



Our summer Citizens' Panel survey has provided us with a wealth of useful information. It will feed in to the work of the County Council and its partners over the coming months but we would like to give you a summary of the findings and to thank all of you who took part in the survey.

For those interested in more detailed results of this and previous Citizens' Panel surveys, they can be found on www.northyorks.gov.uk/citizens-panel

Community safety

The large majority of you (83%) feel 'safe' when outside in your local area after dark but one-in-ten (10%) reported feeling 'unsafe' after dark, while the remainder (7%) feel 'neither safe nor unsafe'. During the day the proportion of those who feel safe rises to 95% when outside but 2% reported feeling unsafe.



We asked similar questions in 2015, to allow us to monitor any changes across time. The results were very similar to those in 2017.

When asked why panel members felt unsafe the majority of responses referred to poor street lighting, a lack of street lighting or the need for a more visible or greater police presence.

The results of the survey will be used by North Yorkshire Police and our Safer Communities team to help with planning future services and to improve community safety.

Councillors' Remuneration

The Independent Remuneration Panel have found the information that you provided on Councillors' Remuneration particularly useful.



We asked how much time you thought Councillors spend on constituents and Council business. Almost half (49%) of you thought that Councillors spend 0-15 hours a week whilst around a fifth (19%) believed that 15+ hours were spent each week and the remainder answered that they did not know.

The actual amount of time varies considerably, depending on the responsibilities undertaken by each Councillor. They attend at least four

County Council meetings per year plus four local Area Committee meetings and a number of other related meetings, with some Councillors attending more than 30 meetings per year in total.

In addition Councillors attend training sessions which are arranged each month. They also attend parish council meetings and some represent the Council on outside bodies. Councillors also attend to constituency business and deal with issues raised by individuals, with each Councillor representing an average of around 8,400 North Yorkshire residents.

Looking at the level of the basic allowance paid to Councillors, almost half (48%) of respondents felt that the current level is 'about right'. 23% believe it is 'too high', 3% that it is 'too low' and a quarter (26%) 'don't know'.

When asked to compare the basic allowance paid in North Yorkshire with that in comparable authorities the majority of all respondents (59%) were of the view that they should receive 'about the same'; whilst 18% felt Councillors should receive 'below the average', 8% 'above the average' and 15% did not know. When asked to explain the reason for their answer, of those who felt that the basic allowance is 'too high', many commented that being a Councillor should be a voluntary position, done for public service rather than for the allowance. Those who felt that the allowance should be higher suggested that having higher pay would encourage better quality candidates.

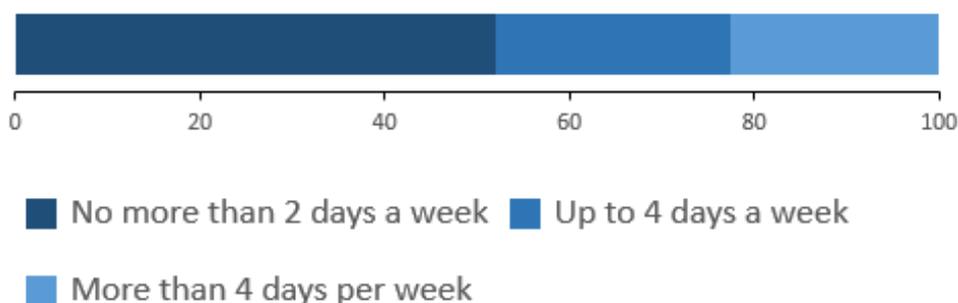
More information on Councillor allowances and the Independent Remuneration Panel may be found on www.northyorks.gov.uk/councillor-allowances

Sport and Intentional Physical Activity

Public Health is an important area of activity for the County Council. Research tells us that many of the leading causes of ill health could be prevented if people were to increase their activity levels. To help target future resources and to strengthen our partnership with the charity North Yorkshire Sport, who promote and encourage increased participation in sport and active recreation, we asked you a series of questions on your thoughts about sport and physical activity and the activities in which you had taken part in during the previous month.



Taking part in sport / intentional physical activity in the last four weeks (%)



Around half of respondents (52%) had taken part in sport and intentional physical activity on 'no more than two days a week'. A further 25% had taken part on between 2 and 4 days a week, with an additional 22% on more than 4 days per week.

Walking or hiking proved to be the most popular activities, followed by cycling/mountain biking, swimming, running/jogging and going to the gym/weight-training.

The majority (61%) of respondents take part in sport and intentional physical activity in 'the outdoors/natural environment', with the most common reason for this being to enjoy exploring the natural world as a place to relax and unwind.

When asked about barriers which prevent people taking part in activities, the most common responses related to problems with health, old age and disability; to work and family commitments, and general 'lack of time'; and to 'high costs' and 'lack of facilities or convenient times of activities'.

Your survey responses have supported the work of North Yorkshire Sport to tackle the important issue of inactivity across the County by helping to remove some of the barriers that prevent our residents from taking part in sport and physical activity as much as they would like to.

To help encourage an increase in physical activity North Yorkshire County Council supports campaigns such as One You from Public Health England, working to turn a 10 minute walk into 10 minutes' exercise with the free Active 10 app (www.nhs.uk/oneyou/active10).

If you would like any further information about the panel or have any queries, please contact Colin Bainbridge - email colin.bainbridge@northyorks.gov.uk or telephone 01609 532922