

Nanaimo Neighbourhood Association Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

18 October 2021 - 16 November 2021

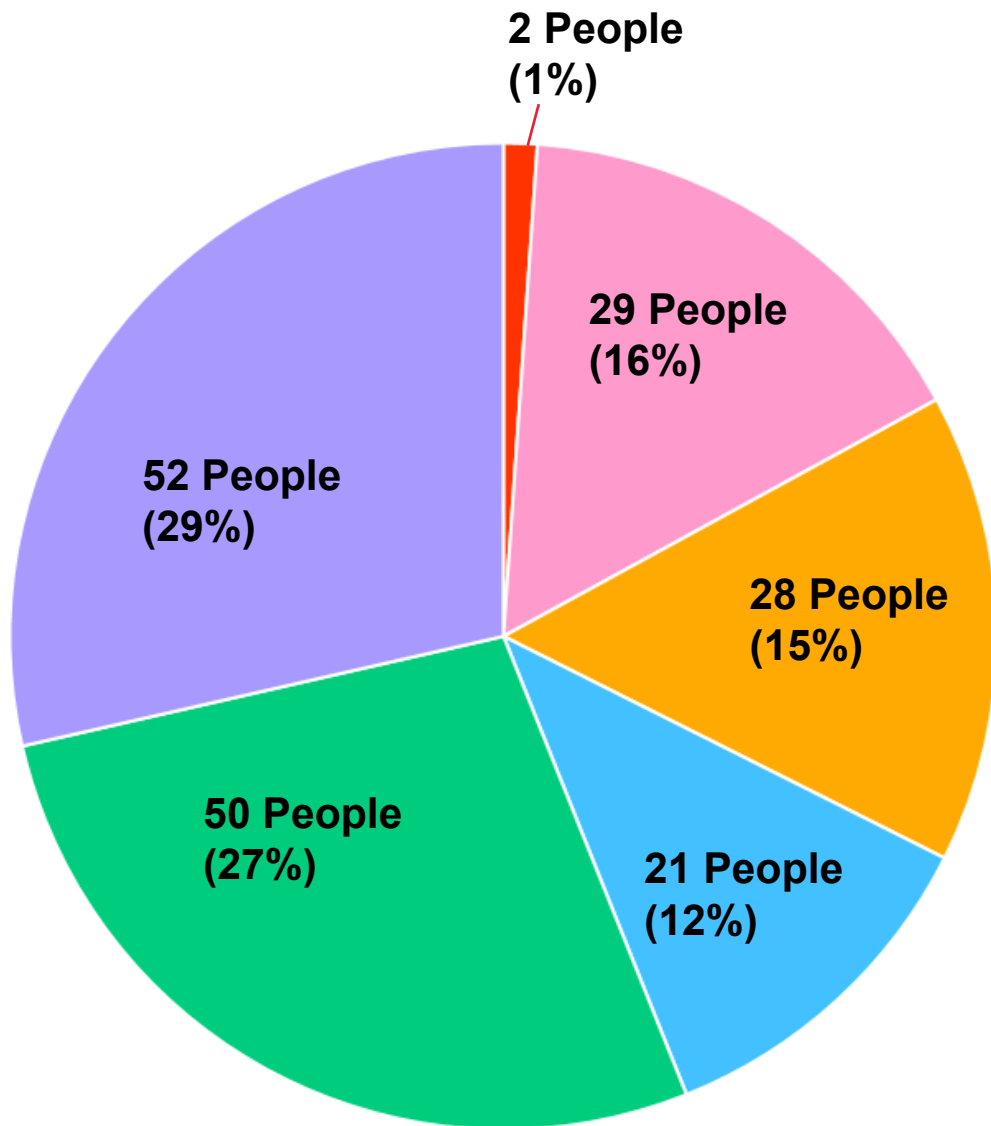
PROJECT NAME:

Nanaimo Neighbourhood Association Survey



REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

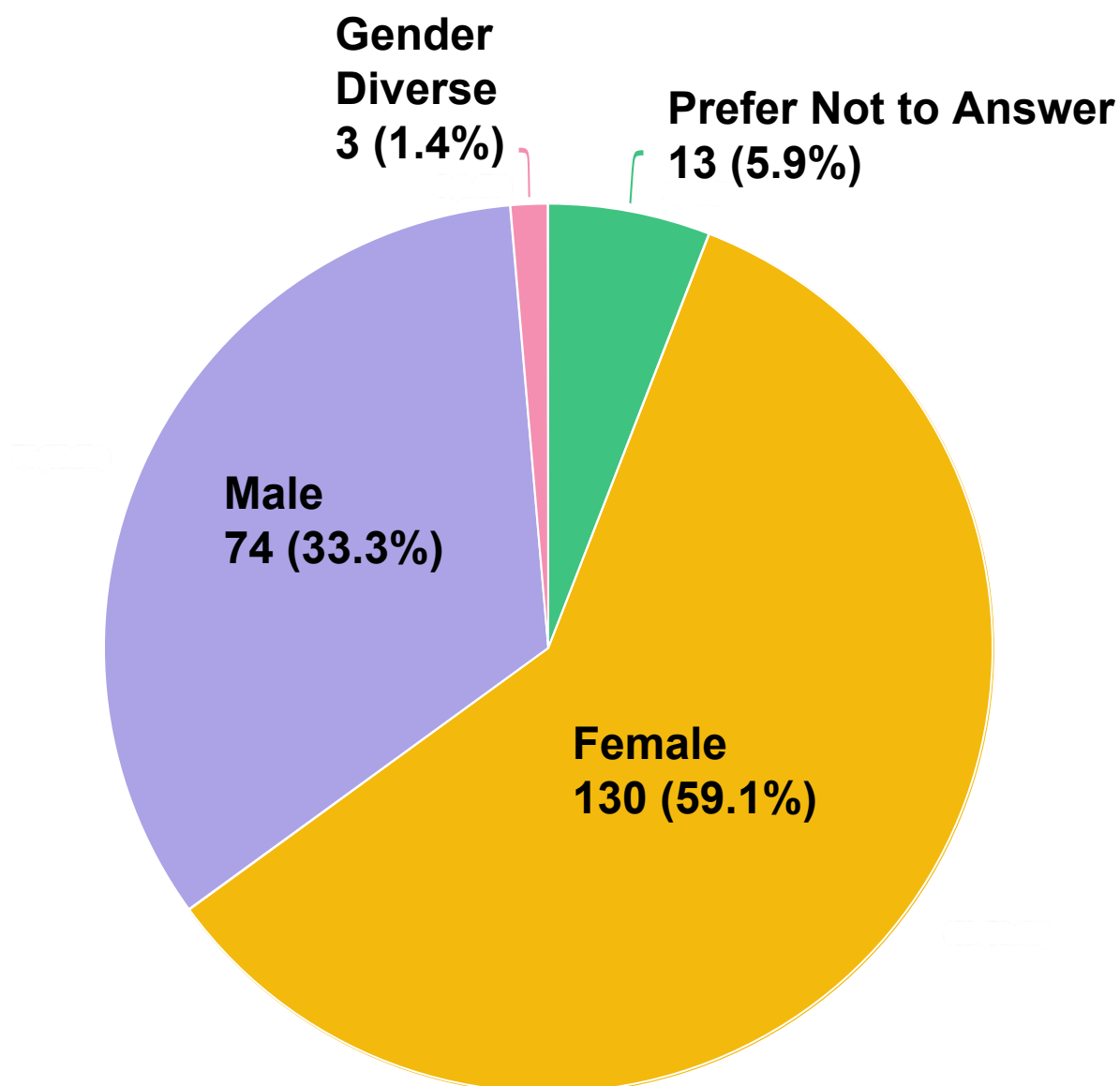
Q1 | What year were you born? Knowing the age range of our participants helps us to know we are hearing from a representative po...



■ Ages 20-29 ■ Ages 30-39 ■ Ages 40-49 ■ Ages 50-59 ■ Ages 60-69 ■ Ages 70+

Optional question (193 response(s), 27 skipped)
Question type: Date Question

Q2 With which gender do you most identify with?



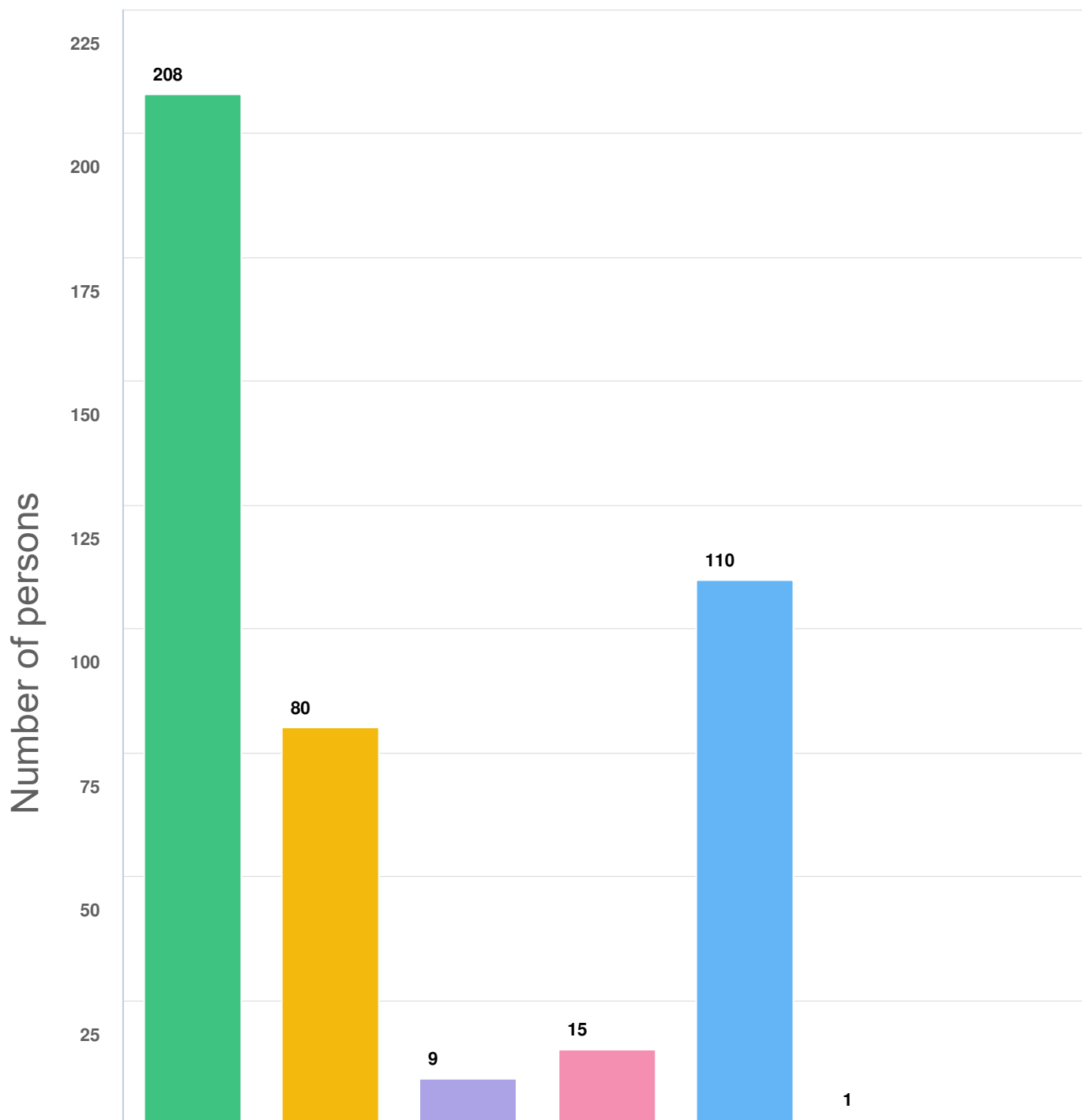
Question options

☐ Prefer Not to Answer ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Gender Diverse

Mandatory Question (220 response(s))

Question type: Dropdown Question

Q3 What is your connection to Nanaimo?



Question options

- I live in Nanaimo ● I work in Nanaimo ● I study in Nanaimo ● I own a business in Nanaimo
- I am a City of Nanaimo property tax payer ● Prefer not to say ● I am a visitor to Nanaimo

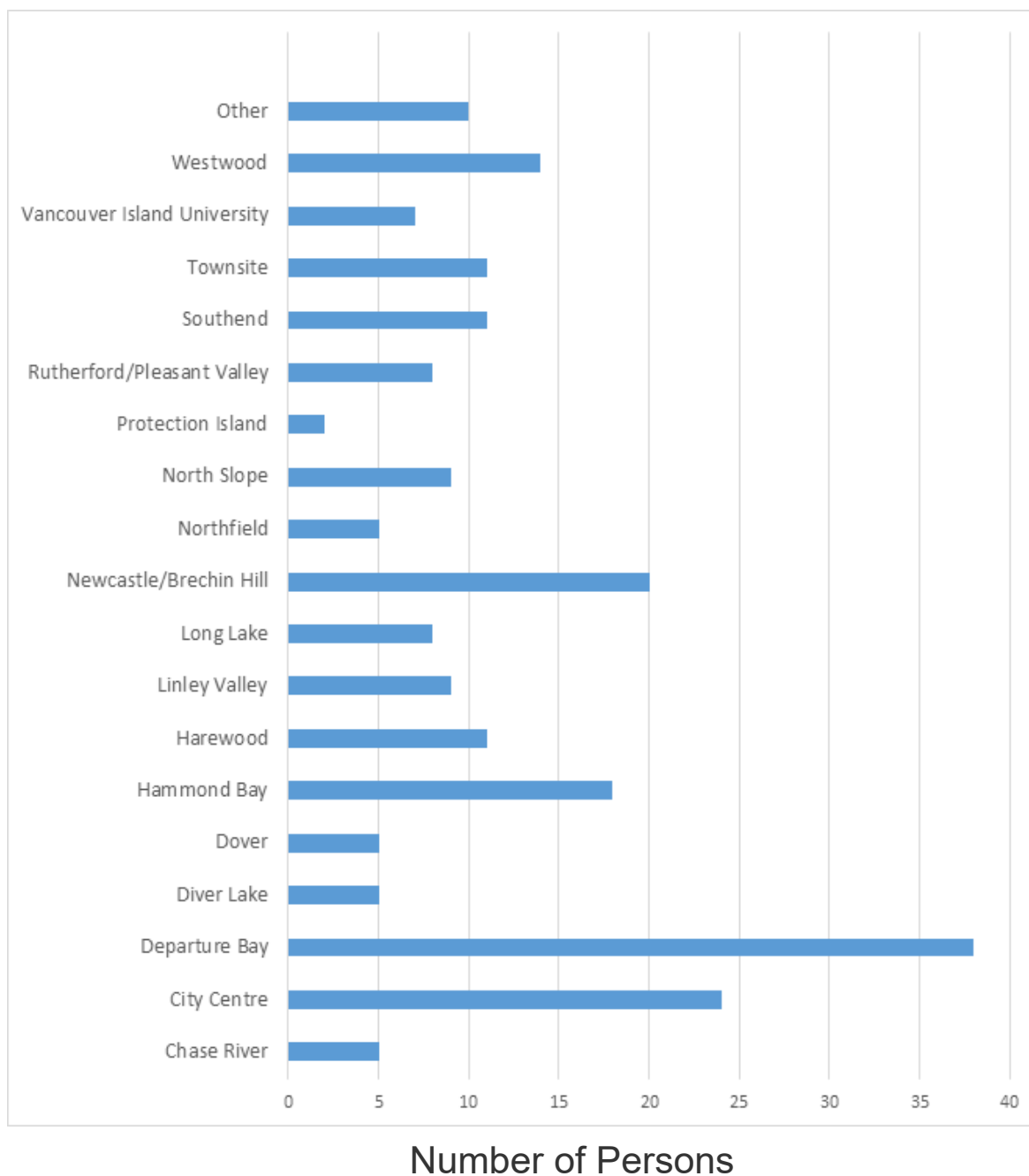
Optional question (220 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question



SURVEY QUESTIONS

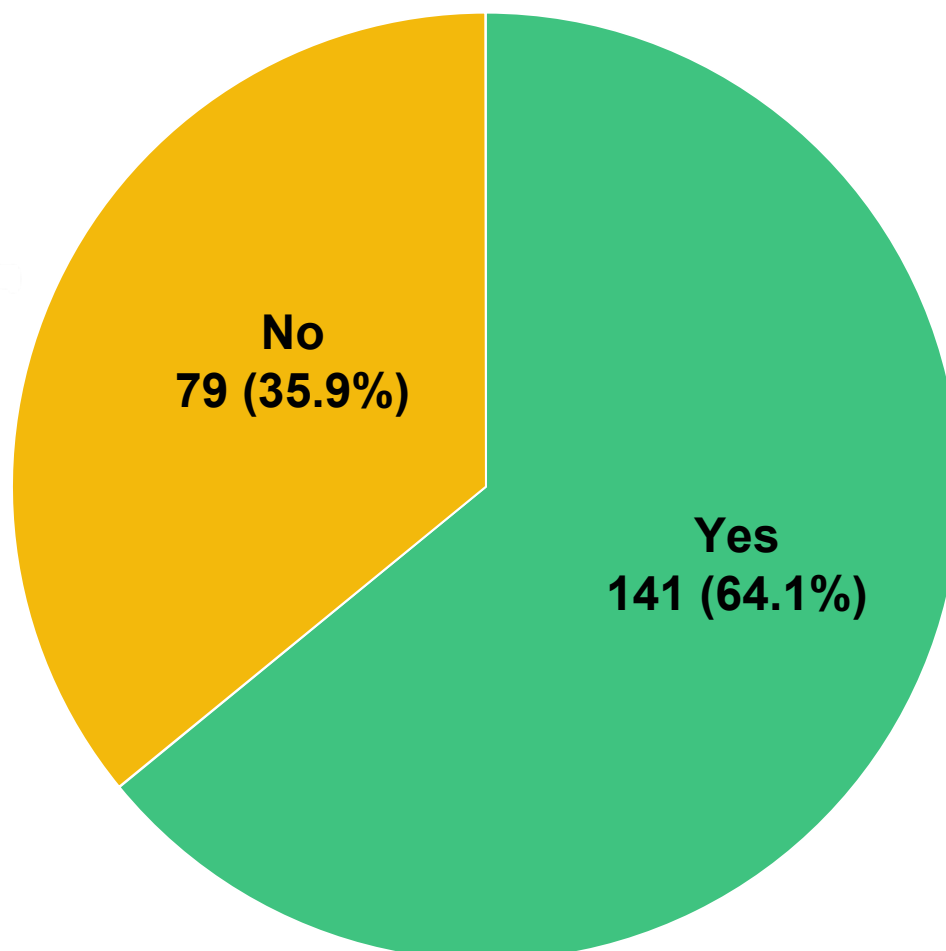
Q1 What area of the city do you live in?



Mandatory Question (220 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q2 | Do you know if a neighbourhood association(s) exists in your neighbourhood? [Learn more about Nanaimo Neighbourhood Associations](#)



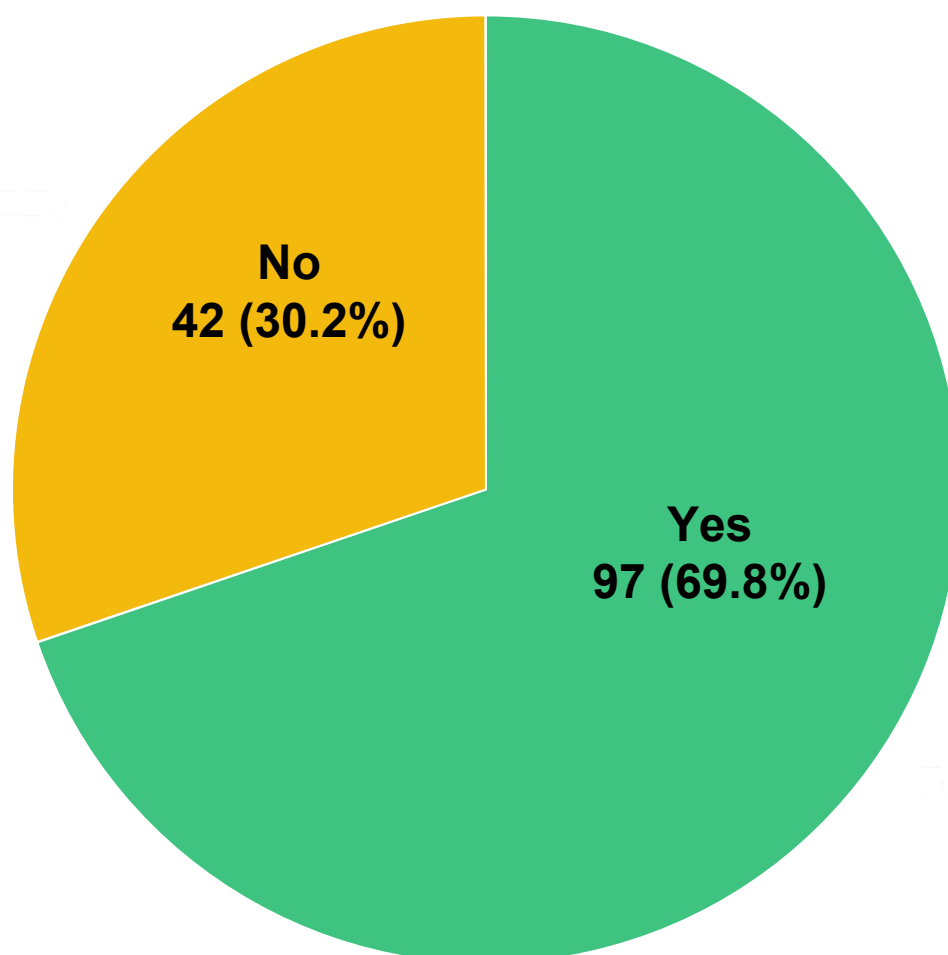
Question options

☒ Yes ☐ No

Mandatory Question (220 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q3 | Are you a member of your neighbourhood association?

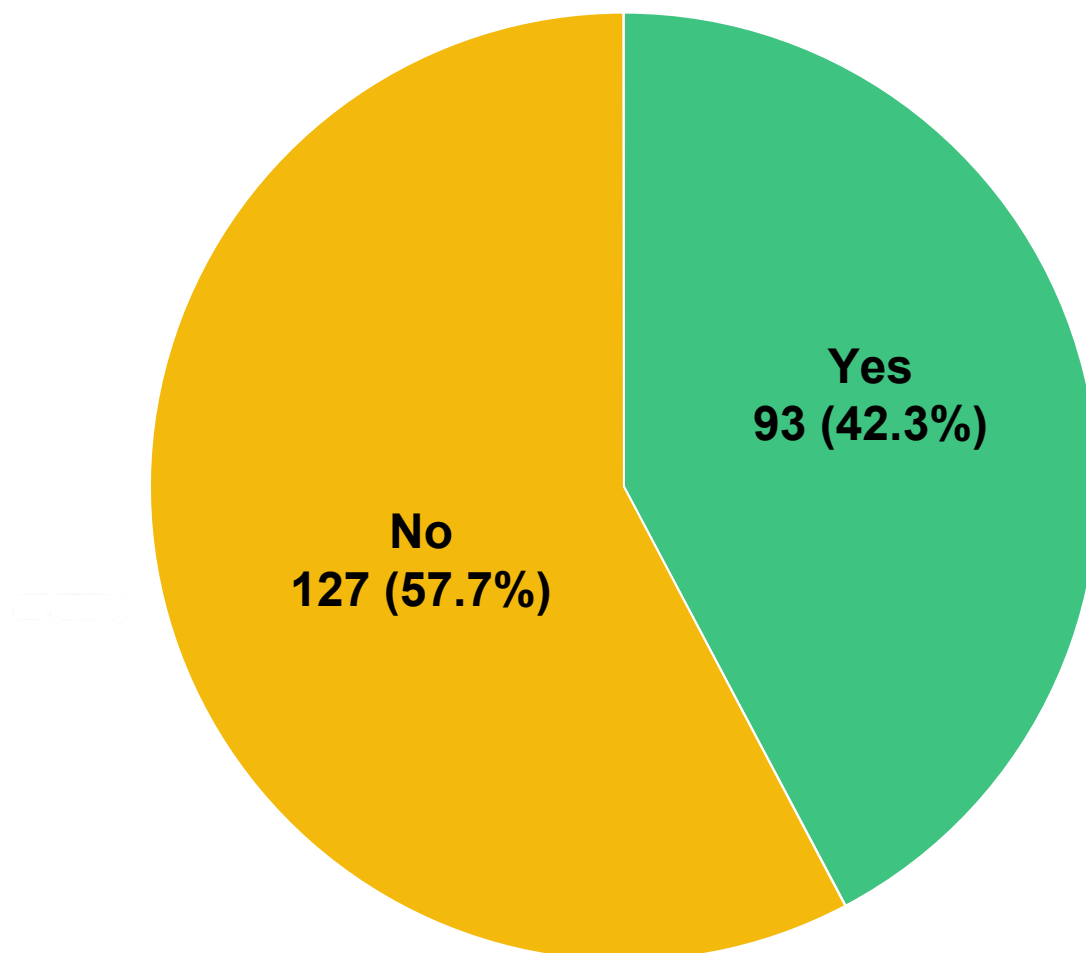


Question options

☒ Yes ☐ No

*Optional question (139 response(s), 81 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q4 | Do you know if there is a Block Watch for your street/area/neighbourhood? [Learn more about Block Watch Program locations](#)



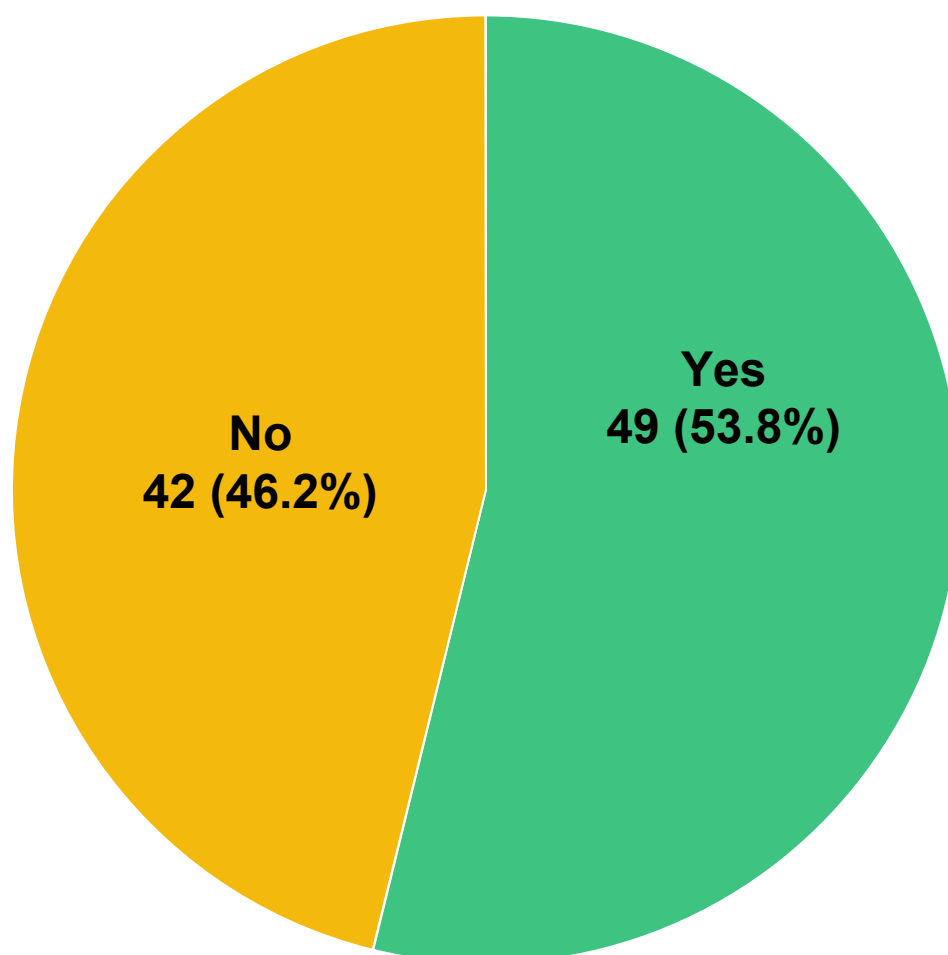
Question options

☒ Yes ☐ No

Mandatory Question (220 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q5 Are you a member of a Block Watch in your area?

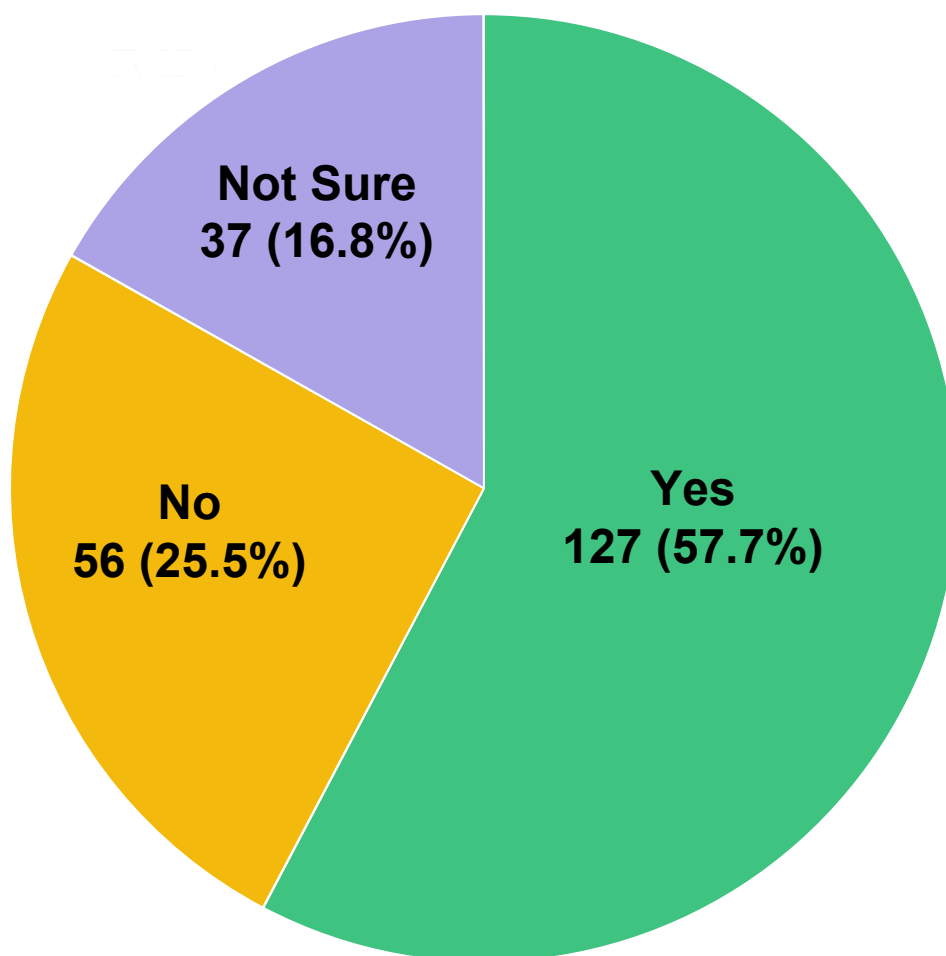


Question options

☒ Yes ☐ No

*Optional question (91 response(s), 129 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question*

Q6 | Do you think neighbourhood associations should meet some level of organizational criteria in order to receive formal opportunities to comment on development referrals, neighbourhood-focused funding opportunities or other potential support?

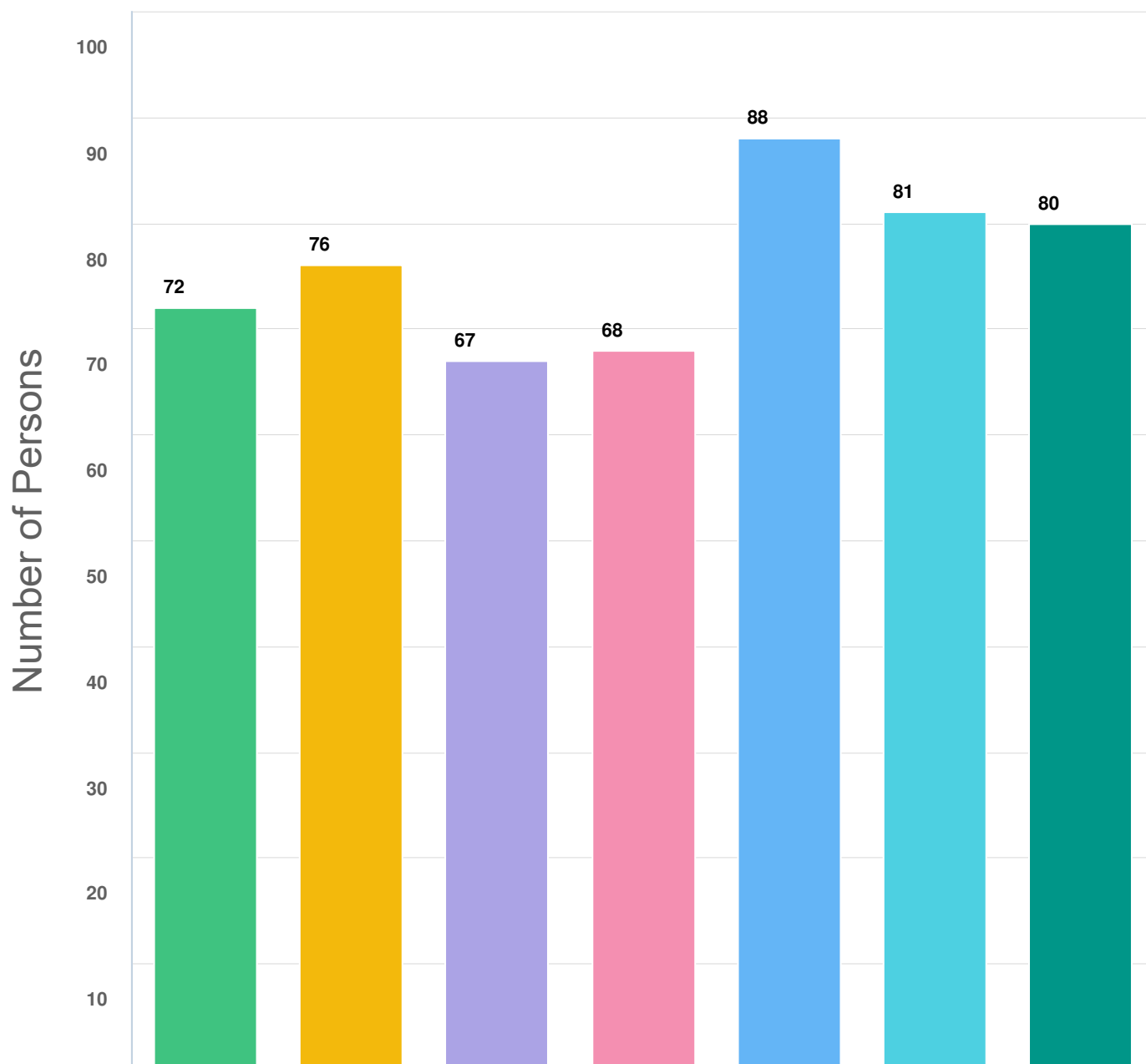


Question options

- ☒ Yes - the City should require neighbourhood associations to meet some level of organizational criteria in order to receive formal opportunities to comment on development referrals, neighbourhood-focused funding opportunities or other potential support.
- ☐ No – the City should not require neighbourhood associations to meet any organizational criteria in order to receive formal opportunities to comment on development referrals, neighbourhood-focused funding opportunities or other potential support.
- ☐ Not Sure

Mandatory Question (220 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q7 Please select one or more of the following organizational criteria you feel should apply to neighbourhood associations wishing to receive formal opportunities to comment on development referrals, neighbourhood-focused funding opportunities or other...



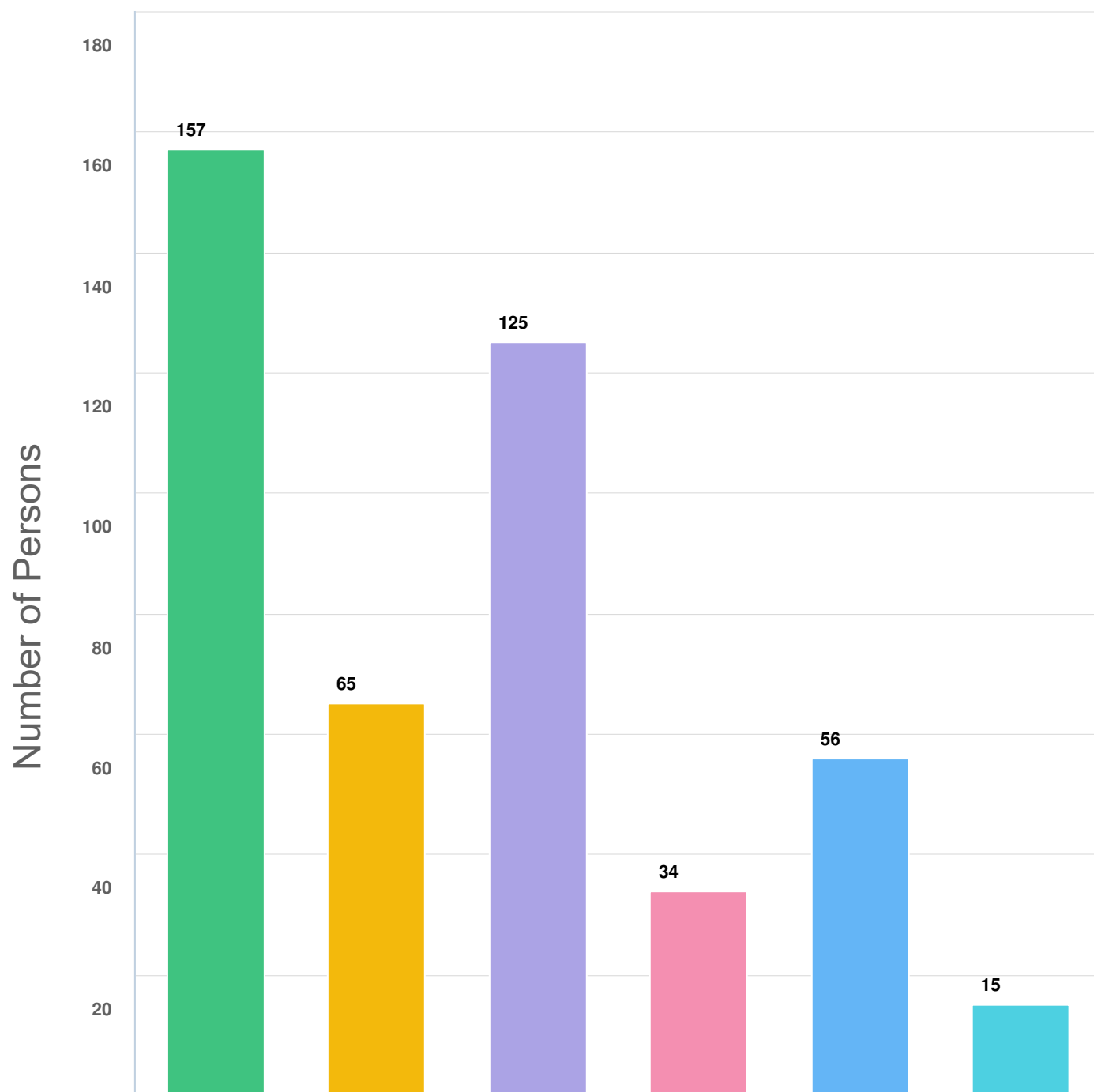
Question options

- ☐ Have an elected executive that meets on a regular basis (at least once per year)
- ☐ Have a membership structure (not necessarily fee paying)
- ☐ Hold an annual general meeting (AGM)
- ☐ Keep minutes for executive and general membership meetings
- ☐ Engage with its neighbourhood for input prior to responding to City development referrals such as rezoning and Official Community Plan amendments
- ☐ Provide periodic updates to members related to the activities of the group
- ☐ All of the Above

Optional question (126 response(s), 94 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q8 How do you prefer to engage with the City on issues and opportunities in your neighbourhood? (check all that apply)



Question options

- Directly as an individual/household (via email, mail, phone).
- Through Get Involved Nanaimo
- Through a neighbourhood association
- Through Block Watch
- Through an online group (e.g. Facebook)
- Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (220 response(s))

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q9 | Do you have any other input you wish to provide with respect to how the City could engage with and support neighbourhood associations?

Screen Name Redacted

10/25/2021 04:44 PM

Given that people have limited time and resources, what is the city going to do to help executives with resources, will there be support from city staff to let residents know there is a neighbourhood association in their neighbourhood that they can join. Who is responsible for recruiting members/letting people know an association exists? What is the criteria for establishing membership? For example, does a landlord who does not live in the neighbourhood but owns property be a member? Can renters be members? How does the association demonstrate they have engaged with their membership? Is there a minimum threshold of resident members to keep an association accurate? If there is a more formalized structure to the associations, will the meeting minutes need to be sent to the city for filing? Will the executive be responsible for filing a formalized annual report?

Screen Name Redacted

10/25/2021 06:10 PM

Have an umbrella organization that the smaller neighbourhood associations fall under. The umbrella organization might be an incorporated non-profit or simply be a branch of the City of Nanaimo. That way, not every neighbourhood needs an entire executive team. I'm not sure that roads make the best boundary for neighbourhoods as people across from me on the street are shown as being in a completely different neighbourhood on the map. Realistically, neighbourhoods start/stop at a more natural break.

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 09:13 AM

Block Watch is not a neighbourhood group but it is a way to help keep crime at bay. Get Involved Nanaimo is not a person to person forum for most of the time nor does this forum lobby specifically for neighbourhoods. More bureaucracy is not the answer for proper engagement. Most effective groups started out without cumbersome edits about organization.

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 09:37 AM

I believe all the people in the neighbourhood should receive information and decide if they want to get involved. Is the Snuneymuxw reserve a separate community or not involved because the reserve does not pay property taxes?

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 09:46 AM

Neighbourhood associations should be encouraged to do more to help with the Social Determinants of health, by encouraging and

supporting community enhancements and engagement activities, ways to communicate with each other that do not leave anyone out, such as more opportunities to bring new people in by way of outbound marketing to non-members and new members in community. If we impose criteria on NAs, people will not participate. They need to be loosely organized, bottoms up structures. I have lived in my Westwood neighbourhood for 17 years, and only recently joined our association as a result of COVID 19, and a desire to make our communities places of connection. Hosting a city wide learn about your neighbourhood association day, and sharing what projects people are doing around the city and what successes they had as a result of collaborating would be a great way for us to learn about what positive ways NAs can support and enhance our neighbourhoods. Host them in neighbourhoods that have had success so folks can see it first hand. Maybe all of this is already happening, but I have been unaware of it, but as I mentioned, COVID and working from home has made community much more valuable to me now.

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 09:49 AM

As people move into a neighbourhood, the city could send that new resident information about the neighbourhood association. Then the new resident can choose if they want to connect with that association or not.

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 09:59 AM

I am a dedicated member of the Westwood Lake Neighbourhood Association, aka 'Friends of Westwood,' a vibrant well-established group that has served its residents well when needed, despite the obvious intention to impose new arbitrary definitions and terms of engagement. I have volunteered and dedicated my time and energy out of a sense of duty to our community without receiving remuneration or project funding of any kind. I have seen numerous Plan Nanaimo, Official Community Plans and Reimaginings come and go, replaced by moving goalposts for new development approvals. I view our flexible and issue-driven structure as one of our strengths, resulting in better staff interactions, without the obstacle of having to exist in a 'homogenized approved fashion.' There has never been any problem with less formalized representation. The only objection has come from property developers, who don't live in our neighbourhood, and are not held to the standard intended to be imposed on us. Once again, you are asking us to choose between being independent and disempowered, or compliant and ignored. I do not believe the concept of formalization of neighbourhood groups is fair or democratic. For almost 35 years, we have faced issues, had support of staff, and presented at council without bias or

discrimination. Please continue to show respect for our time and dedication, and our own assessment of what organizational structure works best for our community goals. This current mayor is promoting a new litmus test of false purity, a heinous exercise in delegitimization. He needs to stop wasting City's and our time and energy and resources and pay more proper attention to our concerns.

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 10:38 AM

We have a great team that is always in touch with each other on things important to us be it with regards to the City, programs at the lake, animal sightings on our trails, recycle and refuse days etc etc, we dont need any further structure to be informed or effective as an association.

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 10:56 AM

Perhaps it would be sensible to first update boundaries/areas of each neighbourhood especially as the city has grown since this was last established - some are small and manageable and others broad and extend beyond what would be acceptable for any one person or a neighbourhood group of people to work with effectively. I truly hope this is the last request for our feedback and I have answered these questions many times over the past 12 months. Our strong group of neighbours will continue to work together as the need arises. We will make representation to Council as individual community members, if necessary, as long as existing procedures allow.

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 10:57 AM

Have an annual community engagement in person (not digital) session where neighbourhood associations can sit together and also mix with other neighbourhood associations. It has been done.

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 11:22 AM

Seems like not everyone has need for this. I read about it but was not requested or advised. Very hard to believe all our area was not informed university area I know there is more than one block watch supervisor in this area. bernyis@gmail.com

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 12:13 PM

In large neighbourhoods such as Harewood, trying to represent people is very difficult as it is such a large area. We need other methods of engagement - town hall meetings etc

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 12:24 PM

As much as I think people volunteering their time and providing their input is amazing. I worry that too often neighbourhood

associations are made up of just a few outspoken individuals wanting "credibility" of a neighbourhood association behind them and they aren't actually a strong and inclusive voice of all those who live in that area. But I wish I had a simple solution on how to get more people involved. My best suggestion is to set up booths in the area and get the opinion from those who are actually visiting/using the space already or using space nearby already. For example parents who have an hour or more to sit and watch their kids at a baseball or soccer practice would be a great target. If I had the chance to win a West Coast Mom prize (big umbrella, \$25 GC to starbucks to warm up, headlamp for being able to go for a walk and maybe GC to soccer world or sport check to buy my kids new cleats) I'd sure sign up to provide feedback. Also, have you seen how many people attend soccer Saturday's at Beban??! You set up a booth with free coffee/hot chocolate in exchange for a quick survey and I bet you'd be happy with the numbers collected! To me this would be a way to capture a more rounded sample group of residents. I also would encourage to keep it easy. Registering to use this site deters is just one extra step to remember a password etc and I bounce off. I do understand why, because you don't want the same people filling it out over and over again but ultimately it doesn't feel like a good enough reason to have to take that extra step. Just my thoughts!

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 12:42 PM

I have been a part of the neighbourhood association closest to me for a few years, including as a director. I have found that unfortunately these groups — despite often meeting organizational criteria — can tend to represent just the viewpoints of a handful of its loudest members. The membership base is often miniscule compared to the population of the community it represents and can't be seen as representative. I think community associations have their place but they should not be seen as the be all/end all for community engagement. I would much prefer other methods such as letters and surveys sent out to postal codes regarding nearby development and online survey tools. If you are going to keep using neighbourhood associations to opine on things, pls ask them to provide an accurate account of true members. I think you'll be surprised how many ppl these associations actually represent — it's often not many.

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 01:22 PM

The decisions that our Neighbourhood Association makes are not clear and favor developers over the decisions of the people who live here - including making harmful recommendations to the feel of a neighbourhood. There should be some sort of oversight

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 07:20 PM

I think it is important for the City to have one contact person in the neighbourhood association as a contact person, not only for the City but newcomers to the neighbourhood as well. Support to neighbourhood associations should be based on proposals and needs of the community.

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 08:13 PM

Send out proposed developments to the neighbourhood association.

Screen Name Redacted

10/26/2021 09:02 PM

As a group we have said before we do not want criteria placed upon us.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 04:34 AM

Ensure all residence and property holders within the boundaries of effected associations have timely access to all digital communications between the city and the association. All communications should be on an open forum with access for all public feedback.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 06:03 AM

Hire new police. They are very comfortable doing nothing. We all know they advance by the tickets they write. I will not stop Suggesting this until I see better action from the Nanaimo RCMP

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 06:49 AM

Not at this time

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 07:23 AM

You omitted the largest neighbourhood association, Stephenson Point from your list. Just goes to show how little you really care.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 07:59 AM

I would like the city to do more on crime and drug rehab. The drug addicted criminals are destroying our home town.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 09:49 AM

That the city should take into account how many people are actually members of respective community associations when taking into consideration the opinions of community associations.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 09:58 AM

I believe the City should support neighborhood associations by communicating directly with them on matters that affect each community, as long as the NA can be considered a trusted source of information that is honestly reflecting the views of the majority. I

don't believe the City should offload any responsibilities onto the NA, such as enforcement of bylaws, or determining if/what development takes place. Residents and NA's should have a voice at the table, but ultimately it must be up to the professional, educated and informed staff to make development decisions and/or recommendations to city council.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 10:32 AM

ask university and grade 12 students to help out and get involved in their community.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 11:10 AM

Seeing as I do not know if there is actually a neighborhood association there is a definite need to have the ability to access it if it exists. I would assume it should be accessible through a easy to use website link on the cities website along with publication that it exists. If it does exist how is the executive selected or are they appointed?. How long is there current term?. Are there any minutes? How does one contact the association?

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 11:53 AM

From what I know of neighbourhood associations in Nanaimo there is a lot of disparity in their structure and function. I suspect education and mentoring together with some financial support will be needed for all associations to be comparable.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 02:15 PM

Don't be dismissive and condescending

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 03:21 PM

Contact through block captains...who can forward to members

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 03:58 PM

Listen to what the "Neighborhoods" are telling you

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 05:07 PM

If the City is going to engage with neighbourhoods, the City must run neutral meetings in each neighbourhood so that all members of the neighbourhood can safely give input. With no rules on how associations are formed or run, some associations have devolved into representing a very small minority of the local community.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 06:03 PM

Really appreciate when City liaison attends the NOCA meetings. However, likely, pandemic related, there seemed not to be follow

up on the promised revamp of the OCP for OCQ. I had asked to be involved.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 07:28 PM

Get real on your thinking - so change is good but you people are going over board with some things, ie - bike lanes, not setting up proper bus stops (sometimes 24 vehicles behind a bus on Hammond bay Rd), trying to make downtown a place for people to go when it's not safe to do so, many many other things.....most often suggestions falling on deaf ears.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 07:45 PM

City Staff should be more respectful of the energy, time, and donations of residents and volunteers. If Staff are too overworked to acknowledge, respond or act on resident concerns then it is incumbent on management to identify the shortfall and press for more manpower. If they do not believe residents concerns are legitimate then residents and volunteers are deserved a straight answer. If residents concerns do not rate as a priority, then Staff should be able to show what are the priorities and explain why. Staff's default position at present appears to be wary or downright distrustful on most issues raised by residents, either because it may tax their limited time, represent a new idea, or challenge the current thinking among staff. Staff should coordinate among departments of how resident requests are entered into the City's system, regardless of whether idea comes through individual residents, a neighbourhood association, or an ad-hoc group of residents. In the end, all of these represent residents trying to make their neighbourhoods better and more responsive to their needs.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 07:54 PM

Give notice of actions affecting the neighbourhood e.g.. reduction of riparian zone; rezoning, as soon as the application to the City is made

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 08:26 PM

That is assuming I know how the city engages and supports our neighbourhood association. I don't know.

Screen Name Redacted

10/27/2021 08:44 PM

Some departments seem to be reluctant to engage neighborhood associations for input.

Screen Name Redacted

10/28/2021 07:09 PM

1) I cannot vote on whether or not neighborhood associations should be required to meet criteria without knowing the criteria! 2)

What are the criteria? They should allow a variety of associations, not just geographic. Interest groups, overlapping geographic groups, volunteer groups, etc. We should maybe quantify the actual citizen voice behind each group so one group with few citizens but lots of funding isn't over-heard (such is the case with developers and business associations). 3) I don't have a neighborhood association in my area, I tried joining an adjacent area's association and they wouldn't let me. I've thought about creating a group but would it meet your criteria?

Screen Name Redacted

10/28/2021 08:37 PM

Nice to encourage neighborhoods to come together for discussion of neighborhood improvements and increase sense of community.

Screen Name Redacted

10/29/2021 02:06 AM

Oh I dont know maybe actual listen to the people of this city instead of passing the buck each time

Screen Name Redacted

10/29/2021 06:03 AM

Have regular updates that get sent out to keep the community aware of what is happening and being worked on

Screen Name Redacted

10/29/2021 08:10 AM

The city could provide information regarding the association to new residents to the neighbourhood. The city could provide funding for a neighbourhood association newsletter.

Screen Name Redacted

10/29/2021 10:35 AM

One option to consider is to require neighbourhood associations to become registered non-profits. The province sets the standards. The rules for incorporation would have to include regularly contacting and working with its members (the residents). The more members it has the more seriously the City could take that association. Apart from having a more robust representation being incorporated as a non-profit would also expand the options for engaging in projects because the community association could have a bank account.

Screen Name Redacted

10/30/2021 11:08 AM

As I said above, I live in Harewood, where there is a neighbourhood association. I have tried to be involved at this level but in the end I concluded that the HNA by no means represents the broad interests and needs of a community the size of Harewood. While I admire the hard work of some of the folks involved with the HNA, I feel that they focus on their individual interests and passions for the most part, and do nothing to consult the full community about concerns and wishes. It is a huge area

and I grant that trying to gauge the views of Harewood would be an undertaking, but if the HNA can't do this, I would prefer that the City take on this task. A current example, which pertains to Sixth Street is an indication. Yes, there is a lot of traffic on Sixth Street, as there is on many, many other roads in Harewood. This is partially a result of unbridled development with no consideration for the impact on the existing neighbourhood - sadly a pattern in Nanaimo. Not sure what the latest wish is, but at one time they were wanting to have traffic directed to Fifth and then turn on Howard. All this does is move the problem to some other "neighbours" away from the street that several of the people who are part of the HNA live on. Not sure what sort of consultation they have done, but I live on Fifth and have seen nothing. This is one example of many.

Screen Name Redacted

10/30/2021 03:15 PM

This depends on whether the City is truly interested in hearing from neighbourhoods regarding development issues, concerns about theft, tent cities or whether this is just an opportunity for the City to receive the information and not act on it. For example, the downtown neighbourhood was once a place to appreciate. It is now a "do not go" because of the violence, panhandlers, fencing and tents. A new hotel, a long overdue plan, is being built beside the Nanaimo Convention Centre. It should attract more convention business, but unless the City Council starts to address the situation downtown repeat business will be hard to get. This is just one example of Re-Imaging Nanaimo. What is the overall plan for Nanaimo? Fencing every park and bars on windows doesn't present a very safe city to visitors. The increase in Block Watch areas must be a signal to the City that something is very wrong.

Screen Name Redacted

10/31/2021 08:27 AM

The City should send notices and plans of new developments in residential areas. Instead of just having a new house(s) "appear" with no notification to the existing residences, a notification to our community association would at least let residents know what the new development would look like and how it would affect our existing neighbourhood.

Screen Name Redacted

10/31/2021 08:29 AM

Continue funding (promote existing funding opportunities) for block party events with staff support for how to involve your street/neighbors. When these events are run by the city they are too formal and people are not interested to engage. When the focus is social, fun and run by people you may know over time and relationship building there is so much more opportunity for quality conversation, idea generation and people caring to take the time to

give input.

Screen Name Redacted

10/31/2021 09:39 AM

I think the associations should not hold their dealings with the city in secrecy. If you're not a member here, you don't get any info. Yet if you join, you're not in the clique so you get no info either

Screen Name Redacted

10/31/2021 01:00 PM

honesty

Screen Name Redacted

11/01/2021 08:45 AM

The city should be more interested in seeing each neighbourhood as a community-what works in one may not work in another-blocks of people surrounding new builds etc should be contacted not just houses 100 meters from a new build as it impacts the whole community.I was so excited when I moved here to live in a pretty city by the sea,but the reality has been sad and maddening.Projects are going where it really doesn't make sense-the people paying taxes and your salaries are not being looked after or listened too,and that is so depressing.In a nut shell the city could listen.To the community,to the associations...to the people.That would be a start.I mean really listen.

Screen Name Redacted

11/01/2021 03:02 PM

City Hall needs to make information available to each area of the city without forcing people into an ongoing group that would require time and money spent when there are no known issues for that area. We do not want to have regular meetings when there is nothing to discuss. However we do need to know when there may be issues in the works that would require our input.

Screen Name Redacted

11/01/2021 03:02 PM

Mail outs on community groups etc. should be included in City Water bills. The more informed tax payers are, the greater amount of community input and involvement.

Screen Name Redacted

11/01/2021 10:12 PM

NA's will never truly be able to represent the entire community. A Ward system would be the only true representative position.

Screen Name Redacted

11/01/2021 10:39 PM

I have the feeling that the neighbourhood association structure hasn't really been addressed in years. I think it's really great for the city to want to communicate with its members, but when it comes to things like local zoning and building design and much of the communication that happens between the city and the neighbourhood, the calibre of delivery really depends upon the

neighbourhood association. Most neighbourhood associations are short on volunteers and short on the ability to communicate with their neighbourhood. There seems to be a Lack of clarity about whether being a BOD member of a community association means that you get to make the decisions on behalf of the neighbourhood or whether being a BOD member of a community association means that you need to be the voice of the community, even if your opinion does not match the community's position. Also, from what I've Experienced, communication between the city and the community association is much stronger as a whole, than communication between the community association and the community. And so it would appear that community associations are there simply to rubberstamp the city's initiatives, even though that may not be the case. in my own community association, while the meetings are regular, there are no documented notes... The message is that if you want to know what's going on in the community you need to turn up at the monthly meeting. If I have to work too hard to be part of the neighbourhood, I just won't bother. Even though I would like to be an active part.

Screen Name Redacted

11/02/2021 12:53 AM

Well, instead of the police or city doing another survey to tell us that the crime isn't as bad as we feel it is- or that we are safer than we feel we are.. actually listen to the local people and get out on the street. There are unsavoury people circulating through our neighbourhood who were not there 10 years ago. Our neighbourhood is under constant surveillance by them. There is not a night that goes by without them doing the rounds to prey on the person who forgot to lock their car. I'm not sure where they all come from. Where is supportive housing? Why do we seem to inherit other municipalities problem folk? It's like Nanaimo has become a magnet for people struggling with addiction and homelessness. The downtown of Nanaimo is shameful, I used to love going down there. But now it's terrible to walk down Commercial - walking on the street is to be assailed by miscreants- don't even think of having a pleasant outdoor patio meal & to drive by Port place and south from there is downright disturbing . And I certainly don't want to take my bike down there. There's no where to safely lock it away. It's shameful that Nanaimo's tax paying citizens are increasingly unable to enjoy the city that they pay for. The whole situation needs to be moved and there needs to be stricter policing and rules. Downtown Nanaimo needs to be seriously cleaned up. Supportive housing is a place to start. I'm all for human rights, I support the food bank, the united way, the spca monthly. This is such a frustrating situation, it's so unreasonable. I may just leave town. This whole situation is unacceptable. I think the mayor and town council should be taking to the street weekly

to see how bad it is. Maybe take your bike downtown and have it stolen to see how that feels. I feel taken hostage by this whole situation whereby me and my bike feel unsafe in our own home/yard/neighbourhood.

Screen Name Redacted

11/02/2021 08:52 PM

Communities build Communities its most important that the city involve neighborhoods in building communities in order to build true relationships and success. For future generations to enjoy.

Screen Name Redacted

11/03/2021 09:42 AM

The mayor & city council members need to acknowledge and respect that residents/members in neighbourhood association are more aware of the issues and concerns in their particular neighbourhood. It's not always a case of NIMBY. Nanaimo city councils are very disrespectful to residents who pay taxes and elect them. Having been a life long resident and engaged member of the community, I'm very disappointed in the people I helped to elect.

Screen Name Redacted

11/03/2021 10:24 AM

Need a process for undertaking new and updating old neighbourhood plans. Most of the existing plans are old and out of date.

Screen Name Redacted

11/03/2021 10:49 AM

I know that on occasion there are valid opposing considerations taken by members and non-members in a neighbourhood. The NCA does not necessarily represent the WHOLE neighbourhood. The OTHER needs to be heard. By making representation too restricted can silence opposition.

Screen Name Redacted

11/03/2021 12:44 PM

I think that our concerns and input should actually be considered

Screen Name Redacted

11/03/2021 02:18 PM

The questions are worded awkwardly, I know there is not a neighborhood association that covers my area of departure Bay but can't state that.

Screen Name Redacted

11/03/2021 02:47 PM

Although we are located just inside the Linley Valley neighbourhood we feel that we are more closely aligned with the Long Lake area and activities there have more of an impact on our daily lives.

Screen Name Redacted

11/03/2021 02:49 PM

I think properly organized & representative neighbourhood organizations should be able to provide valuable input to City Council on future development & proposals. Particularly with regards to improving neighbourhood livability & social support structure.

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 06:45 AM

I live on Selby Street in Old City Quarter. There is an Old City Association that appears to represent residents with houses mainly between Prideaux and Pine Streets and an Old City Quarter Association representing businesses, however, City officials forget there are many residents of Strata Condos and Rental Apartments between Prideaux and Wallace that are not represented.

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 01:18 PM

City should be listening to and be more attentive to community issues. Public involvement (forget your slogans and lip service) should be actively listened to and engaged and not taken for granted.

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 02:20 PM

Ensure that the doughnut model includes "Political Voice" under the empowerment function with appropriate indicators; Hire a specialists who understands community engagement to advise all departments including planning, transportation, parks & rec etc on effective community engagement; Understand IAP2 and how to use it; ensure there is a community consultation section in all reports going to council; require that developers obtain community input on all development applications not just rezoning & OCP amendments; have council meet with neighbourhood associations at least once a year to discuss issues and challenges; involve community associations at the beginning of project proposals, not in the middle or at the end.

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 03:06 PM

I think the City does a poor job of public engagement. In the past there were more committees (ie safety, downtown etc.) that held meetings and published minutes and some transparency existed. Now there are far too many meetings held in camera where decisions are made that are far reaching and no public input is considered or recorded. Results are publicized but seldom is that process getting there. Time passes, then the taxpayer is hit with three consecutive years of tax increases in a row. Several neighborhood associations would have had a lot to say as would the Chamber of Commerce and many downtown businesses, but none were given an opportunity to provide input. Lack of transparency will inevitably lead to lack of trust. Council is elected

and is accountable to all city residents, they hire/appoint managers to ensure that is done, so all are responsible. There has be a means of appropriate two way communication.

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 05:33 PM

Would like to see neighbourhood plans recommence. There have not been any done for a long time and many of the older ones need updates. These provide a guideline for both the city when planning and for neighbourhoods to respond to requests for input into new developments and other initiatives in their neighbourhood.

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 06:53 PM

no

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 07:26 PM

There is an neighbourhood association for Diver Lake area called Wellington Association. From what I've been able to find out it is comprised of LESS than a 10 individuals who make decisions for the entire area. They do NOT promote themselves, do not seek input from residents in this area nor do they solicit concerns, ideas, updates. This small group has made decisions for this area but because they are not talking to people who live here they are not representing what the majority wants. When asked they said if people want to know what they're doing we are to contact them. I don't believe this is a valid group at all, does not represent more than a few individuals and shouldn't be considered a valid Neighbourhood Association.

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 07:30 PM

As mentioned in the above comment, the City could do far more to engage residents in all areas of the City about whether Neighbourhood associations exist in their residential areas as well as how to engage and connect with those associations. It should not be the responsibility of unpaid volunteer residents to do the work of staffing the requirements of what the information about Neighbourhood Association organizational criteria describes. Should the City wish to have the level of organization described at the beginning of this survey, Neighbourhood Associations should be given funding by the City to be able to hire staff to fulfill the duties outlined in the proposed criteria.

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 08:10 PM

I believe the city should listen carefully to the neighborhood association

Screen Name Redacted

I think the "old highway" divides the the Rutherford/Pleasant Valley

11/04/2021 08:10 PM

community and should be re-aligned.

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 08:35 PM

There should have to be a list of the members in the neighbourhood association. I know if one which inky has 9 members but claims to represent over 500. This is not acceptable. How do people find out about neighbourhood associations. Perhaps realtors could add contact information for the associations and provide it to new home owners.

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 08:39 PM

N/A

Screen Name Redacted

11/04/2021 09:30 PM

Maybe concentrate on more important things like finding neighbourhoods for our community members to live in?

Screen Name Redacted

11/05/2021 09:39 AM

Perhaps have a representative available to join a Nanaimo Neighbourhood Network (NNN) meeting or two.

Screen Name Redacted

11/05/2021 02:14 PM

This council hasn't engaged with neighbourhoods very well since they came into power- they have downloaded what they wanted without consultation and now that there is an election coming up they say they want input- they have been getting input since they came to power they just dont want THAT input that flies against whatever cockamamie plan they have

Screen Name Redacted

11/05/2021 07:34 PM

Maybe when there is an issue all residents of that association could be informed so there is a better cross section of opinions.

Screen Name Redacted

11/06/2021 06:55 AM

There should be an assigned city representative to liaise with the neighbourhood association who would spend time to understand and appreciate the specific issues of each area, with compassion.

Screen Name Redacted

11/06/2021 05:20 PM

Have more accessible staff and hours.

Screen Name Redacted

11/07/2021 03:10 PM

What criteria do you want Neighborhood Associations to fulfill? Remember we are volunteers. Becoming a non_profit society is out of the question! The city needs to get their act together and listen to Neighborhood Associations. It would save the city time and

money if you were just listen. Help all Neighborhoods to form Associations. The city needs to be more respectful of citizens voices in Neighborhood Associations!

Screen Name Redacted

11/08/2021 08:57 AM

No new to community and want to get involved

Screen Name Redacted

11/08/2021 03:23 PM

If there are consultations regarding individual neighborhoods, there should always be a streaming/virtual option available to do so as a requirement for meetings to enhance participation for those who cannot attend in person.

Screen Name Redacted

11/08/2021 04:35 PM

When something affects a neighbourhood and those on its borders (eg, the proposed pathway between Departure Bay and the ferry terminal area), something is mailed (eg enclosed in tax or other notice) to owners to let them know the information. Although classed as Linley Valley, I identify with Departure Bay more closely because of where I live.

Screen Name Redacted

11/08/2021 08:54 PM

None of the existing neighbourhood associations cover the specific area where I live (on Gorge Vale Place)

Screen Name Redacted

11/08/2021 10:04 PM

I loathe the idea of a neighbourhood association enforcing outdated, colonial, capitalist ideas of what a neighbourhood should be/look like, and most of the folks with time to volunteer in that capacity will be white retirees, which makes me worried for my BIPOC, front-yard-gardening household.

Screen Name Redacted

11/09/2021 07:36 AM

Provide the means to become organized neighbourhood associations for those areas that are not. It also would be nice for some guidelines that help standardize the structure for consistency across the different neighbourhood associations. I would like to also see incentives like annual or semi annual meetings with city and neighbourhood representatives. Thanks!

Screen Name Redacted

11/09/2021 08:53 AM

Be deeply aware of NIMBYS

Screen Name Redacted

11/11/2021 06:06 PM

new to area. looking for community information. I appreciate the City of Nanaimo Get involved program. thank you

Screen Name Redacted

11/12/2021 10:04 AM

Given that people have limited time and resources, how will the City help neighbourhood association executives with resources? Who is responsible for recruiting members/letting people know an association exists? Will there be support from City staff to let residents know there is a neighbourhood association in their neighbourhood that they can join? What is the criteria for establishing membership? For example, is a landlord who does not live in the neighbourhood but owns property a member? Can renters be members? How does the association demonstrate they have engaged with their membership? Is there a minimum threshold of resident members to keep an association accurate? If there is a more formalized structure to the associations, will the meeting minutes need to be sent to the City for filing? Will the executive be responsible for filing a formalized annual report? Please do not place an undue burden on volunteers who simply want to contribute to making vibrant and healthy neighbourhoods.

Screen Name Redacted

11/12/2021 03:34 PM

over complicating how associations operate could discourage feedback and community support, but having a basic structure and guidelines will ensure that the information or requests being passed to the City has the neighbourhood consensus or majority.

Screen Name Redacted

11/13/2021 12:34 PM

The City should provide more indoor tennis facilities commensurate with the size of the city and the demand for more racquet sports

Screen Name Redacted

11/13/2021 01:27 PM

Get off your *** ***** do something about the speeding traffic on Bradley Street!

Screen Name Redacted

11/13/2021 03:05 PM

Add more pickleball courts

Screen Name Redacted

11/13/2021 04:53 PM

Avoid imposing onerous criteria that restricts input from neighbourhood associations!

Screen Name Redacted

11/14/2021 08:55 AM

Continued direct involvement with city planning though neighborhood associations is a great communication tool.

Screen Name Redacted

11/14/2021 09:18 AM

Visit labour council meetings

Screen Name Redacted

11/14/2021 09:29 AM

Provide oversight for neighbourhood associations. Too many become toxic echo chambers that descend into classist, ableist goon squads- prime example Newcastle. Housing is a right.

Screen Name Redacted

11/14/2021 10:54 AM

Transparency on any development in area

Screen Name Redacted

11/14/2021 02:55 PM

Listen to individual criticism also. I have contacted city Hall twice with no satisfaction at all. Just pushed to back burner

Screen Name Redacted

11/14/2021 04:50 PM

This survey could have briefly explained the requirement or benefit of more process for neighbourhood associations. If it doesn't already exist, my suggestion is that IF more process is necessary, then Nanaimo will also provide transparent guidelines for council and staff on what the City will do in response to "organized" neighbourhood association complaints and expressions of need in a reasonable amount of time.

Screen Name Redacted

11/14/2021 07:41 PM

Multiple methods would help reach more people for out reach

Screen Name Redacted

11/15/2021 07:20 AM

The City should be prioritizing community volunteer policing. There is simply no police capacity in this City to keep pace with criminal activities. This can be done through community volunteers.

Screen Name Redacted

11/15/2021 04:07 PM

It's news to me that my neighbourhood has an association at all, and we've been here over 3 years. I would be concerned with how representative they are of the actual residents, so I favour a democratic system for determining them and a responsibility to poll and consult the residents before speaking on behalf of us.

Screen Name Redacted

11/15/2021 04:19 PM

Not at this time

Screen Name Redacted

11/15/2021 05:30 PM

Quarterly meetings that give both the neighbourhood association and the city an opportunity to state their priorities/wants for that part of town

Screen Name Redacted

11/15/2021 06:41 PM

I wish the City would actively promote neighbourhood associations, perhaps even certify them for specific areas, also provide them with meeting space and assistance with mailouts. I live just north of Rutherford Road, and we've had some very questionable eyesore developments approved here, destroying green corridors and forcing traffic onto quiet side streets. If only we'd had a certified neighbourhood association to keep voicing our concerns to the city council!

Optional question (109 response(s), 111 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question