



North Yorkshire
County Council



Citizens' Panel No. 34

You said, we did!

Welcome to the Citizens' Panel newsletter, below we have an overview of the last Panel results and a recap of how past information has been used. Thanks for signing up to the Panel and participating in the surveys, your say really can make a huge difference!

The full Panel reports can be found at: www.northyorks.gov.uk/citizenspanel

Stronger Communities



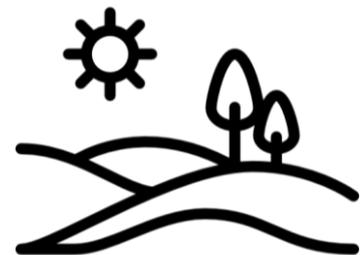
The results of this Citizen's Panel will be used to help the [Stronger Communities](#) Programme shape ideas for future investment. The programme aims to empower and support communities to help design and deliver local services, to encourage volunteering and to create opportunities for people to take an active role in their communities. These results will help the programme prioritise and design opportunities that will help to deliver those aims.

The questionnaire was split into four categories:

Your Local Area

It seems that broadly the residents of North Yorkshire are happy with the place they live in, but that isn't to say that improvements can't be made.

Nine out of ten of you (90%) are satisfied with your local area as a place to live, whilst 5% are 'neither satisfied nor dissatisfied', and only 4% are dissatisfied. This is very similar to when we last asked this question in the Summer 2016 Panel survey.



We asked you to suggest 'one service or amenity' that would significantly improve your life if it was available. Over half you (54%) made suggestions with the most mentioned themes relating to 'bus services' (8%) and 'public transport' (3%), 'highways' (6%), 'sports or leisure facilities' (6%), and 'shopping facilities' (3%).

Social Connectedness

'Social connectedness is the measure of how people come together and interact. At an individual level, social connectedness involves the quality and number of connections one has with other people in a social circle of family, friends, and acquaintances.'

Three-quarters of you (75%) stated that 'I have as much social contact I want with people I like', whilst 20% stated that 'I have some social contact but not enough', and 4% that 'I have little social contact and feel socially isolated'.

The Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness has highlighted that loneliness can affect everyone - from children to carers to new parents to students starting at university to older people and those with disabilities. Supporting people to have meaningful social relationships is not just crucial to people's physical and mental health, it also affects their

productivity in the workplace and wider community cohesion. Working closely with the voluntary sector and other public sector partners work is ongoing to understand the issue and to review what we are already doing and to identify what else we need to do.

Volunteering

When asked 'During the last 12 months how often have you given any unpaid help to any groups, clubs or organisations?' two-thirds of you (65%) said you've volunteered at least once in the past 12 months and a quarter of you (25%) do it on a weekly basis. Volunteers are so important in the creating better, stronger communities and it seems that our county has lots going on.

It appears we're a county of volunteers! If you're interested, we're hosting the 2018 NYCC Community awards on 26th October. Whilst it's too late to nominate anyone this year, here's a [link](#) to the website and remember you'll have another chance next year!

Community Learning

We were interested to hear how many of you were interested in community learning, over a third of you (36%) had taken part in a 'learning activity' during the last 12 months.

For those of you that haven't there's a wealth of courses available from ALSS (Adult Learning and Skills Service) for adults on the North Yorkshire County Council website: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/view-adult-learning-courses-and-enrol-online>



Recap and extra opportunities

We're using the information from the previous Citizen's Panel (33) to develop a social marketing campaign for alcohol in North Yorkshire, with the aim of raising awareness of the risks of drinking. The survey has given us an idea of the level of understanding local people have around this topic, so that we can develop an effective and appropriate campaign.

And finally, if you know anyone that else that would like to sign up for the Citizens' Panel, please pass on this link: <https://nwa.researchfeedback.net/wh/s.asp?k=142799016888>

If you would like any further information about the Panel or have any queries, please contact:

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