



## HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY CENTRE CONSULTATION 2023

Every household in the town received a leaflet advising of our consultation. Thank you to all those that took part. We received 474 responses from 3872 households equating to 12.4%. To follow is an overview of the responses.

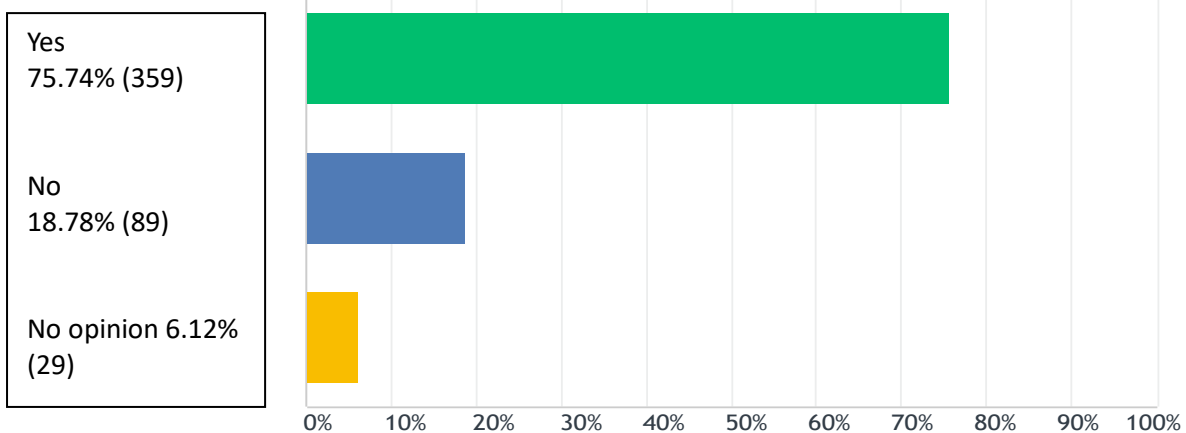
For further project information, or for the answers to frequently asked questions that have arisen through your comments please refer to our website or call/email the Town Council offices for a copy.

01933 312075 or email [clerk@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@highamferrers-tc.gov.uk)

[www.highamferrers-tc.gov.uk/community-centre-project](http://www.highamferrers-tc.gov.uk/community-centre-project)

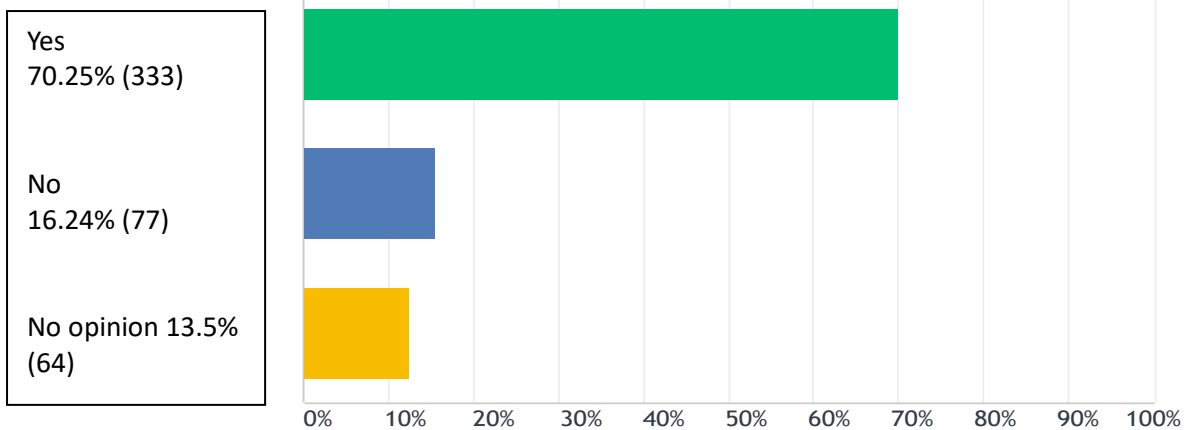
### Q1 The existing Sports Pavilion will be demolished to make space for the new building. Do you agree with the location of the new building within Saffron Road Recreation Ground in the position where the Sports Pavilion is currently located?

Total respondents: 474 (93 additional comments)



### Q2 Do you like the external appearance and proposed use of materials for the building?

Total respondents: 474 (73 additional comments)

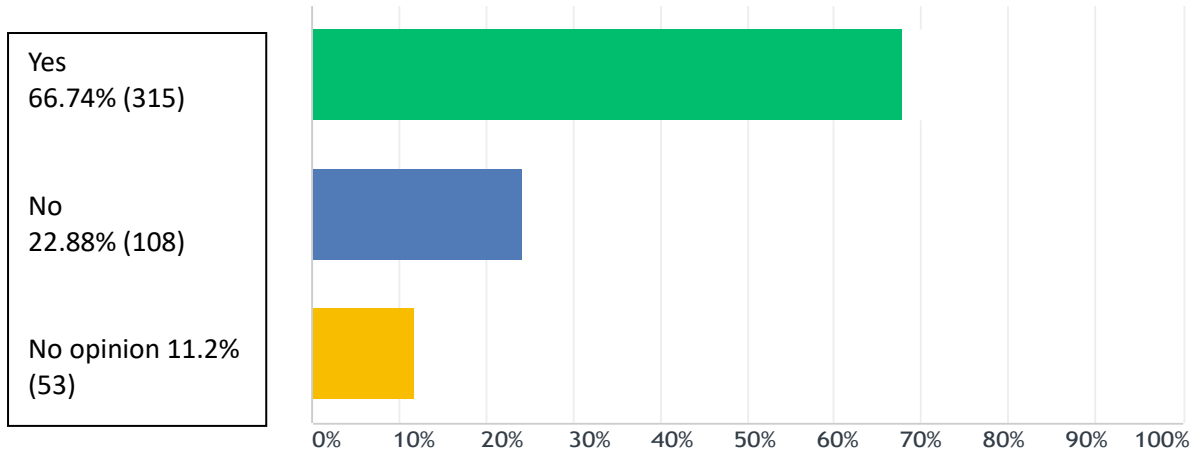




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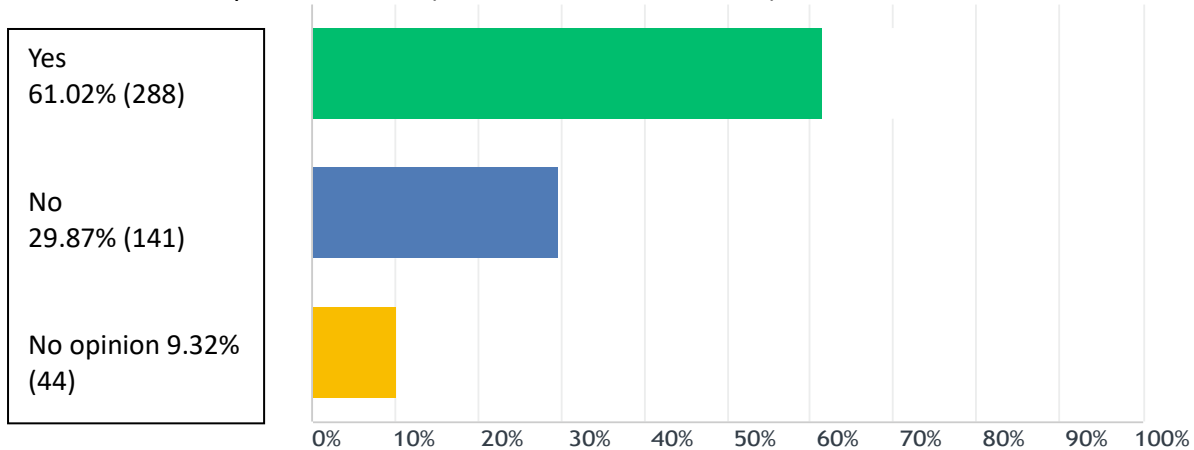
### Q3 Do you support the design and layout shown for the ground floor?

Total respondents: 472 (104 additional comments)



### Q4 Office space is limited in the current Town Hall building on the Market Square. Do you support the inclusion of council office space, archives and storage on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor?

Total respondents: 472 (135 additional comments)



### Q5 The building will be funded partly by council monies already held in reserves, part grants and part borrowing. Please indicate what level of increase to your council tax you would support to allow the loan repayment.

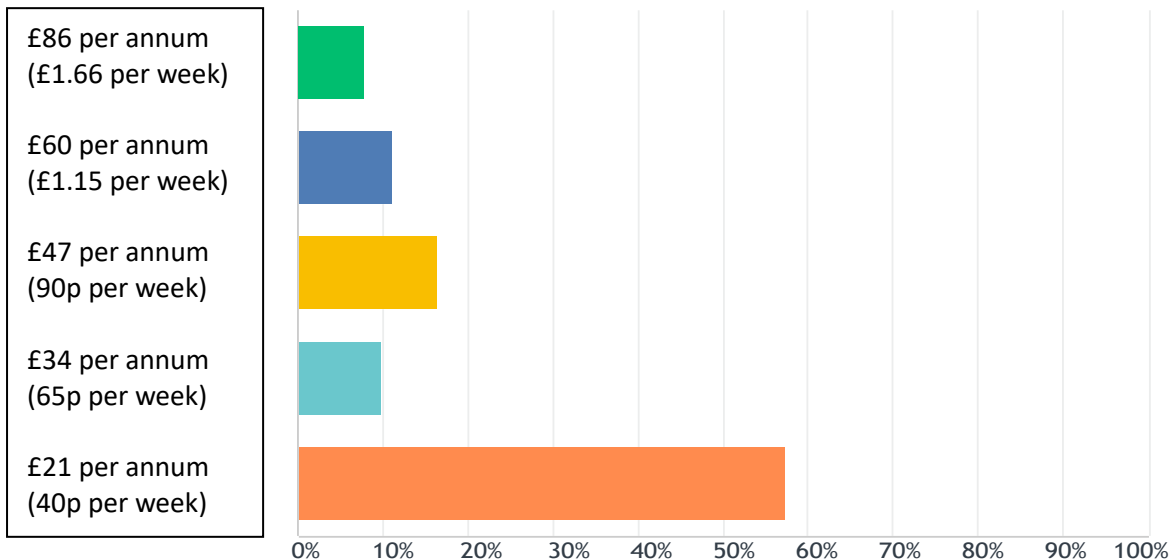
There are 8 council tax property value bands, A (lowest) to H(highest), with band D representing a midpoint of a typical family home. The figures below are based on a band D property in Higham Ferrers.

What level of increase to your council tax would you support to service loan repayments to facilitate delivery of the project? (choose 1)



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Total respondents: 474



£86 per annum increase at 7.81% (37)  
£60 per annum increase at 11.18% (53)  
£47 per annum increase at 16.46% (78)  
£34 per annum increase at 9.70% (46)  
£21 per annum increase at 57.38% (272)

### Q6 Other comments on the overall proposal and the need for the building.

221 comments received, 87 of which stated they wanted no increase in the council tax.

### Proposed next steps for the council following consultation responses and in order to facilitate a project decision:-

- Update the projection of possible grant funding available.
- Re-evaluate the need for Town Council offices within the building given the last consultation was 2019 and pre-covid.
- Re-evaluate the need for a large community space within the building given the last consultation was 2019 and pre-covid. Re-assess what community spaces are currently available for hire in the town and their level of use.
- Refine projection of expected use and level of income for the building.
- Detailed budgeting for review of net cost to the council. In 2019 £50,000 was used as a suggested net cost.