



**BALLYHOURA**  
DEVELOPMENT CLG

# COMMUNITY SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANNING

## Paul O’Raw in association with Niall Heenan & Shane O’Sullivan



The European Agricultural Fund  
for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



EUROPEAN UNION  
Investing in your future  
European Social Fund



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Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**  
**Limerick** City  
& County Council



Paul O’Raw  
Community Trainer & Facilitator

# Mitchelstown - Issues arising from 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

1. Facilities; Town park, youth, arts, culture & heritage, Bus shelters
2. Infrastructure; Waste water/ sewage treatment/ limiting new housing developments
3. Tourism potential/ Limited accommodation, limited evening restaurants & social outlets
4. Environment; Strengthen/ develop Tidy Towns and environment protection/ a zero-waste project
5. Social Inclusion; Foreign nationals, integration and language classes, Age-friendly town, Facilities for people with a disability, Family supports/ family resource centre
6. Community communications and promote the positive in the community/ develop a website

# Some Achievements...

*The Leisure Centre*

*Forrest Hall*

*Youth Worker/ Drugs Worker*

*More youth services*

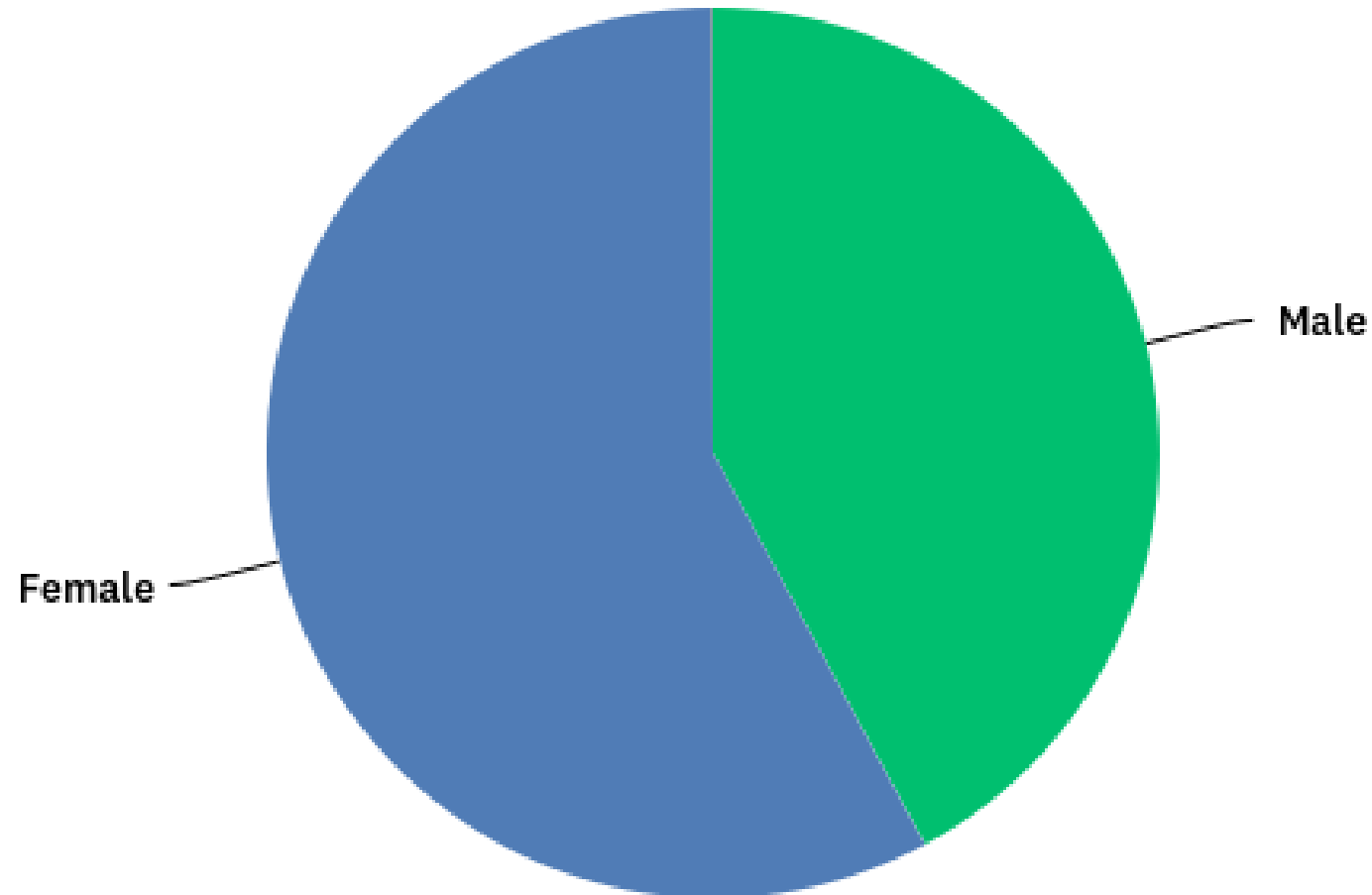
*The Enterprise Centre*

*The Age-Friendly Project*

*More Active Voluntary Groups*

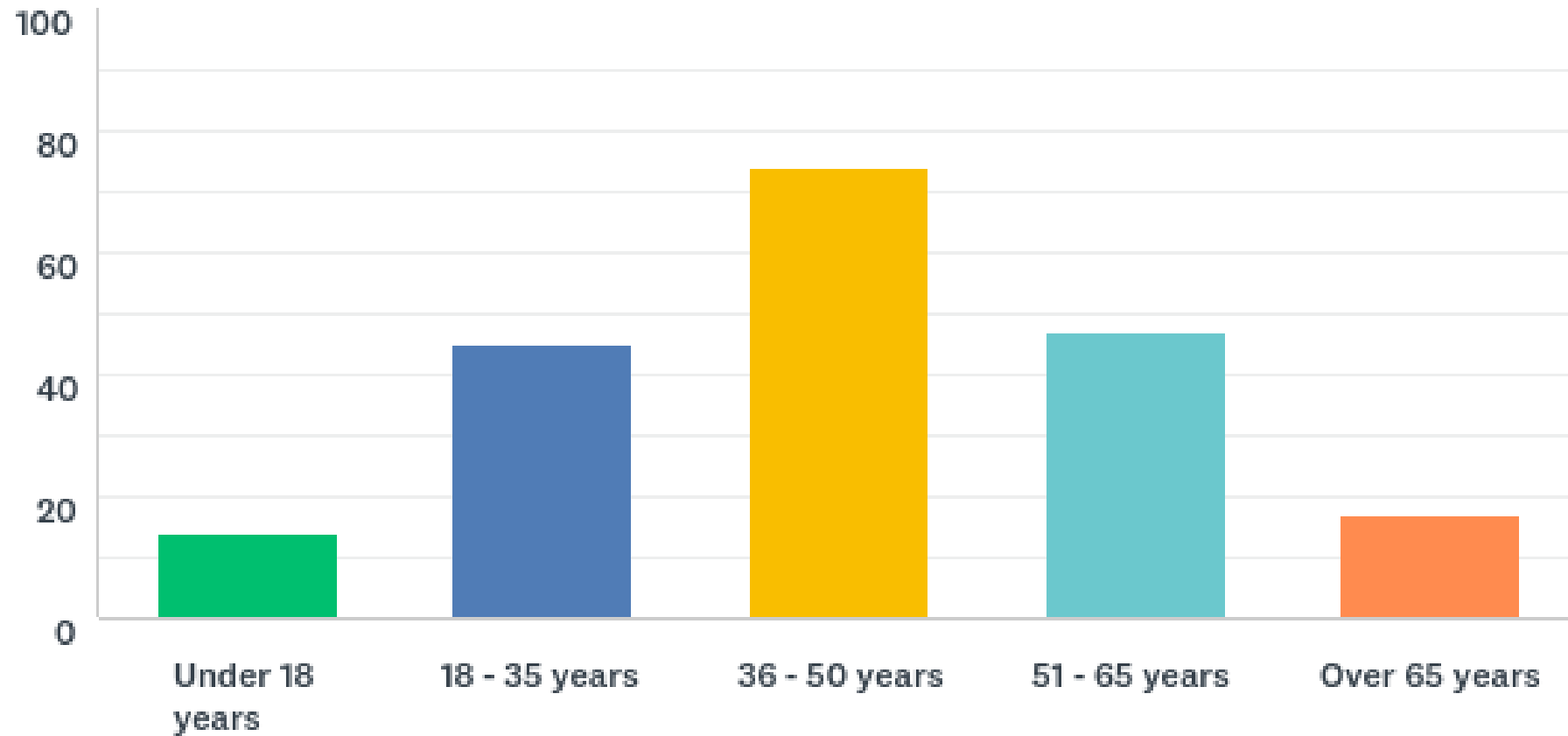
# Mitchelstown Community Survey

## Q2. Male or Female

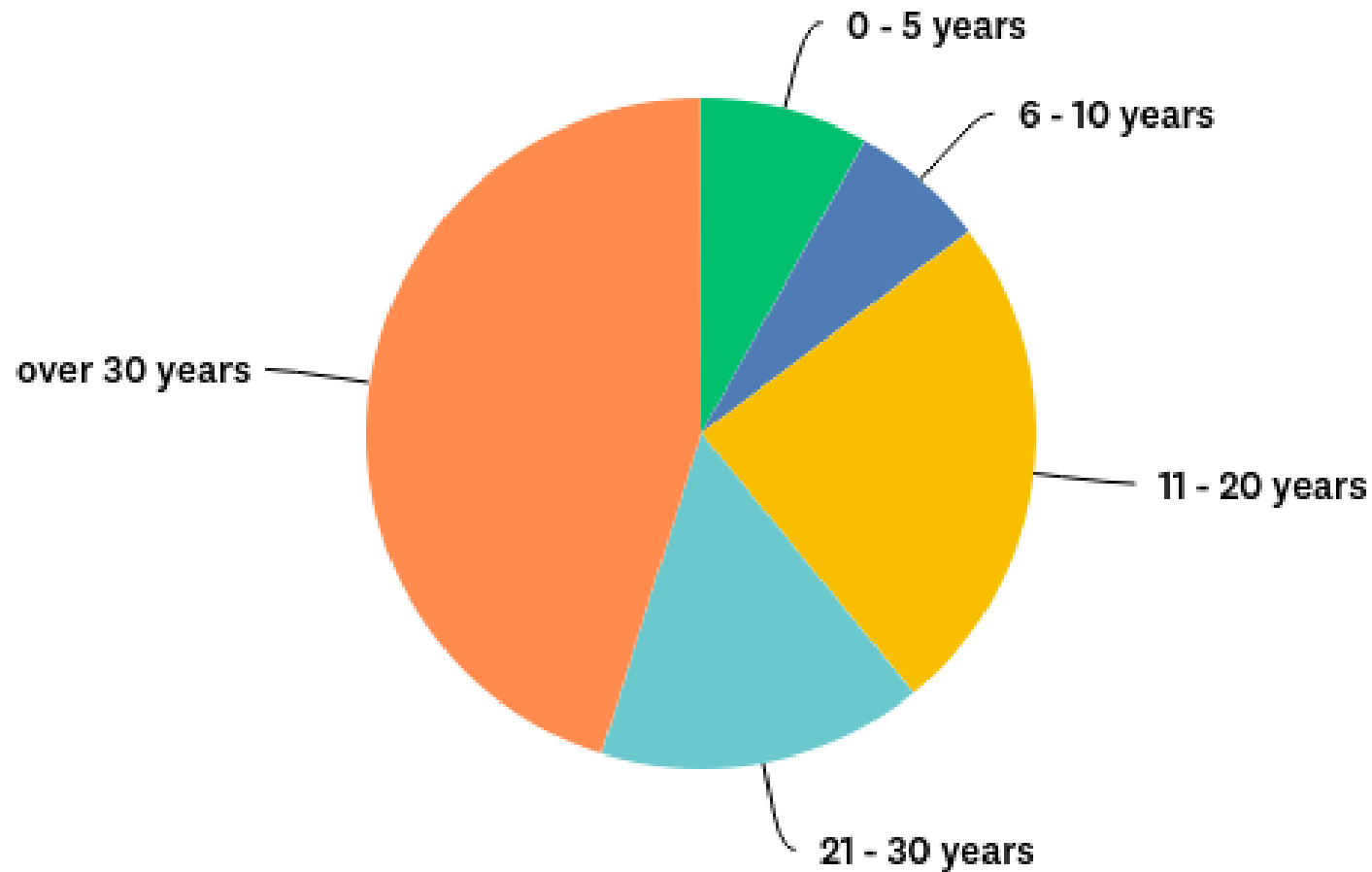


197 Responses  
114 Female  
83 Male

Q3. To which of the following age categories do you belong?

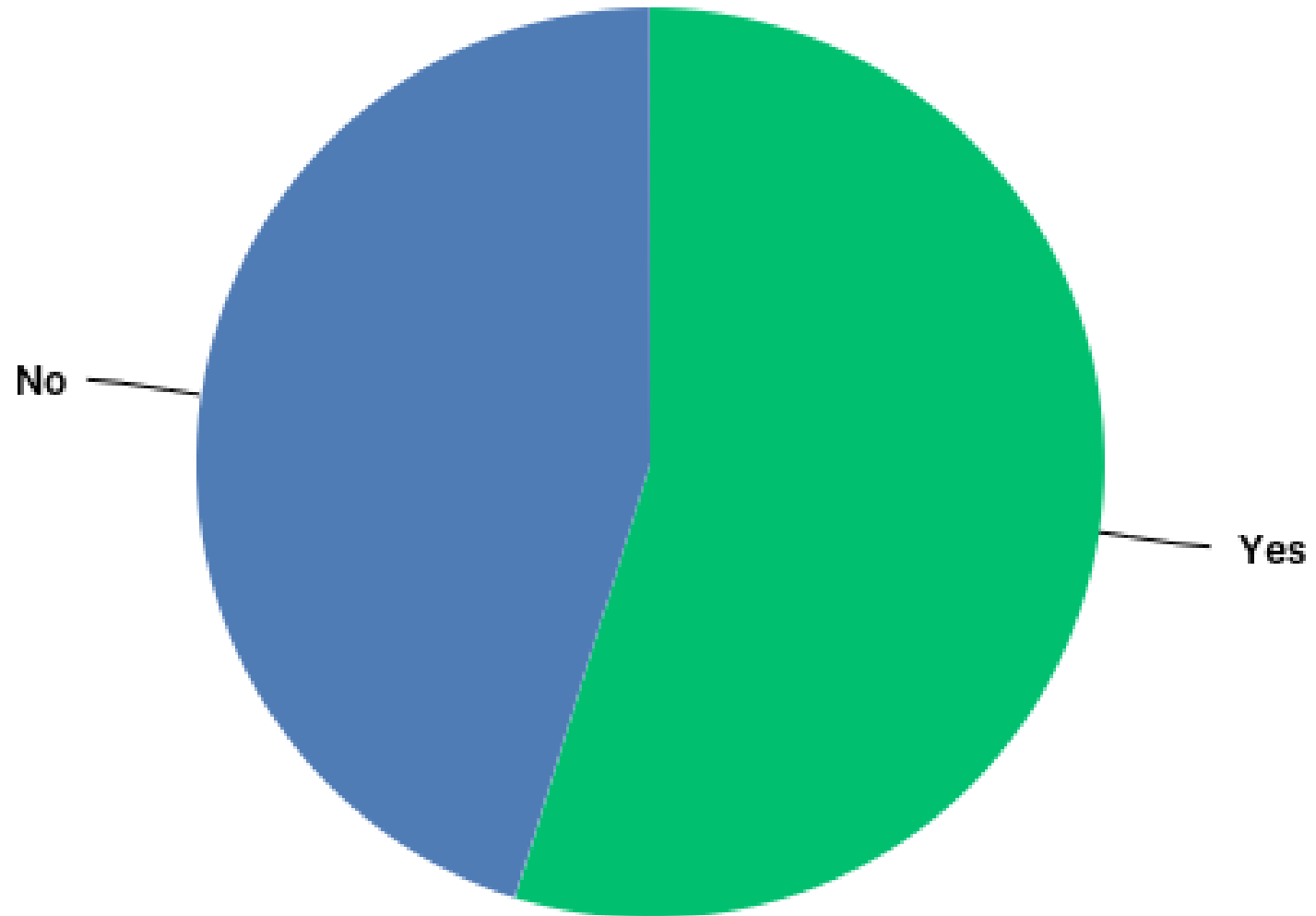


Q4. Which of the following best describes how long you have lived in this community?



# Q5. Do you volunteer in your community?

Yes	53%
No	47%



Q7. What is the main factor that prevents you from joining a local community or voluntary group?

Commitments  
Family & Caring  
Work  
Not Interested  
No time, Too busy  
Shy/ Awkward  
Volunteered Previously

Would you be interested in becoming a member of a local group?

Yes; 52%





# Q8.... If you had the opportunity, what would you like to do personally to help improve the quality of life for your community?

aging and elderly		
anything/ don't know		
childcare and services		
communications, coordination and shared vision		
education		
youth facilities and activities		
mental health, youth mental health		

environment and tidy towns
housing
encourage involvement
better meeting and recreation spaces
public park and pool
transport
walks

Q9. What three words would you use to describe your community? (151 responses)



# Q9. What 3 Words to Describe Mitchelstown? (positive responses)

active

close knit

aging

beautiful

creative

busy

caring

community

compassionate

friendly

good

diverse

vibrant

don't know

good community

good town

growing

hardworking

helpful

historic

neighbourly

inclusive

mixed

interested

lively

local

loyal

nice

ok

peaceful

picturesque

positive

proud

quiet

recovering

rural

small

sporting

supportive

together

traditional

very good

# Q9. What 3 Words to Describe Mitchelstown? (negative responses)

addicts

boring

cliquish

closed

complaining

conservative

decaying

detached

dirty

disadvantaged

disjointed

divided

drab

dull

dump

forgotten

fractured

inactive

insular

lacking

lacks coordination

lacks unity

narrow minded

not good

not supportive

remote

rigid

sleepy

small minded

struggling

too busy

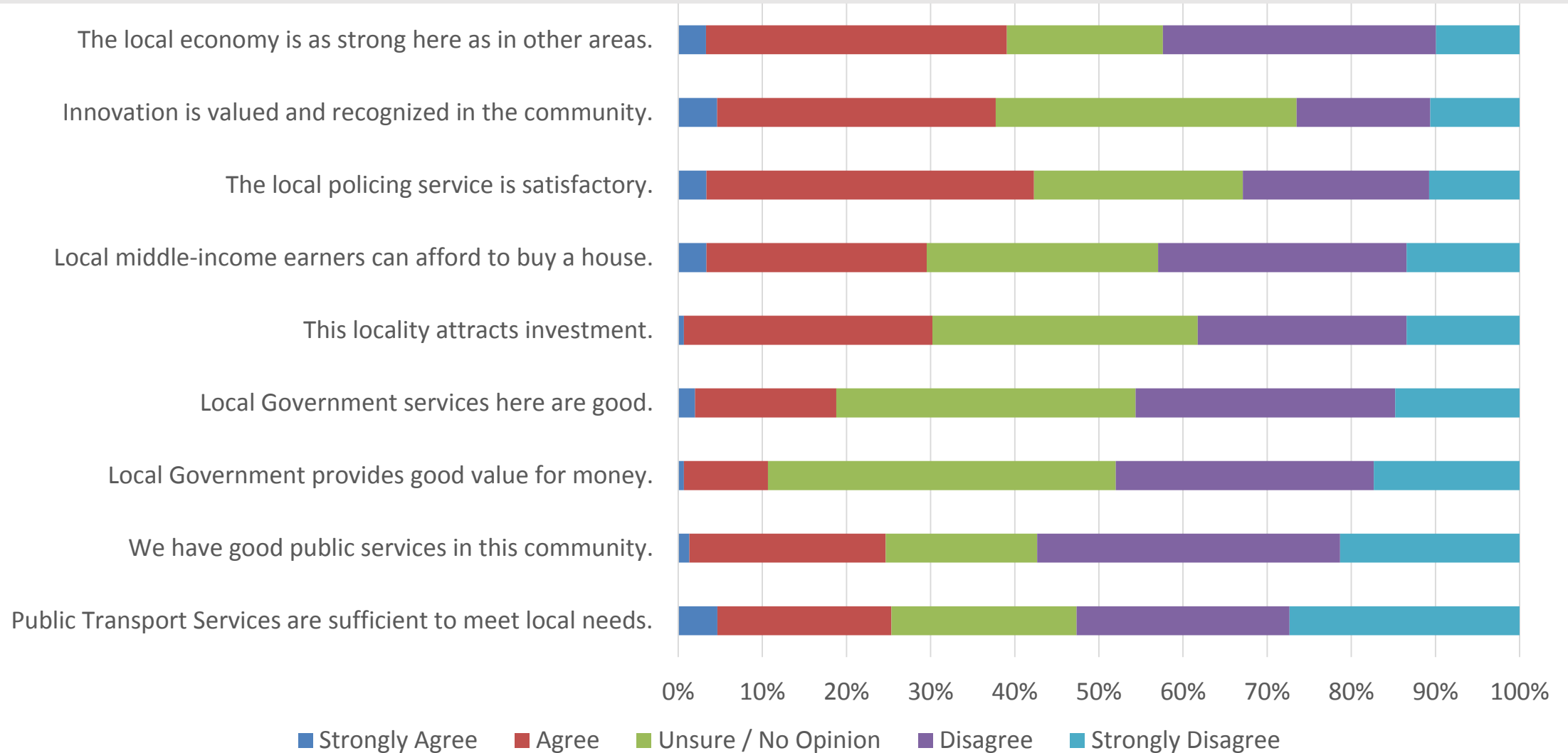
uncaring

uncooperative

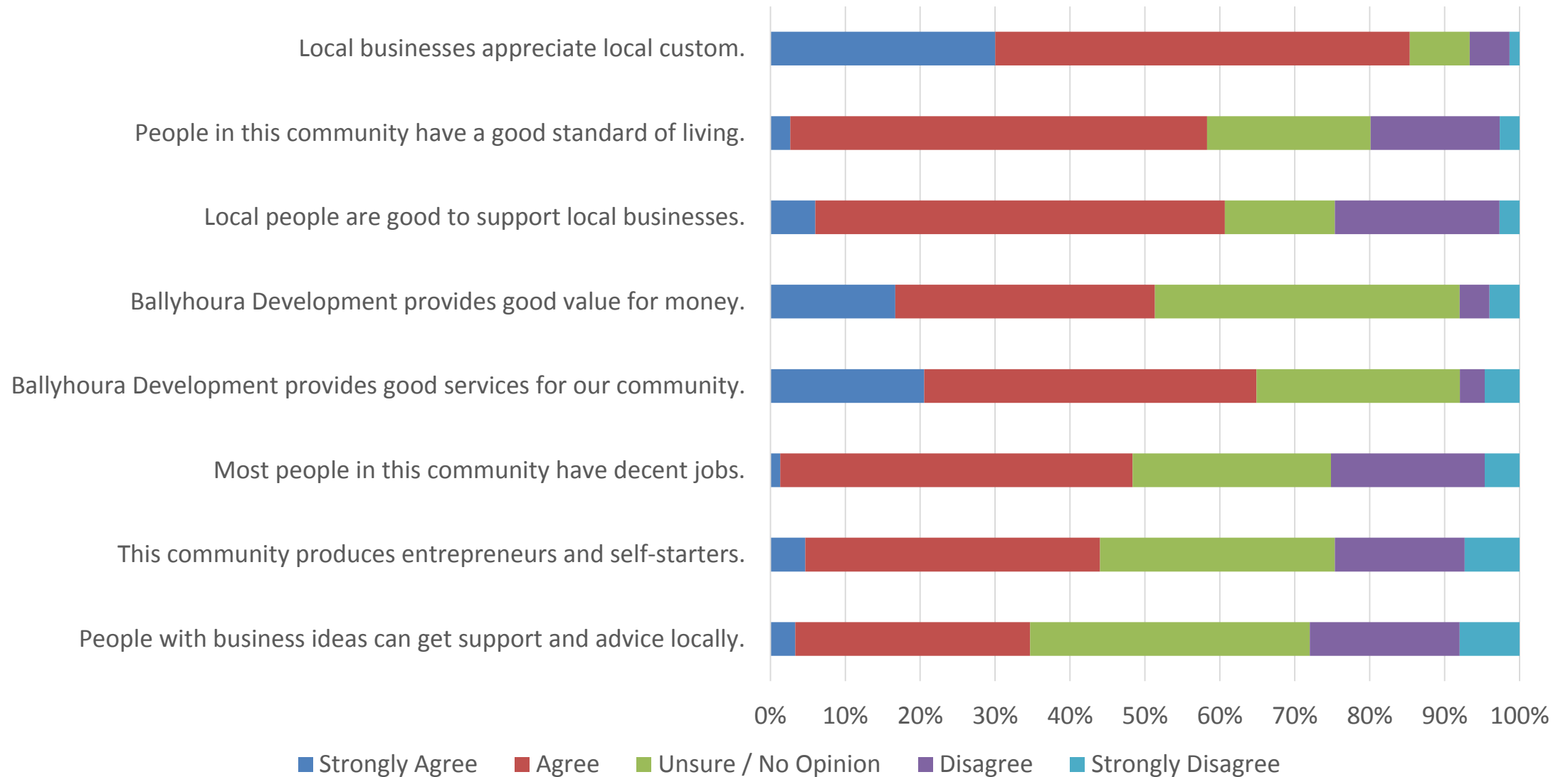
Underdeveloped

judgemental

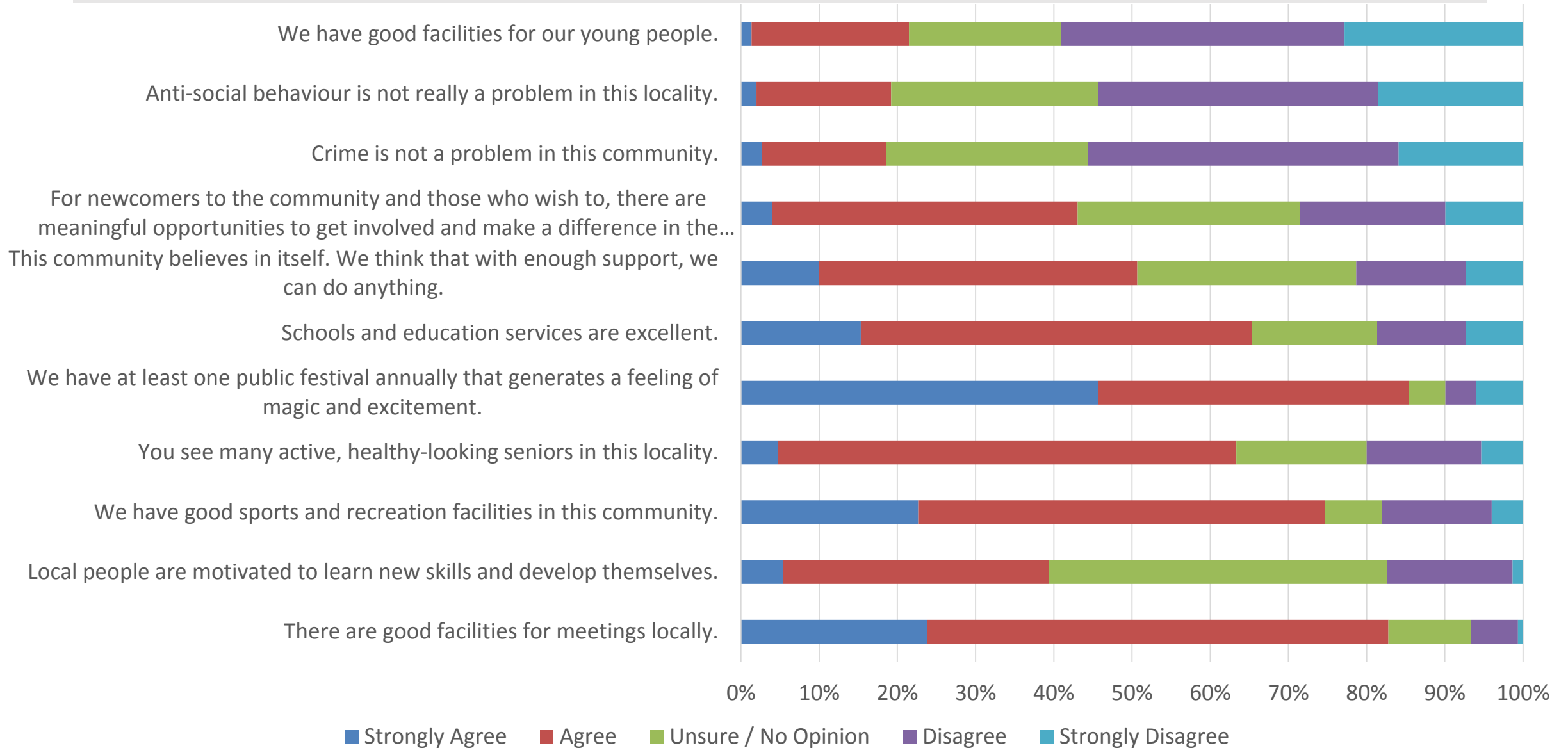
# Q10. Economic Vibrancy (151 responses)



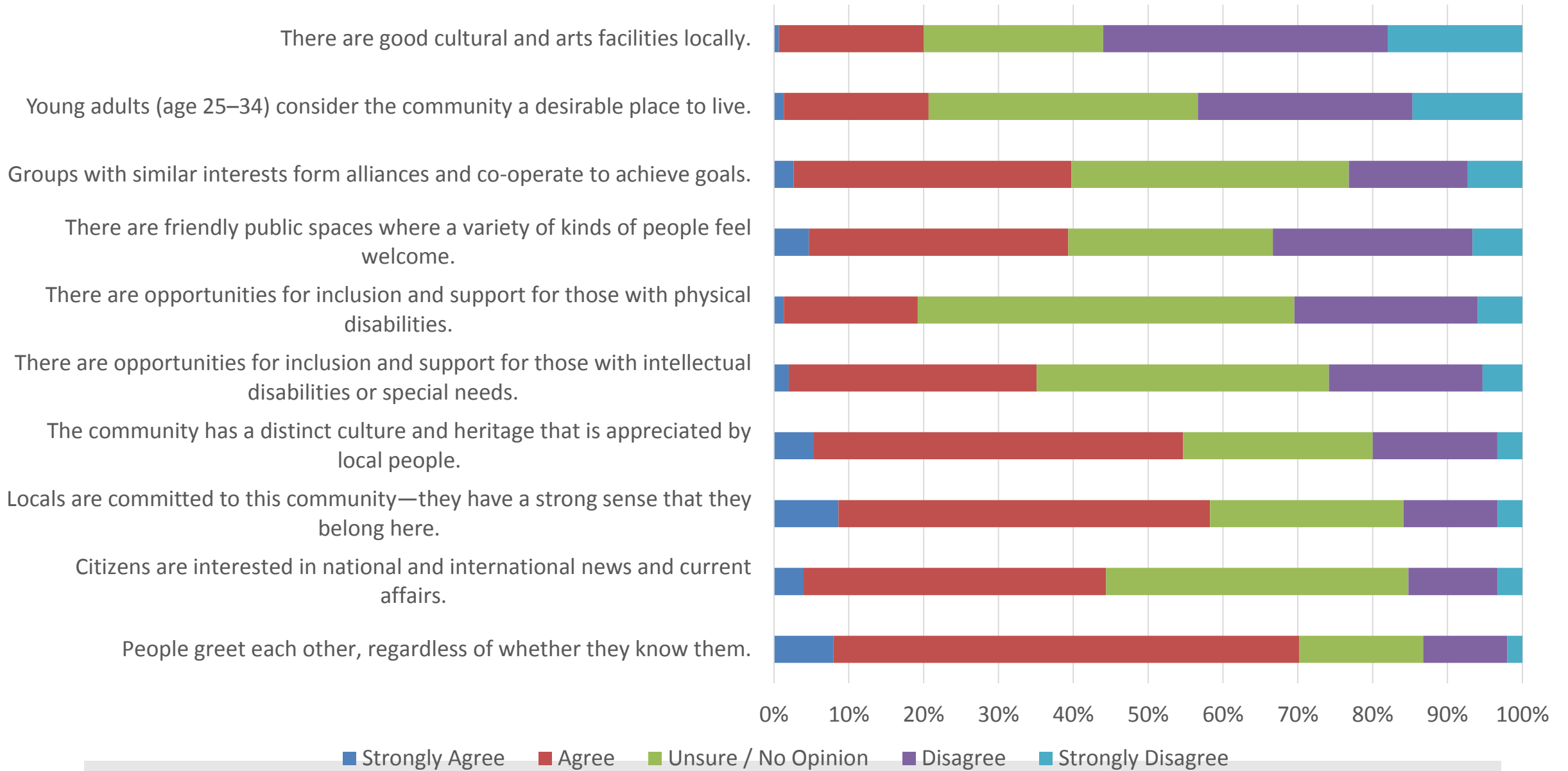
# Q10. Economic Vibrancy...



# Q11. Social Vibrancy

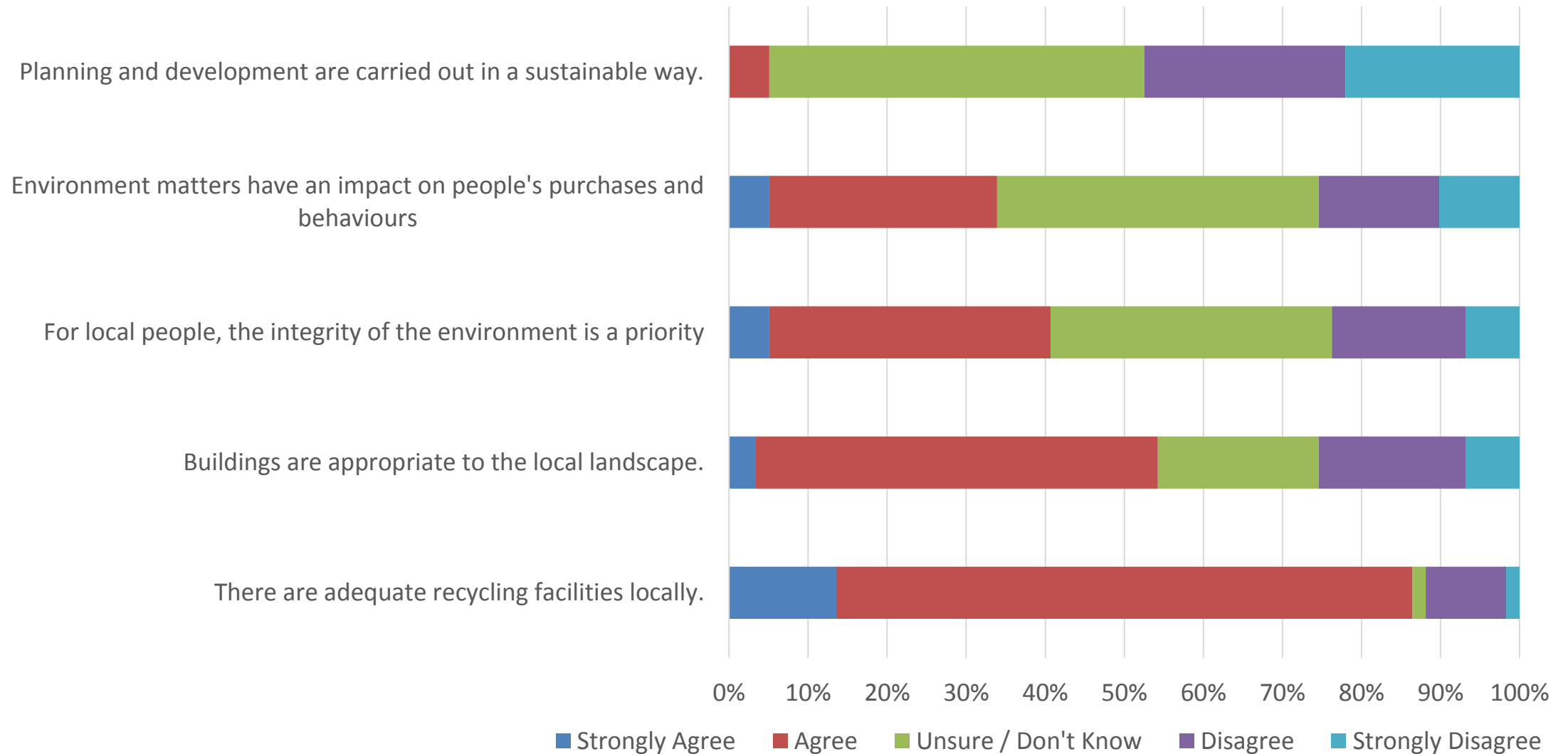






# Q11. Social Vibrancy...

# Q12. Environmental Vibrancy



# Q13. How would you describe the impact of recent population changes on your local community?



Q14. What, if anything, do you like about living in your area? (132 responses)

area city beautiful neighbours Cork near love walking family easy access  
local proximity motorway s easy nice friendliness home place living  
Location good safe people lots town motorway  
friendly great shops size town facilities life community  
scenery Close go know support nothing close family small amenities  
schools landscape

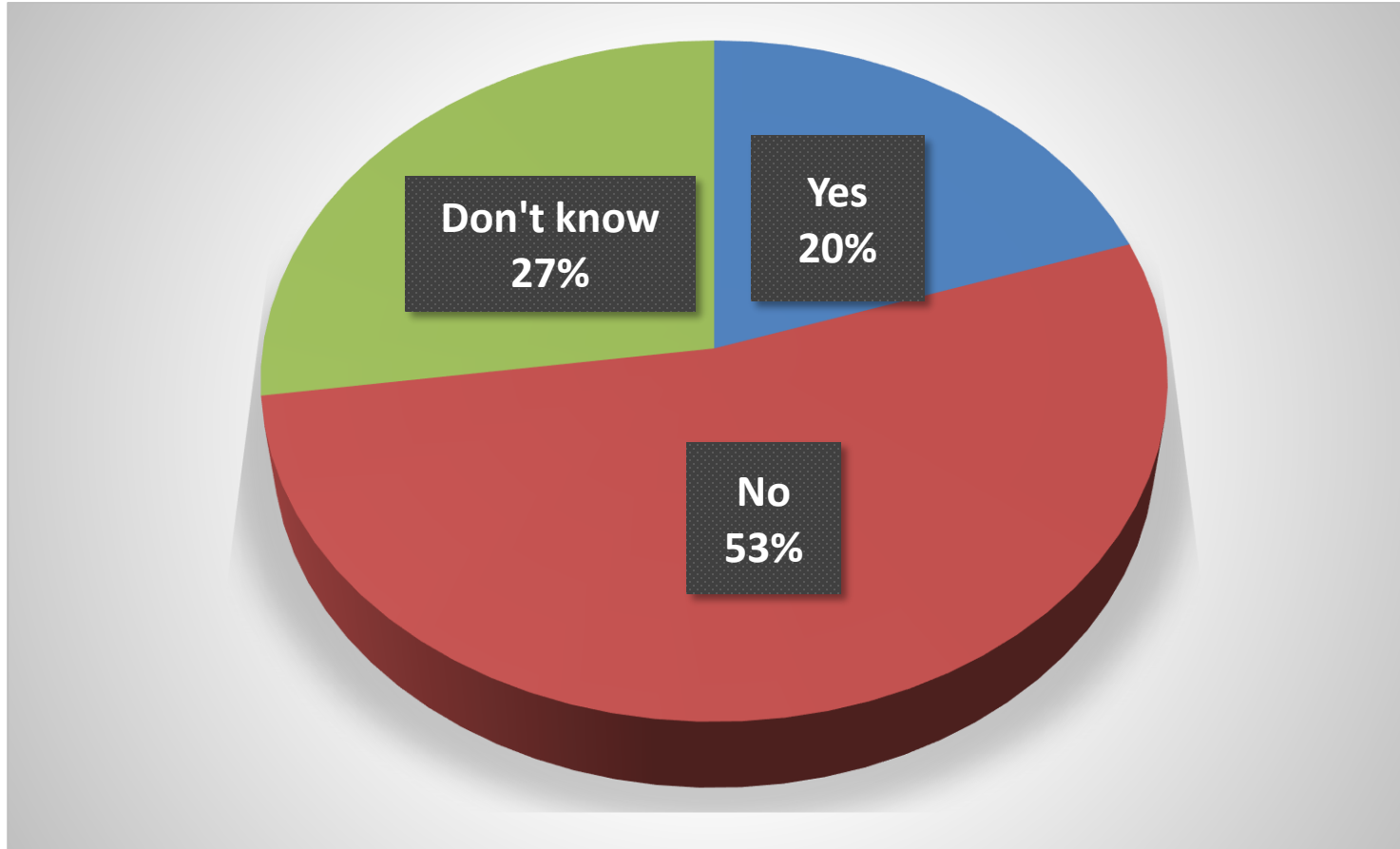
Q14....What, if anything, do you like about living in your area? (132 responses)

- Friendly
- Welcoming
- Convenience
- Sense of community
- Good services and clubs
- Feeling safe
- Landscape
- Quiet, rural
- Nothing
- Lots!

Q15. What, if anything, do you dislike about living in your area? (131 responses)

- Streets at night
- Anti-social behaviour
- Class divisions
- No restaurants
- Poor arts facilities
- Public transport
- Communications and cooperation
- Litter & dog fouling
- Forgotten by Govt
- Narrow-mindedness
- Lack of public recreation spaces & amenities
- Not enough for young people
- Nothing

Q16. Does everyone in your community feel included?



# Q17. Compare your community now with 5 years ago?

## Better

- better
- better facilities
- bigger, brighter
- more united
- busier, more active, more vibrant
- growing
- economy improving, recovering
- more multicultural/ diverse

- more diverse
- more facilities now
- improving, more development
- leisure centre benefit
- more modern, more open
- new people
- more opportunities
- more optimistic, more positive
- slightly better

- colder
- declining/ dying slowly
- don't know people anymore
- drugs accessible
- worse
- exodus of youth, out migration
- less close, less connected

- people not happy, less friendly
- rent expensive
- more anti-social, more crime
- no support
- not much change
- rougher
- shops closed

## Worse

## Q18. What are the principle current issues facing your community?

- Waste water treatment inadequate
- Housing availability & affordability
- Public spaces; parks & gardens, litter
- Loss of young people, lack of amenities, lack of employment
- Exclusion of older people
- Limited employment
- Lack of common vision
- Communications & division
- Anti-social behaviour
- Lack of facilities for children
- Public transport
- Shops closing
- Guest accommodation
- Limited social outlets





Q19. What, if anything, needs to be done to make your town or community a better place in which to live and work? (135 replies)

# Q 19... what needs to be done?

- improve streetscape/ facelift/ footpath improvements
- a town park & green spaces
- develop walks
- invest in children and youth
- develop amenities incl childcare, swimming pool, cinema, basketball court, arts centre
- attract industrial investment/ create employment
- attract visitors
- cohesion between groups
- communications
- cooperation between business and community
- social get-togethers
- upgrade wastewater treatment to develop new housing
- no casino
- shop local
- public/ rural transport

# Community Health Project – Top 10

	Ideas / Areas to Change / Actions	Votes
1	Sensory garden / Town Park/Green Area / Community Garden	17
2	Youth Café / Youth Place	17
3	Flat walking and outdoor gym	13
4	Circuit for Activity	12
5	Cinema / Theatre nights	12
6	Lights on Ring Road	11
7	More plants and trees / flower boxes etc in town	10
8	Day Care has 5 day service	9
9	Fountain in Square	7
10	Community Newsletter	6

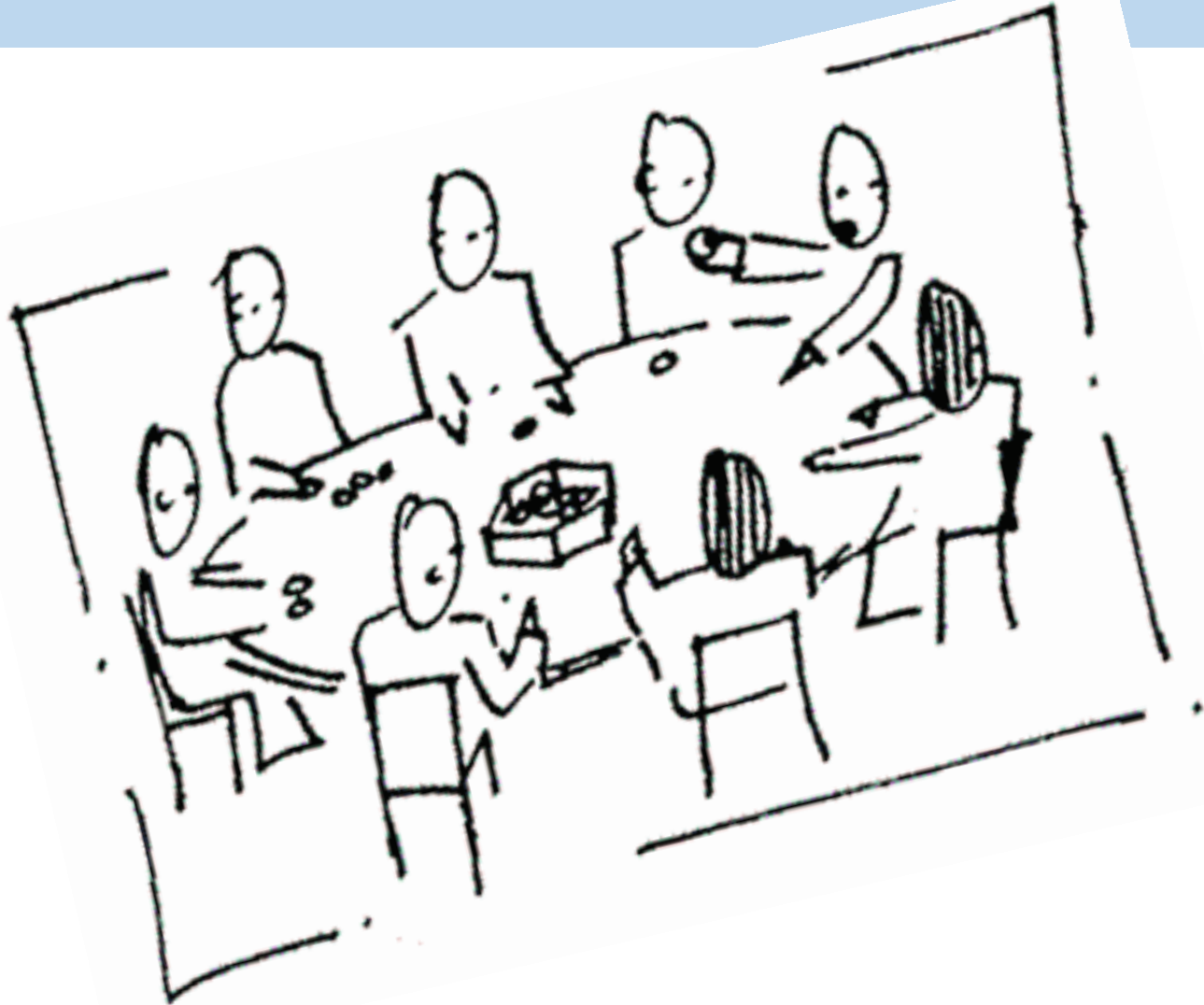
# Survey Main Issues

1. Mitchelstown is seen as a friendly, quiet town with good neighbours, a lot of clubs and organisations, lovely countryside and conveniently located.
2. Dissatisfaction with level of govt/ local govt/ public services.
3. Concern over lack of facilities and investment in children & youth.
4. Scope for greater inclusion (eg People With a Disability)
5. Town not attractive to visitors and investors
6. Inadequate wastewater treatment is limiting new housing
7. Good sports & meeting facilities but lacks arts, childcare, youth, cinema etc
8. Not enough cohesion and communications between groups
9. Streets need a facelift

# Community Survey – Quick Response

*Discuss in 2's or 3's*

# Table Discussions....



Discuss 5  
priorities for  
Mitchelstown  
for the next 5  
years.

Next...

Final planning workshop

Tuesday 01<sup>st</sup> May- Finalising the action plan