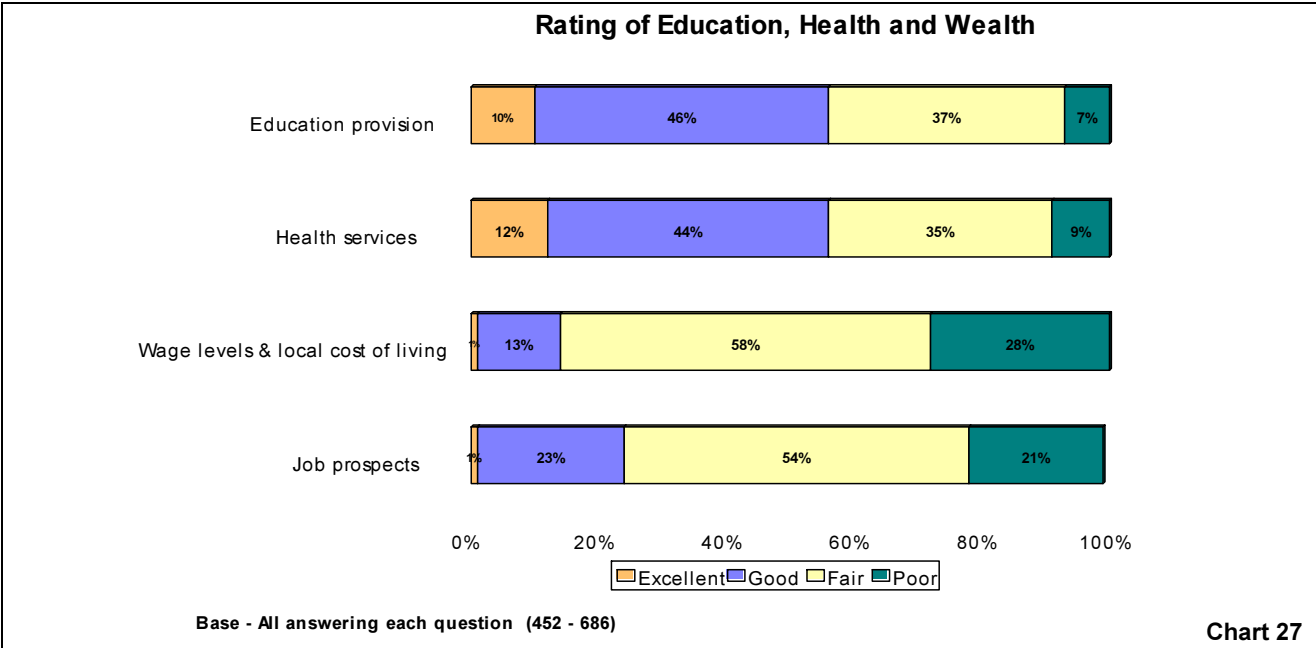


Education, Health and Wealth

Overall, 56% of those with an opinion rate education provision in the Borough as excellent or good, with a further 37% rating it as fair. Whilst the majority feel this has stayed the same over the last two years, a small group feel it has improved (15%).

Similarly, the majority rate health services as excellent or good (56%) or fair (35%). Whilst 69% feel this has not changed, the remainder are divided in their opinion as to whether this has got better or worse.

A significant minority rate wage levels and the local cost of living (28%) and job prospects (21%) as being poor, with almost a third feeling that wage levels have got worse over the last two years.



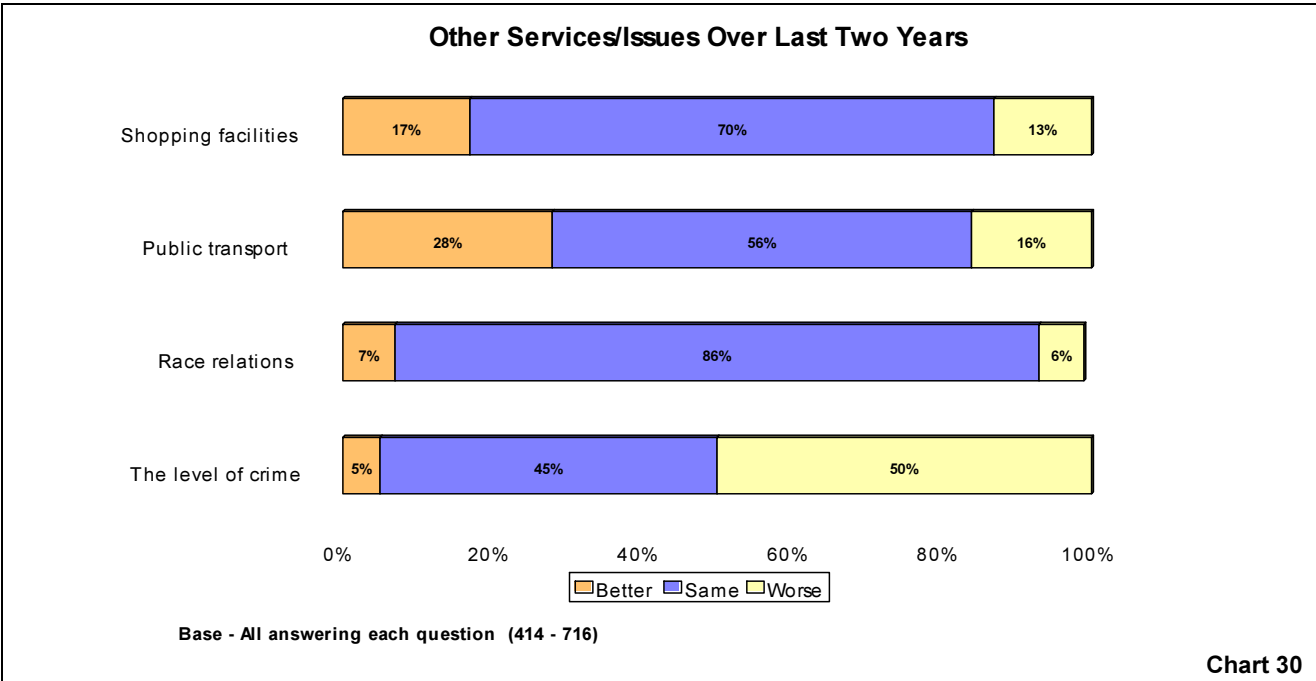
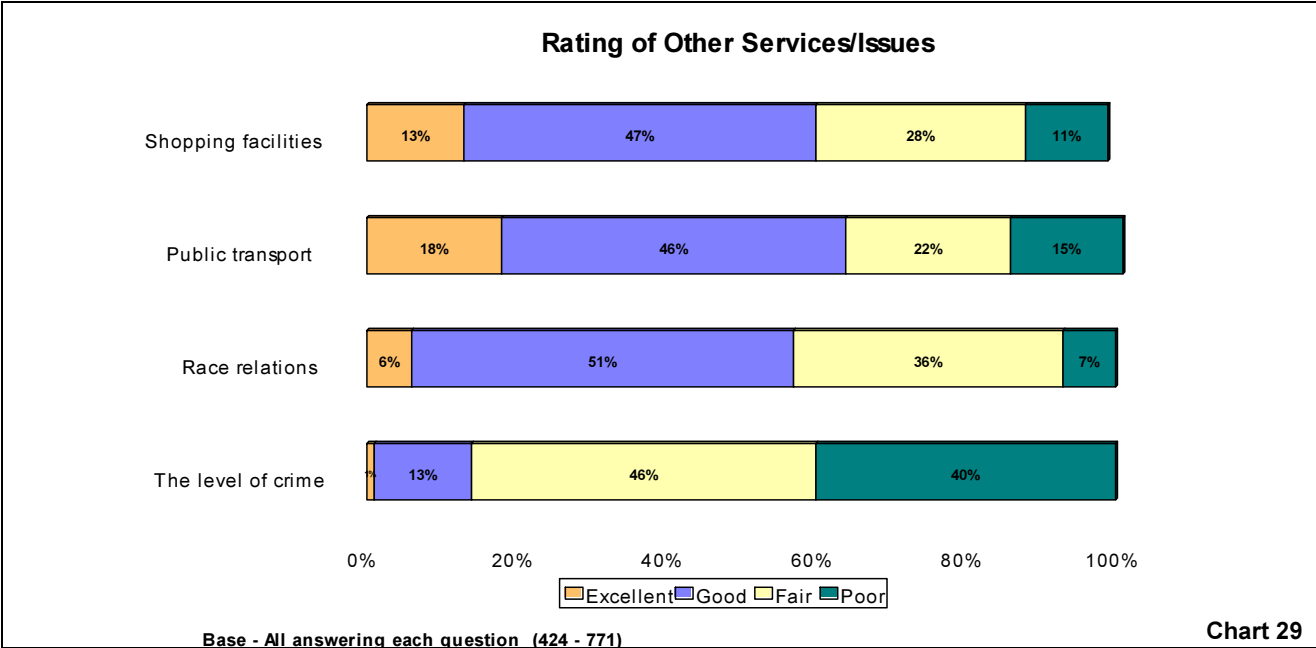
Other Services/Issues

Overall, 60% of those with an opinion rate shopping facilities as being excellent or good, and 70% feel these have not changed over the last two years.

The majority of those with an opinion also rate public transport as excellent or good (64%), and 28% feel it has improved over the last two years.

The majority of those with an opinion on race relations feel the situation is excellent or good (57%) or fair (36%), with most feeling it has not changed.

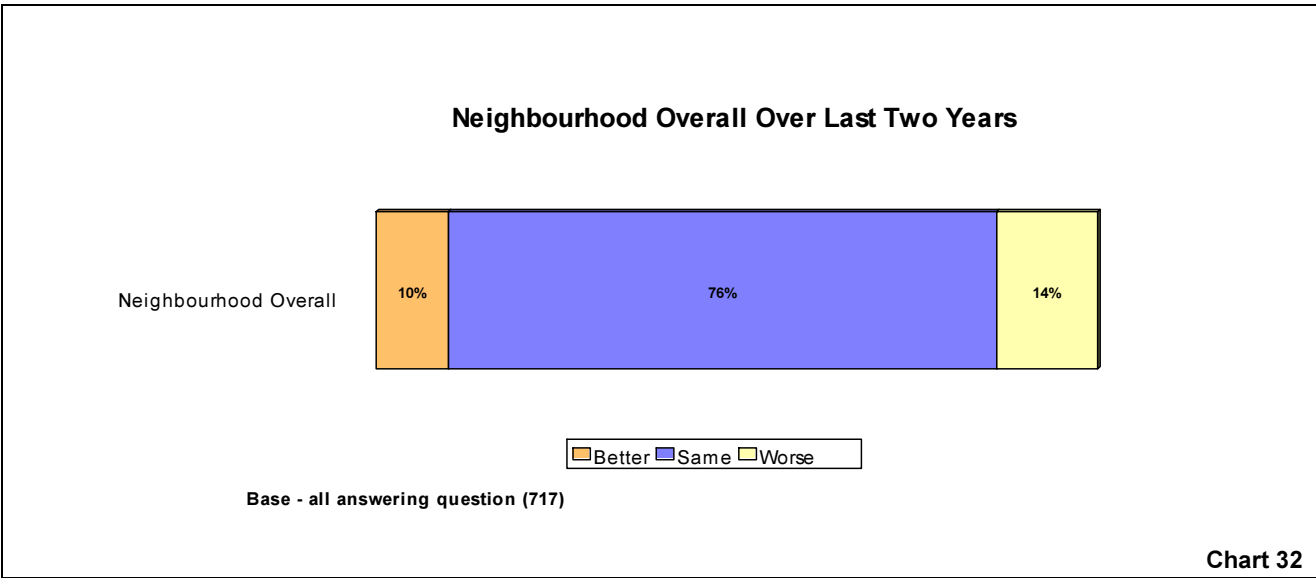
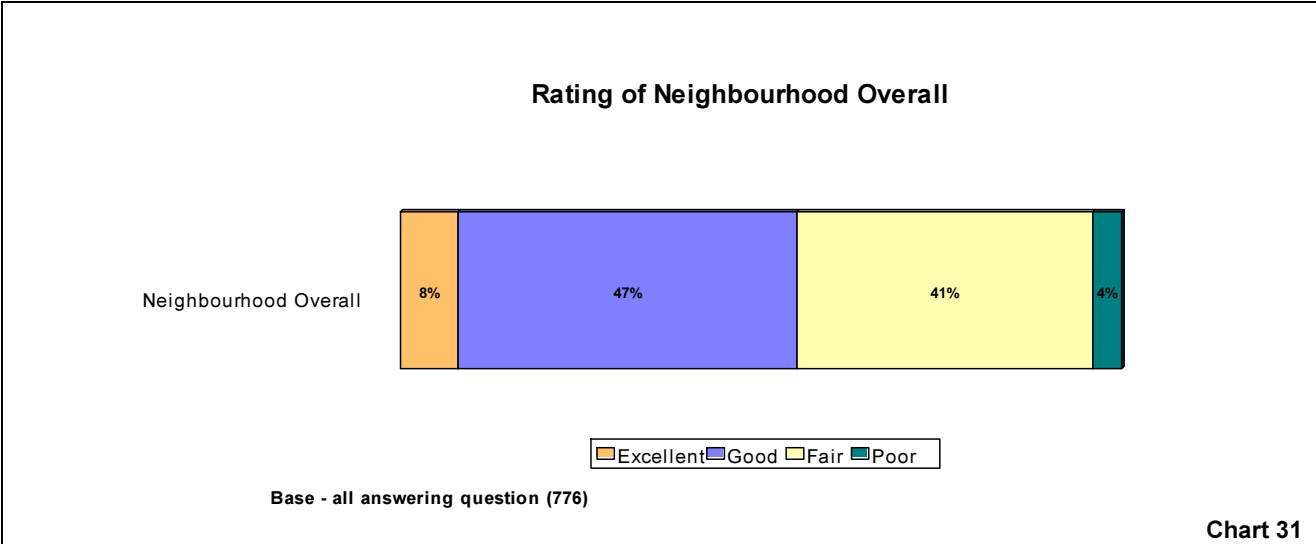
Overall, 40% of those with an opinion rate the level of crime as poor, and half feel it has got worse over the last two years.



The Neighbourhood Overall

When asked to rate their neighbourhood overall, 55% gave a rating of excellent or good, with the majority of the remainder rating it as fair (41%).

Three-quarters believe there has been no change over the last two years, with the remainder divided as to whether it has got better or worse.



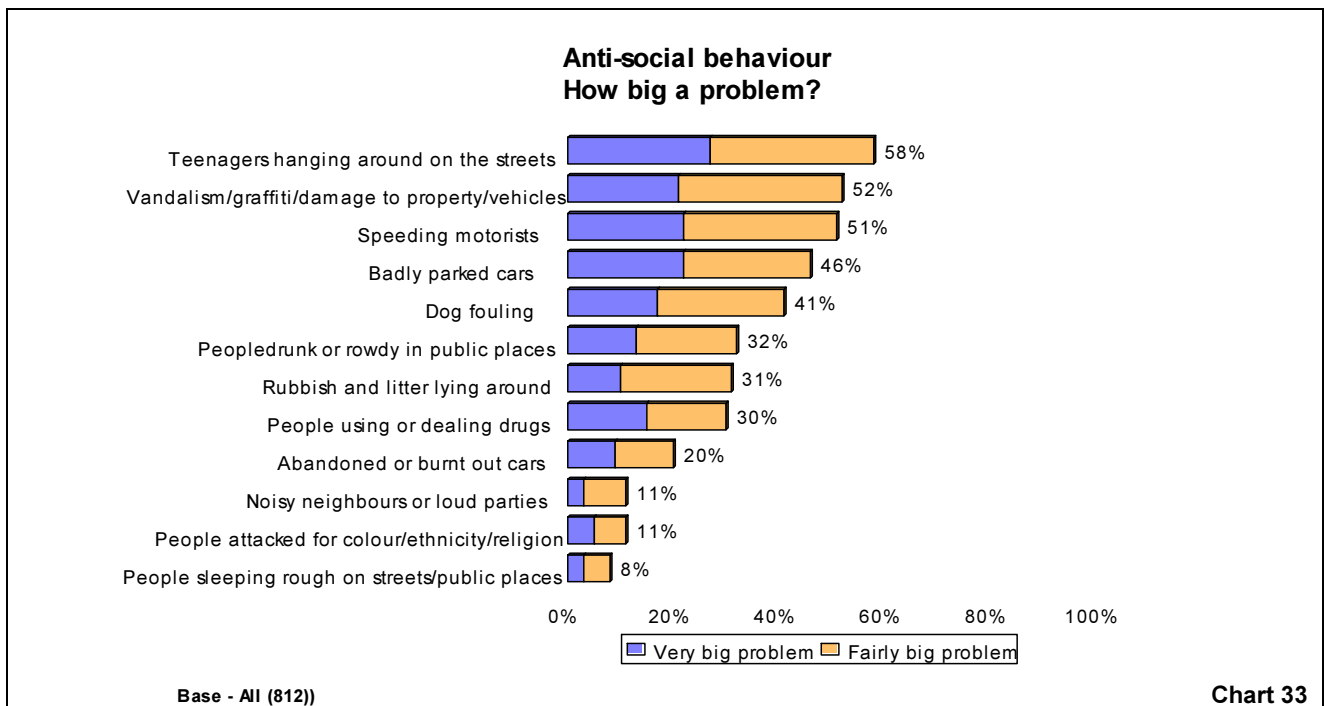
Anti-Social Behaviour

The biggest perceived problem in the area is teenagers hanging around the streets, which 58% of all residents cite as a problem. This is closely followed by vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property and vehicles (mentioned by 52%) and speeding motorists (51%).

Badly parked cars are felt to be a problem by 46% of residents, and 41% cite dog fouling.

Around a third of residents see people being drunk or rowdy in public places, people using or dealing drugs and rubbish and litter lying around as problems in their area.

The remaining issues were cited by 20% or fewer.

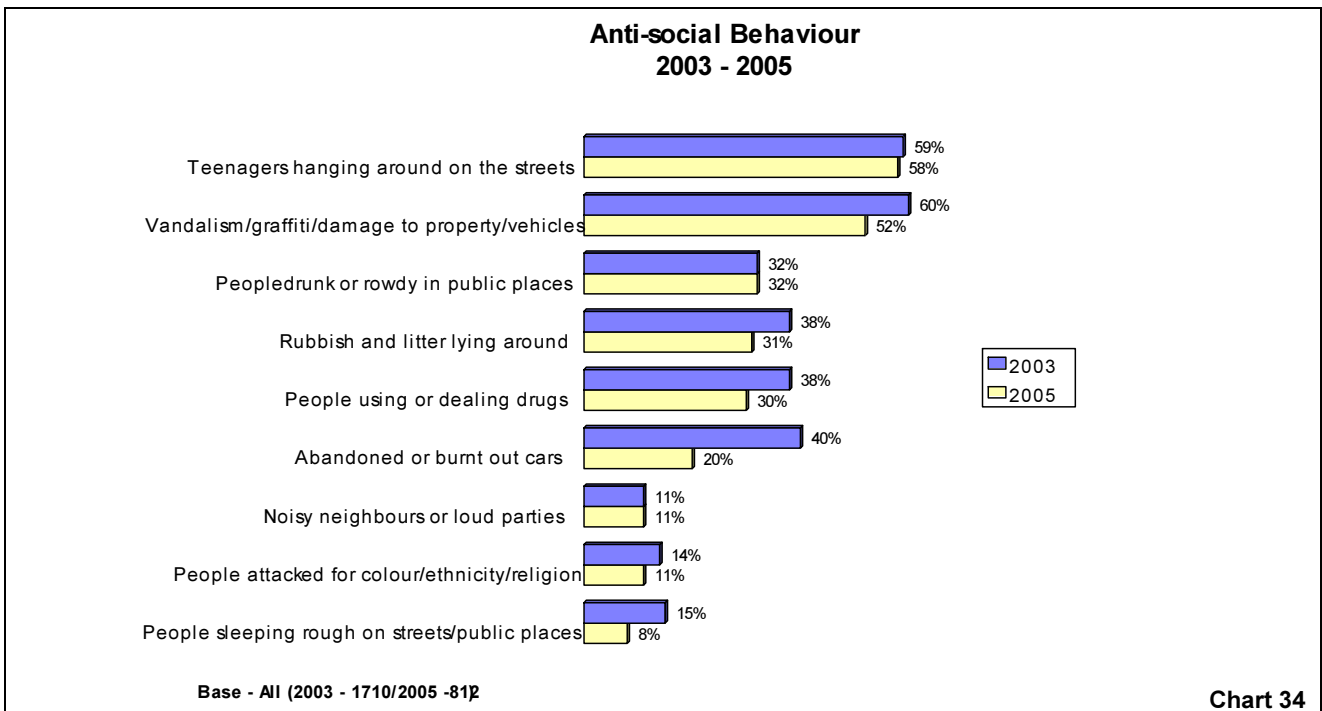


Note that figures in this chart are shown on a base of all respondents for consistency as varying numbers either responded don't know or did not answer each section of the question.

The chart below compares response to this question with that seen on the 2003 survey. Note that not all the issues on the 2005 survey were on the previous survey.

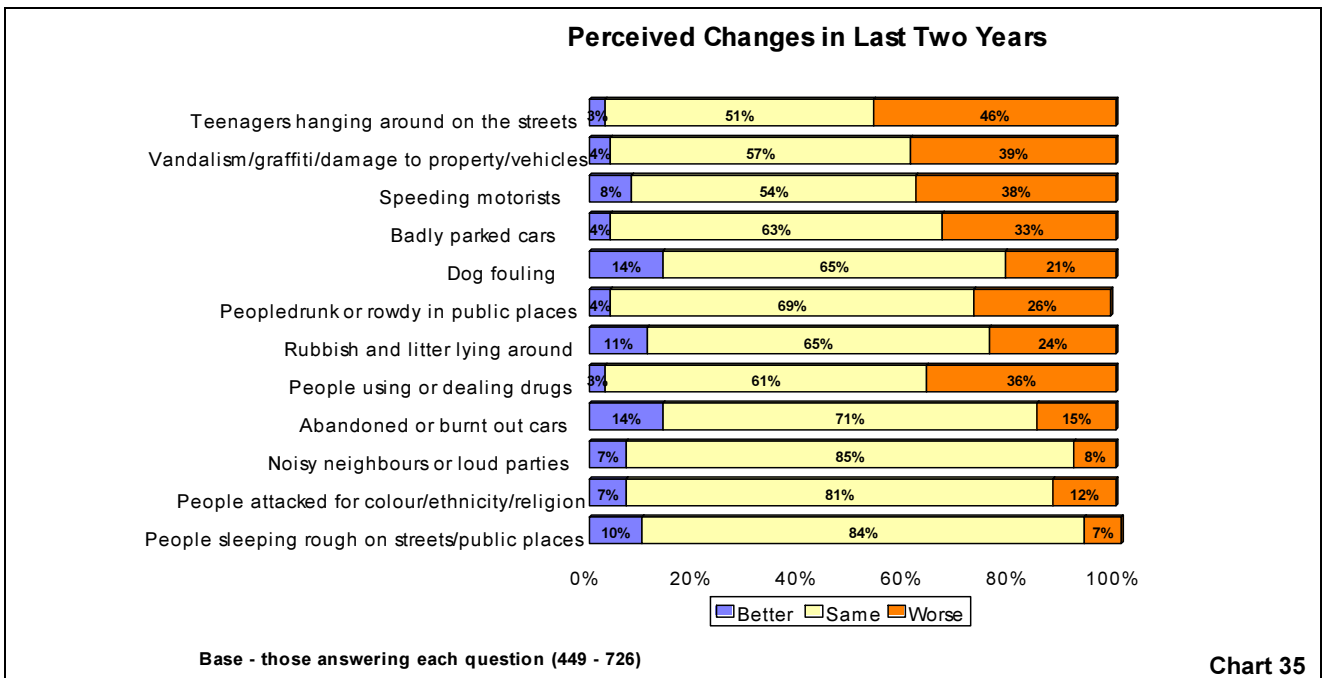
Whilst for many of these aspects of anti-social behaviour the proportion citing them as being a problem is at a similar level to that seen in 2003, there are a number where improvements appear to have been made. Abandoned or burn out cars is the most improved, falling from 40% in 2003 to 20% citing this as a problem in their area.

Rubbish and litter lying around (down from 38% to 31%), people using or dealing drugs (down from 38% to 30%) and vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property and vehicles (down from 60% to 52%) also show improvement.



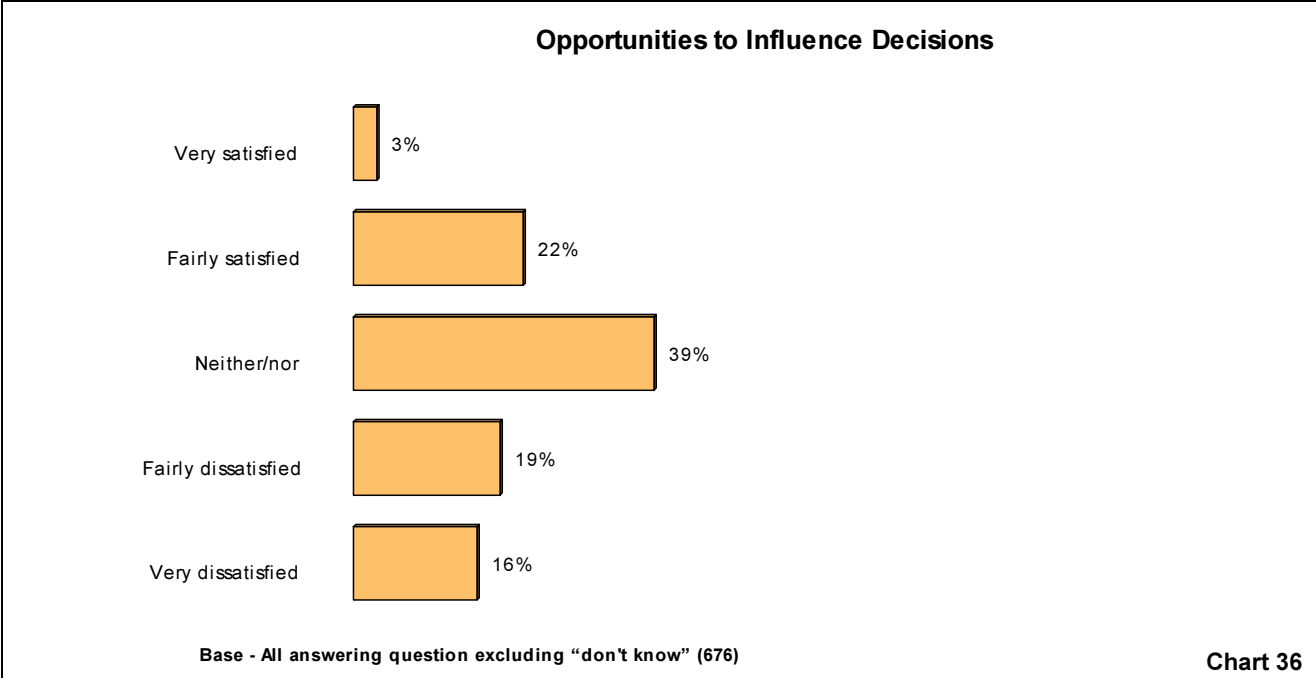
The previous chart compares responses to the question about anti-social behaviour from the 2003 and 2005 surveys. On the latest survey residents were asked whether they thought each of these had got better or worse or stayed the same over the last two years, and the results of that question are shown on the chart below.

Although the previous chart showed that, where comparable data is available, the proportion of residents regarding these types of anti-social behaviour to be a problem generally either remained at a similar level or fell, the chart below shows that the perception of many is that things have got worse.



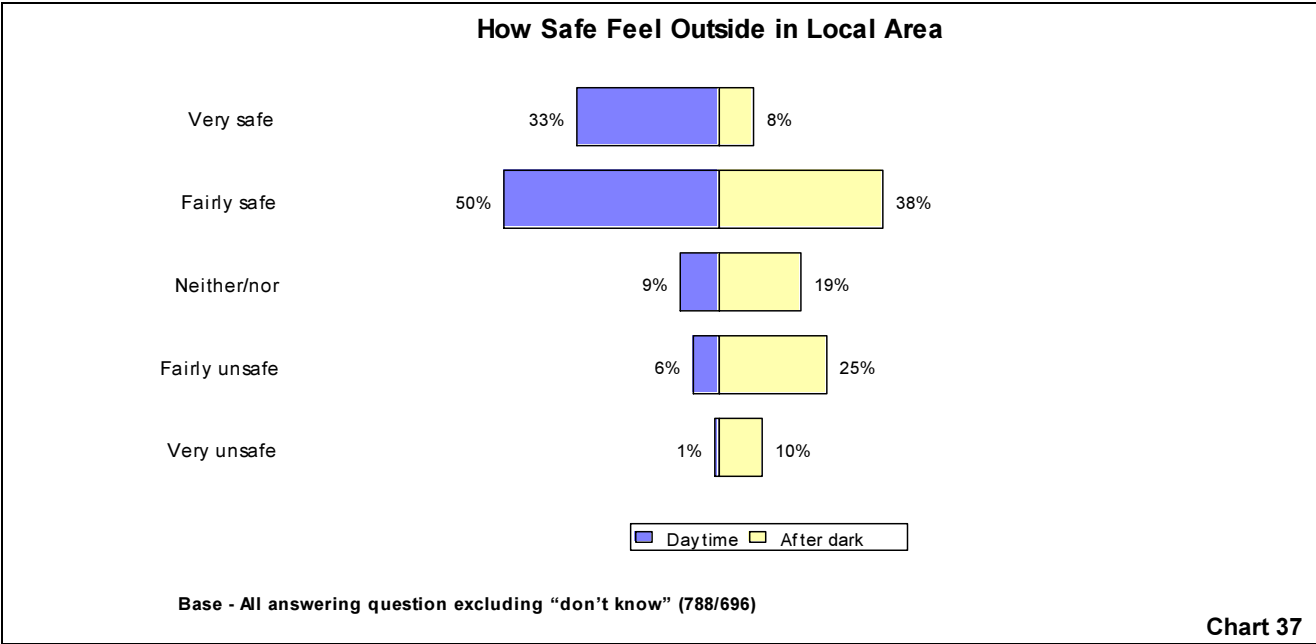
Opportunities to Influence Decisions

Only a quarter of residents with a view on the matter are satisfied with the opportunities available for residents to influence Council decisions which might affect them or their neighbourhood. Whilst 39% responded neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, more than a third are dissatisfied (35%).



Safety

Few residents have any problems with feeling safe in their local area during the day, though 35% say they feel unsafe after dark.



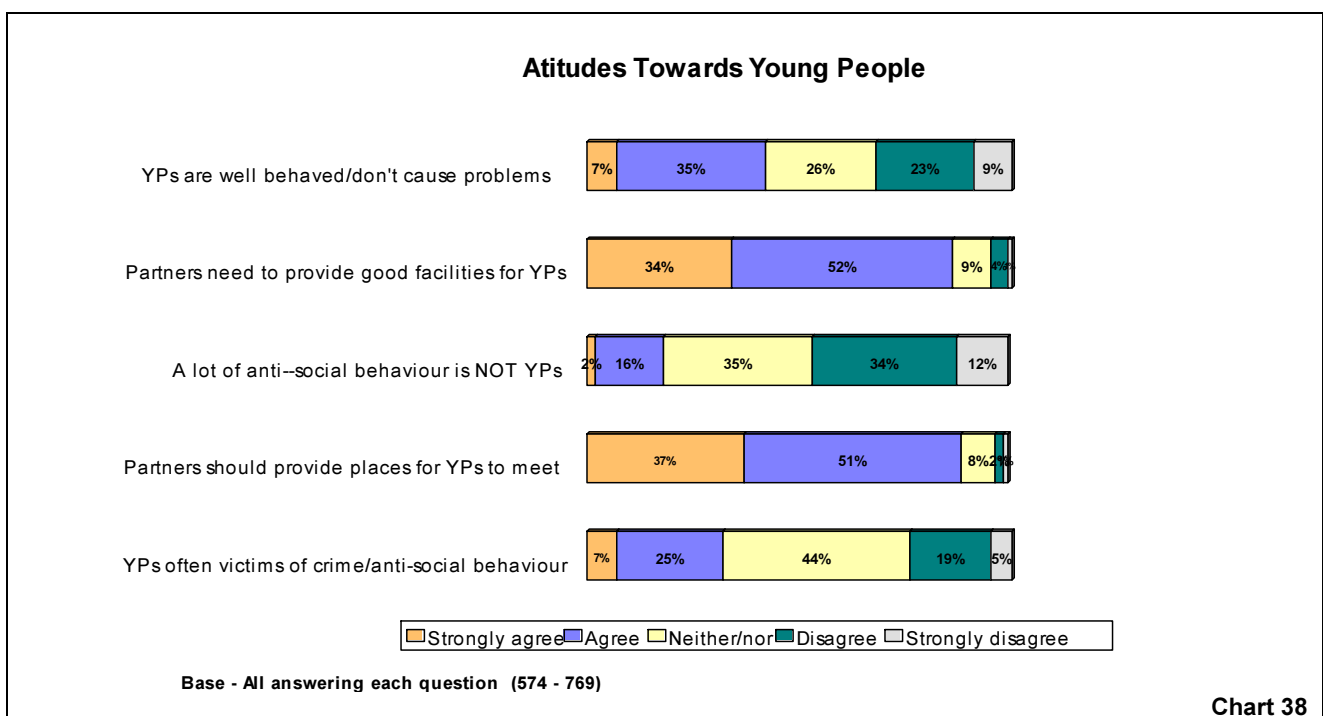
Young People

Attitudes towards young people are very mixed. Whilst 42% agree that young people in their area are well behaved and don't cause them any problems, 32% disagree.

Similarly, 32% agree that young people are very often victims of crime and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood, and 24% disagree.

However, when asked whether they agree or disagree with the proposition that a lot of the anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood is NOT caused by young people, the balance of opinion leans towards the negative – 18% agreeing that young people are not the problem and 46% disagreeing with this suggestion.

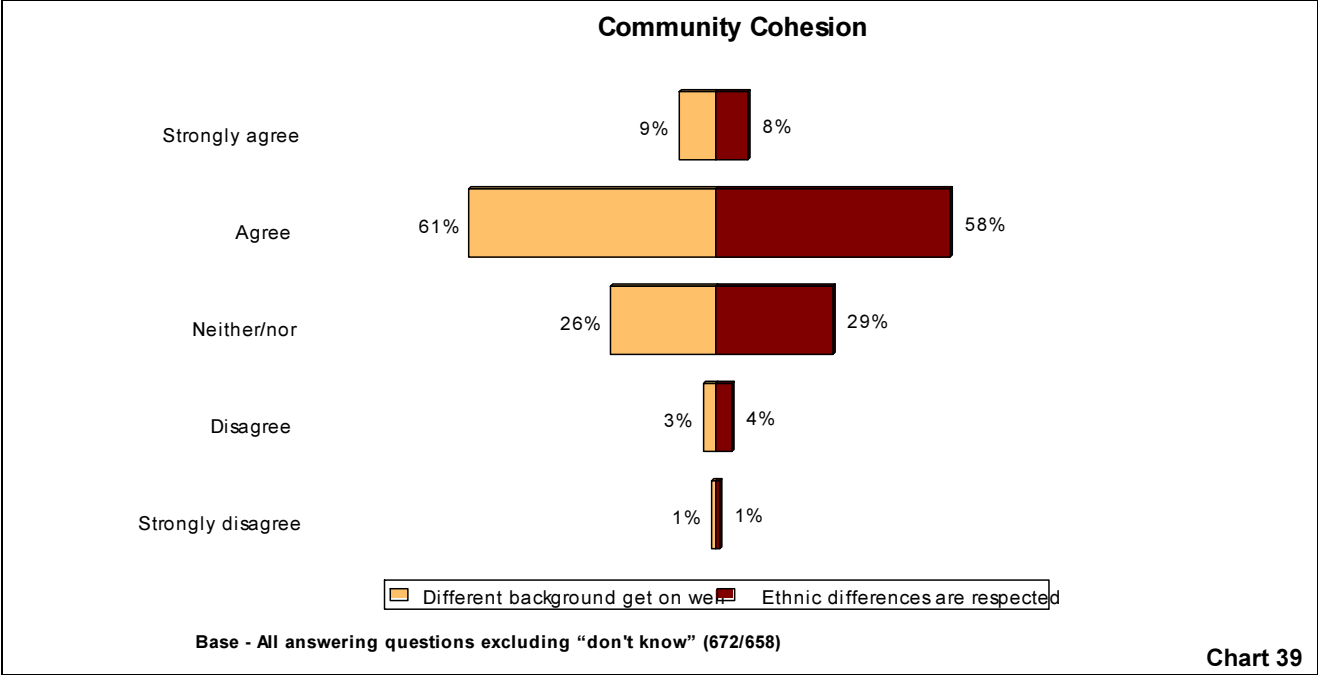
Residents are agreed, however, on what the Council and its partners should do about young people – 86% agreeing that they need to provide good facilities for young people, and 88% believing that they should provide suitable places for young people to meet and socialise.



Community Cohesion

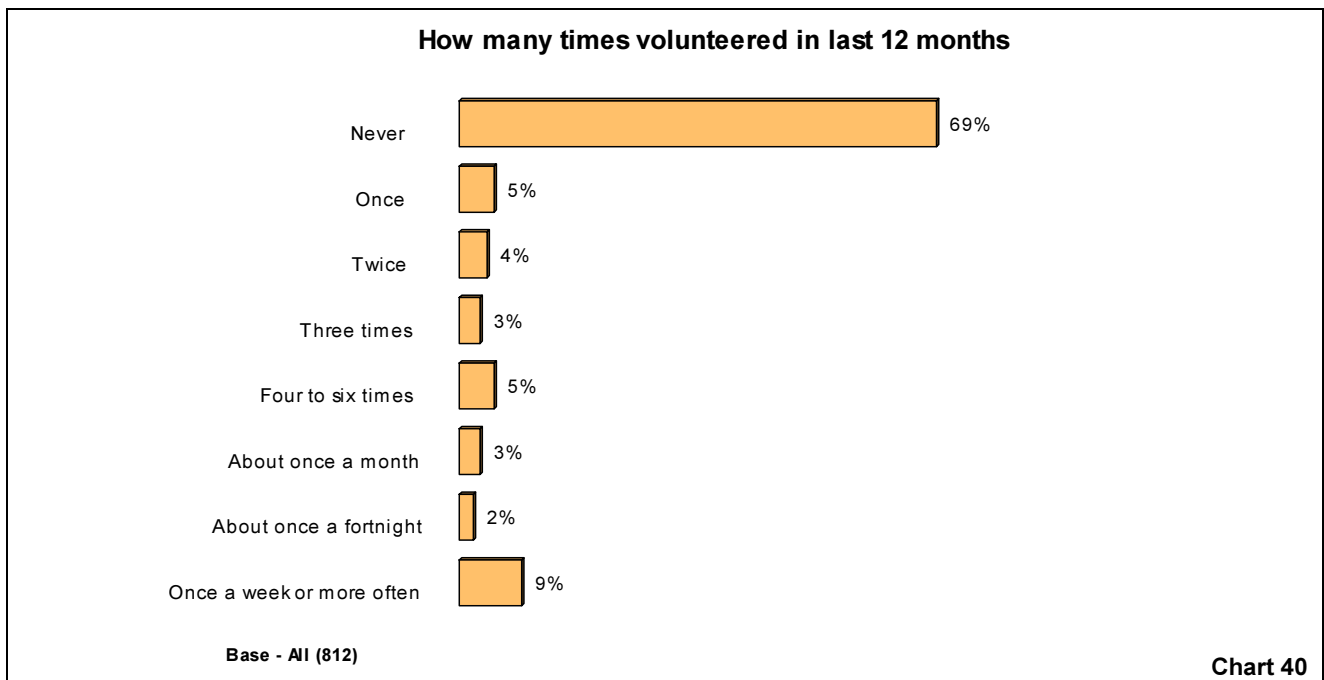
Amongst those with an opinion on the issue, the majority of residents believe that their neighbourhood is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (70%) and where ethnic differences are respected (64%).

Very few would disagree with these propositions, with the majority of the remainder responding neither agree nor disagree.

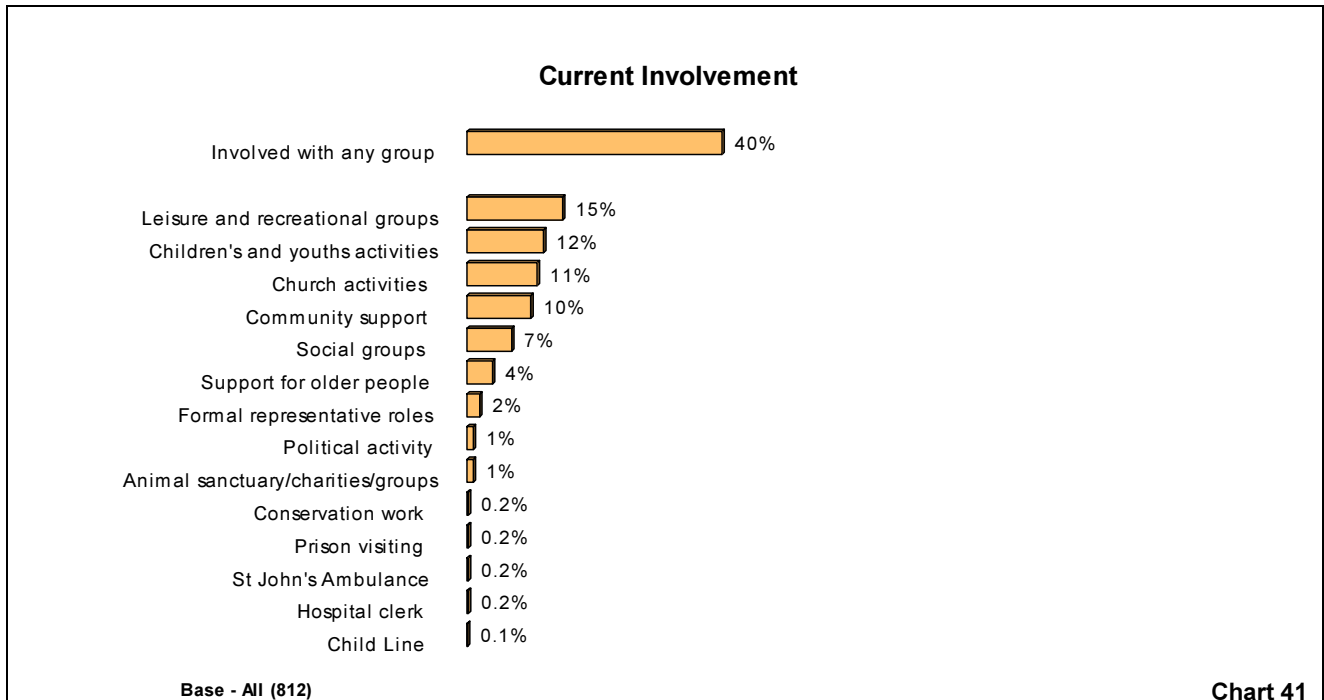


Volunteering

Overall, 31% of residents have undertaken activities with a voluntary organisation in the last twelve months, 9% doing so on a weekly basis.

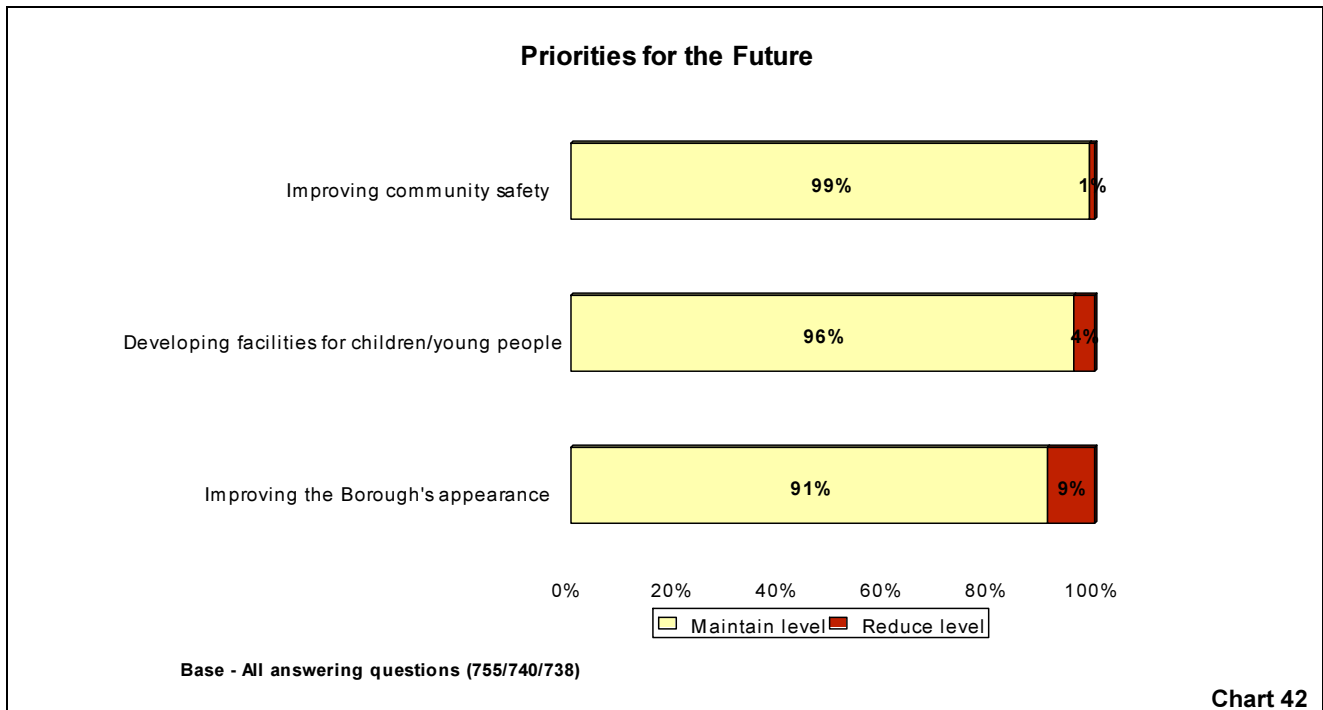


Overall, 40% of residents say they are currently involved with a community or voluntary organisation.



FUTURE PRIORITIES

The vast majority of those with an opinion believe that the authority should maintain the level of priority attached to improving community safety, developing facilities for children and young people, and improving the Borough's appearance



Those who said that any of these priorities should be reduced were asked to explain their reasoning.

The table below shows the full range of responses given together with the number making each comment.

Why reduce priority	
	Number of people mentioning
Made any comment	52
Appearance of Borough is fine as it is/not as important	39
Children/youths have enough facilities	8
Not council's responsibility/should be parent's responsibility	6
You neglect other age groups in favour of children/young people	1
Base – All (812)	

Residents were also asked to suggest any other issues which they think the Council should prioritise.

The table below shows the full range of responses given together with the number making each comment.

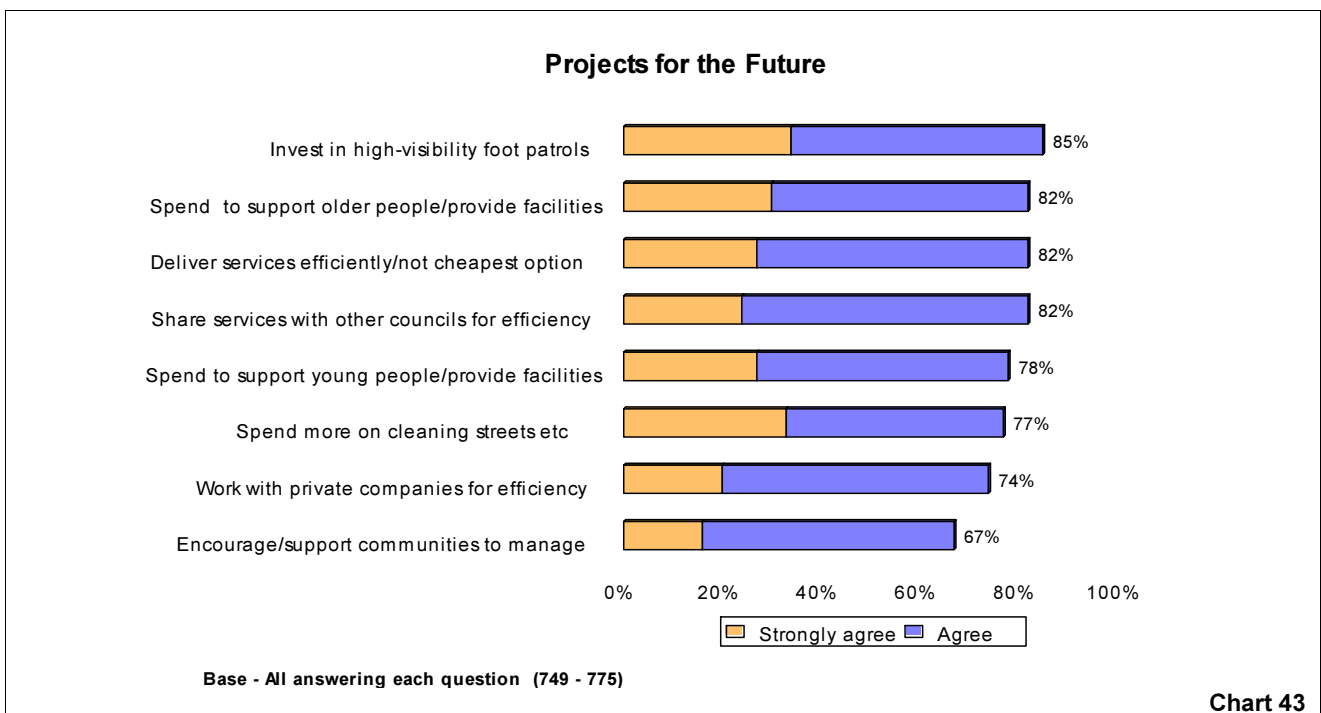
Other Priorities	
	Number of people mentioning
Made any comment	163
More/better policing	36
Safer roads	36
Recycling	16
Public transport	11
Inconsiderate parking	8
Encourage more business into area	8
Planning issues/new developments	7
Environmental issues/pollution	7
Facilities for elderly/disabled	6
Preservation of green belt	4
Affordable housing	4
Better street lighting	4
Anti social behaviour	4
Repairs/rundown areas	3
Get rid of drug problems/alcohol	3
Free car parking	3
Stop wasting public money	3
Reduce council tax	3
Lack of health services	2
More investment in rural areas	1
Lack of shops	1
Base – All (812)	

Residents were asked to say whether they agree or disagree with a range of projects which Gedling Borough Council may take forward in the future (see questionnaire for full wording of each statement).

As shown on the chart below, the majority of residents agree with all of the proposals put forward. Furthermore, the majority of the remainder responded neither agree nor disagree, with few actively disagreeing with any of these proposals – the highest being 10% in the case of ‘The Council should work with private companies to provide services if this means services can be delivered more efficiently’ – 74% agree with this statement.

The proposition with the lowest level of approval is ‘The Council should encourage and support communities who want to run and manage their own community facilities’, which 67% overall agree with, though only 16% responded strongly agree – 6% disagreed.

The two proposals receiving the highest level of strongly agree are ‘The Council should invest more in providing high-visibility foot patrols for the Borough's streets and parks’ (34%) and ‘The Council should spend more on cleaning streets and making sure rules on litter and fly tipping are obeyed’ (33%).



Appendices

Summary Data

Questionnaire