

Berwick St James Village Climate Change Survey Results



November 2021

Berwick Village Climate Change Survey

Back in the summer, the village held a special village meeting about climate change and its impact on biodiversity and what as a village we could do about it. Some very interesting ideas were put forward and it was agreed that we should survey the village to establish villager's interest in progressing various initiatives as a community.

The survey was formally launched on 3rd November and closed on 21st November. We have had a total of 52 responses.

The following report shows the responses that we received. Please note that some respondents only answered some of the questions. The number of respondents for each question can be seen in the top right-hand corner of each table.

90% of respondents said that Berwick should explore ways in which we can work together to reduce our carbon emissions and promote biodiversity.

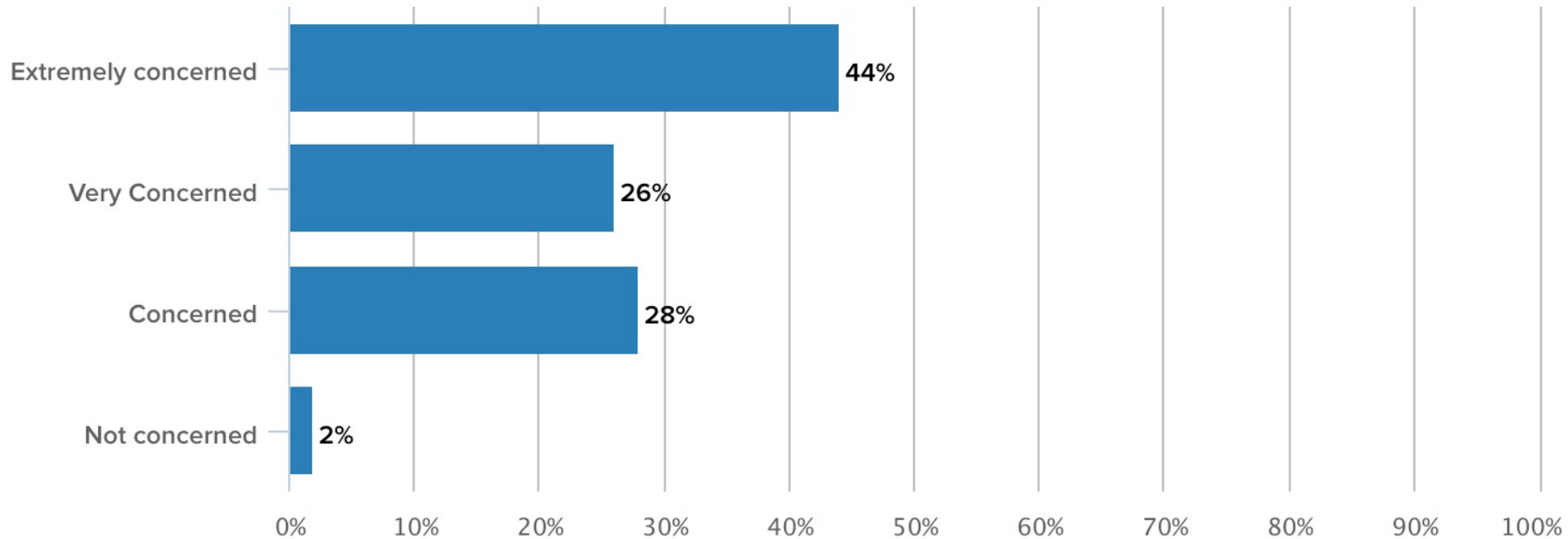
We are continually looking for ways to tackle climate change. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any ideas or would like to get involved in any of the initiatives.

Christian Lange – November 2021

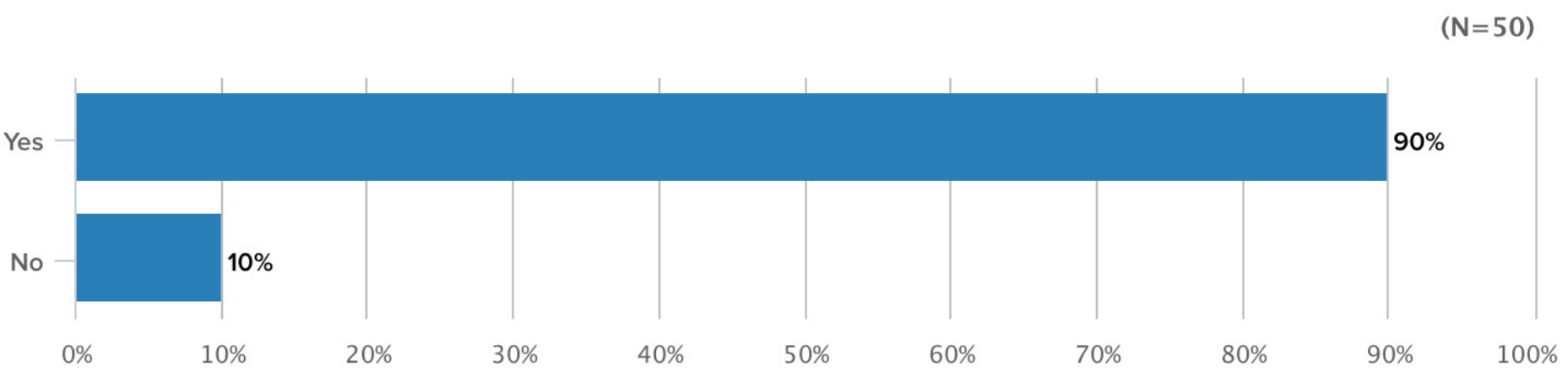
Berwick Climate Change Survey 2021

How concerned are you about climate change and its impact on biodiversity?

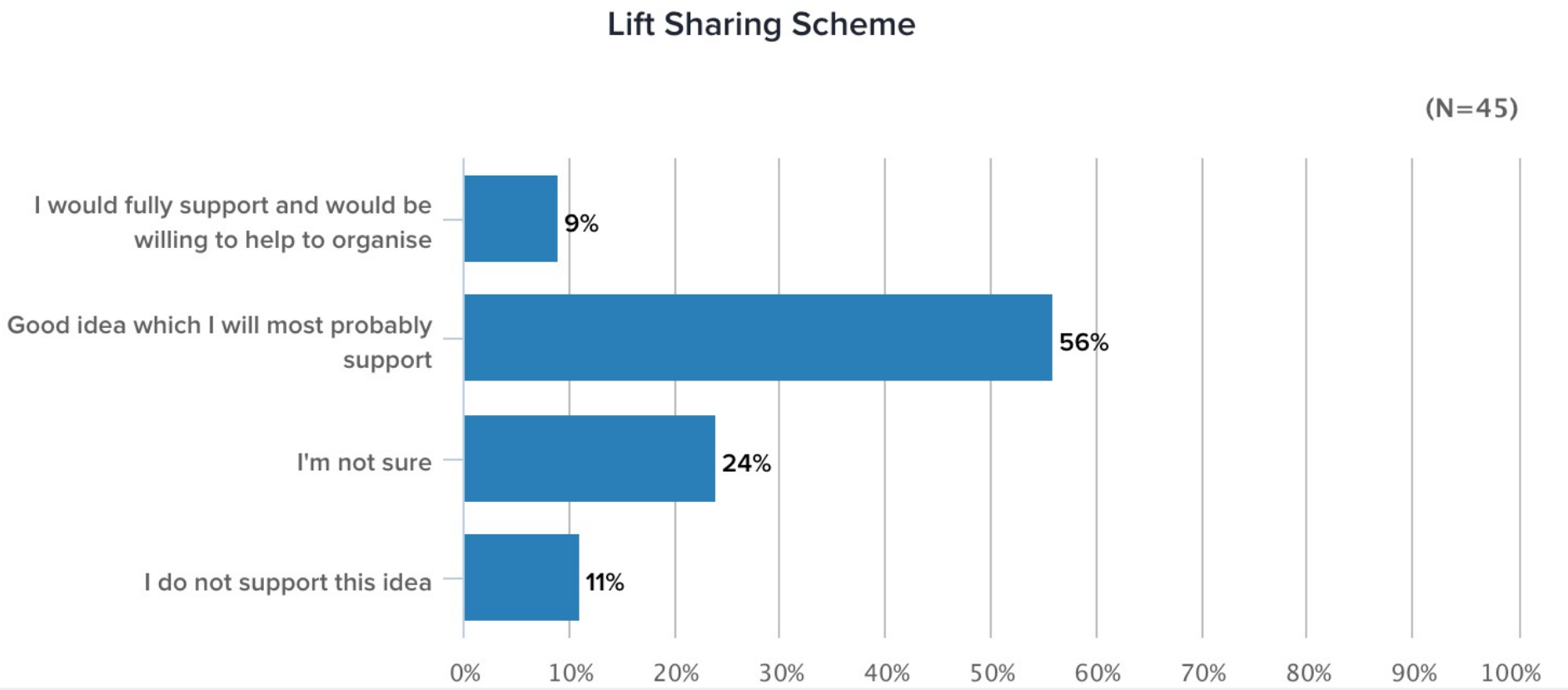
(N=50)



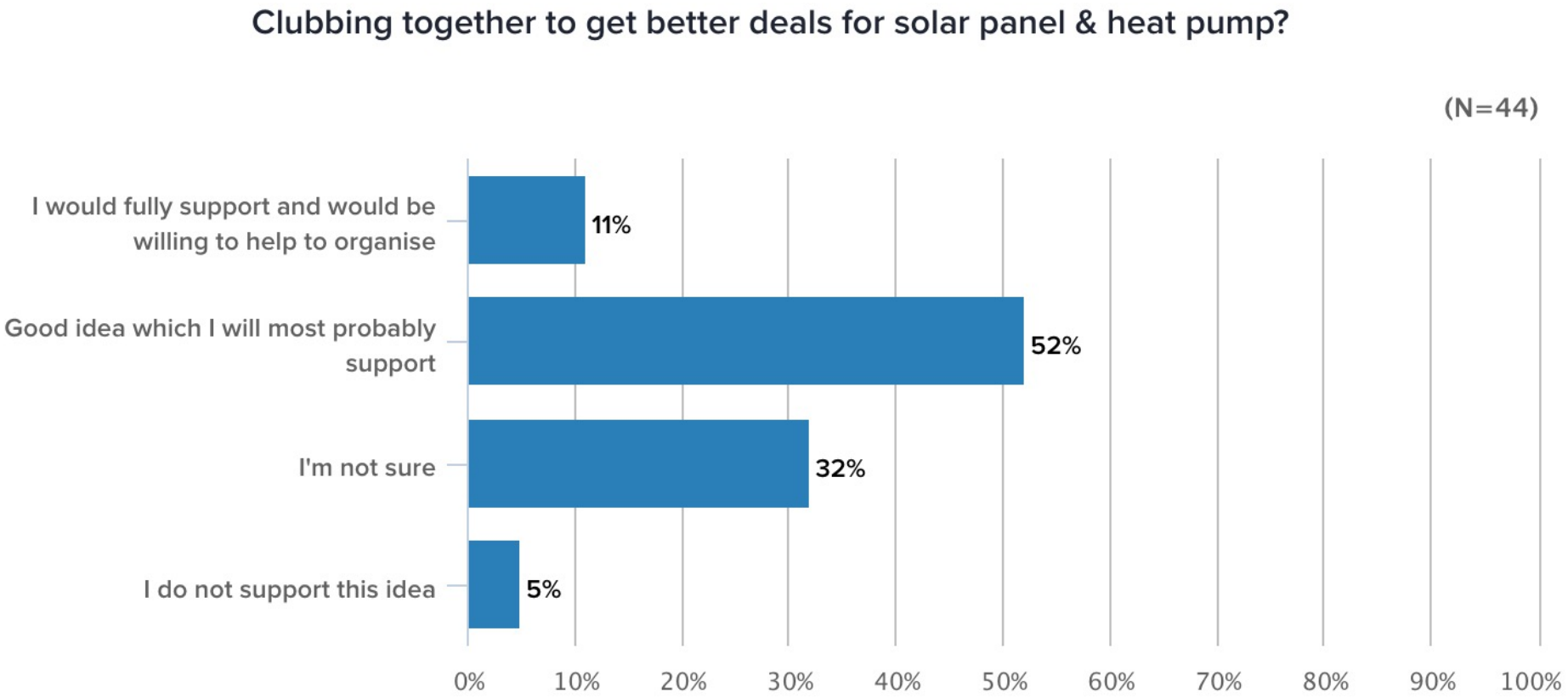
Do you think that the village should explore ways in which we can work together to reduce our carbon emissions and promote biodiversity?



A number of interesting ideas have already been suggested for the village. Please could you help us by indicating which, if any, of the following initiatives would you support?

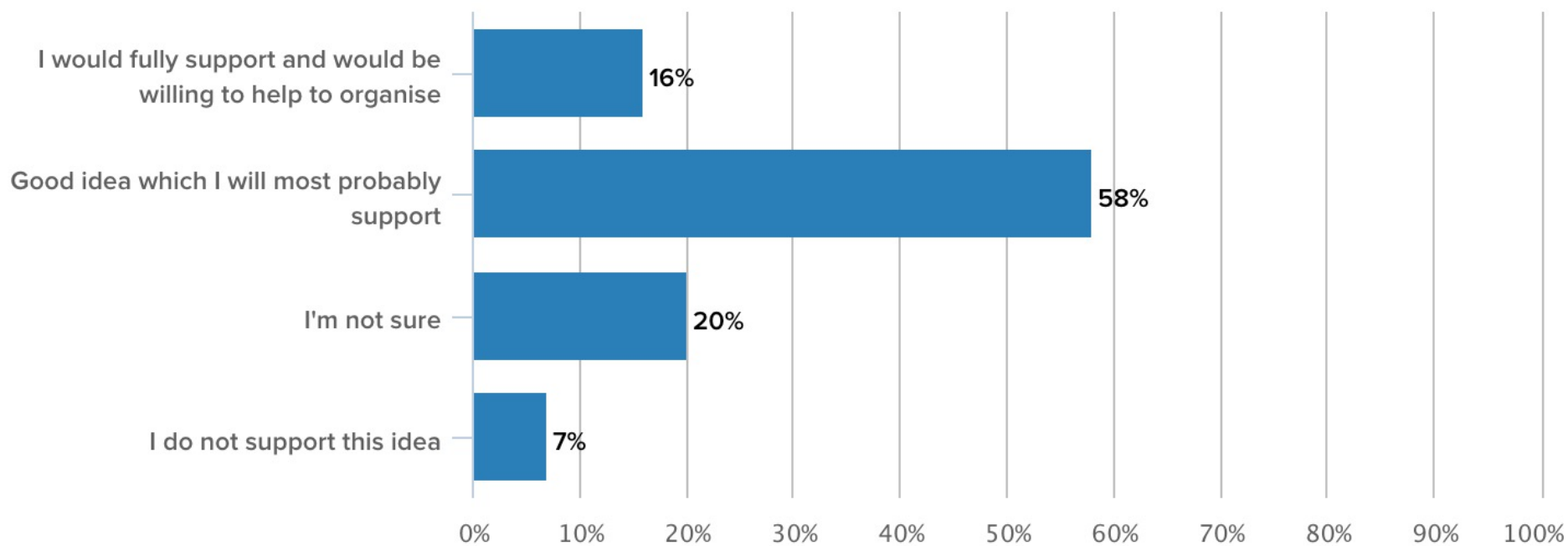


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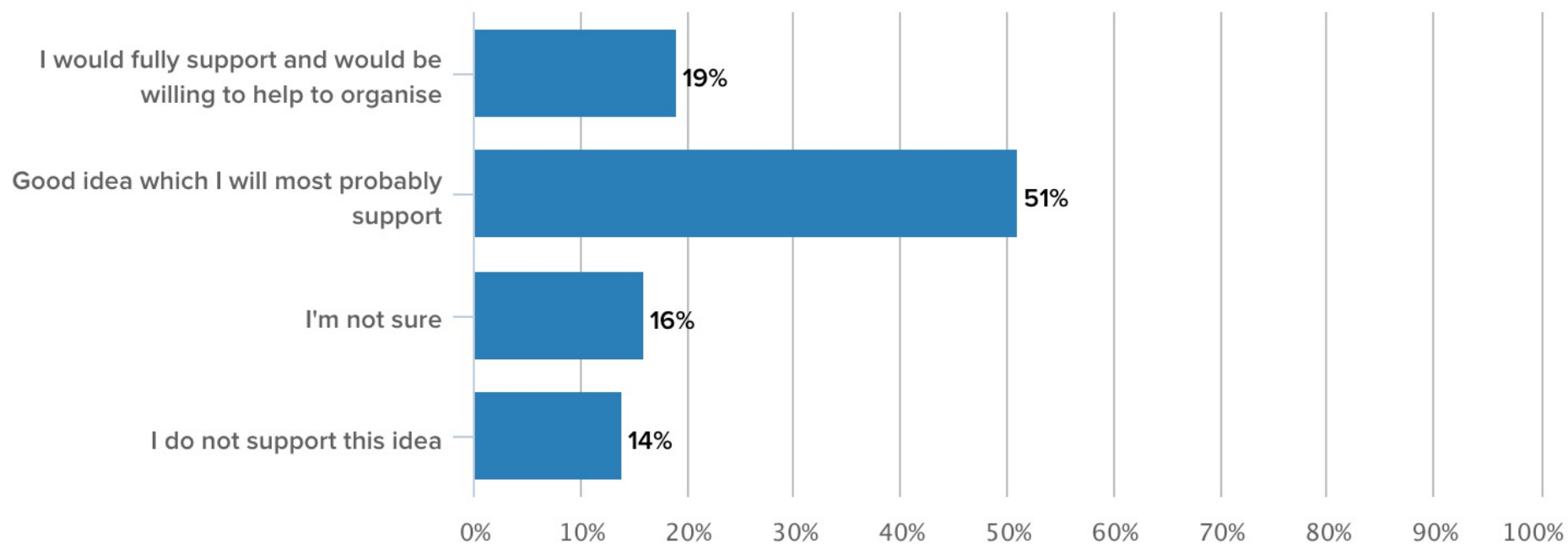
Interesting films or talks about the environment in the Reading Room

(N=45)



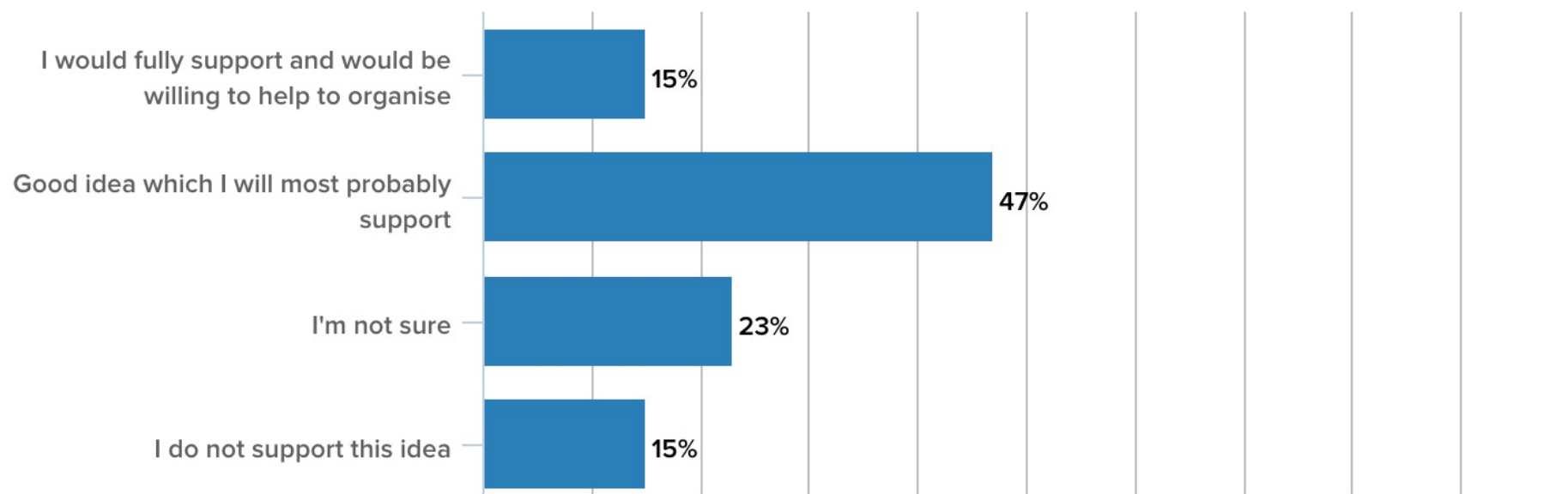
looking into installing car charger in the village

(N=43)



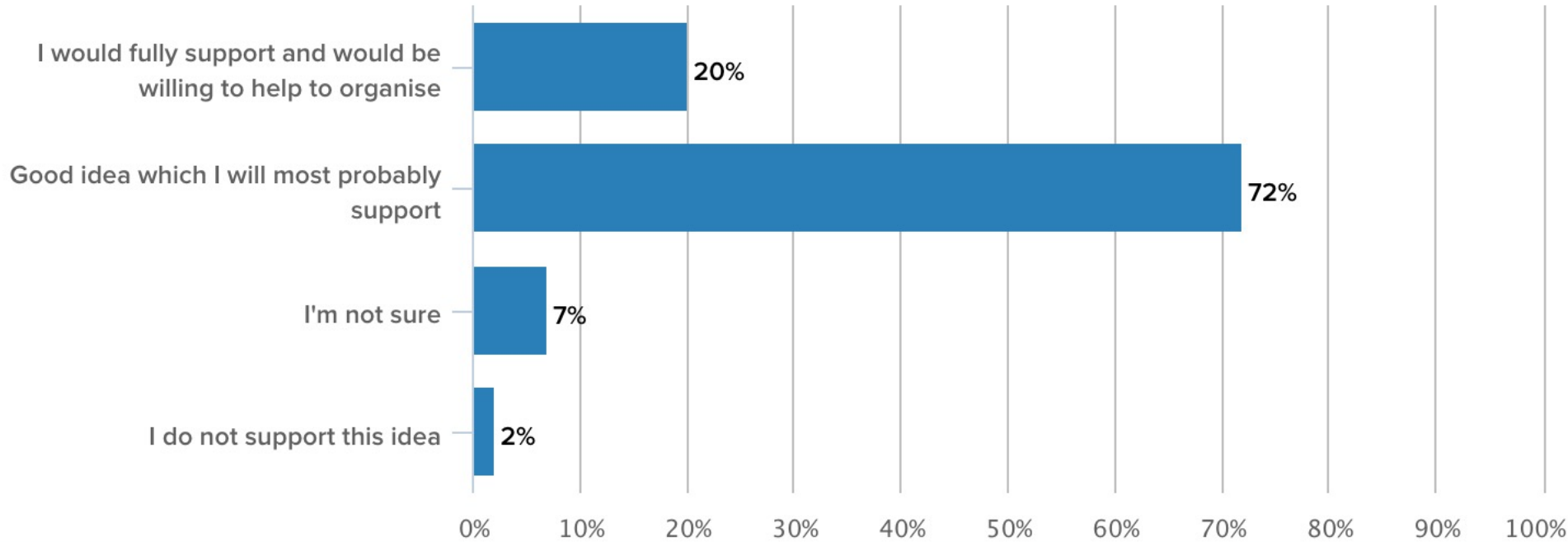
Start a village share scheme where items such as tools can be lent out to avoid 'stuff' being bought for occasional use

(N=47)



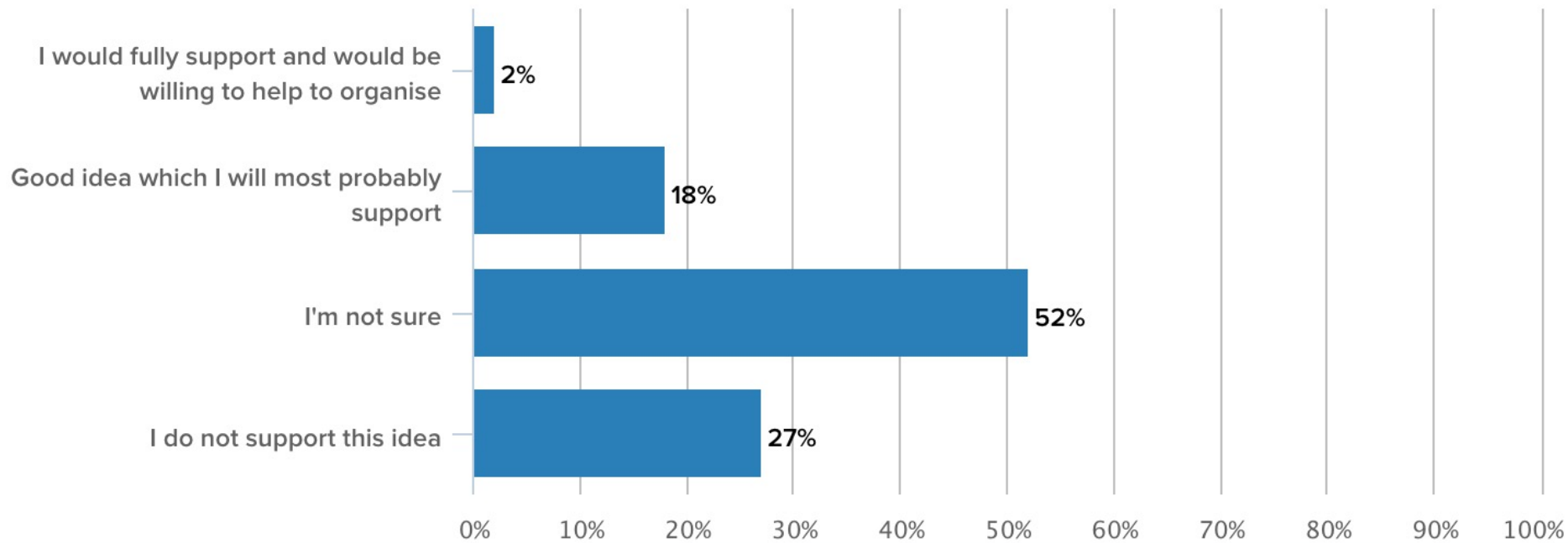
Regular village litter picking days.

(N=46)



Electric car or bicycle sharing scheme

(N=44)



Survey – Other comments

I am not sure that a lift sharing scheme would work in a village where many are retired. It works best where people share their journey to work where the journeys are similar and regular. It does not work as well for sporadic and occasional journeys.

D) Installing a car charger when villagers would probably be able to charge their own cars at home would seem to be an unnecessary expense for the village. Maybe the Boot would provide one for its customers. E) We have leant tools over the years and they have been broken so that is why I do not support this scheme.

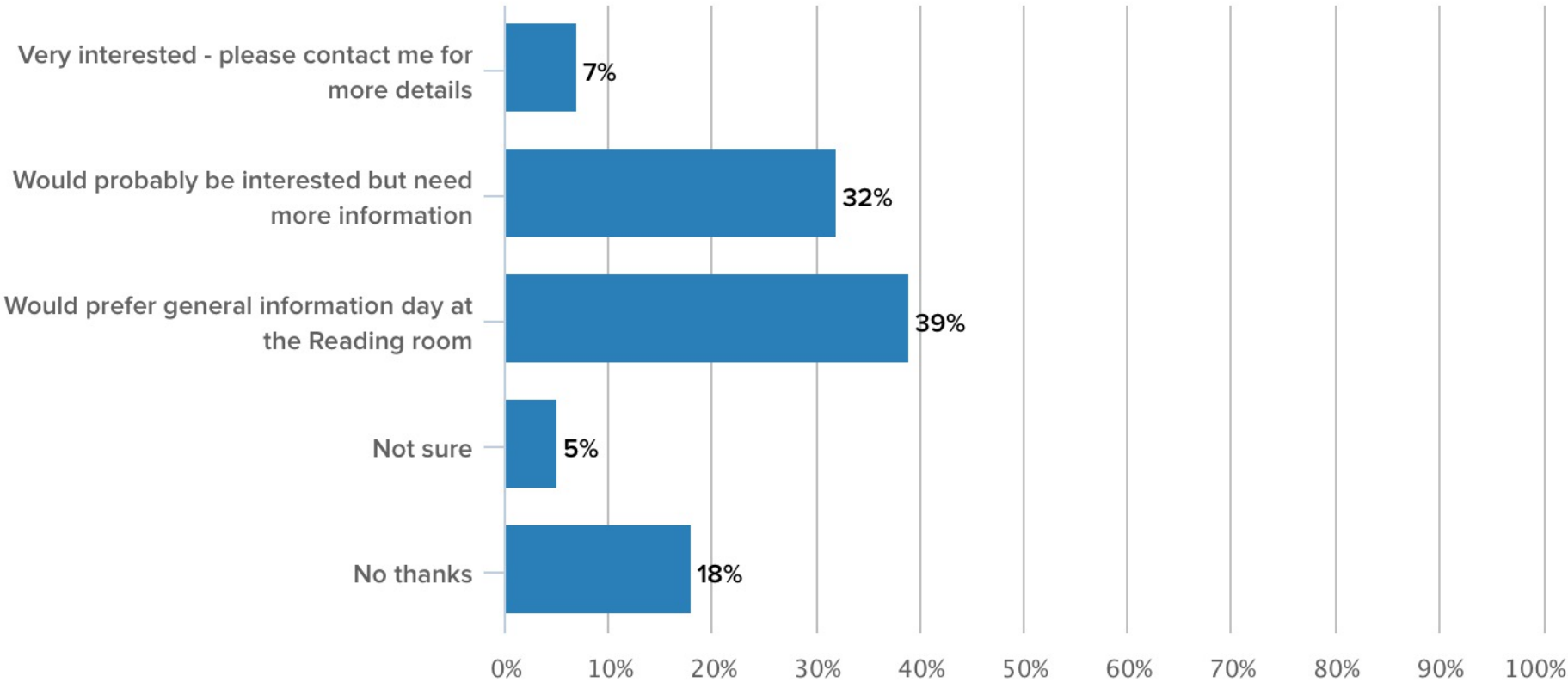
In practice I am not convinced that a number of well meaning "bulk purchase" ideas for material capital expenditure work well. Different people will have different timings in mind. Perhaps the better way forward would be to see if the village can get some sort of introductory commission for successful referrals in respect of "green" projects which individual villagers may choose to buy.

We are all on a journey so I think education of ideas, practical solutions is key.

A number of people in the village would be willing to provide informal advice/information on a one-to-one basis about how to reduce your carbon footprint. If you would like to take up this opportunity, please let us know which of the following you would be interested in?

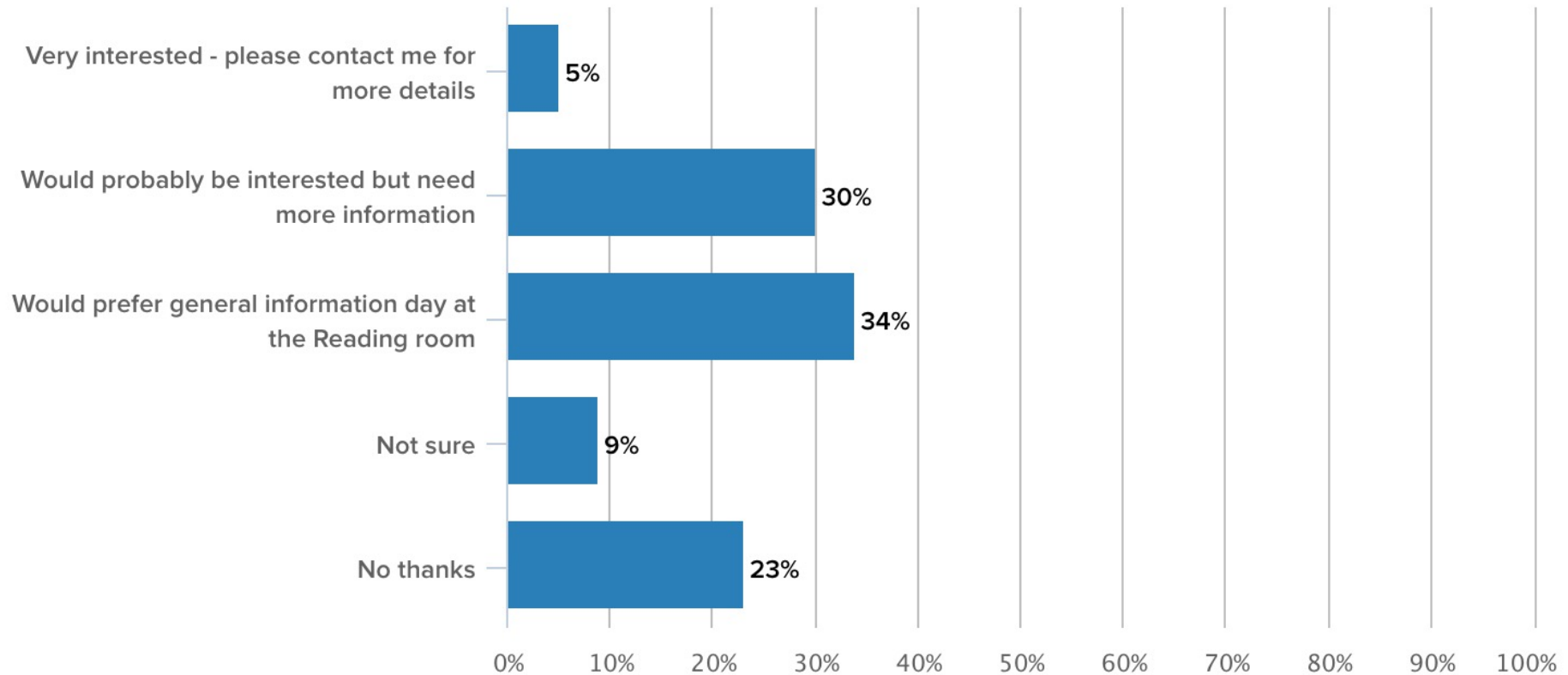
Simple measures around your home

(N=44)



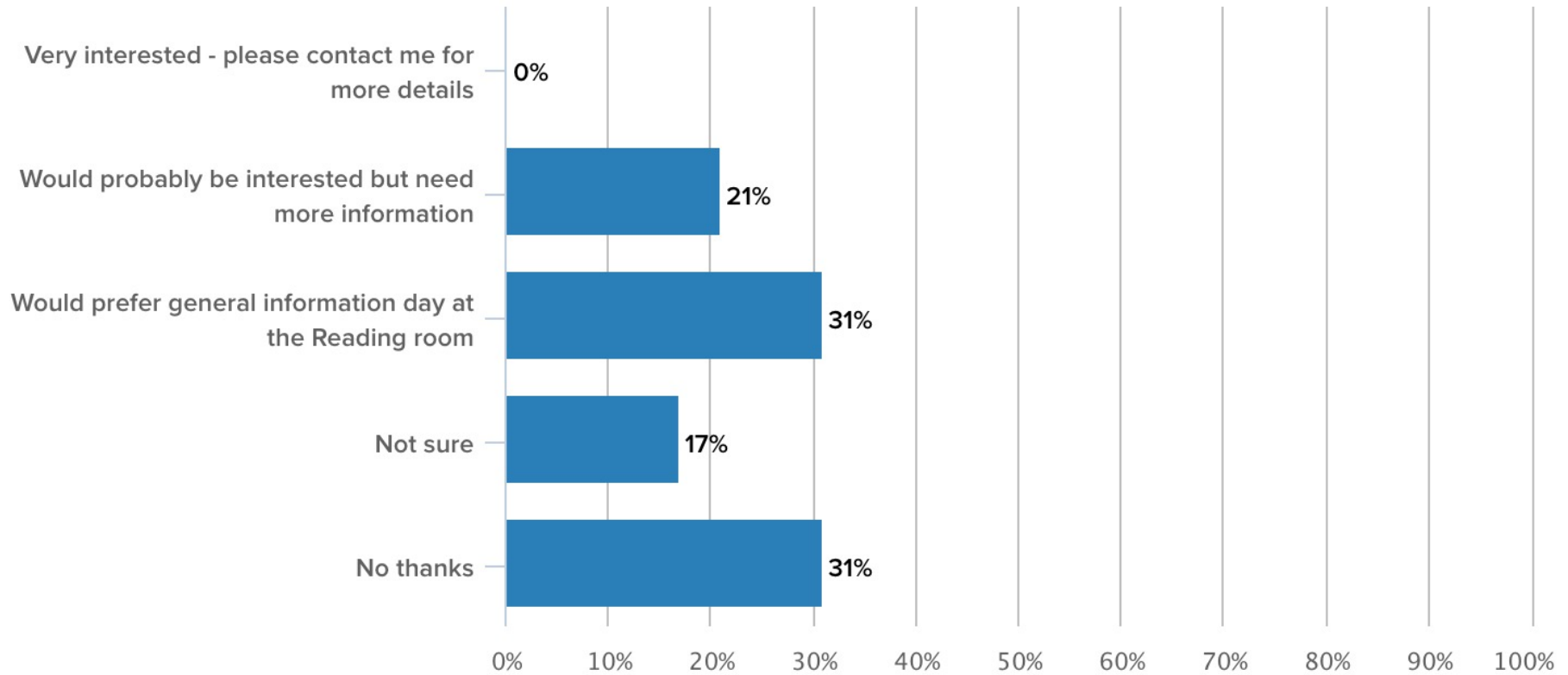
Greener ways to heat and power your home (EG Heat pumps)

(N=44)



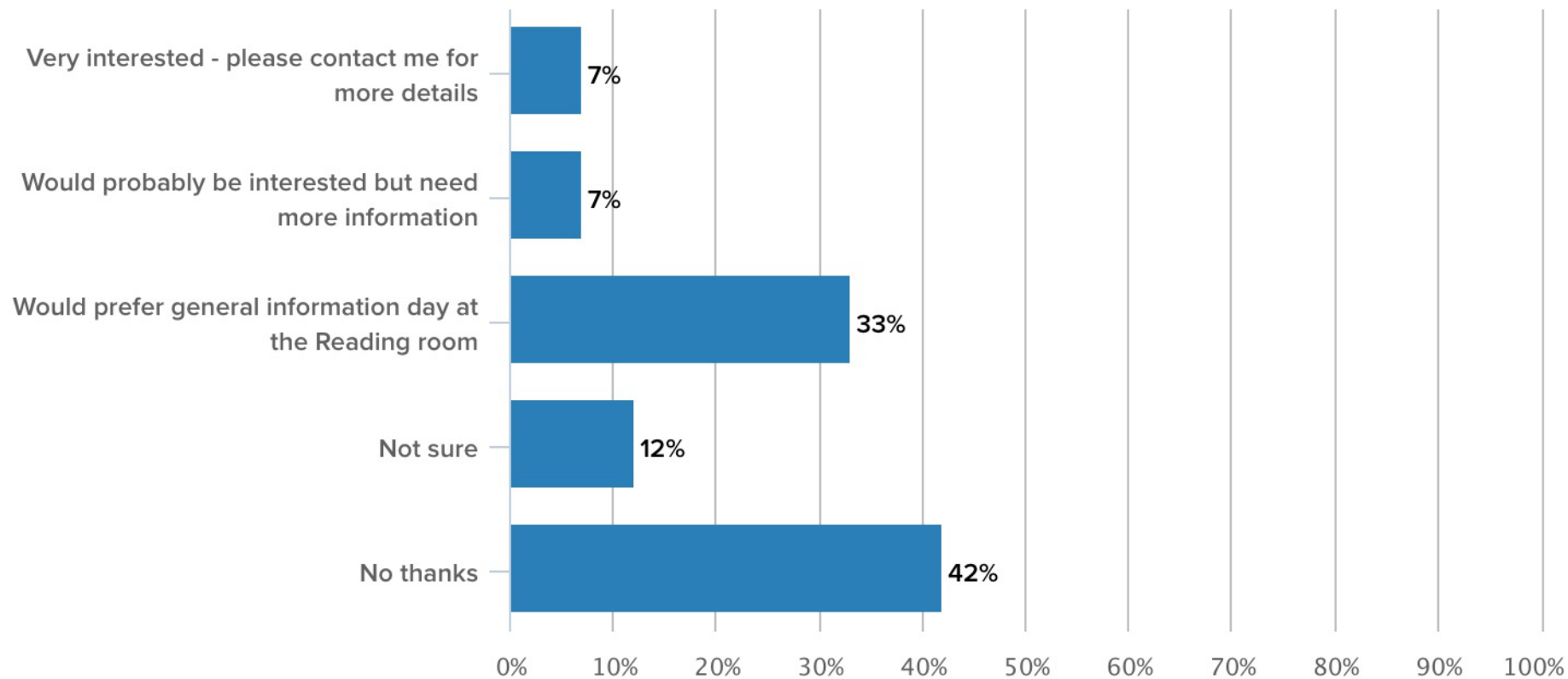
Solar Panels

(N=42)



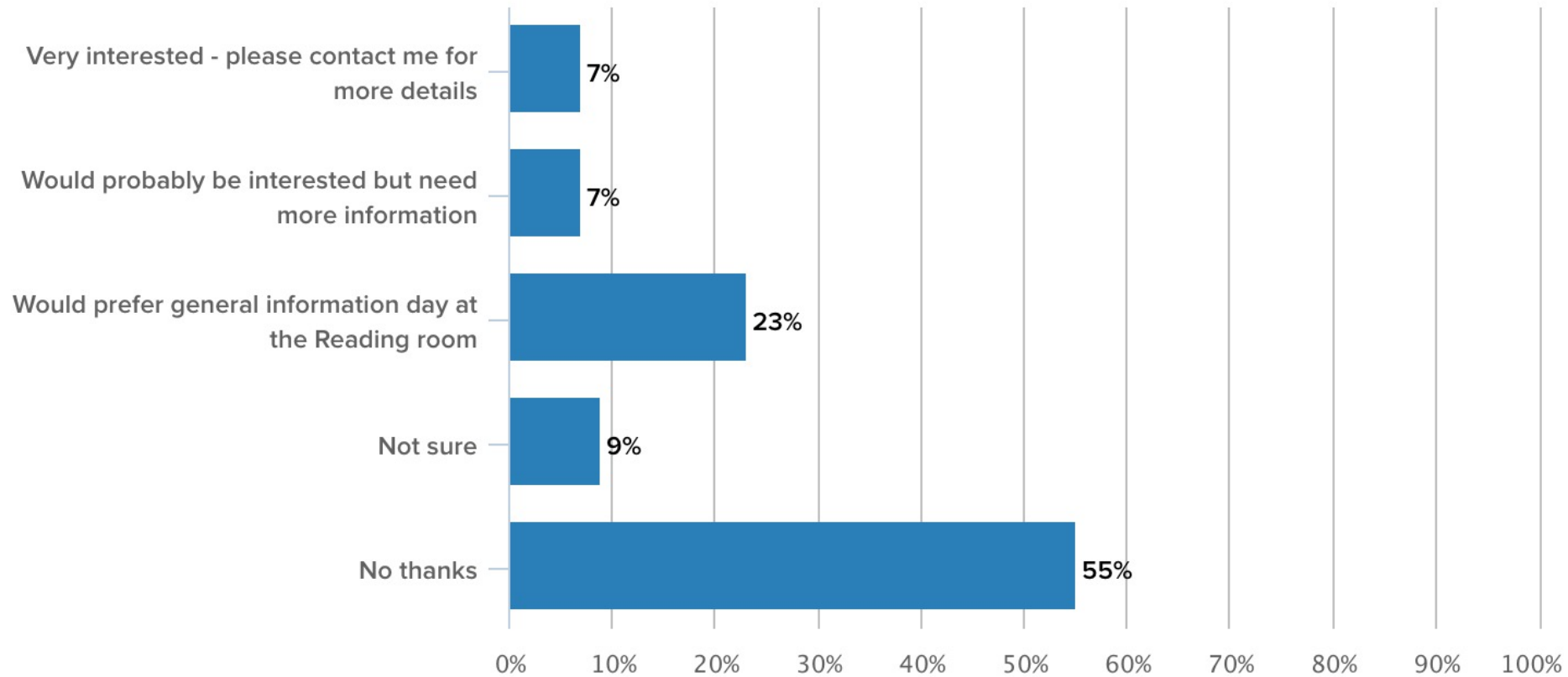
Lifestyle choices (diet, travel etc)

(N=43)



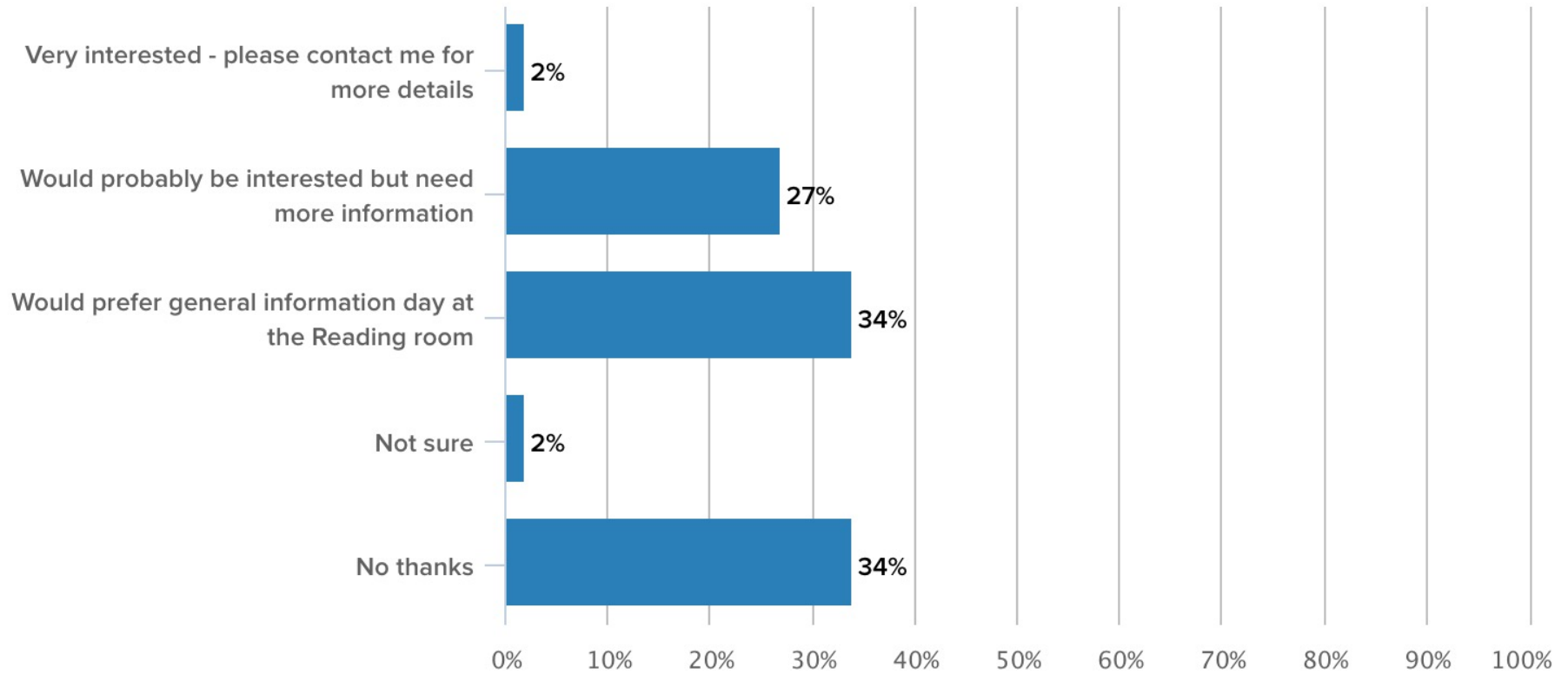
Financial investing information to tackle climate change (Not Financial advice)

(N=44)



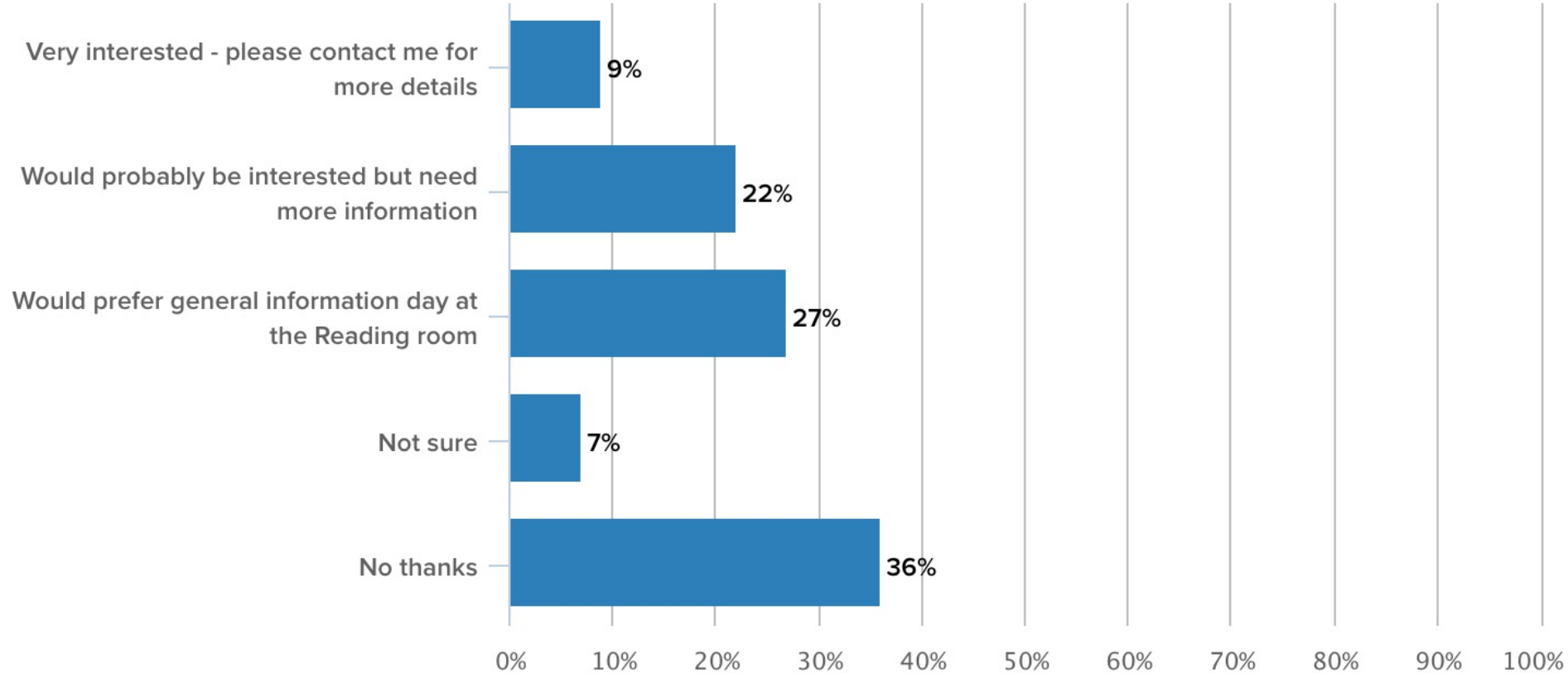
Electric cars

(N=44)



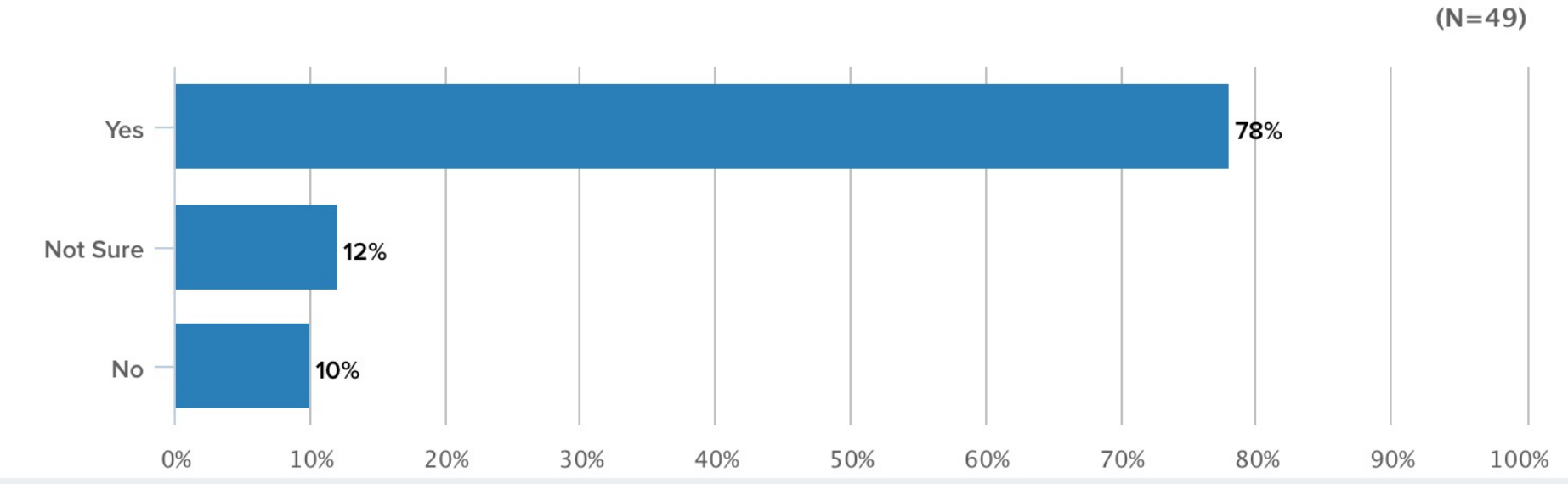
Insulating your home

(N=45)



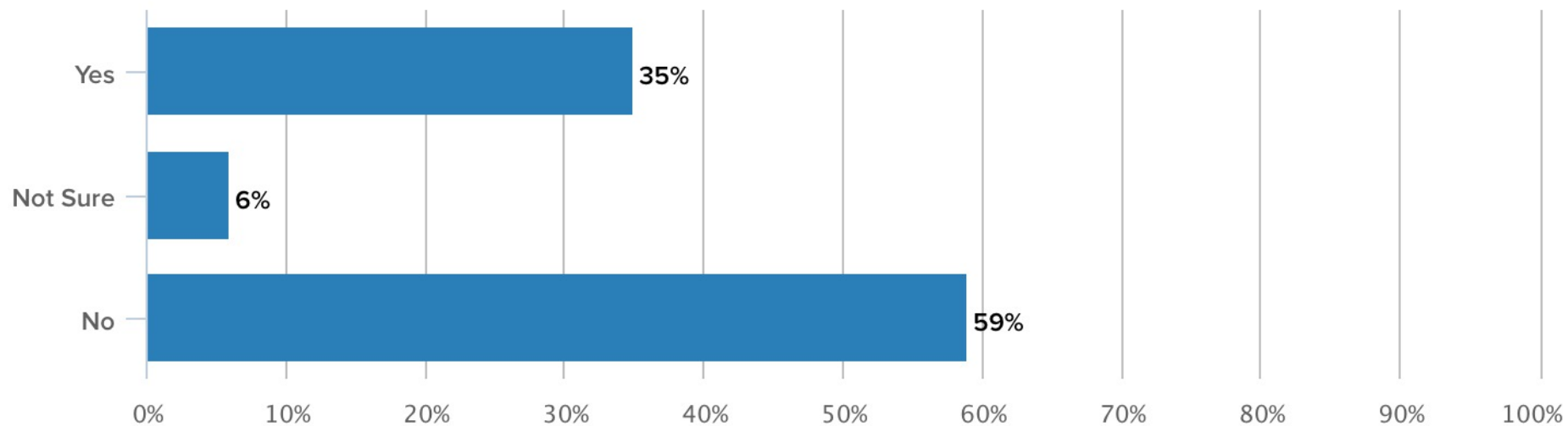
Wild flowers verges can encourage biodiversity and are increasingly replacing mown grass verges. We would find it helpful to know your views on whether Berwick should have more wild flower verges.

Do you support the idea of having a coordinated approach to promoting wild flower verges in Berwick St James?



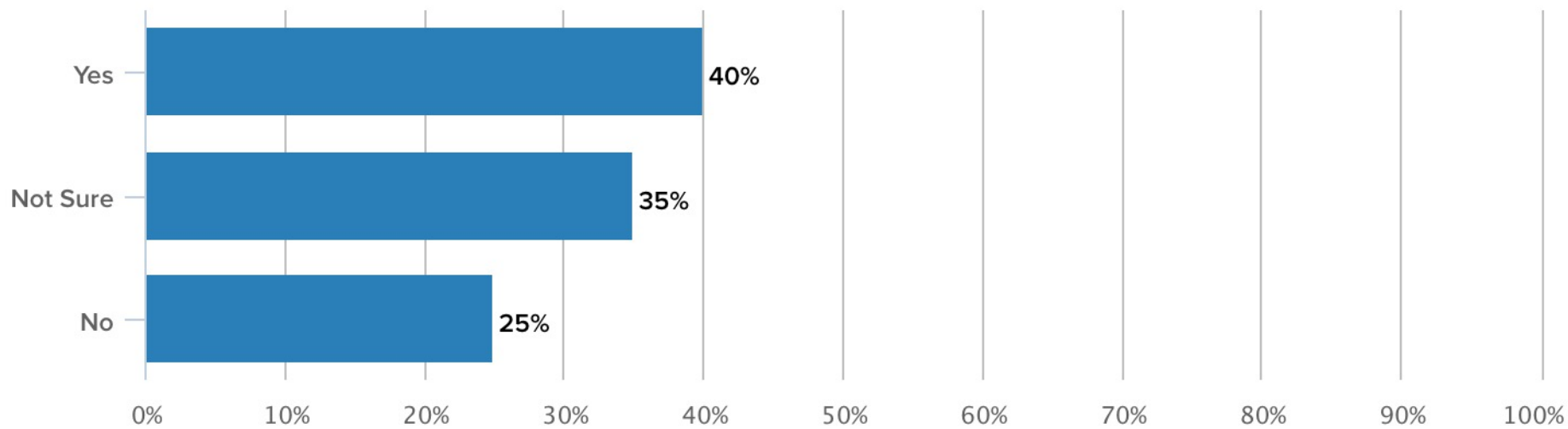
Do you own a property that borders the road and could be involved in such a scheme?

(N=49)



Would you like to be involved in such a scheme?

(N=48)



Survey – Other comments

Verges represent one of the **best places for restoring wildflowers** currently available. The fact that they are linear is a positive advantage. But they must be protected from superfluous or premature cutting and mowing.

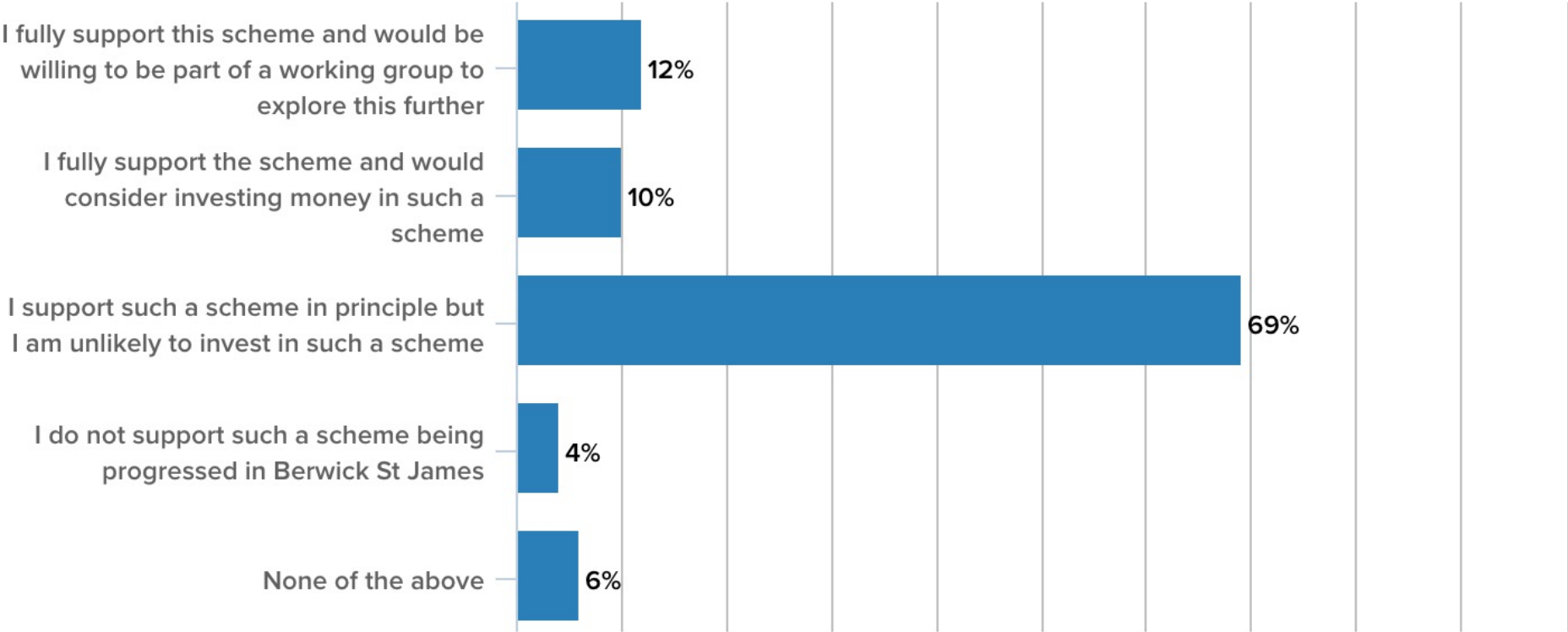
Any verges left to become wild **must not hinder views for road users** when pulling out of junctions or blind corners

Fully support but **would need help** to manage our verges.

In addition to the limited number of verges we have, the 'wild' area at **the back of the churchyard could also be properly managed** as a wildflower area. At the moment this is an area of wasteland with as far as I can see nothing but thuggish grasses dominating. Many churchyards are havens for wildlife but this does require proper management. It would be lovely to see an insect 'hotel' in the churchyard too. I imagine there must be information on this within church circles.

Some communities have started their own community energy generation schemes where solar panels are owned by the community group and are placed on buildings such as churches or schools. These schemes require a lot of work to get started but can provide clean energy for the community. Please could you indicate your level support for such a scheme to be explored.

(N=51)



Survey – Other comments

If we could use the **church roof that would be a wonderful** way to give an old building an extra relevance today. The problem may lie with its Grade 1 status although much of the roof is relatively hidden.. new with a new old

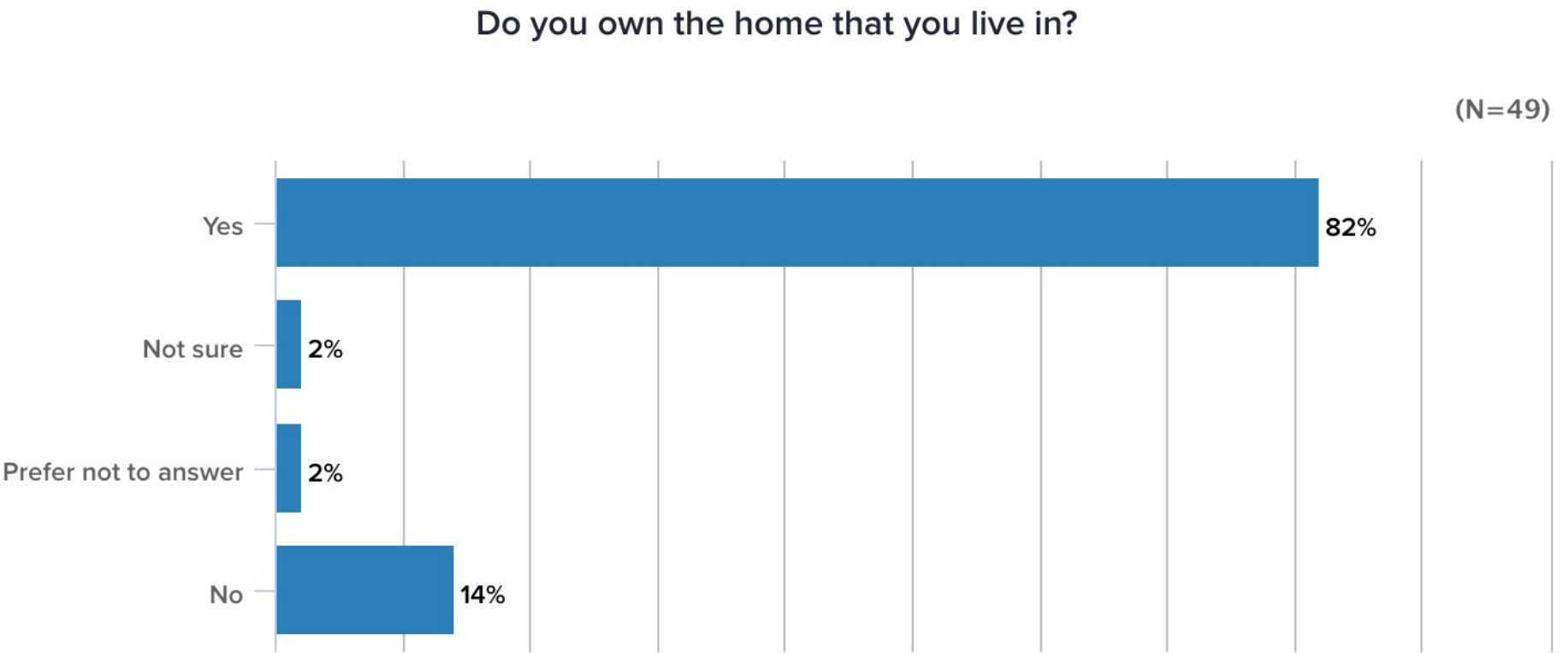
what about **hydro power?**

Community GSHP
(Ground Source Heat Pump)

The village has a number of potential assets that could be utilised, i.e roof space on the church, or area around the church, the river - either water-source heat pump or water turbine. additional projects such as community shared heat or energy generation may need collaboration between local businesses/landowners./investors

It may be that this **village is too small to make such a scheme worthwhile** of the effort and savings involved.

In order to help us understand the results of the survey and the potential to reduce carbon emissions, we are asking you if you own or rent the house that you live in as this may impact on your ability to make significant changes to your home such as changing the heating systems etc.



Survey – Other comments

It would be good as a village if we could all **commit to using our bus service more**. Only if we all use it can we then lobby for an improved service. Many villagers must be in possession of bus passes so it would be great to see the buses better used.

I would find it helpful if Berwick residents who have successfully taken measures to **insulate their homes share information about who they used and how much it costs**, whether there is financial support available etc. I am in principle for taking action to make houses more energy-efficient but it would be a much easier problem to tackle if we had Berwick residents recommending builders and providing more information about the process.

Information is king. Enlightening individuals as to best ideas that probably don't cost money but which could greatly help the environment should be promoted over and above a co-operative approach.

Reduce the use of bright lights outside on walls as it confuses bats and moths.
Reduce use of pesticides in gardens.
Leave it to natural predators

Better use of existing services and products offered locally such as Farm shop, local food producers, local clubs etc. Investigate potential for consider the affects of river pollution by local sewage treatment plants and also outdated private septic tank systems into the SSSI River Till

Survey – What next?

- Information/education
 - 2040 Film Show and discussion (January?)
 - Work towards open day in reading Room (February?)
 - People who asked for one-to-one advice will be contacted
- Wild Flower Verges
 - 19 people expressed desire to be part of a coordinated scheme
 - Volunteer coordinators will make contact
- Other initiatives
 - Volunteers to progress most ideas came forward in the survey (not for car/bike sharing scheme)
 - Christian will speak with people willing to coordinate to discuss way ahead