

Blacon Neighbourhood Plan Community Engagement Report

This report was produced by Cheshire Community Action, and commissioned by Blacon Neighbourhood Alliance - Neighbourhood Forum

FINAL VERSION – SEPTEMBER 2024



CONTENTS

1.0	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Pages 3 – 4
2.0	INTRODUCTION	Page 5
3.0	METHODOLOGY	Page 5
4.0	STUDY AREA (Blacon Neighbourhood Area)	Page 6
5.0	BLACON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY RESULTS	Pages 7 – 27
5.1	Local planning priorities	Page 7
5.2	Support for potential planning policies and new developments	Page 8
5.3	Site considerations for a Community Hub site	Page 9
5.4	Site considerations for an Indoor Sports Facility site	Pages 10 – 11
5.5	Requirements of a new Community Hub	Pages 12 – 13
5.6	Requirements of a new Indoor Sports Facility	Pages 14 – 15
5.7	Potential uses of a new Community Hub	Pages 16 – 17
5.8	Potential uses of a new Indoor Sports Facility	Pages 18 – 19
5.9	Potential demand / frequency of use for new community facilities	Page 20
5.10	Types of use for new community facilities	Page 21
5.11	Importance of local retail areas	Page 22
5.12	Frequency of use of local businesses	Page 23
5.13	Desired businesses and services in Blacon	Page 24
5.14	Businesses and services people want to see less of in Blacon	Page 25
5.15	Levels of support for potential designation of Local Green Spaces	Page 26 – 27
5.16	Community buildings and facilities that should be protected	Page 27
6.0	SURVEY RESPONDENT PROFILE	Pages 28 – 31
7.0	THANKS	Page 31
	APPENDIX A: LEAFLET DISTRIBUTED TO BLACON RESIDENT HOUSEHOLDS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA	Page 32
	APPENDIX B: COVER LETTER AND SURVEY QUESTIONS	Pages 33 – 40
	APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT FEEDBACK	Page 41

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Blacon Neighbourhood Plan Community Engagement Report provides a comprehensive analysis of the survey results from community members in the Blacon area. The survey was intended to inform key policy areas for the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan, and proposals for new community facilities, including a Community Hub and Indoor Sports Facility. The summary below highlights the key themes and priorities from each section of the report.

Survey Overview

The Blacon Neighbourhood Plan survey was conducted to gather input from residents and people who work and / or volunteer in Blacon. The survey aimed to collect views on local planning priorities, community facilities, the types of services desired in the area and the green spaces that should be protected. A total of 611 surveys were completed, representing 9% of households in the neighbourhood. The survey's results will inform policies and proposals for a new Community Hub and Indoor Sports Facility, along with other planning considerations.

Key Priorities for Local Planning

Respondents prioritised the development of a new Community Hub and an Indoor Sports Facility, with strong support for both community infrastructure projects. Protecting existing community facilities, such as local shops and green spaces, was also important but ranked lower than the development of new infrastructure. This indicates that while residents value the preservation of current assets, they are more focused on enhancing local facilities to meet future needs.

Support for New Developments

There was robust support for new developments, particularly the Community Hub and Indoor Sports Facility. Respondents showed moderate support for protecting green spaces and local shops, although these were not as highly prioritised as the new developments. Concerns about the accessibility and management of these new facilities were common among those who expressed reservations. Some respondents emphasised the need for independent operation of new facilities, separate from schools, to ensure wider community access.

Site Considerations for New Facilities

When choosing sites for the Community Hub and Indoor Sports Facility, safety and accessibility were the highest priorities. Features such as good lighting, proximity to bus routes, and well-maintained footpaths and cycle routes were considered essential. Additionally, parking was important, although access by foot or public transport was seen as preferable. Proximity to homes, shops, and schools was less important, with the community more focused on the functionality and safety of these facilities.

Community Hub Facility Requirements

The top priorities for the Community Hub include accessibility features such as disabled WC facilities, baby-changing areas, and access to free Wi-Fi. A strong focus was placed on youth facilities, kitchen facilities, and spaces for community activities, with moderate interest in recreational spaces like snooker and pool areas. Social spaces, such as a café or bar, were also highlighted as important, although features related to entertainment, like a stage for performances, ranked lower.

Indoor Sports Facility Requirements

For the Indoor Sports Facility, accessibility and sports infrastructure were top priorities, with disabled WC facilities, boxing facilities, and gymnasium space receiving strong support. The community also emphasised the need for team sports amenities and social spaces, though entertainment-related features, such as a

stage or performance area, were less important. A high demand for sports and fitness classes underscores the facility's potential role in promoting physical activity in the community.

Potential Uses of New Facilities

Both the Community Hub and Indoor Sports Facility are expected to serve a wide range of purposes. Youth-focused activities ranked as the highest priority for both spaces, with a particular emphasis on fitness and sports classes. There is also strong support for more senior-focused activities to ensure any facilities meet the needs of all generations. The Community Hub is envisioned as a versatile space for community events, entertainment, and clubs, while the Indoor Sports Facility is expected to primarily serve sports-related activities. There is also significant interest in using both facilities for personal hire, such as private parties.

Local Retail and Business Offer

Respondents stressed the importance of local retail areas, particularly The Parade and Western Avenue shops, which were considered vital for meeting local needs. There is a demand for more diverse businesses in Blacon, with calls for additional healthcare services, particularly an NHS dentist. Conversely, many respondents expressed a desire to see fewer takeaways, charity shops, and betting shops, suggesting that the community seeks more variety and healthier options in the local business offer.

Local Green Spaces

Protecting local green spaces is a key concern for many respondents, especially in terms of providing recreational areas for children and preserving wildlife habitats. The majority supported the designation of several local areas as Local Green Space, with Blacon Community Nature Park receiving the strongest support. Respondents also highlighted the importance of these spaces for mental and physical well-being, community gatherings, and environmental conservation.

Community Buildings and Facilities to Protect

The Adventure Playground ('The Venny') and Cairns Crescent were frequently mentioned as critical community facilities that should be maintained and potentially expanded. Other notable facilities include the local library, churches, and sports facilities. Many respondents called for increased investment in these spaces to ensure they continue to meet the needs of residents, particularly children and the elderly.

Conclusion

The survey results clearly indicate a strong desire for new community facilities in Blacon, particularly a Community Hub and Indoor Sports Facility. Residents are also keen to protect existing green spaces and community buildings while seeking improvements in local retail offerings. Overall, the community's focus is on creating accessible, safe, and versatile spaces that cater to a wide range of age groups and activities, ensuring a balanced approach to development and preservation in Blacon's future.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Cheshire Community Action (CCA) was commissioned by Blacon Neighbourhood Forum to carry out community engagement activities during the summer of 2024 to collect views on planning issues from local people to inform neighbourhood plan policies and the potential development of a new Community Centre / Hub and an Indoor Sports facility within the Blacon Neighbourhood Area. The survey was aimed at residents, people who work and / or volunteer in the area.

The Neighbourhood Forum arranged engagement events for local stakeholders and residents to help promote the survey and stimulate a discussion about its proposed policy priorities for the neighbourhood plan.

The results of all the above engagement activity is summarised in this report to help inform the neighbourhood plan policies and the development of proposals for a new Community Hub and an Indoor Sports Facility.

Cheshire Community Action is a local charity based in Cheshire that has analysed the survey data independently. All personal information that has been received as part of the survey has been treated as confidential in line with General Data Protection Rules.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Blacon Neighbourhood Plan Survey 2024

The leaflet shown in **Appendix A** on page 32 of this report was delivered to all residents in the Blacon Neighbourhood Area via local volunteers organised by the Neighbourhood Forum, and was open for responses for one month during July 2024. Residents could access the survey online via a link or QR code. The survey questions are shown in **Appendix B** on pages 33 – 40.

Community Events

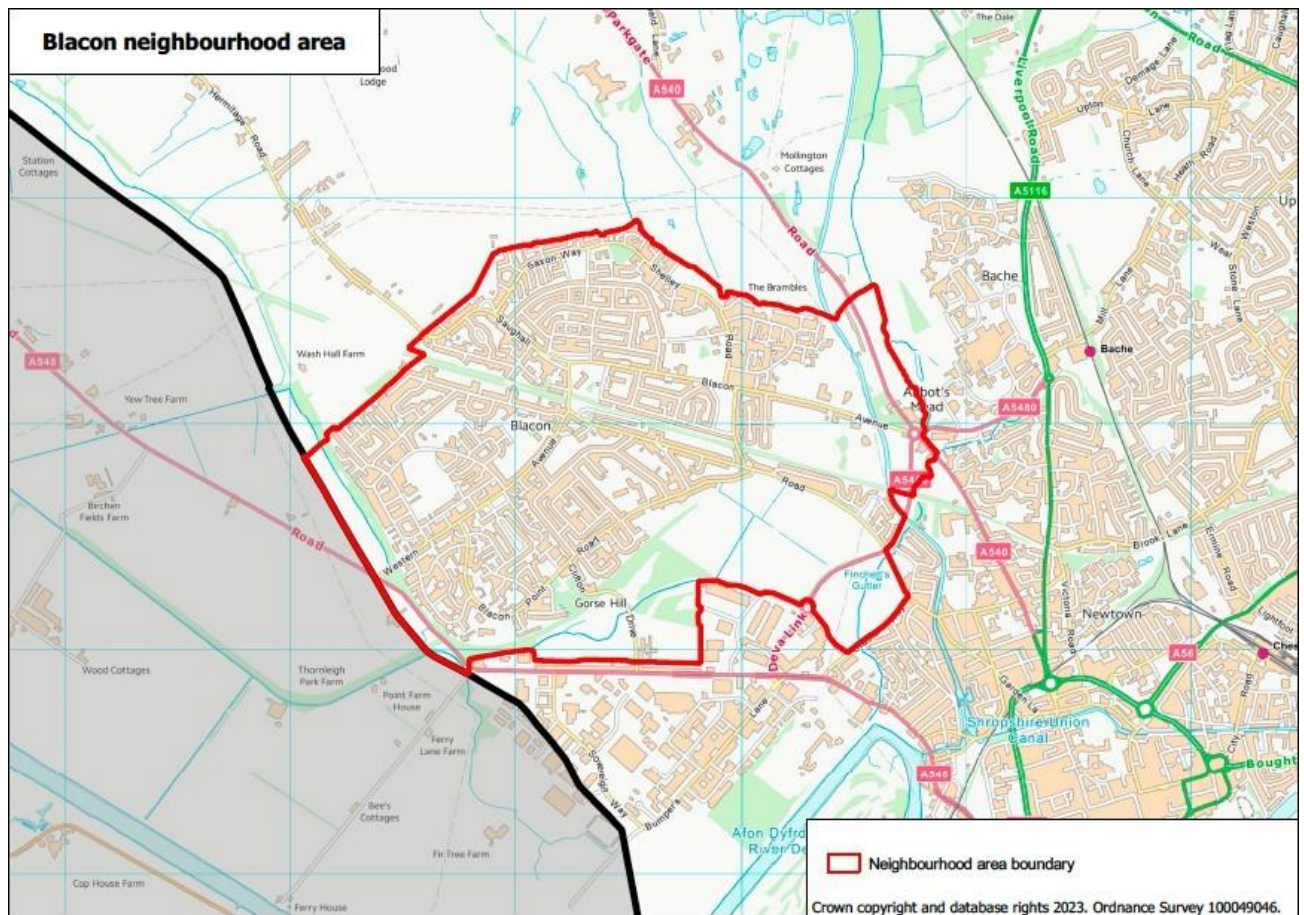
The survey was promoted at a range of events including:

- Blacon Festival - Saturday 6th July;
- Key stakeholder meeting - Monday 8th July in the Community Hall at the Parade Enterprise Centre;
- Community meeting at Dee Point Primary School on Tuesday 9th July;
- Blacon Youth Football Club 60th Anniversary on Saturday 20th July;
- Via the [Blacon Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page](#) and;
- [Local press release](#).

Feedback from these events is shown in **Appendix C** on page 41.

Opportunities were also provided for people without internet access to fill in the survey face to face via meetings with specific groups and local organisations and their members / service users. Data entry of paper copies into the online survey collector (to add them to the online survey responses) was completed by the Forum Secretary.

4.0 STUDY AREA (Blacon Neighbourhood Area Map)¹



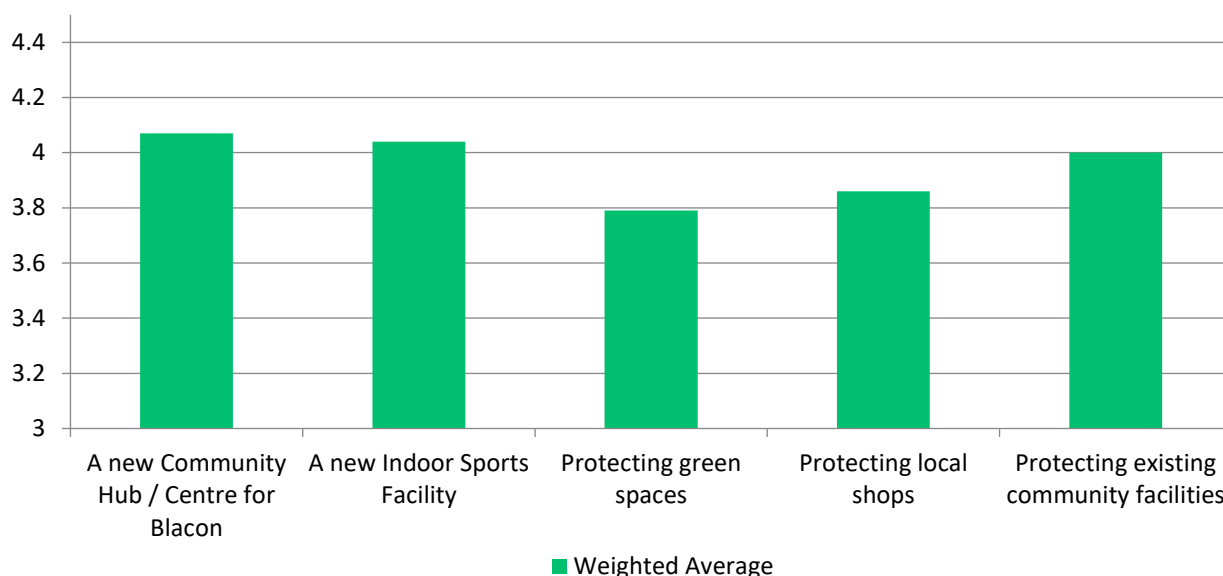
¹ Map source: CWaC Planning Portal

5.0 BLACON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 Local planning priorities

The chart below shows how respondents prioritise potential policy areas for the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan including a new Community Hub, and a new Indoor Sports Facility for Blacon. Each bar represents a different option, and the height of the bars indicates the level of priority given to each option based on the responses. The options were based on the priorities communicated by local residents in earlier engagement and surveys.

Which of the following is the highest priority for Blacon?



Key Insights:

- A **new Community Hub/Centre** for Blacon has the highest weighted average, suggesting it is the **top priority** among the respondents, and indicates strong support.
- A **new Indoor Sports Facility** is the **second highest priority**, with a weighted average close to that of the community hub/centre.
- **Protecting existing community facilities** ranks **third**, also with a fairly high weighted average, but slightly lower than the top two, showing it is an important issue for many respondents.
- **Protecting local shops** comes in next with a slightly lower score.
- **Protecting green spaces** is the lowest-ranked priority among the options presented, indicating that fewer respondents see it as a top priority compared to the other items.

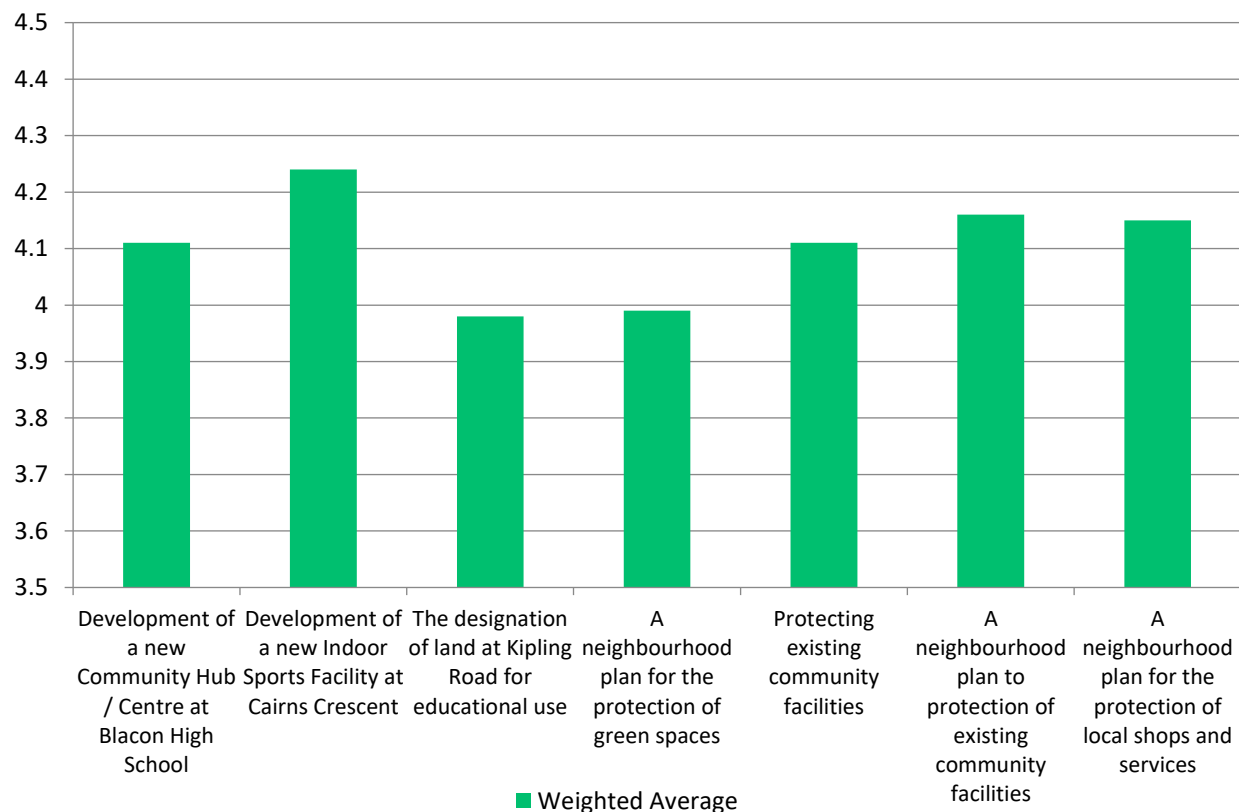
Interpretation:

- The respondents **prioritise new infrastructure** (a community hub and sports facility) over protecting existing resources (shops and green spaces).
- The community seems to **value development and new facilities more than preservation**, according to the weighted averages in the survey.

5.2 Support for potential planning policies and new developments

This chart shows how likely people are to support various options, with each bar representing a different option and the height of the bars showing the weighted average level of support.

How likely people are to support the following options:



Key Insights:

- **Development projects (specifically the new indoor sports facility and community hub)** are highly supported, indicating a community desire for new infrastructure and recreational amenities.
- **Protecting existing community assets** (both facilities and local shops) also ranks highly, showing that the community values the preservation of current resources while simultaneously supporting development.
- **Land designation for educational use and green space protection** receive the least support, suggesting that these are seen as less critical needs at the moment.

Interpretation:

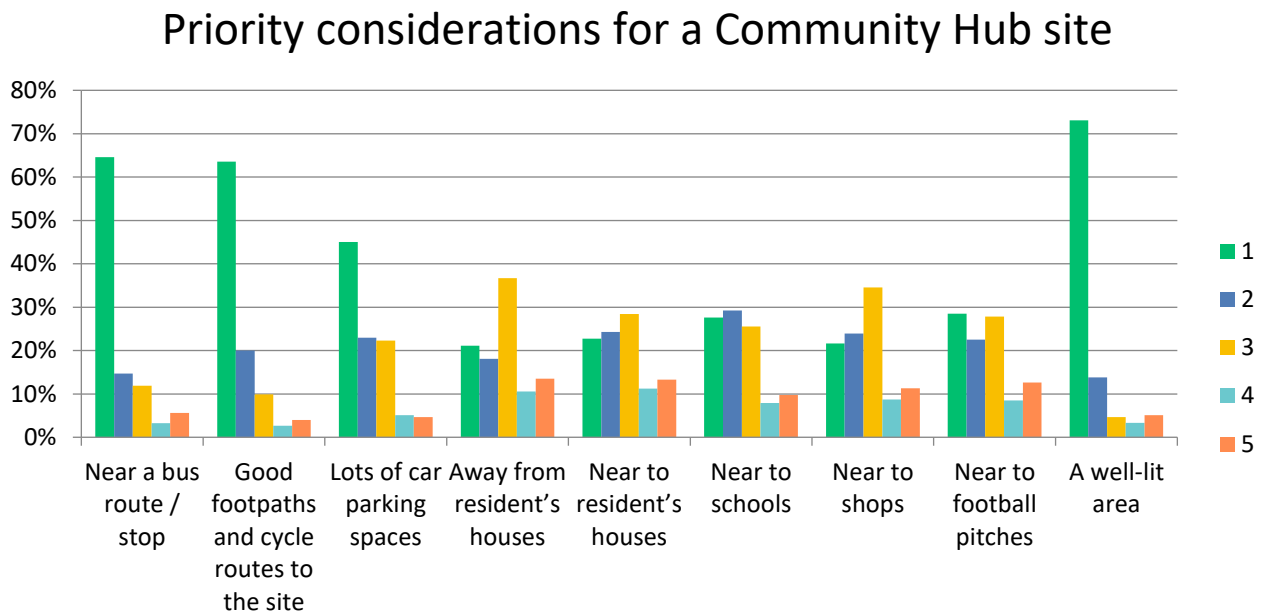
- The community seems to **value a mix of development and preservation**, with a stronger inclination toward **new infrastructure** (like the indoor sports facility) and **protecting local businesses**.
- There is a **lower emphasis on educational land designation and green space protection** at this time, which may reflect current priorities that focus more on community development and support.

Summary of comments from respondents that are unlikely to support proposals:

Much of the feedback centres on the **need for more accessible and thoughtfully planned facilities**. Many respondents express concerns about the management of existing facilities, anti-social behaviour, and the potential overdevelopment of certain areas. There is also a consistent theme of ensuring that new facilities, particularly a community hub, are run independently from schools and **accessible to all community members**.

5.3 Site considerations for a Community Hub site

The chart below outlines the **priority considerations** for the location of a **Community Hub site** based on various factors. Each factor is ranked on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 representing the highest priority and 5 the lowest. The coloured bars represent the percentage of respondents who selected each priority ranking for each factor.



Key Insights:

Top Priorities:

- **A well-lit area** and **near a bus route/stop** are the most important considerations for respondents ranking these factors as their top priority.
- **Good footpaths and cycle routes to the site** is also a significant consideration, with respondents ranking this as a high priority.
- **Lots of car parking spaces** is another high-priority factor, though not as strong as the top three, with around 45% of respondents marking it as their top consideration.

Lower Priorities:

- **Near to schools**, **near to shops**, and **near to football pitches** were generally ranked as lower priorities compared to the others. However, they still show a moderate level of importance, with many respondents ranking these factors as either a 2 or a 3.
- On balance respondents **favoured the facility to be near resident's houses** rather than **Away from homes**, indicating slightly more preference for accessibility, than there were concerns about noise and disruption.

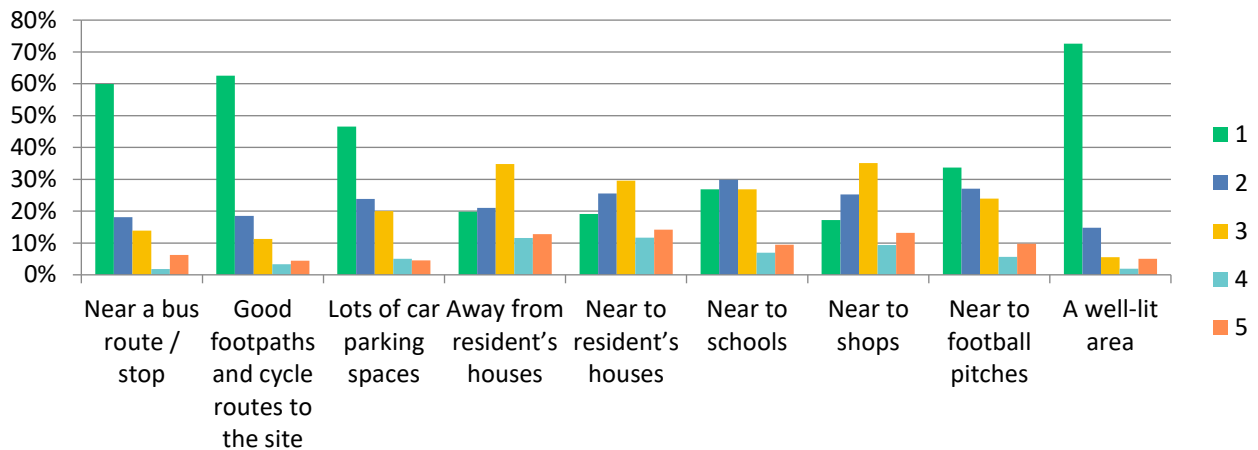
Interpretation:

- The most critical considerations for a **Community Hub site** revolve around **accessibility** and **safety**, as indicated by the high priority placed on being **well-lit**, **close to public transportation (bus routes)**, and having **good footpaths and cycle routes**.
- **Parking availability** is also important, though not as crucial as the top factors. This suggests that while accessibility by foot, bike, or public transport is preferred, parking spaces are still needed for those who might drive to the hub.
- Factors such as proximity to **residents' houses**, **schools**, and **shops** are generally seen as secondary considerations.

5.4 Site considerations for an Indoor Sports Facility site

The chart below presents the **priority considerations** for selecting a site for an **Indoor Sports Facility**. Respondents have ranked various factors from 1 to 5, where 1 represents the highest priority and 5 the lowest. Each bar represents the percentage of respondents who gave a particular ranking to each factor.

Priority considerations for an Indoor Sports Facility site



Key Insights:

Top Priorities:

- **A well-lit area** stands out as the most important factor, with respondents ranking it as their top priority. This suggests that safety and visibility are of paramount concern when selecting the location for an indoor sports facility.
- **Good footpaths and cycle routes to the site** is also highly prioritised, with respondents ranking it as their top priority. This indicates a strong desire for easy accessibility by walking and cycling.
- **Near a bus route/stop** is another crucial factor, with respondents ranking this as one of the most important considerations. It shows that ease of access by public transport is a key priority.
- **Lots of car parking spaces** is also of high importance, but a lower priority than lighting, footpaths, cycleways proximity to a bus route.

Lower Priorities:

- **Near to schools, Near to shops, and Near to football pitches** received moderate rankings, indicating that these factors are somewhat important but not the most critical considerations for most respondents.
- **Away from resident's houses** and **Near to resident's houses** both received a significant percentage of low-priority rankings. This suggests that proximity to homes is not a primary concern for most respondents.

Interpretation:

- **Safety** (well-lit areas) and **accessibility** (public transport, footpaths, cycle routes) are the highest priorities when choosing a site for the indoor sports facility. This reflects a community focus on ensuring that the facility is both **easy to reach** and **safe to use**, particularly at night.
- **Parking** is moderately important, likely because some respondents will drive, though the higher emphasis on public transport, walking, and cycling suggests that a significant portion of the community prefers these modes of transport.
- **Proximity to residential areas, schools, or shops** is not a major concern, indicating that the community is more focused on the site's functionality and accessibility than its closeness to other infrastructure.

Summary of the comments regarding other considerations for the location of a potential new community hub/centre and indoor sports facility

Other Suggested Locations:

- 'The Venny' was proposed several times.
- Camp End of Blacon was highlighted as needing more facilities.
- Shelley Road Field and Kipling Road Field were also suggested as potential sites.

Key Features & Considerations:

- Showers, a swimming pool, and a social relaxation area were some suggestions for the sports facility.
- Disabled access and security (CCTV, extended hours) were emphasised as priorities.
- The facility should cater to all ages and be within walking distance for children.
- Avoid proximity to homes due to concerns about noise and disruption.

Additional Concerns:

- Wildlife protection during construction.
- No alcohol sales at the facilities to avoid contributing to existing alcohol-related issues in Blacon.
- The facility should not be built on greenbelt land.

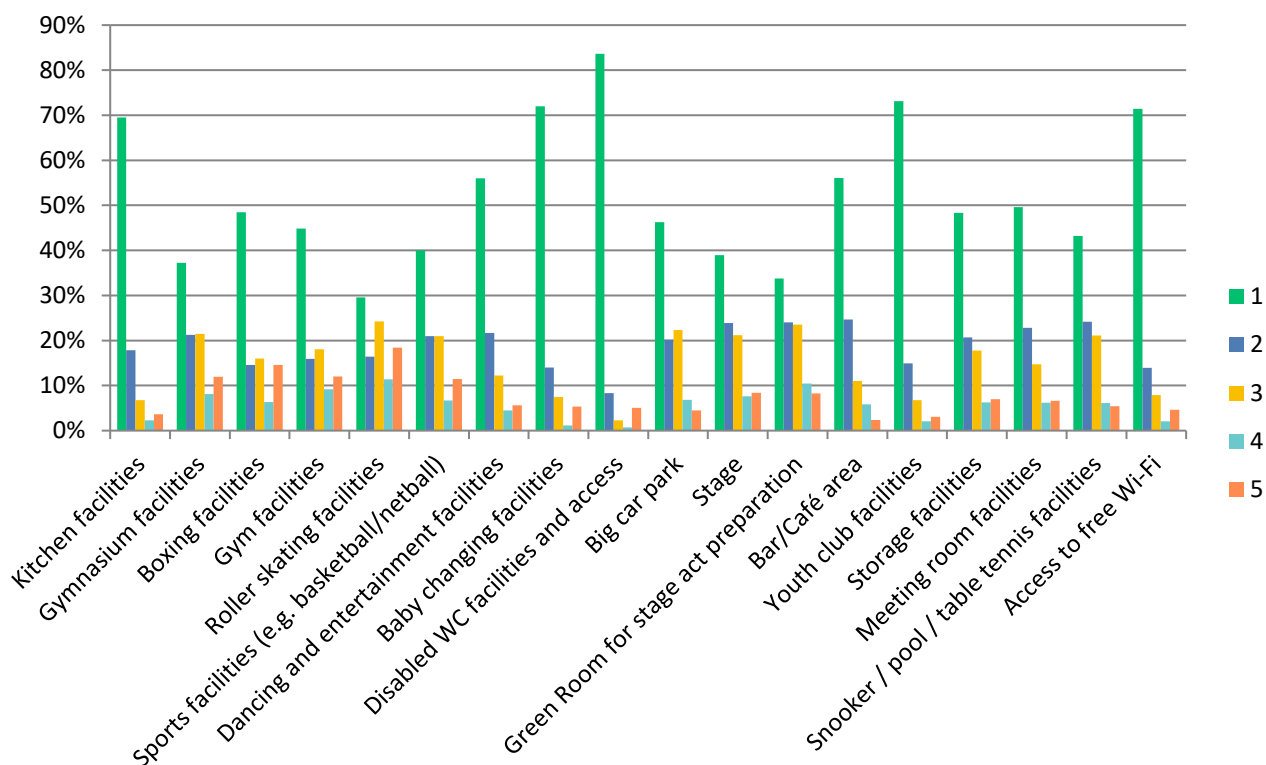
Opposition:

- One respondent was against the development of any new facilities.

5.5 Requirements of a new Community Hub

The chart below illustrates the priority ranking for various facilities deemed important for the **Community Hub**. Each facility is ranked on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 represents the highest priority and 5 the lowest. The coloured bars indicate the percentage of respondents who assigned each priority level to each facility.

What facilities are most important for a Community Hub?



Key insights

Top-Ranked (1) Facilities:

- **Disabled WC facilities and access:** 84% of respondents ranked this as the highest priority, emphasizing the importance of accessibility.
- **Youth club facilities:** 73% of respondents ranked this feature highly, showing the importance of dedicated spaces for youth engagement.
- **Baby changing facilities:** 72% of respondents rated this as most important, indicating a need for family-friendly amenities.
- **Access to free Wi-Fi:** 71% of respondents prioritised this as a key feature for the hub.
- **Kitchen facilities:** 70% of respondents rated kitchen facilities as a top priority, underscoring the need for communal cooking and dining areas.

Moderately Important (Ranked 2-3):

- **Big car park:** 46% rated it as top priority, with an additional 20% ranking it as the second most important, and 22% ranking it third, indicating the significance of accessible parking.
- **Bar/Café area:** 56% of respondents rated it as top priority, while 25% ranked it second, showing a strong interest in having social spaces within the hub.
- **Gymnasium facilities:** 37% of respondents gave it top importance, while 21% rated it second and 21% rated it third, showing mixed but notable interest.
- **Meeting room facilities:** 50% ranked this as highly important, with around 23% ranking it second.
- **Sports facilities (basketball/netball):** 40% rated this as top priority, with 21% ranking it second, suggesting solid support for organized sports.

Lower-Ranked Facilities:

- **Roller skating facilities:** 30% rated it as a top priority, with a relatively high number (18%) rating it as the least important.
- **Stage and Green Room for stage act preparation:** Around 39% rated the stage as important, but this was one of the lower-ranked features overall. The Green Room was similarly lower-ranked, with 34% prioritizing it.
- **Snooker/pool/table tennis facilities:** 43% rated this as important, but a significant portion (around 5%) saw it as less critical.

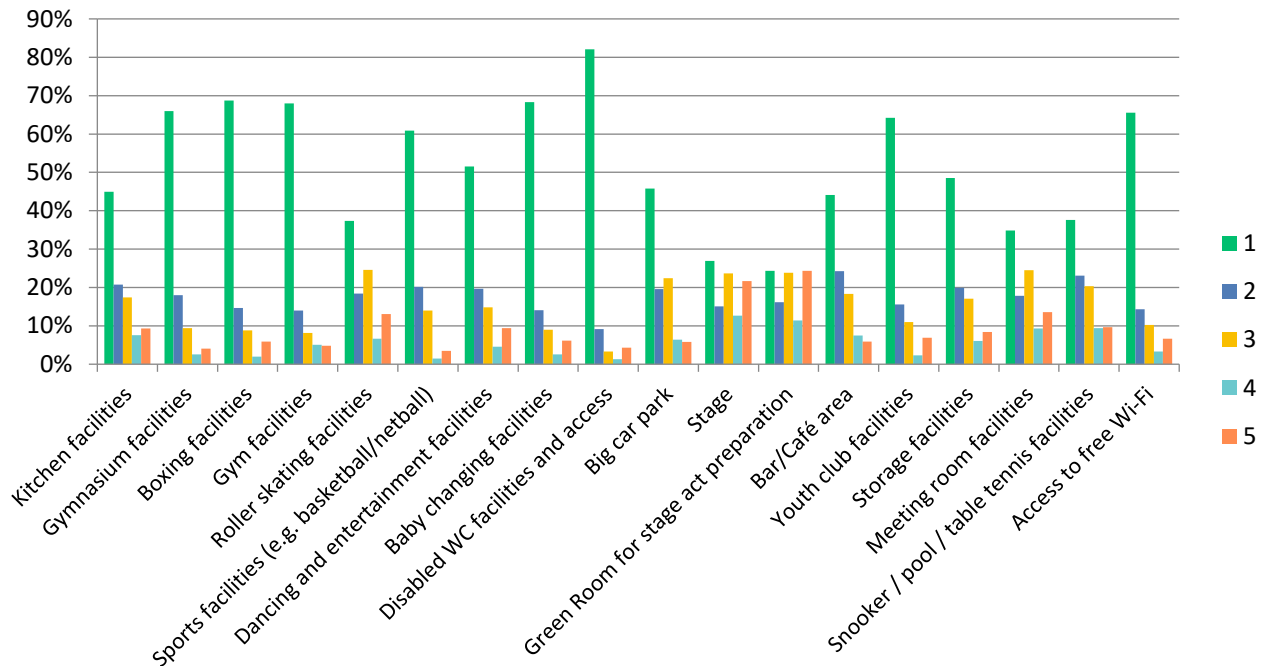
Interpretation:

- **Accessibility features**, such as **disabled WC facilities**, **baby changing areas**, and **Wi-Fi**, are viewed as essential.
- **Youth engagement spaces** (youth club) and **kitchen areas** are highly valued, alongside **parking** and **social spaces** like the **Bar/Café** area.
- **Entertainment and recreation** features like **snooker/pool**, **roller skating**, and **stage facilities** are seen as less critical.

5.6 Requirements of a new Indoor Sports Facility

The chart below outlines the priority rankings for various facilities that are considered important for an **Indoor Sports Facility**, with rankings from 1 to 5 (where 1 is the highest priority and 5 is the lowest). Each bar represents the percentage of respondents who ranked the facility at each level.

What facilities are most important for an Indoor Sports Facility?



Key Insights:

Top-Ranked (1) Facilities:

- **Disabled WC facilities and access:** 82% of respondents rated this as the highest priority, highlighting the importance of accessibility.
- **Boxing facilities:** 69% of respondents ranked this as most important, showing strong demand for this facility.
- **Gym facilities:** 68% and **gymnasium facilities:** 66% were also top priorities, reflecting a significant focus on fitness and sports infrastructure.
- **Sports facilities (e.g., basketball/netball):** 61% rated this as highly important, showing interest in team sports.
- **Youth club facilities:** 64% of respondents prioritised this feature, indicating a need for dedicated youth activity spaces.
- **Access to free Wi-Fi:** 66% rated this as a top priority, showing the importance of internet connectivity within the facility.

Moderately Important (Ranked 2-3):

- **Big car park:** 46% ranked it as most important, with 20% rating it second, and 22% rating it third, showing a need for parking but not as critical as sports and accessibility features.
- **Bar/Café area:** 44% rated this as top priority, while 24% ranked it second, indicating demand for social spaces within the facility.
- **Dancing and entertainment facilities:** 52% ranked this highly, with an additional 20% giving it a secondary ranking, suggesting a balance between recreation and performance spaces.
- **Storage facilities:** 49% rated this feature as most important, indicating a need for adequate storage for equipment and supplies.

Lower-Ranked (Ranked 4-5) Facilities:

- **Stage and Green Room for stage act preparation:** 27% rated the stage as important, but a substantial portion rated it lower, indicating that entertainment-related infrastructure is less critical for an indoor sports facility.
- **Snooker/pool/table tennis facilities:** 38% rated this as important, but a considerable portion ranked it lower in priority, suggesting that while these recreational features are valued, they are not essential.
- **Meeting room facilities:** 35% ranked it highly, but it received lower rankings overall, indicating it's useful but not a top priority.

Interpretation:

- **Core sports infrastructure** such as **boxing, gymnasium, and team sports facilities** are seen as the most important features of an indoor sports facility.
- **Accessibility** is critical, as indicated by the high importance of **disabled WC facilities**.
- **Social and recreational spaces** like the **Bar/Café area** and **youth club facilities** are important but secondary to core sports facilities.
- **Stage and entertainment-related features** are less prioritised, reflecting the community's focus on sports and physical activities rather than performance spaces.

Summary of the suggestions for facilities in a new Community Hub and Indoor Sports Facility based on the feedback provided:

High-Priority Suggestions:

- **Boxing gym:** There is strong demand for a dedicated boxing gym, as many are looking to participate in this sport.
- **Swimming pool:** 3 respondents emphasised the need for an indoor swimming pool and hydrotherapy pool, especially with proper disabled access and changing facilities.
- **Mental health and SEN facilities:** Requests for facilities that support children's mental health, provide tutoring for struggling children, and offer safe spaces for **SEN (Special Educational Needs)** children.
- **Outdoor areas:** Suggestions for outdoor sports areas, cricket pitches, and green spaces for growing plants.
- **Inclusive access:** The importance of making the facility accessible to people of all abilities, with specialised changing rooms for those with serious disabilities.

Additional Suggestions:

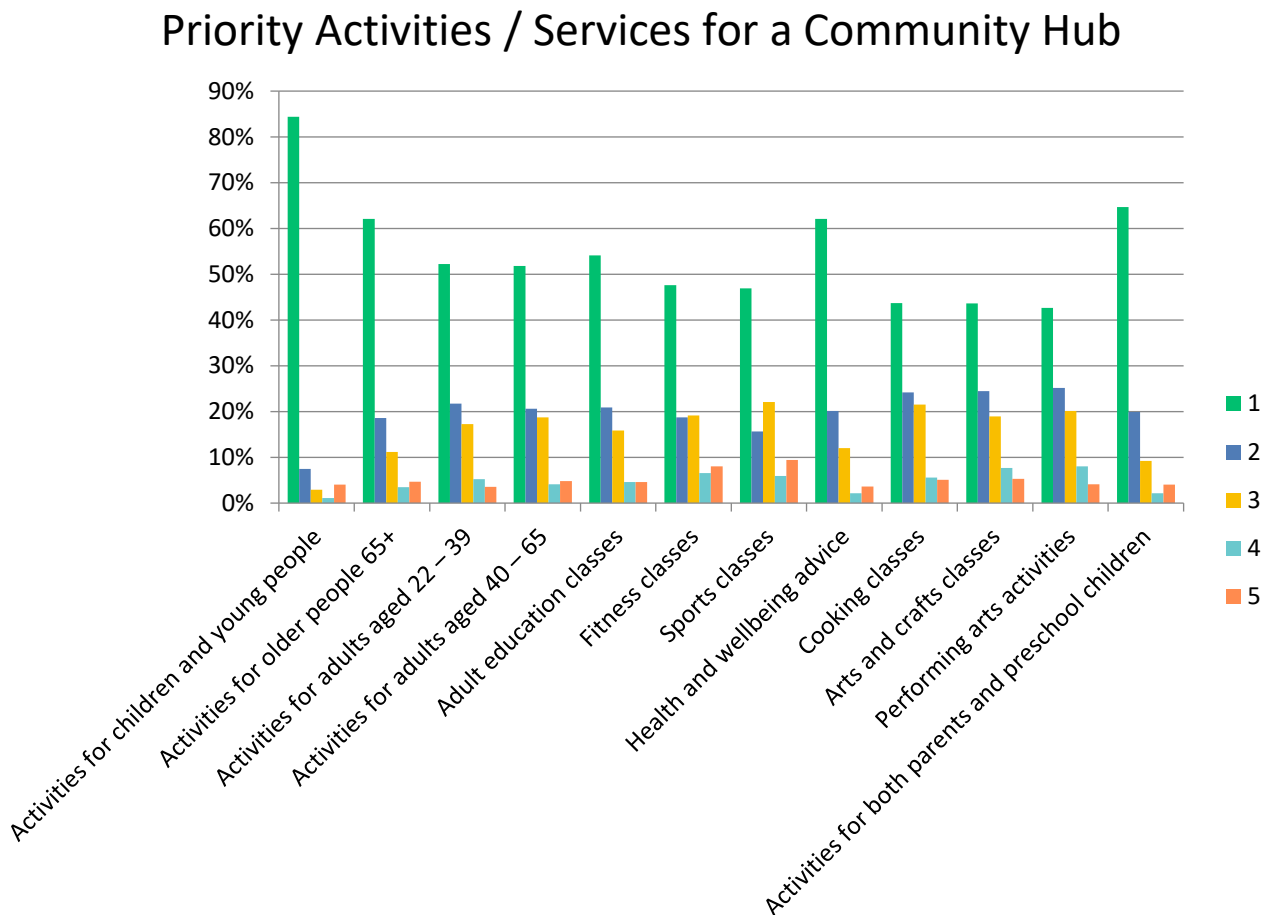
- **Community focus:** A hub that includes a kitchen and bar, away from residents, to host events like discos, bingo, and sports events, with transportation (mini-buses and vans) to support the community.
- **Policing and safety:** There is a suggestion for a policing policy to ensure the area is supervised and safe.
- **Support staff:** A recommendation for support staff to manage the facilities.
- **Cricket and gymnastics:** Requests for sports like gymnastics and cricket to be included.
- **Video games area:** A space for video games was mentioned as a potential facility.

Other Considerations:

- **Events and social spaces:** A request to include flexible space for events and social gatherings, including **dance studios** and facilities that attract and retain young women / girls by providing a **safe space for females** to use equally to male members.
- **Transport:** Mini-buses for children who live outside the area and may need assistance in accessing the hub.

5.7 Potential uses of a new Community Hub

The chart below shows the priority rankings for various **activities and services** that could be offered in a new **Community Hub / Centre** in Blacon. Respondents ranked the importance of each service on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = highest priority, 5 = lowest priority).



Top-Ranked (1) Activities:

- **Activities for children and young people:** 84% of respondents rated this as the highest priority, showing strong demand for youth-focused activities.
- **Activities for older people (65+):** 62% ranked this as most important, indicating significant support for services catering to seniors.
- **Health and wellbeing advice:** 62% of respondents prioritised this, reflecting the community's need for health-related resources.
- **Activities for parents and preschool children:** 65% of respondents rated this as a top priority, indicating a need for early childhood engagement programs.
- **Adult education classes:** 54% rated this as a top priority, reflecting the value placed on learning and development opportunities for adults.
- **Activities for adults aged 22 – 39 and Activities for adults aged 40 – 65:** Both received over 50% support as top priorities, showing a balanced interest in activities for adults across age groups.

Moderately Important (Ranked 2-3):

- **Fitness classes:** 47% of respondents rated this as highly important, with another 19% ranking it second and 19% ranking it third. This indicates strong but not overwhelming demand for fitness activities.
- **Sports classes:** 47% of respondents ranked this as highly important, but 22% gave it a moderate ranking (third), indicating solid support but not the highest priority.
- **Cooking classes:** 44% rated this as a top priority, while an additional 24% ranked it second, suggesting interest in practical life skills.

- **Arts and crafts classes:** 44% ranked this highly, and 24% gave it a secondary ranking, indicating moderate but steady interest.
- **Performing arts activities:** 43% rated this as most important, with 25% ranking it second, showing some interest but not as much as core educational or fitness activities.

Lower-Ranked (Ranked 4-5) Activities:

- **Sports classes:** While 47% rated it as a top priority, nearly 9% gave it a low-priority ranking, suggesting mixed opinions on its importance.
- **Performing arts:** 8% of respondents ranked performing arts activities as a low priority, indicating that while it has some demand, it is not a critical service.
- **Fitness classes:** 8% ranked fitness classes as low priority, indicating some ambivalence towards physical activity offerings.
- **Arts and crafts** and **Cooking classes:** Each received moderate lower-priority rankings, reflecting varied interest in these recreational activities.

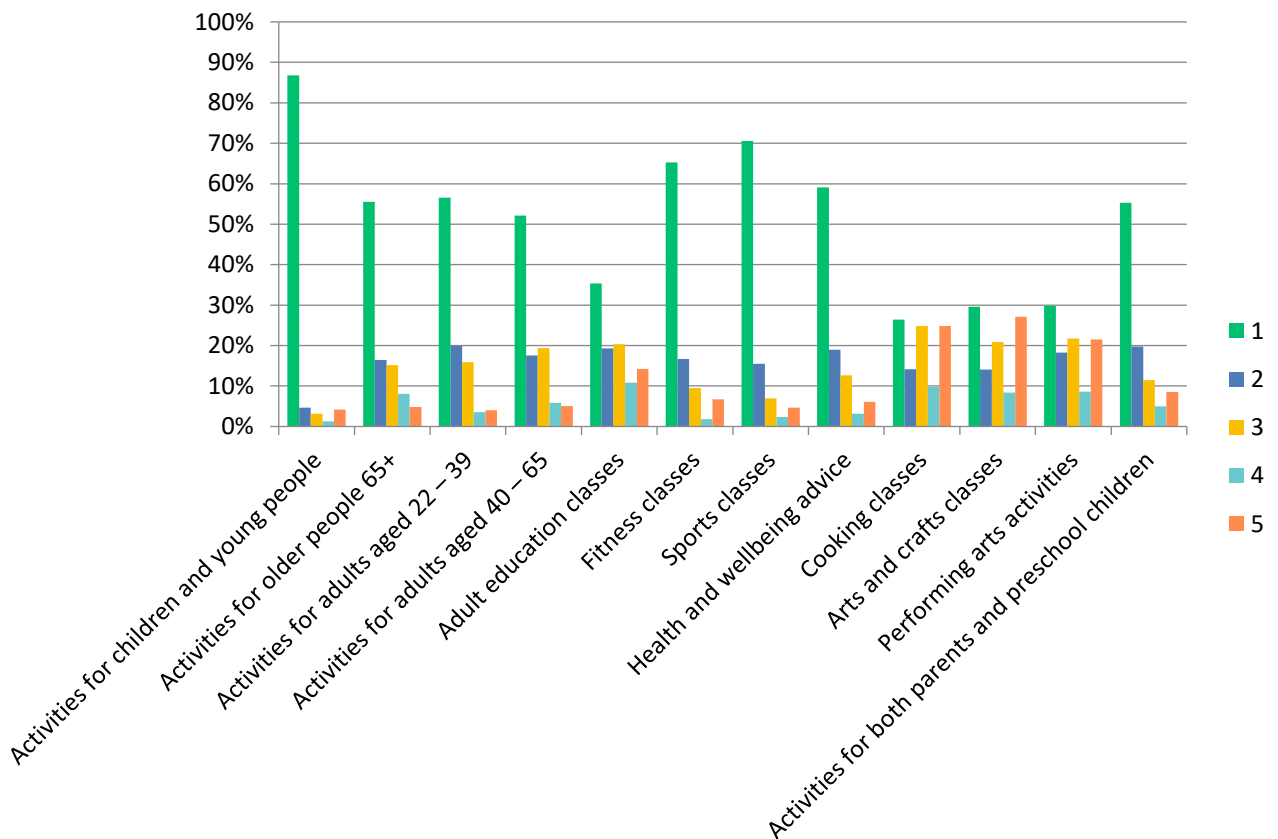
Interpretation:

- **Youth and senior services** are the clear top priorities for the community, along with **health and wellbeing advice** and **activities for parents with preschool children**.
- There is solid support for **fitness and sports classes**, though these rank below core services like youth activities and health resources.
- **Adult education** and **arts-related activities** have moderate demand but are not as highly prioritised as other services.

5.8 Potential uses of a new Indoor Sports Facility

The chart below shows the priority rankings for various **activities and services** in a proposed **Indoor Sports Facility** in Blacon, with respondents ranking the importance of each service on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 = highest priority, 5 = lowest priority).

Priority Activities / Services for an Indoor Sports Facility



Top-Ranked (1) Activities:

- **Activities for children and young people:** 87% of respondents rated this as the highest priority, showing a strong emphasis on youth-focused services.
- **Sports classes:** 71% of respondents ranked this as most important, reflecting a clear priority for organized sports activities.
- **Fitness classes:** 65% rated this as a top priority, indicating a strong interest in fitness-related activities.
- **Activities for adults aged 22 – 39:** 57% of respondents prioritised this age group, suggesting significant demand for adult engagement in this demographic.
- **Health and wellbeing advice:** 59% of respondents rated this highly, showing the importance of providing resources to improve overall health.

Moderately Important (Ranked 2-3):

- **Activities for older people (65+):** 56% ranked this as most important, with 16% giving it second priority, showing strong support for senior-focused activities.
- **Activities for adults aged 40 – 65:** 52% ranked this as top priority, with an additional 18% ranking it second and 19% giving it third priority. This indicates balanced interest in adult services for this age group.
- **Activities for both parents and preschool children:** 55% rated this highly, with another 20% ranking it second, showing solid demand for family-oriented services.
- **Adult education classes:** 35% rated this as top priority, while 19% gave it second and 20% ranked it third. This suggests interest in continuing education, though it is not as critical as fitness or sports.

Lower-Ranked (Ranked 4-5) Activities:

- **Cooking classes:** Only 26% ranked this as top priority, with 25% ranking it third and 25% giving it a low priority. This indicates that cooking is of lower importance for an indoor sports facility.
- **Arts and crafts classes:** 30% rated this as important, but 27% ranked it as low priority, indicating that while some support exists, it's not a primary concern for the facility.
- **Performing arts activities:** 30% rated this highly, but 22% ranked it as a low priority, reflecting mixed opinions on the value of performing arts within a sports facility.

Interpretation:

- **Youth activities and sports classes** are the most important services for the indoor sports facility, with **fitness classes** also ranking highly.
- **Health and wellbeing advice**, along with **adult education** and **activities for various age groups**, are moderately important but not as critical as youth and fitness-focused services.
- **Recreational activities** like **arts and crafts**, **cooking**, and **performing arts** are seen as lower priorities, likely due to the facility's focus on sports and physical activity.

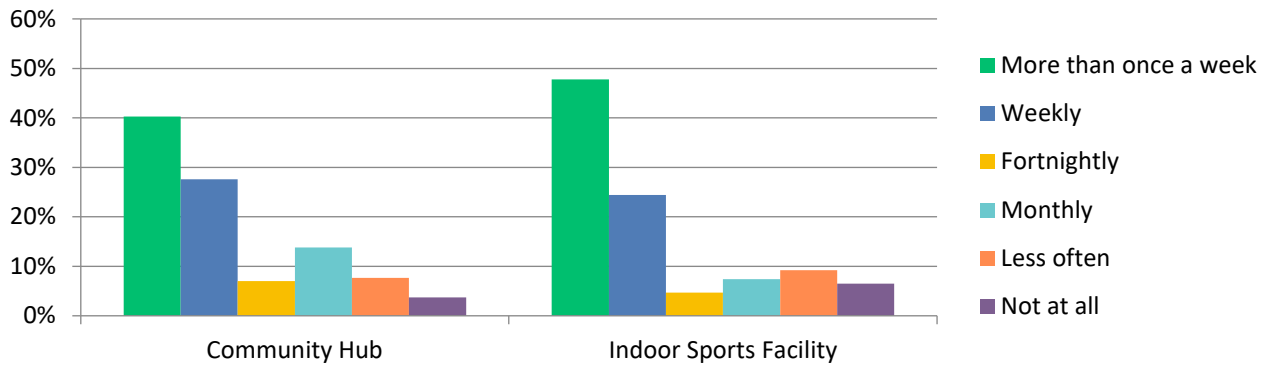
Summary of additional suggestions for uses of both a new community hub and indoor sports facility:

The community has a wide range of needs, from **physical activities** like boxing and cricket to **supportive services** for vulnerable groups, including SEND individuals and young parents. The hub should be a **diverse and inclusive space**, prioritizing **youth engagement**, **elderly support**, and **community-focused events**.

5.9 Potential demand / frequency of use for new community facilities

The chart below shows how often respondents anticipate using a new **Community Hub** and **Indoor Sports Facility**, assuming they include a range of facilities and events. The data is broken down by frequency of use (more than once a week, weekly, etc.).

How often respondents would use a Community Hub and Indoor Sports Facility



Key Insights:

Community Hub:

- **More than once a week:** 40% (184 respondents) indicated they would use the community hub more than once a week, showing strong interest in frequent usage.
- **Weekly:** 28% (126 respondents) said they would use it weekly, bringing the total for at least weekly use to **68%**.
- **Fortnightly:** 7% (32 respondents) indicated they would use it fortnightly.
- **Monthly:** 14% (63 respondents) would use the hub monthly.
- **Less often:** 8% (35 respondents) would use it less frequently.
- **Not at all:** Only 4% (17 respondents) said they wouldn't use it at all, reflecting overall interest in the hub.

Indoor Sports Facility:

- **More than once a week:** 48% (213 respondents) indicated they would use the indoor sports facility more than once a week, a slightly higher interest compared to the community hub.
- **Weekly:** 24% (109 respondents) said they would use it weekly, bringing the total for at least weekly use to **72%**.
- **Fortnightly:** 5% (21 respondents) would use the sports facility fortnightly.
- **Monthly:** 7% (33 respondents) indicated monthly usage.
- **Less often:** 9% (41 respondents) said they would use the sports facility less often.
- **Not at all:** 7% (29 respondents) said they wouldn't use the sports facility at all, slightly higher than the community hub.

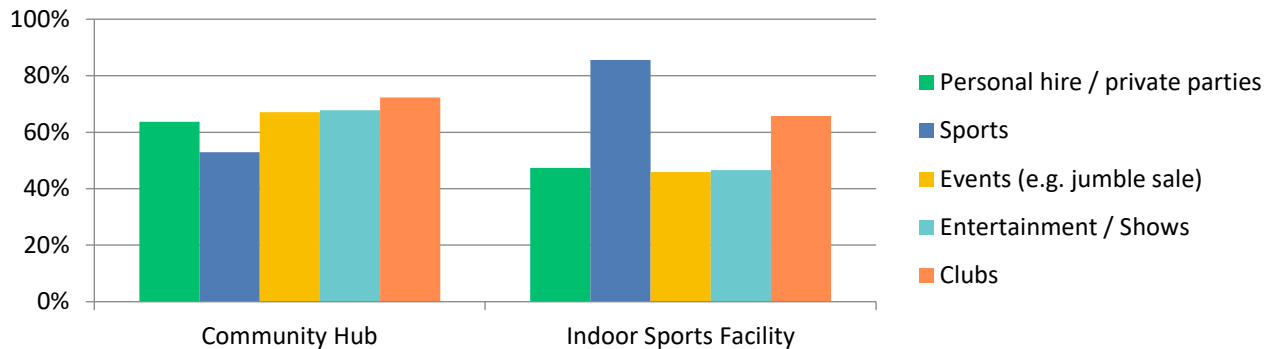
Interpretation:

- **Frequent usage:** Both the **Community Hub** and **Indoor Sports Facility** have a high anticipated usage rate, with the majority of respondents (68% for the Hub, 72% for the Sports Facility) expecting to use these spaces at least weekly.
- **Higher interest in the sports facility:** A slightly higher percentage of respondents expect to use the indoor sports facility more than once a week compared to the community hub.
- **Low disinterest:** Only a small percentage of respondents (4% for the Hub and 7% for the Sports Facility) indicated that they would not use the facilities at all, suggesting strong overall demand for these community spaces.

5.10 Types of use for new community facilities

The chart below shows how respondents expect to use a **Community Hub** and **Indoor Sports Facility** across different activities. The activities include **personal hire/private parties**, **sports**, **events**, **entertainment/shows**, and **clubs**.

How respondents would use a Community Hub / Centre and Indoor Sports Facility



Key Insights:

Community Hub:

- **Personal hire/private parties:** 64% of respondents (280 people) indicated they would use the hub for personal events, such as private parties or gatherings.
- **Sports:** 53% (233 people) would use the community hub for sports-related activities, indicating some interest in sports, though not as high as for the sports facility.
- **Events (e.g., jumble sales):** 67% (295 people) expressed interest in using the hub for community events.
- **Entertainment/shows:** 68% (298 people) would use the hub for entertainment or shows, showing strong interest in cultural or recreational activities.
- **Clubs:** 72% (318 people) indicated they would use the community hub for club activities, the highest percentage for the hub.

Indoor Sports Facility:

- **Personal hire/private parties:** 47% (196 people) expressed interest in using the sports facility for personal events, a lower percentage compared to the community hub, reflecting the more specialised nature of the sports facility.
- **Sports:** 86% (354 people) expect to use the sports facility primarily for sports, the highest percentage for this facility, underscoring its core function.
- **Events (e.g., jumble sales):** 46% (190 people) indicated they would attend or host events at the sports facility, though this is much lower than for the community hub.
- **Entertainment/shows:** 47% (193 people) would use the sports facility for entertainment or shows, suggesting some interest in using the space for cultural events, though lower than the community hub.
- **Clubs:** 66% (272 people) would use the sports facility for club activities, showing it can still serve a communal purpose beyond sports.

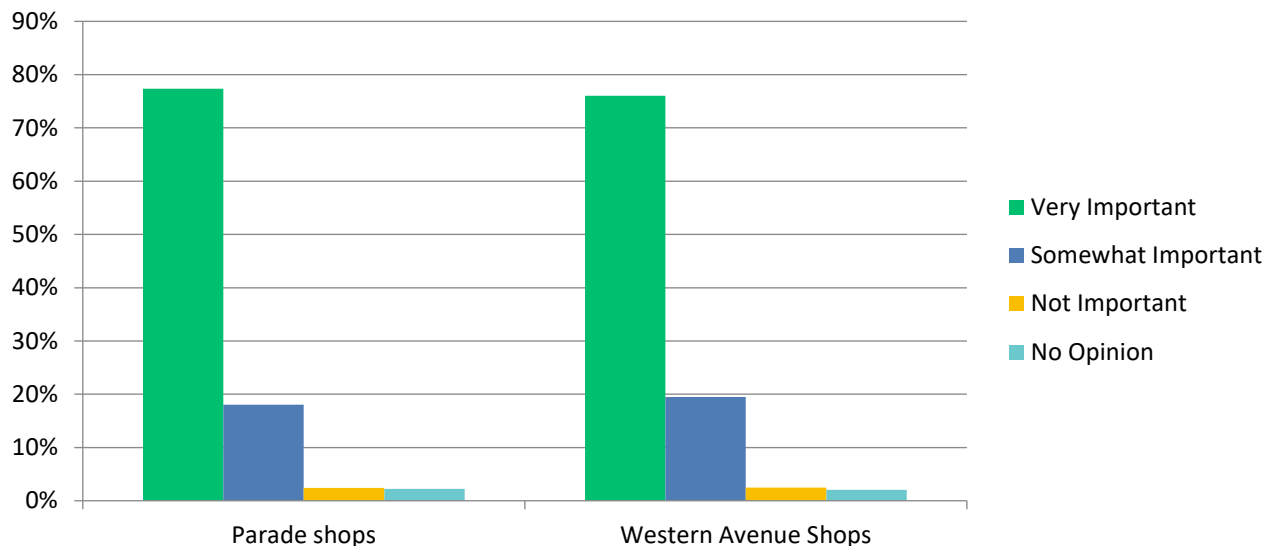
Interpretation:

- **Community Hub:** The hub is seen as a versatile space with high demand for **clubs**, **entertainment**, and **community events**.
- **Indoor Sports Facility:** The **primary use** is for **sports**, with 86% of respondents expressing interest in using it for this purpose. Other uses, such as **clubs** and **entertainment**, are secondary but still significant.

5.11 Importance of local retail areas

The chart below shows how important respondents consider The Parade and Western Avenue shops in meeting local needs.

Level of importance of The Parade and Western Avenue shops in meeting local needs



Key Insights:

Parade Shops:

- **Very important:** 77% (352 respondents) rated the Parade shops as **very important** to meeting local needs, making it a critical service area.
- **Somewhat important:** 18% (82 respondents) considered them **somewhat important**, showing broad support for the shops.
- **Not important:** Only 2% (11 respondents) considered the Parade shops **not important**.
- **No opinion:** 2% (10 respondents) had no opinion, indicating that the vast majority of respondents see the Parade shops as valuable.

Western Avenue Shops:

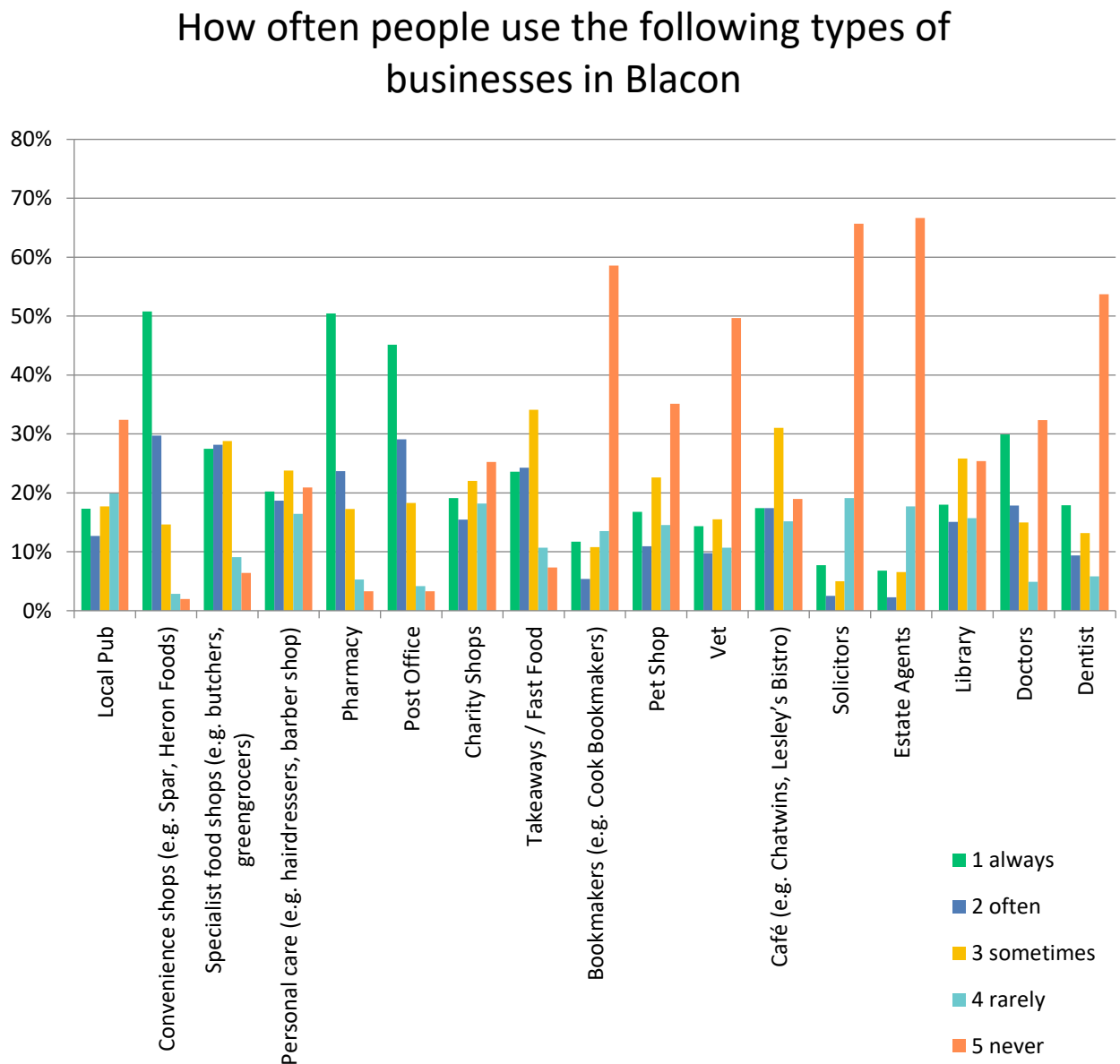
- **Very important:** 76% (336 respondents) rated the Western Avenue shops as **very important**, showing that these shops are almost as critical as the Parade shops for meeting local needs.
- **Somewhat important:** 19% (86 respondents) considered them **somewhat important**.
- **Not Important:** Similar to the Parade shops, only 2% (11 respondents) rated them as **not important**.
- **No Opinion:** 2% (9 respondents) had no opinion on the Western Avenue shops.

Interpretation:

- Both the **Parade** and **Western Avenue** shops are viewed as **very important** by the majority of respondents in meeting local needs, with over three-quarters of respondents rating them as crucial.
- Only a small minority of respondents see either set of shops as **not important**, indicating strong community reliance on these local shops.

5.12 Frequency of use of local businesses

The chart below illustrates how frequently respondents use various types of businesses located in Blacon, ranked on a scale from 1 (always) to 5 (never).

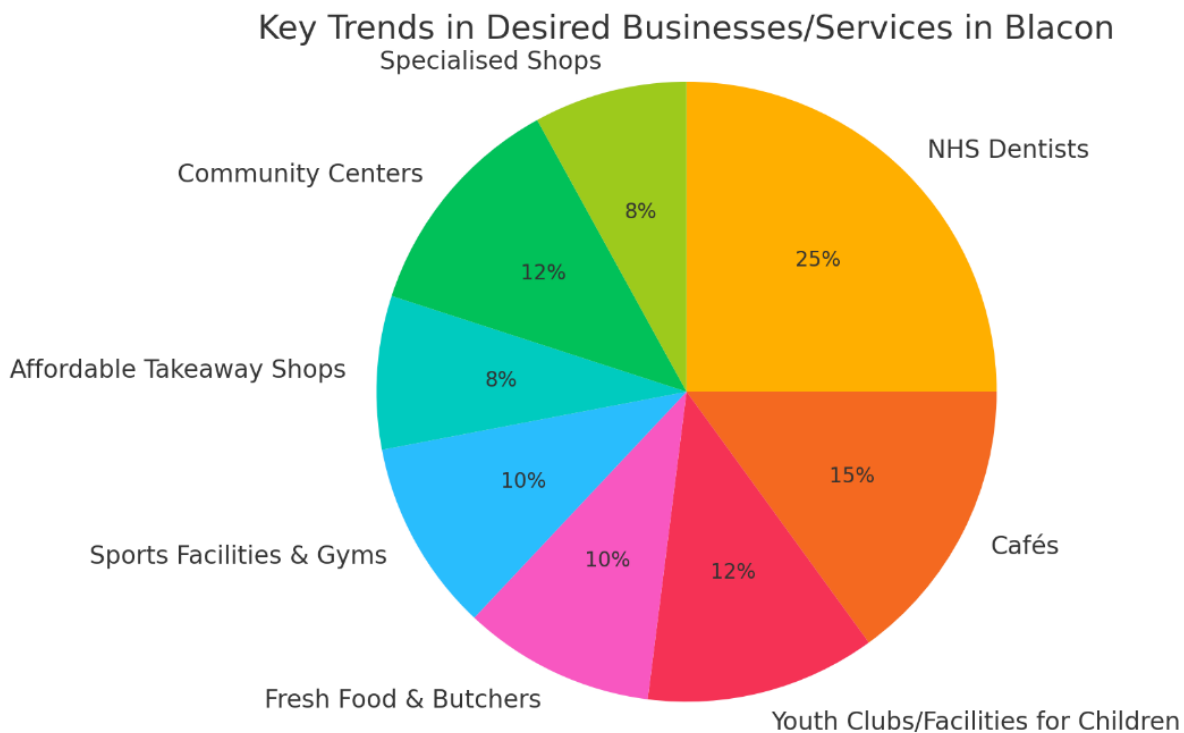


Key Insights:

- **Convenience shops, pharmacies, and post offices** are essential, with the majority of respondents using them frequently.
- **Specialist food shops, personal care, and takeaways** are moderately used, but not as universally as core services.
- **Bookmakers, solicitors, estate agents, and vets** have low usage, reflecting specific and occasional needs.

5.13 Desired businesses and services in Blacon

The chart below represents responses from participants listing up to three types of commercial businesses, shops, or services they would like to see more of in Blacon.

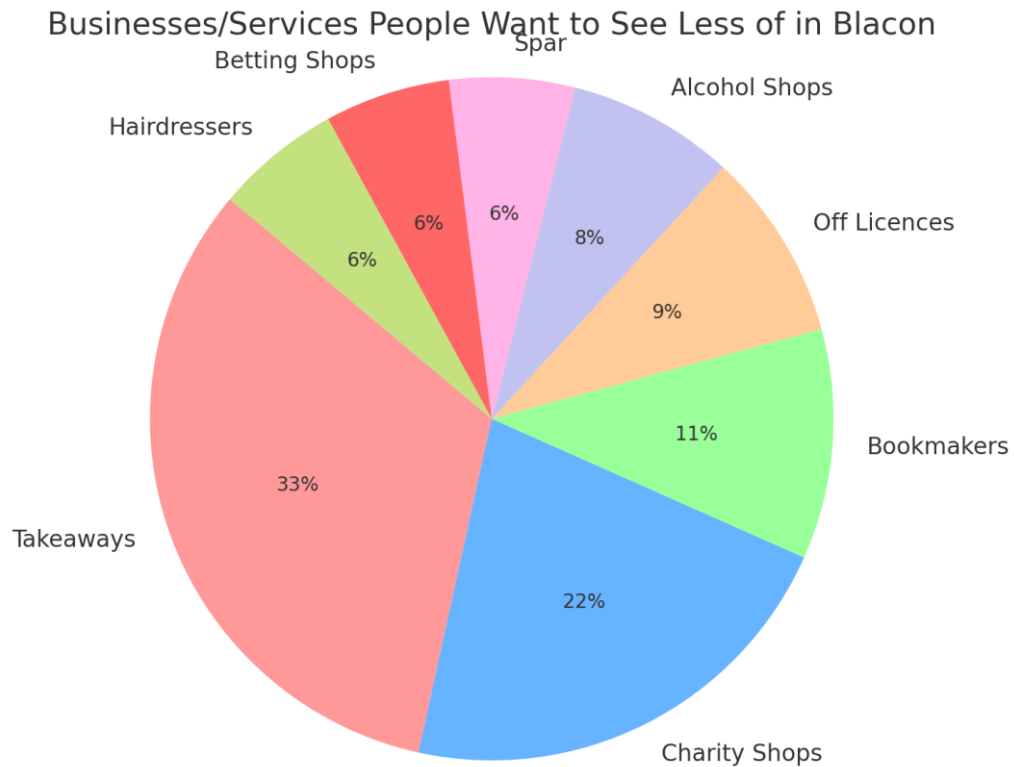


Key Insights:

- The **NHS dentist** stands out as a critical missing service that Blacon residents strongly desire.
- There is demand for more **community-based facilities**, especially for **children, young adults**, and **sports**.
- **Affordable and accessible cafés, fresh food options**, and **community centres** seem to be focal points for further development.

5.14 Businesses and services people want to see less of in Blacon

The pie chart below shows the key trends in businesses/services that people in Blacon would like to see less of.



Key insights:

The key types of businesses that people would like to see less of in Blacon, along with their percentages:

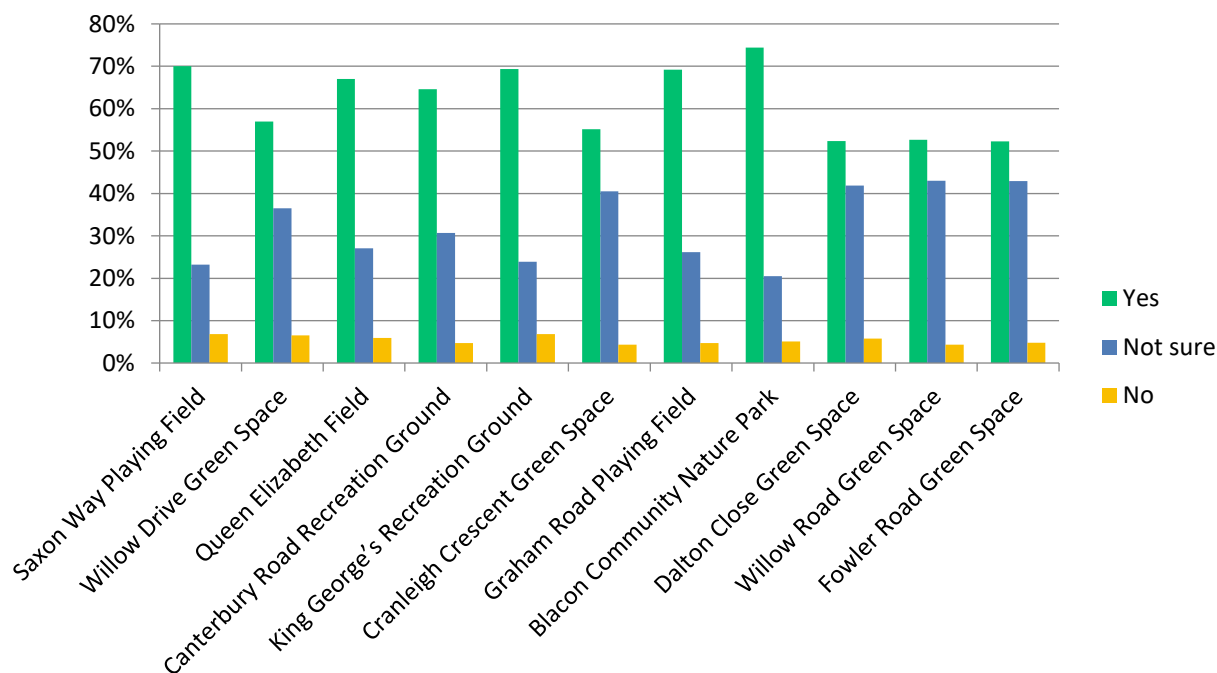
- **Takeaways:** 33%
- **Charity Shops:** 22%
- **Bookmakers:** 11%
- **Off Licences:** 9%
- **Alcohol Shops:** 8%
- **Spar:** 6%
- **Betting Shops:** 6%
- **Hairdressers:** 6%

This indicates a general desire for more variety and fewer businesses focused on gambling, fast food, and alcohol.

5.15 Levels of support for potential designation of Local Green Spaces

A map of the neighbourhood area was presented to survey respondents to ask their views on designating sites as Local Green Space to ensure their protection. The table outlines public support for the potential designation of various sites in Blacon as 'Local Green Spaces.'

Public support for potential designation of the following sites as 'Local Green Spaces'?



Key Insights:

- All proposed sites had a **majority of support** for their designation as Local Green Space.
- **Blacon Community Nature Park** has the strongest support for local green space designation.
- **Saxon Way Playing Field**, **King George's Recreation Ground**, and **Graham Road Playing Field** also have strong support.
- **Cranleigh Crescent Green Space**, **Willow Road Green Space**, **Dalton Close Green Space**, and **Fowler Road Green Space** have relatively lower support, with a large proportion of respondents unsure about their designation.

Summary of the reasons why people would like to see the green spaces in Blacon protected:

- **For Children and Recreation:** Many responses emphasise the need for children to have places to play, run, and engage in outdoor activities. These green spaces are seen as essential for both young children and teenagers for sports and physical activity.
- **Preserving Wildlife and Nature:** A significant number of people believe that these green spaces are crucial for the preservation of local wildlife, offering habitats for birds, animals, and plants. This is seen as important for biodiversity and environmental conservation.
- **Mental and Physical Health:** Respondents frequently mention the importance of green spaces for the mental and physical well-being of residents. These areas provide places for walking, relaxation, and exercise, which are seen as vital for community health.
- **Community and Social Interaction:** Green spaces are also valued as places for community gatherings, outdoor events, and spaces for people to meet, socialize, and enjoy outdoor activities together.
- **Prevent Overdevelopment:** There is a concern about overdevelopment and the fear of losing these green spaces to housing or commercial projects. Many believe that green spaces need to be protected to maintain a balance between nature and urban development.

- **Environmental Importance:** Green spaces are seen as crucial for the environment, offering natural spaces within urban areas that improve air quality, reduce urban heat, and provide areas for water drainage, which can help prevent flooding.
- **Green Space Scarcity:** Some responses highlight the scarcity of green spaces in Blacon and the importance of preserving the few remaining areas for future generations.
- **Cultural and Historic Value:** Several people mention that certain green spaces have been used by the community for many years and hold cultural and historic significance, which should be preserved for future generations.

These responses emphasise the importance of protecting green spaces for a wide range of social, environmental, and health-related reasons, and suggest that the community views them as essential assets that should be preserved.

5.16 Community buildings and facilities that should be protected

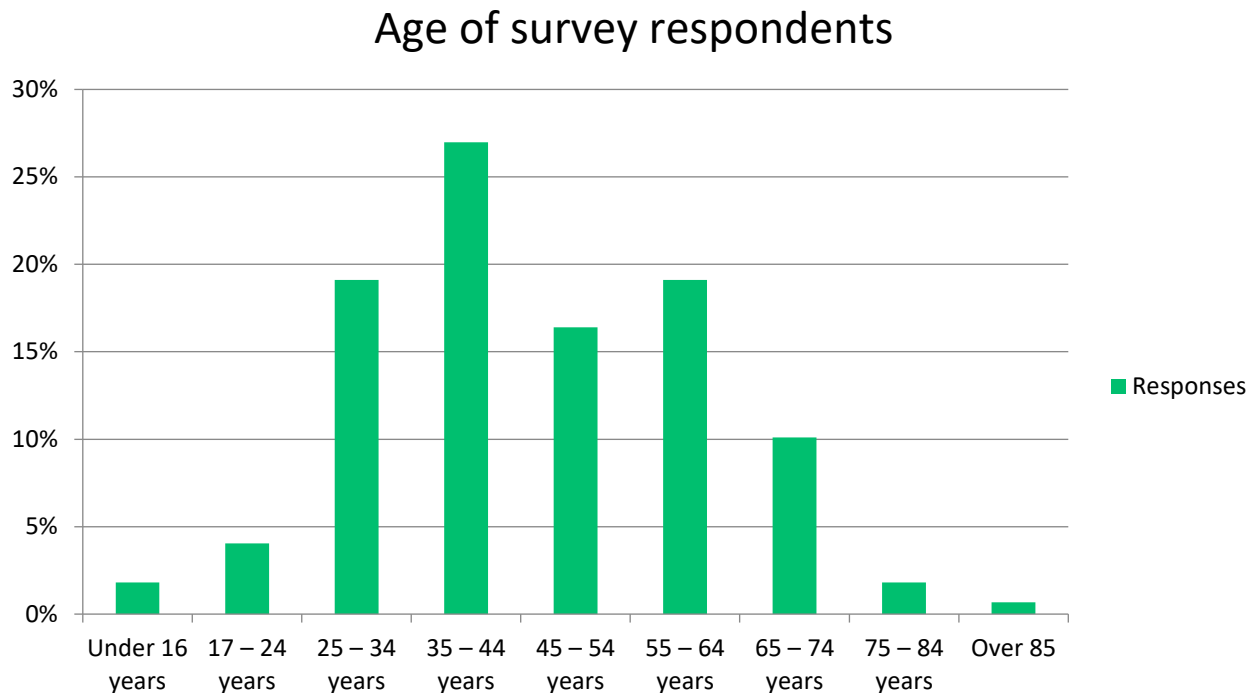
Based on **survey comments**, the key community buildings and facilities in Blacon that should be protected, according to the responses, include:

- **Adventure Playground ‘The Venny’:** This is repeatedly mentioned as a critical facility that needs to be maintained and potentially expanded, with several respondents indicating it serves as an important place for children, community activities and sports.
- **Cairns Crescent:** Cairns Crescent is another location highlighted for its importance in community activities, with calls for investment and protection of the facilities there.
- **Blacon High and Sports Facilities:** The sports facilities at Blacon High, alongside other sports hubs and football pitches, are considered important for youth and community activities.
- **Parks and Green Spaces:** Numerous responses advocate for the protection of all parks, playing fields (King George’s, Saxon Way), and nature parks in the area to maintain spaces for outdoor activities, nature, and children’s play.
- **Libraries:** The library is frequently mentioned as an essential community resource for residents, particularly for the elderly and families. It is seen as a key cultural and educational hub.
- **Churches and Church Halls:** Churches like Holy Trinity Church, their associated halls, and other church buildings are recognised as important community spaces.
- **Blacon Beacon:** Another location identified for community importance, especially for well-being services and community events.

These facilities are valued for their contributions to children’s activities, community events, access to sports, and as gathering spaces for residents across different age groups. Many responses stress the need for investment in existing buildings and the preservation of green spaces to ensure the community continues to have access to essential services and recreational opportunities.

6.0 SURVEY RESPONDENT PROFILE

The chart below shows the age distribution of respondents who participated in the survey.

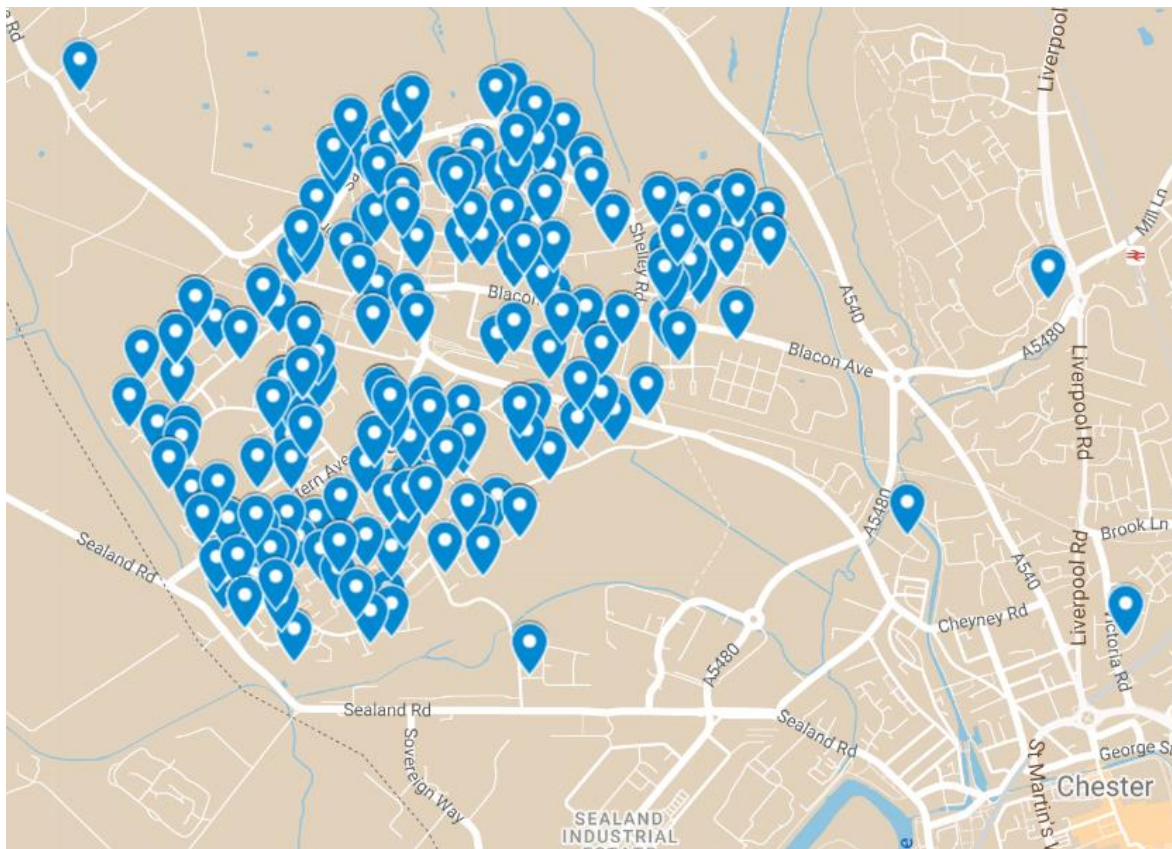


Summary:

- **Largest Group:** The largest group of respondents falls within the 35–44 years age range, accounting for **27%** (120 responses).
- **Second Largest Groups:** Both the 25–34 years and 55–64 years age groups represent **19%** of respondents, with **85 responses each**.
- **45–54 years:** This group makes up **16%** (73 responses) of the total.
- **65–74 years and 75–84 years:** Combined, these groups account for **12%** of the respondents. Specifically, **10%** are between 65–74 years (45 responses), while **2%** are between 75–84 years (8 responses).
- **Under 16 and 17–24 years:** These two categories combined represent **6%** of the respondents. **2%** (8 responses) are under 16, and **4%** (18 responses) are in the 17–24 years age group.
- **Over 85 years:** This group represents **1%** (3 responses).

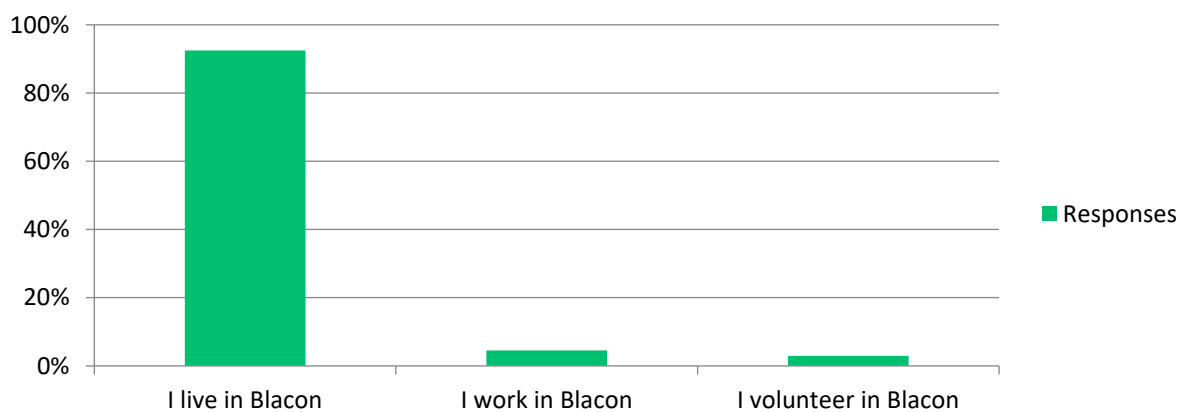
Post code locations of survey respondents

The map below shows the distribution of survey respondents by post code location



The chart below illustrates the distribution of respondents based on their connection to Blaenau.

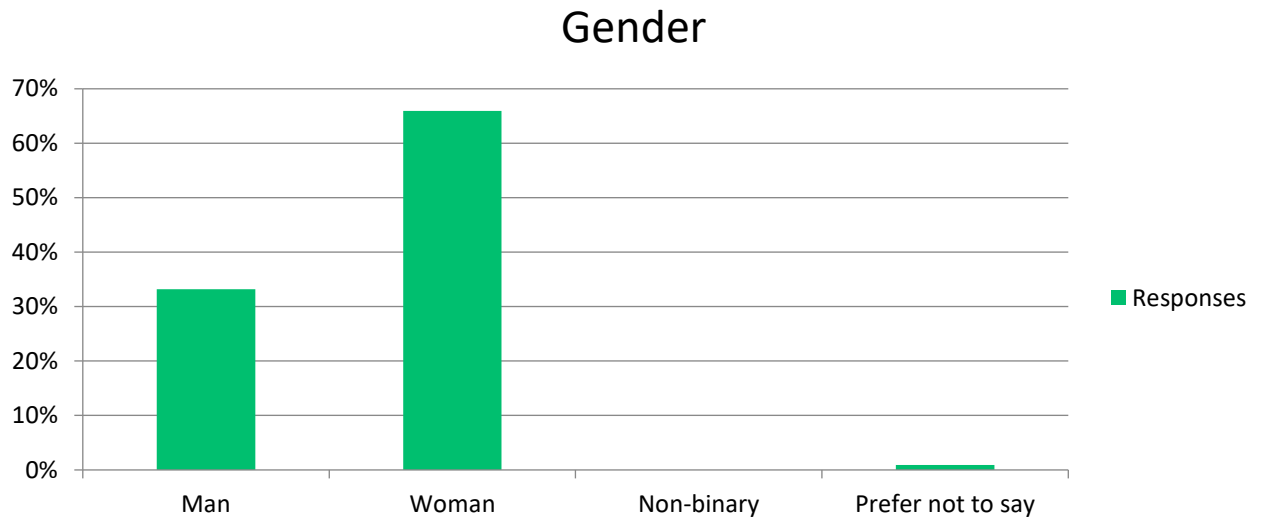
Survey respondents' connection to Blaenau



Summary:

- **Living in Blaenau:** The vast majority of respondents, **93%** (407 responses)
- **Work in Blaenau:** Only **5%** (20 responses)
- **Volunteer in Blaenau:** **3%** (13 responses)

The chart below shows the gender distribution of respondents:

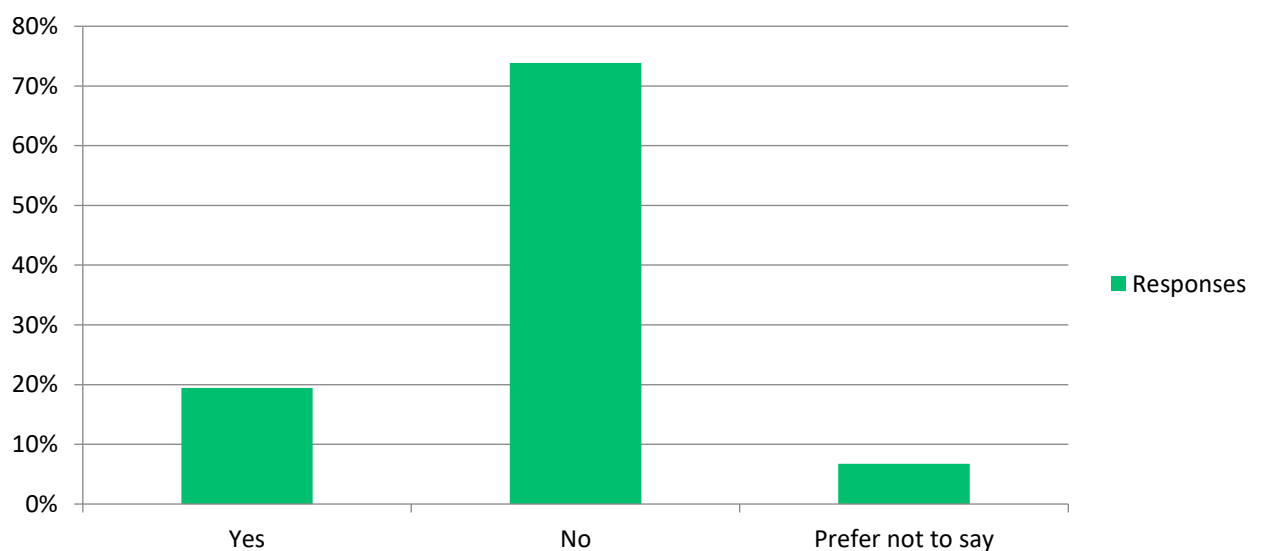


Summary:

- **Man: 33%** (148 respondents)
- **Woman: 66%** (294 respondents)
- **Non-binary: 0%** (0 respondents)
- **Prefer not to say: 1%** (4 respondents)

This charts below presents the responses to whether participants have a disability or a limiting long-term illness (lasting longer than 12 months).

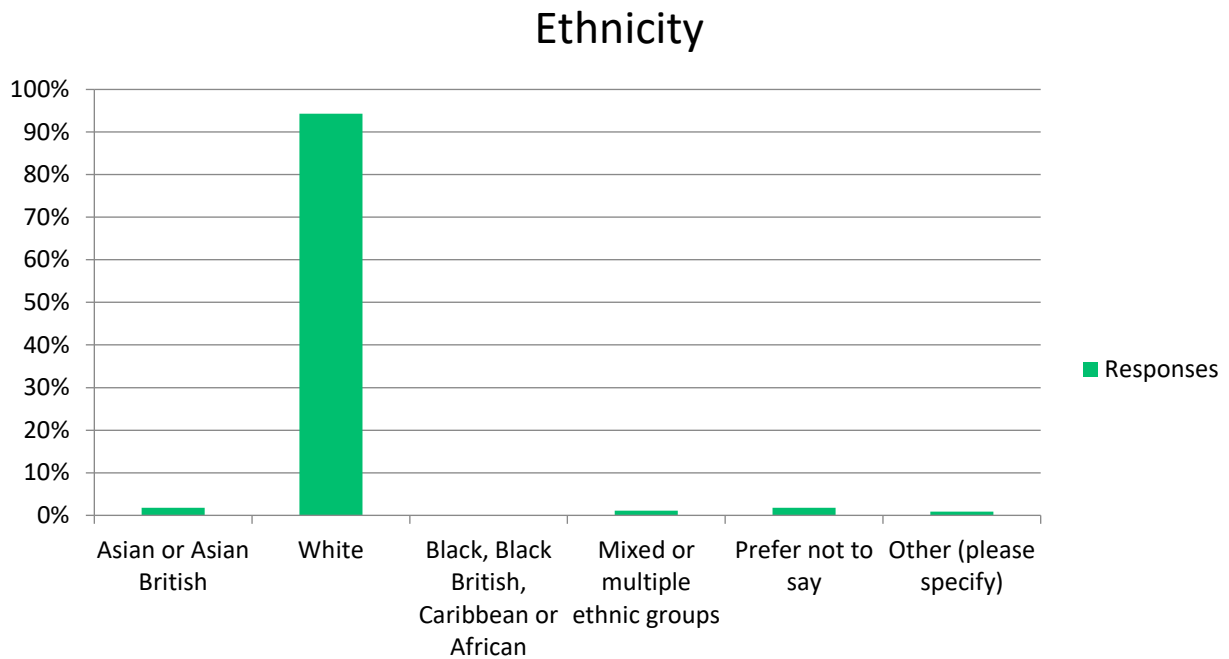
Respondents who have a disability or limiting long term illness (i.e. lasting longer than 12 months)



Summary:

- **Yes: 19%** (87 respondents) indicated they have a disability or limiting long-term illness.
- **No: 74%** (330 respondents) stated they do not have a disability or limiting long-term illness.
- **Prefer not to say: 7%** (30 respondents) chose not to disclose this information.

This table presents the responses to the question of ethnicity:



Summary:

- **Asian or Asian British:** 2% (8 respondents)
- **White:** 94% (417 respondents)
- **Black, Black British, Caribbean or African:** 0% (0 respondents)
- **Mixed or multiple ethnic groups:** 1% (5 respondents)
- **Prefer not to say:** 2% (8 respondents)
- **Other (please specify):** 1% (4 responses in the table below)

White Scottish
English
Blended family
White British

7.0 THANKS

Cheshire Community Action would like to thank Blacon Neighbourhood Alliance - Neighbourhood Forum for commissioning the survey, and the Cheshire West & Chester Council Locality Team for its support in developing the questions. We would also like to thank all the residents, local organisations, stakeholders and volunteers who took the time to fill in the questionnaire and attend the engagement events.



In the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan

A **Neighbourhood Plan** is a legal planning document that influences planning decisions on what gets **built** where, and what needs to be **protected**. It is **community led** – hence the community researches it, writes it and votes to accept it.

HOW COULD A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN HELP IMPROVE BLACON?

- Protect and enhance green spaces
- Protect local shops and services
- Protect existing community facilities
- Gain planning permission for a new Community Hub and new Indoor Sport Facility

WE NEED YOUR HELP! It is vital that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the views and issues which are most important to you!



HOW CAN YOU HELP! Complete the online survey by **31st July 2024**

www.surveymonkey.com/r/BlaconSurvey

And join us for one of our community information events

- ✓ Blacon Festival at Queen Elizabeth Field on Saturday 6th July from 1pm to 5pm
- ✓ Dee Point Primary School on Tuesday 9th July at 6.30pm
- ✓ BYFC 60th Anniversary at Cairns Crescent on Saturday 20th July from 10am – 2pm



In the BLACON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY 2024

Dear Residents and Businesses of Blacon,

Please give a few minutes of your time today to influence future planning decisions in Blacon by responding to this survey. The questions have been created by local residents volunteering for the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan working group, and is based on feedback from local residents at public meeting and through community surveys.

About Blacon Neighbourhood Alliance Neighbourhood Forum: Blacon Neighbourhood Alliance Neighbourhood Forum ("the Forum") is the community group designated by Cheshire West & Chester Council (CWaC) planning authority on 22nd August 2023 as the 'qualifying body' for the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan. The Forum has formed the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan working group to manage the project on a day to day basis.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan? A Neighbourhood Plan is a legal planning document that guides future development. It will allow the community to help direct the extent, type, location and design of future development as well as setting out what needs to be protected. It is community led – we, the community, research it, write it and vote to accept it.

If adopted, after a local referendum, Cheshire West & Chester Council will use the Neighbourhood Plan, along with its Borough-wide Local Plan, and the National Planning Policy to determine planning applications for Blacon Neighbourhood Area. The policies must focus on land use issues i.e. how land is used, what will be permitted to be built and what will be protected. Therefore, it cannot address non-land use planning issues such as: speeding, highways, bus timetables, accessing health appointments and litter on streets. However, these are still important issues that can be addressed via your local Ward Councillors.

The Blacon Neighbourhood Plan working group has commissioned Cheshire Community Action (a local charity with expertise in supporting communities to influence development) to carry out the survey independently – paid for with a government grant.

How could a neighbourhood plan help improve Blacon?

Protect and enhance green spaces: A Neighbourhood Plan will increase protection of green spaces across Blacon as well giving us the power to add new areas of protection. This will ensure the most important spaces are not lost to development so they can continue to be enjoyed by the community by designating them as Local Green Space.

Protect local shops and services: The Parade and Western Avenue shops are important areas for local day-to-day shopping. Although there are limitations on what a Neighbourhood Plan can do to protect the two local centres, The Forum is keen to encourage their owners and tenants to continue to invest in them.

Protect existing community facilities: Although the Forum has identified a need for a new Community Hub / Centre and Indoor Sports Facility. It knows that the community has access to a number of buildings in Blacon for social purposes, like the schools, churches and sports buildings. A Neighbourhood Plan can prevent them being unnecessarily lost to other uses and not replaced.

Gain planning permission for a new Community Hub and new Indoor Sports Facility: The group has identified a need for a 'Community Hub / Centre' and a new 'Indoor Sports Facility' and is in the early stages of exploring the use of a Neighbourhood Development Order or Community Right to Build Order, which are mechanisms (similar to a neighbourhood plan) that the community can use to gain planning permission for developments. But to do this it must be community led and supported at a referendum vote by local residents.

Where could a potential new Community Hub / Centre and Indoor Sports Facility be located? The Forum has identified three parcels of land to explore with the community, the landowners and others in its assessment of the following potential site options:

- Using part of the existing sports facility and old garages on **Cairns Crescent and retaining the football pitches**
- Using part of the land on the **Melbourne Road frontage of Blacon High School** (where the old school buildings used to be)
- Using some of the open **land off Kipling Road** to be designated for future educational needs

We need your help! It is vital that the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan reflects the views of residents and businesses within Blacon and covers those issues which are most important to you. It is crucial that as many people as possible contribute to this process.



How can you help! You can respond online by typing the below email address into your internet browser:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/BlaconSurvey

Or scan the QR code using your smart phone camera to complete the survey on your phone.

All responses will be kept confidential. All data will only be used anonymously for the purpose of informing the Neighbourhood Plan Policies.

The deadline for responses is: 31st July 2024

How can I get involved? The Forum is looking for residents, business owners and members of community groups to join the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan working group. If you would like to be involved in the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan working group, please leave your name and email address or phone number below:

Name:.....

Email Address:.....

By giving your details you will be giving consent to store your information electronically and securely by the Forum. We will only store this data for the purposes of correspondence relating to the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan. Consent can be easily withdrawn by emailing blaconneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com

Thank you for your time.

Blacon Neighbourhood Plan working group





Please fill in a short survey to share your views...

1. Which of the following do you think is the highest priority for Blacon: Please rank each one on a scale of 1 to 5 in order of priority (1= highest priority, 5= least).

	1	2	3	4	5
A new Community Hub / Centre for Blacon	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A new Indoor Sports Facility	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Protecting green spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Protecting local shops	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Protecting existing community facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

2. On a scale of 1 to 5 how likely are you to support: (Remember, 1 is highly likely, 5 is unlikely.)

	1	2	3	4	5
Development of a new Community Hub / Centre at Blacon High School	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Development of a new Indoor Sports Facility at Cairns Crescent	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The designation of land at Kipling Road for educational use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A neighbourhood plan for the protection of green spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A neighbourhood plan to protection of existing community facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A neighbourhood plan for the protection of local shops and services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

If you are unlikely to support any of the above, please give your reasons why:

.....

.....

A new Community Hub / Centre and Indoor Sport Facility

3. If a new Community Hub / Centre and Indoor Sport Facility were to be developed in Blacon, there are several elements that might be considered. In your opinion, rank in order of importance, each of the below elements. (1 is most important, 5 is least important.)

	Community Hub					Indoor Sports Facility				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Near a bus route / stop	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Good footpaths and cycle routes to the site	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lots of car parking spaces	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Away from resident's houses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Near to resident's houses	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Near to schools	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Near to shops	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Near to football pitches	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
A well-lit area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Other considerations for the location of a potential new community hub / centre and indoor sports facility:

.....

.....

.....

4. If a new Community Hub / Centre and Indoor Sports Facility were to be developed, rank on a scale of 1 to 5 how important you feel each element would be to the two proposed hubs. (Remember, 1 is highest, 5 is lowest.)

	Community Hub					Indoor Sports Facility				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Kitchen facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gymnasium facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Boxing facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gym facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Roller skating facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sports facilities (e.g. basketball/netball)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dancing and entertainment facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Baby changing facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Disabled WC facilities and access	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Big car park	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Green Room for stage act preparation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bar/Café area	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Youth club facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Storage facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Meeting room facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Snooker / pool / table tennis facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to free Wi-Fi	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Do you have any other suggestions:

5. If a new Community Hub / Centre and Indoor Sports Facility were to be developed in Blacon, which of the following do you think would be the highest priorities of the activities / services provided? Please rank each activity on a scale of 1 to 5 in order of priority (1= highest priority, 5= least).

	Community Hub					Indoor Sports Facility				
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Activities for children and young people	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Activities for older people 65+	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Activities for adults aged 22 – 39	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Activities for adults aged 40 – 65	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adult education classes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Fitness classes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sports classes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Health and wellbeing advice	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cooking classes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Arts and crafts classes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Performing arts activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Activities for both parents and preschool children	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Do you have any other suggestions:

6. If a new Community Hub / Centre and Indoor Sports Facility were to be development with a range of facilities and events, how often do you think you would use it?

	Community Hub	Indoor Sports Facility
More than once a week	☐	☐
Weekly	☐	☐
Fortnightly	☐	☐
Monthly	☐	☐
Less often	☐	☐
Not at all	☐	☐

7. If you think you would use a Community Hub / Centre and Indoor Sports Facility what kind of activity would you be likely to use it for?

	Community Hub		Indoor Sports Facility	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Personal hire / private parties	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sports	☐	☐	☐	☐
Events (e.g. jumble sale)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Entertainment / Shows	☐	☐	☐	☐
Clubs	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other				

Protecting local shops and services

8. How important do you think The Parade and Western Avenue shops are to meeting local needs?

	Parade Shops	Western Avenue Shops
Very Important	☐	☐
Somewhat Important	☐	☐
Not Important	☐	☐
No Opinion	☐	☐

9. On a scale of 1 to 5 how often do you use the following types of businesses located in Blacon?

	1 always	2 often	3 sometimes	4 rarely	5 never
Local Pub	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Convenience shops (e.g. Spar, Heron Foods)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Specialist food shops (e.g. butchers, greengrocers)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal care (e.g. hairdressers, barber shop)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pharmacy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Post Office	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Charity Shops	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Takeaways / Fast Food	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bookmakers (e.g. Cook Bookmakers)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pet Shop	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vet	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Café (e.g. Chatwins, Lesley's Bistro)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Solicitors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Estate Agents	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Library	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Doctors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dentist	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

10. Please list up to three types of commercial businesses / shops / services that you would like to see more of in Blacon?

1.

2.

3.

11. Please list up to three types of commercial businesses / shops / services that you would like to see less of in Blacon?

1.
2.
3.

Protecting green spaces and existing community facilities

12. Would you support potential designation of the following sites as 'Local Green Spaces' (see map on the next page)? Please tick the boxes below. Potential sites to be designated as Local Green Space:

	Yes	Not Sure	No
Saxon Way Playing Field	☐	☐	☐
Willow Drive Green Space	☐	☐	☐
Queen Elizabeth Field	☐	☐	☐
Canterbury Road Recreation Ground	☐	☐	☐
King George's Recreation Ground	☐	☐	☐
Cranleigh Crescent Green Space	☐	☐	☐
Graham Road Playing Field	☐	☐	☐
Blacon Community Nature Park	☐	☐	☐
Dalton Close Green Space	☐	☐	☐
Willow Road Green Space	☐	☐	☐
Fowler Road Green Space	☐	☐	☐

13. If you ticked yes to any of the above, please say why you would you like to see the local green space protected?

.....

.....

.....

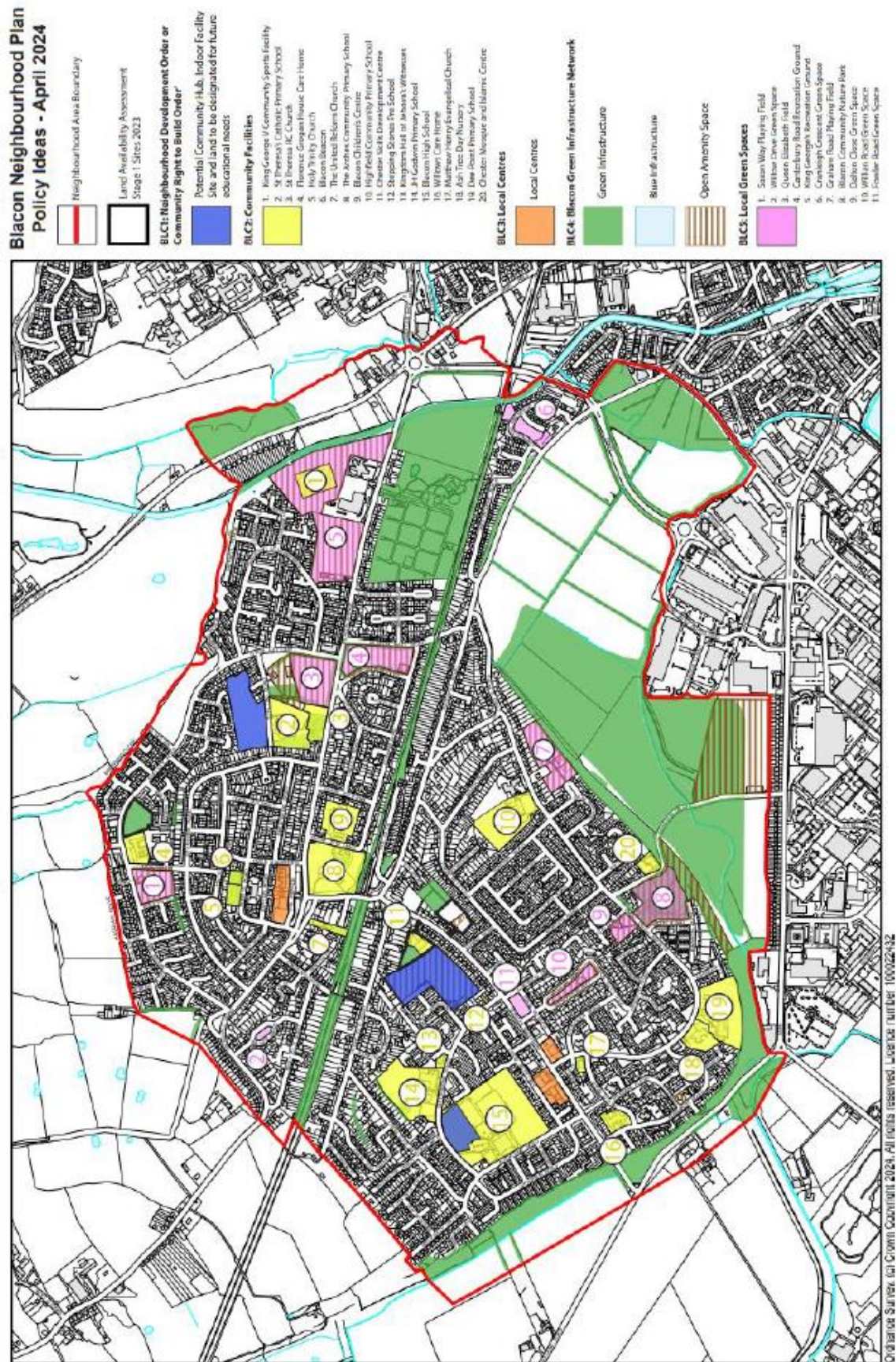
See map of proposed local green spaces for designation on the next page...

14. Which, if any, community buildings and / or facilities do you think should be protected in Blacon?

.....

.....

Potential green spaces to be designated as 'Local Green Space' for protection (for Q12):



About You

The questions in this section will help us clarify that we have a broad response to the survey from a diverse range of people from across the community.

15. Your age? Please select one option only.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Under 16 years | ☐ | 55 – 64 years | ☐ |
| 17 – 24 years | ☐ | 65 – 74 years | ☐ |
| 25 – 34 years | ☐ | 75 – 84 years | ☐ |
| 35 – 44 years | ☐ | Over 85 | ☐ |
| 45 – 54 years | ☐ | | |

16. Your Post Code:.....

17. Do you live, work and / or volunteer in Blacon? Please select any options that apply.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I live in Blacon | ☐ |
| I work in Blacon | ☐ |
| I volunteer in Blacon | ☐ |

18. Your gender? Please select one option only.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Man | ☐ |
| Woman | ☐ |
| Non-binary | ☐ |
| Prefer not to say | ☐ |

19. Do you have a disability or limiting long term illness (i.e. lasting longer than 12 months)?

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes | ☐ |
| No | ☐ |
| Prefer not to say | ☐ |

20. Your ethnicity? Please select one option only.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Asian or Asian British | ☐ |
| White | ☐ |
| Black, Black British, Caribbean or African | ☐ |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | ☐ |
| Prefer not to say | ☐ |
| Other ethnic group: | |

Next steps

Blacon Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will:

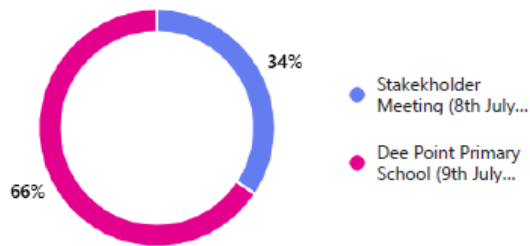
- Analyse the information from this survey and gather other evidence to support planning policies
- Create a draft Neighbourhood Plan
- Ask you for comments on the draft Plan
- Submit the final Plan to Cheshire West & Chester Council and an independent examiner for approval
- Cheshire West & Chester Council to carry out a referendum of local residents on whether to support the Neighbourhood Plan
- If local residents vote to approve the Plan all subsequent planning decisions in Blacon must abide by the policies in the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey

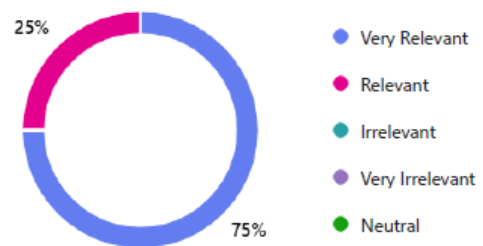
The deadline for responses is: 31st July 2024

APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT FEEDBACK

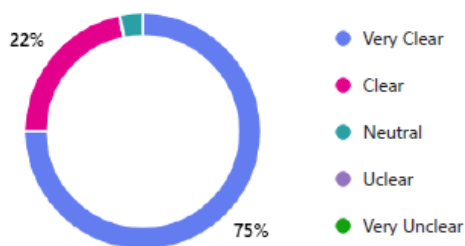
1. Which event did you attend?



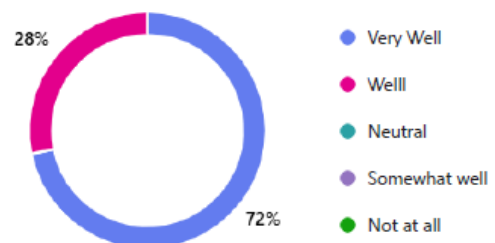
2. How relevant was the information presented to your interests and needs?



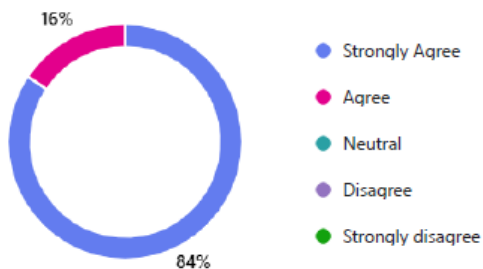
3. How clear and understandable was the information presented?



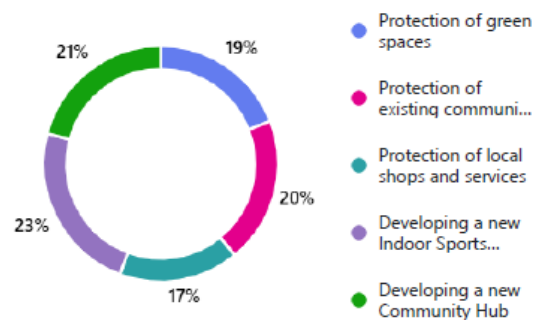
4. How well do you feel you understand the purpose and goals of the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan after attending the event?



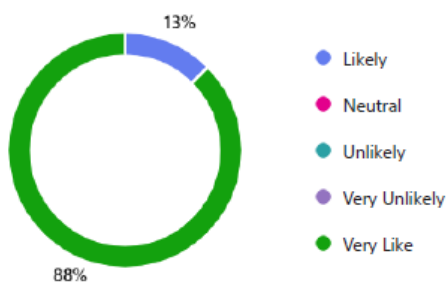
5. Do you feel the Neighbourhood Plan will benefit the community?



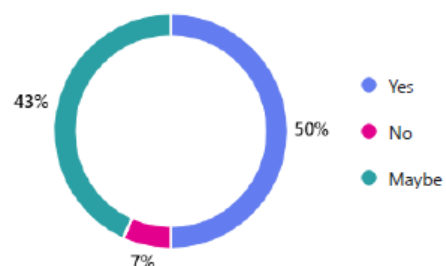
6. Which aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan do you find most important?



7. How likely are you to support the initiatives proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan?



8. Would you be interested in participating in future events or working groups related to the Blacon Neighbourhood Plan?





This report was produced by Cheshire Community Action, the leading community support organisation in Cheshire.

Web: www.cheshireaction.org.uk

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