



LEAD MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DECISIONS to be made by the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change,
Councillor Nick Bennett

TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 11.00 AM

VIA MS TEAMS

AGENDA

1. Decisions made by the Lead Cabinet Member on 11 October 2022 (*Pages 3 - 6*)
2. Disclosure of Interests
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct
3. Urgent items
Notification of any items which the Lead Member considers urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda.
4. Ringmer Swimming Pool - outcome of the Public Consultation (*Pages 7 - 28*)
Report by the Chief Operating Officer
5. Any other non-exempt items previously notified under agenda item 3
6. Exclusion of the Public and Press
To consider excluding the public and press from the meeting for the remaining agenda item on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to any individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
7. Ringmer Swimming Pool - outcome of the Public Consultation - Exempt Information (*Pages 29 - 34*)
Report by the Chief Operating Officer
8. To consider proposals to acquire the freehold of a property following a blight notice being served under the Town and Country Act 1990 (*Pages 35 - 56*)
Report by the Chief Operating Officer
9. Any other exempt items previously notified under agenda item 3

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive
County Hall, St Anne's Crescent
LEWES BN7 1UE

31 October 2022

Contact Sophie Webb, Governance and Democracy Officer,
01273 337495

Email: sophie.webb@eastsussex.gov.uk

NOTE: *As part of the County Council's drive to increase accessibility to its public meetings, this meeting will be broadcast live on its website. The live broadcast is accessible at:*
www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/webcasts/default.htm

LEAD MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DECISIONS made by the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change, Councillor Nick Bennett, on 11 October 2022 at Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Councillor Stephen Shing spoke on item 9 (see minute 46)

38. DECISIONS MADE BY THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2022

38.1 The Lead Member approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2022.

39. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

39.1 There were none.

40. URGENT ITEMS

40.1 There were no urgent items.

41. REPORTS

41.1 Reports referred to in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

42. ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY

42.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer.

DECISIONS

42.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

(1) Review and approve the County Council's adoption of the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

(2) Delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer to review the policy annually and update it in light of relevant changes, to ensure the policy remains fit for purpose.

REASONS

42.3 The Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy set out in Appendix 1 of the report aims to improve the environmental considerations built into the core delivery of goods, works and services that the Council procures.

42.4 Having declared a climate emergency and published both the East Sussex Environment Strategy and the Climate Emergency Plan, this policy supports the net zero targets of the Council and will aim to embed environmental sustainability, such as increases to East Sussex's biodiversity and reducing waste, into procurement decisions.

42.5 This policy will prepare prospective suppliers for the environmental considerations and expectations that will be implemented into the Council's future contracts.

42.6 Increasing environmental considerations across the Council's procurement activity presents a significant opportunity to influence a reduction in carbon emissions across the Council's services.

43. 1 SOUTHVIEW CLOSE, CROWBOROUGH AND THE ACCESS ROAD LEADING TO IT

43.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer.

DECISIONS

43.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

1) declare property known as 1 Southview Close and adjacent access road (the Property) surplus to requirements;

2) approve the disposal of the Property; and

3) delegate to the Chief Operating Officer to review offers received following the marketing of the property and approve a preferred purchaser to secure best value in accordance with s123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

REASONS

43.3 The property is no longer required for East Sussex County Council operational purposes.

43.4 Disposal of the property will reduce cost and liability and to achieve a capital receipt. The capital receipt will be used to fund the existing 10- year capital programme, therefore reducing the requirement to borrow.

44. BEACONGATE AND THE GABLES, CROWBOROUGH

44.1 The lead Member considered a report by the Chief Operating Officer.

DECISIONS

44.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to:

- 1) declare surplus to requirements two properties known as Beacongate and The Gables (the properties);
- 2) approve the disposal of the Properties; and
- 3) delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer in consultation with NHS England to (a) review the bids for the Property following the marketing exercise, and (b) to make an analysis of the bids and select a preferred purchaser to support best value in accordance with s123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

REASONS

44.3 The properties are no longer required for ESCC operational purposes.

44.4 Marketing and disposal of the property will meet the requirements of the Capital Grant Agreement and provide capital receipt for NHS projects, whilst minimising any ongoing maintenance and revenue implications connected with the Properties.

45. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

45.1 It was RESOLVED to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the remaining agenda items on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraphs 1 or 4 of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), namely information relating to any individual or information relating to any consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

46. PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CORONER'S SERVICE FOR THE EAST SUSSEX AREA

46.1 The Lead Member considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive.

DECISIONS

46.2 The Lead Member RESOLVED to approve the recommendations in the report, for the reasons set out in the report. The decision and reasons are set out in an exempt minute.

Agenda Item 4

Report to: Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change

Date of meeting: 08 November 2022

By: Chief Operating Officer

Title: Ringmer Swimming Pool, Ringmer; Outcome of the public consultation

Purpose: To review and fully consider the outcome of the public consultation in respect of the future swimming provision at Ringmer Pool.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change is recommended to:

- 1. Note the findings of the public consultation on the future swimming provision at Ringmer Swimming Pool that took place between 23 May – 15 August 2022;**
 - 2. Agree to decommission the pool from 31 December 2022 and permanently cease provision of swimming facilities at Ringmer pool should no financially viable option be available and committed to by that date (including the approval of any legal documentation required);**
 - 3. Delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer to carry out all actions necessary to give effect to the recommendations in this report, including either the decommissioning of the pool or agreeing to implement an alternative viable approach at no detrimental impact to the council, as detailed in the report.**
-

1 Background

- 1.1** Ringmer Swimming Pool (the Pool) is located on the site of King's Academy, Ringmer. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) has freehold ownership of both the pool and the Academy site. In 2011, the school converted to Academy status - Ringmer Pool was not part of the conversion.
- 1.2** The Pool was constructed in 1981 and was in operation until September 2020 when the Pool was closed due to major failure of significant plant and equipment infrastructure at the property.
- 1.3** Historically, the Pool was used by King's Academy, Ringmer and other local primary schools during school term time hours and was open for community use outside of term time and school hours.
- 1.4** This joint use asset has previously been managed under a concession contract to Wave Leisure (WL) Trust. There have been several contract extensions over the last five years, primarily due to lack of interest from other leisure concession operators (there is low income from community use).
- 1.5** There is currently a Contract for Services in place with WL until March 2023 (3 month notice period) to ensure Health and Safety compliance.
- 1.6** Leisure services are the remit of District and Borough councils in East Sussex. ESCC's interest in the Joint Use premises has therefore been as property owner and not as a direct leisure commissioner or provider.
- 1.7** An Expression of Interest exercise on the ongoing use of the site was carried out in 2021. The invitation was extended multiple times to maximise the opportunity for parties to respond. ESCC engaged with local stakeholders, including Ringmer Parish and Lewes District Councils, throughout the process. Stakeholders were aware of the process and deadlines. One business case was submitted from a Leisure Provider which included Heathfield and Uckfield Leisure Centres. The submission was considered to be unviable as it required significant levels of ongoing financial support from ESCC, whereas ESCC has no remit to provide leisure services.

- 1.8 On 20 April 2022, the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change (LMRCC) considered a report relating to the future of the Pool. The Lead Member noted the outcome of the expressions of interest, including the additional financial support that would be required in the running of the swimming pool as a community facility. The Lead Member approved a 12-week public consultation exercise. The purpose of the consultation was to give a further opportunity for organisations/stakeholders to submit their views, including sustainable and viable operational models. The public consultation ended on 15 August 2022 and this report provides an analysis of the outcome of the public consultation, including an updated Equality Impact Assessment and sets out the proposed next steps.
- 1.9 ESCC notified the District and Parish Council at the outset of the public consultation for their comments.
- 1.10 The Options set out in the consultation were:
- A. Close the pool permanently.
 - B. Keep the pool open.
 - C. Consider alternative viable proposals for alternative usage of the building.

2 Supporting information

Summary of the results of the public consultation

- 2.1 The final public consultation analysis report is attached as Appendix 1. The public consultation was conducted on the Council's 'Citizen' webpage with hard copies of the public consultation available at County Hall and Lewes Library.
- 2.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and a summary of the outcome is appended (Appendix 2).
- 2.3 In total there were 229 responses. All responses were online (i.e., no paper copies). Respondents could identify themselves in multiple ways, with the largest groups being residents (90%), parent/carers (36%) and visitors (6%).
- 2.4 Prior to 2020, 34% of the total respondents regarded themselves as frequent (weekly or more often) users of the Pool. A similar number (33%) considered themselves to be regular (1-3 times per month) users prior to 2020; 17% of respondents identified themselves as occasional users of the Pool, with 16% of respondents as non-users. 49% stated that they last used the pool in 2020 but were interrupted by the pandemic; 25% used it 2019-20; 12% last used it before 2019; and 14% have never used it.
- 2.5 When asked if respondents had used alternative District or Borough Council authority leisure facilities within East Sussex in the last 12 months, 56% said they had used Lewes Leisure Centre with some respondents using Eastbourne, Uckfield and Hailsham.
- 2.6 When asked if respondents had used other non-local authority swimming facilities instead of using Ringmer Pool (private leisure centres, member of hotel leisure facilities in the area), 42% said they had.
- 2.7 For those that had used non-local authority swimming facilities, there were a wide variety of responses with Pells Pool (Lewes), Giles Leisure and the Horsted Health Club (at the East Sussex National hotel resort) being frequently referred.
- 2.8 Participants were asked whether they would be able to use alternative services instead if Ringmer Pool were not to re-open. Various options were given, and the responses were: Crowborough 44%; Lewes 64%; Hailsham 9%; Other 13%; Not Answered 25%.
- 2.9 When asked about agreement to the permanent closure of the pool, the responses were as follows: Strongly Agree 0.87%; Agree 1%; Neither Agree or Disagree 2%; Disagree 7%; and Strongly Disagree 90%.

- 2.10 Conversely, an option to keep the pool opened gave the following responses: Strongly Agree 90%; Agree 7%; Neither Agree or Disagree 2%; Disagree 0.44%; Strongly Disagree 0.44%.
- 2.11 169 responses were forthcoming when asked for ideas or suggestions for making the future of the Pool financially sustainable. These were varied but recurring responses are summarised below:
- Extended community opening hours with a wider range of facilities / activities
 - Better advertising
 - Various suggestions for community management / staffing
 - New pricing structure / subscription model
 - House builders' contribution
 - Fundraising / grants
 - Reprioritisation of public investment to include the pool
- 2.12 Respondents were asked about the option of 'using the facility for a different purpose (i.e., not as a swimming pool)'; and 'what other community facilities could be offered at the site?' Responses needed to bear in mind that any such proposals should take account that the facility is located on the Academy site, which means that appropriate steps would be needed to safeguard pupils from members of the public accessing the facility via the Academy.
- 2.13 There were 116 responses to this question with a wide range of suggestions. Frequent themes are summarised as follows:
- Keep the swimming pool / put more work into keeping the pool viable
 - Community facility / gym / youth space / indoor skate park
 - Challenge to the safe-guarding concerns because of where the pool is situated on the site i.e., at the front
 - Gift to the Academy
 - Fitness / leisure facility
- 2.14 Respondents were then asked to describe ways in which permanent closure of the Pool, or the two other options identified above, would or might particularly affect persons with any of the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. There were 136 responses to this summarised as follows:
- Lack of opportunity for all groups
 - Negative impact on those without access to private transport / limited financial means
 - Negative impact on those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) considerations (smaller size of the pool seen as a positive for this group)
 - Negative impact for those with disability / mobility issues

Asset of Community Value

- 2.15 Ringmer Pool is now listed as an asset of community value as defined under Localism Act 2011. Lewes District Council are the local authority for administering the register. Some public and privately owned buildings and land in Lewes District and Eastbourne can be nominated as Assets of Community Value by community groups if certain criteria are met. Lewes District Council notified the County Council on 01 August 2022 that Ringmer Parish Council has been successful in meeting the criteria for Ringmer Pool to be listed as an asset of community value. If ESCC wished to dispose of Ringmer Pool, it would need to ensure that Ringmer Parish Council were notified formally to allow up to six months for the Parish Council to work up a business case and funds. The Council currently does not intend to dispose of this asset but the definition under the Localism Act, also defines "dispose" as a grant of a lease over 20 years. Therefore, if the Council was to grant a lease over 20 years to a third party it would need to be aware of the requirements to notify the Parish Council, as the asset is listed.

Financial Implications

- 2.16 As set out in the previous expression of interest process, no viable and sustainable options for continued community use of the swimming pool came forward by the closing date. Similarly, the public consultation did not result in any new proposals for a viable and sustainable alternative

operating model. However, a potentially viable option was submitted by Lewes District Council which the Council has viewed as worthy of further exploration and discussions are still ongoing.

2.17 A brief assessment of the financial and commercial implications for each of the options considered through the consultation are set out below. More detailed analysis is set out in an exempt item later in the agenda.

- Option A – Close the Pool permanently
The Council has a modest budget to support the community use of the swimming pool. If the use was ceased, there would be some initial budget pressures for ESCC as a result of one-off decommissioning costs along with ongoing holding costs. However, once any alternative arrangements for the building were agreed, this would result in a long term overall saving for ESCC.
- Option B – Keep the Pool open
If this option is pursued, there would be a substantial increase in the costs for managing the pool for community use which would have to be borne elsewhere to ensure that ESCC was able to remain within budget.
- Option C – Consider alternative viable proposals for the use of the building.
As outlined above, the consultation responses provided a number of suggestions relating to changes to the operating model; however, none of these offered a financially sustainable model for continued community use. Even with the proposed changes, significant financial resources would be required to maintain the ongoing use of the pool.

2.18 In addition, a number of the suggestions were received through the consultation which are not considered feasible on a college site for a number of reasons, primarily due to safeguarding requirements. King's Academy Ringmer has historically had sole daytime use of the pool and in considering any alternative proposals, future curriculum use would need to be a consideration. Ringmer Parish Council did not submit a proposal under option C.

Key impacts and mitigations (including Equality Impact Assessment)

2.19 It is recognised that any closure of swimming facilities in Ringmer may impact different residents in different ways and in making a final decision on these options the Lead Member is required to have due regard to the duties set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Equality impacts have been considered in relation to all proposals to identify any adverse impacts that may arise disproportionately for people sharing legally protected characteristics, as defined in the Act. The public consultation explicitly asked whether any specific impacts in relation to these characteristics are identified and a record of these findings is provided in Appendix 2.

2.20 Summary of the potential equality impacts identified by respondents:

- Limited public transport to alternate facilities, potentially disproportionately affecting younger and older people, disabled people and carers, and those living in rural areas ('rurality' is additional focus for ESCC);
- Health impacts (physical and mental health), specifically for disabled people, older and younger people (especially those with SEN and/or who are neurodivergent);
- Increased loneliness and isolation, particularly for older and disabled people;
- Impacts on women who may have more caring responsibilities and limited time and/or income to access alternate venues.

2.21 Impacts are identified in relation to a number of the legally protected characteristics, such as age (older and young people), disability (mental, physical, sensory and neurodiversity), pregnancy/maternity, and sex (women) and for some people sharing these characteristics.

Mitigations identified if the pool remains closed include the following:

- The national curriculum requirement to provide swimming instruction in Key Stage 1 or 2 remains a duty on schools.
- Engagement with the alternate venues to identify sessions aimed at older, younger and disabled people or to encourage development of these.
- Other clubs, sports and activities are available to improve health and alleviate isolation.

- 2.22 Respondents also proposed better provision/subsidising of bus routes or a shuttle bus to alternate venues, replicating activities in another venue, better advertising of the pool and its offer, or simply keeping the pool open (most responses proposed this). However, it is not proposed to implement any of these proposals as they are not considered to be financially sustainable.

Analysis of public consultation and next steps

- 2.23 A summary of the results from the public consultation has been outlined earlier in this report. In respect of the 229 responses, 34% were regular users of the pool and 56% of the respondents had visited other public run leisure centres in East Sussex within the last calendar year too. 50% of respondents had visited alternative public run leisure centres in East Sussex in the last year. The vast majority were at other urban centres in Lewes, Eastbourne, Hailsham and Uckfield. 42% of respondents had also accessed alternative non-local authority private sector leisure facilities.
- 2.24 It is clear from those who completed the questionnaire, a significant number of respondents access other leisure facilities in the surrounding area and there are alternative swimming pools near to Ringmer which have been used by residents.
- 2.25 Through the Expression of Interest process in November 2021, the Council sought to identify a viable and sustainable provider to run the pool facilities; however, this identified that continued community use would result in substantial increased costs. The public consultation has provided some key information about how respondents are accessing a range of leisure facilities outside of Ringmer and other surrounding areas.

3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 The public consultation on the future swimming provision at Ringmer Swimming Pool has not yet resulted in a sustainable, viable alternative option for the continuation of the operation of the swimming pool.
- 3.2 Therefore, taking into account the wider public consultation outcomes, the outcome of the expression of interest exercise carried out in 2021, the equality impact assessment, and the financial implications detailed in this report and the exempt report later on in the agenda, it is therefore recommended to decommission the pool from 31 December 2022 and cease the swimming provision at the Ringmer site. However, this could be reconsidered if a financially viable agreement is committed to by LDC before this date. If a financially sustainable option is brought forward at no detrimental impact to the Council, and the associated legal documentation is approved, it is recommended that this alternative option is pursued.
- 3.3 The Lead Member is recommended to delegate authority to the Chief Operating Officer to carry out all actions necessary to give effect to the recommendations in this report.
- 3.4 ESCC will continue to engage with King's Academy Ringmer in ensuring that the building remains Health & Safety compliant whilst the next steps for the building are being considered.

Ros Parker
Chief Operating Officer

Contact Officers:
Nigel Brown - Email Nigel.Brown@eastsussex.gov.uk

Local Members
Ringmer – Councillor Johnny Denis

Appendix 1 - Public Consultation survey summary
Appendix 2 - EQIA impact assessment statement

This page is intentionally left blank

Ringmer Swimming Pool Consultation on Future Options: Summary report

This report was created on Wednesday 28 September 2022 at 14:21 and includes **229** responses.

The activity ran from 23/05/2022 to 15/08/2022.

Contents

What is your organisation? (optional)	2
Organisation	2
First part of your primary residence postcode e.g. BN8. Information will be used for mapping interest in leisure facilities in the area (optional)	2
Enter first part of postcode	2
Are you interested in this consultation as a...	3
Responder Interest	3
Name of business, community, organisation, or interested group?	3
Which of the following apply? Please answer on behalf of yourself and any immediate family or household members.	4
Usage	4
When did you last use Ringmer Swimming Pool? Please answer on behalf of yourself and any immediate family or household members.	4
Last used	4
Within the last 12 months have you used district or borough council authority leisure facilities within East Sussex County? Please answer on behalf of yourself and any immediate family or household members.	5
12 months - LA Pools	5
If 'yes' which one(s)?	5
Within the last 12 months have you used other non-local authority swimming facilities instead of using Ringmer Pool (e.g. private leisure centres, member of hotel leisure facilities in the area)? Please answer on behalf of yourself and any immediate family or household members.	5
Within the last 12 months have you used other non- local authority swimming facilities instead of using Ringmer Pool (private leisure centres, member of hotel leisure facilities in the area)? If 'yes' which one(s)?	5
If 'yes' which one(s)?	5
If Ringmer Pool is not to re-open will you be able to use one of the following alternative services instead (optional - tick all those that apply)? Please answer on behalf of yourself and any immediate family or household members.	6
If Ringmer Pool is not to re-open will you be able to use one of the following alternative services instead	6
Other pools - please specify	6
In the light of the information provided above (in the 'Introduction' and 'Options' sections), what is your view about the following options for the future of the Pool? You may explain the reasons for your views on these options below	6
In the light of the information provided above (in the 'Introduction' and 'Options' sections), what is view about the following options for the future of the Pool - Permanent closure of the Pool	6
In the light of the information provided above (in the 'Introduction' and 'Options' sections), what is view about the following options for the future of the Pool - Keeping the Pool open	7
In the light of the information provided above (in the 'Introduction' and 'Options' sections), what is view about the following options for the future of the Pool - Using the facility for a different purpose (i.e. not as a swimming pool)	7
You may explain the reasons for your views on these options below.	7
As to the option of 'keeping the Pool open', do you have any ideas or suggestions for making the future of the Pool financially sustainable? (maximum 500 words)	8
As to the option of 'keeping the Pool open', do you have any ideas or suggestions for making the future of the Pool financially sustainable?	8
As to the option of 'using the facility for a different purpose (i.e., not as a swimming pool)', what other community facilities could be offered at the site? (Please bear in mind, when making any such proposals, that the facility is located on the Academy site, which means that appropriate steps would be needed to safeguard pupils from members of the public accessing the facility via the Academy). Do you have any ideas or proposals for making such alternative usage financially sustainable? (maximum 500 words)	8
As to the option of 'using the facility for a different purpose (i.e., not as a swimming pool)', what other community facilities could be offered at the site? (Please bear in mind, when making any such proposals, that the facility is located on the Academy site, which means that appropriate steps would be needed to safeguard pupils from members of the public accessing the facility via the Academy). Do you have any ideas or proposals for making such alternative usage financially sustainable?	8

Please describe ways in which permanent closure of the Pool, or the two other options identified above, would or might particularly affect persons with any of the following "protected characteristics": age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. (maximum 500 words)	8
Please describe ways in which permanent closure of the Pool, or the two other options identified above, would or might particularly affect persons with any of the following "protected characteristics": age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. (maximum 500 words)	8
If your answer to the question above identifies any adverse impact in relation to persons with a particular protected characteristic, what steps do you consider could or should be taken to mitigate such impact? (maximum 500 words)	8
If your answer to question 10 above identifies any adverse impact in relation to persons with a particular protected characteristic, what steps do you consider could or should be taken to mitigate such impact?	8
What is your sex?	8
Sex	8
If you prefer to define your sex in another way, please write in	8
Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?	9
Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?	9
What is your age?	9
What is your age?	9
Do you consider yourself to be disabled?	10
Do you consider yourself to be disabled?	10
What is your sexual orientation?	10
What is your sexual orientation?	10
If you prefer to identify your sexual orientation in another way, please write that in	10
What is your religion or belief?	11
What is your religion or belief?	11
If other religion or belief, please write in	11
Are you pregnant or have you had a baby in the last 26 weeks?	11
Are you pregnant or have you had a baby in the last 26 weeks?	11
Asian or Asian British	12
Asian or Asian British	12
Any other Asian background, please write in	12
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	12
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	12
Any other Black, African or Caribbean background, please write in	12
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	13
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	13
Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background please write in	13
White	13
White	13
Any other White background, please write in	13
Other ethnic group	13
Other ethnic group	13
Any other ethnic group, please write in	14

What is your organisation? (optional)

Organisation

There were **21** responses to this part of the question.

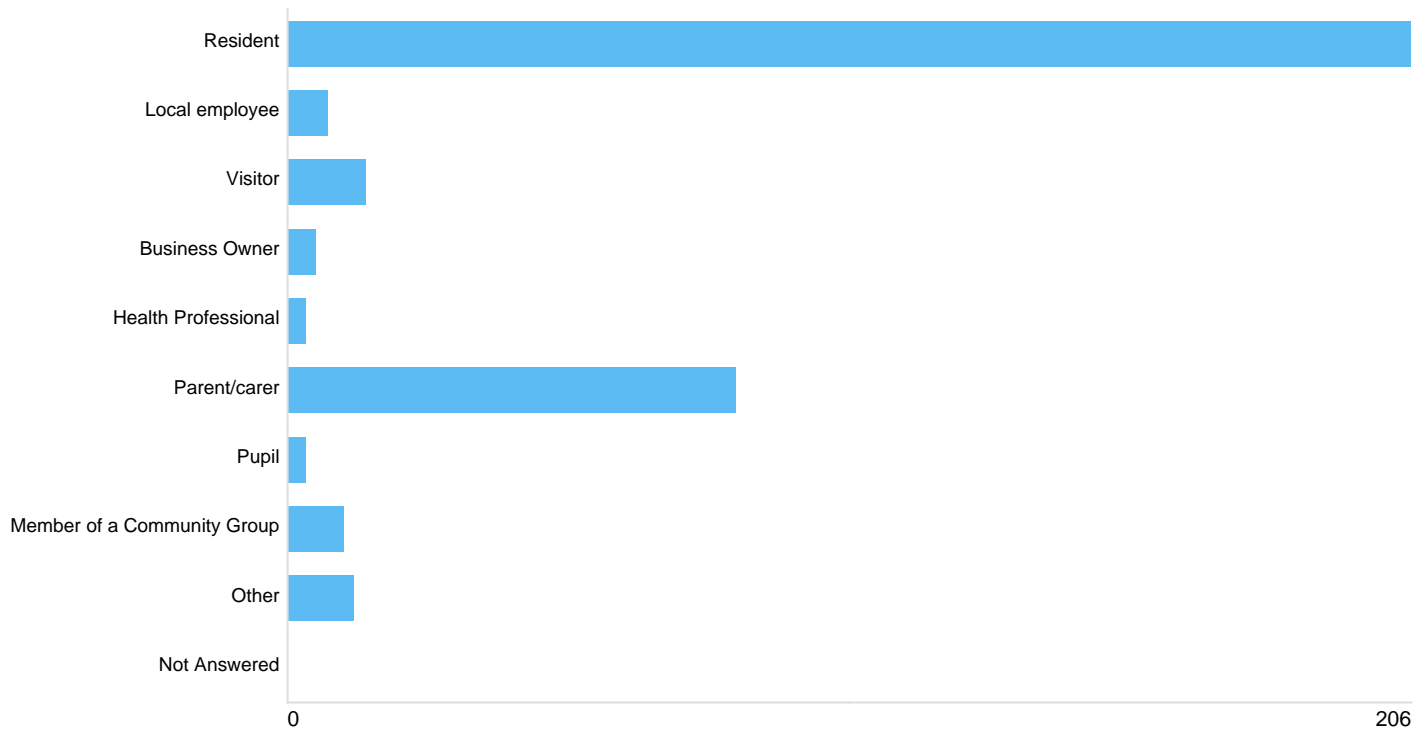
First part of your primary residence postcode e.g. BN8. Information will be used for mapping interest in leisure facilities in the area (optional)

Enter first part of postcode

There were **221** responses to this part of the question.

Are you interested in this consultation as a....

Responder Interest



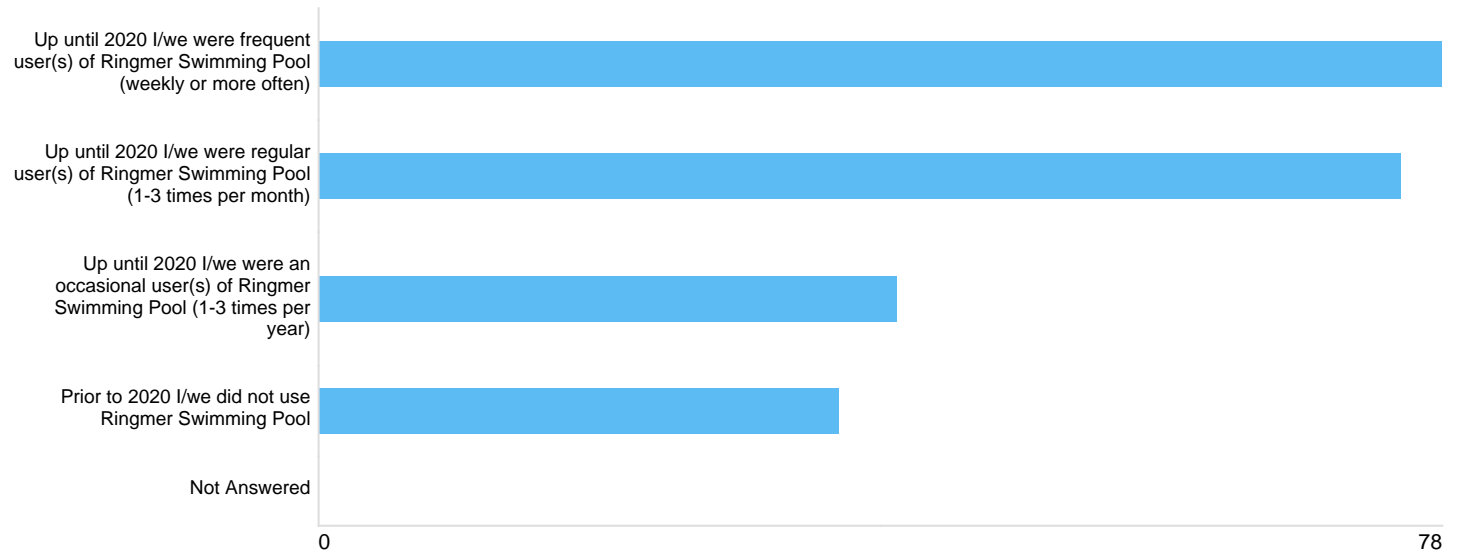
Option	Total	Percent
Resident	206	89.96%
Local employee	7	3.06%
Visitor	14	6.11%
Business Owner	5	2.18%
Health Professional	3	1.31%
Parent/carer	82	35.81%
Pupil	3	1.31%
Member of a Community Group	10	4.37%
Other	12	5.24%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Name of business, community, organisation, or interested group?

There were 14 responses to this part of the question.

Which of the following apply? Please answer on behalf of yourself and any immediate family or household members.

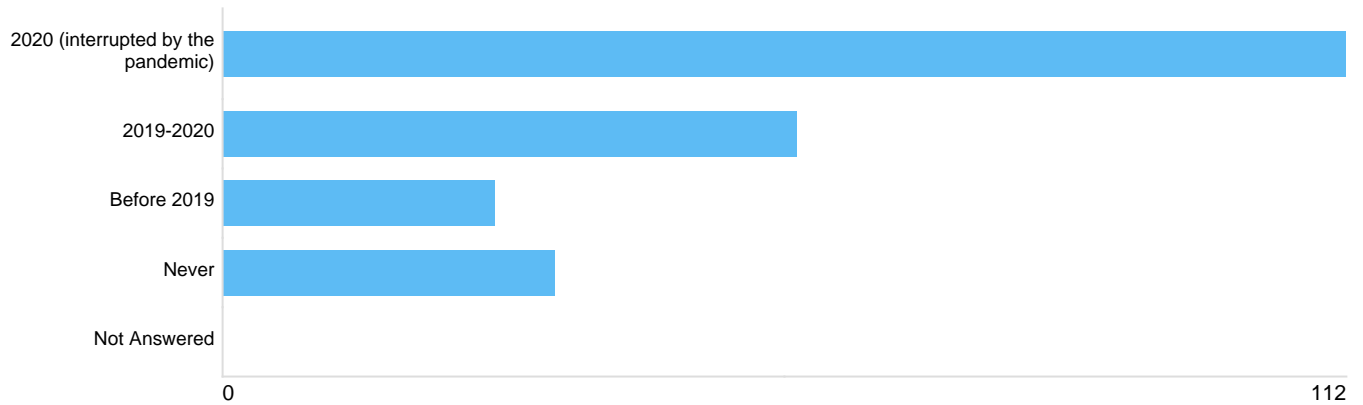
Usage



Option	Total	Percent
Up until 2020 I/we were frequent user(s) of Ringmer Swimming Pool (weekly or more often)	78	34.06%
Up until 2020 I/we were regular user(s) of Ringmer Swimming Pool (1-3 times per month)	75	32.75%
Up until 2020 I/we were an occasional user(s) of Ringmer Swimming Pool (1-3 times per year)	40	17.47%
Prior to 2020 I/we did not use Ringmer Swimming Pool	36	15.72%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

When did you last use Ringmer Swimming Pool? Please answer on behalf of yourself and any immediate family or household members.

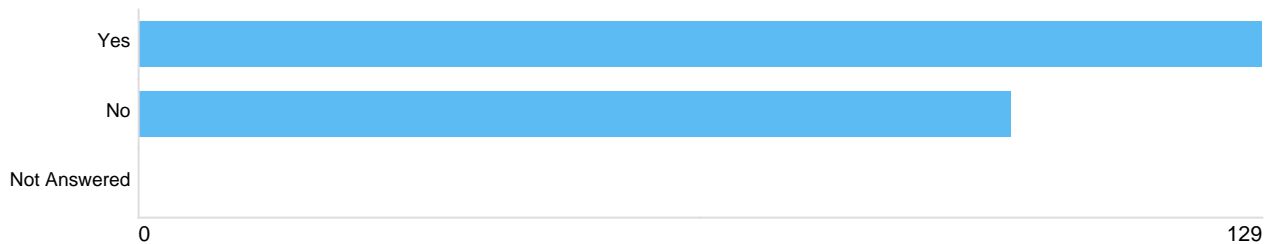
Last used



Option	Total	Percent
2020 (interrupted by the pandemic)	112	48.91%
2019-2020	57	24.89%
Before 2019	27	11.79%
Never	33	14.41%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Within the last 12 months have you used district or borough council authority leisure facilities within East Sussex County? Please answer on behalf of yourself and any immediate family or household members.

12 months - LA Pools



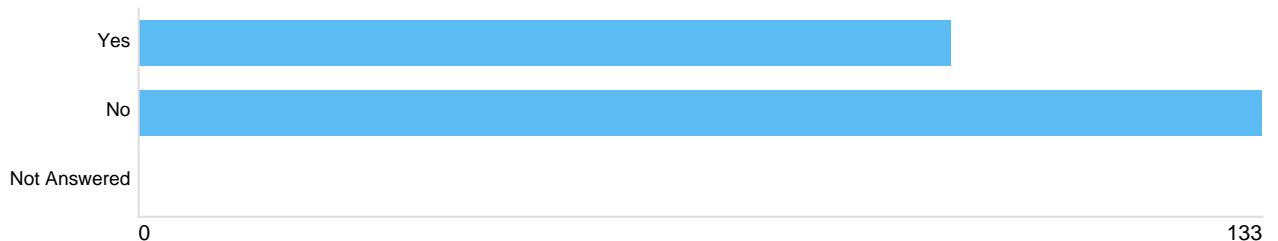
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	129	56.33%
No	100	43.67%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If 'yes' which one(s)?

There were **118** responses to this part of the question.

Within the last 12 months have you used other non-local authority swimming facilities instead of using Ringmer Pool (e.g. private leisure centres, member of hotel leisure facilities in the area)? Please answer on behalf of yourself and any immediate family or household members.

Within the last 12 months have you used other non- local authority swimming facilities instead of using Ringmer Pool (private leisure centres, member of hotel leisure facilities in the area)? If 'yes' which one(s)?



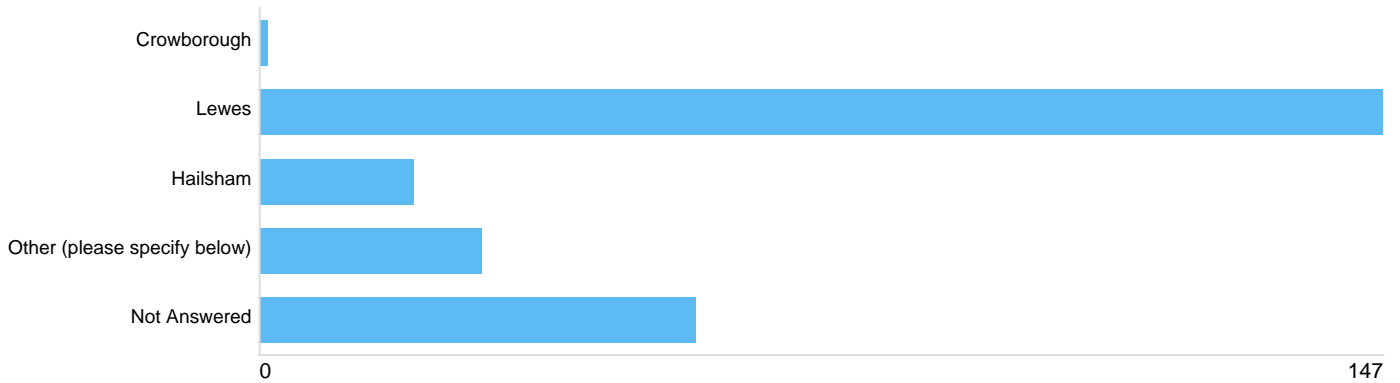
Option	Total	Percent
Yes	96	41.92%
No	133	58.08%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

If 'yes' which one(s)?

There were **84** responses to this part of the question.

If Ringmer Pool is not to re-open will you be able to use one of the following alternative services instead (optional - tick all those that apply)? Please answer on behalf of yourself and any immediate family or household members.

If Ringmer Pool is not to re-open will you be able to use one of the following alternative services instead



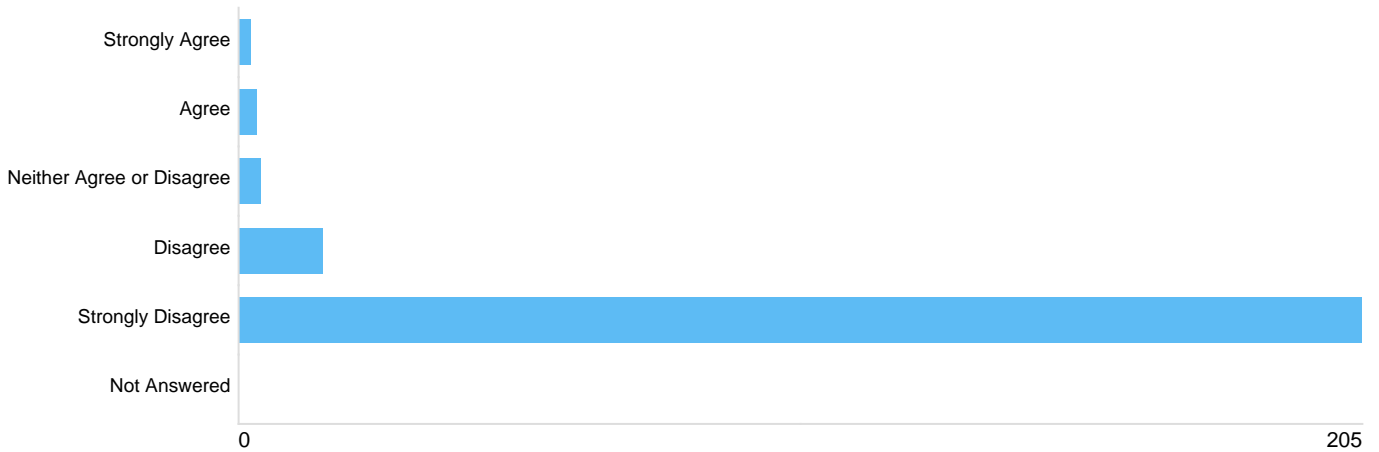
Option	Total	Percent
Crowborough	1	0.44%
Lewes	147	64.19%
Hailsham	20	8.73%
Other (please specify below)	29	12.66%
Not Answered	57	24.89%

Other pools - please specify

There were **58** responses to this part of the question.

In the light of the information provided above (in the 'Introduction' and 'Options' sections), what is your view about the following options for the future of the Pool? You may explain the reasons for your views on these options below

In the light of the information provided above (in the 'Introduction' and 'Options' sections), what is view about the following options for the future of the Pool - Permanent closure of the Pool



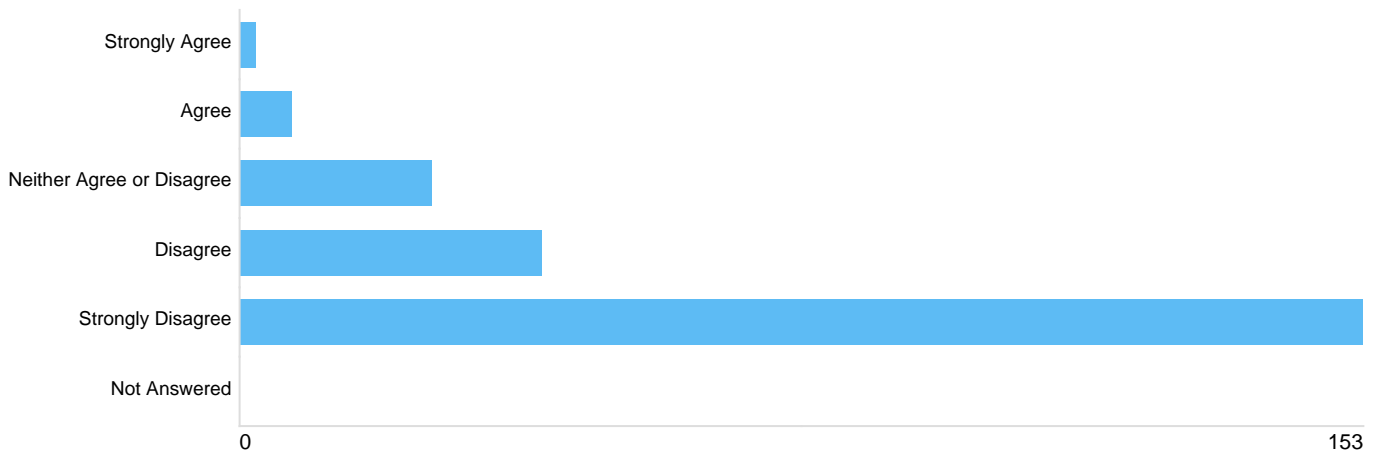
Option	Total	Percent
Strongly Agree	2	0.87%
Agree	3	1.31%
Neither Agree or Disagree	4	1.75%
Disagree	15	6.55%
Strongly Disagree	205	89.52%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

In the light of the information provided above (in the 'Introduction' and 'Options' sections), what is view about the following options for the future of the Pool - Keeping the Pool open



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly Agree	207	90.39%
Agree	16	6.99%
Neither Agree or Disagree	4	1.75%
Disagree	1	0.44%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.44%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

In the light of the information provided above (in the 'Introduction' and 'Options' sections), what is view about the following options for the future of the Pool - Using the facility for a different purpose (i.e. not as a swimming pool)



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly Agree	2	0.87%
Agree	7	3.06%
Neither Agree or Disagree	26	11.35%
Disagree	41	17.90%
Strongly Disagree	153	66.81%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

You may explain the reasons for your views on these options below.

There were 174 responses to this part of the question.

As to the option of ‘keeping the Pool open’, do you have any ideas or suggestions for making the future of the Pool financially sustainable? (maximum 500 words)

As to the option of ‘keeping the Pool open’, do you have any ideas or suggestions for making the future of the Pool financially sustainable?

There were 169 responses to this part of the question.

As to the option of ‘using the facility for a different purpose (i.e., not as a swimming pool)’, what other community facilities could be offered at the site? (Please bear in mind, when making any such proposals, that the facility is located on the Academy site, which means that appropriate steps would be needed to safeguard pupils from members of the public accessing the facility via the Academy). Do you have any ideas or proposals for making such alternative usage financially sustainable? (maximum 500 words)

As to the option of ‘using the facility for a different purpose (i.e., not as a swimming pool)’, what other community facilities could be offered at the site? (Please bear in mind, when making any such proposals, that the facility is located on the Academy site, which means that appropriate steps would be needed to safeguard pupils from members of the public accessing the facility via the Academy). Do you have any ideas or proposals for making such alternative usage financially sustainable?

There were 116 responses to this part of the question.

Please describe ways in which permanent closure of the Pool, or the two other options identified above, would or might particularly affect persons with any of the following “protected characteristics”: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. (maximum 500 words)

Please describe ways in which permanent closure of the Pool, or the two other options identified above, would or might particularly affect persons with any of the following “protected characteristics”: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation. (maximum 500 words)

There were 136 responses to this part of the question.

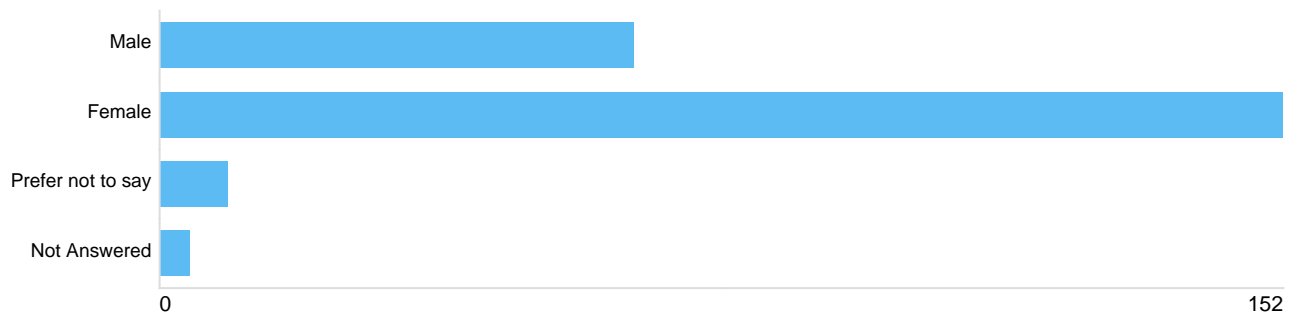
If your answer to the question above identifies any adverse impact in relation to persons with a particular protected characteristic, what steps do you consider could or should be taken to mitigate such impact? (maximum 500 words)

If your answer to question 10 above identifies any adverse impact in relation to persons with a particular protected characteristic, what steps do you consider could or should be taken to mitigate such impact?

There were 66 responses to this part of the question.

What is your sex?

Sex



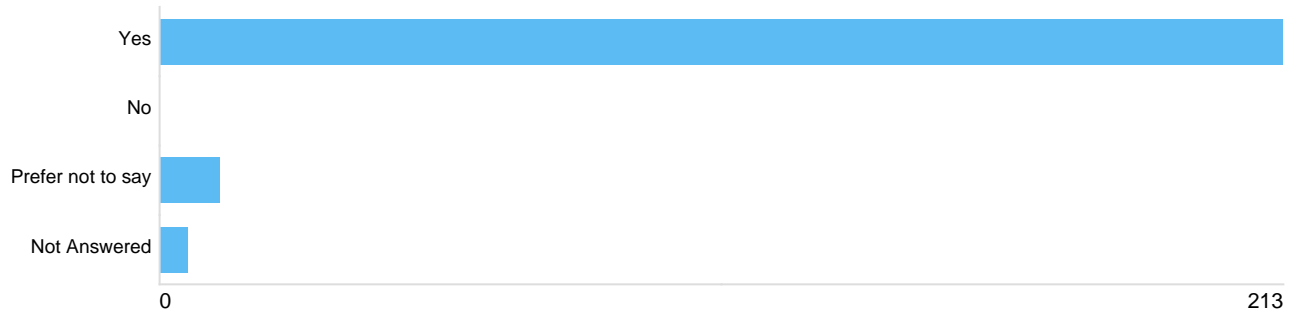
Option	Total	Percent
Male	64	27.95%
Female	152	66.38%
Prefer not to say	9	3.93%
Not Answered	4	1.75%

If you prefer to define your sex in another way, please write in

There were 2 responses to this part of the question.

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

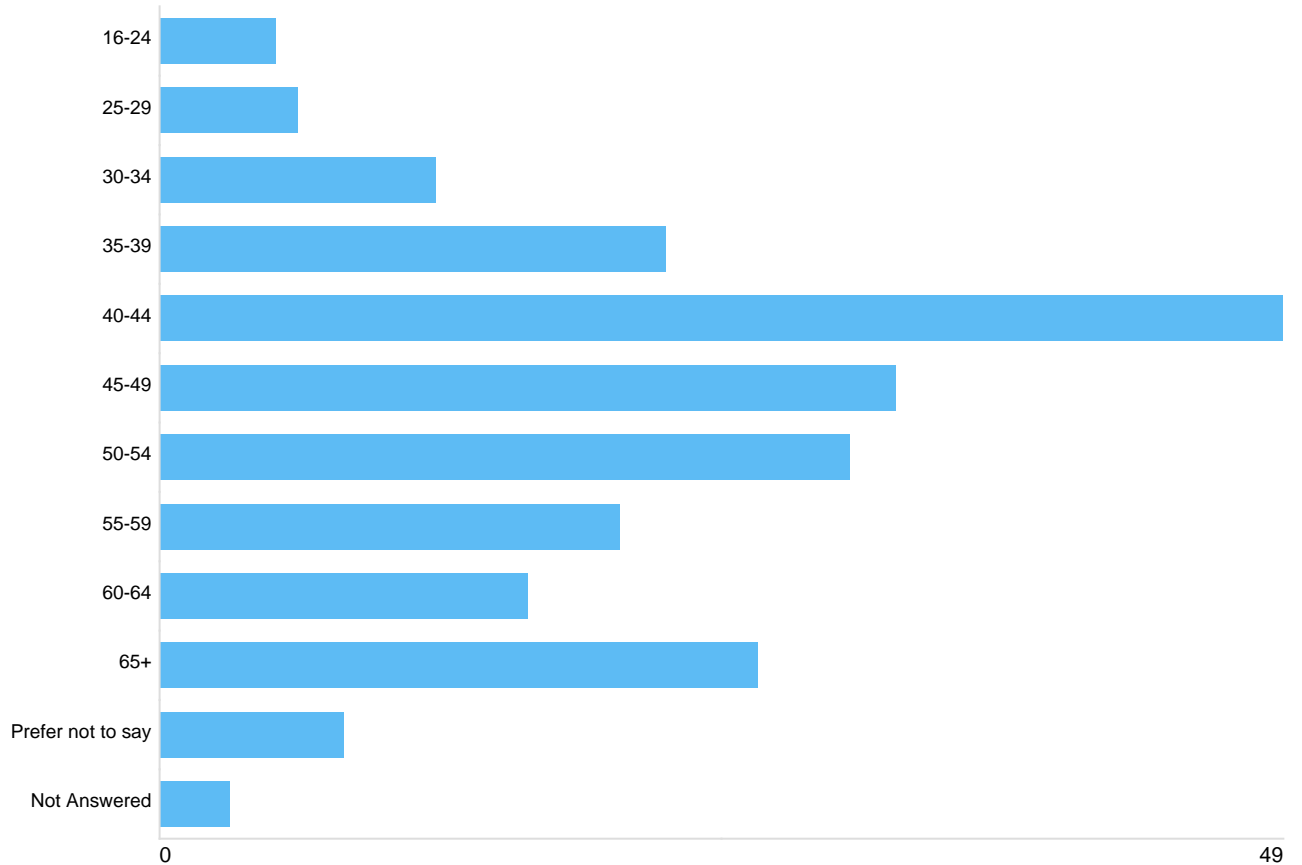
Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	213	93.01%
No	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	11	4.80%
Not Answered	5	2.18%

What is your age?

What is your age?



Option	Total	Percent
16-24	5	2.18%
25-29	6	2.62%
30-34	12	5.24%
35-39	22	9.61%
40-44	49	21.40%
45-49	32	13.97%
50-54	30	13.10%
55-59	20	8.73%
60-64	16	6.99%
65+	26	11.35%
Prefer not to say	8	3.49%
Not Answered	3	1.31%

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

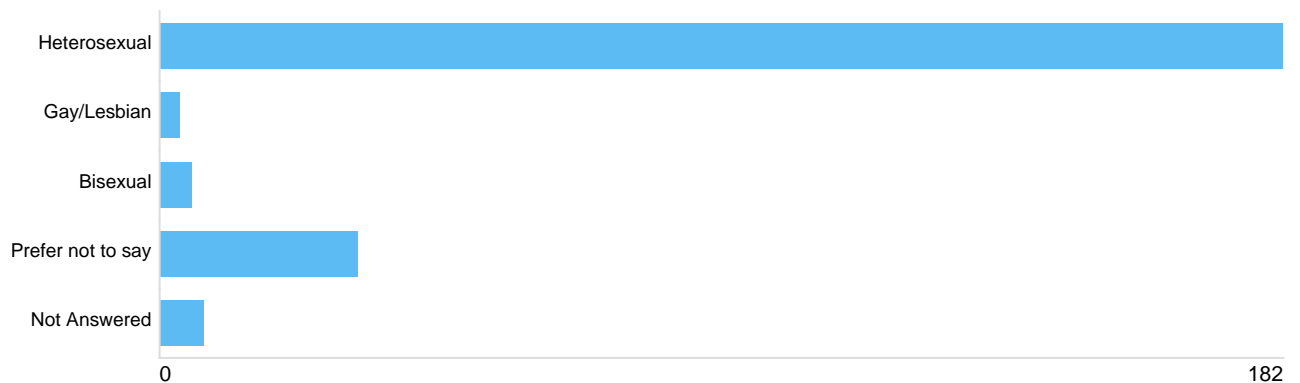
Do you consider yourself to be disabled?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	21	9.17%
No	192	83.84%
Prefer not to say	13	5.68%
Not Answered	3	1.31%

What is your sexual orientation?

What is your sexual orientation?



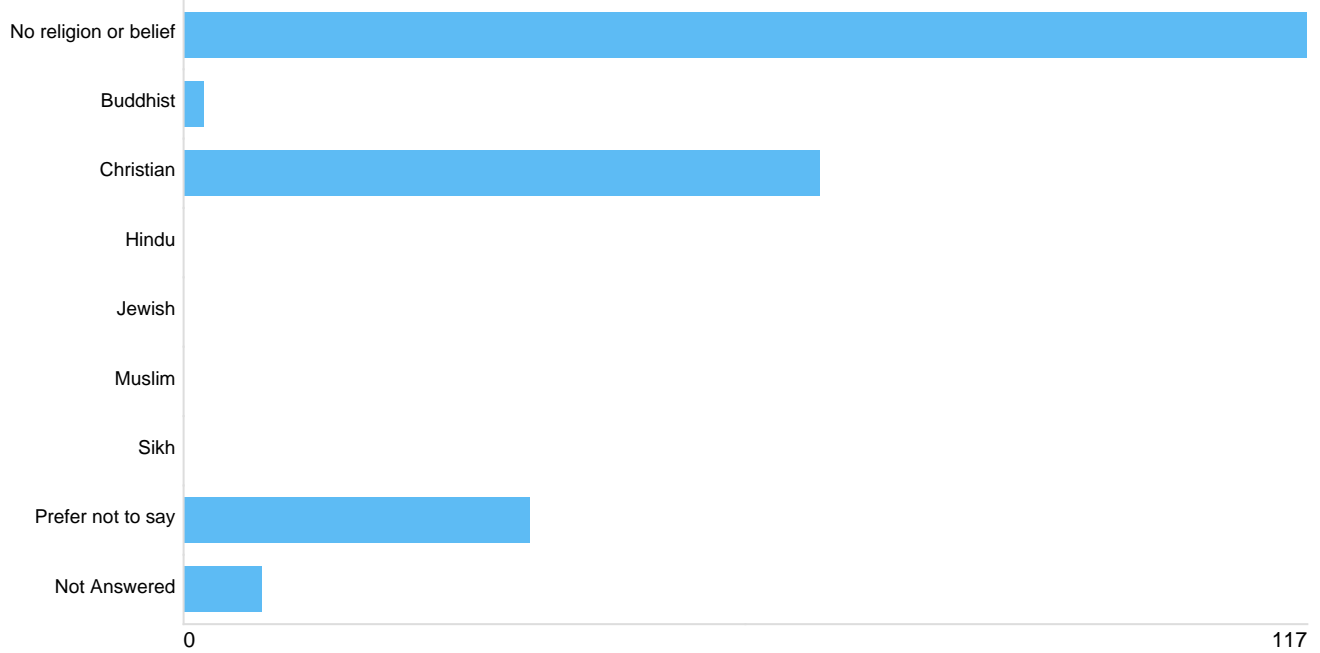
Option	Total	Percent
Heterosexual	182	79.48%
Gay/Lesbian	3	1.31%
Bisexual	5	2.18%
Prefer not to say	32	13.97%
Not Answered	7	3.06%

If you prefer to identify your sexual orientation in another way, please write that in

There were 4 responses to this part of the question.

What is your religion or belief?

What is your religion or belief?



Option	Total	Percent
No religion or belief	117	51.09%
Buddhist	2	0.87%
Christian	66	28.82%
Hindu	0	0.00%
Jewish	0	0.00%
Muslim	0	0.00%
Sikh	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	36	15.72%
Not Answered	8	3.49%

If other religion or belief, please write in

There were 4 responses to this part of the question.

Are you pregnant or have you had a baby in the last 26 weeks?

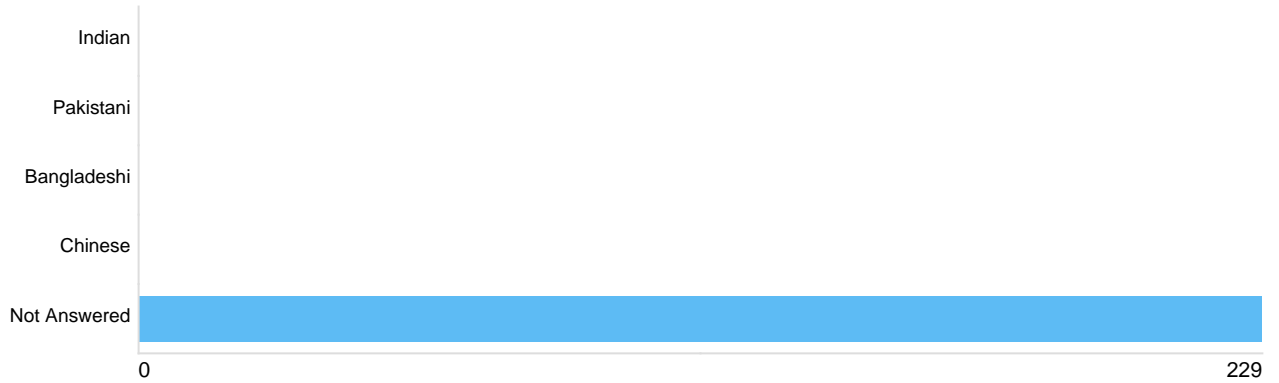
Are you pregnant or have you had a baby in the last 26 weeks?



Option	Total	Percent
Pregnant	3	1.31%
Had a baby in the last 26 weeks	4	1.75%
Not Answered	222	96.94%

Asian or Asian British

Asian or Asian British



Option	Total	Percent
Indian	0	0.00%
Pakistani	0	0.00%
Bangladeshi	0	0.00%
Chinese	0	0.00%
Not Answered	229	100.00%

Any other Asian background, please write in

There were 2 responses to this part of the question.

Black, African, Caribbean or Black British

Black, African, Caribbean or Black British



Option	Total	Percent
African	1	0.44%
Caribbean	0	0.00%
Not Answered	228	99.56%

Any other Black, African or Caribbean background, please write in

There was 1 response to this part of the question.

Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups

Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups



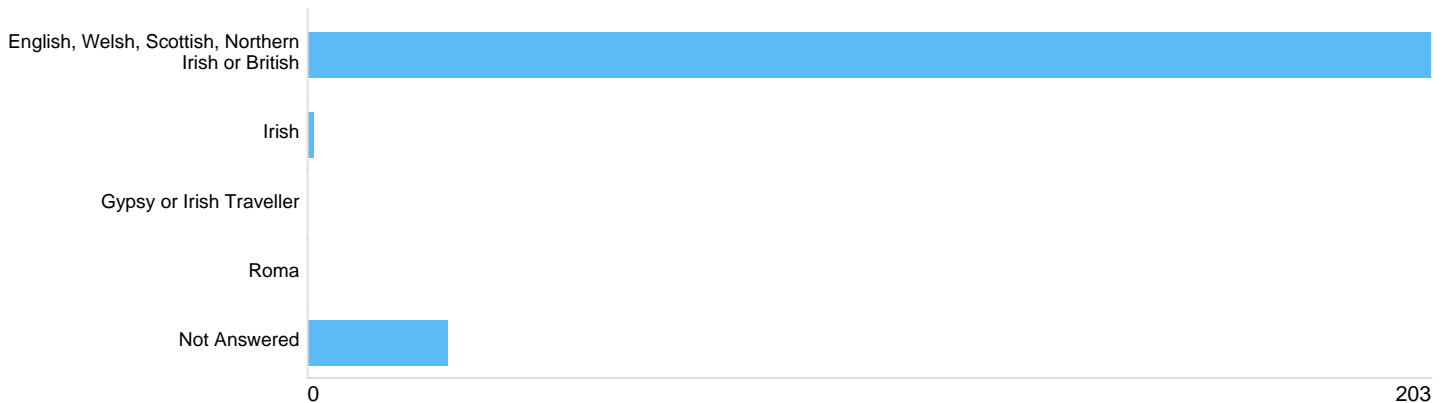
Option	Total	Percent
White and Black Caribbean	0	0.00%
White and Black African	1	0.44%
White and Asian	1	0.44%
Not Answered	227	99.13%

Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background please write in

There was 1 response to this part of the question.

White

White



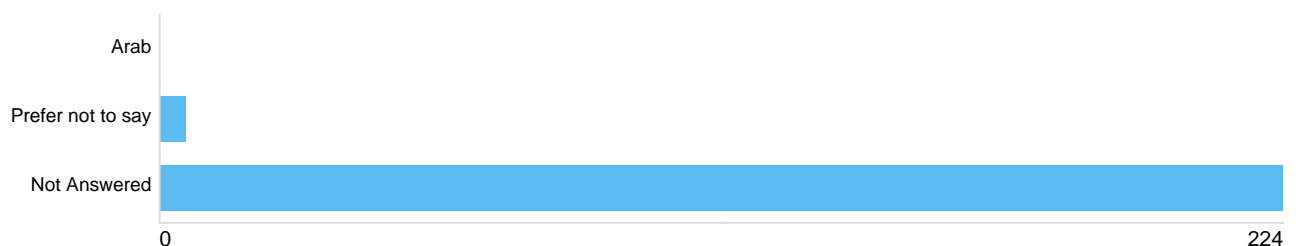
Option	Total	Percent
English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	203	88.65%
Irish	1	0.44%
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0.00%
Roma	0	0.00%
Not Answered	25	10.92%

Any other White background, please write in

There were 12 responses to this part of the question.

Other ethnic group

Other ethnic group



Option	Total	Percent
Arab	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	5	2.18%
Not Answered	224	97.82%

Any other ethnic group, please write in

There was 1 response to this part of the question.

APPX 2 - Ringmer Pool: Summary of Equality Impacts

The council has duties under the Equality Act 2010 (Section 149) to pay ‘due regard’ to the impact of proposals where these may disproportionately affect people because of their legally protected characteristics¹. In order to identify any such impacts and to assess whether negative impacts can be avoided or reduced, an initial assessment of equality impacts was undertaken and as a result two specific questions were asked in the consultation to invite perspectives on this to further inform the assessment². In making a final decision on the options proposed, Members are required to pay rigorous and proportionate attention to the duties set out in of the Equality Act and this equality information, and to consider it alongside all the other factors and information related to these proposals.

The following equality impacts were identified in the council assessment and by respondents:

- Problems with transport to other facilities:
 - Buses too expensive or infrequent service, potentially disproportionately impacting on younger and older people, disabled people and carers.
 - Lewes Leisure Centre (as an alternate venue) was identified as not being close to a public transport route.
 - Barriers for non-drivers, with potential disproportionate impacts as above, on younger and older people and disabled people.
- Impacts of closure on physical and emotional well-being, with specific potential impacts on disabled people (both in relation to physical and mental health), older people and younger people (especially those with SEN and/or who are neurodivergent).
- Negative impacts of increasing loneliness and isolation (specifically older and disabled people, but potentially for people sharing all characteristics, especially after the increased pressures of Covid-19). The pool was described as a place where people from a range of backgrounds could socialise.
- Specific impacts were noted as possible for women who may have more caring responsibilities and limited time and/or income to access alternate venues.
- The benefits of swimming were highlighted, especially for older and disabled people with limited mobility and/or joint pain, and during pregnancy. People with these characteristics were highlighted as potentially being more likely to have problems with transport to other venues.

¹ The legally protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race/ethnicity, religion/belief, sex and sexual orientation.

² The two questions were: “Please describe ways in which permanent closure of the Pool, or the two other options identified above, would or might particularly affect persons with any of the following ‘protected characteristics’ [they were then listed]” and “If your answer to the question above identifies any adverse impact in relation to persons with a particular protected characteristic, what steps do you consider could or should be taken to mitigate such impact?”

- The national curriculum requirement to provide swimming instruction in Key Stage 1 or 2 was noted, particularly impacting younger people. swimming was identified as an invaluable life skill as well as good for exercise.
- The smaller Ringmer pool was identified as being better for young people with SEND and/or who are neurodivergent than larger alternative facilities, as it is a quieter pool.
- Sessions at the pool had been specifically aimed at older and younger people and removal of those was seen as a specific loss, especially where alternate activities are limited locally.

Impacts are identified in relation to a number of the legally protected characteristics: age (older and young people), disability (mental, physical, sensory and neurodiversity), pregnancy/maternity, and sex (women).

Mitigations identified if the pool is closed include the following:

- The national curriculum requirement to provide swimming instruction in Key Stage 1 or 2 remains a duty on schools. This can be delivered at other local facilities.
- Engagement with the alternate venues to identify sessions aimed at older, younger and disabled people or to encourage development of these.
- Better advertising of other events, activities and groups in each area that can help address isolation and loneliness.

Respondents also proposed better provision/council subsidy of bus routes or a shuttle bus to alternate venues, replicating classes in another venue, better advertising of the Centre and its offer, reducing fuel costs, paying disabled people more as leisure activity costs increase, improving cycle lanes, or simply re-opening the pool (most responses proposed this).

In terms of consultation responses, more women responded to the consultation than men: 66.4% women, 27.9% men; no one identifying as transgender responded. Most responses came from people aged 40-44 years (21%), then the 45-49 and 50-54 age ranges (13% each). 11% of people said they were over 65 years, and under 5% were under 30 years. Of those who answered the question, 9.2% said they were disabled, which is lower than the wider population statistics (of approx. 20%). 3.5% of respondents identified as being lesbian, gay or bisexual: approximately in line with the estimate for the county of 4%. In relation to ethnicity, under 2% identified as being from an ethnic group other than White British.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank