



Ansdell and Lytham Parish Consultation.



Consultation Report: May 2024.



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Summary.

Summary of findings (1 of 2).



Well over a thousand local people took part in a wide-ranging consultation on parishing in Lytham and Ansdell

- A letter informing residents of the consultation was sent to all households in the area inviting them to take part in the consultation via an online survey, paper surveys or by contacting the council directly
- Four in-person community events were held in Lytham and Ansdell
- **1,165** survey responses were received and over 200 people engaged at the in-person community events
- 98% of all survey responses were from local residents, with an even mix from the wards covering the proposed parish(es) area



People responding to the consultation recognise the importance of having a local identity and voice, and three quarters agree that a parish council has an important part to play in local communities

Nine in ten survey respondents agree that having a local identity, a formal local voice, the ability to influence local decisions and manage local facilities are all important.



Neighbourhood plans appear to be important to local people

85% of respondents would like any parish council(s) in Lytham and Ansdell to create a neighbourhood plan for the area.

Summary of findings (2 of 2).



78% of survey respondents would prefer some form of parish council across Lytham and Ansdell



Overall, more people are in favour of creating two parish councils

Nearly half (46%) of survey respondents prefer the option of creating two parish councils, one for Lytham and one for Ansdell, with one in five preferring one combined parish council and 12% saying they would like the areas to be 'parished' but don't mind how.



One in five do not want to see any parish councils in the Lytham and Ansdell area

Key reasons given for the preferred options

- Two parishes: people feel the two areas are very different and have different needs
- One combined parish: people feel there would be economies of scale and/or that the areas are similar
- No change: people feel parish councils are not needed and would just add another layer of bureaucracy



Although most people do not have any concerns about their preferred option, some are concerned about the cost of parish councils and who the councillors would be (e.g. would they be representative of local community)



Local stakeholders responding to the survey have similar views to residents; 9 in 10 would like to see the two areas 'parished' in some way with the majority (24 of 42; 57%) preferring the option of creating two parish councils

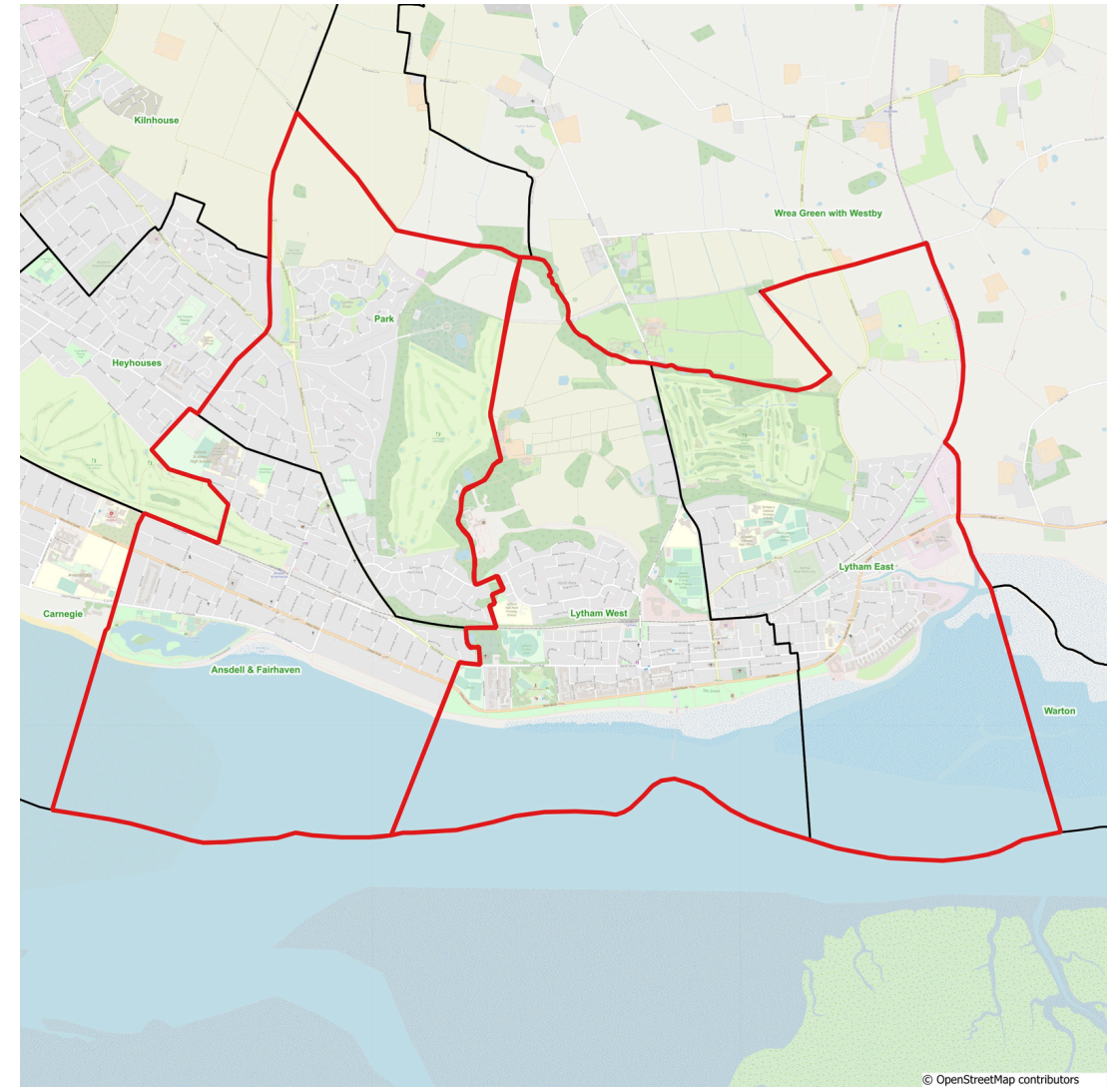
Introduction.

Introducing the consultation.



What was the consultation on?

Fylde Council reviewed existing parishes, together with the unparished areas, across the borough in early 2022 through a process called a Community Governance Review. Following on from this, the council wanted to know what local people think about proposals to establish parish councils across Ansdell and Lytham, covering the borough wards of Lytham East, Lytham West, Ansdell and Fairhaven, and most of Park. Or alternatively if they think a parish council covering both areas should be established.



The consultation approach.



A survey

An online consultation survey was available to complete between 13 March and 23 April 2024. Paper surveys were also available to complete in the Town Hall, Ansdell Library and Lytham Library. 100 paper responses were received in total.



Alternative methods of participating

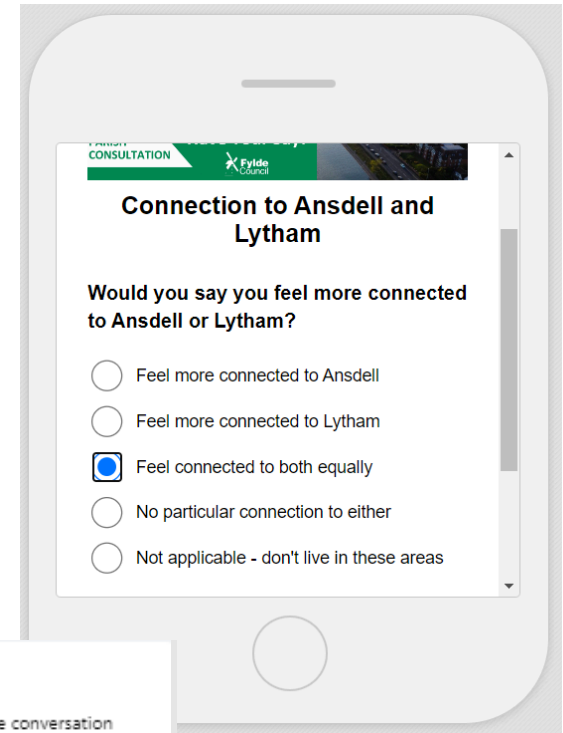
The option to respond directly to the Council via email or letter was also provided, and four in-person community events took place during March and April 2024.



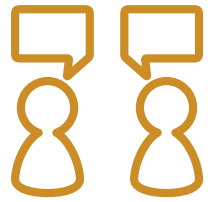
Marketing and communication

A letter informing residents of the consultation was sent to all households in the area.

In addition, the consultation was supported by wide-ranging marketing and communication, including website articles, social media posts, press releases and weekly newsletters. Over 16,000 social media users were reached by the boosted Facebook post, and across all social media posts, almost a thousand users clicked on the link to more information.



Pop-up events were held in the community.



Over 200 people engaged at in-person community events

Four 'pop-up' events took place within the community to give local people further opportunities to find out more and have their say. Council Officers and staff members engaged with over 215 local residents at the events, answering questions and encouraging residents to fill in questionnaires.

- Lytham Library/Assembly Rooms (Friday 22 March)
- Asndell Library (Tuesday 26 March)
- Lytham Square (Saturday 6 April)
- Outside Asndell Co-Op store (Saturday 13 April)

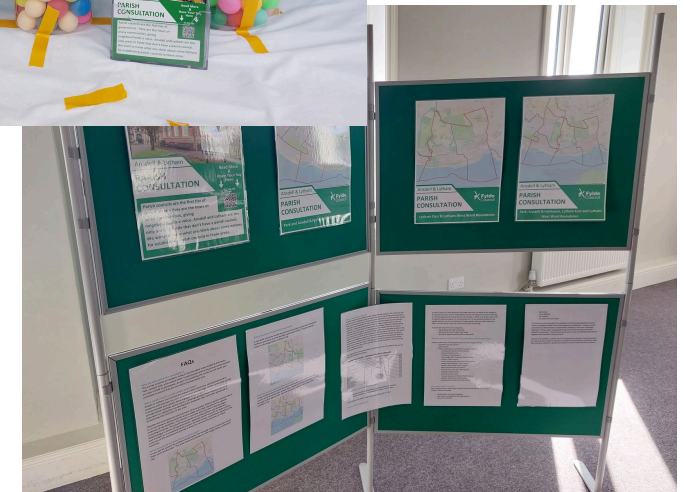


Ten responses were received via email/letter

An additional ten responses were sent directly to Fylde Council, one of which was the official response from Lytham Town Trust, which expressed the desire for the creation of two parish councils for Lytham and Asndell.

Of the remaining nine responses:

- Three were in agreement with creating parish councils
- Six indicated that they were not in agreement



1,165 survey responses were received.



98%

of survey responses were from local residents



42 responded in another capacity

- 20 respondents were representing a local business
- 14 represented a community group or organisation
- 10 were local councillors

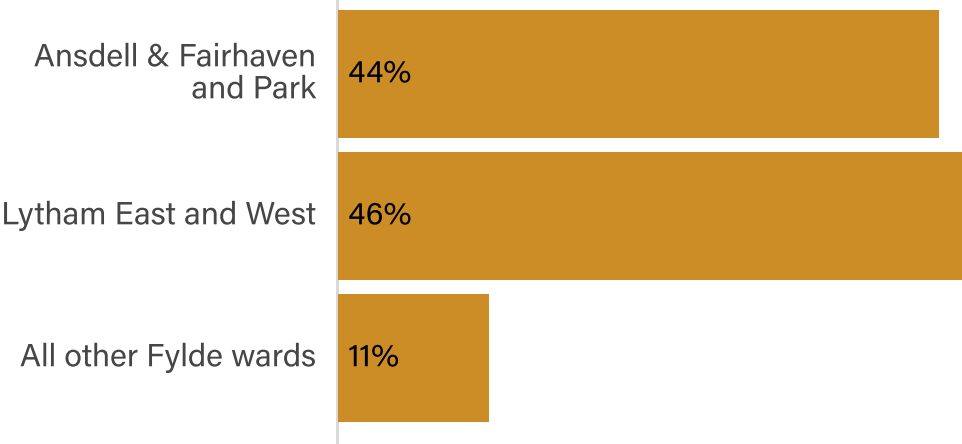
Note: two respondents were representing both a local business and a community group; of the 42 stakeholder responses, 24 are also residents of Fylde.

Where did consultation responses come from?

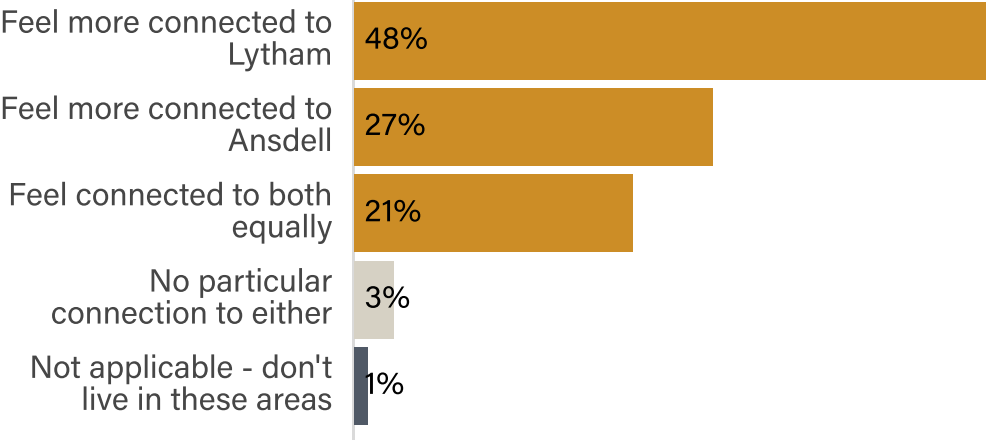


There was an even mix of responses from the wards covering the proposed parish(es) area

Based on full postcodes provided by respondents (n=978)



Overall, respondents were more likely to feel connected to Lytham



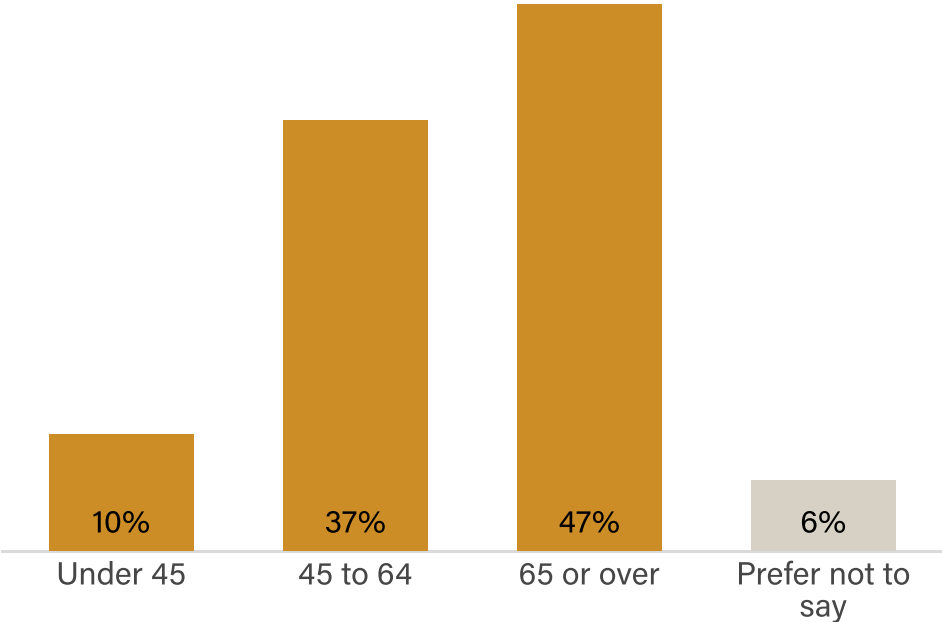
Respondents from Ansdell & Fairhaven and Park wards were more likely than those from Lytham East and West to feel connected to both equally

31% compared to 9%

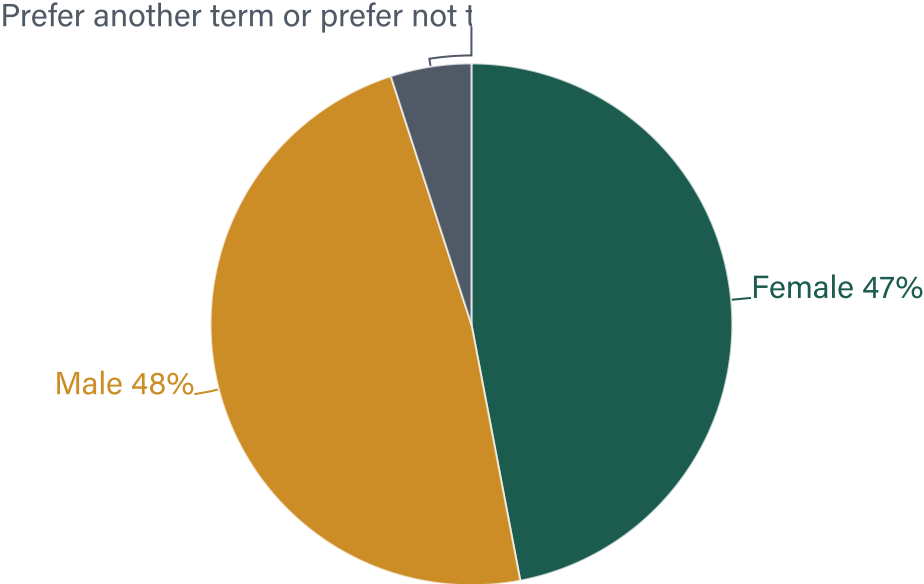
Who responded to the consultation survey?



Local residents responding to the consultation were more likely to be older



There was an even split by gender

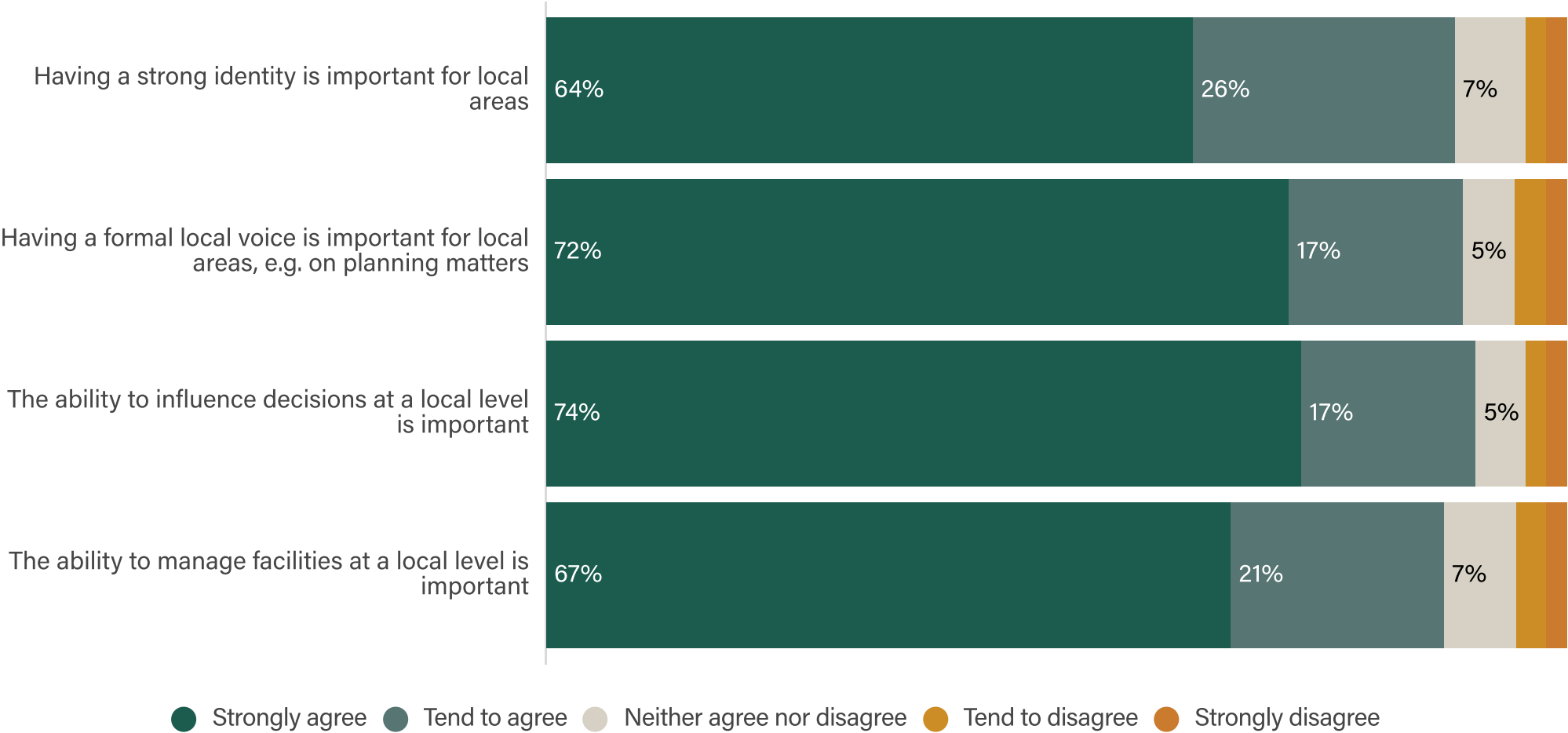


Local identity and parishing.

People recognise the importance of a local identity and voice.



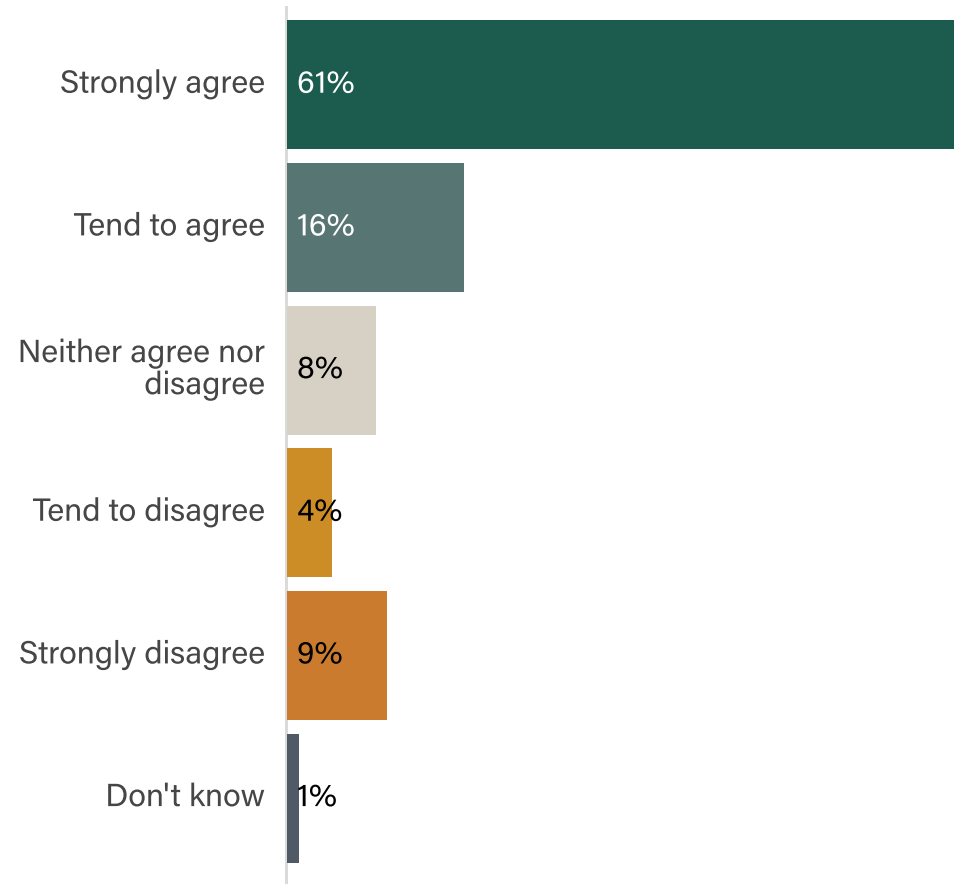
Nine in ten respondents agree that having a strong local identity, a formal local voice, the ability to influence local decisions and manage local facilities are all important



Three in four agree that a parish council has an important part to play in local communities.



Level of agreement with the statement: 'A parish council has an important role to play in local communities'



Agreement is higher in Lytham East and West

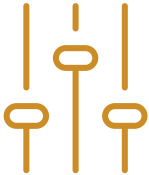
81% strongly or tend to agree, compared to 75% of respondents who live in Ansdell & Fairhaven and Park



Older respondents were also more likely to agree

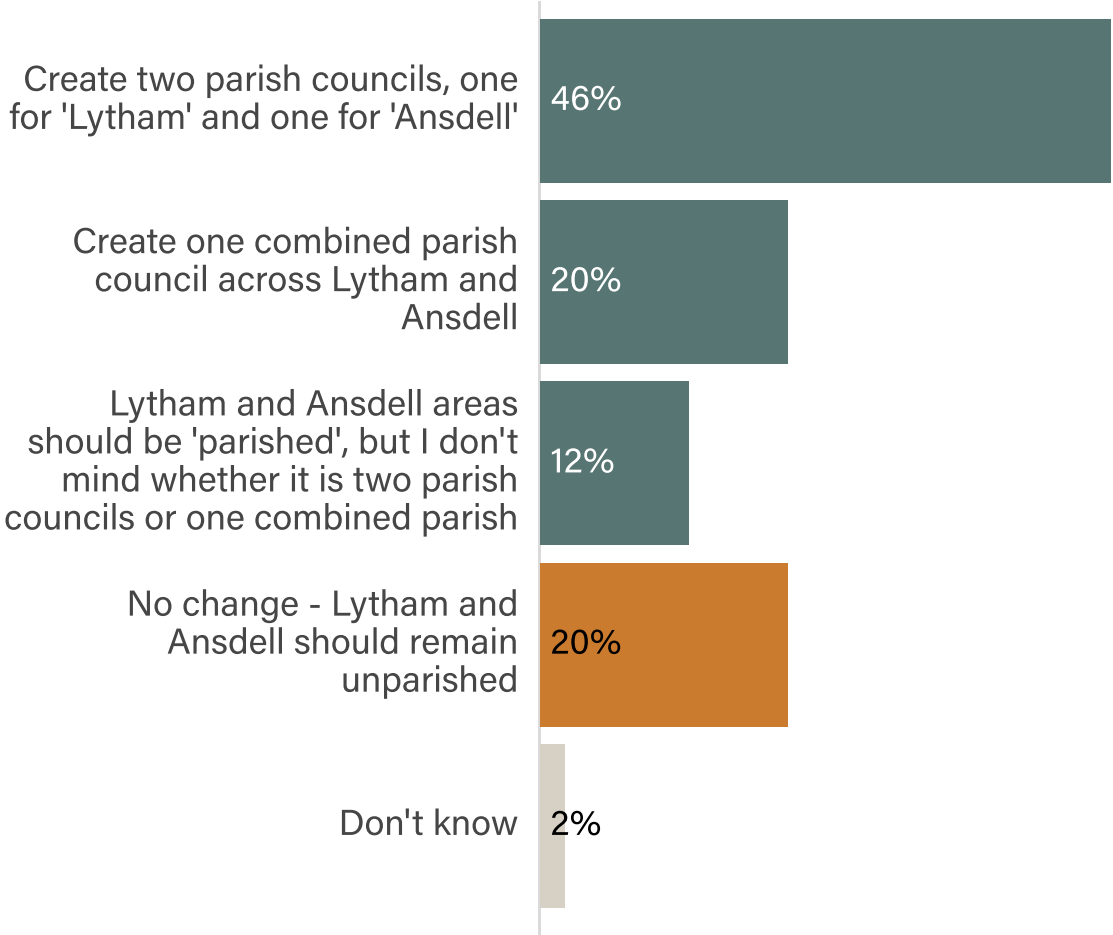
80% of those aged 65+ strongly or tend to agree, compared to 73% of those aged under 45.

Overall, more people are in favour of two parish councils.

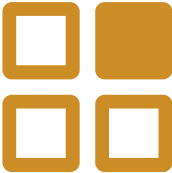


Nearly half (46%) of respondents prefer the option of creating two parish councils, one for Lytham and one for Ansdell

One in five do not want to see any parish councils in the area.



78% of respondents would prefer some form of parish council across Lytham and Ansdell, whether that is two councils or one



Those who feel more connected to either Ansdell or Lytham are more likely to prefer creating two parish councils

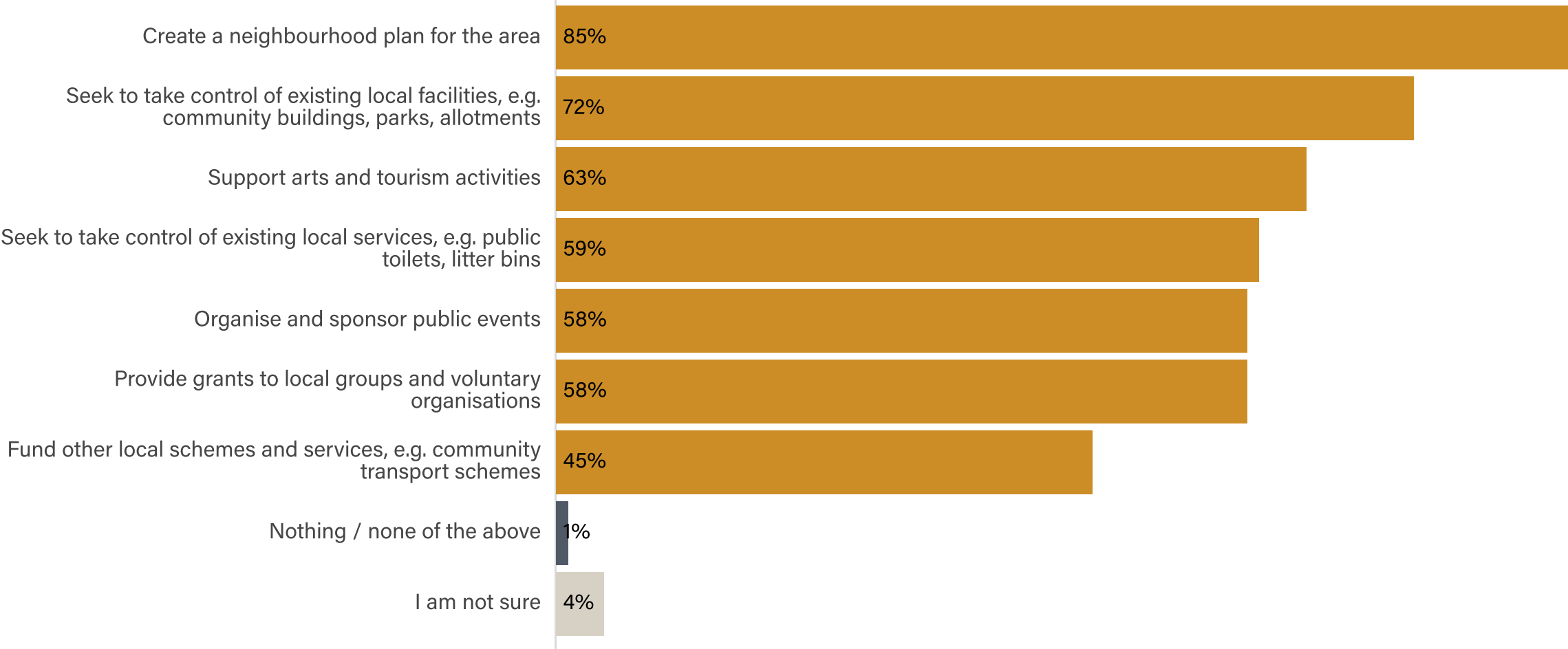
- 61% of respondents who feel more connected to Ansdell prefer creating two parish councils
- 47% of those who feel more connected to Lytham prefer creating two parish councils

Neighbourhood plans appear to be important to local people.

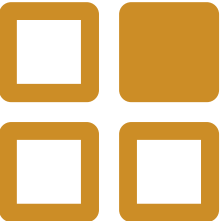


It appears that respondents are interested in any parish council(s) taking on a wide range of local roles, activities and facilities

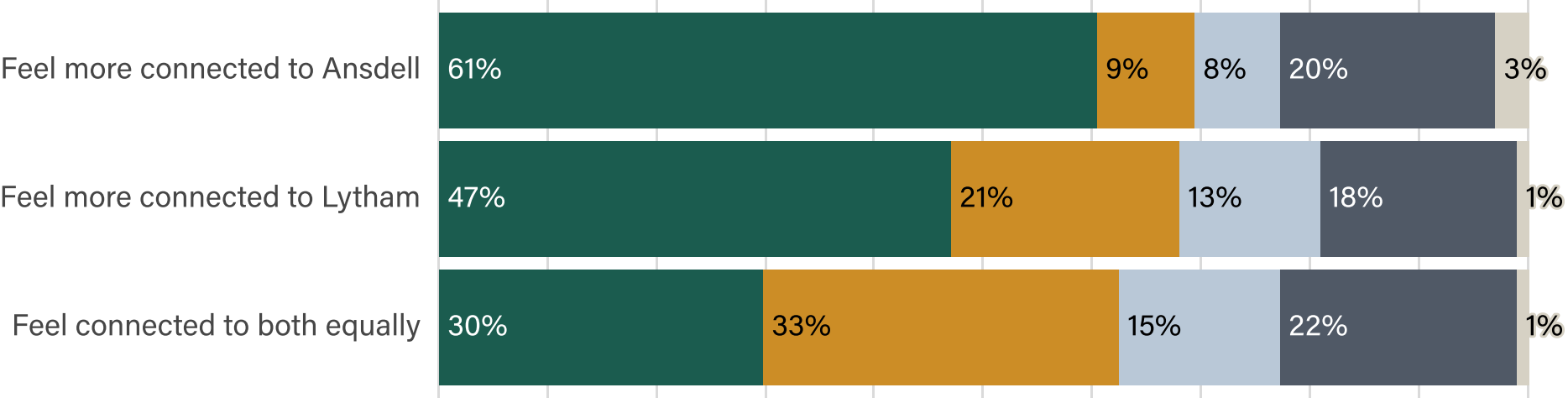
'Which of the following, if any, would you like any parish council(s) in Lytham and Ansdell to do? Please select all that apply'



Those who feel more connected to either Ansdell or Lytham are more likely to prefer creating two parish councils.



Three in five respondents who feel more connected to Ansdell would prefer two parish councils to be created



A third of those who feel connected to both areas equally would like to see one combined parish council

● Create two parish councils, one for 'Lytham' and one for 'Ansdell'

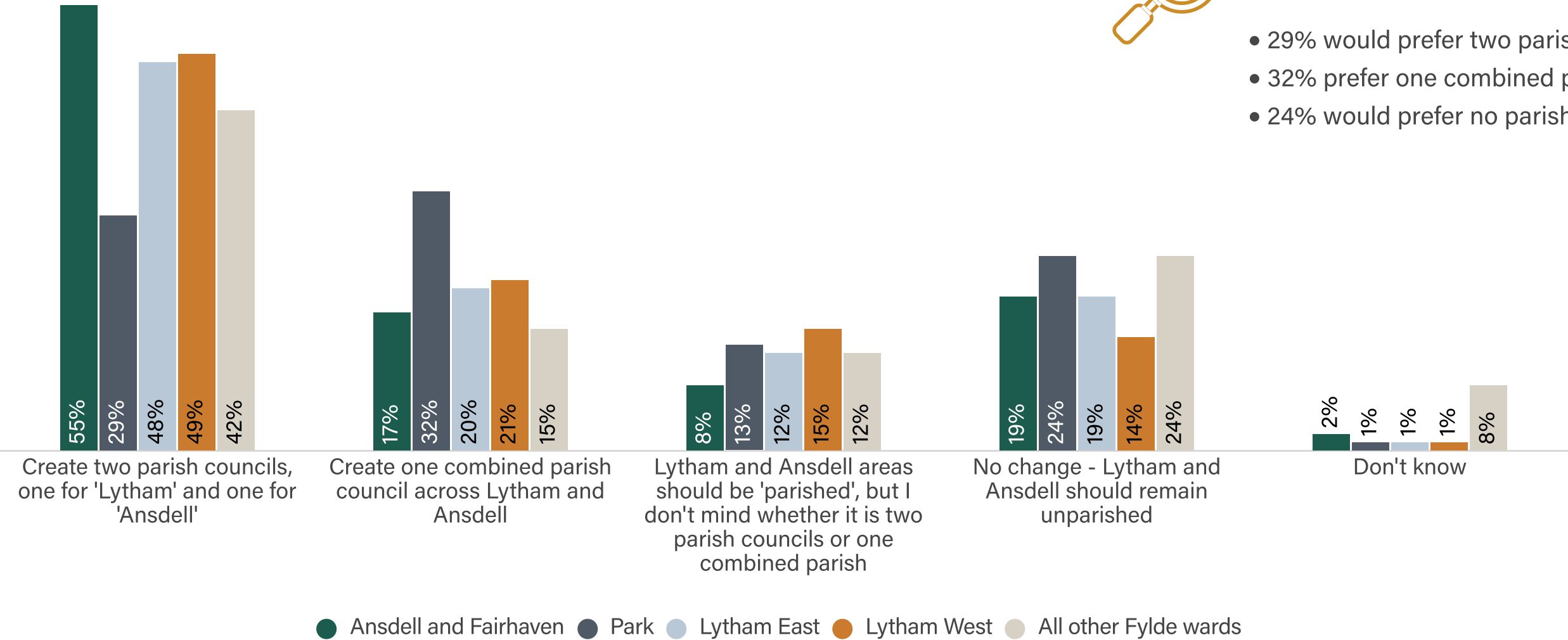
● Create one combined parish council across Lytham and Ansdell

● Lytham and Ansdell areas should be 'parished', but I don't mind whether it is two parish councils or one combined p...

● No change - Lytham and Ansdell should remain unparished ● Don't know

Respondents from the Park ward appear more split about their preferred parishing option.

Preferred options by ward they live in



Respondents from the Park ward:

- 29% would prefer two parish councils
- 32% prefer one combined parish
- 24% would prefer no parish council

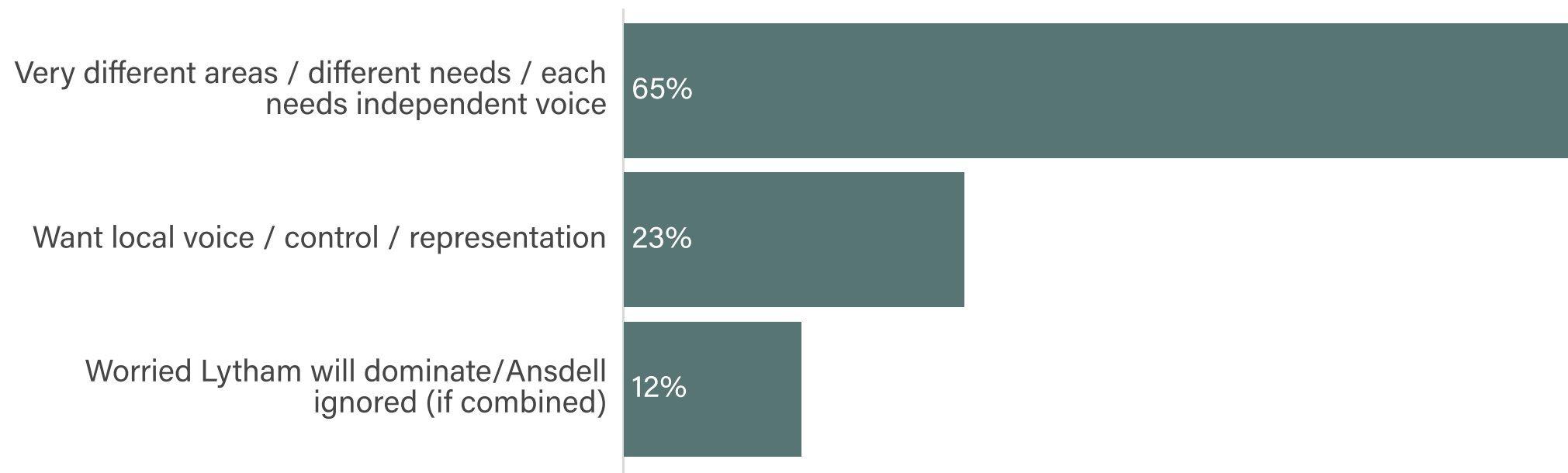
Feedback: reasons given for preferred option.

Two parishes: the two areas are different, with different needs.

46% of respondents prefer the two parish option

- ● The most common reasons given for preferring the two parish option is that the two areas are very different, they have different needs and that each needs its own independent voice

Most common themes within comments:



458 comments made by respondents who would like to see two parish councils. Comments have been coded into themes. One comment can appear in more than one theme.

Reasons given for preferring the two parishes option: example comments.

Different areas with different needs

“ I live in Ansdell and it needs its own voice - it is not Lytham and has different needs. New businesses are popping up and it is starting to create its own amazing community.

“ Because Lytham and Ansdell have their own problems, two totally different areas, each area has its different objectives.

“ Lytham and Ansdell are two very different characters and needs. Whilst they share some common challenges, these can not be delivered through one council.

Concerned Lytham will dominate

“ The two areas have distinctly different characters and needs and my main concern would be that Lytham, as very much the senior partner, would override the requirements for Ansdell.

“ Ansdell is a lovely little community that exists in the shadow of Lytham. What Lytham people want is not necessarily what the people of Ansdell want.

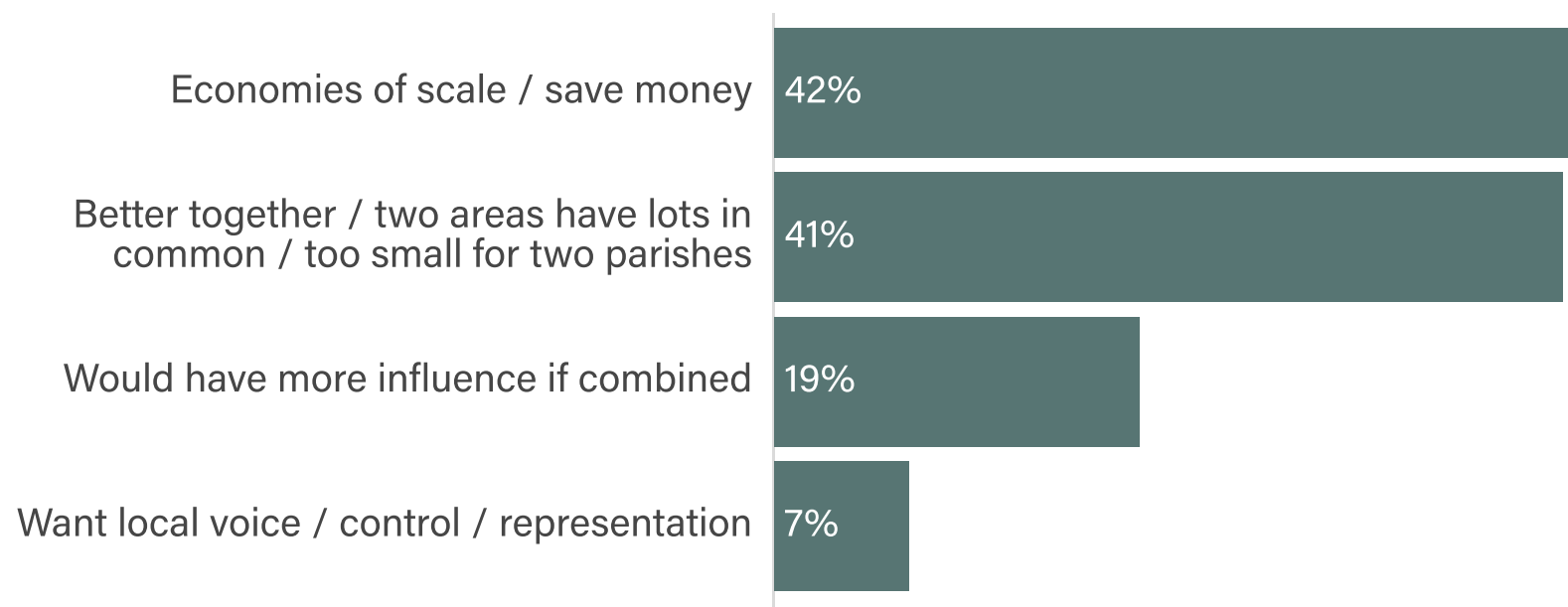
“ Because Lytham is huge compared to Ansdell and they have totally different needs, Ansdell would be out voted by Lytham.

One parish: should provide economies of scale.

20% of respondents prefer the one combined parish option

① Amongst those who would prefer the one combined parish option, most feel there would be economies of scale and/or that the two areas are too similar or too small to be separate parishes

Most common themes within comments:



195 comments made by respondents who would like to see one combined parish council. Comments have been coded into themes. One comment can appear in more than one theme.

Reasons given for preferring one combined parish option: example comments.

Economies of scale

“ I don't consider the two areas to be big enough to support two Parish Councils. Also it may be cheaper to just have one.

“ One council combined has Economy of scale. The decisions of two independent small councils would impact each other to the extent that they may undermine each other detrimentally. The wards have very similar populations with folk travelling, working and schooling across the Ansdell and Lytham areas and are very much integrated by these activities.

“ The combined parish would have economy of scale and carry more weight during negotiations with Fylde and LCC.

Better together / too small for two

“ The area needs cohesion as one area, rather than a fragmented approach.

“ Lytham and Ansdell are closely linked with residents from both areas frequently accessing leisure/ business facilities in both areas. Demography is similar and local schools are contained within both localities.

“ Larger scale having more influence on local decisions. Being neighbouring Parishes there will often be a knock on effect of decisions made in independent Parishes, it would therefore be better that those effects were considered by a single Council. Economies of scale for the provision of paid services, income etc.

Survey comments

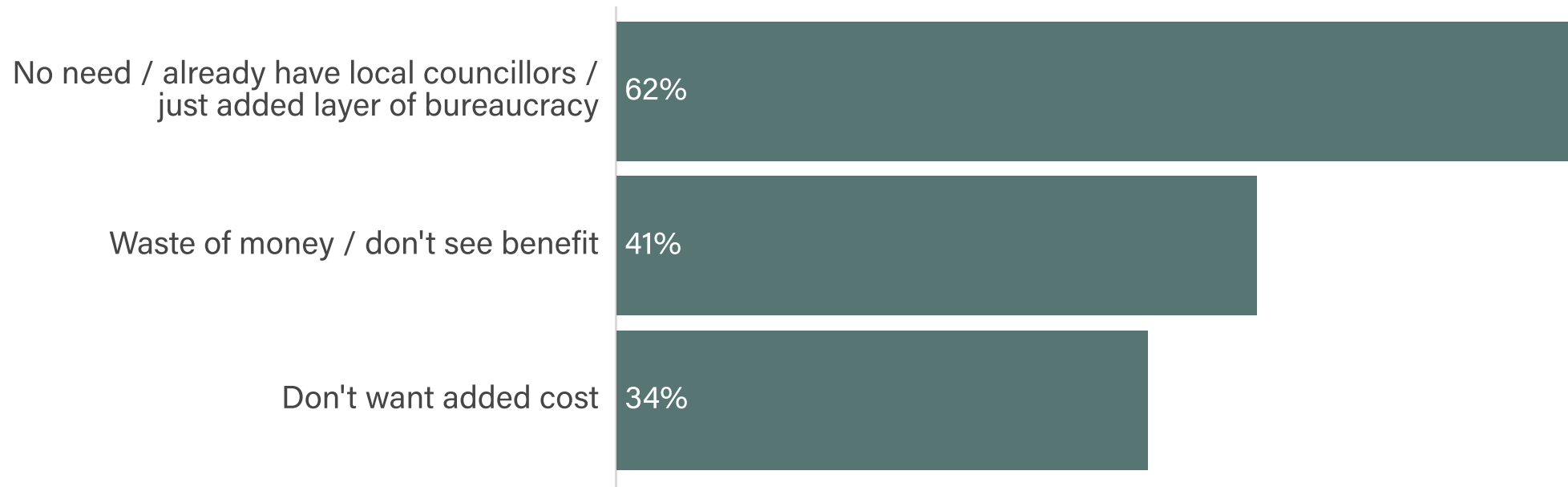
No change: a parish council is not needed and would just add another layer of bureaucracy.

20% of respondents prefer the areas to remain unparished



Amongst those who want the areas to remain unparished, around 2 in 5 do not feel there is a need for an extra layer of bureaucracy

Most common themes within comments:



213 comments made by respondents who would like to see no change (areas to remain unparished). Comments have been coded into themes. One comment can appear in more than one theme.

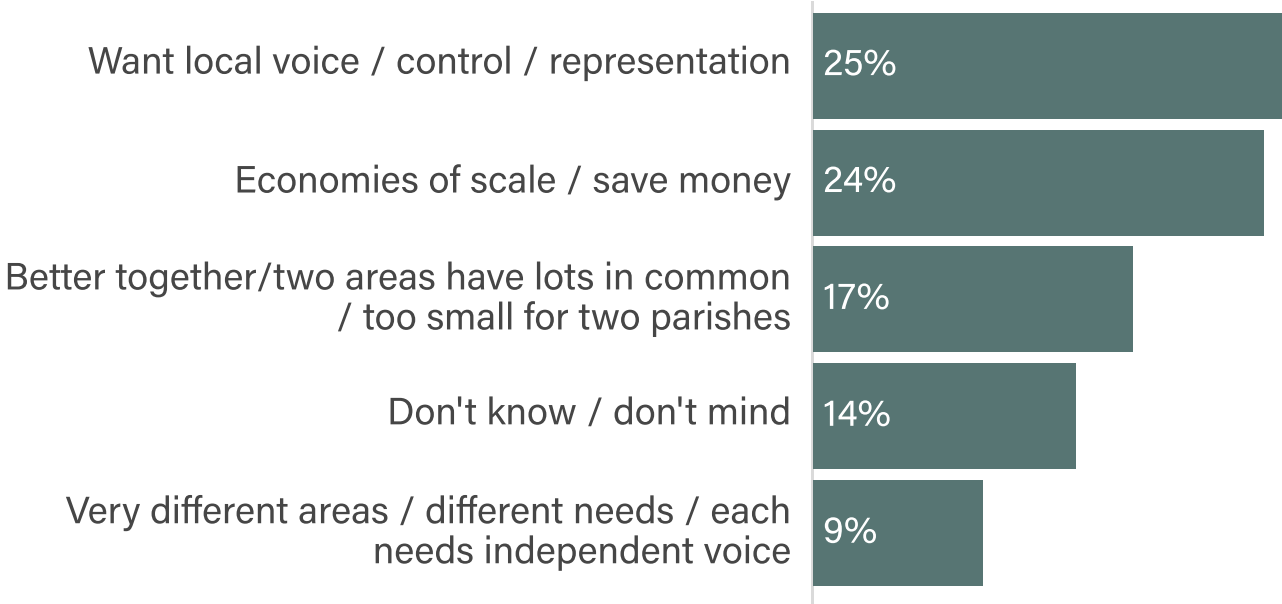
Don't mind how the areas are 'parished': reasons are mixed.

12% of respondents feel that the Lytham and Ansdell areas should be 'parished' but don't mind whether it is two parish councils or one combined parish



Reasons for not minding how the areas are 'parished' are more mixed, although a quarter mention the desire for local voice/control/representation

Most common themes within comments:



93 comments made by respondents who would like to see the two areas 'parished' but don't mind if this is two parish councils or one combined parish. Comments have been coded into themes. One comment can appear in more than one theme.

Reasons given for preferring the 'no change' option: example comments.

No need / just added layer of bureaucracy

“ We already have a Fylde Borough Council with elected members. To create a further level of bureaucracy will be wasteful of resources (public money will be required to fund these councils) and nothing will be achieved. It will clog up the system with a further layer of bureaucracy and delay real sensible decision making.

“ Do not need another level of administration in addition to what we already have and certainly no more raising extra funding from already stretched households. The existing structures should be made to meet the requirements of the local communities.

Waste of money / can't see benefit

“ More money wasted on another level of local government. Totally unnecessary!

“ It's a waste of money, an opportunity for do-gooders to interfere more (expressing minority views) and totally unnecessary. Could not do anything that existing local councillors can and should be doing.

“ It is unlikely to make much difference apart from increasing council tax bills which are already too high and unfair. People who are elected do not have the interests of residents in the area because the voting turnout will be so low. Fylde Council should be looking to combine parishes rather than create more in order to cut costs and reduce divisions.

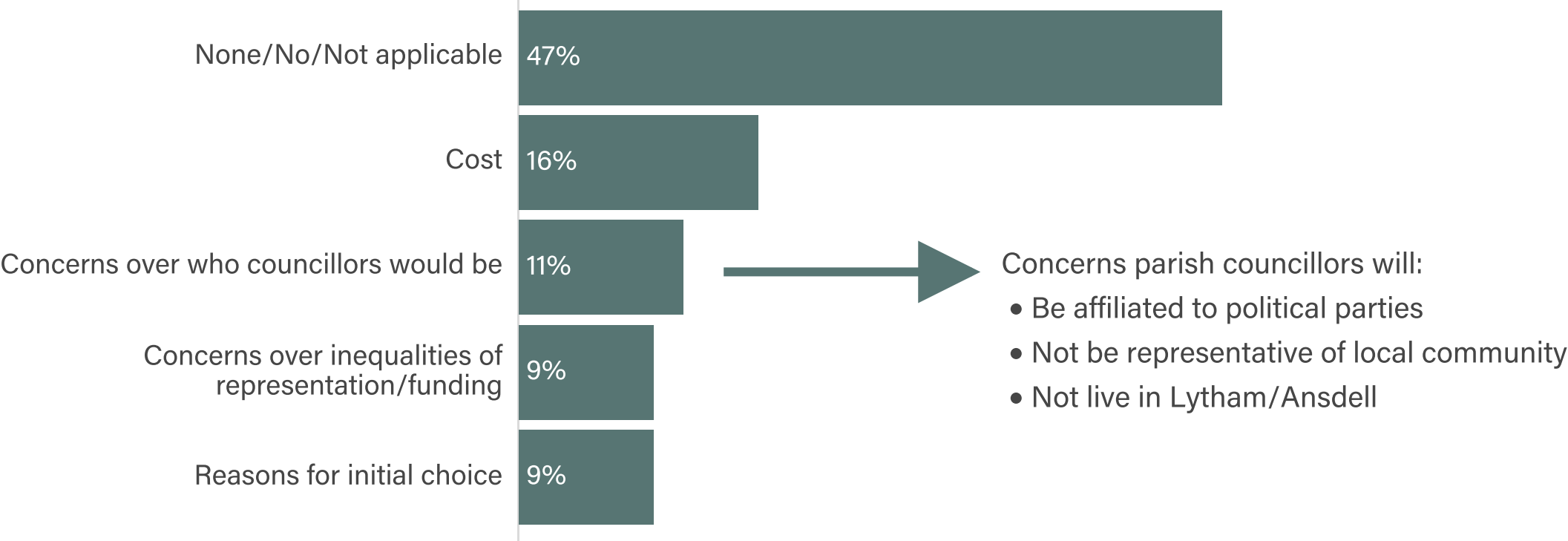
Feedback: concerns and any other options to consider.

Most common concerns are cost and who councillors would be.



However, almost half say they have no concerns about the option they chose

Most common themes within comments on any concerns:



572 comments overall to the question 'Please tell us if you have any concerns about the option you have chosen'. 270 comments from respondents who would like to see two parish councils, 118 from those who would like a combine parish council and 116 from those who would like areas to remain unparished. Comments have been coded into themes. One comment can appear in more than one theme.

Concerns over chosen option: **example comments.**

Cost

““ The cost of setting up any parishes. The interests of local should already be financially catered for in our community charge. We pay enough already.

““ Council Tax is already far too high and poor value for money. Adding another layer of costs to this bill will make it more unaffordable for many local residents.

Concerns over inequalities

““ That investment in both areas may not be proportionate so Ansdell's needs neglected.

““ For this to work there must be equal representation of both areas on the new parish council.

Who will councillors be

““ My concern is how the councillors get selected - we have a lot of strong characters who have one sided opinions/views.

““ I am concerned that the people who stand for election will all be local business people which has been the case often in Fylde Council , so the emphasis will remain on tourism, an ever increasing festival and events on the green.

““ Electing the right people with experience, passion and independent views. Not becoming a talking shop and not bullied by Fylde Council.

““ The concern I would have is the demographic and diversity of voice - we need to ensure we have equality in our voices and be listened to with respect and compassion

Survey comments

Most people did not feel there are other options that should be considered.

492 respondents left a comment to 'Any other options you think we should consider?'



Almost two-thirds said 'no/not that I can think of'

Most common themes amongst other comments:

- Comments relating to current Council/local issues
- Need to communicate and engage with residents more
- Comments and concerns over potential councillors
- Repeating reasons for preferred option
- If preferred option for how areas are parished is not the majority choice, still want a parish council in some way
- Don't want areas to be parished



Communicate and engage more: example comments

- “ More public information given to residents in Fylde to inform them of local politics and how it works. Regular public updates and newsletters regarding all levels of politics would be helpful.
- “ A listening group would be advantageous rather than councillors at Borough level making unpopular decisions without due diligence or an understanding of the issues within Ansdell or Lytham.
- “ Have a non-statutory body feeding residents concerns to FBC e.g. like Lytham voice.

Stakeholder feedback.

Stakeholders also recognise the importance of local identity.



42 people responded in another capacity

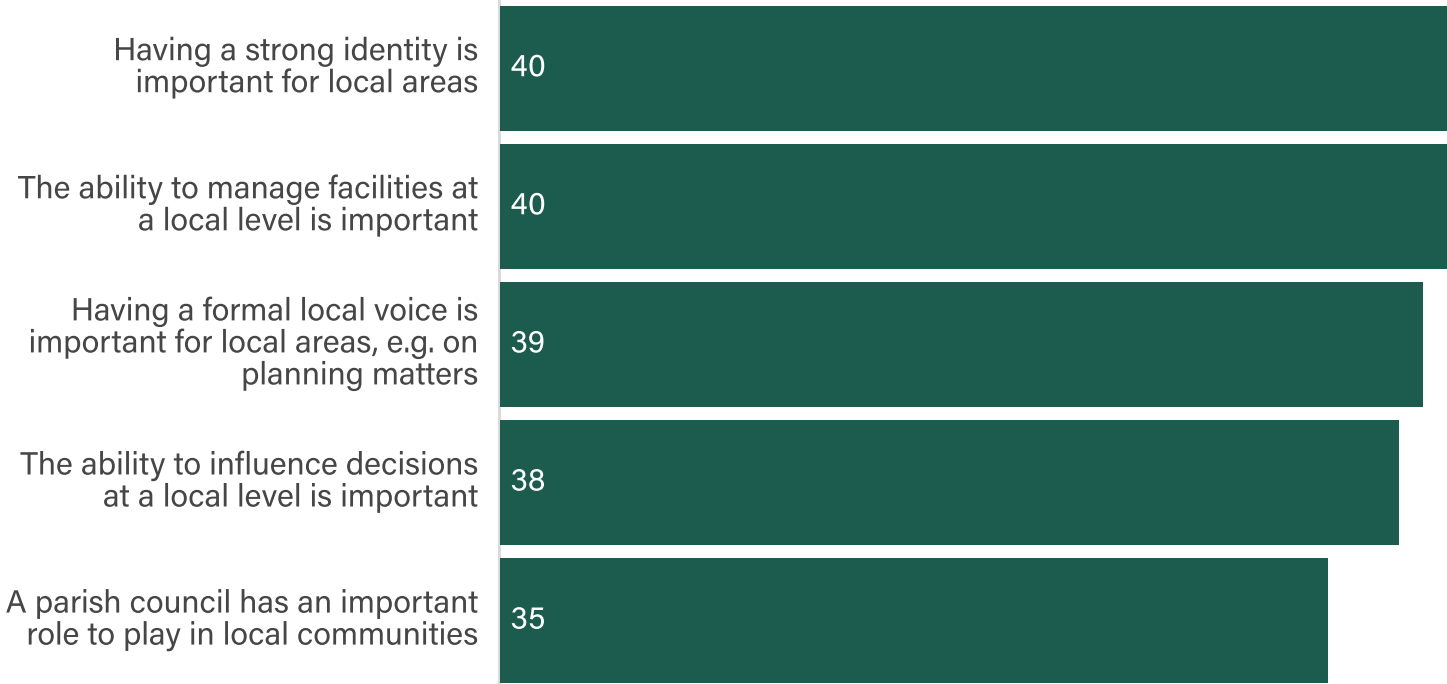
- 20 respondents represented a local business
- 14 represented a community group or organisation
- 10 were local councillors

Note: two respondents were representing both a local business and a community group; of the 42 stakeholder responses, 24 are also residents of Fylde.



Local stakeholders recognise the importance of local identity and a formal local voice

Number of stakeholder respondents who either strongly agree or tend to agree with statements (overall total of 42):

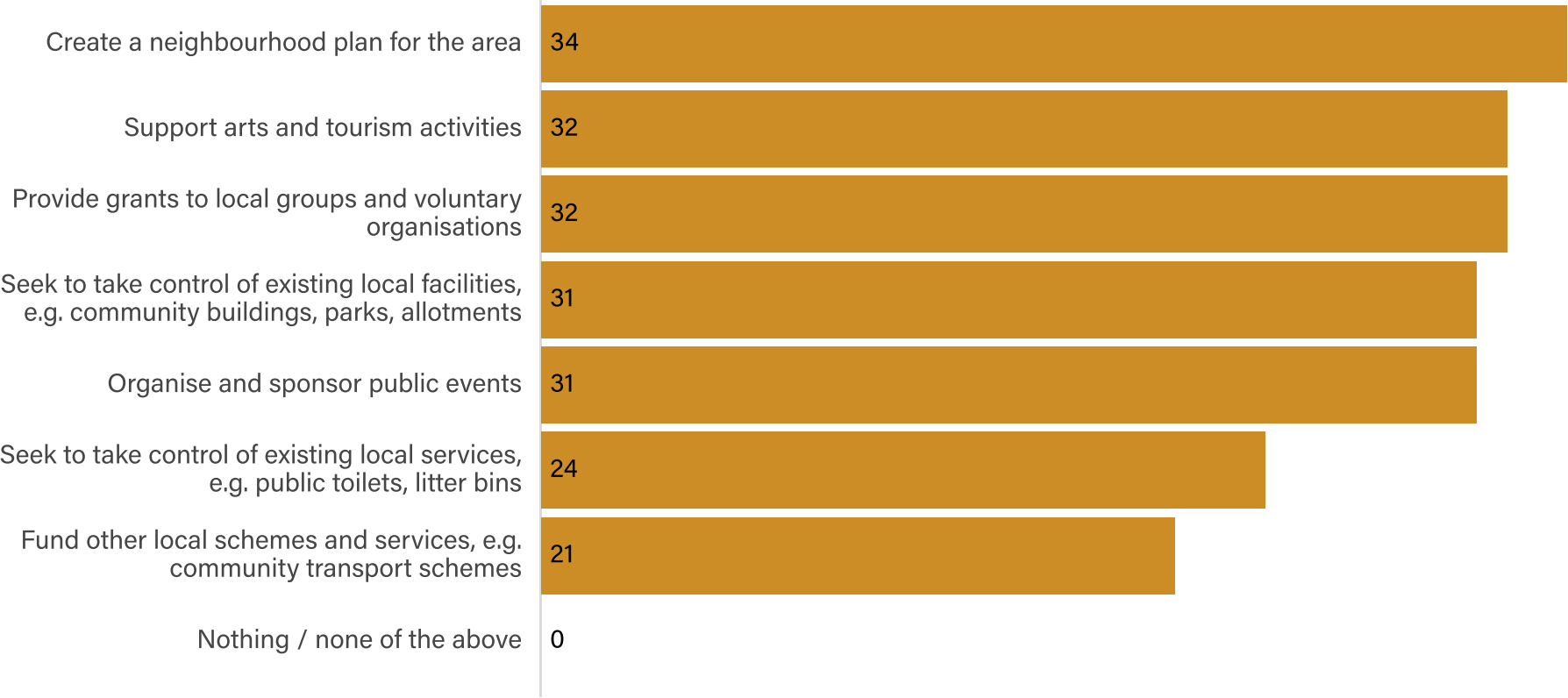


Stakeholders also feel any parish council should create a neighbourhood plan.



A neighbourhood plan appears to be important to stakeholders

Number of stakeholder respondents who either strongly agree or tend to agree with statements (overall total of 42):



"We endorse the establishment of a neighbourhood plan as an initial objective for a Lytham Parish Council. This will facilitate the creation of a unified vision for the town's development in collaboration with Lytham residents. It will aid in determining needs and priorities, as well as outlining the parameters for the scope of a Lytham Parish Council."

~ Lytham Town Trust, written response

9 in 10 stakeholders would like to see the two areas parished.



38 (90%) would like to see the two areas parished, and most prefer the option of creating two parish councils

- 24 (57%) prefer the option of creating two parish councils → **Key reasons:** majority feel the two areas are very different with different needs
- 7 (17%) prefer the option of one combined parish council → **Key reasons:** economies of scale, more inclusive and similar issues/interests
- 7 (17%) would like Lytham and Ansdell to be 'parished' but don't mind how
- 4 (10%) would prefer no change, i.e. Lytham and Ansdell should remain unparished → **Key reasons:** too many layers of bureaucracy with little perceived benefit



Almost all have no concerns about their preferred option



Report by Adam Pearson and Emma Slater.

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