

Join the Conversation

Consultation and Engagement Team

Annual Report

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024



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Introduction

This report provides an overview of all the projects that the Consultation and Community Engagement team delivered between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. It also includes a brief summary of the results obtained and how the councils have used these to support decision making or shape programmes and action plans.

Over the last financial year, we launched, or helped develop, **19 consultations, 22 surveys, feedback forms and sign-up forms**. We assist the Conservation team with the preparation of conservation area reviews and support the Neighbourhood Plan team with the launch of neighbourhood plan consultations. Last year we launched **9 neighbourhood plans, and 1 conservation area appraisals**. In addition to this, we provided support and advice to teams across the Councils to help them develop consultation projects that were commissioned externally and not managed in-house by our team.

In 2022/23 we continued to build our **Equality and Diversity database**, which allows us to share consultations with local groups, charities and organisations that relate to all the protected characteristics: age; gender reassignment; being married, in a civil partnership, pregnant or on maternity leave; disability; race including colour, ethnic or national origin; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

We also continued our work on monitoring equality and diversity data obtained through our consultations to assess how representative they are of the districts' demographics. This information will help us identify where there are gaps and develop a communication and engagement strategy to encourage participation. You can find the data we have collected so far on this at the end of this report.

➤ Information in this report is organised in 13 sections, one for each month the year plus one other

➤ You can skip between sections by clicking on the tabs at the top of each page

April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Equalities data
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Some highlights



In 2023/24 we ran **19** consultations: 5 in Vale, 11 in South and 3 joint ones



In addition to consultations, we produced **22** surveys, feedback forms and sign-up forms

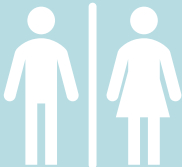


We launched **1** conservation area appraisals in Vale



We launched **9** neighbourhood plans: 7 in South and 2 in Vale

On average over all consultations, **40%** of respondents identified as male, **50%** as female, **0%** said they have another gender identity and **10%** preferred not to say



Whilst those aged 55+ made up just over half of all respondents (**54%**), the under 35 made up only **5%**



84% of respondents identified as White British and **5%** as White 'other'. Both proportions are very close to actual population data



14% of respondents said they are affected by disability or long-term illness. This data is in line with the districts' actual population data



78%

This is the highest response rate received in 2023/24. It was obtained in response to the **Waste Satisfaction Survey**

582

This is the number of people who attended our 10 drop-in events to promote and discuss the Joint Local Plan

1,280

This is the total number of people who responded to the **Joint Local Plan consultations**, of which **598** via the '**Preferred Options**' consultation and **682** via the '**In a Nutshell**' consultation

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New Engagement Platform – Citizen Space



Vale of White Horse
District Council

Join the Conversation

*It's important to express
your ideas, influence
decision-making and be
part of the community
conversations*

We've revamped the way we engage with residents online – making it easier for people to have their say – with everything now conveniently located in one place.

'Join the Conversation' is our new consultation and engagement platform.

The new site is hosted on a system called Citizen Space – which is used by many other local councils and organisations.

The platform has enabled us to report on consultations and feedback to residents in a timely manner. It has also helped us to close the loop by providing a 'you said/we did section'.

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Marketing software – Mail Chimp

Historically, the consultation and engagement team have used email sender tools to issue notifications about consultations and relevant updates, with little insight on how well received these emails are. Such tools provide a basic format, like your everyday looking emails.

Mail Chimp is our new mailing software. The platform provides the tools to design and structure emails to suit different audiences. The marketing tool has provided us with powerful data analysis, click rates and database management all in one place.

Joint Local Plan email 2023

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils <haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk>

Dear Sir/Madam

We'd like your views on our new Joint Local Plan

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have come together to work on a new Joint Local Plan. The Joint Local Plan will guide the kinds of new housing and jobs needed and where they should go, informing planning application decisions for the districts.

While development has been allocated up until 2031 for the Vale and 2035 for South Oxfordshire in our current Local Plans, councils must cover a 15-year period so this new plan will cover the extra years to 2041.

Joint Local Plan email 2024



South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse
Joint Local Plan 2041

We'd like your views on the Joint Local Plan Preferred Options

Hello!

You're invited to join the conversation and share your thoughts on our work towards the Joint Local Plan 2041.

Using feedback from our first Joint Local Plan consultation in 2022 and a range of new research, we've drawn up different options and drafted new planning policies that help address the climate emergency, protect and restore nature, and meet the needs of our residents. And now, we want to hear from you!

We invite you to view our proposed approaches and share your thoughts across a range of topics, including:



Climate



Housing
and jobs



Environment



Community
facilities



And more!

We are also holding a number of drop-in events across both districts. Find out more by clicking the 'click here to join the conversation!' button below.

The consultation will run from 10 January 2024 until 21 February 2024 at 11:59pm.

[Click here to join the conversation!](#)

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East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan

We asked

We invited residents and stakeholders for their comments on the East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents during a publicity period running from 19 April to 7 June 2023.



Engagement methods

During the consultation period we:

- Informed 54 stakeholders, including businesses, organisations and the parish council about the consultation - the East Hanney Neighbourhood Planning Group also help to promote the consultation via their networks.
- Shared targeted social media posters via the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor app).
- Provided paper copy consultation materials in Abbey House and Hanney Community Shop.
- Displayed posters around the parish, including noticeboards, bus stops, and the village shop to help promote the consultation.

Your views

18 completed responses were received.

The list of comments received during the publicity period and the supporting documents can be viewed online.

Outcome

The draft plan documents and comments received during the publicity period were submitted for independent examination. Andrew Ashcroft was appointed by the district council to carry out the examination. The examiner's role is to make recommendations on the draft plan, and ultimately recommend if the plan should proceed to referendum. The examiner issued a Clarification Note, which sets out initial comments on the submitted plan and areas where further clarification would be helpful.

On 11 April residents voted for the adoption of the East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan. You can find out more about the East Hanney Neighbourhood Plan on our webpage.

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Lewknor Neighbourhood Plan

We asked

We invited residents and stakeholders for their comments on the Lewknor Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents during a publicity period running from 19 April to 7 June 2023.

Engagement methods

During the consultation period we:

- Informed 50 stakeholders, including businesses, organisations and the parish council about the consultation.
- Shared targeted social media posters via the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor app).
- Provided paper copy consultation materials in Abbey House and Weston Road.
- Displayed posters around the parish, including noticeboards and at Jubilee Hall to help promote the consultation.

Your views

14 completed responses were received.

The list of comments received during the publicity period and the supporting documents submitted ahead of the consultation can be viewed online.

Outcome

The draft plan documents and comments received during the publicity period were submitted for independent examination. Andrew Ashcroft was appointed by the district council to carry out the examination. The examiner issued a Clarification Note, which sets out initial comments on the submitted plan and areas where further clarification would be helpful; and Lewknor Parish Council provided a response to the Clarification Note.

The plan was adopted on 14 December 2023. You can find out more about the Lewknor Neighbourhood Plan on our webpage.



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Sutton Courtenay Neighbourhood Plan

We asked

We invited residents and stakeholders to comment on the Sutton Courtenay Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents during a publicity period running from 19 April to 7 June 2023.



Engagement methods

During the consultation period we:

- Informed 78 stakeholders, including businesses, organisations and the parish council about the consultation - the Sutton Courtenay Neighbourhood Planning group also helped promote the consultation via their networks.
- Shared targeted social media posters via the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor app).
- Provided paper copy consultation materials in Abbey House and Sutton Courtenay Village Hall.
- Displayed posters around the village to help promote the consultation.

Your views

21 completed responses were received.

You can view the [comments received during the publicity period](#) and the [supporting documents](#) submitted ahead of the consultation on our website.

Outcome

The draft plan documents and comments received during the publicity period were submitted for independent examination. Andrew Ashcroft was appointed by the district council to carry out the examination. The examiner's role is to make recommendations on the draft plan, and ultimately recommend if the plan should proceed to referendum. The plan was adopted on 11 April 2024. You can find out more about the [Sutton Courtenay Neighbourhood Plan on our webpage](#).

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Garsington Neighbourhood Plan

We asked

We invited residents and stakeholders for their comments on the Garsington Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents during a publicity period running from 19 April to 7 June 2023.



Your views

11 completed responses to the consultation were received.

[The list of comments](#) received during the publicity period and the [supporting documents](#) submitted ahead of the consultation can be viewed on our website.

Engagement methods

During the consultation period we:

- Informed 34 stakeholders, including businesses, organisations and the parish council about the consultation - the Garsington Neighbourhood Planning group also helped promote the consultation via their networks.
- Shared targeted social media posters via the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor app).
- Provided paper copy consultation materials in Abbey House and St Mary's Church.
- Displayed posters on noticeboards and bus shelters to help promote the consultation.

Outcome

The draft plan documents and comments received during the publicity period were submitted for independent examination. The examiner's role is to make recommendations on the draft plan, and ultimately recommend if the plan should proceed to referendum. The independent examination of the plan has now concluded. Take a look at [the examiner's report](#). The district council has now considered each of the examiner's recommendations, and decided that, subject to modifications, the plan meets the basic conditions and should proceed to a referendum.

Towersey Neighbourhood Plan

We asked

Residents, businesses and stakeholders to have their say on the Towersey Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents during a publicity period running from Wednesday 10 May to Wednesday 28 June 2023.

Engagement methods

During the consultation period we:

- Informed 34 stakeholders, including business, organisations and the parish council about the consultation - the Towersey Neighbourhood Planning group also helped promote the consultation via their networks.
- Shared targeted social media posters via the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor app).
- Provided paper copy consultation materials in Abbey House and St Catherines Church.
- Displayed posters around the parish to help promote the consultation.

Your views

9 completed responses were received.

The list of [comments received during the publicity period](#) and the [supporting documents](#) can be viewed on our website.



Outcome

Following the consultation period, the draft Towersey Neighbourhood Plan was submitted for examination. Andrew Ashcroft was appointed by the district council to carry out the examination. The examiner's role is to make recommendations on the draft plan, and ultimately recommend if the plan should proceed to referendum. The council, at its meeting on 14 December 2023, agreed to adopt Towersey Neighbourhood Plan. You can find out more about the [Towersey Neighbourhood Plan](#) and view the 'made' plan on our webpages.

Waste Satisfaction Survey 2023

We asked

Residents what they thought about the councils’ waste and recycling services which include:

- Household waste
- Recycling
- Food waste collections
- Bulky waste collections
- Street cleaning services
- Customer services
- Waste and recycling information.

Engagement methods

- We informed all contacts on the councils’ consultation database.
- We displayed posters in the districts.
- We shared targeted social media posters via the councils’ social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor app).

Your views

2,069 completed responses were received.

Overall, **83%** expressed satisfaction with the waste and recycling collection service. More specifically, respondents are satisfied with the reliability of the service (i.e. collecting on the correct date, 85%), the state their bins have been returned (i.e. not damaged, 66%) and how the collection team returned their bins to the correct location (54%).

The street cleaning service received mixed feedback with **38%** expressing satisfaction with street cleanliness, whilst **37%** expressed dissatisfaction. A total of 899 free text comments were received. The most frequently mentioned issues concerned the **overall dissatisfaction** with road sweepers (45%) and **with the lack of sweeping**, which residents said is resulting in overgrown vegetation in the streets and gullies, causing blocked drains and leading to flooding in some areas (22%).



Outcome

The results of this survey were reviewed and helped us to identify satisfaction levels and areas for improvement. The results were presented to Committee in December 2023. The highlights from the survey and actions are below:

- Residents are unsure about who is responsible for street cleaning - we are now working towards making this clearer for residents.
- Residents wanted to see more communications around litter – in the Summer of 2024 we have run a communication campaign around littering, with banners and posters being placed around the districts.
- Responses to the survey have been reviewed and will inform the preparation of the future Waste and Street Cleansing Strategy. [You can view the summary report here.](#)

South and Vale Air Quality Action Plan

We asked

Residents and stakeholders for their views on the Draft Air Quality Action Plan 2023-27, which outlines proposed actions to improve air quality in the districts. The consultation provided respondents with the opportunity to comment on area-wide and specific actions impacting: Abingdon, Botley, Henley-on-Thames, Marcham, Wallingford and Watlington.



Your views

338 residents and stakeholders responded to this consultation. Overall, respondents expressed support for many of the area-specific actions such as Henley-on-Thames, Botley and Marcham, and for all the area-wide actions for the districts.

A snapshot of the results includes:

- 73%** agree with the Henley low emissions neighbourhood.
- 43%** agree with the proposal to remove the Wallingford AQMA.
- 48%** agree with the proposal to remove the Watlington AQMA.
- 47%** disagree with the proposal to remove the Abingdon AQMA.

Outcome

The results of this consultation were presented to the Licensing Committee in Autumn of 2023 and the final Air Quality Action Plan was approved by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The final plan and consultation summary report can be viewed on our websites: [South webpage](#) and [Vale webpage](#).



Didcot Garden Party 2023 – sign up and feedback form

We asked

From July until August 2023, the Didcot Garden Team prepared and hosted an exciting range of events and activities for all the family to get involved in.

Prior to the events, businesses and organisations were given the opportunity to sign up to run a stool at the Didcot Garden Town events - 10 businesses and organisations signed-up.

Engagement methods

The events and feedback form were promoted via the following methods:

- Brochures
- Press release
- Posters and banners displayed at Cornerstone.
- Posters displayed around Didcot town.
- Advert included in the local Didcot magazine.
- Business cards with the survey QR code were handed out at the event.
- Social media campaign



Your views

During the events, we encouraged residents to share their feedback about the party to help improve future events.

2,300 residents attended the party.

9 respondents provided feedback about the events.

100% rated their time at the garden party as excellent (6) and good (3).

89% of respondents are likely to attend a garden party again in the future, 78% are very likely and 11% are likely to attend. 11% said they were neither likely nor unlikely to attend.

Outcome

You can find out more about the event in the [Didcot Garden Party report 2023](#). The Garden Party events will take place again in 2024.

UK Rural England Prosperity Funding: expression of interest form

We asked

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils contacted businesses, organisations and community groups about the Rural England Prosperity Fund. Rural areas often face specific challenges including:

- Lower productivity rates
- Poorer connectivity
- Poorer access to key services

The funding helps to deliver projects to improve productivity and strengthen rural economies and communities. Organisations were encouraged to submit their expression of interest ahead of a full application process that opened in later 2023. The form was created to help the Economic Development Team understand local demand for the funding and inform their final grant policy.

Engagement methods

The expression of interest form was promoted via the SouthVale Business Newsletter – 2,360 subscribers, and on the councils’ social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram etc).

Outcome

60 businesses and organisations completed the expression of interest form.

A snapshot is provided below on how the funding has helped to reward the following local businesses and organisations:

- £45,000** to Thomley to support their Eco woodland Outdoor Adventure and Learning centre, and **£61,000** for their eco-friendly interactive water feature.
- £30,000** to Stanley and Pickford to support their farm shop upgrades.
- £18,940** to Tap Social Movement to fund their bakery equipment upgrade.
- £9,983** to Velocity Cycle Couriers to fund their Farm to Fork project.
- £1,330** to Down to Earth Community Café to fund their equipment for warm spaces meals.
- £16,141** to Smart Greens UK to support the Aquaponics conversion to solar power.
- £28,376** to Faringdon Town Football club to fund some solar panels.

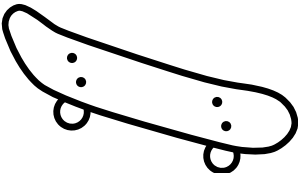
Summer of Skate Events 2023

We asked

We worked alongside the Community Safety team to develop a feedback form for the ‘Summer of Skate’ events, which took place across several skate parks in the districts between July and August 2023.

The purpose of the feedback form was to provide the councils with an understanding of how well the events went and what could be done differently in the future.

Young people who completed the survey could win a £100 skateboarding package provided by ATB.



Your views

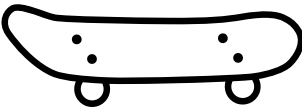
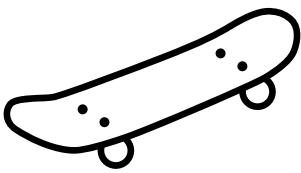
Approximately **522 young people attended the skate sessions** across both districts.

84 young people (or parents on their behalf) took part in the feedback survey.

75% said there isn’t anything that could have made the events better.

95% would attend a skate session again in the future.

100% rated the event good or very good.



Outcome

The feedback was shared with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to demonstrate the need for future similar projects. The CSP were also made aware that on several occasions the team witnessed or were informed that young people had attended the sessions without having water, breakfast or lunch. It was agreed that if this project was repeated, water and healthy snacks would be made available to them at the events.



Blewbury Conservation Area Appraisal consultation

We asked

Residents to have their say on the proposed changes to the conservation area appraisal document, which included a review of the boundary in the following places:

- **Addition** of important open space associated with Manor House and Mockbeggars Hall and Farm.
- **Addition** to add mature trees and seven properties around the junction of Church End and Westbrook Street.
- **Adjustments** to conform the boundary with the rear property lines of several properties on the east side of South Street.

In some areas, the revision is intended to update any issues caused by past mapping and changes to property boundaries over time. In other areas, the boundary could be extended to include areas of architectural and historic interest.

Your views

19 completed responses were received, with the vast majority being from members of the public **(83%)**.

Overall, there was general support for the appraisal document and mixed views towards the proposed conservation area boundary extensions, especially the larger one to the north encompassing Mockbeggars and Blewbury Manor land.

Engagement methods

166 Blewbury residents, stakeholders and consultees on the council’s consultation database were consulted.

Paper copies of the consultation were available in the Blewbury Post Office.

Posters were display around the village to help promote the consultation.

Outcome

The Conservation team considered all the comments received and made appropriate changes to the draft appraisal and boundary revision before it was sent to Cabinet for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document in June 2024. Once adopted, the appraisal can be used to inform planning decisions. The cabinet report, the new conservation area appraisal document and the adopted revised boundary can be viewed on the [Conservation Areas webpages](#).



East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan Review

We asked

We invited residents and stakeholders to give their views on the reviewed East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents from 9 August until 20 September 2023 . If the plan is adopted, the reviewed plan will replace the existing one which was adopted in April 2019. This project was run in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Planning team.

Engagement methods

- We informed **116** stakeholders, including business, organisations and the parish council about the consultation - the East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Planning group also helped promote the consultation via their networks.
- We shared targeted social media posters via the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor app).
- We provided paper copy consultation materials in Abbey House and St Andrews Church.
- We displayed posters in 10 locations throughout the parish.



Your views

6 residents and stakeholders completed the consultation.

The list of comments received during the publicity period and supporting documents can be viewed on [our website](#).

Outcome

The draft plan documents and comments received during the consultation were submitted to the independent examiner. On 22 February 2024, the council agreed to make the East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan Review. You can view the [East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan Review \(submission version\)](#) and the [examiner's report](#). The policies in this plan, as modified by the examiner's recommendations, carry full weight in determining planning applications. The made version of the plan, incorporating the examiner's modifications, and the council's decision was made (adopted) on 22 February 2024.

Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan Review II

We asked

We invited residents and stakeholders to give their views on the reviewed Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents from 13 September until 26 October 2023. If the plan is adopted, the reviewed plan will replace the existing one, which was adopted in May 2021. This project was run in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Planning team.

Engagement methods

- We informed **120** stakeholders, including businesses, organisations and the parish council about the consultation - the Chinnor Neighbourhood Planning group also helped promote the consultation via their networks.
- We shared targeted social media posts via the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor app).
- We provided paper copy consultation materials in Abbey House, Chinnor Library and the Chinnor Pavilion.
- We displayed posters in the village to help promote the consultation.

Your views

9 completed responses were received to this consultation.

The [list of comments received during the publicity period](#) can be viewed online. You can also review the [supporting documents](#) submitted ahead of the consultation.



Outcome

The draft plan documents and comments received were submitted for independent examination. The Council at its meeting on 17 November 2023 agreed to adopt the Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan Review II.

You can view the [Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan Review II \(submission version\)](#) and the [examiner's report](#). The policies in this plan, as modified by the examiner's recommendations, carry full weight in determining planning applications.

Berinsfield Health and Wellbeing Community Insight Survey

We asked

We asked residents, businesses, organisations and voluntary groups what kind of services, organisations and people support health and wellbeing in the community, what causes the biggest problems/barriers to people’s health and wellbeing and what would help improve these. This work is in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council Public Health and several community partners.

Engagement methods

- Council officers attended a young person's event in Berinsfield to promote the survey.
- Paper comment forms were available in several locations across Berinsfield, including posters to help promote the survey.
- A news article was published in the ‘Berinsfield Village Voice’ magazine.
- The council shared targeted social media posts via the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook and Instagram).

Your views

95 completed responses were received.

70% like the ‘green spaces’ the most in Berinsfield, followed by community facilities and activities (69%).

72% said spending time outdoors and in nature helps them stay physically and mentally well, whilst others said taking part in physical activity and movement helps (70%).

48% feel ‘cost and affordability’ is one of the biggest challenges faced when trying to stay physically and mentally well.

92% see people smoking and vaping in Berinsfield. Consuming alcohol (74%) and people handling/consuming drugs (53%) has also been witnessed.



Outcome

The feedback received helped produce the Berinsfield Community Insight Profile, which was approved by the council at the end of August. This report makes recommendations on actions to improve health and wellbeing in Berinsfield and forms the basis of a multi-agency action plan. The action plan, which was also approved in August, explores opportunities to encourage and support residents’ involvement in healthy eating and outdoor activities. There is also funding available to help us progress actions following from this project, including a 25K grants scheme and a new part-time Health Development Officer post. Once the Community Insight Report and Action Plan have been finalised, they will be available on our website with a copy of the consultation report. Further details of how the results and community involvement have shaped our plans and actions to enhance health and wellbeing will also be published on [our website](#).

Review of Henley-on-Thames Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

We asked

We asked stakeholders for their views on the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Henley-on-Thames, which aims to tackle alcohol and group related anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The PSPO has a duration of three years and expired on 30 April 2024. The councils were required to review the relevance of the PSPO before deciding whether to extend, vary or allow it to expire.



Your views

10 stakeholders representing the district, county/town or parish councils as councillors or officers, and businesses/organisations, responded to the consultation.

90% think the alcohol related condition below is still required.

Condition: ask somebody to stop drinking alcohol or confiscate their alcohol if they are behaving (or are likely to behave) anti-socially. An offence is committed if the person fails to comply with the police officer’s request.

90% think the group related ASB condition below is still required.

Condition: Ask a group of three or more people to disperse if their behaviour is causing alarm, distress, harassment or nuisance. An offence would only be committed under the PSPO if the group refused to disperse when asked to do so by a police officer.

70% agree with varying the order to include additional land called Fawley Meadows.



Outcome

The comments raised have been reviewed and an internal report has been produced. On 18 April 2024 the council decided to approve the proposed extension and variation of the PSPO. Key stakeholders have been informed of the outcome. The adopted PSPO can be viewed on our website.

Review of Thame Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

We asked

We asked stakeholders for their views on the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Thame, which aims to tackle alcohol and group related anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The PSPO has a duration of three years and expired on 30 April 2024. The councils were required to review the relevance of the PSPO before deciding whether to extend, vary or allow it to expire.



Your views

6 stakeholders representing the district, county/town or parish councils as councillors or officers, and businesses/organisations, responded the consultation.

83% think that the alcohol related condition below is still required.

Condition: Ask somebody to stop drinking alcohol or confiscate their alcohol if they are behaving (or are likely to behave) anti-socially. An offence is committed if the person fails to comply with the police officer’s request.

50% agree that the group related ASB condition below is still required.

Condition: Ask a group of three or more people to disperse if their behaviour is causing alarm, distress, harassment or a nuisance. An offence would only be committed under the PSPO if the group refused to disperse when asked to do so by a police officer.

67% agree with varying the order to include additional land called Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve.



Listening Learning Leading

Outcome

The comments raised have been reviewed and an internal report has been produced. On 18 April 2024, the proposed extension and variation of the PSPO were adopted by the council. Key stakeholders have been informed of the outcome. [The adopted PSPO can be viewed on our website.](#)



Have your say on how rural crime is affecting your community

We asked

In September 2023, a young farmers event was held by the Thames Valley Police. The Community Safety team used this event to test the rural crime pilot-survey. The feedback received allowed us to make necessary tweaks to the questions before launching the official survey to stakeholders and residents in October.

The survey asked respondents how rural crime is affecting their community, what crimes they are most concerned about and if respondents are aware of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Thames Valley Rural Crime Taskforce.



Your views

406 completed responses were received. **48%** of respondents **were not aware of the CSP. 53%** of respondents **were aware of the Thames Valley Rural Crime Taskforce.** We asked what the CSP could do to help tackle rural crime. Most comments mentioned the authority having **more visibility/patrols/resources (151).**

The most popular rural crime concerns in the districts are fly tipping **(23%)**, machinery theft **(15%)**, heritage crime **(13%)** and hare coursing **(12%).**

Engagement methods

- **1,873** emails sent to residents on the councils’ consultation database.
- Survey promoted on the councils’ social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Next-door app)
- The Economic Development Team included an article about the survey in their newsletter which targets businesses and organisations across South and Vale.
- The Community Safety Team reached out to the National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society, Thames Valley Police and Country Land and Business Association (CLA), who also helped to promote the survey to their networks.

Outcome

The findings of the survey have been used to inform the decisions and plans of the South and Vale CSP on how to prevent and tackle rural crime in 2024. You can view the finding on our website: [South Oxfordshire](#) and [Vale of White Horse](#).

In October 2023, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley secured Safer Streets funding to help tackle rural crime in South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire. This funding will be used to hire an advisor to promote rural crime prevention and engage with communities. It will also be used to purchase security marking kits to deter burglars and wildlife cameras to deter and tackle fly-tipping across the districts.

Review of the Safe Places Scheme – South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse

We asked

Businesses and organisations registered on the Safe Places Scheme across South Oxfordshire the and Vale of White Horse to complete a short survey. The surveys asked them if they wished to remain on the scheme, to provide an up-to-date contact details and if they required any support or materials to help promote the scheme.

What is the Safe Places Scheme?

The Safe Place Scheme helps to support our residents to remain safe and independent in the community. Anyone who feels vulnerable or distressed can easily identify a safe place by the recognisable logo and seek safety and assistance within.



Engagement methods

Businesses and organisations registered on the Safe Place Scheme database were contacted.

Your views

82 businesses and organisations in Abingdon, Botley, Didcot, Faringdon, Goring-on-Thames, Henley-on-Thames, Thame, Wallingford and Wantage were contacted about the scheme. This survey obtained a **34%** completion rate.

7 out of 8 respondents said they would like to remain on the scheme and that their staff was aware of it (**88%**). 6 out of 8 respondents said they staff had received training (**75%**). Among the materials that could help promote the scheme, respondents mentioned cards, leaflets, window stickers and online training.

Outcome

The results have allowed the community safety team to update the national Safe Places website which is available to the public to identify a Safe Place in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.

For more information on the [Safe Place Scheme click here](#).

Binfield Heath Neighbourhood Plan: consultation

We asked

We invited residents and stakeholders to give their views on the Binfield Heath Neighbourhood Plan during a publicity period running from 7 December to 25 January 2024.

Your views

9 completed responses were received.

The list of comments received during the publicity period is now available to view online. You can also review the supporting documents submitted ahead of the consultation on our website.



Engagement methods

During the consultation period we:

- Informed **297** stakeholders, including businesses, organisations and the parish council about the consultation - the Binfield Heath Neighbourhood Planning Group also helped promote the consultation via their networks.
- Shared targeted social media posters via the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor app).
- Provided paper copy consultation materials in Abbey House, The Post Office and Stores.
- Displayed posters around the parish, including the parish council noticeboard at the shop, and one in each of the three bus shelters to help promote the consultation.

Outcome

The draft plan review documents and comments received during the publicity period were submitted for independent examination, which has now concluded. You can view the examiner's report on our website. The district council now has to consider each of the examiner's recommendations, before making the final decision on whether the plan should proceed to a referendum.



Steventon Neighbourhood Plan: consultation

We asked

We invited residents and stakeholders for their comments on the Steventon Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents during a publicity period running from 7 December to 1 February 2024.

Your views

9 completed responses were received. The list of comments received during the publicity period and the supporting documents submitted ahead of the consultation can be viewed online.

Engagement methods

During the consultation period we:

- informed **83** stakeholders, including business, organisations and the parish council about the consultation - the Steventon Neighbourhood Planning Group also helped promote the consultation via their networks.
- Shared targeted social media posters via the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor app).
- Provided paper copy consultation materials in Abbey House and at number 8, Stocks Lane.
- Displayed posters around the parish, including the parish noticeboard and the Village Hall to help promote the consultation.

Outcome

The draft plan and comments received during the publicity period were submitted for independent examination, which has now concluded. You can view the examiner's report on our website. The district council has now considered each of the examiner's recommendations and decided that, subject to modifications, the plan meets the basic conditions and should proceed to a referendum. The decision statement is available to view [here](#).



Festive Food Waste Quiz

We asked

Too much of our food ends up being thrown away, especially at Christmas. We asked residents of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse to take part in our quiz to test their knowledge. The quiz provided recommendations on what is best to do to limit food waste.



Engagement methods

The festive food waste quiz was shared on the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor app).

An incentive was also offered to help encourage participation. Upon completing the quiz, respondents could provide their contact details to enter a competition to win £100 voucher for a local farm shop, and a hamper containing items to help reduce waste.

Outcome

714 residents completed the quiz, and **679** entered the competition.

48% of residents think you can put compostable packaging in a food caddy – this is not correct.

30% extra waste is generated at Christmas compared to the rest of the year – 83% of respondent's answered this correctly.

2,500 tonnes of cheese is binned each year at Christmas – 60% of respondents answered this correctly.



Joint Local Plan: preferred options consultation

We asked

Residents, businesses, organisations, community groups, key stakeholders and statutory consultees were asked for their views on our preferred options consultation, which included topics such as climate change, housing, jobs, infrastructure, transport, nature recovery and healthy places.

To make it easier for people to contribute their ideas, respondents could provide their feedback via two routes: the Joint Local Plan ‘In a Nutshell’ survey, or via a full ‘Preferred Options’ survey. The Nutshell survey included summaries of our preferred options across key topics, whereas the full Preferred Options survey included full details of the policy options, preferred options, draft policies, supporting documents and the emerging policies map. The consultation ran from 10 January until 26 February 2024.

What is a Local Plan?

A Local Plan looks ahead fifteen years and plans how much development is needed in an area, like new homes, jobs, roads and schools, and where they should go

Click here to watch a short video about the Joint Local Plan and how respondents could take part.



Your views

Nearly **1,300** completed responses were received via both the ‘Preferred Options’ and ‘In a Nutshell’ surveys.



Joint Local Plan: preferred options consultation (2)

Engagement methods

During the consultation period we:

- Emailed **5,437** residents, community groups, businesses/organisations registered on the councils’ consultation and equalities databases, **228** town/parish councils and councillors, and **592** statutory consultees.
- Held **10** drop-in events across both districts. These took place in Abingdon-on-Thames, Crowmarsh Gifford, Didcot, Faringdon, Henley-on-Thames, Sandford-on-Thames, Shippon, Thame, Wallingford and Wantage. **582** people attended these events in total.
- Visited **2** colleges to provide interactive engagement sessions with students to understand their views on our preferred options.
- Ran a British Sign Language interpreted event at Didcot Civic Hall, to introduce the Joint Local Plan for local disability groups, faith groups and other communities who are often under-represented in planning consultations.
- [Used an interactive online hub](#) so that users could navigate through the Joint Local Plan topics that mattered most to them, explore interactive maps, as well as view proposed approaches, draft policies and supporting documents.
- Produced a [virtual exhibition](#) and an [accessible version](#) of the exhibition boards to provide an alternative way to view the consultation materials.
- Displayed consultation documents in libraries across both districts.
- Displayed consultation boards in Didcot and Abingdon town centres – at Didcot’s Cornerstone, as well as at the Bury Street Shopping Centre in Abingdon.
- Experimented with innovative social media campaigns and videos to share on the councils’ social media platforms. We received **2,481** engagements (such as reactions, shares and clicks to the consultation page) from social media campaigns. Posters were also shared with Town and Parish Councils to help promote the consultation.

Outcome

We’re in the process of reviewing all the comments received and these will be summarised in a consultation statement in due course.

The feedback received will help shape the draft of the Joint Local Plan for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. In Autumn 2024, we will publish a full draft of our Joint Local Plan (the Proposed Submission Joint Local Plan) and welcome representations to be made. After this, we will submit the draft plan and the comments made to an independent planning inspector.





Beckley and Stowood Neighbourhood Plan: Consultation on Significant Modifications

We asked

We invited residents and stakeholders for their comments on the Beckley and Stowood Neighbourhood Plan Consultation on Significant Modifications and supporting documents during a publicity period running from 18 January to 29 February 2024.

Your views

18 completed responses were received. The list of comments received during the publicity period is now available to view online. You can also review the supporting documents submitted ahead of the consultation on our website.

Engagement methods

During the consultation period we:

- Informed **92** stakeholders, including businesses, organisations and the parish council about the consultation - the Beckley and Stowood Neighbourhood Planning Group also helped promote the consultation via their networks.
- Shared targeted social media posters via the council's social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor app).
- Made paper copy consultation materials available in Abbey House, Village Pub (Abingdon Arms) and Hall.
- Displayed posters in 5 undisclosed locations around the parish to help promote the consultation.

Outcome

The draft plan and comments received during the publicity period were submitted for independent examination, which has now concluded. You can now read **the examiner's report**. The district council has to consider each of the examiner's recommendations before making the final decision on whether the plan should proceed to referendum. .

Cornerstone feedback form for workshops and classes

We asked

Users of the Cornerstone Arts Centre for their feedback on workshops and classes they have attended. The councils have been gathering this feedback to help improve performances and services they provide.

The feedback form asks questions such as the users experience of the cornerstone website, booking system and communications they received before the show; how their show tickets were purchased; how they found out about the show and questions about the Nourish Cafe.



Your views

This feedback is ongoing. A snapshot of the feedback received so far is provided below:

- 183** completed responses have been received.
- 73%** rated their experience at **Cornerstone** as ‘very good’ experience and **22%** as ‘good’
- 65%** rated the **information on the website** as very good and **25%** as ‘good’
- 54%** said the **online booking system** was very good and good **23%** said it was ‘good’
- 60** rated the **box office communication from the venue** as very good and **19%** as ‘good’

This feedback will be monitored by council officers to improve the performances and services they provide.



Proposed Revised Taxi Tariff Consultation – South Oxfordshire



We asked

Members of the public, taxi drivers and proprietors licensed by South Oxfordshire district council for their views on the proposed revised taxi tariff, which makes use of the ‘[Guildford model](#)’, a nationally recognised method to calculate taxi tariffs. In addition to changing the amounts charged for each hiring, we also proposed to start Tariff 2 from 10pm, rather than 11pm.

The tariff was reviewed at the request of the trade, to ensure it remains fair and reasonable for both passengers and hackney carriage proprietors and drivers.

Your views

53 responses were received from members of the public, taxi drivers and proprietors in South Oxfordshire.

66% of respondents represent a driver/proprietor licensed by the district council.

60% of respondents disagreed with the proposed tariff, whilst 34% did not provide an answer. 6% expressed agreement.

None of the responses to the consultation specifically objected to the use of the Guildford model for calculating the tariff. Some of the comments made, for example members of the public asking why fares were higher on Sundays, shall be taken into account and explored further during future reviews.

Engagement methods

The consultation was sent to:

- **344** taxi drivers and proprietors in South Oxfordshire.
- **1,784** consultees registered on general councils’ consultation database.
- A drop-in session was held by councils’ officer at the District Community Centre on Tuesday 6 February.

Outcome

Once the consultation period concluded, we collated and reviewed all the responses received.

We received **32** objections to the tariff, which meant the matter was referred to Cabinet for review. Some of those who disagreed with the tariff did so because they felt it was too high, whilst some felt it was too low. The Cabinet set a tariff and adopted some suggestions made by the trade association in relation to tariff timings. You can view the [consultation report on our website](#).

Proposed Revised Taxi Tariff Consultation – Vale of White Horse



We asked

Member of the public, taxi drivers and proprietors licensed by the district council for their views on the proposed revised taxi tariff for Vale of White Horse, which is calculated using the ‘Guildford model’, a nationally recognised method. In addition to changing the amounts charged for each hiring, we also proposed to start Tariff 2 from 10pm, rather than 11pm.

The tariff was reviewed at the request of the trade, to ensure it remains fair and reasonable for both passengers and hackney carriage proprietors and drivers.

Your views

26 responses were received from members of the public, taxi drivers and proprietors in Vale of White Horse.

65% of respondents represent a driver/proprietor licensed by the district council.

38% agreed with the proposed Tariff, whilst 27% expressed disagreement.

None of the responses to the consultation specifically objected to the use of the Guildford model for calculating the tariff.

Engagement methods

The consultation was sent to:

- **206** taxi drivers and proprietors in Vale of White Horse.
- **1,784** consultees registered on councils’ consultation database.
- A drop-in session was held by council officers at the District Community Centre on Tuesday 6 February.

Outcome

Once the consultation period concluded, we collated and reviewed all the responses received.

We received 7 objections to the tariff, which meant the matter was referred back to Cabinet for review. Some of those who disagreed with the tariff did so because they felt it was too high, whilst some felt it was too low. The Cabinet set a tariff and adopted some suggestions made by the trade association in relation to the tariff timings. You can view the [consultation report on our website](#).

Vale of White Horse Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies Consultation

We asked

Sports clubs, leisure users and sports enthusiasts to have their say on some proposed key recommendations included in the Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies from 15 March until 17 April.

What is the purpose of the strategies?

The purpose is to show the need for new playing pitches and leisure facilities across Vale of White Horse, as well as identifying which of our existing pitches and facilities need protecting, upgrading, or expanding. They take account of new and planned housing developments in our districts and consider the need for new pitches and leisure provision between 2023 and 2041.

Engagement methods

The consultation was sent to:

- **4,341** consultees on the council's planning consultation database
- **276** leisure centres, sports facilities and village halls
- Posters were displayed in local leisure centres and sport facilities throughout the consultation period.

Outcome

147 responses were received to the consultation.

The comments received are being reviewed and will help to update the strategies as necessary. The council will then consider whether to formally adopt the strategies at a full council meeting. If the council does decide to adopt the strategies, the final versions will be published, alongside a consultation summary report on [our website](#).



South Oxfordshire Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies Consultation

We asked

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What is the purpose of the strategies?

The purpose is to show the need for new playing pitches and leisure facilities across Vale of White Horse, as well as identifying which of our existing pitches and facilities need protecting, upgrading, or expanding. They take account of new and planned housing developments in our districts and consider the need for new pitch and leisure provision between 2023 and 2041.

Engagement methods

The consultation was sent to:

- 4,341 consultees on the council's planning consultation database
- ADD IN SOCIAL MEDIA STATS
- 276 leisure centres, sports facilities and village halls
- Posters were displayed in local leisure centres and sport facilities throughout the consultation period.

Outcome

129 responses were received to the consultation.

The comments received are being reviewed and will help to update the strategies as necessary. The council will then consider whether to formally adopt the strategies at a full council meeting. If the council does decide to adopt the strategies, the final version will be published, alongside a consultation summary report on [our website](#).



Waste Satisfaction Survey 2024

We asked

In Summer 2023, we asked residents for their views on our waste services. In response to the survey, 83% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the waste and recycling collection service, whilst some comments indicated that many residents are unsure about who is responsible for street cleaning - we are now working towards making this clearer for people. Please [click here to view the report](#) from last year.

In March 2024, we reached out to residents again to find out what they think about waste and recycling, food waste collections and street cleaning services to help us continue to identify satisfaction levels with these services and highlight areas for improvement.

Your views

252 responses were received to the survey.

86% expressed overall satisfaction with the waste collection service (collection of general, food and recycling waste). – this is a 3% increase of satisfaction compared to the waste survey from 2023.

36% expressed dissatisfaction with street cleanliness

40% expressed dissatisfaction with road sweeping across the districts

36% feel satisfied with how often their public litter bins are emptied.

62% didn't know the five stages of the waste management hierarchy.

Engagement methods

The consultation was sent to **1,905** consultees on the councils' consultation database and a leaflet was included in the annual council tax letter, which is issued to all residents in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.

Outcome

The results of the survey have been shared with the waste team, which will use the feedback to work with Biffa to improve elements of the service that have been highlighted as needing improvement. You can view the final report [here](#).

Supporting your council to tackle climate action

We asked

The Climate and Biodiversity Team wanted to know how they could help town and parish councils do their best for the climate and natural environment. The district councils have set ambitious targets to become carbon neutral in their operations by the end of the decade and for the whole districts soon after - the survey asked town and parish councils what we can offer to help achieve this goal.



Engagement methods

The consultation was shared with 148 town and parish councils in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.

Your views

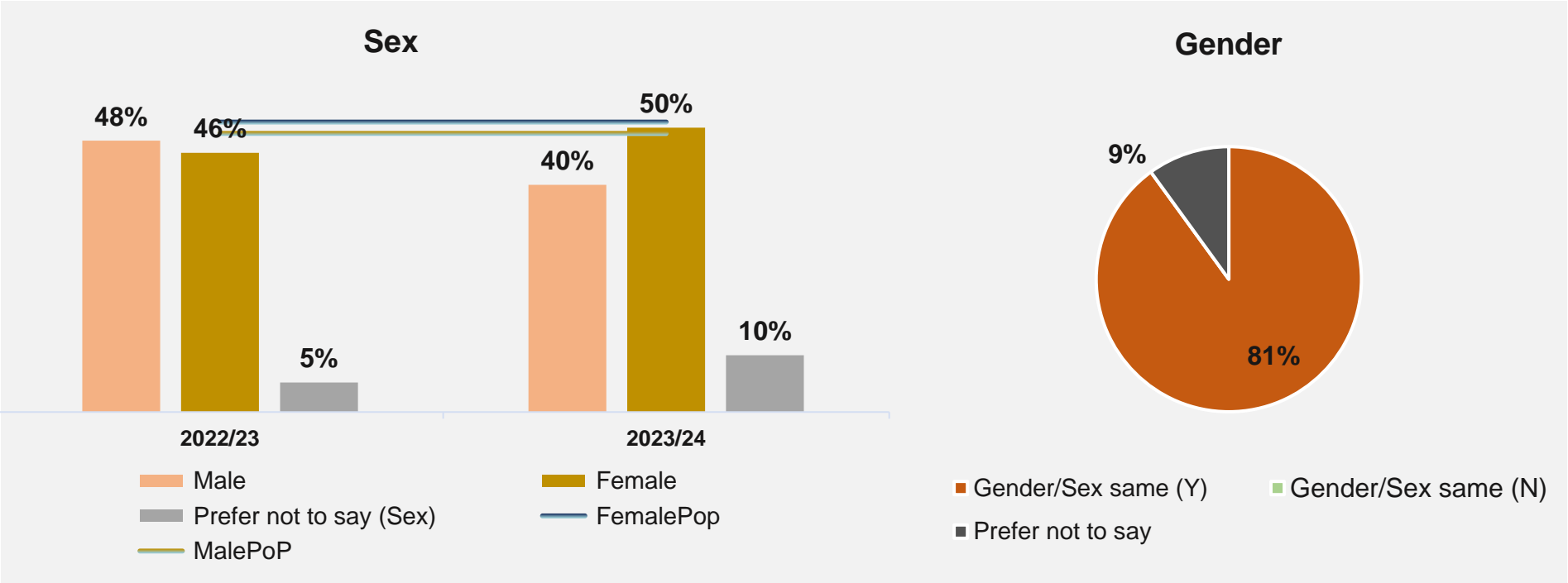
- 14** responses were received to the survey.
- 86%** are interested in, or in the process of creating a nature recovery plan for their parish.
- 71%** do not have a climate committee, working group or similar, a dedicated climate officer/council member and someone at the council with climate change or nature recovery experience.
- 78%** are interested in generating their own renewable energy within the town or parish.
- 57%** have projects they have been aiming to do but haven't been able to resource, 57% of this is due to insufficient funds, lack of knowledge in the subject area (43%) and low numbers of staff able to help (43%).

Outcome

- The survey identified a range of different ways the district councils can help towns and parishes achieve this goal. One of them is to expand the resources already available so we can work together to achieve net zero in our districts. The feedback has also resulted in the following being proposed for inclusion in the new Climate and Nature Recovery Action Plan, as well as offering ongoing support as and when needed:
- Update existing resources and build on creating an online knowledge bank for towns and parishes – this may include easy-to-follow factsheets, simple templates, or signposting to appropriate organisations.
 - Prioritise key areas of interest as highlighted in the survey e.g. EVs and sustainable travel, community energy and retrofit, nature recovery on council land.
 - Provide additional officer time to meet with towns and parishes, particularly those wishing to develop climate and nature recovery action plans.

Sex & Gender

This charts show the proportion of respondents by sex and gender as an average of all consultations for which data is available. Proportions for males/females are then compared with actual population data(*).

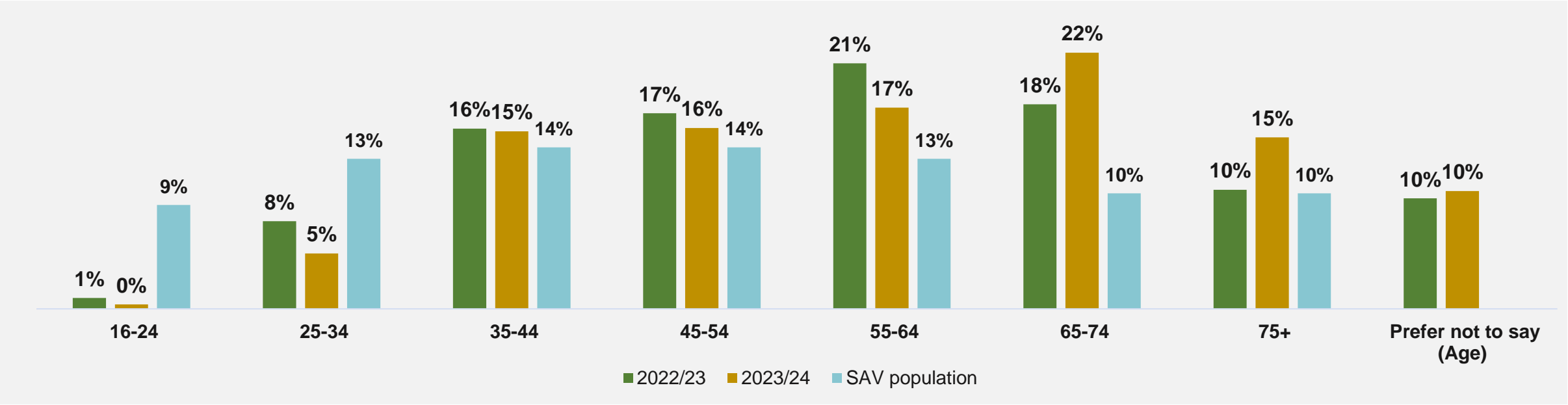


Compared to 2022/23, the proportion of female responding to our consultations went up from 46 to 50%. This rate is very close to the actual female population (51%). Conversely, the proportion of male respondents went down by 8%, from 48% in 2022/23 to 40% in 2023/24. The proportion of respondents who preferred not to disclose their sex doubled from 5 to 10%.

With respect to gender, the vast majority of respondents said their gender was the same registered at birth (81%), whilst 9% preferred not to say. Proportions do not add up to 100% as this data is missing for some consultations.

* Actual population data for gender, age group and ethnicity is drawn from the Census 2021 and downloaded from Local Insight.

Age-groups



This chart shows the proportion of respondents by age-group as an average of all consultations. Each proportion is then compared with actual population data, which is represented by the light blue bars (*). In both 2022/23 and 2023/24 the younger age groups (16-24 and 25-34-year-olds) appear to be underrepresented in our consultations, whilst proportions for 35-44 and 45-54-year-olds are well in line with actual population data.

Older age groups, particularly 65-74 and 75+-year-olds, tend to respond to our consultations in larger numbers, hence their proportion of the total is higher than population data for both years analysed here.

* Actual population data for gender, age group and ethnicity is drawn from the Census 2021 and downloaded from Local Insight.

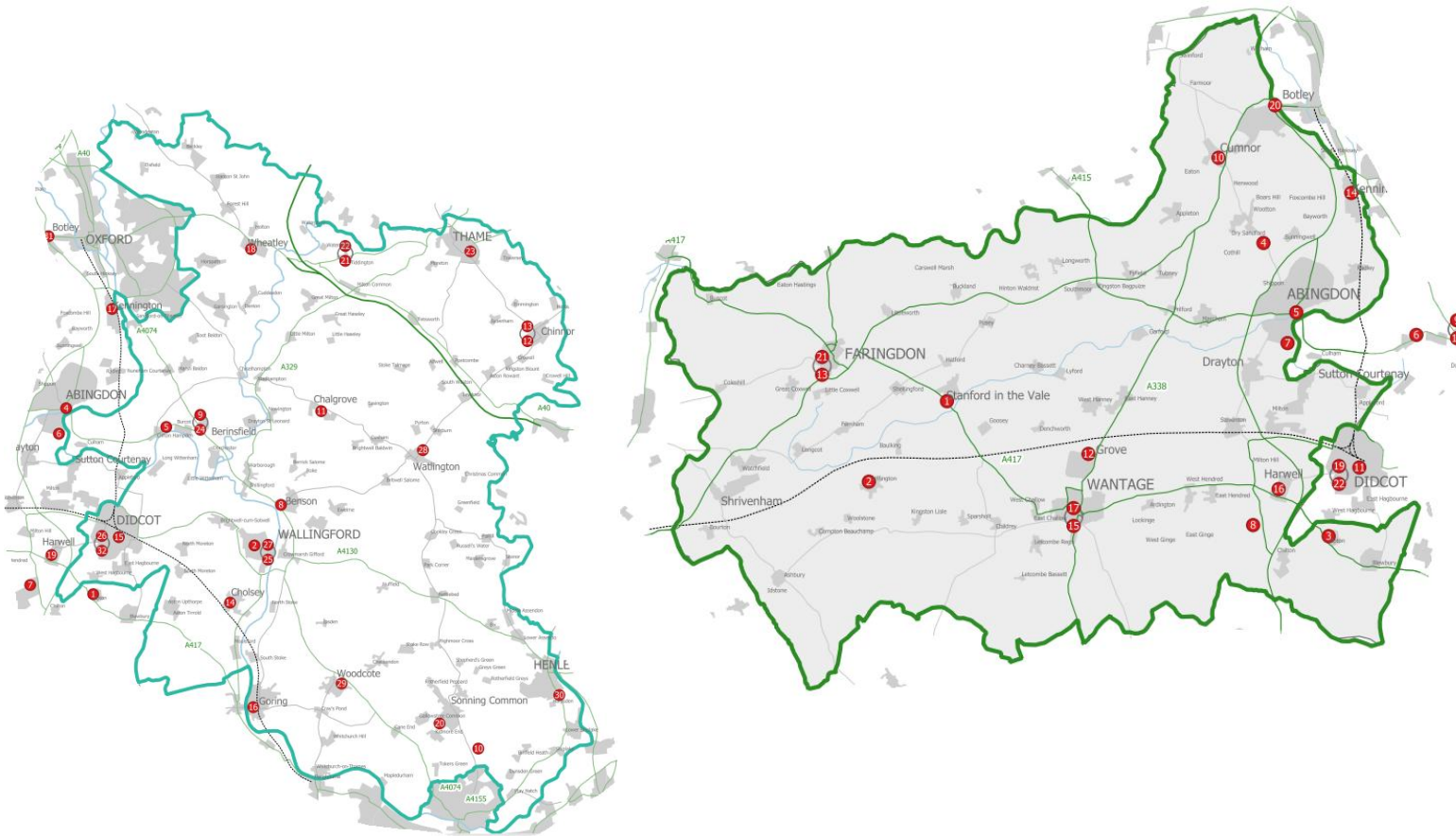
Engagement with young people

Our progress

In 2022/23 we started collecting data on gender, age, ethnicity and disability of respondents. This helps us understand if we are reaching all groups in our communities and see where we need to increase participation and representation.

As we only routinely began collecting this data in 2022/23, we'll keep monitoring it to identify future trends.

Carrying on from our work in 22/23, we are continuing to work hard and engage with all demographic groups in our communities, especially those that we've historically failed to reach, like young people and some minority groups (seldom heard), to try and ensure that the responses we get are representative of the whole population.



Ethnicity

With respect to ethnicity, in 2023/24 White British (including English, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish), White Irish and people from any other White background were all well represented in our consultations. Conversely, all other ethnic groups (Black, Asian and mixed backgrounds) were not very well represented (please see tables below). This is a reduction compared to 2022/23, when some minority ethnic groups were well represented in our consultations and could just be due to the nature of the consultations we ran in this last fiscal year.

8% of respondents preferred not to answer the question about ethnicity.

	Prefer not to say	White British	White Irish	Gypsy or Irish Traveller	Any other white background	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Chinese
Respondents 2023/24	8%	84%	1%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Respondents 2022/23	11%	70%	1%	0%	7%	2%	2%	1%	0%
South and Vale population	NA	85%	2%	0%	6%	2%	1%	0%	1%

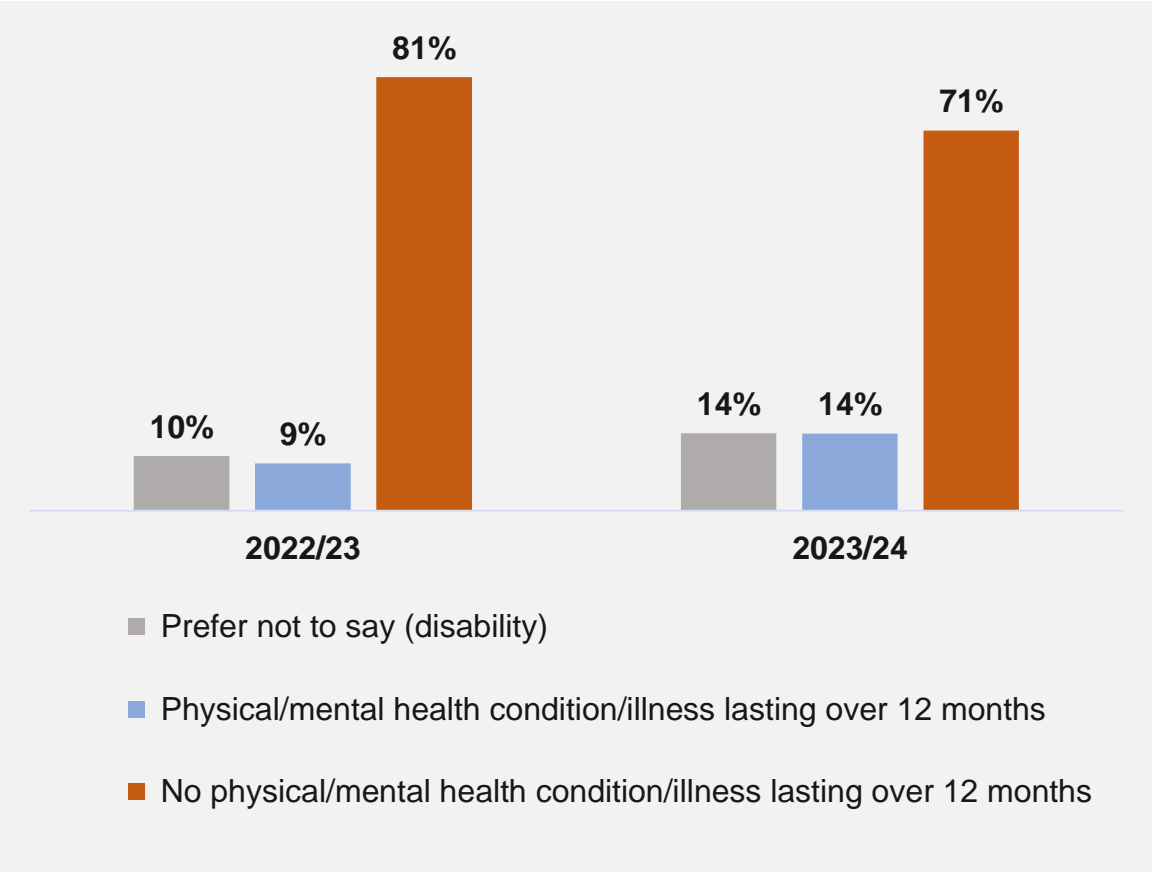
	Any other Asian background	Caribbean	African	Any other black background	White and Black Caribbean	White and Black African	White and Asian	Any other mixed background	Arab	Other (please specify)
Respondents 2023/24	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Respondents 2022/23	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%
South and Vale population	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%

Disability

In 2023/24, 71% of respondents said that they don't have a physical or mental health condition/illness lasting over 12 months. This is a reduction compared to 2022/23, when 81% of respondents fell in this category. Conversely, the proportion of those with a physical or mental health condition rose from 9 to 14%. Since actual population data also shows that 14% of people have a limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability which affects their daily activities(*), this means that people with disability were well represented in our consultations in 2023/24.

Among the 14% who said they had a physical or mental health condition, 17% considered this to significantly reduce their ability to carry out their daily activities, 23% felt their ability to carry out daily activities was somewhat reduced, and 27% said their condition did not impact on their ability to carry out daily activities at all. These proportions do not add up to 100% because data for some consultations was missing.

(*) This figure is the average for both districts. The individual proportions of people with disability are 13.7% for South Oxfordshire and 14.3% for the Vale of White Horse. Data is from [Census 2021](#)



Engagement with disability groups

Our progress

We have been continuing our work from 22/23 on establishing an Equality and Diversity database, which will allow us to share our consultations with local groups, charities and organisations that relate to the following protected characteristics: age; gender reassignment; being married, in a civil partnership, pregnant or on maternity leave; disability; race including colour, ethnic or national origin; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

During the year covered by this report, we began routinely monitoring how representative our consultations are against the demographic in South and Vale. This information is helping us identify where there are gaps and develop a strategy to encourage participation from all demographic groups in our communities. You can find the data we have collected so far on this at the end of this report.

The Equality and Diversity database has allowed us to invite disability groups to two in-person events: South and Vale Corporate Plans and the Joint Local Plan and give them the chance to openly express their views on key projects impacting South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, as well as connect with other groups in the districts.

