

Whalley Range U Decide Evaluation March 11

Introduction

£12,000 was allocated from Whalley Range Ward CASH Grant programme to hold a U Decide Event on 24 March 2011. The purpose of the event was to:

- Increase the number of people who feel that they can influence decisions in the local area
- Increase overall satisfaction with the local area
- Increase resident engagement and empowerment and improve community cohesion
- Enable people to identify improvements to the area and support in delivering those improvements
- Identify and engage with different residents and groups
- Increase the number of volunteers within the ward

Residents were encouraged to put forward project proposals to help improve their local area. The maximum amount for each bid was £1,200. 16 eligible project proposals were submitted to the value of £16,954.60. 98 people attended the event and 83 people voted on spending priorities. The following projects were funded:

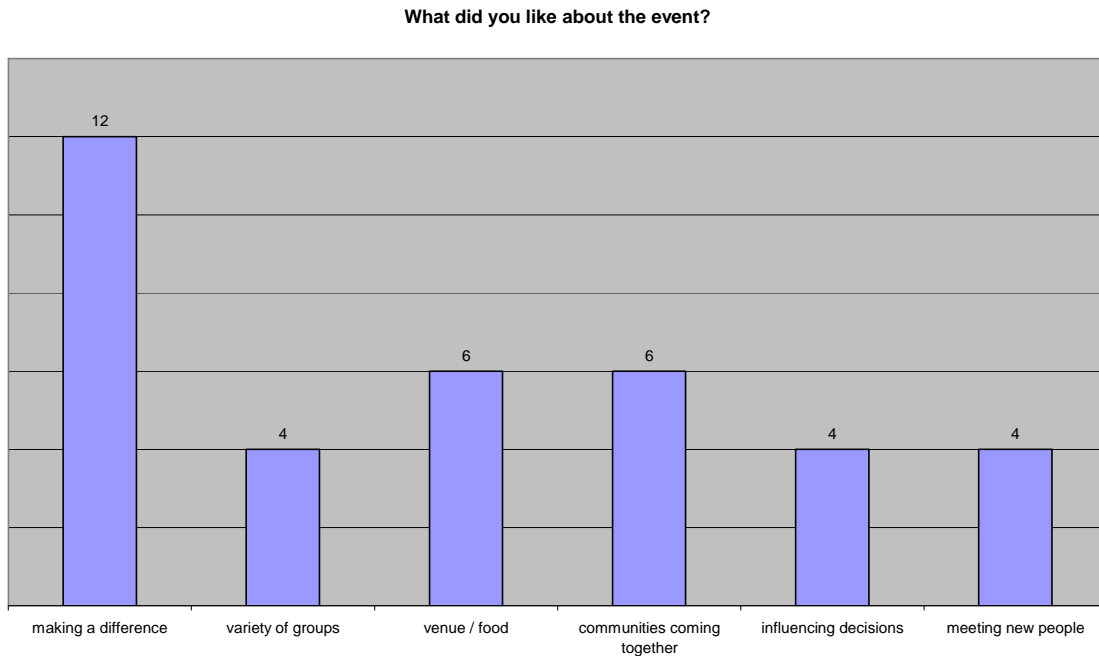
Project Title	Amount Awarded
Sisterhood Active Lifestyle Project	£1,200.00
ESOL Classes for Local Ladies	£930.00
Mover & Shakers women's keep fit	£259.60
Thai Boxing at Whiz	£1,200.00
Wellbeing Course for 60+	£1,200.00
Connecting the Young People	£1,200.00
Pedal M16 Learn + Earn	£1,000.00
Mapping Whalley Range 4 all	£900.00
Community Drop In	£1,200.00
Wildlife Survey Project	£1,200.00
Whalley Range Bat and Bird Project	£715.00
Clarendon Road Shopping Area "Bike Planters"	£400.00
Total	£11,404.60

The outstanding amount has been offered to the next highest project which was Friends Of Alexander Park tree sculpture project.

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Event Evaluation

Participants were asked to complete a feedback form following the event. 44 people completed evaluation forms (45%). Not all respondents answered every question on the evaluation form. Below is a summary of the results:

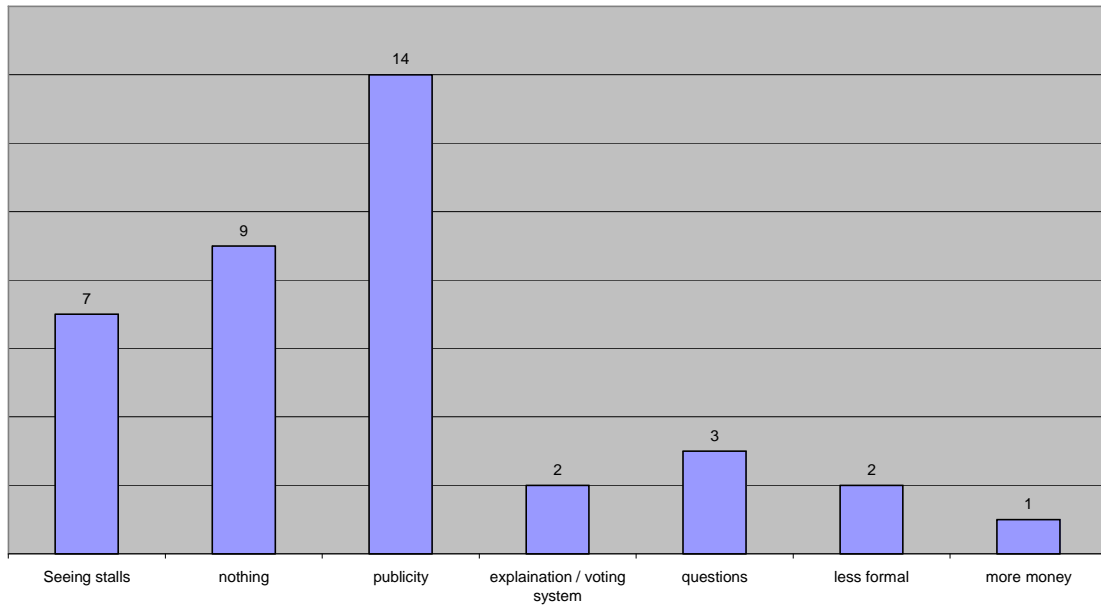


People said that they enjoyed making a difference in the local area, the venue / food, people / communities coming together, variety of groups presenting, ability to influence decisions, and meeting new people. Comments from participants included:

- “meeting many residents, listening to fantastic projects”
- “more people getting involved in local self help. Big society existed in Whalley Range long before this government”
- “the chance of making a difference in the local community”
- “it brings the community together”
- “local projects, local people grass roots”
- “fantastic opportunity to see what residents are doing and how MCC is contributing to enable projects to get going”
- “it made me quite emotional to see a community coming together - very warmed by it - we all do care!”
- “it will create cohesion and strengthen the intergenerational and multicultural society we have”

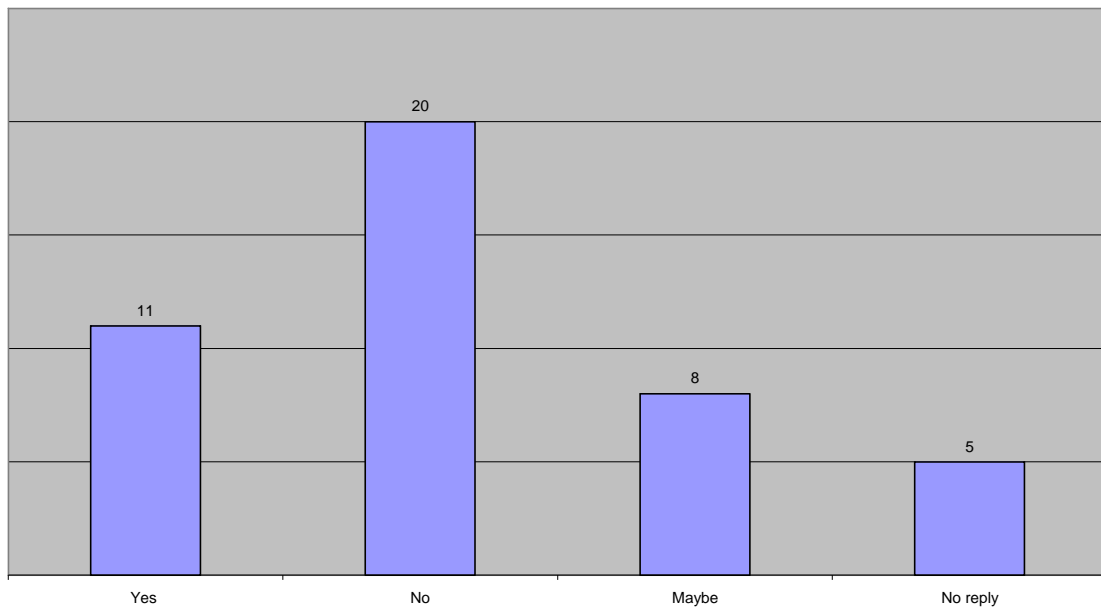
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What could have been improved?



The main areas that attendees felt could have improved the event included publicising the event, having the stalls in the same room as the event, better explanation of voting system or simpler voting system, less formal and more money for projects.

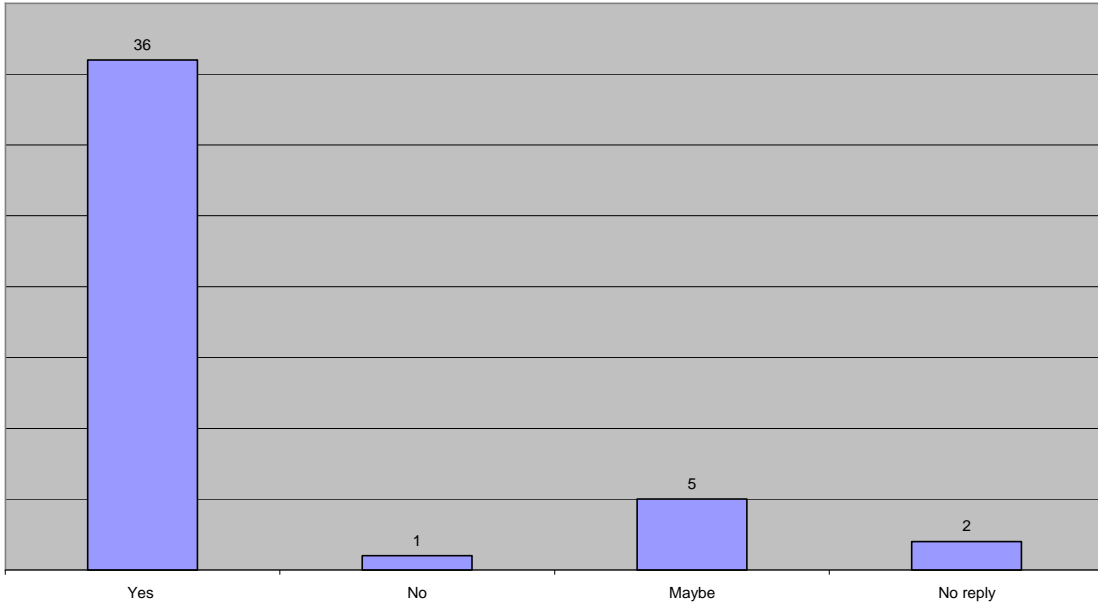
Prior to the event, did you feel you could influence local decisions?



Prior to the event only 25% of respondents thought that they could influence decisions in their local area.

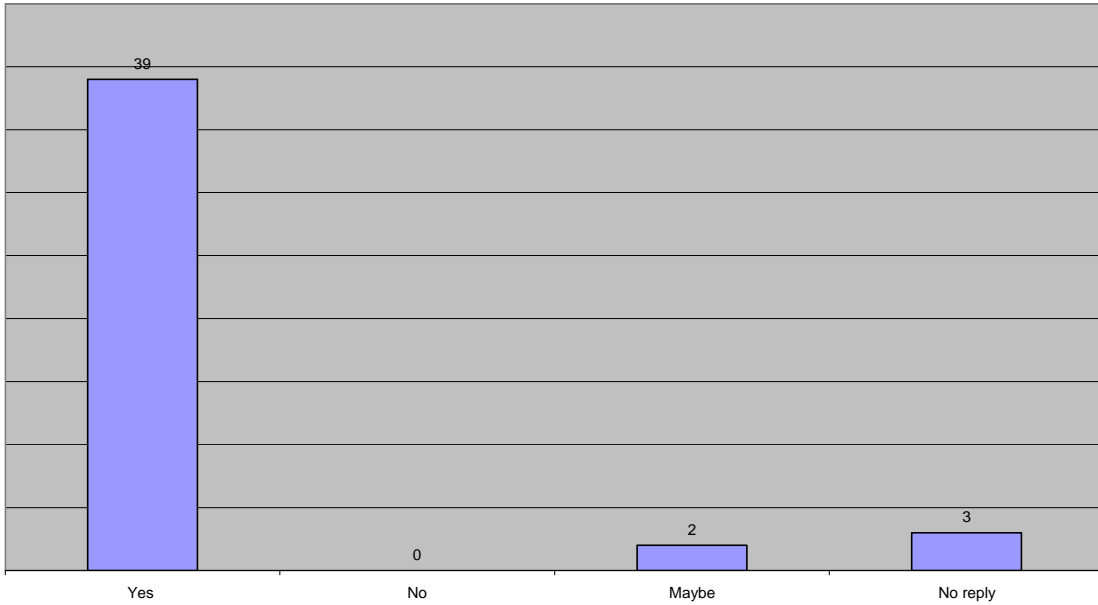
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Do you feel you have influenced local decision making by attending this event?



By attending the event, 82% of people felt that they had influenced decision making in their local area. A further 14% thought it was a possibility.

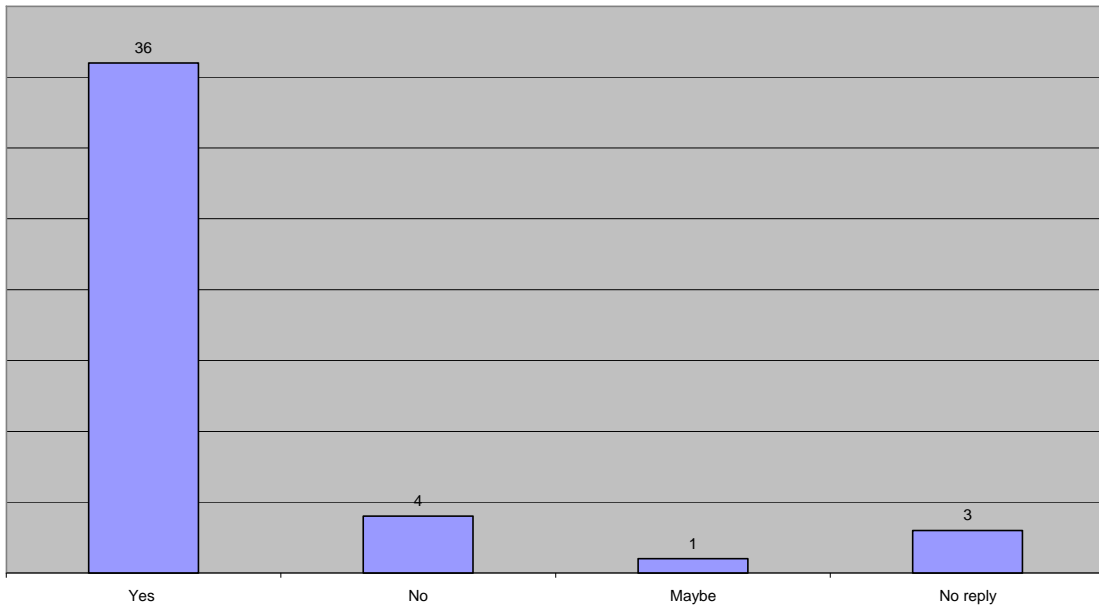
Will the funded projects improve Whalley Range?



89% of respondents said that the projects funded would help to improve the local area.

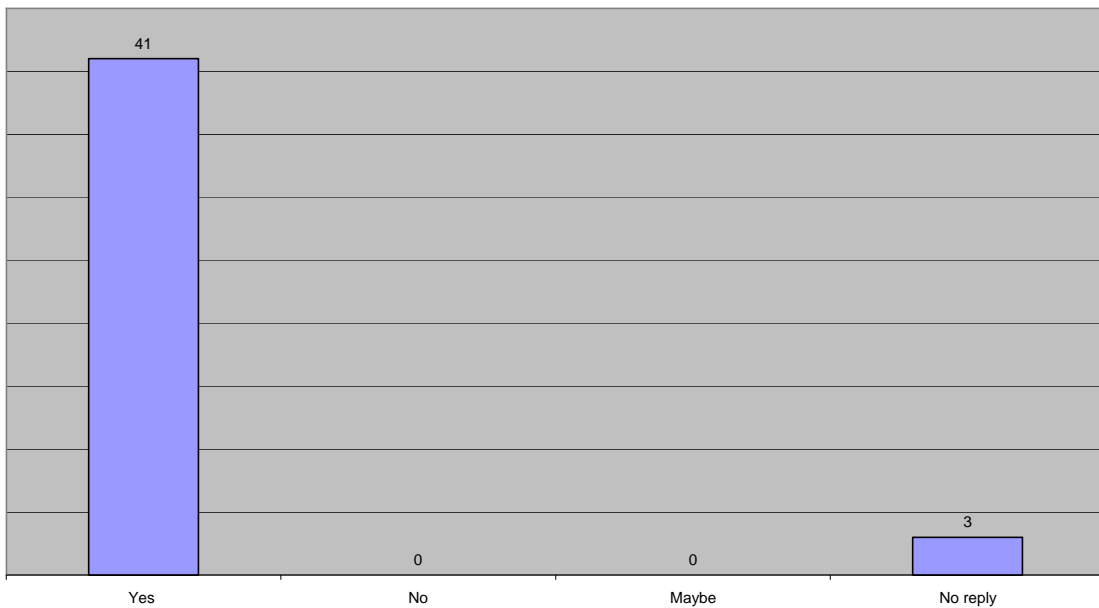
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Was the process fair?



82% of respondents said the process was fair. 9% felt that it wasn't fair and 7% said this was because not enough people knew about the event.

Would you attend future events?



93% of respondents said they would attend a future event.