

**CARRICKFERGUS**  
**GOOD RELATIONS AUDIT**

Carrickfergus Good Relations Audit was compiled by Hunter Facilitation in partnership with Carrickfergus Community Forum. The Audit was completed utilising over 250 Carrickfergus Borough Council Household Surveys (2008) Carrickfergus Community Forum Community Questionnaires, Desk-Top research and individual community group questionnaires.

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## Carrickfergus Deprivation Statistics

Carrickfergus is judged to be the 24<sup>th</sup> least deprived Council area of the 26 districts in the Province only Castlereagh and North Down Boroughs are above Carrickfergus in the Province.

However there remain significant pockets of deprivation located in areas within the Carrickfergus Borough. The Northlands ward is among the top 10% most deprived wards in the province and the Love Lane, Gortalee and Sunnylands wards are within the top 25% most deprived wards in Northern Ireland. In 2001 on census day 4.2% of the Boroughs population lived in a ward, judged to be in the top 10% most deprived in the province.

### **Measuring Deprivation**

Deprivation or Social Disadvantage is a difficult concept to measure. However studies have identified criteria, which can be used to identify areas of deprivation relative to others. The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 produced by NISRA is a measure of multiple deprivation at the small area level. It is based on the idea of distinct components or domains of deprivation which can be recognised and measured separately. The seven domains used by NISRA 2005 assessment covered the following issues,

- Income Deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Health Deprivation & Disability
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation
- Proximity to Services Deprivation
- Living Environment Deprivation
- Crime & Disorder

The extent to which these issues are experienced by individuals living in an area is assessed with people being counted as deprived in one or more of the domains, depending on the number of types of deprivation that they experience.

## Deprivation in Carrickfergus Borough

On a province wide scale, out of 26 District Council areas, Carrickfergus is placed 24<sup>th</sup> on the ranked measure of multiple deprivation. Strabane being 1<sup>st</sup> is deemed to suffer most deprivation and North Down at 26<sup>th</sup> the least.

The Boroughs overall ranking in Northern Ireland has improved with it rising from 21<sup>st</sup> place in 1994 after a slight fall to 20<sup>th</sup> place in 2000, this 24<sup>th</sup> place ranking therefore indicates an overall picture of affluence within Carrickfergus. When examined at ward level 10 out of the Boroughs 17 wards are placed in the 25% of least deprived wards in the province.

In relation to the percentage population of the Borough living in the top 10% and top 25% most deprived wards the figures are as follows. The total population of the Borough in 2001 was 37,659. Northlands is the only ward in the Borough ranked in the top 10% most disadvantaged its population was 1,592 on the last census day equating to 4.2% of the Boroughs population. The percentage of the Boroughs population living in the top 25% most disadvantage wards was 16.3%

The ranking of wards in relation to deprivation has also changed over the three assessments. In 1994 Clipperstown and Killycrot were judged to be the most deprived wards. In 2005 this ranking had changed, influenced by the new residential developments at the Marina and Minorca, leading to Northland and Love Lane being judged as the most deprived wards.

### MOST DISADVANTAGED WARDS

Ward Name	Deprivation Ranking Percentage	Population in 2001	Percentage Boroughs Population
Northlands	0-10%	1592	4.2%
Love Lane	10-25%	1487	3.9%
Gortalee	10-25%	1529	4.1%
Sunnylands	10-25%	1543	4.1%
			<b>Total 16.3%</b>

## Questionnaire Overview

Overview of questionnaire results from The Carrickfergus community survey, Carrickfergus Community Forum and Community group questionnaires. These are preceded by the Good Relations aims and objectives to address the Boroughs good relations issues.

In all of the groups questioned only one had a specific ethnic minority remit but most groups had equality statements or procedures in their organisation. The major issues within the Borough are anti social behaviour, vandalism and graffiti together with the 3 major dislikes about Carrickfergus ie; paramilitary behaviour, traffic to Belfast and lack of shops, 51% of people think that community spirit has declined in the area stating lack of community spirit, impersonal way of life and paramilitary influences as the main reasons. A question asked in the community survey was “ Do you feel people in Carrickfergus get on with people from different backgrounds?” The answer was surprising as 132 answered Yes but 77 said No or Don’t know. This could be addressed in highlighting issues faced by ethnic communities and addressing intra community issues.

The issues of racist or sectarian attacks was asked of seven groups covering all of Carrickfergus Borough and none were forthcoming but several punishment attacks had been highlighted. Out of the community group questionnaires the major good relations issues were the lack of cross community work being undertaken and the need for ethnic minority information sessions.

There are major good relations issues to be addressed in the Carrickfergus area and because of the unforeseen absence of the previous officer these still have to be addressed. Some of the issues from the previous audit still need to be addressed and are included in the aims and objectives below but the Council do need to move on and address additional issues such as highlighted by Duncan Morrow (CRC) at a local presentation, the issue of improving local identity needs to be addressed by making communities open and acceptable through addressing their physical appearance to make them more approachable for visitors, eg. look at the murals and kerbs and see if they are prohibiting visitors. This is something Carrickfergus has been addressing through the Re-imaging Communities programme but a lot more work needs addressed. All Carrickfergus community groups questioned in the group consultation requested ethnic minority training sessions and realised that this is of utmost importance, the consultation also highlighted that no racist or sectarian attacks had been realised in their area. The results of the consultation are attached at the end of this report.

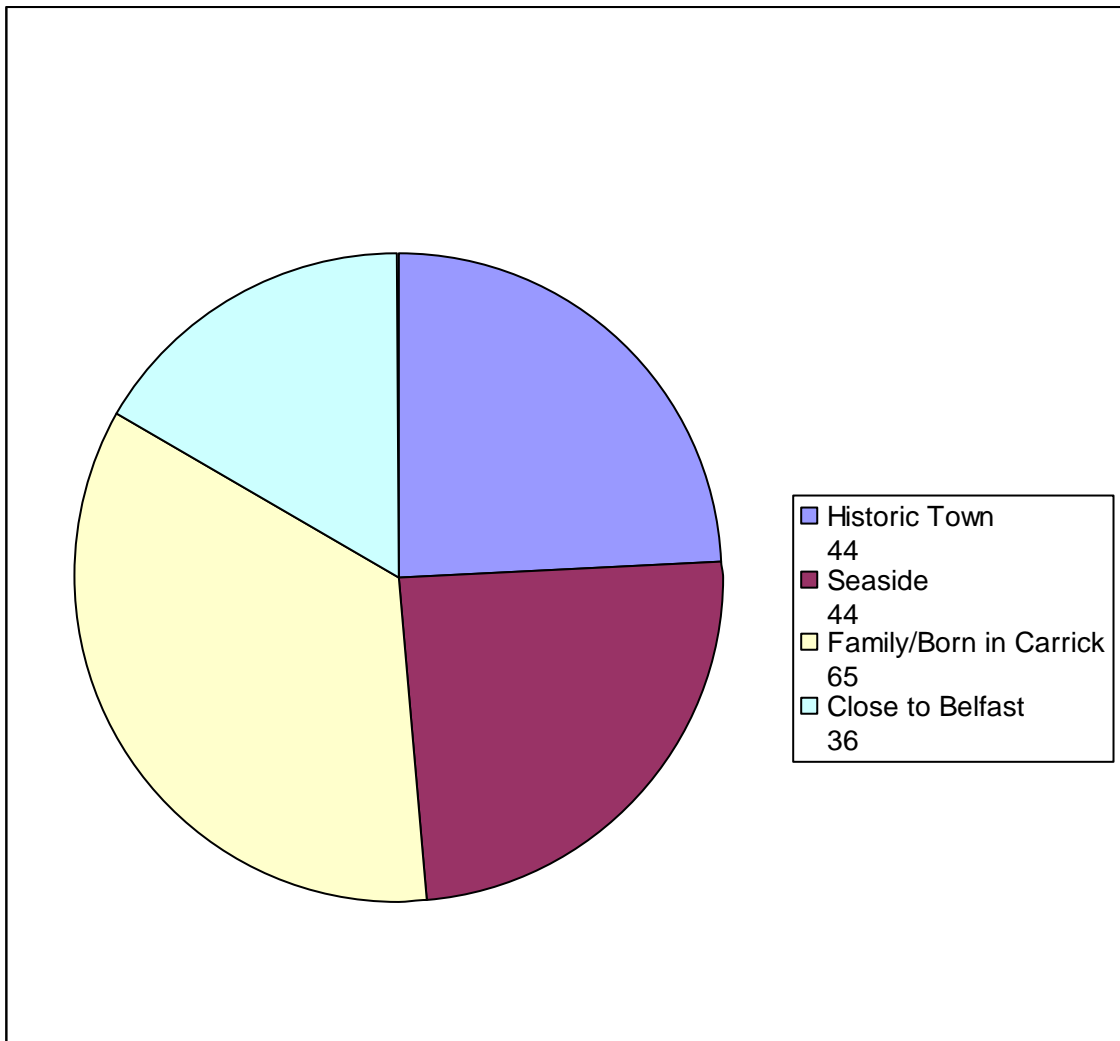
Below are the Carrickfergus Good Relations Aims & Objectives for 2008 onward.

<b>Borough specific issue</b>	<b>Evidence for this</b>	<b>Outstanding issue</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Anticipated outputs and outcomes</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Responsibility /interested organisations</b>
Appreciation of Ethnic minorities	Community Group questionnaire	A lot of groups and schools would like to learn about different ethnic minorities	Use Good Relations money & Council funds to deliver	A better understanding of issues faced by ethnic minorities.	2008 - 2009	Good Relations and Carrickfergus Council
Single Identity work leading to Cross community work	Community questionnaire and Community Group questionnaire	Community groups would like to develop intra and inter community contact	Use good relations and Council funding to develop contacts	Groups forge a sustainable partnership with similar groups	2008 -2009	Carrickfergus Council and Good Relations
Develop a relationship between public, Councilors & Council	Community questionnaire	Majority of public don't know how to approach Councilors or Council	Develop a public / Councilor forum	A better understanding of Councilors and Council	2008 2009	Carrickfergus & Good Relation Council
Develop a Community Good Relations Funding package	Public interest.	Good relation schemes not being funded	Use Good Relation to fund programme	More Innovative Good Relations programmes funded	2008 - 2009	Carrickfergus Good Relations
Schools visit enhanced to incorporate all aspects of Council	Schools interest	A more historical visit incorporating the Carrickfergus castle	Good Relations to fund additional cost	School kids get a more historical view of Carrickfergus	2008 - onward	Carrickfergus Good Relations

Addressing anti - Social Behavior.	All questionnaires	A lot of anti – social behavior in all areas of Carrickfergus	Good Relations projects developed to add additional activity for youth	Less anti social behaviour	2008 - onward	Good Relations, Carrickfergus Community Forum & Local YMCA
Bonfire Committee	Group contact and Community Safety	No representation currently on Bonfire Committee	Officer or Sub Committee Member on Bonfire Committee	A joined uop approach to this single identity issue	2008 - onward	Good Relations, Community Safety and Bonfire Committee
Ethnic Minority Awareness Events	Carrickfergus Community Forum questionnaire	No events organized	Organize events with ethnic minority groups for Schools, Community groups and Public	A better understanding of ethnic minority culture	2008 – 2009 Good Relations Week	Carrickfergus Good Relations
Training for Councilors and Council Staff	Highlighted in previous aims	Need for Councilors and Council Staff to be trained in Ethnic minority issues, equality issues and disabled training. (Eg sign language)	Good Relations to identify and deliver training	A better understanding of Ethnic minorities, equality and disabled issues.	2008 - onward	Carrickfergus Good Relations.

# QUESTIONS FROM THE CARRICKFERGUS BOROUGH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

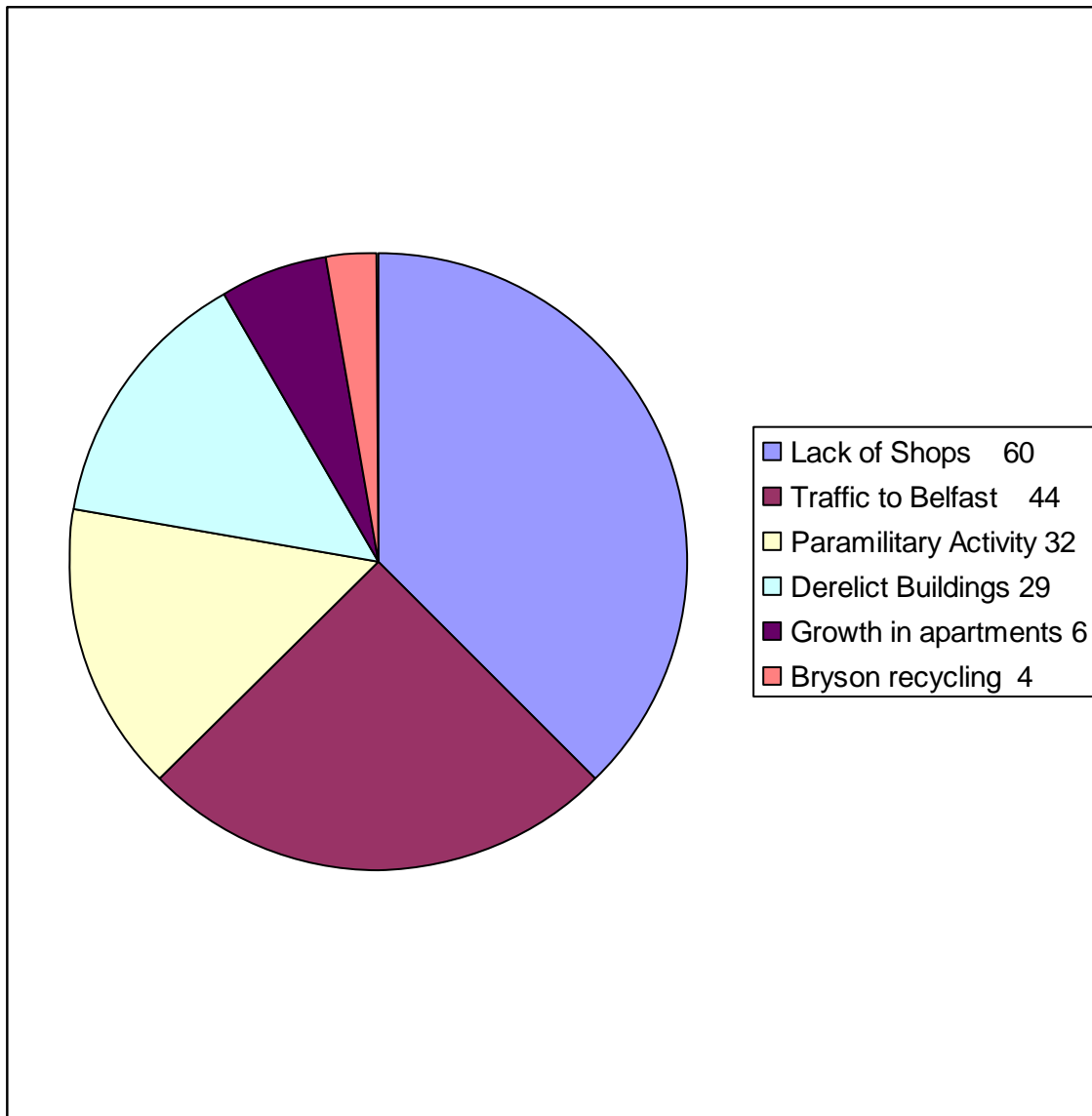
What do you like about living in Carrickfergus Borough?



## Other Reasons for liking living in Carrickfergus Borough

- Sports Clubs Carrickfergus
- Marina
- Close to Air Ports
- Good Schools
- House prices
- Good walks
- Good restaurants
- Peace, quiet and tranquillity Greenisland
- Location
- Rural
- Setting with Knockagh
- Community Aspect and Good for Kids Whitehead
- Community life
- Close to amenities
- Good Infrastructure

## What do you dislike about living in Carrickfergus Borough?



## **Other dislikes about living in Carrickfergus.**

- Negative Community attitude. Carrickfergus
- Litter
- Graffiti
- Rates
- Bunting around July
- Power-station
- Underage Drinking
- Smoking in-front of bars
- Litter, dog fouling Greenisland
- Lots of anti –social behaviour
- No Banks
- Too Small
- No Centre
- No place for youth to play
- Parking at school Whitehead
- Boy racers in car-park
- Poor shopping
- Anti social behaviour especially at train station
- No restaurants
- Pathway to lighthouse in disrepair
- Seniors vulnerable
- Teenage Groups

**Are you satisfied with your neighbourhood as a place to live?**

**Carrickfergus** Yes 148 No 27

Reasons for No =

- Derelict Houses
- Lack of play areas
- Anti social behaviour
- Some estates an eye sore
- Neighbours
- Lack of youth activity
- Don't feel safe at times
- Post office closure

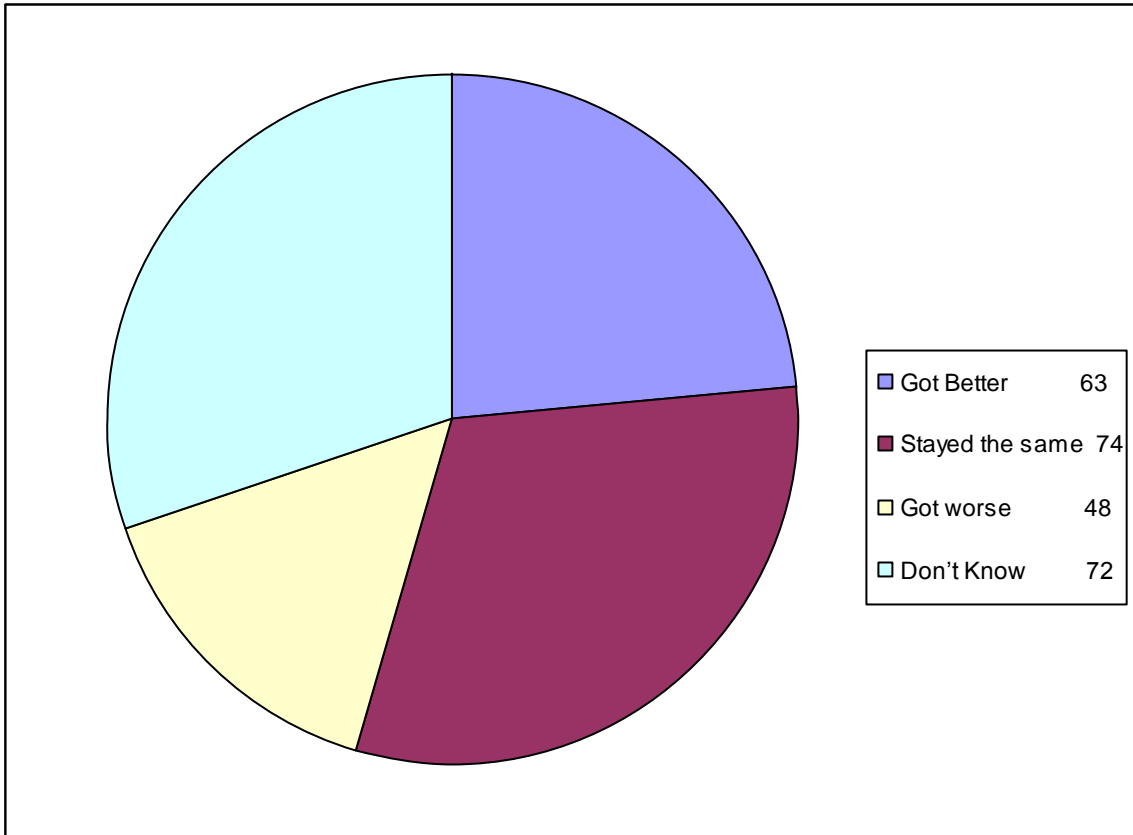
**Whitehead**

Whitehead Yes 19 No 0

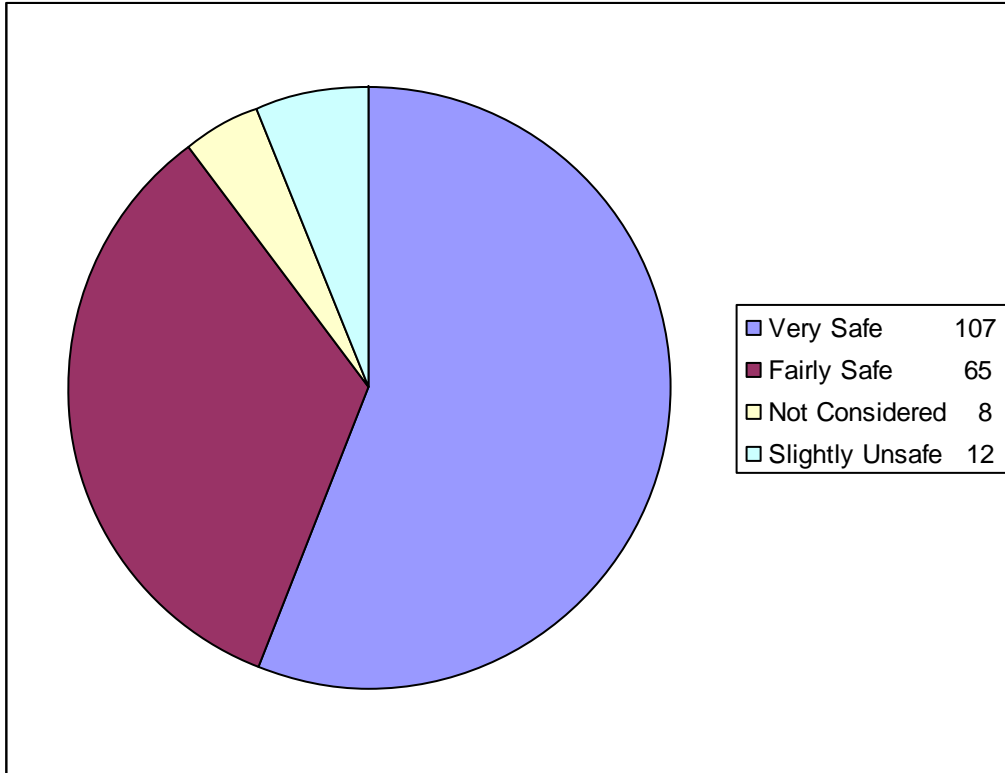
**Greenisland**

Greenisland Yes 18 No 0

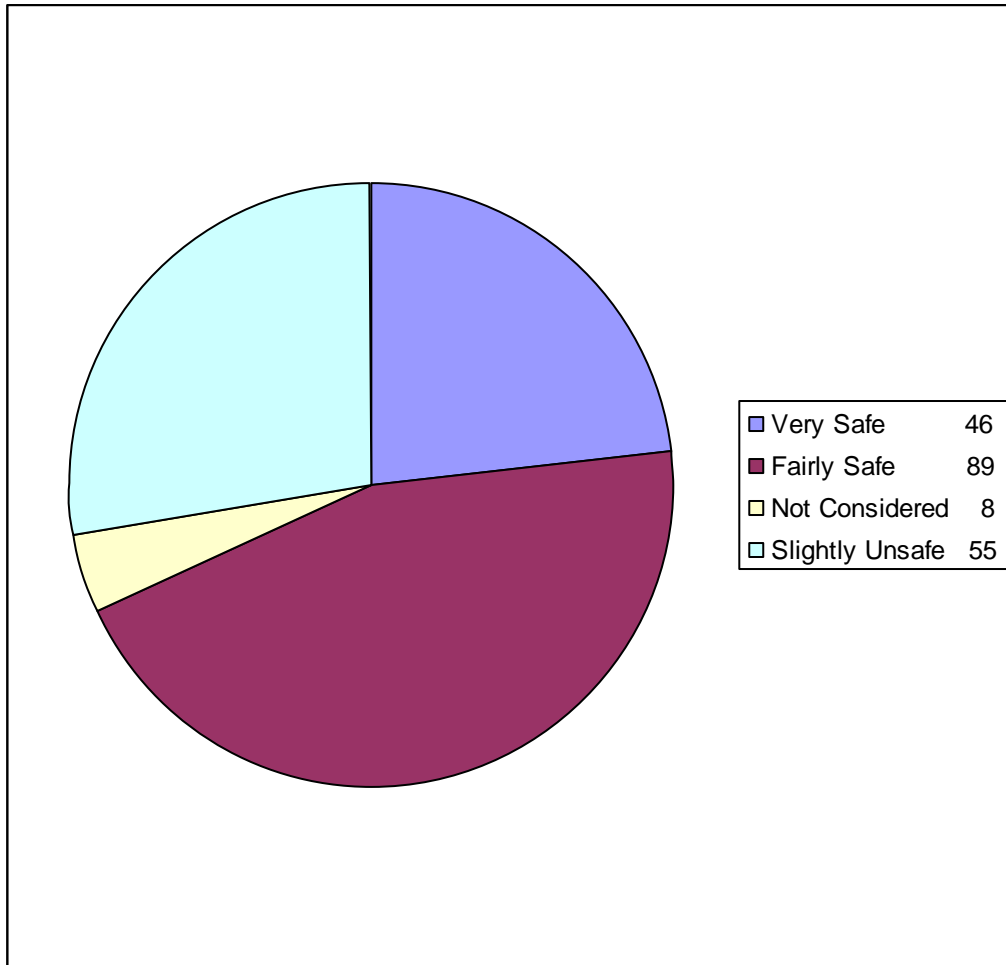
**Over The Past three years do you think that the Community Activities in Carrickfergus Borough has?**



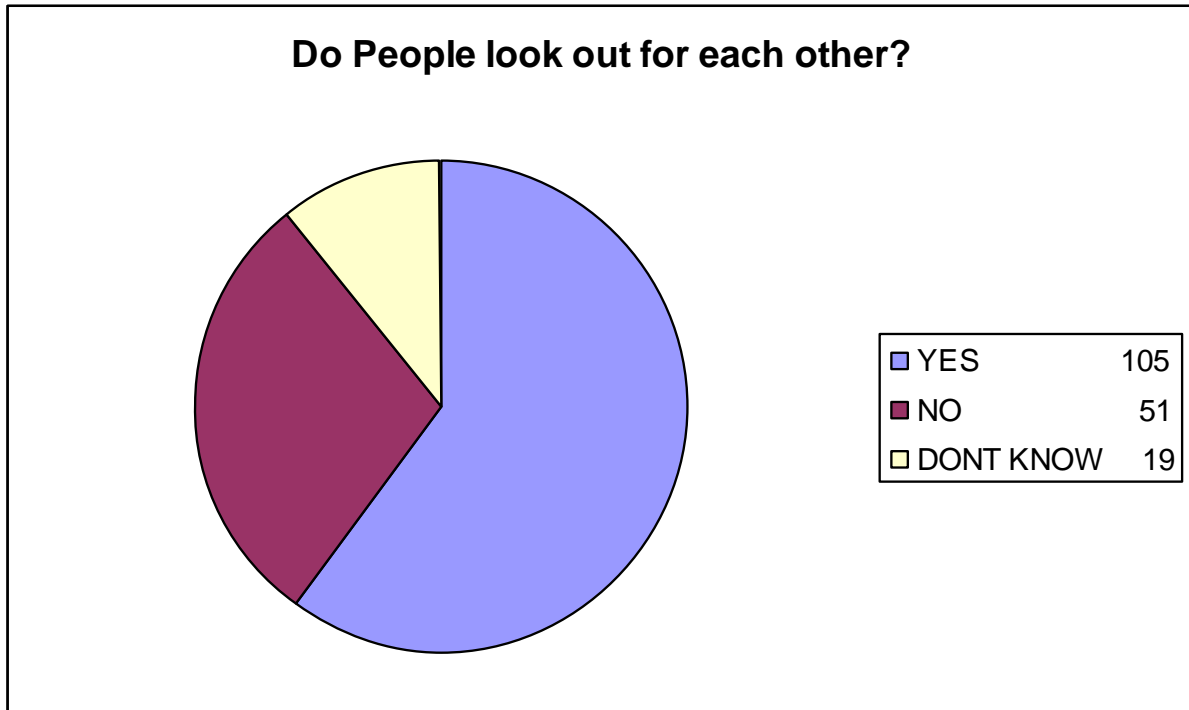
## During the Day do you feel Safe in Carrickfergus Borough?



## Do you feel safe after dark in Carrickfergus Borough?



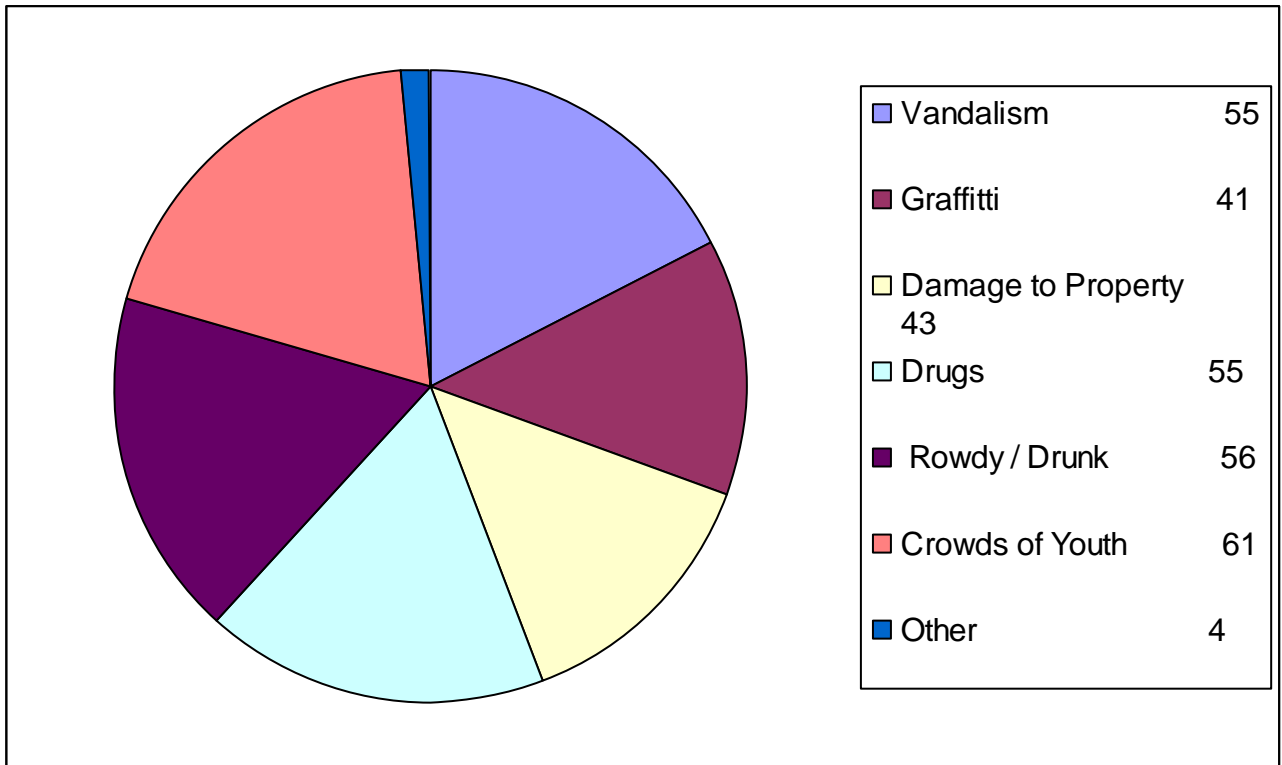
## Do you feel people in Carrickfergus Borough look out for each other?



Reasons for no answer....

- Lack of Community spirit
- More impersonal way of life now
- Paramilitary influences
- People afraid to get involved
- People keep to themselves
- People too busy

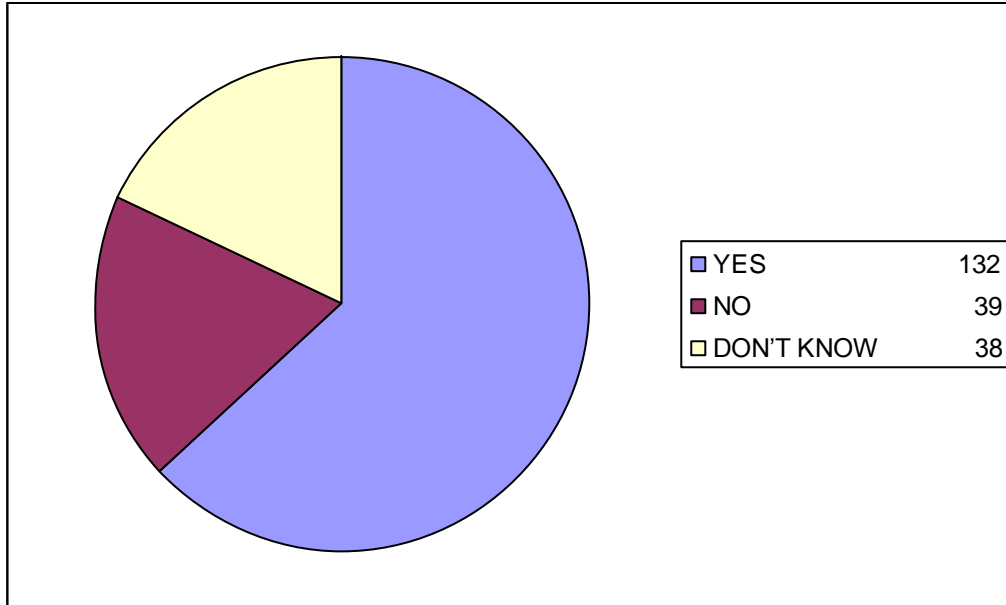
## Do you consider any of these a problem in Carrickfergus Borough?



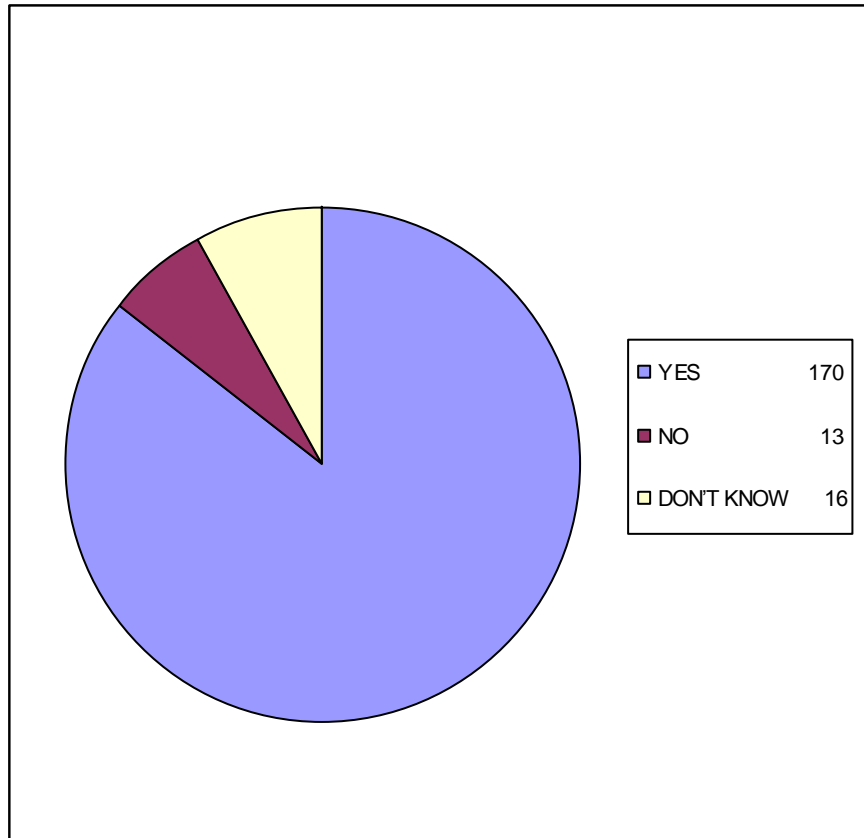
The major problems in the area are crowds of youth, followed closely by rowdy drunk, drugs and vandalism. These points are also noted in the fairly big problem and in problem categories.

Under other categories, paramilitary activity, noisy motor bikes and under age drinking top the lists.

**Do you feel that Carrickfergus Borough is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?**



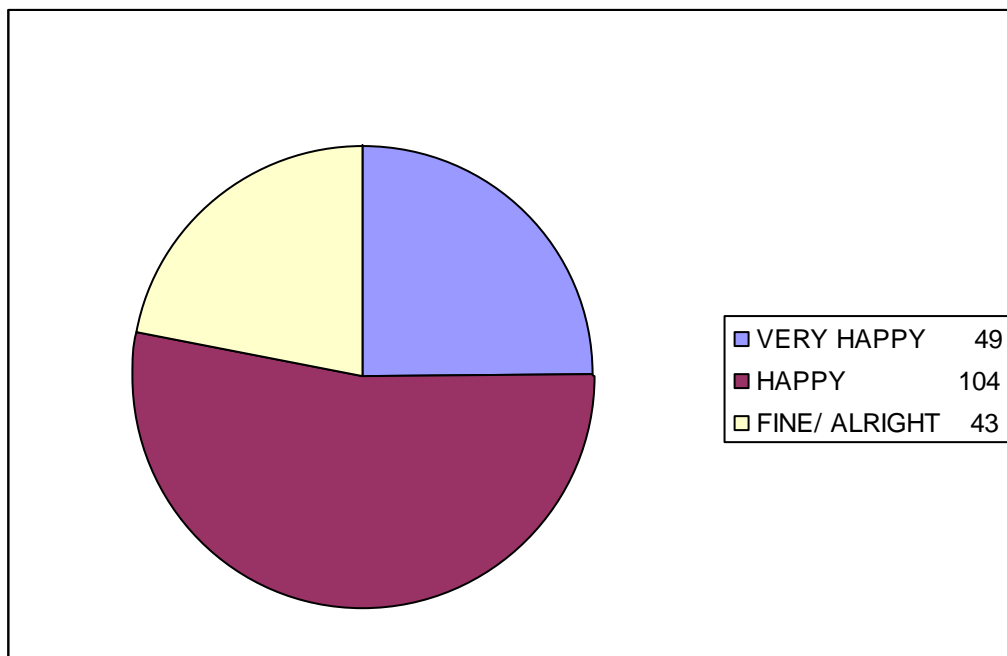
## Do you feel that you belong to your Neighbourhood / Community?



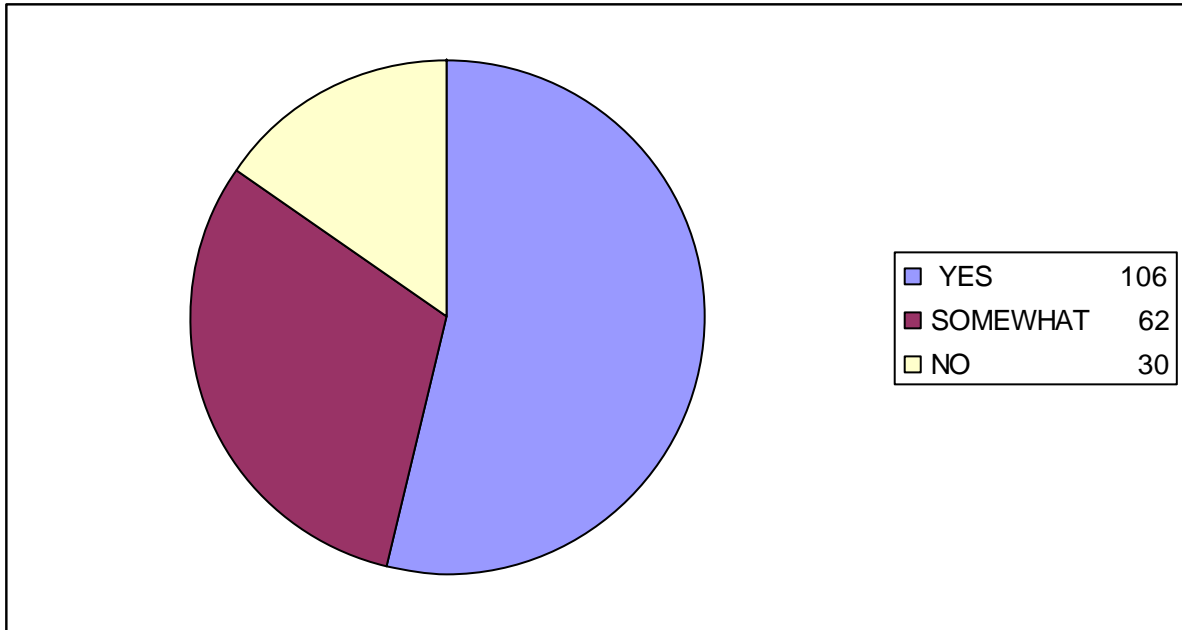
**Are you involved in any social clubs / groups including sport / hobby groups, religious groups and social clubs?**

The groups most people are involved in are Church, Sport, Community, Womens Institute, Guides, Local Gateway, Lodge and Voluntary

**Taking all this into consideration are you happy living in Carrickfergus Borough?**

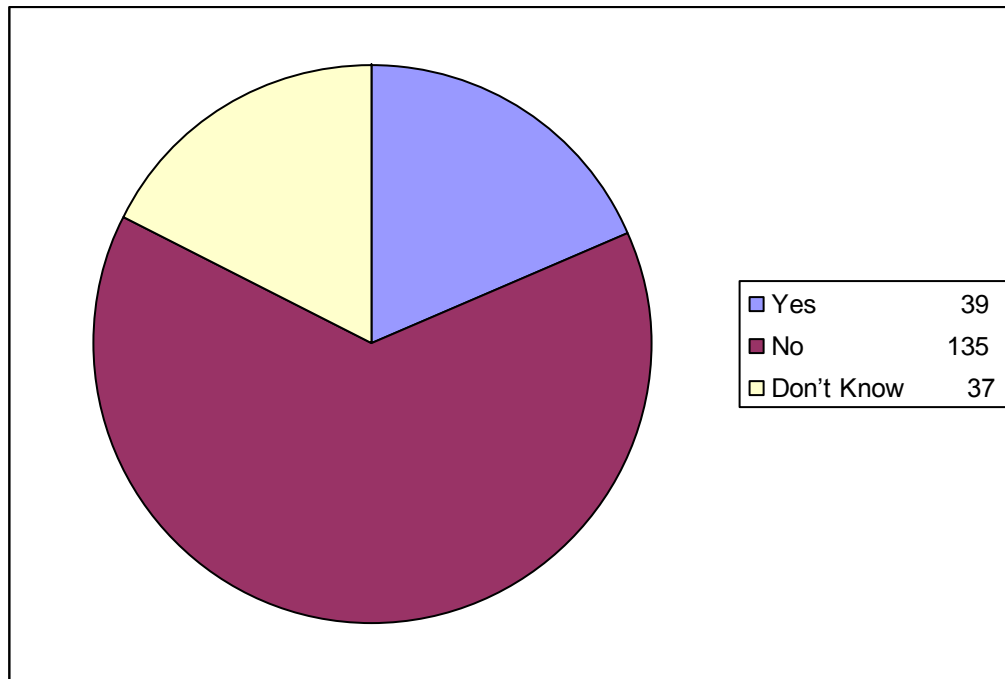


**Do you feel that council keeps residents informed of all services eg: leisure, events, community events, etc.?**



The majority of questionnaires state that Compass ( Carrickfergus Borough Newsletter), local press and flyers keep them well informed about services in the Borough. Some residents especially in Whitehead and Greenisland would like more information on what is happening in Carrickfergus town. Other requests would be more information on the leisure centre, more consultation on what is going on in the Borough and if possible more interaction on policy change.

**Do you feel that you can influence decisions affecting your local area?**



#### Residents that said YES

- Speak to Councillors
- Attend Council Meetings
- Police Liaison Meetings
- Speak to Neighbours
- Lobbying Local Councillors
- Phone Statutory Authority

#### Residents that said NO.

- Don't know how to.
- No one will listen
- Decisions already made before public informed,
- Would have no influence.
- More interface between community and council required.
- Choose not to be vocal.
- Councillors not helpful
- No confidence

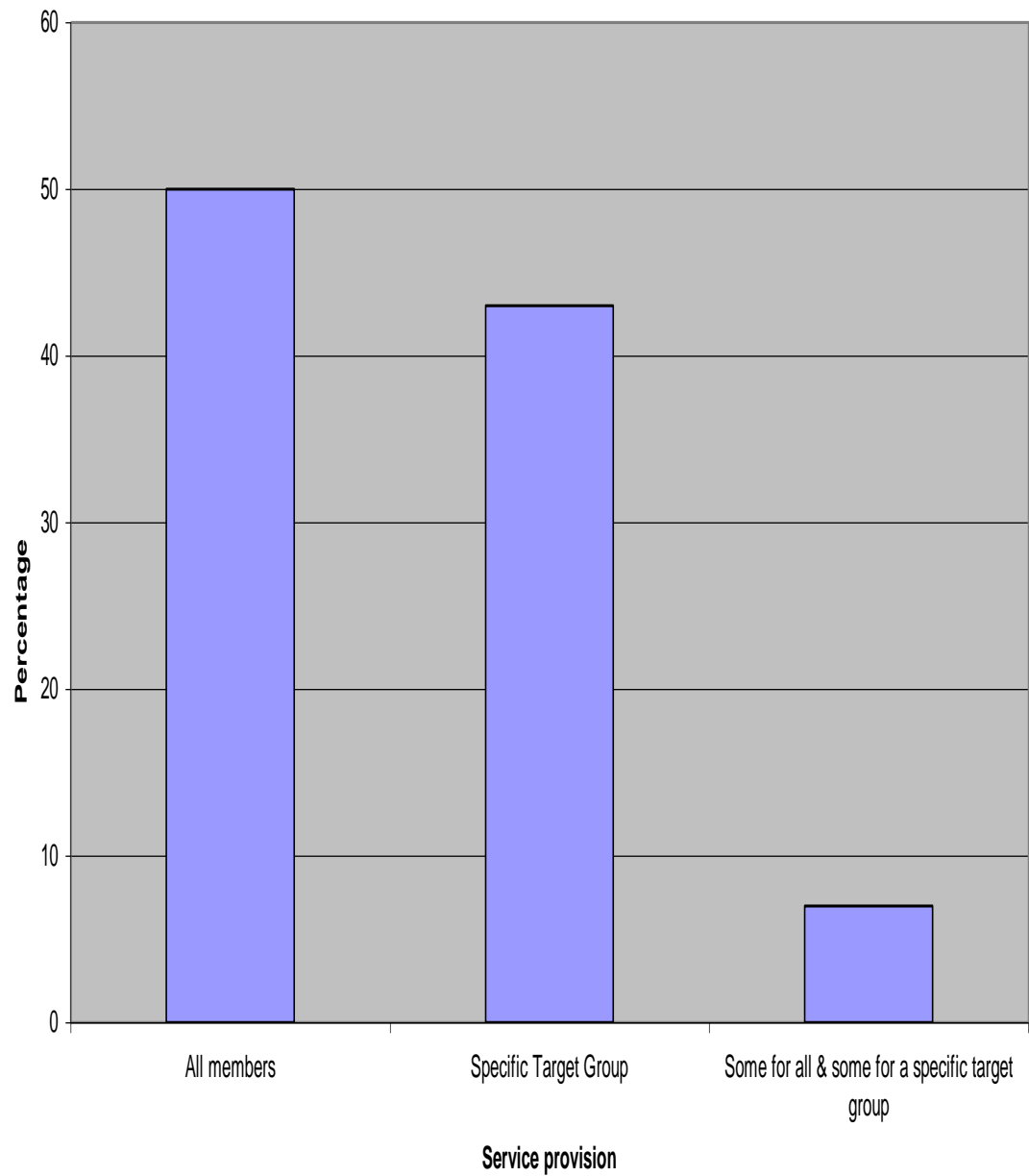
Carrickfergus Community Forum – Groups Questioned

- Acting Out Theatre Company
- Alphabet Playgroup
- Alzheimer's Society East Antrim Branch
- Barn United Youth
- Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid
- Belfast Lough Sailability
- Branching Out
- Brighter Whitehead
- Carrickfergus Art Club
- Carrickfergus & District Senior Gateway Club
- Carrickfergus Beacon House
- Carrickfergus Borough Church Forum
- Carrickfergus Boxing Academy
- Carrickfergus Citizens Advice
- Carrickfergus Community Drug & Alcohol
- Carrickfergus Day Centre
- Carrickfergus DPP
- Carrickfergus Enterprise
- Carrickfergus Neighbourhood Development Group
- Carrickfergus Radio Committee
- Carrickfergus Rangers Football Development Centre
- Carrickfergus Road Safety Committee
- Carrickfergus Women's Forum
- Carrickfergus YMCA
- Carrickfergus Youth Forum
- Carrickfergus Young Citizen's Forum
- Castle Heritage & Community Association
- Charles Sheils Community
- Contact Youth
- Flame Gasworks Museum
- Gateway Church
- Glenabbey Church
- Glenfield Community Association
- Good Morning Carrickfergus
- Greenisland Community Council
- Greenisland Knockagh Wrestling Club
- Greenisland Knockagh Youth Club
- Home Start Carrickfergus
- Horizon Surestart
- Inter Community Development Programme Greenisland
- Kilcreggan Urban Farm
- Kilroot Playgroup
- Kilroot Rec FC
- La Leche League of East Antrim
- Larne Line Passenger Group
- Mediation Resource Centre
- NIHE Carrickfergus
- Norsun Community Group
- Northlands Pensioners Association
- Royal Air Force Association
- Sense NI
- Shopmobility Carrickfergus
- Source Pregnancy Crisis Centre
- St Nicholas Community Development
- Talk Up Self Help
- Taylors Avenue Community Association
- Whitehead Community Association
- Whitehead Rangers Over 50's Club
- Windmill & Minorca Residents group

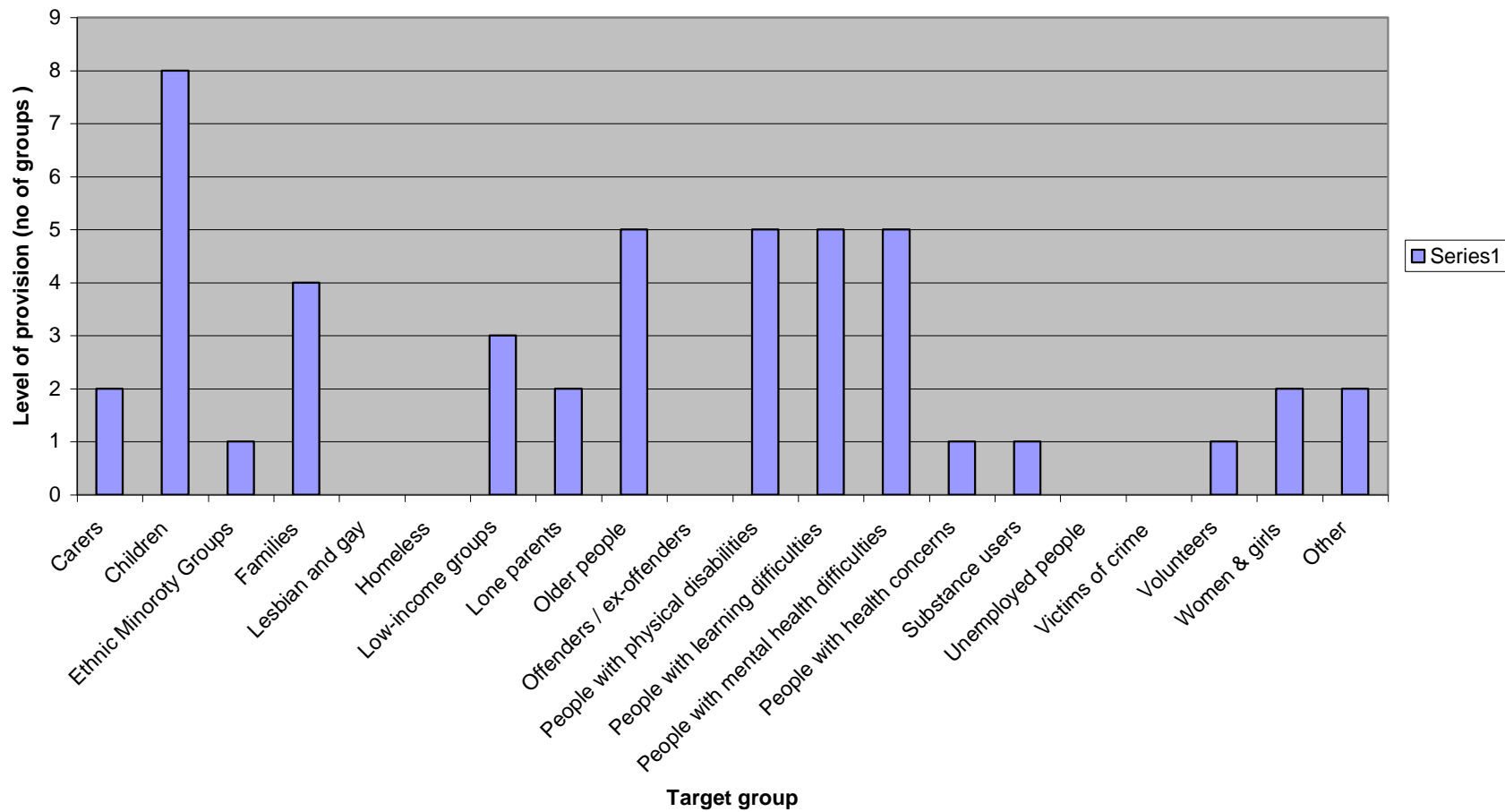
- Disability Action
- Downshire Presbyterian Church
- Eden Allotments Holders Association
- Extreme Youth
- Windsor Residents Association
- Woodburn Community Association
- Woodburn PAKT
- Woodlands Presbyterian Church

# CARRICKFERGUS FORUMS COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

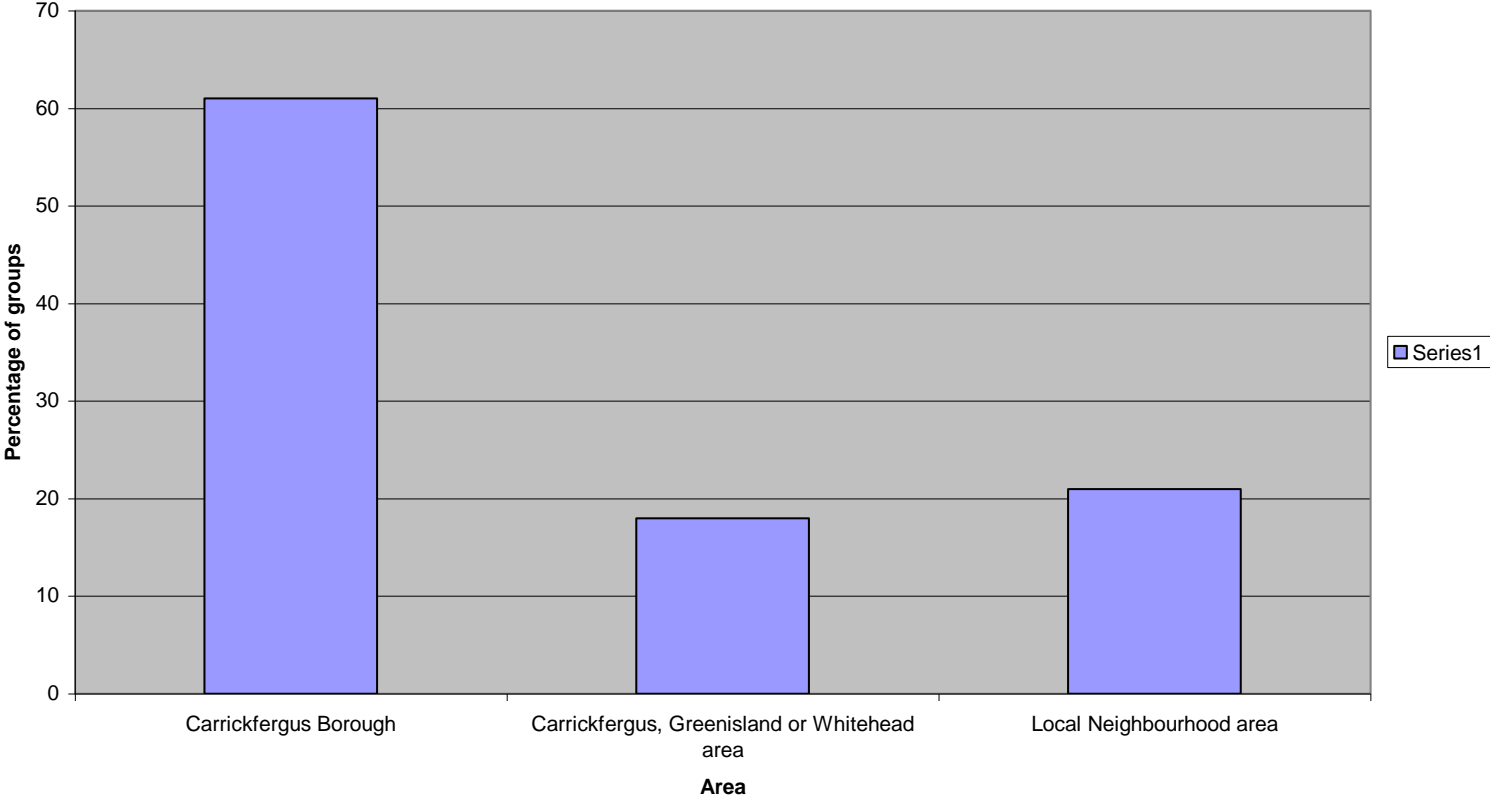
Who does your group provide services for?



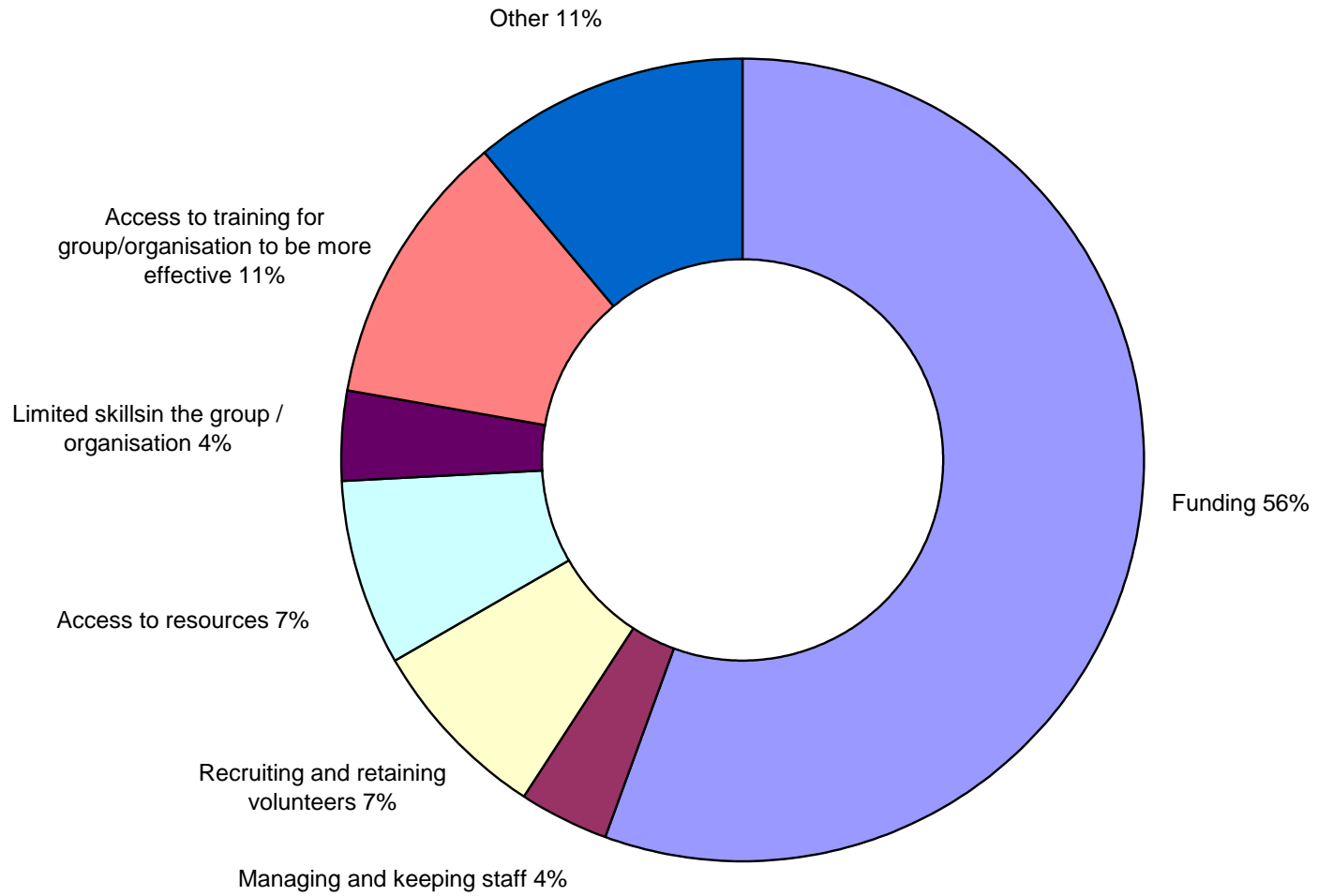
### Target group service provision



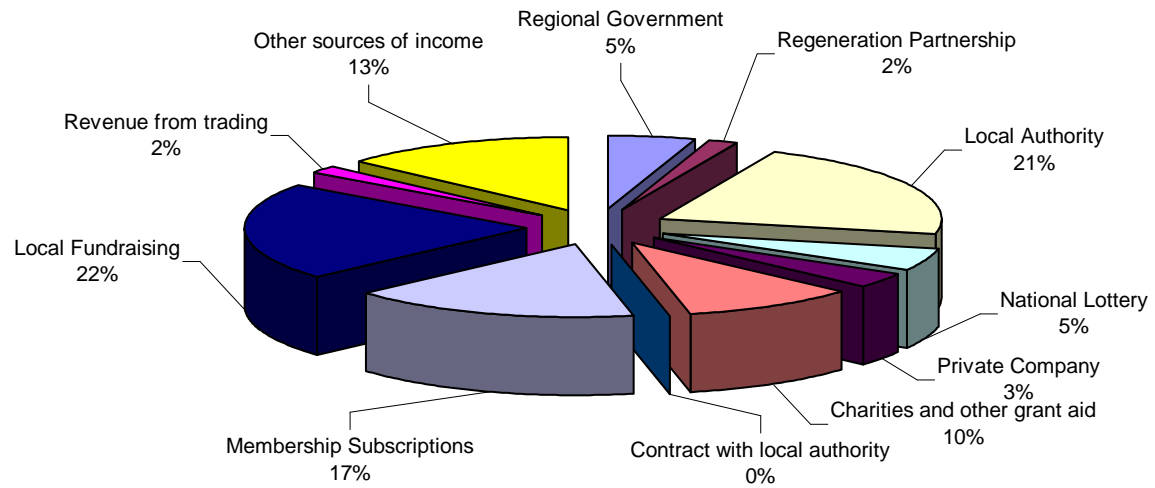
Which part of the district does your group work in?



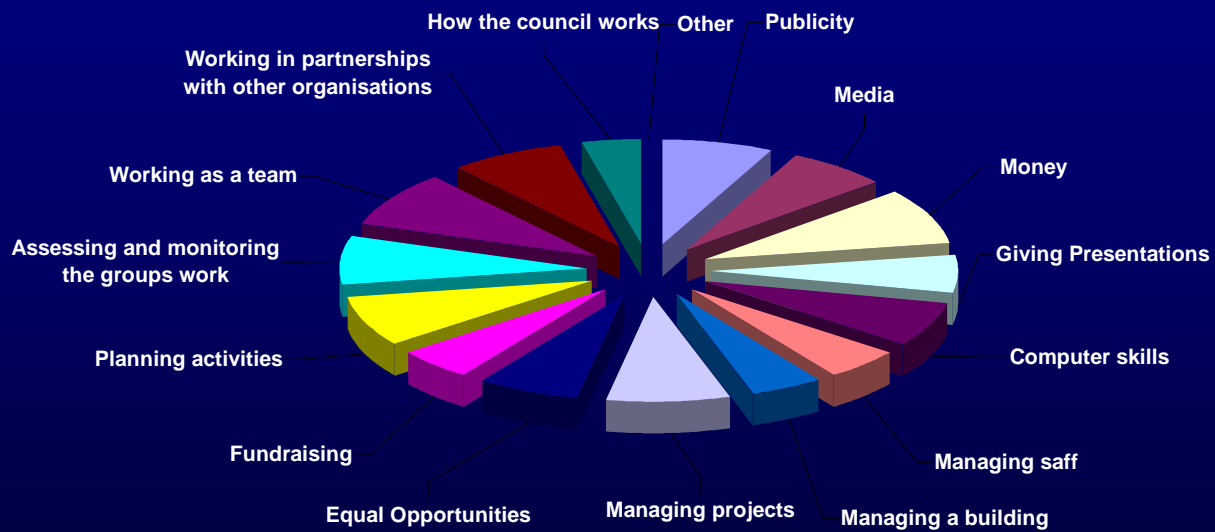
### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES FOR GROUPS IN MEETING OBJECTIVES



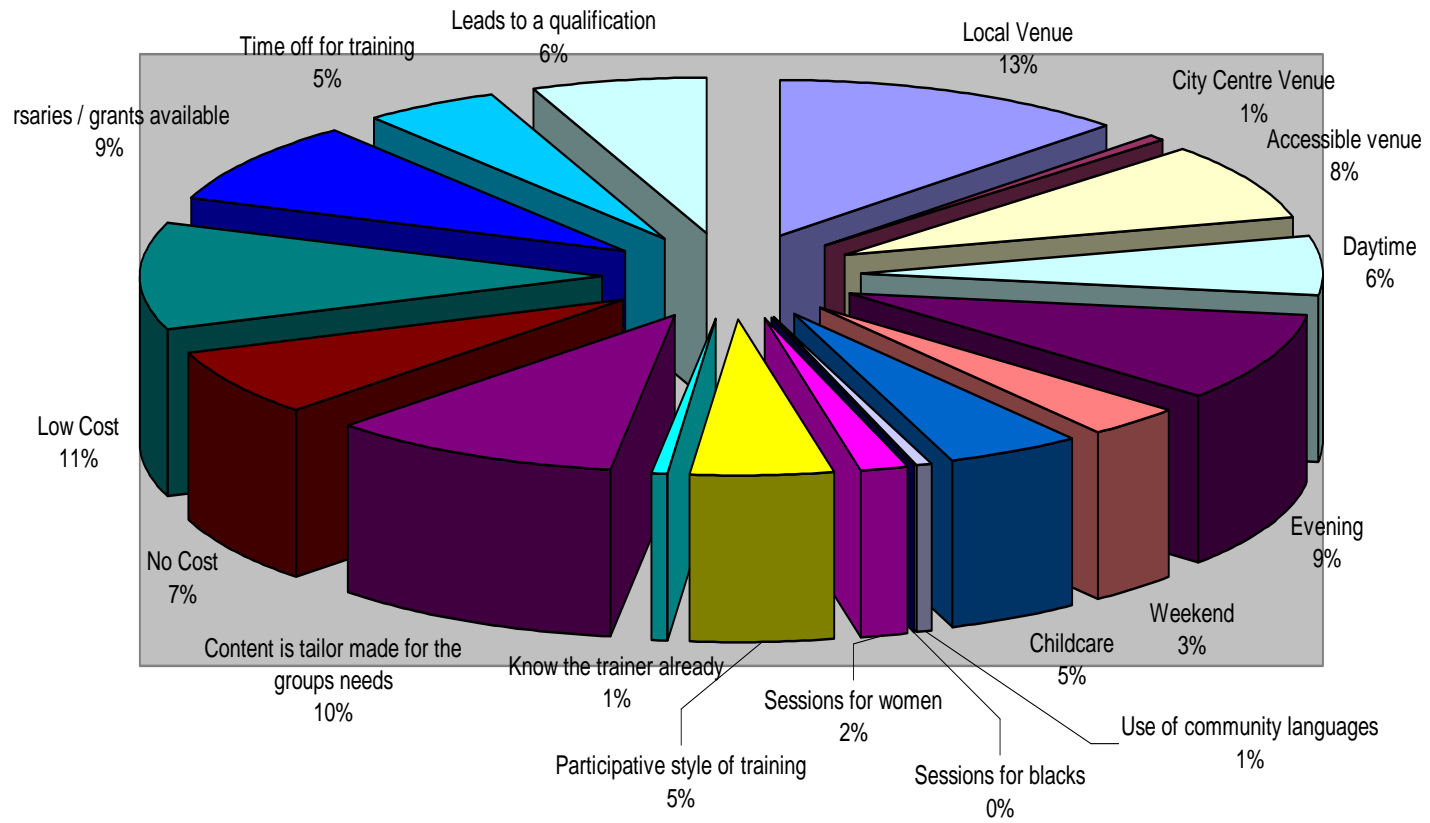
### SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR LOCAL GROUPS



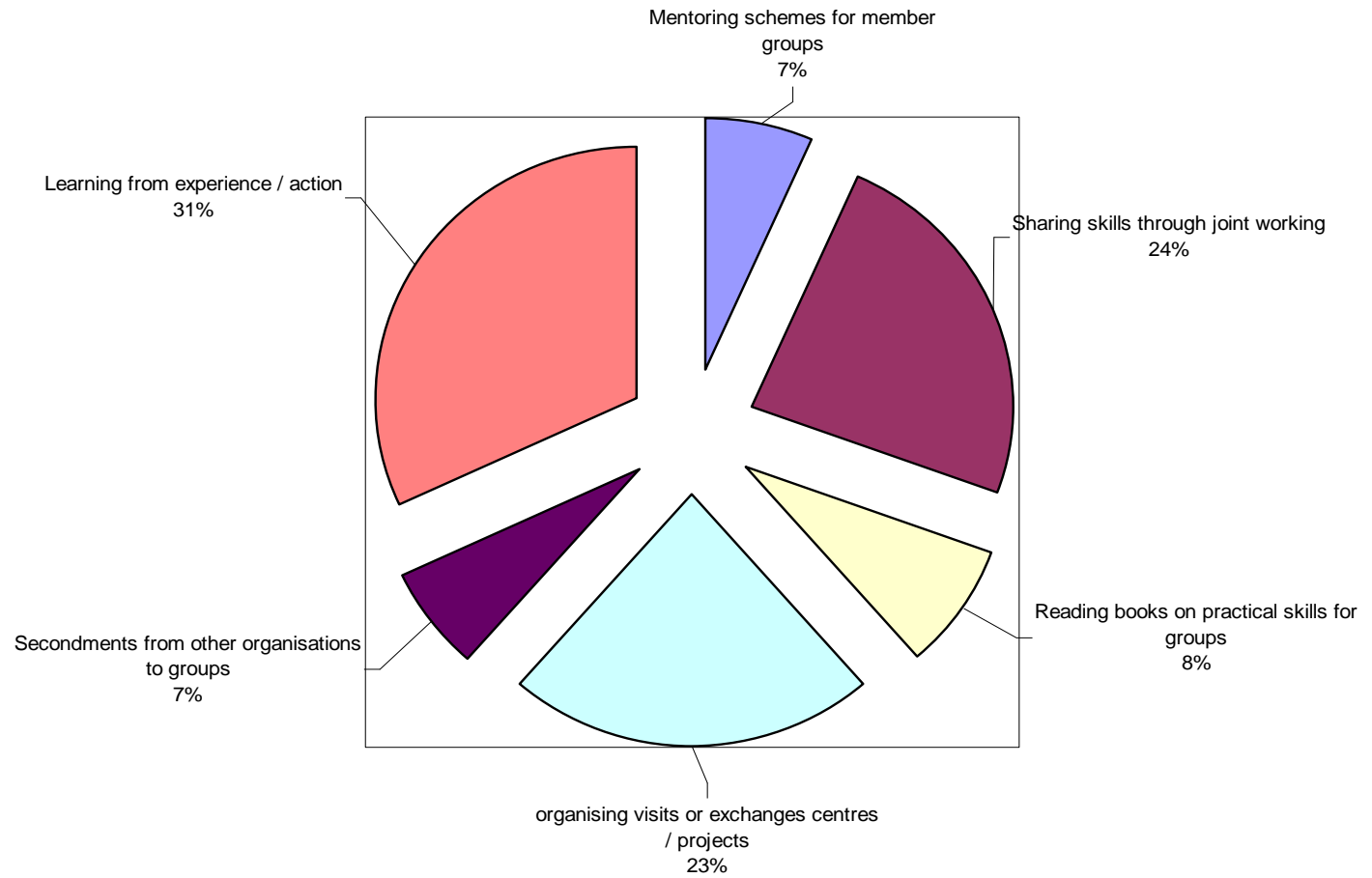
### SKILL STRENGTHS PRESENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS



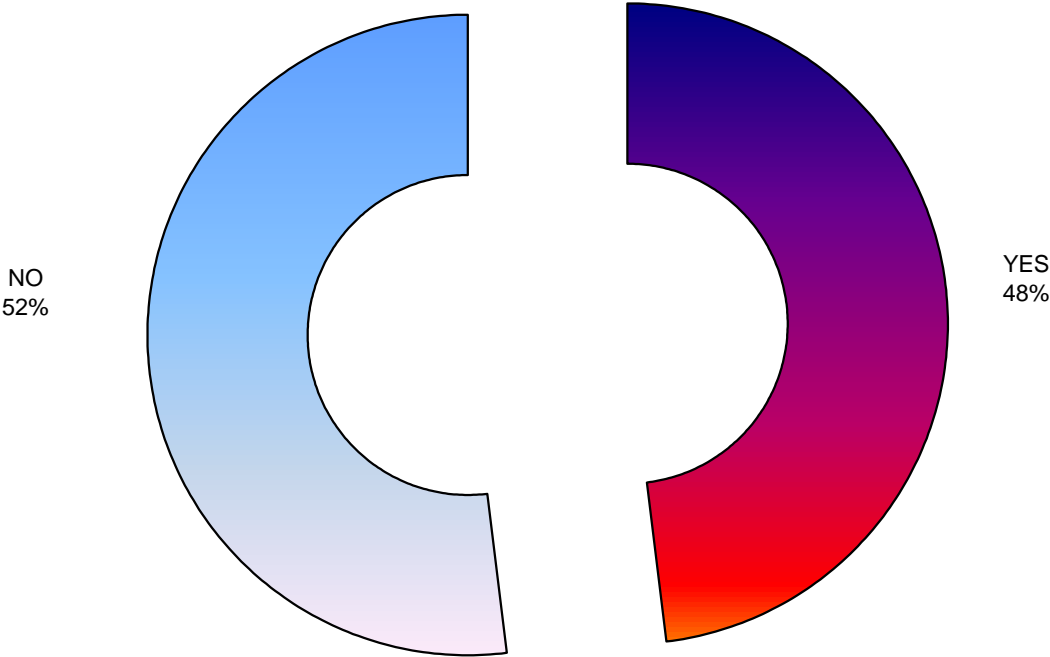
### SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN TAKING UP TRAINING



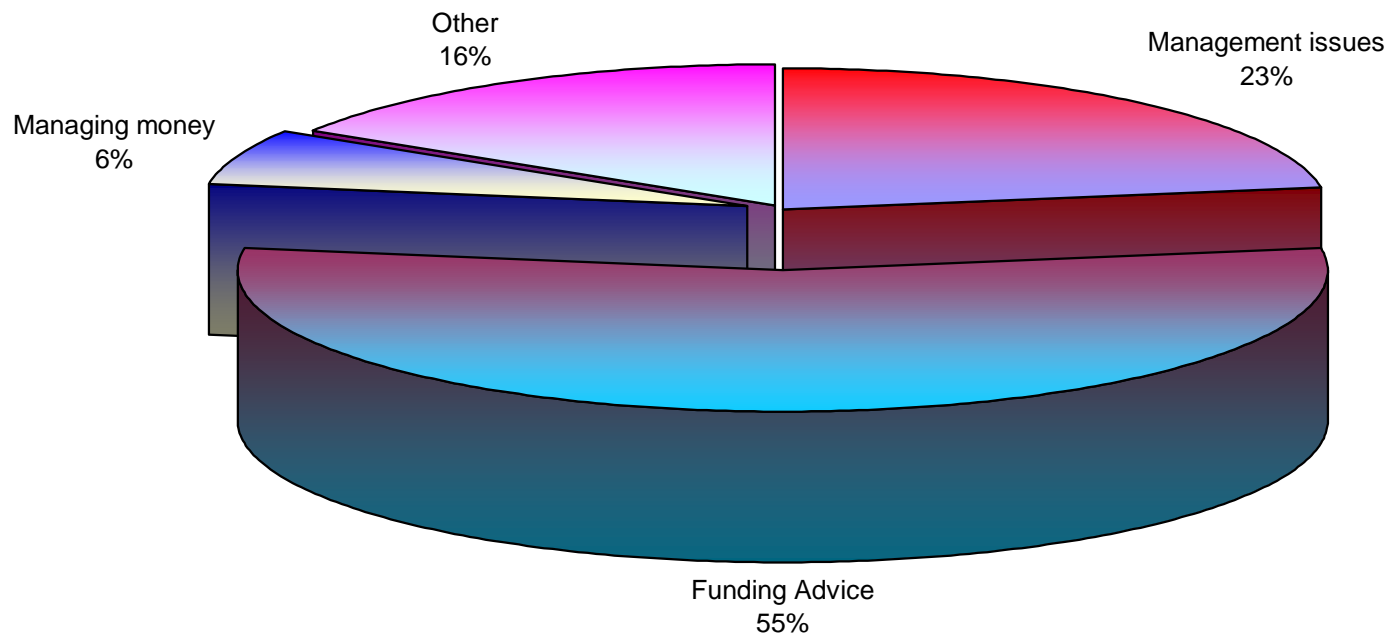
## GROUP INVOLVEMENT IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



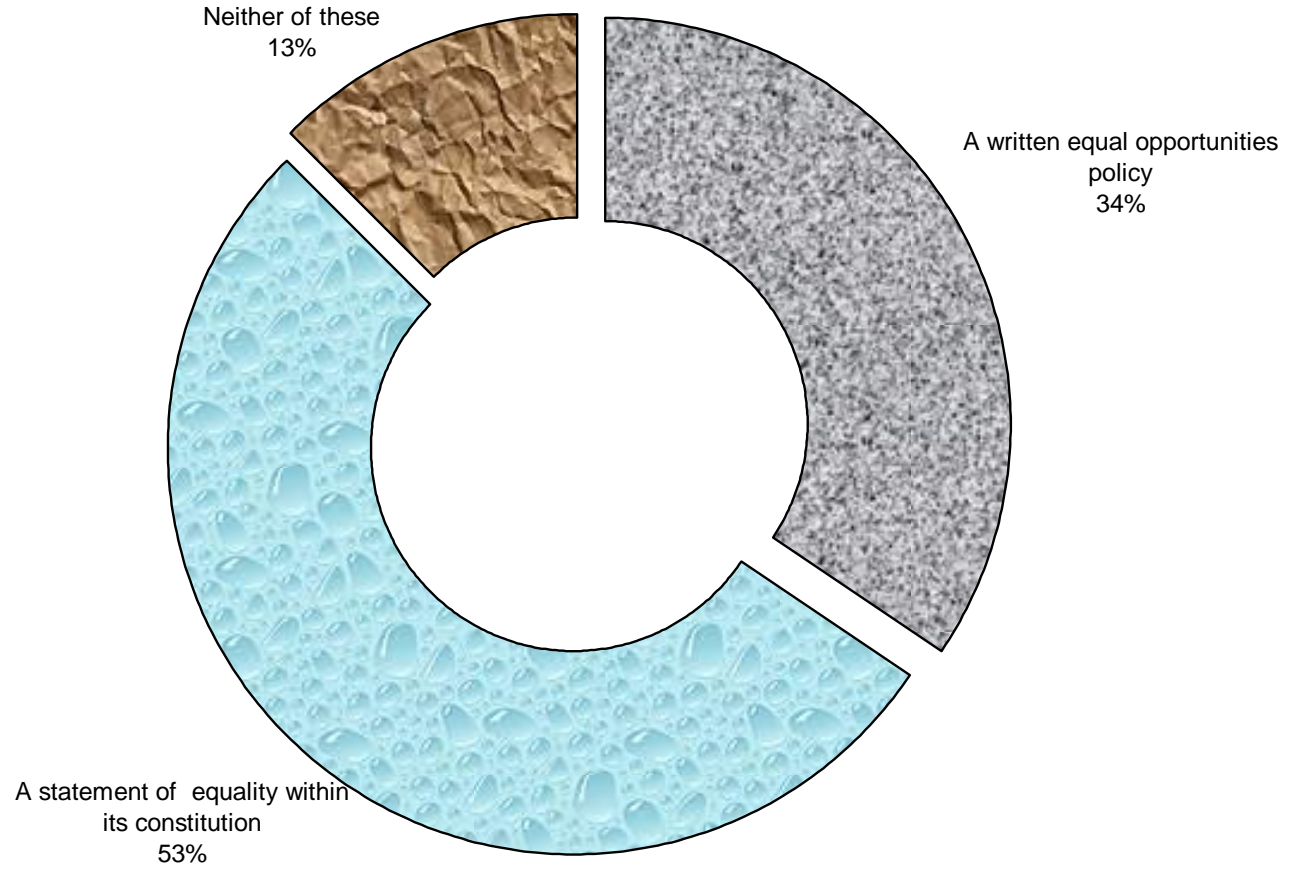
**WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN GETTING HELP TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUPS TRAINING NEEDS?**



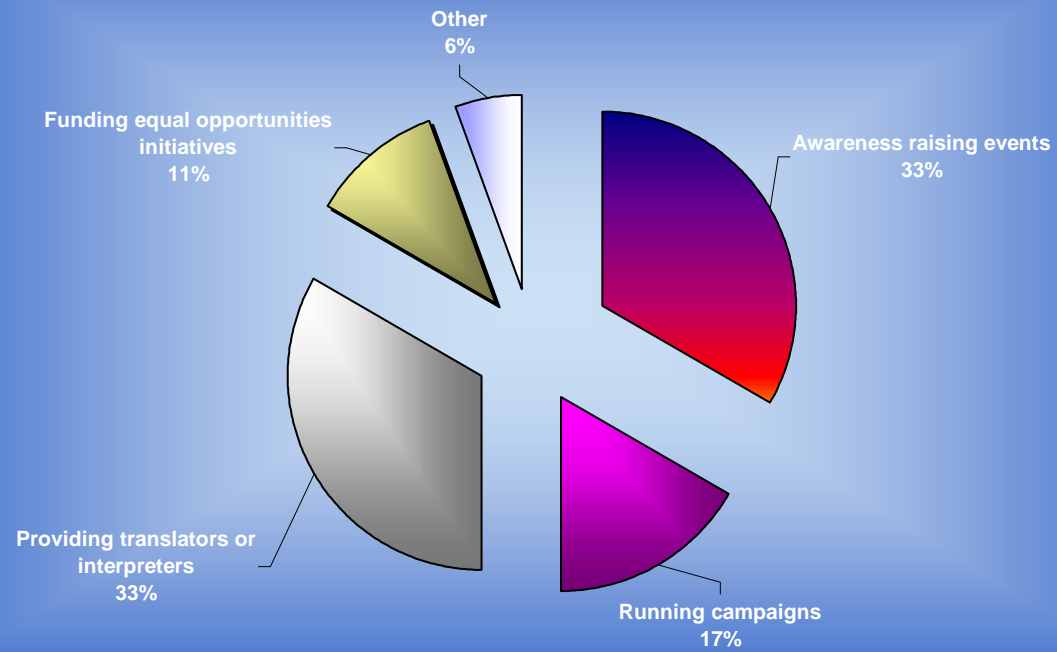
HAS THR GROUP HAD ANY OUTSIDE ADVICE OVER THE LAST YEAR



**WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DOES YOUR GROUP HAVE?**



**HOW IS YOUR GROUP TAKING ACTION TO CHALLENGE DISCRIMINATION?**



# COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONNAIRES

Six questions were asked of seven community groups deemed to represent the entire borough.

The Groups questioned were...

Whitehead Community Association  
Greenisland Community Council  
Woodburn Community Association  
Northlands Pensioners Group  
Taylors Avenue Community Association  
St Nicholas on the Mount  
Glenfield Residents

1 Have any racist attacks happened in your area?.

All Seven replied No to this question but requested ethnic minorities issues be addressed through training.

2 Have any Sectarian attacks happened in your area?

6 out of seven groups said No to this question but one stated that 5 punishment beating had occurred in the area mainly for anti social behavior or drugs issues. The group also stated that intra community tension was evident in the area but that they were trying to address this.

- 3 Have your community group been in any Cross community activity over the past 3 years?

Again the answer was no, apart from one group who have developed a history project with Bawnmore (Newtownabbey). One other group stated that the make up of their group is cross community with a 60% 40 % split.

- 4 Has your organization been involved in any ethnic minority programmes over the past 3 years?

Alarmingly all 7 said no but would like to get involved in this type of programme

- 5 How do you rate your organization in relation to section 75?

All 7 groups had policies in place that related to section 75 and stated that they would contact all people within their areas and would take into consideration any needs required. One group stated that all its members were either women or disabled.

6 What good relations programmes would you like to see in your area?

- More group development with ethnic minorities in mind.
- More work with Volunteer and Statutory groups eg Age Concern & PSNI
- Sessions on ethnic minorities & their culture.
- Develop single identity and intra community sessions.
- Develop cross community engagement.
- Develop partnerships with similar groups.

## **Conclusion.**

Over 250 public surveys, 60 community groups and 7 specific Borough wide community groups were targeted by this audit. The major Good Relations needs in Carrickfergus are developing links with ethnic minorities & addressing ethnic minority issues, developing single identity work, addressing intra community dialogue and developing cross community linkages. The majority of these issues do back up the Good Relations Strategy but the ethnic minority issue needs further developed and more resources for single identity and developing cross community projects needs to be realized. Most of the groups surveyed have equal opportunity policies or have a statement of equal opportunities in their constitution. The local Council has an equal opportunity policy within its human resources department and an equality scheme that impacts on all acts of business which is reviewed yearly and reported to the Equality Commission. The Good Relations Statement has been adopted by Council and the Council has a commitment to developing this with community groups and other service providers. Carrickfergus Council will endeavour to pull together all strands of equality and good relations to insure all pieces of business are conducted so that the spirit of the scheme and the good relations statement are adhered to. This could be something that the good relations and Council could evolve. The community questionnaires highlighted the fact that the majority of the community are happy that they belong to their neighbourhood and feel safe in their community but do not know how to contact Council or Councilors, this could also be addressed by good relations.

Finally Carrickfergus good relations are developing an area with the Housing Executive with regard to a Shared Future this area, Windmill, is also an Re-imagining target and with Groundwork N.I. the good relations are developing a £30,000 application for the Arts Council.

The targets set out in section 3 of this report, aims and objectives, need to be addressed by Carrickfergus good relations over the 2008 -2009 period.