



Public Space Protection Orders prohibiting barbecues and open fires in open spaces.



Consultation Report: May 2022.



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Headline findings.



Most of the c. 400 respondents feel the orders banning barbecues and open fires should be renewed in all areas

At least 8 in 10 people giving feedback on each area feel the current PSPOs should be renewed. Feedback reveals barbecues, particularly disposable ones, are generally considered a safety risk to children and animals/wildlife and contribute to litter and anti-social behaviour.



Respondents generally feel that barbecues in these areas have a detrimental impact on quality of life

And at least 7 in 10 people giving feedback on each area feel ending the PSPOs would have a negative impact on their quality of life.



Even with the orders in place in these areas though, barbecues are still having a negative impact for some

Whilst there is evidence that this has dropped since the orders came into place in 2019, around two in five still feel barbecues in these areas are having a detrimental effect on their quality of life. Comments reveal that lack of enforcement and signage is leading to some people ignoring the current ban on barbecues.



There were some alternative suggestions for dealing with barbecues in the PSPO areas

Those feeling the order should lapse were most likely to suggest that designated barbecue areas be adopted instead, giving examples from other regions and countries. They feel these could be purpose-built to minimise the risk of fires and would be easier to police.

Introducing the consultation.



What was the consultation on?

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) are in place in a number of locations throughout the Borough, prohibiting barbecues and other outdoor temporary cooking on council-owned land, including the beach and surrounding coastal areas. The orders are due to lapse in July 2022. The council can extend them for a further 3 years if they remain necessary to prevent persistent activities that are having a detrimental effect on the quality of life in the locality.



The approach

Fylde Council developed and hosted an online survey to understand people's views on the orders and whether to extend or amend any or all of them. There are eleven PSPOs covering different areas of the borough. The survey allowed respondents to give feedback on any or all of them.



395 responses were received to the consultation

The online survey was available to complete between 5 April and 3 May 2022.

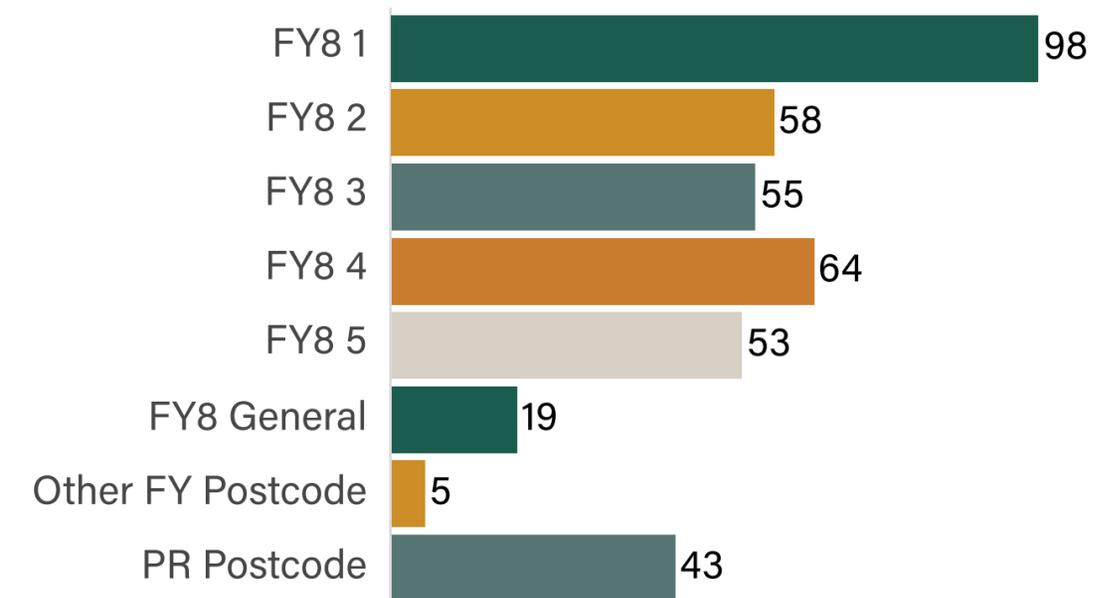


86% of the responses were from St Annes' residents

A further 12% of responses were from residents in other parts of Fylde; 9 respondents work in or visit the borough

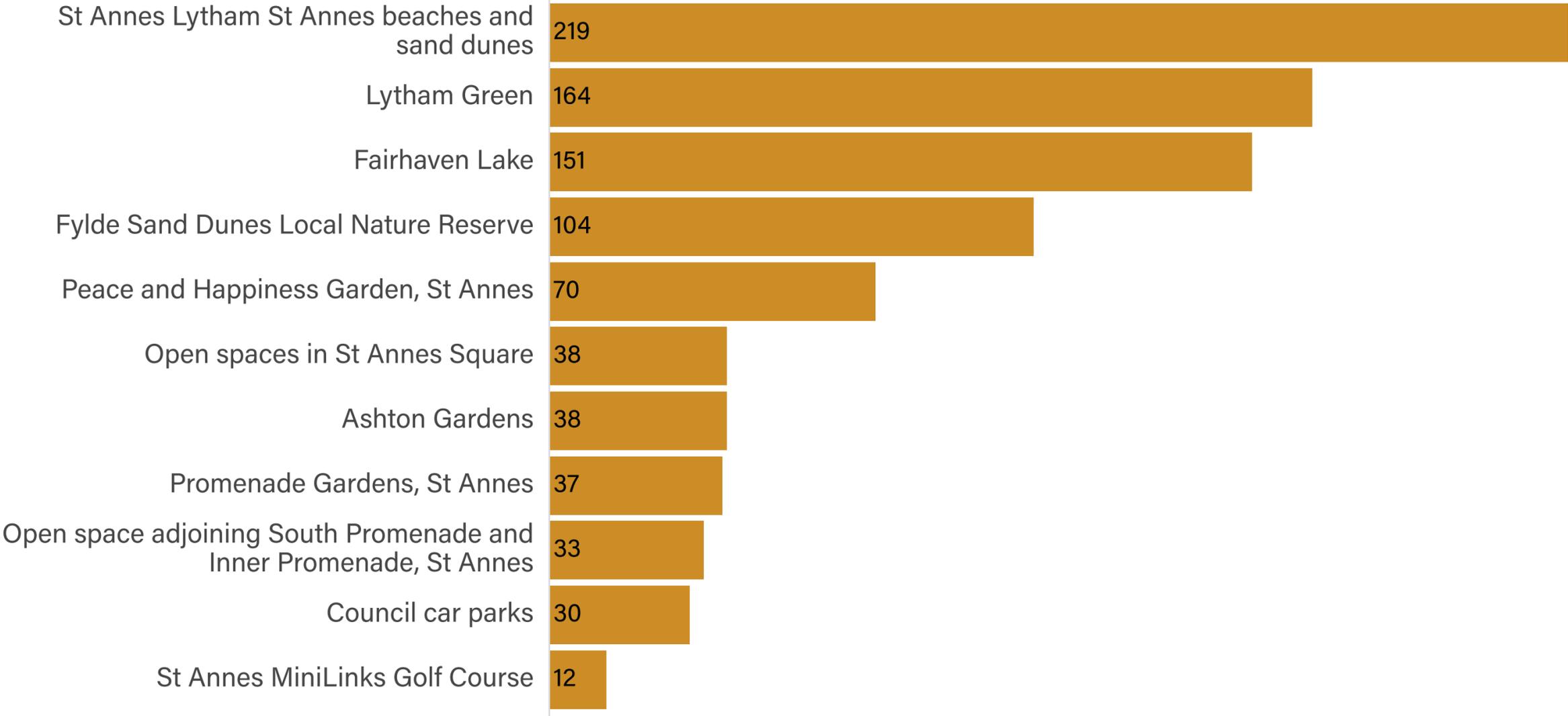


1 in 4 respondents live in the FY8 1 postcode area



Respondents were most likely to give feedback on the PSPO covering beaches and sand dunes in St Annes and Lytham St Annes.

Q. Which PSPO areas would you like to give your views on? (Counts displayed in chart)



Observations

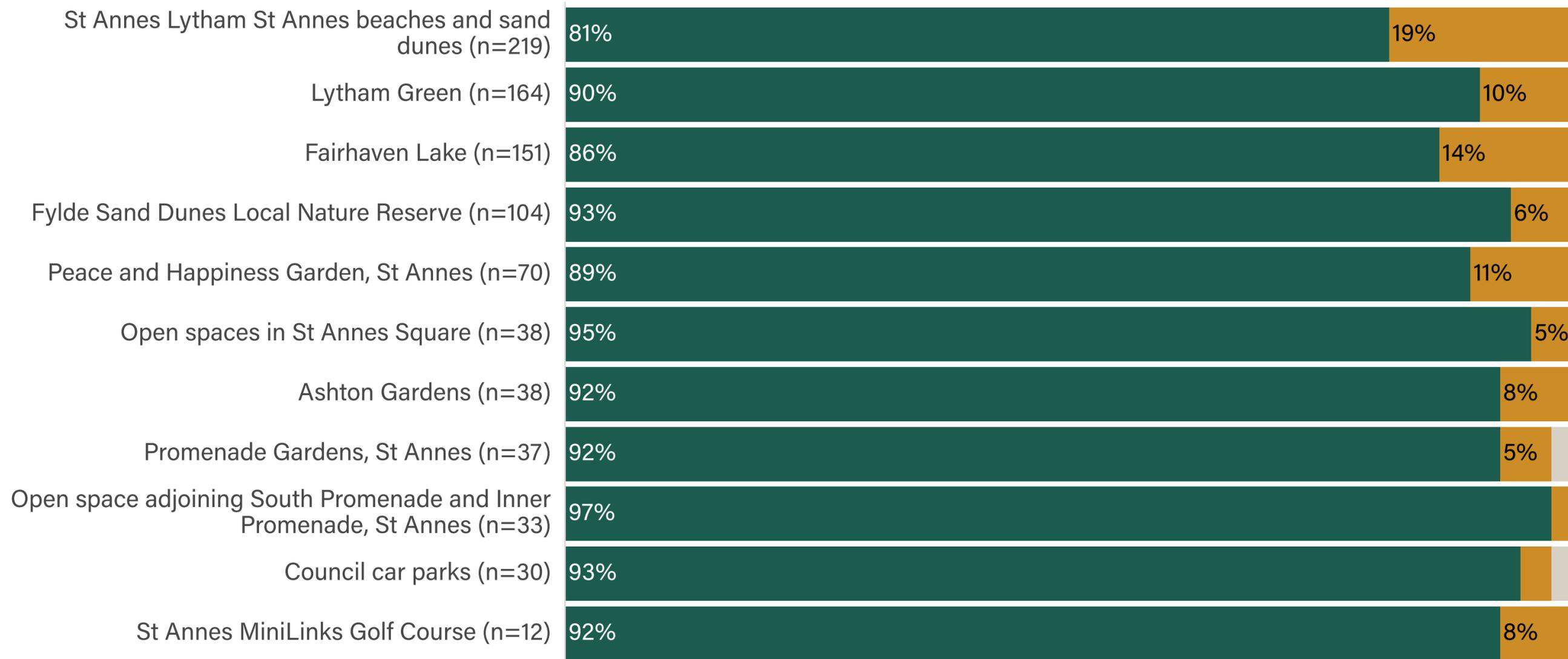
Over half of respondents (55%) gave their views on the PSPO covering beaches and sand dunes in St Annes and Lytham St Annes.

Around two in five responded about the PSPO in Lytham Green (42%) and Fairhaven Lake (38%).

Caution should be applied to some of the sample sizes for lesser selected areas, with only 12 people giving feedback on St Annes MiniLinks Golf Course.

The vast majority of people feel the PSPOs should be renewed.

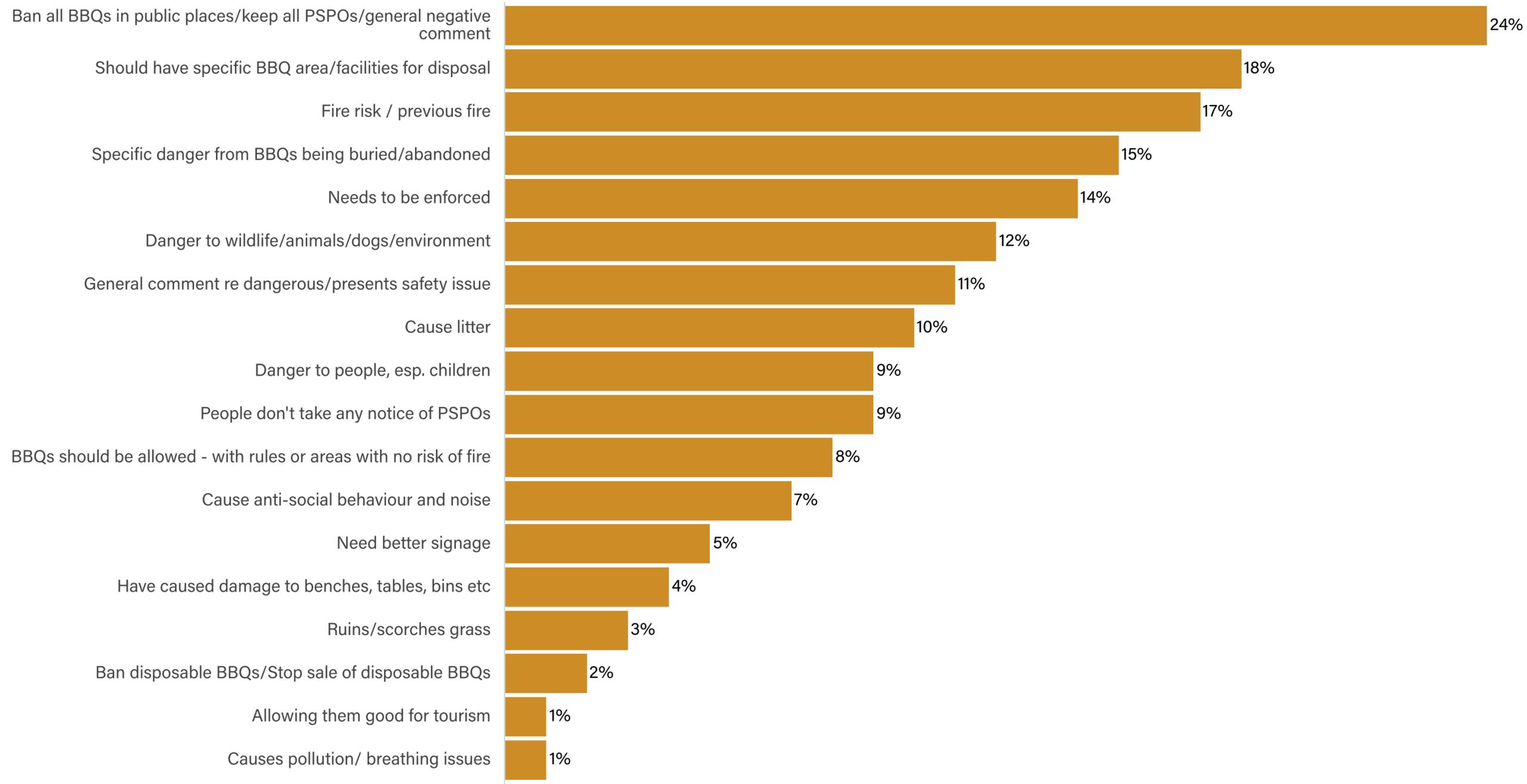
Q. Do you think that the ban on barbecues and cooking on open fires in this area should be renewed or allowed to lapse?



● The order should be renewed ● The order should be allowed to lapse ● Don't know or no view

A quarter of comments stated barbecues should be banned in all public places.

Q. Do you want to make any other comment about the control of barbecues or cooking on open fires in this area? (n=421)



Observations

Whilst 24% of all comments referred to banning barbecues in all public places and retaining all related PSPOs, 18% of comments suggested there should be specific barbecue areas and facilities for disposal instead. 48 of the 76 unprompted comments about specific barbecue areas were from respondents who indicated that the relevant PSPO should be allowed to lapse.

Main reasons for retaining PSPOs relate to danger, litter and anti-social behaviour.



Fire risk and danger to children, wildlife and the environment

"Abandoned disposable BBQs are a danger to wildlife, children, litter pickers, especially when covered with sand. The fine should match that issued to dog walkers."

"I feel that all the areas are busy with visitors and children and dogs and to have a hot bbq in any of these areas is unsafe."

"Prior to lockdown I thought the ban was extreme. However when people just abandon their used BBQs it is totally unacceptable. Firstly it is tricky litter to collect especially if warm but then the risk to kids and animals is huge."

"There is a danger to young children when people use them at ground level and a general risk of fire given this is a predominantly grassy area."

"Dangerous to children and dogs being discarded or left still hot burning sometimes in bins. People ignoring the order are those being careless about disposal."

"Totally opposed to barbecues and cooking on open fires being allowed. Seen the damage done to children when hot disposable barbecues are covered in sand and children leap on the mound created and cut their legs on the wires."



Barbecues lead to litter and anti-social behaviour

"It is not just the dangers of open fires and bbq's but the litter and debris associated with them that spoils the area."

"The dunes are regularly used as a picnic area with bottles, cans, food wrappers, disposable BBQs etc being dumped in large quantities."

"They damage the Green and are generally left for others to clean up and are a danger to the general public who just want to enjoy the beauty of the area.."

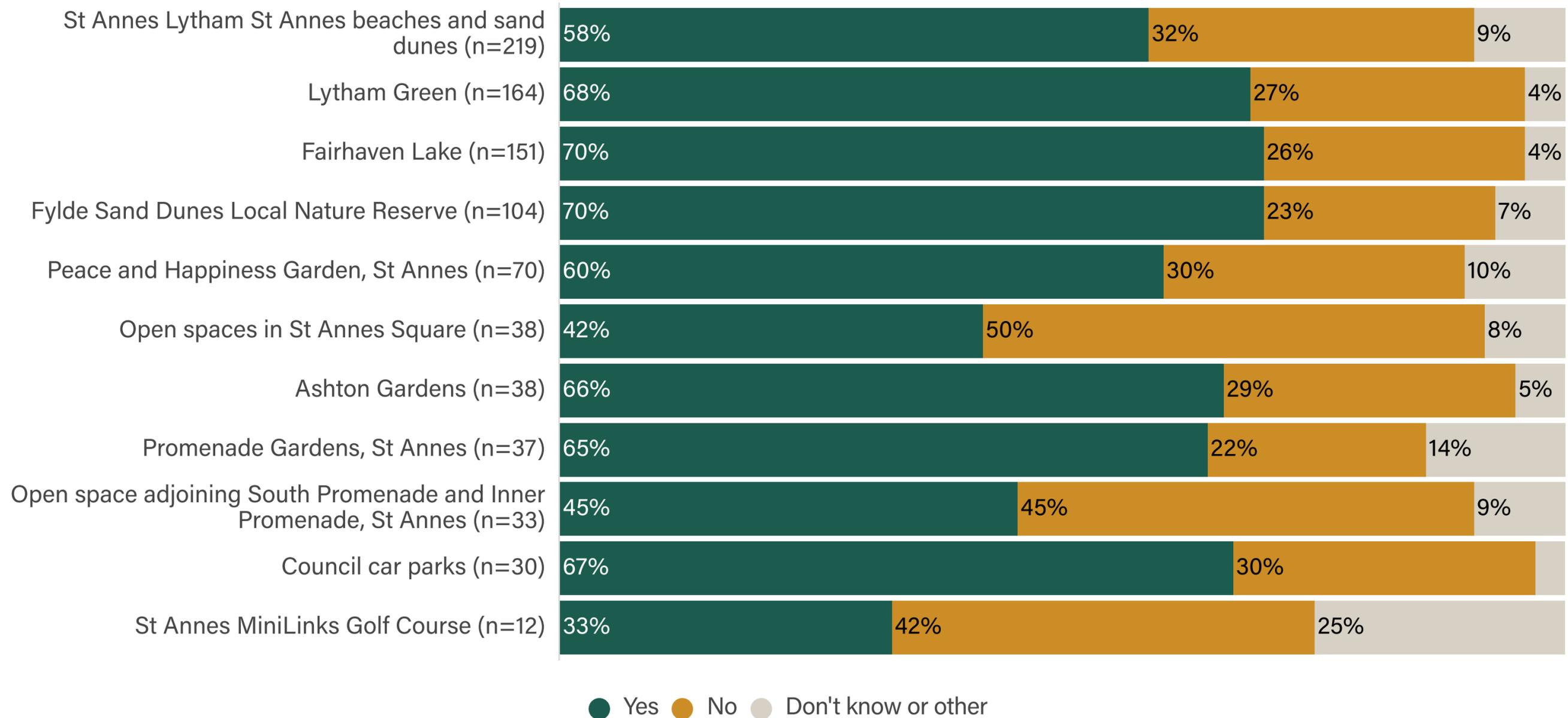
"Please ensure these are banned. There is constant mess left behind, the parties that use them cause distress to my dogs and it encourages large noisy gatherings that ruin others enjoyment."

"Should never be allowed, people leave rubbish behind and scorch marks on the grass. And invites large drinking groups!"

"The encouragement of BBQs brings rubbish, vermin and damage and an opportunity for young people to gather in a disrespectful way."

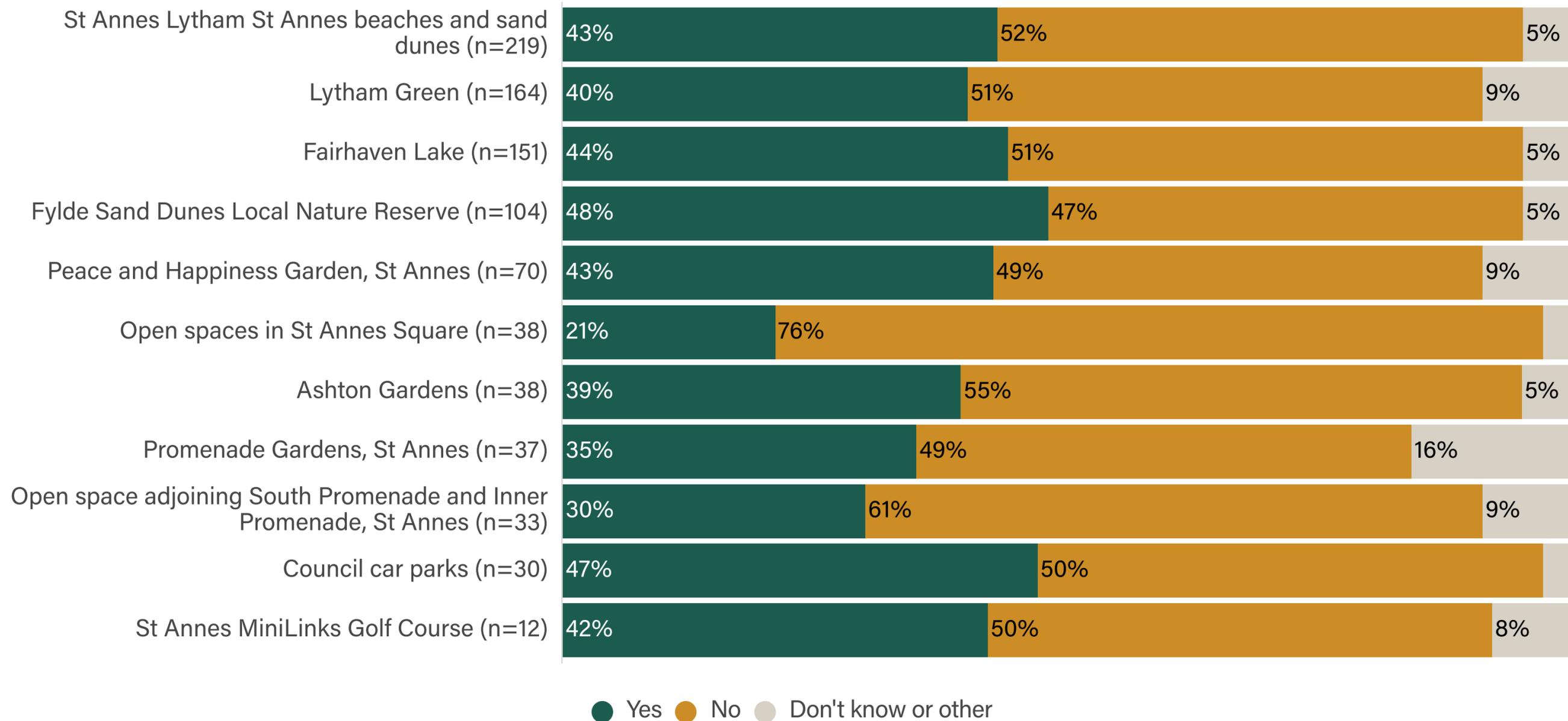
Barbecues had a detrimental effect on people's quality of life prior to 2019.

Q. Before 2019 did barbecues or cooking on open fires in this area have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?



Whilst the reported detrimental effect on quality of life has reduced since 2019, close to half still feel this is the case in some areas.

Q. Since 2019, have barbecues or cooking on open fires in this area had a detrimental effect on your quality of life?



Lack of enforcement and signage is contributing to some people ignoring the ban.



Some people don't take any notice of PSPOs

"I've seen people abusing the ban, it would be even worse without one."

"It's impossible to police the sand dunes and beaches. What can be done? You can only try to appeal to visitors sense of decency."

"People don't pay any attention to the PSPOs. Visitors will always do what they want to do regardless of the needs of people who actually live here."



Needs to be more enforcement in PSPO areas

"Have seen plenty of people using barbecues but I have never seen anyone "police" the areas therefore there is very little deterrent."

"Enforcement of the PSPO regarding BBQs has been woefully inadequate around the beach and dunes. I have regularly seen groups and families using them and despite the improved signage I am seriously concerned that the coming months will see the problem recur."



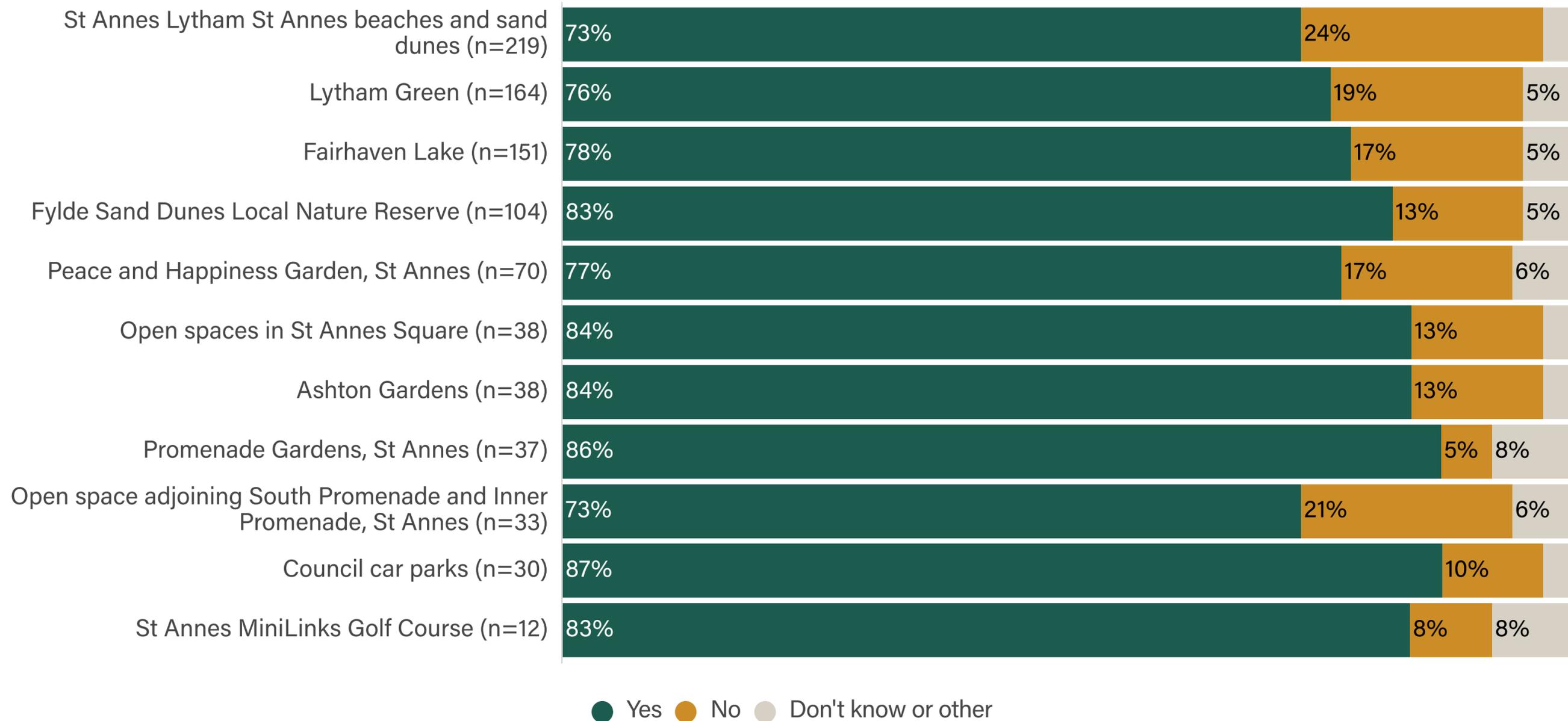
Needs to be more signage in PSPO areas

"More signage to clearly stop (and possibly highlight the environment and health issues with allowing these in this area)."

"The signage is too small, and no one enforces the ban on busy days."

People feel that ending the PSPOs would negatively impact on their quality of life.

Q. If the ban on barbecues and cooking on open fires in this area is allowed to lapse, do you think that barbecues or cooking on open fires in this area will have a detrimental effect on your quality of life?



But some people suggest it would be better to have designated barbecue areas.



"Create designated safe areas for outdoor cooking"

"Why don't we consider designated spots where people can be allowed to use their barbecues? We have just returned from Worthing where they had an amazing system in place."

"Maybe take a leaf out of other countries books and supply fixed purpose built, stone, brick bbqs along the front. Possibly have stringent rules for the bbqs."

"I had numerous bbqs for many years in the summer. It was so much fun with friends and family. Roughly 20-30 every summer. Never did we leave rubbish litter or debris. Always safe and on the sand. This freedom has been spoilt by a small minority. Perhaps areas away from grass and flammable substances should be made or granted usage"

Potential benefits of designated areas according to comments include:



"They happen anyway" so make them more visible



Easier to control and police in a smaller area



Provide purpose-built facilities that minimise risk of fire

Some people also feel there is a difference between grassy areas and beaches when it comes to using barbecues



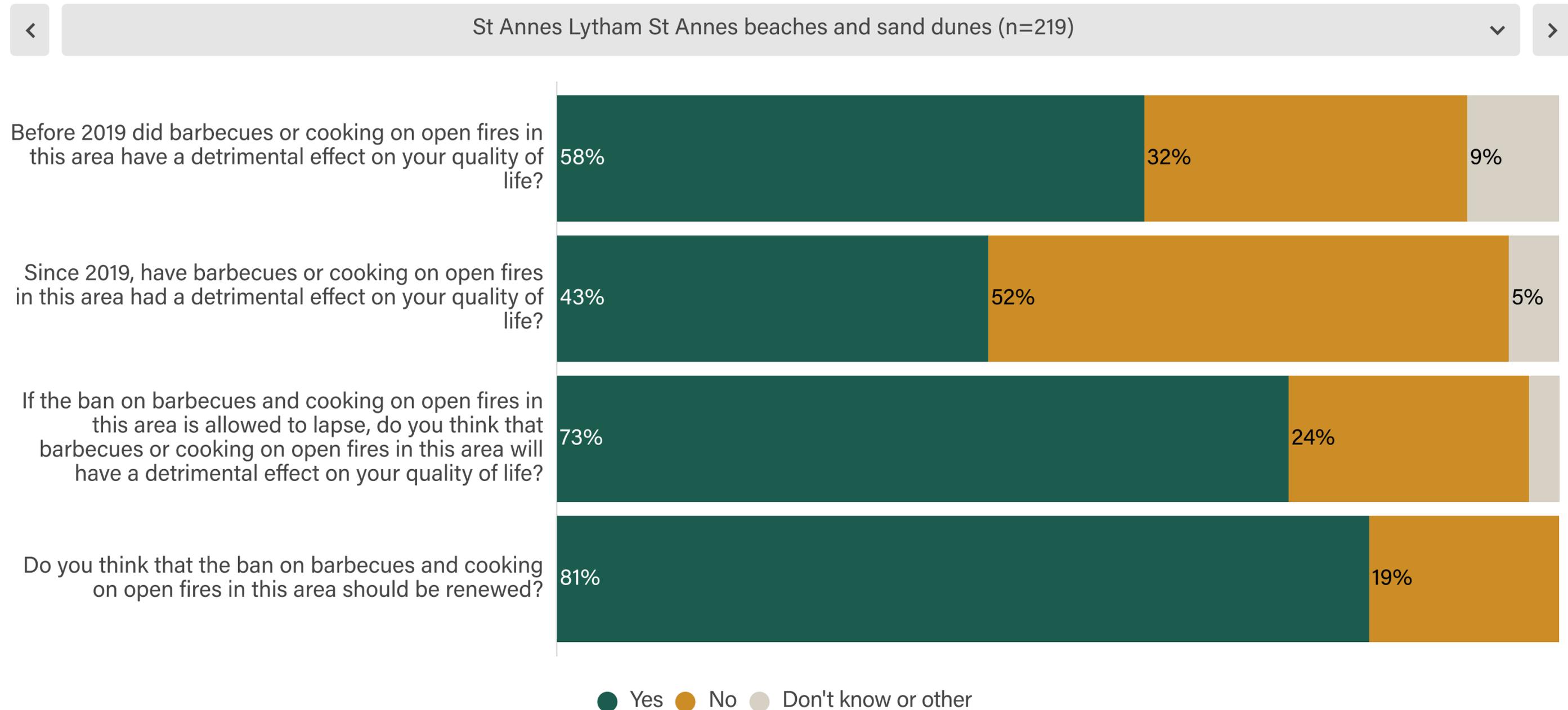
"BBQ on the beach is ok."

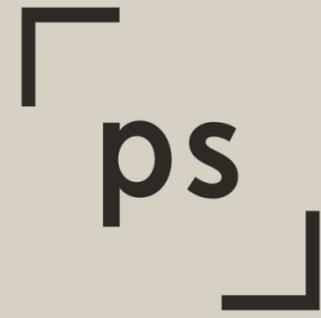
"I feel it's right to renew in green spaces for safety but the beach and dunes should be open for barbecues."

"I think it's a huge shame to prevent people using bbqs on the beach."

Appendix: Area snapshots on quality of life and renewing the barbecue PSPO.

Use the interactive chart to get an overview of a particular area (base totals in chart titles)





ps research

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It all starts with good research.