

APPENDIX II

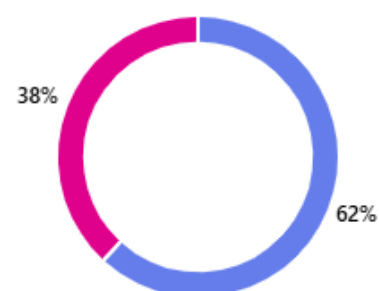
Swale Borough Council Area Committees Review

Results of public survey carried out between 1 August and 31 August 2025

(54 responses received. Text responses have been summarised using AI)

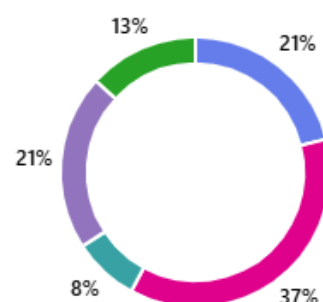
1. Before taking part in this survey, were you aware that area committees take place in Swale?

● Yes	34
● No	21



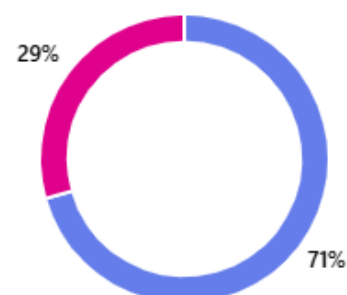
2. Where did you find out about area committees?

● Social Media	8
● Parish/Town Council newsletter/email	14
● Inside Swale	3
● Word of mouth	8
● Other	5



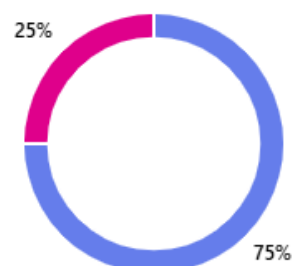
3. Have you ever attended an area committee meeting (either in person or remotely)?

● Yes	24
● No	10



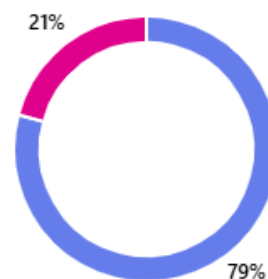
4. If you have ever attended an area committee meeting either in person or remotely, did you feel you were able to take part in the discussions?

● Yes 18
● No 6



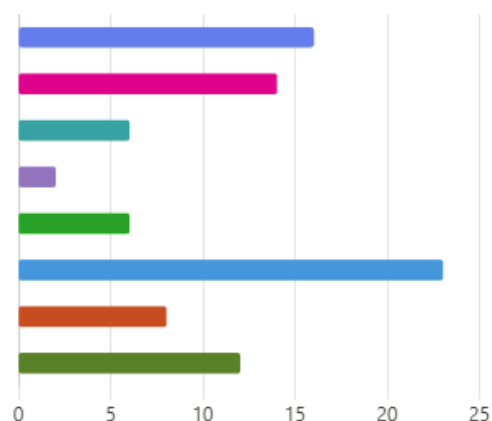
5. If you have ever attended an area committee meeting either in person or remotely, did you find the information provided was of interest and relevant to you?

● Yes 19
● No 5



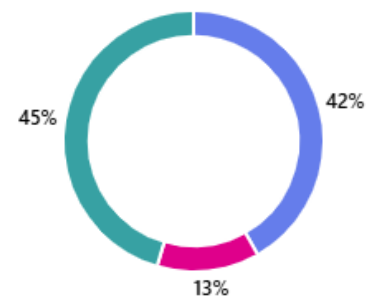
6. What might stop you attending area committee meetings in future? (select all that apply):

● Family commitments 16
● Work commitments 14
● Lack of transport 6
● Internet issues 2
● No interest in the items to be discussed 6
● Not knowing when and where they take place 23
● Can't make evening meetings 8
● Other 12



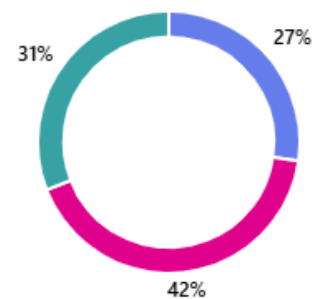
7. Would you be more inclined to attend in person if there was a session before the meetings where you could chat to councillors and representatives from other organisations?

Yes	23
No	7
Maybe	25



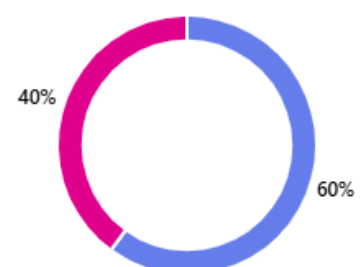
8. Would you be more inclined to attend either in person or remotely if more community/voluntary/faith groups attended?

Yes	15
No	23
Maybe	17



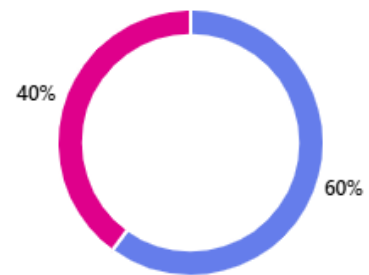
9. All area committees are hybrid meetings (you can either attend in person or remotely), if you were to attend, what would be your preference?

In person	33
Remote	22



10. Do you feel the name "Area Committees" describe what they are for?

● Yes	33
● No	22

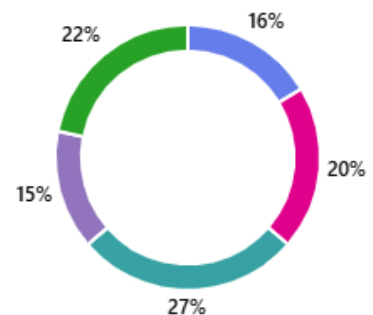


11. If you feel "Area Committees" is not the best name for the meetings, what would be a better name?

- Many respondents suggested names that emphasise local engagement and community focus, such as "Local Engagement Forum", "Town Meeting", "Community Action Forum", "Neighbourhood Meetings", and "Residents Forum".
- Some felt the current name is vague and does not clearly communicate the purpose or who should attend.
- There was a desire for names that make it clear the meetings are about local decision-making and encourage wider participation.

12. Do you know the name of the Area Committee for where you live? Please select from the options below:

● Eastern	9
● Sheppey	11
● Sittingbourne	15
● Western	8
● Don't know	12



13. What sort of things would you like discussed at future area committee meetings?

- Key topics included anti-social behaviour, policing, road and transport issues, planning and development, youth activities, litter, infrastructure, and community facilities.
- Many wanted discussions to focus on issues directly relevant to their local area and everyday concerns.
- Some respondents felt meetings were repetitive or not action-oriented, and wanted more strategic, impactful discussions.

14. What could be done to improve area committee meetings?

- Suggestions included better advertising and publicity (local papers, social media, direct mail), improved accessibility (venues, online options), and clearer communication about agendas and outcomes.
- Calls for more public participation, interactive formats, and visible follow-up on decisions.
- Some wanted meetings to rotate venues, use technology better (microphones, live streaming), and provide clearer identification of councillors.

15. If area committees were to be stopped, how would you like the Council to engage with you (seek your views and provide information)?

- Respondents favoured a mix of engagement methods: regular meetings led by councillors, pop-up events, street stalls, online surveys, email newsletters, printed communications, and face-to-face sessions.
- Many stressed the importance of maintaining local forums and not relying solely on digital channels.
- There was concern that stopping area committees would reduce opportunities for genuine engagement and transparency.