

Residents Survey for precept, budget and delivery for 2024-25

Report following survey results.

3 January 2024

1. Context

A survey was designed for residents of Lymm to complete in order to help the Parish Council to determine the precept and project priorities for 2024-25. The survey was finalised in December, with the survey open from December 21st to January 1st. It included 20 separate areas of delivery including village events, public toilet costs and flowers/plants for the village. The survey was shared on the website, to those on the Parish Council's mailing list, social media, hard copies at Lymm Library and, after Christmas Eve, on the village noticeboards. The option was offered for hard copies to be delivered.

2. Completed Forms

264 responses were received on the digital version, with no paper copies being completed at the library or elsewhere.

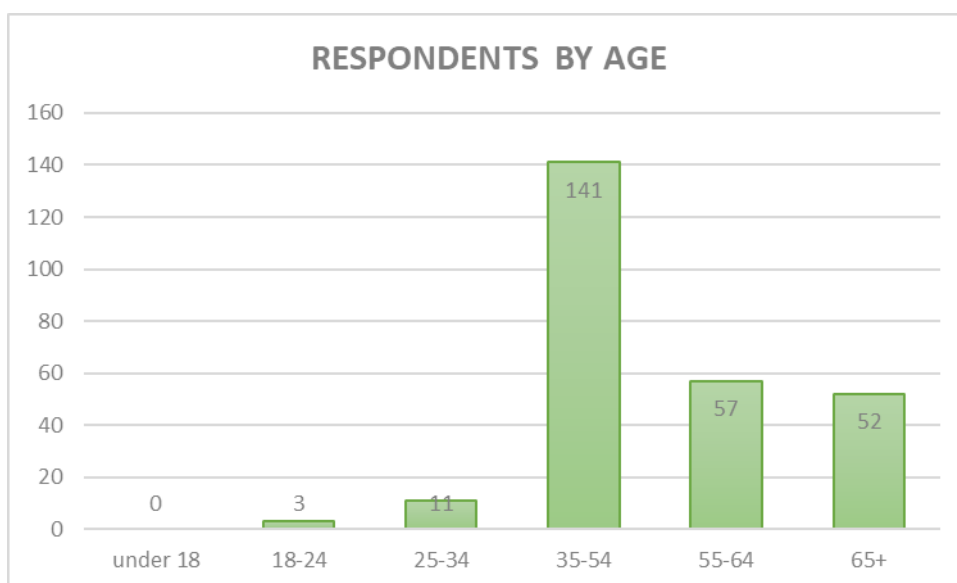
3. Questions

Questions were asked about age, preferred precept increase, and where/how residents find out about Parish Council activity. The main questions were about how strongly residents felt about certain projects / delivery areas.

4. Responses

a. Age

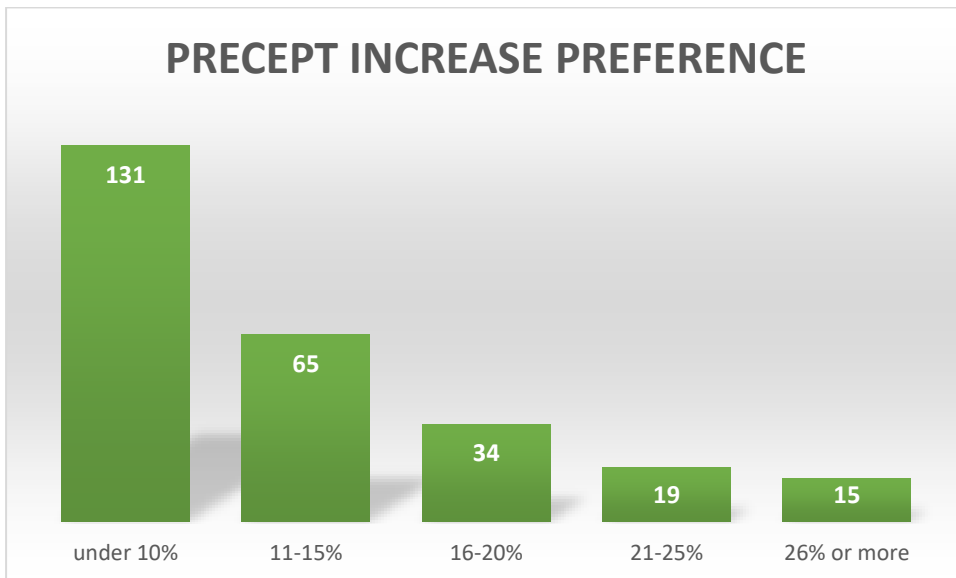
53.4% of respondents were from the age bracket 35-54, with the 55-64 and over 65 bands having 21.6% and 19.7% respectively. Only 5.3% were aged 34 and under.



b. Precept levels

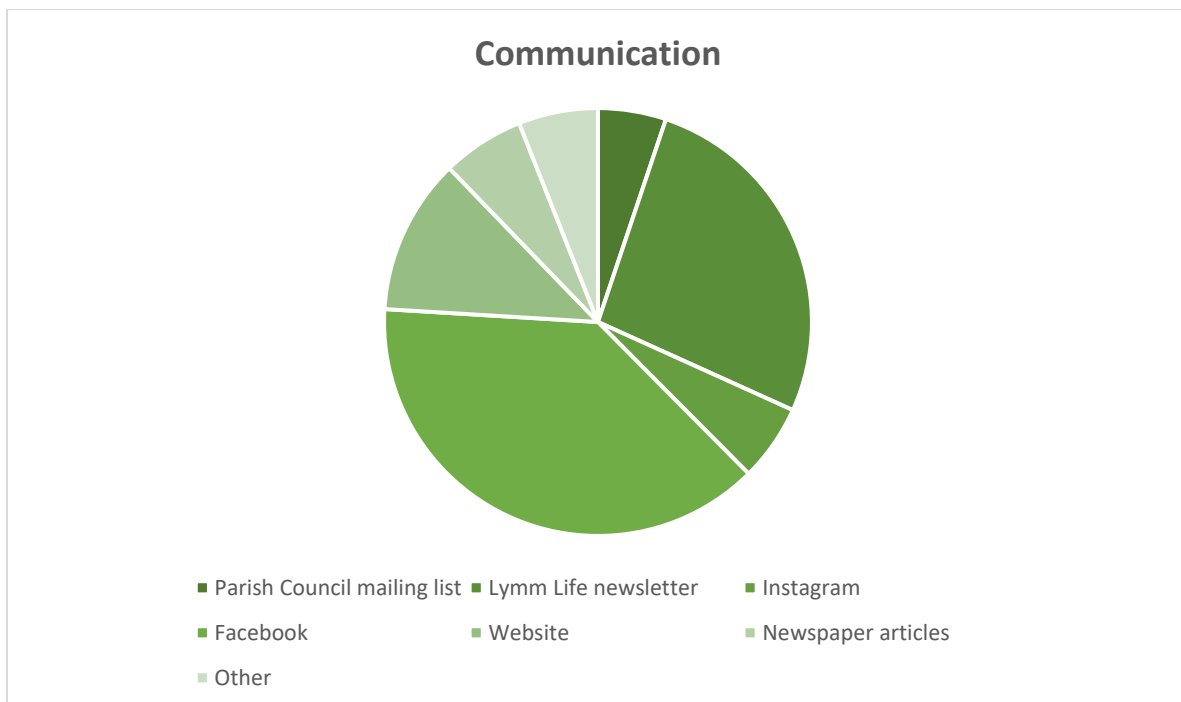
Just under 50% of respondents selected a preference for a rise in precept of under 10%, with just under a quarter selecting a potential increase of between 11% and 15%.

25.8% selected an increase of 16% or more.



c. Communication

The main way that residents hear about Parish Council business is through social media, specifically Facebook. The results being:

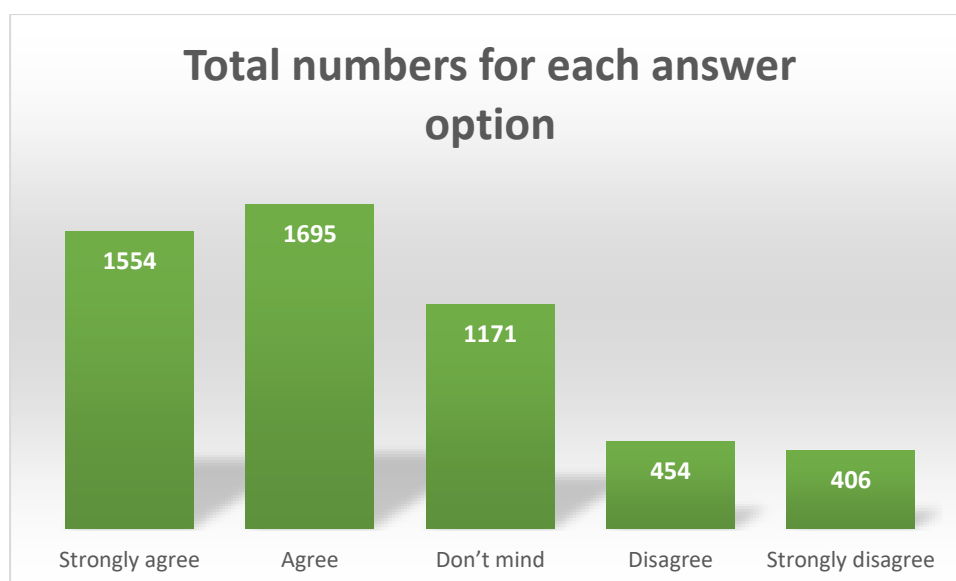


d. Projects/services/delivery areas

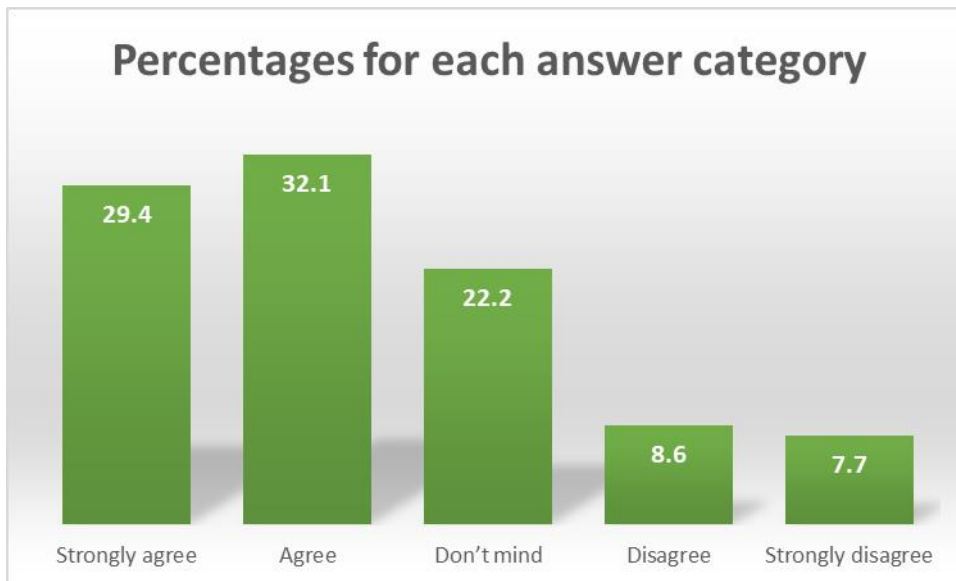
The final results were as follows:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Don't mind	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Allotments	23	37	104	57	43
Biodiversity	70	78	61	30	25
PCSO	111	92	36	10	15
CCTV	75	76	61	30	22
Canal side lighting	53	71	84	34	22
Summer decs	73	86	54	25	26
Xmas decs	109	96	33	13	13
Enviro projects	77	121	44	15	7
Events	128	81	36	7	12
Flowers / plants	74	127	37	14	12
Grants	82	100	50	15	17
Tidy village	115	106	33	5	5
Greenbelt – SWP	141	55	35	16	17
NP	101	92	40	20	11
Sunken Gardens – strategic design	46	85	80	27	26
Sunken Gardens – benches etc	39	78	88	30	29
Dam toilet	66	79	77	24	18
Traffic and speed	70	75	61	29	29
Hall review	52	96	80	20	16
Skate park	49	64	77	33	41

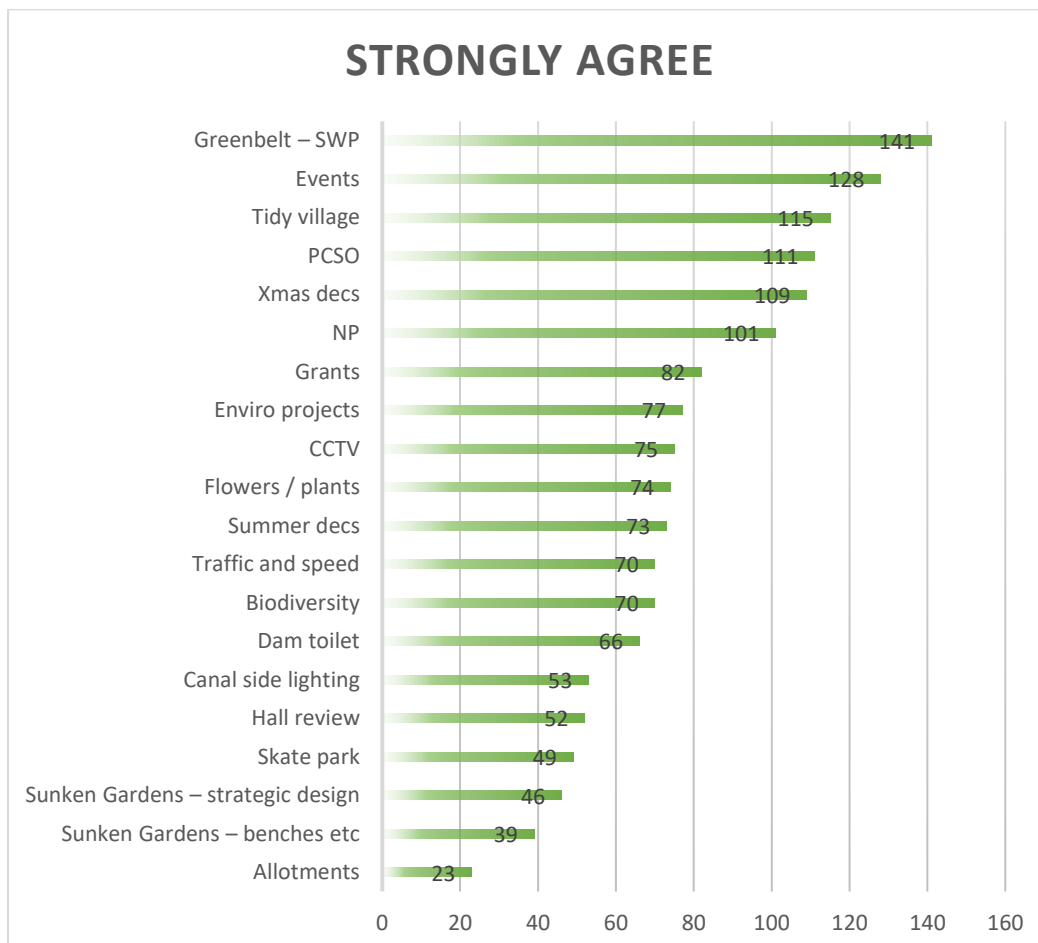
The total number of votes for each answer option were:



As percentages, the numbers were:



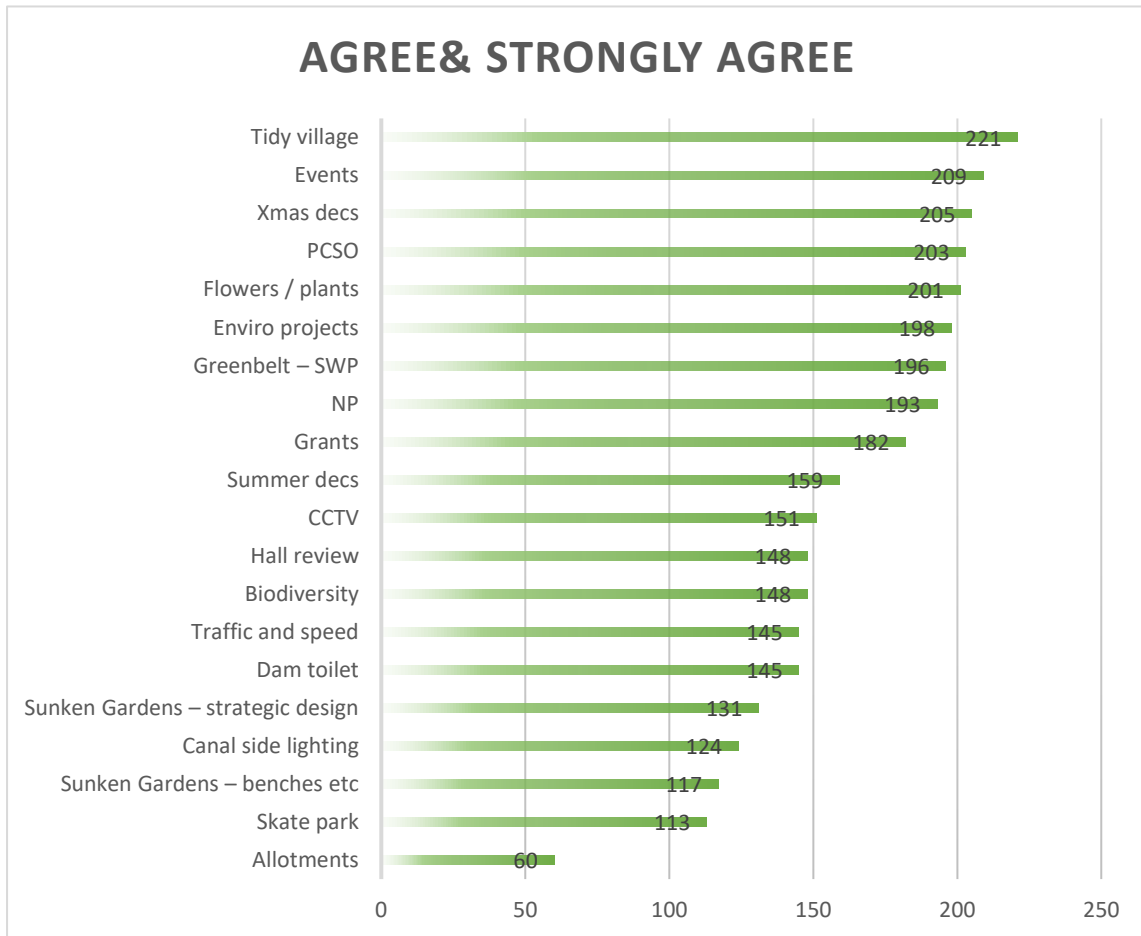
Those selected as 'Strongly Agree' breakdown as:



This put the top 5 projects for 'Strongly Agree' as:

- i. Protecting the greenbelt
- ii. Village events
- iii. Keeping the village tidy
- iv. A PCSO post
- v. Decorating the village for Christmas.

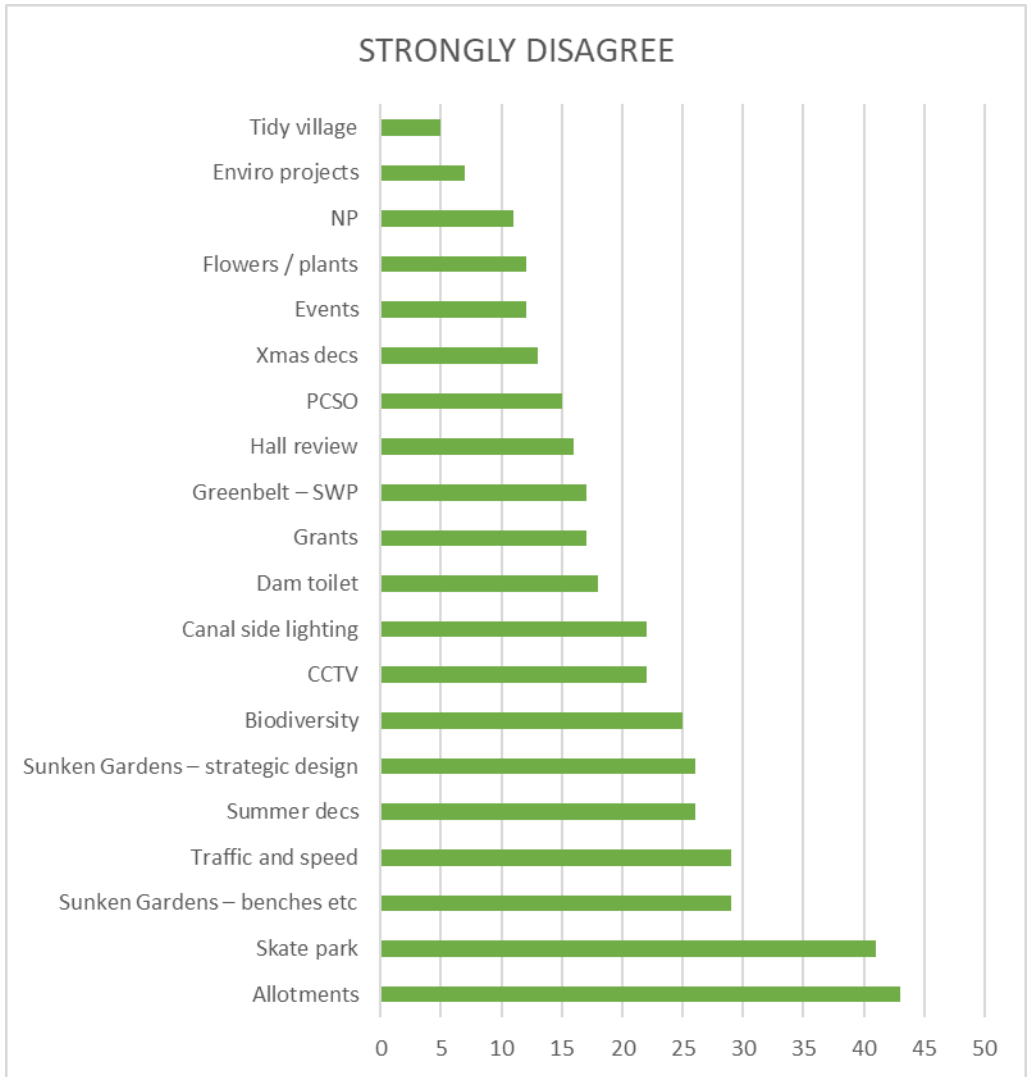
A combination of those chosen as 'Strongly Agree' and 'Agree' were:



This changed the top 5 selected to:

- i. Keeping the village tidy
- ii. Village events
- iii. Decorating the village for Christmas
- iv. A PCSO post
- v. Plants and flowers for the village

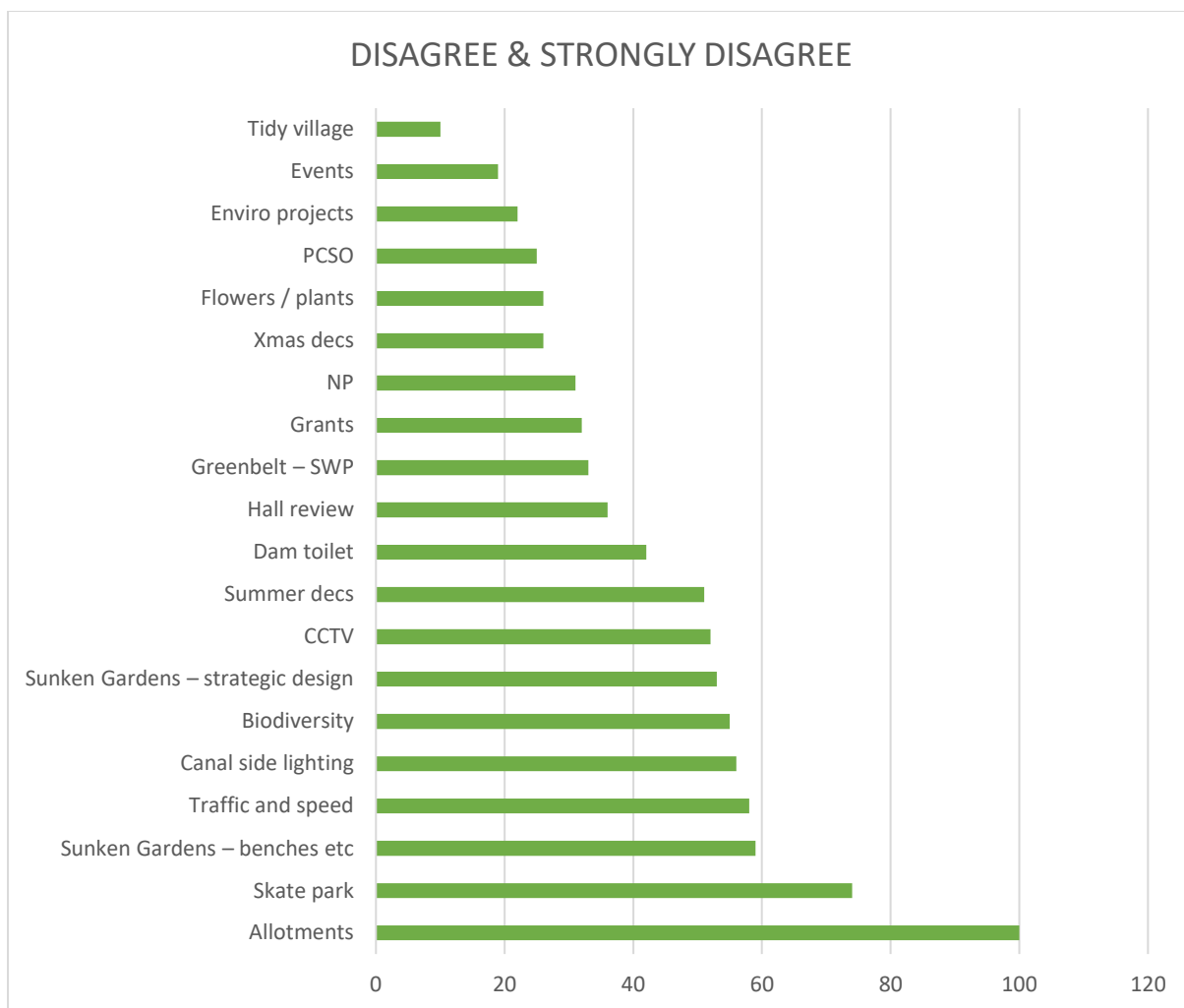
At the other end of the scale, the selections for 'Strongly Disagree' were:



The 5 options with the highest number of ‘Strongly Disagree’ votes were:

- i. Allotments
- ii. Ridgeway Grundy skate park match funding
- iii. Sunken Gardens – additional benches
- iv. Traffic and speed monitoring
- v. Village summer decorations

When the ‘Disagree’ options were added to ‘Strongly Disagree’ the results changed to:



The 5 options with the highest number of ‘Strongly Disagree’ and ‘Disagree’ votes combined changed very slightly to:

- a. Allotments
- b. Ridgeway Grundy skate park match funding
- c. Sunken Gardens – additional benches
- d. Traffic and speed monitoring
- e. Canal side lighting

5. Decisions for 2024-25

a. Precept and other income

The precept level for 2023-24 is £297,202.

If the preferred option from the survey is chosen, an increase of no more than 10% would give a precept level in the region of £326,922, an increase of up to £29,720.

Other income from hall hire and allotments is forecast at £25,300.

b. Core costs

Forecast core costs for 2024-25 are £256,344 including staffing, core administrative costs, loan repayments, village hall running costs, CCTV servicing and repairs, allotments running costs and Dam toilet running costs.

c. Projects

The top five projects for delivery from strongly agree plus agree were, with a proposed budget of:

i.	Keeping the village tidy (Staff costs are included in core costs)	£10,460
ii.	Village events	£25,000
iii.	Decorating the village for Christmas	£6,000
iv.	A PCSO post	£40,000
v.	Plants and flowers for the village	£6,250

Full costs can be seen in the table attached, including all costs for potential projects and the order they were voted.

The December monthly accounts will provide more up to date current financial information to support a decision at the January Full Council meeting, and to confirm reserve forecast figures for 2023-24, impacting on reserve adjustments for 2024-25.

END