

King Edward Quay

Public Consultation Report



October 2019
Research and Change
Colchester Borough Council

Contents

- Introduction
- Q1. How often do you use King Edward Quay as a community space?
- Q2. How would you rate the cleanliness of the Quay?
- Q3. How would you rate the sense of community on the Quay?
- Q4. Would you recommend the Quay as a place to live, work or visit?
- Q5. What initiatives do you think we could introduce to help improve the look and feel of the area?
- Q6. What is your connection with King Edward Quay?
- Q7. About you?
- Summary

Introduction

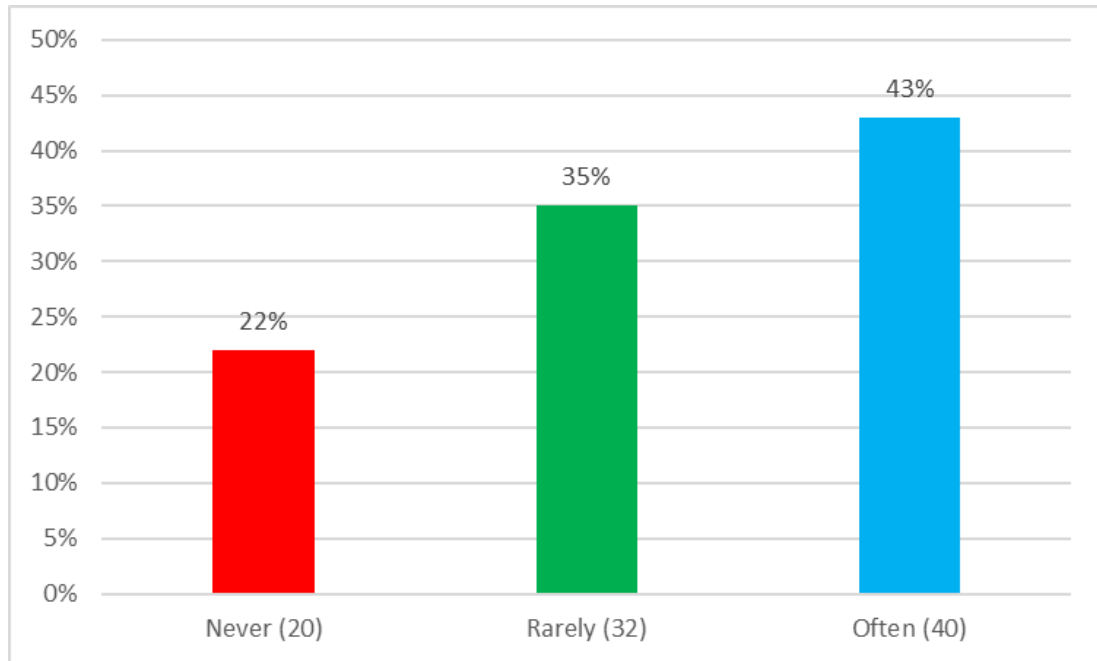
A public consultation was launched at the beginning of October 2019 and was run over a three-week period. Residents of the Hythe were invited to have their say on how funding should be spent to deliver community events and improvements to King Edward Quay and the surrounding area.

The consultation was conducted via an online survey form which was posted on a dedicated webpage within the Colchester Borough Council website and via various social media streams.

In addition to the online form, Colchester Borough Council also held a face-to-face public consultation event on the quayside at King Edward Quay on Saturday 5 October 2019. The event gave residents the opportunity to discuss their concerns and ideas with council representatives and a further opportunity to vote for their preferred ideas and initiatives using voting jars and counters.

The feedback gathered and presented within this report will help to develop the project team's ongoing work with the local community to create an attractive, safe and vibrant environment for all.

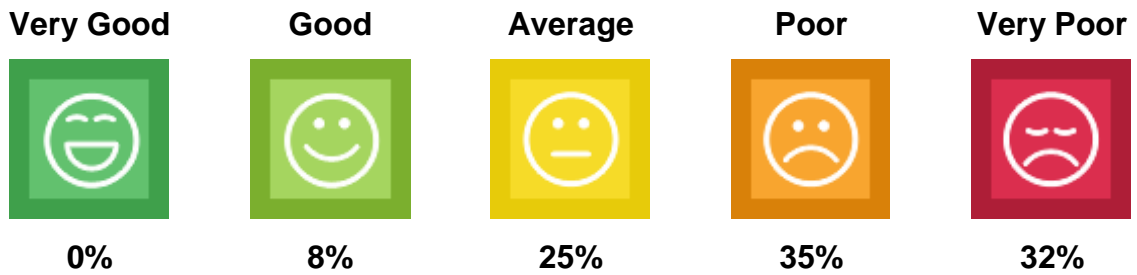
Q1. How often do you use King Edward Quay as a community space?



The above chart shows that 43% of those who took part in the consultation stated that they often use King Edward Quay as a community space. A further 35% of respondents said that they rarely use the Quay and the remaining 22% stated that they never use the area.

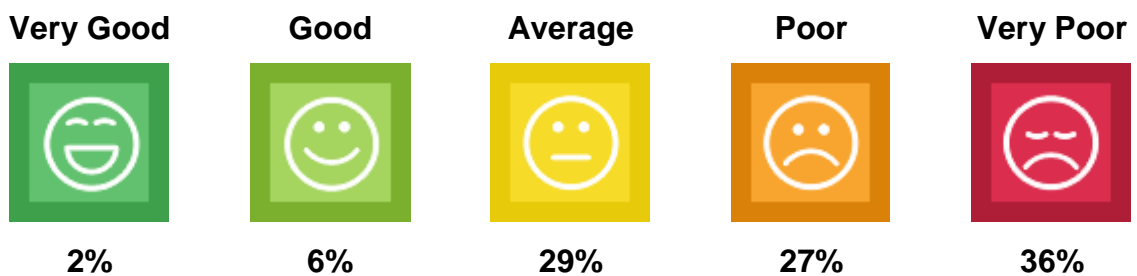
The fact that the largest proportion of participants stated that they often use the Quay suggests that there is a demand for community facilities within the area.

Q2. How would you rate the cleanliness of the Quay?



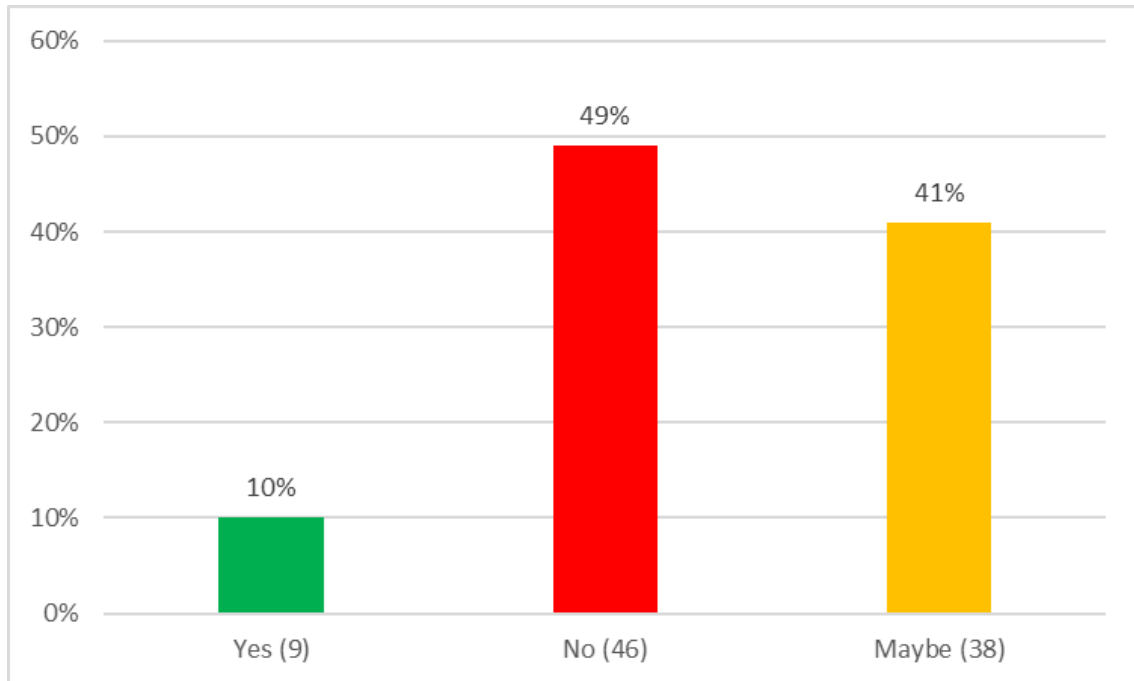
The above results show that 67% of respondents either rated the cleanliness of the Quay as Poor or Very Poor. Only 8% of people gave a Good rating and 0% of people rated the cleanliness as Very Good.

Q3. How would you rate the sense of community on the Quay?



Respondents were asked to rate the sense of community at the Quay. 36% of people gave a Very Poor rating with a further 27% of respondents rating this as Poor. Only 8% of people recorded either a Good or Very Good rating.

Q4. Would you recommend the Quay as a place to live, work or visit?



The respondents who answered 'no' to Q4 were subsequently asked for reasons why they would not recommend King Edward Quay, the reasons given can be seen below:

- *It's got a lot of vandalism and looks a bit rough*
- *It is unloved, run down, dirty and unattractive as a waterside area*
- *Dirty and gives the appearance of a traveller site!*
- *It stinks, cover it in Febreze but it will always smell*
- *It smells horrific and looks dirty*
- *Other than the car show there is nothing to do. It would be nice to have a community garden*
- *Parking is awful in the area, the smell of the Hythe is very off putting, boring if not a student*
- *The smell that comes from the Hythe puts a lot of people off*
- *It's empty & not very attractive*
- *Because there are too many people down there who are using the area for drugs or drinking*
- *Sewage smell is stomach churning!*
- *Place looks like a caravan/bus park. Didn't think you could sleep overnight on the highway*
- *The caravans and vehicles parked along there create a forbidding and unsightly area*
- *It is scruffy and appears unloved. Also, a lot of caravans these days*
- *It is a difficult area to get too, I go there for B&Q and industrial estate, and to Boudica before it closed*

- *Lack of control on caravans/campers and rubbish*
- *Doesn't feel safe. Noisy. Anti-social behaviour, especially at the bridge by the station*
- *It's horrible, it smells, too many travellers, rubbish, flooding, it doesn't feel local*
- *Smell is unbearable*
- *Poor appearance and concerns over activities*
- *Dark, dangerous, smelly, dank, litter strewn, more of a commercial area than anything*
- *With so much transient student accommodation around the area, you'll never achieve a sense of community*
- *Unsafe and unclean*
- *It's disgusting, dirty, unkept no one cares about the state of it*
- *Over built, terrible traffic and poor cycle infrastructure. Noisy and smelly*
- *Dirty smelly place*
- *Nothing to encourage people, no cafe, bars etc*
- *Only units there are aimed at the students living in the accommodation*
- *There is nothing there, it is an industrial quay with nothing around it with no parking*
- *Full of old caravans with people living in them*
- *It can be smelly and just seems a bit unloved*
- *Uncared for. Potentially good, needs proper management*
- *Always lots of litter, murky river and the size of the weeds shows that no one takes responsibility*
- *It smells awful*
- *It stinks*

Q5. What initiatives do you think we could introduce to help improve the look and feel of the area?

Participants were given 9 pre-determined options/ideas and asked to select their top 3 choices. The table below shows the combined answers collected from both the online form and face-to-face consultation event:

| Table 1 | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Overall result (online form & face-to-face consultation event) | | | | | |
| | Initiatives/Ideas | 1st Choice | 2nd Choice | 3rd Choice | Total |
| 1st | Community planting, shrubs, hanging baskets & trees | 17 | 13 | 15 | 67 |
| 2nd | Improving bins, recycling options & rubbish collections | 27 | 10 | 13 | 65 |
| 3rd | Music / arts events | 11 | 18 | 16 | 65 |
| 4 th | Outdoor gym | 16 | 8 | 16 | 62 |
| 5 th | Installing railings / barriers alongside water's edge | 13 | 18 | 8 | 55 |
| 6 th | Community clean-up days | 17 | 15 | 3 | 53 |
| 7 th | Community litter picks | 9 | 6 | 7 | 48 |
| 8 th | Creating art murals / plaques celebrating the community & culture of the area | 4 | 13 | 8 | 47 |
| 9 th | Community tea / street parties | 4 | 8 | 6 | 43 |

The above table shows that 'Community planting, shrubs, hanging baskets & trees' had the most overall votes (67). 'Improving bins, recycling options & rubbish collections' was tied in second place with 'Music / art events' both collecting 65 votes.

| Table 2 Results (Online Form Only) | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Initiative | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Total |
| Improving bins, recycling options and rubbish collections | 18 | 9 | 10 | 37 |
| Community planting/shrubs/hanging baskets/trees | 10 | 10 | 12 | 32 |
| Music/arts events | 9 | 10 | 11 | 30 |
| Installing railings/barriers alongside water edge | 10 | 14 | 5 | 29 |
| Community clean-up days | 14 | 9 | 3 | 26 |
| Creating art murals and/or plaques celebrating the community and culture of the area | 4 | 11 | 5 | 20 |
| Community litter picks | 5 | 3 | 5 | 13 |
| Outdoor gym | 2 | 1 | 7 | 10 |
| Community tea/street parties | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 |

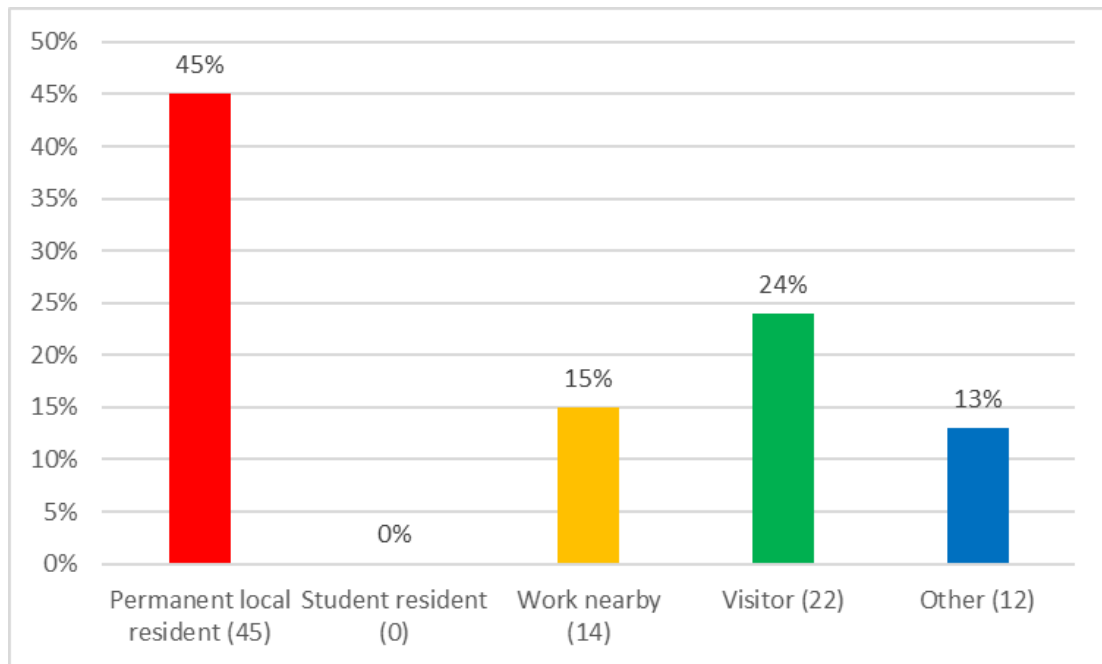
| Table 3 Results (Face-to-Face Consultation Only) | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Initiative | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | Total |
| Outdoor gym | 14 | 7 | 9 | 30 |
| Music/arts events | 2 | 8 | 5 | 15 |
| Community planting/shrubs/hanging baskets/trees | 7 | 3 | 3 | 13 |
| Improving bins, recycling options and rubbish collections | 9 | 1 | 3 | 13 |
| Installing railings/barriers alongside water edge | 3 | 4 | 3 | 10 |
| Community litter picks | 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 |
| Community tea/street parties | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| Community clean-up days | 3 | 6 | 0 | 9 |
| Creating art murals and/or plaques celebrating the community and culture of the area | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 |

Other ideas

In addition to the pre-determined options, participants were also asked for their own suggestions on what could be done to improve the King Edward Quay area. The answers given can be seen below, please note that these have been collated to show where something has been suggested on more than one occasion:

| Other Ideas | Number of Suggestions |
|--|-----------------------|
| Improve the sewage smell | 11 |
| Removal of caravans and abandoned vehicles | 11 |
| Wheelie strip | 7 |
| Improve street lighting | 5 |
| A lock gate to maintain water levels | 3 |
| Better bollards and barriers | 3 |
| Dredge the river | 3 |
| Markets, food stalls, boots sales, jumble sales etc | 3 |
| Dog waste bins | 2 |
| Gigs, orchestra, carnival and other outdoor events | 2 |
| More shops, restaurants and bars | 2 |
| Remove no parking areas | 2 |
| Stop Haven Road from flooding | 2 |
| Adopted parade ground in front of light ship | 1 |
| Arts and craft fayres | 1 |
| Better policing | 1 |
| Bin sheds for mooring holders | 1 |
| Café or coffee shop | 1 |
| CCTV | 1 |
| Cheap short-term parking | 1 |
| Community regatta | 1 |
| Cycle hire | 1 |
| Dry dock | 1 |
| Facilities for younger children | 1 |
| Health advice centre | 1 |
| Improve curbs and footpaths | 1 |
| Increase the number of residential moorings | 1 |
| Knock it all down and start again | 1 |
| Move on the vagrants | 1 |
| Outdoor cinema | 1 |
| Removal of large wall to open area up | 1 |
| Remove graffiti | 1 |
| Remove unused boats | 1 |
| Toilet, shower and laundry facilities for visiting yachtsmen | 1 |

Q6. What is your connection with King Edward Quay?

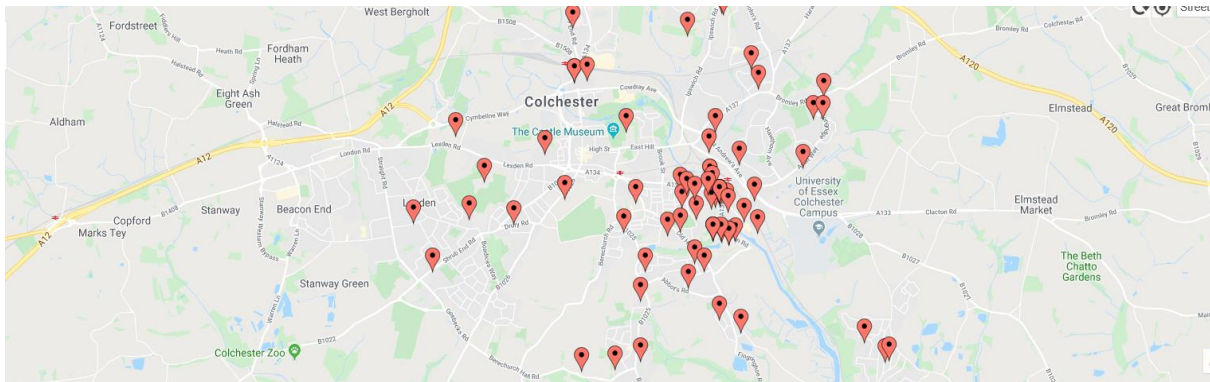


Other answers:

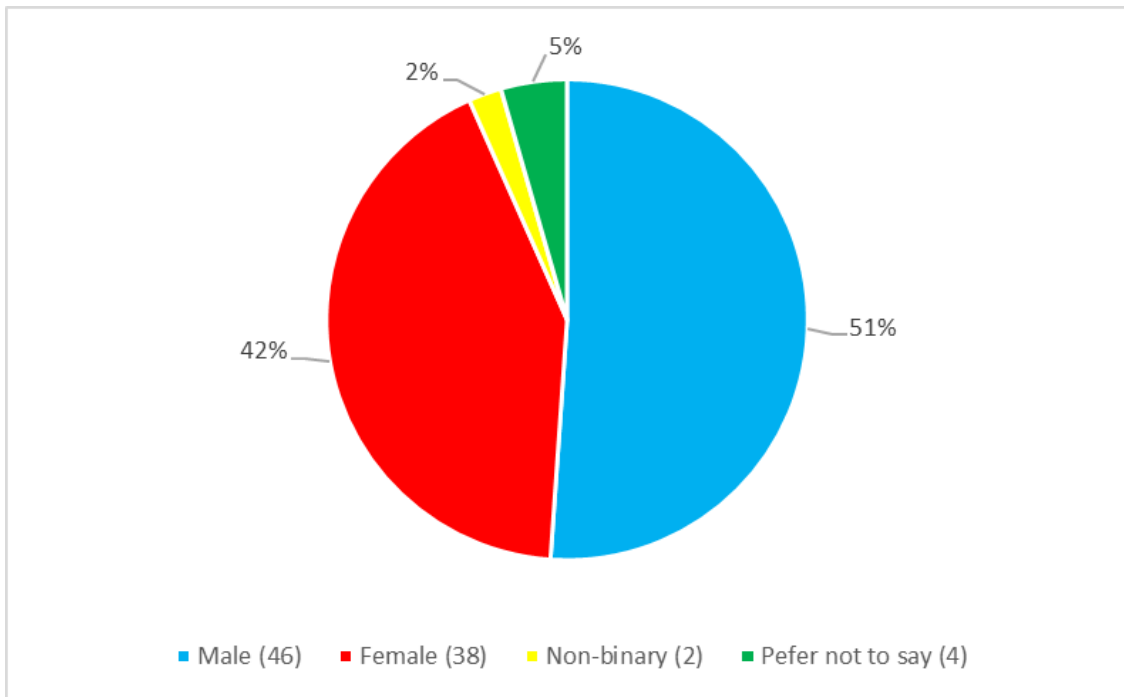
- Transient resident
- Own a business on the quayside
- Colchester resident who previously worked on projects in the Hythe
- Live nearby x 3
- Commute to Uni, gym and shop via Quay
- Resident of Longridge Park
- Used to live there, have family close by and friends who live on boats
- Used to work nearby and often used to walk along the Quay

Q7. About you

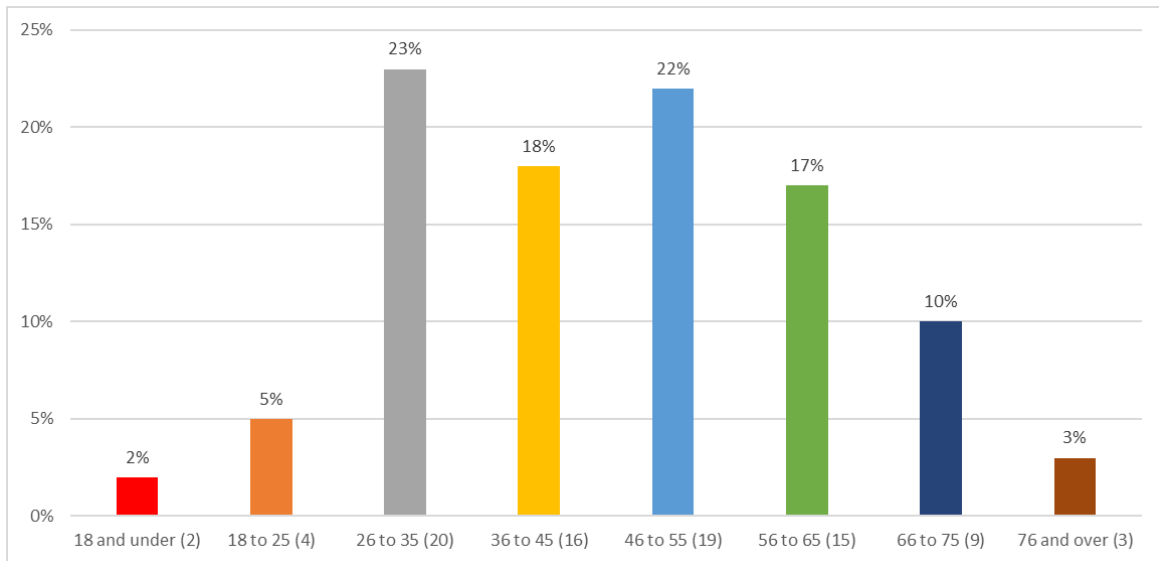
A. Where do you live



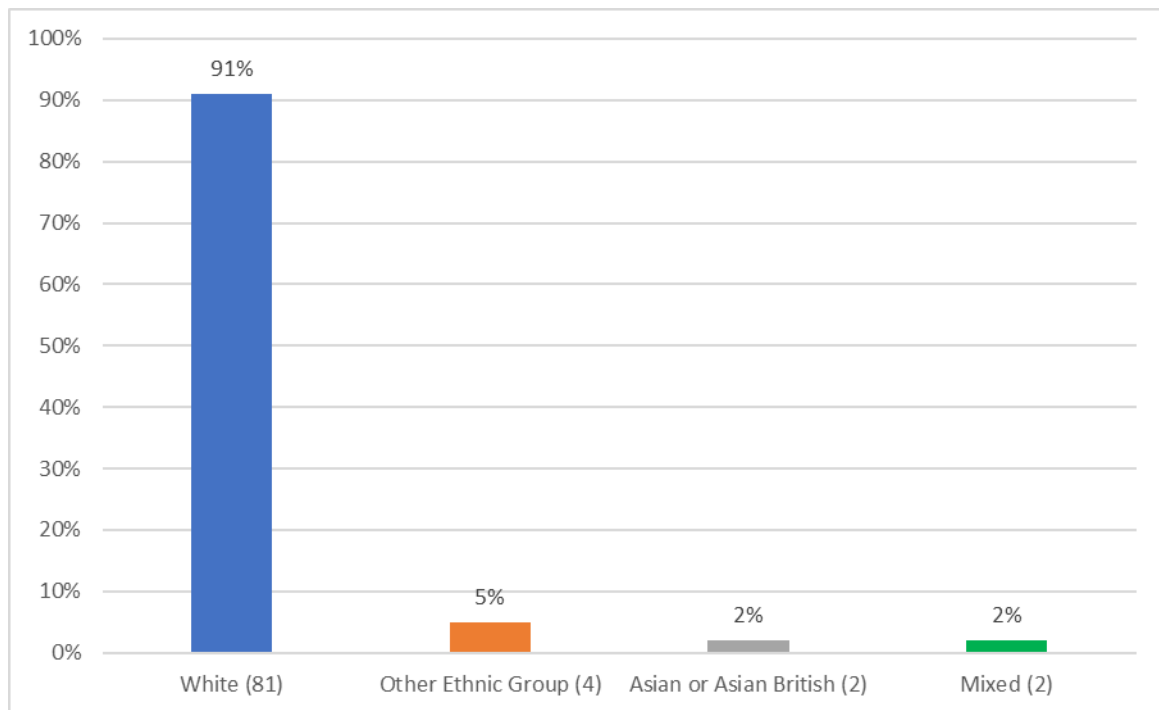
B. Your gender



C. Your age groups



D. Your ethnicity



The above section gives a good insight into the type of people who participated in the consultation. The largest group respondents came from around the Hythe and central Colchester areas and where a mixture of white men and women between the ages of 26 and 65.

Summary

The above findings demonstrate that there is a real interest and passion amongst local people for improving the King Edward Quay area to create a vibrant community space. The ideas for improvement that scored the highest (see table 1) focus on cosmetic improvements such as planting trees and hanging baskets, but also show a need for improved environmental services such as bins and waste collections.

The other options that also generated a high level of interest focus on offering residents something to do or participate in (music events / outdoor gym).

From analysing the comments collected by the consultation, there does appear to be concerns locally surround the number of caravans and other large vehicles parked on the quayside. The subject of the sewage smells was also a reoccurring topic with many people stating that this puts them off visiting the area.

Another topic which came up on several occasions during the face-to-face consultation event is the lack of recreational facilities for younger people. The Council representatives who attended the event spoke to residents from a variety of age groups and this topic was raised by several people. The consultation event was also visited by a group of teenage boys who expressed an interest in an outdoor gym, and also put forward their own idea of a wheelie strip.

In summary, the public consultation has been a successful event which has enabled the Borough Council to engage with local people and to gain a better understanding of what is needed to create a healthier community environment at King Edward Quay.

The ideas and feedback collected will now enable the project team to deliver some exciting initiatives which will be of long-term benefit to those living at, working by or visiting the King Edward Quay.