

Caerphilly County Borough Council

Consultation Report on proposed Community Hall in Ty Sign, Risca

Introduction and Context

The Council has been approached by the Agape Community Church Ty Sign (ACCTS) to support the development of a new purpose-built community hall in Holly Road, Tŷ Sign, Risca and are seeking to acquire a long term lease on an identified area of land to deliver the project.

The ACCTS have proposed that the new facility will be available for hire / access to all community based groups/organisations and aims to provide a modern, fit for purpose building in the Ty Sign area.

The ACCTS have secured external funding from a range of stakeholders including Welsh Government and the Big Lottery to support the project.

Before making a decision to lease the land, the Council's Cabinet agreed to undertake a consultation to allow residents to share their views on the proposal. The outcomes of the consultation will help inform the decision making process.

Methodology (What we did)

A formal consultation was undertaken over a 6 week period from 9th August 2021 to 19th September 2021.

To enable all those who wished to give their views to take part, the primary consultation tool was an online questionnaire. To ensure that those without digital access were able to have their say, paper copies were also made available at Risca Leisure Centre, Risca Library, Channel View Community Centre and local shops in the Ty Sign area, upon request by telephoning or emailing a central telephone line/mailbox. Approximately 500 paper copies were provided in total. All questionnaires were available bilingually. A copy of the survey can be found in Annex 1.

The questionnaire was designed to capture both the qualitative and quantitative data required for the authority to make an informed decision about leasing the land for the development of a new community hall and sought resident and stakeholder views on proposal to develop a new community hall at this site. Questions were also included to enable an assessment of the activity levels of the population, the types of facilities that resident are currently using. As this consultation was focussed on a specific geographical area (Risca), postcode analysis provided context for the response data and equalities monitoring data enabled an assessment of the impact of the proposal on all sectors of the community.

Engagement

Key engagement mechanisms included:

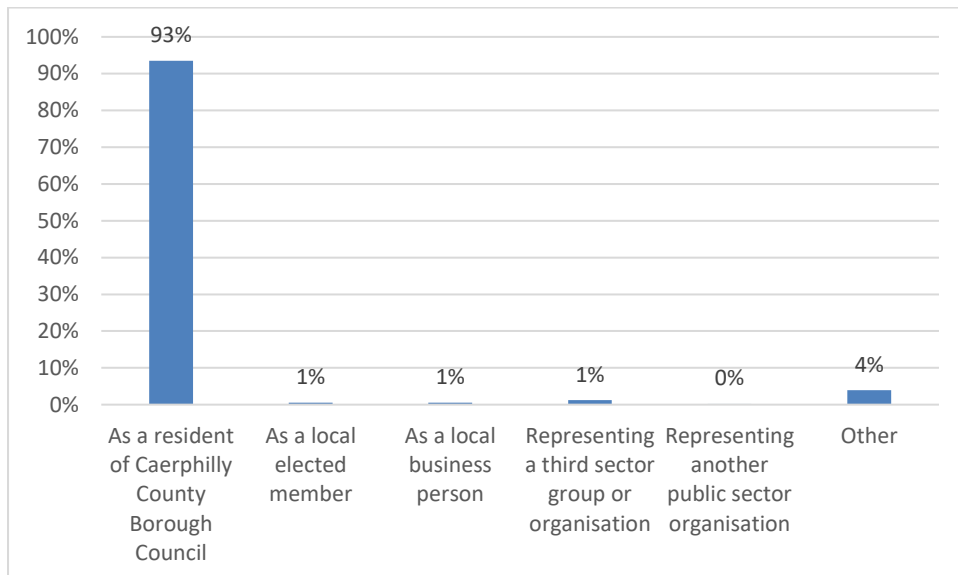
- Posters including a link to the online survey accessed via a QR (Quick Response) code and contact details to request a paper copy. Posters were displayed in Risca Leisure Centre, Risca Library, Channel View Community Centre and local shops in the Ty Sign area.
- A link to the survey from the consultation pages of the Council's website
- The consultation was promoted at various intervals during the consultation period via the Council's social media channels

Key results

Responses

Overall, 1285 responses were received (1012 respondents completed the questionnaire online and 273 paper copies were submitted).

Graph 1: Respondent profile



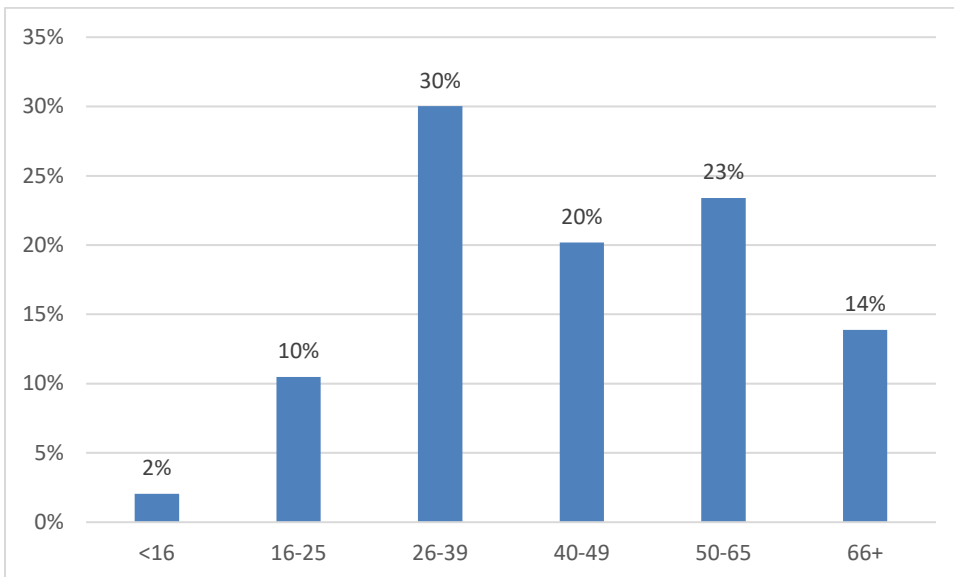
As shown in **Graph 1**, of those who responded, 93% (1201 individuals) indicated that they were a resident of the county borough.

Of the 1282 postcodes provided, 1099 were within the NP11 6 area (Risca/Ty Sign postcode). This highlights that 86% of respondents were from the immediate local area. A further 8% of postcodes fell within the wider NP11 area.

Additionally,

- Of those who gave a response to the question (n=1226), 36% were male and 64% were female.
- **Graph 2** provides a breakdown of respondents by age and shows a good distribution of responses across the age groups from those 16 plus.

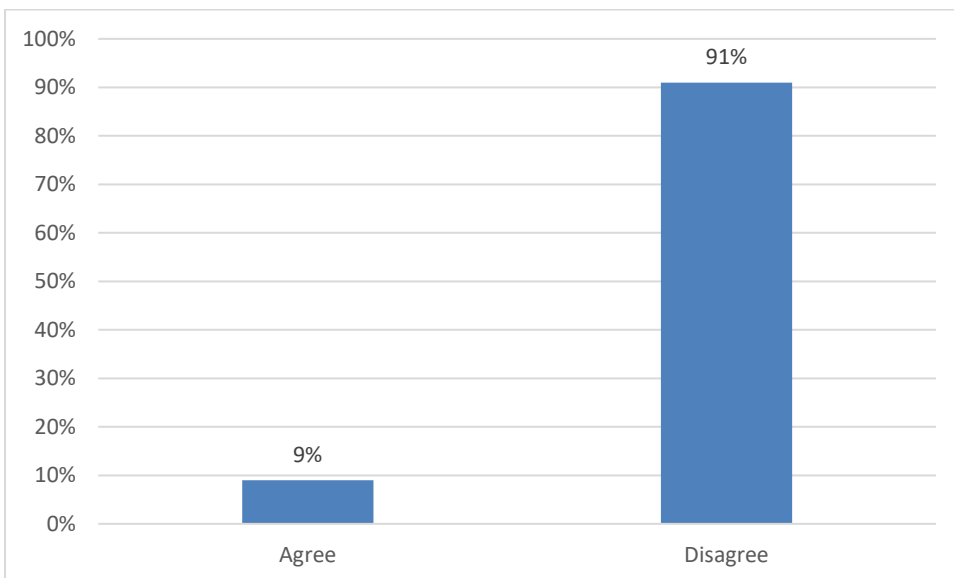
Graph 2: Age breakdown of survey respondents



Respondent views

As shown in Graph 3, 91% disagreed that the Council should lease an area of land at the Spar Field, Holly Road to allow a new Community Hall to be built.

Graph 3: Percentage of respondents who agreed/disagreed that the Council should lease the land to allow a new Community Hall to be built (n=1194)

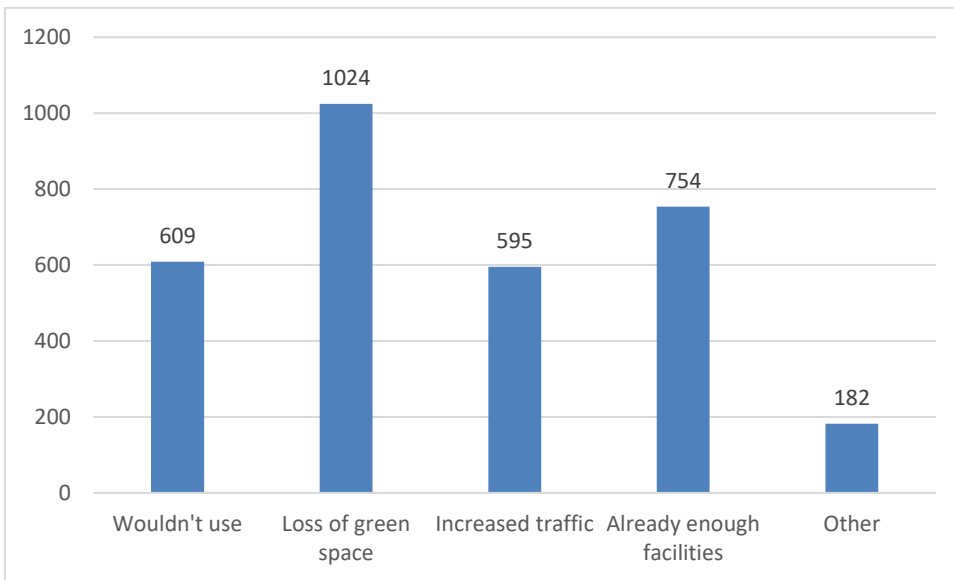


The main reasons given for agreeing with the proposal was that the respondent would use the new facility (68 responses) and that existing facilities do not offer the activities they want (47 responses).

Other reasons given in the comments mention that it would be an improved facility for the community. A full digest of comments is included in **Annex 2a**.

For those who disagreed with the proposal, **Graph 4** shows the number of responses to each of the options (note this was a select all that apply question) and highlights that a loss of green space was the main reason for disagreeing with the proposal. For those who said “other”, many mentioned that building on this land would result in a loss of space for children to play on. A full digest of comments is included in Annex 2b.

Graph 4: Reasons given for disagreeing with the proposal (number of respondents)



What activities do you currently participate in at local community facilities?

Popular activities that respondents currently participate in include: parties, children’s groups, café, coffee mornings church, bible study, exercise.

Full details are included in **Annex 3**.

Activities that respondents would like to participate in that are not currently available

Activities that respondents would like to participate in that are not currently available in the local area include: new play area for children, children/youth activities (indoor and outdoor), dog walk area.

Full details can be found in **Annex 4**.

Annexes

- Annex 1 - Questionnaire
- Annex 2a - Other reasons for supporting the survey (comments)
- Annex 2b - Other reasons for disagreeing with the proposal (comments)
- Annex 3 - Activities that respondents currently participate in
- Annex 4 - Activities that respondents would like to participate in
- Annex 5 - Additional correspondence and petitions were received:
 - Email from Cllr Arianna Leonard dated 19th September 2021
 - Letter from Tim Crahart, St David’s Methodist Church and the Centre @ St David’s dated 17th September 2021
 - Emails from Dawn Derraven, Risca Covid 19 Volunteers dated 12th & 19th September 2021 including online petition details, Facebook poll and Social media screenshots.
 - Email from Jane Burris, Shirley Hobbs and Zoe Davies, TLC Risca dated 6th September 2021
 - A hard copy petition opposing the proposal was also received.