

# SBHG SURVEY 2025

**Exploring what's strong in  
our community, what could  
be stronger, and what we  
can do together**



# Introduction

For the last 4 years, we have conducted an annual survey and hosted conversation groups in the community of Springfield, Beech Hill & Gidlow, in Wigan. This year, we have supplemented this with Ripple Effect Mapping, and a learning report, along with the maps and some recordings, can be found on the community website. This learning report contains the results of the online survey.

The survey was live for all of November and the first week in December. All entrants were entered into a prize draw to win £50 vouchers of their choice. The winner chose Tesco vouchers.

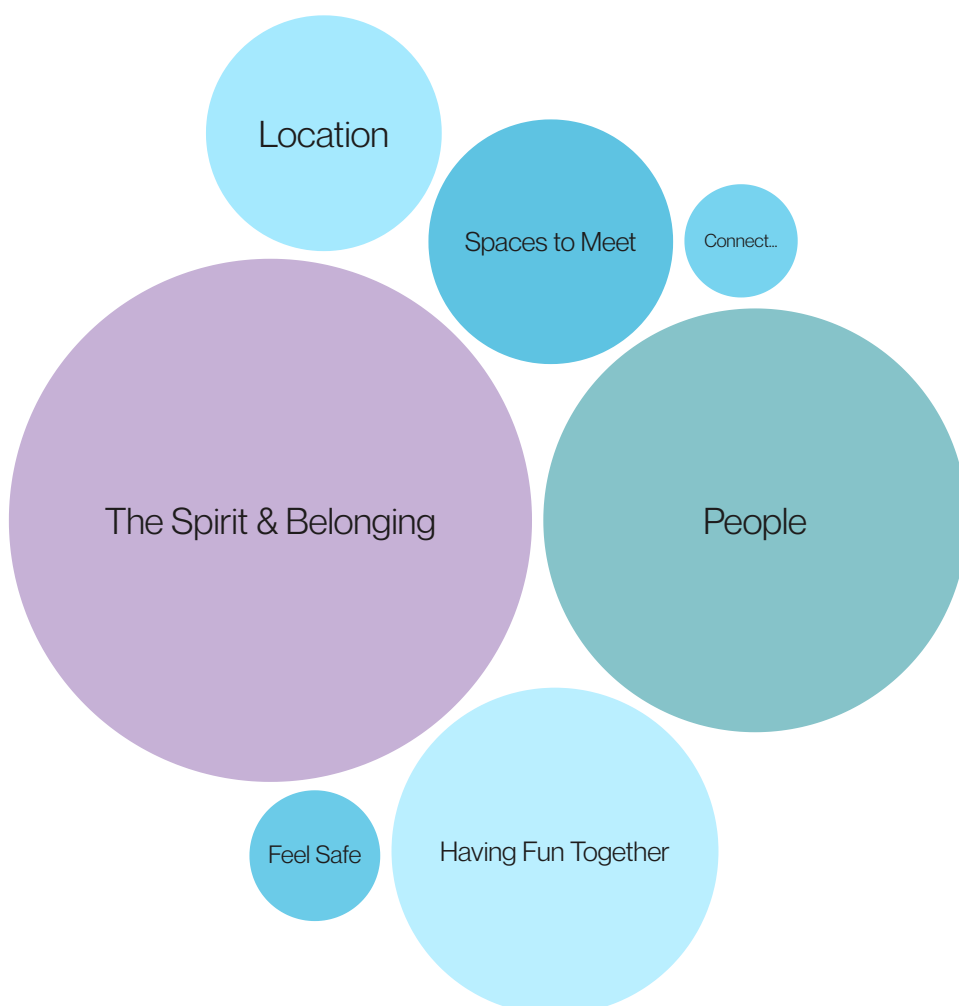
This year, 133 community members completed the survey, which is quite a contribution given its length. Last year, 106 community members took part and 77 completed surveys in 2023. Most questions stayed the same as last year, and a couple were removed as we hadn't used the data collected over the year.

This report contains a summary of the learning, some over-the-year analysis, and a look back and reflection on last year's report.

## 1. What's the best part about living in this community?

**The People**  
**The Spirit – sense of community and belonging**  
**Having Fun and Doing Things Together**  
**Location**  
**Spaces to Meet**  
**Safety**  
**Stewardship / Connectorship**

As last year people and the spirit of the place are at the top of the list. What appeared this year as can be seen via a comparison of the comments from last year is a greater depth of mutuality, friendship and collective action.



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## Some quotes about the Best Part of Living here

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Friends I have made in community corner and the local area they look out for me and I do the same for them if I can I also like that I can get into town easily and I now have people to go to the park with a sit down and have a cup of tea with as I'm now on my own from losing my wife. Myself and all my neighbours are all there for each other and we have our own little community in my street.

I feel the area is feeling like a community again where local people and support each other by offering free items or sharing events and activities that might be beneficial to locals.

I have seen activities and trips offered by the local FB group and CommUnity Corner by local volunteers.

I believe this is making the area feel more welcoming and friendly and starting to feel like it did when I was a child growing up here. People are supporting and looking out for residents and encouraging them to attend activities or offer their time.

The best thing about living in this community is the way Community Corner brings everyone together. It's a place where people feel seen, supported, and included. Whether you come for a chat, an activity, or simply a friendly face, Community Corner gives our neighbourhood a real sense of belonging. It's the heart of the community because it turns neighbours into friends and makes every day feel a little brighter.

Having the Playbox and being part of getting it . I love being able to help and be part halloween walk party's in the park and other events. I have good friends in the community

## 2. What have been the highlights of the last year? ?

(Note: survey takes place in November and therefore more recent events are higher in recall)



In full: Other SBHG Events (Party in the park 9 Dog show – 8 Panto – 6 Apple Day – 4 Fairs – 4 Kids Christmas party – 3 Awards evening – 2 36 | Food festival 34 | Afternoon tea 17 | Halloween Walk 28 | Playbox 20 | Community Corner & Groups (Including the market) 28 Trips (Adults and kids) | 22 Creative & Cultural (Poetry & Art exhibiton) 16 | Groups & Wellbeing (GIAG & Women's wellbeing, Haf and Kids club) | 20 Improvements & Personal Impact fundraising, and Diggle street park improvements) 7 | Non local events 19 (Mesnes Park / Wigan Town Events etc)

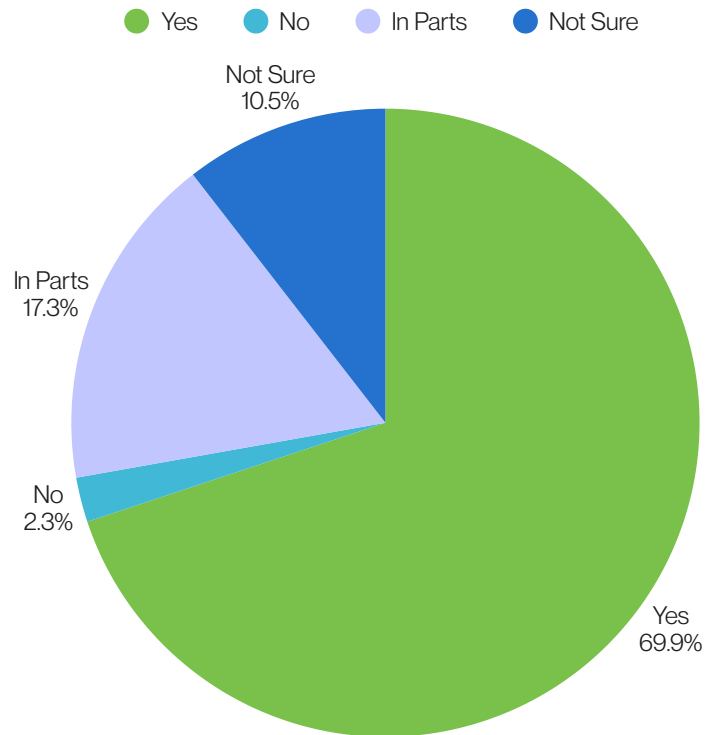
### 3. Where are your favourite places to hang out?



**Answers in Full:** Community Corner (CC) 44, Mesnes Park 25, Local parks (in Wigan West 15, Playbox 11, Book cycle 9, St Anne’s community garden 8, St Anne’s centre 9, Fields/woods & qalking & outdoors 12, Wigan town centre 6, Haigh Hall 4, Local pubs 6, My home 3, Neighbours/friends 3, Brick charity shop 3, Church 3, , Cafes 8, Other local buildings 5, School 2, Streets 2

## 4. Do you think this community is becoming more connected?

2025: 69.9% said yes, 17.3% said in parts, 10.5% said not sure, 2.3% said No



2024: 75.5% said yes, 21.7% said in parts, 2.8% said not sure. Nobody said no.  
 2023: 72.7% thought the community was becoming more connected, and 24.7% said in parts. 2.6% said no.

There was some evidence in 2025 to suggest that community members who socialised more with their neighbours felt more connected to the community. There was a greater prevalence of people feeling unsure whether the community was connected by non-members and by those who were just members of the Facebook group, with 60% feeling the community was connected.

There was no significant difference in connection levels between women and men. It's worth noting that many of the men who completed the survey were very well connected in the community, and a good number had received support to complete it. There were also no major statistical differences for LGBTQI, disabled, English as second language speakers and children and young people, although the numbers completing the survey were small.

People who regularly use Community Corner are more likely to feel connected to the community, in contrast to regular users of Bookcycle, who feel the community is disconnected and some members of St Anne's Church, who are obviously upset about losing their Church.

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# 5. What made you give the answer you did?

## Yes I think it's more connected

Responses from those who answered this could be grouped into themes such as events, mutual friendships, noticeable changes, appreciation of infrastructure, and armchair observations. These are people's answers in full

Events

Mutual friendships

Changes & infrastructure

### Events

- Attending events in the community
- The diverse numbers of people engaging in community activities.
- More local community events for example the dog show event on Gidlow field the food sharing event and other private events I have seen being held.
- Events over the last year have been accessible for people of all ages, gender, race and religion
- The playbox has helped me make new friends and brings lots of people together
- I grew up in Orrell and never felt part of a community there- since moving to Wigan I feel like it's more connected and with community corner and the playbox, I've been able to be a part of that
- Mixing with people in community corner and St Andrews church
- Because of the men's club at community corner
- All the community stuff people get involved with.
- Feeling more connected to the creative and art community.
- More community groups
- More community events being held locally to bring people together.
- Lots of good stuff going on where we can get together and chat
- Because more people get together now and making friends
- When see the community coming together raising money for a trip for the children
- It was nice to see the events round halloween

Events

- People are getting more involved in different things to help each other and more to do with the kids eg having something like the play box brings people and family's feel more supported
- Everyone has come together over the summer
- We do more things as a community
- Because lots of people get together at playbox and trips
- More people getting involved within the community
- The growing number of activities and community events on offer
- Seeing people coming together, the groups being set up and becoming successful.
- It helps having the community corner and activities such the gardening where people can join in at st annes church
- Lots of community events give people the chance to network and make new relationships.
- It helps having the community corner and activities such the gardening where people can join in at st annes church
- More events seem to be being shared. The introduction of the coach trips seems very popular.

## Mutual friendships

### Mutual friendships

- Seeing more people from the community corner about
- I chat to everyone
- I'm becoming more involved so seeing a difference
- Everyone knows everyone
- Because I know more people now that I did a few years ago.
- More friendly people coming together
- Because I realise I'm a social person and enjoy meeting new people
- Because I've made new friends and people check on my welfare
- More young people getting involved
- Because of this community group I've been connected with more lovely people
- Community corner and other places in the area are easily accessible
- Everyone is lovely and welcoming
- because I have met new people
- More people coming in from different countries and there is a class at cc to help them learn English better I have made a lot of friends in community corner
- I think the initiatives based at the community centre have helped to establish friendships through a wide and varied programme, which has been a big aid in connecting the community.

- The community corner has helped. Getting people together different ages backgrounds cultures.
- Because there's afternoon tea parties, lots of things to see and do, good chatting to people in community corner, gets you out the house
- More things to do as a community
- I think there are more people connected now and join in with events that go on.
- The work that goes on in the background to ensure that events can take place and also that all age groups from young to old are included
- Through CommUnity Corner and events run in the community, people are getting together more
- Because of social activities in Community Corner and St Annes
- People getting together in all the different groups and events and chatting online, it's growing.
- Lots going on to get involved with, when that is needed
- The community corner has become a hub creating links.
- Well set up and thought through.

## Changes & Infrastructure

## Changes and infrastructure

- There's an obvious change to help through the magazine, community corner and other off shoots of these services
- The CommUnity centre is doing a lot to help.
- Due to the local CICs and small community groups doing so much great work. Having groups on social media for the local area too for people to raise concerns, promote community events or ask questions too is really helpful.
- Listening to people who live here. People know they have somewhere to go. Even if problems cannot be fixed having somewhere to go and ask for advice makes all the difference to someone who may be alone.

- Some great projects and amazing people but still some issues with crime, HMOs, intolerance
- Some parts absolutely seem more connected but the area around beech hill shops etc seems alien and very crime heavy
- I am proud to be local, and to see the increased emphasis on connection and being a strong, welcoming community welcoming of all people. However, I'm concerned about the increase in negative rhetoric especially around migrants, and worry that we're seeing a rise of dangerous nationalist attitudes that will divide our community at a time we should be focussing on supporting each other.
- Some areas keep to themselves
- I think there should be more community centres and halls built around Beech Hill and Standish Lower Ground so that they are easier to get to. I also would like to see the buildings that we do have, modernised or rebuilt, such as the beech hill community centre which is really old. I also would like to see more advertisements for events as I'm not on Facebook so only see what happened after in the magazine and miss out. In Standish lower ground where I live I don't know of anything happening in the area.
- Gone are some of the local hubs, ie the Pagefield, Railway club Sacred Heart youth club. Now the Community Centre has opened its somewhere to go and meet people.
- Not everyone is able to connect
- Us neighbours have become closer due to our interests in gardening, nature, wildlife
- There's more going on, but it's finding out about what's going on and getting people involved.
- Not everyone in the community will have access to social media where alot of items posted.
- Because in other places it's very distant and segregated
- Some people do look down their nose
- It's easy when you are in the middle of it all to have a blind spot and see things through your own glasses .. at the same time it's blooming lovely to see what's grown
- To be honest too many foreign families
- Lots of asylum seekers moved into houses of multiple occupants and language/culture barriers.
- Attended community corner once and I wasn't made to feel welcome but my local church is welcoming.
- I see change and see nothing changing
- Loads of great people doing amazing things but also a lot of growing hate

## Not sure

- I don't know if the community is becoming more connected or I am connecting more with the community
- We've only lived here 4 years so can't compare.
- I've only lived here for 1 year.
- Somedays yes but still see lots of issues, considering moving

- I put no because the news that our church is closing has hit us all very hard. We need our place to meet up , to pray. To come and enjoy our service and the good feeling it gives us. And on a sadder note where our families will say their goodbyes to us.
- Loss of community spirit as people only concerned about themselves.
- I work and very little is done at weekends or evenings
- Doesn't feel very community spirited (from someone who's fairly new to the neighbourhood)

The places that the people who said no hang out in:

- Mainly church with whatever is happening on the day.
- I don't as I feel lonely (didn't leave any contact details – fav place to hang out – bookcycle)
- I visit the Book Cycle only
- Book cycle

## 6. How do you help to make a more connected community?

7 interrelated and interconnected themes which were very similar to last year. It was noticeable that there's a greater number of hosts and organisers in the local community and a lot more people taking on the function of spreading the word. Looking out for neighbours seems to be increasingly mentioned.

Themes - Take part, help out, share (goods and information), Offer support, practice mutual support, host and offer something, keep the money flowing locally.

Take Part

Help Out

Share  
Information  
/ goods

Support

Mutual  
Support

Host and  
Offer

Money  
circulating

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## Take Part

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### Take Part

- I join in as many events with my child as I can
- Attending classes/functions / groups 3
- I attend yoga classes at St Annes
- attend events in Mesnes Park.
- Attend events / join in activities 12
- attend any function that is being held there. (st annes)
- Keeping in the know on the Facebook group
- Joined a group
- I read and comment on community posts online
- Try to get involved in events as often as possible. Be a smiling face
- Participating in different things like playbox, gardening and lego club
- I am in your lottery and always vote

## Help Out

### Help Out

- Deliver Ey Up 5
- help with anything I can
- I help people if I can
- I volunteer time at a local community organisation
- I informally pick up litter in my area
- Keep our backs tidy
- Provide raffle prizes
- I help in the playbox - I give ideas and am proud to be part of the playbox team
- I help out in the garden at st Anne's
- Give to charity events, happy to volunteer too.
- Deliver ey ups, do the ironing for the afternoon tea and help out
- I help out with trips and events for the community, and I like to spend time at the community corner when i can having a brew and chat with people.
- Volunteer at Community Corner once a week
- I help out with the Playbox at Beech Hill
- I used to help out with the family activities group but now I've just taking on a bigger salon so don't have free time to help out
- I help playbox and I dressed up as rabbits to raise money for a trip
- I offer help to those in need, I have given items away and have helped people with food items.
- Helping with kids sports clubs.
- Help out at a pantry
- I volunteer with the Community garden and try to help with the afternoon teas.

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## Share Information / goods / promote

Share Information / goods

13

- speak to members of the community
- spread the word 8
- Spread the word to those who are not into technology 2
- follow posts and share information
- Ive offered things on the community page
- Donate
- I donate resources to the local community groups,
- I tell people about community corner and local events
- I share events and help where I can.
- Being involved and encouraging others to be involved
- I talk to people about community corner and the things I know take place.
- I share things on the facebook page when I think they are important
- Nothing apart from keeping an eye out for instances of social and local problems
- I work in sheltered accommodation and I promote social events in the local community with the residents. Personally I donate to local charities and hope to become actively involved in the local community in the future

## Support

Support

- Support the local school and their events.
- Support Annies pantry
- I am a Councillor and will help with finding solutions where I can, or pointing residents to a service provider who can help. I can be contacted anytime.
- I work for the council and Be Well helping the community. We offer weight management, stop smoking services, various gym and leisure memberships and links to community link workers and more.
- I volunteer for parts of Wigan for example the light night
- Currently a paid worker in the community x 3
- I work in it - intentionally community building
- I work within the community and help to bring people together.
- I carry out two roles in my local church on a voluntary basis.
- I run an addiction awareness group for Community corner to support those struggling with any type of addiction

## Mutual Support

## Mutual Support

- we engage with our neighbours who have now become friends. We look out for our neighbours as they do for us.
- talk to neighbours x 2
- get to know my neighbours
- I make sure I get to know my neighbours and local people I see going about my life.
- Give a hand support each other
- Say hello, good morning, evening and try to engage with others
- Help neighbours
- Look in on neighbours x 2
- Being friendly to people x 3
- By becoming involved and interested in what other people are doing and what they have to offer others.
- I get out and about when I can chatting to people.
- Bring biscuits and apple pie for my friend and always friendly
- I am housebound but speak to neighbours online
- helping and talking to the young lad who mate with my grandson passing on knowledge and advice with gardening and bikes and just general stuff

## Host & offer


## Host and Offer

- I run the community garden and help out bits at SBHG and at events. I organise stuff for kids too where I can
- Organised an art exhibition
- researching into something to offer myself from CC
- i co host give it a grow wigan, and hosted a small halloween event.
- I help with SEN friendly activities
- I run sw groups and attended as many community events I can
- Hosting craft sessions
- I help out with the community garden, participate in the creative writing group, play a part in setting up events and the delivery of The Ey Up Magazine
- I have been involved in helping with the playbox, been able to use my creativity to help run the Halloween event there and look forward to the future of the playbox!
- I give free art classes at the community centre

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- I like to sing for people in Community Corner
  - By helping with events and always being nice to people. I have dress up and delivered Easter eggs and I deliver ey ups don't bake sales and sold loom bands to raise money for a trip. I also help to raise money for the play box which bring people together.
  - I've organised a trip I've dressed up for the kids at Christmas and easter

## Keep the money circulating

- support local businesses
- Using local facilities
- I shop local wherever possible
- Pay into the lottery
- Food blogging in the area to give new businesses a helping hand
- I help doing people garden and get involved in lots of community stuff



Money  
circulating

# 7. Do you know lots of people on your street where you live by name?

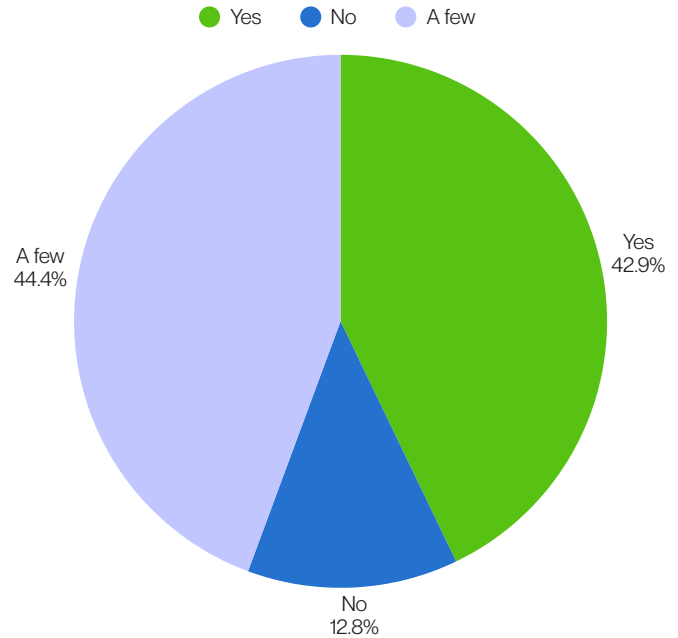
2025: 42.9% yes, 44.4% a few and 12.8% No

2024: 47.2% knew lots by name, with 41.5% knowing a few and 11.3% stating none.

2023: 46.8% responded yes, 37.7% said a few and 15.6% said no.

The number of people who know lots neighbours by name, a contributory factor to community wellbeing and safety, is falling.

In contrast, having a neighbour or a few neighbours you can count on, and socialising with them, is on the rise. This could mean we are spending more time in groups with people who are like us and would be worthy of further investigation.



# 8. Do you have neighbours you can count on?

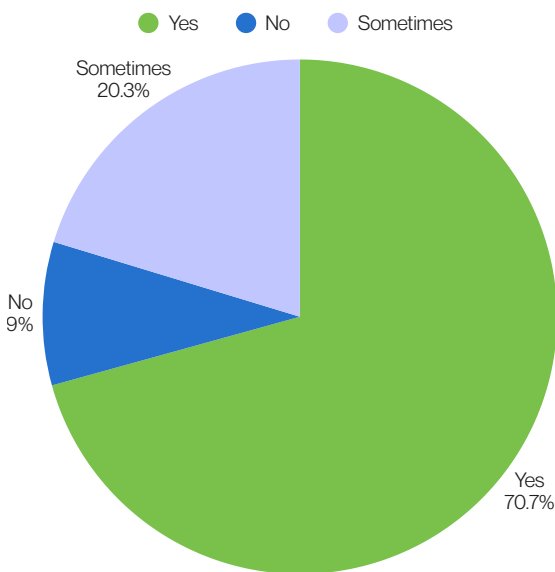
2025: 70.7% felt they had neighbours they could count on, 20.3% felt they did sometimes, and 9% felt they didn't.

2024: 67% felt they had neighbours they could count on, 23.6% felt they did sometimes, and 9.4% felt they didn't.

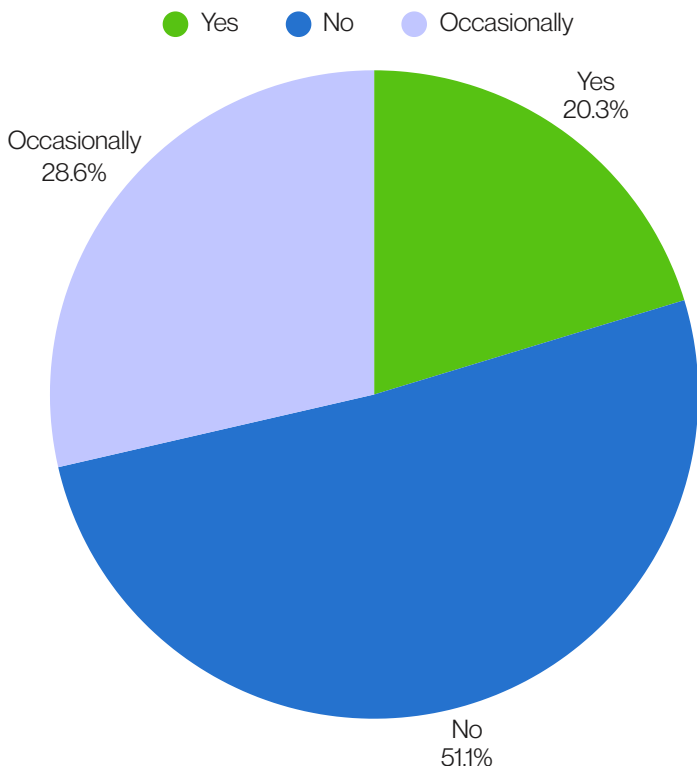
In 2023, 68.8% had neighbours they could count on, 13% said sometimes, and 18.2% said they didn't.

Of the 18 people who were unsure or didn't feel the community was connected, 50% felt they had neighbours they could count on.

Last year, we asked if people had a street WhatsApp group. We didn't ask this in 2025, as we know they have declined, and there's been no response to offers to help set one up.



# 10. Do you and your neighbours get together for social events?



2025 -20.3% got together with neighbours for social events, 28.6% occasionally and 51.1% don't

2024 8.5% got together with neighbours for social events; 18.9% did so occasionally and 72.6% didn't at all.

2023 9.2% got together with neighbours for social events, 14.5% occasionally and 76.3% didn't at all

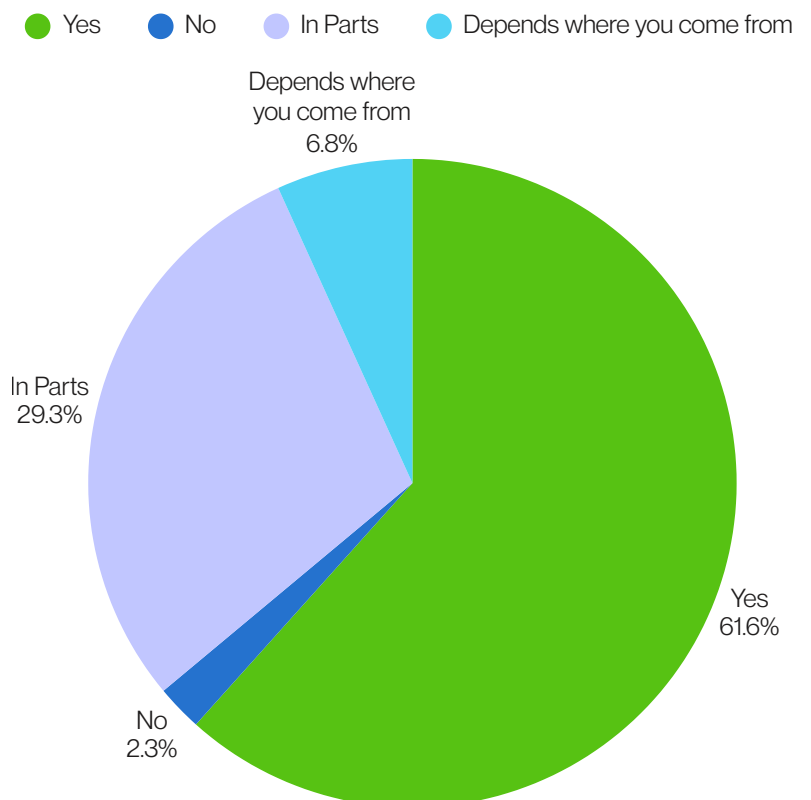
So more people are getting together.

# Would you say that Springfield, Beech Hill & Gidlow is a friendly place to live?

2025: 61.7% said yes, 29.3% said in parts, 6.8% said it depends where you come from and 2.3% said no

2024: 60.4% said yes, 35.8% said in parts, 2.8% said it depends on where you come from, and 1 person said no.

2023: 61.8% said yes, 31.6% said in parts, and 6.6% said it depends on where you come from.



# 11. What might we do together to make it more welcoming and friendlier?

Carry on &  
Be Patient

Spaces and  
facilities

Information and  
Communication

Socialising  
& support

Children

Change

## Be patient and carry on. Change takes time and trust

- Just carry on organising events and making connections within the community
- Keep the inviting everyone, the more people spend time together the friendlier it will be
- Keep doing what you do
- Keep doing what you're doing and eventually it'll grow even more popular
- Keep doing what you're doing more varied events
- I think just more of the same it does seem to be growing
- More community events
- I think it just takes time and slowly bringing people together. The food festival was an amazing display of that!
- Continue to provide events for all ages and cultures
- I think just carry on doing what is being done
- It's getting better, so just continue what we are doing by talking to people
- I think your on the right steps with Community notice boards
- Carry on with what you do. Plus others helping.. Calling in on a elderly person.. Or just someone on their own. Seeing if they ok

Be Patient

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# Spaces and facilities

## Spaces and facilities

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- Bigger premises to accommodate more people, perhaps a little cafe serving snacks/sandwiches and drinks
- Maybe outdoor seating outside community centre but very weather dependent!
- Have a place to meet up more times than we do now.
- Open more community corner type places
- Create open-door spaces: Keep places like Community Corner easy to drop into, with no pressure to stay long or join an activity.
- Open longer
- More benches in key areas

# Information and Communication

## Information

- better local noticeboards
- More poster advertising and welcome signs for events and activities.
- maybe have an online what's app for people to share positive things, events, stories, experiences that are going on. Maybe a what's app group for people who need practical support who might find it difficult to ask face to face.
- Wider advertising of events to widen attendance.
- More events after working hours
- Flyers to reach more people
- Only people in the WhatsApp group know about events - I'd lived here for 4.5 years before a neighbour told me about the WhatsApp groups to know why was on offer
- Signs and posters
- Make information easy to access: Clear noticeboards, newsletters, and friendly reminders help everyone feel included.

# Socialising, mutual support and getting along together

## Socialising & Support

- Events to include all age groups
- More events
- Do more community connection events
- Get to know people from other nationalities
- Keep planning and advertising events
- Talk to each other
- More events
- I feel it already is but I suppose reaching out to housebound and elderly
- Evenings on for new residents or new people to the area. Lead by people who have lived here longest
- Keep putting positive events and groups in place that people can enjoy or become involved in.

- Keep bringing people together in events. The food share festival was a great example of inclusion and togetherness. Keep making events, classes and clubs inclusive
- Keep bringing people together through community events and opportunities
- Community party's and be nice to everyone no matter what race
- More street parties
- Maybe a community café
- Community needs to be more tolerant of people from other cultures/religions moving into area
- More pop up shops. Evening dance.
- Be more tolerant.
- Try to understand people from other cultures
- Talk to people more get together more look out for each other
- Have more party's
- Start coffee morning again
- Get to know each other more - more social events - more conversations that seek to understand and disagree well rather than convert
- People taking the time to talk to newcomers.
- Have a handout we could give to new neighbours about the community corner.
- Encourage introductions: Helping new residents meet others quickly – even small “welcome chats” – builds confidence and belonging.
- Promote kindness: Encourage small acts of support – checking in on someone, offering help, sharing a cup of tea – to build trust and warmth (also mentioned by a few people)
- Care more about the street and homes we live in and help others who can't.
- Work together to try to keep it safe for everyone who lives here

## Children and young people

### Children & young people

- I think the kids riding crazy on their bikes is an issue .  
I guess having police on the streets might help.
- More things for teenagers to do to get them off the streets and so they have somewhere safe to be
- Get children involved in caring for and loving where they live. Hopefully it will give them a sense of purpose and discourage vandalism. Children could help tidy gardens, paint fences, litter pick. Things I used to do in brownies years ago. Introduce the isolated elderly to children they have lots to share in the way of knowledge and life experience
- More things going on especially for kids , more trips



- Get rid of the drug dealers
- Get rid of the racists
- The bottom of Gidlow lane up to Co op is so rough and off putting now
- Take down flags around the area
- Be less of a clique
- More crossings on the streets
- Not sure, people have to make more of an effort. It's not easy as people have a lot of stuff going on and life can be hard.
- think that depends on those who want to be welcomed and be friendly
- Unfortunately some people are judgemental of others with no consideration of people's personal circumstances. This can then have a negative knock on effect to other neighbours leading to isolation, bullying and intimidation. As a result I sometimes post/comment anonymous, this might be frowned upon but this is done for personal reasons and to reduce judgement and negativity from immediate neighbours.
- Get rid of our Labour Council.

## 27. What are the challenges in this community?

Definitely more language around the things that are in our control to change.  
More understanding of the function of a community.

Barriers to participation

Isolation

Awareness gaps

Community connection

Structural Challenges

Young people

## Barriers to participation

### Barriers to participation

- I'm not really sure. Maybe apathy?
- being able to participate the most of the time is a struggle as I am studying
- A lot of people don't realise or have the confidence in or awareness to break out of what they've always known.
- Getting people to overcome their fears and try new things
- More people could do more for community, people sit at home and could get involved
- People expecting things to be done for them/blaming others/blaming the council. However, over my time within the community I have seen attitude get better.
- Getting more people to come together and join in get help and get some support
- Most of neighbourhood not utilising the facility which provided by the community
- Not many people accessing the group that I am offering
- Maintaining engagement: Keeping activities fresh, appealing, and well-attended takes constant effort and creativity.

## Isolation, loneliness and vulnerability

### Isolation

- Isolation, misinformation x 2
  - I think that some people are intimidated or wary of help due to being vulnerable. Not all help is offered from a good place or with good intentions. I believe this can isolate people from taking help or asking for support.
  - Loneliness and isolation: Even in a friendly place, some people still struggle to connect or feel confident joining in.
  - Health and mobility issues: Some residents may find it difficult to get out, participate, or engage consistently.
  - Still some disconnect for people who are lovely but unable to access community events and groups
  - Speaking of personal experience, more groups for autistic children who don't settle as easily to all the hustle and bustle
- Loneliness, surviving trauma, low money, cost of living

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# Communication and Awareness gaps

## Communication gaps

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- Not everyone has social media so may not see activities or events offered.
- The Ey Up magazine is excellent as I've seen things advertised there that I wasn't aware of. I have social media but often miss posts being advertised and only see after the event.
- Society being fixated on social media taking them away from connecting in person
- Some people unaware of events. The more popular events could perhaps be more frequent (i am thinking of the afternoon tea, as tickets always seem to go very quickly) because they are in working hours
- Communication gaps: Not everyone hears about events or knows what's available, which means some miss opportunities to join in.

# Community cohesion and division

## Community cohesion

- Nobody makes any effort to get to know people/neighbours. I've tried saying morning and hello and like I said above only become "friendly" with 3-4 neighbours
- Not enough care
- Trust and safety
- Getting people to trust and join in
- People not being neighbourly - not being brave to reach out and ask for or give help
- There's still an element of division. We need to carry on building bridges.
- There's a lot of poverty in some areas, a mix of cultures and some people not accepting these cultures. There's drug use and neglect in some areas.
- Fear of mixing with people who are different.
- Misinformation
- Division
- People trying to create division. Money going into community or not.
- That there is still stigma against some people due to religion.
- Language/culture/religious barriers
- People coming together
- The same as other communities, racism, poverty, loneliness, drugs, getting older and needing more support.
- The disconnection between groups, which can generate negative emotions and feelings
- Different needs and expectations: With a mix of personalities, ages, and backgrounds, it can sometimes be difficult to meet everyone's needs equally.
- Flags flying, threat of Reform or far right
- Flag flyers
- Racism
- Multi cultural who DONT MIX ALWAYS WITH THERE OWN
- Bringing people in

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# Young people and lack of opportunities

Young People

24

- Groups of children/teenagers with time on their hands (adult)
- Places to meet my friends safely (young person)
- Young people and lack of opportunity
- Need more stuff for teens to do
- Need more things to do for the children
- teens not having enough to do
- Not having enough things for teenagers to do
- Youths damaging property. Groups of teenagers hanging around the park and old pagefield building, drugs and drinking

# Safety, environment and neighbourhood issues

Safety & Environment

- Fly tipping and rubbish in the streets
- People leaving dog poo and chewing gum
- Litter and people going in the old college
- Parking. The roads can be a nightmare. 2
- Maybe getting people to observe speed limits.
- Litter in the streets
- Crime, broken shop windows etc
- E bikes/scooters on pavement
- Parking. Traffic
- Probably unsociable behaviour
- ASB, lack of funding x 2
- Not having community police
- People that spoil things for others
- Drug users and homelessness
- Drug use
- Lots of drug dealing goes on that i have witnessed in public and no concern who sees them passing drugs and payment.
- Still lots of dog fouling.
- Security issues. More car & house break ins.
- Drugs, culture of men are at fault for everything
- Drug dealers behind were i live

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# Structural challenges (poverty, housing and resources)

## Structural Challenges

25

- Poverty x 6
- The cost of living crisis
- disability without support, decline of greenspace, too many cars preventing natural movement.
- Poverty, crime and drug/alcohol dependence and homelessness & different ethnic groups needing to connect or integrate more positively.
- HMOs x 2
- ASB issues and volume of HMOs being created.
- Large turnover of people moving in and out of properties.
- Housing
- I think one of the biggest challenges in this community is the increase in houses of multiple occupancy. Whilst I can appreciate the useful role of this type of housing, I think we need to look at a percentage of them in the area.
- HMOs. house prices.
- Services aren't connected
- Trying to maintain as much support as possible when funds and grants are being cut. Encouraging more people to become involved.
- If key individuals/volunteers leave/fall ill/move, maybe this may impact on connecting the community more.
- The deprivation that was caused by cuts and neglect by government from 2010 to 2024. Change takes time, but it's comforting to see that things are changing. The WFA decision was overturned by public outcry which was listened to. The 2 child cap looks like it will be scrapped 🙌 and the new Renters Rights is now in law giving private tenants more rights to give them such as security of tenure. The groups that run under the umbrella of CommUnity Corner are helping by encouraging people, men and women, to socialise in safe spaces. They also give encouragement for women in particular to become empowered with some starting to fulfil their potential. I find, from observation, that some of the young adults in their early teens, are starting to find their voices, which I think bodes well for the future.
- Limited resources: Funding, space, and staff time can make it hard to offer as many activities or support services as people would like.

# 13. What could we do together about the challenges?

Carry on

Cohesion &  
Inclusion

Awareness

Environment

Places to be /  
Things to do

Services /  
Outside

## Carry On

Carry On

- carry on doing what we are doing x 2
- Keep doing the amazing sessions and bringing people together like you do. Maybe more evening things if that's possible
- More people communicating with each other if you smile at someone they smile back
- More of the same being nice to people and help people with their mental health when struggling.
- Share skills and help each other more
- Just keep going with what is being done. With luck the enthusiasm of those participating will spread to others
- I'm not entirely sure but I think continuing doing what we are doing being inclusive to all.
- Continue to do what this group is trying to do and bring together more face to face connections

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# Cohesion / Racism / Inclusion

## Cohesion & Inclusion

27

- call out misinformation (gently). Show people not everyone thinks like that.
- Try to offer counter arguments
- Open conversations
- Find a way to join cultures more maybe but not sure how! You do an amazing job trying to bring community together!
- We have to touch their heart through our support and activities, we have to communicate modern society could develop through humanity
- More groups which could bring different views and cultures together.
- More inclusive activities.
- Have more diverse groups at CC that will attract marginalised groups, such as LGBTQ, different health challenge groups such as ADHD/autism, disability, groups for younger men, different cultures etc reaching people who are part of this community but may not feel they have the confidence or feel different to others and therefore would find it hard to come into CC.
- We keep reaching out, as much, and as often as we can. We be brave, and role model the future best we can
- I've lived here 30plus years never seen so many ethnic families getting council houses before the white British families..
- Give people the opportunity to broaden their horizons and minds. (You're already making strides in this)
- Just keep being kind and without prejudice
- Educate, accept
- Keep on bringing people together in community events.
- Neighbour hood watch.
- Be more understanding and listen, be less judgemental
- Offer education and inclusive meetings. And being pro active for example people put flags up for the “English people” which some of our community felt was against them.
- Create inclusive spaces: Make sure everyone feels welcomed, listened to, and valued, so differences in background and personality become strengths rather than obstacles.

# Information / Awareness

## Information & Awareness

- Share more information in person at more locations, like Book Cycle
- Make them aware of the lovely things that they can become involved in
- Talk to more people in street
- Continue with the Ey Up magazine!
- Maybe put more posters up in shop windows when an event is being offered (I have seen some posters but most things are on social media).

- Advertise events or put leaflets on local shop counters/windows, church notice boards (Sacred Heart, St Andrew's and St Anne's) and ask all the local schools such as St John Fisher, Shevington High, Standish High, Sacred Heart, St Andrew's, Beech Hill, St Anne's, St Mary's & St John's and Mabs Cross to advertise on their newsletter when there are events or activities planned (I suggest these schools as a lot of local children attend these schools plus some schools further afield).
- I've seen some great activities organised such as charity events, music events etc but only after the event. I don't go on social media every day and find FB algorithms are showing posts days and weeks after events happen. I also have a lot of friends with no social media at all and know of many people that have closed their accounts down, unfortunately this often comes with the negative that they don't know of activities or events happening in the area.
- Strengthen communication: Share events in multiple ways – posters, noticeboards, newsletters, word of mouth – so no one misses out.

## Environment

### Environment

- The rubbish picking is fabulous...  
i do our immediate area when i can...but maybe encourage a grand tidy up
- Encourage people not to litter and foul pavements.
- more awareness of anti litter campaigns - I already know there are litter picks but leafleting houses to encourage involvement would help get more people involved
- Object to the number of HMOs to support the neighbourhood

## Places to be / Things to do

### Places & Things

- Make sure we have somewhere when we no longer have our church, for services and get togethers as well as weddings funerals christening and all the things our church gives us.
- More evening activities for those at work
- More groups set up to help vulnerable people
- Keep doing the amazing sessions and bringing people together like you do. Maybe more evening things if that's possible
- more afternoon activities, maybe on a Friday's night for people who don't usually go out but would spend some time in the community instead, perhaps doing karaoke or watching a movie
- Encourage more people to take part in events and activities that connect streets. Which therefore will connect the area
- Try to extend what is offered and support more local activities in the area

## 14. What would you love to see that's not already here?

Beech Hill

Community Spaces

Young People

Peer support

Charity

Outdoors

Events & Social

Faith based

Markets & shops

### Beech Hill

- More sessions available at beech hill
- More bring and buy sales, fairs and jumble sales near beech hill
- A community corner on beech hill.
- GirlGuiding being brought into beech hill/ St Anne's

Beech Hill

### Community Spaces and Facilities

- Nicer spaces
- Community Centre
- More community rooms and spaces
- better community hall buildings
- Community corner more accessible for wheelchair users
- Maybe larger premises as CommUnity Corner may not be big enough to house all groups. There is no wheelchair access, nor is there room for a proper accessible toilet. However, when setting up a base this was probably the best available property at the time, and credit should go to the volunteers who had the vision to make this community hub a reality.
- A permanent place to display and exhibit art from the community

Community Spaces

- I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do with the playbox over the next year
- A womens only space
- More open social spaces in easy walking reach across the community - creative places with a bit of food thrown in
- don't know of any places within the Community you could hold a small event for example a community hall.
- Too complex to answer but generally more facilities on the doorstep think Beech Hill is crying out for a centralised sports hub that is active everyday. It's a shame things like Laithwaite Park but smaller weren't built in Beech Hill
- More creative spaces and community ownership

## Young People

- teens creative writing
- More things for teenagers
- Something for teens
- SEN classes for older kids
- Something for teens, place to hang out or lit up at night for walks

Young  
People

## Peer support

- A mum's support system
- Peer to peer wellbeing group,
- A grief/loss drop in or group
- a place for newly LGBT to share

Peer support

## Charity

- Befriending and supporting people with health conditions helping support people at home as a volunteer
- Something more regular for o.a.p's like bingo afternoon or something to get them out
- Maybe a donation station for the local food bank. The brick

Charity

## Events

- More things on offer at Community Corner and St Annes in the later evenings after work and at weekends
- More structured craft/activities in the evening at community corner, adult dance classes,
- More places in the evenings
- Live music without being pub based
- Watching a movie together or doing karaoke
- More evening and weekend activities
- Coffee morning or groups to bring people together
- More socialising with community
- More groups
- Coffee mornings but on a weekend not just weekday events so that more of the community can be involved who may work during the week.
- More things for people who work during the day time
- More get togethers
- More wellbeing sessions like Yoga & Meditation. Mindfulness,
- More food at community corner
- Darts night, pool competitions
- Book club, could use BookCycle as venue too with available books as choice.
- Clothes swap
- A group for women in the evening
- More craft workshops, book club
- Sewing classes.
- Do your ancestry
- Music session, open mic
- Something for the older people that not all about the church
- Dance/ keep fit classes
- Film nights
- Knitting group
- more people of different cultures attending events
- More things for people to get together from different country's
- Darts
- Singles meet and greet
- A bring and take library box
- Family events
- A music night for people to come together

## Outdoors

### Outdoors

- Gym equipment on gidlow park
- Better Christmas tree!
- Bowls at diggle street park
- walking groups, self defence, exercise related things
- Clean ups
- Bins for dog poo
- I would really enjoy a walking group whether that's a dog walking group or just a general one o
- coach events taking the community exploring further afield for people who may not have transport or many family to venture out with.
- music events at the park or Robin park.
- Events at Haigh hall
- Splash zone at mesnes park
- A pool like the one in yourkshire
- More dog friendly events, or dog walks.
- More street cleaning( by the council ) this is something I've spoke to Lisa Nandy with on a few occasions but it's always a token gesture
- More trees.
- bus shelters (sit and chat)
- Zebra crossing outside the park
- Places for kids to go on bikes
- Football
- Forest school
- Christmas parade through the estates to bring joy to people.
- Musical festival
- Running Group

### Faith based

## Faith based

- personally would like to see more groups of people , friends from church and others meeting up in the church hall for some get together for chats and maybe drinks as well. And in due course because we will have no church a place within the church hall for our services.
- Local faith based music events or concerts for everyone
- Bible classes

- More market type events
- Food events. Food brings people together
- More community bring and buy fairs like the old days, car boot type events, craft fairs, craft making.
- More places to eat
- decent coffee/cake shop
- Decent coffee lol
- Pet shop

## 15. Open Comments - Anything else you'd like to say?

- Community corner do a great job
- A big thanks to everyone who puts on lots of events and groups in our local community
- I love living in Springfield. Lovely, friendly community where we feel safe and happy
- Thank you for everything you do to make activities accessible and bring people together
- Thank you for trying to make a difference
- Beech Hill is my past and present
- It a nice place to live friendly apart from the odd anti social behaviour drug misuse shop lifting etc It is also important to support local shops and food places The supporting the chippy great idea
- I love the idea of the art display event
- Just a massive well done to all those who try so hard to involve people in things
- Everyone at community corner , thank you. !
- Keep up the brilliant work and im happy to be a part of it, its changed my life.
- Keep doing the amazing job you all are doing!
- Keep up the good work
- Since coming here and being part of community corner family it has really pushed me in the rights direction and changed my views on life and I am not the same person anymore.

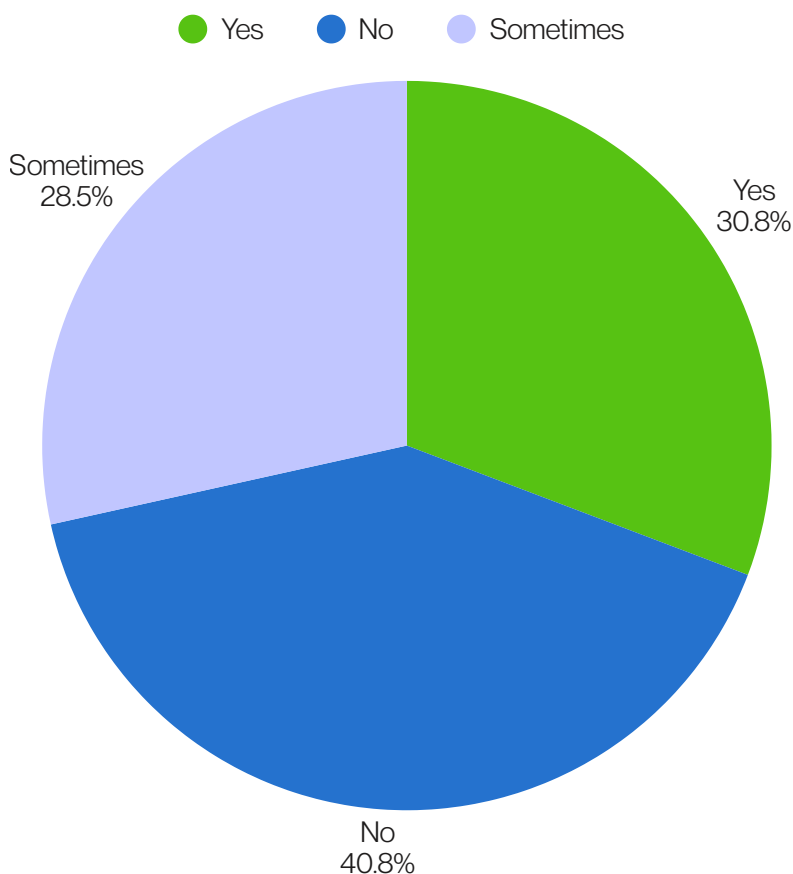
- 
- I've been made to feel welcome after gaining legal guardianship of my grandchildren and know there is always help and someone to talk to
  - It took a long time for me to attend a group at CC not because I didn't want to, but because I'd gone through grief&trauma and also I'm an introvert and can struggle with social situations. I found it took a long time to get the confidence to come and I still have to push myself to come even though everyone is so friendly and welcoming. I'm sure there are many out there who need connection but haven't got the confidence to walk in the door. Maybe there could be a way of making this easier IE having a "buddy" scheme for those with low confidence. Eg someone they could message and arrange to meet outside to speak to about any concerns going in or just to give moral support on their first few visits. So many people struggle with that initial first time.
  - Thank you, you inspire me.
  - Thankyou for all you do
  - The group is doing great work
  - I love SBHG
  - love the community corner as it is a place where we share quality time together and bring more joy into our lives. I wish I will be able to participate more, and I would like to be notified for any future events or afternoon clubs
  - More SEN adventures pleeeeeaaassee
  - Keep on Keeping on & buy a copy of Misdelivered by David Taulty - Is Reet !
  - Only that I'm glad there is somewhere for people to go who are struggling. Community Corner is trying hard to accommodate all people and I always feel welcomed when I go there.
  - Thankyou for all your help and guidance xx
  - Credit all those trying to make a difference. If I had the time I'd probably like to be involved somewhere but work commitments make that difficult
  - Im just very thankful that I am involved hopefully I can get back to being at the shop every day
  - Ey up is a valuable source of information
  - I enjoy living here. And the community corner.
  - It would be nice for tech lessons for older people
  - Thank you listening and help me and my friends with all are ideas and making our dream come true I have seen that kids can make a change
  - Thank you to SBHG community group for making this a better place to live
  - The people who work/ volunteer at community corner do an amazing job in making a warm and welcoming environment for everyone in the area

- 
- I have been welcomed into this community with open arms. I do not live here, but I have made so many incredible friends that feel like family.
  - After i connected to the community i felt happy to live here
  - feel like community corner is my family
  - You are doing wonderful. You should all be proud of yourselves.
  - We love this community and community corner are something we
  - are proud of.
  - I would like some more people to come to the playbox
  - Keep going, Playbox is a good idea to be built on. Would like to see more things in random places every weekend in December should be little Christmas pop up markets and such things
  - Thankyou to everyone at the Hub who works so hard for everyone in the Community we are very lucky to have such a wonderful place to go on our door step
  - More spacious place we have to achieve through community ownership, build up our own revenue to spend for community, without any third party funding we have to create our own profit and circulate in side our community . This need for future development of society
  - Even though I don't come down to the Community corner very often and haven't joined the craft groups etc I still appreciate what other people use it for. Personally I fill my life with volunteering and keeping active a nd will help out if needed.
  - Thankyou for being such a nice community,im looking forward to to getting more involved
  - I feel like parking on beech hill ave near the row of shops is worse than ever. Cars on double yellow lines and the curb make disabled access horrendous. To make everyone feel welcome and part of the community then access should be for all.
  - I can't think of anything more than I have said. My church is everything to me and the people family and friends it means that much to them also. The idea that we will have no place at all to worship, pray, and end our lives there is mind boggling. I just wish that our church hall be made to accommodate a chapel and alter so that we still have it fir our community after the church closes.
  - I'd love to know how to save our church, can we fight this?
  - Councillor surgery's advertised more widely

- 
- I moved here 9 years ago and feel like there's not much to bring us together. I used to live in Adlington and Chorley where there was loads of things to do and it felt more friendly and welcoming 36
  - I find it hard to promote my small business which does encourage community relationships. With a similar goal of losing weight in mind it also becomes a warm safe space for people to connect who have issues with their weight. Yes it is a business and not a free community activity. But other local business are afraid to promote or refuse to promote such groups.
  - There seems to be a group who are involved in everything and it can be daunting when you dont know people and they are all together

## 16. What do we know about the people who completed the survey

### Do you attend groups at Community Corner?



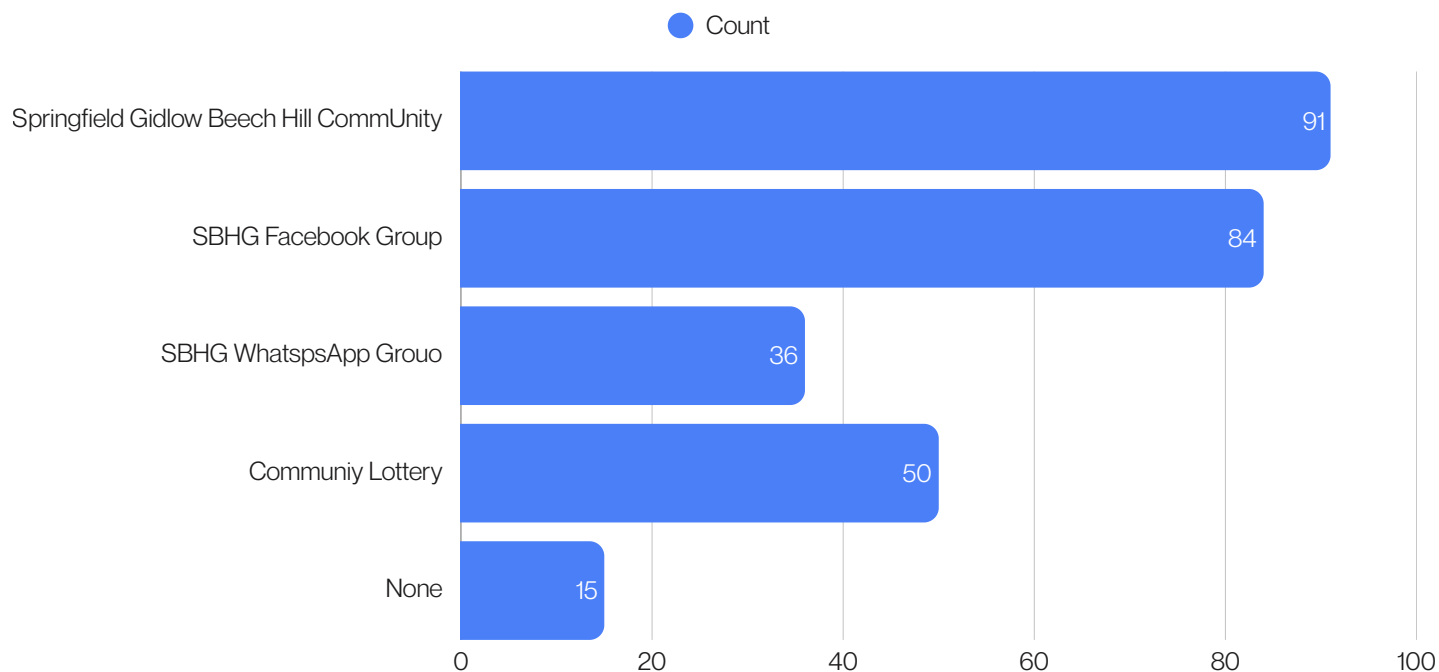
#### This is a new question

2025: Yes 30.8%, Sometimes 28.5% and No 40.8%

Just under 60% of respondents either use or sometimes use community corner.

# Are you a member?

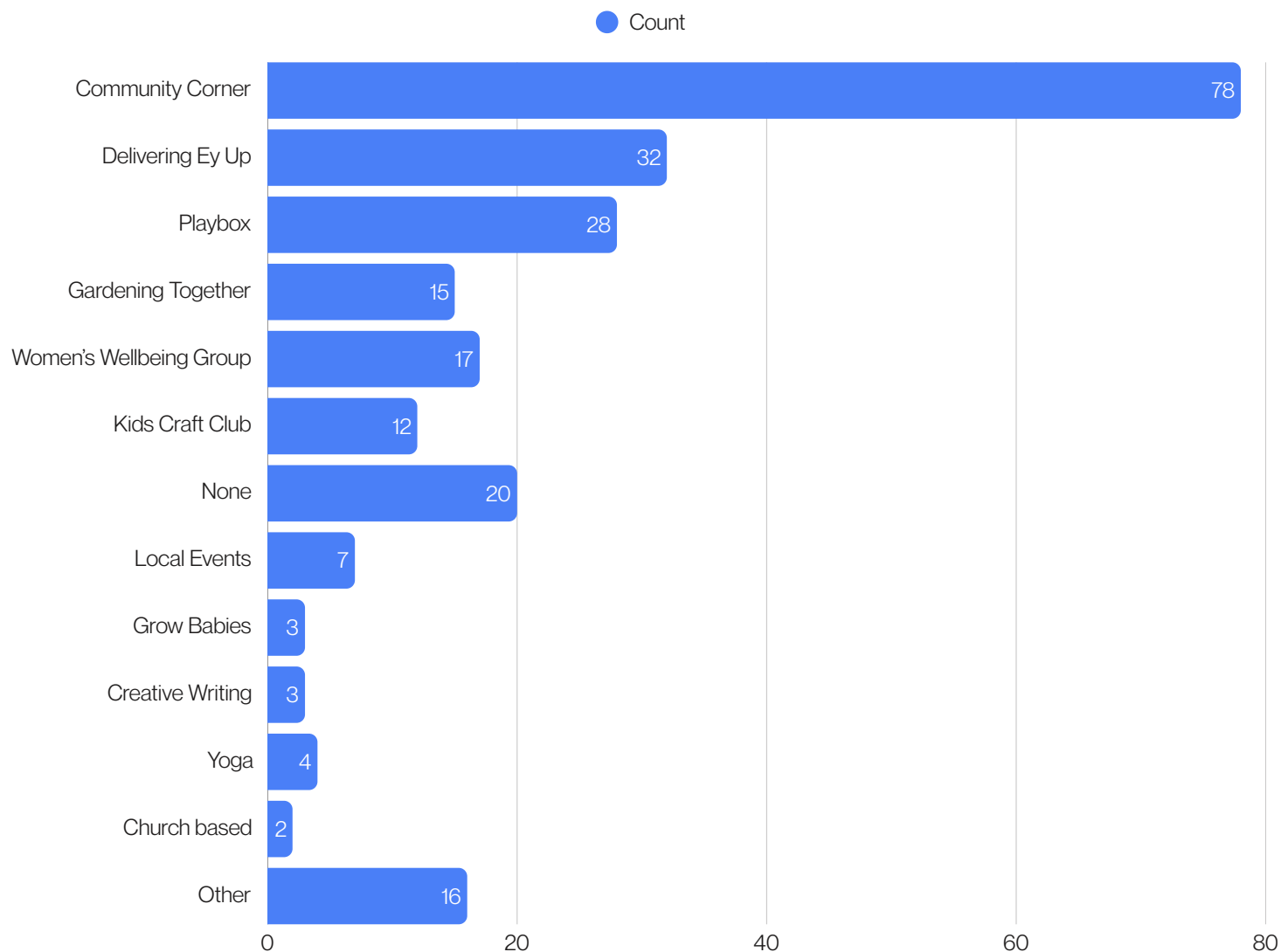
15% of respondents did not have a connection to the local group and had either been interviewed in the street or did not view their participation in activities or groups as membership.



We are unable to compare this to last years data as the data was corrupted last year. These results show us that people who are responding to the survey are more involved in community life.

# What SBHG Groups or Clubs are you involved with?

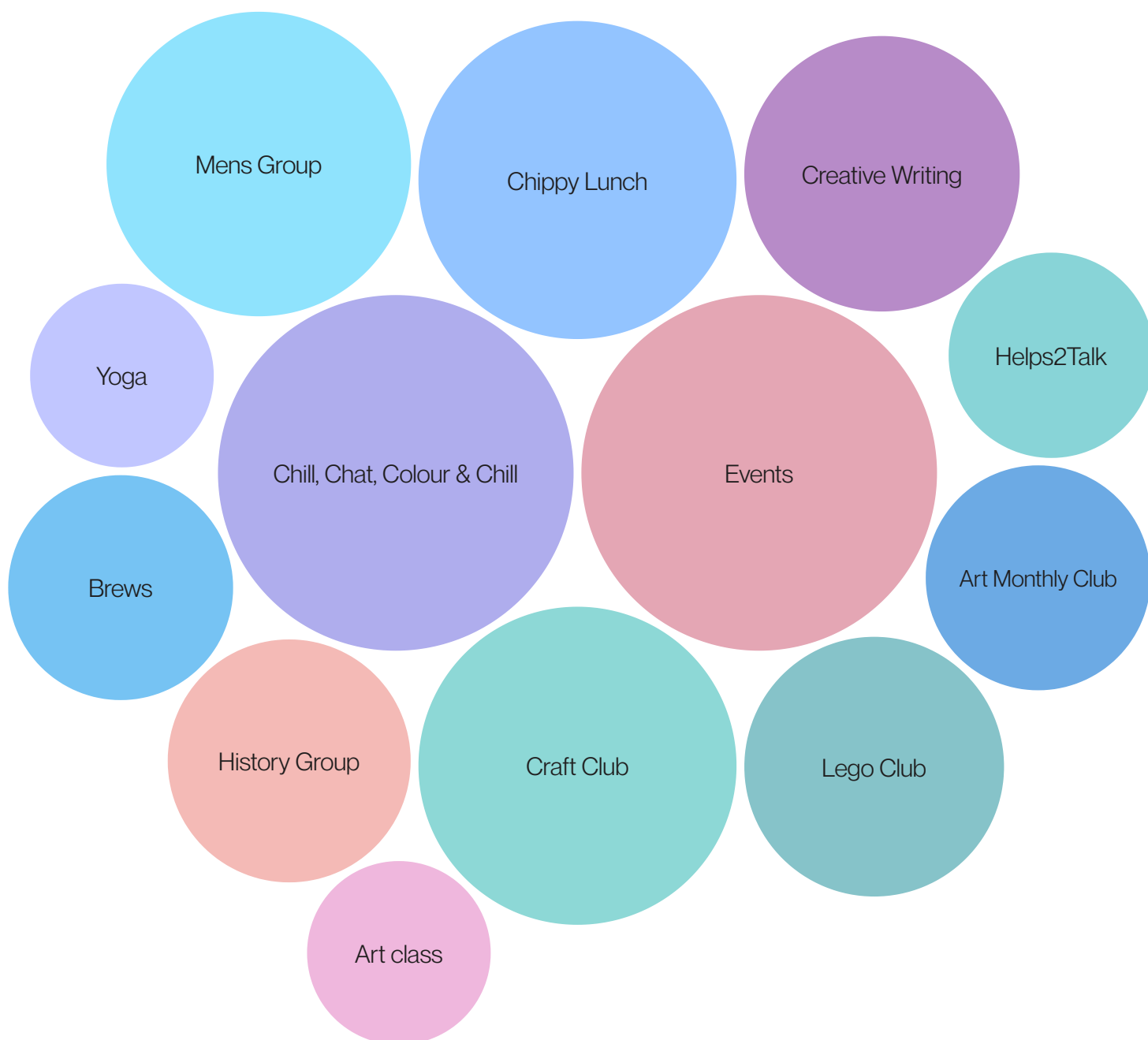
15% of respondents did not have a connection to the local group and had either been interviewed in the street or did not view their participation in activities or groups as membership.



Community Corner 78, Playbox 28, Delivering Ey Up 32, Gardening Together 15, Kids Craft Club 12, Women's Wellbeing Group 17, None 20, Creative Writing Group 3, Events 4, Grow Babies 3, Slimming World 2, SBHG 2, Yoga 3, Church events 2, Brick charity 2, Wigan Youth Zone 1, St Andrew's 1, Chair yoga 1, Lego 1, Support 1, Cycle project 1, Craft group 1, Cats rescue 1, Be Well 1, Knit and natter 1, Annie's pantry 1, Warm Space 1, Local events 1, Litter 1, NHS 1, Not much time at present 1, Wasn't aware of half of these 1, Interested in helping run a course 1

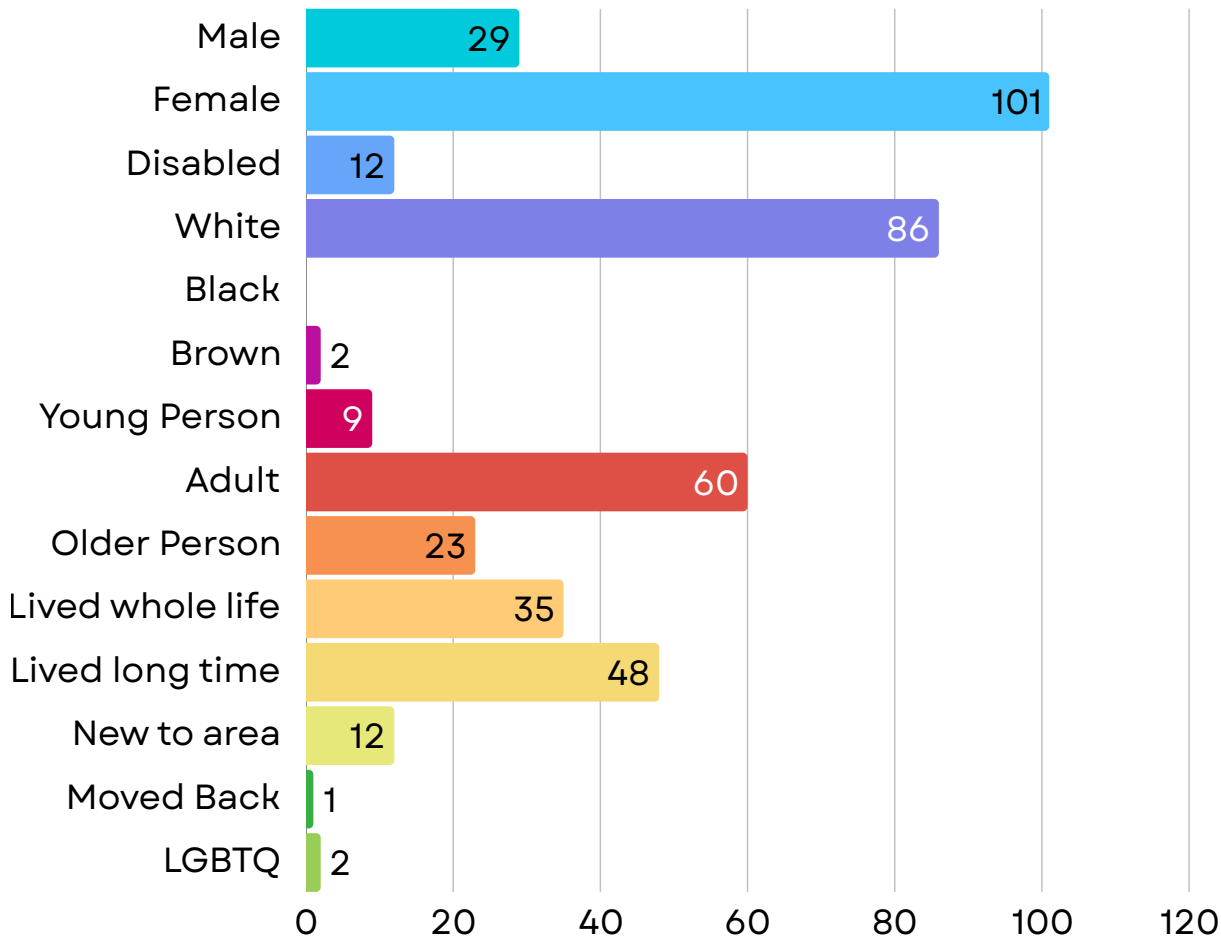
# Which sessions do you attend

For people who attended community corner at all, we asked them what groups they join in. We have 77 responses.



Answers in Full: Mens Group 11, Thursday Eve Craft Club 12, Chippy Lunch 12, Chill, Chat, Colour & Chill 15, Creative Writing & Poetry 9, Art Monthly Club - Wed Eve 6, Lego Club 8, History Group 7, Helps 2 Talk 5, Public living room (for a brew) 6, Yoga 4, Art class 4, Events 15, Womens Group 1, Everyday English 1, Craft club 1, Knit and Knatter - craft club 1, Flower arranging 0 (included in Events), Horror book club 1, Travel group 0 (included in Events), Sewing courses 0 (included in Events), Art session on Wednesday 0 (included in Art class),

# 21. Tell us more about you



Responses from men are up from 8.57% last year, after a drop from 11.7% the previous year to 21.8% this year. The responses from young people are up, as is the number of people new to the area. There's been an increase in responses from the LGBTQI community.

There was a higher response from members of black, brown communities and English as a second language communities than the graph above indicates, although the responses supported by the English teacher lack quality and would be enhanced by a conversation group.

Please note, this question is optional; not everyone answering may include their ethnicity or sexuality, for example they may just check Adult only so it's not a complete picture.

## Contact

If you'd like to discuss these results or share any ideas about the community please pop into Community Corner, 55a Park Road. or email [admin@northernheartandsoul.co.uk](mailto:admin@northernheartandsoul.co.uk)