

Bidford on Avon and Alcester Community Forum

Tuesday 11th August 2009

Crawford Memorial Hall, Bidford-on-Avon

7.00pm

ATTENDANCE (as per sign in form). Also present were:

- County Cllr. Barnes
- District Councillors
- Parish Councillors
- Officers from:
 - County Council
 - District Council
 - Parish/Town Councils
 - Police
 - Community Groups

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Forum and to the Crawford Memorial Hall in Bidford. He asked all present to introduce themselves.

He then gave a brief explanation of what Community Forum was and how it could be used by the local communities to raise issues of concern within the community

1. Election of Chair

Cllr. Barnes proposed Cllr. James continue as Chairman of the Alcester/Bidford Local community Forum. This was seconded by Cllr. Slaughter.

Cllr. James was duly re-elected as Chairman

2. You said – We did – Update and Matters Arising from the meeting held on 23 June 2009

A Power Point presentation was made by the Chairman which is attached to these notes.

The Chairman also announced an update on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Conway Fields Alcester: in addition to the £16,000 from the Joint West Area Committee (County and District) and to funds from Alcester Town Council, Orbit Housing had donated £20,000 and the project was now ready to go ahead. The Chairman highlighted that this was significant, as it resulted partly from the young people of Alcester giving a presentation to the Community Forum and the Joint West Area Committee over the lack of youth facilities in Alcester.

3. Safer Neighbourhoods Policing Report

Sgt. Wilde gave a presentation which is attached to these notes.

The community was then asked to vote for 3 issues out of 14 identified at the meeting to the police. These three would be prioritised by the Police over the next three months and a report reviewing the results made to the next Forum meeting on 10 November.

The 3 agreed police priorities were:

- Speeding through Wixford
- Anti Social Behaviour in Bidford High Street
- HGVs over Bidford Bridge

4. Have Your Say

- The main issue raised by those present was the possible closure of Bidford Fire Station. A number of residents spoke in support, the main issue being:
 - Why the secrecy when discussing the report
 - 1. Any discussion on savings should be an open debate
 - Bidford Fire Station is an integral part of the village
 - Any cuts in the service will result in a poorer service
 - If there are fewer engines in fewer stations, how will emergencies throughout the county be covered. If stations are closed where will the appliances come from? If stations are closed, fewer appliances will have to cover larger distances
 - Bidford Young Fire-fighters meet once a week, do an incredible job in the village raising funds for charity etc.
 - If it was appropriate to have a fire station 30 years ago, surely it is more important now when the population has doubled
 - A resident who had suffered a fire stated that if it had taken longer than the 5 minutes it had taken Bidford Fire Station to attend he would have lost his home
 - County Council should be reminded that it is only two years ago that the area lost 4 fire-fighters at Atherstone and, therefore there was still a high level of sensitivity locally

It was agreed that once the report was available for consultation, an extra Community Forum should be arranged in Bidford (Crawford Memorial Hall or the Parish Council Meeting Room) and Cllr. Hobbs as Portfolio Holder would be invited to attend together with other Cabinet Members, the Chief Fire Officer and his deputies.

It was also agreed that the issue would be taken up at the next Stratford District Council West Area Committee meeting

- Attention was drawn to the proposed charges to the care of the elderly, which were quite wide and would have grave repercussions on a large section of the population bearing in mind that 25% of the community in this area is over the age of 50.

Details were given of when the Bidford SCAN meetings took place at the Jolly Teapot, and anyone in the Bidford area concerned with any issues should contact the SCAN representative Mike Gerrard.

- A resident requested a pedestrian crossing south of Bidford Bridge to enable pedestrians to cross over to the Big Meadow in safety. Cllr. Barnes replied that a pedestrian and vehicle count had taken place and the results meant that County Council could not justify the expense. However, it was seeking funds from other parties
- A resident advised there was some confusion regarding the sand and gravel extraction at Marsh Farm
Cllr. James advised that there were two separate issues:
 - There is a current consultation regarding the Core Strategy Option which he understood would be reporting to Cabinet in October and was ongoing
 - There has been a Planning Application for the site North of Broom Lane, which will follow normal planning procedure.
- The derelict site of the old United Carriers at Waterloo Road was raised. Cllr. James confirmed that District Council's Building Control and Enforcement departments were working with the solicitors on how best to proceed. He advised that these things were difficult and do take time, but that it was being worked on.

5. Where the Bus Doesn't Reach

Dave Matthews, from County Council, gave a brief presentation.

- County Council was responsible for all school buses
- Some bus services were subsidised
- There is a £10 million budget for the whole county: 75% goes towards the school buses the balance to bus subsidies – mostly for evening and week end routes
- The majority of bus routes were run on a commercial basis by bus companies

He then took questions:

- There was a problem in the rural areas with bus connections, especially to the various hospitals (Alex in Redditch, Warwick Hospital, Coventry and Worcester). It can take up to 8 hours from Bidford to Coventry Hospital. Mr Matthews replied that he understood the problem However, few people had to access this sort of connection on a regular basis and therefore a bus service would not be cost efficient. He suggested the elderly use the Community Transit/Volunteer Service for this type of journey. However, the issue of how poorly resourced the voluntary sector was was raised and it was proposed that Community Links be better supported by County Council.
- There was very poor information regarding bus routes and times and not all residents have access to a computer to find the required information
- It was suggested that perhaps better information, promoting the various routes and giving details of the various connections should be made available to town and parish councils who could then disseminate the information to the community.
- The young have difficulty returning from Stratford and the Youth Parliament were currently in discussions regarding subsidised fares.

It was pointed out the last bus is at 11.00pm which should be adequate for most.

Mr. Matthews concluded by saying that they are always looking at opportunities to improve the service that did not require much funding. As an example he stated that it might be possible to divert the Alcester – Redditch route to include the Alexander Hospital

6. "Parish Pump"/Information Sharing

- Place Survey Results for the Community Forum Area
Richard Hood gave a power point presentation (attached)
- Local Transport Plan
Steve Smith drew attention to this document, currently under consultation. It can be found on County Council's website and also on the Bidford Parish Council's website. The deadline has been extended to 25th September

7. Items for Future Meeting

- Update on the Integrated Health and Social Care Service
- Speeding in the rural areas

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

**Welcome to the
Alcester and Bidford
Community Forum**

12 August 2009

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 1

Out of Date Road Signs in Alcester and Bidford –
sign maintenance generally

OUTCOME

These are being looked at and attended to as
necessary.

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 2

Dog Fouling and Litter on the Conway Estate

OUTCOME

SDC continue to be vigilant to this. Offer of support extended to Town Council to help with any community litter-picking events. SDC can provide litter-picking sticks, sacks and hi-vis jackets.

Are there any particular “hotspots”?

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 3

Flooding/Drainage in Alcester

OUTCOME

Representative from STW will be attending the Council's
Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 30 September

Due to holidays, unable to secure any attendance for
this Forum.

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 4

Bus Routes/Public Transport

OUTCOME

Discussion topic on the agenda for this meeting
today – Dave Matthews

You Said We Did!!

ISSUE 5

Next Forum Meeting

OUTCOME

10 November at Aston Cantlow Village Hall

7.00pm

(unfortunately there is a clash with the parish meeting
affecting a small number of attendees)

Protecting our communities together

Alcester and Bidford Community Forum

11/8/09



Alcester South Safer Neighbourhood
team
Contact number: 01789 444816
Sergeant: PS 753 Stuart Wild



Data Protection notice

When discussing members of the public, all agencies and individuals will agree to respect their confidentiality. The disclosure of information outside this meeting, should not occur unless there is a legal basis for a disclosure.

Policing Pledge

The policing pledge sets out how:

You can expect to be treated by Warwickshire Police

Local policing priorities will be addressed

We will deal with emergencies and non emergencies within agreed times

We will keep you informed of progress if you`ve been a victim of crime.

It is a commitment that we will work with you and local partners to protect you from harm and increase your confidence in services.

Visit www.warwickshire.police.uk for further information

Community Priorities

Warwickshire Police is obliged to protect communities from harm in line with the 'Police Priorities'.

This may mean that in exceptional circumstances SNT officers may be required to work on other policing priorities.

If this happens there will be a need to re-negotiate priorities. This will be done in liaison with the Chair and the panel.

Warwickshire Police Priorities 2009/10

To reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured

- *Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured through road traffic collisions compared with last year*
- *Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured as a result of violence compared with last year*
- *Detect 45% of crimes where someone is killed or seriously injured*
- *Increase the number of serious sexual offences we detect compared with last year*
- *Reduce the number of victims of aggravated burglary and robbery compared with last year*
- *Identify and charge 15 members of organised crime groups whose activities harm communities*

To reduce the number of homes burgled and vehicle crimes committed

- *Reduce the number of homes burgled and vehicles stolen by three percent compared with last year*
- *Reduce theft from vehicles by five percent compared with last year*

To improve trust and confidence

- *Local Safer Neighbourhood teams will deliver 100% of agreed policing activity that protects people from harm and supports Community Forum priorities*
 - *Increase the number of victims of serious sexual offences who report crimes to us compared with last year*
 - *Ensure 85% of victims are satisfied with the overall experience they receive*
 - *Increase confidence (measured by survey)*
-

Other Agency Work – [consultation]

Sharing a surgery with Alcester Town Council

[First Saturday of month Church House Butter St]

Use of mobile police station outside shops

Surgery Alcester pavilions

Parish and Town Clerks have been sent consultation forms

Agreed priorities from 23/6/2009

Location	Patrols	Comments
1. Burglary Dwelling increase	10	5 burglaries recorded, none since 11/7/09. Exhall is covered by smartwater. Work with several NHW. Physical property checks.
2. ASB High St Alcester	16	12 incidents reported. 3 damage. 7 rowdy. 1 assault. 4 arrests for public order, 1 for damage, 1 for assault. 1 alcohol confiscation.
3. ASB mopeds Conway Estate Arden Forest	10	7 incidents recorded. 42 letters sent. 1 reported riding on pavement. 1 S59 notice. 1 confiscation via parent.

Work done – [ASB]

Visits to schools and groups to give talks re internet safety

A fishing initiative completed.

Liaison with Pub Watch

Continued support of play equipment in Bidford

Involved in Alcester youth committee

Arden Forest industrial estate

Domestic violence support

Liaison mental health services

Safer Neighbourhoods



Safer Neighbourhoods



Speeding issues

Location	No.of days	Comments
St Faiths Road	1	3 warning letters
Stratford Rd.Alcester	2	2 warning letters
Wixford	1	2 warning letters

Alcester South Daily Crime Figures

Serious Violent Crime:	0.19
Homes Burgled and vehicles stolen:	0.28
Vehicle Crime:	0.29

ASB Figures

	2008/09(total)	2009/2010(to date)
Alcester	241	98
Bidford	96	44
Bardon	33	10
Aston Cantlow	20	8
Welford	15	8
Kinwarton	34	9

Response times 1.4.09 to current date:-

Target response times within Warwickshire are set at:-

10 mins – Urban areas, 20 mins – Rural areas.

Current response times:-

- Alcester.....86 incidents.....87%
 - Bidford90 incidents.....86%
 - Aston Cantlow.....20 incidents.....95%
 - Welford17 incidents.....81%
 - Bardon.....35 incidents.....89%
 - Kinwarton.....27 incidents.....96%

 - Force.....89%
-

Crime Overview Alcester South

Comparison of crime 2008/09 with 2009/10

• Serious Violent crime	25	24
• Serious Violent crime detections.....	33.3%	
• Domestic burglary.....	10.....	16
• Theft of vehicle.....	5.....	12
• Vehicle crime.....	30.....	37
• Criminal Damage.....	187.....	80

Alcester South
Safer Neighbourhood Team

Sgt 753 Stuart WILD

PC 1647 Tony HALL

PCSO 6093 Becky MORRIS

A/SO 3273 Pete JOHNSON

PC 94 Steve MONCKTON

PCSO 6060 Martin SANFORD

SC 3206 Jill HOUGHTON

PC 885 Doug JOHNSON

PCSO 6179 Peter GROOM

SC 3646 John McKAY

PCSO 6206 Ally STREATFIELD

SC 3716 Sue LEWIS

PCSO 6176 Dave MARTIN

Thank you for your time.

Please contact the team should you have any queries
or concerns.

Tel: 01789 444816

Email: alcestersouth.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

Web: www.safer-neighbourhoods.co.uk



PLACE SURVEY 2008

RESULTS



BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

- CLG /Audit Commission prescribed methodology
 - Postal Questionnaire
 - Survey timing: October to December 2008
 - Two reminders
- New survey but some questions from 2006 BVSS allowing some comparison. SDC represented on National Group
- 1846 questionnaires from 4000 sent – response rate 47.2%. Chose larger sample than min of 2500
- Scores are weighted in presentation by gender, age, ethnicity and household composition
- Looking at key results in survey & variations by locality



RESPONDENT PROFILE (UNWEIGHTED)

- Male 43% / Female 57%
- 51% aged 60 plus
- 50% owned property outright
- 51% employed / 37% retired
- 31% have long standing illness, disability
- 97.6% white British



WHAT MOST NEEDS IMPROVING IN STRATFORD DISTRICT

Warwickshire	%
Activities for teenagers	49
Road and pavement repairs	38
Level of traffic congestion	36
Level of crime	32
Clean streets	24
Affordable decent housing	23
Public transport	23
Facilities for young children	18
Job prospects	17
Shopping facilities	17

Stratford	%
Activities for teenagers	46
Road and pavement repairs	41
Level of traffic congestion	36
Affordable decent housing	34
Public transport	33
Level of crime	19
Job prospects	19
Sports and leisure facilities	18
Wage levels and cost of living	18
Clean streets	16



MOST NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

HENLEY / STUDLEY	%
Level of traffic congestion	47
Road and pavement repairs	44
Public transport	43
Activities for teenagers	40
Level of crime	28

STRATFORD	%
Level of traffic congestion	60
Affordable decent housing	37
Activities for teenagers	36
Road and pavement repairs	35
Wage levels & cost of living	24

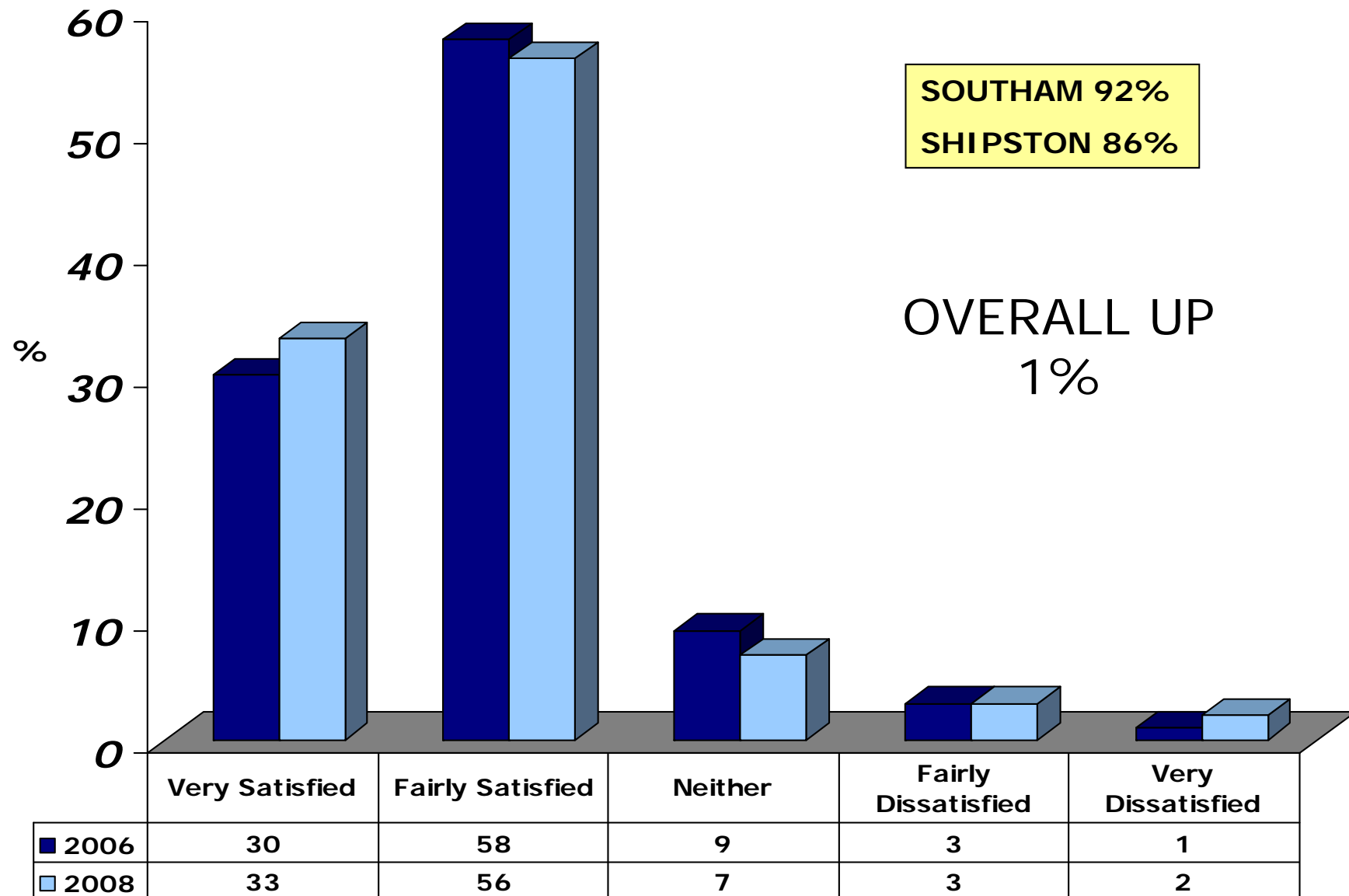
WELLESBOURNE/KINETON	%
Activities for teenagers	55
Road and pavement repairs	38
Sports & leisure facilities	37
Public transport	37
Affordable decent housing	32

ALCESTER / BIDFORD	%
Activities for teenagers	55
Road and pavement repairs	41
Affordable decent housing	30
Public transport	28
Level of traffic congestion	26

SHIPSTON	%
Activities for teenagers	48
Road & pavement repairs	40
Affordable decent housing	40
Public transport	39
Job prospects	25

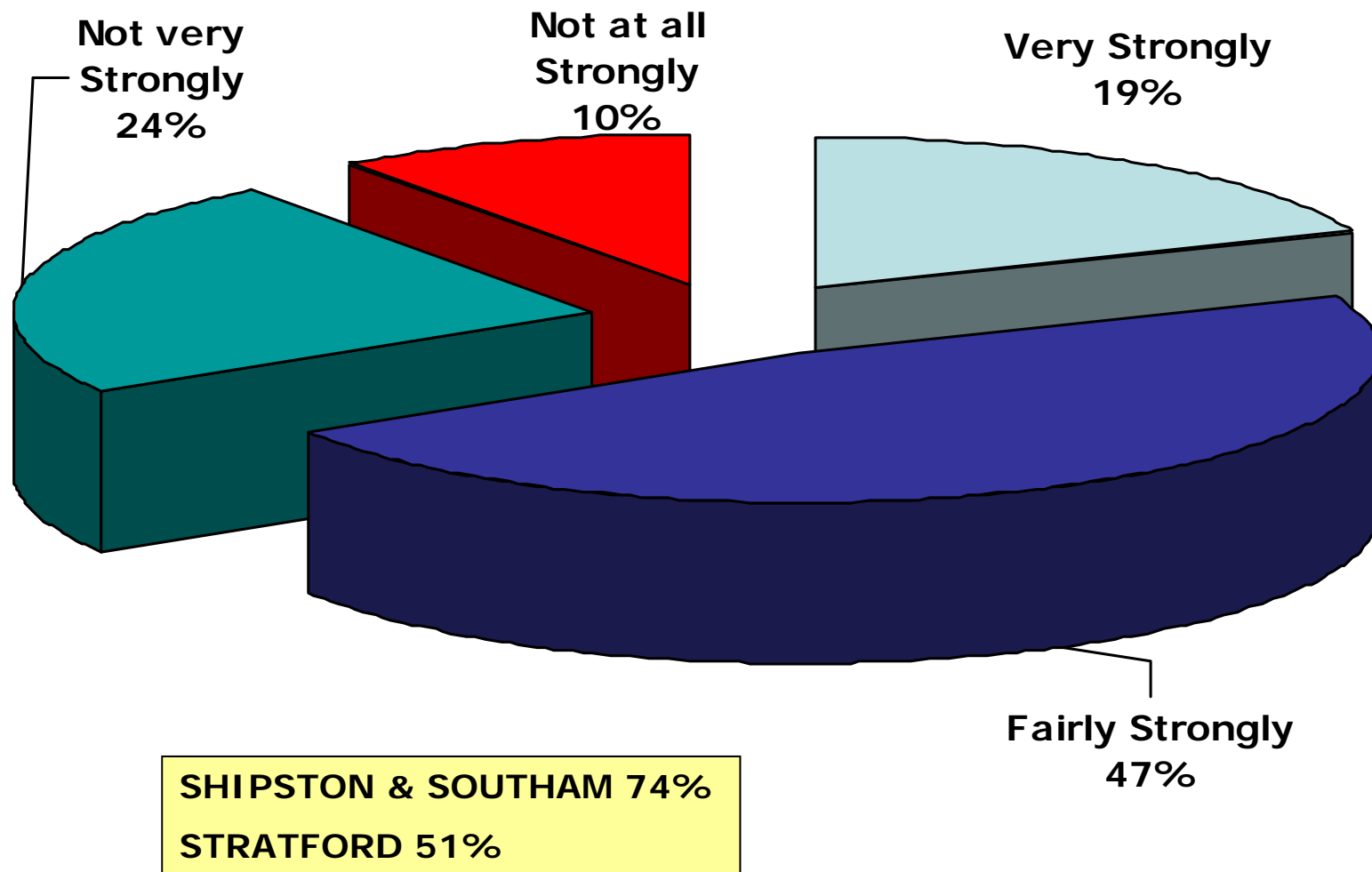
SOUTHAM	%
Activities for teenagers	50
Road & pavement repairs	46
Affordable decent housing	37
Public transport	31
Clean streets	20

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THE LOCAL AREA AS A PLACE TO LIVE



BASE: (2006:1747), (2008:1820)

HOW STRONGLY DO YOU FEEL YOU BELONG TO YOUR IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD 2008



BASE: (1751)



LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES

Agree a great deal or to some extent that local public services...

... working to make the area cleaner and greener – 74%

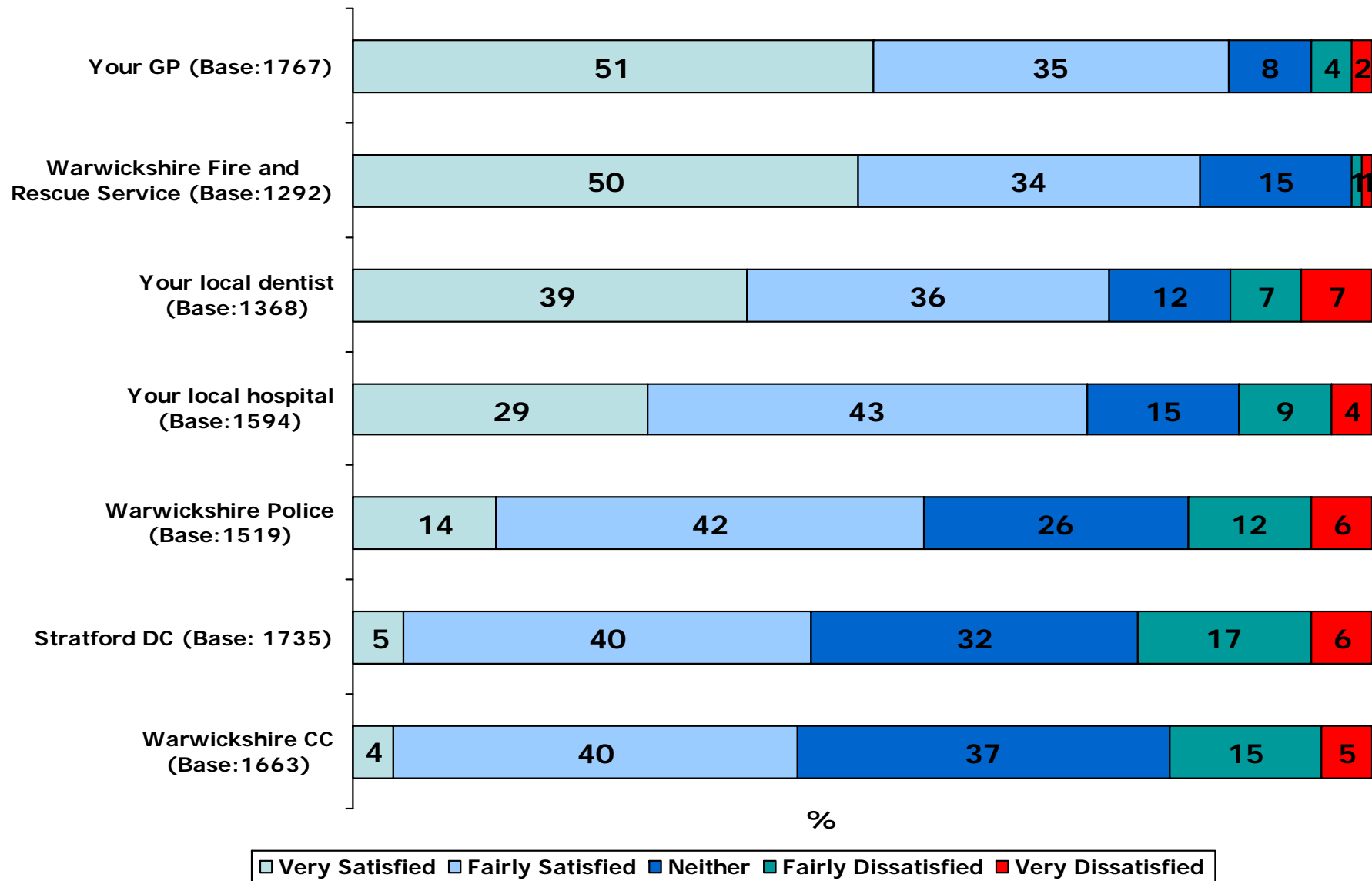
... treat all types of people fairly – 71%

... are working to make the area safer – 65%

... promote the interests of local residents – 45%

... act on the concerns of local residents – 45%

HOW SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC SERVICES IN YOUR LOCAL AREA





SATISFACTION WITH LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES

By locality variances for satisfaction are

Police – Henley / Studley 63% vs. Southam 50%

Fire & Rescue – Alcester / Bidford 89% vs. Wellesbourne / Kineton 81%

GP – Shipston 92% vs. Alcester / Bidford 81%

Local Hospital – Shipston 83% vs. Alcester / Bidford 64%

Local Dentist - Shipston 82% vs. Alcester / Bidford 67%

Stratford DC – Southam 53% vs. Stratford 36%

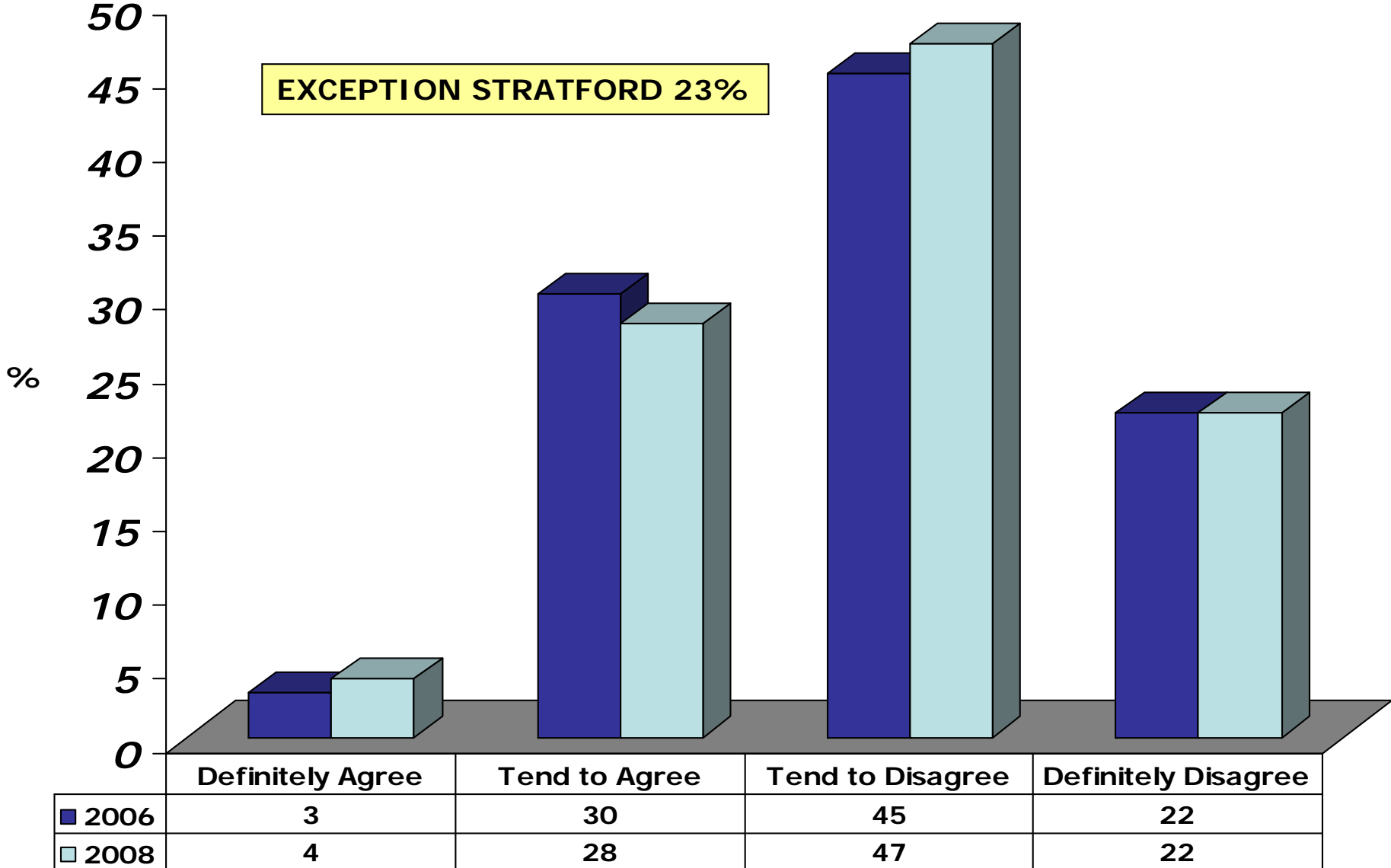
Warwickshire CC - Southam 53% vs. Stratford 36%



INFORMATION PROVISION FROM LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES

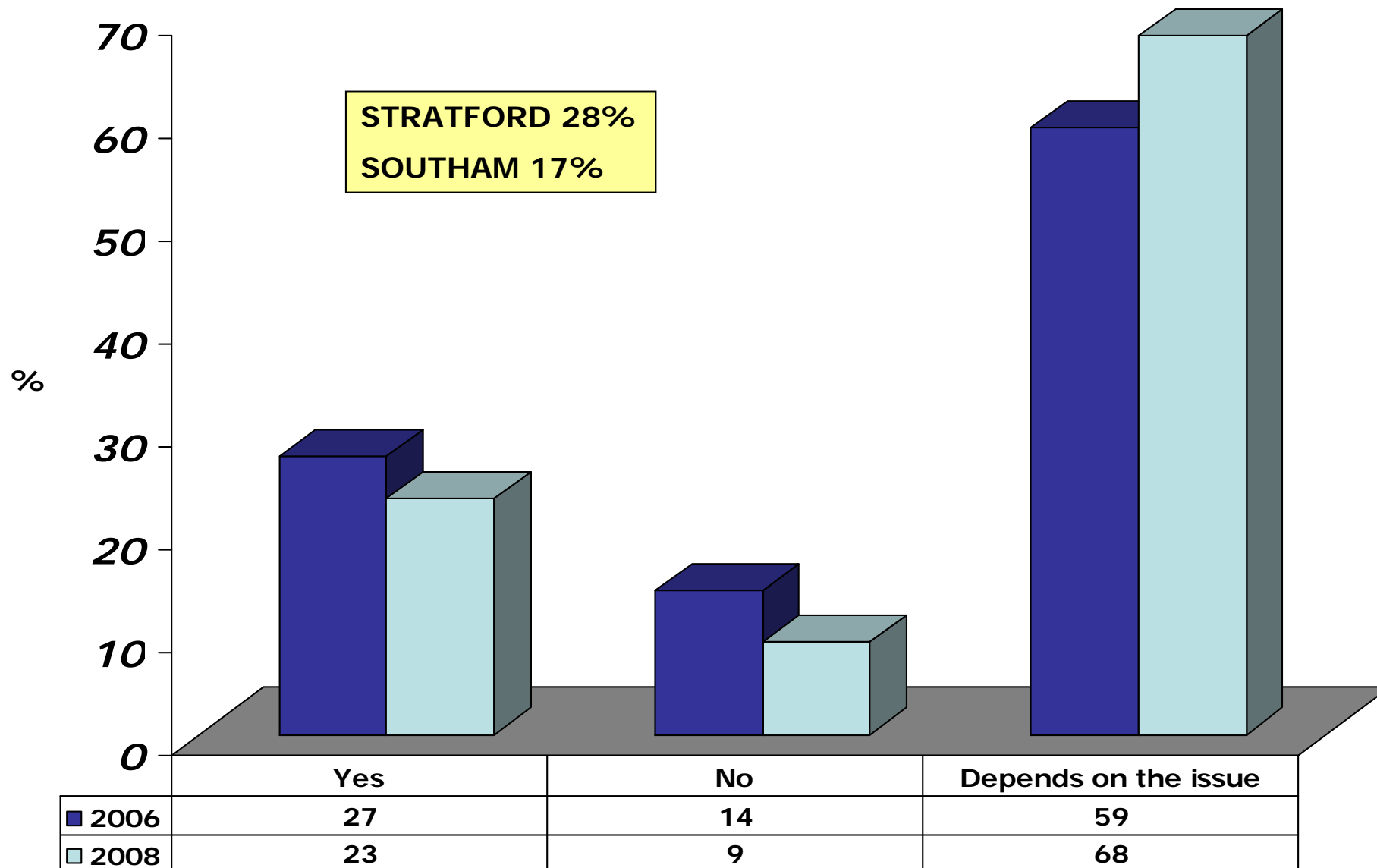
Statements	Very / fairly well informed	Not very / not well informed
	%	%
How and where to register to vote	92	8
How your council tax is spent	73	27
How you can get involved in local decision-making	42	57
What standard of service you should expect from local public services	46	55
How well local public services are performing	48	52
How to complain about local public services	41	58
What to do in an event of a large-scale emergency e.g. flooding	22	77
Overall, how well informed do you feel about local public services	44	56

DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE THAT YOU CAN INFLUENCE DECISIONS AFFECTING THE LOCAL AREA



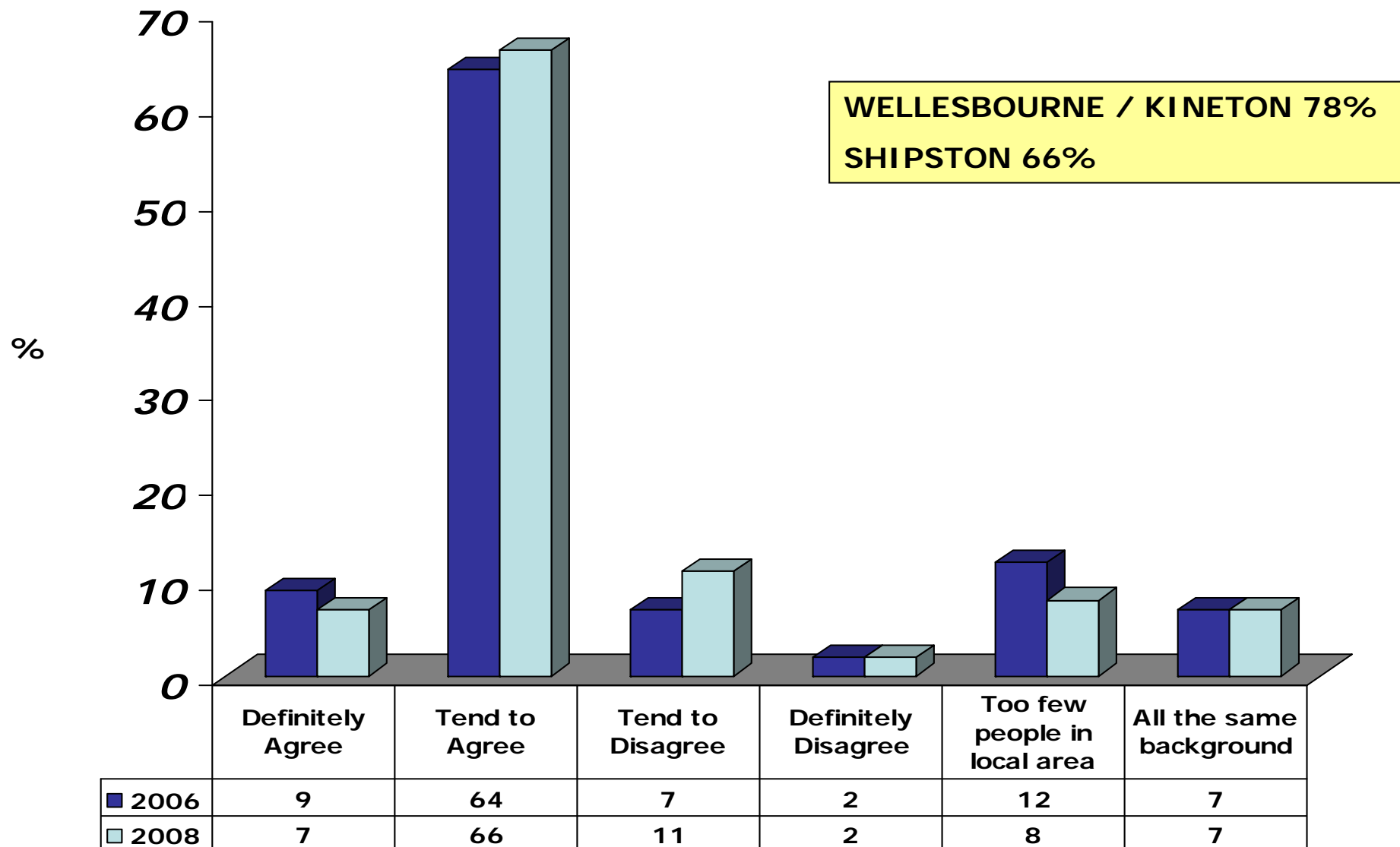
BASE: (2006:1438), (2008:1566)

GENERALLY SPEAKING, WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THE LOCAL AREA



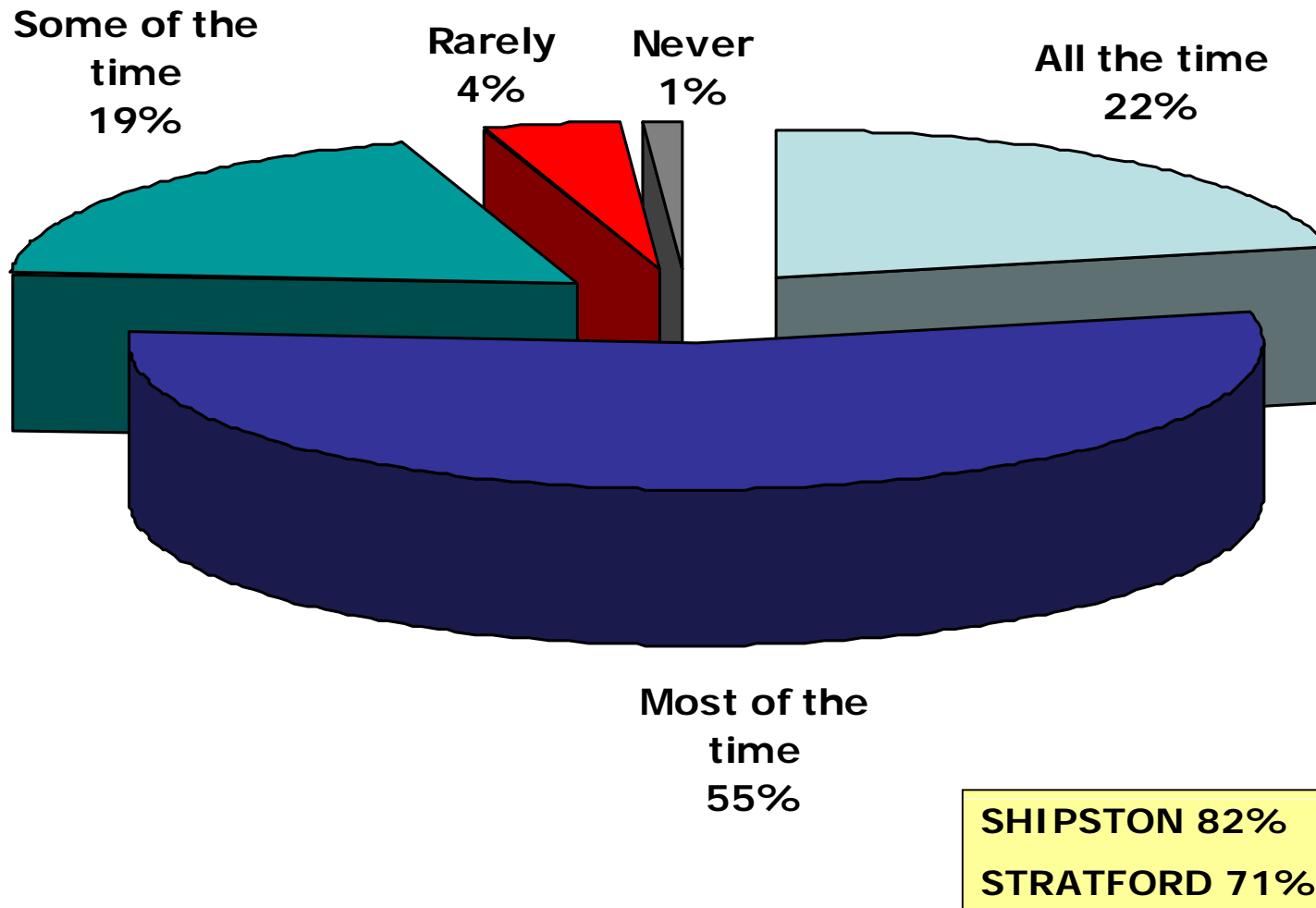
BASE: (2006:1662), (2008:1736)

DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE THAT YOUR LOCAL AREA IS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS GET ON WELL TOGETHER



BASE: (2006:1367), (2008:1412)

IN THE LAST YEAR WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU HAVE BEEN TREATED WITH RESPECT AND CONSIDERATION BY YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES



BASE: (1549)



PLACE SURVEY WHAT'S NEXT?

- Further analysis done by Council and County Council
 - Mapping of results
 - Results by locality for whole of county
 - Investigate specific issues by data interrogation, i.e. rural/urban, service user vs. non-user, split forum area
- Benchmarking the results nationally finally!! Delayed by Government (Due June 23rd). Will allow context with other Districts. Very favourable results Stratford vs. County
- Results sheets by Community Forum area