Eddleston and District Community Council (EDCC) Survey 2025 – Analysis

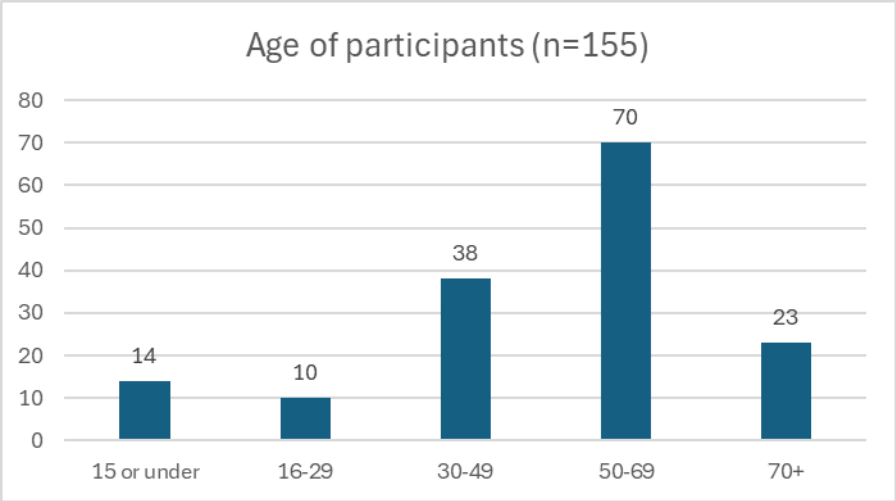
Response rate

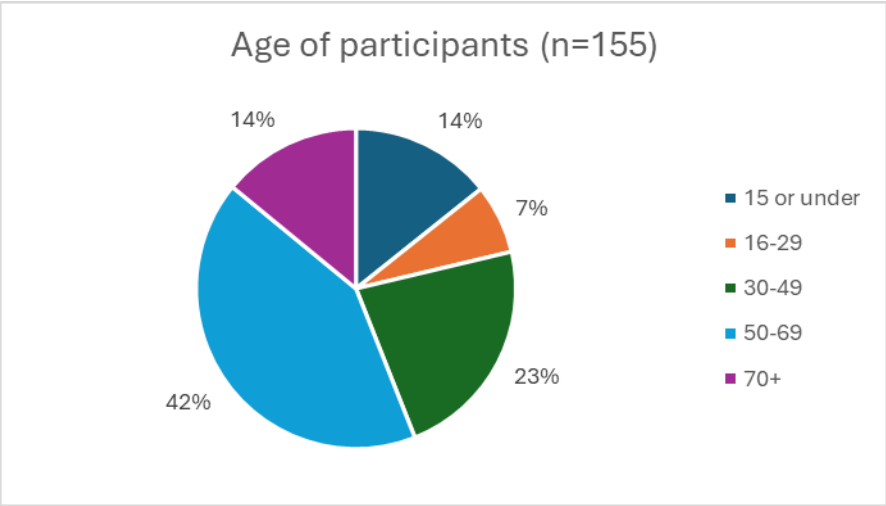
A total of 155 individuals completed EDCC's survey. 14 of these participants were aged 15 or under.

As of 2022, Eddleston and District was estimated to have around 550 residents, with roughly 458 adults. This leaves us with a total response rate of 28%. The adult response rate is roughly 34% and the child response rate is roughly 15%[1].

Age of participants

14% of participants were aged 15 or under. 65% of respondents were aged 50 or over. Only 10 participants were aged between 16 and 29.





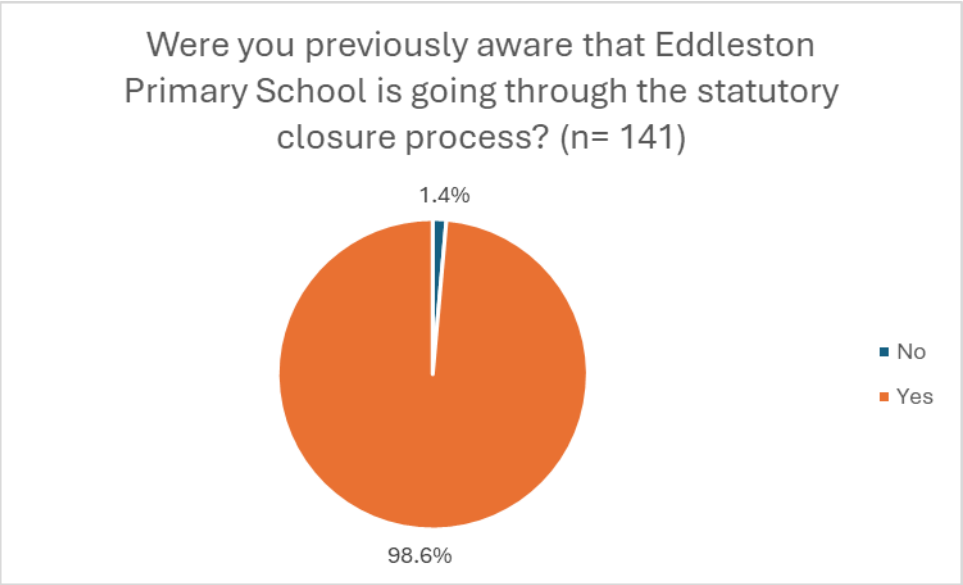
[1] The total population of Eddleston and District is an estimate based on the 2022 census. Because of the data zone geography used within the census, this data does not nicely fit our Eddleston and District defined geographical area. Consequently this estimate has been modelled and may not accurately represent the population of the area.

Age 16+ Survey Responses

Eddleston Primary School

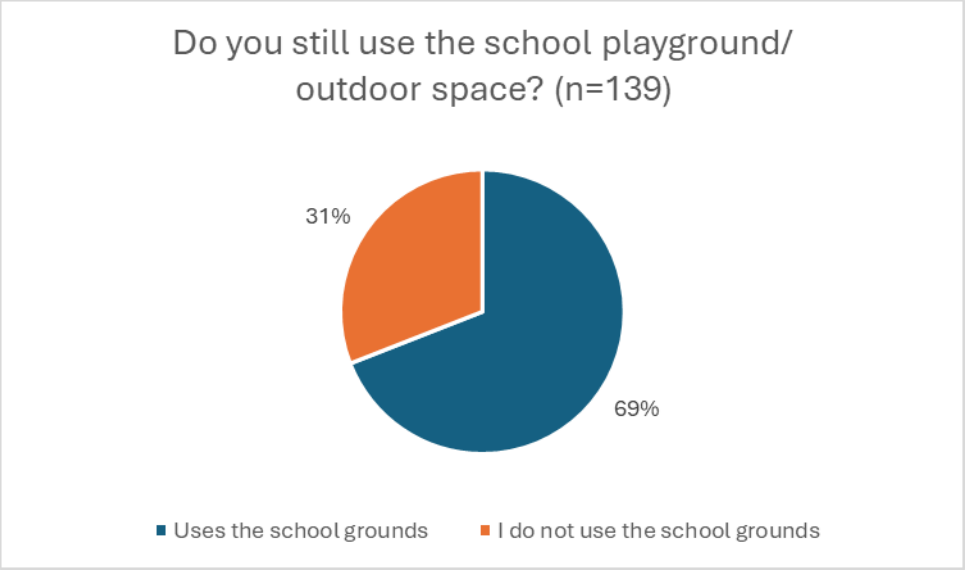
Awareness of school closure

99% of adult respondents were aware that Eddleston Primary School is going through the statutory closure process.



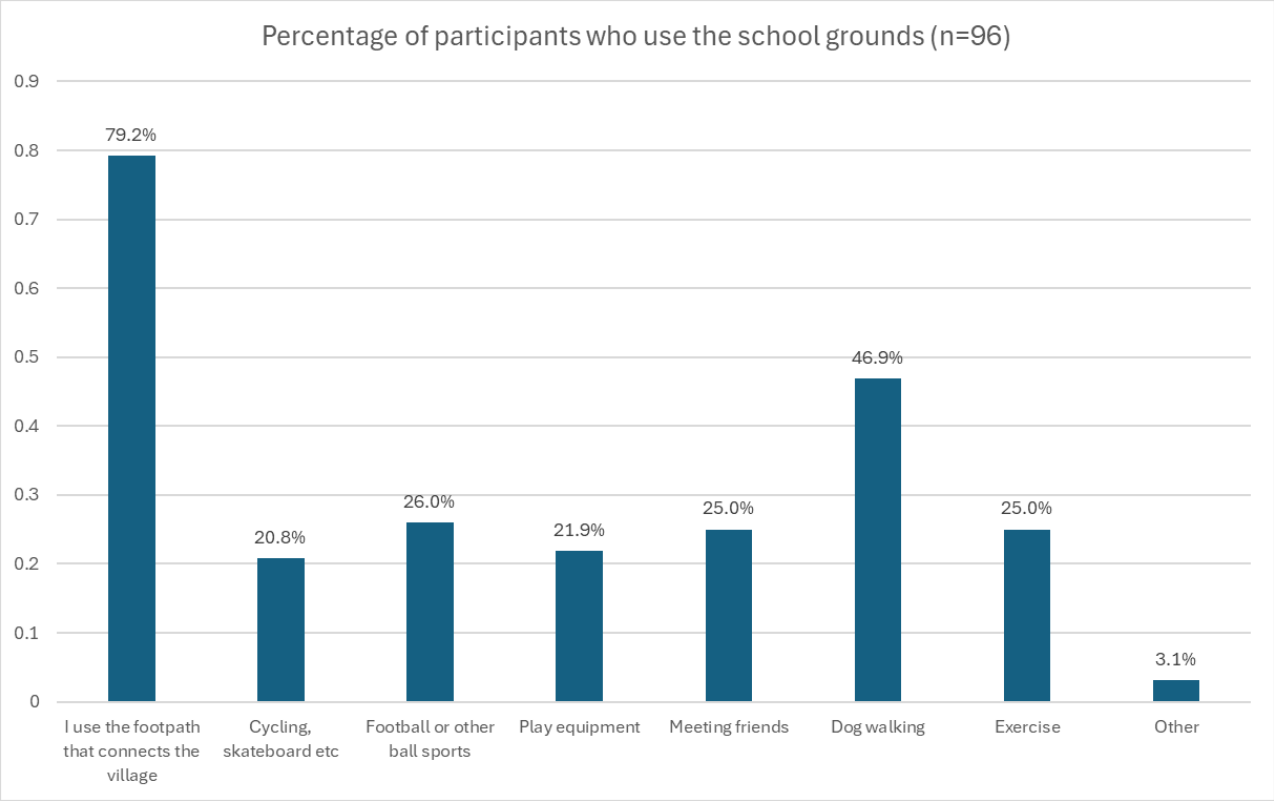
Use of the school playground

69% of respondents (96 respondents) use the school playground/ outdoor space. Only 10 respondents did not know that they are allowed to use the school grounds, although 5 of these respondents did still use the grounds in some way.



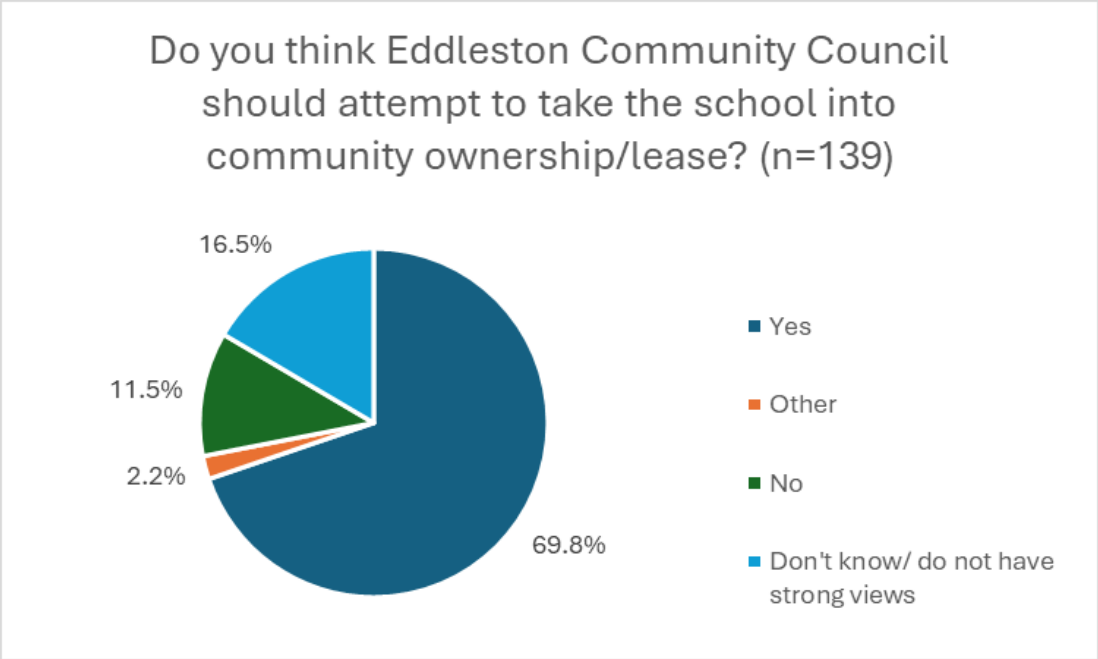
79% of respondents who use the school grounds use it to use the footpath that connects the village. 47% of those who use the school grounds use it for dog walking. Between 20% and 26%

of respondents use the school grounds for the other activities listed. 3% of respondents stated that they use the grounds for other uses (e.g. with grandchildren or when on walking routes).



Community ownership of the school

70% of respondents (97 respondents) agreed that the Community Council should attempt to take community ownership/ lease of the school. Only 12% of respondents did not think this should occur. 2% of respondents provided other options, including that the school should be reopened.

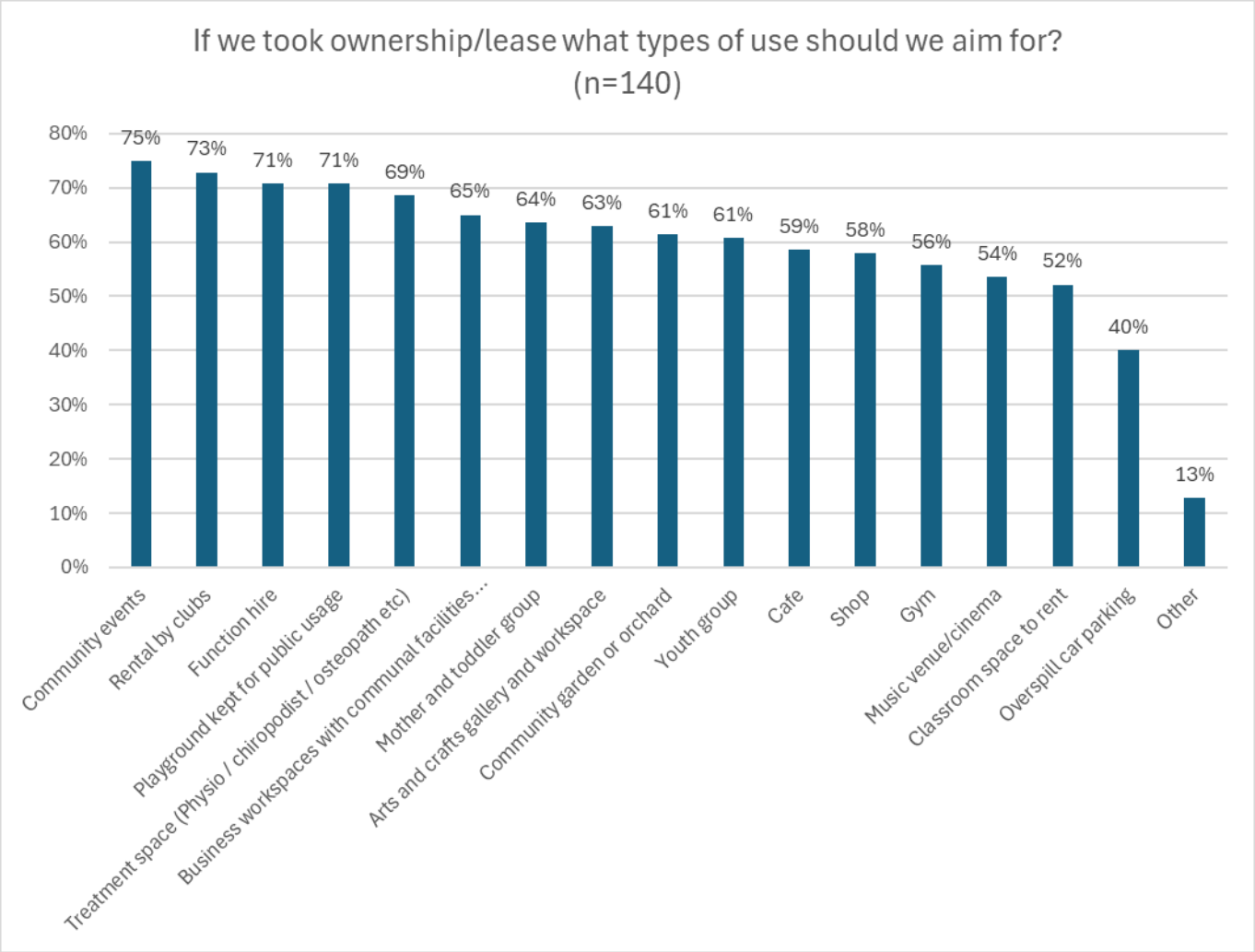


Use of a community owned school

The most popular usage of a community owned/ leased school is for community events (75% of respondents), followed by rental for clubs (73%), function hire (71%) and the playground being kept for public usage (71%). The least popular usage is overspill car parking (40%).

14% of respondents provided other answers. These included: using the school as a nursery (4 respondents), reopening the school (3 respondents), the village hall being a better space (2 respondents), a community woodland (2 respondents) and having a mix of usages for profit (2 respondents).

Each of the following ideas were also suggested by one respondent each: housing; car charging; campervan stop; farm shop; business units; allotments; mens shed; more village events and a community workshop.



What benefits do you see with community ownership/ lease[1] of the school site and how would we realise them? (n=100)

The most frequently mentioned benefit (38 respondents) of community ownership/ lease of the school site mentioned was that having ownership would help to benefit the community, and improve the sense of community spirit within the village. One respondent stated “the site is one with huge potential, and could absolutely lead to the development of village life”. Respondents raised that community ownership of the school building could improve social cohesion in the village.

The second most mentioned benefit (35 respondents) was that community ownership of the school could lead to more community events and activities, acting as a hub for village events. Some respondents listed potential events and activities which could occur. One respondent stated that the school could provide “a modern building for current and future village use”.

The third most common benefit (14 respondents) mentioned was that community ownership of the school could present economic opportunities or business usage, with respondents mentioning that it could provide people with workspaces, employment opportunities, business units for people to lease/ rent, cafe or shop.

Some respondents stated that a benefit (11 respondents) of community benefit of the school site was that the community would have control over the future of the school and its grounds. Some respondents (11 respondents) contrastingly thought there would be no benefit for the village of taking on the site and did not think it was feasible.

A small number of respondents (9 respondents) thought that a benefit of community ownership of the school site would be that it would stop the site being sold to a developer or being turned into housing, and the community losing control of its use.

A small number of respondents (8 respondents) thought that the school could replace the existing village hall, with there being benefits of the school over the village hall (e.g. flexibility, size, modernity, outdoor space), and a small number of respondents stating selling the village hall could raise funds to support community ownership of the school.

A small number of respondents (5 respondents each) mentioned that having community ownership of the school would allow the community to retain the use of an outdoor community space; could encourage visitors into Eddleston; and that the building would be best used as a reinstated school.

What risks do you see with community ownership/ lease of the school site and how would we mitigate them? (n=103)

The most frequently mentioned risk (49 respondents) mentioned by participants were financial - that it would be a big undertaking, with large costs to take over and run the site, potential issues with financial viability and it would need significant expertise to manage it.

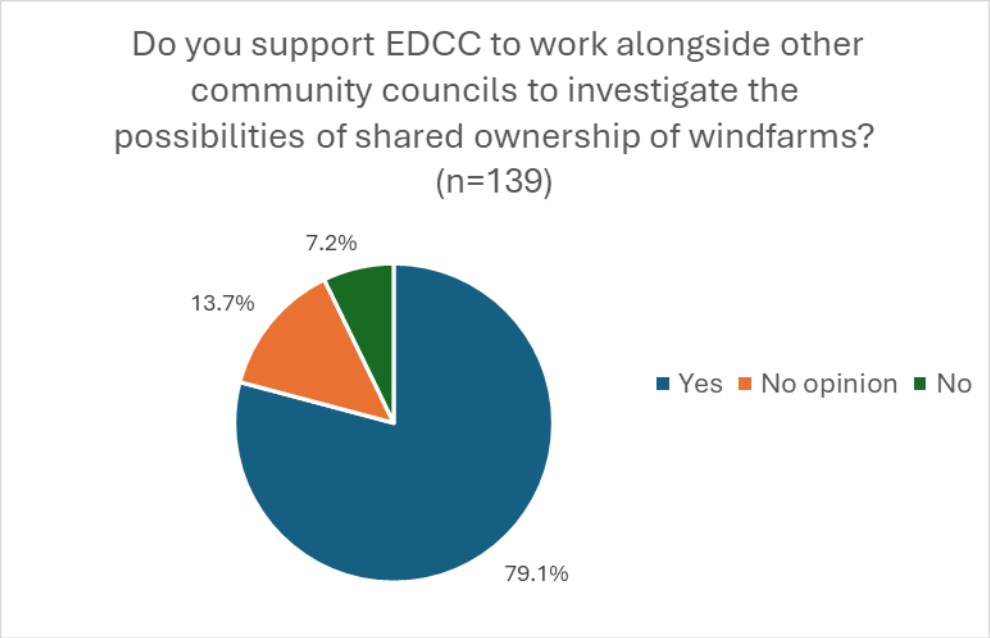
The second most frequently mentioned risk (29 respondents) was a lack of volunteers, dwindling volunteer capacity and having enough motivated people to manage the site.

The third most frequently mentioned risk (17 respondents) was that community ownership/ lease of the school site could lead to competition with other buildings in the village. Most frequently competition with the village hall was mentioned,

Underuse of the building and a lack of demand for it was another risk identified (14 respondents). 10 respondents stated that finding and securing suitable funding would be a risk. A small number of respondents (6 respondents) were concerned about there potentially being a lack of participation of the community with it likely that a small group of residents would be making decisions, and therefore there may be issues keeping all residents happy.

<u>Local windfarm developments</u>

79% of respondents support the Community Council in investigating shared ownership opportunities of local windfarms. Only 7% of respondents do not support this.



Do you have any comments related to these windfarm developments or the community benefits that might stem from them? (77 respondents)

The most frequently mentioned benefit of wind farms highlighted (34 respondents) by respondents was that community benefits from them could provide income to the village and benefit local residents and amenities.

Some respondents (14 respondents) mentioned negative impacts or connotations with wind farms, with a lack of benefits, or potential negative impacts on views, water supplies and the environment mentioned.

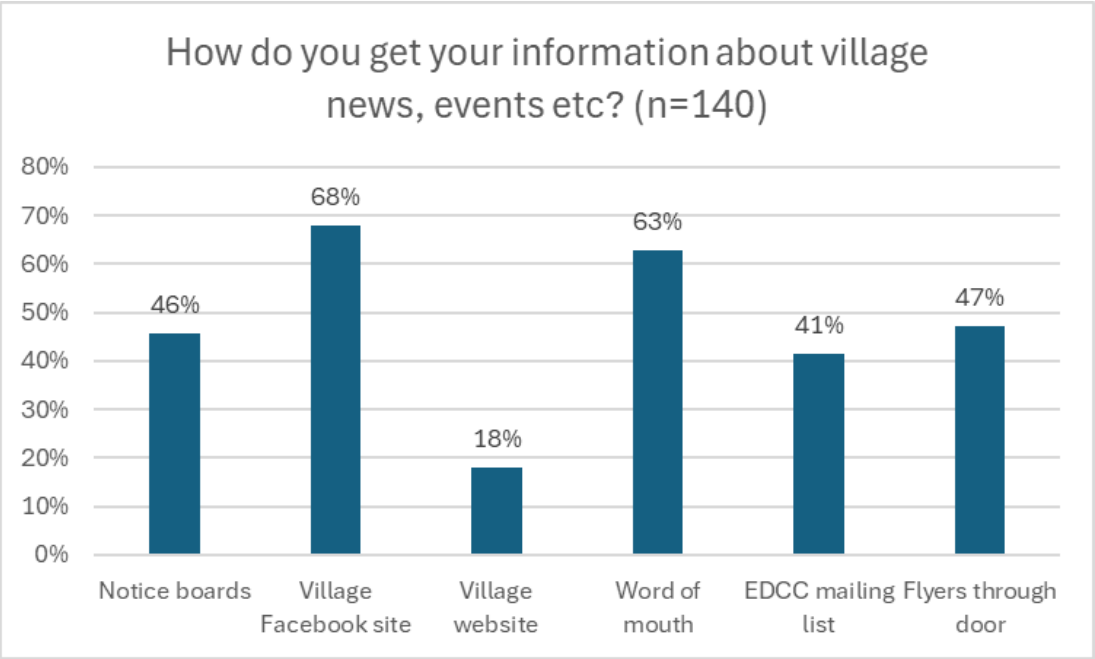
10 respondents highlighted that wind farms could provide a variety of benefits and/or displayed support for their development.

Living in Eddleston

How do you get your information about village news, events etc?

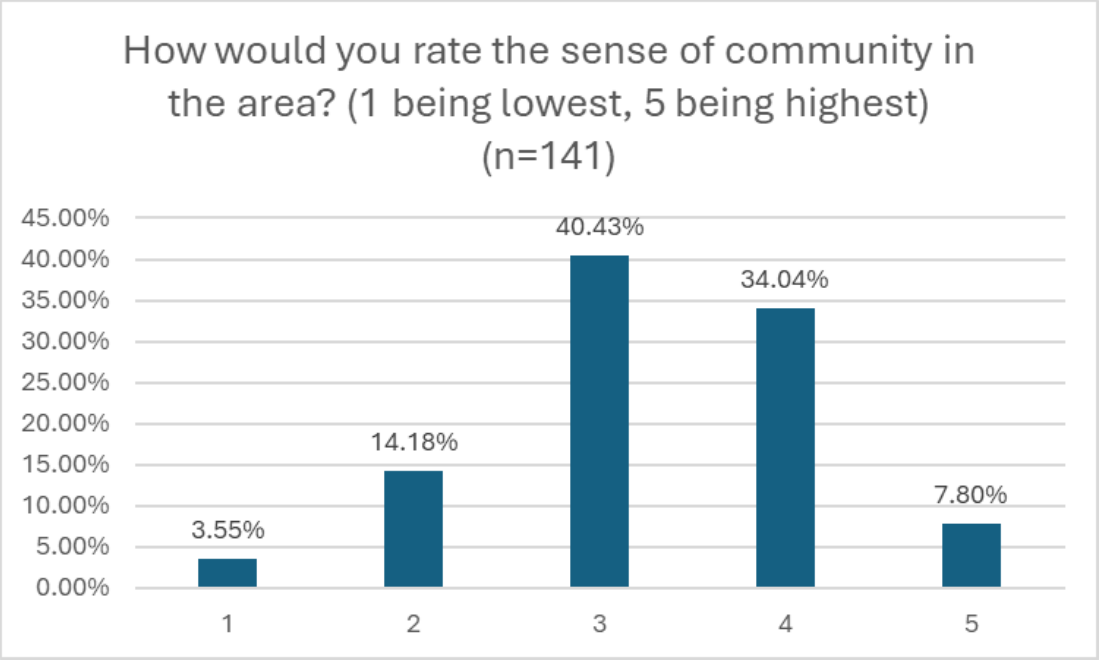
68% of respondents stated that they get information about village news and events through the village Facebook. 63% stated they heard through word of mouth. The least popular way to receive such information was through the village website (18% of respondents).

In addition, 3 respondents stated they receive information through the Peeblean and 3 stated they got information through local newspapers. Each of the following points were raised by 1 respondent each: do not hear of events; often miss information as not on Facebook; unaware of the village Facebook page.



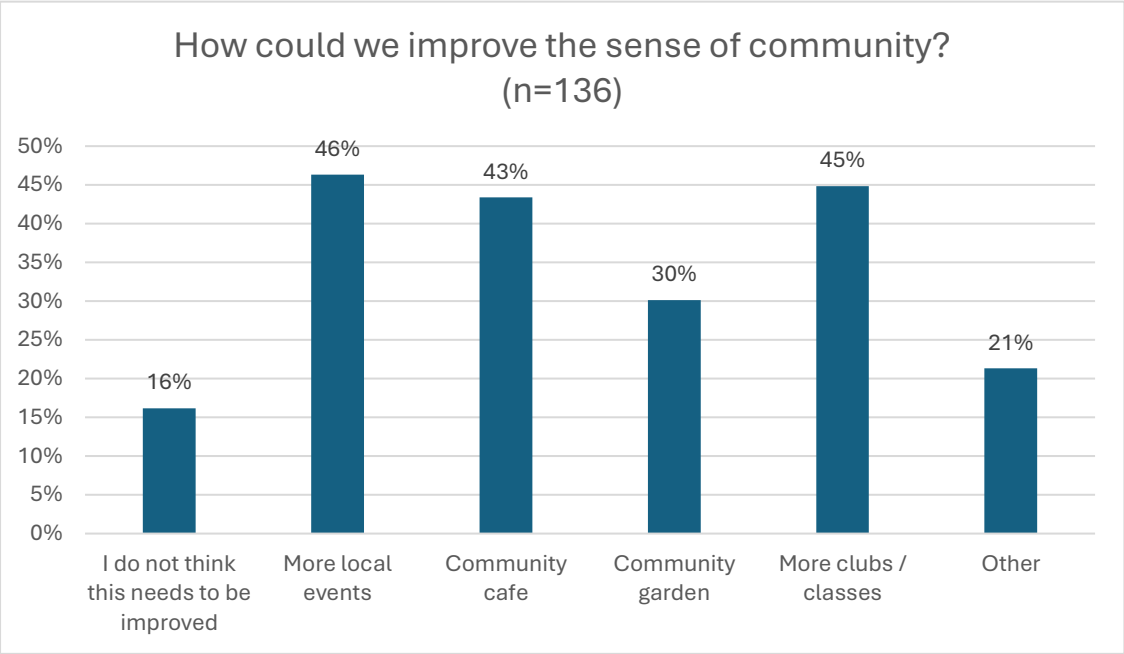
How would you rate the sense of community in the area?

Respondents were asked how they rated the sense of community in the area. 40% of respondents rated it a 3/5. 42% of respondents rated it a 4 or 5 out of 5. However, 18% rated the sense of community as a 1 or 2 out of 5.


How would you rate the sense of community in the area? (1 being lowest, 5 being highest) (n=141)
45.00%
40.00%
35.00%
30.00%
25.00%
20.00%
15.00%
10.00%
5.00%
0.00%
3.55%
14.18%
40.43%
34.04%
7.80%
1
2
3
4
5

How could we improve the sense of community?

The most popular way respondents thought we could improve the sense of community in the local area was to hold more local events (46%), including more clubs and classes (45%) and a community café (43%). 16% of respondents do not think the sense of community needs improving.



21% of respondents provided other ideas for how the sense of community could be improved, although there was little consensus amongst suggestions. These includes improving youth and family provision through clubs and spaces (4 respondents), a need for more volunteers (3), improved communication about events (3), retaining the primary school building as a community hub (3), opening a shop (3), and the importance of considering the whole community of Eddleston and District (3).

Other respondents raised that local events should make the most of local businesses/ be run in the Horseshoe/ Barony (2), that windfarms should not be supported (2) and that the school should be reopened (2).

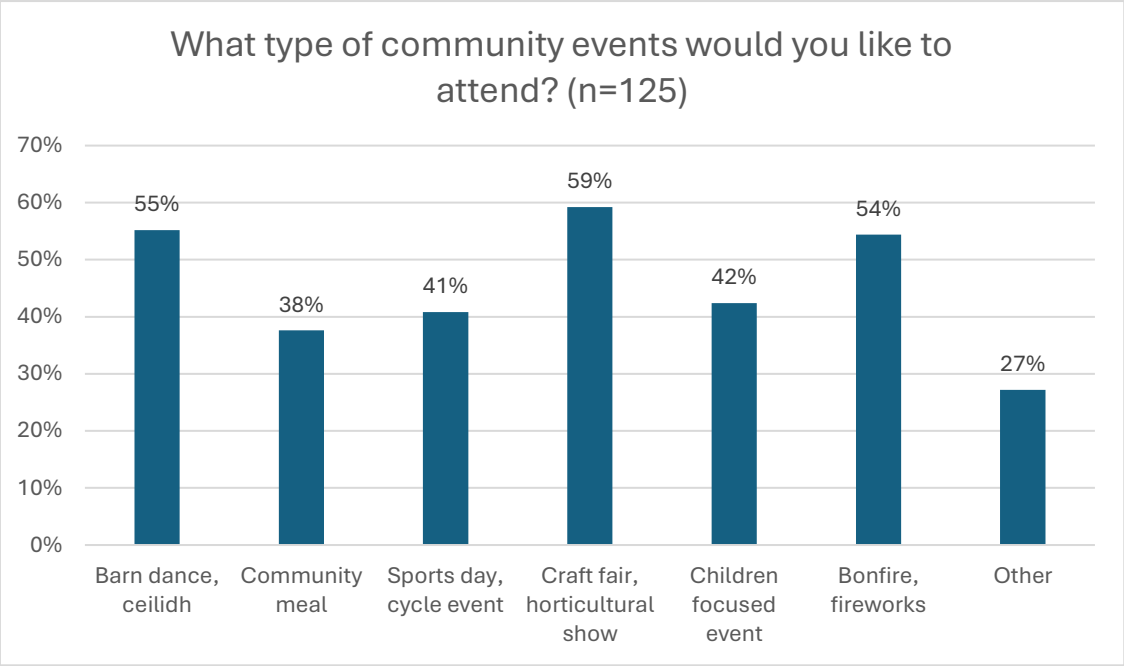
A range of other ideas were raised by one respondent each, including the creation of somewhere for people to work remotely; a welcome pack provided to new households; helping community members; engaging with the local environment and history; interacting across generations; the creation of allotments; engaging with neighbours; the church; improved spaces to gather and the running of coffee mornings and jumble sales.

What type of community events would you like to attend?

59% of respondents would like to attend craft fairs or horticultural shows, 55% would like to attended a barn dance/ ceilidh and 54% of respondents would like to attend a bonfire/ fireworks. Only 38% of respondents would like to attend a community meal.

27% of respondents provided other suggestions of events which they would like to attend. Events suggested included exercise classes (5 respondents), volunteering days (4

respondents), a market (2 respondents), book club (2), entertainment (music/ theatre/ films) (2), coffee mornings (2), jumble sales (2), educational talks (2), classes (crafts/ gin/ wine tasting/ gardening) (2) and a walking group (2).



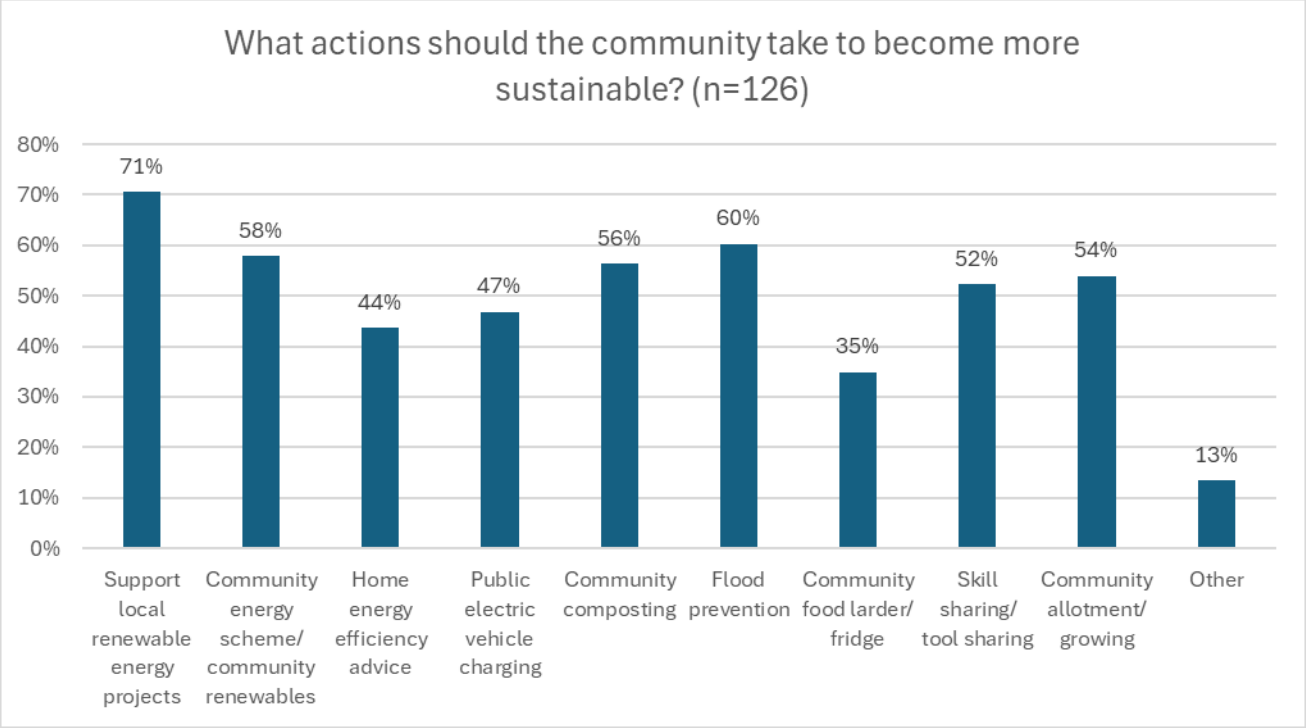
A range of other ideas were suggested by one respondent each including: apple pressing, community building events, allotments, seed swaps, celebration events (eg Burns night), events in the Horseshoe/ Barony, promoting existing events, considering the timing of events to not clash with those elsewhere, parenting groups, environmental events, helping vulnerable community members, light switch on, BBQ, lap meals, Men's Shed, quiz nights and fundraisers. One respondent each raised that fireworks should not be encouraged, that the closure of the school destroyed the sense of community and that we should not be letting people who are invested in windfarms run events.

What actions should the community take to become more sustainable?

71% of respondents thought that the community should support local renewable energy projects, with 60% thinking the community should take local flood prevention measures. 58% of respondents thought the community should consider a community energy scheme/ community renewables, whilst 56% supported the idea of community composting. The least supported initiative was a community food larder/ fridge (35%).

13% of respondents provided other suggestions. These included the importance of protecting the local environment and biodiversity (3), stopping renewable development (2), and that all of the suggestions should be put in place (2).

The following suggestions were reported by one respondent each: allocating land for low carbon building, the importance of individual action, creating a resilience group, involving local landlords not just house owners, Mens Shed, selling local produce, EV chargepoint sharing, sustainability advice events, community oil purchasing, and that none of the suggestions should be supported.

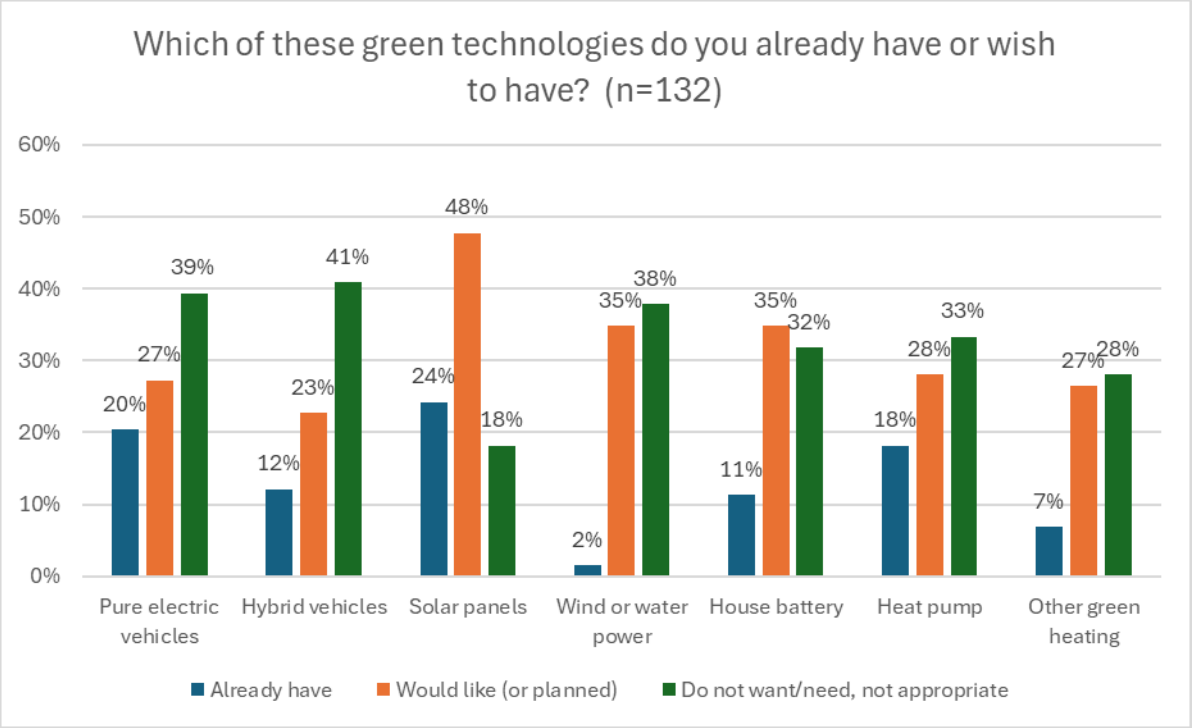


Which of these green technologies do you already have or wish to have?

The most popular green technology already owned by respondents was solar panels (24%), followed by pure electric vehicles (20%) and heat pumps (18%). The least popular green technology already owned was wind and water power (2%).

The highest selected green technology that respondents would like or planned to install was solar panels (48%), house batteries (35%), and wind or water power (35%). The lowest selected green technology that respondents would like or planned to install was hybrid vehicles (23%).

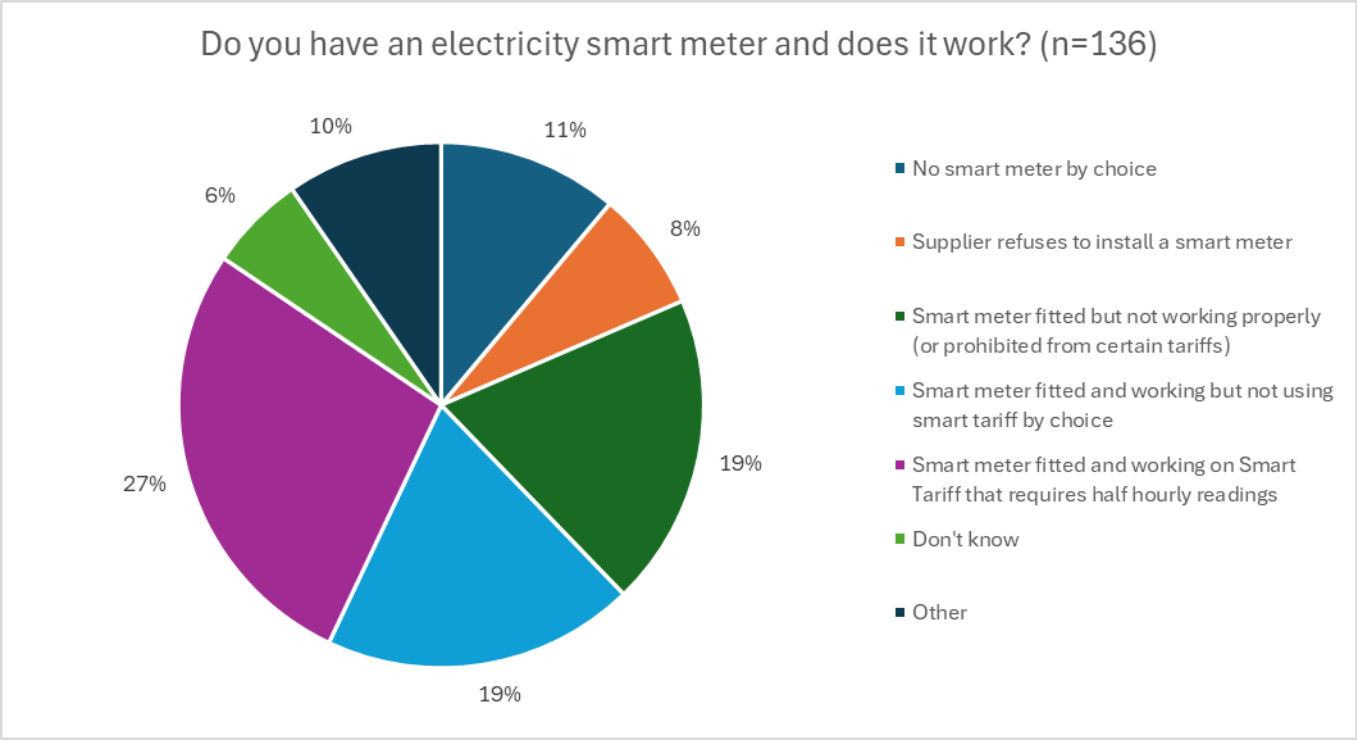
Of those green technologies that people do not want/ need or was not appropriate for their needs, the most selected was hybrid vehicles (41%), pure electric vehicles (39%) or wind or water power (38%).



Do you have an electricity smart meter and does it work?

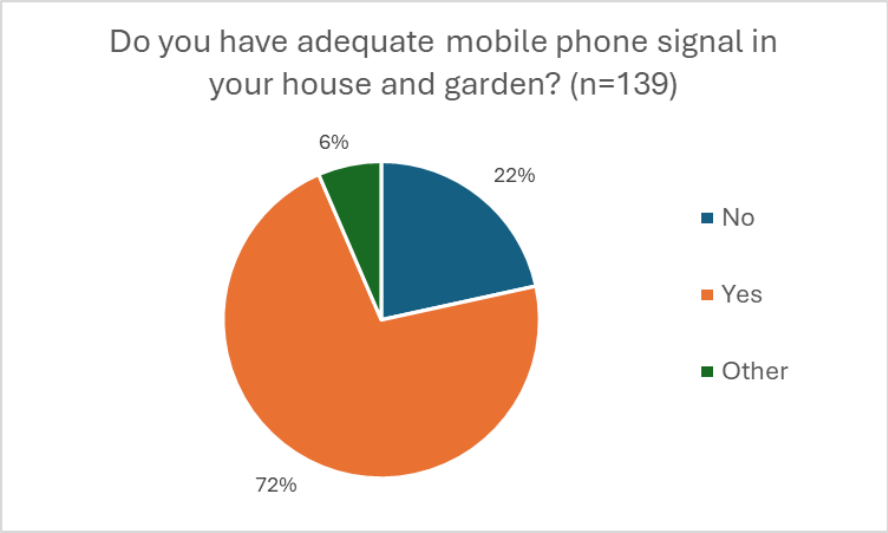
27% of respondents have a smart meter which works and are on a smart tariff, 19% have a smart meter and are not using a smart tariff by choice (making a total of 46% of respondents having a working smart meter) and another 19% have a smart meter but it is not working properly. Only 8% of respondents state that their supplier refuses to install a smart meter.

Of the 10% of respondents who provided other answers, 7 of these stated that they were waiting the install of a smart meter and 3 said they had one fitted but did not know if it was working. Additionally, one respondent each said that they don't want a smart meter as they have heard negative things about them, one had to have a smart reader installed for their tariff and another did not think it was any of our business.



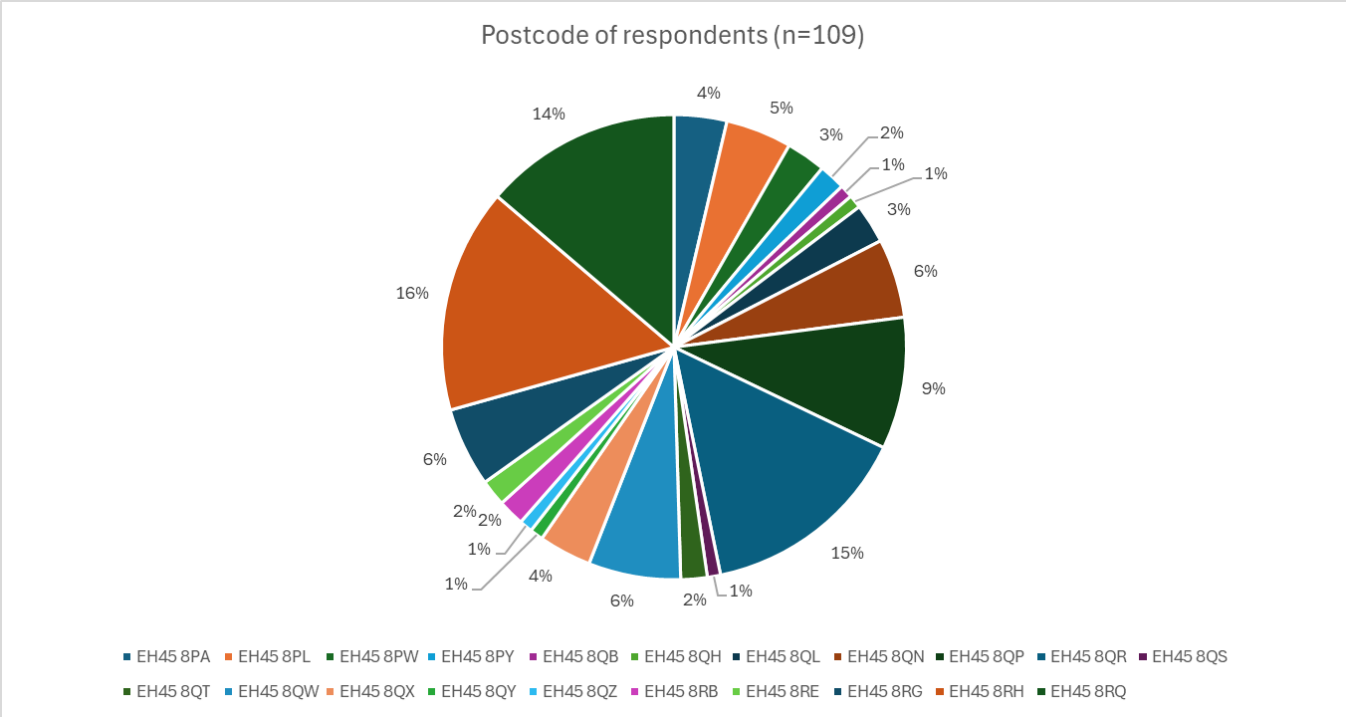
Do you have adequate mobile signal in your house and garden?

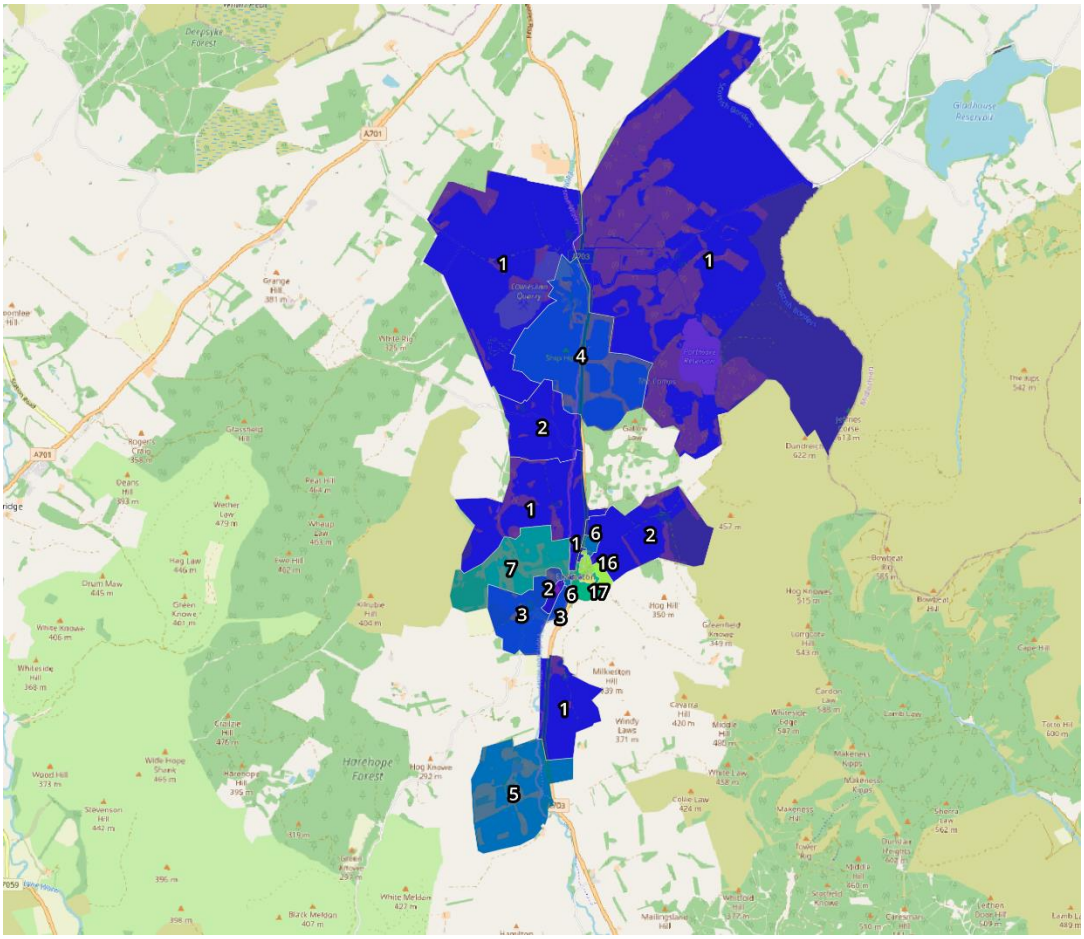
72% of respondents stated that they do have adequate mobile signal in their house and garden. 22% stated that they did not. Of those who selected 'other', 8 of these suggested that the signal is patchy, weak or unreliable. 1 respondent stated it was none of our business.



Postcode of respondents:

The most popular home postcodes respondents provided were EH45 8RH (16%), EH45 8QR (15%) and EH45 8RQ (14%). One respondent each reported that their home postcode was EH45 8QB, EH45 8QH, EH45 8QS, EH45 8QY or EH45 8QZ. Maps below show numbers of respondents from each postcode area.

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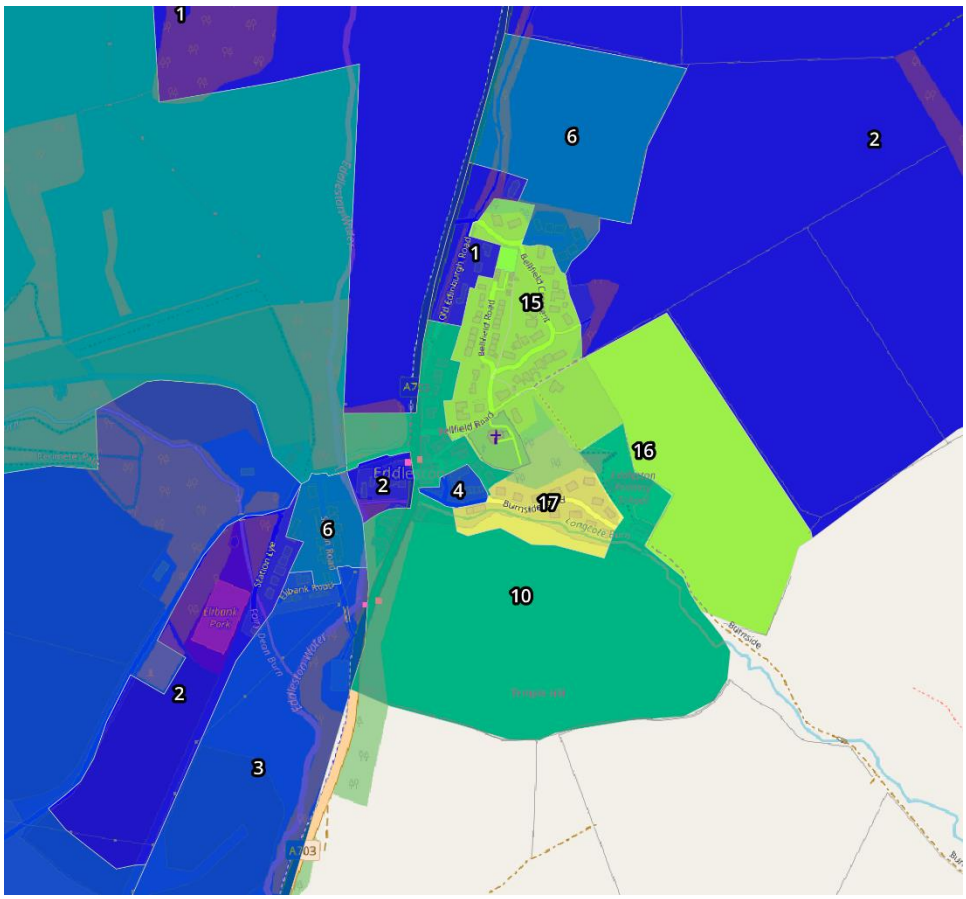
Horehope Forest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16
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10
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3

What would make Eddleston a better place to live, work or visit? (95 respondents)

The most frequently response (28 respondents) was that a shop would make Eddleston a better place to live, work and visit, to avoid having to drive out of the village to get basic supplies.

The second most frequent response (18 respondents) was that a school would make Eddleston a better place to live, work and visit.

The third most frequent response (12 respondents) was that more clubs, activities, events and social activities would improve Eddleston. 11 respondents stated that a Community Hub would help to improve the village.

10 respondents stated that a cafe or community cafe would benefit the village. 8 respondents mentioned some form of environmental initiative could help improve the village: from flood prevention, less litter, more accessible green spaces to protecting the local environment.

5 respondents measures of slowing and reducing traffic as ways to improve the village. 5 respondents highlighted that Eddleston is already a great place to live, work and visit and therefore could not think of any improvements. A variety of other suggestions were mentioned by 4 or fewer respondents.

Additional comments from adult survey respondents (48 respondents)

A variety of additional comments were provided by respondents, with many having less than 5 responses each, these are therefore not all listed here.

Those that had more than were mentioned by 5 or more respondents include thanks for undertaking the survey (9 respondents), ideas for usage of the school site (6 respondents), the importance of considering the impacts of community ownership of the school on the village hall (with suggestions both would not be viable) (5 respondents) and the highlighting of traffic related issues, including about issues on Station Road, future impacts on Burnside and concerns about safety on the cycle path (5 respondents).

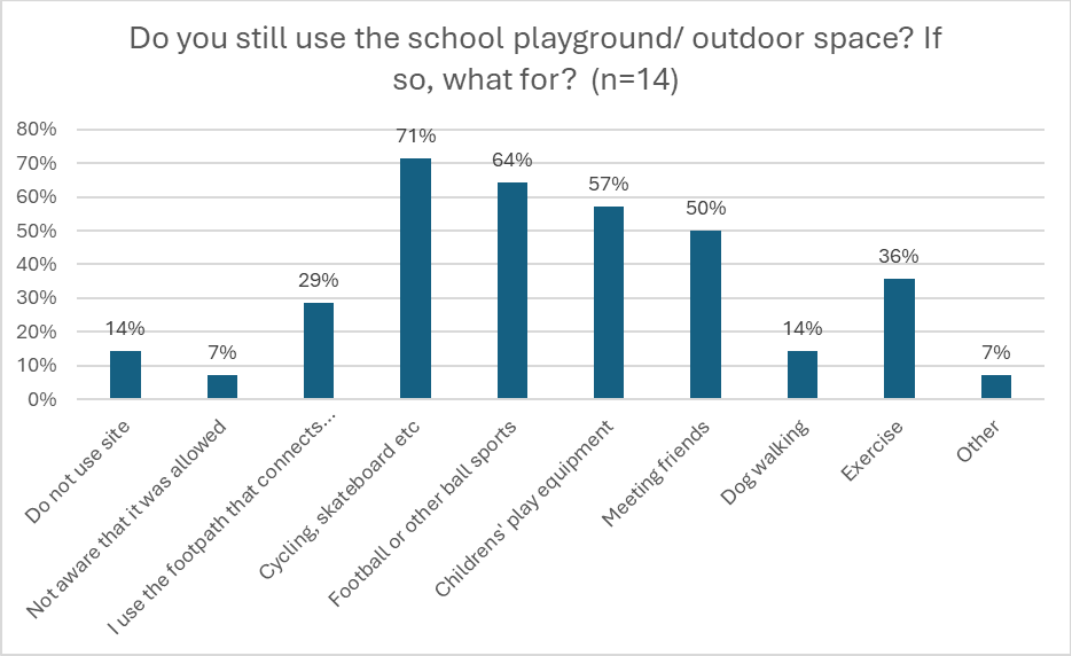
<u>Age 15 and Under Survey Responses</u>

<u>School</u>

Use of school playground

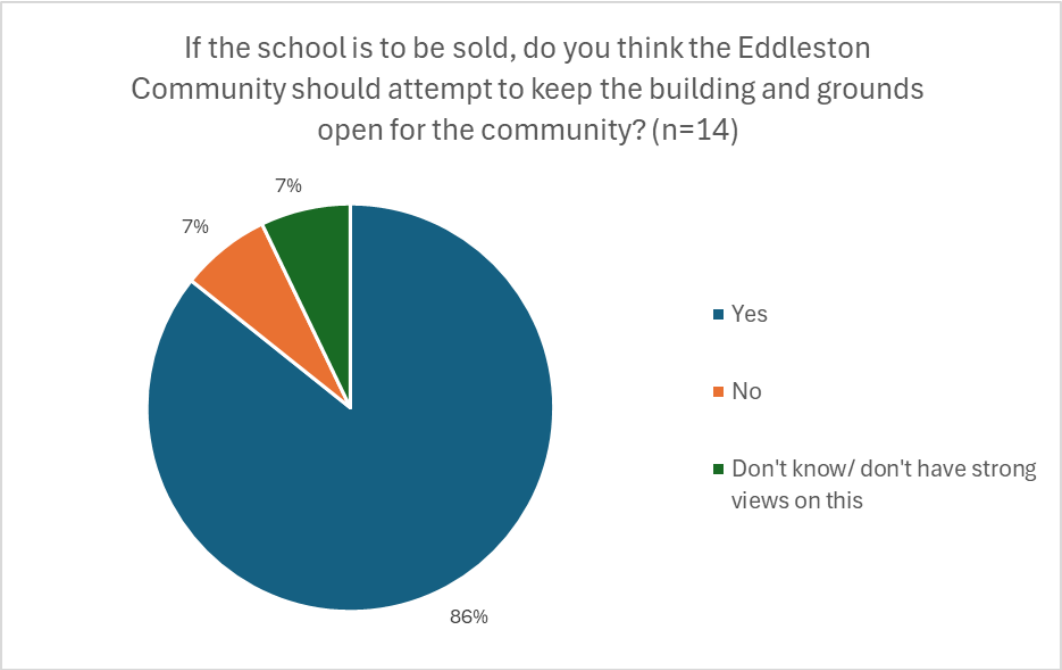
71% of respondents stated that they use the playground/ outdoor space for cycling and skateboarding etc, with 64% using it for football or other ball sports. 57% use the children's play equipment and 50% use it for meeting friends. Only 14% of respondents (2) do not use the site

and only 7% (1) were not aware using the site was allowed. 1 respondent gave another use of the playground, which was for playing tig.

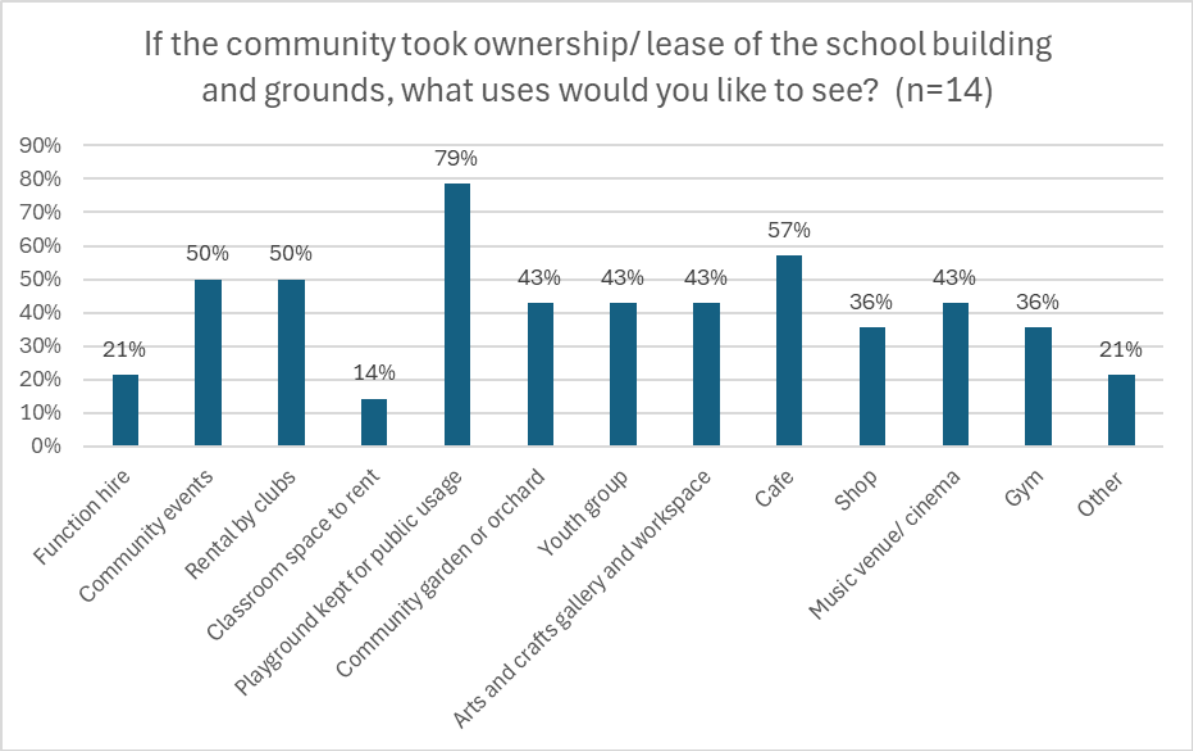


Community ownership of the school

86% of respondents said yes, that the community should attempt to keep the building and grounds open to the community. Only 7% of respondents said no.



79% of respondents would like the playground to be kept for public usage, and 57% of respondents would like a café. 50% would like the school building to be kept for community events and 50% would like it to be used for rental by clubs. Only 14% of respondents want classroom space to be kept for rent. Of the 3 respondents who selected 'other', 2 would like there to be a soft plat and 1 would like the football field to be kept.



Do you have any other comments on the future of the school site? (7 respondents)

The most frequently mentioned comment was that the school site should enable children to play (6 respondents). 3 respondents thought that there should be a cafe on the site.

What do you like about living in Eddleston and District[2]? (13 respondents)

Two comments were highlighted by 5 respondents each. This was that the respondent liked living in Eddleston because they had friends in the village, and because they were able to play outside. 4 respondents stated that they liked aspects of living in the countryside e.g. the hills/ rural area/ trees/ woods/ it being pretty. 2 respondents stated that they liked all the children's activities in the village.

What don't you like about living in Eddleston and District? (11 respondents)

The most frequently mentioned comment was that there was nothing respondents didn't like about living in Eddleston (4 respondents). 3 respondents stated that they didn't like that there is nothing to do in the village.

What could improve living in Eddleston in District? (11 respondents)

The only suggestion mentioned by more than one respondent was that there should be improved playgrounds within the village, with better play equipment (5 respondents).

What are your opinions on local windfarms being developed? (9 respondents)

3 respondents stated that the development of local wind farms was a good thing. 3 respondents said they were unsure or should maybe be developed.