

Guildhall Gainsborough
Lincolnshire DN21 2NA
Tel: 01427 676676 Fax: 01427 675170

AGENDA

This meeting will be webcast live and the video archive published on our website

**Prosperous Communities Committee
Tuesday, 17th March, 2026 at 6.30 pm
Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA**

Members:

- Councillor Emma Bailey (Chairman)
- Councillor Tom Smith (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor Owen Bierley
- Councillor Frazer Brown
- Councillor Stephen Bunney
- Councillor Christopher Darcel
- Councillor Jacob Flear
- Councillor Sabastian Hague
- Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence
- Councillor Paul Lee
- Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Public Participation

Up to 15 minutes are allowed for public participation. Participants are restricted to 3 minutes each.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

(PAGES 3 - 8)

To confirm and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on Tuesday 27 January 2026.

4. Members' Declarations of Interest

Members may make any declarations at this point but may also make them at any time during the course of the meeting.

5. **Matters Arising Schedule**

There are no outstanding matters arising.

6. **Public Reports**

- i) Leisure, Culture, Events and Tourism Member Working Group, Terms of Reference (PAGES 9 - 15)
- ii) Voluntary & Community Sector Funding 2026/27 (PAGES 16 - 28)
- iii) Sport & Physical Activity Strategy (PAGES 29 - 92)
- iv) Workplan (PAGE 93)

Paul Burkinshaw
Head of Paid Service
The Guildhall
Gainsborough

Monday, 9 March 2026

Prosperous Communities Committee – 27 January 2026
Subject to Call-in. Call-in will expire at 5pm on 27 February 2026

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held in the Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA on 27 January 2026 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Emma Bailey (Chairman)
Councillor Tom Smith (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Owen Bierley
Councillor Frazer Brown
Councillor Stephen Bunney
Councillor Sabastian Hague
Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence
Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings
Councillor Peter Morris
Councillor Moira Westley

Also Present: Councillor Trevor Young

In Attendance:
Sally Grindrod-Smith Director Planning, Regeneration & Communities
Sue Leversedge Financial Services Manager (Deputy Section 151)
Sarah Elvin Homes, Health & Wellbeing Team Manager
Ele Snow Senior Democratic and Civic Officer

Apologies: Councillor Jacob Flear
Councillor Paul Lee

Membership: Councillor M Westley was appointed substitute for
Councillor J Flear
Councillor P Morris was appointed substitute for Councillor
P Lee

33 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

34 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Prosperous Communities Committee held on 2 December 2025 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

35 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

36 MATTERS ARISING SCHEDULE

There were no outstanding matters arising.

37 WEST LINDSEY HOMELESSNESS APPROACH 2026-2028

The Committee heard from the Homes, Health & Wellbeing Team Manager who explained that the paper set out the current approach taken to homelessness in West Lindsey and looked to recommend an approach to delivery over the next two years. The paper gave Members a clear overview of the position in relation to homelessness, the numbers of people who approached West Lindsey as homeless, and the ways in which the team worked with some of the most vulnerable residents to either prevent them from becoming homeless or secure them a new home with any required support needed to sustain a tenancy.

Members heard that the purpose of updating the approach to homelessness was due to the amended way in which homelessness services were going to be funded from April 2026 onwards. Detail was provided on the new funding structure and the proposals on how funding be utilised for the next two years based on the evidenced approach. This approach was consistent with the way in which these services had been delivered to date, with the addition of exploring ways of working with other partners to improve services across the whole system.

The Chairman thanked the officer for her clear presentation, and praised the use of an introduction video which had been previously circulated to Members.

Members of the Committee welcomed the news of the reviewed funding structure, and the stability it would provide leading into the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The proposals to continue seeking ways to work with other organisations and continue improvements to the service were also welcomed.

In response to a series of questions regarding the specifics of housing available to those presenting as homeless, it was confirmed that the provision of the crash bed was for single occupancy only, and was used with the intention of preparing an individual for taking on, and sustaining, a longer term tenancy. The occupancy rate had been lower than anticipated due to the need for repair work to have been carried out. Access to the facility was managed by the team during standard office hours, with out of hours referrals being dealt with by the on-call service and transferred to the team the next working day. Additionally, whilst the use of the crash bed was typically associated with those individuals who may have significant health or social needs, there had been no instances of emergency services being called to attend the location. With regard to the costs involved with the provision, Members heard that full occupancy of the service would equate to £55 per night, and this was comparable with similar provisions across the county.

In response to a question regarding past experiences of working with partner agencies and

use of emergency accommodation which had caused difficulties in the local community, it was explained that the accommodation referred to was no longer used, and the experience had been used to better inform what was, or was not, suitable as emergency accommodation. With regards to working with local NHS Trusts, there had been significant movement with the Trust leading on new approaches having also employed to a designated housing role. It was acknowledged that housing difficulties impacted on inpatient discharges into the community, however there had been renewed focus on working together across all sectors to address delayed discharges caused by housing issues.

Members welcomed this, however it was highlighted that there were wider, national, issues in relation to NHS services being pared back and local authorities having what were perceived as unreasonable expectations placed upon them.

With no further comments or questions, and with thanks once again extended to the team for their work, the paper was duly proposed, seconded, and voted upon. It was

RESOLVED that

- a) the positive work of the Homelessness Services as detailed in the report be acknowledged; and
- b) the homelessness approach as set out within the report detailed at section 15 be approved and recommended for inclusion within the Medium-Term Financial Plan; and
- c) officers continue to work with Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust to develop proposals for new ways of working.

38 PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE DRAFT BUDGET 2026/2027 AND ESTIMATES TO 2030/2031

The Committee gave consideration to the Prosperous Communities Committee Draft Budget 2026/2027 and estimates to 2030/2031, presented by the Financial Services Manager (Deputy S151). It was explained that the report outlined the draft budget for 2026/27 for services within the committee and provided estimates for the following four years. These were service controllable budgets only, and did not include central support recharges and capital charges, which made it easier to compare year on year budgets for services. Members were advised that where pressures had been identified, budget holders had sought to identify savings or options to increase income to offset the pressure in the first instance.

Details of significant movements from the 2025/26 base budget to those proposed for 2026/27 were included within the report at Appendix 3, with it summarised that the net base budget for services within the committee had increased by £1.221m. The main reasons for the increase were that the approved use of reserves built into the base budgets had reduced by £139,000, this related to the funding of fixed term posts in 2025/26; an increase in the establishment of 19 posts for the delivery of the food waste service from April had increased staffing costs by £763,000; also in relation to employee costs, a pay award of 3% had been

assumed for 2026/27, with 2.5% applied each year after. This increased the salary costs for the committee by £227,000.

It was also explained that the actuarial review of the pension fund was completed in October and set the employer contribution amounts payable for the three year period from 2026/27. The results had been favourable in budgetary terms, which reflected the national position in terms of the local government pension scheme. For the committee this had resulted in a reduction in salary costs of £289,000. Additionally, the fees and charges review reported to the committee in October increased income by £167,000.

In other movements, Members heard that the items listed for Homelessness Grant and expenditure included the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping grant referred to in the previous item in the meeting. It was explained that the grant was previously issued as a stand-alone grant and was budgeted for within the service, however, the grant was now part of the finance settlement from 2026/27, and under accounting rules it was necessary to account for it within the funding section of the budgets rather than in service. There was no impact on the bottom line for the council, the movement simply showed it being removed from service to then be included in the MTFP funding section as a new line.

The Committee was advised that the small budget variations included £39,200 of increases across a number of contracts which had been extended or reviewed, and which were individually below £10,000. There were also inflationary increases applied across all services which totalled £51,600 against utilities, ongoing contracts, subscriptions, and memberships where inflationary increases were included within the agreement.

In conclusion, Members heard that the Council had received the provisional three year finance settlement, with the multi-year settlement providing reassurance around funding levels up to 2028/29. Whilst the final settlement was due in February, Officers were able to report that the proposed budgets for the committee contributed towards a balanced budget for 2026/27. Members are asked to recommend the budget to Corporate Policy & Resources Committee for inclusion in the medium term financial plan.

In response to a question from a Committee Member, it was explained that the assumption of inflationary increases was based on contracted and provider assumptions, with those figures being used.

Members thanked the Officer for her clear presentation, and, having been proposed seconded, and voted upon, it was

RESOLVED that the Prosperous Communities Budget 2026/2027 and revenue estimates to 2030/2031 be **RECOMMENDED** to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for the purpose of budget setting 2026/2027 and for inclusion in the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2026/2027 to 2030/2031 (as amended by any decisions taken on this agenda).

39 PRIDE IN PLACE

The Committee heard from the Director of Planning, Regeneration & Communities who explained that the Pride in Place Prospectus had been published in full on 3 December

2025, and included links to the governance requirements and funding information for the Pride in Place initiative. She noted that as the accountable body for the Gainsborough West Pride in Place programme, the council was required to establish the Neighbourhood Board and appoint a chairperson, doing so in consultation with the local MP.

Members were asked to consider the proposal for appointing a chairperson, based on a published job description, as well as to review the draft terms of reference for the Neighbourhood Board. Details were also provided to explain the process through which the council would support the chairperson to appoint members of the Neighbourhood Board.

The Committee heard details of the funding allocation, which included an initial capacity payment of £150,000 to be received by the council in early 2026, noting that the initial capacity funding was to be used to establish the programme at pace, and a further paper would be presented to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee in February 2026, to consider in more detail.

In response to a question regarding ensuring appropriate appointments were made and there were no conflicts of interest for those involved, it was explained that, in addition to the details contained within the Terms of Reference, training would be on offer for example in relation to Standards. Additionally, as the accountable body, Statutory Officers within West Lindsey District Council would be making reports to the government, ensuring increased oversight of appointments.

Members questioned the potential impact of the impending local government reorganisation and how that would be mitigated. It was explained that the Neighbourhood Board, and the Pride in Place programme, was to cover a 10 year period, regardless of the local government structures in place. It was anticipated that the Board and programme would aid the transition for the local community.

In recognition of the initial capacity funding due to be received, a Member of the Committee enquired as to whether allocated funds would be focused solely on administration costs. Members were advised of the use of both capital and revenue funding, with the requirement to spend capital funding on capital costs, meaning that it had to be invested in community assets, and would not be spent on administrative costs.

In recognising the focus of the Committee being the governance arrangements, and having been moved and seconded, the Chairman took the vote and it was

RESOLVED that

- a) the Guiding Principles and Programme Objectives set out in paragraphs 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 of the report, be noted; and
- b) the requirements of the Neighbourhood Board Chairperson, including the job description, be noted, and the appointment of the Chair, following a recruitment exercise, be delegated to the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities, in consultation with the Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee, the Leader of the Council, and the local MP; and

- c) the draft initial Terms of Reference (appendix 3) for the Neighbourhood Board be approved; and
- d) the requirement for the Chair of the Neighbourhood Board to recruit board members be noted, and authority to support the appointment of members to the Neighbourhood Board be delegated to the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee and the local MP.

40 WORKPLAN

With no comments or questions, the work plan was **DULY NOTED**.

The meeting concluded at 7.21 pm.

Chairman



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Tuesday, 17 March 2026

**Subject: Leisure, Culture, Events and Tourism Member Working Group,
Terms of Reference**

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Cara Markham
Commercial, Cultural and Leisure Development
Manager

cara.markham@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

Review and update Terms of Reference for the
Leisure, Culture, Events and Tourism Member
Working Group

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That the reviewed Terms of Reference for the Working Group, as shown at appendix 1, be approved.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report **MUST** be seen by the MO

Financial :None

(N.B.) All committee reports **MUST** have a Fin Ref

Staffing : None

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report **MUST** have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None

Data Protection Implications : None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None

Health Implications: None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.

Risk Assessment :

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1. Main Report

1.1 The current administration have advised they would like to update the terms of reference in line with the new membership of the working group. Appendix 1.

1.2 Minor changes in the Terms of Reference include : -

- 3 Members are required for the meeting to be quorum
- Meetings will be held every eight weeks, or more frequently if there is a business demand.
- Meetings will be online, unless the Chair has specified otherwise.
- Meetings will be called with at least 14 days' notice, with a six-month rolling forward plan.
- Agendas will be set for each meeting and notes from each meeting will be retained, saved, and recorded on Modern.Gov, the administration of which will be provided by the Democratic Services Team.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The updated Terms of Reference as show at Appendix 1 are approved.

LEISURE, CULTURE, EVENTS AND TOURISM MEMBER WORKING GROUP

Terms of Reference to be Approved by Prosperous Communities Committee

1. Background

The Leisure, Culture, Events and Tourism (LCET) Member working group actively supports Officers to champion the work in the LCET portfolio.

The group makes links to the communities, building engagement and participation across the District, to maximise the impact of existing work and create new opportunities.

The group consults and offers feedback on the relevant strategies, with guidance and support to achieve delivery.

- Cultural Strategy
- Visitor Economy Strategy
- Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Corporate Plan

These strategies have the potential to deliver and contribute to West Lindsey District Council's strategic aims and wider social outcomes; in particular, health and wellbeing, learning, skills, economic resilience, positive behaviour, and community cohesion.

2. Purpose of the Working Group

The LCET Working Group has the following objectives:

- To work together to actively promote strengths and to maximise opportunities to all residents across the district.
- To ensure the work undertaken across leisure, culture, events, and tourism is coordinated and aligned with corporate priorities.
- To lobby, influence and challenge the wider organisation to highlight the importance of the work of the group.
- To market the district as a location to live, work, visit and stay.
- To champion activities in relation to leisure, culture, heritage, events, and tourism.
- Actively enable and promote outreach to rural communities.

3. Membership of the Group, Chairmanship and Appointments

3.1 The LCET Group shall comprise of 6 Members including any relevant Member Champions.

3.2 The remaining Members of the Group shall be appointed by Prosperous Communities Committee but do not need to serve on that committee.

3.3 Membership will comprise of cross party and cross district representation.

- 3.4 The Working Group shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman at its first meeting.
- 3.5 For continuity purposes the Membership will be re-constituted annually through Annual Council.
- 3.6 The Group will be disbanded following submission of closure report to its parent committee / Full Council
- 3.7 Other elected Members may attend the LCET Working Group, but their level of contribution will be at the discretion of the Chairman.
- 3.8 Stakeholders and Officers may be invited to attend at the discretion of the Chairman for specific items, presentations and discussions on the agenda.

4. Frequency of Meetings and Quorum

- 4.1 The quorum for a meeting shall be 3 Members.
- 4.2 The LCET Working Group shall meet at intervals of approximately eight weeks, or more frequently if required by business demand. Meetings will ordinarily be conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams, unless the Chairman specifies an alternative arrangement.
- 4.3 Meetings will be called with at least 14 days' notice, with a six-month rolling forward plan.
- 4.4 Where an Elected Member fails to attend 2 consecutive meetings of the Working Group without having given due reason for their absence or apologies, the Chairman of the Working Group will have the ability to write to the parent Committee to express concerns regarding an individual's behaviour.

Such concerns will be considered at the Parent Committee Chairs Briefing, and it will be in the Chairman's Gift to determine whether a request is made to the parent Committee to revise the membership accordingly".

Where non-attendance relates to the Chairman of a Working Group, the Working Group, as a whole, will have the same rights as set out above.

Regular in-quoracy will be reported to the relevant Parent Committee Chairman's briefing.

5. Reporting Lines, Accountability and Milestones

- 5.1 The LCET Working Group is directly responsible to the Prosperous Communities Committee.

5.2 The LCET Working Group has no direct decision-making powers and will make recommendations to the Prosperous Communities Committee.

5.3 The LCET Working Group will report to the Prosperous Communities Committee as requested by the Chair of Prosperous Communities.

6. Resources

6.1 The LCET Working Group does not have a supporting budget.

6.2 If budgets are required, they will be identified on recommendations made to the relevant Policy Committee.

6.3 Officers from the following Teams will support the LCET Working Group and provide advice, information, guidance, and logistical support: -

- Commercial Services
- Economic Growth Team
- Communities Team

6.4 Agendas will be set for each meeting and notes from each meeting will be retained, saved, and recorded on Modern.Gov, the administration of which will be provided by the Democratic Services Team.

7. Review

7.1 Following approval these Terms of Reference will be reviewed as minimum every two years if the LCET Working Group is still operating.

Date/ Meeting – Document Approved - xxxx

Agenda Item 6b



Prosperous Communities

Tuesday, 17 March 2026

Subject: Voluntary & Community Sector Funding

Report by:	Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities
Contact Officer:	Grant White Communities Manager grant.white@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To present recommendations and approve future voluntary & community sector core funding awards.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That Committee approve Voluntary & Community Sector funding for 2026/27 as follows:
 - Call Connect - £30,000
 - Citizens Advice Lincoln & Lindsey - £60,200
 - Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association - £15,000
 - Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride - £13,000
 - Live & Local - £3,500
 - The Conservation Volunteers - £30,000
 - Voluntary Centre Services - £25,000
 - West Lindsey Churches Festival - £8,000
2. That Committee approve to undertake a review of Voluntary & Community Sector funding as set out in Section 5 of this report and present a report to the Prosperous Communities Committee by December 2026.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Grant funding agreements used meet legal requirements and have been approved for use by Legal Services. All grants awarded will comply with necessary legal regulations and same requirements will be placed on projects and organisations funded.

Financial: FIN/164/26/PC/AP

There is ongoing base budget within the MTFP of £184,700 pa in relation to the current commitment for Voluntary & Community Sector funding grants, which matches the proposed grant awards for 2026/27.

Staffing :

The management of VCS Grants will be delivered using existing staff resources within the Council's Communities Service.

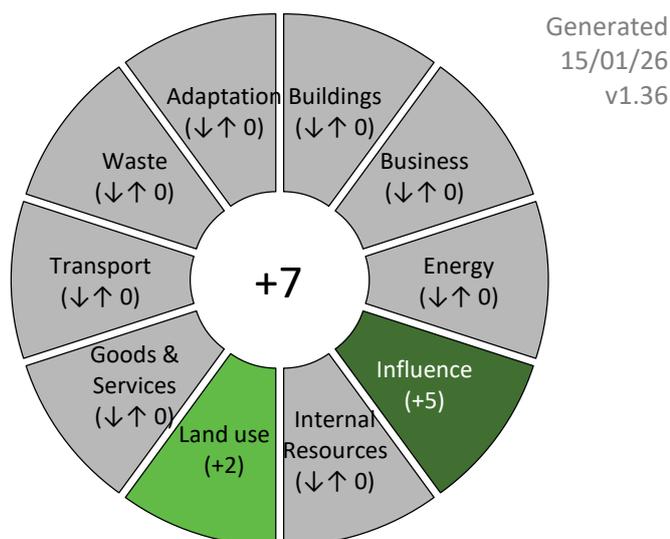
Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

Grant funding activity will be delivered in accordance with Council's equality and diversity policies. Organisations receiving funding will be required to meet the same standards and protections are included within grant funding agreements.

Data Protection Implications :

Grant funding activity will comply with all necessary data protection requirements. Data collected for grant awards will be stored securely including financial information for grant payments.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :



West Lindsey District Council will be net zero by 2050 (23)

The delivery of VCS Grants will utilise a digital first approach with use of electronic forms, documents and e-mail to avoid the need for printing.

The organisations receiving VCS Grants may have a direct impact on carbon reduction and environment through the work they deliver. As part of grant monitoring and evaluation any impacts on environment will be captured.

The work delivered by The Conservation Volunteers will have a direct impact on environmental protection with council owned green spaces being maintained and enhanced.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

There are no considerations for this report however some organisations funded may have a direct or in-direct impact on helping to reduce the risk of crime and disorder. Where possible this will be captured in any monitoring and evaluation reporting.

Health Implications:

VCS Grants support targeted services across West Lindsey which all have a direct impact on health and wellbeing of service users. The impacts can be wide ranging, and some cases are in-direct benefits as a result of a service being delivered.

Monitoring and evaluation help capture details of the impact on health and wellbeing. This is also presented in the form of case studies to help demonstrate the impact on individuals by organisations we grant fund.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None

Risk Assessment :

None

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council provides a range of core Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) grants to support the delivery of projects and services for the benefit of our communities and residents. The delivery of these services contributes towards the Council's Corporate Plan priorities and various other strategies.
- 1.2 Current VCS funding agreements end on 31st March 2026. The current core funding awards were approved by Prosperous Communities Committee on 3rd December 2024 for a 1-year period beginning 1st April 2025.
- 1.3 At the Prosperous Communities Committee meeting on 3rd December 2024, a second recommendation approved was to continue VCS Funding Review work already completed with further engagement and site visits for Councillors during 2025. Review work is still required, and this report proposes conducting further engagement and review work during 2026 taking into consideration key developments such as Local Government Reorganisation.
- 1.4 This report provides a summary of organisations currently receiving core VCS funding and makes recommendations for continued funding in the 2026/27 financial year along with additional funding review work involving Councillors during 2026.

2 Monitoring

- 2.1 Officers conduct monitoring of core VCS grants to ensure projects and services being delivered contribute to Corporate Plan priorities, address identified community needs and achieve value for money.
- 2.2 Monitoring includes meeting with organisation leaders, data collection and case studies.
- 2.3 Monitoring information will continue to be collected into the 2026/27 financial year for services delivered during the current financial year. This information will be used to support funding review work carried out during 2026.

3 Core VCS Grants

- 3.1 The Council provides core funding for identified organisations that are critical to achieving our corporate plan priorities. The historic arrangements for these grants are based on identified need and shared objectives.

3.2 The following core VCS grants have been provided during 2025/26:

Organisation	2025/26 Funding
Call Connect (LCC)	£30,000
Citizens Advice (Lindsey & Lincoln)	£60,200
Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association (GAPA)	£15,000
Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride	£13,000
Live and Local	£3,500
The Conservation Volunteers	£30,000
Voluntary Centre Services	£25,000
West Lindsey Churches Festival	£8,000
TOTAL:	£184,700

The total core funding value for all grants listed above is £184,700.

3.3 Monitoring information from organisations supported is being collected by officers to cover the 2025/26 period. This information will be available in April 2026 and can be used to support future review work.

3.4 The following is a summary of what each organisation delivers:

Call Connect (LCC)

Provision of Call Connect demand responsive bus services to all eligible areas within West Lindsey. WLDC funding is specifically utilised to provide a second Call Connect vehicle operating in the Gainsborough rural catchment area.

Citizens Advice Lincoln & Lindsey

To support the following areas of work and delivery:

- Advice and support to residents in West Lindsey wishing to access advice and support commensurate with services offered through the Citizens Advice.
- The provision of face-to-face services through existing premises.
- The provision of telephone services accessible to West Lindsey residents.
- To work in partnership with the Council to support joint projects and delivery.

Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association (GAPA)

To support the following areas of work and delivery:

- A safe environment for children of school age to undertake adventurous play.
- A structured play environment to assist child development, learning and experiences.
- Positive parenting experiences through family activities/events.
- Opportunities for children to make a positive contribution to their community.
- Pre-foundation stage learning and outreach activities.

Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride

To support the provision of Dial-a-Ride services to eligible residents in West Lindsey. Service users include the elderly and those with a physical or mental disability that prevents them from using public transport. The dial-a-ride service covers a 10-mile radius from Lincoln city centre which covers large village areas in West Lindsey such as Saxilby, Welton, Dunholme, Cherry Willingham and Scampton.

Live and Local

Deliver Live & Local rural touring programme delivering arts, culture, and theatre events in village halls across West Lindsey. During a programme year around 14 unique events are delivered with attendance averaging over 1,000. Events are delivered at locations across the district to maximise rural accessibility such as Welton, Caistor, Glentworth, Tealby and Nettleham.

The Conservation Volunteers

To support the following areas of work and delivery:

- Maintain Council owned woodlands and green spaces with volunteer led activity. Sites and work schedules to be agreed and maintained in the on-going delivery plan.
- Provide conservation volunteering opportunities for all sector of society with a particular focus on:
 - People with health issues
 - The educationally disadvantaged
 - The unemployed
 - The isolated, vulnerable and/or disabled
- Promote local conservation and volunteering through relevant publicity, marketing activity and social media.
- Support the Council on other environmental projects as appropriate.

Voluntary Centre Services

To support the following areas of work and delivery:

- Volunteer Centre management and development including:
 - Provide a drop-in for general advice and support on volunteering
 - Provide a quality-accredited volunteer brokerage scheme
 - Market and publicise volunteering opportunities using national and local networks
 - Develop new volunteering opportunities
 - Provide training and information on volunteer management
- Provide support to the local voluntary and community sector (VCS) including:

- Provide support to the local voluntary and community sector on key topics such as funding advice, training, governance support, group development and networking
- Organise events and activities for and with the VCS to ensure best use is made of available resources
- Maintain an influencing role with key-decision-makers at all levels to address issues around voluntary sector resilience and volunteering.

West Lindsey Churches Festival

To support the following areas of work and delivery:

- To increase awareness of Church and Heritage Tourism in West Lindsey.
- To encourage additional out of county visitors.
- To promote wider usage of all local tourism facilities during the festival dates and encourage repeat visitors to the area.
- To engage more people from the local community to enter and celebrate the history and significance of churches.
- To promote the festival as an example of good practice regionally and nationally.

4 VCS Funding 2026/27

4.1 Organisations funded in 2025/26 continue to deliver projects and services that contribute towards the Council's corporate plan priorities. Whilst the corporate plan is being reviewed, it is anticipated that all funded services would continue to contribute towards one or more priorities in an updated corporate plan.

4.2 A budget of £184,700 is agreed within the MTFP for 2026/27. This report recommends the following core VCS grants are approved for 2026/27:

- Call Connect - £30,000
- Citizens Advice Lincoln & Lindsey - £60,200
- Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association - £15,000
- Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride - £13,000
- Live & Local - £3,500
- The Conservation Volunteers - £30,000
- Voluntary Centre Services - £25,000
- West Lindsey Churches Festival - £8,000

4.3 Any reduction of core funding to any of our existing grantees may impact on service delivery and beneficiaries in West Lindsey. This ranges from a possible cessation of activities in the district to a reduction in activities which may impact some residents. A summary of possible impacts is included in **Appendix 1**.

Appendix 1 - Impact of reduced or cessation of funding.

5 VCS Funding Review 2026

- 5.1 During 2026, officers will conduct a VCS Funding Review with engagement and input from Councillors. The review will be conducted following the adoption of an updated corporate plan to align fully to council priorities.
- 5.2 The review will be undertaken by the Community Grants Panel (a member working group) with support from officers within the Communities team.
- 5.3 Additional engagement sessions, meetings and site visits (where appropriate) will be used to support the review work. These will be open for Councillors on the Prosperous Communities Committee to attend.
- 5.4 Key elements of the review will include:
 - Refine and approve a final VCS Core Funding definition, purpose and principles to inform future funding decisions.
 - A draft of this has been produced following engagement with the Community Grants Panel members and is included as **Appendix 2**.

Appendix 2 - Draft VCS Core Funding Definition, Purpose and Principles.

- Engagement with current core funded organisations to identify and better understand longer term impacts on their services.
- Site visits and/or project meetings for members of the Community Grants Panel and Prosperous Communities Committee to meet with core funded organisations.
- Assess the impact of core VCS funding in the context of Local Government Reorganisation.
- Explore additional engagement opportunities with other organisations not currently core funded.
- Identify other sources of advice and support that may be required for organisations that are not core funded by the council in future years.
- Present a report with future core funding recommendation to the Prosperous Communities Committee by December 2026.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Committee approve Voluntary & Community Sector funding grants for 2026/27 as follows:

- Call Connect - £30,000
- Citizens Advice Lincoln & Lindsey - £60,200
- Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association - £15,000
- Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride - £13,000
- Live & Local - £3,500
- The Conservation Volunteers - £30,000
- Voluntary Centre Services - £25,000
- West Lindsey Churches Festival - £8,000

6.2 That Committee approve to continue the work of the VCS Funding Review as set out in Section 5 of this report and present a report to the Prosperous Communities Committee by December 2026.

Appendix 1 – Service Reduction Impact

Organisation	Possible impact of reduction in services	Possible impact to organisation and communities	Possible impact to residents
Call Connect (LCC)	It is probable that one Call Connect bus would stop serving the Gainsborough area.	Reduced transport availability for people in Gainsborough area.	Potential impact on older population accessing transport
Citizens Advice Lincoln & Lindsey	A significant reduction or ceasing of generalist advice services to residents across West Lindsey (considering LCC allocation to structure future services)	-Reduced information to advice and support, particularly for matters involving finance, debt and benefits. -Decreased health and well-being for significant number of West Lindsey residents.	High impact on people from low-income families and people with disabilities and long-term health conditions
Gainsborough Adventure Playground Association (GAPA)	-Possible cessation or reduction of activities -Loss of staff -Loss of play space in Park Springs -Loss of community venue	-Decreased community ownership and pride in place in Park Springs -Reduced education, health and well-being of children and young people in Gainsborough	High impact on people on low income, young people and young people with disabilities particularly in the Park Springs area.
Lincoln Area Dial-a-Ride	Possible significant reduction or cessation of transport in Lincoln fringe area of West Lindsey and beyond.	-Decreased or zero affordable transport options for people with high needs transport requirements.	High impact on those with disabilities and those with low incomes.
Live and Local	Cessation of activities	Reduced access to arts and culture activities with subsequent outcome impacts e.g. decreased well-being, increased isolation.	Reduced access to health and well-being activities, including addressing social isolation
The Conservation Volunteers	Probable significant reduction or cessation of work in West Lindsey.	-Decreased well-being for 20 volunteers in West Lindsey -Reduced quality of WLDC green spaces in West Lindsey and need	High impact on people with disabilities and long term health conditions. Increased impact on women due to volunteering demographics.

Organisation	Possible impact of reduction in services	Possible impact to organisation and communities	Possible impact to residents
		for significantly more expensive contractors.	
Voluntary Centre Services	Reduced staffing to provide group support and volunteer support in West Lindsey. Possible office move outside of the Guildhall.	Decreased support for work group (e.g. training, policy and funding) and activities such as social prescribing.	High impact on people with disability and low income groups as a result of direct impact (social prescribing) as well as indirect impact due to group support.
West Lindsey Churches Festival	Reduced quality of brochures and conference or cessation of certain activities. Probable reduction in impact. Potential negative impact on volunteers and committee members.	-Reduced sustainability of heritage church sites. - Reduced tourist numbers to West Lindsey -Decreased well-being of volunteers and visitors	Higher impact on older people (who are more likely to volunteer with churches and more likely to participate.)

Appendix 2 – VCS Core Funding Definition, Purpose and Principles

Summary:

The Core Funding Scheme supports the core functions of identified VCSE organisations to deliver or enhance essential services and activities that benefit the people, places and wider environment of West Lindsey District aligned to identified needs and priorities. The services or activities of core funded organisations must be accessible to all residents of West Lindsey or meeting an identified area of need.

Definition	Description
What is core funding support?	Funding to support an organisation’s core functions for example salaries, communications, operations, governance, income generation, or other spending that is not project-specific.
Where should core funded organisations operate?	The services or activities of core funded organisations must be accessible to all residents of West Lindsey or meeting an identified area of need.
What organisations can benefit	All VCSE organisations
What thematic area or goal is it trying to achieve?	A needs based focus based on needs identified within the corporate plan or other organisational plans or strategies

Purpose	Description
Purpose	Has social benefit for the people, places and wider environment of West Lindsey
Scope of the activity vis a vis public, private and other voluntary activity	VCSE activity that is distinct but complementary to the work of the existing public and private sector and does not duplicate.
Sustainability	The organisation requires WLDC core funding in order to deliver and enhance an essential, sustainable service.

Principles	Description
Length of time of funding contracts	Multi-year funding commitments subject to council budget.
Alignment to corporate plan and strategic objectives	Is critical for the Council to achieve its corporate plan objectives and is complementary to objectives in other strategies including environment, arts and culture and health and well-being strategy.
Alignment to core funding and infrastructure support of other public body organisations	Is complementary to the infrastructure support or core support by other public sector organisations including LCC, the NHS and others to encourage enhanced partnerships.



Prosperous Communities

Tuesday, 17 March 2026

Subject: Sport & Physical Activity Strategy

Report by:

Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities

Contact Officer:

Grant White
Communities Manager

grant.white@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To present the draft Sport & Physical Activity Strategy for approval.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That Committee approve the draft Sport & Physical Activity Strategy and the Active Together Action Plan.
2. That Committee delegate authority to the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities, following consultation with the Chair of this committee, to complete and finalise the strategy and action plan, taking into consideration committee's comments.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/167/26/PC/AP

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

(N.B.) All committee reports MUST have a Fin Ref

Staffing :

There are no staffing implications from this report. Delivery of the strategy action plan will be undertaken using existing staff resources within the Communities Team and across other council services as required.

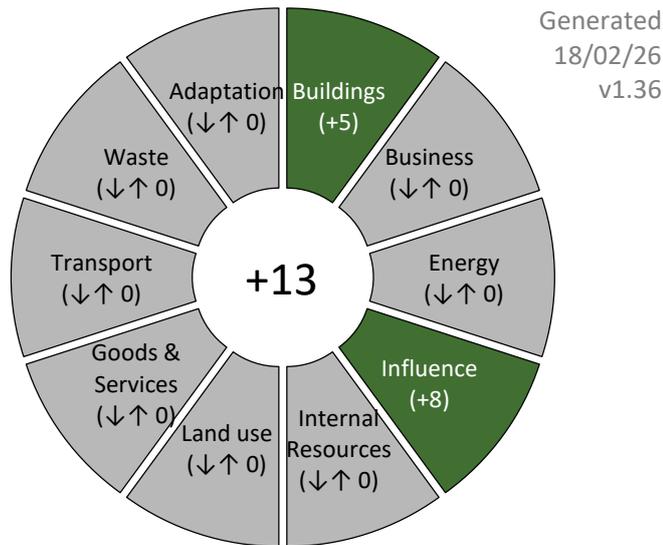
Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

There are no implications arising from this report at this time. All due consideration to equality and diversity will be incorporated into any future delivery of projects or activities that arise from this strategy.

Data Protection Implications :

There are no implications arising from this report.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :



West Lindsey District Council will be net zero by 2050 (23)

At this stage there are no direct impacts on climate related risks and opportunities, however longer-term positive impact is expected.

It is anticipated the Council, partners and the district will see positive increases linked to Buildings and Influence.

This would be achieved through activity to support organisations with sport facilities to maintain and enhance buildings and pitches.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

Not applicable.

Health Implications:

The strategy recognises the important role sport and physical activity can have on health and wellbeing for our residents. This has been embedded within the objectives of the strategy and is an area of direct impact from actions we delivery to grow and enhance the provision of sport and physical activity across the district.

Outcomes measured from the strategy action plan will help demonstrate impact on health and wellbeing. This will directly link to other key aims such as the District Council's Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None

Risk Assessment :

None

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has a central vision: **To be a trusted provider of good quality services that strive to improve the lives of people and communities across the district and enhance our places and spaces.** The effective provision of sport and physical activity opportunities is a key aspect of achieving this vision.
- 1.2 The Prosperous Communities Committee previously approved a recommendation to develop and present a Sport & Physical Activity Strategy for West Lindsey. The Council does not currently have a strategy focussed on this area of delivery. Adopting a strategy will ensure a clear focus is established including associated actions the Council will take in the future.
- 1.3 This report introduces the draft Sport & Physical Activity Strategy for West Lindsey. It provides a direction of travel for how the Council can play an important role in supporting the development of sport and physical activity provision across the district.
- 1.4 The introduction of this strategy will support the delivery of other strategies such as the **Lincolnshire District Councils' Health and Wellbeing Strategy**. One of the five priorities in this strategy is Activity and Wellbeing which sport and physical activity play a key role.
- 1.5 The strategy has been developed at a time of significant change for West Lindsey. It's objectives and action plan recognise the role the Council can play in supporting delivery in the coming years whilst also looking further ahead towards the future post Local Government Reorganisation and refreshed national policy on sport.
- 1.6 This report recommends approval of the draft Sport & Physical Activity Strategy and its associated Active Together Action Plan.

APPENDIX 1 – Draft Sport & Physical Activity Strategy

2 Corporate Plan

- 2.1 The strategy has been developed to align with priorities within the Council's **Corporate Plan 2026-2030**. Sport and physical activity provision can play an important role in helping to support key challenges we face across the district.
- 2.2 **Population**
Physical activity provision is vital for an ageing population and directly supports maintaining physical health, mental health, improved mobility and independence and wider social inclusion. Incorporating physical activity is essential for older adults to maintain their health, wellbeing, and independence.

2.3 **Health and Wellbeing**

Sport and physical activity help address a wide range of health and wellbeing challenges ranging from health conditions to childhood obesity. The delivery of physical activity across all age groups will reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles.

2.4 **Climate Change and the Sustainable Environment**

Sport and leisure facilities across our district include a wide range of buildings, assets, and open spaces. The effective management and development of sport and recreation facilities can play an important role in addressing climate challenges and supporting the local environment.

2.5 **Deprivation**

Sport and physical activity can be a key connector to engage and support at risk communities and residents. Along with supporting the wider health and wellbeing outcomes for vulnerable residents, the provision of targeted physical activities can also contribute to tackling social isolation and child poverty. Engagement in sport and physical activity can also compliment diversionary activities to help tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour and pathways into crime.

2.6 **Employment and Skills**

The sport and leisure sector provides many opportunities for employment, volunteering, and skills development. Supporting sport and physical activity to develop can generate new employment and learning opportunities for future generations.

2.7 **The Local Economy**

The sport and leisure sector in some locations can be a key contributor to the local economy. For example, a sports and social club in a village may provide employment and space to enable other commercial activities to take place. Sport and physical activities are often an opportunity to establish partnership and joint working between local communities and businesses.

2.8 The Corporate Plan 2026-2030 has identified **Priorities** and **Outcomes**. This strategy and its associated action plan will directly deliver towards the following corporate plan priorities and outcomes:

2.9 **Champion health, wellbeing, culture and active lifestyles:**

- A reduction in the gap in health inequalities between the most deprived and least deprived neighbourhoods
- The right partnerships in place to meet the holistic needs of our residents
- A co-ordinated programme of sport, leisure and physical activity that meets the needs of our local communities across the district
- Improved mental and physical health outcomes across all age groups
- Improved leisure and community sports facilities across the district

2.10 **Supporting our communities to thrive:**

- Support is given to the creation of community hubs that bring together health and wellbeing services into existing community facilities
- An increase in facilities and activities for young people
- The needs of older residents within local communities are supported
- Increased community engagement and a strong sense of community pride
- Growth in the local social economy and sustainable levels of volunteering and community-led activity
- Appropriate support is available to enable the community and voluntary sector to thrive and be sustainable

2.11 **Clean, green and safe communities:**

- Green spaces that are well-maintained, safe and welcoming public spaces

2.12 **To deliver good quality services for residents and businesses:**

- Working collaboratively with our partners to support strategic understanding of the current and future needs of our residents

3 National Context

3.1 The development of the strategy has taken into consideration national strategies and policies. These include strategies established by Government and bodies such as Sport England.

3.2 **Uniting the Movement (Sport England)¹**

This is the Sport England 10-year vision for transforming lives and communities through sport and physical activity. This strategy focusses on five big issues:

- Recover and reinvent.
- Connecting communities.
- Positive experiences for children and young people.
- Connecting with health and wellbeing.
- Active environments.

Sport England have just reached the end of their Year 2-4 implementation plan for this vision which ran until the end of 2025. Officers will keep under review any changes in Sport England strategy.

¹ Sport England: Uniting the Movement: <https://www.sportengland.org/about-us/uniting-movement>

3.3 **Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity (Department for Culture, Media and Sport)²**

This is the UK Governments strategy for building a healthier nation by tackling high levels of inactivity and making sure that the sport and physical activity sector thrives for future generations.

The strategy has 3 core priorities:

1. Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active, whether in government or in the sport sector.
2. Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all so that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport.
3. Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust.

3.4 A new or revised strategy from Government is expected but with no current timeframe. Officers will keep under review any changes in national strategies.

4 Delivery and Progress Already Achieved

4.1 Whilst developing the strategy, the Communities Team have actively been engaged with supporting and developing sport and physical activity opportunities.

4.2 **Sport & Physical Activity Officer**

A dedicated role within the Communities Team was established in December 2024. This role has been instrumental in developing positive relationships with key partners, clubs, school and national governing bodies. Active support has been provided to a wide range of organisations and external funding has been secured to help deliver activity programmes for young people.

4.3 **Community Grant Programme**

Through the Council's Community Grants Programme, a range of sport and physical activity focussed projects have been supported. Grant funding has enabled improvements to facilities and the delivery of activities whilst also helping to secure match funding into the district.

Further details of sport and physical activity focussed projects supported with grant funding will be presented in the Community Grants Impact Report 2025-26. This report will be available in April 2026.

² Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Get Active Policy Paper:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-active-a-strategy-for-the-future-of-sport-and-physical-activity>

5 Consultation and Engagement

5.1 To support the development of the strategy and associated action plan, officers delivered a range of consultation and engagement activity including:

- Sport & Physical Activity – Resident Survey
- Sport & Physical Activity – Club Survey
- School Engagement

5.2 Details of this consultation and engagement work have been included within the strategy document with key highlights on our findings. Survey reports have been included with this report.

APPENDIX 2 – Resident Survey Report

APPENDIX 3 – Club Survey Report

5.3 To support the development of the strategy, officers researched other similar strategies implemented by other Local Authorities. Examples of Sport & Physical Activity Strategies reviewed by officers included North Kesteven District Council, South Kesteven District Council, Dacorum Borough Council and Gloucester City Council.

5.4 On-going engagement with residents and clubs will be conducted by the Communities Team. This will ensure the strategy action plan continues to be a live and relevant document reflecting any changes in the district.

6 Action Plan

6.1 To support the delivery of the strategy, an Active Together Action Plan has been developed. It lists actions the Council will take to support the objectives of the strategy.

6.2 The action plan is intended to be a live document which can be responsive and adapt to meet changing needs or demands. Delivery against the action plan will be monitored with regular reporting developed for Members as appropriate.

6.3 To support the work of the Council when delivering against the action plan, an associated comms plan will be created. This will provide clear focus on how we promote and communicate key messages, raise awareness, advocate for change and celebrate positive outcomes.

6.4 The initial Active Together Action Plan is included within this report. The action plan will be reviewed annually.

APPENDIX 4 – Active Together Action Plan

7 Recommendations

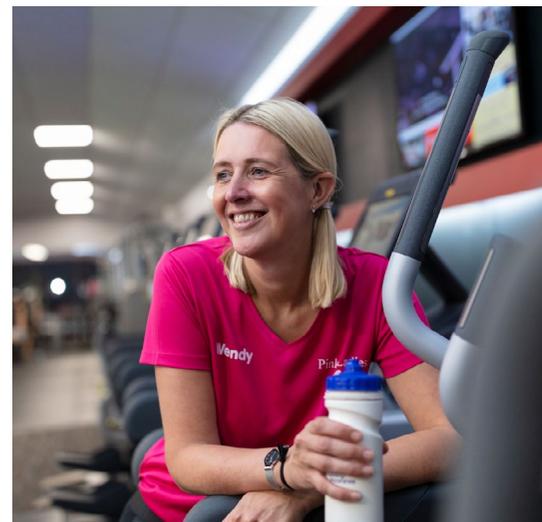
- 7.1 That Committee approve the draft Sport & Physical Activity Strategy and the Active Together Action Plan.
- 7.2 That Committee delegate authority to the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities, following consultation with the Chair of this committee, to complete and finalise the strategy and action plan, taking into consideration committee's comments.



Support & Physical Activity Strategy 2026-2031

Active Together

West Lindsey's journey to a more active district



Introduction

Our Sport and Physical Activity strategy sets out the Council's ambition and vision to inspire and support communities across the district to be more active. Increasing physical activity levels contributes to improved health and wellbeing and supports our residents to lead longer, healthier lives. Through promoting movement, we aim to bring people together, strengthen community resilience, reduce health inequalities, and create the conditions in which active lifestyles can thrive.

We have developed this strategy to help us deliver against priorities within our Corporate Plan and to align with national strategies.

“We recognise the role we can play in bringing together community organisations, sports clubs, schools and key partners to form strong partnerships, overcome challenges and develop opportunities to be active.

This strategy will help guide our journey to making West Lindsey a more active district”.

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05 About our District



06 Consultation and Engagement

07 Our Themes



08 Place Based Working



08 A Whole Systems Approach



09 Delivering the Strategy



The Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity

Benefits of Physical Activity (1)



Improves sleep



Maintain healthy weight



Improves mental health



Improves quality of life



Builds confidence and social skills



Strengthens muscles and bones

Health benefits from regular activity (2)

30%
lower risk of dementia

35%
lower risk of cardiovascular disease

30%
lower risk of early death

40%
lower risk of type 2

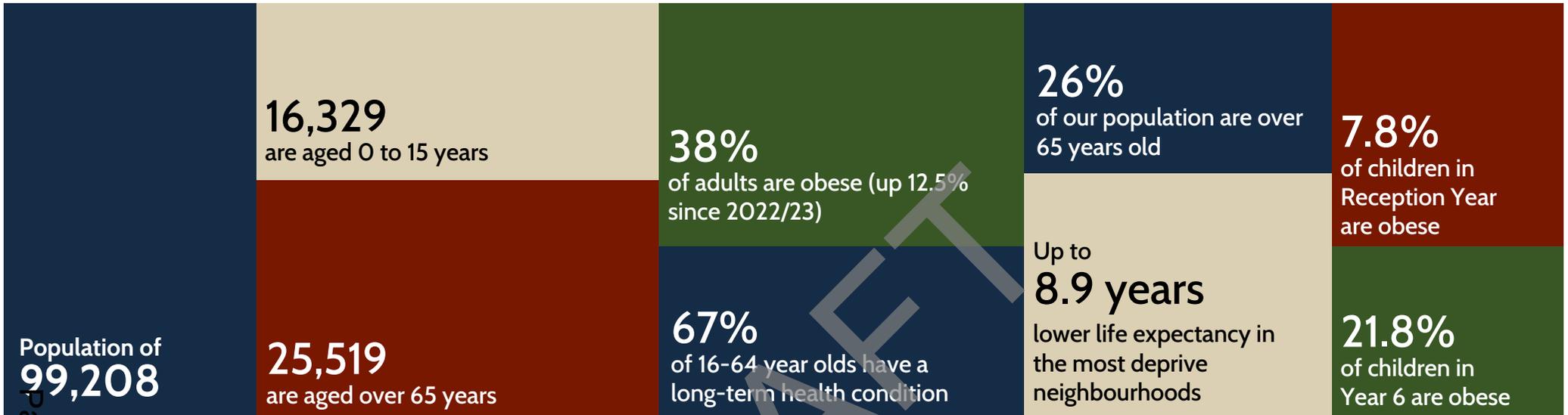
30%
lower risk of colon cancer

20%
lower risk of breast cancer

Sources:

- (1) Physical Activity Guidelines – UK Government
- (2) Physical Activity: applying All Our Health – UK Government

About our District



West Lindsey has the highest proportion of adults living with obesity in Lincolnshire (38.8%) which is also higher than the national average. Across the district, deprivation plays a key role in shaping residents' health and wellbeing. West Lindsey has some of the most deprived communities in England, with high deprivation linked to poorer health outcomes and lower life expectancy of an average of 8 years difference compared to the most affluent. We also face challenges associated with our rural landscape which contributes to greater isolation, reduced access to services and limited transport. Our population has 26% of residents aged over 65, 19.6% of children living in poverty and 67% of people aged 16-64 living with a long-term health condition.

Within the district we have two West Lindsey Council owned leisure centres which are in the market towns of Gainsborough and Market Rasen. Each site has a multi-activity sports hall, a gym and group exercises studios. The Gainsborough site also has a 25m swimming pool, a teaching pool, gymnastics hall, squash courts, and a health suite. Our outdoor sports provisions are located on different sites across our district including three 3G pitches, football, rugby, cricket pitches, and outdoor bowls facilities. There are a range of community facilities across the district which support different opportunities for residents to access sport and physical activity. Within our district we have many open spaces which support and have potential to support people moving more.

Sources:

(3) State of the District Report – West Lindsey District Council

Consultation and Engagement

During the summer of 2025, we invited residents to complete our Sport and Physical Activity survey to help us understand more about activity levels, what activities people access, barriers to participation and resident views on facilities. From this data, we have established 58% of adults are not meeting the recommend activity levels of 150 minutes per week with 14% of residents doing less than 30 minutes of activity a week. The most common challenges for people to access physical activity and sport are the cost, location and their time. The purpose of the survey was to help us understand more about our communities and the inequalities residents have across the district.

Alongside this survey we had a Sport and Physical Activity Club Survey which aimed to understand the scope of local sport and physical activity provision across the district. The information shared has helped us identify the opportunities available, facilities usage, support organisations would like, their future ambitions, and challenges they face.

Our primary school consultations highlighted 38% of pupils belong to a sports club or group outside of school with only 28% belonging to a club at sports club at school. Less than half the pupils surveyed have taken part in intra-sports competition or festivals during the 24/25 academic year. 56.5% of students are more active at school than outside with 52.2% of children who do not belong to a sports club wanting to be more active away from school. Using the data from our consultation workshops we can use youth voice to help shape activities, influence partners and understand more about how we can support school sport.

The information gathered from our consultations support the foundations of our strategy themes and has been used to develop our Action Plan to deliver our Sport & Physical Activity Strategy.

Resident Survey Finding



Completed by
659
residents

Club Survey Finding



Completed by
51
organisations

School Consultation Finding



Completed with
1,138
pupils across 11 schools



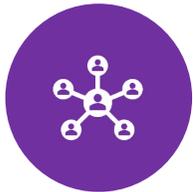
Create opportunities to improve resident's health and wellbeing through inclusive, lifelong physical activity.

- Increase opportunities for adults to participate in movement, sport and physical activity to improve health and wellbeing.
- Connecting people with local events, groups, organisations and sports clubs to support social inclusion.
- Support workplaces to embed and promote movement and physical activity.



Inspire and empower future generations by creating positive, inclusive pathways into sports and physical activity.

- Develop local and district wide opportunities for young people to experience movement, sport and physical activity through school sport, youth provision and grassroots clubs.
- Develop and promote initiatives that encourage positive behaviours, reduce barriers and support underrepresented young people.
- Support young people to access volunteering, leadership and officiating courses within the district.



Build strong networks and sustainable systems that enable communities, organisations and partners to thrive and be resilient.

- Support place-based working to build sustainable relationships between local, regional and national partners.
- Contribute towards and influence local, regional and national policy to advocate for movement, sport and physical activity through systems change.
- Ensure our sport and physical activity networks and systems are prepared for the future.



Target investment in facilities and infrastructure to create welcoming, fit-for-purpose environments that support long-term participation.

- Maintaining and investing in council owned assets to support the growth of sport and physical activity.
- Support community and sport organisations to deliver welcoming active spaces for movement, sport and physical activity.
- Invest in our open and green spaces to provide movement, sport and physical activity opportunities.

Place Based Working

We will deliver our themes through a place based working approach, focusing on helping local people, in local places whilst developing local partnerships that support communities at a neighbourhood level. We recognise that each of our communities are different and have their own unique challenges and priorities. Through our consultations we have already identified the variety of challenges local communities have when accessing sport and physical activity such as facilities, transport, and cost.

A Whole System Approach

We recognise that we cannot deliver our strategy without support. To make a meaningful and lasting impact, we will work collaboratively with partners who have a common purpose. By taking a co ordinated approach, we can maximise our collective knowledge, resources and create sustainable outcomes for our communities. We will work with local, regional and national partners alongside communities and residents to grow, maintain and sustain sport and physical activity across the district.



Delivering the Strategy

Our Active Together Action Plan explains how we will put the themes of our strategy into action and how we will track our progress. Continuous consultation with our communities will support our decision-making to ensure our actions are relevant, meaningful, and aligned with community needs. Throughout the delivery of our strategy, we will commit to learning from our actions and sharing good practice with partners to help with sustainable change.

To demonstrate the difference we are making, we will share stories (case studies), updates on our social media platforms and an annual report. We will use future strategies, policies and ongoing consultation to ensure our delivery continues to make a positive and sustainable change for our communities.



If you would like a copy of this document in large, clear print, audio, Braille or in another language, please contact us via the details below.

За повече информация пръстен 01427 676676
Lai iegūtu vairāk informācijas gredzenu 01427 676676
Norēdami gauti daugiau informācijas žiedo 01427 676676
Aby uzyskać więcej informacji na 01427 676676
Pentru mai multe informații inel 01427 676676
За више информација назовите 01427 676676
Para más información llama 01427 676676
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Get In Touch:

01427 676676

E: community@west-lindsey.gov.uk

W: www.west-lindsey.gov.uk



Sport & Physical Activity Resident Survey

Summary Report – November 2025



1. Introduction

This report presents the findings of the Sport and Physical Activity Residents Survey conducted between June and September 2025. The survey was completed by people aged 16 or over and who live in the West Lindsey District or take part in physical activity in our district.

The primary objective of this research was to establish:

- Current activity levels
- What physical activity and sport people participate in
- Understanding of facilities usage (including our 2 leisure centres)
- View on what investment residents would like to see across the district.

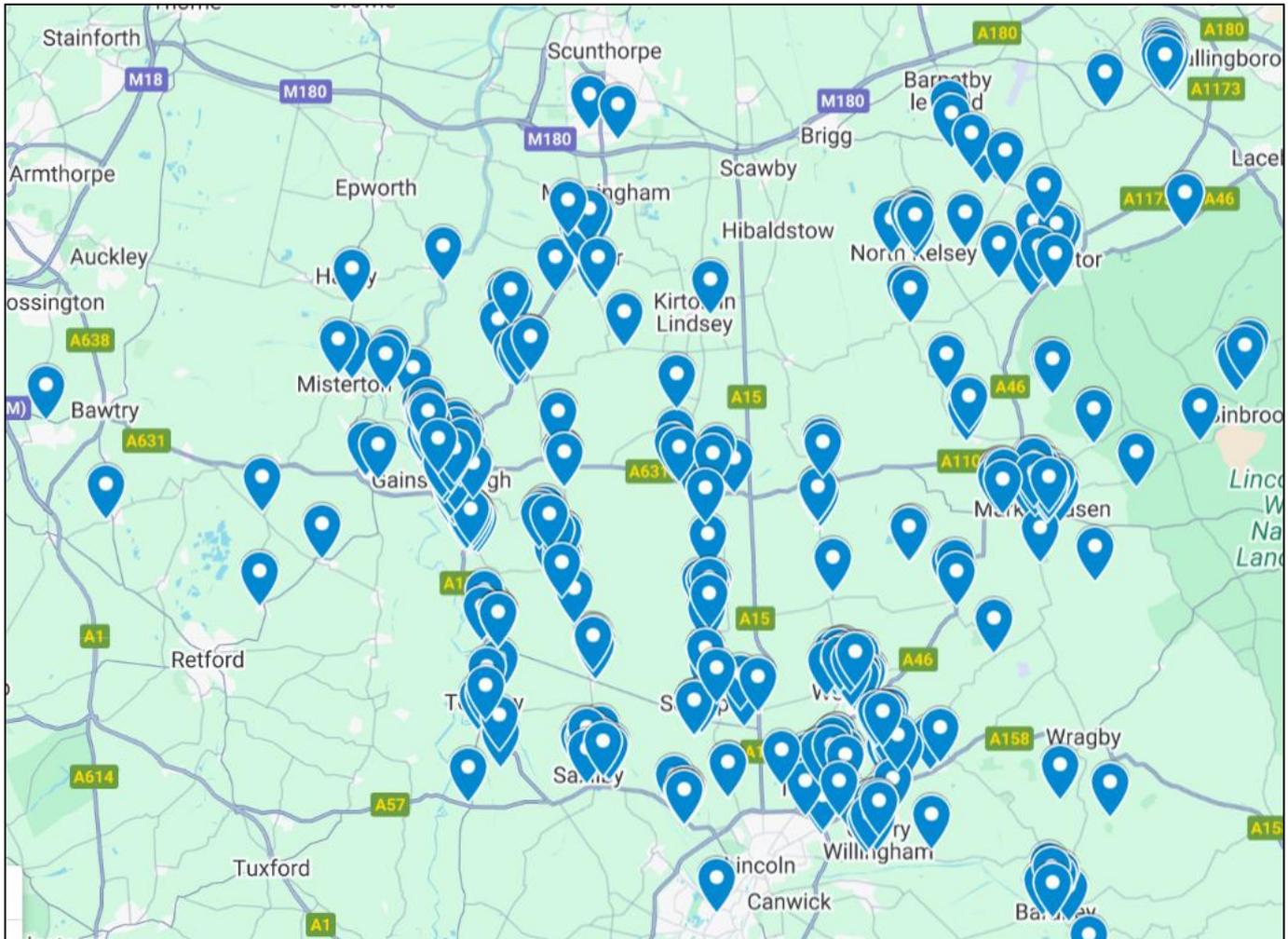
The data collected will help us identify what support and opportunities are needed in our communities to help residents lead healthy active lives.

The survey was available online for anyone to access and was also sent to the West Lindsey Citizen panel to complete. 659 people took the time to complete the survey and to share their views. All questions were optional for residents to complete and allowed for some open responses. Not all open question responses have been shared in this report but will be taken into consideration as part of strategy development.

The results of the survey will be used to help develop the West Lindsey Sport and Physical Activity strategy by providing evidence of need. Alongside this data we will also use findings from school survey workshops, our clubs and sport groups survey as well as statistical data from external sources.

2. Survey Results- Locations

The results from the surveys have been plotted on to a map which demonstrates how the responses were spread across the district.



Data by ward:

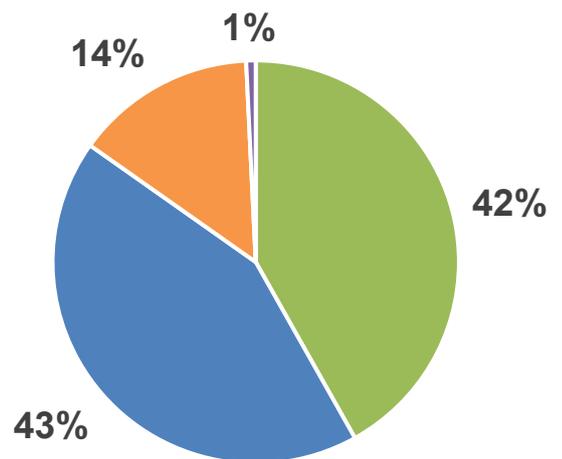
Location	No	Location	No	Location	No
Gainsborough North	62	Sudbrooke	19	Clayworth	2
Dunholme and Welton	54	Hemswell	18	Axholme South	1
Scotter and Blyton	48	Wold View	18	Harworth	1
Market Rasen	45	Kelsey Wold	17	Misterton	1
Gainsborough Southwest	44	Scampton	16	Moorland	1
Nettleham	37	Stow	16	Ranskill	1
Lea	33	Torksey	16	Ridge	1
Saxilby	33	Bardney	13	Skellingthorpe	1
Gainsborough East	32	Waddingham and Spital	7	Sturton	1
Caistor and Yarborough	31	Beckingham	3	Postcode not given	53
Cherry Willingham	30	Bottesford	2	Invalid postcode	2

3. Activity Levels

The Chief Medical Officer recommends adults should be participating at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per a week. This is described as increased breathing when exercising but having the ability to talk.

Based on the above statement, residents told us they were:

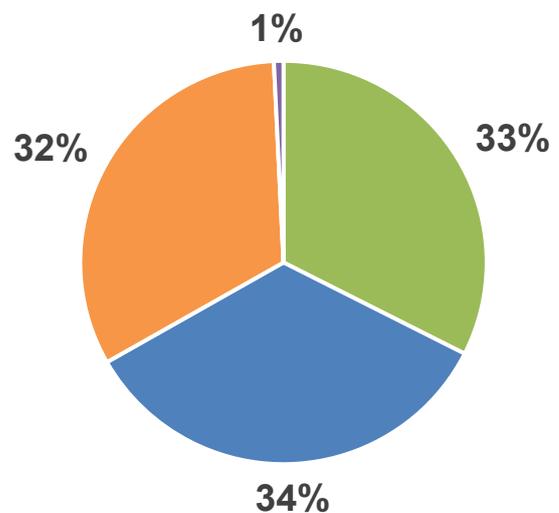
- Active (more than 150 minutes a week)
276 residents
- Fairly active (30 to 150 minutes a week)
283 residents
- Inactive (less than 30 minutes a week)
95 residents
- No response
5 residents



In addition to moderate activity, it is recommended adults should take part in activities or tasks which aim to build strength on at least 2 days a week.

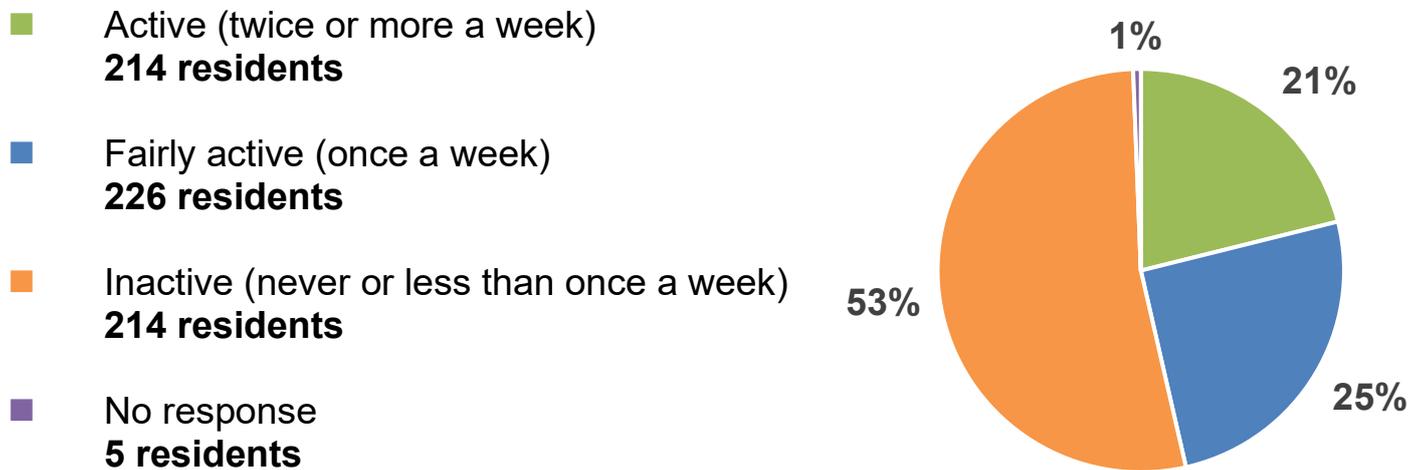
Residents told us how often they take part in strength-based activities:

- Active (twice or more a week)
214 residents
- Fairly active (once a week)
226 residents
- Inactive (never or less than once a week)
214 residents
- No response
5 residents

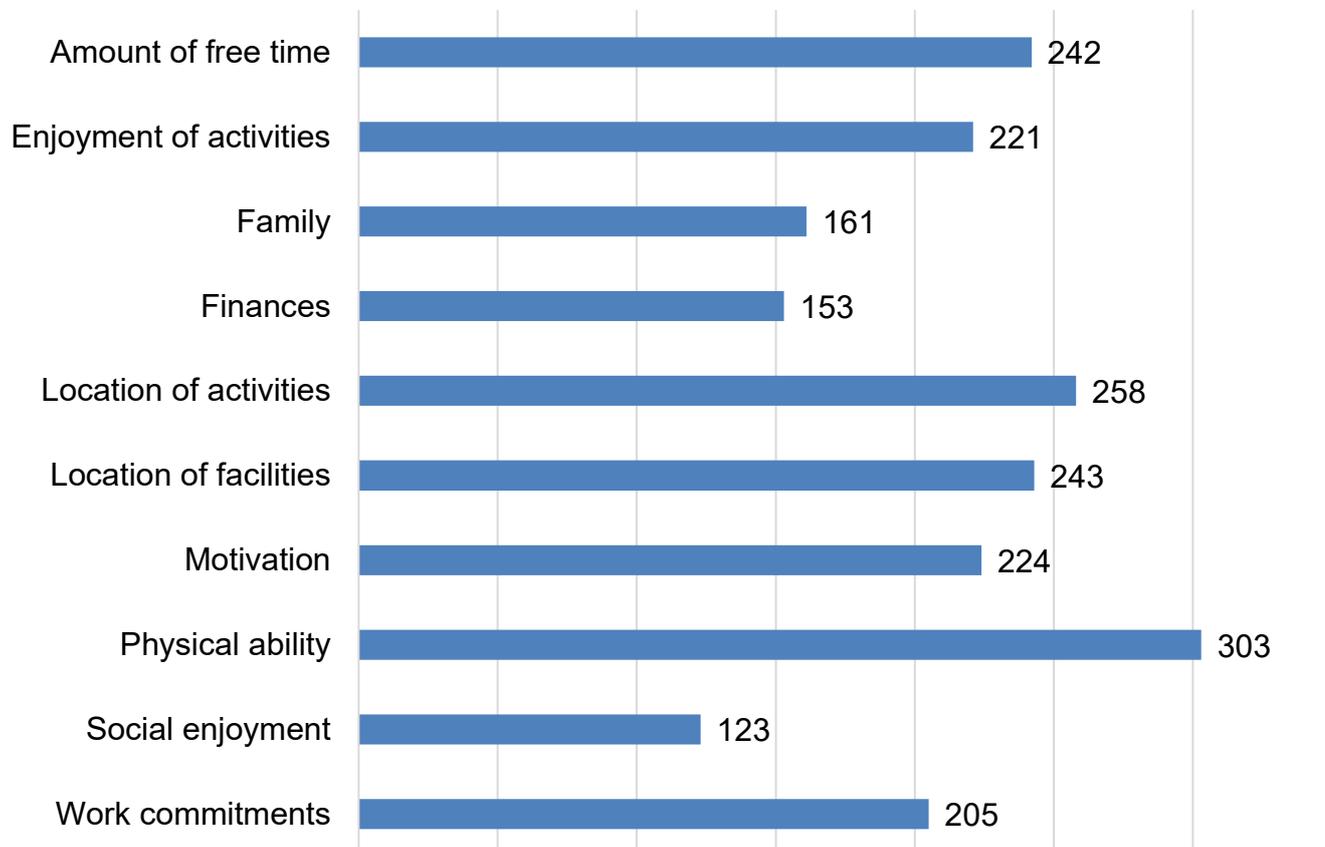


In addition to moderate activity, it is recommended older adults should take part in activities or tasks which aim to improve balance on at least 2 days a week.

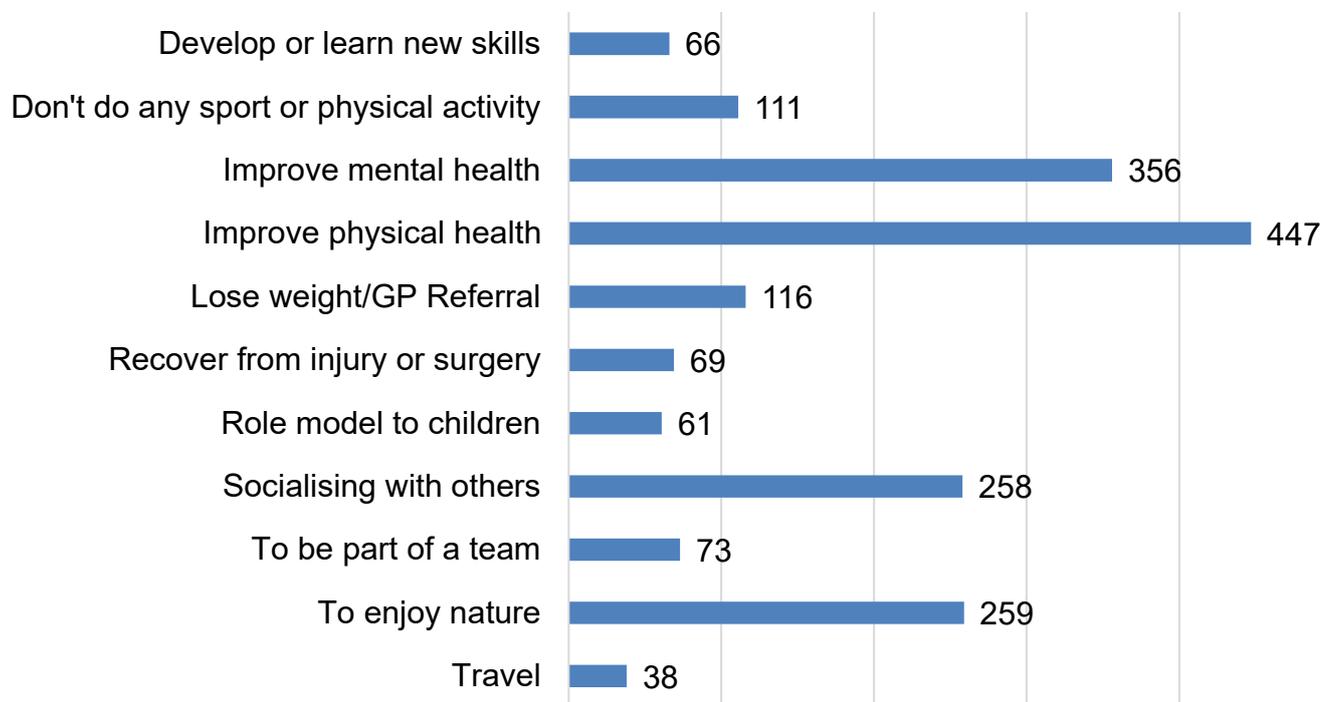
Residents told us how often they take part in these types of activities:



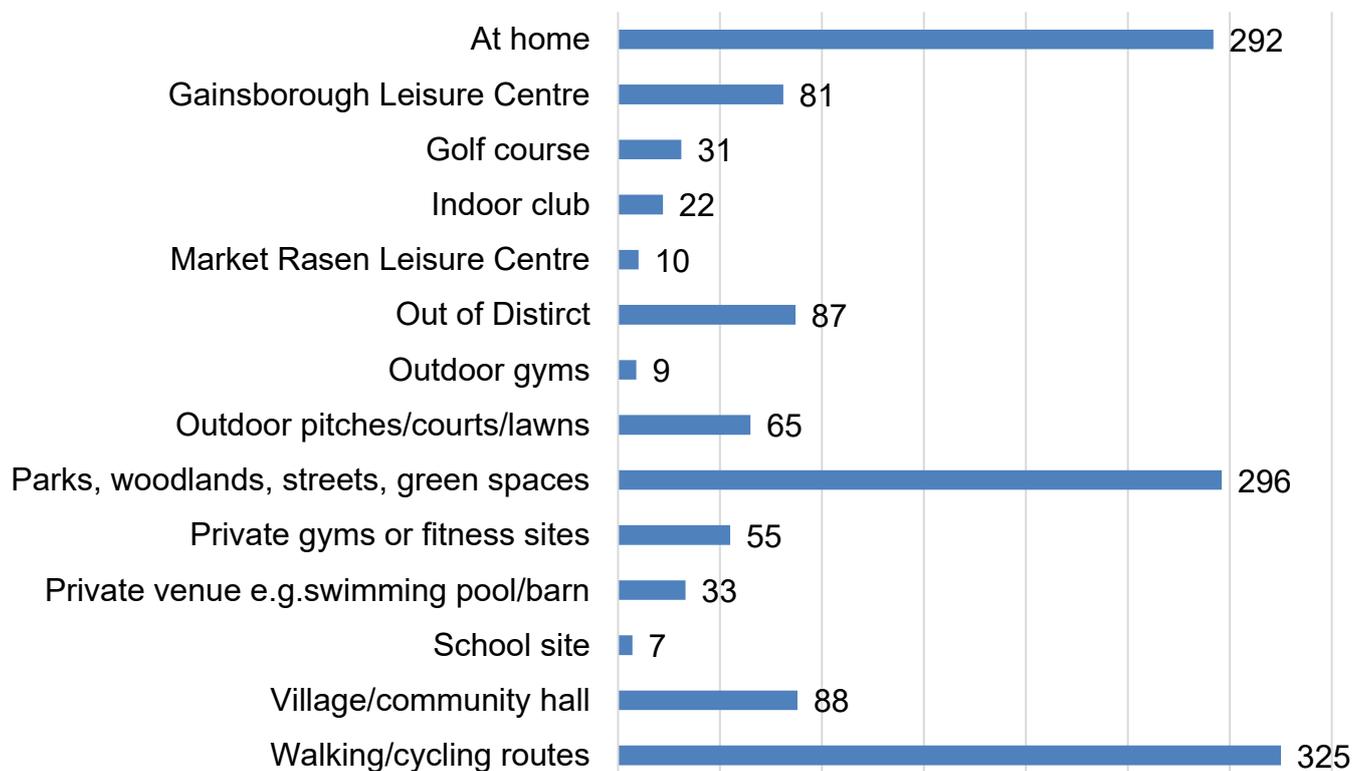
We asked which of the following dictates residents activity levels:



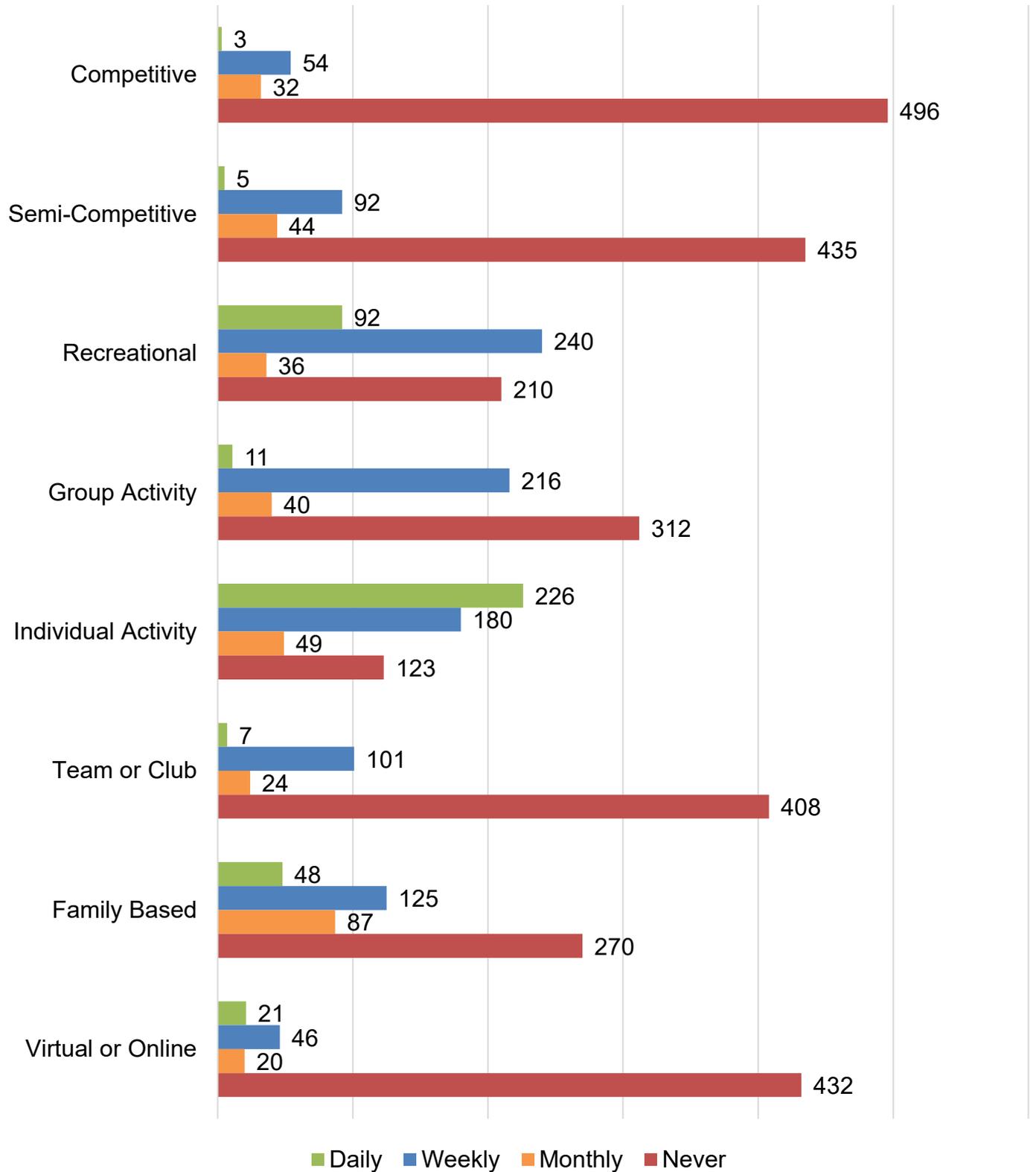
We asked residents why they take part in sport or physical activity:



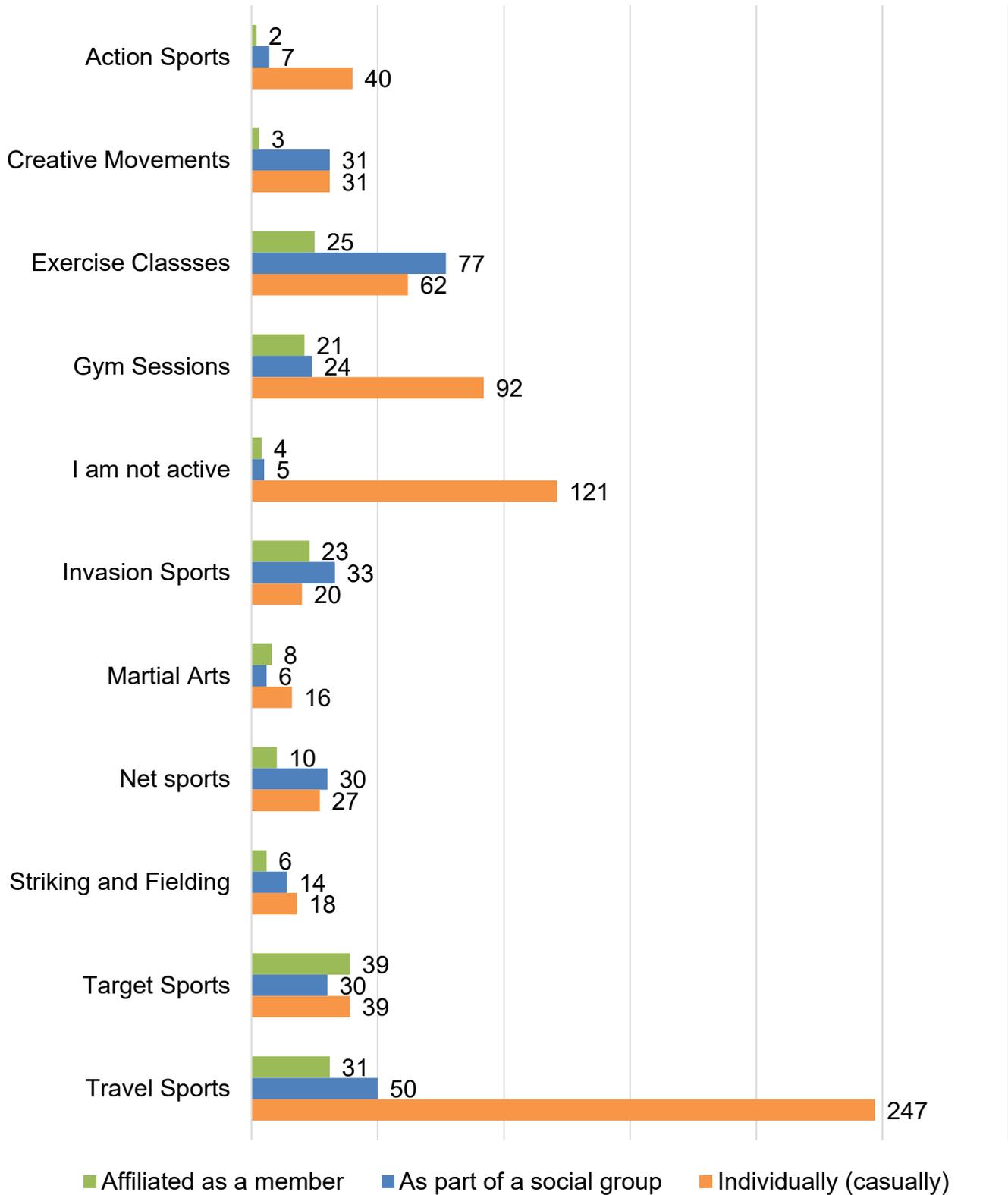
We asked residents where they regularly take part in sport or physical activity:



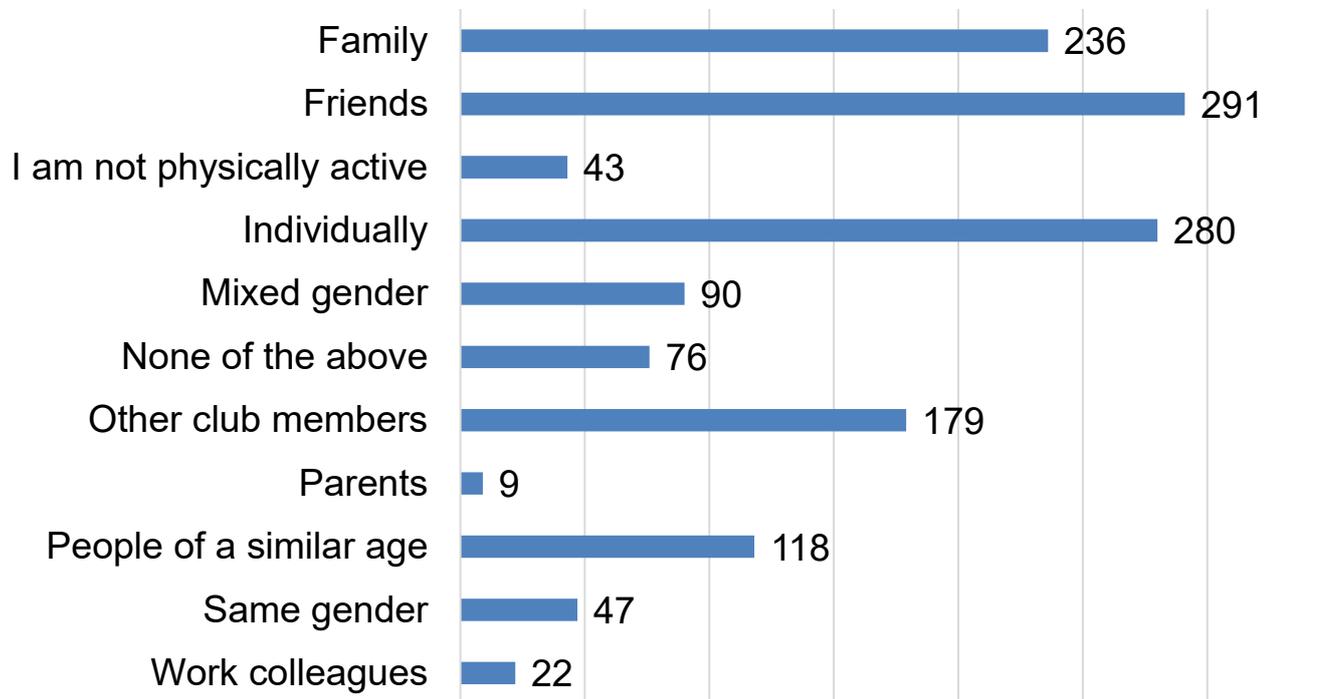
We asked residents how often they take part in the following sport or physical activity formats:



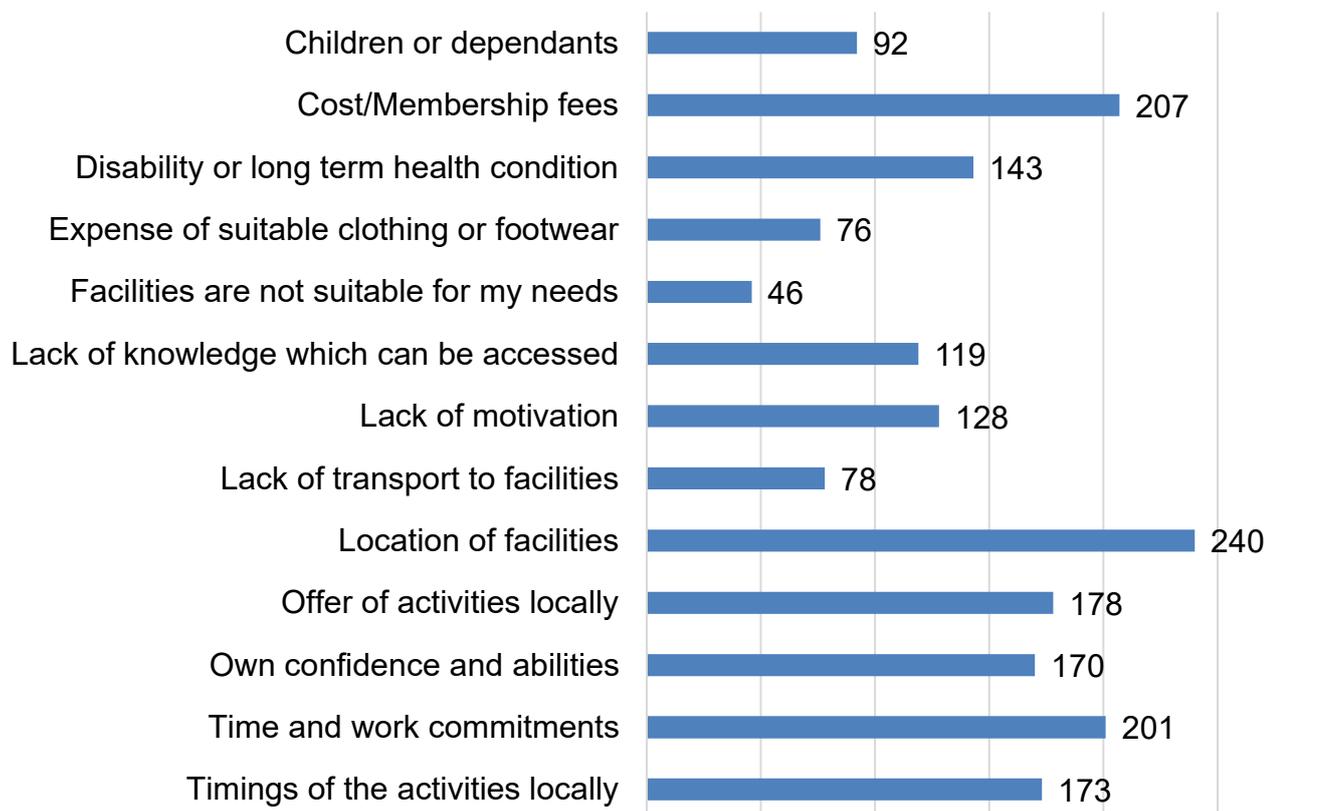
We asked residents how they take part in the following sport or physical activity:



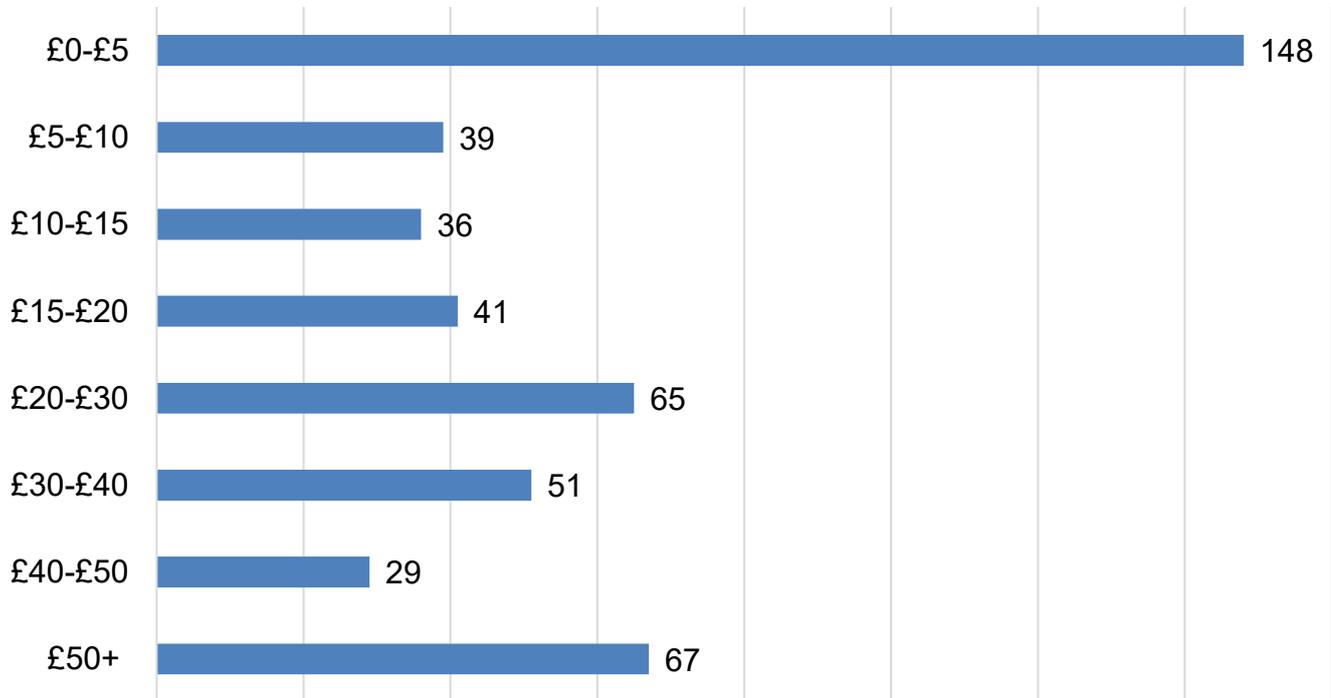
We asked residents who they participate in sport or physical activity with:



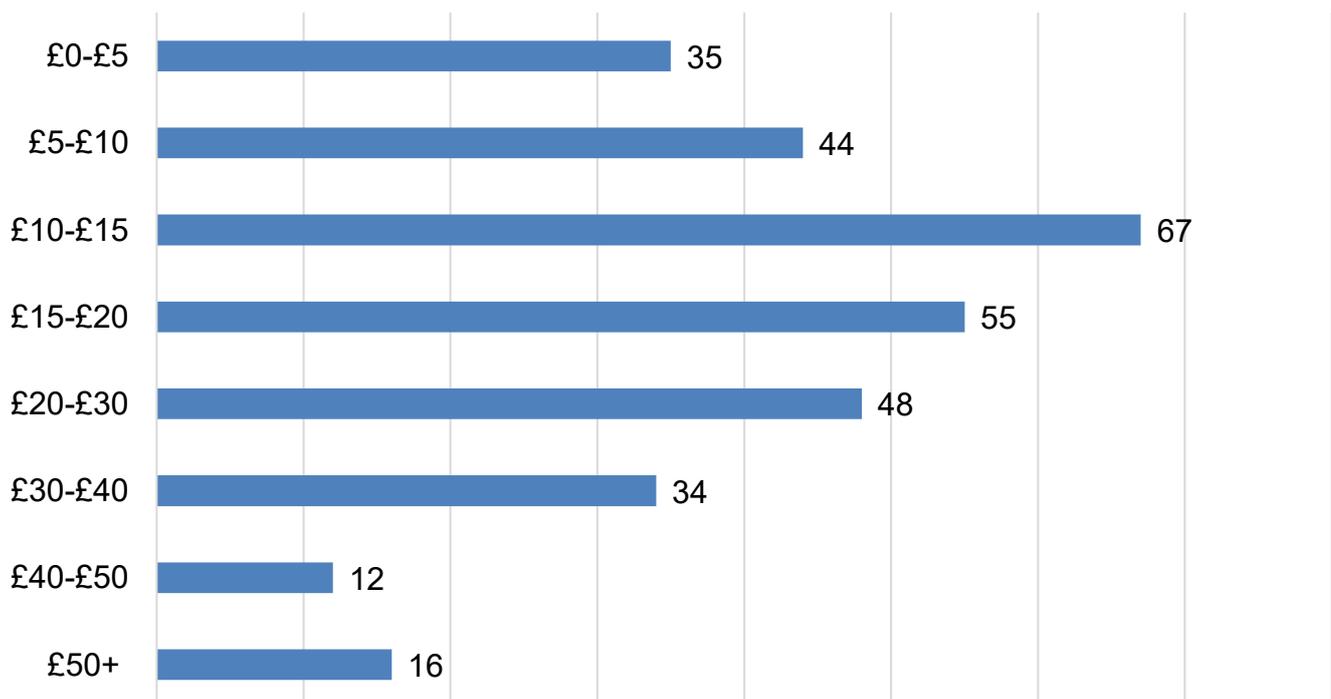
We asked residents which of the following prevent them from being active:



We asked residents how much they spend on their own sport or physical activity each month:

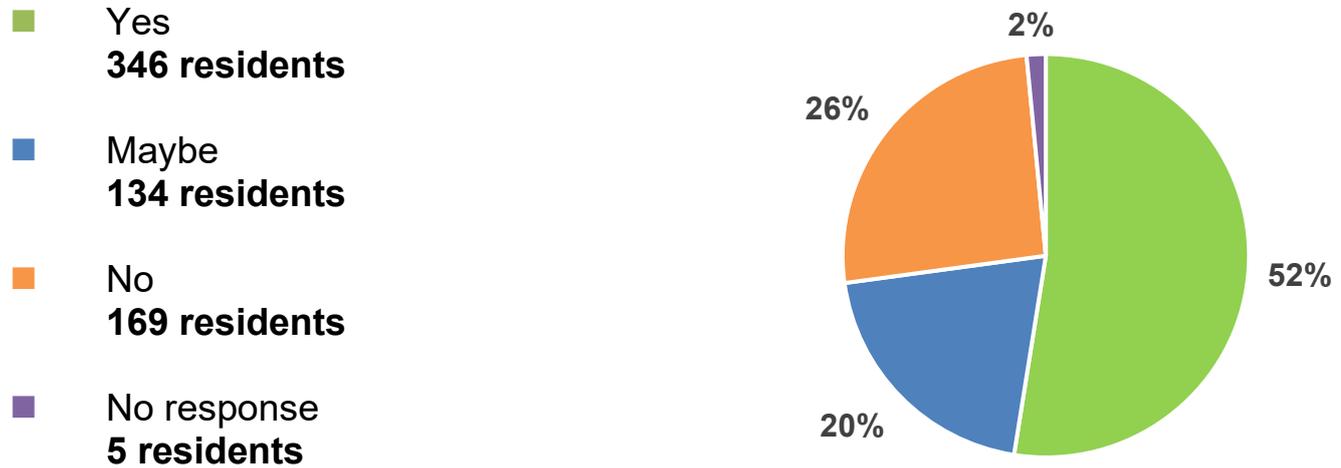


We asked residents who are not currently active, how much would they be willing to spend on their own sport or physical activity each month:

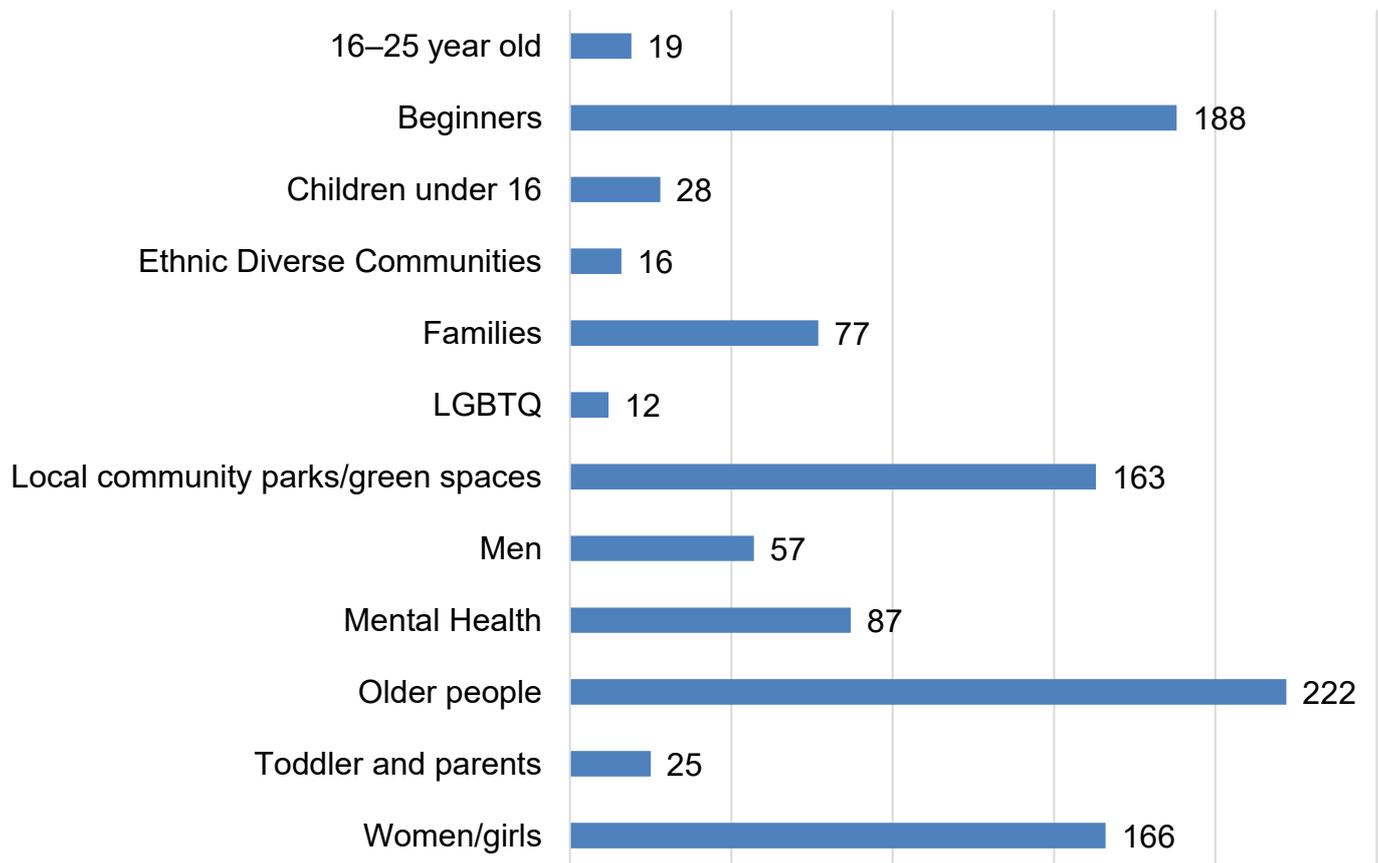


4. Increasing Activity Levels

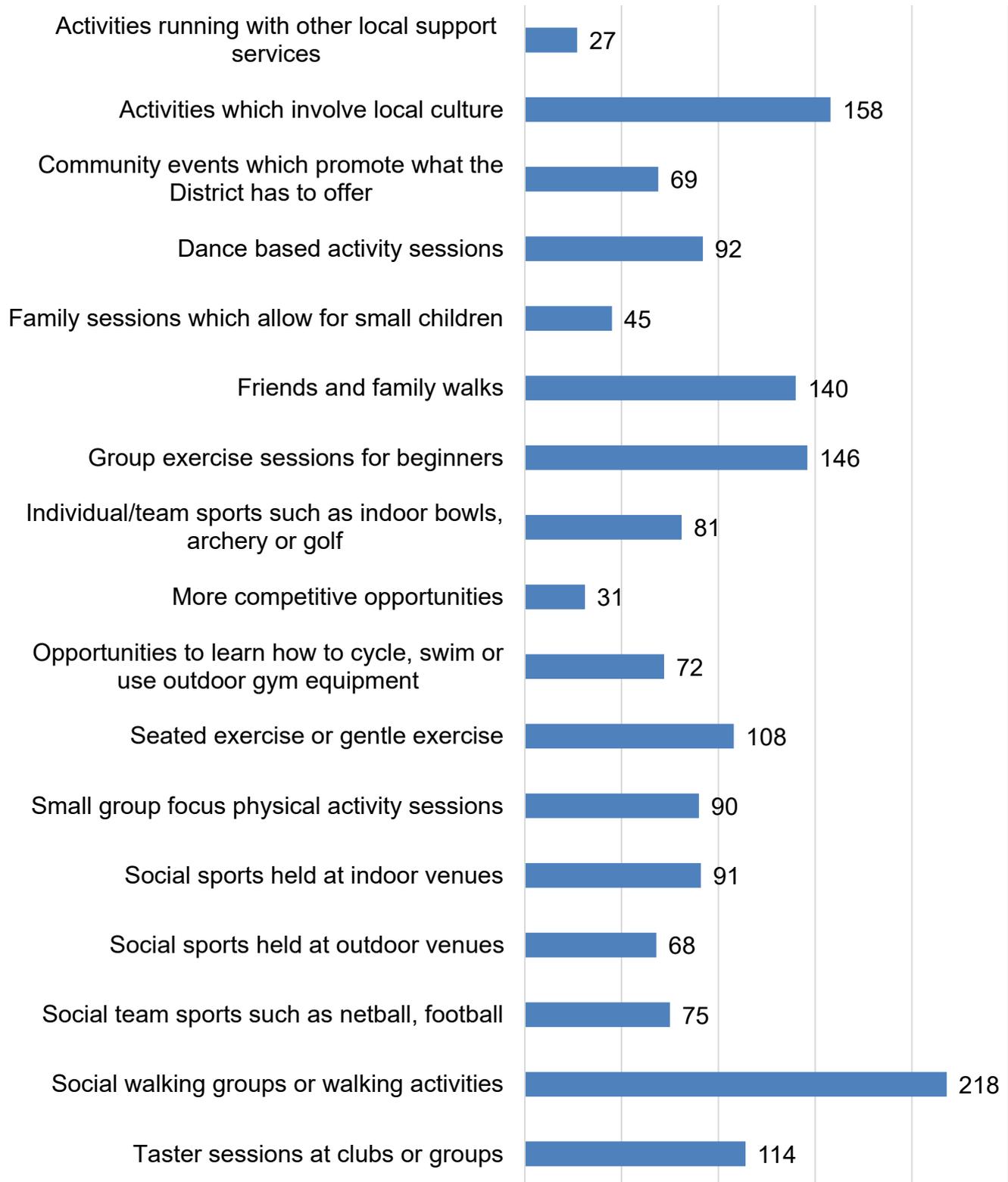
We asked residents if they would like to be more active:



We asked if any of the following group sessions would help residents to become more active:



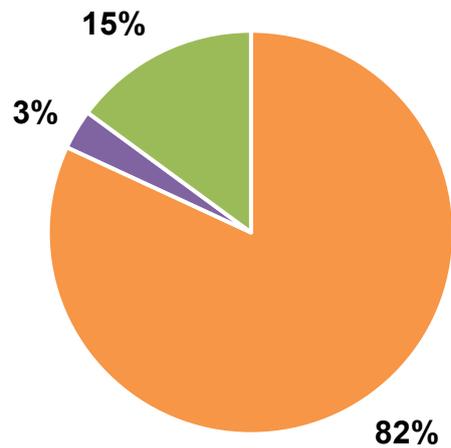
We asked residents to consider if any of the following types of activities would encourage them to become more active:



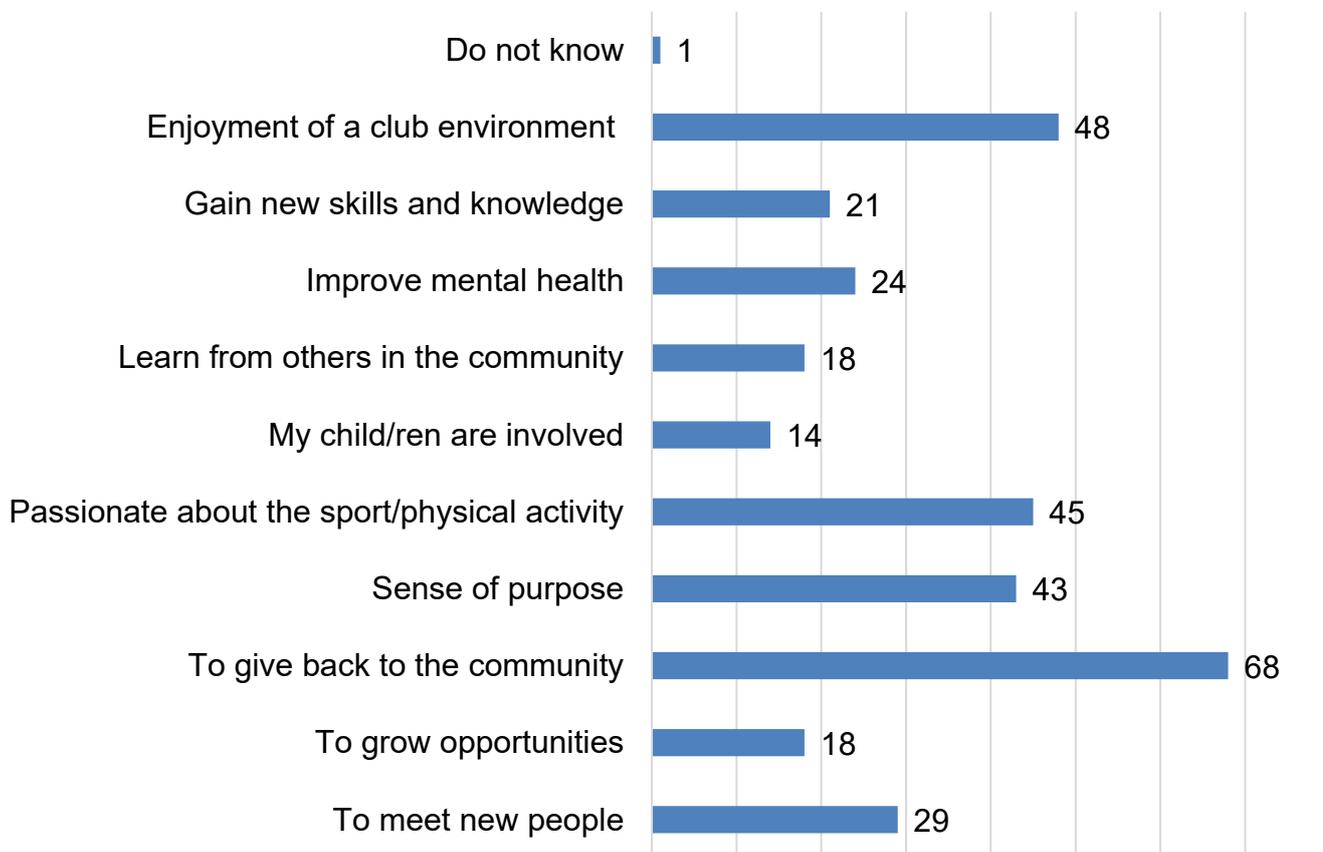
5. Volunteering in Sport

Residents were asked if they volunteer for local sports clubs, groups or sessions:

- Yes
98 residents
- No
540 residents
- No response
21 residents



We asked residents to share their reasons for volunteering:



We asked residents what prevents them from volunteering:



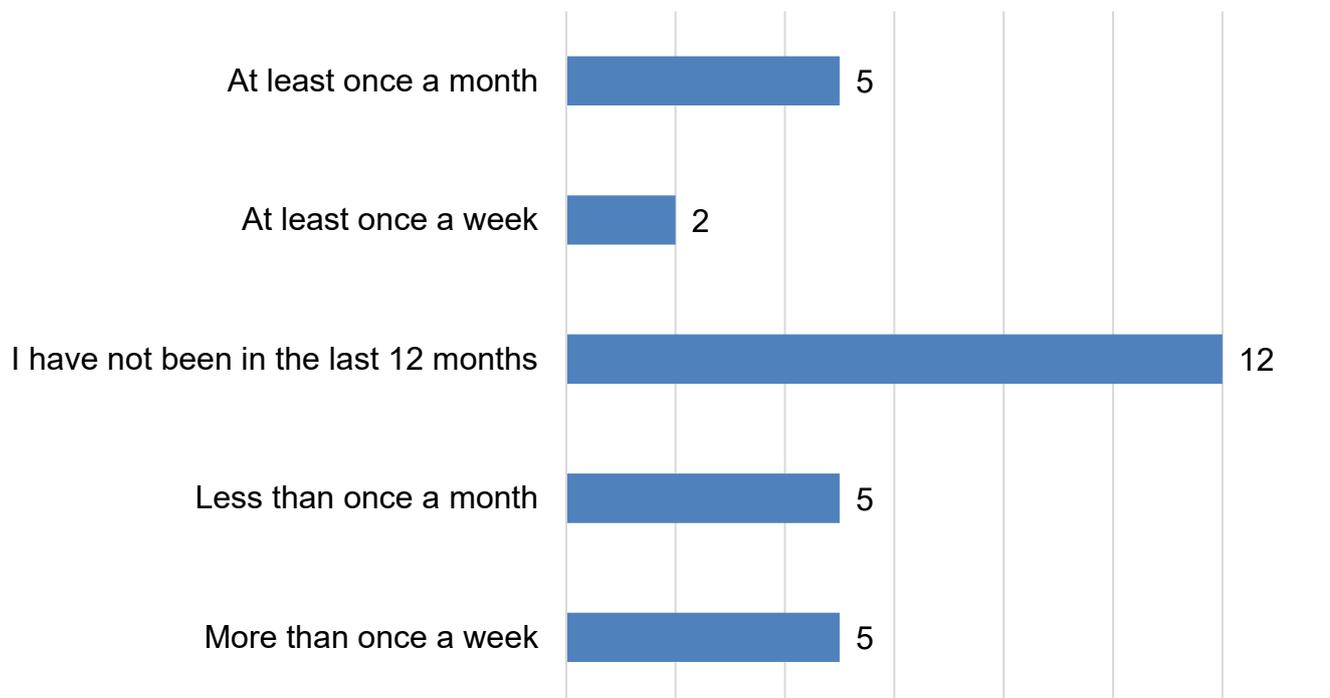
The main other reasons why people do not volunteer are due to factors such as age, physical ability and are a volunteer in another sector.

6. West Lindsey Leisure Centres

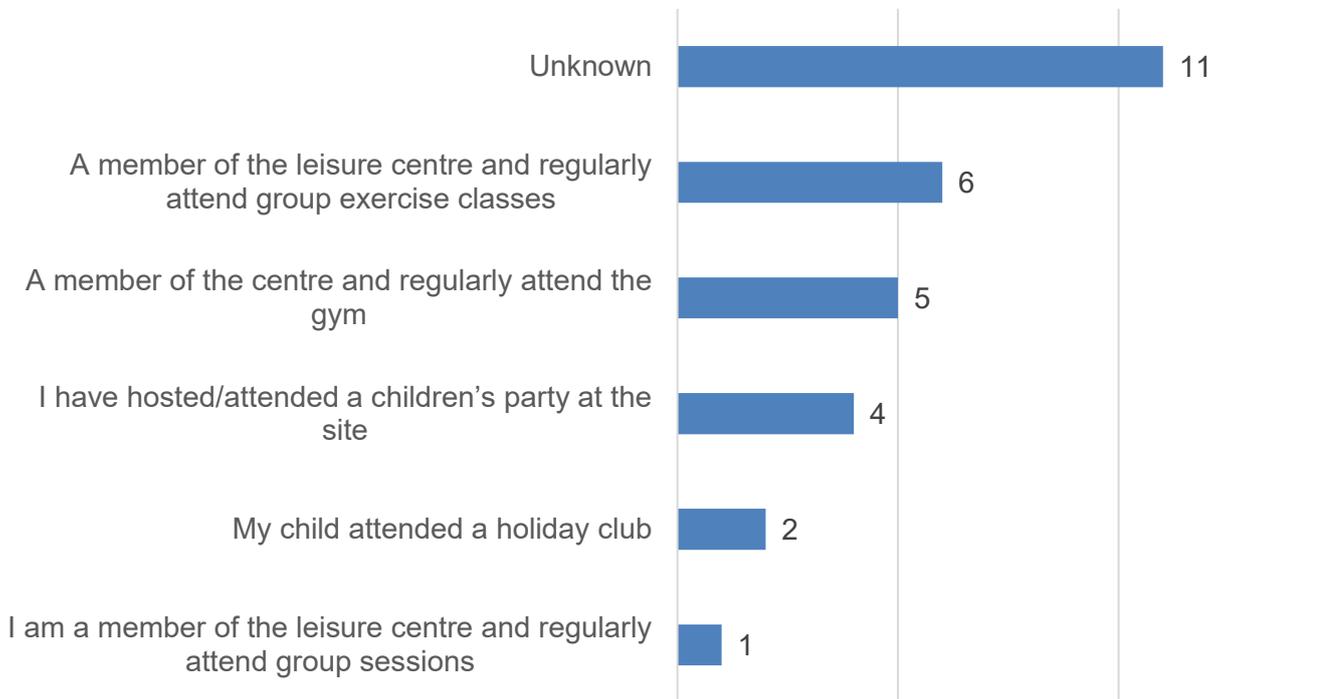
We asked residents if they have visited Market Rasen Leisure Centre before:



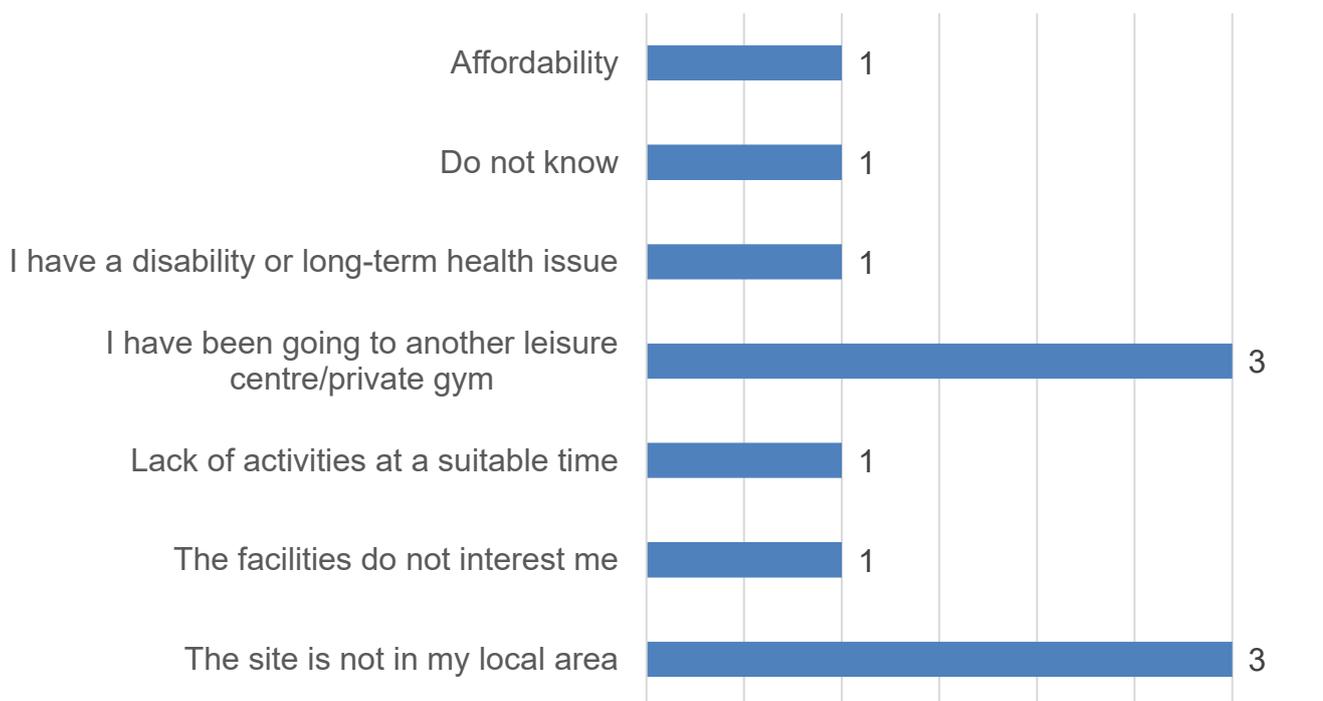
From the people who have visited the site we asked them to share how often they visit the site:



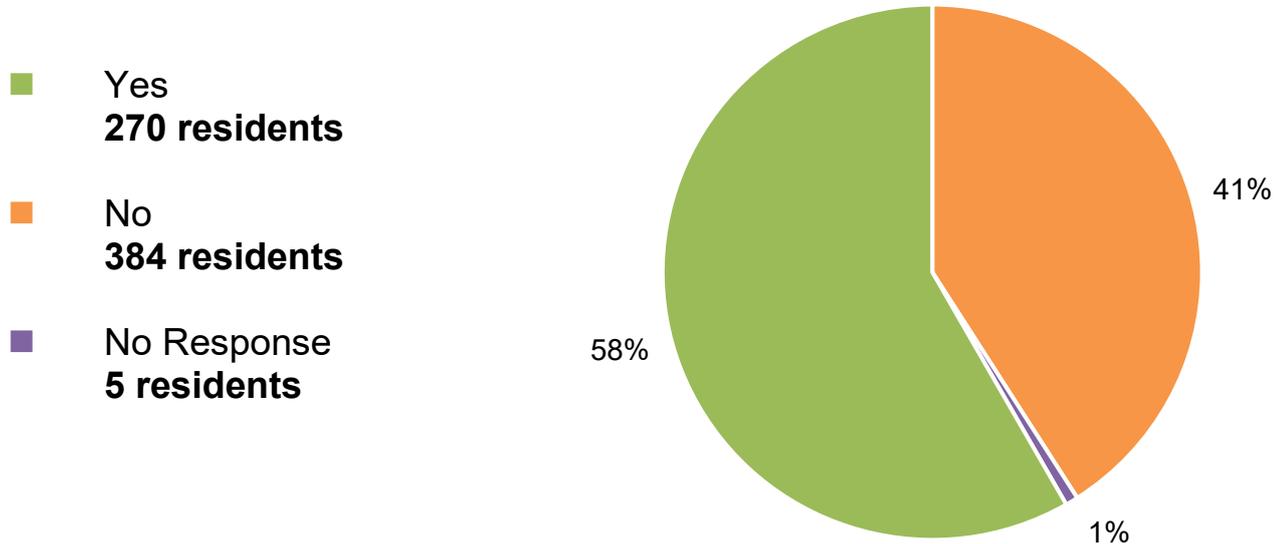
We asked residents what their purpose was when visiting the leisure centre:



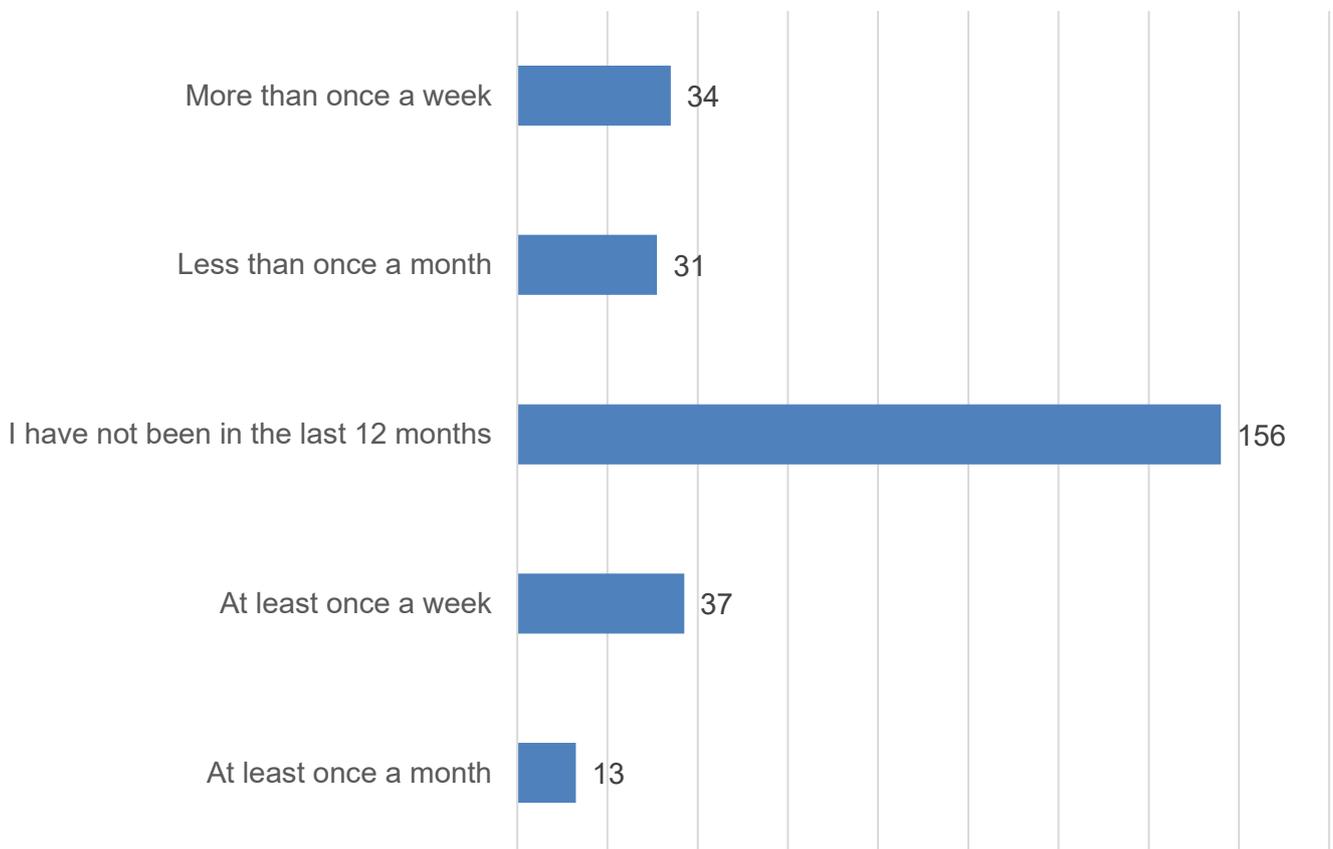
We asked residents what best describes why they have not visited the centre in the last 12 months:



We asked residents if they have visited West Lindsey Leisure Centre Gainsborough before:



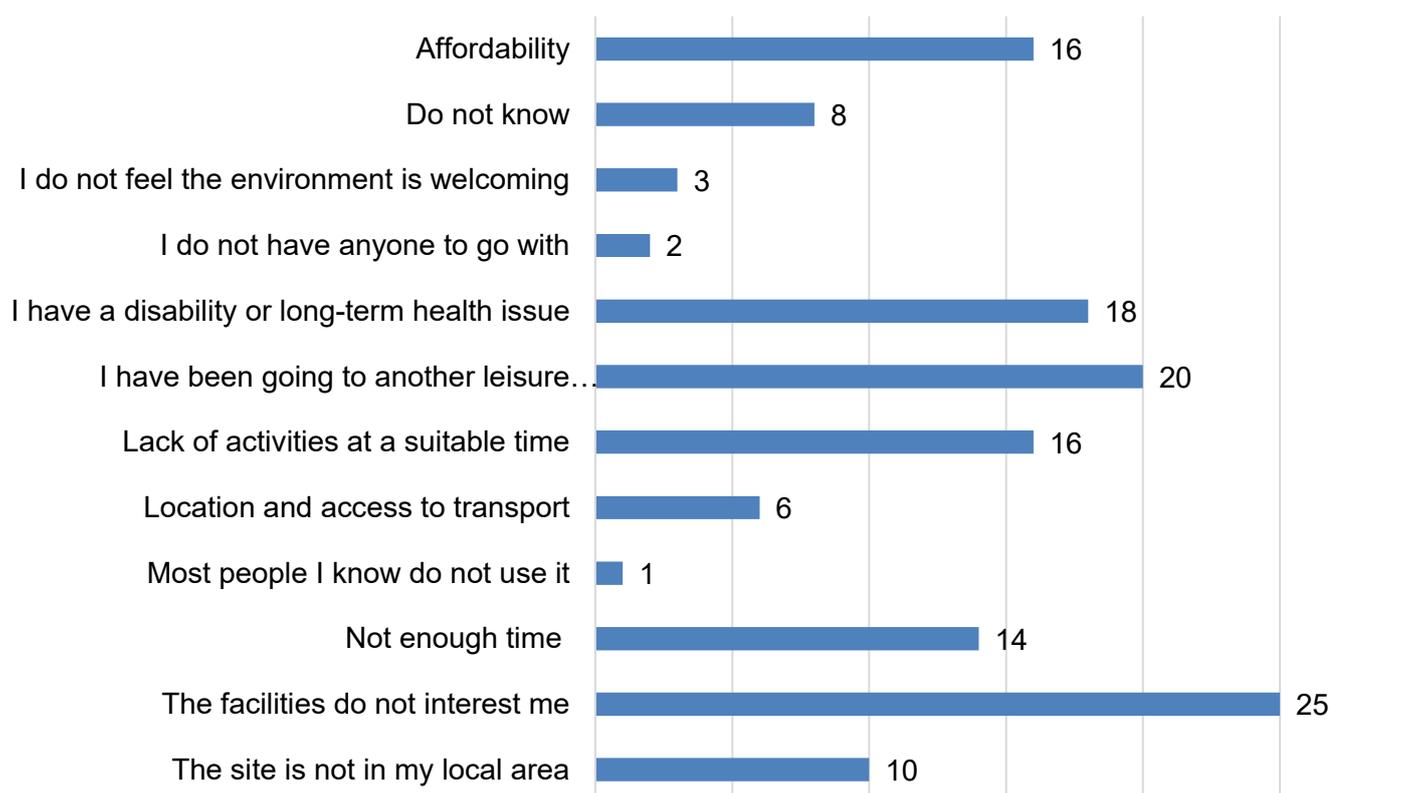
From the people who have visited the site we asked them to share how often they visit the site:



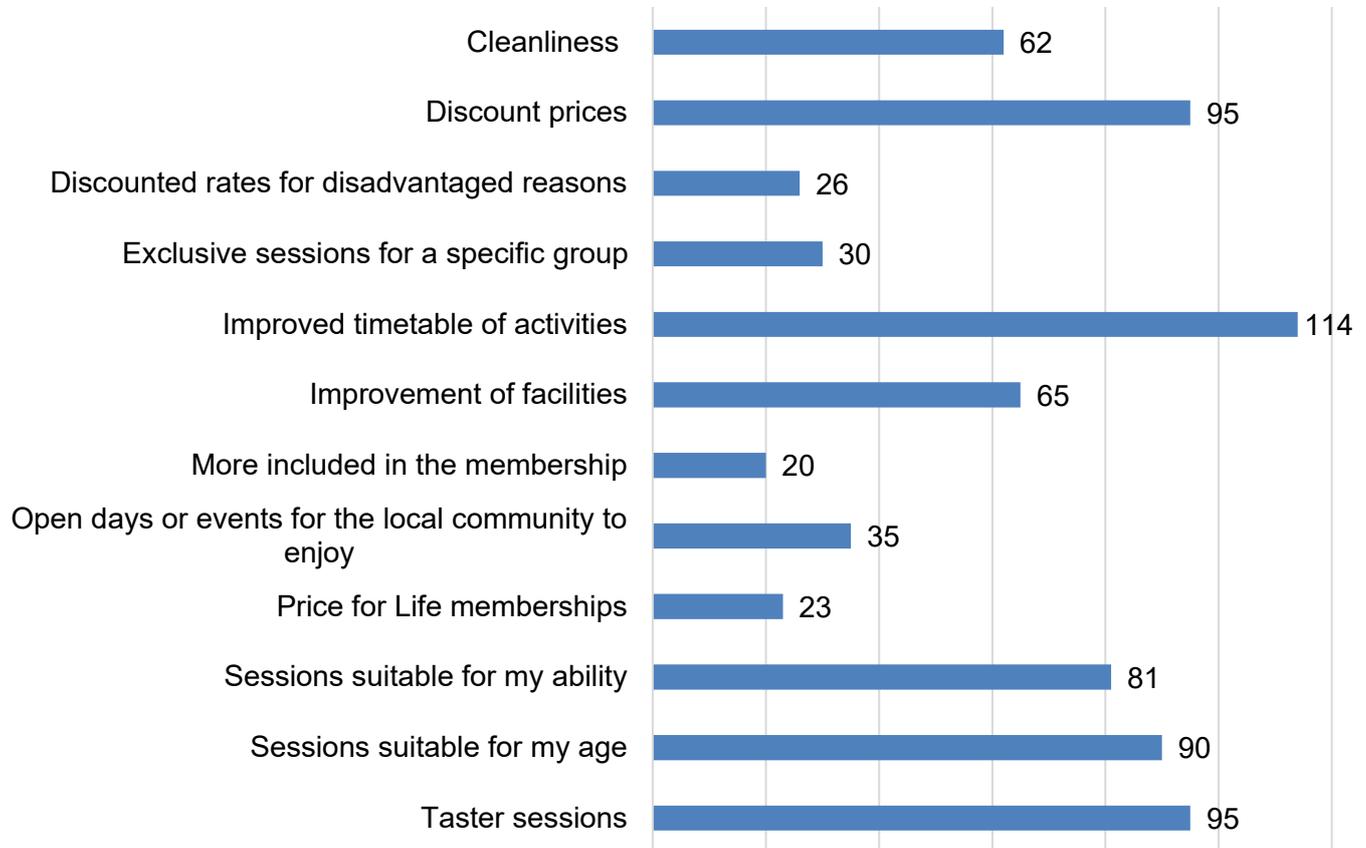
We asked residents what their purpose was when visiting the leisure centre:



We asked residents what best describes why they have not visited the centre in the last 12 months:



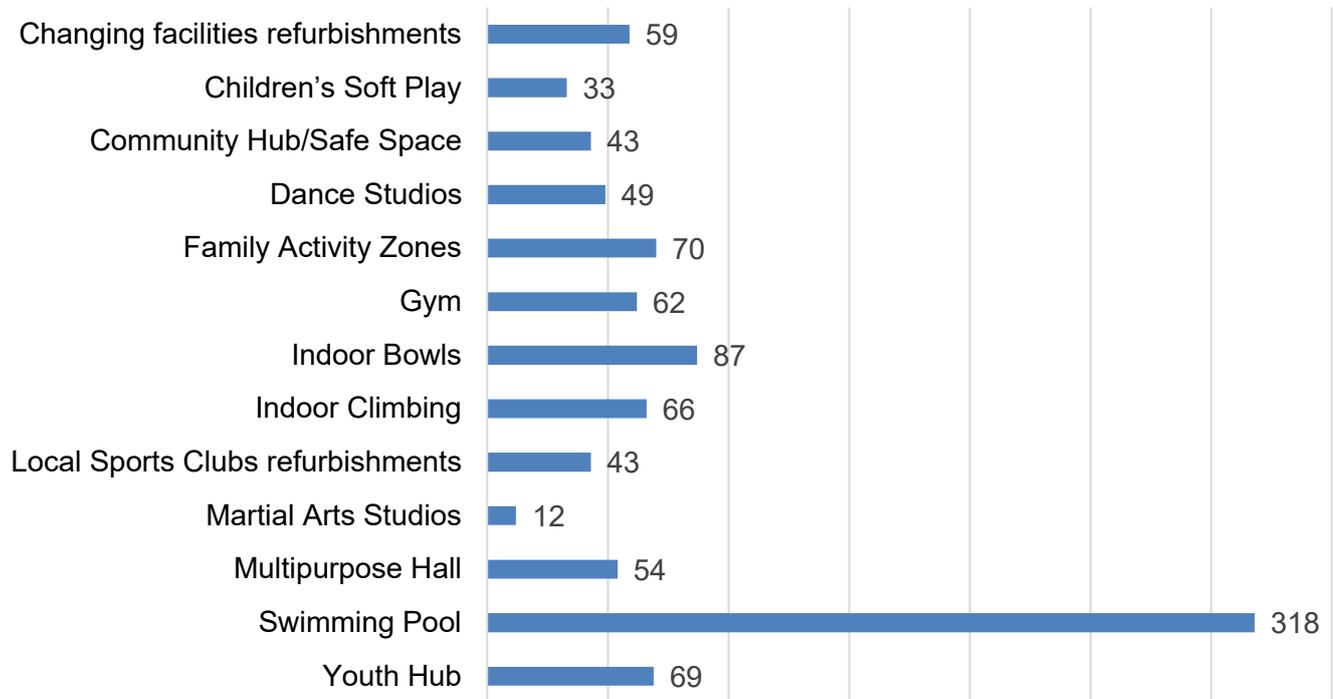
We asked residents what would encourage them to use the leisure centre more:



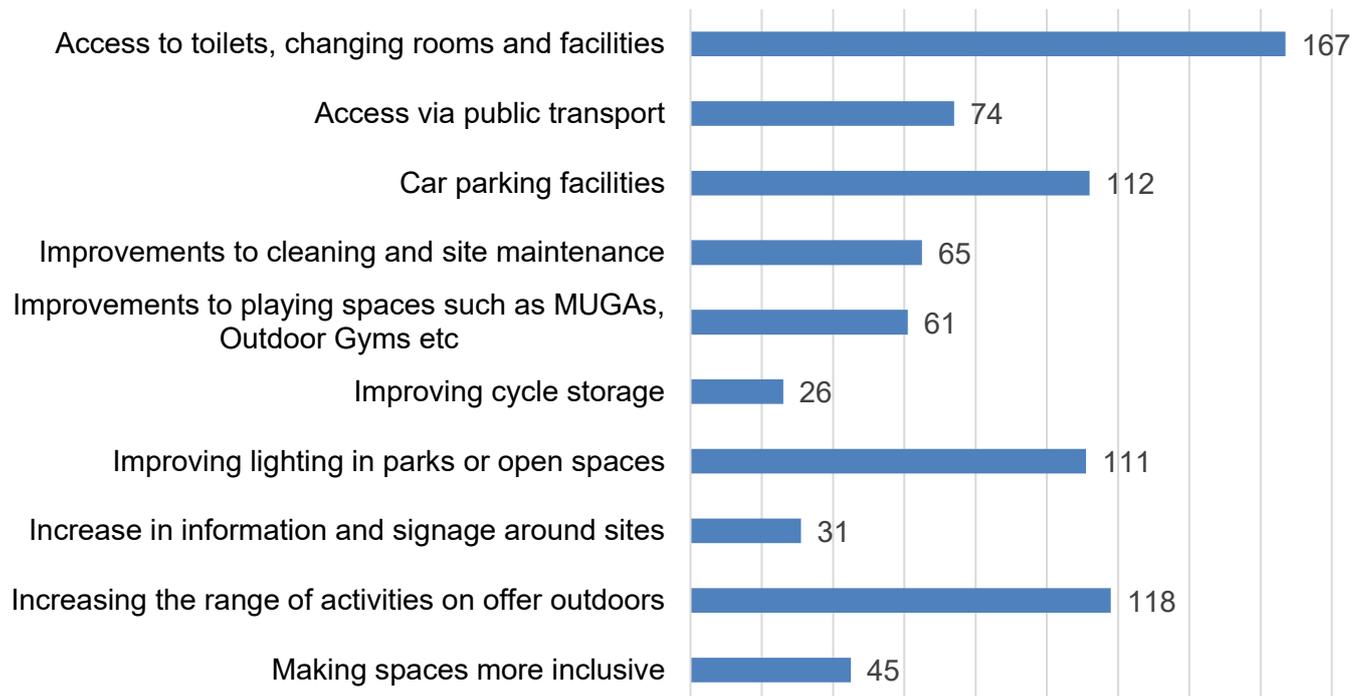
245 residents stated none of the options above would encourage them to use the site more.

7. Future Investments

We asked residents what investments they would like to see for indoor facilities across the district:

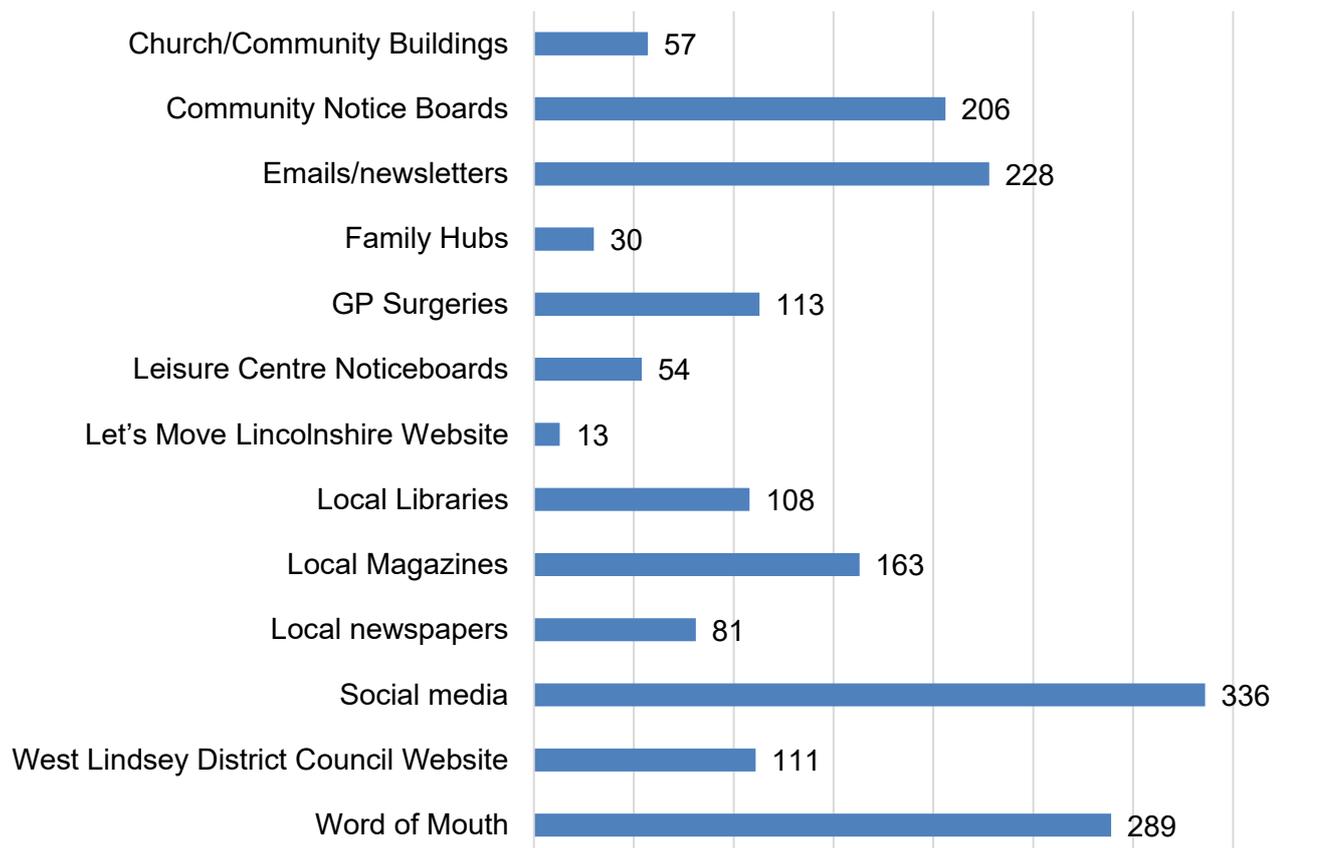


We asked residents what investments they would like to see for outdoor facilities across the district:



8. Promotion

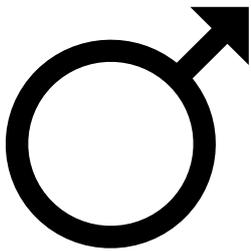
We asked residents what the best way for them to find out about new opportunities in your local area:



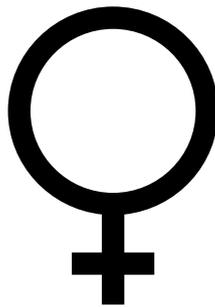
9. Summary of Participants

As part of our survey, we asked residents if they would share information about themselves with us.

We asked residents to share their gender:



Male
251



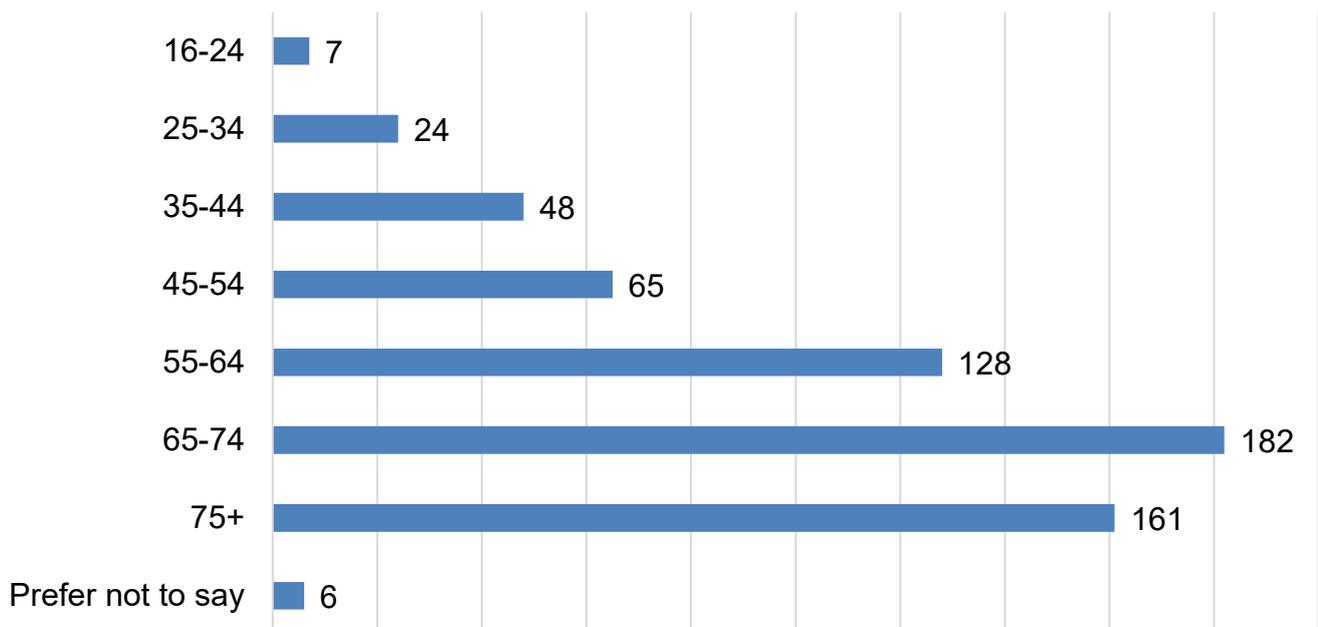
Female
356



Transgender
1

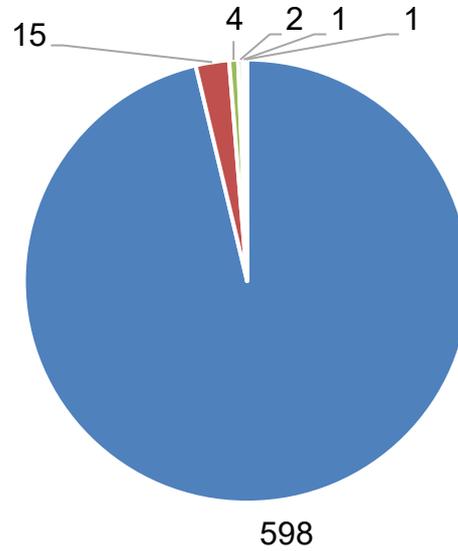
* 12 prefer not to say

We asked residents to share which age range they are:

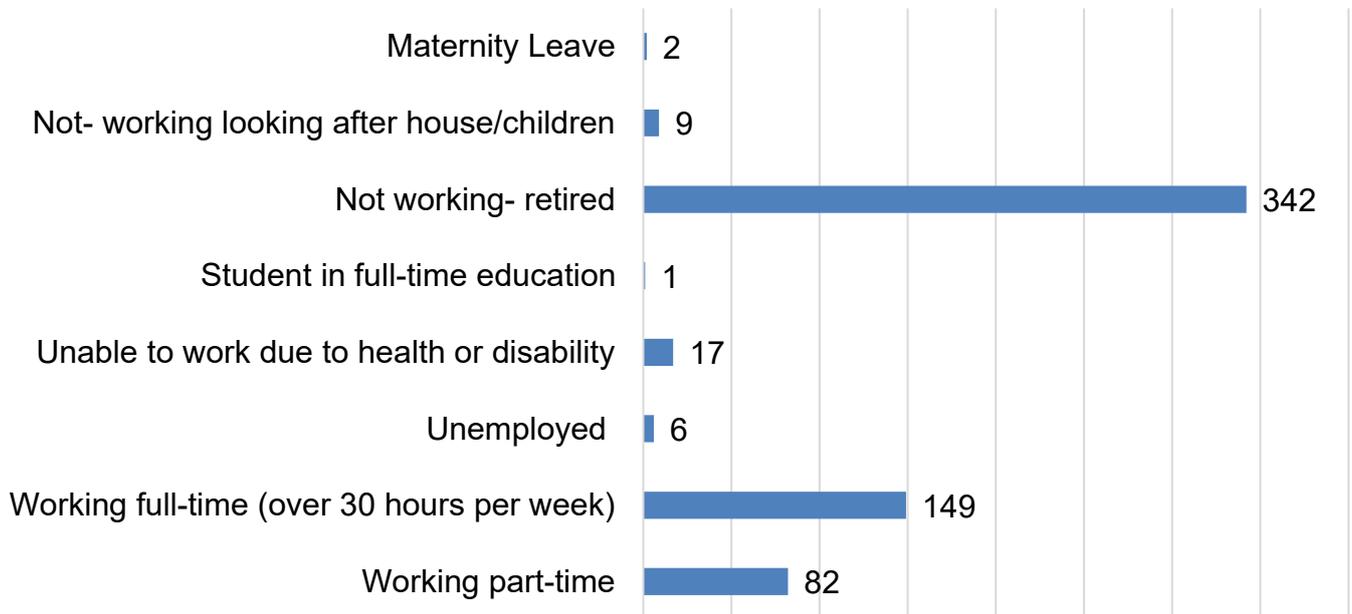


We asked residents to share their ethnicity:

- White
598 residents
- Prefer not to say
15 residents
- Asian or Asian British
4 residents
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
2 residents
- Any other ethnics group
1 Resident
- Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African
1 Resident

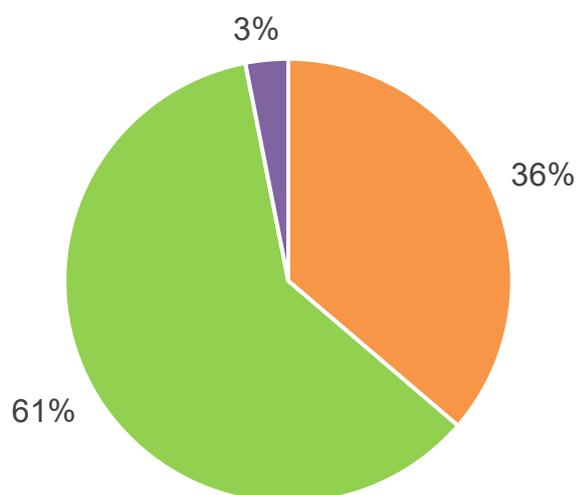


We asked residents to share their current work status:



We asked residents to share if they have a health condition or illness:

- Yes
244 residents
- No
374 residents
- Prefer not to say
19 residents



Sport & Physical Activity Club Survey

Summary Report – November 2025



1. Introduction

This report presents the findings of the Sport and Physical Activity Club Survey conducted between June and September 2025. The survey was open to all sport clubs and physical activity groups who provide opportunities within in West Lindsey.

The primary objective of this research was to establish:

- What opportunities clubs and physical activity groups offer
- An understanding of the facilities they use and their club views.
- What support they have received and what support they would like?
- Future aspirations of the organisations
- What challenges they have?

The data collected will help us identify the range of provisions and opportunities in the district. Understanding the individual organisation's aspirations will help us identify how we can support them and to help explore future funding opportunities.

The survey was available online and sent directly to clubs and groups we hold contact details for. 51 organisations took the time to complete the survey from 26 different sports. The clubs ranged from 5 to 1000 plus participants and offer opportunities from pre-school age to older adults.

The results of the survey will help to develop the West Lindsey Sport and Physical Activity strategy by providing evidence of need. Alongside this data we will also use findings from school survey workshops, residents survey as well as statistical data from external sources. As part of the survey organisations were asked to share information associated with their current delivery as well as their future aspirations.

This report presents the findings from the survey and highlights key findings. Individual organisation's answers to open questions have not been shared in this report however they will be used to help shape work programmes and our new strategy.

2. Organisation Information

The organisation who completed our survey are based across 22 locations with 5 being based outside the district.

Clubs from outside the district:

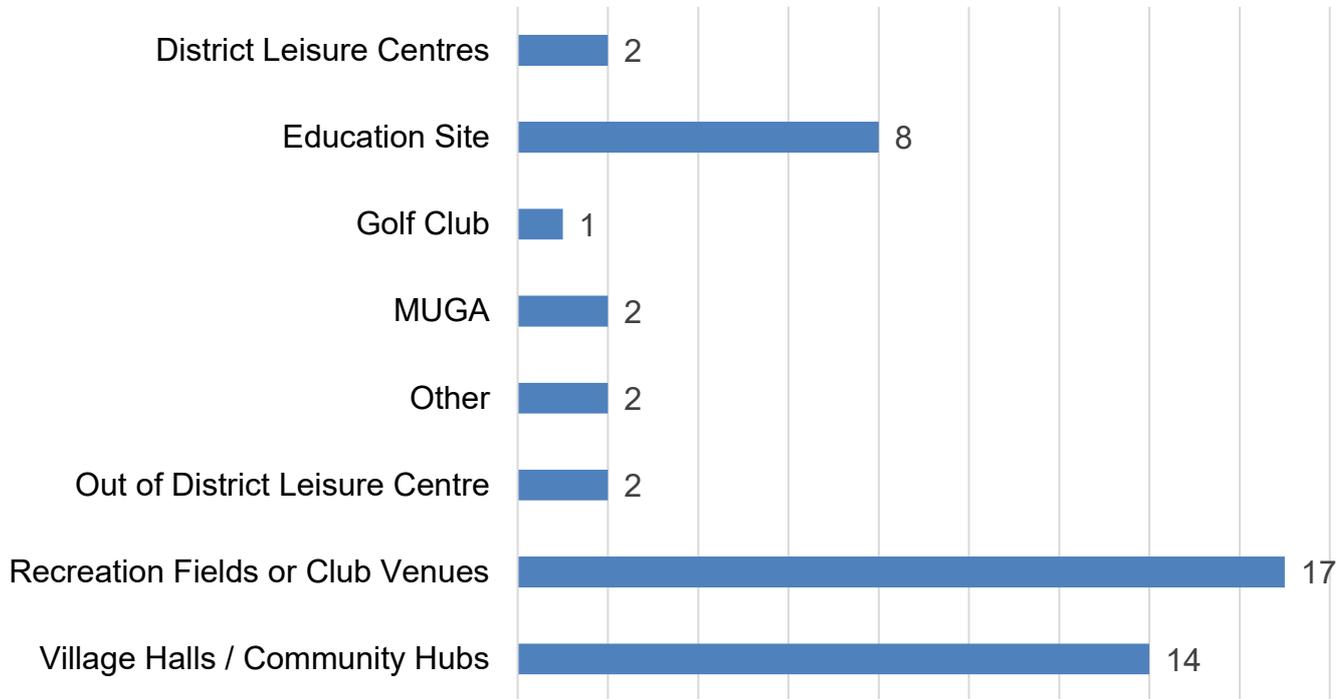
- Ancholme Rowing Club
- Lincoln Carlton Football Club
- SK8S
- Scunthorpe Motorcycle club

Location	Count	Location	Count
Gainsborough	13	Blyton	1
Market Rasen	5	Brampton	1
Nettleham	4	Brigg	1
Saxilby	4	Dunholme	1
Caistor	3	Fillingham	1
Various	3	Keelby	1
Lincoln	2	Scotton	1
Scotter	2	Scunthorpe	1
Welton	2	Sudbrooke	1
Bardney	1	Waddingham	1
Beckingham	1	Willoughton	1

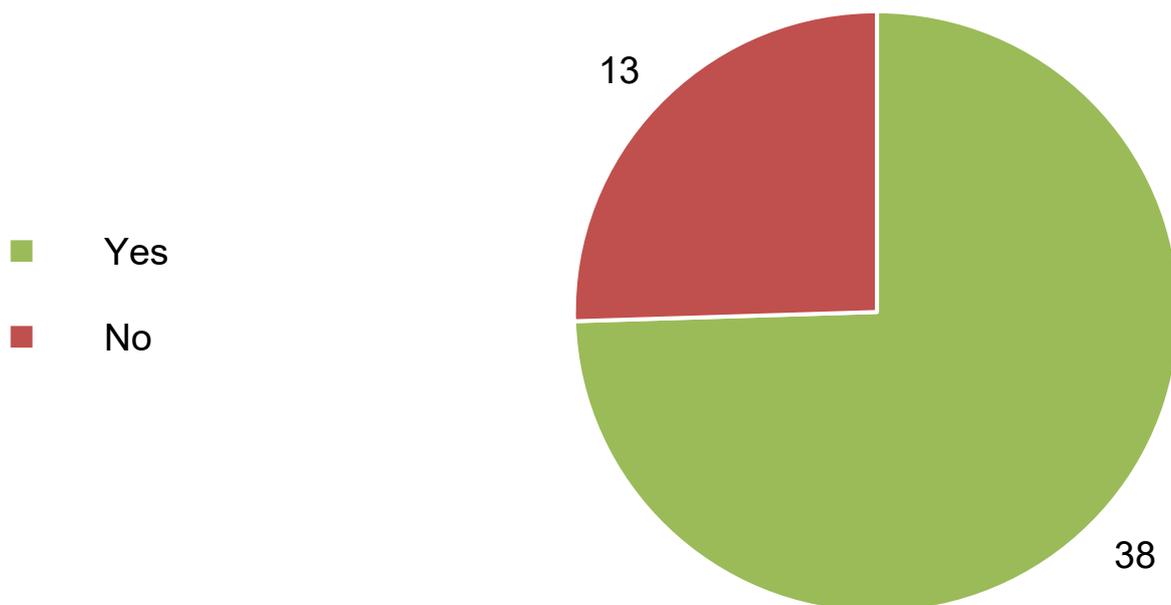
The organisations are represented across 26 different activities which include individual sports, team sports, group exercises, and support groups.

Category	Count	Category	Count
Football	11	Golf	1
Cricket	5	Group Exercise	1
Lawn Bowls	4	Motorsport	1
Running	3	Pickleball	1
Yoga	3	Roller Skating	1
Indoor Bowls	2	Rowing	1
Multi-Sports	2	Rugby Union	1
Support Group	2	Seated Exercise	1
Tennis	2	Strength Class	1
Venues	2	Taekwondo	1
Walking Football	2	Walking & Outdoor Activities	1
Archery	1	Wheelchair Basketball	1
Croquet	1	Youth Activities	1

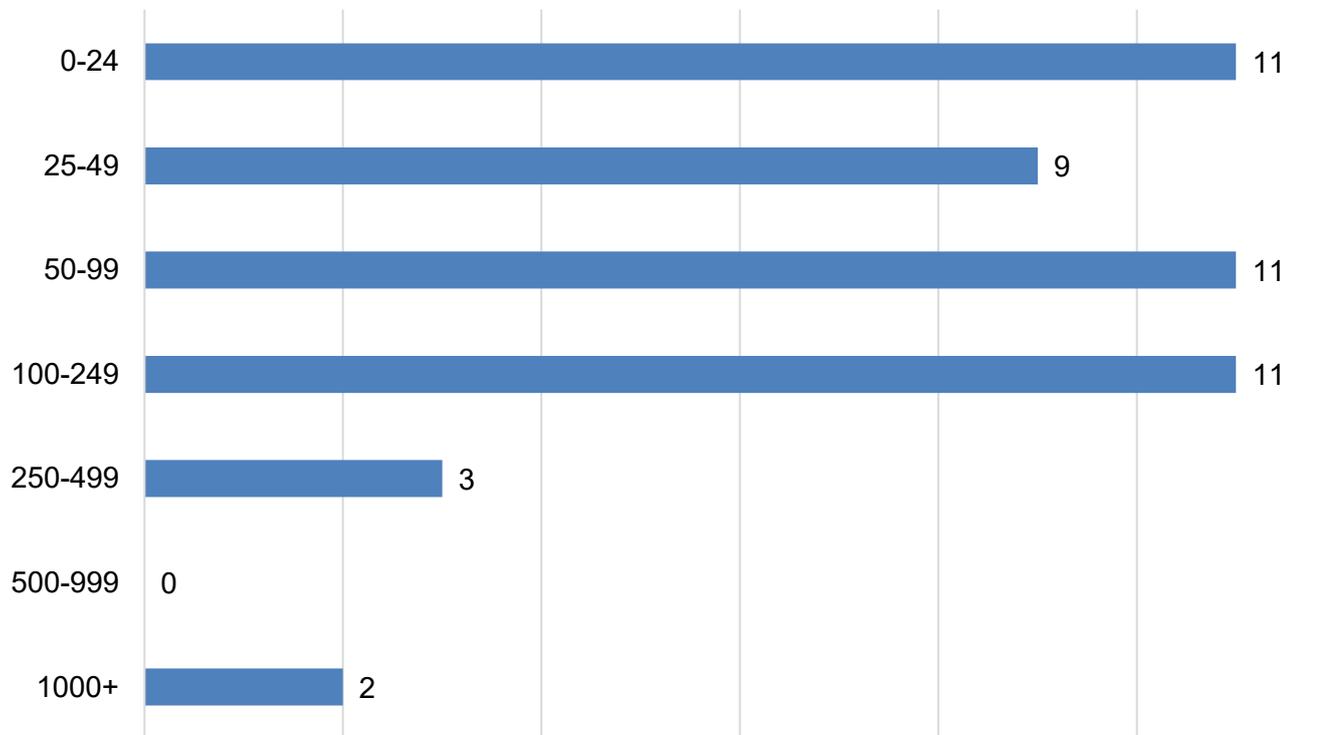
We asked organisations what facilities their club use and have summarised them into the following categories:



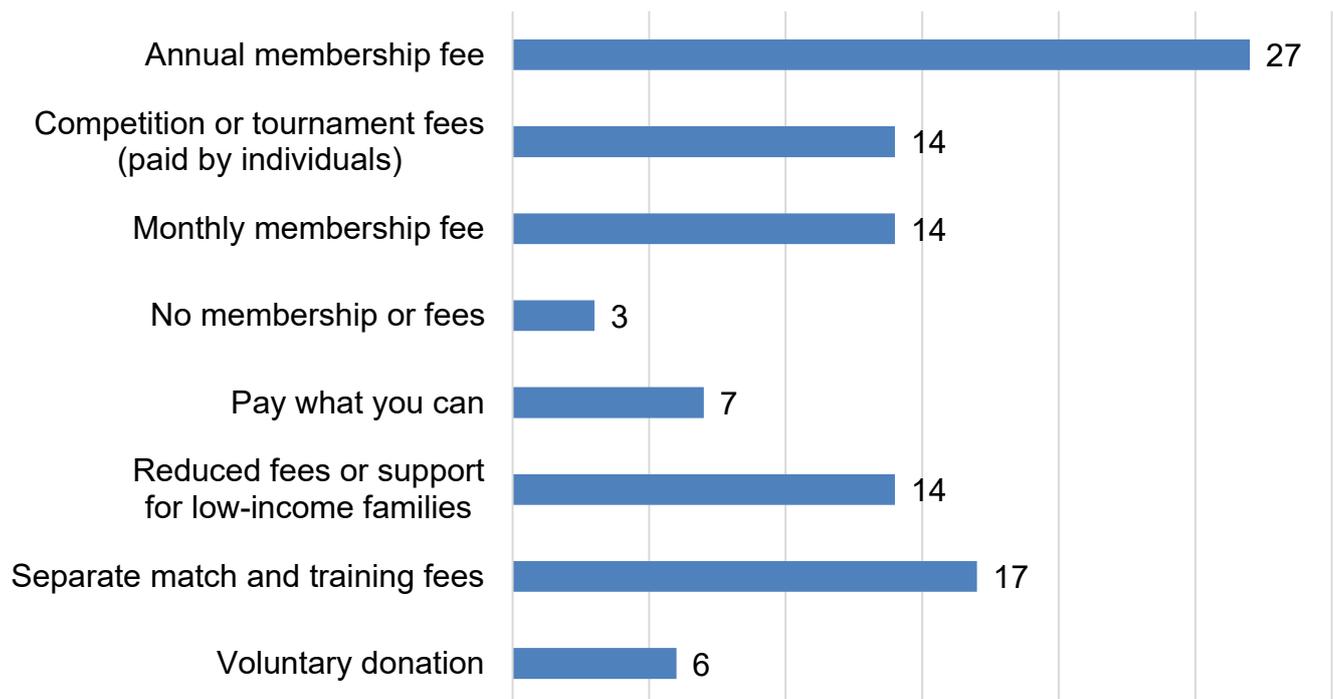
We asked organisations if they affiliate to their Regional or National Governing Body:



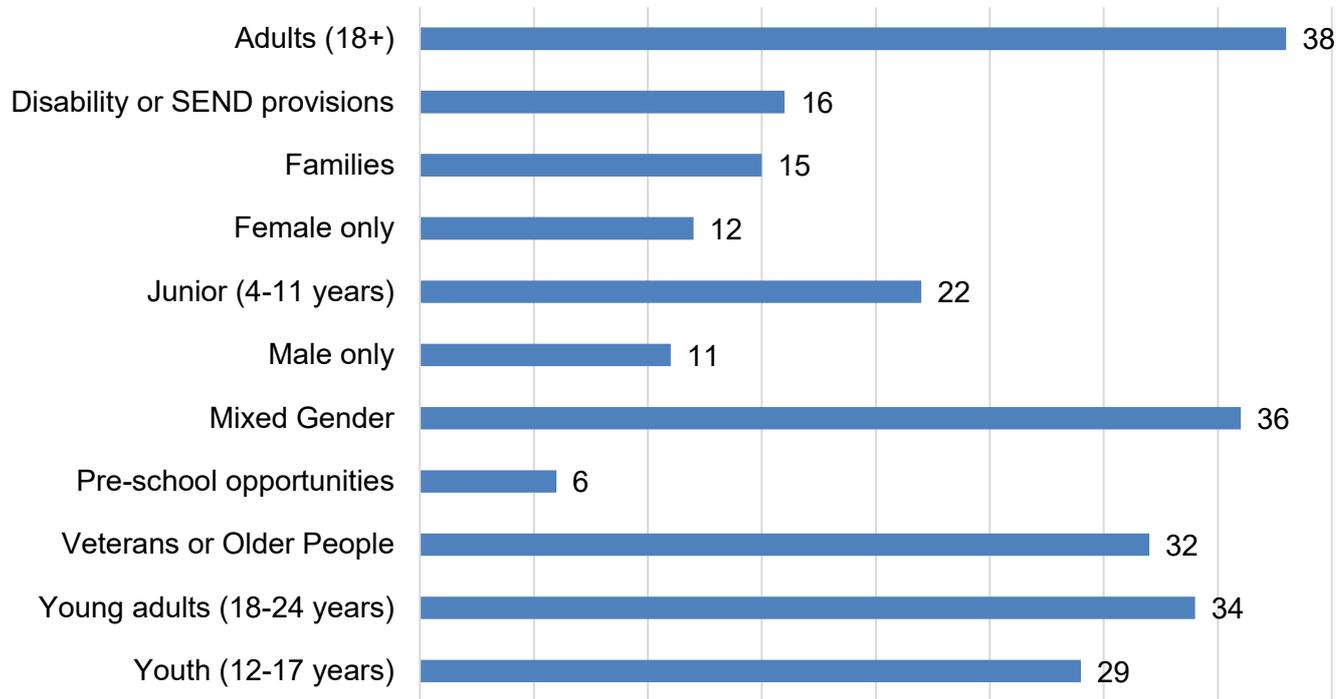
We asked organisations to share with us the number of members who are part of their club/group.



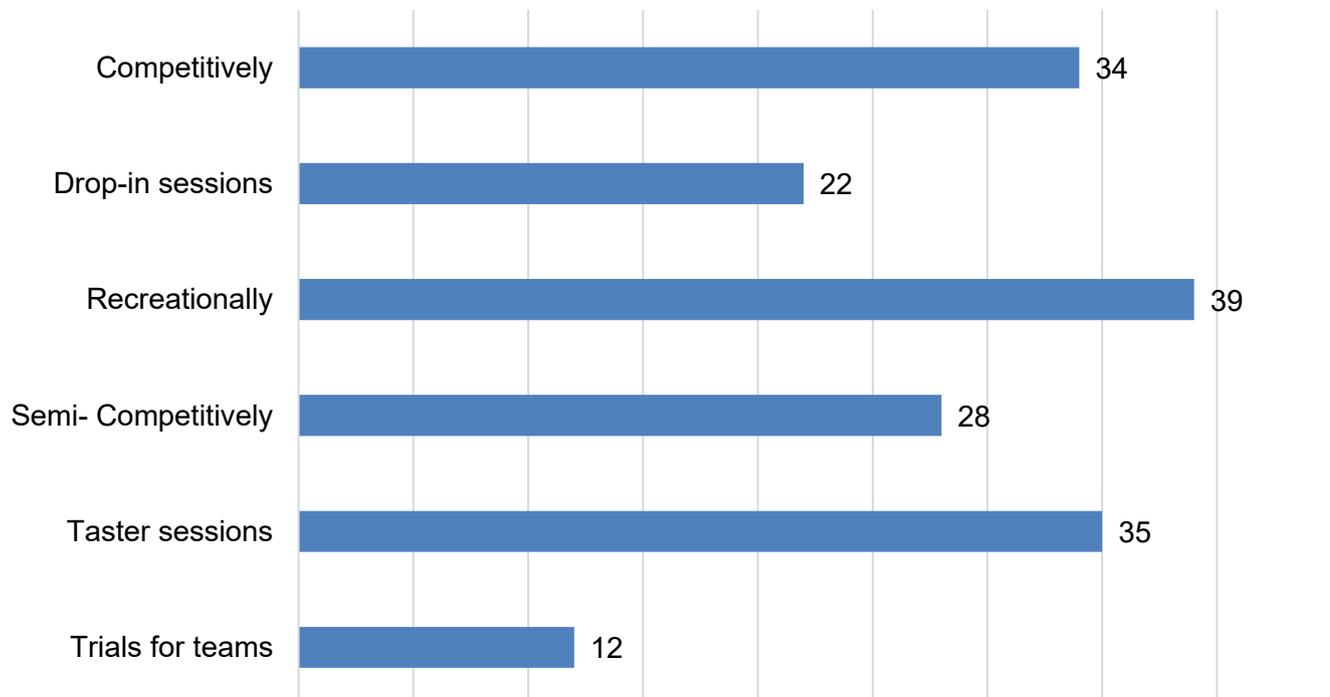
We asked organisations if they offer any of the following memberships types:



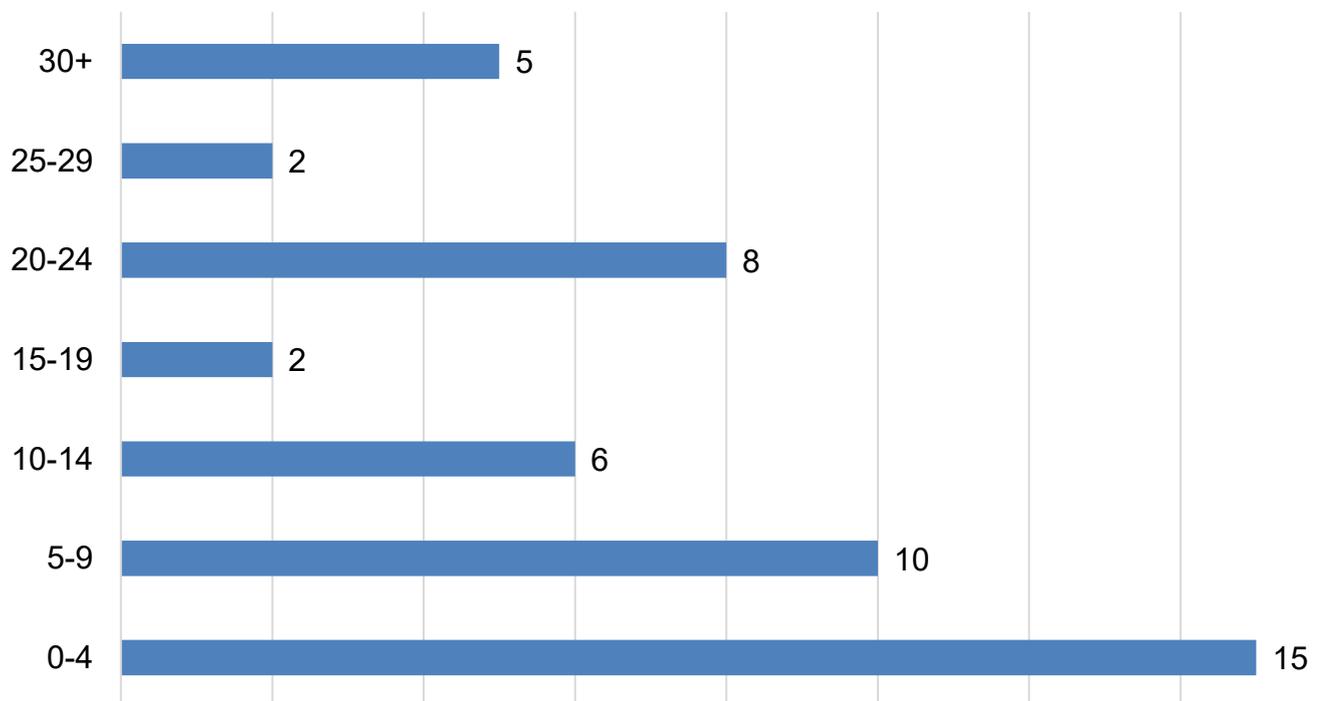
We asked organisations to share if they offered activities for the following groups:



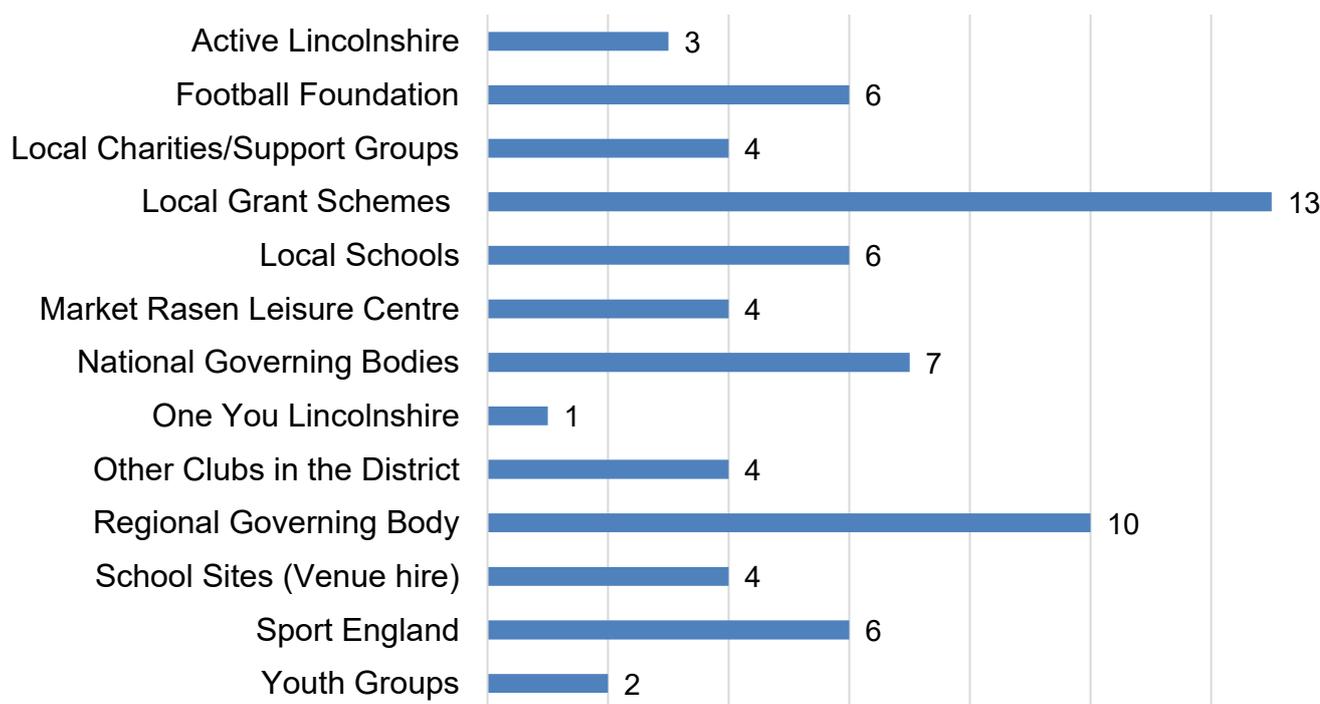
We asked organisations which of the following participation opportunities they offer to residents:



We asked organisations the number of volunteers they have within their organisation:

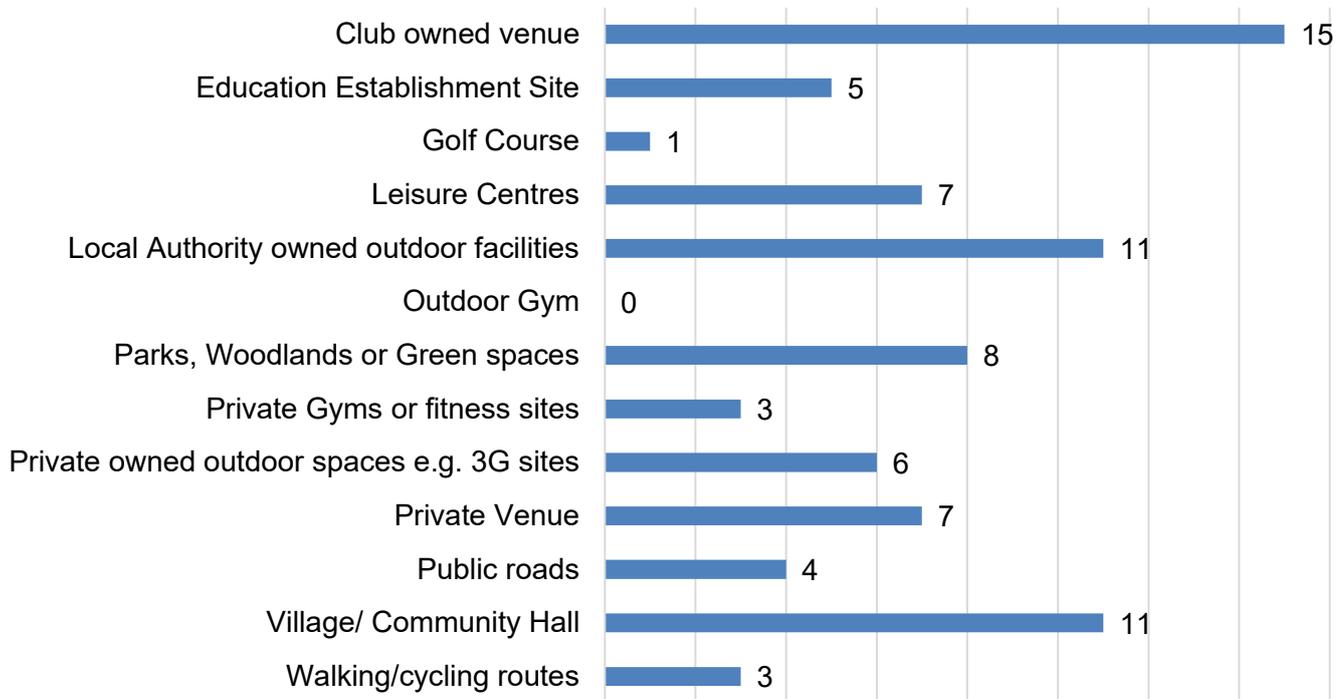


We asked organisations if they have support or if they currently partner any of the following providers to promote, grow or run their club/group:



3. Facilities Feedback

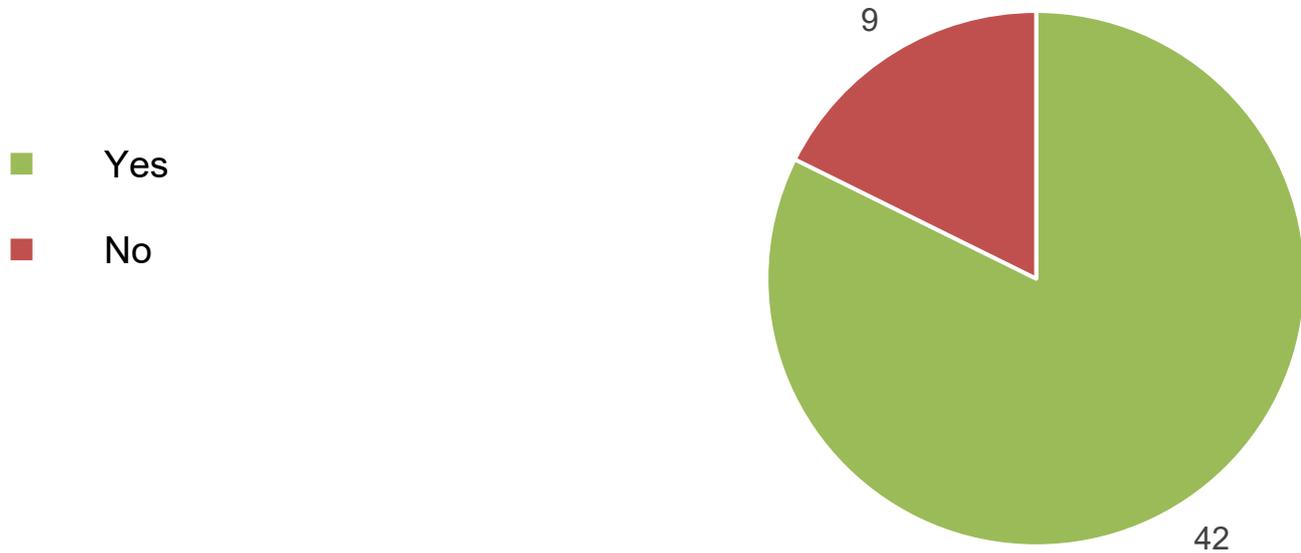
We asked the organisations where they deliver training or regular physical sessions:



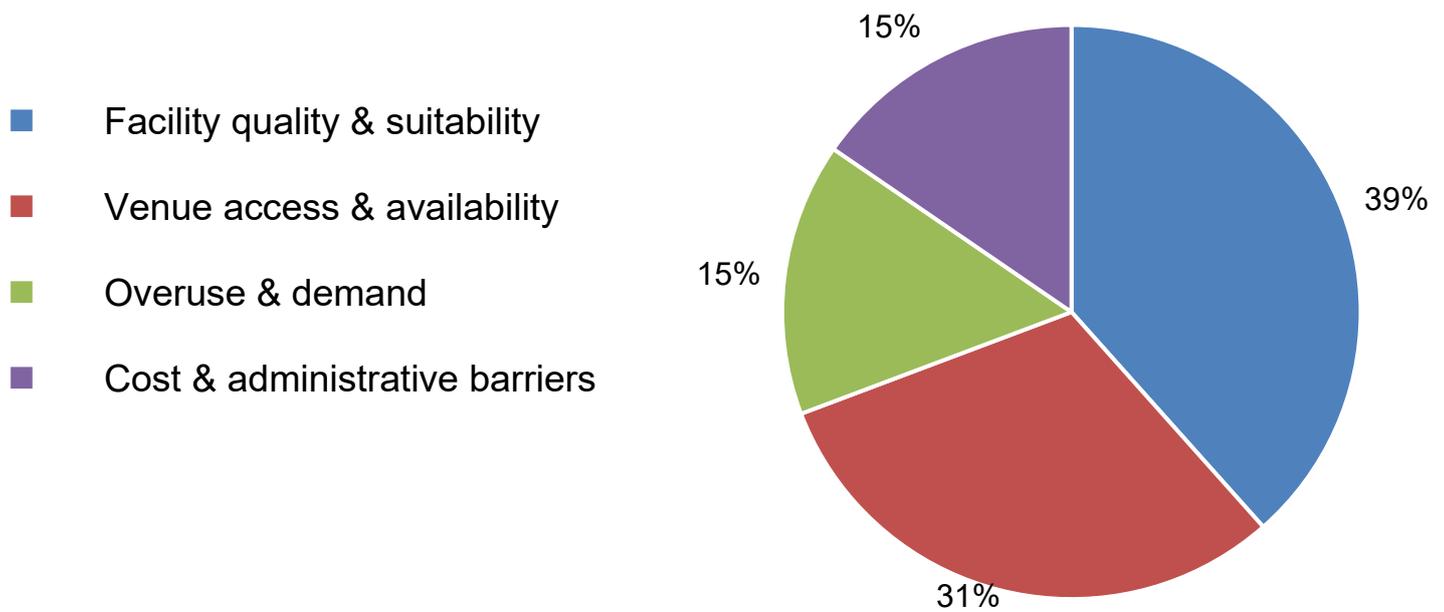
We asked the organisations where they deliver fixtures/competitions/events:



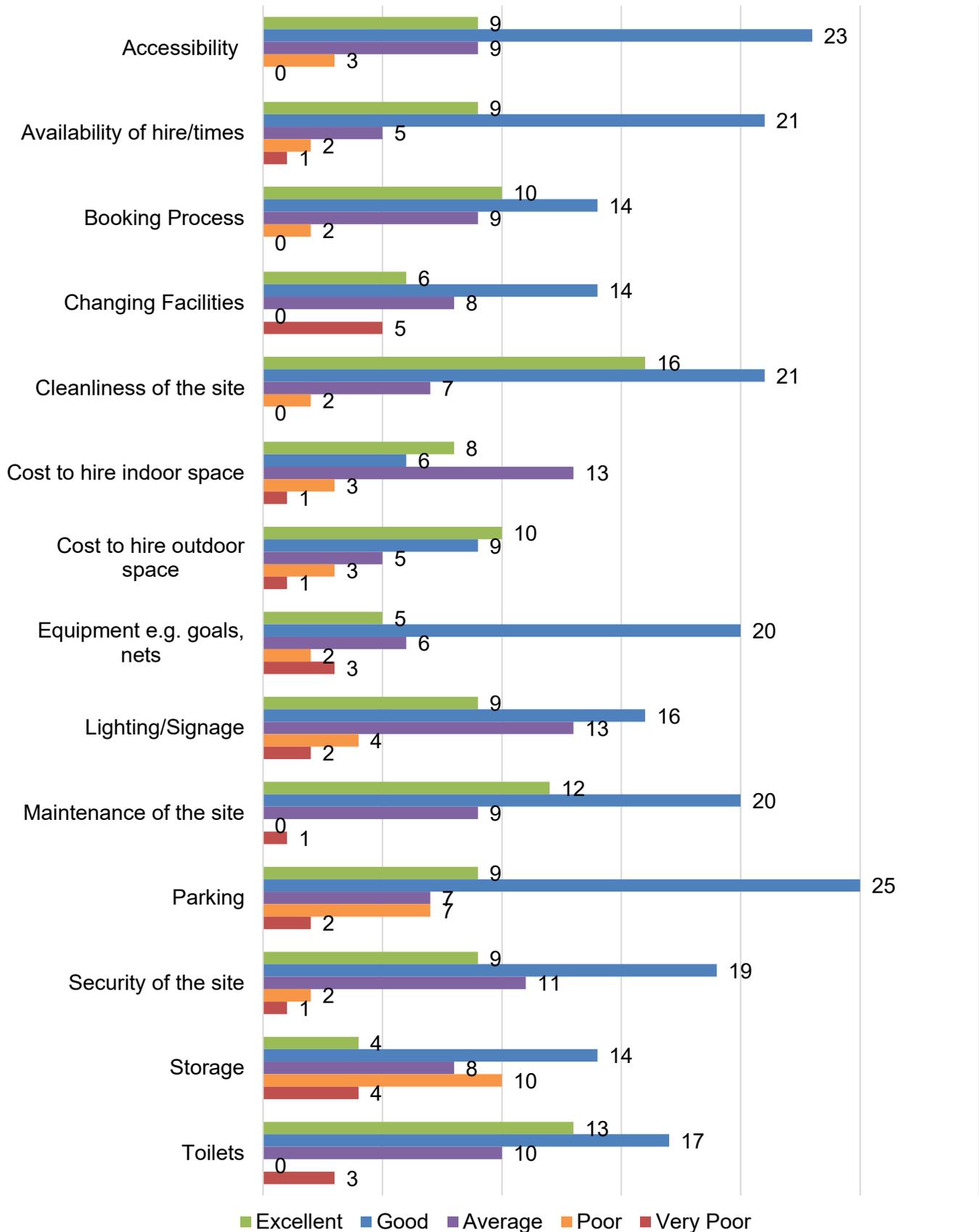
We asked if the facilities their organisation uses are suitable for the level of activity they deliver:



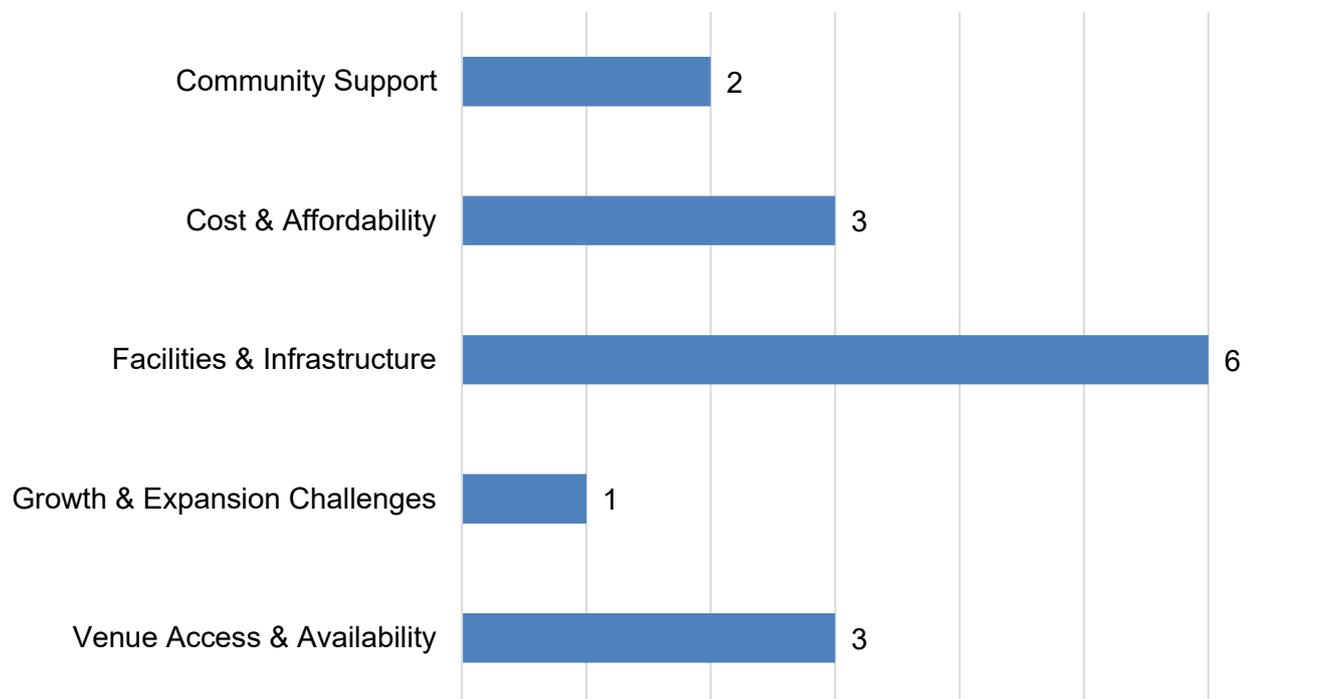
We asked the organisation who find their facilities are not suitable what their challenges were and categorised them into the following:



What asked organisations to rate the following statements about the facilities they use:



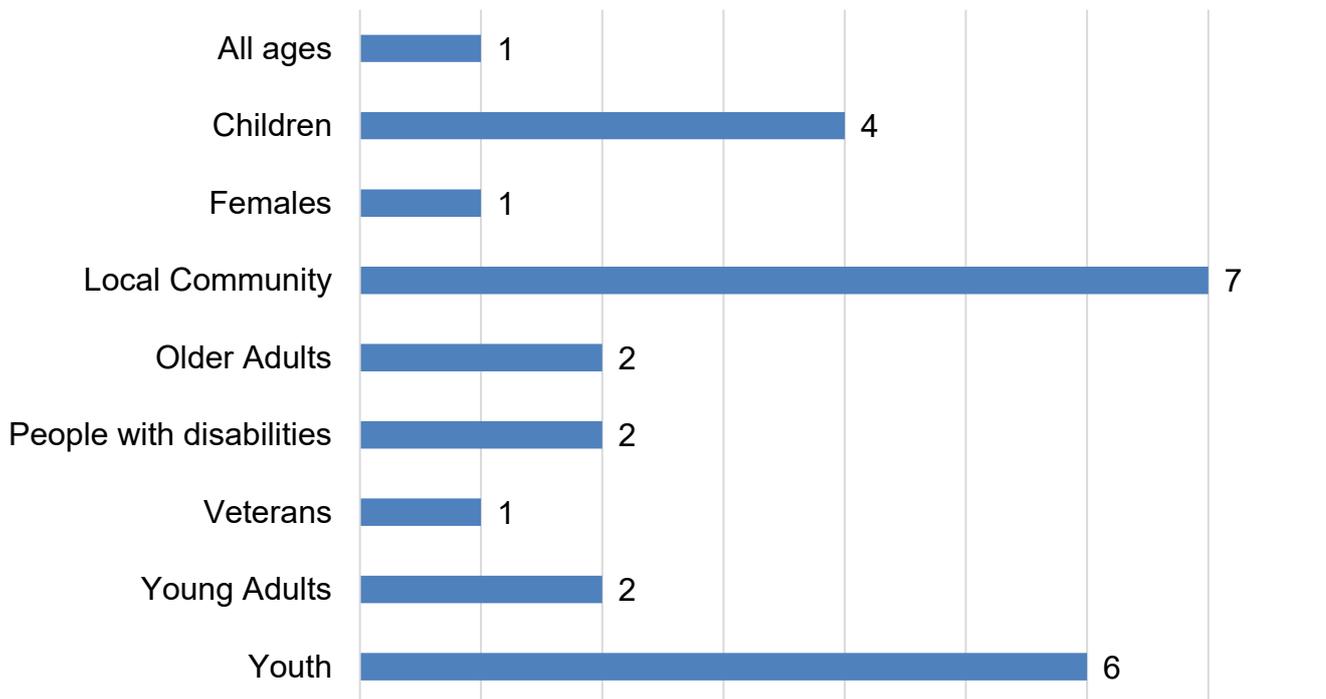
We asked organisations if they would like to share explanations around their ratings and categorised their responses into the following:



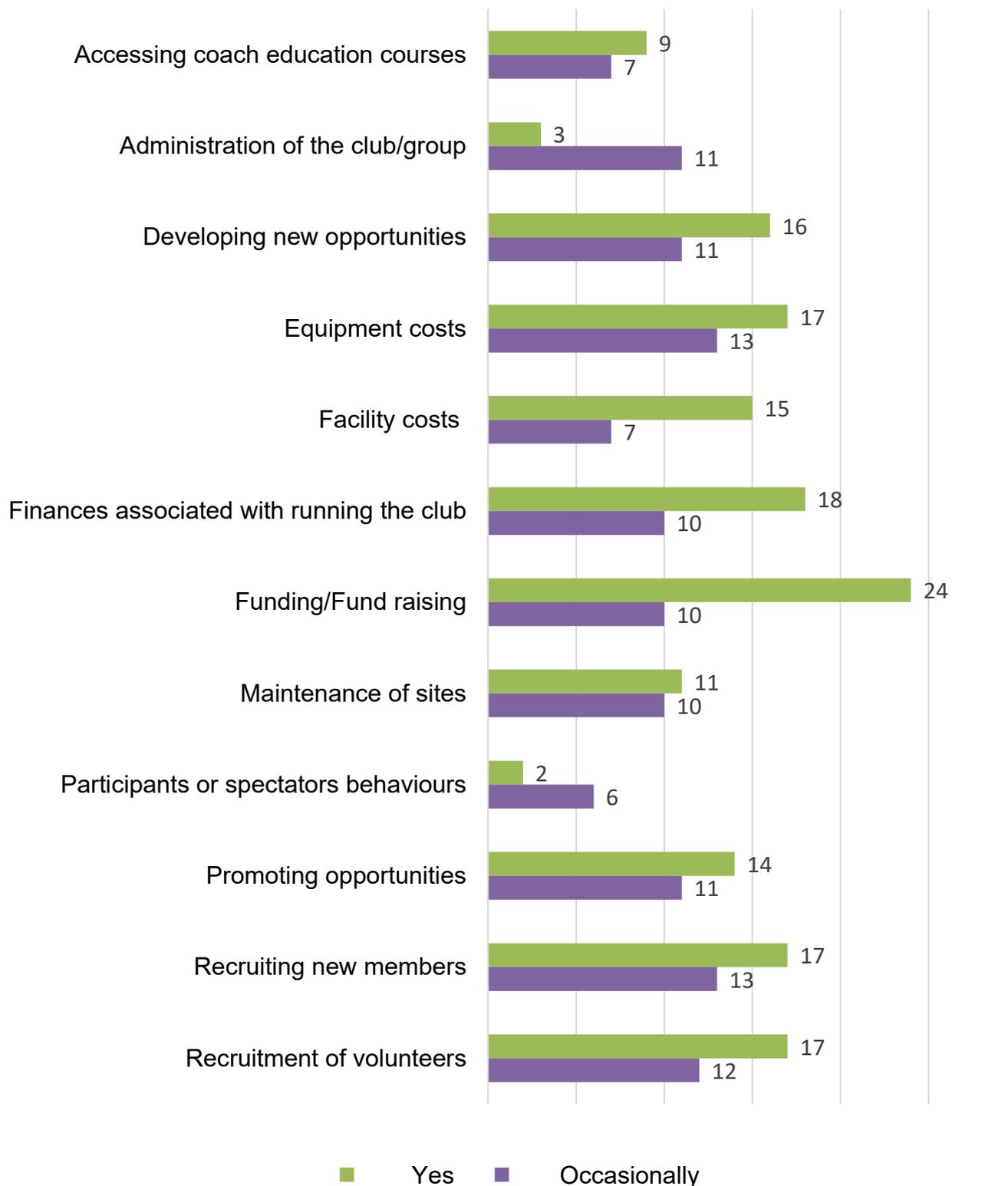
4. Future Developments

We asked groups the following questions to help us understand more about their ambitions.

As a follow up question to who they current engage with we asked groups if there are any specific groups they want to engage with further:

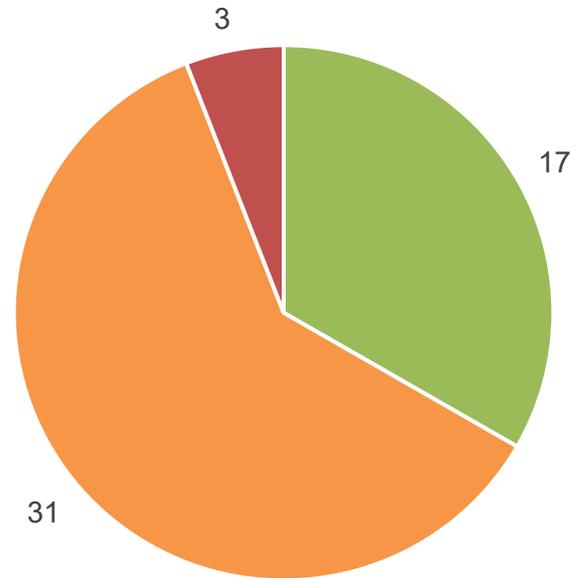


We asked organisations if they had challenges with the following:



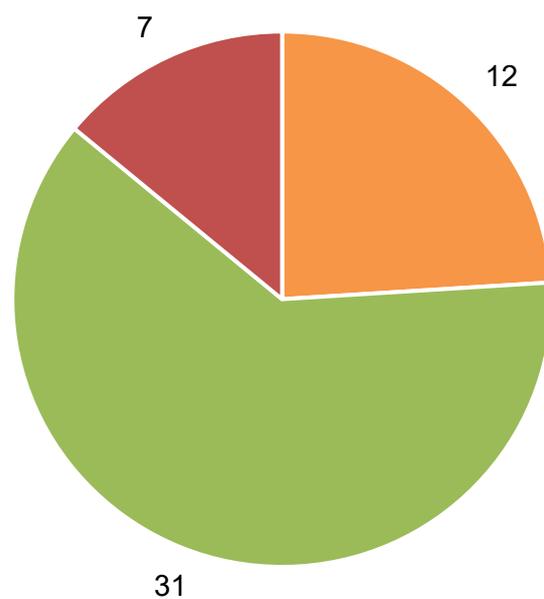
We asked organisations if they would be interested in being part of a District wide take part event to promote their club/group or support local events in your community?

- Yes
- Maybe
- No

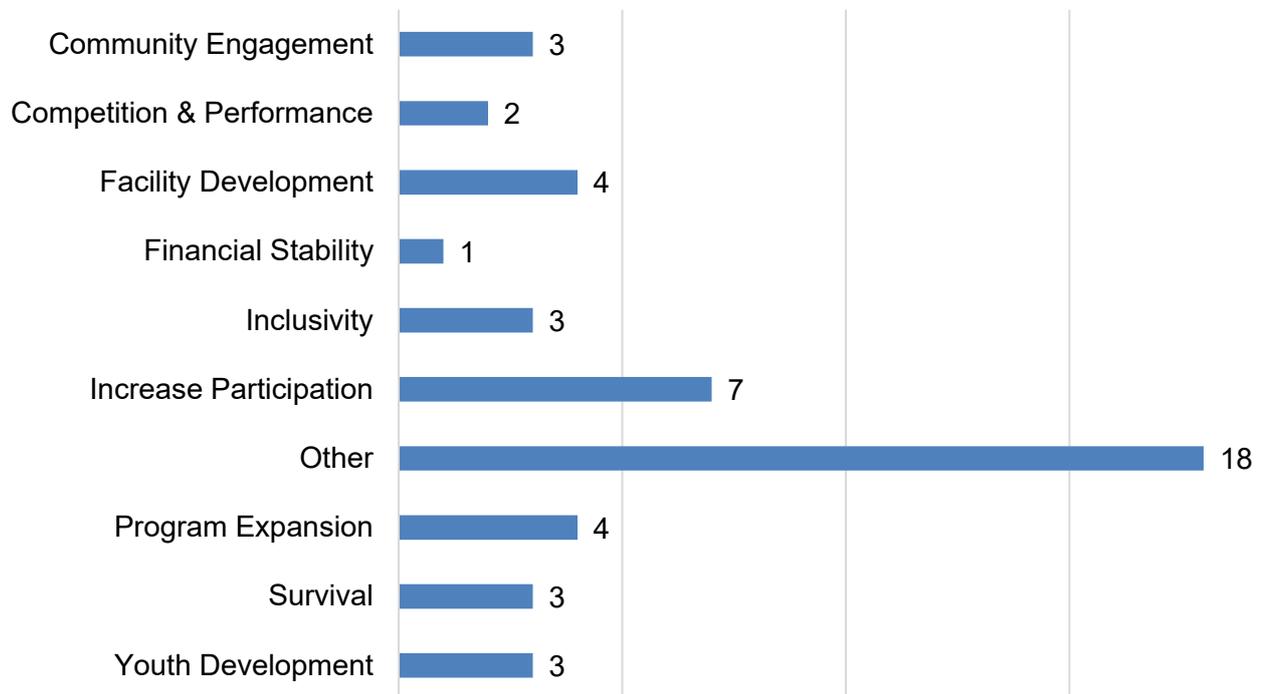


We also asked organisations if they would benefit from a local Sports and Physical Activity Network Event:

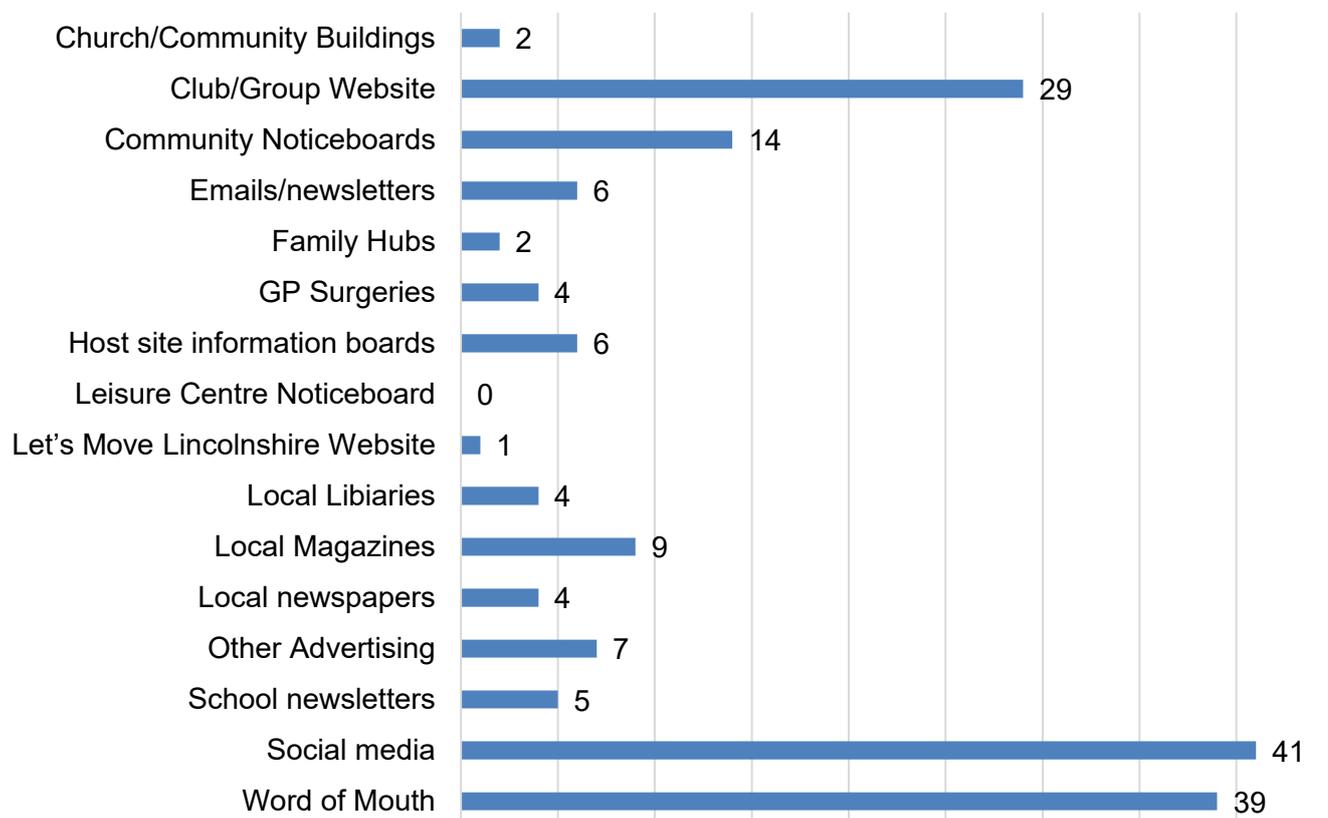
- Yes
- Maybe
- No



We asked organisations, over the next 3-5 years what are their organisations goals/ambitions:



We ask organisations the best way residents can find out more about them:

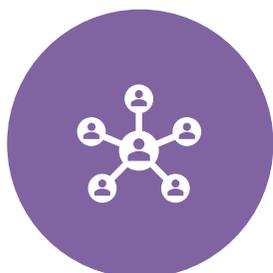




Create opportunities to improve resident's health and wellbeing through inclusive, lifelong physical activity.



Inspire and empower future generations by creating positive, inclusive pathways into sport and physical activity.



Build strong networks and sustainable systems that enable communities, organisations and partners to thrive and be resilient.



Target investment in facilities and infrastructure to create welcoming, fit-for-purpose environments that support long-term participation.



Create opportunities to improve resident’s health and wellbeing through inclusive, lifelong physical activity.

Actions	How we will measure impact
<p>Support and co-design activities to engage residents with sport and physical activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of activities supported • Attendance numbers and engagement
<p>Partnership working with local groups and agencies who support our most inactive, isolated residents with health-conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of partners engaged • Mapping of where sessions are • Participant data e.g. postcode, health conditions
<p>Influencing and supporting workplaces to value the importance of physical activity with policy changes. Promote opportunities for employees to engage in workplace-based events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of workplaces engaged • Number of employees who have become more active due to changes
<p>Bring people together from rural communities through sport, physical activity and movement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with residents



Inspire and empower future generations by creating positive, inclusive pathways into sport and physical activity.

Actions	How we will measure impact
<p>Support and co-design activities with community groups, schools National Governing Bodies and grassroot clubs to engage children and young people with sport and physical activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of activities supported • Number of partners engaged • Increase in attendances
<p>Support schools to access resources, events and CPD to develop their skills and knowledge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of schools, engagement and participation numbers • Active Lives data improvements
<p>Work with partners to provide coaching, officiating, and leadership courses for young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of courses and engagements • Engagement with clubs and groups
<p>Work with partners to support tackling anti-social behaviour and crime through the positive use of sport and physical activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data sets in relation to anti-social behaviour/Crime



Build strong networks and sustainable systems that enable communities, organisations and partners to thrive and be resilient.

Actions	How we will measure impact
<p>Invest in Council leisure facilities to meet the needs of our communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with residents • Investment secured for development
<p>Collaborate with our leisure centre providers to increase site usage of indoor and outdoor facilities alongside the provisions they offer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client meeting data and minutes • Customer feedback and consultations
<p>Support clubs and community organisations to access Council community grant programmes and other external funding sources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding awarded • Number of groups and clubs supported
<p>Develop opportunities to encourage greater use of open and green spaces for physical activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of partners engaged • Record of improvements made



Target investment in facilities and infrastructure to create welcoming, fit for purpose environments that support long-term participation.

Actions	How we will measure impact
Invest in Council leisure facilities to meet the needs of our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with residents • Investment secured for development
Collaborate with our leisure centre providers to increase site usage of indoor and outdoor facilities alongside the provisions they offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client meeting data and minutes • Customer feedback and consultations
Support clubs and community organisations to access Council community grant programmes and other external funding sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding awarded • Number of groups and clubs supported
Develop opportunities to encourage greater use of open and green spaces for physical activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of partners engaged • Record of improvements made

Prosperous Communities Committee Work Plan (as at 9 March 2026)

Purpose:

This report provides a summary of items of business due at upcoming meetings.

Recommendation:

1. That Members note the contents of this report.

Date	Title	Lead Officer	Purpose of the report	Date First Published
17 MARCH 2026				
17 Mar 2026	Voluntary & Community Sector Funding 2026/27	Grant White, Communities Manager	To present recommendations and approve future core funding awards.	19 January 2026
17 Mar 2026	Sport & Physical Activity Strategy	Grant White, Communities Manager	To present the draft Sport & Physical Activity Strategy for approval.	19 January 2026
17 Mar 2026	Leisure, Culture, Events and Tourism Member Working Group, Terms of Reference	Cara Markham, Commercial, Cultural and Leisure Development Manager	Updated terms of reference	
28 APRIL 2026				
28 Apr 2026	Car Parking Strategy 2026-2031	Luke Matthews, Senior Building and Projects Officer	To present the draft Parking Strategy and Action Plan for approval.	27 October 2025
28 Apr 2026	Renters Rights Act - Policy Update	Andy Gray, Housing & Environmental Enforcement Manager	To seek approval from Councillors on the policy updates as a result of the Renters Rights Act coming into force in May 2026.	19 January 2026
28 Apr 2026	Waste & Recycling Operational Policy Review	Robert Gilliot, Operational Services Manager	Slight amendments to the policies after the 2 year review period	