

Community Governance Review - Consultation Results

The survey ran between 9 February and 22 March 2026. A letter was sent to all households in the area covered in the consultation. The survey was available online and hard copies were available in libraries and reception at Stafford Borough Council and available on request.

The consultation was promoted through press releases, the website – including dedicated link from homepage - and on social media.

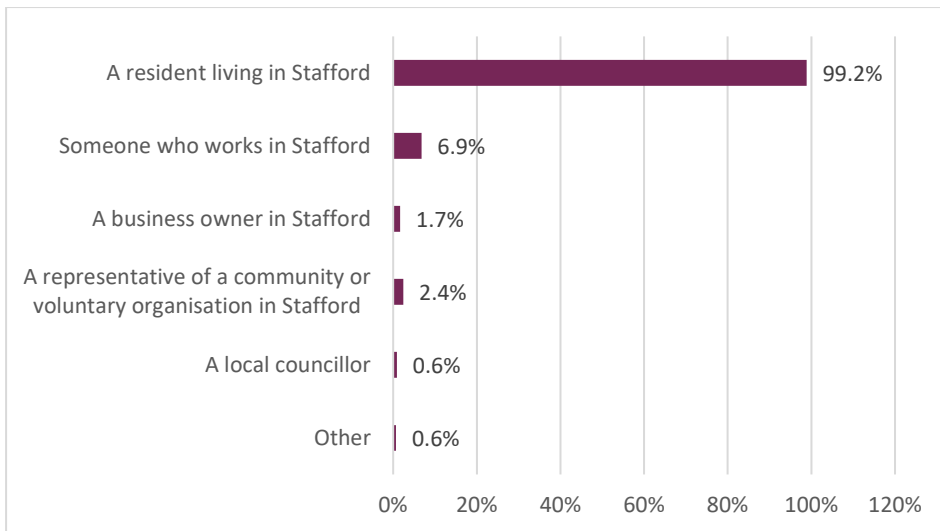
1003 surveys were completed in total with 923 submitted online and 80 paper copies received. However, responses that were anonymous or without an address were not counted in the figures below. Responses received from outside of the area under review also do not count in the figures below. The total amount of responses excluding those mentioned is 876.

Please note AI was used when analysing the themes from the open-ended questions and then checked by an officer.

The results are set out below:

1. Are you responding as...?

Answer	Number	Percentage
A resident living in Stafford	868	99.2%
Someone who works in Stafford	60	6.9%
A business owner in Stafford	15	1.7%
A representative of a community or voluntary organisation in Stafford	21	2.4%
A local councillor	5	0.6%
Other	5	0.6%

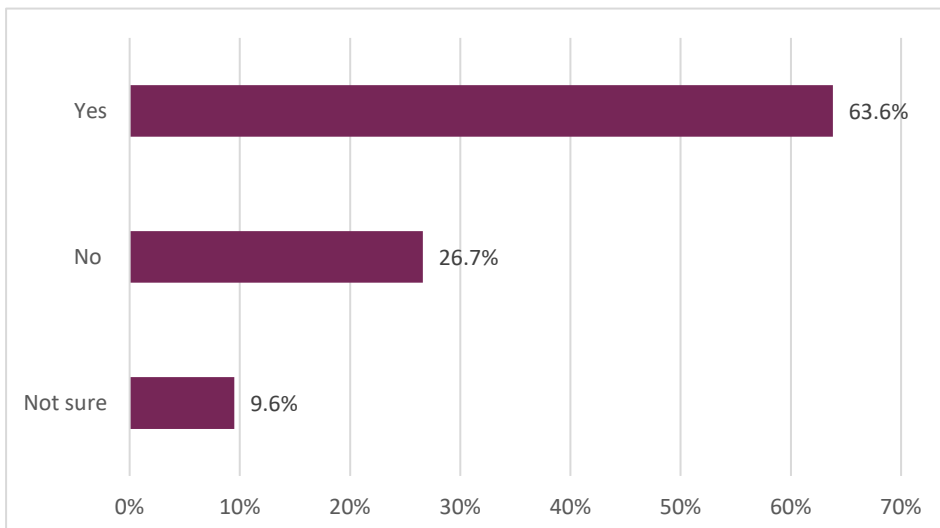


If other please state: (12 responses received):

Of these 1 was on behalf of Doxey Parish Council, 5 lived in Doxey, 2 were Parish Councillors from Doxey, 2 were retired, 2 were residents from Stafford.

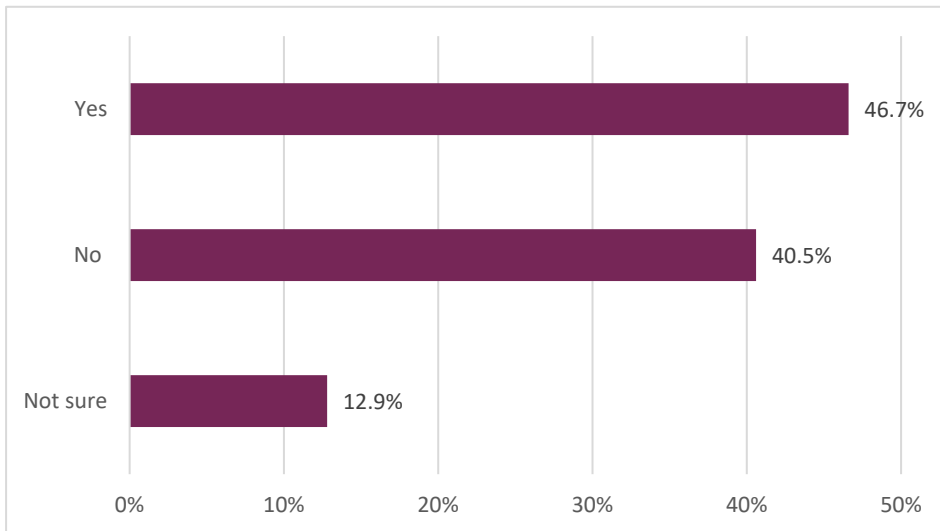
2. Do you agree that a Town Council should be created across the unparished areas of Stafford Town?

Answer	Number	Percentage
Yes	555	63.6%
No	233	26.7%
Not sure	84	9.6%



3. Should the boundary of the proposed new Town Council also include the area of Doxey (which currently has a separate parish council)?

Answer	Number	Percentage
Yes	406	46.7%
No	352	40.5%
Not sure	112	12.9%



4. Is there anything you would like to share about why you chose those options? (360 Responses received)

The top 5 strongest recurring themes from the responses were:

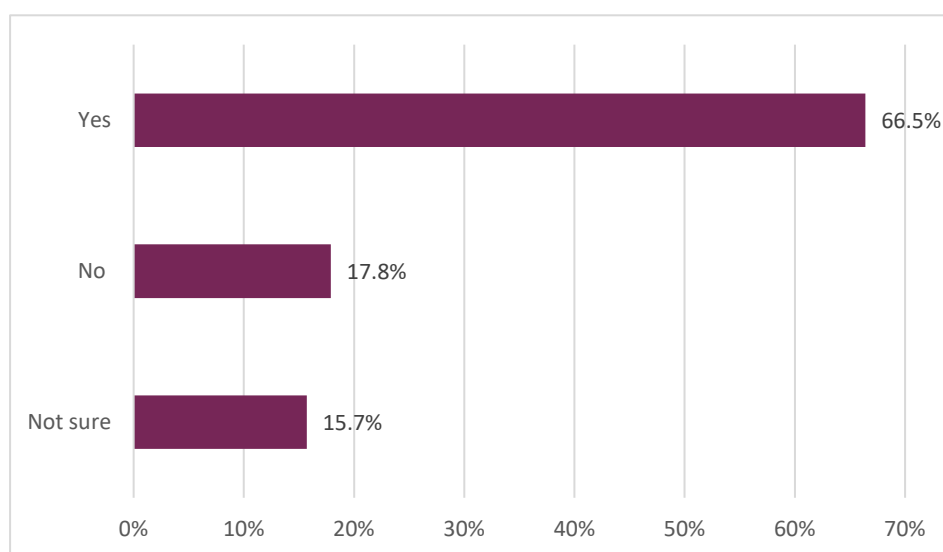
1. Keep Doxey Parish independent - There was strong support of Doxey Parish Council; with concerns around losing identity, representation and funding. (It is worth noting that 33 survey responses under this theme had exactly the same wording) (145)
2. Support for the creation of a Town Council - Local decision making is important, a Town Council would preserve civic identity, it is a County town, need representation under a unitary system (58)
3. Cost concerns/ council tax increase - Worries around how much the extra precept could be, affordability and unnecessary spending, duplication of bureaucracy (39)
4. Opposition to the creation of a Town Council - It is not needed, adds bureaucracy and cost (23)
5. Include Doxey - considered as part of Stafford (18)

Other themes include:

- Doxey should choose for themselves (16)
- Boundary inclusion issues – Questions on whether certain areas should be included or excluded such as Doxey, Creswell etc., dated and confusing map, concerns about future housing developments. (15)
- More information (cost, what it will do and outcome of LGR) is required to make an informed decision (11)

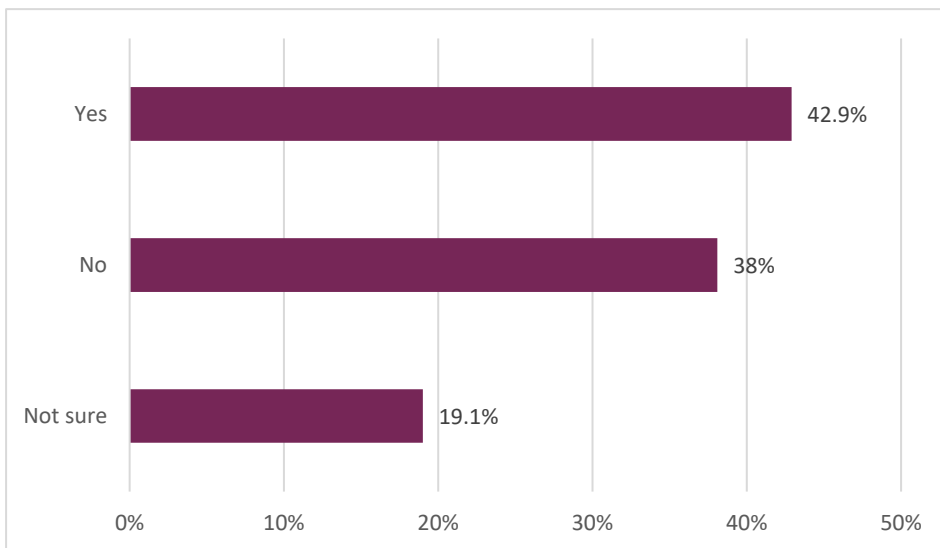
5. The town area is currently represented by 12 Borough Council wards. Do you agree that the proposed Town Council should be warded similarly in accordance with the 12 existing Borough Council ward boundaries?

Answer	Number	Percentage
Yes	575	66.5%
No	154	17.8%
Not sure	136	15.7%



6. The town area is currently represented by 19 Borough Councillors across its 12 wards. Do you think that it would be appropriate for the proposed Town Council to have 19 Councillors?

Answer	Number	Percentage
Yes	374	42.9%
No	331	38%
Not sure	167	19.1%



7. If no, what alternative arrangements should be made? (262 responses received)

The top 5 strongest recurring themes from the responses were:

1. One councillor per ward - challenging the need for 19 councillors (109)
2. Proportional/logical representation - reflect the population and workload (24)
3. Stay as it is (18)
4. Have a smaller number of councillors - less than we currently have (17)
5. Cost, value for money, efficiency - proposal is too expensive or bureaucratic, effect on tax payer (18)

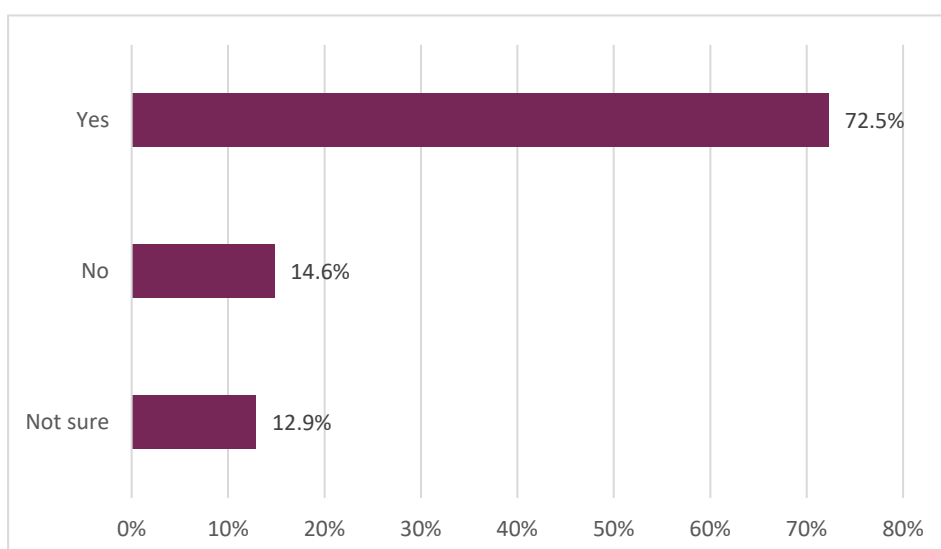
Other themes include:

- Opposition to a town council (14)
- Have more councillors (2 per ward, 20-30) (11)

- Boundary concerns - mention of Doxey, Baswich / Weeping Cross and Wildwood, make sure to include anticipated developments (9)
- Unsure why there is 19 councillors (9)

8. It is proposed that the names of the 12 wards of the proposed Town Council should match the names of the existing borough wards. Do you agree with this?

Answer	Number	Percentage
Yes	629	72.5%
No	127	14.6%
Not sure	112	12.9%



9. Do you have any further comments, concerns or suggestions about the future governance arrangements for the unparished area of Stafford and the area of Doxey? (470 responses received)

The top 5 strongest recurring themes from the responses were:

1. Keep Doxey Parish independent - success of the current Parish Council, desire to retain autonomy, funding and local decision-making, community identity. (86)
2. Support for creating a Town Council - Local representation, County Town, preserve civic identity (42)
3. Cost/council tax concerns - council tax increases, frustration with current financial pressures, duplication of bureaucracy, unnecessary cost, how will this save money (34)

4. More information is needed to make an informed decision - lack of clarity of cost increase, understand roles and responsibilities, what would be the impact of not having a Town Council (18)
5. Opposition to creating a Town Council - no clear benefits, added bureaucracy, not required as there will be unitary (17)

Other recurring themes were:

- Boundary/inclusion concerns – impact of new housing, map confusion (11)
- Leave as it is (11)
- Include Doxey – feel it is part of the Town (7)