

Tuesday 29th April 2025



Flitwick Town Council

Welcome to the 2025 Flitwick Annual Assembly

Meet your Town Councillors



Cllr Lorraine Bandy



Cllr Ian Blazeby



Cllr Andy Crawford



Cllr Tricia Earles



Cllr Toby Harald



Cllr Howard Hodges



Cllr Tim Parsons



Cllr Fraser
Patterson



Cllr Martin Platt



Cllr John Roberts



Cllr Andy Snape



Cllr Clare
Thompson



Cllr Dan Toinko



Cllr Robert
Wilsmore



Vacancy



Vacancy



Vacancy

Civic Activities



Highlights from 2024/25

- 3 Station Road Refurbishment
- FTC Land at Steppingley Road
- Flitwick Community Fridge
- Flitwick Skate Park Development
- Improvements to our Green Spaces
- Flitwick Family Fun Day





The Council's work in the context of the 2025 Residents' Survey

The 2025 Residents' Survey

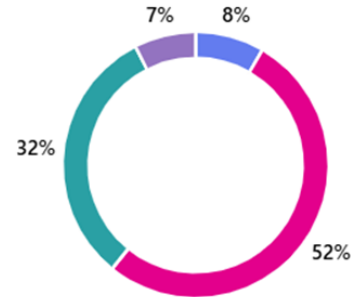
Linking the Survey to our 2021 – 2025 Strategy



347 responses in
2025 vs 219 in 2024
(+58%)

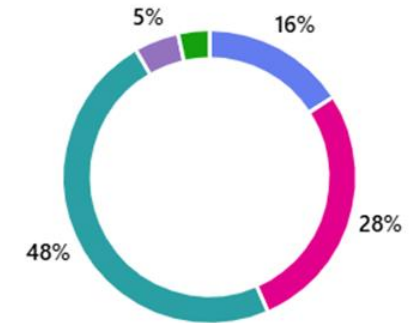
60% (-6% on LY) of you responded that you **trust Flitwick Town Council** either a great deal or a fair amount compared to the national average of 50%.

● A great deal	29
● A fair amount	182
● Not very much	110
● Not at all	26



44% (-2% on LY) of you felt that it was extremely easy or somewhat **easy to contact a Flitwick Town Councillor**.

● Extremely easy	55
● Somewhat easy	96
● Neutral	167
● Quite difficult	17
● Difficult	12



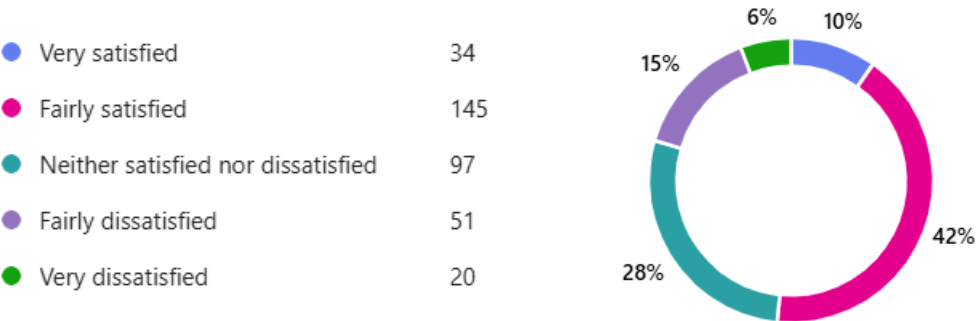
All Councillor email addresses and telephone numbers are published in Flitwick Papers and on the flitwick.gov.uk website.

Please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!

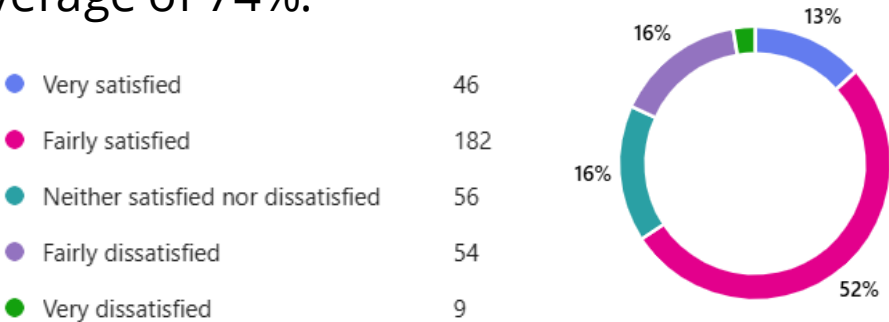
About Flitwick and our Council



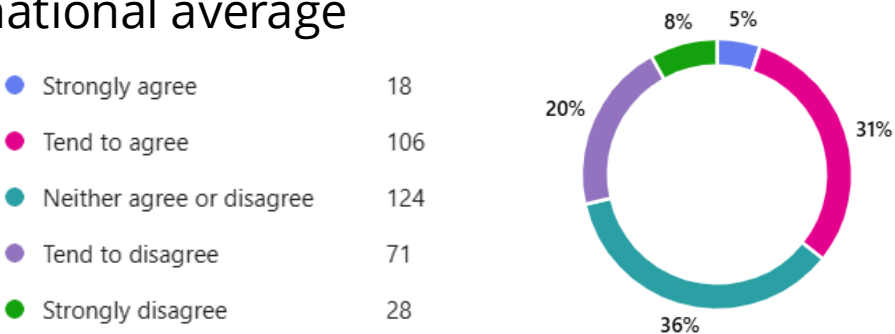
52% (-12% on LY) of you were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with **how Flitwick Town Council runs things** compared to the national average of 56%.



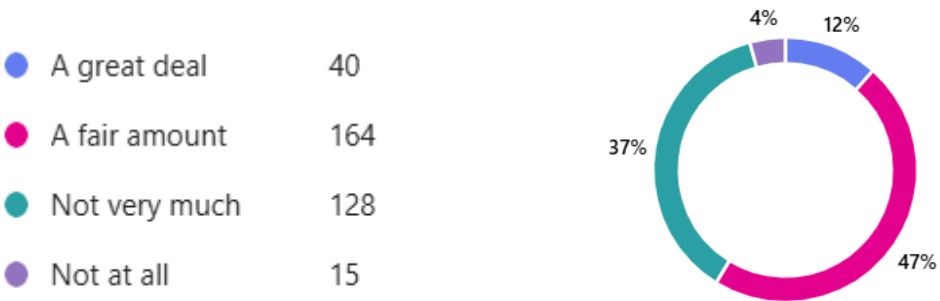
65% (-5% on LY) of you were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with **Flitwick as a place to live** compared to the national average of 74%.



35% (-9% on LY) either agreed strongly or tended to agree that Flitwick Town Council provides **value for money** compared to a 36% national average



59% (Level on LY) of you felt that **Flitwick Town Council acts on the concerns of residents** either a great deal or a fair amount compared to 53% nationally.



Your concerns are our concerns...



We asked you how much of a problem you thought each of the following issues are:

● A very big problem ● A fairly big problem ● Not a very big problem ● Not a problem at all

a) Noisy neighbours or loud parties

b) Rubbish or litter lying around

c) Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles

d) People using or dealing drugs

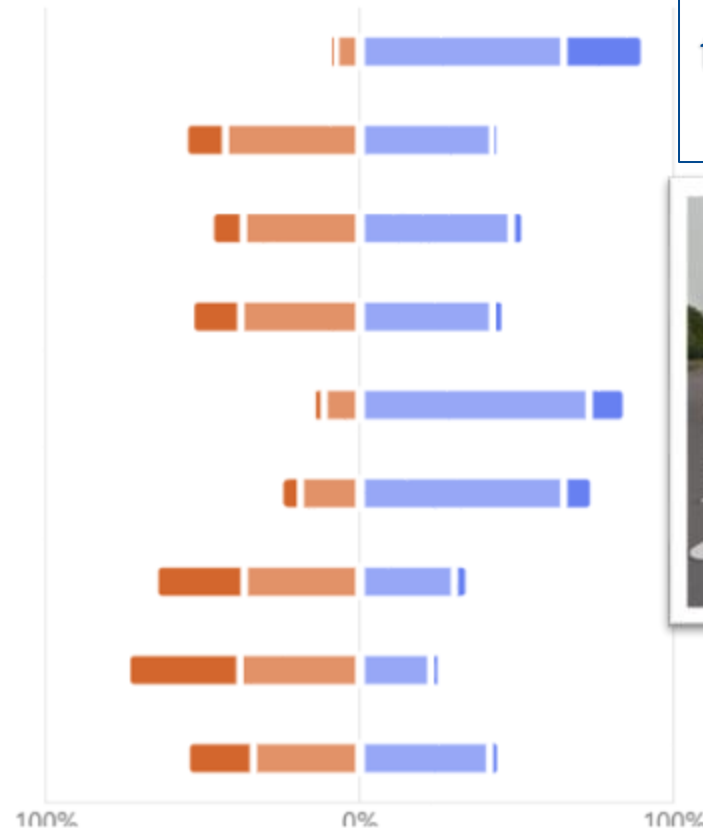
e) People being drunk or rowdy in public places

f) Groups hanging around the streets

g) Speeding traffic

h) Poor parking

i) Dog fouling



Parking continues to be the top concern for the 4th year running!



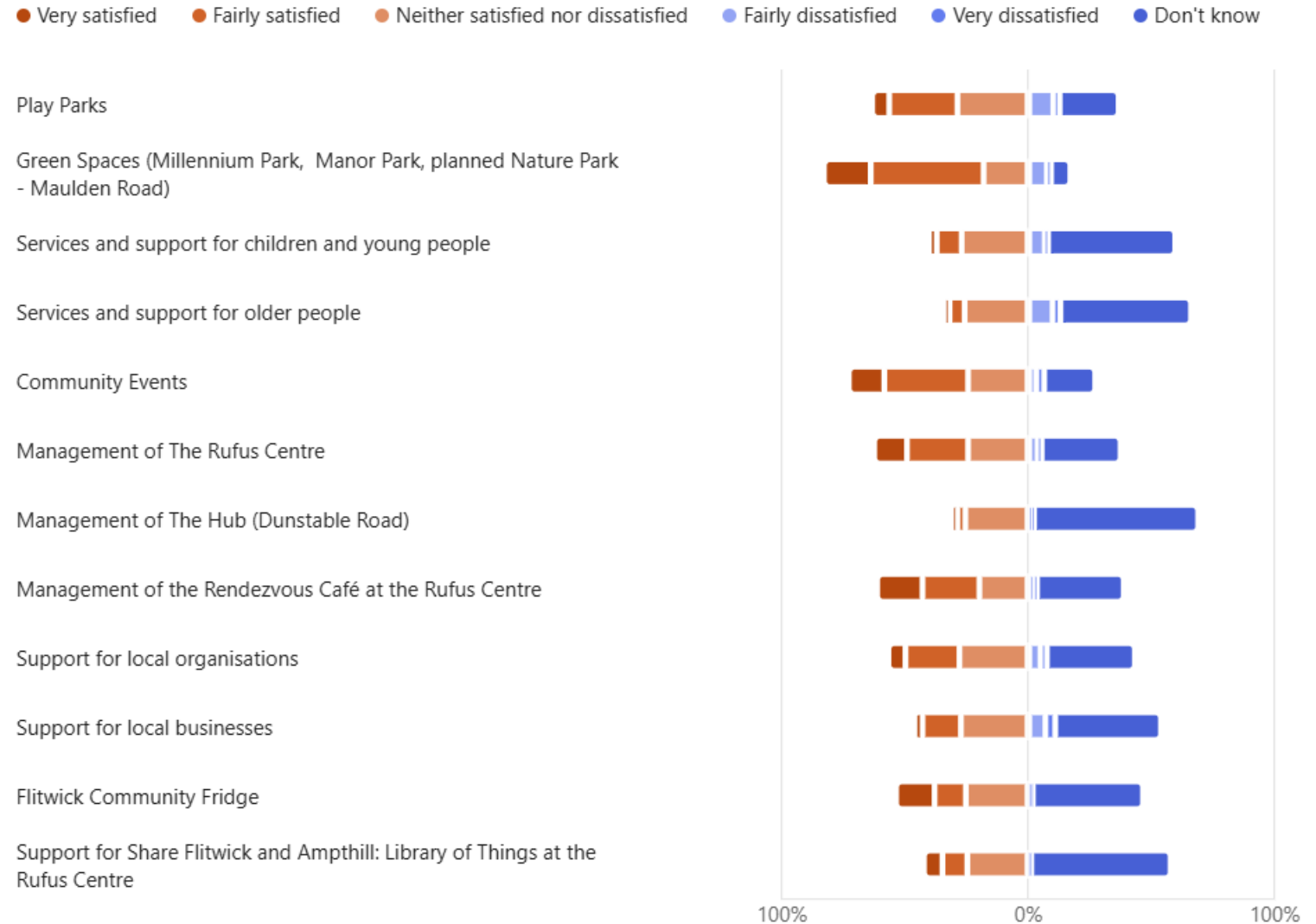
Overall satisfaction with our services



We asked you how satisfied or dissatisfied you are overall with the services Flitwick Town Council provides.

Residents mostly satisfied with :

- Green Spaces
- Community Events
- Management of The Rufus Centre
- Management of the Café
- Play Parks



Your investment priorities are clear...



- Increased use of the Town Square (76%)
- Local organisations (63%)
- Environmental Improvements (60%)
- 3 Station Road development (55%)
- Green Spaces (54%)
- Local Businesses (51%)
- Cost of Living Crisis (47%)

● Provide far more resources ● Provide more resources ● Neither more or less ● Provide less resources ● Provide far less resources

Play Parks

Green Spaces (Millennium Park, Manor Park, The Nature Park -
Maulden Road)

Services and support for children and young people

Services and support for older people

Community Events

Development of The Rufus Centre for wider commercial and
community use

Development of The Hub (Dunstable Road)

Development of the Rendezvous Café at The Rufus Centre

Support for local organisations that provide community benefits

Support for local businesses

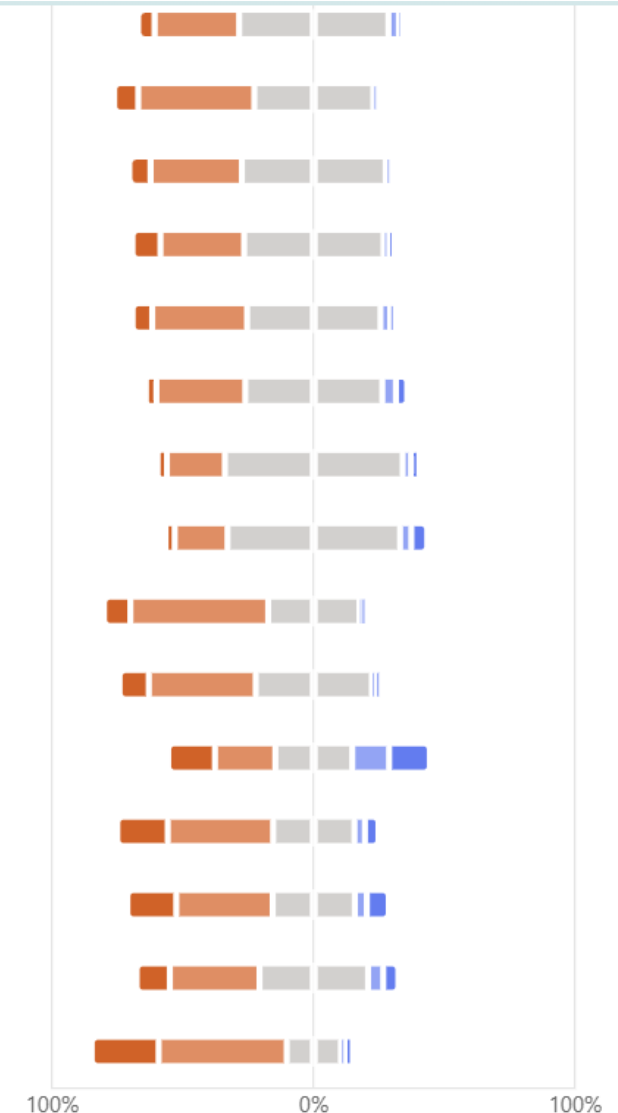
Supporting the development of affordable housing in Flitwick

Implementing Environmental improvements to Council operations
and services

The development of 3 Station Road (former Barclays Bank
building)

Support for individuals, families and organisations during the 'cost
of living crisis'

The increased use of Flitwick Town Square (e.g. for Outdoor
dining, Farmers/Craft/Vintage markets.)

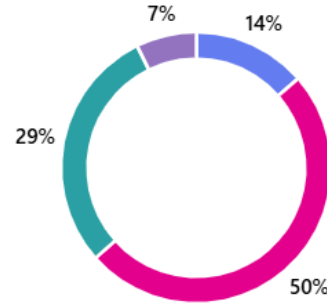


Improving our communication



64% (+1% on LY) of you felt that FTC kept you well informed or fairly well informed compared to 47% nationally.

● Very well informed	47
● Fairly well informed	173
● Not very well informed	102
● Not well informed at all	25



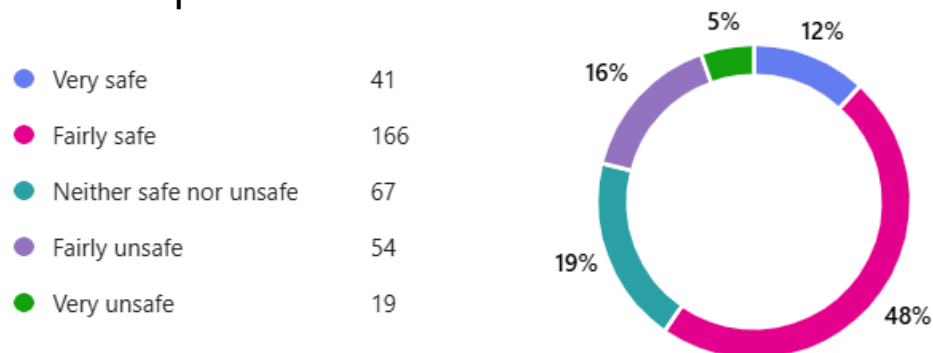
- Flitwick Papers delivered quarterly to each of the 6,000 plus households in the town
- Social Media
 - Over 1,000 posts per year on Facebook and Instagram
 - Separate pages for The Hub and Flitwick Community Fridge
- Noticeboards around the Town
- 'Chat to a Councillor' sessions delivered throughout the year
- Significant engagement between Councillors and residents via social media.



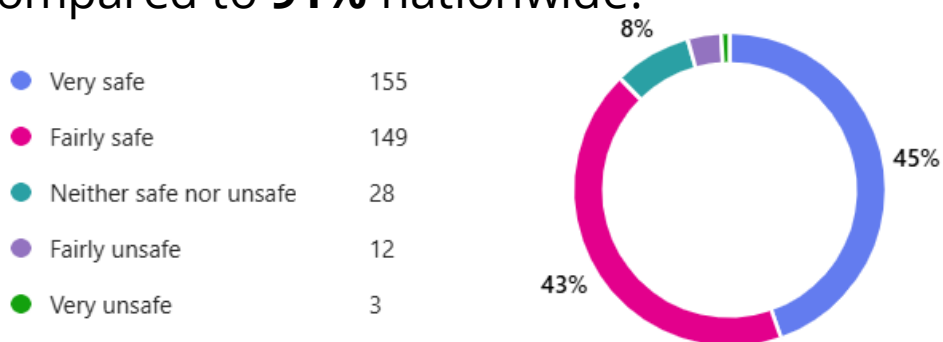
Feeling safe outside, especially after dark



Only **60% (-5% on LY)** of you felt either very safe or fairly safe when outside in Flitwick after dark compared to **71% nationwide**.



That compares to **88% (+1% on LY)** feeling either very safe or fairly safe during the day compared to **91% nationwide**.



Annual total crime rate in Flitwick is 56.7 per thousand resident population. This is 18% lower than Central Bedfordshire rate of 69 crimes per thousand residents.

<https://crystalroof.co.uk/report/ward/flitwick-central-bedfordshire/crime>

Crime in Flitwick	Per 1,000 Residents	National Rating
Anti-social behaviour	9.82	3/10
Vehicle crime	6.35	5/10
Criminal damage and arson	3.25	2/10
Burglary	2.16	3/10
Violence and sexual offences	16.40	2/10
Theft from person	0.072	2/10
Possession of weapons	0.072	2/10
Drugs	0.433	1/10

Developing The Rufus Centre as a thriving business and community hub



The Residents Survey showed that over **55% (-7% on LY)** of respondents had visited The Rufus Centre in the last year. **Over 38% (-6% on LY)** were very or fairly satisfied with how FTC run the Centre (31% 'don't know' and 25% 'neither satisfied or dissatisfied').



- Continued investment in the building - £38k invested in the Lockyer Suite, including lighting, and improved sound equipment and acoustics.
- Continued serviced office refurbishment as tenants have changed over.
- We are currently at 100% occupancy.
- 'Ticketsolve' booking system has enabled better targeted marketing and reduced admin costs.
- Continuing to host many community groups and community events.

Improving key Green Spaces in Flitwick



Over **77% (level on last year)** of the survey respondents had used at least one of the green spaces in the Town in the last year. With **37%**, using a Play Park.



- We planted 27,000 trees at the Nature Park and we are awaiting the outcome of the planning application
- Skate Park Development
- Interactive Musical Park at Hinksley Road
- Station Road Green Space – 60 trees planted
- New footbridge at Manor Park
- Tiny Forest

Café Society... at the Rendezvous Café & Bar



The Rendezvous Café & Bar opened in November 2020, proving popular with residents. **47% (-2% on LY)** of respondents to our survey have used the café.

- The aim of the café is to provide a community hub and to raise a surplus that can be invested into other projects.
- 2024/2025 has been as busy as the previous year.
- Have increased seating capacity.
- 36,273 hot drinks served in 2024/25!
- Satisfaction levels have roughly remained level on the year at 42%.



Major Building Projects



- Flitwick Town Council (FTC) has been refurbishing and updating the former Barclays Bank building and it now provides space for a casual dining restaurant and a retail unit.
- FTC is actively marketing the site for a restaurant and a retail unit.
- FTC is moving forward in its plans to use a parcel of land it owns at the bottom of Steppingley Road allotments to deliver much-needed affordable homes in the town.
- The project will be built and managed by a housing association ensuring that the maximum number of homes will be accessible to those most in need.



Support for Local Organisations



The survey showed that over **63% (+11% on LY)** of respondents felt that we should provide more resources for local organisations. We will continue to identify areas where we can achieve your wishes.

- Peppercorn rents for land to host buildings for the Scouts, Guides, Sea Cadets and Royal British Legion equivalent to £7.5k per year commercial value.
- The Scouts have been provided with additional land to expand their building. FTC is also supporting their planning application costs.
- Free or subsidised use of rooms at The Rufus Centre & The Hub.
- Share: Flitwick & Ampthill now based at The Rufus Centre.
- Support for the Living History Project.



Cost-of-living Support – a continuing focus for FTC



- Cost-of-living support remains high on the Council's priority list, with significant resources and effort dedicated to supporting residents.
- Flitwick Community Fridge has brought us into contact with many people who need our help. We have over 40 fantastic volunteers running the service and have exciting plans to expand the offer.
- Support from local businesses continues with Tesco Flitwick, Aldi, Waitrose and KFC now on board.
- Free Community Movie Days continue each school holiday with a revised family-focused offer based on demand.
- We know there is an increasing need, so this will be a continued focus for the Council.



Resolutions & Questions

Open Forum