



People's Panel

Thank you for your views - we need your help again

Dear People's Panel member

We had a great response to the last survey about budget savings (Your Council, Your Say).

I am delighted to give you the final results from the People's Panel respondents and to tell you how what you said has already influenced decisions that the council has made. Also contained within this leaflet is the next survey covering a number of different topics. Your views as part of the People's Panel are becoming very

important in informing future council activities and plans and so I would urge you to help us again by completing this short survey.

Thank you and regards

Cllr Graham Butland,
Leader Braintree
District Council

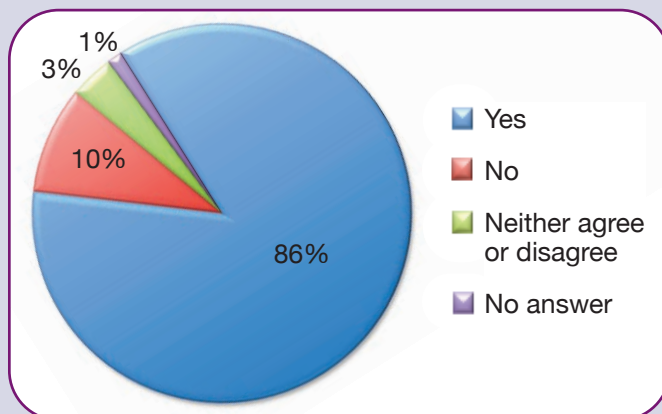


People's Panel Results - Your Council Your Say Dec'10 - Jan'11

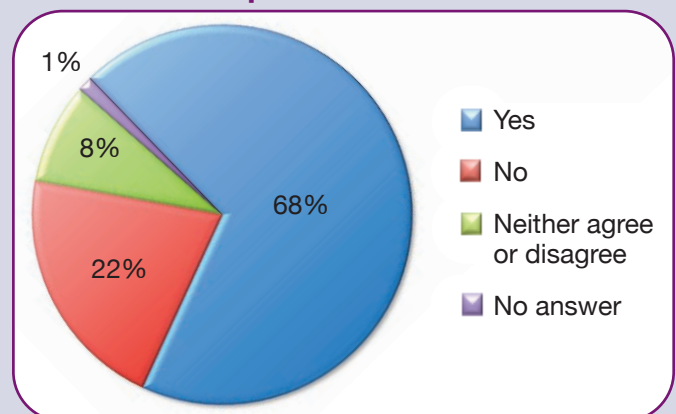
Your Council
tell us what matters to you

Your Say

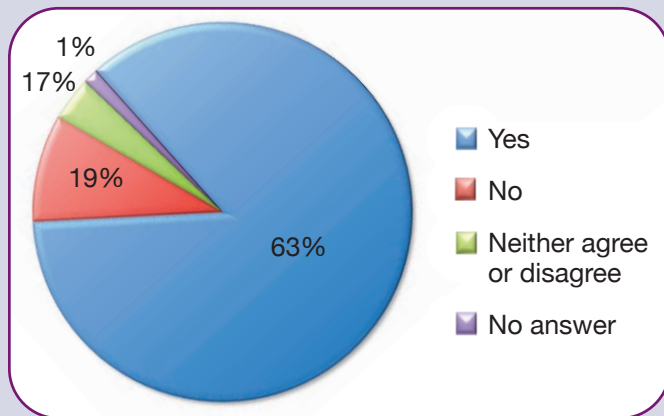
1) Reduce our reception hours and call centre opening hours



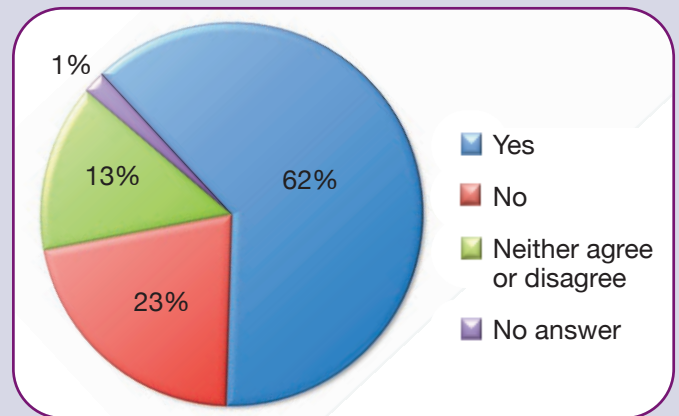
2) Stop travel tokens and encourage people to use community transport or free bus pass



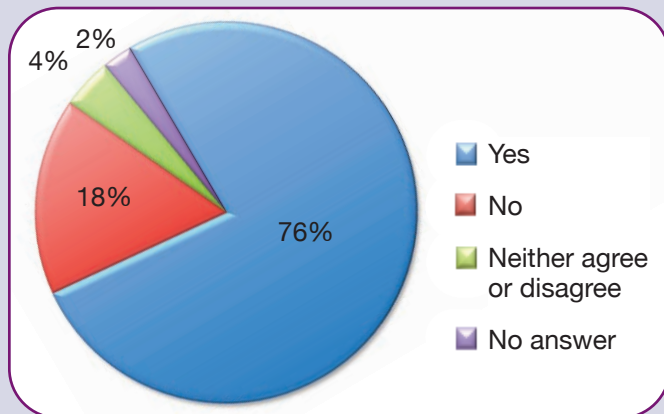
3) Changes to the planning service



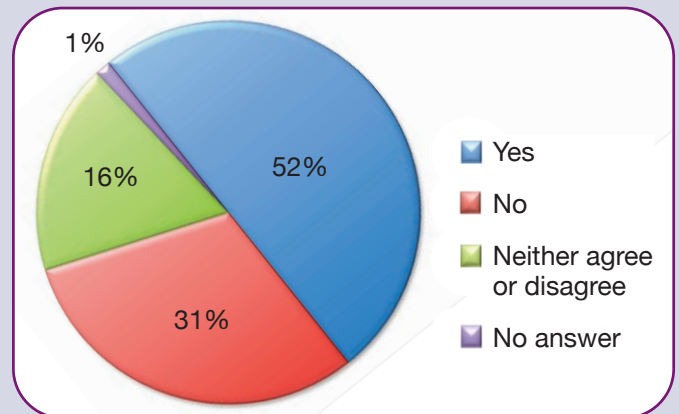
4) Stop benefits surgeries in Halstead and Witham



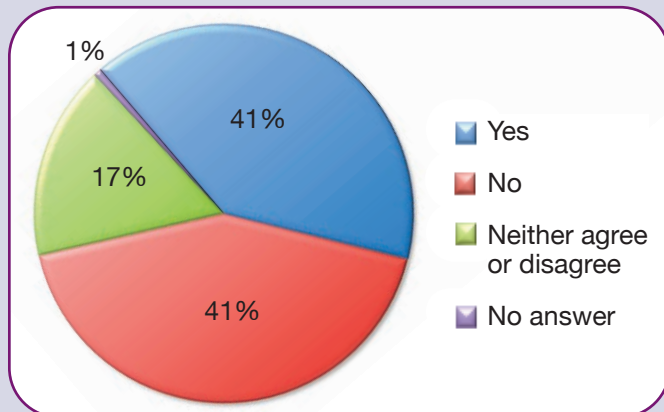
5) Move to cashless payments from residents and businesses



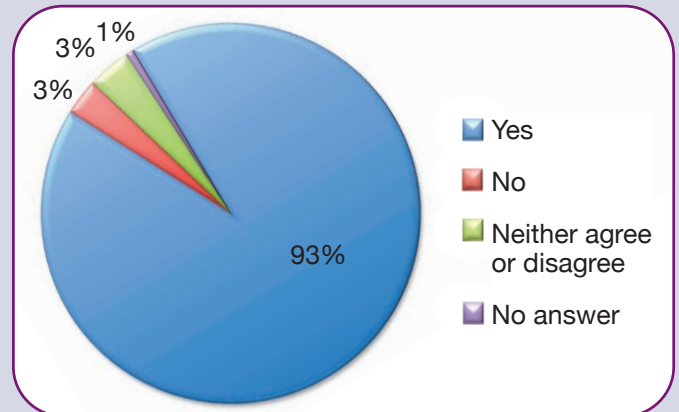
6) Close chapels and toilets in Braintree, Bocking and Witham cemeteries



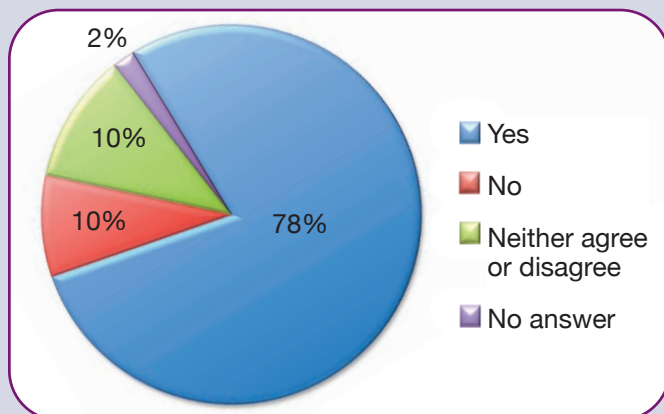
7) Close the current Halstead Community Centre building and find premises for Halstead Senior Citizens



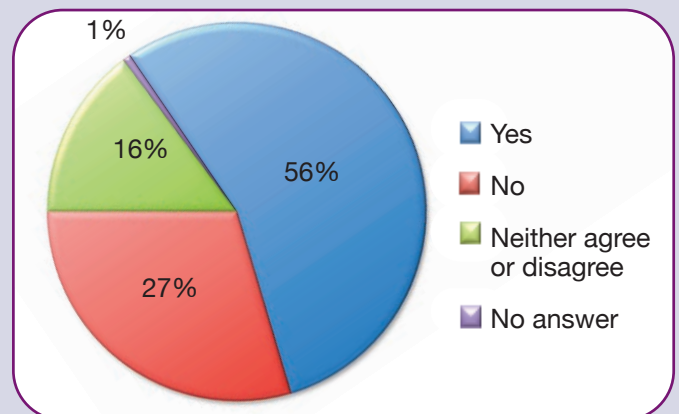
8) Reducing bureaucracy and allowances for councillors



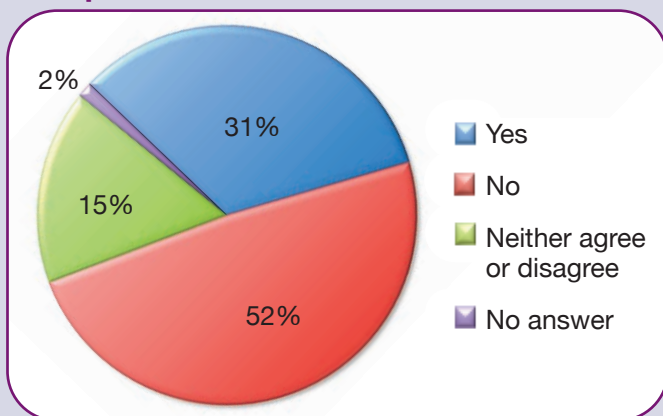
9) Reduce the number of councillors



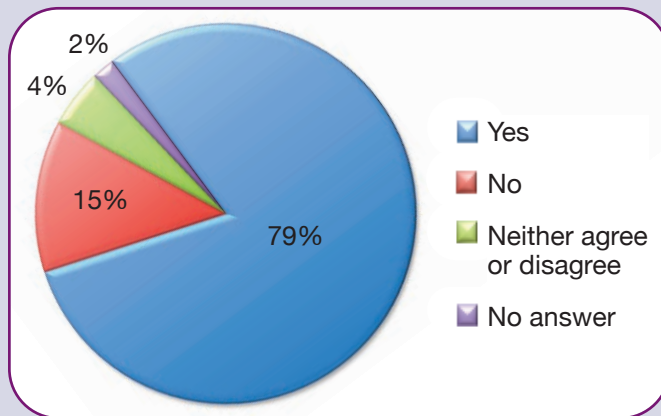
10) Generate greener forms of energy



11) Stop funding for some leisure/ sports activities



12) No increase in Council Tax



You said, we did

Funding for sports and leisure activities

52% of you disagreed with the proposal to stop funding sports and leisure activities including the Walks for Wellbeing programme and the activities for children during the summer holidays. It confirmed what we were hearing from people who used the services and so at Council on 23rd February, councillors agreed to continue to fund these activities for a further year until March 2012. In the meantime Braintree District Council will work hard with volunteers and sports clubs to make sure these healthy activities can continue beyond that time.

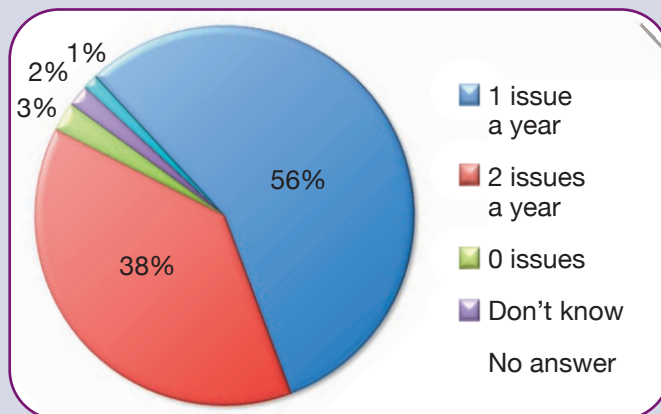
Council Tax frozen for 2 years

79% of you said this was a good idea and the Council's decision on 23rd February reflected your opinion.

Keeping chapels and toilets in cemeteries open

Although 52% of the People's Panel agreed with the proposal to shut chapels and toilets in cemeteries, 31% of you disagreed and so did some funeral directors and vicars. The Council decided to keep them open.

13) Reduce Contact magazine for residents to one or two issues a year



Travel tokens

68% of the People's Panel were in favour of stopping the Travel Tokens scheme. The Council decided to stop offering Travel Tokens but to reinvest the money saved into enhancing the Community Transport service.

Halstead Community Centre

The Council agreed to extend the closure date of the building to July 2012. In the meantime we will be working hard with groups and users of the community centre and partners including Halstead Town Council and Essex County Council to find another venue for groups to use.



TALK OF THE TOWNS



And finally

what do you want to see improving in your local town centre?



Are you a Halstead shopper?

Do you think Halstead needs more shops, what about the market and have you seen the proposal for easier crossing at the top of Market Hill? Please tell us how you think Halstead can be improved for shoppers and visitors by completing the Halstead survey.

www.talkofthetowns.co.uk/town/halstead

The council will soon be considering a number of improvements to the town centres in Witham, Halstead and Braintree. The consultation is called 'Talk of the Towns' and I have taken the liberty of including one of the surveys for your nearest town with this pack. If you prefer to complete surveys by email, please go onto the Talk of the Towns website:

www.talkofthetowns.co.uk/town/halstead

www.talkofthetowns.co.uk/town/witham

www.talkofthetowns.co.uk/town/braintree

On the website you will find videos of the designs and local people talking about what they want to see improved. Just go to www.talkofthetowns.co.uk

Is Witham your town?

Do you think Witham needs some big brand retailing names? How important is the market to Witham's success? What about traffic through the town? Complete the Witham survey to tell us how you think Witham should be improved.

www.talkofthetowns.co.uk/town/witham

Braintree - new plans for more shops and restaurants, tell us by March 15th

Have you heard about the proposals to develop the area behind Braintree old town hall to include more shops, restaurants and an hotel? We need the public to tell us whether they like the idea in principle and if they do which of the two designs they prefer. This consultation is running until March 15th. You still have time to tell us what you think.

www.talkofthetowns.co.uk/town/braintree