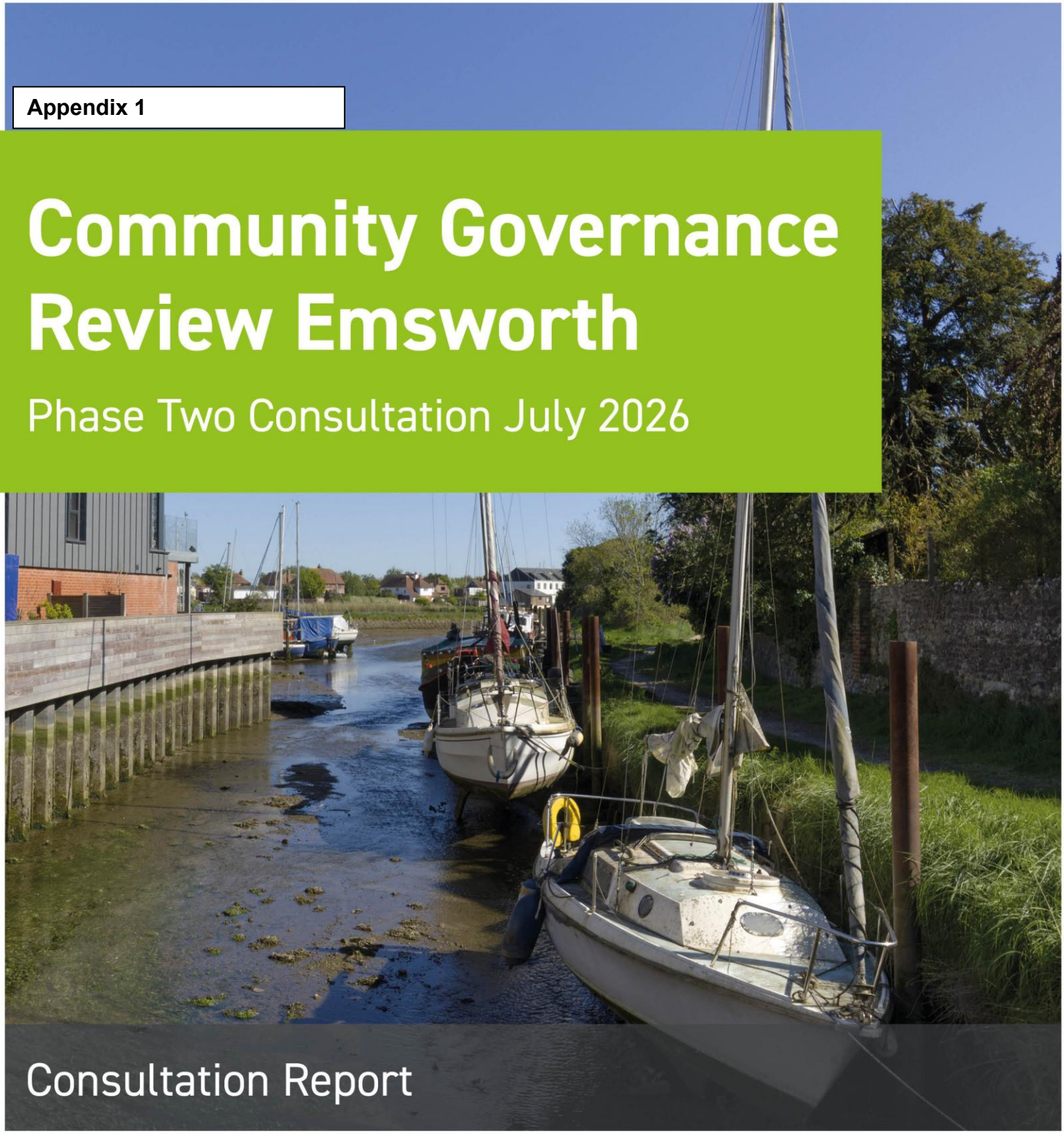
Appendix 1

Community Governance Review Emsworth

Phase Two Consultation July 2026



Consultation Report

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Havant BOROUGH COUNCIL

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1. Executive Summary

Overview

Public consultation on the second stage of the Emsworth Community Governance Review (CGR) was conducted between Thursday 21st May and Thursday 2nd July 2026.

The review was triggered by the Emsworth Neighbourhood Forum on 7 October 2025 and in line with the legislation and guidance, this review was undertaken by Havant Borough Council.

During the second stage of consultation, 900 responses were received from those who live, work and visit Emsworth via the consultation questionnaire. This report covers the detailed findings of this consultation exercise.

Creation of a parish council in Emsworth

- Support for creating a parish council is high; 84% of respondents support its creation and 14% do not support its creation. Only 2% are uncertain either way.

- Those who do not support the creation of a parish council were asked to provide their reasons (n=112 respondents answered). The most common themes raise concerns with council tax increases (in the context of affordability and cost of living concerns) (63%) and the limited perceived benefit a parish council would yield in terms of power / influence over local decision making (23%).

Creating a parish undivided into wards

- Support for creating of a parish undivided into wards is high; 86% of respondents support the proposal and 9% do not support the proposal. Only 5% are uncertain either way.

- Those who disagreed with the proposal to create a parish undivided into wards were asked to provide their reasons (n=54 respondents answered). The most common theme reiterates previous objections to a parish council creation and therefore disagreement with creating a parish undivided into wards (43%).

- 30% of those disagreeing with the proposal comment on the different areas of Emsworth having different needs / needing relevant representation. 28% of those disagreeing commented on the proposal increasing council tax.

Electing 15 councillors to represent Emsworth ward

- Support for electing 15 councillors to represent Emsworth ward is high; 81% of respondents support the proposal and 13% do not support the proposal. Only 7% are uncertain either way.

- Those who disagreed with the proposal to elect 15 councillors to represent Emsworth were asked to provide their reasons (n=89 respondents answered). 44% of those disagreeing with the proposal believe that 15 councillors is too many (particularly in the context of the geographic area).

- 28% reiterated previous objections to a parish council / parish creation and therefore disagreement with electing 15 councillors.

- 26% of those disagreeing commented on the proposal costing more to residents / associated administration costs. 19% of those disagreeing with the proposal believe an election of this quantity will create too much bureaucracy and will hinder any local decision making

Alternative suggestions to proposals

- When asked to provide any alternative suggestions to creating a parish undivided into wards with 15 councillors, 15% commented they had no further suggestions to make.

- 12% of those commenting noted that they agreed with the councillor proposal put forward.

- 16% of those commenting expressed a desire to keep existing governance arrangements.

Proposals for precept tax

- When asked to comment on proposals for the precept tax, the majority commenting referenced earlier concerns they expressed about proposals. 22% of the 229 respondents commenting referenced caps and likely annual increases. 19% of those commenting reiterated they opposed proposals and could see no benefits / did not want to pay additional costs.

- 22% commented they agree with precept tax proposals and that £50 seems reasonable for the initial precept.

How proposals could affect respondents or communities

- When asked to comment on how proposals may affect respondents or their community, 62% of the 434 respondents commenting expressed a desire for Emsworth residents to be consulted, listened to and actively involved in future decisions regarding their local area.

- 17% reiterated earlier concerns with regards to the additional costs and bureaucracy they believe the proposals will bring

The full findings of the public consultation are detailed within the following report.

2. Background

A CGR is a statutory (legal) process that allows the Council to consider whether changes are needed to the way local communities are represented and governed. This duty is set out in Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007)[1] and the process is further explained by the accompanying guidance[2].

A CGR process was introduced to allow local authorities to consider one or more of the following for a designated area:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes
- The electoral arrangements for parishes including:
    - The ordinary year of election
    - Number of councillors to be elected
    - Warding of the parish
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council
- Other types of local arrangements, including parish meetings.

A Community Governance Review is required to take into account:

- the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish

The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will:

- be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- be effective and convenient.

Emsworth CGR

The Emsworth Neighbourhood Forum triggered a CGR process on 7 October 2025. This trigger was supported by a petition signed by electors from the area.

A CGR process is undertaken by the Principal Authority for the area for which the review is triggered. For Emsworth, the Principal Authority is HBC.

[1] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/28/part/4
[2] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a78e983ed915d0422066530/1527635.pdf

Separately, a valid petition from electors on Hayling Island was received on 21 August 2025 for a CGR process to be undertaken for the Hayling East and Hayling West ward areas, and as these requests were received close to each other, it was decided that these reviews be conducted at the same time in order to be more resource and cost effective.

In line with guidance and best practice, the Terms of Reference for the review were considered and approved by Full Council on 5 November 2025[3].

The Terms of Reference set out the draft timetable for the Emsworth CGR, which provided an overview of timescales for the phases of consultation for the process and an indication of the decision-making timeline.

The following findings report provides an overview of the responses received as part of the first phase of consultation in the Emsworth CGR.

This consultation was conducted in accordance with the council's Engagement Strategy and in support of the Corporate Strategy aim to be 'a responsive council'.

CGR Options

In Phase Two, detailed proposals about what a parish council may look like were suggested. Respondents were given the opportunity to give feedback on the proposals and provide detail as to why this was their favoured option.

The proposals included within the consultation were as follows:

- Create a parish undivided into wards (the area is currently unparished in Emsworth).
- Elect 15 councillors to represent the Emsworth ward that makes up the parish area.
- Form 'Emsworth Parish Council' to serve the parish area.
- Charge a precept (a new increase to the amount of council tax paid by each household) to pay for the running of the parish council and the services it may provide.

[3] https://havant.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=126&MId=13254

3. Stakeholder Analysis

An extensive stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken to consider how to reach both statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. Stakeholders were all contacted and sent details of the consultation.

The following list provides an overview of the stakeholders included within the stakeholder mapping exercise conducted prior to the consultation.

- Local government electors in the Emsworth area*
- Hampshire County Council*
- Borough Councillors
- County Councillors
- Local MP
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Local residents associations including the Emsworth Neighbourhood Forum and Emsworth Resident's Association
- Faith-based organisations including local churches
- Ethnic minority groups
- LGBTQ groups
- Youth groups
- Local schools
- Groups representing older people, disabled people or other protected characteristics
- Groups representing military veterans
- Local chambers of commerce / trader's associations including Emsworth Business Association and Havant Business Partnership
- Local housing providers
- Health representative bodies including the Havant Health and Wellbeing Partnership
- Local conservation and heritage societies
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum
- Local Government Association
- National Association of Local Councils (NALC)
- Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)
- Local Government Boundary Commission for England
- Infrastructure providers
- Local community groups
- Allotment holders in the area

* indicates statutory consultee

4. Methodology

The second phase of consultation to support the Emsworth CGR was conducted from Thursday 21st May to Thursday 2nd July 2026. A six-week consultation period was selected in order to provide residents, workers, visitors and stakeholders with an opportunity to take part in the second consultation phase.

The consultation methodology was designed to encourage as many residents, communities and stakeholders as possible to participate in this consultation. Alternative formats were available on request alongside paper surveys. Staff were also on hand at events to assist respondents to complete the survey.

The consultation was undertaken via the following methods.

Online survey

This was the primary method of feedback for those taking part in the consultation. The survey was designed to capture feedback on the options available as part of a CGR process with a mixture of closed and opened ended questions.

The corporate online digital engagement platform Go Vocal featured a dedicated Emsworth CGR page, which was used to provide further information on the CGR process, a link to the online survey and a copy of the paper survey to download.

Respondents were able to give feedback on the following proposals:

- Create a parish undivided into wards (the area is currently unparished in Emsworth).

- Elect 15 councillors to represent the Emsworth ward that makes up the parish area.
- Form ‘Emsworth Parish Council’ to serve the parish area.
- Charge a precept (a new increase to the amount of council tax paid by each household) to pay for the running of the parish council and the services it may provide

If respondents indicated, they were not in support of the creation of a parish council or ‘not sure’ they were asked follow-up questions as to why that was their option.

The survey contained links to relevant information on the HBC website to aid responses. This survey was open to anyone to complete and was publicised widely via available promotional methods.

Paper survey

A paper survey of the online survey was designed for those who were unable to access the online version or those who would prefer to complete via this offline method. Paper surveys responses received were uploaded into the online survey platform survey for analysis alongside online surveys.

Paper surveys were made available at public locations in Emsworth, including Emsworth Community Centre and Emsworth Library. In addition, copies were also available to collect at the Public Service Plaza and at each face-to-face exhibition event, as well as being available upon request. At each location, the paper survey was accompanied by an information leaflet and a pre-paid envelope to return to the council for free. A word version of the questionnaire was also provided online for those who wished to complete this way. In addition, a telephone number was available and promoted for those unable to collect paper versions or who needed support in responding (e.g. those unable to read the documentation).

A version of the paper survey can be viewed at Appendix A.

Face-to-face events

A series of in-person events were held at locations within the affected areas for the CGR reviews. These events gave attendees the opportunity to find out more information about the reviews, speak to officers about particular issues or queries, and provided feedback. At each event, banners were displayed to provide information to those in attendance.

Four events were held (two in each area) with timings and venues chosen in order to provide an opportunity for as many people to attend as possible. For example, all events were held in accessible public venues and took place between in the morning, afternoon and evening, to ensure convenience for different parts of the community. The following events were held:

- Monday 1 June 3pm – 7pm Hayling Island Community Centre
- Monday 8 June 10am – 2pm Emsworth Community Centre
- Thursday 11 June 10am – 2pm Hayling Island Community Centre
- Wednesday 17th June 3pm – 7pm Emsworth Baptist Church

Written stakeholder feedback

Any stakeholder – both statutory and non-statutory – or resident was able to submit a letter or email representation to the consultation. Contact details were included within the above engagement methods, and feedback received via letters or emails was included within the general findings of the consultation.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The council was mindful of its data protection duties and responsibilities, and in line with this the engagement programme was designed in a manner to only collect, analyse and report on responses in line with GDPR.

The survey referenced the council's Privacy Policy. Data recorded via this survey will be retained in line with the relevant retention policy.

For the second phase of the consultation our survey platform collected IP addresses for the purposes of monitoring and identifying any instances where multiple responses are received from a single source.

In addition to this, respondents were informed that the data they provide may be used for other council related projects, for example regeneration projects in the borough.

5. Communications Programme

The first stage of consultation for the Emsworth CGR was accompanied by a communications plan.

The aim of this plan was to ensure as many residents, communities and stakeholders as possible were made aware of the consultation and were able to take part.

Respondents were provided with information about the CGR, the options available at this phase of consultation and how they could submit their views to inform the CGR process and request alternative formats.

The following online and offline methods were used:

Social media campaign: Social media posts provided information about the CGR process and raised awareness of how to take part. Different channels were used to target a range of audiences and demographics. Event venues and local organisations were also tagged in posts, to boost visibility and reach. The following channels were used:

- Facebook
- Next Door (with some posts specifically targeting the Emsworth area)
- LinkedIn
- Instagram

Press releases and e-newsletters and local publications: E-newsletters about the CGR consultation/events were promoted throughout the consultation period to both the public and the media. Statistics from the communication plan can be found in Appendix B and a copy of the material sent to every household in Emsworth in Appendix C

Written materials available at public locations such as libraries, community centres and the council offices.

CGR webpage at www.havant.gov.uk/cgr. with links to the **'Have Your Say' webpage on the Go Vocal Platform** (www.havant.gov.uk/haveyoursay)

HBC's website banner periodically displayed details and links about the consultation at the top of HBC's website during the consultation period.

Emails to key stakeholders at the start consultation inviting them to take part and promote the consultation.

Information provided internally to local councillors and to staff through staff communications channels so they could take part.

6. Consultation Response

The first phase of consultation for the Emsworth CGR received a total of 900 survey responses in total.

This included a total of 97 paper survey responses.

Attendance, where measured, at the exhibition events was as follows:

Date (all in 2026)	Location	Number of Attendees*
1 June 3pm – 7pm	Hayling Island Community Centre	34
8 June 10am – 2pm	Emsworth Community Centre	Not recorded
11 June 10am – 2pm	Hayling Island Community Centre	104
17 June 3pm – 7pm	Emsworth Baptist Church	46

7. Consultation Findings

Findings for each question are presented below. Responses for open-ended responses are presented alongside corresponding closed questions (questions with set options).

Points to note

- All questions were optional excluding the initial question “Which of the following best describes you?”

- The number of respondents asked each question is shown on each figure/ table featured in this report (known as the base).

- Consultees were asked to detail the reasons for their views in their own words. For the purpose of reporting, all comments have been reviewed for each of these questions and grouped common responses together into themes. These themes are reported where relevant in this report.

- Please note the sum of individual percentages in any single choice question in this report may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

- Havant Borough Council was responsible for the design, promotion and collection of the consultation responses. Lake Market Research (an independent market research agency) has supported Havant Borough Council and conducted the analysis of feedback.

7.1. Response Type

The chart below sets out the profile of who took part in the survey. The vast majority of those taking part are residents of Emsworth (95.1%).

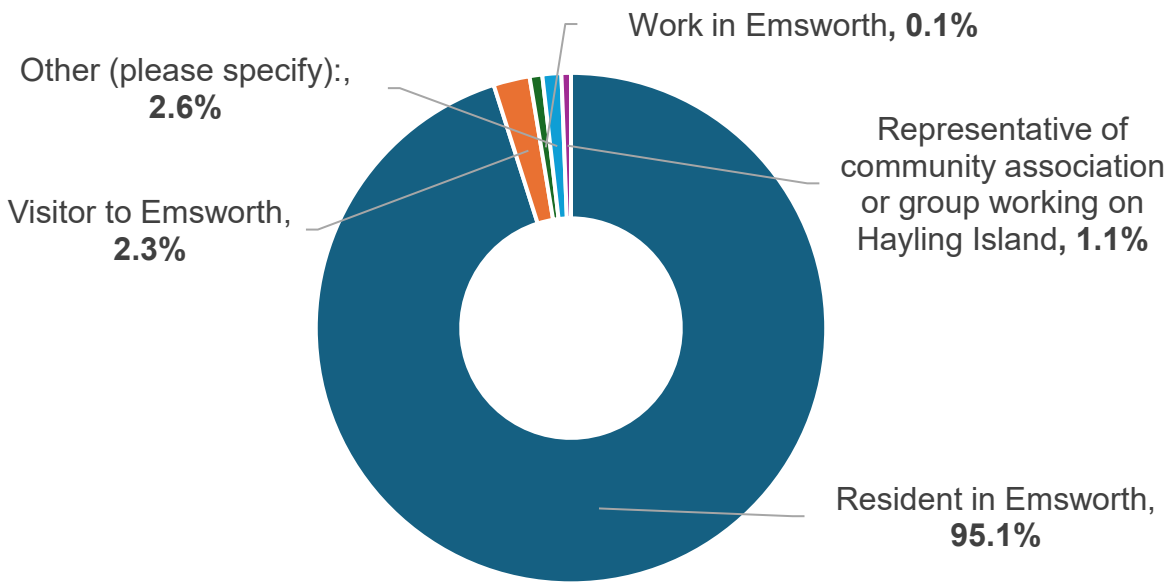

Figure 1 – Responses to Q1: Which of the following best describes you?
Base: 900

7.2. Support for creation of a parish council in Emsworth

Respondents were asked whether they support or do not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth.

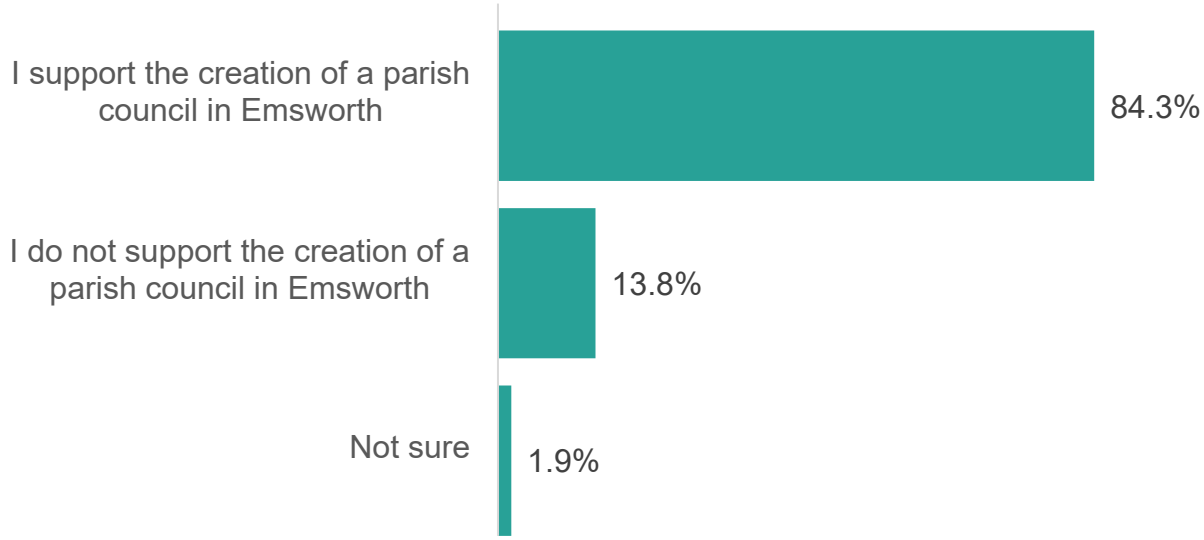

Figure 2 – Responses to Q2 – Do you support or not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth? Base: 899

The majority of respondents selected ‘I support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth’ (84%). Just over one in ten (14%) selected ‘I do not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth’. 2% of respondents indicated they were not sure.

7.3. Feedback for not supporting the creation of a parish council in Emsworth

For those who indicated 'I do not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth' option (n=112 respondents), the following key themes were raised:

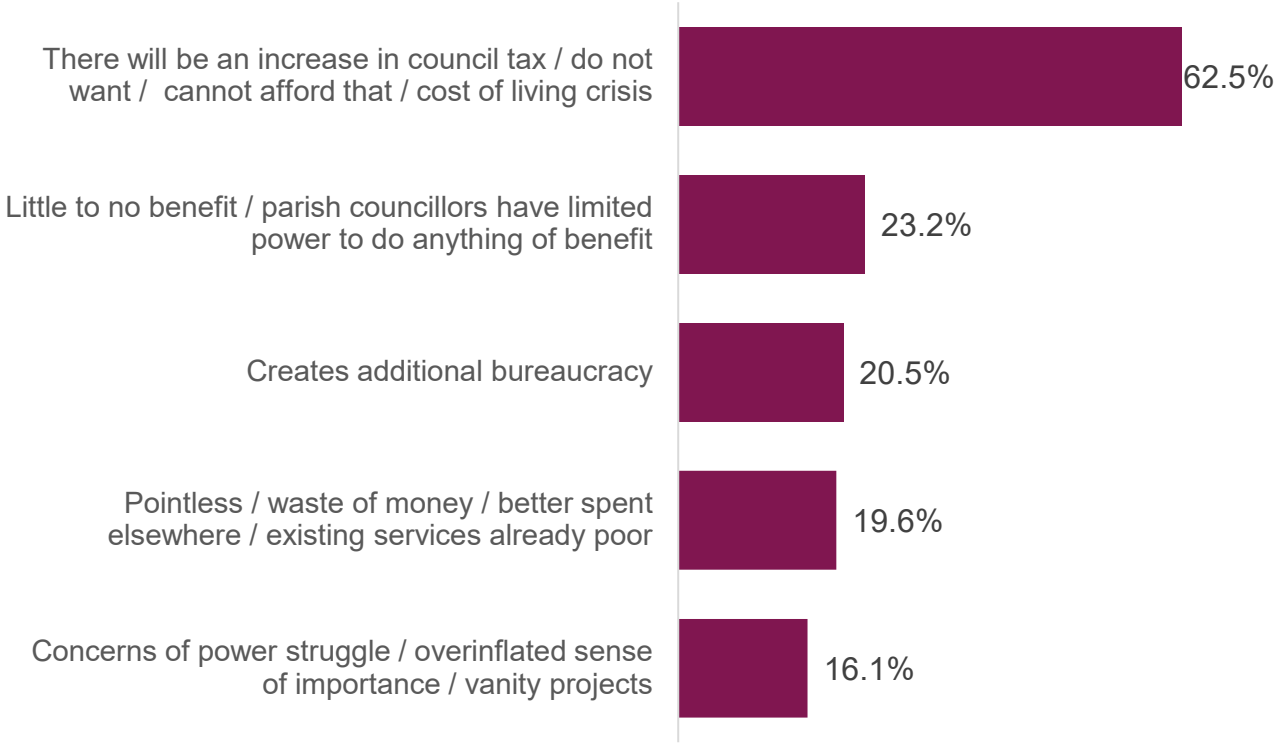

Figure 3 – Key themes raised at Q3 by those who selected 'I do not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth' at Q2. The above includes themes that received 5 or more responses. Base: 112

The following themes were raised by those who indicated 'I do not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth':

There will be an increase in council tax / do not want / cannot afford that / cost of living crisis (63%)

"The cost of council tax will go up and there is no fully costed plan. I have a family to provide for and already struggle to keep up with the rising cost of bills." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Under this theme, respondents discussed concerns of increases in council tax and how they did not want and could not afford such increases. Many raised concerns of the impact it would have on their finances, particularly in the context of ongoing cost of living concerns.

Little to no benefit / parish councillors have limited power to do anything of benefit (23%)

“It's going to be extra cost for limited extra benefits and we'll get left out of wider funding. Overall, it adds a lot more bureaucracy to the already dysfunctional, electoral system.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Respondents commented on the perceived limited influence and power parish councillors could have regarding local decisions. Many felt that their likely influence on important decisions would be low.

Creates additional bureaucracy (21%)

“Charging people for more political bureaucracy isn’t going to help anyone.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Respondents expressed concerns that adding another layer of governance could affect decision making and create additional bureaucracy. They often reported that the decisions would take a longer amount of time and could result in poorer outcomes / more division.

Pointless / waste of money / better spent elsewhere / existing services already poor (20%)

“Emsworth is fine I don’t want or need a parish council. A waste of time money and resources.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Under this theme, respondents commented on the perceived lack of benefits they could see in creating a parish council and they would prefer to see funds spent on existing services / improvements to the area.

Concerns of power struggle / overinflated sense of importance / vanity projects (16%)

“Same people end up on all the committee organisations in Emsworth and don't always understand the views of the people of Emsworth or demonstrate the level of professionalism required of a parish councillor.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Reflecting on the perceived lack of influence and power that a parish council would have, respondents noted that they would not want to spend money to fund it.

The full list of themes can be found at Appendix D

7.4. Feedback of those selecting ‘not sure’ whether they support or do not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth

For those who indicated ‘not sure’ when asked if they support or do not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth (n=12 respondents), the following themes were raised:

Little information has been provided / unsure of the benefits	6 respondents
Increase in council tax / do not want / cannot afford / cost of living crisis	2 respondents
Unknown what we'll be paying for	2 respondents

Figure 4 – Key themes raised at Q3 by those who selected ‘not sure’ when asked if they support or do not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth at Q2. Base: 12

Noting the smaller number of respondents, the following themes were raised by those who indicated ‘not sure’ for supporting the creation of a parish council in Emsworth:

Little information has been provided / ensure of the benefits

“We will still have three tries of government, what are the savings? Why is there a need for a five-fold increase of councillors to 15. If no wards who do you approach if you have an issue (by who best represents your interests). How much will it cost me, What powers will this parish council have, I suspect a talking shop in reality. Need to prove I’m wrong.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Increase in council tax / do not want / cannot afford / cost of living crisis

“I don't understand why this happening now, when so many changes are afoot. Emsworth Residents' Forum claim it is a "once in a lifetime opportunity", but can't it be considered later, once the Unitary Authority is established and we know better how well it works for us. Can we justify an extra £50 per household in these difficult times ?” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Unknown what we'll be paying for

“I find the proposal too wishy washy as it stands. You don't know how much it will really cost and, apart from allotments you don't really know what it is going to be responsible for! Happy to support it if I know what I'm supporting and have a better idea of the cost implications.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

The full list of themes can be found at Appendix D

7.5. Creating a parish undivided into wards

All respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the proposal to create a parish undivided into wards (the area is currently unparished). This is based on feedback received in the first round of consultation and guidance from the 2007 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act.

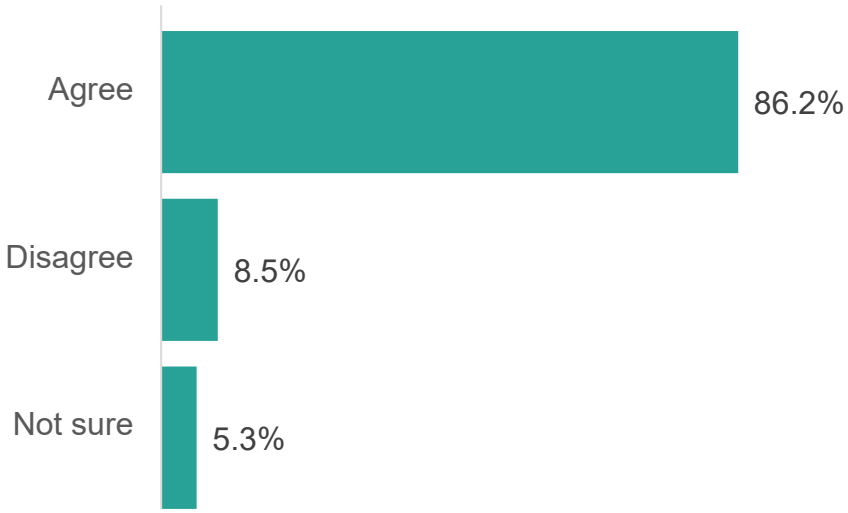

Figure 5 – Responses to Q4 – Do you agree with this proposal? Base: 885

The majority of respondents ‘agreed’ with the proposal to create a parish undivided into wards (86%). Just under one in ten (9%) ‘disagreed’ with the proposal to create a parish undivided into wards. 5% of respondents indicated they were not sure.

7.6. Feedback for ‘disagreeing’ with creating a parish undivided into wards

For those who indicated ‘disagree’ to the proposal to create a parish undivided into wards (n=54 respondents), the following key themes were raised:

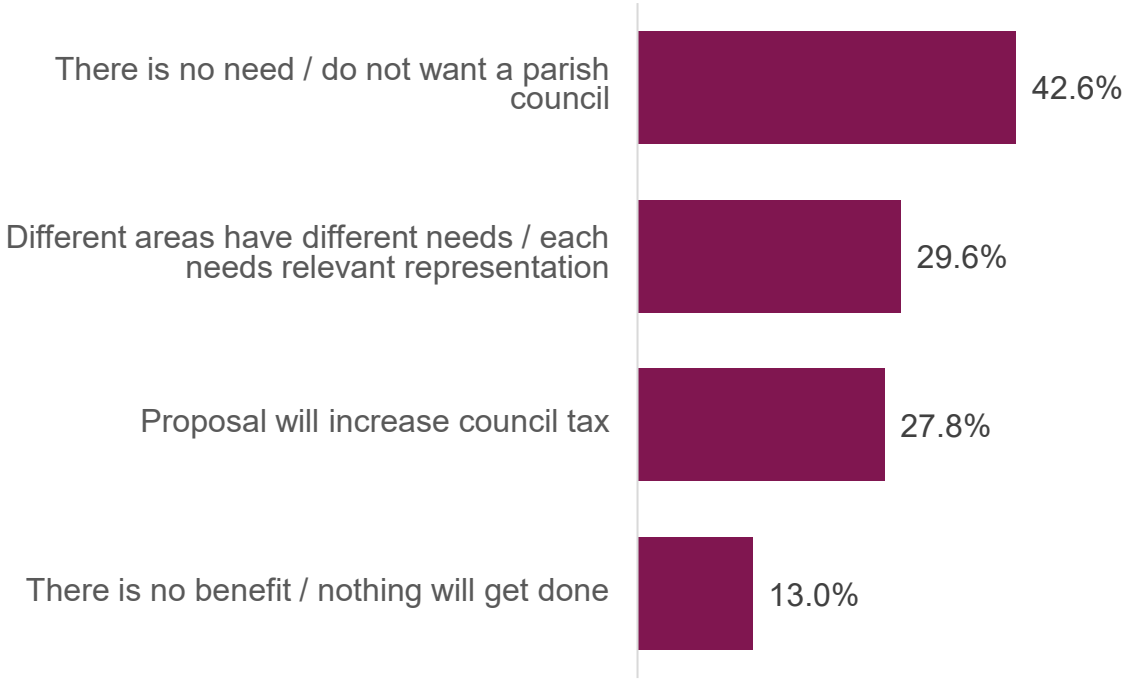

Figure 6 – Key themes raised at Q5 by those who selected ‘disagree’ to the proposal to create a parish undivided into wards at Q4. The above includes themes that received 5 or more responses. Base: 54

Noting the smaller number of respondents, the following themes were raised by those who indicated they ‘disagree’ with the proposal to create a parish undivided into wards:

There is no need / do not want a parish council (43%)

“Don’t agree with any of this. We wish to opt out.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Under the dominant theme amongst those disagreeing with the proposal, respondents reflected that as they do not see a need for a parish council nor the benefits it would bring. As a result, they would not indicate agreement with the proposal to create a parish undivided into wards.

Different areas have different needs / each needs relevant representation (30%)

"Do not agree, having wards distinction is important, allowing for focus on North Emsworth, often disregarded." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Under this theme, respondents commented that different parts of the area have different requirements (for example transport, environment, facilities, services) and have concerns they will not be adequately represented. In addition, respondents comment on whether each area will be represented fairly when creating a parish undivided into wards.

Proposal will increase council tax (28%)

"It is not necessary. It is trying to be swept in by the back door. People don't want the extra expense it entails . Things should be left as they are. We pay more council taxes, grass isn't cut, roads are a mess, bins not collected. Then we are expected to pay more for very little in return. " – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Consistent with comments made for the parish creation proposal, respondents discussed concerns of increases in council tax and how they did not want such increases (particularly in the context of current service delivery).

There is no benefit / nothing will get done (13%)

"Serves no purpose whatsoever. Council receives enough money through council tax for local community." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Respondents commented they didn't think the creation of a parish would bring any benefits to their local area or any positive change.

The full list of themes can be found at Appendix D

7.7 Feedback for those selecting ‘not sure’ for creating a parish undivided into wards

For those who indicated ‘not sure’ to the proposal to create a parish undivided into wards, (n=30 respondents), the following themes were raised:

No pros and cons mentioned / what are the benefits / how many wards / lack of detail	16 respondents
No need / do not want a parish council	4 respondents
Different areas have different needs / each need relevant representation	4 respondents
No benefit / nothing will get done	4 respondents

Figure 7 – Key themes raised at Q6 by those who selected ‘not sure’ to the proposal to create a parish undivided into wards at Q4. Base: 30

Noting the smaller number of respondents, the following themes were raised by those who indicated they were ‘not sure’ whether they agree with the proposal to create a parish undivided into wards:

No pros and cons mentioned / what are the benefits / how many wards / lack of detail

“More information needed to see how a theorised ward Emsworth parish council would look like (different areas may be served better with a ward such as those away from coastal areas towards Westbourne).” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

No need / do not want a parish council

“I don’t want a parish council so therefore the question about whether I want it in parishes irrelevant.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Different areas have different needs / each need relevant representation

“I am not sure I agree with having no wards. With 8,413 electors and 15 proposed councillors, I think residents need to understand whether all parts of Emsworth would be properly represented. Different areas have different issues, including the town centre, parks, public toilets, cricket pitches, pavilions, residential areas and privately

managed estates. If the council is not divided into wards, there is a risk that one organised group could dominate the first parish council, while some areas may not have a councillor directly accountable to them. I would like Havant to explain why no wards is considered better for local representation, and how they would ensure all parts of Emsworth have a fair voice." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

No benefit / nothing will get done

"Doubt value for money. Hard to see point if only have small responsibilities. Extra cost. Local government will never have say over important items such as planning, recycling." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

The full list of themes can be found at Appendix D

7.8 Electing 15 councillors to represent Emsworth ward

All respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the proposal to elect 15 councillors to represent the Emsworth ward that makes up the parish area.

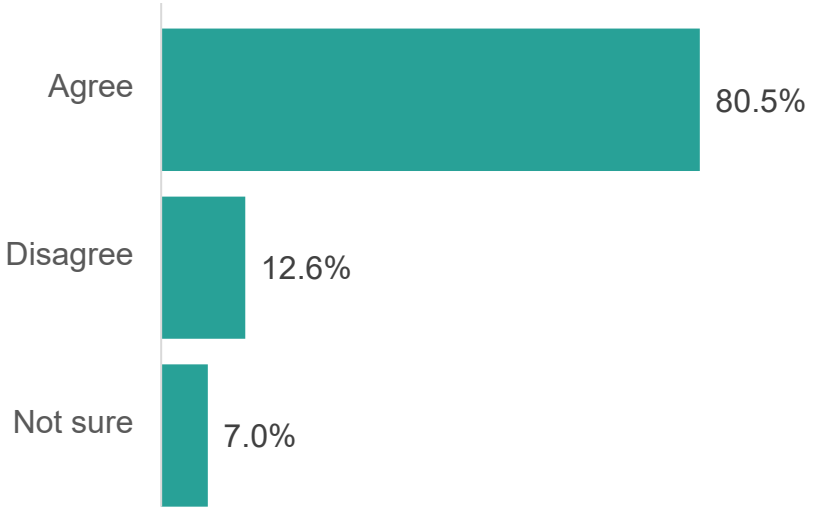

Figure 8 – Responses to Q6 – Do you agree with this proposal? Base: 876

The majority of respondents ‘agreed’ with the proposal to elect 15 councillors (81%). Just over one in ten (13%) ‘disagreed’ with the proposal to elect 15 councillors. 7% of respondents indicated they were not sure.

7.9 Feedback for ‘disagreeing’ with electing 15 councillors to represent Emsworth ward

For those who indicated ‘disagree’ to the proposal to elect 15 councillors to represent Emsworth ward (n=89 respondents), the following key themes were raised:

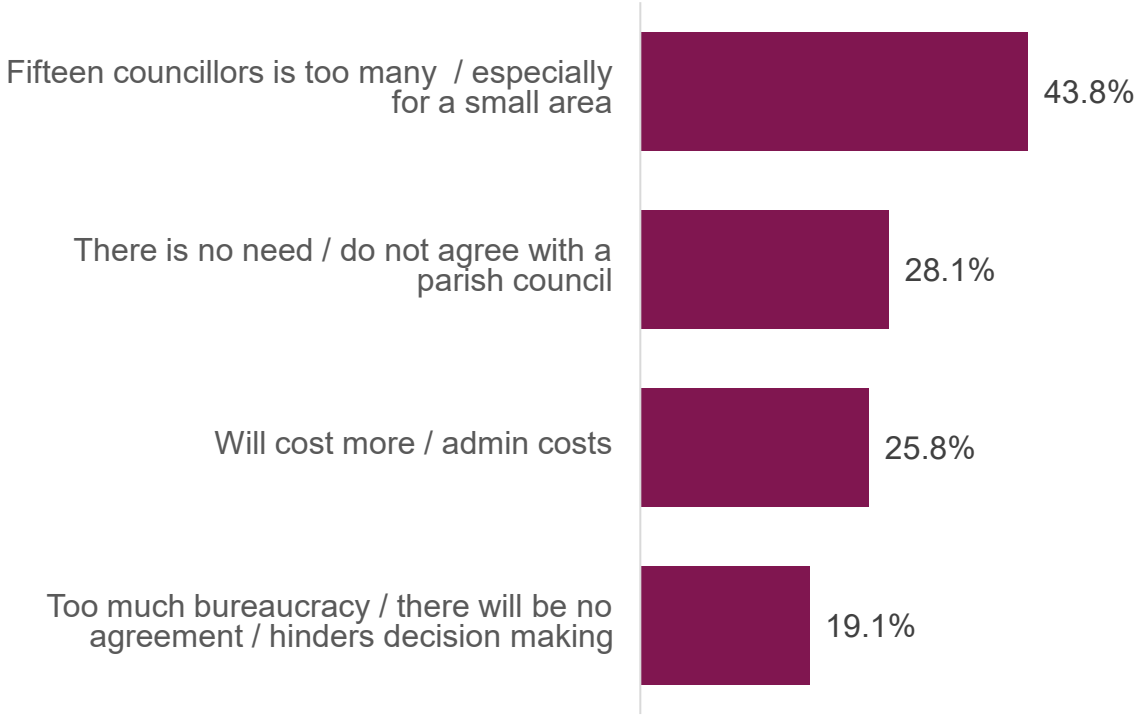

Figure 9 – Key themes raised at Q7 by those who selected ‘disagree’ to the proposal to elect 15 councillors at Q6. The above includes themes that received 5 or more responses. Base: 89

Noting the smaller number of respondents, the following themes were raised by those who indicated they ‘disagree’ with the proposal to elect 15 councillors to represent Emsworth ward:

15 councillors is too many / especially for a small area (44%)

“15 councillors is far too many for a relatively small area. Experience suggests that the more councillors eligible to vote the longer the debate and the more protracted the decision. Surely 11 would be sufficient ” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Respondents questioned the need for the 15 councillors proposed and whether this number was suitable for the geography. They commented that 15 councillors would be too many in this context.

There is no need / do not agree with a parish council (28%)

“Interestingly, this is a question written as if it's already happening. I do not want to see any change, so I do not need to recruit 15 more middle men.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Under this theme, respondents reflected that as they do not see a need for a parish council / creation for a parish nor the benefits it would bring. As a result, they would not indicate agreement with the proposal to elect twenty councillors.

Will cost more / admin costs (26%)

“This will cost residents hundreds of thousands of pounds in Councillor allowances and election fees, fees for room hire, refreshments etc. Complete waste of money.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Respondents discussed the additional costs that residents would need to pay to cover the councillors and believed these costs wouldn’t contribute to anything useful / anything that would make a difference to their local area.

Too much bureaucracy / there will be no agreement / hinders decision making (19%)

“Fifteen councillors is top heavy for a relatively small electorate leading to protracted debate and potentially long winded decision making. Nine would be adequate.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Consistent with response to creating a parish council, respondents expressed concerns that electing 15 councillors could affect decision making and create additional bureaucracy. They reported that the decisions would take a longer amount of time and could result in poorer outcomes / more division.

The full list of themes can be found at Appendix D

7.10 Feedback for those selecting ‘not sure’ for electing 15 councillors for Emsworth ward

For those who indicated ‘not sure’ to the proposal to elect 15 councillors for Emsworth ward (n=46 respondents), the following themes were raised:

15 councillors is too many / especially for a small area	17 respondents
Needs more detail / not enough information	15 respondents
Too much bureaucracy / there will no agreement / hinders decision making	7 respondents
Getting 15 adequate people will be difficult	6 respondents

Figure 10 – Key themes raised at Q7 by those who selected ‘not sure’ to the proposal to elect 20 councillors at Q6. Base: 46

Noting the smaller number of respondents, the following themes were raised by those who indicated they were ‘not sure’ whether they agree with the proposal to elect 15 councillors for Emsworth ward:

15 councillors is too many / especially for a small area

“Don't really know why the need for 15, I need to know what they will all be doing.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Needs more detail / not enough information

“Not sure. There has not been sufficient information for residents, new information did not suffice. Would this increase taxation levels? Unclear. Poorly distributed information.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Too much bureaucracy / there will no agreement / hinders decision making

“I just feel 15 councillors seems a lot bearing in mind we’ve only had 3 serving this area as part of Havant Borough. The more people there are makes decision making more difficult.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Getting 15 adequate people will be difficult

“Seems a lot of councillors. Southbourne struggle to fill their positions.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

7.11 Alternative suggestions to proposals to create a parish undivided into wards with 15 councillors

Respondents were invited to comment on any alternative suggestions they have to create a parish undivided into wards with 15 councillors. 241 respondents made a comment - 34% of those commenting noted they had no further comments or suggestions.

12% commented they agreed with the proposal put forward. 16% commented that they would like to keep existing governance arrangements / leave them at they are.

The key themes noted can be found below:

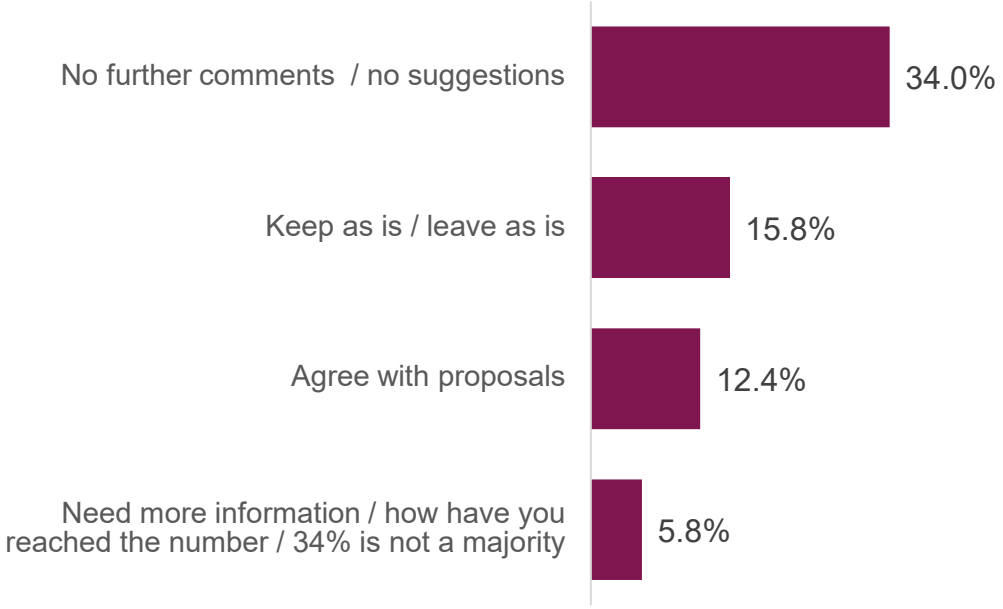

Figure 11 – Key themes raised at Q8 in relation to alternative suggestions to proposed to create a parish undivided into wards with 15 councillors to represent Emsworth. The above includes themes that received 5 or more responses. Base: 241

The following themes were raised:

Agree with proposals (12%)

"The suggestion seems to be well considered. I think it will be important to have a connection to the new local authority being established under LGR, to represent Emsworth's interests." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Respondents commented that they supported the proposal for a parish undivided by wards and some added that the proposal for electing 15 councillors appeared well considered.

Needs more information / how have you reached the number / 34% is not a majority (6%)

"Based on the information provided so far, I question whether Emsworth really needs this parish council. Cost/benefit analysis does not convince me at the moment." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Respondents commented that they hadn't received enough information on the benefits and considerations with electing 15 councillors. Respondents would like to see more detailed information to evaluate properly.

The most common alternatives noted were electing ten or eleven councillors. However, these alternatives were only referenced by 3% of those answering.

The full list of themes can be found at Appendix D

7.12 Comments about proposals for the precept text

Respondents were invited to comment on proposals for the precept tax. 299 respondents made a comment. 19% reiterated the earlier comments that they had made and that they opposed proposals and could see no benefits / did not want to pay additional costs.

22% agree and commented that £50 seems reasonable for the initial precept. 22% reiterated earlier comments about caps and likely annual increases.

The key themes noted can be found below:

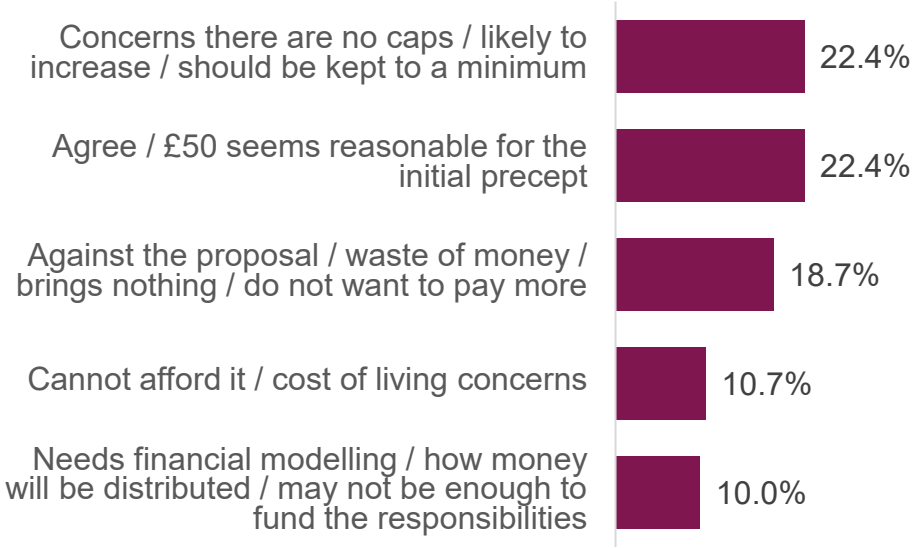

Figure 12 – Key themes raised at Q9 in relation to comments about proposals for the precept tax. The above includes themes that received 5 or more responses. Base: 299

The following themes were raised:

Concerns there are no caps / likely to increase / should be kept to a minimum (22%)

"I think £50 sounds fair but worry this might soar in the future. Can there be a cap placed on it after a couple of years to see whether £50 is sustainable?" – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Agree / £50 seems acceptable / for the initial precept (22%)

“I support the proposal for a precept tax. This will deliver the funding required to provide the services needed to maintain Emsworth as a special town, both for residents, and also for the tourists that bring in much needed business for local retail outlets.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Cannot afford it / cost of living concerns (11%)

“All that extra funding why? Leave it as it is and have less councillors save money! Everyone is paying too much tax already!!! £50 on a band d estimate across the parish of not many band d’s is a load of money! What a waste” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Needs financial modelling / how money will be distributed / may not be enough to fund the responsibilities (10%)

“Concern that the precept is set by the people whose role and ability to deliver value is dependent on spending that precept - so their incentive is always to increase it, "to provide more services". Don't see what checks and balances would be in place around that, beyond the very loose "we could not vote for you again in x years time". Feels like there should be an upfront commitment to limit rises to within a set limit, rather than voting for an indicative £50/year but with the freedom to completely change that once it's been established.” – ***Resident, Emsworth***

The full list of themes can be found at Appendix D

7.13 Additional comments about how proposals may affect respondents or the community

Respondents were invited to comment on how proposals may affect respondents or the community. 434 respondents made a comment.

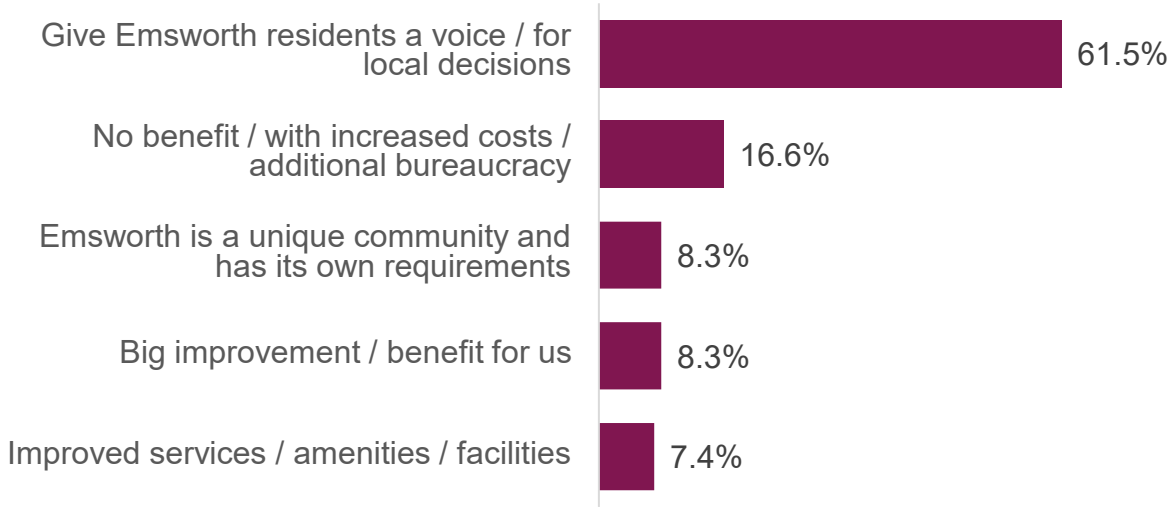

Figure 13 – Key themes raised at Q10 in relation how proposals may affect respondents or the community. The above includes themes that received 5 or more responses. Base: 434

The following themes were raised:

Give Emsworth residents a voice / for local decisions (62%)

"To become a parish council means we will have a greater voice as the new unitary authority is developed. A small parish council team will help make improvements in the town. To have a team of volunteers supporting a community plan will make a real difference to issues such as litter, improving street furniture, developing more cultural events, youth activities etc." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Under this theme, respondents expressed a desire for Emsworth residents to be consulted, listened to and actively involved in future decisions regarding their local area. Some referenced the creation of a parish council playing a role in making this happen.

No benefit / with increased costs / additional bureaucracy (17%)

"I will be financially worse off by the extra precept. The Parish Council has no powers, so is a waste of time and money." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Respondents reiterated earlier concerns with regards to the additional costs and bureaucracy they believe the proposals will bring.

Emsworth is a unique community and has its own requirements (8%)

"I feel this change will allow Emsworth to retain its character and not get swallowed up within a much larger entity. I recognise that the town will gradually evolve. I chose to live here because of the nature of the town and its environs. I want to see it evolve but not be forced to change by a larger perhaps impersonal entity." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Respondents hope implementation of the proposals will result in the area retaining its identity and character and maintaining involvement / control over local decisions.

Big improvement / benefit for us (8%)

"The proposals offer the prospect of harnessing the talent and resources of the town to deliver better outcomes for all the community." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Respondents welcome the opportunity for local involvement in decision making and making changes where they are most needed.

Improved services / amenities / facilities (7%)

"Hopefully it will result in issues particular to Emsworth being dealt with more speedily and efficiently, eg roads, pavements, cleanliness (larger rubbish collection bins in public areas), clearing overhead branches and brambles to enable everyone to walk or cycle more easily. Maybe local involvement in planning decisions, eg change of use of business properties, changes to road layouts." – ***Resident, Emsworth***

Respondents hope proposals will offer local influence in resolving local issues that need addressing.

The full list of themes can be found at Appendix D

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7.14 Further Comments

Respondents were invited to add any further comments in relation to the proposals for a parish council. 222 respondents made a comment – 28% of respondents noted they had no further comments to add.

12% commented that they agree with the proposals put forward in the consultation. 16% reiterated the earlier comments that they had made and that they opposed proposals and could see no benefits / believe it's just an increase in council tax.

The key themes noted can be found below:

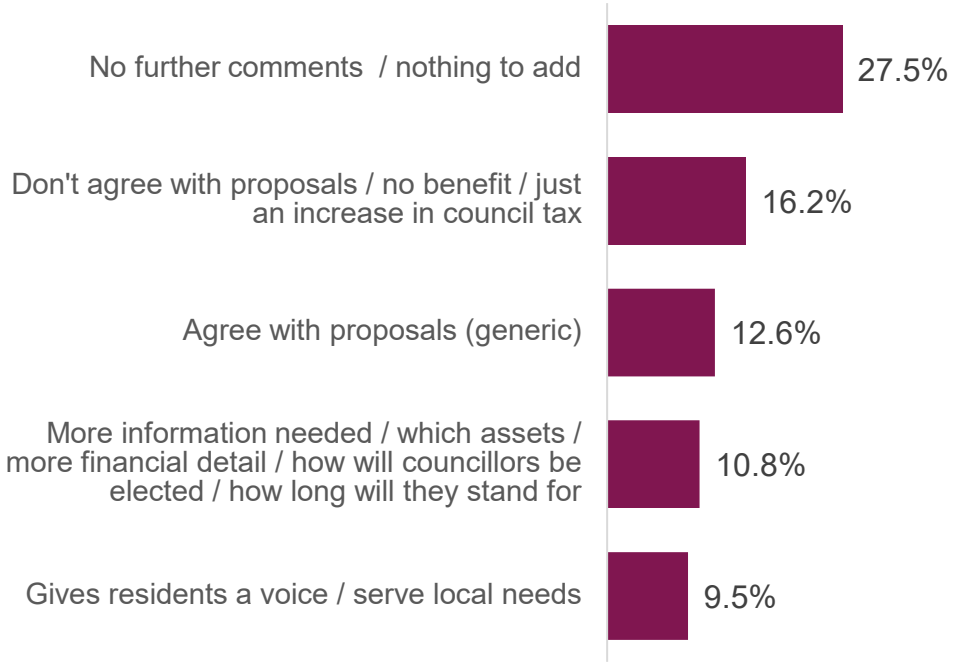


Figure 14 – Key themes raised at Q11 in relation to any further comments in relation to the proposals for a parish council. The above includes themes that received 5 or more responses . Base: 222

7.15 Awareness of consultation

The most commons modes of awareness of the consultation are via a leaflet through the post (32%), local publications (30%), local community groups / associations (29%) and word of mouth (18%).

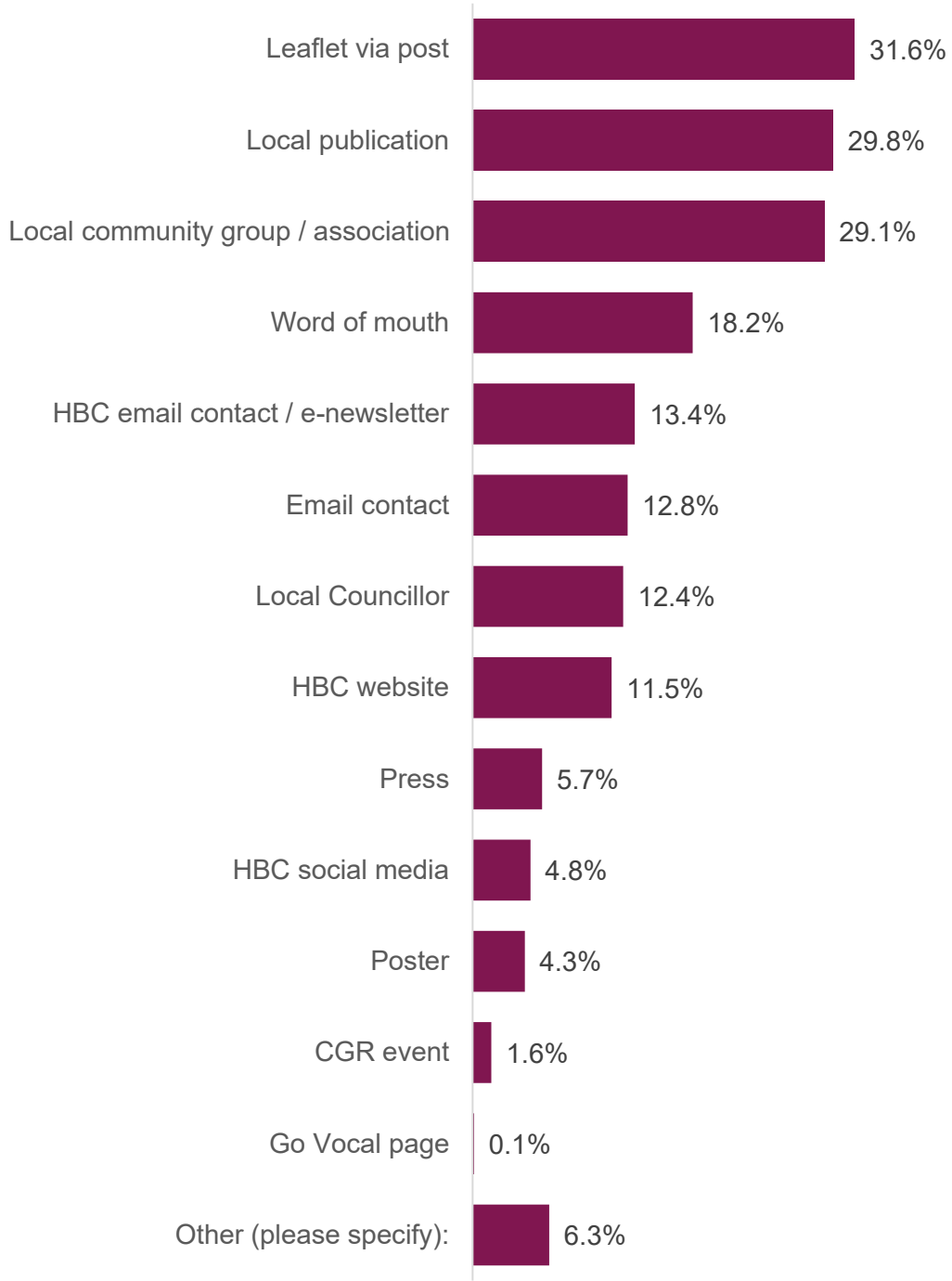


Figure 1 – Responses to Q12 – 'How did you hear about this consultation'. Base: 836

8. Next Steps

The consultation findings report will be presented to a meeting of the Full Council for decision on whether to proceed with the CGR or close at this point.

Full information on the progress of the CGR can be found at www.havant.gov.uk/cgr

Appendix A

Emsworth Community Governance Review: Phase Two Consultation

Welcome to Phase Two of the Community Governance Review (CGR) for Emsworth. In Emsworth, an application was made by the Emsworth Neighbourhood Forum and this was accompanied by a signed petition from local electors in August 2025. A prior consultation (Phase One) took place between 5 January 2026 – 23 March 2026, establishing an appetite for a new parish council in Emsworth. Following a Full Council meeting on 20 May 2026, the decision was made to proceed to Phase Two.

In Phase Two, detailed proposals about what a parish council may look like are suggested. As part of this phase, we are inviting those who live, work or visit Emsworth to give views on the future of community governance for this area as a parish council.

We recommend reading our Supporting Information Document about the second phase of CGR. You can find this via our website at www.havant.gov.uk/cgr. You can also read the Summary Leaflet (available at the same web address), prior to completing your response. The Leaflet and paper surveys are also available upon request or at Emsworth and Hayling Island libraries.

Please ensure that your response reaches us by midnight on Thursday 2 July 2026

Once completed, please use the pre-paid envelope provided with this survey to post your response back to: The Insight Team, Havant Borough Council, Public Services Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant PO9 2AX. Alternatively, please send your completed survey via email as an attachment to: insight@havant.gov.uk

An online version of this survey is also available at www.havant.gov.uk/cgr.

Please note that this survey is limited to one response per person.

If you have any questions about this survey, or require an alternative format, please contact the Council by calling 023 9244 6019 or email insight@havant.gov.uk

Privacy notice

The information you provide will not be used in a manner which would identify you. You do not have to participate and even if you do, you do not have to answer any questions you would rather not.

Our survey platform will collect your IP address for the purposes of monitoring and identifying any instances where multiple responses are received from a single source. This information will not be used for any other purposes.

More information on how your data is processed can be at the Research and Consultation section of our 'Service Privacy Notices' page, which can be found at: https://www.havant.gov.uk/privacy-policies/service-privacy-notices

Part 1 - About you

Q1. Which of the following best describes you? Select one option

If more than one option applies to you, please complete this survey as the main option that you feel describes you. **This is a mandatory question.**

- ☐ Resident in Emsworth **Go to Q1a.**
- ☐ Work in Emsworth
- ☐ Visitor to Emsworth
- ☐ Representative of community organisation or group working in Emsworth **Go to Q1b.**
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Q1a. What is your full postcode? Write in the box below:

Q1b. What is the name of the community organisation or group working in Emsworth that you represent? Write in the box below:

Part 2 – Proposals for a new parish council in Emsworth

Below are the proposed options for the second phase of consultation

- Create a parish undivided into wards (the area is currently unparished in Emsworth).
- Elect 15 councillors to represent the Emsworth ward that makes up the parish area.
- Form 'Emsworth Parish Council' to serve the parish area.
- Charge a precept (a new increase to the amount of council tax paid by each household) to pay for the running of the parish council and the services it may provide.

Q2. Do you support or not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth? Select one option

☐	I support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth
☐	I do not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth
☐	Not sure

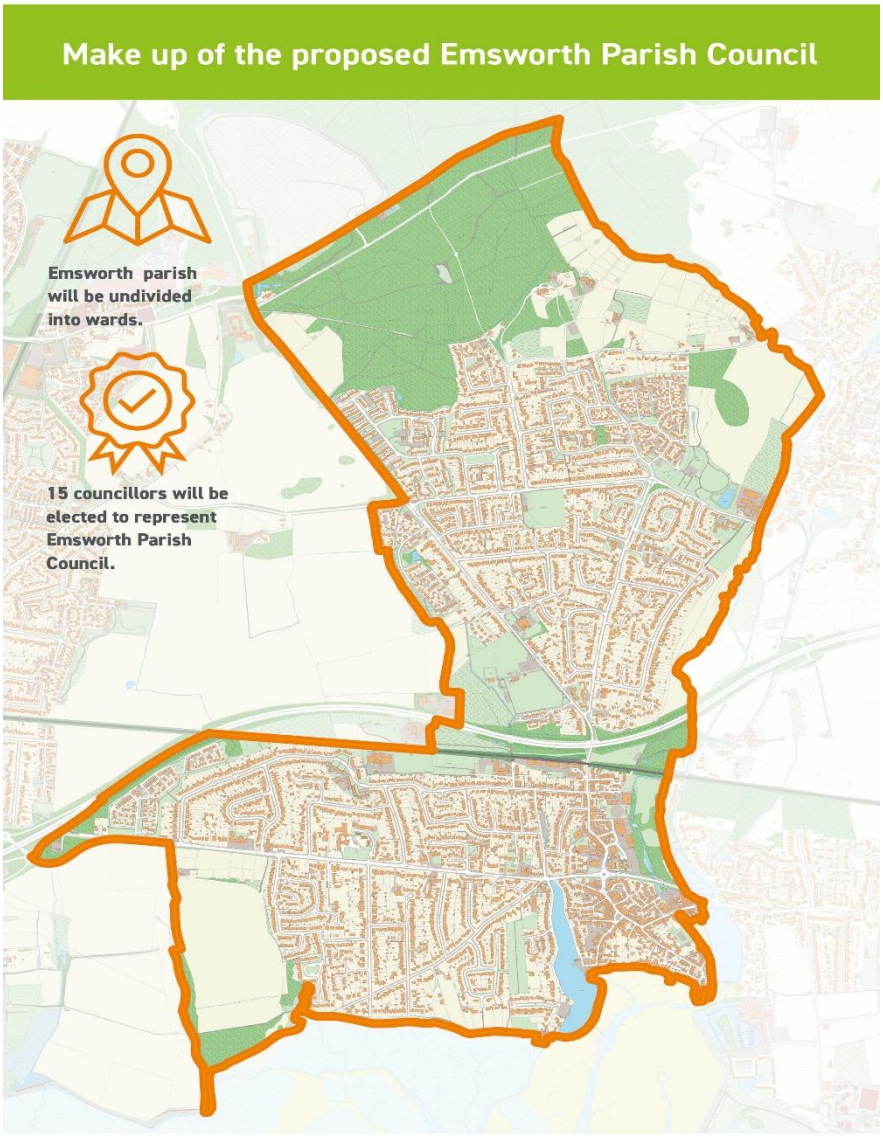
Q3. If you selected 'Not sure' or 'I do not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth' as your response for Q2, please tell us why. Please write in the box below:

Create a parish undivided into wards (the area is currently unparished in Emsworth)

In consultation, we know that nearly three quarters (73%) of respondents wanted to see a new parish council that was not divided into wards.

Emsworth had 8,413 electors (as of April 2025, Source: Electoral Analysis conducted by Electoral Service, HBC) in one ward (Emsworth). It is currently served by three borough councillors.

HBC are proposing that any new parish council for Emsworth is not divided into wards. This is based on the feedback we have received in the first round of consultation and guidance from the 2007 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act.



Q4. Do you agree with this proposal? Select one option

☐	Agree
☐	Disagree
☐	Not sure

Q5. If you selected 'Not sure' or 'Disagree' as your response for Q4, please tell us why. Please write in the box below:

Elect 15 councillors to represent the Emsworth ward that makes up the parish area

Our proposal for the number of councillors is based on feedback from respondents in Phase One, forecasts for the electorate size of Emsworth, and guidance from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

Consultation feedback showed that the number of councillors that most respondents wanted to see was 15 (34%).

We also listened to comments about the differences in geography and community identity/representation across Emsworth as well as rural/urban differences and concerns about filling councillor vacancies.

Currently, Emsworth has four polling districts, with 8,413 electors in 5,199 properties (data from Aprill 2025).

Forecasts show that overall, Emsworth may have an estimated 8,509 electors by 2030. [6]2022- Mid year population estimates (published in 2024 by the ONS) for Emsworth suggest that the population of electors (including 16 to18-year-olds) will be 8,825.

Based on feedback during consultation, forecasted number of electors, population estimates and NALC recommendations, we have concluded that 15 is the optimal number of councillors for Emsworth.

You can review the full forecast details of the NALC recommended councillor numbers on pages 6-8 of the Supporting Information Document.

Q6. Do you agree with this proposal? Select one option

- [ ] Agree
- [ ] Disagree
- [ ] Not sure

Q7. If you selected 'Not sure' or 'Disagree' as your response for Q6, please tell us why. Please write in the box below

Q8. In relation to proposals to create a parish undivided into wards with 15 councillors to represent Emsworth, please tell us if you have any alternative suggestions. Please write in the box below:

Charge a precept (a new increase to the amount of council tax paid by each household) to pay for the running of the parish council and the services it may provide

A parish council tax precept is a local tax levied by a parish council on residents to fund their budget, usually set around January for the forthcoming financial year. In Emsworth, it will be collected by HBC council via council tax bills. The newly formed parish council will use this funding for the local services it provides.

Once it is established, the new parish council could increase the precept each year to fund more services, or lower it if providing less services. At present there is no cap on the minimum or maximum precept, or how much it can change in any one year.

HBC would set the initial Council Tax precept for the proposed new parish council. The services listed under “Possible council functions” (page 11 of the Supporting Information Document) are discretionary (except for allotments). HBC would base the initial precept on the basis that only allotments would transfer over at the point when a parish council was established. Some costs are unavoidable to operate allotments safely and lawfully. These include the costs of public liability insurance, minor repairs and infrastructure and water supply/utilities.
There are some initial council set up costs, primarily taken on by HBC and may be reflected in the initial precept. They can include costs for governance and administration (including clerk recruitment, insurance premiums, legal and professional fees and initial election costs). Costs for office set up and equipment and to meet statutory and regulatory compliance (such as health and safety, bank roll and payroll fees) may also be included.

Although costs may be incurred by HBC initially, they will be recharged to the parish council and will be included in the initial precept.

Based on what is required for the one-off set up costs and what is safe and lawful to operate allotments only, HBC estimate that the initial precept for a Band D property in Emsworth is likely to be under £50 per year. The figure is an estimate at this stage and could change upon initial negotiations with the newly established parish council, and further calculations.

You can review more information about our initial proposal for tax, including an analysis of precepts nationally and regionally on pages 9-11 of the Supporting Information Document.

Q9. If you have any comments about proposals for the precept tax, please tell us. Please write in the box below:

Part 3 - Additional comments

Q10. In relation to the proposals, please tell us how you feel they may impact or affect you or your community. Please write in the box below:

Q11. Finally, in relation to the proposals for a parish council, do you have any further comments you would like to submit for consideration? Please write in the box below:

Part 4 - How you heard about this consultation

Q12. How did you hear about this consultation? Please select all that apply.

☐	HBC website
☐	HBC social media
☐	Local publication
☐	Press
☐	HBC email contact / e-newsletter
☐	Email contact
☐	Local community group / association
☐	CGR event
☐	Go Vocal page
☐	Poster
☐	Word of mouth
☐	Local Councillor
☐	Leaflet via post
☐	Other (please specify):

Part 5 – More about you

We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally, and that no one gets left out. That's why we are asking you these questions. This information helps us to understand how different people could be affected by CGR proposals **but if you would rather not answer any of these questions, you don't have to.**

It is not necessary to answer these questions if you are responding <u>on behalf of an organisation.</u>

Q13. What is your sex? A question about gender identity will follow. Select one option.

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ I prefer not to say

Q14. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? Select one option.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, please tell us your gender identity: ☐
- ☐ I prefer not to say

Q15. Which of these age groups applies to you? Select one option.

- ☐ 16-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q16. What is your religion or belief? Select one option.

- ☐ No religion or belief
- ☐ Atheist
- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ A different religion or belief, please tell us: ☐
- ☐ I prefer not to say

A Carer is someone who gives unpaid care or help to anyone because they have a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness, or problem related to old age. Both children and adults can be Carers.

Q17. Are you a Carer? Select one option.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to say

Q18. Do you have a disability, health condition, physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities? Select one option.

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] I prefer not to say

Q18a. If you answered 'Yes' to Q18, please tell us if any of the following disabilities or health conditions apply to you.

You may have more than one, so please select **all** that apply. If none of these applies to you, please select 'A different disability or health condition' and give brief details.

- [ ] Physical
- [ ] Sensory (hearing, sight or both)
- [ ] Longstanding illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy
- [ ] Mental health condition
- [ ] Learning disability
- [ ] Neurodivergent, such as ADHD, autism, dyslexia and dyspraxia
- [ ] I prefer not to say
- [ ] A different disability or health condition

If you have selected 'A different disability or health condition', please tell us:

Q19. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation? Select one option.

- ☐ Heterosexual/Straight
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Gay or Lesbian
- ☐ I prefer to define my own sexuality, please tell us: ☐
- ☐ I prefer not to say

Q20. What is your ethnic group? Select one option.

White

- ☐ English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish or British
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ Roma
- ☐ Any other White background, please tell us: ☐

Mixed or Multiple

- ☐ White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ White and Black African
- ☐ White and Asian
- ☐ Any other Mixed or Multiple background, please tell us: ☐

Please see over the page for more ethnic groups.

Asian or Asian British

- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Any other Asian or Asian British background, please tell us:

Black, Black British, Caribbean or African

- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ African background
- ☐ Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background, please write in below:

Another ethnic group

- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Roma
- ☐ Any other ethnic group, please tell us:

Thank you for submitting your views to this consultation. Please post your response back to Havant Borough Council via the addresses provided at the start of the survey by midnight on Thursday 2 July 2026

Appendix B

E-newsletter statistics

Date	Title	Subscriber groups sent to	Number of Recipients (delivery rate)	Total unique opens of bulletin (% of overall recipients)	Total unique clicks of relevant link
29/05/26	Havant Community Bulletin	Havant Borough Community Bulletin	2,057 (99.2%)	1,048 (51%)	2
29/05/26	Have your say in the second phase of consultation on community governance in Hayling Island and Emsworth	Community news and events Emsworth CGR Hayling Island CGR Latest council news Media – General Public notices and consultations Regeneration Hayling Island	16,337 (99.1%)	7,584 (47%)	171
05/06/26	Havant Business Newsletter June 2026	Business event invite list Business news	3,216 (98.1%)	1,315 (42%)	12

Next Door post statistics

Date	Content	Targeted neighbourhoods	Impressions
21/05/26	Launch of Phase Two consultation	Hayling East Hayling West Emsworth	467
26/05/26	Promotion of Hayling Island event	All (borough-wide)	607
01/06/26	Promotion of Hayling Island event	All (borough-wide)	364
02/06/26	Promotion of Emsworth event	All (borough-wide)	552
05/06/26	Phase Two consultation promotion	Hayling East Hayling West Emsworth	193
08/06/26	Promotion of Emsworth event	Hayling East Hayling West Emsworth	110
09/06/26	Phase Two consultation promotion	Hayling East Hayling West Emsworth	107
11/06/26	Promotion of Hayling Island event	Hayling East Hayling West Emsworth	144
15/06/26	Phase Two consultation promotion	All (borough-wide)	599
17/06/26	Promotion of Emsworth event	Emsworth	53
18/06/26	Phase Two consultation promotion	All (borough-wide)	439
25/06/26	Final week promotion	All (borough-wide)	578

Facebook post statistics

Date	Content	Engagement Rate	Unique Views	Reactions
21/05/26	Launch of Phase Two consultation	7.57%	1,877	0

26/05/26	Promotion of Hayling Island event	1.04%	1,343	0
01/06/26	Promotion of Hayling Island event	0.83%	847	0
01/06/26	Promotion of Hayling Island event (during event)	4.44%	3,041	7
08/06/26	Promotion of Emsworth event	4.04%	1,485	8
09/06/26	Phase Two consultation promotion	3.99%	1,353	2
11/06/26	Promotion of Hayling Island event	7.27%	5,007	10
15/06/26	Phase Two consultation promotion	1.23%	1,875	2
17/06/26	Promotion of Emsworth event	2.14%	2,149	4
18/06/26	Phase Two consultation promotion	2.18%	2,665	4
25/06/26	Final week promotion	4.63%	2,440	12
30/06/26	Final week promotion	4.79%	1,837	10
02/07/26	Final day promotion	3.98%	1,961	5

Instagram Post Statistics

Date	**Content**	**Engagement Rate**	**Reach**	**Likes**
21/05/26	Launch of Phase Two consultation	0%	0	90
26/05/26	Promotion of Hayling Island event	1.28%	1	78
01/06/26	Promotion of Hayling Island event	0%	0	85
02/06/26	Promotion of Emsworth event	1.12%	1	89
05/06/26	Promotion of Emsworth event	0%	0	66
09/06/26	Phase Two consultation promotion	2.7%	2	74
11/06/26	Promotion of Hayling Island event	2.13%	3	141
15/06/26	Phase Two consultation promotion	1.32%	1	76
17/06/26	Promotion of Emsworth event	1.68%	2	119
18/06/26	Phase Two consultation promotion	0.9%	1	111
25/06/26	Final week promotion	0%	0	66

30/06/26	Final week promotion	0%	0	54
02/07/26	Final day promotion	0%	0	55

LinkedIn post statistics

Date	**Content**	**Engagement Rate**	**Reactions**	**Shares**
21/05/26	Launch of Phase Two consultation	3.8%	4	0

Appendix C

Find out more at our public events

Venue	Date / Time
Emsworth Community Centre, North St, Emsworth PO10 7DD	Monday 8 June 2026 10 - 2pm
Emsworth Baptist Church, North St, Emsworth PO10 7BY	Wednesday 17 June 2026, 3 - 7pm
Hayling Island Community Centre, Station Rd, Hayling Island PO11 0HB	Monday 1 June 2026, 3 - 7pm
Hayling Island Community Centre Station Rd, Hayling Island PO11 0HB	Thursday 11 June 2026, 10 - 2pm

Local governance for Emsworth

An update on the Community Governance Review

You can find out more and give your views by visiting the website below. Supporting information is also available here. If you have any queries or require hard copies of consultation materials please contact the council via the following channels.

insight@havant.gov.uk 02392 466019 (normal office hours)

www.havant.gov.uk/CGR

www.havant.gov.uk/CGR

A public consultation by **Havant BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Have your say on the second phase of consultation on community governance in Emsworth

This consultation forms part of a Community Governance Review for your local community

In early 2026, residents of Emsworth were asked about their preferences for local governance. This formed the initial stage of a Community Governance Review. Responses showed that most people wanted to see a new way of local governance. A second public consultation will now take place, following a decision by Councillors setting out proposals based on initial feedback. Key findings from the first consultation and second phase proposals follow.

The first phase of consultation

This consultation received 1,461 submissions on their preferred choice of community governance.

A clear preference for a parish council

88% of respondents stated their preferred local governance model was a parish council for Emsworth.

The second phase of consultation

To help our decision making, we want to know if people agree or disagree with our proposals and how they may affect you and your communities.

A parish undivided into wards is proposed

In consultation, nearly three quarters (73%) told us they wanted a parish area not divided into wards. We are proposing an undivided area based on feedback and legal guidance.

15 councillors for Emsworth are suggested

Just over a third told us they wanted to see 15 councillors representing Emsworth. This was also the number suggested by the National Association of Local Councils.

Naming the new council

We suggest initially calling the council "Emsworth Parish Council". This can be changed once the new parish council is formed.

Charging a precept

The new parish council will be supported by an increase in Council Tax to pay for its running. We estimate that the initial precept will be under £50 per year for a Band D property. This may change upon negotiations.

Next steps

July 2026: After consultation, Councillors will decide whether a parish council is established for Emsworth.

May 2027 is the earliest date for elections for a new parish council.

The consultation runs from Thursday 21 May to Thursday 2 July

Appendix D

Q5. Please tell us why you have chosen this response:

	Total	I do not support the creation of a parish council in Emsworth	Not sure
Total	125	112	12
Increase in council tax / do not want / cannot afford / cost of living crisis	57.6%	62.5%	16.7%
Little to no benefit / parish councillors have limited power to do anything of benefit	21.6%	23.2%	8.3%
Creates additional bureaucracy	20.0%	20.5%	8.3%
Pointless / waste of money / better spent elsewhere	18.4%	19.6%	8.3%
Concerns about power struggle / overinflated sense of importance / vanity projects	15.2%	16.1%	8.3%
Admin costs / funding councillors / expenses / offices	12.0%	13.4%	0.0%
Little information has been provided / unsure of the benefits	11.2%	7.1%	50.0%
Concerns there are no caps set / added costs will increase each year	10.4%	10.7%	8.3%
Unknown what we'll be paying for	8.8%	8.0%	16.7%
Parish councillors making decisions not representative of the population	4.8%	5.4%	0.0%
Will not pay / not prepared to pay	3.2%	3.6%	0.0%
Undemocratic	3.2%	2.7%	8.3%
Will hit the poorest / wealth inequality	2.4%	1.8%	8.3%
Will be paying twice / no offset from Havant Borough Council	2.4%	2.7%	0.0%
Based on flawed data from Phase 1 consultation / 88% is only 13% of Emsworth residents	1.6%	1.8%	0.0%
Lack of accountability	1.6%	1.8%	0.0%
Other	3.2%	3.6%	0.0%

Q7. Please tell us why you have chosen this response:

	Total	Disagree with proposal for parish undivided by wards	Not sure
Total	32.6%	42.6%	13.3%
No need / do not want a parish council	24.4%	29.6%	13.3%
Different areas have different needs / each need relevant representation	23.3%	7.4%	53.3%

No pros and cons mentioned / what are the benefits / how many wards / lack of detail	20.9%	27.8%	10.0%
Will increase council tax / costly	12.8%	13.0%	13.3%
No benefit, nothing will get done	7.0%	7.4%	3.3%
Creates more bureaucracy	5.8%	5.6%	6.7%
Unsure (generic)	2.3%	1.9%	3.3%
15 councillors are too many	2.3%	3.7%	0.0%
Not a majority response, 13%	5.8%	5.6%	6.7%
Other	32.6%	42.6%	13.3%

Q9. Please tell us why you have chosen this response:

	Total	Disagree with proposal to elect councillors	Not sure
Total	136	89	46
15 too many / especially for a relatively small area	41.2%	43.8%	37.0%
No need	20.6%	28.1%	6.5%
Will cost more / admin costs	18.4%	25.8%	4.3%
Too much bureaucracy / there will be no agreement / hinders decision making	17.6%	19.1%	15.2%
Needs more detail / not enough information	14.0%	4.5%	32.6%
Prefer alternatives / 12,10,9,7,6 more appropriate	12.5%	13.5%	10.9%
Nothing will get done / no powers	8.8%	12.4%	2.2%
Getting 15 adequate people will be difficult	8.1%	5.6%	13.0%
Different areas have different needs	5.9%	3.4%	10.9%
% of how many?	2.9%	2.2%	4.3%
Unsure (generic)	2.2%	0.0%	6.5%
Other	2.9%	1.1%	4.3%

Q10. In relation to proposals to create a parish undivided into wards with 15 councillors to represent Emsworth, please tell us if you have any alternative suggestions.

	Total
Total	241
Keep as is / Leave as is	15.8%
Agree with proposal	12.4%
Need to represent each area / be independent / live in area	5.8%
Need more information / how did you reach the number / 34% not a majority	5.8%
No parish council	3.7%
15 councillors is too many	3.3%
10 councillors	2.9%
As long as no increase in council tax	2.5%
11 councillors	2.5%

Prefer Havant Borough Council fix roads / spend money on more urgent things	2.1%
2 parishes divided by A259 / M27	1.7%
10 to12 councillors	1.7%
Won't make a difference unless they have more powers	1.2%
4 to 5 wards, 3 to 4 councillors	1.2%
5 to10 councillors	1.2%
9 councillors	1.2%
Community' / 'town' /' village' council	0.8%
4 wards based on polling districts	0.8%
2 to 3 wards	0.8%
6 (no more than)	0.8%
May need additional posts / admin town clerk	0.4%
7 to 10 councillors	0.4%
8 to 10 councillors	0.4%
Other	2.9%
No further comments / None	34.0%

Q11. If you have any comments about proposals for the precept tax, please tell us.

	Total
Total	299
Agree / £50 precept seems fair	22.4%
Concerned no cap / likely to increase / should be kept to a minimum	22.4%
Against the proposal / waste of money / brings nothing / do not want to pay more	18.7%
Cannot afford / cost of living	10.7%
Needs financial modelling / how will the money be distributed	10.0%
Precept should be offset by reduction in council tax / not paying twice for same services	8.7%
Wil need full transparency / residents agreeing on what needs doing	6.7%
A lot to support a minority / allotment charges should be passed onto holders	3.7%
Services already poor / sort out existing services	2.7%
As long as things get done	2.3%
Under £50 precept	1.3%
What about the other bands?	1.0%
Other	4.7%
No further comments / none	8.7%

Q12. In relation to the proposals, please tell us how you feel they may impact or affect you or your community.

	Total

Total	434
Give Emsworth residents a voice / local decisions	61.5%
No benefit / with increased costs	16.6%
Emsworth is a unique community and has it's own requirements	8.3%
Big improvement / benefit for us	8.3%
Improved services / amenities / facilities	7.4%
Community cohesion	6.7%
Keeps our identity	3.2%
Parish councillors more accessible / can respond more quickly	2.8%
Cannot afford an increase	2.3%
More control over new builds / more affordable housing	2.3%
Lack of publicity and information about this / need more information	2.1%
Emsworth has gone downhill / poor services / local council has failed us	1.8%
May only serve some / not all will benefit / would need to consider different demographics and areas	1.6%
Good for business / town's economy	1.2%
Receive proper funding	0.9%
Costs could escalate e.g. maintaining assets, admin, staffing	0.7%
Not sure	0.5%
Other	1.6%

Q13. Finally, in relation to the proposals for a parish council, do you have any further comments you would like to submit for consideration?

	Total
Total	222
Agree with proposal, in favour of a parish council	12.6%
Don't agree / no benefit / just increase in council tax	16.2%
More information needed / which assets / more financial detail / how will councillors be elected / how long will they stand for	10.8%
Gives residents a voice / serves local needs	9.5%
Emsworth is a unique community with its own needs	4.5%
Listen to and engage with residents / those affected	4.1%
Will hopefully / needs to improve service / facilities / amenities	3.6%
Councillors need to be varied to represent all areas / live in Emsworth / elected by residents / treat areas equally	3.6%
Needs to be reviewed periodically to prove value for money / ensuring it works	3.6%
Councillors might have their own political agendas	3.2%
Keep precept low / needs to be capped / not to pay twice	2.7%
15 councillors is too many	1.8%
Havant Borough Council needs to do a better job	1.8%
Those just across the border should be included / there are Emsworth residents in Sussex	1.4%
Needs a referendum / not a majority / phase 1 flawed	1.4%
More assets should be transferred	0.9%

Other	3.6%
No further comments / None	27.5%