

Maidstone Borough Council

Climate Change & Biodiversity Residents Survey

2020



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Methodology

The survey was promoted online through the Council's website and our social media channels. Residents who have signed up for consultation reminders were notified and sent an invitation to participate in the consultation. The survey was open between 7th February and 20th March 2020.

As an online survey is a self-selection methodology, with residents free to choose whether to participate or not, it was anticipated that returned responses would not necessarily be fully representative of the wider adult population. This report discusses the weighted results to overall responses by demographic questions to ensure that it more accurately matches the known profile of Maidstone Boroughs population by these characteristics.

There was a total of 1304 responses to the survey and 1268 weighted responses.

The results have been weighted by age and gender based on the population in the ONS mid-year population estimates 2018. However, the under-representation of 18 to 34 year olds means that high weights have been applied to responses in this group, therefore results for this group should be treated with caution. It should also be noted that respondents from BME backgrounds are under-represented at 3.9% compared 5.9% in the local area, the results for this group should also be treated with caution.

With a total of 1268 weighted responses to the survey, based on Maidstone's population aged 18 years and over, this means overall results are accurate to $\pm 2.74\%$ at the 95% confidence level. This means that if we repeated the same survey 100 times, 90 times out of 100 the results would be between $\pm 2.74\%$ of the calculated response, so the 'true' response could be 2.74% above or below the figures reported (i.e. a 50% agreement rate could in reality lie within the range of 47.24% to 52.74%).

Please note not every respondent answered every question, therefore the total number of respondents refers to the number of respondents for the question being discussed not to the survey overall.

The data has been z-tested at the 95% confidence level. The z-test is a statistical test which determines if the percentage difference between subgroups is large enough to be statistically significant or whether the difference is likely to have occurred by chance. Only significant differences are discussed in this report.

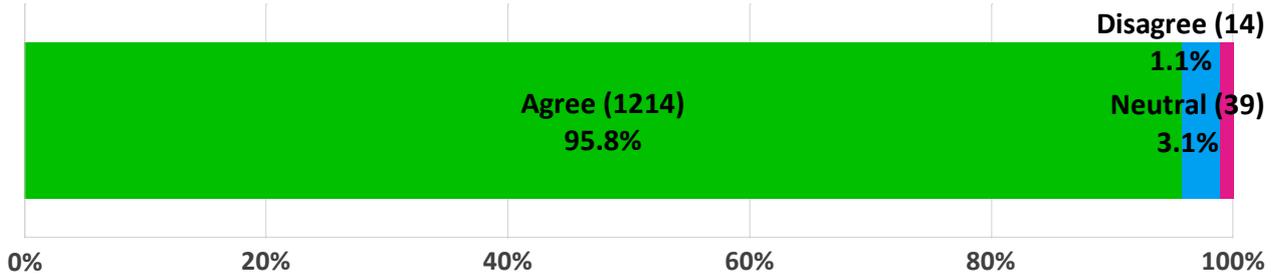
Rounding means that some charts may not add up to 100%.

Climate Change Knowledge

Survey respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the statements in the chart below, relating to awareness and knowledge of climate change. Overall, there were high levels of agreement with the majority of respondent either ‘Strongly agreeing’ or ‘Agreeing’.

Our Climate is Changing

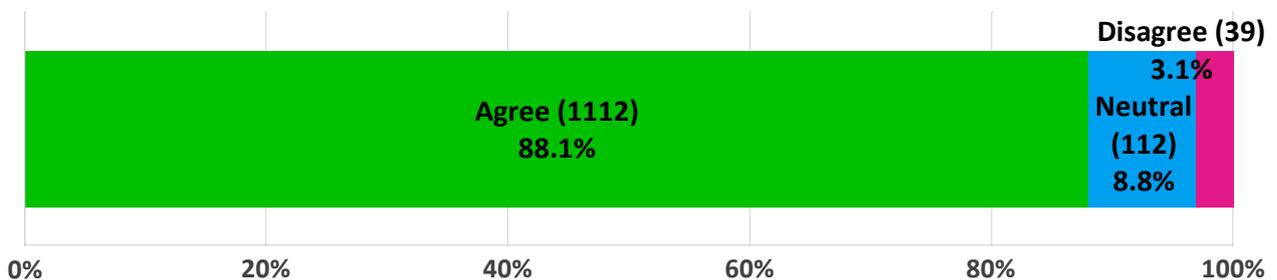
There were 1268 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was ‘Strongly agree’ with 875 responding this way.



	<p>The data shows a significant difference between the response levels between male and female respondents. Female respondents had a greater proportion agreeing at 98.0% ($\pm 1.1\%$) compared to 93.4% ($\pm 2.0\%$) of male respondents.</p>
	<p>Respondents aged 55 to 64 years had the greatest proportion disagreeing with this statement at 4.3% ($\pm 2.8\%$), significantly different than that for 18 to 34 year olds, 45 to 55 year olds and those aged 65 years and over. There were no respondents age 18 to 34 years or 45 to 54 years that disagreed.</p>

The earth is warming due to human activity

There were 1262 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was ‘Strongly agree’ with 780 responding this way.

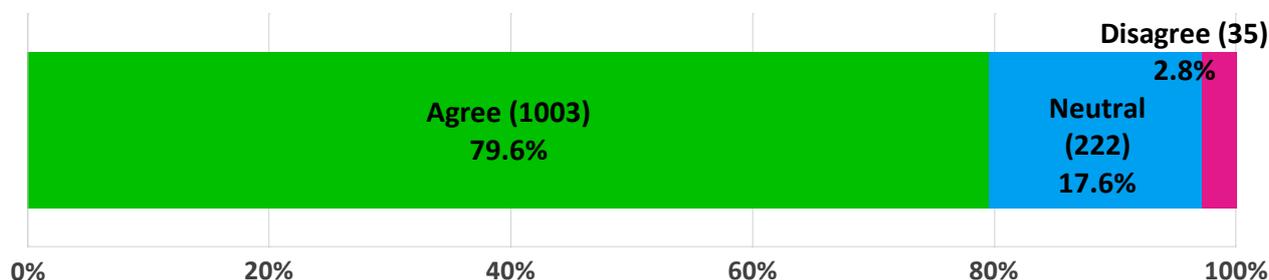


	<p>The data shows a significant difference between the response levels between male and female respondents. Female respondents had a greater proportion agreeing at 92.9% compared to 83.0% of male respondents.</p>
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	<p>Economically active respondents had a greater proportion agreeing with this statement than respondents that are economically inactive, the difference between these two groups answering this way is significant.</p>
	<p>The 18 to 34 years groups had the greatest proportion agreeing at 95.1%, respondents aged 55 to 64 years had the lowest proportions responding this way at 77.6%, the differences between these groups is significant.</p>

I have a good knowledge about the causes and effects of climate change

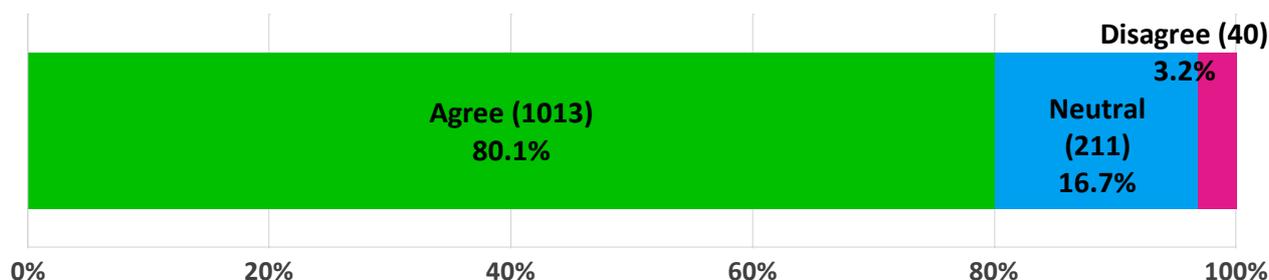
There were 1262 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was ‘Agree’ with 625 responding this way. Just one respondent ‘Strongly disagreed’ with this statement.



	<p>Residents aged 35 to 44 (86.5%) are significantly more likely agree than respondents aged 55 to 64 years (77.4%) and respondents aged 65 years and over (67.8%). Respondents age 65 years and over had the greatest proportion responding neutrally – significantly greater than the other age groups answering this way.</p>
	<p>Economically active respondents had a greater proportion agreeing with this statement at 83.4% than respondents that are economically inactive who had 71.9% agreeing, the difference between these two groups answering this way is significant.</p>

I have a good knowledge about the causes and effects of loss of diversity and/or number of animals and plants on our planet

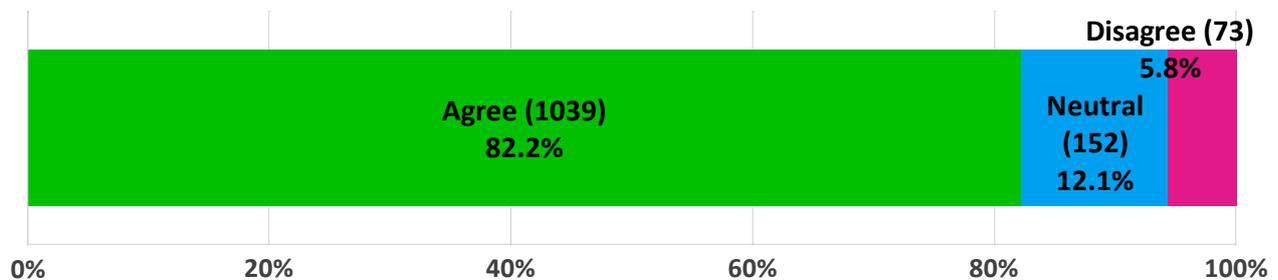
There were 1265 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was ‘Agree’ with 612 responding this way. Two respondents ‘Strongly disagreed’ with this statement.



	<p>The data shows a significant difference between the response levels between male and female respondents. Female respondents had a greater proportion agreeing at 82.3% compared to 77.8% of male respondents.</p>
	<p>Economically active respondents had a greater proportion agreeing with this statement at 82.8% than respondents that are economically inactive who had 75.0% agreeing, the difference between these two groups answering this way is significant.</p>
	<p>Respondents aged 65 years and over had a significantly lower proportion responding positively at 71.7% to this statement.</p>

My actions can help tackle climate change

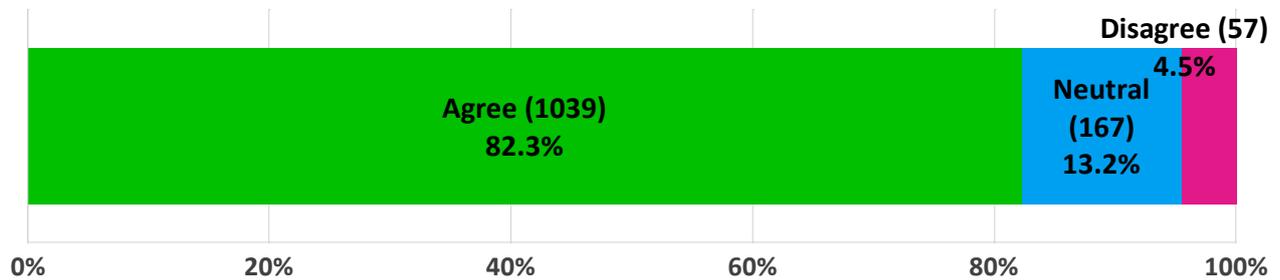
There were 1265 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was ‘Agree’ with 552 responding this way.



	<p>Female respondents had a greater proportion agreeing at 86.8% compared to 77.2% of male respondents. The difference between these two groups is significant.</p>
	<p>Economically active respondents had a greater proportion agreeing with this statement at 84.8% than respondents that are economically inactive who had 76.6% agreeing, the difference between these two groups answering this way is significant.</p>
	<p>Respondents under 44 years had significantly greater proportions responding agree than respondents aged 45 years and over.</p>
	<p>A significantly greater proportion of respondents from BME backgrounds agreed with this statement than respondents from white groups, with 93.1% of BME groups agreeing compared to 81.7% of white groups.</p>
	<p>Respondents without a disability had a greater proportion agreeing at 83.2%, than respondents without a disability where 75.3% agreed – the difference between these groups are significant.</p>

Reducing my impact on the environment is a personal priority

There were 1263 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was 'Agree' with 532 responding this way.



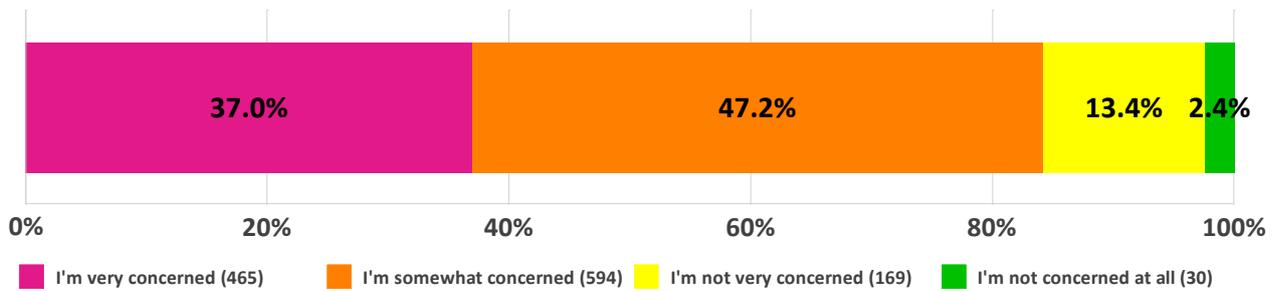
	<p>Female respondents had a greater proportion agreeing at 87.7% compared to 76.6% of male respondents. The difference between these two groups is significant.</p>
	<p>Economically active respondents had a greater proportion agreeing with this statement at 83.8% than respondents that are economically inactive who had 79.2% agreeing, the difference between these two groups answering this way is significant. Economically inactive respondents had a greater proportion responding neutrally at 17.3%.</p>
	<p>Respondents under 44 years had significantly greater proportions responding agree than respondents aged 45 years and over. More than one in five respondents aged 65 years and over neutrally.</p>
	<p>A significantly greater proportion of BME respondents disagreed with this statement compared to respondents from white groups. More than one in five BME respondents disagreed compared to 3.7% of white group respondents.</p>

Climate Change Concerns

Survey respondents were asked to what extent they were concerned about impacts of climate change.

The effects of climate change on me personally

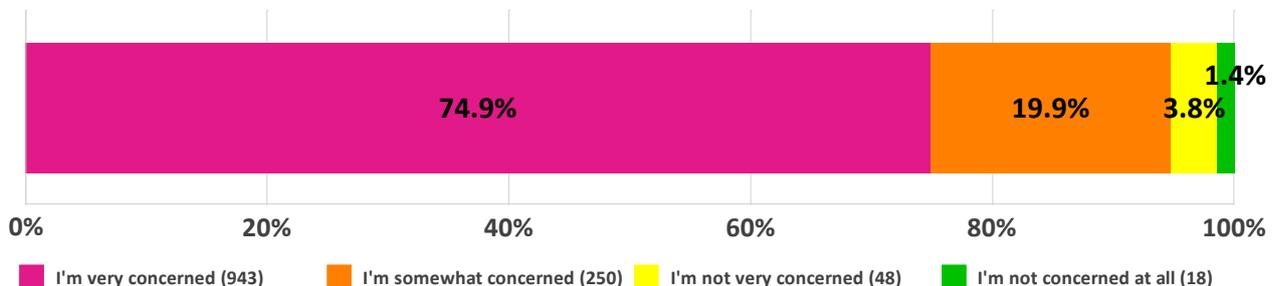
There were 1258 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was 'I'm somewhat concerned' with 594 responding this way.



	<p>Female respondents showed more concern than male respondents with a greater proportion 'Very concerned' at 44.5% compared to 29.0% of male respondents, and lower proportions of 'not very concerned' and 'not concerned at all'. These differences are significant.</p>
	<p>Economically active respondents showed more concern than economically inactive respondents with a greater proportion 'Very concerned' at 42.3% compared to 25.6% of economically inactive respondents, and lower proportions of 'not very concerned'. These differences are significant.</p>
	<p>Respondents 55 years and over were less concerned than younger respondents, with at least one in five respondents in the older age groups answering, 'Not very concerned' or 'Not concerned at all'.</p>

The effects of climate change on future generations

There were 1250 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was 'I'm very concerned' with 943 responding this way.

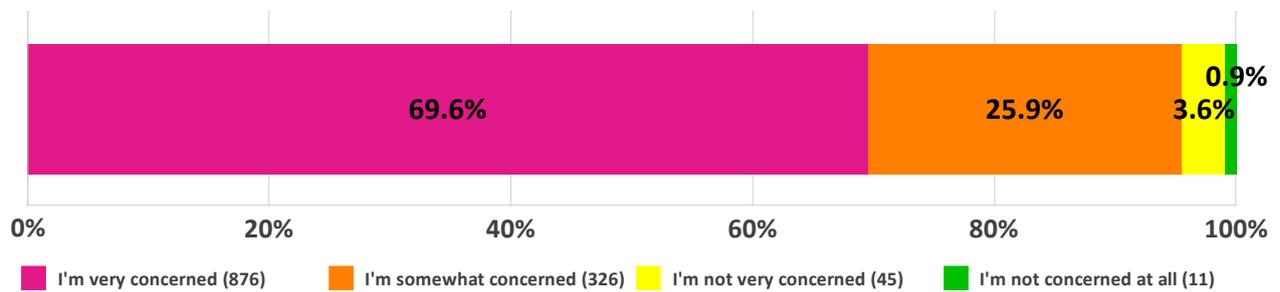


	<p>Female respondents showed more concern than male respondents with a greater proportion 'Very concerned' at 79.5% compared to 70.0% of male respondents. These differences are significant. There were no female respondents who responded, 'Not concerned at all'.</p>
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	<p>Respondents aged 55 to 64 years were less concerned than the other age groups with just over one in ten respondents in this groups answering, 'Not very concerned' or 'Not concerned at all'.</p>
	<p>BME group respondents answered were less concerned compared to respondents from white groups. More than one in ten BME respondents disagreed compared to one in twenty of white group respondents. Through strength of feeling is less overall there were no BME respondents that said they were 'Not concerned at all'.</p>

The diversity and/or number of animals and plants on our planet

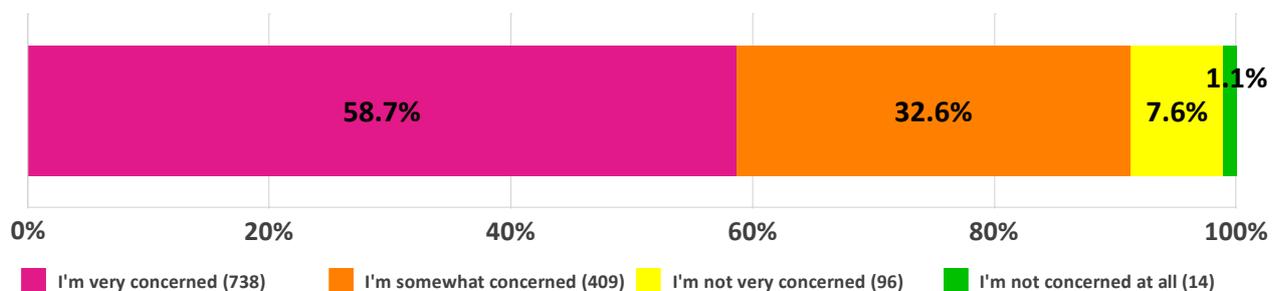
There were 1259 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was 'I'm very concerned' with 846 responding this way.



	<p>Female respondents showed greater strength of feeling than male respondents with a greater proportion 'Very concerned' at 76.6% compared to 62.1% of male respondents. These differences are significant. There were no female respondents who responded, 'Not concerned at all'.</p>
	<p>Respondents aged 18 to 34 years had the greatest proportion showing concern with 98.0% respondents, this is significantly greater than the proportion responding this way for those 55 years and over.</p>

The frequency of extreme weather events in the future

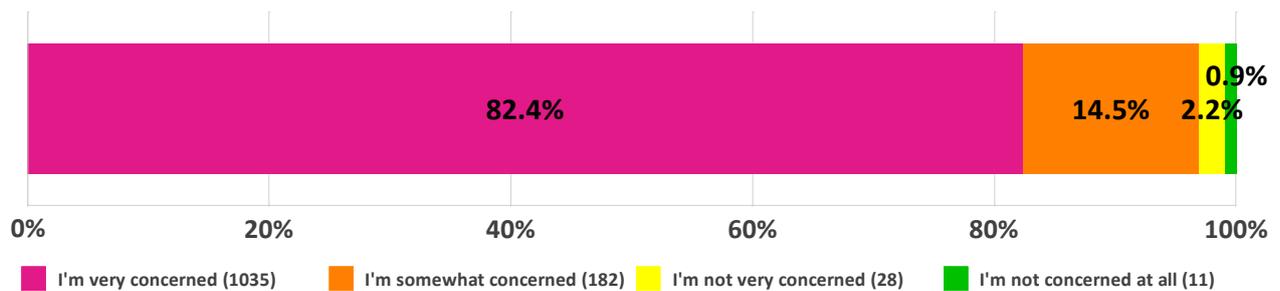
There were 1257 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was 'I'm very concerned' with 738 responding this way. This was the most common response across all demographic groups.



	<p>Female respondents showed more concern than male respondents with a greater proportion 'Very concerned' at 66.0% compared to 51.0% of male respondents. More than one in ten male respondents answered 'Not very concerned' or Not concerned at all, compared to one in twenty female respondents. These differences are significant.</p>
	<p>Though the proportions between these groups showing concern (Very concern & Somewhat concerned') is comparable, significantly greater proportion of Economically active responds said they were very concerned at 61.1% compared economically inactive respondents at 52.5%</p>
	<p>The 55 to 64 years age groups had significantly lower proportion showing concern compared to the other age groups at 85.2%.</p>

The loss of the natural environment

There were 1257 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was 'I'm very concerned' with 1034 responding this way. This was the most common response across all demographic groups.

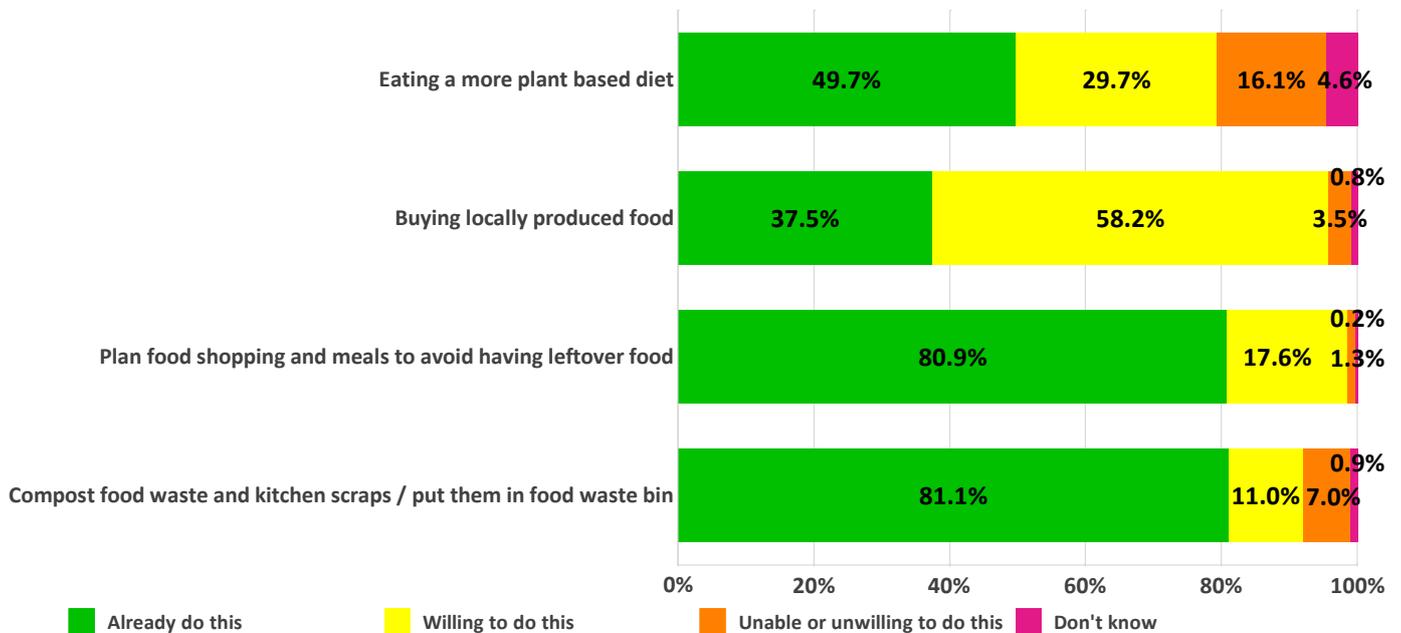


	<p>Female respondents showed a greater strength of concern than male respondents with a greater proportion 'Very concerned' at 88.7% compared to 75.7% of male respondents. These differences are significant.</p>
	<p>There is a significantly different in the proportions responding, 'Not very concerned' and 'Not at all concerned' between respondents aged 55 to 64 years and respondents 65 years and over. The 55 to 64 years group had a greater proportion responding this way.</p>

Adapting Behaviour

Survey respondents were asked which behaviours, from a list provided, they were already doing, were willing to do, are unable to do and don't know. These behaviours have been grouped together in the charts below.

Food based behaviours

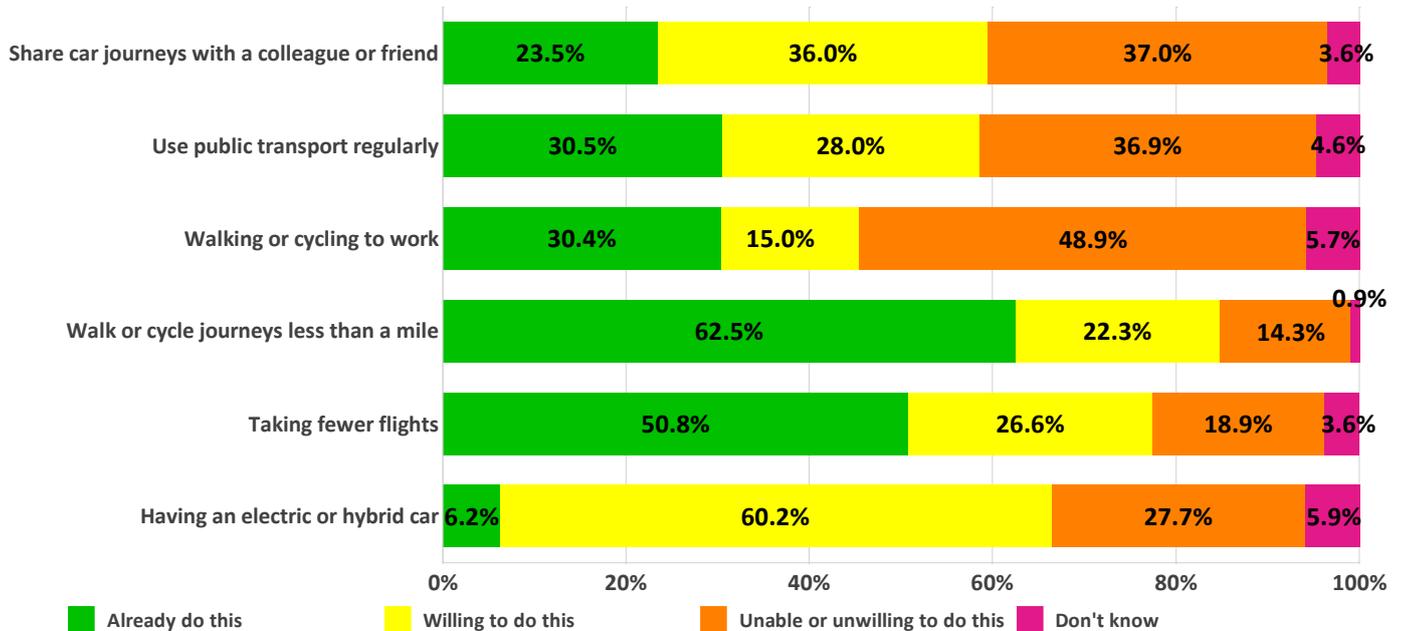


	<p>Just over one in ten female respondents said they would be willing to eat a more plant-based diet compared to just over one in five male respondents.</p>
	<p>A significantly greater proportion of the economically inactive stated they already buy locally produced food, compared to economically active respondents.</p>
	<p>The proportion of those stating they already eat a more plant-based diet decreases as age increases. One in four of those aged 55 to 64 years said they would be unable or unwilling to do this.</p> <p>Respondents over 44 years had significantly greater proportions stating they buy locally produced food than those under 44 years, those under 44 years had greater proportions stated they are willing to do this.</p> <p>One in five respondents aged 18 to 34 years said they are willing to compost or use a food waste bin. This group and the 45 to 54 years group had significantly greater proportions stating they are unable or unwilling to do this compared to the 65 years and over group.</p>
	<p>One in five respondents with disability said they would be willing to eat a more plant-based diet and the same proportion of this group said they would be unwilling or unable to do this.</p>



There was no significant difference in the proportions saying they are unwilling or unable to 'Plan food shopping and meals' across the different demographic groups.

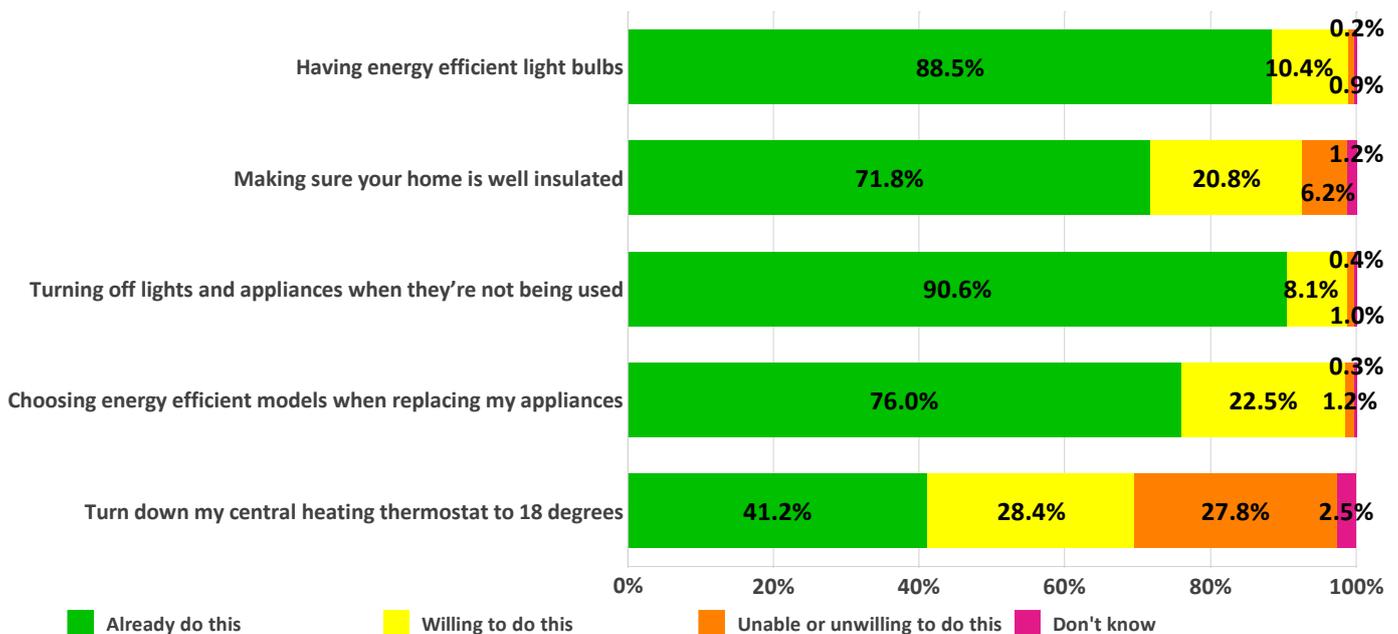
Travel based behaviours



	<p>Male respondents were less willing or unable to share car journey with 40.1% responding this way compared to 34.0% of female respondents. Male respondents had a significantly greater proportion responding that they are willing to use public transport at 31.5% compared to 24.7% of female respondents. A greater proportion of women than men said they already walk or cycle to work. A significantly greater proportion of male responders said they were unwilling or unable to do this at 52.5% compared to 45.4% of female respondents.</p>
	<p>Economically active respondents were less willing or unable to share car journeys with 40.2% responding this way compared to 30.3% of female respondents. Economically active respondents had a greater proportion that are willing to walk or cycle journey less than a mile and have an electric or hybrid car.</p>
	<p>Respondents aged 18 to 34 years and 65 years and over had significantly lower proportions stating they would be willing to use public transport regularly and the other age groups. The proportions responding unwilling or unable to walk or cycle to work increase as age increases. Respondents aged 55 years and over had significantly greater proportions stating they were unwilling or unable to walk or cycle for journeys less than a mile or take fewer flights.</p>
	<p>A significantly greater proportion of respondents from BME groups said they were unable or unwilling to use public transport regularly with 55.2% responding this way compared to 36.3% of respondents from white groups.</p>

	BME groups had greater proportion stating they were willing to walk or cycle for journeys less than mile with 37.5% responding this way compared to 21.5% of white groups (white groups do have a greater proportion stating they already do this but it is not significantly different from the proportion responding the same from BME groups.
	A significantly greater proportion of disabled respondents said they already car share journeys with 31.9% answering this way compared to 22.5% of none disabled respondents. The most common response from disabled respondents was they are unwilling or unable to for the statements relating to walking and cycling. A significantly greater proportion of disabled respondents said they were unwilling or unable to have an electric or hybrid car.
	There were no significant differences across the demographic groups in responding stating they are willing to take fewer flights.

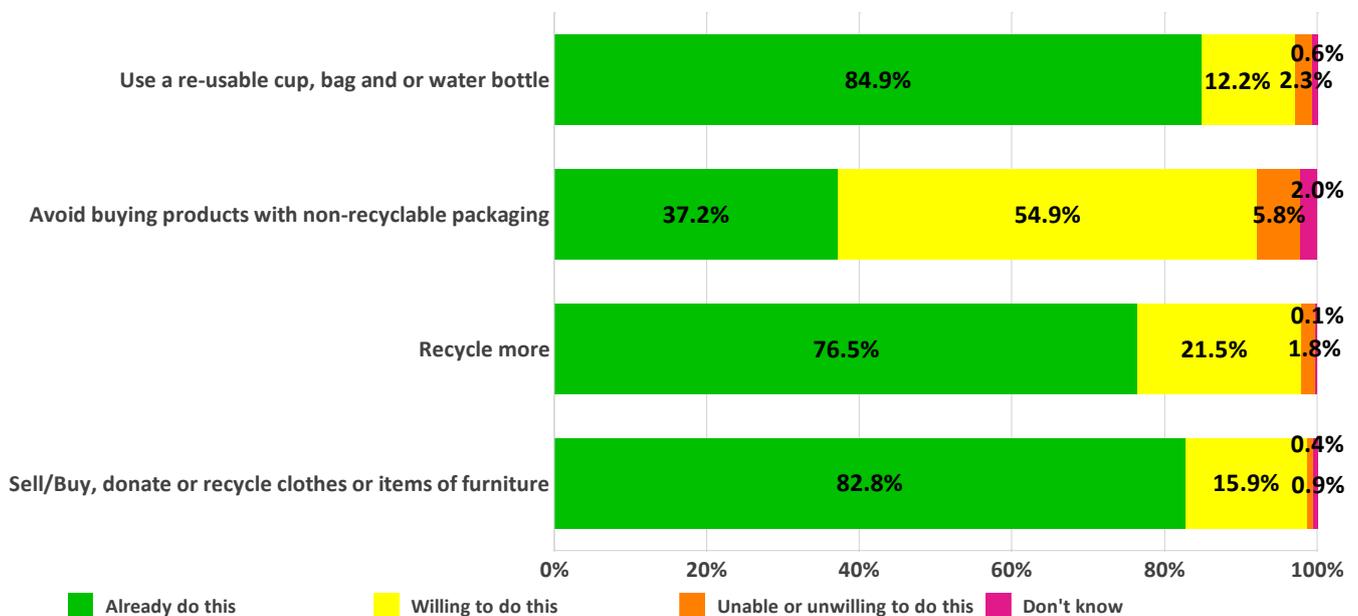
Energy Efficiency behaviours



	Economically active respondents had a significantly lower proportion stating they already make sure their home is well insulated and significantly greater proportion stating they are unwilling or unable to do this. A greater proportion of economically active respondents said they were willing to turn their central heating down, whereas a greater proportion of economically inactive respondents said they were unwilling or unable to this.
	Respondents aged 18 to 34 years over had a significantly lower proportion stating they already used energy efficient lightbulbs and choose energy efficient models when replacing appliances than the other age groups and in turn the greatest proportions stating they would be willing to take these measure.

	More than a third of respondents 65 years and over said they were unwilling or unable to turn down their central heating.
	BME respondents over had a significantly lower proportion stating they already used energy efficient lightbulbs, insulate their homes well and chose energy efficient models when replacing appliances than white groups and in turn a greater proportion stating they would be willing to take these measures. ‘Unwilling or unable to’ was the most common response from BME respondents when asked about turning down central heating.
	A significantly greater proportion respondent with a disability stated they already choose energy efficient models when replacing appliances.
	There were no significantly differences across the demographic groups in response levels to the statement regarding turning off lights and appliances.

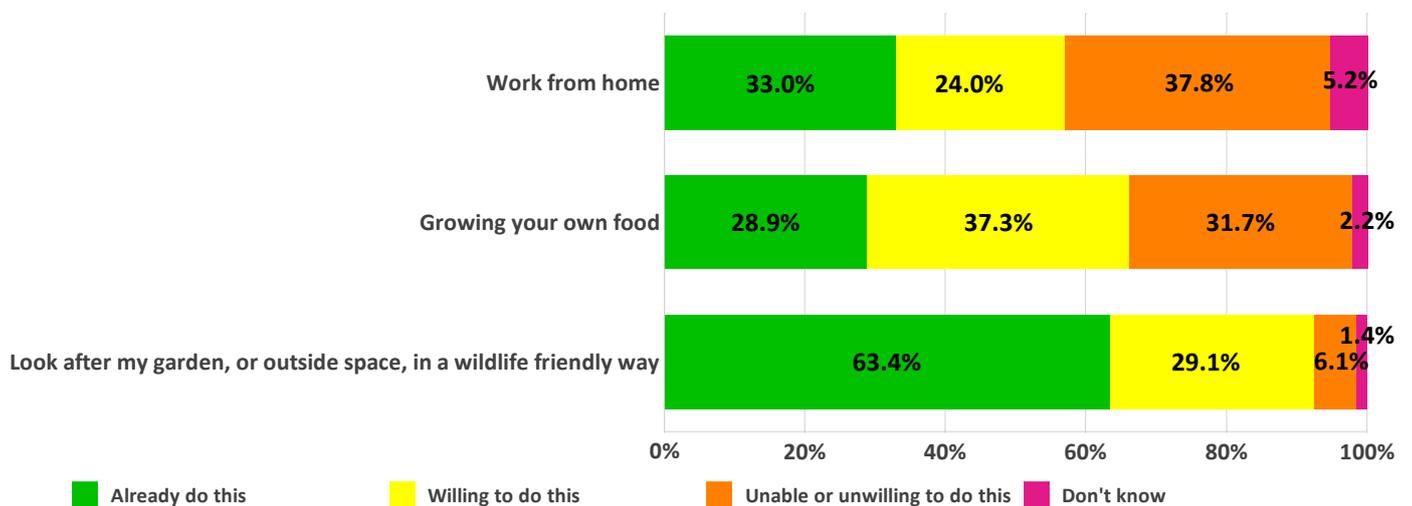
Waste & Recycling based behaviours



	A significantly greater proportion of female respondents said they use a reusable cup, bag or water bottle compared to male respondents with 92.4% answering this way compared to 77.1%. More than one in six male respondents said they would be willing to do this. A significantly greater proportion of male respondents said they were unwilling or unable to avoid buying products with non-recyclable packaging or recycle more. One in five men said they were willing to sell/buy donate or recycle clothes or items of furniture, (men had lower proportions stating they already do this).
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	<p>A significantly greater proportion of economically active respondents said they use a reusable cup, bag or water bottle and avoid buying products with non-recyclable packaging compared to economically inactive respondents with 89.4% More than one in six economically inactive respondents said they would be willing to do this use a reusable cup, bag or water bottle.</p>
	<p>The proportions responding unwilling or unable to use a reusable cup, bag or water bottle increase as age increases and the proportions already doing so decreases with age. Willingness to avoid buying products with unrecyclable package increases with age. 18 to 34 year olds had the lowest proportion stating they already sell/buy, donate or recycle clothes or furniture items and the greatest stating they would be willing to do this at 19.8%.</p>
	<p>A significantly greater proportion of respondents without a disability said they use a reusable cup, bag or water bottle compared to disabled respondents with 85.8% answering this way compared to 77.5%. Almost one in five disabled respondents said they would be willing to do this.</p>

Other home-based behaviours



	<p>A significantly greater proportion of female respondents said they would be willing to grow their own food with 40.5% responding this compared to 33.9% of male respondents. A greater proportion of male respondent said they were unwilling or unable to look after their outside space in a wildlife friendly way.</p>
	<p>A significantly greater proportion of economically inactive respondents said they were unwilling or unable to work from home with 41.9% responding this way compared to 35.6%. Economically active respondents had greater proportions saying they already do this and would be willing to do this than economically inactive respondents. A significantly greater proportion of economically inactive respondents said they were unwilling or unable to grow their own food with 40.9% responding this way compared to 27.1% of economically active respondents. 42.3% of economically active respondents said they were willing to do this.</p>

	<p>Respondents aged 18 to 34 years and those aged 65 years and over had significantly lower proportions responding that they already working from home than the other age groups. More than four in ten of respondents from these groups said they were unwilling do unable to do this.</p> <p>Respondents aged 65 years and over had the lowest proportion stating that they are willing to grow their own food and the greatest proportion responding they are unwilling or unable to, these results are significant different than that for the other age groups.</p> <p>Respondents under 45 years that lower proportions stating they already look after their outside space in an environmentally friendly way, and greater proportion stating they are willing to do this compared to the older age groups.</p>
	<p>A significantly greater proportion of disabled respondents said they were unwilling or unable to work from home or grow their own food.</p>

Suggestions on how individual cans reduce their carbon footprint and protect the variety of animals and plants on planet (Q4)

The most common theme for suggestions was a round transport with 221 respondents making a suggestion related to this theme. Several commenters made general comments about transport infrastructure and a few mentioned a by-pass.

In the theme of transport there were:

80 mentions of public transport with most people asking for this to be improved. There were statements that local buses are expensive and that public transport options should use environmentally friendly vehicles.

54 commenters made mention of congestion or traffic emissions. These commenters spoke of sitting in traffic and the need for traffic lights to be synced. Some of these comments were linked to those on developments stating that more house building causes more congestion.

35 mentions of sustainable transport options (cycling and walking), here people requested cycle paths and providing encouragement to people to use these options.

32 mentions of electric or hybrid vehicles, here people stated there needs to be more charging points, that they are willing to do this but that these types of vehicles are expensive, some mentioned having incentives for buying this type of vehicle and a couple mentioned the issues around the disposal of the batteries these vehicle use being concern.

There were 177 comments relating to development in the borough. Many of these comments said that too many houses and roads are being built. Some mentioned that brownfield sites should be used for development and not greenfield sites. Others commented that new properties should have eco-measures and there were several comments about lawns being tarmacked over and planning restrictions that mean some properties are unable to installed more eco-friendly measures.

There were 155 comments relating to wildlife and green spaces. Here many people said that more trees need to be planted or that trees should not be cut down, some suggested rewilding areas, planting hedgerows instead of fences and planting in gardens and in civic places that encourages or supports

nature. There were several comments around front gardens being used for driveways and no longer being green and the use of pesticides that are harmful to the environment and/or wildlife.

There were 148 comments relating to society in general. Here many suggested limiting the number of children people have or stated that overpopulation is a big cause of climate change. There were also suggestions that large organisations should be playing a bigger role in preventing climate change and that they have more power to initiate change. There were also requests for national campaigns and education, lobbying of central government for environmental policies and raising awareness generally.

There were 136 comments relating to general behaviour changes with many simply stating that individuals need to think more about their choices and actions in relation to climate change such as buying less, only buying things you really need, using the car less for short journeys, not littering and washing clothes at lower temperatures.

There were 85 comments relating to waste and recycling (including littering and fly-tipping), with many stating we need to recycle more and that littering needs to stop with several stating that something needs to be done about littering from vehicles. Several queried where recycled materials go. There were a few suggestions in this section for bigger food waste and composting bins, TerraCycle recycling points, facilities to recycle plastic goods and difficult to dispose of items such as crisp packets and greater enforcement of littering.

There were 70 comments in relation to packaging. Here people expressed annoyance that manufacturers produce items with non-recyclable packaging and requested less plastic packaging with some feeling that it is unnecessary in particular of fruit and vegetables. A couple mentioned milk delivery in reusable glass bottles with some mentioning encouraging shops to have refill stations.

There were 37 comments about food miles or being able to buy local produce. Here many stressed the need to buy food locally using farm shops or markets and eat seasonally with a couple mentioning growing their own fruit and vegetables. There were also 26 comments that made references to diet with many suggesting vegan and plant-based diets. Several mentioned reducing meat consumption and two mentioned palm oil.

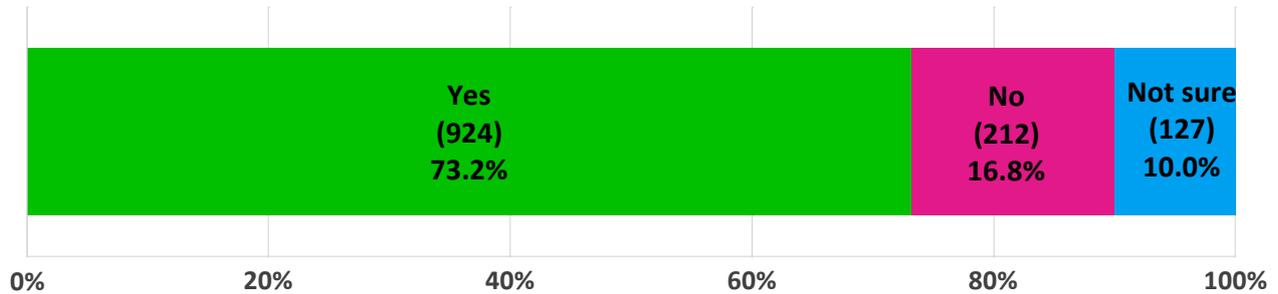
There were 28 comments that referred to some sort of adaptations such as insulation, solar panels and other renewable energy, with some stating there should be more incentives for these. There was a suggestion for villages to have group wind or solar farms run by locals and for a borough wide hot water system.

There were 22 comments relating to eco-products with suggestions that children's toys be made from sustainable wood, using eco-cleaning products and reducing the use of pesticides.

Other comments included, three people who mentioned banning bonfires, several people said the issue of climate change cannot be tackled at a local authority level and a few mentioned general need for more debate of this topic. There were also several comments that mentioned reducing water and the need to dredge the river to prevent flooding and several that mentioned lights in Maidstone House being on at night.

Information about Climate Change

There were 1263 weighted responses to this statement. The most common response was 'Yes' with 924 responding this way. This was the most common response across all demographic groups.



	<p>Male respondents had a significantly lower proportion responding 'Yes' with 70.4% responding this way compared to 75.8% of female respondents.</p>
	<p>Economically active respondents had a significantly greater proportion responding 'No' than economically inactive respondents and economically inactive respondents had a significantly greater proportion responding, 'Not sure'.</p>
	<p>Respondents aged 18 to 34 years had the greatest proportion responding 'yes' at 77.9% and the 65 years and over group had the lowest proportion responding this way at 69.9% - these proportions are significantly different from each other.</p>

What people would like to know more about to help you reduce your carbon footprint and protect the variety of animals and plants on the planet (Q6)

A total of 211 respondents made comments in this section, eight gave responses of don't know or not sure and 28 make comments that they already have enough knowledge, that this is a bigger issue than can be tackled by MBC, that they welcome any further advice or additional suggestions of things they would like done. Some made further suggestions of how the council could tackle climate change though the majority of these are outside of the Council's remit.

There were 75 commenters that said they would like more general information about reducing their carbon footprint with many asking for practical tips and small changes that they can do at home which will have an impact.

There were 28 comments that mentioned waste or recycling. Here people request information about what can and can't be recycled, in particular, people mentioned plastics and general confusion about different types of packaging. In this theme there was also people request information on what happens to recycling such as where it goes, how it is reused and success rates by area.

There were 22 comments where people requested further information on what they can do to look after wildlife and plants. Here they wanted to know what they can do to look after wildlife and what plants to grow to encourage biodiversity.

There were 20 comments where people made request for information in relation to purchasing. They wanted to know where to get local produce and what products have packaging that cannot be recycled where eco-friendly shops such as package free and more information on the carbon impact of different types of packaging e.g. a glass jar versus plastic jar.

In relation to transport there were 15 comments here people asked for information about buying electric cars, access to shared car schemes, plans to improve public and sustainable transport options and information on the carbon footprint of journeys by mode of transport e.g. bus versus train.

There were 13 comments about methods of communicating information about climate change and biodiversity. Many stating this needs to be simple and straight forward information. Several people suggested leaflets and posters there was suggestions of using TV and radio to get messages out and for an app.

There were 10 comments relating to food and diet here people wanted to know the carbon impact of what they are eating and if veganism has a significant impact with several people asking for food labelling.

Eight people made comments about having clarity of information suggesting that the current information about climate change is unclear, conflicting and impacts of changes are unknown.

Seven made comment about Council policy in relation to development in the borough stating that the government should be requested to review the housing targets for Maidstone.

Six people requested information about alternative energy and adaptions for the home. Here people asked what the greenest way was to heat their homes and others mentions access to schemes for solar panels and loft insulation.

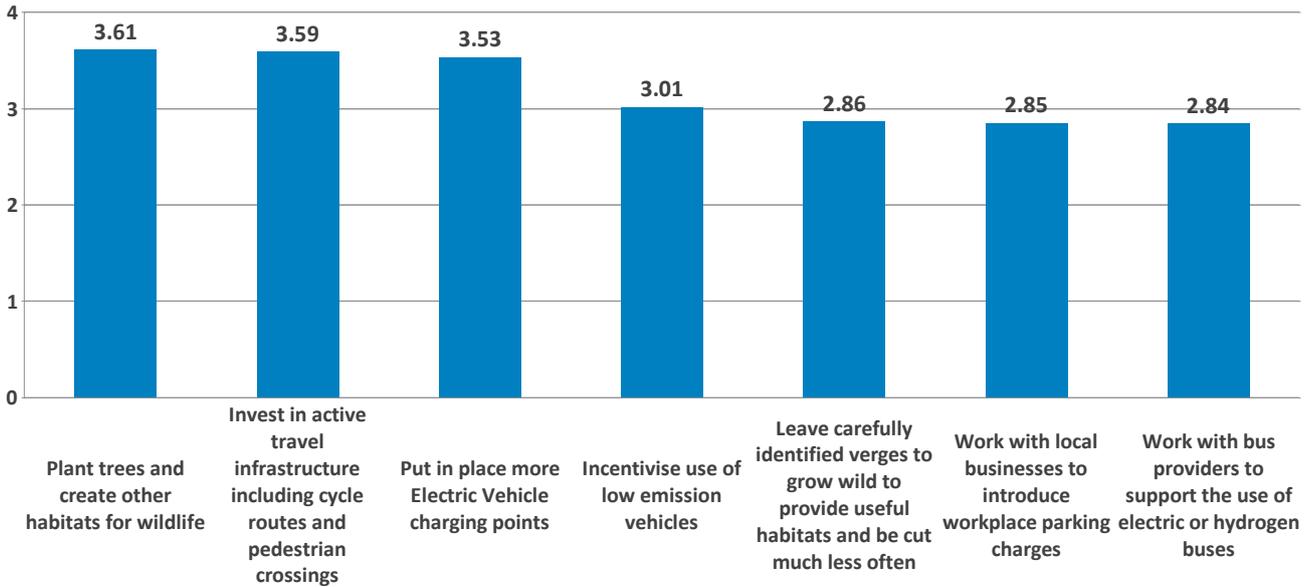
There were eight comments that have been categorised as 'Other', here there were three people who asked for information about how they could get involved in this issue, two requesting information on climate change actions being undertaken by businesses and local authorities, two mentions enforcement and the last commenter request details of the eco-logical and biodiversity surveys relevant to the local area such as the RSPB surveys.

Priority Actions

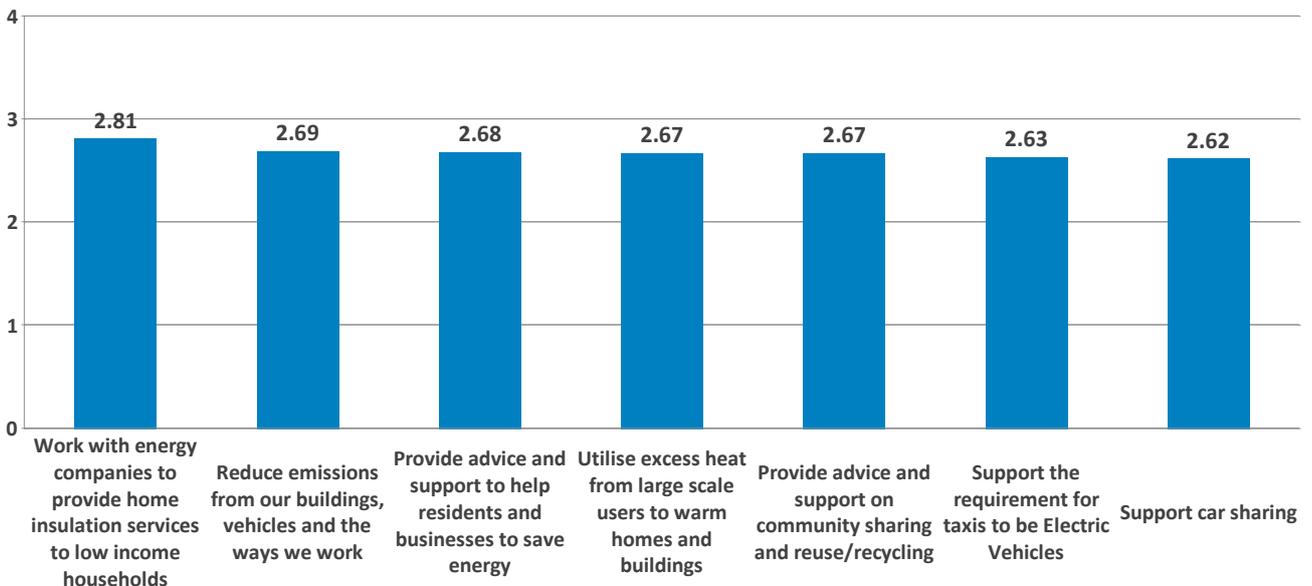
Survey respondents were presented with a list of fourteen actions around climate change and were asked to up to five priorities and place them in order of preference.

For ease of display the top seven and the bottom seven priorities by score are set out on in graphs. However, when analysis refers to 'order' or 'position' these refer to the order of all fourteen priorities.

Top seven scoring priorities



Bottom seven scoring priorities



	<p>Female respondents had the same top three as the overall result. Male respondent placed Electric Vehicle charging points as their number one priority followed by habitats for wildlife and active travel infrastructure. The difference between the average scores for Electric vehicle charging points is significantly between these two groups. Male respondents also had greater scores for supporting taxis to be electric. Female respondents also had a significantly higher score than male respondents for leaving verges to grow wild and providing advice on community sharing and reuse/recycling.</p>
	<p>Economically active respondents had the same top three, in the same order as the overall result. Economically inactive respondents had the same top three but placed Electric Vehicle charging as top and Habitats for wildlife as third. The difference between these two groups scores for Electric charging points is significant. Economically active respondents score for providing advice and support on community sharing and reuse/recycling was significantly greater than that for Economically inactive respondents. Economically inactive respondents scored significantly greater for Electric Taxis.</p>
	<p>The top three priorities for all age groups were the same, though in a different order, as the top three in the overall result. The 18 to 34 years group scored work with local businesses on workplace parking charges as third. This age groups also scored support for Electric Taxis significantly lower than the other age groups and scored providing advice on community sharing and reuse/recycling significantly higher. The 65 years and over group had a significantly greater score for electric vehicle charging points than the other age groups.</p>
	<p>White respondent had the same top three priorities, in the same order, as the overall result. BME groups placed habitats for wildlife as first followed by, advice and support to help residents and businesses save energy as second, the scores for these priorities were significantly greater than from White groups. BME groups placed active travel infrastructure as third. BME groups also had a significantly higher score than white groups for leaving verges to grow wild and significantly lower for electric vehicle charging points.</p>
	<p>Respondents without a disability had the same top three priorities as the overall result with slightly different order (Active travel infrastructure, habitats for wildlife and then electric vehicle charging points). Those with a disability had the same top placed habitats for wildlife first, followed by active travel infrastructure and then working with energy companies to provide insulation services to low income households was third. The scores from respondents with a disability were significantly greater than those without a disability for advice and support to help residents and businesses save energy and working with energy companies to provide insulation services to low income household.</p>

Additional Comments

A total of 735 respondents gave a comment in this section. 45 of these commenters gave comments without information such as 'no further comments' or asked a questions. A couple queried the survey and several suggested that the survey was way to introduce taxes and charges for residents. The majority of comments submitted in this section raised issued that have already been addressed earlier in the survey.

The were 349 comments mentioning development or building in the borough. Here, as before, people were unhappy about house building, some mentioned using brownfield sites and other mentioned that climate change and biodiversity should be more of a consideration such as requirements for green infrastructure and tree lined streets in the planning process.

There was also 117 mentions of things relating to road and transport, here there were suggestions about syncing traffic lights, reviewing the town centre one way system as well as suggestions for a ring road or bypass with commenter stating that HGVs are forced to go through the town centre adding to pollution. There was an additional 37 comments that mentioned vehicle emission most of these were about electric vehicles stating that these should be promoted also a few suggestions of banning heavy polluting vehicles from the town centre. Several people stated that electric vehicles are not the answer due to issues around the recycling and disposal of the batteries they use.

There were 169 comments that mentioned public transport or sustainable transport including walking and cycling. These were people requesting improvements to public transport, in particular buses, with some commenting about the price of public transport in the borough. There were also requests for more cycle lanes and a few suggesting that more could be made of the river for transport.

There were 157 comments mentioned increasing or protecting wildlife and green spaces. Here, as before, people stated trees should not be cut down and there more should be planted, and land managed better for the protection of wildlife. There were suggestions that farmers should plant hedges and more wildlife and nature be integrated with sustainable transport (cycling and walking) to create nature corridors. Comments about crop types and pesticides.

There were 52 comments mentioning waste and litter. Here people requested more recycling facilities in more visible locations such as schools for crisp packets, to find more ways for communities to reduce their waste and increase fines and enforcement for littering and fly-tipping.

There were 26 people that mentioned the need to educate people on climate change or raise awareness of it.

There were 28 comments relating to MBC in general here people were stating that the Council needs to think about its own operations and policies, several of these people mentioned making a commitment like Cornwall Council or a green pledge to be carbon neutral and other stated the council needs to lead by example. Some stated that they don't believe the Council cares about climate change. There were a further nine comments that mentioned putting pressure on central government or lobbying.

There were 22 mentions of emissions generally mentioning off-setting, need for good data and several highlighted issues with idling vehicles.

There were 15 comments mentioning adaptations such as promoting the use of solar panels, green heating and hot water systems and ensuring that properties are insulated. There were also 13 comments mentioning having incentives for changing behaviour such as giving landowners money to create green spaces and incentives for recycle.

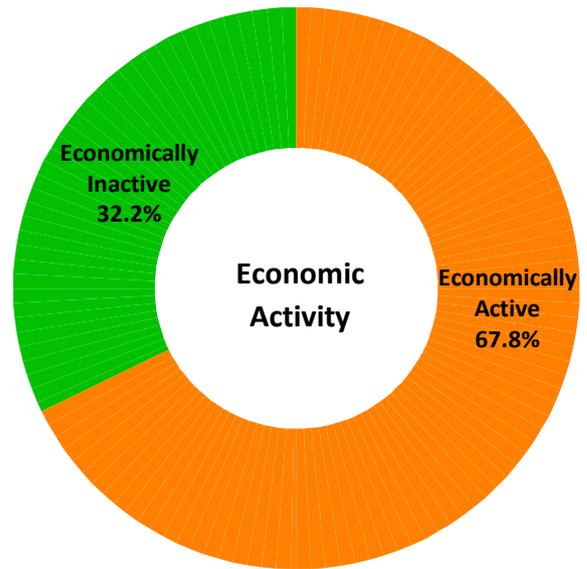
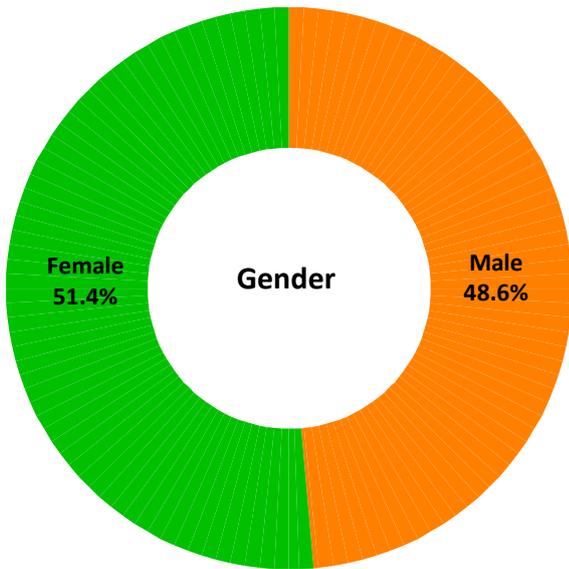
There were 13 people who made comments in relation to lighting stating that shops and businesses should switch off their lights at night (including some comments about MBC office lights) and a few mentioned reducing or turning off street lighting.

There were 14 people who made comments relating to diets, almost all of these related to having a plant based diet with one suggesting that there be a tax on meat or a reduction of tax on fruit and vegetables and a couple mentioning local produce. There was also some mention of allotments in this section.

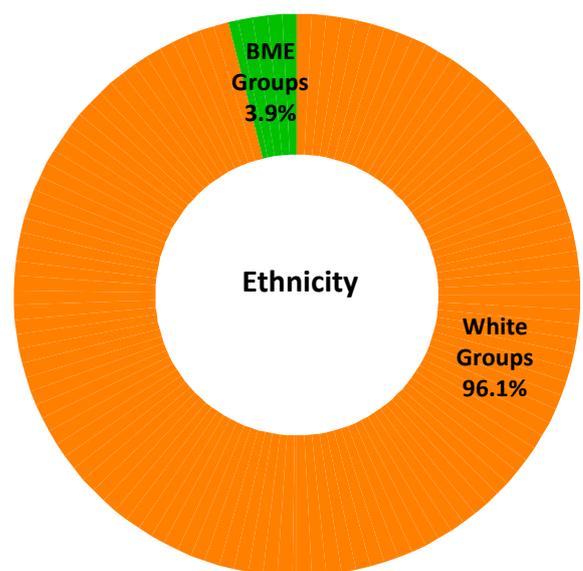
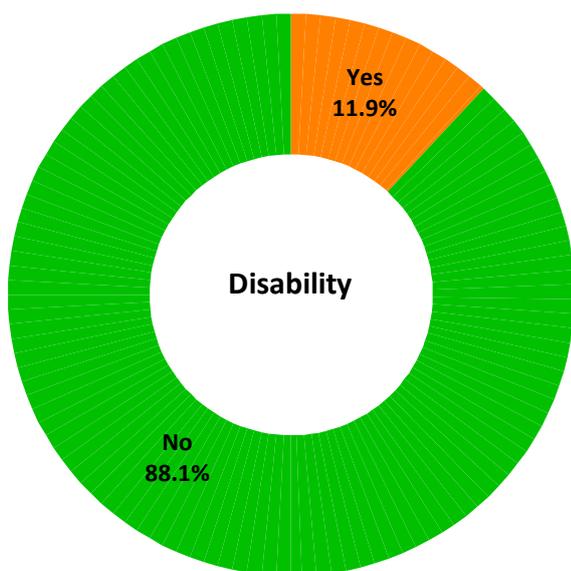
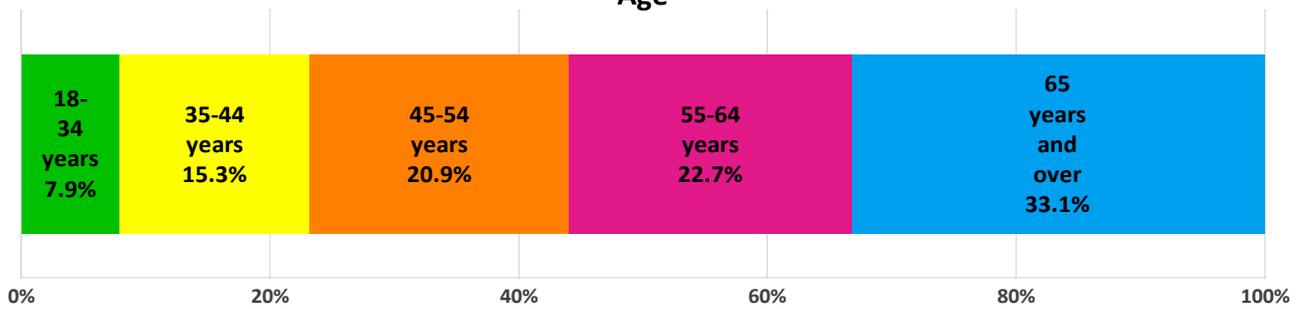
There were 11 people who mentioned the need for sustainable shops such as repair and refill shops.

There were also 18 'other' comments that didn't fit into any other theme. Within these there were a couple of requests around cloth nappy services and promotion and a couple suggesting harnessing waterpower and a couple mentioning dredging the river.

Demographics



Age



Think before you print!

